

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

CATS WHISPERS



Affiliated to the RSGB

December 2008

SYCOM – Official CATS Sponsor

Visit www.sycomcomp.co.uk

CATS Committee

Chairman: Steve Conway G7SYO
Secretary: Andy Jackson G8JAC
Treasurer: Derek Hands G1PGS
Members: Steve Beal G3WZK
Stuart Barber G6CJR
Dennis Noe M0 NDJ
Frank Emery G3ZMF

CATS Whispers Editor: Andy Jackson G8JAC
email address for contributions: cats@qsl.net

Regular Society Meetings

These are held on the second Monday in each month at:-
St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 4LA at 20.00 to 22.00hrs.

Society Nets

1st Saturday of Month - 1715hrs Crescenta Valley / CATS Net on Echolink
Normally via MB7IPL node on 145.2875 MHz.
Sunday mornings - 1100hrs. Call on S20 (V40) then to 145.2875MHz.
Sunday evenings - 1700hrs. 3.700 MHz +/- QRM
Wednesday evenings - 21.00hrs. Call on 70.425 MHz

CATS Website www.qsl.net/cats **Email** : cats@qsl.net

New website host: <http://www.sthost.co.uk/webpace/cats/>

Forthcoming Meetings

Mon 8th December - Annual General Meeting
Monday 12th January 2009 – CATS New Year Dinner
Monday 9th February – Building a web site by Steve G3WZK



CATS is Twinned with the
Crescenta Valley Radio Club
Glendale California USA www.qsl.net/cvrc

November meeting report

Our meeting for November in recent years has been a quiz night – an event that suits the shortening days and the approach of winter. The quiz this year was hosted by “Mad” Frank G3ZMF who firmly stamped his own inimitable style on the evening, assisted by Mike G8AAI.



Quizmaster “Mad” Frank G3ZMF about to start.

Although we had invited neighbouring local clubs to enter a team, in the event none took up the challenge but we were pleased to see a couple of visitors and XYLs turn out for the evening. After assembling into teams of three or four and setting out our favoured forms of refreshment we settled down to choose names for the teams and then Frank was off at a brisk pace with rounds of ten questions – some easy, some aggravatingly obscure.



The assembled teams pondering a question.

The subjects ranged through eight rounds including general knowledge, geography, science fiction, radio and a “guess the theme tune” round. Each team was provided with a Joker card that could be played in a round that the team felt particularly confident in and which doubled the score in that round.

After a happy hour and a half or so’s brain wracking, a quite close set of scores revealed that the team playing under the title of “The Klerryx” came out the winners with a score of 49 points. Runners-up were the Katz 22 team with a score of 43.5.



The victorious Klerryx – G6YOG, G8VXB, visitor and G8NNT after receiving their prizes from G3ZMF.

Many thanks to Frank for all the effort in putting the quiz together.

CATS New Year Dinner

Following the pattern set in the past two or three years, we will be holding the annual CATS New Year Dinner again in **January**. We move the venue around to give a good variety and so that all members get a chance to attend, and this year’s choice is the **Woolpack in Banstead High Street**. A number of members have used this well-known pub for informal meetings for a good few years and Danny and Angie who run the pub are looking forward to welcoming us all to a good meal on **Monday 12th January 2009**.

All members and their partners or guests are invited to our big annual get-together so put the date in your diaries now! A form is sent with this newsletter for you to return to indicate your interest or you can put your name down at the AGM. The woolpack serves Real Ale as well!

The CATS BAZAAR

Mention The CATS Bazaar in radio circles around here and you will usually get instant recognition. Certainly, its fame has spread far and wide in the 30 years that it has been run and it has become known as a treasured annual event where you can be sure of picking up some of those extremely valuable and essential items – even if you have to wait until the XYL is safely out shopping before you consider it safe to bring them into the shack. Our bazaar is also a meeting place for local amateurs to meet old friends, have a natter over a cup of tea and one of our fabled sausage rolls, and catch up on the latest news.

Planning for the bazaar actually starts several months before the actual event. The date is circulated around the web, placed in RadCom, the hall is booked, table bookings taken, the layout organised.

On the Saturday evening beforehand, a select band of volunteers descends on the hall to lay out the tables and check that everything needed is in place. This year as usual, our stalwart members rose to the request for assistance and thanks go to G4FVL, G4FKK, G1PGS, M3IGP, G0SDB, G6CJR, G7SYO, G0KZT and even non-member Adam G7CRQ who turned out to lend a hand. Getting the hall set out ready makes life a whole lot easier the following morning and makes sure that there are no disasters like an unforeseen table shortage. Our activities attracted the attention of the local constabulary who popped in to make sure that nothing was amiss.

Sunday morning dawned with the weather thankfully dry if not quite brilliant sunshine, and G8JAC arrived on site at 07.45 with the keys to open up to find a queue of traders already lined up raring to go. From then on, huge amounts of stuff were heaved and hauled into the hall with the tables soon starting to groan under the weight. As this was going on, perhaps the most important part of the team arrived in the shape of Jim G4WYJ and Barbara M3WYJ, and Prue G4RWW staggering under the weight of a large box of sausage rolls. As usual they did sterling work in the kitchen dishing out countless cups of tea and coffee along with cake, toasted sandwiches and the hot rolls. They deserve our sincere thanks for doing a great job.

Just before 10am the doors were opened and the scrum began. We had 140 visitors who paid at the door and adding the sellers and helpers and CATS members who came down, that makes going on 200 people happily buying, selling, browsing and socialising.



A view down the hall when things had quietened down a bit.

CATS members were again manning our Bring & Buy facility that proved popular last year and there was a touch of sadness as we were also disposing of the radio property of Derek G6MFM in a Silent Key sale. The tables were our usual mix of local traders, club stands and individuals and it was pleasing to hear comments such as “it’s good that there are still real radio rallies without loads of computer junk and fluffy toy stands”.



The Sutton and Cheam club supported our bazaar with their stand.

After over three hours of serious bazaaring (I claim that as a new word) the pace eased off and things started to wind down. The stallholders started counting up and clearing up and by 2.30 it was all over for another year.

Our grateful thanks to the people who supported the bazaar and also to those CATS members who gave up their Sunday morning to help. Some appreciative comments have been received from participants making it all worthwhile.

The date for our 32nd Bazaar is already set – **Sunday 15th November 2009**. See you there!

Membership Matters

Annual General Meeting of the society

Calling Notice

In accordance with the rules of the society, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society will be held on Monday 8th December 2008 at St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 4LA, commencing at 20.15.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is the one meeting a year that all members should attend. It is the opportunity to exercise your right to influence what CATS does and how it does it by being part of the decision making process. At this meeting you elect the members to serve on the committee to run the society for the coming year and also to raise matters that you wish to have decided or discussed by the membership. No participation means no influence and therefore no complaints if things are not to your liking. It's called democracy! It is also the time to review the events of the past year.

To reflect the festive season (and to bribe members into coming), hot mince pies and wine will be available at the meeting.

Nomination forms for committee posts are sent with this newsletter. Nominations should have the agreement of the nominee (no unexpected or "ambush" nominations please!) and must be seconded by another current member. Forms should be passed to the secretary by post or email before the meeting, or by hand before the meeting commences. Additional forms will be available.

Elections will be held for the following committee posts to serve for 2009:

Secretary

Treasurer

Five Ordinary members, from whom one will be elected by all the committee members to serve as Chairman of the society for the year.

Your attention is directed to society Rules governing the conduct of the AGM, specifically: rule 7.2 that states that all committee members shall retire at the AGM but may seek re-election if they so wish.

Subscriptions

Yes, it's that time of year again!

In accordance with society rules all members are reminded that your annual subscription for 2009 becomes due on the date of the AGM, at which

meeting the rate applicable for the coming year will be announced.

For those unable to attend the AGM a membership renewal form will be sent immediately after the AGM. Please return this to the Hon Treasurer as soon as possible. Society rules allow a period of two months grace after the AGM to renew memberships however it is not necessary to wait that long!

Your timely responses will be greatly appreciated.



New member

Actually, it's someone we already know.

Clinton Brown G7CAK is well known to many members; the arm-twisting has worked and he has re-joined CATS. He lists his interests as construction and operating on HF, 2m and 70cm, also music and sound systems.

Welcome back to CATS!

CATS Publicity

CATS publicity officer Steve G3WZK has been hard at work raising the profile of the society with articles on amateur radio and CATS in particular appearing in the local "CR6" magazine and in the Coulsdon & Purley Advertiser.

When Steve, G3WZK, emailed a short news item to the Croydon Advertiser about the CATS bazaar on November 16th, he got a bit more than he bargained for! It must have been a quiet day for news because less than an hour later he received a 'phone call from their reporter, Jolene Hill, requesting more information. Although Steve was only seeking to publicise the bazaar, the Advertiser had decided to run a major feature about ham radio and Jolene wanted to know all about it including sunspots, equipment construction, comparisons with CB and how Steve had got into the hobby. Before long a photographer, Kevin Shaw, arrived to take some photos of the 'WZK shack. Several coffees and about 90 snaps later, as Kevin was leaving, he asked Steve to demonstrate his rig, so a QSO was quickly set up with Frank, G3ZMF, on the Banstead 70 cm repeater, GB3NS.

Steve thought that would be the end of it, but less than an hour after Kevin's departure, he received another call from the Advertiser. "They said they wanted to come back next day to make a short video for their website," reports Steve. "It would be about CATS, 'WZK and ham radio in general. Thanks for getting me into that, Frank!"

For the video next day Andy G8JAC, kindly agreed to take part in a two-way QSO on 145.2875 MHz. Recordings were also made of a CW contact on 14 MHz with Med, 7X4AN (Algeria) and an SSB contact, also on 14 MHz with Walter, K1QS, in Naples, Maine, on the day after the US presidential election – unintentionally very good timing!

In total, nearly 30 minutes of video was recorded, although this was edited down to a few minutes for the web version. If you haven't seen it yet have a look at <http://tiny.cc/KfjZg>

To see the feature in CR6 magazine go to <http://www.cr6.biz/> and it's on page 42. There are a couple of people that you'll recognise!

The CATS shirt project

We confidently expect that the first tranche of the new shirts will be available at the AGM. Will you get yours? Come to the meeting and find out!

G6MFM

At the time of Derek Hills' funeral in October, his family requested "no flowers" but nominated two charities that Derek had supported. Therefore the committee agreed that a donation of £25 should be made to Cancer Research UK in Derek's name.

Derek's family had made it known to the committee that they would like us to dispose of his radio equipment and so arrangements were made to collect it and it was presented for sale at our recent bazaar as a Silent Key sale. Many people bought items and gave generously, and at the end of the bazaar a total of £457.90 had been raised. This was passed to the family who very generously donated £257.90 to society funds. The Chairman has written to them to express our grateful thanks.

Most members will be aware that one of Derek's passions was flying and we have a lecture in preparation for early next year on the subject that will be dedicated as the G6MFM memorial lecture in his memory.

Christmas Transponder net

The last TransPONDer net for this year will take place on Saturday 6 December and will be the opportunity to pass Christmas greetings to our friends across the pond. The USA now having changed their clocks back to "winter" time, the net returns to the normal time of 17.15 GMT for us, which is 9.15 am Pacific time over there. The frequency is 145.2875MHz as usual and the link will be via MB7IPL in Purley.

Have a go at 10m!

The current almost total lack of sunspots means that the 10 metre band has little activity on it at the moment. This does not deter a local band (pun not intended!) of amateurs from banding together (sorry!) to try to generate some activity. Known as the Home Counties net, they gather on a Saturday evening at 21.00 using 28.50 MHz USB and then to a nearby clear spot. This could be a good opportunity to get going on 10 in readiness for the long-awaited improvement in the sunspot cycle or maybe to press that old "illegal" CB rig into service.

The group have a web site - <http://www.10metre.net>

Another website

Dave G8VXB has been rummaging around on the Internet again and recommends taking a look at <http://www.aerialsandtv.com/>. Navigate to the section called "The Cowboys Locker".

Latest on Licensing

Ofcom has released the figures for amateur radio licences issued up to 31 October. In the last 12 months, 1558 Foundation, 635 Intermediate and 682 Advanced licences have been issued. This reflects the effort put into the amateur radio licensing scheme by participating clubs, tutors and invigilators. *Info from the RSGB news.*

Cache of Enigmas found

Turning out a long-forgotten attic storeroom in a military headquarters building in Madrid has revealed a secret from the Spanish civil war of 1936 – 1939. The regime of General Franco had purchased fifty of the commercial version of the Enigma coding machines for use during the war to gain a communications advantage over their Republican opponents. Hitler supported Franco but not to the extent of allowing him to have the more advanced military versions.

26 Enigma machines have been found, safely preserved for nearly 70 years in packing cases and mostly in virtually mint condition. Most of the machines will go into displays in Spanish museums.

James G0 SDB writes:

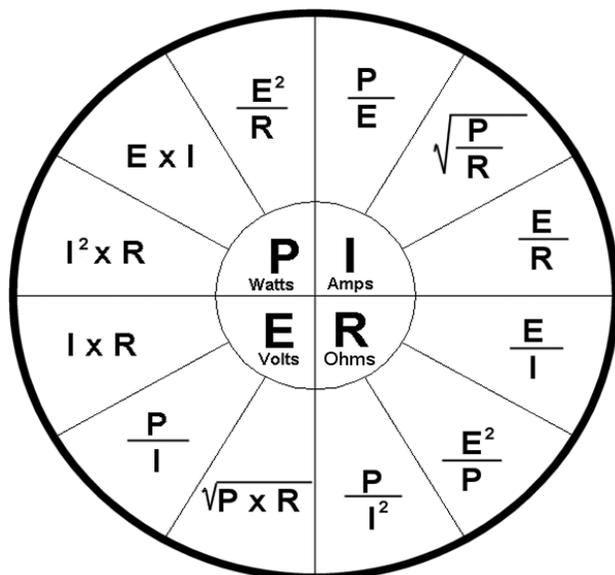
I wanted to draw your attention to this important petition that I recently signed:

"Ofcom to enforce the Wireless Telegraphy Act"
<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/WTA?e>

I really think this is an important cause, and I'd like to encourage you to add your signature, too. It's free and takes less than a minute of your time.

A Handy Aide-memoir

Getting one of the questions wrong in G3ZMF's quiz made me remember this useful aide-memoir for Ohm's Law formulae.



SYCOM

All CATS members will know of Sycom. After all, the name appears on the front page of every *CATS Whispers*; but Sycom, which is the name of the electronic component and equipment supply business run by Robin G3FNV is also a sponsor of CATS and for many years now has actively supported us. A CATS Bazaar just wouldn't be the same without him!

Sycom can supply a huge range of components that are now hard to track down. Most of the old traditional suppliers have vanished and the big suppliers don't want the bother of dealing with private individuals with their single component orders of what are usually obsolescent style compared to what industry wants and impose minimum quantity or account restrictions. Not a problem if you want 200,000 SMD capacitors but the odd 47kΩ resistor or a couple of BC108s? It's not economic for them. On top of that, it's not easy to find a supplier who will take the time to chat and advise you on the right choice of component for your project or suggest a way round something that isn't manufactured any more. 30 years experience in the component industry with a pleasant helpful attitude is a very useful facility to have access to.

The Sycom website has an on-line catalogue and an ordering facility and can be found at <http://www.sycomcomp.co.uk/> Robin himself can be contacted at robin@sycomcomp.co.uk or on 01372 372587. Hours of business are 9am-1pm and 2-5.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays only.

Robin also deals in used amateur equipment and his current stock list is below. If anything takes your fancy give him a call.

RECEIVERS	
Yaesu FRG9600	£145
JRC NRD515	£395
JRC NDH515	£395
JRC NVA515	£395
JRC NDH515	£90
Grundig G5	£60

SCANNERS	
Uniden BC246T as new	£160
Uniden BC780XLT	£160
Radio Shack Pro2005	£80
Radio Shack PRO2006	£85
Radio Shack PRO97	£60
Yupiteru MVT7100	£70

VHF/UHF TRANSCEIVERS	
AKD 6001	£95
Alinco DJ580 handheld	£65
Yaesu FT726R (6m/2m/70cm)	£360
Icom IC3200E	£125
Azden PCS6000	£95
Kenwood KTH-K2ET	£95
Kenwood TM451E (70cm)	£75
Kenwood TR751E 2m multimode	£199
Alinco DJ-C7T	£99

HF TRANSCEIVERS	
Alinco DX-70 (+EDS6)	£385
Alinco DX77	£345
Icom IC736	£520
Kenwood TS850 with PS52	£599
Kenwood TS850	£535

ATUs	
AT1000 (rx only or QRP!) (4 avail)	£42
Alinco EDX2 unused	£260
MFJ 993B Inteletuner	£145

MISCELLANEOUS	
SGC ADSP2 speaker	£60
Alinco DM330MW sw mode PSU	£72
Timewave DSP599ZX	£110
Timewave DSP9+	£55
Datong FL1 filter	£23
Datong FL3 filter (3 available)	£55
Hansen FS200 SWR meter	£32
Hansen FS602M	£35
Himound HK702 key	£18
Kanreonics KAM TNC	£99
Kantronics KPC3 TNC	£48
KW108 Monitorscope	£55
Kenwood LF30 Low Pass Filter	£23
MFJ1263 misc switching	£70
MFJ260B Dummy Load	£25
Datong PC1 VHF/HF	£36
AEA PK88 TNC	£48
Comdell speech processor	£27
Dewsbury Starmaster keyboard	£25
Himound key	£55
Kent key	£40
AKD WA1 wavemeter (2 avail)	£17

NEW ITEMS	
Traveller 1000 SatNav	£60
Garex 4001 4m FM transceiver	£145.95
Garex 6001 6m FM transceiver	£169.95
Watson W25-AM PSU	£69.95

Bazaar Gallery



Meters for all on the G3ZMF/G8AAI stall.



The CATS Bring and Buy table and Silent Key sale.



G8MNY always has a good range of vintage components on offer.

The Editor's tailpiece

It seems to have been a long year, not helped really by the lousy weather that we had to endure during what was laughingly called the "summer", but I think it's been a good year overall for CATS. We'll have a review of the year at the AGM, which I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend, but personally I've enjoyed what we've done. The current economic downturn might keep you at home instead of going out on the town quite so much but that means more time for radio! Anyway, from the committee and me, a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Local Rallies & Events

Sun 1st Feb 2009

South Essex Amateur radio Society

24th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally

The Paddocks Community Centre, Long Rd, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0JA

Situated at the southern end of the A130 off a new mini roundabout)

Doors Open 10:30 am. Major Amateur Radio & Electronic component exhibitors Selling New & Used equipment. Refreshments including Bob's Bacon Rolls. Disabled / wheelchair friendly site. Free Car Park.

Sunday 8th February 2009

HARWELL RADIO & ELECTRONICS RALLY

At Didcot Leisure Centre, (Adjoining St. Birinus School), Mereland Road, Didcot, OX11 8AY, Oxfordshire.

22 February 2009

Bredhurst R&TS (BRATS) Radio Rally

Rainham Girls' School, Derwent Way, Rainham, Kent (just off A2 & M2/J4). Open 09:30/10:00. Parking. Talkin 2m. SIGs, Catering, Lectures, Trade. Admission £2.50. Details: O.wheeler@btopenworld.com

19 April 2009 Spring Radio & Electronics show at Kempton Park. *NOTE: CATS involvement in this event. Date subject to confirmation.*

For Sale & Wanted

FOR DISPOSAL – Tri-band beam covering 20/15/10m. Contact Len G0GNQ QTNR.

WANTED

Mike Buckley M1CCF is looking for a Yaesu FRB-757 relay box used to interface the Yaesu FT757 transceiver with an external amplifier. Either a box to purchase or a loan of one to prove the system is required.

If you can help or point him in the right direction, contact him on 020 8654 2582 or email on M1CCF@talktalk.net.

Other Club News & Contact Information

BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS

Website – www.bdars.org.uk
Email bdars-news@talk21.com
3rd Tuesday at Victory Social Club, Kechill
Gardens, Hayes, Kent
7-30pm for 8pm

Crystal Palace Radio and Electronics Club

Meets on 1st Friday of every month at 7.30pm at
All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill.
Club Net – Wednesdays 2000hrs 145.525 MHz
www.gsl.net/g30ou/ or <http://www.g30ou.co.uk/>

5 December – **Christmas social**

2 January – Sub-sea telecommunications cables – Steve
G3WZK

CRAWLEY ARC

www.carc.org.uk
Club Nets –
Tuesdays 2000hrs 145.550 MHz
Fridays 1900hrs 1.970 MHz
Every Wednesday at Hut 18 Tilgate Forest
Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley
from 7-30pm, and Sundays, 10.30 until 13.00.

DORKING & District RS

Club Nets –
Sunday 0815hrs 3.770 MHz
2030hrs 144.775 MHz
Meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House,
Butterhill, South Street Dorking at 1930hrs.
Contact: Walter Blanchard G3JKV
Email: wb@g3jkv.co.uk
Web site:- <http://www.ddrs.org.uk>

HORSHAM ARC

Club Nets –
Saturdays 2130hrs 144.725MHz
Sundays 1000hrs 3.722 MHz
Meetings: 1st Thursday at The Guide Hall,
Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex.
Latest news – www.harc.org.uk

4th December – Annual General Meeting

MID SUSSEX ARS

Club Nets –
Sundays 0800hrs 3.740 MHz
Sundays 1100hrs 145.350 MHz
Wednesdays 2000hrs 145.350 MHz
Daily 1330hrs 21.330 MHz
Every Friday at Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road,
Burgess Hill, West Sussex for 7.45pm
Info – www.msars.org.uk

REIGATE ATS

Club Net –
Thursdays 2000hrs 145.500 MHz Sundays
2000hrs 3.740 – 3.760 MHz
Website www.gsl.net/rats
Email rats@gsl.net
3rd **Thursday** at RNIB, Redhill College,
Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 7-30pm

SRCC

Ray Howells G4FFY 020 8644 7589
Club Nets –
Sunday 0930hrs, 1905 kHz
Daily natter channel – 144.214MHz at 19.30.
Website – www.g3src.org.uk
Meetings: 1st & 3rd Mondays at Trinity School,
Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 7.45pm for 8pm

5 January - "Does the Goubau (single wire transmission)
line explain how antennas actually work?"
with Mike Underhill G3LHZ
2 February - SMD Masterclass with Gareth G4XAT

SUTTON & CHEAM RS

John Puttock G0 BWV 020 8644 9945
Club Nets –
Monday 20.00hrs 145.500 MHz
Saturday 11.00hrs 145.500 MHz
Website – www.scrs.org.uk
3rd Thursday at Sutton United Football Club, The
Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane,
Sutton. 7-30pm for 8pm.

11th December – Christmas junk sale

15th January - 'JOTA 2007' by Denis Noe M0NDJ

THAMES VALLEY A.R.T.S.

Trevor Farris M0 CDB 013 7245 767
Club Net Only – G3TVS
Saturdays 1400hrs on 40m

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS

Website – www.gx3wim.org.uk
Club Net – Mondays 2045hrs 145.500 MHz
2nd & last Friday of each month at
Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh
Avenue, Merton Park SW20. 7.30pm for 8pm.

12th December – Christmas social

CATS Whispers is published monthly by
A Jackson G8JAC on behalf of the
Coulston Amateur Transmitting Society. © C.A.T.S. 2008