

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY
G4FUR  **M1FUR**
CATS WHISPERS



Affiliated to the RSGB

May 2009

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CATS Committee

Chairman: Steve Conway, G7SYO
Secretary: Andy Jackson, G8JAC
Treasurer: Derek Hands, G1PGS
Members: Steve Beal, G3WZK
Stuart Barber, G6CJR
Dennis Noe, M0NDJ
Frank Emery, G3ZMF

CATS Whispers Editor: Steve Beal, G3WZK
email address for contributions: newsletter@catsradio.org

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 22:00

Society Nets

1st Saturday of Month - 17:15 - Crescenta Valley / CATS Net on Echolink
Normally via MB7IPL node on 145.2875 MHz
Sunday mornings - 11:00 - Call on 145.2875MHz.
Sunday evenings - 17:00 - Call on 3.700 MHz ± QRM
Wednesday evenings - 21:00 - Call on 70.425 MHz

CATS Website

www.catsradio.org

Email

enquiries@catsradio.org

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 11th May DF hunt
Monday 8th June Talk on Software Defined Radio by Jan Verduyn, G0BBL
Monday 13th July Nigel Cawthorne G3TXF talks about DXpeditions he has organised around the world



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

April Meeting Report

Our April meeting featured a talk by Ollie Haffenden (ex-GOPVA), from the BBC's Kingswood Warren Laboratories on DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale) and DVB-T2 (Digital Video Broadcasting – Second Generation Terrestrial).



An anxious-looking Ollie sets up his laptop

On DRM, Ollie began by explaining its place in the frequency spectrum – currently between 100 kHz and 30 MHz, but with development work in progress to include VHF Bands I and II.

He then described the BBC's development of a professional HF receiver, in which the entire received spectrum from 0 to 30 MHz is sampled at 60 MHz in an analogue to digital converter. It is then analysed using software developed by the BBC, which the corporation has since licensed to other enterprises. The complete receiver was tested in a Faraday cage – using a uniform RF field created between two banks of standard 15 mm copper plumbing pipes.

The BBC also developed a DRM modulator which required field tests in Europe to check HF coverage. It was also tested on MW and LW.

Amongst the facilities available on DRM are frequency diversity reception and also, to help combat fading, polarisation diversity reception.

Ollie then described an information system called AMSS, the aim of which is to provide a station label and alternative frequency list on DRM – similar to the RDS system used on VHF. This was tested from Orford Ness in Suffolk.

Also described was a monitoring system (“Theseus”) which permits the remote monitoring of reception conditions using a central server at Kingswood Warren that is fed over the internet by a number of PC-based receivers at various geographical locations.

In conclusion, Ollie demonstrated some commercially available radios – such as the Roberts MP40 – whose functions include DRM in addition to DAB, FM and AM reception.



The Roberts MP40

Also recommended by Ollie was the Digital World Traveller radio (see below) which is controlled by software via a USB connection from a suitable PC or laptop. As the radio is no longer available, CATS members were advised to monitor eBay for a secondhand model !

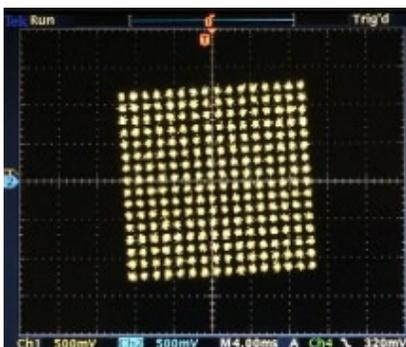


The Digital World Traveller

After a break for refreshments, Ollie described the various technical challenges of bringing high definition television (HDTV) to the sitting room by using DVB-T2 on a terrestrial (non-satellite) platform. The UK has been a prime mover on DVB-T2 and although the definitive specification was only approved as recently as June 2008, work is on target for commercial service to begin as early as end-2009 from the Winter Hill site (Manchester area) and probably from Crystal Palace too.

Requirements in the spec included, among other things, that DVB-T2 would be compatible with the present transmitter infrastructure, that domestic receiving antennas would not need to be changed and that it would increase bandwidth utilisation by at least 30 %

Techniques used include LDPC codes for parity checking, Coded Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (to overcome multiple delay reception), 256 QAM mode, scattered pilot, power saving (useful for handheld receivers), interleaving at bit, time and frequency level (to break up bursts of errors), "rotated constellations" and the Alamouti technique for transmission diversity. Overall the channel capacity was increased from 24.1 Mbit/s to 36.1 Mbit/s compared with DVB-T as currently used on terrestrial Freeview services. This is extremely close to the theoretical maximum.



A rotated 256-QAM constellation (BBC picture)

Construction of the BBC's DVB-T2 modulator was completed in June of 2008 (see below)



Completed DVB-T2 modulator (BBC picture)

The modulator was tested successfully at the BBC's transmitter site in Guildford and this was followed by complex inter-operability tests with a range of equipment from different manufacturers and broadcasters in September 2008.



Field trial of completed DVB-T2 modulator (BBC picture)

The latest news is that all is on target for a service launch by the end of 2009. Delivery of the first HDTV set top boxes to shops is expected imminently.

Although the lecture was not for the technically faint-hearted, Ollie gave a fascinating insight into the lengths development engineers go to to wring the last extra percent of capacity from a modulation system. The lecture was attended by 17 members and 5 guests.

For more information, check out DRM or DVB-T2 on your favourite search engine – or try one of the links below.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/bbcinternet/2008/09/how_to_build_a_dvbt2_modulator.html

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/digital/hd_on_dtt/pilot/pilot_tor.pdf

http://www.dvb.org/technology/fact_sheets/DVB-T2%20Fact%20Sheet.0808.pdf

Membership Matters

Cats Polo Shirts: All of these have now been delivered.

Cats Fleeces: Stuart, G6CJR, expects that these will cost no more than £25.00. To help him assess the likely demand, please contact him direct.

Hall Hire: The cost of hiring the hall at Grovelands Road has recently increased but you'll be glad to hear that there are no immediate plans to raise members' subscriptions.

CATS May Meeting

The plan is for this to be DF hunt – albeit somewhat earlier in the year than last year’s hunt which was in June.

As proposed at the April meeting, CATS has bought a trophy to be awarded to the winner of our annual direction finding (DF) hunt in memory of G6MFM. Derek was an enthusiastic and skilful DF’er and the trophy has been suitably engraved.

This year’s DF hunt takes place on May 11th. Will Martin, G4FKK, and daughter Katy win it for the third year running – or will the trophy soon be gracing someone else’s mantelpiece?

The starting point for the hunt is the same as last year, ie the car park in the middle of Farthing Downs – map reference TQ300582 – see map below.



The start time is 19:30 and further details will be emailed to CATS members shortly. Other essential information will be handed out at the start. You should aim to be there as early as possible for the recording of vehicle odometer readings, because final placings will be determined on the basis both of time taken *and* total distance travelled. Good luck!

MSSRL Visit: 26th May

The Dorking and District ARS have kindly invited members of CATS, Guildford DRS, Sutton & Cheam ARS and Surrey Radio Contact Club to what promises to be a very interesting visit to the Mullard Space Science Research Laboratory (MSSRL). The visit is on

the evening of 26th May and MSSRL is sited near Dorking.

The evening includes three short talks - about the Sun, solar emissions and how they affect the ionosphere and magnetic field of the Earth - and a visit to the lab: all of great interest as we prepare to enter Solar Cycle 24.

If you would like to come too, please let me know by 19th May at the latest at newsletter@catsradio.org, so that we can inform DDARS of the number of CATS attendees. You will need to arrive at 19:45 for a 20:00 start.

The MSSRL is located at:
The Mullard Space Science Laboratory
Holmbury St Mary
Dorking
Surrey
RH5 6NT

For more information, visit the MSSRL at www.mssl.ucl.ac.uk. There is also a location map at: www.mssl.ucl.ac.uk/general/contact/assets/accommodation_map.pdf

CATS June Meeting

On June 8th there will be a talk by Jan Verduyn G0BBL entitled “Software Defined Radio.” Jan has spoken widely on this topic at other clubs including the Swindon and District Amateur Radio Club, Trowbridge and Yeovil. He also gave a lecture at the Kempton Park Rally in September 2008.

CATS July Meeting

The subject of the July meeting will be a talk by Nigel Cawthorne G3TXF about the various DXpeditions he has organised around the world. Steve, G3WZK, met Nigel at Bristol University over 40 years ago. Nigel was studying electrical engineering and was Chairman of the Uni Amateur radio Society, G3KAC.

Since then he has been somewhat busier on the air than G3WZK, having amassed a collection of over 300,000 QSL cards!

For more information, see Nigel’s website on:

<http://www.g3txf.com/>

The Foundation Course – A Trainer's Perspective

In the March issue the Editor gave an account of his experiences of being on a "Train the Trainers" session (TtT) in Banstead. Now Steve, G3WZK, updates us on his experiences as a tutor on a Foundation Course.

"The course was ably organised by Martin, M1MRB of SCRS and we met a couple of weeks before the course to agree who would teach each part of the syllabus. I agreed to do all the Morse work and to present the session on 'Feeders and Antennas.' The other sessions would be taken either by Martin himself or one of the other tutors: Dennis M0NDJ, Paul M0TZO or Tim 2E0TTA. I had sixteen days to prepare!

"Fortunately, Martin had run both Foundation and Intermediate courses before and gave me a complete set of his slides. I studied these closely in advance, gave the RSGB Foundation manual a good read-through and did a few on-line tests to understand what the course would be like from a student's perspective. I also collected some samples of coaxial cable, 300 ohm line and RF connectors, some polarised clip-on sunglasses to demonstrate polarized radio waves by analogy with light, and the odd antenna or two to illustrate the session.

"The course proper was held over the weekend of 28th February/ 1st March. A total of 16 students had enrolled – 4 adults and the remainder schoolboys aged from 10 to 13 from Trinity School in Croydon. The weekend was divided into a welcome session, 12 conventional teaching sessions covering all aspects of the syllabus, and eight timeslots for practicals.

"The 'Feeders and Antennas' session was scheduled for late on the Sunday morning, so I had plenty of time to analyse the other tutors' lecturing styles and help in the Q&A sessions before my turn arrived. In the mean time, however, my main contribution was to take the students through the mandatory Morse code sending and receiving practice in five sessions. Fortunately for me, I had done something very similar previously – and in the very same hall – at several Jamborees On The Air (JOTA). While the Foundation practicals are obviously more formal and there is no speed target, the main point is that 100 per cent accuracy is required. Basically this means that exercises

have to be repeated until the students get it right. This is time-consuming – but so long as each student can distinguish a dot from a dash they will all eventually complete this task. Other practicals covered topics such as setting up and operating HF and VHF/UHF equipment, live QSO practice and antenna adjustments.

"Then it was time for 'Feeders and Antennas.' The time flew but I knew something must have sunk in when one of the Trinity boys pointed out that I had made a mistake in my verbal comparison of BNC and PL259 connectors. But would they remember what a balun is, did they understand ERP and would they still recognize the 5 types of antenna as required by the syllabus come the examination day? I concluded the session by reminding them that "it's all in the book".

"Overall the weekend was interesting and stimulating although demanding and very tiring and I managed, quite successfully I hope, to keep references to 'how we did it back in 1967' to a minimum. It was pleasant to talk to the students during the breaks and, where appropriate, to answer some questions in more depth than formally required by the course.

"The following Saturday was revision and exam day. Would the students have done as recommended and read the Foundation Manual and how many would have attempted on-line practice exams, such as those on <http://www.hamtests.co.uk/> ?

"Unsurprisingly the students had done variable amount of private study, but as the revision session progressed that morning, Martin M1MRB, took everyone through a series of mock tests in a fun way, stopping whenever necessary to explain again any topic if any of the students were still struggling with it.

"After lunch it was time for the tutors to quit the hall and leave the students in the care of the four examiners. The exam itself lasted for 45 minutes and it took a further nail-biting hour for the papers to be marked while the students waited nervously for their results.

"Then the examiners announced that they were finished and the students were invited, one by one, into a side room to be given their results.

"There was a mixture of disappointment and elation as one by one the boys emerged, but even those who had failed – generally the youngest - seemed to take it philosophically.

Then it was the adults' turn and they had all passed - one gaining full marks - 25 out of 25.

"Although the results were not as good as the tutor group had achieved before, overall the results exactly reflected the national pass rate of 70% – in that 11 of the 16 students (69%) were successful.



Successful students display their pass certificates

"I took a keen interest in how the students had answered the three questions on Feeders and Antennas and was rather disappointed by the results. As far as can be recollected the question causing most difficulty was as follows:

"Q) Which antenna radiates vertically and is omni-directional:

- 1) Dipole
- 2) Yagi
- 3) Ground Plane
- 4) Windom

"As Windoms aren't mentioned at all in the Foundation manual, this question was, perhaps, potentially a little unfair. Any ideas for a visual aid so that the point can be illustrated better another time?

"There are no firm plans for the next courses but it is likely that there will be another Foundation Course in September 2009, there may be an Advanced examination (but no course) sometime in the Summer.

"For myself, it was well worth the effort of getting involved and I thoroughly recommend it. I would definitely want to repeat the exercise again, will study the notes I made, and hopefully improve the pass rate next time."

Kempton Park Rally 2009

Andy, G8JAC writes, "Firstly, thank you to all those members who turned out to run the Bring & Buy stall. At times it became a bit hectic but

I think we had a good day. The results of our efforts are as follows.

"We accepted items from 28 sellers. Charging 10% commission as usual, a total of £195.71 was raised for CATS funds, including £30.71 from the sale of some items kindly donated by G6MFM's sister.



Andy (G0KZT) deals with a customer (centre) while Andy (G8JAC) checks the paperwork

"The attendance was quite good, presumably as the weather was pleasant. The usual traders were there including our own Sycom, plus the Yaesu stand. By far the most interesting section in my view was the club stands section which was constantly crowded.

"I spotted on amusing thing at the show: a very large Heatherlite HF linear amplifier - in the 500W+ range - for sale with the former proud owner's sticky label still on the front panel and bearing an M3 callsign!

"A further rally is planned for September 27th 2009."

73 de Andy G8JAC

Contest Latest by G0KZT

VHF NFD - 4th & 5th July 2009

CATS are once again invited to take part in the joint team effort of SRCC, Addiscombe ARC, Wimbledon & DARS and CATS under the North East Surrey Contest Group umbrella. Operation will be from the site at Woldingham as used by CATS in previous contesting events. CATS are providing our club mast and a rotator for the 70cms section. In total, there will be four bands, 6m, 4m, 2m and 70cms being entered into the restricted section. There

will also be a trial of 23cms, most probably under a 'B' Team title to evaluate whether 23cms would be worth pursuing in 2010.

It is planned that erection on the site will commence from 17:00 on the Friday evening. The main contest is 24 hours in duration and begins at 15:00 on the Saturday. If you would like to take part, in the first instance contact me (Andy, G0KZT). I will collate our interest and forward it on. It would appear from the meeting I attended that it will be for the individual to provide their own food and cooking facilities - but if that changes I'll let you know. Tell me which band/s and times you would like to operate and also add if you are a member of the RSGB (being a CATS member affiliated to the RSGB should still be OK). I suggest putting your request in early to avoid disappointment (Frank, don't bother as your wish to operate from midnight has already been put forward).

HF Contesting

I would like to poll interest in CATS taking part in SSB Field Day that takes place over the first weekend in September. Several members hinted they would like to have a bash at an HF contest and I believe this is the best one on offer (although, as suggested by its title, it's not a CW event.) If not SSB Field Day, which one(s)? Deadline for interest - 31st May, please.

Low Power Contest – 1st & 2nd August 2009

Planning has begun for these two contests; 2 metres on the Saturday and 70cms on the Sunday. Please register your interest as early as possible but by the latest, 1st July 2009. If there is enough interest, maybe we could have a club BBQ or something?

And Finally

I would urge all members to get involved, especially in operating the stations. It does appear to fall to a very small number of members who put the effort into operating the stations. As many of you know, in respect to the CATS only events, we're far from being competitive and trophies are a bit of a pipe dream. North East Surrey CG had the top entry in the 70cm restricted section of VHF NFD in 2008 and with a bit of luck on our sides, who knows, silverware may be within the contest group's reach. We're grateful to all the members who come along and help put the stations together and take them down at the end, but it's a club activity and all members should have the opportunity to take part,

regardless of ability or experience in contest operating. You never know, you might enjoy it!

Go on, check your diaries now and volunteer today!

Andy G0KZT

Las Vacaciones De Miguel

A quick reminder that Mike, G8AAI, is operating from Los Gallardos until Thursday 14th May 2009 as EA7/G3OPB on a preferred frequency of 14.163 MHz \pm QRM with expected operating times around 10:30 or 14:30 BST. G3WZK has listened for him twice – but a contact has so far been elusive.

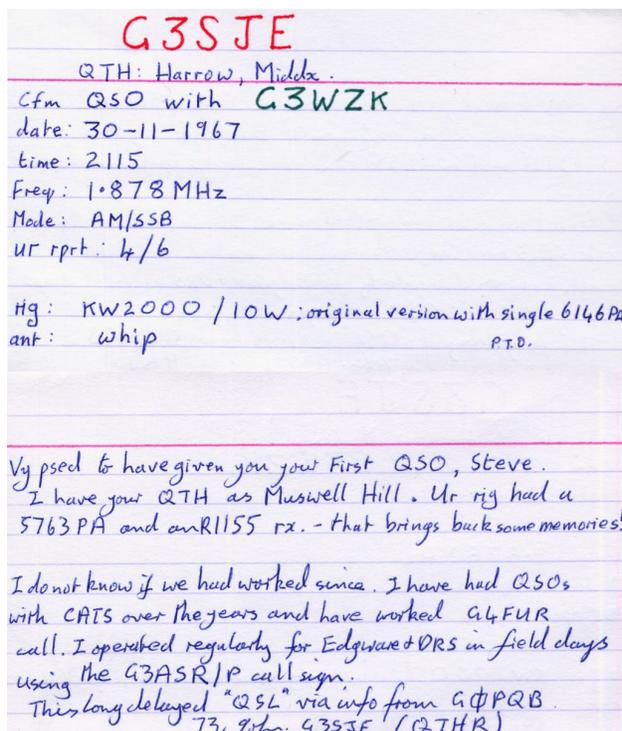
It's Never Too Late To QSL

Just after emailing out the March edition of CW, the editor received a QSL card direct in the post from John, G3SJE of Harrow in North London. Nothing remarkable in that, you might think, except that the card related to a QSO in 1967 – over 41 years ago!

As Steve, G3WZK, explains, "I recently had a simplex contact on 2 metres with G0PQB (Steve in Borehamwood). During the QSO I looked G0PQB up on qrz.com and noticed that his first ever QSO had been on 160 metres with John, G3SJE. This was an amazing coincidence because my first ever QSO had also been on 160 with G3SJE, way back in November 1967. When I mentioned this on air to G0PQB, he replied that he still knew John: in fact, he was planning to see him that very evening at a meeting of the Edgware club and said he would mention me to him.

"Two weeks later a handwritten QSL card arrived by post from G3SJE – a complete but most welcome surprise. All of my details were correct (ie homebrew valve Tx with 5763 PA, RII55 Rx (with homebrew G2DAF 160m converter) and home QTH at the time of Muswell Hill in North London.) Just one of the benefits of keeping a detailed logbook! At the time I was a schoolboy – working for J Sainsbury every Saturday to earn the money to support the hobby. I have now sent a QSL back to John with a covering letter.

"Can any CATS members beat 41 years for a QSL to arrive, I wonder?"



Both sides of the QSL sent from G3SJE to G3WZK

Animated Radio Tutorials:

Andy, G8JAC, investigated this site after seeing it mentioned in the Crawley newsletter. There's lots of good stuff there and while some bits of it are better than others, the editor was very taken with their attempt to explain QAM. For more information, visit:
<http://www.williamson-labs.com/home.htm>

ICQ Amateur / Ham Radio Podcast comes of age with 21st Episode:

Launched in July 2008, the ICQ Amateur / Ham Radio Podcast provides a mixture of news, views, training, technical reviews and information for all levels in the hobby. This April, the ICQ Podcast came of age with the publication of its 21st episode.

The ICQ Podcast is a fortnightly radio-type show that can be listened to on a computer or mp3 player. Episodes can be downloaded direct from the website at <http://www.icqpodcast.com> or by subscribing to iTunes (<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=284922000>).

As Martin Butler (M1MRB) and Colin Butler (M6BOY) say, "The ICQ Podcast is "for Amateur's by Amateur's" and we would be very interested to hear for anyone who would like to be involved." Contact them at info@icqpodcast.com

Geoparks Communication Weekend

GB6GEO is on the air again for the 2nd Global Geoparks Communication Event – 23/24th May 2009 from Kent's Cavern Prehistoric Caves in Torquay, Devon, UK as part of the European Geoparks Festival week. Other Geopark stations operating from England and elsewhere will include GB6GEO, GB2GEO, GB1MAC, EI2GEO, DK0GEO, J48CEO, CT, VK, and 9M2. Proposed frequencies are: 3.680 MHz, 7.080 MHz, 14.180 MHz, 21.180 MHz and 28.480 MHz plus 2m and 6m. For contacts with Geopark stations, special commemorative certificates are on offer although you will have to pay for them.

A visit to the site could be interesting if you're in that part of the country. Other attractions will include Cave Radio, Satellite Communications, Amateur TV and a tribute to a local Devonshire man: Oliver Heaviside, discoverer of the Heaviside Layer in radio propagation.

For more information, contact Martin Foster, G3VOF, on martin@riviera.fm

Classic Radio Group

Frank, G3ZMF writes, "The idea for this group was conceived during a natter between Adam G7CRQ and Frank G3ZMF at Frank's shack in December 2008. The idea was to get people to dig out their old gear and put it back in the air. As Adam thought up the name of the group, he gets membership no. 001 and Frank gets No. 002

"The Rules of membership are simple:

1. Enjoy using old radios and forgotten modes.
2. Admission is free – but only if you have a piece of transmitting equipment manufactured or homebrewed in 1980 or before.
3. Encourage others to join in.

"Requests:

1. Find out as much as you can about the gear and, where possible, find an old

magazine with an advertisement in it, showing the gear and the price.

2. Have a go at the nets that we are trying to set up. Suggestions are 160 metres (1970 or 1980 kHz), 80 metres (3670, 3680 or possibly AM on 3615 kHz), 10 metres (28.5 MHz AM), 4 metres (70.26 MHz AM) or 2 metres (a reliable frequency between 144.5 and 145.0 MHz.)

3. Put ideas forward for nets/ meetings/ web site etc.

"The current membership list is as follows:

001 G7CRQ, Adam; 002 G3ZMF, Frank;
003 G4FKK, Martin; 004 G4DFA, Tom;
005 G3OLX, John; 006 G4NHO, John;
007 G8JAC, Andy; 008 G1HRD, Vince;
009 G8AAI, Mike; 010 G6DTW, Alvin;
011 G3WZK, Steve; 012 2E0MOC, John;
013 G1JEX, Bill; 014 EI5DD, Steve and
015 KL1X/G4DMA, Laurence"

73 de Frank, G3ZMF

CATS Tours: My Trip Around the World by Prue G4RWW: Part 2 – ZL to W6

Prue, G4RWW, writes: "I left Queenstown for Auckland flying over some beautiful scenery of snow-capped mountains, changed aircraft and continued on my way. It was a long haul, but I soon recovered when I arrived at Los Angeles. I travelled from the airport to Van Nuys in a flyaway bus and thoroughly enjoyed the experience for the first time.

"Jim KE6URZ and Christine KF60PU were waiting for me and we had lunch nearby before driving on to Ruth KG6FXE.

"I stayed with Ruth for the remainder of my holiday. Ruth has a small apricot poodle named Lambert so we did quite a bit of walking and he was fun to have around.



K9/LAMBERT

"Ruth lives in a residential complex for retired people who have been involved in the Motion

Picture industry during their working lives. I found it fascinating to listen to the numerous stories related by some of the residents. Everyone was very friendly and the talking endless.

"I was in America so the food was good. In that part of the world the weather was also bright and sunny and the grounds were out of this world. .

"There was entertainment on hand whilst I was there and we went to one concert entitled 'The Cotton Club'. Piano playing at its best with all that Jazz. Lena Horne songs and the 'A' train were my era when I was growing up so I was well pleased.



Leah, Flo, Larry, and Prue

"The build up to the Oscars was on while I was there, but on the actual night of the presentations, Jim and Christine had organised a gathering of some of the Crescenta Valley Radio Club members to meet up for a meal. You can guess the size of the meals I bet! The Club members present were Larry AD6IZ and his wife Flo K6FLO. Dennis K06YO and Leah KE6MMU, Jim KE6URZ and his wife Christine FK6OPU, Ruth KG6FXE and myself G4RWW. I was very pleased to see all of them again. It was the culmination of a very enjoyable trip.

"When it was time for me to leave, Jim drove me from Van Nuys to the airport for my flight to Heathrow. When I had left three weeks before, we had been in the grips of the worst snow for many years; what would the weather be like now, I wondered? As we landed at Heathrow, on 27 February, it was a nice day, the sun was shining and it was actually the warmest day of 2009 so far – 14 degrees C! To me, though, it seemed chilly compared with New Zealand and California. One of those days when it is better to look out, rather than be out!"

Contests Coming Soon

May 13: 80m Club Championship (Data)
May 16/17: 144 MHz May Contest
May 17: 1st 144 MHz Backpackers
May 21: 80m Club Championship (CW)
Jun 1: 80m Club Championship (Data)
Jun 6/7: National Field Day (1.8 – 28 MHz)
Jun 10: 80m Club Championship (CW)
Jun 14: 2nd 144 MHz Backpackers
Jun 18: 80m Club Championship (SSB)
Jun 20/21: 50 MHz Trophy Contest
Jun 21: 50 MHz Backpackers
Jul 4/5: VHF NFD
Jul 5: 3rd 144 MHz Backpackers
Jul 6: 80m Club Championship (CW)
Jul 15: 80m Club Championship (SSB)
Jul 19: 4th 144 MHz Backpackers
Jul 19: Low Power Field Day 3.5 & 7 MHz
Jul 23: 80m Club Championship (Data)
Jul 25/26: IOTA Contest 3.5-28 MHz
Aug 1: 144 MHz Low Power Contest
Aug 2: 432 MHz Low Power Contest
Aug 2: RoPoCo 2 (3.520-3.570 MHz)
Aug 13: 80m Club Sprint (CW)
Aug 16: 70 MHz Trophy Contest
Aug 26: 80m Club Sprint (SSB)
Sep 5/6: SSB Field Day 3.5-28 MHz
Sep 5/6: 144 MHz Trophy Contest
Sep 6: 5th 144 MHz Backpackers
Sep 10: 80m Club Sprint (SSB)
Sep 13: Second 70 MHz Contest
Sep 23: 80m Club Sprint (CW)

Local Rallies & Events

17 May 2009

Dunstable Downs RC National Amateur Radio Car Boot Sale

Stockwood Park, Luton, M1 J10
Open 09:00. Talk in on S22
www.ddrcbootsale.org

14 June 2009

Newhaven Fort Amateur Radio Group Rally

Newhaven Fort, East Sussex
Open 10:30. Parking, boot sale, disabled facilities, family attractions, catering
Contact Eddie G0ECW, 01273300772 or
eddie@zamboodile.demon.co.uk

21 June 2009

Newbury Radio Rally & Boot Sale

Newbury Showground, M4 J13.
Open 09:00. Free parking, trade stands, catering, disabled facilities. Contact
rally@nadars.org.uk

12 July 2009

McMichael Rally & Boot Sale

Reading Rugby Club off A4 east of Reading
Open 09:00. Parking, trade stands, catering.
Contact g0jms@radarc.org

30 August 2009

Milton Keynes 51st Amateur Radio Society Rally

Holne Chase School, Buckingham Road, Bletchley MK3 5HP

Open 09:00 trade stands, catering
Contact: Mike G3LFR: 07866 673192 or
www.mkars.org.uk

27 September 2009

West London Radio & Electronics Show

Kempton Park Racecourse.
Open 10:00. Parking, trade stands, catering, disabled facilities. Contact
info@radiofairs.co.uk

NOTE: CATS involvement in this event.

For Sale & Wanted

FOR SALE – Yaesu FT2800M: 2M FM mobile transceiver. Output 5/10/25/65 Watts with CTCSS and DTMF mike. Purchased new in 11/08 by Nick 2E0BPU for £119. Reason for sale: FT817 acquired. Asking price - £90. Contact Frank, G3ZMF, on 01737 218463, or call on GB3NS.

FOR SALE - Brand new valves: 813 and 805 – bases also available. Also quick heat versions of QQV0640A, QQV0320A and QQV0310. For prices contact Frank, G3ZMF, on 01737 218463, or call on GB3NS.

WANTED – Loan of simple to operate receiver (HF and/ or VHF/UHF) for very enthusiastic budding disabled amateur. Contact Steve on 01883 620730 or by email
g3wzk@whenland.com

WANTED – Philip (G0KUE - Coulsdon Area) is looking for an odd item and hoping someone from CATS can help him out.

A) He would like to purchase a Creed 7 teleprinter complete! (1940's era).

B) Philip is rebuilding the only known British Army Royal Corps of Signals 1944/45 WS 10 trailer. He would like to talk to people who operated these units in the later part of 1944/45 or 1950's. He needs information to help rebuild the unit to support that already obtained from RS Blandford, particularly personal information if possible.

Contact Philip at philip.webb4@tesco.net

Other Club News & Contact Information

BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.bdars.org.uk

Email bdars-news@talk21.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of every month at Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Kent, 19:30 for 20:00.

CPREC (CRYSTAL PALACE)

Website: www.qsl.net/g3oou/ or

<http://www.g3oou.co.uk/>

Club Net: Wednesdays 20:00 on 145.525 MHz

Meetings: 1st Friday at All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill at 19:30

Jun 5th: The History of Audio Recording by Jon Weller G0GNA

CRAWLEY ARC

Website: www.carc.org.uk

Club Nets: Tuesdays 20:00 on 145.550 MHz and Fridays 19:00 on 1.970 MHz

Meetings: Every Wednesday at Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley from 19:30, and Sundays, 10:30 to 13.00.

May 27th - 'Adventures in D Star' - David Lake G4ULF

Jun - TBA

Jul 2nd - 'The Goubau Line' - Mike Underhill G3LHZ

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvr.org

Contact: Richard Perzyna, G8ITB (see website)

Club Nets: Wednesdays 21:00 on 145.500/QSY and 22:00 on 3.720 ± QRM, and Sundays 11:00 on 3.720 ± QRM

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at Progress Hall, Admiral Seymour Road, Eltham, SE9 1SL.

DORKING & District RS

Website: <http://www.ddrs.org.uk>

Email: ddrs.secretary@yahoo.co.uk

Contact: David Smith, M0SXD, 07808579501

Club Nets: Sunday 08:15 on 3.770 MHz & 20:30 on 144.775 MHz

Meetings: Friends Meeting House, Butterhill, South Street Dorking at 19:30.

26th May - Visit to Mullard Space Science Laboratory

23rd Jun - 'Using the IBP and RSGB Board

Consultation' - Leslie Butterfields G0CIB

28th Jul - South Downs evening

HORSHAM ARC

Website: www.harc.org.uk

Club Nets: Saturdays 21:30 on 144.725MHz and Sundays 10:00 on 3.722 MHz

Meetings: 1st Thursday at The Guide Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex

7th May - QRP/Homebrew plus other topics Hans Summers

28th May - Fox Hunt

4th Jun - TBA

2nd Jul - Bring Show and Tell

30th Jul - Fox Hunt

MID SUSSEX ARS

Website: www.msars.org.uk

Club Nets: Sundays 08:00 on 3.740 MHz and at 11:00 on 145.350 MHz, Wednesdays 20:00 on 145.350 MHz and Daily 13:30 on 21.330 MHz

Meetings: Every Friday at Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex for 19:45

REIGATE ATS

Website: www.qsl.net/rats

Email: rats@qsl.net

Club Nets: Thursdays 20:00 on 145.500 MHz and Sundays 20:00 on 3.740 - 3.760 MHz

Meetings: 3rd Thursday at RNIB, Redhill College, Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 19:30

SRCC

Website: www.g3src.org.uk

Contact: Ray Howells G4FFY 020 8644 7589

Club Nets: Sunday 09:30 on 1905 kHz

Daily natter channel - 144.215 MHz at 19.30.

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Mondays at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 19:45 for 20:00

11th May - SMD Master Class + Project Constructing

1st Jun - Construction Contest

6th Jul - Summer BBQ at G4CCY/G4DDY's

SUTTON & CHEAM RS

Website: www.scrs.org.uk

Contact: John Puttock G0 BWV 020 8644 9945

Club Nets: Monday 20.00 on 145.500 MHz

Saturday 11.00 on 145.500 MHz

Meetings: 3rd Thursday at Sutton United Football Club, The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton. 19:30 for 20:00

21st May - AGM and Construction Contest

30th May - Radio Play Day on Woldingham Ridge

18th Jun - 'Frequency Standards' by Mike O'Beirne, G8MOB

16th Jul - 'GB3NS Repeater' - tbc

THAMES VALLEY ARTS

CATS has been informed that this society has recently been disbanded

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.gx3wim.org.uk

Club Net: Mondays 20:45 on 145.500 MHz

Meetings: 2nd & last Friday of each month at

Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park SW20. 19:30 for 20:00

8th May - DF Hunt

29th May - Members Evening TBA

12th Jun - Commercial Satellite Communications G1SHV

26th Jun - Construction Evening

10th Jul - Guest Speaker TBA

31st Jul to 9th Aug - Summer Camp

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