

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



Affiliated to the RSGB

August 2010

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CATS Committee

Chairman: Steve Beal, G3WZK
Secretary: Andy Jackson, G8JAC
Treasurer: Steve Conway, G7SYO
Members: Stuart Barber, G6CJR
Frank Emery, G3ZMF
Dennis Noe, M0NDJ
Glenn Rankin, G4FVL

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/ GB3NS
Sunday mornings - 11:00 - Call on 145.400 MHz \pm QRM
Sunday evenings - 17:00 - Call on 3.700 MHz \pm QRM
Wednesday evenings - 21:00 - Call on 70.425 MHz

CATS Website www.catsradio.org **Email** enquiries@catsradio.org

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 9th August CATS Annual barbecue at G4RWW QTH
Monday 13th Sept Talk on Green Energy by Glenn, G4FVL
Monday 11th October Talk on WSPR by Walter Blanchard, G3JKV



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

July Meeting Report

At our meeting on July 12th we welcomed Dr Alison Johnston, G8ROG, our RSGB Regional Representative, who gave us a most interesting two part talk.

First, Alison talked about PLA (Power Line Adaptors), and PLT (Power Line Telecommunications). Starting with the history of these technologies and a brief description of how they work, she explained the work being done by the RSGB to counter the threat that they present.

PLT uses electricity supply cables to provide broadband access but is being phased out in the next 18 months. PLA, however is much more of a problem. Existing systems radiate in the MF and HF bands (1 to 30 MHz) and despite "notching" of the amateur bands, they can cause significant interference outside a laboratory environment.

Bridge rectifiers in some domestic power supplies can act as mixers, so that when presented with the spurious generated by various switched mode supplies (often inside a computer) around a typical house together with the PLA signals, intermodulation effects cause notched out amateur bands to become very noisy.

However, the latest systems, which operate at data rates in the Gbit/s region, radiate in the 40 to 300 MHz region and can completely wipe out even high power VHF Band 2 and DAB broadcast transmissions.

Alison went on to describe work being done under RSGB auspices to tackle the problem such as:

- Technical demonstrations of the issues at the national EMCUK exhibition in Newbury (this year on 12/13 October at Newbury Racecourse)
- Working with UK Universities to ensure that the design engineers of the future understand the issues involved
- Providing stands at trade shows
- Working with trading standards authorities
- Tackling OFCOM
- Setting up the Spectrum Defence Fund

G8ROG spent some time on the two last points. It's too complicated to describe fully in *Cats Whispers*, but it involves raising enough money to be able to take Ofcom to court if

necessary to compel them to undertake what the RSGB considers to be their statutory obligations. Interestingly, the UK military are also very worried about PLT developments but being a Crown organisation, are unable to initiate litigation in this respect.

Alison also touched on proposals for broadcast VHF FM radio to be phased out and replaced by DAB Plus. (DAB itself - Digital Audio Broadcasting - is also to be phased out in favour of DAB Plus. In the CATS catchment area, this will be in late 2012/ early 2013.)

In the second part of the talk, after a break for refreshments, Alison gave members a useful explanation about the RSGB today, how it is managed and about her personal responsibilities. The latter includes liaising with 78 affiliated clubs and societies.

She also hinted at some developments expected soon, such as:

- Improvements to the RSGB regional website from this autumn
- A 200 kHz-wide slice of spectrum at 5MHz may become available soon
- Phased launch of Radcom on the internet, initially targeted at younger members

Finally, Alison rounded off a very interesting evening by showing some of the material that the RSGB can provide to local clubs staging events that the public are invited to attend. These include various leaflets and posters, plus badges and stickers suitable for handing out to young people after they have been on the radio to send greetings messages.

Many thanks to Alison for such an informative evening; we look forward to seeing you again in two years' time!

Membership Matters

Advanced Licence Exam Success

Congratulations to CATS member Paul Jackson, formerly M3JXN and 2E0JXN! Paul heard on 7th July that he had passed the Advanced licence examination that he sat in June.

Paul's callsign is now M0JXN.

CATS August Meeting

This will be our annual barbecue again kindly held at the QTH of G4RWW. If you are planning to attend and have not so far advised Prue herself or CATS Secretary Andy, G8JAC, please do so as soon as possible. There are still some spare places left so it is not too late to decide to come.

Although all food will be provided, do remember that everyone needs to bring their own drink. I look forward to seeing as many CATS members and their guests as possible.

CATS September Meeting

CATS member Glenn, G4FVL, has stepped in at short notice and kindly agreed to give us a talk about his energy conservation activities. Members will recall the article he wrote for the January CATS Whispers about his wood-burning water heater. Since then, Glenn has done a lot more work and his solar panels are due for delivery this weekend (7th /8th August.) Glenn's talk promises to be up-to-date, energy efficient and above all interesting!

CATS October Meeting

This will be a talk on WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) by Walter Blanchard, G3JKV.

JOTA 2010

Stuart, G6CJR, has advised CATS Whispers that he will be organising a JOTA event at Banstead Scouts this autumn. As usual, this will be in the third full weekend of October, ie 16th/ 17th October 2010. Please let Stuart know if you would like to help with this event.

CATS Contesting

CATS Contest Secretary Frank, G3ZMF, is considering a number of possible options for further CATS contest participation this summer.

As the final editing of this issue of CATS Whispers was taking place, Frank confirmed his intention to organise a CATS entry to the

event on Aug 7th /8th - the 144 and 432 MHz low power contests. However, the weather forecast was distinctly unpromising with "torrential rain" on the cards and Frank was still looking for more offers of assistance/ equipment from members. However the good news is that the farmer has agreed to CATS using the same site as on previous occasions.

CATS members are advised to expect a 'phone call from Frank nearer the weekend to confirm arrangements. If in doubt, give Frank a call.

Consideration is also still being given to entering the 144 MHz trophy contest on Sep 4th /5th.

Please contact any committee member to express your views about CATS entering these or any other contests.

Messages From G3ZMF

Frank, G3ZMF, writes:

"Lawrence, G4DMA, has had problems as KL1X as when heard, radio amateurs tended to turned their beams towards the North-Eastern USA for the old "area 1" – resulting in loss of his signal from Alaska.

"I had an Echolink QSO with him recently and he has changed his callsign to KL7UK. He hopes to be in the UK in November 2010.

"On a completely different topic, if like me you enjoy classical music, you may not know that on the back of the "old" £20 note was Elgar's image. Since midnight on 30th June 2010, these £20 notes are no longer legal tender! You can only change them at a bank. (Old Ed's music still lives on, though!)

"73 de Frank, G3ZMF"

Useful Website

Confused about decibels? Than check out the following website for a useful tutorial all about them:

www.bit.ly/decibels

The website itself is devoted to the acoustic design of professional studios and is well worth exploring in detail.

Contests Coming Soon

Aug 7: 144MHz Low Power
Aug 8: 432MHz Low Power
Aug 15: 70 MHz Cumulative #4
Aug 22: 4th 144MHz Backpackers
Sep 4/5: 3.5 to 28 MHz – SSB Field Day
Sep 4/5: 144MHz Trophy
Sep 5: 5th 144MHz Backpackers
Sep 12: Second 70MHz
Oct 2: 1.2GHz Trophy / 2.3GHz Trophy
Oct 2/3: 432MHz-248GHz IARU
Oct 3: 21 & 28 MHz – CW & SSB
Oct 17: Second 50MHz
Nov 13: 1.8 MHz – Club Calls
Nov 21/22: 2nd 1.8 MHz
Nov 6/7: 144MHz CW Marconi
Dec 5: 144MHz Affiliated Societies
Dec 26 to 29: 50/70/144/432MHz Christmas Cumulatives

Local Rallies & Events

8 August 2010

Flight Refuelling Hamfest

Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, Nr. Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3AA
Further information: www.frars.org.uk

29 August 2010

Milton Keynes 51st Amateur Radio Society Rally

Bletchley Park, Sherwood Drive,, Bletchley MK3 6EB
Open 09:00 trade stands, catering
Contact: Steve 07866 673192 or
www.mkars.org.uk

11/12 September
Gatwick Weekend

1/2 October 2010

National Hamfest

George Stephenson Pavilion, Newark & Nottingham Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NY. For the latest details and ticket information, visit:
www.nationalhamfest.org.uk

8/9/10 October 2010

RSGB 2010 Convention

Horwood House near Milton Keynes

Lecture streams
www.rsqb.org/rsqbconvention

12/13 October 2010

EMCUK Exhibition

Newbury Racecourse

RSGB stand
IEEE demonstration bench
You need to register on line for free tickets at:
www.emcuk.co.uk

7 November 2010

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.

21 November 2010

CATS 33rd Annual Radio and Electronics Bazaar

Provisional arrangements as follows:

1st Coulsdon Scout Group headquarters, Lion Green Road in Coulsdon, Surrey. [Map](#)

Open 10:00 to 13:00

Parking, trade stands, bring and buy, refreshments

Contact: enquiries@catsradio.org or

www.catsradio.org

6 February 2011

26th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally

'The Paddocks', Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 0JA

Open 10:30

Parking, Catering, Disabled Facilities, Trade Stands

Contact: Dave, G4UVJ, 01268 697978 (evenings)

www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk

13 February 2011

Harwell Radio and Electronics Rally

Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road, Didcot, OX11

8AY, Oxfordshire. Radio, electronics and computing trade stalls, secondhand stalls, refreshments.

Open 10:30 to 15:30.

Contact: Ann Stevens 01235 816379 or

rally@g3pia.org.uk

www.g3pia.org.uk

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.gsl.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

6 Aug - Summer Barbecue

3 Sep – Three Mini-Talks by Don G3XTT

1 Oct - Repairing Vintage Radios – David Smith M0SXD

12 Nov – TBA (note revised date)

3 Dec - Christmas Social

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.

12 Sep - Microwave Round Table

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvrs.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 & Thursday 20:00 on 144.775 MHz

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

Aug 24 - Social evening.

Sep 28 - Using antenna analysers - Peter Dodds G3LDO.

Oct 26 - Behind the scenes at Bletchley Park in WW2 - Brian Oakley.

Nov 23 - Repairing vintage radios - a practical approach - David Smith M0SXD.

Dec tba - Christmas dinner

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

5 Aug - Curry Night - Haldi, Southwater

2 Sep - The G3NPF Lecture

7 Oct - Junk Sale

4 Nov - Tour of Electricity Hall at The Chalk Pits - John Narborough

2 Dec - AGM

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 01732 357474

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

6 Sep – BitX 20M Transceiver - Steve G4FYF

4 Oct - Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale

10 Oct – 75th Anniversary dinner

1 Nov - TBA

6 Dec - TBA

SUTTON & CHEAM RS (ch'd 1.7.10)

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

19 Aug – ATV - John Stockley G8MNY

16 Sep - Radio Fox Hunts - Terry Giles G4CDY

21 Oct - Coping With Weak Signals On HF - Stan Rudcenko G0KBL

18 Nov - Building and Using the TenTec 1330 - Martin Butler M1MRB

9 Dec – Christmas junk sale

WIMBLEDON & DISRICT ARS (ch'd 07.7.10)

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

6 Aug – BBQ at summer camp

8 Aug – Summer camp ends

24 Sep - Radio Susy - John Stockley G8MNY

29 Oct - AGM

26 Nov - Surplus Equipment Sale

10 Dec - Christmas Social

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