

CATS WHISPERS



**February
2013**

Affiliated to the RSGB

CATS Committee

Chairman: Glenn Rankin, G4FVL
Secretary: Steve Beal, G3WZK
Treasurer: Steve Conway, G7SYO
Members: Stuart Barber, G6CJR
Andy Briers, G0KZT
Dennis Noe, M0NDJ
James Flint, G0SDB

CATS Whispers Editor:

Steve Beal, G3WZK

email address for contributions: newsletter@catsradio.org

Regular Society Meetings

These are held on the second Monday of 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	Feb 11th	EGM
Monday	Mar 11th	Talk by Mike G0JMI of Alton Antenna Arrays
Monday	Apr 8th	Talk about GB3MH and GB7MH by Malcolm G3NZP



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

CATS 2013 Annual Dinner

This year's CATS dinner was held on January 14th 2013 at The Belmont public house, which is on the Brighton Road at Sutton in Surrey. Although they serve traditional pub food, all CATS people took the carvery option which was very good value for money.

With several last-minute cancellations because of illness and poor weather, a total of 17 members and guests turned out for the event – a somewhat lower number than last year.

Did we enjoy ourselves? Well I reckon the pictures speak for themselves. Take a look at the selection of photos below:



L-R: Barbara and Janice (G8NNT photo)



L-R: Barbara M3WYJ, Janice, Wendy, Andy G0KZT



L-R: Deanne and Mike G6YOG (G8NNT photo)



L-R: Yvonne and Glenn G4FVL (G8NNT photo)



L-R: Steve G3WZK and Jenny (G8NNT photo)



Starter (G8NNT photo)



L-R: Jim G4WYJ and Stuart G6CJR (G8NNT photo)



G3WZK's dinner (G8NNT photo)



L-R: Paul M0JXN and Andy G8JAC (G8NNT photo)



Steve G7SYO (G8NNT photo)



L-R: Barbara, Wendy and Andy G0KZT (G8NNT photo)

CATS February Meeting

This will be an EGM. There will be a vote on proposed changes to three rules, followed by a discussion on topics such as meeting preferences, social activities, ideas for lectures and short talks, club projects and club Nets.

All CATS members have been sent detailed information by email including full details of the proposed rule changes.

For obvious reasons, it is important that as many people as possible attend this event, but please note that only fully paid-up members will be eligible to vote.

Refreshments including wine and nibbles will be provided, as well as tea and coffee.

The date for your diaries is February 11th 2013.

CATS March Meeting

This will be a talk by Mike G0JMI from Alton Antenna Arrays. Mike's presentation describes the development of the 6MBA 50MHz antenna that featured in September's "RadCom" in terms of a "why, where and when" format. He plans to bring along a 6MBA and a 2MBA to demonstrate the design.

The date for your diaries is March 11th 2013.

CATS April Meeting

At the April meeting Malcolm Harman G3NZP will be giving us a talk about repeaters, focussing mainly on the relatively new 2m box GB3MH and on GB7MH, the co-sited 70cms D-Star repeater. It is hoped to provide some practical demonstrations of EchoLink, Internet Repeater Link Project (IRLP) and D-Star linking, assisted by fellow Crawley Club member David Davies (M0IDD). The date for your diaries is April 8th 2013.

TransPonder Net

A few notes on the Transponder net that was held on February 2nd from Paul M0JXN. He writes:

"On the first Saturday of the month, at the scheduled time of 17:15z on GB3NS, Mark - W6MW was heard calling from Glendale,

California. Attending on the UK side were myself M0JXN via Echolink, Frank G3ZMF and Andy G8JAC both on RF.

“Unfortunately it became quickly evident that something wasn't right as, although we could hear him, Mark couldn't hear us. I relayed this message to him quickly over Skype and he tried a few tests whilst keeping the assembled U.S. net patiently waiting. A shame, as Mark had a successful test QSO earlier in the day with Frank, but these things do frequently happen.

“No easy fix could be found so as a backup Mark initiated an Echolink conference with myself, linking in the Glendale repeater N6JLY so Tim K6POI, Larry AD6IZ and Mark KE6ZRP could join in too.

“It worked well, meaning we could actually have a net, but unfortunately we lost Frank due to no Internet access and Andy, who had other obligations. M0JXN had the sole UK input for most of the net but it was great to catch up with Crescenta Valley after a lapse of Transponder nets for a while.

“G8JAC returned towards the end of the net thankfully as I was summoned by my first harmonic for dinner and issued my 73's. Even though we had to revert to Echolink this end, contact was made and enjoyed by all. We could do with a little more enthusiasm from our CATS membership though.

“Don't forget, as we use GB3NS (with kind permission from Denis G0OLX), there is an RF option to those in the area and an Internet option via Echolink for those like myself who are out of GB3NS earshot. With smart phones and various media other than PC's being able to use Echolink (which is free to download of course) and mobile data systems - what's keeping you all from having a go?

“With low attendance both ends for a while, this regular link between our great clubs has dwindled from a monthly event to virtually non-existent last year. Some of us will try to keep it alive, but it would be great to hear more club members please.”

73, M0JXN.

Membership Matters:

Although a fair number of CATS members have renewed their subscriptions, some

haven't and if you are in the latter category, please would you let the Treasurer have your cheque as soon as possible. Cash payments will also be accepted at the EGM on 11th February.

Kempton Park Rally

The next Kempton Park Rally is on April 21st 2013 and CATS will again be providing its customary Bring and Buy Stand. If you would like to help man the CATS stand, please contact James G0SDB.

For anyone proposing to bring kit to the B&B, please note that we only accept radio-related equipment. See the CATS website:

www.catsradio.org

Contest Round-up 2012 – Results & News

Activity Contest Series 2012

While Andy G0KZT & Steve G3WZK had been representing CATS on the bands between 6m and 70cms, CATS have also been represented in the 1.3 GHz section by Tom G4DFA, Mike G8AAI and Frank G3ZMF. Tom was active in March, November and December while Mike and Frank were both active in February and March. Between them they placed CATS 26th out of 37 entries for the year. Individually, Mike's entry in the restricted section was 36th out of 38, and in the limited section, Tom was placed 49th while Frank was placed 52nd, both out of 73.

In the overall Activity competition where all the bands and entries contribute, CATS were placed 44th out of 113 club entries.

The individual scores for the Activity Contests are:-

Pos	Call	50 MHz	144 MHz	432 MHz	1296 MHz	Total
154	G0KZT	182	378	151		711
218	G3WZK	201	224			425
348	G4DFA				97	97
369	G3ZMF				78	78
499	G8AAI				13	13

The above table is out of a total of 532 entries.

To appreciate the results in full, it is best to view them on the VHF Contest Committee website. Here you will see results for each band, broken down to each month. It is not possible to publish all the results for this via CATS Whispers.

Brass Monkeys 2012

While CATS didn't take part in the 144/432 MHz (Brass Monkey's) Contest due to concerns regarding the weather, Andy G0KZT did "wave the flag" from his QTHR.

Overall Results Section Single Operator Fixed

Pos	Call	144 MHz	432 MHz	Total
1	G0XDI	541	1000	1541
2	G4DEZ	1000	320	1320
3	G4ZTR	349	621	621
4	G0KZT	90	103	93

The above table is of the top four entries – there were 16 entries in that section in total. Note the massive gap in points between 3rd and 4th!

Play Day Weekend

The dates of Friday 14th to Sunday 16th June have now been set for this year's event. The venue is the same as last year; Paddock Wood Farm which is located between Caterham and the M25 Roundabout (Junc 6) at Godstone. Access is only available from the Southbound carriageway of the A22. More on the directions nearer the date. Timings are likely to be from around 11.00am on the Friday to around 4.00pm on the Sunday.

For those of you who couldn't make it last year, the site is the advantage of good elevation. It also has the "luxury" of toilets and hot water available.

So what will we be doing up there? Well pretty much whatever YOU want to do. It is an opportunity for you to experiment or take advantage of the space to put up something that you cannot do from home. All you have to do is let me know what you are bringing and what extra you require (and we'll do our best to provide it).

We will have the presence of a 6 metre station where we will be dipping our toe in the 50 MHz Trophy contest. As it is a 24 hour event

running from the Saturday to the Sunday, there is plenty of time to work the station yourself, either as part of the contest effort or as an individual. We will also have a 2 metre station too (which worked very well last year). We also hope to have something basic for HF if nobody suggests anything better.

Please put the date in your diary now and don't forget to let me know you intend to come either as a casual pop-in or if you intend to pitch up with a tent (so we can have enough messing and operating space available).

Contesting Latest

The "Brass Monkey's" contest has been written off for 2013 due to the frequent poor weather and the poor levels of activity, especially on 70 cms.

This year, in addition to the 50 MHz Trophy in June, we will also be having a go in the May 144 MHz Contest (18th – 19th May) and SSB Field Day (7th - 8th September).

Volunteers to help set up etc as well as operate would be welcomed at this early stage.

It is worth a mention at that the VHF NFD weekend of 6th and 7th July is expected to be under the joint effort of the North East Surrey Contest Group. More news when known.

73 de Andy G0KZT

Helpers needed for Kempton Park

It's now only two months to go until this regular in the CATS' calendar. If you would like to help, please contact James G0SDB (who will be in charge of the Bring & Buy stands at both events) or any committee member.

The date for your diary is 21st April 2013.

CATS Radio

Seeing as how we always abbreviate the Society's name to "CATS" here is some feline news. It's about a kitten called Alphie and his misadventure with an antenna.

Apparently Alphie, whose owner lives in Sheffield, took such a shine to the television in his home that he decided to eat the antenna,

which then became lodged in his oesophagus and stomach. Needless to say he rapidly became unwell and his owner took him to the PDSA where the object was removed. Fortunately, Alpie has now made a full recovery.



X-Ray (surely a CAT scan would have been more appropriate?) of the antenna lodged inside Alpie



Alpie the kitten, none the worse for his experience and, worryingly, still looking somewhat peckish

Photos reproduced by kind permission of the PDSA.

Contests Coming Soon

Feb 3: 432MHz Affiliated Societies Contest
 Feb 4: 80m CC SSB
 Feb 9-10: 1st 1.8MHz Contest
 Feb 13: 80m CC DATA
 Feb 21: 80m CC CW
 Feb 24: 70MHz Cumulatives #1
 Mar 2-3: March 144 / 432MHz
 Mar 4: 80m CC DATA
 Mar 9-10: Commonwealth Contest
 Mar 10: 70MHz Cumulatives #2
 Mar 13: 80m CC CW
 Mar 21: 80m CC SSB
 Apr 1: 80m CC CW
 Apr 7: RoPoCo SSB
 Apr 7: First 70MHz Contest
 Apr 10: 80m CC SSB
 Apr 14: First 50MHz Contest
 Apr 18: 80m CC DATA
 May 4-5: 432MHz-248GHz Contest
 May 4: 432MHz Trophy Contest
 May 4: 10GHz Trophy Contest
 May 6: 80m CC SSB

May 12: 70MHz Contest CW
 May 15: 80m CC DATA
 May 18-19: 144MHz May Contest
 May 19: 1st 144MHz Backpackers
 May 23: 80m CC CW
 May 26: 70MHz Cumulatives #3
 Jun 1-2: NFD
 Jun 3: 80m CC DATA
 Jun 9: 2nd 144MHz Backpackers
 Jun 12: 80m CC CW
 Jun 15-16: 50MHz Trophy Contest
 Jun 20: 80m CC SSB
 Jun 23: 50MHz Contest CW
 Jun 23: 70MHz Cumulatives #4
 Jul 1: 80m CC CW
 Jul 6-7: VHF NFD
 Jul 7: 3rd 144MHz Backpackers
 Jul 10: 80m CC SSB
 Jul 18: 80m CC DATA
 Jul 21: Low Power Contest
 Jul 21: 70MHz Trophy Contest
 Jul 27-28: IOTA Contest
 Aug 3: 144MHz Low Power Contest
 Aug 3: 4th 144MHz Backpackers
 Aug 4: RoPoCo CW
 Aug 4: 432MHz Low Power Contest
 Aug 11: 70MHz Cumulatives #5
 Aug 14: 80m Club Sprint CW
 Aug 29: 80m Club Sprint SSB
 Sep 7-8: SSB Field Day
 Sep 7-8: 144MHz Trophy Contest
 Sep 8: Second 70MHz Contest
 Sep 8: 5th 144MHz Backpackers
 Sep 11: 80m Club Sprint SSB
 Sep 26: 80m Club Sprint CW
 Oct 5: 1.2GHz Trophy / 2.3GHz Trophy
 Oct 5-6: 432MHz-248GHz IARU
 Oct 6: 21/28MHz Contest
 Oct 9: 80m Club Sprint CW
 Oct 20: 50MHz AFS Contest
 Oct 24: 80m Club Sprint SSB
 Nov 2-3: 144MHz CW Marconi
 Nov 9: Club Calls
 Nov 13: 80m Club Sprint SSB
 Nov 16-17: 2nd 1.8MHz Contest
 Nov 28: 80m Club Sprint CW
 Dec 1: 144MHz Affiliated Societies Contest
 Dec 26-29: 50/70/144/432MHz Christmas Cumulatives Contest

For Sale

Yaesu FT690R Mk 2 with case, mike, whip antenna, 12 V DC lead and handbook. £250 ono.

Contact Frank G3ZMF on 07780 347 906 or via GB3NS.

Local Rallies & Events

10 February 2013

Harwell Radio and Electronics Rally

Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road, Didcot, OX11 8AY, Oxfordshire.

Radio, electronics and computing trade stalls, secondhand stalls, special interest groups, displays.

Refreshments. Entrance £2.50.

Open 10:30 to 15:30.

Contact: Ann Stevens 01235 816379 or

rally@g3pia.org.uk

www.g3pia.org.uk

3 March 2013

Rainham Radio Rally

Rainham School For Girls, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0BX

Contact Trevor, G6LYW, 07717 678795 or

trev@wig1.co.uk

www.brats-qth.org

3 March 2013

Cambridge and District ARC Rally

Wood Green Animal Shelter, King's Bush Farm, A1198 London Road, Godmanchester, Cambs, PE29 2NH.

Open 10:00/10:15. Admission £3. Talk in. Trade. B&B.

Catering with bar. Disabled facilities. SIGs. Raffle.

Lectures. Family attractions.

Contact John G0GKP 01954-200072

rally2013@cdarc.co.uk

www.cdarc.co.uk

21 April 2013

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. The CATS bring and buy sale is a permanent feature of this rally.

www.radiofairs.co.uk

19 May 2013

28th Dunstable Downs RC National Amateur Radio Car Boot Sale

Stockwood Park, Luton, M1 J10

Open 09:00. Talk in on S22

www.ddrcbootsale.org

16 June 2013

26th Newbury Radio Rally & Boot Sale

Newbury Showground, M4 J13.

The Rally takes place at one of the biggest showgrounds in the south of England.

Newbury Showground is located right next to junction 13 of the M4 Motorway.

Nearest Post Code: RG18 9BB

Open 09:00. Free parking, trade stands, catering, disabled facilities.

Contact rally@nadars.org.uk

www.nadars.org.uk/

28-30 June 2013

Hamtronic Show, Friedrichshafen

Messe Friedrichshafen, Germany

Open 09:00 each day

- 63rd DARC Lake Constance Meeting
- with lectures and meetings
- HAM RALLYE - Friday and Saturday
- HAM NIGHT - Saturday

www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/index.php

7 July 2013

Norfolk ARC Barford Radio Rally

Barford Village Hall

Barford 9 miles SW of Norwich close to A11 and A47
Open 09:00 (traders from 8am), CP, TI, CBS, B&B, C, TS, RSGB Bookstall, Demos.

Contact: David G7URP 01953 457322 or

radio@dcpmicro.com

www.norfolkamateurradio.org

14 July 2013

McMichael Rally & Boot Sale

Reading Rugby Club Holme Park Farm Lane, Sonning Lane (B4446), Sonning on Thames, Reading. RG4 6ST off A4 east of Reading

Open 09:30.

Large Boot Sale on Level Site

Big Boot Sale Pitches

Special Interest Groups - Special Interests McMichael Radio Owners

Computer Equipment

Demonstrations & Lecture

Catering Services

Barbecue (weather dependant)

Fully Licensed Bar

Plenty of Parking Areas with Disabled special parking on level ground.

Easy access from Reading & A4, A329(M) and M4

First Aid Post

Talk in Station on VHF

Parking, trade stands, catering.

Contact: Pete G8FRC 01189 695 697

www.mcmichaelrally.org.uk

27-28 September 2013

National Hamfest

Open 09:30 to 16:00.

Hosted by the Lincoln Short Wave Club in association with the RSGB

George Stephenson Pavilion, Newark & Nottingham

Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NY. For the latest details and ticket information, visit:

www.nationalhamfest.org.uk

11-13 October RSGB 2013 Convention

Horwood House, Little Horwood, near Milton Keynes

Convention and lectures

www.rsgb.org/rsgbconvention

3 November 2013

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. The CATS bring and buy sale is a permanent feature of this rally.

www.radiofairs.co.uk

24 November 2013

CATS 36th 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

Other Club News & Contact Information

BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.bdars.org.uk/

Email: info@bdars.co.uk

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

19 Feb 2013 – Programme Planning

CPREC (CRYSTAL PALACE)

Website: www.qsl.net/g30ou/ or <http://www.g30ou.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

1 Feb – AGM and construction contest

1 Mar – The Story of the Crystal Palace “Lost” Railway

5 Apr - TBA

3 May - TBA

7 Jun - bhi DSP Noise Cancellation by Graham Somerville M3ZGS of bhi Ltd

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.

27 Feb – WBR Regen Rx by G4FYY

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvrs.org

Contact: Malcolm Bryan G8MCA (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 1st Royal Eltham Scouts HQ, Rear of 61 - 71 Southend Crescent, Eltham, London, SE9 2SD.

DORKING & DISTRICT

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

Email: ddrs.secretary@yahoo.co.uk

Contact: George Brind, G4CMU

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.

26 Feb – Short Range Data Transmission by Ken Kangeyan of Radiometrix

26 Mar – Radio Control by Darren M0PRV

23 Apr – Visit to Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd

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

7 Feb - Volks Electric Railway - Ian Gledhill

7 Mar - Club - Junk Sale

4 Apr - The Aurora Borealis and Radio Propagation - Prof. Mike Underhill G3LHZ

2 May - RF Leakage from Cable Networks by G4LRP

6 Jun - Raspberry Pi Cookbook - G3ZBU

4 Jul - BBC OB by Tony Crake (TBC)

1 Aug - How Space Weather affects Radio Communications by Dr Colin Forsyth, MSSL

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

8 Feb – Quiz by Adrian G4LRP

22 Mar – Workshop on cable connectors by Chris G0GMC

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: John Kennedy G3MCX, 020 8688 3322

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

4 Feb – Contesting by G4WGE

4 Mar – Surplus equipment sale

8 Apr – AGM

13 May – Talk TBA

3 Jun – Construction Contest

1 Jul – BBQ

5 Aug - Talk TBA

2 Sep - Talk TBA

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

21 Feb - International Beacon Project' by Leslie Butterfields G0CIBA

21 Mar – Airborne Surveillance Radar by Prof. Simon Watts G3XXH

18 Apr – The Sun & HF Propagation by Dr. Colin Forsyth

16 May – AGM

20 Jun – Practical Antenna Design by Mike G0JMI of Alton Antenna Arrays

18 Jul – First Aid for the Radio Amateur by Ivor G6PUC

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.gx3wim.org.uk (currently unavailable)

Contact: Andrew Maish G4ADM

020 8335 3434

andrew.maish@ATntlworld.com

Club Net: Mondays 20:45 on 145.500 MHz

Meetings: 2nd & last Friday of each month at

Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, Merton

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