

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



**March 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](mailto: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](http://www.catsradio.org) **Email** [enquiries@catsradio.org](mailto:enquiries@catsradio.org)

**Forthcoming Meetings**

Monday	Mar 11th	Talk by Mike G0JMI of Alton Antenna Arrays
Monday	Apr 8th	Talk about repeaters GB3MH and GB7MH
Monday	May 13th	EGM/Social evening



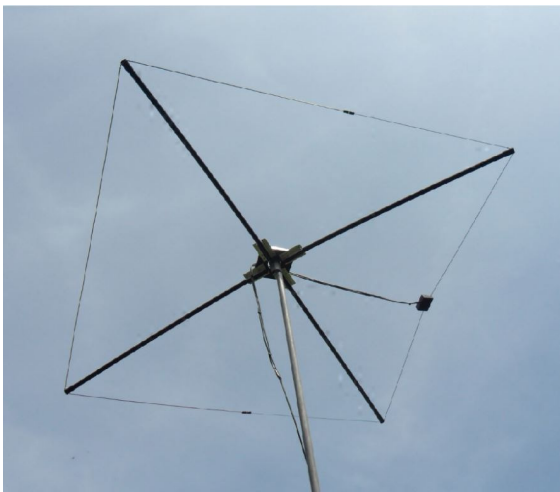
CATS is twinned with the Crescenta Valley Radio Club  
Glendale California USA [www.gsl.net/cvrc](http://www.gsl.net/cvrc)

## CATS February Meeting

The plan for the February meeting was to hold an EGM to discuss and then vote on a number of rule changes and discuss the future of the club. Several apologies for absence were received and on the morning of the day in question, there was a moderate fall of snow. It was therefore decided to cancel the meeting as it seemed unlikely that enough members would attend to constitute a quorum.

It is now proposed to hold a combined EGM/ Social event in May.

## CATS March Meeting



The subject of the March meeting: the 6MBA 50 MHz available from Alton Antennas

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 11<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>.

## CATS May Meeting

The CATS May meeting will be the rescheduled combined EGM and social event that we had to postpone in February. The delay will give us the opportunity to consider any other rule changes that members may wish to propose. One member has already suggested an additional rule change. We may also introduce a new rule to permit proxy voting at EGMs and AGMs, as this is not specifically permitted in CATS rules at present.

We intend to write to all members about the new date for the EGM with other information. However, any members wishing to propose rule changes are advised to contact the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> March, so as to allow time for all proposals to be communicated en bloc to all members in plenty of time for the EGM. The date for your diaries is May 13<sup>th</sup>.

## CATS June Meeting – DF Hunt

Denis M0NDJ has kindly agreed to organise this event again, which will once more take place in the vicinity of Coulsdon Common. It will start at 7:30 pm on Monday 10th June and the CATS DF trophy will again be awarded to the fastest finishers. Members not so keen on participating in the DF hunt itself may wish to note that it has become common practice in recent years for non-enthusiasts to spend the whole evening in The Fox public house. So even if DF is not your cup-of-tea, please do come along for a drink, a tasty meal or simply to chat with fellow members.

## Kempton Park Rally

The next Kempton Park Rally is on April 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.catsradio.org)

Please also note that the autumn Kempton Park rally has been postponed by one week and will now take place on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2013.

## **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 members' meeting on 11th March. Members are reminded that subscriptions become due at the AGM and, according to the rule 21.3, membership may lapse if no payment is received by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **New CATS Gear: Spectrum Analyser**

It was hoped to include an article here about a new piece of test gear that CATS has recently acquired – a handheld spectrum analyser. However, due to some problems with the device which Steve G3WZK is trying to resolve with the supplier, the article is being held over.

## **TDOTA 2013**



*CATS Chairman Glenn G4FVL writes:*

“Hi All just a few words to thank the folks that helped out at the South and Upper Norwood Guides “thinking day” or weekend in their case on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> February. This event is held every year over the 3rd full weekend in February and as usual we used the callsign GB4SUN.

“Unfortunately we were so busy we forgot to take any photos, so you will have to make do with the Chairman's poor mastery of anglicize! Just don't expect a thousand words to make up for each photo that isn't there!

“A 2 metre station was set up by Jim G4WYJ. While I was present we managed a few contacts and the guides sent out their messages to some unsuspecting radio enthusiasts. There were hopes that other guide

groups might be around, but it seems that half term holidays had an effect on participation this year.

“An HF station made several contacts and was operated by Stuart G6CJR, Denis M0DNJ and a new recruit - Zachary M6ZLP – an Explorer Scout. In addition, Denis M0NDJ had procured parts to construct some small personal AM radios. Both Denis and Jim oversaw the production lines of the TDOTA radio factory! The Guides seemed to be quite handy with the bits and bobs and the success rate was excellent – no doubt helped by Denis and Jim's guidance and skilful spotting of any minor or rare soldering defects, of course!

“Zachary and Denis set up a GSM/3G dongle with a wifi router and PC for internet access and Skype. This all seemed to be operationally great. However, while there seemed to be a lot of guide groups which had also set up Skype accounts for TDOTA, they did not seem to manage any contacts or be on line at the same time as us. Perhaps next year this might be more successful - it certainly seems like a good idea for the future.”

## **Tatsfield Brownies**

On the evening of Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February, some CATS members visited the 1<sup>st</sup> Tatsfield Brownies, to help the girls gain their Communicator badges.

After a brief introduction to radio given by Steve G3WZK, the girls divided into three groups to give everyone a chance to take part in one of the three activities.

Andy G0KZT provided and operated a two metre station using the call GX4FUR. He writes: “Our main radio contact was with Mike G8CKT and his wife Yvonne G6CKT who were located in Billingshurst. Yvonne had served as a Tawny Owl for the 1st Oatlands Brownie Group in Weybridge some 32 years ago and stated that she rarely spoke on the air nowadays. She was an ideal contact for our Brownies, some of whom took a second go at speaking with her on 2 metres.

“Other contacts were with Peter G0BZX in Orpington, Keith G1NDX in Staplehurst and John G8MNY who was mobile in Merstham.

“The rig was my Kenwood TS-2000 running 40 watts into a Diamond X50 co-linear.”

Glenn G4FVL brought along a variety of radio equipment including a commercial short wave radio, a homebrew radio and a pair of licence-free handhelds for the girls to experiment with.

Finally Steve G3WZK provided the girls with a CW experience. He sent a Morse code message to each group of girls which, using crib sheets, they successfully decoded and understood. Then each of the girls sent one or more messages in Morse for Steve to read. The messages received included a fair amount of information about the girls' pets (I had never heard of a hamster called "Carammella" before) but my favourite was a simple but exuberant "Yee Ha!"

A lot of fun was had by all. If any other CATS members would be prepared to assist with future events with the scouting and guiding movement, please would they let the Secretary know.

A selection of photos follows:



1<sup>st</sup> Tatsfield Brownies in QSO with G6CKT & G8CKT on 2m, using equipment kindly provided by G0KZT (G0KZT photo)



Glenn G4FVL demonstrates his homebrew radios (G0KZT photo)



Steve G3WZK listens as a 1<sup>st</sup> Tatsfield brownie sends a CW message to him (G0KZT photo)

## Interesting Link

Steve Conway G7SYO writes: "This link may be of interest to people. It's a web site that amongst other items sells military radio equipment. Visit:

[www.thexmod.com](http://www.thexmod.com)

"73 de Steve G7SYO."

## CATS Contesting & Field Days 2013

Plans continue to be developed for the Radio Play Weekend which this year is being between Friday 14th and Sunday 16th June at the same venue as before; Paddock Wood Farm on the A22 near Caterham.

This is the same weekend as the 50 MHz Trophy contest. CATS are also planning to enter the May 144 MHz Contest (18th – 19th May), also from the Paddock Wood site, and SSB Field Day (7th - 8th September) from the site at Crossways Farm near Reigate.

## Contests Coming Soon

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

## **Local Rallies & Events**

**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](mailto:rally2013@cdarc.co.uk)

[www.cdarc.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.radiofairs.co.uk)

**19 May 2013**

### **28<sup>th</sup> Dunstable Downs RC National Amateur Radio Car Boot Sale**

Stockwood Park, Luton, M1 J10

Open 09:00. Talk in on S22

[www.ddrcbootsale.org](http://www.ddrcbootsale.org)

**16 June 2013**

### **26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rally@nadars.org.uk)

[www.nadars.org.uk/](http://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 tent camp
- HAM NIGHT - Saturday

[www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/index.php](http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/index.php)

**23 June 2013**

### **East Suffolk Wireless Revival**

The Ipswich Radio Rally

Orwell Crossing Lorry Park

A14 Eastbound, Nacton

Ipswich, Suffolk IP10 0DD

Open 09:30

Car Boot Sale, Bring & Buy Sale, Special Interest Radio

Groups, Local Radio Clubs, RSGB Bookstall, UK

Microwave Group, Vintage & Military ARS

Live Radio Demonstrations, Excellent Food and Facilities,

Easy Parking, GB4SWR - HF Radio Station GB4SWR -

Talk-in on 145.550MHz

Contact Steve, M1ACB 07711-329624

[www.eswr.org.uk](http://www.eswr.org.uk)

**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](mailto:radio@dcpmicro.com)

[www.norfolkamateurradio.org](http://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, Catering Services

Talk in Station on VHF

Parking, trade stands, catering.

Contact: Pete G8FRC 01189 695 697

[www.mcmichaelrally.org.uk](http://www.mcmichaelrally.org.uk)

**11 August 2013**

### **Flight Refuelling Hamfest**

Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, Nr.  
Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3AA

Open 10:00

Further information: [www.frars.org.uk](http://www.frars.org.uk)  
[hamfest@frars.org.uk](mailto:hamfest@frars.org.uk)

## **Other Club News & Contact Information**

### **BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS**

**Website:** [www.bdars.org.uk/](http://www.bdars.org.uk/)

**Email:** [info@bdars.co.uk](mailto:info@bdars.co.uk)

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

**19 Mar** - TBA

**16 Apr** - TBA

**21 May** - TBA

**18 Jun** - G100RSGB on the air from midday

### **CPREC (CRYSTAL PALACE)**

**Website:** [www.qsl.net/g30ou/](http://www.qsl.net/g30ou/) or <http://www.g30ou.co.uk/>

**Club Net:** Wednesdays 20:00 on 145.525 MHz

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill at 19:30

**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](http://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.

### **CRAY VALLEY RS**

**Website:** [www.cvr.org](http://www.cvr.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:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 Mar** – Radio Control by Darren M0PRV

**23 Apr** – Visit to Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd

### **HORSHAM ARC**

**Website:** [www.harc.org.uk](http://www.harc.org.uk)

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

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at The Guide Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex

**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

### **MID SUSSEX ARS**

**Website:** [www.msars.org.uk](http://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

**22 Mar** – Workshop on cable connectors by Chris G0GMC

**5 Apr** – MRI by Phil M5BTB

**3 May** – G100RSGB from club shack

**24 May** – Construction contest

**31 May** – Where has all the spectrum gone? By John G8JBJ.

**21 Jun** – Morse refresher by Mike G3VAK

### **SRCC**

**Website:** [www.g3src.org.uk](http://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:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 19:45 for 20:00

**8 Apr** – AGM

**13 May** – Talk TBA

**3 Jun** – Construction Contest

### **SUTTON & CHEAM RS**

**Website:** [www.scrs.org.uk](http://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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at Sutton United Football Club, The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton. 19:30 for 20:00

**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

### **WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS**

**Website:** [www.gx3wim.org.uk](http://www.gx3wim.org.uk) (currently unavailable)

**Contact:** Andrew Maish G4ADM

020 8335 3434

[andrew.maish@ATntlworld.com](mailto:andrew.maish@ATntlworld.com)

**Club Net:** Mondays 20:45 on 145.500 MHz

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & last Friday of each month at

Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, Merton

**8 Mar:** Members Reflections on 50 years of our Radio society

**12 Apr:** Surplus equipment sale Jim G4WYJ

**26 Apr:** Electrical safety Andrew G4ADM

**10 May:** Rig check evening

**31 May:** Antenna forum

CATS Whispers is published monthly by  
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