

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



May 2014



Affiliated to the RSGB

CATS Committee

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

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 20:15 to 22:15

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 May 12 Talk on Propagation by Mike of Alton Antennas
Monday June 9 Direction Finding Hunt by M0NDJ
Monday July 14 The TxFactor



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

CATS April Meeting

“Bill Basie and the Sky Waves” was the title of the talk given at our April meeting by CATS member Colin G3YCR, and told the story of how one of America's greatest big bands and its leader were discovered because of ionospheric propagation.

Colin began by explaining how the talk would reflect on Colin's great lifetime interests: Jazz and Radio. So how better to start than to play a clip of what was to become one of Count Basie's most famous theme tunes – “One O'Clock Jump” which opens in classic “Harlem Stride” style? Visit:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=08jyOwx96lq

Although Basie's climb to stardom began in the mid-1930's, his music had its origin in the early 1920's, with the earliest reference to Jazz on the radio dating back to 1922. Basie himself was born in 1904 and learned the piano as a child – although to begin with he preferred playing the drums – often playing in cinemas in his home town of Red Bank NJ.

As his skills developed he began touring with the Theatre Owners Booking Association (TOBA), meeting people such as Fats Waller (in New York) before finally ending up in Kansas City. By 1935 he had adopted the style “Count” and his band was being billed as “Count Basie and the Cherry Blossoms.”



Bill “Count” Basie in the 1920's

At this time he was playing regularly at the Reno Club on 12th Street with a nine piece band. Also in Kansas City was an experimental high fidelity AM broadcasting station on 1530 kHz – W9XBY. The station began to broadcast

Basie's music live from the Club, generally between 11 pm and 1 am, and it was this that led to Basie's “discovery” by record producer, civil rights activist and music critic John Hammond. Hammond was listening one evening to his car radio 660km away in Chicago and was so impressed that he travelled to Kansas City to meet Basie and sign him up.

Another distant listener to Basie's music was tenor saxophonist Lester Young who heard him from his home in Minneapolis. He immediately telegraphed Basie with a request to join the band and was accepted.



Colin Richards G3YCR

Under Hammond's aegis, Basie's band began to perform in places such as Chicago and New York, but not always successfully as their music was based mainly on riffs and not all band members could read music well enough to adapt to the new circumstances. However the recordings they made were always successful and appeared under labels such as Columbia, Decca and Vocalion.

But it was the discovery of the band by Hammond that kick-started the whole process. Although Wikipedia claims that this happened on shortwave radio, Colin's research proved that it had in fact been on the medium wave frequency of 1530 kHz. Station W9XBY broadcast with a 1 kW transmitter into a vertical antenna and had a bandwidth of 20 kHz. There was also an experimental sister television station to W9XBY - W9XAL. The ground wave range of W9XBY would have been no more than 30 km, so it was evident that skywave propagation via the E-layer of the ionosphere must have been taking place. Details of the radio on which Hammond first heard Basie have proved to be somewhat elusive, but it is believed that he was using a

Motorola car radio with perhaps twelve valves, although this does seem rather a lot. The receiving antenna was probably an aluminium channel underneath the car's running board.

Basie was not the only household name to have been discovered by Hammond. Others included: Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Benny Goodman, Billie Holiday, Pete Seeger, Aretha Franklin and Leonard Cohen.

Colin's talk featured many sound clips of Basie's work including the classic sax solo from 1936 by Lester Young in "Lady Be Good" – reckoned by many to be the one of the greatest jazz solos. Visit:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeqwPX4T4E0

Although Lester Young died of alcoholism in 1959, Basie – or "Old Base" as he came to be known – continued performing on tour until his death in Florida in 1984.

In summary, Colin's talk provided the CATS members and visitors who attended with a very entertaining and interesting evening. Thank you Colin!

CATS May Meeting

In May, Mike Parkin returns to CATS to present another of his fascinating talks. This time the subject will be Propagation. It'll cover both Tropospheric Propagation ("Tropo") as well as Skywave Propagation with everything you need to know about 'A' factors, 'K' values and sunspot counts. Mike also plans to include a piccie or two of a few sunspots as observed from his back garden – see below:



Sunspots observed by Mike on 3rd May 2014

The date for your diaries is May 12th 2014.

CATS June Meeting

The 2014 CATS Annual DF Hunt is expected to take place again in the general area of Coulsdon Common. Details will be sent by email to CATS members as soon as they are finalised.

The date for your diaries is June 9th 2014.

CATS July Meeting

This will feature the "TxFactor" which has been billed as the UK's first TV show dedicated entirely to amateur radio

The date for your diaries is July 14th 2014.

2014 Play Weekend by Andy G0KZT

Date -: Friday 1st August to Sunday 3rd August
Time -: 0900 until 1600hrs
Place -: Paddock Wood Farm near Caterham

The site has been booked and I am in the early stages of planning the activities that we could undertake from this wonderful vantage point with clear view to towards both the South Downs and the London Basin.

We have a blank canvas to do whatever we like from the site. We will be taking part in the 144 MHz Low Power contest on the Saturday and the 432 MHz Lower Power contest on the Sunday. But neither of those contests are 24 hours and there will be plenty of time to use those bands outside of the contesting. There will be an HF station but exactly what depends on what the membership would like to do. Suggestions of aerials, bands and equipment are VERY welcome.

If there is enough interest, I would like to organise a Barbecue for the Saturday evening. Otherwise messing will be down to individuals. I have no doubt that gas burners will be available and a few pots and pans. The site has some basic facilities including a wash room and W/C and I would encourage as many members as possible to bring along their camping equipment and enjoy the countryside.

All I need to know is if you are coming, what you would like to achieve, equipment you would like to bring and what else you may

need. This will be the third year that we have run this event, building on the success of the last two years.

Next month's newsletter will have an update of the plans with the July edition having the final details. In the meantime, get in touch with myself or any of the Committee members with your interest, ideas and views.

73 de Andy G0KZT

May TransPonder Net – Debrief By Andy G0KZT

This month's TransPonder net took place on Saturday 5th May at the usual time of 17.15 hours. We fielded two CATS members, myself and Martin G4FKK and on the Crescenta Valley RC side were Mark W6MW and Larry AD6IZ.

Larry reported that CVRC have been given permission by the City of Glendale to use Verdugo Park for their annual Field Day. He also reported that the expected snow melt from the Sierra Nevada was as little as 19% which does not bode well for the water supply. And to add to the problems, temperatures have been in the 35°C range which for this time of the year is a mini heat wave.

On the UK side, we reported that the GB3NS Echolink may be suspended while Trevor G7ELZ (who provides the Echolink to GB3NS) is in the process of moving home.

Once again it was a pleasant exchange with our friends in California, something that I don't think many clubs can boast. Due to other commitments on the US side, there won't be a net in June so, as long as there is access to Echolink, the next net will be expected in July.

I have a recording of the net which is in a .WAV format and I would be happy to forward a copy to anyone who would like to hear it again.

For Sale

Frank G3ZMF has two 70cm Slim Jim antennas, each with a 3 metre feed and BNC plug and individual VSWR chart. £20 each. Text him on 07588 330 621 or call via GB3NS.

Other Summer 2014 Events For CATS

This summer CATS will be supporting two public events in the local area. The first is on Sunday June 15th and is the Kenley Heritage Day which will take place on the airfield at Kenley. The radio element is being organised by John Stockley G8MNY, but CATS have been asked to help – primarily with operating.

The event is open to the public from 10:00 to 16:00 with access available to people setting up from 08:00. Please contact G6CJR if you are interested in helping at this event.

The other event is on Saturday July 5th and is being organised by the Rotary Club at Grange Park, Old Coulsdon. It will be open to the public from 12:30 to 16:00. The CATS contribution is being organised by G0KZT – please contact him with all offers of support.

Contact information for both G0KZT and G6CJR appears on the first page of this issue of *CATS Whispers*.

Contests Coming Soon

<u>Tuesday Activity Activity Contests 2014 – all begin at 8pm local time</u>	
May 6	2 metres
May 13	70 cm
May 20	23 cm
May 27	6 metres
Jun 3	2 metres
Jun 10	70 cm
Jun 17	23 cm
Jun 24	6 metres
Jul 1	2 metres
Jul 8	70 cm
Jul 15	23 cm
Jul 22	6 metres
Jul 29	4 metres
Aug 5	2 metres
Aug 12	70 cm
Aug 19	23 cm
Aug 26	6 metres
Sep 2	2 metres
Sep 9	70 cm
Sep 16	23 cm
Sep 23	6 metres
Sep 30	4 metres

Other Contests

May 5: 80m CC SSB
May 11: 70MHz Contest CW
May 14: 80m CC DATA
May 18: 1st 144MHz Backpackers
May 22: 80m CC CW
May 25: 70MHz Cumulatives #3
Jun 2: 80m CC DATA
Jun 7/8: NFD
Jun 8: 2nd 144MHz Backpackers
Jun 11: 80m CC CW
Jun 19: 80m CC SSB
Jun 21/22: 50MHz Trophy Contest
Jun 29: 50MHz Contest CW
Jun 29: 70MHz Cumulatives #4
Jul 5/6: VHF NFD
Jul 6: 3rd 144MHz Backpackers
Jul 7: 80m CC CW
Jul 16: 80m CC SSB
Jul 20: 70MHz Trophy Contest
Jul 20: Low Power Contest
Jul 24: 80m CC DATA
Jul 26/27: IOTA Contest
Aug 2: 144MHz Low Power Contest
Aug 2: 4th 144MHz Backpackers
Aug 3: 432MHz Low Power Contest
Aug 3: RoPoCo CW
Aug 10: 70MHz Cumulatives #5
Aug 13: 80m Club Sprint CW
Aug 28: 80m Club Sprint SSB

Local Rallies & Events

18 May 2014
29th Dunstable Downs RC National Amateur Radio Car Boot Sale
Stockwood Park, Luton, M1 J10
Open 09:00. Talk in on S22
www.ddrcbootsale.org

15 June 2014
27th 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/

22 June 2014 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,
Contact Steve, M1ACB 07711-329624
www.eswr.org.uk

27-29 June 2014
39th Hamtronic Show, Friedrichshafen
Messe Friedrichshafen, Germany
Open 09:00 each day
www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/index.php

6 July 2014
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

13 July 2014
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.
Contact: Pete G8FRC 01189 695 697
www.mcmichaelrally.org.uk

25-27 July 2014
Amsat Colloquium
Holiday Inn Guildford GU2 7XZ
Networking
Speakers
Gala dinner
www.amsat-uk.org/colloquium/colloquium-2014/

10 August 2014
Flight Refuelling Hamfest
Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, Nr. Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3AA
Open 10:00
Entrance Fees Adults £3.50 Under 14's free
Contact: 07773 157356 (eves only)
hamfest@frars.org.uk
Further information: www.frars.org.uk

24 August 2014
Milton Keynes 53rd Amateur Radio Society Rally
Longueville Hall, Hammond Park, Whaddon Road
Newton Longville, Milton Keynes MK17 0AT
Free on-site parking
Open 09:30
Entry £2.
Contact: Steve 07866 673192 or
www.mkars.org.uk

26-27 September 2014 2014
National Hamfest
Open 10:00 to 16:00.
George Stephenson Pavilion, Newark & Nottingham Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NY.
Hosted by Lincoln Short Wave Club, sponsored by RSGB
Flea market
Traders
Bring and Buy
For the latest details and ticket information, visit:
www.nationalhamfest.org.uk

10-12 October RSGB 2014 Convention
Kents Hill Conference Centre in Milton Keynes
<http://rsgb.org/main/about-us/rsgb-centenary-convention/>

9 November 2014

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

23 November 2014

CATS 37th 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.

20 May - How to put a mast up, from simple to large

17 Jun - DF Hunt

15 Jul - Intermediate level mentoring - Q&A session

19 Aug - Summer BBQ and social

16 Sep - Club project 2 - live experiments in digital modes, bring radio, dummy load and laptop (if you have one)

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

2 May – Op Amps by Garth G3NPC

6 Jun – SDR by Professor Norman Billington

How valves work by David Smith

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvr.rs.org

Contact: Lawrie Atkinson G4FAA. (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.

15 May – DX video

5 Jun – Bee keeping

3 Jul – Kite Antennas

17 Jul – Annual BBQ

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.

27 May - A practical evening (3 activities)

24 Jun - ATV Noel Matthews G8GTZ

22 Jul - South Downs evening

?? Aug - Social evening

23 Sep - Magnetic radio receiver Peter Smith G4JNU

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

1 May - Concorde - Jock Reid

2-6 May - HARC - French/Belgian Weekend -TBA

29 May - Thursday Evening Fox Hunt - CANCELLED

5 Jun - An Update on Antennas Small and Large - Prof. Mike Underhill, G3LHZ

3 Jul - How Not to Do It! - John Narborough

17 Jul - Thursday Evening Fox Hunt

7 Aug - Tony Crake - BBC Outside Broadcasts Part 3

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

12 May – DIY Solar Hot Water by Les G7VML

16 Jun – Understanding the G5RV by Alton

Antenna Arrays

7 Jul – BBQ

4 Aug – The Crystal Palace Story 1851 - 1936

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

15 May – AGM and constructional contest

19 Jun – Introduction to Data Modes by Andrew MØGHJ

17 Jul - Automotive LED Technology by Steve G6ALU

21 Aug - The Role of Radio Amateurs during World War One' by Dr Elizabeth Bruton

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS

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

9 May – On air

30 May – G3DWW talk

13 Jun - Talk and demonstration of the R210 and RBZ

receivers by Len Stuart and Dick Shanahan

27 Jun - WDARS talk to Merton U3A about Amateur

Radio 2014

11 Jul - Summer camp preparation evening

25 Jul – Summer camp starts 3rd August

8 Aug – No meeting

29 Aug – No meeting

CATS Whispers is published monthly by
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