

CATS WHISPERS



September
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 September 8 Dave M0SXD - Repairing vintage and old radios
Monday October 13 Bletchley Park DVD
Monday November 10 TBD



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

CATS August Meeting

The August CATS meeting was a barbecue at the QTH of Prue G4RWW who had kindly agreed to host this event again.

The weather forecast was not good as Steve G3WZK and XYL Jenny drove through a short but intense rain shower on the way to the barbecue. However they arrived in the dry as did most of the other 22 attendees and it wasn't long before Steve G7SYO had taken on the role of grillmeister and the barbie was in full swing.

Sadly, the rain returned. Although gentle at first, it slowly built up until even the hardiest of the members and partners had retreated indoors.



L-R: Gerry G8NNT, Jenny and Deanne



L-R: Mike G6YOG and Steve G7SYO

However, the rain didn't spoil the members' enjoyment of the event at all. There was plenty of friendly chat and, thanks to Prue's sterling efforts, lots of yummy food. This year's event was voted again a great success, so a big CATS' "thank you" to Prue for organizing it.

CATS September Meeting

This will feature a talk by Dave Smith M0SXD on repairing vintage/old radio equipment.

The date for your diaries is September 8th 2014.

CATS October Meeting

This meeting will feature a DVD about Bletchley Park.

The date for your diaries is October 13th 2014.

Helpers needed for Kempton Park rally and CATS bazaar

It's now only a month or so until these two regulars in the CATS' calendar and more helpers are needed for both events. If you would like to help on either or both of these occasions, even if you only have a couple of hours to spare, please contact Graham 2E0XDZ (who will be in charge of the Bring & Buy stand at Kempton Park) or any committee member.

The dates for your diary are:

Kempton Park - November 9th - Help needed on B&B stand

CATS Bazaar - November 23rd – Help needed to set up on the early evening of 22nd November and to run the event, including the B&B stand, on 23rd November.

Many members will be aware of plans to redevelop the site of the car park that we use for the CATS Bazaar. Currently, this work is due to begin in January 2015.

However we have recently learned that there are plans to commence an archaeological dig on the site of the present car park, commencing on November 14th, ie 9 days before the proposed CATS Bazaar. We are hoping that we can find a way of working with other interested parties so that the bazaar can go ahead, more or less as normal, as the building in which the Bazaar is held is not directly affected by the redevelopment proposals. It may however be necessary to

make last-minute changes to plans for the 2014 CATS Bazaar, particularly for parking and access.

Therefore, anyone proposing to attend this year's CATS Bazaar is advised to check the CATS website (www.catsradio.org) before setting out as there may be last-minute changes to access or parking arrangements.

Friedrichshafen 2015

Andy G0KZT writes: Following the recent coverage of the Friedrichshafen Hamfest on the TX Factor, it got me thinking about the possibility of making a visit with CATS members. The dates for 2015 are Saturday 26th - Monday 28th June so I would at this time like to poll what support there would be amongst us CATS to go.

A quick check shows that flying direct to Friedrichshafen is not an option as it is a winter resort and it takes three hops. It is possible to fly from London City to Zurich for around £132 but there is the addition of car hire and accommodation to factor in. This means the only other option is to perhaps drive direct. If you are thinking of going and would like to form a planning sub-committee, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Andy's contact details are on the front page of this issue of CATS Whispers.

CATS Play Weekend 2014

Andy G0KZT writes: Friday 1st August saw CATS begin another full weekend of Amateur Radio at our regular site at Paddock Barn Farm near Caterham. Our first hurdle was to gain entry through the electric gate as the gate code had changed. Once inside, with the new code having been sent out by SMS, I learnt from the security chap that we were sharing the field with a young herd of heifers and bullocks, from now on to be referred to as "The Bovine Enemy". Our proposed operating area was near to their feeding pen and their inquisitiveness soon became evident, so we moved further away and began to assemble the tent. On site was Glenn G4FVL, Len G0GNQ (who had made the journey from his new QTH in Margate), Gary M6LHV (our newest member) and myself.

The tent was soon up and the beginnings of the station assembled. I had wedged my

Clarke SCAM 12 pump-up mast into my Ford Fiesta and had enough equipment to put a 2m/70cm station together. The aerial was a Diamond X50 dual band collinear mounted on the SCAM 12.

Meanwhile Gary M6LHV had put his station together using a Yaesu FT-857 powered by a solar panel and a small battery (acquired free from a local MOT station second hand en-route to the site). The aerial used was one of Len's dipoles that he had been building with his new club, used in a sloped configuration.

I had to make what was to be the first of far too many trips back to my QTH for a second load of equipment. On my return I began operation on 2 metres using the callsign GX4FUR/P. Once again the location proved to be excellent for generating plenty of contacts with stations queuing up to work us.



Note the hazard tape to deter the cows. It doesn't work!

While most of the persons present went into town for a takeaway, I fired up my BBQ which was also used by Gary M6LHV. The Chairman's Brew was flowing and I continued to operate until 10.30pm, finally succumbing to the need of sleep having worked the night before and forfeited any sleep during the day.

By now, we were finding that "The Bovine Enemy" were keeping us busy with all aspects of our activity drawing their attention. We almost considered giving up but realised that we did not have enough daylight to clear away. The herd was not aggressive, just inquisitive. We worked a station in Harlow who had been a stockman and he commented that chasing after them would only make them want to "play" more. I lured them into the next field (which had no dividing gates to secure them) and fortunately, they stayed there until the next morning.

Our main concern was whether they would

become entangled in a guy and pull a mast down or eat something. There was also the thought that they could have trampled through the site during the night.



The Bovine enemy inspecting the generator

At around 6.30am on the Saturday morning the Bovine Enemy reappeared: this time they herded around the generator and worryingly seemed to enjoy licking the fuel cans. They even worked out how to pull the power lead out of the generator!

After breakfast the 17 element Tonna was assembled to go on a 25' sectional mast. At this stage all was well. I had to return home to collect my daughters Melissa and Jessica who wanted to come along. On my return we had been joined by Ian M3IGP, Stuart G6CJR, Peter M0PWW, Terry G4CDY, Mike M1CCF, Adam G7CRQ and Kim G6JXA. But as I pulled onto the site, I noticed a hive of activity around the 25' mast which was lying on its side.



The wonky driven elements after Disaster No.1!

This was Disaster No.1 – but it wasn't the fault of The Bovine Enemy - one of my guy tensioners had unwound and become detached from the ground stake. The aerial had fallen onto the rear driven elements and substantial damage had been caused to the boom. Duct tape and some careful straightening of the boom made it serviceable, albeit that the driven elements were a bit "wonky". The remaining guy ropes were checked and the beam was pushed back up again.



Double decker TS-2000 -Mine at the bottom with autocalling but only 18 watts, and Stuart's on top capable of transmitting the full 25 watts required



Adam G7CRQ & Stuart G6CJR

We had planned to take part in the Low Power Contests: 2 metres on Saturday and 70 cms on Sunday, so I got the ball rolling and began operating in the 2m contest. All was going well until about 35 minutes into the event, when the mast fell down again, breaking the boom in half. Disaster No.2! No amount of Duct Tape could save the boom this time. It is believed that the wind blowing the guy ropes had caused a turning movement on the tensioners that caused the tensioner to unwind itself again. However, luck had been on our side because, most importantly, no one was hurt

when the mast fell, although Ian M3IGP only narrowly avoided being hit.

Realising that the beam was now useless, I returned home to grab my 7 element ZL Special while those on site renewed the guys with rope that Frank G3ZMF had supplied and prepared the mast for the arrival of the replacement. The replacement beam was quickly attached and operation continued.

Due to a family commitment, I had to soon leave the site again, but first I attached the 70cms 19 element Tonna to the SCAM 12 mast in readiness for the 9.00 am start the following morning, leaving Kim G6JXA assisted by Terry G4CDY to operate the 2m contest station. I learned later that when Terry had to depart, nobody else on site knew how to operate the contest scoring computer and operation ceased. The contest was due to finish at 8.00pm so the last 2 hours of the event were sadly lost.



L-R: M0PWW, M3IGP, and seated G0GNQ & M6LHV

I arrived back on site on Sunday morning just before the beginning of the 70cms contest and found Stuart, Gary and Len still on site, later joined by Peter M0PWW. As expected, contacts were fewer and harder to achieve than in the 2m contest the day before. We had to choose from running lower power but with the facility to auto-repeat our call, or to run with the full 25 watts but with manual calling. In the end, the soft option was to use the auto-caller.

Peter then took over from me to operate in what I believe was his first ever contest. He was to more than double our contest station count. The 70cms contest was due to finish as 1.00pm and the general consensus at the

conclusion of the contest was to close the station down and pack up.



L-R: Peter M0PWW, Len G0GNQ and Gary M6LHV

The site was finally cleared by around 3.00pm with Len kindly giving Gary a lift back to his QTH, Peter making his way to Godstone to catch a bus back to Merstham and Stuart's and my family car loaded to the max with the rest of the gear.

The weather had been very kind to us with only rain overnight from Friday into Saturday. However, very loud crashes of static were detected on the radio from a storm, heard by stations across the country in the 2m contest. We at least had dry equipment to take home. As well as the disasters of the aerial mast, we also had to contend with the primary club generator showing signs of low volts. The spare club generator was on site and used as a substitute, albeit with not such good fuel efficiency as the other one.

We clearly have an issue with sharing the field with cows. In the past we have had the company of horses which never bothered us. We will have to review the further use of this site but perhaps there can be some arrangement to cordon us off from "The Bovine Enemy". The site does provide relative security (not being overlooked by the public and the electric security gate) and the use of a toilet/wash room facility. And of course it is nice and high above sea level.

I can appreciate that the selection of a date won't suit everybody. We also had some members fall ill immediately prior to the event which cannot be helped. I hope those who did make it enjoyed themselves and I would like to thank them all for making the effort to come along.

I would like to thank all the members and guests who made it to the site and gave us their support. But I would especially like to thank Glenn, Stuart and Frank for providing the remainder of the equipment, both personal or from the club resources not supplied from the QTH of G0KZT.

Andy Briers G0KZT

Contests Coming Soon

<u>Tuesday Activity Activity</u> <u>Contests 2014 – all begin at</u> <u>8pm local time</u>	
Sep 2	2 metres
Sep 9	70 cm
Sep 16	23 cm
Sep 23	6 metres
Sep 30	4 metres
Oct 7	2 metres
Oct 14	70 cm
Oct 21	23 cm
Oct 28	6 metres
Nov 4	2 metres
Nov 11	70 cm
Nov 18	23 cm
Nov 25	6 metres
Dec 2	2 metres
Dec 9	70 cm
Dec 16	23 cm
Dec 26	Christmas Cumulatives: 70cm, 2 metres, 4 metres, 6 metres
Dec 27	70 cm
Dec 28	23 cm
Dec 29	6 metres

Other Contests

Sep 6/7: 144MHz Trophy Contest
 Sep 6/7: SSB Field Day
 Sep 7: 5th 144MHz Backpackers
 Sep 10: 80m Club Sprint SSB
 Sep 21: Second 70MHz Contest
 Sep 25: 80m Club Sprint CW
 Oct 4: 1.2GHz Trophy / 2.3GHz Trophy
 Oct 4/5: Oct 432MHz-248GHz Contest
 Oct 5: 21/28MHz Contest
 Oct 8: 80m Club Sprint CW
 Oct 29: 50MHz AFS Contest
 Oct 23: 80m Club Sprint SSB
 Nov 1/2: 144MHz CW Marconi
 Nov 8: Club Calls (1.8MHz AFS)
 Nov 12: 80m Club Sprint SSB

Local Rallies & Events

14 September 2014

West Kent Radio and Electronics Fair

Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys, St. John's Road, Tonbridge Wells, TN4 9XB
 The school is on the A26 main road between Tunbridge Wells and Southborough, and will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm and set up will be available from 8am. Admission will cost £2.50, Children under 14 free
 Catering, Talk in station
 Excellent on-site car parking
 RSGB bookstall, Wide range of trade stalls
rally@wkars.org.uk
www.wkars.org.uk

26-27 September 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/events/find/rsgb-convention-2014/>

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

Please note that the car park we normally use is scheduled for redevelopment, although no change is currently planned for the building itself. Please check the CATS website (see below) for the latest information about parking for this event.
 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

1 February 2015

30th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally

The Paddocks Community Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 0JA
 Open 10:30
 Parking, Catering, Disabled Facilities, Trade Stands
 Major Amateur Radio and Electronic component exhibitors Selling New and S/Hand equipment .
 Freshly made refreshments. (And by popular demand the famous Canvey Radio Rally Bacon Rolls are back on the Menu).
 Free car parking
 Contact: Vic Rogers G6BHE Tel 01702 308562
NVR@blueyonder.co.uk
www.southessex-ars.co.uk/canveyrally.html

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.

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

21 Oct - Advanced level mentoring - Q&A on any topic

18 Nov - Members short talks

CPREC (CRYSTAL PALACE)

Website: www.gsl.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

5 Sep - Electricity Distribution - Transformers & Switchgear by Paul Dye

3 Oct - Railway Signalling

CRAWLEY ARC

Website: www.carc.org.uk

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

21 Sep - Microwave Round Table

24 Sep - CARC Foxhunt

4 Oct - Club Dinner – The Crown Pub, Turners Hill

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvr.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.

4 Sep - Antennas large and small – Prof. Mike Underhill

18 Sep - Funcube – David G0MRF

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.

23 Sep - Magnetic radio receiver Peter Smith G4JNU

28 Oct - How to build a 4 square antenna Garth Swanson G3NPC

25 Nov – 3 dimensional measurement and mapping of an antenna radiation pattern + AGM Garth Swanson G3NPC and Alan Hopper M6NNB

HORSHAM ARC

Website: www.har.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

4 Sep - Quiz Night! - G8CKT

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

19 Sep - Radio Night and Table Top Sale

17 Oct - AGM

24 Oct - Radio Night and Table Top Sale

31 Oct - Licensing Conditions Revisited. Kim G7AIE

21 Nov - Radio Night and Table Top Sale

28 Nov - Grand Winter Used Equipment Sale

REIGATE ATS

Website: www.gsl.net/rats

Email: rats@gsl.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

1 Sep – TBC

6 Oct – TBC

? Nov – TBC

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

18 Sep - TBC

16 Oct – Some experiments in SDR by M0EBI

20 Nov - How Valves Work by David M0SXD

11 Dec - Christmas Junk Sale

15 Jan - A Beginners Guide to Amateur Satellites by David G0MRF

19 Feb – Talk by Chris Ridley of Icom UK

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.gx3wim.org.uk (currently unavailable also checked 28.10.13)

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

12 Sep – Summer Camp Debrief

26 Sep – Linear Amplifiers by Andrew G4ADM

10 Oct – TBA

31 Oct - AGM

14 Nov –

28 Nov – Surplus Sale

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