

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

“CATS WHISPERS”

October 2016



CATS Committee

Affiliated to the RSGB

Chairman: Stuart Barber G6CJR
Secretary: Andy Briers G0KZT
Treasurer: Steve Conway G7SYO
Members: Mike Buckley M1CCF
 : Dave Bassett M0TRQ
Vacancies: Currently remains at two

CATS Whispers Editor: Andy Briers G0KZT

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

Sunday mornings - 11:00 - Call on 145.400 MHz ± QRM
Sunday evenings - 17:00 - Call on 3.700 MHz ± QRM
Wednesday evenings - 21:00 - Call on 70.425 MHz

CATS Website www.catsradio.org

Email enquiries@catsradio.org

This edition of “CATS Whispers” is written following the sad passing of one of our founding members, Frank Emery G3ZMF.

While “CATS Whispers” may only get a glancing read, I would invite readers to take a few moments extra to read some of the wonderful tributes and stories that have been received.

Andy Briers G0KZT
CATS Secretary & Newsletter Editor



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

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 10th October – Operating at the Japanese World Scout Jamboree by Stuart Barber G6CJR

Monday 14th November – ICQ Podcast by Martin Butler M1MRB/W9ICQ

Monday 12th December – Annual General Meeting

September Meeting – One Man & His Guide Dog by Paul Harman

We were so pleased to welcome Paul and his wonderful Labrador-Retriever cross guide dog Spencer.



Paul began his talk by giving us a short history lesson about the introduction of Guide Dogs. This is the 100th year since the first ever Guide dog. A soldier from the First World War who had lost his sight was the first person to be aided by a Guide Dog, but the first Guide Dog to be introduced into the United Kingdom was however not until 1931. This was a German Shepherd, the breed later renamed the Alsatian in an attempt to be politically correct following the Second World War.

Spencer is very near to reaching his retirement. The working life of a Guide Dog is between 8 to 9 years and Spencer is now at the upper limit. However, he continues to pass his 6-monthly classification and Paul continues to have Spencer as his guide and companion. The estimate of the total cost of a Guide Dog is £56,000 over its lifetime which includes everything from training to vet bills and food. This is funded totally from the Guide Dogs For The Blind charity.

Guide Dogs are specially bred and are generally Labradors, Retrievers, Standard Poodles and German Shepherds. In Spencer's case, he is cross breed because the Retriever is a taller dog which is more of an advantage. In the first 13 months of a Guide Dog's life, the dog lives with a host family. At four months old training begins with obedience and simple commands, and the environment that it will be faced such as traffic, people and other dogs. These training dogs are afforded the same rights as fully trained dogs such as access to shops, restaurants etc.

Paul told us that he lost his sight in his first eye because of glaucoma and lost the sight in the second eye soon afterwards. He initially relied on the White Cane (and still uses that several times a week to keep up his proficiency) whereby the number of paces is counted to get between known features such as crossings, shops and to the front door. Later Paul applied for a Guide Dog. As well as the Guide Dog being trained, a prospective recipient also goes through training to handle the dog. Part of this is to learn specific routes which Spencer will know such as where the bus stop is or the local supermarket. The harness is held in such a way that Paul is able to detect if Spencer is going up and down kerbs, for example. Also, when Spencer encounters a set of steps or stairs, he will pause,

move up the first step and pause again. Paul then knows he is going to walk up or down the stairs.

Guide Dogs are trained to toilet on command, that being in his case the words, “Busy Busy Busy”. There was a nervous moment in the audience that Spencer would do “his business”. But I guess he knew that it wasn't the time or the place! Spencer uses the same spot in the garden and in his case, he is trained not to toilet on grass. When he is off the harness, Spencer is just like a normal family pet. Paul told us that Spencer has a great temperament but can be a bit of a “Sod Dog” from time to time. Paul's grandchildren love him, and who wouldn't! He apparently quite likes to rest his head on the knees of his adoring public. As already mentioned, Spencer is at the upper age for a working dog and one lucky family has already been promised him to provide his retirement home.

Paul told us that Guide Dogs are specifically trained NOT to go near water. This is because there is every possibility that if a working Guide Dog saw some open water that it could lead its handler into the water too. Paul grooms Spencer every day by both wiping him down with a damp cloth and brushing him. This grooming strengthens the bond between the handler and the dog. He moults a lot so the brushing is essential for him and his coat was immaculate. Like all dogs, Spencer has a healthy appetite and will pick up scraps and litter left on the streets. Another important part of the grooming is to check whether he doesn't have any illness or injury.

Paul further gave us a insight to some of the features built into the street furniture and pathways. He highlighted features to which those of us fortunate enough to have our sight would not be aware of. His first example was the rippled and studded tiles at the approach to a pedestrian crossing. There is a set pattern that they are set to which feels different under foot and this informs Paul of where the crossing starts and where to cross. Once at a Pelican type crossing, the control box has a device long the bottom edge which rotates when the “Green Crossing Signal” is given. Paul also makes use of the Transport For London route planner which helps him to navigate around. His computer and mobile phone has applications that read out his texts and emails.



Spencer was so well behaved and at the beginning he simply either laid or sat beside Paul. However, there was some audience participation when Paul handed out Spencer's favourite treats. Spencer did his rounds and dutifully collected them from us all.

There is clearly a special bond between them. Spencer is not just a working dog but a close companion that Paul can rely on to get him out and about safely. I still find it so amazing that a dog can be trained in such away to perform such an important job. It will not be too long before Spencer enjoys his well earned retirement and when that day comes, Paul will begin the whole process again of selection, training and receipt of Spencer's replacement.



Your change can change a life

Give for Guide Dogs in three easy steps!

1. Stick the label on your jar
2. Fill with loose change
3. Send it in to Guide Dogs (see reverse for details)

To be used for home-based collections only

www.guidedogs.org.uk/fundraiseforus

Registered company in England and Wales (291646) and a charity registered in England and Wales (209617) and Scotland (SC038979). 3903 02/13



How to pay in :

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In person:

at your local **HSBC**
(sort code:40-47-02, account
number: 11087231) – please put the
reference HOMC on the paying in slip

By phone:

via credit or debit card on
0870 240 6993 quoting HOMC

Online:

www.guidedogs.org.uk/donate
and click to donate

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It was agreed by the Committee to make a donation to the charity, Guide Dogs For The Blind and a cheque for £30.00 was presented to Paul who gratefully accepted it on their behalf. However, if you feel like you would like to make a further contribution, please follow the above instructions that I have scanned in.

Photos courtesy of Mike M1CCF & G0KZT

October Meeting – Japanese Scout Jamboree

Our chairman, Stuart Barber G6CJR has kindly offered to give a presentation on his Scout Jamboree visit to Japan. Accompanied by Denis Noe M0NDJ, the pair represented the local scouting at the World Jamboree which, amongst many activities, encompassed Amateur Radio.

We hope to have the local historian visit us early in 2017.

November Meeting – The ICQ Podcast by Martin Butler M1MRB

Our November meeting will be a presentation by Martin Butler M1MRB/W9ICQ on his fortnightly Podcast, The ICQ Podcast.

Visitors and guests would be most welcome to join us for this presentation.

Membership News

Frank Emery SK - 22nd September 1947 to 14th September 2016



I have received some fantastic responses following the sad announcement of the passing of our dear friend “Zany Mad Frank”. Not just from CATS members but from other people near and far. So much so, I thought I would put them all together and share them all with you. But these memories also reveal a lot more about this wonderful man.....

But first, for those who were not aware of the news, Frank was taken ill in his flat on 23rd August having been discovered by Vince Allen G1HRD who had become concerned that he had not heard from Frank and who was not responding to calls. He was found collapsed in his flat and rushed to Epsom General Hospital in the belief that he'd had a stroke. After a number of tests and scans, it was found that he had advanced stages of brain cancer. He remained on the Acute Medical Unit but in the early hours of 14th September, he had a major bleed on his brain that left him unresponsive and unconscious. Staff alerted Vince who then informed me, but I received a further call just before 11.00am that Frank was not going to make it. I was able to get to the hospital (thanks to a very understanding boss who allowed my to take my works vehicle to the hospital while my colleague sat outside!) but I also was able to contact Stuart G6CJR and Tom G4DFA who also managed to get there in time from their respective places of work. At about 3.45pm he lost his fight and died peacefully in his sleep. I was so thankful that Frank did not die alone.

There have been some issues that have delayed announcing his funeral and, once this is known, members, clubs and friends will be notified.

Anyway, here are my memories of Frank..... I first met Frank in the late 1970's when CATS came each year to the 4th Purley Scout HQ in Coulsdon to put on the annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). I was one of the scouts and would have been around 11 or 12 at the time. I remember him as an enthusiastic chap who was rather good on the Morse key. At that time he was one of many Radio Amateurs who came to join us each year for JOTA, some of the others being Stuart Barber G6CJR, Richard Redpath G6AHR and of course Alan Bartle G6HC. But it was not until around 1982 when I joined the Society that I was to get to know Frank. I recall visiting his parent's home in Walton-On-The-Hill but have no real memory of it other than it was a small cottage. And of course I remember Frank moving into Godard's House. I gained my first licence in 1984 and soon became involved in Field Days and Committee with him. These are my strongest memories of Frank's enthusiasm and passion of Amateur Radio. But of course, many will have known Frank for his presence at the CATS Bazaar. His stall would always have the snooker cues that he could never sell, but other stuff that he had worked on, modified or built. His hat that had more badges pinned on it that everyone else attending had put together with all sorts of ZMF phrases and slogans on them. And he always had the same spot in the hall, next to the canteen. He was due to be in our new canteen area of this year's Bazaar in November too.

One of my funniest memories though was at another scout radio event that was held in the scout hall at the top of Marlpit Lane in Old Coulsdon. It was sited next door to the Territorial Army HQ and at the rear of the site were a row of houses occupied by army personnel. One of these residents came over and asked the question, "Are you using anything electrical here?" Presumably we were causing some QRM to their televisions or something. It was Frank that fielded that question, and thought it would be a great idea to bat the complaint off by telling the poor chap that Lieutenant Colonel Bartle (TA) was one of us. The chap duly left us alone for the rest of the weekend and I know Alan was not best pleased that his rank had been used to fob the chap off!

Frank was the voice of GB3NS, both at the old location in Banstead and the subsequent relocations. The current location was not the best for Frank as he discovered that he was getting a reflection of the signal which made transmissions and reception poor. Unless he sat in the right place in his flat, he wouldn't be heard too well. But he was always there, monitoring the box and responding to stations calling in. It was a shame that he was unable to put any aerals up at the flat and his activity on 2 metres was almost wiped out because of the neighbour upstairs. However Frank managed to put signals out on HF with wires strung around the flat and even managed to put signals out on 23cms forming part of the CATS entry for the Club Championship series of contests. The upstairs neighbour mysteriously disappeared and Frank had recently begun "pushing his luck" on VHF again.

Frank will be missed for a whole host of reasons; the chap who could debug and fix pieces of radio and hardware, the contester who did his best under difficult conditions (and, may I say, still able to work stations I couldn't hear!), the gentleman who helped form CATS when the old Purley club closed, the chap at the CATS Bazaar and Kempton Rally, to the voice on GB3NS. Frank was part of a "special breed" of talented chaps who seemed to know everything about radio and electronics. I am thinking of the likes of Ted Honeywood G3GKF and Bob Knight G3DPW to name but a few. We all know someone whose eccentricity and knowledge inspires someone but amazes others. They will all be spoken of for years to come, and Frank will be no exception. God bless Frank.... and if God has a radio that needs fixing, then help has just arrived!

Phil Moore M0TZZ Honorary Secretary Crawley Amateur Radio Club wrote, “Sincere condolences from everyone at CARC. I remember his patient coaching of the less experienced on GB3NS and also his suggestions for such people to make cheap antennas, such as a Slim Jim from ribbon feeder. He was also a champion recruiter for CATS on there!”

John Milton G1RUV wrote, “It is with sadness that I hear of Frank's passing. Unlike many CATS members, I only knew him for a short while but his knowledge and enthusiasm was obvious. After the last 23cm contest he was beaming when he told me that it was "The Best Ever" and had finally worked a square he had been chasing for ages. He will be missed.”



Frank in his element at the CATS Bazaar (minus hat)

Steve G4FYF wrote “Truly sad news. I've been aware of Mad Frank for some years but only had one 'intimate' experience with him. One year he was co-operator with me on the 70cms station at VHF field day for the North East Surrey Contest Group on Woldingham ridge. We had the graveyard watch, 0000 to 0400, I think. Activity was pretty non existent (despite Frank trying to generate some with the key) during this time so I got to hear of Frank's life history! He was wearing a heavy knitted wool cardigan that originated from his merchant navy days. Buttons had long since gone so was held together with big nappy pins, still it served the purpose! He was a master of improvisation as demonstrated, for example, by his headphones. Over the years the earpiece cushioning had perished several times. His solution was the cunning use of Tesco's 'everyday' sponge pan scourers. These he removed the green scouring bit, put hole in sponge bit that was then glued onto the headphone earpiece!

Often heard on GB3NS, he was ever helpful providing critical, informative reports when required but in a respectful manner and offered subsequent guidance/suggestions. Sadly we are without another radio 'character'.”

Chris Cox N0UK, G4JEC, ex-G8PTC wrote “The news is extremely sad for me personally. Frank was my introduction to this wonderful, life-long passion for our shared hobby, as well as the source of so much know-how and insight into the amateur radio culture.

As a pre-adolescent boy of 11, a simple notice that he had posted in the front window of a now long-gone surplus equipment shop on the London Road, West Croydon one Saturday afternoon in August 1975, announced the inaugural meeting of a new radio club that was being formed after the demise of one in Purley called CATS. Although I had been interested in radio for a couple of years and had built one or two crystal sets, I had never heard of this thing called ham radio or that people could actually have their own transmitting station at home. THAT SOUNDED FANTASTIC! So, on the first Thursday in September, 1975, (incidentally my first day at Senior School), Adam and I took the 166 from Thornton Heath Pond to Chipstead. There were many people I remember from that initial parlay into the realm of radio, Harold G4DID, Nick G8KMJ, John G4FIT, and others, but there was one character that stood out from the rest - wearing his ubiquitous green woolly jumper emblazoned with Wally-badges was Mad Frank.

Over the first few years of attending CATS, Frank continued to be the centre of attention and source of many thoughts and ideas I still fall back on today.

I last spoke to Frank a couple of years ago whilst driving to work one cold morning here in Minnesota via GB3NS' Echolink gateway. It was great to chat for about ten minutes before I lost my local UHF gateway and had to sign.

I shall treasure my memories of Frank as long as I'm around. Our hobby has lost one of its truest ambassadors.

Vale Frank.”

Colin Richards G3YCR wrote, “My First Meeting with Frank G3ZMF”

The first time I met Frank was in 1970. Saturday 1st August to be precise. I know that because it is recorded in my logbook and my personal diary. I was then, at 21, living with my parents in Dulwich and one of my radio friends was John G3UGY in Streatham (I believe he is in Caterham or Kenley these days). John had acquired some Pye Ranger PMR sets converted to run on a single channel on 4m at 70.200 MHz. We both applied for supplementary mobile licences, as one had to then, and decided to go out for a laugh /M to see how they performed. Mine was strapped in the footwell of my father's Vauxhall Viva.

We drove out in the vague direction of Epsom, probably through Coulsdon and Chipstead Valley. As got towards Box Hill (with its terrific views of Surrey) another station called us. We'd not heard anyone else all journey. It was Frank G3ZMF. John 'UGY, who was some way ahead of me spoke to him – it's not recorded in my log that I did – and we met up at the entrance to one of the static caravan parks on Box Hill Road. It was my first encounter with Frank and it was one of those typically zany conversations. He was working /M from a Goggomobil. This was an interesting and slightly strange German car with a 250 or 400cc rear mounted engine, pre-selector gearbox and independent suspension. His rig was he said, and I have it noted down, a converted military wireless set no 62. That's seems strange now as the 62 set was an HF set, a replacement for the 22 set. As I didn't know that rig, either Frank got it wrong or else had done something very clever with it (It didn't so far as I can see, have a secondary VHF set in it like the 19 set).

I had completely forgotten this meeting and had known Frank for years in CATS, when I chanced to find the event while looking back in my diaries for something else. When I mentioned it to Frank I never did get to the bottom of the 62 set question, nor where he got the Goggomobil from. However he did tell me that the last he knew of it was that the car was buried somewhere on Walton Heath golf course; Why so was something that Frank typically never did tell me, but presumably it is still there somewhere.”

Steve Shorey G3ZPS wrote, “It with great sadness that I heard about the passing of ‘ZMF’ at the Cray Valley Club last week” As another G3Z (G3ZPS) living not very far away, I met Frank very early in the 70’s along with a lot of the Surrey crowd.

When I started going to rallies again a few years back (including CATS and Kempton) there he was selling all that lovely old junk he had collected - I told my wife about him several times, he never seemed to remember my name, but his cheery greeting cannot be described to those who never met him.

I read the story about the Leicester Rally with Frank and the dog...the funny thing is I had a dog story as well..may have been the very same time and place. I dimly recall Frank playing with a security guard's dog and we offered to do a swap - he could keep Frank and we would take the dog...probably muddled in the memory but it stuck.

I saw some pics of young Frank on one of Surrey guys web pages. I’d forgotten we were all young once - even Frank. CATS and Kempton will be poorer for the loss of this great character

73s Frank Mate...its Steve here”

Dave Collings G4YIB Secretary North Kent Radio Society wrote, “ **My personal memory of Mad Frank G3ZMF**

I first met Frank in October 1974. I had gone to the Leicester Amateur Radio show where we were exhibiting for the first time ever and it was all arranged very much at the last moment so not as well organised as we were later on.

One of the first people I met when I started unloading in the Granby Halls was Frank who was working for one of the other traders. He introduced himself to me as “Mad Frank by name and Mad Frank by nature”.

I was on my own as my business partner could not make it and spent the first night sleeping in the back of my Morris Minor van in the car park (not as bad as it might sound as I had a comfortable bed in the back). Frank was sleeping in the car park in another trader’s caravan at the time and the next night offered for me to share it with him.

The next night he lost the key. Fortunately the Cattle Market Inn across the road had a room and we were able to stay there (the place was demolished shortly afterwards). Luckily he found the key (otherwise he may have been strangled by the caravan owner) so we were able to spend the last night back inside it.

Another recollection was being told of an incident by someone he worked for many years ago. It so

happened that his employer was in an office negotiating some kind of deal when the person he was with looked out of the window and said "what on earth is going on out there". Frank was on the lawn outside on all fours chasing a dog around so Jack (name changed to protect the innocent) said it's ok he's harmless and works for me. I don't know if that helped the deal or not.

I have very fond memories of Frank although I have not seen him for some time and it is sad to think that I won't be seeing him again."

John Simkins G8IYS wrote, "I am truly saddened by Frank's passing. I first made contact with him in 1974. Shortly after I got my licence, I worked him on 2 meters - FM 145.550 MHz of course. I had a Storno Viscount. I think that he had a Pye Westminster. We only ran about 10 Watts at best, but the band was humming in those days, so not much more was needed, even with just a 1/4 wave whip stuffed in the antenna socket. I lived on Forestdale at the time and Mole G8JHK (later G4FUU) had just moved there too. I was invited to a local gathering at the Cricketer's pub in Addington village. In addition to Frank, Mole and myself, attendees included Lawrence G4DMA - now K6 something, and Neil G8JAZ. Frank sported his Merchant Navy Officer's uniform and looked very tidy and important (Mmm!).

One of the regular 2m band users at the time was the late Ken Miles G4GGK (the Voice of Selsdon). Ken was infamous when responding to a call for using the expression "Golf Eight Golf Golf Kilowatt, Right Back!" Frank's response was always: "Golf Three Zulu Mike Fox, Centre Forward". Earwiggers would howl with laughter, but Ken never once rose to the bait. Strange that only a couple of months ago I swapped that story on 4m with Tony G4ECS.

Another personal remembrance is that Frank always wanted to do the right thing. Either at the CATS Bazaar or Kempton, Frank would be found manning the stall. Not long ago I spotted an interesting item and asked Frank if it was any good. He looked me straight in the eye, lowered his voice and with a barely perceptible shake of the head said: "Not for you, John". Whatever it was, he shifted later, but not onto me. The key was to ask the right question, whether beginner or old hand. "Please can you help" usually did it. Bullsh-t usually didn't. Another one bites the dust, it seems."

Steve Conway G7SYO wrote, "Just thought I would mention that we first met Frank in his Surplus electronics store in West Croydon around 1974/75. On the window was Frank's advert launching the new radio club, which he was about to start called CATS. His own enthusiasm in starting the club and asking us to come and join the club, changed many things for the good. I eventually joined the CATS committee with Frank who was Secretary at the time writing among other things the 'Shak Nowtz' in the CATS Whispers and where meetings were held in his Mother's house at Walton-on-the-Hill. On a particular night Frank had one of his regular schedules with Lawrence G4DMA in Antarctica, which certainly impressed me at a young age. Frank also gave some presentations at the club and one good memory was about his world travels in the Merchant Navy.

It was a sad day to meet Frank in hospital recently and to shake his hand for the now last time on leaving. Even then, he still had that humorous good nature and fun smile which everyone I hope will remember."

Peter Fry G4AKG wrote, "Hi. Very sorry to hear about Frank ZMF. I first met Frank when I joined the Purley and District Radio Club August 1968! He was a bit of a character even then. Interesting fellow and very knowledgeable .. Sadly missed".



Frank in his shack/workshop (holding his homebrew 23cm aerial)

Laurence “Flo” Howell KL7L & G4DMA wrote, “It’s a sad day -

My first memories of Frank are at the Wattenden pub near Kenley after a Purley and district radio club event - so I was probably early 70's. He had just come back ashore that day from a Red funnel trip as an electrician and appeared to be able to quaff amazing amounts of a strange Black liquid with a White top.

He became a loved quirky mentor for me and others and together with safe advice from the later Ted Honeywood G3GKF and Neil G8JAZ helped me in some grounding of ham radio. He shack was the epitome of "stuff", operational radios, radio in remission or needing medical attention and the latest aerial contraption. Looking back at what he knew, he really was a really very clever and knowledgeable chap. I recall him working on a difficult 4m radio issue in my back room till the early hours before he went off to the Isle of Man - dedicated isn't the word.

I also remember the special event station (GB2OLD, GB3NEW celebrating the gaining of 30m) held at my mum's house where we have an excellent and absurdly high inverted L stretching over many gardens to a tree in the Jack and Jill (pub) car park, and how Frank on 80m controlled most of the DX net with his FT-101E on 3798 KHz - I think he was a very proud man that night.

The last photo of Frank in his apartment nothing seems to have changed over the past 45 years.... Frank often provided transport and I recall the porcupine resembling Cortina 2000e with steerable gear removable stick - his gear changes were astonishingly flowery. I also recall going to his work place in Thornton Heath and collecting such device recently recovered from scrapped systems.

During my first Antarctic trip in 78, Frank was my QSL manager, and we communicated on HF pretty often - good signal too - we were blessed with pretty high MUFs to the point where he, my uncle Bill LNL, friends and family managed to get an old 405 line TV down to me in Antarctica to look at long range F layer propagation up to 50MHz and were delighted to hear clearly (and see on occasions) Nationwide and Tomorrows world from 16,000 Kms away.

As I moved around the globe with work and expeditions I've seen less of him as it is with most of my KKC and CATS friends but we did occasionally work on Echolink on NS (can we get that back!?!?).

I salute Frank and raise my glass to an old friend here in Alaska.”

Terry Giles G4CDY wrote, “Frank’s 40 Metre Mobile - Not long after Frank got his class A licence, probably in 1969 or 1970, he decided to try his luck at mobile operation on the 40 metre band. At the time he owned a rather diminutive car called a Goggomobile (<http://www.microcarmuseum.com/tour/goggo-t250.html>), one of the many microcars, bubble cars etc, developed in the late 50s during the fuel shortages.



An example of a Goggomobile as infamously owned by Frank

The size of the “car” didn’t deter Frank and he managed to shoe horn in an all valve, Heathkit HW22A, but at the cost of any foot space for the front passenger. On the rear bumper, he mounted a base loaded whip which was made from government surplus copper plated steel sections, originally intended for use on a tank and very popular with amateurs at the time.

On this occasion he picked me up from my parents’ house in Purley and we decided to “go mobile” probably up onto Farthing Downs. On the way he needed fuel, incidentally the Goggomobile was a two stroke but that’s not relevant. In those days there was a service station just before the railway bridge in Coulsdon. Frank pulled in under the canopy, unfortunately the very long and fairly substantial whip broke 2 fluorescent tubes.. Much heated discussion went on with the manager and Frank agreed to make a contribution to the cost of the tubes. He then bought his gallon of fuel (5 and a bit litres for you youngsters) and decided to drive off, unfortunately 2 more tubes became victim of the dreaded aerial, a hasty exit was made in the direction of the Downs.

Initially, the HW22A worked well on receive with lots of strong SSB signal across the then, very narrow band, after about 10 minutes the panel lamps started to fade, undeterred Frank decided to start the engine and good reception was then restored. Hearing Alan G3FTQ who lived in Thornton Heath and a fellow Purley Club member, Frank keyed the transmitter and for a moment all seemed well, until Frank issued one of his “waaalows”, the engine promptly stopped along with the HW22A.

I can’t remember how we and the Goggomobile got home from Farthing Downs, but the following

day I visited Frank in Banstead and we stripped down the dynamo, which was obviously intended for use on a small motorcycle. It had got so hot that all the solder on the rotor windings had melted, centrifugal force had flung it onto the stator and jammed the whole device. I am not sure if there was a current limiter in the regulator but I like to think in Frank in his inimitable way, he had already shorted it out!

Rest in Peace Frank, you were a great friend and a true radio amateur.

Terry Giles G4CDY, G8AWQ back then”.

Andy Briers G0KZT “My final comments are simply this..... He was one of the co-founders of the Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society and was a “real Radio Amateur” which funnily enough was the title of the photograph that I found on Flickr of Frank in his shack. I also learned the “D” in D.F. Emery was Dennis, something I never knew! He was always and simply, just “Frank”. A real privilege to have known such a well loved gentleman who quite obviously lived for the hobby!

Adam Haywood G7CRQ has set up a Flickr account so that those wishing to, can upload and view photographs of Frank.

Andy Briers G0KZT

Holiday Reading by Steve G3WZK

Last month Jenny and I took a long awaited fortnight's break on the Spanish island of Menorca. Before setting out, I downloaded a collection of light holiday reading onto my Kindle. There were a few novels, including Rendezvous With Rama by Arthur Clarke, Monsignor Quixote by Graham Greene, The Parent Agency by David Baddiel (a children's story, but good fun for adults too), and two autobiographies: A Life Like Other People's by Alan Bennett and Mad, Bad And Dangerous To Know by Ranulph Fiennes.

I bought the Ranulph Fiennes book because I have always been interested in polar exploration and several years ago I attended a lecture in The Fairfield Halls in Croydon given by Dr Mike Stroud, the pair having recently returned from an expedition to Antarctica. Mike is an old boy of Trinity School also in Croydon, which my sons attended. I was some way into Ranulph's book when I came across a name that I recognised instantly: CATS member Laurence (Flo) Howell KL7L/ G4DMA. Although I had been aware that Laurence had spent a lot of time in polar and sub-polar areas, the extent of his work with Ranulph was news to me and very interesting to read about.

As Laurence's name cropped up several times more in the book I feel it would be very interesting to CATS members and other radio amateurs. However, the book is a good read in its own right; it covers not just polar expeditions, but also mountaineering (eg the North wall of the Eiger), extreme marathon running, and the circumpolar navigation of the Earth so, at 99p for a download (the price I paid), what's not to like?

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B00319M6UE/ref=oh_aui_d_detailpage_o09?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Steve Beal G3WZK

In reply after Steve sought permission from Laurence to publish his article in "CATS Whispers", Laurence replied with the following.

I've known Ran and worked with him since '79 and still "doing stuff" even this year with him, though mostly now as an inactive participant, not actual pulling sledges much! I think Mike and I probably did battle at sports sometime when I was either at Woodcote or Purley High! Small world.

I first dealt with Ran back in '78 when one of our British Antarctic Survey pilots and Flight engineer joined Transglobe, at the time I was base radio op. - when Transglobe arrived on the Continent I provided HF flight cover for the inbound aircraft as it came down from North America all the way to the Continent on freq up to 26MHz! At this time I was talking back to Franks ZMF and other CATS members on 20m - Franks shack in Tadworth often full of family and friends. Frank also helped putting together the first 28MHz beacon VP8ADE, which I was the licensee of and is still running albeit a new tx now.

We then had near daily contact with Ginny Fiennes (sadly we lost her a few years back to cancer) on 9/12MHz from their Base camp at Borger up till the time Ollie, Charlie and Ran started their traverse of the Continent. Just as Ran was about to leave they called me up and asked me whether I would be able to support Ginny on the Arctic leg as the expedition would be really stretched on air cover from one base and would require a secondary at Tanquary fiord on Ellesmere Island - so after coming back from the Antarctic it was off to the North Pole! (and then back to the Falklands and Antarctic at latter end of the war in '82)

As it was I first met Ran/Charlie physically at some 87deg North on a lumpy Arctic flow on a resupply flight in March 82; shortly thereafter they reached the North Pole - After Trans globe our team started the "unsupported" style of expedition mixing the physical and weight/endurance issues but with an added impetus on science - so it was hand coring 10m into certain areas of ice shelf, air sampling, collecting ancient sponges ablating on the Ice surface, meteorology and of course Physiology. We also did some transpolar VHF tests with a 144 MHz MS/SSB/CW test over the North Pole back to Europe - DL3YBP has a recording of us it seems on an enhanced Aue/MS burst but I've never heard it.

At the time the team was myself Ollie, Ran and myself plus the late and much missed Terry Lloyd from ITN and film crew, with Ward Hunt with later expeditions with Mike Stroud (Ollie under pressure to return home) joined later by Morag - Expeditions continued in 86, 88, 89 from the Canadian side, and then we moved over to the Soviet side on Sredniy Island Severnaya Zemlya with the first joint Soviet British Unsupported North Pole expedition in 1990. At this location we set up a 50MHz station (the first in the Soviet Union I was told) and managed to work Europe on AuEs.

Further expeditions requiring Telecomm support followed in Antarctica and solo expeditions to the Arctic (where Ran lost his fingers) in later years. In the 70 and up the 90's we still used HF and Sextants, but the first "HUGE" GPS units came available plus advanced MEO/LEO satellites such as Iridium which for the most part dealt a death knell to HF comms.

It's good to know for many of the Ran expeditions, plus the Dave Mitchell/Steve Martin 97 successful unsupported expedition to the North pole used a homebrewed designed and constructed radio weighing less than 1Kg much capable of 20W pep - two of which I've still got in my burgeoning garage. They are simple - not even an off/on switch or AGC, single superhet design.

Good reading!!

Laurence "Flo" Howell KL7L & G4DMA

Other Membership News

I am pleased to announce that **Gerry Haines G4SXY** has re-joined the Society having taken a few years out. He hopes to be back on the air soon. He also reports that he no longer drives and will not be able to get to meetings. Gerry lives near to the top of Sanderstead Hill so perhaps there is scope to give him a lift perhaps?

Anyway, welcome back to the fold Gerry!

And..... we have another potential new member who we saw at the September meeting. He saw our new poster in the cabinet outside St Swithun's Church Hall and popped in. Can you display a poster at a place near to you????

2017 RSGB Yearbook has arrived!

The club copy of the 2017 Yearbook has just arrived with the Secretary and is available for members to borrow on a short loan basis. Just contact the Secretary via the usual channels.

Snippet Found by Mike Buckley M1CCF

Ofcom is calling on Android smartphone users in the UK to join its first crowdsourced research project for better mobile phone services. By downloading the Ofcom Mobile Research app, users can join a nationwide panel of volunteers who will help gather valuable information about mobile coverage, the reliability of voice calls, mobile broadband performance and users' experiences and habits.

The app automatically measures the performance of mobile and Wi-Fi networks; users don't need to manually run any tests. The highlights of its findings will be displayed on the app's home screen. From time-to-time, the user will be asked to briefly rate how well they feel their service is performing.

Ofcom's research aims to build an independent benchmark for both consumers and industry. It will help mobile customers make purchasing and switching decisions, and will be used to enhance Ofcom's mobile coverage maps and consumer research.

This will then feed into various Ofcom research projects, including a new study comparing telecoms operators' quality of service in spring 2017. All users' data will be completely anonymised.

A [news release](#) and [FAQ](#) are available.

[Click here to download the app from the Google Play store.](#)

Bazaar Update

Very soon, members will receive an email requesting their availability to undertake assisting at this year's Bazaar. Stuart and I would like to get both positive and negative feedback. Considerable effort has already been put in by Stuart G6CJR & Andy G0KZT to get this far and your support would be most welcome to make this year's event a success.

Jobs consist of the following-:

Entrance Door & Ticket Sales – Selling tickets on the day.

Canteen - We have a separate canteen area where we would like to offer teas, coffees, cakes, sandwiches and sausage rolls. Every rally has a good canteen.

Bring & Buy – Volunteers are needed to help book equipment and assist buyers and sellers with their items.

Talk-In Station – A new venue which may benefit mobile assistance in finding us. Also a good source of publicity to remind everyone of our Bazaar.

Car Park Stewards – We have our own area for parking which will also separate traders and visitors.

Set up and Dismantling – We may be using tables from the nearby classrooms which will require collection and return at the end.

General Helpers – Just to be there and fill in as required.

Please be forthcoming with your support.

CATS Bazaar 2016



CATS 39th Radio & Electronics Bazaar

Sunday 20th November 2016

10.00am until 2.00pm



We have a brand new, spacious venue with plenty of free parking!

Location: Oasis Academy Coulsdon, Homefield Road, Old Coulsdon, CR5 1ES

Just £1.50 entry which still includes a free tea/coffee!

Second Hand Equipment, Flea Market Tables, Refreshments, Trader Stalls, Fully accessible facilities & CATS Bring & Buy – You bring it, we sell it for you*

* Subject to a 10% commission

We are still accepting applications from traders, clubs & individuals who would like to rent a space in the main hall or the cafeteria. Contact enquiries@catsradio.org or visit www.catsradio.org for more info.

Contests Corner

Here is a reminder of what contests are available in October & November.

RSGB Contests in October		
Tuesday 11 th October	432 MHz UK Activity Contest	1900 - 2130 UTC
Wednesday 12 th October	80m Club Sprint CW	1900 – 2000 UTC
Tuesday 18 th October	1.3 GHz UK Activity Contest	1900 – 2130 UTC
Tuesday 25 th October	SHF UKAC	1900 – 2230 UTC
Tuesday 25 th October	50 MHz UK Activity Contest	1900 – 2130 UTC
Thursday 27 th October	80m Club Sprint SSB	1900 – 2000 UTC
RSGB Contests in November		
Saturday 5 th – Sunday 6 th	144 MHz Marconi CW (VHF Championship)	1400 – 1400 UTC
Saturday 5 th November	International Autumn Sprint SSB (Check Rules on RSGB website)	1700 – 2100 UTC
Tuesday 1 st November	144 MHz UK Activity Contest	2000 - 2230 UTC
Tuesday 8 th November	432 MHz UK Activity Contest	2000 - 2230 UTC
Wednesday 9 th November	80m Club Sprint SSB	2000 – 2100 UTC
Tuesday 15 th November	1.3 GHz UK Activity Contest	2000 – 2230 UTC
Saturday 19 th November	1.8 MHz Contest – HF Championship	1900 – 2300 UTC
Tuesday 22 nd November	SHF UKAC	2000 – 2230 UTC
Tuesday 22 nd November	50 MHz UK Activity Contest	2000 – 2230 UTC
Thursday 24 th November	80m Club Sprint CW	2000 – 2100 UTC
Tuesday 29 th November	70 MHz UK Activity Contest	2000 – 2230 UTC

Advance Notice Of Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting Of The Society

In accordance with the rules of the Society, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society will be held on Monday 12th December 2016 at St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 4LA, commencing at 20:15 hours.

Now is a good time for all members to consider any issues they may wish to raise at the meeting and whether they might wish to nominate someone new, or perhaps stand themselves, for election to the CATS Committee.

Members will be remember that following last year's AGM we were two committee members short , In addition , Andy G0KZT would like to announce that he will not be standing for 2017 Committee or as Newsletter Editor for personal reasons.

So **NOW** would be a great time to give serious consideration so if you think you may be interested in taking on that or one of the other roles, please be sure to give it some serious thought before the AGM which this year will be on Monday December 12th.

Serving as a committee member is not as onerous as you might think, because many committee meetings are now run using Skype or at a local pub.

Most importantly, CATS needs YOU ...

Please complete a nomination form attached to this newsletter and either return it to the Secretary or hand it in at the beginning of the AGM.

Rallies & Events

6th NOVEMBER - WEST LONDON RADIO & ELECTRONICS SHOW (Kempton Rally)

Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 5AQ.

Doors open at 9.50/10am. There will be trade stands, a flea market, a Bring & buy, special interest groups and an RSGB bookstall. A raffle will take place during the day and a lecture stream will be available. There are catering outlets on site. More information from Paul, M0CJX on 08451 650 351 or by email tinfo@radiofairs.co.uk. [www.radiofairs.co.uk].

20th November – CATS 39th Annual Radio & Electronics Bazaar

More details on the poster two pages back

Other Club News & Contact Information

BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.bdars.org.uk/

Email: info@bdars.co.uk

Club Net: Wednesdays 9:00pm - meet on 145.500 MHz FM and QSY

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

18th October - Setting Up Your Station

15th November - "Toilet-roll TRF" (Construction)

20th December - Quiz and Mince Pies

CRYSTAL PALACE & DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY

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

4th Nov M Club Project - An Arduino Based Frequency Counter by Alan G8NKM

2nd Dec M Christmas Social

6th Jan 17 M Digital Mode Radio by Damien 2E0EUI

3rd Feb 17 M Annual General Meeting

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.

26th October - Choosing a VHF/UHF Radio - Alwyn Seeds G8DOH

23rd November - CARC / HARC Challenge

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvrs.org

Contact: Richard Cains G7GLW rcains@btinternet.com

Club Net - 10m Sunday morning net @ 10:00 local: 28.570 MHz +- QRM

4m net – Fridays in weeks where there is no club meeting @ 20:30 local: 70.450MHz, then QSY to 70.425 or 70.475MHz

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at

1st Royal Eltham Scouts HQ, Rear of 61 - 71 Southend Crescent, Eltham, London, SE9 2SD.

8-16 October 2016 - Cray Valley activity week

15 October 2016 - JOTA: GB2RE at Severndroog Castle – Guy G0UKN

20 October 2016 - 70th anniversary party

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

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

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

4th November – Surplus Equipment Sale

SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

Website: www.g3src.org.uk

Contact: John Kennedy G3MCX, 020 8688 3322 email secretary@g3src.org

Club Net: Sunday 09:30 on 1905 kHz , 70.300 MHz Thursday 8:00 pm, 145.35 MHz +/- 25kHz
Friday 8:00 pm

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Mondays at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 19:30 for 19:45.

Monday 7th November - The GB3XP Repeater Project by Neil, M0ZEY

Monday 5th December - Club Construction Contest

Sutton & Cheam Radio Society

Sutton United Football Club.

The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 2EY

Web site: <http://www.scrs.org.uk>

General Enquiries e.mail: info@scrs.org.uk

Nets – Wednesday 20.00hrs 145.500 MHz , Saturday 10.00 7.125 MHz, Saturday 11.00 145.500
MHz

17th November – Millimetric Microwaves by Chris Whitmarsh G0FDZ

8th December – Christmas Junk Sale

Are you able to put up a poster up on a local notice board such as at your local supermarket, library or other place of interest? If so, your committee would be pleased if you could print off the poster attached to of this month's newsletter.

I have also placed a copy of the AGM Committee nomination form for you to complete. Please don't be shy!

Submissions are most welcome from CATS members, Local clubs and societies

CATS Whispers is published monthly by Andy Briers G0KZT on behalf of the

Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society.

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CATS fully support the RSGB Child Protection Policy