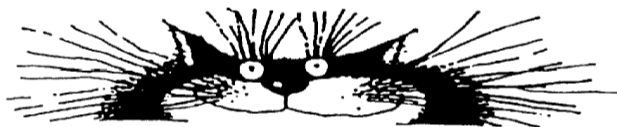


COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR



“CATS WHISPERS”



February 2018

Affiliated to the RSGB

CATS Committee

Chairman: Stuart Barber G6CJR ☎

Secretary: Terry Giles G4CDY ☎

Treasurer: Steve Conway G7SYO ☎

Members: David Milne G6VMI

Vacancies: Currently still remains at **THREE**

CATS Whispers Editor: David Milne G6VMI

Email 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 * (Ex-KKC/CATS net)

Wednesday evenings - 21:00 - Call on 70.425 MHz

CATS Website www.catsradio.org

Email enquiries@catsradio.org

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 12th February -- Swimming Pool Plant Operations and Filtration by David G6VMI.

Monday 5th March – Committee Meeting. Venue to be confirmed.

Monday 12th March -- HF Aerials and ATUs by Bob Burns G3OOU.

Monday 10th April -- Offshore Pirate Radio Stations by Mike Senior G4EFO.

Monday 14th May -- DF Receiver Construction Evening by Terry G4CDY.

Monday 11th June – DF Hunt using the equipment made at the May meeting. Venue to be confirmed.

Editorial:

Unfortunately the contributions in box is empty and as such there isn't much to be said. However I will go through some archives' to find anything interesting for our readers. Watch this space.

In the meantime, Copy for newsletter will close 00:00 Tuesday 6th March .

We are pleased to welcome 2 visitors to the club over the coming months, first Mike Senior G4EFO who will arriving in April. Mike is also our regional manager on behalf of the RSGB and willingly accepted the honour of presenting the door prize at the CATS Bazaar back in November. But firstly, in March we will welcome Bob Burns G3OOU from the Crystal Palace Club. Talking of crystals, (see what I did there) Bob administers 2 crystal banks, one of which is his, the other on behalf of Crystal Palace. More info further down.

CATS Annual Dinner – Tuesday 9th January 2018



Nine members and guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal amongst pleasant company for the CATS Dinner at Le Chateau in January. Unfortunately several members had to drop out at the last minute due to flu. There is a plan to have another dinner next year and the Committee welcomes ideas for new venues from the members.

Next Meeting

This is my turn in the hot seat, so please forgive any ramblings that may take place or emphasis on certain parts of the talk, it's what I do for a living and therefore very passionate about it.

There will be some practical demonstrations as well as some facts and figures. I hope you enjoy something different.

March Meeting

Summary of a talk on HF Aerials and ATUs by Bob Burns G300U

This talk is divided into the following two sections, each with its own set of illustrations: HF Aerials A list of the major items when selecting a prospective aerial are first discussed. The talk then moves on to a range of aerials including a basic long wire and variations, the classic G5RV and its variations, a simple multiband HF/VHF dipole, the use of loading coils and stubs to make a short dipole resonant on top band, a clothes line aerial and a short session on open wire feeders and their considerable benefits.

ATUs

These should be called Aerial Matching Units but we still call them ATUs from habit. This talk discusses a range of unbalanced ATUs and their pros and cons including the L Match, T Match, modified T Match and two types of balun. It concludes with the classic Z-Match and a specially designed dual Z-Match that covers 1.8 – 146MHz. The clothes line aerial, some homemade open wire feeder and the dual Z-Match will be on display.

Bytes from the Secretary.....

Terry Giles G4CDY

I have decided to start my tenure as Club Secretary with a bit of a rant!

Why do we need DIGITAL SPEECH MODES IN AMATEUR RADIO? The whole world of broadcast and professional radio has gone digital for one good reason; to increase the number of available channels. We have all benefited from the vast number of programmes now available on terrestrial radio and TV, with a relatively small reduction in quality of individual channels. I know there are people that claim the sound performance of traditional Band 3 VHF FM is superior to that of any of the Audio Factory CODECs that are used by the BBC on DAB radio, but as I mainly listen to news programs and old Goon Shows, Round the Horn, Navy Lark etc, it does not worry me!

I am very disappointed with the sound quality of all the digital speech that I have tried, this include DMR, DSTAR and FUSION. Yes, they are all "communication quality" and in our terms R5, but they are unpleasant to listen to and make many voices unrecognisable. Technically, these modulation schemes are very clever, and all spin offs of professional designs, but they are very complex and there don't seem to be many people who understand them or are even able to set up their own DMR handhelds! They also preclude any type of homebrew, because of the complexity and IP (Intellectual Property) issues, but that's another story.

The reason these low data rate encoders are being used is to cram one or more speech signals into a normal 12.5KHz FM channel but I can only speak on one channel at a time! One of the reasons that the low data rates are used is that most of these modes use the Internet as a backbone to link together repeaters, which is excellent. However, the Internet is one medium that is not short of bandwidth, so why all the compression. If you want to hear reasonable quality digital speech, download Echolink or listen to some of the nodes on the air. In my view the quality is good and very comparable with NBFM or SSB, however it does use a GSM CODEC at a 13kbps data rate. This would mean having 25KHz or even 50KHz channels, which I know is not very "green" but we are not exactly short of space on the 144 and 432MHz band. Your views please.....

End of rant.

I am preparing an on-line survey to find out members views on how the club is run, activities and projects etc. You should receive this by email in the next few weeks, so please spend a few minutes giving the committee your views.

We will also want you to check the information we have about you on the club database and confirm that you are happy for us to store it. This is to meet the new General Data Protection Regulation that come in this May.

I would like to propose some club calling/monitoring frequencies so that if you want a quick QSO, checkout a rig etc., you can find a sympathetic member of the CATs. My plan is to continuously monitor the following frequencies (scanning rigs are wonderful): -

29.6MHz	Standard FM calling channel
51.51MHz	" " " "
145.??MHz	Suggestion needed
433.4750	Just below the calling channel

Any other suggestions and please join me?

73 de Terry G4CDY Purley

Crystal Bank

Hi All

If you or anyone you know requires any quartz crystals or ceramic resonators I manage two organised banks of crystals, one belonging to the Crystal Palace club and one of my own. See:

Item C11 in the Sale of Club Equipment on web site: <http://cprec.btck.co.uk/>

and

Wanted and For Sale on web site: www.g3oou.co.uk

Click on the addresses or copy and paste the addresses into your browser address field. Both lists are downloadable as PDFs. Use Control F to search each PDF.

All prices exclude post and packing.

73

Bob

Bob F Burns G3OOU, G-QRP 6907, @Bob Burns

Crystal Palace Radio & Electronics Club: <http://cprec.btck.co.uk/>

Technical web site: www.gsl.net/g3oou

Rallies & Events

25 February 2018 BRATS Medway Radio Rally

Victory Academy, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 5JB.

Open 10:00/09:30 to 14:00. Entry £2.50. Free parking. Trade. RSGB books.

Talk-in 145.550 MHz by GB4RRR. On-site catering.

Details: Hugh H, G0BRC, 07825 838877 Secretary@bratsqth.org

15 April 2018 West London Radio & Electronics Show

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

Open 10:00/09:50. Talk-in. Free on-site parking. Trade. B&B. SIGs. Lectures.

Raffle. On-site catering.

Details: Paul, M0CJX, 0845-165-0351, info@radiofairs.co.uk <http://www.radiofairs.co.uk>

Important news

West London Radio & Electronics Show at Kempton Park Racecourse.

This will be the only show this year, the November show has been cancelled. So why not come and support your local event instead, the

CATS Bazaar instead.

Other Club News & Contact Information

Club newsletters are regularly posted via email to members. What follows is a summary of local club meetings. Please either visit the respective club's website/secretary/newsletter for up to date programme 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.

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 Parish Church, Beulah Hill at 19:30

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.

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvr.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.

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

SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

Website: www.g3src.org.uk

Contact: John Simkins G8IYS Tele: 020 8657 0454 email secretary@g3src.org

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

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

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 email: info@scrs.org.uk

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

15th February - Digital Voice – Martin Rothwell M0SGL and Chris Howard M0TC

Wimbledon & District Amateur Radio Society

Meets on the 2nd and last Friday in the month at Martin Way Methodist Church Hall, Martin Way Merton Park, London, SW19 9JZ at 19:30hrs for 20:00hrs.

Contact: Andrew G4ADM on 020 8335 3434 or andrew.maish (at) ntlworld.com

*Submissions are most welcome from CATS members, Local clubs and societies
CATS Whispers is published monthly by David Milne G6VMI on behalf of the
Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society.*

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CATS fully support the RSGB Child Protection Policy