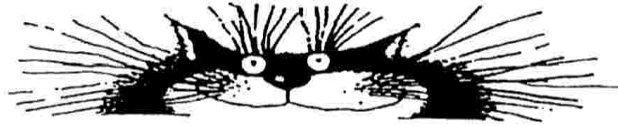


# COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

## “CATS WHISPERS”



# July 2023

### **CATS Committee**

**Chairman:** Andy Briers G0KZT ☎

**Secretary:** Glenn Rankin G4FVL ☎

**Treasurer:** Stuart Barber G6CJR ☎

**Members:** Colin Richards G3YCR ☎

Paul Jackson M0JXN ☎

Affiliated to the RSGB

[chairman@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:chairman@catsradio.org.uk)

[secretary@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:secretary@catsradio.org.uk)

[treasurer@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@catsradio.org.uk)

**CATS Whispers Editor:** Andy Briers G0KZT

email for contributions: [newsletter@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@catsradio.org.uk)

**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 19:45 to 22:00 unless otherwise stated.

### **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** [Under Revision](#)

**Email** [enquiries@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@catsradio.org.uk)

### **Forthcoming Meetings**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Operating Evening at Headley Common

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August – 2m Pedestrian DF Hunt at Banstead Woods

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September – RF Noise Reduction by John Stockley G8MNY

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October - TBA

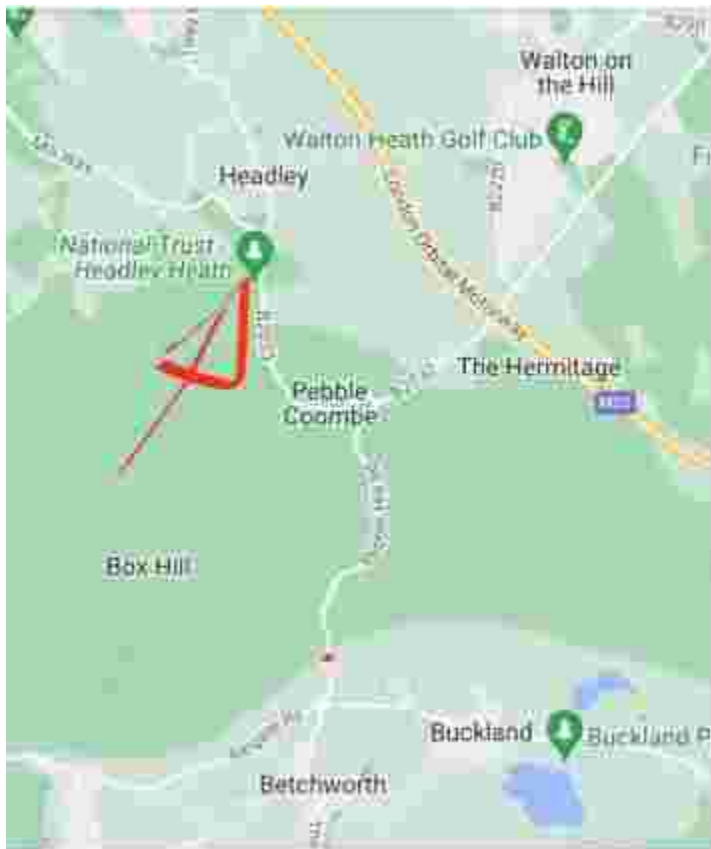
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November - TBA

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December – TBA

## Next Meeting - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Remote Operation at Headley Common

This is the last activity arranged by our previous Committee and is another opportunity to “get out of the shack” and operate as a club from an outside location.

From previous events, operation is in the overflow car park which is located opposite the 2 main car parks.



The B2032 feeds off of the A217 and A25 Reigate Road.

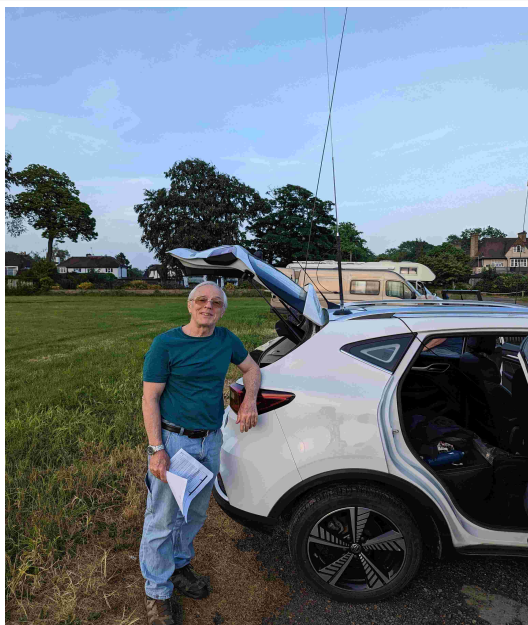
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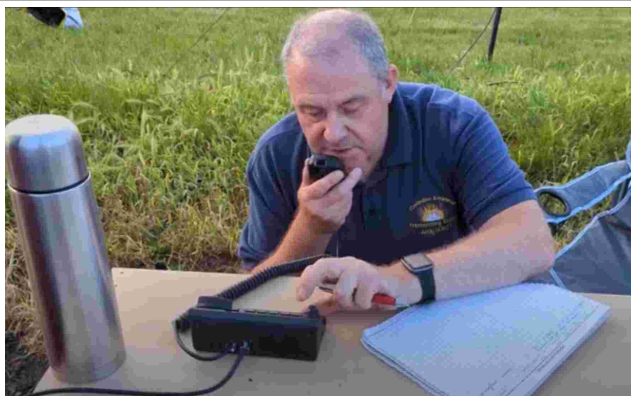
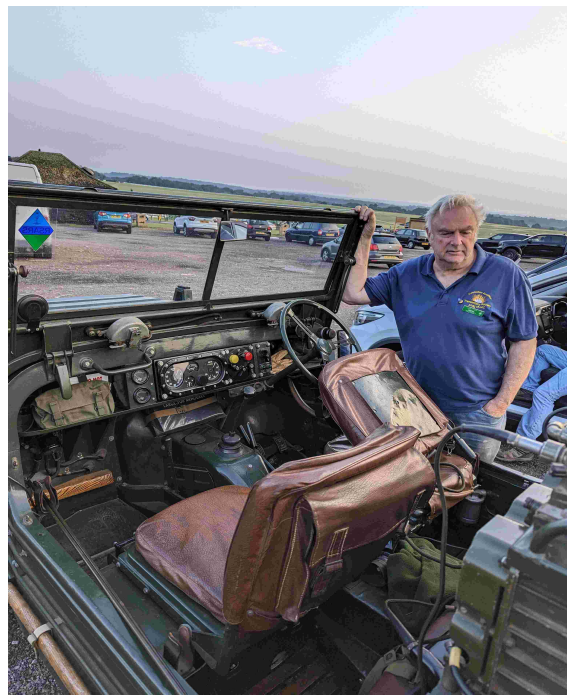
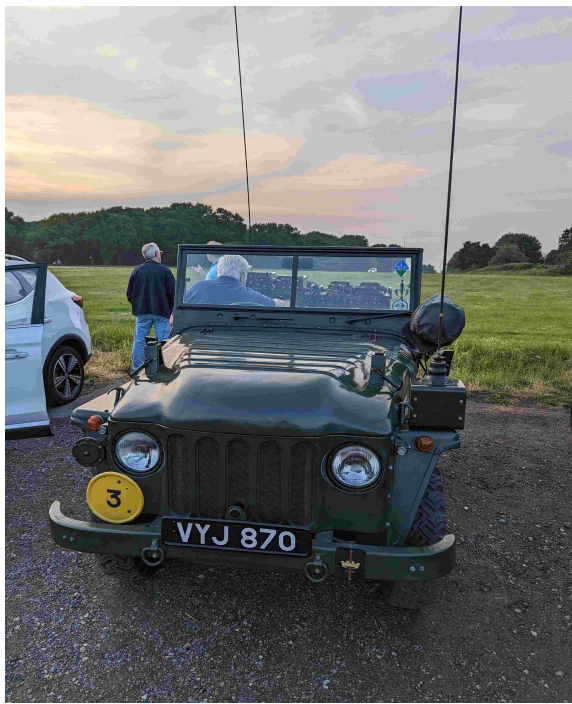
WAB Square = TQ25 Maidenhead = IO91ug Lat,Long = 51.278|-0.274

KT18 6LD for Sat Nav's.

## June Meeting Debrief - /P Operation, Epsom Race Course

Members including David G6VMI, Glenn G4FVL, Martin G4GFI, Gerry G8NNT, Andy G8JAC, Vince G1HRD, Edd G8JOS, Andy G0KZT along with guest Adam G7CRQ attended a pleasant evening of operating. G0KZT set up a 2m & 70cm aerial along with a ½ wave co-linear for 4 metres using his recently acquired Icom IC-7100. Andy G8JAC arrived in his historic Champ military vehicle with its impressive station on-board. Special interest, not surprisingly, was gained from admiring members of the public. Adam G7CRQ was first to operate using a 4m handheld having arrived on his e-bike. G0KZT was kept busy throughout with a string of stations on 4m using the club callsign G4FUR/P.





Photographs courtesy of Gerry G8NNT –  
More at [CATS - Epsom Downs 2023-06-12 - Google Photos](#)

## **Future Meetings**

14<sup>th</sup> August – This will be a pedestrian DF Hunt which will take place in Banstead Woods with equipment to be made available from Denis Noe M0NDJ, but of course you can use your own equipment, should you wish to. More details will be published in next month's newsletter.

11<sup>th</sup> September – John Stockley G8MNY as kindly agreed to give a presentation of RF Noise and how we can reduce it. This is something which affects most of us these days and surely going to be a relevant subject!

## **Chairman's Corner by Andy G0KZT**

I would like to express my sincere apologies to Tom G4DFA who is also known as G8GYX, his old G8 callsign, which he uses when in contesting mode. While Tom is a very active member of the Dorking club, he is also a member of CATS and submits his contesting efforts of behalf of our Society. I omitted to mention Tom in my article last month while covering the club's position in the UK Activity Contest results standings, primarily because I was rushing to meet publication deadlines. I am grateful to Colin G3YCR who has offered to make regular reports of our club's contesting activities, and whose first contribution is included this month..

I did have a small nightmare over the publication and distribution of last month's CATS Whispers. Several glaring spelling mistakes which somehow missed a number of proof readings prior to hitting the send button; and then to forget to attach the newsletter in the initial email to members. I will do my best to not do it again, but I can't promise!

I am pleased to report that the 4m Wednesday net has had a great recent uptake which is great news. This net runs alongside the longstanding Sunday morning net.

I would like to mention the great work that has been, and is being done by our new Secretary, Glenn G4FVL. He has taken up the role with great gusto. I am sure I speak for all members that we really appreciate what you're doing for us all Glenn!!

Readers will have noticed that I have been able to include in both last month's newsletter and this edition, a number of photographs of activities undertaken by members at a number of events. Gerry G8NNT has been forwarding me links which are all available for members to view the many others that are too numerous to publish in the newsletter. I am sure you will all agree that a photo of an event tells a bigger story than what can be described in words. Thank you Gerry, your photography skills are very much appreciated.

And finally, I would like to thank Colin G3YCR for his Licence Consultation piece which will be of great importance to all of us, and how, if passed will affect us all.

## **Annual Subscriptions Due – Last Chance!**

The period of grace will soon elapse so if you wish to renew your club membership, please do it NOW! BACS payment is preferred to the CATS account **Sort Code 20-05-57 A/C 90864722**. Any problems or if you're unsure if you have paid, please contact the Treasurer.

**Do you have a friend, family member or colleague who has an interest in Amateur Radio? If so, why not introduce them to CATS. The more the merrier!!!**

## **OFCOM Amateur Licencing Consultation**

Many of you will have seen by now that Ofcom is undertaking a major review of the amateur licence. This is an important review as the proposals, if implemented, will affect probably every one of us in one way, another or may be in several ways. What follows is no substitute for taking time to go through the document in detail yourself and deciding whether you agree with the proposals for change and their reasons or not. Indeed, you may even feel there are things that should be in there which aren't. There are no changes to frequency allocations.

The main proposals, cited direct from Ofcom's summary are as follows.

### **1. Update the overall licensing framework:**

- Maintain the existing 3-tier licensing framework while streamlining Notices of Variation (NoV);
- Maintain lifetime licences while updating our mechanisms for revalidation;
- Allow anyone to operate amateur radio equipment under a licensee's supervision;
- Only permit licensees to hold a single individual licence, requiring surrender of lower licences as they progress.

### **2. Streamline and modernise call sign assignment:**

- Update our call sign allocation policy in a number of areas including (i) changes to the rules on the reissuing of call signs; (ii) changes to the number of call signs that can be held; (iii) enabling licensees to change their call sign; (iv) expanding the use of suffixes; (v) introducing a new M8 and M9 Intermediate call sign format; (vi) making Regional Secondary Locators (RSLs) optional and simplifying the process for using a special RSL; and (vii) simplifying rules around Special Event Stations.

### **3. Adjust technical parameters to reflect the evolving needs of the hobby and provide radio amateurs with greater operating freedom:**

- Increase the maximum permitted transmit power to allow (i) 20 Watts for Foundation and 100 Watts for Intermediate licensees in most bands; and (ii) 1000 Watts for Full licensees in bands where amateur radio has a primary allocation;
- Allow Foundation and Intermediate licensees to use the internet for remote control operation;
- Permit the deployment of repeaters, beacons and gateways without requiring a NoV in most cases;
- Allow Foundation licensees to build their own equipment and access the 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands; and
- Enable low power airborne use in some frequency bands.

### **4. Provide clearer updated rules (terms and conditions which are easy for everyone to understand):**

- Align various terms and conditions with other licences that Ofcom issues;
- Simplify conditions to remove unnecessary complexity and make them clearer; and
- Remove provisions not needed for spectrum management purposes.

These are of course only the headlines and I repeat that you need to look at the detail. There is a considerable amount of description of amateur radio and of the current licensing regime. Partly this is to save you trawling through your own licence to see how things stand but also these consultations are seen by all sorts of radio spectrum users apart from amateurs. These people may have very little idea of how we operate and may well be wary of the effect on them of changes to our licence. Remember that the mobile phone users are very spectrum hungry and protective of what they have at UHF!

Beyond the descriptive sections you need to look in detail at how the proposed changes may affect you. One thing that might affect many amateurs is the proposal to have only one licence per person, being the highest level currently held or only one if they are both at the higher level. This indicates that where a G8 plus 3 and (say) a G4 plus 3 are held, only one would be permitted to be retained. On the other hand single personal callsigns would be able to hold up to five club callsigns and there is no change to the NoVs for three digit contest callsigns.

There is some streamlining of Special Event licences. Maximum power levels will increase for all licence classes (plus Foundations would be able to construct their own equipment) and Full licensees will be able to run up to 1KW in Primary bands. Compulsory use of regional locators (GW, GM etc) will disappear as will the current normally used /suffixes. This does open the door to the use of any suffixes and there may be a danger that all sorts of frivolous and annoying suffixes appear. There are also proposed changes to things like maritime mobile operation, beacons and internet linking. This is not however a comprehensive analysis by any means but it does show that you need to look at the detail.

In general this does all seem to pave the way for making amateur licence administration and enforcement even lighter than it is already. You may think this is not a good thing! Ofcom says that its aim is to remove provisions not needed for spectrum management purposes. Fine, but why then the retention of the EMF conditions is proposed is completely unclear. It is definitely not a spectrum management provision and should never have been put in licences in the first place. Nor should the Department of Culture, Media and Sport have ever made provision for it in the Wireless Telegraphy Act. This is a personal objection of mine, but it surely raises the question of why, when they are trying to cut back on activities, Ofcom lets its staff act as Health and Safety inspectors!

You can download the whole consultation using the link [https://www.ofcom.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0021/263181/consultation-amateur-radio-review.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0021/263181/consultation-amateur-radio-review.pdf) . There is also a link to the consultation response form [https://www.ofcom.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/file/0021/263226/consultation-form.odt](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/file/0021/263226/consultation-form.odt) . Finally, I repeat the plea to look through the whole document and make a response. If nothing else it shows that the amateur community is alive and cares about how Ofcom regulates us.

Colin G3YCR

## **Contest News**

CATS remain in 12<sup>th</sup> position in the local clubs' section of the UK Activity Contests. This is the situation at nearly the end of June to meet the needs of CW publication, but it doesn't include all the results of June contests, for example the 6m and 4m ones. June has been a busy month for RSGB contests and it has probably just not been possible to adjudicate them all by now. It has probably not affected our overall position though.

I thought it might be interesting to look at the results for one band, this month 2m, and the contribution of club members. CATS is presently 15<sup>th</sup> in the 2m Restricted (100w, single antenna) section. This is made up from Martin G4GFI in 23<sup>rd</sup> personal position, Tom G8GYX (G4DFA) in 82<sup>nd</sup>, myself 176<sup>th</sup> (but having entered only two monthly contests this year so far) and Andy G0KZT in 257<sup>th</sup> (but only one contest entry). I don't think there were any other CATS entrants, but apologies if I've missed anyone. This could easily improve as the year goes on and we have more entries. The overall club position though is indicative of how even modest entries can combine to give a respectable score. Next month I'll look at the 70cm position.

Colin G3YCR

## **Alan Bartle G6HC Remembered by Andy G0KZT**

I was kindly reminded by Nick UV5EOK, who was a regular contact of Alan's, and with whom each would practice speaking each other's languages together, that 28<sup>th</sup> June would have been Alan's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Alan was clearly a great friend of Nick's and Nick is very passionate to keep Alan's memory alive. Of course Alan left a huge legacy for our Society and of course, if it wasn't for Alan, I would have never achieved gaining my Amateur Radio licence.

In a recent hand over of archived documents from our former Chairman, I found a huge collection of documents that Alan had filed including newsletters, minutes of meetings and Bazaar related material. Amongst the documents was a poster that Alan's wife Freda had drawn and I have reproduced it on the last page of the newsletter for nostalgia.



**Stop Press----- Stop Press----- Stop Press**

## **The CATS Radio and Electronics Bazaar is confirmed!!!**

After a delay in getting the date and venue confirmed, I am very pleased to announce that **The CATS Bazaar** will be taking place again at the **Oasis Academy Coulsdon, Homefield Road, Coulsdon on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

More details will be published next month and I will make no apology for using what ever social media platforms are available to publicise our event. I urge all members to share this important news to their fellow Amateur friends and contacts. Enquiries should be directed to [bazaar@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:bazaar@catsradio.org.uk) or to myself, G0KZT (contact details at top of the newsletter).

## **Rallies & Events**

### **25 Jun – 34<sup>th</sup> Newbury Radio Rally**

Gerry G8NNT attended this rally and sent these photos of his experience. Tom G4DFA also caught on camera. More photos follow this link-: [Newbury Radio Rally - June 2023 - Google Photos](#)



### **16 Jul – McMichael Radio & Electronics Rally and Car Boot Sale**

The McMichael Radio & Electronics Rally and Car Boot Sale - Bar and Catering, including a BBQ (weather and demand allowing) free parking. Entrance Fee £3 per person and £10 per table for traders.

General Enquiries: [rally@radarc.org](mailto:rally@radarc.org), Traders: [traders@radarc.org](mailto:traders@radarc.org) , Telephone: Colin Ashley 07706 512505, Website: [www.mcmichaelrally.org.uk](http://www.mcmichaelrally.org.uk)

### **30 Jul – The New Black Country Radio Rally: CANCELLED**

### **13 Aug – Flight Refuelling Amateur Radio Society Hamfest**

Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, near Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3DA. 9am to 4pm. Admission £5 (includes parking). Talk-in on 145.550MHz. On site catering and bar. No dogs except guide dogs (landowner's condition).

For more information contact: [tbaker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tbaker@tiscali.co.uk) [www.frars.co.uk](http://www.frars.co.uk) Tele: 07743 475 018.

### **20 Aug – Rugby Amateur Transmitting Society Rally**

Princethorpe College, Princethorpe, Rugby, Warks. CV23 9PY. Open 10am. Car boot sale. Details: Steve, G8LYB, 07956-855816, [rally@rugbyats.co.uk](mailto:rally@rugbyats.co.uk) , web: <http://www.rugbyats.co.uk>

### **27 Aug – Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society Rally**

Heron's Lodge Guide Activity Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge, Milton Keynes, MK8 9AA (Opposite the National Badminton Centre) free onsite parking, catering and disabled facilities. Entrance fee £3. Free parking. Open 9am. email [rally@mkars.org.uk](mailto:rally@mkars.org.uk) [www.mkars.org.uk](http://www.mkars.org.uk)

**28 Aug – Huntingdonshire Amateur Radio Society (HARS) Annual Rally** (Bank Holiday Monday)

Ernulf Academy St Neots PE19 2SH

Gates open for traders at 7am and for the public at 9am. Entrance Fee £3. Free car parking, RSGB Bookstall, Bring and Buy, Catering provided, indoor and outdoor stalls available.

Contact M00LG Malcolm on [events@hunts-hams.co.uk](mailto:events@hunts-hams.co.uk) for details or phone 01480 214282

**3 Sep– Andover Radio Club Spring & Autumn Boot Sale at Wildhern - CANCELLED**

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

### **BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS**

Website: [www.bdars.wordpress.com](http://www.bdars.wordpress.com)

Email: [Visit website and fill in contact form](#)

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.

Tuesday June 20th – Direction Finding

Tuesday July 18th – On air and natter

### **CRYSTAL PALACE & DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY**

Website: [www.cprec.org](http://www.cprec.org) Contact [cprec.g2lw\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:cprec.g2lw(AT)gmail.com)

Club Net: Wednesdays 20:00 on 145.525 MHz

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at All Saints Parish Church, Beulah Hill at 19:15hrs for 20:00hrs £1.00 entry fee

### **CRAWLEY ARC**

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

Meetings: Every Wednesday at Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley from 20:00hrs, and Sundays, 11:00hrs.

Formal meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the club HQ, where a lecture or demonstration on an Amateur Radio related subject is presented.

### **CRAY VALLEY RS**

Website: [www.cvrs.org](http://www.cvrs.org)

Contact: Richard Cains G7GLW [rcains@btinternet.com](mailto: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@gmail.com](mailto:ddrs.secretary@gmail.com)

Club Nets: Sunday 08:15 on 3.770 MHz & daily at 10.00am on 144.775 MHz

Meetings: regular Tuesday evening meetings, which are held at the Friends Meeting House, Butter Hill (off South Street), Dorking starting at 7:45 pm

## **HORSHAM ARC**

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

Club Nets: Tuesday/Saturday 21:30hrs on 144.725MHz and Sundays 10:00 on 3.722 MHz

Meetings: 1st Thursday at The Guide Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex RH12 1JF

13<sup>th</sup> July- Fox Hunt

## **MID SUSSEX ARS**

Website: [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.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

Very extensive programme of events – visit **Calendar** ([midsussexars.org.uk](http://midsussexars.org.uk)) for more details.

## **SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB**

Website: [www.srcc.uk](http://www.srcc.uk)

Contact: John Kennedy G3MCX, 020 8688 3322 email [secretary@g3src.org](mailto: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 (**Only until the 'A' Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July and then thereafter at The Jubilee Room, St Paul's United Reformed Church, Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon CR2 7HF**)

22<sup>nd</sup> July – Fix it, Move it on and chat wth John G8MNY

## **Sutton & Cheam Radio Society**

Monday nights, at the 7th Banstead Scout HQ (Rear of Methodist Church) SM7 1DA

Web site: <http://www.scrs.org.uk> General Enquiries e.mail: [info@scrs.org.uk](mailto:info@scrs.org.uk)

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

Informal meetings are held at the Scout hall weekly while the once a month formal meeting is held on ZOOM with a guest speaker. You will need to contact SCRS to obtain the link.

## **Wimbledon & District Amateur Radio Society**

Annual Club Camp – 26<sup>th</sup> July - 6<sup>th</sup> August at Crossways Farm, Reigate. Event organiser is Andrew G4ADM – Information is the those wishing to attend should make a contribution towards the site fees and cost of fuel for the generator(s) used.

If you wish to participate, contact G0KZT who will forward details to G4ADM or contact direct at [andrew.maish@ntlworld.com](mailto:andrew.maish@ntlworld.com)

*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**

**INTERESTED IN**

**RADIO**

and



**ELECTRONICS?**



**- come & meet the**

**COULSDON  
AMATEUR  
CATS TRANSMITTING  
SOCIETY**

2ND MONDAY EACH MONTH, 7.30 FOR 8PM  
AT

ST. SWITHUN'S CHURCH HALL,  
GROVELANDS ROAD, PURLEY  
FURTHER DETAILS FROM ALAN BARTLE, ON  
081-684 0610

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE ~ ~**

WORLD WIDE RADIO CONTACT -  
AMATEUR RADIO AND TELEVISION -  
WEATHER SATELLITE RECEPTION -  
COMPUTER DATA TRANSMISSION -  
SALES OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT -  
DIRECTION FINDING HUNTS - -

**SOCIAL EVENTS!**

**SUCH AS  
SKITTLES,  
EATING OUT  
AND  
OTHER  
INFORMAL  
GATHERING!**