

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

CATS WHISPERS

May 2007



Affiliated to the RSGB

SYCOM – Official CATS Sponsor

Visit www.sycomcomp.co.uk

CATS Committee

Chairman: Steve Conway G7SYO

Secretary: Andy Jackson G8JAC

Treasurer: Derek Hands G1PGS

Members: Rob Cole 2E0AYT

Stuart Barber G6CJR

Len West G0GNQ

Ian Peck M3IGP

CATS Whispers Editor: Andy Jackson G8JAC
email address for contributions:

Regular Society Meetings

These are held on the second Monday in each month at:-
St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley at 2000hrs to 2200hrs.

Society Nets

1st Saturday of Month - 1715hrs Crescenta Valley / CATS Net on Echolink
Normally via MB7IPL node on 145.2875 MHz.
Sunday mornings - 1100hrs. Call on S20 (V40) then to 145.2875MHz.
Sunday evenings - 1700hrs. 3.700 MHz +/- QRM
Wednesday evenings - 21.00hrs. Call on 70.425 MHz

CATS Website

Email :

Forthcoming Meetings

Mon 14th May – CATS visit to the British Vintage Wireless & TV Museum

Mon 11th June – CATS Annual DF Hunt – Banstead Woods

Mon 9th July – To be confirmed.



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

April meeting Report

The notable thing about the April meeting is that there wasn't one! When planning the year's meetings, for some reason it completely escaped the committee's notice that the second Monday in April coincided with Easter and therefore it was unfortunately necessary to cancel the meeting. I didn't get any irate messages from anyone wondering where the meeting had gone so it looks like the news got to everyone in time.

CATS Activity News

The cancellation of the April meeting meant that we had to put the G4CDY DF antenna/receiver project back a month so an explanatory notice was sent out to members. Unfortunately, having done that, Terry discovered that he was unable to make that date either so we had a hole to fill at short notice. Several members had remarked that it was about time that CATS paid another visit to the British Vintage Wireless and Television Museum in Dulwich, so a phone call to Gerry Wells was made and a visit arranged for **Monday 14th May**.

It is suggested that we meet up at the museum which is located at 25 Rosendale Road, West Dulwich at 19.30. The postcode for your SatNav is SE21 8DS

Those who went on the last visit (in 2002!) will recall that Gerry usually provides his visitors with tea and cakes in the kitchen afterwards so we need to let him know how many will be attending. There is no charge for the museum but donations to help with the upkeep and of course the tea and cakes will be very much appreciated.

In **June** we were to have put into practice what we learned and built under the guidance of G4CDY and participate in the annual CATS DF hunt, however as explained above, we will have to take part in the hunt with what we have available. Terry will be providing the "foxes" however. The location for this will be Banstead Woods with the initial rendezvous and setup between 19.30 and 20.00 in the car park in Lower Park Road. The map reference for this is TQ273582.

Whatever else happens, this event always seems to involve beer somewhere along the line so not to be missed!

The re-arrangement of meetings means that the **July** meeting is subject to confirmation at the time of writing.

Our **August** meeting will be the now traditional barbeque and social evening, hosted as usual by Prue G4RWW.

Kempton Park Rally

CATS supported the Kempton Park rally as usual by running the Bring and Buy stall and we were very grateful to the CATS members who turned out. From memory these were G8AAI, G3ZMF, G8JAC, M3JXN, G0KZT, G0SDB, G6MFM, G0GNQ and M3IGP. The CATS banner was on display and the stall did a lively trade and raised over £100 for the society from selling fees and commissions.



Len G0GNQ on the stall with a good range of kit on offer.

(Picture courtesy of M1CCF)

Just opposite the Bring and Buy, CATS member Mike M1CCF was manning the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society stand and Terry G4CDY was involved in running the "Top Ham" competition at the show so all-in-all, there were a lot of CATS members giving their time to support amateur radio. Our sponsor Sycorn had their usual stand crammed with useful components.

The show was very busy from the 10am start with queues to get in stretching across the car park outside. All of the "big three" manufacturers had stands showing off their – in some cases- very expensive wares but the constructors and modifiers were well served by the club stall area which was positively heaving with people searching out bargains and it was here that the interesting stuff was to be found if you looked for it. All of the pitches in the hall had been filled albeit with one or two selling completely non-radio related items which is a trend that I personally don't want to see continue. As it was, most people came to the rally to find radio bits and showed little interest in sweets, fudge and children's clothes.

We have already booked our place at the autumn rally on Sunday 4th November.

Robin Seeley G4OCG

The funeral of CATS member Robin Seeley G4OCG who died recently after a long battle with brain cancer was held at Sunbury Methodist Church and was very well attended by family and friends including several CATS members who knew him and his family.

The service was held on a bright and sunny day and was very moving with Robin's daughters both contributing. A poem by Adela was read out and Lydia played a guitar piece.

Radio people who attended included Gerry G8NNT, Andy Briers G0KZT, Stuart Barber G6CJR and XYL, Andy Boyne G4RFX, Chris Grohmann G4SDG, Neil Marshall G8JAZ, Bob Sansoni, Martin Charman G4FKK and XYL and John Chapman G4FIT.

After the service, some of the attendees went to the Magpie in Sunbury-on-Thames, which was a pub that was a regular haunt of Robin's.



CATS members and friends remember Robin G4OCG in his favourite pub.

From left: Andy, Bob, John, Ann, Martin, Neil, Wendy, Janice, Stuart, Gerry.

Report and picture by Gerry G8NNT.

Membership news

There is no CATS membership news to report this month; our membership currently stands at 37.

Madam Presidente!

Our congratulations go to Leah KE6MMU who was elected to the presidency of Crescenta Valley Radio Club for 2007/8.

TransPONDer net news

The monthly transatlantic contact with our sister club in California is kept going by a small band of stalwarts at our end and a slightly larger entourage in Glendale. Our April sked was on the first Saturday in April when some nine participants exchanged greetings and news via the MB7IPL node here in Purley and the WB6ZTY repeater run by CVRS on Mount Thom, joined together via Echolink.

The May net also went well after a slight hiccup with a firewall. Batting for England were Terry G4CDY, Andy G0KZT, Andy G8JAC and Paul M3JXN. Across the pond were Mark W6MW, Larry AD6IZ, Jim KE6URZ and, taking part for the first time as the new President of CVRC, Leah KE6MMU. Being familiar with earthquakes in the Los Angeles area, our friends were eager to talk about the reports of the recent tremors near Folkestone.

We look forward to the next opportunity for a transatlantic net on Saturday 2nd June.

HMS Collingwood museum goes online

The CATS visit to the Royal Navy museum of RADAR and Communications last year was voted a success if you recall, and the members who made the visit certainly came away with a better understanding of the Navy way of doing things in the radio world. The museum always did have an interesting website but this has recently been completely re-vamped and expanded and is now a really excellent resource for the enthusiast and casual enquirer. Literally hundreds of pages of information and historical interest are now accessible with many extracts from official technical and historical documents.

Navigation round the site is quite easy and straightforward and enlivened by many anecdotes and explanation from time-served navy "Sparks". Information on Navy radio has always been harder to find than for Army or RAF kit and the site will be found extremely useful to those trying to identify surplus gear of Admiralty origin. There is a wealth of information on RADAR and RTTY as used by the Navy and many "How it Works" technical articles to read.

The scope of the museum covers equipment up to about 1980.

The site can be found at:

<http://www.rnmuseumradarandcommunications2006.org.uk>

Very well worth a visit but be warned – you will need a good few spare hours to see it all!

Other Club News & Contact Information

BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS

Website – www.bdars.org.uk
Email bdars-news@talk21.com
3rd Tuesday at Victory Social Club,
Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Kent
7-30pm for 8pm

The Crystal Palace Radio and Electronics Club

Meets on 1st Friday of every month at
7.30pm at All Saints Church Parish
Rooms, Beulah Hill.
Club Net – Wednesdays 2000hrs
145.525 MHz
www.gsl.net/g3oou/

4 May - talk and demonstration on Tesla Coils by
Ian Daniels G4VTD.

CRAWLEY ARC

www.carc.org.uk
Club Nets –
Tuesdays 2000hrs 145.550 MHz
Fridays 1900hrs 1.970 MHz
Every Wednesday at Hut 18 Tilgate
Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate
Forest, Crawley from 7-30pm, and
Sundays, 10.30 until 13.00.

23 May - Secrets of the Forest - 'Aspidistra' by
.David Ansell M3NKC

DORKING & District RS

Club Nets –
Sunday 0815hrs 3.770 Mhz
2030hrs 144.775 MHz
Meetings are held at the Friends Meeting
House, Butterhill, South Street Dorking at
1930hrs.
Email: wb@g3jkv.co.uk

.HORSHAM ARC

Club Nets –
Saturdays 2130hrs 144.725MHz
Sundays 1000hrs 3.722 MHz
Meetings: 1st Thursday at The Guide
Hall, Denne Road, Horsham.
Latest news – www.harc.org.uk

12 May – Visit to the Aspidistra site at Ashdown
Forest.

MID SUSSEX ARS

Club Nets –
Sundays 0800hrs 3.740 MHz
Sundays 1100hrs 145.350 MHz
Wednesdays 2000hrs 145.350 MHz
Daily 1330hrs 21.330 MHz
Every Friday at Cyprus Hall, Cyprus
Road, Burgess Hill West Sussex for
7.45pm
Info – <http://www.msars.co.uk/>

MITCHAM & DISTRICT ARS

(G3HFY) – Last Wednesday of each
month 1930hrs at ATC HQ, Commons
West, Mitcham.
Details Mike Knott G0WCR
Tele: 020 8764 4716

REIGATE ATS

Club Net –
Thursdays 2000hrs 145.500 MHz
Sundays 2000hrs 3.740 – 3.760 MHz
Website www.gsl.net/rats
Email rats@gsl.net
3rd Tuesday at RNIB Redhill College,
Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 7-30pm

SRCC

Ray Howells G4FFY 020 8644 7599
Club Nets –
Sunday 0930hrs 29.111 MHz
Friday 2030hrs 144.325 MHz
Thursday 1900hrs 145.500 MHz
Website – www.g3src.org.uk
Meetings: 1st & 3rd Mondays at T.S. Terra
Nova, 34 The Waldrons, South Croydon
7.45pm for 8pm

May 14th - Project Constructing Evening -
Frequency Counter

SUTTON & CHEAM RS

John Puttock G0BWV 020 8644 9945

Club Nets –

Monday 20.00hrs 145.500 MHz

Saturday 11.00hrs 145.500 MHz

Website – www.scrs.org.uk

3rd Thursday at Sutton United Football Club, The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton 7-30pm for 8pm

17th May - Annual General Meeting & Construction Contest

THAMES VALLEY A.R.T.S.

Trevor Farris M0CDB 013 7245 767

Club Net Only – G3TVS

Saturdays 1400hrs on 40m

7.070 – 7.085 MHz

WIMBLEDON & DISRICT ARS

Website – www.gx3wim.org.uk

Club Net –

Mondays 2045hrs 145.500 MHz

2nd & last Friday of each month at Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park SW20. 7.30pm for 8pm.

May 11th Discussion on Antennas led by Eric G0KRT

For Sale & Wants

This space is available to any CATS member (or others subject to approval) to place an advertisement. If you're looking for that elusive part or need to make some room in the shack, just pass the details to the Secretary. **It's free!**

Write for CATS Whispers!

The editor invites contributions to *CATS Whispers* from any member and on just about any subject. It doesn't have to be on a radio-related subject – just something that the members might find interesting. Contributions accepted in any format!

Local Rally & Event Calendar

Dates for your diary:

20th May 2007 24th Dunstable Downs Boot Fair & Rally, Stockwood Park, Luton.

15th July 2007 McMichael Rally
Reading RFC, Sonning Lane RG4 6ST

12th August – Flight Refuelling ARS Rally
Merley, Wimborne, Dorset

26th August – Milton Keynes ARC annual rally.
Holne Chase School, Buckingham Road,
Bletchley, MK3 5HP. Admission £2, starts 10.00.

14th October Rusty Radios Rally
Cottered Village Hall, Nr Stevenage, Herts.

4th November West London Radio &
Electronics show at Kempton Park.

18th November CATS 2007 Bazaar.
This date is already in your diary
– isn't it?

A little further afield.....

18-20 May 2007
56th Dayton Hamvention
Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Road,
Trotwood, Ohio USA

22-24 June 2007
International Exhibition for Radio
Amateurs, Friedrichshafen, Germany.

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