

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

CATS WHISPERS

July 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 9th July – DF hunt discussion and contest planning, plus
Concorde video.

Mon 13th August – Annual CATS Summer Bar-B-Q at G4RWW

Mon 10 September – Shak Nowtz by Frank G3ZMF



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

June meeting Report

Our June activity was our annual DF hunt (or fox hunt as some call it). We have often held this event in July although judging by the weather we have seen so far, moving it to June may have been a fortuitous decision even though Banstead Woods is not generally regarded as an area liable to flood problems.

Our "fox" for this year was kindly provided by Terry G4CDY, who not only constructed the device but also provided instructions on its operation and also undertook to conceal it out on the common. Transmissions were a brief 30 seconds containing an identifying message and a brief period of silent carrier repeated every three minutes. The output power of the fox was less than 100mW to a short whip antenna but this was easily enough to be heard over a considerable distance.



CATS Contestants tuning up ready for the "off".

Some ten members turned out for the event which was blessed with a warm, dry evening.

Terry had arrived early to deploy the "fox", leaving instructions for the contestants. Various designs of receiver and antenna were employed, some of it assisted by copious amounts of insulating tape, and an initial tune-up took place in the car park.

At just before 20.00 the first of the hunters struck out into the countryside and the hunt was on!



Len G0GNW with his loop antenna.



Ian M3IGP opted for a 2-element Yagi

Although the fox was hidden from casual view, Terry had sensibly attached a note explaining what the device was and who it belonged to, not wishing to spark off a panic should it be found by a member of the public who might mistake it for something sinister.

With the device was a set of numbered paper slips, the idea being that the finder took a number and returned to base, while the hunt continued.

Amazingly, the first finder took only some 15 minutes to locate the fox, the team of Martin G4FKK and his daughter Katie providing a superb combination of radio DF operating and Guides orienteering expertise to rapidly narrow it down in a forest of ferns.



Martin and Katie proudly displaying ticket No. 1 back at the carpark

Several other hunters subsequently located the fox successfully. One major lesson learned was that a good switched attenuator is an essential bit of kit for successful DF'ing with several hunters commenting that the nearer they got to the fox, the harder it was to determine the direction due to the increased signal strength. One hunter found that he had actually been standing on top of the fox but was unable to get a direction!

Congratulations to Martin and Katie on a fine win.

CATS Activity News

Our **July** meeting has become a little “fluid” as some of our plans have had to be postponed or moved around for one reason or another. Consequently, we will use this meeting for a “post mortem” on June’s DF hunt activity and a planning session for our August contest weekend (see more about this below). Steve G7SYO will also be presenting a film on the development and flying career of Concorde that has very recently become a topical subject with news of a serious attempt to restore at least one of the remaining aircraft to flying condition for semi-commercial use.

Our **August** meeting will be the now traditional barbeque and social evening, hosted as usual by Prue G4RWW. To get the number of sausages right Prue needs to know who’s coming. Tell any committee member or Prue direct that you are attending. G6LX@aol.com

September brings us **Shak Nowtz** presented by our good friend and CATS founder member “Mad” Frank G3ZMF. Frank will be presenting in his own inimical style a program of helpful hints and quirks to help around the shack.

Membership news

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

Help wanted for the Brownies

Almost exactly a year ago, several CATS members put together an demonstration station and a support package for the Coulsdon Brownies which enabled almost the whole contingent to gain their communications badge by learning the phonetic alphabet and using it to send a brief message, pass a message over the radio and generally learn something about amateur radio.

We have received a request to do a similar activity again, this time for the Brownie group in Warlingham.

The secretary has to declare an interest here, as his granddaughter is a member – so that’s one volunteer sorted then!

Assistance from members is sought for this venture, which will be in October, so plenty of time to get something prepared. If you can help, please let the secretary know.

TransPONDer net news

Our next Transatlantic net with members of the Crescenta Valley Radio Club will be on Saturday 7th July at 17.15 BST. This equates to 09.15 in Glendale California when our friends will be able to talk with us from their breakfast meeting at Conrad's Restaurant in La Canada.

CATS Contesting weekend

CATS have a persistent tradition of contest participation although in recent years this has generally been confined to VHF and UHF contests. We are now better equipped to operate in the field than ever before and the next contest on the horizon for us is the annual RSGB 2m/70cm low power contest to be held over the first weekend of August i.e. Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th.

Most people are aware that Andy G0KZT is the CATS Contest secretary and he has been making the necessary arrangements for our campsite which will be at our usual location for the past few years, on Woldingham Ridge. Andy has been working hard putting together what we will need radio-wise for the event and we will be able to pull it all together at the July planning session (see CATS Activity News above) so, if you plan to assist in the contest at any point (LARGE HINT!) it will be helpful if you can attend the meeting.

The committee have discussed making the Saturday evening a members and family occasion by holding a BBQ on the Saturday evening. This is of course an ideal opportunity to make use of our Gazebo! **This requires members to make their intention to attend known so that food etc can be bought and prepared.** Therefore please advise the secretary or any committee member of your intentions.

Set-up at the site will be from about 11.00 onwards and all pairs of hands – however old or useful – will be welcomed. We have already had volunteers to operate the night shift (thanks Frank and Mike!) and at least three others are planning to stay the night. This will also be the first test of our new generator, which has just been serviced.

This will probably be the only field-based contest that CATS attempt this year so your support, in whatever form, will be very welcome. If you really can't make it up to the camp site, you can always give us points by working the stations from home or mobile.

Dick Biddulph M0CGN – G8DPS

We were greatly saddened to receive news that Dick Biddulph M0CGN / G8DPS died on Monday 25th June after a short illness.

Dick was well known to many CATS members and often attended our quizzes, which he greatly enjoyed. He was an active member of the Kingston and Wimbledon clubs and was a former editor of the RSGB's Radio Communication Handbook.

His funeral will be held on Friday 6th July at Kingston Cemetery.

GB3LK enters service

The new 70cm repeater situated near Bromley in Kent entered service on 16th June. **GB3LK**, a new wide split 70cm repeater became operational on channel RU72. Input/Uplink is 438.50 MHz, Output/Downlink is 430.90MHz. CTCSS tone G (103.5Hz) is used.

It is co-located with the existing GB3OK repeater on 2 Metres at location TQ497643 (JO01BI) and coverage will include parts of London, north Kent and south Essex.

The repeater keeper is Tony G1HIG and further information can be found on the repeater website <http://www.gb3ok.com>

For some so far unknown reason, the domain name of gb3lk.com has been registered but Tony points out that this nothing to do with the repeater at all and that all information pertaining to both of the repeaters is contained on the GB3OK site which is owned and hosted by the Bromley Repeater Group.

AMSAT-UK Space 2007

The 22nd AMSAT-UK Colloquium will be held at Surrey University, Guildford, Surrey, UK From Friday 20 July to Sunday 22 Jul 2007.

A special Beginners Session will be held on Friday 20th July, which will provide an ideal opportunity for those wanting to get started in the fascinating world of Amateur Radio Space Communications.

In December 2006 OFCOM changed the Amateur licence to permit all Radio Amateurs, including Foundation, to use the network of Amateur Radio Satellites and communicate directly with Astronauts onboard the International Space Station. More information is available at: <http://www.uk.amsat.org/Colloquium/>

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

17 July – DF Hunt run by Graham G4NPD

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/

6 July – Home construction techniques review

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.

Sunday 22nd July – First ever tabletop sale of
amateur, commercial and some military radio
and electronic equipment.
The venue is Hut 18 Tilgate Forest (entrance is
off the A23 south of Crawley town) and the sale
will start at 09.30 hrs. All welcome.

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

Aug 28th -G3JKV's Fish and Chip Supper and
Junk Sale.

.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

5 July – Introduction to the Peter 1 Island expedition
2006 & 3YOX video by Bryn Tinton G3SWC

2 August – The mechanics of orbits by Ron Polley
G3PYC

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, Commonsides
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

16 July – Fix-it, Advice, Chin-wag & Move-it-on.
This meeting is at Trinity School at 19.45.

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

19 July – Antenna modeling by Andrew Vine M0GJH

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.

July 13th - The Magnetic Dip Circle
Talk and Demonstration by Len Stuart & Dick Shanahan

27 July – 5 August Annual Summer Camp at Crossways Farm, Reigate.

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!**

WANTED

For a restoration project -
2¼ in square older style panel meter with 25 – 0 – 25 microamp centre-zero movement (or something similar).
Preferrably around 2000Ω resistance. The original was made by Ernest Turner who appear to have gone out of business around 1987.

Andy G8JAC g8jac@btinternet.com

Local Rally & Event Calendar

Dates for your diary:

14th July – Red Sands Radio
Broadcasting from the former home of Radio 390, Red Sands Tower in the Thames estuary for ten days. 1278kHz, 235 metres. Details: <http://www.redsandonline.co.uk/index.html>

15th July - 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.
Note: date now confirmed. CATS involvement in this event.

18th November CATS 2007 Bazaar.
We are now booking tables for this annual event.
Bazaar organizer is Andy G8JAC.

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