

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

# CATS WHISPERS

January 2008



Affiliated to the RSGB

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## CATS Committee

Chairman: Steve Conway G7SYO

Secretary: Andy Jackson G8JAC

Treasurer: Derek Hands G1PGS

Members: Steve Beal G3WZK

Stuart Barber G6CJR

Dennis Noe MONDJ

Frank Emery G3ZMF

**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 20.00 to 22.00hrs.

## Society Nets

1<sup>st</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008 – CATS New Year Dinner

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008 – DF receiver project by Terry G4CDY

Mon 10 March 2008 – My 40 years in amateur radio by Steve G3WZK



CATS is Twinned with the  
**Crescenta Valley Radio Club**  
Glendale California USA [www.qsl.net/cvrc](http://www.qsl.net/cvrc)

## AGM Report

The December meeting was devoted, as is customary, to the business of running the society in a democratic fashion by holding the Annual General Meeting. A total of 17 members signed in, blatantly bribed by the prospect of seasonal fare in the shape of wine and hot mince pies, but hopefully also concerned to do their bit for CATS. The minutes of the meeting have been distributed to members separately and the changes to the CATS committee brought about by the elections held at the AGM are shown on page 1 of this newsletter.



The new CATS committee take up their posts after the elections.  
L-R: G3ZMF, M0NDJ, G3WZK, G8JAC, G7SYO, G1PGS & G6CJR.

## Freda Bartle 1919 - 2007

It is with great regret that we announce to members that one of our two life members, Freda Bartle, has died. Freda was the widow of CATS founder member and former editor of this journal Alan Bartle G6HC and was accorded life membership of CATS in recognition of her support and association with the society over many years.

Andy Briers G0KZT who knew both of them well has kindly contributed the following.

I have learned that the widow of the late Alan Bartle G6HC, Freda, died on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December in hospital after losing her battle against a number of health problems. She was just weeks from her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on Christmas Eve. Freda was cremated at the South London Crematorium on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December where her ashes were laid along with Alan's in the

main garden of remembrance. She leaves behind their sole daughter Alison.

I first met Freda in about 1982 after I first met Alan. At that time both Freda and Alan were retired and Freda warmly welcomed me into their home. Freda had retired from the Civil Service, the Land Registry I believe, and one of her main hobbies was embroidery. I remember that she was a great fan of LBC radio and I always remember getting into discussions about the topic of the day. She also enjoyed Countdown, the Channel 4 television programme, and 15 to 1.

I was guilty of introducing both Freda and Alan to Eastenders (something I'm not too proud about!).

Freda was also an excellent cook and I sampled many a hearty meal, and when I was old enough, because I was only 15 in those days, accompanied with a good German wine. Once a week I would go over to Alan and Freda's for my RAE class that again, always finished with a meal. When I finally gained the callsign G1IRM, the Mr Kiplings Manor House cake that was routinely rolled out on each occasion was renamed "IRM" cake. It's still referred to as that to this day!

Freda was a loyal and supporting wife of Alan, especially during his illness. Alan, as well as being involved in Amateur Radio, being a member of a number of clubs and societies, was also involved in the Territorial Army. She seemed so tolerant of his activities, a quality that is often taken for granted.

Freda designed the cat logo that looks over the wall on the CATS Bazaar poster, and she was the proofreader for the newsletter when Alan was the editor. She enjoyed reading CATS Whispers that was forwarded on to her each month.

Anyone wishing to make a charitable donation to either The Circulation Foundation ([www.circulationfoundation.org.uk](http://www.circulationfoundation.org.uk)) or to Cancer Research ([www.cancerresearch.org](http://www.cancerresearch.org)) may do so via the funeral directors, Co-operative Funeralcare, 111 Lordship Lane, London SE22 8HU.

**Andy GOKZT**



Stuart G6CJR kindly sent this picture of Freda and Alan taken in 1989. Seated on the left is a youthful G1IRM.

## CATS Activity News

### **CATS New Year Dinner 2008**

Our New Year dinner crowd is currently standing at 32 members and guests and we look forward to a good meal and a pleasant social occasion. The timing is 7.30pm for 8 and it is suggested that members meet in the small bar located in the restaurant section of the pub where pre-dinner drinks can be purchased. Those who like wine with their meal might find it convenient to make their purchases here before going to the table.

To keep things simple it is suggested that everyone takes cash rather than expecting the restaurant staff to cope with multiple credit card transactions.

More information including the menu on offer and location details can be found at:  
<http://www.thegoodcompanions.com>

If anyone hits a last-minute problem, please keep the secretary informed on 07752 900157.

In **February** we will be preparing for the annual CATS fox hunting event with a DF project by Terry G4CDY while in **March** we have a presentation from newly-elected committee member Steve G3WZK entitled My 40 Years in Amateur Radio.

## Christmas on Top Band AM

Many members will recall that Martin G4FKK likes to run a brief local chat net on Christmas morning on top band with the only rule being that it is conducted using good old Amplitude Modulation. For several years he called CQ on 1942 kHz with no response but for the past couple of years, he has been joined by an increasing number of CATS members who take a brief timeout from family obligations to join in and put an old rig on the air or try out a little-used mode.



Steve G3WZK with grandson Martin on the 160m AM Christmas net.



New committee member Steve G3WZK took part in the net for the first time, taking the opportunity to introduce his grandson to the world of radio. Steve said:

“The photo shows me in the new shack with my grandson from EA-land (Martin Beal-Gonzalez) on my knee. I am holding an old Acos crystal mike in my left hand and the grey box on the right is my original top band transmitter from 1967 used on this year's AM Christmas day net. It has a 5763 in the PA, modulated by a 6BW6 into a quarter wave wire. The dial is an Eddystone 598.”

Other participants included M3JXN trying out AM on the CATS IC706, G8JAC using a 1970s Clansman RT321 that has real double sideband AM, and of course G4FKK using a homebrew TX and HRO receiver.

## TransPONDer net news

Unfortunately, the New Year TransPONDer net couldn't be held on the customary first Saturday of the year because of difficulties at the US end in getting the Internet link set up to the repeater. Fortunately, G8JAC was able to spread the word amongst the usual participants at this end so nobody wasted their time. The next scheduled link-up is Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at the usual time of 17.15z when we hope to be able to send our friends slightly belated greetings for the new year.

## What's that noise?

The seemingly ever-increasing range of weird noises to be heard on the HF bands are an annoyance, but how do you decide what the noises are or describe them to someone else? A useful collection of recordings of various transmission noises can be found at

<http://www.bartq.org.uk/Sound%20Files/soundlibrary.htm>

If you are inquisitive and wonder what that strange (maybe annoying) noise is that you hear, there are mp3 samples provided on the site. They include Hellschreiber, PSK31 and PSK125, DominoEX and RTTY of course. The individual files do have to be downloaded but are very small mp3 files which of course you can download into your iPod or whatever new gadget you got for Christmas.

## Contesting 2008

With the New Year underway, thoughts have turned to contesting plans for 2008. As a first event the committee have decided that we will enter the 144 + 432 MHz contest on the first weekend in March that we have entered for the past few years. The exact dates of the contest are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March and it's become known amongst the hardy few as the “Brass Monkey” contest after the somewhat chilly one a couple of years ago.

Our contest secretary Andy G0KZT will need to know who is going to participate so please let him know as soon as possible what you can do and when. Subject to confirmation, we will be using our usual site at Nore Hill, on the B269 at Woldingham.

It will also be the first opportunity to try out our new mast kit, which means that there is a bit of work to do to prepare for mounting our antenna systems on it. To make up quick-assembly mountings for the Yagis, we need some 40mm OD aluminium tubing with reasonably thick walls. The 40mm is a maximum dimension and is fairly critical for strength and stability. Unfortunately, standard scaffold tubing doesn't meet the requirements being the wrong diameter and usually too heavy. We need a length of about 10 feet in order to get the optimum spacing between the antennas. If you know of any suitable tubing, please let G8JAC know.

## Committee Ramblings

The new committee members, fresh from their press-ganging at the AGM are getting to grips with society business. Steve G3WZK has jumped in to take on responsibility for CATS publicity – a job that is essential for the future health of the society and amateur radio. He also will use his skills in web site building to look after the CATS website with our existing webmaster, Steve G7SYO. Now when was the last time that you looked at our web site?

Dennis M0NDJ has experience in youth work with the Scouts and has been involved in training courses for Foundation and Intermediate licences. In fact this is a good opportunity to announce that a **Foundation course** is being run during the first weekend in February and the following Saturday at the Scout HQ in Banstead. Further information from 2E0TTA on 01737 350366.

The third new member of the team doesn't really need any introductions. Frank G3ZMF, known to millions as "Mad Frank" or "Zoomf" was a founder member of CATS in 1975 and has held every committee position except Treasurer. He's a keen contender and CW fan and being newly retired, has lots of enthusiasm to use up.

## **Membership Matters**

It is regrettably that time of year again that we have to remind members that their subscriptions are now due. Those members who attended the AGM were an easy target of course and their subscriptions were collected then. For the remaining members, society rules provide that two months are allowed for renewal to be made. As will be seen from the minutes of the AGM, the treasurer explained that to meet our basic expenditure of hire of the hall, refreshments, postage etc in the face of ever-rising costs, it was necessary to raise the basic subscription to £12 per year. The 50% discount enjoyed by members over 65 will continue. After discussion, the new subscription rate was unanimously approved by the meeting.

For those members attending the New Year dinner, the treasurer will be there with the receipt book and will be pleased to facilitate your renewal. For the remainder a renewal form is being sent for your convenience. Please send it with your remittance to the treasurer or bring it with you to the next meeting. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to "Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society".

## **Support the Guides!**

Hopefully you will recall that last year, we undertook a very successful weekend of helping local Guides in the event known as Thinking Day on the Air. Stuart G6CJR is, as many members will be aware, heavily involved in the Scouting and Guiding movement and those who were members in their younger years will recall how useful these organisations were to their enjoyment of life and development.

Stuart is asking for help for Norbury Guides to do Thinking Day on the Air again over the weekend of 16/17 February. This doesn't mean that you have to go camping for the weekend! If you are able to give a couple of hours or perhaps more to help, even just if it's being on the air to make some contacts, Please get in contact with Stuart. His phone number and email address are on the front page.

## **Sunspots are back!**

Announced on the RSGB website, according to the Solar Influences Data Analysis Center, Solar Cycle 24 has begun. In a report issued on 4 January 2008, a high latitude sunspot group was identified. The group, first noted by the Catania solar observatory, has been identified using the butterfly rule as the first in Cycle 24.

After the last few years of flat conditions, we can now look forward to a steady improvement in HF propagation until the cycle peaks, which is expected to be around 2013.

More information is at <http://sidc.oma.be/>

## **Cray Valley RS presents:**

At its meeting on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008 the members of Cray Valley Radio Society in Eltham will host a presentation by Justin Snow (G4TSH) and Chris Duckling (G3SVL). These were two of the UK team to the expedition to the St. Brandon Islands in the Indian Ocean during September 2007 using the call sign "3B7C". The international team of twenty well-known radio operators made over 137,000 contacts from the Islands during their stay.

This was an 'amateur radio' DX'pedition to the Cargados Carajos Shoals (also known as the Saint Brandon Rocks) which are a group of about 16 small islands and islets on an extended reef in the Indian Ocean northeast of Mauritius. The reef measures more than 50 km from north to south, and is 5 km wide, cut by three passes. The islands have a small population, made up of natives as well as others, and are rich in flora and fauna. The islands are classified as a dependency of Mauritius, which is more than 300 km south, and are administered from Port Louis.

Both Justin and Chris will answer questions about the DX'pedition and present unique film taken by the team during their stay. This will show not only the event itself; but the logistics leading up to their arrival in that distant part of the world. The team consisted of radio amateurs – not only from the UK – but also from as far afield as the USA right round the world to Japan, via Europe and Asia.

All local radio amateurs and members of neighbouring clubs are invited to attend the evening. The Cray Valley Radio Society meets at the Progress Hall, Admiral Seymour Road, Eltham, London, SE9 1SL at 7.30pm for 8pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month. See their website at [www.cvrs.org](http://www.cvrs.org)

## Other Club News & Contact Information

### **BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS**

Website – [www.bdars.org.uk](http://www.bdars.org.uk)  
Email [bdars-news@talk21.com](mailto:bdars-news@talk21.com)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Victory Social Club, Kechill  
Gardens, Hayes, Kent  
7-30pm for 8pm

15 January – Annual general Meeting.

### **Crystal Palace Radio and Electronics Club**

Meets on 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month at 7.30pm at  
All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill.  
Club Net – Wednesdays 2000hrs 145.525 MHz  
[www.qsl.net/g30ou/](http://www.qsl.net/g30ou/)

1 February – Annual general Meeting and  
construction contest.

### **CRAWLEY ARC**

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

30 January – Annual General Meeting.  
27 February – Web 2 applications by GOVYN

### **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.  
Contact: Walter Blanchard G3JKV  
Email: [wb@g3jkv.co.uk](mailto:wb@g3jkv.co.uk)  
Web site:- <http://www.ddrs.org.uk>

### **HORSHAM ARC**

Club Nets –  
Saturdays 2130hrs 144.725MHz  
Sundays 1000hrs 3.722 MHz  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at The Guide Hall, Denne  
Road, Horsham.  
Latest news – [www.harc.org.uk](http://www.harc.org.uk)

17 January – Social evening.  
7 February – The history of Mr Polley by  
Ron 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/>

January 25 – Battery Operations.

### **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.qsl.net/rats](http://www.qsl.net/rats)  
Email [rats@qsl.net](mailto:rats@qsl.net)  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.g3src.org.uk)  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at T.S. Terra Nova,  
34 The Waldrons, South Croydon 7.45pm for  
8pm

**Note: SRCC Meetings are currently being held  
at Trinity School, Shirley Park. Check with  
SRCC if visiting.**

7<sup>th</sup> Jan - History of our Local Weather with Ian  
Currie  
4<sup>th</sup> Feb - Experiments and Displays of Tesla Coils  
with Ian Daniels G4VTD

## 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](http://www.scrs.org.uk)

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

17th Jan - 'Flying Experiences in Australia' by Andrew Vine MØGJH

21 February - 'Fun with APRS and GPS' by Olof Lundberg - GØCKV

## THAMES VALLEY A.R.T.S.

Trevor Farris M0CDB 013 7245 767

Club Net Only – G3TVS

Saturdays 1400hrs on 40m

## WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS

Website – [www.gx3wim.org.uk](http://www.gx3wim.org.uk)

Club Net –

Mondays 2045hrs 145.500 MHz

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

14 January – Christmas social.

11 January – Microwave update with Jim Gale G4WYJ.

8th February - Aircraft Radio Systems and SBS1 by Evan Duffield M3TJU

## Want to be more up to date?

Many of our neighbouring clubs send us their newsletters electronically and printed versions are made available for members at CATS meetings. We also send *CATS Whispers* to them so that their members are informed about what CATS are up to.

If you would like to receive other clubs' newsletters by email it's simple: just let CATS secretary know and interesting local amateur radio news and articles will be delivered to your mailbox as soon as it is available. Several CATS members already receive this service – why not you?

The club newsletters currently sent out are Wimbledon & District ARS, Sutton & Cheam ARS, Surrey Radio Contact Club, Reigate ATS, Crystal Palace Radio & Electronics Club and Crescenta Valley Radio Club.

## Local Rally & Event Calendar

### Dates for your diary:

Sunday **10th February 2008**

HARWELL RADIO RALLY

At Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 8AY.

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2008** South Essex ARS mobile rally. "Paddocks", Long Road, Canvey Island.

Saturday and Sunday **1/2nd March 2008**

FIREPOWER VINTAGE RADIO & JUNK SALE

At Firepower, the Royal Artillery Museum in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich SE London SE18 6ST.

Easy access by train to Woolwich Arsenal Station, buses pass the door and Free car parking. Info from [M1CCF@talktalk.net](mailto:M1CCF@talktalk.net)

Sunday **6<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

Radiofairs spring Amateur Radio and Electronics show at Kempton Park.

**10 August 2008** Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest.

**16<sup>th</sup> November 2008** CATS Bazaar

## For Sale & Wanted

### FOR SALE

MFJ 1263 microphone control centre. In mint condition, never used. Boxed. £ 60



Watson W30 30 Amp power supply  
Good condition. £ 30

Global SWL AT1000 receive-only antenna tuner.  
Suitable for short wave listener. £20

A-Z of British Motor cycles 1893-2000.  
Set of 3 CDs £15.

Alec MOWHY. Montem, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Kent.  
TN16 3AU Telephone: 01959 575113

Email: [alec12345@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alec12345@tiscali.co.uk)

All items to be collected from from Biggin Hill.

This space is available to any member (and others subject to approval) to advertise any radio-related items

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