

# COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

# G4FUR



# M1FUR

## CATS WHISPERS



Affiliated to the RSGB

### January 2009

**SYCOM** – Official CATS Sponsor

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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 M0NDJ

Frank Emery G3ZMF

### **CATS Whispers Editor:**

Andy Jackson G8JAC

email address for contributions: [cats@qsl.net](mailto:cats@qsl.net)

### Regular Society Meetings

These are held on the second Monday in each month at:-

St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 4LA 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** [www.qsl.net/cats](http://www.qsl.net/cats) **Email** : [cats@qsl.net](mailto:cats@qsl.net)

New website host: <http://www.sthost.co.uk/webspace/cats/>

### Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 – CATS New Year Dinner

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Building a web site by Steve G3WZK

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March – The G6MFM memorial lecture: Flying, past and present, by G4CDY and G4FKK.



CATS is Twinned with the

**Crescenta Valley Radio Club**

Glendale California USA [www.qsl.net/cvrc](http://www.qsl.net/cvrc)

## Annual General Meeting 2008

The 2008 annual general meeting of CATS was well supported with almost half of the membership turning out to take part in the running of the society and to take advantage of the wine and hot mince pies.

A full set of minutes of the meeting will be sent to members in due course, but briefly –

The meeting commenced with apologies from members unavoidably absent followed by the chairman's welcome address where Steve outlined the highlights of the year. This was followed by the secretary's report, which filled in more detailed facts and figures.

The treasurer's report gave good news on the state of our finances and the subscription rate for 2009 was announced as no change at £12.00 with the same concessions for members under 18 and over 65 as before.

The essential elections came next and to little surprise, no-one on the committee was permitted to escape and all members were re-elected by unanimous votes (whether that was a ringing vote of confidence or insurance against getting involved with doing something remains a moot point!). We were pleased to hear that Andy G0 KZT had agreed to continue as our contests secretary. During the mince pie break, the committee re-elected Steve G7SYO as the society's chairman for 2009.



The committee for 2009, looking strangely similar to the 2008 version.

## Congratulations!

Not Cliff Richard but to Paul M3JXN on passing his Intermediate level exam. Paul is trying to remember that he's now **2E0 JXN** when on the air (old habits die hard) and is starting to think about the next step to a full licence. He's also moved and is now at his new QTH in Blindley Heath.

## CATS New Year Dinner

At the time of writing these notes the number of members and guests booked in for the dinner stands at 29. The Woolpack is a regular haunt of several local amateurs (for some reason everyone there knows Frank!) so your committee took the opportunity to perform a reconnaissance visit by holding the monthly committee meeting at the pub which gave us the opportunity to prepare the way. The routine will be to order and pay for your meals individually along with any drinks that you require. In case anyone's not sure, the venue is The Woolpack, High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NZ, the date is Monday 12th January and the time –

**7.30 for 8pm.** A map can be found at:  
<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/idmap.srf?X=525847&Y=159887&A=Y&Z=110>

We're looking forward to a good evening and CATS shirts will be distributed at the dinner!

## Membership Matters

### Subscriptions

Yes, it's that time of year again!

In accordance with society rules you are reminded that your annual subscription for 2009 became due on the date of the AGM, at which meeting the rate applicable for the coming year was announced as being unchanged with the same reductions for those members over 65. All members have been sent a renewal form by email or on paper; if you have still to renew please return the form (and money!) to the treasurer ASAP please.

### Forthcoming meetings

The World Wide Web is now an essential part of (almost) everybody's life these days; in fact just how *did* we manage before you could Google for an answer or information? Every organisation has a web site but how are they built, and made informative, easy to use and attractive? At our **February** meeting we can find out when Steve G3WZK presents *How to Build a website*.

In **March** we are presenting a lecture on the origins and evolution of flying, and as this subject was very dear to our late member Derek Hills, this lecture is presented in his memory as the *G6MFM memorial lecture*.

The **April** meeting presents us with a problem as the scheduled date, the 13<sup>th</sup> is Easter Monday. The plan at the moment is to hold the meeting on the Monday before, the 6<sup>th</sup>, when the subject is a presentation from the BBC Kingswood Warren Laboratories on DAB and DRM transmission developments. However at the time of writing we have not had confirmation that St Swithun's hall is available to us so this date is provisional. Watch this space!

## The CATS shirt project

The first batch of the new CATS shirts to be completed were distributed at the AGM giving members a chance to see how they have turned out. Compared to the old sweatshirts the CATS logo has been enhanced to stand out brighter and more clearly, while the same "corporate colour" of dark blue has been retained. The remainder of the shirts will be available for collection at the CATS dinner and at our regular meetings so call in and collect yours.

If anyone has a particular problem with collecting his or her shirt, let Stuart G6CJR or the secretary know. Now all we need is the warm weather to go with them!



One of the new shirts with our "enhanced" logo.

An idea that has been raised is to buy some fleece-style jackets and have them embroidered with the CATS logo and personal details. These will not be provided from club funds but will be supplied on a non-profit basis. Our embroiderer is able to do one-off jobs with whatever personal additions are required.

If you are interested, contact Stuart G6CJR. Relax, there are NO plans to do CATS baseball caps!

## Kempton Park Rallies 2009

The dates for the 2009 Kempton Park Radio and Electronics rallies have now been confirmed with the Spring event on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April and the Autumn rally on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

We intend to continue our operation of the well-known Bring and Buy stall at the rally so requests for people to run the facility will be coming! In the meantime, make sure that the dates are in your diary.

## CATS Christmas Day Net

How many times do you have to do something before it becomes a "tradition"? Probably the same sort of question as how long is a piece of string?, or how far away is the sky?, but the CATS Christmas Day AM net on top band is well on the way to becoming a CATS tradition.

Started by Martin G4FKK a good few years ago, it was found to be alive and well just after 10.00 on Christmas morning when no less than ten stations took a short break from family duties to exchange greetings on 1942kc/s and give some older bits of equipment an airing.

Vintage items in use included an HRO receiver (G4FKK), ex-navy B40 receiver (G8JAC), home-built top band transceiver (G3WZK) and various other old friends fired up for the occasion along with more modern "rice boxes".

The participants were G4FKK, G7CRQ, G4FVL, G8JAC, G3YCR, G3ZMF, G3WZK, G4DFA, G7ELZ, and Roger GW3UEP called in on CW. Signal reports were very variable with local noise causing some stations a bit of difficulty but it was an enjoyable net invoking a definite feel of the old days.

## New Year Transponder net

The first TRANSPONDER net for 2009 was just three days into the new year – on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> to be precise, and although the showing on both sides of the Atlantic was rather sparse, the net was maintained. Doing duty on the English side were Terry G4CDY who provided the Echolink node and Andy G8JAC. They were able to link up with Marc KE6ZRP in Glendale and Mark W6MW who is still supporting his mom (thankfully recovering now) in Columbus Ohio. The good news from Mark is that his knee problem is finally showing signs of improvement after a change in his medication regime. Despite there being only four participants, a good half hour chat was enjoyed by all. The next transponder net will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 17.15 local time, 145.2875 MHz.

## CATS Bazaar 2007

One of our regular bazaar supporters, Rod M1ROD, sold a Yaesu FTC-725A / FTC-740A VHF Land Mobile Transceiver at the CATS Bazaar in November 2007 to somebody from the Portsmouth area. He would like to get the operating manual to the buyer so if the person concerned reads this or anyone knows who the buyer was, Rod would like them to get in touch. Rod can be contacted on 020 8644 3490 or e-mail [rod.jones@btinternet.com](mailto:rod.jones@btinternet.com)

# Contest News

I am pleased to be your contest secretary for 2009 and I am looking forward to getting us together as a team as many times this year as possible.

Towards the end of 2008, I published a shortlist of VHF and UHF contests that we could think of doing, along with a few HF ones. I got a trickle of interest on some of the HF ones but not a lot on the VHF/UHF bands. Maybe everyone forgot to let

me know? Have another look at your copy of the October newsletter and suggest which ones you'd like to do.

Many of you will be aware that I have been doing my best to enter the Activity contests that take part on Tuesday evenings. Some of the results have been published. For the full results visit <http://www.vhfcc.org/results/08/6mukac.html>

## Cumulative Results (normalised scores) 6 Metre Activity

### Single Operator Fixed

Pos	Callsign	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Pwr	Ant
1*	G4DEZ	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	353	7,353	400	7Y
2*	M0WLF	218	392	1,000	401	206	310	0	414	1,000	1,000	648	309	5,165	400	6Y
3	M1DDD	0	0	0	0	0	0	735	523	0	0	1,000	1,000	3,258	100	21LPA
4	M5BXB	0	0	0	493	357	397	542	529	0	0	0	0	2,318	400	2x5Y
5	M0DDT	0	0	417	356	342	0	0	134	399	0	258	267	2,173	200	5Y
6	G6UBM	34	291	67	174	74	99	71	84	274	334	258	221	1,735	100	4Y
7*	G8ZRE	0	120	472	0	0	0	0	0	0	593	157	295	1,637	25	4Y
8	GW8ASD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	889	421	0	1,310	350	5Y
9	G8LZE	67	7	139	90	64	0	169	165	125	255	127	129	1,199	100	3Y
10	G0KZT	17	205	373	0	0	0	0	0	235	0	99	0	929	100	3Y

There were 48 other entries in the single operator fixed section, so 10<sup>th</sup> is a good result, bearing in mind that I was only able to complete 4 entries (it was the best of 6) due to my work shift pattern.

Although not the final results, my 2 metre Activity entry is showing me as 49<sup>th</sup> out of 190 participants. Again, I was only able to complete 5 out of the 6 best scores.

I would recommend members to take part in these activity contests. They are good fun, run for only 2 ½ hours and are good practice (in both operating and logging) for more adventurous club efforts.

On the subject of logging, the VHF contest committee are rolling out a new way of submitting scores. Instead of emailing the entries, we will have to place the entries on-line. I've not tried it yet but the committee have reported that it has gone well during robust testing. I will let you know my opinion after I submit my or the club's first contest entry. More information from the website at <http://www.vhfcc.org/> and click on the link.

## HF Contesting

Below is the HF contest calendar for 2009. The question is: which ones shall we try? There was more interest shown in HF contesting and we do have some keen CW operators amongst our ranks.

Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name.	Dates - Mode - Frequency - Exchange
January	2000-2130.	<a href="#">80m Club Championships</a>	5th - CW; 14th - SSB; 22nd - Data
Jan 11	1400-1800.	<a href="#">Affiliated Societies Team Contest</a>	3510-3590kHz, RST+Serial (CW)
Jan 17	1400-1800.	<a href="#">Affiliated Societies Team Contest</a>	3600-3750kHz, RS+Serial. (SSB)
February	2000-2130.	<a href="#">80m Club Championships</a>	2nd - SSB; 11th - Data; 19th - CW.
Feb 14/15	2100-0100.	<a href="#">1st 1.8Mhz Contest</a>	1810-1870kHz, RST+Serial+District.
March	2000-2130.	<a href="#">80m Club Championships</a>	2nd - Data; 11th - CW; 19th - SSB.
Mar 14/15	1000-1000.	<a href="#">Commonwealth Contest</a>	3.5-28MHz, RST+Serial.
April	1900-2030.	<a href="#">80m Club Championships</a>	6th - CW; 15th - SSB; 23rd - Data.
Apr 5	0700-0900.	<a href="#">RoPoCo 1</a>	3520-3570kHz, RST+Postcode Recieved.
May	1900-2030.	<a href="#">80m Club Championships</a>	4th - SSB; 13th - Data; 21st - CW.
June	1900-2030.	<a href="#">80m Club Championships</a>	1st - Data; 10th - CW; 18th - SSB.
June 6/7	1500-1500.	<a href="#">National Field Day</a>	1.8-28MHz, RST+Serial.
July	1900-2030.	<a href="#">80m Club Championships</a>	6th - CW; 15th - SSB; 23rd - Data.

July 19	0900-1600	<a href="#">Low Power Field Day</a>	3510-3580, 7000-7040kHz, RST+Serial+Power.
July 25/26	1200-1200.	<a href="#">IOTA Contest</a>	3.5-28MHz, RS(T)+Serial+Reference.
August	1900-2030.	<a href="#">80m Club Sprint</a>	13th – CW; 26th – SSB.
August 2	0700-0900.	<a href="#">RoPoCo 2</a>	3520-3570kHz, RST+Postcode Received.
September	1900-2030.	<a href="#">80m Club Sprint</a>	10th – SSB; 23rd – CW.
September 5/6	1300-1300.	<a href="#">SSB Field Day</a>	3.5-28MHz, RS+serial.
October	1900-2030.	<a href="#">80m Club Sprint</a>	8th – CW; 21st – SSB.
October 4	0700-1900.	<a href="#">21/28Mhz Contest (CW/SSB)</a>	21-28MHz, RS+Serial+District.
November	2000-2130.	<a href="#">80m Club Sprint</a>	12th – SSB; 25th – CW.
November 14	2000-2300.	<a href="#">Club Calls</a>	1870-1990kHz, RS+Serial+Club Info.
November 21/22	2100-0100.	<a href="#">2nd 1.8Mhz Contest</a>	1810-1870kHz, RST+Serial+District.
-	-	<a href="#">HF Championship</a>	-

That's the news so far. **73 de Andy GØ KZT**

## New Local 2m D-STAR Repeater

A new 2m D-STAR repeater GB7OK serving London and Kent is now on the air. Located in Bromley, locator JO01BI, the output frequency is 145.7125 MHz and the input 145.1125 MHz. It replaces the GB3OK FM repeater.

Further information is available at: -

<http://www.ukrepeater.net/repeaters/gb7ok.htm>

GB7OK website: - <http://www.gb7ok.com/>

## Local Rallies & Events

**Sun 1st Feb 2009**

**South Essex Amateur radio Society**

24th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally

The Paddocks Community Centre, Long Rd, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0JA (Situated at the southern end of the A130 off a new mini roundabout) Doors open 10:30 am. Major Amateur Radio & Electronic component exhibitors Selling New & Used equipment. Refreshments including Bob's Bacon Rolls. Disabled / wheelchair friendly site. Free Car Park.

**Sunday 8th February 2009**

**HARWELL RADIO & ELECTRONICS RALLY**

At Didcot Leisure Centre, (Adjoining St. Birinus School), Mereland Road, Didcot, OX11 8AY.

**22 February 2009**

**Bredhurst R&TS (BRATS) Radio Rally**

Rainham Girls' School, Derwent Way, Rainham, Kent (just off A2 & M2/J4). Open 09:30/10:00. Parking. Talkin 2m. SIGs, Catering, Lectures, Trade. Admission £2.50. Details: [O.wheeler@btopenworld.com](mailto:O.wheeler@btopenworld.com)

**19 April 2009** Spring Radio & Electronics show at Kempton Park. *NOTE: CATS involvement in these events.*

**27<sup>th</sup> September** – Autumn Kempton Park rally.

**9<sup>th</sup> August - FLIGHT REFUELLING HAMFEST 2009**

Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, Nr. Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1RJ

Further information: [www.frars.org.uk](http://www.frars.org.uk)

**15<sup>th</sup> November 2009** – CATS 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Radio and Electronics Bazaar.

## Guides Thinking Day

Following the successful event last year, Stuart G6CJR is again looking for help to support the annual Guides Thinking Day On The Air at the Guide HQ in Radcliffe Road, Croydon. This involves setting up and running VHF and HF stations and helping the Guides to send greetings messages around the world. The callsign GB4SUN (South and Upper Norwood) will be used. The date is 21/22 February. Can you help?

## The Editor's tailpiece

Those of you who were at the AGM might have noticed an announcement slipped into the secretary's report that we will be having a change of *CATS Whispers* editor with effect from the February 2009 issue. I can't believe that it was back at the 2004 AGM that GØ KZT stood down as the previous editor to prepare for the arrival of his first harmonic and in a moment of madness I thought that I would have a go. Now Steve G3WZK has experienced a similar brainstorm and volunteered to turn his hand to the job, so this is my last issue of *CATS Whispers* as your editor. One of the perennial problems of the job is finding a regular flow of items to inform and entertain the readership and I have been fortunate that some members have kept me supplied with snippets of information, news and full-blown articles that have often just needed pasting into the page. Special thanks should go to Andy GØ KZT who stands out as a regular contributor to these pages. So, please help get Steve off to a flying start as editor by sending him anything that you think our members and readers might find interesting. His email address and contact details are on the front page. Good luck, Steve, and we look forward to you putting your own style into *CATS Whispers*.

As you will have read above I will continue as secretary for 2009, and I will continue to distribute the other clubs' newsletters that I receive.

**73, Andy G8JAC**

## 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

### **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.gsl.net/g3oou/](http://www.gsl.net/g3oou/) or <http://www.g3oou.co.uk/>

6<sup>th</sup> February - The History of Sound Recording by Jon Weller G0GNA

### **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.

### **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, Sussex.  
Latest news – [www.harc.org.uk](http://www.harc.org.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> February – nuclear power generation by John Narborough

### **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 – [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk)

### **REIGATE ATS**

Club Net –  
Thursdays 2000hrs 145.500 MHz Sundays 2000hrs 3.740 – 3.760 MHz  
Website [www.gsl.net/rats](http://www.gsl.net/rats)  
Email [rats@gsl.net](mailto:rats@gsl.net)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at RNIB, Redhill College, Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 7-30pm

### **SRCC**

Ray Howells G4FFY 020 8644 7589  
Club Nets –  
Sunday 0930hrs, 1905 kHz  
Daily natter channel – 144.214MHz at 19.30.  
Website – [www.g3src.org.uk](http://www.g3src.org.uk)  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 7.45pm for 8pm

2 February - SMD Masterclass with Gareth G4XAT

### **SUTTON & CHEAM RS**

John Puttock G0 BWV 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.

15<sup>th</sup> January - 'JOTA 2007' by Denis Noe M0NDJ

19<sup>th</sup> February - Hamtests.co.uk' by Paul Gibson M0TZO

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

Trevor Farris M0 CDB 013 7245 767  
Club Net Only – G3TVS  
Saturdays 1400hrs on 40m

### **WIMBLEDON & DISRICT 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.

30<sup>th</sup> January – On-air night using digital modes

CATS Whispers is published monthly by  
A Jackson G8JAC on behalf of the  
Coulston Amateur Transmitting Society.

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