

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY  
**G4FUR**  **M1FUR**  
**CATS WHISPERS**



Affiliated to the RSGB

**January 2011**

**SYCOM** - Official CATS Sponsor  
Visit [www.sycomcomp.co.uk](http://www.sycomcomp.co.uk)

**CATS Committee**

Chairman: Glenn Rankin, G4FVL  
Secretary: Steve Beal, G3WZK  
Treasurer: Steve Conway, G7SYO  
Members: Stuart Barber, G6CJR  
Frank Emery, G3ZMF  
Dennis Noe, M0NDJ  
James Flint, G0SDB

**CATS Whispers Editor:** Steve Beal, G3WZK  
email address for contributions: [newsletter@catsradio.org](mailto:newsletter@catsradio.org)

**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 22:00

**Society Nets**

1st Saturday of Month - 17:15 - Crescenta Valley / CATS Net on Echolink/ GB3NS  
Sunday mornings - 11:00 - Call on 145.400 MHz  $\pm$  QRM  
Sunday evenings - 17:00 - Call on 3.700 MHz  $\pm$  QRM  
Wednesday evenings - 21:00 - Call on 70.425 MHz

**CATS Website** [www.catsradio.org](http://www.catsradio.org) **Email** [enquiries@catsradio.org](mailto:enquiries@catsradio.org)

**Forthcoming Meetings**

Monday Jan 10th CATS New Year Dinner : The Fox Public House, Coulsdon Common  
Monday Feb 14th Talk on motorcycle trip to Himalayas by M0NAT  
Monday Mar 14th Building and using the Ten-Tec 1330 by Martin, M1MRB



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

## December Meeting Report

The 2010 AGM was held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December and followed the usual pattern, including Chairman's, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, the election of officers for 2010 and, of course, seasonal refreshments.

Chairman and Secretary both paid thanks in their reports to the committee's and members' work over the past year.

The Treasurer's report confirmed the continuing healthy state of the society's finances.

In the evening's elections, Andy Jackson, G8JAC, stood down as the CATS Secretary – a role he had fulfilled with distinction for five years – and left the Committee. The new Secretary is Steve Beal, G3WZK, standing down from his previous role as CATS Chairman. Steve Conway, G7SYO, continues as Treasurer. Both Steves were elected unopposed.

Ordinary committee members Frank (G3ZMF), Glenn (G4FVL), Stuart (G6CJR) and Denis (M0NDJ) were re-elected unopposed, together with new committee member James Flint (G0SDB).

The subscription rate for 2011 (£12.00) was formally announced – the same as 2010.

The society endorsed the decision to purchase from CATS' funds a piece of test equipment for members' use: the RigExpert AA-520 Antenna Analyser.

For more information on this, visit:

[www.rigexpert.com/index?s=aa520](http://www.rigexpert.com/index?s=aa520)

In the break for refreshments, the new Committee elected Glenn Rankin, G4FVL, to be the Chairman for the forthcoming year.

The new committee also approved two applications for membership, details of which appear elsewhere in this issue of CATS Whispers.

After hot mince pies and wine, the meeting reconvened and details of the new Chairman were announced, followed by issues raised from the floor.

In his closing remarks to the meeting, the new Chairman, G4FVL, thanked everyone for attending, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and paid tribute to contributions to CATS made by the outgoing Secretary, Andy (G8JAC).

*(Note: Formal AGM minutes have been written by the outgoing Secretary Andy, G8JAC.)*



The RigExpert AA-520 Antenna Analyser

## Membership Matters New CATS Members

As mentioned above, CATS now has two new members.

Brendan O'Brien, G0UCT, is a Purley resident. His radio interests include Dxpeditons, Mobile and QRP. Other hobbies include aviation, natural history, astronomy, books and photography.

Denis Bailey lives in Chaldon and although as yet unlicensed, he hopes to rectify this situation very soon. In the past, his constructional activities have included converting a Pye PMR rig for 2 m operation and refurbishing two classic valve receivers: the AR88 and the HRO. Denis' main interest outside radio is sailing and he holds a marine radio licence.

A warm CATS welcome to Brendan and Denis.

## **CATS Christmas Top Band Net**

The traditional CATS Christmas top band AM net on 1942 kc/s was this year attended by the following: Adam (G7CRQ), Andy (G8JAC), Frank (G3ZMF), Glenn (G4FVL), John (G3UGY), Martin (G4FKK), Pat (G4FDN) and Steve (G3WZK).

Tradition dictates that, where possible, vintage equipment should be pressed into service to create an old-fashioned feel to the net. Your editor failed in this respect, using a modern Yaesu rig (the FT950) with re-injected carrier. However others did much better including G8JAC with a 1977 vintage Clansman 321.

G4FKK used a homebrew Tx consisting of a pair of 5B254Ms (miniature 807s), modulated by a pair of 6L6s. This was driven by Martin's homebrewed DDS with a Shure 444 microphone and an HRO receiver. G3UGY managed to air 2 complete vintage stations. First, he used a WS19 Mk III (a valved army transceiver from world war 2) followed by a 1960's Minimitter transmitter with Heathkit RA1 receiver.

This prize for the best-modulation-of-the-year was awarded by Martin to Glenn, G4FVL.

Overall, good fun was had by all. However it was noted that all the callsigns had G prefixes with no 2E0 or M stations on the net. While it is understandable that it is the older amateurs who are most likely to possess vintage equipment, we would be very happy to be joined in future by anyone with a reinjected carrier, even if there is only one sideband!

## **CATS January 2011 Meeting**

The traditional CATS New Year's dinner is being held at the Fox Public House on Coulsdon Common on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 for 8:00 pm.

There is an excellent menu that is available online at:

[www.vintageinn.co.uk/thefoxcoulsdoncommon/](http://www.vintageinn.co.uk/thefoxcoulsdoncommon/)

The pub has agreed to issue individual bills. This means that members can order as little or as much as they want without fear of anyone subsidising anyone else.

Twenty-two members, including partners, have already signed up to attend this event. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible and if you would like to add your name to the list, please contact:

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

The postcode of The Fox, for those of you with satnavs, is CR3 5QS.

## **CATS February Meeting**

This meeting, on February 14<sup>th</sup>, will feature a talk by Nick, MONAT, on a motorcycle trip to the Himalayas – a name which incidentally means "Land Of Snow."

## **CATS March Meeting**

This will be a talk by Martin Butler - M1MRB entitled 'Building & Using the Ten-Tec 1330'.

Martin will be familiar to some of you as the lead instructor on the Foundation, Intermediate and Full licence courses run by the Sutton and Cheam Radio Society (SCRS).

Martin has already given this talk to SCRS but it is strongly suggested that you DON'T rush out to buy one of these kits until you have heard what Martin has to say about it. If you want to know why - come to his talk at CATS on March 14<sup>th</sup>!

## **CATS Contesting**

A message from CATS Contest Secretary, Frank, G3ZMF:

"I am now making arrangements for CATS to enter the "Brass Monkey" contest over the weekend of 5/6 March 2011. Although CATS use of the site is still unconfirmed, I have received several offers of help but would welcome any more. Contact me on my mobile or on GB3NS if interested."

73 de Frank G3ZMF

## **Activity Contest Results** **2010**

Andy G0KZT writes:

"I have, when available, attempted to enter the activity contests that take place each Tuesday evening. Each week a different band is used. My participation is restricted by my working hours and by the available time to put the mast up.

"I was only able to enter three of the series; one each for 6 metres, 2 metres and 70cm. In the overall results that have just begun to be published, I came 139th out of 209 on 6m; 229th out of 338 entries for 2m and 141st out of 196 entries on 70cms.

"Oh, how I envy those with permanently installed stations. It would be so nice to be able to just operate at will without having to mess around getting the mast up.

"May I add however that this series of contests are very enjoyable and are at a pace that would be comfortable to all CATS members. If you do have some time to spend on Tuesday nights, why not have a go, especially if all you have to do is switch on the gear! If several club members can get involved, there is the possibility of entering to club section.

73 de Andy G0KZT

*Editor's note: I would be interested to hear from other CATS members about Andy's idea of entering the club section. In 2010, I entered the 6 m and 70 cm activity sessions once each. G3WZK*

## **Transponder Net:**

The running of this net continues to be a problem due to a faulty broadband connection (poor uplink speed) on the Echolink access at the UK end. The nets planned for December 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 did not go ahead, but at the time of writing it is hoped to hold a net on February 5th subject to confirmation.

## **Grimeton**

Stuart, G6CJR, has advised *CATS Whispers* that he has been given a place on the radio

team for the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden in July/August 2011. He writes:

"The activity area will be called Grimeton after a famous Swedish transmitting station.

"The original Grimeton transmitting station is some way away from the campsite but we get a day off during the camp so a visit may be achievable. The website says they fire it up sometimes which sounds interesting. There's also mention that it was once used to send messages to submarines. Visit the following site for more information:"

[www.grimeton.org/ENG/HTML\\_eng/besoka.html](http://www.grimeton.org/ENG/HTML_eng/besoka.html)

73 de Stuart G6CJR

## **Contests Coming Soon**

Jan 9: AFS Contest CW  
Jan 15: AFS Contest PHONE  
Nov 12: Club Calls  
Nov 19-20: 2nd 1.8MHz Contest  
Feb 6: 432MHz Affiliated Societies Contest  
Feb 12-13: 1st 1.8MHz Contest  
Feb 27: 70MHz Cumulatives #1  
Mar 5-6: March 144/ 432MHz  
Mar 12-13: Commonwealth Contest  
Mar 13: 70MHz Cumulatives #2  
Apr 3: RoPoCo SSB  
Apr 3: First 70MHz Contest  
Apr 10: First 50MHz Contest  
May 7: 432MHz Trophy Contest  
May 7: 10GHz Trophy Contest  
May 7-8: 432MHz-248GHz Contest  
May 15: 70MHz Contest CW  
May 21-22: 144MHz May Contest  
May 22: 1st 144MHz Backpackers  
May 22: 70MHz Cumulatives #3  
Jun 4-5: NFD  
Jun 12: 2nd 144MHz Backpackers  
Jun 18-19: 50MHz Trophy Contest  
Jun 26: 70MHz Cumulatives #4  
Jul 2-3: VHF NFD  
Jul 3: 3rd 144MHz Backpackers  
Jul 17: Low Power Contest  
Jul 17: 70MHz Trophy Contest  
Jul 30-31: IOTA Contest  
Aug 6: 4th 144MHz Backpackers  
Aug 6: 144MHz Low Power Contest  
Aug 7: RoPoCo CW  
Aug 7: 432MHz Low Power Contest  
Aug 10: 80m Club Sprint CW  
Aug 14: 70MHz Cumulatives #5  
Aug 25: 80m Club Sprint SSB



# Local Rallies & Events

**16 January 2011**

## **7th Dover Radio Rally**

Whitfield Village Hall, Sandwich Road, Whitfield, Dover, CT16 3LY.

Open 09:00

Parking, Boot Fair, Refreshments. Talk in on GB3KS

Contact: Ian, G3ROO, 01304 821588 or

[ian.g3roo@gmail.com](mailto:ian.g3roo@gmail.com)

[www.doverradiorally.com/index.html](http://www.doverradiorally.com/index.html)

**6 February 2011**

## **26th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally**

'The Paddocks', Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 0JA

Open 10:30

Parking, Catering, Disabled Facilities, Trade Stands

Contact: Dave, G4UVJ, 01268 697978 (evenings)

[www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk](http://www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk)

**13 February 2011**

## **Harwell Radio and Electronics Rally**

Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road, Didcot, OX11 8AY, Oxfordshire. Radio, electronics and computing trade stalls, secondhand stalls, special interest groups, displays. Refreshments.

Open 10:30 to 15:30.

Contact: Ann Stevens 01235 816379 or

[rally@g3pia.org.uk](mailto:rally@g3pia.org.uk)

[www.g3pia.org.uk](http://www.g3pia.org.uk)

**27 February 2011**

## **Rainham Radio Rally**

Rainham School For Girls, Derwent Way, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0BX

Contact Trevor, G6LYW, 0771 7678 795 or

[trev@wig1.co.uk](mailto:trev@wig1.co.uk)

**6 March 2011**

## **Bournemouth RS 21st Annual Sale**

Kinson Community Centre, Pelhams Pk, Millhams Rd, Kinson, Bournemouth, BH10 7LH. Open 09:30. Free parking, trade stands, catering, disabled facilities. Contact John G0HAT 07719 700 771.

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

**13 March 2011**

## **Cambridge and District ARC Rally**

Wood Green Animal Shelter, King's Bush Farm, A1198 London Road, Godmanchester, Cambs, PE29 2NH.

Open 10:00/10:15. Admission £3. Talk in. Trade. B&B.

Catering with bar.

Disabled facilities. SIGs. Raffle. Lectures. Family attractions.

Contact David M0GUM, 01954-203080 or

[rally2010@cdarc.co.uk](mailto:rally2010@cdarc.co.uk)

[www.cdarc.co.uk](http://www.cdarc.co.uk)

**17 April 2011**

## **West London Radio & Electronics Show**

Kempton Park Racecourse.

Open 10:00. Parking, trade stands, catering, disabled facilities. Contact [info@radiofairs.co.uk](mailto:info@radiofairs.co.uk)

*NOTE: CATS involvement in this event.*

**19 June 2011**

## **Newbury Radio Rally & Boot Sale**

Newbury Showground, M4 J13.

Open 09:00. Free parking, trade stands, catering, disabled facilities. Contact [rally@nadars.org.uk](mailto:rally@nadars.org.uk)

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

**24 – 26 June 2011**

## **Hamtronic Show, Friedrichshafen**

Messe Friedrichshafen, Germany

[www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/index.php](http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/index.php)

**3 July 2011**

## **Norfolk ARC Barford Radio Rally**

Barford 9 miles SW of Norwich close to A11 and A47

Open 09:00, CP, TI, CBS, B&B, C, TS, RSGB, Demos.

Contact: David G7URP 01953 457322 or

[radio@dcpmicro.com](mailto:radio@dcpmicro.com)

[www.norfolkamateurradio.org](http://www.norfolkamateurradio.org)

**17 July 2011**

## **McMichael Rally & Boot Sale**

Reading Rugby Club off A4 east of Reading

Open 09:30. Parking, trade stands, catering.

Contact [g0jms@radarc.org](mailto:g0jms@radarc.org)

[www.mcmichaelrally.org.uk](http://www.mcmichaelrally.org.uk)

**31 July 2011**

## **Colchester Annual Rally**

St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester.CO3 3LE.

Open 10:00. Parking, Trade Stands, Bring and Buy.

Contact: Brian 01206 822547 or [brianfitz@aspects.net](mailto:brianfitz@aspects.net)

[www.g3co.ccom.co.uk/rally.html](http://www.g3co.ccom.co.uk/rally.html)

**14 August 2011**

## **Flight Refuelling Hamfest**

Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, Nr.

Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3AA

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

**10-11 September 2011**

## **Gatwick Weekend**

Vintage operating group

Contact: Mike, M1CCF: 0208 654 2582 or

[m1ccf@talk.talk.net](mailto:m1ccf@talk.talk.net)

[www.radioclubs.net/m0vog/](http://www.radioclubs.net/m0vog/)

**30 September/ 1 October 2011**

## **National Hamfest**

George Stephenson Pavilion, Newark & Nottingham Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NY. For the latest details and ticket information, visit:

[www.nationalhamfest.org.uk](http://www.nationalhamfest.org.uk)

**11-12 October 2011**

## **EMCUK Exhibition**

### **Newbury Racecourse**

RSGB stand

IEEE demonstration bench

You need to register on line for free tickets at:

[www.emcuk.co.uk](http://www.emcuk.co.uk)

**6 November 2011**

## **West London Radio & Electronics Show**

Kempton Park Racecourse.

Open 10:00. Parking, trade stands, catering, disabled facilities. Contact [info@radiofairs.co.uk](mailto:info@radiofairs.co.uk)

*NOTE: CATS involvement in this event.*

**20 November 2011**

## **CATS 34th Annual Radio and Electronics Bazaar**

1st Coulsdon Scout Group headquarters, Lion Green Road in Coulsdon, Surrey. [Map](#)

Open 10:00 to 13:00

Parking, trade stands, bring and buy, refreshments

Contact: [enquiries@catsradio.org](mailto:enquiries@catsradio.org) or

[www.catsradio.org](http://www.catsradio.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)

Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Kent, 19:30 for 20:00.

18 Jan: AGM

15 Feb: Programme Planning

15 Mar: Low earth orbit satellites

## CPREC (CRYSTAL PALACE)

Website: [www.qsl.net/g30ou/](http://www.qsl.net/g30ou/) or <http://www.g30ou.co.uk/>

Club Net: Wednesdays 20:00 on 145.525 MHz

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill at 19:30

7 Jan – Construction Techniques and Simple Test Gear

4 Feb – AGM and construction contest

4 Mar - TBA

## CRAWLEY ARC

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

Club Nets: Tuesdays 20:00 on 145.550 MHz and Fridays 19:00 on 1.970 MHz

Meetings: Every Wednesday at Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley from 19:30, and Sundays, 10:30 to 13:00.

26 Jan - AGM

## CRAY VALLEY RS

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

Contact: Richard Perzyna, G8ITB (see website)

Club Nets: Wednesdays 21:00 on 145.500/QSY and 22:00 on 3.720 ± QRM, and Sundays 11:00 on 3.720 ± QRM

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at Progress Hall, Admiral Seymour Road, Eltham, SE9 1SL

20 Jan – AGM

3 Feb - History of the Avo meter by G0UKN

17 Feb - Raynet by G6AQP

## DORKING & DISTRICT

Website: <http://www.ddrs.org.uk>

Email: [ddrs.secretary@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ddrs.secretary@yahoo.co.uk)

Contact: David Smith, M0SXD, 07808579501

Club Nets: Sunday 08:15 on 3.770 MHz & Thursday 20:00 on 144.775 MHz

Meetings: Friends Meeting House, Butterhill, South Street Dorking at 19:30.

Jan 25 - AGM

Feb 22 - Raynet - Alan Stuart, G3ZHB

Mar 22 - Home Construction Techniques - Bob Burns G30OU

Apr 26 - PIC Chips - Paul Swarman, G0ODP

May 24 - Personal Challenge evening.

Jun 28 - Electrical Safety - Robin Page-Jones G3JWI

Jul 26 - South Downs evening.

Aug 23 - Social evening.

Sep 27 - The STEPPIR antenna, Rob Barter M0ZAF.

## HORSHAM ARC

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

Club Nets: Saturdays 21:30 on 144.725MHz and Sundays 10:00 on 3.722 MHz

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at The Guide Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex

## MID SUSSEX ARS

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

21 Jan: 50 Years of The Bluebell Railway - G4ZCS

11 Feb: Talk by Graham Sommerville from BHI Ltd

## REIGATE ATS

Website: [www.qsl.net/rats](http://www.qsl.net/rats)

Email: [rats@qsl.net](mailto:rats@qsl.net)

Club Nets: Thursdays 20:00 on 145.500 MHz and Sundays 20:00 on 3.740 – 3.760 MHz

Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at RNIB, Redhill College, Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 19:30

## SRCC

Website: [www.g3src.org.uk](http://www.g3src.org.uk)

Contact: Ray Howells G4FFY 01732 357474

Club Nets: Sunday 09:30 on 1905 kHz

Daily natter channel – 144.215 MHz at 19.30.

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 19:45 for 20:00

10 Jan – The GB3VHF story by Chris Whitmarsh G0FDZ

7 Feb – Vintage Radio Repairing by David Smith, M0SXD

7 Mar – Spring surplus equipment sale

4 Apr - AGM

9 May – Construction Evening

6 Jun - Construction Contest

4 Jul – BBQ

1 Aug – Talk (TBA)

5 Sep – Talk (TBA)

## SUTTON & CHEAM RS

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

Contact: John Puttock G0 BWV 020 8644 9945

Club Nets: Monday 20.00 on 145.500 MHz

Saturday 11.00 on 145.500 MHz

Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at Sutton United Football Club, The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton. 19:30 for 20:00

20 Jan – GB3VHF Story - Chris Whitmarsh G0FDZ

17 Feb – Air Traffic Control - Ross MacDonald (ATC

Watch Manager - Gatwick Airport. NATS Services)

17 Mar – TBC

21 Apr - Simple Junk Box Antennas - Martin Butler

M1MRB & Denis Noe M0NDJ

19 May – AGM

16 Jun - TBC

## WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS

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

Contact: Jim Bell M0CON 020 8874 7456

Club Net: Mondays 20:45 on 145.500 MHz

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> & last Friday of each month at Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park SW20. 19:30 for 20:00

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