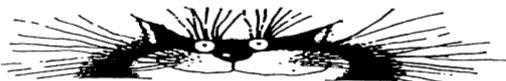


COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY
G4FUR  **M1FUR**
CATS WHISPERS



July 2012

Affiliated to the RSGB

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

Regular Society Meetings

These are held on the second Monday of 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

Email

enquiries@catsradio.org

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday Jul 9th	Natter Night at The Woodman
Monday Aug 13th	CATS Barbecue at G4RWW QTH
Monday Sep 10th	TBA



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

The 2012 CATS DF Hunt

CATS Chairman Glenn G4FVL reports:

"Hi folks, just a few mis-spelled words about a rather wet (Direction Finding) DF hunt on 11th June. Unfortunately there are no photos from me as in the poor weather there was too little light for my little mobile phone camera.

"Our Fox or should I say *Den Leader* was Dennis M0NDJ this year. Dennis managed to set up 3 small synchronized auto transmitters prior to the 19:30 start. These transmitters had ID Tags and sent timed short CW signals throughout the event. Dennis also provided purpose built receivers that worked rather well for a DF on foot.

"On the hound front we had a rag tag bunch consisting of Stuart G6CJR, Ian M3IGP, Alex 2E0FJA, Steve G7SYO and myself. At exactly 19:30 things kicked off - a quick CW learning curve for some perhaps, but by the end of the event we all knew the letters M, O, E, I and S off by heart. The transmitter IDs were MOE, MOI and MOS.



Spot the hidden transmitter? – G7SYO photo

"As normal on these events, the hounds seemed to go off in different directions! I decided to wander off to look for the MOE beacon first keeping an open view on the

whereabouts of the other 2 beacons, which I could swear kept moving!

"As it happened, Alex 2E0FJA was wandering along in my direction so we decided to team up and go for MOE. It was good to have a second opinion, some might say an unfair advantage on the other teams, Team 1 being Steve G7SYO, Team 2 being Ian M3IGP and Team 3 consisting of Stuart G6CJR.



Ian M3IGP and a hidden transmitter – G7SYO photo

"After a while Alex and I noticed some other wet shadowy figures wandering about in the woods so we decided to investigate. We never did find out who it was buzzing about there, but the incident led us to the MOE transmitter hidden in some nearby trees. We rummaged about in a bush below and found our goal: a small square board with a letter printed on it.

"I wrote the code letter on the pre prepared score sheet, taking care to keep it dry in my pocket in the downpour.

"So as Team 4 (Alex and I) seemed to be having some success we set off for the next loudest beacon - MOI. On route to MOI we met some of the other teams, who by this time were wandering in our direction. We gave them some helpful advice on the location of MOE, as they hadn't found it yet.

"For some reason Alex and I became a little confused when looking for MOI, the location

and direction of MOS were in alignment, which meant we made the mistake of thinking the ID tag, was for MOI. Having made the mistake that MOS was MOI we then set off for what we thought was MOS (well that's our excuse and we are sticking to it).

"So here we are getting trench foot in the woods of Old Coulsdon, looking for a box that is sending MOS. No problem - but it seemed to be coming straight through what we thought was MOI. I can feel all of you thinking you could have/did better! Well all I can say is you had to be there, I have a witness and Alex also has one! The seasoned DF team member suggested we needed to get a triangulation for MOS, so we squelched off further down a nice wet leafy footpath in anticipation of nailing MOS. After a while when MOE and MOI had taken all the time in the world - well at least that's what it felt like - MOS started transmitting.

"Well now we start to get great signals almost the same direction as we had come from, both of us started heading back, when off goes MOS for another interval. By the next time MOS transmitted we seemed to be right on top of MOI's location. After a bit of phaffing about we discovered that what we thought was MOI was actually MOS. Alex and I then headed off for what we now knew had to be MOI. We managed to get there just as Denis was taking the beacon down. Not sure if Denis in a bush fiddling with it did or did not give the location away, but we almost got to all three beacons.

"All the teams then assembled in the Bar at the Fox in Old Coulsdon for a well-earned drink, we also met Andy G8JAC, who managed to get over for a beer and post mortem chat. "Although wet I felt it had been an enjoyable event, many thanks to Denis for all of his efforts for the folks that took part. I hope that next time we can persuade Denis to run another on foot DF again, assuming the club has enough support and hopefully better whether Hi!.

"As all teams found two beacons but as no-one managed to find all three, the event was declared a four-way draw.

Next Year

"On the subject of the possibility of a DF next year, I wonder what would encourage more members to attend, eg:

- Saturday/Sunday
- Mornings/Afternoons

- On foot (my personal favourite!)
- Using cars
- Do we go on as we are?
- Do we include a lunch venue if over a Saturday or Sunday?
- Location (I prefer local but that's just my opinion)

"Let me, or any member of the committee know your opinions.

"Many thanks to all the folks that managed to take part or come out for a chat, I hope you enjoyed it, without you these events would not take part.

"Remember if you think you can do better come and prove it, you don't know unless you try."

73

Glenn G4FVL

GB2EGS Special Event Station

On the weekend of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th June a special event station was set up by club members James G0SDB and Graham 2E0XDZ at Osney Lodge Farm, South Godstone, Surrey. The event was the annual camp of East Grinstead and surrounding Scouts.



L-R: James G0SDB, Graham 2E0XDZ and interested onlookers

James applied for the callsign GB2EGS for the long weekend - a first time NoV for him - a remarkably easy internet exercise in itself which resulted in the necessary NoV three

days later. The site was a hillcrest on a rather untamed grassy field, but it proved to be a very useful "RF quiet" site with a lovely view to the south. Various aerals were erected, including a G5RV and two HF vertical "Pro-Whips" and a small beam for VHF.

The idea behind GB2EGS was to demonstrate the station and hobby to interested Scouts who would be able to obtain their Friendship Badges with a QSO. A QSL card had been previously designed by James - it was professionally printed and was available at the time. Many QSL cards were completed for QSOs with stations such as HF2012EFC, VY2MCC, EN2012KWA and others in and around Europe.



To Station	Location : South Godstone,
Confirming QSO on date...../...../2012	Surrey, UK.
Time.....GMT	51.19N 0.06W IO91WH
Frequency.....MHZ	<u>Remarks</u>
Mode.....SSB..FM..CW	
TX/RX.....Power.....Watts	
Antenna.....	
Your signal RST.....	
<u>PSE/TNX QSL RSGB via G0SDB.</u>	
<u>Main Ops Graham 2E0XDZ and</u>	
James G0SDB	Op.....
<u>"GB2 East Grinstead Scouts"</u>	

The QSL card designed by James G0SDB

A copy of each QSL card was provided to interested Scouts and assisted towards their friendship badges.



L-R: Graham 2E0XDZ, James G0SDB, and young assistant

Radio equipment used included a Kenwood TS-570 (for HF and particularly CW - provided by James) and a Yaesu FT-897 (for HF but also VHF- provided by Graham). A separate ICOM HF receiver was provided for Scouts to listen to the world on - and this was very popular. Interestingly, Graham conveyed much of the station to the site in "Alice", a former Southern Television Landrover which

was used in the 50's and 60's as an outside broadcast repeater vehicle. It was specially designed for the purpose and is today converted for use as a caravanette. Kept in its original colours and signage, it was a useful addition to the station and, being four wheel drive, was able to surmount the toughest of field conditions.



"Alice" – see text

The event was a complete success – and James and Graham have been asked to return for the Jamboree on the air event later in the year.

G0KZT Radio Play Day 2012 - Supplementary

Andy G0KZT writes:

"I would like to add my two penny's worth regarding the first ever CATS Playday weekend. My first thoughts are about the weather. It was regrettable to have to postpone the event by a week but how lucky were we with the weather! Blistering hot sun (although a bit windy) which will turn out to be the only sunny weekend probably of the whole summer!



The masts & the operating tent – G0KZT photo

"The site turned out to be a real winner and I hope we can return there in the future. The "take off" was amazing with the South Downs clear to the south and The Chilterns to the north. With no main road nearby we were not overlooked and had the added security of an electric gate on the approach road.



One of the SCAM masts bearing the 2m & 70cm beam & 4m co-linear – G0KZT photo

"I had to make two trips to the site because of the amount of kit I took, both of my own but of the club's too. It was a real sight to see the SCAM12 loaded into my Ford Fiesta, much to the amazement of the guys on site. My thanks go to Stuart for bringing it back for me in his minibus. So much easier!



The main operating tent that doubled for messing – G0KZT photo

"The highlight for me was the operating. We were the cause of several "pile ups" on the Friday and Saturday nights on 2 metres. A CQ at 2152 BST on Friday evening attracted 10 QSOs which could have been a lot more if we had done the "Your 59. Next!" routine. We finished at 2321 BST exhausted!

"The same happened again on the Saturday with a CQs at 1800 BST and 2000 BST yielding 25 QSO's . Operation that night continued until 0040 BST with further operation on 2 metres and 40 metres.



Operating position 1 - Kenwood TS-2000 with rotator controller – G0KZT photo

"So who says that the bands are quiet? But I guess a good site is an added advantage with 59+ signals heard in Lancing with just 10 watts and even fully quietening reports on 4m.

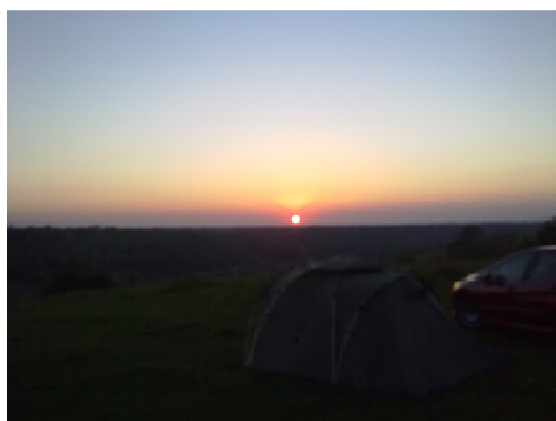
"I had spent a lot of my time rigging and trying to get all the different bands operational. Meanwhile operation continued in G3ZMF's and G0GNQ's tents on 23cms and HF respectively. The site was a real hub of activity!



Operating position 2 – Club IC-706 with 2nd rotator controller – G0KZT photo

"Sunday morning saw operation on 6 metres, 2 metres, 70cms and following the CATS net, 4 metres. Then at around midday on the Sunday the big clear up started, with myself and Glenn G4FVL leaving around at 1430hrs.

"My most memorable contact was with Dean G4ZOI/P on 2 metres on the Saturday night. He was on Fairsnape Fell near Preston Lancashire. Not only was he using just 2.5 watts but he was doing it from the summit 1,706 feet ASL and trying to hold onto his aerial being blown in the wind!



Spectacular sunset on the Saturday night – G0KZT photo

"In my opinion it was a very successful event. I believe those who did manage to get up to the site had an enjoyable time. And for those of you who couldn't join us, I hope you enjoy the reports and photographs of what you missed and, if there is enough interest, we can repeat it next year. I would like to express my thanks to Glenn G4FVL, Andy G8JAC and Stuart G6CJR for joining me to plan the whole thing, without whom it would have never happened!"

73 de Andy G0KZT

CATS July Meeting

It is confirmed that this month's meeting will be held on Monday July 9th at the Woodman pub in Woodmansterne. The pub does a range of typical pub grub at reasonable rates. Further info is available at:

<http://www.thewoodmanbanstead.co.uk/>

Partners are welcome to attend at what is basically an informal social event with no need to book. Start time is 7:30 pm, although there is nothing to stop anyone coming earlier if they so wish.

CATS August Meeting

This will be our annual barbecue again kindly held at the QTH of G4RWW. As usual, this event is open to fully paid up CATS members. You must bring your own drink but the food is free. We look forward to seeing as many members (and partners) as possible on August 13th. All we ask is that you advise Prue or me (secretary@catsradio.org) if you are planning to attend.

We are also looking for a helpers for the barbecue. Again, please contact Prue or me if you are willing to volunteer for this.

CATS September Meeting

TBA

September Hamfest 2012

The National HAMFEST takes place on Friday 28th & Saturday 29th September and is organised by the RSGB in association with the Lincoln Short Wave Club and is being held at the George Stephenson Pavilion, Newark & Nottinghamshire Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NY.

Is there anyone from within CATS who would be interested in going? If so, there could be a small sum of money to be saved with advance tickets. The cost on the day is £4.50, online in advance is £4.00 and if you buy four you get one ticket free!

If there is enough interest, we could co-ordinate some sort of car share. Therefore, if you would like to express an interest in going, please contact Andy G0KZT by 25th July and don't forget to indicate whether you would prefer to go on either the Friday, Saturday or "not fussed"! In the case of car sharing, it would be useful if you could also indicate availability of transport.

CATS Bazaar

A reminder from CATS Chairman Glenn G4FVL that planning for this year's event is now under way. Any CATS members wanting a table at the Bazaar should contact Glenn now to avoid disappointment.

For Sale

Wandsworth amateur Leslie G8JIC/G0TEO has a Yaesu FT225RD 2m multimode for sale. It is working and apparently has good Rx sensitivity and power out, but needs a few calibration tweaks as the digital freq. display is a little out in places. He has been using it with the Tx output set at 20 watts on SSB and FM . It is in reasonable physical condition considering its age. It comes with a mains lead and manual but no 13.8v DC lead. It might be a quick way for a newcomer to get on 2m and Leslie is looking for a token £30 for it.

If interested, please contact Leslie via email at leslie@labaker.net or by phone (0207 877 9442 / 0789 69 59 389.)

Contests Coming Soon

Jul 7-8: VHF NFD
Jul 8: Third 144 MHz Backpackers
Jul 22: 70 MHz Trophy Contest
Jul 22: Low Power Contest
Jul 28-29: IOTA Contest
Aug 4: Fourth 144 MHz Backpackers
Aug 4: 144 MHz Low Power Contest
Aug 5: 432 MHz Low Power Contest
Aug 5: RoPoCo CW
Aug 12: 70 MHz Cumulative #5
Sep 1-2: 144 MHz Trophy Contest
Sep 1-2: SSB Field Day (*note that CATS members are welcome to attend the SCRS field day if they so wish.*)
Sep 2: Fifth 144 MHz Backpackers
Sep 9: Second 70 MHz Contest
Oct 6: 1.2 GHz Trophy/ 2.3 GHz Trophy
Oct 6-7: 432 MHz – 248 GHz IARU
Oct 7: 21/28 MHz Contest
Oct 21: Second 50 MHz Contest
Nov 3-4: 144 MHz CW Marconi
Nov 10: Club Calls Contest
Nov 17-18: Second 1.8 MHz Contest
Dec 2: 144 MHz Affiliated Societies Contest
Dec 26-29: 50/70/144/432 MHz Christmas Cumulatives Contest

Local Rallies & Events

15 July 2012

McMichael Rally & Boot Sale

Reading Rugby Club Holme Park Farm Lane, Sonning Lane (B4446), Sonning on Thames, Reading. RG4 6ST off A4 east of Reading
Open 09:30. Parking, trade stands, catering.
Contact: Pete G8FRC 01189 695 697
www.mcmichaelrally.org.uk

12 August 2012

Flight Refuelling Hamfest

Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, Nr. Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3AA
Open 10:00
Further information: www.frars.org.uk
hamfest@frars.org.uk

26 August 2012

Milton Keynes 52nd Amateur Radio Society Rally

Bletchley Park, Sherwood Drive,, Bletchley MK3 6EB
Open 09:30 trade stands, catering
Entry £2.
Contact: Steve 07866 673192 or
www.mkars.org.uk

14-16 September 2012

Amsat Colloquium

Holiday Inn Guildford GU2 7XZ
Networking
Speakers
Gala dinner
www.uk.amsat.org/colloquium/twelve/

28/29 September 2012

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

12/14 October RSGB Convention

Horwood House, Little Horwood, near Milton Keynes
Convention and lectures
www.rsgb.org/rsgbconvention

11 November 2012

West London Radio & Electronics Show

Kempton Park Racecourse.
Open 10:00. Parking, trade stands, catering, disabled facilities. Contact info@radiofairs.co.uk
NOTE: CATS involvement in this event. The CATS bring and buy sale is a permanent feature of this rally.
www.radiofairs.co.uk

25 November 2012

CATS 35th Annual Radio and Electronics Bazaar

Provisional arrangements as follows:
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 or
www.catsradio.org

3 February 2013

27th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally

'The Paddocks', Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 0JA
Open 10:30
Parking, Catering, Disabled Facilities, Trade Stands
Major Amateur Radio and Electronic component exhibitors Selling New and S/Hand equipment .
Freshly made refreshments. (And by popular demand the famous Canvey Radio Rally Bacon Rolls are back on the Menu).
Free car parking with space outside main doors for disabled visitors
Contact: Dave, G4UVJ, 01268 697978 (evenings)
rally@southessex-ars.co.uk
www.southessex-ars.co.uk

Other Club News & Contact Information

BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.bdars.org.uk/

Email: info@bdars.co.uk

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

17 Jul - New Amateurs Operating by G8MNY & G8ITB

21 Aug - BBQ and Operating Evening

18 Sep - Digital Amateur TV by Justin G8YTZ

16 Oct - Construction Contest

CPREC (CRYSTAL PALACE)

Website: www.qsl.net/g3oou/ or <http://www.g3oou.co.uk/>

Club Net: Wednesdays 20:00 on 145.525 MHz

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

6 Jul - bhi DSP Noise Cancellation by Graham of bhi

3 Aug - Summer Social

7 Sep - An evening of short talks

5 Oct - The GB3VHF Beacon Project by Chris G0FDZ

CRAWLEY ARC

Website: 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.

18 Jul - HARC/CARC Challenge.

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: 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: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at Progress Hall, Admiral Seymour Road, Eltham, SE9 1SL

5 Jul - 2012L countdown by M0MCV

DORKING & DISTRICT

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

Email: ddrs.secretary@yahoo.co.uk

Contact: George Brind, G4CMU

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.

24 Jul - Transmitting from the Devil's Dyke

28 Aug - The fish and chip supper

25 Sep - The Sun and HF radio propagation. Dr Colin Forsyth (MSSL)

23 Oct - Receiver architectures and assessment of their performance. Peter Hart G3SJX

HORSHAM ARC

Website: www.harc.org.uk

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

Meetings: 1st Thursday at The Guide Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex

5 Jul - Photo Quiz - G4LRP (provisional)

2 Aug - TBA

6 Sep - Frequency Standards by Tony G3NPF

4 Oct - Junk Sale

MID SUSSEX ARS

Website: 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

6 Jul - NFD Preparation

3 Aug - Radio Night and table top sale

7 Sep - Talk by Sussex Lowland Search and Rescue Team

5 Oct - Radio night and post event equipment testing

REIGATE ATS

Website: www.qsl.net/rats

Email: rats@qsl.net

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

Meetings: 3rd Thursday at RNIB, Redhill College, Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 19:30

SRCC

Website: www.g3src.org.uk

Contact: John Kennedy G3MCX, 020 8688 3322

Club Nets: Sunday 09:30 on 1905 kHz

Daily natter channel – 144.215 MHz at 19:30.

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

2 Jul - Barbecue

6 Aug - Talk (TBA)

3 Sep - Talk (TBA)

1 Oct - Autumn Surplus Sale

SUTTON & CHEAM RS

Website: 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: 3rd Thursday at Sutton United Football Club, The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton. 19:30 for 20:00

19 Jul - Early TV Receivers by Stephen Niechcial

16 Aug - TBA

20 Sep - TBA

18 Oct - Radio From The Falklands – VP8 by Roger Eeles G0SWC / VP8DBR

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.gx3wim.org.uk (currently unavailable)

Contact: Jim Bell M0CON 020 8874 7456

Club Net: Mondays 20:45 on 145.500 MHz

Meetings: 2nd & last Friday of each month at

Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, Merton

13 Jul - On Air with Kenwood's TS-870

(Final meeting for the summer)

27 Jul - Start of Summer Camp

3 Aug - Camp BBQ

5 Aug - Final Day of Summer Camp

14 Sep - Summer Camp Retrospective

28 Sep - Australian Radio Evening - Dick Shanahan

12 Oct - On The Air

26 Oct - AGM

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