

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY  
**G4FUR**  **M1FUR**

# CATS WHISPERS



February  
2014



Affiliated to the RSGB

## **CATS Committee**

Chairman: Stuart Barber, G6CJR  
Secretary: Steve Beal, G3WZK  
Treasurer: Steve Conway, G7SYO  
Members: Glenn Rankin, G4FVL  
Andy Briers G0KZT  
Dennis Noe, M0NDJ  
Vacancy

**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 of each month at:  
St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 4LA at 20:15 to 22:15

## **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 Feb 10 Talk on GB3NS by Denis G0OLX  
Monday Mar 10 Talk on the Raspberry Pi by Chris Howard 2E0CTH  
Monday Apr 14 Talk "Bill Basie and the Sky Waves" by Colin G3YCR



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

## **CATS January Meeting: 2014 Annual Dinner**

The Fox Public House on Coulsdon Common, was the venue for the 2014 CATS Annual Dinner. A total of 18 members and partners attended. A selection of photos follows.



Ian M3IGP and Carol



L-R: Deanne and Janice



L-R: Steve G7SYO, Wendy and Jim G4WYJ



L-R: Stuart G6CJR and Andy G0KZT



Steve G3WZK and Jenny

## **CATS February Meeting**

This will be a talk about the GB3NS repeater by Denis Stanton G0OLX. The date for your diaries is 10th February 2014.

## **CATS March Meeting**

This will be a talk about the raspberry Pi by Chris Howard 2E0CTH. The date for your diaries is 10th March 2014.

## **CATS April Meeting**

This will be a talk entitled "Bill Basie and the Sky Waves" by CATS member Colin G3YCR. Colin says, "No, this isn't about the latest boy band, but is the story of how one of America's

greatest big bands and its leader were discovered because of ionospheric propagation.”

This talk will include a number of recordings that uniquely combine two of Colin’s great interests: Jazz and Radio.

The date for your diaries is 14th April 2014.

## **CATS May Meeting**

In May, Mike Parkin returns to CATS to present another of his fascinating talks. This time the subject will be Propagation. It’ll cover both Tropo’ Propagation as well as Skywave Propagation with everything you need to know about 'A' factors, 'K' values and sunspot counts. Mike also plans to include a picture or two of sunspots as observed from his back garden.

The date for your diaries is May 12<sup>th</sup> 2014.

## **Kempton Park April Rally**

This year’s rallies take place on 13th April and 9th November, and CATS will, as usual, be providing our ever-popular Bring and Buy stand. CATS members willing to help run the stand should contact Graham 2E0XDZ or any CATS Committee member with offers of assistance.

## **CATS Subscriptions For 2014**

It was announced at the CATS AGM on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 that CATS subscriptions for 2014 will be £12, or £6 for concessions. Payment was due on 1st January 2014 and 23 people have paid so far. Members are politely reminded of Rule 21.3 which states that "Memberships not renewed by the end of February shall lapse with effect from 1st March."

The preferred method of paying subscriptions is by bank transfer to the CATS bank account, details of which have been emailed to all members. Alternatively, cheques may be sent to the Treasurer, Mr S Conway, 3 Greenhayes Avenue, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 2JF. Cheques should be made payable to "Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society."

## **Radio Play Weekend 2014**

Following responses received from members, the Committee have decided to run another Radio Play Weekend in 2014, probably at the Caterham site. It will take place over the first full weekend in August (Friday to Sunday). This will enable participation in the low power 2m/ 70 cm contest for those interested in radio sport but it is planned that the event will also include facilities for enjoying other aspects of the hobby such as HF.

The dates for your diaries are August 1st to August 3rd 2014.

## **Useful Links**

Mike M1CCF has kindly sent CATS Whispers the following. He writes:

“If Marconi history appeals to you have a look at <http://www.marconicalling.co.uk/> an on-line museum created by Marconi plc in 1999.

“Many physical artefacts in the Marconi Collection are now held at Balliol College, Oxford. They were originally displayed in Chelmsford but with the demise of GEC and Marconi the collection was donated to Oxford University for cataloguing and safe keeping.

“The material on view in “Marconi Calling” is therefore only part of the overall archive and includes many thousands of documents and over 250 artefacts. Marconi planned to transfer ownership and management of its unique collection to a trust whose functions would include consideration of requests for the loan of artefacts and other material for exhibitions, however this did not happen due to the demise of GEC and Marconi.

“There is, however, a collection of other Marconi artefacts displayed in a local museum at Sandford Mill, Chelmsford. See below.

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/sandfordmill/sandford/sandford.htm>

“This link shows a few of the items held by the Museums Department of Chelmsford City Council at their Museum of Industrial Archeology, Sandford Mill, Chelmsford. Exhibits have been donated by Marconi Communications, Marconi Radar and Marconi International Marine which were based in Chelmsford, by former employees of these

organisations, and by former Radio Officers. The display of items continues to be gradually improved. Sandford Mill is not a fully developed museum and is partly used as an equipment holding area. It is also used to teach science to local schools and as such is open to the public for only a few days each year. Five complete ship's radio rooms from five different decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are now on display having been created by the Friends of Chelmsford Museums.

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/sandfordmill/science-2013/science-2013.htm>

“The above link relates to Science Discovery Day at the Sandford Mill Museum, Chelmsford last September, when a privately-owned set of military vehicles containing army communications equipment was on display, plus amateur radio operations by Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.



Equipment on display from The Chelmsford Science & Industry Museum at Sandford Mill in September 2013 to promote Science & Discovery Day



More Military Radios on display at Sandford Mill - note the Marconi 1155 Rx and HRO

“Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society operate from Sandford Mill on each open day, so this is

an opportunity for an interesting day out. The planned open days for 2014 are:

Saturday, 26 April 2014: see [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/sandfordmill](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/sandfordmill) and follow *Marconi Day* link from 10am to 5pm

Sunday, 3rd August 2014 commemorating the “UK entering WW1” 2-5pm

Sunday Afternoons, 10th, 17th and 24th August 2014 2-5pm

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September: Science Discovery Day (date to be confirmed)

“See <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/future-meetings/index.htm> for latest information.

“Has anybody in VMARS visited this? It might be good for a day out, perhaps as Chelmsford is also not a bad place, as I recall.

“Sandford Mill is on Sandford Mill Road, off Chelmer Village Way, Chelmer Village, Chelmsford, CM2 6NY. Tel. 01245 475498.



Marconi QSL Card

“All pictures are provided by Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society at [www.g0mwt.org.uk](http://www.g0mwt.org.uk) and reproduced with their permission.”

Mike  
M1CCF

## Also from M1CCF

“A Spanish translation of one of Racal's technical manuals had some astonishing errors. In the list of test equipment one of the items was "magneto metro remolcado por avión, modelo 43". This translates to "magnetometer towed by an aircraft, model 43".

“Initially puzzled, I wondered how the translator

had arrived at that. After quite a bit of thought I remembered that a magnetometer which is towed by a ship is sometimes called, by the Americans at least, a "fish", and that they might therefore call one towed by an aircraft a "bird".

"That turned out to be correct. The instrument was actually a Bird directional power meter (their ThruLine), model 43.



The Bird Model 43 N

"Well, now you know!"

## 2013 UK Activity Contest Results – A CATS Perspective

A spin off from the activity contests that take place on most Tuesday evenings is that individual efforts also count towards a club score.

Pos.	Call	50 MHz	70 MHz	144 MHz	432 MHz	1296 MHz	Total
154	G0KZT	251		335	285		871
278	G4DFA					270	270
443	G3ZMF					56	56
445	G8AAI					55	55
488	G3WZK			28			28

Out of 104 clubs that were represented, CATS came a respectable 44th. If we were to use the individual efforts for our own little competition, the table above shows what it might look like. I would like to express my thanks to Tom G4DFA, Frank G3ZMF, Mike G8AAI and Steve

G3WZK for taking the time to take part and for submitting their entries to the VHF Contest Committee.

How will we fair is 2014? Why not have a go?

73 de Andy G0KZT

## Contests Coming Soon

<u>Tuesday Activity Activity Contests 2014 – all begin at 8pm local time</u>	
Feb 4	2 metres
Feb 11	70 cm
Feb 18	23 cm
Feb 25	6 metres
Mar 4	2 metres
Mar 11	70 cm
Mar 18	23 cm
Mar 15	6 metres

### Other Contests

Feb 2: 432MHz AFS  
 Feb 3: 80m CC SSB  
 Feb 8/9: 1st 1.8MHz Contest  
 Feb 12: 80m CC DATA  
 Feb 20: 80m CC CW  
 Feb 23: 70MHz Cumulatives #1  
 Mar 1/2 : March 144 432MHz  
 Mar 3: 80m CC DATA  
 Mar 8/9: Commonwealth Contest  
 Mar 9: 70MHz Cumulatives #2  
 Mar 12: 80m CC CW  
 Mar 20: 80m CC SSB  
 Apr 6: First 70MHz Contest  
 Apr 6: RoPoCo SSB  
 Apr 7: 80m CC CW  
 Apr 13: First 50MHz Contest  
 Apr 16: 80m CC SSB  
 Apr 24: 80m CC DATA  
 May 3/4: May 432MHz-248GHz Contest  
 May 3: 432MHz Trophy Contest  
 May 3: 10GHz Trophy Contest  
 May 5: 80m CC SSB  
 May 11: 70MHz Contest CW  
 May 14: 80m CC DATA  
 May 18: 1st 144MHz Backpackers  
 May 22: 80m CC CW  
 May 25: 70MHz Cumulatives #3  
 Jun 2: 80m CC DATA  
 Jun 7/8: NFD  
 Jun 8: 2nd 144MHz Backpackers  
 Jun 11: 80m CC CW  
 Jun 19: 80m CC SSB  
 Jun 21/22: 50MHz Trophy Contest  
 Jun 29: 50MHz Contest CW

Jun 29: 70MHz Cumulatives #4  
 Jul 5/6: VHF NFD  
 Jul 6: 3rd 144MHz Backpackers  
 Jul 7: 80m CC CW  
 Jul 16: 80m CC SSB  
 Jul 20: 70MHz Trophy Contest  
 Jul 20: Low Power Contest  
 Jul 24: 80m CC DATA  
 Jul 26/27: IOTA Contest  
 Aug 2: 144MHz Low Power Contest  
 Aug 2: 4th 144MHz Backpackers  
 Aug 3: 432MHz Low Power Contest  
 Aug 3: RoPoCo CW  
 Aug 10: 70MHz Cumulatives #5  
 Aug 13: 80m Club Sprint CW  
 Aug 28: 80m Club Sprint SSB  
 Sep 6/7: 144MHz Trophy Contest  
 Sep 6/7: SSB Field Day  
 Sep 7: 5th 144MHz Backpackers  
 Sep 10: 80m Club Sprint SSB  
 Sep 21: Second 70MHz Contest  
 Sep 25: 80m Club Sprint CW

## **Local Rallies & Events**

**2 February 2014**

### **29th Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally**

The Paddocks Community Centre, 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: Vic Rogers G6BHE Tel 01702 308562

[NVR@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:NVR@blueyonder.co.uk)

[www.southessex-ars.co.uk/canveyrally.html](http://www.southessex-ars.co.uk/canveyrally.html)

**9 February 2014**

### **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. Entrance £2.50.

Open 10:00 to 15:00.

Contact: Ann Stevens 01235 816379 or

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

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

**23 February 2014**

### **Rainham Radio Rally**

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

Opens 10:00,

Talk in on 2metres using G0BRC.

RSGB RAIBC RSARS RNARS Peter Weatherall / QRP club, Clifton ARS contest Group

Traders incl Sycom

Contact Trevor, G6LYW, 07717 678795 or

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

[www.brats-qth.org](http://www.brats-qth.org)

**16 March 2014**

### **Dover Radio Rally**

Location: Whitfield Village Hall

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

**13 April 2014**

### **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. The CATS bring and buy sale is a permanent feature of this rally.*

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

**15 June 2014**

### **27<sup>th</sup> Newbury Radio Rally & Boot Sale**

Newbury Showground, M4 J13.

The Rally takes place at one of the biggest showgrounds in the south of England.

Newbury Showground is located right next to junction 13 of the M4 Motorway.

Nearest Post Code: RG18 9BB

Open 09:00. Free parking, trade stands, catering, disabled facilities.

Contact [rally@nadars.org.uk](mailto:rally@nadars.org.uk)

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

**27-29 June 2014**

### **39<sup>th</sup> Hamtronic Show, Friedrichshafen**

Messe Friedrichshafen, Germany

Open 09:00 each day

- 63rd DARC Lake Constance Meeting
- with lectures and meetings
- HAM RALLYE - Friday and Saturday
- HAM tent camp
- HAM NIGHT - Saturday

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

**6 July 2014**

### **Norfolk ARC Barford Radio Rally**

Barford Village Hall

Barford 9 miles SW of Norwich close to A11 and A47

Open 09:00 (traders from 8am), CP, TI, CBS, B&B, C, TS, RSGB Bookstall, Demos.

Contact: David G7URP 01953 457322 or

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

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

**13 July 2014**

### **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.

Large Boot Sale on Level Site

Big Boot Sale Pitches

Special Interest Groups - Special Interests McMichael Radio Owners

Computer Equipment

Demonstrations & Lecture

Catering Services

Barbecue (weather dependant)

Fully Licensed Bar

Plenty of Parking Areas with Disabled special parking on level ground.

Easy access from Reading & A4, A329(M) and M4

First Aid Post

Talk in Station on VHF

Parking, trade stands, catering.

Contact: Pete G8FRC 01189 695 697

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

**25-27 July 2014**

**Amsat Colloquium**

Holiday Inn Guildford GU2 7XZ

Networking

Speakers

Gala dinner

[www.amsat-uk.org/colloquium/colloquium-2014/](http://www.amsat-uk.org/colloquium/colloquium-2014/)

**9 November 2014**

**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. The CATS bring and buy sale is a permanent feature of this rally.*

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

**23 November 2014**

**CATS 37th 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](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:** [info@bdars.co.uk](mailto:info@bdars.co.uk)

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

**18 Feb** - Operating Etiquette - group discussion on what it means and what people do

**18 Mar** - Foundation level mentoring - Q&A session on any topic, open to all.

### **CPREC (CRYSTAL PALACE)**

**Website:** [www.qsl.net/g3oou/](http://www.qsl.net/g3oou/) or <http://www.g3oou.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 Feb** – AGM and construction contest

**7 Mar** - Small Aerials in Difficult Locations –

Professor Mike Underhill G3LHZ

**4 Apr** – TBA

**2 May** – How valves work by David Smith

### **DORKING & DISTRICT**

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

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

**25 Feb** - An introduction to data modes Andrew M0GJH

**25 Mar** - History of UK FM broadcasting - Tony Davies

**22 Apr** - Club evening at Martin Lynch (7 - 9pm)

**27 May** - A practical evening (3 activities)

**24 Jun** - ATV Noel Matthews G8GTZ

**22 Jul** - South Downs evening

### **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

**6 Feb** - Radio in the Sky - G8CKT

**6 Mar** - Junk Sale

**3 Apr** - Titan Missiles, A DVD presentation by Phil, G4UDU

**1 May** - Concorde - Jock Reid

**2-6 May** - HARC - French/Belgian Weekend -TBA

**29 May** - Thursday Evening Fox Hunt - G4LRP

**5 Jun** - An Update on Antennas Small and Large - Prof. Mike Underhill, G3LHZ

**3 Jul** - How Not to Do It! - John Narborough

**17 Jul** - Thursday Evening Fox Hunt

**7 Aug** - Tony Crake - BBC Outside Broadcasts Part 3

### **SRCC**

**Website:** [www.g3src.org.uk](http://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:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 19:45 for 20:00

**3 Feb** - Noise Cancellation - Graham Somerville, M3ZGS

**3 Mar** - Surplus equipment sale

**7 Apr** – AGM

**12 May** – DIY Solar Hot Water by Les G7VML

**2 Jun** – Understanding the G5RV by Alton

Antenna Arrays

**7 Jul** – BBQ

**4 Aug** – The Crystal Palace Story 1851 - 1936

### **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 Feb** – FUNcube by Satellite Project by David M0MRP

**20 Mar** – ALMA by Neil Phillipson of Astronomia

**17 Apr** – TBC

**15 May** – AGM and constructional contest

### **WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS**

**Website:** [www.gx3wim.org.uk](http://www.gx3wim.org.uk) (currently unavailable also checked 28.10.13))

**Contact:** Andrew Maish G4ADM

020 8335 3434

andrew.maish ATntlworld.com

**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

**14 Feb** - Antenna Forum - Eric Masters G0KRT

**28 Feb** - VHF Field Day Then & Now - Jim Gale G4WYJ

**14 Mar** - Direction Finding - Dennis Noe M0NDJ

**28 Mar** - Construction Evening

**11 Apr** - Shack Layout Discussion - Mary 2E0FMM

**25 Apr** - Surplus Sale

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