

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



June 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

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 **Email** enquiries@catsradio.org

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday June 9 Direction Finding Hunt by M0NDJ
Monday July 14 TxFactor
Monday August 11 Barbecue at G4RWW QTH



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

CATS May Meeting

On May 12th, Mike Parkin returned to take the assembled CATS members on his own version of "The Journey To The Heaviside Layer"* , as he presented another of his fascinating talks, this time on the subject of "Propagation," which he covered as follows:

1. Basic Theory.
 2. Ground Wave Propagation.
 3. Sky Wave Propagation.
 4. Space Wave Propagation.
 5. Summary and Q&A Session.
- Annex 1: Ionosphere Height Calculation

He described the components of Ground Wave propagation (Space Waves and Surface Waves) before moving on to the intricacies of Sky Wave propagation including a detailed breakdown of the various layers of the ionosphere including D, E (previously called the Heaviside Layer), F1 and F2.

Amazingly it turns out that the International Space Station (ISS) flies continuously in the F2 layer, some 350 km above the earth. The normal altitude of the Space Shuttle at 600 km was above the F2 except when visiting the ISS, of course.



Mike Parkin G0JMI

Mike then introduced the term "Critical Frequency (Fc) " which refers to the highest RF signal that is returned from the ionosphere back to the Earth's surface when the radiated signal is at 90 degrees to the Earth's surface. He explained that the Critical Frequency varies with time of day, is usually different each day and depends on the level of ionisation within the ionosphere, and that when the signal is above Fc then the signal escapes into space.

I think it would be fair to say that Mike covered his topic very comprehensively indeed. The presentation was fully supported with well-designed slides that explained difficult topics in an easy-to-understand way, without any dumbing-down. A full set of Mike's slides was emailed to CATS members on 13th May.

* Editor's Note: "*The Journey To The Heaviside Layer*" is a song from Andrew Lloyd Webber's appropriately-titled eighties musical *Cats*.

CATS June Meeting

The 2014 CATS Annual DF Hunt will take place again in the general area of Coulsdon Common. The meeting point is The Fox public house and the event is planned to start at 7:30pm, to take advantage of the evening light. Full details have been sent by email to all CATS members.

The date for your diaries is June 9th 2014.

CATS July Meeting

This will feature the "TxFactor" which has been billed as the UK's first TV show dedicated entirely to amateur radio

The date for your diaries is July 14th 2014.

CATS August Meeting

This will be the customary barbecue and, once again, Prue G4RWW has kindly agreed to host this event. Further details will be sent to CATS members nearer the time.

The date for your diaries is August 11th 2014.

2014 Play Weekend by Andy G0KZT

Date -: Friday 1st August to Sunday 3rd August
Time -: 0900 until 1600hrs each day
Place -: Paddock Wood Farm near Caterham

The site has been booked and I am currently planning the activities that we could undertake from this wonderful vantage point with clear view towards both the South Downs and the London Basin.

Next month's newsletter will have the final details. In the meantime, get in touch with myself or any of the Committee members with your interest, ideas and views.

73 de Andy G0KZT

For Sale

Frank G3ZMF has two 70cm Slim Jim antennas, each with a 3 metre feed, BNC plug and individual VSWR chart. £20 each. Text him on 07588 330 621 or call via GB3NS.

Other Summer 2014 Events For CATS

This summer CATS will be supporting two public events in the local area. The first is on Sunday June 15th and is the Kenley Heritage Day which will take place on the airfield at Kenley. The radio element is being organised by John Stockley G8MNY, but CATS have been asked to help – primarily with operating.

The event is open to the public from 10:00 to 16:00 with access available to people setting up from 08:00. Please contact G6CJR if you are interested in helping at this event.

The other event is on July 5th and is being organised by the Rotary Club at Grange Park, Old Coulsdon. It will be open to the public from 12:30 to 16:00. The CATS contribution is being organised by G0KZT – please contact him with all offers of support.

Contact information for both G0KZT and G6CJR appears on the first page of this issue of *CATS Whispers*.

Contests Coming Soon

<u>Tuesday Activity Activity Contests 2014 – all begin at 8pm local time</u>	
Jun 3	2 metres
Jun 10	70 cm
Jun 17	23 cm
Jun 24	6 metres
Jul 1	2 metres
Jul 8	70 cm
Jul 15	23 cm
Jul 22	6 metres

Jul 29	4 metres
Aug 5	2 metres
Aug 12	70 cm
Aug 19	23 cm
Aug 26	6 metres
Sep 2	2 metres
Sep 9	70 cm
Sep 16	23 cm
Sep 23	6 metres
Sep 30	4 metres
Oct 7	2 metres
Oct 14	70 cm
Oct 21	23 cm
Oct 28	6 metres
Nov 4	2 metres
Nov 11	70 cm
Nov 18	23 cm
Nov 25	6 metres
Dec 2	2 metres
Dec 9	70 cm
Dec 16	23 cm
Dec 26	Christmas Cumulatives: 70cm, 2 metres, 4 metres, 6 metres
Dec 27	70 cm
Dec 28	23 cm
Dec 29	6 metres

Other Contests

2014

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
Oct 4: 1.2GHz Trophy / 2.3GHz Trophy
Oct 4/5: Oct 432MHz-248GHz Contest
Oct 5: 21/28MHz Contest
Oct 8: 80m Club Sprint CW
Oct 29: 50MHz AFS Contest
Oct 23: 80m Club Sprint SSB
Nov 1/2: 144MHz CW Marconi
Nov 8: Club Calls (1.8MHz AFS)
Nov 12: 80m Club Sprint SSB
Nov 15/16: 2nd 1.8MHz Contest
Nov 27: 80m Club Sprint CW
Dec 7: 144MHz AFS

Local Rallies & Events

15 June 2014

27th 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
www.nadars.org.uk/

22 June 2014

East Suffolk Wireless Revival

The Ipswich Radio Rally
Orwell Crossing Lorry Park
A14 Eastbound, Nacton
Ipswich, Suffolk IP10 0DD
Open 09:30
Car Boot Sale, Bring & Buy Sale, Special Interest Radio Groups, Local Radio Clubs, RSGB Bookstall, UK Microwave Group, Vintage & Military ARS
Live Radio Demonstrations, Excellent Food and Facilities, Easy Parking, GB4SWR - HF Radio Station GB4SWR -
Talk-in on 145.550MHz
Contact Steve, M1ACB 07711-329624

www.eswr.org.uk

27-29 June 2014

39th 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

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
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
Special Interest Groups - McMichael Radio Owners
Computer Equipment
Demonstrations & Lecture
Barbecue (weather dependant)
Fully Licensed Bar
Plenty of Parking Areas with Disabled special parking on level ground.
Talk in Station on VHF
Parking, trade stands, catering.
Contact: Pete G8FRC 01189 695 697
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/

10 August 2014

Flight Refuelling Hamfest

Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, Nr. Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3AA
Open 10:00
Large marquees
Radio, computing, and electronics traders
Also art and craft stalls.
Car boot sale.
Ample free parking
Food and Drink, Licensed bar
Overnight On-site Camping
Talk-In on 145.550MHz FM
Entrance Fees Adults £3.50 Under 14's free
Contact: 07773 157356 (eves only)
hamfest@frars.org.uk
Further information: www.frars.org.uk

24 August 2014 NEW LOCATION

Milton Keynes 53rd Amateur Radio Society Rally

Longueville Hall, Hammond Park, Whaddon Road
Newton Longville, Milton Keynes MK17 0AT
Free on-site parking
Large indoor space
Dogs allowed
Inside catering, Bar
Car boot area
Large outdoor space
Toilets/shower area
Open 09:30
Entry £2.
Contact: Steve 07866 673192 or
www.mkars.org.uk

26-27 September 2014

National Hamfest

Open 10:00 to 16:00.
George Stephenson Pavilion, Newark & Nottingham Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NY.
Hosted by Lincoln Short Wave Club, sponsored by RSGB
Flea market
Traders
Bring and Buy
For the latest details and ticket information, visit:
www.nationalhamfest.org.uk

10-12 October RSGB 2014 Convention

Kents Hill Conference Centre in Milton Keynes
<http://rsgb.org/main/about-us/rsgb-centenary-convention/>

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

NOTE: CATS involvement in this event. The CATS bring and buy sale is a permanent feature of this rally.

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 or

www.catsradio.org

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 - DF Hunt

15 Jul - Intermediate level mentoring - Q&A session

19 Aug - Summer BBQ and social

16 Sep - Club project 2 - live experiments in digital modes, bring radio, dummy load and laptop (if you have one)

21 Oct - Advanced level mentoring - Q&A on any topic

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 Jun - SDR by Professor Norman Billington

How valves work by David Smith

4 Jul - TBA

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvr.org

Contact: Lawrie Atkinson G4FAA. (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 1st Royal Eltham Scouts HQ, Rear of 61 - 71 Southend Crescent, Eltham, London, SE9 2SD.

5 Jun - Bee keeping

3 Jul - Kite Antennas

17 Jul - Annual BBQ

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 Jun - ATV Noel Matthews G8GTZ

22 Jul - South Downs evening

TBD Aug - Social evening

23 Sep - Magnetic radio receiver Peter Smith G4JNU

28 Oct - How to build a 4 square antenna Garth Swanson G3NPC

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 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

4 Sep - Quiz Night! - G8CKT

2 Oct - Junk Sale

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

16 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

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 Jun - Introduction to Data Modes by Andrew MØGHJ

17 Jul - Automotive LED Technology by Steve G6ALU

21 Aug - The Role of Radio Amateurs during World War One' by Dr Elizabeth Bruton

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS

Contact: Andrew Maish G4ADM

020 8335 3434

andrew.maish@ATntlworld.com

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 Jun - Talk and demonstration of the R210 and RBZ

receivers by Len Stuart and Dick Shanahan

27 Jun - WDARS talk to Merton U3A about Amateur Radio 2014

11 Jul - Summer camp preparation evening

25 Jul - Summer camp starts 3rd August

8 Aug - No meeting

29 Aug - No meeting

12 Sep - Summer Camp Debrief

31 Oct - AGM

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