

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



January 2015



Affiliated to the RSGB

CATS Committee

Chairman: Stuart Barber, G6CJR
Secretary: Mike Buckley, M1CCF
Treasurer: Steve Conway, G7SYO
Members: Steve Beal, G3WZK
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 January 12 CATS New Year Dinner
Monday February 9 "A 21MHz 4-square beam" by Garth Swanson G3NPC
Monday March 9 "FunCube and Saudi Sat" by Mike G0JMI



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

CATS December Meeting **Annual General Meeting**

The December meeting, as usual, was devoted to the Annual General Meeting. A total of nineteen members, up from fifteen the previous year, turned out for the event.



CATS members wait for the AGM to start



CATS members Colin G3YCR and Martin G4GFI wait for the AGM to start

CATS Chairman Stuart G6CJR opened the meeting and gave his view of the Society's past year, including membership and past/proposed activities.

CATS Secretary Steve G3WZK then delivered his report on the Society's year 2014, detailing membership figures, attendances at meetings and events, society activities, contest activities, and the work of the committee in managing the society's affairs.

The current membership is 38 compared with 34 at the end of 2013.

CATS Treasurer Steve G7SYO then presented the Society's audited accounts for the year

ended 31 October 2014, which showed a healthy surplus.

In the Committee elections, the six nominations matched the posts available but the seventh post was unfilled. The 2013 Treasurer was re-elected for 2014 and Mike M1CCF joined the Committee as Secretary. (New details as on page one of this issue of *CATS Whispers*.)

There was then a break for refreshments – including mince pies and wine - followed by announcement of the Chairman for 2015 (Stuart G6CJR) and Any Other Business. In his closing remarks, Steve G3WZK thanked G4FVL (who was leaving the Committee) for his work on the Committee over the past few years including a spell as Chairman.



The 2015 CATS Committee. L-R: Denis M0NDJ, Steve G7SYO (Treasurer), Steve G3WZK, Stuart G6CJR (Chairman), Mike M1CCF (Secretary), Andy G0KZT

A full, detailed, set of minutes has been sent to CATS members.

A further selection of photos follows.



Andy G0KZT used this mode of transport to get to the AGM



L-R: Steve G3WZK and Andy G0KZT prepare refreshments

CATS 2015 New Year Dinner

The CATS New Year Dinner for 2015 will be at a new location. Previously called "The Plough, Bletchingley" the venue re-opened under new management and with a new name on 20th November. It is now called "The Bletchingley Arms" and is located on the A22, on the right hand side of the road as you travel from Godstone to Redhill. It is the first pub you encounter on reaching Bletchingley.

Full details have been sent to all CATS members.

The date for your diaries is January 12th 2015.

CATS February Meeting

At this meeting Garth Swanson G3NPC of the Dorking club will talk about "The realisation of a 21MHz 4-square beam - about its practicalities, a bit about design, how I made one and how it worked."

The date for your diaries is February 9th 2015.

CATS March Meeting

At this meeting Mike G0JMI Alton Antennas will return to CATS to deliver another of his fascinating talks. This time the subject is the FunCube and Saudi Sat.

The date for your diaries is March 9th 2015.

Membership Matters Subs For 2015

It was announced at the CATS AGM on December 8th that CATS subscriptions for 2015 will be £12, or £6 for over 65's etc. Payment is due on 1st January 2015.

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."

Members uncertain of how to renew their subscription should email the Treasurer Steve Conway at treasurer@catsradio.org in the first instance.

Intermediate Training Course

Sutton and Cheam are running a training course for the Intermediate licence, starting in February. The course runs over seven Saturdays with the examination on a Sunday. The dates are: 7th February, 14th February, 7th March, 14th March, 28th March, 11th April and 18th April. The exam is on 19th April.

If you are interested in taking the course, you should apply to Neil M0ZEY - but hurry because 20 people have already shown an interest. His email address is: m0zey@email.com

Useful Test Gear

Steve G3WZK writes: In the October 2014 issue of CATS Whispers I described buying an item on eBay described as a "New Transistor Tester Capacitor ESR Inductance Resistor LCR Meter NPN PNP MOSFET" from China.



The item as it appeared on eBay

The unit worked very well but, as supplied, the unit is a bare PCB and in need of being boxed up. Unfortunately there is no simple way to do this as the LCD display sits high above the PCB, but the IC locking lever is very close to the PCB in the locked position.

To box the item up, I needed some way of raising the latching IC socket, so my first step was to obtain a second latching IC socket and piggyback it on the existing socket, thus raising the connection points by about 10 mm or so. Unfortunately, this did not raise the latching socket quite high enough for the latching lever to operate correctly. I then briefly considered removing the socket from the PCB and remounting it on a small extra piece of PCB that could be fixed to the back to the front panel and then re-wiring the whole arrangement back to the main PCB.

However, in the end, I found that if I inserted an ordinary 14 pin DIL IC socket into the original latching socket, and then fitted the second latching socket on top of the DIL socket, everything was now at the correct level. However, the whole set up was rather wobbly so, to cut a long story short, I dismantled everything then stuck it all back together with a hot glue gun, being ultra-careful not to get glue in the pinholes.

It was then tedious but not too difficult to cut two rectangular holes in the front panel of an ABS box from CPC Farnell and check for correct alignment. The LCD mounting screws were then replaced with longer ones so that the whole assembly could be mounted onto the new front panel. To deal with the PCB-mounted "Test" switch, I simply installed a second push button on the front panel and wired it in parallel with the existing switch.



The completed and boxed-up project. Note the red push-button that is wired in parallel with the original PCB-mounted test button.

On test, I found that stacking the IC sockets had added about 5pF to the capacitance readings, but apart from that, the gadget works perfectly and will be a useful addition to the collection of test gear at G3WZK.

Contests Coming Soon



The additional sockets ready for insertion



The PCB with the 14 pin DIL IC socket in place, ready for mounting the second latching socket.

<u>Tuesday Activity Activity</u> <u>Contests 2015 – all begin at</u> <u>8pm local time</u>	
Jan 6	2 metres
Jan 13	70 cm
Jan 20	23 cm
Jan 27	6 metres
Feb 3	2 metres
Feb 10	70 cm
Feb 17	23 cm
Feb 24	6 metres
Mar 3	2 metres
Mar 10	70 cm
Mar 17	23 cm
Mar 24	6 metres
Mar 31	4 metres
Apr 7	2 metres
Apr 14	70 cm
Apr 21	23 cm
Apr 28	6 metres
May 5	2 metres

May 12	70 cm
May 19	23 cm
May 26	6 metres
Jun 2	2 metres
Jun 9	70 cm
Jun 16	23 cm
Jun 23	6 metres
Jun 30	4 metres

Other Contests - 2015

Jan 11: AFS Contest CW
 Jan 17: AFS Contest PHONE
 Feb 8: 432MHz AFS
 Feb 14/15: 1st 1.8MHz Contest
 Feb 22: 70MHz Cumulatives #1
 Mar 7/8: March 144 432MHz
 Mar 14/15: Commonwealth Contest
 Mar 15: 70MHz Cumulatives #2
 Apr 5: RoPoCo SSB
 Apr 5: First 70MHz Contest
 Apr 12: First 50MHz Contest
 May 2/3: May 432MHz-248GHz Contest
 May 2: 432MHz Trophy Contest
 May 2: 10GHz Trophy Contest
 May 10: 70MHz Contest CW
 May 16/17: 144MHz May Contest
 May 17: 1st 144MHz Backpackers
 May 24: 70MHz Cumulatives #3
 Jun 6/7: NFD
 Jun 14: 2nd 144MHz Backpackers
 Jun 20/21: 50MHz Trophy Contest
 Jun 28: 50MHz Contest CW
 Jun 28: 70MHz Cumulatives #4

Local Rallies & Events

1 February 2015

30th 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.

Contact: Vic Rogers G6BHE Tel 01702 308562

NVR@blueyonder.co.uk

www.southessex-ars.co.uk/canveyrally.html

8 February 2015

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

www.g3pia.org.uk

22 February 2015

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

www.brats-qth.org

15 March 2015

Dover Radio Rally

Location: Whitfield Village Hall, Sandwich Road

Whitfield, Dover. CT16 3LY

Doors open at 10.00am.

Auction starts at 12.30pm.

Rally ends at 1pm.

Entrance £2.00.

www.darc.org.uk/

12 April 2015

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

6 June 2015

SERF, Sussex Electronics and Radio Fair

Eastbourne Sports Park, off Cross Levels Way, Eastbourne BN21 2UF

open at 10am

Manufacturers, Distributors, Dealers, Clubs, Groups, Societies, Educational and private stands, tables and stalls, flea market, complete with a bring and buy area. talk-in will be operating, together with indoor and outdoor events, refreshments

<http://serf.org.uk/>

admin@serf.org.uk

21 June 2015

27th Newbury Radio Rally & Boot Sale

Newbury Showground, M4 J13. Post Code: RG18 9BB

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.

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

Contact rally@nadars.org.uk

www.nadars.org.uk/

14 June 2015 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

26-28 June 2015

39th Hamtronic Show, Friedrichshafen

Messe Friedrichshafen, Germany

Open 09:00 each day

- 63rd DARC Lake Constance Meeting
- with lectures and meetings

www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/index.php

15 November 2015

CATS 38th Annual Radio and

Electronics Bazaar

NOTE NEW VENUE: Coulsdon Community Centre, Chipstead Valley Road in Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3BE.

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.

20 Jan – AGM

CPREC (CRYSTAL PALACE)

Website: www.qsl.net/g30ou/ or <http://www.g30ou.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 Feb - AGM and Construction Contest

CRAWLEY ARC

Website: www.carc.org.uk

Meetings: Every Wednesday at Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley from 19:30, and Sundays, 10:30 to 13.00.

28 Jan – AGM

25 Feb – DC to Light – G4ZCS

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvr.org

Contact: Richard Cains G7GLW rcains@btinternet.com

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.

15 Jan – Forward look planning meeting

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.

27 Jan - UFOs – Leslie G8JIC

24 Feb – Introduction to the Arduino – Andrew M0GJH

24 Mar – SuSy Radio – John G8MNY

28 Apr – TBD

26 May – Practical Evening

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 Feb - A Nice Walk in May - G4UDU goes backpacking in the Grand Canyon

5 Mar - Junk Sale

2 Apr - Returning Concorde to the Air - Jock Reid

7 May - Antenna Gain!! - Mike Underhill G3LHZ

28 May - Fox Hunt - Adrian G4LRP

MID SUSSEX ARS

Website: www.msars.org.uk

Meetings: Every Friday at Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex for 19:45

23 Jan - Radio Night and Table Top Sale

30 Jan - DC to Light - Part 2 - Chris G4ZCS

13 Feb - Lecture by David Davis Paramedic - Clinical Information Advisor

27 Feb - "Q Codes" revisited G6YPY

6 Mar - Surplus Equipment Sale

13 Mar - A Look at the inner workings of the Society's Web Site. Tony G3XQM

17 Apr - Trip to Titanic Wreck - Rob Goldsmith

24 Apr - Radio Night and Table Top Sale

1 May - Quiz and Cakes Night

15 May - Construction Contest

22 May - Radio Night and Table Top Sale

29 May - Fox Hunt

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 Feb - Understanding and Using the FUNcube 1 and Saudi-Sat Amateur Radio Satellites -Mike Parkin

2 Mar - Spring surplus equipment sale

13 Apr - AGM

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

15 Jan - A Beginners Guide to Amateur Satellites by David G0MRF

19 Feb – Talk by Chris Ridley of Icom UK

19 Mar – How Valves Work by David M0SXD

16 Apr - TBC

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

9 Jan – Members' activities over Christmas & New Year

30 Jan - Contesting by John G8MNY

CATS Whispers is published monthly by
S J Beal G3WZK on behalf of the
Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society. © CATS 2014