

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



Affiliated to the RSGB



M1FUR

"CATS WHISPERS"

July 2016

CATS Committee

Chairman: Stuart Barber G6CJR
Secretary: Andy Briers G0KZT
Treasurer: Steve Conway G7SYO
Members: Mike Buckley M1CCF
 : Dave Bassett M0TRQ
Vacancies: Currently remains at two

CATS Whispers Editor: Andy Briers G0KZT

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

Sunday mornings - 11:00 - Call on 145.400 MHz ± QRM
Sunday evenings - 17:00 - Call on 3.700 MHz ± QRM
Wednesday evenings - 21:00 - Call on 70.425 MHz

CATS Website www.catsradio.org

Email enquiries@catsradio.org

Forthcoming Meetings

Monday 11th July – 2m Activity Evening at The Banstead Scout HQ
Monday 8th August – Annual Cub BBQ at Prue's G4RWW
Monday 12th September – One Man & His Guide Dog – Guest Speaker Paul Harman
Monday 10th October – TBA
Monday 14th November – ICQ Podcast by Martin Butler M1MRB/W9ICQ

June Meeting – DF Hunt Organised by Denis Noe M0NDJ



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

Martin Broadway G4GFI, Stuart Barber G6CJR, Steve Conway G7SYO, Dave Bassett M0TRQ and later joined

by Andy Briers G0KZT joined Denis Noe M0NDJ for an evening of DF Hunting in Banstead Woods.



While Martin, Dave and Stuart used the kit kindly provided by Denis, Steve used a different tactic using a receiver with just a helical antenna.

In total, Denis had hidden three transmitters in the wooded area. While Steve reported impressive results, Martin went on to find all the transmitters first.

Dave had had a little trouble finding the site while Andy was delayed due to parental/child handover issues (which many will now have noticed as a regular occurrence but this is because the XYL has a class every Monday evening).



Martin was presented with the Derek Hills G6MFM DF Trophy by the previous recipient and our Chairman Stuart. The group then made their way to the nearby Ramblers Rest for a celebratory drink and debrief.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to express my thanks once again to Denis for providing us with the hardware to use and for getting to the site in advance to plant the transmitters. Also, thanks to Stuart for providing the photographs.

Andy Briers G0KZT

July Meeting – 2m Activity Evening at Banstead Scout HQ.

The Sutton & Cheam Monday night activity group have kindly allowed us to share the Scout HQ in Banstead so that we can take part in the 2m SSB Activity Evening. This was first announced in RadCom earlier in the year that a group of Amateurs from across the country had come together to try and increase SSB activity on the 2m band. This should not be confused with the activity contest evenings which take place each Tuesday evening (see Contest Corner on page 10 for details).

Following the suggestion from Martin Broadway G4GFI for an evening of operating on 2 Metres SSB to take part as a club, the Committee reflected on the poor VHF location of St Swithun's Church Hall and decided to make use of the superior site in Banstead.

We will be using some of the equipment permanently housed by the Monday Night Group but in addition we will bring along a Clarke SCAM 12 mast and a beam to give us gain and the correct polarisation. The call sign in use will be GX4FUR/P.



The scout hall can be found just off the A217 opposite the Ford dealers.

The full address is Banstead Methodist Church, The Drive, Banstead SM7 1DA

For CATS members attending, the Society will make the necessary donation towards the tea/coffee for that Monday evening. Access may be possible from as early as 7.30pm but will be open from 8.00pm. So, why not come along and join in. And, if you don't fancy operating, there will be the usual construction, natter and other activities that the group take part in each week. And, don't forget, CATS members are welcome to join them on any Monday evening (accept Bank Holidays) when we're not at Grovelands Road.

August Meeting – CATS Annual BBQ at QTH Prue G4RWW

Just as a reminder, Prue, G4RWW has kindly offered once again to host our annual club BBQ at her home in Croydon. Food is provided by the Society and members are requested to bring along their own alcoholic drinks. So that we can have an idea of how much food we need to get, we are requesting an RSVP for that evening. Please let your Secretary know in advance (**This has been in the programme now for most of the year and RSVP's to date have been NIL. I know you want to go but you'll have to let me know!**)

September Meeting – One Man & His Guide Dog by Paul Harman

We have a special guest speaker coming along to give us a talk on his life and how it is enhanced by his guide dog Spencer. Paul has kindly accepted our invitation and we really look forward to welcoming him to CATS.

As this is a non-radio talk, it may be of interest to family and friends, so why not spread the word!

October Meeting – TBA

Your committee are still working on this one but it is hoped that we will be inviting a local historian to talk about the local history of Coulsdon and the site of Cane Hill Hospital where a large housing estate is currently being built.

November Meeting – The ICQ Podcast by Martin Butler M1MRB



I am extremely pleased to be able to announce that our November meeting will be a presentation by Martin Butler M1MRB/W9ICQ on his fortnightly Podcast, The ICQ Podcast.

Martin and his son Colin M6BOY began this podcast back in 2008 and have now reached over 214 episodes. This podcast has a following across the world with their biggest audiences in the UK and in the USA. Today, Martin has guests join in a roundtable conversation of news and events in Amateur Radio including Ed Durrant DD5LP, Leslie Butterfield G0CIB, Martin Rothwell M0SGL, Chris Howard M0TCH, Dan Romanchik KB6NU and Edmund Spicer M0MNG to name a few. Martin has only previously given a presentation in Cyprus so this is the first time he will have shared the history and how the show is put together to a UK audience.

In the meantime, if you want to learn more about the podcast in advance, visit www.icqpodcast.com. You will also learn how you can download the episodes.

Play Weekend – Saturday 23rd to Sunday 24th July



The farm is accessed from Crossways Lane. If travelling by car, it is near to Junction 8 M25 and can be found by travelling North on the A217, turning Right at the first roundabout into Babylon Lane. The entrance to the farm is opposite the end of the road.

If travelling from Coulsdon, take the first left turn off of Chipstead Valley Road having passed Lion Green Road and simply follow this until it turns into High Road and turn left into the farm.

There is a **very** limited bus service that stops on the Brighton Road near to the M25 junction.

Essential details for Sat Navs is RH2 0TX. Please note there is no vehicular access from Gatton Bottom.

Local contact via 145.400 MHz or by calling G0KZT on his mobile 07729 866600.

So, if you haven't already done so, please pledge your support. Access will be from around 9.00am on Saturday and activity will continue until around 4.00pm on the Sunday. There is a security lock down (by the farmer from around 10.00pm) but should be open again early on the Sunday morning.



SHAK NOWIZ BY "MAD" FRANK – G3ZMF

Camping Safety by Mad Frank G3ZMF

Camping out in a tent can be fun, and when it is cold, you zip up the tent flaps, put on the gas cooker or heater, and get warm.

WRONG

Think back to secondary school, and 1st year Science. You met the Bunsen Burner, with its collar at the base of the flame tube CLOSED, and you get a nice yellow flame, just like a candle. Then you rotate the collar, so air can enter and mix with the gas, and the flame turns 2 shades of Blue. A light Blue, close to the "MOUTH" of the flame tube, and a Dark Blue flame above it. Do you remember your Science Teacher, suspending a live match with a piece of wire, just above the mouth of the flame tube, turning on and lighting the gas, but the match did NOT ignite, but when the match was lifted INTO the upper dark Blue flame, the match burst into flame. Next, remember the Science demo, where a large glass bowl was part filled with water, a short candle placed in this bowl and lit, then a glass jar was inverted and placed over the candle, so sealing it from outside air. After a while, the candle went out, because it had used up all the OXYGEN in the jar, and the water rose, to replace that missing volume. Our normal Oxygen level in the air around us, is approximately 21%. If it drops to, or below 19%, then breathing becomes difficult, and even dangerous.

WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH CAMPING ?

OXYGEN is the answer. When you zip up your tent flaps, and even WITHOUT a flame burning in your tent, YOU need OXYGEN to live. So, if you MUST heat your tent, keep the entrance well open, as a flame consumes OXYGEN, FAR quicker than several people. Likewise, when it's time to sleep, make sure there is some way, that air can circulate, replenishing the Oxygen. Sweet and Safe dreams

Now you've got that safety in mind, it's time to turn to "CUMFY". Remember again, basic science, that HOT air RISES, therefore, COLD air FALLS. And when warm air meets a cold surface, it creates CONDENSATION, which it will be on you as you sleep. YUK.....

Working from the ground up, and assuming your tent has an integral ground sheet, you should be safe from “Ground Damp or Water”, but remember, that condensation on the tent roof, it wants to go somewhere. Take with you the following,

A) a roll “Bin Liners” or plastic rubbish sacks, which you can get at the 99p/£1 shops.

B) a roll of sticky tape, from same place, to join some bags together to make a “Secondary Ground Sheet”.

C) Between the tent ground sheet and your NEW one, that you’ve made from those bin liners, place several layers of old newspapers. These will act as HEAT insulation, and also absorb some of the ground dampness. Alternatively, an AIR BED, or “Li Lo”, as they are sometimes called, and used to float on. If you have one of these air beds, then it will give you ALL insulation you’ll need from the cold and damp.

TIME FOR BED

A nice sleeping bag is great, but you may find your feet are still cold. My cure is to tuck the bottom of the sleeping bag into another bin liner, that way, trapping any warmth from escaping. The next area of heat loss is your hands, so either keep them INSIDE your sleeping bag, or wear a pair of gloves. Finally, the BIGGEST loss of body heat, comes from YOUR HEAD, so wear a woolly hat, or, try the “G3ZMF” method, of using an umbrella, with handle by your bed, and 2 of the ribs on the deck, drape a blanket over the lot, so making an “INNER” tent to stop “FALLING COLD AIR” chilling your head, causing discomfort, and possibly a head cold. Before you kip down for the night, take your shoes off, stuff them with kitchen towel, then put them in a bin liner, making sure you tie a knot in top, to keep out the “Beasties” that roam the night, and retain a small portion of heat, so that come the morning, you have not got cold and wet shoes to put on.

Pegging out your tent, often foxes some folks, as so often, the tent pegs are either driven in VERTICAL or at a slight angle. Look at the angle the tent guy is coming down at, and bang in the peg, so it is a bit MORE than 90 degrees to the tent guy. That way, there is less chance of it being pulled out in the wind.

FINALLY, beware of “Beasties”. They appear from nowhere, especially if ANY items of food are on offer. So make sure ALL fresh and waste food stuffs, are sealed in yet another bin bag.

Don't forget about that cold air that FALLS, as so often, I've seen "cooly Boxes" with their ICE BRICKS at the BOTTOM of the box, and people wondering why their food did NOT stay cool. ICE BRICKS BELONG ON TOP of your food. Happy and Safe camping?... My thanks to John, G1RUV, for teaching me to use the 'poota, and for emailing it to our n/sheet Ed. Thanks Mate

Frank Emery G3ZMF

A Short Moan

I would like to have a short moan, and not just for the sake of moaning. **Feedback** for CATS activities is at best a **trickle**. I can only **assume** that you all read and enjoy "**CATS Whispers**" and not perhaps leave it sitting in your Inbox where it gets forgotten. Some of our activities desperately need some feedback to make them happen. Without any feedback, it is difficult to gauge support and members will recall last year that I, along with the committee, decided to cancel the Play Weekend because there was no apparent support.

This year the Play Weekend **WILL GO AHEAD** as some support has been expressed in doing it. The September 2m Trophy Contest Weekend? Who knows? The annual BBQ at Prue's, it would be nice to know if you're coming so I can tell Prue how much food we need.

I have tried using bullet points, lists and reminders to try and trigger a response, none of which appear to work.

I don't mean to offend anyone but please **GIVE ME SOME FEEDBACK!**

Sorry for shouting..... Andy G0KZT

CATS Outings and Rallys - Update

Lincoln Hamfest - 30th September - 1st October

Just a reminder that Mike Buckley M1CCF will be making the journey on the **Friday** to the Lincoln Hamfest and has spare seats in his car if anyone would like to join him. Contact him direct to express your interest.

As I go to press, Mike still has some seats available.

CATS Members Join Dorking Club Activity on Devil's Dyke

Two members from CATS, Mike Buckley M1CCF & Peter Collier M6GQZ accepted the invitation to visit Devil's Dyke along with members of the Dorking Club on Tuesday 5th July.

The evening was a great pleasure not only as it following an afternoon of sun and was warm and dry for once, but as we were able to watch the hanggliding – 24 of them at one time – but also inspect the £3,000 worth of drone being manipulated with no problem at all in the wind.



So, I nearly forgot that we actually came to help set up and take part in some VHF contacts on the Tuesday contests night. Three antenna were set up and another for 70cms experimented with and all received good reports, Mike using this band for the first time. The short whip mounted on the top of the TS2000 did just as well as the monopole in the background!



The location is brilliant as you can well imagine and initial contacts were made into the Repeater at Wrotham, and back to base in Dorking. I had a hope for a contact back to Coulsdon, but this did not happen!

Working portable can be fun, and judging from the simplicity of setting up a monopole, running the set from a 12v battery not all that much effort – perhaps I should try it again?

Mike M1CCF

PS, You will have just seen Andy's note for next Monday's meeting, so why not come along and give it a try from the Banstead Scout HQ, same place as our Monthly activity evening – behind the Banstead Methodist Church, The Drive, SM7 1DA

Contests Corner

Here is a reminder of what contests are available in July & August.

RSGB Contests in July		
Tuesday 12 th July	432 MHz UK Activity Contest	2000 - 22330 LOC
Wednesday 13 th July	80m CC SSB	1900 – 2030 UTC
Tuesday 19 th July	1.3 GHz UK Activity Contest	2000 – 2230 LOC
Sunday 17 th July	70 MHz Trophy	1000 – 1600 UTC
Thursday 21 st July	80m CC Data	1900 – 2030 UTC
Tuesday 26 th July	SHF UKAC	2000 – 2230 LOC
Tuesday 26 th July	50 MHz UK Activity Contest	2000 – 2230 LOC
Sat 30 th – Sun 31 st July	IOTA Contest	1200- 1200 UTC

RSGB Contests in August		
Tuesday 2 nd August	144 MHz UK Activity Contest	2000 - 22330 LOC
Saturday 6 th August	144 MHz Low Power	1400 – 2000 UTC
Saturday 6 th August	4 th 144 MHz Backpackers	1300 – 1700 UTC
Sunday 7 th August	432 MHz Low Power	0800 – 1200 UTC
Tuesday 9 th August	432 MHz UK Activity Contest	2000 - 22330 LOC
Wednesday 10 th August	80m CC CW	1900 – 2030 UTC
Sunday 14 th August	70 MHz Cumulative #5	1400 – 1600 UTC
Tuesday 16 th August	1.3 GHz UK Activity Contest	2000 – 2230 LOC
Sunday 17 th August	70 MHz Trophy	1000 – 1600 UTC
Tuesday 23 rd August	SHF UKAC	2000 – 2230 LOC
Tuesday 23 rd August	50 MHz UK Activity Contest	2000 – 2230 LOC
Thursday 25 th August	80m CC SSB	1900 – 2030 UTC
Tuesday 30 th August	70 MHz Activity Contest	2000 – 2230 UTC

Rallys & Events

17 JULY - McMICHAEL RADIO RALLY

Reading Rugby Football Club, Holme Park Farm Lane, Sonning Lane (B4446), Sonning on Thames, Reading RG4 6ST. Doors open at 9.30am and admission is £2. Details from Pete, G8FRC on 0118 969 5697 [www.mcmichaelrally.org.uk]

29-31 JULY AMSAT-UK COLLOQUIUM

Holiday Inn, Egerton Rd, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XZ.

14 AUGUST - FLIGHT REFUELLING ARS HAMFEST

Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, Nr Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3DA. Gates open at 10am and admission is £3.50. Details from Tony Baker, G3PFM by email to hamfest@frars.org.uk. [www.frars.org.uk]

30 SEPTEMBER & 1 OCTOBER - NATIONAL HAMFEST

Newark & Nottinghamshire Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY. Brought to you by the RSGB in association with the Lincoln Short Wave Club. [www.nationalhamfest.org.uk]

2 OCTOBER - BRITISH VINTAGE WIRELESS SOCIETY AUTO JUMBLE

The Angel Leisure Centre, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1SF. Doors open from 10.30am to 4.30pm. For bookings/enquiries please ring 01892 540 022 (8pm to 9pm only). [www.audiojumble.co.uk].

7th-9th OCTOBER - RSGB CONVENTION

Kent's Hill Park Training and Conference Centre, Swallow House, Timbold Drive, Kent's Hill Park, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK7 6BZ.

The Convention programme of lectures for all interests will be available on the website. Principal sponsor Martin Lynch & Sons. [www.rsgbevents.org].

6th NOVEMBER - WEST LONDON RADIO & ELECTRONICS SHOW (Kempton Rally)

Kempton Park Racecourse, Staines Road East, Sunbury on Thames, TW16 5AQ.

Doors open at 9.50/10am. There will be trade stands, a flea market, a Bring & buy, special interest groups and an RSGB bookstall. A raffle will take place during the day and a lecture stream will be available. There are catering outlets on site. More information from Paul, M0CJX on 08451 650 351 or by email toinfo@radiofairs.co.uk. [www.radiofairs.co.uk].

20th November – CATS 39th Annual Radio & Electronics Bazaar

CATS Bazaar 2016



CATS 39th Radio & Electronics Bazaar

Sunday 20th November 2016

10.00am until 2.00pm



We have a brand new, spacious venue with plenty of free parking!

Location: Oasis Academy Coulsdon, Homefield Road,

Old Coulsdon, CR5 1ES

Just £1.50 entry which still includes a free tea/coffee!



Second Hand Equipment

Flea Market Tables

Refreshments

Trader Stalls

Fully accessible facilities

CATS Bring & Buy – You bring it, we sell it for you*



* Subject to a 10% commission

We are accepting applications from traders, clubs & individuals who would like to rent a space in the main hall or the cafetierria. Contact enquiries@catsradio.org or visit www.catsradio.org for more info.

Other Club News & Contact Information

BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS

Website: www.bdars.org.uk/

Email: info@bdars.co.uk

Club Net: Wednesdays 9:00pm - meet on 145.500 MHz FM and QSY

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

16th August - Aerials, Construction, Testing, and On-Air!

20th September - Digital Mobile Radio

18th October - Setting Up Your Station

15th November - "Toilet-roll TRF" (Construction)

20th December - Quiz and Mince Pies

CRYSTAL PALACE & DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY

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
5th August - Summer Social
2nd September - Short Talks: Geographical Mapping and Eutectic Points

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.

CRAY VALLEY RS

Website: www.cvrs.org
Contact: Richard Cains G7GLW rcains@btinternet.com
Club Net - 10m Sunday morning net @ 10:00 local: 28.570 MHz +- QRM
4m net – Fridays in weeks where there is no club meeting @ 20:30 local: 70.450MHz, then QSY to 70.425 or 70.475MHz
Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at
1st Royal Eltham Scouts HQ, Rear of 61 - 71 Southend Crescent, Eltham, London, SE9 2SD.

4th August - Current Spectrum issues – Murray G6JYB
18th August - Bat walk! - see Dave G4BUO for details
8th September - '999 Emergency' – Steve G3ZPS
22nd September - Old fashioned 'Junk' Sale – Nigel G1BUO

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

26th July - South Downs Evening
23rd August – Social 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

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

5th August - Noise Cancelling etc. by Graham Somerville BHI Ltd

30th September - Indian Hospital and the Chatri During 1st world War by Amanda Jane

4th November – Surplus Equipment Sale

SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

Website: www.g3src.org.uk

Contact: John Kennedy G3MCX, 020 8688 3322 email secretary@g3src.org

Club Net: Sunday 09:30 on 1905 kHz , 70.300 MHz Thursday 8:00 pm, 145.35 MHz +/- 25kHz Friday 8:00 pm

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Mondays at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 19:30 for 19:45.

Monday 18 July - Summer Barbecue at QTH Prim G4CCY and Maurice G4DDY

Monday 1st August - Kenya Safari by Peter G3ZPB

Monday 5th September - Test Equipment with Bob G3OOU

Monday 3rd October - Surplus Equipment sale

Monday 7th November - The GB3XP Repeater Project by Neil, M0ZEY

Monday 5th December - Club Construction Contest

Sutton & Cheam Radio Society

Sutton United Football Club. The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 2EY

Web site: <http://www.scrs.org.uk>

General Enquiries e.mail: info@scrs.org.uk

Nets – Wednesday 20.00hrs 145.500 MHz , Saturday 10.00 7.125 MHz, Saturday 11.00 145.500 MHz

21st July - Fault Finding by Leslie Butterfields G0CIB

18th August – Kit & Balloon Supported Antennas by G4ROJ

15th September – AROS (Amateur Radio Observation Service) by Vince Shirley G0ORC

17th November – Millimetric Microwaves by Chris Whitmarsh G0FDZ

8th December – Christmas Junk Sale

Submissions are most welcome from CATS members, Local clubs and societies

CATS Whispers is published monthly by Andy Briers G0KZT on behalf of the

Coulson Amateur Transmitting Society.

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CATS fully support the RSGB Child Protection Policy