

# COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

## “CATS WHISPERS”



# August 2023

### **CATS Committee**

**Chairman:** Andy Briers G0KZT ☎

**Secretary:** Glenn Rankin G4FVL ☎

**Treasurer:** Stuart Barber G6CJR ☎

**Members:** Colin Richards G3YCR ☎  
Paul Jackson M0JXN ☎

Affiliated to the RSGB

[chairman@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:chairman@catsradio.org.uk)

[secretary@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:secretary@catsradio.org.uk)

[treasurer@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@catsradio.org.uk)

**CATS Whispers Editor:** Andy Briers G0KZT

email for contributions: [newsletter@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@catsradio.org.uk)

**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 19:45 to 22:00  
unless otherwise stated.

### **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 Under Revision**

**Email** [enquiries@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@catsradio.org.uk)

### **Forthcoming Meetings**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August – 2m Pedestrian DF Hunt at Banstead Woods

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September – RF Noise Reduction by John Stockley G8MNY

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October - TBA

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November - TBA

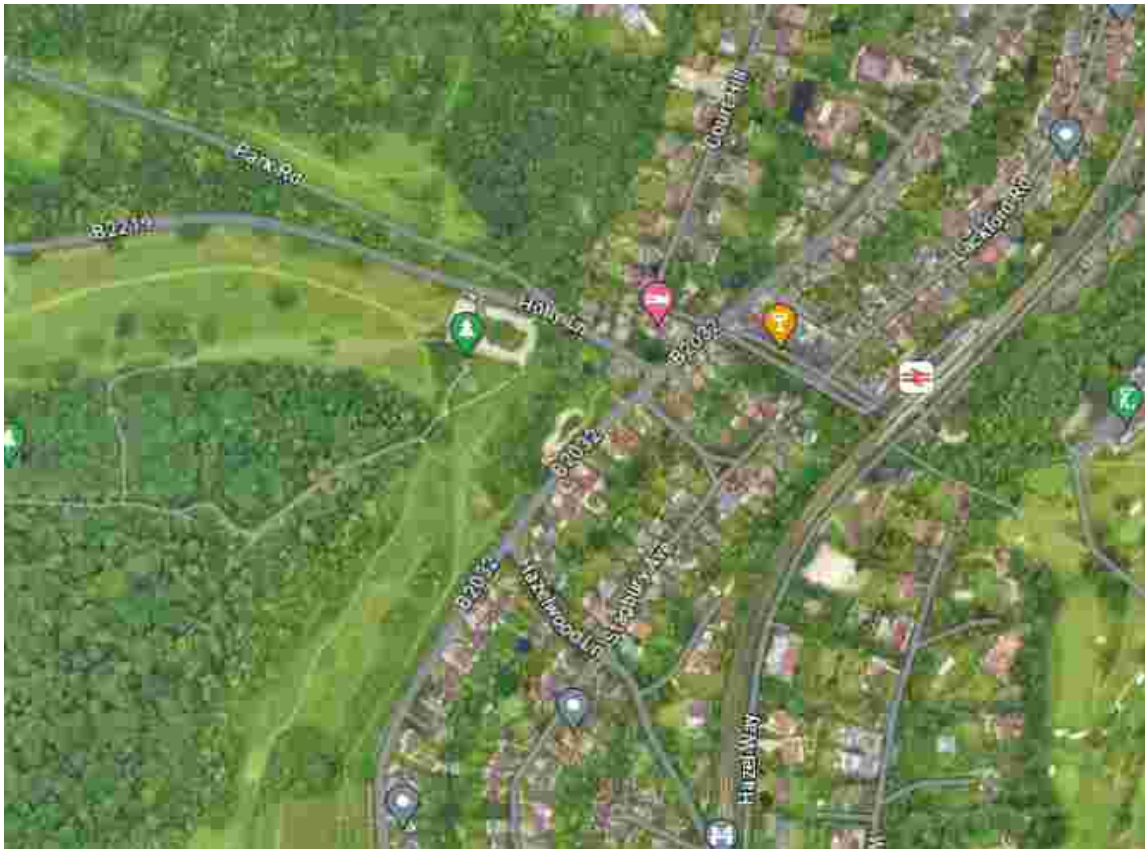
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December – TBA

## **Next Meeting - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August – Pedestrian DF Hunt – Banstead Woods**

This event will start slightly early at 1930hrs to make the most of the available daylight and participants should meet in the large public car park at Banstead Woods located on Holly Lane which is close to Outwood Lane, Chipstead. This will be a pedestrian event and ALL equipment will be provided (kindly by Denis MONDJ). There will be THREE hidden transmitters to find.

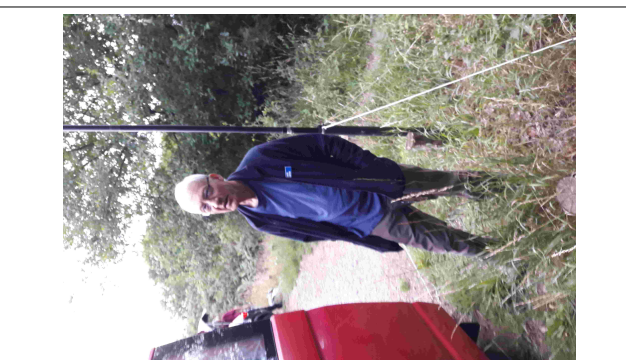
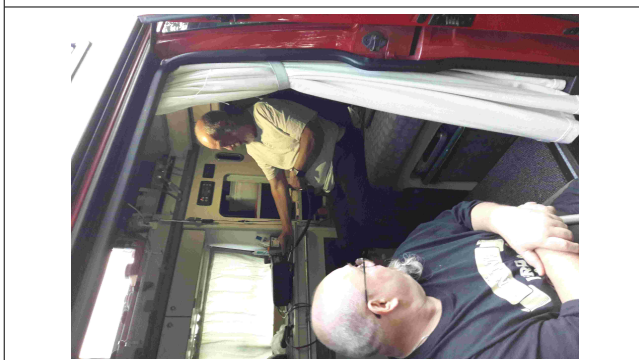
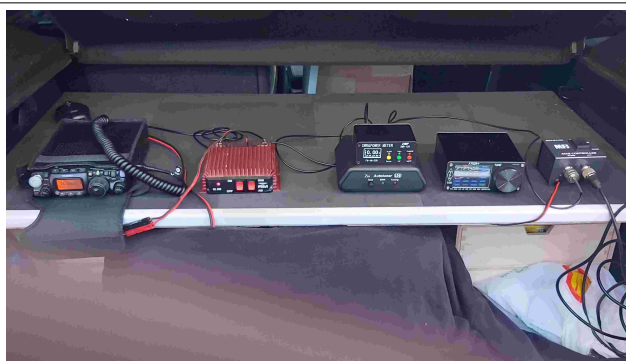
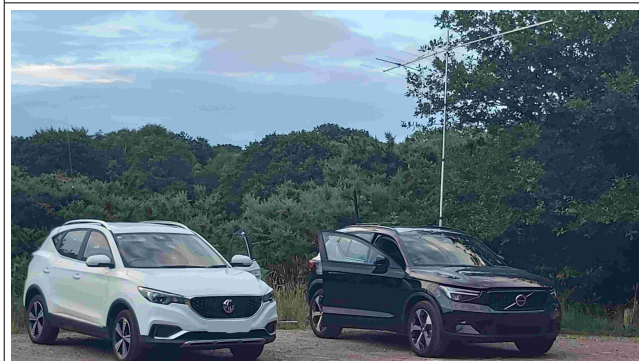
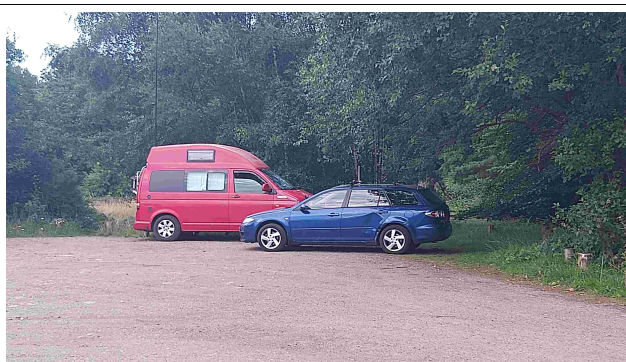
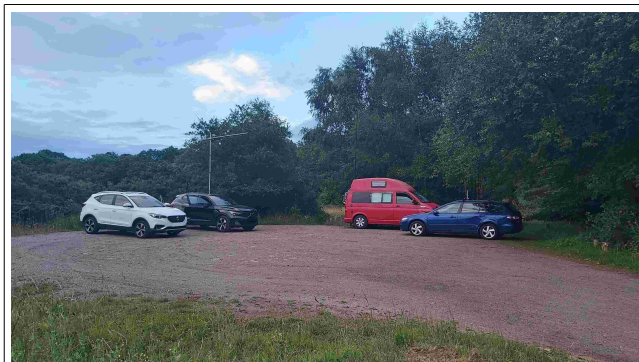
When everybody has found the “foxes” or given up, which ever the case may be, we will be retiring to the Rambler's Rest public house which is located a short distance further south along OUTWOOD LANE towards KINGSWOOD.

Stuart G6CJR will be I/C the event and will be setting out the transmitters prior to the event.



## July Meeting Debrief - /P Operation, Headley Common

I am grateful to David G6VMI and Glenn G4FVL who have sent in some photos taken whilst /P at Headley Common. David writes that his station consisted of FT817, 50w HF linear, Auto ATU, Swr/power meter, Receiver (not connected), antenna controller and an Ata120 screwdriver hf antenna. Also in pictures is F9FT Tonna 9ele portable on 144 MHz. Mast is 7 section aluminium telescopic cut down to collapsed length to fit across width of car boot but is still tall enough to reach the roof of my house.



Glenn, who provided the latter two photos writes, "A pleasant social evening with a little radio added to the mix, Members attending were Edd G0JOS David G6VMI, Vince G1HRD, Martin G4GFI and myself G4FVL. I arrived around 19:45 after Edd and David. Edd had managed to set up a long wire and was attempting to conduct some HF activity and David was setting up, Vince and Martin arrived a little later. I attempted to conduct some experiments using my Ranger 9 antenna with a mag mount stuck to the rear of my car roof, Unfortunately, while I could hear a reasonable amount of stations on 20 metres, alas they could not hear me running low power at 2 watts or so into something not much bigger than a welding rod! I decided to re configured the antenna for 2 meters but unfortunately got sucked into or more likely instigated a conversation with the guys about ideas for future CATS talks and events".

(Editor – Sorry I couldn't rotate those images)



## Future Meetings

11<sup>th</sup> September – John Stockley G8MNY as kindly agreed to give a presentation of RF Noise and how we can reduce it. This is something which affects most of us these days and surely going to be a relevant subject!

Further Into the future your Committee are looking at staging some short talks on data modes and perhaps an introduction to the Activity Contests which Colin G3YCR debriefs in CATS Whispers.

## Chairman's Corner by Andy G0KZT

I welcome all contributions that members and others send in for publication in CATS Whispers but following last month's article about Automatic Dependant Surveillance – Broadcast ADS-B that was sent in by Gerry G8NNT and following publication, it was brought to my attention that such technology may be illegal to participate in. This is in respect to acting on or forwarding information which was not intended for the receiver to hear.

Gerry had forwarded the information in good faith on behalf of another 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Neither CATS, Gerry or the editor can not be held responsible for material not directly written by themselves.

**Club Callsigns G4FUR and M1FUR** – In the days of A and B licences, the club applied for in addition to G4FUR, M1FUR for the then 'B' licencees to use. Of course, when the licencing structure changed, by default to club continued to hold what are now both full licences. I have continued to administer both licences with OFCOM and have been fully revalidated. While I generally use G4FUR on the club nets (no need to had /A or /P because they are registered at QTH of G0KZT or that it is even now a licence condition to actually do so) I would dearly like to hear both callsigns in use to help promote the Society. Of course, you would have to be a full licence holder to operate without supervision, but I believe the majority of members hold full licences.

A simple text message or email in advance of any use should suffice to prevent one of the callsigns being used by more than one station at a time. All I would ask is that a copy of any logging is sent to me via any of the available email addresses. The GX club prefix can be used at the members' discretion.

Until next month, happy operating everyone! 73 de Andy G0KZT

## SWOT

What's SWOT you are probably saying? Well, if you were at the CATS Annual General Meeting in May you will have heard the RSGB Deputy Regional Manager for our area, Alun G4WGE, suggesting we should do a SWOT analysis for ourselves as a club and to get members' views on the RSGB.

SWOT is an acronym for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. This is a fairly simple methodology that is widely used to gather views from people on particular subjects.

Your new CATS committee thought this was a good thing to do. It will help us to get the membership's views on things like what we do well, what we could do better and how we might move forward. It's a good thing to do for our views on the RSGB too. The National Society want to know how the membership feels and by doing it, it shows we are engaged as a club with the RSGB's future.

We have been working on a format for this and we hope to send it round to get your views in the next month or so. There are a few administrative details to sort out, plus it's holiday time and we want to give everyone a chance to contribute. We'll be asking for your views to be given anonymously, so no-one will know who is saying what. There is a *quid pro quo* though in that we won't accept people being named or personal criticisms of what you think office holders should or should not have done!

We'll send out an e-mail or CW note like this when the SWOT form's despatch is imminent. Watch this space!

"The Committee"

## Contest News

CATS remain in 12<sup>th</sup> position in the local clubs' section of the UK Activity Contests. This is the situation at nearly the end of July to meet the needs of CW publication, but it doesn't include all the results of some July contests – those for 4m and 23cm. This has probably not affected our overall position.

This month I'm going to look at the 70cm position and the contribution of club members. CATS are presently 10<sup>th</sup> in the 70cm Restricted (100w, single antenna) section. This is made up from Martin G4GFI in 17<sup>th</sup> personal position, Tom G8GYX (G4DFA) in 34<sup>th</sup>, myself (G3YCR) up to 79<sup>th</sup> with five monthly contests this year so far and Edd G0JOS/P in 123<sup>rd</sup>. (three contest entries and an improving position). I don't think there were any other CATS entrants, but apologies if I've missed anyone. This could easily improve as the year goes on. Next month I'll look at the 23cm position.

We should also congratulate Martin G4GFI for coming 6<sup>th</sup> in the Six Hour Single Operator Fixed 6m Trophy contest on 17<sup>th</sup> June on behalf of CATS. For this he used his newly acquired contest callsign M3C.

Colin G3YCR

## MFR Scotland by Laurence GM4DMA/KL7L

Here's something that may interest some folk for the newsletter from our visit to the UK last year – Im still trying to see if anyone is left up in Scotland at the station that may recall some of this!

In the Mid 1980's I was living in NE Scotland and often tuned to 1107KHz and the sounds of one of my favourite local radio stations "MFR". On the hour the station they had a natty 6 tone station ident "Moray-Firth- Ra(y)-Dee-ohhh)" – it was really distinctive.

Opened in 1982 this very popular station still serves Inverness and coastal NE Scotland along the Firth as far East as Fraserburgh and on a good day as far North as Wick and beyond

In the later 1980's I was the base commander, science and communications lead for a series of attempts at pulling 400 pound plus sledges from the Northern coast of Canada to the Geographic North pole led by the famous explorer Sir Ran Fiennes.

The expeditions were named PUNS, for Polar Unsupported - and had a multifaceted Earth science portfolio, anything from air and snow and flora sampling, meteorology, and ionospheric's, and raising money for charity, beyond the physical goal of reaching the nigh impossible aim for Ran and his partner to reach Pole over the ever shifting and torturous ice covered Arctic Ocean

We were based in a small canvas hut on Ward Hunt island at 82 North 74 West, one of the closest land points to the Pole and where Ran and partner started their expedition – we had short wave transmitters and communicated with Ran, once a day to report progress or problems and maintained a full 24 hour watch – small antennas held up with ski poles attached to the tent at Rans end and large dipoles and similar at ours. Daytime temperatures were often in the -50C and with a stiff wind it wasn't easy living.

We were looking at how the Aurora affected radio communications and kept a record of Solar and Geomagnetic activity. Auroras typically danced overhead most night, as they do in Northern Scotland.

In 1988 before leaving Scotland I contacted MFR's chief engineer and posed a question to him on the possibility of hearing MFR from near the North Pole, thousands of miles away. I had noticed at local midnight 1107kHz became really quiet and the stations that shared the frequency in Europe were all silent for just a few seconds.

I posed to him the idea of playing the MFR jingle not once but a few times in this "silence" period at midnight Scottish time as its distinctive tune may be audible. He said he would see what could be done and just before we left for the Pole he called and said Ok (yay!).

I was delighted to report back to him later that MFR's natty jingle came through our speaker in our remote Polar hut clearly and for a couple of nights between Solar storms. On some nights it was so strong it fought off the other stations who shared the frequency and we listened to music from our home town area.

The reason Im recalling this up now is we were in Inverness at Eden Court to meet Ran Fiennes a few weeks back. Ran was giving a lecture on his varied and exciting life and exploits, and we had flown from Alaska and driven to Inverness after meeting up with my stepdaughter/granddaughter in Aberdeen.

As we drove through the highlands and coastal towns mentioned in MFR's jingles of the past, the memories all came flooding back – it was so good to be listening to be hearing MFR again and congrats on the 40 Candles Birthday! May the jingle never stop.

Laurence KL7L GM4DMA

## CATS Bazaar – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**The CATS Radio and Electronics Bazaar** will be taking place again at the **Oasis Academy Coulsdon, Homefield Road, Coulsdon on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

Doors open to traders from approximately 8.00am and to the public at 10.00am until 2.00pm. Entry will be £3.00 per person which will include a free cup of tea or coffee at the canteen.

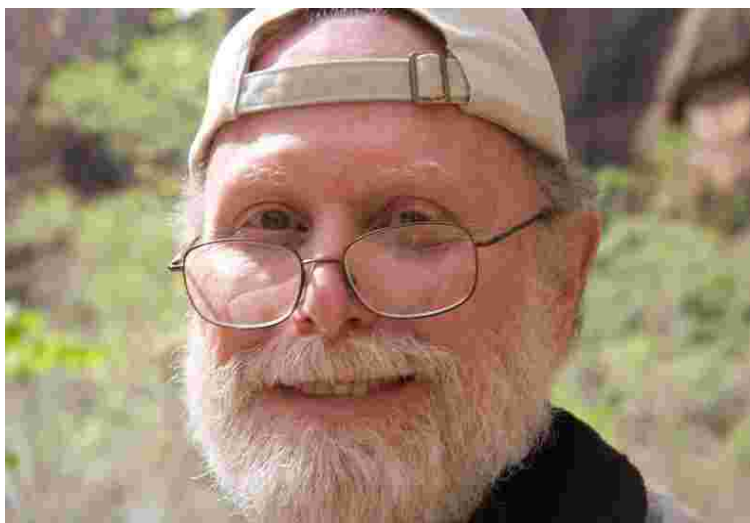
Traders have been invited to book tables, £12.00 (and £8.00 for every table thereafter).

For bookings and further information contact Andy G0KZT – Email [bazaar@catsradio.org.uk](mailto:bazaar@catsradio.org.uk) or telephone 07729 866600



Calling all club members. We'll need your help and assistance to help set up the Bazaar (including Saturday afternoon), help with the door entry, canteen, car park and clearing up at the end of the event. Please contact Andy G0KZT or Glenn G4FVL if you can help.

## A Bit of Sad News



I have learned, via Mark W6MW that Julian (Tim) Wheeler K6POI sadly passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> July at the age of 81. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2009, just 3 years after Andy G8JAC, Prue G4RWW and I were welcomed by the Cresecenta Valley Radio Club. I had the pleasure of staying with Tim, as he was known to the Amateur Radio fraternity, during our stay in Los Angles.

Tim, like Mark, was involved in the television industry. There is a nice tribute to him at on the Michael J Fox Parkinson's website [In Tribute to Julian \(Tim\) Wheeler | The Michael J. Fox Foundation \(michaeljfox.org\)](http://www.michaeljfox.org)

Tim will be sadly missed, by fellow Radio Amateurs and the TV industry alike.

Andy Briers G0KZT

## Rallys & Events

### **13 Aug – Flight Refuelling Amateur Radio Society Hamfest**

Cobham Sports and Social Club Ground, Merley, near Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3DA. 9am to 4pm. Admission £5 (includes parking). Talk-in on 145.550MHz. On site catering and bar. No dogs except guide dogs (landowner's condition).

For more information contact: [tbaker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tbaker@tiscali.co.uk) [www.frars.co.uk](http://www.frars.co.uk) Tele: 07743 475 018.

### **20 Aug – Rugby Amateur Transmitting Society Rally**

Princethorpe College, Princethorpe, Rugby, Warks. CV23 9PY. Open 10am. Car boot sale. Details: Steve, G8LYB, 07956-855816, [rally@rugbyats.co.uk](mailto:rally@rugbyats.co.uk) , web: <http://www.rugbyats.co.uk>



## **27 Aug – Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society Rally**

Heron's Lodge Guide Activity Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge, Milton Keynes, MK8 9AA (Opposite the National Badminton Centre) free onsite parking, catering and disabled facilities. Entrance fee £3. Free parking. Open 9am. email [rally@mkars.org.uk](mailto:rally@mkars.org.uk) [www.mkars.org.uk](http://www.mkars.org.uk)

## **28 Aug – Huntingdonshire Amateur Radio Society (HARS) Annual Rally (Bank Holiday Monday)**

Ernulf Academy St Neots PE19 2SH

Gates open for traders at 7am and for the public at 9am. Entrance Fee £3. Free car parking, RSGB Bookstall, Bring and Buy, Catering provided, indoor and outdoor stalls available.

Contact M00LG Malcolm on [events@hunts-hams.co.uk](mailto:events@hunts-hams.co.uk) for details or phone 01480 214282

## **2 Sep G-QRP Convention**

Harper Adams University, Nr Telford, TF10 8NB.

Continuing the G-QRP Convention and Buildathon the previous day.

More info: on the Telford HamFest website <http://www.telfordhamfest.org.uk>

and <http://www.gqrp.com/convention.htm>

or contact Martyn, G3UKV, 01952-255416, or John, M0JZH, 07824-737716.

## **3 Sep– Andover Radio Club Spring & Autumn Boot Sale at Wildhern – CANCELLED**

## **24 September**

### **2023 - Hack Green Radio Surplus Hangar Sale**

**(\*\* Was originally 8 October \*\*)**

Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 8AL.

Sale of electronic equipment, amateur gear, components, military radio items and vehicle spares.

Any last minute news will appear on our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/HGsecretbunker/>

Contact: [coldwar@hackgreen.co.uk](mailto:coldwar@hackgreen.co.uk) <http://www.hackgreen.co.uk>

## **Other Club News & Contact Information**

### **BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS**

Website: [www.bdars.wordpress.com](http://www.bdars.wordpress.com)

Email: [Visit website and fill in contact form](#)

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.

Tuesday June 20th – Direction Finding

Tuesday July 18th – On air and natter

### **CRYSTAL PALACE & DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY**

Website: [www.cprec.org](http://www.cprec.org) Contact [cprec.g2lw\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:cprec.g2lw(AT)gmail.com)

Club Net: Wednesdays 20:00 on 145.525 MHz

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at All Saints Parish Church, Beulah Hill at 19:15hrs for 20:00hrs £1.00 entry fee

## **CRAWLEY ARC**

Website: [www.carc.org.uk](http://www.carc.org.uk)

Meetings: Every Wednesday at Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley from 20:00hrs, and Sundays, 11:00hrs.

Formal meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the club HQ, where a lecture or demonstration on an Amateur Radio related subject is presented.

## **CRAY VALLEY RS**

Website: [www.cvrs.org](http://www.cvrs.org)

Contact: Richard Cains G7GLW [rcains@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

## **DORKING & DISTRICT**

Website: <http://www.ddrs.org.uk> email: [ddrs.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ddrs.secretary@gmail.com)

Club Nets: Sunday 08:15 on 3.770 MHz & daily at 10.00am on 144.775 MHz

Meetings: regular Tuesday evening meetings, which are held at the Friends Meeting House, Butter Hill (off South Street), Dorking starting at 7:45 pm

## **HORSHAM ARC**

Website: [www.harc.org.uk](http://www.harc.org.uk)

Club Nets: Tuesday/Saturday 21:30hrs on 144.725MHz and Sundays 10:00 on 3.722 MHz

Meetings: 1st Thursday at The Guide Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex RH12 1JF

## **MID SUSSEX ARS**

Website: [www.midsussexars.org.uk](http://www.midsussexars.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

Very extensive programme of events – visit **Calendar** ([midsussexars.org.uk](http://midsussexars.org.uk)) for more details.

## **SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB**

Website: [www.srcc.uk](http://www.srcc.uk)

Contact: John Kennedy G3MCX, 020 8688 3322 email [secretary@g3src.org](mailto: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 The Jubilee Room, St Paul's United Reformed Church, Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon CR2 7HF

### **Sutton & Cheam Radio Society**

Monday nights, at the 7th Banstead Scout HQ (Rear of Methodist Church) SM7 1DA

Web site: <http://www.scrs.org.uk> General Enquiries e.mail: [info@scrs.org.uk](mailto:info@scrs.org.uk)

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

Informal meetings are held at the Scout hall weekly while the once a month formal meeting is held on ZOOM with a guest speaker. You will need to contact SCRS to obtain the link.

*Submissions are most welcome from CATS members, Local clubs and societies however neither CATS or the editor can be responsible for any content published,*

*CATS Whispers is published monthly by Andy Briers G0KZT on behalf of the Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society.*

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**CATS fully support the RSGB Child Protection Policy**

**INTERESTED IN**

**RADIO**

and



**ELECTRONICS?**



**- come & meet the**

**COULSDON  
AMATEUR  
CATS TRANSMITTING  
SOCIETY**

2ND MONDAY EACH MONTH, 7.30 FOR 8PM  
AT

ST. SWITHUN'S CHURCH HALL,  
GROVELANDS ROAD, PURLEY  
FURTHER DETAILS FROM ALAN BARTLE, ON  
081-684 0610

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE ~ ~**

WORLD WIDE RADIO CONTACT -  
AMATEUR RADIO AND TELEVISION -  
WEATHER SATELLITE RECEPTION -  
COMPUTER DATA TRANSMISSION -  
SALES OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT -  
DIRECTION FINDING HUNTS - -

**SOCIAL EVENTS!**

**SUCH AS  
SKITTLES,  
EATING OUT  
AND  
OTHER  
INFORMAL  
GATHERING!**