

# COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

“CATS WHISPERS”

January 2017



Affiliated to the RSGB

## **CATS Committee**

**Chairman:** Stuart Barber G6CJR

**Secretary:** VACANT

**Treasurer:** Steve Conway G7SYO

**Members:** Terry Giles G4CDY

: Dave Bassett M0TRQ

**Vacancies:** Currently remains at THREE

**CATS Whispers Editor:** Andy Briers G0KZT

email 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**

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 9th January – Annual CATS Dinner at Le Chateau Coombe Road Croydon

Monday 13th February – The GB3XP Repeater Project by Martin Rothwell M0SGL

Monday 13th March – Roll Your Own PSB's by Matthew Nassau M0NJX



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

## **December Meeting Debrief– Annual General Meeting**

We had a total of 16 members attend the AGM. It was business as usual as the formalities of the evening were carried out.



The assembled audience

There was a slight incident with the mince pies whereby the temperature of the oven in the kitchen was higher than expected. The result was an offering of what had the appearance of pieces of charcoal. An emergency trip to the local Tesco's was made and a new supplies were brought in. These went down most favourably with the red and white wine, and the teas and coffees for the non-drinkers.



The outgoing 2016 committee M1CCF, G7SYO, G6CJR, G0KZT & M0TRQ

The new committee retired to elect their Chairman and, as you can see from page one, the position of Chairman was once again given to Stuart G6CJR.

The evening closed shortly after 10.00pm.

The minutes of the meeting were posted by email to members by the end of that week. If you didn't receive a copy, please contact Andy G0KZT at [newsletter@catsradio.org](mailto:newsletter@catsradio.org).

The meeting did conclude with the post of Secretary being left unfilled. This is unprecedented position in the history of our Society and will no doubt feature in the next edition of "CATS Whispers"

## **January Meeting – Annual CATS Dinner – Le Chateau, Croydon**

Reservations have been made by 10 members who will be bringing along 9 guests to join them at Le Chateau in Croydon.

Reservations are now closed.

For those members choosing not to join us this year, there is of course still the option to join our friends from the Sutton & Cheam Society at the Banstead Scout HQ activity night.

**The St Swithun's church hall will be closed this month.**

## February Meeting – The GB3XP Repeater Project by Martin M0SGL

Martin Rothwell M0SGL has kindly agreed to give us a talk on GB3XP, our nearest 2 Metre repeater which is housed on the roof of St Helier Hospital in Carshalton. This repeater has been developed by members of Sutton & Cheam Radio Society and has encountered a number of challenges because of its co-siting with other PMR radios. But, when Martin gives his presentation, he will be updating his previously given talk to include the latest developments. Yaseu UK have donated a C4FM Yaesu Fusion interface to help promote the digital mode in the London area and which is being added to the repeater.

So why not come and learn a bit more about the workings of the repeater and how the analogue and digital systems work together.

## March Meeting – Roll Your Own PCB's by Matthew Nassau M0NJX

Matthew has agreed to give his presentation of his technique of printing circuit boards locally.

We look forward to giving him a warm welcome.

## Sutton & Cheam Big Quiz - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Uptake for this event has been rather absent and we are still looking to put a team together. If you would like to be part of it, please let one of your committee members know ASAP.**

## Contests Corner

### Rule Changes

The VHF Contesting Committee have made some changes to the rules for the UK Activity Contests and that there are now two club sections, a general section and a local section. To operate in the local section all entrants need to operate from or have their home QTH **within a 35km radius** of a Virtual Meeting Point (VMP). The VMP post code needs to be emailed to the RSGB before the first UKAC of 2017. I have therefore sent on behalf of the Society, an email informing the RSGB that our VMP is CR8 4LA. We could have used a different post code but I think most of our club members live within 35km of the church hall.

**73 Martin G4GFI**

## **VHF/UHF/SHF Activity Contest Changes**

There have been a change to the days of operation for the Activity Contest Series. The **1st Tuesday** and **2nd Tuesday** remain unchanged being the 144 MHz and 432 MHz events. In addition to these, there is now an FM only section for each, which will encourage stations who don't have SSB available to take part. These run 1 hour earlier than the UKAC and only run for 60 minutes. However, on the **2nd Thursday** the 50 MHz event takes place (with no FM section). The **3rd Tuesday** is the 1.3 GHz section and on the **3rd Thursday** is the 70 MHz section which also has the FM section, just like 2m & 70cms. The last Tuesday is the SHF section. I have put ALL the RSGB contests in a table below.

I would recommend that anyone wishing to get involved with this year's contesting have a look at the rules for each of the contests. Further information of the multipliers and other conditions, including RSGB membership requirement be check at the RSGB Contest website <http://www.rsgbcc.org/>

Andy G0KZT

<b>Date</b>	<b>Band</b>	<b>Period of Operation</b>
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	80 & 40m AFS CW	1400-1800hrs
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	432 MHz FMAC	1900 - 2000hrs
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	432 MHz UKAC	2000 - 2230hrs
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	50 MHz UKAC	2000 - 2230hrs
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>AFS SSB</b> – 80 & 40 Metres	1400 - 1800hrs
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	1.3 GHz UKAC	2000 - 2230hrs
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	70 MHz FMAC	1900 - 2000hrs
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	70 MHz UKAC	2000 - 2230hrs
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	SHF UKAC	2000 - 2230hrs
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	432 MHz AFS	0900 - 1300hrs
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	3.5 Mhz Club Championship SSB	2000 - 2130hrs
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	144 MHz FMAC	1900 - 2000hrs
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	144 MHz UKAC	2000 – 2230hrs
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	50 MHz UKAC	2000 - 2230hrs
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	1.8 Mhz (CW Only)	1900 - 2300hrs
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	432 MHz FMAC	1900 - 2000hrs
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	80m Club Championship DATA	2000 - 2130hrs
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	432 MHz UKAC	2000 - 2230hrs
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	1.3 GHz UKAC	2000 - 2230hrs
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	80m Club Championship CW	2000 - 2130hrs
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	70 MHz Cumulative	1000 - 1200hrs

## CATS Radio Nets

We have three club nets listed at the top of our newsletter.

Our main, and probably most accessible net is on Sunday mornings at 11.00am local time on 145.400 MHz (or as near as possible depending on local activity).

Secondly, there is an 80 metre net at 5.00pm, also at local time. This net is an informal net where in the whole, past and current members of CATS who back in the late 1970's and early 1980's formed a contest group called The KKC (which was known as the Koulsdon Kontest Club which I am sure there is a story about that somewhere) and who did other social activities such as mobile treasure hunts and trips to venues both in the UK and in Europe. This net brings all these ex-members together for a weekly chat. Club members are of course most welcome.

Lastly, there is the 4 metre net. This started when a number of CATS members acquired Ascoms that had been modified by Steve Tompsett G8LYB who belongs to the Rugby radio club.

I think it is fair to say that the popularity of the club nets has wained somewhat in recent times, especially on 2m and 4m. I recently received an email from Adam G7CRQ who before joining CATS last year was our most frequent "non-member" of the club to frequent the Sunday morning net. He informed me that activity on that net is now almost non-existent.

Over the years we have tried to vary the days and times of the 2 metre net but the consensus at that time was for it to remain on Sunday's at 11.00am.

Is it time to revisit this? Or perhaps we just need to make a little bit more effort to find the time to join in. Any suggestions would be most welcome.

Andy G0KZT

## OfCom Licence Re-validation Issues?

My licence was coming up for re-validation on 29/1, but when I logged on it did not show my licence.

I rang their support, and they said they have "yet another computer system" and they sorted it out quite efficiently. It doesn't seem to show expiry date now (valid for 5 years) and he recommended logging on frequently to check.

Gerald Tompsett G8NNT

## Rallies & Events

We have no planned trips or events planned for 2017 as yet. But watch this space! Now's a good time to get your ideas and suggestions to the committee of what **you** would like to do and where.

I published a list of rallies for 2017 last month. But to recap, here are the ones for the remainder of January and for February.

**15 January 2017 West Manchester Radio Club's Red Rose Winter Rally**

Lowton Civic Centre, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton, WA3 2AH.

Just off the A580 East Lancs Road.

Free Parking. Open 11:00. Trade. SIGs. B&B. RSGB books. On-site catering.

Courtesy of the West Manchester Radio Club

Details: John, 07870-161953 [http://wmrc.org.uk/lowton\\_winter.htm](http://wmrc.org.uk/lowton_winter.htm)

**29 January 2017 Horncastle Winter Radio Rally**

Horncastle Youth Centre, Willow Close, Cagthorpe, Horncastle, Lincs LN9 6DB.

Venue all on one level. Entry £2. Open 10:00. Free on-site parking.

Hot drinks and snacks available (including bacon butties). RSGB books.

Details: Tony, G3ZPU, 01507-527835.

**5 February 2017 32nd Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally**

The Paddocks Community Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, SS8 0JA.

Open 10:30 (08:30-traders). Trade. SIGs. Free parking. Disabled facilities. RSGB books.

Refreshments, including Mark's famous bacon baguettes.

Details: Vic Rogers, G6BHE, 07957-461694 or Dave Speechley, G4UVJ, 01268-697978  
[g4uvj@btinternet.com](mailto:g4uvj@btinternet.com)

**12 February 2017 Harwell Radio & Electronics Rally**

Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road. Didcot, Oxon. OX11 8AY

3 miles from A34 between Oxford and Newbury

Entry £3 (under 12s free). Talkin by GX3PIA 145.550 MHz. Easy parking.

Disabled facilities (including lift). All-day refreshments (sandwiches, homemade cakes and hot drinks). Well signposted. RSGB. Trade

Details: Ann Stevens, [ann.stevens@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.stevens@btinternet.com)

**19 February 2017 Radioactive Fair**

Civic Hall, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 5DG.

Computers. Electronics. Amateur Radio. Catering. Free parking.

Trade enquiries via <http://www.radioactivefair.co.uk>

**19 February 2017 Audiojumble**

The Angel Leisure Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SF

Secondhand and vintage hifi event. Vintage & modern hifi, valve amps, speakers, turntables, tuners, tape-recorders, CD players, records,

components, books & vintage radios. Details: <http://www.audiojumble.co.uk>

**26 February 2017 The Rainham Radio Rally**

Rainham School for Girls, Derwent Way, Rainham, Kent, ME8 0BX.

Just off the A2 and M2 J4.

Open 10:00. Talkin 145.550 by GB4RRR. Light refreshments. Exhibitor and trader places available. Details: [Rally-coordinator@brats-qth.org](mailto:Rally-coordinator@brats-qth.org)

<http://tinyurl.com/hzqn9wu>

## **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)

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.

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

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: 1st Friday at All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill at 19:30

3rd Feb 17 M Annual General Meeting

### **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 19:30, and Sundays, 10:30 to 13.00.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January - AGM

### **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@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

### **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: 1st Thursday at The Guide Hall, Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex

## **MID SUSSEX ARS**

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

## **SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB**

Website: [www.g3src.org.uk](http://www.g3src.org.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 Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 19:30 for 19:45.

Monday 9th January - 3D Printing by Gareth G4XAT

Monday 5 February – TBA

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Surplus Equipment Sale

## **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](mailto:info@scrs.org.uk)

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

19th January - S&CRS Big Radio Quiz of the year.

16th February - 'What to look for in choosing a VHF/UHF Radio' Professor Alwyn Seeds G8DOH

16th March - To be confirmed

20th April - To be confirmed

18th May - Annual General Meeting and Constructional Contest

*Submissions are most welcome from CATS members, Local clubs and societies  
"CATS Whispers" is published monthly by Andy Briers G0KZT on behalf of the  
Coulston Amateur Transmitting Society.*

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**CATS fully support the RSGB Child Protection Policy which can be viewed at :-  
[www.catsradio.org](http://www.catsradio.org)**