

# COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

# G4FUR



# M1FUR

## CATS WHISPERS



Affiliated to the RSGB

### September 2008

**SYCOM** – Official CATS Sponsor

Visit [www.sycomcomp.co.uk](http://www.sycomcomp.co.uk)

### CATS Committee

Chairman: Steve Conway G7SYO

Secretary: Andy Jackson G8JAC

Treasurer: Derek Hands G1PGS

Members: Steve Beal G3WZK

Stuart Barber G6CJR

Dennis Noe MØ NDJ

Frank Emery G3ZMF

**CATS Whispers Editor:** Andy Jackson G8JAC

email address for contributions: [www.qsl.net/cats](http://www.qsl.net/cats)

### Regular Society Meetings

These are held on the second Monday in each month at:-

St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 4LA at 20.00 to 22.00hrs.

### Society Nets

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Month - 1715hrs Crescenta Valley / CATS Net on Echolink

Normally via MB7IPL node on 145.2875 MHz.

Sunday mornings - 1100hrs. Call on S20 (V40) then to 145.2875MHz.

Sunday evenings - 1700hrs. 3.700 MHz +/- QRM

Wednesday evenings - 21.00hrs. Call on 70.425 MHz

**CATS Website** [www.qsl.net/cats](http://www.qsl.net/cats) **Email** : [cats@qsl.net](mailto:cats@qsl.net)

New website host: <http://www.sthost.co.uk/webpace/cats/>

### Forthcoming Meetings

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> September – GB3NS - our local repeater by Denis GØ OLX

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> October – Sub-sea cables by Steve G3WZK

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> November – The CATS Quiz hosted by Frank G3ZMF



CATS is Twinned with the

**Crescenta Valley Radio Club**

Glendale California USA [www.qsl.net/cvrc](http://www.qsl.net/cvrc)

## August meeting report

The August CATS BBQ at the G4RWW QTH has become something of a tradition over the years and this year was no exception with a good gathering of CATS members and some friends from SRCC gathered in Prue's garden – a garden looking strangely bare now that the landmark mast has been dismantled. Fortunately, and slightly unexpectedly, the weather was fine and dry.



CATS and SRCC members tucking in.

After a slightly shaky start, the BBQ started to glow comfortably with cooking duties being taken on by Dave G8VXB who expertly finished off on the BBQ the chicken legs and other meats that Prue had started off in the kitchen oven. As usual the guests came armed with the drinks of their choice bolstered by a couple of extra bottles of communal wine.



Blanca, XYL of Bernie G8TB on salad duty.



Our host Prue G4RWW on the sticky chocolate cake.

A very pleasant and enjoyable evening was had by all, and of course our thanks go to Prue for hosting the event.

## CATS Future Activity News

For our **September** meeting, We are very pleased to welcome Denis GØ OLX who most members will recognise as being the keeper of the GB3NS repeater. Find out the story behind the repeater and the problems that had to be overcome to get it back on the air. This presentation has caused a lot of interest in surrounding clubs and we expect a bumper attendance.

Coming up in **October** we venture into the telecoms world under the sea with a presentation by Steve G3WZK on sub-sea cables. Sandwiched between HF radio and satellites as the technology for world-wide communications, sea cables are still in everyday use. As well as the theory there will be examples of the cables used and a chance to examine the technology.

**November** is CATS Quiz time and this year our Quizmaster is Mad Frank G3ZMF who has been busy compiling a fiendish set of brain teasers for the past few weeks. Invitations have been made to our neighbouring clubs so we expect a challenging and interesting social evening.

Is there something that YOU would like to see as an activity for our meeting evenings? Could YOU present something that would interest other members? Got an idea for something that we could present? Tell a committee member!

## Contesting Reports

Results from the two recent contests that we've been involved in – VHF NFD and the 144/432 Low Power – are not yet to hand at the time of writing although the results of the 2m Low Power event are out (see separate report from our contesting secretary in this issue). A report on NFD should be available for next month.

## Membership Matters

Nothing to report on the membership front.

## TransPONDer Net

The September TransPONDer net will be attempted on Saturday next, 6th September at the usual time of 17.15 BST. G8JAC and M3JXN will attempt to connect in from a field just north of Gatwick airport, the idea being to try to get into the MB7IPL node at Purley. If that fails, an attempt to connect via GB3NS and Echolink will be made. The working frequency is 145.2875 MHz as usual.

## CATS on the Web

More updates and information are being added every month by G3WZK. Have you looked yet? G3WZK is also our publicity officer and has recently submitted articles and pictures of our activities to local interest magazines.

## The CATS shirt project

All members will be aware of our project to provide every member with a logo'd shirt. This is a follow-up to the sweatshirts that we bought some five years ago which are still often seen adorning member's torsos. This time we thought that we would move to polo style shirts with short sleeves and a similar logo to the one used on the sweat shirts. This will cater for those who prefer something lighter to wear and be suitable for what laughably passes for summer these days.

Our resident bean counter has authorised the expenditure so the shirts will be FREE on the basis of one per member.

Every member has received a letter requesting size information and what additional wording – callsign, name etc – was required. Unfortunately, we are still awaiting responses from almost a third of members so the process is being slowed down somewhat. **Please let the secretary G8JAC have the requested information as soon as you can.**

## Kempton Park Rally

The autumn Kempton Park rally is almost upon us, being a week or two earlier this year and CATS are as usual running the Bring and Buy stall. We are hopeful that the usual members will turn out (although confirmations are somewhat scarce at the moment) and help and G8JAC will be issuing entry badges and car park passes. This activity is one of our major fund-raisers and allows us to purchase items such as our telescopic mast and to finance the free shirts for members. If you are willing to turn out for CATS please let G8JAC know.

## The CATS BAZAAR

Preparations for the annual CATS Bazaar on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November are well under way. Frank G3ZMF mentioned that the first one was held in 1977 and we think that there's been one every year, so this will be our 31<sup>st</sup> bazaar. Many have come and sadly gone in that time but CATS Continues!

The venue is, as usual, the scout hall at the rear of the council car park in Lion Green Road, Coulsdon. CR5 2NL or TQ296594 for those who rely on SatNavs. Parking is FREE on Sundays.

We will be running a Bring and Buy stall again as that has proved very popular over the past couple of years, and we expect the usual mix of traders, individuals and neighbouring clubs at what has become well known as a friendly meeting place as well as a great opportunity to find those essential (OK, and the not-so essential) bits.

Bookings are progressing well but if you would like to take a table to thin out the shack or get shot of the essential bits you bought last year, contact G8JAC without delay.

## VFO on a postage stamp

Well almost. 41 x 48mm anyway. We are all getting used to things in the electronic world inexorably shrinking. You only have to look at common items such as the mobile phone, iPods, calculators etc to realise that more and more electronics is being packed into less and less space. Amateur radio is no exception and the miniaturisation trend makes the sourcing of conventional components with leads that you can solder or wrap round a tag increasingly difficult. Modern techniques have also made the conventional LC oscillator obsolete with frequency synthesis that filled a cabinet in the 1960s being shrunk down to little more than single chip. A very interesting kit aimed at the amateur constructor is being offered by SDR Kits, a venture run by amateurs but using the latest technology. Their first offering is a VFO programmable over a USB port on your PC. See [www.SDR-Kits.net](http://www.SDR-Kits.net)

# August Contesting Result Debrief

During a recent CATS Net, I was asked if there were any results from our contesting effort in August. Having looked on the VHF Contesting website, the results of the 2 Metre section have been published.

## Open

Pos	Callsign	Locator	Postcode	QSOs	Score	Multiplier	Total	ODX Call	ODX Kms	Power	Ant	Equipment	Group
1*	G4ZAP/P	IO93EH	SD	173	29,430	107	3,149,010	F6JMT/P	648	25	2x12Y+2x12Y+Colinear	IC7400	A1 CG
2*	G0VHF/P	JO01PU	CO	96	28,760	76	2,185,760	F1USF/P	837	25	3x8Y	FT847	Colchester CG of Colchester RA
3	G4SIV	IO92WS	PE	74	15,893	75	1,191,975	F5SGT/P	557	25	6x12Y	TS850+Tvtr	Five Bells CG
4	G3WIR/P	IO91MP	HP	58	8,541	61	521,001	GM4JTJ	566	25	2x13Y	FT736R	Burnham Beeches RC
5	G4FUR/P	IO91XG	CR	61	7,749	60	464,940	F5SGT/P	413	25	17Y + Colinear	TS2000	Coulsdon ATS

In the open section there were only five teams and as you can see, we were 5<sup>th</sup> but narrowly missed out on a 4<sup>th</sup> place. But, hold on a minute. Here's a quick glance at the top three in the other sections.

## Single Operator Fixed

Pos	Callsign	Locator	Postcode	QSOs	Score	Multiplier	Total	ODX Call	ODX Kms	Power	Ant	Equipment	Group
1*	G8HGN	JO01FO	CM	65	13,489	61	822,829	F4EGZ/P	596	25	2x15Y	FT847	
2*	G4DEZ	JO03AE	PE	59	12,548	64	803,072	F5SGT/P	604	20	4x12	FT225RD	
3	G1KHX	IO81MI	BS	25	4,974	34	169,116	F6JMT/P	554	25	9Y	FT101ZD+Tvtr	

## Single Operator Other

Pos	Callsign	Locator	Postcode	QSOs	Score	Multiplier	Total	ODX Call	ODX Kms	Power	Ant	Equipment	Group
1*	G3IZD/P	IO84KE	LA	49	11,067	52	575,484	F5SGT/P	672	25	10Y	IC7000	
2*	GW8ZRE/P	IO83JF	CH	51	7,262	47	341,314	F6FLB	428	25	7Y	TR751E	
3	G0EHV/P	IO84XT	DL	30	7,593	41	311,313	F6JMT/P	805	25	13Y	FT-847	

The interesting thing to mention is the number of contacts each participant had. Other than the winner of our section who was streets ahead of everyone else, most others had the same or less than us and that is the same for the magic multipliers. I can only deduce that each of their contacts accounted for more points, thus giving the greater overall score. Remember too that, from a power point of view, we were all on a level playing field.

Andy Briers GOKZT

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## Local Rally & Event Calendar

### Kempton Park Rally

After some confusion, the date for the autumn Kempton Park rally is now confirmed as **Sunday 28 September**, rather earlier than previous years. .

Latest details at <http://www.g4cdy.co.uk/>

**16<sup>th</sup> November** CATS Bazaar at the Scout Hall, Lion Green Lane, Coulsdon.

This will be our 31<sup>st</sup> bazaar. Make sure this date is in your diary!

# Returning the Courtesy

By Frank G3ZMF

How many QSOs both during contests and general QSOs, does someone whose native language is NOT English, speak to you IN English? Well, we know that the English language is our major contribution to the world but here are a few simple ways to return the courtesy that can often make the difference between getting a valid QSO and a No QSO.

Here are some numbers and words in English, then as written in common European languages, plus a phonetic guide to (how to say it).

## Numbers

Numbers	French	German	Spanish	Dutch
0	Zero (Zehro)	Null (Nool)	Cero (Thairo)	Nul (Nerl)
1	Un (An, Urn)	Eins (iyns)	Uno (Oono)	Een (Ayn)
2	Deux (Der)	Zwei (Tsvy)	Dos (Doss)	Twee (Tway)
3	Trois (Twah)	Drei (Dry)	Tres (Trez)	Drie (Dree)
4	Quatre (Kat)	Vier (Feer)	Cuatro (Kwatro)	Vier (Veer)
5	Cinq (Sank)	Fünf (Foonf)	Cinco (Thinko)	Vijf (Veyf)
6	Six (Seess)	Sechs (Zex)	Seis (Seyss)	Zes (Zess)
7	Sept (Sett)	Sieben (Zeeben)	Siete (See-et-eh)	Zeven (Zayven)
8	Huit (Weet)	Acht (Aakt)	Ocho (Och-o)	Acht (Uht)
0	Neuf (Nerf)	Neun (Noyn)	Neuve (Nweb-eh)	Negen (Nayhen)

## Common courtesies

English	French	German	Spanish	Dutch
Hello	Bonjour (Bonshoor)	Gutentag (Goot-en-tahk)	Hola (O-la)	Hallo (Hullo)
Goodbye	Au Revoir (Oh revwah)	Auf Wiedersehn (Owf veeder-zain)	Adios (Adee-yoss)	Tot Ziens (Tot Zeens)
Good luck	Bon Chance (Bonn Shonce)	Viel Glück (Veel Glook)	Buena suerte (Bwenna Sooertay)	Succes (Sooksezz)
Thankyou	Merci (Mare-see)	Danke (Dunker)	Graças (Grathee-as)	Danku (Dunkoo)
Yes	Oui (Wee)	Ja (Yah)	Si (See)	Ja (Yah)
No	Non (non)	Nein (Nine)	No (no)	Nee (Nay)
Please	S'il vous plait (See-voo play)	Bitte (Beetter)	Por favor (por fab-or)	Alstublieft (Uls-too-bleeft)

## Mad Frank's Quotes

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Horse sense: Horses never back people!

Never eat yellow snow.

2 + 2 = 5. But only for large values of 2!

I never forget a face, but in your case I'll make an exception.

I want to die like my father; peacefully in his sleep, not screaming like his passengers.

## Other Club News & Contact Information

### **BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS**

Website – [www.bdars.org.uk](http://www.bdars.org.uk)  
Email [bdars-news@talk21.com](mailto:bdars-news@talk21.com)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Victory Social Club, Kechill  
Gardens, Hayes, Kent  
7-30pm for 8pm

### **Crystal Palace Radio and Electronics Club**

Meets on 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month at 7.30pm at  
All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill.  
Club Net – Wednesdays 2000hrs 145.525 MHz  
[www.qsl.net/g30ou/](http://www.qsl.net/g30ou/)

3 October - Bee Keeping by Peter Springall

### **CRAWLEY ARC**

[www.carc.org.uk](http://www.carc.org.uk)  
Club Nets –  
Tuesdays 2000hrs 145.550 MHz  
Fridays 1900hrs 1.970 MHz  
Every Wednesday at Hut 18 Tilgate Forest  
Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley  
from 7-30pm, and Sundays, 10.30 until 13.00.

24 September – APRS by Olof Lundberg GØ CKV

### **DORKING & District RS**

Club Nets –  
Sunday 0815hrs 3.770 Mhz  
2030hrs 144.775 MHz  
Meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House,  
Butterhill, South Street Dorking at 1930hrs.  
Contact: Walter Blanchard G3JKV  
Email: [wb@g3jkv.co.uk](mailto:wb@g3jkv.co.uk)  
Web site:- <http://www.ddrs.org.uk>

### **HORSHAM ARC**

Club Nets –  
Saturdays 2130hrs 144.725MHz  
Sundays 1000hrs 3.722 MHz  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at The Guide Hall,  
Denne Road, Horsham, Sussex.  
Latest news – [www.harc.org.uk](http://www.harc.org.uk)

2<sup>nd</sup> October – Club night & junk sale

### **MID SUSSEX ARS**

Club Nets –  
Sundays 0800hrs 3.740 MHz  
Sundays 1100hrs 145.350 MHz  
Wednesdays 2000hrs 145.350 MHz  
Daily 1330hrs 21.330 MHz  
Every Friday at Cyprus Hall, Cyprus Road,  
Burgess Hill, West Sussex for 7.45pm  
Info – [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk)

### **MITCHAM & DISTRICT ARS**

(G3HFY) – Last Wednesday of each month  
1930hrs at ATC HQ, Commonsides West,  
Mitcham.  
Details Mike Knott GØ WCR 020 8764 4716

### **REIGATE ATS**

Club Net –  
Thursdays 2000hrs 145.500 MHz Sundays  
2000hrs 3.740 – 3.760 MHz  
Website [www.qsl.net/rats](http://www.qsl.net/rats)  
Email [rats@qsl.net](mailto:rats@qsl.net)  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Thursday** at RNIB, Redhill College,  
Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 7-30pm

### **SRCC**

Ray Howells G4FFY 020 8644 7599  
Club Nets –  
Sunday 0930hrs 29.111 MHz  
Friday 2030hrs 144.325 MHz  
Thursday 1900hrs 145.500 MHz  
Website – [www.g3src.org.uk](http://www.g3src.org.uk)  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at Trinity School,  
Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT 7.45pm for 8pm

6<sup>th</sup> October – Autumn Surplus Sale

### **SUTTON & CHEAM RS**

John Puttock GØ BWV 020 8644 9945  
Club Nets –  
Monday 20.00hrs 145.500 MHz  
Saturday 11.00hrs 145.500 MHz  
Website – [www.scrs.org.uk](http://www.scrs.org.uk)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at Sutton United Football Club, The  
Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane,  
Sutton. 7-30pm for 8pm.

18<sup>th</sup> September - 3B7C DXpedition by Justin  
Snow G4TSH

### **THAMES VALLEY A.R.T.S.**

Trevor Farris MØ CDB 013 7245 767  
**Club Net Only – G3TVS**  
Saturdays 1400hrs on 40m

### **WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS**

Website – [www.gx3wim.org.uk](http://www.gx3wim.org.uk)  
Club Net – Mondays 2045hrs 145.500 MHz  
2<sup>nd</sup> & last Friday of each month at  
Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh  
Avenue, Merton Park SW20. 7.30pm for 8pm.

12 September – DF Hunt.

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