

CatRad Kenley August 2011 Report

Edited by Paul G4APL

GX0SCR/P RAF Kenley Airfield 14 August 2011

Caterham Radio Group (CatRad) again set-up and operated another Amateur Radio Special Event Station on Kenley Airfield. Operating in the Amateur Radio Short Wave frequency bands.. Demonstrating Amateur Radio to the public.

This year is the 71th Anniversary Commemorating Kenley's Hardest Day. The bombing of RAF Kenley Air Field on the 18 August 1940 during the Battle of Britain in World War II.

Preparation

As on previous occasions, the planning was carried out with CatRad members Ken G3CQU, Mike G3TWJ who are also members of the Kenley RAFA club and John G8MNY. With Paul G4APL and Kim G6JXA providing support.

Setting Up

Saturday morning 13 August. John, Paul and Mike arrived on site.

First thing to do was to erect the G5RV aerial up at 50 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) supported by two suitable trees. Then erect the operating tent ready for the following day

This was all completed within two hours.

Sunday 14 August, John and Kim arrived onsite followed by Mike and Paul. Who assisted John setting up the equipment and displays of old wirelesses which provided interest to our visitors.

One technical hitch was encountered. That there was no mains power present from the normal mains supply connection point. After initial tests, a temporary 100 foot mains lead was run out and connected to a working power source. So that John could test the Amateur Radio equipment, then call into the Sunday Morning net on Top Band (160 Metres) at 08:42 GMT (9:42 AM). Kim taking over the presence on the Net. While John and Mike investigated why there was not any Mains supply available.

After tracing and testing all the connections and cables. It was found that someone since our last visit a year ago had 'pinched' the mains fuse from an internal distribution box.



GX0SCR/P 2011 Amateur Radio Station



CatRad GX0SCR/P 2011 Left to right Ken G3CQU, Mike G3TWJ, John G8MNY, Kim G6JXA



CatRad GX0SCR/P 2011 Kim G6JXA operating Paul G4APL Log keeping

Equipment

The GX0SCR/P station details

QTH (Location) RAF Kenley Airfield. IO91wh @ 171m 557 feet ASL (above Sea Level)

14 MHz SSB SSB IC735 400 Watts Drake L-4B Linear, Pulstar ATU G5RV wire aerial at 15 metres 50 feet AGL supported by two trees.

A local RF (Radio Frequency) proof Audio Public Address system enable the public and RAFA (Kenley RAF Association Caterham Branch) members to listen to both side of the radio contacts.

The large tent door used as an awning on two poles providing shade for those visiting.

Weather

The weather was excellent, a warm 22C to 27C inside the tent. cloudy with long sunny spells,

Visitors

We had many visitors dropping in to listening to the radio contacts being relayed over the 'Public Address' system.

71th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain

This year's event was a small event with Kenley RAFA members commemorating the 'Hardest Day' and reunion with the Last of the Few that were able to attend.

Operating

As mentioned above John called into the Croydon clubs Top Band net.

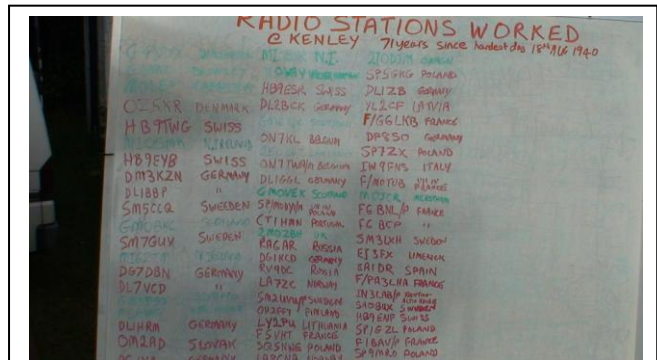
Paul G4APL. Took over on 14Mhz (20 Metres) at 09:45 and operated for three and half hours. Kim G6JXA took over for the next two hours, while Paul did the logging

Paul operated for the final session while John and Mike started dismantling the displays, tables and chairs then store them back in the VAN. Before Paul closed down at 15:45 UTC 4:45PM). Over 90 contacts were had with Amateur Radio stations around the UK and Europe.

Many of our received reports were 59 to +20dB with good Audio. Very strong short skip signals were heard during the period of operation.

Packing Up

John, Paul, Kim and Mike completed the packing of the equipment and tent and made our separate ways back to our homes for a well deserved rest after an excellent day.



CatRad GX0SCR/P 2011 Station Work board view by the Public



L to R Ken G3CQU and Mike G3TWJ

From the 2011 logs . These have been analysed as follows

Country prefix worked by John G8MNY. Paul G4APL
on 1.8, 3.5,7, 14, 21, 28, 50, 145, 433MHz GX0SCR/P Station IC735 Drake PA and G5RV Aerial

433MHz														
144Mhz														
50MHz														
28MHz														
14MHz	2E 2I 2M	CT1 DC1 DF8 DG1 DG7	DK3 DK8 DL1 DI2 DL7	DM3 EA1 EI3 EI7	F F1 F5 F6	G0 G4 GI3 GM0 GM3	GM6 GW0 GW1 HB9	I3 I5 IN3 IW9	LA7 LA8 LY2 M0 M6	MI0 MI6 MW0 OH2 OM2	ON5 ON7 OZ5 PD0 RA6	RV9 SA0 SM2 SM3 SM5	SM7 SP1 SP5 SP7 SP9	SQ5 TF3 YL2 YO5
7MHz														
3.5MHz														
1.8MHz	G4	M0												

Further information on the History of RAF Kenley Airfield can be found on
<http://www.battleofbritain1940.net/0028.html>
<http://www.rafa-kenley.com/>
<http://www.kafg.org.uk/airfinfrastructure.htm>
<http://www.615vgs.com/>