

# CatRad Kenley August 2017 Report

Edited by Paul G4APL

## GX0SCR/P Amateur Radio Special Event Station RAF Kenley Airfield

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Caterham (Amateur) Radio Group (CatRad) as in previous years set-up and operated another SES on Kenley Airfield.

Operating and demonstrating Amateur Radio to the public on the Short Wave frequency bands.

This year is the 77th Anniversary Commemorating the bombing of RAF Kenley Airfield on 18 August 1940. During the Battle of Britain in World War II making it their Hardest Day.

Our club arranged to run our Amateur Radio demonstration station on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August the Hardest Day.

### Preparation

As on previous occasions, the planning was carried out with CatRad members Ken G3CQU, Mike G3TWJ who are also members of the Kenley and Caterham RAFA club and John G8MNY. With Paul G4APL, Kim G6JXA, Steve 2E0DIZ providing support.

### Setting Up

Friday morning 18th August. John, Paul and Mike met up at the site at 10:00am.

The task was to erect the G5RV aerial up at 40 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) supported by two suitable trees as per previous years.

A catapult was used to fire a fishing line with lead weight attached into the canopies of the trees. Then attach the rope to the fishing line to be used as a halyard.

The G5RV wire aerial is attached to both halyards and pulled up to the required height.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August John G8MNY Kim G6JXA and Steve 2E0DIZ arrived onsite at 7:30am. Followed by Paul G4APL and Mike G3TWJ.

Ann G7BSF joined us before lunch, and assisted by taking some photographs and with the 'meet and greet of the public visitors'.

It was decided that we would run the Special Event Station (SES) from John's operating tent. We had our static display and paper work out in the open on a couple of tables, hoping that it would not rain or become too windy. Rain was forecast for around 6pm. (It did in fact Rain around that time)



CatRad GX0SCR/P 2017 Amateur Radio Station  
Steve 2E0DIZ, Kim G6JXA and John G8MNY in the tent.



GX0SCR/P Special Event Station equipment



CatRad Publicity Stand

This year only one radio station was set up on a trestle table inside the tent. With room for one seated operator and a check operator logging the stations contacted. Spare chairs for visitors.

The G5RV aerial erected on the previous Friday, would be used for Top band 160Metres (1.9MHz) radio club net, followed by the 80Metres (3.7MHz) 'BT' net. The rest of the day's activity would be on 40Metres (7.1MHz) followed by 20Metres (14.2MHz). Using SSB (Single Side Band).

Mains power was provided from the normal mains supply connection.

John G8MNY was able to join in to the Sunday Morning net on Top Band at 08:37 GMT (9:37am) followed by the 'BT' 80Metre net at 09:31 GMT (10:31am)

### **Equipment**

The GX0SCR/P station details

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

3.5MHz, 7MHz and 14MHz SSB IC735 400 Watts  
Drake L-4B Linear, Pulstar ATU

G5RV wire aerial at 12 Metres 40 feet AGL supported by two trees.  
This was also used for 160Metres.

A local RF (Radio Frequency) proof Audio Public Address system was set up. To enable the RAFA (Kenley RAF Association Caterham Branch) members and the General Public visiting the Autojumble car, motorcycle and military event. To listen to both sides of the radio contacts.

### **Weather**

The weather was warm and breezy, cool when the cloud built up.

At 12:30pm Paul and Ann wandered around the Airfield perimeter with a visitor who had never visited the Portcullis field before, pointing some features as they walked to the Memorial. Where they would view the BBMF flypast.

### **Visitors**

We would like to thank all the visitors that came to look at our Radio Amateur Special Event Station and spoke to us.

We had many interesting conversations with our visitors about their experiences related to our vintage radios and to those that had built their own valve and TV receivers. As well as those that had not heard of Amateur Radio as a hobby.

We also explained what Amateur Radio was about. Explained what each piece of equipment was being used for, and how the equipment was used to generate our radio waves go around the world.

We also explained what is required to get an Amateur Radio Transmitting Licence from Ofcom. Starting off with the Foundation course, followed by the Intermediate and Advance Course and exams. What benefits are gained with Technical experience, self learning, from radios to amateur radio data networking



**CatRad Paul G4APL with a member of the public telling Paul of his early days of building valve radios and 405TV receivers.**

which we were experimenting with in the mid 1980's. Like the Internet. (Data Over Radio)

Quite a few visitors asked "Where is the aerial?" "How did we get that the aerial up between the trees?"

We also spoke of our experience of working with the local Caterham Girl Guide groups twice a year from 1997-2010, assisting them in gaining their Radio Communication badges. We were all very much younger then.

Our event was supported by the Radio Society of Great Britain handout Pamphlets.

During the weekend we were only able to contact other Radio Amateurs around Europe due to the poor propagation and approaching the low point of the Solar cycle no. 24..

### **77th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain**

For this year's event the Kenley RAFA members were commemorating the 'Hardest Day' laid the wreath at the Kenley Airfield's Memorial.

Mike Street and Alan Morgan KAFG had arranged for Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flypast at 15:35BST.

Due to issues with the Merlin engines reported in the 'news' just before the weekend. All BBMF aircraft were grounded until further notice.

So on Friday(18th) and Saturday(19th) there was lots of 'Facebook' posts flashing up on Ann's G7BSF iPhone, which she kept Paul informed of what was happening.

Then the Good News flashed up on the 'screen'  
"This year's BBMF flypast will take place at 12:55 on Sunday, August 20th.

As all their Merlin-engined aircraft are still grounded while being checked over. The flypast will consist of a single Griffon-engined Mk19 Spitfire which will be flown by Andy Milliken (OC BBMF)"

The flypast started at 12:50 as the Spitfire was seen in the distance, taking up position just below the grey clouds and the approach and the flypast was EXCELLENT over the airfield. With several passes ending with the 'goodbye' rocking of the wings followed by clapping and cheering from spectators.

### **Operating**

As mentioned before John called into the Croydon clubs Top Band and BT nets.

Paul G4APL checked the propagation during the previous days, and conditions were again poor.

Kim and Steve continued operating on 3.7MHz(80Meters) until contacts dried up then change frequency to 7.1MHz(40Metres)

Paul took over from 14:00 to 15:45 operating on the 14MHz(20Metres) for his operating session working Europeans many stations calling him, until the propagation change. Resulting in very few signals being heard. The station was active for six hours.

The radio RF (Radio Frequency) conditions on 80, 40 and 20 Metres, had a lot of fading on most of the signals (QSB). Resulting in some difficult operating conditions again this year. (short contacts). 75 contacts were logged, with Amateur Radio stations around the UK and Europe.



**BBMF Griffon Engined Mk19 Spitfire flown by Squadron Leader Andy Milliken (Officer Commanding BBMF) Flying over RAF Kenley Airfield 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

In recent months there have been poor radio conditions, due to the after affects of plasma from a high speed solar wind stream and lack of Sun spots. As well as the 24th eleven year Solar Cycle heading to it's lowest expected 2018/2019.

This explains why we only heard Radio Amateur Stations in Europe due to our signals not reflected by the earth's magnetic field. The Solar Flux Index (SFI) was only 70.

**Packing Up**

John, Paul, Kim, Steve and Mike completed the packing up of the equipment by 16:45pm then made our separate ways back to our homes for a well deserved rest after an excellent day.

**Summary Countries worked**

**Europe**

- England
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- Isle of Skye
- Croatia Finland France
- Germany Gozo Greece Holland Italy Lithuania Netherlands
- Poland Russia Sicily Ukraine Yugoslavia

**Summary Amateur Radio Prefix's worked**

From the 20 August 2017 logs . These have been analysed as follows

Country prefix worked by John G8MNY, Kim G6JXA, Paul G4APL, Steve 2E0DIZ on 1.8, 3.5,7, 14, 21, 28, 50, 145, 433MHz GX0SCR/P Station IC735 Drake PA and G5RV Aerial

433MHz														
144Mhz														
50MHz														
21MHz														
14MHz	G0 G4	GB5 GN0	MI0 MM3	DG7 DH9 DL6 DL8 DM2	EW8	IK0 IK6 IT9 IU0 IU8 IZ4	LY5	OH4 PA1 R1 R9 RW4	SM SM7 SP1 SQ3 SV1	UA3 UA9 UR5 YU1	9A2 9H3			
7MHz	G0 G7	M0	GB0 GB1 GB2	GW1	F F1 PA0									
3.5MHz	G0 G3 G4 G7	M0 M3 GB7												
1.8MHz	G4 G6 M0													

Further information on the History of RAF Kenley Airfield can be found on

- <http://www.battleofbritain1940.net/0028.html>
- <https://www.rafa.org.uk/kenley-caterham/>
- <http://www.kafg.org.uk/>
- <http://www.615vgs.com/>

Caterham (Amateur) Radio Group  
[http://www.theskywaves.net/caterham\\_radio\\_group.html](http://www.theskywaves.net/caterham_radio_group.html)