

# Guides Thinking Day on the Air 1997

The 1997 Guides Thinking Day On The Air was to be held at the home and Ann and Paul Lewis, who hold the Radio Amateur Callsigns G7BSF and G4APL.

The Amateur Radio Callsign to be used for the event was GX0SCR, the Callsign of the Caterham Radio Group.

Arrangements were made with Janette 'THE BOSS' of the 9th Caterham Guides so that some preparation and learning of the Phonetic Alphabet, The Thinking Day greeting message, was prepared in advance. Thus enabling the other tasks to be completed on the day towards the Guides gaining hopefully their Communication Badge.

Friday evening the 14th February, Ann, Paul and Annabel re-organise the house so that one room became the VHF (Very High Frequency) station operating in the 145Mhz Amateur Band. In the same room designing QSL cards, and various books, maps to look up the required information.

Another room had the Amateur Packet Radio station, which was linked into the main Caterham Radio Groups (CatRad) Packet Radio digital network using radio links around the U.K and links to other Radio Amateurs all over the world

The main Radio Shack was prepared and the HF (High Frequency) equipment and aerials checked out and tested to check that all was OK.. we Finally retired to bed at 1am.

Saturday 15th February

The HF station GX0SCR went on the air at 08:25 with Paul G4APL in the 'hot seat' and made contact with a Station in the Adelaide Hills South Australia. The signals were very strong and Annabel had a nice 15 minute contact with Bob VK5AZ. After that we were called by a station in Tasmania and that was also a very strong signal and Annabel spoke to Gerry VK7GZ the Radio Amateur for 20 minutes.

At 09:30hrs Mike G3TWJ arrived, and agreed to operate the HF station for the day.

10:00hrs Saw Janette 'THE BOSS' arrive with the first group of six guides. Paul gave the introduction to the days events and would be 'Chief Tester' and TDOTA for the 9th Caterham Guides was well underway.

Ann operating the VHF station had long contacts with TDOTA stations in High Wycombe, Wimbledon, plus a few other stations where the Guides were able to pass greeting messages to each other over the radio waves.

Just before the break for lunch the 145Mhz station power supply failed and the VHF station was off the Air. Whilst Janette 'THE BOSS' went home to get ready for the next group of Guides, Paul prepared and set-up the standby VHF equipment and ready for the Guides that were arriving at 14:00hrs for the afternoon session.

Mike operating the HF station, the 9th Caterham Guides spoke to stations in the Channel Islands and around the UK. In all, two way contact was made with 22 stations, Pennsylvania USA, Boston USA, Washington USA, Ohio USA, Finland, St Petersburg Russia, Lutsk North West Ukraine, Lyubar Russia, Florence Italy, Rome Italy, Idaho NW USA.

Packet Radio Station

The guides were typing and sending messages over this system to other guides at other Amateur Radio Packet Stations. This system was active for eight and a half hours.

Contact was made on this mode with stations in, South Australia, Belgium, Toronto Canada, New York USA, Sweden, Germany, and in UK Guides of Oxfordshire, 4th Pontnewydd Brownie Pack Wales, Morecambe Bay Guides, Beaconsfield Guides.

All ten guides completed all the various tasks and gained their Communications badge.

The members of the Caterham Radio Group hope that the 9th Caterham Guides had a good Thinking Day On The Air over Amateur Radio Air Waves.