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

This year is the 73rd 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 17 August. John and Paul met up at 10AM with Ken G3CQU who was already on site.

The task was to erect the G5RV aerial up at 50 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.

This was all completed within two hours.

Sunday 18 August, John, Kim and Paul arrived onsite at 8AM. Followed by Ken. Mike turned up later.

John was assisted in setting up the Operating tent and equipment.

This year two Radio stations were set up
On the Left hand Site would be the 160M and 40M Station
A long wire aerial was erected into the trees for this station

The Right hand side would be 20 Metres.

The mains power supplied from the normal mains supply connection point.

John tested the Amateur Radio equipment. Then Kim
G6JXA called into the Sunday Morning net on Top Band (160 Metres) at 08:30 GMT (9:30 AM).

While John, in the mean time, tested and solved a feedback problem (which we also had last time) with the 20Metre station By adjusting the HF G5RV aerial choke.

The second station went on at 10:05 GMT 11:05 BST

**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.
This was also used for the 160M.

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.

7 MHz CW IC735 50 Watts Long Wire aerial at 7 metres supported by two trees.

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

**Weather**

The weather was variable, warm, cloudy, rain and sunny spells,

**Visitors**

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

**73rd Anniversary of the Battle of Britain**

This year’s event was a small event with Kenley RAFA members commemorating the ‘Hardest Day.

The RAFA members laid a wreath at the Kenley Airfield Memorial on behalf of those lost during WWii.

It started to cloud over and rain on and off at 1PM (13:00) for about an hour.

This was followed at 13:40Hours when The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight consisting of a Spitfire and Hurricane, did two runs over the airfield.

**Operating**

As mentioned above Kim called into the Croydon clubs Top Band net. Then Ken G3CQU operated on 40 Metres CW (Using Morse code)

Paul G4APL. Started on 14Mhz (20 Metres) at 11:BST. Followed John G8MNY and Kim G6JXA.
Paul and John logging the contacts made. The station was active for seven hours.
The radio conditions were variable with a lot of fading on the signals (QSB). 79 contacts were logged, with Amateur Radio stations around the UK, Europe and Asia.

In the meantime Mike got a bit sidetracked, and did some off road driving around the field. Enjoying himself.

**Packing Up**

John, Paul, Kim, Ken 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.

**Summary**

A short summery of the day can be found via the online youtube clip at the bottom of this report, in which you will see some familiar faces of our club members.

From the 2013 logs. These have been analysed as follows:

Country prefix worked by John G8MNY, Kim G6JXA, Paul G4APL Ken G3CQU on 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28, 50, 145, 433MHz G0SCR/P Station IC735 Drake PA and G5RV Aerial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Prefix</th>
<th>433MHz</th>
<th>144MHz</th>
<th>50MHz</th>
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<td>CT2</td>
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<td>G</td>
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<tr>
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<td>G</td>
<td>M</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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/
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=innbP01LCUs

Summary of 18 August 2013 Kenley Airfield Hardest Day