



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

DECEMBER 2010 — No: 819

CLUB NET 1.905 MHz Sunday 9:30am
 CLUB NET 145.35 MHz +/- 25kHz Friday 9.00pm

Hon. Sec. John Kennedy G3MCX
 22 Croham Park Avenue
 SOUTH CROYDON
 Surrey CR2 7HH
 020-8688 3322

CLUB Internet WEB Site: <http://www.g3src.org.uk>

E-Mail: secretary@g3src.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

Meetings at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT

"A" MEETING 6th Dec 2010 Presentation by Darren Parvin M0PRV of the Croydon Airport Model Flying Club. **Meeting Cancelled because of Bad weather. New date to be advised later.**

"B" MEETING 20th Dec 2010 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"
 This meeting may not take place, given it is in Christmas week. Phone G3MCX to check.

Chairman & Club Meetings	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020 8643 0491
Vice-Chairman & Publicity	G4WAY Roger Holyoake	020 8689 7089
Treasurer, Liaison & Equipment	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480
Secretary, Membership & Communications	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
VHF Co-ordinator & Newsletter Editor	G8IYS John Simkins	020 8657 0454
Committee Member – Technical	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020 8462 2837
Committee Member - WebMaster	G4FYF Steve Jones	01689 845568
Committee Member	G3ENG John Mathews	TBA
Committee Member	G4FFY Ray Howells	01732 357474
Recycling	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480

Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the December 2010 Newsletter which is being edited John G8IYS – with lots of assistance from other members of the Committee. I would like to add my personal thanks for the 11 years Ray Howells G4FFY has spent as Hon Sec, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster and performing many other tasks which needed doing – often at short notice. Is it any surprise that no single person relished the idea of taking on all of those tasks ? Thus, John Kennedy G3MCX has taken up the reins as Hon Sec, on a temporary basis until a young, dynamic, thrusting individual can be persuaded into the role. Steve Jones G4FYF, who has many of those qualities, has agreed to take over as Webmaster General and results are already to be seen on the website. A piece from him appears later in this newsletter.

One piece of feedback I have received already is that a double-column format is disliked by some readers. I have to confess to being a member of the optically-challenged too and do not care overly for the former 10 point Times New Roman font – so this issue is in

10pt Arial. A two-column layout does enable the inclusion of a lot of photos, which enlivens the presentation quite markedly. An area for experimentation. Ideas and suggestions welcome. Email: g8iys@btinternet.com.

Right now, I am looking out of the window at two mountainous piles of snow, where a few neighbours and I have cleared a covering of 45 cm (18 inches and greater than 1 welly leg in depth) of fine snow on top of ice in my Sanderstead cul-de-sac. The Friday night rain proved somewhat of a deliverance but much of my road is still only good for ATVs and FWDs. At least my car no longer sits at a funny angle where it came to rest on Thursday – expecting not to move again for several days.

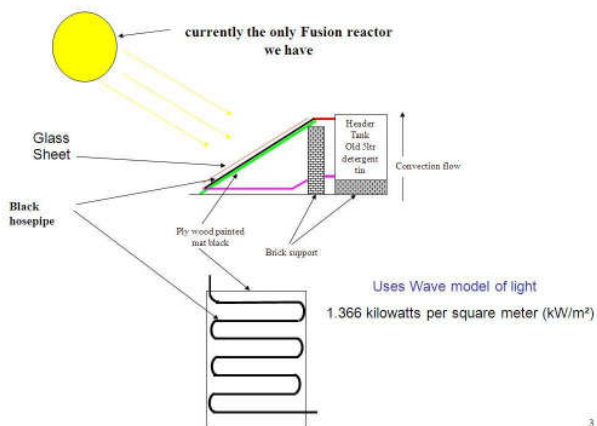
On a personal note, my XYL Carole is very grateful for all the good wishes for her operation. She went down to surgery at 0930 on Thursday 2 December (2 hours ago, when I started to write this). Now it is 1641 on Saturday 4 December and she is at home and really quite perky. Thanks Roger G4WAY for the offer of FWD transport which, in the end, we did not need.

THIS MONTH'S MEETINGS: Regrettably, the A Meeting, scheduled for 6th December has been cancelled. Although there is a forecast for weather improvement, many back-roads (and not so back ones too) are impassable, through heavy snow-fall and abandoned vehicles. At the time of writing, it is not known whether Trinity School will be open on the Monday either. Thus the Committee has taken the prudent course. A rearranged date will be announced as soon as this has been secured. The B Meeting would normally occur on 20 December, but this is Christmas week and may not take place.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING: by John Kennedy G3MCX, plus a lot of help from others - so he says.

November 'B' Meeting , Monday 15th. November 2010. A Presentation by Glenn Rankin, G4FVL on Energy Conservation and Generation.

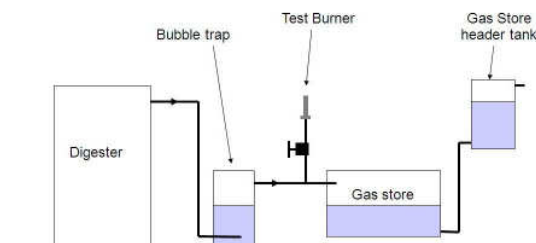
Glenn gave us a most interesting and often amusing Power Point presentation on what he called his 'experiments' which went back to his childhood days. He first became aware of solar energy when a length of black garden hose left out in the sun with water in it became so hot that he scalded himself with the water. It is possible to demonstrate the basic principle of a solar panel using a black hose, a sheet of glass, plywood painted mat black and tubing connected to a suitable container.



Glenn then went on to his first Methane digester using oil drums, the Digester needed digested sewage slurry so a trip was made to Beddington Sewage Farm armed with containers, while there, Glenn was given a conducted tour, they had four Methane digesters, only three were connected to the incoming sewage because in the event of Croydon having a flu epidemic or something else requiring the use of antibiotics on a large scale the antibiotics would kill off the bacteria needed to run the digester. The fourth was kept as a spare, isolated and able to restart the process if need be. Glenn got his slurry and did his experiment in his Dad's Greenhouse, the Digester containing the slurry was heated with a gas burner, the output was piped through a bubble trap into a storage tank made rather

like a gasometer. A test burner with a valve was inserted between the bubble trap and the gas store, we were reminded that the right mixture of methane and air could cause an explosion. There was no explosion but a 30 inch flame from the burner did crack two panes of glass in the greenhouse roof.

Overall layout of Methane system



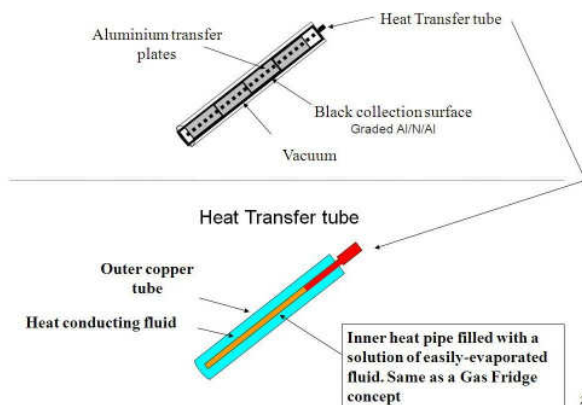
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An experiment using the dismantled parts from a refrigerator was tried but not taken forward before an enforced break in eco matters apart from going to a few shows and deciding commercial kit was too dear. Glenn's first radio licence arrived followed by a morse test and a new licence and the discovery of HF, Top Band and CW. He then purchased his first property with his YL and got married, moved, discovered house DIY and assisted in making a family plus doing a six year degree course in Technology. This was followed by another house move and a period of extreme DIY, including re-roofing the house, fitting double glazing, building a Radio Shack, extending the Garage, laying about 10,000 bricks!

Experiments continued using an old central heating radiator painted black to make a solar hot water panel which circulated by convection and not requiring a pump.

Glenn made up two panels of twenty vacuum tubes, these are 2m long and we were able to take one to pieces to look at the construction of it.

Vacuum tube make up



The tubes were joined at the top, the heat produced could be fed through a copper coil in a cylinder to preheat the water in the hot water system to about 30 degrees C, it had a dump valve fitted as it could rise to 70 in the summer. It would run by convection in the summer but needed a pump in the cooler weather, the water circuit also had car antifreeze in it to stop it freezing in the winter, Glenn still uses these panels, one east facing and one south.

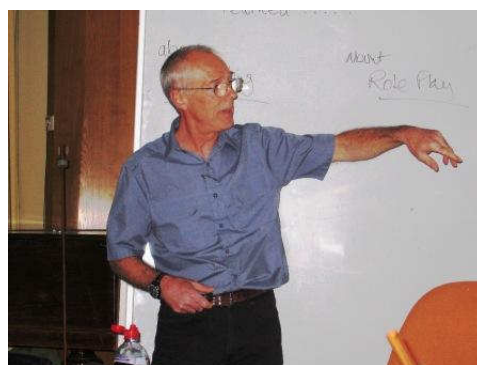
We then heard about efficiency, energy cannot be created or destroyed, Energy in = Energy out, always insulate as much as possible. Car engines are only about 35% efficient, steam turbines are about 50% whatever fuel they use, in themselves but if coal is used about 10% is lost producing coal dust from coal and when other transmission losses are included the end product is only about 26%. A modern condensing boiler is about 95% but achieves this by using thinner metal that does not last as long.

Glenn has also installed 4 solar panels on a south facing wall which can generate about 2 KW a day in the spring.. He also constructed and installed a wood burning stove which will also burn compressed bricks of Waste Paper made in a press about the same size as a house brick. Another experiment involved a home-made Wind Turbine, the vanes being made from pieces of guttering but it would not revolve quickly enough to produce useful power.

On the 9th. August this year 10 PV micro panels were installed, this had to be done by a Contractor and is funded by a Government levy and the system is fitted with an inverter to produce 230 volts AC so that any surplus power can be fed into the National Grid for which Glen will get 41p per unit, Glenn gets a great kick out of seeing his Electricity Meter going backwards, he has done some sums and reckons it will pay for itself in 18 years. From 19th. August to the 15th. November it produced 274 KW.



The real house.



The real G4FVL

[Just space here for an report from Ted Jones G3EUE:](#)

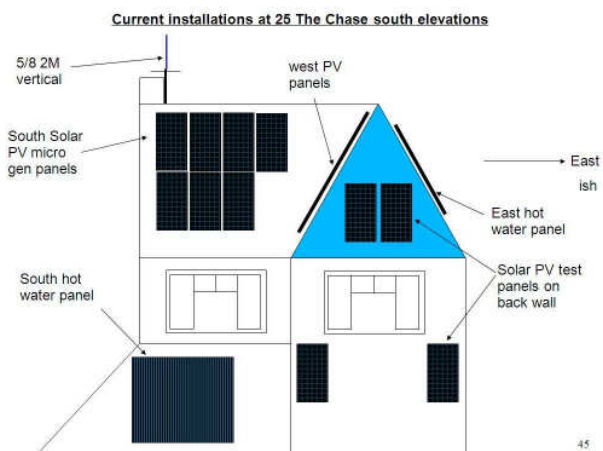
Band Report.
Activity on 12 metres CW most days, some only heard very briefly
Some of those worked recently :

- ZS6X South Africa
- 5N7M Nigeria
- A71SM Qatar
- OY1CT Faeroe Islands
- ZB2FK Gibraltar
- ZP6CW Paraguay
- 8R1RPN Guyana
- P43JB Aruba
- ZD9T Tristan de Cunha (Heard !)

[And from Roger G4WAY:](#)

This toolbar has just about everything a radio ham needs on the internet.

<http://www.haminfo.co.uk/>



THE CHAIRMAN'S BLOG – December 2010



November was a busy one for the club, and in particular for Maurice G4DDY, in putting on club stands at both the Kempton Radio Fair and the CATS' Bazaar. I assisted Maurice at Kempton, as did John G3ENG, and we were at the CATS Bazaar too as was Gareth G4XAT who also assisted on the club stand. Several club members were seen at both events.



Maurice G4DDY & Charles M0BIN at Kempton



Kim G6JXA



John G4EWX

John G8MNY was manning the ATV stand at Kempton and also had a table at Kempton for selling components. As has been mentioned several times before the money raised from sales at these events is the main contributor to club funds, and more so than the membership subscription, which has been kept low for many, many years through Maurice's efforts.



John G8MNY on HC ATV Club Stand



Robert M1MRS

The CATS Bazaar was their 33rd this year and between about 10am-12pm it was elbow to elbow in the Scouts Hall in Coulsdon.



The crowded hall for the CATS' Bazaar



The busy SRCC stand with John G3ENG, Maurice G4DDY and Gareth G4XAT



John G3BFP at CATS Bazaar



A 'heavy' B40 Rx on sale

'A' & 'B' meetings: Because of club historical convention the main meeting each month has been called the 'A' meeting, and is usually the first meeting of the month with a talk or presentation or some other organised activity, with the second or 'B' two weeks later and usually an informal get together or fix-it or operating evening. However, in November this was changed to accommodate the availability of our speaker Glenn G4FVL. He gave a great presentation and talk and John G3MCX, our new Hon. Secretary has written this up elsewhere in this newsletter. John

has also been instrumental in arranging our next talk in December.

New Membership List: A lot of work has been done recently in updating records and chasing members who have been overdue in their club subscriptions. The aim is to circulate the new membership list to all members with the January Newsletter around the end of December or beginning of January. Only fully paid up members will be included in the list and only fully paid up members will receive the list. **The deadline for overdue subs**, and membership not to lapse, is receipt by the Hon. Treasurer (Maurice G4DDY) no later than **Tuesday 14th December**, when the club committee will finalise the membership list and respective e-mail and postal lists for newsletter.

Next Club Construction Project: Can we have some suggestions? The one on the table so far is a 30m QRSS QRP transmitter/beacon in the form of the kit from Hans Summers G0UPL, who gave us a talk a few years ago on his approach to homebrew design and construction.

New members: we have been very negligent in not recording a formal welcome in the newsletter to members who have joined this year. To make up for this neglect I would like to formally welcome:



Rick M6LEP



Peter M1PFS

Michael Somers (not licenced), whose picture appeared in the November newsletter, and Glenn Rankin G4FVL whose picture appeared in the November newsletter also, and elsewhere in this one too.

Operating: John G3BFP, as usual has managed to dig out the DX and e-mailed me recently with a new log extract:

7MHz 9A8W, K4LTA, W1AO, K2LB, N2KW,
10MHz 9M2MRS
14MHz K2VV
18MHz EY8MM, OX/DL2SWW, EA8/RW9JZ,
VP9/AA4V, CR6A, W4S0, 6V7Z
21MHz K1DLN, A61Q, 9A3TR, CN8YR,
TA3AX, CO8LY, HK4CZE

Contribution to the club's history: I'm repeating the request I made last month: can I ask members to contribute a short write up of how they got interested in amateur radio and how they were introduced to the SRCC? Please e-mail to Prim G4CCY. All contributions received will be included in the revised history of the club that Prim is preparing.

Sign off: That's all from me this month.

Pat G4FDN

And now an interesting story from the Hon Sec:

BEWARE IDENTIFY THEFT by John Kennedy G3MCX

Sandra and I have a son and his XYL, Mandy living in New Zealand with their two children. Our younger daughter, Lucy and OM Nigel live with their four Children in Torquay. About four weeks ago, Mandy sent me an e-mail asking if we would mind wrapping presents for the Children in Torquay as she knew we would be seeing them sometime over the Christmas holiday if she ordered them on line and had them delivered to us. They would be staying with us and naturally we agreed to do it, Mandy said we may get a single box or bits and pieces delivered separately.

Within a week DHL delivered a small package, it seemed a bit soon and was addressed to William Kennedy, my first name which is normally only used by the NHS and the Tax man, however I signed for it and took it in. The bag contained a brand new o2 iPhone 4 - worth several hundred pounds and obviously not a Christmas present for a young grandchild. Half an hour later we had a 'phone call from a very foreign sounding gentleman from a withheld number saying he was from the DHL warehouse and asking if we have had a parcel delivered because one had gone missing and he thinks it may have been delivered to me by mistake. If so, a man would call to pick it up. While he was speaking to me a man wearing a rather scruffy yellow smock, carrying an empty DHL bag walked up the front path and rang the bell. This guy was about 6' 2" and built like an All Black but I told him that I was a

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and had been made aware of a scam that started like this and I would check before parting with the package. He said OK but he could not wait for long. While I was talking to the local Police he just walked away, and the Police asked which way he went because someone may be able to come and have a look.

Two PC's called later in the afternoon and took details from the address label and of the phone itself from the paperwork enclosed. They checked with DHL, who confirmed that nobody had been sent to collect the parcel. One of the PC's had a contact in o2 and checked that I could return it to an o2 shop, so I took it to Croydon the next day and was told by the Manager that he was not allowed to accept it as it would become his responsibility but he did get in touch with his security department and let them speak to me. The PC had asked me to try and find out where and how it had been paid for. o2 would not give me this information but they did ask me my Bank sort code and confirmed that it had not been charged to my account. They said that if the Police used the 'phone number given to me and spoke to their Police Liaison Officer any details would be passed over as o2 did not inform the Police of individual cases as there were too many of them. o2 would call me within 48 working hours and to just follow the returns procedure found with the 'phone, just post it back. I called in at the Bank to let them know and the Police Station to give what little update I had and was given a crime number. I did get a 'phone call from o2 to say the account had been set up in Halifax and a letter to say that my name and address had been used fraudulently, by parties unknown, to obtain goods and services from them. The account had been closed and I had been disassociated from it. I 'phoned the Police again only to be told that the desk Officer should have said that no further action would be taken and the best thing I could do was just forget about it. Our elder daughter, Judith, is a Police Sergeant in another Borough and knew that I was not happy with what happened. So, she said that she would 'phone o2 on my behalf and tell them I did not want to just put the phone in the post, they told her it was most unusual for someone not to hand the 'phone back when asked at the door and that they would send a Jiffy Bag with an a return label direct to the security dept. with a name and ref. Number.

I sent the pack recorded delivery, a week later I 'phoned o2 again and was told it maybe in the Post Room but do not worry whatever happens it will not be charged to me.

Judith knew I was not happy about the whole thing and explained that as I was not assaulted and the guy was not arrested on my doorstep, which would have been useful, no crime was committed in Croydon and as o2, the victims of the crime are based in Leeds are not worried, the Police would not be involved.

A further letter from o2 said that they would record the impersonation attempt with the CIFAS and a marker would be against my address which indicates to other organizations that I have been the victim of an

impersonation and my name and or address have been used by another person. This marker will protect me from further attempts but might also mean that any organization where I have an account may contact me or if I try to open an account there might be a delay while my details are checked.

A note from the new SRCC webmaster, Steve G4FYF



Following the recent re-alignment of administrative efforts within the SRCC committee, I will be taking forward the maintenance of the club web site, www.g3src.org.uk.

Firstly, I think we all appreciate the efforts of Ray, G4FFY, in not only maintaining the site, but also developing it along with his other secretarial duties. I hope to continue this legacy and, no doubt I will be tapping Ray's brain in continuation of this!

The web site exists to be, primarily, a resource for the membership for instant access to club news and current and historical information. Importantly, being on the world wide web, it also serves as a conduit to the outside world where SRCC can display its proactive contribution within the ham radio environment.

That said, I have some ideas for including additional web site elements, but being *your* site, have you any suggestions that would benefit you? Let me know via email, steveg4fyf@hotmail.co.uk, or catch me at club meetings. Watch this space!

73's Steve.

EARLY RADAR HISTORY

I have received the following item from Brian Marshall of Boffins TV. Further info from brian@boffinstv.co.uk :

Dear SRCC. I am sure that your members would be interested in a new documentary I have just completed. It tells the story of the frantic race to develop British radar and how the Germans nearly discovered its secrets in a daring radio spy mission onboard the Graf Zeppelin airship. I have been trying to get broadcast interest in the story for nearly 10 years and in the end had to produce the programme entirely with my own resources. (luckily I work in TV). I managed to get interviews with many of the surviving pioneers of radar before their demise. At present the DVD is only for sale on my website. Please visit www.boffinstv.co.uk to see clips and learn more.

THE CALENDAR SECTION

Given the weather, I am holding over notices from other Clubs re their meetings.

SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month. Apologies if I have missed anything while compiling this newsletter and any name errors on the photographs. It has been challenging trying to fit photos into the space available and trying to work out how (and failing) to control the number and continuity of 2 columns – not to mention colours. Hopefully the next issue will be easier to produce, more agreeable in presentation and more timely. I will also include my VHF/NFD Summary of the activities of North East Surrey Contest Group – of which SRCC is part together with CATS and Addiscombe RC.

73 de John G8IYS