



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

**SEPTEMBER 2010** – No: 816

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

Hon. Sec. Ray Howells G4FFY  
 16 Handel Walk  
 TONBRIDGE  
 Kent TN10 4DG  
 01732 357474

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

E-Mail: [secretary@g3src.org.uk](mailto:secretary@g3src.org.uk)

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

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

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**"A" MEETING 6<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010 BitX 20m Transceiver with Steve Jones G4FYF**

**"B" MEETING 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"**

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	G4FFY Ray Howells	01732 357474
VHF Co-ordinator	G8IYS John Simkins	020 8657 0454
Committee Member	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Committee Member - Technical	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020 8462 2837
Committee Member	G4FYF Steve Jones	01689 845568
Recycling	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480

## Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the September 2010 Newsletter which is being edited Ray G4FFY. August for us was the last time to have summer holidays away in the van so have been to East Sussex, New Forest and Suffolk. We were also lucky to get to Glyndebourne to see The Rake's Progress and have a picnic in the grounds dressed in our finery!! September I am off on my Great rail travels, firstly to Austria and Oberammergau for the Passion Play, and then to the Moselle Valley later in the month.

Anyway to the Newsletter and we are indebted to Pat G4FDN, but firstly:  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep 2010 73 Ray G4FFY

## This month's meetings:

For the "A" Meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September we have a presentation about the BitX 20m Transceiver with the regular "Fix-It" and "Move-It On" "B" Meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September. More about these below:

**NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010  
 BitX Transceiver with Steve Jones G4FYF  
 7:30pm for 7:45pm**

For the next "A" meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September we welcome Steve Jones G4FYF to Trinity School to give a presentation on the BitX 20M Transceiver project he has been building and operating. We shall hear about the trials, tribulations and successes he has been through in this project.  
 We look forward to an interesting evening.

## NEXT "B" MTG: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Sep 2010: 7.45pm FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September at Trinity School is the regular "Fix-It" and advice evening with the extra twist. If you have a radio item or anything else that you just wish to clear out then bring it along - you never know it may be just what another member is looking for!

The Fix-It section has proved very interesting and successful so please bring along that item that has been giving you grief - rigs, PCs, whatever! The collective heads at the meeting usually come up with something.

## The CHAIRMAN's BLOG - August 2010



I did not make it to the last 'A' and 'B' meetings because of the family holiday in the USA. We spent a week by a lake in Maine, with two to three days each in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. Unlike on previous visits, I didn't bring any radio equipment with me and didn't do any operating. The main reason for this was reduced economy class baggage allowance on transatlantic flights –down from 2 bags each up to 30kg, to 1 bag each up to 23kg. A secondary reason was that I wanted to bring some radio gear back with and needed to keep the bag as light as possible on the way over. I brought back an SGC SG-230 Auto ATU and LDG Z-817 Auto ATU. The store I purchase them from being HRO in Salem, New Hampshire, about a 40 minute drive from Boston.

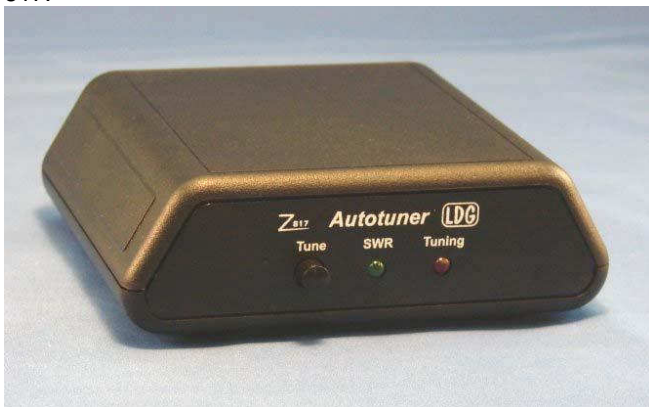


I have used this store several times in the past, both in New Hampshire, and at their store in Anaheim, California, and have always received very good service and prices from them. Prices are significantly cheaper than from UK suppliers and this is partly because of there being no sales taxes in New Hampshire. Since getting back I have been trying out the SG-230 and haven't been disappointed.



With my 33ft vertical antenna and buried ground plane it tunes all bands 160m to 10m. With other auto ATU's I had tried, Top Band was usually a problem because there was insufficient inductance in the tuner to provide the right match. Unlike most other auto ATU's the SG-230 can do 'Pi' matching as well as 'L' matching. The SGC SG-230 also has a fully weather proof enclosure, and is rated at 200W PEP and is considered by many to be the 'bench mark' by which to judge other ATU's.

The other auto ATU purchased was the LDG Z-817, which is designed to be used with the Yaesu QRP FT-817 transceiver, and is rated up to 20W PEP and can be used with other transceivers, but integrates very well with the FT-817.



It runs off 4 AA cell batteries and uses latching relays for inductance and capacitance switching, and hence has a very low current drain once a match has been obtained.



Unlike most other LDG auto ATU's, the Z-817 isn't fully automatic and can't be placed remotely from the FT-817 as the 'Tune' button needs to be pressed for each frequency change. This seems an unnecessary constraint as it wouldn't have needed much additional circuitry to use the RF detect circuitry to initiate a tune sequence rather than relying on a user button press, and I will probably modify this at some point. Apart from that it seems to do everything specified OK, though it wouldn't tune my 33ft vertical on Top Band.

The view of the internal circuitry and battery holder can be seen below.



**Request for memorabilia of club interest:** I'm afraid that despite my previous requests there have been negligible responses, and as the dinner is only a month away there is very little time to make use of any material that members have.

**Operating:** John G3BFP, as usual has managed to dig out the DX and e-mailed me recently with a new log extract:  
 On 30m: 4K9W (Azerbaijan), ER6HV (Moldova), LU7YZ (Argentina), PR7AR (Brazil)  
 On 20M: CO6RD (Cuba), VE3RTU (Toronto), JN3OUJ (Japan), T77C (San Marino), ST2AR (Sudan), TF3CW (Iceland)  
 On 17m ZP6CW (Paraguay), AP2TN (Pakistan), P43JB (Aruba), JH4UTP (Japan), CU3HQ (Azores), W9RGB (USA)  
 On 15m: A71EM (Qatar). All the above were on CW.

**Sign off:** That's all from me this month. Looking forward to seeing you all next Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September.

73, Pat G4FDN

31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2010

**LAST "A" MTG Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2010: 7.45pm  
Vintage Radio Evening**

This was an excellent and well supported evening with contributions and talks from David G8RUZ, David G3KQR, Maurice G4DDY, Peter G7PWV and John G3ENG. Apologies if I have missed anyone out.

Roger G4WAY kindly took pictures on the night and here are a few of them:



EKCO AW 98 - G8RUZ



EKCO MBP 99 - G8RUZ



Bits and Pieces - G3KQR



Test Meters - G4DDY



Air Craft Radio Marconi Type AD94 – G3ENG



David G8RUZ



David G3KQR



Peter G7PWV



John G3ENG



Maurice G4DDY

## Members News

### Arthur G3YRB - Silent Key

I am sorry to advise that Arthur Simpson G3YRB became a silent key during August when he died peacefully in hospital. He leaves a large family and we are thinking especially of Britta who nursed him so well for many years. The funeral is to be held at the Croydon Crematorium 6th September 1.30 pm then afterwards Tea and Sandwiches at the Norfolk Hotel. I extend our condolences on behalf of the club to all the family.

## THE CALENDAR SECTION

### SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	BitX 20M Transceiver – Steve G4FYF
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	Sutton & Cheam RS – 'Natter Night' @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 <a href="http://www.scrs.org.uk">www.scrs.org.uk</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	Crystal Palace: An Evening of Three Mini-Talks by Don Field G3XTT @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill from 7:30pm. Bob G3OOU 01737 552170 (Meet normally monthly on 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday) <a href="http://www.g3oou.co.uk/">http://www.g3oou.co.uk/</a>
10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	W&DARS: Summer Camp Debrief @ Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, MERTON PARK SW20 9JZ – 7.30 for 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 <a href="http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/">http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/</a>
13 <sup>th</sup> Sep	CATS: Talk on Green Energy by Glenn Rankin G4FVL – Meetings normally held @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday's. Contact Andy Jackson G8JAC on 020-8651 2727 <a href="mailto:g8jac@btinternet.com">g8jac@btinternet.com</a>
16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Sutton & Cheam RS – Radio Fox Hunts by Terry Giles G4CDY @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 <a href="http://www.scrs.org.uk">www.scrs.org.uk</a>

16 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Reigate Amateur Transmitting Society – Main meeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday's at RNIB, Redhill College, Philanthropic Road, Redhill 7.30pm. <a href="http://www.qsl.net/rats">www.qsl.net/rats</a> or <a href="mailto:rats@qsl.net">rats@qsl.net</a>
20 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	Bromley & District - Meetings normally on 3rd Tuesday's @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8. Paul M3PGW <a href="mailto:bdars@greenwand.net">bdars@greenwand.net</a> or <a href="http://www.bdars.org.uk">www.bdars.org.uk</a>
24 <sup>th</sup> Sep	W&DARS: Radio Susy with John Stockley G8MNY @ Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, MERTON PARK SW20 9JZ – 7.30 for 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 <a href="http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/">http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/</a>
28 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Dorking & District Radio Society – Using Antenna Analysers by Peter Dodds G3LDO. Meetings normally @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: David Smith M0SXD on 07808 579501, <a href="http://www.ddrs.org.uk">http://www.ddrs.org.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:ddrs.secretary@yahoo.co.uk">ddrs.secretary@yahoo.co.uk</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch –Sutton Holiday Inn</b>

SRCC Meetings indicated in **BOLD** at venue of Trinity School

### Rally Calendar, etc:

11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>Gatwick Radio Weekend</b> On the A217 at Hunters Moon Location; RH6 0HU, GRID TQ 262438 – details contained in last month's Newsletter, else contact Mike m1ccf@talktalk.net / 0208 654 2582 - 07984 931 360
1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	<b>National Hamfest</b> George Stephenson Pavilion, Newark & Nottingham Showground, Lincoln Road, Winthorpe, Newark NG24 2NY. Further details and ticket information, visit: <a href="http://www.nationalhamfest.org.uk">www.nationalhamfest.org.uk</a>
8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>RSGB 2010 Convention</b> Horwood House near Milton Keynes. Further details and ticket information, visit: <a href="http://www.rsgb.org/rsgbconvention">www.rsgb.org/rsgbconvention</a>
7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>West London Radio &amp; Electronics Show</b> Kempton Park Racecourse. Open 10:00. Parking, Trade Stands, Club Stands, Bring & Buy (CATS), Catering, Disabled Facilities. Further details and ticket information, visit: <a href="http://www.radiofairs.co.uk">www.radiofairs.co.uk</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	<b>CATS 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Radio and Electronics Bazaar</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Coulsdon Scout Group Headquarters, Lion Green Road, Coulsdon. Open 10.00 – 13.00. Parking, Trade Stands, Bring & Buy, Refreshments. Contact <a href="mailto:enquiries@catsradio.org">enquiries@catsradio.org</a> or <a href="http://www.catsradio.org">www.catsradio.org</a>
Rally List	<a href="http://www.rsgb.org/events/index.php">http://www.rsgb.org/events/index.php</a>

### SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month, apologies if I have missed anything while compiling this newsletter. For our main meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September we welcome Steve Jones G4FYF to Trinity School for his presentation on the BitX 20M Transceiver. The "B" meeting is on September 20<sup>th</sup> at Trinity School. Don't forget we now start at 7:45pm

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep 2010