



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

**FEBRUARY 2000 — No: 689**

CLUB NET 29.111 MHz Sunday **9:30am**  
CLUB NET 144.325 MHz Friday 8:30pm  
CLUB NET 145.500 MHz and Down Thursday 7.00pm  
  
CLUB Internet WEB Site:  
<http://www.btinternet.com/~ray.howells/srcc/>

Hon. Sec. Ray Howells G4FFY  
9 Aultone Way  
SUTTON  
Surrey SM1 3LD  
0181-644 7589  
E-Mail: [g3src@btinternet.com](mailto:g3src@btinternet.com)

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.45 FOR 8pm  
AT THE T.S. TERRA NOVA, 34 THE WALDRONS, SOUTH CROYDON  
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"A" MEETING 7<sup>th</sup> February 2000 LINEAR AMPLIFIERS – David Foster G3KQR  
"B" MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> February 2000 INFORMAL GATHERING AND TECHNICAL CHINWAG

## Dear Members

Hello and welcome to the February 2000 newsletter that I am afraid has been written a few days late due to me being heavily involved in the last stages of our bungalow extension building. It's in fact Tuesday night (1<sup>st</sup> Feb) with me realising that I need to get this in the post tomorrow so that you can receive it by the weekend.

For our "A" meeting this month on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb we have a talk and exhibit by David Foster on Linear Amplifiers. Also please don't forget to come to the "B" meetings, the next is on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.

Our extension is now virtually completed, the inside has just been handed over to us though a new consumer unit has still to be fitted, and the in-line shower fan provided. On the outside we are now having the soak-away dug (1.6m diameter and at least 1.6m deep) and following Maurice G4DDY's suggestion, I have put some copper pipe down this hole and cabled them away to the garden shack to provide an earth.

## NEXT MEETING:

**"A" Meeting Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2000**  
**LINEAR AMPLIFIERS – Dr David Foster G3KQR**

This meeting was arranged at short notice to fill a gap in our programme and we are indebted to Dr David Foster in talking to us next Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.

David will be giving us a talk and exhibit about Linear Amplifiers. He will be explaining the theory of operation and describing some practical applications. This talk has just been given to the Thames Valley ARTS in early January.

## NEXT MEETING:

**"B" Meeting Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2000**

This will be the normal informal gathering and technical chinwag at TS Terra Nova. It would be good to have a few more members turning up for these as the attendance towards the end of last year was falling off with the majority of those there only being the committee! This is a shame as these "B" meetings provide an excellent opportunity to chat to other members, opportunity to solve problems, and operate the club station. In the past we have also run a Morse class.

## LAST MEETING:

**"A" Meeting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2000**  
**Radio Navigation on "D" Day –**  
**Walter Blanchard G3JKV**

Considering the weather and the effects of the flu the turnout of 12 was reasonable though a few more would have been welcomed. Walter gave us an interesting talk that was not too technical and was given without any notes.

The notes I took remind me of the three navigation aids that existed at the time – GEE (The Lancaster Navigation station), DECCA QM1 used on D-Day (Blue Gas Meters), and the H25 used in Lancaster's.

The theory of 2 transmitters being received and using Phase comparison was discussed. Other tit-bits I noted was that the RAF lost 42,000 planes trying to get back; 24-26MHz being used during D-day on the main land; a dummy network was put up to put the Germans off the scent; and experiments done off Anglesey using 600 & 1200kHz.

Apparently only 27 DECCA QM1 receivers were built compared to over 900 GEE sets. Of the H25 sets one can be seen in Bletchley Park.

On D-day 10m wide channels between Swanage, Chichester and Beachy Head (if my notes are right?) was swept for mines only a half-hour before the passage of the ships using 127 minesweepers.

An early comment in Walter's talk was that Hertz initially used radio waves for direction finding using loop aerials.

Thank you Walter for an interesting talk, which was a fitting contribution to the annual Sid Memorial meeting. I hope my notes were accurate!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 00 **LINEAR AMPLIFIERS** - David Foster G3KQR
- 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 00 RSGB National VHF Convention  
- Sandown Exhibition Centre,  
Esher
- 21<sup>st</sup> Feb " B" Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup> Mar 00 **SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE**
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mar " B" Meeting
- 25<sup>th</sup> Mar 00 SRCC Annual Dinner -  
Windmill PH, Wallington -  
**Note: New Date**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr 00 **AGM**
- 17<sup>th</sup> Apr " B" Meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> May 00 **CONSTRUCTION EVENING and  
Constructional Contest**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May " B" Meeting

**NOTE:** Dates in **BOLD** are SRCC Terra Nova Meetings.

## CLUB DINNER 2000

As you will have seen from the Dates for your Diaries column we will now be holding our annual dinner at the Windmill Pub in Wallington on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2000. It will take too long to go into the various debates, etc that brought about this change of date but hopefully this will be the last change!

Menus and cost are still to be worked out but I will be pleased to receive your deposits to reserve your place. I would appreciate £5.00 a head (cheques payable to Ray Howells) to my address at the top of this Newsletter - thanks.

## MEMBERS NEWS & ACTIVITIES

### *Alf Philp 101*

Firstly I forgot last month to advise of the then up and coming birthday celebration for Alf Philp on the 13<sup>th</sup> Jan. Alf was 101 and so belated congratulations and best wishes to you Alf - trust you are well and had an enjoyable birthday.

### *Pat Spenceley G8LZA*

Apparently I should have received an E-Mail from Pat in mid-December but it was locked into the go.to WEB based Mail service which I haven't yet successfully accessed. Anyway Pat re-sent it to wish all SRCC members a happy Y2K and enclosed the following:

Hi Ray

Here I am again - well you did say in the newsletter that you were looking for personal contributions, so maybe this will help. By all means use it or bits of it as you see fit.

I have been doing more poking on the Internet, and I think I am really getting to grips with it now. The quarterly phone bill is due any time (oh dear!) but it should not be too awful because I don't really have the time to become totally addicted, but I fear it will have made some difference at least. Still as they say, it keeps you off the streets.

I got really bold and did some of my Christmas shopping on the Internet. I was a bit nervous and shaky the first time, but it all went fine and I felt like putting the flags out to celebrate the event! After that things went like a bomb. The right objects turning up at the right time and nothing battered or broken (unlike my other source of gifts, namely charity catalogues - never again!). The first box to arrive had the usual collection of packing globules, but instead of being polystyrene they were some sort of starch and bio-degradable, so Peter put them in a bucket, added warm water, stirred well and poured them on the garden. The second box was huge, with masses of said globules. We tried to fish the giftie out but it was stuck, so we had to scoop out all the globules, filling a dustbin bag in the process. Peter didn't fancy making soup out of all that lot so it went to the city dump. These boxes came from eToys, and I think the idea was in case kiddies tried to eat them - good thinking Batman.

I may have been lucky because there are tales around of people having problems, but Internet shopping certainly worked for me, and I liked the lower prices too. One hazard is that some of the catalogues that drop through the letter box are a little over optimistic - visit our web site they say - only when you do, you can't do anything with it because it's only half finished. In one case all I got was a page with nothing except the company name - such help. I had to resort to the phone for that one - what a come down. No doubt they will get there in the end.



Pat Spenceley G8LZA

Now how about a photo of me just to remind you what I look like - no don't run away - it's just that I like playing with my toys! This was taken at a feast to celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of our oldest friends (oldest in time that is). It is noticeable that apart from the glass I am holding there are 5 others within reach. But, alas they were mostly

either empty or only contained water. The only other with wine in it was Peter's. I don't know what use you can make of the photo, but no doubt you can find means to pass it around interested parties.

Time to go and consume a pizza, so with best wishes to all Pat G8LZA

Many thanks Pat for this, which I used virtually in its entirety, including the photo.

## NEW MEMBERS

It is nice to be able to report that during January we had three new members join us.

The first two are a husband and wife couple Mikiko and Robert Shepperley of Mitcham. They have an interesting story to tell which was actually contained in the November 1999 RadCom (page 11).

### "Accident Leads to Happy Union

The adage 'every cloud has a silver lining' certainly applies to RSGB member Robert Shepperley RS179091, and his wife Mikiko. Four years ago, two days after the pair first met in London, Mikiko was knocked down on a zebra crossing and sustained serious head, neck and leg injuries. Robert said: "She had no one in this country to turn to, so I took it upon myself to look after her while she recovered." After Mikiko's long convalescence, the pair were married.

Robert and Mikiko, who live in Mitcham, Surrey, are keen short wave listeners and often attend radio rallies. They are looking for a new rig, and plan to attend a Novice RAE course." - Source Nov 1999 Radcom pg11



Mikiko & Robert Shepperley on their Wedding Day with Mikiko in full ceremonial dress  
RS 181326 & RS 179091

Our third new member is Donovan Haynes M/KC2FGZ who resides in Selsdon. His interests include

SSB, Phone, SSTV, and Satellite Communications as well as Construction.

Welcome to the SRCC and may I wish you all a long and happy association with the Club.

## VHF CONVENTION - Reminder

As reported last month the RSGB National VHF Convention is once more being held at Sandown Exhibition Centre, Esher, Surrey on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2000. Opening time is 10:30am to 5.00pm with admission charge of £3.00 (Under 14 free). Attractions will include trade stands, lectures, presentation of trophies, Morse tests on demand, Special Interest groups, Specialist RSGB committees, Restaurant & Bar, Free parking and the RSGB Book stand.

For more information contact Derek Land at RSGB HQ on 01707 659015 - Source Jan 2000 Radcom pg89.

## PROJECT ECHO (Eltham Contact Hams Overseas)

This event is taking place from 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1999 to 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2000 from Ranger's House, Chesterfield Walk, Blackheath. The Cray Valley Radio Society are operating the station to celebrate the millennium using the special callsign M2000A. More details can be found on the WEB at URL <http://www.qsl.net/m2000a> or from Richard Perzyna at 29 Lakeside Drive, Bromley Common, Kent BR2 8QQ.

## SMC Future:

The club has received the following Press Release from John Lightfoot, Managing Director of SMC Ltd which went to the Amateur press on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2000.

### "SMC Focuses on Commercial Business

During the late 1990's, South Midlands Communications (SMC) has successfully developed its involvement in commercial radio communication markets world-wide and is now one of the world's leading manufacturers and suppliers of antennas, masts and radio systems, supplying major names, such as Marconi, Racal, Cable & Wireless, Thomson, Harris and Daltron, in addition to aid agencies, defence, national guard and police forces world-wide.

Consistent with the growth in commercial business, SMC in-house manufacturing now represents the major part of the company turnover.

In order that resources may be concentrated upon these growing markets, it is with sadness and regret that SMC announces the closure of their retail division. There will be closing down sales at both shops in Southampton and Axminster. All remaining stocks will be sold at near cost or below cost. SMC will of course continue to support and guarantee the equipment we have supplied and shall continue to manufacture the Fairhaven and Lowe range of receivers, which will still be available from your local dealer.

We shall deeply miss our many friends and loyal customers, whom we have served since 1958. SMC has appreciated your friendship and custom and trust that we have in turn served the amateur fraternity to our best of our abilities.

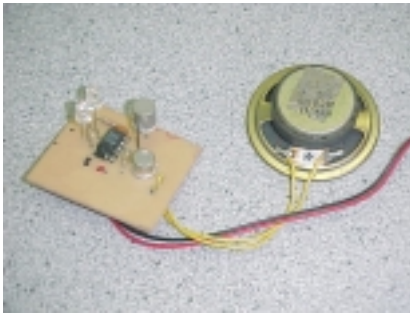
From John Lightfoot, myself and all the staff of SMC, we wish you all "au revoir" but not good bye.

73's  
Barry Gardner G8MNN - Chairman"

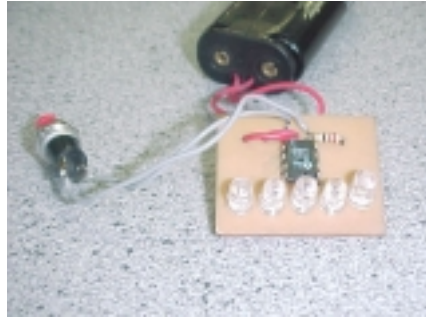
## Proposals for May Construction Evening – May 8<sup>th</sup>

As you may be aware we intend to hold a Constructing Evening on May 8<sup>th</sup> as well as a normal Construction Contest with prizes. The constructing part of the evening will be non-competitive and hopefully will encourage more people to make simple projects (guaranteed working).

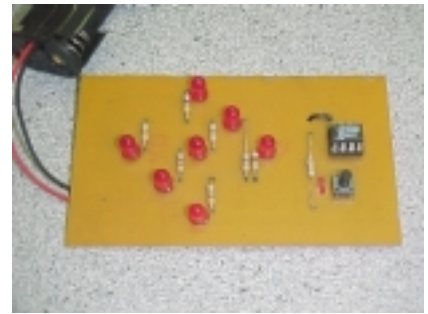
We have asked Gareth G4XAT to propose some small projects and these were displayed at the last "A" meeting. Gareth has sent me some photos of the possibilities, which I have reproduced below to enable you to make a choice.



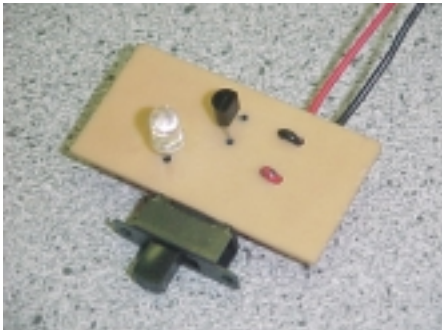
ALARM



BICYCLE FLASHER



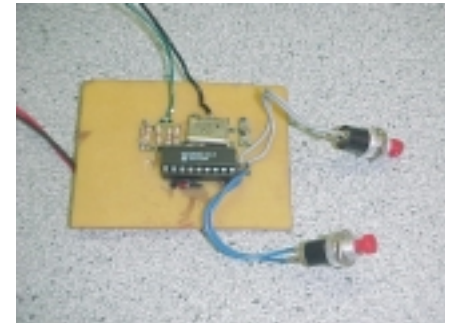
ELECTRONIC DICE



LED FLASHER



FROST STAT



VIDEO GENERATOR

We have yet to work out the costs though some will be cheap and all under a fiver. I would appreciate your earliest thoughts on what you would like to build (one, two or whatever!)



Honda C90 Engine



" Mouse " Car

Gareth has also sent the following:

For those participants and listeners to the Sunday net I have included a couple of my "Vehicular Project". Rather hard to see past all the other stuff in the garage but it is a front right hand view of my "Mouse". The other is a picture of the new motive power, a C90 Honda stepthrough motorcycle engine, all 90 cc of it. The car is ex Danish ex electric power. WHY? Well, road tax at 15 pound per year and about 200 mpg might have something to do with it!

### SIGNING OFF

That's the lot for this month - please try and turn out on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb to support David Foster and his talk on Linear Amplifiers. Also don't forget the "B" meetings with the next being on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. Also please send me contributions for the Newsletter - they are always welcomed - especially the Member's News bit. Bernie G8TB has asked me to thank Gav G2OS and John G3BFP for the stamps they have sent him - they are welcomed and appreciated (help raise funds for the Diamond Riding Centre).

73 and 88

Ray G4FFY

Posted: 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2000 (Fitting of Consumer Unit caused further delay!)