



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

JANUARY 2000 — No: 688

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.45 FOR 8pm
 AT THE T.S. TERRA NOVA, 34 THE WALDRONS, SOUTH CROYDON

"A" MEETING	10 th January 2000	RADIO NAVIGATION on "D" DAY - G3JKV
"B" MEETING	24 th January 2000	INFORMAL GATHERING AND TECHNICAL CHINWAG

Dear Members

Hello and welcome to the first newsletter of the New Year - whether it's the new millennium depends on your point of view. It was interesting to note that the Daily Mail in its Millennium edition printed a facsimile of the 31st Dec 1900 paper being the issue at the end of the last millennium.



We wish all our members and friends a very Happy New Year.

Hopefully you all put in your new diaries that the first meeting of the SRCC is actually next Monday 10th January 2000.

For our "A" meeting this month we have a talk we have been looking forward to for some time now. It concerns Radio Navigation on "D" Day and will be given by Walter Blanchard G3JKV. Please note that this will be held on Monday 10th January with the "B" meeting on Monday 24th January. There is also a VHF NFD team meeting on Monday 31st January at Peter's G3ZPB QTHR. You will also note that I have returned to the direct addresses for our WEB site as the short ones have problems. More about these further into the Newsletter.

In the meantime I am writing this newsletter some 12-weeks into the extension building. We now have the plastering finished and most of the decoration done - though bathroom tiling is outstanding. Now need the plumber to connect up the central heating and done the bathroom plumbing, and the electrician to complete his work including the provision of a new consumer unit.

NEXT MEETING:

"A" Meeting Monday 10th Jan 2000

SID MEMORIAL LECTURE:

**RADIO NAVIGATION on "D" DAY -
Walter Blanchard G3JKV**

As previously announced we have brought forward the Sid Memorial lecture from its normal slot of February to accommodate the talk to be given by Walter Blanchard G3JKV on Radio Navigation on "D" Day. Walter has a busy schedule but has managed to fit us in this coming Monday so please make every effort to attend this talk that we have been looking forward to for some time now.

At this "A" meeting Gareth G4XAT will be asked to bring along some sample kits for members

to agree on a project for the May Construction Evening and give us a little talk on what they do.

NEXT MEETING:

"B" Meeting Monday 24th Jan 2000

This will be the normal informal gathering and technical chinwag at TS Terra Nova.

NEXT MEETING:

VHF NFD Group Meeting Monday 31st Jan 2000

Further to the VHF NFD results published last month (we came 2nd in the Mix and Match section) we are holding a 1999 Inquest and 2000 Planning meeting at the QTH of Peter's G3ZPB on Monday evening 31st Jan 2000.

LAST MEETING:

"A" Meeting Monday 6th Dec 1999

Novel Uses of Computer Sound Cards - David Par G0PAR

We firstly have to thank Gareth G4XAT who brought along the PC Video Projector, which together with the projection screen made this an excellent way to see David's computer screen.

David G0PAR gave us an excellent talk covering some technical aspects and some demonstrations that were quite effective. Not only did David give us an insight into the workings of a PC sound card but reminded us of the processes within a receiver i.e. Filter, Amplify, Filter, IF, Filter, IF, Filter, and Audio Demodulation. Considering data communications there is Morse, RTTY, FAX, Packet and Slow Scan, all using two tones.

A Sound Card was initially produced to enable sound manipulation and the Creative Labs SoundBlaster become an industry standard. It uses Analogue-Digital (A-D) conversion and vice-versa with sampling performed at least twice the highest frequency to be manipulated. The heart of the sound card is the Digital Signal Processor (DSP) the control of which by software produces the required manipulation.

Demonstrations included a Spectrum Analyser and Filtering - the latter being displayed to good effect by software that produces a "Waterfall" diagram (frequency along the X-axis and time down the Y-axis). The talk included a demo on RTTY and discussion of SSTV.

If I get time I'll try and produce some of the displays, or pictures, for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

Some of the software used can be found on the CD-ROM Radio Ham 98 easily obtained for around

£5-00 at rallies. Some of the programs used included SbFFT Spectral display and Filtering for Sound Blaster cards that David used for the "Waterfall" display, and Blaster Teletype (BLT) for the RTTY demo. These programs are located in the miscellaneous folder. SSTV was demonstrated using WINPIX Pro that can be located in the FAX & SSTV folder.

David did have a problem in configuring his set-up prior to the talk and managed to "blow-up" a sound card. It proved the point that the chassis of the transceiver and the PC case must be bonded together to prevent Electro-static discharge when connecting up the audio connections. David also used an isolating transformer (small audio transformer with 1:1 turns ratio) and ferrite rings on the leads to reduce noise.

David concluded the talk with a review of his computer set-up and a demo on the Linux Operating system - possibly a subject for another talk. He had four desktops and applications included Netscape, Word Perfect, Informix database, and Star Office (which can read Word 97 files).

Thank you David, you did a very good job, well done and many thanks. It was also good to see the problems that we would all get and how to get out of them.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

10th Jan 00 SID MORLEY MEMORIAL

LECTURE - RADIO

NAVIGATION on "D" DAY -

Walter Blanchard G3JKV

31st Jan 00 VHF NFD Inquest and Planning Meeting @ QTH of Peter G3ZPB

7th Feb 00 LINEAR AMPLIFIERS - David Foster G3KQR - **Note:**
Changed Meeting

20th Feb 00 RSGB National VHF Convention - Sandown Exhibition Centre, Esher

6th Mar 00 SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE

18th Mar 00 SRCC Annual Dinner - Windmill PH, Wallington.

3rd Apr 00 AGM

8th May 00 CONSTRUCTION EVENING

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

You will also note that at short notice we have managed to secure a talk by Dr David Foster on Linear Amplifiers for the February "A" meeting.

MEMBERS NEWS & ACTIVITIES

I have a small number of snippets this month like Bernie G8TB was unfortunately hit for six and didn't make David's talk in December - so much for me to say that that Bernie was less affected than Graham G3RJW last month! I am glad to report that Bernie has recovered and was in normal fighting form at the following week's committee meeting.

I have received a nice letter from George G5BZ who wishes us all a very happy and successful New Year. He is off soon to South Africa (ZS land) for a while. He will be spending three weeks in the Kruger Park staying at five camps working his way from the far north on the Zimbabwean border to the south covering some 150 miles. He then drives to Cape Town to spend some six-weeks in a beach front flat at Fish Moek, a resort about 17 miles from Cape Town. Sounds lovely so enjoy yourself George and have a good holiday.

I have also received an E-Mail from Alan G7ELG with a little something of interest from the fens.

A recent visit from a local policeman to a fellow amateur living nearby prompted the following questions. (Are you aware of the interference to

t/v and radio sets in the area? Have you any idea where it might be coming from?)

A local keen contester had been warned about using too much power, but he insisted he operated within the terms of his "A " licence - 400 watts to a 17 element Cushcraft on 2 Metres. In a built up area, bordering on a new housing development, and closely surrounded by houses. I live about a mile away in a direct line and could not use 2Mtrs SSB or FM if he was operating; he literally swamped the whole band.

My friend answered by saying he suffered from the problem himself, and said he would keep his ears open. A quiet word with the person concerned brought no response.

About 2 weeks ago someone contacted the R.I.S. after interference on T/V the contesters station was checked and as a result he has been restricted to 10watts for 3 months, then the situation will be reviewed. He appealed because he said he was asked to beam directly in the area of the R.I.S. test gear, which he felt was unfair, but as was pointed out, he did the same to some peoples T/V aerials... Have fun but be careful.

Alan G7ELG

QTH of G4FFY - The Extension:



External view of our extension in December prior to completion of external rendering and pebble dashing. The wheelbarrow is hiding the armour cable which will be providing power to the shed behind the photographer.

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 20th 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.*

MILLENNIUM MONTH Y2K Suffix

The Radiocommunications Agency (RA) has agreed to allow the suffix /2K to be used by UK radio amateurs during January 2000, to celebrate the new Millennium. This means that anyone operating during January can add /2K to their callsign, club callsign or whilst operating a Special Event Station - *Source Jan 2000 Radcom pg11.*

WEB SITE

I have returned to the original URL in the Newsletter heading as some of you are experiencing problems with the shorter, re-direction type, URL. The same goes for the E-Mail address, as I seem to be unable to access the WEB based system that supports the shorter code! Any of you who have sent E-mail to the address srcc@go.to have not been read (though I do get notification messages) so could you please re-send to the old address if still relevant - thanks.

The committee has also discussed the new WEB site structure and has observed that further improvements can still be made - for example site navigation and better visibility of page changes - so keep watching (Oops surfing!).

THE INTERNATIONAL MODEL SHOW & MODEL ENGINEER EXHIBITION 1999

Did any of you go to this show last month as detailed in the flyer I had enclosed (though I did run out towards the end of the envelope stuffing!) and if so did you get the discount? Please let me know of your experiences for the next Newsletter.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bernie G8TB has supplied the following:

HEAT SINKS

Whatever one's age, one is always learning. My problem is that I am constantly forgetting what one learns!!

Having recently completed a PA for 23cms using a Mitsubishi Power module M68719 giving 20 watts output I was having trouble with a form of instability. This was traced to poor earthing of the heat sink. Used for example in a power supply maybe this would not be so important, but at UHF frequencies one has to be more critical. Most of these are either painted, or worse still anodised so it is very important that one ensures that the paint is removed where earthing is required. I got over this problem by extra bonding strips to earth.

G8TB

SRCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Do you wish to see the inner workings of your committee and see how we reach our decisions then you are more than welcomed to attend. The next committee meeting is being held on Tuesday night 18th Jan 2000 at QTH of Maurice G4DDY. Please give him a call so that sufficient sandwiches can be laid on - 0181-669 1480.

CLUB DINNER 2000

As you will have seen from the Dates for your Diaries column we will be holding our annual dinner at the Windmill Pub in Wallington on Saturday 18th March 2000.

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.

FOR SALE

LADIES RAYLEIGH PIONEER 26" BICYCLE
With 15 gears, and accessories - helmet, lights, chain (d-lock). Very low mileage, 8 yrs old, as new but needs cleaning

Price £50 or near offer

PLEASE CONTACT Ray G4FFY on 0181-644 7589

SIGNING OFF

That's the lot for this month - please try and turn out on Monday 10th Jan to support Walter Blanchard G3JKV and his long awaited talk on Radio Navigation on "D" Day.

Also please send me contributions for the Newsletter - they are always welcomed - especially the member's news bit.. I'll close with season greetings to you all for a very Happy New Year.

73 and 88

Ray G4FFY

Posted: 5th Jan 2000