



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

**JULY 2000 — No: 694**

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.g3src.org.uk>

Hon. Sec. Ray Howells G4FFY  
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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 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2000 SUMMER BARBECUE @ QTH of Peter G3ZPB**  
**“B” MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> July 2000 FIX-IT and ADVICE CLINIC, CHIN-WAG & CLUB STATION**

|  |  |                               |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Chairman                               | G3RJW Graham Marshall                    | 020-8669 8722                 |
| Vice-Chairman                          | GOPAR David How                          | 020-8761 2954                 |
| Treasurer, Liaison & Equipment         | G4DDY Maurice Fagg                       | 020-8669 1480                 |
| Secretary, Membership & Communications | G4FFY Ray Howells                        | 020-8644 7589                 |
| VHF Co-ordinator                       | G8TB Bernard Wynn                        | 020-8660 7517                 |
| Publicity & HF Co-ordinator            | G4WAY Roger Holyoake                     | 020-8689 7089                 |
| Members                                | G3ZPB Peter Burton<br>G4XAT Gareth Evans | 01737-551413<br>020-8462 2837 |

## Dear Members

**H**ello and welcome to the July 2000 newsletter, which hopefully I have been able to post a bit earlier this month.

For this month's "A" meeting we are not meeting at our normal venue, but instead up at the QTH of Peter's G3ZPB in Old Coulsdon for our Summer Barbecue. Also this weekend (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> July), the Club is taking part in VHF NFD; and for our "B" meeting we have the regular "Fix-it" evening on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

### NEXT MEETING:

**"A" Meeting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2000  
 SUMMER BARBECUE @ QTH of Peter  
 G3ZPB, Old Coulsdon.**

**O**nce again this year we are indebted to Peter & Wendy Burton who will be hosting the SRCC Barbecue at their home of Pound Cottage, 202 Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon. The date is next Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, time 7.30 for 8pm.

To find their home when going south along the Coulsdon Road (B2030) from Stoats Nest Road, it is on the right hand side and the first house after the new estate past Stoneyfield Road, with a bowling club almost opposite.

PLEASE NOTE this meeting is not held at our usual venue at the Terra Nova.

Members should bring their own meat (sausages, chops, hamburgers, fish etc) as the salad, bread and soft

drinks will be provided by Peter and Wendy. So that they can provide sufficient quantities it would be appreciated that those of you planning to come to contact them in advance (Tel: 01737-551513 or E-Mail: [pburton@iee.org](mailto:pburton@iee.org)).

The barbies will also be supplied with Peter and Graham being the cooks once again. If you require alcohol please bring your own.

This is planned as a FAMILY AFFAIR so bring the XYL and the little ones! All you have to do is to turn up and pray for good weather. If you are in any doubt please ring 01737-551413 after 5pm.

Entertainment will be laid on like Table Tennis or Pool or Snooker. In the past years this has been an excellent evening... it also gives the XYLs a chance to get together and swap news.

For this year there will be optional authentic Japanese food thanks to Robert and Mikiko Shepperley so don't miss it. Please let Peter & Wendy know that you are coming (01737-551413).

### NEXT MEETING:

**VHF NFD Weekend 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> July 2000**

**T**his weekend sees this annual contest which to many is the radio event of the year. We cannot emphasise too much how important it is to have as many members of the SRCC partaking in this event. For those of you who have not attended in the past please have a word with Bernie G8TB (020-8660 7517) or any other committee member who will soon put you in the picture.

We need OPERATORS, CHECK LOGGERS AND HELPERS. The start of the contest is from 14:00Z on Saturday to 14:00Z on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> July.

We commence setting up the stations (50Mhz, 70Mhz, 144MHz, 70cms and 23cms) early on Saturday morning, and we would welcome help in erecting the antennas, the tents, fitting up gear, running cables etc. We came 2<sup>nd</sup> last year in the Mix and Match Section and it would be excellent to better this as the winners get the G5BY cup that we have loaned to the RSGB.

We still need more operators and check operators and if helping out on the hectic 2M station is not your cup of tea why not try the 6M, 4M, 70cm or 23cm stations which are more leisurely. Please note that 6M will be operating only on the Saturday, and 4M only on the Sunday; the remainder will be operated over the 24hrs though 23cm will be closing down overnight.

This is a fun weekend and you do not have to remain on site for the whole time, an hour or two would be very welcomed.

The site is on the West Side of the B269 about one mile south of the Slines Oak Road. The entrance gate is next to an isolated house, though I am told that the once rough lay-by has been landscaped! As you drive onto the site we plan to lay out the stations in a U-shape with all cars to drive up the middle. A rope will mark out the boundary edge in order to protect the cabling and guys, etc. Will you please keep within the roped-off as they have been occasions when cars have ripped up our telephone cables.

It is planned to start at around 9:30am on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July and your help will be appreciated. It's a nice time out in the fresh air, so do make an effort to put in an appearance - thanks. Talk-in has been proposed on S14 145.350MHz

**NEXT MEETING: COULSDON  
AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY  
(CATS) INTER-CLUB QUIZ - 10<sup>th</sup> July**

**T**he CATS have issued an invite for members of local clubs and societies to take part on their Inter-Club team quiz night which takes place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2000 at St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley. The quiz will start at 8pm.

This is the last reminder of this event and this is your invitation to turn up at 7.45pm. Teams of four from each of the local Clubs attending are made up on the spot. Several SRCC members have participated in the past and it is always a very amusing evening.

As in all these quizzes it is a question of luck as to what question you happen to know, but then there is the rest of the team! JUST TURN UP and ENJOY YOURSELF.

**NEXT MEETING:  
"B" Meeting Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2000  
FIX-IT and ADVICE CLINIC**

**H**ave you ever wish for help or advice for a technical problem you have, or need advice which trying to repair an item of radio equipment. Well, this meeting may be just what you needed. These sessions are now a regular activity for the "B" meeting, in addition to the other activities of chinwag and Club station.

It's an excellent opportunity to draw upon the wealth of expertise that the Club membership holds. All we ask that you contact a committee member prior to the meeting to advise of your needs and we will try to accommodate.

Maurice G4DDY has volunteered to take your calls on 020-8669 1480.

**LAST MEETING:  
"A" Meeting Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2000  
SHORT TALKS EVENING**

**W**e were treated to three excellent presentations given by Roger G4WAY, Gareth G4XAT and Bernie G8TB - thank you all.

Roger opened the evening and we had an enjoyable hour learning about Cyprus, it's history and current status, the people, money, weather, living costs, and the local amateur radio scene. This talk came about following Roger's recent holiday in Cyprus with Prue G4RWW and Ron G6LX, and he did such a good job briefing the committee that we persuaded him to give talk to the Club. We commented that Roger made an excellent Cyprus Tourist Board rep!!

Second up was Gareth when we learnt about servos and how to build controllers for them, including using those PIC chips. Gareth also showed us his 12v portable generator, which could charge at 10A.

Bernie completed the evening with his experiences of Tramlink, which is proving such a hit! Mary and I have now used it and getting a wheelchair on and off was extremely easy. Once inside the ride stability was also good and Mary felt very safe. She reckons it is faster than the old train it replaced.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> July</b> | <b>VHF NFD Weekend - Warlingham</b>  |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>                | <b>Barbecue at QTH of G3ZPB</b>  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> July                      | Sussex Amateur Radio & Computer Fair   |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup> July</b>               | <b>CATS inter-Club Quiz</b> starting 20:00 at St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley. (Teams of 4) |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup> July</b>               | <b>"B" Mtg. - Fix It &amp; Advice Clinic</b>   |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>                 | <b>"A" Meeting - The Wright Brothers - David Foster G3KQR</b>  |
| <b>21<sup>st</sup> Aug</b>                | <b>"B" Mtg. - Fix It &amp; Advice Clinic</b>   |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sep</b>                 | <b>"A" Meeting - TBA</b>   |
| <b>18<sup>th</sup> Sep</b>                | <b>"B" Mtg. - Fix It &amp; Advice Clinic</b>   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>                 | <b>Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale</b>   |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>                | <b>"B" Mtg. - Fix It &amp; Advice Clinic</b>   |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>                 | <b>LF Talk - Derek Atter G3GRO</b>   |

SRCC Meetings indicated in **BOLD** with venue of Terra Nova unless otherwise stated. Sorry no room for other Local Clubs this month.

## SILENT KEYS:

It is with sadness that I have to report the recent deaths of George Bennett G5BZ and Ted Honeywood G3GKF.

George died on 28<sup>th</sup> May in hospital following complications after the fitting of a pacemaker. He was in his 90<sup>th</sup> year and had recently come from a holiday down under looking very fit. His funeral was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June at St Paul's Church, Woldingham.

Ted's funeral was held on 9<sup>th</sup> June at the Croydon Crematorium and was attended by some SRCC Members.

Our thoughts and sympathies go out to families at this sad time. My thanks to Ray G2KU; who has supplied me with some information on Ted. If anyone else has some info I would appreciate it so that I can write a proper obituary for both George and Ted in next month's Newsletter.

## RSGB RLO Resignation:

I have recently received a letter from Robin Sykes G3NFV who advises the Club that he has resigned as RLO for Surrey.

He writes that he has been RLO and formerly RR for more than 15 years but now feels it is time to give it up.

Robin is still happy to help anyone with advice, etc, but it will be purely as an individual. His contact details are in the membership list.

## GARETH'S G4XAT BRIGHTON RIDE

Bicycle mobile to Brighton in aid of the British Heart Foundation, by Gareth Evans.

At 4 a.m. on Sunday morning (18<sup>th</sup> June) a very muted alarm rang to awake me. A quick shower and breakfast comprising an enormous plate of Sainsbury's Honey Nut Cornflakes, together with a pint of tea and some orange juice (not in the same glass!) saw to feeding me.

Since I was expecting to operate /mobile I took care to take plenty of power with me, both my 1.1 A/Hr nicads packs were removed from their final charge and the lithium ion in my VX5R handheld was given a final top up too. The drinks were taken from the fridge, 2 x 1 Litre bottles of 'sports fuel', mostly malted dextrose and salt that I make more palatable with a dash of Vimto and loaded onto the bike. The high energy 'chewy bars', bananas and glucose tablets were finally checked and I was ready just on the dot of 5 a.m. when Peter, a colleague from school, arrived to give me a lift to Ravens Wood, where our school minibus awaited.... (No I did not cycle to the start!)

Once on site, we loaded our bikes into a Transit Luton, kindly loaned by a parent who owns a removals company. We loaded ourselves into the minibus and off we went in the direction of Clapham Common. As you can imagine, 1000's of cars and vans descending on the area are a certain recipe for chaos so we stopped about half a mile short and disgorged the bikes and then ourselves. At this point my 7/8<sup>th</sup> whip for 2 metres was clipped upright, mostly to comments like "WHATS THAT??" Jaws dropped further when I attached (via Velcro) the boom Mic and put a quick call into SL. To protect fellow riders from the whippy tip I placed a cork over the end and some red tape on which I wrote G4XAT/M. A second piece of tape was used at the top of the lower more rigid section, also annotated G4XAT/M.

At the start there were large crowds trying to get to the start, which in our case was supposed to be 6.30. We got through the start gate (where our card was stamped) at 6.50, not bad considering. Peter located me

by virtue of my red flag above the crowd. Zero the Speedo's and off we went. A pleasant ride out through Tooting by which time I had contacted Jon, GOGNA who was also /BM. This was through either the repeater on 145.625 or latterly on 145.600 that worked well as far as Merstham Hill. After Mitcham Common we passed Carshalton Pond and then up towards Woodmansterne for the first (essential!) stop. Along this section I spoke to Maurice, G4DDY and Bernard, G8TB and several other stations that popped up for a chat. As can be imagined, chattering away whilst riding and clearly getting replies to what I was saying caused some interest. The Woodmansterne stop provided some much needed relief (!), a bit of DX in the form of a near contact with a station in the Severn valley and after a banana away we went again.

Cycle traffic had thinned out by now and apart from some congestion near Fanny's Farm Shop the rest of the run was free flowing. Nutfield Marsh came and went, so did a succession of other minor hills and dales. Even Turners Hills was not too much trouble this year (higher level of training and fitness!). The day was warming up by now with not a cloud in the sky. We had both covered up with sunblock so no worries on that front. There is a long slow pull up to Turners hill and a nice cruise down past Ardingley Showground where we stopped for more food and a stretch. From Ardingley onwards is substantially downhill through some lovely Sussex countryside, but you have to keep your eyes on the road, as there are still cyclists everywhere!

Eventually the final South Down loomed before us and we knew that Ditchling Beacon was near! About half a mile from the bottom we stopped again for water, a rest and a stretch. We also discussed our tactics, as by now it was getting hot.... "See you at the top then" I shouted to Peter as we got back on. His yellow shirt moved ahead of me as I settled down into a slow rhythm, bracing myself for the hill. The hill came and most people just got off. (11 a.m.). I checked the altimeter reading on the VX5R (full of toys this radio!) and just kept on pedalling.

Those of you familiar with Ditchling will know that it is made up of about 7 steep bits, with gentler areas between, originally intended for horse and carts. These make it easier, but the sweat running through my sweatband didn't as it got into my eyes and stung! About halfway up I was feeling fine so I put out a call on WS. A station came back to me and we had a very brief QSO, with me explaining that I was cycling up Ditchling and would call him again at the top. I continued riding; only a few keen racers were going past me by now and then at last the final corner was in sight. Keep going I thought, so I did!

What a splendid feeling to reach the top on such a hot day. At this point I finished my onboard drinks and after cooling down, I faintly heard G8TB on WS. As the day wore on conditions on 2M got slightly worse so we did not manage to work. A quick look at the altimeter showed about 160 meters difference top to bottom, anyone with a map care to correct me?

From Ditchling it really is 'downhill all the way' with a superb hill down onto the Lewes Road. Last year I clocked 48 mph but due to only half the road being available and therefore less room for error I kept it down to 42mph. Still exhilarating though! At the end of this run its flat all the way to Marine Parade and apart from negotiating hordes of recalcitrant motorists it's fairly easy, but very welcome.

The finish line is an experience; the assembled masses cheer the cyclists as they run in to the finish regardless of whom they are! I felt like a national hero! At the finish you r card is stamped to confirm the ride and then water (two please!) is provided and also a free Fyfees banana. We met Peter's wife and our transport drivers and after cooling down I took my leave to cycle

along to Hove via the seafront cycle path. Why? Well, my family, lunch and a few cool beers were waiting for me!

Before I departed I checked my Speedo; it said 11.0 mph average speed, top speed 42 mph, elapsed time 5 hours, distance 55 miles. My watch told me that total stoppage, not all of it resting! was about 35 mins. Better than before and I was still standing! Three miles along I found the family on a much less crowded beach and fell onto the food, as I was really hungry by now. After sorting the hunger and slaking the thirst I had a quick swim with the children (it was COLD, but not as COLD as on the first day of the millennium, but that's another story!).

There was still not a cloud in the sky so on with the sun oil and I spent the afternoon recovering, basking and restoring my fluid levels with hop flavoured water! Jaynes' mother lives in Hove so I was treated to an evening meal and driven home. I was asleep within 5 minutes of getting in the front door!

As if this wasn't enough, on Thursday three staff and I took a group of boys on an Educational cycle ride from Ravens Wood, Keston, via Beddlestead, Titsey (off road) to Limpsfield for lunch, then back along the Pilgrims way, eventually up to Beddlestead and home again. These were only 12 year olds but even so, the level of fitness varied from excellent to hopeless! Quote of the day had to be "I need a Chippy" which rather reflected his performance on the day. I took the radio set-up with me again and provoked some comment and interest. I also had our recently acquired mobile phone, which has an excellent speakerphone option. It works so well that you can hold it down by the handlebars and hold a normal conversation, all without any extras. Cycling along and talking, be it amateur radio or to the 'wife', is fun. Long live mobile operation! Anyone interested in a more organised radio set-up next year? A sponsored QSO perhaps? Let me know..... (E-mail radiogareth@hotmail.com).

How did the batteries fare? Well, the 2.2 a/hr of nicads (2 packs of 8 cells in parallel) showed 10.2 volts when I checked them the next day, so they had loads left. I didn't even touch the Lithium ion, so there was 'plenty of reserve'. The radio used was the tiny but amazing VX5R by Yaesu, producing 5 watts on 6M, 2 and 70 cm. This was attached to the handlebars by some crafty bracketry and straps. Keypad entry of frequencies or jumping VFOs is quite easy even on the move. Volume is on a conventional rotary pot. The aerial can be seen in the photo, a 7/8<sup>th</sup> on 2 M mounted on a SO239 on an aluminium plate on my bike carrier. The speaker was a small carphone/pmr unit from a recent junk sale, as was the boom mike, an electret on the end of some 'bend and stay' coiled wire. A PTT was fashioned from an ex-microwave oven microswitch, which was strapped onto my handlebars. A small piece of plastic hose made it nicer to touch.

Finally, very many thanks to all the SRCC members who so generously sponsored me. It looks as if I shall

exceed £150 again this year, all of which goes to the British Heart Foundation. Thanks again...



Gareth Evans, G4XAT, occasionally /BM!

### SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS:

I have been negligent in reminding you all that it is subscription renewal time. Please send £8.00 (or £12.50 for family membership) to Maurice G4DDY QTHR (or 020-8669 1480) as soon as possible. The newsletter address label indicates year of renewal, but may not have caught up if you have paid in the last few days. I have printed a Slip below for your convenience.

### SIGNING OFF

That's it for this month – but a final reminder for you to participate in VHF NFD on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> July, and then the Summer Barbecue at Pound Cottage QTHR G3ZPB 7.30 for 8pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Also please send me contributions for the Newsletter - they are always welcomed - especially the Member's News. Due to the limited time I have, this will help to keep the Newsletter alive.

*Ray G4FFY*

73 and 88

Posted: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2000

SRCC Subscription Renewal Form June 2000

Name: ..... Callsign/RS: .....

Address: .....

..... Tel: .....

Member: £8.00 Family: £12.50

Cheques payable to **SRCC** and send to:

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