



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

MARCH 2000 — No: 690

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.ray.howells.btinternet.co.uk/srcc/> or
<http://www.srcc.freemove.co.uk/>

Hon. Sec. Ray Howells G4FFY
9 Aultone Way
SUTTON
Surrey SM1 3LD
020-8644 7589
E-Mail: g3src@btinternet.com
or secretary@srcc.freemove.co.uk

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

"A" MEETING 6th March 2000 SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE
"B" MEETING 20th March 2000 INFORMAL GATHERING AND TECHNICAL CHINWAG

Dear Members

Hello and welcome to the March 2000 newsletter that I am afraid once again has been written a few days late due to me being heavily involved in the last stages of our bungalow extension building, and End of Year requirements for work. Not only that I have also suffered from my laptop overheating (again) which has slowed up my Newsletter production. It's now Thursday night (2nd Mar) with me needing to finish this tomorrow and in the post so that you can receive it by the weekend so let's get on with it!

For our "A" meeting this month on Monday 6th March we have our Spring Surplus Equipment Sale and also please don't forget to come to the "B" meetings, the next is on 20th March.

Our extension is now ours and I have been busy assembling the IKEA "flat packs" to furnish the shower room, bedroom, and Retreat (the new room with patio doors giving a view down our garden). The digging of a deep soak away was thwarted with heavy overnight rain causing the sides to collapse in. Luckily the Sutton Building Control officer said that we could back fill it with hardcore, etc. Now waiting for a dry spell to finish the re-instatement of the lawn. (I did get the earth rods in!)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the Annual General Meeting of the SRCC will be held on Monday 3rd April at the clubroom 7.30 for 8.00pm. Following our usual practice this notice is over a month ahead, but this is to comply with club rules. It allows time if there are any proposed alterations to the rules, or to give you an opportunity to raise any points at the AGM, the committee would like notice of important ones. We also ask for nominations for committee, with such nominations (and acceptances) to be received by the committee prior to the opening of the AGM. With the next newsletter I will include

the minutes of the last AGM, the full agenda & also another nomination slip for a new committee and also for a Secretary (nominated separately). I also hope to include the accounts for 31st January 2000.

NEXT MEETING:

"A" Meeting Monday 6th Mar 2000 SPRING SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE

We hope there will be a good turnout for this Spring Sale, when members can bring along items for sale and also items to be donated to the club. We have a reasonable amount of donated gear to sale and this will be balanced against members' own sale items. It is very helpful, as in the past, for sellers to be in the clubroom well before 8 o'clock, and no boxes of "rubbish" please.

All members and visitors they have brought along must sign the attendance book and all must be conversant with the rules. **Note** that the club accepts no responsibility for goods sold at this private sale, and the purchasers buy on the understanding that they are capable of determining the usability, fitness for purpose and SAFETY of goods obtained.

The following also applies:

1. Only SRCC members are permitted to sell.
2. All items not donated must be marked with the name or callsign of vendor, brief description and details of any reserve price.
3. Bids should be in steps of 5p up to £1 and 25p thereafter.
4. Visitors are welcome but must be introduced by a member who is responsible for informing them of the rules.

5. All members and VISITORS must sign the attendance book.
6. Sellers will not be paid until all buyers have settled up.
7. The club levies 15% on all transactions.
8. Please try and arrive early so that we can start by 8 o' c.
9. **PLEASE KEEP THE DOORWAY CLEAR FOR FIRE PRECAUTIONS.**
10. SMOKERS are requested to keep to the rear of the room.

Amongst the Items the Club has for sale include those from the estate of the late Hugh Nicol. I list an extract of items below and include a guide price. I have yet to check these out at time of writing this Newsletter, and I will also accept enquiries prior to the Sale, etc.

- Trio TS830S HF Transceiver - £225
- Yaesu FRG 70G – HF Portable Transceiver (6-digit thumbwheel) 2-30MHz, 12dc 3.3A - £80
- Trio TS430S HF Transceiver + PS430 & SP430 - £375
- Yaesu FT690MkII 6M all-mode portable - £130 (needs 9 new "C" size Nicads)
- Standard C5800 2M Mobile all-mode 25W - £90
- Yupiteru 8-1300MHz Multi-band Rxcr - £125

NEXT MEETING:

"B" Meeting Monday 20th Mar 2000

This will be the normal informal gathering and technical chinwag at TS Terra Nova. 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 7th Feb 2000

Linear Amplifiers – 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 who gave us this talk on Monday 7th Feb. His style was very good – we reckon he should have been on the stage! He held our interest all evening and was very entertaining.

I learnt that David's interest goes back to 1957 with his development of mechanical filters for the then new SSB mode. On 30 Nov 57 David had his first SSB QSO with G8SM on 3.7Mhz using his homebrew all band SSB exciter running barefoot. To get anywhere though need a Linear and so it started.

David described his approach to a Linear including choice of valve using parameters of cost, availability now, and availability in 10 years. An anecdote he used was that if one comes across a brand new box set of TV sweep valves then sell them and on the proceeds buy valves suited to the purpose. David's preferences was 811A's

rather than 4CX250's, followed by 572B's (811A with carbon anode), and then 4CX150A, 4CX250 and 4CX500.

The circuit configuration he preferred was that of Common Grid with a driven cathode I/P of low impedance, and plate O/P with impedance of a few k's. This configuration has the advantage of needing only small neutralisation. Another tip was to ensure the correct filament voltage and so the filament transformer should be in the same box to avoid volt drop.

David discussed the choice of RF choke with old ARRL handbooks being a good source of information. A 3-30MHz choke would be something like 112T of 26guage on a 3 7/8" ceramic former with circuit design to achieve 0.25Mohm series impedance.

David also discussed the virtues of a common grid 811A linear including:

- Drive required 70-100W
- Zero bias situation
- No PSU for Screen
- Loaf's along
- Inherent –ve feedback
- Low Q circuits in cathode (this stabilises transistor PA O/P's)

Another anecdote is that one should watch the plate colour though the casing holes of the Linear as **bright red** is no go, whilst dull red is go on air! Try that with a transistor linear – David did compared the two approaches and I noted the obvious one of valve linears being much more tolerant of abuse compared to transistor types.

At the end of the day the making of a linear should be well within our capabilities. David also referred us to the article in the February 2000 Radcom.

Thank you David for a very interesting and entertaining talk, and for bringing along the various examples of linears. I hope that I have accurately reported your talk. By the way I have copies of the circuits that were circulated based on the 811A (Collins 30-11 Linear Amplifier, and RCA Class B Linear – 875W O/P).

CLUB WEBSITE

I hope to shortly turn my attention to this valuable platform, which acts as a window to our activities. In the meantime I have considered other ISP's and have registered with FreeServe a unique account controlled by the SRCC Secretary.

The new address is given at the head of this Newsletter but at the time of writing is not yet active so keep looking as hopefully during March it will become live! The new E-Mail account is active and is being regularly checked by me.

By the way I have managed to crack the WEB E-Mail system and so can respond to those sent to srcc@go.to !!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 6th Mar 00 SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE**
11th-12th Mar London Amateur Radio &
Computer Show - Lee Valley
Leisure Centre, Picketts
Lock Lane, Edmonton.
- 20th Mar " B" Meeting**
25th Mar SRCC Annual Dinner -
Windmill PH, Wallington
- 3rd Apr 00 AGM**
17th Apr " B" Meeting
5th May VHF NFD Meeting @ QTH of
G3ZPB
- 8th May 00 CONSTRUCTION EVENING and
Constructional Contest**
22nd May " B" Meeting
5th June 00 TBA
12th June VHF NFD Meeting @ QTH of
G3ZPB
- 19th June " B" Meeting**
1st-2nd July VHF NFD Weekend
3rd July 00 Barbecue at QTH of G3ZPB

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

CLUB DINNER 25th Mar 2000

This is now confirmed for Saturday evening 25th March 2000. The cost and menu is still being discussed with the publican but I suggest a budget of £15 a head. We shall meet at around 7:30pm in The Windmill Pub, Wallington for our meal in the rear function room at 8pm, as in previous years.

I now need your deposits to reserve your place at this very enjoyable event. Would you please send £5.00 a head (cheques payable to Ray Howells) to my address at the top of this Newsletter - thanks. Those already paid will find receipts in this Newsletter envelope.

For those of your with special dietary requirements would you please contact Wayne at The Windmill direct on 0181-773 9141. The best time to reach him is late mornings i.e. 10:30 to 12pm, preferably around 11:45am.

MEMBERS NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Firstly congratulations to Ron Herr with the arrival of a new "Harmonic" George some 7 weeks ago.

Secondly, I have received this piece from "Our Correspondent" re **Beacons**.

"I had a very pleasant QSO with W8VLN who told me something I had not appreciated. How many of you have looked at a list of beacons and wondered how many could be on the same frequency?

The answer is that they operate in sequence so if one wants to find out propagation for a particular country, you wait on the frequency until the prefix you are interested in comes up (or not if conditions are unfavourable). There is an additional piece of information as after the call there are three dashes of 100, 10, and 1 watt. Each sequence takes three minutes to cover the 18 beacons on CW. The frequencies are 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930, and 28.200, probably less 500Hz for tone. For example if you leave your set on 28.199.5 and within three minutes you hear ZS6D at S9 you know the band is open to that direction.

I have only tried this for a short time today, but it seems promising.

Bernie G8TB 20th Feb 2000"

CLUB VISITS

Once again we are planning an early summer outing and Peter G3ZPB is investigating the possibilities of a visit to Duxford (nr Cambridge). This site contains the Imperial War Museum (Air) in some 8 or 9 hangers and includes a Radio Shack section. There is also an American Museum, which houses a B52 bomber.

Please contact Peter on 01737 551413 to register your interest. This is a family trip and Duxford is about 1½ hours travelling distance.

VHF NFD 2000

At the last VHF SRCC Group meeting we agreed to enter this years contest to be held over the weekend of 1st - 2nd July at the usual site up at Woldingham. Two further meetings of the team are planned for 5th May and 12th June at the QTH of G3ZPB. All are welcomed, we always need people to help put the stations up (aerials, tents, etc) plus be operators and check loggers.

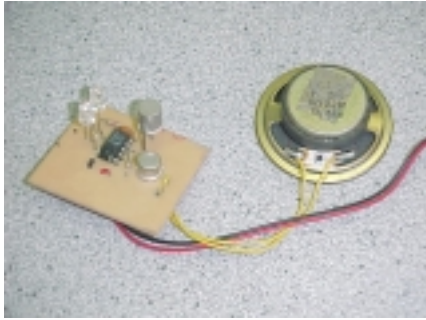
Please contact Bernie G8TB on 0181-660 7517 to register your interest - thanks. These are fun weekends and all people of all abilities will be very welcomed.

Proposals for May Construction Evening – May 8th - Repeat Request

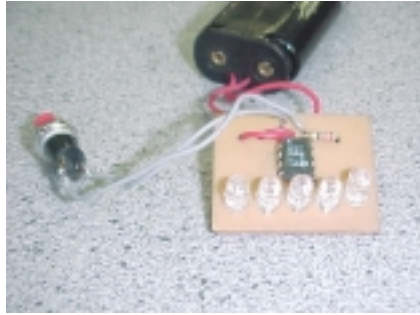
As you may be aware we intend to hold a Constructing Evening on May 8th as well as a normal Construction Contest with prizes. The constructing part of the evening will be non-competitive and hopefully will encourage more people to make simple projects (guaranteed working).

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.

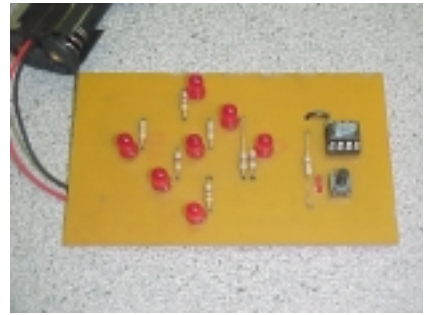
Could you please advise me (address/telephone number at front of Newsletter) of what you would like to build (one, two or whatever!)? We have agreed a cost of £5 per project and the committee will appreciate your support – thanks.



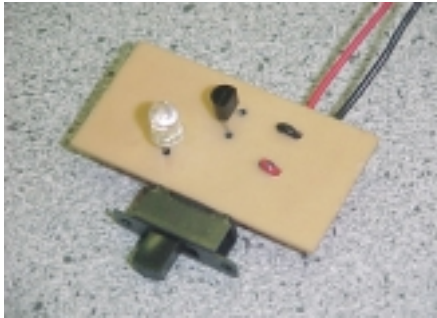
ALARM



BICYCLE FLASHER



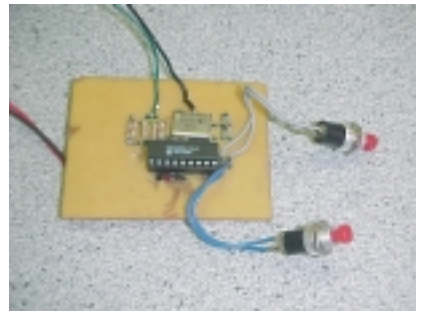
ELECTRONIC DICE



LED FLASHER



FROST STAT



VIDEO GENERATOR

SIGNING OFF

That's the lot for this month - please try and turn out on Monday 6th March to support the Spring Surplus Equipment Sale as the proceeds (commission) do help Club Funds and help keep the Subs down. Don't forget the “B” meetings with the next being on 20th March. Also please send me contributions for the Newsletter - they are always welcomed - especially the Member's News bit.

73 and 88

Ray G4FFY

Posted: 3rd March 2000

***** BREAKING NEWS - On MONDAY Night (Sale night) If you come early you will have the opportunity to purchase at the bargain price of 30p a bagged bundle of goodies - Maurice G4DDY has a lot of stuff to clear. DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY, you can buy as many as you like! *****

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 2000—2001 (Please return to Ray Howells G4FFY)

I wish to nominate

For the position of **Secretary / Member** on the SRCC committee 2000 - 2001

If elected I agree to stand. Signed: Date