



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

**MAY 2000 — No: 692**

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 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  
\*\*\*\*\*

“A” MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> May 2000 CONSTRUCTION CONTEST & CONSTRUCTING EVENING  
“B” MEETING 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2000 FIX-IT and ADVICE CLINIC, CHIN-WAG & CLUB STATION

## Dear Members

**H**ello and welcome to the May 2000 newsletter, the first as I start my second year as Secretary. Whether or not I can improve on my Newsletter deadlines time will tell, but at least one distraction of our extension has gone as it is finished. Now have the projects of converting our old bedroom into a study and then converting the old study back into a guest bedroom.

At last month's AGM, Graham G3RJW was elected as Chairman for his third year and we welcome Gareth G4XAT onto the Committee. More about this later, in the meantime lets start with details about the next mtgs.

## NEXT MEETING:

**"A" Meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2000  
CONSTRUCTION CONTEST &  
CONSTRUCTING EVENING**

**T**his meeting will be one of two halves. There will be the normal annual construction contest that enables members to display their projects; and then there will be a constructing session by members of simple projects as previously advised.

The Annual Construction contest event has now been running for several years and is enjoyed by a lot of members. Entrants will be asked to give a brief talk explaining their entries and this always breaks the ice and allows members to get to know one another better.

With the trend towards "Black Boxes", it is a pity that more constructing is not performed. Some pieces are not too difficult to build on the "kitchen table", and the constructing part of the evening should demonstrate this! Members are always willing to give a helping hand to those of a less technical ability.

The Dave Deacon Coronation Cup and the Basil Wardman Tankard will be presented together with cash prizes. Members will vote for only one piece, and when deciding your vote please take into consideration the facilities available, the technical standing of the builder and obviously give more weight to the 14 year old over the professional engineer!

It will be decided on the evening if we should have a major and minor section depending on the entries we receive. There are few rules; the main one is that an entry must not have won an SRCC contest before. Kits may be entered but we must be told this, and entries should have an amateur radio content.

For the new constructing part Gareth G4XAT has now pulled together all the parts required for the following list (I trust that members would mind this list being made public as it were):

Name:	Project:
Graham G3RJW	Dice * 2
John G3BFP	Bike Flasher
Bernie G8TB	Alarm + Frost Stat
Ray G4FFY	Dice + Frost Stat
Maurice G4DDY	Bike Flasher
Peter G3ZPB	Dice * 2
Tony G3GHI	Frost Stat
Norman G0LSN	Frost Stat
Arthur G3YRB	Bike Flasher

Gareth will also be supplying sufficient soldering irons, tools etc so unless you have a favourite iron or whatever, then just bring yourself for this part of the meeting which will not be a contest but just some fun.

Through this two-part event we are hoping to encourage members to build, or keep building. For the contest part no matter how small or large your project is please bring it or them along and the contest prizes might help to defray some of the cost.

I'm sure this will be an enjoyable evening.

## NEXT MEETING:

### VHF NFD Group Meeting 8pm Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2000 @ QTH of Peter G3ZPB

**A**s reported last month the RSGB have now published the VNF NFD 2000 Rules (Apr2000 RadCom page 79) and it has given us something to think about.

In summary 70MHz has been reduced to 6hrs on the Sunday (all modes) with the introduction of 50MHz for 6hrs on the Saturday (all modes). Also if entering any station in the Low Power Section then operation is restricted to a total of 16hrs. Even in the Open Section it would seem that no more than four bands can be entered despite the five being available.

Two meetings of the team are planned for the evenings of 5<sup>th</sup> May and 12<sup>th</sup> June at the QTH of G3ZPB (Pound Cottage, 202 Coulsdon Rd, Old Coulsdon). All are welcomed, we always need people to help put the stations up (aerials, tents, etc) plus operators and check loggers.

Please contact Bernie G8TB on 020-8660 7517 to register your interest and your thoughts on the rules.

## NEXT MEETING:

### "B" Meeting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 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. We plan these sessions as a regular activity for the "B" meeting, in addition to the other activities of chinwag and Club station.

All we ask that you contact a committee member prior to the meeting to advise of your needs and we will try to accommodate. You will never know unless you ask and amongst the membership is a huge wealth of experience. Even if it can't be solved there and then, you will probably get some useful ideas.

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

Our first run of this at the "B" meeting in April was a great success with Bryan's G6ODE Spectrum Analyser being fixed, as well as a noisy Power Supply Unit brought in by Donovan M/KC2FGZ.

## LAST MEETING:

### "A" Meeting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr 2000

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**I**t was pleasing to see over 20 members present and have an interest in directing the Club for another year. The minutes of the last AGM had already been circulated to members, and these were accepted with one correction.

The Chairman gave a review of the Club activities over the last 12 months, which included lectures on Digital Video Broadcasting, Tramlink, Radio Reminiscences, Novel Uses of Computer Sound Cards,

Radio Navigation on "D" Day, and Linear Amplifiers. We also had an IEE Faraday Lectures Video evening, a trip to Bletchley Park, Bar-be-cue @ G3ZPB's, fielded a team at the CATS quiz, took part in VHF NFD weekend and held two Surplus Equipment Sales, and a Construction Contest.

The Treasurer Maurice G4DDY, assisted as always by Prim G4CCY, presented the accounts for 1999/2000 which, following the rule change, showed the position for the year ending January 2000.

The election of the new committee followed as is shown here, together with the extra offices the committee members are prepared to hold:

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 01737-551413 G4XAT Gareth Evans 020-8462 2837

## DEMONSTRATION STATION

### Scouts Camp 2000 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May - Lloyd Park, Coombe Farm Playing Fields.

**T**he SRCC has been approached by the Eastern Croydon District Scouts to help them in their Activity weekend over the next bank holiday. This is a sole scouting activity to be attended by Cubs, Adventure Scouts, and Beavers, etc. They will be taking part in activities such as Climbing Walls, Inflatables, Archery, Caving, Canoeing and the Camp Fire on Saturday night.

They would also like the ability of an amateur radio demonstration station over the weekend for which we can use our Club Call GX3SRC. I note that other groups will be partaking in similar activity weekends including other Croydon districts of Featherbed Lane and Frylands Wood.

Now, through this newsletter we are seeking help in setting up and running such a station. I already have Maurice G4DDY who has volunteered his services for the Sunday morning. We have told the Scout group that we should be able to assist them, and I hope that is in fact the case. Please contact Maurice (020-8669 1480) or myself - your help will be greatly appreciated.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

I have now added activities from other local clubs (that I have to hand) with SRCC Meetings indicated in **BOLD** with venue of Terra Nova unless otherwise stated.

<b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>VHF NFD Meeting @ QTH of G3ZPB</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> May	Sandown 25 <sup>th</sup> Model Symposium Sandown Race Course 9.30am - 6pm
<b>8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>CONSTRUCTION EVENING and Constructional Contest</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> May	CATS – Town Centre CCTV
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Wimbledon – Construction Evening – dc Supply Monitor
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Sutton & Cheam – AGM
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Crystal Palace – Aerial Demonstrations
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>“B” Mtg. – Fix It &amp; Advice Clinic</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>h</sup> May	Scouts Camp 2000 – Lloyd Park, Coombe Farm Playing Fields – Demonstration Amateur Radio station – <i>help sought, see above.</i>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>“A” Meeting – TBA</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>VHF NFD Meeting @ QTH of G3ZPB</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Warlingham Village Fair – Blanchmans Farm – Amateur Radio Station (Contact is Roger G8HDP 01883 622159 – <i>seeking volunteers for operating, equipment supply, turning-up, etc, etc</i> )
<b>19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>“B” Mtg. - Fix It &amp; Advice Clinic</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Longleat Rally, Longleat House, Warminster, Wilts
<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>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>

At time of writing I have still to find a talk for June – any offers?

## MEMBERS NEWS & ACTIVITIES

- Bernie G8TB has advised me that Daphne (XYL of Ted G3EUE) has spent a recent spell in hospital and is now convalescing. We wish you all the best Daphne and hope that you will soon be fighting fit.
- Bernie has also supplied with the following which catches us up with Ron G6LX:

## “INTERNATIONAL SRCC NET

Those of you who been following the progress of Ron G6LX will be interested to learn that our Sunday morning 10m net was joined by ZB4/G6LX from Mazotos, Cyprus.

On air were G4DDY, G4XAT, G3GHI and G8TB. In the chilly winds and sunshine of the island were G4RWW, G4WAY and of course Ron.

Conditions were not good so we had a further sked on 21MHz in the afternoon when conditions were Q5 to all stations, with R9 at times with QSB. They were using a TS570, 100W to a 3-ele beam.

Following his last treatment, Ron is feeling much better, and better as each day goes by, and we are confident that the rest and fresh air will bring him back to his normal rumbustious self. By the time you read this they will be back home.

Bernie G8TB 17<sup>th</sup> Apr 2000”

- I have also had a couple of contributions from Gareth G4XAT:

### ‘G4XAT (Gareth) wears out his soldering iron!’.

He writes...For years now I have used a Weller TCP soldering iron. I first encountered these marvellous tools when I worked in the Middle East (1978-1981) and actually built one from the ‘spares box’ in the middle of a desert! This lasted until around 1987 when either the internals or the externals (body) expired – I can’t remember exactly what. I seem to remember buying a new one from Cirkit. Just of late this replacement was getting erratic with its heating up and I suspected the switch contacts inside the device. These were duly cleaned and a brief improvement ensued. It got to be very aggravating though, reaching for the iron only to find it cold again. A replacement was sourced (Rapid Electronics) and it arrived the next day. Whilst waiting for the new one I just wondered what had really failed, surely the flex can’t have broken where it enters the back of the iron, could it? Silicon wire lasts forever doesn’t it? A quick exploratory with a scalpel revealed the fault, a broken wire just where the lead hangs down! So you live and learn, I could have saved myself about £30 by just replacing the power lead. I say power lead because these are low voltage irons (24v @ 45w). They are thermostatically controlled by ingenious use of the Curie effect whereby alloys of steel lose their magnetic properties at the ‘Curie temperature’. Their longevity is legendary (13 years in MY hands! and it could live on with a new lead! The temperature control is excellent and different bits are available for different temperatures. I’ve one large high temperature chisel bit that will solder really big things, like twin 4mm2 mains cable to a lug (not for mains use you understand!). Here’s to the next 13 years, as my wife Jayne said, “You’ve had that since I first knew you”.

### 'Gareth, Brighton and British Heart Foundation'

He writes...Yesterday, we (family) went to Brighton via two interesting places.

**One**, J & N Factors, Pilgrim Farm (ex J & N Bull). The reason, he has 12 volt Gell Cells 7"\*7"\*3" 18 A/Hr. Ideal for portable operation. I paid £43 cash for 4, brand new. I think they are from 1997 but based on my experiences with similar from at least 5 years ago they are still going strong. All four take charge well and will be doing service either in my Mileage Marathon car or for Radio use. Any other members are welcome to contact me for an update on their performance or how to find the place.

**Two**, I'm cycling to Brighton again this year on the 18th June, all the way from Clapham Common to the seafront, in aid of The British Heart Foundation. Last year many members kindly sponsored me and I raised £155 in total. We went from buying the batteries to the bottom of Ditchling Beacon, then drove up it (a lot easier than cycling up it!) after taking a picture at the base. At the top we parked briefly and I walked up to the triangulation point. Here I could access SL, WL and the other one (.600, .625 and .650) on my 5 watt VX5R hand held with its 8-inch whip. I have added an aerial mount to my bike and have tried in vain to work stations/Bicycle mobile. I can get into plenty of repeaters (2 & 70) but can't raise a soul to talk to. I wonder if I will work any stations on 6m on the way down (best coverage, no operators!), or perhaps 2M would be better (repeaters and people!) or even 70, lots of repeaters but I think the route is a bit too up and down for that. If any members have experience of this I'd be interested to hear. See attached photos, bottom of Ditchling, the HILL Ahead, and the VIEW from the top!



"Final plea, sponsor me", cheques/cash etc. payable to 'The British Heart Foundation'. I shall have the form with me at the next club meeting.

Thanks Gareth for these and please support him in his sponsorship.



### CLUB VISITS

**M**ay I repeat last month's article that 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.

### INTERNET & WEBSITE

**R**ecognising the growing importance of the WEB and that SRCC should have a unique identity I have now registered a domain name for the SRCC. As SRCC was already taken in all its guises, I have registered the club call instead.

In future our WEB site will be located at <http://www.g3src.org.uk>. This will take a few days to be activated and then I hope to build our "framed" site as discussed in the last Newsletter.

### SIGNING OFF

**T**hat's it for this month – I still have the article about Greenweld, plus a newsletter from the ARRL that Donovan M/KC2FGZ kindly gave me (could you E-Mail it to me save the typing – thanks Donovan). Please make every effort to attend the Constructional Contest and Constructing Evening (the latter for which we thank Gareth for all his efforts and preparation) – it should be an enjoyable and entertaining evening. Also please send me contributions for the Newsletter - they are always welcomed - especially the Member's News bit – and don't forget our plea to help the Eastern Croydon Scouts over the next Bank Holiday weekend.

Oops Newsletter late again! Where does the time go!

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2000