



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

NOVEMBER 2000 — No: 698

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> **or**
<http://www.srcc.freemove.co.uk/>

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 Surrey SM1 3LD
 (020) 8644 7589
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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 Nov 2000 LF TALK (137kHz) with Derek Atter G3GRO
"B" MEETING 20th Nov 2000 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"

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

Dear Members

Hello and welcome to the November 2000 Newsletter which I am writing on Sunday evening with the wind howling and the rain beating outside. Hopefully my VHF verticals on the gable-end will survive the gales threatened! *{Yes - they did though I had a big pond at the bottom of the garden. Also some members have had some trees down}* On the work front it's looking like my retirement will be short lived as I have approached by a competitor of my old firm and the offer couldn't be refused!

For this month's "A" meeting on Monday 6th November we are pleased to welcome Derek Atter G3GRO who will presenting to us his LF Talk i.e. 137kHz; the "B" meeting on Monday 20th November will be the regular "Fix-it" evening PLUS "Move-On" your surplus equipment - more later.

NEXT MEETING:

"A" Meeting Monday 6th Nov 2000

LF Talk (137kHz)- Derek Atter G3GRO

We are pleased to welcome this month Derek Atter G3GRO, President of the Crawley Amateur Radio Club, who has a keen interest in LF operating. This is the total opposite of his Microwave Aerial Table we have previously seen at Terra Nova.

Last month I published an article on the successful completion on September 10th of an UK-Canada LF Cross-band QSO. The contact involved well-known LFER Dave Bowman, G0MRF, operating on 135.711kHz and John Currie, VE1ZJ, on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada, operating on 20 meters.

When chatting with Derek to finalise arrangements he told me about his involvement with this activity and no doubt we will learn more about it on Monday evening.

I hope that many of you will come on Monday night 6th November, and make it a large turnout that Derek G3GRO so deserves.

NEXT MEETING:

"B" Meeting Monday 20th Nov 00

FIX-IT and "MOVE-IT-ON" Evening

The "B" meeting on Monday 20th November will be the now regular "Fix-It" and advice evening but with an extra twist. If you have a radio item that you just wish to clear out then bring it along - you never know it may be just what another member is looking for!

FOR SALE:

2 x 20ft. Alloy Scaffold Poles @ £20.00 each or £35.00 pair.
Contact: Ian G3KXT on 020-8325 3502

LAST MEETING:

Monday 2nd Oct 2000

AUTUMN SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE

Unfortunately only around 20 members and guests attended the last Surplus Equipment Sale. Despite this we did very well raising over £120 for Club funds. Maurice G4DDY did an excellent job standing in for Bernie G8TB and had David G0PAR as his right-hand man distributing the goodies.

Recognising the money raised, which helps to offset the Club subscriptions and so keep it down, the Committee has decided to continue these Sales twice yearly, and so the next one will be 5th March 2001. Put it in your diary now!

What we had left over will be taken to the CATS Bazaar on Sunday 19th November - more info below.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES and Local Club Activities:

6 th Nov	LF Talk – Derek Atter G3GRO
7 th Nov	Thames Valley ARTS – R1155 DF Rcvr @ Library reading Room, Giggs Hill, Thames Ditton – 8pm. Sec: Trevor M0CDB 01372-457674
10 th Nov	W&DARS – Surplus Sale @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon - 8pm. Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737-356745
13 th Nov	CATS – Military radio by David Tye @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley – 8pm. Contact:: Andy G0KZT 01737-552139
16 th Nov	Sutton & Cheam RS – 'Junk Sale' @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945
18 th Nov	Crystal Palace – Surplus Sale @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill – 7pm. Sec: Bob G30OU 01737 552170
19 th Nov	CATS Annual Bazaar – 4 th Purley Scout HQ, Lion Green Road, Coulsdon. 1000-1300hrs. See Opposite ⇒
20 th Nov	“B” Mtg. - Fix It & Advice + Move-it-on
21 st Nov	Bromley & District - Surplus Sale @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420
22 nd Nov	Crawley ARC – Inter Club Quiz CARC & HARC @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Sec: Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932
25 th -26 th Nov	London Amateur Radio & Computer Show, Lee Valley Leisure Centre, Pickett's Lock, Edmonton London. Details: 01923-893929.

29 th Nov	South London College ARS (G3Hfy) - AGM @ ATC HQ, Commonsides West, Mitcham - 7.30pm. Details: Derek M0BGX 020-8684 0963
4th Dec	Christmas Talks – IEE Video Evening
18th Dec	“B” Mtg. - Fix It & Advice + Move-it-on
8th Jan 01	“A” Mtg. – Where is Amateur Radio Going? - Symposium
22nd Jan	“B” Mtg. - Fix It & Advice + Move-it-on
5th Feb	Ropes & Knots - Jim Gale G4WYJ
19th Feb	“B” Mtg. - Fix It & Advice + Move-it-on
5th Mar	Spring Surplus Equipment Sale
2nd Apr	AGM
14th May	Construction Contest & Constructing Evening

SRCC Meetings indicated in **BOLD** with venue of Terra Nova unless otherwise stated.

CATS ANNUAL BAZAAR

Sunday 19th November 2000
4th Purley Scout HQ, Lion Green Road, Coulsdon.

1000 to 1300hrs

Tickets £1.00 with one free drink included.

Trader tables still only £5.00 each.

Contact G0KZT to reserve a table or for more information.

01737 552139

WARNING – Parking charges now apply to the public car park on Sundays.

I note from CATS Whispers that Sycom Components & The QRP Component Co. will be attending this year's Bazaar. In addition, there will be other familiar faces selling their gear and tables manned by Maurice G4DDY and Graham G3RJW.

MEMBER NEWS:

Harold Turner G4CZT - Silent Key

It is with great sadness that I have to report the recent death of Harold G4CZT. He was 72 and died on 20th October from Lung Cancer that he had been bravely fighting.

Our thoughts are with the family at this sad time.

CONTEST ACTIVITY EXPANSION:

Recognising the large number of responses to last month's article (a big zero!) I repeat the request for your feedback - it would be nice to hear from you:

"We had a good discussion on this topic at the last committee meeting following the revived interest in Contests following the recent success of the SSB HF Contest activity in early September.

Consider VHF – what about a one day 6m contest? It was agreed to promote in the Newsletter to seek feedback from the members. We can also consider operations from a field, pre set-up stations, or from people's homes?

So Because of the apparent revived interest in Contests do you want more than just the VHF NFD in early July and the HF SSB NFD in early September? The SRCC Committee is wondering whether the members would like to be able to enter other contests. The HF SSB NFD team are also seeking to expand their numbers and range of contest activities, e.g. training, contest logging, etc.

Your views, or names of people interested, will be most welcomed – contact Roger G4WAY or Peter G8TB who are the Contest co-ordinators on the committee (see the top of Newsletter for telephone numbers)

Many thanks in advance for your views – we can only do what you what if you tell us."

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT:

As indicated last month I am indebted to Gareth G4XAT for the following two articles:

"I went to the Great British Beer Festival AND walked home!" by Gareth, G4XAT.

Ever since I met my first pint of 'real ale' (probably in 1977) I have been meaning to go along to a proper beer festival. For whatever reason I never did until this year when holiday dates, suitable companions, and permission from my good lady all coincided. As usual the journey by train from Hayes, Kent was slow, the 'frequent connection' from Earls Court to Olympia not very frequent but we got there just after opening time. I knew there would be lots of different beers available but nothing prepared me for the 700+ varieties available. I really didn't know where to start so I revisited a few old favourites (a half-pint at a time) to start with. It was easy to move on to new ground, the champions bar alone had 50 different ales to choose from! There were one or two disappointments, but clearly a limit to what could be sensible and safely consumed in the time available. What is apparent is that the brewers art is alive and well, with many many smaller 'micro' breweries being represented. Beer is one of those things that has worked its way into our society and as fast as the mega-breweries produce a new brand of pasteurised, denatured 'wundafroth' a new (or rather old) brewery name is resurrected and the craft of brewing 'real' real ale goes from strength to strength. My own personal pet hate is Cafferys closely followed by Boddingtons, once a proud brewery 'op north, now a purveyor of tinted washing up water! Mind you, this view is of course subjective, as an Australian visitor recently drew to my attention. (Adopt a mental Australian accent) "I decided I'd better try some of your warm English beer and ordered

a pint of Old Speckled Hen. Strewth! (He said) it tasted like it had been made with old speckled hens!".

Finally we made our way around the Queen Mothers bar where special ales to celebrate her centenary were available (any excuse!). A half to mark the event and it was closing time so we wended our way home. For some reason the journey home passed 'quickly and pleasantly'!

'There's nothing wrong with diesel (except it makes everything smell of diesel!) by Gareth, G4XAT.

A while back I bought a small diesel powered generator, always a useful object and a dual purpose trailer for it was the subject of one of my construction contest entries this year. The generator did good service for 2M and 4/6M on VHF field day and also powered the whole of the recent HF field day. Any 'complaints' about low voltage must lie in the extension leads since the generator will hold 245 volts at source under a 2.5 kW load!

The engine was made by Petter (Type AB1, 4.5 bhp) in the early sixties and is notable as the first successful small portable air-cooled diesel. It was deemed so good at the time that it won the Queens award for industry in 1964. Like most diesels it is very economical to run. The fuel tank is a large one (about 2 gallons) and it ran for at least 12 hours on VHF NFD between fills. The manual quotes a consumption of 600 cc/hr at no load and 800 cc/hr at full load. HF field day saw it run slightly longer and there was still a 'fair amount' left at the bottom of the tank. Those of you in the know may be aware that gas oil, a.k.a. central heating oil, is available in two grades, one the same as road diesel, only sold without duty. At school (work) we use gas oil for heating so I established a source and found out the price, 19 pence a litre! VHF and HF field day used just under 3 gallons per event, costing just under £3 per event. At that price it's worth suffering the way it makes everything smell of diesel for 24 hours (at least!). Like most diesels it did not use any measurable engine oil and I am now confident in its mechanical integrity and also how long I can leave it running between fills!

TRAMLINK TOUR - 8th Oct 2000

The keen eyed among you would have spotted this event in last month's event diary.

I went with a local friend and travelled to the starting point of East Croydon by tram for the 11 o'clock start on a bright, sunny Sunday morning. We were lucky with the weather, as the previous Saturday had been wet. Whilst waiting to board our special tram we met up with Mike G4WII (who re-arranged his diary to make the trip) and a previous club member Andrew G3IAS.

The Unofficial Tramlink Web Site reported:

"The very first Private Hire of Tramlink was organised by LRTA London with 85 passengers from as far away as Chesterfield, Bath and even the USA! Tram 2545 was used, complete with 'Special' on the blinds, Colourful 99 Running Numbers and an LRTA 'Headboard'. It followed on from the LRTA traditions of the old London Tram System.



The tram visited all of Tramlink's four Termini: New Addington, Beckenham Junction, Elmers End and Wimbledon but the highlight of the tour was running right into the Depot at Therapia Lane and, after a tour, a unique run with passengers through the Tram Wash and Stabling Yard! The tour also used two of the emergency crossovers at Addiscombe and Sandilands.



Two Drivers worked the tour (one at each end), which along with a 'pointman', ensured rapid reversal through the crossovers.

It was an excellent tour, keeping very closely to time to avoid delaying Service Trams. Our thanks go to Alan Pearce of LRTA London and Jim Snowden (TCL Chief Engineer and LRTA member) for organising the tour and also to our two drivers, the points man and of course Tramlink Management for allowing the tour to take place."

Pictures courtesy of the Tramlink Unofficial Site.

Members may be interested to learn that whilst I was on the trip I took the opportunity to chat to Jim Snowden and he has agreed to come back to SRCC and give us a follow-up talk. This will be sometime next year - Jim's diary and commitments allowing!

FOR SALE

Estate of the late Michael O'Dell:

- PSU 3-15v Regulated 3A
- SWR Bridge "Niss" RS402 125-525MHz
- VHF PA
- ICOM EMC Filter
- HF/VHF Transceiver ICOM IC706MkII
- Watson SWR Bridge W220 HF
- AKD Wavemeter
- MFJ259B Antenna Analyser
- Howes Kit ATU CTU8
- Target Rx AKD HF3
- 300W Dummy Load 1-650MHz
- Frequency Counter 1-2800MHz
- Morse Key Pump Type (Lenhart Pettersson)

Reasonable offers to Mrs O'Dell 020-8651 1615 (South Croydon)

SRCC selling in advance of CATS Bazaar:

- FT101ZD - Good working order, CW Filter, etc. but display fault (parts of digits not lit) - £160
- FT101E - Very Good Condition, Speech Processor, 240V & 12V dc - £150
- Photocopier - Large - Local delivery - any offers
- AR88 - General Coverage Receiver - £50
- Trio General Coverage Receiver - £20
- Yaesu FRG 70G - HF Portable Transceiver (6-digit thumbwheel) 2-30MHz, 12dc 3.3A

Contact Maurice G4DDY 020-8669 1480

- Trio TS830S HF Transceiver - £200

Contact Ray G4FFY 020-8644 7589

WANTED 2M Yagi:

Does anyone have an unwanted 2M Yagi - Norman G0LSN is looking for one - Tel: 020-8650 9694

SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month - but a final reminder for your support for this month's "A" meeting - LF Talk by Derek Atter G3GRO

Also please keep sending me contributions for the Newsletter - they are always welcomed.

I hope I haven't missed anything this month but I suspect that the usual Ray *ism's* are to be found! By the way I have done a lot of work on the Club WEB site so please take a look - comments welcomed.

Ray G4FFY
73 and 88 Posted: 31st Oct 2000