



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

OCTOBER 2000 — No: 697

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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 SUTTON
 Surrey SM1 3LD
 020-8644 7589
 E-Mail: secretary@g3src.org.uk
 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 2nd Oct 2000 AUTUMN SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE
"B" MEETING 16th Oct 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	01737-551413
	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020-8462 2837

Dear Members

Hello and welcome to the Oct 2000 newsletter, which I have just finished on Thursday for posting. It has been a mad last few weeks for me as I have accepted Voluntary Redundancy from BT and it is amazing how much needs to be tied up and handed over in order to leave cleanly. I have yet to clear my desk in Delta Point and it is my last day this Friday!! The future – we shall see! Any thoughts?

For this month's "A" meeting on Monday 2nd October we are holding our regular Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale; the "B" meeting on Monday 16th October will be the regular "Fix-it" evening.

NEXT MEETING:

"A" Meeting Monday 2nd Oct 2000

AUTUMN 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:

- Trio TS830S HF Transceiver
- Yaesu FRG 70G – HF Portable Transceiver (6-digit thumbwheel) 2-30MHz, 12dc 3.3A
- Trio TS430S HF Transceiver + PS430 & SP430
- Yupiteru 8-1300MHz Multi-band Rxc

NEXT MEETING:

"B" Meeting Monday 16th Oct 00

FIX-IT and ADVICE CLINIC

Have 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.

As usual please contact Maurice G4DDY on 020-8669 1480 with your needs, etc.

LAST MEETING:

Monday 4th September 00

SHORT TALKS

This was a successful evening with Bernie G8TB presenting "G8TB at War", Peter G3ZPB presenting HF SSB Contest activity, and John G8IYS presenting his 70cm Transverter build (and "destruction" just 2-days prior to VHF NFD). I unfortunately was unable to attend and so my WEB Site talk has been postponed. Thanks are extended to Bernie, Peter and John for an absorbing evening.

LAST MEETING:

Sat/Sun 2nd-3rd Sep 00

HF NFD SSB Contest Weekend

I have been advised that this HF SSB contest was a great success and the team worked 406 contacts, 384 being non-duplicates (valid), with a total of 91 multipliers. The score came to 141050 points (1550 * 91). Equipment was brilliant and the team learnt a lot e.g. the swap to 10m added 10 multipliers alone. Logs have been sent to RSGB and acknowledged. On the back of this success we plan to do it again – more on this below.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES and Local Club Activities:

2nd Oct	Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale
3 rd Oct	Thames Valley ARTS – Carnarvon Trophy judging of Constructed equipment @ Library reading Room, Giggs Hill, Thames Ditton – 8pm
8 th Oct	LRTA Tram Tour of Croydon Tramlink System – http://www.lrta.org/tramlink.html
9 th Oct	CATS – "Open Forum" discussion night @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley – 8pm.
11 th Oct	Crawley ARC – Junk Sale @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.45pm
16th Oct	"B" Mtg. - Fix It & Advice Clinic
17 th Oct	Bromley & District @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8pm
19 th Oct	Sutton & Cheam RS – TBA @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm
21 st Oct	Crystal Palace – Microwave Aerial Table – Derek Atter G3GRO @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill – 7pm.
27 th Oct	W&DARS – AGM @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon - 8pm
6th Nov	LF Talk – Derek Atter G3GRO
19 th Nov	CATS Annual Bazaar – 4 th Purley Scout HQ, Lion Green Road, Coulsdon. 1000-1300hrs. Tickets £1 with one free drink. Tables only £5 each – contact Andy GOKZT on 01737 552139. <u>Warning:</u> Car parking charges now apply on Sundays
20th Nov	"B" Mtg. - Fix It & Advice Clinic
4th Dec	Christmas Talks – IEE Video Evening
18th Dec	"B" Mtg. - Fix It & Advice Clinic
8th Jan 01	"A" Mtg. – TBA
22nd Jan	"B" Mtg. - Fix It & Advice Clinic

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

MEMBERS NEWS:

Gav Sowter G2OS – 100yrs old

Apology for typo error:

Dr Sowter (Gav to his friends), celebrated his 100th birthday on 28th August. This what I should have said in starting last month's piece – sorry Gav for the typo that crept in – these dreaded spell checkers got me again.

Mikiko Shepperley - New Station

Mikiko has written to me advising of their new station comprising of Icom PCR1000 (Rx 500kHz to 13GHz), ATU and Long Wire; and Pentium III 733MHz PC with Modem for the Internet.



Mikiko and new PC

Thanks Mikiko for the picture and I trust that you and Robert will enjoy yourselves with the new set-up.

The closure of UK coastal stations

I am indebted to Ted G3EUE for the following note he recently sent me. Apparently Ted had originally faxed it to me but unfortunately I never received it!! Thanks Ted for perseverance:

"On the 31st December 1997 the last of the UK coastal radio stations closed down. A recording was made of the actual event and a video tape has been issued by Discovery Films. It comprises a one hour recording of the final Morse transmissions on 500 kc/s with about 10 minutes of film with descriptive sound track about the service ; the remainder shows the operators pounding straight keys and records the actual exchange of the final messages between, amongst others, Portpatrick, Wick, Cullercoates and Lands End radio stations.

I found it fascinating to watch the operators in action and to listen to the transmissions. For those of us whose Morse is getting a little rusty, a crib sheet is provided! It was worth buying the tape just to listen to the quality of the signal from Lands End - GLD.

The tape is available from

Discovery Films,
P.O. Box 8285,
Solihull,
B92 7LX

Price: £10.50 including postage.

P.S. The tape is called " QRT 500 kc/s wireless telegraphy 1901 — 1997 "

Thanks Ted for this article and I am pleased to hear that Daphne has made a good recovery from her Op.

UK-CANADA Crossband LF QSO Completed

I am indebted to Don Haynes for the following:

"In the spirit of the early transatlantic tests, a cross-band LF-HF contact between the United Kingdom and Canada was completed September 10. The contact involved well-known LFER Dave Bowman, GOMRF, operating on 135.711kHz and John Currie, VE1ZJ, on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada, operating on 20 meters.

Dave had a surprisingly strong signal into FN95, Cape Breton Island, "Currie said in an e-mail message to Andr' Kesteloot, N4ICK, who's involved with the AMRAD LF experiment in the US.

Using spectral software, Currie reports that he observed "weak dashes" from GOMRF just after 2205 UTC on September 9. He says noise was extremely low. Shortly after sunset on Cape Breton Island he observed a lot of dashes. "It looked like GOMRF was coming across the pond," he said. Bowman's signal was never audible in Canada.

Currie said he had "solid copy on GOMRF" by 2245 UTC, and the crossband QSO was completed on September 10 at 0008 UTC. "I could see every dot and dash," he reported. By 0100 he could no longer copy the signal, and by 0250 UTC they were fading. "I did not see them on the spectrogram again," he reported.

Bowman says he was operating from a 15th floor West London apartment, the home of Sean Griffin, 2E1AXK. The antenna was two sloping 250-foot long wires about 80 degrees apart. Grounding was via the building's plumbing. Loading involved fixed and variable inductors. Bowman estimated maximum power into the antenna at 700 W, but at one point, he dropped his power to about 320 W and VE1ZJ was still copying. "Even allowing for the large antenna, I believe this shows that many UK/EU stations will be able to make the transatlantic path this winter," Bowman said.

Canada has not yet authorised Amateur Radio operation at 136 kHz, but some stations have been given permission to experiment there. Larry Kayser, VA3LK, and Mitch Powell, VE3OT, completed the first two-way LF contact in Canada on July 22 on 136 kHz, using very slow-speed CW (dubbed "QRSS"). Kayser is testing equipment and processes in preparation for the TransAtlantic II attempt on LF set to occur November 10-27 from Newfoundland. TransAtlantic II will attempt to span the Atlantic in both directions on LF. Details on the project are available at <http://www.rac.ca/vlfest.htm>.

Bowman's "GOMRF Projects Web-Site" is at <http://www.q0mrf.freemove.co.uk/>

Many thank Don for this timely lead-up article for next month's talk on the LF Bands.

G4DSY - Call being pirated

I thought this type of activity had gone away until Dusty G4DSY had sent me this E-Mail advising of his call being pirated – it is not nice and is very mean and hard hearted.

“Hi Ray;

Sorry to have to write to you for this reason, but would you please insert into the Newsletter that my call G4DSY is being pirated on the HF bands, particularly 14Mhz CW. My call has been pirated before and it is suspected that the transmissions come from North London.

I found out that I was being pirated when I received a QSL card from W land with enclosed dollar bills to pay for the return postage.

I am sure that you would agree that pirating is a pretty mean trick, as the pirates don't seem to care about the disappointment caused when a QSL is returned under these circumstances and of course the cost involved to the person being pirated as they usually pay for the return letter.

Regards Dusty.

I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous.

CONTEST ACTIVITY EXPANSION:

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.

TRAMLINK TOUR - 8th Oct - 2 TICKETS

Mike G4WII has E-Mailed me with the following:

“I have purchased two tickets for the tramlink tour which I only now discover is to be on 8th October.

I can't make that date !!

Are there a couple of bods out there who want these tickets at £8 each as if not I'll return them for a refund. Would be a pity, as they are almost as scarce as hen's teeth.

I need to know by the end of September at the very latest, preferably earlier.

Regards

Mike Sesemann, G4WII - 020-8658 9110”

I believe if one misses this opportunity, another tour cannot be arranged by the LRTA until spring next year.

FOR SALE:

Eddystone Rx 840C - In it's original box - Also Joystick Antenna

Mr Doe

10 Whitethorn Gardens

CROYDON CR0 7LL

020-8654 2665

Open to reasonable offers.

SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month – but a final reminder for your support for this month's “A” meeting – Autumn Surplus Sale

Also please keep send me contributions for the Newsletter - they are always welcomed - especially the Member's News. I already have two articles from Gareth G4XAT for next month – thanks Gareth.

I hope I haven't missed anything this month but it has been a bit of a panic, what with me leaving work and all that!

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 28th Sep 2000

SRCC Subscription Renewal Form October 2000

Name: Callsign/RS:

Address:

..... Tel:

Member: £8.00 Family: £12.50

Cheques payable to SRCC and send to:

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