



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

JULY 2001 — No: 706

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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 SUTTON
 Surrey SM1 3LD
 (020) 8644 7589
 E-Mail: secretary@g3src.org.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 Jul 2001 Talk on John Logie Baird by Jon Weller G0GNA
"B" MEETING 16th Jul 2001 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"

Chairman	GOPAR David How	020-8761 2954
Vice-Chairman	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737-551413
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	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020-8462 2837
	G3RJW Graham Marshall	020-8669 8722
Co-opted	M1MRS Robert Shepperley	020-8640 5166

Dear Members

Hello and welcome to the July 2001 newsletter, which I am composing in a hurry (as usual !) to meet the Thursday 28th deadline for posting. One reason for my lateness is due to me re-building my PC and debating whether to use ME or 98SE as the Operating System (Its seems most of my Software is more stable on Windows 98SE (especially the TV Card !!). I have recently invested in a programme called Norton Ghost that can make image copies of your Hard Disk allowing one to quickly restore a previous installation. I now always have two hard disks in my PCs to separate Data from Applications.

That's enough of my Computer sagas and on with the Newsletter proper. For our "A Meeting this month (2nd July) we are pleased to welcome Jon Weller G0GNA of the Dorking & District Radio Society, who will presenting a talk on John Logie Baird. The "B" Meeting (16th July) will be as usual and between these two meetings will the Activity Weekend (7th-8th July).

NEXT MEETING:

"A" Meeting Monday 2nd July 2001
TALK on JOHN LOGIE BAIRD by Jon Weller G0GNA

This will be an illustrated talk on John Logie Baird's mechanical TV system. It will include some original magic lantern slides, the restored BBC recordings of 1934, and much more. We are indebted to Jon for this talk and I trust a high turnout will be achieved.

CLUB ACTIVITY WEEKEND 7th-8th Jul 01 VHF NFD Field Day Site @ Nore Hill

Despite the fact that the VHF Contest Committee has cancelled the VHF NFD event on 7/8th July due to the Foot & Mouth outbreak impact, we have decided to have an activity weekend instead.

Bands that will be operated are:

- 50MHz - G3SRC/P
- 144MHz - G6LX/P
- 432MHz - G3ZPB/P
- 1296MHz - co-sited with 70cm and/or 2m and potentially higher (13cm, 6cm, 3cm)

We will be located in the normal field, as the farmer has made it available to us. It is located along the Limpsfield Road, about half a mile south from the junction with Slines Oaks Road.

This activity will be an ideal opportunity for any of you to take part. Personnel are wanted to help put the stations up, and do some operating - so please come along.

More details can be obtained from Bernie G8TB or come along to the next meeting on Monday and have a word with one of us - thanks.

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 16th July 01 FIX-IT and "MOVE-IT-ON" Evening

The "B" meeting on Monday 18th June will be the regular "Fix-It" and advice evening but with the 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!

The Fix-It section has proved very interesting and successful so please bring along that item that has been giving you grief - the collective heads at the meeting usually come up with something.

LAST "A" MEETING: Monday 4th Jun 01 CONSTRUCTION CONTEST

This was a very enjoyable evening and it was encouraging to see all the members efforts - big and small, young and old, radio and non-radio. There was over 28 entries including:

- Gareth G4XAT - Brewery bit, Smoking unit (cooking), Chimney for 1.5kW Triode (article to come), Safe box for Generator.
- Maurice G4DDY - Universal Tool and Cutter Grinder
- John G8IYS - 70cm Transverter system 1W in 30W out, Milliwatt Meter, -ve volts generator for ALC (to get drive down to μ W), Transmit sequencer, SWR Meter
- Bernie G8TB - 136kHz Amplifier (150W in using 813 giving some 2A in the Tank Coil!), 136kHz Receiver built from a Japanese Rxcr donated by John G3BFP, "Non-Windup" Megger (over 100M Ω), Capacity bridge with added Amplifier (has been in Newsletter), Silent Tuner (HF Bands 10-80m, Noise Source and Bridge Circuit)
- Joshua Evans - Space Rocket & Hedgehog CD Stackers, LED Car (went around a black line oval), lamp
- John G3ENG - ATU (used copper strip for connecting the variable capacitors to inductors), SINAD Meter
- John G4DJR - TRF Receiver (CW & AM : 7 & 3.5MHz)
- Robert M1MRS - Howe Kit Receiver 10, 12 & 15m bands

All exhibitors gave a brief talk on their entries before every one took part in a secret vote. The outcome was as follows:

Radio Section - Winner: Bernie G8TB for his 136kHz Amplifier who received the Coronation Cup and cash prize

Runner-up: John G3ENG for his ATU

Non-Radio Section - Winner: Joshua who received the Basil Wardman Tankard

Runner-up: Gareth G4XAT

Well done to all the winners and congratulations to everyone who entered proving that home construction is still alive. Please also see Member's News section.

MEMBERSHIP LIST - Additions

I am advised of the following that you can add to the recently circulated Membership List:

Roger G4WAY: g4way@lineone.net

Pat G4FDN: 020-8643 0491

Robert 2E1MRS has successfully passed the RAE and now has the call: M1MRS - well done Robert - Morse is next on his horizon @ 12wpm.

Bernard G4FDA has moved to: 34 Saxon Close, Oake, Taunton, Somerset TA4 1JA. Tel: 01823 461 026. We wish you all the best in your new home.

THE CALENDAR SECTION

This section includes not just Club meeting dates of SRCC and local Clubs, but also future Rallies and some contests that you may like to enter or experience before the big ones that SRCC enters.

SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

2nd July	Talk on John Logie Baird by Jon G0GNA
3 rd Jul	Thames Valley ARTS – Low Tension Ignition by David G3KQR @ Library reading Room, Giggs Hill, Thames Ditton – 8pm. Sec: Trevor M0CDB 01372-457674
7th-8th Jul	SRCC Activity Weekend - Nore Hill, Limpsfield Road. Contact Bernie G8TB
9th Jul	CATS Inter-club Quiz Night - Teams of 4 from local clubs compete - the more the better so please help the SRCC team/s.
13 th Jul	W&DARS – Valve Museum - Alan G8LSD @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon- 8pm. Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737-356745
16th Jul	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, "Move-It-On"
17 th Jul	Bromley & District - Meetings normally 3 rd Tuesday @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420
19 th Jul	Sutton & Cheam RS – Visit by RSGB President Don Beattie G3BJ @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945
20 th Jul	Crystal Palace - An Evening of Receivers @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill - 7.30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G30OU 01737 552170 or WEB Site
24 th Jul	Dorking & District Radio Society - Activity Night @ Devil's Dyke, Brighton from 19:00. Meetings normally @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking - opposite Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
25 th Jul	Crawley ARC – Constructional Evening @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Sec: Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932
25 th Jul	South London College ARS (G3HFY) - Meetings on last Wednesday of month @ ATC HQ, Commonsides West, Mitcham - 7.30pm. Derek M0BGX 020-8684 0963
6th Aug	Barbecue @ Peter's G3ZPB
3rd Sep	"For those in Peril" - Peter G7PWV
1st Oct	Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale
5th Nov	Digital Audio Broadcasting - Peter G3ZPB - this will be held at RTCG @ Whyteleafe CR3 0YY - more details nearer the meeting
3rd Dec	TBA

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

SRCC Activity Station & Contest Calendar:

24th Jun	VHF NFD Group Meeting @ G3ZPB's
7 th /8 th Jul	Activity Weekend - Nore Hill, Limpsfield Road. Contact Bernie G8TB (020-8660 7517)
1 st /2 nd Sep	HF SSB and I ARU 2M - Contact Roger G4WAY (020-8689 7089)

Contest Calendar: (Ray's Selection)

(Oct 2000 Issue of RadCom has full list and details)

5 th Aug - 2 nd 0700-0900 CW: 3520-3570kHz	RoPoCo - a real test of your CW operating skill. Chinese whispers using rotating postcodes! Exchange RST plus for the first contact, one's own postcode. For each subsequent contact, RST + the postcode received from the previous contact.
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Rally Calendar:

8 th July	Sussex Amateur Radio & Computer Fair. Contact: Ron G8VEH 01903 763978 or 01283 417756 (Office Hours)
15 th July	McMichael Rally @ Reading Rugby Football Club near Sonning, Reading. 0118 9723504 http://go.to/McMichaelRally
29 th July from 10am to 4pm	COLCHESTER RADIO & COMPUTER RALLY St Helena School, Sheepen Road Colchester Essex. BNG TL 986 265 The Following facilities will be available Large hall for indoor traders Large outside area for boot sale Refreshments and bar available Admission £1.50 Talk in on S22 & RB14 (433.350MHz) See our web site for update information www.g3co.ccom.co.uk
21/22 Sep	The Leicester Amateur Radio Show - Geoff G4AFJ 01455 823344 g4afj@argonet.co.uk

MEMBERS NEWS:

John G8IYS 7th-8th July Activity Weekend:

John in a recent E-Mail to me advises of the following European activity over the weekend of 7th-8th July:

In response to Peter's phone query re times of various European VHF/UHF contests on 7/8 July and the source of my info:

The easiest site to access is the Belgian UBA: www.uba.be
Click on English, then VHF News, then Contest News, then July. You will see that the data was last updated on 22/04/01. Other than for an OK event, all countries start at 1400 UTC on 7th and end at 1400 UTC on 8th.

Gareth G4XAT Robolab:

I thought that members may be interested in a bit of history behind Joshua's line following robot, as seen at the recent construction contest.

Last year as part of my Advanced Skills Teacher role I supported two local primary schools in the Reading University Dept. of Cybernetics "Cyber challenge 2000". My role was to teach the teams how to use the Robolab software and how to address the challenge. The finals last year were held at Legoland, Windsor and a good time was had by all, especially in the park afterwards!

Joshua and his team were then in year 5, the idea being that they would act as mentors to the next years group of year 5's (in 2001).

Over the course of the last few months Joshua and his team have been doing just that, teaching the new team and developing and refining their robot over the weeks. The competition took place on the 5th June in the Great Hall at Reading University and I am pleased to report that Hawes Down Juniors came FIRST. The school I supported managed a close second (NO I didn't fix it!). After last years event Joshua & Reuben decided to save up for and buy their own Lego Mindstorms kit with programmable RCX brick. This set formed the basis of the challenge. Since then Joshua in particular has been busy experimenting with the software and hardware and has become an 'expert' at both. The programming language is remarkably powerful and there isn't actually much that can't be done in terms of control or data logging. The RCX brick is a micro controller based unit with 3 inputs and outputs plus bi-directional infrared communication and

sound. The only limitations are really that of the Lego itself, where stopping the whole lot falling to bits in a bump or collision is a problem. This can be overcome by attention to interlocking parts and tying things together. His entry in the construction contest was inspired by being given a battery powered wheelchair chassis which the boys have been driving around the garden and patio like a berserk dalek! Fascinating to watch, the program is remarkable simple comprising turn left until white, then turn right until dark, then repeat. All his own work too!

Gareth G4XAT: The Construction Contest, from a contestant's viewpoint.

For the first time in many years the tables were groaning under the weight of projects and in fact there really was not enough space to freely display the variety of work on show. The reason was partly the larger than average size of some of the projects but the major reason was opening the contest to any item(s) constructed by members. We are, after all, a diverse range of individuals with talents in many different areas of life. So why not share them? Why not indeed! As the range of equipment, machinery and radio projects showed, there is a lot going on around the hobby as well as in it. As a long time marker of student examination work I have long held a belief that a really good project will teach the marker something new. Such was the case on Monday evening. I learnt that using flat strip for ATU interconnections reduces the stray inductances to a point where separate coils for 10 metres are no longer needed, as the end of the roller coaster will now be within the required value range. I hope other members found the evening as enjoyable and informative as I did. All part of life's rich tapestry!

Ian G3KXT:

FOR SALE:

Ian G3KXT has 2 off Alloy Scaffold Poles 20ft £25 pair complete with strong coupling piece or £15 each.

Also Ian is unable to erect any of the antennas he previously used, and thus has a quantity of aluminium tubing, of various sizes, for reasonable prices that members may wish to take advantage off rather than taking them to the refuse tip. I will publish a list next month but in the meantime contact Ian direct and there may be something suitable.

Contact Ian G3KXT on 020-8325 3502 or

E-Mail: annian@lineone.net

In Ian's Email he explained the following telephone problem that he has:

Secondly turning to technical matters - I have started having problems with my telephone when I have my modem connected although not switched on. This has only become prominent since installing a BT Quartet 1500 with one extension in place of BT Freestyle with one extension. Also in the set-up are two other telephones and the Supra Express56ePRO modem only purchased at the end of last year.

As I say, all has been fine until recent purchase of the 1500. What happens is that it affects the voice transmission such that the person on other end of phone complains they can hardly hear Ann and I have to rush in here and disconnect the lead to the modem when all is ok again.

Have you any ideas or are there any Telephone engineers at the club who could help (I'll contact you next week Ian)

Gareth G4XAT - Sponsored Bike Ride:

Gareth E-Mailed me on 21st June with the following record of his Sponsored Bike Ride:

'In almost ideal conditions (cool but not raining) Gareth set off from Clapham Common at 6.28 am on Sunday morning 17th June. Exactly 5 hours later he crossed the finish line at Brighton seafront, having completed the run in record time (5 hours including rest stops) and at record speed, 12.3 mph [MAX 47.1mph!!], with a total distance of 54.4 miles. Reaching the finish line means that his promised sponsorship of £175, much of it from club members, now becomes due. He hopes to be at the next A meeting and will gladly collect it then! Along the way he has several QSOs on 2 Metres mostly via the West Sussex repeater. He was using a VX5R (5 watts) into a 7/8th on the luggage rack, a boom mic with a ptt on the handlebars. Thanks to John, G0GNA, Maurice, G4DDY, Graham, G3RJW, and Bernard, G8TB plus a couple of Sussex locals who joined in and wished him well.'

I didn't make it to the B meeting as I had cold water swimming to do at Tooting Bec Lido Monday evening and didn't get home until 8.30. Then I needed food followed by sleep!!
73s Gareth (off to the Shell Mileage Marathon this Friday/Saturday in pursuit of the world record for a road legal single seat car)

Ron Glaisher G6LX:

In accordance with Prue's wishes, the Club will be compiling a collection of those members who wish to contribute towards a donation to the St. Christopher Hospice.

I will be please to receive any contributions or catch any committee member at a Club Meeting - thanks.

I have also received the following letter from Prue:

Dear Ray,

I am writing to thank you for all the kind messages of sympathy I have received since Ron, G6LX died and for all the tributes published in the newsletter. I found them heart rending, but comforting to know that Ron's life and knowledge reached out to his friends in so many ways.

So many of Ron's friends, and mine, were at the funeral and I really appreciated seeing you. Thank you all for your support.

73 Prue

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Gail Jenkins G1CKB:

Roger G8HDP contacted me recently wishing to extend his thanks to the Club members for their best wishes and support following Gail's untimely death. It was gratefully appreciated., thank you.

Pat G4FDN:

WANTED
Pat is after 910Khz crystals, four preferably but whatever he can get. There are for a synchronous DSSBC he is trying to put together.
Pat can be contacted on 020-8643 0491 or
E-Mail Patrick.McGuinness@iee.org

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SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS:

As it is that time of the year, may I remind 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 (haven't yet had the opportunity to check with Maurice). I have printed a Slip below for your convenience but a covering note will do if you do not wish to spoil this Newsletter.

SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this sad month, many thanks for your contributions, which are always welcome so keep them coming - thanks. I do have a couple of articles from Gareth still to put in but I am looking for me, especially any technical one as these have been thin on the ground.

See you all at the John Logie Baird Evening on Monday 2nd July and hopefully put your name down for the Activity weekend on 7th-8th July.

Ray G4FFY
73 and 88 Posted: 28th Jun 2001

SRCC Subscription Renewal Form Jul 2001

Name: Callsign/RS:
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