



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

OCTOBER 2001 — No: 709

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

"A" MEETING 1st Oct 2001 AUTUMN SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE
"B" MEETING 15th Oct 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 October 2001 newsletter, which I am rushing to finish to meet deadlines – nothing unusual there then! It is now a year since I have left BT, doesn't time fly. With my new employer I have worked in New York earlier this year in offices that were overlooked by World Trade Center. I have also stayed in the Marriott which was part of the complex but now also gone. Makes it all too close for comfort.

For this month's "A" meeting on Monday 1st October we are holding our regular Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale; the "B" meeting on Monday 15th October will be the regular "Fix-it" evening.

Also enclosed in this newsletter are details of the new Amateur Radio Licence Structure including the renaming of the Novice Licence to Intermediate Licence, and the introduction of a new Foundation Licence.

Next "A" Meeting Mon 1st Oct 2001 AUTUMN SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE

We hope there will be a good turnout for this Autumn 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'clock.
9. **PLEASE KEEP THE DOORWAY CLEAR FOR FIRE PRECAUTIONS.**
10. SMOKERS are requested to keep to the rear of the room.

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 15th Oct 01 FIX-IT and "MOVE-IT-ON" Evening

The "B" meeting on Monday 15th Oct will be the regular "Fix-It" and advice evening 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 3rd Sep 2001 FOR THOSE IN PERIL-The Lifeboat Service - Peter G7PWV - Family Evening

This was an excellent and informative evening attended by 17 members and wives. Peter is Vice Chairman and Secretary of a local RNLI branch and is volunteer speaker. He is also actively involved in the museum at Chatham.

He split his talk into two halves, the first being the RNLI in 2001 including a bit on radio, the second covering the RNLI heritage. It was fully illustrated throughout with many slides.

The RNLI is the 4th Emergency service (despite those adverts!) but is unique in its funding relying on legacies and fund raising. It was founded in 1824 and has saved since then some 134,000 people. It currently now saves around 1,000 people a year with 17 launches a day. About 38% of rescues are at night taking place in Force 7 winds or more. There are 223 lifeboat stations around the UK and Ireland with the target of arriving within 30mins.

Peter went on to describe the various classes of boats the RNLI use like the Severn class used at exposed coastal areas and the most demanding sites. They are 17m (55ft) long, over 35 tonnes and can do over 25 knots. They are of RNLI design, as are all modern boats, and cost around £1.8M each. They have shock absorbing seats, crash helmets are worn, and are self-righting in 7 seconds - a standard set since the 70's.

Other boats include the Atlantic class, an in-shore lifeboat 7.5m long; and semi-rigid inflatables (rigid hull). I noted an age limit of 55 for crewing all-weather lifeboats, and 45 for in-shore lifeboat.

Peter went on to describe some rescues and also reminded us of lifeboats being seen in some unusual locations like Uckfield High Street for flood relief.

The lifeboat service costs around £100M a year to run raised entirely by voluntary means, no state funding. Legacies account for some 50-60% each year.

In moving forward the RNLI has launched the Sea Safety Initiative aimed at the leisure sea sailor.

- 1 in 5 don't check the weather forecasts
- 1 in 4 don't check the tides
- 1 in 20 call out a lifeboat

Prevention is better than rescue

- Educate the leisure sea user
- Free Sea check for every leisure user

Other initiatives include help for commercial fisherman; & Inland Waterways project (Northern Island & Norfolk Broads) to prevent 250 lives lost each year.

Peter concluded his talk with information on the Royal National Lifeboat Collection at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham.

Many of the lifeboats formed part of a collection at Bristol Maritime Museum and were offered to the RNLI when the museum closed. Thankfully an opportunity arose to display them at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham.

The "Lifeboat" gallery was funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund and money from a private trust fund. Work started in October 1994 and by May 1995 a couple of preview days were held. It was still not a museum until 1996 following many hours of work by dedicated volunteers, including Peter. It was officially opened by the Duke of Kent on 11 Sep 1996.

We are indebted to Peter for an excellent evening and informing us of the work of the world's leading Marine and Sea rescue organisation. A possible Club visit to the Historic Dockyard was suggested so watch this space.

A collecting tin was left out on the night and along with a matching Club donation some £46 was raised.

Many thanks Peter.

THE CALENDAR SECTION SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

1 st Oct	Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale
2 nd Oct	Thames Valley ARTS - "Carnarvon Trophy" for Construction @ Library Reading Room, Giggs Hill, Thames Ditton-8pm. Trevor MOCDB 01372-457674
3 rd Oct	Crystal Palace - Making your own PC Board by G3OOU @ Beechwood School, Leigham Court Road 7.30pm. Sec: Bob G3OOU 01737 552170
8 th Oct	CATS - HF & VHF Operation Evening - Contact: Andy GOKZT 01737-552139. Meetings normally @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 nd Monday each month
12 th Oct	W&DARS - Amateur Astronomy with Gavin Strang Meetings @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon-8pm. Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737-356745
15 th Oct	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, "Move-It-On"
16 th Oct	Bromley & District - Construction Contest - Ian G4VTD Meetings 3 rd Tuesday of every month @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes - 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420
18 th Oct	Sutton & Cheam RS - 'D68C - The Comoros DX-pedition' (Tentative) @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton - 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945
19 th Oct	Crystal Palace - Knots by Jim G4WYJ @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill - 7.30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G3OOU 01737 552170 or WEB Site
23 rd Oct	Dorking & District Radio Society. Meetings @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking - opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
24 th Oct	Crawley ARC - Four Short Talks Derek G3GRO, Lech G3KAU, Jack G4TVC, & Stewart G3YSX @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley - 7.30pm. Sec: Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932
31 st Oct	South London College ARS (G3HFY) - Meetings on last Wednesday of month @ ATC HQ, Commonside West, Mitcham - 7.30pm. Derek M0BGX 020-8684 0963
26 th Oct	W&DARS - AGM. Meetings @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon-8pm. Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737-356745
5 th Nov	Digital Audio Broadcasting - Peter G3ZPB - this will be held at RTCG @ Whyteleafe CR3 0YY
3 rd Dec	M2000A Station with Bob BRS32525+Team
7 th Jan	RSGB DRRM for South London & Surrey
4 th Feb	Picatune with Paul Berkeley M0CJX

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

Rally Calendar, etc:

12-14 Oct	RSGB International HF and IOTA Convention 2001. Beaumont Conference Centre, Windsor.
19 th Oct	Big Band Night at the Croydon Bowls Club 7.30 to 12 Midnight with Ken MackIntosh M0COR
18 th Nov	CATS Bazaar – 4 th Purley Scout HQ, Lion Green Road, Coulsdon

HOBBY FUTURE #1 -

NEW AMATEUR LICENCE STRUCTURE

The Radiocommunications Agency has announced a series of changes to the radio amateur licensing regime, designed to make it more attractive as a technical hobby. The changes include lowering the Morse Code speed requirement for full licensees, amalgamating some licence categories, allowing trainees to operate while supervised before passing an examination and the introduction of a new Foundation Class licence.

For more than a hundred years radio amateurs have been at the forefront of developments in telecommunication. In the current information and communication technology expansion, the Radiocommunications Agency and the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) have agreed that it is in the national interest that access to amateur radio be improved so that radio amateurs can continue to play a key role in these technologies.

Amateur radio offers:

- a source of ongoing investigation and innovation in radio communication;
- a way of drawing people into a technical activity which can result in them pursuing a career in engineering, so enhancing the technical skill base of the United Kingdom
- a source of emergency communications at times when conventional communications links are strained or out of action
- a contribution to international friendship; and
- a rewarding and challenging leisure activity

The current structure of licensing has been based on three levels, the Novice, Class A/B and the Full Licence. Both Novice and Full licences have two categories, one providing access to all amateur bands, the other restricted to those at 50 MHz and above.

It is hoped that it may be possible to simplify this structure after the World Radio Conference in 2003. In the meantime the following changes are being made to the amateur radio licensing structure:

UK Class A and Class A/B Licences

Earlier this year the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) recommended that the Morse requirement for their Class 1 licence (equivalent to a UK Class A) be reduced from 12 to 5 words per minute (wpm). This has provided the Agency with an opportunity to review the amateur radio licensing structure. To this end the Agency intends from 1st October 2001 to reduce the Morse requirement for the Class A licence to 5 wpm and to incorporate the Class A/B into the Class A licence. Class A/B licence holders will be offered the choice of either retaining their existing M5 callsign or change to an M0 callsign.

Additionally, to encourage the practical aspect of amateur radio training, unlicensed trainees (on a registered training course) may be supervised by full licence holders to operate a station and contact other UK licensed amateurs. There will be no time limit on the duration of any message.

Novice Licence

With effect from 1st October 2001 the Novice Amateur Radio Licence will be re-named the Intermediate Amateur Radio Licence. Intermediate (A) licensees will be allowed access to all amateur radio bands. Intermediate (B) will be allowed access to all amateur bands at 50MHz and above. All Intermediate licensees will be allowed 50 watts output in all bands except where a lower power limit already applies to Amateur (A) licensees, in which case the lower level shall apply.

Foundation Licence

The final change to the amateur radio licensing structure prior to WRC 2003 will be the introduction of a new "Foundation" licence at the beginning of 2002. This licence will provide access to most of the amateur bands, and restrict licensees to a maximum RF out put power of 10 watts RF output. Transmitting equipment will need to be commercially manufactured items, or properly designed commercial kits.

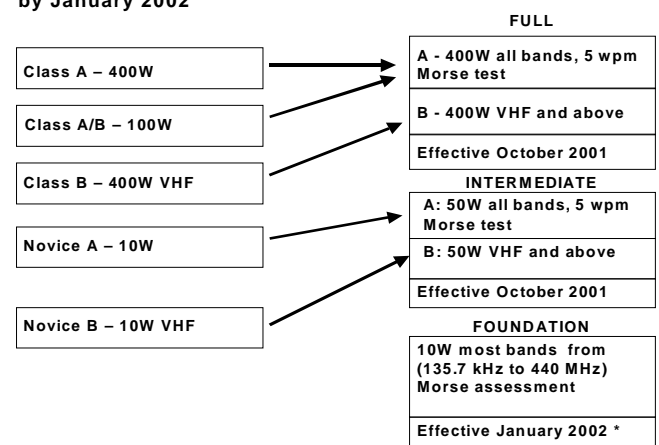
Study for the Foundation licence may be undertaken over a weekend, and is based on the tradition that amateur radio is a hobby learnt mainly through self-training. The Foundation syllabus is based on the concept of producing "safe and competent" radio amateurs.

- safe, in terms of understanding the personal safety issues involved.
- competent, in terms of understanding correct operating procedures and the need to ensure that transmissions do not interfere with other radio users, and being able to operate radio equipment efficiently and effectively.

With effect from 1st October 2001, pilot courses will be run to evaluate the syllabus and training material, and the Agency expects the full scheme to be operational from January 2002. The Radio Society of Great Britain is working with the Agency to organise these pilot courses, and will be handling much of the routine administration of the training and examination process, with the Agency remaining as the licensing authority.

The resulting structure of amateur licensing is shown diagrammatically below.

Structure of UK amateur licensing planned to be implemented by January 2002



* Anticipated implementation date

The Agency and the RSGB hope that by introducing this new licence level, amateur radio will become more attractive and accessible to both young and old, and that by taking this first step onto the licensing ladder, Foundation licensees will be encouraged to undertake a process of self training to acquire higher licence privileges in due course.

It is intended that from 1st January 2004, a revised integrated structure of qualifications and examinations for amateur radio in the UK will come into effect.

I have put a special page up on the Club WEB site (<http://www.g3src.org.uk/>), which in addition to the brief above has the Gazette notice and an information sheet on the Foundation licence.

HOBBY FUTURE #2 - SOUTH of the THAMES LONDON CLUBS FORUM

I have received a letter from Andy Briers G0KZT in which he refers to the decline in our hobby over the past 10 years and the problems associated with recruiting new younger members to our clubs. In addition to this, call sign holders are reducing in numbers and the commercial value of our bands is becoming more apparent. Activity in London, as a whole, is minimal with 2m & 70cm becoming almost silent when it should in theory be possibly the busiest in the country.

Andy proposes that we should begin to formalise a joint forum of those Clubs and societies south of the Thames and try together to turn our hobby around and try to rekindle the interest that we once enjoyed. Some of the areas suggested could be Contesting, Special Event Stations, Joint Lectures and invitations of guest speakers, Training, promotion of mobile and portable operation, etc.

Would SRCC members give the matter some thought as Andy is prepared to collate the view's of Club's committees to establish what interest there would be for such a forum. Please pass your comments, views and suggestions in the first instance to myself, or any other SRCC committee member – thanks. The committee has agreed to support this initiative.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Hospice Donation in memory of Ron G6LX

Thank you all for your donations which have now all been passed to Maurice G4DDY, our Treasurer. Once he has finished counting I'll will let you know the total.

Robert M1MRS & Mikiko

Robert and Mikiko have advised me of their new E-Mail address as: Robertmikiko@aol.com They are also starting to develop a personal Web site which has this address: <http://hometown.aol.co.uk/robertmikiko/myhomepage/aboutme.html> This update has been applied to the member's E-Mail page on the SRCC Web Site. Mikiko's Amateur Radio interests now includes Satellite and I include a picture from their recent visit to SSTL at University of Surrey, Guildford.

FOR SALE:

Computer – Amstrad 2286DD

1MB RAM, Dual Drive 3½ Disc, Mouse, outrigger 5¼ Disc Drive (takes over one of the 3½ drives when in use).

12inch Colour Monitor

Windows/286

MS-DOS4.0

Full Instructions

Printer Epson LX86 Mono

Any offers to Dennis G4DAC QTHR

020- 8657 3081

PICTURE GALLERY:



Mikiko at SSTL



Peter G7PWV – RNLI Speaker

SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month, hopefully I have faithfully recorded your presentation Peter on the RNLI. Regarding the Historic Dockyard it has a Web Site as follows: <http://www.chdt.org.uk> This site has a page on lifeboats and shows the Grace Darling built in 1954 (the display gives the story of grace Darling and the RNLI); and Blue Peter III , an In-shore lifeboat built in 1967. This is at the centre of a display which traces the link between the RNLI and the BBC TV Programme, whose appeals have funded a number of lifeboats.

For next Newsletter (Nov 2001), there will be a guest editor as I shall not be available. I thank the Radiocommunication Agency for the details on the new Amateur Licence structure I have used in this Newsletter.

So, in closing next month's "A" meeting on Monday 1st Oct is the Autumn Surplus Equipment sale at the usual venue of TS Terra Nova.

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 26th Sep 2001