



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

APRIL 2002 — No: 715

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 8th Apr 2002 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

"B" MEETING 22nd Apr 2002 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 April 2002 newsletter - Another year and another AGM to be held on Monday 8th April 2002. We hope we get a good turnout, as this is a barometer of the health of the club and endorsement of the work the committee does.

Other meetings this month include the next meeting of the VHF NFD group on Monday 15th April at Peter's G3ZPB's, and the popular "Fix-It" and "Move-It On" Meeting on Monday 22nd April at Terra Nova.

More about these below but firstly:

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 8th April 02 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Formal notice of this ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was given in the last newsletter. This will be held on Monday 8th April at the Terra Nova Clubroom, 7.45 for 8pm. Enclosed are the minutes of the last AGM (Accounts will be available on the night), please bring them along, as they have to be accepted. At the end of this newsletter is the AGENDA and also a nomination form for proposing members for the 2002/03 committee. The acceptance of the nominee must be obtained and the form must be in the hands of the committee prior to the Chairman opening the meeting.

The committee consists of the Secretary (to be separately nominated) and seven members. The names of nominees will be displayed on the blackboard before the meeting. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer will be selected from the seven elected members.

THIS PROBABLY IS, OR SHOULD BE, THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE YEAR, so please make an effort to attend even if you are not normally able to get along to other club meetings. This is your opportunity to elect your committee, the retiring committee are all willing to stand again but it would be nice to have more nominations, some new blood would not come amiss so please use the nomination slip at the end of this Newsletter.

At the AGM you will also be able to find out how the club has been operating during the past year, scrutinise the accounts, and to express your views regards meetings, contests, outings etc, which does help the committee to plan ahead.

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 22nd Apr 2002 FIX-IT and "MOVE-IT-ON" Evening

The "B" meeting on Monday 22nd Apr will be the regular "Fix-It" and advice evening with the extra twist. If you have a radio item, or anything else 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.

**NEXT VHF NFD MEETING: Mon 15th Apr 2002
at QTH of Peter G3ZPB**

The next Inquest and Planning meeting will be held on Monday 15th Apr 2002 @ QTH of Peter G3ZPB (Pound Cottage). We have agreed to enter this year over the weekend of 6th-7th July 2002 up at our usual site near Warlingham. The contest runs from 3pm on Saturday to 3pm on the Sunday (BST) and the rules can be found in the Jan2002 RadCom on page 57.

At the Apr 15th meeting we will decide how we enter. The rules only allow entries up to 4-bands so we have to decide which band to drop. The candidates are 4m, 6m, or 23cm. Part of the decision depends on personnel and equipment availability for which a plea is made here.

So here is your chance to get involved and we extend an invitation to all our readers, whether members of SRCC or other clubs, to provide assistance on the day. This can be of the form of simply helping to put stations up e.g. aerial erection; and/or operating a station; supplying equipment; etc.

What we can achieve will depend on the resources available so please contact Bernie G8TB for further details (020-8660 7517) – thank you.

**LAST "A" MEETING: Monday 4th Mar 02
SPRING SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE**

It seems that amateurs are less and less inclined to build their own equipment and this is evident by the smaller numbers that attend these sales. I remember when there was standing room only. We were surprised by the high interest in non-electronic stuff but it all helps to raise funds for the Club. With commission and donated gear the evening showed a profit of some £70 for the Club Funds. Thanks to Bernie G8TB and Maurice G4DDY as auctioneers, and also to Peter G3ZPB (with myself) for keeping the accounts.



**LAST SOCIAL MEETING: Sat 23rd Mar
SRCC DINNER: 23rd Mar 2002**



Chairman's GOPAR After-Dinner Speech

This was a great success enjoyed by all who attended on Saturday evening, 23rd Mar 2002. We tucked in to a three-course meal choosing from Melon or Prawn Cocktail, Roast Pork or Beef, Sherry Trifle or Fruit Cocktail, finished off with Tea or Coffee.



During the Chairman's after-dinner speech I noted his plea for members to support the forthcoming AGM and give the Club direction. We have lost more members this year and need to bring more people into this wonderful hobby.

Salesman: I have this wonderful opportunity in selling you some new Windows. Home Owner: So which operating system version will that be - 98 or XP?

Anon: In response to an Easter caller, we are already committed - we are devout Radio Amateurs in this house. "Oh I am so sorry" says the caller and walks off.

THE CALENDAR SECTION

SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

2 nd Apr	Thames Valley ARTS – Surplus Equipment Sale 8pm Library Reading Room, Giggs Hill, Thames Ditton - Trevor M0CDB 01372-457674
5 th Apr	Crystal Palace – Natter night/Club project @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill. 7:30 for 8pm. Bob G30OU 01737 552170 (Meetings 1 st and 3 rd Fridays) http://members.aol.com/rfcburns/
8 th Apr	62nd SRCC Annual General Meeting
8 th Apr	CATS – Weather Satellites by Keith G3MCD – 8pm Contact: Andy G0KZT 01737-552139. Meetings @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 nd Monday's coulsdon_ats@hotmail.com
12 th Apr	W&DARS – Using Oscilloscopes Len Stuart @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737 356745 http://www.wadars.thersgb.net
15 th Apr	VHF NFD 2002 Meeting @ QTH of Peter G3ZPB (Pound Cottage)
19 th Apr	Crystal Palace – Loop Aerials with M Underhill G3LHZ @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill – 7:30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G30OU 01737 552170 - RFCBurns@aol.com
16 th Apr	Bromley & District – (Meetings 3 rd Tuesday's) @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8pm. Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420 alangm4@clara.net
18 th Apr	Sutton & Cheam RS - Yaesu FT817 & The Miracle Antenna by Chris Taylor G0WTZ of ML&S @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 scrs@btinternet.com
22 nd Apr	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, "Move-It-On"
22 nd Apr	Inaugural South London Forum Meeting
23 rd Apr	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings 4 th Tuesday's @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
24 th Apr	Crawley ARC – The Purley Internet Repeater – Terry G4CDY @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI 01293- 512932 jerry@spence0663.freeseerve.co.uk
24 th Apr	Mitcham & District ARS – Meetings last Wednesday of month @ ATC Headquarters, Commonsidge West, Mitcham. m0bgx@freenet.co.uk
26 th Apr	W&DARS – Surplus Equipment Sale @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm. 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737 356745
13 th May	Construction Evening – Touch On, Delay Off (5Mins but adjustable) switch. Useful for Digital Multi-meter – I always forget to switch mine off!!
10 th Jun	Construction Contest
1 st Jul	BBQ @ G3ZPB's (Pound Cottage)

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

Rally Calendar, etc:

13 th /14 th Apr	RSGB Spring Radio & Computer Show (incorporating RSGB National Convention). Info: Jan 0870 9047377
16 th June	Epsom Radio & Electronics Fair – Epsom Downs Racecourse Grandstand. Contact Paul Berkeley M0CJX - m0cix@lineone.net SRCC will be there - tables have been booked. We need volunteers to man our tables, etc. Please contact Maurice G4DDY – thanks. www.epsomrally.co.uk/
14 th July	Sussex Amateur Radio & Computer Fair, Brighton Racecourse. CANCELLED

RSGB CLUB REP BULLETIN:

As the SRCC Rep under the new RSGB Regional scheme, I have received the first quarterly bulletin from Peter Kirby G0TWW, which I reproduce below:

M3's Rock the Foundations of Amateur Radio!

The M3 revolution is very much underway. Figures released by the RA on the 28 Feb show that 1,407 M3 callsigns have been issued by the Radio Licencing Centre in Bristol since January 1. To date 960 Class B, and 134 Intermediate licence holders have taken advantage of the Morse Assessment to get on the HF Bands and 313 candidates have successfully taken the Foundation course and been issued with their new M3 calls.

And the revolution does not stop here.

The RSGB has been equally as busy as the RLC. Since the start of the year the Society has registered 239 Foundation instructor's. Sent out over 250 Foundation course packs which will fulfil the needs of in excess of 3000 plus Foundation licence candidates. 135 clubs to date have registered as Foundation course centres, add to this the nearly 300 Morse assessment packs that have been dispatched, we guess its fair to say that we have been 'overwhelmed' at the interest being shown in the new Foundation licence, so much so that extra staff has had to be taken on to cope with the mountain of requests which are received daily at HQ.

More support the work of the Society.

Interest in the work of the RSGB in support of the UK amateur community has risen since the Introduction of the new licence. Over 400 new and lapsed members have joined the Society since January 1 and this figure grows day by day.

Further Afield

Further afield the RSGB/RA initiative to introduce the Foundation licence is being watched with interest in a number of countries, not least Australia, where the WIA are shortly to start discussions on the possible introduction of their own Foundation style licence.

Raynet Review.

You will have heard on GB2RS and read in RadCom that the RSGB is currently carrying out a review of Raynet activities. We are very aware that Raynet is the public face of amateur radio and does much work within the local community, which in the main goes unrecognised in the press and media. The Society would like to know from Raynet operators on the ground how best we can support them in their work and ensure that they get the deserved plaudits for their efforts. If your club or any of your members are involved in Raynet activity and have not yet submitted an input, time is running out. March 31 is the deadline. Submissions in the first instance should be sent to RSGB HQ. Please mark the envelopes Raynet review. Or you can e-mail your submission to ARDept@rsqb.org.uk.

Do you use the RSGB Website?

The RSGB website gets many thousands of hits each week. The site is constantly being updated and is a good source of information. The majority of our sales orders now come in via the site. If you have not visited the site recently then I recommend you log on and have a stroll through the many pages and links available to you.

GB4FUN

The Society's demonstration vehicle has been out and about this week in support of Science week. It has visited a number of schools right across the UK and early reports in suggest that it has been well received and a great success. The Society feels that GB4FUN will be a useful tool in the promotion of amateur radio to the young and not so young at schools and non-amateur radio related events such as Country Shows, Steam fairs etc. The vehicle is not there to promote amateur radio to amateurs so please don't expect it to turn up at your local rally or event. If it is in your area then it may be possible for it to show up on a club night so that you can see for yourselves how it is kitted out and operates. The full programme for the vehicle will appear in RadCom and on the website.

Her Majesty the Queens, Golden Jubilee.

The Jubilee is generating much excitement already in amateur radio circles.

Centre stage to the celebrations will be a Golden Jubilee Special Event Station operating under the callsign GB50 in the grounds of Windsor Castle from the 29 May until the 8 June. This will be an all bands station on air daily from 7.00am – 10.00pm and open to the general public during castle opening hours 10.00am – 4.00pm. This will be the most high profile public special event station since GB2LO was on air in London during the City of London Festival in 1968. We expect the station to be visited by many thousands of visitors during the Jubilee week, when Windsor will be bursting at the seams, with tourists from around the world. Web Site: <http://www.gb50.com>

GB50 is the only 'Special' Special Event callsign that the RA has authorised for use during the celebrations although as in 1977 at the time of the Silver Jubilee UK amateurs may use a special prefix to their individual callsigns during the month of June. Details of the use of the Jubilee prefix GQ/MQ/2Q can be found in the latest edition of RadCom.

GQ, MQ & 2Q Golden Jubilee Special Prefixes

The Radiocommunications Agency has agreed that all UK radio amateurs may use the prefix GQ in celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee. This also includes the prefixes MQ and 2Q as applicable. The special prefixes may be used from Zero hours UTC on the 1st of June until 2400UTC on the 30th of June inclusive.

For the G and M series of callsigns, the Country locator is dropped in preference to the prefixes GQ and MQ respectively. For example, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU and GW all become GQ; while M, MD, MI, MJ, MM, MU and MW all become MQ. Similarly, Intermediate callsign series drop the second letter of the callsign in favour of the letter Q. For example 2E becomes 2Q, 2D becomes 2Q and so on. The use of these prefixes is not mandatory and Radio amateurs may continue to use their normal callsign during the period should they so wish.

FOR THE TECHNICALLY MINDED:

Thanks to Alan G7ELG for the following:

The U.S. standard railroad gauge is 4 feet 8.5 inches (distance between the rails), an exceedingly odd number. Why was this used? Because that's the way they built them in England and English migrants built the U.S. railroads.

So, why did they build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the people who the pre-railroad tramways, and that is the gauge they used. Reason, the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

So, why did they use that wheel spacing? If they used any other the wheels would break on the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts in the road.

Who built the old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the long distance roads in Europe and in England for their legions to travel on. Their war chariots formed the ruts, therefore everyone had to match them for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. The Roman chariots all had the same wheel spacing. The U.S. standard railroad gauge is derived from the specification of the Roman war chariot.

Specifications and bureaucracies live forever. The Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.

Now cut to the present...The Space shuttle sitting on its launch pad, has two booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. Thiokol makes the SRBs in its factory in Utah.

The engineers who designed the SRBs wanted to make them a bit fatter, but they had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel which is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses backsides.

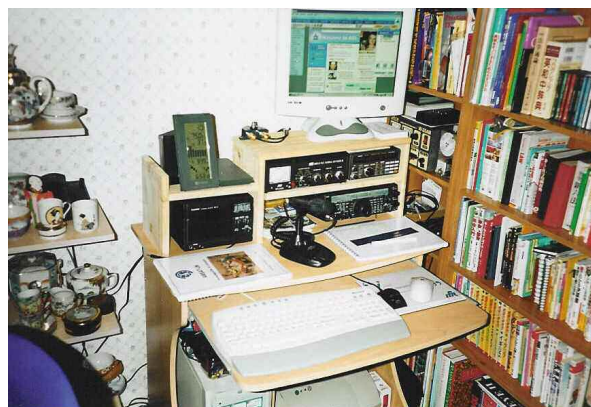
So a major design feature of what is the world's most advanced transportation system the Space Shuttle was determined two thousand years ago by a horse's backside. Pretty much how most government decisions are made!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Phil Manning G1LKJ

Phil has advised me that he still holds G1LKJ and this will be his main call. His new call: M3LKJ will be used on the HF bands. Please update your membership lists sent out last month.

Mikiko & Robert M1MRS – Shack Photos:



IAN G3KXT – Silent Key Equipment Disposal

John, G3BFP has the job of disposing of Ian's gear. When things settle down he will be making an inventory of everything, which he will probably advertise in RadCom. However, he can call to mind the following and if anyone is interested, please contact John

- IC756 HF/6 Metres 100 Watt transceiver
- Daiwa PS30 4110 12v± @ 30A
- FT221 2 Metre Transceiver
- Daiwa CN620A SWR Bridge, 20W, 200W & 1KW
- Pakratt PK232 Packet, etc Modem
- Bencher Iambic Paddle Key
- SG230 Remote ATU 200 Watts rating
- Tradiper GDO 440kHz-28MHz
- Avo Model 8 Mk V Multi-meter

John G8IYS – VHF NFD 70cms Update

Hi Folks. I have breathed on the 70cm linear. I have extracted 3 grammes of solder, half a glue stick and two washers from the grid and anode boxes and modified the output loading capacitor arrangement.

Thanks to Bernard, who supplied me with 1/2 dozen 4cx250Bs, I now have two bottles working and an output of 280 watts continuous. Unfortunately I have got through 10 4cx250s before finding a good pair. I have 1 spare and I do not know whether it works. Donations of more, for the benefit of the VHF FD station on 70cm, are solicited !!!

The amp now gives 15 to 17 dB of gain -which is close to spec. The only limitation is now with the power supply, which droops from 1450 volts to around 1050 at max output (750 mA anode current !!!!!!!). I would be happier with more volts and less current to get the same power out. There is a bit of an acrid pong if I leave the power at max output for more than 5 minutes.

Next moves are (1) to provide separate screen current metering - so you can tell more easily when 1 of the bottles is venturing to positive screen current and sliding towards oblivion and (2) is to look at a more resilient supply of volts. I will do this with four hands in my pockets for safety. On the other hand, maybe this is all good enough for field day.

The only remaining real tedium is preventing the high level of rf from getting into my headphones. Fascinating listening to Donald Duck in your ears and your real voice through bone conduction. On air trials take place every second Tuesday evening when there is a 70cm activity night. Band dead all other times except the v occasional contest.

If Ray has not put the Newsletter to bed finally, he might like to publish this note and also stimulate others with 70cm capability to fire up their rigs. Known active are Ray G4FFY, Peter G3ZPB, Jim G4WYJ and John G8IYS. Any other takers ? 73 de John G8IYS. Any E-mail replies to johns@connectnet.org.uk please.

LOCAL CLUB NAME CHANGES

At recent EGM's the Crystal Palace became Crystal Palace Radio & Electronics Club; and South London College Amateur Radio Society became Mitcham & District Amateur Radio Society.

SIGNING OFF:

In closing may I remind you that next month's meeting is the AGM on Monday 8th April. We would like a large turnout to set the seal on the last year and start the new one with a strong commitment and support to the new committee - thanks. If you have a committee member recommendation please complete the nomination slip below.

73 and 88 *Ray* G4FFY

Posted: 3rd April 2002



RADIO & ELECTRONICS FAIR EPSOM, SURREY *A Premier Rally for the South of England*

Free entry on taking the FL or 5 WPM Morse test - a full Morse team will be there.

Free entry to students and children - free tickets will be sent to schools in the South.

Major organisations attending including Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood, ML&S, RSGB, RA, etc.

Dr R. Whelan G3PJT, President of the RSGB to open the event.

Ken MacIntosh and his Big Band to provide free entertainment.

Echelford club to run a large Bring and Buy sale.

Outside car boot sale - limited spaces, pre-bookings only.

Technical groups including Repeater Management, ATV and Lecher Line demonstrations etc.

Unlimited free parking with good rail access.

Talk in station on 2m GB2ERT.

Special events station for the tuition and introduction of HF amateur radio - GB2ERF.



RadioFairs Total commitment to the Hobby



AGENDA FOR THE 62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE SRCC ON 8th APRIL 2002

1. CHAIRMAN declares nominations closed and meeting open.
2. MINUTES of previous AGM
3. CHAIRMAN's report
4. TREASURERS report. Accounts for 2001/02
5. APPOINTMENT of Election Scrutineers (if necessary)
6. APPOINTMENT of Hon. Secretary
7. ELECTION of Committee. 7 posts
8. ELECTION of
 - (a) Treasurer,
 - (b) Chairman
 - (c) Vice Chairman from Committee
9. APPOINTMENT OF Accounts Independent Examiners
- Vote of thanks to previous year's
10. PRESENTATION of AWARDS
11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MEETING CLOSED.

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 2002—2003 (Please return to Ray Howells G4FFY)

I wish to nominate

For the position of **Secretary / Member** on the SRCC committee 2002 - 2003

If elected I agree to stand. Signed: Date

(You may wish to photocopy this form rather than spoil the Newsletter)