



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

FEBRUARY 2002 — No: 713

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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 Surrey SM1 3LD  
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MONTHLY MEETINGS 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.45 FOR 8pm  
 AT THE T.S. TERRA NOVA, 34 THE WALDRONS, SOUTH CROYDON  
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**"A" MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002 PicATune – Paul M0CJX DRRM**  
**"B" MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 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 February 2002 newsletter, the second for 2002. For this month's "A" meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February we are please to welcome back Paul Berkeley M0CJX, the Deputy RSGB Regional Manager for Surrey and South London, for his presentation on the Picatune. This will be a very enjoyable talk, and will also have demonstrations. The "B" meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February will be the regular "Fix-it" evening.

### Next "A" Meeting Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002 PicATune with Paul Berkeley M0CJX

Paul M0CJX will be visiting us again on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February to give us a presentation and live demonstration of the Picatune – Automatic Aerial Matching Unit. Those who have seen this talk previously e.g. Crystal Palace club, will know how good it is, and we pleased to have Paul in now presenting it to the SRCC.

The Picatune Project uses a Programmable Integrated Circuit (PIC) to calculate and insert the required Inductors and Capacitors to match an aerial to 50 ohms over the HF bands. Paul built the unit then produced a number of kits for like minded constructors and he explains his experiences whilst involved with the Project including: Why Automatic, Circuitry, Application, Results, Reliability & Environmental issues, Construction and Practical demonstrations. *(Thanks to Crystal Palace)*

### NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002 FIX-IT and "MOVE-IT-ON" Evening

The "B" meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 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.

### NEXT CLUB ACTIVITY: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2002 0900 - 1500 432MHz AFS

This is a late notice that the Club will be entering this 70cm AFS contest and it would be great that as many of you as possible come up on the band. I understand from Peter G3ZPB, who is coordinating the club entry, that we have one team of 3-stations but more are welcomed.

### VHF NFD 2002 - Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002

This is a late notice that an Inquest and Planning meeting will be held 8pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002 @ QTH of Peter G3ZPB (Pound Cottage).

### Last "A" Meeting Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2002 RSGB Organisation & The Future with Paul Berkeley M0CJX - DRRM

Paul M0CJX is the Deputy RSGB Regional Manager (DRRM) for Surrey and South London. As our local representative, he is happy to try and resolve any issues or problems that we may have by acting as a pro-active interface into the Society.

Paul started his talk with details of his background. He was first licensed in 1967 as G8CBH, and has been M0CJX since 1997. He is a member of the Dorking ARC and has been a member of the RSGB since 1967. His interests are HF SSB and Aerial farms.



Chairman David G0PAR & Paul M0CJX DRRM

Paul outlined his RGSB presentation that covered: History, Notable achievements, What the RSGB does today, Current priorities, Role with the RA, International Role, Finances, communication with members, etc.

Without the RSGB a lot of privileges we enjoy today would not have been achieved so it is important that we support our national society. At RSGB HQ there is about 23 people employed and one is always assured of a warm welcome. The museum is very interesting, and don't forget the library.

The RSGB is the only body for UK Amateur radio and its publications are held in very high esteem. It is always sought out for advice and promotes leading-edge technology. In other words, anything and everything to do with the Amateur radio hobby.

Reviewing priorities it was important that the RSGB improved its links with the membership. It has started to market itself, and is fighting the threats to our hobby and maintain the privileges. We also need to grow the hobby and sown some seeds. Other considerations are easier access to the RAE (people don't want to wait now!) and a tiered structure of Licensing (get on the air quickly). The RSGB also needs to stabilise its finances and improve publications.

I noted that the QSL bureau is managed by just 2 people and currently has a 6-month backlog - volunteers are always welcomed. RadCom is now compiled by only 3 people, along with GB2RS.

The RSGB role with the RA is that the RA are with us, working together to develop privileges, structure, repeaters, strategy, etc. The international role is with the IARU. Communication is via RadCom, GB2RS, Web pages (desperate for comments), Regional organisation, and Club visits.

RSGB membership works out at about £3.33 a month. Now a monthly newsstand magazine would cost you around £2.95 so that leaves some 38p a month for RSGB services. Unfortunately membership is slowly falling but costs and demands are rising. Only with a strong membership can the RSGB support the hobby. Currently annual income is around £1.7M with costs approximately the same with a target of breaking even.

To promote Amateur radio there is the GB4FUN vehicle, which is used at school and public events and also exhibitions at non-AR events. Also, don't forget GB3RS - the club station of RSGB. It has lots of various aerials and is open to all members. You will also see RSGB stands at various rallies and I noted that

at the recent CATS bazaar, their bookstand took £300 in just 2 hours.

The structure of the RSGB organisation was described encompassing Publications, Commercial, Financial and Secretariat/Amateur radio. A big part of the RSGB is the volunteers including the board and regional council. Members are elected for 3-years and can stand again, President 2 years. Then there are the specialist managers covering HF, VHF, etc. There are 18 committees.

The new structure that has been implemented is to improve cost effectiveness with smaller boards (9 members) and defined portfolios e.g. sport radio (contests). It is also designed to create stronger links with members using regional councils and regional managers. It is all about developing enthusiasm, getting things moving, etc.

There are 12 RSGB Regional Managers (RRM) with 4 deputies (DRRM) per region. Each Club nominates a representative that ties them in to the structure and provide a rapid communication link - both up and down. These are called RSGB Affiliated Club Contact (RACC) and I have been appointed for the SRCC.

*Argument for Amateur Radio:* Technical innovation, disaster communication, growing the UK skill base, leisure interest at a time of increasing leisure time (earlier retirement!), promoting friendship. Are these still valid?

*Risks:* Amateur Radio seen as a bit of a dinosaur, its population is ageing, potential reduction of 25% in amateurs over the next 7-10 years.

*What can be done?* RA and RSGB are both concerned about trends; develop easier access, bring in a new structure for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, self-training, new privileges.

*Why you started:* This tends to be an individual thing, say the meeting of a local amateur.

*Not all Black!* Getting 1 in every 10,000 people into Amateur Radio would make a 10% increase. To achieve this will need getting into schools and PR campaign with the general public.

Paul showed some graphs that were interesting; one showed the amount of RAE passes, which peaked in the early 1980's; and another the average age of an amateur, which peaked at 52.

*Dilemma:* Amateur radio is self-training. Barrier is it is seen too high in today's world. Need to get people on the air quickly with limited facilities, then the Clubs can progress these people.

*RSGB Approach:* New Licence structure, 3 progressive levels. New Exam approach of an on-demand basis, together with a practical element. Morse eliminated except for basic level of "awareness and capability" by 2003. Remote learning material using media such as Internet and CD. Intense promotion of Amateur Radio to target groups. Use of GB4FUN vehicle. I noted that the DTI is no longer sponsoring C&G for the RAE.

#### Summary:

- New Licence, New Structure, New Opportunities
- Active promotion and professional marketing of Amateur radio - all RSGB affiliated clubs and individuals
- The RSGB need people to help - need united voice else Amateur radio is at risk.

#### Now you can help:

- Support RSGB
- Help spread word outside about the RSGB and Amateur radio
- Take active part in RSGB work yourself
- Be a mentor - promote Amateur radio
- Don't leave to *THEM* - them is *YOU!* It's all of us - RSGB is just a big club.

**Q&A Session:**

- 30,000 Amateurs of which 10,000 are RSGB members (1:3)
- What about combining RSGB membership with Licence Fee?
- Suggestion of charging for the QSL Bureau like the ARRL – would cause high administration costs.
- How to make it more interesting to more than just a handful
  - Need to be a good salesman
  - Need to be able to market a difficult subject
- Need not just a fleeting glance but also a sustained approach? Could the RSGB approach Physic teachers?
- These days there is no longer the pioneering spirit and the building of equipment, etc
- Schools are being approached
  - Trying to change the trends
  - Epsom Rally has a target 250 schools to approach
  - Non-amateur radio interests including Ken Mackintosh Band at the Epsom Rally
- How to lead/spring-board into Amateur Radio
  - Old Days it was equipment construction
  - These days isn't Computing/Internet just as valid?
- Club presentations to schools
  - Schools very pleased to have people to give up their time
  - School Fete's, Special Event Stations but not locked away.

Thank you Paul for an absorbing evening and trust my notes have given justice to the material covered.

**THE CALENDAR SECTION**

**SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Crystal Palace – Natter night/SWR Bridge project @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill. 7:30 for 8pm. Bob G3OOU 01737 552170 (Note meetings are now 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fridays)
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Picatune with Paul Berkeley M0CJX</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Thames Valley ARTS – Electronic Warfare by Derek G3GRO. 8pm Library Reading Room, Giggs Hill, Thames Ditton - Trevor M0CDB 01372-457674
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	W&DARS – PicATune Paul M0CJX @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & last Friday's Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737 356745
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	CATS – G8VXB Weather Station Construction – 8pm Contact: Andy G0KZT 01737-552139. Meetings @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday's <a href="mailto:coulson_ats@hotmail.com">coulson_ats@hotmail.com</a>
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bromley & District – Meetings 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday's @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8pm. Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420 <a href="mailto:alangm4@clara.net">alangm4@clara.net</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Sutton & Cheam RS – Internet Gateway with Terry G4CDY @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 <a href="mailto:scrs@btinternet.com">scrs@btinternet.com</a>
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Crystal Palace – AGM + EGM & Construction Contest @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill – 7:30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G3OOU 01737 552170 - <a href="mailto:RFCBurns@aol.com">RFCBurns@aol.com</a>
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, "Move-It-On"</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday's @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Crawley ARC – Photo Quiz by Adrian G4LRP @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Sec: Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932 <a href="mailto:jerry@spence0663.freeserve.co.uk">jerry@spence0663.freeserve.co.uk</a>
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	W&DARS – Elecraft K2 QRP HF Tcwr – Paul G4ZXO @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm. 2 <sup>nd</sup> & last Friday's Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737 356745

25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>VHF NFD 2002 Meeting – 8pm @ G3ZPB's</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Spring Surplus Equipment Sale</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>SRCC Dinner @ Windmill Pub, Wallington</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>AGM</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Construction Evening</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>Construction Contest</b>

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

**Rally Calendar, etc:**

9 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2002	Crystal Palace Spring Fair, St John's Hall, Sylvan Road, London, SE19 – 10:30 to 13:00. Contact Bob Burns G3OOU - <a href="mailto:rfgburns@aol.com">rfgburns@aol.com</a>
13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	RSGB Spring Radio & Computer Show (incorporating RSGB National Convention). Info: Jan 0870 9047377
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Epsom Radio & Electronics Fair – Epsom Downs Racecourse Grandstand. Contact Paul Berkeley M0CJX - <a href="mailto:m0cjx@lineone.net">m0cjx@lineone.net</a> <b>SRCC will be there.</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Sussex Amateur Radio & Computer Fair, Brighton Racecourse. <b>CANCELLED</b>

**CLUB ACTIVITY - Affiliated Societies Contest**

13<sup>th</sup> Jan – CW 80M 14:00-18:00

19<sup>th</sup> Jan – SSB 80M 14:00-18:00

Members will be pleased to learn that we have made an entry for both sessions as follows:

<b>CW:</b>		<b>SSB:</b>	
Callsign:	Score:	Callsign:	Score:
G3BFP	1930	G4FFY	1030
G4DJR	90	G4DJR	320
G8TB	70	G8TB	620
<b>SRCC SCORE: 2090</b>		<b>SRCC SCORE: 1970</b>	

This was my first go at this event and the 1.5MHz bandwidth for the SSB session was crowded and noisy with many S9+40 signals. When I did manage to get half a slot and call CQ I then had trouble keeping for the next 20 minutes before I lost the frequency. Hopefully next year we can arrange our efforts better and have at least 2 people per station to share the load and noise! Thanks to all who took part and put SRCC on the map.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS:**

Pat G8LZA



I was recently passed this picture of Pat G8LZA and family at the wedding of Nick G8JUG to Sandra.

**Best Wishes:** I have been informed that Barry G4STD and Trevor G0GJF have had stays in hospital recently and we wish them a speedy recovery.

I have also had a phone call from Robert M1MRS who informed that he had been very ill with the flu recently, which had laid him up in bed. He had rang me from work and so much better now.

### Ted G3EUE - Letter & Pictures

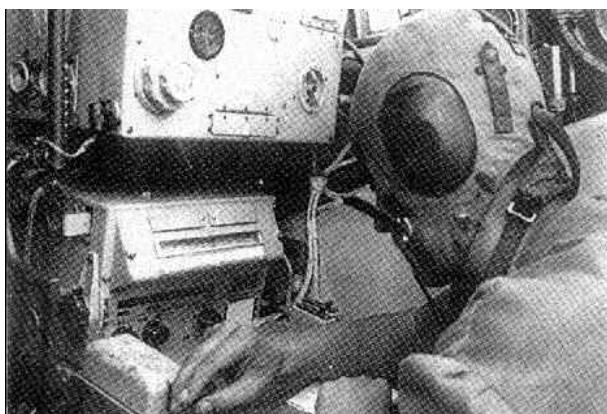
Whilst Mary & I were down under on holiday last October Ted G3EUE sent us the following letter and pictures.

“24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2001

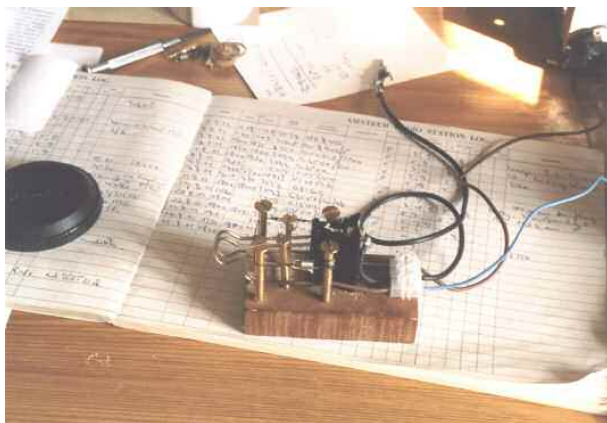
Dear Ray

I have just spoken to Maurice who told me that you and Mary were on another trip to Australia. As it is still their Spring I guess you went north to find some warm weather! Anyway I do hope you both thoroughly enjoyed the tour. Our last trip was over last Christmas and the New Year so we had their summer even in Tasmania. Nothing planned at the moment.

In case you are stuck at anytime for a space filler and knowing that you can reproduce photographs I thought I would send you a couple of items as a bit of a giggle.



1. The photograph of the operator in his flying helmet was sent to me by my Italian friend who thinks it was taken pre-war in an Italian airliner. With the key mounted on the left and using the right hand must have been doing it the hard way! The key itself looks to be identical to the German Junkers key of that period - a little piece of history.



2. The Worthing radio club had a construction contest recently. It so happened that the Morse magazine published a review of a key made by an American, which comprised one Bulldog clip, four nails and a couple of drawing pins. I made one but must admit that it was a bit primitive. For the contest I decided to develop the idea using woodscrews to provide support for a couple of miniature springs which would allow variable tension whilst the other two screws were filed to form a flat for variable gap. Eventually the project was finished (see photograph) apart from using two genuine halfpenny pieces for the fingerplates. It keys reasonably well at about 20 wpm but I wouldn't swap it for my old el-bug! At the club it attracted quite a bit of attention but, sadly, in the voting only one kind soul gave me a point.

Not too downhearted I decided to make a bug key using compression springs and a strip of brass. It works, but isn't exactly brilliant - I think the arm is too long. At the moment it has been put to one side whilst I tried something else. The Morse magazine made a very brief mention of a key, which was controlled by magnets and sounded interesting. Back to the construction bench, several days (weeks?) later and I can report that the Jones Super Unbelievably Delicate In Operation Magnetic Bug key is a total failure. Maybe something for the winter!

73 Ted”

Thanks Ted. Yes we did go North spending 2 weeks with Mary's pen friend in far North Tropical Queensland near Cairns. We also took in New Zealand, Perth & Melbourne including going up the Rialto Tower - which was on BBC Holiday programme Monday night with Danni Minogue.

### Ron G6LX - Hospice Donation

The club has now sent a 3-figure sum to the Hospice, and along with other donations that have been given direct, Ron's memory has been well supported - thank you all.

### GB100WT

Those who took part in this Marconi celebration event thoroughly enjoyed themselves with the band full of W & VE stations.

### SEA CADETS TERRA NOVA

Pat G4FDN has informed me that he will be holding the first instruction evening tonight (Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan) and will be covering Electricity Safety, more news next month.

### SRCC DINNER - 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 2002

We are currently finalising arrangements for this year's Club Dinner. We are back at the Windmill Pub in Wallington where we have the use of the private function room, which makes it nice and convivial. Price will be confirmed next month but will probably be about £15 a head. A Saturday evening has been booked for March 16<sup>th</sup> and if you are interested please let me know to reserve yourself and your partners' places. Ray G4FFY

### SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month, will be publishing the new *Membership list* with the March Newsletter - run out of time for this month, sorry. Please come along to the PicATune presentation on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb with Paul MOCJX and support his efforts for what will a very interesting and entertaining evening and an opportunity to ask questions.

I have once again rebuilt my PC and sticking with Windows98SE. My Athlon 750Mhz hardware prefers it to Windows ME. I now also correctly get the Windows Shutdown screen following the download of a drivers upgrade for my ATI Rage Fury 128 Graphics card from the Windows update site. Anyone have experience of Windows XP (Home Edition) as I have heard it is a very stable platform compared to 98 and ME?

By the way, for those of you reading this Newsletter on your computer I have now put in E-Mail hyperlinks on the committee members listing on the front page for ease of you sending an E-Mail. Just hover a committee member's name and click; a new message will be created for you to complete, etc. **Note: Apr 8<sup>th</sup> is our AGM.**

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2002