



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

**AUGUST 2003** — No: 731

CLUB NET 1.905 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  
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 E-Mail: [secretary@g3src.org.uk](mailto:secretary@g3src.org.uk)

**MONTHLY MEETINGS 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.45 FOR 8pm**

Normally AT THE T.S. TERRA NOVA, 34 THE WALDRONS, SOUTH CROYDON

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**"A" MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003 MY FAVOURITE THINGS with Brian Cannon G8DIU**  
**"B" MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"**

Chairman	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020-8462 2837
Vice-Chairman	G4WAY Roger Holyoake	020-8689 7089
Treasurer, Liaison & Equipment	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020-8669 1480
Secretary, Membership & Communications	G4FFY Ray Howells	020-8644 7589
VHF Co-ordinator (Co-Opted)	G8IYS John Simkins	020-8657 0454
Publicity & HF Co-ordinator	M1MRS Robert Shepperley	020-8687 0811
Members	G3RJW Graham Marshall	020-8669 8722
	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020-8643 0491
	G8TB Bernie Wynn	020-8660 7517

## Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the Aug 2003 newsletter which is being written following my work in completing the SRCC entry for this year's VHF NFD event. For the "A" meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August we are back at the TS Terra Nova when we welcome Brian G8DIU for a talk on "My Favourite Things".

### NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003 MY FAVOURITE THINGS with Brian G8DIU

We are please to welcome to our club on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August Brian Cannon G8DIU who will be giving us a presentation entitled "My Favourite Things". Brian will be recalling for us how he got involved with Amateur Radio and his interests, some being other than Amateur Radio. CATS had the pleasure of his talk back in March when he brought along a number of interesting books, not all radio; plus some of his favourite radios, including examples of gear he has carefully restored.

### NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2003 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

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

### LAST "A" MEETING: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2003 SUMMER BARBEQUE @ Peter's G3ZPB

This was a very pleasant evening with us being blessed with excellent weather and all those attending agreed it was one of the best ever evenings for a Barbeque. We extend thanks to Peter G3ZPB and Wendy for their kind hospitality and all the arrangements they made. Peter was the chief chef and plenty of food was on hand. I recall that during a break to allow Peter to eat, we suddenly had a flare up on the barbeque when a particular item caused the charcoals to flame. Control was recovered but it was a case of "burnt offerings" for some of the remaining sausages and spare ribs!! It was a nice evening, thanks Peter & Wendy.





**VHF NFD WEEKEND: Sat 5<sup>th</sup>/Sun 6<sup>th</sup> July @ Field-Day Site of Nore Hill, Warlingham**

May I start with many thanks for all of those who participated in this weekend, and worked our stations. We also had help from members of neighbouring clubs plus some of our longer distance members turned up. All appreciated and very welcomed.

The pre-planning and some of us getting up there on the Friday evening and laying out the site made it a relatively smooth operation. I understand that one of the Friday nighters had to shoo off some fellows with shotguns who were planning to go rabbit shooting in the field – “not here you don’t” I believe was the retort and off they went! The new layout worked well and the marking off the generator cables stopped cars dragging any cables. We had placed the two geny’s close together and when one failed an hour or so before the end, power was quickly restored by linking to the other geny. .



All stations got started on time though 70cms (pictured above with Peter G7PWV and John G8IYS) was 50mins late due to feedback problems and we had to drop using the linear and run barefoot with 30w.



I believe that on 2m (pictured above) the auto-CQer played up but was restored in time to save those throats!!

I have now submitted the entries and here are the claimed scores with comparison to last year’s:

	2002		2003	
	QSOs	Claimed	QSOs	Claimed
6m	85	12366	94	40819
4m	--	-----	--	-----
2m	312	62808	344	69952
70cm	87	14973	109	22603
23cm	36	4835	31	3351

On the VHF Contest Committee Web site ([www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc/](http://www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc/)) one can now enter your claimed scores to allow comparisons. As of 28<sup>th</sup> July our position was as follows:

- 6m: 6<sup>th</sup> out of 10 entries in Restricted Section
- 2m: 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 10 entries in Restricted Section
- 70cm: 4<sup>th</sup> out of 12 entries in Restricted Section
- 23cm: 1<sup>st</sup> out of 3 entries in Low Power Section

It will be interesting to see the adjudicated results in due course. Well done everyone involved and here’s to next year – hopefully! We need an injection of new blood (younger?) to keep going!

**CATS Inter Club Quiz: Monday 14th July 2003 St Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd Purley**

Unfortunately due to other commitments I couldn’t make this year’s event but I know that SRCC were represented by John G3BFP and Hazel, with Bernie G8TB and Blanca. This year the teams had to nominate themselves a name and our team was called the “Headwynns”. No doubt Andy G0KZT will be carrying a full report in CATS Whispers.

**CLUB TRIP to IOW on Spectrum II – 6<sup>th</sup> Sep**

Peter G3ZPB has made a kind offer of supporting an SRCC outing to the Isle of Wight on "Spectrum II" this summer. An original suggestion was to visit "Graham's" Wireless museum but this is believed to be located in Newport which is in the middle of the island and therefore difficult to get to by boat. So it is proposed instead for a visit to the IOW Steam Railway (see <http://www.iowsteamrailway.co.uk/index.htm> for details). It is planned to go on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September with a reserve date of 2 weeks later if the weather is bad.

Numbers are limited and will be on a first come first served basis so let me (Ray G4FFY) know quickly if you are interested. I suggest about a fiver a head for the sea crossing, and there is a free car park near the Warsash Marina which will ease that aspect of the trip.

**THE CALENDAR SECTION**  
**SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:**

26th Jul– 3rd Aug	W&DARS – Summer Camp – Crossways Farm, Crossways Lane, Upper Gatton, RH2 0TX. Entrance to Crossways Lane is TQ264535
1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Crystal Palace – Natter night/Club projects/Morse Class @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill. 7:30 for 8pm. Bob G300U 01737 552170 (Meetings 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fridays) <a href="http://www.qsl.net/g30ou/id3.htm">http://www.qsl.net/g30ou/id3.htm</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>My Favourite Things with Brian G8DIU</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	W&DARS – Members Evening & PicATUne building @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & last Friday's Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737 356745 <a href="http://www.wadars.thersgb.net">http://www.wadars.thersgb.net</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	CATS – Annual BBQ @ Prue's G4RWW. Meetings normally at @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday's. Contact: Andy G0KZT 01737-552139. <a href="mailto:cats@briersa.fsbusiness.co.uk">cats@briersa.fsbusiness.co.uk</a>
15 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Crystal Palace: Summer Barbecue @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill – 7:30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G300U 01737 552170 – <a href="http://www.qsl.net/g30ou/id3.htm">http://www.qsl.net/g30ou/id3.htm</a>
18 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Bromley & District – Holiday Natter Night (Mtgs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday's) @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8. Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420 <a href="http://www.bdars.org.uk">www.bdars.org.uk</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Sutton & Cheam RS – TBA. Meetings @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 <a href="http://www.scrs.org.uk">www.scrs.org.uk</a>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	Crawley ARC – Visit to Amberley Working Museum (Chalkpits). Meetings held @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932 <a href="http://www.carc.org.uk">www.carc.org.uk</a>
26 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings normally 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commonside West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716
29 <sup>th</sup> Aug	W&DARS – Members Evening & PicATUne building @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 <sup>nd</sup> & last Friday's Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737 356745 <a href="http://www.wadars.thersgb.net">http://www.wadars.thersgb.net</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	<b>I-Link with Terry G4CDY</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>Club Trip to IOW on Spectrum II</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	<b>Top Band Members Evening with Martin G4FKK</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	<b>“The Good Life” with Gareth G4XAT</b>

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

**Rally Calendar, etc:**

27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	West London Radio & Electronics Rally, Kempton Racecourse. Details: Paul M0CJX 01737 279108 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:m0cix@ntlworld.com">m0cix@ntlworld.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.kemptonrally.co.uk">www.kemptonrally.co.uk</a>
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**WIMBLEDON CAMP 2003**

The Wimbledon Summer Camp will be held at Crossways Farm, Crossways Lane, Upper Gatton, RH2 0TX. Jim G4WYJ has supplied these directions:

From north - Travel South on A217 signed to Reigate and M25. After passing the "Fox" PH and Texaco garage turn left at the next roundabout into Babylon Lane. . . . .

From South and M25 travel North on A217 or leave M25 at junction 8 and head north towards Sutton. At first roundabout turn right into Babylon lane. . . . .

. . . . . Follow windey lane to "T" junction/staggered crossroads, bear right and left. Crossways farm is on left after 50 m. Careful of sleeping Policeman. Look for W&DARS Signs to field on right.

Entrance to Crossways Lane is TQ264535.

**CHAIRMAN MEOW - Aug 2003**



My wife tells me that I should stop measuring my life by the tasks I complete, or would like to complete. Bit late for that I suspect, given the number of 'things that will come in useful one day' that I possess and the number of ideas/projects I have floating around! Here's a bit of information about what I've been up to lately.

Back in May we (at school) started building a second electric powered car for the Greenpower challenge (see [www.greenpower.co.uk](http://www.greenpower.co.uk)). This was triggered by being described as a 'backmarker' in the seasons opening race in March. Would we get it finished in time for the first race on 29<sup>th</sup> June?? Would I finish my entry for the construction contest? Would I get the schools diesel powered entry back together in time for this years Shell Eco-marathon??

To help plan this not inconsiderable sequence of events I wrote out a 6 week, day by day plan of what had to be done. To quote a well known film, 'I made it Ma!! Top of the world!' And now it's all over.....for a few months at least!

The Epsom rally came and went, with a very useful noise eliminating speaker being secured for second place in the construction contest. Although somewhat sceptical about it's ability to produce a worthwhile improvement I have to say that although a well trained ear can pick out weak signals in the noise, just switching this gadget on does it all for you, at very little loss of speech quality. If you want easier listening, I'd recommend one. Having used one, I'd actually go and buy one if I hadn't been so fortunate to win one!

Next came the first Greenpower regional qualifier, at Goodwood circuit on the 29<sup>th</sup> June. After 230 man hours (we kept records!) our new car was ready! Practice went well, our new car 'Trinifinity Too' going like a rocket and clearly able to keep up with the best, that is until the spoked rear wheel collapsed under the strain. As far as we can tell the spokes first worked loose, followed by undone, followed by collapse of the rear wheel. Our other vehicle, built last year, plodded around and completed 108 miles in the 6 hour race. The next outing was Brooklands museum for the Surrey heat; this meant burning some midnight oil to adapt a plastic BMX wheel as a replacement. The actual race was nail biting, although initially all seemed fine....watching our car out accelerate everything on the track was great, including overtaking the Eton College entry with consummate ease after just 5 laps of the .59 mile runway circuit. To quote from the race report "It was cornering so tentatively that cars were streaming past it until is got back onto the straight when its extraordinary straight-line speed enabled it to catch up lost ground." And so it went on during the day, a blowout, a puncture, ominous tilts and chafing noises from our bendy plastic wheels. Still it kept on running, blinding speed on the straight (31.6 mph, on a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> horsepower motor) followed by slow, careful cornering. After 6 hours the race was over but we had to wait a further agonising 15 minutes for confirmation. We had done it, **FIRST** place with 203 laps under our belt, and a silver award for completing 120 miles or over and fourth place for our other car, Trinifinity, some 30 laps behind. This result qualifies us for the national final at Goodwood on 5<sup>th</sup> October. (Free entry if you fancy a day out!)



The next hurdle was the annual Shell Economy Marathon held at Rockingham Raceway, near Corby. I had to hire a trailer for this event (which I had to collect from Tunbridge Wells) but we duly loaded up and departed on time, missing the traffic and got to the circuit in good time to unload and then drive to our accommodation for an evening meal and rest. Practice day dawned and after scrutinizing both our 'Mice' went out to practice. The morning was spent letting the drivers learn the technique with the afternoon given over to 2 lap measured runs to determine the driver order for the actual competition. It was looking good.....and it stayed that way!! Joshua was driving my own Mouse and managed 480 mpg first run – bettering our previous best of 417mpg. He followed this up with a 508, then 572, then 570. A new world record for a road legal single seat petrol powered car! (Subject to confirmation by GBOR). I had one run on LPG (autogas) and also improved on last years 197 mpg figure, recording 270 mpg. Quite why the difference in fuels is so much more marked in this vehicle than in 'normal' cars I don't know. Meanwhile the schools entry, a diesel powered Mouse, was also making headway, managing a best of 523 mpg, shy of its previous best (GBOR recognised) of 568 mpg set by its previous owner but a lot better than the 436mpg managed last year.

Then we loaded up and went home.... returning the trailer to Tunbridge Wells early Thursday morning only to sit in traffic nearly all the way back to Croydon, with a bit of teaching to do for the rest of the day. Friday was the last day of term (phew!) and I went home very tired but happy. Now I'm on holiday but (inevitably) am making a walnut sideboard for the kitchen (promised to my wife) and am hoping to get more than a few radio projects done this summer, like my Linear 2K (started during Christmas 1999!) and sporting a 2 kilowatt input capability (subject to license conditions, hi) for 6 metres.

Gareth G4XAT

### **Bargain surplus lives on alive and well at the Epsom Rally.**

I can't resist rooting around boot fairs and the radio related one at Epsom was no exception. I spotted a Racal 250 watt linear – an 80's looking product in a 19" rack so I asked about the price - £35 was a bit steep so I wavered as it might only have been '250 watts', like it said on the label. The trader (a regular at radio rallies) had a sudden fit of generosity and said "OK, 20 quid then". I got my wallet out so fast I nearly got friction burns on my hand!!

It was heavy so I suspected it was loaded with good bits and pieces. Quite what a bargain I'd bought had to wait until I got home that evening but it was a bargain!

How about this.... a 50 volt, 30 amp enclosed power supply by TDK, a switched bank of fully screened fan cooled tuneable HF pass filters, 1.5-30 MHz, a PAIR of PAIRED Philips RF Power Mosfets with pre-drivers on a back to back centrifugal fan blown copper heatsink, with input splitter and output combiner. The Philips website shows an application note for just a single pair of these devices listed as "300 W PEP broadband HF amp". It seems likely that well under a

watt of RF will drive this little lot to the legal limit with ease. Now, how much is that Yaesu solid state linear? How much can I tell my wife this 'wise purchase' will save me!!

It seems that Racal (as such) don't exist any more so I'm having trouble finding any circuits for the amp boards – any suggestions or contacts that could lead to the 'new' Racal and the technical data would be most welcome. Please email me or phone.

Gareth, G4XAT

### **FOR SALE and WANTED**

Alan G7ELG (E-Mail: [ali\\_s@onetel.net.uk](mailto:ali_s@onetel.net.uk))

I have a new boxed Miracle whip Mk2. Lynches price £129, unused and a Trio JR310 comms receiver All bands all modes. Circa 1970 full working order original handbook + SWL reviews + modification suggestions 1971

I am desperate to acquire an H.F. ATU Would deliver from Grantham if anyone is interested and could help.

Tel: 01572-767908

### **Members News - Pat G4FDN**

Pat has advised me that they are taking their summer holiday in Ireland this year from the 31st July to 17th August and wrote:

"I will be bringing my Yaesu FT-100, a portable mast, and short loaded dipoles for 40m, 30m, 20m & 10m and hope to be on PSK31 and SSB from time to time. As it is a family holiday I will be fitting in the operating around other holiday activities, usually late evening or morning. We will be visiting Dublin for a couple of days but I don't expect to get on the radio from there except for 2m FM. HF operation will be in IO54, Killala, Co. Mayo, and Carney in Co. Sligo between 2nd and 15th August. Callsign will be EI/G4FDN/P. If anyone would like to try a contact a text message to 07711 439417 is probably the best way to set it up as I'll have the mobile phone with me and on from previous visits I know the GSM coverage is excellent in the places we're staying. I don't expect to have much access to e-mail other than around the 10th-12th August when a friend who will be staying with us will have his portable Inmarsat BGAN terminal which gives 2 way internet access via satellite."

### **Morse Requirement below 30MHz**

The RSGB have advised that with effect from Saturday the 26th of July, there is no longer a requirement to have passed a Morse code test in order to operate on the HF bands in the UK. All Full and Intermediate Class B licensees are therefore automatically granted their respective Class A operating privileges and may operate on the HF bands using their existing callsigns from the 26th of July. Class B licensees need not take any action to obtain these additional operating privileges.

This long-awaited move comes about following the decision taken at the recent World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva, which agreed that a Morse code test should no longer be an international requirement in order to hold an HF amateur licence. The Radiocommunications Agency is to be thanked for moving quickly in introducing this change in the UK. The official '[Gazette Notice](#)' to bring in the change in the UK is scheduled to be published on the 25th of July.

Please note that these changes do not affect Foundation Licencees.

### **SIGNING OFF:**

That's it for this month - if I have missed anything I give my apologies and hopefully remember it next time.

Anyway in closing I hope that many of you will attend next Monday's (4<sup>th</sup> August) presentation at TS Terra Nova with Brian G8DIU giving a talk entitled "My Favourite Things".

*Ray* G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 31<sup>st</sup> Jul 2003