



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

DECEMBER 2003 — No: 735

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
 9 Aultone Way
 SUTTON
 Surrey SM1 3LD
 (020) 8644 7589
 E-Mail: secretary@g3src.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.45 FOR 8pm

Normally AT THE T.S. TERRA NOVA, 34 THE WALDRONS, SOUTH CROYDON, CR0 4AZ

"A" MEETING 1st Dec 2003 Telescopes - What you can get & What you can see Peter G4WPB

"B" MEETING 15th Dec 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 December 2003 newsletter which I have started to write on Tuesday morning to try and get it done on time this time. Anyway, may I on behalf of all the committee wish all our members, other clubs, friends and all our readers a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

For the "A" meeting on Monday 1st December we have a change of programme and have brought forward Peter G4WPB's talk so that Gareth G4XAT can present his offerings on 5th January 2004. Peter's talk I have called "Telescopes – what you can get and What you can see". Details are given below but suffice to say that Peter will be putting a lot of effort into this and we would appreciate a great turnout – thank you. The "B" meeting being held on 15th December will no doubt include some extra Christmas goodies and will be the last meeting prior to the festivities so if you can make it, it will be good to see you all.

Don't forget the mobile phone changes coming in on Dec 1st impacting on handheld operation and so be safe when driving.

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 1st Dec 2003 Telescopes - What you can get & What you can see - Peter G4WPB

Due to Gareth now being unavailable for the 1st December we are pleased to welcome Peter G4WPB who has kindly agreed to bring forward his talk on Telescopes. We would appreciate a good turnout for this meeting and I know that Peter will be taking over an hour to set it up.

Peter in a recent E-Mail supplied the following information:

I will need plenty of time to set up the equipment and it's my intention to bring along a lot of gear so people can get a valid idea of what is out there.

I am a "nut" on this subject and could almost open up a shop with the gear I have.

On the evening there will be 2 x 10" computer controlled scopes together with a 6" refractor and a 90mm computer controlled scope.

I will also bring along the special astronomical imaging equipment which includes a Peltier cooled camera together with special astronomical frame integration real time video camera which can see down to 000000.1 Lux - the most sensitive video camera you can buy commercially in the world.

This lot takes up a good deal of room and needs time to bolt together but I hope to show how easy it is nowadays.....

Peter G4WPB"

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 15th Dec 2003 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting on Monday 15th December 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. This is also the last meeting before Christmas so should also be having those seasonal treats.

**LAST "A" MEETING: Monday 3rd Nov 2003
Top Band Members Evening**

This was a great evening - "back to how meetings used to be" was one remark, with a good turnout – thank you all.

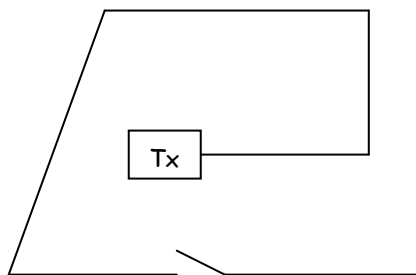
Martin G4FKK:

The members evening was started by Martin G4FKK who gave us a resume of his aerials through the ages.

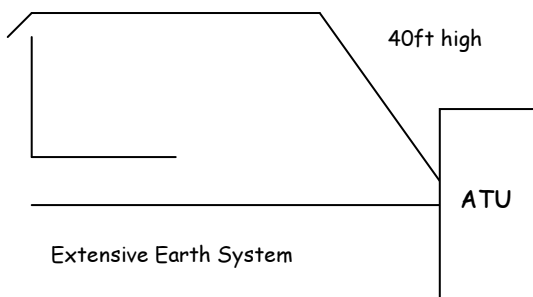
He was licensed in 1976 and reminded us what Top Band was like then with beacons, Fish-phones, and Loran filling the band. Inter-G and DX was achievable.

His home at the time was in Sanderstead where his initial aerial was an end-fed $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$. Developments included the addition of a counterpoise, and then making it a $\frac{1}{2}\lambda$. across two of his neighbour's gardens, finally a $\frac{3}{8}\lambda$ when he had to recover the route!

The next home was Ivy Cottage in Carshalton. This had a 40ft garden so a short steeple at 20ft was installed. A switch was introduced to make it a $\frac{3}{8}\lambda$ when required. This is my rough sketch:



In his current Carshalton home, Martin has put up an Inverted-L $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$. This didn't have much sky-wave so a switched extension – added goodness - was added making it a $\frac{3}{8}\lambda$ (120ft + 60ft). In the ground is lots of copper for the earthing system. Here is my rough sketch:



The remote switch is typically a high voltage relay.



Martin is also keen on Mobile operation. The debate still rages whether it's long thin loading coils or short fat ones! Bending of an 8ft whip with centre coil when mobile does affect the SWR!!

Martin had an example of a 4ft 6ins Top band whip and loading coil mounted on an H-frame using 4-magnets. With this he worked Woburn from Carshalton. 30-40 miles is typical with no flutter.

Turning to matching the aerial, Martin has used Linked Coupled Parallel Tuned Circuits, Series Tuned Circuits, Z-match and L-matches. The idea is to get as much current as possible in the aerial.



ATU Examples

Martin's tips include use of Litz wire, the mobile rig bonded well and have a Diesel car else a good noise blanker. His dream aerial would be a $\frac{1}{2}\lambda$ @ 90ft with open wire feeder.

Gareth G4XAT:

Gareth was our second presenter describing how he improved his Top Band signal. Using some of his words:

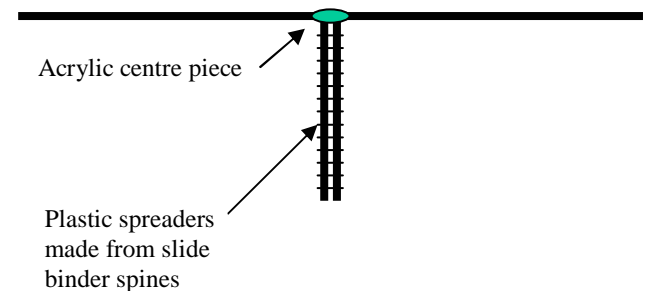
"After the Sunday morning club net moved to Top band, it was clear that I needed to improve my radiated signal if I was going to join in.

Perusal of the books and asking around led to the Marconi T being selected as the most suitable for my available space and other needs.

I chose 177 feet as the most suitable for my garden, with the top about 128 foot long and the remaining 50 foot forming the 600 ohm feeder.

For use on Top band the lower ends are joined - a MARCONI T.

So here is the basic configuration, made from single core 2.5mm² ring main wire, bought as a new 100 metre reel at a boot fair for £1! Removing the insulation was tedious....



Hanging this lot up in the garden uses a chimney at one end and an extended 30 foot scaffold tube at the other. The weight of the wire and its feeder made it sag a bit in the middle.... so... a large "roach pole" was deployed.

More details will be found on the web site under the Club Talks Link page.



Gareth also brought along his home-brew Mobile whip pictured here. *Apologies for the soft focus on Martin's picture – the camera was on manual focus but I didn't!!*

Graham G3RJW:

Graham was our third speaker and described his recent project of building an Artificial Earth – a tuneable counterpoise. Graham reported that it makes a difference on transmitting despite already having “lots of Earth”. It is just connected to a bit of hook-up wire run down the garden.



The circuit goes back to the sixties and was published in Practical Wireless, Graham can supply a copy of the circuit to those interested. He mentioned that he experimented with the number of turns on the coil.

I trust I have done justice to the evening in the above report, and have accurately reported each speaker's contribution. Thanks extended to Martin G4FKK, Gareth G4XAT and Graham G3RJW. By the way, keep checking our Web site - I hope to put up more information.

Pat G4FDN - Top Band Experience

I recently received the following from Pat G4FDN, spurred on by the Top Band evening:

"I found the presentations at the Top Band evening from Martin G4FKK, Graham G3RJW and Gareth G4XAT very interesting and informative and it spurred me on to get on the club net the next Sunday - albeit with a very inefficient short loaded dipole. Not having a good RF ground, radial or counterpoise system I decided to do some reading up on this.

Coincidentally a club member's recent report of an RF burn coincided with me reading an article by KH7B:

As a novice I had a tuner on a long wire and a rather lousy ground. The tuner had a loading knob with a metal set screw in a plastic knob. I tried to tune up on 15 meters with about 40 watts of CW. The ground lead was just the wrong length and RF backed up badly.

The shaft of the capacitor got a very very high RF voltage on it from all the reactance. My thumb was pressed against the knob right over the setscrew as I adjusted, trying to get the mess to load. Afterwards, there was an 1/8th inch white dot in the centre of my thumb. A few minutes later there was a large amount of pain. Eventually, a plug of dead flesh fell out leaving a hole almost to the bone!

A painful lesson in the dangers of RF backing up on rig/tuner in the shack and inadequate grounds with end fed wires!

Further reading on RF grounds and wire for radials and counterpoise's recommended for cheapness agricultural electric fence wire which is usually copper coated steel. I found at Electric Fencing Online, a UK based supplier, that you can get 200 metres of 5 conductor wire for £12.50.

The URL is

http://www.electricfencingonline.co.uk/shop/index.html?target=dept_7.html&lang=en-gb

I also did an internet search on Top Band mobile and came across the following picture:



Not for Top band but G3YXM's 136kHz mobile set up - now that's a big loading coil! More details and info about his 160m mobile operations are at:

<http://homepages.force9.net/picks/mobile.htm>

73, Pat G4FDN"

CHAIRMAN MEOW - November 2003



It seems that winter has at last caught up with us all and as the days shorten its back to leaving for work in darkness and returning in darkness. I can imagine how people in the extreme north of Scandinavia miss a few rays of sunshine during the winter.

Although I was absent from the Sunday morning net on the 9th of Nov., I was still able to pursue the hobby, albeit briefly from a windy vantage point 915 metres above sea level - the summit of Tryfan, Snowdonia. I was quite pleased with the single station I worked on a 2 metre handheld too - John, M1BQQ/P near Preston, about 130 miles on 5 watts and a rubber duck! Clearly a good spot for radio!



The occasion of the ascent was a 'staff training weekend', driving up on the Friday evening, climbing (well, walking and scrambling) up Snowdon on the Saturday. The summit was the windiest place I have ever been, in exposed places you almost had to walk on all fours with your feet about four foot apart just to stay put on terra firma! The windward side of the trig point has a coating of horizontal icicles growing into the wind, such was the wind chill and I suspect, the drop in pressure caused by the air being forced over the summit. A few metres lower down (probably where the air pressure was higher) there was no ice. was too cold to use the radio, 30 seconds without gloves being about the limit of feeling! I did manage to phone the family from the shelter of the wall of the (closed) summit cafe, so I did use radio, sort of.....



The Sunday morning ascent of Tryfan was scary in places and very close to climbing (which I'm not that fond of) but to reach the summit and touch the two stones (Adam & Eve, which some 'enthusiasts' climb and jump from one to the other!!) that form the genuine peak was worth the effort. Thankfully the downward journey was far more accessible and safe although considerably further.

For the December A meeting Peter Bruce has kindly agreed to bring forward his talk as despite planning my 'The Good Life' many months ago, school parents evenings take precedence over 'all else' so I ended up double booked. Hopefully I will be able to put in an appearance towards the end as I was really looking forward to 'seeing what can be seen' these days with the benefit of modern technology.

Of some relevance to my talk in January (when I will detail how to make real beer and how to preserve and flavour foods by smoking) the Fourth Annual Homebrew Beer competition was held in Sutton on the afternoon of Saturday 15th. I was pleased that the judges liked all the brews I entered and felt fit to award one a first prize, another a second and a third a third! Samples of these winning brews and others will be available to try, along with the judge's comments for you to consider at the January "A" meeting.

Gareth G4XAT

THE CALENDAR SECTION

SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

1 st Dec	"Telescopes – What you can get & What you can see" with Peter G4WPB
5 th Dec	Crawley ARC – Fish & Chip Supper. Meetings normally held @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932 www.carc.org.uk
5 th Dec	Crystal Palace – Natter night/Club projects/Morse Class @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill. 7.30 for 8pm. Bob G30OU 01737 552170 (Meetings 1 st and 3 rd Fridays) http://www.qsl.net/g30ou/id3.htm
8 th Dec	CATS - AGM. Meetings held @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 nd Monday's. Contact: Andy G0KZT 01737-552139. cats@briersa.fsbusiness.co.uk
11 th Dec	Sutton & Cheam RS – Christmas Junk Sale. Meetings @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 www.scrs.org.uk
12 th Dec	W&DARS – Christmas Social @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 http://www.wadars.thersqb.net
15 th Dec	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On
16 th Dec	Bromley & District – Mince Pies and Short Talks. Meetings on 3 rd Tuesday's @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8. Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420 www.bdars.org.uk
17 th Dec	Crawley ARC – Members Evening. Other details as for 5 th Dec entry
19 th Dec	Crystal Palace – Christmas Event @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill – 7:30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G30OU 01737 552170 – http://www.qsl.net/g30ou/id3.htm

23 rd Dec	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings normally 4 th Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
31 st Dec	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commonsides West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716 Probably no Dec Meeting?
5 th Jan	"The Good Life" with Gareth G4XAT
2 nd Feb	"Zen and the art of HRO rebuilding" with Brian G8DIU
1 st Mar	Spring Surplus Equipment Sale
5 th Apr	AGM

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

Rally Calendar, etc:

6 th Mar	Crystal Palace Radio & Electronics Club Spring Fair at St. John's Hall, Sylvan Road, London SE19.
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Contest:

7 th Dec 0900-1700 UTC	RSGB 144MHz AFS Exchange RS + Serial No + Locator. There's not much time to think about this one but if anyone is interested to have a go would you let me know – thanks. Ray G4FFY
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LAST CLUB ACTIVITY: Sunday 23rd Nov 2003

This turned out to be a very damp day but over 100 visitors made it. The SRCC stand was manned this year by Maurice G4DDY, Graham G3RJW, Pat G4FDN and Ray G4FFY. A good trade was had though gear still had to be returned to Maurice's car and trailer. A healthy injection of funds to the Club's finances was achieved which all helps to run the Club and keep the subs at a reasonable level. Thanks extended to CATS.



Graham G3RJW, Pat G4FDN, Maurice G4DDY & Ron Hough

Contest Result - VHF NFD 2003

The VHF NFD 2003 Results have been published in RadCom and on <http://www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc/results/03/nfd.html>

In the Mix & Match we came 2nd out of nine entries (was 6th last year). It was interesting to note that out of the nine, eight entered 70MHz, five entered 1296MHz, and three teams dropped 70cms.

Here is a quick comparison of Claimed versus Actual, and Mix & Match positions (Section Position):

	Claimed	Actual	% Lost	Position
50MHz	40819	40588	0.56%	2 nd (12 th)
144MHz	69952	66432	5%	2 nd (4 th)
432MHz	22603	20517	9%	1 st (4 th)
1296MHz	3351	3055	9%	3 rd (4 th)

John G8IYS will be calling a review and planning meeting in the New Year, etc. Well done everyone.

FOUNDATION LICENCE COURSE

Bromley & District Radio Society have arranged their FOURTH Foundation Course for 17th and 31st January 2004. Contact Alan G0TLK on 020-8777 0420

Members News

- Phil G1LKJ - Email Address

Phil wishes to advise everyone of his changed E-mail address as follows: g1lkj@hotmail.com

- Barry Mawn G0BKD - New QTH

I have recently received this E-Mail from Barry advising us of his new life up North – good luck Barry in your new home. I note from Multimap that you are near Jcn6 on the M18. His E-mail address is: barryg0bkd@supanet.com

"Hi Ray, well I finally done it, I am now the proud owner of my own house, but I couldn't of done without the couple of windfalls that we were lucky to receive. Even so this didn't give us sufficient cash to buy property locally, or in deed anywhere in the south east. After many weeks of searching the Internet, we finally found the house that we have now purchased.

We are situated right on the edge of the Yorkshire ridings, a little rural village called Moorends, which is so central UK. We can get to at least half a dozen major towns like York/Leeds/Barnsley/Pontefract/Doncaster/etc which is great for us when we go caravanning.

What really matters is that I can now do all the things in my hobby that I couldn't do at Rosehill, So I've done just that, installed a tower which supports a 3-ele HF beam, 11-ele Tonna 2 Metres and a 19-ele for 70cms, and because the garden is only 70' long I'm running a 67.5 ft end fed wire tuned via my smart tuner. I am now really beginning to enjoy my radio activities.

I have also joined the local radio club Finningley Amateur Radio Society, which is very well equipped. They have their own club house with 4 different operating rooms and many other features that would take too long to mention. I have been elected onto the contest committee - as this is a new activity for the club they wanted someone who had some ex experience, guess who? So I've elected some very capable people and things are very well, so you are in for some stiff competition next year. We have already done the QRP fixed location and we came in 38th which I think was a good effort for our first ever contest and all done on the spur of moment.

One little item we have which I think will make us the strongest stn on top band is a 1/4 wave vertical on top band. As the club has its own club house it opens up for members 3 days a week so that members who haven't got a stn of their own to operate and/or work on projects as they also have a fully equipped workshop.

So in all Ray I'm having a fine time, and what's more the people up here are so hospitable. That's all for now regards to all from Barry G0BKD

PS My Address: 13 Micklethwaite Grove, Moorends, Doncaster, DN8 4NU. Tel: 01405 817609"

So will we work you Barry on our Top Band Net? I have now found the Finningley Web Site which shows the most impressive facilities: <http://www.g0ghk.co.uk/index.htm>

- Peter Sutton M3UYP

Peter M3UYP - I used the name of Richard last month in error – apologies Peter.

Use of Two-Way Radio in Motor Vehicles Mobile Amateur Radio Operation – Mobile Phones and the New Laws

The RSGB has advised of the following:

The use of 2-way radio equipment (unless the device can also be used as a phone) when driving, is not included in the new offence. It must be remembered that there is still a risk of distraction and prosecution under other laws should an accident occur. If stopped by the police for operating mobile amateur radio, the reference to quote is:

The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No.4) Regulations 2003 Statutory Instrument 2003 No 2695. This lays out clearly the exemptions under the new law.

Statutory Instrument No. 2695 can be viewed at:
www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2003/20032695.htm

The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2003

Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 2695

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS 2003 No. 2695 ROAD TRAFFIC

The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2003

Made	20th October 2003
Laid before Parliament	27th October 2003
Coming into force	1st December 2003

The Secretary of State in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 41(1) and (5) of the Road Traffic Act 1988[1], and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with section 195(2) of that Act, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2003 and shall come into force on 1st December 2003.

Amendment of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986

2. The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986[2] are amended by inserting after regulation 109 -

" Mobile telephones 110 -

(1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a road if he is using -

- (a) a hand-held mobile telephone; or
- (b) a hand-held device of a kind specified in paragraph (4).

(2) No person shall cause or permit any other person to drive a motor vehicle on a road while that other person is using -

- (a) a hand-held mobile telephone; or
- (b) a hand-held device of a kind specified in paragraph (4).

(3) No person shall supervise a holder of a provisional licence if the person supervising is using -

- (a) a hand-held mobile telephone; or
- (b) a hand-held device of a kind specified in paragraph (4),

at a time when the provisional licence holder is driving a motor vehicle on a road.

(4) A device referred to in paragraphs (1)(b), (2)(b) and (3)(b) is a device, other than a two-way radio, which performs an interactive communication function by transmitting and receiving data.

(5) A person does not contravene a provision of this regulation if, at the time of the alleged contravention -

- (a) he is using the telephone or other device to call the police, fire, ambulance or other emergency service on 112 or 999;
- (b) he is acting in response to a genuine emergency; and
- (c) it is unsafe or impracticable for him to cease driving in order to make the call (or, in the case of an alleged contravention of paragraph (3)(b), for the provisional licence holder to cease driving while the call was being made).

(6) For the purposes of this regulation -

- (a) a mobile telephone or other device is to be treated as hand-held if it is, or must be, held at some point during the course of making or receiving a call or performing any other interactive communication function;
- (b) a person supervises the holder of a provisional licence if he does so pursuant to a condition imposed on that licence holder prescribed under section 97(3)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (grant of provisional licence);
- (c) "interactive communication function" includes the following:
 - (i) sending or receiving oral or written messages;
 - (ii) sending or receiving facsimile documents;
 - (iii) sending or receiving still or moving images; and
 - (iv) providing access to the internet;
- (d) "two-way radio" means any wireless telegraphy apparatus which is designed or adapted -
 - (i) for the purpose of transmitting and receiving spoken messages; and
 - (ii) to operate on any frequency other than 880 MHz to 915 MHz, 925 MHz to 960 MHz, 1710 MHz to 1785 MHz, 1805 MHz to 1880 MHz, 1900 MHz to 1980 MHz or 2110 MHz to 2170 MHz; and
- (e) "wireless telegraphy" has the same meaning as in section 19(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949[3]."

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State
David Jamieson
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Department for Transport
20th October 2003

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These regulations amend the Construction and Use Regulations 1986 by inserting a new regulation 110.

Regulations 110(1) and (2) prohibit a person from driving, or causing Or permitting a person to drive, a motor vehicle on a road if the driver is using a hand-held mobile telephone or similar device.

Regulation 110(3) prohibits a person from using a mobile telephone or similar device while supervising a holder of a provisional licence at a time when the provisional licence holder is driving a motor vehicle on a road. It is an offence under section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to contravene these regulations. Regulation 110(4) provides a definition of devices that are considered similar to hand-held mobile telephones for the purpose of these regulations. This definition excludes two-way radios.

Regulation 110(5) provides that in specific circumstances a person will not breach the regulation. Where a person makes a call to the emergency services on 999 or 112 in response to a genuine emergency where it is unsafe or impracticable for him (or the provisional licence holder) to cease driving while the call is being made, the regulation is not breached.

A full regulatory impact assessment of the effect that this instrument will have on the costs of business is available from Road Safety Division, Zone 2/11, Department for Transport, Great Minister House, 76 Marsham Street SW1P 4DR, telephone 020 7944 2046, facsimile 020 7944 2029, email road.safety@dft.gsi.gov.uk. A copy has been placed in the library of both Houses of Parliament.

Notes:

[1] 1988 c. 53

[2] S.I. 1986/1078, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations

[3] 1949 c. 54

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WANTED – KW One-Sixty

To: Ray, G4FFY
G'day Ray

Greetings to all at the Surrey Radio Club.

I am a keen 160m operator in Western Australia (ex-G3ZZD) and a former BBC employee at the Crystal Palace transmitter (circa 1973/74).

My recollection is that your club contains a number of keen 160m operators. For some time, I have been searching for a secondhand KW One-Sixty am/cw transmitter. Please, is it possible you could ask among your club members if anyone has a KW One-Sixty who would be prepared to part with it?

I have tried a 'wanted' ad in RadCom and searching UK EBay without success.

During January 2004, I will be returning to the UK for a few days to visit my Dad, Ossie G0TYJ, and am hoping to pick up a KW One-Sixty then.

If any of your club members could help in any way, it would be very much appreciated.

Vy 73

Steve Ireland, VK6VZ
sire@inet.net.au

Croydon Emergency Rapid Response Group

I have received the following from Stewart M3YPM, please contact him direct if you wish to help:

"Hi Ray,

I and Mark G3ZRR are calling any amateurs in the Croydon and South London areas, for help. We are trying to set an amateur radio emergency rapid response group up. Please could you give me details on local hams who you would think would be willing to offer there services.

Many thanks M3YPM twotonetie@hotmail.com

Terms of Reference:

- 1) Be an efficient and effective response for communication break down in Croydon. e.g.: during power cuts, also the one we all dread terrorist attacks, any other circumstance where amateur radio could step in and help.
- 2) A main requirement would be to be able to contact all members of the group 24-7 e.g.: mobile, pager, home phone etc..
- 3) Its basically just if the need did arise to provide a rapid response when communication breaks down. e.g.: helping all blue light services being able to set comms up quickly and effectively.
- 4) We would have an advantage over Raynet, that being that all members would be near to the Croydon area so response would be quick.
- 5) Also we will have dummy runs to check and improve on response times.

SIGNING OFF:

I think that is it for this month, if I have missed anything I give my apologies and hopefully remember it next year.

So for our main meeting on December 1st we welcome Peter Bruce G4WPB for his presentation on Telescopes. It would be appreciated to have a large crowd to support his excellent efforts – thank you.

In closing, may I wish all members, friends and readers a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Don't forget we have a Christmas morning net @ 9:30am and it will be on 1.905MHz or thereabouts.

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 27th Nov 2003