



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

FEBRUARY 2003 — No:725

CLUBNET 21.411&1.9MHz Sunday 9:30am
 CLUBNET 144.325MHz Friday 8:30pm
 CLUBNET 145.500MHzandDown Thursday 7.00pm

CLUBInternetWEBSITE:
<http://www.g3src.org.uk>

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 SUTTON
 SurreySM13LD
 (020)86447589
 E-Mail: secretary@g3src.org.uk

MONTHLYMEETINGS 1STAND 3RD MONDAYS 7.45FOR 8pm

Normally AT THE S.TERR ANOVA, 34 THE WALDRONS, SOUTH CROYDON

"A" MEETING 3RD Feb 2003 MICROWAVE TALK with Jim G4WYJ

"B" MEETING 17TH Feb 2003 FOUNDATION COURSE + FIX -IT, ADVI CE, CHIN -WAG, etc

Chairman	G4WAY Roger Holyoake	020-8689 7089
Vice-Chairman	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020-8462 2837
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	020-8640 5166
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 February 2003 newsletter which was prepared on Wednesday night & Thursday (30th Jan). I have just returned from a STARS meeting; and SRCC in conjunction with the organisers of the Epsom Radio Fair, taking place on Sunday 22 June, and the RSGB are staging a National Construction Contest – Yaesu FT817 is the first prize.

Also during the last month, some Club members have taken part in AFS on 80m and I give the claimed results further down. I also note that Radio Fairs will be staging up to two more Radio and Electronics Shows, stepping into the gap vacated by Radiosport. The first is on Sunday April 27th at Kempton Race Course, with a second one provisionally booked for 27th October.

Back to club meetings, and for our main meeting on Monday 3rd Feb we welcome Jim G4WYJ who will be presenting a Microwave talk. Monday 17th Feb is the usual "B" meeting, and we will also be prepared for any foundation candidates.

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 3rd Feb 2003 MICROWAVE TALK with Jim G4WYJ

The main meeting in February is our traditional Sid Morley Memorial Lecture and for this year we thought we would have a talk on a modern topic of Microwaves. We are pleased to welcome Jim G4WYJ who will be presenting a talk about Microwave operation and displaying a selection of some of the equipment used.

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 17th Feb 2003 1st FOUNDATION COURSE EVENING + FIX-IT and "MOVE-IT-ON" Evening

The "B" meeting on Monday 17th Feb will be the regular "Fix -It", "Move -It-On", Advice and Chin -wag. If you have a radio item, or anything else that you just wish to clear out then bring it along – you never know who is there and may be looking for just an item.

At the January "B" meeting one of the discussions was the Sunday morning net and the experiments being held on top -band (1.9MHz). Bernie G8TB brought along a simple ATU. I have reproduced an article from Bernie later in the newsletter.

We should also have a Foundation Courses session but in January no candidates turned up unfortunately. Following the recent STARS meeting a change of direction has been discussed and will be published once the proposal has been reviewed by your committee.

NEXT CLUB ACTIVITY: Sunday 2nd Feb 2003 0900 – 1500 432MHz AFS

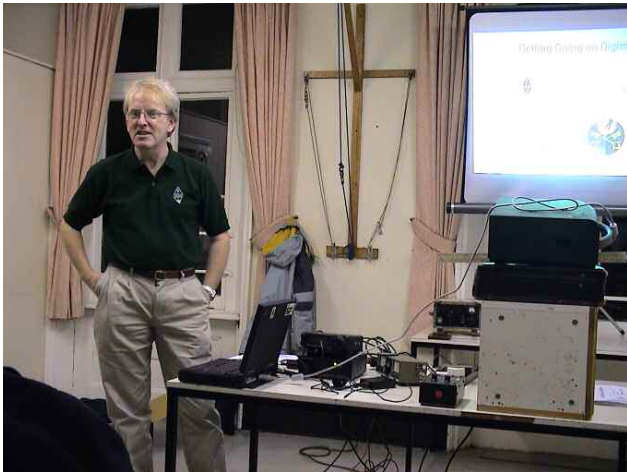
This is a late notice that the Club will hopefully be entering this 70cm AFS contest and it would be great that as many of you as possible come up on the band. I plant to coordinate and submit the Club Entry so please let me know if you are entering (Ray G4FFY 020-8644 7589). The contest is organised in teams of three and so the more of you that are on the better. By the way, prior advice had been sent by E-Mail.

**LAST "A" MEETING: Monday 6th Jan 2003
GETTING Going on DIGIMODES - Pat G4FDN**

This was an excellent evening when we welcomed Pat G4FDN who presented a personal and practical perspective on getting going on digimodes. Some 15 of us enjoyed his talk and live demonstration encompassing: what are digimodes, a brief history, a typical system, the role of the PC and soundcard, the radio-soundcard interface, software, setting up, band plans and live demo.

Pat's practical approach meant we learnt where we could encounter problems and it's usually setting up where it tends to go wrong. Audio input to the Tx must be low enough not to operate ALC. Using a 1300hz tone from the PC, turn down the audio level to just stop ALC and then halve it again. For a 100W SSB Tx cvr this usually means a maximum power of 25 to 35W.

Another tip is to use the lead cut off from an old serial mouse to give you the 9-pin lead for the PC serial port (this provides the Transmit control). For the travellers amongst you, you may have collected a number of airline headphones (during the days when one could keep them) and cutting the lead of one of these will give you the 3.5mm leads for the audio connections.



Pat G4FDN and demonstration table

For the talk part, Pat had prepared a slide pack, which I have loaded onto the SRCC Website. The URL below is a direct link to the page:

<http://www.g3src.org.uk/downloads/Getting%20Going%20on%20Digimodes.pdf>

On the last page of this document is a number of URL's (unfortunately my PDF conversion didn't make them "clickable"). One that was highlighted was WM2RU <http://www.gsl.net/wm2u/psk31.html>

With the aerial that was quickly put up by Maurice G4DDY and Gareth G4XAT, Pat made a live contact with SP6EAL on 14.090MHz. This was impressive as the signal was well into the noise level and also admirably demonstrated the waterfall display, and the software digital panoramic tuning facility.

It has been suggested that at a future "B" meeting we would have a practical evening for setting up your equipment so watch this space.

Two books were suggested for further reading: RSGB - Digital modes - Murray Greenman ZL1B PU; ARRL - HF Digital Handbook - Steve Ford WB8IMY.

Thanks are extended to Pat for an excellent evening, and also to Gareth for bringing along the PC Projector.

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

3rd Feb	Microwave Talk with Jim G4WYJ
4th Feb	Thames Valley ARTS - Open Forum, Propagation update & ISS Report by G3ENI. Meetings normally 1 st Tues 8pm Library/Reading Room, Gigg's Hill, Thames Ditton - Trevor M0CDB01372 -457674
7th Feb	Crystal Palace - Natternight/Club projects/Morse Class @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill. 7:30 for 8pm. Bob G30OU01737552170 (Meetings 1 st and 3 rd Fridays) http://www.gsl.net/g30ou/id3.htm
10th Feb	CATS - Post Office Railway with Paul M3/G8K DQ @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 nd Monday's. Contact: Andy G0KZT01737 - 552139. cats@briersa.fsbusines.co.uk
12th Feb	Crawley ARC - PSK31 & Other Data Modes with Phil G4UDU & Bob G3VXJ @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley - 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI01293 -512932 www.carc.org.uk
14th Feb	W&DARS - Club on the Air 40m G3WIM @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon - 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737356745 http://www.wadars.thersgb.net
17th Feb	Fix-It, Advice, Chin -Wag, Move -It-On Foundation Course Session(!)
18th Feb	Bromley & District - Table Sale (Mtg 3 rd Tuesday's) @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes - 7.30 for 8. Alan G0TLK020 -87770420 www.bdars.org.uk
19th Feb	Crawley ARC - Friedrichshafen Hamvention @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley - 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI01293 -512932 www.carc.org.uk
20th Feb	Sutton & Cheam RS - TBA @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton - 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWW020 - 86449945 www.scrs.org.uk
21st Feb	Crystal Palace: AGM & Construction Contest @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill - 7:30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G30OU01 737552170 - http://www.gsl.net/g30ou/id3.htm
24th Feb	VHF NFD Inquest/Planning @ G8IYSQTH
25th Feb	Dorking & District Radio Society - Meetings normally 4 th Tuesday's @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking - opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA01306 -883718
26th Feb	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commons side West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR020 -87644716
28th Feb	W&DARS - Pic ATU new with Paul Berkeley M0CJX @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon - 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim G4WYJ 01737356745 http://www.wadars.thersgb.net
3rd Mar	Spring Surplus Equipment Sale
5th Apr	AGM
12th May	Constructing Evening
2nd Jun	Construction Contest

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

Rally Calendar, etc:

2nd Feb	18 th South Essex ARS Radio & Computer Rally (Canvey Radio Rally) The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex. Brian G7IIO01268756331. E-Mail: briang7iio@yahoo.com Web: www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk
9th Feb	Harwell Rally Didcot Leisure Centre, Didcot, Oxfordshire. Ann G8NV101235816379E -Mail: ann.stevens@btinternet.com Web: www.hamradio.harwell.com

16 th Feb	Cambridge&DARS Rally, Britten Arena, Wood Green Animal Shelter, King's Bush Farm, London Road, Godmanchester, Cambs. Web: www.cdarc.org.uk
2 nd Mar	18 th Rainham Radio Rally by Bredhurst R&TS, Rainham School for Girls, Highfield Way, Rainham. Trev Cannon G6YLWE -Mail: trev@wig1.co.uk Web: www.wig1.co.uk (appears down!)
8 th Mar	Crystal Palace Radio & Electronics Spring Radio Fair, St John's Hall, Sylvan Road, London SE19. Bob Burns G3OOU01737552170 Web: www.members.aol.com/rfcburns Also see advert in Jan 2003 SRCC Newsletter.
27 th Apr	West London Radio & Electronics Show at new Exhibition Centre, Kempton Racecourse. Organised by Radio Fairs -Paul Berkeley M0CJXE -Mail: m0cix@ntlworld.com Web: www.epsomrally.co.uk
22 nd Jun	Epsom Radio & Electronics Fair. Organised by Radio Fairs -Paul Berkeley M0CJXE -Mail: m0cix@ntlworld.com Tel: 01737373979. Web: www.epsomrally.co.uk

MEMBERS NEWS

Another Grand Daughter

It must be something in the water, but no sooner had I reported on new arrivals last month that Mike G4WII emailed me to happily announce the arrival of another granddaughter, Olivia, born 29th December and all's well. He tells me that that brings the total so far to three grandsons and two granddaughters.

Alan G7ELG New E-Mail Address

I should have picked this up sooner as Alan emailed me back nearly November with his new address as follows: scaryng33@msn.com I have now updated my e-mail address book and SRCC distribution list - sorry Alan for the delay.

Ernie G4CEQ - Right Kidney removed

This is some more late news as Graham G3RJW advised me back in October that Ernie had been in bad shape for the previous 4 months and was found to have Cancer of the right Kidney. In October he had his right Kidney removed and the tube leading from it to the Bladder, which also needed some attention. This fortunately went OK but Ernie went through a lot of pain whilst in intensive care. Members of the "Bute Road Academy" and the SRCC Club wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

FOUNDATION LICENCE COURSE

May I remind you that we are able to run a Foundation session during the "B" meeting on 17th Feb 2003.

Recognising that no one turned up in January it is looking like the slow approach over a number of months is not suitable. Bromley Club run their Course over 2 Saturday's and have something like 4 candidates confirmed.

At the STARS meeting held on 29th Jan it was agreed that future Foundation Courses should be organised through STARS, and also to spread the load. Your Committee has a proposal to consider, which if agreed, will change the way SRCC provides Foundation Courses. The confirmed details will be published next month.

SRCC CLUB DINNER

The committee is still discussing the possibility of holding a club dinner this spring. It is looking like some 20 members and wives may be attending and we are reviewing some restaurant options in South Croydon, or even Elmer's End. Definitive news next month, but the date is now likely to be in April.

VHF NFD 2003

An Inquest and Review meeting was held on Monday 27th Jan 2003 at the QTH of John G8IYS. We held a frank and constructive review of last year's entry and decided on a course of action; namely a review of 70cms over the last few years to identify which antenna system works best, and a review of which band does consistently least well.

A Planning Meeting has been organised for Monday night 24th Feb 2003 from 8pm at John's QTH (18 Riding Hill, Sanderstead). Please advise John of your intention to attend, either on 020 -8657 0454, or e-mail johns@connectnet.org.uk We have agreed to enter this year's event but in what form, bands, section/s, is yet to be fully evaluated and agreed, hence the reviews being undertaken to help us make the decisions.

CLUB ACTIVITY: 80m AFS 2003

12th Jan -CW80M 14:00-18:00
18th Jan -SSB80M 14:00-18:00

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

CW:		SSB:	
Call sign:	Score:	Call sign:	Score:
G3BFP	1920	G3BFP	680
G8TB	830	G4DJR	430
G4DJR	190		
G3RJW	170		
SRCC SCORE: (Last Yr)	3110 (2090)	SRCC SCORE: (1970)	1110 (1970)

We extend our thanks to everyone who took part and allowing an entry to be made by the Club. I personally, planning to enter the SSB event, managed to double book myself on family business and never made it! Here's to next year.

SUNDAY MORNING CLUB NET

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter the participants in the Sunday Morning club net has been testing on 1.9MHz (Top Band). This has allowed our further a-field members to join in like Harry G3SBV and Ted G3EUE. So a Top band net could be good to allow our "Country" members to join in.

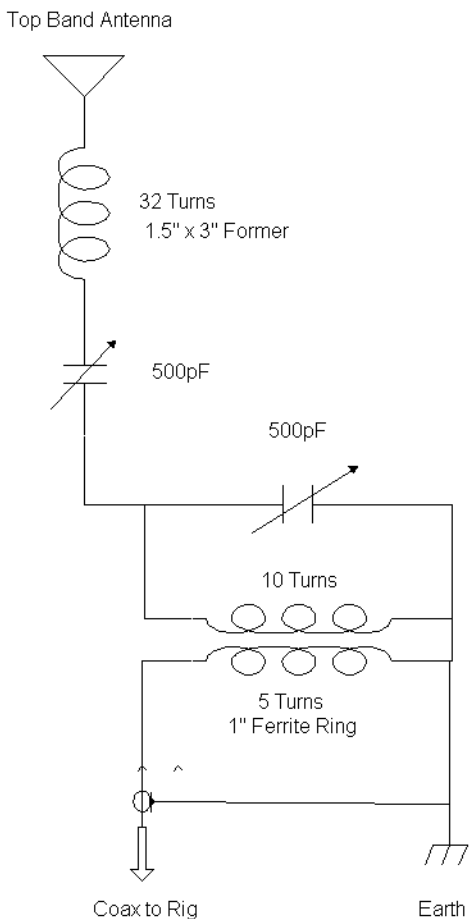
So over the next month the Club Net will start on 21.411MHz and then QSY by 09:45 to 1.9MHz. The plan is to eventually transfer the net to Top Band if all participants agree. If you are having trouble getting going on Top Band then let us know your problems as we have quite a pool of resources/expertise.

Over the page is an article from Bernie G8TB, which may help you with regard to Top Band Antennas and a simple ATU design.

TOP BAND ANTENNAS

BernieG8TBhavegivenmethethefollowingarticle:
 "Ihavealwaysthoughtthatamostefficientantennamust
 be resonate and must be fed with power. Other factors
 come into their use such as directivity, angle of radiation
 etc. but on the lower frequencies the amount of space in
 the average garden makes these a matter of fluck. The
 simplest antenna that meets these requirements is a
 center fed dipole but on top band this would be in the
 order of 250 feet long. If a quarter wave is fed as a
 Marconi against ground it is still some 125 feet.
 To resonate a shorter length wire, or even a vertical such
 as an antenna with its feeder, resonance can be obtained
 by adding inductance in series. A roller coaster is ideal.
 Another idea is to add too much inductance, but also to
 have a variable condenser in series, so that resonance
 can again be obtained.
 If the TX has a PI -output stage a low SWR can be
 obtained but as most TXs are 50 ohm I have included a
 Ferrite Ring transformer. With the two capacitors I can get
 perfect SWR. The series inductance details I have given
 work with my 80 -meter antenna (with feeders joined). With
 a small radiator, more inductance would be required
 BernieG8TB"

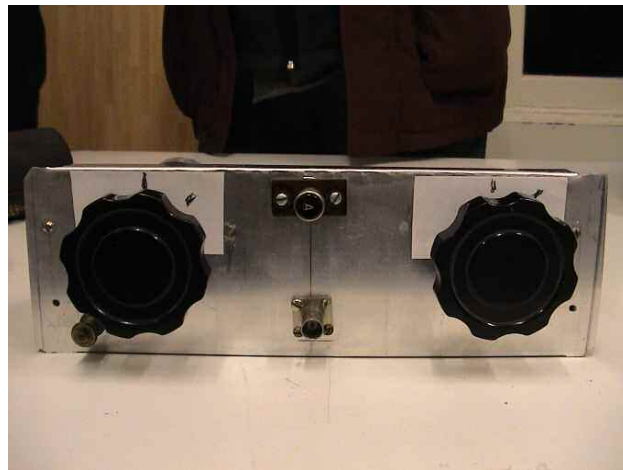
Top Band ATU Diagram



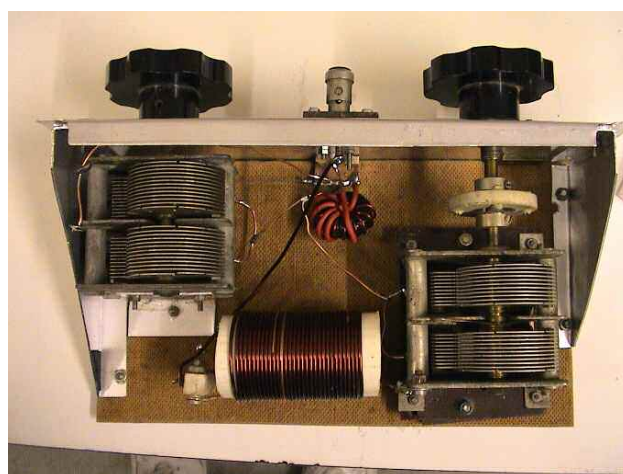
At the January "B" meeting Bernie brought along a Top Band ATU and I have quickly drawn above (in Visio2000) a copy of his diagram - found some stencils at <http://www.rfcafe.com/>.

I also took a couple of pictures and noted that Bernie had paralleled up the two sections one each of the variable capacitors.

Bernie's Top Band ATU Pictures



Front Panel



Top View

WHAT IS IT?



No prizes but PeterG3ZPB would be interested if anyone recognises this object. (01737551413 or E-Mail pburton@iee.org)

SIGNING OFF:

I think that is it for this month - if I have missed anything I give my apologies and hopefully remember it next time. So for our main meeting on February 3rd we welcome Jim G4WYJ for the Microwave talk evening. And, if you get this in time, don't forget the 70cm AFS on Sunday 2nd Feb. "B" meeting is Monday 17th Feb and possibly a Foundation Licence Session; and a VHF/NFD 2003 Planning meeting on Monday 24th Feb @ QTH of JohnG8IYS. I'll give a STAR Supdatenext month.

73and88 *Ray G4FFY* Posted: 31st Jan 2003