



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

AUGUST 2004 — No: 743

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
 (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 2nd Aug 2004 CONSTRUCTION CONTEST

"B" MEETING 16th Aug 2004 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
Club Meetings	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020-8643 0491
Members	G3RJW Graham Marshall	020-8669 8722
	G8TB Bernie Wynn	020-8660 7517

Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the August 2004 Newsletter which is being hurriedly typed on Thursday night prior to the Annual Construction Contest on Monday evening. Once again my time has been distracted from SRCC business leaving little time for the Newsletter production!

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 2nd Aug 2004 Annual Construction Contest

Monday 2nd August will be the night for the delayed 2004 Construction Contest. This is going to be the meeting to display your construction skills, whether it is Amateur Radio based or not. In other words we would like to see all your efforts that involve some form of constructing.

Hopefully we will have a rush of entries and we will be able to have several sections. These will be finalised on the night but possibilities are Major, Minor, Club Project, and Non-Radio. Entrants will be asked to give a brief talk explaining their entries and this always breaks the ice and allows members to get to know one another better.

The Dave Deacon Coronation Cup and the Basil Wardman Tankard will be presented, along with cash prizes. Members will vote for only one piece in each section, and when deciding your vote please take into consideration the facilities available, the technical standing of the builder and obviously give more weight to the 14 year old over the professional engineer!

There are few rules; the main one is that an entry must not have won an SRCC contest before. Kits may be entered but we must be told this, and like last year we are allowing non-radio entries you have constructed.

Come along anyway and have a great evening.

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 16th Aug 2004 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting on Monday 16th Aug is 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 5th July 2004 BBQ at Gareth's G4XAT

This year we were indebted to Gareth G4XAT & Jayne Evans who hosted the SRCC Barbecue at their home in Hayes. For various reasons I was unable to make it but by all accounts a good time was had by all attendees (see Gareth's "Thought of the Month").

I have been advised that Graham G3RJW did his usual Chef stuff on his barbe, and Gareth sort of looked after his one, but generally people looked after their own stuff or via Graham. Jayne did the salads and pasta, and Robert M1MRS brought lots of French bread and loads of sausages, most of which found homes!!

So thanks extended to Jayne and Gareth for hosting the event, etc, together with thanks to Graham and Robert. Here's to next years' and hopefully I will get along. . .

(Sorry no pictures of this event . . .)

LAST "B" MEETING: Monday 19th Jul 2004

The last "B" meeting on Monday 19th July had a good turn out (I was elsewhere) – Maurice G4DDY has advised me that John G8MNY brought along his super crystal set, Christopher Broadbent (Gareth's Foundation Course graduate) turned up and joined in with Gordon G4DAF, David G3KQR and the regulars. Stewart M3YPM was also there, all in all a good crowd with lots of chat.

CHAIRMAN THOUGHT of the MONTH - August 2004



It was clearly meant to be this year - the club barbeque that is. For those who attended, I hope you enjoyed the fayre - even if you did bring much of it with you yourselves!! Based on the success of this years event it may well become a fixture (at my QTHR), but please, please let us know if you are planning

to attend - we very nearly ran out of vegetation to add to the barbequed produce! From what I've heard from the 'Troops' field day went off with just a few little problems to keep you all alert, whilst Trinity School Racing won the Surrey heat of the Greenpower 6 hour race series in convincing fashion. I won't bore you with too much detail, suffice to say that we broke a long standing track record and that we came very close to matching the all time distance 'milestone'. This ranks us now as the number one qualifier, and very nice it feels too. With a heat at Bedford Autodrome still to come, we hope to really rack up the miles at this lovely flat circuit. We won't be the only ones trying though...and then it's the national final again at Goodwood, October 10th, free entry.



Trinity School's TSR-2 wins at Hampshire/Surrey Heat, Goodwood (Picture from: <http://www.greenpower.co.uk/photo04.htm>)

Term is over at last and I have stopped falling asleep on the sofa during the early evenings.... There is a lot to do around the house and garden, some of it 'catch-up', some of it repairs or changes, plus the annual construction contest to contest!

As last year, this is being written in the peace and solitude of Tanners Farm Park campsite, Goudhurst where I have brought Joshua and a couple of friends for his birthday treat. They have gone off on one of the several walks around the area, leaving me sitting in the sun,

listening to personal music and typing with my two thumbs.

This year I have a torch and an air-bed to improve the comfort level. Unlike the barbeque, the weather is unseasonal, warm at least but threatening rain. Looks like this summer will be the wet one that gets talked about like the summer of '76.....only for different reasons!

Since I was so busy around my birthday (16th June) I took an executive decision to delay most of the 'celebrations' until now when I am better placed to enjoy them. So, after two years thinking about it I bought myself a GPS receiver system for 'biking and hiking'. It also works in the car, but not at the 'turn left at the junction in an American accent' level. It incorporates an altimeter, time/distance/trip in all manners of combinations, track-back capability and up to 20 routes. Nice bit of kit.... It came from www.tracklog.co.uk and was supplied with 1:50000 OS map of 40Km by 40Km centred on any postcode you want. The whole country is available for 'extra' but herein lies some of the attraction. I can read maps and I want my sons to be able to as well. Using the supplied software you can plan your route on PC, adding waypoints with details as you go, all using genuine OS maps, so the skills are still learnt. The planned route can be 'walked' or 'flown' over the map, laid out in 3-D if you wish, so you get the idea about hills etc. This 'route' can then be uploaded to the GPS and you can then follow it if you wish, or (in sons case) read the map as he goes along, checking off progress against the waypoints (printable, along with the colour OS map at any scale. The GPS (a Garmin Etrex Vista), like most menu driven things, takes a bit of playing with to get to know it, but nothing too advanced.

I also had cause to claim on my portable CD (Discman) player insurance, and upgraded to a tiny MP3 player. Half the size of a packet of fags, it stores 1.5 GByte of MP3 or WMA files and comes with software for quickly turning your CD collection into suitable files for uploading. It obligingly 'ripped' a CD that I recently purchased which would only play on my PC if I installed a player that came on the disc. Whilst I don't support piracy of music, it's a bit of a cheek to make it unplayable - especially if you don't have administrator privileges, such as I lack at work. Problem solved anyway..... The device is also rechargeable (Li-ion) and has a comprehensive 'replaced however damaged' warranty, thank you Currys. Since they don't even attempt to service this type of product - they simply 'do the paperwork' and pass over the current model as replacement. Still, it's a lot more convenient than my old CD player.

And now, *101 uses for bananas, number 1 in an occasional series....*

After cooking your burgers, chops and sausages, chuck a banana on your barbeque. Turn it over when the skin is thoroughly blackened and when it splits slightly and is sizzling from within, they are ready to serve. Split entirely along the length, scoop out the soft cooked flesh, and serve with ice cream and/or maple syrup, golden syrup, honey or whatever - an unusual dessert to round things off.

Next time, bananas on toast (hard to explain, this one...).

Gareth G4XAT

VHF NFD WEEKEND: Sat 3rd/Sun 4th 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.

Despite all the pre-planning, on the day one of the geny's decided to pack up and even though we had located the two geny's close to one another it didn't prove possible to link all the feeds to the remaining working one. Luckily for 2m, who were affected by this failure, they were able to continue as they use 12v and float a battery. It was fortunate that Graham G3RJW was on site and had the appropriate keys on him to allow a couple of people to collect his diesel generator and "restore service". Apparently the battery charging current on the 2m station was quite high for a while!

Below are the claimed scores with comparison to last year's. My impression is that it was harder work this year, with lack of continentals to boost the scores, and conditions noticeably down/flat.

	2003		2004	
	QSOs	Claimed	QSOs	Claimed
6m	94	40819	55	8833
4m	--	-----	--	-----
2m	344	69952	299	63669
70cm	109	22603	100	16506
23cm	31	3351	31	3248

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!

MEMBERS NEWS

New Member – David G3KQR

We are pleased to welcome to our midst Dr David Foster G3KQR who has presented to us some very interesting and entertaining talks. His details are:

56 Elmbridge Avenue
SURBITON
Surrey
KT5 9HA
Tel: 020-8399 1289

We trust David that you have a long and enjoyable association with us.

Updated Details – Robert M1MRS

Please note that Robert telephone number is now: 020-8687 0811 and has a new Website of:
<http://robertmikiko.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/>

Pat G4FDN in Maine – PSK Operation

Pat has E-mailed me with details of his forthcoming holiday in Maine:

"My main operation is likely to be from Highland Lake near Bridgton, Maine, Locator FN44oc, during 1st-7th August. PSK31 frequency on 20m is 14.070MHz. If 10m is open then I'll be on 28.120MHz. Possibly also 30m on 10.139MHz I think. As I was able on my last trip to work a GM with 1W from my FT-100 I decided to save a bit of weight and bring the FT-817 I acquired recently from Robert. Will also be visiting New York and Virginia 7th to 14th August but don't expect to get much radio in that week. Then it's back to Maine before heading home on the 18th. I'll have my mobile (a tri-band) with me if anyone wants to text a possible schedule. (07711 439417)"

Bernie G8TB – Update

Bernie has been feeling a bit under the weather lately and has missed some meetings. He is now much better and when I rang him today, he and Blanca were out shopping. We look forward to seeing you soon Bernie at a future meeting, but in the meantime all the best for a full recovery.

CATS Inter Club Quiz: Monday 12th July @ 8pm St Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd Purley

Unfortunately the usual teams from SRCC couldn't make the event this year and I know that they delayed the start of the quiz just in case any SRCC members might turn up late – sorry CATS for not being represented.

THE CALENDAR SECTION

SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

30 th Jul – 1 st Aug	AMSAT-UK Space Colloquium and Symposium at the University of Surrey in Guildford. Further details from Jim Heck G3WGM Tel: 01258 453959 E-Mail: g3wgm@amsat.org or www.uk.amsat.org
30 th Jul – 8 th Aug	W&DARS Summer Camp – Crossways Farm, Upper Gatton, Reigate RH2 0TX – details from Andrew Maish G4ADM 07973 184040. Saturday night 7 th Aug is BBQ night – all welcomed.
2 nd Aug	SRCC – Construction Contest
6 th Aug	Crystal Palace – Wavemeters and a Practical Workshop @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill. 7:30 for 8pm. Bob G3OOU 01737 552170 (Meetings 1 st and 3 rd Fridays) http://members.aol.com/rfcburns
9 th Aug	CATS – BBQ - Meetings normally held @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 nd Monday's. Andy G0KZT 01737-552139 cats@briersa.fsbusiness.co.uk
11 th Aug	Crawley ARC – The Club BBQ. Meetings normally held @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932 www.carc.org.uk
13 th Aug	W&DARS – Members Evening @ 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.thersgb.net
16 th Aug	SRCC "B" Meeting
17 th Aug	Bromley & District – Summer Natter Night. 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
19 th Aug	Sutton & Cheam RS – Oscilloscopes by Martin Butler M1MRB @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWW 020-8644 9945 www.scrs.org.uk
24 th Aug	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings normally 4 th Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
25 th Aug	Crawley ARC – Members Evening. Meetings normally held @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932 www.carc.org.uk
25 th Aug	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commonside West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716
27 th Aug	W&DARS – Members Evening @ 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.thersgb.net
6 th Sep	SRCC – Short Talks Evening
4 th Oct	SRCC – Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale

AMSAT Echo Satellite Successful Launch

At 0630UTC on the 28th of June the AMSAT Echo amateur radio satellite was successfully launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Telemetry from the satellite can be received on 435.150MHz FM. The 10-inch-square microsat, equipped with a transmitter capable of up to 7 watts output, will allow voice communications using handheld FM transceivers. However, AMSAT requests that amateurs do not transmit to Echo until checkout and commissioning has been completed and the satellite is made available for general use.

There will be a presentation on Echo at the AMSAT-UK Space Symposium which is being held from the 30th of July to 1st of August at the University of Surrey, Guildford. This event is open to all radio amateurs and SWLs and for further information on it please contact the AMSAT-UK secretary, Jim Heck, G3WGM, on 01 258 453 959 or e-mail: g3wgm@amsat.org

AO-51 FM Voice Transponder Available From Friday 30th Jul 2004

AMSAT have announced that the FM voice repeater on Oscar-51 satellite will be available from Friday.

This co-incides with the opening of the AMSAT-UK Space 2004 event at the University of Surrey in Guildford. Those attending the event will have a special presentation on AO51 (Echo) on Saturday morning.

The RSGB GB4FUN van will be at the event from Friday to Sunday so listen out for GB4FUN calling through AO51 (Echo).

To work Echo you need the following information:

Uplink (where you transmit to the satellite):

145.920 MHz FM voice with 67 Hz CTCSS tone.

Downlink (where you listen for the satellite):

435.300 MHz FM voice.

The downlink transmitter will come on when it hears an uplink signal with a 67 Hz PL tone for about 1 second. It stays on for 10 seconds after that signal goes away.

This operation is just like a terrestrial FM repeater with a 1 second kerchunk filter and a 10 second hang time.

The signal from AO-51 is very strong.

For full details of the AMSAT-UK Space event at Guildford see: <http://www.uk.amsat.org/>

Those interested in finding out more about satellites may like to know that AMSAT-UK produce an excellent Newsletter called Oscar News which is sent to all members. For further information contact the AMSAT-UK secretary Jim Heck G3WGM

Tel: 01258 453959

E-mail: g3wgm@amsat.org

Website: www.uk.amsat.org

WEST LONDON RADIO & ELECTRONICS SHOW 14th Nov 2004

The premier rally for the south of England will be held on 14th November 2004 at Kempton Park Racecourse with doors opening at 10am, entrance fee held at £3.50.

The SRCC will be having a table and volunteers to man the table, etc will be welcomed. Please contact Maurice G4DDY regarding our table, or Ray G4FFY for more details on the rally.

Mini Rally at Newhaven Fort, East Sussex, 26th September 2004

Organised by the Worthing and District Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 599, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 1PZ - <http://www.wadarc.org.uk/>

Worthing and District Amateur Radio Club is holding a mini rally at Newhaven Fort Museum from 10.30am to 4.00pm on Sunday September 26th.

Location map:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/streetmap.dll?G2M?X=544967&Y=100223&A=Y&Z=5>

The main purpose is to raise funds for the GB2NFM radio station and Museum by selling excess equipment which has been donated to the Club but is not suitable for display.

In addition, tables, which will be under cover if the weather is inclement, are available at £10 for individuals or £15 for traders a number of whom have already agreed to attend. The charge includes admission to the Fort with all its usual attractions including the display of vintage radio equipment and GB2NFM which will be active on HF for general contacts and on 145.550 for mobile talk in.

Admission to Newhaven Fort Museum for those who are not taking a table is £5 but parking is free. The Museum provides a unique way to experience our defensive past for the whole family and is the best preserved and restored of Britain's coastal defences dating back to Napoleonic times. The military style canteen provides a wide range of modestly priced food and drink in an authentic atmosphere, so why not bring your family for a fun day out.

For more information/book a table etc. contact WADARC via Roy and Joyce on 01903 753893 or via the club website <http://www.wadarc.org.uk/>

Newhaven Fort website:

<http://www.newhavenfort.org.uk/>

SIGNING OFF:

That is it for this month – timed out!! Monday 2nd Aug in the delayed Annual Construction Contest and we look forward to seeing all your efforts over the last year or so. Yet again the AGM report is held over (still need to write it up!), and I am still compiling the next Club membership list, hopefully will have copies at the next “A” meeting plus will be E-mailing it.

73 and 88 *Ray G4FFY* Posted 30th July 2004

SRCC Subscription Renewal Form August 2004

Name: Callsign/RS:
Address:
..... Tel:
E-Mail:

Member: £8.00 Family: £12.50

Cheques payable to SRCC and send to:
Maurice Fagg G4DDY
113 Bute Road, WALLINGTON SM6 8AE
Tel: 020-8669 1480