



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

DECEMBER 2004 – No: 747

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](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, CR0 4AZ

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“A” MEETING 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2004 SUSY Radio with John Stockley G8MNY

“B” MEETING 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2004 XMAS FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION

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 December 2004 Newsletter which is being hurriedly typed on Wednesday night 1<sup>st</sup> December – where does the time go? Here we are near the end of another year, it only seems like yesterday that we were celebrating the new millennium!! 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.

Now for December the “A” and “B” meetings are back to normal order when we are pleased to have John Stockley G8MNY giving us a talk about SUSY radio on Monday night 6<sup>th</sup> December. The “B” meeting being held on 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2004 SUSY Radio with John Stockley G8MNY

SUSY Radio is Sussex Surrey Radio Ltd which has an occasional restricted service licence to serve Reigate and Redhill. John’s talk will introduce as to this commercial radio station, describe stereo FM principles, the studio engineering, OBs, play some sound bites from programmes, and show some video of the recent 531kHz station.

I note from the web site [www.susyradio.com](http://www.susyradio.com) that Sussex Surrey Radio Ltd have announced the submission of an application to OFCOM for a full-time Community Radio Licence for Redhill and Reigate. The result of the application should be known early in the New Year and any news will be announced on the website which in the meantime is being re-built.

## NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2004 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The “B” meeting for December is back to the third Monday of 20<sup>th</sup> December with 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 15th Nov 2004 5MHz Experiment with John Gould G3WKL

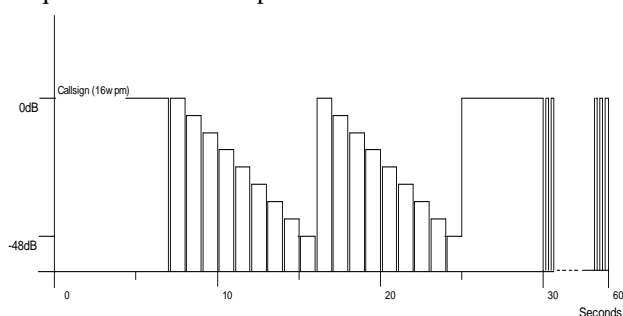
This was a great evening that John G3WKL treated us to informing us about the world of 5MHz and it was good that over 20 members and visitors took the trouble to attend this “A” meeting being specially held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday.

The evening with John consisted of an informative slide presentation and then a live linkup over the Internet to view some associated websites.

John is the Chairman of the 5MHz RSGB Working Group and started the evening explaining that access to 5MHz was granted in mid-2002 and is currently planned to end in mid-2006. The purpose is to conduct experiments in emergency comms, aerials, and propagation. It should be noted it’s the MoD who have granted this privilege access and are monitoring how we conduct ourselves with the experiments so let’s do them well.

The 5MHz Working Group (5WG) was formed by the HF Committee in Nov 2002 with a role to define better the more scientific aspects of possible experiments that could be carried out centrally. John, a member of the HF Committee but without any particular previous involvement in the 5MHz project volunteered as Chairman. The 5WG is a valuable mix of expertise. Some member's role is to provide expert advice on topics such as propagation, whilst others provide links to, or represent, organisations involved in the experimental use of the channels. Others provide both advice and "hands-on" effort.

On the SRCC website I have uploaded John's slide presentation which includes details of the 5WG TOR's, achievements and ongoing work. I particularly noted the launch of the 5MHz Beacons which allow a fully automated propagation reporting with some receiving stations automatically uploading data to the web to be centrally interrogated. The beacons are very clever in that every quarter of the hour they have go through a particular sequence over a 60sec period as follows:



The reducing power output (6db steps) allows Signal to Noise to be consistently measured.

The beacons have greatly improved the quantity of data being received but even so with some 1000 NoV's issued only about 360 different call-signs have been logged.

Now what about a propagation model - imagine a "mathematical" model as follows:

Quality of link = function {A(Date)+B(Time)+C(Solar Flux)+D(distance)+E(aerial)+ F(orientation) +G(SINPO)+H(Power)+I(mode)}

The "problem" is to represent the coefficients (A, B, C etc) in the right way, and then solve for their numerical values by comparing the "model" with the data in the log database. That's the challenge . . .

In the meantime we are all therefore encouraged to:

- Creating your own experiments and publishing the results.
- Making sure that your logs are of use to someone.
- Participating with the 5MHz Experiment, either by collecting data and/or later carrying out some detailed analysis.

This URL gives more details:

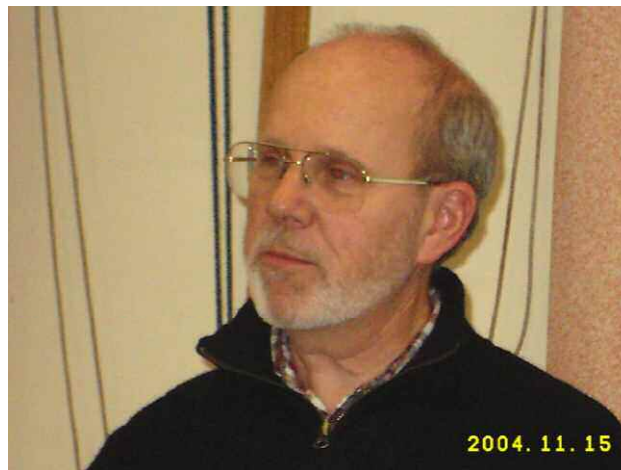
<http://www.rsgb-spectrumforum.org.uk/5MHz.htm> and in particular take a look at the Beacon reporting link - it has a download link to Peter's G3PLX automated beacon reporting program.

John explained his recently installed system where he has an automated upload to his FTP site of the last 192 entries (about 48hrs) from which G4IRX takes the data from. Peter's program relies on your receiver AGC being switched off i.e. running in linear mode (audio output put into Line In of PC). So need a large dynamic range . . .

To control the automated upload (and other scheduled needs) a programme like CRON can be used -

<http://www.kalab.com/freeware/cron/cron.htm>

The full talk presentation can be found via the Club Talks Link page on the club website [www.g3src.org.uk](http://www.g3src.org.uk) Thank you John for an excellent and informative evening.



John Gould G3WKL

## CHAIRMAN THOUGHT of the MONTH - December 2004



Welcome to my pre-Christmas ramblings, it seems the year has passed quicker than the previous one, perhaps that's a reflection on the pace of modern life or just my advancing years (not that advanced!!)

Anyway, our last "A" meeting was a great success, providing a good number of members with a fascinating introduction into the world around 5 MHz.

The influence of modern technology was ably demonstrated when John showed how his beacon log from the day had uploaded itself to a central website which we enjoyed via a modem and a phone line using internet dial up access. When the dust settles at work I really must set up a similar system as the monitoring software is available for free download. Ray has no doubt included details elsewhere in the newsletter.

I didn't get to the Kempton rally but it sounds as though those of you who did enjoyed it to some degree, except those of you who braved public transport to make the journey. The next weekend (20th/21st) was busy for me with the 5th National Homebrew (beer) competition on the Saturday with the CATS bazaar on the Sunday. The homebrew competition was an ebullient affair (can't think why!!) and I was very pleased to win first place in two of the four classes, (ordinary bitter and special bitter) and a third place in the speciality brews with my version of a Classic American Pilsner. Best of all, my special bitter (Rodent SpecIAle) was voted 'Peoples choice' which was very gratifying. It was clearly popular as come packing up time the barrel was empty! An enjoyable afternoon with 45 different beers available to try, pretty well most of them quite OK and a few very nice indeed.

Sunday morning saw me up bright and early (moderation the day before being the key!!) and on-site at CATS H.Q. to help the team set up and man the SRCC stall. We had a very good morning's trade, selling all manner of things that the buyers clearly thought 'would come in useful one day!' I also had a good rummage around the stalls and was pleased to find a number of bargains, like a 50mV 30 amp shunt (50p), RS 12 volt 16 amp relays for a £1 each and some very special fully isolated precision amplifiers, 50mV in 5 volts out, also for £1. I looked up their data on the web and found they were exactly what I wanted and \$150 each!! I also re-stocked with 12 volt 7 A/hr gel cells at 3 for £5, my previous stock bought around 10 years ago having finally expired. All in all an excellent morning for all concerned.

For December's "A" meeting we welcome fellow member John Stockley, G8MNY, who will be talking about SUSY radio, something I know he has been involved with for around 20 years (I think!). Come along and hear what he has to say, I'm sure we will have a fascinating evening.

Gareth G4XAT

## MEMBERS NEWS

### John Handley G4DJR

You will have missed seeing John Handley G4DJR at the club recently. This was due to his being unwell. He had an operation for a trapped nerve in his spine which has cured the trouble and he expects to be able to attend the club again soon. Our best wishes to him.

### WEST LONDON RADIO & ELECTRONICS SHOW - KEMPTON - 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2004

This show was another success and a first for me being part of its organisation – one role I had was to get to grips with AutoCAD and do the table layout – trust it was to everyone's liking. On the day I was up there at 6am and two traders were already waiting to offload. From then on it was non-stop, from checking traders in, arranging the early tea run, sorting out the display screen video ad, checking safety, checking computer for the talks, dealing with any problems, "Meet and Greet" as people entered at 10am, walking the floor, etc, etc.

I didn't get home until gone 6pm so it was a very long day for me after getting up just after 4am!! It was very enjoyable though and I have agreed to do it again – we are now planning for 24<sup>th</sup> April 2005 so if you have any thoughts or suggestions to make the show better please let me know – thanks.

SRCC had a table at the show next to Dorking & DARS and some of the larger items were sold on the day making it a worthwhile outing for the club. Thanks to those who manned the stand including Maurice G4DDY, Pat G4FDN and Graham G3RJW – apologies to anyone I have missed.



Graham G3RJW and Maurice G4DDY

### Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society Annual Radio Bazaar

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2004 - 10am to 1pm

This was held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Coulsdon Scout HQ rear of Lion Green Road Public Car park, Lion Green Road, Coulsdon, Surrey. This was another success in both terms of the club table business and meeting up with old friends. The SRCC stand was manned this year by Maurice G4DDY, Graham G3RJW, Gareth G4XAT and Charlie M0BIN with many other members popping in. A good trade was had selling a lot more of the smaller items compared to Kempton allowing an injection of funds to the Club's finances to be achieved. This all helps to run the Club and keep the subs at a reasonable level. Thanks extended to CATS.



John G3BFP and Bernie G8TB at CATS



Gareth G4XAT, Charlie M0BIN, Maurice G4DDY & John G8IYS

### VHF NFD 2004 Results

The VHF NFD 2004 Results are now out - see <http://www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc/results/04/nfd.html>

In the Mix & Match we came 2nd out of 13 entries (was 2nd last year out of 9 entries).

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

	Claimed	Actual	% Lost	Position
50MHz	8833	8093	8%	11 <sup>th</sup> (16 <sup>th</sup> )
144MHz	63669	66432	5%	1 <sup>st</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
432MHz	16506	20517	9%	1 <sup>st</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
1296MHz	3248	3055	9%	4 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> )

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

### SIGNING OFF:

That is it for this month – timed out!! Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec is when we welcome John Stockley G8MNY for his talk on SUSY Radio whilst Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec will be the Christmas "B" Meeting.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2004

**January's "A" meeting will be on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan when we have a Member's Short Talks evening**