



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

FEBRUARY 2004 — No: 737

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 2nd Feb 2004 "Zen and the art of HRO Re-building"– Brian G8DIU

"B" MEETING 16th Feb 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
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 2004 Newsletter which I have started to write on Wednesday evening after a very busy period for me including the Computer Consultant work and Home building work (which stopped me being involved with 80m AFS this year – more on this later). It is likely that this Newsletter won't be posted until Saturday - so one advantage of getting it on E-Mail is that you get it quicker!!

For the "A" meeting on Monday 2nd February we welcome Brian Cannon G8DIU for a presentation on "Zen and the art of HRO Re-building". The "B" meeting is being held as usual on 19th January, more about these below.

The home building site is still very dusty but the end is now end sight as the last door to be widen (Hall to Kitchen) has been knocked out and the new door lining installed. In the lounge the carpenter has been busy in sawing lots of MDF to create our entertainment centre – sawdust everywhere!!



NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 2nd Feb 2004 "Zen and the art of HRO Re-building" with Brian Cannon G8DIU

The February meeting is our annual Sid Morley G3FWR Memorial Lecture and it is fitting to have a talk on the National HRO Receiver. On Monday 2nd February we welcome Brian G8DIU who will be giving us a presentation on "Zen and the art of HRO Re-building". Brian will be starting his talk with a history of the National HRO Receiver and the company. We will then learn about Brian's acquisition of the HRO and his decision processes about what to do with it. Finally we will learn about his experiences, etc on the HRO rebuilding.

No doubt on the night, we will learn about the significance of "Zen" so please come along to be educated and entertained.

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

The "B" meeting on Monday 16th February 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 Jan 2004
The Good Life - Gareth G4XAT**



This was an evening full of various aromas which unfortunately I can't give you in this Newsletter! We learnt about brewing of beer and how over several years Gareth has come up with a successful system that gives good tasting beer, unlike traditional home brew!

Several examples of his beers were

available on the night though only small samples were advised if you were driving.

The other part of the evening was dedicated to a short presentation of smoking food with various types of wood with examples of small sausages, cheese and salmon were tasted by those present.



I have put up on the Club Website the slide presentation that were used by Gareth so for further details please refer to these (www.g3src.org.uk and select the Club

Talks/Link page from the index on the left hand side). Thank you Gareth for taking the time to give us this talk.

**CHAIRMAN THOUGHT of the MONTH
- February 2004**



A happy new year to all our readers - I hope 2004 holds plenty of good fortune for us all. The January 'A' meeting went off well, with none of the members present suffering either intoxication or food poisoning! As outlined in my talk, just because beer is 'homebrew' doesn't mean that it has paralyzing qualities or that I am nurturing a drink problem! As explained in my talk, by manipulating the mash temperature, beers 'full of taste but low in alcohol' can be produced. What with 6 different beers, smoked sausage, cheese and salmon, everyone present seemed to enjoy the evening. So, Gentlemen in England now abed, think yourself cursed that you weren't there! The PowerPoint shows used for the evening are on the website (thanks Ray) should you wish to view them!

From talking to members it seems that there are a number of you avidly constructing items of equipment to use and of course enter in our annual construction contest.

If you have access to a digital camera, perhaps you would consider photographing 'work in progress' or even finished items and submitting them to Ray for inclusion in our newsletter and/or website. Before I progress with projects, I have to tidy the workshop/garage, a task likely to take several days! Originally scheduled for the Christmas holiday, a combination of events simply proved too much to permit more than a floor tidy and clean in the domestic area - washing machine, recycling bin and tumble dryer are now accessible to all members of the family!

There are plenty of projects that need starting (or completing) so with a reasonable chance, I should have an item or two to enter by June!

Given the current interest and participation in Top Band Sunday net, there is a suggestion that for our annual construction evening we build an AM Top band transmitter. Before a lot of effort goes into the design and kitting of this project, could members kindly indicate their interest either by phone, email or voice to myself (g4xat@ntlworld.com), Ray or indeed any committee member.

Gareth G4XAT

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

2nd Feb	"Zen and the art of HRO rebuilding" with Brian G8DIU
6th Feb	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 st and 3 rd Fridays) http://members.aol.com/rfcburns
9th Feb	CATS – Top Band Evening with Martin G4FKK 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
13th Feb	W&DARS – Military Radios by Andy G8JAC @ 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
16th Feb	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On
17th Feb	Bromley & District – Digital Communications by Alan GOTLK. Meetings on 3 rd Tuesday's @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8. Alan GOTLK 020-8777 0420 www.bdars.org.uk
19th Feb	Sutton & Cheam RS – "Digital Radio Mondial" (DRM) – BBC Research. 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
20th Feb	Crystal Palace – AGM & Construction Contest @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill – 7:30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G300U 01737 552170 – http://members.aol.com/rfcburns
24th Feb	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings normally 4 th Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
25th Feb	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commonside West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716
25th Feb	Crawley ARC – Enigma Project Meetings normally held @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932 www.carc.org.uk
1st Mar	Spring Surplus Equipment Sale
22nd Mar	VHF NFD Meeting @ G8IYS QTH
5th Apr	AGM
10th May	Constructing Evening
7th Jun	Construction Contest

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

Rally Calendar, etc:

1 st Feb	South Essex ARS Mobile Rally, Paddocks Community Centre, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex: Brian G7IIO Tel: 01268 756331 E-Mail: braing7iio@yahoo.com Web: www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk/
6 th Mar	Crystal Palace Radio & Electronics Club Spring Fair at St. John's Hall, Sylvan Road, London SE19.

Contest:

CLUB ACTIVITY: 80m AFS 2004

We nearly had a full team this year with 4 members having a go in the CW event on Sunday 11th Jan 2004. With a total claimed score of 3530 points this easily beat last year's of 2760. Well done - I'll prepare a more detailed report for the next Newsletter, etc.

Unfortunately it would appear that no one entered the SSB event on the following Saturday – we must try and get a Club entry properly organised for next year – anyone willing to take a proactive lead?

VHFNFDF 2003 INQUEST AND 2004 PLANNING by John G8IYS

The usual suspects from the VHFNFDF Team met at QTH G8IYS on Monday 26 Jan. We all agreed that gaining runner-up status in the Mix and Match Section was a significant achievement. There remained some room for improvement in the logging area and post-contest log checking to eliminate some of the errors which shouted out in the cool light of day, but were not so clear in the hurly burly of the actual contest. Nevertheless, on this occasion, even with perfect logs, it is doubtful that we could have bridged the gap between the score of the winning club and our own. We also agreed that getting on the air in the various contests during the year, not necessarily from a field, was a useful way of keeping one's ear and logging hand in step with each other.

There was some preliminary discussion of which of the 5 bands (6m, 4m, 2m, 70cm, 23cm) we might enter in VHFNFDF 2004. It was pretty clear that the Mix and Match Section overall matches the level of resource which we think we can muster. The formal decision to enter in 2004 was carried almost as an afterthought since a contrary decision was out of the question for all present.

Looking around the gathering it was clear that anno domini continues to march on and that we need to encourage and embrace more people in the team. For several years, the Club entry has been in the name of SRCC, but in reality is more like a South London Clubs Team – no problem with that. So, for any member of our club or any reader from any other club, please do get in touch. We promise you will not be thrown in the deep end or left on your own or blamed for mistakes.

If you want to meet a group of delightful people (well, usually delightful unless you have just run over the power lead and cut off the best dx contact this century) then come along to the next meeting of the VHF Contests Group: 2000 hrs on Monday 22 March at QTH John G8IYS, 18 Riding Hill, Sanderstead, South Croydon CR2 9LN. Telephone 020 8657 0454. e-mail johns@connectnet.org.uk.

TOOLS by John G8IYS

I am always on the lookout for sources of economical and reasonable quality tools for use in the hobby. Until recently, for soldering tasks, I have relied on my Antex 18w, 0.8 mm bit, electric iron for circuit work, a 1930s era quarter pound copper bit gas stove heated iron and a propane torch for the somewhat larger tasks. The middle ground has always given me a bit of a problem – either oops! or why won't the solder melt? I have discovered recently that Woolworth has a useful soldering package for about £12 which offers a plastic carrying case containing a 100 watt soldering gun and a spare tip, a 30 watt soldering iron, a solder sucker, a third-hand magnifier, some flux, some cored solder and a de-soldering scraper. I think is good value. Ten years ago, I paid over a fiver for a third hand magnifier. Take a look and see what you think?

E QSL by John G8IYS

I noticed that on the Club WEB Home Page, there is a short cut to eQSL. I had heard of this organisation, which distributes QSLs electronically, rather than using pieces of card and the postal services. Curiosity drove me to click-in. Much to my surprise there were 38 QSLs waiting for me – some dating back to 1999, many of which were for 6 metre activity and the prettiest of which is from Venezuela – featuring a bright green iguana. Less exotically, there were three for QSOs on different occasions with the same station in SE23. I have registered and am now designing myself an e QSL card so I can respond. I think “desolado por la retarda” is Spanish for “sorry, its taken me so long to send you a QSL What I don't know is how you discover that someone has sent you an e-card unless and until you log in for the first time. I recommend that you click-in and see what is waiting for you. You might be as surprised as I was.

Members News

- Huw G0LLD - Email Address

Huw has advised that his E-Mail address has been changed to: lyris@btinternet.com

- John G3BFP at RAF Uxbridge

In an E-mail received from John G3BFP he described a visit to the Operations Room at RAF Uxbridge:

“We recently went to RAF Uxbridge to go over (or rather, under) the underground Operations Room used during the Battle of Britain and it is a very good exhibit. I was there for a limited time in 1943 after the B of B and the visit brought back many memories and entitled us to rather special treatment!! The main Operations Room is as it was in those days and the remaining rooms in the bunker (including the one I was in) have various exhibits in glass cases and other displays of various items. We were honoured in being the only visitors and even had tea served on a silver platter!! They also put on a half hour film show all about the RAF from the old times to the present day.

Normally, I assume, they deal with parties of folk by prior appointment. I have phone number and names if anyone is interested.” Thanks John – his telephone is: 01737-553043.



RADIO FAIRS RALLIES

The next rally being run by Radio Fairs will be on Sunday 18th April 2004 at Kempton Park Racecourse. Full details can be found on their website: <http://www.kemptonrally.co.uk/>

I can also confirm that Radio Fairs will no longer be using the Epsom Downs venue and will be concentrating their efforts on Kempton. This is as a result of feedback from traders and that the Epsom date has other events now clashing with it.

CRYSTAL PALACE RADIO & ELECTRONICS CLUB

SPRING RADIO FAIR

Sunday 6th March 2004

10:30am to 1pm

St John's Hall, Sylvan Road, London SE19

BROMLEY REPEATER GROUP

This new group was recently brought to my attention by Phil G1LKJ. It was formed on 31st Dec 2003 for the pending repeaters GB3OK and GB3LK. The BRG will be serving Amateur Radio in South East London and North West Kent.

Their website <http://www.g1hig.com/brg.html> gives further details and has E-mail updates published on it.

One of interest gives some info regarding the pending GB3OK as follows:

Location: Orpington
Band: 2 Metres
Channel: RV52 (R2) In 145.050 Out 145.650
Locator: JO01BJ
CTCSS: G (103.5Hz)
RSGB/RMC: C
Keeper: G1HIG

I note that an actual location has still to be decided but once this is done then the NOV repeater data sheets and coverage maps will be sent by the RMC to Ofcom to start the vetting and licensing process.

They are currently looking for more members either on the committee or as active members to become part of the Repeater Group. Contact Tony G1HIG on tony@g1hig.com

CLUB DINNER 2004

We are currently in the process of organising an SRCC Club Dinner for late/end March 2004. Actual date and venue will be confirmed shortly but names of those of you interested would be appreciated. Please let Maurice or myself know, or any committee member at the next Club meeting – many thanks.

FUTURE CLUB ACTIVITY PROPOSAL THINKING DAY on the AIR 22 Feb 2004

I have recently received the following E-Mail seeking our help in February as follows:

"Hi,

I am a guider in Wallington and this year I have been asked to organise our Thinking Day celebrations on 22nd February 2004, because it has never been done before I am hoping that we will be able to take part in what is known as Thinking Day on the Air.

This basically involves setting up a small station at our meeting place, and the girls then go on air and are able to speak to other guides around the world. Attached is a link that explains in more detail what we are hoping to achieve, is there anyway at all that you could help us out with this venture, its something that none of us have ever done before but we are all very keen.

The link with the information is:

<http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/international/thinkingday/article.asp?sectionid=22&id=720>

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future, and thanks in advance for considering our request.

Kind regards

Cari-ann
3rd South Wallington Guide unit"

If any one is interested please let me know – thanks.

MIKIKO IN JAPAN



Watch out for more news from Mikiko on her experiences in Japan in future Newsletters.

SCIENCE WEEK beginning 12th Mar 2004

The RSGB is once again supporting the "British Association for the Advancement of Science" during "Science Week 2004". Last year many clubs participated and they reported an overwhelmingly positive response with 1000's of people turning out and seeing amateur radio being demonstrated. National Science week is from 12th March until the 21st March. Clubs can organise anything from a simple talk at the club or school visit through to some of the huge events that were run last year. Why not visit www.rsgb.org/scienceweek to see some of the successful events from 2003

SIGNING OFF:

I think that is it for this month, if I have missed anything I give my apologies – it has been a very busy month for me and what with the house being upside down due to the building alterations it has been difficult to squeeze in the production of this Newsletter in. Hopefully next month it will return to normal!

For our main meeting on Monday 2nd Feb we welcome Brian G8DIU for "Zen and the art of HRO Re-building" – lets have a large turnout in support of Brian - see you all there.

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted 31st Jan 2004