



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

JANUARY 2004 — No: 736

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
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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 5th Jan 2004 "The Good Life"– Gareth G4XAT

"B" MEETING 19th Jan 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 January 2004 Newsletter which I have started to write on Tuesday evening after a very pleasant Christmas and now looking forward to the New Year. I take this opportunity on behalf of all the committee to wish all members, other clubs, friends and all our readers a happy and peaceful New Year.

For the "A" meeting on Monday 5th January we welcome our Chairman Gareth G4XAT for a presentation on smoked food and home-brew Beer – "The Good Life". Details are given below but we would appreciate a great turnout – thank you. The "B" meeting is being held as usual on 19th January.



G4FFY's QTH – Altered Porch and extended Lounge

Once again we are in the middle of a building site with alterations being performed to the front of the bungalow this time. We are having the porch straightened out by rotating it 90° to make it inline with the entrance hall. The space being vacated is being used by an extended lounge and whilst we have the dust we are also having the doors made wider, and the lounge alcove cupboards knocked down to allow better use of the space.

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 5th Jan 2004 The Good Life - Gareth G4XAT

Now that Christmas is over and we are into a new year it may be just the time to learn about brewing beer and the preserving and flavouring of food by smoking techniques.

So on Monday 5th Jan 2004 we welcome our Chairman Gareth G4XAT for a talk on just these topics which has been entitled "The Good Life".

Details on this talk is given in Gareth's "Thought for the Month" section of this Newsletter. I understand there will be samples and all are welcomed.

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 19th Jan 2004 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting on Monday 19th January 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.

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

This was a superb evening that Peter G4WPB treated us to on Monday night 1st Dec 2003 and we had a good turnout – thank you all. Everyone was absorbed with Peter’s talk and presentation and all stayed right to the end, even though Peter did overrun by some 30minutes. I have even had some E-Mails from members stating their enjoyment of the evening e.g. "it was Peter’s enthusiasm that made it really sparkle making every bit of information, and there was a lot, so interesting! Many thanks to Peter, and the Committee, for an excellent evening’s entertainment."

Peter started the evening by arriving long before us to get up the stairs the three telescopes he had brought along for the evening. Peter began the evening with a PowerPoint presentation, in which he firstly introduced us to the problem of light pollution in Croydon. Examples were Luna House and the Nestles building but with Peter’s perseverance, Nestles have installed new projectors, whilst Luna House has had new light fittings installed to cut glare.

We then learnt about his home observatory where he has a Meade LX200 10in installed. The 6’ by 4’ shed has a hinged south wall to allow the LX200 telescope to be used. This sits on a 6’ by 6’ peer buried 2m in the ground for stability.



Peter showed us how to record the images seen, with equipment including Crayford focuser, flip mirror, and special Peltier cooled astronomical CCD Camera unit. By mounting the telescope on a wedge tracking in one plane is then possible. Exposure time with special CCD – hours! Also wear a ski-suit to keep warm and the weather - colder the better.

Peter has a second home, a mobile home with a south facing garden, which is also an ideal dark sky location. Here he uses a 75mm Scope just for fun but it is capable of allowing Peter to pick out ship names over 10 miles away.

So what is the best telescope? Well the bigger the lens the more light that is gathered:

25mm Eyepiece fitted to each scope in turn.	
ETX 90.	1250mm / 25 = Magnification of 50x
10 Inch Celestron.	1200mm / 25 = Magnification of 48x
10 Inch Meade.	1016mm / 25 = Magnification of 40.64x
Helios 6 Inch.	750mm / 25 = Magnification of 30x
Best Planet / Moon scope is:	ETX 90 or Celestron
Best BRIGHT deep sky scope is:	Helios 6 Inch.
Best BRIGHT AND FAINT deep sky scope is:	Meade 10 inch

I have put up onto the Club web site a copy of Peter’s presentation (www.g3src.org.uk) on the Club Talks/Links page – beware it is some 4MB so I will split it up in due course. It gives more details on the telescopes listed above – the most portable of which is the ETX 90 which can be packed away in a pilot’s case.

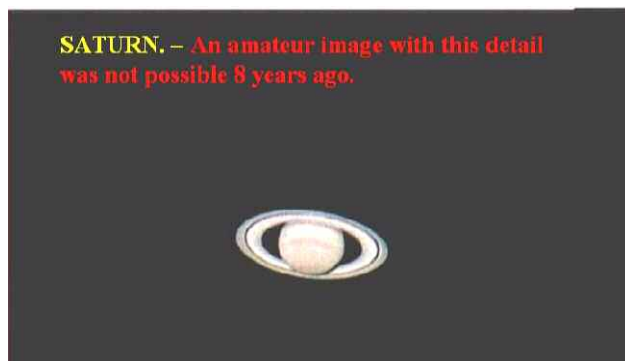


ETX90 in Pilot’s Case & Mounted on Std Camera Tripod

A selection of eyepieces was shown and Peter advised that one should not skimp on these and get good ones.

But how far are some of the planets in the sky, well Peter used a great cartoon to explain this and how long it would take a car travelling at 60mph to reach various planets e.g. The Moon would take 5½ months, whilst for getting to Mars it would be some 67years!

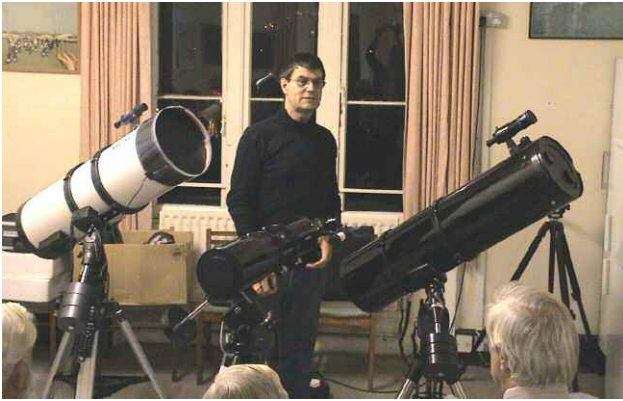
Peter then showed us some images he has taken over the years using equipment such as special cooled CCD colour camera, low light colour/bw video camera, or even a standard digital camera. The copies below do not give justice to what Peter achieved so please go to the Web site presentation for the best view of these:



Peter then showed us some pictures of Mars taken over the August-September 2003 period, one of which has made the last 15 sent into the Sky at Night – well done Peter who is very pleased with that alone. The final results are on 4th January 2004 (Sunday BBC1 at 23:40)

So how easy is it to setup up a telescope – well Peter did just that after the break using the three examples he had brought along. With modern computerisation it has been made very easy and didn’t take Peter very long to setup each of the scopes he had brought along. For the Meade it was a case of just finding Polaris and the computerised system does the rest!!

More pictures overleaf, in the meantime thank you very much Peter for a superb evening and the efforts you took in bringing some of your equipment to the Club room, the large turnout made it worthwhile so thank you to all that turned out and supported this meeting.



Peter G4WPB with some of his Telescopes



CHAIRMAN THOUGHT OF the MONTH - January 2004



What a treat our last meeting was - many thanks to Peter Bruce for bringing along what seemed like the entire contents of his observatory! Although I got there just after 9 pm, the bit I really wanted to see and hear about was Mars, from Croydon - I wasn't disappointed either! Congratulations to Peter on reaching the 'last 15' stage of Sir Patrick Moore's 'Best Mars' photo competition. Yet another facet of the interesting world we live in and how technology (and computers) can usefully enhance our daily lives. Sadly, these days, the only time I ever notice the 'sky at night' is when we go on holiday, usually to the wilds of Wales, where the absence of light pollution makes it an awesome sight. One day I would like to see real Northern Lights too (and perhaps the midnight sun), not just some of the excellent pictures we have seen in recent RadComs (January issue the most recent).

By the time you read this, the shortest day will have been and gone and the excesses of the 'festive season' will be behind us for another year. Just in time then for my January talk about brewing beer and the preserving and flavouring of food by subjecting it to smoke from different woods.

Homebrew beer has a generally poor reputation - cloudy, funny tasting and deadly potent! However, by emulating the traditional full scale brewers on small-scale excellent beers can be produced and even tailored to ones needs. I am talking 'real ales' mostly, not the bland, over-chilled 'eurofizz' that the mega breweries would like us to drink. Whilst I fully accept that their products are predictable and repeatable and that finding fresh well kept real ale is very difficult these days, I have managed it on my own small scale and at the time of writing have 6 different 'beers' to try, three of them prize winners. So forgive me my dislike of 'Blando bitter' and come along and try the following... Adam Elder 'Boys' bitter (2%), Jolly Green Giant I.P.A. (3%) Puffing Billy Rauchbeer (smoked beer, 4.8%), Sweet stout (4%), Balham India Pale ale (a REAL IPA as shipped to the West Indies, 5.2%) and CAPitAle, a Classic American Pilsner (4.5%).

There will hopefully be a live 'full mash' mini-brew undertaken and the aroma associated with traditional brewing should permeate the Terra Nova by the end of the evening. Since many of you have to drive, it will be a 'tasting' evening, rather than a 'beer festival' evening - so please don't drink and drive.

The smoking of food for preservation and flavouring has a long history - almost certainly it was discovered accidentally and has now become a common flavour in a range of meats and other foods. Different woods and temperatures all make a difference to the outcome, although once again, finding the genuine article as opposed to something that has been sprayed with smoke flavour is getting increasingly difficult. I hope to have time to present a quick explanation of the processes involved and some samples will also be available to try. Real Food for Real Beer!

Gareth G4XAT

THE CALENDAR SECTION

SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

2 nd Jan	Crystal Palace – No Meeting (Natter night/Club projects/Morse Class) @ 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
5 th Jan	“The Good Life” with Gareth G4XAT
9 th Jan	W&DARS – “Cycling the Nile” by Barbara Eves @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim MOCAN on 020-8874 7456 http://www.wadars.thersgb.net
12 th Jan	CATS – Natter Night & VHF/UHF Operating Evening Meetings held @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 nd Monday's. Contact: Andy G0KZT 01737-552139. cats@briarsa.fsbusiness.co.uk
15 th Jan	Sutton & Cheam RS – “More Exotic Travels with my Radio” by Roger G3SXW. 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
16 th Jan	Crystal Palace – VHF Contest Operation with Roger G3MEH @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill – 7:30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G3OOU 01737 552170 – http://members.aol.com/rfcburns
19 th Jan	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On
20 th Jan	Bromley & District – AGM. 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
26 th Jan	VHF NFD Inquest/Planning @ G8IYS QTH
27 th Jan	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings normally 4 th Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
28 th Jan	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commonside West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716
28 th Jan	Crawley ARC – AGM. Meetings normally held @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932 www.carc.org.uk
2 nd Feb	“Zen and the art of HRO rebuilding” with Brian G8DIU
1 st Mar	Spring Surplus Equipment Sale
5 th Apr	AGM
10 th May	Constructing Evening
7 th 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 G710 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:

11 th Jan	80m AFS CW Contest – See below
17 th Jan	80m AFS SSB Contest – See below

CLUB ACTIVITY: 80m AFS 2004

It's that time of the year again and this popular club event has something for everyone. What better way to start contesting than in AFS? You can contribute by just participating and gathering points for your team and Club. Enjoy the local rivalry, it's great fun! You don't need to have a high or complex antenna either, a simple low dipole works well.

Dates: CW Event: Sunday 11th Jan 2004
SSB Event: Saturday 17th Jan 2004

Time: 1400 – 1800 UTC

Frequencies: CW: 3510 - 3590kHz – RST + Serial
SSB: 3600 - 3750kHz – RST + Serial

Each team comprises of 5 club members for the CW event, and 3 for the SSB event; within 50 miles of the meeting place and each station can be single or multi-operator. I shall be giving the SSB event a go and will be collating/computerising the logs. Looking forward to more members on this year, why not join up with someone to spread the resources required – let's discuss next Monday night.

VHF NFD 2003 and 2004

A reminder that in the Mix & Match we came 2nd out of nine entries (was 6th last year). 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)

Chatting with John we have set an Inquest and Planning Meeting for Monday night 26th Jan 2004 from 8pm at his QTH of 18 Riding Hill, Sanderstead, CR2 9LN. Please advise John of your intention to attend either on 020-8657 0454 or johns@connectnet.org.uk

Members News

- Phil G1LKJ - Email Address

Phil has advised that he has retained his E-Mail address of g1lkj@hotmail.com - all others seemed to get "spammed"

- New Member: Brian Cannon G8DIU

We welcome Brian G8DIU to our midst who we wish a long and happy association with us. Contact details are:

38 Sandringham Road

WORCESTER PARK

Surrey KT4 8UJ

Tel: 020-8330 0092

E-Mail: brian.cannon@btinternet.com

FOUNDATION LICENCE COURSE

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

COMPLETION OF A NON RADIO CHALLENGE!

Congratulations to Barbara on the completion of her 400km Charity Cycle Ride, along the banks of the River Nile, in aid of the Samaritans. Here are her recollections:

"Well I have returned from Egypt, in one piece, though it was touch and go on occasions!

It was certainly an experience I will not forget for some time. I was pleased that my training had paid off and I certainly had the stamina to do it. There was one thing that I certainly hadn't prepared for and that was the long days, we were cycling at 7am every morning and on the longest day got back to the boat at 6.30pm. So breakfast was at 6am every morning! One plus point – we saw some lovely sun rises!

The first day (Esna to Edfu) although short was quite an eye opener as we were the main entertainment for the local children, who in the main were fine, just shouting and waving 'Hello' but there was also some stone throwing, running out in front of you, hitting, trying to grab hold of the bike etc.

The second day (Edfu to Aswan) was a long one and we cycled through the desert, this was a day of great contrasts, from the fertile banks of the Nile, all green and lush to the barren desert, which had a beauty all of its own. It was certainly a most awe-inspiring day.

The third day was going to be a short cycling one – to the Upper Aswan dam and back down; unfortunately for me it was shorter than expected. We set off in the rush hour in Aswan, lots of traffic and lots of bikes; whilst overtaking a parked van the bikes in front slowed quicker than expected and I manage to clip the bike in front, luckily I was the only one to come off. From what I understand I caused a major traffic jam in Aswan! My bike was a bit dented and so was I! I was advised by the resident doctor to stay in the support van for a while and to see how I felt when we got to the dam. I am pleased to say I was fine and able to enjoy the views from the top of the dam and was in a fit state to cycle back down and enjoy the rest of the day cruising round Philae Island and up to Kom Ombo.

The fourth day (Kom Ombo to Esna) was the longest, quite gruelling, just by the length of time you were on the bike. I have to say that apart from some villages where the buildings looked like they were made out of mud bricks and then had a satellite dish on top (no ham aerials that I could see) there was not much of interest – so it was head down and keep cycling! The back half of the group had to be stopped about 5pm as it was getting too dark, they waited for the rear support vehicles to catch up and when a police escort arrived complete with flashing lights we were able continue with at least some lights. It then became a great group atmosphere, as everybody was tired but we all kept each other going and informing everybody of where the potholes were!

The last day came (Esna to Luxor) and off we went, by this time we were all getting a little tired of when passing through the villages waving and shouting back 'hello' (I have great admiration for the Queen – how does she do it on those trips!?). We had lunch at the Colossi of Memnon and after some group photos, it was back on our bikes for a long slow climb up to the Valley of the Kings – this was very hot! We were lucky and were able to see some of the tombs – the paintings are wonderful! Then it was downhill all the way back to the Nile at Luxor and the finishing line! We had made it!

After that we became ordinary tourists, we went to Karnak for the sound and light show and then the next day after a flight to Cairo we did the Pyramids – it was very strange not to be on a bike!

Well, although I couldn't recommend the trip for everybody, Egypt is a wonderful place and having cycled through rural communities you certainly see Egyptian life – those poor people dashing from one tourist place to another on their air-conditioned coaches, they didn't get to see half as much as we did.

Thank you again for all the support you have given me, both moral and monetary.

88's Barbara Eves
barbaraeves@btinternet.com
Mobile: 07973 800948

Now need to collect your pledges – see you next Monday for these.

SIGNING OFF:

I think that is it for this month, if I have missed anything I give my apologies and hopefully remember it next month. For our main meeting on Monday Jan 5th we welcome Gareth G4XAT for "The Good Life" and don't forget the VHF NFD Meeting on Monday 26th Jan at G8IYS's. In closing, may I wish all members, friends and readers a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 2nd Jan 2004