



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

MAY 2004 — No: 740

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 10th May 2004 CONSTRUCTING EVENING – BAT RECEIVER

"B" MEETING 24th May 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 May 2004 newsletter which was prepared after the May Day Bank Holiday. It's later and shorter than I would have liked but the outbreak of the Sasser worm gave me some un-expected work which took a toll on my spare time! I am also preparing to speak at a local Sutton Area Planning Committee meeting representing the local residents in objecting to a development proposal.

Another year in the Club has gone by finalised by the April AGM. The committee was re-elected with the posts remaining as before and detailed above – a report of the meeting will appear next month.

The SRCC meetings this month will be held a week later due to the May Day Bank Holiday with the Construction Evening on Monday 10th May, and the "B" meeting on Monday 24th May. Prior to all of these is Windmills on the Air over this coming weekend of 8th/9th May with SRCC at the Shirley Windmill, and also a demonstration station at Sutton Model Engineering Club.

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 10th May 2004 CONSTRUCTING EVENING – Bat Receiver

For this evening we are once again indebted to Gareth G4XAT who will be supplying all the kits, along with tools we can use on the night to build a Bat Receiver - find out what is flying around your garden!! The article Gareth is using includes suggestions to develop the unit as an LF receiver, a puncture finder, bumblebee locator and also as a simple light-wave transmitter. Cost of the unit will be £6, to include a battery!!

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 24th May 2004 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting on Monday 24th May 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.

NEXT ACTIVITY STATION: 8th/9th May SHIRLEY WINDMILL - GB2SWS

<http://www.gsl.net/g4cdd/mills.htm>

As part of the Windmills on the Air this weekend (8th/9th May) David GOPAR will be leading the SRCC activity from Shirley Windmill, Postmill Close, Shirley. (Upper Shirley Road)

The Multi-Map reference is:

<http://www.multimap.com/map/browse.cgi?X=535500&Y=165250&scale=1000&coordsys=gb>

It is proposed that on the Saturday afternoon to complete the G5RV aerial erection at about 30ft – need about 4 pairs of hands, and then on Sunday morning setup the station to start operating from about 12pm. If you haven't already done so please contact David GOPAR (020-8761 2954), who would welcome your help and who will advise on the final timings for this activity.

All SRCC members and those of local Clubs will be most welcomed – it's a good day out for all - thanks.

CHAIRMAN THOUGHT of the MONTH - May 2004



Well it can't have been that bad - despite what I said at the annual dinner and at the AGM, I have been 'voted in' by you, the members, for another term.

My long awaited holiday (read this as time NOT spent at work, rather than actually going anywhere) arrived and very welcome it was too. We had scheduled our new double glazing to the front of our house for this break, and the installation went very well, with no disasters that I saw at least. The same cannot be said on the car front..... On Wednesday 7th I went to start my pride and joy and was rewarded with a non-starter that didn't 'turn over' correctly, sounding as if 3 of the 6 plugs had been removed. Unfortunately, this means one thing - the timing chain (a 2 metre long piece that goes round the crank, over two cams, round the oil pump jackshaft, round two more cams and so back to the crank) had jumped a tooth, possibly causing very costly damage, as anyone who has experienced the more common cam belt failure will probablly attest. A phone call to the local Ford dealer established that parts alone would amount to over £450 plus vat, assuming no damage to the 24 valves involved and of course the inevitable replacement head gasgets etc etc etc. A quick 15 minutes on the internet using 'Breakerlink' (an e-mail reflector for vehicle dismantlers, a free service that I thoroughly recommend) produced several offers within 24 hours, ranging from a very reasonable £245 delivered for a 70,000 mile unit (actually bought) to a rather unbelievable £700 for 160,000 mile unit!!

Since I was on holiday, I didn't rush the replacement, working when the weather was nice and the mood upon me. Even so, I think the total time taken was around 3 days work!! Clearly far more than the car is worth if I had to pay Ford to do the job. The new engine is a lot quieter than the one it replaced, implying that the mileage on the 'new' unit was perhaps genuine and therefore I should be driving this one for many years to come. Not bad for a 12 year old car that's as comfortable as your best armchair and as fast as a sports car when opened up!! Whatever Mr Cosworth did to the engine unleashes an astonishing push above 3,000 rpm, right up to the red line at 6,500! Making regular use of this facility may well have contributed to it's demise at 116,500 miles.

Isn't experience wonderful - it certainly allowed me to complete the engine change without recourse to a non-existent manual (Haynes did not choose to cover the Cosworth engine derivative) and today I was able to rescue a handheld transceiver. At school the support staff use UHF 5 watt handhelds, recently upgraded to the same make, same selcall, same everything. Me being me (no surprises there then) I acquired the 'old' units and picked out 5 worthy of saving, mainly for coms use on/in our electric race cars. Two needed replacement batteries, sourced from www.budgetbatteries.co.uk and fitted into the existing plastic case (£14 compared to £65, and they have 50% more capacity). In use it transpired that one suffered from short range. Closer inspection revealed a loose BNC socket for the aerial. Here's where experience helped - "I bet it is a dry joint", thought I. Very simple to dismantle, the fixing screws for the aerial socket were both loose, and not only was there a dry joint to the aerial, there appeared to be no solder there at all!! Just 5 second with a soldering iron fixed what might have been a bin-job!! The radios (Standard branded) also take dual plug mic/speaker/ptt headsets for motorcyclists, like the ones Maplin were selling for a mere £15 each recently. Now our two drivers can listen and talk to our pit crew and spotters, just like the real big boys!!

See you at the next "A" meeting to build the Bat receiver
Gareth G4XF

THE CALENDAR SECTION

SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

7 th May	Crystal Palace – Club projects/Morse Practice/Natter Night <i>Theme: Aerial Traps</i> @ 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
10 th May	Constructing Evening – Bat Receiver

10 th May	CATS – Surplus Equipment Sale 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
14 th May	W&DARS – Surplus Equipment Sale @ 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
18 th May	Bromley & District – Bromley Repeater Group, Tony G1HIG. 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
20 th May	Sutton & Cheam RS – AGM & Construction Contest. 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
21 st May	Crystal Palace – Electronics, Ken Rosier G3DJK @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill – 7:30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G300U 01737 552170 – http://members.aol.com/rfcburns
24 th May	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On
25 th May	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings normally 4 th Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
26 th May	Crawley ARC Wartime Listening, Don Wallace M3JLQ. Meetings normally held @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932 www.carc.org.uk
26 th May	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commonside West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716
28 th May	W&DARS – Picatune Building & Morse Tuition @ 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
7 th Jun	Construction Contest
14 th Jun	VHF NFD Meeting @ G8IYS QTH
5 th Jul	BBQ @ QTH of G4XAT

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

MEMBERS NEWS

Gareth Sponsorship for BHF

Gareth has advised me that Joshua and him are doing the London to Brighton bike ride again this year for the British Heart Foundation, and are looking for sponsors. They have a page at <http://www.bhf.org.uk/sponsor/gareth&josh/> where you can sponsor them. It might be working by the time you read this, else catch him at the next meeting. Joshua and Gareth will be peddling their way to Brighton on the 20th of June and Gareth plans to be on at least on 2 metres.

New E-Mail addresses

I have been advised that Arthur's G3YRB E-mail address has changed to: jumbo@britta1.fsnet.co.uk

Huw's G0LLD is now: huw@jonesofreigate.com

Barry's G0BKD is now: BarryG0BKD@msn.com

WANTED – Old Large LMBs

Bernie G8TB has asked if I would publish a plea for LMBs from satellites. They have to be the old large ones and some go under the heading Bluecap. He would much appreciate them as is sure that there are many that have been discarded.

SIGNING OFF:

That is it for this month as I have run right out of time I am afraid. The next Newsletter will include reports on the Kempton Rally, the AGM, the Club Dinner, etc and will be a bumper issue including a new Club membership list.

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 7th May 2004