



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

NOVEMBER 2004 – No: 746

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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 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

"B" MEETING 1st Nov 2004 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + **"MOVE-IT-ON"**
"A" MEETING 15th Nov 2004 5MHz Experiment with John Gould G3WKL

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 November 2004 Newsletter which is being hurriedly typed on Wednesday night 27th October. As mentioned last month my time to do this Newsletter is very short at the moment due to other calls on my time and so will be a brief one again – sorry. I also missed all October meetings so relying on third-hand info.

Now for November the "A" and "B" meetings are reversed to allow us to invite John Gould on Monday 15th November for a talk on the 5MHz experiment.

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 1st Nov 2004 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting for November will be on Monday 1st November 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.

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 15th Nov 2004 5MHz Experiment with John Gould G3WKL

We hope there will be a good turnout for this later than usual "A" meeting on Monday 15th Nov when we welcome the Chairman of the RSGB 5MHz Working Group John Gould G3WKL who will be giving us a presentation on the 5MHz experiment. This URL gives more details:
<http://www.rsgb-spectrumforum.org.uk/5MHz.htm>

LAST "A" MEETING: Monday 6th Sep 2004 Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale

I was unable to attend this popular meeting but I have heard that there was lack of buyers this time – still a reasonable sum was raised for Club Funds. Thanks to all who officiated at the meeting and to those who attended.

CHAIRMAN THOUGHT of the MONTH - November 2004



As I write this it seems it was all months away, but it is actually only 17 days since the 2004 Greenpower final. As is often said, 'The best laid plans oft go awry' and that is exactly what happened.....

The day of the national final dawned damp - which we were pleased about - as our car handled predictably in the wet and did not need a screen-wiper, something our most likely rival would need as they are fully enclosed (car number 3). It wasn't to be however as the day turned dry by around 10 am and stayed that way all day, albeit with a rather stiff breeze across the track.

Come 11.15 am, I was watching from just ahead of the start line and couldn't help but wonder what the next 6 hours would bring. For once at least, I wasn't a bag of nerves and the race started and away everyone went, first lap OK, down to 5th place but not a problem, we had our strategy in place. Second lap, "strewth, look at the speed he's carrying into the chicane" I thought, closely followed by watching our beloved car execute a spectacular and uncharacteristic double 360 degree spin!! - fortunately not harming the vehicle or driver in any way. But why? – the track was dry; we've been through that same bend 200 times before without a problem.

A quick radio check revealed that a photographer had stepped out into our drivers racing line and the sharp avoiding action he took provoked the spectacular spin. I hope he got a good action shot....

We called the car in just to be on the safe side as the driver reported that it didn't feel 'right'. We couldn't find anything specific, although the drive chain had loosened a bit, something the previous 750 miles had failed to achieve. So, tightened up and tested, we sent him on his way. Battle re-commenced, when around lap six, a sudden message 'electrical fire!!' No further radio contact ensued, so we correctly assumed that it was us. Sure enough, our car re-appeared on the recovery trailer and it didn't take long to find the problem. One of the 'go' buttons (for the left hand thumb) fitted about 4 races ago, had wriggled it's way along the handlebar and chaffed through the insulation on the live feed, shorting the low current control wiring to ground not through the steering column, which runs in nylon bushes, but through the gear-change cable inner and outer, welding them together. We re-wired the live feed using the data line for the digital dashboard (oh well, no dashboard data for the driver), removed the faulty switch and wiring, and then tested. It was at this point we found we had no gear-shift capability (welded cable syndrome). What the heck, send it out stuck in second gear, it will at least finish (by now any chance of winning was vanishing into the distance) so away it went, re-joining in 66th place!! Lap times were now pretty much 5 mins 30seconds +/- a second or two as drivers had no gear-changing to do. We worked our way slowly back up the field, eventually making it up to 21st place, so at least some face was saved. The second seed also suffered terminal failure of it's steering mechanism and they ended up around 34th so we didn't feel too bad.

I suppose with hindsight it could have been prevented – the switch was a temporary add-on that was forgotten about. We will re-wire with great care and take a spare gear-cable assembly next time too!!

The organiser spent two evenings analysing the lap times and reported that our pace for the last 3 hours (had we managed it all race) would have netted us 3rd place. With up to 30 seconds a lap less had we had access to top gear, we would have clinched second place and maybe even 1st. Oh well, there is always next year!! For a good race report see <http://www.greenpower.co.uk/events/final3.htm> and for photos of the event see <http://www.greenpower.co.uk/final4.htm>



Pit Stop action at the Greenpower Final

And now, 101 uses for bananas....

I don't know if you have noticed, but the bananas in the supermarkets seem to be of poorer appearance than usual. I wonder if it was caused by the hurricanes that have been marching across the Caribbean lately??

So, if the bananas are not up to scratch, try this, I think it's correct....

101 uses, no.3.

When I was at school, I used to get very hungry before lunch so my Mother made me some sandwiches. I can't remember why I didn't have real bananas in them, but this was a substitute, originally derived during the second world war when such luxuries (bananas) were not freely available. Perhaps some of you can verify the facts or the recipe!!

Dried dates (very finely chopped) mixed with grated apple, suitable blended and applied to sandwiches, makes a good substitute for bananas. Presumably dried dates were easier to get than bananas.....

And now, to brighten up the newsletter, here is a new photo of your chairman 'resting' – nothing unusual in that perhaps, but it was taken at 5 pm during the last week of term. A combination of advancing years and a busy life I suspect!!



November Meetings:

Remember, first Monday this month is to be a "B" meeting with the 3rd Monday becoming an "A" for a talk all about 5 MHz operations. Please make an effort to attend as the speaker is travelling a fair distance to make this presentation.

Gareth G4XAT

MEMBERS NEWS

Silent Key – Norman Billings G0LSN

I have been informed by Norman's XYL Barbara that he sadly passed away in September 2004. Norman had been a member since January 1992 and on behalf of the SRCC, I send our condolences to Barbara at this sad time.

John Kennedy M3MCX

I have been informed that John is unwell and waiting an operation. All members wish him well and a speedy recovery.

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.

Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society Annual Radio Bazaar

Sunday 21st November 2004 - 10am to 1pm ONLY

At 1st Coulsdon Scout HQ rear of Lion Green Road Public Car park, Lion Green Road, Coulsdon, Surrey. Entry £1 includes one free drink at the refreshment bar.

For further information and to reserve a table, please contact Dave Young G8VXB on Tele: 07880 740385

Email: dyoung@photo-scan.com

SIGNING OFF:

That is it for this month – timed out!! Monday 1st November is to be a "B" meeting whilst Monday 15th Nov is the main meeting this month on the 5MHz experiment where we look forward to lots of you there – thank you.

73 and 88 *Ray G4FFY*

Posted 28th Oct 2004

December's "A" meeting will be on Monday 6th Dec when we welcome John Stockley G8MNY for a talk on Susy Radio (www.susyradio.com)