



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

APRIL 2010 — No: 811

CLUB NET 1.905 MHz Sunday 9:30am
 CLUB NET 145.35 MHz +/- 25kHz Friday 8.00pm

Hon. Sec. Ray Howells G4FFY
 16 Handel Walk
 TONBRIDGE
 Kent TN10 4DG
 01732 357474

CLUB Internet WEB Site: <http://www.g3src.org.uk>

E-Mail: secretary@g3src.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

Meetings at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT

"A" MEETING 12th Apr 2010 70th Annual General Meeting

"B" MEETING 26th Apr 2010 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"

Chairman & Club Meetings	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020 8643 0491
Vice-Chairman & Publicity	G4WAY Roger Holyoake	020 8689 7089
Treasurer, Liaison & Equipment	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480
Secretary, Membership & Communications	G4FFY Ray Howells	01732 357474
VHF Co-ordinator	G8IYS John Simkins	020 8657 0454
Committee Member	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Committee Member (Co-Opted) - Technical	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020 8462 2837
Recycling	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480

Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the April 2010 Newsletter which is being edited Ray G4FFY. Summer is coming as we have had two short breaks in the Motor-Caravan, the first in the New Forest, the second in Oxfordshire. Kempton Show planning is well under way for Sunday 18th April and also been working on the SRCC Web site. Will be adding a member's only area, as well as a discussion board, in the coming months so kept checking the site

73 Ray G4FFY

This month's meetings:

Another year has gone by quickly and here we are at the 2010 AGM to be held on Monday 12th April. We hope we get a good turnout at Trinity School, as this is a barometer of the health of the club and endorsement of the work the committee does.

The other meeting this month is the regular "Fix-It" and "Move-It On" Meeting on Monday 26th April at Trinity School. More about these below:

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 12th Apr 2010 69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Formal notice of this ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was given in the last newsletter. This will be held on Monday 12th April at Trinity School 7.30 for 7.45pm. The minutes of the last AGM and Accounts will be available on the night, and these will need to be accepted. Email copies of the AGM minutes will be sent out over the weekend.

At the end of this newsletter are the AGENDA and also a nomination form for proposing members for the 2010/11 committee. The acceptance of the nominee must be obtained and the form must be in the hands of the committee prior to the Chairman opening the meeting.

The committee consists of the Secretary (to be separately nominated) and seven members. The names of nominees will be displayed on the blackboard before the meeting. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer will be selected from the seven elected members.

THIS MEETING IS PROBABLY, OR SHOULD BE, THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE YEAR. Please make an effort to attend even if you are not normally able to get along to other club meetings. This is your opportunity to elect your committee so please use the nomination slip at the end of this Newsletter for the person you would like to put forward. The retiring committee are all willing to stand again

At the AGM you will also be able to find out how the club has been operating during the past year, scrutinise the accounts, and to express your thoughts on Meetings, Contests, Projects, Outings etc, which does help the committee to plan ahead.

Please seriously consider standing, you will be most welcome. A nomination form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

NEXT "B" MTG: Monday 26th Apr 2010: 7.45pm FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting on Monday 26th April at Trinity School 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 - rigs, PCs, whatever! The collective heads at the meeting usually come up with something.

Chairman's Blog - Apr 2010



The next 'A' meeting, our AGM, is probably the most important meeting of the year, so I hope as many members as possible can attend. The new committee and officers to be elected will be busy not only with norm club organisation and administration but will have the 75th anniversary celebrations to finalise.

Last 'A' Meeting: This, as usual for the March 'A' meeting, was our Surplus Equipment Sale with Gareth G4XAT and Maurice G4DDY up front as auctioneers, and Peter G3ZPB and John G8IYS keeping track of the items sold and the buyers.



There were some surprises in what were the most sought after items, with reels of electrical cable generating some fierce competitive bids, as did an audio signal generator. There were several bargains to be had and one of them were LCD 4 line x 20 character display modules going for £2.50 each – a quarter of the 'street' price by my reckoning.



These are similar to the one's used in the club's PIC based frequency counter project, same interface but two additional lines of characters.

I actually came home with more money than I had spent at the sale having sold a Burns Electronics wavemeter for £10.

Kempton Park Radio Fair 18th April: With one sale over, the club is already preparing for the next when it will have its usual tables at this event. This event has been consistently successful for the club as a fund raising event, as well as being a good opportunity to socialise. If any members have any items that they would like sold on commission would they please contact Maurice G4DDY.

2M FM Net Friday evenings at 8pm on 145.35MHz (+ or – 25kHz if busy or QRM): This is still continuing but participation has been up and down, over the last few weeks. It has succeeded in getting members on who for whatever reason can't get on the Sunday Top Band net. It takes a while for a net like this to be established and habitual, so I leave myself a 'Post IT' as a reminder.

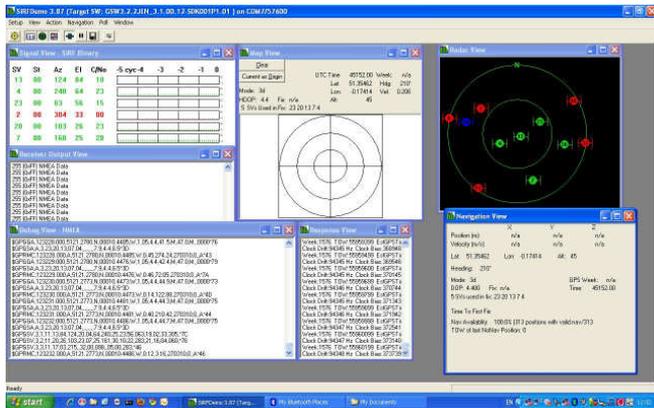
Project for Construction Evening: I reported last month that it was decided to go ahead with the LED table/inspection lamp proposed by Gareth G4XAT, and further details on this appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Bluetooth GPS Receiver: A circular e-mail from Morgan Computers caught my eye recently where it advertised a Bluetooth GPS receiver for £8.99. Well, I was tempted and ordered one and wasn't disappointed. It is a Jentro GPS4NOW model, slightly bigger than a credit card with a built-in Li-Poly battery and a USB socket for charging. All communication is via Bluetooth, apart from a button on the side for switching on or off. There are three LEDs on the front that function as status indicators for Bluetooth connectivity, GPS satellite acquisition, and battery state/charging.



The device is intended to be used with mobile phones and PDA's that have a mapping application capability but no GPS receiver.

It certainly has a very sensitive receiver and I was able to get a GPS 3D lock (4 or more satellites) while indoors sitting in an armchair about 15 feet from the nearest window. It uses the SiRF StarIII 20 channel chipset. I tested the receiver with my laptop that has Bluetooth capability that gave me a virtual serial connection (COM7) to the Jentro GPS4NOW. To decode the data stream I used the SiRF demo program which gives a very comprehensive interface to received data in either NMEA form or in SiRF binary form. A screen shot from the program is shown below:



The data available includes relative signal strength of each satellite in view, azimuth and elevation, a constellation diagram, NMEA data strings, clock drift, dilution of precision, and many more as well as the usual receiver positional data. What am I going to use it for? –well I'm not certain at the moment, but nonetheless an interesting gadget to play with. When I last checked they were still available at Morgan Computers, see:

<http://www.morgancomputers.co.uk/shop/detail.asp?ProductID=6070&CategoryID=404&SubCategoryID=417>

75th Anniversary Lunch October 10th 2010 (10/10/10 –an easy date to remember): location and how to get there details have been carried in the last two newsletters so I would hope that members have been able to ascertain possible or likely modes of travel, and would hope also that members will now be in a position to confirm their attendance if they haven't

Request for old photographs of club interest: I'm repeating my request, made last month, for members to dig out old photos of club interest that can be included in the 75th anniversary commemorative newsletter and displays. These will be carefully copied and then returned to owners, so please start looking!

SRCC Membership List: It has been a few years since the last one was published and I'm advised that the new one should be available for pick up at the AGM.

Operating: John G3BFP, as usual, e-mailed me recently, but not the usual list of DX worked but advising of a rig problem with his ICOM 7400, with a rather inaccessible choke having gone open circuit, so he has decided to take it down to Icom in Herne Bay for a repair. However, in the meantime, a loan of another Icom 7400 from John G3ENG has allowed him to get back on the air. A quick test on the air resulted in contacts with on 10MHz, 100 Watts and ZS6BQI on 18Mhz. Anyone else caught any DX recently?

That's all from me this month. I'm looking forward to seeing you all next Monday 12th April.

Pat G4FDN

5th Apr 2010

SRCC Construction evening - an 'illuminating' opportunity - Gareth G4XAT

"As I am unlikely to be back in time to attend the AGM I thought I'd write up what we have in store for you this year for our construction evening.

Modern LEDs are now powerful enough to not just replace incandescent lamps but to literally outshine them! From my recent talk you may have gleaned enough to get your own experiments underway but if not, here is a chance to

get your hands "on the gear" and start your own experiments.

Although my initial experiments were based on NiMH cells or converting IKEA style halogen desk lamps the wonders of the internet mean that something better is available.

Firstly, I have located what I call "China Drivers" – these are small ready-built SMD driver boards that can take AC or DC and safely drive 3 watt LEDs at 600 ma. They are perfect for a quick conversion of IKEA style ac halogen lamps – you just need to plug them in to the halogen socket, solder on your LED (which MUST be heat-sinked!!) and light will be forthcoming.

With modifications these same boards can deliver up to 1200 ma (1.2 amps) and with further modifications they can be made fully dimmable too – down to totally OFF.

All in all the chip used is incredibly versatile but, like most SMPSUs they can generate RFI and they need some overhead voltage to function – in this case about 2 volts. When running off a nominal 12 volts AC and driving a single LED this is not an issue. It's only as your chain of LEDs gets longer or your input voltage lower that difficulties arise. Wonderful though these driver chips are, I found out that they do not like driving inductive loads like small brushless heat-sink fans. If you want to use one of these you will have to sort out your own power supply for the job – but running the fan at between ½ and ¾'s of its rated voltage will keep it effective but relatively silent. Check your heat-sink temperature as excess heat is the fastest way to kill these power LEDs. You have been warned!

I am proposing a range of options that I intend will appeal to you all and by offering a "mix & match" service which you can pre-order, the bags of "goodies" will be available for you on the evening. As these kits are relatively expensive, don't expect much to be available 'on-spec' on the night – if you want stuff, please pre-order it! Cheques or exact cash will be fine, or sending a "gift" via PayPal (so neither of us pays commission) is also acceptable – make sure you indicate who you are and what you want though! Reservations in writing or by email will be fine too, with payment on the night. {Sec's Note: Order Form at the end of this Newsletter}

Due once again to the wonders of the internet, there is another neat little circuit that I can provide the parts for - a "Joule thief" – this is a simple blocking oscillator that drives an LED from 'flat' cells – typically once they have reached 'flat' as far as your digital camera is concerned, there still remains plenty of energy in them. It can be used to provide a small amount of light, or can" recharge a rechargeable" for free. Your chance to be sustainable!&

Pricing on this may well be under £2, to include various options, but it depends on how cheap I can find some suitable torrids – at the Kempton rally I hope! The circuit diagram is "free" though and I imagine that your average junk box would be well enough stocked to build one after the event. You can actually salvage most of the parts from a dead small CFL. The photographs give you an idea of what it is all about. {Sec's Note: Not received in time for publication}

Gareth, G4XAT."

THE CALENDAR SECTION

SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

1 st Apr	Sutton & Cheam RS – 'Natter Night' @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton –8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 www.scrs.org.uk
9 th Apr	Crystal Palace: Short Talks Evening @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill from 7:30pm. Bob G30OU 01737 552170 (Meet normally monthly on 1 st Friday) http://www.g3oou.co.uk/
9 th Apr	W&DARS: Surplus Equipment Sale @ Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, MERTON PARK SW20 9JZ – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/
12 th Apr	70th AGM
12 th Apr	CATS: Lecture on microwaves by Denis, G0OLX and Jim, G4WYJ – Meetings normally held @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 nd Monday's. Contact Andy Jackson G8JAC on 020-8651 2727 g8jac@btinternet.com
15 th Apr	Reigate Amateur Transmitting Society – Main meeting 3 rd Thursday's at RNIB, Redhill College, Philanthropic Road, Redhill 7.30pm. www.qsl.net/rats or rats@qsl.net
15 th Apr	Sutton & Cheam RS – Kite & Balloon Supported Antennas' by Roger Stafford G4ROJ @ 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
20 th Apr	Bromley & District – Meeting Programme Planning. Meetings normally on 3 rd Tuesday's @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8. Paul M3PGW bdars@greenwand.net or www.bdars.org.uk
26 th Apr	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On
27 th Apr	Dorking & District Radio Society - DF techniques and events - Alistair Watt G3ZBU. Meetings normally @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: David Smith M0SXD on 07808 579501, http://www.ddrs.org.uk or ddrs.secretary@yahoo.co.uk
30 th Apr	W&DARS: On The Air (SSB Operating) @ Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, MERTON PARK SW20 9JZ – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 http://www.gx3wim.org.uk/
10 th May	Project Constructing Project Evening
7 th Jun	Construction Contest
5 th Jul	Summer BBQ
2 nd Aug	TBA
6 th Sep	TBA
4 th Oct	Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale

10 th Oct	75th Anniversary Lunch – Sutton Holiday Inn
SRCC Meetings indicated in BOLD at venue of Trinity School	
Rally Calendar, etc:	
18 th Apr	Spring West London Radio & Electronics Show at Kempton Park – www.radiofairs.co.uk – Excalibur Demo – Opens 10am - £4
23 rd May	Dunstable Downs RC National Amateur Radio Car Boot Sale. Stockwood Park, Luton, M1 J10 Open 09:00. Talk in on S22 www.ddrcbootsale.org
6 th Jun	Newhaven Fort Amateur Radio Group Rally Newhaven Fort, East Sussex Open 10:30. Parking, boot sale, disabled facilities, family attractions, catering Contact Eddie G0ECW, 01273300772 or eddie@zamboodle.demon.co.uk
20 th Jun	Newbury Radio Rally & Boot Sale Newbury Showground, M4 J13. Open 09:00. Free parking, trade stands, catering, disabled facilities. Contact rally@nadars.org.uk http://www.nadars.org.uk/
25 th -27 th Jun	Hamtronic Show, Friedrichshafen Messe Friedrichshafen, Germany http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/index.php
Rally List	http://www.rsgb.org/events/index.php

SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month, apologies if I have missed anything while compiling this newsletter. For our main meeting on April 12th it is the AGM so please make every effort to attend and get your voice and views heard on how the Club should move forward in these times when it is getting harder to attract new blood. A nomination slip is attached if you would like to put yourself forward to work on the committee.

The "B" meeting is on April 26th. Don't forget we now start at 7:45pm at Trinity School.

The **Kempton Rally is on Sunday 18th April** – it will be good to see you all there – SRCC will be there – www.radiofairs.co.uk for more details.

Many thanks for the Newsletter contribution from Pat G4FDN – more always welcomed.

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 8th Apr 2010

Construction Project Order List

Name:

Qty:

Cost: £

China driver PCB, standard	1.50
3 watt power LED, cool white	3.50
Resistors to increase current	0.10
POT and knob to vary brightness	0.75
Fanned heat-sink, 5 volts	0.50
Fanned heat-sink, 12 volts	1.00
Piece of aluminium for heat-sink	0.00
Two fixing nuts and bolts	0.00
Joule Thief kit of bits	2.00

Total order: £



Ray G4FFY



Roger G4WAY



Gareth G4XAT



Maurice G4DDY



John G3MCX



Pat G4FDN



John G8IYS

Current 2009/2010 SRCC Committee



AGENDA FOR THE 70th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SRCC ON 12th APRIL 2010



1. CHAIRMAN declares nominations closed and meeting open.
2. MINUTES of previous AGM
3. CHAIRMAN's report
4. TREASURERS report. Accounts for 2009/2010
5. APPOINTMENT of Election Scrutineers (if necessary)
6. APPOINTMENT of Hon. Secretary
7. ELECTION of Committee. 7 posts
8. ELECTION of (from Committee)
 - (a) Treasurer,
 - (b) Chairman
 - (c) Vice Chairman
9. APPOINTMENT OF Accounts Independent Examiners
- Vote of thanks to previous year's
10. PRESENTATION of AWARDS
11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MEETING CLOSED.

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 2010 - 2011 (Please return to Ray Howells G4FFY or before AGM start)

I wish to nominate

For the position of **Secretary / Member** on the SRCC committee 2010 - 2011

If elected I agree to stand. Signed: Date

(You may wish to photocopy this form rather than spoil the Newsletter)