



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

## 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

### AUGUST 2018 – No 912

**SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy**

**CLUB NET** 1.905 MHz LSB Sunday 9:30am  
**CLUB NET** 70.30 MHz FM Thursday 8.00pm  
**CLUB NET** 145.35 MHz +/- 25kHz FM Friday 8.00pm

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

Hon. Sec. John Simkins G8IYS  
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 South Croydon  
 Surrey CR2 9LN  
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 E-mail: [secretary@g3src.org.uk](mailto:secretary@g3src.org.uk)

**MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm**  
**Meetings at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT**  
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**FIRST MEETING Monday 6 August: Short Talks**  
**Ray G4FFY: "Steam Dreams - Harz Mountain Explorer "**  
**Quin G3WRR: "The SRCC League Table - Why, What and the Story so Far".**  
  
**SECOND MEETING Monday 20 August: Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night,**  
**Social Chat over tea/coffee**  
**with John G8MNY**

**SRCC Committee 2018/19**

Chairman & Club Meetings	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737 551413
Vice Chairman	M0LEP Rick Hewett	01689 851472
Hon.Secretary & Newsletter Editor	G8IYS John Simkins	020 8657 0454
Treasurer & Membership Records	G4FFY Ray Howells	01732 357474
Resources, Fund Raising and Liaison	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480
Contest Co-ordinator	G3WRR Quin Collier	020 8653 6948
Committee Member and Events	G6JXA Kim Brown	07812 735507
Publicity	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Webmaster (Co-opted)	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143

**Dear Members & Friends**

Hello and welcome to the 912th edition, the August 2018 Issue, of the SRCC Newsletter - edited by John G8IYS Hon Sec..

**Hon Sec/Editorial Spot**

Thank you to all who have returned their membership renewal forms promptly and also those who have made the necessary funds transfer. Those who have not done one or both, please do not delay.

It is worth reminding all readers, yet again, that the contact email address for all SRCC business (that is formal - both internal and external) contact with SRCC is [secretary@g3src.org.uk](mailto:secretary@g3src.org.uk) . That

email address routes all incoming messages to all members of the SRCC Committee. This ensures that any message will be seen by the committee member responsible for a particular activity, as shown in the banner above and, just as importantly, any substitute from time-to-time to cover any absence.

To pick up on the main theme of on-air conversations throughout Europe and many other parts of the world: "Rather warm here, at the moment!". After many weeks of yellowing lawns and diminishing levels of garden birdlife overflights, the sky rumbled - but very gently, and a light drizzle started. In my neck of the woods, this differed somewhat from the forecast storm and tempest. Nevertheless, a welcome break. Already, patches of green have appeared in my lawn and the performance of my Inverted L antenna, tuned against ground, seems to have improved. Over the month, a few Sporadic E lifts have appeared on 6m and 10m, but short in duration and distances worked. It would have been good if my 4m kit had been in operation, to sample the reported Tropo and Es lifts thereon, but that remains a little further down the list of "must dos". Thankfully, my electrician has risen like the phoenix, after a couple of months sick absence, and only a couple more days of further work remain to be completed at the home QTH. When I wrote the previous sentence, little did I suspect that the mains power would be off just when I was putting Newsletter to bed. Consequently, it is late this month. Holidays beckon with vigour...

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

**First Meeting: Monday 6 August: Short Talks comprising Ray G4FFY: "Steam Dreams - Harz Mountain Explorer " and Quin G3WRR: "The SRCC League Table - Why, What and the Story so Far".**

**Second Meeting: Monday 20 August: Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat over tea/coffee with John G8MNY**

## **PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**First Meeting Monday 2 July: SRCC Summer Barbecue at QTH of G4CCY and G4DDY.**

The annual SRCC barbecue was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July at the home of Prim G4CCY and Maurice G4DDY in Wallington as usual. The exact number of attendees is not certain (one doesn't make a habit of counting exact numbers at such events!) but it is estimated at just over twenty. Most of these were long time stalwarts but it was good to see newer members Paul Beaumont G7VAK, Carl White and John Smith attending for the first time. The weather was kind to us, although the lack of cloud cover meant that it got a tad chilly later on. Actually there is not a lot to say about the barbecue itself (after all who really wants to be told, for example, that G8IYS ate three sausages and two burgers?) other than to note that as before Peter G3ZPB ran the grill itself par excellence (does that make him a Burgermeister?) and that those present seemed to enjoy it. There were not even any exciting events such as the one last year in which Peter G3ZPB, grill tongs in hand, fell off the patio into the flower bed behind. Many thanks to those who did all the preparations, particularly Maurice and Prim for hosting it, Peter for cooking and Sandra Kennedy (wife of John G3MCX) for producing a choice of two excellent desserts. Advance bookings for 2019 are now being taken.... **73, Quin G3WRR**

**Second Meeting 16 July: Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat over tea/coffee with John G8MNY.**

No report.

## CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Well, I hope you are all enjoying this long, hot summer!!!! Even during our family holiday in England (Isle of Wight actually, so it was overseas!!!) we enjoyed wall-to-wall sunshine every day; I think I could get used to this!

I don't remember such a hot and sunny VHF NFD weekend as we had this year; even doing the early Sunday-morning shift, there was no dew on the ground, it was so warm and dry. Looking at the "Claimed Scores", we seem to have done fairly well – 2<sup>nd</sup> on 6m, 3<sup>rd</sup> on 4m, 5<sup>th</sup> on 2m and 3<sup>rd</sup> on 70cms. One can't read too much into these figures because the final results use "normalised" scores and it depends how other clubs' totals compare, but time will tell – not to mention everyone's logging accuracy.

The results have been published for the June UKAC and I was 34<sup>th</sup> of 114 entrants which I am very pleased with and certainly my highest position in this event. I lost a few points due to logging errors which might have pushed me up one more place. Conditions for the July event were more normal and my claimed score was nearly 9000 points from 35 QSOs so well down on the June figures. I was yet again the only SRCC entrant so we are still 21<sup>st</sup> on 70cms but tantalisingly close to the Leicester Club, so come on you other members active on 70cms, give it a try and let's see if we can at least get into the "top 20" ????

Some non-radio events have kept me entertained this month – a day at the "Goodwood Festival of Speed" was good. It was the only day for two months when we had some rain! Just a very short shower lasting only a few minutes that was just enough to make the car VERY dirty!!!!

Then last week, I was given the opportunity to drive some very expensive, very fast cars round a racing track at Loughborough. A few laps driving a Ferrari, Porsche and Aston Martin was certainly exhilarating!

That's all for this month; hope to see lots of you at the "Short Talks Evening" on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**73 and 88, Peter G3ZPB.**

## SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – RESULTS FOR JUNE 2018

The second (June) session of the SRCC League Table again attracted entries from seven members – one of last month's entrants didn't submit an entry this time but this is compensated for by one new entrant! The results are listed below in order of points this month:

ENTRANT	TOTAL SCORING QSOs	SCORING CONTEST QSOs	SCORING INTRA-SRCC QSOs	POINTS THIS MONTH	CUMULATIVE POINTS THIS YEAR
G4LZE	119			238	348
G8IYS	37	10		84	84
G4FYF	38		1	78	148
G3EUE	19	15		53	72
G3WRR	14	14		42	210
G3ZPB	12	12		36	99
M0LEP	6		1	14	28
G4WGE					130

Colin G4LZE, in third place last month, moves up to top place in June – and also hits top spot based on cumulative score so far. He has certainly been busy on both HF and VHF. His HF tally was 58 DXCC entities ("countries") mostly on the 7, 14 and 18MHz bands – and again all using FT8. And on VHF he has really been making the most of the current sporadic E season with an

impressive 61 Maidenhead “big squares” in 21 DXCC entities. John G8IYS delivered on his promise to submit an entry this month: he too made the most of the sporadic E with 37 big squares, ten of which were worked in the June 6m UK Activity Contest. One interesting observation is that all Ted G3EUE’s contacts were made on 10m, which suggests that despite the state of the sunspot cycle the band cannot be completely discounted at present and is worth looking at regularly for openings. And the fact that all his contacts were on CW indicates the effectiveness of the mode when conditions are marginal! [73, Quin G3WRR](#)

## VHF NFD 2018

Several members of SRCC took part in VHF NFD on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> July. Most of the sections of this contest require erection of four stations, manning them for a 24 hour period and taking them down at the end. This is a major call on resources and many clubs (SRCC included) do not have enough contest oriented members to enter on their own. Hence it is common practice for clubs to combine together to put on an entry. SRCC has entered on this basis as part of North East Surrey Contest Group (NESCAG) every year since 2008 (SRCC having entered in its own right prior to that date, going back to the first VHF NFD in 1963). NESCAG was pulled together by John G8IYS and in addition to SRCC consisted initially of Addiscombe ARC (G4ALE) and a looser grouping of amateurs from Coulsdon ATS and Wimbledon & DRS, initially led by Jim G4WYJ. From the beginning, responsibility for stations was split, with the G4ALE team supplying equipment and operators for 6m & 4m plus centralised power, the W&DRS group, plus a couple also with membership of SRCC provided equipment and operators for 2m, CATS supported operation on 70cm, with equipment and most operators being provided by SRCC. At the beginning, CATS also provided a Clarke pump-up mast for the 70cm station. This coordinated-divided-station-responsibility arrangement has been maintained over the ensuing 10 years, with many of the original people still involved, while embracing some new joiners. The equipment employed by all stations has kept pace with technological developments. The only major change is that each station now provides its own power, which allows more flexibility, for example in relative positioning of the stations. The site used throughout has been on Warlingham Ridge just off the B239, and a good relationship has been developed with the farmer.

6m and 4m (6m running from 1400 – 2200 UTC on the Saturday and 4m from 0800 – 1400 UTC on the Sunday, thus allowing a sort of “two bands for the price of one”) used the call G4ALE/P using an Icom IC7300 and a dual band 6m/4m beam of 8 elements at 30ft: this was a major advantage over the previous arrangement with separate antennas which necessitated getting up very early on Sunday to drop the mast and swap the 6m beam with the 4m one! Operators were Mike G3VYI (station leader), Phil G4EFT, Steve G4SDM and Matt M0JSB.

2m, using the call G0SAC/P, was led by Alun G4WGE supported by Jim G4WYJ, Dennis G0OLX and Andrew G1KAG. The station comprised an Elecraft K3S and an Anglian transverter driving a linear feeding an 18 element Cushcraft beam at 30ft.

But since this is the SRCC Newsletter, let’s focus on the 70cm station provided by SRCC! This used the call G8IYS/P. The equipment consisted of an Elecraft K3 transceiver (with P3 panadaptor) driving a DEMI transverter, linear and 28 element loop Yagi antenna, with a masthead preamp in the receive path. The linear has an output capability of 300W p.e.p. , with the result that at an output of 100W (the maximum permitted by the Restricted section which NESCAG had entered) it was just idling along which, together with a well designed prime mover and transverter operating well within their design limits, helped ensure that the transmitted signal was clean. This is always important, but particularly so in VHF portable contests where stations using high power and high gain antennas can be almost within line of sight of each

other, resulting in exceptionally strong received signals. For instance, one station was putting a signal of S9+60dB into our receiver when both antennas were pointing at each other. In such circumstances, spurious transmit signals that are sufficiently far down to cause no problems in a normal operating environment become significant. Even if the transmit signal is clean, such strong signals can also cause overload problems on the receiving side if the setup has not been well designed (particularly in terms of gain distribution and oscillator noise performance) and these manifest themselves as “wide” signals - ones which appear to spread outside than the necessary bandwidth. Fortunately in the case of the S9+60dB signal referred to, good design in the K3 and transverter ensured that no significant problems were experienced. The station was established in John G8IYS’s trailer tent. This really has to be seen, as it is a masterpiece of good design and sturdy construction – despite being 20 years old it is hardly starting to show its age.

Members of the team started arriving on site from around 3pm on the Friday (as permitted by the rules) and by around 6pm we had the mast and antenna up and trailer tent positioned at its base and unfurled, with all the gear inside it. By this time most of us were starting to suffer from heatstroke, so it was decided that that was enough for one day. John G8MNY, Ray G4FFY and his wife Caroline (plus dogs) stayed on site overnight, but John G8IYS and I opted to go home. On our way home John and I stopped at a hostelry on Warlingham Green for a pint – purely to avoid the risk of dehydration as I am sure readers will appreciate.

John G8IYS, Peter G3ZPB and myself arrived bright and early (well, early anyway) next morning and we proceeded to assemble the station. One of our other VHF NFD regulars, Peter G7PWV was unable to attend having (wisely) decided to go on holiday but he very kindly provided us with a box full of goodies to eat and drink. In addition to persuading all the bits of gear to talk to each other, getting the ergonomics of the station right is a key factor in its efficiency. This year we tried a new technique to get over problems of earlier years where some of the operators were able to both operate and maintain the computer log, and some were not. This involved the use of two monitors (full explanation available for a small fee...) which meant that keeping all the gear on the trailer tent’s compact internal table risked a gravitationally assisted disaster – so we tried a “double decker” approach with rig, panadapter, keyboard, key and scrap paper on the table itself and the monitors, transverter and other bits on a raised shelf above. This worked very well – and seems significantly reduced our logging error rate. With power connected (from the new generator that the club purchased last year – it ran flawlessly and was very quiet and frugal with petrol) we could make sure the antenna and masthead preamp were working OK (they were – we picked up what we thought was the Wrotham beacon and it turned out to be PE7CIS in the Netherlands). So that looked promising. We then got the logging computer talking to the rig, checked that the power output was within the limit set by the rules, and made sure that that the microphone gain, audio tailoring and speech compression were set correctly to produce a punchy but not too over-compressed signal. And we were ready to go with some time to spare!

We got off to a steady if not lightning fast start, working mostly fairly local, strong UK stations interspersed by a few Europeans (France, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland) at 500km or so. And so it progressed to around 2030 UTC, by which time we had 49 contacts “in the book”. In the meantime I had gone to do the “chip shop run” to get comestibles for those with non-discriminating culinary tastes (as well as getting petrol to keep the generator fed). This proved to be an amusing episode.....The farmer had chosen to keep the top gate closed, so it was necessary to go out via the bottom end of the fsite. Snag – the bottom gate was closed and padlocked. Back to site with a string of fluent Anglo Saxon not to be repeated in a respectable journal such as this. The good news was that John G8IYS had been told where the key to the top gate was....The bad news was that we had to find it – in the dark. After a bit of detective

work worthy of Inspector Morse (ho ho ho), we located it.. But good things come to those who wait....we finally obtained, and ate, our piscine rations. Meanwhile back at the contest, 70cm was hotting up. Between 2040 and 2250 UTC we made ten contacts, seven of which were outside the UK, in France, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark (at 784km). When this little flurry had subsided we went to bed quite pleased with ourselves. John G8IYS got up early (just before 0500 UTC) to find that the fabled “dawn lift” that Ted G3GKF used to lecture us on as callow youths was actually happening! By 0630 when things had subsided we had got another ten contacts, nine of which were on the mainland Europe, including our best DX, OK2A (Czech Republic) at 906km. After that it was a steady slog to make a further 21 contacts in the remaining seven and a half hours – about par for the course. Operating was mostly carried out by Quin G3WRR, Peter G3ZPB, Ray G4FFY, John G8IYS and John G8MNY who took it in turns. The site was visited by Andrew G4ADM, Steve G4FYF (both of whom took a turn at operating on 70cm), John G3MCX, Peter G3RQZ and Colin G4LZE – the latter’s first visit to a Field Day site. He pronounced it “superb”

And then it was all over, and time to dismantle the stations. By this time we were nearly all exhausted by heat and thirst...at this point my son Guy turned up to help us dismantle, and what is more, bearing bottles of chilled water – a life saver. Guy is not remotely interested in the hobby (showing that he has made at least one good life choice) but is always happy to turn out and help his sad old father. So not long after five clock time we all got away to our homes, and all that was left to do was unpack the cars and reinstate our stations. But that’s another story.....

Our submitted log results are as follows:

BAND	CALL	QSOs	DXCC ENTITIES	BIG SQUARES	CLAIMED SCORE	BEST DX	KM
6m	G4ALE/P	93	13	29	26729	EA8CQS	2909
4m	G4ALE/P	77	6	22	14412	GM4ZUK/P	651
2m	G0SAC/P	267	13	54	62819	OL7C	906
70cm	G8IYS/P	89	11	28	24227	OZ1ALS	906

This is a satisfying result, and a best guess is that this will put us in around 4<sup>th</sup> place, much the same as last year. Many thanks to all club members and others who operated, supported or visited – hope to see you again next year! **73, Quin G3WRR**

## 2m Tape Measure Antenna in free HackSpace magazine this month.

Submitted by Mike M1CCF

To help his 8-year-old nephew get an amateur radio license, the writer looked for a project that was “easy, fast, and required few tools or skills”

He adapted the 144 MHz measuring tape antenna, designed by ham radio operator Joe Leggio WB2HOL ([hsmag.cc/QcfEZL](http://hsmag.cc/QcfEZL)), to help his nephew understand the fundamentals of antennas and other associated topics.

The article appears on page 65 of Issue 8 of the free HackSpace magazine that can be downloaded from <https://hackspace.raspberrypi.org/issues> along with all 7 previous issues, some of which contain radio related items.

Hackspace in East London was given an RSGB award for their Amateur Radio related work. Is this something that other clubs could adopt?



## Future SRCC Meetings

06/08/18	Short Talks by Ray G4FFY and Quin G3WRR
20/08/18	Fix-it, Move-it-on and Informal Social
03/09/18	Echo Satellites by George Emsden M0TPH
17/09/18	Fix-it, Move-it-on and Informal Social
01/10/18	Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale and Special Catalogue Sale
15/10/18	Fix-it, Move-it-on and Informal Social

## Other Local Club Meetings.

21 Aug	<p><b>Bromley &amp; District ARS</b></p> <p>Operating and Social</p> <p>Normal Meetings are held on third Tuesdays 7.30 for 8.00pm @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Bromley, Kent.</p> <p>Contact Andy G4WGZ on 01689 878089 or enquiries(at)bdars.co.uk.</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.bdars.co.uk">www.bdars.co.uk</a></p>
13 Aug	<p><b>Coulsdon ATS</b></p> <p>CATS Barbecue.</p> <p>Meetings are held at 8pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month at St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley.</p> <p>Contact Terry Giles G4CDY via secretary@ catsradio.org</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.sthost.co.uk/webpace/cats/start.html">http://www.sthost.co.uk/webpace/cats/start.html</a></p>

16 Aug	<p><b>Sutton &amp; Cheam RS</b></p> <p>SOTA for Beginners with Richard G8ITB</p> <p>Meets 8pm on 3rd Thursday every month. They also run a practical group most Monday evenings at the Banstead Scout Hut.</p> <p>Contact John Puttock G0BWV on 020 8644 9945 or email <a href="mailto:info@scrs.org.uk">info(at)scrs.org.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.scrs.org.uk/">http://www.scrs.org.uk/</a></p>
02 Aug	<p><b>Horsham Amateur Radio Club</b></p> <p>Photo Quiz with Andrew M0GJH</p> <p>Normally meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Guide Hall, 20 Denne Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1JF. NRQ TQ172304 at 20.00hrs local time. Contact Alister Watt G3ZBU at <a href="mailto:g3zbu@hotmail.com">g3zbu(at)hotmail.com</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.harc.org.uk/">http://www.harc.org.uk/</a></p>
24 Jul	<p><b>Dorking &amp; District Radio Society</b></p> <p>South Downs Evening</p> <p>Meetings at 7.45pm. Contact: David Browning (M6DJB) at <a href="mailto:djb.abraxas@btinternet.com">djb.abraxas(at)btinternet.com</a>.</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.ddrs.org.uk">http://www.ddrs.org.uk</a></p>
17 Aug	<p><b>Crystal Palace R&amp;EC</b></p> <p>Summer Social</p> <p>All Saints Church, Beulah Hill (Normally meets monthly on first Friday). Contact: Bob G30OU 01737 552170</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.g3oou.co.uk">http://www.g3oou.co.uk</a></p>
02 Aug	<p><b>Cray Valley Radio Society</b></p> <p>DXing for Beginners with Fred G3SVK</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Royal Eltham Scouts HQ, Rear of 61-71 Southend Crescent, Eltham, London SE9 2SD</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.cvrs.org">www.cvrs.org</a></p>

**More on next page**





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24<sup>th</sup> July 2018

## Press Release

### Guildford 100

#### Celebrating 100 years of Amateur Radio in Guildford

In 1918 a group of enthusiasts interested in the new hobby of Amateur Radio formed a group in Guildford and named it the Guildford Wireless Alliance and there has been at least one Amateur Radio society in Guildford ever since. Now 100 years later, the Guildford & District Radio Society, Wey Valley Amateur Radio Group and the Guildford Repeater group are pleased to celebrate 100 years of Amateur Radio in Guildford. We will be running a Special Event Station over the August Bank Holiday (25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> August) and would like to work as many stations as possible. We aim to be on HF, VHF and digital modes and maybe DMR on the Guildford repeater GB7GF. We would also like as many amateurs that can make it to visit our Special Event Station at the Guildford Model Engineers HQ, London Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1TU. Further details from Timothy Dabbs, G7JYQ [sec.gdrs@virginmedia.com](mailto:sec.gdrs@virginmedia.com)

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T.W. Dabbs' with a horizontal line underneath.

#### **Timothy Dabbs, G7JYQ (Hon. Sec. GDRS)**

Please could you forward this to all your members? We would like clubs to come and put on a display (whatever suits you) of a radio related nature. If you can do this we will be setting up on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and breaking down on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018. If you wish to take part, I need to know by Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August at the latest.

Also we will be having a BBQ on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August commencing at 5pm. Again you will be most welcome, but I need to know numbers by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August. We plan to make the first burger/sausage free and then a nominal amount for further ones.

Soft drinks will be provided at 50 pence per can, but if you wish to bring your own drink you will be more than welcome.

73 de Timothy Dabbs (Hon. Sec. Guildford & District Radio Society)

#### **Sign Off**

Another one bites the dust. I am always delighted (surprised) to receive copy. It would be helpful if it were in dot odt or dot doc format, not pdf, text body in Arial 12pt and with separate photos/diagrams. Next copy date, for the September Newsletter, is 25 August.

**73. John G8IYS. Editor and Hon Sec.**