



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

83rd Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

March 2018 – No 907

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

Hon. Sec. John Simkins G8IYS
 18 Riding Hill
 Sanderstead
 South Croydon
 Surrey CR2 9LN
 020 8657 0454

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

E-mail: secretary@g3src.org.uk

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

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

**1st MEETING Monday 5 March: Spring Surplus Equipment Sale
 with auctioneer Gareth G4XAT.**

**2nd MEETING Monday 19 March: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat
 with John G8MNY**

SRCC Committee 2017/18

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
Equipment Resources, Fund Raising and Liaison	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480
Club 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	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143

Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the 907th edition, the March 2018 Issue, of the SRCC Newsletter - edited by your Hon Sec John G8IYS.

As I write, there is a semi-blizzard at the IYS eyrie. The 8.30 am walk to school with my grandson Owain was a little testing. Although the sun is now shining brightly, the forecast is grim. No antenna work outside for me for a little while longer then.

I have spent some more time on 60m and

found it to be rather interesting. Despite the splintered nature of the UK frequency allocation, programming the 14 or so (various-mode/bandwidth) channels into my transceiver's memory has helped me stay legal. I have noted quite a lot of activity from Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and Irish Republic as well as UK. My biggest surprise was Norway, at well over S9 signal strength. A little frustration has arisen when some continental stations operate within their WRC-17 allocation, but on frequencies not

available for transmission in UK. My antenna is not very suitable for NVIS, but I am fairly happy with my experiences so far. To the best of my knowledge, I have not worked any SRCC members on this band and I wonder who else is active here. An email would be good to arrange a sked and exchange our experiences.

Twiddles across 40 and 80m have produced regular contacts with John G8MNY – at about 30dB over S9, since we are only a couple of miles apart, plus occasionally Jim G4WYJ in the west country, at good strength. Late afternoons and early mornings have delivered east coast USA and Canada. Much to my surprise I copied a VK6 on 40m today. He was in QSO with a DL. The DL was running 1 kW to a 4 element yagi (!!!!) – so was quite loud with me. The VK was running 300W, but I could not copy much more than that on my 40m long inverted L. I wonder if I could get away with a HexBeam at my QTH?

NEXT MEETINGS

First Meeting Monday 5 March. Spring Surplus Equipment Sale.

Just a few Rules:

It is very helpful for sellers to be in the meeting room by 7:30pm and to bring no boxes of “rubbish” please.

All members and visitors whom they have brought along must sign the attendance book and all must be conversant with the rules. Note that the club accepts no responsibility for goods sold at this private sale, and the purchasers buy on the understanding that they are capable of determining the usability, fitness for purpose and SAFETY of goods obtained.

The following also apply:

1. Only SRCC members are permitted to sell.
2. All items not donated for the benefit of the Club must be marked with the name or call-sign of the vendor, a brief description and details of any reserve price.
3. Bids shall start at 50p and increment in

steps of 50p up to £10 and £1 steps thereafter – unless determined otherwise by the auctioneer.

4. Sellers will not be paid until all buyers have settled up.
5. The club levies 15% on all transactions.
6. Please do not obstruct the doorway. This will facilitate escape in case of fire.
7. The school premises are NO-SMOKING

Gareth G4XAT, our resident auctioneer, has recently expressed a view that our sales are not as entertaining and rewarding to undertake as in the past and maybe no longer offer the items that are appealing to members. They seem little interested in components (demand over a year from our extensive component bank has been close to nil), but do favour wire and cable. The Committee feels similarly that all is not well with our surplus sales, but as yet is unsure what to do about it. We could do just one sale a year, but that does not really address the malaise. We have rather a lot of quality equipment which we have made available for members to take on loan, but demand has been close to nil. We could sell it off via various avenues, including open or closed bidding. It is obvious that no-one is likely to be willing to bring several hundred pounds sterling to a club-based auction. Ideas solicited,

Nevertheless, do look through your no longer wanted items and bring them along.

Second Meeting Monday 19 February. Fix-it, Move-it-on, Social.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

First Meeting Monday 5 Feb: Have Computers Killed-off Amateur Radio as We Know It? with Peter G3ZPB

This somewhat light-hearted talk was aimed at exploring the ways in which computers have impacted on some aspect of Amateur Radio. He started with the scenario of someone wanting to have a QSO with GB1BM. Confining ourselves to the phone

sections of the HF bands gives approx 2.8MHz to search. If we assume an SSB "channel" takes approx 3kHz of spectrum, this means there are around 900 "channels" to search to find GB1BM. If you spend 10 seconds on each frequency to see if it is being used by GB1BM, this will take around two and a half hours. But GB1BM might be listening rather than transmitting so you might have to double this to 5 hours!!!

There has to be a better way!

Ray 'FFY, then used his mobile phone to access the website "www.HRDlog.net" and searched for GB1BM. The site indicated that GB1BM was using a frequency of 14.175MHz. Peter removed the cover over his rig and showed it was tuned to 14.175MHz !! Total time of less than five minutes! Maybe a computer has something to offer here

The rig was the Yaesu FT991 which was connected via a direct USB connection to a computer running "Log4OM" software. The computer was connected to the internet using a WiFi connection to a portable "dongle" via the mobile phone network.

The second scenario was keeping the Station Log. A conventional paper logbook or a computer running "Log4OM" ??

The Log4OM software automatically tracks the Date and Time plus the Frequency and Mode of the connected rig during a QSO. It also had a live connection to the "HamQTH" database to look up name and location of the station being contacted, plus a direct link to "HRDlog.net" website enabling others to look up the frequency being used at that time (as demonstrated during the first scenario). After the QSO, all the data is stored on computer and at some later date, the logbook can be uploaded to a number of Amateur Radio websites such as "QRZ.com" etc.

The third scenario was Contest Logging. Peter showed a "Contest Duplicate" sheet that we used to use on VHF NFD contests some years ago. The modern option is to use "MINOS 2" software. This latest version of the program we have been using on VHF

NFD for a number of years now allows direct connection to the rig and rotator, thus recording the Frequency and Mode in use direct to the log. Duplicates are immediately identified plus the number of points claimed is displayed at the end of the QSO. There is a facility to memorise the callsign and frequency of up to 10 stations - allowing a rapid return to check if a wanted station is calling CQ. When a QRA Locator is entered, the bearing (and nominal distance) is displayed so the beam can be pointed in the correct direction for maximum signal. If a suitable rotator is connected, this latter function can be carried out automatically!

The fourth scenario was a demonstration of Data Communications using WSJT-X software. First, a recording of the signal transmitted by the GB3VHF beacon was played to show what a "JT65" signal sounds like. Peter then showed how a QSO using JT65 mode can be accomplished. Almost automatic with two computers communicating with each other via radio! Far removed from an AM QSO using a crystal controlled transmitter and separate receiver of 40 years ago!!!

The final display was of a Shack Clock. A typical wall clock often used in the shack might be accurate to the nearest minute. A typical computer "clock" might be accurate to a few seconds or if set to update automatically, perhaps one tenth of a second. Peter showed a "clock face" on the computer reputed to be accurate to within a few tens of milliseconds using special software to compensate for the latency of internet connections. Normally, of course, this level of accuracy is unnecessary, except when using most of the WSJT-X modes where there are closely defined time slots when your station can transmit and getting this right to within a few tens of milliseconds is good manners (and causes less QRM).

That completes Peter's summary and he is greatly thanked for his talk and writing it up himself.

Second Meeting Monday 19 February: Fix-it, Move-it-on, Social.

No report

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Hello everyone. Any thoughts that the warmer Spring weather is imminent look like being dashed with sub-zero temperatures now forecast for the next week of nights! And I want to get out there and re-connect my 2m antenna feeder!

But before looking forward, let's review this past month's activities at G3ZPB....

Two contest results to report on: January UKAC (70cms SSB) where I was 74th of 112 entrants. This is my worst ever position with a normalised score of 348 - confirming my earlier thoughts that perhaps all was not well with the installation. Overall, this result puts SRCC in 20th position out of 23 clubs as I was the only entrant from the club. Room for improvement I think!!!

The second contest was the 70cms Affiliated Societies Contest held on the morning of 4th February. Here I scored 554 points from only 10 QSOs giving a normalised score of 37 (!!!!) with the best DX being 126kms - definitely a clear indication that something was very wrong. The result put me 71st of 100 - an even worse result than the previous UKAC. Thanks to support from Quin, G3WRR, the Club finished 40th out of 56. The only good thing to take away from these two contests for me was that my logging was 100% accurate which is the main reason for me entering them.

Reflecting on the disastrous results spurred me on to investigate why my signals were so poor. I have two of these Tonna 22element beams so I decided to strip down the one not in the sky, clean all the metal contacts and re-assemble it before replacing the one in the sky. Up on the roof with a power meter and in spite of 20W from the transmitter, less than 2W was getting to the antenna - that doesn't sound right! Eventually, I traced the fault to the masthead preamplifier. It would seem that

one (or both) relays were not releasing fully for "straight-through" operation. I took it down to the bench and attempted to strip it down - you can only go so far in this process and certainly not down to the board. However, repeated switching of the 12volt supply and hence relays, freed them and seemed to be 100% reliable. Back up on the roof to re-connect everything and this time 5W at the end of the feeder - a definite improvement on 2W but still a considerable loss. A measurement of the cable run shows it to be nearly 30m of some rather old UR213/U cable. I think, perhaps, time for some new cable. Results back in the shack showed some improvement and the GB3UHF beacon is now stronger than it has ever been, so rebuilding the antenna was definitely a good move and the February UKAC performance shows a considerable improvement (more details next month). I'll let you know when the new cable is installed and what difference that makes.

The other radio-related activity concerns the Club website. Some of you may have noticed the "Newsletter Archive" pages on the website have shrunk significantly. Whereas we used to keep archives back to 1998, we now only keep the last two or three year's worth of Newsletters on the site. The older ones have been moved to a new home on the Club's "Google Drive". This has been done for two reasons:- the first is to reduce the size of the database running the website and thus speed up access and the other is to try and reduce the number of spurious "hits" the website gets from certain overseas countries who seem to think there maybe some "interesting" data stored in those files!!!! Any SRCC Member who wants access to the Google Drive, please send an email using the "Contact Us" form on the website, and we'll email you the link.

And finally, a big "thank you" to Ray and Maurice for arranging such a successful Dinner last Friday evening. Over 20 members and friends sat down to a very enjoyable meal at Park Place in Mitcham. The general view seemed to be it was so good that perhaps we should do it again next year. Well, that's all for this month; hope to see

many of you at the Club Sale on the 5th March.

73, Peter G3ZPB.

GREETINGS COMMUNICATION FROM TED JONES G3EUE

Hi John,.Having read the latest SRCC newsletter I thought it was about time I made contact with you again to report, as a country member, that I still exist. It is great to read of the Club's activities and to know that many of the Old Guard are still plugging away. Regrettably, I find the articles increasingly technically incomprehensible now that there are few references to 6V6s and the like but that's progress for you.

I am still active on HF. My local club is the Worthing group and fortunately a good friend, who actually lives almost in Bramber, picks me up for the weekly meetings because I gave up driving last year and haven't driven at night for some time. We have 60 plus members and usually see around 20 of an evening. My gear continues in the same basic setup with a simple end-fed 60' wire down the garden (not much choice) but have progressed from a Kenwood TS520 to a 570 and recently changed to the 590 which I like. I spend most of my activity on CW and at times use a paddle which used to belong to Nobby G3BFP. I do get on the mike occasionally with the Club's 40 metre net on Thursday mornings, 7106 at 11.00 am.

Bramber is quite an active small village. Have given up being a parish councillor due to transport difficulties to attend outside meetings whilst other activities are now too heavy ! I wanted to get involved with something and my friend, Neville Bridle, M5NEV, who is involved with the Amberley Museum, invited me down to have a look at the radio section. I am now an official Volunteer and spend very happy Fridays , CW only, operating GB2CPM on the HF bands. A GB call catches a few ears. The authorities seem pleased because I think I

may be the only regular volunteer who operates that mode and there have been several interesting contacts with visitors who have been ex-RAF or knew family members who had been in signals. A few thought that Morse was completely a thing of the past ! Great fun and the other people there I know from the Worthing Club only operate SSB on the other days and are happy to leave the day to me.

Healthwise we are reasonably OK. Inevitably up and down but that is to be expected. Fortunately, we have several family-at-large members living in the area, so plenty of regular contacts. The two oldest sons are still in Tasmania with expanded families - we now have six great grandchildren ! I begin to feel like George Burns who is reputed to have said " I am much more contented now that I have got my children settled in a care home !"

Cheers for now and 73 to my friends at the Club. Ted, G3EUE

BEST HEALTH WISHES TO STEVE G4FYF

If the programme is running to time Steve G4FYF will by now have received his second replacement hip and will be bouncing about soon like Zebedee in Magic Roundabout. Good luck Steve and a speedy recovery. 73 from us all.

Future SRCC Meetings

05/03/18	Spring Surplus Equipment Sale
19/03/18	Fix-it, Move-it-on and Informal Social
02/04/18	Annual General Meeting
16/04/18	Fix-it, Move-it-on and Informal Social

14/05/18	The Role of an RSGB Regional Manager by Mick Senior G4EFO
21/05/18	Fix-it, Move-it-on and Informal Social

Other Local Club Meetings.

20 Mar	<p>Bromley & District ARS</p> <p>Technical Lecture.</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. Web: www.bdars.co.uk</p>
12 Mar	<p>Coulsdon ATS</p> <p>HF Aerials and ATUs with Bob G300U.</p> <p>Meetings are held at 8pm on 2nd Monday each month at St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley.</p> <p>Contact Terry Giles G4CDY via secretary@ catsradio.org</p>
17 Mar	<p>Sutton & Cheam RS</p> <p>An Introduction to Operational Amplifiers.with Bob G300U.</p> <p>Meets 8pm on 3rd Thursday every month. Contact John Puttock G0BWV on 020 8644 9945 or email info(at)scrs.org.uk Web: http://scrs.org.uk/. They also run a practical group most Monday evenings at the Banstead Scout Hut.</p>

01 Mar	<p>Horsham Amateur Radio Club</p> <p>Junk Sale.</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 g3zbu(at)hotmail.com or http://www.harc.org.uk/</p>
27 Mar	<p>Dorking & District Radio Society</p> <p>One Route Through Product Design with Bob G300U.</p> <p>Meetings at 7.45pm. Contact: David Browning (M6DJB) at djb.abraxas(at)btinternet.com. Web site: http://www.ddrs.org.uk</p>
2 Mar	<p>Crystal Palace R&EC</p> <p>Club Project: Compact HF and VHF Aerials with Bob G300U.</p> <p>All Saints Church, Beulah Hill (Normally meets monthly on first Friday). Contact: Bob G300U 01737 552170 (http://www.g300u.co.uk)</p>
No info	<p>Wimbledon & District Amateur Radio Society</p> <p>Meets at Martin Way Methodist Church Hall, Martin Way Merton Park, London, SW19 9JZ at 19:30hrs for 20:00hrs. Contact: Andrew G4ADM on 020 8335 3434 or andrew.maish(at)ntlworld.com</p>

Sign Off

That is another one done. 73. John G8IYS.Editor and Hon Sec.

Last Minute PS: An email from Steve G4FYF re Ted G3EUE.

I was ear-wiggling John G8MNY a little earlier whilst in shack when he was called by Ted Jones G3EUE. John didn't appear to recognise the callsign so I jumped in! Ted remembered my call and recalled the days when SRCC operated further afield for VHF field days when I assisted operations along with Bernie G8TB, Mole G4FUU, Ron G6LX and others.

Sadly lack of decent ground wave between me and Ted meant some relaying through John.

Anyway, just thought you may like to know that Ted is still active and sounds in fine fettle.

Fine timing Steve. Just about to distribute the NL. 73. JohnIYS.

Formal Notice of the 77th. SRCC AGM

from Hon. Sec. John Simkins G8IYS

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the 78th. Annual General Meeting of the SRCC will be held on Monday ~~2nd~~ April 2018 at Trinity School, 7.30 for 7.45pm start.

Following our usual practice, this notice is issued more than one month ahead, as required by Club Rules. It allows time for circulation, if there any proposed alterations to the Rules. It also gives Members an opportunity to give advance notice of any points they wish to raise at the AGM. We also ask for nominations for Committee, with such nominations (and acceptances) to be received by the Committee prior to the opening of the AGM.

Minutes of the last AGM, the full Agenda and a nomination slip* for proposing Members for the new Committee and Secretary (nominated separately) will follow. Members on e-mail will receive theirs before the next Newsletter. Any Member who receives theirs by post will find it included with the next Newsletter.

Nomination slip to be used for Secretary and Committee Nominations

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 2018- 2019 (Please hand/return to John Simkins G8IYS before AGM start)

I.....wish to
nominate.....
For the position of Secretary / Member on the SRCC committee 2018-2019
If elected, I agree to stand.
Signed.....Date.....

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