



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

83rd Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

APRIL 2018 – No 908

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: <https://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 9 April: Annual General Meeting.

**2nd MEETING Monday 23 April: 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 908th edition, the April 2018 Issue, of the SRCC Newsletter - edited by your Hon Sec John G8IYS.

Hon Sec/Editorial Spot

This is the final Newsletter for the Club year 2017/18. I am very grateful for all of the contributions which I have received. I hope that these have led to the production of a

monthly journal with content which is varied and offers something of interest to every member.

Back at the IYS shack, I have continued to focus on the 60m band. For those unfamiliar, the UK amateur allocation is on a secondary basis to Full licence holders only. (primary use is military) and is a series of bandlets rather than the more familiar contiguous band of frequencies. Other nations. if they

have anything at all, may have just a couple of spot frequencies, sometimes licensed on an annually renewable basis and/or subject to an additional fee. Others may have adopted part or all of the band 5351.5 to 5365.5 kHz as recommended at WRC 2015. This is most certainly a piece of spectrum in considerable flux, with new nations seeming to come on air every month. Not only are different frequency allocations to be found, but likewise EIRP limits – ranging from 10W to 1kW. In many ways we are fortunate to be permitted 100W PEP, 200W EIRP. The real challenge with international working is finding a station which is operating on **its** permitted frequency while at the same time avoiding transmitting **yourself** on any frequency, including the sideband, which is outside that permitted in the UK. If you start on 5354 kHz dial frequency for international QSOs then you cannot go far wrong.

So, UK conventions which will keep you legal are to use the following Dial Frequencies (all in kHz):

CW: 5279, 5279.5, 5260 Centre of Activity, 5260.5, 5261, 5261.5, 5262 QRP, 5262.5, 5263, 5263.5, 5378.5.

USB: 5278.5 Emer Comms, 5298, 5301, 5304, 5320, 5354, 5363, 5371.5, 5379, 5395, 5398.5, 5403.5.

There is also an All Mode bandlet from 5314 to 5319.5 in which AM activity can be found – often using ex military kit e.g. Clansman. Some other bandlets are set aside for data use..

Bandlets toward the bottom or top of the UK allocation are popular for domestic CW and SSB..

If your rig has a bandscope, it will prove to be very helpful in spotting activity. Tuning up and down the band is a tad tedious. There are several frequencies which are occupied by non-amateur high powered carriers, data, or unfathomable racket, so beware of acoustic shock

My best non-UK DX is with Uwe DF1UB on 5354 kHz. He is located near Bodensee

(alias Lake Constance).in south west Germany.

Easy contacts are to be had with all parts of the UK, Isle of Man, Channel Is and Republic of Ireland. I can hear (often on 5354 kHz) very loud signals from north Germany, Norway. Finland, Poland, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy and Spain. QSOs with my station are awaited eagerly.

Most rigs manufactured over the last couple of years are capable of being broadbanded to cover 60m, so I do recommend making that modification. If you join mod dk, you could well find the necessary info there.

I run 100W to an inverted L antenna auto-tuned against a poor ground system (just a 1m long earth spike). This seems to work well enough on 60m, but on 40m and 80m, it compares badly with G8MNY's nest of horizontal dipoles.

On the other HF bands, it seems pretty dead, although evenings on 40m can produce strong east coast USA and Canada. Top band around 9pm is also interesting. I seem to have neglected VHF/UHF over many months. A pile of projects remains on the shelf awaiting kick-off or restart. Onward:

NEXT MEETINGS

First Meeting Monday 9 April. Annual General Meeting.

Formal notice and nomination forms were sent to members last month. A further notice and an Agenda will be distributed separately.

Second Meeting Monday 23 April. Fix-it, Move-it-on, Social.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

First Meeting Monday 5 March. Spring Surplus Equipment Sale.

There is not a lot to say about this event. Gareth G4XAT performed impeccably as

auctioneer, but there was not a lot to sell, not many people to sell to and not a lot of money was raised to benefit club funds.

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

No report, but a couple of pics from Rick M0LEP showing activities.



CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Hello Everyone and welcome to summer; well the clocks have gone forward so it must be summer!!!!

But before we move forward to summer, let's take one last look at wintertime at G3ZPB...

Only one contest result to report on: February UKAC (70cms SSB) where I was placed 53rd of 104 entrants, an improvement from January's disaster but leaving room for

further improvement? This puts SRCC in 22nd place out of 26 clubs which is similar to last month. Where are our other 70cms contesters??? We can do better than this as a club???

At least I maintained my 100% logging accuracy this year.

I entered two contests during the month: The first was the "March 144/432MHz" contest on the weekend of 3rd/4th March. The rules for this are somewhat complex but one of the sections is for "Single Operator Fixed Stations operating for a maximum of 6 hours". This is the section I entered, as the rules allow for one to split the 6 hours if you want to, but there must be a minimum one hour break between each period of operation. This allows for radio operation to take place round a "normal" weekend of family activities. Of the claimed scores from 66 entrants, I am currently in 22nd place with 3317 points from 22 QSOs and 8th of 39 in my section - a very definite improvement since I fixed the problems in February.

The second contest was the March UKAC on the 13th. Here, I claimed 9441 points from 49 QSOs - my second best ever entry. Of the claimed scores from 186 entrants, I am currently in 69th place and 37th of 97 in the "restricted" section. I await the published results with interest.

This UKAC contest also gave me the chance to test the latest "Beta" version on the MINOS2 contest software. It seems to be completely stable now with new "tweaks" coming out with each new version.

A lot of my other "spare" time last month was spent on moving more of the websites I am responsible for. As mentioned in the February Newsletter about the Club website, there is general movement on the internet to move most websites to a more secure connection so they start HTTPS (in place of HTTP). I have now moved most of the sites but still have the two largest ones to move.

Well, the time has to come to close - this is my twelfth and last "Chairman's Blog" of the year. Time has really flown by since the last AGM and I have to say, I have really enjoyed my time as SRCC Chairman. I set out a

"Vision for the future" in my first Rambling - several of these ideas have come to fruition now but there is still much to do if SRCC is to continue to mean something in the 21st century. If you are generally supportive and pleased with the way the current committee and I have run the Club during the last 12 months, then I hope you will come to the AGM on the 9th April and re-elect the same committee. 73, Peter G3ZPB.

RSGB COMMONWEALTH CONTEST 2018 by QUIN G3WRR

Readers of the May 2017 SRCC Newsletter may have noticed my item on last year's Commonwealth Contest – and the sensible ones will have passed it by without reading. As the Commonwealth Contest (still mostly called BERU from the name British Empire Radio Union Contest which goes back to its first run in 1931) is now my favourite contest, not taking part this year was never an option. I decided to go to the Isle of Wight again, particularly as I had a good result last year having won the John Dunnington Trophy for leading UK station in the Restricted Single Operator Unassisted section – the first and only time I have been "in the ironwork" in 50 years of being licensed. This would also allow my son and granddaughter to visit their mother / grandmother who lives in Ryde – and help me with antenna erection in the process.

Sadly, this year went as badly as last year had gone well. Firstly, my site last year – an amazing holiday centre on top of the cliffs straight out if Hi-de-Hi with original 1932 chalets (although with internal facilities upgraded) was not available. It has been sold and the new owners, who apparently intend to demolish them and replace with static caravans, did not respond to my e-mails. At that point Dave G3TBK (near Grantham) very kindly offered me the use of his club's Field Day site, and even offered to tow his caravan and tower to the site for me to use. And then along came the Beast from the East....although with a couple of days to go the snow was melting the site was a quagmire - heavy rain hadn't helped - and we

decided that discretion was the better part of valour. And the farm on Dartmoor run by my former in-laws was *hors de combat* too due to snow that stubbornly declined to melt. So it was back to Collier Towers in Norwood for the first time since 2013.

I ended up using a 14AVQ four band trap vertical for 40-10m (with thanks to the hSRCC Equipment Loan scheme for access to an MFJ Antennalyser to allow me to get it resonant(ish)) plus my inverted L for 80m. Those, plus my Elecraft K3 and N1MM+ for logging constituted the station. Unfortunately very poor conditions (Solar Flux Index of 67) – the worst I can ever remember in BERU - and a local noise level of S5/6 made it very hard going. Fortunately the presence of the UK HQ stations in each of the UK "countries" (the only UK stations that UK entrants are allowed to work – all other intra-Commonwealth Call Area contacts being verboten) made a welcome addition, contributing to a total contact count of 48. I only worked one station on 10m and one on 15m (in both cases HQ station G6XX) although a 9J (Zambia) was also audible on 15m but not workable. Just over half my contacts (53%) were on 20m – as one might expect at this stage of the sunspot cycle – and fourteen out of 25 of these were East Coast Canadians (VE). The only DX stations worked on the band were a 3B8 (Mauritius) and two VK6s (Western Australia). Four 9Hs (Malta), one 5B (Cyprus), one ZB2 (Gibraltar) and one ZF (Cayman Islands in the Caribbean) completed the bag on 20m. 40m netted 10 East Coast VEs two 9Hs and one ZF. And lastly, 80m netted nothing at all outside the UK, although I did manage six out of the seven UK HQ stations!

All in all a pretty disappointing year, but on the basis of number of contacts – not a reliable indicator of scores in BERU - I was just below the half way mark. But we don't do contests for the sake of position or kudos generally and it's about taking part and I still just about enjoyed it. Plans for BERU 2019 are needed but these are on hold for now, with less than 10 weeks to go before HF CW Field Day... 73, Quin G3WRR

A COMMONWEALTH CONTEST CONTRIBUTION FROM ALUN G4WGE

I received an email from Alun recently containing, amongst other things, a prompt just in case I had forgotten his message last year that he was the other SRCC entrant in addition to Quin G3WRR. As it turns out. I hadn't forgotten, but I still do not know how Alun got on – other than doing better than Quin!

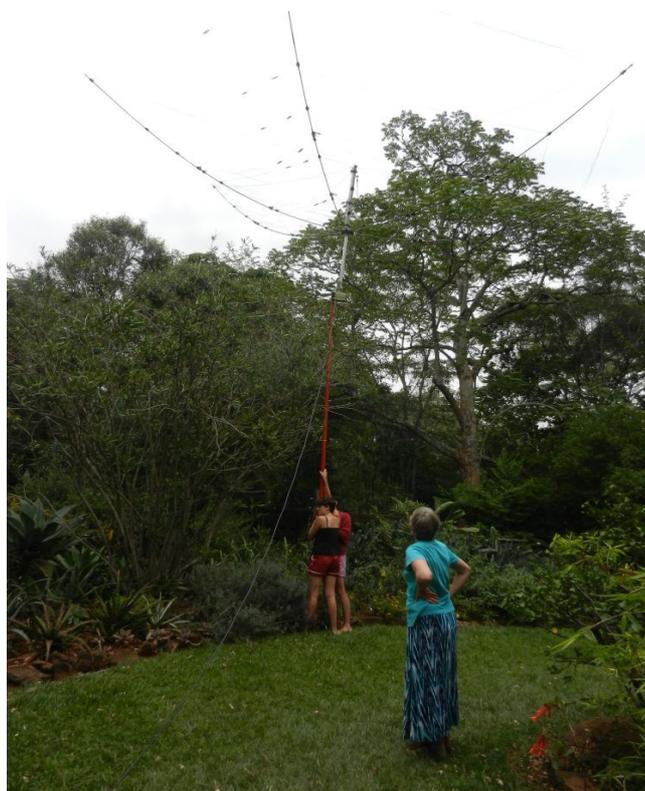
Communication Complications by Rick M0LEP

I've been to Kenya again. This time I left only a few days before Xmas. As usual, I'd intended to spend some time operating and I took with me some spare parts for my portable Hexbeam antenna, including a replacement for this broken piece.



I'd planned to get at least a dipole up quickly, but the first thing I went to check was my licence paperwork. I'd submitted a renewal request back in June, but there was no trace of the documentation. Eventually, I phoned the appropriate person in the relevant government department, and determined that my renewal request hadn't been received. I did my best to get a new renewal request into the department before Xmas, but unfortunately it didn't get there before the department closed for the holiday. I therefore didn't do any operating while we were away visiting my brother over Xmas, and my KX3

never came out of its bag. The paperwork (and payment) did, finally, get processed at the beginning of January, and I had the paperwork in my hands on the evening of 5th January. I put my fan-dipole up on 6th January. Listening around, it became clear that HF was not in great shape. The following morning I listened for the usual Sunday morning Kenya ARS 40 metres net but didn't hear anything. I then spent a little while calling CQ on first 40 metres and then 20 metres, but got no responses, and didn't hear much while listening around, either. A couple of days later, when I had a bit more time, I pulled the hexbeam out, put it together, and, with a bit of help, raised it on top of an old windsurfer mast. Its final position was determined by the length of the rotator cable and available feeder. It wasn't really quite high enough (but the pole was only that long, and anything taller would have been much harder to raise) or far enough from the house (which has a large alloy roof), but it was at least up and usable.



Once I'd got everything hooked up I pointed the hexbeam at Europe and gave a call on 20 metres. Within 20 minutes I had seven CW contacts (including one into England), which was a promising start.



I was only on the air for the last five days of my holiday, and there were plenty of other things taking up my time, but I managed to make 52 contacts into 21 countries. 13 were into European Russia, 7 into Ukraine, and 5 into England. 26 were on 17 metres, 23 on 20 metres, 2 on 15 metres, and one was on 40 metres. All my contacts were using CW. I did try calling on SSB, and also tried answering a few SSB callers, but I clearly wasn't being heard.

The best DX came on 40 metres using the dipole, not the hexbeam, and was the result of an email sked request. It involved a long-path QSO with an operator in Oregon who was running 1500 watts into a four-element 40 metre yagi. Even so, it took a while and quite a few repeats to exchange call signs and signal reports. I gave him 339, and that was probably generous.

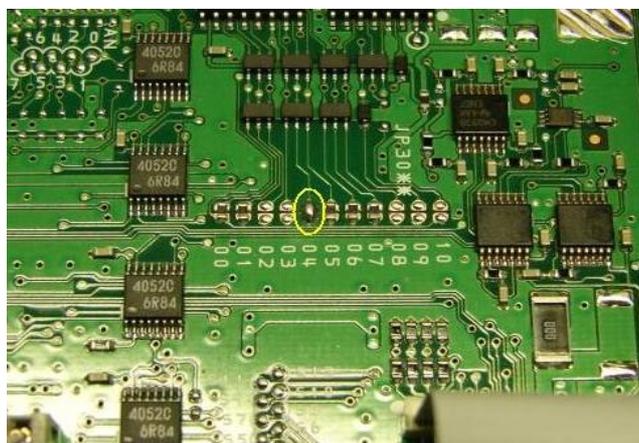
Rick 5Z4/MOLEP

G4FYF Ventures onto 60 Meters.

I have occasionally monitored the 60 meter band but my UK version FT2000 is not enabled to transmit on 5MHz. Inspired by comments by John G8IYS in the March newsletter I pondered about getting my rig to output on that band. I contacted Martyn Lynch who told me it was possible and they could do it for £25 given which, I thought it can't be difficult. After a bit of research I found a site that described the seemingly straight forward process and I began removing the bottom cabinet sections.



This reveals the section where jumper pins are located that control the processor where a jumper is required across position 04.



Not strictly a 'jumper' but a solder blob applied with steady hand, magnifier, and fine tip iron; believe me, it's much smaller than the photo shows! Cabinet re-assembled, job done – easy! Tedious bit is that to activate the modification the rig had to be re-booted. This re-sets all menu parameters to their default setting so involved a bit of time re-setting to my requirements.

Very pleased to say that it works fine many nice USB contacts with all corners of the UK and several Scandinavian stations and CW with DL, PA and OK via my inverted L. The band is very civilised but you need to be very careful to adhere to the channelised frequencies to stay legal. For example, John G8IYS was one of my early contacts on the band (5&9+) and whilst in QSO, someone popped up and very politely told us we were out of band. It would seem that, whilst the

dial frequency was in-band, our sidebands were out of band. We swiftly shifted frequency, and lesson learnt!

My brief experience so far is that the band has been fairly reliable for solid inter-G working during daylight hours up to mid/late afternoons. However, at any time the band can rapidly deteriorate seemingly going longer skip. My CW contacts were after dark with 'wispy' signals when the band appeared closed to anything else. Interesting, I'll keep monitoring.

73 Steve, G4FYF

G3NFV MEGA CLEAROUT

Offered to SRCC members, before selling on wider market.

Contact Robin @ sycomcomp.co.uk or 01372 372587 (Asnwerphone)

Kenwood TS590S
As New, Box, Mic, Lead, Manual £650

Yaesu FT950
Mic, Lead, Manual, Box (not orig) £575

Yaesu FT897
Mic, Lead, Manual, Box £425

Collins KWM2A and PM2, PSU
MIC (In Samsonite Cases) £725

Collins 30L1 Linear Amp
(Wired for 110VAC. Easy mod to 230) £425

Kenwood R600 Receiver £100

Butternut HF2V 80/40m Vertical Antenna
New in unopened box £265

Cushcraft A3WS 12/17m 3 ele Beam £100

Cushcraft R5 20 to 10m Vertical Antenna
Buyer lowers and removes £150

Wimo ZX2000 Minibeam 20, 15, 10m
2m boom, 5m elements (3), New £275

Sandpiper 10m Moxon Antenna
Wire elements, New, Boxed, £80.

Fibreglass Telescopic Mast 60 ft
2 available. New £100 each

Create RC5-1 Rotator + MC2 Clamp
New, Boxed £375

Various 2in Aluminium Poles

Set of 2in swaged poles, 6 off @ 5ft £30

Lots of transformers

Oscilloscope Philips PM 3261

High Power Baluns

Antenna Shortening Coils

Semiconductor & Component Manuals (Data Books)

Barker & Williamson Coil Stock

Meters

Variable Capacitors

300 ohm Ribbon Cable 100m £50

Cable – Loads of types

Very Large Collection of test gear and
Amateur Radio Manuals

Sandpiper Discone Anenna FREE

2m J-Beam Quad antenna FREE

Old Oscilloscopes FREE

WEST LONDON RADIO & ELECTRONICS FAIR

Sunday 15 April . Doors open 10am

**Kempton Park Racecourse
Staines Road East
Sunbury on Thames
Middlesex TW16 5AQ**

Trade Stands, Local and National Group Stands, CATS Bring and Buy, Hot and Cold Refreshments, Free Car Park.

More info at <http://radiofairs.org.uk>

SRCC will have a surplus equipment stand. If you would like to help out for an hour or so email or phone SRCC Secretary – contact details in page 1 banner.

Future SRCC Meetings

09/04/18	Annual General Meeting
23/04/18	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
30/05/18	Visit to Martin Lynch. Car-Pooling suggested
04/06/18	RSGB Videos
18/06/18	Fix-it, Move-it-on and Informal Social
02/07/18	Annual Barbecue
16/07/18	Fix-it, Move-it-on and Informal Social
06/08/18	TBA
20/08/18	Fix-it, Move-it-on and Informal Social
03/09/18	TBA
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.

17 Apr	<p>Bromley & District ARS</p> <p>The RSGB with Mick Senior G4EFO</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>
09 Apr	<p>Coulsdon ATS</p> <p>Offshore Pirate Radio with Mick Senior G4EFO.</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>
19 Apr	<p>Sutton & Cheam RS</p> <p>BITX40 with Bob Martin Butler M1MKB.</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>

06 Apr	<p>Horsham Amateur Radio Club</p> <p>Breakfast Machine with Mervyn 2E0WVE.</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>
24 Apr	<p>Dorking & District Radio Society</p> <p>The future of amateur Radio with Nick Heywood G3RWF.</p> <p>Meetings at 7.45pm. Contact: David Browning (M6DJB) at djb.abraxas(at)btinternet.com. Web site: http://www.ddrs.org.uk</p>
06 Apr	<p>Crystal Palace R&EC</p> <p>The British Wireless and Television Musum.</p> <p>All Saints Church, Beulah Hill (Normally meets monthly on first Friday). Contact: Bob G30OU 01737 552170 (http://www.g30ou.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 the last one for the 17/18 season..
73. John G8IYS. Editor and Hon Sec.