



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

83rd Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

NOVEMBER 2018 – No 915

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 FM Friday 8.00pm

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

Hon. Sec. John Simkins G8IYS
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General Club Business: secretary@g3src.org.uk
 Membership/Treasurer: membership@g3src.org.uk
 Newsletter articles/distribution: newsletter@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

FIRST MEETING Monday 5 November:
Grand Inter-Club Quiz for the Roddy Clews G3CDK Memorial Trophy
with Question-setter and Presenter Terry Giles G4CDY

SECOND MEETING Monday 19 November:
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 915th edition, the November 2018 Issue, of the SRCC Newsletter - edited by John G8IYS Hon Sec.

Hon Sec/Editorial Spot

My amateur radio activities have been at a pretty low level of late since I continue to be focused on domestic tasks. My plastering and tiling skills have improved no end, however. What little

radio I have managed has been an absolutely disastrous dabble in the recent 6 Meter Trophy Contest, but some much more rewarding semi-dx contacts were made on 60 metres.

On the former, I managed to press the wrong button on my transceiver and spent an entire 3 hours or so with no antenna connected to the receiver. What little signal I could receive was via leakage between internal wiring runs. My calculations and subsequent tests show that this was equivalent to a 40dB attenuator in the path. Miserable performance ensued and I only noticed the LCD display at the end of the contest. It did seem an unusually quiet band.

Sixty metres was entirely different. Those who have ventured onto this band will know that there is a so-called WRC-15 allocation in parts of Europe which by-and-large permits 15 Watts transmitter output in a contiguous band between 5251.5 and 5366.5 kHz, a UK allocation, for Full License Holders, which permits 100 Watts transmitter output (200 W PEP at the antenna), between 5258.5 and 5406.5 kHz in non-contiguous bandlets, whilst some other nations permit up to 1000 Watts with spectrum boundaries different yet again. Inter UK contacts are usually pretty easy. Strong signals are often present spanning SW and SE England. English Midlands and NE & NW England, Wales, IoM, Northern Ireland and Scotland – including Orkney and Shetland. Step changes in propagation conditions are very common – changing from short to long, and maybe back again, within a few minutes, so talking to oneself is not an unusual experience. There are a few sweet spots for intra-Europe contacts. 5363 kHz dial frequency for USB mode is much in use in Finland, Germany (very numerous), Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Slovenia and others, but be prepared for weak signal contacts and sometimes a few language challenges. I seem to be almost unique in seeking contacts across the North Sea and thus have become a rare prefix!!!, so I do not have to wait long for a response to my CQ calls. Unfortunately, 5360 kHz is often used as a calling frequency by some non-UK stations and it is frustrating not to be able to respond since that is a no-go frequency for the UK. Italian amateurs have recently been granted WRC – 15 access and I have made several contacts - so far best is halfway down the leg of Italy. Denmark, which has a wide contiguous allocation and a 1 kW permit, is booming in just now – several heard and worked in mid-mornings. The Republic of Ireland can also be found at good strength.

Another occasional opportunity comes from military cadet stations who are permitted to contact amateur stations, and vice versa, on the UK amateur bandlets. One such was the Operation Blue Ham exercise run by the Air Cadets a couple of weeks ago. I noted in excess of 200 amateur callsigns active, so it was very lively.

If you have not tried 60 m yet then do give it a try. It is less populated than 40 m or 80m, but can be quite exciting at times. The downside is the need to stay inside the permitted bandlet allocations, the presence of five or six VERY high power data stations and some Over the Horizon HF Radars, but they are on regular frequencies, most times on a 24/7 basis – but go wobbly and drift every now and again, Grr. Easily dodged if your transceiver has a bandscope/panadaptor, but if it does not then take care not to disable the AGC on your receiver, if you value your hearing.

Before we move on, I have become aware, via DUBUS - the learned and popular VHF, UHF and Microwave Journal, that the Netherlands administration has observed that amateur activity across the whole of the VHF/UHF spectrum is high (ie talking to each other) but innovation is low, and have warned that present allocations in PA are at risk of being transferred to commercial enterprises, unless amateurs can demonstrate progress in developing new techniques/applications. OFCOM, to my mind is somewhat more enlightened in offering

additional spectrum access on 4m and 2m, but needs an application for an NOV. Narrow Band Digital TV is one of the early arrivals on these band extensions.

NEXT MEETINGS

First Meeting: Monday 5 November. Grand Inter-Club Quiz between Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society (CATS), Sutton & Cheam Amateur Radio Society RS (S&C ARS) and Surrey Radio Contact Club (SRCC).

Teams of 5 or 6 representing each of the above Clubs will be competing for the Roddy Clews G4CDK Memorial Trophy – currently held by SRCC after a stunning performance last year. We are expecting at least two teams each from CATS and S&C ARS and SRCC is currently fielding one. Terry Giles G4CDY from CATS has kindly agreed to generate and present the questions. Spontaneously-created additional teams from SRCC will be welcome – as will visitors from all parts. Soft drinks, Teas, Coffees and Light Refreshments will be provided free of charge to all attendees.

Second Meeting Monday 19 November. Fix-it and Skills Night with John G8MNY.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

First Meeting: Monday 1 October. Closure of September Catalogue Sale & Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale with Auctioneer: Gareth G4XAT

To say that this event was a spectacular success would be partly true. The Catalogue Sale was underwhelming. Maybe the items were insufficiently appealing. Maybe the Guide Prices were too high. Maybe bidders were insufficiently brave to put in a low bid. The closing session fared little better, with the exception of the 1kW HF Linear Amplifier and the subsequent sale of the 2m Linear Amplifier. By contrast, the Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale session was very lively – primarily down to Alun G4WGE bringing along the results of a major shack clear-out and the persuasive performance of our Auctioneer Gareth G4XAT. The commission income made a useful contribution to the maintenance of our £8-00 annual subscription rate.

Second Meeting: Monday 15 October. Final Stage of G4CCW SK Catalogue Sale plus Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat over tea/coffee with John G8MNY

Sadly, this catalogue sale followed much the same pattern as that demonstrated by the First Meeting. In addition to the possible causes listed there: maybe members were sale-saturated and/or maybe the auctioneering skills of John G8IYS did not match those of Gareth G4XAT. So, other than couple of bid-toppers, sale prices out-turned much as at the closure of the Internet stage. We certainly have a pile of stuff to take to CATS Bazaar. One lives in hope until then and, afterwards maybe eBay will tease out some adventurous souls. Perhaps, as a Club, we should be reviewing whether the days of Surplus Equipment Sales are done. There was not much fixing done at the Skills Night, but the social aspects continue to appeal.

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Another “interesting” month with Radio and Computer activities.

Radio Contesting - the results have been published for the September UKAC where I finished in my “usual” position of about half-way (52nd of 107 to be precise). I lost a couple of points logging an incorrect Signal Report; not quite sure how I can do that but must do better next

time! In the overall Club table, we are still 19th but West Kent ARS are now 20th, one position above the Leicester Club.

Digital Radio activity – some of you know that one of the rigs I own is an Icom IC-9100. I recently fitted a DSTAR Digital Unit in it to add Digital Voice modes – what fun!! I had my first DV Mode QSO a couple of Fridays ago with Pat 'FDN. It was also my first 2m QSO from home since April 1989!!!! Using these digital voice modes is uncanny – like FM, the receiver is normally squelched so there is no noise from the receiver in the absence of a signal, but the familiar “squelch tail” is also missing. The audio quality is excellent (transmitted as a 3600bps voice channel) and the system is spectrally-efficient using an occupied bandwidth of 6.25kHz. In addition to the 3600bps voice channel there is a 1200bps data channel which is usually programmed to send your callsign, rig and QTH details which can be displayed on the receiver display. My next venture is to use a DSTAR Repeater and potentially get some real DX QSOs.

Surplus Equipment Sales – I hope everyone enjoyed the two “Special Auction Sales” we held in October. There was a wide range of items on offer with something for everyone. Some of us were slightly disappointed by the small number of bids received, but I guess at any one time there is only a limited number of members who are actually in the market for particular items. The large number of unsold items means there will be plenty to sell at the CATS Bazaar on 18th November. We will probably try and sell what's left after that on eBay (or similar).

Computing – I have also spent several hours on the computer helping to set up some additional features for SRCC members relating to Newsletter Distribution and a new “Blog” feature on the website. More details on both these features appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Bye for now; hope to see lots of you supporting our Team(s?) at the Inter-Club Quiz night on 5th November. 73 and 88, Peter G3ZPB.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION BY Peter G3ZPB

We are trying a new way of distributing the Newsletter this month. It is being sent out using the new SRCC “List Server” which we hope will provide more security, both for you, our members and for the email address we send it from. The main difference you will notice is that it comes from srcmail@g3src.org.uk and not from John's personal email address. We think we have put in place sufficient safeguards to avoid spamming and other problems but only time will tell. At the same time as this change, we are also restricting the distribution of the Newsletter to members of other clubs. In common with a number of other local clubs, a copy of the Newsletter will continue to be sent to the Secretary of local clubs and we are all asking that it is not circulated throughout their membership. One of the benefits of SRCC Membership is receiving the Newsletter. Similarly, one of the benefits of membership of the Bromley Club (for example) is receiving their Newsletter. If a member of SRCC wants to receive the Bromley Club Newsletter, then they should also join the Bromley Club. Similarly, Bromley Club members are welcome to also join SRCC. We know that the Newsletter is published on our website but about a month after it is circulated to members. If people want the up to date information, they should become a member.

NEW WEBSITE BLOG

The other new feature we have introduced this month is a “Member's Blog” page on the website at <https://www.g3src.org.uk/category/members-blog>. This is open to anyone to raise an issue, write comment or ask a question etc. “Clicking” on one of the topics (initially “Comments and Questions Welcome”) will open a new page so you can “Leave a Reply”. You can then type

your comment, question or whatever. You will also need to add your name and email address for authentication purposes. After it has been authentication by one of the web team (in order to stop spamming), your comment will go “live” on the website for all to see. **We are hoping this will open up to everyone the questions and comments that are currently normally restricted to within the committee.**

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018 by Quin G3WRR

The September session of the SRCC League Table attracted entries from five members.

MONTHLY TABLE FOR SEPTEMBER

ENTRANT	TOTAL SCORING QSOs	SCORING CONTEST QSOs	SCORING INTRA-SRCC QSOs	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4WGE	43	40		132
G4FYF	36		4	80
G3WRR	19	19		57
G3ZPB	8	8		24
G3EUE	0			0

There has been a significant change round in the monthly positions, with Alun G4WGE taking top place, displacing last month’s leader Steve G4FYF to second place. A couple of the regulars were unable to take part.

Alun’s contacts were all on HF consisting of a mixture of SSB, RTTY and FT8, and he took advantage of the activity generated by SSB Field Day and the CQWW RTTY contest to make the majority of his qualifying contacts. The locations of contacts and their distribution between the bands reflects the continuing poor conditions on the HF bands: apart from a single European contact on 18MHz, all others were on 14MHz and below. And apart from a dozen North American stations and a handful of Asians and European ones, all contacts were within Europe. This downbeat view is supported by Ted G3EUE who concentrates on 28MHz and reports hearing no signals at all on the band!

2018 CUMULATIVE TABLE

ENTRANT	5/18	6/18	7/18	8/18	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	CUMULATIVE
G4LZE	110	238	218	46					612
G4WGE	130		165		132				427
G3WRR	168	42	105	24	57				396
G4FYF	70	78	86	70	80				384
G3EUE	19	53	83	42					197
G3ZPB	63	36	27	36	24				186
G8IYS		84	16						100
M0LEP	14	14	20						48
G4FFY			26						26

Colin G4LZE, despite being unable to participate in September, retains his top spot based on cumulative score, with a score over 40% higher than that of the next entrant Alun G4WGE, who moves up to second place from fourth causing last month’s second and third placed stations to move down to third and fourth places respectively.

That’s all for now – let’s see what October brings! **73, Quin G3WRR**

41st CATS Bazaar 18 November

This event will be held at Oasis Academy Coulsdon, Homefield Rd, CR5 1ES £1.50 entry and plenty of free parking! Applications from traders, clubs and private sellers most welcome. Contact bazaar@catsradio.org or ring Andy G0KZT on 07729 866600.

Amateur radio notice forwarded by Phil G1LKJ

From H.M.S Belfast Bridge wireless office.

The special, special callsign, GB100ARM, commemorating the 100th anniversary of The Armistice of 11th November 1918 becomes active from the BWO from 1st November until 28th November 2018.

Omitted Articles

It was my intention to publish two more articles this month, but I have run out of time. Thanks to Gareth G4XAT and Steve G4FYF for submitting them. I will carry over to the December issue.

Future SRCC Meetings

05/11/18	Inter-Club Quiz v CATS and Sutton & Cheam RS
19/11/18	Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat
03/12/18	Construction Contest
17/12/18	Pre-Christmas Social
07/01/19	FT8 with Alan G0TLK
21/01/19	Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat
07/02/19	Millimetric Microwaves with Chris G0FDZ
21/02/19	Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat
04/03/19	Spring Surplus Equipment Sale
18/03/19	Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat

01/04/19	Annual General Meeting
15/04/19	Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat

Other Local Club Meetings.

20 Nov	<p>Bromley & District ARS</p> <p>TRF Construction by M0RYG</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: www.bdars.co.uk</p>
12 Nov	<p>Coulsdon ATS</p> <p>Apollo 13: Terry G4CDY</p> <p>TBC</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>
15 Nov	<p>Sutton & Cheam RS</p> <p>Receivers Over the Ages by Bog G30OU</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 info(at)scrs.org.uk</p> <p>Website: http://www.scrs.org.uk/</p>
01 Nov	<p>Horsham Amateur Radio Club</p> <p>From Key to TV by Robin G3OGP</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</p> <p>Website: http://www.harc.org.uk/</p>

27 Nov	<p>Dorking & District Radio Society</p> <p>AGM and RSGB Video</p> <p>Meetings at 7.45pm. Contact: David Browning (M6DJB) at djb.abraxas(at)btinternet.com.</p> <p>Website: http://www.ddrs.org.uk</p>
02 Nov	<p>Crystal Palace R&EC</p> <p>Network Radio by Martin M1MRB</p> <p>All Saints Church, Beulah Hill (Normally meets monthly on first Friday). Contact: Bob G3OOU 01737 552170</p> <p>Website: http://www.g3oou.co.uk</p>
01 Nov	<p>Cray Valley Radio Society</p> <p>Australia – Open to the World by Nigel G1BUO</p> <p>1st Royal Eltham Scouts HQ, Rear of 61-71 Southend Crescent, Eltham, London SE9 2SD</p> <p>Website: www.cvrs.org</p>

Sign Off

Rather delayed and then rushed this time. Must try harder

I am always delighted and surprised to get copy for publication. Copy date for the December issue is Saturday 17 November.

73 John G8IYS Newsletter Editor and Hon Sec.