



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

86th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

SEPTEMBER 2021 – No 949

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

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**Traditional face-to-face meetings at Trinity School are expected to resume from the 6<sup>th</sup> September A meeting and we are planning on that basis. But COVID has shown that it enjoys playing wild cards from time to time, so for now it might be prudent to take a look at the SRCC website at <https://www.srcc.uk> before setting out on the trek to meetings....**

## SRCC COMMITTEE 2021/22

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## EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends,

I guess the hot news is that we now have a date for face-to-face meetings to resume! Trinity School will be welcoming us back as of the forthcoming A meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September. The Future Meetings item (below) assumes that as of that date all meetings will be face-to-face at Trinity. No problems are anticipated but it is suggested that you check the SRCC website (<https://www.srcc.uk>) to make sure that there have been no last minute glitches! Maurice G4DDY,

who is our link man to Trinity, asks that for the first meeting at least we should (a) bring a mask in case we are requested to wear them by the school, and (b) bring our own refreshments. Further good news is that, unlike at least one other club's meeting place, we have not been asked to sanitise the room afterwards! I hope to see many of you again – or in a couple of instances for the first time - soon face to face.

It has been a pretty hectic summer period here at Mission Control Norwood. It started with preparations for, and taking part in, HF NFD in early June. This was followed by preparations for, and taking part in, VHF NFD at the beginning of July. I then took a few days break in Totnes (South Devon), then back home to prepare for and take part in the RSGB IOTA (Islands On The Air) Contest from the Isle of Wight at the end of the month. Interspersed with all this during July was adjudication of three RSGB contests and a write-up of VHF NFD for the Contest Committee website. Finally on at the last day of the month we went down to Exmouth for our usual family summer holiday (ten days this year) during which I, my son and granddaughter all caught a bug which laid us up for two to three days! But they do say that if you can't take a joke, you shouldn't have joined. Actually the last wasn't all bad news as, apart from an inconvenient excess of bodily functions, a couple of days of enforced idleness can be quite therapeutic... Now the pressure is off a bit., I am hoping to get down to doing a bit more radio. The Cunning Plan is to get to grips with FT8 (and perhaps its siblings FT4 and JS8). This is for two reasons. Firstly, I am inclined to disapprove of FT8 on the grounds that it deskills operating - but one should not make such judgements without hands on experience which will allow me to take a more balanced view. And secondly, having seen the sort of results it allows my fellow SRCC League Table contributors to achieve, it might allow me to be a bit more competitive! I have tried to get to grips with it before but "bounced off" – however there are now at least four other members "skilled in the art" that I can turn to for assistance!

And now onto the real stuff....

### **73 Quin G3WRR**

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The 6th September A meeting is entitled "Does your station comply with the new EM Field Exposure Regulations?" It will be a Technical Talk and Discussion led by Peter Burton G3ZPB and will cover aspects of the requirements and use of the RSGB/OFCOM calculator. As stated above this is expected to be face-to-face at Trinity School starting at 8pm.

The October A meeting (4<sup>th</sup>) will be a Construction Contest – so this is an opportunity to show off some of the items you have been building to ease the tedium of lockdown! Our Treasurer has been persuaded that (small) financial prizes should be awarded for the top three items.

The November A meeting (1<sup>st</sup>) will be a Surplus Equipment Sale. This is a good opportunity to free up some of the space in your shack by passing on previously used items to a discerning audience – or alternatively to recycle impulse purchases made at the last Surplus Equipment Sale ....

The September, October and November B meetings (20<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> respectively) will see the return of the Fix-it, Skills and Advice Night led by John G8MNY. The December B meeting (20<sup>th</sup>) will be slightly different and will be the traditional Christmas Social with mince pies and perhaps even more exotic comestibles (and liquids).

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The August A meeting was not held on the first Monday as usual but instead took place on the afternoon of Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> and, taking advantage of the recent easing of lockdown, was held at the QTH of Peter G3ZPB and his wife Wendy. And in a further break with tradition, in place of the normal annual barbecue it was a Pastie (or Pasty – take your pick – Wikipedia allows both) Session (dubbed “Pastyrama Coulsdon”), using genuine Cornish Pasties shipped up from Cornwall courtesy of (now Cornish resident) Terry G4CDY. Your scribe was on holiday in Devon that week (and so may well have passed the pasties in transit on the A303) and therefore relies on Peter for his report of the goings on. He advises that it was somewhat moist, but there was plenty of room under his 3m square gazebo for the eight members/spouses and four friends to have a good chat. The only slight problem was a culinary one in that the pasties took longer to defrost / cook than expected. All in all, a good day!

The August B meeting (16<sup>th</sup>) was the usual (and hopefully last) Zoom based Round Robin and was attended by 11 members.

## VHF NFD RESULTS

The results of VHF NFD have now been published at <https://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/vhfresults.pl?Contest=VHF%20NFD&year=2021>. But in summary, the results for North East Surrey Contest Group (as part of which SRCC took part) are as follows:

**Overall** 5<sup>th</sup> out of 13 entries in the Restricted section with 1725 points

**6m** G4ALE/P, run by Addiscombe ARC (operators G3VYI, G4EFT, G4GQA, G4SDM and M0JSB) – 6<sup>th</sup> out of 11 entries, 72 QSOs and 38922 points

**4m** G4ALE/P, run by Addiscombe ARC (operators G3VYI, G4CTP, G4EFT, G4GQA and G4SDM) – 7<sup>th</sup> out of 10 entries, 42 QSOs and 5022 points

**2m** G0SAC/P, run by SRCC and associates (operators G0JOS, G0OLX, G1KAG and G4WGE) – 4<sup>th</sup> out of 16 entries with 38245 points

**70cm** G3SRC/P, run by SRCC (operators G0KZT, G3WRR, G3ZPB, G4FFY, G7PWV and G8MNY) – 5<sup>th</sup> out of 11 entries, 65 QSOs and 7833 points.

This result is consistent with the entries of the three previous equivalent years (bearing in mind that 2020 was run by different rules due to the impact of COVID) when our positions were:

2019 - 6<sup>th</sup> out of 17

2018 - 4<sup>th</sup> out of 15

2017 4<sup>th</sup> out of 15.

It is hard to see how we could improve on this while using the current site – and the idea of moving to a more competitive one seems difficult for several reasons – not the least being the need for inclusivity!

**73, Quin G3WRR**

## GX3WIM - WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT ARS SUMMER CAMP 2021 by John G8MNY

After a year off for COVID 91, a lot of my kit needed a good check over before carefully packing my 24 year old van for 1 week. On the Saturday I got there at 08:00 on a dry morning. Andy

G4ADM was already there in his caravan. I did not disturb him, and got on with sizing up the exact parking spot needed, by laying out the 80m dipole and mast rotator cable, then levelled up the van in position. I unpacked the aerial poles and Alvin G6DTW gave me a hand for 2 hrs so the 40ft mast with no aerials was test lifted OK. I then spent the next 2 hrs putting the 3 aerials an up-rated Mosley TA33 HF Tribander, a 6el 5m beam, a VHF Triband colinear, all with UR67 coax.

As it started to rain at midday I put up the shack tent, laid the 2 carpets, put in the heavy 120AH 12V battery for the PA and placed the operating table and cooking table stack in place with its minimum shack footprint. Once the first level of kit was wired up 6m:- FT690R Rig, BHI LS and pre-driver PA, HF PSU, IC735 & small ATU, Autocaller, BHI LS, then the shelf went in with a bendy Lamp LS, ATU, & Rotator controller.

Steve M0PEL then turned up mid PM and we put up the 42ft mast with my 30ft gin pole OK. Then aerials were all RF tested on the ground and when up with MFJ analyser. The mast was then lifted onto the rotator and direction calibrated. Then the wires were attached and pulled up.

At 17:30 I started preparing a well-deserved evening dinner and then some HF working and VHF FM 3 band shack set up with Kenwood 731E rig in the centre of my van. At the rear of the van was my 200mW 2m packet system running into van's passenger side 1/4 wave.

All the Sunday nets went well with really low noise floor.

On the Tuesday with Tom G4DFA, we set up the 2m SSB aerial mast a 9el Tonna @ 40ft on my light weight "String Wonder" mast with its 12V rotator, so Tom could use it for the Tuesday SSB contest with his G8 Call. The next day it was cabled to the middle of the Van 2m Shack with 200W PA, but no 2m activity!

I used 3 petrol generators, a small 500W 4 stroke Honda, a 1kW 4 stroke and my old 2.3kW 4 stroke, for when I was running multiband. We used 17 gallons in all. As planned, the smallest gennies could just run the T500M 400W transistor 12V HF amp (75A), with rig all on 120AH floated battery. But larger gennies needed for more load.

Damien 2E0EUI camped from Tuesday as he had family commitments and brought his military kit and interesting Mag loop ant. Eric G0KRT camped for many days too and Kim G6JXA camped several nights.

As usual the site's HF noise floor was very low and a pre-amp could be used on 80m to give only S1-2 level! Wx was often wet and windy, but a few warm sunny days too when the solar heated showers were used.

I left the site by 15:30 Sunday with a tow from the farmer's 4x4, after the site muddy take down and long van pack, and at home had a well needed bath!

Operating was done by G8MNY, G6JXA, M0PEL, 2E0EUI, G4ADM, G0KRT, G4DDY, G7WIR, G4WNT, M0PDJ, & G6DTW, often till 02:00hrs! In all there were 16 members and 6 visitors visited at the camp. With our QRO & special event club station, long pile ups are normal, most nights were good for stateside on 20m. From the logs...

- 160m with 30W/400W had 19 contacts with 1 GM
- 80m with 400W saw 167 with Dx to DL EI F GM GI GW I LX PA OE OH OZ SA SP SV
- 40m saw 131 Dx CT D F EA EI GD GI GM GW HB9 I IS LA OE OH ON OK OS OZ PA SA SP
- 20m saw 269 Dx 6Y 9N 9Z AA CU D EA EI F FM GI HB HK I J K LA LY LZ N OD OE OK



OZ PA PP SA SM SN SO SP SQ SV R TF UA UR UT W VE VO VU YO

- 10m saw 36 contacts 9A CS D EA EI F HB I S5
- 6m with 50W we had 4 contacts 1 sporadic E event Dx to I
- 4m with 25W end fed dipole @ 8m saw 7 G QSOs
- 2m with 40W FM to colinear @ 14m / 200W SSB to 9el @ 42' saw 65 G & 1 F QSO
- 70cms 25W FM Just 3 G QSOs.

A number of pictures follow: a much wider selection is available at the following URL:

[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPz\\_hUTdzpFEiqTBI7JZbMdfyh4YJl1tcdy1OR532bcVzw6ij7uhJhbE2ECqrm6yQ?key=dEVzeFpqWmMzSXQ0b0Z0dGJtc2pWbks0ZEtXTmVR](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPz_hUTdzpFEiqTBI7JZbMdfyh4YJl1tcdy1OR532bcVzw6ij7uhJhbE2ECqrm6yQ?key=dEVzeFpqWmMzSXQ0b0Z0dGJtc2pWbks0ZEtXTmVR)









73, John G8MNY

## HERE AND THERE

Following his visit to our VHF NFD site in July, Mike M1CCF commented on how close it was to the old BBC Monitoring Station at Tatsfield, which closed in 1997. I didn't realise that, but a look at the OS map confirms that the two are only about a mile apart. I certainly knew about the place, and indeed many amateurs of my vintage did, and I believe that some had visited it. Mike sent me the following URL <https://www.bbceng.info/Operations/Receivers/Tatsfield/tatsfield.htm> which looks interesting - some of the pictures show receivers that those of us "of a certain age" know and love (eg. RCA AR88 and Racal RA17) plus a couple that are recognisably from Hammarlund or Eddystone. If you're interested in that historical sort of stuff, it's well worth a look!

Thanks to Kim G6JXA for an interesting snippet (from Amateur Radio Newsline in the USA) related to propagation at the boundary between the traditional "short wave" and "VHF" frequencies – particularly as the annual sporadic E season, although now in decline, still has some life in it. An experimental licence (callsign WL2XUP) running from mid July 2021 until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 to has been issued to a station in Atlanta in Georgia. It currently operates on 40.662 MHz using an omnidirectional antenna with a maximum permitted ERP of 400W. It makes a 2 minute transmission every 10 minutes as part of the Weak Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) initiative. I must admit to having forgotten the little I ever new about WSPR. In particular I'm not sure how the WSPR code is decoded but do recall that the WSPR website at <http://wsprnet.org> was a good starting point. But even without being able to decode it, the ability to hear a periodic data transmission on that frequency would be interesting!

## SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – JULY 2021

There were nine entries for the July 2021 League Table. This was two up on the June entry – although two of them were null entries, probably due to due to the competing attractions of the



summer season (and perhaps the football...). In fact there were nearly three null entries – but at the last minute a bunny was pulled out of the hat...see later! The “big three” (Ian M0CGF, Ray G4FFY and Colin G4LZE) retain their relative positions, although Ray is now snapping at Ian’s heels this month being only just over 2% behind him on score. Below that, apart from Rick M0LEP retaining his previous position, things are a bit less straightforward as a result of one of the occasional entries by club callsign G3SRC (in this case in VHF NFD) appearing and Steve G4FYF displacing Quin G3WRR by one place, and the two null entries!

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0CGF	187	3	62	441
G4FFY	149	6	123	431
G4LZE	101	2	12	217
G3SRC	16	3	16	57
G4FYF	19	1	0	40
G3WRR	10	1	11	33
M0LEP	1	4	0	10
G3EUE	0	0	0	0
G3ZPB	0	0	0	0

Ian’s scoring contacts were pretty evenly balanced between SSB and FT8, and fairly evenly balanced between HF and VHF (60% VHF and 40% HF). Just over half his HF contacts were on 20m, a quarter on 40m and the rest fairly evenly spread between 80m, 17m, 15m, 12m & 10m. 71% were with European stations, followed by South America (11%), North America (9%), Africa and Asia (4%). On VHF, just over 90% of his contacts were on 6m with the rest on 4m. On 6m, in addition to UK stations he worked a good selection of stations across Europe plus eighteen stations in USA (a wide spread of call areas), Canada and the Caribbean plus a very nice one - JA (Japan) for Ian’s first JA on the band. The European stations were presumably via sporadic E but the more DXish contacts were well beyond the range of single hop sporadic E, and it is interesting to speculate on the exact propagation mode! Most of these were via FT8, which is well suited to catching the short openings (the word “sporadic” provides a clue...) while they are present. A number of his scoring contacts 4m were also via sporadic E.

All Ray’s scoring HF contacts this month were evenly balanced between FT4 and FT8 (the former all in the RSGB FT4 contest). His dominant HF band was 20m, accounting for 48% of his contacts, followed by 40m (16%), 15m & 10m (10% each) 12m (8%) 17m (6%) and 80m (2%). The majority (80%) were European, followed by Asia, South America, Africa (all 6%) and North America (2%). All but one of his scoring VHF contacts were made in either RSGB contests or the UKSMG Summer Marathon. The majority (89%) were on 6m FT8 or SSB and the rest on 2m FT8. 85% of his scoring 6m contacts were non-UK European but included three in Asia (4X (Israel), OD (Lebanon) and TA (Turkey)), one in Africa (EA8 – Canaries) and one in North America (W (USA)) – his first transatlantic QSO on the band. What was impressive about these – particularly the last – is the fact that they were made on a colinear, so what with the absence of gain that would be available from a beam and cross-polarisation loss, it really is good going!

All Colin’s scoring HF contacts with one exception (his regular JS8 sked with Peter G3ZPB) were made using FT4 or FT8, most of the former being in the RSGB FT4 Contest. The majority (40%) were made on 40m, followed by 10m (25%), 17m (23%) and 20m (18%). As with Ian and Ray, the majority were with Europe, followed by Asia (13%), Africa and North America (both 7%), South America (1%) – and Oceania (1%). This one contact was the only claimed contact with Oceania for July, and was a VK3 in Australia’s Victoria state. His VHF contacts were all on 6m using FT8



and all but two (CN (Morocco) and 7X (Algeria) were within Europe.

Club call G3SRC made one of its occasional appearances in the Table on the strength of contacts made in VHF NFD on 70cm SSB from our usual site near Warlingham. As sporadic E contacts on 70cm are very rare and tropo conditions were rather flat, all but three of the scoring contacts – in DL (Germany, ON (Belgium) and PA (Netherlands) were from within the UK.

Steve described his July entry as “a very leisurely effort”. His score came from a mixture of contacts on the VHF and higher HF bands. He noted that sporadic E contacts were still available, and “very leisurely” or not, managed to work an Italian station on 6m using his G5RV antenna – on which he also managed to achieve a contact on 2m. Hmm...the G5RV clearly has hidden depths.

Quin had been expecting to submit a null entry – until he realised that he had taken part in the July 4m UKAC although the entry had not found its way into his station log! (Please don't tell Ofcom...). His entry was nothing stimulating, all the scoring contacts but one being on SSB (the exception being on CW). And although tropo conditions were slightly up, all the contacts were within the UK.

Rick commented that he was “definitely aiming at the wooden spoon this month” – and that sadly proved to be correct as far as scoring entries were concerned. With gardening projects and thunderstorms keeping him away from the radio, he had failed to make any SOTA contacts (his main “staple diet” for the League). Instead he relied on the weekly SRCC 80m net to earn his points.

Peter and Ted did not submit logs for July but are content to be listed with null scores rather than being omitted completely.... future entries from them are looked forward to once the distractions of summer have passed!

The 2012 cumulative table is shown below. It shows minimal change compared with June, the only difference being that G3SRC moves up one position to eighth, displacing Rick to ninth.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOT
M0CGF	310	281	313	220	616	473	441						2654
G4FFY	211	215	252	224	535	405	431						2273
G4LZE	179	177	239	180	592	319	217						1903
G3WRR	21	66	62	33	156	167	33						538
G3EUE	15	60	80	97	140	63	0						455
G3ZPB	20	136	77	74	51	0	0						358
G4FYF	40	36	36	28	40	43	40						262
G3SRC	48	21	0	0	0	0	57						126
M0LEP	22	14	12	18	24	22	10						122

As reported last month, the solar flux index (SFI) continues to go up and down unpredictably on a day-to-day basis, with still no sign of the long-awaited consistent improvement. Nevertheless contacts were made by League Table entrants on all five bands between 20m & 10m, and the “big three” between them worked 27 DXCC entities on 10m alone – so although the SFI is a useful pointer, maybe it's better to rely on your ears rather than the numbers! It seems that sporadic E now seems to be dwindling somewhat (as is to be expected), but in mid-August it was still providing contacts on 6m so maybe it's a bit premature to give up on the season...

### 73, Quin G3WRR (SRCC Leaguemeister)

## SRCC NETS

The following is a list of structured nets on which members of SRCC meet regularly. They are sometimes joined by members of other local clubs, who are always made most welcome. The net is not usually led by a nominated controller, but stations normally transmit cyclically in the chronological order in which they sign in. If any member wishes further occasions and frequencies to be added to the table, please let me know at [q.g.collier@btinternet.com](mailto:q.g.collier@btinternet.com)

BAND/FREQUENCY/MODE	DAY OF WEEK	START TIME (clock)
160m / 1905 kHz / LSB	Sunday	9.30 am
10m / 28.078 MHz / JS8	Wednesday	10.00 am
4m / 70.30 MHz / FM	Thursday	8.00 pm
6m / 51.55 MHz / FM	Tuesday	8.00 pm
2m / 144.6125 MHz / D-Star	Friday	7.30 pm
2m / 145.35 MHz / FM	Friday	8.00 pm

In addition to the regular Club Nets, several members monitor the local repeater channels, particularly GB3XP (145.6875MHz 82.5Hz CTCSS FM)

## THAT'S ALL FOLKS.....

A number of suggestions have been made for topics for A meetings after this coming November – but if any other ideas come to mind please tell a member of the Committee and we will look at them. Looking forward to seeing you soon I hope, and best 73...

**Quin G3WRR**  
**SRCC Newsletter Editor**