



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

86th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

OCTOBER 2021 – No 950

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

General Club Business: [secretary@srcc.uk](mailto:secretary@srcc.uk)  
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 Newsletter articles/distribution: [newsletter@srcc.uk](mailto:newsletter@srcc.uk)  
 Club Equipment Loan: [equipment@srcc.uk](mailto:equipment@srcc.uk)  
 Club Website: <https://www.srcc.uk>

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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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**1<sup>st</sup> MEETING Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October: Annual Construction Contest**

**2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY**

## SRCC COMMITTEE 2021/22

Chairman	Vacant
Acting Chairman for October	G3MCX John Kennedy 020 8688 3322
Vice Chairman & BE Coordinator	G3ZPB Peter Burton 01737 551413
Hon. Secretary & Newsletter Editor	G3WRR Quin Collier 020 8653 6948
Treasurer & Membership Records	G4FFY Ray Howells 01732 357474
Resources & Liaison	G4DDY Maurice Fagg 020 8669 1480
Events	G6JXA Kim Brown 07812 735507
Fund Raising & Resources	G4LZE Colin Lugard 07533 174388
Publicity	G3MCX John Kennedy 020 8688 3322
Committee Member	G7VAK Paul Beaumont 07818 660493
Webmaster (Co-opted)	G4FYF Steve Jones 01424 584143

## EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends,

The key news for SRCC members this month has to be our most welcome return to face-to-face meetings at Trinity School. The first of these were the September A meeting (Peter G3ZPB's presentation on the new licence regulations related to Electromagnetic Field Strength) and the subsequent B meeting which was the usual Fix-It & Move-it-On + Advice Clinic led by John G8MNY.

The number of attendees at the A meeting was about the same as had normally been the case before lockdown, which hopefully suggests that the absence of physical meetings has not resulted in a drift away by the membership. My experience at work (in the pre-video days of audio only conference calls) was that existing teams could work well for quite a long time without meeting

face to face, although there was a gradual loss of coherence. But conversely new teams did not work too well together without meeting in the flesh. So, let's hope we don't have to see a return to a further run of lockdown! One unexpected (for me) observation was that in face-to-face B meetings people tended to form into little groups who chatted away happily but separately, whereas the more formal structure of the Zoom calls meant that there was just one group, and it was possible to get a better feel of what the membership as a whole was doing. I'm certainly not suggesting that one approach is better than the other – just noting that it seemed to be so.

Similarly, the SRCC Committee ran its meetings via Zoom during lockdown and we found that worked pretty well but at our first “back to MCX Towers” meeting we decided that next time we would try a hybrid meeting with those who wished to attend in person doing so (and taking advantage of Sandra's cake making skills) and those for whom it is impossible or inconvenient to do so to attend via Zoom. It'll be interesting to see how that works out.

If anyone has views on the topic of face-to-face versus Zoom I'd be interested to hear them – you can contact me at [g.g.collier@btinternet.com](mailto:g.g.collier@btinternet.com) or at a meeting.

So, on with the show....

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

As stated above, the September A meeting (at which there were 17 attendees) was a presentation by Peter G3ZPB on the new licence regulations related to Electromagnetic Field Strength. This opened by a playing of the RSGB “Tonight at Eight” video of 5<sup>th</sup> July (which had unfortunately clashed with the SRCC July A meeting). The RSGB video is available on-line at the following URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eBkKO2OhtE&t=290s>. This was followed by a demonstration by Peter of the current version of the spreadsheet designed by Ofcom and the RSGB which provides a straightforward means allowing amateurs to check their own compliance. The most recent version is available from a link at <https://rsgb.org/main/technical/emc/emf-exposure/>. The meeting was recorded, and this can be found on the SRCC website at: <https://www.srcc.uk/meetings/meetings-downloads/>.

It was good to meet new member Ray G7ODG from the first time – and a friend of Ray's, Richard G0VCH, who has subsequently joined us – welcome Richard.

The September B meeting was attended by 11 members and marked the return of the Fix-It & Move-it-On + Advice Clinic led by John G8MNY with a large assortment of test gear.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

The October A meeting which takes place on 4<sup>th</sup> October at Trinity will be the Construction Contest. Members are encouraged to bring along items they have made or assembled (thus items built from kits may be entered) and which they think may be of interest to others. There is no need for these to be constructed to showroom standard – items based on clever designs or of interest for other reasons will be just as welcome, and entrants will be given a couple of minutes to describe their offerings. After display, attendees will be invited to vote for their three favourite items (no criteria for choosing them – it's all a case of what you think deserves it). And our Treasurer has been prevailed upon to provide (small) financial prizes for the top three items! Entries may be spilt into more than one class (e.g., assembled kits versus “all my own work”) depending on what is displayed.

The November A meeting (on the first of the month) will be a Surplus Equipment Sale at which members are invited to bring for sale items (preferably of good quality) that they no longer require – and also encouraged to buy. The auctioneer will be our regular Gareth G4XAT, who will no doubt be displaying his usual mixture of bonhomie and hard sell..... The December A meeting (6<sup>th</sup>) will be a talk by Paul G7VAK on Spy Communications.

The October and November B meetings (18<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> respectively) will be the usual Fix-It & Move-it-On + Advice Clinic session, and the December B meeting (20<sup>th</sup>) will be the Christmas Social at which comestibles and drinks may be consumed!

## WANTED...

Wanted, a small 'TV antenna' style rotator (popular in the 1980's) such as Hirschman or similar, with or without the control box, working or not. Its only for small beams mounted occasionally. Almost anything considered....Thanks!

**73, Gareth G4XAT**

## LOCKDOWN PROJECT, PART 1 by STEVE G4FYF

Early in the first lockdown I put this together as a project for my 9-year-old granddaughter Zoie. It is a simple weather monitor to perhaps to see if we could find any correlation of local atmospheric data with physical local weather conditions.



I settled on using a BME280 temperature, barometric pressure and humidity module, an Arduino Nano to read and process data to be displayed on a 16x2 LCD.

The BME280 is claimed to be very accurate, uses 5V supply and I2C protocol to input to the Arduino. This module, manufactured by Bosch, supersedes the BMP280 that lacks humidity measurement and runs off 3.3V.

Mornings and evenings Zoie would record monitor readings along with prevailing weather conditions, e.g. sun level, cloud cover, wind strength. Each week we would enter data into spreadsheets I created, did some number crunching then generated some correlation graphs. After several weeks (when I detected her enthusiasm waning!) I helped her generate a written, illustrated, project report to take to school upon her return.

Any correlations found? Basically, for Zoie's purpose, just stopped at finding that generally, high pressure sees settled, fine, calm conditions and low pressure more unsettled, cooler and, perhaps, wet conditions.

Nonetheless, a simple project that encapsulated physical science, data collection and manipulation, a bit of maths and statistics, result interpretation, composition, grammar, and some desk top publishing, all in one. Oh, and a big tick from teacher!

The project then took a bit of a tangent for my educational purpose, more next month!

**73, Steve G4FYF**

## HERE AND THERE

Many thanks to Steve G4FYF for the following information...

Most readers will be aware of the recent eruption of the volcano Cumbre Vieja in the Canary Islands (EA8). Please note that the four frequencies as shown below are being used for emergency traffic and avoid them while transmitting:

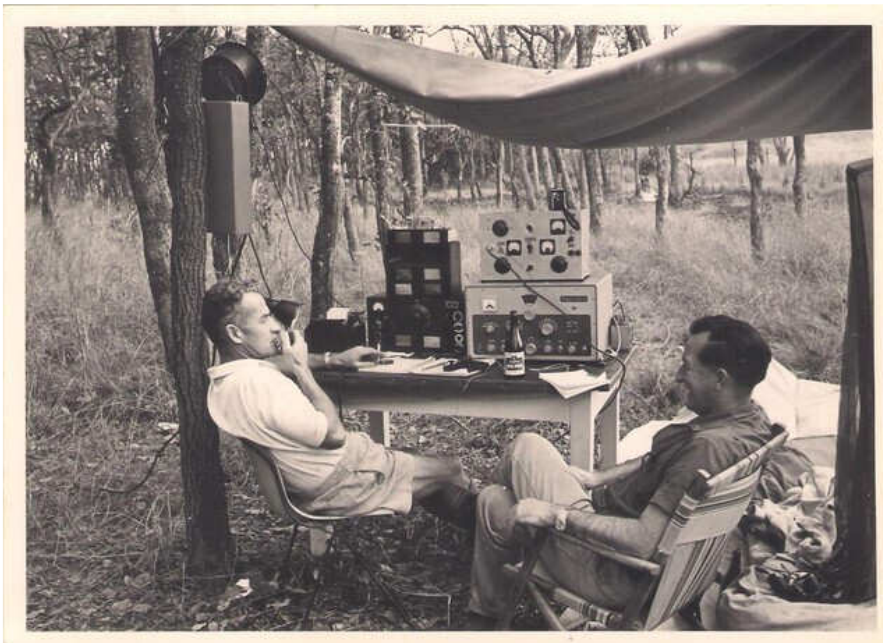
- 3.760MHz
- 7.110MHz
- 14.300MHz
- 21.360MHz

More details can be found here:

<https://www.iau-r1.org/2021/cumbre-vieja-volcano-eruption-19-sep-2021/>

Those of us who attended VHF NFD in July and those who have been in the hobby for a while will probably be interested in the following. Many thanks to Mike M1CCF for forwarding the initial information to me, and particular thanks to Richard F4WCD/ZS6TF for providing additional information and permission for this to be published in our Newsletter.

The initial picture shows a picture whose nature is clearly recognisable but differs greatly in both location and time from our recent activity. It was taken in Zambia and shows a field day in 1965. The specific event is not completely clear but was probably RSGB National Field Day - although in this case the term "National" is hardly appropriate! If the latter is right, it's probable that SRCC were out operating in the same event using G3BFP/P and G6LX/P...I wonder if they had a QSO?!



**FIELD DAY ZAMBIA 1965,  
MILDONA DAM, KITWE**

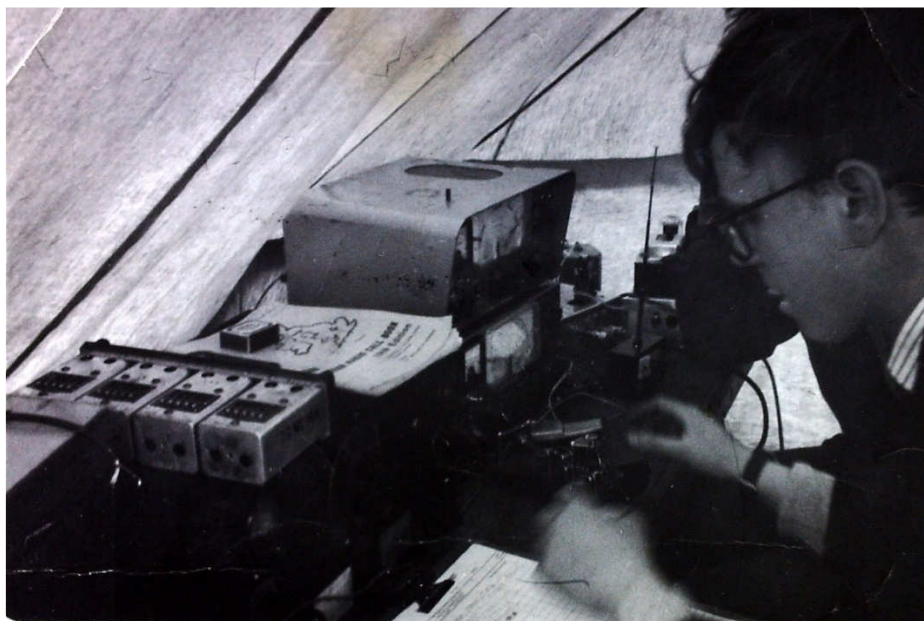
The site was near Mildona Dam outside Kitwe (about 280km North of the capital Lusaka) and the operator was George 9J2GJ (now SK) who was Richard's father-in-law. The transmitter is clearly a Heathkit DX100 and the receiver an HRO (note the box of "pull and replace" coil packs sitting on the top), both of which were quite highly thought of bits of equipment in those days. The item on top of the DX100 looks like an ATU.



Two of the following pictures also show field days in Zambia (one using the famous AR88 receiver) and, going from the sublime to the ridiculous, a picture of myself operating in NFD 1969 just four years later (note more hair and of a different colour to now...) but also using an HRO receiver.

I do have a couple more pictures and newspaper items courtesy of Richard so if you would like to see them, please contact me and we can make arrangements!





## SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – AUGUST 2021

Eight entries were received for the August 2021 League Table. Two of the “big three” (Ian M0CGF and Ray G4FFY) maintain their top positions. In the absence of Colin G4LZE (who has been tied up with decorating his house – at least that’s his story...), Steve G4FYF moves up two places to share equal third place with Rick M0LEP who moves up three places. Peter G3ZPB, who submitted a null score last month takes fifth place. The other three entries (Ted G3EUE, Quin G3WRR and Colin G4LZE) were null scores, apparently due to the continuing attractions of the summer – and are listed in order of licence seniority to avoid any suggestions of bias....

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0CGF	109	0	5	223
G4FFY	57	4	0	122
G4FYF	19	4	0	44
M0LEP	17	5	0	44
G3ZPB	5	4	0	18
G3EUE	0	0	0	0
G3WRR	0	0	0	0
G4LZE	0	0	0	0

A slightly higher number of contacts than usual was made with SRCC members, due in part to Pat G4FDN’s trip to the Emerald Isle as GI4FDN/A and EI2JW.

Ian commented that radio was now on the back burner with “real life taking over” in the form of work, children and a new house. 53% of his scoring contacts were made using FT8, 44% using SSB, 2% using FT4 and 1% - a single contact - using MSK144 (meteor scatter). 20m was his dominant HF band, where he made 78% of his contacts, the rest being evenly split (at 11% each) between 40m & 17m. These included all continents except Antarctica with Europe, as one might expect, being dominant at 76%, followed by North America (9%), South America (5%), Africa (4%), Asia (3%) and Oceania (2%) The latter were one QSO each with VK (Australia) and YB (Indonesia). On VHF, 93% of his (mostly FT8) contacts were on 6m and the rest on 4m. Although August is getting quite late in the year for sporadic E, he nevertheless managed to work several

squares in the USA and other countries on that mode.

In a comment similar to Ian's, Ray noted that with holiday and other (mainly canine related) commitments his time was spent other than on radio, and he was only able to manage one solid day's operating. 80% of his scoring HF contacts were made using FT8, with 14% on FT4 and 5% (3 contacts, all with SRCC members) on SSB. Just short of half were on 40m, followed by 17m (24%), 80m/20m (11%) and 160m/30m (4%). He managed at least one contact with all continents except Oceania and Antarctica. All his VHF contacts were on 2m FT8 and included 9 big squares in England, Belgium and France.

Steve, in what looks like another case of "August syndrome", lost a week of doing radio as a result of moving his shack from upstairs to a downstairs room. A downstairs shack is always a good move as it allows a shorter earth connection and reduces the likelihood of RF getting into everything. This probably contributes to Steve now having a much lower receiver noise level. The only downside was a "request" from Domestic Management to lay down carpet tiles in the now vacant upstairs room.... Once back to radio, he stoically commented "nothing exciting". In addition to a number of European contacts on the HF bands his tally includes four SRCC members.

Conversely, Rick managed to find a bit more time for radio this month. This, together with more SOTA stations active following the general easing of lockdown, meant that he was able to gain his highest monthly score so far this year despite finding HF conditions difficult. Notable contacts were with JW (Svalbard) and TF (Iceland), neither of which is exactly a user-friendly operating environment! One of the TF entrants has posted a view from his site with an active volcano in the distance - perhaps occasional complaints about our VHF NFD site at Warlingham are not justified....

The 2021 cumulative table is shown below. As noted before, the cumulative table tends to show much less volatility than the monthly one because it merely adds to the accumulated previous month's totals. As a result, the only change compared with July is Rick's move up one place to eighth.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOT
M0CGF	310	281	313	220	616	473	441	223					2877
G4FFY	211	215	252	224	535	405	431	122					2395
G4LZE	179	177	239	180	592	319	217	0					1903
G3WRR	21	66	62	33	156	167	33	0					538
G3EUE	15	60	80	97	140	63	0	0					455
G3ZPB	20	136	77	74	51	0	0	18					376
G4FYF	40	36	36	28	40	43	40	44					306
M0LEP	22	14	12	18	24	22	10	44					166
G3SRC	48	21	0	0	0	0	57	0					126

There is still no sign of a consistent upturn in sunspot cycle 25 - but it's always worth a listen!

## 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
80m / 3710kHz / LSB	Monday	9.00 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.....

Not a lot more to add – but I received an e-mail yesterday from Ted G3EUE describing his recent holiday with his family on the Brecon and Monmouth Canal and he has promised me some pictures – so that's something to look forward to next month!

**73, Quin G3WRR**