



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

86th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

DECEMBER 2021 – No 952

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

General Club Business: secretary@srcc.uk
 Membership/Treasurer: membership@srcc.uk
 Newsletter articles/distribution: newsletter@srcc.uk
 Club Equipment Loan: equipment@srcc.uk
 Club Website: <https://www.srcc.uk>

Honorary Secretary & Editor
 Quin Collier G3WRR
 19 Grangecliffe Gardens,
 LONDON,
 SE25 6SY
 Tel: 020 8653 6948

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 6 December: Spy Communications by Paul G7VAK
2nd MEETING Monday 20 December: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

SRCC COMMITTEE 2021/22

Chairman	Vacant	
Acting Chairman for December	G3WRR Quin Collier	020 8653 6948
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,

To kick off, I must apologise for a typo in last month's Newsletter. Shortly after "going public", I received an e-mail from John G3MCX which included the statement "I have had enough of statins without them being included in the SRCC Newsletter". With some people, I would have asked myself "what on earth is he on?" but John is not that kind of chap and I (correctly) assumed it was some kind of joke based on word play (which is, alas, a major component of my sense of humour). I finally tracked it down to the fact that I had used the word "statins" in the League Table write-up when I meant "stations"! So apologies for that, and I promise the Newsletter Review Sub-

Committee will try harder in future....

I had a few days away recently in Totnes (Devon) before the winter sets in too hard - which is why this issue is a few days later than usual. (Fans of Monty Python's Flying Circus from the early 70s may wish to note that there is definitely NO Hairdressers' Training Centre in Totnes). While in the Deep South West I caught up with a number of old friends – these included my ex-niece in law (don't ask...) who at age 50 has recently started a PhD course in marshland ecology and who gave a Zoom based presentation on the subject at the COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow....but I digress. I was asked if I was still doing amateur radio and confirmed that I was (but didn't push the topic as I get invited to few enough trendy dinner parties as it is...). But the inevitable subject of why anyone would wish to do such a thing nowadays when we have mobile phones etc. etc. was raised. My (now fairly well rehearsed) answer is that the average telecoms user wants to exchange information (speech, text, pictures, etc) over an entirely reliable transmission path between the two ends wherever and whenever they want. Conversely we as amateurs are often less concerned with the information carried (although it's pleasant to keep in touch with one's fellows) than about the quirks and vagaries of the transmission path and often get pleasure from establishing and operating over marginal links.

For those who are familiar with the ISO 7 layer model for Open Systems Interconnection, it seems to me that the average user is largely concerned with level 7 (the application layer) whereas we amateurs are more concerned with a sort of homogenised version of layers 1 – 6 (physical layer to presentation layer). For those who are **not** familiar with the 7 layer model, I would urge you to keep things that way.....

I'm not sure my audience is always persuaded by this argument, so I wonder whether (a) other members meet this sort of query from their non-radio friends, (b) whether they agree with my argument as set out above, and (c) what explanations they offer to explain what we do what we do. Any inputs welcome!

That, mercifully, is enough from me – so now onto the interesting stuff....

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The November A meeting, on Monday 1st, was the Surplus Equipment Sale. As this was the first such sale for over a year, it was well attended. Gareth G4XAT conducted his usual role as auctioneer, managing to coax money out of pockets whose owners seemed resolved to allow no such thing. Gareth was supported by Ray G4FFY and Peter G3ZPB who kept track of the financials and Maurice G4DDY who carried purchases from the podium to the purchasers. As a result of a very busy evening, a sum of £44 from the sale has been deposited in club funds.

The November B meeting (15th) was the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Chat session. John G8MNY was on hand with all his test gear. Amongst other activities Ray G4FFY helped Quin G3WRR with the relatively simple task of getting the latter's K3 to exchange audio with his laptop as a preliminary to experimenting with data modes - RTTY initially to cut his teeth then perhaps later FT8!

FUTURE MEETINGS

The December A meeting, on Monday 6th will be a talk on Spy Communications by Paul G7VAK.

The December B meeting (20th) will differ slightly from the usual B meeting format, as it will be the Christmas Social (and what better time of year to hold one?!). It is rumoured that comestibles such as mince pies and possibly even alcoholic beverages will be available. And to be on the safe side a vacuum cleaner (courtesy of Mr. Dyson) will be taken along to clear up afterwards....

The January A meeting, on Monday 10th, will be a Special Equipment Sale. Over the past couple of years SRCC has been building up a quantity of items to be sold to aid club funds. The general disruption to life resulting from COVID, and in particular the absence of our usual channels to market such as Kempton Park Rally and CATS Bazaar has resulted in an increasing quantity of stock being held. This has now been exacerbated by the need to help Gareth Simkins, the son of our deceased member and friend John G8IYS, dispose of John's radio gear. In fact an entire Volvo estate full of stuff was brought to the November Surplus Equipment Sale, but there was so much of member's surplus to be dealt with that time ran out and the club items and some of John's gear had to be taken back and are currently sitting in a Committee member's shack! The aim is to bring all John's relatively low value stuff along to this sale. More information on what is available will be provided in due course.

Looking further ahead, it is planned run a Construction Project (not to be confused with the Construction Contest as held in October). The proposed device is the overvolt protector described by GM4WZG on page 46 (et seq.) of the September 2021 issue of Radcom. This seems a good choice as its construction is demanding enough to be interesting but not too demanding to rule it out for those who may be less experienced in construction. It also has the advantage that we've all popped semiconductor devices by putting on too many volts, and anything that reduces that risk has to be a good idea... There are currently some issues with component availability – including the PCB – but these are expected to be resolved in due course and the target date therefore remains to be established – so for now watch this space...

IT'S AFS TIME AGAIN.....

Regular readers will be aware that around this time of year the Newsletter includes a reminder about the Affiliated Societies Contests. This year is no exception, and I will do so again as a reminder, and to make newer members aware.

Every year the RSGB runs a set of contests, currently eight, each year for its Affiliated Societies (of which the SRCC is one). These cover a spread of bands and modes between 160m and 70cm, thus providing something of interest for a wide selection of amateurs. Their focus is on the performance of clubs as teams, rather than on individual "star stations". For this reason, club entries are based on teams of up to four stations. Clubs can enter as many stations as they like in each event but their entries are grouped by the RSGB Contest Committees into teams of up to four. As SRCC is not a very contest oriented club I am not aware of us ever having got more than one team on – however some of the more contest-active clubs have in the past managed to get up to five teams on!

Each of these contests stands in its own right, but in addition, the results of the individual contests are aggregated together by the RSGB (in a manner that is fair but not easily explained...) to form an additional and separate AFS Super League.

This year (or, more accurately, this cycle since the series runs between late 2021 and early 2022) there are eight contests in the series, running between 50MHz AFS in October 2021 and 432MHz AFS in February 2022. We are at present three contests into the 2021/22 cycle and SRCC has managed to get at least one station on in each of them. On the basis of the results published so

far, we were 19th out of 29 (one station) in the Local Club section of 50MHz AFS, 23rd out of 34 (two stations) in the Club Calls Contest and a disappointing 19th out of 20 (one station) in the 70MHz AFS. However our overall result so far in the Super League (17th out of 36th in the Local Club section) is more promising.

The reason for publishing this item now is to point out that the remaining five contests in the cycle take place between this weekend and the first week of February 2022, and – if you hadn't guessed – to encourage members to participate! This could either be full participation including log submission or just coming on to work other club members – but if you do the latter it's generally regarded as poor form to work **only** your own members, so working a few other stations as well would be good. Certainly contesting is not to everyone's taste and there is no pressure at all on you to do so – but if you have a bit of spare time on the dates / times listed below, why not come on and work a few? You might find something new that you like within the hobby! The details of the remaining contests are shown below, along with a link to the rules:

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME (UTC)	MODE(S)
Sunday	5/12/21	144MHz AFS	1000 - 1400	All (but mainly SSB)
Saturday	8/1/22	80-40m AFS (CW)	1300-1700	CW
Sunday	16/1/22	80-40m AFS (data)	1300-1700	RTTY, PSK
Saturday	22/1/22	80-40m AFS (SSB)	1300-1700	SSB
Sunday	7/2/22	432MHz AFS	0900-1300	All (but mainly SSB)

Rules are at the following URL:

<https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2021/rSL-thisandnext.shtml>

If you are interested but find the rules (or any other aspect) a bit puzzling, please feel free to contact me at g.g.collier@btinternet.com

73, Quin G3WRR

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – OCTOBER 2021

The number of entries received for the October 2021 League Table was again eight, of which one was a null score. The positions have changed very little since September, with the “FT8 gang” continuing to dominate the table and the top four entries remaining the same. Quin G3WRR and Ted G3EUE have moved up one place to fifth and sixth respectively, causing Rick M0LEP to move down two places to seventh.

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	98	6	34	242
M0CGF	88	0	63	239
G4LZE	50	2	21	127
G4FYF	27	1	27	83
G3WRR	13	0	13	39
G3EUE	14	0	2	30
M0LEP	7	5	0	24
G3ZPB	0	0	0	0

Publication timescales mean that this month a detailed analysis of entries has not been possible, so instead here is a selection from entrants' comments:

- Ray G4FFY collected 4L (Georgia) for a new DXCC – but had a rather longer list of gotaways, including D6 (Comoros), FR (Reunion), HH (Haiti) and 3B9 (Rodriguez)
- Colin G4LZE worked VK3 (Victoria, Australia) on 40m FT4 in the RSGB contest
- Ian M0CGF has been out portable at Warlingham and Beachy Head and picked up VK (Australia), ZL (New Zealand), JA (Japan) and – a really nice one – KL7 (Alaska).

The 2021 cumulative table is shown below. There is only one change from the September positions, with Steve G4FYF and Peter G3ZPB changing position – Steve now takes sixth place shuffling Peter down to seventh.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOT
M0CGF	310	281	313	220	616	473	441	223	150	239			3266
G4FFY	211	215	252	224	535	405	431	122	193	242			2830
G4LZE	179	177	239	180	592	319	217	0	110	127			2140
G3WRR	21	66	62	33	156	167	33	0	6	39			583
G3EUE	15	60	80	97	140	63	0	0	0	30			485
G4FYF	40	36	36	28	40	43	40	44	40	83			429
G3ZPB	20	136	77	74	51	0	0	18	0	0			376
M0LEP	22	14	12	18	24	22	10	44	16	24			206
G3SRC	48	21	0	0	0	0	57	0	0	0			126

The SFI continues to seesaw up and down without any clear trend apparent, but (and remembering that this is reflecting current figures rather than the October position as shown in the tables), in the CQWW CW contest last weekend 20m & 15m were full of signals. And even 10m although a bit patchy was busy at times, with Quin G3WRR working 13 countries on the band including 12 stations in South America and the Caribbean.

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 g.q.collier@btinternet.com.

BAND/FREQUENCY/MODE	DAY OF WEEK	START TIME (clock)
160m / 1905 kHz / LSB	Sunday	9.30 am
80m / 3710 kHz (+/- QRM) 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.....

Nothing more to add from here, so all the best, keep omicron variant free and see you in December!

73, Quin G3WRR
SRCC Secretary & Newsletter Editor