



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

AUGUST 2026 – No. 1008

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:
 Pat McGuinness G4FDN
 9 Farndale Road
 Carshalton Beeches
 SM5 3NG
 020 8643 0491

MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm
Meetings at St. Paul's United Reformed Church, Croham Park Avenue,
Croydon CR2 7HF

1st MEETING Monday 3rd August 2026: "Calibration" by John G8MNY
2nd MEETING Monday 17th August 2026: Fix-it evening led by John G8MNY

Acting Chairman	G4FDN Pat McGuinness 020 8643 0491
Secretary	G4FDN Pat McGuinness 020 8643 0491
Committee member	G6JXA Kim Brown 07498 580216
Committee member	M0RSK Krishnan 07717 718984 Rangaswamy
Committee member	M6SLQ Dale McMurray 07812 131643
Committee member	Phil Mead 07498 580216
Webmaster (non-Committee member)	G4FYF Steve Jones 01424 259377
Treasurer (non-Committee member)	G4FFY Ray Howells 01732 357474
Newsletter Editor (non-Committee member)	G3WRR Quin Collier 020 8653 6948

EDITOR'S TWOPENNY WORTH

Readers will perhaps have noticed that your scribe has a certain interest in contests That is certainly true, but after three portable contests in a seven week period, I am a bit maxed out on the outdoor life! I have managed to empty the car from last weekend's trip to the Isle of Wight but still have to unpack the five large boxes that are still sitting in the hall....

At the end of the month I will be off for a week of guaranteed no radio holiday with my daughter and five year old granddaughter in Yorkshire. I had wanted to go to Wales (haven't been there since giving up caving 35 years ago) but my daughter has an electric car - no jokes about Volkswagens please – and she is concerned about finding charging stations in our remote Cambrian outposts – so Yorkshire it is!

A coincidence... during my daughter's recent visit to Mission Control Norwood, she pointed at a house and commented "I used to go to school with a girl who lived there" – and it turned out that the house was Paul G7VAK's and the girl in question was his daughter Clare! Small world...

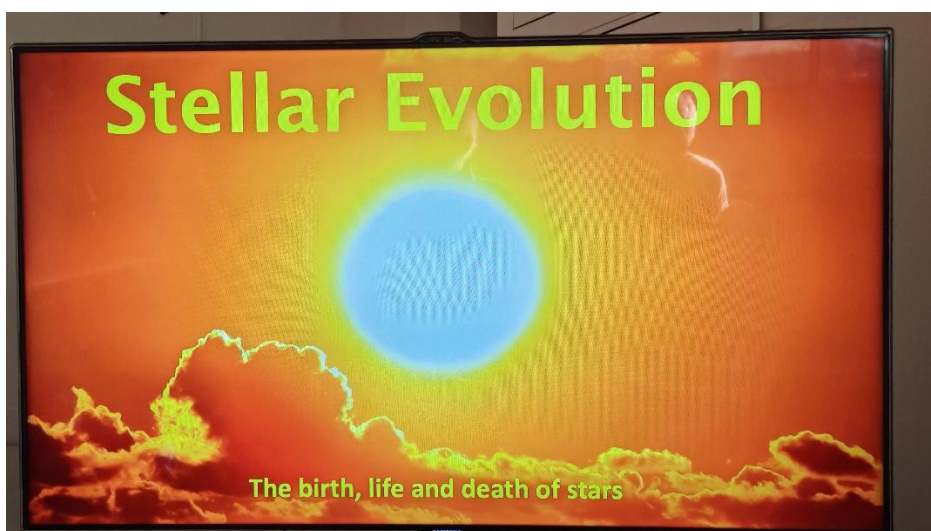
73, Quin G3WRR

RECENT EVENTS

4/5th July VHF National Field Day. See below for more details.

6th July meeting *Fix-it evening with John G8MNY* As this meeting was the day after the VHF NFD weekend, it proved a good opportunity to exchange experiences, and to consider any lessons learnt for the future!

20th July meeting *Special SRCC Meeting “The Evolution of Stars” by physicist Gary Newport* Gary opened by explaining that following a lecture on Stellar Evolution as an undergraduate, he had been encouraged to take his Masters Degree and was now studying for his PhD which he expected to complete next year. The presentation was excellent, clear, well structured and very well received - but was so “information rich” that your scribe was unable to turn his notes of the evening into a coherent write-up.... If anybody else present succeeded please let me know and the will be included in a future issue! However the following pictures hopefully give some idea of the presentation.





FUTURE EVENTS

3rd August 'Calibration' by John G8MNY

17th August Fixit evening led by John G8MNY`

7th September 'PCB Design using Sprint with examples from HF Transceiver Design' by Bob Burns G3OOU. Bob says" This illustrated talk will review two methods of PCB design commencing with a very old manual graph paper method which I have used both privately and commercially for many years followed by a modern CAD software package called Sprint Layout V6 which can emulate the graph paper method. Included will be some live on-screen demonstrations to show how Sprint works and what is required to enable manufacture by an external supplier. The talk will

finish with the display of some example PC boards designed with Sprint, manufactured by JLCPCB in Hongkong and populated by the speaker”

21st September *Fixit evening* led by John G8MNY

5th October *Surplus Equipment Sale*

19th October *Fixit evening* led by John G8MNY

2nd November *possibly a talk on vintage radio repair* (To be confirmed)

16th November *Fixit evening* led by John G8MNY

7th December *Club Construction Evening*

21st December *Christmas Social*

VHF NFD 2026

David G0PAR is intending to produce a proper article for next month’s Newsletter but in summary the event went off quite well using the Wimbledon Club Camp site near Reigate. As a result of limited support (only two members, John G8MNY and Chris M7JQL, attended for the whole weekend) the entry was in the Multi-Single Section which allows maximum use of limited resources by permitting a single station operating on a maximum of three bands and a single mast for all antennas. The call used was G3SRC/P and bands used were 2m, 70cm and 23cm.

However Pat G4FDN, David G0PAR (suffering from shingles at the time...) and Quin G3WRR (following a bit of Henry Kissinger style negotiation with his visiting daughter) attended to transport gear and assist with set-up and take-down. There were also a number of visitors - always welcome: Gerry G8NNT (CATS), Richard 2E0JZE, Lee M7THX, Dog Walker (anonymous). Full marks, incidentally, to Chris M7JQL... this was his first visit to a /P site and he just seemed to know instinctively what had to be done...very well done Chris. He has already been conscripted for 2027.....

The results have not yet been published, but the SRCC claimed scores were:

BAND	QSOs	BIG SQUARES	BEST DX	KM
2m	67	23	PA1T	524
70cm	13	8	HB9WW	698
23cm	1	1	G8HIE	51



**OPERATING
TENT /
ANTENNAS (L)
and
JOHN
G8MNY's VAN
/ TENT (R)**



**JOHN G8MNY
and CHRIS
M7JQL
OPERATING
THE STATION**

HERE AND THERE

Dave G3NGK, who has previously made donations of equipment to SRCC, has found 3 lengths (approximately 20ft each) of good quality coaxial cable, which he believes it to be RG59 in his loft. He is happy to donate these to any member who would be interested. He can be contacted at davengk.dc@gmail.com.

Members will probably have noted the closure of the BBC Long Wave transmitter at Droitwich in Worcestershire on 30th June. This was one of those places I always knew about but in almost no detail, so its closure persuaded me to do a bit of digging. It was the BBC's most powerful LW transmitter, and opened formally on 7th October 1934. With fellow stations at Burghead and Westerglen in Scotland, it provided the LW Radio 4 (formerly "Home Service") transmission on a frequency of 200kHz (wavelength of 1500m), thus acting as a frequency standard until this was changed in 1978 to 198kHz - presumably to comply with changes to international regulations. There were two 700ft masts 590ft apart, each weighing 180 tons and suspending a T antenna between them. In addition to Radio 4, phase modulated time-of-day signals and also timing information for services such as Economy 7 were transmitted. Thanks, as so often, to Wikipedia for this information - if you are interested in more, look at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droitwich_Transmitting_Station.

A problem arose recently with my Winkey which, as its name subtly implies, is a morse keyer that talks to a computer via Windows. It's very handy in CW contests as, in conjunction with logging programs (in this case N1MM+), it allows you to decide in advance what messages you want to send, program them in and then send them with one keystroke. This relieves you of the need to (e.g.) send repeated CQ messages by hand and thus allows you to turn your brain off for a few seconds while the system does the biz. This excellent tool has been in use here for around 15 years. Three or four years ago it started getting a bit touchy and would stop talking to the laptop from time to time. This involved a restart of N1MM+:no big deal in itself, and I just assumed that this was a glitch in the protocol between the laptop to Winkey software and shrugged the shoulders – but looking at the CW NFD log later it became clear that we had lost approaching half an hour of operating time. That is not good. This year, we noticed that it seemed to throw these wobbles most often when changing operators, which includes changing paddles (we all have our own favourites). And we began to wonder if the Winkey USB-B connector to PCB was faulty. The short-term solution was to try another Winkey (fortunately to hand) but on return home it was time to have a look. On inspection, the actual logic connections between the USB socket and PCB were OK – but it was clear that the pins used to mount the socket onto the PCB were mechanically stable but had not been soldered at all! Two simple dabs of solder put it all correct and back in business...

This experience brings out two points: (a) latent faults can stay latent for a surprisingly long time, and (b) keep your mind open for explanations of faults – it's easy to be led astray by false diagnosis!

Post script.... the above was written just before the IOTA contest – and the problem reappeared during it – although to a greatly reduced extent, and the standby Winkey again saved the day. Further surgery is clearly required but this flags a third point...don't be smug about your repairs and test thoroughly before use in action

73, Quin G3WRR

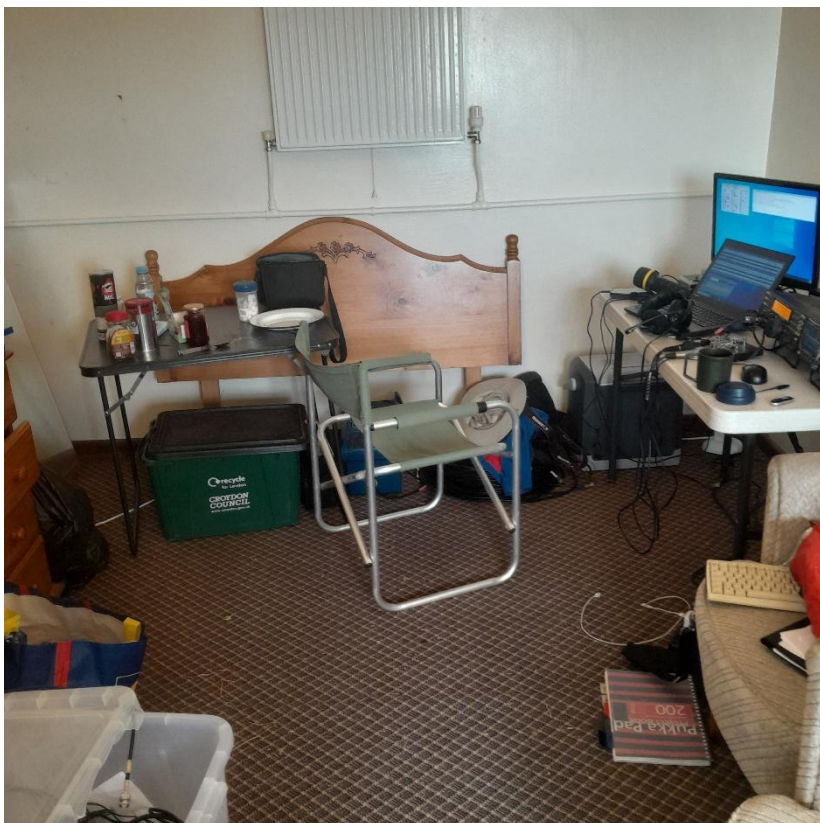
IOTA CONTEST 2026

The final portable outing of the year for our little group of testers was for the RSGB IOTA Contest. This is based on the IOTA (Islands On The Air) award scheme, which allows entrants to earn certificates for making contacts with islands that meet certain criteria. Entrants in the IOTA Contest earn multipliers for making contacts with different Island groups and hence island stations are attractive to entrants wanting to build up a good score. The Isle of Wight counts as part of the EU120 (English Coastal Islands) group and is reasonably accessible (apart, perhaps, for the ferry costs...) and is therefore a good choice. The format is clearly a successful one as 2221 logs have been submitted so far this year.

About 15 years ago, we found an easy-going chalet and camping site right on top of the cliffs on the South Western face of the island and have been using it regularly ever since. This year only Alun G4WGE and myself were available. As the (rather complicated) rules allow you to run 2 stations - although simultaneous contacts are not permitted - this made it hard work. After picking up Alun and his stuff on Friday morning, we (just) caught the 10 a.m. ferry out of Portsmouth, and arrived on site around 11.30a.m. Fortunately the weather was kind to us and on the Friday afternoon we managed to get up a 45ft mast (erected by Alun single handed!) supporting two antennas, a fan dipole for 80m & 40m and another fan dipole for 20, 15 & 10m. and also a separate 5 band vertical. For rigs we had two Elecraft K3s – quite an elderly rig now but still popular and very competitive - running 100W. Logging used N1MM+ which allows 2 synchronised laptops - one for each station. All set up and ready to go, we then smugly retired to a rather nice pub for a meal.

The contest itself took its usual 24 hour course (operating, sitting around, eating, sleeping). Alun also spent some time using his drone and at least one of the resulting pictures is attached. At the end we got the gear down and packed, and caught the 5pm ferry (with plenty of time) back to Blighty despite the ferry being held up by racing yachts on the way. I finally got home about at about 8.30pm, fed the (indignant) cats, sat down for a cup of tea – and woke up on the sofa at around 0330. The car is unloaded but the boxes have still (this being Thursday a.m.) to be unpacked...

So how did we do? In terms of contacts, we claimed 1163 contacts – just under 100 more than last year despite the turndown in cycle 25. Best DX worked was 1 VK and one ZL. With several days to closure of entries, in terms of claimed QSOs, we are 8th out of 31 in the Multi-Single section – but the deciding factor will be the number of multipliers and we must await the results!



**INTERNAL VIEW OF SHACK
(INCLUDING CATERING TABLE)**



**AIRBORNE VIEW – SHACK
RIGHTMOST BUT ONE CHALET!**

73, Quin G3WRR

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 g3wrr99@gmail.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
6m / 51.55 MHz / FM	Tuesday	8.00 pm
4m / 70.30 MHz / FM	Thursday	8.00 pm
2m / 144.6125 MHz / Digital Voice	Friday	7.30 pm
2m / 145.35 MHz / FM	Friday	8.00 pm

* The Friday night Digital Voice net usually starts with D-star.

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.....

Inputs of material from members always welcome! The more input from the membership is received, the less of mine you have to read.....

73, Quin G3WRR
SRCC Newsletter Editor