



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

JUNE 2026 – No. 1006

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 1st June 2026: Fix-it with John G8MNY & Social Chat
2nd MEETING Monday 15th June 2026: "The Agincourt Archer" by Simon Waterfield

Acting Chairman	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020 8643 0491
Secretary	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020 8643 0491
Committee member	G6JXA Kim Brown	07498 580216
Committee member	MORSK Krishnan Rangaswamy	07717 718984
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

MEETING PROGRAMME CHANGES

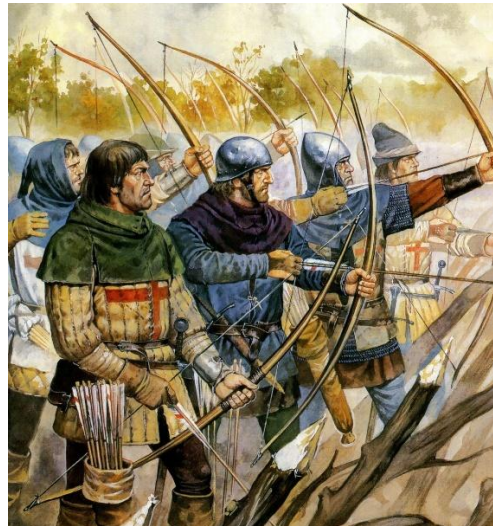
There is a change to the normal Newsletter running order this month to focus members' attention on the reversal of normal A meeting / B meeting running order and two interesting presentations by outside speakers. So thanks to Pat G4FDN for the following:

THE MAIN MEETINGS FOR JUNE AND JULY WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE 3RD MONDAY, AND NOT ON THE 1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.

The first meetings in June and July, on the 1st June and the 6th July respectively, will be a Fix-it evening led by SRCC's resident technical expert John Stockley G8MNY. At these meetings, members and visitors can help and advice in diagnosing faults and issues on all types of radio and electronic equipment, as well as their alignment and calibration. Anyone seeking help is advised to contact John before the meeting so he can ensure that he has any required test equipment or tools with him. These meetings also allow members and visitors to chat informally.

SPECIAL SRCC MEETING 15TH JUNE 2026: “THE AGINCOURT ARCHER” BY SIMON WATERFIELD

Members are encouraged to bring their families and friends to this special presentation that will be of general interest to those wishing to better understand this significant period in English history.



The dramatised re-enactment is a story about war and remembrance centred round a fourteenth century archer and his experiences in France at the Battle of Agincourt. The story covers the archer's journey to join the army; along the way he meets Chaucer and the pilgrims on the way to Canterbury. Spoken and acted in a way to include the audience in his reminiscence, the archer tells of his experiences at war at Agincourt, and how they affected him and his family on his return, and his reflections on the meaning of war and remembrance. It includes historical anecdotes, reproduction historical artefacts which are used as part of the drama to bring history and the archer's story to life. Humour and emotion are strong elements of the tale, as is some assistance from Shakespeare.

Simon researches and writes monologues about events and people in history and performs his stories as a monologue in character in the first person. This makes the event come alive for the audience.

“If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten.” – Rudyard Kipling.

“Tell me the facts and I’ll learn. Tell me the truth and I’ll believe, But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever.” – Native American Proverb.

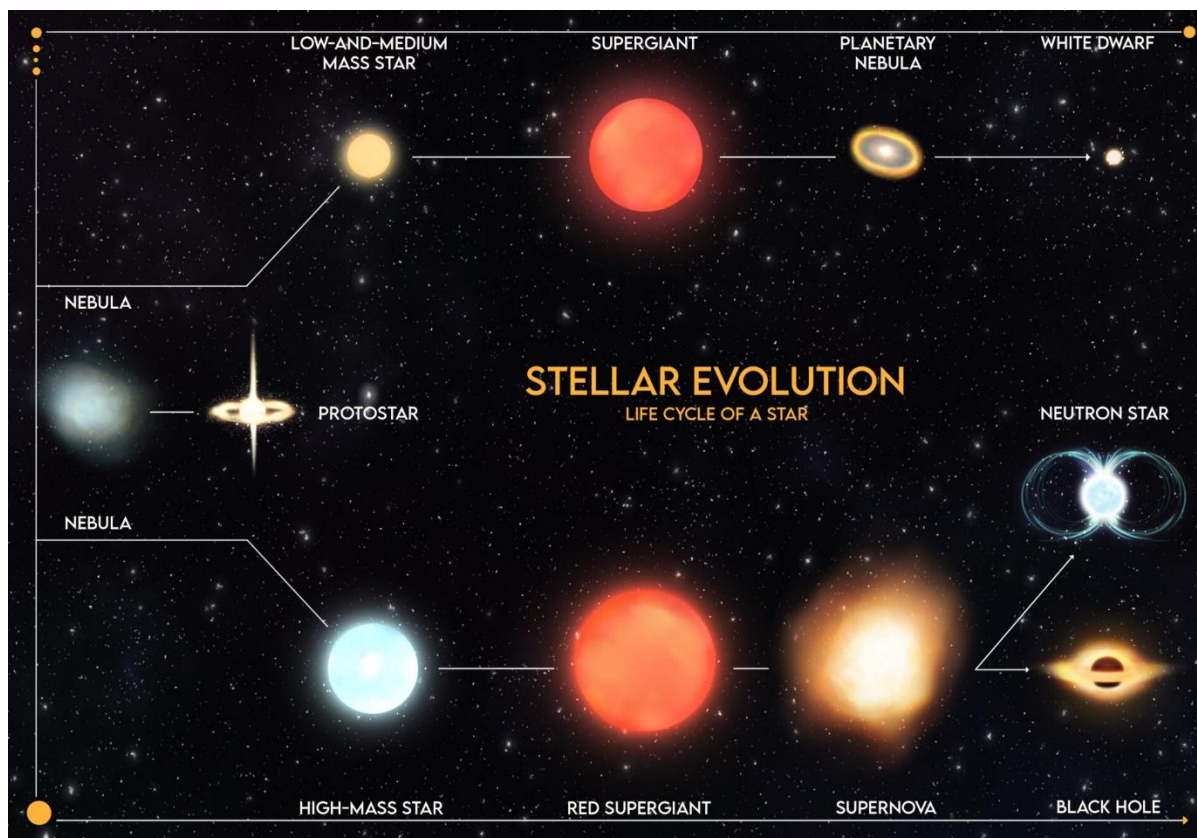
Using his experiences as re-enactor, actor, and drawing on family history, Simon has developed his monologues to illustrate how great historical events are seen from an ordinary person's point of view. They are performed in costume of the time, and he brings items of a historical nature,

SPECIAL SRCC MEETING 20TH JULY 2026: “THE EVOLUTION OF STARS” BY PHYSICIST GARY NEWPORT

As radio amateurs we are well away of how the sun influences the ionosphere and hence radio propagation, but probably we have a very incomplete or simple understanding of how stars are born, live and die. This special presentation by physicist Gary Newport will enlighten us on all aspects of stellar evolution. This topic was the subject of Gary's PhD thesis.

Are you confused by the term's nebula, proto star, supernova, neutron star, and black hole? All will be explained in this presentation.

It is not often we can get presenters of Gary's calibre so this will a presentation not to miss.



EDITOR'S TWOPENNY WORTH

Just a couple of items this month related to the non-radio aspects of the lives of our members and their families ...

Ray G4FFY has notified me of the good news that his wife Caroline, who has recently received two courses of chemotherapy treatment for leukaemia, has had a biopsy which shows that her bone marrow appears to be recovering to normal. Apart from a couple of "precautionary doses" of chemo in due course that should be the end of the matter – great news!

And Steve G4FYF has provided the following" *Well, plumbing all good. But, I had a minor blackout in the pub last week. The guys put me on the floor then into a chair to await ambulance that took 18 mins and I ended up 3 days in hospital. Main issues were severely low blood sodium, severe low vitamin D, low magnesium. They pumped the necessary fluids into me and monitored. The only reason they came up with was that since I've quite a few procedures in short space of time, my metabolism had a bit of a wobbly. I'm now back to normal and back in the pub again! What else can possibly go wrong?! 73 Steve*" [Watch this space ...Editor]

I recently took a short break (three complete days plus two part-days travelling down and back) at Totnes in South Devon. The journey down was bit grim as the M5 was closed due to a major diesel spillage and traffic was diverted onto the A38 resulting in a seven hour coach journey but nil desperandum.... As a Devonian by marriage I know the area well and am still in contact with my ex in-laws. Totnes is an interesting little town, complete with motte and bailey castle from the days of William the Conqueror. It has a lovely hippy-style feeling about it (full of third age shops selling

“energy crystals” and the like) and the accommodation in which I stay – The Steam Packet Inn – is historically interesting. It is located near to the first bridge above Dartmouth across the River Dart. As the highest point of navigation by decent sized ships, the bridge was the place where the packet ships (carriers of mail and goods) were moored and an inn was built where the crews were accommodated, hence the name.

I spent ages yesterday trying to upload a couple of holiday piccies from my mobile to this laptop for inclusion but sadly without success

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

11th May meeting *“Number stations: 1950 to the present day”* by Paul G7VAK. This was a multimedia presentation by Paul who has had a life-long interest in number stations and has developed a wide knowledge of them as well as other aspects of clandestine communications. We were given an overview of the history of number stations together with an introduction of message structure and the various forms of modulation used from speech, CW, and tones. Paul further illustrated their use from the Soviet era to the present day, including the new V32 Farsi station that appeared on 28th February. As Paul explained other countries, China, Israel, Russia and Taiwan have used or continue use one way messaging for agents and illegals abroad. If you wish to sample sound files of these stations see: www.enigma2000.org, or contact Paul direct.



PRESENTATION OF BASIL WARDMAN G5GQ TANKARD TO JOHN STOCKLEY G8MNY

The presentation to John was made for his award in the last SRCC Construction Contest.

18th May meeting *GX3SRC On the Air Evening*, This was led by John Stockley G8MNY who kindly facilitated the session by putting up a 40m dipole and made and bringing along an IC-735 transceiver, 400W linear, PSU and ancillary equipment. Several contacts were made and Phil Mead undertook some of the log keeping. David How G0PAR also brought along an Icom IC-7300 which he also fired up.



**DAVID G0PAR OPERATING
GX3SRC, WITH (L-R IN
BACKGROUND) JOHN G3MCX,
QUIN G3WRR, JOHN G8MNY AND
KIM G6JXA**

FUTURE MEETINGS

1st June meeting *Fix-it evening with John G8MNY*

15th June meeting *"The Agincourt Archer" by Simon Waterfield. (See "Meeting Programme Changes" above)*

4/5th July *VHF National Field Day (Participation / location and to be confirmed)*

6th July meeting *Fix-it evening with John G8MNY*

20th July meeting *"The Evolution Of Stars" by Gary Newport. (See "Meeting Programme Changes" above)*

73, Quin G3WRR

SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB – WHATSAPP GROUP BY DAVID G0PAR

A WhatsApp group "SRCC" has been created "For exchange of amateur radio information within Surrey Radio Contact Club" This is intended to keep members of the group up to date with club activities and possibly enable members to ask for help or information relating to a topic or problem. This is an invitation for you to join the WhatsApp group "SRCC" by scanning the QR code below. If you wish to join scan the QR code - and if not, do nothing. The details of those wishing to join will be checked against the club membership list before they are approved.

SRCC

WhatsApp group



The normal set of rules of politeness, consideration, thoughtfulness, and no trolling will be permitted. I would ask people to think before they start to writing. Messages are to the group and not one-to-one text messages. These messages will remain for some time, on different topics appearing at the same time, which may lead to misunderstandings and confusion. Therefore, I would hope that people would be exact in their messaging, use nouns rather than pronouns and prepositions (e.g. "that's okay" asks the question of the topic and what does "that's" refer to) Similarly "See you there next week" many mean "See you Peter at the Brighton Rally on the 30th May 26".

73, David G0PAR

HF NFD 2026

As noted last month, preparations for SRCC's entry in VHF NFD are under way, led by David G0PAR and John G8MNY.

A similar activity is proceeding for HF NFD which takes place on the weekend of 6th/7th June. This is a CW only event covering 160,80,40,20,15 & 10m. Although in the past SRCC was a high achiever in NFD with operators like G6LX, G3BFP & G3EUE, as a club SRCC no longer takes part. However two SRCC members, Alun G4WGE and myself, will be taking part along with John G4CZB, who used to live in Purley and like myself was a member of the now defunct Purley & DRC in the late 60s. John now lives near Northampton and we will be using a suitable field near Ravensthorpe owned by a member of the local club.

Like VHF NFD there are several sections to choose from but we have as usual opted for the Low Power Unassisted Portable section which means we are allowed:

- maximum transmitter power of 100W
- maximum of two receivers
- a single antenna consisting of a single element, although traps and/or removable links are permitted
- the antenna must be supported by a maximum of two elevated supports not exceeding 15m above ground
- no assistance from internet systems such as DX Cluster.

While the "single antenna" rule certainly eases the demand on antennas and mastage, it introduces a couple of other problems (*In passing, I recall a statement by a former boss that "we don't have problems, we have opportunities". When I suggested that we had a number of opportunities that needed sorting out fairly urgently, I was accused of having an "attitude problem"... but I digress*). Anyway, the main opportunities/problems (take your pick) are that:

- as the length of the antenna in terms of wavelength increases, the main lobes progress

from roughly broadside at half a wavelength long to roughly end-fire at eight wavelengths.

- the impedance of the antenna varies wildly across the roughly 16:1 frequency spread between 160m & 10m. For this reason open wire feeder is a more sensible choice than coaxial cable.

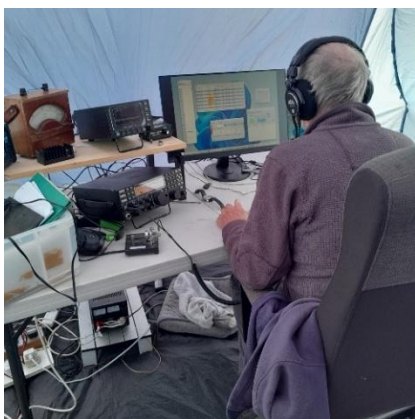
A sort of evolutionary “survival of the fittest” has developed over the years leading to the popularity of a 256ft doublet fed with open wire feeder by many Restricted section entrants.

Over a number of years, I have spent many hours spreadsheeting to try and find a least worst antenna orientation which would offer a decent compromise between the compass bearings for the countries we wanted to work on each band and the direction of maximum antenna gain for that band. With hindsight I am convinced it never really helped us that much – and in any case the Ravensthorpe site we now use means there is only one really viable orientation.

As for matching the rig to the antenna we rapidly progressed from having a single ATU that needed retuning at every band change. Looking at a historic NFD log shows that we made 76 band changes over the 24 hours - so if we spent just an (optimistic) single minute every band change twiddling the ATU we would lose an hour and a quarter of operating time overall. So the next stage was to use one preset ATU per band and switch their inputs and outputs. This proved substantially quicker: one of the pictures below shows a setup of this type from some years ago. But wouldn't it be nice if it could all happen automatically? That was the next stage, and with an auto ATU it should have been easy peasy - but it proved otherwise The problem with most of them is that they are designed for unbalanced antennas (eg. longwires). But by “floating” the auto ATU by putting a balun between the feeder and the ATU input and using a non-earthed power supply such as a car battery to power the ATU it has proved possible to get a fairly well balanced current in the two legs of the balanced feeder.

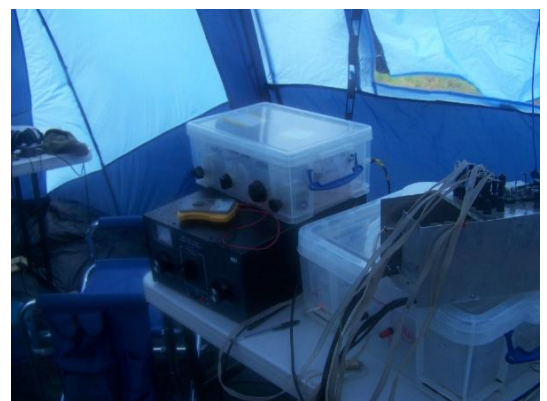
The rig we will be using is once again an Elecraft K3 – quite an elderly design now but still highly thought of. And for logging we will be using the N1MM+ logging program. Opinions on computer logging vary but you don't really need to be able to touch type – I certainly can't – and for the cost of a little practice you get the advantages of:

- no need to maintain a manual check log
- Function Key driven programmable messages for different circumstances (eg, CQ, outgoing reports, all received OK (R TU), please repeat (PSE AGN) and so on). This, for example, allows you to turn your brain off while calling CQ
- bandmaps to display who is on the band
- operating statistics (eg. changes in QSO rate)
- “and much, much more” as the advertising gurus would say.



**G4CZB OPERATING
IN NFD 2025**

**ATUs AND
SWITCHING**





DILLY THE FLYING DUCK



NFD STATION TENT & ANTENNA 2022(?)

A couple of pictures from recent years above may give you the idea!

So now for the hard sell..... If you operate on CW why not come on and give some of the NFD entrants (including ourselves...) a few contacts? We (under the aegis of Flying Ducks Contest Group (see above)Alun will explain that to you) will be using a different callsign this year. My own call (which we have used for some years) is none too smooth on CW and with the easing of callsign constraints by our chums in Ofcom I decided to try and obtain a reallocation of the prewar callsign G2ANT (which had been held by Bill Law a now SK friend from Thornton Heath) and which “trips off the key” much better than G3WRR. Apparently G2+3 calls are not being reissued – this is believed to be because the G2+3 letter series were not full amateur licences but rather “Artificial Aerial Licenses” which allowed holders to build transmitters but not radiate – a kind of apprenticeship I guess. However G6ANT and G7ANT were available so Alun got G6ANT and we will be on in NFD using G6ANT/P. Hope to work you....

73, Quin G3WRR

GB6MW MEOPHAM WINDMILL : MILLS ON THE AIR 2026 WEEKEND by Architaa 2E0KXA

A successful weekend activation of Meopham windmill by Cray Valley on the 9th and 10th of May for the Mills on the air weekend. Special event stations are a great way to operate, learn and be part of the ham community. The special event call sign increases QSO rates. The prospect of running high power and working with a varied backdrop puts the ‘special’ in special event station.

Rising at the crack of dawn on Sunday, we made our way to Wallington station where we got the very first train to Victoria.

Two hours later we arrived, raring to go after a long walk from Meopham station after realising that there were no buses on the weekends...

There was an HF and one VHF station. On Saturday, there was a QO-100 setup but we missed it as it was only setup for the previous day.(just my luck !)

Much of this was to inform visitors of the mill about amateur radio Jakub M0KUK was kindly explaining to a curious family what we were doing. The two keen children were amazed!

Dave G4BUO invited me over to the key and I started with some CW at around 20wpm Starting on 17m, it was a slow beginning but after a few spots on RBN and other spotting websites the flow improved and I was greeted by a wave of callers.

I believe our best DX was JA! I didn't realise this at first since I incorrectly decoded 'J' as '1', they are very similar characters and I was left sending '1H?' Again and again. Corrected by Dav M0WDV, I completed the contact.

The weather was so glorious on the Saturday that I didn't think it would be necessary to wear too many layers on Sunday. Wrong! Freezing cold and windy with a slight drizzle. But there was no reduction in morale, we persisted against the elements.

A switch to SSB revealed that there was a lot of local QRM which was then presumed to be from a local restaurant's back of house.

We had a huge pile-up of calls from other mills and stations but unfortunately, they were not able to be worked as the noise floor was at S9+10 dB! They melted away into the noise and static like butter on a hot pan.

Our callsign was GB6MW. 6 as Meopham mill is one of a few six-sided smock mills left. A smock mill (which I just found out) has a rotating cap that allows the sails to face the wind.

Of course we had to go on a tour of the outstanding mill and so we did. The tour guides were interesting and engaging, they detailed the facts clearly, as they led us up the many floors.

I was continually wondering how any commercial works were carried out in that mill, it was barely wider than one car length. The stones used for grinding - when the mill was operational - were taken out every so often to be cleaned. Down that precarious and steep ladder ?!

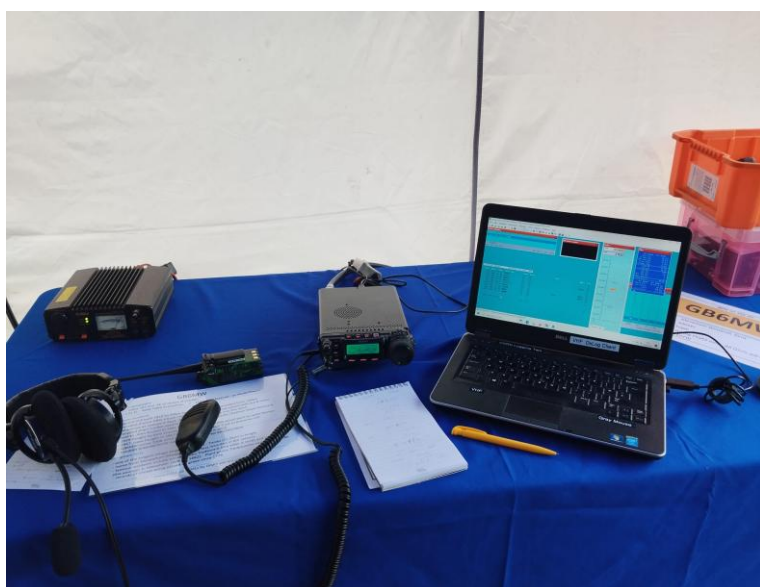
After an enjoyable and tiring day of ham radio operating and windmill visit, we were ready to head back home. We gratefully accepted Damien 2E0EUI's offer to drop us at Honor Oak Park which we gladly accepted, shortening and easing our journey home.

Overall, it was a pleasurable and entertaining day and an opportunity to learn about Wind mills and has inspired me to do some further research. Articles and websites I found interesting and useful are below.

Thanks to the Cray Valley Radio Society that set up and made this whole weekend possible!



MEOPHAM MILL



VHF STATION WITH FT-857D AND DXLOG SETUP

More information can be found here:

[GB6MW Special Event Station for Mills on the Air 2026 – Cray Valley Radio Society](#)

A history of mills on the air : [MOTA History | Nunsfield House Amateur Radio Group](#)

The Society for the protection of Ancient Buildings : [Home | The SPAB](#)

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 theSome years ago 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 acting Newsletter Editor