



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

MARCH 2025 – No. 991

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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**

A MEETING Monday 3rd March: 2025/6 Club Events planning meeting
B MEETING Monday 17th March: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

SRCC COMMITTEE 2024/25

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EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends, welcome to the March 2025 SRCC Newsletter.

We had a visit at the February B meeting from Dale McMurray M6SLQ who lives in Carshalton, and it is good to report that he has now joined SRCC. We hope he will have a long and enjoyable future with our club. It was also reassuring to see Kim G6JXA there following a number of meetings that he had been unable to attend.

Last month's Newsletter, following an earlier email, expressed concern that SRCC member Bill Jones 2E0WBO had not been contactable for a while and asked in any of the membership could provide any information. This resulted in communication with Colin Richards G3YCR (a CATS member who became acquainted with Bill as they were both saxophone players ..). Colin has been in touch with one of Bill's neighbours in the sheltered accommodation where he had lived, and she confirms the position that Pat G4FDN and David G0PAR had established - that Bill had

been hospitalised and then returned to his home but is no longer there. Following unsuccessful attempts by Pat to take this further with Croydon Social Services it looks as if the trail has gone cold for now. But if you should pick up any further information could you please let Pat and David know? Many thanks.

Here at Mission Control Norwood, I am just starting to prepare for one of my two annual Jolly Jaunts to the Isle of Wight, in this case for the Commonwealth Contest on the weekend of 8th/9th March. For me this is one of the most fascinating contests of the entire year involving as it does making contacts between stations in the now somewhat diminished British Commonwealth. Except for "HQ stations" from the National Societies you cannot work stations in your own country so it is very different from many of normal run of the mill contests, needing a fair knowledge of what bands to be on at what times – which is what makes it so interesting! The site I use is right on top of the cliffs near Brighstone on the island's South-Western face. The setup will be quite simple – just my Elecraft K3 to a 14AVQ trap vertical for 40-10m and (with a bit of luck) a decent vertical for 80m.

My plans for a fan vertical based on the one that Mike G3VYI uses when he goes overseas (he will be using it in Barbados as 8P9YI this year) ran out of time... next year maybe! **Hot news....** literally as I was writing this item, there was a call from Brighstone confirming that I was welcome to use the site again this year although access was very, very muddy That's one item less on the "tick list" to be ticked!

Now let's get on to the stuff you actually want to read....

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

February 2025 A meeting (3rd) "On-air" evening: most of the legwork was done by John G8MNY who with assistants erected a 40m dipole in the URC car park, involving some interesting acrobatics. The gear used was John's elderly but trustworthy IC735 feeding the antenna via an ATU. Operators were John himself, Paul G7VAK, Peter G7PWV and Steve M0PEL. Operation on 40m SSB resulted in nine mainly intra-Europe contacts in France, England, Italy, Sicily, Serbia & Poland but also an interesting one for that time of the day (2045 UTC) with HS0ZMY in Thailand. It has been suggested that this may have taken advantage of "grey line" propagation (which occurs around sunset & dawn), as the time of the contact was not far off dawn in Thailand. There was also a marginal "did we / didn't we?" contact shortly afterwards with VK5 (South Australia) but in all honesty we can't claim that!

February 2025 B meeting (17th) This will be the usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format session.

FUTURE MEETINGS

March 2025 A meeting (3rd) 2025/6 Programme Planning meeting – the aim is to listen to the views of the membership on what sort of activities they would like the Committee to organise on their behalf over the coming year: this has previously been covered on the night of the AGM but it is hoped that a dedicated session will allow a more thorough analysis. It will open with a brief analysis of all the meetings since August 2015 (courtesy of the SRCC attendance book) to get our minds focussed!

March 2025 B meeting (17th) This will be the usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format session.

April A meeting (7th) Annual General Meeting – please attend if you can: although this is often seen as a rather dry topic, it is important as it gives steer to what SRCC does and the way it is run for the following year.

For the rest of April and May, meeting dates get a bit irregular because of the Bank Holidays but to clarify the position, they are:

April A meeting - 7th

April B meeting – 28th

May A meeting – 12th

May B meeting – 19th

Confusing, innit?!

73, Quin G3WRR

FOR SALE BY PAT G4FDN

ICOM IC-7000 MF/HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver £525.

In as-new condition with original box, manual, power lead and HM-151 multi-function microphone.



Mode: TX: AM / FM / NFM / SSB / CW / RTTY
RX: AM / FM / NFM / WFM / SSB / CW / RTTY / TV

Frequency range: TX: 10-160 m + WARC / 6 m / 2 m / 70 cm
RX: 0.03-200 / 400-470 MHz

RF Output Power MF/HF/6M 100W, 2m 50W, 70cm 35W

IF and Filters are software defined and DSP based as per the IC-7100 and IC-7610.

The transceiver screen can be replicated on an external monitor and the rig can be controlled and operated remotely with additional software and a network connection.

LDG AT100 ProII Auto ATU £150.

In as-new unmarked condition complete with manual and power lead. Supports two separate antennas and remote control from transceiver. It has built in power and SWR meter displays (LED). Also, unusually for an auto ATU, it supports manual tuning via C and L up/down buttons which allows more precise minimisation of SWR. It has 4200 tuning memories.



Frequency range / Bands:	1.8-54 MHz
Max feed through RF power:	125 W
Impedance range / connectors:	6-1000 ohm / Three SO-239
Power supply:	11-16 VDC
Current drain / power consumption:	Max 500 mA
Dimensions (W*H*D):	191*51*138 mm (7.52*2*5.43")
Weight:	680 g (1.5 lb)

Diamond X-510HDN 2m/70cm Colinear Antenna £65



The antenna is in very good clean condition as it has only been used outside for two days. This is a big antenna at 5.2m /17ft long and is the high power 350W version with an N connector. The 3 radials are 52cm long. The gain is 8.3db at 2m and 11.7db at 70cm. It comes with original mounting brackets and short fixing pole.

For transportation it disassembles into 3 interlocking sections the longest of which is 1.9m long.

Netgear ReadyNAS Duo Network Addressable Storage Server £55

In as-new unmarked condition complete with original box, PSU and documentation. Only used for a few days since new. It has 2 x 1TB drives that can be RAID Mirrored or used independently. Works with Windows, Linux, and Apple Mac OS's. Ideal for a home backup/media server. Runs off mains or 12V

Size 5" High, 4" Wide and 9" Long



Windows 10 Mini 12V PC £25 (or £35 with original mains PSU accessory)



Specification:

Windows 10 Home X64 Build 22H2
Intel Quad Q9559 2.85Ghz processor
NVIDIA MCP7a motherboard
4GB RAM (can be increased to 8GB)
NVIDIA GeForce 9300 / nForce 730i graphics card
100GB SATA hard disk
HDMI, DVI and VGA display sockets and supports simultaneous dual monitors
8 USB sockets
Audio out and in sockets
RJ45 ethernet socket
DVD Re-writer drive
It will run Windows 11 fine if upgraded to 8GB (but not officially supported by MS)
Dimensions 7.5" wide by 2.5" high

3ИП Soviet era high precision laboratory decade resistance box £10



While still in full working order it is being sold for its desirable parts: high power switches and knobs. I originally bought it to use the switches in a high-power homemade ATU
It is in very good clean condition externally and internally.

The case is solid Bakelite material. The switch contacts and multi-layer contact slider are extremely low resistance which I estimate can easily handle 5 to 10A at low loss.

Pat adds: "If I hear of any interest before next Monday's (March 3rd) meeting I can bring any of the items along for further inspection".

SUBMARINE COMMUNICATIONS by JOHN SANDERSON (Edited by Steve G4FYF)

Background

I joined the Royal Navy in March 1960 as a Radio Operator, formerly Telegraphist, I spent the first 10 years in General Service, the surface fleet. In 1966 I joined HMS Forth, a submarine depot ship and we sailed for Singapore to become SM7, 7th Submarine Squadron. It was here that I decided to join the submarine service, which I did in 1970. I served briefly on HMS Acheron, then for the rest of my time at sea on Porpoise and Oberon class submarines, all diesel electric boats. I left the RN in March 1995 with the rank Warrant Officer, Radio Supervisor Submarines.

Principle Communications Systems (During the 1970/80's).

Submarine Broadcast

The broadcast was at VLF frequencies, around 16-19Khz, this allowed reception down to about 30ft aerial depth e.g. periscope depth (PD), usually about 55ft keel depth in both A and P&O class boats. The aerial was constructed of copper rods encased in solid fibreglass blocks, one fore and aft, the other thwart ships [i.e. port to starboard hull direction] to give 360° coverage. These were mounted in the top back of the fin so to read the broadcast, the boat had to come to PD. The P&O boats also had a buoy aerial same as in the back of the fin, this was stowed under the after-casing deck. It could be streamed out from the boat when deep by a hydraulic winch and a depth sensor in the buoy allowed it to be kept within reception depth but still underwater. This was not a very reliable system as the cable was prone to getting jammed and therefore unable to recover properly. On Rorqual the buoy cable got jammed so we had to cut the cable and let it go, this was in the Bay of Biscay, three weeks later it was banging against Shoreham pier. We got it back and with a new cable was operational again. I usually found they were either very reliable or not and rarely used because of the potential problems in rough weather.

Reception of the Broadcast

Depending upon the number of submarines at sea and the mission they were on, the broadcast would be split into one-hour routines repeating every three or four hours i.e. Broadcast B31 would be indicated as B31A B31B or B31C if in a 3-hour cycle. Different submarines or groups of submarines would be allocated one of the routines to keep the amount of signal traffic on the routine to a minimum so as to minimise the time the boat has to stay at PD e.g. a boat on B31A would have a 1 hour broadcast routine at 0000 0300 0600 0900 1200 1500 1800 2100 etc. All signals on that routine would be continually transmitted for the complete hour.

There were two types of broadcasts: Morse (CW) and Radio Teletype (RATT).

Morse: to minimise time spent at PD the signal traffic was sent at 90wpm, this was recorded on a tape recorder in the W/T [wireless telegraphy] office then slowed to 25wpm to read the signals. At the start of the "Routine" A "Traffic list" was transmitted at hand speed morse to list the content of the routine and which signals were intended for which boats, the traffic was sent at high speed.

HF TX/RX

Power Supply (2) Drawer

7 6 5 4 3 2 1

MAIN SURFACE AT HEADS OF SUB

VLF FINI LOOPS

VLF BUDS

2 TORPEDO TUBES

PRESSURE HULL

BATTERIES 448 CELLS

8 TORPEDO TUBES

24'

29' 3"

26' 6"

PIL

Compressed O₂ 70 Drivers & Min.
Surface Displacement 2000 Tons
Submerged Displacement 2400 Tons

Internal Oil Fuel Capacity 100 Tons
External Oil Fuel Capacity 370 Tons
Surface I.H.P. of Generating Engines 3680

MASTS

1 Attack Periscope	5 Short Inclusion
2 Search Periscope	6 W/T Mast
3 Mast	7 Short Exhaust
4 E.C.M. Mast	

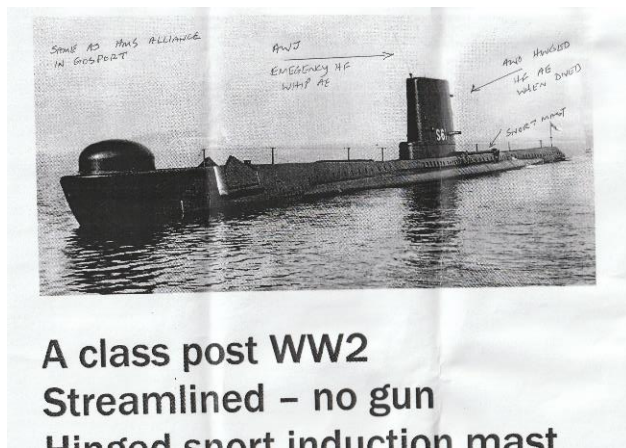
P & O CLASS GENERAL DETAILS

Aerial: "A" boats used a hinged whip aerial ALO used at PD; P&O a periscopic/telescopic aerial ALN for use at PD, also the AWJ emergency HF whip aerial fitted on all boats, see pictures. In rough weather communications could be very difficult as the aerial would often be "Washed over" by the sea at PD, you could spend an awful lot of time at PD trying to send a signal in morse!! Another problem with the ALN was that it had to be fully raised for the connection to be made between the transmitter and the aerial. When the mast was raised initially, the hydraulic fluid in the rams was warm. As the sea cooled it the mast would drop slightly, and the connection would be broken therefore one would have to keep an eye on the "Connection light" otherwise you would be transmitting to the fresh air in the boat!

UHF TX/RX

This was a voice only line of site tactical communications system. Range to the horizon with ships but 300miles+ with aircraft.

Aerials: P&O dipole aerial on top of ALN and a UHF stub on the SHF DF mast AMK.



Finally

For lots more information go to <https://www.commsmuseum.co.uk/dykes/rugby/subaerials.htm>.

My thanks to John for chatting to me about this, providing the script and allowing its use.

73 Steve G4FYF

HERE AND THERE

Our member Paul G7VAK will be giving a talk on Number Stations at Bletchley Park on 28th June this year at 11a.m – details are available at <https://bletchleypark.org.uk/event/number-stations/>. Looks well worth reserving a day out – particularly if you haven't been to Bletchley Park since it was reincarnated!

The 2024/5 AFS Super League series of eight HF & VHF Contests (previously advertised in this Newsletter) has now finished and the results have been published. SRCC achieved 32nd position out of 57 entrants in the Local Club section – reasonably good for a club that is not very contest minded.

Following on from the earlier reference to grey line propagation occurring around dawn or sundown, you may be interested to know that there is a specific adjective – *crepuscular* –defining that condition (listed by the Merriam-Wester Dictionary as “of, relating to, or resembling twilight”). You may wish to amaze your friends at trendy dinner parties with this snippet of information. (Looking at it another way, this may be the reason why I never get invited to trendy dinner parties...). Apparently the ancient Romans, being of a logical mindset, had two different words – one for the twilight at sunrise and one for the twilight at sunset – but let’s not go there....

73, Quin G3WRR

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – JANUARY 2025 RESULTS

There were five entries for the first session of 2025, all from the “usual suspects”. The January monthly listing is as follows:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0CGF	73			146
G4FFY	55		28	138
G4FYF	19	1		40
G3WRR	10		10	30
M0LEP	2	1		6

The following notes are provided by the entrants...

M0CGF: 66% SSB this month, Most out up at Woldingham, mainly the usual stuff but nice to catch ZD7. Looks like Greenland will be March now, Already spoken the local hams I met last time so fingers crossed.

G4FFY: In the early part of January I was knocked out but it wasn’t Flu or Covid, but I did also lose my voice!! So didn’t operate in the 2m and 70cm UKACs. Did recover to operate in the 40-80m SSB AFS, quite an experience. Busy and noisy bands where Search and Pounce (S&P) worked better. My limited HF aerial setup (20m end-fed) meant my CQ calls were not heard!! I also started my run of HF FT4 contests entering the January contest where I came 7th. On VHF entered the 70cms FT8 Contest but again a compromised setup with a colinear on the gable end. My beam is currently temporary on a 6m flag pole so points through houses and not in the clear!! DXCC’s worked remains at 163.

G4FYF: Leisurely air time this month. Few bagged on 10 meters, rest on 20 and 40 meters.

M0LEP: Somehow, just about the only radio I managed during January were my weekly chats with John G8MNY on the Club Net at 09:00 on Monday mornings on 3.710 MHz, and my sometimes-successful call-ins after the Thursday morning GB2CW broadcast on 3.605 MHz. The only contact that dragged me up from the bare minimum was a SOTA chase of an activator on Gran Canaria, and that was on SSB...

G3WRR: Nothing exciting, just the usual slog to work an assortment of Europeans CW and SSB legs of the AFS Super League on the 80 & 40m.

The cumulative annual results are as follows:

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
M0CGF	146												146
G4FFY	138												138
G4FYF	40												40
G3WRR	30												30
M0LEP	6												6

The HF bands are still holding up quite well but there are reports of 10m closing earlier in the evenings. This is consistent with the opinion expressed among the great and good in the HF propagation fraternity that cycle 25 passed its peak some time in 2024. So, it looks like it will be downhill from here for several years – so let's make the most of it while it lasts!

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.

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.....

Thanks for the inputs from our membership in this issue – these are always welcome! See you next time.

73, Quin G3WRR
SRCC Secretary and Newsletter Editor