



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

MARCH 2023 – No 967

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 March: Surplus Equipment Sale

2nd MEETING Monday 20 March: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

SRCC COMMITTEE 2022/23

Chairman & Publicity	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Vice Chairman	G4LZE Colin Lugard	07533 174388
Hon. Secretary & Newsletter Editor	G3WRR Quin Collier	020 8653 6948
Treasurer, Membership & Liaison	G4FFY Ray Howells	01732 357474
Events	G6JXA Kim Brown	07812 735507
Webmaster	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143
Committee Member (Co-opted)	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737 551413
Committee Member (Co-opted)	G7RUX Jason Gardner	07515 357630

EDITOR'S OPENER

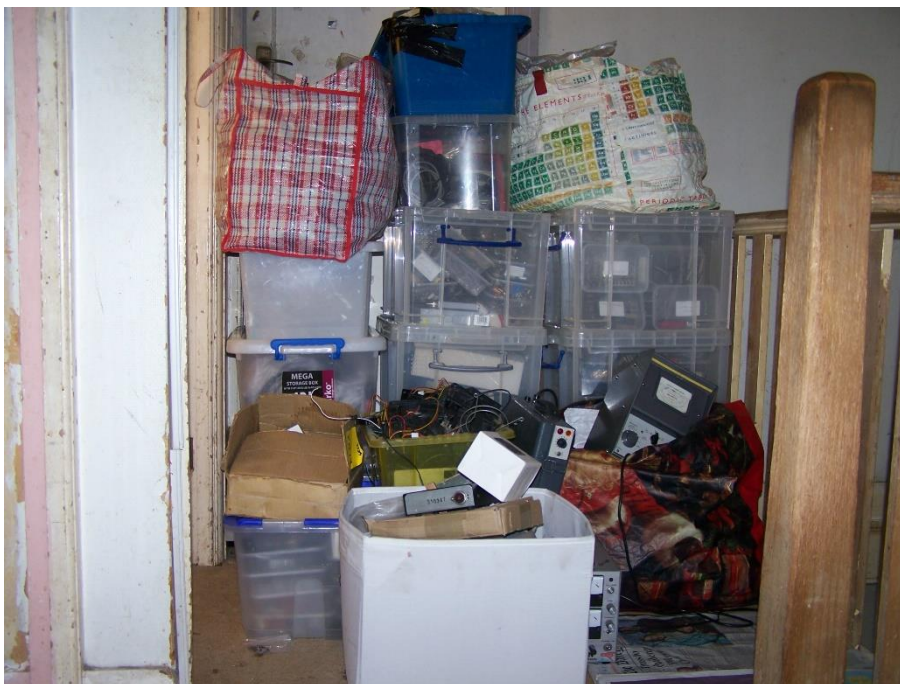
Dear Members & Friends, welcome to the March 2023 SRCC Newsletter.

This has been a busy few weeks for a number of SRCC members and friends! With the sad death of three SRCC members over a short period, there has been a lot of activity identifying and sorting their gear and making preparations for its disposal. Fortunately there are two significant "channels to market" (as we would have said at work) to assist disposal. But slightly less fortunately they are both imminent, and this has involved some manic activity (with more coming up in the next fortnight) getting things together!

The first event is the upcoming SRCC Surplus Equipment Sale on 6th March (more details in the Future Meetings section below) and the second is Hamzilla Radio Fest (for more information see <https://hamzilla.uk/>) near Ashford on 12th March. Several members attended last year's Hamzilla event and found it an enjoyable day out as well as a good forum for selling gear.



**RAY G4FFY, COLIN G4LZE
and MAURICE G4DDY at
HAMZILLA 2022**



**ITEMS ON THE LANDING AT
WRR TOWERS READY FOR
TRANSPORT TO SURPLUS
EQUIPMENT SALE AND
HAMZILLA (picture courtesy
of Homes and Gardens...)**

So, on to the stuff you actually wanted to read...

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

February A meeting (6th February) This was a presentation entitled “Adventures In Amateur Television” by Gareth G4XAT. It nicely complemented the video from the “Tonight at 8” series presented at the January A meeting by;

- clearly explaining some of the basics

- describing Gareth's own experiences with designing and building gear, and also operating it portable
- displaying a considerable amount of the gear described.

The presentation richly deserves a writeup in the Newsletter but time has not permitted that this time – hopefully next month!

February B meeting (23rd February) This followed the usual B meeting format of Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY and his extensive array of test gear.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Please note that the April meeting dates do not occur on the normal first and third Mondays of the month. This is because, due to the high energy costs at present, Trinity School will not be open during school holidays.

March A meeting (6th March) This will be one of the twice yearly (is that biannual or biennial? I can never remember which it is...) Surplus Equipment Sale. This is a good opportunity to acquire goodies – typically things you didn't realise you needed - at very reasonable prices. These can then be sold on again at the next SES when you realise that you didn't need them after all.... Thanks to Pat G4FDN for the list of items from the estate of our late friend John G3ENG which is attached at Annex B.

March B meeting (20th March) This will be the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat session with John G8MNY and his extensive array of test gear.

April A meeting (17th April) – Annual General Meeting. This is sometimes seen as a rather dry session – but it's your opportunity to influence who runs the club and to express your views on events for the forthcoming year and how things should be done, so please come along and have your say! In accordance with SRCC rules, the AGM Calling Notice is attached at Annex A. In addition to the usual Agenda, the Committee is intending to propose some amendments to the current Club Rules.

April B meeting (24th April) This will be the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat session with John G8MNY and his extensive array of test gear.

73, Quin G3WRR

HERE AND THERE

I have been approached by Alun G4WGE (in his guise as DR101, our RSGB District Representative). He says: “A question was asked at the leadership team meeting on Saturday and subsequently discussed at our region 10 meeting last Sunday. [The question is] “what are the top three issues our members and clubs have with [RSGB] HQ?”

As Alun would prefer consolidated responses from clubs (rather than from individuals), please let me have your inputs and I will pull them together and reply on behalf of SRCC. **73, Quin G3WRR**

OX / M0CGF BY IAN M0CGF

Work commitments took me to Greenland for the first time in mid-February. It was quite last minute, finding out the Thursday before flying out on the Monday evening. Route was LGW-CPH (Easyjet staying Monday night) CPH-SFJ (Air Greenland) then SFJ-GOH(Nuuk) also an Air Greenland Dash8. On arrival at Kangerlussuaq Airport(SFJ) I took a short stroll, very short! It felt cold and I had been looking at temps down in Nuuk so expecting -15degC however today in SFJ it was -37! I had 5hrs connection time, so as I waited I checked local Amateur stations here and in Nuuk. I quickly had replies from Oeystein OX3AH in Nuuk and later from Bo OX3LX who was over with a team of operators for the ARRL CW contest. More on that later.



Work got in the way but one evening I met OX3AH and he kindly drove me to the OX3NUK club station which houses a number of hams radio stations that then remote into from their homes. I don't blame them in these conditions. He showed me how the station works, he liked his satellite work, pile ups on SSB were not his thing. I spent an hour in the shack learning about the remote station and the antenna switching and how the software all works, very interesting and useful for my upcoming shack installation.



Over the course of my trip I was in contact with Bo OX3LX who kindly offered to pick me up on my return journey and during the 3hr waiting time, take me to the shack where the team was operating from. On the way I was treated to some spectacular views over the airport. Bo works in telecoms so I had a great tour of all the phone base stations before we headed to the shack.

I quickly got introduced to the team and was ushered in front of a IC7600 attached to a Hexbeam pointed at 90deg! Dialled in 14.217, called CQ, the team stuck some cluster spots out then what only can be described as bedlam occurred for the next 58mins! A total of 121 QSOs, mainly Japan and EU, that was some pile up! I think the gold top Heil mic made the difference! The team were operating across various bands and modes at the same time, Check out the OX7A team on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/504564643423665>

For some more photos see my Flickr Page <https://www.flickr.com/photos/iesphotography>

What an experience! Hoping to be back in Greenland again in August, October this year and Jan 2024!



OX7A Greenland OX7AKT, OX7AM, OX5DM, OX3LX



Bo Christensen is ✈️ travelling to Copenhagen from Kangerlussuaq Airport.

• 4 d • Qeqqata, Greenland •

Guest operator OX/M0CGF Ian 14.217 SSB



AFS SUPER LEAGUE BY QUIN G3WRR

AFS is short for Affiliated Societies Contest, going back to at least the 1960s: it has always had an inter-club focus. When it first took on its current format in 1976, it was a single band event on 80m CW. The club aspect came from the idea that instead of just fielding one station operated by your star operators, it was based on teams of, initially, five stations with the club score being the sum of the scores of the individual stations. Over the years this has been expanded to include a number of contests covering multiple bands (VHF/UHF as well as HF) and several modes (SSB, CW and RTTY/PSK63). With the increased number of individual contests, the idea of the AFS Super League came about, based on combining the scores of the individual contests. It was first run in 2011. The combination process was not based on simple addition of the scores in the individual AFSs, instead using a normalisation process to ensure that each AFS has the same weighting. (If you want to know more please collar me at one of the meetings but I don't really recommend it).

At present there are eight contributing AFSs, as follows:

70MHz AFS	September	4m	Almost all SSB (some other modes allowed)
50MHz AFS	October	6m	Almost all SSB (some other modes allowed)
1.8MHz AFS (Club Calls)	November	160m	CW/SSB
144MHz AFS	December	2m	Almost all SSB (some other modes allowed)
80/40m AFS (CW)	January	80/40m	CW
80/40m AFS (CW)	January	80/40m	Data (RTTY/PSK63)
80/40m AFS (CW)	January	80/40m	SSB
432MHz AFS	February	70cm	Almost all SSB (some other modes allowed)

So why am I telling you this? The reason is that the 2022/23 cycle has recently completed and, having set the scene above, to report how SRCC performed in the individual AFSs and in the Super League as a whole, as shown below:

70MHz AFS	G3WRR 35/43	OVERALL 15/18
50MHz AFS	G3WRR 30/65 G4WGE 52/65	OVERALL 15/23
1.8MHz AFS (Club Calls)	GX3SRC (G3WRR) 33/51	OVERALL 26/32
144MHz AFS	G3WRR 59/110 G4WGE 79/110	OVERALL 21/33
80/40m AFS (CW)	G3SRC (G3WRR) 54/70	OVERALL 33/49
80/40m AFS (DATA)	NO ENTRY	
80/40m AFS (SSB)	M0CGF 27/139 G3SRC (G3WRR) 49/139	OVERALL 26/53
432MHz AFS	G3ZPB 50/91 G3SRC (G3WRR) 64/91	OVERALL 18/36
=====		
SUPERLEAGUE OVERALL		16/62

It is interesting to note that our overall position in the Super League (16th out of 62_ is just on the bottom of the top quarter (or top of the second quarter if you think that sounds better...) – much better than the results in any of the individual AFSs (where our best was just on halfway, in the 70cm AFS). So perhaps there is something to be said for being generalists rather than specialists!

It would be good if we could get more SRCC members on in the AFS contests during the 2023/24 season. Unfortunately, contests are a bit like Marmite – generally people either love them or hate them – and we wouldn't dream of "twisting an arm up peoples' backs". But if you are an "undecided" please consider coming on and supporting the club!

73, Quin G3WRR

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – JANUARY 2023

Well, here we are at the start of another year for the SRCC league table. the number of entries for January was eight – all the “usual suspects”. the January leader was Ray G4FFY who made just over twice the number of points of the second placed station. This continued his 2022 run (he was leader every month in 2022): we have to go back to December 2021 to find another leader, Ian M0CGF. there were changes in all the other positions, but with one exception they were either up or down by just a single position.____

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	73	1	6	155
M0CGF	27	1	14	71
M0LEP	33	2		70
G3WRR	19	2	21	63
G4LZE	23			46
G3ZPB	16		11	43
G4FYF	12			24
G3EUE	5			10

The great majority of Ray’s scoring contacts were made on HF, but he also had six VHF scoring contacts in four different RSGB contests. Two thirds were made using FT8 and the rest on SSB. His HF contacts were all made on FT4 or FT8, and included all continents except Antarctica, the majority (63%) bring with European stations, followed by Asia (14%), Africa (11%), North America (8%), South America (3%) and Oceania (3%). They included all bands except 160m: their distribution was interesting, with 10m leading (22% of contacts), followed by 20m (21%) 12m (19%), 40m (19%) 17m (7%), 80m, 50m, 15m (all 3%) and 30m (1%). The fact that over 40% of his scoring contacts were on 12m & 10m is indicative of the very healthy state of the HF bands at present, as was the appearance of some quite juicy DX including FR8 (Reunion) on 15m, D2 (Angola) VK1 (Australian Capital Territory) 3C (Equatorial Guinea) and JA (Japan) on 12m, plus 5Z (Kenya) and ZS (South Africa) on 10m.

All Ian’s scoring contacts were made on HF, with 90% using SSB and the remaining 10% FT8. 86% were with European stations, with the rest fairly evenly balanced between North America, Asia and Africa. 40m was his most productive band, providing 52% of his scoring contacts followed by 20m (21%), 10m (14%), 15m (7%) and 80m (3%). Like Ray, he picked up some interesting DX, including BY (China) and 3C (Equatorial Guinea) on 10m.

Almost all of Rick’s scoring contacts were made during his holiday in Kenya. He reports as follows: “I didn’t get a lot of on-air time, but I did manage at least a few minutes most days. Conditions were very good my first week there, but slightly less good for the last two weeks. I worked all continents except Antarctica, and a few interesting islands too, all on CW with 100 watts and a hexbeam. I was a bit frustrated not to have managed to work Brazil, Japan or South Korea despite hearing a number of stations in all three countries. I did work Nepal, Lesotho and Congo, all three for the first time. 39% of QSOs were on 10 metres, 36% on 15 metres, 10% on 20 metres, 9% on 12 metres and 6% on 17 metres. Most of the 10 metres contacts were on one morning when the band was wide open to Europe. 15 metres was the most consistently usable band”.

Quin’s scoring contacts were rather more mundane. All were made in the last three contests of the RSGB Affiliated Societies Contest (AFS) series on 80m and 70cm and one of the 2m UKAC series. On VHF he picked up just five big squares plus one SRCC member. On 80m CW he managed 14 DXCCs but on 80m SSB only four – which had also been worked in the CW event! But on the up-side, the SSB event provided one SRCC member not worked on CW...

Colin's scoring contacts were all made using FT8 on 40m and were all with European stations with the exception of three Asians.

All Peter's scoring contacts were made using FT8 – the majority in the RSGB 70cm contest but with a few on 40m, including a new DXCC: 4O7 (Montenegro)

Steve's domestic situation was enlivened in January by the upgrade of his central heating system – followed by a deep clean to get rid of the resulting detritus! Nevertheless he managed to spend some time in the shack and made some contacts. He comments "Higher bands very active during the month. 10 had been usually good between about 12:00-17:00. On occasions, band was manic from just above data segment to just below FM repeater segment. Reminiscent of times around getting my licence".

After a null entry last month, Ted was able to get on the key again and achieved five scoring contacts on the HF bands.

The annual table is shown below – but as this is the first month of the year it is identical to the monthly tabulation: so, this month at least, there is no more to be said!

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOT
G4FFY	155												155
MOLEP	71												71
M0CGF	70												70
G3WRR	63												63
G4LZE	46												46
G3ZPB	43												43
G4FYF	24												24
G3EUE	10												10

Despite a considerable volatility on a day-to-day basis, there is no doubt that the smoothed SFI is still on the rise – and well ahead of the predictions! As can be seen from some of the results recorded above, the numbers really are being reflected in the band conditions. Although this is getting a bit ahead of ourselves, the ARRL DX CW contest in mid-February exhibited amazing conditions on 10m & 15m, with 10m in particular full of signals until well after dark. Oddly conditions on 20m was quite indifferent at the same time with only a few weakish East Coast stations coming through.– but it's not clear whether that was actually a result of poorer conditions on the band or the fact that all the stations were enjoying themselves on 10 & 15 !

73, Quin G3WRR - SRCC Leaguemeister

RCC 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.....

I am now seriously cross eyed after having been on the keyboard since 8.15am (it's now 5pm) with only an hour break for cat feeding, tea and crossword – so will call it quits for this month and see you next time!

73, Quin G3WRR SRCC Newsletter Editor

**FORMAL NOTICE OF THE 83rd SRCC AGM FROM HON. SEC. QUIN COLLIER
G3WRR**

Following usual practice, this notice is issued more than a month ahead in order to comply with Club rules. It allows time if there are proposed alterations to the rules, or to allow members an opportunity to give advance notice of any points they wish to raise at the AGM. We also ask for nominations for Honorary Secretary and Committee Member, with such nominations (and acceptances) to be received by the Committee prior to the opening of the AGM.

Quin Collier G3WRR

(Please return to Hon. Sec., Quin Collier, G3WRR before the start of the AGM).

I agree to stand and serve if elected.

Signed.....Date.....

(Please return to Hon. Sec., Quin Collier, G3WRR before the start of the AGM).

I agree to stand and serve if elected.

Signed.....Date.....

ANNEX B

The following list of items will be on offer at the 6th March Surplus Equipment Sale:

- Yaesu FT-857D with Mic, Manual & DC power lead in GWO
- Marconi Wireless AD94 MF/HF Communications Receiver with Slide Rule Dial thought to have been used in post war military aircraft 22 to 29V DC power but has built in mains PSU
- Anytone AT-778UV Dual band 2m/70cm FM Transceiver as new in box with Mic, Manual, & DC power lead
- Two Yaesu VX-150 2m FM 5W handhelds both in GWO. One original box and manual and one drop in charger and PSU. Programmed UK simplex and many local repeaters.
- Moonraker 2m/70 colinear antenna equivalent of Diamond X-30N in clean condition only used in loft
- Moonraker 2m/70 colinear antenna equivalent of Diamond X-50N in clean condition only used in loft
- Shure 444T Microphone
- Kenwood MC-60 Microphone
- MFJ-225 Graphical Antenna Analyzer/Two Port VNA standalone or use with PC Application for graphing/measuring 1-180MHz in GWO
- Rig Expert AA230 Zoom 10kHz to 230MHz Colour Graphical Antenna Analyser standalone pr PC control and analysis over USB with leather case
- Burns Electronics SD12 198kHz 10MHz Off Air Frequency Standard
- Halcyon Electronics Precision Frequency Standard 162/198kHz Off Air 10/20MHz Out
- ISO Tech 3 ½ digit Bench Multimeter Mains Powered AC/D V/A/R/Freq/Cap/Diode/Continuity
- APP 3 ½ digit Bench Multimeter Mains Powered AC/D V/A/R/Diode/Continuity
- KenPro Antenna Elevation Controller
- Thurlby Thandar TF830 1.3GHz Frequency Counter Mains Powered
- Datong D70 Morse Tutor
- GW GVT-427 Dual Channel AC Millivoltmeter 300uV to 100V mains powered
- Heathkit OS2 Service Oscilloscope
- Marconi Instruments 2022E Mains portable 10kHz-1kHz Frequency Generator with all accessories & Manual
- Hameg HM203 20MHz Dual Channel Oscilloscope
- Samsung BX2231 22" WS HD Monitor with 2 x HDMI and 1 VGA inputs in GWO
- Taxan TC-680 15" VGA monitor in GWO
- Ferguson DAB/FM wooden cabinet style Mains/Battery Radios one with broken telescopic whip
- TCM FM/AM wooden cabinet style mains radio
- Roberts R979 RDS FM/MW/LW mains battery alarm clock radio
- BNIB Maplin temperature controlled soldering iron
- AVO Model 8 Multimeter
- Homebrew Field Strength Meter with Telescopic Whip
- Homebrew C.B.G PAL Video Comp Unit mains powered
- Homebrew Mono XLR Mic Amp with VU Meter & PTT
- Mains Key Connector
- Homebrew RF Speech Processor with level meter

- Antenna Specialists 2m 5/8 wave mag mount
- G3ENG Homebrew Prize Wining MF/HF ATU
- ML&S 1 to 200MHz Active Antenna requires 9 to 12V feed over coax
- Homebrew battery powered RF Noise Bridge
- Master View CS-106 6-way Computer KVM Switch
- Titan Electric Wood Plane
- Duratrak 230V/8A Variac
- Homebrew PSU with Digital Display 5V to 20V
- Two way circular 50 ohm coax switch SO239 sockets
- 50 Ohm CMC/Isolating Balun 1.8MHz – 80 MHz
- BNIB TRI x 5" Mag Mount 3/8 UNF
- MFJ-CW2 CW filter
- Omega Systems TE7-02 Antenna Noise Bridge
- Altai 3 to 5A 13.8V PSU
- Nissei PS-1225 13.8V 25A PSU
- Watson W25M 13.8V 25A PSU
- MyDel MP707 13.8V 8A PSU
- MicroConta 13.8V 12 to 15A PSU in original Box
- PowerFix InfraRed Digital Thermometer

END