



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

NOVEMBER 2023 – No 975

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

1st MEETING Monday 6 Nov: Adventures In Microwaves by Gareth G4XAT
2nd MEETING Monday 20 Nov: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

SRCC COMMITTEE 2023/24

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VHF NFD Co-ordinator (Co-opted)	G3ZPB Peter Burton	07989 557888

EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends,

Welcome to the November SRCC Newsletter. Autumn seems to be firmly with us now. This is borne out by the fact that one of our cats (Henry) has moved from his summer routine of sitting in the front garden looking forlorn (to the extent that occasionally people knock on the door and say "excuse me but I think you cat wants to come in"...) to his winter routine of staying indoors unless physically ejected. This is not unlike my own patent "season tester" which involves wearing a sun hat in the summer and a woolly hat in the winter.

My summer Jolly Jaunts are finally over following a few days in Totnes (those who recall Monty Python's Flying Circus on BBC TV in the early 70s may wish to note that there is no hairdressers' training college in Totnes, although there definitely is a cheese shop...). I must admit to having done very little while down there although, as well as a visit to the cheese shop, I did manage a ride on the funicular (cliff railway in English) at Babbacombe, a visit to Berry Pomeroy Castle (an abandoned but interesting 16th century English Heritage building) and another to Stoke Gabriel, which is a delightful hamlet by the River Dart: charming but accessed via three miles of seriously thin roads, and hence best avoided at the height of the tourist season ...

So back at Mission Control Norwood it's forward with winter activities. The G3WRR VHF stack (which had been down since VHF NFD in July) is back up and was used it in the RSGB 6m AFS

Contest (see later...) making a rather disappointing 31 contacts. I also started getting the HF system back into service with the aim of taking part in the CQWW DX Contest on the last weekend in October. This is invariably a good one for picking up interesting stuff as there are always groups who travel to exotic countries (not necessarily that far away but often entailing logistical nightmares travelling) to enjoy the fun. But it transpired that this was the SSB weekend. Nowadays I find SSB contests hard work and so decided to give it a miss. But the CW weekend is on four weekends from now and I hope to be ready by then....

So here we go... **73, Quin G3WRR**

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

October A meeting (2th) This was the usual autumn Surplus Equipment Sale. In the absence of Gareth G4XAT (the usual auctioneer), the role was undertaken by Quin G3WRR – an undistinguished performance – aided by Pat G4FDN for the G3ENG equipment: Peter G3ZPB handled the financials. David G0PAR and Pat G4FDN had a fair amount of their own kit for sale, but the majority was from the estates of John G3ENG and Maurice G4DDY, the proceeds from the latter two being generously donated to the club. There was insufficient time for all the G4DDY gear to be offered and this will be carried forward to a later mini sale...see later. A total of £124.40 has been paid into SRCC's new Virgin bank account.

October B meeting (16th) This followed the usual B meeting format of Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat, with test equipment provided by John G8MNY. The level of attendance was rather higher than during the summer months.

FUTURE MEETINGS

November A meeting (6th) "Adventures in Microwaves" by Gareth G4XAT, whose talks are always information-rich and carefully prepared. It will no doubt include some of the equipment he displayed at the Construction Contest last autumn.

November B meeting (20th) In addition to the usual B meeting format of Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with test equipment provided by John G8MNY, the opportunity will be taken to conclude the Surplus Equipment Sale with the equipment for which there was insufficient time to offer at the October A meeting.

December A meeting (4th) "The Metropolitan Police Communications Network" by Steve G3ZPS who gave us a presentation on "Vintage Radios" in September 2022.

December A+ meeting (11th) I have received the following from Chris M0TCH at Sutton & Cheam RS:

"Following on from last year's successful Inter-Club quiz, Sutton and Cheam Radio Society are planning to once again hold this event at 8pm Monday on 11th December 2023 at the 7th Banstead Scout Hall - post code SM7 1DA - detailed directions can be found at <https://scrs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Scout-HQ-Location.pdf> .

The quiz questions will be more general knowledge, than amateur radio based, so it will be suitable for everyone. It's planned to be a lighthearted evening, with no entrance fee, or formal prizes, although the club will be providing some light refreshments (mince pies etc.)."

Chris has been notified that SRCC will be putting in an appearance again this year – and hopefully the weather will be better this time so that more of our members will be able to join the fun! Please note that the date doesn't fit in with our usual sequencing of meetings but is additional to them. If you are interested in attending, please let me know, ideally by third week November, so that I can advise Chris of likely SRCC numbers.

December B meeting (18th) This will differ from the usual B meeting format...as you may have noticed Christmas is approaching so we will be holding our usual Christmas Social. This will include mince pies, custard, other edibles (as yet unspecified to build up the excitement), teas, coffees, soft drinks and possibly even alcohol - all served up in tasteful plastic cups and on elegant paper plates!

RSGB AFFILIATED SOCIETIES CONTEST SERIES

Every year the RSGB runs a linked series of contests, currently eight, for its Affiliated Societies (of which the SRCC is one). These cover a range 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 particularly 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 field up to five! 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 event – the AFS Super League.

This year (or, more accurately, this cycle since the series runs between late 2023 and early 2024) there are eight contests in the series, running between 70MHz AFS in September 2023 and 432MHz AFS in February 2024. By the time you read this, the first two this cycle will have taken place (with no entries in the 70MHz UKAC and two (G3WRR & G4WGE) in the 50MHz one). However, six contests in the current cycle remain, and the aim of this item – in case you hadn't guessed – is to encourage members to participate in one or more of them! 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 doing the right thing. 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 (2024 dates / times are provisional), along with a link to the rules:

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME (UTC)	MODE(S)
Saturday	11/11/23	Club Calls Contest (1.8MHz AFS)	2000 - 2300	SSB / CW
Sunday	3/12/23	144MHz AFS	1000 - 1400	All (but mainly SSB)
Saturday	6/1/24	80-40m AFS (CW)	1300-1700	CW

Sunday	21/1/24	80-40m AFS (data)	1300-1700	RTTY / PSK
Saturday	27/1/24	80-40m AFS (SSB)	1300-1700	SSB
Sunday	4/2/24	432MHz AFS	0900-1300	All (but mainly SSB)

Rules are at the following URL: <https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2023/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

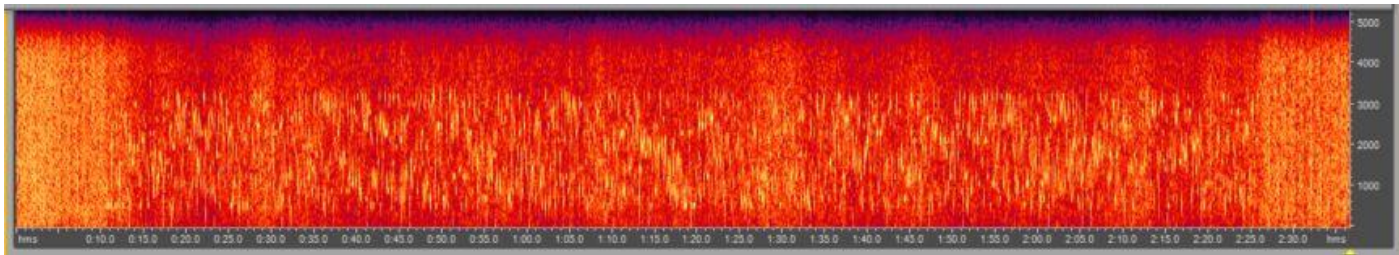
73, Quin G3WRR

NEW QRM DETECTED AT G7VAK

Expecting to hear a routine fair to strong 224 000 on the Sunday E07 0600z 03/09/2023, I was surprised to hear no E07 but 18s bleeps. I had previously seen a hint of it on XPB1 for both the Saturday schedules at 1100 and 1200z on the 10 and 11MHz frequencies were used but discounted it as crud.

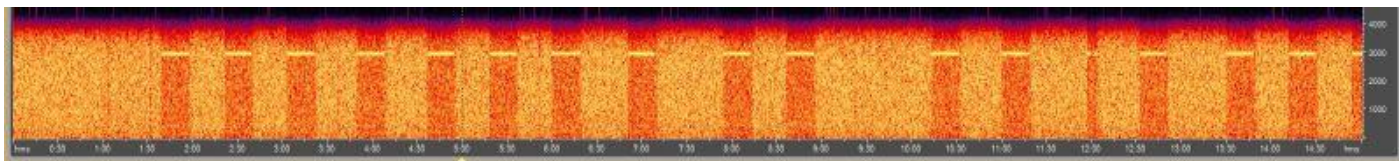
E07 is a Number Station with female English voice that sends a null message as stated above. Its schedule being 0600z 9261kHz, 0620z 10261kHz and in the event of a message 0640z 11461kHz.

XPB1 is a data type signal which has more schedules than I can monitor; the two I monitor at the moment have schedules between +00 and +50m for Monday/ Saturday 1200 to 1250z and for Wednesday/Saturday 100 to 1150z. The longest send is 4m30s, the shortest so far 1m40s, weak sample from now defunct Sunday schedule:



XPB1 4467kHz

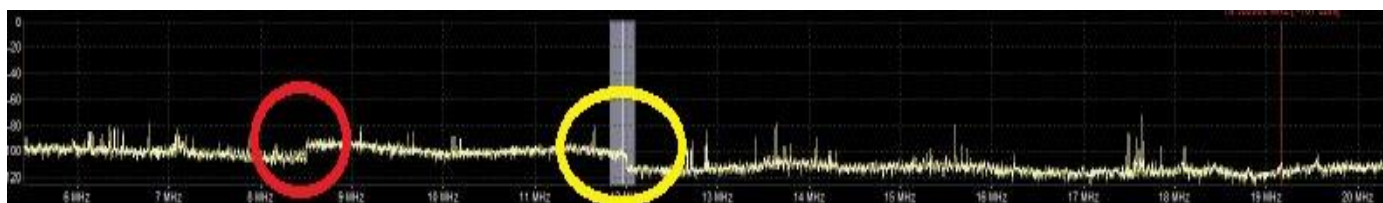
Well the sound file for E07 10261kHz 0620z 03/09 looks like this [the 9261kHz 0600z file looked the same too]:



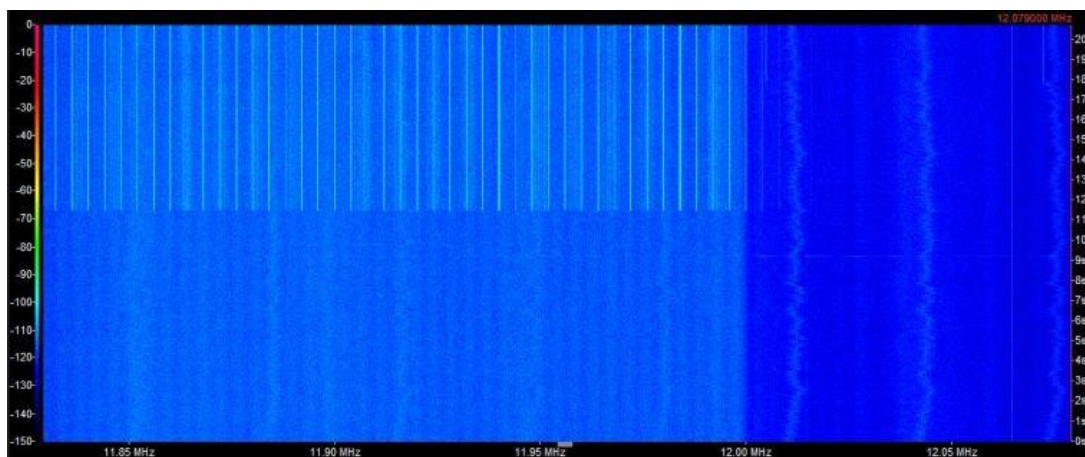
E07

It needs no explanation.

A quick look across 7 to 30MHz revealed a structure between circa 8500kHz to 12000kHz:



6000 to 20000kHz



12000kHz [yellow. The same image at the Red LF end] on the waterfall

That stretch of frequencies often appearing in RadCom [RSGB] in discussion of Broadband, ADSL or whatever its all called this week. Well, I suspect this new stuff is something to do with the latest innovation from BT/Open Reach or whatever they're trading as nowadays. A numbers colleague said to me "Less QRM if it goes to fibre....." I hope my reply then of, "We'll see, don't count your chickens..." doesn't ring true.



However, my Yupiteru 7100 and its trusty homebrewed RDF antenna pointed in two directions: Both towards distribution cabinets with a very low detection towards the telegraph pole outside my home. .

Quite why it's 18s on/off and then 45s in between cycles is any one's guess. Here's hoping for a temporary appearance. Wonder if Bletchley Park, Cheltenham and Digby have to suffer all this crud?



Whilst we talk of Bletchley Park, here's yours truly in the National Radio Centre doing my duty.

73, Paul G7VAK

HERE AND THERE

CATS Bazaar

Just a reminder that CATS Bazaar (more formally CATS Radio & Electronics Bazaar) will be taking place again this year on November 19th at:

The Oasis Academy Coulsdon
Homefield Road,
Old Coulsdon
CR5 1ES.

An important point to note is that the venue falls just within the recently introduced ULEZ zone and attendees travelling in non-compliant cars will be liable to payment of a charge (usually £12.50) – or incur a significant fine if not paid! If you are not sure, please do take a look at the Transport For London website at tfl.gov.uk.

Ample free parking will be available at the rear of the school, but this will be closely controlled to allow as many traders and visitors as possible to park. Doors will be opened to the public from 10.00am and will close at 2.00pm. Traders will have access from around 8.30am to set up. Visitor entrance tickets will be £3.00 and will continue to include a free tea or coffee.

The three Zs

How's this for a coincidence? Peter G3ZPB has sent in the photograph below, which was taken recently at Amberley Museum. It shows (left to right) G3ZQB, G3ZPS and G3ZPB: the former two were visiting the museum on one of the days when Peter was volunteering there. What on earth are the odds against three people who were clearly licenced within a very few weeks of each other 50+ years ago turning up on the same day? It's also worth noting that the gent in the tasteful shirt is Steve G3ZPS who will be presenting to us at the December A meeting!



It's also worth putting in a plug for the museum (<https://www.amberleymuseum.co.uk/>) . I've been there several times (although not recently) – in addition to a well-developed radio and electronics display (including amateur radio station GB2CPM) it offers a wide range of scientific / engineering displays and some old vehicles. It was also used as a site for outdoor scenes in one of the Bond films – but I guess that's a bit “off topic”...

73, Quin G3WRR

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – SEPTEMBER 2023

Entries for September remained at the low level of five – and that only because G3WRR submitted a null entry 😞. Let's hope for an upturn soon or we may have to consider whether the continuation of the League Table is justified. The monthly results for September are as follows:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	86	3	36	214
G3ZPB	41	1	41	125
G4FYF	10	1		40
M0LEP	10	2		24
G3WRR				0

The following notes come from the entrants...

Ray G4FFY comments: *"Like August it was also a "low" activity month as missed the monthly 144MHz UKAC and had a break in our Motorhome in North Devon near Woolacombe. As at end-September 2023 I have now worked 159 DXCC's adding in September FM4SK Martinique (20m FT8)".*

Peter G3ZPB comments: *"Nearly all the activity was during the 70cms FT8 contest and HF FT4 contest. Nothing really outstanding except, I don't think you can work YB3CUG in Indonesia every day???"*

Steve G4FYF comments: *"Nothing spectacular for September. All 7 or 14 and one on 28".*

Rick M0LEP comments: *"[Our recent trip] to Germany went smoothly, but I didn't get any time to play radio, and I brought some sort of bug home with me, and have been spending most of my time in bed as a result. So far it hasn't given me a positive C test, and hasn't struck my XYL. Fingers crossed (or thumbs pressed, as the Germans say). This month's league entry is only very slightly better than last month's. I was still in Kenya at the beginning of the month, so six of the DXCCs came from there, and the rest (including Japan, for which my QTH seems to have quite a good short-path take-off) were SOTA chases from here."*

Quin G3WRR makes no comments as he was clearly asleep....

A couple of comments on the cumulative annual listing:

- Ian M0CGF's August entry was not included in the October Newsletter as he narrowly missed the cut-off but it has been included this month
- although, as expected at this stage of the year, the entrants' correct positions have not actually changed, these were presented in the wrong order: this error has been corrected below and the culprit severely punished.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4FFY	155	213	95	109	427	394	309	157	214				2073
G3ZPB	43	150	131	94	126	134	59	69	125				921
M0CGF	70	84	109	110	162		40	102					677
G4FYF	24	38	100	48	30	48	76	50	42				482
G3WRR	63	21		21	32	102	84						323
M0LEP	71	40	46	26	44	40	12	16	24				303
G7RUX				74									74
G4LZE	46	12											58
G3EUE	10	10											20

HF conditions seem to have been up and down but the cycle 25 trend is still upwards with still about a year to go until the forecast peak... note to self – must make the most of it...

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.....

Just a reminder that articles from members are always welcome and help to provide a bit of diversity. So if you are in a creative mood and can think of anything that the membership might find interesting or amusing, please put pen to paper (or these day fingers to keyboard) and let me have them (q.g.collier@btinternet.com).

Cheers for now and see you next month!

73, Quin G3WRR - SRCC Newsletter Editor