



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2025 – No. 997

General Club Business: secretary@srcc.uk
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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 1st September: On air evening
B MEETING Monday 15th September: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

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EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends, welcome to the September SRCC Newsletter.

After last month's shorter than normal Newsletter, in which the issue of a full-sized version was promised on return from holiday, it turned out I was being rather optimistic! So in this month's issue you are getting a full-size version including some of last month's omitted items that are still relevant (e.g. League Table results).

So here we go...

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

August A meeting (4th) Video evening – after some initial technical difficulties, an RSGB video on DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) was shown. It was clear from this that DMR, and digital voice services

in general, are a complicated subject. It has therefore been agreed that a talk of the broader topic of digital voice services will be given at the November A meeting.

August B meeting (18th) *Usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format.* Pat G4FDN assisted Dale M6SLQ in setting up digital voice hotspots.

FUTURE MEETINGS

September A meeting (1st) *On air evening.* It is planned that in addition to the usual SSB mode, Jason G7RUX will demonstrate the use of FT8. This has the advantages that (a) as contacts are displayed visibly rather than audibly, the acoustics of the meeting room will be less of an issue, and (b) it will provide an opportunity for those - including your scribe - who are not yet persuaded of the merits of FT8 and similar modes to see the light!

September B meeting (15th) *Usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format.* In addition, in response to requests from members, Pat G4FDN will assist them update their Anytone DMR/FM radios in terms of firmware and configuration (i.e. memory channels sometimes by the confusing term of 'code plug'). Many people find that supplier provided configurations are so big that it is tedious and confusing to navigate in order to find the channel/repeater that you want. The new configuration will be tailored for a more local focus making it easier to find what is sought. He will be equipped for Anytone AT-578, AT-868, and AT-878 radios and their subvariants but requests that any member who has a different Anytone radio model that they want configured lets him know in advance of the meeting.

October A meeting (6th) *Surplus Equipment Sale.* Your autumn opportunity to trade in items of equipment that you no longer require in return for cash – and to spend some (perhaps all?) of the cash on new treasures!

October 18th (Saturday) *SRCC 90th Anniversary Meal.* This will be held at lunchtime (exact time to be agreed) at the Carvery in Mitcham – more details are available in the August Newsletter. A repeat request for those who wish to attend and have not yet done so – please let your scribe know (including numbers)...I'd hate to have to eat multiple carvery meals all by myself.....

October B meeting (20th) *Usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format.*

November (3rd) *"From ORAC to HAL via Polly."* by Jason G7RUX. An in-house follow-up to the RSGB video on digital voice shown at the August A meeting to clarify some of the mysteries,,,.

November B meeting (17th) *Usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format.*

December 8th Inter-club Quiz Night hosted by Sutton & Cheam RS. The venue will be near Banstead at the 7th Banstead Scout HQ.

73, Quin G3WRR

VHF NATIONAL FIELD DAY 2025

After 2024's VHF NFD – which those who were there universally described as “pretty grim” - 2025

turned out to be better on more or less all counts and the whole experience was much more enjoyable. The results were better (although not drastically so), the weather on the whole was better (although quite moist at times and with thunder and occasional lightning), and the number of attendees was high enough to reduce the pressure on everyone. The only real downside was that Nick the farmer, who as always was friendly and cooperative, was compelled by family pressure (it being a family run farm) to charge us a “competitive rate” – whatever that means in the context of amateur radio - for using the site instead of accepting the traditional bottle of good scotch. This means that we will no longer be able to justify the cost of the site – but we nonetheless thank him for support and cooperation for well over a decade. This throws the whole future of VHF NFD by North East Surrey Contest Group into doubt – but this is neither the time nor the place to discuss that.

The results are tabulated below:

BAND	CALL	SECTION	POSITION	CONTACTS	BEST DX (km)
6m	G4ALE/P	Restricted	3/16	57	1707
4m	G4ALE/P	Restricted	8/14	45	426
2m	G0SAC/P	Low Power	3/6	103	686
70cm	G3SRC/P	Low Power	7/13	38	518
23cm	G3SRC/P	Low Power	4/5	16	346
OVERALL		MIX & MATCH	3/8		

Just one, very atmospheric, VHF NFD picture to hand –with thanks to Jason G7RUX:



WIMBLEDON CLUB CAMP – SUMMER 2025

On the subject of summer outings to do amateur radio related stuff, many thanks to Dale M6SLQ for the attached pictures from the Wimbledon Club Camp. This is a very different sort of outing from HF NFD, VHF NFD, IOTA and the like – longer duration, more relaxed, less pressure – but like any hobby activity it's a case of horses for courses! I haven't seen any more info on this year's camp – but if anybody fancies providing a write-up, I'd be very happy to include it...remember that the more material the membership provides, the less of my stuff they have to read....



**UPPER PICTURE -
OVERALL VIEW OF
WIMBLEDON CLUB
CAMP SITE**

**LOWER PICTURE –
JOHN G8MNY (left) &
KIM G6JXA (right)**



HERE AND THERE

Pat G4FDN has mentioned that the latest issue of the free Ham Radio Ireland journal (produced by SRCC member Steve Wright EI5 DD) is out available and can be downloaded from: <https://docdro.id/Hg8uxRx> Of particular interest is an article on the servicing and care of Clark masts.

A rather dark but interesting use of Morse code was shown on a television documentary recently. It was a film clip related to the Vietnam War in the 1960s/70s. In this US pilot captured by the North Vietnamese was compelled to appear on television and announce how well he was being treated as a Prisoner of War. However, US watchers noticed that he seemed to be blinking excessively.

This was not a sign of stress (which would have been entirely justified) but instead he was blinking Morse code and repeatedly sending “TORTURED”. Whatever the rights and wrongs of that war, full marks must go to a brave man!



On a more cheerful note, whoever said there wasn't a humorous side to quantum mechanics? The above representation of the “Schrödinger's cat” thought experiment certainly had me going....

73, Quin G3WRR

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – JULY 2025

Five entries were received for the July League Table, the same number, and same entrants, as in June.

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0CGF	188			376
G4FFY	105		7	257
G3WRR	50		50	150
G4FYF	32	1		66
M0LEP	10	1		22

The following notes are provided by the entrants...

G4FFY: *Operating opportunities were once again down in July 2025 due to the dog agility camping session and also attending the 3-Choirs Festival in Hereford. On VHF I was only activate in the VHF Fixed Station Contest, and some 6m FT8 during the sporadic-E season though did miss a lot of it!! On HF I only did a short spell of FT8 operating. DXCC's worked maintained at 168.*

G3WRR: *All contacts were made in the RSGB Islands On The Air Contest from the Isle of Wight. Despite only running 100W, being on an island (there's a clue in the name...) made us attractive to other entrants! Best DX was ZL4TT at 0045 on 20m – out of nowhere in the middle of a run of USA stations ...*

G4FYF: *Nothing particularly of note, contact number largely due to my giving away points in a couple of contests. All HF with a bit of 6 metres.*

M0LEP: *It's a slight improvement on last June's, and as usual, most of the DXCCs are from SOTA chasing, with John the only SRCC member I've worked directly. I did have a chat with a few other SRCC members, but they were all using the Wimbledon Club Camp's callsign.*

The cumulative annual results are shown below:

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
M0CGF	146	223	128	286	360	513	376						2132
G4FFY	138	165	164	133	148	194	257						1199
G4FYF	40	22	68	24	26	36	66						282
G3WRR	30		68		24		150						272
M0LEP	6	30	4	30	6	12	22						110

After a precipitous (about 60%) drop on the Solar Flux Index between mid-2024 and the first quarter of this year, it appears to have risen again significantly. Obviously monthly figures give less of a true picture than longer period smoothed figure, but this at least suggests there may be interesting and variable times ahead over the next few years!

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.....

It is to be hoped that publication of this Newsletter will return to its normal steady cycle once the holiday season comes to an end – but we shall see. Until next time, all the best!

73, Quin G3WRR
SRCC Secretary and Newsletter Editor