



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year - Founded in 1935

**MAY 2015** — No: 873

CLUB NET 1.905 MHz Sunday 9:30am  
 CLUB NET 145.35 MHz +/- 25kHz Friday 9.00pm

CLUB Internet WEB Site: <http://www.g3src.org.uk>

Hon. Sec. John Kennedy G3MCX  
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MONTHLY MEETINGS 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

### Meetings at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT

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1st MEETING: Monday 11 May. DIY PCB Design & Production.  
 with Steve F4FYF.

2nd MEETING: Monday 18 May. Fix-it, Move-it-On and Informal Chat.  
 led by John G8MNY.

### SRCC Committee 2014/15

Chairman & Club Meetings	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020 8643 0491
Vice-Chairman and Web Master	G4FYF Steve Jones	020 8406 0919
Secretary & Communications	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Treasurer & Membership Records	G4FFY Ray Howells	01732 357474
Contest Co-ordinator, Newsletter Editor	G8IYS John Simkins	020 8657 0454
Chief Fund-raiser, Liaison, Recycling, Equipment	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480
Committee Member	M0LEP Rick Hewett	01689 851472

### Dear Members & Friends,

Hello and welcome to the May 2015 issue of the Newsletter, edited by John G8IYS. As you will note from the banner above, few things changed at the 2015 AGM except, of course, because of personal circumstances John Mathews G3ENG found it necessary to stand down.

### THIS MONTH'S MEETINGS

**First Meeting: Monday 11 May.  
 DIY PCB Design and Production with  
 Steve G4FYF.**

As someone who was brought up with a paintbrush and a pot of cellulose paint, then a resist pen, then a light box and photo-resist PCB material – all combined with sloppy and dodgy etching chemicals, I am looking forward very much to see how this art has progressed over the years. So welcome to our own Steve G4FYF and his personal style of enlightenment.

### Second Meeting: Monday 18 May. Chat and Fix-it Evening.

As usual, this will be a mix of repair activity, technical/operating advice and informal chat. The Committee will also be looking for ideas and suggestions for technical/operating topics which can form subjects for small focus groups, as suggested at the AGM.

### LAST MONTH'S MEETINGS by Hon Sec John G3MCX

### First Meeting. Monday 13th. April 2015 SRCC 75th. Annual General Meeting

Before the start of the formal business, our Chairman Pat G4FDN congratulated two Members, who had recently passed their exams for the Intermediate Licence. Alan George

M6EEW is now 2E0DIS and Dave Levett M6EUH is now 2E0EBK.

The Chairman then declared Nominations closed and the Meeting open at 7.48pm. Apologies for absence were received from: John Mathews G3ENG, Rick Hewett M0LEP, Bert Smith G0IZB, Bryan Aylward G6ODE and Michael Somers. There were nineteen Members in attendance. Copies of the Minutes of the 74th AGM had been circulated to all Members and were taken as read. There being no questions, their acceptance was proposed by Maurice Fagg G4DDY, seconded by Peter Burton G3ZPB and agreed.

The Chairman then blamed the Committee for having a power point presentation again but also said that he was pleased to be back here once again. Pat began by remembering two who had become Silent Keys during the year. He said it was particularly sad to lose Chas Spencer G2HBA, our last Member with a licence dating back before WW2. The family had kindly donated equipment which boosted Club funds. The second was John Hobbs G3JQN who was a Member from the 1950s until 1971. His daughter had phoned from France and said that her late father would have wanted the contents of his shack and golf clubs to be donated to a local radio Club. It was not known at this point of the earlier connection with the SRCC.

He went on to say that we had signed up three new Members this year, Norman Davis, Edmund Clarke M6VZF and Dave Levett M6EUH (now 2E0EBK). This brings the membership up to sixty-four which includes five Honorary Members: Ted Jones G3EUE, Maurice Fagg G4DDY and Ray Howells G4FFY plus two Honorary Memberships awarded this year: Prim Fagg G4CCY for her many ways of helping the Club (and Maurice). NB: the subs have remained at £8 for thirty years! Also to Bert Smith G0IZB, in recognition of his service to the country as a Normandy Veteran, and as being the oldest regular attendee at Club meetings.

With the aid of a power point presentation which contained many photos, some of which will have been seen in the Newsletters, Pat went on to review the various activities during the year.

In April 2014, apart from the AGM, we held a regular Chat and Fix-it evening with John Stockley G8MNY and another successful trip to the Kempton Park Rally. Les Alden G7VML gave us a non radio presentation in May on DIY Solar

Hot Water. In 2013, Les had replaced the system that he had installed in 1979. At the second meeting in May, Pat presented an SRCC Certificate to Bert Smith G0IZB awarding Honorary Membership in recognition of his services to Country and Amateur Radio. Also in May, GX3SRC was put on the air from the Sutton Model Engineering Club. On this occasion John G8MNY was assisted by Kim G6JXA, Maurice G4DDY and Bill M6YCR (now 2E0WBO). The main meeting in June welcomed back Mike Parkin G0JMI with a presentation on the G5RV. In passing Victor Mossor G3YIS has an omnidirectional antenna up at 40' and a manually controlled Yagi for the WAMN frequency.

During the first weekend of July, members of SRCC as part of the North East Surrey Contest Group, led by John Simkins G8IYS, took part in VHF NFD. The NESCG came 8<sup>th</sup> in the Restricted section. Our main meeting this month was the annual Club BBQ, again kindly hosted by Prim G4CCY and Maurice G4DDY at their home in Wallington. During the evening, the Chairman made a presentation of Honorary Membership to Prim G4CCY. This was awarded for her many years of helping Maurice with his work as Treasurer and for running the Bute Road (CW) Academy. Prim taught around fifty members and former members Morse Code to enable them to obtain a full licence. The first meeting in August was on the same day as the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War. We had another illustrated talk by Barrie McKay of the Crystal Palace Museum. Because of the significance of the date, the advertised talk was replaced by "The Crystal Palace at War". At the second meeting, we had the opportunity to see a laptop-borne viewing of some of the items donated from the estate of the late John Hobbs G3JQN. John G8MNY also put a station on the air. In September we had a presentation by our Chairman, Pat G4FDN on his personal experience of Noise Reduction on Top Band.

In October, the Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale took place. This was combined with the completion of the second Catalogue Sale. We had a short talks evening in November - provided by two of our members: Bryan G6ODE on Thermionic Valves and John G3ENG on making Coaxial Connections the professional way. Also during this month, there were successful fund raising visits to the Kempton Park Radio Fair and CATS Bazaar. The first December meeting was our Annual Construction Contest. There were sixteen entries. Prizes awarded were:

1st Steve Jones G4FYF, for his Antenna Analyser - winning the Construction Cup plus £25 cash. In equal 2<sup>nd</sup> place were John Stockley G8MNY- for his HF Auto Caller, and Gareth Evans G4XAT - for a PIGGYAXE update. Each walked away with £5 and half the Basil Wardman Tankard. In 3rd place was Pat McGuinness G4FDN with a Digital Power Meter. Pat won £5 for his efforts. The second meeting in December was a very busy Chat and Fix-it including a Pre Christmas Get together. There were no formalities, apart from a welcome break when our Chairman offered all present a shot of Christmas Spirit. During a second break, Maurice G4DDY brought in some Mince Pies and a microwave oven together with some very nice Brandy Butter, provided by John G3ENG.

We started the new calendar year in January, with a talk by Alan Messenger G0TLK, Chairman of B&DARS. Alan's presentation was entitled: "The 5MHz Experiment - Updated". This covered the experiment from the beginning and had much detail. Pat thanked Alan for an interesting talk and presented him with a unique burgundy SRCC sweat shirt, complete with his callsign. In February, we again welcomed back Mike Parkin G0JMI to our second meeting. Mike gave us a presentation on Understanding and Using the FUNcube 1 and Saudi-Sat Amateur Radio Satellites. Despite the rain, we heard a German station's downlink signal on 145.950 MHz USB. The first meeting in March, was a well organised Surplus Equipment Sale and also wrapped up our third Catalogue Sale. The last meeting before the AGM saw the return of Alan Messenger G0TLK. On this occasion he was representing the RSGB Training and Education Committee. He had been asked to canvas local Club's opinions on the possible re-launch of GB4FUN callsign for educational outreach purposes. Pat then handed over to our Treasurer for his report.

Our Treasurer, Ray Howells G4FFY then distributed copies of the accounts for the year 2014/5 which were very well presented. It was very clear that the Club's finances were in a very healthy position and subs would remain at £8 per annum. Two questions from members were answered: Kim G6JXA asked if he would have to re-do his Standing Order. The answer was "No". Peter G3ZPB queried the high figure on the domain and website. The Treasurer explained that this expense covered the last three and a half years. Acceptance of the Accounts and congratulations were proposed by Maurice G4DDY, seconded by Peter G7PWV and agreed.

A vote of thanks to Ray G4FFY was proposed by John G3MCX, seconded by Gareth G4XAT and applauded.

Scrutineers were not needed for the Election as Nominations did not exceed the Posts to be filled. For Hon Secretary, the nominee was John Kennedy G3MCX - proposed by Maurice Fagg G4DDY, seconded by Quin Collier G3WRR and elected unopposed.

Six Members, Pat McGuinness G4FDN, Ray Howells G4FFY, Steve Jones G4FYF, Maurice Fagg G4DDY, John Simkins G8IYS and Rick Hewett M0LEP were nominated for the seven Committee Posts. All had been nominated and had agreed to stand for election. They were duly elected. From these six, the nominee for Treasurer was Ray Howells G4FFY - proposed by Peter Burton G3ZPB, seconded by Peter Woolhouse G7PWV and elected. For Chairman, the nominee was Pat McGuinness G4FDN - proposed by John Simkins G8IYS, seconded by Maurice Fagg G4DDY and elected. The Chairman explained, for those who did not know already know, that John G3ENG was not able to continue on the Committee as his XYL Benita had had a stroke and was not well enough to be left on her own. The nominee for Vice Chairman was Steve Jones G4FYF - proposed by Pat McGuinness G4FDN, seconded by John Kennedy G3MCX and elected.

The Appointment of three Independent Examiners for 2015/6 was easy as the three from the previous year: Peter Woolhouse G7PWV, Peter Burton G3ZPB and Quin Collier G3WRR all agreed to carry on. There was vote of thanks to them for the past year and for agreeing to continue. On behalf of the Examiners, Peter G7PWV said that Ray had made their job very easy and well done on the SK Sales.

There now followed the Announcement and Presentation of Awards; The Johnny Hayden Rose Bowl was awarded to Steve Jones G4FYF. The SRCC Cup was awarded, once again, to John Stockley G8MNY and the Sutton Trophy (CW CUP) was awarded to Rick Hewett M0LEP.

Any Other Business began with an offer from John G3MCX inviting anyone else would like to do a meeting write-up for the Newsletter, adding that it does not have to be done by the Hon Sec. Quin G3WRR offered on a one off basis and if he likes the experience then he will take it on.

Steve G4FYF asked that those who make use of the Fix-it evenings to do a small write-up for the Newsletter.

Peter G3ZPB remarked that one bullet point missing in the Club is Education. We used to be well known for it. The response was that Foundation Courses are run by Sutton and Cheam RS and Bromley & District RS. Two of our members have joint membership with the latter. Edmund M6VZF asked about learning Morse Code? Steve G4FYF subsequently offered to do some slow-morse training/practice at Second Meetings.

Peter G7PWV noted that there was sometimes a presumption that members have a high technical knowledge, but not all do, He thought that small learning groups would be beneficial. Bill 2E0WBO queried whether we should see what is already covered by the Licence Courses. (All suggestions or unanswered questions have been carried forward to a Committee Meeting).

The Chairman asked that a Special Events Station be put on the next Committee Meeting Agenda.

Pat then continued with some details of the Construction Project – an LCR meter. It would cost members about £10. Twelve members present put their names down to take part in it.

Pat also explained the workings of the SRCC Components Bank. The items were freely available for members to request. Users may be asked to write a few words about what they were using them for.

Andrew G4ADM, for the benefit of those who had not heard, reported that Derek Poulter G3WHK became a Silent Key on Monday 6th April. Derek was Treasurer / Exam Secretary of SCRS.

Finally, there was a vote of thanks on behalf of the Members to the Chairman and Committee for all the hard work they undertake running the Club. Pat thanked all present for their support and formally closed the Meeting at 9.38pm.

### **Second Meeting Monday 27 April 2015. Chat and Fix-it with John G8MNY.**

On this occasion, there was a line of tables across the room, from one side to the other, stacked with test equipment or items for testing. At first glance, it looked more like the start of a Surplus Equipment Sale.

An antenna had also been run up the flagpole ready for action. This was another well-attended second meeting.

In response to Edmund M6VZF's request, I had brought a keyer and had it on a window ledge.

At this stage, I was distracted by a piece of equipment made by Steve G4FYF - probably experimenting with his digital projects. He had made a small piece of gear which he had programmed to send "CQ DE STEVE G4FYF" in Morse Code. It was most impressive.

There were the usual small groups discussing various topics. It is an ideal opportunity at these meetings for newcomers to the hobby to pick up tips from old hands. It is not all black boxes either. Homebrew is still around.

### **Chairman's Blog by Pat G4FDN**



**AGM:** Firstly, a thank you to all who attended the AGM, and for my nomination and appointment for another year as Chairman. It has special significance for me for our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

**Kempton Radio Fair:** this was a well attended event, and from the club's perspective a very productive fund raising opportunity. My thanks to members who provided items for sale on the day including Alvin G6DTW and John G4EWX.

As usual, Maurice G4DDY led on our participation aided by John G8IYS and myself.



**G4DDY & G8IYS on the club stand**

Several club members called by the club stand including:



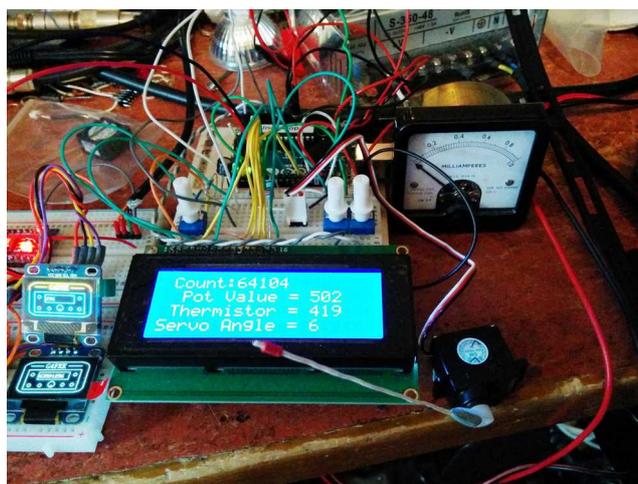
**Ray G4FFY and Phil G1LKJ**



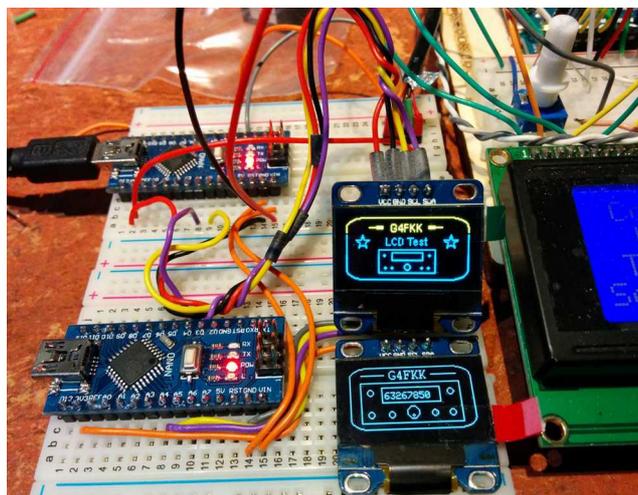
**Angel M0HOV**

**Things Arduino:** the capabilities of the Arduino series of boards has interested and excited several club members, including myself. Martin G4FKK recently shared some pictures with me of what he had been breadboarding with Arduino Nano modules, an OLED display, a servo and a GPS receiver. In his email to me Martin mentioned “it took me several hours of fiddling about and reading the C++ reference to work out how to manipulate strings and arrays before I could do the seemingly simple task of putting

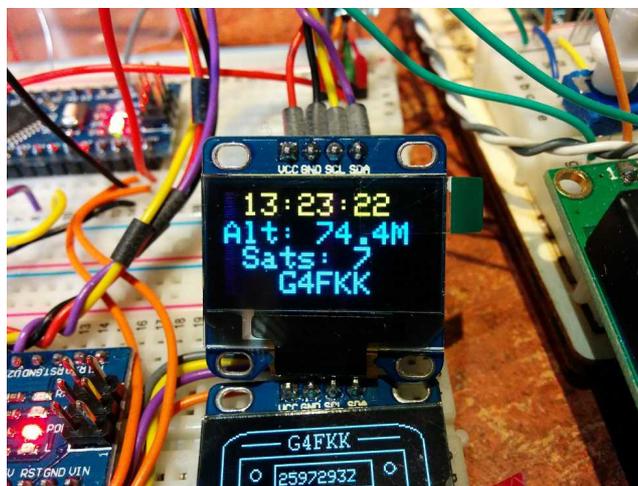
colons between the hours, minutes and seconds! What an exasperating language it is!”



**G4FKK workbench with OLED & 4 line LCD displays and servo**

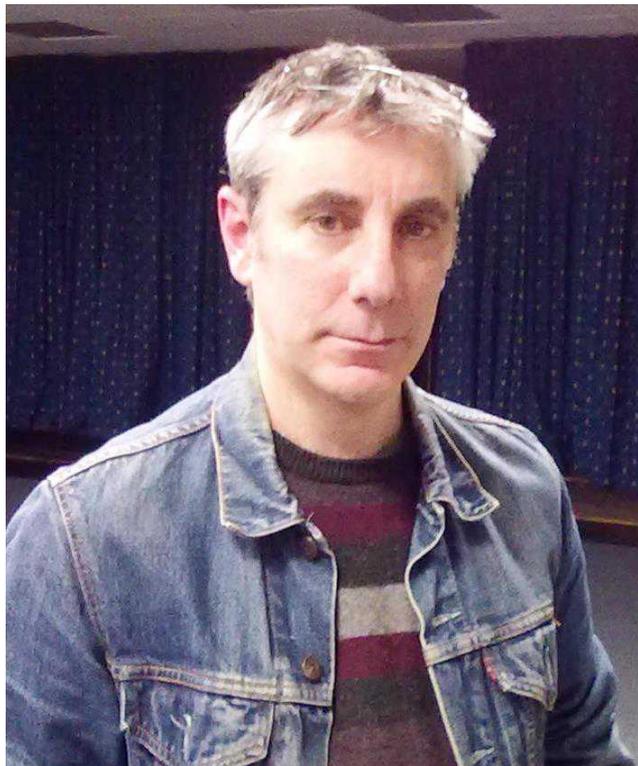


**G4FKK workbench with breadboarded Arduino Nanos and OLED displays**



**Display G4FKK OLED showing GPS determined altitude and number of satellites in view**

Welcome to new member Nick Phillips 2E0BPU. Nick, who lives in Croydon, is interested in QRP operation particularly on 10m and 12m.



**Nick 2E0BPU**

**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden Party:** I encourage all members, along with spouses, partners, children and friends to support this event. Please see the notice elsewhere in this newsletter, and a colourful flyer, about date, location and tickets.

**Sign off:** Hope to see you all next Monday. If you have been amazed at Steve G4FYF's homebrew PCBs from his construction contest entries this will be the opportunity to learn his secrets.

### **Morse Training by Rick M0LEP**

Although Rick was unable to be at the AGM, he did pick up one of the themes in AOB and offers the following:

It's been a few years since amateurs had to pass a formal Morse test before they were allowed to use the HF bands. These days, because no formal Morse test has to be passed, there's not much in the way of formal Morse training going on either. How best can a new amateur who wants to send/receive Morse but doesn't yet know the code go about learning it?

There are a few clubs still running Morse classes. I've heard Norwich, Essex and Bath mentioned, but there are probably some others, so one option is to find one of them and join one of their classes. This might be practical if you live somewhere reasonably near them. (I say "reasonably near" because some of the courses are, I gather, conducted on-air, usually using frequencies on VHF, so being able to attend the club isn't necessarily essential, so long as you can hear the VHF "class room" well enough.)

If you can't attend a course one way or another, what are your options? The "CW Academy" runs courses over the Net, which should mean they're geographically unrestrained, but they're based (and timed) to suit folk living in North America, and they're also (or were, last time I checked) very over-subscribed.

Sooner or later, anyone expressing an interest in learning Morse will be pointed towards various computer-based (and Internet-based) resources. Some are websites, others are programs to run on a home computer. Many of them will implement the "Koch method" one way or another. There's a great deal written about this method. It uses a progressive approach, and random characters. The student first learns to distinguish just two characters (usually K and M) when they're sent in random order (and, usually, in groups of five) at a reasonable speed (say 20 words per minute). When those have been learned, another one is added, and the process repeated. The process repeats, adding one new character at a time, until forty (or more) characters have been learned. For some people, this process works quite well. Some folk will even insist that it is the very best (and possibly even the only) way to learn Morse effectively.

My own experience hasn't always confirmed popular wisdom. This time round, I started trying to learn Morse in April 2010, using the Koch tools on LCWO.Net. My progress was slow. It took me way too long to step back and analyse the situation. My problem was the Koch "add one, repeat" process. Every time I added a new one, it was as if I'd completely forgotten the previously-learned characters, and had to re-learn them all. Sometimes it only took a little longer.

I only started making real progress when I gave the learning process some thought, and changed course. Morse is just a way of representing characters. Way back when I was learning to

read and write there was a lot of A,B,C and 1,2,3 involved; repetition of characters in predictable sequences. I put together an hour-long CD of predictable character sequences (mostly character pairs, at about 16wpm) and played it over and over, getting the characters into my head rather than writing them down. That got me further in a month than Koch had got me in two years, but even so it only got me so far.

With a useful character set learned after a fashion, I then looked for ways of practising that might be a little less tedious. W1AW and GB2CW practice broadcasts seemed worth listening for. The W1AW ones, however, are timed for North American listeners, so they're not often at convenient times over here. They're transmitted simultaneously on a number of bands, which makes them slightly less subject to the whims of the ionosphere, but even so I've found them only occasionally useful. GB2CW, being a UK-based service, might be expected to serve UK amateurs more reliably. Unfortunately, most of the broadcasts are on VHF. If you're in a suitable location I'm sure the VHF broadcasts work well. I've listened for a good many, and never managed to hear any. Luckily, there are a very few reliable volunteers who transmit GB2CW broadcasts on HF.

Andy G0IBN, based in Tollesbury, transmits plain Morse on Monday evenings, and is often (but not always) readable here. The distance between his station and mine is just a bit far for good ground wave contact, so a lot depends on ionospheric conditions and the band he's using. I usually manage to catch something of his broadcasts once or twice a month, but they tend to be more practice at picking something out of a noisy band than good solid Morse copying.

Martyn G3UKV, based near Telford, transmits a mixed-mode GB2CW practice broadcast on Thursday mornings. He's a good distance away, so his 80 metres signal is almost always 59(9) here. His broadcasts have been far and away the most helpful I've been able to receive. Being mixed-mode, they're a lot more like a class than a simple practice session. I've made a point of keeping score as a way of tracking my progress.

However, one or two reliable practice broadcasts a week isn't anything like enough. A bit of practice (almost) every day makes a lot more difference. Listening on-air can count for some of that, but I found I needed something that would give me useful feedback. I went back to

LCWO.Net, and started using some of the other tools it provides. Ones I've found useful are its word- and callsign-training ones. These send a single word (or callsign) and then wait for you to type it in. If you get it correct then the next word is sent a bit faster. If you get it wrong, the next one's a bit slower. I've spent many hours on those, and the changing speeds do make for more useful practice.

Somewhere along the way I started turning on-air listening (mostly to SOTA activations) into attempts at actual contacts. Provided the operator at the other end of the contact is sympathetic, doesn't send too fast, and keeps the overs short, these are probably the best Morse practice of all.

A few Internet links:

<http://rsgb.org/main/operating/morse/certificate-of-competency/gb2cw-broadcast-schedule/>  
<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>

<http://lcwo.net/> "Learn CW Online" Online Morse training tools  
<http://www.cwops.org/cwacademy.html> "CW Academy" Online courses

<http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com/> "Just Learn Morse Code" Windows software  
<http://www.g4fon.net/CW%20Trainer.htm> "G4FON" Windows software

## **May News from the Brooklands Museum Radio Section via Peter G3ZPB.**

Hi All,

Welcome to the May edition of the newsletter that covers activities of a wireless nature.....

1> Our new enlarged display area is now up-and-running and looks rather more impressive than our previous "single" layer of exhibits. Unfortunately, the R1155 receiver in the "Ground Station" rack has suffered some "strong finger" damage from the public and we regretfully have had to fit a cover over most the items there.

2> The radio amateur station GB1BM has been on the air on a number of occasions, most notably on Saturday 25th April (International Marconi Day); we worked 20 stations on the day (a record for the Museum) including six new countries.

When the station is operational for big events, we have a "live" feed to the website at <http://www.hrdlog.net/Viewlogbook.aspx?user=gb1bm> where you can check our current working frequency.

The station has now logged 80 QSOs. Our new main power supply (12V and 24Volts at 50A) was first used "in anger" and performed faultlessly; there are a few "issues" with rf radiation from it but nothing that caused any problem, partly because of the very high noise level present at the museum anyway.

3> New rig - I am now the proud owner of a new Yaesu FT-991 Transmitter/Receiver unit. It is amazing how modern technology squeezes so much electronics into such a small box!!! To get it that small, I can only assume that most of the signal processing is done in computer software with only the receiver input and transmitter output stages being "real" electronics. It also has a 3.5in colour touch-screen display which is where many of the settings are inputted, which takes a bit of getting used to!!!

4> Our next "big event" is Saturday 20th June (Brooklands Radio Centenary Day). This is to celebrate the world's first successful two-way voice communications between an aircraft and the ground which took place at Brooklands during June 1915. An impressive programme of events is taking shape including a re-enactment of the voice messages to/from an historic aircraft flying over Brooklands, a number of technical/historic talks and, hopefully, an Amateur Radio Rally on-site. We will also have our Amateur Radio Station GB1BM on the air of course, hopefully with a high-power linear amplifier loaned by Surrey Radio Contact Club.

5> Our second restoration project (getting our Collins 618T operational) hasn't progressed yet. If anyone would take on this project, please let me know.

6> Changes are already taking place on the site in preparation for the new Brooklands Aircraft Factory and Race Track Revival project. We hope to have some space in the new "Flight Shed" but like many projects at the museum, these things don't always happen as quickly as we would like.

That's all for now. Hope to see lots of you on 20th June. Best regards, Peter.

## A contribution from Bill 2E0WBO.

*Editorial comment: My policy, endorsed by the SRCC Committee, is to admit and reproduce any contribution – provided that it is broadly relevant to SRCC, and is free of any content which may be regarded as sexist, racist or is intended to deliberately cause offence.*

## The Ham Hobby.

Four remarks triggered this load of rubbish, one on the Club Top Band net and the remainder at the Club AGM, The first was my opinion on the net that Radical Communism was one of the most boring magazines in the world, a view that was disputed by our well loved Chairman. Second was when another member confessed he was not technical, third an appeal for material for the news sheet and fourth, a comment by Maurice, DDY that I possessed a "bifurcated brain". To deal with them in no particular order, we all have bifurcated brains but politicians' brains are just more furcated than normal. There is a joke there; somewhere. As for technical ability, the present edition of Camm's Comic, aka Practical Wireless, has some comment as well. Those who gained their ticket via the RAE and I did commence the course at that classic oxymoron, Tooting Night School, possibly do not realise the attitudinal differences raised by the Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced licence scheme. For the RAE, it was technical and mathematical all the way whereas even quadratic equation duffers like me, can scrape through to Intermediate with simple, well it had to be, arithmetic and that, for an ex-CBer, is a definite advantage. Alongside that, during my SWL days, following a Racal RA17 with SSB box, whose only purpose was to ensure a hernia, a brand new Kenwood R5000 was obtained and a two metre board inserted. Listening to the Satf Lundun Repeetah, suggested VHF was more abhorrent than the worst excesses of CB with 934 being probably the most gentlemanly of all radio communication bands. Add to that, if the Reverend Dobbs, despite DTW Alvin's Tee Shirt objection, can get round the world on QRP, who needs four hundred whiskies? This hobby is a wide church, all forms are annoying to others at times, when all you can hear is "Contest, contest", my goat is definitely gotten, although I realise that my sense of humour? added to a lack of technological knowledge, could also be grounds for justifiable homicide. Whatever your

bag, enjoy it but please forgive my incapacities. On a saxophone forum and Gareth, XAT, you are excused, I used to wind up the technocrats by suggesting that you should not be allowed to drive a motor vehicle without being able to strip and repair all the constituent parts as well as being able to display at least Advanced Police standard of "on the limit" handling abilities. Strangely, agreement was not forthcoming. Some of us feel the same about Ham Radio and will willingly accept that we hold operator licenses rather than an Amateur Radio Licence, whatever Ofcom or you may say. Bill 2E0WBO.

### **Editorial Response to "The Ham Hobby".**

I concede that too often we take ourselves too seriously, but I do want to pick up a few points, labelled "humour", but which left me more than slightly bemused. Other readers, if so inclined, are welcome to contribute on these issues for the next issue. On the other hand, you might want to do nothing of the sort.

I struggled to find a publication called "Radical Communism", in the belief that my political education had skipped something along my, so far, 73 year long journey though life . I am still reeling from being exposed to a social commentary entitled: "The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists" by Robert Tressell (aka Robert Noonan 1870 – 1910) and read by me in the 1960s. John G3MCX was the one who revealed his view that Radical Communism was a euphemism for RadCom – to my stunned amazement. In my contrary opinion, I cannot imagine a periodical which embraces so wide a gamut of activities by the amateur fraternity, and thus has such a wide appeal. LF, MF, HF, VHF, UHF, Microwave, basic building blocks for receivers and transmitters, filters, antennas, EMC, OFCOM and licensing matters, Club activities, training programs and on and on. Boring? I must ask what your brand of "exciting" comprises.

Moving on to techy matters: It may surprise some that my techy background lies in poles, holes, masts and towers: Civil and Structural Engineering, Surveys, Dumpy Levels and Theodolites. Soil Bearing Pressure, Stress, Strain and Bending Moment, Centres of Mass and Momentum. Beams and Stanchions. Winches, Lifting Techniques, Logistics: Can you get it on the back of a lorry? Can you power the kit on site? Can you feed and keep warm the

operatives? Safe Working Procedures. Rescue from Height (including firemen) and on and on.... Not a lot to do with Amateur Radio, so where did my radio tech come from? Application, effort, long travelling journeys and buying lots of books, studying and learning over 70 years and still doing so. Practising and Building from DC to Light, Antennas to Xylophones. Being excited by technology and willing to undertake a journey of enlightenment and discovery!!!

Spins-off from worldwide QSOs are Geography, History, Archaeology, Languages and Travel. Aptitude and inclination can conquer anything and I still have a long way to go. There is no shame in ignorance, nor is there honour. There is shame in pride of ignorance and lack of effort and vigour in advancing from that state. That betrays all of the efforts of our antecedents.

Now onto Politicians: As a plus-50 year member of a Trade Union for managers and professionals, having served at local and National Executive level and a political activist, I find this bit to be the most society-disconnected of any of Bill's remarks. I am a neighbour to several local Politicians – most from parties differing from my own. There are clear pragmatic and policy differences between us, but we all respect eachother's commitment and honesty – distancing ourselves from those who peddle bigotry, racism, xenophobia and corruption, of course. Negative comments usually come from the uninformed and unengaged – primarily from those who are unable or unwilling to get stuck in and work for democratic change. 200 years ago, the Duke of Wellington (a non-politician) led a UK government, which presided over the greatest level of state execution and deportation ever known. It took the Reform Act by politicians some 20-odd years later (to avoid revolution – which the establishment would have simply used the army to subdue) to start along the road which eventually led to universal suffrage. That is the stark choice for those who would unconsciously embrace revanchism – by lethargy and disconnection as Bill, so clearly, advocates. There is still much to say, but energy wanes...

Along my career management path, I became a qualified counsellor. I learned how to spot and refer those who exhibited the symptoms of bipolar disorder, gender uncertainty, domestic violence, clinical depression, suicide. None of these are fun, nor to be used, in my opinion, as part of misplaced "humour". And my response

was just a light touch. Any more takers? 73. John G8IYS.

## 80th Anniversary Garden Party

12th July 2015. 22 Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR7 2HH.

From 1200. Food served from 1300.

Menu: Hog Roast, BBQ Chicken, Campbellsport Mushrooms, or:

Red Pepper Stuffed with Couscous with Cheese Topping.

Apple Sauce, Stuffing, Green Salad, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Bread Baps, Pimms & various soft drinks. Special Anniversary Cake Dessert.

Bring your own wine & beer.

Tickets: £10 pp (under 14's free). Obtainable from: Ray G4FFY or John G3MCX.

## Switch off for VHF FM – Getting Closer?

Thanks to Horham ARC Newsletter and RadioUser, I gleaned the following: The Norwegian government has set the date for switch off date for FM broadcasting as January 2017. The broadcasters can choose between either conventional DAB or DAB+; the latter being expected to be favoured. The smaller local stations, however, are likely to be allowed to stay on FM – for who knows how long. Later this year, the Swedish government will make a date for switch off of FM radio as they want to close down the FM transmitters sooner rather than later. Presumably, this is for re-allocation to Fixed and Mobile. Do you know more, or better?

## FUTURE SRCC MEETINGS

1 Jun 2015	A Technical Overview of the Club Construction Project: LCR Meter
15 Jun 2015	Fix-it, Move-it-On, Advice Clinic
6 Jul 2015	No Meeting
12 July	SRCC 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Garden Party
20 Jul 2015	Fix-it, Move-it-On, Advice Clinic
3 Aug 2015	TBC
17 Aug 2015	Fix-it, Move-it-On, Advice Clinic

7 Sep 2015	TBC
21 Sep 2015	Fix-it, Move-it-On, Advice Clinic
5 Oct 2015	Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale
19 Oct 2015	Fix-it, Move-it-On, Advice Clinic
2 Nov 2015	Short Talks Evening
16 Nov 2015	Fix-it, Move-it-On, Advice Clinic
7 Dec 2015	SRCC Construction Contest
21 Dec 2015	Informal pre-Xmas Social and sampling of various tinctures

## OTHER CLUBS' MEETINGS

08 May	<p><b>Wimbledon &amp; District ARS</b></p> <p>Mini Talks.</p> <p>Contact Jim Noon M6AVV - 020 8337 4940. email jamesanoon@hotmail.co.uk Web site:- <a href="http://www.gx3wim.org.uk">http://www.gx3wim.org.uk</a></p> <p>Meetings are usually at 8pm on the 2nd and final Friday of each month at Martin Way Methodist Church, Merton Park (corner of Buckleigh Avenue), SW19 9JZ.</p>
21 May	<p><b>Sutton &amp; Cheam RS</b></p> <p>AGM and Construction Contest.</p> <p>Meeting at Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 8pm.</p> <p>Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945</p>
21 Jul <sup>1, 2.</sup>	<p><b>Bromley &amp; District ARS</b></p> <p>Construction Evening.</p> <p>Normal Meetings 7.30 for 8.00 pm @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Bromley, Kent.</p> <p>Contact: Andy Brooker G4WGZ 01689 878089</p>
1 May	<p><b>Crystal Palace R &amp; EC</b></p> <p>Too late for our N/L.</p> <p>All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill from 7:30pm. Bob G30OU 01737 552170 (Meet normally monthly on 1st Friday) <a href="http://www.g3oou.co.uk/">http://www.g3oou.co.uk/</a></p>

26 May	<p><b>Dorking &amp; DARS</b></p> <p>A Practical Evening.</p> <p>Contact: Garth Swanson G3NPC 01737 359472 email <a href="mailto:G3NPC@swansons.org.uk">G3NPC@swansons.org.uk</a></p> <p>Meetings held at The Friends Meeting House, Butterhill, Dorking, RH4 2LE. Meetings commence at 7.45 pm. Web site:- <a href="http://www.ddrs.org.uk">www.ddrs.org.uk</a></p>
11 May	<p><b>Coulsdon ATS</b></p> <p>Our new Website and How it Works by Steve G3WZK.</p> <p>Meetings normally held @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2nd Monday each month.</p> <p>Steve Beal G3WZK. Secretary@ <a href="mailto:catsradio.org">catsradio.org</a>. Tel: 01883 620730.</p>
20 May	<p><b>Crawley ARC</b></p> <p>To be confirmed.</p> <p>Hon Sec: Phil Moore M0TZZ Contact: <a href="mailto:secretary@carc.org.uk">secretary@carc.org.uk</a> for more info.</p> <p>Formal meetings every third Wednesday each month at: Hut 18, Tilgate Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley West Sussex. Directions are given in the CARC Newsletter which can be found at <a href="http://carconline.blogspot.co.uk">carconline.blogspot.co.uk</a></p>
May 7	<p><b>Horsham ARC</b></p> <p>Antenna Gain by Mike G3LHZ.</p> <p>Meetings at: Guide Hall, 20 Denne Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1JF.</p> <p>Contact: <a href="http://www.harc.org.uk">www.harc.org.uk</a>. Hon Sec Alister Watt email: <a href="mailto:g3zbu@hotmail.com">g3zbu@hotmail.com</a></p> <p>Meetings normally held on 1st Thursday each month at 20.00 hours</p>

## Sign Off

And that completes the first Newsletter of Club Year 2015-16 .

Please see the accompanying, most colourful, flyer which advertises the SRCC Anniversary Garden Party on 12 July. Tickets are limited, so be sure to get yours early.

Please also see the accompanying SRCC Subs Due Notice.

Note:

Submission Deadline for Newsletter contributions is 22 May. Distribution Target is 27 May.

73. John G8IYS.