



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

DECEMBER 2018 – No 916

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

CLUB NET 1.905 MHz LSB Sunday 9:30am  
 CLUB NET 70.30 MHz FM Thursday 8.00pm  
 CLUB NET 145.35 MHz FM Friday 8.00pm

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

Hon. Sec. John Simkins G8IYS  
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Newsletter articles/distribution: [newsletter@g3src.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@g3src.org.uk)

MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 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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**FIRST MEETING Monday 3 December:  
 Annual Construction Contest**

**SECOND MEETING Monday 17 December  
 Informal pre-Christmas Social Gathering**

## SRCC Committee 2018/19

Chairman & Club Meetings	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737 551413
Vice Chairman	M0LEP Rick Hewett	01689 851472
Hon. Secretary & Newsletter Editor	G8IYS John Simkins	020 8657 0454
Treasurer & Membership Records	G4FFY Ray Howells	01732 357474
Resources, Fund Raising and Liaison	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480
Contest Co-ordinator	G3WRR Quin Collier	020 8653 6948
Committee Member and Events	G6JXA Kim Brown	07812 735507
Publicity	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Webmaster (Co-opted)	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143

## Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the 916th edition, the December 2018 Issue, of the SRCC Newsletter - edited by John G8IYS Hon Sec.

## Hon Sec/Editorial Spot

My amateur radio activities have continued at low level. On the air, I have chatted several times with John G8MNY on 80m during weekday mid-afternoons, with me interposing on his QSOs,

where the distant end is often inaudible to me, despite our QTHs being only about 2 miles apart. Antennas/polarisation/ground systems are the answer?? Otherwise, I have made some European contacts in early evenings on 60m (circa 5363 kHz) with 100W PEP and my inverted L antenna which has a continuous wire 10m vertical and 30 m horizontal – fed via RG213 from the transceiver to a remote auto ATU located below the vert section, with a poor earth system, comprising only a 1m long earth spike, driven to my local chalk sub-soil. Despite this limitation, and with plans to improve at my QTH - via elevated, non-earthed counterpoises, contacts have included Norway, Poland, Germany (lots in German language – but basic/advanced English readily offered by distant end) and Italy – all at good strength, plus the Netherlands (whose licensees, I have just been told on air, have had their allocation truncated to about 4 off 3.5 kHz channels to accommodate all modes and permitted output reduced from 100W to the standard WARC15 limit of 15W). I have also heard many Spanish stations and several in Belgium (both Flemish and Walloon speakers), but they all stuck to 5360 KHz, which is a UK no-go frequency and maybe they have local frequency limitations too even within the WARC15 band.

Quasi-radio activity (Work In Progress) is rearranging my shack to clear the floor of many boxes of components and freeing space in my shower room of remnant items of ex-G4CCW SK equipment which did not sell at CATS' Bazaar. Otherwise, kitchen tiling continues to dominate my life, but completion approaches and I now have Certification for my electrical work, which started 5 years ago and saw 3 different contractors – the last one sorting out several problems introduced by the first two! Living in a soon-to-be-peaceful environment is an inviting prospect - not just for me, but for my extended family too.

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

### **First Meeting: Monday 3 December. Annual Construction Contest.**

As many entries from as many members as possible are invited for the SRCC Annual Construction Contest. Any item from the simple to the complex is welcome and may be self-designed, a copy from a published design/circuit, or built from a kit. All present will have the opportunity to select from all items on display, by casting their vote in a secret ballot to select 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. Before the vote, all exhibitors will be invited to make a short presentation about their item. The winner, runner up and third place holder will all be rewarded from the Graham Marshall G3RJW Memorial Fund. The Winner will receive the Coronation Cup. The Runner-up will receive the Basil Wardman Tankard. Last year's top 3 were:

**1<sup>st</sup>** – entry 2: a Rubik Cube solving machine by Roger G8HDP.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – entry 11: a DATV Receiver by Gareth G4XAT.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – entry 7: a 4m transverter by John G8IYS.

We anticipate that the current holders will enter again and bring the Trophies along with them.

### **Second Meeting: Informal pre-Christmas Social Gathering – including mince pies.**

## **PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**First Meeting: Monday 5 November. Grand Inter-Club Quiz between Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society (CATS), Sutton & Cheam Amateur Radio Society RS (S&C ARS) and Surrey Radio Contact Club (SRCC).**

You all know what happens to best laid plans. The plan was for Teams of 5 or 6, each representing Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society (CATS), Sutton & Cheam Amateur Radio Society RS (S&C ARS) and SRCC to compete for the Roddy Clews G3CDK Memorial Trophy – currently held by SRCC after a stunning performance last year. Invitations and acceptances were cleared in May. Terry Giles G4CDY from CATS had kindly agreed to set the questions and administer the Quiz. He and XYL arrived promptly and so did what was expected to be the singleton SRCC team. There then occurred a 40 minute hiatus and worries grew as time passed that no Quiz would take place since there was no opposition present. However, given that there was a substantial assembled audience of SRCC members, Peter G3ZPB encouraged the impromptu formation of two more SRCC teams. These had just been organised, when members of the CATS team arrived - unfortunately depleted by unexpected absences. More unfortunate was the no-show from S&C ARS – which threw us into somewhat of a disarray for awhile. So, we made the best of what we had. In out-turn, SRCC "A" came first with 59 points, SRCC "B" came second with 57 points, SRCC "Sea" came third with 45 points and CATS came fourth with 35 points. To be honest, this was not my finest hour on the organisational front. I guess we have to (will be permitted to) host the event again next year, but clearly, it would be sensible for the Hon Sec to issue more timely and repeated reminders to the other clubs.

The SRCC teams were: SRCC A: Peter G3ZPB, Ray G4FFY, Michael Somers, John G8IYS and Gareth jnr op G8IYS; SRCC B: Pat G4FDN, George M0TPH, John G3ENG, Paul G7VAK. And Jim M0JFL; SRCC Sea: John G8MNY, Jason G7RUX, Kim G6JXA and Roger G8HDP. Maurice G4DDY took care of refreshment provision and Quin G3WRR procured the plates and cutlery.

## **Second Meeting Monday 19 November. Fix-it and Skills Night with John G8MNY.**

### **CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS**

Yet another busy month; I think I'm looking forward to a break at Christmas!!!

**Radio Contesting** - the results have been published for the October 70cms UKAC. I was not able to operate for the full time so entered a slightly restricted log. However, I finished 71<sup>st</sup> of 108 entrants which I suppose is quite respectable. But the good news is a 100% accurate log = no points lost. In the overall Club table, West Kent ARS have overtaken us and are now in 19<sup>th</sup> position with us in 20<sup>th</sup>, still one position above the Leicester Club. I was not able to enter the November event so it will be interesting to see in Leicester overtake us?

I entered the 50MHz AFS Contest (first time on 6m for many, many years) but only for a couple of hours. With the complicated scoring system, I amassed a score of 22695pts which sounds great until you realise the leaders had scores in the millions!!

**Digital Radio activity** – During the year I have "played" with FT8 mode and have several QSO's in the log, but there is now something even newer around – "JS8". This is based on FT8 mode of encoding/decoding signals but has the major advantage of allowing "free text" messages so we can now have a "proper" QSO with a few tens of watts in a bandwidth of a few 10s of Hz – now, that's technology at work! The JS8Call software is still in "Beta release" stage so still under development but we are promised the first "General" release in early December. I strongly suggest anyone who uses or has used FT8 or decided not to use FT8 because it is too restrictive, takes a serious look at JS8. There are several of us who are predicting JS8 will be even bigger than FT8 by this time next year!

**My Autumn Project** – I have been collecting various parts and modules during the last few months in order to build a "PanAdapter" for my IC-9100. Perhaps I should explain first what a PanAdapter (or Panoramic Adapter to give it its full name) does...it displays a view of the radio spectrum on a screen and normally costs upwards of several hundred pounds. Lots of modern rigs incorporate a "Spectrum Display" or "PanAdapter Display" but these are all very limited in

their ability. I wanted something bigger and better!! Having done lots of research on the subject, there seems to be a very cost-effective solution by using an “SDR Module” and some software. That left the small problem of how to feed r.f. signals into the SDR?? The solution lay with a small high input-impedance mixer board available from an American Amateur. Having bought all the parts and downloaded the relevant software, building could start. The finished project combines signals from the H.F. part of the receiver (after the preamp stage), the VHF Converter and UHF Converter and feeds them into a RSP1A SDR module. The output is fed via a new USB socket mounted on the back of the radio and into one of the USB ports on the computer. Does it work? It most certainly does. See the attached photos....

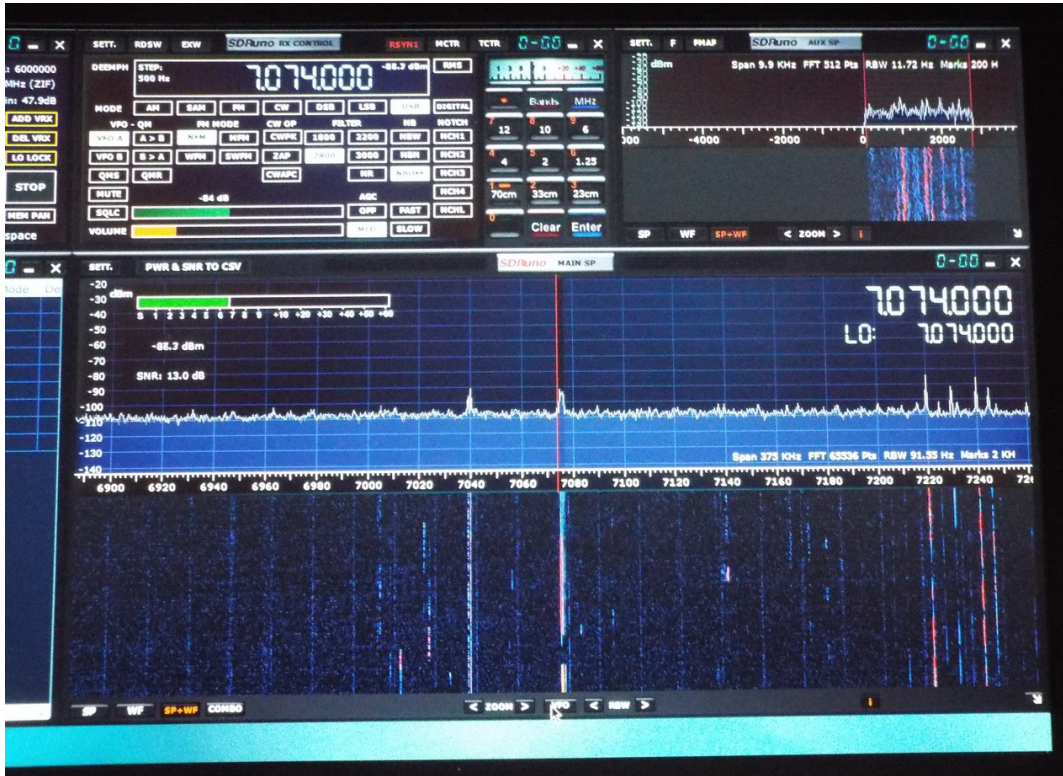
**Interior – shows the mixer board, SDR Module & new USB socket.**



**General view of operation on 40m.**



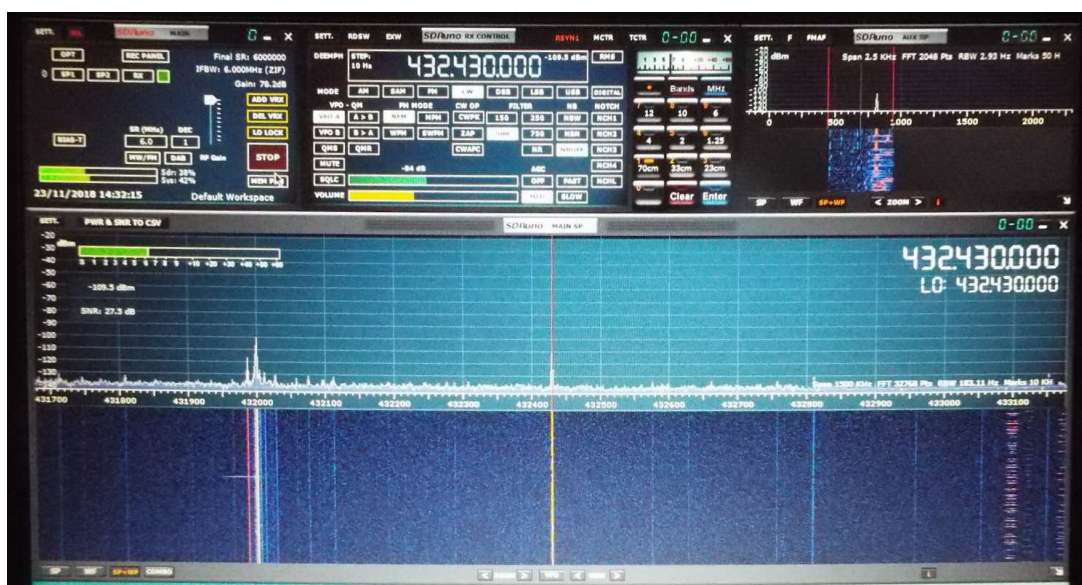
Display on 40m – note the signal being received on 7.074MHz and the decode top-right.



70cms setup.



70cms display – this is the GB3UHF beacon. Note the CW and FT8 decode are shown top-right.



Bye for now; I hope to see lots of you at the Construction Contest on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and good DX for 2019. 73 and 88, Peter G3ZPB.

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

We did a “test for real” last month by employing the new SRCC “List Server” which we hope will provide more security, both for our members and for the email address we send it from [srcmail@g3src.org.uk](mailto:srcmail@g3src.org.uk). There was only one failure and that was because the intended recipient had changed their email address. Our list has been amended accordingly. Less success is indicated with our list for Other Local Clubs, for reasons yet to be discovered. We shall see how we do this month.

## NEW WEBSITE BLOG

Substantially repeated from last month: Introduced in November is a “Member’s Blog” page on the website at <https://www.g3src.org.uk/category/members-blog>. This is open to anyone to raise an issue, write comment or ask a question etc. “Clicking” on one of the topics (initially “Comments and Questions Welcome”) will open a new page so you can “Leave a Reply”. You can then type your comment, question or whatever. You will also need to add your name and email address for authentication purposes. After it has been authentication by one of the web team (in order to stop spamming), your comment will go “live” on the website for all to see. **We are hoping this will open up to everyone the questions and comments that are currently normally restricted to within the committee.**

## SRCC LEAGUE TABLE: 2019 PLANS & RESULTS FOR OCTOBER 2018 by Quin G3WRR

The SRCC League Table is now approaching the end of its first season, and following inputs from members and some thoughts of its own, the Committee is proposing to make a couple of significant changes to the way it will operate in 2019, with the intention of widening member participation. The detailed rules are still being developed, but at a top level the changes are:

to extend the scope to allow listeners (and also licensed amateurs who are unable or disinclined to transmit) to claim points for hearing amateur stations rather than making contact with them –

although more points will be awarded for making contacts.

to increase the incentive for hearing / working other SRCC members. Under the present rules, double points can be claimed for working a particular country / big square if the station involved is a SRCC member - but since all current SRCC members have an English address and the great majority are in JO01 square, this is a rather low key incentive! As a result, for 2019 “double points for SRCC members” will cease. Instead SRCC members will count as a separate points earning category analogous to the existing DXCC entities and Maidenhead big squares. As such, points can be claimed for each individual SRCC member heard or contacted during the month – a considerably stronger incentive.

Meanwhile, back to October! Entries were received from five members, and the results are tabulated below:

### MONTHLY TABLE FOR OCTOBER

ENTRANT	TOTAL SCORING QSOs	SCORING CONTEST QSOs	SCORING INTRA-SRCC QSOs	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4WGE	60	43		163
G3EUE	40	4		84
G4LZE	27			54
G3WRR	11	11	1	36
G3 ZPB	10	9	1	32

Alun G4WGE again takes top place followed by Ted G3EUE, whose decision to try out bands other than 10m has clearly paid dividends! And it’s good to see Colin G4LZE back in the list. Alun’s contacts were all on HF and covered included all the bands except 5, 24 and 28MHz. They were fairly evenly balanced between SSB and FT8 with a sprinkling of CW. Coverage was mostly Europe and nearer Asia, but included a number of North and South American and Caribbean contacts. Colin made all his contacts on 40m and 20m: all were within Europe apart from one with Oman. He doesn’t state the mode used but based on former activity I’d guess much of it was on FT8. Ted’s contacts were all on HF CW - mostly European but, like Alun, with a handful of North and South Americans. He also got a couple of particularly nice ones in the form of OX (Greenland) and ZD7 (St. Helena). This leaves Peter and myself, whose contacts were all on VHF this month apart from one of Peter’s which was on HF using FT8 – Peter’s first contact on that mode, and a W5 at that! He has also been experimenting with DSTAR. This makes my own efforts look distinctly mundane – just an entry in the 6m AFS contest and all on SSB...a tad downbeat for someone who much prefers CW. However I took part in the CQWW CW contest the weekend before writing this so my November entry might be a bit more upbeat.....

### 2018 CUMULATIVE TABLE

ENTRANT	5/18	6/18	7/18	8/18	9/18	10/18	11/18	12/18	CUMULATIVE
G4LZE	110	238	218	46		54			666
G4WGE	130		165		132	163			590
G3WRR	168	42	105	24	57	36			432
G4FYF	70	78	86	70	80				384
G3EUE	19	53	83	42		84			281
G3ZPB	63	36	27	36	24	32			218

G8IYS		84	16						100
M0LEP	14	14	20						48
G4FFY			26						26

Colin continues to take top place, but Alun is moving up and with two months to go it will be interesting to see who takes the SRCC Club Cup.

That's all for now – other than to note that VE3EN's excellent [www.solarham.com](http://www.solarham.com) website noted last week that a recent sunspot configuration showed the first signs of “next cycle” type activity. But as this sounds rather like Norman Lamont's “first green shoots of recovery” it's probably best not to hold your breath!

### 73, Quin G3WRR

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALUN G4WGE

In addition to his role as RSGB Deputy Regional Manager and participating in the SRCC League Table, I am advised that he found time to participate in the IARU HF Championship 2018: G4WGE/P Single Op, mixed mode, low power (10->100W), unassisted – in a field, in a tent, during that really hot spell of weather. He was rewarded by the following achievements: 1<sup>st</sup> England, 1<sup>st</sup> ITU Region 27 (that is UK, Ireland, Benelux & France), 6<sup>th</sup> Europe, 9<sup>th</sup> World -Yes that is 9<sup>th</sup> in the World – The write up can be found by following the link <https://contests.arri.org/ContestResults/2018/IARU-HF-2018-FinalFullResults.pdf> and going to Page 6 which tabulates the results). Well done indeed, Alun.

#### Cheap and Cheerful – G4FYF

Every year after helping operate VHF field day I come away thinking I must get a headphone/mike combo headset. My standard station mike is a Yaesu MD100 dynamic desk mic and a decent set of headphones. A communications headset was pretty low on my wish list and, to be frank, I couldn't justify the cost of a Heil or similar, set.

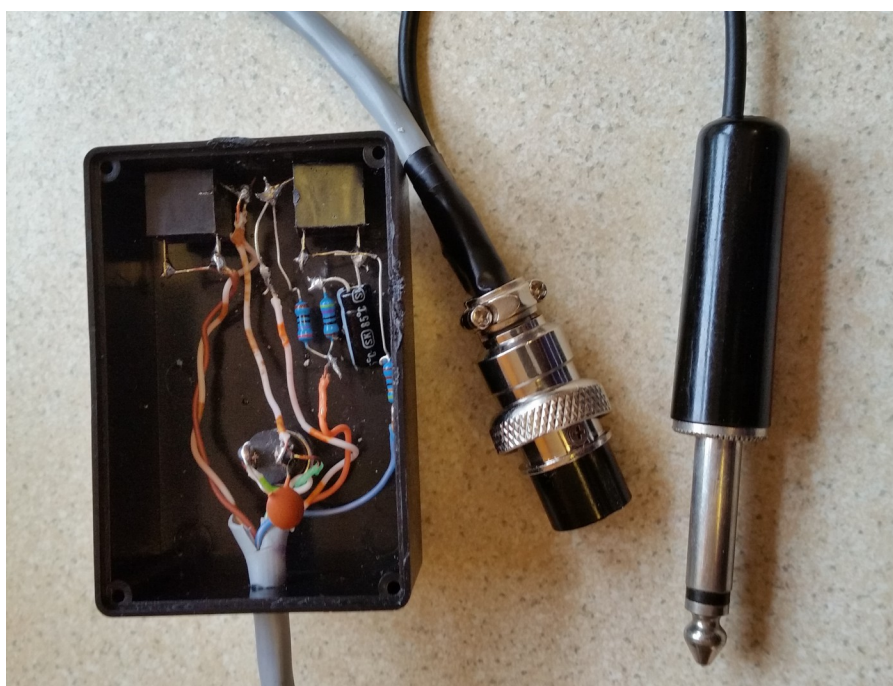
I happened to espy my daughters' PC headset and thinking I'd try that with my FT2000, I “borrowed” it! Using a length of CAT5 cable (4x2 twisted pairs) and couple of stereo 3.5mm jack sockets I bread boarded an adapter for connection between the rig and the headset. Remember that having an electret insert, the headset mic requires a 5V supply. The FT2000 and most modern rigs, provide a pin on their mike socket to supply 5-8V. It worked, but when monitored, it sounded nasty. I then ordered a Panasonic inset and used it to replace the original. That sounded much, much better.





However, wanting to seamlessly switch between desk and headset mikes, I find that the output from the electret is much higher than the dynamic mike thereby overloading the ALC circuitry. I could adjust for that via the rig mike controls/menus but instead I tried a 10dB attenuator between mike input and output. That seemed to work OK with no adjustment of the mic gain required

A pig-tail of two wires was connected to a jack plug external to the mic plug to go to the rig's headphone socket. Another pair of wires connected to the PTT pins of the mic socket to a miniature push button. I did find, however, there was a trace of HF feedback especially on 160/80/40 meter bands. A bit of decoupling via 100nF ceramic capacitors across the 5V, PTT, and headphone connections seemed to dramatically reduce this. Finally put in a box, it turned out like this:



On the air? Well, the phones are light and comfortable but did need a few degrees of extra turn of the audio gain control to get the equivalent volume as my standard phones. However, the audio quality was equally acceptable. Reports of the transmitted audio quality were generally favourable; comments ranged from too woolly to too harsh and all points in-between! Ask opinions of ten different amateurs, you get ten different views! My summary after use is that in contest situations and for "you are 5/9, 73" type QSOs, it works fine. For more normal rag chew QSOs the quality of the MD100 dynamic microphone is to be preferred.

In conclusion, this type of headset is available on ebay for about £4, £3 for a decent insert and other bits from the junk box; for around a tenner definitely fit for purpose at G4FYF! Oh, and the headset has now been liberated from my daughter!!

73 Steve G4FYF

### Potato Power! By Zoie jnr jnr Op G4FYF

Hello, my name is Zoie. I am 7 years old and my granddad is Steve, G4FYF, and we did a science experiment to see if we could make a light work with ..... a potato!

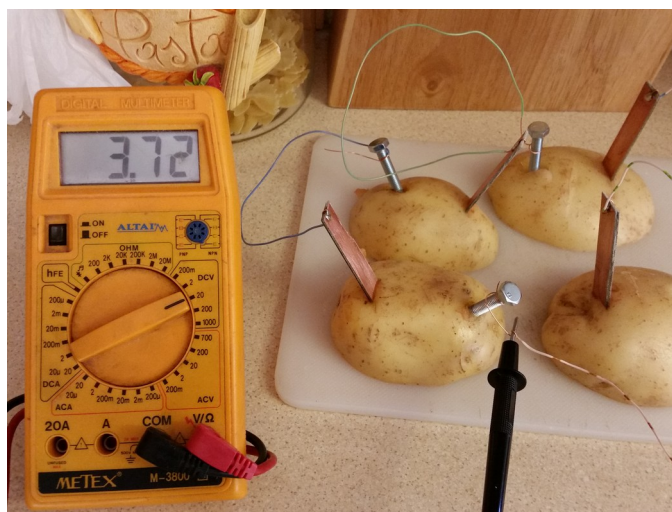
Electricity is measured in Volts and my LED light needs about 3 volts to work. I cut a potato in half and pushed in two different metals, a zinc screw and a piece of copper. Then I touched the probes of a meter to the screw and copper and I got 0.9V.



Then I connected my light and.....



What would happen with more potatoes? I connected more pieces of potato with wire from the copper to the screw on the next potato. With two halves I got 1.8V, three halves 2.4V, and four halves 3.7V.



..... it worked! Cool! This is called a circuit and next I'm going to try with different vegetables and fruit.

73 Zoie.

## Omitted Articles

I managed to include two items from Steve G4FYF this month, but had to hold over again one from Gareth G4XAT. I was laid low by some grandchild-carried bug for 2 days so ran out of time.

## 6m FM Net

I received an email from Steve M0PEL asking me to remind members that there is an FM Net on 51.51 MHz each Tuesday commencing at 8pm. I should point out that this is NOT an SRCC organised net, so does not appear in the Newsletter banner. It is an all-comers net and is supported by operators drawn from several local-ish clubs, or none. It is often controlled by Kim G6JXA.

## Future SRCC Meetings

03/12/18	Construction Contest
17/12/18	Pre-Christmas Social
07/01/19	FT8 with Alan G0TLK
21/01/19	Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat
07/02/19	Millimetric Microwaves with Chris G0FDZ
21/02/19	Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat
04/03/19	Spring Surplus Equipment Sale
18/03/19	Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat
01/04/19	Annual General Meeting
15/04/19	Fix-it, Move-it-on, Skills and Advice Night, Social Chat

## Other Local Club Meetings.

18 Dec	<p><b>Bromley &amp; District ARS</b></p> <p>Quiz and Mince Pies with G0HIQ</p> <p>Normal Meetings are held on third Tuesdays 7.30 for 8.00pm @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Bromley, Kent.</p> <p>Contact Andy G4WGZ on 01689 878089 or enquiries(at)bdars.co.uk.</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.bdars.co.uk">www.bdars.co.uk</a></p>
10 Dec	<p><b>Coulsdon ATS</b></p> <p>AGM</p> <p>Meetings are held at 8pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month at St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley.</p> <p>Contact Terry Giles G4CDY via secretary@ catsradio.org</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.sthost.co.uk/webpace/cats/start.html">http://www.sthost.co.uk/webpace/cats/start.html</a></p>
13 Dec	<p><b>Sutton &amp; Cheam RS</b></p> <p>Social Evening and Friendly Quiz</p> <p>Meets 8pm on 3rd Thursday every month. They also run a practical group most Monday evenings at the Banstead Scout Hut.</p> <p>Contact John Puttock G0BWV on 020 8644 9945 or email info(at)scrs.org.uk</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.scrs.org.uk/">http://www.scrs.org.uk/</a></p>
06 Dec	<p><b>Horsham Amateur Radio Club</b></p> <p>AGM</p> <p>Normally meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Guide Hall, 20 Denne Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1JF. NRQ TQ172304 at 20.00hrs local time. Contact Alister Watt G3ZBU at g3zbu(at)hotmail.com</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.harc.org.uk/">http://www.harc.org.uk/</a></p>
07 Dec	<p><b>Dorking &amp; District Radio Society</b></p> <p>Christmas Dinner</p> <p>Meetings at 7.45pm. Contact: David Browning (M6DJB) at djb.abraxas(at)btinternet.com.</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.ddrs.org.uk">http://www.ddrs.org.uk</a></p>

07 Dec	<p><b>Crystal Palace R&amp;EC</b></p> <p>Christmas Social. Visitors and Guests welcome, but contributions to the comestibles and potables equally welcome.</p> <p>All Saints Church, Beulah Hill (Normally meets monthly on first Friday). Contact: Bob G3OOU 01737 552170</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.g3oou.co.uk">http://www.g3oou.co.uk</a></p>
06 Dec	<p><b>Cray Valley Radio Society</b></p> <p>Broadcast Radio</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Royal Eltham Scouts HQ, Rear of 61-71 Southend Crescent, Eltham, London SE9 2SD</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.cvrs.org">www.cvrs.org</a></p>

### Sign Off

Happy Christmas and a Great 2019 to all readers.

I am always delighted and surprised to get copy for publication. Copy date for the January 2019 issue is Saturday 29 December. Please send your contributions to [newsletter@g3src.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@g3src.org.uk)

**73. John G8IYS Newsletter Editor and Hon Sec.**