



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

84th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

NOVEMBER 2019 – No 927

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

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MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm
Meetings at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT

FIRST MEETING: Monday 4th November

Inter Club Quiz

SECOND MEETING Monday 18th November

Fix-it, Skills and Advice Night - led by John G8MNY

SRCC Committee 2019/20

Chairman & Club Meetings	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737 551413
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EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends,

First a correction to last month's Newsletter. In the write-up of the September A meeting, I referred to the callsigns of several earlier club members, accidentally identifying Bernard Wynn as G3TB – this should of course have been G8TB! Although I only ever met him once – in

about 1985 at SSB FD, long before becoming an SRCC member - I really should have known better than to make a mistake like that...

As you can see from my name at the bottom of this opening piece, John G8IYS is not yet well enough to resume his editorial duties, but the good news is that he is now out of hospital and is recuperating in a nursing home, transitional between hospital and his return to home. Although the details have already been circulated to members by e-mail, the URL of the home is repeated here for convenience: <https://www.hillhousecare.co.uk/hill-house> . Although there are no formal visiting hours I was advised that from the home's point of view, after around 2.30pm probably works best. Having visited John there several times, it is a really nice home, with a comfortable feel to it. The only significant downside is one that is probably specific to our hobby – being just up the hill from Kenley railway station, it is a pretty dreadful VHF site! Nonetheless John has bought himself a top end, all singing, all dancing handheld in the form of a Kenwood TH-D74E which really does do nearly everything. In addition to the usual FM transmit/receive capability on 2m & 70cm, it supports GPS, Bluetooth, APRS, DSTAR, plus receive only coverage continuous from 100kHz – 76MHz (AM, FM, CW & SSB), FM broadcast (76-108MHz) and airband (108-136MHz). Obviously controlling that lot from the front panel of a handheld requires multiple use of keys and menus (there are 208 different menu items) so getting to grips with it all may take John a while. But as usual any given user will only take advantage of quite a small subset of the features, so the basic stuff should be assimilated fairly quickly – and John has already worked John G8MNY on 2m.

Finally, a cautionary tale! I attended the RSGB Convention near Milton Keynes over the weekend of 12th/13th October. This is mainly because as a member of the RSGB Contest Support Committee I am part of the "ironwork brigade" responsible for bringing the contest trophies (50ish HF and 30ish VHF) from a Secret Location, unboxing them, putting them in sequence for handover to el Presidente M0OBW to hand them on to the recipients, reboxing the ones not being taken away by recipients, and returning them to the secure store. Out of interest, one of these is the Surrey Trophy, donated to the RSGB by SRCC and currently awarded annually to the leading station in the Open section of VHF NFD. The cup itself is mounted on a plinth made by our member Gareth G4XAT out of walnut from a tree that was a victim the 1987 storm. Meanwhile, back at the cautionary tale, my route was up to the M1 through central London, via London Bridge and The City. I had studiously checked that the Congestion Charge did not apply at weekends – but completely forgot about the Ultra Low Emission Zone...until I received two *billets doux* from the DVLA – one for the journey up, one for the journey back – charging me a fine which, provided I was a dutiful citizen and paid up pronto, was only £80 each way. So sadder, wiser and £160 poorer, I will be more careful in future – and suggest that you may wish to do the same!

So, on to the real stuff....

73, Quin G3WRR

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Mateusz Storoszczuk and Peter Adams G0HWY who have joined the club recently, and hope their association with SRCC will be a long and enjoyable one.

NEXT MEETINGS

First (A) meeting: Monday 4th November 2019 – Inter Club Quiz

The Inter Club Quiz between SRCC, CATS and S&CRS is now established as a regular annual feature, and in accordance with Eurovision practice (which some members may not see as a positive role model...) will be held at the venue of the previous year's winner. This means it will again be held at Trinity School. One SRCC team has already been established, but other teams (of up to six members) will be welcome to form themselves on the night. Unlike 2018 which turned out to be an SRCC versus CATS event, S&CRS have promised to bring around twelve of their members, so it is shaping up to be a good evening. The previous Quizmaster, Terry G4CDY, has very kindly agreed to set the questions and time a business trip from Cornwall to London to coincide with the event. The questions, based on previous experience, will be a mix of radio stuff and general knowledge. The winning team will be awarded S&CRS's Rod Clews G3CDK Cup. Teas, coffees, soft drinks and light refreshments, served using top quality paper tableware, will be provided.

Second (B) meeting: Monday 18th November 2019 - Fix-it, Skills and Advice Night – led by John G8MNY

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

First (A) meeting: Monday 7th October - Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale

There was a good turnout for this popular event. Although the quantity of equipment for sale was perhaps a little lower than usual, Alun G4WGE came to the rescue with a varied Bumper Bundle the majority of which passed to new owners. Despite the sub-G4XAT standard of auctioneering by rookie Quin G3WRR, the sum of £39.30 was generated for club funds.

Second (B) meeting: Monday 21st October - Fix-it, Skills and Advice Night

As usual the evening was well supported and John G8MNY, supported by a wide range of test equipment, was on hand to assist with members' problems.

CHAIRMAN'S BLOG

I have not been long back from a holiday on the Isle of Skye (for the first time in 50 years!). The scenery was breath taking and it is certainly a beautiful part of the country to visit. However, the weather was not kind to us with high winds most of the time and almost horizontal rain for much of the time, although to be fair, we did see the sun a couple of times. However, the car did not take kindly to the onslaught and refused to come home! Some of you know that I have been a bit "low" recently – not having a car for a week (not even knowing where it was!) can have a dramatic effect on one's well-being! Eventually, the car-recovery people delivered it to the local garage and I was greeted with "...and it started OK...". I still do not have the confidence to be sure it is reliable and

will start every time I need it, but it is looking as though it was damp/water getting into places BMW didn't design it for!!!! Time will tell.

Some radioactivity to report this month - I am "getting to grips" with my MD-UV380. It is now loaded with hundreds (literally) of radio channels including the 2m & 70cms Amateur Bands, Marine and PMR Bands. Also, during the few months I have been "away" from Digital Communications, all the programmes I use have been updated and have now been installed. A few QSOs to make sure everything is working again and, hopefully, I will be more active during the winter months. I am also investigating the purchase of a new 2m/70cms beam to increase my signal strength on 2m. The one reviewed in the November RadCom looks **very** interesting!

Preparations are well advanced for our "Radio Event" at Brooklands Museum on 9th November. We will probably be using an Icom IC-756PRO, Heathkit Linear Amplifier running 400w to a G5RV Antenna at about 10m above ground level.

That's all for this month so it's bye for now. I hope to see lots of you at the Inter-Club Quiz on the 4th - we will see if we can regain the Cup, again!!!

73 and 88, Peter G3ZPB

PURCHASE OF A NEW RIG FOR CLUB USE

The Committee has agreed to purchase the following equipment:

- ICOM IC-9700 2m/70cms/23cms Transceiver
- Diamond Vertical Co-linear Antenna for 2m/70cms/23cms
- Matching Triplexer.

It is hoped to obtain the equipment sometime in November and we may be able to show the rig at the November Fix-it/Skills meeting on the 18th. We realise to use all the features of the new rig will take some considerable knowledge and skill. We have, therefore, allocated the January first (A) meeting to a Talk and Demonstration of the IC-9700. This will cover a wide range from setting up for a simple SSB Simplex QSO on 2m, Voice Repeater operation, using D-STAR, setting Receive Filter Widths etc., etc. After a period of familiarisation and testing, the equipment will be available for club members to borrow.

The Committee would like to thank all those members who have made suggestions about what equipment might be useful. These will be considered at a later date and further purchases may be made next year.

73, Peter G3ZPB

SOTA (SUMMITS ON THE AIR) ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT

It's been well over a year since I last activated a SOTA summit, but I got a chance to activate one while we were away in Germany last month. My XYL was busy with her family one afternoon, and SOTA summit DM/NS-125 Bückeberg was only ten minutes' drive away. Curiously, I just happened to have a short telescopic fishing pole and my SOTA radio bag in the car. The KX3's

battery was even almost fully charged.

Bückeberg is a summit on a long ridge, and the contours on OpenTopoMap (<https://www.opentopomap.org/#marker=15/52.2597/9.2114>) suggest the highest point isn't quite where the SOTA site places it, but the SOTA activation area is huge and there's a tall transmitter tower close to the highest point on the contour map.



There was a map of the area in the car park



The transmitter mast on Bückeberg

I made my way to the position given as the summit. There was a small cairn there, and it was a

good distance from the big mast while still being comfortably inside the activation area, and it even had a bit of a view. Like many summits in the area, it's covered in conifer forest, and at the summit location they were all tall and lacking good antenna-hanging branches, so I used the fishing pole as a central support and threaded my link-dipole antenna between the tree trunks. the set-up seemed to work well enough.



An older stone tower with various antennas on and around it

DM/NS-125

Date/Time	Call	Out	In		
25/9/19					
15:02				7.0285	
15:08	G0QVH	599			
SW 15:12	EA2IF	599	599	4.29	
15:10	SP9AMH	599	599	?? QRM	
15:12	HB9BIN/P	599	599	S2S HB BE-174	
15:18	SP9NLI	599	599		
15:19	EA2DT	599	599		
15:20	E1BFR	599	599		
23	HB9CGA	599	599		
24	G4FGJ	599	599		
26	OH3GZ	599	599		
29	G0FVH	599	599		
32	SP9ALI	599	599		
	SP1/P				
35	OE7EHH	599	599		
	0				
	558				QRM
SW 15:53	I3SOI	599	599	10.121	
16:04	3.558				

When activating SOTA summits, It's a good idea to use a pencil and waterproof paper for your log.

I spent an hour or so operating, all in Morse, mostly on 40 metres. The activation wasn't without its share of frustrations, but it was my first summit activation in well over a year, and I was a little rusty. The 40 metre band was working particularly well; even QRP contacts were coming through 599, but some of the chasers were a bit over-enthusiastic (or just plain not listening), and two or three possible contacts got trampled on by other (probably higher-power) stations who insisted on calling while I was trying to complete a contact. Even so the activation was plenty good enough to get me the activator points, and the summit-to-summit contact with Jürg HB9BIN on HB/BE-174 was a pleasant bonus. I ended up with 12 good contacts with operators in 8 different countries.

Just after I switched from 30 to 80 metres it started to rain, so I decided it was time to pack up. I got only a little damp while walking back to my car.

Rick DL/M0LEP/P

IT'S AFS SEASON AGAIN!

Every year the RSGB runs a series of contests for its Affiliated Societies (AFSs), of which the SRCC is one. These cover a range of bands - from 160m to 70cm (thus hopefully appealing to both HF & VHF enthusiasts) - and modes. This year there are eight separate AFS contests, and a summary is shown below.

In each contest, clubs may enter as many stations as they wish, and these are grouped together into teams of up to four to produce an overall team score (with listings for both team and individual entrants' scores being published in the results). Some of the larger clubs manage to put on multiple teams (the biggest as far as I can recall being five teams – a total of 17 stations!).

In addition to the eight stand-alone contests, the RSGB also merges the individual contest results to form the so-called AFS Super League, which runs from the 70MHz AFS in September through to the 432MHz AFS the following February.

In the last full Super League season (2018/9) the SRCC entered one or more stations in all but one of the contributing contests, achieving 17th position out of 87 entrants. This is a quite creditable result bearing in mind that in only one of them (80/40m CW) did we manage to field a full team of four stations. You can see where this is going, can't you? The first two of the eight events of the 2017/8 season (70MHz & 50MHz AFS) have now passed with one member taking part in each. But there are still six to go, and it would be nice to get more stations on and allow us to come higher up in the table. Now, contests aren't to everybody's taste and you probably didn't join the SRCC to be bounced into doing something you don't really want to do, so there's no arm twisting involved: but if you have a spare couple of hours and are favourably disposed towards contests or are not sure but think you might wish to give them a try, why not come on in one (or more) of the six remaining sessions (as shown below) and have a go?

Log submission is easy via the Contest Committee robot and you don't have to worry about assignment to teams – that is done by the relevant Contest Committee. All you have to do is identify your club and the robot will prompt you for that, offering you a drop down menu to make it easy. But of course things are always easy once you've worked out how to do them, so if you have any difficulties please collar me or one of the SRCC Committee at one of the meetings if you have any questions / issues. Alternatively you can get me by e-mail g.g.collier@btinternet.com.

Details of the remaining sessions (in date order) are as follows (note that the dates for the three HF sessions are still provisional but unlikely to change):

DATE	TIME (UTC)	CONTEST	BAND	MODE
Saturday 9/11/19	2000 – 2300	Club Calls (1.8 MHz AFS)	1.8 MHz	CW / SSB
Sunday 8/12/19	1000 – 1600	144 MHz AFS	144 MHz	Any (but probably 99% SSB)
Saturday 4/1/20	1300 – 1700	HF AFS (CW)	3.5 & 7 MHz	CW

Sunday 12/1/20	1300–1700	HF AFS (SSB)	3.5 & 7 MHz	SSB
Saturday 18/1/20	1300 – 1700	HF AFS (data)	3.5 & 7 MHz	RTTY / PSK63
Sunday 2/2/20	0900 – 1300	432 MHz AFS	432 MHz	Any (but probably 99% SSB)

For full rules see the following URLs:

<https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/> (HF)

<https://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/readcal.pl?type=full> (VHF)

Hope to see you on?

73, Quin G3WRR

AMATEUR RADIO AT BROOKLANDS MUSEUM

The volunteers of the Brooklands Wireless Communications Collection are planning to operate the Museum's special Amateur Radio Callsign (GB1BM) to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the ending of hostilities of the First World War.

Date - Saturday 9th November 2019.

Location - the "Finishing Straight", Brooklands Museum, Brooklands Road, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0QN.

Operation - we will aim at contacting 101 other radio stations using a single frequency/channel.

The reason for 101 is that it is 101 years since 11/11/1918. And operating on a single frequency is because most radio equipment in use in 1918 was only capable of operating on a single frequency or channel.

Radio Amateurs can assist in two ways - work the station on the air (GB1BM will probably be working in the 40m band and the actual operating frequency will be shown live on "hrdlog.net").

The second way is come and see the station at the Museum between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (normal entry fees apply).

73, Peter G3ZPB

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – SEPTEMBER 2019

The number of entrants for September was seven (same as August – the usual suspects), including one null entry. The results for the month are as follows:

ENTRANT	HEARD DXCC / SQUARE	HEARD IN CONTEST	HEARD - SRCC MEMBER	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED IN CONTEST	WORKED – SRCC MEMBER	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4LZE	18			61			140
G3EUE	9			57			123
G4WGE				43	28		114
G3WRR				17	17		51
G4FYF				24		1	50
M0LEP				10			20
G3ZPB							0

The leading station is again Colin G4LZE, with second place going to Ted G3EUE who is back with a bang after a summer of domestic activities, displacing Alun G4WGE by one place to third. Quin G3WRR retains fourth place pipping Steve G4FYF into fifth by one point. Rick M0LEP and Peter G3ZPB are again in fifth and sixth places respectively.

Colin's contacts were as usual all on FT4 or FT8 but this month all on HF, as 6m seems to have given up the DX ghost for the winter. 82% of his contacts were on 40m, with the rest on 20m. 75% of them were within Europe with 15% in Asia and the rest - a handful - were in Africa, North and South America. His "heard but not worked" list was seriously enviable, including BY (China), S9 (Sao Tome & Principe) and 3DA (Swaziland).

Ted's activity was all on CW between 80m & 10m in what he calls "an interesting month with some flat patches". Most of the QSOs were European with a handful in Africa, North and South America. These included some fairly uncommon ones such as C3 (Andorra), 7X (Algeria), HB0 (Liechtenstein) and 4A (Mexico), as well as an interesting one in the form of KC4JEF/MM who seems to have been in the Black Sea.

Alun's scoring contacts were all on HF, using a mixture of FT4, FT8 & RTTY. These included all bands between 160m and 12m except 15m, with the majority on 40m & 20m. 86% of Alun's contacts were within Europe, with the rest spread evenly between North America, South America, Asia and Africa.

Quin's contacts were rather mundane, spread evenly between UK "big squares" picked up in two RSGB 4m contests and (Nordic) DXCC entities worked in the Scandinavian Activity Contest (rather surprisingly including half a dozen on 10m). But points is points...

Steve's contacts were mostly HF and European but included a couple of North American stations and two Asian. He also worked two "big squares" on VHF. But his QSO with G8MNY was the only intra-SRCC one claimed this month!

All but one of Rick's contacts were with European DXCC entities worked during the SOTA outing reported earlier in this issue.

Finally, although Peter submitted a null entry this time, he advises that he has had QSOs during October and will be submitting a scoring entry next time!

The cumulative annual scores are tabulated below – with no change in positions from last month.

ENTRANT	JAN 19	FEB 19	MAR 19	APR 19	MAY 19	JUN 19	JUL 19	AUG 19	SEP 19	OCT 19	NOV 19	DEC 19	TOTAL
G4LZE	109	134	158	176	243	335	300	236	140				1831
G4WGE	115	144	126	152	212		115	134	114				1116
G3EUE	111	106	139	99	153	80	63	18	123				892
G4FYF	34	31	66	67	53	48	80	58	50				487
G3WRR	2	27	62	29	138	0	0	36	51				345
G3ZPB	32	46	4	21	4	24	0	0	0				131
M0LEP	34							12	20				66
G7RUX	42												42

Conditions have continued to be pretty dire, reflected in the low proportion of non-European contacts claimed for points. Indeed, for the first time that I can remember none of the month's contributors reported contacts with Oceania. Following my comment last month about the solar flux number continuing to "bump along the bottom", it bumped even lower – to 65. This is below what I had understood to be the minimum ever achievable. But it has since crept back up to 69 so maybe at last things are on the turn.....but I for one will not be holding my breath – yet!

73, Quin G3WRR

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 secretary@g3src.org.uk .

BAND/FREQUENCY/MODE	DAY OF WEEK	START TIME (clock)
160m / 1905 kHz / LSB	Sunday	9.30 am
10m / 28.078 MHz / JS8	Thursday	10.00 am
4m / 70.30 MHz / FM	Thursday	8.00 pm
6m / 51.55 MHz / FM	Tuesday	8.00 pm
2m / 144.6125 MHz / Dstar	Friday	7.30 pm
2m / 144.35 MHz / FM	Friday	8.00 pm

SRCC MEETINGS – NOVEMBER TO END OF YEAR

04/11/19	Inter-Club Quiz: SRCC / CATS / S&CRS
18/11/19	Fix-it, Skills and Advice Night – G8MNY
02/12/19	Construction Contest
16/12/19	Pre-Christmas Social

NEWS FROM OTHER CLUBS

For the last couple of months, information on programmes for a number of the local clubs have not been provided as had previously been the case. It is hoped to reinstate this from next month's issue – but for now you may wish to note that the Guildford Radio Society will be having a used equipment sale on Friday 8th November 2019. 7:30 for 8pm start. All, both sellers and buyers, are welcome.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS....

Well, that's it for another month – hope to see you at the Quiz on 4th November.

73, Quin G3WRR