



# RSGB Bristol Group Newsletter



G6YB - Bristol Group Founded 1937

Issue : March 1996



## Last Night in Committee

On a rather wet & miserable night your committee met recently with apologies from Shaun, Gordon & Stuart for their absences & wishing the caretaker had been on time to let us in..

We are still awaiting a reply from ARIS to our request for a quote to insure the Longleat money. The Weston super Mare group doesn't want the groups P60 Versatower & so it was agreed to advertise it in RadCom for £350. It was agreed to buy some VHF /UHF aerials & a very good discount had been obtained. It was suggested that we might be able to defray some of the Longleat tax bill by claiming for some expenses which the group incurs from time to time.

As nothing had been heard from the GB500JC people it was decided to write to them asking not to leave the groups transceiver on site once the security arrangements have been changed .

The correspondence was read out & dealt with, including a letter from RSGB headquarters apologising for not including us in the recent callbook. There was no financial report as the treasurer was absent..

We had a brief update on Longleat in the absence of Shaun. The catering is all arranged & Trowbridge ARC will do the talk in. Orders are starting to arrive with 36 traders booked so far.

We then came on to what proved to be a very thorny subject & that was, who was entitled to use the groups equipment & under what callsigns it could be operated. The committee heard three points of view a; equipment loaned out for contests should use the G6YB callsign b; any callsign could be used providing the name used was that of the Bristol contest group and c;

providing the people using the equipment were members of the RSGB they could use their own callsign as well as the name of their own group. These three view points generated considerable animated discussion & no firm decision could be reached, it was felt that there might have to be an amendment to the groups constitution to clarify the issue.

Keith Middleton announced that due to his impending operation he will not be able to attend any more meetings for a while & will not be available for the Longleat bring & buy. This is a severe blow to us but we wished Keith well for the future & hope to see him back by the late summer. We shall have to re-think our bring & buy arrangements & good reliable help will most certainly be needed.

Concluding the meeting Robin gave us the latest from the contest group, the 7 MHz CW contest had been entered & they were very hopeful of a good result in the multi operator section. On that more cheerful note the meeting finished & we departed.



**For Sale**

TS520SE, CW Filter, 10Mhz mod, Desk Mic  
£325

Contact Doug, G0WMW on 01934 629160

Unused DX-6V Vertical antenna (silent key).  
SWR <2:1 on 10-30m, 250-300KHz on 40m,  
30-90KHz on 80m. Power rating 2Kw. £90

Contact Jim, G4UGX on 01454 413079

Commodore C64, disk drive + manuals.  
Offers?

Contact Eric, G2FXO on 01454 615271



## The Story of Keith's Round The World Trip - GONHD/MM

### Part I of III

I first met Keith at RAF Locking back in 1955 when I moved to Weston Super Mare from the Cambridge area. On our weekly net for overseas RAFARS members, I came across Keith about to dock in Tenerife, it was the first hop on his round the world trip. I believe that Keith had been made redundant from his electronics firm in the Channel Islands. He had decided to sell his house and buy a 45 foot yacht with the proceeds. He had done quite a bit of sailing in his time and decided to set sail with his XYL Carol, and a close friend, Paul. This contact with Keith, in January 1991, was the start of regular skeds on 14.282 MHz SSB. These contacts were usually daily - conditions permitting. He was using a TS440 and a Butternut 'All Band' vertical mounted on the stem of the boat. Having waved their friends goodbye, they left Tenerife to start their long trip - heading West across the Atlantic. They encountered a few rough seas on the way but their journey was mainly uneventful. During this journey, our regular skeds were joined by George VP1CDI and W2MBM. They decided to visit VP1CDI on Barbados.

Following their visit to Barbados, they obtained visitors visas and sailed to a number of islands in the West Indies including Haiti and Jamaica. Following these island visits, they set sail for South America where they visited various places, and then on to the Panama Canal. It was here that they had some money stolen off the boat. When they went through the locks, three yachts were tied together - side by side.

Once through the canal, they set sail for the Galapagos Islands, where they collected their visas and spent some time exploring. Ahead of them lay a journey of some 25000 miles across the Pacific, to the Marqueses and Polynesia. This trip was not without incidents. The first thing to come to note was the number of barnacles building up on the steering gear. There was only

one thing to do - over the side and scrape them off keeping a sharp eye out for sharks. HI. The next mishap occurred during rough seas when an engine mounting broke. Keith managed to patch it up which lasted until they reached Tahiti. Keith had been keeping regular skeds with two hams in the UK - G4MKJ and G2DSY and with their assistance a replacement engine mounting was flown out to him in Tahiti. It was about this time that they were joined by another yacht - Ringo- with a New Zealand couple on board and by G4LAJ/MM and his XYL. They were about 100 miles behind Keith. Direct contacts were not always possible but news came via David - ZL3AAA - all on SSB. On 19.09.91 they reached Tonga and Fiji. Here they had to be careful when and where they chose their mooring as some of the locations were very expensive. I have received two video tapes through the post so far. Some of the islands sound very nice but when you see the tapes that is not always the case - conditions are not very good and there were a lot of rusty tin roofs about.

The next stop was New Zealand where Keith hoped to spend some time. The boat was out of the water undergoing an overhaul. His family were flying out and he spent Xmas with them. He also wanted to visit some of the hams with whom he had been in contact - namely ZL3DYY and ZL3ZZZ. ZZZ had a small aircraft and he flew Keith around the North Island which Keith videoed. He bought a commercial tape of the South Island. 68 QSOs so far.

*Les G2FQZ*



**For Sale**

Dentron Super Tuner Plus ATU - £65

Timestep Prosat II Noaa/Meteosat PC card & software - £55

Contact Clive, G4NAQ on 01275 851724



## RLO Rumblings

I wondered if anyone thinks about the title of our monthly Society journal when they pick it up after the postman delivers it. Some of the older Amateur fraternity will remember it being called "The RSGB Bulletin", generally abbreviated to "The Bull".

In those days there were arguments for and against proposals much the same as today; some of the items voiced members displeasure in the way the RSGB was being run at that time, and the failure to get an answer to a letter to the Gen. Sec., or even an acknowledgement from HQ about a letter sent months before.

In those days 2 metres was just becoming available to the Amateur community, and most shack equipment was home-brew, loaded with SP61s, 6L6s, and so on, often made by modifying ex services units. There were few black boxes available on the market, and not too much money to buy them. Holidays abroad were unheard of except by a few, and the bands were lively at night and at the weekends.

In those days, the Society worked hard against the GPO in order to get the best deal for the licensed community, and got concessions here and losses there on the bands which everyone grumbled about, especially those who had just bought a crystal for 7.200Mc and couldn't use it. The Society was blamed for such losses, but the concessions it obtained were rarely appreciated

in writing in "The Bull". There were, of course a few who abused the bands, and 2 metres was one where there were expressions of dissatisfaction on some matter. Occasionally spleens were vented in no uncertain terms, and yet a tut©tut from the authorities seemed to bring wrongdoers to heel quickly and the matter was soon forgotten or forgiven.

Today "The Bull" has acquired a different name which could have been sired by and American politician who had a habit of creating odd, lengthy, and seemingly meaningless words in his speeches.

"Radio Communication", the renamed journal of this Society seems to be referred to by its full

title only by GB2RS newsreaders, probably of pain of death if they shortened it to "RadCom", and by very few others. But it carries the same sort of contents as did "The Bull", but now with much more advertising, fewer construction projects, and of course, the letters amongst which are those from members who have some sort of axe to grind in public. But that facility seems not to satisfy some.

The advent of packet and other modes of data transmission has inspired disgruntled people to broadcast their grievances by this method, and one must remember that such epistles can be heavily biased in favour of the originators' sentiments disregarding truth, fact, or feeling. One such example has recently occurred on packet and caused the Society to issue a reply. This particular matter is sub©judice within the Society; when it is completely resolved, all the "facts" will become known, probably as an agreed statement. Don't pump me for more info; I shall not yield although I know a little more than some about the matter.

Communication means the gathering and exchange of information; lets see if we can make all the information we circulate accurate

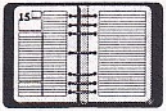
*Dave Collins G4ZYF*



## *Bristol Remote Imaging Group*

The following events have been planned for 1996. All meetings commence 7.30pm at the New Friends Hall unless otherwise stated.

- April 3 - Weather Data Decoding Software
- May 1 - Meteorology Equipment Demo
- June 5 - Basic interpretation of Wefax charts



## Local Club Diaries

Here is the 1996 agenda for the Bristol Groups meetings which will be held at the Friends Meeting Hall, Purdown, Bell Hill, Bristol. Meetings commence at 7.30pm.

<i>April 30th</i>	<i>Past President RSGB - Clive Trotman GW4KYL</i>
<i>May 28th</i>	<i>Direct Conversion Receivers - Jan Verduyn G0BBL</i>
<i>June 25th</i>	<i>Mobile Antennas - Mike Grierson G3TSO</i>
<i>July 30th</i>	<i>Half-Yearly Meeting</i>

The following events will be taking place during the next few weeks in our local clubs. Listed next to each club are the respective secretaries who should be contacted for further information.



Those of you who regularly attend our monthly meetings must like myself be all too painfully aware that the numbers attending the meetings are steadily dropping. We did have an attendance of between 35 to 38 members, but we have now dropped to about 27. In itself the group can live with this, but where it does become difficult & a trifle embarrassing is when we have a guest speaker to give us a talk, who has sometimes travelled a considerable distance only to be faced with a disappointing attendance. I know I am preaching to the converted to those of you who attend come hail, rain or shine, but it is a fact that this newsletter has a print run of over 150 copies, so where are the missing members. What I am asking is can we all make an effort to spread the word & try to bring along one extra member, next months speaker is Clive Trotman, immediate past president of the RSGB so hopefully it will be a lively meeting. However if our numbers continue to fall perhaps we should cancel our future speakers & just have a get together for a chat, in my personal view this would be a great pity. Please let me have your points of view.

73's Dave Bailey

- **BARC**

*Contact Dave, G4ZBT 0117 9654886*

Mar 14th - Computers

Mar 21st - QRP

Mar 28 - ATV

- **Gordano**

*Contact Bob, G8SPC, 01275 874001*

Meetings held at 8pm, the Ship Inn, Redcliffe Bay, Portishead on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

- **North Bristol**

*Contact Dave, G0GHM, 01275 855123*

Meetings held at 7pm, SHE7, Braemar Close, Northville every Friday evening.

- **Shirehampton (events start ~8pm)**

*Contact Ron, G4GTD 0117 9856253*

Apr 5th & 12th - Easter Break

Apr 19th - Super Duper

Apr 26th - Chat Night

- **South Bristol**

*Contact Len, G4RZY 01275 834282*

Apr 3 - 10GHz Activity

Apr 10 - Computer Activity

Apr 17 - Club Quiz Night

Apr 24 - WD & HO Wills - continued

- **W-S-M**

*Contact Graham, G8WAR 01934 415700*

- **Bristol Contest Group**

*Contact Robin, G3TKF 01225 420442*

- **Bristol Remote Imaging Group**

*Contact Alan, G6TSE 0117 9314921*

Editor - Clive Maby G4NAQ  
(01275 851724)