



# RSGB Bristol Group Newsletter



G6YB - Bristol Group Founded 1937

Issue : November 1995



## Last Night in Committee

This months meeting was fairly short as we tied up a few loose ends before the forthcoming AGM. To date we had received no nominations for the committee.

There was a discussion re the lectures for next year as to date nothing had been fixed. Provisional booking would be made during the next few weeks.

Longleat was still quiet to date, some letters of feedback were received from several traders after a follow-up letter was sent to them after this years event. Several suggestions were made and the odd complaint! We will endeavour to take on board any worthwhile suggestions. The initial mailshot to magazines had been completed.

Clive reported that, with Robin, they had investigated several flatbed scanners to assist in the production of the newsletters. From the initial work it appeared that we only need a basic device. Robin had arranged a trial of one device which was unsatisfactory & had been returned. It was hoped to complete the research by the next meeting.

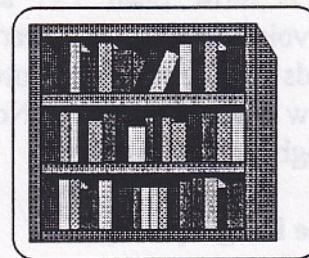
Full minutes were taken by Dave Bailey & these notes were a brief resume of the meeting as Dave will be going on holiday in the next few days.



## Are you a member of RIG or interested in Weather Satellites?

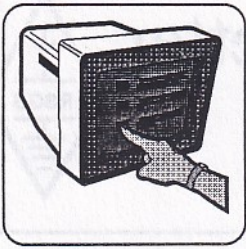
If you are a member of RIG or maybe interested in weather satellites and imaging perhaps you may be interested in a meeting of others with similar interests. I have just been contacted by Marcus Foreman who is not a radio amateur but a member of RIG. We have booked the Friends Meeting Hall (the same location as RSGB meetings) for Tuesday 21st November from 7:30pm to establish a regional group. Bristol Group has offered to sponsor the meeting to encourage further interest.

For further information please contact Marcus Foreman on 0117 9566479 or the editor.



## RSGB Library Books

Are there any books you think the group could purchase which would be of benefit & others would be interested in borrowing? If you have any ideas talk to Ron Ford any member of the committee with suggestions.



## SSTV

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why send pictures over the radio?

The ancient Chinese proverb, "a picture is worth a thousand words," is just today as it was thousands of years ago. Vision is our highest bandwidth and the primary source of information about the world us. Material is easier to understand and more enjoyable when images accompany verbal descriptions.

#### How does SSTV differ from ATV?

There are basically two different methods of sending pictures over the radio. Fast Scan TV is very similar to broadcast TV: full motion colour images. This requires a few megahertz of bandwidth so it can only be used on UHF. A single transmission is wider than the entire 2m band!

The other method is Slow Scan TV: still images sent through voice transceivers over a period of a few seconds to a couple of minutes. Early pictures were low resolution B&W. Now nearly all images are high resolution colour.

#### What resolution is the image quality?

640 \* 480 PC VGA pictures with 16 million colours are common. Most are about 320 \* 240 and less colours.

#### Are there any nets?

Saturdays at 15:00 and 18:00 UTC on 14.230Mhz.

#### How can I get started with little investment?

Read the previous two newsletters and if you have a PC get hold of JV FAX (available from the editor).

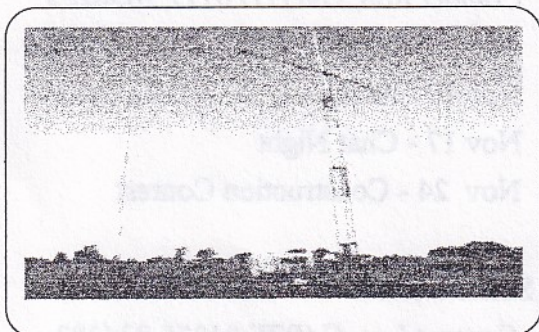
## G6YB - More History

I have been doing a little research into the origins of G6YB, and recently came across a few letters from the secretarial archives that furnished this information. In a letter from Brian G3ULJ (secretary of the Bristol Group at that time), in June 1969 to the Post Office in Waterloo Bridge House, he states that the callsigns G6YN and G6YO were issued to the Bristol Wireless Society in Sept. 1925 the HQ at that time being 32, Park Row, Bristol. There may be a little confusion as to the exact date as in another letter he states that "G6YN was issued in 1928 as a fixed station". At that time infact the group was known as the Bristol and District Radio and Television Society and the callsign allocated was Experimental Transmitter 6YN. Brian requested if G6YO could be reallocated to the group, or failing that G6YN. The Post Office replied with a positive misunderstanding of the situation that they could and would not "change a callsign once it has been allocated, unless it is causing embarrassment"! However, after several further exchanges with the Post Office they felt that as the holders of the callsigns had "passed on" in 1963 and 1965 "we should be treading on too tender ground..... there is no means of telling whether embarrassment or distress might be caused and we would not wish to take this risk"- (of reallocating the callsigns).

As a compromise the callsign G6YB was offered to the group, and although there were no local connections with that call, it was agreed to accept it. It has been suggested that maybe another call that actually relates to Bristol could be applied for ...does anyone have any thoughts on this matter...? It would seem that permission would need to be given by a relative for this to happen. A few suggestions maybe G3CHW or G2IK... both calls used in many early Bristol activities (Such as NFD)...

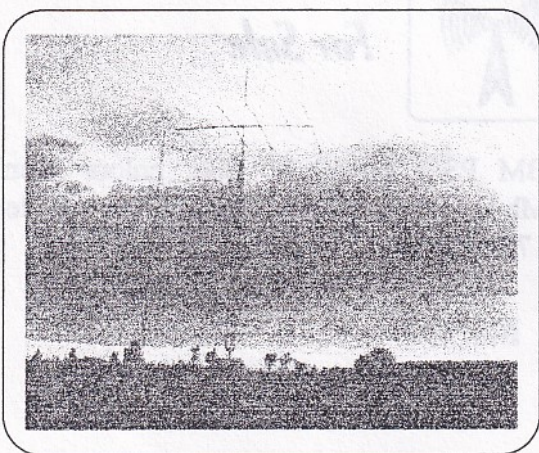
Any comments please contact the secretary or bring up the matter at the next meeting.

## Bristol Contest Group Update



During the Summer the Contest Group have been busy preparing & participating in several contests on both the HF & VHF front. In earlier newsletters the dates and sites for the VHF NFD were published but we didn't see many of you!

At the beginning of September was the HF SSB NFD which was the main event this year for us. This was the first chance to test the groups Cushcraft 40m beam and TH7 we borrow from a local station. The 40m beam was raised to nearly 100ft and the TH7 at 40ft. The picture below shows the early morning G6YB/P with the antennas. The photos above & below were taken in the early hours of the morning & in colour so do not show the aerals at their best!



The next event we are participating in will be another CQ Magazine WPX contest. This may only be for antenna testing purposes as two of the group have been constructing mono band beams for 15m & 20m. These will be used in preference to multi-band beams where possible.

If you would like to know more about the contest group or would like to join please contact Robin Thompson on 01225 420442.

## This Newsletter \ DTP

This newsletter is prepared each month on a relatively old (486!) PC using Lotus Ami-Pro software. For those of you not familiar with the package its very similar to Word for Windows or any other Windows based word processor. Ami-Pro does have extensive import facilities so I can take text from a wide range of other word processors, also it can import images in a range of formats. The aforementioned features of Ami-Pro brings it into the category of Desktop Publishing Software.

I have a few bits of software to make sure things are a bit easier such as Paint Shop Pro for adjusting images (such as the SSTV pictures from the previous two months). A large selection of Clipart to brighten up things.

Machine 486SX-25  
SVGA card + 15" monitor  
540Mb Hard Disc  
8Mb RAM  
HP Deskjet 500C Printer (for image printing)  
Laser printer (for general text)  
CD-ROM drive (clipart, images)  
Tape streamer (backups!)  
Fax/Modem (transfer the mins from G4NKT)

The above specification is perfectly adequate for producing this newsletter & I also use the same machine for packet, RTTY, SSTV, logging through Turbolog, Internet access, work! (talking to mainframes).

If you want to get into newsletter production using a PC you don't need to buy all the above hardware but you should get at least a 386 machine with 4Mb RAM, >100Mb hard disc, a VGA colour monitor and an inkjet printer. Small printers such as the Canon BJ-10 are ideal for light duty home use and cheap to run. You should be able to pick up the above for less than £500 in magazines such as Trade-It.

If you have any questions re the above please have a chat at the next meeting or give me a phone call.

**Clive**



## Local Club Diaries

Here is the 1995/6 agenda for the Bristol Groups meetings which will be held at the Friends Meeting Hall, Purdown, Bell Hill, Bristol. Meetings commence at 7.30pm.

**November 28th Construction Contest**

**December 19th Christmas Party**

**January 30th Incidents not Accidents**

**February 27th Amateur TV**

**March 26th G6YB DXCC**

If you have any queries regarding the above events or suggestions for talks or lectures that would be of interest to the group please contact the secretary David Bailey on 0117 9672124.

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.

### • **BARC**

Contact Dave, G4ZBT 0117 9654886

Nov 2 - Your Multimeter & You

Nov 9 - HF/SSB

Nov 16 - Amateur TV

Nov 23 - QRP Night

Nov 30 - VHF Night

### • **Gordano**

Contact Bob, G8SPC, 01275 875443

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

Nov 3 - G4AHG DXCC Card Sortout

Nov 10 - AGM

Nov 17 - Chat Night

Nov 24 - Construction Contest

### • **South Bristol**

Contact Len, G4RZY 01275 834282

Nov 1 - Top Band Activity Night

Nov 8 - Club Forum

Nov 15 - AGM

Nov 22 - Christmas Raffle Commences

Nov 29 - QSL Card Night

### • **W-S-M**

Contact Lester, G1PEI 01934 512609

### • **Bristol Contest Group**

Contact Robin, G3TKF 01225 420442



## For Sale

IBM PS/2 Model 50 286, colour monitor, 20Mb hard disc. £150. Contact Dave Bailey on 0117 9672124.

Next Month :-

News from the AGM

Editor - Clive Maby G4NAQ  
(01275 851724)