



RSGB Bristol Group Newsletter



G6YB - Bristol Group Founded 1937

Issue : October 1995



Last Night in Committee

Concern was again expressed at the illegal selling of satellite cards at Longleat. We must ensure that a disclaimer is put on the paperwork as it was recently noticed at another event there were several traders selling the cards.

Concern was raised at the last meeting re the scoring in the Super Duper software by Derek Germaney. Clive Maby reported that Paul O'Kane the author of Super Duper has confirmed there is little chance of a bug in the scoring of his software as a standard algorithm is used which was not written by Paul. Upgrades to Version 8 of the HF & VHF software were obtained at the HF Convention this month.

The secretary confirmed he had increased the insurance cover to £25,000, and raised the question of what to do with the groups 60ft tower. It was agreed to raise the issue at the next general meeting. Our treasurer gave us the latest financial report, and confirmed that the cheques which had not been presented at the previous meeting were due to a mislaid bank statement.

The October AGM will soon be upon us so we will need to get the nomination forms distributed at the next meeting. Thanks to the groups QSL manager Phil Whitchurch the group has been credited with a DXCC from the Alderney trip. There was a general discussion regarding the newsletter, it was agreed that the acquisition of a flatbed scanner would greatly help in the production of the newsletter & to this end Clive will research the market place and report back to the committee.

The Contest Group being a sub committee of the Bristol Group presented their accounts for the year 94/95 to coincide with our AGM. The question of the GB500JC sub committee

presenting their accounts was raised, and it was agreed that the secretary would write to them requesting a copy of their accounts.

The September lecturer had cried off but fortunately Robin Thompson had asked Ron Allen of the Avon Emergency Planning Dept. to give us a talk and he has agreed to step in. We discussed the lecture programme for next year, and if any members have any suggestions please let us know as all ideas are welcome. With Shaun G8VPG being absent from the meeting we had no report on Longleat but at this time of year things are fairly quiet and any matters can be held over to the next meeting. That about wrapped it up so we finished early for once at 21:00.

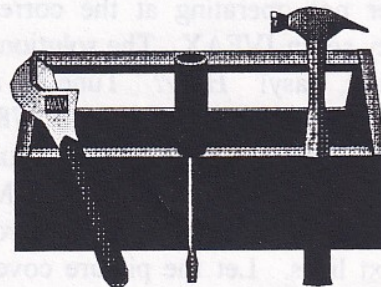
North Bristol ARC

Coach to Leceister Show

Leaves SHE7 at 8am on Saturday
21st October. Tickets £7.50

Contact Eric on 01454 615271 or
QTHR 1995 Callbook for further
information / tickets.

Construction Contest 28th November



SSTV - JVFX Version 7

Part II/III of III

Ed. Following a request from one of our readers I have decided to publish parts II and III of this series on JVFX.



When JVFX7 is used for SSTV using the simple interface several things gave problems. The program documentation gives most of the information to sort out the parameters so sorry, you must read that! Here are several problems and cures!

- *The program locks up*

Usually RF getting in through the leads. I fitted ferrite rings (in close pair) on input/output leads. Also on the HF rig (100 watts out) I screened the lead using metal tape wound along it length but not connected to the microphone plug at the rig end. Eventually after fitting two more ferrite rings next to my interface box that fixed it!

- *The received pictures are split into strips*

This occurs on one edge like a saw tooth pattern. This is caused by the clock in your computer not operating at the correct default frequency set in JVFX. The solution is change the default, easy! How? Tune to a weather station transmitting WEFAX e.g. 7.878, 4.608 or 14.434 on USB are three common stations. Set your mode to WEFAX and use the M key and tune to get a white picture background with black text lines. Let the picture cover about 6 inches of your monitor and then operate the

skew adjustment using the backslash (the key with the ? on). This will put a vertical line onto the screen. Using the left or right arrow cursor keys align the line on your screen with any line that should be vertical on your picture, then press the enter key. This process should now have reset your computers clock frequency to the correct value on the configuration screen. Look on the config screen & make a note of the value! Another way is to set it up with the help of a friend who's on SSTV but be sure his pictures are straight or you will both end up wrong. This process should only ever be required once.

- *Memory Managers*

JVFX documentation says you cannot use SSTV/FAX/WEFAX if your PC uses a memory manager but I use Qemm with no problems so maybe it all depends on your PC. I am using a 386DX with DOS 6.2, Smartdrive etc. try & see first.

- *TX Audio Filter*

When you have finished building the audio filters its a good idea to listen to the volume of your transmitted audio and adjust the input to your rig so that the received volume is similar whether receiving Mic audio or SSTV audio, generally the SSTV audio will be a lot higher & will need attenuating. The output of your transceiver should be adjusted to ensure that you do not cause the PA stage a problem **WARNING! SSTV IS 100% DUTY CYCLE.** My TS850 runs 85 watts happily but they won't all. Look in your rigs handbook & adjust your drive level or start saving!! Don't forget your poor PSU either. I use a linear now.

- *What frequencies should I listen to?*

At this point in the sunspot cycle try 3.730 LSB on 80m (usually a net on Sunday mornings) 14.230 USB on 20m for the DX! 144.500/433.500 on FM seem active locally. Please read the bandplan as SSTV gives a lot of QRM. Its usually quite strong but SSTV also suffers from QRM so try not to annoy others & maybe they might also read the bandplan!

- *Thumbnail files*

It appears some people get problems with thumbnail files in JVFX. I have heard several times where pictures don't show on the screen but on pressing the enter key a picture comes up as usual. This can be rectified by pressing "D" over the blank & then reloading the picture after "A" key! Apparently some microprocessors do not work too well with the thumbnail feature & if that is the case I suggest you load pictures from the H key procedure & ignore the thumbnail screen, a pity but it can be frustrating!!

- *I can only receive B&W pictures*

This is almost always down to the inability's of the video card & is only often cured by purchasing a new one, but do try all the alternative settings in config, it is cheaper but doesn't always work.

- *Funny size pictures on receive*

This is caused by having the zoom ratio set to yes.



Part III/III of III

A common problem is "How do I get pictures to transmit using JVFX?" When I first started I had this problem. My first pictures came off the Packet BBS network downloaded using the YAPP protocol. These were generally OK for the purpose, but obviously not the most unusual pictures as most SSTV stations had seen them.

I thought about this, asked around & finally I spent some pennies, & bought a video digitiser (Videoblaster in fact). I could then digitise pictures from the video camera, convert them to

.GIF format and send them. Problem solved? not really I found the resolution was not really good enough for SSTV and the pictures were a bit grainy & dull. The next step was a picture processing program e.g. Neopaint or even the built in JVFX one brightness up/down. Better but still not really good enough.

I then bought a picture CD ROM & tried some pictures. Aha! a great improvement. Fiddle with the brightness and contrast, add your callsign using a picture program put the picture in JVFX and transmit. NO! First these CD pictures must be processed by LVIEW or Paintshop Pro & converted to .GIF format (actually Videoblaster can do this also). The pictures must then go into JVFX & be resized using zoom 4/3 ratio to fit the JVFX screen, then & only then can you transmit them with no problems. Now the end result of all this hassle is I that I can produce personal pictures (family, local views etc. using the digitiser) but the quality pictures come from the CD ROM. I could now use my 35mm camera, get the pictures put on Photo CD & use them except for the expense.

The only other answer is a colour scanner. I have traded in my digitiser and gone mad & bought a colour scanner! The results? well generally I find excellent pictures from existing colour photographs are almost as sharp as from a CD ROM, far better than the digitiser & for me this is the best way.

That's about it folks! Finally a shareware program I am trying called PSP (Paintshop Pro) has excellent features for changing graphics modes, have a look!

Article courtesy of Doug **G4ZER**

Ed. The images in this article were received using JVFX with a Hamcomm interface. The images are really in colour! and converted to B&W for publication purposes only using Paintshop Pro!

If anyone would like a copy of JVFX, Hamcomm, LVIEW or Paintshop Pro please contact me.

Local Clubs 'What's On'

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

October 31st A.G.M.

November 28th Construction Contest

December 19th Christmas Party

Please be sure to take a nomination form from the front table at this meeting if you wish to nominate anyone for the committee.

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

Oct 5 - Discussion on discussions

Oct 12 - **AGM** Please attend

Oct 19 - Solder Night

Oct 26 - Bring & Buy

• **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

Oct 6 - 1995/6 Planning meeting

Oct 13 - TBA

Oct 20 - TBA

Oct 27 - AGM

• **South Bristol**

Contact Len, G4RZY 01275 834282

Oct 4 - CW Practice

Oct 11 - Annual Skittles Night

Oct 18 - Home Construction Judging

Oct 25 - History of W.D. & H.O. Wills

• **W-S-M**

Contact Lester, GIPEI 01934 512609

• **Bristol Contest Group**

Contact Robin, G3TKF 01225 420442

For Sale

Some PC bits still remaining from last month!
Please contact the editor.

VESA I/O card - £10

Mini Tower case & PSU - £20

5.25" floppy drive - £10

OS/2 Warp CD-ROM - £30

Lotus Smartsuite V3 CD-ROM with Lotus 123 v5, Freelance v2.1, Ami-Pro v3.1, Approach v3, Organizer & manuals on ROM - £130 ono

Next Month :-

More information on the history of the G6YB callsign.

What other options are there for SSTV, a brief outline.

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