



# RSGB Bristol Group Newsletter



G6YB - Bristol Group Founded 1937

Issue : September 1995



## Last Night in Committee

The main subject for discussion last night was the groups position regarding tax liability. The Inland Revenue have changed things recently & we are now liable to pay Corporation Tax. To explain all of this Shaun, asked Mike Batt, a former treasurer, to attend our committee meeting to explain it to us & more importantly show us the way through the tax minefield. It was agreed that the best way forward was for Shaun to have an informal meeting with the tax inspector at which we could establish some ground rules for now & for future years which should make the tax situation in future years easier. Shaun will report back in due course & hopefully be able to give us our tax liability to date. Mike Batt then left the meeting.

It was felt more care must be taken next year at Longleat to avoid counterfeit money. Derek Germaney also raised the question of what traders are selling being legal & quoted the example of the TV Satellite cards which didn't work & are illegal anyway. The group doesn't want this sort of trader. It was agreed to increase the insurance on borrowed/hired equipment to £25000 permanently. This will help decrease the insurance costs on the hire of the marquees at Longleat.

The treasurer gave us the latest financial position and confirmed he had closed down the instant account as had been agreed at the previous meeting. He also said he had issued a number of cheques to various people which had not been presented, he will look into this further.

Regarding Longleat, the mailshot to the press had not yet gone out but will soon be done. The

donations to the various clubs who had helped at the rally had been dispatched and two thank-you letters have been received.

Under AOB the question of the groups 60ft tower was raised, members will be aware the group bought this tower from BARC with the intention of mounting it on a trailer so it could be used by the GB500JC project & others. Unfortunately the cost of the trailer had escalated enormously beyond our control & this was no longer feasible. The tower had been transported to the Marshfield contest site for safe keeping whilst its fate was decided. One proposal put forward was that the contest group should install it permanently at the Marshfield site & we should offer it to our members & various clubs. However it must always be remembered towers are dangerous things & can be lethal to the unwary. It was decided to consult the members before a decision is made. We also decided the group will indemnify people who loan equipment to the group & its sub committee, & if the equipment goes faulty as a result of fair wear & tear, which would not be covered by insurance each such occurrence will be looked at on its merits.

And finally with a little bit of arm twisting Peter Wharton G1PCW agreed to be this years auditor in the absence of anybody else. With the time now being 9:45pm & quite dark outside, isn't it surprising how quickly the nights are drawing in, we closed the meeting.

## Equipment Purchase

At Longleat Rally the group purchased a respectable SWR/Power Meter which may be loaned from Tony G4ROX. The meter covers 1.8-160Mhz and is rated up to 1Kw from 1.8-60Mhz & 250w in the 60-160Mhz range.

## Why G6YB?

For some time now it has puzzled me why the group was allocated the callsign G6YB. The 'B' could be for Bristol, but why the 'Y', perhaps it could stand for young, i.e.. G6 Young Bristol, presumably some of our members were young once. On the other hand wouldn't it have been nicer if the group could have been allocated G6RB, G6 Radio Bristol.

Talking to Harry Gratton G6GN recently he filled me in on some of the history of the groups callsign G6YB. Originally the group had wanted to use the callsign G6RB, but this was already allocated to Arthur Bartlett, a well known Bristol amateur & regional rep for the RSGB. Apparently Arthur had an outstanding station of the day, & was one of the Empire link stations. If like me you didn't know what this was, get in contact with G6GN & I'm sure he'll be only too happy to explain. For those lucky enough to get an invite to Harry's QTH I can thoroughly recommend the tea & cakes.

Anyway, Arthur Bartlett eventually became a silent key & believe the group made some approaches as to acquiring the G6RB callsign. However the powers that be at that time refused on the grounds that a member of Arthur's family might become interested in amateur radio & want to have the callsign re-issued to them.

I wonder if anyone has any more information on this matter, any papers relating to the G6RB callsign, was it ever re-allocated to a member of the family? Should the group reapply for the callsign, to run alongside our own G6YB, if you have any thoughts on the matter or any information perhaps you will be kind enough to let me know through the columns of the groups newsletter.



## Longleat 1995 Statistics

The following statistics were taken from the sign boards in the Bring & Buy tent.

G0 - 143	G6 - 34
G1 - 44	G7 - 75
G2 - 7	G8 - 59
G3 - 133	GW - 29
G4 - 160	Novices - 20
G5 - none	Overseas - 13

The number of paying adults who attended the rally this year was 4982.

There were 416 tables sold inside tents & 52 outside pitches. Space was sold to 164 different traders. 17 Clubs/Societies took table space.



## Shirehampton ARC Summer DF Hunts

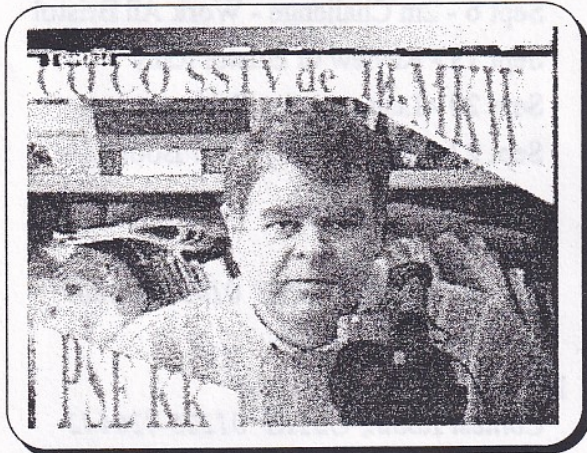
During July/August Shirehampton club has been closed for the DF Season. This year BARC put forward several teams to join the fun & to date 6 events have taken place.

Equipment used for 2m has typically been a handheld, a set of attenuators & an HB9CV 2 element beam. For Top band the trusty G4ENA DF receiver or a modified/retuned MW radio has been sufficient.

There are still a few events left so why not come out on a Friday night for a bit of fun & a possibly a pint if you locate the pub!

# SSTV - JVFAX Version 7

## Part I of III



JVFAX version 7 has been excellent for use with Weather Sat equipment and has given very good results, and still does. So how about SSTV?

I have been active on SSTV using this program for several months now and thought it may be perhaps of interest to type up a few things I have learnt about the setting up and use of JVFAX for SSTV as I found it.

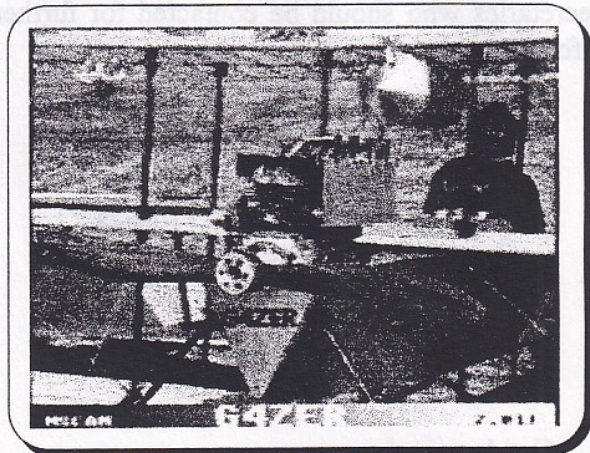
The first problem was how to interface the program to my PC (JVFX only works on PC's or clones). The Martelec wxfax unit which I already have was useless on SSTV and only just managed to produce low contrast pictures (incorrect filtering suspected). The JVFX comparator (741 OpAmp) worked but I got some speckles off HF SSTV. On changing to the Hamcomm interface (different resistors and added capacitors) I found some bandwidth problems. So eventually I tried the JVFX interface but with the capacitors from Hamcomm which produced the best results.

The program generates the SSTV tones at the PC's speaker and this should be put through the simple filter network described in the files that come with the program. A problem happened here to myself and a few friends where I found the if only ONE connection is made between the PC's speaker and the audio filter all works okay. However if both leads are used into the filter network problems may occur! so give some thought to this.

I built my interface into a small box about 75mm \* 50mm and fitted two sockets (one to connect my mic lead and one for the appropriate transceiver) using a separate connecting lead for each transceiver. Two switches are also fitted to switch transmit to receive and the other to connect the microphone or the audio tones to the rig as required. This seems a little complicated but isn't really, just draw it out on paper and think it through! The result is that to change transceiver all I do is swap to a different lead, everything else stays in place.

At this time I am using the Martelec interface on the HF bands but you must use the RIT to force the tones into the correct audio range to suite the interface. This can't be done on VHF FM of course so I am using the program Multi-Term from BARTG.

Article courtesy of Doug **G4ZER**



From the Editor. I have spoken with Doug very recently & this article was written in June, he is currently using the MSCAN interface and software on HF and in the process of designing an interface which should be on the market before the end of 95.

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

If anyone would like a copy of JVFX or Hamcomm 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.

**September 26th "On Location" (G3UHK)**

**October 31st A.G.M.**

**November 28th Construction Contest**

**December 19th Christmas Party**

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

Sept 7 - QRP Construction Projects

Sept 14 - HF/CW Night

Sept 21 - Projects Night

Sept 28 - VHS/SSB 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

Until Mid-September Club Closed, see article re summer events.

### • **South Bristol**

Contact Len, G4RZY 01275 834282

Sept 3 - Bristol Radio-Computer Rally

Sept 6 - 2m Challenge - Work All Bristol

Sept 13 - Review of Bristol Rally

Sept 20 - Learn to play Bridge

Sept 27 - Bring & Buy - Car Boot Sale

### • **W-S-M**

Contact Lester, G1PEI 01934 512609

### • **Bristol Contest Group**

Contest Robin, G3TKF 01225 420442

The group will be taking part in the RSGB HF SSB NFD from the Bath Race Course on 2-3rd September. Visitors welcome!

## For Sale

The following PC components from G4NAQ on 01275 851724 after 6pm.

- VESA Motherboard, 72 pin SIMM sockets, 256K cache - £35
- DX2-66 Intel CPU & Fan £85
- 1 \* 4Mb 72 pin SIMM £80
- VESA Multi I/O card £10
- Mini Tower case, PSU £25
- 250Mb IDE Hard Drive £75
- 5.25" floppy drive £10

If you want to sale or acquire any equipment or are looking for a piece of information one of the readers may have please contact me as there is no charge to have anything published.

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