

# P5 NEWSLETTER

## TV TUNER AND FRAME GRABBERS FOR COMPUTERS

BY PAUL G8YMM

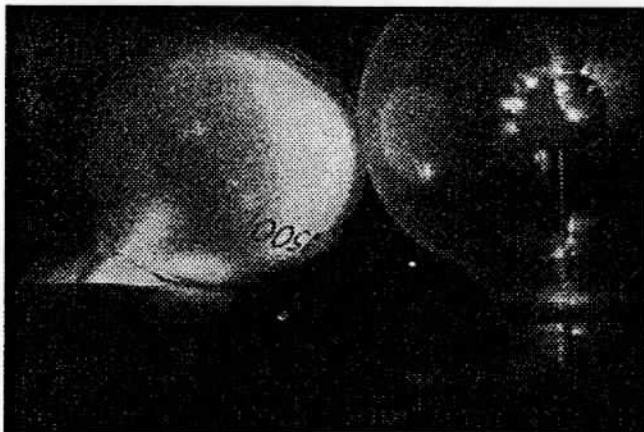


Several years ago I watched GB3ZZ, domestic TV pictures and Teletext being displayed, digitised and stored on a

personal computer using a special TV card. The price of these cards at the time were around £250 which was far too expensive for me.

Recently I purchased such a card. It was an end of line Happau Win TV for £40, which was cheap compared to £150 being advertised.

The card simply slotted into one of the standard PC slots and in no time after loading the software I was watching TV and Video on my computer. The card has worked very well, enabling me to write P5 and share the activity being transmitted on the repeaters. The examples show images that I have grabbed off air for future insertions in documents.



Ian (G6TVJ) and Paul Bennett demo using Hi Voltages to produce Plasma Fields.

The pictures when printed on a 600 dpi colour printer produce exceptional results however, after

being photo copied, they degrade. If you were thinking of purchasing one, there are several types advertised. The new basic cards have better performance, image quality and facilities which are priced from £70. The more expensive ones will provide video editing and special effects which Brian (GW6BWX) has got, if you have not already seen his demos!! - which are stunning.

Overall, I recommend that for the TV and Computer buff the £70 card will be an excellent choice, those who want to get into Video Editing and Effects should consider the cards that offer these facilities and be prepared to spend upwards of £300 or more with perhaps a large 2.5 Giga byte Hard Disk.

Mike (G7GTN) is currently investigating all the cards with a preference towards Video Editing and providing effects such as Chroma Keying, Tumbling and Spinning Titles. Should Mike plump for one, I will let you know. In the mean time keep your eyes open for special offers and if you are going to spend a few pounds buy from a known dealer using your credit card if you have one.

73 Paul G8YMM

## AGM

Once again we approach the AGM. Please find the enclosed details and nomination forms. We hope you will attend and join us for a drink afterwards in the bar.

This year, several committee officers are wishing to stand down and pursue other interests such as family life, etc. Therefore, we are going to need new enthusiastic officers to join the rest of the team should we be elected to serve you.

The committee meets about six times a year, usually at a members house over a few drinks and a bite to eat. Should you decide to join us, then you might be surprised about the benefits and fun you can have.

# P5 NEWSLETTER

## GB3XG Temporary Close Down

I have been given formal notice by our Chief Engineer, that due to the recent Band Plan Changes we will have to temporary close down GB3XG as of the end of March 1997 until further notice. It is our intention that we will get the repeater back on air as soon as possible with out delay. However, engineering work will have to be carried out when we receive the new frequency allocations. Please be patient in this matter.



## GB3ZZ

Since the last P5 in November 96 we have had varied weather patterns, from very cold temperatures -10°C below, to high winds of 70 mph. You might be expecting me to report operational and damage problems but NO! the repeater is working fine with good pictures being received and transmitted. Our chief engineer Ian G6TVJ will hope to improve yet again, the repeaters performance during 1997.

## GB3XG DX

During the last few months we had several lift condition rising up to 10GHz. P5 Pictures were received into GB3XG from Stock-On-Trent which was quite remarkable. Brian GW6BWX was able to store the pictures on his computer using his video card described earlier. Phill G1HIA took the helm and was able to keep the contact going for at least 20 minuets whilst the rest of us watched. I hope to have more details and pictures about this from Brian GW6BWX and Phill G1HIA for inclusion in the next P5.

## DIARY

- AGM Tuesday 8 April 97
- Xmas Social Saturday 13 December 97

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is now due if you have not been bombarded by the reminders in this issue. It is fixed at £6.00 for 1997/98.

Welcome to new members and readers of P5 we hope you find the Newsletters interesting and informative. This issue is rather short on technical articles as we have concentrated efforts on the AGM and engineering work for the group. Note the Pictures on 13 cm received by Ian G6TVJ and the engineering change to his 13cm transmitter. Ian hopes to have further articles for 13cm 23cm and 3cm in the next issues.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Just a few words to end the page.

During the year the group increased its membership and our aerial sales remained steady, thanks to Matthew G0ECM. I would also like to thank your support and the committee, who have worked very hard during the year ending 1996/97.

Myself, I have managed to recover 80 % from an illness which took hold of me during January 96 which left me unable to work for three months. I did however, attend the filming of the TV documentary and the rallies. I would also like to wish John G6GNG a long standing member, a speedy recovery from his present disability

73 Paul Stevenson G8YMM

Packet address (G8YMM @ GB7TJZ)

## THOSE WERE THE DAYS ...

### Further ramblings from the beginning of our Group by Shaun O'Sullivan G8VPG

My thoughts turned recently to some of those call signs that we never see on air these days - not my own, but two well known characters who for very different reasons are no longer seen.

Chris Short G8GLQ was one of the pioneers of ATV in Bristol, and can truly be described as an ATV Mega-Station. Despite a none too promising location at the bottom of Wellington Hill West, he always seemed to catch the DX better than anyone. A visit to his QTH soon explained all. It was not necessary to ask which number he lived at, the mast was clearly visible several hundred yards away ! This was no puny wind up tower, but a substantial structure that he used to climb up to fit new aerials to.

The second key to his success was power. Some years after he left Bristol, I was in conversation with a colleague. When I explained my interest in ATV, she told me about the TVI she used to experience from one G8GLQ. She lived a mile or so away from Chris ! I remember one evening after a long session at high power, his picture disappeared rather abruptly. The reason was soon confirmed on 2m : the insulation on the mains power lead to his 70cm ATV PA was melting !

Not content with just producing a strong signal, Chris was also keen to ensure that the video content was interesting. Long before domestic video recorders, and the video effects that we take for granted on our camcorders today, Chris was able to fade, wipe, mix and do all the complicated video tricks. He recorded signals on ex-broadcast Ampex reel to reel video recorders, which used tape 2" wide. His room was quite literally stacked from floor to ceiling with equipment - a mixture of ex-broadcast equipment and home brewed gear. The shack shots were always against this background of piles of impressive looking gear, with the odd carnivorous plant for light relief !

I am sure that one of Chris' demonstrations encouraged many Amateurs to have their first dabble in ATV. I well remember seeing his pictures one evening at the North Bristol Club. Being only two miles or so away, his picture was broadcast quality with full colour and sound. He held us all spellbound for over an hour with an amazing retinue of video effects and shots.

Chris eventually married an American girl and emigrated to California, where I trust he has become well known in his new neighbourhood !

The other station that many of our original members will recall was Len Eastman G8UUE, who lived not far from Chris. Len was retired before he obtained his call sign, but had a life times interest in radio and TV. He was proud of boasting of the first TV set in Bristol to receive pictures from Alexandra Palace when transmissions started after the War. Visitors were shown the picture which was published in the Evening Post at the time.

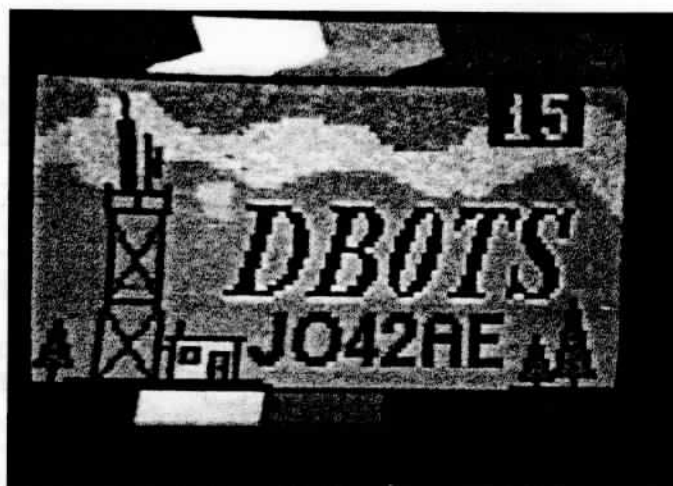
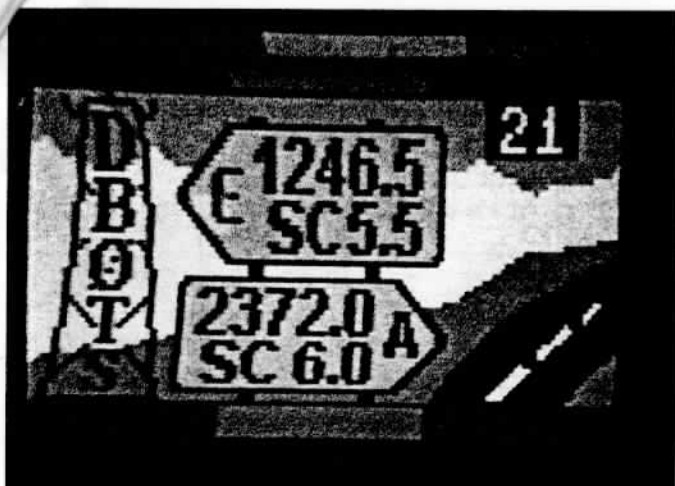
Besides Amateur Radio, Len had a wide ranging interest in radio and TV of every kind. He was a keen Medium Wave DXer, and often listened to American MW broadcast stations. However, his speciality was Band I DX-TV. During the sporadic E season, his logs and off screen pictures were frequently featured in Practical Wireless. He was totally dedicated to this, and monitored Band I all year round. A life time of getting up early for work at the nearby Rolls Royce factory meant that he often caught the early morning openings to the East. The short lived openings that occur out of season were often observed aswell.

What made this even more interesting for the rest of us is the fact that Len always video taped the highlights. These were then transmitted on 70cm ATV for everyone to enjoy at their leisure. Len had hours of tapes of DX-TV, some of it of quite remarkable quality.

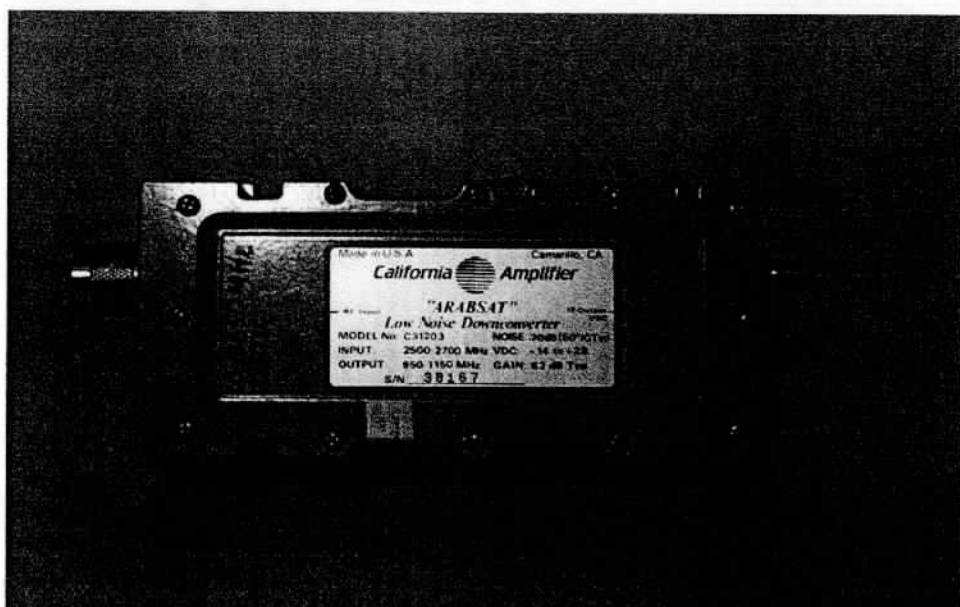
Len was always monitoring 144.750 MHz and a call at any hour of the day or night would usually produce a response. This was very useful in the early days of GB3ZZ, when much adjustment had to be carried out on site, and a reliable monitor was required. Len was known as the "fastest draw in the west" on account of his lightning quick action on the PTT - there was no chance of anyone breaking in before his over !

Sadly Len died in his sleep before GB3ZZ was operating fully as a Repeater. Paul G8YMM and myself were asked by his family to sell his radio equipment, which we did by means of an auction. Roger G4ZQF did his usual professional auctioneer routine ( surely a missed vocation if ever there was one ! ) and a good sum was raised. What was notable was that every item of equipment had its covers loose, with no screws in place - a tribute to a life time of tweaking in the best tradition of Amateur Radio !

# 13cm Amateur TV Repeaters Continental style!



Off screen pictures of DB0TS and DB0MIN received P5 at Win Green near Shaftsbury in October 1994.



The Unit that made it possible a 2.3 Ghz-2.7 Ghz Low Noise Block Down Converter made by California Amplifier.

# Ian Bennett Electrics Aerospace

\*\*\*\*\* Equipment Change Notice \*\*\*\*\*

Equipment Category-

HF Receiver/Transmitter     Microwave Transmitter/Receiver   
Video Equipment     Gas Turbine Engine   
Gas Turbine Equipment     Power Supply

Date JAN/07

Equipment Title 13cm TRANSMITTER MK101

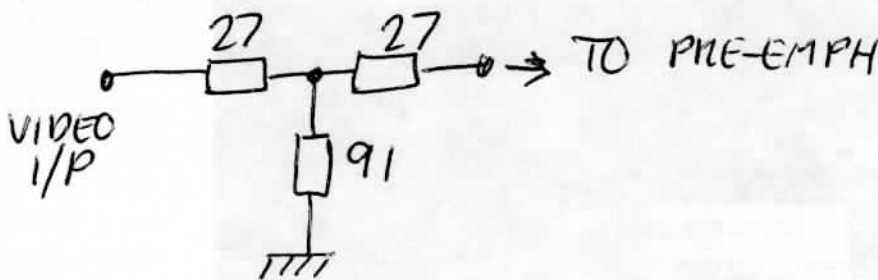
IBE Reference Number 66NJ/13/TX/101

Serial Numbers Effected 0001

Reason For Change IMPROVE VIDEO INPUT RETURN LOSS AND PRE-EMPH MATCHING INCONRECT VALUES ORIGNALLY SPECIFIED.

Details of Change

REPLACE VIDEO INPUT MATCHING PAD RESISTORS WITH NEW VALUES. SEE DIAGRAM



COMPONENTS REQD 2x 27R 400mW  
1x 91R 400mW.

Chief Engineer's Signature

Ian F Bennett

# A.G.M & SUBSCRIPTIONS

## SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

This issue contains your subscription renewal form. We hope you will continue to support the group by renewing your membership. Please make cheques payable to "SEVERNSIDE TELEVISION GROUP".

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Formal notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Severnside Television Group. This will take place on Tuesday 8th April 1997 at 7.30 PM, Elm Park Parish Pavilion, Elm Park, Filton, Bristol.

All members are asked to attend the meeting. Guests and non-members are welcome, but will not be able to participate in the voting.

## AGM NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now invited for the following posts ; Chairman, Chief Engineer & Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and up to five committee members. All nominations must be deposited in writing no later than Tuesday 1st April 1997 with the Secretary Mr. Malcolm Parker G0UMP, 90 Cavendish Rd, Patchway, Bristol. BS12 5HH.

A suitable nomination form is included in this issue of "P5".

Nominations will be sought at the AGM for the non-committee post of Honorary Auditor.

## RESOLUTIONS

Members wishing to propose Resolutions at the AGM must submit them in writing to the Secretary no later than Tuesday 1st April 1997. Each resolution must be proposed and seconded by two fully paid up members of the Group, who should be prepared to address the AGM when the resolution is discussed. Members should note that whilst there will be an opportunity to discuss minor matters under "Any Other Business" at the AGM, constitutional or major matters must be submitted in advance as a formal resolution.

## CURRENT COMMITTEE

For your information, the current committee is listed below:-

Chairman	Paul Stevenson. G8YMM
Chief Engineer and Vice Chairman	Ian Bennett. G6TVJ
Secretary	Malcolm Parker. G0UMP
Treasurer	Alan Tink. G7DRU
Committee Member	Ken Stevens. G4BVK
Committee Member	Matthew Bell. GOECM
Committee Member	Mike Stevens. G7GTN
Committee Member	Ivor Green. G1IXF

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM	PLEASE TICK
I hereby apply for membership for the year 1997/8, and enclose £6.00	
Please renew my membership for the year 1997/8. I enclose £6.00	
Name.....Callsign.....	
Address..... .....Postcode.....	
Telephone number (include STD).....	

Please return to: (Paul Stevenson. 14 Camelford RD, Greenbank, Bristol. BS5 6HW), enclosing your cheque for £6.00 made payable to "Sevenside Television Group".



COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM	
We wish to nominate.....	Callsign.....
for the post of:	Chairman [ ] Chief Engineer & Vice Chairman [ ] Secretary [ ] Treasurer [ ] Committee member [ ]
Proposers name.....	Callsign.....
Seconders name.....	Callsign.....
I agree to serve in the capacity indicated if elected,	
Nominees Signature.....	Date.....

Please return to: Malcolm Parker. 90 Cavendish Rd, Patchway, Bristol. BS12 5HH