

---

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SOCIAL EVENING.**

The Annual General Meeting of the Bristol FM TV Group will be held at 1930 on 22nd March 1988, at Elm Park Parish Pavillion, Elm Park, Filton, Bristol. This is of course the site of GB3ZZ. All members are requested to make a special effort to attend the AGM. It is hoped that the formal business can be kept brief, so that most of the evening is available for another of our very successful social evenings. The format for this will be the same as our recent events. The committee will provide some light refreshments, and everyone attending is asked to bring along a bottle or a few cans of beer.

Everyone is invited to attend the social evening, members XYL's and guests will be most welcome although only fully paid up members can vote or speak at the AGM. Once again, guided tours of GB3ZZ will be available for those that are interested.

---

**BATC RALLY.**

The BATC Rally will take place on 24th April 1988, at the Post House Hotel, Crick near Rugby. This is the same venue as for the past 3 or 4 years. For anyone interested in ATV, this is the event of the year, and all ATVers are recommended to attend this very interesting event.

Once again, the Group hope to be at the rally in strength. We will have a stand, selling our 18 element 23 cm wide band aerials, together with a large range of aerial hardware. We may also have one or two new products to launch at the show - watch this space !

Group members who are prepared to volunteer an hour or so of their time to man the stand will be greatly appreciated. Nearer the time, Roger, Bryan or myself will probably draw up a rota for volunteers. Since there is always a large contingent travelling up from Bristol, there will probably be a few seats in various peoples cars going empty. If you have an empty seat, or need to find one, please let us know so that no one is disappointed who wants to get there.

---

**SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE SOON !.**

Now the bad news !. All subscriptions are due on 1st April. If you are a fully paid up member at the moment, this will entitle you to participate at the AGM, but your membership will run out a week or so later. Facilities will be available at the AGM for you to pay your subs, if this is convenient for you. Doubtless, Bryan will provide a few gentle reminders at that time !.

Subject to agreement at the AGM, it is proposed that subs remain at their current level for another year - in other words another bargain at only £5.00. For this you get a regular newsletter, regular social evenings, help and advice on demand and last but surely not least, GB3ZZ. Subscription income is vital to a relatively small Group such as ours, and all members are seriously asked to renew promptly.

---

**CHIEF ENGINEERS REPORT.**

It is hard now to imagine that a mere two years ago, the Group was only a month old. Infact, we did not become a fully constituted Group until August 1986, although the original "steering group" from February to August 1986 did a tremendous amount of hard work. During this time, we obtained a site and completed our licence application, which laid the foundations for what was to become GB3ZZ. At the time of the last AGM, we had not completed the repeater and did not have our licence, although we did have an indication that things were going our

way. The licence arrived in May, the day before the BATC rally at Crick and so our attendance at the rally was something of a celebration. It was also a very successful fund raising occasion, with over 30 of our unique aerials sold together with a large amount of other hardware.

Within three weeks of the licence arriving, and after a certain amount of midnight oil burning, the repeater was on air. Having achieved our first and major objective, our efforts were now directed towards improving and developing the hardware. Ivor G1IXF was designated Site Engineer, and became responsible for all matters pertaining to accommodation, power and lighting and aerial installations. It is surprising just how much work there was to do on this front, since it would not be possible to install a repeater into a site which was not properly prepared.

It was to be expected that a device of this complexity, constructed in a short period of time and within an amateur budget, would exhibit some teething troubles. We were not disappointed in this respect, although I think it is fair to say that as a beacon, the repeater has given almost faultless service right from day one. However, it did display some temperament about actually relaying signals on the input, and this reluctance has caused Ted G3JMY and myself several additional white hairs!. By a series of progressive improvements to the aerials and video processing circuitry, we have been able to largely overcome these difficulties. The final development (at least, we hope it will be) on this front is in construction at the moment.

We were unlucky that major building work at the Pavillion necessitated us taking the repeater away from site for some weeks during the Autumn. However, this had the eventual benefit of providing us with a super new shack, to locate the repeater in. Being in the roof space meant that we could shorten our cable runs, or use the now excess cable to allow us to raise the aerials in height. We chose the latter course, and those familiar with the site will have noticed that the aerials have grown in a series of stages, and are now significantly higher than a year ago. The transmit aerial is now at its zenith, and the final development will be to move the receive aerial from beneath the transmit aerial to above it. Ivor is working on the necessary hardware to achieve this, and very clever it is too, employing some miniature semi-rigid co-ax to get the receive signal past the radiating transmit aerial. Expect this to be implemented in a few weeks time.

One of the most troublesome parts of the repeater has been the general area of the test card generator, or TCG as Ted and I know it. (We also use other more descriptive names on occasions!). Whilst the TCG itself has not been too much trouble, the various boards added to enhance its capabilities have all given trouble at one time or another. The colouriser is now working well, but the automatic timer that sequences through alternative test cards and one day soon, message displays, has been on the bench for some weeks. Once it has been debugged, we will offer the facility to local clubs to sponsor an eprom to promote themselves on the repeater.

One of the biggest improvements was when we replaced the transmit PA stage. The old BLV93 never put a foot wrong, but was flat out at 5/6 W. The new Icom/Mitsubishi broad band PA module works like a charm, and we now get 17.5 W after the inter-digital filters. Taking into account cable losses and aerial gain, we are now running the legal limit for repeaters 25 W erp. Roll on 100 W erp, which the BATC is campaigning for, although commercially available hardware is a bit scarce at the moment.

The light at the end of the tunnel is now shining quite brightly, and I expect that over the next year the emphasis for GB3ZZ will shift from construction/debugging to maintenance/gradual development. The hard work of the group in raising funds by subscriptions, donations, parties and aerial sales has been invaluable, since it has enabled Ted, Ivor and myself to carry on as all good engineers should, spending other peoples money on monuments to ourselves of ever increasing complexity!. Seriously, the repeater has changed and improved out of all recognition from one year ago, and this is only possible because the engineering team has the backing of an active group behind it. If you wish to see

the good work continue and grow, please pay your subs promptly, recruit new members, buy our aerials and generally spread the word about us.

Looking into my crystal ball for a moment, the future looks very exciting for 23 cm FM TV. I predict continued steady growth in activity on the band, and this will in turn create demand for further repeater projects. One exciting possibility is the inter-linking of TV repeaters to increase coverage area and create a network within a particular locality. The Group would like to hear from others in the area about the possibility of building further repeaters, both for local area coverage and inter-linking experiments.

In the early days of Amateur Radio, Amateurs used to transmit programmes of general interest to the public within their locality. This died out as the BBC gained strength, but consider this possibility. Satellite TV is about to take off within the next two years, and any satellite receive system is also a 950 to 1700 MHz FM TV receiver. With the addition of an aerial, some cable and perhaps a switching unit, households within several miles of GB3ZZ could watch our output channel. With local community based radio stations about to be licensed, just think of the possibilities for a community TV station run along these lines. Technically it is quite possible, but is it desirable?, For one thing, it would need a new group of TV enthusiasts more interested in the video/programming side of the hobby than the technical/RF side. However, I suspect that some of you reading this newsletter today are biased that way. Food for thought?

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM, where Ted, Ivor and myself will be delighted to show you what we've been up to and how we've spent your money. See you there?

---

#### AGM AGENDA.

The following is the agenda for the AGM, to be held on 22nd March 1988 ;

- 1) Chairmans opening remarks.
  - 2) Silent keys - Len Eastman G8UUE.
  - 3) Apologies for absence.
  - 4) Minutes of last AGM.
  - 5) Matters arising.
  - 6) Chief Engineers report.
  - 7) Secretarys report.
  - 8) Treasurers report, including presentation of accounts and recommendation for subscriptions.
  - 9) Chairmans report.
  - 10) Election of Officers ; Chairman, Chief Engineer & Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.\*
  - 11) Election of committee ; up to 5 committee members.\*
  - 12) To consider a proposal from the committee to amend item 1.1 of the constitution as follows ;  
"The Group shall be called the Severnside Amateur Television Group, hereafter called the Group."
  - 13) To consider a proposal from the committee to amend item 6.1 of the constitution as follows ;  
"An Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Group shall be held each year during the month of April."
- Also, to amend item 7.1 of the constitution as follows ;  
"The financial year shall run from 1st April each year. All subscriptions shall fall due when the AGM is closed, the subscription having been set at the AGM or at a GM."
- 14) Any other business.

\* Nomination forms are available from the Secretary

---

### AERIAL SALES.

Just in case you have forgotten, supplies of the Groups unique 23 cm wideband ATV aerial are still very much available. Since launching this just over a year ago, we have sold over 80 of these, to all parts of the UK and a few to the continent. It is currently available ex-stock from G8VPG.

Unfortunately, we have had to raise the price for the first time, because our supplier has raised his price to us. The cost to non-members is now £14.00, or £16.25 posted to your front door. However the good news is that the special members discount has been increased, so that the cost remains the same to members. In other words, you can obtain a very useful aerial for only £10.00, which must be something of a bargain. By post, the members price is £12.25.

If you are not a member, you can obtain one years membership and an aerial for only £15.00, yet another bargain !

---

### CHANGE OF TITLE FOR THE GROUP ?.

As you will see from the AGM agenda, the committee is proposing that the title of the group be changed to the Severnside Amateur Television Group (SATG). There are several reasons for this. Firstly, we feel that our coverage and area of influence extends beyond just the City of Bristol, and can be roughly defined as a strip of land bordering both sides of the River Severn. Secondly, we feel that the FM TV part of the existing title is a bit restrictive, since our constitution has always envisaged us as a group of TV enthusiasts interested in all aspects of the ATV hobby.

The committee considered many different titles before settling on this one. However, if you can think of an even better title, we would be pleased to consider an amendment to the proposal at the AGM. Please have a talk with the Chairman beforehand.

---

### CONTEST ACTIVITY.

Several members of the Group would like to organise a Group entry to the various ATV contests which are held during the year. The first of these is on 12-13th March, starting at 1800 on 12th and finishing at 1200 on 13th. The proposal is to use the NBARC caravan at the Crown Inn on the A46 near the M4 junction 18. This is an excellent portable location, with the facilities of a Wadworths house only yards away !

Time is running quite short to organise this, but Viv, Ivor and Shaun are keen to have a go if there is sufficient support/interest from the Group. It is hoped to use Paul Greens very distinctive call sign G7ATV. If you would like to help, please let one of the above know as soon as possible.

---

### NEW P5 EDITOR.

This edition of P5 has been edited by Shaun G8VPG. Bryan is to take up new duties as Membership Services Officer, so I would like to thank him for his excellent stewardship of the editors chair. As Bryan will testify, it is not always easy to fill the pages of a newsletter by yourself, so I would like to repeat an appeal of his. Please send in your articles, comments, letters, ideas, circuits, technical tips, details of DX worked etc, anything of interest to your fellow ATVers. Don't worry if it is scribbled on the back of the legendary cigarette packet, it is amazing how modern technology in the form of a word processor can tidy up even my poor typing. I hope to hear from you soon.

---