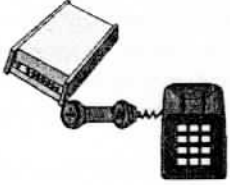


P5 NEWSLETTER

STG ON THE INTERNET



You will have gathered from June's P5 that the group is on the Internet, however I did not give you the correct details and perhaps you have been struggling a bit.

The address for our Web Page is :-
<http://wkweb4.cableinet.co.uk/severnsideTV/Severnside.htm>

Our Email address is:-
severnsideTVgroup@cableinet.co.uk

SURVEY 97

In order to improve our services and plan for the future we require your help. We have enclosed in this month's P5 a confidential questionnaire for you to fill in. The information required is about the repeaters and the equipment you use. The last survey 3 years ago helped immensely with the improvements to the repeaters and members needing help, so we want to do it again. Please fill in the forms and return them to me no later than **NOVEMBER 97** at the following address:-



P.Stevenson (Survey 97)
 14 Camelford Road
 Greenbank
 Bristol BS5 6HW

All information provided will be held by the Committee in the strictest confidence and used for statistical purposes only. Sorry we cannot provide an SAE.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

On the 13th of December 97 we will be holding our annual Christmas social. I know its early to talk about it but what we would like you to do is to set aside this date. In the mean time, if you have any equipment to donate for auction, please start saving it now rather than throw it away. More details to follow nearer the time.

GB3XG



Progress is being made and it has not been easy. Hopefully you will see a better performance overall. I will not attempt to list those involved just in case I miss someone out, so a big thank you for your commitment and loyalty.

COMPETITION

The committee and members who normally organise this event for September, felt that due to the complicated frequency changes on GB3XG they would not have time to successfully run this event. Priority was given to the repeaters. We hope to run it next year. If any member would like to get involved with this event please let the committee know.

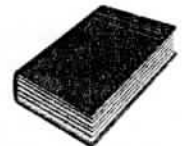
JOTA

The world wide Scout "Jamboree On The Air" will take place on the weekend 18th & 19th October.

The group has been asked to operate a station on Sunday the 19th at Woodhouse Park, Almondsbury, North Bristol.

We would appreciate that if you are able to spare a few minutes and send us some pictures direct or via the repeater it will make it an interesting event and perhaps create new membership etc. I look forward to seeing you!!

DIARY

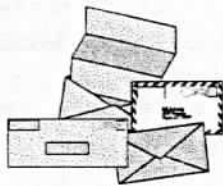


Xmas Social Saturday 13 December 97
 Jamboree on the air (JOTA) Sunday 18/10/97

73 Paul Stevenson G8YMM
 Packet address G8YMM @ GB7TJZ
 Email address g8ymm@cableinet.co.uk

P5 NEWSLETTER

LETTERS



I have just received this letter from Mike Sheffield ZL1ABS in New Zealand. Mike has been a regular member of the group even though he is on the other side of the world. Here is his letter:-

"As always it is very interesting to read of the activities of one of the worlds leading ATV groups. The video compilation tape including Brian & Bob television program is a hit over here. It has had several playings on the newly re-installed ZL1BQ ATV repeater in Auckland. Three months off-air whilst the new building was refurbished was an eternity. Stereo sound to the VK system is now fitted. This uses 5.5 & 5.75 MHz FM audio subcarriers plus pilot tones. A new ultra linear PA using BLV59 (cost NZ \$400) is doing a good job. The power output is 9 watts average VSB.

An ATV (translator known locally in ZL) as an Extender is under construction to improve coverage. Input is 50cm (E39 615.25 MHz VSB) Output is 1280 MHz FMTV. This is the Auckland ATV Interest Group (of the Auckland VHF Group Inc.) first venture into FMTV. Naturally we'd like to use the best sort of Synthesised transmitter. Any suggestions would be gladly received. CQ-TV is always scanned for useful articles.

I'll try to get some circuits from Wayne ZL1UJK and Quentin ZL1QF about the Stereo Sound and PA that may be of interest to the STG."

73 Michael Sheffield

Packet ZL1ABS@ZL1AB.#11.NZLOC
email zl1abs@xtra.co.nz

Editors reply "Mike I will let you have our new email address and we would like to here more on the stereo sound techniques. We are glad you enjoyed the video"

73 Paul G8YMM

MINI DISC RECORDER BY PAUL STEVENSON (G8YMM)

Several P5 ago Shuan G8VPG reviewed his latest Video equipment purchases. For myself I thought you would like to read about my new acquisition, a Sony Mini Disc player/recorder.

For some time I have been thinking of upgrading my cassette player to include the latest noise reduction and functions. The price expected would be around £250. The problem I had was, although cassette tapes would be around for the next 50 years they were primitive by today's digital recording medium and did

not offer the true quality of Compact Discs (sounds or features).

I had thought of going the Digital Audio Tape (DAT) route or computer CD-ROM copying technology but it did not fit into my plans and costing. However, during the last HI-FI show in Bristol, the Sony Engineers gave me a technical demo of their new Mini Disc Player/Recorder MDS-JE510, comparing it with a CD player. Once I heard and saw what it could do I knew that this was the route to go.

The Mini Disc basically is a small compact optical/magnetic re-recordable disc contained in a clear plastic case smaller than a conventional floppy disk. You could therefore, fit at least 4 - 5 in your average top pocket. The discs have the ability to record 74 mins of digital audio Stereo and longer if in Mono mode.

The Sony MDS-JE510 has a standard compact disc player, feel and look, with all the features and sound you would expect to get but with the advantage you can record and re-record as many times as you like. It has analogue and digital inputs. If the digital input is selected and you are able to optically or coaxially connect to your digital output port on your CD Player, then the recordings will albeit true CD-quality to the perfectionist. I had difficulty telling the difference between a CD and Mini Disc (MD) synchronised side by side.

The MDS-JE510 has a large remote control which enables you to control and edit the disc filing system called Table of Contents (TOC) similar to the File Allocation Table (FAT) on your hard or floppy disc drive. It also provides titling facilities so you can label your tracks.

Other features include a delay line and automatic start and stop so you don't miss the beginning if your reactions are slow pressing the record button.

For the video editor enthusiast who wants sounds and music precisely timed then this is a must as it offers audio insert edit facilities in real time and all the functions and sounds you would get from a CD player.

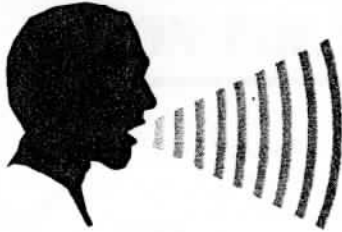
CONCLUSION

At a price of £175 reduced from £300 it cost less than the best cassette recorders you can buy and leaves them standing. The future could be seen as uncertain, but Sony and several other manufacturers have re-launched this product at respectable prices. Products now available are the MD Dictaphone, MD Walkman, MD Car Radio, MD Multi Track Music Recorder, and MD HI-FI equipment.

I am confident that this is the way to go, the CD for in-car and personal players is cumbersome and tapes a little out dated.

VIDEO TAPE RECORDING

A Brief History

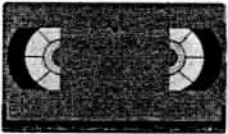


Around 1900 Valdemar Poulsen's used magnetic wire as his recording medium for his Telegraphone. By the 1930s, steel tape was used moving at 1.5m per sec. The BBC adopted a system called the Blattnerphone which used 7 miles of steel tape for one programme, edited with a hacksaw and soldering iron. Pretty Grim !!

Flexible tape with a magnetic particle coating was developed by Wilhelm Gaus around 1935. This was the first commercial sound tape recorder. By the late 1940s tape was regularly used for broadcasting. Several systems of video recording have been used including the BBCs VERA with tape travelling at 1 meter/sec.

In the 1950s to increase the bandwidth and reduce the tape speed, Mr. Dolby and others at Ampex developed a method of transverse scanning to lay down around 16 lines per rotating head scan. This gave an equivalent (40m/s writing speed with 15Mhz bandwidth). Ampex then went onto developed the use of FM recording in their Quadruplex system.

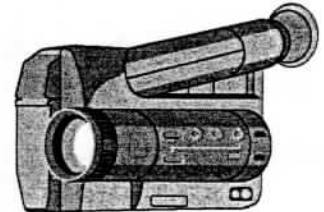
Helical scanning was soon to follow in the 1960s with Toshiba and other companies producing open reel systems. Sony established the U-Matic standard, still in use for High Band video work with its 12.7mm (1/2") tape in large cassette.



Then began the standards war during the 1970s between the Philips N1500 then N1700 Double stack cassette systems and Matsushita VHS (1976) and Sony Betamax (1978) helical scan (240 line resolution) domestic co-planar cassette systems.

1980 saw Philips/Grundig launched V2000 Video Compact Cassette which although superior to the opposition ceased production in 1986. It used Dynamic Track Following (DTF) which were the development roots to the Auto Track Following (ATF) system used in Video 8 and Digital VHS.

The late 1980s saw the demise of the Betamax system and the launch of the Video 8 system from Sony soon to be followed by the high resolution (400 Lines) Hi-8 version with the developments in Portable Camcorders.



JVC and Panasonic who champion the compact VHS system develop compact VHS-C which retains compatibility with the standard VHS recording, plus the Super VHS, S-VHS higher bandwidth system again retaining partially compatible with VHS.

VHS is still in the standards war now with the introduction of Digital VHS. D-VHS by JVC, competing with the Digital Video Cassette DVC system (500 lines), from Matsushita/Philips/Sony/Thompson and others. What comes next? The Video Mini (Digital) Disc or Mr Spock's Laser 3-D Optical Video Viewer. (See early Star Trek episodes).

Patrick Wraith (G0JRP)

Bibliography: Eugene Trundel Guide to TV & Video Technology