DRAGON 32/64 & TRS-80 COLOUR

G4BMK SSTV RECEIVE PROGRAM - This program enables standard SSTV pictures to be received and displayed through Dragon or TRS-80 computers, although the TRS-80 needs extended BASIC and 32k of RAM for tape and 16k or 32k for the cartridge version. No hardware interface is required, the audio signal from a receiver being fed directly to the cassette socket. An on-screen visual indicator enables accurate tuning of the received signal.

Pictures are produced with 4 levels of grey using the high resolution graphics mode. This means that a resolution of 128 lines of 256 pixels is produced, although an intelligent "fill-in" facility expands the picture vertically to 192 lines giving an enhanced presentation and the correct 1:1 aspect ratio.

A printer dump routine, enabling the production of hard copy printouts, is included in the package and most printers can be supported (state which when ordering). Principal commands for the software are as follows:

Receive (and cassette motor on).	Freeze picture immediately.
Freeze picture at end of frame.	Black and white invert.
Scroll picture.	Fill-in - expand vertically.
Adjust width.	Dump picture to printer.

The program is available on cassette tape or disc (Dragon DOS/Cumana 2.0) or cartridge and includes some demonstration pictures. Grosvenor Software (G4BMK), 2 Beacon Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2JZ.

There are several other such programs and systems for the computers discussed, some of which unfortunately have not stood the test of time and are no longer available new. Also there are other makes of computer for which SSTV software is available, therefore the above information should be considered as typical, well tried examples of the type of package available for a computer orientated SSTV system.

It should be stated that the use of 'ordinary' 8-bit personal computers is somewhat restrictive and they cannot be expected to attain the standards reached by purpose-built scan converters. The increasing use of 16 and even 32-bit processors however could mean a great step forward in this respect and it is hoped that some more sophisticated systems will become available soon. Nevertheless, for an outlay of considerably less than that required for the purchase of an SSTV converter, one can set-up a useful and rewarding transceive station using an 8-bit micro.
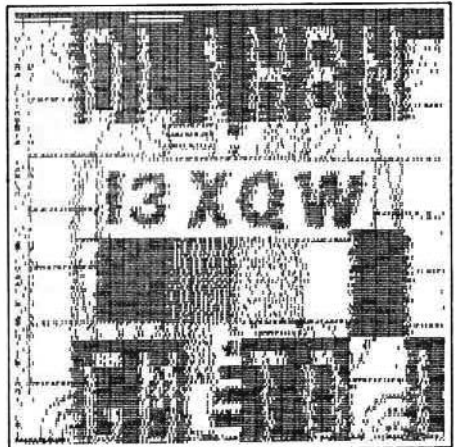
A typical off-air frame taken on the G4BMK receive system. The picture shows some received noise.