

# WIRRAL & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

G8WDC



## N E S L E T T E R

The Committee extend a sincere wish for a  
Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year  
to all members and friends.

Chairman - Colin Phillips G3RLA  
 Secretary - Ian D. Brooks G8PMW  
 Treasurer - Malcolm McIntosh G4IEQ  
 Committee - G8NDD G8NNS G8TSG

Club meetings are held at 8 p.m. in the Dining Room (adjoining bar) of the Concourse Sports Centre at West Kirby. Visitors are always welcome at the club. Further details, and membership forms etc. are available from the Honary Secretary.

Ian D. Brooks,  
 28 Paignton Road,  
 Wallasey,  
 Merseyside.  
 L45 6TT

Tel: 051-639-5666

FUTURE EVENTS

1980

- 3 December D & W - Shrewsbury Arms  
 10 Propagation - G3 LEQ  
 17 D & W - Red Cat, Greasby  
 23 D & W - IOO of Wirral, Oxton/Nocturnum  
 (ask BKF)  
 24 } No meetings (closed for Christmas -  
 31 } do your drinking at home - it's safer)

1981

- 7 January D & W - Seven Stars, Thornton Hough.  
 14 A.G.M. (please note only members can  
 attend).  
 21 D & W - Primrose, Liscard.  
 28 RSGB tape/slide lecture - Human Machine  
 as a Radio Operator.  
 4 February D & W - Red Cat, Greasby.  
 11 Microwave Modules Ltd  
 18 D & W - Lighthouse, Wallasey.  
 25 RSGB tape/slide lecture - Aerials -  
 F. Charman G6 CJ.  
 4 March D & W - Hotel Victoria, Heswall.



## Lecture Notes

28th January

The Human Machine as a Radio Operator, by F.J.H. Charman, B.E.M. G6 CJ. 15 slides. Mr Charman discusses human physiology and psychology with reference to radio operating, equipment, station layout and contest working.

25th February

Aerials, by F.J.H. Charman, B.E.M. G6 CJ. 18 slides. A new and revised recording of this very popular lecture, it reviews the development of aerials and introduces the principles of operation and propagation. A light-hearted, yet serious exposition, it should prove popular with beginner and expert alike.

### Greenall Whitley Visit

After a most enjoyable and informative visit round the brewery, we were all ready for the usual free pint or three. — that is, all except one of us, who boldly marched up to the bar and said in a loud voice " a pint of coke, please, and where are the sandwiches?" — Guess Who!

Anon.

FOR SALE HUNTING FOR A BARGAIN?

YAESU FRG7 Receiver  
mint condition  
£130 o.n.o.  
Contact Peter G8 GYO  
Tel: 342-7155



### WIRRAL RAYNET

The Radio Amateur's Emergency Network, known as Raynet, is a national body of Radio Amateurs organised on a county or area basis to provide communication facilities during emergencies for the Police, County Emergency Officer, British Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

The major reason for forming a local Raynet group is that it is only as a member of such a group that the user services will be aware of your existence and willingness to help.

At the inaugural meeting of Wirral Raynet, held on 11.11.80. at North Wirral College of Technology, the following Officers were elected :-

Controller:	Ian D. Brooks	G8 PMW
Secretary:	Peter Reardon	G8 WQQ
Treasurer:	Ken Williams	G4 KJX
Committee Member:	Daniel Cooper	G8 UWL

Some 45 membership forms were completed with photographs ready for despatch to the Raynet membership Secretary. Since the meeting the membership has increased to 50-odd and is still creeping up.

The next meeting will be at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 9th December, in Room G5/6 of North Wirral College of Technology and will take the form of a natter night to decide :

- i) Future venue, dates and times
- ii) Consider ideas of members about :
  - a) planned events
  - b) proposed exercises

Even if you are not a member, you are welcome to come along and discover more.

Ian D. Brooks  
Wirral Raynet Controller

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Heard on S13 :-

A club member was "having a go" at another club member for being too quick back on the air when transmission was put back to him.

Apparently the member "having a go" had tried about five times to join the QSO. When the member who "was too quick off the mark" was told this, he said: "I did leave a small gap for any breakers". Yes we know .... about 100 micro seconds.

Anon.

Also Heard on S13 :-

"I think Steve is on S12 on RTTY: I listened a moment ago and it sounded like him". ..... Amazing!

EDITED EXTRACTS FROM CLUB COMMITTEE MINUTES

Points of controversy, information or expenditure.

Recorded in the minutes and not shown elsewhere in this newsletter. The club's books, including the committee minutes are normally available on club nights for inspection by any member.

13 August

Approval given for hire of Crosshill Reservoir for RSG Region 1 at a cost of £15.

Committee agreed to accept Mr K. Medley's generous offer of a cup for the club's D.F. Hunt, to be known as "The Eileen Medley Challenge D.F. Contest".

17 September

Agreed to lodge envelopes with the bureau to collect the QSL cards for G8 WDC.

15 October

Two more applications for membership approval.

18 November

Six more applications for membership approved. (Membership now 60).

Club station came 21st in 144 Trophy Contest, and 3rd in RSGB Region 1 Contest.

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Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet  
Trying to work through M.P.  
But the bits of a spider  
Squashed by her "Pot" slider  
Made her Zero D.B.

FOR SALE: Yaesu FRG7 Receiver - mint condition  
£130 o.n.o. Contact Peter G8 GYO.  
Tel: 342-7155.

Have you noticed:

That since the club adopted S13 as their net channel, all hell has let loose?

Before S13 was chosen about 3 or 4 of us monitored the channel frequently for quite a while. It was silent for most of the time. Now everybody appears to want to use it. Ah well, see you on S9 (it's quiet at the moment)\*

G4 IEQ

\* (See "Keep it Clear" - Ed.)

JOINT ESA/CNES NEWS RELEASE (Reprint)

THE CAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF THE SECOND  
ARIANE LAUNCH (LO2) HAS BEEN FOUND

The failure of the Ariane LO2 launch on 23 May 1980 was due to combustion instability at a high frequency (above 2000 Hz) that occurred on one of the four 1st-stage engines 5.75 seconds after ignition.

This extremely violent phenomenon, lasting 3/10ths of a second, abruptly altered the characteristics of the injector, whose degradation led to the destruction of the engine at Ho + 64 seconds. The fire that then broke out in the propulsion bay caused the vehicle to be destroyed 108 seconds after lift-off.

Much meticulous work was needed to narrow down the range of hypotheses and finally to reproduce on the test-stand the behaviour of the faulty engine. This involved analysing the telemetry recordings, inspecting the damaged hardware recovered from the sea, static firings of engines acoustic simulation and an investigation of manufacturing and inspection processes.

In particular, it has been proved that the cause of the engine failure could not have been external to the engine itself, and the hypothesis of the presence at ignition of a foreign body (e.g. an identification tag or filings) has been

eliminated. Furthermore, the interaction of acoustic effects between the vehicle and the ground during lift-off was slight, being comparable to that observed during the ground qualification tests.

Work by SEP, ONERA, SNIAS and CNES specialists has led to the conclusion that the high-frequency combustion instability of engine "D" was caused by a dispersion of the characteristics of the system for injecting fuel into the combustion chamber. This dispersion most probably resulted from slight variations in the manufacture of successive units with respect to certain geometrical characteristics whose sensitivity did not come to light in the numerous development tests (nearly 200) of the engines, for which, in the light of the results attained, it has not been considered necessary to impose stricter manufacturing tolerances. A prolonged effort of research into some 30 groups of parameters on each injector and correlation with the development tests did indeed reveal the influence of the suspect characteristics. (\*)

In order to solve this problem, ESA and CNES have jointly decided, at the suggestion of SEP and with the agreement of a review group made up of experts independent of the project, to adjust the manufacturing tolerances for the injectors and to select the latter by means of static firings on the engine test-stand.

Provided that the tests scheduled from now until the end of the year are satisfactory, this programme should enable the Ariane LO3 vehicle to be equipped with injectors thus selected and create the right technical conditions for a launch in the second fortnight of March 1981.

Accordingly, the fourth and last test flight would be scheduled for June 1981, leading to a first operational launch in October, which would therefore not effect the subsequent operational programme.

The development of the Ariane launcher has been funded since 1973 by ten European countries which are members of the European Space Agency.

The first test flight of the vehicle (LO1) on 24th December 1979 was a total success.

The launcher has a total lift-off mass of approximately 200 tonnes and has three stages giving a total height of 47 metres. Ariane is capable of placing in low orbit satellites of 4.5 tonnes and in geostationary orbit satellites of 1 tonne.

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- \*) The extreme complexity of the injector should also be borne in mind. It has nearly 1000 injection orifices and must deliver almost 250 kg of fuel and oxidant per second.
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### Oscar Working

During a rather hectic holiday in Scotland as G8 PMW/A I managed to spend 3 days working both Oscars, on all modes contacting stations in Germany, Yugoslavia and England (still counts as a good contact since signals have to travel the long way round).

If anyone is interested I have some photographs of John Branegan's GM4 IHJ set-up, as well as a small amount of practical experience on the satellites which might be of use if anyone wants to have a go.

Ian/G8 PMW

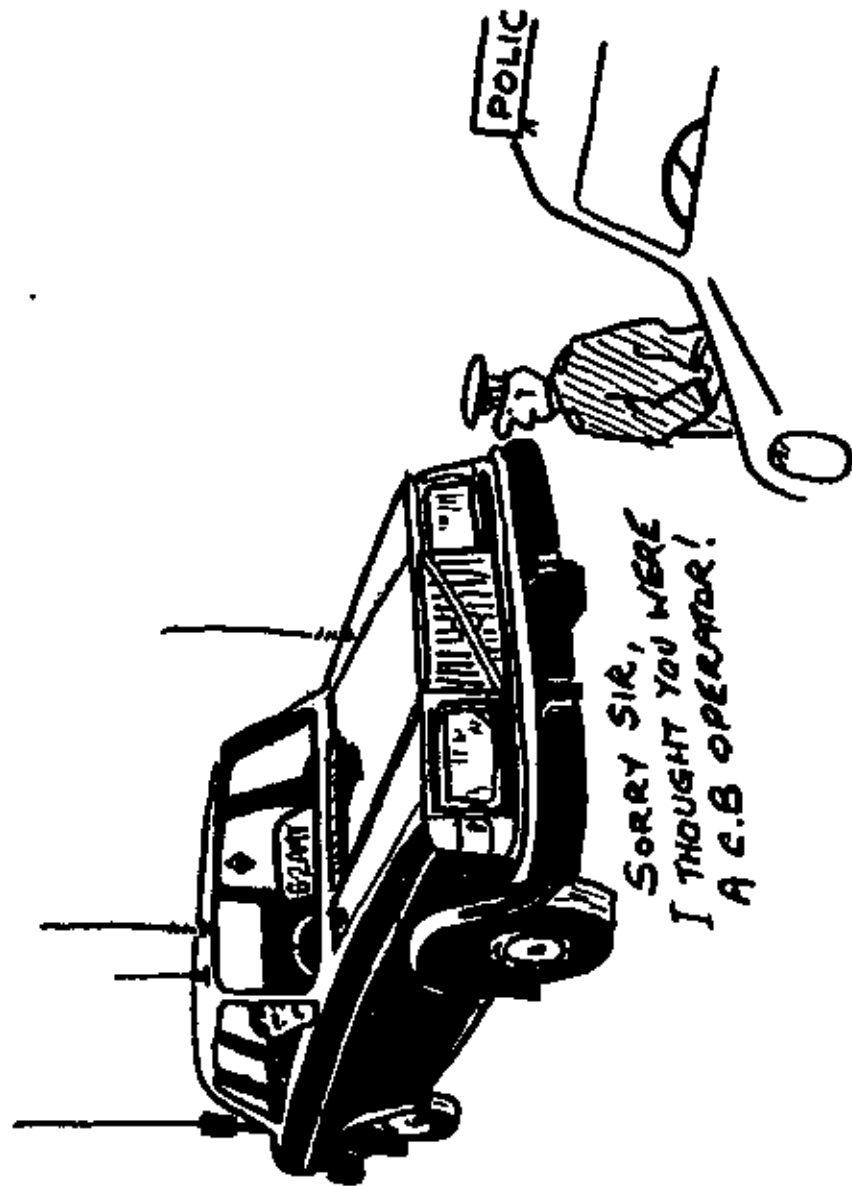
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### Rumour has it ...

The "Godfather" of the Wirral M-M-Mafia is on "Miss Piggy" as a Liverpool bound mobile most mornings from 8.00 to 8.20 a.m.

The customising of UZZ's wheels is almost complete - the 255 will be sprayed silver with blue stripes.

That at the last contest site RLA was observed eating his butties from a PAPER bag.



For Sale,  
12/24 Volt Propane powered Villiers engine  
Generator - £30 contact Steve GRIFF, 632 2963

CLUB TRIPS - A vote of thanks

With the recent (and last for this year) trip to the Greenall Whitley Brewery now behind us I think we should offer our thanks to our Secretary, Ian G8 PMW for arranging these.

I am sure that those who visited the various places during the year thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learned something of what goes on behind the scenes. Thanks again, Ian. I am sure that we shall see more next year.

G4 IEQ  
Seconded: G3 RLA

Rumour has it :-

IEQ will be a big signal from his new GW QTH when he moves.

WOF is considering connecting an aerial to his 2 m rig so those of us who live more than 100 yds away will be able to copy him.

GYO's plastic money is still inflexible.

PMW's 215 has returned cured of its deafness (remember that DF hunt?) after its trip to the wilds of Eastham, but SUE's (that rare 2 m station) is now attending the same clinic for treatment.

SWL's have been listening to CVF lately on their British T.V.s.



THE IMPOSSIBLE-----WELL ALMOST.

A few weeks ago I was spending a quiet Sunday afternoon putting the finishing touches to my RTTY Terminal Unit. At last I was able to connect it up to the printer and give it a whirl. First thing was to see if any of the locals were on 2 metres. A quick tune to 145.300Mhz. soon revealed the familiar jingle and at S9 + + + + + + + + +

So I switched the printer on and a CQ was coming out. I waited eagerly to bash out my first reply, but sadly this was not to be 'cos my flippin tones were off frequency.

But who was putting out the CQ? It was none other than G8NDD aided (or hindered) by G8WOF at Poll Hill. Heswall..... AT HESWALL.....They must be mobile....RTTY mobile... the mind boggles.

But sure enough they were signing / mobile. I was picturing the set up and trying to imagine how on earth they had managed it when there was a knock on the door, guess who? None other than Richard and Steve who, on failing to get a contact had decided to give me a call to show me the "set up".

Can you imagine a Triumph Stag with a rotary converter in the boot supplying mains to the printer motor. Inside the car was a printer on the rear seat together with a terminal unit together with WOF (Steve). In the front was Richard's 2 metre multimode on the passenger seat and Richard in the pilots seat. Oh, I nearly forgot to mention the 6 or 8 ele beam fastened above the roof of the car, There were cables everywhere inside plus cables going to the roof, boot and bonnet.

The things some people do for a bit of publicity!!!!

G4IEQ.

++++  
Phew that was close.....one second. Guess who?  
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Is there any truth in the rumour that IEQ is only moving to high ground in GW so that he may be able to copy WOF???

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Rumour has it .....

Hon. Sec. is considering applying for planning permission for a mast — worried not about the neighbours but the fact that last time he got permission he had to move house before getting a chance to erect it.

BKF is opening a hostel for homeless radio amateurs somewhere in Oxton.

That a question the May R.A.E. paper will be :-

Where should all hams buy their gear?

- A) From G3 LEQ
- B) From Gordon Adams
- C) Thanet Electronics

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QSL CARD

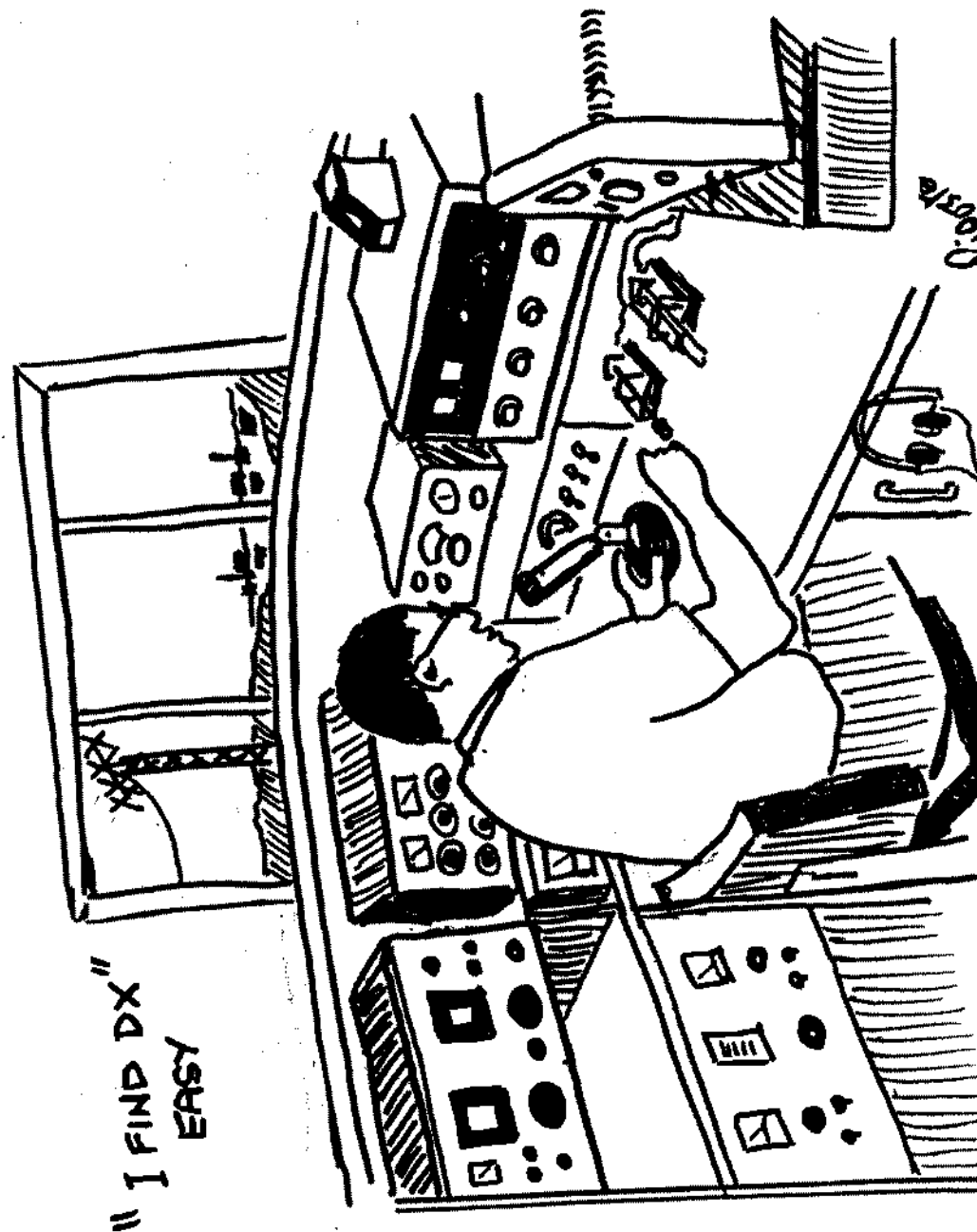
At great expense (£ 6. 40. ) the Secretary has purchased two rubber stamps to produce QSL cards.

**G8WDC/P**  
**GW8WDC/P**

If anyone would like a QSL card please can they give the Secretary a written note of the contact they would like confirming.

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In case you missed it .....

FOR SALE: YAESU FRG7 RECEIVER — MINT CONDITION  
£130 O.N.O. CONTACT PETER G8 GYO.  
TELEPHONE 342-7155



RTTY - The ~~Easy~~ Difficult Way.

RTTY is becoming very popular and there are at least 6 licensed stations on the Wirral alone. (With Graham to join us soon, yes??)

I am very interested in the mode, and have enjoyed copying stations on the H.F. while a S.W.L., now with my new call sign I have spent long hours on Sundays in QSO with local stations, waiting up to an hour for it to be passed back. Boring, boring, I hear you say!!

This particular Sunday was a little different. I had suggested to Richard G8NDD that we went mobile, and after two weeks of hard persuasion he agreed.

With Richards Triumph ~~Stag~~ Stag 12volts the printer and terminal unit 240 volts a problem was presented. We solved this using a rotary converter in the boot and a long very thick cable to the battery.

We set off down the Wirral, Richard driving to keep the printer from slowing down, with myself on the back seat calling CQ on the keyboard.

Unfortunately we only had one QSO and that was with G8WJD, who thought that we were both totally mad! The best was the look on the face of the petrol pump attendant as we pulled into feed our thirsty car, who just stared wonderously at the printer, as we had an over from G8WJD. We set off again to find another QSO but to no avail only Malcolm G4LEQ earwiggling again as he worked on his newly built T.U.

So what next? We look forward to the RTTY repeater on Winter Hill. 73's from Steve G8WOF, Richard G8NDD

Equipment:- Creed 7E, Reader 656M, Trio Scope,  
Terminal Unit, Home Brew ST5, 2M FDK 2700

## KEEP IT CLEAR

Of all the 2 metre repeaters within reasonable access distance from the Wirral - our most local box GB3 MP seems to be the most plagued by unauthorised transmissions. We can all fully understand the annoyance that it felt when one's QSO is deliberately interfered with and would agree that the natural reaction is to make some comment (usually abusive) directed towards the originator of the offending signal - this is exactly what they are wanting to hear, so don't give them that satisfaction. Please follow the recommendations of the Repeater Group Committee by NOT acknowledging the presence of the interference IN ANY WAY: simply give a QSL to the station being worked and proceed with your "over".

If you find it difficult to conduct your QSO in this manner then sign out in normal way - one can usually find some excuse for bowing out in haste - phone ringing O.M., must dash etc.

The very fact that you do not acknowledge the presence of the interference may lead the interferer to come on even longer in his feeble attempt to gain some response from you - this can be turned to advantage. Check the input for two reasons: a) you may be able to copy your licenced contact on the input without interference and can then suggest a Simplex frequency, or: b) you may be able to copy the interferer.

If b) take a bearing on the source and take an 'S' meter reading.

Note this information down together with your own location (O.S. ref), the time of the transmission etc.

This information can be useful in two ways - firstly if you consider the interference source is local then you can get together with other club members who should endeavour to take similar readings when even they hear interference - in this way when times match up you will be able to plot the

likely origin of the interference and start to "close in". Secondly, send in your information to the Repeater Group Secretary as a matter of course - a receipt by him of several beam heeings with matching times should enable him to plot the source fairly accurately. This information can then be passed to the G.P.O. for investigation - they have sophisticated equipment to hand once they have been pointed in the right direction.

Remember the golden rule "Do not acknowledge the presence of an interferer in any way".

It is your repeater, placed there for your convenience - help to keep it clear.

Anon.

Telephone:  
061-428-4784

5 Byron Drive,  
CHEADLE,  
Cheshire.

GB.WYK.MEL.

WIRRAL & DISTRICT ARC.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to offer your club members the benefit of purchasing a Trio/Kenwood, 9000 Multimode transceiver at a cost of £292.50. plus p+p.

The sets have full American specification incl. 5,10 and 1 kc. channel spacings and in addition a much greater frequency range.

If any of your members wish to take advantage of this offer please ask them to telephone to the above number for more information.

Delivery is aprox. 10-15 days.

Best 73 s. GB WYK. Mel Nicholson.

## Microsystems (Leighton Buzzard)

COMPUTER CONSULTANTS FOR MICROS AND MINIS

53 LINWOOD GROVE,  
LEIGHTON BUZZARD,  
BEDFORDSHIRE LU7 8RP  
Tel. (0628) 370329

My Ref: AC/PC  
Your Ref:  
Date: 1st December 1980

Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club  
28 Paignton Road  
Wallasey  
Cheshire.

Dear Mr. Brooks

A few weeks ago our company was approached by an amateur radio enthusiast to write a computer program to his specification. This resulted in the package which we call RADLOG to be produced and which is described in the enclosures.

If any of your members are interested, we are offering a 10% discount on all orders received from clubs and we would also be pleased to discuss any other projects which you or your members feel would be of interest.

Discs containing copies of the RADLOG package and full documentation will be despatched within 24 hours of receipt of order.

Yours faithfully,

  
A. CROMPTON  
Sales & Marketing Director

Enc:

**Microsystems (Leighton Buzzard)**  
COMPUTER CONSULTANTS FOR MICROS AND MINIS

53 LINWOOD GROVE,  
LEIGHTON BUZZARD,  
BEDFORDSHIRE, LU7 8RP  
Tel. (0825) 370329

My Ref: AC.  
Your Ref:  
Date: as postmark

RADLOG

RADLOG

This system has been designed as an aid to the amateur radio operator.

By using RADLOG, the operator can maintain records of all calls and contacts he makes. Call signs, names and addresses, time and date of last call and all details of previous contacts are held on a disc file. The file is easily updated and print outs of all information can be obtained.

Instructions on how to:-

- a) Add a station
- b) Study a stations details
- c) Change a stations details
- d) List all stations
- e) Begin a new databank

are all explained in a fully documented User Guide which is included in the package, together with the RADLOG system which will be sent to you on a 5" diskette.

A total of 2,142 calls or 748 stations can be held on a single diskette or an average of 2 calls per station. When a disc is full, new discs can be added to the system enabling a complete collection to be built up.

RADLOG has been written to run on Commodore PET machines of at least 16K plus a 3040 disc drive. A 3020 printer is optional.

PRICE ..... £45

NOMINATION FORM

We wish to propose .....  
call sign ..... for the position of  
Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer/Contest Manager/  
Committee Member for 1981.

Proposer .....  
Seconder .....

I agree to the above nomination being put before  
the members at the A.G.M.

Signed .....  
(Proposed)

The proposer, seconder and person standing for  
office must all be current members of the  
W & D A.R.C.

AMATEUR ✓  
AMPERES ✓

AMPLITUDE ✓  
ANTENNA ✓  
AUDIO ✓  
BAND ✓  
BEAM ✓  
BOOM ✓  
BUFFER ✓  
CIRCUITS ✓  
CODE ✓  
COIL ✓  
CURRENT ✓  
DIFFERENTIAL ✓  
FREQUENCY ✓  
FUSE ✓  
GAIN ✓  
GAS ✓  
HAM ✓  
LOSS ✓  
MODULATION ✓  
NETS ✓  
NOISE ✓  
PARALLEL ✓  
PHONE ✓  
RADIATION ✓

SIGN ✓

VOLTAGE ✓

W	B	A	D	S	I	G	N	J	O	I	N	T	Y	S
D	I	F	F	E	R	E	N	T	I	A	L	M	N	O
Q	Z	U	K	R	A	D	I	A	T	I	O	N	Q	L
M	P	S	J	E	D	O	C	R	U	V	O	X	O	E
D	O	E	N	P	I	N	U	N	D	P	K	S	N	L
M	U	O	L	M	A	T	R	U	N	B	S	E	T	L
W	H	O	B	A	N	D	R	A	N	T	E	N	N	A
P	A	F	R	E	Q	U	E	N	C	Y	I	O	E	R
S	M	Q	S	B	U	N	N	I	E	A	E	I	T	A
E	P	B	N	V	O	L	T	A	G	E	S	E	S	P
A	L	T	H	A	M	Q	P	M	A	N	I	S	B	R
C	I	R	C	U	I	T	S	A	S	C	O	I	A	Q
L	T	M	O	D	U	L	A	T	I	O	N	P	G	J
A	U	D	J	I	G	E	R	E	M	I	V	Q	G	K
I	D	O	T	O	P	M	B	U	Z	L	Q	S	L	D
M	E	D	B	U	F	F	E	R	A	M	P	L	I	E

Join PIN SENT. CUMM. TUP. DOT. LOOK VOX RAMP. SET.