

MENDIP REPEATER GROUP

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE

Posts to be filled:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Technical Manager
- 4 Ordinary Committee Members, to include Computer Services Manager
- 4 Technical Committee Members

PLEASE RETURN THE FOLLOWING SECTION HAVING COMPLETED ALL SECTIONS TO THE SECRETARY, S Gardner, G4PSP, 191 Charlton Park, Midsomer Norton, Avon TO ARRIVE BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING.

-----CUT HERE-----

I, (Name)..... (Callsign).....  
do propose (Name).....(Callsign).....  
to the position of.....

Signed.....

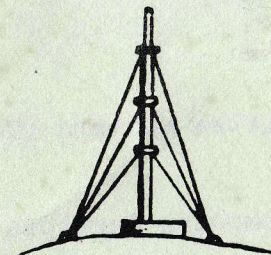
I (Name).....(Callsign).....  
wish to second the above proposal.

Signed.....

I (Name).....(Callsign),.....  
and willing to stand for election to the above post and am  
able to accept the post if so elected

Signed.....

# MENDIP REPEATER NEWS



Journal of the Mendip Repeater Group

November 1984

Secretary: S Gardner, G4PSP 191 Charlton Park, Midsomer Norton  
Avon Tel: Mid Norton (0761) 413902

M.R.G. AGM..... M.R.G. AGM..... M.R.G. AGM.....

The Annual General Meeting of the Mendip Repeater Group will held on Thurs 6 Dec 1984 at the Showerings Sports & Social Club, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, commencing at 8pm.

All paid-up members of the group are invited to attend. This is your opportunity to find out about the technical and administrative organisation of the Group and to voice your opinions.

A Nomination form is included for election of officers and committee members. Each nomination must include the signatures of both the proposer and seconder, and a signed declaration that the proposed party is willing to stand for election and able to accept the post if so elected.

The posts to be filled are as follows:

Officers :	Chairman	4 ordinary committee
	Vice Chairman	members
	Secretary	
	Treasurer	4 technical committee
	Technical Manager	members

Nominations must be received by the Secretary before the start of the meeting.

The present Officers and Members of the Committee are as follows:

Chairman	Bill Brennan, G3CQE
Vice Chairman	Clem Tabor, G3UGR
Secretary	Steve Gardner, G4PSP
Treasurer	Mrs D Gardner
Technical Manager	Chris Morcom, G3VEH
Committee Members	Brian Smith, G4ETN

Committee Members (Cont.) Icarus Sparry, G8IWW  
Peter Harston, G4JQP  
Barrie Stevens, G8KKA  
(Computer Services Manager) Malcolm Stanbridge, G3RHU  
Albert Lilly, G8VGI  
Ian Parker, G8XZD  
Dave Petch, G8YWQ

Bide-a-Wee  
Charnel House Lane  
Ratstock

Dear OM.

Expect you wonder why we havent been on the old box, there, recently? Well, the fact is we have only just got the old licence back, after that fuss over who actualy took our morse test, there. You may remember we had a G4 call for a while, and caused massive pile ups on 20 whenever we went on, there. One chap was heard to remark that we were the only station who could make the old Woodpecker close down, there, HI!  
Anyway, we are sure that you and your 3 million readers will be thrilled rotten to hear that we shall soon be back on with the old handheld and rotating slim jim in the loft, working on all modes through 'WC, there. Must go now, OM, as we have just heard a rare station coming through on 'AA, there.

Best 73s, & FB DX, OM,

Limpley Stoke (Mr) G8QRZ

## CONSTITUTION

### THE MENDIP REPEATER GROUP

#### DESCRIPTION

1. NAME The name of the Group shall be the Mendip Repeater Group (hereinafter called the Group)
2. OBJECTS The object of the Group shall be to provide and maintain Repeaters (including GB3WR), in the Mendip area and to generally maintain and foster interest in repeaters.
3. MEMBERSHIP Any person who shall have paid the annual subscription or Life Membership fee, fixed by the Group at an Annual General Meeting, shall be a member of the Group.  
  
The Committee shall be entitled, at its' absolute discretion and without giving any reason, to refuse or terminate membership of any person.  
  
The Committee shall be entitled to confer honorary memberships.
4. OFFICERS OF COMMITTEE The business of the Group shall be conducted by the Officers and Committee, all of whom must be Members of the Group. Elections shall be held at each Annual General Meeting for Officers and Committee.  
  
The Officers shall be:- Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Technical Manager.  
  
The Committee shall consist of the Officers, Four Ordinary Members and Four Technical Members.  
  
The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy occurring due to death or retirement and shall have the power to co-opt additional members as it considers necessary.  
  
A Quorum shall consist of eight (8) Committee members, of which 2 shall be Officers.  
  
The Committee may delegate any of it's powers to sub-Committees of Members, with power to co-opt.

Constitution (cont.)

4. OFFICERS OF COMMITTEE (cont) A Technical sub-Committee shall be formed of the Technical Manager, as Chairman, and the Four Technical Committee Members.
5. BANKING The Group shall maintain such banking accounts as the Committee thinks fit. Cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and also the Chairman or Technical Manager.
6. ACCOUNTS There shall be prepared annually, and laid before the Group at the Annual General Meeting, an Audited Statement of Account.
7. MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting of the Group shall be held in each Calendar year, at which every paid-up Member shall be entitled to attend and vote.

If the Secretary receives a written request, or requests, signed by not fewer than twelve paid-up members, he shall be obliged to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting within 30 (thirty) days of receiving the request or requests.

At least two meetings of the Committee shall be held during each Calendar year, but otherwise it shall meet as and when the Officers consider necessary.
8. MINUTES

The Secretary, or in his absence, another person appointed by the Officers present, shall take minutes of all meetings of the Group and main Committee.

The Technical Manager shall arrange for minutes to be taken at all meetings of the Technical sub-Committee. The Chairman of any other sub-Committee, that may be formed, shall arrange for Minutes to be taken at meetings of those sub-Committee.
9. AMENDMENTS All or any of the rules and Constitutions of the Group may be altered or amended by an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that the Secretary receives notice in writing of any proposed change, not less than fourteen days before the Meeting.

Constitution (cont)

10. DISPOSAL OF ASSETS If at any time, for whatever reason, the Group is wound up, or ceases to exist, all property, money and other assets belonging to the Group after all debts have been paid, shall be handed over to the Radio Society of Great Britain.

WE SHOULD USE IT, NOT ABUSE IT

No, I am not being paid by the RSGB to say this.

I should say that the majority of Mendip Repeater Group subscribers use or monitor WR as opposed to the other repeaters available within the group that exist on 70 cms. To this end you may be aware as to what I am getting at. There is a very strong element that wish to use WR as a soapbox and to "BROADCAST" one view only, of how the RSGB do not represent the UK amateurs in all aspects of the hobby. Well I would like to take a few moments of your time to tell you the other side of the story.

I feel that firstly, without a National body such as the RSGB how are you to realistically put forward a case to the DTI on any topic? If the negotiating body isn't the RSGB, who is it to be?

Each ordinary member of the RSGB elects the officers and regional representatives who they think will act in best their best interest. Surely if you are not happy with the way the society conducts its policies, then I suggest that you democratically get elected to the RSGB or less dramatically place your views with your local representative and attend annual general meetings to minute your disapproval, if you are a member! You must help them to help you.

Specific points with respect to the RSGB and repeater groups: you may not know that the repeater management group (a sub-Committee) decide if new repeater proposals are genuine, fair and necessary. Stringent questions are asked about the proposed group, equipment, knowhow, permission to use the site etc. before a proposal is put to the DTI.

If these elements are cleared at all stages then the repeater is given a licence, which is held by and paid for by the RSGB. The RSGB can revoke the licence on behalf of the DTI if it is felt that regulations are not being adhered to.

Can you just imagine the situation if all repeater groups held their own licence. Cowboy outfits could be operating their own repeaters and doing as they please.

More generally the RSGB provide the following facilities;

- Special event callsigns
- Technical books
- Conventions
- Beacon and repeater services
- Awards are available to members

Articles of technical interest, members adverts etc through the magazine 'RADCOM'

- HF/VHF/UHF contests are organised
- GB2RS News service is provided to all amateurs
- Tape/Film library
- TVI/BCI advice
- Planning permission assistance
- Slow morse transmissions
- Specialised Insurance is available
- QSL bureau
- Reciprocal licencing information

Now can you honestly say that the RSGB is a waste of time? I would like you to do better if you think you can, otherwise shut up!

If you aren't happy with the RSGB, as a paid up member, why don't you genuinely do something about it?

My subscription is due in November and I feel that every penny of the £16.50 is well worth it.

Brian Smith, G4ETN



If you haven't got your passport with you, hop into the boot and I'll smuggle you over the bridge into Wales!

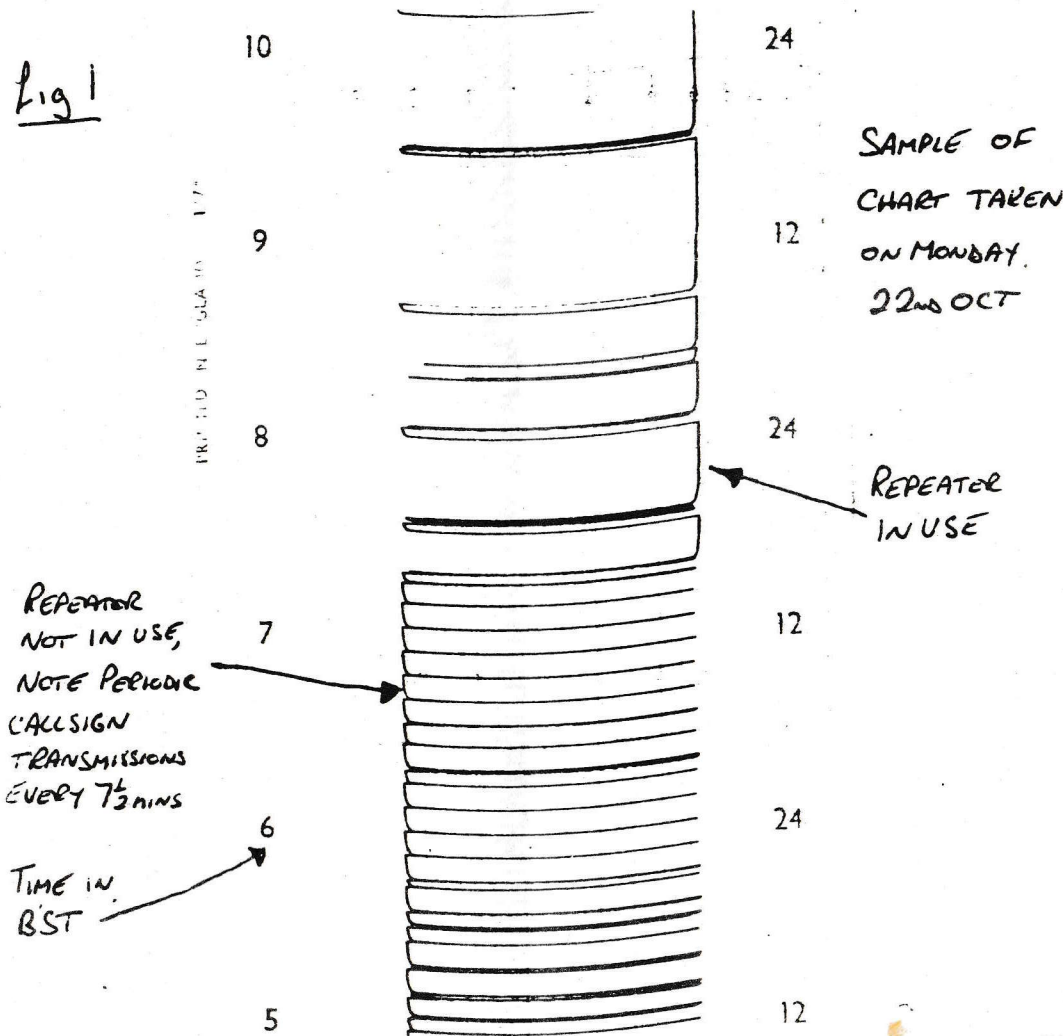
G4GBN with thanks to the teller of the tale.

### HOW MUCH IS GB3WR USED?

BY G8KKA

Possibly a frequently asked question, so as a curiosity I hooked my IC 240 into a pen recorder that would give an indication everytime there was a carrier frequency on the output of W.R.

The first graph I managed to compile is shown in fig 2, that shows the average use over a 7 day period. Fig 1 below shows a typical trace of a 5 hour period the actual usage time was calculated by measuring the right hand solid line in mm and multiplying by 2.4 (ie 25mm = 1hr) to give the time in minutes.



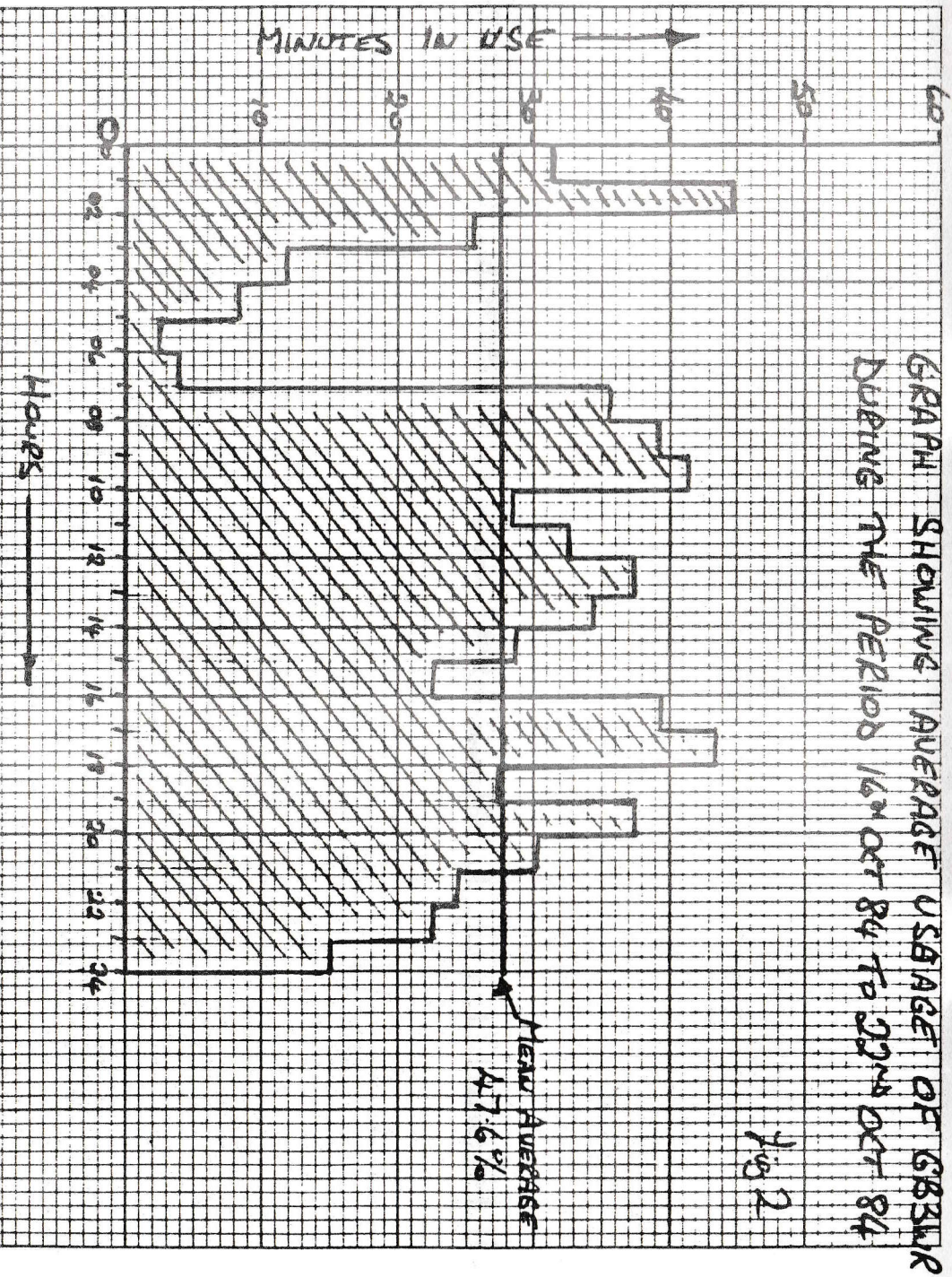
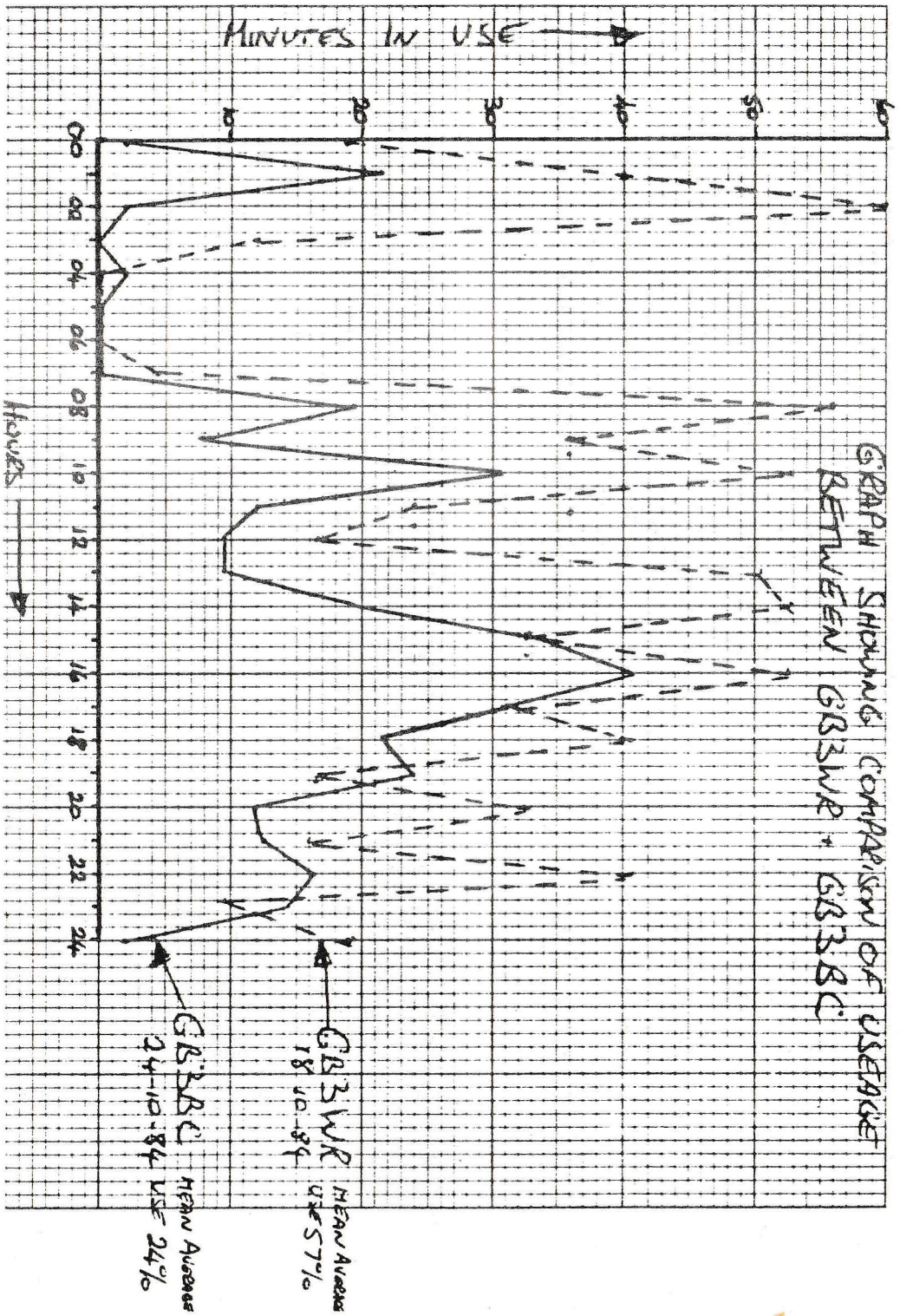


Fig 2

THE FOLLOWING ARE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP (NOVEMBER 1984)

G1ABD	G1AJC	G1ARZ	G1AVB	G1BED	G1BKL	G4ZEU	G4ZNK	G4ZOG	G5RQ	G5YQ	G6AFL
G1BYE	G1DBF	G1DBJ	G1DCG	G1DCN	G1DCZ	G6ANI	G6ASO	G6ASP	G6AWT	G6BDE	G6DEN
G1DHO	G1DHP	G1DIU	G1DNG	G1DRE	G1DUV	G6DZH	G6EDJ	G6EYI	G6EMB	G6ENM	G6ETL
G1FAJ	G1GCO	G1GLJ	G1GRX	G1GVU	G1HES	G6FFY	G6FXH	G6GGU	G6GNG	G6GPI	G6GVH
G1HLP	G1HMQ	G1HSF	G1IEB	G1IHT	G1IJF	G6GWF	G6GXO	G6HHH	G6HIQ	G6HKT	G6HMV
G1ILI	G1JAM	G1JIY	G1JOR	G1KAM	G1KEU	G6HN	G6HOR	G6HTZ	G6HWS	G6HYU	G6IAC
G2BAR	G2BQY	G2BRR	G3AGT	G3BNF	G3CQE	G6IAV	G6IEY	G6IUQ	G6IVU	G6JGR	G6JNB
G3DHH	G3ESO	G3GKA	G3GKC	G3IBK	G3LJU	G6JYD	G6KPD	G6KTW	G6LRQ	G6LYX	G6LZL
G3JEP	G3LJD	G3LNW	G3MTZ	G3MVA	G3NET	G6LZT	G6MBJ	G6MGJ	G6MGO	G6MJG	G6MRJ
G3NOF	G3NXU	G3OSH	G3PYF	G3RHU	G3RII	G6MZW	G6NQQ	G6NRR	G6OEQ	G6OWL	G6PJT
G3RPV	G3RYC	G3SJI	G3SXY	G3TKF	G3TWO	G6POW	G6PPU	G6RBP	G6RKO	G6RQP	G6RZZ
G3UGR	G3UTO	G3UUR	G3VEH	G3VJJ	G3VQD	G6SV	G6TAH	G6TBB	G6TEI	G6TKR	G6TKT
G3WBA	G3XBW	G3XGY	G3XIT	G3YBY	G3YDC	G6TUY	G6TWA	G6UAC	G6UMC	G6UNN	G6USC
G3YHV	G3YNI	G3YOL	G3YPL	G3YUW	G3ZKI	G6VAH	G6VAR	G6VHY	G6VSE	G6WBU	G6WJF
G3ZUQ	G3ZUW	G3ZWL	G4AJD	G4ATP	G4AUN	G6WLX	G6WUS	G6WWY	G6WZA	G6XFC	G6XNQ
G4AVJ	G4AYB	G4AYD	G4BSF	G4BYJ	G4CBS	G6YCB	G6YFX	G6YWK	G6ZIM	G6ZJP	G6ZKG
G4CJZ	G4DKS	G4ETN	G4EVI	G4EXQ	G4FSL	G6ZOD	G6ZPG	G6ZPJ	G6ZPY	G3ARH	G8BIR
G4GTD	G4GVM	G4HHL	G4HWD	G4INR	G4IXP	G8BMR	G8CPF	G8DBP	G8DKC	G8DLR	G8DRK
G4JBW	G4JQD	G4JQP	G4JSN	G4JVL	G4KBN	G8EQL	G8FAS	G8FC	G8FTV	G8GFZ	G8GYU
G4KJP	G4KNE	G4KPT	G4LAF	G4LAW	G4LDR	G8HNM	G8HVV	G8IOJ	G8IUF	G8IWV	G8IZZ
G4LJZ	G4LYG	G4LYP	G4MCE	G4MQX	G4MYR	G8JAR	G8KBQ	G8KKA	G8KNN	G8LGC	G8LRB
G4NCJ	G4NFS	G4NUJ	G4NXG	G4OAG	G4OEC	G8JMYN	G8NMU	G8NNU	G8NQO	G8OEU	G8OQG
G4OFH	G4OJA	G4OJH	G4ONS	G4OTJ	G4OVJ	G8OTA	G8PVG	G8SPC	G8SRH	G8SUW	G8TIH
G4OWH	G4OXR	G4OXY	G4OYY	G4OZH	G4PDG	G8TOF	G8TVQ	G8UTB	G8VDF	G8VFR	G8VGI
G4PJO	G4PLY	G4PSP	G4RDV	G4RIC	G4RJP	G8VOE	G8VOF	G8VPG	G8WGW	G8WLV	G8WRC
G4RLK	G4RRI	G4RSH	G4RUA	G4RZY	G4SCD	G8XTZ	G8XYS	G8XZD	G8YML	G8YWQ	G8ZOE
G4SFS	G4SSP	G4STH	G4SUH	G4SXX	G4SZB	G8ZQF	G8ZRN	G8ZVK	G8ZYD	G8ZYD	G8ZYD
G4SZS	G4TBO	G4TIA	G4TIX	G4TKF	G4TLL	GW2DPD	GW2FWD	GW3LAD	GW3TSH	GW1EPR	GW1EXF
G4TLP	G4TRN	G4TSS	G4TXW	G4UEO	G4UFV	GW4HA	GW4ISF	GW4KYM	GW4NAD	GW3XWK	GW3ZFG
G4UGT	G4UHN	G4UIU	G4UKF	G4UOA	G4USO	GW4UXK	GW4UZW	GW4XKE	GW6ADM	GW4POA	GW4TJQ
G4UWZ	G4VBO	G4VEH	G4VFM	G4VGV	G4VVS	GW6JBP	GW6MOB	GW6MWN	GW6NQU	GW6BWV	GW6CTO
G4WBV	G4WGE	G4WJY	G4WLB	G4WMV	G4WPY	GW6YNV	GW6ZHM	GW8CQK	GW8DGM	GW6VLA	GW6VRN
G4WPZ	G4WRW	G4WTA	G4WVS	G4WXD	G4XKK	GW8WZR	C3OAKA	*G8YMM		GW8PTS	GW8REV
G4XLY	G4XUB	G4XUR	G4XWE	G4XWY	G4YIC	MR. R. WARE		MR. D. SHIELDS		MR. J. BROWN	
G4YJH	G4YOC	G4YQG	G4YTH	G4YZR	G4ZDR	MR. J. GOODWAY		MR. A.S. KINGDOM		MRS. L. GARDNER	

Here is a version of the program controlling W.R., written as a modified form of BASIC. The actual program is written in 6800 assembly language, and is assembled on a 68,000 based UNIX machine. The source is 452 lines long, and is assembled in under 10 seconds, including producing the listing file.

This BASIC testing is provided as few people are likely to be familiar with 68 or assembly language, and it does take rather more space than this newsletter would comfortably allow.

```
10 REM This is a BASIC version of the WR
20 REM control program that is used to
30 REM demonstrate how the repeater is used
40 REM it will not turn your
50 REM spectrum/BBC/Apple etc into
60 REM a repeater control unit
70 REM The repeater has a timer,
80 REM an 8 bit input port,
90 REM and an 8 bit output port on it.
100 REM
110 REM The following are logical vars
120 REM carrier
130 REM audio
140 REM toneburst
150 REM mains
160 REM
170 Initialise
180 GOSUB 1040
190 IF carrier THEN 320
200 Transmitter*off
210 GOSUB waitb
220 IF NOT toneburst THEN 200
230 FOR I=1 TO 15
240 GOSUB wait
250 IF NOT toneburst THEN 200
260 NEXT I
270 GOSUB wait
280 IF toneburst THEN 270
290 FOR I=1 TO 200
300 GOSUB waitb
310 IF NOT carrier THEN 200
320 Transmitter*on
330 Enable*Talkthrough
340 IF toneburst THEN 300
350 IF NOT audio THEN 300
360 NEXT I
370 FOR I=1 TO 9000
380 GOSUB waitb
390 IF carrier THEN 420
400 delay=80:GOSUB 1200
410 IF NOT carrier THEN 440
420 NEXT I
430 GOTO 610
440 Send*Pip
450 delay=140:GOSUB 1200
460 IF carrier THEN 370
```

```
470 IF mains THEN 500
480 Send*Low*Pip
490 GOTO 510
500 Send*Pip
510 delay=200:GOSUB 1200
520 IF carrier THEN 370
530 delay=200:GOSUB 1200
540 IF carrier THEN 370
550 delay=100:GOSUB 1200
560 IF carrier THEN 370
570 GOSUB 1040
580 IF carrier THEN 370
590 GOTO 200
600 REM We have timed out
610 Disable*Talkthrough
620 FOR I=1 TO 8
630 Send*Timeout*Pip
640 IF NOT carrier THEN 760
650 NEXT I
660 Enable*Talkthrough
670 FOR I=1 TO 2000
680 GOSUB waitb
690 IF NOT carrier THEN 730
700 NEXT I
710 Send*Timeout*Pip
720 GOTO 670
730 delay=200:GOSUB 1200
740 IF carrier THEN 700
750 GOTO 440
760 Send*Timeout*Pip
770 Send*Timeout*Pip
780 Enable*Talkthrough
790 GOTO 440
800 Wait*for*Interrupt
910 Beacon*time=Beacon*time+1
920 RETURN
1000 Wait*for*Interrupt
1010 Beacon*time=Beacon*time+1
1020 IF Beacon*time>45000 THEN 1040
1030 RETURN
1040 Send*Callsign
1050 Beacon*time=0
1060 RETURN
1200 FOR X=1 TO delay
1210 GOSUB 900
1220 NEXT X
1230 RETURN
```

The last few months have been pretty busy on both the maintenance and constructional front for GB3WR and GB3UB. GB3VS is also a little overdue for a transmitter R.F. power amplifier overhaul.

Anyway lets get down to the update on WR which is now running on the latest Mendip Logic with full battery standby. During the summer ('84) WR suffered a slow transmitter power amplifier "Death", the RF power output sagging to 4 watts. This was rather suspicious since the p.a. device runs at 25 watts R.F. output power and is rated for 40 watts output. Furthermore the heatsinking is more than adequate for the transmitter to run continuously (24 hr) at a room temperature of 50°C (or even during the most heated and controversial QSO's) It transpired that the 24 Volt regulator had gone short circuit and overrun the p.a. at 35 volts. Replacement of the driver, p.a. and regulator devices got the transmitter back in business during which time WR's standby transmitter was given an airing.

The new logic tray, complete with the battery switching, sensing and control circuitry, was installed at the same time as the transmitter was swapped. One or two teething troubles caused a little head scratching, but there is nothing better than putting equipment in its working environment to suss out any bugs that never show up on the work bench. Anyway all seems to have settled down now, although during the week of the 15th October (the weekend of the "lift") the WR's R.F. output power began to drop - can you blame it! This turned out to be a supply electrolytic providing the main smoothing which began to leak in both senses of the word. The good old oscilloscope soon showed that up which was just as well since the audio on the standby transmitter gave up the following morning which meant swapping the transmitters yet again!

I should point out that both transmitters are really of equal status and are both regarded as main rather than standby units.

As mentioned early on, battery standby is fully installed offering up to five hours continuous operation and considerably more with considerate operating. Battery operation is indicated by the change in pitch of the second pip-tone, the first being at the normal 2200 Hz and the second at 2000 Hz. Occasionally the battery will be given a couple of hours operation just to let it know what its there for and so that it does not prove lazy at a crucial moment!

The Original logic tray is in the process of being updated to full Mendip Logic condition with the battery sensing and switching circuits and should be ready for immediate installation. Needless to say, all standby audio and microprocessor logic cards are available to cover all existing Mendip group repeaters, but the separate spare tray will be useful since it provides a test jig for any bench modifications

As far as the Mendip site is concerned, the interference levels within the building as well as on the mast are steadily increasing with the ever increasing number of Users. Some improved filtering on the receiver and transmitter feeds from the cavity filters seems highly desirable since since this sort of situation rarely improves. Some R.F. levels found to be radiating from the equipment racking is questionably high and the inevitable intermodulation products are readily observable on a spectrum analyzer with a "sniffer" probe.

For reference, here are the transmitter and receiver specifications of WR:-

RX sensitivity - squelch threshold 0.07uV p.d.  
" " for 12dB SINAD 0.1uV p.d. - (edge of smooth quieting)

R.F. stage (single) device = BF981  
Mixer stage device = 3N203  
Overdeviation switch - set to trip at  $\pm 6.5$ KHz peak deviation  
Frequency stability - 145.000MHz  $\pm 200$ Hz  
Receiver I.F. Bandwidth -  $\pm 7.5$ .KHz -6dB

TX R.F. Power Output 25 Watts (50  $\Omega$ )  
Driver stage device 2N5641  
p.a. stage device 2N5643

Modulation Maximum peak deviation  $\pm 5$ KHz ( $\pm 3$ KHz peak deviation input produces  $\pm 3$ KHz peak deviation output).  
Frequency response 300-3000 Hz  $\pm 1$ dB relative to 1KHz referred to a 6dB/octave pre-emphasis slope.

Frequency stability 145.600MHz  $\pm 200$ Hz

#### WR ACCESS AND LOGIC INFORMATION

1750 Hz tone receiver specification:-

Commutating filter crystal controlled and phase locks to incoming access tone.  
Centre frequency 1750.0 Hz  
Bandwidth (B.W.)  $\pm 60$  Hz



WR ACCESS & LOGIC INFORMATION (cont)

Tone suppression  $\geq$  - 45dB for the  $\pm$  60 Hz B.W.  
 Minimum peak deviation of tone to activate  $\pm$  1KHz peak deviation for the  $\pm$  60 Hz B.W.  
 Recommended deviation of tone  $\pm$  3KHz peak deviation  
 Minimum recommended tone duration 200ms

Speech requirements:-

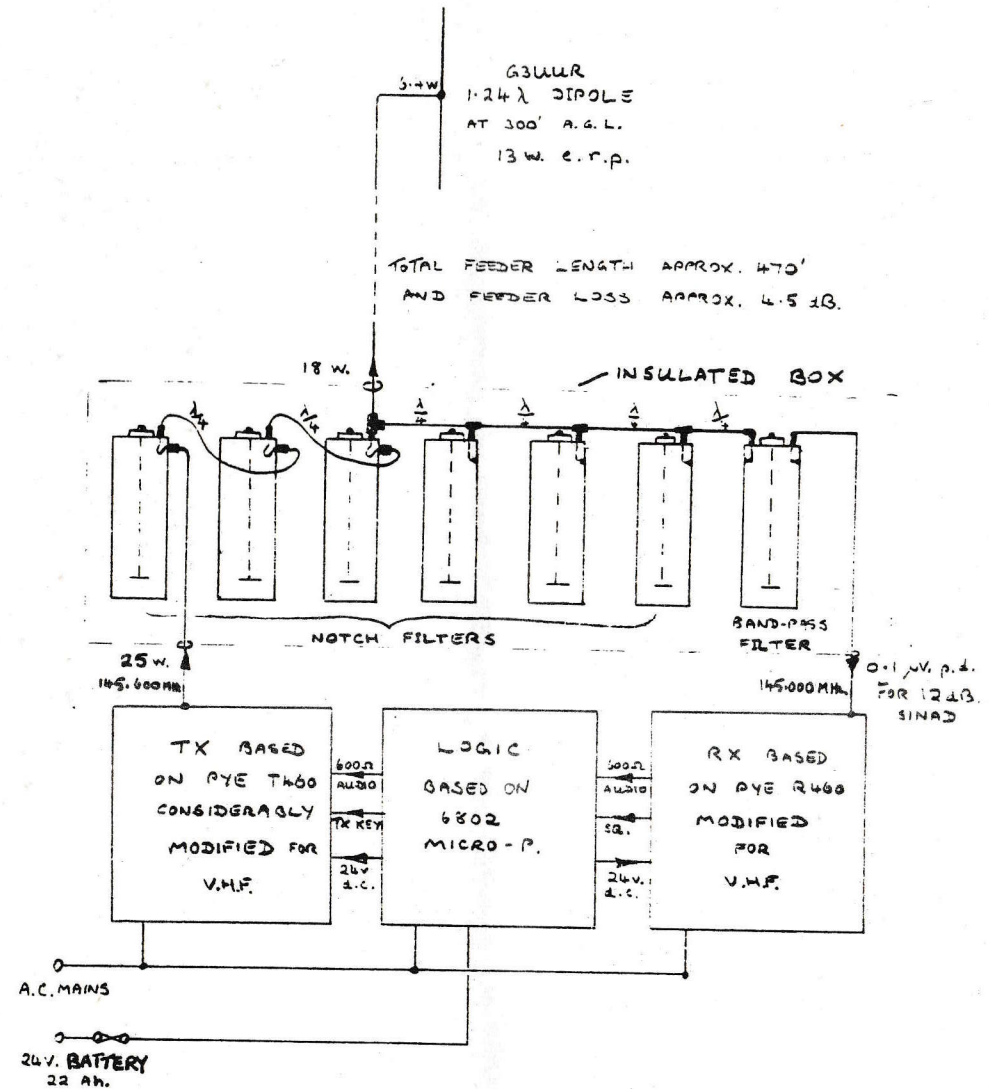
2 seconds of continuous audio (preferably your callsign) exceeding  $\pm$  2.5KHz peak deviation, i.e. 3 to 4 seconds when speaking normally!

Recommended peak deviation  $\pm$  5KHz (for those wanting to use a sociable bandwidth).

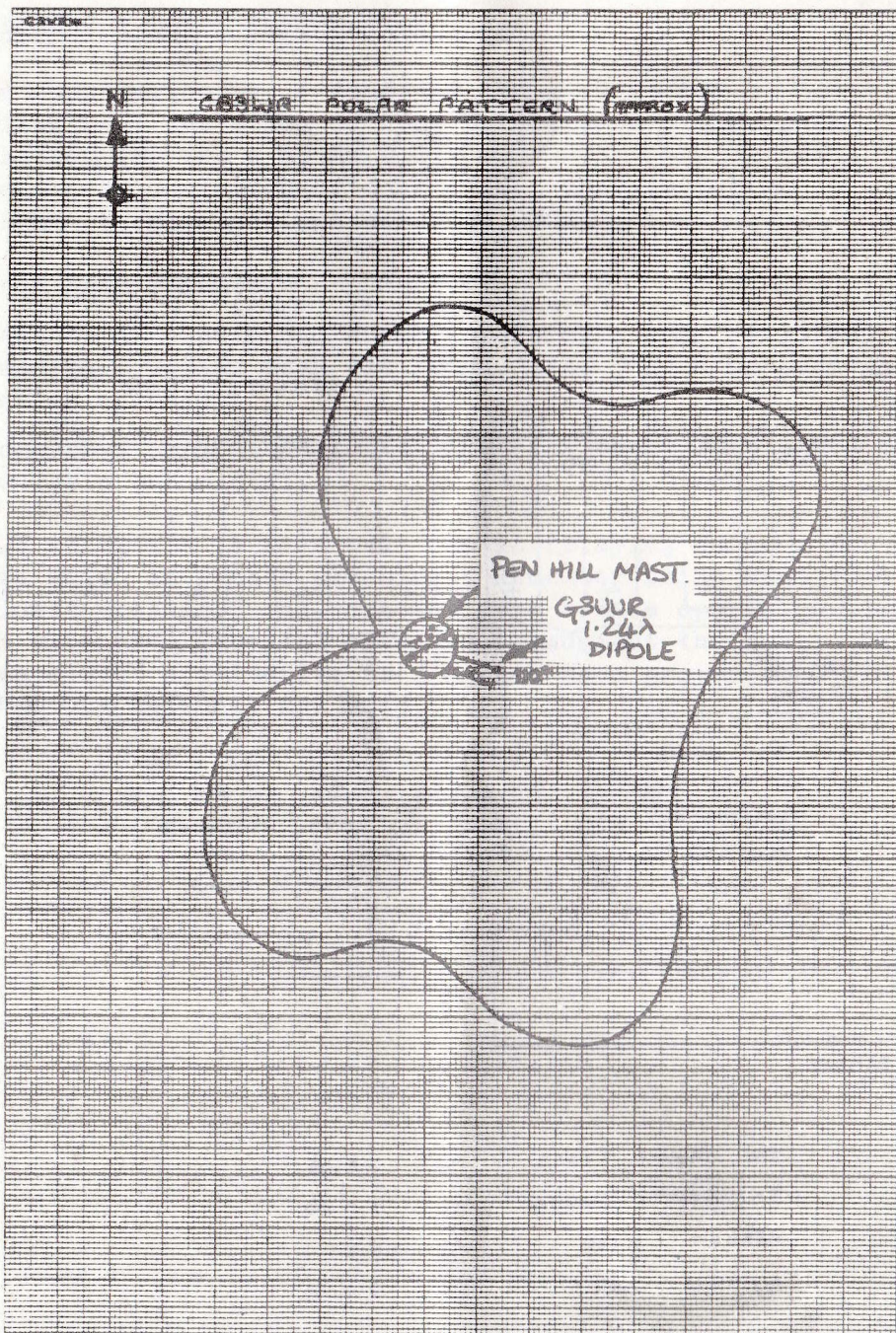
GB3UB continues to work well and is relaying quite a few new users which is rather pleasing. Remember folks that 70cm is a "lower pressure" and somewhat more sedate operation band with extensive repeater coverage throughout the U.K. It offers an excellent alternative to 2 metres when proven 70cm fixed and mobile antennas are used.

73's  
 Chris Morcom, G3VEH

THE GB3WA REPEATER BLOCK SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM.



TX CAVITY LOSS	≈	1.5 dB.
RX CAVITY LOSS	≈	2.0 dB.
FEEDEER LOSS	≈	4.5 dB.
ANTENNA GAIN	≈	3.0 dB.



\*\* BASICODE UPDATE \*\*

SINCE THE LAST M.R.G. NEWSLETTER THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW CHANGES ON THE BASICODE SCENE. THIS IS A BRIEF UPDATE FOR THOSE OF YOU INTERESTED IN THE SUBJECT.

BEGINNING IN OCTOBER, THE BBC STARTED TRANSMITTING BASICODE PROGRAMMES AGAIN BUT AT A NEW TIME. INSTEAD OF THE RATHER INCONVENIENT HOUR OF 0025 THEY HAVE PICKED THE UNGODLY HOUR OF 0555 ON SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS! IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THIS IS BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE OF SCHOOL AGE ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO GET UP EARLY AT THIS HOUR THEN STAY UP LATE FOR THE ORIGINAL BROADCASTS. WEEKDAYS MAYBE---BUT WEEKENDS?? ANYWAY, IF YOUR MIND BOGGLES AT THE THOUGHT OF RISING AT 5.45 AM TO RECORD A FIVE MINUTE PROGRAMME THEN I'M GLAD IT'S NOT JUST ME! FOR THOSE WITH SUPREME WILLPOWER, PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BASICODE PROGRAMME IS NOW BROADCAST ON RADIO 1 AND NOT RADIO 4 AS PREVIOUSLY..THE SUNDAY PROGRAMME BEING REPEATED THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY.

THE DUTCH N.O.S. "HOBBYSKOOP" PROGRAMMES FROM HILVERSUM HAVE BEEN CARRYING THE BASICODE SOFTWARE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS N.O.S. (NEDERLANDS OVERSEAS SERVICE) WILL ALSO HAVE CHANGED THEIR TRANSMISSION SCHEDULES. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BETTER EUROPEAN COVERAGE, FROM 12TH OCTOBER, THE "HOBBYSKOOP" PROGRAMME WILL BE BROADCAST ON FRIDAYS AT 1910 GMT ON THE NEW FREQUENCY OF 1008KHZ. THIS PARTICULAR SPOT DOES NOT APPEAR TO COINCIDE WITH ANY OF THE NASTIES FROM TV LINE TIMEBASE AND THE SIGNAL CERTAINLY IS STRONGER, WHICH SHOULD MAKE THE RECORDING OF THE SOFTWARE A LITTLE EASIER IN THE SOUTHWEST. THE DUTCH SERVICE ALSO TRANSMITS THE "HOBBYSKOOP" PROGRAMME ON A NUMBER OF SHORT WAVE FREQUENCIES ON THURSDAYS AT VARIOUS DIFFERENT TIMES. DETAILS OF THESE ARE GIVEN IN THE OCTOBER 84 ISSUE OF "ELECTOR". DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS, N.O.S. HAVE NOT ONLY BROADCAST SOME VERY USEFUL BASICODE PROGRAMMES BUT ALSO THE BASICODE TRANSLATION PROGRAMMES FOR MORE DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMPUTERS. THESE HAVE INCLUDED THE ORIC, DRAGON, THE TANDY COLOUR COMPUTER, SHARP 700 SERIES, THE NEW BRAIN MACHINE AND TWO DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS FOR THE SPECTRUM. NO DOUBT, BEFORE LONG, THESE NEW TRANSLATION PROGRAMMES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON CASSETTE FROM HILVERSUM ALONG WITH THE OTHERS ON THEIR CURRENT CASSETTE.

THE R.S.G.B RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY ARE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF USING BASICODE FOR PROGRAMMES OF AMATEUR RADIO INTEREST. IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE USEFUL TO HAVE, SAY, THE MAIDENHEAD QTH LOCATOR PROGRAMME ON A TAPE THAT WOULD LOAD INTO ALL 25 DIFFERENT TYPES OF COMPUTER THAT CAN NOW TAKE BASICODE.