




NEWSLETTER

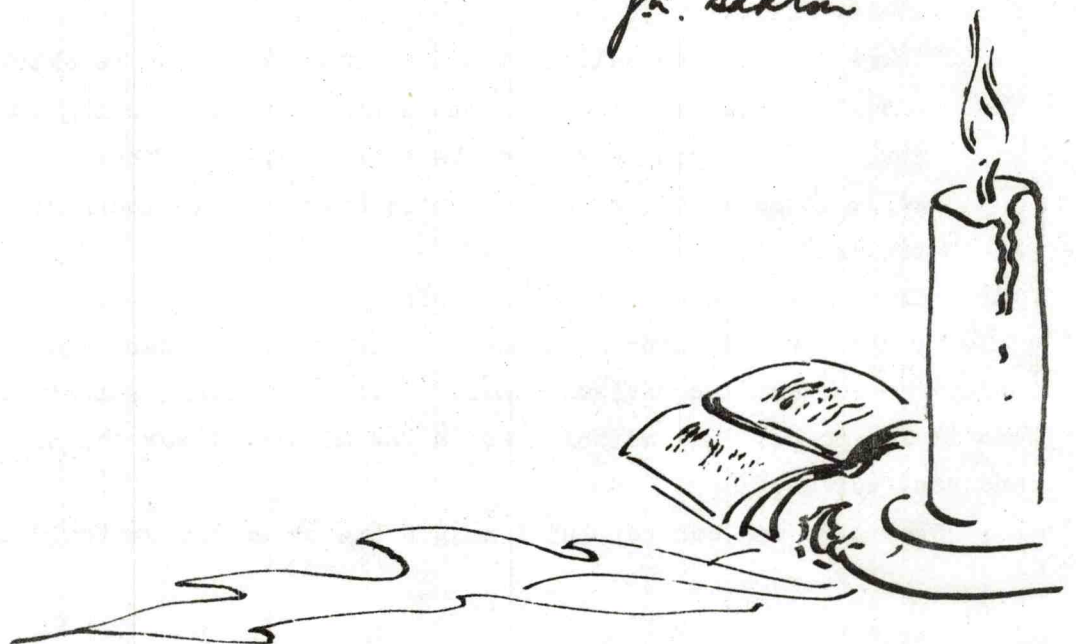
No. 139

December 1972

1972 has been an eventful year for the Station and it has seen major steps taken towards the implementation of the recommendations of the R.S.R.S. Review Panel which were approved by the Council. Early in the year the executive functions and responsibilities of the Space Research Management Unit (SRMU), together with the associated Staff, were transferred from the London Office to RSRS. In addition there has been some further redeployment of Station staff to extend our support of the overall SRC programme of space research: for example RSRS is now heavily involved in both the IUE and UK-5 projects; assistance is also being provided at the Goddard Space Flight Center in the U.S.A. for the University College, London, experiment in OAO-C. In various other ways we are extending our activities in this field and new prospects lie ahead. Our ability to meet these responsibilities will be reinforced in January 1973 following the amalgamation of the Astrophysics Research Unit, Culham, with RSRS in accordance with the decision by Council on this matter in November of this year.

Along with this important and central role which the Station has in support of University space science we are able to maintain healthy research programmes of our own in space science, upper atmospheric and tropospheric physics, millimetre wave propagation and other areas. I am confident therefore that RSRS is well-launched on a total programme which will ensure a good future for the Station and its staff and in that confidence I wish all members of the staff and their families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

J. Saxon



Me? - I'm a member of the C.S.M.A.!

We had only been in the car park at Longleat for short while when I noticed the crowd of interest around a new, shiny-red, Vauxhall Viva on the other side. My curiosity got the better of me when I saw the uniformed A.A. man going round trying the doors, the boot, looking underneath and generally appearing to be inspecting the vehicle. I wandered across. The centre of interest turned out to be the rather peculiar fact that although the car was locked-up completely, the keys were in the ignition and the engine was running. The owner, it transpired, had gone off and left the car like this and someone noticing it had pointed it out to the A.A. man in attendance at the car park and now he was desperately trying to get into the car.

My mind wandered back over the advertising literature I had seen about the new model Viva:

"-- new design extra strong locks, extra long window glasses, cannot be pushed down - virtually thief proof --"

"You'll never get in", I said, sidling knowledgeably up to the A.A. man.

"Don't you worry mate" he said "they haven't made one that's beaten me yet".

With this he disappeared over to his Land Rover, which was parked nearby, shortly to reappear with a miscellany of pieces of stiffish wire and bent metal rods. He started looking round the window frames and was soon manipulating one of the lengths of bent wire.

"See this?" he called across.

I went round and found that he had found a gap between the door-pillars and window frame where he could get in his unlocking device. Very soon it had been wiggled through into the front compartment and the end deftly hooked round the door-handle. Click!

"There you are" he said as the door swung open and he extricated the wire. Then he switched off the ignition and shut the door, locking it.

"Hey!" I said "you've locked the keys in again. What does the owner do now?"

"Well, if he wants to get in, he'll have to join the A.A. won't he?" said the patrol-man.

"Crumbs!" I thought, wandering off.

Twenty minutes later I happened to pass the car park again and there by the shiny-red car was the obvious owner. This time with a uniformed R.A.C. man who was trying to get in. Watching for a few minutes I saw the situation was hopeless and went across.

"The A.A. man can get in" I nudged the owner "He switched the ignition off"

"Where is he?" said the owner "I've been looking for him all over the place"
I nodded towards the Land Rover where the A.A. man was busying himself.
The owner went over, they returned.

"You'll have to join the A.A. you know?" said the patrol man as he deftly
manipulated the wire.

"But, I'm already an A.A. member" said the owner "it's just that I couldn't
find you anywhere ---"

Click! The door swung open again.

"---- the R.A.C. made me pay two pounds to join the R.A.C. before he'd come across!"

John Cathrew

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to:

Derrick Cowcher on his marriage to Ann Caple on 20th November.

Miss Eileen Barnes now C.O.

Mrs. B. Jeremiah now Sen. Machine Operator (P/T)

Welcome to:

D. J. Stanley A.S.O.

Mrs. M. E. M. Staniford C.A. (P/T)

Mrs. M. F. Green Canteen Asst. (P/T)

E. Milner S.O. (ESRO)

Resignations

B. J. Murphy A.S.O.

G. Woodworth S/Skilled Labourer

Other Changes

P. Springate A.S.O. Div. 6 to Div. 3

Mrs. H. O'Grady A.S.O. Div. 3 to Div. 4

SAFETY NEWS

The Deutsche Bundespost has produced a series of safety postage stamps, three
of which are illustrated here.

These draw attention to safety hazards of the type we are all likely to meet
at home or at work:-

- (a) if you are a car driver, always be on the lookout for children playing on
the roadside, especially if they are playing ball games;

- (b) look at those electric fittings. Frayed flexes are dangerous and can cause fires or give shocks. Have these renewed now.
- (c) be careful where you throw discarded matches. Perhaps this message is more pertinent after a long dry summer but smokers have been known to set waste paper bins on fire with carelessly discarded matches. Use the Australian bush walkers' method - break matches in two before you discard them - if they are still alight you will soon know!

Make this Christmas a safe Christmas and you will receive the compliments of the season from members of the RSRs Safety Committee.



L. R. V. Mitchell

THOUGHTS AFTER AN ASTRONOMY LECTURE

It was an autumn evening, the stars were shining bright,
I gazed into the heavens and saw a wondrous sight,
The planets were a gleaming - Milky Way a shining arc,
And then I thought I saw it - I did - I saw a quark.

It came towards me screaming, electrons round its head,
Its boots were highly polished, its little shift was red,
Behind it were the quasars, they came in countless hoards,
all intent on murder with their brightly shining swords.

The hunted quark was frightened, it knew not what to do,
And then it dived towards the earth - it missed or went
right through,
The Quasars were annoyed at this, they felt it was not fair,
For they in turn fell down a mine - to do life sentence there.

The moral of my story is surely plain to see,
Scientific lectures are not for such as me,
I'll stick to art and music, and plays with simple plots,
For Einstein and his theories tie me up in mental knots!

JP

THE ROTHSCHILDREN

"Is your department operating on the customer-contractor principle yet?"
"Well, we've got accustomed to contracting..."

As Others See Us. (Being a Further Anthology of Addresses)

SRX Radio & Ap Res Sta

Radio & Spares Dept. Titton Park

Radio & Spares Research Static

NASA Station Apollo Programme Slough

Special Problems Dept. D.S.I.R. Radio Research Stn.

Ducetz Radio & Space Research Station

RSRS Wilton Park

Science Reserch Council

Radio Sand Space Research Station

Radmin & Space Ltd.

Radwand Space Research Station

Radio & Spare Research Station

Herschel's Radio Telescope, Slough

SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Football Club

Since the start of November, the fortunes of the football club have taken a turn for the better.

Early in November, the team began to show more cohesion and confidence, despite losing to Langley Wanderers. Later in the month, the return of Gary Baldwin and Joe Bains greatly strengthened the attack, enabling us to beat the fourth placed team Cooper Hill Sports Reserves. There followed a tough away fixture with the third placed side Corona Sports which we only lost due to ghastly defensive lapses.

The most exciting game this season was last week's game against sixth placed Jeallot's Hill; R.S.R.S., playing some of their best football were 3-1 up at half time and 5-1 up just after half time. Jeallot's Hill, however, really got back into the game and with some fine goals managed to level the scores at 5-5, but R.S.R.S. pulled themselves together to get another useful two points.

Results 5.11.72 Home to Langley Wanderers Lost 0-3
 26.11.72 Home to Cooper Hill Sports Res. Won 4-3

Scorers. L. Kell (2) G. Baldwin (1) J. Bains (1 Pen.)
 3.12.72 Away at Corona Sports Lost 4-1

Scorers J. Bains (1)

 10.12.72 Home to Jeallot's Hill Won 7-5

Scorers G. Baldwin (2) J. Bains (2) A. Smith (2) plus (1 O.G.)

D. Wright
(Secretary)

Bridge

Three club evenings have been held up to now this season, one being a match to count for the Smith-Rose cup, which was won by the South team. We have also played three matches against outside teams, I.C.I., N.P.L. and R.R.L. but our best result was to lose to R.R.L. by only 17 I.M.P.'s.

On behalf of all Bridge players at R.S.R.S. I would like to express our thanks to Gus and Kitty Gordon-Smith for their major contribution to the success of the club over many years and wish them all the best on his retirement.

A. J. Gibson

Children's Party

A lot of fun was had by all.

Programme of events: Film show, tea, conjurer, games followed by the appearance of Father Christmas and a very lovely Fairy. The expressions on the Children's faces when Father Christmas and the Fairy arrived was well worth all the effort involved.

I should like to thank all those who kindly gave their services, especially Mrs. Horner for her excellent welfare work.

D. Baldwin

The Annual Christmas Dance held on Saturday 9th December went off with what I should imagine were the normal number of incidents for a committee to overcome.

Although it was held one week earlier this year to allow for the childrens' party to be fitted in before Christmas we had one of the largest attendances ever, according to long-standing members, around the 200 mark. We were extremely pleased to welcome this large number but as we had only catered for 150 plus, working from early ticket sales, it is to the catering staff of the committee and Mrs Loudonsack that I extend my thanks. The dining hall was packed, with the dance floor area overcrowded at times, and the barmen were kept fully occupied up to midnight. If the response to the Annual Dance is any indication of what to expect next year we should consider the hiring of a larger hall.

Jeremy Allnutt received an almost total response from the sub-sections to the Smith-Rose competition, and through the use of some considerable mathematical computations of game/competitors weighting arrived at a win for South, which could have been guessed by the fact that they won all but one competition. Dr. Saxton presented the trophy to Gus Gordon-Smith, who was chosen, not by the usual process (i.e. a young filly) but for his many years of hard work in the Sports of R.S.R.S.

The games collected a few pounds for the childrens party; many thanks to those who took part in the fun.

Mrs. Saxton had the all important job of drawing the winning raffle tickets, of which there were many, ranging from 1st prize of a bottle of whisky to many numerous boobies, all collected in party spirit.

Our Official guests, Dr. Saxton, Dr. Horner and Mr. Wilkins accompanied by their respective wives, who each received a bouquet, all mentioned at their time of leaving that they had enjoyed the evening, and asked me to convey their thanks to all the people who were involved, as this thanks goes beyond the committee, may I also add to this the thanks of my wife and myself to everyone who has helped us to make the whole of our Christmas festivities a success.

A Merry Christmas to all members of Staff from the Sports and Social Club we hope to see you at the 'New Years Eve party'.

P. A. Hicks

R.S.R.S. AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Amateur Radio Club has been re-formed, with the original callsign G3RRS re-issued by the MPT. The present membership is about a dozen of whom half hold licences.

We are fortunate enough to have Hut 20 as a radio 'shack' where a fully operational radio station and a small constructional area is housed.

Most of the present equipment has been loaned by members although it is hoped to build some equipment for the club's permanent use.

The Club has already taken part in two world-wide amateur radio contests and a very high score has resulted in each. There is a good possibility of being among the top British entrants, but because of the large number of entries, the results of these contests are not available until October next year!

New members are always welcome regardless of their knowledge of amateur radio. We expect to be able to organize sessions to help members through the examination required to hold an amateur licence.

Thanks to a small grant from the Sports and Social Club Committee, we have been able to pay our licence costs, RSGB affiliation fee, and install maps and curtains in Hut 20.

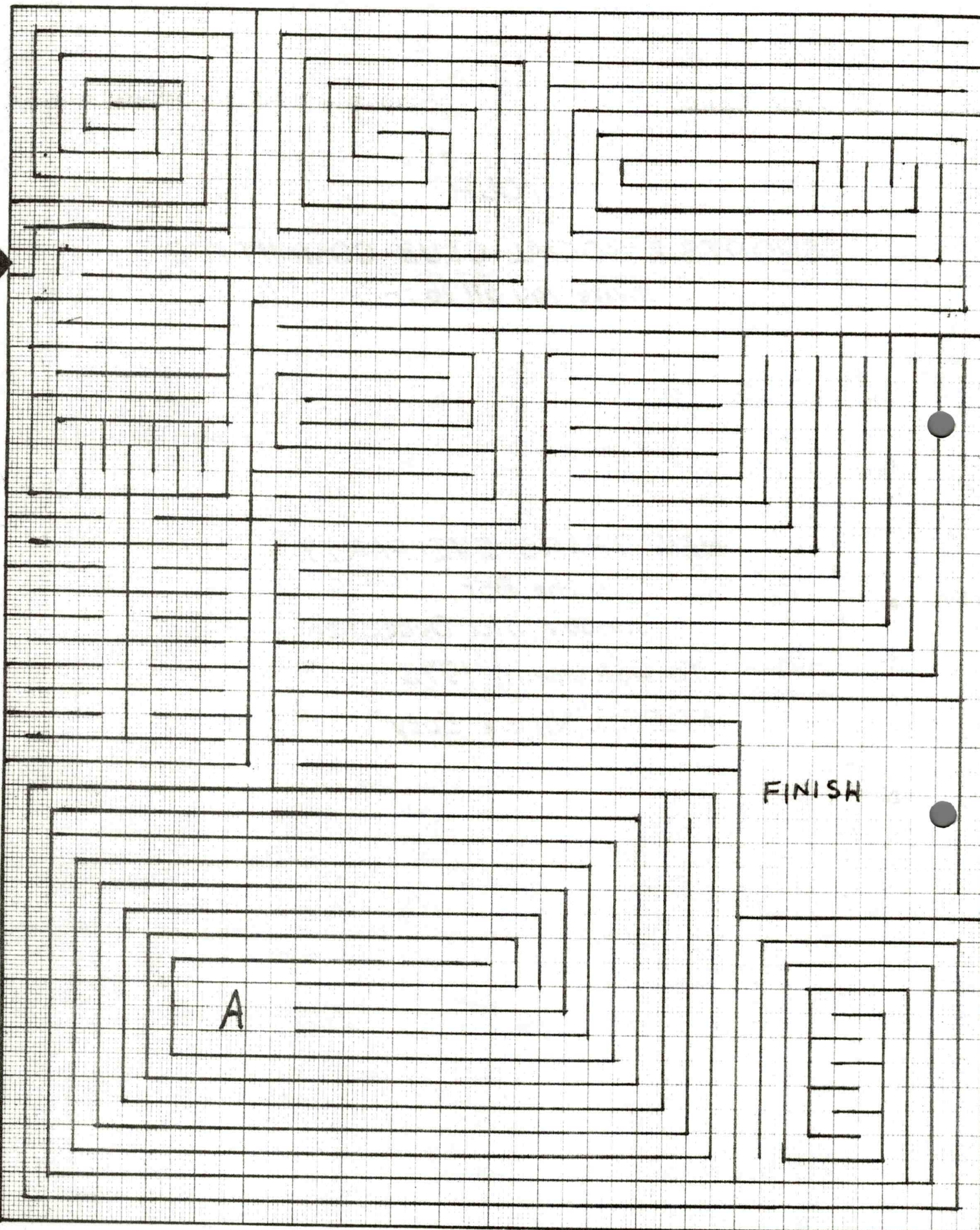
Contacts throughout Britain are established most weekdays - many are with University club stations and amateur stations in establishments similar to our own. Contact with the Falklands Islands has been made once also!

Further information is available through L. Mitchell G3BHK (Office Services) or D. R. Vizard G3UKS (Hut 5).

D. Vizard
Chairman

YOUR
SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB COMMITTEE
invite you all to :-

"NEW YEARS EVE PARTY"
In the Bar
Sunday 31st December
To welcome in 1973
FREE, & "Nice & Easy"



ONE DIRECT ROUTE ONE VIA "A"

LETTER TO THE OUTSTATIONS

Dear Colleagues

Trench digging has been the order of the day in one area of RSRS recently. Speculation as to the purpose of these muddy troughs has been rife. A new office-to-office communication channel; some form of megaweevil; an escape plot, or as usual, THE DRAINS again? All these possibilities figured in the Station's short-list of fantasies, until yesterday, which was the day after a rainy day.

Standing water was still standing about everywhere, not least in the vehicle yard, the centre of which had become a sizeable, if shallow, lake. This region became the background to a mystery brought to editorial attention by an observant friend. The middle of the lake was not smooth and untroubled, for there protruded therefrom some foot or so of broomhandle surmounted by a large red broomhead all bristling to the sky. The wreck of a ship from the Dutch Wars? it seemed unlikely; 'Excalibroom' said my friend and all seemed blindingly obvious. All that digging was yet another archaeological shot at the Arthurian legend, and to judge from this manifestation, not far from the mark.

All right - so it's not a sword; legends are often shaky on detail; I dare say Malory or some earlier chronicler botched the translation or thought brooms a bit plebeian for the Once and Future King. Those proverbs about new brooms etc., they were codes of action for an insurgent peasantry, never a doubt of it. All it now needs is the unearthing of the odd mediterranean artifact, an amphora or two, a celtic hat, a pull out picture of Guenevere and we're away.

The broom? well we don't actually have that. After an hour or two it was found to have vanished after, one hopes, suitable significant flourishes. What was it all about, some luckless Works type not waving - drowning? Let's hope not; it's much more seasonable to suppose it a gesture from the past sending Christmas Greetings and Good New Year wishes to all, as does

Yours sincerely

The Editor

List of Reprints - December 1972

D. A. Bryant
G. M. Courtier
and G. Bennett

Electron Intensities over Auroral Arcs.
Proc. Symposium ESRO Summer School 1971
D. Reidel Pub. Company 141-146 1972.

D. M. Willis and
R. J. Pratt

A quantitative model of the geomagnetic tail.
JATP. 1972. Vol. 34 1955-1976

INTERNAL MEMORANDA

NIL