

Port Elizabeth Branch of the
South African Radio League

## P.O.Box 462, Port Elizabeth. 6000.

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BRANCH WILL BE HELD AT THE Y.M.C.A., HAVELOCK STREET, PORT EIIZABETH ON FRIDAY 15 th JANUARY, 1982 AT 8p.m. PLEASE TRY TO BE THERE - WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS, PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR JANUARY WILL BE HELD AT THE Y.M.C.A., HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THE GENERAL MEETING.


CONGRATULATIONS: To the following who have been successful in passing the November PMG Exam, and are awaiting their callsigns:
Marlene Ashwell XYL of Colin ZS2AO, Clive Fife, Christopher Scarr son of Trevor ZS2AE, and Attie Barnard who is already ZR2DY.
Also to OM Peet van Heerden of Nieeuw Bethesda who has passed his Morse test and is now ZS2BX.
To OM Percy Buckley ZS2RM who came 7 th in the S.A.R.L. CW contest.
To Marge ZS 20 B who came 5 th In the Phone contest, and second overall in the combined phone and CW results.
To Colin ZS2AO on getting going on SSTV with a new fast-to-slow scan converter and camera. Colin is pretty active on the bands now. To Marge ZS20B who became a Granny on the 30th Dec. (Makes me feel old-2AB) To Sam ZS2SI whose daughter will be marrying this month.

VISITORS: To the area recently have included Sel ZS2SS and Alan ZS6BTI and his XYL Nadine. We hope that your respective visits were enjoyable, and sorry about the weather. OM Grobbie ZS6DI was also in town and visited Frank ZS2CY. Numerous other out-of-town stations were heard on VHF at various times over the holiday season.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS: To Colin Tebbutt ZS2CT who was chosen top student of the year at Cape Town University. Well done Colin.

## REMINDER OF BRANCH TROPHIES AVAILABLE.

Dont forget that the Home Constructors trophy and the DX Trophy as well as the VHF Trophy will be presented, to those selected by the committee, at the Branch AGM in September. Keep at it if you want a crack at winning one of them.

BULLETIN ROSTER.


| 24th January | Dick ZS2RS | 322111 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 31st January | Brian ZS2AB | 303498 |
| 7th February | Marge ZS20B | 303498 |
| 14th February | Frank ZS2CY | 511259 |
| 21st February | Colin ZS2AO | 312471. |

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE let us know what you have been doing. Only in this way can we produce a bulletin worth transmitting.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH OF THE SOU1. AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE, HELD AT THE Y.M.C.A. ON 2OTH NOVEMBER, 1981.

PRESENT: 18 members and visitors.
APOLOGIES:Clive Fife, ZS2AE, ZS2TJ, ZS2RB, ZS2CZ, ZS2EA.
The Chairman extended a special welcome to Sam Hewitt GI4MDO and his son and also to Norman ZS2RI and his fiancee Cheryl and to Mike Poulter.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the October meeting, having been published and circulated in $Q S X-P E$, were taken as read, proposed by Fred ZR2DQ and seconded by Colin ZS2AO.

ARISING:
FINANCES: The Treasurer reported that money for the raffle tickets was still coming in.
CORRES: -
GENERAL: The Chairman said that he was at a loss to explain the nonappearance of John Herbst the guest speaker. He had given a firm undertaking to attend the meeting, but was not able to be contacted.
It was announced that Vi $Z S 2 B R$ and Buck $2 S 2 R M$ had both recently undergone cataract operations and were out of hospital. They were wished a speedy recovery.
Peter ZS2PS was congratulated on his appointment as Treasurer for SAAMSAT and he gave a short description of the Conference held in Cape Town. The conference was due to be held in Port Elizabeth in 1983.
Sam Hewitt GI4DMO and John St. Clair ZS2JR arrived at this stage and Sam
was introduced to the members.
The Chairman said that all systems were go for the trip to the Ciskei for the Independence station operations and a tentative call sign of S42C had been allocated. There had been a fair response to the trip and 8 members - 7 fully licenced - were going. Everything, including rigs, a 5 element beam and shack facailties had been arranged. The raffle tickets were selling fairly well but members must make an all-out effort to get rid of as many as possible. With regard to the travelling supper, it was necessary for the Secretary to know who would be attending so that catering could be arranged.
The Jamboree-of-the-Air had gone off well, with three stations participating and thanks to all those who had operated. The Chairman said there was a tremendous improvement in QSX. A new typewriter had been bought as the printer had been experiencing difficulties with the old print. Brian ZS2AB was thanked for his effort in buying the typewriter and the edition of QSX.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed and tea was taken. Thereafter, John St. Clair gave a talk and demonstration on Lasers. This was most interesting and appreciated by members.
sgd:
R.W. Schönborn ZS2RS

Chairman
sgd:
M.T. Weller ZS20B

Secretary

The idea began with Dick ZS2RS who had always cherished the thought of going on a DXpedition - (Dick has probably read too many CQ and 73 magazines) and Peter ZS2PS had also given the matter some thought, but had not done too much about it. Dick spoke to Mike ZS2MJ and June ZSZJJ and with the good co-operation of Mike's saltmine, Fort Hare Jniversity, a very FB venue was organised and the DXpedition was on!! ZS2TT ex S83T, Len de Klerk provided a callsign, changed at the last minute to 542 A from 542 C because of a possible conflict with the East London Branch station S42CIC.
After the inevitable shuffling around of operators, the final tally of those who trekked to Ciskei on Friday 4 th was Dick ZS2RS, Lionel ZS2DD, Fred ZR2DQ, in Dicks mobile with trailer, and Brian ZS2AB, Marge ZS2OB and Peter ZS2PS who travelled up in Brians mobile, the latter party leaving later than Dick and co., with an extra 45 mins delay due to Feter neglecting to load the TS180S when picked up by Brian -- Murphy No.1! (Never mind, Peter, I guess the excitement was too much - 2AB).
On arrival in Fort Beaufort at Mike and Junes' QTH, Brian and Marge decided to freshen up and Peter pushed on to Alice and the campus to find the site, and arrived just in time to notice the end of the antennaerecting party. The site made available was absolutely tremendous, being a room with full toilet facilities en suite, and plenty of real estate available ( 5 -band Rhombics next time Mike?). Braai facilities were also there and plenty of straw bales for which a use was found later.
The station was all Kenwood with 3 HF rigs and 2 Two-metre rigs being set up. The rigs were:-TS830S + VF0230, TS180S + AT180, TS130S and two TR9000 2 m rigs +MM 100 watt linear. For HF there was a TH5DX + Ham 4 rotator, and a $20 / 40 \mathrm{~m}$ dipole; and for VHF --- NOTHING. (Murphy No.2). Dick thought Peter and Peter thought Dick was bringing the 2 m antenna, so, instead of two 2 m antennas, there wasn't one -- end of story for Oscar and local chats on VHF.
The rigs were all set up and Dick fired off with the TS830S working W2NQ/7 on 20 m . Peter doing the same with the TS 180 S in the opposite direction and working VK6NS on 20 m and FC6FPH on 15 m . Murphy No. 3 proceeded to put in his appearance when the dipole was found to be desensing the beam - by this time it was dark and we had to resign ourselves to only operating one rig until something could be done in the morning. At this point, Brian, Marge, Mike and June arrived with delicious pies and other things to eat and operation ceased with not too many pileups yet being encountered.
Peter had arranged with Snooky KA1DE for a list of 100 North American stations to be ready at 18302 on 15 m and depending how things went, a further 100 would be worked. Contact was duly established and the merry business of working a list was begun and the QSO's were being run off at two to the minute. Halfway through the second list Dick took over while Peter had a rest. Fred was busying himself providing coffee as and when required by whoever was operating, and there was a lot of over-the-shoulder-looking as well. Dick finished off the list and started on the pileup that had been waiting all the time until 15 m closed and Dick then QSY'd to 20 m where the pileup became 15 KHz wide at times and Dick had to resort to working split-frequency and using Lionel and Fred as spotters. Even so, due to the size of the pileup it was taking 3 to 4 minutes per QSO just to sort out a callsign. Murphy No. 4 had appeared when thousands (no exaggeration) of tiny (S1) insects with an S9 bite decided that the lights of the shack meant food (human) and proceeded to invade and devour the occupants. There wasn't any Doom in sight!!).

Meanwhile, Brian, Marge and June had returned to Fort Beaufort and Peter a Mike had camped out in the beautiful weather on the good patch of lawn just outside the shack and were having 40 winks.
Came the dawn and Dick and his two spotters had a rest while June and co. arrived with bacon and eggs which was quickly cooked up while Peter started on the JAs who were piling up on 15 m longpath. Dick got onto 40 m for local chats on the TS1 30 but conditions were poor and this was left alone for a while and all the dead insects were carted away. All was quiet for a while with the odd contact being made while the bands were just about flat. $S 4$ contacted S8WCC at the special station for the opening of the Wild Coast Casino and at about lunch time 10 m was open to Europe and another colossal pileup ensued. Murphy No. 5 appeared in the shape of a power failure which shut down the operation for close on 2 hours. Everybody gnashed teeth especially Dick, who had had a 10 m stateside sked which was missed because of the power failure. Once the power came on, things were once again humming (Not the least of them being Dicks power supply - 2AB)with 10 m and 15 m operations into Europe and Stateside.
During the day the $40 / 20 \mathrm{~m}$ dipole had been moved and the desense problem was largely cured so we could operate on two rigs again. While operators were drifting in and out of the shack during the day when conditions were quiet, some (nameless) discovered that the straw bales resembled mattresses and soon musical and not-so-musical tones were heard. These were of all varieties and at times were in tune with each other. However most of the time they were definitely NOT in tune. No judgement will be made as to who is the best/worst snorer as he/she has probably been made aware of his/her talents by a long-suffering spouse.
Brian and Marge had now begun a spot of serious operating on 15 and 20 m and the braai fires had been got going. The girls had been shopping during the day and organised goodies for the braai and this was very well prepared and appreciated, as well as the birthday cake for Lionel who had a birthday over the weekend. June had baked a super cake with "Happy Birthday ZS2DD" suitably inscribed on it as a surprise for Lionel. 15 m conditions stayed good for a while and then the band closed and a QSY was made to 20 m but the band was so full that it was difficult to get in sideways. Fred was still making coffee.
Snoring was once again coming from outside the shack and Peter went to get some rest while Lionel went down to 20 m CW and proceeded to rattle off about 5 hours of CW operating. Here the pileup was even more intense, but Lionel enjoyed it.
On Sunday morning a break was made from DX for the bulletin and nets, and of course the very good and welcome breakfast from June and Marge. Back into the DX for a while, mainly JA on 15 m and VE on 20 m . Peter handled the JA's again while Mike had a sked with his friends in VE and worked quite a few VE stations during his spell of operating. At 1000 Z it was decided to start dismantling the station and all pitched in with this. The beam and dipole were successfully and safely lowered and all the rigs packed up and eventually we had to make our way back to P. $\begin{gathered}\text {. after a }\end{gathered}$ tremendous weekend.
Thanks go to all who assisted:-
The Rector, Fort Hare University for the QTH, Mike and June for their hospitality and the Alice side of things, June and Marge for the feeding of the inner man, Dick for organising, The operators for operating,
Fred for the coffee and bringing his friend Murphy along.
Brian for providing much of the transport for the grub.

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It was agreed that the venture is definitely worth repeating and should the venue be available again, we would like to make another trip sometime in 1982. We would go about it slightly differently, having learnt a lot this trip. The final total was 1000 QSOs in 42 hours with about 50 countries worked.
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The main bedroom, note sleeping bags on lawn.

"Dead Fred" (ZR2DQ) takes a break

H.F. Beam with $20 / 40$ dipole in foreground.


Lionel ZS2DD inspects his birthday cake baked by June ZS2JJ


Brian ZS2AB pours the other RF.
Lionel looks on in awe.

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