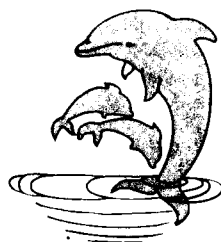




# Q S X P E



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE  
PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH OF THE SOUTH  
AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE.**

**P.O. BOX 10402  
LINTON GRANGE  
6015**

**11/88**

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH.  
NOTICE OF MONTHLY MEETING.

Members are reminded that the General Meeting of the Branch will be held on Friday 18th November, 1988 at St. Martins Church Hall Kabega Park at 8.15p.m. This is the last meeting for 1988.

COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN	Marge Weller	ZS2OB	30-4597
VICE CHAIRMAN	Brian Weller	ZS2AB	30-3498
SECRETARY	Owen Wheeler	ZS2HZ	38-1310
TREASURER	Colin Robertson	ZS2CTR	30-0570
SPECIAL/SOCIAL	Beavan Gwilt	ZS2RL and	30-6968
EVENTS	Dick Schonborn	ZS2RS	2-1356
AWARDS	Bill Hodges	ZR2AAN	51-2580
EDITOR QSX-PE	Marge Weller	ZS2OB	30-4597
MEMBER	Lynne Crothall	ZS2MM	35-4671
REPEATER WORKING			
GROUP - CHAIRMAN	Trevor Scarr	ZS2AE	32-1746
LIBRARIAN	Colin Ashwell	ZS2AO	31-2471

BULLETIN ROSTER.

DATE.	COMPILER.	40m NET.	2m NET.
20 November	Owen ZS2HZ	ZS2HZ	ZR2AAN
27 November	Colin ZS2CTR	ZS2RL	ZS2CTR
4 December	Bill ZR2AAN	ZS2DD	ZR2AAN
11 December	Dick ZS2RS	ZS2RS	ZS2AB
18 December	Beavan ZS2RL	ZS2RL	ZS2MM

**Sunday Bulletin Information**

PRIMARY FREQUENCIES FOR BULLETINS AT APPROXIMATELY 08:40  
H.F. 7098 KHz IN 40 METRE BAND  
V.H.F. 145.650 MHz VIA TOWN REPEATER

**BRANCH V.H.F. SERVICES PROVIDED**

TOWN REPEATER (P.E. CENTRAL)	145,050 / 145,650 MHz
GRAHAMSTOWN REPEATER	145,150 / 145,750 MHz
LADY'S SLIPPER REPEATER	145,100 / 145,700 MHz
COCKSCOMB REPEATER	145,000 / 145,600 MHz
R.T.T.Y. BULLETIN BOARD	145,150 / 145,750 MHz
BEACON (C.W. ID ZS2PE)	144,910 MHz

\*\*\*\*WE LIKE BEING YOUR BRANCH \*\*\*\*

# THIS AND THAT

**WEFAX PROJECT DEMONSTRATION:** There will be a live demonstration of the Wefax Project at the next general meeting. A temporary relay of the Wefax signal onto 2 metres has been set up, and the system will be run live in colour and monochrome for the benefit of those who are interested. There has been a lot of interest from non-members, and if you know anyone who has shown interest in the project, please invite them to the meeting. Forms will be available for those wishing to order the system, and kits, etc. will be supplied as soon as the majority of the orders have been received.

**WELCOME:** We extend a hearty welcome to Bob Urquhart of St. Francis Bay and wish you a long and happy association with the Branch and the League, Bob. Good luck with your study.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** to Colin Robertson ex ZR2DU who now can be heard using the call ZS2CTR, and has made inroads into the required 200 qsos, and also to Toff Scarr, ex ZR2EY, junior op of Trevor ZS2AE, who recently passed the Morse test and has received the call of ZS2AAW. Toff is now stationed in Bloemfontein, and we hope to hear to you the HF bands soon, Toff.

**THANKS:** to all those who helped in any way with the Field Day recently, to those who organised, operated, lent tents and caravans, equipment or just came along for the social get-together. Also a special thanks to Julian for the use of his property.

**FOR SALE:** the Branch was donated several beautiful Morse keys which Allan ZS2AJ spent considerable time repairing and cleaning and these will be available at the next Branch meeting for sale. You could even use them just as a paper-weight if you have got beyond cw!

**WANTED:** A request has been received from Dick Henderson at Rhodes University for two EL 34 valves. These are probably fairly rare, but if you happen to have them in your "junk box" please phone Marge on 304597. Some of you may remember Dick Henderson as our host on our trip to the Decca Navigation Station at Addo last year.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH  
OF THE S.A.R.L. HELD 21ST OCTOBER 1988 AT ST. MARTINS HALL,  
PORT ELIZABETH.

PRESENT: 22 members and visitors.

APOLOGIES: ZS2s LW, JS, BK, RS, MG and ZR2AAQ.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, especially Mike ZS2FM. Garth ZS2HB, Barry ZS2DT and Donald ZR2AAM.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting having been printed and circulated in QSX-PE were taken as read, proposed by Beavan ZS2RL and seconded by Clive ZS2RT.

ARISING: Nil.

FINANCE: Colin ZS2CTR presented a report on the state of the Branch finances. The Special Savings stood at R0842,77, the Fixed Deposit at R1500, and an amount of R3075 had been paid to Headquarters for share of subs.

ARISING: The Rally licence had been paid, as we had finally received notice thereof.

CORRES: (1) A letter regarding a Group Insurance Scheme which had been arranged by Johannesburg Branch for members to insure their radio equipment. This scheme is underwritten by Hollard Insurance Company and the rates were discussed among members.

(2) The rules for the 1988 Field Day contest had arrived from HQ, the date being the weekend 12-13 November.

GENERAL: The Chairman, Marge ZS2DB, asked Trevor ZS2AE about the position of the VHF repeaters. Trevor replied that the Lady's Slipper repeater was still off the air due to the receive antenna having been blown off. The Cockscomb repeater is working well and quite a few people have been heard working through it.

Trevor commented that the Lady's Slipper tower must be taken down in the near future to inspect the interior for rust. Lynne ZS2MM asked if the Escarpment Mountain repeater licence had been renewed. Marge replied that she did not think anything had been heard from Headquarters.

Marge thanked all those who had helped with JOTA, especially Lionel ZS2DD and Trevor ZS2AE who had made such a fine job of overhauling the Branch's beam. The JOTA weekend went off very well, and all the awards were accomplished. Thanks for the help were received from Tiny Packwood.

#### Nominations for Awards.

Council would like to receive nominations for several awards including the following:

- (1) Bert Buckley Award for Progress on 6 metres.
- (2) Arthur Hemsley Award for 2 metre operating efficiency.
- (3) Radio Amateur of the Year Award.

The operators of ZS2PE during the recent contest were congratulated for coming 14th in the Phone Section.

#### Motions for the 1989 Annual General Meeting.

Marge asked if anyone would like to table a motion for the next AGM as these must be submitted to HQ before the end of November. There were none.

#### Social.

Beavan ZS2RL said that the Branch will be having a Social Get-together at Windomayne Park Tea Gardens on Sunday 27th November. Cost is R8.50 per person, incl. children under 10, half-price. The last date to pay Beavan will be the next general meeting of the Branch.

#### Six Metre Simplex Repeater Proposal.

Owen ZS2HZ proposed that the Branch purchase a 6 metre transceiver available for R300, and install this in conjunction with the Lady's Slipper repeater so that those on 2m can have the chance to work 6m with some very interesting possibilities in the near future. After some debating on the technical feasibilities, etc., amongst members, it was taken to a vote and all agreed to go ahead and purchase the equipment, and Owen to work together with the VHF Working Group to install said equipment.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed and tea was taken, followed by a video on minimising the blast effect of terrorist bombs.

sgd: M.T. Weller ZS2OB  
Chairman

O.T. Wheeler ZS2HZ  
Secretary

## BRANCH SOCIAL - SUNDAY LUNCH - 27TH NOVEMBER.

It is almost time for Christmas gifts again, and if you have been wondering about how best to introduce a new rig or some other vital piece of equipment into your shack, then this is your heaven-sent opportunity to soften up your better-half. How? Read on, McDuff!

On Sunday 27th November, the Branch will enjoy Sunday Lunch at the Wyndomayne Park Tea Gardens. Go on, be a softie and give the XYL a break and treat her (and yourself!) to a FB Sunday lunch. (Still want that rig?) The good news is that it is only R8.50 inclusive per person (children under 10 are half-price - not the children, that is, but the meal for them) for which paltry sum you get a tummy-full of excellent grub.

The menu is as follows: fresh fruit juice, soup plus rolls, choice of two roasts, 2 green vegs, 1 red veg, rice, roast potatoes, salad bar, sweets trolley, cheese and biscuits. Go on, be a devil - put your diet aside for one day! If you are still hungry after all that, then you may have seconds.

IMPORTANT. Because of the popularity of the venue, our exact numbers have to be confirmed at least one week ahead, which means the day of the general Branch meeting on Friday 18th November. If you say you are coming and don't pitch up, you will still be liable for the price of the confirmed reservations.

Therefore, BIG PLEASE, let Beavan ZS2RL know as soon as possible of your intention to attend, and let him have your money by the next general meeting on the 18th November at the latest. The alternative is - hunger and no rig for Christmas!

How to get there? Old Cape Road to Greenbushes, turn left onto Seaview Road. About 100 meters after the Seaview Road crosses the N2, turn left onto Wyndomayne road. Look for the double storey house from whence good smells emanate and many cars with many antennae parked outside.

Time? Around noon. Exact times will be announced later on bulletins and at next meeting.

BCNU.

AMATEUR INGENUITY - by E.H. Marriner W6BLZ.

Have we lost our ingenuity or is it still there? One thing about Old Time Radio Amateurs was that they had ingenuity. The Old Timer was noted for his fame in doing things in an inventive manner. For instance, he sawed a slot across the base of a 210 tube to keep the R.F. from arcing between the pins, ran a tube inverted in a jar of oil to get more power out of it, or used a piece of paper rubbed with carbon for a grid leak resistor.

If the Old Timer wanted a crystal, he got out the hack saw and cut off a piece of Brazilian quartz and ground it down into a usable crystal. Crystal holders might take any form; one popular idea was to polish off the back of an earphone case, and screw it to a board, lay the crystal on the surface, and put a polished penny on top of it with a wire attached. Tank coils for the transmitter were made out of a length of copper tubing obtained from the gas line of a car in the junk yard. When he demanded a panel, it was a piece of hard masonite sprayed with a form of crackle paint. If a metal panel was needed it meant another trip to the junk yard for a piece of automobile hood that had to be pounded out flat with a mallet because sheets of aluminium were not available.

Construction of radio equipment was generally done on a board, sometimes waxed and polished or it might be just any old board. There were no chassis in those days until some bright lad took a cardboard candy box and covered it with tin foil. Out of this invention came the metal chassis, first of steel, then of aluminium.

From this invention he found body capacity could be eliminated by sitting on a piece of metal and attaching it to the radio receiver, this reduced body capacity and he would not lose the signal when he let go of the dial. Grid coils for the TNT transistors were made from a piece of broken broom stick for the coil form and fitted into an old fuse holder, it was now a plug-in coil. I am sure many old operators can think of more illustrations. I can remember myself watching K6BAZ putting up a Zepp antenna using chop sticks for the spacers. The point of this discussion is, has the new generation of amateurs with their abundance of material manufactured from earlier inventions lost some of the old inventiveness? Have we reached a level of amateur development?

As recently as World War II, some of this ingenuity came forth and produced some interesting results. Some illustrations I can recall were the clever receivers made from almost nothing in the prisoner-of-war camps; some were made from razor blades used as detectors, some from diodes smuggled into the camp in seams of clothing, one was made in a bottle with the tuning capacitor under the label. Here is the story I like:

Lt. Herb Dixon, ZL280, while a prisoner at Shampshupo, Argyle street prison camp, Hong Kong, started the almost impossible task of collecting parts to build a receiver so that he could hear the BBC. The first parts for the collection took many months. An old Austin car provided wire, bolts and nuts and other miscellaneous metal parts.

As the months passed by, the receiver began to take shape and was kept hidden in the false bottom of a kerosene can buried in a mint garden. As parts became available it was dug up and more was added to it. The filter capacitors were made from tin foil taken from cigarette packages, cut into shape and impregnated with candle grease and sealed into small cans. With the supply of cigarettes being limited, it took months of the camps combined effort to fill the requirements.

Headphones were one of the most difficult things to make, and they took shape from cheese and sugar cans. The power transformer and filter choke took four months to finish because each lamination had to be hammered out flat from scrap metal. The chassis was the easiest part to make; it was a nice sterilising tank of copper just made for the project. All of the resistors were made from pencil leads of various lengths. The tuning capacitor was made from sheet metal slipped on a four inch nail fastened to a dial made from an auto horn part.

After most of the major components had been manufactured, the vacuum tubes could not be obtained, and were holding up the completion of the receiver. At this point the anticipation became so great, that one of the fellows volunteered to fake an appendix attack to obtain admission into the hospital, from where he could steal some tubes from the receiver there. When he emerged from the hospital, hidden under his bandages were enough tubes to finish the project.



By the end of 1943, the receiver was finished and the men listened to the BBC on 9.5 Mc. When the receiver was not in use it was put back in the kerosene can with a false section, on top of which was placed cooked rice. The receiver had to be continually dried out and it was taken out of the can and placed on the bake oven in a flour can to dry. One day while it was drying a Japanese guard accidentally knocked over the can exposing the receiver. The guard carried his prize away for his own use and whatever became of the receiver no one ever found out.

With the end of the war, amateur radio took up where it left off and progressed slowly for a few years until the end of the 1940s when SSB started to peep over the horizon. Things began to happen on Sept 21, 1947, when O.G. Villard, Jr. W6QYT put W6YX, the Stanford University Radio Club station, on SSB and contacted W6VQD on 75 meters. This was followed by a 20 meter contact with Art Nichols, W0TQK. Although these were not the first SSB contacts in amateur radio, they were the first after the war and stirred up the ingenuity. Shortly afterwards, D.E. Norgaard, W2KUJ published data on a little one-frequency SSB exciter called the SSB Jr. in the December 1950 issue of GE Ham News. This jiggled the ingenuity of W9DYV, Wes Schum, who mixed the SSB Jr. with a VFO to gain coverage across the band. SSB was on the way, first in the form of a separate receiver and transmitter, and then in the form of a transceiver designed by the Collins Radio Company and designated the KWM-1

Transceivers were about to arrive on the scene. Buddy Alvernaz W6DMN, developed a filter exciter made from the BC-453, the Q-Fiver. This stimulated W6IQY, Ernie Mason, with the idea of making a transceiver out of the unit. Soon after this Herb Johnson, W6QKI, came on the market with the Swan Transceiver. I guess you know the rest of the story. The period of the late 50s and early 60s showed amateur ingenuity at its best. Since then the circuits have simmered down to standards mostly too complicated for the average amateur to build. What of the future.....will anyone build his own gear anymore??

(Acknowledgments to EUA, Elmhurst Branch Newsletter)

50 MHZ NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA - SUPPLIED BY MIKE BOSCH ZS2FM.

1. A 25 watt beacon is operating from Port Elizabeth on a frequency of 50,005 MHz FSK. The antenna consists of a dipole which is horizontally polarised. It transmits "VV VV DE ZS2SIX KF25UX" and this is repeated approximately every 25 seconds.

2. A fair number of ZS amateurs are equipped with all mode rigs for 50 MHz operation and regularly scan the SSB spectrum from 50.100 to 50.125 MHz. During recent F2 openings, many European stations were logged in divisions ZS4, ZS5 and ZS6. At this stage serious consideration should be given to the extension of the SSB DX channel from 50.100 to 50.200 MHz to avoid future QRM.

3. Many more ZS amateurs are only in possession of 15 to 25 watt 50 MHz FM transceivers while some are also equipped with four to six element yagis, as well as 100 watt power amplifiers. The latter group is very keen to work FM DX between 50.400 and 50.600 MHz using a calling frequency of 50.400 MHz. Recently ZS6CE and ZS6XL worked SV1D0 and F5QT on FM with signal reports of 5 9 both ways.

4. A two-to-six metre simplex repeater system is currently in operation in Cape Town, comprising two FM transceivers coupled back to back. The six metre simplex input and output frequency is 51.400 MHz and the output power is 60 watts into a two element beam. In a way this system could be compared with the two-to-ten metre FM repeaters in the USA which operate above 29 MHz.

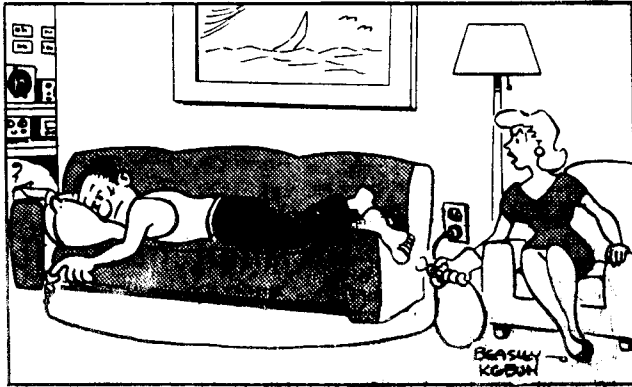
A second repeater system is under construction in Pretoria for a frequency of 51.500 MHz, and a third is planned for Port Elizabeth on 51.600 MHz. When the MUF rises above 51 MHz then local two metre stations could work six metre FM DX via these channels.

Please look out for the FM DX stations on 50.400 MHz or higher!

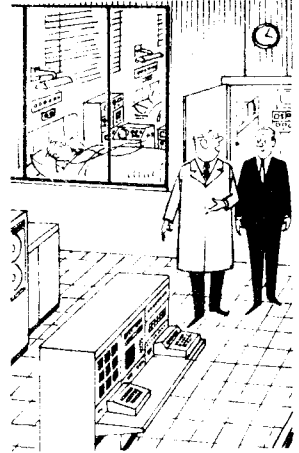
73 de Mike Bosch - ZS2FM.

(This is a copy of the 6 metre news which Mike has distributed world-wide including countries such as UK, USA, VK and JA.)

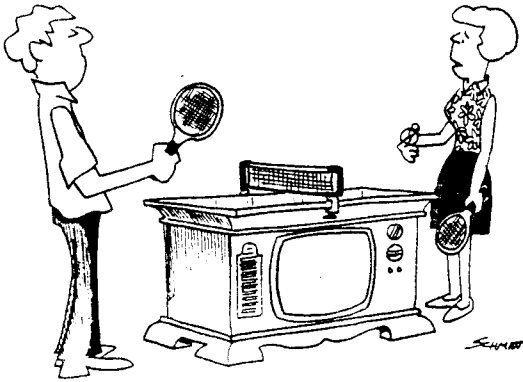
# TIME FOR A LAUGH!



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