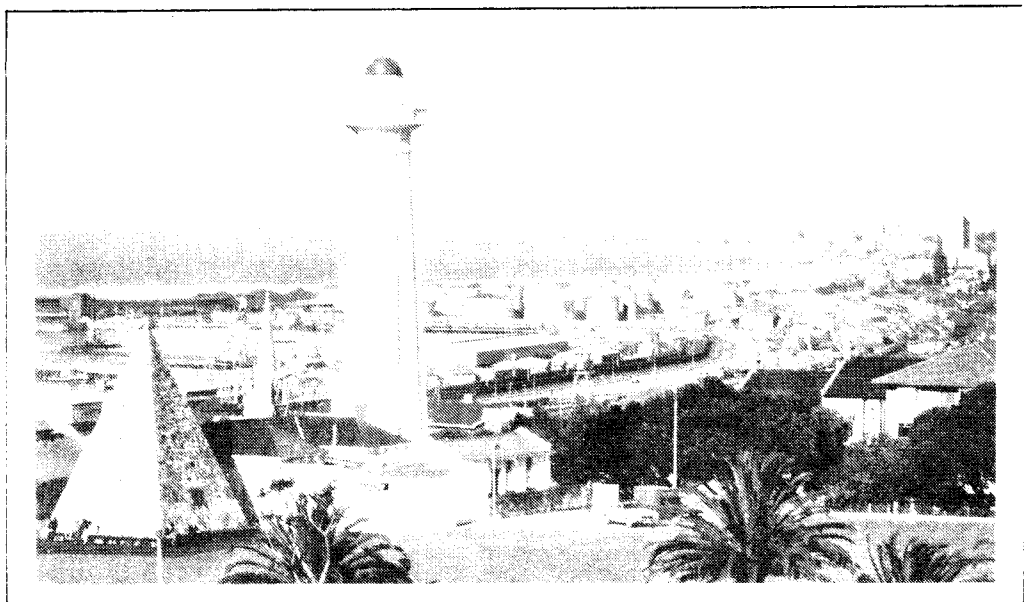




Q S X P E



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

P.O. BOX 10402
LINTON GRANGE
6015

02/89

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH.
NOTICE OF MONTHLY MEETING.

Members are reminded that the next meeting of the Branch will be held on Friday 17th February, 1989 at St. Martins Church Hall in Kabega Park, at 8.15p.m.

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.

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>COMPILER.</u>	<u>40m NET.</u>	<u>2m NET.</u>
26 February	Bill ZR2AAN	ZS2AB	ZR2AAN
5 March	Lynne ZS2MM	ZS2MM	ZS2AB
12 March	Marge ZS2OB	ZS2OB	ZS2RL
19 March	Brian ZS2AB	ZS2AB	ZS2RS

SUNDAY BULLETIN INFORMATION.

Primary Frequencies for bulletins at approximately 08.40 H.F. 7098 kHz in 40 metre band. VHF 145,650 MHz - Town Repeater
With effect from 5th March, the Bulletin will be repeated in the evening on 3696 kHz on 80 metres with a relay on 145,775 MHz and will also incorporate VHF news from Mike ZS2FM, together with a possible relay on 51,600 MHz.

BRANCH V.H.F. SERVICES PROVIDED.

TOWN REPEATER (P.E. CENTRAL)	145,050 / 145,650 MHz
GRAHAMSTOWN REPEATER	145,150 / 145,750 MHz
LADYS SLIPPER REPEATER	145,100 / 145,700 MHz
COCKSCOMB REPEATER	145,000 / 145,600 MHz
BEACON (C.W. ID ZS2PE)	144,910 MHz

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

THIS AND THAT

WELCOME

To Phil Hopper ZS2PP of Port Alfred as a member of the Branch and may you have a long and happy association with the League and Branch. Lovely to have you back, Phil.

SICK LIST

We were shocked and sorry to hear that Viv ZS2VM and XYL Peggy were injured in a motor car accident recently and we hope that you will both be out and about soon.

Celia, XYL of Rob ZR2AAQ spent some time in hospital recently and we hope you are fit and well again.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Lionel ZS2DD and Trevor ZS2AE on being awarded the Jack Twine Merit award for their past and present endeavours on Committee and with other projects for Amateur Radio. Well done and Thanks. To Al ZS2U and Marge ZS2OB on receiving the 'Old Timers Award'.

NEW ISSUE OF RADIO ZS

It came as somewhat of a surprise that time goes so quickly and it is time for another issue of Radio ZS to be sponsored by the P.E. Branch with the deadline the end of February. We have had one response for an article, but one article maketh not a book! Please - if you can let us have something for Radio ZS again, PLEASE let us have it as soon as possible. You were absolutely marvellous last time, let's do it again.

WANTED

Colin ZS2CTR is looking for a Hustler HF mobile antenna mast and resonators. Please phone 041-300570 after hours.

MARCH MEETING

The general meeting in March, being the first combined meeting of the united branch, will take place on SATURDAY 18th and will take the form of a short business meeting followed by a PARTY! Members are asked to bring their spouses or partners along and make it a get-to-know-each-other. More details next month.

MERGER OF PORT ELIZABETH AND ALGOA BRANCHES.

With effect from 1st March, 1989, the Port Elizabeth and Algoa Branches will merge as one Branch. This was decided after a postal ballot sent to members of both branches. 139 ballot forms were sent out and 115 returned, which must be some sort of record. The results of the ballot were as follows:

	Merger	P.E Branch	P.E/Algoa	New Name	Immaterial
Yes	114	52	24	13	68
No	-	18	37	38	17

Several members made no comments regarding the names but felt that the merger should go ahead regardless of a name and more especially felt that the naming of the branch should not stand in the way of the merger - it was much more important that we all get together for the good of amateur radio and friendships and work together for our hobby. Therefore, at a combined meeting of both Committees held on 6th February, it was decided that the merger become official on 1st March, 1989 and that the name be retained as 'Port Elizabeth Branch'.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who returned their ballot forms and especially like to welcome ALL the members of the Algoa Branch as members of the combined Branch. We would love to see you at meetings and social gatherings and all the knowledge and expertise can be pooled into making ours the best Branch in the League.

There will be no need for any further subs to be paid and the transfer will be automatically done at Headquarters once they are informed of the merger date. All members will remain as members of the new Branch if they so wish until the renewal of subs when they will either choose to remain as members or transfer membership to another Branch. If, however, they wish to resign immediately, that is their privilege, but we hope that the unhappiness of the past will become history and that we can all work together and enjoy Amateur Radio as a united fraternity and try to make the Branch bigger and better.

ONCE AGAIN - WELCOME TO ALL AND MAY WE GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH OF THE S.A.R.L. HELD AT ST. MARTINS CHURCH HALL, KABEGA ON 20 JANUARY, 1989.

PRESENT: 27 members and 15 visitors.

APOLOGIES: ZS2 LW, WA, G, RT, CA, SP, MF and ZR2BL.

Marge ZS2DB opened the meeting and welcomed all to the first meeting of the new year. Special welcome was made to Van ZS2Y whom we haven't seen for a number of years.

At this point, Marge called Lionel ZS2DD, Trevor ZS2AE and Al ZS2U to the front and presented them with the following awards: Jack Twine Merit Award to Lionel and Trevor.

"Old Timer" award to Al ZS2U. Marge was then told to vacate the chair and Brian ZS2AB presented her with an "Old Timer" award.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held in November having been published in QSX were taken as read, proposed by Lynne ZS2MM and seconded by Gus ZS2MC.

MATTERS ARISING: Marge said that so far the results for Field Day had not been received, but we were confident of a good position, having obtained 65,520 points. Thanks to all.

FINANCE: Colin ZS2CTR presented the financial statement:

Opening Balance		R5 567,20
Receipts:		
Interest on Savings	27,17	
Interest on Fixed Deposit	168,02	
Sale of Morse Keys	10,00	
Sale of Great Circle Map	50	
Subs - JL Pearson	27,00	242,69
Payments:		
Float Reimbursements	257,28	
Cheque Levies	10	
Electricity - repeater	11,18	
HQ Share of Subs	31,50	300,06
		R5 509,83

ARISING: Branch funds have been transferred to E.P. Building Society. In spite of having spent R500 on radio equipment, the funds are up R1 254,95.

CORRESPONDENCE: Christmas cards were received from HQ, several other Branches and Andy ZS6EQ and Teresa. Licence renewals were received for Branch calls and Motor Rally. This will be renewed as we would be required for communications later in the year.

(2) Letter from HQ saying that Hamnet representation would be at Branch level in future. The Branch would appoint a representative soon.

REPEATER WORKING GROUP: Trevor ZS2AE reported on the meeting held on 18th January concerning the maintenance of Branch repeaters. Trevor handed Marge a report which was read to the members detailing the plans to upgrade the performance of the Branch repeaters.

A.G.M. 1989 DELEGATE: Marge ZS2OB was proposed by Dick ZS2RS and seconded by Lionel ZS2DD to attend the 1989 AGM to be held at Stellenbosch by the Boland Branch.

Motions for 1989 AGM.

The Johannesburg and Kempton Park Branch motions were discussed and it was proposed that they be published in QSX PE in order to allow members time to study them and make a decision at the next Branch meeting.

The closing date for the merger ballot was 21st February. There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.30 approximately.

sgd: M.T. Weller ZS2OB
Chairman

Sgd: O.T. Wheeler ZS2HZ
Secretary



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**FOR ALL YOUR COMMERCIAL PRINTING REQUIREMENTS
TRY US FOR YOUR QSL CARDS!**

YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT TROUBLES.

After 15 years operating from my current address, a new neighbour moved in next door. Trouble erupted almost immediately. He told me to stop operating immediately - 'or else'.

Over a period of two years, from 1986, and despite the efforts of the Interference Inspectors and myself, he actually threatened myself and my elderly father with physical violence, threw stones at me and at our windows, erected 35 feet of scaffolding to smash against my Tribander (he had to remove this monster after a Council order had been served), used his vehicles to obstruct our driveway (Police removed them several times), telephoned my work and attempted to slander me and in full view scratched my car causing R2400 damages. Insufficient evidence prevented the Police from taking action in this regard.

Finally he enlisted the support of four other neighbours; I saw him with a clipboard half a mile away!

In October 1987, I obtained a Court injunction ordering him not to threaten, harass, interfere with or assault me. Despite this a month later he continued his campaign. He told others that he would stop me, killing me if necessary. Over a period of time he made several threats to my life. I wrote to the Police several times complaining about his behaviour and the situation was monitored by them. In March 1988 I returned to the Court and an application for his Committal to Prison was issued for Contempt of Court. By the time of the Court hearing, however, he had decided to move and I agreed, on advice, to suspend the action providing that he pay the legal costs amounting to R5200. Maybe he learned a lesson.

Now for the stupid part of the whole business. In the 5cm thick file are statements that read:

"He doesn't affect me but I dislike the antenna"

"BT suggested moving our telephone line but I refused"

"It used to affect our old Hi-Fi but the new one is okay"

"Since getting a more powerful phone the problem has stopped"

"He goes through my hearing aid when I'm in the kitchen"

"I'm sure he adds bits to that antenna during the night"

"We cannot use our cordless radiophone because BT has told us that he could eavesdrop on our conversations. Our phone should be private - that's really unfair"

My Legal Counsel advised me that any action a neighbour choosing to make for 'nuisance' is likely to be unsuccessful and showed me the judgement in a case, where the Judge commented that any cable or radiator emitting energy lawfully, cannot, in law, be a nuisance because it has never been proved to be harmful, either financially or physically, nor is it in any way noxious. (This took place in the U.K. I have no idea how it would apply here in South Africa.)

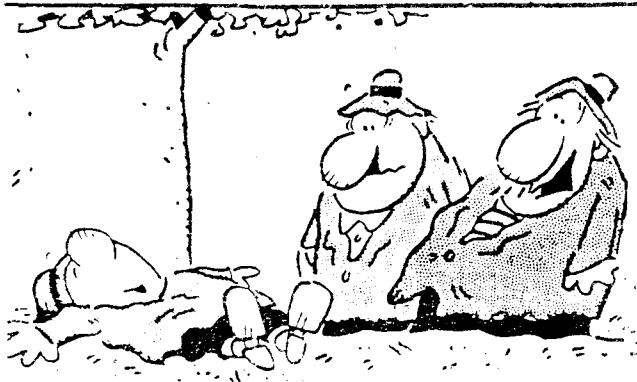
I battled against this sort of terrorism for a couple of years and I won. But it requires iron nerves and an indomitable will to exercise one's democratic rights, remembering that we all have to obey the rule of law, at all times, and people will do well to remember this. (Acknowledgements to RADCOM).

hi

A well-adjusted person is one who can play golf as though it were merely a game.

Speed reading is a necessity these days . . . or you'll never get off the freeway.

This morning, opportunity knocked at my door but by the time I pushed back the bolt, turned the two locks, unhooked the chain and shut off the burglar alarm, it was gone.



IN A PREVIOUS LIFE, I THINK ERNIE WAS A FLOPPY DISK.

Working DX - continued.

Once you are called in by the controller, call the station and give them their report ONLY; not my name is, my QTH is, this just takes time and the DX station is not interested. When the station you called gives your report, repeat it so that the net controller can acknowledge that a good contact has taken place. Don't go asking for QSL info, because the net controller will give it often. If the net is small and there is more than one station you wish to contact, just ask the net controller and he will make sure you get the ones you need.

List operation. This is another popular form of operating a rare DX station. A station is nominated by the DX station and becomes the controller and starts to run a list. They start by calling stations by callsign numbers, i.e. ZS1, then K2 and JA3 and so on. When they come to the number used in your callsign, you call once or twice and then stand by. The controller will acknowledge you when they have you on the list. When a list of a fair size has been taken, about 50 normally, the controlling station will then give the QSL info for this DX station and then start going through the list. When they get to the number of your callsign and you are called, just give your callsign slowly twice and their report twice. If it is a marginal contact, you might have to count out the report. Once the DX station gives your report, remember repeat it as mentioned before, so that the controlling station can acknowledge the contact.

Although these type of operations make it an easy way to work a lot of the hard-to-come-by DX, a true blooded DX-er is opposed to this kind of operation, because it has been said in the past and I agree with the argument, working DX like this, is like fishing in a barrel. Remembering that the net controller has hooked the DX and even passes on the callsigns of the stations wishing to work the DX, it is just a case of your report and out of this kind of operation, more often than not, the report is guessed correctly. In effect, you have done no work to get the DX, although you have the contact and will get the QSL card.

The one big gripe about Net and List operations is that they are such a waste of time. I must admit that they help the less effective stations to get the rare DX station, but a net or

list operation can take three or four hours to get through 50 stations on the list and by the time it is put over to you, you could have lost propagation. An experienced DX-er working a large pile-up could easily get through 200/250 stations an hour in an extremely efficient manner. It has become common place for the DX stations now to listen to QRP (low power) stations. Also, do not be surprised if other Dx-ers with big antennas and big power help you to get through the pile-up.

Working Split Operation. The newcomer to the wonderful world of DX-ing, who is trying to get their countries-worked count up knows, in advance, that a DX-pedition is going to be on the air on a particular day. This expedition is going to a rare (or even an extremely rare country) and will be working split frequency.

The newcomer starts to get hot and cold flushes, because they are not sure what to do and feel that they could blow this one Well, working split frequency is not the monster it is made out to be. It is in fact the most efficient way to work the DX-peditions. This is where having a rig with twin VFOs or transmitter and receiver come in.

How split frequency operation works is simply this. The DX station calls on one frequency (VFO A or transmitter) and listens 10 to 20 kHz (VFO B or receiver) up the band. This is where you need to keep your ears open because the expedition operator will say where he is listening. With this type of operation, the DX stations are not swamped by stations calling them on their own frequency and by listening 10 kHz and up, this also prevents splatter from the stations that overdrive their equipment. With this type of operation, the newcomer and even the station running low power (QRP) is able to work the DX-pedition in most cases. (It certainly uses up more space on the band for one contact. ED.)

DX-peditions as a rule stay on or around the known frequencies on the given amateur bands, they do now and again use other frequencies, but this is very rare. The way split frequency would be heard on the bands are; the 20m SSB DX frequency on 14,195 kHz (calling); he is listening on 14,200 kHz and another frequency, say 14,210 kHz. The DX operation, trans-

mitting on 14,195 kHz will announce "QRZ 200 205". This means that they are listening on 14,200 kHz to 14,205 kHz, or they might say "QRZ 200 and above"; that is listening from 14,200 kHz and above. The 15m SSB band is usually 21,295 kHz, listening 21,300 kHz and above, on the 10m SSB band is usually 28,595 kHz, listening above 28,600 kHz. On CW, the DX operation is usually 5 kHz from the bottom band edge, and listening 5 kHz and above.

QSL cards. Having worked the DX, you will want to get that QSL card. The big question is, to send via the bureau or to send direct, if it is a country that is common (Europe, USA, Japan) for example and is not needed for awards, then I would suggest that it be sent via the bureau. Although it will take some time it is a lot cheaper. But if you have worked a hard-to-come-by country or a DX-pedition, then it is normal to send it to the QSL manager. Very few DX managers use the bureau, so sending it this way you stand a 90% chance of NOT getting that QSL card. When sending the QSL card direct, you should include 2 or more IRCs (International Reply Coupons) or \$1 US and self-addressed envelope. IRCs cannot be obtained from the post office here at this time of history. This is due to the international pressure against us (I am sure this situation will change one day). If you need IRCs to send direct, I suggest you ask a friend or family members overseas to get them for you from their post office, or ask your club awards manager if they have some to sell to you. There are a few members who feel that getting a QSL card by sending a SAE and IRCs or \$1 is out of the question and feel that they should have a QSL card as a right, but there are a number of reasons to be taken into account and must be considered before such a statement is made. DX-peditions cost a lot of time and money, so that rare countries can be worked by all those DX-ers. Also remember that the operators of the expedition don't need your QSL card, you are not rare, but YOU NEED THEIRS! This is just to mention a few reasons. The address for these managers can be obtained from the callbooks, which most DX-ers or clubs keep.

Conclusion. In this article I have covered most aspects of DX-ing. In the past years as a DX-er, the hints that I have mentioned have brought me and many amateurs that I have assisted many hours of enjoyment and most of these countries are now confirmed. See you on the HF bands.



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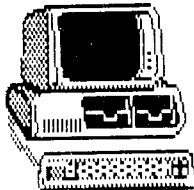
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