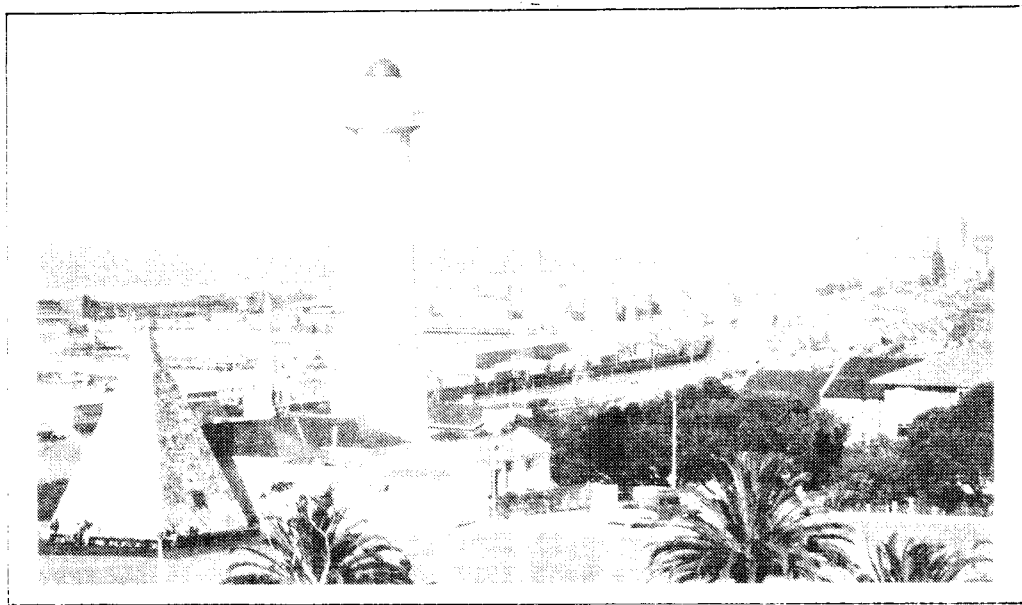




Q S X P E



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

P.O. BOX 10402
LINTON GRANGE
6015

07/89

P O R T E L I Z A B E T H B R A N C H
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CHAIRMAN	Marge Weller	ZS2OB	30-4597
VICE CHAIRMAN	Brian Weller	ZS2AB	30-3498
SECRETARY	Dick Schonborn	ZS2RS	55-2244
TREASURER	Colin Robertson	ZS2CTR	30-0570
RALLIES/SOCIAL	Beavan Gwilt	ZS2RL	30-6968
SPECIAL EVENTS	Dick Schonborn	ZS2RS	55-2244
AWARDS	Bill Hodges	ZR2AAN	51-2580
MEMBER	Lynne Crothall	ZS2MM	35-4671
HAMNET	Al Akers	ZS2U	30-2983
EDITOR - QSX-PE	Marge Weller	ZS2OB	30-4597
REPEATER WORKING			
GROUP - CHAIRMAN	Trevor Scarr	ZS2AE	32-1746
LIBRARIAN	Colin Ashwell	ZS2AO	31-2471
PACKET WORKING	Lionel Coombe-		
GROUP CO-ORDINATOR	Davis	ZS2DD	32-1770

BULLETIN ROSTER

DATE	COMPILER	40m NET	2m NET
23 July	Dick ZS2RS	ZS2RS	ZR2AAN
30 July	Bill ZR2AAN	ZS2RL	ZR2AAN
6 Aug.	Lynne ZS2MM	ZS2MM	ZS2CTR
13 Aug.	Beavan ZS2RL	ZS2RL	ZS2AB
20 Aug.	Marge ZS2OB	ZS2OB	ZS2U

SUNDAY BULLETIN INFORMATION

Primary Frequencies for bulletins at approximately 08.40a.m.
 M.F. 7098 kHz in 40 metre band. VHF 145,650 MHz - Town Repeater

BULLETIN UPDATE

7.30p.m. - 3695 kHz in 80 metre band - relay on 145,775 MHz,
 with possible relay on 51,600 MHz - incorporating VHF news.

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 (CW Id ZS2PE)	144,910 MHz
University Repeater	145,175 / 145,775 MHz
6 meter beacon (ZS2SIX CW Id)	50,005 MHz
Kareedouw Repeater	145,075 / 145,675 MHz

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

NOTICE OF MEETING

Members are reminded that the monthly general meeting of the Branch will take place at St. Martins Hall, Kabega Park on Friday 21st July, 1989 at 8.15p.m.

Buddy ZS2CA will be showing slides and giving a talk on Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation or CPR as it more usually known. There will also be a dummy for members to try out what they have learned. PLEASE bring your wife (if applicable) along as it is most important that she knows how to do CPR as it is more likely that the amateur would be the one who would be electrocuted although this is not necessarily the case with all the electric gadgets we have in our homes. CPR can be a valuable life-saver in times of heart attacks, electrocution, drowning or on various other occasions in this troubled world we live in.

THIS AND THAT

VOLKSWAGEN-ALGOA MOTOR RALLY

This is taking place on Saturday 19th August and once again we have been asked to provide communications in the event of emergencies or just contact between marshalls and rally officials. Beavan ZS2RL will be organising the comms and says that it is likely we will require at least 10 HF stations and quite a few VHF stations. The route of the rally is along the Longkloof, starting in Dudschoorn and finishing in Port Elizabeth. All petrol expenses will be paid, plus an allowance for wear and tear. We usually have a lot of fun, even just talking to each other, and it can also be a nice days outing for the family, so please let Beavan know if you can help out. His phone number appears on the first page of this newsletter.

WANTED

'Instruction' book for the Morse Code Instructograph, a machine which works with paper tapes and is driven by a gramophone spring. This machine was imported from the U.S.A. and apparently is still in production. Please contact Max Levin ZS2HR, 92 Wodehouse Street, Queenstown, 5320.

BON VOYAGE

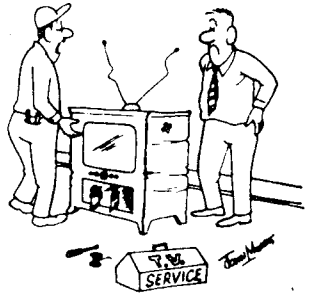
On behalf of the Branch, we would like to wish Owen Wheeler ZS2HZ and his family a safe trip to England on the "St Helena" and hope they settle down in their new home. We hope you get some antennas up soon Owen, so we can keep in touch. Thanks for the work you did for the Branch, Owen and Tina.

WHEN IS IT OR NOT?

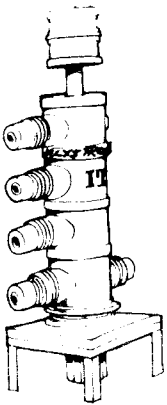
Disaster means a disaster or state which is not a state of emergency or a state of disaster and which, in the opinion of the Administrator or of the local authority concerned, is a disaster as defined in Section 1 of the Act, or is likely to develop into such a disaster.

(From the Orange Free State Civil Defence Amendment Ordinance)
Thanks to Al ZS2U for this priceless bit of information.

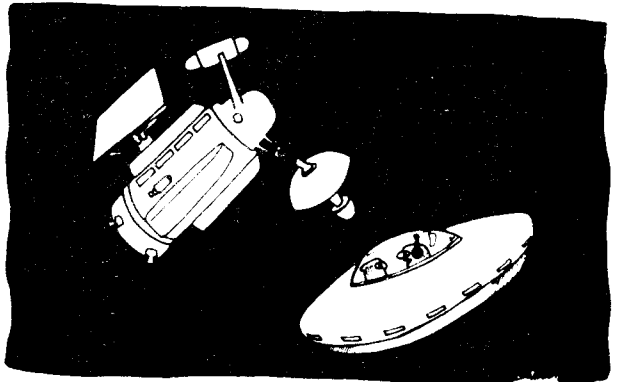
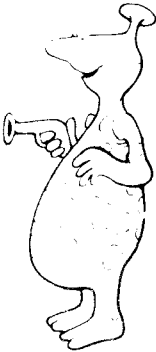
HAVE A LAUGH!



"Let's put it this way: If your set were a building, it would be condemned."



"Take me to your leader — darling."



"They're still at the part where John's wife is seeing Paul's brother after she had Tim's baby at the farm."

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH OF THE
S.A.R.L. HELD ON SATURDAY 17TH JUNE AT KABEGA SCOUT HALL, P.E.

PRESENT: 29 members and visitors

APOLOGIES: ZS2s LW Langley, RL Beavan, RG John.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, especially Basil ZS2PG and Steve ~~Olivier~~, and the yls and xyls.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held in May, having been published and circulated in QSX-PE were taken as read, proposed by Julian ZS2AAV and seconded by Viv ZS2VM.

ARISING: (1) The Chairman said that she had not had any contact with the Publicity Association, and Vic ZS2SZ said he was awaiting a call from them.

(2) Dick ZS2RS said that he had priced shirts as some members had requested these with the League Badge silkscreened on them. The prices excl GST are: white R26.95 and Blue R28.95. The shirts are a much better quality than those ordered before.

(3) Brian ZS2AB had priced car bumper or window stickers and these would be R2.50. The Chairman mentioned three ideas for wording and more ideas were called for. None forthcoming. It was proposed to advertise these in Radio ZS in case other members wanted to buy some.

CORRES: (1) Letter from Interim Management Committee re Frequency schedule for repeaters, bulletins, etc.

(2) Several Branch newsletters.

(3) Letter from Interim Management Committee re Postal Ballot.

ARISING: With regard to (1) it was proposed that a Members Hand Book would be published and this information would appear in it.

With regard to (3) it appeared that our postal ballot should have been called for before the end of the AGM and therefore was not valid. We would be putting a Motion to the next AGM stating that any decision with such a far-reaching effect can only be taken on the vote of individual members and not by Branch delegates voting on behalf of a few members who attend meetings.

FINANCE: The Treasurer Colin ZS2CTR was not available to present the income and expenditure for the month.

GENERAL: (1) Several members complained that they had received their ballot papers for the new Council too late to be able to return them in time and in fact one member only received his on the date they were due back. The Chairman said she would write to Headquarters in this connection.

(2) The Chairman told members that the next meeting would be followed by a talk, demonstration and slides on Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation and she suggested that wives come along.

(3) After members discussed the various repeaters, Brian ZS2AB said he had received a price of R850, plus/minus for a crystal filter for use on the Town Repeater, which seemed to be receiving a lot of interference. Wolf ZS2WG said that Beavan ZS2RL had proposed that we do away with the Town Repeater and link the Ladies Slipper and University Repeater for wider coverage.

(4) Al ZS2U said that he had nothing to report on Hamnet but that work was going ahead at the Civil Defence Centre. He was preparing to put up antennas, but Stoffel ZS2C could do with some assistance with electrical and wood work.

(5) With regard to the proposed trip to Grahamstown to work on the repeater, combined with a social get-together with members of branches from East London, Kingwilliamstown, Port Alfred and Grahamstown etc, the cost of hiring a bus was R600. This was prohibitively expensive and an alternative means of transport would be sought.

(6) The Chairman thanked all those responsible for the catering for the meal this evening and hoped everyone enjoyed themselves.

The meeting closed at 5.40 p.m. followed by a curry and rice or chicken-a-la-king supper, which was enjoyed by all.

sgd: M.T. Weller ZS20B
Chairman

sgd: R.W. Schonborn ZS2RS
Secretary



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FROM WHENCE CAME HAM?

Hams could well be Plugs, now. Both were popular terms applied by seasoned railroad telegraphers to green operators.

Gather a few hams together and you're sure to hear some reminiscing about the past - what great fun the old days were with primitive, home-brewed equipment and friends made around the world. But one issue there's never been much agreement on is the origin of the word 'ham' itself. You would think, though, that with so many old-timers around, someone would remember. On the other hand, perhaps that's the trouble. Countless tales have been woven over the years - romantic yarns having only in common that they have nothing in common. Perhaps it's because we all remember how it was, that none of us really are certain any longer. Most amateurs now are resigned to the belief that we will never know.

Now that amateur radio has been around for three-quarters of a century, it seems fitting that we should put this puzzle into historical perspective. While I cannot trace the origin of the word, I can tell you the origin of its use in amateur radio.

On the American railroads during the 1800s, ham was a slang word for a new or inexperienced telegraph operator and was used interchangeably in this context with the word plug. Such jargon was used not only along the railroads, but in the commercial telegraph and cable companies as well. These terms continued among wireless telegraph operators as this new field began to open about about 1900, and amateur radio operators adopted the name for obvious reasons. Actually the word plug was the more commonly used term of the two. Why radio amateurs chose to be hams instead of plugs, or for that matter, why one name didn't survive is not clear. I have been unable to determine how the words came to be used on the railroads, but plug has several connotations which have the general meaning of 'green' or 'second best' as in a reference to a horse. So it is easy to see why experienced operators might refer to a beginner as a plug. To this day, many dictionaries include a definition for a plug as "an inexperienced telegrapher" (though I have seen some fairly recent ones which define it incorrectly as 'an incompetent telegrapher').

"73", One of Many.

Our nickname wasn't the only thing copied from nineteenth century railway telegraphy. The salutation 73 was just one of a long list of "Numerical Wire Signals" in use at the time and meant then, as it does now, best regards.

The abbreviation 'es' for the word 'and' comes from the American Morse character for &. (American Morse was used on domestic telegraph lines. International Morse, also called continental Morse, has always been used for radio communication). Some American Morse characters have spaces within the character itself. The ampersand (&) is one of these, but when viewing the separate elements as distinct characters themselves, it is equivalent to the letters 'es'.

Nineteenth century telegraphers spoke of duplex, quadruplex, bugs-in-the-wire and knocking off - all of which had the same meaning as they do today. Traffic handlers and brass pounders will be interested to know of another expression 'getting old' which referred to telegrams that were being delayed. A telegram was considered to be old if it was delayed for longer than 15 minutes. Incidentally, standard time signals were received from various observatories and transmitted daily to all points on the line. Almost all the special telegraphic signals commonly in use today (AR, AS, SK, K, CQ, DE) were in use since the very early days of commercial wireless. I have seen no evidence that they were used by the railroads, but the possibility cannot be ruled out.

Much interesting history stands behind our hobby and its real beginning starts even before Marconi; a slow evolution which began on the singing wires of the American railroads. For historically oriented radio buffs, I recommend a visit to the local library in search of old books on telegraphy, railroad operation and wireless. The most informative ones it seems, were published between 1880 and 1920.

One book you might enjoy is 'The Telegraph Instructor' by G.M. Dodge. This charming volume delves into considerable detail on telegraph and railroad operations. First published in 1898, several editions followed later. From it you can learn meanings of slang words then in vogue and perhaps somewhere in some obscure location, historical records might show why, with a stroke of luck, we are called 'hams' rather than 'plug radio operators'.

From QST - by Bill Johnston WB5CBC.

DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY? YOU BET!

From an article by Jan Manford N6DDO, California in QST.

Most of my QSLs from you guys say you can't imagine what it would be like to have your wife as a ham. My first answer is that the difference is, instead of a back bedroom or the garage, the ham shack is in a corner of the livingroom. But let's go a little deeper.

I suppose we should start at the beginning - Spring 1980. Jerry N6DDP and I have been married for a little over 14 years and have two young daughters. I had quit work before the youngest was born (I used to be a police matron/dispatcher) and just stayed home to tend the kids, to clean, to cook and to make all our clothes. Jerry had his work as a parts manager for a car dealer and his own hobbies, mainly radio-controlled airplanes (which I hated). Anyway, we were both occupied with our own little worlds and never actually did anything together.

We sat down one night and talked, a rare happening in itself and decided we needed something in common besides the kids - something we could do together. I had no ideas, but Amateur Radio is something he had been interested in for many years so we settled on 'ham'. Not quite knowing where to start, we went to Sacramento with the intention of buying some books to study. Well, we got the books, a radio and some accessories. What's \$700 when you're having fun? I guess you could call that a commitment! We didn't get far on our own and heard that a class was being offered at a junior college, 30 miles away. So, with lots of grumbling from the grandfolks about having to keep the kids an extra night each week, we started our class.

It lasted from April to June, and was for the General Class Licence. With a lot of extra study (frustrating for me, complete with tears and temper tantrums), we managed to keep up with the class, and the discussions even began to make sense. Our instructor WA6NKG, was swell; all the time he spent on the phone with us when we'd get stuck really made the difference.

The June came. The class ended on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning found us on the way to Sand Francisco and the FCC office. We never got a Novice licence, so it was go for broke: either pass the 5 wpm code and the General/Technician test, or wait the 30 days either to send for the Novice test or to go back to the FCC and try again. We shook in our boots through the whole thing

but we both happily came home Technicians, then had to wait that long six weeks for the licence to arrive. (As I am writing this one year later, we have just returned from another trip to San Francisco. This time we both came home with our Advanced licence)

It pays to make the time to take an interest with the OM. There are quite a few things you can do together. Go to meetings, meet his friends at the social get-togethers, meet the other wives and perhaps find others with other similar interests. Don't say you don't have the time. Since we started in radio, Jerry and I have had another daughter. When our latest little girl was born, Jerry stepped out of the delivery and announced her arrival on the 2 meter hand-held radio. (I had one on by bedside table to keep in touch with our friends).

I have no mechanical or electrical background, and I'm no good at fixing things around the house. Now I'm a little more helpful; I don't get on the roof or climb the new tower, but I do attempt to help by holding the guy wires or running for the tool he always manages to forget when he works on the antennas.

If you'll spend a little time with the OM and get a licence, you too could begin to enjoy what he spends his time at, and enjoy the equipment he spends all that money on. There are a whole bunch of really swell folks out there - next door and across the oceans as well. You could never find any single facet of the population any more congenial or willing to assist in any way than the 'ham family'.

If you work, you can still find a few minutes a day to study - that's all it really takes. When you get your licence, I know you will find time to get on the air. And for those of you like me, there's always someone to talk to on the air, in the middle of the day, when you really need a break from the daily routine. And, if you've been going 'stale' at home, the code is great for sharpening the mind - it's just like a foreign language. By the way, with the baby now six months old, I must do my operating between bottles and diapers, but I do find the time for it.

Amateur radio is a rewarding endeavour, especially in the self-satisfaction from just knowing you really can do it. You will be surprised how different the OM's attitude toward you and your favourite activity can be when you take the time to share his.

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW IN AMATEUR RADIO!

OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF
THE PAST 20 YEARS
PICTURED BY BOX

1908

CAT WHISKER

THE GALENA DETECTOR
CAME INTO USE

1909

THE LOOSE COUPLER

AN IMPROVEMENT
IN TUNING DEVICES

1910

VARIABLE CONDENSER
TUNING OF
SECONDARIES
BECAME
POPULAR

THIS IS BETTER

1911

SOME TONE
EH? WOT?

THE
ROTARY GAP

1912

NOW YOU'LL
HAVE TO
GET RADIO
LICENSES

RADIO
JAWS

1913

THE OSCILLATION
TRANSFORMER

1914

THE AUDIO IN
GENERAL USE

1915

ORGANIZED
RELATING
COMMITTEES

1916

THE SHORT WAVE
REGENERATORS
APPEAR

1917

WAR

STATIONS
DISMANTLED
ACCOUNT OF WAR

1918

THOUSANDS
OF HAMS
SERVE AS
SKILLED
RADIO
OPERATORS
IN THE SERVICE

1919

OPENED AGAIN
20,000 AMATEURS
YELLING TO GO

OH BOY JUST
WAIT TILL I
GET GOING
AGAIN

1920

CW WITH WHIPPED
TUBES
200 METERS

1921

THE SYNCHRONOUS
GAP

REMEMBER THESE
BABIES?

1922

BIGGER TUBES FOR
CW HONESTLY
SECURED

50 WATT BOTTLE

1923

SHORT WAVE CW
INTERNATIONAL DX

1924

LOW
LOSS

1925

HOWS THAT
LITTLE PIECE
OF QUARTZ
GOING TO
KEEP
MY WAVE
STEADY?

CRYSTAL CONTROLLED
TRANSMITTERS

1926

LOOK ME
OVER BOYS
I KNOW
A
PERS-
MITTING
TUBE

LOW POWER DX

1927



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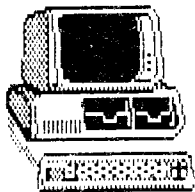
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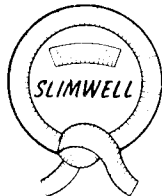
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