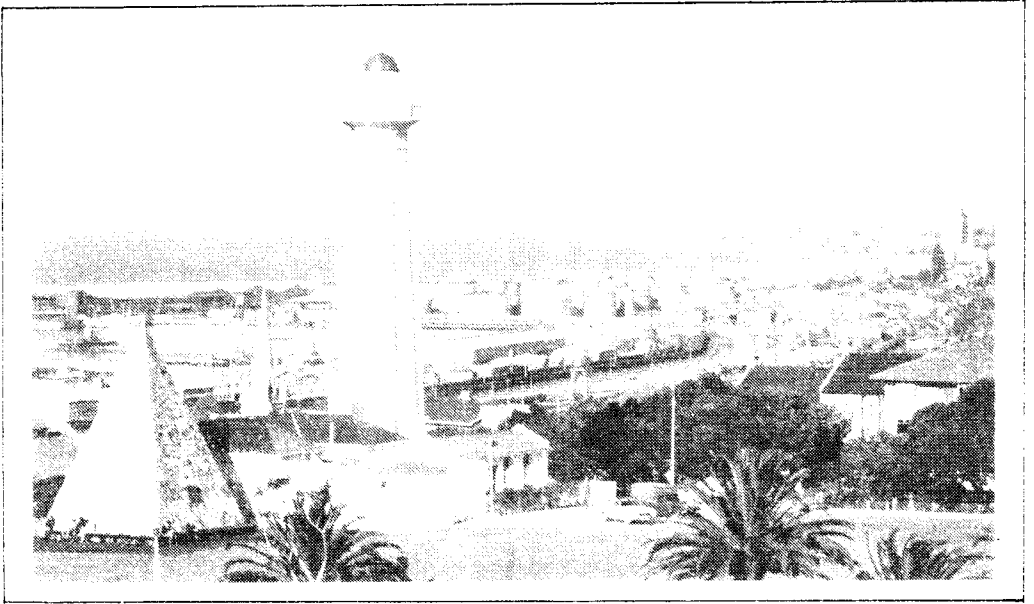




Q S X  
P E



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

P.O. BOX 10402  
LINTON GRANGE  
6015

01-80

P O R T      E L I Z A B E T H      B R A N C H  
COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN	Marge Weller	ZS2OB	30-4597
VICE CHAIRMAN	Brian Weller	ZS2AB	30-3498
SECRETARY (Minuting)	Dick Schonborn	ZS2RS	55-2244
SECRETARY (Corres)	Colin Ashwell	ZS2AO	31-2471
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
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
21 January	Brian ZS2AB	ZS2AB	ZS2RL
28 January	Dick ZS2RS	ZS2RS	ZR2AAN
4 February	Colin ZS2AO	ZS2AO	ZS2U
11 February	Colin ZS2CTR	ZS2CTR	ZS2AB

There will be a relay on 14,135MHz by ZS2DD

SUNDAY BULLETIN INFORMATION

Primary Frequencies for bulletins at approximately 08.40a.m.  
H.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 145,700 MHz,  
with automatic relay on 51,400 MHz - VHF news from ZS2FM.

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
6 meter link with above	51,400MHz (simplex)
Cockscomb Repeater	145,000 / 145,600 MHz
Kareedown Repeater	145,075 / 145,675 MHz
University Repeater	145,175 / 145,775 MHz
6 meter beacon (ZS2SIX CW Id)	50,005 MHz
2 meter beacon (ZS2PE CW Id)	144,910 MHz

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

### NOTICE OF MEETING.

Members are reminded that the next general meeting of the Branch will be held on Friday 19th January, 1990, at St. Martins Church, Kabega Park at 8.15p.m.

### OLD TIMERS CERTIFICATES

Certificates for the following have arrived and will be presented at the meeting: ZS2MC, OC, IR, ID, Y, JS, AE, PL, HB, OD, PG, AW, NS, DD, MF, FM, CZ, AJ and ZS1VS. If it is not possible for you to attend, your certificate will be posted later - but it would be great to see you.

### NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Chairman and Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a healthy and prosperous 1990, and let's make a resolution to become more active on the ham bands. Remember the old saying - "use them, or lose them".

### HAMNET MEETING AND GROUP BRAAI.

This event takes place on Sunday 28th January at the Municipal Western Areas Civil Defence Control Point, Hawthorne St. Framesby. The meeting commences at 11 a.m. and all amateurs are welcome to attend, whether members of Hamnet or not. It is planned to present a few interesting talks and/or demonstrations. This will be followed by a braai. Please bring your own eats, drinks, braai forks, etc. The braai fires will be provided. During the course of the afternoon, an antenna efficiency contest will be held. Any two metre portable or mobile antenna may be used for the contest. See you there.

### HAMNET SIMULATED EMERGENCY CONTEST.

This contest is open to all radio amateurs and will be held on Sunday 11th March from 1400 to 1700 S.A.S.T. The two categories are single operator portable and multi-operator portable and it will take place on SSB on the 40 metre band. For full details, see your previous issue of QSX or contact Al ZS2U, telephone Home 302983 or work 5311141.

### BOOK OF THE MONTH.

The latest ARRL Handbook is being offered by Headquarters as the Book of the Month and the cost to members is R65, which includes GST, packing and postage. Please send your money plus a photocopy of your membership card to Headquarters when you order.

### RENEWAL OF LICENCES FOR 1990.

HQ has been advised by the Postmaster General's Office that there has been a delay in sending out renewal forms for Amateur Station Licences and members are asked NOT to renew without the official renewal form.

Miscellaneous receipts issued by the Post Office will only cause confusion. So hang on to your money a little longer and only pay when you have to!!!

### CONGRATULATIONS.

To Avril Guthrie ZS2NU who was awarded her degree in Microbiology at Rhodes University, Grahamstown recently. Well done Avril - up the ladies!

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH  
BRANCH OF THE S.A.R.L. HELD AT ST. MARTINS CHURCH,  
PORT ELIZABETH ON FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER, 1989.

PRESENT: 30 members.

APOLOGIES: 4 members as per register.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the October meeting having been published and circulated in QSX-PE were taken as read, proposed by Brian ZS2AB and seconded by Bill ZR2AAN.

ARISING: (a) Marge showed members a QSL card which could be printed for use by all members of the Branch. This card would only need the members callsign, name and address to be written in, or could be overprinted at the expense of the member. The cost would be 5c each, if the Branch ordered 10,000 or 6c if 5000 were ordered. Raphy ZS2SP proposed that the Branch take a definite decision, but many members felt that QSL cards were personal items and might like to design their own so no decision was taken. Viv ZS2VM and Wolf ZS2WG were thanked for their help with the Field Day cards.

(b) Although we had not participated fully in JOTA this year, several rare stations were worked. Hopefully next year there would be more enthusiasm from the Scouts as well as members. If the application to permit Third Party traffic was successful, there would be far more interest.

FINANCE: Colin ZS2CTR presented the statement of Income and Expenditure for the month. The balance, which includes savings, stands at R6 086,03. A fixed deposit would mature on 27 December and would be renewed at the best interest rate.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Several Branch newsletters.

Form for nomination for Radio Amateur of the Year.

Letter from President re copyright articles in newsletters.

Letter from Tony Reumerman re car stickers.

2 applications for CW award

Letter from Council re correction to 1 motion.

GENERAL: (a)The Branch will be receiving a special award from Scout Headquarters for our past JOTA efforts.

(b)The applications for Old Timers certificates have been approved and the certificates will be presented at a meeting.

(c)The "Christmas" party will again be held early in the new year.

(d)Trevor ZS2AE reported that he had sent the list of repeater details to Tinus ZS6TL.

(e)Lionel ZS2DD reported that the new VHF rig for the Packet Radio system was now operational.

(f)Al ZS1ZU reminded members of the Hamnet Simulated Emergency contest.HQ had asked that the date be changed to 11th March. There was nothing further to report on Hamnet activities.

(g)Discussion took place on motions to be submitted to the AGM. 2 motions had been sent to this branch by Vic ZS1LY because the Cape Town Branch would not be having a meeting in time to consider these, and several motions were presented by Garth ZS2HB. These were all discussed, together with another motion that past presidents of the League receive Honorary Life Membership, and all were approved by members for submission to Council. Mike Smuts ZS2XE said that in the past several motions had been submitted by the Bloemfontein Branch and NO ACTION had been taken. It was suggested that a written report back be made at all AGMs stating what action had been taken on these motions.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed and tea was taken. Thereafter, a very interesting and informative talk was given by Brian ZS2AB on the production of printed circuit boards, both past and present methods.

sgd: M.T. Weller ZS2OB  
Chairman

sgd: R.W. Schonborn ZS2RS  
Secretary

## A W A R D S.

There are many, many awards available, so much so that I am sure very few amateurs are interested in most of them. Perhaps the first award that amateurs would be interested in is W.A.C. (Worked all Continents). Then what? The most popular award by far is the DXCC (DX Century Club) Award. The requirement for this award is that contact must be made with at least one hundred different countries as per ARRL DXCC countries list. Endorsements for further countries contacted are available. There are several different DXCC awards, that is, the Mixed Mode (General) type, Radiotelephone and C.W. There are also three non-endorsable awards, RTTY, 160 metres and satellite. I read an article a while ago which quoted the percentage of amateurs who possess this award. If my memory serves me correctly the P.E. Branch is somewhat below average. This is surprising as we have the ability and equipment to be above average. It is possible that there are members who qualify, but for one reason or another do not apply for it. I have heard it said that an amateur is scared that the QSLs used to claim the award may go astray. I feel this risk is small. I have sent away QSLs on several occasions in connection with awards and have not lost any to date. By far most QSLs get packed away and are seldom, if ever, seen by anyone else, so is it that serious if a batch does go astray?

Other awards that I feel are worthwhile and rank high on the popularity list are W.A.S. (Worked All States), W.A.Z. (Worked All Zones), A.A.A. (All Africa Award) and W.A.E. (Worked All Europe). Then there is the WPX (Worked all Prefixes) Award which functions similarly to the DXCC and requires contact with a certain number of different prefixes.

If you require further information on these awards or a DXCC countries list, please contact me. As we are well on the way to the sunspot maximum, now is the time to go for it. Good hunting.

73s Al ZS2U.

## LO, THE KERCHUNKER!

As sure as there is a repeater in your neighbourhood, someone is going to kerchunk it.

Let me say right here that I am not talking about the deliberate repeater trasher, the deviate who destroys repeater QSOs. (Note from Editor: I am pleased to say that none of these exist in the Port Elizabeth area). That person is beyond the scope of this discussion. I am talking about the innocuous soul who likes to kerchunk his local repeater occasionally - or more often.

As the singer Joni Mitchel could have sung, "I've looked at kerchunking from both sides now..." I am a repeater owner as well as a repeater user, and that has affected my perspective on kerchunking. Instead of gnashing my teeth and thinking evil thoughts about the unknown perpetrator of these transgressions (which I still sometimes do - especially at 3 A.M.), I've done some thinking on the subject and have found two ways of dealing with the situation.

The first solution is the way I designed the control system of my repeater. It includes a 'kerchunker detector'. Anytime the repeater is keyed up after the repeater transmitter has been off for more than a few seconds, a 'kerchunker timer' is activated to time the key-up. If the key-up is less than 1,2 seconds, there is a half-second squelch tail and then the transmitter turns off. If the key-up is longer than 1,2 seconds or the VOX circuit is activated, the tail is extended to five seconds, the repeater identifies after the user has released his mike PTT button and a PL tone is transmitted for four seconds to alert the control operator, monitoring with a PL'd receiver, that the repeater is on. The control operator then switches off the PL in order to monitor the QSO in progress. This feature lets the kerchunkers do their thing, while sparing the control operator from the frustration of having to listen to all those kerchunkers out there.

The second solution to kerchunking is this article. So, let's consider kerchunking for a moment. I think that once people understand why kerchunking is so prevalent, we could go a long way toward solving it.



I can image the average repeater user who gets up, showers, shaves, eats breakfast and kerchunks the repeater (and not necessarily in that order). If the rig is in the car all of the time, kerchunking the system is as much a part of starting the car as setting the choke. You might say that in hamdom, kerchunking has replaced fastening your seat belts.

You see, it's a little part of the kerchunker's world in which he has control. The repeater does his bidding and he has power over several thousand rands worth of equipment.

Don't laugh at this theory. Of course, Joe Ham isn't thinking in those terms when he presses and releases the mike PTT button without a word, let alone a legal identification. But let the repeater be off for one day and watch what happens. Joe is, at least, disappointed; more likely, he is dismayed, especially if he is a member of the repeaters technical committee. He feels a loss of control and power. Often, if you're listening to the input frequency of the machine during such a crisis, you'll hear several Joes frantically kerchunking away without success. At a time like this, Joe and all of us learn that repeaters can be like anything else in our lives - imperfect. Think about that the next time it happens to you.

Another perspective - that most of us consider kerchunking to be one of the Seven Deadly Sins of Hamdom is attested to by its anonymity. No one will confess to ever doing it. I vividly remember a meeting of a big Chicago area repeater club, where the chairman asked for a show of hands of anyone who had never kerchunked the system. Amid the forest of arms that shot skyward, a motion was made to rename the group "The Liars Club". It brought down the house.

As a repeater owner and control operator I often long to find out who and where is the nameless, unknown operator behind that mike button. On occasion, I will call him back "QRZ from K9XI" - without response. Nothing!


Hey guys and gals, I'm not really upset with you! I won't send the Wouff Hong after you. I'm only curious as to who you are and where you're located. From the sounds of some of the signals, some of you are really out in the boonies. My repeater is not large and I would like to know how well it covers and, believe it or not, kerchunkers are my best means of finding out. Seriously!

I hope you get the picture. I really don't mind kerchunkers. I designed my repeater to accommodate them. If I don't want to hear them I PL my receiver and that is that. Often, however, I'd love to find out who's listening and where they are to indicate to me that my system is operating. That's my peace of mind. So if you're ever in the northwest suburbs of Chicago and you kerchunk the repeater, just give your call, your location and say 'checking the system'. I'll understand. That tells us all that you don't have the time for a QSO, but that all is right with you and the repeater. It's a tradeoff, you see. I find out how well the system is working and you get to kerchunk the system.

Carefully considering all of this has changed my operating practices. I never kerchunk a repeater without identifying and giving a general location. What say we all do the same.

Lo, the kerchunker! You are really more valuable than you think you are. If only you knew (and now you do).

by Art Reis K9XI, Crystal Lake, Illinois. QST



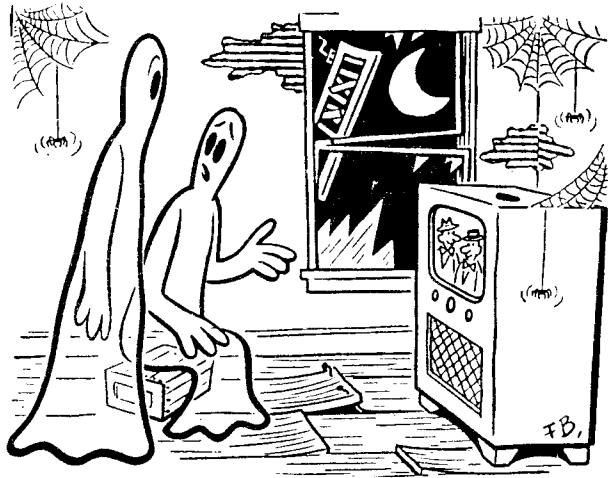
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Hi!  
Hi!



"Dear, you'd better call the servicemen—we're getting an awful lot of people on the screen lately."

My attitude toward my chosen profession is: If I have caused just one person to wipe a tear of laughter, that's my reward. The rest goes to the government.

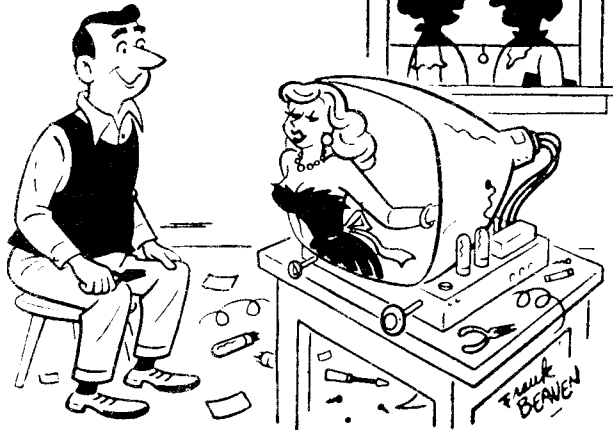
VICTOR BORGE

Hip-huggers: belly jeans.

"Yes, it looks as if he's getting somewhere with his 3-D TV."



"I know you don't want spares for your car this is your car!"





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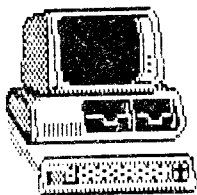
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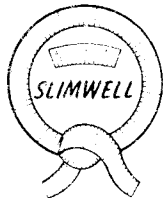
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