



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

05:00

NOTICE OF MEETING.

Members are reminded that the next general meeting of the Branch will be held on Friday 18th May, 1990, at St. Martins Church, Kaboja Park at 8.15p.m.

Waldie Bartie has promised to show us a Video of the finding of the Titanic so the business of the meeting will be very, very short. This is an occasion not to be missed. Bring your friends if you wish but don't know please for catering purposes.

BULLETIN RELAY

The bulletin is being relayed on Ladies Slipper Repeater on 145,100/145,700 MHz Sunday mornings. There is an automatic link on 6 meters on 51,400MHz (simplex).

PERSONAL NEWS

Welcome to Mervyn Akers ZS2F who has rejoined the League and we wish you a long and happy association with the Branch and the League. We hope you get your RITTY going soon, Mervyn.

Condolences to Andre ZS2BK and family on the death of his father recently. Dearest sympathies Andre.

MARCONI DAY EXHIBITION

Several visitors showed great interest in Amateur Radio at the Marconi Day Exhibition and as a result five have asked for study notes and membership application forms. So, at least our efforts were not in vain. One of our members who is due to retire this year has offered to do lots more if this exhibition is held next year.

Many thanks to all those who loaned equipment, who helped at the exhibition in any way, it was really appreciated and it was a good chance to have a nice long chat without being interrupted by the Chairman's gavel!!!

FOR SALE

Hygain 4 element full size monoband 15 meter beam, with coax balun. Overhauled and in good condition. R150. Please contact Dudley, ZS2AW. phone 0461-23985.

DF HUNTS

It is hoped to start this popular sport again soon and Vic ZS2SZ and Athol ZS2CM are putting their heads together to work out details. If you are interested in taking part, please contact either of them.

HANDICAPPED RADIO AMATEURS

The League has received a report from the IARU Region 1 IPdA (Information Program for Handicapped Radio Amateurs) detailing the facilities presently available from IPdA groups in the Region. The SARL wishes to get more involved in providing assistance to existing and prospective handicapped amateurs and has made a number of successful recommendations to the PMG in this regard. However, they would like to do much more and would like to develop an efficient network of contact persons throughout the country to collect and disseminate information for these people. If there is anyone in the Branch who is interested in fulfilling this function, please contact Marge ZS2OB who can give you a bit more information and pass your name on to Headquarters.

2M REPEATER GUIDES

If you are interested in obtaining one of these guides which sell for R5 including tax, please let Marge ZS2OB know so we can order them from Headquarters.



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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE HELD AT ST. MARTINS CHURCH, KABEGA PARK ON FRIDAY 20th APRIL, 1990.

PRESENT: 35 members

APOLOGIES: as per register.

The Chairman extended a welcome to members and especially to Waldie ZS2WM, Fred ZS2EQ, Phil ZS2PP, Bill ZS2BY and Arnou ZR2AAP.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held 20th April, 1990 having been published and circulated in QSX-PE were taken as read, proposed by Julian ZS2AAV and seconded by Brian ZS2AB.

ARISING: (1) Brian reported on the special event callsign ZS2ABG and the various accounts and licences which had been received.

(2) Lionel ZS2DD said that the subs for 1990/1991 had not been listed and the Chairman said they would be as soon as she received a list from Headquarters.

(3) Raphy ZS2SP asked if there would be a talk given on Marconi and the Chairman said that set times had been arranged and had been publicised on the radio and in the press.

FINANCE: Colin ZS2CTR the treasurer reported that the state of the finances was healthy. A copy of the statement had been handed to the Chairman.

CORRES: Branch Newsletters.
Council Minutes.

GENERAL: (1) The Chairman said that the Marconi Day Exhibition would be set up at 8 a.m. and asked all those who would be helping to be there. It would be open to the public from 10 a.m. The talks on Marconi would be at 12 noon and 3p.m.

(2) The Chairman read a cutting given to her by Vic ZS2SZ about satellite reception and the fines which could be imposed for infringement of the radio regulations.

(3) At this stage, Beavan ZS2RL had not received any information regarding the holding of the Algoa/VW Rally this year, but would try to get some information before the next meeting.

DISCOVERY!

But now things were about to happen. It went like this: it occurred to one of the younger, more restless of the hams to insert his fingers into an outlet socket and he was knocked to the floor by a very handsome jolt. Surprised by the phenomenon, he consulted a jolt specialist, who told him that sort of thing could be expected to happen in such a case and that the jolt was caused by some kind of current. In that way it was discovered that what outlet sockets provided was electric current. Electricity was discovered! This was just what the hams needed. Since then, of course, outlet sockets have been very much sought after, since they are of enormous utility.

Once it was known where to obtain electric current, events followed one another with dizzying speed. Pliers, insulated tape, electric meters, legal restrictions and equipment malfunctions were rapidly invented.

The first transmitter to be operated from electricity was not long in appearing, but was so limited in power that it could not be heard by more than one receiver at a time. If more than one receiver was turned on, nobody could hear anything at all. Later on they were able to perfect and build transmitters that could be heard by up to five receivers at once. There was a newly rich guy who had two receivers, since he could afford them but, as he received two-fifths of all the signals from any one transmitter, he was called a band hog.

From those days to the present time, equipment has been continually improved until it has reached the marvellous state of perfection we know today. To demonstrate this to a non-believer, I recently made a schedule with my brother (at an hour agreeable to him) to illustrate with what ease a radio conversation could be maintained between Madrid and Albacete. And, at the appointed hour, my brother came up on the air calling me. But three fellow hams with more power than I had beat me to it and he answered them. Many calls were made, the transmitter was soundly kicked, three microphones were checked out at each of five separate positions, the antenna was inspected, the frequency was changed twice to elude a broadcast station, propagation conditions went sour and after two hours, we had to leave off without having exchanged a single word with my brother.

H A M N E T N E W S

QUESTIONNAIRES.

I wish to thank all the Hamnet members who so promptly returned the questionnaires recently sent to them. There are however, a number outstanding and I would appreciate it if members would return these as soon as possible. If I do not receive these questionnaires, I am in the position where I do not know whether the persons concerned are still interested in Hamnet or not or whether they are still staying in the area or not. There may even be some other reason or reasons for questionnaires not being returned and I must perforce assume that I cannot make use of these persons in an emergency. Please give this matter your urgent attention.

HAMNET NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

Recently a new Hamnet National Co-Ordinator has been elected. He is Jan Schubart, ZS6ARV. Neville Marsh resigned owing to pressure of work. We wish Jan every success in his new post.

HAMNET EAST CAPE STRUCTURE AND MODUS OPERANDI

I have asked Ken, ZS20C to make one or more contributions to Hamnet News in this connection as it has come to my notice that in a few instances there has been direct communications with the National Co-Ordinator instead of the accepted practice of negotiating with the Regional Co-Ordinator. I have, apparently mistakenly, assumed that the latter and the reasons therefore were obvious. It has resulted in a few foul-ups which will now need to be rectified. One can only excuse this course of action if efforts to communicate with the Regional Co-Ordinator have been unsuccessful. This is not the case, unless post has gone astray. A possibility - as efforts on my part to communicate with the other two branches in the East Cape over the past year have been completely unsuccessful.

Al Akers ZS2U. Regional Co-Ordinator, East Cape.

(4) Raphy ZS2SP requested that members be asked who would be prepared to give talks at meetings and that a list be kept for future meetings. After the Chairman asked for volunteers, a long silence reigned! Eventually the following volunteered: ZS2SP, ZS2AZ, ZS2EQ, ZS2VM, ZS2WM. waldie said that he had a very good video on the finding of the Titanic and it was decided that this be shown at the next meeting. The business of the meeting would be kept very short. Raphy said that he had a wire recorder that was about 45 years old and was probably among the first to be brought into South Africa. He also had recordings of the very early days of Port Elizabeth, including some of the famous people of those times.

(5) Buddy ZS2CA mentioned a pirate he had encountered on 20 metres and 2 metres. Members were asked to look out for this and other illegal operators.

(6) Bill ZS2BY mentioned an odd transmission which he hears only on Sunday mornings. It appears to be a sweep frequency transmission and one of the members felt that they might know what was involved and would make enquiries.

(7) Vic ZS2SZ was asked when he would be arranging a DF hunt. He replied that he and Athol ZS2CM would get together to make arrangements and would pick up the DF sets from Brian ZS2AB.

Tea was taken at 9.08p.m. and a very interesting and informative talk on the workings and behind the scenes problems at the Oceanarium was given by Colin ZS2AO. Members will never be able to watch the Dolphins again with the same glase feeling again!

sgd: M.T. weller ZS2OB
Chairman

sgd: R.W. Schonborn ZS2RS
Secretary



THE ORIGIN OF AMATEUR RADIO

From "Revista de Radio" Spanish Amateur Radio League, translated by W6DLY. (1973)

There is no lack of people who maintain that the term 'radio' is only an acronym for the Spanish phrase 'ruido a domicilio' (house noise). This is incorrect, however, since radio was simply derived from the word radio, which means radio.

At the present time it is just exactly 110 years since radio had not yet been invented. The radio amateurs of those days, as now, held club meetings, but they were irritated and bored since they could say nothing about International Morse Code, transistors, DX or about anything at all. Actually, they just met in order to hope; they anxiously read all the literature in the hope that there would be an announcement of the invention of radio. They had a few radio parts but, as they could not be used in any application, their hopes and desires were frustrated. There were some who had an aptitude for playing musical instruments and so they got together and formed bands. That was the origin of the ham bands. They listened to conversations like this:

"I wish radio would be invented" . "Why?"
"Well, so I could call CQ". "On what frequency?"
"Well, on a frequency on which a QSO is in progress, so as to be sure I am in the band".

One guy went so far as to construct a plug-in tank coil out, as he had nothing to plug it into, he eventually went beserk and smashed it to bits. Ten years later he constructed a transmitter whose tube filaments were heated by oil burners. Obviously, the waves came out black and mixed with smoke. Such waves had the advantage of being perfectly visible, so that one could see what happened to them during periods of bad propagation. On the other hand, any place these waves managed to reach was immediately blacked out; besides they smelled like the devil. The disappointed ham once again went beserk and smashed the oil-burning transmitter.

Thus things went. At rare intervals, an encouraging event would take place, such as the invention of the lamp bulb by a man named Ofile. This news was received with great jubilation by the hams, although it represented only a side-product of electricity, which had not yet been discovered. But it could not be denied that it was at least SOMETHING and it created an atmosphere of hope.

WHY AN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR IS CALLED A 'HAM'.

In the pioneer days of radio, amateurs picked their own frequency and call letters. Amateurs often had better signals than commercial stations and the resulting interference finally came to the attention of congressional committees in America who then proposed to legislate in order to critically limit amateur activity.

Operated by three members of the Harvard University Radio Club (Albert Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggy Murray), one of the first amateur stations signed itself HAM. In 1911, Hyman chose the wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard University and his professor was so impressed that he sent a copy to Senator David Walsh who was a member of the committee hearing the bill and he in turn sent for Hyman to appear before the committee.

Hyman described how the little amateur station HAM was built and he became emotional when he told the crowded room that, should the bill go through, they would be forced to close the station as they could neither afford the licence fees nor could they meet the other requirements in the bill.

The debate began and because of national publicity the station HAM became a symbol of all the little amateur stations in America crying out to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations. Finally the bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker spoke about about the poor little station HAM. From that day to this, and probably to the end of time, an amateur radio operator will be a HAM. (Even if only when talking among themselves or to friends and family, although not in official correspondence! Ed.)

From Dr. George Middleton, ZS2KG.



COMPUTER TIPS

IMPROVE YOUR BATCH FILES Everybody knows that "Echo Off" turns off the screen echo in a batch file. The trouble is that the "Echo Off" itself is still displayed. If you're the lucky owner of Dos 3.3 you can get around this by pre-fixing the commands with an 'at' sign e.g. "@Echo Off".

JAZZ UP YOUR DOS COMMAND LINE If you want some colour in your DOS prompt (and you do have a colour screen), make the following changes to the CONFIG.SYS file.

Add the following line:

DEVICE = ANSI.SYS or

DEVICE = \DOS\ANSI.SYS

(if the ANSI.SYS file is in the DOS subdirectory).

Then add the following line to the AUTOEXEC.BAT file:

```
PROMPT $E [1;33;40m$P$E [1;31;40m$G$E [1;36;40m
```

This will give you a colourful prompt in yellow and red, with text in cyan.

ALTERNATE KEYBOARDS Most IBM PC's sold in this country before the advent of the PS/2 were sold with UK keyboards, and a person needed to execute KEYBUK.COM to get the correct key mapping. You can temporarily switch to the USASCII keyboard mapping by pressing <Ctrl><Alt><F1>. Pressing <Ctrl><Alt><F2> restores the UK mapping.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SLOT 8? Many slot-in cards for the IBM PC and PC/XT come with a warning that the card is not to be installed in the eighth slot (the slot closest to the power supply). The reason is that that slot requires the card to reply with a "card selected" signal. Bus timing requirements are also more strict for this slot. Some cards come with a switch or jumper that can be set if the card is to be used in slot 8, e.g. the asynchronous adaptor and the 3278 emulation adapter .

by Lennard ZR6GL - acknowledgements to TNT Newsletter.

LAWS OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

1. Any given program, when running, is obsolete.
2. Any given program costs more and takes longer.
3. If a program is useful, it will have to be changed.
4. If a program is useless, it will have to be documented.
5. Any given program will expand to fill all available memory.
6. The value of a program is proportional to the weight of its output.
7. Program complexity grows until it exceeds the capability of the programmer who must maintain it.

TROJEMAN'S PROGRAMMING POSTULATES:

1. If a test installation functions perfectly, all subsequent systems will malfunction.
2. Not until a program has been in production for at least six months will the most harmful error be discovered.
3. Job control cards that positively cannot be arranged in improper order, will be.
4. Interchangeable tapes won't.
5. If the input editor has been designed to reject all bad input, an ingenious idiot will discover a method to get bad data past it.



