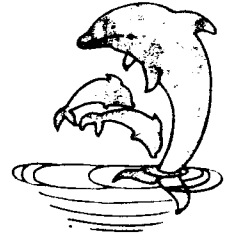




Q S X  
P E



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

P.O. BOX 10402  
LINTON GRANGE  
6015



## NOTICE OF MEETING.

Members are reminded that the next general meeting of the Branch will be held on Friday 20th July, 1990, at St. Martins Church, Kabega Park at 8.15p.m.

There will be some entertainment after the meeting.

### VOLKSWAGEN/ALGOA RALLY

This took place on 22nd and 23rd June and of course the Branch turned up trumps again. At least 25 members and also some non members (But soon to be members!) volunteered their services. Beavan, Lionel and Barry spent a whole day reconnoitering the route so stations could be set up and know which frequency to use. In spite of bitter cold and rain on the Friday night, the Rally went ahead with only a few problems for the competitors, the only major one for us being that 80 meters was not used at all. Saturday was a beautiful day and operators set up at new sites and all went according to schedule. Many thanks to all those involved with the organisation prior to the day, and to all the operators who helped out and did such a good job.

### PERSONAL NEWS

Welcome to Robert Moore of Grahamstown who has joined the League and we wish you a long and happy association with the Branch and the League.

We wish Le Fras ZS2TW and Marie ZS2SW a happy retirement and hope they settle down soon in their new home at the Strand. Sorry to lose you as members of the Branch.

Congratulations to Beavan ZS2RL and W.I. whose daughter got married on the day of the Rally.

### BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY WISHES FOR JULY

Happy birthday to:

3rd Julie Scarr

16th Sel ZS6SS

20th Vic ZS2SZ

22nd Beavan ZS2RL

27th Lil Franz

7th Werner ZS2WA, Jim ZS2LR

19th Bill ZS2BY

22nd Ria Smith

25th Le Fras ZS2TW

Happy Anniversary to:

4th Brian ZS2AB/Marge ZS2OB

Many happy returns to all.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE HELD AT ST. MARTINS CHURCH, KABEGA PARK ON FRIDAY 15th JUNE, 1990.

PRESENT: 35 members

APOLOGIES: as per register.

The Chairman extended a welcome to all and especially to Barry ZS2DT, Andre ZS2BK and Riaan, Neil ZS2MG, Andre ZS2AL and Lilian, Peter ZS2PL and Henk and Errol.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held 18th May, 1990 having been published and circulated in QSX-PE were taken as read, proposed by Lynne ZS2MM and seconded by Julian ZS2AAV.

ARISING: (1)Marge mentioned that the Sunday lunch get-together at Wyndomayne had been very pleasant and really good value for money. Thanks to Beavan ZS2RL for the organisation.

(2)Buddy ZS2CA was asked whether he had heard anything further about the kits from the Pretoria Branch. He replied that Farrell Segal has layouts and details of the kits and will send them to Bud. Many modifications had been made to improve the first kits.

(3)Trevor ZS2AE reported on the trip to the Grahams-town repeater to repair and improve the site. There had been very poor response from East London and Grahamstown. The site had been cleared, the new antenna mast erected, but the repeater would need to be replaced completely before long as it is very old. The Ladies Slipper was out of action, but had now been repaired and re-installed.

(4)Vic ZS2SZ said that the next DF hunt was scheduled for 21st July. It was hoped to put the full rules in QSX before that date. Lionel ZS2DD said he would pass on the old rules we previously used. Vic said that there was a book on DF hunting issued by the ARRL and perhaps the Branch should purchase one.

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. The balance on hand is R4424.

CORRES: Branch Newsletters.

Letter of thanks from Ros Gibson.

Letter from ZS2TW/SW as they are retiring and leaving the area. Will join Boland Branch.

Application for membership from Robert Moore in Grahamstown.

Letter from PMG re Rally licence - handed to ZS2RL.

Post Office account for access road to Karreedouw repeater site.

Letter from Council stating they would not be sending hard copies of bulletins to Branches unless they are requested.

GENERAL: (1)Viv ZS2VM said that Phil ZS2PP had suggested that the Branch put up a station at the Bathurst Show next year. We would consider it, but there could be problems with interference to the P.A. system. We should find out from John ZS2J.

(2)Beavan handed out the necessary paperwork and briefed all those who would be taking part in the forthcoming Algoa Volkswagen Rally on 23/24 June.

(3)It was mentioned that Breda had phoned to say that reception from the Kareedouw repeater was very poor, and it was only possible to access it 8 kilometres to the east or west. Trevor said that he would test it out, and Al ZS2U said that he believed a temporary unit was being used at the moment as Ken ZS2OC was repairing (?) the other one.

At this stage tea was taken. Thereafter a very interesting talk on Marine Diamond Mining was given by Owen ZS2AZ.

sgd: M.T. Weller ZS2OB  
Chairman

sgd: B.A. Weller ZS2AB  
Acting Secretary



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## SOMETHING FOR THE OLD TIMERS

Extracts from the Radio ZS files in the Branch Library.

The first 6 metre (50 MHz) DX QSO took place on October 4th 1947 when ZSLP worked G5BY crossband 6 - 10 metres.

On October 11th ZSLT and ZSLP worked PAOUN and MD5KW both ways on 6 metres. Several contacts were also made crossband with G stations, the band remaining open from 11.00 to 15.00 GMT. During this time, the MUF rose to above 56 MHz, but no contacts were made on 5 metres. At this stage 6 m had not been officially assigned, this happened on January 1st 1948.

In early 1947 there were some 8 Port Elizabeth hams active on 5 metres, using mainly TBY 8 transceivers, a war surplus packset that covered 40 to 80 MHz in four bands and weighed 25 lbs complete with batteries.

Also in 1947 the first postwar SSB contact was made between ZS5 and W6, the W being on SSB. The ZS5 thought there was no future for this mode as the tuning was difficult. W's had been experimenting with SSB since 1936.

SARL subs in 1947 were 30/- (R3) per annum. A good ham receiver could be bought for under 100 pounds and 807 valves were 7/6d. The first issues of 1947 contained some 15 advertisers. The sole survivor of all these advertisers today is HAMRAD.

Branch notes took up about four pages of ZS and Port Elizabeth's contribution ran to well over one page on most months.

Prior to the 1949 AGM., Headquarters (JHB) circularised all members to comment on the resolutions for that years AGM. HQ was shifted to Cape Town at that meeting. At subsequent AGM's there was a rash of resolutions, vaguely familiar to those put up by Port Elizabeth at the last AGM, all of them from Transvaal branches.

These old issue of ZS, donated to the library by Bill Browne, ZS2BY are neatly bound in volumes covering 3 years and make very interesting reading for old timers as well as the not so old.

Thanks to Van ZS2Y for all this research.

## IS AMATEUR RADIO HAZARDOUS TO OUR HEALTH?

In 1982, Samuel Miliham, Jr, MD, PMH, who works in the Epidemiology section of the Washington State Department of Social and Health services, reported that a study of workers whose stated occupation on death certificate records suggested an exposure to electrical or magnetic fields had a higher death rate due to leukemia. In 1985, at the suggestion of an Amateur Radio operator, W2EVE, he looked at all the Silent Keys listings that appeared in QST and studied the cause of death of amateurs who died between the years 1971 and 1983 and who lived in Washington and California at the time of their death.

Among Washington state amateurs, 5 of the 11 deaths due to leukemias, lymphomas or multiple myeloma, were in people who had such occupational electromagnetic exposures. It was pointed out that workers in occupations also were exposed to other possible hazards, such as fumes from solder and toxic chemicals such as the polychlorinated (PCBs) and asbestos, any of which in themselves might cause cancer as well.

Miliham concluded that Amateur Radio licencees in California and Washington State do have higher death rates due to acute myelogenous leukemia, multiple myeloma and possibly other specific types of lymphoma. He felt that exposure to magnetic or electrical fields either as a consequence of work or hobby should be considered among the cause of the deaths.

No one is absolutely certain about what may be causing this increased proportion of special cancers. Therefore prudence dictates that Amateur Radio operators should take those simple measures which decrease the possibility of our personal exposure to electromagnetic fields or toxins that may be contacted as a consequence of our interest in Amateur Radio.

This current list includes some recommendations which are new particularly in view of recent information about Radio frequency waves, a form of electromagnetic waves, a non-ionising radiation related to the cause of cancer among Amateur Radio operators.

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- 1) Do not sit or stand close to your power supplies or linear amplifiers while operating, even when they are in stand-by mode.
- 2) Stay at least 24 inches away from any power transformer, electrical fans or other source of high level 60Hz magnetic fields while in operation.
- 3) Do not tune up or operate a high powered linear amplifier while the shields or covers are off.
- 4) Run your transmission lines away from where you or other people sit in or near your shack.
- 5) Properly terminated coaxial transmission feed lines should be used in preference to open-wire or end-fed antenna installations which come directly into the transmitter, as the RF radiated from a coaxial feed line is much lower.
- 6) Use common sense about placing all antennas well away from yourself and others, especially for VHF, UHF and particularly microwave applications. No one should be in the near field of an antenna.
- 7) No person should be near any transmitting antenna while it is operating. This is especially true for all mobile or ground mounted vertical antennas. The use of indoor transmitting antennas which are close to people in a house or apartment should be reconsidered.
- 8) Use the minimal power needed to make a QSO, especially if the antenna is less than 35 feet above the ground.
- 9) Hand held radios should be used on the lowest power rating needed to carry out communication, not more than 7 watts power.
- 10) Hand-helds should be kept as far from the head as possible when operating. The use of a separate microphone or similar device is recommended.
- 11) Transmissions using a hand-held radio should be kept as short as possible.
- 12) Power density measurements should be made before running more than 25 watts in VHF mobile installation, particularly if the antenna is rear-deck mounted and passengers may ride in the back seat. The safest mobile antenna location is in the centre of the metal roof.
- 13) The development of an accurate inexpensive power density meter would be of major benefit to the Amateur Radio community so that RF power-density measurements could be taken in all radio installations. Because of the current high cost of

such devices, groups of amateurs or clubs may wish to purchase one and share in its use.

14) Soldering should only be done in a well ventilated area. A small fan should be used to blow away toxic fumes.

15) When using toxic chemicals, such as when etching PCB boards or repairing fibre glass, wear gloves and goggles, use proper tools and avoid contact with any chemicals. If accidentally contaminated wash off the compounds immediately with copious quantities of water. Again the importance of always working in a well ventilated area with personal protective covering cannot be overemphasized.

16) Hazardous chemicals, such as those in PCB class, are used in some capacitors and dummy loads. Use extreme care in handling these materials, and consult with the appropriate local authorities to determine the proper means of disposing of these chemicals in an environmentally responsible way.

Experts, including Dr. Miliham, agreed that none of them would have any hesitation regarding their own personal use of currently available Amateur Radio equipment, provided that it was properly installed and operated, and that the recommended precautions were followed. Unanimously, they all felt that no one should stop operating because of concern for the possible risk of illness, as these risks appear to be so relatively low.

By Ivan A. Shulman, MD, WC2S. (condensed by DU9LRC-BBS)  
Thanks to Colin Robertson ZS2CTR for this article.





# H A M N E T    N E W S

This month we welcome Wally ZS2ELL who has joined Hamnet.

Hamnet news contributions have to date come largely from me. There are, however, 31 Hamnet members at present and it would be nice to read something about them. I am retiring from my work at the end of August this year and will have a bit more free time thereafter. I intend to visit one Hamnet member each month (at least the Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage ones) and give a write-up on their stations, ideas for coping with emergencies, etc. We can thus learn from each other.

Supplying comms. for rallies, such as the Volkswagen/Algoa Rally held recently, is a good test for your portable station. About 25% of the Branch members in the area assisted with comms. Of the Hamnet members in the area, some 35% assisted. This is good, but how about us improving on this next year? After all, we should be better equipped for this type of operation than the average amateur.

73

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

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## INTERNATIONAL CONCERN

by Geoff Arnold - Practical Wireless

In the January 1989 issue of QST, journal of the American Radio Relay League, the Editorial and two pages of members letters are devoted to the thorny question of the continued requirement for Morse operating skills as part of amateur radio. The letters are in response to one in an earlier issue which had written Morse code off as obsolete. Interestingly, the average age of the 13 letter-writers was 38 - about 10 years younger than the average American amateur, yet every one of them was in favour of keeping Morse.

The Editorial, written by W4RA and KLZZ, ARRL's President and Executive Vice President respectively, comments on the decision last November by the International Maritime Organisation to bring its long awaited Global Maritime Distress and Safety System on line during the next decade. By 1999 ships worldwide will be equipped the permit any member of the crew to send a distress signal at the press of a button. Ship owners are expected to use this development to phase out their shipboard Morse radio operators and to rely on satellites and maritime telex to keep in touch with their vessels.

On this side of the Atlantic, Portishead Radio, the British Telecom International station which provides the UK's long range radio service for shipping, has seen major changes over the past twenty years or so. Up to the beginning of the 1970s all communications there were by Morse code, apart from those with a handful of high traffic ships with automatic telegraphy equipment. Now, telephone and telex are the norm, and manual Morse traffic is falling in volume, used only by ships who trading pattern necessitates very little communication with their owners and agents, and by ships of the developing countries which simply cannot afford the capital investment for automatic systems. Portishead Radio expects to go on communicating in Morse with those who require it for as long as the amount of business warrants running the service. So, though Morse may have lost its pre-eminent position in commercial systems where there are large volumes of information to exchange, internationally it is by no means dead. The correspondents in QST point out that training in the use of Morse continues in the US Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps and that the Soviet Navy still makes heavy use of cw.

Learning and using Morse is a challenge; it exercises the mind and promotes bodily co-ordination, but most of all, IT'S FUN! (Thanks to Dudley ZS2AW)

## MORE HISTORY AS SHE IS WROTE!

Then came the Middle Ages. King Alfred conquered the Dames; King Arthur lived in the Age of Slavery. Magna Carta provided that no man should be hanged twice for the same offence

In midevil times, most of the people were alliterate. The greatest writer was Chaucer, who wrote many poems and verses and also wrote literature. Another tale tells of William Tell who shot an arrow through an apple while standing on his son's head.

The Renaissance was an age in which more individuals felt the value of their human being. Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences. He died a horrible death, being excommunicated by a bull.

It was an age of great inventions and discoveries. Gutenberg invented the Bible. Another important invention was the circulation of blood. Sir Walter Rally invented cigarettes and Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.

Henry VIII found walking difficult because he had an abcess on his knee. Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen". As a queen, she was a success. When Elizabeth exposed herself in front of her troops they all shouted "Hurrah"! Then her navy went out and defeated the Spanish Armadillo.

The greatest writer of the time was William Shakespeare. He never made any money and is famous only because of his plays. He lived at Windsor with his merry wives. In one of Shakespeares plays, Hamlet rations out his situation by relieving himself in a long soliloquy. In another play, Lady Macbeth tries to convince Macbeth to kill the King by attacking his manhood. Romeo and Juliet were an heroic couplet.

The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote 'Paradise Lost'. Then his wife died and he wrote 'Paradise Regained'.

More next time!!!!

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

Bulletin readers please refer to your Roster Sheet.

SUNDAY BULLETIN INFORMATION

Primary Frequencies for bulletins at approximately 08.40a.m.  
H.F. 7098 kHz in 40 metre band. VHF 145,100 MHz - Ladies Slipper  
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
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

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