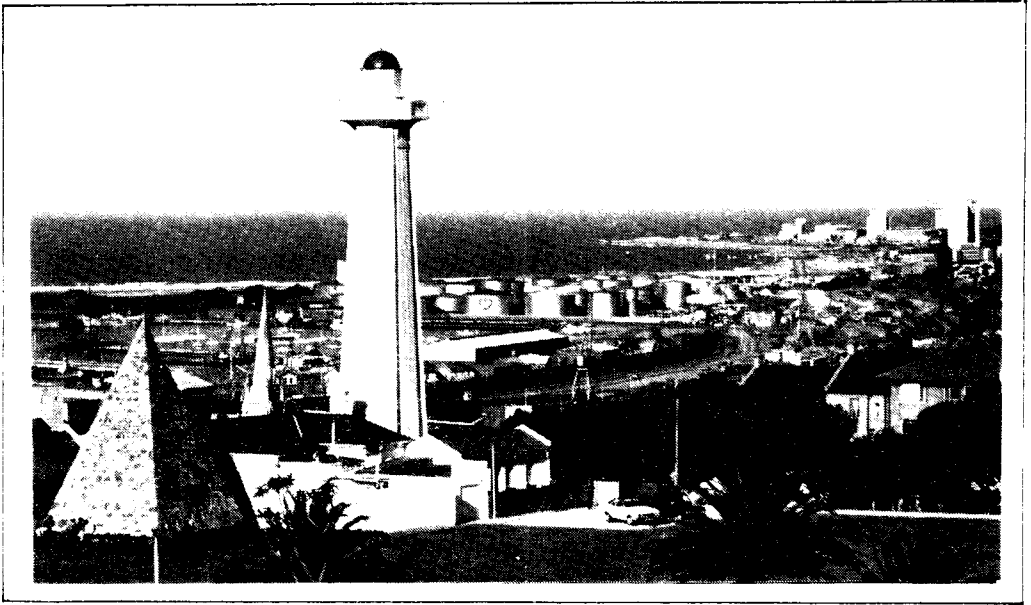




Q S X
P E



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

**P.O. BOX 10402
LINTON GRANGE
6015**

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11/90

NOTICE OF MEETING

Members are reminded that the next monthly general meeting of the Branch will be held on Friday, 16th November 1990, at St. Martin's Church, Kabega Park at 20:15 (8.15pm). After the tea break, Viv Moore, ZS2VM, will talk on the basics of QRP equipment. He has promised to follow this up in greater detail on a future occasion. If you have any budding novices in mind, bring them along - they can't afford to miss this mini-series.

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**FIELD STATION 17/18 NOVEMBER**

Remember the SARL SSB Field 'Day' which will take place over the weekend 17/18 November 1990. The Branch will establish a station at Lovemore Heights and Al ZS2U hopes to erect a second one at a different site provided sufficient help is available to man two stations. If you can help in any way, contact Wolf ZS2WG at 30-1510 (home) regarding the official Branch station or Al ZS2U (30-2983).

The site is located about 200 metres from the water tower. A lot of fun is guaranteed for those who get involved, even if only for a short while during the weekend.

Naturally the stations will want as many contacts as possible in order to gain points for the contest, so look out for them and give away some points even if you cannot help with establishing or operating the stations.

~~~~~

Have you entered the Homebrew competition?

Remember the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust's construction competition with main prizes of R500, R200 and R100 as well as a number of consolation prizes for home-brewed projects (see QSX, October 1990). Entries must reach SAARDT in Johannesburg by 31 December 1990. Entry forms are available from your Projects Manager, Viv Moore ZS2VM - Tel. 30-4433 (home)

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**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH  
BRANCH OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE HELD AT  
ST. MARTINS CHURCH, PORT ELIZABETH ON FRIDAY 19TH  
OCTOBER 1990**

PRESENT: 35 members and visitors

APOLOGIES: As noted in register

The Chairman welcomed all to the first meeting of the new Branch year, especially John ZS2JR, Antonio ZR2AAM, Arno and Ben. She said that the Committee had many ideas for the future and that with the co-operation and enthusiasm of the Branch members they would all come to fruition. In the absence of Lynne ZS2MM, Viv ZS2VM offered to act as Secretary.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting held in August 1990, having been published and circulated in QSX-PE were taken as read, proposed by ZS2RL and seconded by ZS2AE.

ARISING: (a) Beavan ZS2RL said that he thought there might be three banners outstanding from the Rally but they were found to be in the library cupboard.

(b) Bill ZS2BY said that he had been in contact with Postal officials in Pretoria and he said that the 30m band was a shared band, with amateurs taking secondary status and we were not to qrm commercial stations. 80 m is also a shared band.

FINANCE: Colin ZS2CTR reported that the Branch funds in total stood at R5709.69. Marge mentioned that we had a budget of R150 per month for incidental expenses and in view of increased travelling costs, especially for a delegate to the AGM next year, we would be doing some fundraising, and Al ZS2U would run the R30 draw this evening. (This raised R28 of which R14 was won by Vic ZS2SZ).

CORRES: Council minutes (Marge said that Council were doing good work and we should support their efforts)

Branch newsletters.

Headquarters bulletins

GENERAL: (a) Regarding the fundraising for the Branch, Marge said that taking part was entirely voluntary and no one would think any the worse of them if someone did not. We

## Minutes of meeting (cont'd)

could set aside R1.50 per month in our budget, R1 for the draw or raffle and 50c per tea! Especially do not stay away from the meeting because you did not want to take part in fundraising!

(b)It had been asked in the past what we were keeping our money for, but this was being used for upgrading our repeaters and other items of branch equipment.

(c)Sean ex ZR2AAZ was congratulated on passing his cw test and his callsign was now ZS2SNA.

(d)Marge said that nominations for Council were called for and Bill Browne ZS2BY had accepted the nomination from this Branch and his name and full particulars would be sent to HQ.

(e)The Field day competition is due to take place next month and Wolf ZS2WG and Dick ZS2RS would be making all the arrangements. Volunteers were needed for setting up the station and operating. Al ZS2U was also considering a second station to make more competition, but this would not interfere with the main branch station.

(f)Raphy ZS2SP said that the question of stickers for cars had been raised many times but it was decided after a show of hands that there were a number of members who would like stickers and these would be made, using the League badge and the words "Amateur Radio" and one would be sent to each Branch advertising them. The cost would be R5.

(g)Garth ZS2HB and the QSX committee were congratulated on their first issue. Members were urged to provide articles, letters, jokes or whatever.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed and tea was taken. Thereafter, Trevor ZS2AE gave a very comprehensive, informative and interesting talk on repeaters, what they were, how they worked and our plans for the future, especially in regard to the future link-up to Cape Town.

signed: M.T. Weller ZS2OB  
Chairman

signed: V. Moore ZS2VM  
Acting Secretary

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**Where do all those operators go between contests?**

## OF HUNT RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Any receiver may be used in the hunt.
2. Any aerial is permitted.
3. Interference to other receivers by generation of false, spurious or any other intentional interference including magnetic fields which may affect compass readings is prohibited.
4. Collusion between parties or with a third party by any form of communication is not permitted.
5. All traffic regulations, especially speed limits, must be adhered to.
6. The fox may not hide in a private dwelling.
7. On finding the fox, the hound must ensure that his time of arrival and call sign are noted by the fox, leave the area immediately and proceed to the pre-arranged meeting place.
8. The transmitter may not be sited within 50 metres of power lines, telephone lines, wire fences, substations or large metallic structures, etc.
9. Transmitter power output, antenna length and positioning may not be changed after the first transmission.
10. The transmitter must be located within 0,5 km of a roadway negotiable by an average car.
11. The fox may not communicate with any of the hounds except on CW at the specified times and may not give his location or any hints leading to it.
12. CW mode will be used on 160m and CW or tone on 2m. Transmissions will be as follows:-

- One minute CW and call sign followed by two minutes carrier on 160m, and three minutes carrier and tone on 2m at the following times: 14:00, 14:10, 14:20, 14:30, 14:40, 14:50 and 15:00;

- CW and call sign for half a minute and carrier for one and a half minutes on 160m and tone for two minutes on 2m at the following times: 15:05, 15:10, 15:15, 15:20 and 15:25.

- From 15:30 to 15:35 the fox will transmit continuously and the hunt will cease at 15:35.

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# The VHF SCENE for 1991

By Mike Bosch ZS2FM

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The VHF spectrum is the last frontier where radio amateurs can still experiment and construct some of their own equipment, such as antenna systems, converters, transverters, linears etc. There is a select and friendly group of amateurs in South Africa who are dedicated to this part of the radio spectrum, and who would welcome and encourage novices in this field.

Some interesting activities are envisaged for next year on both the VHF bands, i.e. 2 and 6 Metres. Several amateurs are also planning an attack on the existing VHF records which trail behind those of the USA. The more amateurs who participate on VHF the more fun there will be for all.

## 144 Mhz Band:

The main reason for such poor performance on 144 MHz in this country is the lack of suitable beacons which could indicate Tropo, Meteor Scatter and Sporadic E openings. Fortunately, Dave Larsen ZS6DN of Irene has promised to put his 2 Metre beacon back on the air and point its high gain antenna in our direction. This would be a real boon for VHF amateurs in the Eastern Cape.

Our Branch has been running a low-power beacon ZS2VHF on 144,910 MHz which is radiating an omnidirectional signal via a pair of crossed yagis. Unfortunately this beacon has a limited range and cannot provide warnings of long-distance openings. Consequently, the writer has approached Lionel ZS2DD, our Vice Chairman who is in charge of this beacon, to see if he could replace the crossed yagis with a suitable beam. A small six element yagi which is horizontally polarized could increase the ERP about ten times in the direction of the Free State and Transvaal. In Division 6 there are a number of well-equipped 2 Metre amateurs such as Ivo ZS6AXT, Bert ZS6HS, Van ZS6LW, Hal ZS6WB, Servaas ZS6XL etc., who would appreciate such a beacon immensely.

Incidentally, the general rule of thumb is that all signals below 145 MHz are horizontally polarized and those above are vertically polarized.

Continued next page >>

## VHF SCENE (from previous page)

Many Tropo openings could occur under favourable weather conditions and the current record stands at 1080 kilometres. Meteor Scatter communication should be possible throughout the year while summer months could also provide Sporadic E contacts, and a well-equipped station could cover about 2200 kilometres on both these propagation modes. T.E.P. contacts between the Mediterranean and Divisions 3 and 6 have also taken place. EME signals have been picked up in Port Elizabeth between 144,000 - 144,020 MHz and future two-way contacts are a definite possibility.

### 50 MHz Band

This magic band and old faithful has produced many band openings during the past two years on F<sub>2</sub>, Sporadic E, Tropo, Tropospheric Scatter, T.E.P., Backscatter, Ionospheric Forward Scatter and Meteor Scatter. Our Branch beacon ZS2SIX on 50,005 MHz has been heard in the UK, Europe, Greece, Japan, Marion Island etc.

The first-ever T.E.P. opening between Port Elizabeth and the Mediterranean was detected by Costas SV1DH of Athens, when he picked up the ZS2SIX beacon signal. These beacon signals have also been received throughout South Africa and Namibia. Another beacon, ZS6DN, has been of tremendous value to us in Port Elizabeth. The Branch 2 to 6 Metre repeater system has also made its mark with long distance contacts with Namibia, Transvaal and the surrounding towns such as East London, when it was accessed on 51,400 MHz by them.

Well-equipped stations such as Hannes ZS2BE, Graeme ZS200 and the writer have all worked a fair number of DX stations since last year. More DX openings are expected next year including countrywide Sporadic E QSO's as well as excellent two-way Meteor Scatter contacts.

On the horizon is the first master Meteor Scatter station in the world which is currently being planned by Dave ZS6DN. This system will enable amateurs who are equipped with packet radio to communicate across the country on 50 MHz throughout the whole day and night.

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Congratulations...

- to those who will be celebrating in the month ahead:

Birthdays - November: Dot Clarke (14th) John St. Clair ZS2JR (21st); December: Ronnie Drescher ZR2AD (1st); Rowly Mash (1st); Clive Fife ZS2RT (5th); Lionel Coombe-Davis ZS2DD (6th); Verity Lookwhy (8th); Lou Middendorp ZS2UI (10th); Jan Stark (11th); Phil Bothma ZS2B (12th); Kay Strutt (13th)

Anniversaries - November: Beavan ZS2RL and Mel Gwilt (20th); Stoffel ZS2C and Shirley Carr (20th). December: Vic ZS2VP and Dot Plumridge (9th); Mike ZS2MJ and June ZS2JJ Jones (10th); Clive ZS2RT and Jane Fife (12th); Colin ZS2AO and Marlene ZR2ED Ashwell (16th).

- to Sean Allen on passing his CW test and obtaining a full licence - call sign ZS2SRA.

Farewell...

to Langley ZS2LW and XYL Bubbles Lookwhy, who have left Port Elizabeth to settle in Johannesburg. His new call is ZS6BGN. They wish to apologise for not having greeted their ham friends personally before leaving. Due to a death in the family they had to visit Cape Town at the time that they were busy packing up and finalizing things here.

Our condolences on your family loss, Lang and Bubbles. We wish you good health and happiness in your new surroundings and hope you will keep in contact.

Welcome...

Mr. G.W. Taylor ZS2AAX of Grahamstown, and Mrs. June Brady, of Mossel Bay, who have joined our Branch. We hope you will enjoy the camaraderie of the PE Branch.

Permanent Loafers' Club...

We have just heard that Van ZS2JC, of Humansdorp, joined this distinguished group at the end of September. Veels-geluk, Van en Magda. Alle voorspoed en goeie gesondheid vorentoe. Moet net nie glo dat jy nou sal kan terugsit en uitspan nie, Van! Jy gaan nou eens bedrywig word.

BILL ZS2BY NOMINATED FOR COUNCIL...

Five vacancies on Council have to be filled at the next SARL AGM. The Branch has decided to nominate Bill Browne, ZS2BY, who would undoubtedly be a great asset on Council.

Of particular value to the League is Bill's wealth of experience of direct relevance to Ham Radio. He served for many years in P&T Headquarters where he was not only responsible for technical radio matters, including the setting and marking of examination papers, but also regularly represented South Africa on radio matters at meetings of the International Telecommunications Union. (One of his numerous visits, in fact, covered the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference at which he lent the SA Post Office's support for the allocation of our new 'WARC' bands).

Among his many personal attributes, he held very senior positions in P&T, retiring as Regional Director: Natal. He consequently enjoys a high personal standing vis-a-vis the PMG's Office and still maintains a cordial relationship with the officials at all levels.

Above all, Bill is an objective free-thinker with the courage to express an individual point of view.

...AND MIKE ZS2FM APPOINTED CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS

Council has appointed Mike ZS2FM as Custodian of Records for VHF/UHF/SHF in South Africa in response to a request by IARU to fill such a position. Council rightly noted that Mike probably has more information at his fingertips than anyone else in South Africa regarding happenings in the spectrum above 30 MHz and it was not hard to think of an appropriate candidate for the task. Congratulations, Mike.

██████████ QSX AVAILABLE ON ██████████ ██████████ NEWS-STANDS SOON? ██████████

Well, no, not actually. But if you haven't renewed your membership by the time you read this, or soon thereafter, you're in grave danger of missing out on future issues of QSX.

That goes for Radio ZS as well. And QSL cards! Worse, you won't have a shiny new membership card to photostat whenever you order books from HQ.

Big deal. But please pay up anyhow. We like being your Branch.

TECHNICAL NET FOR E. CAPE

It has been suggested that a regular technical net be held on one evening a week. Initial response to the proposal seems favourable and it would help if members could suggest the most suitable evening, time and band for such a net: 2 metres? 80 metres? How about suggesting some topics for discussion? Should it, for that matter, always be technical or should general Branch or League affairs also be discussed? It's your branch, so let's hear your views, please.

In the mean time, a net affectionately referred to as the 'Muddlers Net' usually develops on 40 metres (7075 KHz) at about 17:30 daily, with spillover onto 2 metres (Grahamstown repeater). All are welcome to join.

THE BRANCH TROPHIES

Although the Branch has no fewer than five trophies to present annually, only two were awarded at the last AGM, namely the VHF Trophy and the Ham Spirit Trophy. There were no contenders for the others, which include -

- the DF Hunting Trophy, a silver floating trophy which is awarded to the member who is the overall winner of any DF hunts organised by the Branch during the preceding year. DF hunts now carry a points system for trophy purposes and it is hoped that a sufficient number of DF hunts will be held each year to provide a meaningful contest;
- the ZS20B DX Trophy, a silver floating trophy awarded to the member who, in the opinion of the Committee, has established two-way contact with the greatest number of DX stations on the HF bands during the Branch year. This trophy must be applied for and it will be necessary for the log books to be scrutinised. QSL cards are not necessary. All authorised frequencies and modes may be used.

Next time: the ZS2AB Constructors Trophy. Can't wait, huh?
(PS - I think "Constructors" should be apostrophised but I don't know where to put my apostrophe. Where would you put yours? Send your answers to: "Constructors Apostrophe," Stop Street, Comma Park. Hyphen idea someone will point out more arrows but please - no backslashing)

HAMAD * HAMAD * HAMAD * HAMAD

WANTED - DISK DRIVE for Commodore C64 computer - Please contact Al Akers, ZS2U, tel. 30-2983 (home)



USE YOUR BANK CREDIT CARD

You may now use your Visa and/or Master bank credit cards for purchases of books from the SARL Bookshop. When placing an order by mail, quote your card number and its expiry date and sign the order or letter. Your copy of the credit card transaction slip will be mailed with the books.

Address your orders to the SARL Bookshop, PO Box 807, Houghton 2041. The October issue of Radio 2S will carry an up-to-date list of books available or, if you can't wait for last month's 2S, you can obtain a list, together with an order form, by sending a SASE to the Bookshop.

BELIEVE IT OR DON'T

A Newspaper account of the Moonbounce experiments done during the sixties by W1BU and W6HB explained that their success lay in the fact that the upper sideband oscillated with the lower sideband to produce TVI harmonics and therefore amplify the signal to produce the wavelength.

  **SUNDAY BULLETINS** - Two frequencies on the back page of QSX are incorrect. 145,100 and 50,005 MHz should read respectively 145,700 and 51,400. These will be corrected when the supply of cover pages runs out. Sorry!



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VICE CHAIRMAN	Lionel Coombe-		
	Davis	ZS2DD	32-1770
SECRETARY	Lynne Crothall	ZS2MM	35-4671
TREASURER	Colin Robertson	ZS2CTR	30-0570
SOCIAL	Marge Weller	ZS2OB	30-4597
SPECIAL EVENTS, AWARDS, CONTESTS	Bud Voortman	ZS2CA	34-2770
HAMNET	Al Akers	ZS2U	30-2983
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EDITOR: QSX-PE	Garth Laaks	ZS2HB	33-1532
QSX COMMITTEE MEMBER	Viv Moore	ZS2VM	30-4433
LIBRARIAN, DF HUNTS, IPHA	Vic Olivier	ZS2SZ	30-2440
PROJECTS, PUBLICITY	Viv Moore	ZS2VM	30-4433
PACKET WORKING GROUP	Lionel Coombe-		
CO-ORDINATOR	Davis	ZS2DD	32-1770
REPEATER WORKING GROUP			
CO-ORDINATOR	Trevor Scarr	ZS2AE	32-1746

BULLETIN ROSTER

Bulletin readers please refer to your roster sheet.

SUNDAY BULLETINS

Bulletins are transmitted on Sundays at about 08:40
(after the Headquarters bulletin) on -

- 7,098 MHz (40 metre band SSB)
- 145,100 MHz (2 metre band FM - Lady's Slipper)
- 50,005 MHz (automatic link with 2 m Lady's Slipper)
- 14,130 MHz (20 metres SSB) when conditions require.

BRANCH VHF SERVICES

Town Repeater (PE Central)	145,050	/	145,650 MHz
Grahamstown Repeater	145,150	/	145,750 MHz
Lady's Slipper Repeater	145,100	/	145,700 MHz
6 Metre link with Lady's Slipper	51,400 MHz (simplex)		
Cockscomb Repeater	145,000	/	145,600 MHz
Karreedouw Repeater	145,075	/	145,675 MHz
University Repeater	145,175	/	145,775 MHz
6 metre beacon (ZS2SIX CW ID)	50,005 MHz		
2 metre beacon (ZS2PE CW ID)	144,910 MHz		

BRANCH MEETINGS

20:15 (8.15pm) on the third Friday of the month at St. Martin's Presbyterian Church, Great West Way, Kabega Park.

**** We like being your branch ****