



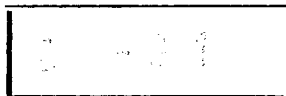
Q S X P E



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

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

FAX (041) 30-7270



NOTICE OF MEETING

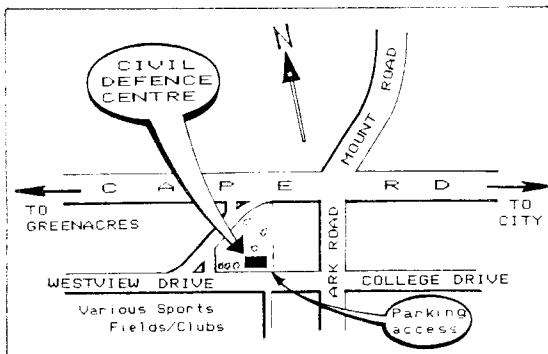
The August monthly general meeting of the Branch will be held on Friday, 16th August 1991. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE FOR THIS MEETING:-

Civil Defence Centre
Westview Drive
Mill Park.

The open grounds on which the Centre is located lie between Cape Road and Westview Drive, opposite the eastern end of the various sports grounds, where Westview Drive forks into Cape Road just west of the latter's intersection with Mount Road. The building is not identified but it stands alone on the triangular erf.

The only vehicular access point for parking is at the south-eastern corner of the erf and is awkward unless approached from the east along Westview Drive.

If that has confused you, try the map alongside. A special feature of this map is that the area depicted can be reached from anywhere in Port Elizabeth, provided that you travel in the right direction from your point of departure.



After the break for refreshments, Steve Williams ZS2WS will talk on BCI, TVI and general problems of RF interference and tracing thereof.

BRANCH AGM APPROACHING

The Port Elizabeth Branch Annual General Meeting will be held during September, 1991. Details as to exactly when, where, what form it will take and who will braai the meat will be announced in due course, both in QSX-PE and in Branch bulletins.

In the meantime, you should think about matters for discussion, ideas for improving Branch facilities and activities, who you want on the next Committee etc. (Don't bother to say what you would like to see in QSX every month. Editors know best what's good for their readers).

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT
ELIZABETH BRANCH OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO
LEAGUE HELD AT THE ST MARTINS CHURCH, PORT
ELIZABETH ON FRIDAY, 12 JULY, 1991**

PRESENT: 37 members and visitors
APOLOGIES: ZS2CB, ZS2JC, ZS2OC and ZS2WG

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to all present, especially to Pam and Phil Hopper ZS2PP from Port Alfred, Mervyn Akers ZS2F, Andre ZS2AL, Andre ZS2BK, Brendan ZU1AAR, Sandy ZS2LN and our newest member, Peter Flynn ZR2PF.

She informed the meeting that the Branch Secretary, Lynne ZS2MM, who would be leaving on an overseas trip shortly, had tendered her resignation from the Committee. She thanked Lynne very much for all the work she had done for the Branch during the year. This was responded to by applause from all present.

Colin ZS2CTR had agreed to record the minutes of the meeting.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June meeting had been circulated in QSX-PE and were taken as read. The adoption was proposed by Bill ZR2AAN and seconded by Bud ZS2CA.

ARISING: (a) Colin ZS2CTR reported that to date R282,00 had been donated by members to the Branch 1994 AGM Fund.

(b) The Chairman thanked those members who had so far assisted with preparations for the Algoa Motor Rally.

FINANCE: The Treasurer reported that as at 30 June 1991 the Branch funds stood at R4072,25.

CORRESPONDENCE: (a) Various items of correspondence received from League Headquarters were read, including regulations pertaining to operating at special events following the withdrawal of the requirement for special licences.

(b) Card received from Julie and Trevor Scarr ZS2AE from Los Angeles.

GENERAL: (a) The results of the Hamnet Simulated Emergency Contest run by the Branch were announced. Members of the Branch had done very well, with Al ZS2U taking second place, Lynne ZS2MM was third and Vic ZS2SZ was fifth. They were congratulated on their fine performance.

(b) Owen ZS2AZ was presented with an Algoa Bay CW Merit Award. He had achieved over 1000 points.

(c) Lionel ZS2DD reported that interference tests would have to be carried out on the Branch PBBS at the Lady's Slipper Repeater site as a requirement to the issuing of the special call sign.

(d) The Lucky Ticket Draw of R15,00 was won by Bill ZR2AAN.

(e) The Chairman informed the meeting that the next branch General Meeting would be held at the Mill Park Civil Defence Centre. This announcement brought a big smile to the face of Raphy ZS2SP! She suggested that members should acquaint themselves with the venue before the meeting. Directions to the centre will be published in QSX-PE.

(f) Marge then closed off the business of the meeting, thanking Al ZS2U for providing the scrumptious-looking eats.

(g) After the tea break, Bud ZS2CA and the other members of the Rally sub-committee presented the full details and arrangements for communications for the Algoa Motor Rally which the Branch was providing the next Friday and Saturday.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

VW RALLY: WERE YOU UNDERPAID?

As a result of a Rally Organisers' error, those who provided Rally communications and received envelopes containing their kilometre allowances apparently also received R5 that was intended for the Branch, being a refund of the amount that it paid for insurance for each participating member.

On the other hand, the Branch is aware that many participants received somewhat less than the 35c per kilometre that they were promised and they can hardly be expected to part with a chunk of that.

To enable Bud ZS2CA to lodge a claim for your outstanding kilometre allowance, please furnish him not later than 16 August with a statement showing the actual kilometrage/s to your allocated position/s calculated from the Elizabeth Sun Hotel and back again, the amount/s due at 35c/km and the amount/s actually received. If you won't be at the Branch meeting, post your statement right away to PO Box 10402, Linton Grange 6015.

If you perhaps received more than 35c/km, the surplus should please be passed back to Bud to be offset against the Branch's insurance advance.



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TRY US FOR YOUR QSL CARDS!

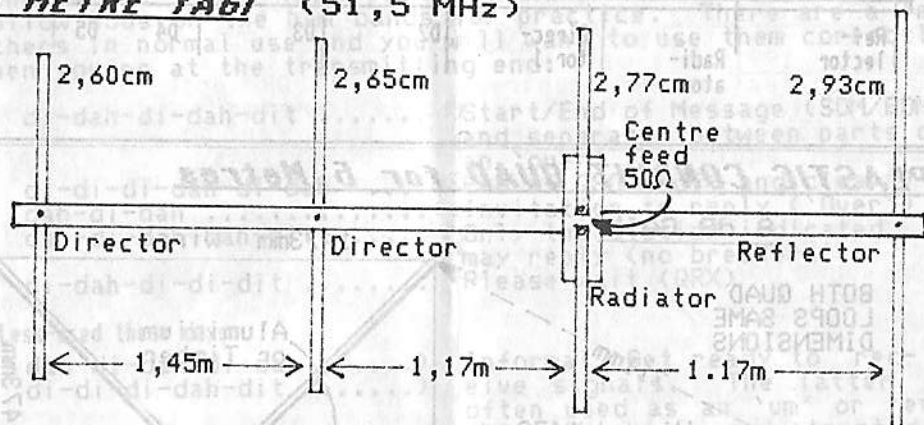
Just what the Doctor ordered...

3 Cheap & Simple VHF Antennas

...in time for the VHF FM QSO Party!

by Bud Voortman ZS2CA

6 METRE YAGI (51,5 MHz)



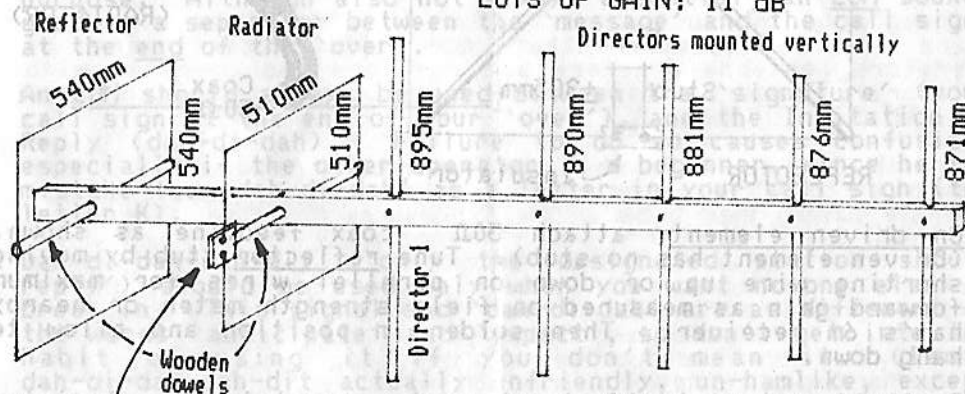
BOOM: 5cm x 5cm timber (4m long)

ELEMENTS: Old electric conduit or aluminium tubing or white plastic conduit with wire attached. (Black conduit contains carbon). Drill holes through timber, push tube through and secure with screw or nail through timber and tube. If using plastic conduit, tape copper wire element to it or use glue gun or superglue. Radiator can be dipole fed (or simple gamma match).

Mount horizontally (horizontal polarisation on 50 MHz).

2 METRE QUAGI 145-146 MHz

LOTS OF GAIN: 11 dB

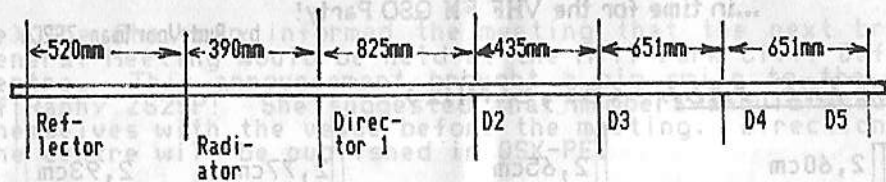


BOOM: Aluminium or Timber
ELEMENTS: Aluminium Rod or Tube
or Coat Hanger Wire

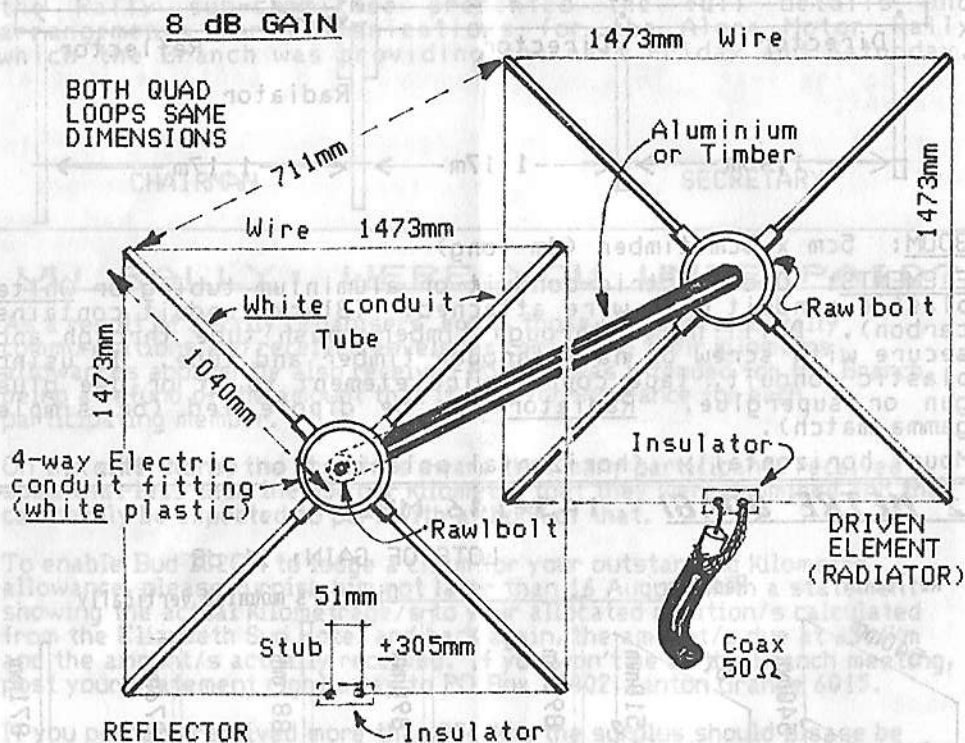
50Ω Coax feedpoint on side
for vertical polarisation

Continued on next page >>

2 METRE QUAGI (cont'd) - element spacing



PLASTIC CONDUIT QUAD for 6 Metres



On driven element, attach 50Ω coax feedline as shown. (Driven element has no stub). Tune reflector stub by moving shorting wire up or down on parallel wires for maximum forward gain as measured on field strength meter or nearby ham's 6m receiver. Then solder in position and allow to hang down.

Rawlbolt goes into block of wood secured inside aluminium tube or other boom (e.g. 50x50mm timber, 38mm curtain rod).

COMING UP: a 2-metre Slim Jim 'beam' and a string-and-rip-cord Yagi! Something to wait for, huh? **BUT DON'T WAIT!** Try one of the above jobs and be ready for the VHF FM QSO party October 5/6!!

MORSE IS EASY

Conclusion

by Garth ZS2HB

Last month we dealt with the letters, figures and punctuation signs that you will need to know in order to follow QSOs on the ham bands for practice. There are a few others in normal use and you will want to use them correctly when you're at the transmitting end:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| di-dah-di-dah-dit | Start/End of Message (SOM/EOM) and separator between parts of an 'over' |
| di-di-di-dah-di-dah | End of QSO ('off and clear') |
| dah-di-dah | Invitation to reply ('Over') |
| dah-di-dah-dah-dit | Only the station indicated may reply (no breakers!) |
| di-dah-di-di-dit | Please Wait (QRX) |

Less-used these days:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| dah-di-dah-di-dah | Informal 'Get ready to receive signals. The latter is often used as an 'um' or 'er' while thinking or distracted. |
| di-di-di-dah-dit | |

Heard more often nowadays with the proliferation of computer CW:

di-dah-dah-dah-dah-dit .. ' Apostrophe

A SOM or EOM (di-dah-di-dah-dit) is commonly used as a 'get ready to receive' warning at the start of an 'over', as a separator between text and signature (i.e. call signs) at the end of the 'over' and more especially between the last call sign and the Invitation to Reply (dah-di-dah).

In amateur transmissions, a SOM is not essential at the beginning since the two call signs that we send serve the purpose. Although also not always essential, an EOM sounds good as a separator between the 'message' and the call signs at the end of the 'over'.

An EOM should always be used between the 'signature' (your call sign at the end of your 'over'), and the Invitation to Reply (dah-di-dah). Failure to do so causes confusion, especially if the other operator is a beginner, since he may mistake the 'dah-di-dah' as a letter in your call sign (the letter K).

Dah-di-dah-dah-dit ('only the designated station should reply') should be used only when you want no-one else to break in. This signal and 'dah-di-dah' are as different as the words 'anticipate' and 'expect', so don't get into the habit of using it if you don't mean it. (Isn't dah-di-dah-dah-dit actually unfriendly, un-hamlike, except on rare occasions?)

Note that each of the signals above is sent as a single character. Don't send the SOM/EOM, for example, as if it were two separate letters A and R, the End of QSO signal as the letters SK (or VA), or the exclusive invitation to reply as separate letters KN.

2 FIELD EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

September sees not only the usual SARL annual Field Station contest, which the Port Elizabeth Branch will naturally win hands down once again, but also a new innovation in the form of a QRP Field Day.

The QRP Field Day has been organised by the Pretoria Area QRP Group for the period 10:00 to 16:00 SAST on Sunday, 1 September 1991. It will NOT be a contest but is intended as a day for testing QRP country-wide. All QRP enthusiasts are urged to take their families and fellow-hams out for a day in the sun (wind?) and see what they can do with their low-power equipment under field conditions. They are requested to run it off batteries or solar power only.

Power levels should not exceed 5 watts for CW or 10 Watts for SSB/DSB. Popular frequencies are 3550, 3575, 3579, 3600, 7010, 7015, 7020, 7025, 14035 and around 14060 for CW, and 3600-3650, 7030-7060 and 14100-14150 for Sideband operation.

The organisers suggest that the opportunity could be used to exhibit QRP equipment. Although no competitive element is involved, each participant is asked to send a log, stating power, mode and antenna used, to QRP FIELD DAY, C/O ZS6KO, PO BOX 1259, PRETORIA 0001 so that they may determine how many stations took part.

ANNUAL SARL Field Day

The annual SARL Field station event will take place over the weekend 7/8 September. It goes without saying that the Branch will enter a station, but final details as to the site, operators, workers etc. have yet to be thrashed out. I suppose we'll use our tried and tested site and will find the usual gang in attendance supplemented, no doubt, by numerous new members, even if many of them will not yet be licensed for 'phone' operation on all HF bands.

Although one of our secret weapons will still be overseas, there is no question that our strong contingent of operators, antenna erectors and rotaters (as compared with rotators), loggers, coffee-makers and braaiers will come out tops again.

Meanwhile, back at the Branch, Foxy Ruz reports: "Rumour has it that some of the operators of a certain over-confident Branch field station last year are turning their backs on their colleagues this time. They were apparently upset that their hats blew off continually from the heavy winds at their novel site, which we always thought uniquely cosy. Other members, however, are anxious that the operation shouldn't go to pot and they're prepared to press on regardless. These die-hards enjoyed the atmosphere last year, if nothing else, and although they admit they didn't do a very good job, they hope to produce the goods this time. They called for a vote on whether to participate and their motion was carried."

Foxy predicts that their efforts will all go down the drain once more anyway. Those in the hot seat, says Foxy, will without a doubt lose their flap when they hear the contest numbers that our operators are giving out long before their own loggers reach for their last sheet of paper.

This 'n That

Several donations have already been received to the fund for hosting the League AGM in Port Elizabeth in 1994. We want to make the event a memorable one at the lowest possible cost so that the average member will not be priced out of attending their League's major annual event.

All donations will be gladly received, no matter how small and whether in a single sum or in instalments. Anyone out there got any contacts with potential sponsors?

The VW Algora Rally on 19/20 July was a great success, all aspects of organisation thereof receiving complimentary comments from representatives of the national rally controlling body who were watching the event with eagle eyes. The communications network, organised by Bud ZS2CA and his sub-committee, covered some 48 reporting points at special stages and provided eight mobile stations installed in vehicles of rally officials, the Press and a public address vehicle. Net Control, located at the Elizabeth Sun Hotel, handled traffic on all the frequencies in use.

Fortythree amateurs provided their equipment and operating expertise, some covering more than one point on the second day. Special mention must be made of our two new licensees, Ann and Rene Olivier, who did a sterling job helping Bud and Wolf at Net Control. They sounded like old hands at the game.

The Department of Posts & Telecommunications is splitting into two Corporations later this year. Many titular and organisational changes have already taken place and from now on you can address correspondence regarding licensing matters to:

The Manager
Radio Branch
Private Bag X74
Pretoria 0001.

Andre ZS2BK has updated the Branch Packet Bulletin Board System to Version 3.0. Thanks, Andre. See the June 1991 QSX-PE for details of the PBBS.

A gentle reminder to anyone who has forgotten to renew his or her subs - soon HQ are going to start nagging and warning that you'll be removed from the official list. And if the new call book hasn't been distributed by then, you won't get a copy. Now, you can live without Radio ZS, and even without a QSL bureau, but you can't live without QSX-PE or the ZS call book, so see your friendly Treasurer, Colin ZS2CTR ASAP. If you would like to pay your subs in instalments, he will make the necessary arrangements.

IF YOU WISH TO ENTER FOR THE AMATEUR EXAM ON 7 NOVEMBER YOUR APPLICATION, ON THE APPROPRIATE FORM, MUST REACH THE TELKOM HEAD OFFICE BY 6 SEPTEMBER! Candidates for a Novice licence have to pass a 5 w.p.m. morse test before writing.



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Congratulations to a veritable crowd of people celebrating between about now and the September meeting, namely:

Birthdays - August: Charles Thwaites ZS6BUC (19th); Piet Fourie ZS2FP (20th); Ben Crouse ZS2NC (21st); Norman Perelson ZS2RI and Owen Thomas ZS2AZ (23rd); Vic Plumridge ZS2VP (26th); Alan Smith ZS5AG (27th);

September: Julian Sacke ZS2AAV (1st); Mel Gwilt (ZS2RL) and Reinette van Deventer (ZS2BK) (2nd); Irene Middendorp (ZS2UI) and Gerhard Baum ZS2UM (6th); Phil Hopper ZS2PP (8th); Andre van Deventer ZS2BK (10th); Jane Fife (ZS2RT) (11th); Jo Akers ZS2W and Pam Hopper (ZS2PP) (12th); Dick Schonborn ZS2RS (13th); Annalene Dreyer (ZS2DR) (14th); Hanni Baum (ZS2UM) (15th); Rietjie Staples (ZS6SS) (16th) and finally Al van der Merwe ZS2JC (20th).

Anniversaries - September: Joan and Alan Bowles ZR2BL (2nd); Rosemary and Colin Robertson ZS2CTR (15th); Anne and Vic Olivier ZS2SZ (22nd).

to our latest licensees Ann Olivier ZR2ABC and Rene Olivier ZR2ABD, Ben Schilder ZR2ABE, Peter Flynn ZR2PF and our first Novice Brendan Robertson ZU1AAR. (There must be others, but we haven't any details. Come on, guys!) Would it be correct to say that, with the addition of Mom and daughter, the Olivier family has a dense ham population? Apart from Ma, Pa, daughter and son, Vic's brother John is also licensed.

to DM Robert Pokorny, OE3PRW, who has now received his RSA call sign - ZS2ABJ.

to Al ZS2U, Lynne ZS2MM and Vic ZS2SZ for taking 2nd, 3rd and 5th places respectively in the Single Operator section of the Hamnet Simulated Emergency Contest on 3 March 1991.

to Pam and Phil ZS2PP on becoming grandparents with the arrival of a granddaughter last month.

Welcome to new members Andre le Roux ZS2AL of Despatch, well known in this neck of the woods, Ben Schilder ZR2ABE and Peter Flynn ZR2PF of PE, who we met through Viv's technical classes, and Dirk Fourie ZS2DF of Port Alfred, who has transferred to our Branch. We hope you'll be happy with us, Andre, Ben, Peter and Dirk.

Happy Holiday To Lynne ZS2MM who, we hope, is enjoying her visit to the United Kingdom and Europe - which countries, we trust, are suitably braced for it.

Welcome back to Julie and Trevor Scarr after their visit to Europe and Canada.

You thought this was going to be another one of those obviously contrived stories about how editors fill spare bits of the page, didn't you? Well, you were wrong, weren't you! There *is* no spare bit *to* fill, *is* there?

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH COMMITTEE

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------|---------|
| CHAIRMAN | Marge Weller | ZS20B | 30-4597 |
| VICE CHAIRMAN | Lionel Coombe-Davis | ZS2DD | 32-1770 |
| SECRETARY | Lynne Crothall | ZS2MM | 35-4671 |
| TREASURER | Colin Robertson | ZS2CTR | 30-0570 |
| SOCIAL | Marge Weller | ZS20B | 30-4597 |
| SPECIAL EVENTS, AWARDS, CONTESTS | Bud Voortman | ZS2CA | 34-2770 |
| HAMNET | Al Akers | ZS2U | 30-2983 |
| PROJECTS, PUBLICITY, NOVICE LICENCES | Viv Moore | ZS2VM | 30-4433 |
| EDITOR: QSX-PE | Garth Laaks | ZS2HB | 38-1101 |
| QSX COMMITTEE MEMBER | Viv Moore | ZS2VM | 30-4433 |
| LIBRARIAN, DF HUNTS, IPHA | Vic Olivier | ZS2SZ | 30-2440 |
| PACKET WORKING GROUP CO-ORDINATOR | Lionel Coombe-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)
- 145,700 MHz (2 metre band FM - Lady's Slipper)
- 51,400 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 |
| Kareedouw 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 ****