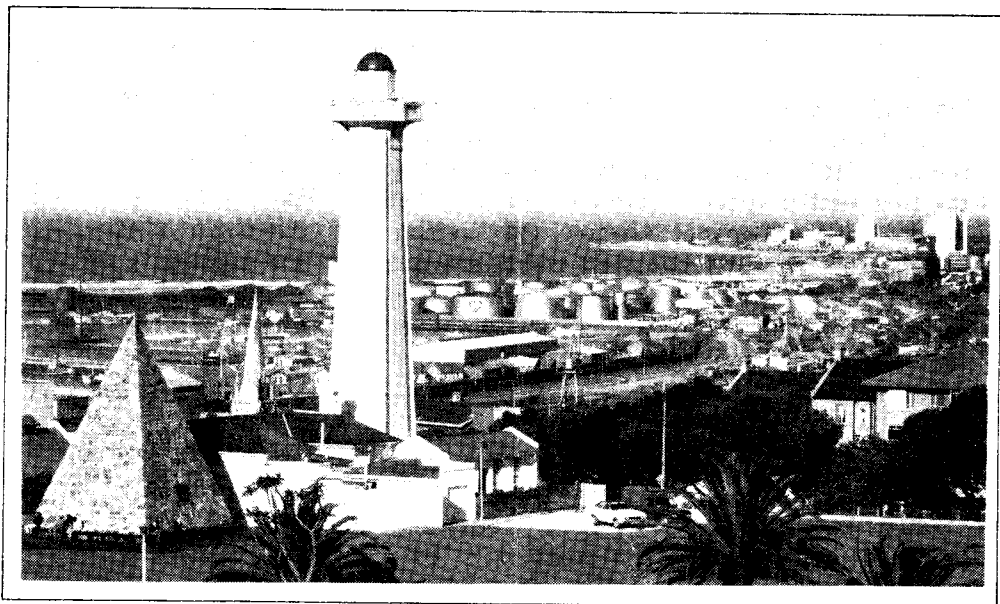
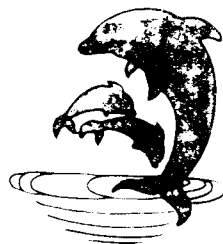




Q S X
P E



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

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

FAX (041) 35-1309

1 - 92

NOTICE OF MEETING

The first monthly general meeting of the new year will be held on Friday, 17 January 1992, commencing at 20:15. The venue, as usual, is the Civil Defence Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park, Port Elizabeth.

After the business has been attended to, we will be addressed by OM Koos Arnold ZS2ABD, who saltmines at Chelsea Radio (ZSQ), Telkom's Coast Radio Station outside Port Elizabeth. Koos will introduce us to some interesting aspects of commercial maritime communications.

For our last meeting we promised you a talk on the radio network that Spoonnet uses in the control of the Eastern Cape railway system. Unfortunately, the points must have got switched somewhere along the line as the speaker didn't arrive on schedule. Perhaps he's still looking for his luggage! Anyhow, the meeting didn't run out of steam. Some of our recently returned travellers spoke on the highlights of their trips around Europe. We hope Koos will steer clear of tidal waves, torpedos and other nautical terrors until after the forthcoming meeting!

CISKEI DX-PEDITION

As you read this, Al ZS2U, together with Owen ZS2AZ and Donovan ZS2DL are in the Republic of Ciskei, somewhere near the Fish River Sun, operating a DXpedition under the call sign S42U. They will be operating on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Metres around the clock as long as conditions hold out, using SSB and CW. They'll be there until 16 January.

AGM 1994 FUND TOPS KILORAND

While you were digging deep into your pockets to buy Christmas presents for a lot of people who probably didn't really deserve them, I bet you didn't give a single thought to our AGM fund. You did? Well, don't worry to post the cheque - you can hand it to Colin personally at the meeting on 17 January. The fund has reached roughly R1 100 but we need much, much more!

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT
ELIZABETH BRANCH OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO
LEAGUE HELD AT THE CIVIL DEFENCE CENTRE, MILL
PARK ON FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 1991**

PRESENT: 24 members and visitors

APOLOGIES: As per attendance register

WELCOME:

The Chairman welcomed Martin ZS2ABN, Gary, John ZS2RG, Bill ZS2BY and Neil ZS2MG.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting of 18th October 1991 as printed in QSX were approved; proposed by Wolf ZS2WG and seconded by Bill ZR2AAN. There were no matters arising.

FINANCE:

The Treasurer reported that Branch funds stood at R5 386 and the AGM fund stood at R967.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chairman had received certificates for the 5 w.p.m. morse tests passed by novice candidates Michael Bentley, Damian Wright and David Butcher. We have been notified that these tests will in future be conducted for three-minute periods to bring them into line with the 12 w.p.m. tests.

GENERAL:

1. Colin ZS2CTR reported that Jock ZS2MD had had a leg amputated recently. Peter ZS2PL was recovering well after a triple heart bypass operation and Bernard ZS4CW was also on the road to recovery after a heart operation.

2. Trevor ZS2AE reported that the Grahamstown repeater was now a solid state unit. He queried whether the 6M link on the Lady's Slipper repeater was licensed. He suggested that the Karreedouw repeater frequency be changed to 145,725MHz to avoid the current feedback problem with a repeater to the West.

Minutes of Meeting (cont'd)

3. Colin ZS2CTR mentioned that the Packet Radio Indaba on the air was not a success due to an ionospheric disturbance affecting conditions. He said there was a lull in packet radio activity due to the problems in connection with licensing.

4. The Chairman commented on JOTA activities and thanked all helpers.

5. Raphy ZS2SP brought up the subject of VAT as applied to the League, which is supposed to be a hobby organisation.

6. Colin ZS2CTR read out several private motions to the 1992 AGM sent in by himself, Garth ZS2HB and other members.

CLOSURE:

The business part of the meeting then closed and, since the guest speaker had not arrived, the rest of the evening was spent chatting and enjoying tea and eats.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY



Instant Printing

FOR ALL YOUR
PRINTING REQUIREMENTS

9 St. Patrick's Road, Port Elizabeth 6001
Telephone (041) 55-2614

Try us for your QSL cards!



Your E.C. Hamnet Officials

HAMNET COMMITTEE

REGIONAL DIRECTOR	A.F.A. Akers	ZS2U
SECRETARY	H.J. Voortman	ZS2CA
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	K.R. Victor	ZS2OC
	J.C.L. Moolman	ZS2KU
	J.C.A. Carr	ZS2C

HAMNET REPRESENTATIVES

ALIWAL NORTH	B.H. Gold	ZS2EB
EAST LONDON	G.M. Middleton	ZS2KG
HUMANSDORP	A. van der Merwe	ZS2JC
KING WILLIAM'S TOWN	L.R.L. King	ZS2BZ
MOLTENO	J.L. Botha	ZS2NH
PORT ELIZABETH	A.F.A. Akers	ZS2U
QUEENSTOWN	N.C. Holmes	ZS2AI

Brain Teaser

Al ZS2U writes: "Some time ago the late Bert Ellin ZS2EA published a logic problem in QSO. I feel that this problem bears repeating, so here goes:

A radio emporium had five transmitters, all identical in appearance. It was known that three of them had very rough tones and that two of them had pure tones, but no-one knew which was which. Three hams took one transmitter each at random, leaving two behind. In due course they had a three-way QSO, but tone reports were very carefully omitted. Furthermore, none of them had any means of monitoring his own transmission, so each had heard only the other two.

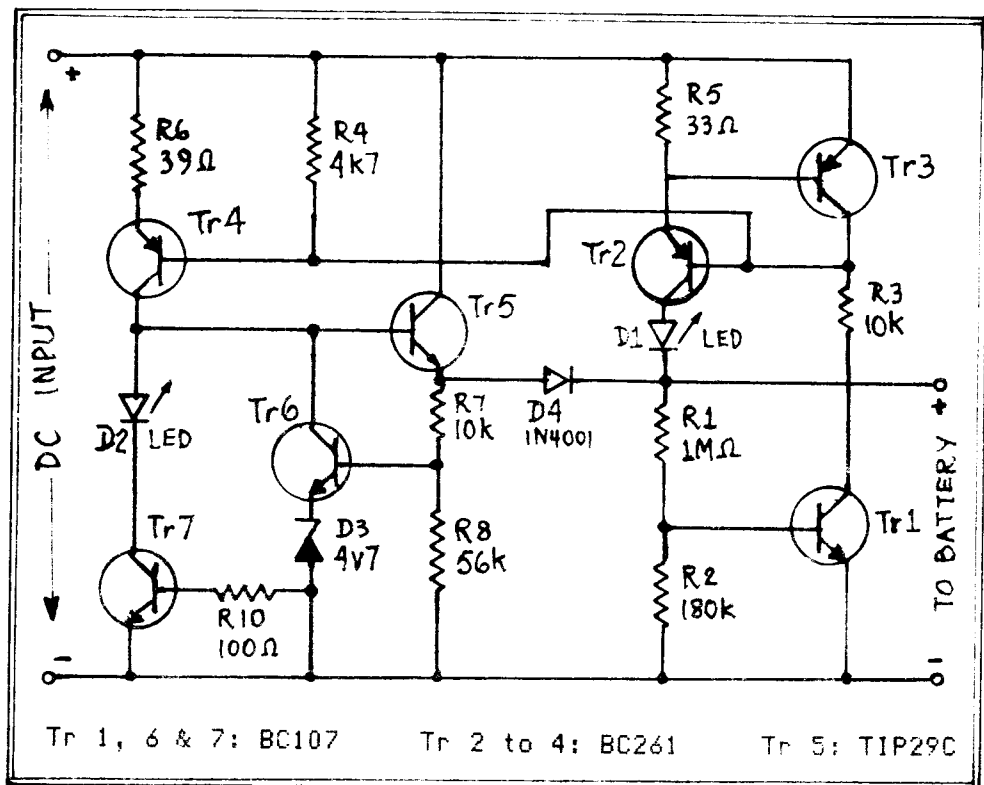
They all met back at the store where they got the transmitters. The storekeeper asked ZS1: "What was the tone of your own transmission?" ZS1 replied: "From the information available to me, it is impossible for me to determine." The storekeeper asked ZS2 the same question and received a reply similar to that of ZS1.

Then he asked ZS3, who gave the correct answer.

What was the tone of ZS3's transmission and what was his logical process of deduction?

NICAD CHARGER

by Ronnie ZSSABO, with acknowledgements to Hams Haywire News (PMB Branch)



HOW DOES IT WORK?

At switch-on there is no power output until Tr1 is switched on via R1/R2 by the battery +ve. (If the battery voltage is too low to switch Tr1 on, one can temporarily connect a 9 V battery to get things started). Tr1 puts current via R3 into the constant current generators Tr2 to Tr4. Current from R3 turns Tr2 and Tr4 on but Tr3 clamps the voltage across R5 to 0,6 V, thereby setting current of Tr2 to 0,6 V/33 ohm, which is 18 mA. R4 prevents leakage current from Tr1 from turning the constant current generator on.

A reverse polarity on the output would switch off Tr1 and thus also Tr2 and Tr4. This prevents the charger from reverse charging the battery.

The power supply, consisting of Tr4 to Tr7, only supplies current when the battery voltage drops below 5,6 V. This prevents the radio from flattening the battery when switched on. The voltage is set by the voltage divider R7/R8 and Tr6 and D3. The current limit is set by R9 and Tr7 (90 mA). When in current limit, Tr7 draws most of the current from Tr4 (15 mA) and D2 lights up. This therefore gives an indication that the battery is low and should switch on when transmitting. With batteries in reasonable shape the current limit LED should come on for a little while and then switch off. The minimum supply input voltage is 8 V with a four-cell battery and 13,8 V when trickling eight cells.

CONSTRUCTION

With an input voltage of 18 V and Tr5 in current limit, Tr5 is dissipating just over 1 W and so needs a small heat sink. A piece of aluminium about 30 mm by 30 mm should suffice. The other components need no special treatment.

The whole unit can be housed in a small box with leads permanently wired, or with banana plug sockets.

SETTING UP

This is quite simple really. With new batteries, four cells should float at 5,6 V. When connecting the charger the current limit LED should come on for a short while. For older batteries in bad shape the current limit may remain on. Simply change R8 to a higher value to reduce the PSU voltage to 5,4 V after D4.

The voltage into D4 is 6,3 V to give 5,6 V after the diode and 6,1 V to give 5,4 V. In some cases zener diode D3 may be higher than 5 V, in which case another should be substituted.

Should you wish to add a DC power source to enable the unit to be driven direct from the mains, it will require a 240/15 V transformer capable of delivering about 250 mA.

Tailpiece from Dudley ZS2AW: If you have one clock you know what the time is. If you have two clocks you don't know what time it is. If you have ten clocks you understand how hard it is to tell time. That's what science is about!"

Letters Department

From XYL Iris ZS2AA - "What a lovely surprise to receive your interesting PE Newsletter, and more than surprised to read your greetings to me for my 88th Birthday hi! What a lovely thought. Please convey my sincerest thanks to your Committee. I am highly honoured to feature in your super newsletter.

'PE hams are on the ball' as the saying goes. I wish I lived nearer so that I could meet you all.

Are you girls and boys on steroids as you are all so motivated?

Please pass on my greetings to all the PE hams and wish them all a Happy Christmas and New Year in your Christmas QSX newsletter.

(Sorry, Iris - I received your letter too late for our December issue. I don't know about being on steroids, but I've seen other kinds motivate people! - Ed).

* * *

From Lou ZS2UI - "I know this QSL card will not qualify for a record, but I think it will come very close.

"The card was received in June 1991 by ZS2DC (now silent key) in reply to a QSO on 17 November 1968. And not from Outer Mongolia either, but from the old Transvaal.

"You would think the Transvalers could do it in less than 22 years!"

(The card was from Servaas ZS6XL, of Randburg and carried an apology - he had just come across Don's envelope amongst his QSL's! I wonder if Servaas really had a TS440 back in '68? - Ed.)

* * *

From Dudley ZS2AW - "My neighbour, a keen listener and experimenter, has just returned from Australia and says Amateur Radio is alive and well there. He brought me their monthly magazine 'Electronics Australia' - nothing like it in this country - and the latest copy of Dick Smith catalogue, a nation-wide chain store with every electronics gadget imaginable. Some components I have never heard of before. Prices, too, most reasonable.

"I sometimes wonder what is wrong with the industry here.

Lost Letter Dept

Gerald Taylor ZS2AAX, of Grahamstown, writes:

"Dear Sir or Madam,

One of the vagaries of being in the business of imparting information to the uninitiated of this world is that there dare not be any contraction of error in that dispensation of information. Having appraised you of that value, may I ask of you the reason why you presume that the sentence you published as a test medium for CW using all the letters of the alphabet has no "F" in it - at least with my limited intelligence I do not perceive it to be in the sentence.

There is the cunning "snitch" to it, of course, in that if one pronounces sphynx with a "F" as in finx then presto the F is there! Very subtle on your part.

Well if you are going to publish any more of these helpful titbits, use the Russian alphabet. They use three and have 28 letters plus a few on the side but I fink you can fase out the jackdaws from the liquor - they get nasty after a few beaks of fine pharos fortified fitblitz.

PS - Still building my rig. Soon be on the air to annoy you all but promise no tricks or Phoul language."

Well, Mr or Miss Gerald Taylor, I have news for you. Firstly, I am not, and have never been, a Madam. Secondly, you couldn't find an "F" in SPHINX because there is no "F" in SPHINX! But you'll phind what you're looking phor at the end oph the next word. It's the twentyphiphth letter in the sentence, but that's probably out oph your range and you'll need to get the phriend who handles your aphphairs to count it out phor you. I see, too, that you're a slow reader and/or writer. The article to which you repher appeared in the September QSX but you only got your letter phinished three months later - Ed.

(In case our more erudite readers have any interest in this, the test sentences referred to were "JACKDAWS LOVE MY BIG SPHINX OF QUARTZ" and "PACK MY BOX WITH FIVE DOZEN LIQUOR JUGS").

DXCC: MORE HOLDERS IN E.C.

by Al Akers ZS2U

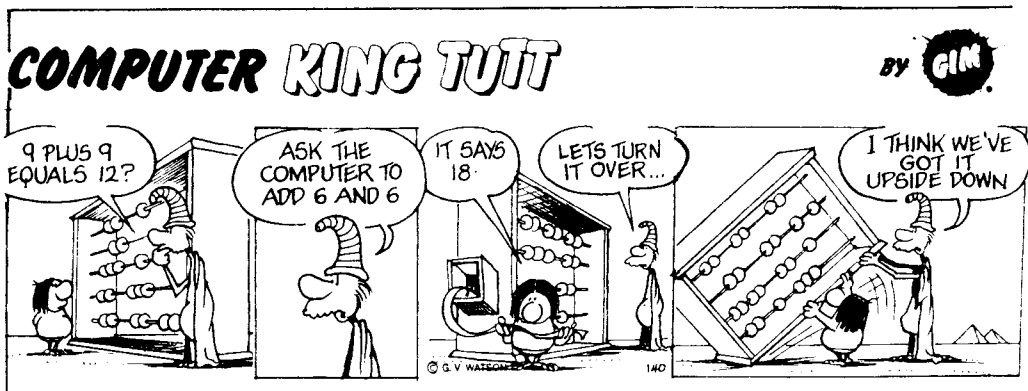
My DX NEWS article in the December issue of QSX has evoked some response from members. It appears that there are more DXCC members than I realized. They are Mitch ZS2DK, Fred ZS2JS and Wim ZS2WV. Five in this area sounds much better than two, though still nothing to boast about.

I have no idea what percentage of amateurs worldwide had DXCC in the mid fifties, but my guess is somewhat lower than the present figure. Even working on the present figure, the Port Elizabeth Branch had nearly double the average. What makes it even worse is that there are now more active countries, more dxpeditions to rare countries and more countries on the DXCC list. In addition, the present day amateur stations are more efficient and better equipped. Having SSB instead of AM is just one of the advantages.

Come on, chaps (and chapesses), are we going to just rest on our laurels? At least Don ZS2DL is doing something about the situation, and doing it pretty well too. (In only a mere four months or so on the air Don has already worked 121 countries - Ed.)

I have been asked to check if the PE Branch station can get DXCC, but despite all the DX worked on field days, etc., I could only find QSLs for some 55 countries. I am thinking of a Branch DXpedition from the site where I operated during the VHF QSO party to build up the Branch country score. It should prove interesting to see how good this site is for DXing. Anybody interested to join in? If so, please contact me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

73, Al



Congratulations to the following members and/or their spouses who will be celebrating soon:

Birthdays - **JANUARY**: None. **FEBRUARY**: Vaun Voortman (ZS2CA) (1st); Tom Cockbain ZS2TC (3rd); Shirley Winter (ZS2MC) (4th); Joan Bowles ZR2ABA (7th); Lynne Crothall ZS2MM and Mandy Masters (ZS2AAN) (10th); Donald Dye ZR2AAH (16th); Harry Stickley 3DA0AU (17th); Peter Flynn ZR2PF, Iona Gertenbach (ZR2CV) and Rudi van der Elst ZS2EE (all on the 18th); John Rivers ZS2DO (22nd)

Anniversaries - **JANUARY**: Reinette and Andre van Deventer ZS2BK (22nd); Margaret and Bartie Waldie ZS2WM (27th); Ken and Margaret Victor ZS2OC (29th). **FEBRUARY**: Kay and Ron Harvey ZS2RU (11th).

... to Dick van der Bergh of Cradock, who also passed the RAE in November, bringing the total for the Eastern Cape to 24. This equals in number the success of the largest branch in the country and, although Johannesburg can boast of a 100% pass figure, I believe our prowess was better since we actually fielded a larger number of candidates - 25, in fact! Well done, PE. Well done, Viv ZS2VM and your band of helpers.

... to new licensees Karen Bowles ZR2AAW, Dennis Flynn ZR2XXX, David Butcher ZU1AAW and Mike Bentley ZU1MBM. There seems to have been a hitch with the issue of licences to the other successful candidates, but watch this space for further news.

Home again... Bud ZS2CA and Owen ZS2AZ are back from their overseas trips to Switzerland and the USA respectively. Nice to hear your cheery voices again, chaps.

Welcome to Brian Peckham V9AAA, who we understand has settled in Grahamstown, where he is associated with Rhodes University. Hope our Grahamstown members will get him enrolled pronto. Show him what he's missing by not joining the Branch - show him QSX!

*** HAMADE * HAMADE * HAMADE ***

Estate Late Don Calder ZS2DC - Complete station including Yaesu FT400 TX/RX, a separate FB400 RX, KW Viceroy plus many spare valves, including 6146 type; TA33 Jr 3-element beam and 40 ft. (12 Metre) mast. - Contact Neil Calder at Tel. (041) 34-3752.

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN & PUBLICITY	Marge Weller	ZS2OB	*31-1639
VICE CHAIRMAN, TREASURER	Colin Robertson	ZS2CTR	30-0570
SECRETARY	Fred Bonthuys	ZS2EQ	63-3804
SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTESTS, HAMNET	Al Akers	ZS2U	30-2983
AWARDS, RALLIES	Bud Voortman	ZS2CA	34-2770
PROJECTS, TRAINING & QSX COMMITTEE	Viv Moore	ZS2VM	30-4433
EDITOR: QSX-PE	Garth Laaks	ZS2HB	38-1101
LIBRARIAN, DF HUNTS, IPHA	Vic Olivier	ZS2SZ	30-2440
SOCIAL, GUEST SPEAKERS	Owen Thomas	ZS2AZ	54-2177

DIGITAL TECHNICAL LIAISON	Lionel Coombe- Davis	ZS2DD	32-1770
REPEATER WORKING GROUP CO-ORDINATOR	Trevor Scarr	ZS2AE	32-1746

* Marge: 30-4597 for the time being

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 & HF 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
Packet Bulletin Board	ZU8KCD - 144,675 & 14,109 MHz, KAM Version 3.0 software

BRANCH MEETINGS

20:15 (8.15pm) on the third Friday of the month in the
Civil Defence Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park

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