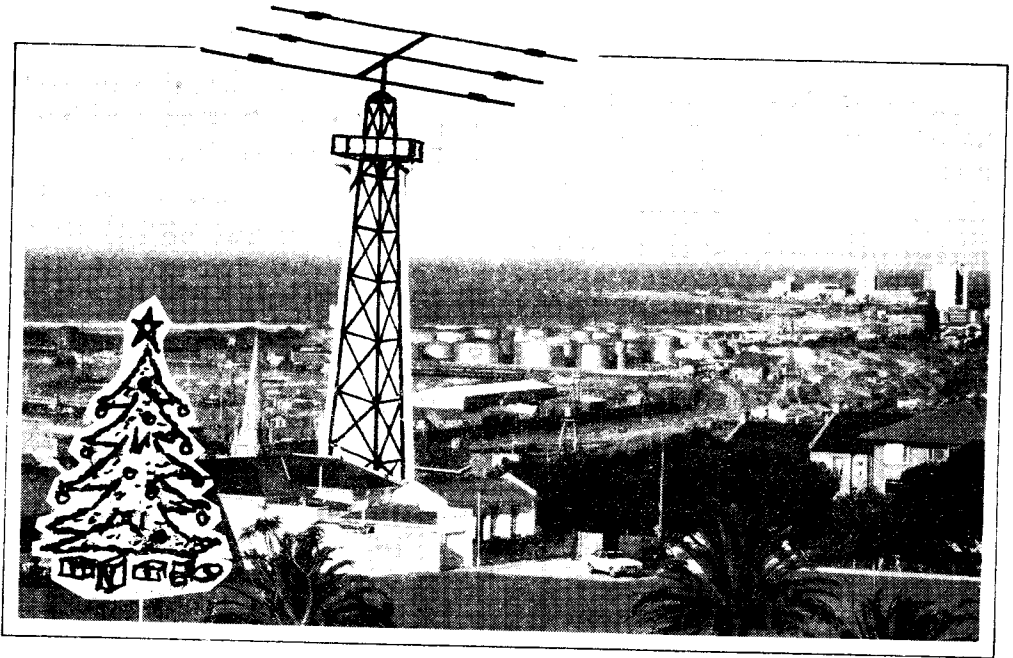
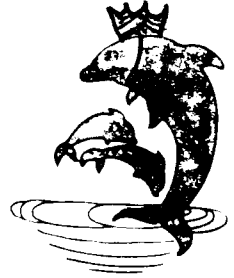




Q S X  
P E



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

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

**FAX (041) 55-9452**

**December 1992**

# NB: NO MEETING THIS MONTH!!!

As usual at this time of year, there will be NO GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRANCH THIS MONTH.

That means that I don't have to print the minutes of the last meeting and so I have to find something else to fill the pages of this issue of QSX.

Thank goodness for our new Packet Bulletin Board from which I am now also able to

glean a lot of interesting information. Well, I find it interesting anyway, and I hope you do too.

Remember, there is NO BRANCH MEETING IN DECEMBER, but we'll be back in full swing again on the third Friday of January 1993. Make a date of it.

From the editorial and back-room boys of QSX-PE, a Merry Christmas to you all!

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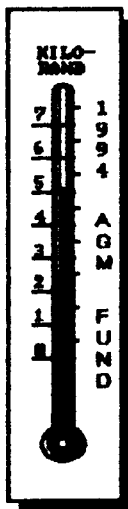
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## 1994 AGM FUND

The AGM Fund had not topped the R5 000 mark as reported last month, but it has now. When our Treasurer was last seen, the fund stood at R5 070. This was reached after the addition of a tidy R125 from the disposal of a beautifully decorated Christmas cake from the kitchen of Pam Hopper (ZS2PP's XYL). Marge ZS2OB aided and abetted with the draw, and the cake was won by Gus ZS2MC.

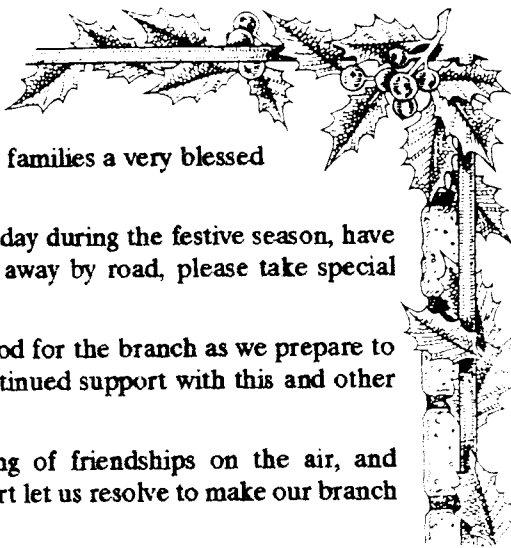
With such lekkernye at arm's length one wonders



why OM Phil looks more like a chimney than a hopper, but perhaps he's put off PAM's baking by the fact that her name is painted on all the Port Alfred refuse lorries.

Barry, G4TAM, who was visiting and shown the beauty of the Cape by Lynne ZS2MM and Julian ZS2AAV, donated a number of hard-to-get 15v batteries for AVO meters. Proceeds will go to swell the AGM fund, so contact Colin ZS2CTR if you need one of these.

# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I would like to wish all members and their families a very blessed and happy Christmas and/or Chanukah.

If you are lucky enough to be having a holiday during the festive season, have a restful time. And, if you are travelling away by road, please take special care.

The coming year is going to be a busy period for the branch as we prepare to host the 1994 League AGM, and your continued support with this and other activities will be much needed.

Our fine hobby brings with it the making of friendships on the air, and through these friendships and mutual support let us resolve to make our branch ever more progressive.

On behalf of the Committee and myself, I wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Let us pray that the New Year brings with it peace in our country.

With best 73

**Colin**  
ZS2CTR

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**HAM ADS = HAM ADS = HAM ADS**

**WANTED** — KW Atlanta transceiver for spares — Max Levin ZS2HR,  
☛ Queenstown 0451-2476 after 15:00 or write 92 Wodehouse  
Street, Queenstown 5320.

— **Lift to Branch Meetings:** Can someone *please* give Graham Pearson a lift to Branch meetings from Forest Hill? Let me know at  
☛ 38-1101.

**FOR SALE** — **AVO Meter Batteries:** limited number of rare 15v batteries for AVO meters available from The Branch - contact Colin ZS2CTR ☛ 30-0570.

— **Packet VHF Modem Kits** @ R95 supplied with 'Poor Man's Packet' or the newer EZPKT software. Join the growing throng of packeteers in the Eastern Cape! — Colin ZS2CTR ☛ 30-0570

# MAKING WAVES . . . . *from the Chair*

It was super to have another excellent turnout at our November meeting. Thank you for your support. Let's hope we can resolve the accommodation problem one way or another - its not the greatest for members to have to sit on the cupboards in the absence of seating!

★ Marge ZS20B reported that she recently attended the monthly meeting of a branch somewhat larger than ours but where only about 10 members attended. We are indeed fortunate in PE to enjoy the support of our membership.

★ Further to my analysis of the Headquarters 1991/1992 balance sheet, another interesting statistic is that Salaries account for 58% of the income derived from members' subscriptions, and amount to R56 687.

★ Despite friendly appeals both on the air and in QSX, we seem to still be plagued by kerchunkers on all repeaters. Even while preparing these notes someone is deliberately playing some musical tones on the 650 repeater. All it takes is giving your call sign and calling "Testing" to check out the performance of your rig or a repeater.

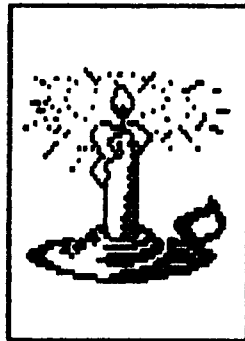
★ Whilst in South Africa the League is doing its best to make it easier and more fruit-

ful to become a ham, in the UK the RSGB seems to be going the other way. The 12 words per minute Morse Tests run by them will be changing to a "QSO" format in the new year and will include punctuation and procedural symbols.

Perhaps they have a ham overpopulation problem in the UK ... or are they forgetting that ham radio is just a hobby and that CW is a dying mode? (Not sure if the Editor will necessarily agree with me on that one, hi!) (*It's a threatened mode, Sir!*)

*It's what makes a radio amateur a HAM! - Ed.)*

★ In the UK the authorities have decided not to stop the sale of ham gear which has extended receive coverage, while in the USA a Bill has been signed preventing the sale of radio equipment which allows the monitoring of cellular telephone conversations in the 800-900 MHz band. Perhaps it should have been the other way around. That way Prince Charles and Lady Diana would have felt more comfortable!



★ On the question of **Branch repeaters and links**, it has been agreed that a **Special General Meeting** be held in the new year at which interested members can put forward their views. What seems necessary is a definite plan so that we can set achievable objectives.

★ Meanwhile, the **Branch Packet Bulletin Board, ZS2PE**, and the **Grahamstown digipeater, ZSOGHT**, are now both fully operational on 144,675 MHz thanks to the combined efforts of several members. ZS2PE is the official public community PBBS for this area. The Branch invested close on R2 000 in this project, and we would therefore urge packeteers to please make more use of the system. ZS2PE will be re-installed on Lady's Slipper as soon as the crystals on 14.105 MHz for the HF rig arrive from the suppliers.

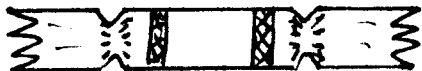
★ Grateful thanks to **Vic ZS2SZ**

for voluntarily giving up many hours in putting over CW classes on 2 meters. The results speak for themselves – 5 candidates passed the 12 wpm test. You must feel very good, Vic. The Branch salutes you!

★ Lastly, over the Christmas holidays we can expect several **visiting hams** to be on the air in the Eastern Cape and they will be calling in on 2 meters. If you hear a visitor calling CQ and have a few minutes to spare, please go back to the station and give him or her a welcome hello. In the past, PE has occasionally been criticised as being unfriendly on 2 meters, although I don't think it's any worse than many other centres. All the same, let's change that – after all, PE is reputed to be the **"Friendly City"**.

73

*Colin, ZS2CTR*



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# WIN A WEEKEND AWAY FOR TWO

Our Codeword puzzle last month, with a voucher for a free weekend's accommodation for two at a lovely Transkeian holiday resort as prize, did not produce the reaction we hoped for. This means that those who do submit entries by the closing date for that competition have a greater chance of winning the very attractive prize.

But perhaps most of our members have not yet mastered the art of CW, or have forgotten it, so the competition this month might be better supported. Family and non members are also welcome to give it a bash. So here we go with this month's

## \* HamWord Competition \*

At least 60 words relating to radio and electronics are hidden horizontally, vertically or obliquely upwards or downwards in the block below. Mark as many as you can find with straight red lines and submit the block (or a reasonable facsimile) and a list of the words in a sealed envelope TOGETHER WITH A DONATION OF R5.00 with each entry to: THE PE BRANCH AGM FUND, PO BOX 10402, LINTON ORANGE 6015 to reach that address by noon on 20 February 1993. The sender who correctly identifies the greatest number (or whose entry is opened first in the event of a tie) will win a voucher for free accommodation and meals for two people at a popular seaside resort hotel in Transkei for one weekend (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon). The voucher will be valid for several months after the Christmas 'season'. Remember to include your name. The decision of the judges will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

D	I	G	I	T	A	L	M	K	T	Y	T	W	F	H	J	B	M	M	R	O	P	Y	E	K
X	W	O	L	R	A	E	T	B	O	L	E	F	E	Y	N	O	I	T	A	R	U	T	A	S
E	N	I	C	K	D	F	N	C	A	F	J	T	W	T	R	B	X	P	D	Z	B	W	Y	W
P	O	F	X	O	G	A	Q	C	A	D	E	X	V	O	T	K	E	A	I	R	E	N	E	Z
C	A	D	M	Y	U	R	I	X	A	R	L	O	T	E	K	T	R	R	A	T	T	H	I	P
C	E	C	W	T	Q	T	L	U	O	Y	Q	A	R	P	K	J	G	T	L	H	V	W	N	K
K	F	R	K	G	R	R	Q	D	C	Y	T	E	H	E	I	O	S	P	E	A	K	E	R	X
B	M	A	O	E	T	A	Y	F	Z	O	N	T	C	V	S	U	H	S	G	J	C	H	E	J
G	H	L	V	U	T	N	R	R	R	K	O	R	J	N	T	O	I	C	J	D	Q	V	N	M
U	Y	I	D	H	E	S	O	E	G	A	T	L	O	V	E	A	Z	R	U	I	Y	M	U	D
Y	J	F	I	E	S	C	T	Q	W	X	F	N	O	D	A	D	Y	I	G	B	A	U	T	U
L	P	I	W	B	L	E	A	U	F	R	L	A	I	R	C	P	E	R	G	F	M	I	J	P
K	C	R	S	O	U	I	U	E	I	H	X	O	X	E	R	E	H	P	S	O	P	O	R	T
Y	A	T	O	V	O	V	N	N	V	A	R	A	C	T	O	R	C	X	M	X	N	X	H	C
J	P	P	K	P	D	E	E	C	W	O	R	E	S	I	S	T	O	R	Q	I	J	I	M	R
B	A	L	U	N	A	R	T	Y	T	A	S	I	F	C	A	B	X	S	C	D	Z	B	V	Y
I	C	N	N	A	H	G	T	U	Y	H	V	C	A	H	Q	Y	F	O	A	R	A	D	R	S
N	I	I	G	A	Y	T	A	V	F	P	R	E	I	Y	E	N	U	U	A	O	A	T	E	T
V	T	N	Z	M	V	R	R	T	A	R	O	D	G	L	R	P	O	R	O	N	E	L	I	A
E	O	F	P	I	I	J	J	A	I	H	T	U	H	U	L	B	A	C	N	M	Q	B	F	L
R	R	Z	E	G	T	W	N	E	E	O	I	U	J	I	I	A	T	E	E	R	W	U	I	U
T	W	M	E	C	N	A	T	C	U	D	N	I	N	L	B	D	T	L	L	K	G	Y	L	T
E	E	N	A	P	F	A	N	Y	I	D	O	G	R	A	E	N	E	O	T	B	U	N	P	M
R	V	O	Y	C	P	P	S	P	I	N	M	J	E	I	A	T	Y	O	R	Y	T	Y	M	A
H	X	Y	G	J	I	T	R	A	N	S	C	O	N	D	U	C	T	A	N	C	E	E	A	H

Do you belong to Hamnet? If not, how about joining?  
Contact me for application forms - Al.

### Operating Practices

The same rules applicable to VHF FM operation, as mentioned in last month's QSX, also apply to HF operation, except of course the 5 kHz deviation. Here you should follow the instructions for your particular rig and some on-the-air reports to obtain the correct modulation level.

Some operators make use of speech processors. However, these could be a *disadvantage* if not properly adjusted. The loudness level of human speech varies over a considerable range, from quite low to high. Even the *average* speech level may be a lot lower than the *highest* (peak) level. In order not to overmodulate a transmitter on speech peaks (causing distortion and possible interference) it is normally necessary to adjust the transmitter so that the *average* modulation level is quite low - of the order of one-tenth of the maximum level.

A technique known as *volume compression* decreases the *range* over which the signal level varies between low and high. The *average* modulation level can therefore be set higher without overdoing things on speech peaks, giving greater talk power.

Another form of processing is *speech clipping*. A limiting circuit is used to prevent the higher levels from exceeding a certain value, again allowing the *average* speech level to be set higher. Either or both methods may be used. The greater the compression or clipping, the greater the talk

power, but also the greater the signal distortion *and pickup of distracting background sounds*.

When increasing the amount of compression or clipping, a point is reached beyond which the *distortion increasingly offsets the gain in talk power*. Put another way, increasing compression or clipping increases intelligibility up to a certain point, beyond which *intelligibility decreases*, while your transmitter is working ever harder sending out extraneous sounds.

The human voice covers a frequency range from about 80 Hz to 10 kHz or more, but the spectrum from just 300 to 2500 Hz provides good intelligibility. Narrowing the frequency range transmitted means that power is not wasted on frequencies which add little to intelligence. Moreover, receivers can be made with narrower bandwidths, which cuts down on noise and interference.

Most amateur equipment is designed for an audio frequency range from 300 Hz to 3000 Hz. Further reducing the frequency range increases distortion and decreases intelligibility, despite the gain from radiating a narrower bandwidth.

SK

## PE SCHOOL IN NEXT SAREX

The Westering High School Radio Club in Port Elizabeth has been selected to participate in the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) with the NASA Space Shuttle Mission STS55. This mission is scheduled for launch in the last week of February 1993.

Four scholars will be given the opportunity of speaking and putting questions to the astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle during one of their passes over South Africa.

Plans are afoot to set up a suitably equipped station at the Westering High School so that as many scholars as possible can experience the event. The Branch will lend the School Radio Club full support and will call on regular satellite communications operators for help as soon as more specific details of the event are received.

The WHSRC has arranged with Radio Algoa and SATV for coverage of the event, while advance publicity has already been obtained via a prominent article with photograph in Port Elizabeth's *Evening Post* on 2 December.

I note that STS55's orbit will have an inclination of 28.45°, passing a little north of us, so I hope somebody tells the astronauts to sit at the starboard window as they go past.



### Bill Shows 'em How!

To everyone's great delight, Bill Hodges, ZR2AAN has passed his 12 wpm CW test and now sports the call sign ZS2ABZ.

Just as it seemed that, following the intervention of friends, he might obtain PMG exemption from the CW requirement on medical grounds, Bill decided he was going to take the normal path to his ZS licence in spite of battling unsuccessfully for several years. He diligently followed Vic's evening CW classes on 2 metres and eventually clicked.

In typical style, Bill has again set an example to be commended. Always there when the Branch needs helpers, he is now looking forward to doing his bit in Branch events on HF too.

Congratulations, Bill. We salute you!



## Hunting Lions Next Month



The annual Hunting Lions on the Air events on CW and SSB are set to take place during January as follows:

CW: 0900 UTC Sat. 2nd to Sun. 3rd

SSB: 0900 UTC Sat. 9th to Sun. 10th.

Colin has full details, and they will probably also be in Radio ZS this month.

Would anyone like to represent the Branch in these events, using the call sign ZS2PE?

---

## CB-to-2m CONVERTER

Martin, ZS2ABN, has developed a unit to convert a SSB Citizen Band transceiver for operation on the 2-metre ham band. Reports are that it has outstanding performance, with receive sensitivity better than his commercially-built hand-held rig. It should cost around R300 to construct, excluding the CB set itself.

An article describing the unit will be submitted to Radio

ZS early next year because the Branch expects far wider interest in the project than the circulation of QSX-PE can serve, in spite of the fact that it would probably find its way into other newsletters, a frequent occurrence which we welcome!

Martin is to be congratulated on his initiative in developing this useful piece of equipment.

---

## MIR Active Again

The Russian Space Station MIR is again active on two metres, on phone as well as packet, on the simplex frequency 145,550. Problems with attitude control had necessitated their closing down the ham equipment to conserve power.

Colin ZS2CTR worked U6MIR on phone recently and your Editor's attempts a night or two later were frustrated by a Zim-

babwean hogging U6MIR-1 on packet for the whole pass!

In the light of the renewed activity members are again requested to leave 145,550 clear so as to avoid blocking communication with Sergei and Anotoli.

---

## Pirate using Waldie's Call

We have learned from abroad that a pirate, claiming to be on Prince Edward Island in the

Marion Island Group, has been heard using Waldie's call sign ZS2WM. The scoundrel is believed to actually be operating from the Sydney (Australia) area.

---

## Want 1½ Kilowatts?

We understand that the West Rand Branch has put forward a motion to next year's AGM calling for amendments to the Regulations to allow 562 watts on CW and 1 500 PEP. But why stop there, when many radio amateurs are already running 2 or more Kw?

---

## Ham Chops

Three American hams got the chop from the FCC recently for improper behaviour. According to messages on the Packet Bulletin Board system, WA4D deliberately interfered with other amateurs on 40 metres, using rude and insulting language, even following them when they changed frequency. He was fined \$2 000.

KC6TYR, Roy Eyman, was sentenced to three years' supervised probation and 250 hours of community service for transmitting on a tactical operations radio channel of the San Diego police department. The maximum penalty for a first offence of this type is \$100 000 or a year in gaol -

without your amateur gear!

Thomas Haynie, WB4PVK, had his amateur as well as commercial operator licences suspended for causing deliberate interference to a communications satellite as well as using an unauthorised satellite transmitter.

He received a suspended sentence, was fined \$1 000 and ordered to perform 50 hours of public service work. The FCC found his interference "egregious conduct".

Oh! for an FCC in South Africa. But I wonder where the Yanks find these gobbledygook expressions?

---

## QSL CARD SPECS

Remember, from January the QSL Bureau will not handle QSL cards on anything less than 100g card or which are of non-standard size. They should have a width of 90 mm and a length of 140mm.

## BULLETIN ROSTER

		TRANSMIT BULLETIN	RELAY/ NET
Dec	20	ZS2EQ	ZR2PF
	27	ZS2U	ZR2AAX
Jan	9	ZR2ABK	ZS2CTR
	10	ZR2RD	ZS2HB
	17	ZR2PF	ZS2EQ
	24	ZR2AAX	ZS2U

★ ★ PERSONAL NEWS ★ ★

**Condolences:** We were sad to learn of the passing away of Darryl Andersson, ZS2CZ last month. Darryl had been licensed since about 1936 and was very active in Branch affairs over the years. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

**Congratulations** ... to celebrating members and friends:

**Birthdays - December:** David Butcher ZU1AAW (14th); Marlene Ashwell ZR2ED (20th); Ron Clarke ZS2MF and Paul de Vos ZS2ABY (alias ZR2ABM) (21st); Mike Bosch ZS2FM, Graham Pearson ZR2ABQ and Brian Weller ZS2AB (all on the 25th - Father Christmas had a busy time delivering babies between the presents!); Sam Abrahams ZS2SI (28th); Athol Bruyns ZS2CM and Derek Colson ZS2NS (29th). **January:** Heather Holmes (ZS2AI) (5th); Anne Morris (ZS2MD) (13th); Neil Fulton ZS2MG (15th) and finally that Grand Old Man of Wireless, Bud Voortman ZS2CA on the 16th.

**Anniversaries - December:** None after those greeted last month. **January:** Julie and Trevor Scarr ZS2AE (2nd); Pam and Phil Hopper ZS2PP (9th) and Vicky and Allan Ansell ZS2AJ (14th).

... to **New Call Sign Holders**, having passed their CW tests: Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ (ex ZR2AAN); Paul de Vos ZS2ABY (ex ZR2ABM); Gideon Grobler ZS2ZS (ex ZR2ABL). David Butcher ZU1AAW should also receive his ZR2 call around now, having had to wait until he turns 16 on 14 December. Pieter Venter ZS6BYZ now holds the call ZS2XYZ, as in e.g.

... to **Other Successful CW Candidate** Andries van Wyk ZR2AVW - no ZS call yet, Andries?

**Welcome** ... to new members Chris White ZR4ABC and XYL Lydia of Venterstad, and recent RAE candidate Neels du Plessis of Uitenhage. Glad to have you all with us - you couldn't be in better company and we're sure you will enjoy your association with us.

**Wandering:** Michael Schwenkert will be leaving the RSA and returning home to Germany during January. Cheerio, Michael and good luck for the future; Ron ZS2R and Ruth are currently visiting Australia, returning 21 January, while Owen ZS2AZ and Doris ZS2TL set sail in their yacht during December on a two-year cruise that will take them to South and North America. Bon voyage and fair winds, Owen and Doris. We're QRV for your calls.

**White House:** Rosemary Robertson ZR2RR and Peter Tomlinson ZS2OF each had a run-in with the scalpel and are doing fine. We're thinking of you both.

## PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, DIGITAL, SERVICES, REPEATERS	Colin Robertson	ZS2CTR	30-0570
VICE CHAIRMAN, EDITOR QSX-PE SECRETARY	Garth Laaks	ZS2HB	38-1101
HAMNET, SPECIAL EVENTS, CLUB STATION, RALLIES	Fred Bonthuys	ZS2EQ	63-3804
SPECIAL EVENTS/RALLIES WG	Al Akers	ZS2U	30-2983
PROJECTS	Peter Flynn	ZR2PF	42-4008
PROJECTS WG	Martin Layton	ZS2ABN	922-7958
CONTESTS, AWARDS	Sharon Layton	ZR2ABK	922-7958
	Donovan van Loggerenberg	ZS2DL	992-2374
TRAINING LIAISON	Keith Olivier	ZR2AAX	30-2440
SOCIAL, GUEST SPEAKERS, QSX WG	Dudley Radue	ZR2RD	33-2255
-----			
SA AMSAT LIAISON	Lionel Coombe-Davis	ZS2DD	32-1770
DIGITAL/REPEATER WG CONVENOR	Trevor Scarr	ZS2AE	32-1746
LIBRARY, DF, IPHA	Vic Olivier	ZS2SZ	30-2440
QSX COMMITTEE	Viv Moore	ZS2VM	30-4433
YAS LIAISON	Mike Bentley	ZR2MBM	30-1498

## SUNDAY BULLETINS

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

- 7,098 MHz and  $\pm 10,123$  Mhz (40 & 30 metres) on SSB
- 14,130 MHz (20 metres SSB) when conditions require
- 145,700 MHz and 145,750MHz repeaters (2 metre band)
- 51,400 MHz (linked with 2m Lady's Slipper)

## BRANCH VHF & HF SERVICES

### Repeaters:

Town (PE Central)	145,050/650	Kareedouw	145,125/725
Town UHF	431,050/438,650	Lady's Slipper	145,100/700
Cockscomb	145,000/600	Uitenhage	145,025/625
Grahamstown	145,150/750	University	145,175/775

### Other Services:

2 metre beacon (ZS2PE CW ID)	144,910 MHz
Packet Bulletin Board	144,675 & 14,109 MHz
Digipeater (Grahamstown)	144,675 MHz
6 metre link with Lady's Slipper	51,400 MHz simplex
6 metre beacon (ZS2SIX CW ID)	50,005 MHz

## BRANCH MEETINGS

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

★ ★ We like being your branch ★ ★