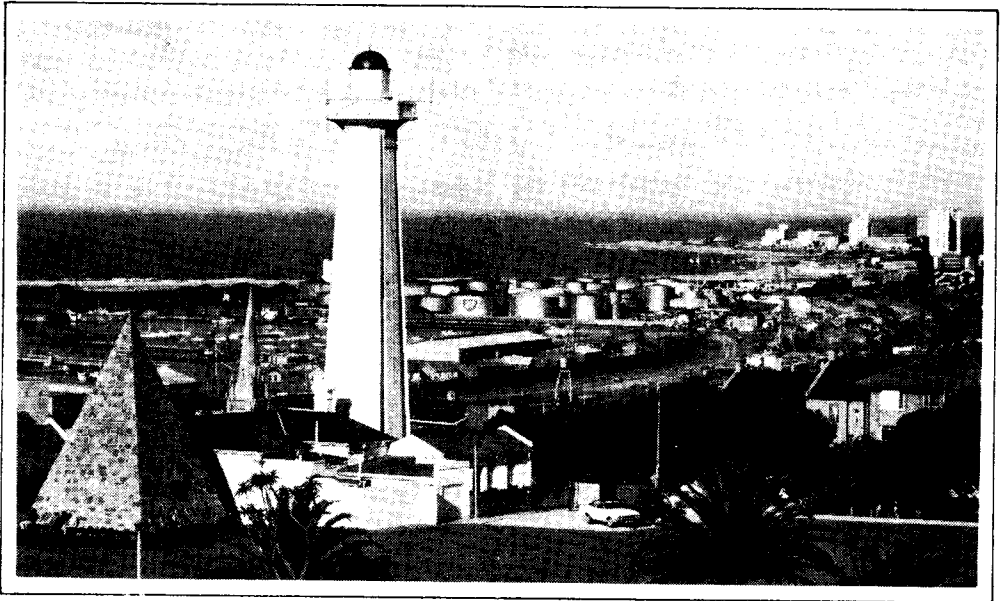




Q S X P E



**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

February 1993

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next monthly general meeting of the Port Elizabeth Branch will be held on **Friday, 19 February 1993**. Please note that it has been decided to start our meetings a little earlier than in the past, namely **at 8.00pm (20:00)** since McGyver no longer competes with us for excitement.

The venue, of course, remains the Civil Defence Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park, Port Elizabeth.

This will be a doubly important meeting: We need to reach well-founded decisions

on our repeater policy for the future and we also have to discuss the motions and brief our Delegate for the SARL AGM that will take place in March.

Please turn up promptly and exercise your important right to have your League governed the way you want it.

Please bring with you this copy of QSX and the schedule of motions that came with your January RADIO ZS for reference purposes!

SUPPORT HAM RADIO — VOTE FOR BILL !

As you know, this Branch has frequently voiced its dissatisfaction at the way certain things have been done by Council. Consequently, when vacancies on Council have to be filled, it behoves all of us to vote for those persons who we expect will act in the best interests of Amateur Radio.

OM Bill Browne, ZS2BY, kindly agreed to stand as our Branch's candidate for Council and a very brief description of his qualifications and experience appears in the booklet that came with your January RADIO ZS. To do justice to Bill's vast qualifications — all relevant to the job of SARL Councillor — would fill this Newsletter. Suffice it to say, I can think of nobody better suited to represent Ham Radio on Council.

The rear page of the aforementioned booklet, which also contains the list of motions for the AGM, is your ballot paper. Please remove it carefully and vote for **not more than four** candidates to serve you on Council for the next three years. To help you, we have enclosed with QSX a stamped, addressed envelope in which you can post your ballot paper back to SARL Headquarters in Johannesburg.

Being remote from the Transvaal you

are perhaps, like most of us, in the dark about the other candidates. It may help, therefore, if I mention that the **Highveld Branch generally seems to hold views parallel to ours**. In fact, they have even submitted a motion very much on the lines of one of ours.

Two members of that Branch are also standing as candidates, namely **Lionel Rowley ZS6ALA** (the Chairman) and **Abe Zwiegelaar ZS6ZS/ZS1ZS**. They, therefore, get my second and third votes.

For my fourth candidate I have selected **Laurence Devereux ZS5DL** who, as Editor of the Durban Branch newsletter CQ, has the courage to speak out on matters that are of concern to his readers.

But whoever else you select, **please give Bill Browne one of your votes in the true interests of Ham Radio**.

As a Councillor, of course, Bill will **not be a representative of the PE Branch!** Councillors are appointed to their position in their personal capacities with responsibilities towards the whole wide spectrum of League opinion. Good ones will not allow their branch allegiances to interfere with these responsibilities. SK

Short Waves from the Chair

THE YEAR got off to a fine start for the Branch with another excellent turnout of 53 members and visitors at our January meeting. The talk and slides presented by Andries van der Linde was thoroughly interesting, and maybe we should ask him to give us another talk later in the year. Our thanks to Andries for giving up his time, and to Beavan ZS2RL for inviting him along.

★ It's great to see PE in the forefront of the latest issue of *RADIO ZS*. Firstly the cover photo featuring the field station of Ken ZS2OC and Al ZS2U and then the articles by Mike ZS2FM and Colin ZS2AO. Well done guys! Not to mention the majority of branch-submitted AGM motions coming from this Branch. It certainly proves that we are very much alive and well in this part of the land.

★ Thanks for your support of the national Intecnet broadcast on Sunday 24 January. A total of 27 stations reported in afterwards on the three relay frequencies, which I understand was the best at any centre from which the talk was broadcast. Again, Beavan ZS2RL is to be thanked for providing an excellent relay on 80 metres. Many thanks, Beavan.

★ A large quantity of ex-commercial VHF transceivers in fair condition, easily convertible to the 2-metre band, has been

donated to the Branch by a local firm and will be disposed of at a flea-market to be arranged soon with the profits going to our repeater fund. Vic ZS2SZ saw the possibility of the Branch acquiring the equipment and took the gap. Thanks for all the trouble you have taken with this, Vic. Details of the flea-market will be announced on a Branch bulletin shortly.

★ This time next month I will be attending the League AGM in Pretoria, doing my best as your Branch delegate. I certainly hope that it is not as controversial as last year's meeting and that our hobby of Ham Radio comes away the winner.

★ I promised to keep it short for this month, so till next time, best 73

de Colin, ZS2CTR

[And thanks to you, Colin, for your very fine simultaneous relays and phone patches.]



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BRING 'n BRAAI TO BID BUD BYE-BYE

Bud ZS2CA and Vaun leave us at the end of February following their retirement and relocation to Cape Town.

The Branch feels that many members would wish to have a last happy get-together with them before they depart and a **bring and braai** has been arranged for Friday evening, **12 February** at the QTH of OM Ben Schilder ZR2ABE, i.e. **14 de la Rey Street, Linton Grange**. The "do" starts at **7.30pm**. (Hope QSX reaches you in time).

The Branch will provide the fire, bread rolls and wine. Please bring everything else that you will need, including eating utensils and stools. **See you there!**

GET-TOGETHER AT PORT ALFRED

Phil ZS2PP, XYL Pam and helpers have put up a special station at the Bathurst Show these last two or three years, and we have used the occasion to meet with the East London and country members. You will recall, in particular, the fabulous braai that we had at ZS2J John's QTH after the 1992 Show.

Unfortunately, we had few enquiries from people anxious to get into the hobby. This, coupled with the sharp increase in the cost of a stand now being asked by the Organisers, prompted the Branch not to get involved this year. However, we hope to arrange with our East London and country friends to meet us nevertheless on the Saturday of the show for a get-together. The place and nature of the 'happening' has still to be decided upon but we expect that some members may wish to visit the Show for an hour or so while others "do their thing" elsewhere.

Watch this space and listen to bulletins for developments.

RAE CLASSES START

Since Viv will not be available on a regular basis to hold RAE classes this year, Al ZS2U has agreed to step into the breach and, with assistance from a few

other members, he has already started a series of lectures for Class A candidates. A prerequisite for attending classes is membership of the SARL or at least "Branch social member" status for a donation of R20.

Those interested in participating should contact Al without delay at **30-2983**.

Mike Bentley ZR2MBM has also already started lectures for Class B candidates. Contact him right away at **30-1498** for details.

RAE: CLOSING DATE 5 MARCH

Those who intend to enter for the Amateur examination on 13 May must get their application forms to P&T Headquarters not later than **5 March**, which is just around the corner. If you don't get cracking, you won't be chatting.

Is Your QTH Correct?

If your copy of QSX is not going to the proper address, please let the Editor know. A gremlin may have resulted in our latest QTH information for QSX being inadvertently replaced with earlier data.

Indications are that only one or two people may have been affected, if it did in fact occur. Apologies for any inconvenience if you are one of them. **SK**

BRANCH REPEATERS

DECISIONS SOUGHT AT FEBRUARY MEETING

BY THE CHAIRMAN

In recent times, many members have raised valid questions about our Branch repeaters and some have put forward proposals for the improvement and rationalisation of our network. It is probably true that, over the years, our repeaters have tended to be erected on an ad hoc basis and there is a fair amount of overlapping. While some repeaters are no longer used to any worthwhile extent, new needs have arisen in other areas and the time is perhaps ripe for a meaningful review of our repeater policy.

Branch repeaters are provided for you, the members, and the Committee feels that the members themselves (preferably regular users of the facilities) should have the final say on the matter by a majority decision.

At its January meeting, attended also by members of the Repeater Working Group (RWG), your Committee hammered out the following general proposals for discussion and, where necessary, voting on at the February General Meeting:

General considerations

1. Need for links to Cape Town, East London and the North
2. Repeaters to cover current "shadow" areas (e.g. Uitenhage/Despatch)
3. General upgrading
4. Maintenance and
5. Recurrent costs of repeaters (licences, power, spares, maintenance).

Priorities recommended

1. Provide a repeater to serve the Uitenhage-Despatch area (the licence application was submitted to Headquarters some time ago but is still pending)
2. Liaise with East London on the possibility of linking between Port Elizabeth and that City, with which we have close HAMNET ties and our members in general have a strong community of interest
3. Meanwhile, upgrade Lady's Slip-

per generally but also in preparation for its rôle as backbone for the links on UHF to the East, West and North as may be necessary

4. Upgrade Grahamstown repeater in readiness for linking to East London and, if necessary, Lady's Slipper
5. Link Kareedouw with Lady's Slipper (but not beyond to Cape Town at this stage)
6. Link to Cape Town to be left in abeyance for future decision since our mutual interests are not as great as those with East London, while linking could result in blocking the whole route even for 'local' QSO's along the route
7. Unless the members consider it preferable to dismantle or move it (e.g. for Uitenhage/Despatch), the Cockscomb repeater may be left where it is for the time being even though it is very difficult to reach for maintenance and so rarely used that it hardly justifies the cost of its licence.
8. Although the University repeater is also little used, it serves as a back-up to the Town facility for HAMNET purposes and could

perhaps be included in the link to East London. It should therefore be left in situ. However, its audio quality requires attention.

Miscellaneous Proposals and Comments

1. That, as requested by the donors, monies collected for the Branch Repeater Fund be used only for the upgrading of the repeater system.
2. That a site offered to us at Paardekop be evaluated as a possible optimum site to serve not only Uitenhage/Despatch but also other desired areas. From reports received, the site should cover the route to the North and much or all of the area that the Cockscomb repeater can cover, and a much wider area than the Signal Hill site originally selected for the Uitenhage repeater.
3. That the Repeater Working Group consult with the Committee before purchasing any materials as the goods may be available free of charge through or from members.
4. That decisions regarding the siting of Branch repeaters, as well as the prior authorisation of expenditure in respect thereof, be obtained from the Committee.
5. That the RWG embark on a project to manufacture 2m duplexers - Wolf ZS2WG to head up this long-term project.
6. That the assistance offered by several local communications technicians be drawn upon in the maintenance of the repeater network.
7. The appointment of Dudley ZR2RD to the RWG was confirmed.

Since the aforementioned committee meeting, the following proposals have been received, which can also be discussed and voted upon at the meeting:

1. That two or more Committee members carry out tests from the Paardekop site to establish whether it can provide satisfactory coverage for the Uitenhage-Despatch area; also to establish that there are no pitfalls in connection with the installation and maintenance of a repeater at that site.
2. That two or more repeater maintenance teams be formed, each being allotted specific repeaters for their attention. Trevor and Christopher have found that last-minute decisions, e.g. whether to undertake or cancel a maintenance trip in uncertain weather conditions, can be made more easily if the team is small. On the other hand, it is essential for flexibility that other members develop maintenance expertise that can only be obtained from hands-on experience.
3. That a group of committee members be appointed to conduct an in-depth study of our whole repeater situation and to make recommendations for the improvement and rationalisation of our network.

None of the above proposals will detrimentally affect the facilities offered by our repeater network at present but, in the long term, we can expect to save money and effort through rationalisation and orderly future development of our facilities. Please study these thoughts before the meeting so that discussion can be kept brief and to the point, and that firm and wise decisions can be made in your own best interests. SK

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH
BRANCH OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE HELD AT THE
CIVIL DEFENCE CENTRE, MILL PARK, PORT ELIZABETH ON
FRIDAY 21 JANUARY 1993

PRESENT: 54 members and visitors.

APOLOGIES as per attendance register.

WELCOME: The Chairman, Colin ZS2CTR, welcomed all especially those whose faces we had not seen for a while, and more especially Johan Ferreira and friend Charl, also Van ZS2JC; and to several members from Uitenhage.

GUEST SPEAKER: At this point the Chairman departed from accustomed practice and welcomed Mr Andries van der Linde to our meeting. Andries is presently doing research on renewable energy sources, harnessing both solar and wind power.

A most interesting talk followed and Andries used many slides to illustrate various ways that these energy sources have been harnessed. In many instances efficiencies were still low, making research work very challenging. Nevertheless, much use could be made of electricity generated from both wind and solar power.

An eager audience kept Andries busy answering many questions, so much so that Andries has promised to come again and take the discussion a stage further. Many thanks, Andries!

Tea was taken with much lively chatter on the subject matter of the talk. One member was overheard to say that he was going to set up a farm of wind power generators and sell the power to the City Council!

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the meeting of 20th November 1992, as printed in QSX, were approved; proposed by Colin ZS2AO and seconded by Lynne ZS2MM.

MATTERS ARISING: The problems experienced with the digipeater appear to result from incompatibility difficulties, and will be investigated. More news later.

FINANCE: Our Treasurer, Colin ZS2CTR, reported on Branch funds:-

R 3106,25	General fund
R 5341,45	AGM fund
R 1568,47	Repeater Fund
<u>R10016,17</u>	T O T A L

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Other Branch newsletters tabled.
2. Closing date for May RAE is March 5 1993. DON'T BE LATE!!
3. The Chairman read some extracts from the Council minutes.
4. Several Christmas cards received.
5. THE BRANCH has 169 paid up members as at January 4, 1993.

6. The Chairman congratulated the following on getting their "ZS" call signs:-
Bill ZS2ABZ
Andries van Wyk ZS2P
Paul de Vos ZS2ABY
Simone Pukall ZS2YL.

GENERAL:

1. Thanks to:-

★ Viv, ZS2VM, who assisted 14 candidates to pass the November exams and has achieved more than 40 passes in only three years. THE Branch salutes you, Viv!

★ Wolf, ZS2WG, for the work done on the PBBS.

★ ZR2MBM for achieving publicity for SAREX in the evening newspaper and together with Al, ZS2U, for the interview concerning SAREX and HAM Radio on Radio Algoa.

2. Technical articles needed for QSX. Can you help?
3. A special vote of thanks to Bill, ZS2BY, for making himself available for selection to Council. Bill has wide experience in radio matters and has all the necessary attributes to make a very fine Council member. We all look forward to your success, Bill.
4. By a show of hands all present were in favour of Wolf, ZS2WG, being elected to the Committee following the recent loss of two Committee members. Congratulations, Wolf.
5. The draw in our first competition for a free weekend at a Wild Coast holiday resort will be made soon, and the lucky name will be announced on the bulletin.
6. Bathurst Show: No participation this year due to cost of a stand.
7. SAREX is tentatively being planned for 26th February 1993, 9.45pm. More details nearer the time.
8. Farewell to Bud, ZS2CA. A bring and braai is being planned for 12th February 1993 at the QTH of Ben ZR2ABE. Listen to the bulletins for further details.
- 9 Barry, ZS2H, has an electronic keyer to sell in aid of Branch funds.
- 10 Owen ZS2AZ is currently in 24th position in the Cape to Rio Yacht race.
- 11 Andre, ZS2ACP, worked JA with only 8 watts on 40m. There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.15pm.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

SAREX EXCITEMENT BUILDING UP

IN PART FROM RADIO FUN, JANUARY 1993

With the news that Mission STS-55 is now scheduled to talk to scholars at the Westering High School on Sunday evening, 28 February, our local team is getting into high gear. They have been collecting all the items that will be required to assure the scholars of communication quality second to none in their chats with the astronauts.

The Port Elizabeth ground station will be erected at the Westering High School, and you are invited to get along there and watch the four young people put their questions to the hams aboard Columbia.

STS-55 will be the first SAREX flight for 1993 and the second flight of the German Spacelab module. The mission will include both U.S. and German astro-hams, and they will participate in world-wide preplanned as well as random contacts.

The US hams are the commander, Steve Nagel N5RAW and Jerry Ross N5SCW, both veterans of the STS-37 mission. Steve has previously had flights on *Discovery*, *Challenger* and *Atlantis*, and was the first astronaut to fly as a mission specialist, pilot and commander. Jerry has also flown on three shuttle missions already, and performed space walks on two of them.

Both German payload specialists are also licensed. They are Hans Schlegel DG1KIH and Ulrich Walter DG1KIM. The other US astronauts on the flight will be pilot Tom Hendrix and mission specialists Charles Precourt and Dr. Bernie Harris.

This mission will fly in a 28.5° orbit, which will bring it close to our latitude of about 34° and so we should have solid copy during the few minutes that the shuttle is between horizons — provided other stations on the ground observe radio silence on the channels so as not to cause interference to the astronauts. **We appeal to everyone to show consideration in this respect — the astronauts will be able to hear signals from all over South Africa whereas we can hear only the spacecraft and purely local stations on that frequency.**

Split-frequency operation will be used throughout the mission. The shuttle will

transmit (downlink) on 145,550 for voice as well as packet, while only the following frequencies should be used for the **uplink**: VOICE - 144,910 144,930 144,950 144,970 and 144,990 MHz; PACKET: 144,490 MHz. **NOTE**— If the launch is delayed such that the shuttle will be aloft during the ARRL International DX Phone contest (March 6-7), the shuttle will use **only** the following uplink frequencies for voice **during the entire mission: 144,490 and 144,470 MHz. DO NOT TRANSMIT ON THE DOWN-LINK FREQUENCY!**

Current plans call for two sets of ham transceivers on the nine-day mission: the German hardware, with an external antenna mounted on the rear of the Spacelab module, and the standard SAREX C (packet and voice) configuration within the shuttle's crew cabin, using the window-mounted antenna. The SAREX team hopes to be permitted to connect up to the external antenna, however, since it has much better performance. On the other hand, SAREX operations from the Spacelab module would be limited to voice only, using self-contained battery packs for power.

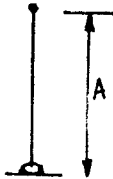
Back on Earth, the High School in Port Elizabeth will be linked to Johannesburg and thence to Mission Control in the United States by telephone lines for overall control and co-ordination purposes, remembering that we are not the only city to be involved with the Shuttle during its flight — other schools, in Swaziland and Kenya to name but two countries in Southern Africa, will also make contact with the astro-hams.

★ Listen on 14,295, 21,395 and 28,650 MHz for retransmissions by WA3NAN of the Shuttle conversations with Ground Control throughout the mission. SK

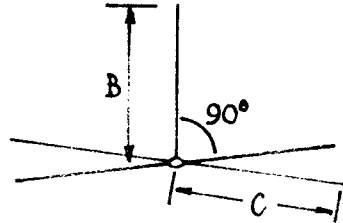
ELEMENTS FOR 1/4 WAVE ANTENNAS

BY ALVIN ZS5AES, FROM DURBAN'S CQ

Mobile



Fixed station Ground
Plane antenna



Note: Lengths given are approximate. Use an in-line watt meter and adjust radiator length for the best VSWR.

Frequency Mhz	Whip Length (A) mm	Radiator Length (B) mm	Radial Length (C) mm
144	476	450	488
146	463	445	482
420-450	145	120	152

Here's a Real Need: The following message was received via the Packet Bulletin Board. Perhaps somebody would like to respond:-

Hallo dear Radiofriend,

we are an evening Class of adults. Traying to learn English.

The school is in a little town called Roethenbach near

Nuernberg. We are 14 students and looking for regulari
Englisch FR Kontakts.

Best 73/55 de Mike DL3NBW @ DBOBOX and from all the students.

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QSX: NO INFLUENTIAL READERS?

Last month we asked whether any readers have influence in civic, corporate or other circles and might be able to coax (the verb, not the noun) any of them to donate a "home" that the Branch can use exclusively. **I can say that, if results are anything to go by, we have NO INFLUENTIAL READERS OF THIS NEWSLETTER!**

We referred to a number of incidents in which Ham Radio had played a major part in saving lives and easing human suffering in one way or another. We have since heard of the fantastic success achieved by our own member, Phil ZS2PP, in tracing a party of South Africans visiting Indonesia when the terrible earthquake destroyed Flores Island in December. With communications to the outside world cut, and Flores Island on the party's itinerary around that time, their families in Natal feared the worst. However, through the dogged efforts of Phil and a dedicated ham in Indonesia who pulled out all the stops (both of them going to considerable personal expense over a period of weeks),

the group was eventually traced and their families informed that they were safe.

Such is the spirit of Ham Radio, and just a fraction of its value to Mankind.

Now, once again — **do we have any influential readers who can help us with a Clubhouse where we can safely install Branch equipment and facilities for training newcomers; a home for this grand hobby that provides hands-on education to young and old in the field of radio and electronics, one which is geared to selfless service to the community in any form of emergency?**

(We hope to bring you a more detailed report on the Singapore saga in the March issue of QSX). **SK**

BUTCHER ATTACKS EDITOR

As a result of a minor misprint in last month's issue of QSX an irate Butcher, his face blood red, threatened to carve up your Editor. The misprint was a stab in the back, he claimed and, not mincing his words, he vowed to tan the Editor's hide and throw his bones to the pigs. To avoid slaughter under the Butcher's cut and thrust, and to save what scalp he still has, the Editor undertook to print the following correction: In PERSONAL NEWS on page 15 of the January issue, under "New Call Sign Holders", please replace the words "David's father, Graham Butcher, ZR2DCB" with "David's father, Grahamophone Butcher, ZR2GIB".

For the record, now that *that's* cleared up, I hope Graham has unwound and no longer has the needle in for me. And I

leave you with this point to ponder: When a butcher buys a computer, does he become a good hacker?

BULLETIN BOARD CALL SIGNS CHANGE

The call signs of packet bulletin board systems (BBS's) around the country have changed to the ZS0 prefix at the request of SABL Headquarters for some obscure reason. The Branch facility ZS2PE, for example has changed to ZS0PEL, while Piet's BBS ZS2FP has had to adopt the call sign ZSONTP.

Presumably all packeteers in this area have notified each of their friends about the new call sign of whichever of these they have designated as their "home" BBS.

With a call sign like ZS OPEL, perhaps Delta will give us a clubhouse? **SK**

CISKEI DXpedition, 1993

AL AKERS ZS2U

Early Thursday morning, 7th January, I set off for my usual annual jaunt to the Ciskei, popping in to see Phil, ZS2PP and Pam on the way. I arrived in Hamburg at midday and met up with Peter, ZS2ABF who had come from East London to join me on the DXpedition. We soon had our station on the air from the caravan park, with the usual FT7B and a dipole for the 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m bands.

During the antenna raising, we discovered that the gentleman by the name of Bismark, who used to be in charge of the caravan park, had been replaced by his cousin, Henceforth. Henceforth, Henceforth will be in charge there. [And whereas he's riding the crest of the wave, his appointment by the "big guns" came as a broadside for Bismark. It really sank him — just when he thought it was all plain sailing ahead - Ed.]

As a holiday, the expedition was excellent, though short. Thursday and Friday were very hot, sunny days and Peter and I spent the time operating, chatting, swimming and going for walks. On one of the walks we visited the old QTH of Klaus, S42LK, just above the caravan park. Remains of his presence include his name and callsign engraved in concrete, three wooden masts, what is left of a tower and a piece of RG8U coax.

Friday morning we decided to change our dipole for a centre-fed Zepp, which is a half-wave on 40m. I cannot say that I noticed any difference between the two antennas. A sign of how little known the latter antenna is nowadays is that two of my contacts thought I said a centre fed *whip!* This brings to mind an interesting conversation I overheard there: A DX station was telling his contact that he had worked someone and given him \$9 under zero. I'm still trying to figure that one out!

Friday evening, it started raining and continued for the rest of our stay, curtailing our swims and walks somewhat. On Saturday, Phil ZS2PP, XYL Pam and daughter Wendy visited us and spent a few pleasurable hours chatting and joking and enjoying tea and scones that Pam had kindly brought with.

As a DXpedition, it was a lot less successful due to poor conditions. Between Peter, who used his own call of S42ABF, and myself we made only 82 contacts. The only good period was Friday evening when I made 21 contacts in about an hour, almost half my total contacts for the expedition. We contacted some 32 countries on five continents, the sixth one eluding us despite hearing and calling several stations there. Twenty metres was the best band with 70% of my contacts made on that band.

Well, we have no doubt gladdened the hearts of at least some DXers and it was a nice break from home for us both. It was a pleasure to meet and spend some time with Peter. SK

BULLETIN ROSTER

		TRANSMIT BULLETIN	RELAY/ NET
Feb	21	ZS2EQ	ZS2DL
	28	ZS2U	ZS2CTR
Mar	7	ZR2RD	ZS2HB
	14	ZS2WG	ZS2EQ
	21	ZR2PF	ZS2U
	28	ZR2AAX	ZR2RD

JOE JASSON WINS WEEKEND ON BEAUTIFUL WILD COAST

The Codeword puzzle published in the November issue of QSX was won by OM Joe Jasson, ZR2JLJ. *Congrats, Joe. You have won a voucher for a free weekend for two at a leading Transkeian holiday resort (meals and accommodation).*

The response to the puzzle, and also to that published in the December issue, has been very disappointing. We assume this to be the result of the various reports of stoning of cars and other experiences of travellers through the country. However, Glen S83X, of Coffee Bay, wishes to assure readers that the situation in Transkei is far less hazardous than in many parts of South Africa. He writes: "There is not a week that goes by without a hijacking in the PWV area, how many stone throwing or shooting incidents have happened along the Natal South and North coasts? Unfortunately, Transkei and Ciskei have been singled out as the "Hot Spots"....My car has been broken into three times, once in Cape Town, once in PE and once in East London. I have been attacked and stabbed in

East London, had stones thrown at my vehicle outside Komga. The worst that has happened to me in Transkei is being called a white racist by a drunk."

Glen adds, however, that driving during the night hours is a no no because of cattle and other animals on the roads. The coastal areas are peaceful and tranquil and not as is unfortunately implied in press reports. He travels through to East London regularly and travelling "reps" stay over at his Hotel daily.

So there you have it — from the horse's mouth. Let's have a little more support when we offer the remaining vouchers that Glen has kindly made available to us to boost our 1994 SARL AGM fund. *Thanks, Glen, and we hope this puts the record straight!* SK

WOLF JOINS THE PACK

Following the resignation of Martin and Sharon Layton, ZS2ABN and ZR2ABK from the Committee recently, Wolf ZS2WG was hounded onto the Committee at the last general meeting. Other members, some grinning like hyenas, were too foxy to get caught, so Wolf is saddled with the lion's share of two jobs and he won't have much time for horsing around. Welcome aboard, Wolf!

The poor chap has also, of course, doggedly been hunting bugs in the Branch's packet bulletin board system and it's had him tearing his hair out. While I think about it, please remember that, if you experience difficulty with the bulletin board, please *tell* the SYSOP about it and if, after a reasonable period, it persists, let him know again. It is often difficult for a SYSOP to determine for sure whether the adjustments made after receiving a report have done the trick.

RADIO-ACTIVITY IN U'PHAGE—DESPATCH

Members in the Uitenhage-Despatch area had a very successful social get-together recently, inviting especially the 'dormant' hams in the area. Several old-timers among the excellent turnout of 20 entertained all present with reminiscences about Ham Radio in days gone by.

The "UD Bunch" are now planning to hold get-togethers regularly on the first Friday of each month, starting on 5 March at 8pm. Listen to bulletins for the venue. Hams from the PE area are also welcome.

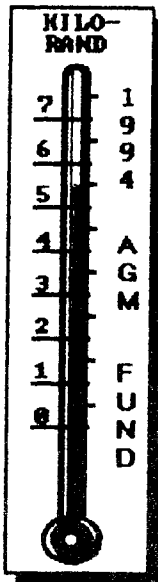
They are also showing the way with their activity on the air and have arranged a weekly net on 145,400 every Thursday evening, starting at 8pm. Again, all invited to participate.

ZS2 Phil's Philosophy: *Why should we do things the easy way when we can have so much fun doing them the hard way?*

1994 AGM FUND

The AGM Fund has not exactly been going ahead in leaps and bounds of late and we are already into the final run-up to the 1994 League AGM. Yes, we have less than a year to finalise things and that will surely pass in a flash!

Our AGM Convenor, Dick ZS2RS, will soon get his committee into action with AGM arrangements but he needs to be assured of adequate funding. Any ideas? Perhaps some influential friends can help with donations even if they can't organise a clubhouse for us!



QSX PE Sunday Evenings?

Which simply means "Will you listen to PE on Sunday Evenings?"

Following the wide interest shown by Eastern Cape members in the Intecnet on Sunday, 24 January the Branch will run a regular Sunday evening get-together, transmitting tapes of interesting talks when available or discussing any other radio topic that members wish to raise.

There's a lot more activity since the natter nets collapsed a year or so ago, so let's see if it works this time. QSX Sundays at 8pm on Slipper repeater, 145,700?

ROBERTSONS: Good Luck & Bad

First, the good news: Brendan ZU1AAR well and truly beat the school's cross-country champion and has been invited to participate in the Alexander High School's upcoming trials. Congrats, Brendan!

Bad news is that Rosemary ZR2RR was bashed while travelling around Greenacres and the car is a write-off. Luckily, Rosemary was only slightly injured.

ZS2ACP's QRP SUCCESS

Andre, ZS2ACP, has been notching up some excellent results with his little QRP outfit and recently worked Japan on 40 metres, running 8 watts.

He has already worked all regions necessary to qualify for the Branch QRP award. Congrats, Andre, on a fine achievement. I'm sure you derived more pleasure from your low power contacts than from working the whole world with ease on 100 watts and more!

Do You Smoke?

Because of the crowding at our monthly meetings the Chubhouse tends to become quite stuffy, even with all windows open. Many members find this alone uncomfortable but if anyone nearby smokes, some members have a real problem.

Is it convenient for the smokers to sit, say, near the door and direct the smoke outside, or even stand at the doorway while actually smoking? Just a thought, but please don't let it keep you away from meetings.

New Digipeater on Way

Since the digipeater that was originally installed at Grahamstown seems to be incompatible with the Poor Man's Packet and EZPacket that many members of the Branch use, a new unit has been ordered and it will hopefully be in operation around the end of February. Thank you for your patience, and thanks also to Trevor ZS2AE, Toff ZS2AAW and Lionel ZS2DD for the many hours spent in trying to get the digi to talk our language. SK

★ ★ PERSONAL NEWS ★ ★

Condolences: We were sad and shocked to learn of the passing of OM Steve Grime ZS2ABO, of King William's Town, on Sunday, 24 January after a heart attack. He reported in after the bulletin that morning with no sign of any problem. Our sympathy goes to his wife and family.

We have also learned with deep regret of the passing of two League stalwarts in Ailie Tronson ZS1CZ and, only this month, Ian McGregor ZS1A. For many years, Ailie's voice rang out regularly as she read the Headquarters and Cape Town Branch bulletins, while Ian transmitted the HQ bulletin at various speeds on CW with his first-class "fist". Their presence will be missed in League circles.

Congratulations ... to friends and members celebrating soon:

Birthdays - February: John Rivers ZS2DO (22nd); Waldie Bartie ZS2WM and Dick van den Berg ZR2ABH (26th); Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG (29th). **March:** Susanna Bosch (ZS2FM) (15th); Dudley Radue ZR2RD (18th); Mervyn Akers ZS2F (20th).

Anniversaries - February: Doris ZS2DJ and Arthur Edwards (24th); Ria and Garth Laaks ZS2HB (29th - of which there is none this year, so I can't forget it like some Buds I know).

March: Sandra and Phil Bothma ZS2B (3rd); Vaun and Bud Voortman ZS2CA (15th) - now **remember** it this year, Bud!

... to **New Call Sign Holders** Simone Pukall ZS2YL, Theuns Potgieter ZR2BG and Chris White ex ZR4ABC, now a full ZS4ABS after passing his CW test.

Welcome to New Members Rosemary Robertson ZR2RR, John Gohl, Terry Flanagan ZS2ABB, George Bowes ZS2QN, Petrus Blom ZS2PB, Edward Langley ZS2PU and Louis Terblanche ZS2KT.

Farewell to Michael Schwenkert ZS2ABW who returned to Germany last month. Perhaps we'll hear him with a D call soon.

Permanent Loafers' Club: Oooold Man Vic Olivier ZS2SZ (now hiding his wrinkles behind an extensive beard) and the Grand Old Man of Wireless, OM Bud Voortman ZS2CA, retired at the end of January. Enjoy it, both of you.

Grannies: The Branch must be getting long in the tooth! Latest Grannies are young Peggy and Viv Moore ZS2VM (first time, it's a granddaughter) while Cathy and Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG, now old hands at the game, are sporting their *second* granddaughter. Congrats, you two, and to the new Moms and Dads too! **SK**

PORT ELIZABETH BRANCH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, REPEATERS	Colin Robertson	ZS2CTR	30-0570
VICE CHAIRMAN, EDITOR QSX-PE	Garth Laaks	ZS2HB	38-1101
SECRETARY	Fred Bonthuys	ZS2EQ	63-3804
HAMNET, SPECIAL EVENTS, CLUB STATION, RALLIES	Al Akers	ZS2U	30-2983
SPECIAL EVENTS/RALLIES WG	Peter Flynn	ZR2PF	42-4008
PROJECTS, DIGITAL SERVICES, REPEATER WG	Wolf Gerstle	ZS2WG	30-1510
CONTESTS, AWARDS	Donovan van Loggerenberg	ZS2DL	992-2374
TRAINING LIAISON	Keith Olivier	ZR2AAX	30-2440
SOCIAL, GUEST SPEAKERS, QSX WG	Dudley Radue	ZR2RD	33-2255

EXTRA-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

SA AMSAT LIAISON	Lionel Coombe-Davis	ZS2DD	32-1770
DIGITAL/REPEATER WG CONVENOR	Trevor Scarr	ZS2AE	32-1748
LIBRARY, DF, IPHA	Vic Olivier	ZS2SZ	30-2440
QSX COMMITTEE, TRAINING WG	Viv Moore	ZS2VM	30-4433
YAS LIAISON	Mike Bentley	ZR2MBM	30-1498

SUNDAY BULLETINS

Bulletins are transmitted on Sundays at about 08:45 (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 145,750 MHz repeaters (2 metre band)
51,400 MHz (linked with 2m Lady's Slipper)

BRANCH VHF & HF SERVICES

Repeaters:

Town (PE Central)	145,050/850	Kareedouw	145,125/725
Town UHF	431,050/438,650	Lady's Slipper	145,100/700
Cockcomb	145,000/800	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

20:00 (8.00 pm) on the third Friday of the month in the Civil Defence Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park.

★ ★ We like being your branch ★ ★