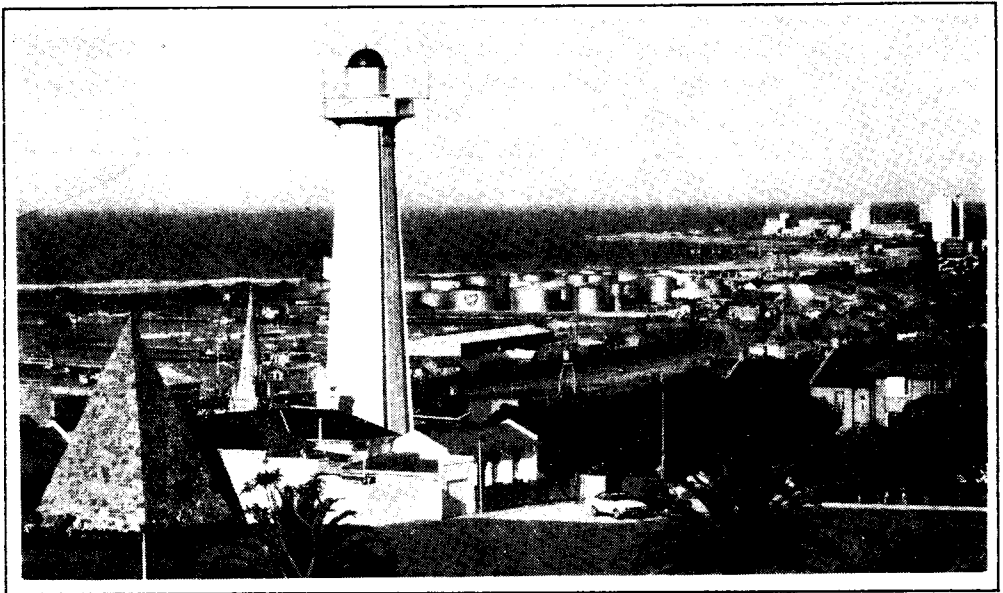




Q S X
P E



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

P.O. BOX 10402
LINTON GRANGE
6015

February 1995

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

The next monthly general meeting of the Branch will be held on **FRIDAY, 17 March 1995** in the Civil Defence Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park, Port Elizabeth, commencing at 8 pm (20:00).

This is a very important occasion as we have to elect our delegate for both the SARL AGM and the SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING that we have requisitioned. We will also need to discuss the motions for the AGM and instruct our delegate on how to vote on them.

Many members tend to stay away from meetings at which motions are to be discussed but please remember - *this is YOUR League* and you should involve yourself in its running, at least to the extent of voicing your opinions on more crucial situations such as we are experiencing at present.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available during the interval in exchange for a reasonable donation.

Technichats Fill Important Need


There was a satisfying turnout at the exploratory get-together and it has been decided to meet at the Civil Defence Centre at 19:30 on the first Thursday of each month for light technical discussions with a social accent. Although someone will act as host on each occasion, these are *not* meetings. They will be *totally informal*. There will not normally be a lecturer as such, nor will any Branch business be conducted.

On different occasions there will be demonstrations of, for example, correct techniques in the shack as well as explanations of, and discussions on, circuits and circuit diagrams, components, antennas, test equipment etc. At the first gathering on 2 February, for example, the correct use of the soldering iron and measurements with a test meter were demonstrated. (At the exploratory meeting, Al ZS2U told us about the German Quad that he erected on his smallholding, the hassles he had in getting it into the air, and the results of his tests on it).

Participants will be able to put questions on their own specific technical problems or general technical matters relating to our hobby that bother them. Some of the older hands will be using these get-togethers as refresher courses

but they will also put in their pennyworth to help things along.

Another group, interested more in the *construction of projects*, will meet at 19:30 on the Thursday following the Branch monthly general meeting (the first being on 23 February). These participants will get into the individual construction of generally similar items, such as power supplies for a start. By obtaining components, PC boards etc. in bulk, there will probably be a saving in costs. The group will also be able to iron out common or individual problems that members experience during the construction of their projects.

Interested persons can contact Owen ZS2AZ at ☎ 38-4134 or Viv ZS2VM at ☎ 30-4433 - or simply roll up at the CD Centre on the appointed nights. 

CQ de ZS2RL

For those of you who did not attend January's GBM, two very important decisions were taken. The first being that we proceed with the requisition, in conjunction with the EL Branch, for a Special General Meeting of the League with the proposal that the constitution be amended so as to require Council to operate within an approved budget. The text of that requisition is published elsewhere in this very worthy publication. Remember, it is **YOUR** hoodle that is being spent.

The second great decision was that we don't **junk QSX** but allow the editor further time in which to exercise his malicious wit and humour. Seriously though, Garth has done an excellent job in elevating our magazine to the level where it is widely regarded as the best in ZS, and the meeting felt that QSX must continue. To finance it, it was decided that members would be asked to pay a voluntary subscription of R12 p.a., starting 1 July 1995.

The small **building in Wellington Park**, Walmer, that we were hoping to lease as a club-house of sorts is not to be. The municipality were only prepared to consider a year-to-year lease agreement, and on that basis it would be foolish of us to spend money on developing it. For starters, there is no electricity, water or toilet facilities. So the search continues!

Unbelievably, the **publicity about our RAE classes** in the Express and Sun knock'n'drops yielded a fantastic response. Seventeen hopefuls arrived at the inaugural meeting. Some say that it is the photograph that accompanied one of the articles that did the trick!?

Get out your diaries and make a note of this date: **Saturday, 23 September 1994**. That is the date of this year's **Branch AGM**, and the Kabega Scout Hall has already been booked.

73s *Beavan*

Importance of Hamnet

As you are no doubt aware, there is great demand for radio frequencies, particularly from the commercial sector, and we amateurs need to justify our existence or we will lose at least some of our privileges. It is particularly important now, with the new regime, with many new people involved who are not so familiar with the role amateurs play - or are reputed to play.

There are basically three ways that amateurs can justify their existence. The first is advancement of radio science. Here we can only have limited impact as we do not have the financial resources and facilities that the industrial sector has.

The second is training of operators and technicians. Here this Branch is doing a pretty good job.

The third is providing communications during emergencies and major disasters. Amateurs are experienced at communications under normal circumstances and even acquit themselves reasonably well during emergencies. However, operating in emergencies involves actions and procedures which are not encountered during normal circumstances and Hamnet was formed to train amateurs in this respect.

This training is low-key and need not take up a lot of time or effort, but it is very important that some time and effort should be devoted to this.

One of the reasons why amateurs can be so useful in emergencies is that they are spread over the whole country and there is a fair chance that an amateur would be the first or only source of communications from an emergency scene. It therefore makes sense that all amateurs belong to Hamnet, for emergencies are not going to wait to happen till it is a Hamnet member present, or receiving the messages at the other end.

This would also impress the authorities, including the licensing authorities, that we are responsible and useful individuals. When these people assess our capabilities, they will look at, among other things, our Hamnet membership figures.

As Regional Director: Hamnet East Cape, I need to attend SATEPSA meetings. SATEPSA stands for South African Telecommunications and Power Supply Authority and its main purpose is to provide liaison between various organisations for Civil Protection purposes. Organisations such as the Army, Navy, Air Force, Escom, Municipalities, Regional Services Councils, Metro, Telkom, SA Airways, Spoornet, etc.

In my report to SATEPSA last year I gave some statistics on amateur radio to the effect that there are some 400 amateurs in the East Cape. Just over 200 belong to the SA Radio League and officially three belong to Hamnet. This caused the whole meeting to burst out laughing. So much for our image there!

What makes it even worse is that the proceedings of these Regional SATEPSA meetings are reported to the National SATEPSA committee in Pretoria and hence to the highest levels, including the licensing authorities. Certainly they will not be impressed by this low figure.

Al Akers,
Regional Director, Hamnet East Cape.

Interference to Audio Equipment

FROM A LEAFLET PRODUCED BY
THE RADIO DIVISION OF THE
NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE

From time to time, owners of record players, audio amplifiers and the like have complained about reception of radio signals on these devices, usually from nearby transmitting stations.

Devices of this nature are designed to amplify audio signals such as music and speech and are not, under normal operating conditions, able to receive and respond to radio signals.

The Post Office cannot give any protection to audio devices which respond to signals from a nearby radio transmitting station. Where such reception does occur, it is generally found that the trouble is due to a lack of adequate filtering or shielding in the audio device, and is *not* the fault of the radio transmitter.

Most audio devices constructed in this manner will function satisfactorily in normal circumstances but, if operated near a radio transmitter, some are unable to reject the radio signals, which are rectified in the device and appear as unwanted sound in the output. The only way to deal with this unwanted reception is to return the device to the supplier or manufacturer for modifications which will prevent reception of the interfering radio signals.

Although it is possible for the manufacturers to provide at the outset for complete shielding of audio equipment and circuits to reject nearly all types of unwanted radio signals, this would not be necessary in most cases and the special design requirements and additional components would result in an increased cost to all purchasers.

Because of the comparatively small number of audio systems affected by this form of interference, manufacturers consider the added expense of providing protection from it unwarranted and prefer to deal only with those cases where trouble actually occurs.

The above information is by no means widely known or appreciated, even to the trade, and has been set out so that all concerned can be made aware of the position where trouble of this nature is experienced.

*Reprinted from the October, 1994 issue of **Dialog**, Newsletter of the False Bay Radio, Electronics and Computer Club, who we thank. As a footnote, the Editor of FBRECC says: "Something like this is required from our RSA authorities to set the record straight... It might be a good idea for this to be taken up by the SARL..."*

Members may recall that, when we entertained the then President at Raphey's QTH a few years ago, it was suggested that the SARL should produce such a document with an endorsement by the PMG. The President replied that they had such a pamphlet in hand, but wanted the PMG to actually issue it officially. I wonder whether that ever came to fruition.



QSX - TWO APPEALS

If you do actually *read* the stuff on page 2 (I *can* recommend it this month) **you will have noticed from the Chairman's CQ** that *QSX-PE will continue as a monthly highlight in the dreary lives of Branch members - it's really the *only* worthwhile benefit, is it not? That is provided sufficient voluntary donations of R12 per family are received in the new financial year (starting 1 July) to cover the escalating cost of production. By 'family' we mean a group resident together and who receive only one copy of QSX between them.

Also, this request is directed to *voting members only* and *not* social members. Social membership at R30 a year is intended to cover the cost of

QSX and the odd administrative costs. A bit of a rip-off, really, isn't it? But they say there's one born every minute and who are *we* to argue?

Some fans could not wait to be asked and have already sent us some very fine donations. Thank you most sincerely, chaps!

Maar wat van die ernstige gebrek aan Afrikaanse artikels in ons Taknuusbrief? Ons versoek ons Afrikaanse lede om 'n mooi stuk of twee vir die Redakteur te stuur sodat hy ook aan hul verwagtinge kan voldoen.

* or simply *QSX*, to give it its more popular name, rather like *ham* is more widely preferred than *ra'di'o am'at'eur*, even among vegetarians.

SOLAR FLUX

BY TAD COOK KT7H

(FROM HAMS HAYWIRE NEWS, APRIL 1994)

A solar flux is an index of energy from the sun that correlates with the ionization in the ionosphere. In simpler terms, a higher flux value usually translates to a higher Maximum Usable Frequency 9MUF0 and better HF propagation. Solar flux roughly corresponds to a sunspot number, which is based on the size and number of sunspots on the visible solar disk.

The A and K indices have to do with geomagnetic disturbances. Higher A and K values correspond to greater *absorption* of radio waves, rather than refraction (bending them back towards earth). This is bad news for HF propagation.

When conditions are stable, the K index may get as low as one or zero. When conditions are truly awful, it may reach five or seven. A change of one point in the K index is significant.

The A index is also a measure of geomagnetic stability, but a change in one point is not significant. It is based on the K index for the previous 24 hours. When the K index is three, the A index might be ten. A change of a point or two in the K index may send the A index to 20 or higher. When a severe geomagnetic storm appears and the HF

bands shut down, the A index may reach 35 or more.

High A and K indices are typically a result of solar flares or coronal holes on the sun's surface. Both may shoot protons at the Earth, which neutralize the desirable ionization of the ionosphere, cause the geomagnetic field to become unstable and increase absorption of the radio waves. To span great distances, you want your radio waves to be refracted by the ionosphere, not absorbed!

Solar reports are transmitted regularly by WIAW and by "time" stations WWV and WWVH (15 MHz).

(If you can't hear them on 15 MHz, you know the flux is low and the A and K indices are high, so you don't *need* to hear them *anyway*! Isn't it all a huge waste of time? - Q.E.D.)

PE's CALL FOR SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

As reported on page 3, the PE Branch at its January meeting approved the Committee's requisition for a Special General Meeting of the SARL to be held immediately before the AGM scheduled for 11 March.

A requisition was originally served on Headquarters in December but was withdrawn when HQ insisted that, constitutionally, an SGM *must* be held within six weeks of a requisition. That would have resulted in considerable costs, which would be diametrically opposed to your Branch's whole purpose in calling for a SGM. With the concurrence of our seconding Branch, East London, we therefore withdrew the request in order to re-introduce it six weeks before the AGM.

Details of the original requisition were furnished in the December issue of QSX. However, from fresh information since provided by HQ, it now appears that their over-expenditure will be considerably lower than we were led to believe – but the SARL will nevertheless find itself severely cash-strapped at the start of the new financial year.

With this in mind, but because there is still reason for grave concern about the financial freedom that Council enjoys and has in fact exercised, the terms of the original requisition were amended with East

London's agreement and the agenda for the SGM will now be as follows:

1. The following rule to be added to the Finance section of the SARL Constitution -

58.bis. The Treasurer shall prepare and present to every AGM a revised budget for the current financial year, as well as a proposed budget for the next financial year; these shall be distributed to branches at least six weeks before the AGM. After adoption by the AGM, Council shall operate according to these budgets in that no unbudgeted expenditure shall be incurred, expenditure on any line item shall not exceed budget by more than ten percent, and total expenditure shall not exceed budget in aggregate.

Should Council wish to incur expenditure not provided for in the budget, then Council must inform the branches of this in writing with the necessary motivation. Branches shall have four weeks after receipt of such notification in which to respond in writing, and Council may only proceed with the

proposed expenditure if supported by the majority of the responding branches.

Motivation

It is submitted that the present financial difficulties of the SARL are as a result of the above financial discipline being absent. The fault lies with the Constitution in that there is no rule which requires Council to operate within a budget approved by the membership.

It is universally accepted that officers of an organisation should not exceed the authority of a budget which has been approved by those who provide the funding.

Unless we practise good

financial management as a matter of urgency, SARL membership will become the preserve of the wealthy few and will no longer represent the majority of amateurs ... this trend is already in evidence.

2. Any other matter which will

- 2.1. **make membership more attractive**
- 2.2. **bolster the financial standing of the League and contain future subscriptions within acceptable limits.**

□ It is interesting to note that three other branches (not counting East London) have already let us know that they are fully behind us. **Ω**

Bingo Postponed

The bingo evening advertised for 3 February unfortunately had to be cancelled as a result of our Social Manager, Owen, having to depart poste haste for Cape Town following his daughter's motor accident. Hopefully all who intended to attend this fun occasion heard the announcements on the Branch bulletins and did not rock up at the CD Centre.

A new date for the bingo evening will be announced as soon as possible.



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Letter to the Editor

Heiko, ZS5HB, of Pietermaritzburg wrote to comment on the article "PE acts on SARL crisis" in the December issue of QSX. Because of space limitations, I quote the more important passages in extract form, with my responses – Ed.

"As volunteers you and I are aware of the amount of time and work we spend towards this hobby... Remember we are all volunteers, and if member/s submit the amendments published in QSX to volunteer office-bearers (who have done a lot of work) you are stifling these volunteers from offering their services, as you are now treating them the way taxpayers treat politicians."

- * What you are saying is that, because they are volunteers, we should just let them do what *they* want, spend our money willy nilly, ignore their overspending and let them *continue* to overspend. But these volunteers were not exactly *pressed* to take high office and everyone should surely perform their tasks with discipline, observing the rules as *they* expected their *predecessors* to observe them.

"I feel that volunteers deserve the right to explain what they did and why. The way you are describing it, is that the inquisition date has been set, and you are encouraging a "lynching" to take place at the AGM."

- * Council has the HQ bulletin, Radio Mirror and Radio ZS for explaining problems to members but chose not to use them initially. Instead, they aggravated the financial position by sending Councillors around the country – *but only after the deadline for AGM motions had passed.*

I do not see anything in the QSX article that could remotely suggest an inquisition or lynching. PE was merely proposing an amendment to the Constitution and asking Council to contain expenditure in the mean time. What is a budget for, anyway?

"In my opinion the shortfall was not deliberate, nor is there a lack of commitment as far as the councillors are concerned."

- * If it was not deliberate, what are the alternatives? Doesn't the "commitment" perhaps equate to *misplaced zeal* and flying a little higher than members are prepared to cough up for?

"The shortfall can easily be rectified if everybody paid, and we could have enquired at the AGM what went wrong."

- * The same principle applies to increasing taxes to cover unauthorized Government overspending. AGM *discussions* are not binding, and some – even a few *AGM motions* – have carried no weight with Council in the past (details provided on request).

The SGM is now the only means for letting the *members* decide, before it's too late, where the League should go and *instruct* Council to act accordingly. Motions to *next year's* AGM will be too late if we don't want to lose a lot more members this year.

"It appears that you are encouraging everybody to find fault with the R50,00 donation, which does not even pay for the material of one dress if your wife can sew it herself."

- * Nothing in our December article comes close to even *suggesting* discouragement from donating. We merely predicted that the steps envisaged by Council would be unsuccessful. We believe that comparatively few members will be

able to afford yet another donation so soon after the appeal for the building fund. And yes, we do also have to spend our money on the occasional necessities like clothes, and *my wife knows she must cut her dresses according to the cloth.*

"Barry Jackson described the cry "IT IS TOO EXPENSIVE" very well as "the inability of a lot of people to review their priorities". In the case of our hobby the priority is to have a representative body, which makes you proud because you belong to it."

- * Since ham radio is our *hobby* it must necessarily enjoy a relatively low priority on our family's shopping lists. The Amateur Code itself states so quite unambiguously!
- * You're right! More than anything we need a *representative* body, one that hams would *clamber* to belong to. But consider this: The 4962 amateur licences (all classes) after the November 1990 RAE grew to 5573 at the end of 1993 – an increase of 611 licences. However, *SARL membership increased by only 200 during that time!*

At the end of 1990, the year in which HQ moved to Johannesburg, we had 2900 members. After increasing to just over 3200 by June 1993, it lost four years' growth, dropping back to 2900 the next year in spite of all the recruiting efforts. (Figures released by HQ recently give the number of members *entitled to vote* as a mere 2780).

Another 289 candidates passed the 1994 RAEs, so the current number of licensees could be about 5960. Strangely, however, it seems that *many of those who pass the RAE do not actually take out a licence.* Is it that they cannot *afford* to buy equipment to pursue their new-found hobby, let alone join the SARI?!

- * Of the SARI's 2900 members, *many hundreds are not licensed amateurs – perhaps over 600, according to one Councillor (count them in the callbook yourself).* So, 2300 or so transmitting members as against 5960 licensed amateurs can hardly be called "representative" can it?

Should we not, as a matter of great urgency, be finding out *why* the majority of hams do not wish to join and many former members have left? I think I know why, and I think Councillors have a pretty shrewd idea too, and **it's time to do something positive about it before we lose hundreds more members!**

"As a volunteer you are welcome to discuss any differences you have with me, but if you tell me as a volunteer what to do, or try to bind me to your constitution with petty bumbledom rules I lose interest."

- * When you join the SARI you undertake to be bound by the Constitution – *our* Constitution. Accepting high office – especially when you have *sought* election thereto – does not place you above the Constitution.
- * Is it a petty bumbledom rule if you ask your Councillors to remain within the financial limits that you can afford and which you approved in the budget?

I hope you will re-read our article carefully, Heiko, and then agree that it upholds the noble principles of acting in the real interests of all members, in accordance with *their* wishes, and that they should always be kept in the picture with the *whole truth.* It's *their* League.

Thank you for your input, and also your kind comments about QSX. We, too, enjoy reading *Hams Haywire News* and find it very informative.

73 de Garth, ZS2IIB

Ω

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, 20 JANUARY 1995

1. **Welcome** - The Chairman extended a special welcome to Marge and Brian ZS2OB and ZS2AB, Uitenhage members and James ZR2/VK2XC

2. **Apologies** - Gerhard ZS2UM, Wolf ZS2WG

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - Acceptance: Proposer ZS2JS. Seconder ZS2MC

3.1 Matters Arising

Vic gave a short description of the **seminar on interference** held at Louis le Grange Square.

Beavan advised that the investigation into the **proposed new Clubhouse** was still not finalised.

4. **Financial Report** - The Branch is still in the black.

5. **New Business** -

* ZS2LN was thanked for his **donation of a cupboard**.

* After getting a positive response from the meeting Dick ZS2RS agreed to go ahead with arrangements for the **field day to be held on 4/5 February**.

* Al ZS2U gave a short talk on the **aims & benefits of Hamnet**. Apart from being available to assist in the event of natural disasters, Hamnet membership helps boost our image in the face of the threat to ham frequencies.

* **Crossbanding 40 & 2m nets** on Sundays - Beavan suggested that local members use 2m rather than 40m.

* **Construction/technical evenings** are to be arranged by Viv ZS2VM. The first meeting will be held on 26 January, where ideas for future get-togethers will be discussed.

* **RAE Class** - Vic has been pleasantly surprised by the response to articles placed in the free newspapers - 22 so far!

* **SGM** - Beavan advised the meeting of the decision to press ahead with the requisition for a Special General Meeting. He presented the proposed amendment to the constitution to the meeting for comment. After some minor changes the amendment was accepted in principle. Garth suggested that an additional item be incorporated i.r.o. attracting/retaining members.

* The **high cost of producing QSX** was discussed. Various proposals were made before it was agreed that members would be requested to make a R12 p.a. voluntary contribution towards QSX w.e.f. July.

- * Garth raised the subject of Council's unconstitutional approach to the PMG regarding **compulsory membership of the SARL** and their **appointment of members to the Youth Amateur Radio Committee**. The meeting expressed its concern at the lack of consultation with branches **before** Council approached the PMG (as required constitutionally) and as a matter of courtesy regarding the YARC appointments. It was decided to write to Headquarters to express the Branch's disapproval.

The meeting closed at 21h30.

Special Event Stations

Listen out for ZS75SAAF, already heard operating from Swartkops Air Base, Pretoria and to be heard frequently from various other venues around South Africa throughout this year to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the South African Air Force.

The callsign will be used in **Port Elizabeth on 16 September** - perhaps extending for a day or two - and **anyone interested in assisting with operating** is invited to contact Johan, ZS6L, who is OK in the callbook. He can be reached by packet addressed simply to ZS6L. No route is necessary.

You can also hear ZSIMUS, another Air Force station operating from Cape Town, and I believe that there is a ZS⁶MUS in some other division too.

Yet another special callsign associated with our venerated SAAF is ZS35SQN, celebrating the 50th anniversary of 35 Squadron. This station will be operating from DF Malan Airport, Cape Town, from 17 February to 5 March and from Air Force Base Ysterplaat, Cape Town, on 25 February 1995.

Branch Membership >150

As at 31 December 1994, the voting strength of our Branch was 150, made up as follows:

Hon Life:	1
Full members:	79
Pensioner:	48, Junior: 11
Incapacitated:	7, Spouse: 4.

In addition, we have 53 social members, making a grand (in all respects) total of 203 and growing. *PE Branch is alive and well!*

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- * Hy-Gain TH3 Mk3 Thunderbird 3 element tribander beam. Input max 1 Kw - R550
- * CDE HAM II Heavy duty Antenna Rotator System with Control unit - R750
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□□□

- * Galvanized triangular section Tower - **Vic Plumridge ZS2VP, Kenton-on-Sea, ☎ 0464-81928**

RACKET ON PACKET

GARTH LAAKS ZS2HB

In a recent packet radio message, our Vice President Marten ZS6ZY referred to frequent difficulties that he experiences in accessing his local BBS because of improper or inconsiderate operation by other stations. We here in PE also have our share of problems from time to time and a suggestion has been made that we hold a meeting of packeteers to try to iron out the difficulties.

The local inconvenience is undoubtedly caused unwittingly by the injudicious use of certain program parameters or facilities. The most obvious problem is that of a too-short waiting time for a clear channel before one's terminal starts to transmit (e.g. DWAIT or PERSIST/SLOTTIME values too low). Such a user can hog the channel to the exclusion of others.

Amazingly, one reads in the latest Digital Advisory Committee meeting minutes of a BBS SYSOP who actually advised his users to reduce their DWAIT to zero when they have problems with QRM! The DAC hastened to point out that that would in fact not only *cause worse QRM* but also very quickly bring the whole local system to its knees.

The TPK program for packet radio has much to commend it, but it can be problematic for other stations on two counts due to certain automatic functions that TPK offers. Particularly troublesome is the automatic downloading of every message that satisfies the (sometimes very wide) criteria prescribed by the TPK user when configuring his system. The user would not bother to download a great many of these messages if he was in attendance and personally selected the ones to be read.

Of course, the excessive downloading by TPK is not significant when other operators are not using the BBS, but it is a distinct nuisance to

those who have to *digipeat* through one or more intermediate stations. Perhaps TPK users would not mind disabling the automatic download facility entirely or severely restrict the categories of messages that their systems should download automatically.

On the wider packet scene, one might mention those elaborate "signatures" used by some stations, consisting of several lines with blobs and other graphics - attractive, sometimes humorous and perfectly in order in messages that remain on one's own local BBS. However, they do take up a considerable amount of time when forwarded to other towns via HF at 300 bauds with the currently poor propagation conditions, QRM, QSB and other hassles. And, when they are addressed to ALL (@ZAF or (perish the thought!) @WW the problem is compounded many, many times over.

Recently I saw *four messages* from overseas, sent *worldwide* - and all with *identical texts!* Only the "TO" fields differed. And the sender could have obtained the desired information within his own country!

I have a one-page document GUIDELINES FOR PACKET RADIO OPERATORS which, I think, originates from the IARU. It does little in the line of really guiding packeteers, however, and I wonder whether anyone knows of a more suitable pamphlet that could serve to introduce us all to the finer points of this fascinating mode.

Congratulations & Personal News

on your birthdays:

February

- 22 John Rivers ZS2DO
- 25 Ralph Hall ZR2IV
- 26 Dick van der Berg ZR2ABH
Waldie Bartie ZS2WM
- 29 Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG

March

- 15 Susanna Bosch, XYL of Mike
ZS2FM

on your anniversaries:

February

- 24 Doris & Arthur Edwards ZS2DJ
- 29 Ria & Garth Laaks ZS2HB

March - see next month's issue

on your new callsigns:

Kobus Conradie ZR2KC, André Greyling ZR2AG, Kevin Karp ZR2KLM, Grant Corson ZU1ZZR and Mike Button ZR2MS. [Surely a more appropriate callsign for *Mike Button* would be ZR2PTT!]

Other candidates should please let us know as soon as you receive your

callsigns. We want to produce a list of additions in our area since the callbook was printed.

□

White House - We were sorry to hear of the motor accident that put Riana, daughter of Doris and Owen Thomas in hospital in Cape Town. We are glad to hear that she is making good progress.

Welcome - to the 19 new candidates who joined our current RAE classes: Karl Kretzman, Abraham Jasson, Randall Jooste, Des Herselman, Reon Kemp, Tony Swann, Vanessa Marshall, Hilton Long, Gerard Pillay, Peter Whittaker, Vic Batt, Jean Passet, Anton Nieuwerth, Danny van Vuuren, Jill van Vuuren, Alan Beck, Noel Smith, Koogam Moodley and Sam Pillay.

I guess the other dozen or so who responded to the article in the free PE Express were put off by the photo that the next day's Algoa Sun went and published of Vic, Viv and Ben all nonchalantly resplendent in Viv's shack. Darn!

1995 LICENCE SNAGS

We learned from the Department of Posts & Telecommunications last week that they ran into a bug with their new radio licence computer program, as a result of which it has not yet been possible to allocate callsigns for many of those who passed the RAE in November. Some were fortunate enough to receive letters reflecting their callsigns before the problem was detected but the corresponding accounts have not yet been generated by the computer, so they cannot pay up with that huge smile for which amateurs are famous.

The Department expected that the problem would be overcome within about two weeks so, by the time you read this, your long-awaited letter and account may be in the mail.

The new program is expected to eradicate the many problems that were experienced with the old one which, among other things, tended to generate umpteen duplicate licences which, unfortunately, were not transferable to the succeeding years!

Port Elizabeth Branch Committee

Chairman, Secretary, Rallies	Beavan Gwilt ZS2RL	30-6968
assisting the Secretary	Kevin Karp	
Vice Chairman, Social	Owen Thomas ZS2AZ	38-4134
assisting with refreshments at meetings	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	51-2580
Treasurer, Assets Control	Clive Pife ZS2RF	32-3203
assisting with Assets Control	Lynne Crothall ZS2MM	35-4671
Awards, Library	Peter Flynn ZS2PF	46-4096
Repeaters, Packet	Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG	30-1510
Special Events	Dick Schönborn ZS2RS	56-3908
QSO Manager	Vic Olivier ZS2SZ	30-2440
assisting as QSO Editor layout	Garth Laaks ZS2HB	38-1101
Technical Classes	Gerhard Baum ZS2UM	30-5224

Branch VHF & Other Services

REPEATERS

Town VHF	145,050/650	Kareedouw	145,125-725
Town UHF	431,050/438,650	Lady's Slipper	145,100/700
Grahamstown	145,150-750	Uitenbage	145,075-675
Cradoek	145,050/650		

OTHER SERVICES

Packet Bulletin Board (ZS0UTH)	144,675
Digipeater (Grahamstown - ZS0GHT)	144,675
2m Beacon (ZS2VHF CW ID)	144,910
6m Beacon (ZS2SIX CW ID)	50,005
6m Link with Lady's Slipper 2m Repeater	51,400
Wcfax Relay (Meteosat)	145,350

Sunday Bulletins

Branch bulletins are transmitted on Sundays immediately after the Headquarters English transmission, i.e. at about 08:45, on 3640 (when necessary) and 7098 kHz as well as on the 2 metre linked repeater system giving coastwise coverage from East London to Humansdorp and beyond via 145,750 and 145,700 MHz.

Date	Prepare and Read on 145,700
19 Feb	ZS2AZ
26	ZS2RL
5 Mar	ZS2UM
12	ZR2KLM
19	ZS2SZ
26	ZS2PF

IMPORTANT DATES

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17 Feb - Branch meeting;

23 Feb & 2 Mar - Technical Evenings

★ We Like Being *Your* Branch ★