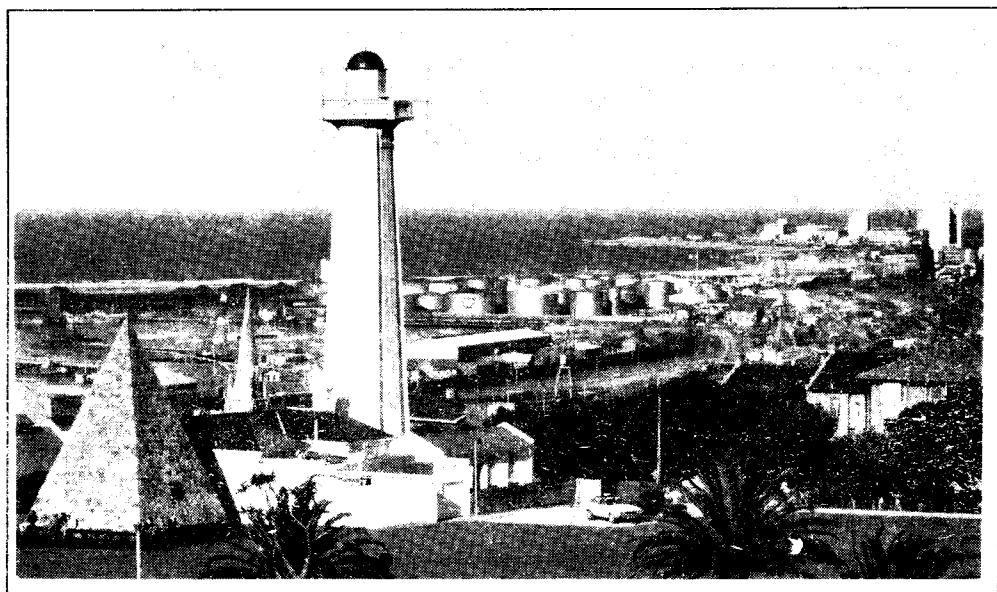




Q S X

P E



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

P.O. BOX 10402  
LINTON GRANGE  
6015

**March 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).

The Chairman will give a resumé of the happenings at the Special General Meeting and AGM, which should be of considerable interest especially in view of the motion by Sandton for a restructuring of the League along lines that many in this Branch have also been discussing for some time.

**After the more mundane matters, ZS2 Mickey Mouse (Lynne) will give us one of her popular quizzes.** This should be a lot of fun.

Tea, coffee and munchies will be available during the interval in return for a very fair donation. R1 per cup with a biscuit or two is suggested.

### Apple Express Outing

A number of our members and their families plan to take a ride to Thornhill and back on the Apple Express narrow-gauge steam train on Saturday, 11 March. This should be a real fun outing for all and, if sufficient numbers participate, a whole coach will be reserved for our exclusive use – a veritable coachload of QRM!

Tickets cost R40 per adult and R20 for a child under 12 years of age.

Please let Clive know at ☎ 32-3203 **right away** if you want to join the group on this scenic and exciting trip. Maybe the engine driver will stop to let you whistle along the route – sort of *steam CW*.

### Back to the Future!

In last month's OSX we announced the date of the February Branch meeting as 17 March rather than 17 February. I have always been vastly ahead of the times, of course, and this was clearly a subconscious attempt to get you lot right up there with me.

But then comes our worthy Chairman and, in his CQ de ZS2RL, with one mighty slip of his typing finger, he puts us all *right back a whole year*, announcing that our next Branch AGM will be held on 23 September 1994!

Somebody had better check that booking of the Kabega Scout Hall, please.

## CQ de ZS2RL

**T**een die tyd dat julle hierdie woorde lees behoort die SAV en die AJV iets van die verlede te wees. Hierdie jaar se vergadering belowe om interessant te wees want daar is 'n paar belangrike mosies, veral dié van tak Sandton. As dit aanvaar word sal die struktuur van die Liga aansienlik verander en 'n nuwe rigting inslaan. Ons hoop maar vir die beste.

**I**t was nice to see some almost unfamiliar faces at last month's GBM. Keith ZR2AAX and Simone ZS2YL (XYL?) from the bay of mussels, and the Humansdorp gang (that's what I call true ham spirit - travelling 2 X 80 km to attend the meeting at which AGM motions are to be debated!). And there for the first time was OM Gerald ZR2GB, the secretary of EL Branch.

**T**he only downside to the evening was the generous heap of something that was left directly at the entrance by animals masquerading as human beings. To my knowledge this was the third donation, so from now on we will have to step warily as it seems that the alcove at the entrance is gaining popularity among the lesser forms of life that emerge after dark. Contrary to popular belief, the aroma that occasionally wafted into the room had nothing to do with the opinions being expressed within.

**CQ** Uitenhage! - wat het van julle geword? Dit lyk of julle aan die uitsterwe is want ons sien oor die afgelope tyd baie min van julle. Kom kuier, want ons verlang. Sal ons julle op die 17de Maart sien? - daar is 'n gerug dat 'n gelukkige persoon daardie aand 'n TS 950S gaan wen.

**Did** anybody spot the deliberate error in my blurb last month?

**That's** enuff fertiliser from me for this month.

73s .... *Beauvan*

## Technichats a Great Success

The first actual *technichat* on 23 February was a tremendous success, with 23 members clearly enthralled with Viv's discussion on the secrets of power supply circuits. We now have a better understanding of what all those thingies do inside the box and several participants are jumping in at the deep end to construct power supplies for themselves!

What's more, a number have decided to construct QRP *transceivers* and were due to meet the following week to discuss their needs and organise the acquisition of PC boards and components. More about their progress next time.

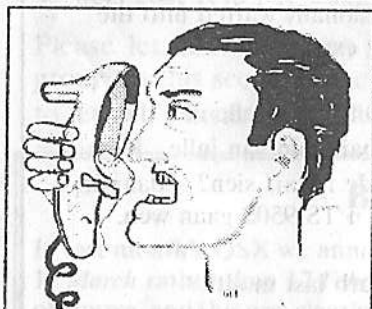
Please note that, contrary to last month's announcement, the *Technichats* are being held on the *Thursday* of the week following the monthly Branch meeting.

At those *technichats*, which are mainly for *discussions and demonstrations* of technical subjects in a social atmosphere, those participants who want to meet more often for actual construction projects will decide when they are going to get together again additionally.

The get-togethers are held at the Civil Defence Centre (the Clubhouse). Ask Owen ZS2AZ  $\approx$  38-4134 or Viv ZS2VM  $\approx$  30-4433 if you want more details about these interesting opportunities to fill in some gaps in your own technical knowledge and perhaps impart your experience to others. Otherwise, just rock up at 19:30 and pull up a chair.

It's *very* informal - shirts are recommended as a safeguard against ricocheting hot solder. Shoes and socks are *not* mandatory, although even Viv sometimes wears one. Pencil type soldering irons should definitely *not* be worn behind the ear.

See you at the next *Technichat* on **Thursday, 23 March.**  $\Omega$



ZS4HAM calling CQ PE on the Lady's Slipper. Not a sole comes back. Thinks: "Must be a callus bunch of heels here. Toe-cap it all, they say it's the *Friendly City!* Friendly my foot! But perhaps I should call on 'uppers' - or maybe I need a footwarmer".

\* Yeah, and a *mike* to boot, OM!

**For the uninitiated:** The 'Lady's Slipper' is a repeater located on a mountain of the same name west of Port Elizabeth, inspired by multiple rock formations that, viewed from the East, combine to appear as a lady's high-heeled shoe. Some swank of yesteryear thought of calling it a 'slipper', which is fortunate for us. Imagine how dumb it would sound, calling CQ on the Lady's Shoe!]

Speaking of repeaters, a **large bouquet must be handed to Beavan** for the top quality of his cross-band relays of PE bulletins, in technets etc. So good is the quality that chaps sometimes call on one band, not being aware that they are actually hearing a relay of stations from the other.

Way to go, Beav!

# BINGO!!

**REMEMBER** - our Bingo evening will be on **Friday, 31 March**, commencing at 20:00 (8pm). The venue is the Civil Defence Centre in Mill Park (the Clubhouse).

Refreshments will be available for a small consideration.

Roll up for a load of fun.



## Autolink Radiotelefoondiens vir Seevaarders

MET TOESTEMMING VAN TELKOM  
UIT HUL MAANDBLAD *TELESCOPE*

Telkom se outomatiese skip-tot-kus-radiotelefoondiens, Autolink RT, is verlede jaar in Port Elizabeth en Durban bekendgestel. Dit is 'n diens wat op skepe gebruik word en stel passassiers en personeel in staat om direkte skip-tot-kus-oproepe na enige telefoon ter wêreld te maak sonder behulp van 'n kusradiostasieoperateur.

Dié doeltreffender en vinniger kommunikasie-middel word gebruik op kommersiële skepe, seiljagte, vissershote en enige ander vaartuie wat met BHF/HF kanale toegerus is. Autolink RT werk deur 'n goedkoop byvoegeenheid wat met 'n skip se bestaande BHF verbind kan word.

Dit bied 'n warfasiliteit om die privaathed van gesprekke te beskerm en volledige PIN-toegangsekeriteit met detailrekeningfasiliteite. Geen huurgeld word gehef - jy betaal slegs vir die oproepe.

Autolink bied ook faks- en datafasiliteite (bv. koppeling tussen persoonlike kompers) wat beteken dat, saam met 'n foutkorrigeermodem, jy

toegang kan verkry tot 'n wyer reeks fasiliteite soos byvoorbeeld elektroniese pos en selfs die teleksdiens. Tweesyfertoegang tot Autolink inligting of ander spesialisdiens is ook moontlik.

Autolinkdiens kan tans, afgesien van Suid-Afrika, ook in Amerika, België, Gibraltar, Italië, Maleisië, Portugal, Spanje en die Verenigde Koninkryk gebruik word.

Die stelsels in Kaapstad en Port Elizabeth is die enigste van hul soort in Afrika en stel die bemanningslede van skepe binne 'n afstand van 80 km van die kus in staat om vinnig oproepe te maak.

Ω

# HAMNET NEWS

**One thing that virtually all of us can be assured of** is that at some time or other we will be involved in an emergency where we will need someone's help.

It could be illness (you or your family), your house is on fire, your car gives up the ghost in the middle of nowhere, or whatever. There are of course various emergency services to provide such help, but they cannot be everywhere all the time. We will probably have to rely partly or solely on the man in the street for such help.

How fortunate you are in this respect when you are in such a situation depends on how willing and able the person or persons are who happen on the scene. Would you be happy if this person is like yourself? Such a self-evaluation may be sobering.

Even my limited experience of emergency situations has shown me that there are many people who are completely useless when confronted with such a situation. On the other hand, it is an impossible task for all of us to be completely competent to handle all emergencies.

The extent to which we prepare ourselves to handle such situations is for us to decide. I feel very strongly that we should all spend a little time and effort on a regular basis towards this end. As little as half an hour per month could result in a big improvement in your abilities.

Is that asking too much?

**Al Akers,**  
**Regional Director, Hamnet East Cape.**

## New Licences

We have not heard of any new callsigns since the February issue of QSX, so the computer bug has obviously had serious side-effects. The hope that the bug would be eradicated by mid-February did not come to fruition and P&T seconded two members of their staff full-time to the programmers in an effort to speed up the debugging process.

**PLEASE!** As soon as you hear your good news, remember to share it with us. Contact Vic at ☎ 30-2440 or Garth at ☎ 38-1101.

We also invite *all Branch members anywhere* as well as *anyone* in the Eastern and Southern Cape whose particulars do not appear in the 1993 callbook to let us know. You can also use packet, of course.

## CW Champ Goes Silent

Harry Turner, W9YZE, passed away on 21 December 1994 at the age of 88 years.

During 1942, he was clocked at 35 wpm using a straight hand telegraph key - a record still standing and recorded in the current Guinness Book of Records, according to William Garrett K8SNIIE.

That's quite a feat but I am sure that a couple of chaps I knew in the East London Telegraph Office back in the late 40's reached 35 wpm at times. Unfortunately we never thought of checking them out or determining whether they could maintain the speed for the three minutes that are no doubt required for record purposes. **Ω**

## Now for an Inter-ADMIN NET?

The recent Intechnet was the first, since the Packet Indaba, that we have had for the specific purpose of discussing members' problems. The Intechnet agenda concerned itself with the difficulties of *youngsters* vis-a-vis the 'older' hams. Members of the Youth Radio Amateur Council explained the problems that they have encountered and the villains had the opportunity to account for their misdemeanours.

On the other hand, the youngsters were shown to be not faultless themselves, and perhaps the Chairman of YRAC unwittingly revealed a need for some thought about attitudes when he dismissed suggestions with: "From various comments made by the PE Branch regarding YRAC, that is ultra vires - *we do not pay attention to that!*"

Yes, all in all, the net provided food for thought on both sides. Probably the most important lesson that we learned was how quickly newcomers pick up the *bad* habits of longer-standing hams. One aspect that was referred to repeatedly was the use of call signs, either incorrectly or not often enough - so chaps and chappesses, **don't be sloperators - set a good example at all times.**

Whether one agrees with any of the views expressed, this was undoubtedly one of the more successful and meaningful Intechnets that we have had. **It proves, as the Packet Indaba did, that a regular interactive administrative net is a perfectly viable and worthwhile proposition.**

We actually suggested periodic "inter-admin nets" to Hans on two

occasions last year. Although he promised to follow up the idea, we have had no further word. This is a pity, because on such a net, Councillors could be on tap to give straight answers to members' questions, immediately clearing up doubts and misgivings before they snowball.

With Council hearing what amateurs want in their League, we might have a happier and healthier SARI. In fact, the need for better exchanges of information between Council and branches was evidenced by the unfortunate attack on two branches by a Councillor during the YRAC intechnet.

His attack on the PE Branch was totally unfounded and obviously based on information fed to him from an unreliable source! Even if it had held just a modicum of truth, it's a pity that a Councillor should direct that type of attack in the sensitive "we and them" environment - and broadcast on a public Sentech transmitter too!

But this is not the first time that a Councillor has omitted to check his facts before denigrating this Branch or its members. Ω

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### ONE MILLIwatt on 80m!

Roger, ZS1J's peanut whistle is back on the air on 3512 kHz but now it's running at a half of its former power - it now puts out only *one milliwatt!* No, Roger didn't cut the penlight cell in half. The little unit is still powered by a single nicad cell but he's dropped the input current to 2 mA. The antenna is a G8KW in inverted vee formation. Listen for it and give Roger a report. It has been heard quite clearly in Port Elizabeth, especially in the mornings. Ω

## RAE: ENTER EARLY

The next examination for the amateur radio operator's certificate (RAE) will be held on Thursday, 18 May 1995 at a time and place to be announced later. The closing date for entries is 7 April, although late entries (with an additional charge) will be accepted up to 28 April.

The fees will be as follows:

Both subjects	R90 (R110 if a late entry)
Single subject	R55 (R70 if a late entry)

Entry forms will be provided for candidates at a forthcoming Monday evening class by Vic Olivier ZS2SZ.

## FOR SALE \* SWOP \* FOR SALE

- \* TS140S Kenwood transceiver @ R3500; Kenwood AT230 Antenna Tuner @ R1000; S.E.M. TranZmatch Tuner @ R1100; Daiwa PS-30 XM11a power supply @ R600. Or the lot for R6000. All complete with cables and manuals, and boxed - Dick Creighton ZS2A, ☎ [046] 685-0294.
- \* Vertical antenna 1,5-30 MHz (VSWR 2:1 max) Dielectric Wideband Antenna by ZS Electronics. No ground plane needed. Handles 150 Watts RF. Glassfibre. Prepared to swop for radio items - Alan Bowles ☎ 31-2938.
- \* Yaesu FL2000B HF Linear. It's been around but still works like a bomb [Smoke bomb? - Ed.] The 572B tubes are relatively new, so it should be an irritation to those neighbours you don't like for many years to come. Approx 80W in gives 400W out. With manual. You give me R900, I give you the linear. QRP fraternity need not apply. Phone Beavan ZS2RL at (041) 30-6968.



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## QX - Half-Century of Service

In a letter to the Chairman, OM Van ZS2Y provided some most interesting information about the origins of our Branch Newsletter. He writes:

It is with delight that I read that QX won't be junked. It is at the moment my only contact with Ham radio, a hobby that used to take up all my spare time, but at the moment, sadly, consists of reading QX and listening to a Sunday bulletin, occasionally, very occasionally. Either we're on our way to church at that time or we sleep late, Hi.

Do you know that QX originated in 1945/46? During the war all Ham radio was closed down and equipment sealed. The SARL also closed down as most of its members were in the armed forces. In 1945, after the cessation of hostilities in Europe, hams started trickling back, and there were also a number of hams in the armed forces stationed in PE.

Around that time the late Rex Bosman ZS2X and myself formed a radio club, called the P.E. Radio Association. We held regular meetings and sent out a monthly newsletter. Either Rex or myself - I like to think it was me, but it was a long time ago - came up with the idea of calling it QX - PE, or it could have been QX - PERA.

QX, of course, is "listen for (callsign) on frequency x". Loosely interpreted at that time it probably meant *listen to our message*. Anyhow, the name has stuck, for fifty years now.

Around '46 we were allowed on the air again, initially only on 10 metres, and in '47 the local SARL Branch was resuscitated and the PERA threw in its lot, and members, with the Branch. It is doubtful if, apart from myself, there are any of us left who were members.

As I'm still working as a Consultant for

the ARSC, and have quite a well-equipped radio workshop down at Protea flats, my interest in radio which is mainly technical is being satisfied. All kinds of ham gadgets get built into our radio network. However, having tentatively decided to finally retire, for the fourth time, around the beginning of next year - I actually started my first job in February 1936 (got a ham licence in November 1935) - I feel that after 60 years it is time to stop. Then I hope to again become active in ham radio. Meantime, QX will have to suffice.

To show my appreciation I enclose my R12, **QX is worth double**.

Incidentally, Friday is a bad night for me, but will try to make the occasional meeting.

73,

Van.

Congratulations on 60 years of hamming coming up, Van, and for starting the Newsletter that has served this area so well for the past 50 years.

*Does anybody have a record of the history of the Branch? Or, as Van has given us here, how about some other interesting snippets of happenings in the Branch over the years?*

## St'bosch U to Build Satellite

Prof. Garth Milne, ZR1AFH, as leader of the Sunsat project of the University of Stellenbosch, has announced that their Sunsat micro-satellite is scheduled for launch on the P91-1 Delta mission of the US Air Force on 31 May 1996. In terms of the launch agreement, Sunsat must include a precision GPS receiver and provide NASA with precise orbit data for gravity research.

The Project is making provision for also carrying up to four small electronic modules to be built by school or technikon student teams. The goal is to stimulate interest in electronics construction, and provide some school-built experiments for schools to monitor. A school programme for monitoring the satellite signals after launch is planned.

Sunsat invites schools and technikons to establish teams of interested students and is looking for electronically-competent mentors to serve as a link between the teams and Sunsat. Licensed hams would be especially welcome for this purpose.

Mentors will receive detail specifications from Sunsat, which will select a short list of possibly eight projects from flight hardware prototypes to be submitted by 29 September 1995.

Guideline requirements for the experiments are: Mass <50gm, PCB area <30 cm<sup>2</sup>, 5V or 14V power consumption <100mW, telemetry output of 0-5V DC, audio output if required of 2V P-P, temperature range -20 to +50 C, external sensors by negotiation.

Anyone interested in getting involved in this project should contact Mike ZR2MBM for more information at  $\approx$  30-1498.

### QSL Bureau

Amateur Radio Mirror International told us recently that only about 275 members use the QSL Bureau, averaging about 98 outgoing cards per user. Based on HQ account details, the Bureau is expected to cost members about R15 000 for the current year.

This means that the *average* user benefits to the tune of about R54.50 for 98 cards sent. Many of the 275 probably send only one or two cards, while others despatch and receive several hundred. Those who send just 206 cards in the year get their total subscriptions back in QSL services - and that's if they pay the full "ordinary member" subscription, not to mention junior or pensioner rates! On top of that, they receive Radio ZS, their branch newsletters, the use of repeaters and bulletin boards and other League services *free of charge*.

The 1986 AGM decree that members should continue to pay for the QSL service was never rescinded. We have therefore been losing probably R12 000 a year on average since HQ scrapped stickers early in 1990. That's some R60 000 - and approximates the SARI's shortfalls for '93/4 and 94/5.

Can we afford to carry on providing this free service for a handful of members? Should we be concerned about the extra cost of holding AGMs alternately in various centres (which benefits *all* members by giving them an opportunity to see their League in action occasionally) while we turn a blind eye to this recurrent loss that favours only 275 members?  $\Omega$

## Packet Scene

# What Is Satmail?

Having been asked last month by our Sysop Jim, ZS2LR not to send Satmail because of problems being experienced with the satellite route at the time, I was not sure how it would affect me because I do not dictate the route that my messages should take. So I asked Jim, and he explained in the following article.

Firstly, there is a very limited number of terrestrial stations who are AUTHORIZED to use the satellites for up- and downloading of packet radio traffic. In the whole of the African continent there is *only one SATGATE*. That station is run by my very good old friend, Gerd ZS1ABM who also runs the BBS at ZS0STB and who also forwards to practically all the other BBSs in the Cape Peninsula. I recently spent a week as his guest.

SATMAIL is *ALL DX* - nothing local. A great volume of the DX traffic we see comes through the SATGATE at STB. Lately, we have been getting lots of Internet DX traffic, but when somebody replies to one of those DX messages, it invariably is forwarded to STB for forwarding via Satellite.

If you wish to ascertain whether or not your DX mail came via SATGATE, simply look at the route shown at the top of the message. If you find ZS0STB there, and the message is from a DX station, then it is definitely SATMAIL, and your reply will also be SATMAIL.

A better way of "seeing" the route is to rather use the *verbose* method of reading the message. Instead of entering "R [Msg. number]" use "V [Msg. number]". It will show you each BBS's information.

Gert's usual up- and downloading times are between 10:00 and 11:00 SAST daily. The operation is fascinating to watch. Since the signal is a phase shift type instead of frequency shift, there is *no audio* to listen to on 70 cms! Pages of data are downloaded in a matter of seconds.

There are no retries as we know it either. The Satellite looks for "holes" in your copy and simply fills them! The satellite also updates your system clock and your Keps for you without any intervention by the SYSOP! It *always* arrives on the button. Gert's PC plays a fanfare to announce the arrival of the Sat! hi

So next time you are asked not to send Satmail, you know what is expected of you - *don't send packets to overseas destinations!*

Thanks for the explanation, Jim.

*Note* - The satellite problem was solved and Satmail has been accepted again for some time now. Ω

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My Chemist sends clients a newsletter with the monthly account. It carries the title **Tales from the Script**.

**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, 17 FEBRUARY 1995**

1. **Welcome** - The Chairman welcomed visitors from East London, J' Bay, Mossel Bay & Humansdorp
2. **Apologies** - Wolf ZS2WG, Julian ZS2AAB
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - Acceptance: Proposer - ZS2IS; Seconder: ZS2AZ.
4. **Matters Arising** - None
5. **Financial Report** - The Branch is still in the black
6. **New Business**

6.1 Dick ZS2RS arranging visit to SAP radio

6.2 Dick ZS2RS to advise re possibility of golf shirts with logo

6.3 YRAC - Mike ZR2MBM

Mike gave a short talk explaining the aims of the Youth Radio Amateur Council. YRAC hope to promote the hobby amongst the youth. Good publicity is expected from an event to be held at SOS Children's Home.

6.4 Clive ZS2RI encouraged members to support the Apple Express club outing planned for 11 March.

Owen ZS2AZ has arranged a bingo evening for 31 March at 8.00 pm. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome.

6.5 Replacement fan offered for Weatherfax retransmission equipment by Trevor ZS2AE, who was suitably thanked.

6.6 Repeater working group to look into who is responsible for maintenance on Uitenhage repeater.

**7. SGM & AGM**

**7.1 Election of delegate & alternate for SGM**

Delegate - Beavan ZS2RI.

Proposer - ZS2VM

Seconder - ZS2SZ

Alternate - Garth ZS2HB

Proposer - ZS2AE

Seconder - ZS2DD

**7.2 Election of delegate & alternate for AGM**

Delegate - Beavan ZS2RI.

Proposer - ZS2AE

Seconder - ZS2MM

Alternate - Garth ZS2HB

Proposer - ZS2RI

Seconder - ZS2BY

**7.3 Motions for AGM**

The Chairman read out the motions for the AGM & members were asked to indicate whether they were in favour or against

Motion 1 - in favour with amendment "as determined by AGM".

Motion 2 - in favour in principle, but the proposed constitution must be

reviewed thoroughly and put into acceptable shape.

Motion 3 - in favour

Motion 3 - in favour

Motion 4 - in favour

Motion 5 - in favour

Motion 6 - in favour

Motion 7 - against

Motion 8 - against

Motion 9 - against

Motion 10 - in favour (if 12 Council members increased to 15)

Motion 11 - in favour

Motion 12 - in favour

Motion 13 - against

#### 7.4 Delegate's Expenses

Meeting agreed that Branch Committee be authorised to deal with payment of expenses. These will cover cost of return airfare, hotel accommodation, luncheon and banquet.

The meeting closed at 21h15.

### Playing with Fire

A leading Branch has begun excluding non-members of the League from the "svopshop" facility in its Sunday bulletin programme. That is the Branch's right, of course, but have they thought of its much wider and potentially devastating ramifications for Ham Radio? It will certainly provoke retaliation.

But even worse, there is talk in some circles of trying to **prevent non-members from using SARTL repeaters**, and if this comes to pass one can expect retaliation not only in the form of illegal jamming but also deliberate but *perfectly legal* occupation of repeater frequencies for simplex QSOs.

We must never forget that, although the League may own the repeaters, it *does not own the frequencies* and cannot reserve them. Any licensed amateur has the right to start a QSO on any frequency in any amateur band if it is not already being used for *actual transmissions*. If it happens to be the input or output frequency of a repeater, anyone else who then triggers the

repeater - whether for an ordinary QSO or a Branch or HQ bulletin - is guilty of causing QRM and is contravening the Radio Regulations.

It doesn't take much imagination to realise what all this can lead to, so let's hope that commonsense and ham spirit will prevail. Rather act to make the League attractive enough to all licensees so that they will *want* to join the organisation.

By all means *invite* non-members to make a contribution to the maintenance of League repeaters, but leave it at that!

### Also Un-Hamlike?

A list of worldwide callsigns circulated via the bulletin board system by an Australian operator, warns of what he calls *QSL Ripoff Stations* - apparently those from whom he did not receive a QSL card. Two members of our Branch are listed.

I think this is not only in poor taste but also utterly infantile and I hope many more will join the others on the list just on principle!  $\Omega$

**Silent Key** — We were saddened to learn of the passing on 9 February of OM Chick Henderson, ZS1ABY, of Plettenberg Bay after heart surgery. Chick was a real gentleman and example to other hams. We extend our sincere condolences to his XYL Marge and family.

## *Congratulations & that kind o' stuff*

### on your birthdays:

#### *March*

21 Andrew Gray ZS2G

#### *April*

- 3 Theuns Potgieter ZR2BG  
Ria XYL of Garth ZS2HB  
4 Iona XYL of Eric ZS2CV  
5 Mike Jones ZS2MJ  
Heather XYL of Jimmy Hoole  
ZS2ABM  
9 Piet Blom ZS2PB  
11 Simone Pukall Olivier ZS2YL  
13 Graham Butcher ZR2GIB  
16 Hans Rohwer ZR2AX  
Schalk van der Merwe ZS2Y  
17 Allan Ansell ZS2AJ  
18 Jock Morris ZS2MD  
19 Margaret XYL of Waldie Bartie  
ZS2WMM  
20 Trevor Scarr ZS2AE  
Joey XYL of Des Pettit ZS2ABU  
22 Alan Bowles ZR2BL  
Doris Edwards ZS2DJ  
Marge XYL of Jim van  
Loggerenberg ZS2LR  
23 Colin Robertson ZS2CR  
George Bowes ZS2QN

### on your anniversaries:

#### *March*

21 Maureen & Neil Fulton ZS2MG

#### *April*

6 Cathy & Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG

- 10 Rietjie & Sel Staples ZS6SS  
15 Claire & Jack Smalles ZS2SM

### on passing the CW test:

Ralph ZR2IV, who is awaiting his ZS call. Danged computer!

### on your new callsign:

(danged computer)

□□□

*Sick Parade* — Anita, XYL of Roger Davis ZS1J broke a leg recently - Roger disclaims responsibility - but is back on her feet again.

Rhiannon, daughter of Doris and Owen Thomas, is progressing after her car crash although it's been discovered that she also fractured some ribs.

John Rivers ZS2DO had an antenna system fall on his head and needed stitches. Glad to hear you on the net again, John.

*Gallivanting* — Keith ZR2AAX and Simone ZS2YL, back from Mossel Bay, are gauging to Gauteng for a spell. Gau well but hurry back, guys.

### *Welcome to Social Members*

Marius Mayer, Morris Wyatt (both RAE attendees), Johann Retief (Grahams-town), Glen and Brian Jones (Alexandria) all studying privately, and Isaac Greeff ZS2IJG. We hope you'll be with us for a long time.

## Port Elizabeth Branch Committee

Chairman, Secretary, Rallies	Beavan Gwilt ZS2RL	30-6968
assisting the Secretary	Kevin Karp ZR2KLM	30-0792
Vice Chairman, Social	Owen Thomas ZS2AZ	38-4134
assisting with refreshments at meetings	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	51-2580
Treasurer, Assets Control	Clive Fife ZS2RT	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	Diek Schönborn ZS2RS	56-3908
QX Manager	Vic Olivier ZS2SZ	30-2440
assisting as QX 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	Uitenhage	145,075/675
Cradock	145,050/650		

### OTHER SERVICES

Packet Bulletin Board (ZS0UTE)	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
Wefax 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
12 Mar	ZR2KLM
19	ZS2SZ
26	ZS2PF
2 Apr	ZS2WG
9	ZS2RS
16	ZS2RT

IMPORTANT DATES
★
17 Mar - Branch meeting;
23 Mar - Technichat
31 Mar - Bingo

★ We Like Being Your Branch ★

## 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).

The Chairman will give a resumé of the happenings at the Special General Meeting and AGM, which should be of considerable interest especially in view of the motion by Sandton for a restructuring of the League along lines that many in this Branch have also been discussing for some time.

**After the more mundane matters, ZS2 Mickey Mouse (Lynne) will give us one of her popular quizzes.** This should be a lot of fun.

Tea, coffee and munchies will be available during the interval in return for a very fair donation. R1 per cup with a biscuit or two is suggested.

## Apple Express Outing

A number of our members and their families plan to take a ride to Thornhill and back on the Apple Express narrow-gauge steam train on Saturday, 11 March. This should be a real fun outing for all and, if sufficient numbers participate, a whole coach will be reserved for our exclusive use – a veritable coachload of QRM!

Tickets cost R40 per adult and R20 for a child under 12 years of age.

Please let Clive know at ☎ 32-3203 **right away** if you want to join the group on this scenic and exciting trip. Maybe the engine driver will stop to let you whistle along the route – sort of *steam CW*.

## Back to the Future!

In last month's QSX we announced the date of the February Branch meeting as *17 March* rather than *17 February*. I have always been vastly ahead of the times, of course, and this was clearly a subconscious attempt to get you lot right up there with me.

But then comes our worthy Chairman and, in his CO de ZS2RL, with one mighty slip of his typing finger, he puts us all *right back a whole year*, announcing that our next Branch AGM will be held on 23 September **1994!**

Somebody had better check that booking of the Kabega Scout Hall, please.



## *CQ de ZS2RL*

**T**een die tyd dat julle hierdie woorde lees behoort die SAV en die AJV iets van die verlede te wees. Hierdie jaar se vergadering belowe om interessant te wees want daar is 'n paar belangrike mosies, veral dié van tak Sandton. As dit aanvaar word sal die struktuur van die Liga aansienlik verander en 'n nuwe rigting inslaan. Ons hoop maar vir die beste.

It was nice to see some almost unfamiliar faces at last month's CIBM. Keith ZR2AAX and Simone ZS2YL (XYL?) from the bay of massels, and the Humansdorp gang (that's what I call true ham spirit - travelling 2 X 80 km to attend the meeting at which AGM motions are to be debated!). And there for the first time was OM Gerald ZR2GB, the secretary of EL Branch.

The only downside to the evening was the generous heap of something that was left directly at the entrance by animals masquerading as human beings. To my knowledge this was the third donation, so from now on we will have to step warily as it seems that the alcove at the entrance is gaining popularity among the lesser forms of life that emerge after dark. Contrary to popular belief, the aroma that occasionally wafted into the room had nothing to do with the opinions being expressed within.

**CQ** Uitenhage! - wat het van julle geword? Dit lyk of julle aan die uitsterwe is want ons sien oor die afgelope tyd baie min van julle. Kom kuier, want ons verlang. Sal ons julle op die 17de Maart sien? - daar is 'n gerug dat 'n gelukkige persoon daardie aand 'n TS 9508 gaan wen.

Did anybody spot the deliberate error in my blurb last month?

That's enuff fertiliser from me for this month.

73s .... *Beauvan*

## Technichats a Great Success

The first actual *technichat* on 23 February was a tremendous success, with 23 members clearly enthralled with Viv's discussion on the secrets of power supply circuits. We now have a better understanding of what all those thingies do inside the box and several participants are jumping in at the deep end to construct power supplies for themselves!

What's more, a number have decided to construct ORP *transceivers* and were due to meet the following week to discuss their needs and organise the acquisition of PC boards and components. More about their progress next time.

Please note that, contrary to last month's announcement, the *Technichats* are being held on the *Thursday* of the week *following* the monthly Branch meeting.

At *those technichats*, which are mainly for *discussions and demonstrations* of technical subjects in a social atmosphere, those participants who want to meet more often for actual construction projects will decide when *they* are going to get together again additionally.

The get-togethers are held at the Civil Defence Centre (the Clubhouse). Ask Owen ZS2AZ  $\approx$  38-4134 or Viv ZS2VM  $\approx$  30-4433 if you want more details about these interesting opportunities to fill in some gaps in your own technical knowledge and perhaps impart your experience to others. Otherwise, just rock up at 19:30 and pull up a chair.

It's *very* informal - shirts are recommended as a safeguard against ricocheting hot solder. Shoes and socks are *not* mandatory, although even Viv sometimes wears one. Pencil type soldering irons should definitely *not* be worn behind the ear.

See you at the **next Technichat on Thursday, 23 March.**  $\Omega$



ZSHAM eating COPE on the Lady's Slipper. Not as it comes back. Thinks, 'Must be a rather bunch of heels here. Even if all, they say it's the *Friendly City*! Friendly my foot! But perhaps I should call on 'slippers' - or maybe I need a footwarmer'

\*Yeah, and a *mile* to boot, GM!

**For the uninitiated:** The 'Lady's Slipper' is a repeater located on a mountain of the same name west of Port Elizabeth, inspired by multiple rock formations that, viewed from the East, combine to appear as a lady's high-heeled shoe. Some swank of yesteryear thought of calling it a 'slipper' which is fortunate for us. Imagine how dumb it would sound, calling CQ on the Lady's Shoe!]

Speaking of repeaters, a **large bouquet must be handed to Beavan** for the top quality of his cross-band relays of PE, bulletins, interchats etc. So good is the quality that chaps sometimes call on one band, not being aware that they are actually hearing a relay of stations from the other.

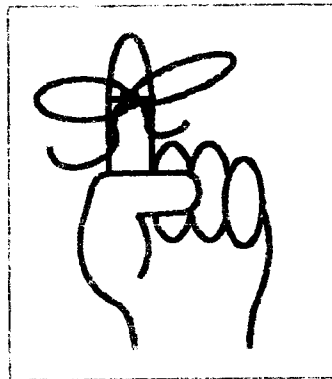
Way to go, Beav!

# BINGO!!

**REMEMBER** – our Bingo evening will be on **Friday, 31 March**, commencing at 20:00 (8pm). The venue is the Civil Defence Centre in Mill Park (the Clubhouse).

Refreshments will be available for a small consideration.

Roll up for a load of fun.



## Autolink Radiotelefoondiens vir Seevaarders

MET TOESTEMMING VAN TELKOM  
UIT HUL MAANDBLAD *TELESCOPE*

Telkom se outomatiese skip-tot-kus-radiotelefoondiens, Autolink RT, is verlede jaar in Port Elizabeth en Durban bekendgestel. Dit is 'n diens wat op skepe gebruik word en stel passasiërs en personeel in staat om direkte skip-tot-kus-oproep na enige teletoon ter wêreld te maak sonder behulp van 'n kusradiostasieoperateur.

Die doeltreffender en vinniger kommunikasie-middel word gebruik op kommersiële skepe, seiljagte, vissersbote en enige ander vaartuie wat met BHF HF kanale toegerus is. Autolink RT werk deur 'n goedkoop byvoegeenheid wat met 'n skip se bestaande BHF verbind kan word.

Dit bied 'n wartasiliëit om die privaatheid van gesprekke te beskerm en volledige PIN-toegangsekeriteit met detailrekeningfasiliëite. Geen huurgeld word gehef – jy betaal slegs vir die oproep.

Autolink bied ook faks- en datafasiliëite (bv. koppeling tussen persoonlike kompers) wat beteken dat, saam met 'n foutekorrigermodem, jy

toegang kan verkry tot 'n wyer reeks fasiliëite soos byvoorbeeld elektroniese pos en selfs die teleksdiens. Tweesyfertoegang tot Autolink inligting of ander spesialisdienste is ook moontlik.

Autolinkdienste kan tans, afgesien van Suid-Afrika, ook in Amerika, Belgie, Gibraltar, Italië, Maleisie, Portugal, Spanje en die Verenigde Koninkryk gebruik word.

Die stelsels in Kaapstad en Port Elizabeth is die enigste van hul soort in Afrika en stel die bemanningslede van skepe binne 'n afstand van 80 km van die kus in staat om vinnig oproepe te maak.

Ω

# HAMNET NEWS

**One thing that virtually all of us can be assured of** is that at some time or other we will be involved in an emergency where we will need someone's help.

It could be illness (you or your family), your house is on fire, your car gives up the ghost in the middle of nowhere, or whatever. There are of course various emergency services to provide such help, but they cannot be everywhere all the time. We will probably have to rely partly or solely on the man in the street for such help.

How fortunate you are in this respect when you are in such a situation depends on how willing and able the person or persons are who happen on the scene. Would you be happy if this person is like yourself? Such a self-evaluation may be sobering.

Even my limited experience of emergency situations has shown me that there are many people who are completely useless when confronted with such a situation. On the other hand, it is an impossible task for all of us to be completely competent to handle all emergencies.

The extent to which we prepare ourselves to handle such situations is for us to decide. I feel very strongly that we should all spend a little time and effort on a regular basis towards this end. As little as half an hour per month could result in a big improvement in your abilities.

Is that asking too much?

**Al Akers,**  
**Regional Director, Hamnet East Cape.**

## New Licences

We have not heard of any new callsigns since the February issue of QSN, so the computer bug has obviously had serious side-effects. The hope that the bug would be eradicated by mid-February did not come to fruition and P&I seconded two members of their staff full-time to the programmers in an effort to speed up the debugging process.

PLEASE! As soon as you hear your good news, remember to share it with us. Contact Vic at ☎ 30-2440 or Garth at ☎ 38-1101.

We also invite *all Branch members anywhere* as well as *anyone* in the Eastern and Southern Cape whose particulars do not appear in the 1993 callbook to let us know. You can also use packet, of course.

## CW Champ Goes Silent

Harry Turner, W9YZE, passed away on 21 December 1994 at the age of 88 years.

During 1942, he was clocked at 35 wpm using a straight hand telegraph key - a record still standing and recorded in the current Guinness Book of Records, according to William Garrett KB8NII.

That's quite a feat but I am sure that a couple of chaps I knew in the East London Telegraph Office back in the late 40's reached 35 wpm at times. Unfortunately we never thought of checking them out or determining whether they could maintain the speed for the three minutes that are no doubt required for record purposes. **Ω**

## Now for an Inter-ADMIN NET?

The recent Intechnet was the first, since the Packet Indaba, that we have had for the specific purpose of discussing members' problems. The Intechnet agenda concerned itself with the difficulties of *youngsters* vis-a-vis the 'older' hams. Members of the Youth Radio Amateur Council explained the problems that they have encountered and the villains had the opportunity to account for their misdemeanours.

On the other hand, the youngsters were shown to be not faultless themselves, and perhaps the Chairman of YRAC unwittingly revealed a need for some thought about attitudes when he dismissed suggestions with: "From various comments made by the PE Branch regarding YRAC, that is ultra vires - *we do not pay attention to that!*"

Yes, all in all, the net provided food for thought on both sides. Probably the most important lesson that we learned was how quickly newcomers pick up the *bad* habits of longer-standing hams. One aspect that was referred to repeatedly was the use of call signs, either incorrectly or not often enough - so chaps and chappesses, **don't be sloperators - set a good example at all times.**

Whether one agrees with any of the views expressed, this was undoubtedly one of the more successful and meaningful Intechnets that we have had. **It proves, as the Packet Indaba did, that a regular *interactive administrative net* is a perfectly viable and worthwhile proposition.**

We actually suggested periodic "inter-admin nets" to Hans on two

occasions last year. Although he promised to follow up the idea, we have had no further word. This is a pity, because on such a net, Councillors could be on tap to give straight answers to members' questions, immediately clearing up doubts and misgivings before they snowball.

With Council hearing what amateurs want in their League, we might have a happier and healthier SARI. In fact, the need for better exchanges of information between Council and branches was evidenced by the unfortunate attack on two branches by a Councillor during the YRAC intechnet.

His attack on the PE Branch was totally unfounded and obviously based on information fed to him from an unreliable source! Even if it had held just a modicum of truth, it's a pity that a Councillor should direct that type of attack in the sensitive "we and them" environment - and broadcast on a public Sentech transmitter too!

But this is not the first time that a Councillor has omitted to check his facts before denigrating this Branch or its members. Ω

---

### ONE MILLIwatt on 80m!

Roger, ZS1J's peanut whistle is back on the air on 3512 kHz but now it's running at a half of its former power - it now puts out only *one milliwatt!* No, Roger didn't cut the penlight cell in half. The little unit is still powered by a single nicad cell but he's dropped the input current to 2 mA. The antenna is a G8KW in inverted vee formation. Listen for it and give Roger a report. It has been heard quite clearly in Port Elizabeth, especially in the mornings. Ω

## RAE: ENTER EARLY

The next examination for the amateur radio operator's certificate (RAE) will be held on Thursday, 18 May 1995 at a time and place to be announced later. The closing date for entries is 7 April, although late entries (with an additional charge) will be accepted up to 28 April.

The fees will be as follows:

Both subjects	R90 (R110 if a late entry)
Single subject	R55 (R70 if a late entry)

Entry forms will be provided for candidates at a forthcoming Monday evening class by Vic Olivier ZS2SZ.

## FOR SALE \* SWOP \* FOR SALE

- TS140S Kenwood transceiver @ R3500; Kenwood AT230 Antenna Tuner @ R1000; S.E.M. TranZmatch Tuner @ R1100; Daiwa PS-30 XM11a power supply @ R600. Or the lot for R6000. All complete with cables and manuals, and boxed - Dick Creighton ZS2A, ☎ [046] 685-0294.
- Vertical antenna 1.5-30 MHz (VSWR 2:1 max) Dielectric Wideband Antenna by ZS Electronics. No ground plane needed. Handles 150 Watts RF. Glassfibre. Prepared to swop for radio items - Alan Bowles ☎ 31-2938.
- Yaesu FL2000B HF Linear. It's been around but still works like a bomb [Smoke bomb? - Ed.] The 572B tubes are relatively new, so it should be an irritation to those neighbours you don't like for many years to come. Approx 80W in gives 400W out. With manual. You give me R900, I give you the linear. QRP fraternity need not apply. Phone Beavan ZS2RL at (041) 30-6968.



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# QSO - Half-Century of Service

In a letter to the Chairman, OM Van ZS2Y provided some most interesting information about the origins of our Branch Newsletter. He writes:

It is with delight that I read that QSO won't be junked. It is at the moment my only contact with Ham radio, a hobby that used to take up all my spare time, but at the moment, sadly, consists of reading QSO and listening to a Sunday bulletin, occasionally, very occasionally. Either we're on our way to church at that time or we sleep late, Hi.

Do you know that QSO originated in 1945/46? During the war all Ham radio was closed down and equipment sealed. The SARL also closed down as most of its members were in the armed forces. In 1945, after the cessation of hostilities in Europe, hams started trickling back, and there were also a number of hams in the armed forces stationed in PE.

Around that time the late Rex Bosman ZS2X and myself formed a radio club, called the P.E. Radio Association. We held regular meetings and sent out a monthly newsletter. Either Rex or myself - I like to think it was me, but it was a long time ago - came up with the idea of calling it QSO - PE, or it could have been QSO - PERA.

QSO, of course, is "listen for (callsign) on frequency x". Loosely interpreted at that time it probably meant *listen to our message*. Anyhow, the name has stuck, for fifty years now.

Around '46 we were allowed on the air again, initially only on 10 metres, and in '47 the local SARL Branch was resuscitated and the PERA threw in its lot, and members, with the Branch. It is doubtful if, apart from myself, there are any of us left who were members.

As I'm still working as a Consultant for

the ARSC, and have quite a well-equipped radio workshop down at Protea flats, my interest in radio which is mainly technical is being satisfied. All kinds of ham gadgets get built into our radio network. However, having tentatively decided to finally retire, for the fourth time, around the beginning of next year - I actually started my first job in February 1936 (got a ham licence in November 1935) - I feel that after 60 years it is time to stop. Then I hope to again become active in ham radio. Meantime, QSO will have to suffice.

To show my appreciation I enclose my R12. **QSO is worth double.**

Incidentally, Friday is a bad night for me, but will try to make the occasional meeting.

73,

Van.

---

Congratulations on 60 years of hamming coming up, Van, and for starting the Newsletter that has served this area so well for the past 50 years.

*Does anybody have a record of the history of the Branch? Or, as Van has given us here, how about some other interesting snippets of happenings in the Branch over the years?*

## St'bosch U to Build Satellite

Prof. Garth Milne, ZRIAFH, as leader of the Sunsat project of the University of Stellenbosch, has announced that their Sunsat micro-satellite is scheduled for launch on the P91-1 Delta mission of the US Air Force on 31 May 1996. In terms of the launch agreement, Sunsat must include a precision GPS receiver and provide NASA with precise orbit data for gravity research.

The Project is making provision for also carrying up to four small electronic modules to be built by school or technikon student teams. The goal is to stimulate interest in electronics construction, and provide some school-built experiments for schools to monitor. A school programme for monitoring the satellite signals after launch is planned.

Sunsat invites schools and technikons to establish teams of interested students and is looking for electronically-competent mentors to serve as a link between the teams and Sunsat. Licensed hams would be especially welcome for this purpose.

Mentors will receive detail specifications from Sunsat, which will select a short list of possibly eight projects from flight hardware prototypes to be submitted by 29 September 1995.

Guideline requirements for the experiments are: Mass <50gm, PCB area <30 cm<sup>2</sup>, 5V or 14V power consumption <100mW, telemetry output of 0-5V DC, audio output if required of 2V P-P, temperature range -20 to +50 C, external sensors by negotiation.

Anyone interested in getting involved in this project should contact Mike ZR2MBM for more information at  $\approx$  30-1498.

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### QSL Bureau

Amateur Radio Mirror International told us recently that only about 275 members use the QSL Bureau, averaging about 98 outgoing cards per user. Based on HQ account details, the Bureau is expected to cost members about R15 000 for the current year.

This means that the *average* user benefits to the tune of about R54,50 for 98 cards sent. Many of the 275 probably send only one or two cards, while others despatch and receive several hundred. Those who send just 206 cards in the year get their total subscriptions back in QSL services - and that's if they pay the full "ordinary member" subscription, not to mention junior or pensioner rates! On top of that, they receive Radio ZS, their branch newsletters, the use of repeaters and bulletin boards and other League services *free of charge*.

The 1986 AGM decree that members should continue to pay for the QSL service was never rescinded. We have therefore been losing probably R12 000 a year on average since HQ scrapped stickers early in 1990. That's some R60 000 - and approximates the SARI's shortfalls for '93/4 and 94/5.

Can we afford to carry on providing this free service for a handful of members? Should we be concerned about the extra cost of holding AGMs alternately in various centres (which benefits *all* members by giving them an opportunity to see their League in action occasionally) while we turn a blind eye to this recurrent loss that favours only 275 members? **Ω**



## Packet Scene

# What Is Satmail?

Having been asked last month by our Sysop Jim, ZS2LR not to send Satmail because of problems being experienced with the satellite route at the time, I was not sure how it would affect me because I do not dictate the route that my messages should take. So I asked Jim, and he explained in the following article.

Firstly, there is a very limited number of terrestrial stations who are AUTHORIZED to use the satellites for up- and downloading of packet radio traffic. In the whole of the African continent there is *only one SATGATE*. That station is run by my very good old friend, Gerd ZS1ABM who also runs the BBS at ZS0STB and who also forwards to practically all the other BBSs in the Cape Peninsula. I recently spent a week as his guest.

SATMAIL is *ALL DX* - nothing local. A great volume of the DX traffic we see comes through the SATGATE at STB. Lately, we have been getting lots of Internet DX traffic, but when somebody replies to one of these DX messages, it invariably is forwarded to STB for forwarding via Satellite.

If you wish to ascertain whether or not your DX mail came via SATGATE, simply look at the route shown at the top of the message. If you find ZS0STB there, and the message is from a DX station, then it is definitely SATMAIL, and your reply will also be SATMAIL.

A better way of "seeing" the route is to rather use the *verbose* method of reading the message. Instead of entering "R [Msg. number]" use "V [Msg. number]". It will show you each BBS's information.

Gert's usual up- and downloading times are between 10:00 and 11:00 SAST daily. The operation is fascinating to watch. Since the signal is a phase shift type instead of frequency shift, there is *no audio* to listen to on 70 cms! Pages of data are downloaded in a matter of seconds.

There are no retries as we know it either. The Satellite looks for "holes" in your copy and simply fills them! The satellite also updates your system clock and your Keps for you without any intervention by the SYSOP! It *always* arrives on the button. Gert's PC plays a fanfare to announce the arrival of the Sat! hi

So next time you are asked not to send Satmail, you know what is expected of you - *don't send packets to overseas destinations!*

Thanks for the explanation, Jim.

*Note* - The satellite problem was solved and Satmail has been accepted again for some time now. Ω

---

My Chemist sends clients a newsletter with the monthly account. It carries the title **Tales from the Script.**

**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, 17 FEBRUARY 1995**

1. **Welcome** - The Chairman welcomed visitors from East London, J' Bay, Mossel Bay & Humansdorp
2. **Apologies** - Wolf ZS2WG, Julian ZS2AAB
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - Acceptance: Proposer - ZS2JS; Seconder - ZS2AZ
4. **Matters Arising** - None
5. **Financial Report** - The Branch is still in the black
6. **New Business**
  - 6.1 Dick ZS2RS arranging visit to SAP radio
  - 6.2 Dick ZS2RS to advise re possibility of golf shirts with logo
  - 6.3 YRAC - Mike ZR2MBM  
Mike gave a short talk explaining the aims of the Youth Radio Amateur Council. YRAC hope to promote the hobby amongst the youth. Good publicity is expected from an event to be held at SOS Children's Home.
  - 6.4 Clive ZS2RI encouraged members to support the Apple Express club outing planned for 11 March.  
Owen ZS2AZ has arranged a bingo evening for 31 March at 8.00 pm. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome.
  - 6.5 Replacement fan offered for Weatherfax retransmission equipment by Trevor ZS2AF, who was suitably thanked.
  - 6.6 Repeater working group to look into who is responsible for maintenance on Uitenhage repeater.
7. **SGM & AGM**
  - 7.1 **Election of delegate & alternate for SGM**

Delegate - Beavan ZS2RI	Alternate - Garth ZS2HB
Proposer - ZS2VM	Proposer - ZS2AF
Seconder - ZS2SZ	Seconder - ZS2DD
  - 7.2 **Election of delegate & alternate for AGM**

Delegate - Beavan ZS2RI	Alternate - Garth ZS2HB
Proposer - ZS2AF	Proposer - ZS2RI
Seconder - ZS2MM	Seconder - ZS2BY
  - 7.3 **Motions for AGM**

The Chairman read out the motions for the AGM & members were asked to indicate whether they were in favour or against

Motion 1 - in favour with amendment "as determined by AGM".

Motion 2 - in favour in principle, but the proposed constitution must be

reviewed thoroughly and put into acceptable shape.

Motion 3 - in favour

Motion 3 - in favour

Motion 4 - in favour

Motion 5 - in favour

Motion 6 - in favour

Motion 7 - against

Motion 8 - against

Motion 9 - against

Motion 10 - in favour (if 12 Council members increased to 15)

Motion 11 - in favour

Motion 12 - in favour

Motion 13 - against

#### 7.4 Delegate's Expenses

Meeting agreed that Branch Committee be authorised to deal with payment of expenses. These will cover cost of return airfare, hotel accommodation, luncheon and banquet.

The meeting closed at 21h15.

### Playing with Fire

A leading Branch has begun excluding non-members of the League from the 'swopshop' facility in its Sunday bulletin programme. That is the Branch's right, of course, but have they thought of its much wider and potentially devastating ramifications for Ham Radio? It will certainly provoke retaliation.

But even worse, there is talk in some circles of trying to **prevent non-members from using SARI repeaters**, and if this comes to pass one can expect retaliation not only in the form of illegal jamming but also deliberate but *perfectly legal* occupation of repeater frequencies for simplex QSOs.

We must never forget that, although the League may own the repeaters, it *does not own the frequencies* and cannot reserve them. Any licensed amateur has the right to start a QSO on any frequency in any amateur band if it is not already being used for *actual transmissions*. If it happens to be the input or output frequency of a repeater, anyone else who then triggers the

repeater - whether for an ordinary QSO or a Branch or HQ bulletin - is guilty of causing QRM and is contravening the Radio Regulations.

It doesn't take much imagination to realise what all this can lead to, so let's hope that commonsense and ham spirit will prevail. Rather act to make the League attractive enough to all licensees so that they will *want* to join the organisation.

By all means *invite* non-members to make a contribution to the maintenance of League repeaters, but leave it at that!

### Also Un-Hamlike?

A list of worldwide call signs circulated via the bulletin board system by an Australian operator, swarms of what he calls *QSL Ripoff Stations* - apparently those from whom he did not receive a QSL card. Two members of our Branch are listed.

I think this is not only in poor taste but also utterly infantile and I hope many more will join the others on the list just on principle. **Ω**

**Silent Key** — We were saddened to learn of the passing on 9 February of OM Chick Henderson, ZS1ABY, of Plettenberg Bay after heart surgery. Chick was a real gentleman and example to other hams. We extend our sincere condolences to his XYL Marge and family.

## *Congratulations & that kind o' stuff*

### on your birthdays:

#### *March*

21 Andrew Gray ZS2G

#### *April*

- 3 Theuns Potgieter ZR2BG  
Ria XYL of Garth ZS2HB
- 4 Iona XYL of Eric ZS2CV
- 5 Mike Jones ZS2MJ  
Heather XYL of Jimmy Hoole  
ZS2ABM
- 9 Piet Blom ZS2PB
- 11 Simone Pukall Olivier ZS2YL
- 13 Graham Butcher ZR2GiB
- 16 Hans Rohwer ZR2AX  
Schalk van der Merwe ZS2Y
- 17 Allan Ansell ZS2AJ
- 18 Jock Morris ZS2MD
- 19 Margaret XYL of Waldie Bartie  
ZS2WM
- 20 Trevor Scarr ZS2AE  
Joey XYL of Des Pettit ZS2ABU
- 22 Alan Bowles ZR2BL  
Doris Edwards ZS2DJ  
Marge XYL of Jim van  
Loggerenberg ZS2LR
- 23 Colin Robertson ZS2CR  
George Bowes ZS2QN

### on your anniversaries:

#### *March*

21 Maureen & Neil Fulton ZS2MG

#### *April*

6 Cathy & Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG

- 10 Rietjie & Sel Staples ZS6SS
- 15 Claire & Jack Smailes ZS2SM

### on passing the CW test:

Ralph ZR2IV, who is awaiting his ZS call. Danged computer!

### on your new callsign:

(danged computer)

LICHT

*Sick Parade* — Anita, XYL of Roger Davis ZS1J broke a leg recently - Roger disclaims responsibility - but is back on her feet again.

Rhiannon, daughter of Doris and Owen Thomas, is progressing after her car crash although it's been discovered that she also fractured some ribs.

John Rivers ZS2DO had an antenna system fall on his head and needed stitches. Glad to hear you on the net again, John.

*Gallivanting* — Keith ZR2AAX and Simone ZS2YL, back from Mossel Bay, are gauging to Gauteng for a spell. Gau well but hurry back, guys.

### *Welcome to Social Members*

Marius Mayer, Morris Wyatt (both RAE attendees), Johann Retief (Grahams-town), Glen and Brian Jones (Alexandria) all studying privately, and Isaac Greeff ZS2IJG. We hope you'll be with us for a long time.

## Port Elizabeth Branch Committee

Chairman, Secretary, Kallies	Bevan Gwill / ZS2RJ	30-0908
assisting the Secretary	Kevin Kapp / ZR2KLM	30-0792
Vice Chairman, Social	Owen Thomas / ZS2AZ	38-4134
assisting with refreshments at meetings	Bill Hodges / ZS2ABZ	51-2580
Treasurer, Assets Control	Clive Fife / ZS2RCU	32-3203
assisting with Assets Control	Lynne Crothall / ZS2MM	35-4071
Awards, Library	Peter Flynn / ZS2PF	46-4096
Repeaters, Packet	Wolf Gerstle / ZS2WG	30-1510
Special Events	Diak Schönborn / ZS2RS	56-3908
QSX Manager	Vic Olivier / ZS2S/	30-2440
assisting as QSX 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	Uitenhage	145,075/675
Cradoek	145,050/650		

### OTHER SERVICES

Packet Bulletin Board (ZS0U11E)	144,675
Digipeater (Grahamstown - ZS0G111)	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
Wefax 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
12 Mar	ZR2KLM
19	ZS2SZ
26	ZS2PF
2 Apr	ZS2WG
9	ZS2RS
16	ZS2RT

IMPORTANT DATES
★
17 Mar - Branch meeting;
23 Mar - Technichat
31 Mar - Bingo

★ *We Like Being Your Branch* ★