

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE
PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 10402
LINTON GRANGE
6015

March 1998

NOTICE OF MEETING

The monthly general meeting of the **PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** will be held on **Friday, 20 March 1998** commencing at 20 00 (8pm) in the Municipal Disaster Management Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park, Port Elizabeth (Civil Defence Centre).

At the time of going to press it was not yet known whether we will have a guest speaker, or what he/she will talk about, but be assured that PEARS meetings are *always* greatly interesting, so make a date and get along to the Clubhouse.

If Bill ZS2ABZ doesn't pick up tick bite fever or worse during his week in the bundu, where he is looking after the vehicles of the Bird Island expeditioners, he will also look after the inner man/woman/whatever during the tea break at the meeting, providing refreshments in return for a reasonable donation to the Club's coffers.

Technical Evening

The next technical evening will be on Thursday, 26 March 1998, starting at 20:00, in the Clubhouse (Municipal Disaster Management Centre).

The last meeting was extremely interesting, with Mike Bosch ZS2FM, the VHF/UHF Manager of the SARL and well known to all in PE, talking on VHF propagation, what one can achieve on the bands above 30 MHz and when to use vertical and horizontal polarization. He passed around a small preamplifier that he had constructed as an addendum to a commercial 20-watt linear amplifier which he had pulled onto the 2m amateur band.

The get-together on 26 March should be

equally interesting and perhaps of even more immediate concern to most members – Chris Scarr ZS2AAW will explain the workings of our extensive 2 metre repeater system, covering *inter alia* the backbone linking system, how the repeaters are remotely switched etc.

Make a point of attending these interesting evenings if you have an enquiring mind and want to know just that little bit more than you needed to get through the RAE.

Running two technical meetings a month has been mooted but nothing definite has been decided upon yet. Listen to bulletins and local 2m gossip to find out what's happening.

Wrinkly Ravers

Like *Wow!* These ravers are *real cool*, man! They certainly know how to enjoy themselves! Although at the last rave the numbers were a bit down from the previous one, the ten participants tucked into the nosh in commendable fashion, supervised by one "Smoothy" – Shawn Corder ZR2SC – who had come along to see what the antiques get up to at their monthly raves.

The next bash will be held on Thursday, 2 April. A different date had been considered to accommodate a couple who cannot make it on this date but others had problems with the alternatives, and the Easter weekend also upset the applecart. If you plan to join this happy gang on 2 April, contact Ken ZS2BWB at least a few days before the luncheon so he can tell the Yacht Club cook how many dinosaur ribs and other juicy bits to defrost.





A Word

From the Chair

*T*he President's visit has come and gone, and now that the dust has settled, it is time to take stock of the situation. I was suitably impressed by the nature of things happening further North, and it seems to me that the main problem might have been a lack of knowing what was planned, and why. It has often been said that, for people who are in the realm of communication, we don't do a terribly good job amongst ourselves...! If we can ensure that we are kept informed, we can feel more secure in actually supporting the League in its affairs. With the outline of the finances and building plans given at the meeting, insight has been shared, and I am sure that those present concluded that the moves afoot are for the better.

In the present day situation, we run the risk of negativity breeding negativity. Somewhere the direction of travel must be diverted to foster a positive outlook. Maybe that can begin here. I will be supporting the building fund with what little I can donate - certainly not a Brick's worth at R500, but maybe R100. I propose that the Club also considers buying a brick - discuss this at the next meeting.

And I renewed my membership last year, which it seems many others did too - Wow, was Chris surprised when far more than half the members present at the meeting raised their hands in response to the question of who were members of the SARL! I am proud of you chaps and chapesses!! Not the outcome he expected... But the best achievement of the day was the open discussion, frank questions tabled, the acceptance of the facts presented, and the signing up of some of the more outspoken SARL non-members. Now that is true Ham spirit.

In conclusion, it was with some trepidation that I opened my humble abode to the president of the SARL, Chris Turner, not knowing what entertainment to offer etc. When it comes to the crunch, we are all just humans, it seems, and the atmosphere was very relaxed. And Ham radio was certainly not the main topic - it appears that he and I have a common interest in worship group music at our respective churches. They are, however, a few steps ahead of us, in that they have already put multi-channel musical modulation to magnetic plastic (having done a multi-track recording), and will soon be cutting an audio compact disc of their locally written songs, once the mastering has been completed.

Good luck, Chris. Come back soon and show us how to do it!

73,

Chris, ZS2AAW

HAMNET / ECARES NEWS

General Meeting

The next Hamnet/ECARES meeting takes place on Wednesday, 25 March at 1930 at the Municipal Disaster Management Control Centre. We are planning a special activity to be held after the business.

Membership

Current Hamnet members are:

ZR2BC, ZS2FM, ZS2KU, ZS2MW, ZS2NH, ZS2OC, ZS2RT and ZS2U.

ECARES members are: ZR2BC, ZR2DH, ZR2GDV, ZR2GIB, ZR2LG, ZR2MW, ZR2NDT, ZR2NT, ZR2S, ZR2SC, ZR2T, ZR2W, ZR2WES, ZS2AAW, ZS2AOZ, ZS2AZ, ZS2BBR, ZS2BH, ZS2C, ZS2CB, ZS2CC, ZS2CH, ZS2CR, ZS2D, ZS2FM, ZS2G, ZS2HB, ZS2IC, ZS2MW, ZS2OC, ZS2PF, ZS2RT, ZS2S, ZS2U, ZS2VM and ZS2W.

Six Metre Net

The net, which runs from 1900 on Wednesday evenings on 52,6 MHz, has been averaging five people and has resulted in some interesting tests and discussions.

Hamnet Shield

This shield was presented for the 1997 year to Shawn ZR2SC who, during that year, called for assistance at three accident scenes and, on 26 December, managed to save a lady from committing suicide by jumping from the van Staden's Bridge. Well done, Shawn.

73

Al Akers ZS2U

Provincial Director,
Hamnet East Cape/ECARES

FOR SALE * WANTED * SWOP

WANTED

* **Antenna tuner** to match open wire feedlines with impedances between 300 and 600 ohms; **Circuit diagram or booklet** for Heathkit Condenser Checker, Model C3; **Voltage regulator LM 396** in TO3 package — **Dudley Forsyth ZS2AW**, tel. [0461] 23985.



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HAMNET SIMULATED EMERGENCY CONTEST

AL AKERS ZS2U

Please read these rules carefully as there are changes from previous contests.

The contest will take place on Sunday, 5 April 1998 from 1400 to 1600 SAST and is open to all radio amateurs in the Republic of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Lesotho, Marion Island and South African Antarctic, and only contacts with stations in these countries will count.

Power limitations will be as per licensing regulations and operation will be limited to SSB on the 40 metre band.

Antennas are limited to non-gain antennas with reference to a dipole.

Stationary mobile stations must have antennas that are usable as is when vehicle is mobile and must not exceed a height above ground of 5 metres. Portable station antennas may not be installed on site before the day of the contest and no permanent building or structure may be used to either house equipment or for antenna supports.

Portable and stationary mobile stations must operate from the same site for the duration of the contest and **power sources** must be independent of the mains supply, i.e. must be batteries or generators.

There will be four **categories**:

- A. single operator stationary mobile
- B. single operator portable
- C. multi-operator portable
- D. single operator base station.

Contact with a mobile station will count the same points as a fixed station situated at the position of the mobile station at the time of contact.

Serial numbers to be exchanged will be the usual signal report, followed by a three digit number as follows:

Cat A: start with 201 for first contact

Cat B: start with 401 for first contact

Cat C: start with 601 for first contact

Cat D: start with 801 for first contact.

Stations not participating in the contest to use serials starting with 001 for first contact.

The purpose of serials in this form is to aid in distinguishing between the different categories.

Scoring:

Contact with a fixed or mobile station in your zone will score 1 point.

Contact with a fixed or mobile station outside your zone will score 2 points.

Contact with a portable or stationary mobile station in your zone will score 3 points

Contact with a portable or stationary mobile station outside your zone will score 4 points.

There will be nine **zones** as follows:

Zone 1: ZS1 **Zone 2:** ZS2 **Zone 3:** ZS3

Zone 4: ZS4 **Zone 5:** ZS5 **Zone 6:** ZS6

Zone 7: ZS7, ZS8 **Zone 8:** A2, V5

Zone 9: C9, Z2, 3DA, 7P.


Multipliers:

Points scored will have a power multiplier of 2 for powers in excess of 50 watts PEP and a multiplier of 3 for power below 50 watts PEP. There will be a multiplier of the number of zones contacted.

Logs must show time of contact, callsign of station contacted and reports sent and received. Also furnish details of your own station such as callsign, operating location and antenna, rig and power used.

State category entered and the names and callsigns of operators.

Certificates will be presented to the highest scoring station in each category provided there are at least three entries in that category.

Closing date for entries is 30 April 1998. Logs should be sent to: Hamnet Simulated Emergency Contest, PO Box 19368, Linton Grange 6015. 

Thumbnail – Chris Scarr, ZS2AAW



Chris, son of Trevor ZS2AE and Julie ZR2EY, was born in Port Elizabeth on 28 April 1965. He attended Grey Junior and High Schools and from a very early age showed an interest in all things electrical. Whilst still at junior school he won first and third prizes in a Science competition for an automatic window-curtain opener and an electronic digital clock – his first designing success? – which he built up from bits 'n pieces from his Dad's shack.

His interest inevitably led to radio and he passed the RAE at 16 with the call ZR2EY, later elevating to ZS2AAW during a university vacation – he enrolled at UPE for a year and then UCT, graduating BSc Electrical Engineering (Light & Heavy Current).

Posted to Bloemfontein during his military training in Signals, he met his wife-to-be, Vanessa Marshall, who later became ZR2VM. On his return to civvy-street in 1990, he worked for Eskom first in East London and then transferred to Uitenhage, when he took up residence in PE and joined the PE Branch of the SARL.

After a few years assisting the Repeater Working Group he formulated the East Cape Repeater Plan and was entrusted with the Repeater/Packet portfolio after being elected to Committee in 1995. Chris was elected Chairman

of PEARS in 1997. During this year he was honoured by SAARDT, who chose him as the Radio Amateur of the Year (1996).

The extensive East Cape repeater network as well as the well-developed packet system can be attributed solely to Chris and his initiative as organiser of the Repeater Working Group. This fine network of linked repeaters has been remarked upon by SARL HQ and numerous hams visiting the East and Southern Cape from other provinces.

Chris is a committed Christian and is heavily involved in Church activities, serving on the executive body as well as the music group, where he plays the bass guitar. He also plays the clarinet and piano, and could be called a man of many talents. His latest is a sudden interest in gardening, well instructed, we are informed, by his bride of one year. Vanessa. ☪

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, HELD IN THE WALMER SCOUT HALL, PORT ELIZABETH ON SATURDAY, 21 FEBRUARY, 1998

- 1. Present & Apologies:** As per the register. (50 bodies were present)
- 2. Opening:** Chairman Chris ZS2AAW welcomed all, especially those who had come from afar, and especially the President of the SARL, Chris Turner ZS6GM, and Jan Schubart ZS6ARV.
- 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Proposed by Dick ZS2RS and seconded by Fred ZS2JS.
- 4. Matters Arising:** None.
- 5. Finance & Membership:** It was reported on behalf of Treasurer Clive ZS2RT that the finances were satisfactory.

6. Correspondence: A number of club newsletters received, and a subscription renewal which was prompted by the non-receipt of QSX.

7. General:

7.1 Presentation of an Award: Al ZS2U presented the Hamnet Shield to Shawn ZR2SC for the emergency assistance he had extended to a number of people in recent times.

7.2 Special event operators: A number of operators are required to assist with a cycle tour to be held in PE during March. This event will be

regarded as an ECARES exercise, and co-ordinated by AI ZS2U.

7.3 Two Metre Beacon: Mike ZS2FM enquired when the 2m beacon will be operational again. Chris ZS2AAW replied that repairs were under way and it would be back in service soon. It will be on the new frequency of 144.410 MHz.

7.4 70 MHz Beacon: Chris ZS6GM asked when the 70 MHz beacon will be erected.

7.5 Donation of Valves by Chick ZS2LM: Ken ZS2BWB mentioned that Chick had donated a large number of valves to PEARS.

7.6 Repair of Lightning Damage to Slipper Repeater: Dick ZS2RS proposed a vote of thanks to Chris ZS2AAW and Trevor ZS2AE for their prompt repair of the repeater after the lightning strike on the previous Thursday night.

7.7 Address by SARL President

OM Chris ZS6GM covered a number of topics, which gave rise to constructive debate on many issues. Highlights were:

- Chris explained the reasons behind the new structure of the SARL.
- He urged Eastern Cape clubs to collectively fill a vacancy that existed on Council.
- The SARL actively protects the interests of Amateur Radio, especially against attempts by commercial organisations to take over some of our spectrum. It was essential that all amateurs supported the SARL by way of membership.
- Since 1987 the SARL budget had moved from a deficit to a surplus. The SARL was no longer in the red, and Council had taken a policy decision to never borrow money again.
- For the first time ever, Radio ZS was making a profit.

- Chris showed the meeting plans of the proposed new HQ building. It was to be built on the Sentech site at Honeydew, Sentech leasing the land to the SARL for a nominal amount. We would also be permitted to use the adjacent Sentech conference facilities. The estimated building cost was R290 000. Another R100 000 was needed, hence the “buy a brick” campaign.

- In response to a question by Raphie ZS2SP, Chris said that AR was far from being a dying hobby. Many countries and corporations had recognised the educational value of AR, and were actively promoting AR.

- There was consensus among those present that AR must lose its image of being an operator driven “chat show”, and that more emphasis should be placed upon the technical aspects.


- There was also agreement that it was an error to alter the constitution and thereby divorce branches from the parent SARL body. This was seen as a major cause of the decline in membership.

7.8 Promotion of AR clubs for the Youth:

In an entertaining talk, Greg ZS6RE (Chairman, SARL Youth Council) explained the origins of the youth movement in amateur radio. It started with “The Gang” (4 members), which soon led to the establishment of the Youth Council and the active promotion of clubs in all regions, which specifically catered for the younger amateurs.

7.9 Address by Jan Schubart

ZS6ARV: Jan addressed the meeting on the structure and functioning of Hamnet.

8. Closure: By this time the braai fires were past their prime, and the meeting adjourned for a most enjoyable social event. 

TRANSISTOR BIASING

VIV MOORE ZS2VM

One of our club members, Des Herselman ZR2DH, has compiled a computer program that will help you design one of the most frequently used building blocks, the class A common emitter amplifier, shown in Fig. 1.

The circuit is extremely flexible and there is an infinite number of component combinations that will work, but what happens to the input or output impedance if you change any of the values?

To use the computer program, five pieces of information must be entered: transistor beta (h_{fe}), maximum power dissipation, the resistance of R2, the power-supply voltage, and the lowest operating frequency.

The most obscure of the five is power dissipation, which may be based upon the maximum specified value or the maximum that is desired in a specific circuit application.

CIRCUIT VARIABLES

The selection of maximum power dissipation and the power-supply voltage (V_s) will determine the dc loadline for the circuit. The loadline establishes the operation of the transistor within the circuit. All circuit voltages and currents around the loadline establish the circuit operating parameters.

As an example, a specific collector current and voltage drop between the collector and emitter of the transistor

may be found at the loadline intersection with a specific base current value.

For class-A amplifiers, the base current value is selected to provide a quiescent operating point (QOP) such that the collector voltage will be half the power-supply voltage. Placing QOP at the point equal to half V_s provides equal signal swing for positive and negative signal excursions.

Resistor R1 determines the base current, which is used to establish the QOP position on the loadline. Selecting one value over another is a matter of choice based upon various alternatives. In general, the lower the loadline is, the higher the input and output impedances will be.

Circuit values are in parallel with the impedance of the respective circuit and will restrict the impedance range. Resistor R2 has the most effect on the input impedance, while R3 affects the output impedance.

Signal linearity and gain also are affected by the loadline position. Lowering the loadline will tend to raise the transfer gain but signal linearity may be degraded. So, how is the position of the loadline selected?

Start by choosing a power dissipation between 1/4 and 1/2 of the transistor rating and a value for R2 at about twice the required input impedance. By rule of thumb, current through R2 should be about 10 times the base current.

THE PROGRAM.

To keep the operator-entered data to a minimum, a few assumptions have been made. The first was to establish an emitter voltage at 10% of the power-supply voltage. Doing so allows the emitter resistor value to rise sufficiently for stable biasing and prevents thermal runaway.

Thermal runaway may occur if the emitter- to-ground voltage is allowed to approach the base-emitter voltage (0.7 volts for silicon devices).

The second program assumption is that the transfer gain will be approximately 60% of the device's beta value. The actual transfer gain can be found only by working with the device.

A third assumption involves the lowest frequency of operation. It is assumed that the reactance of each capacitor in the circuit will be nearly equal to its relative circuit impedance. Capacitor C1 would then have the same reactance as the input impedance at the lowest operating frequency, causing half of the input signal voltage to be dropped across the capacitor. The other half would be dropped across the amplifier's input.

PROGRAM VARIABLES

- B Transistor beta
- C Temporary capacitor variable
- C1 Input capacitor value
- C2 Emitter bypass capacitor value
- C3 Output capacitor value
- F Frequency

- G Gain
- I Collector current print variable
- IB Base current
- IC Collector current
- I2 R2 current
- I3 R1 current
- P Selector variable
- P1 Power dissipation
- R1 Base-VS resistor
- R2 Base-ground resistor
- R3 Collector-VS resistor
- R4 Emitter-ground resistor
- T Temporary variable
- VB Base-ground voltage
- C Collector-ground voltage
- VE Emitter-ground voltage
- VS Power-supply voltage
- V1 Emitter-base voltage
- V2 Collector-VS voltage
- X Reactance variable
- Z1 Input impedance
- Z2 Output impedance

A copy of the program is available from Des at tel. 542911. Supply him with a clean, formatted "stiffy".

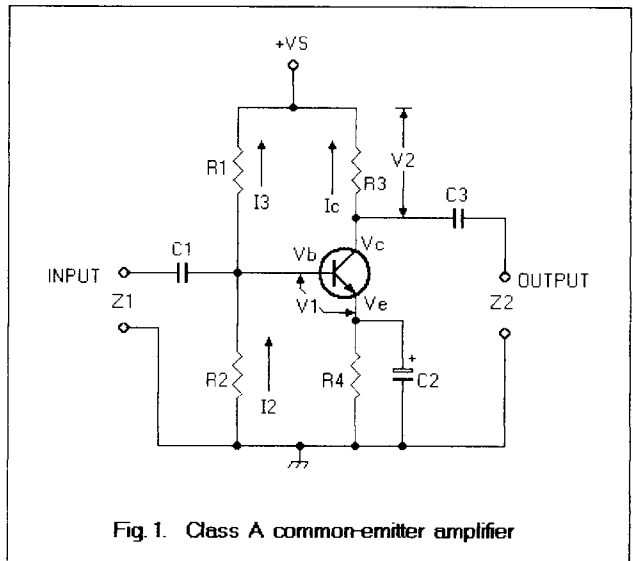


Fig. 1. Class A common-emitter amplifier

SARL PRESIDENT INSPIRES EC

President Chris Turner ZS6GM, accompanied by Vice President Jan Schubart ZS6ARV, visited Port Elizabeth to address members and non-members at our general meeting on 21 February.

It was held on a Saturday afternoon and included a braai to lend a social atmosphere to the occasion after the business. A large turnout of members and non-members included visitors from East London and the Southern Cape and points in between.

Chris gave a comprehensive run-down on Council activities and explained how members' funds were now being spent. He compared current expenditure and subscription levels to those in effect before Headquarters moved to Johannesburg and, allowing for inflation, he said that they were pretty much on a par.

Particularly impressive and pleasing was the news that the League's books are now well into the 'black' again, and that Radio ZS has not only been able to finance itself for the first time but also subsidized the recent callbook.

General Manager Len Silberman took a severe cut in salary to help balance the books and, although he is officially performing *part-time* duties now in return for the cut, he in fact still puts in considerably more effort than that for which he is being remunerated.

The General Manager had *two* office assistants for a while, which dropped to only one for a year or so,

but for some time now he has had no staff at all. It is obvious that he cannot be expected to do everything as promptly or as efficiently as he and we would like, so the employment of an office assistant is clearly desirable.

Chris assured the meeting that, in terms of a Council resolution, they will never again spend money that the League does not have, which means

that there should be no bank overdrafts or financial fears for members in the future.

Those present were firmly agreed that a representative body such as the SARL is essential if Ham Radio is to be protected, and it behoves us all to encourage more hams to join the League in the knowledge that things are

now going a great deal better than they were in the first half of this decade.

As Chris said in his address to the Chairmen's Indaba, one should not remain out of the League indefinitely because of "something that Hans said five years ago, or something that Reno published that you disagreed with".

Chris is clearly trying to run the League the way most hams would like to see it run and, if any councillor fails to support him in this or repeatedly "turns members off", it is up to the members to vote him out

Two well-known erstwhile non-members who have been justifiably vocal about happenings in League circles were sufficiently impressed to rejoin the SARL!

If you know of any non-members, it



Chris Turner


is in your interests and theirs to encourage them to join the League. Let's all work on this together!

SARL Building

Another League necessity is more adequate accommodation for SARL Headquarters, and a plan for a building was accepted at the Chairmen's Indaba held on January 17. Agreement has been reached with Sentech to erect the building on one of their sites north of Johannesburg, for which the League will pay a nominal annual rental on a long lease. In addition, Sentech's conference facilities will be available

nearby. The property will be protected by Sentech's security facilities.

The League's building fund stands at some R192 000, which is not sufficient for actual minimum needs, about R290 000. To boost the fund, a well-disposed Club suggested that donors contribute "bricks" at R500 each, or half-bricks for R250, or simply donate any amount that they wish to add to the kitty. Donors' names will be displayed for posterity on a wall in the new building.

See the minutes of the general meeting elsewhere in this issue. 

WordSearch – A little break from Ham Radio, mainly for the Ladies

Each of the elements in the list, except two, radiates in a direct series of letters through the diagram and may be vertically, horizontally or angularly polarized. Mark them off in the list as you detect them. When you have blanked out 20, the two components left in the list reflect the identity of the most intelligent, most dashing, yet most modest editor you could ever have the privilege of knowing.

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

OHMS	YAESU
AMPS	KENWOOD
RESISTOR	LAAKS
IC	ICOM
RECTIFIER	BEAM
INDUCTANCE	DIPOLE
GARTH	QUAD
TRANSCEIVER	TOWER
ANTENNA	EARTH
TUNER	AMPLIFIER
BRIDGE	PROPAGATION

• Thanks to Fred Bonthuys ZS2EQ for compiling the puzzle for us.



PEARStalk

YOUTHS GET RADIO ACTIVE

Shawn ZR2SC has been following up his recruiting of young people with activities to maintain their enthusiasm. A braai at his QTH attracted 14 young people, aged between 12 and 23 years. They hope to arrange visits to places of interest for the young people. (Don't forget the oldies too, you guys!—Ed.)

Two groups have developed – one established as Newton Amateur Radio Club (NARC), based at the Newton Park High School and intended to 'infiltrate' the scholars, and one for the 'older' young people. The latter is a somewhat informal lot, with no committee or chairman, but Shawn Corder ZR2SC generally keeps them out of mischief (at least, that's what he tells us!)

Congratulations to Nicolas Thomas ZR2NDT on his election as Chairman of NARC.

YEAR OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

This is being celebrated throughout the Republic at various times. The Eastern Cape will have its turn some time in April, and the Club will doubtless put on something of interest to the public. There will also be a Science Fair in Grahamstown from 28 March to 5 April, which will include a Sunsat display. (Sunsat is the name of a Stellenbosch University-designed and constructed satellite that will carry a ham communication capability as well as a commercial payload. It was to be launched by the USAF in August 1997 but the event had to be delayed.)

DONATION

A generous donation has been received from Raphey ZS2SP towards the PEARS repeater fund. Although a paid-up member of PEARS and not a particularly heavy user of repeaters, Raphey nevertheless felt it appropriate to put something extra into the fund as a mark of appreciation for the enjoyment that he derives from the facilities.

Thank you, Raphey. Perhaps this will encourage others to help as well, especially any who do not contribute to the cost of providing and maintaining the repeater system through subscriptions as members of any of the participating clubs.

MOTIONS FOR AGMs

Remember, if you want to submit a motion for our PEARS AGM, which will be held some time in May, it must reach our Secretary by not later than the April general meeting. Meanwhile, have you thought about your nominations for the committee for the coming Club year?

The AGM of the SA Radio League is scheduled for 2 May. Among the motions submitted by PEARS and individual members here are proposals that—

- all councillors should be resident in the Gauteng area, *inter alia* to facilitate attending meetings at short notice, to enable them more readily to assist at HQ, reduce telephone costs, intercommunication effort and miscellaneous expenses;
- ways and means be explored to increase membership;

- the re-establishment of branches of the League be investigated;
- Radio ZS be included in the basic membership package with a minimum or no increase in subscriptions.

OUR WEB PAGE

We haven't had many reports or suggestions about our Web site, which carries the latest issue of QSX and miscellaneous information for hams at large and interested surfers.

Unfortunately, after all the trouble your Editor goes to to compile QSX in pretty columns, panels and things for the printed version, Gary ZR2ABU has to spend a lot of time taking out most of the formatting and special characters in order to render the texts compatible for uploading onto the web site.

You can get our page at <http://users.iafrica.com/g/gi/glaaks/> but hopefully that address can be shortened soon.

MARCONI DAY

This celebration will be observed on 26 April. Listen to the various bulletins as the date approaches for information on activities that are being arranged. Being a Sunday the date lends itself to a good deal of participation. Hopefully it will not turn out to be yet another "talk to the world" misrepresentation and that the organisers will bring out the true nature of amateur radio in the best interests of the hobby's future.

RAE CLASSES

The deadline is approaching for entries for the RAE, which will be written on 21 April. Meanwhile, two groups are receiving instruction, for which our thanks go to Viv ZS2VM. He is helping the regular bunch at the

Disaster Management Centre on Monday evenings and the NARC group at the school on Wednesday evenings.

BIRD ISLAND EXPEDITION

As this issue goes to press, AI ZS2U is sitting on Bird Island together with Bud ZS1B, Lambert ZS2LL and a couple of other hams from ZS1 and 6. I guess we'll have an interesting report on their experiences on this penguin-besieged island in due course. Listening to the pile-ups, things are going *do!* on the island!

QSL CARD SIZES


Len Silberman, the SARL General Manager and QSL Bureau chief, reports that some foreign QSL bureaux have complained about oversized QSL cards, which are awkward to handle and become damaged in transit.

The maximum size for QSL cards is 90x140 mm.

QSX GOES BY POST AGAIN

Following a number of reports from members of delays and instances of non-delivery of QSX via the alternative, private company that we used for several months, it was decided to revert to the good ol' Post Office, who seem, after all, to get a higher percentage of mail items to their destination with reasonable punctuality and reliability. Take a bow, GPO!

TWO METRE DX

Remember to scan 144.450 MHz FM, especially around 19:00 and 21:00 daily, when the chaps in EL, PE and JBay try to make direct contact, using horizontal antennae. Alex ZR2T recently worked into Umbumbulu, near Durban, although signals were below useable levels for solid FM contact and they reverted to SSB. 

Silent Key – We were sad to learn of the passing on 24 February of OM Ben van Vuuren, ZS2HU of Despatch following a heart attack. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his XYL Marie and family.

Congratulations...

on your birthdays:

March

22 Peggy Moore, XYL of Viv ZS2VM

April

- 2 Shawn Corder ZR2SC
Brian Peckham ZS2BP
- 5 Heather Hoole XYL of Jimmy
ZS2ABM
Mike Jones ZS2MJ
XYL Knobel, XYL of Pierre ZS2ABC
- 13 Graham Butcher ZR2GIB
- 16 Schalk van der Merwe ZS2Y
- 17 Helen Staples XYL of Noel ZS2AAS
Allan Ansell

on your anniversaries:

March

None in this QSX period

April

- 6 Kathy & Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG
- 8 Marlene & Andrew Gray ZS2G
- 10 Rietjie & Selwyn Staples ZS6SS
- 14 Margaret & John Raven ZR2ABH

met die slaag van die GG-eksamen

hierdie keer teen 12 wpm, Daniel Burger, ZU1DB/ZR2B, wie nou met die...

...nuwe roepsein ZS2DSB spog.

Veelsgeluk, Daniel.


Sick list: Owen Thomas ZS2AZ is making steady progress. Unfortunately, residing now at the Fairhaven Home (opposite Forest Hill), he

may not operate on HF, but is fortunately active on VHF.; Mattie Smuts, with her OM Mike ZS2XE now in residence at Cassia Gardens Methodist home, seems to be responding to medication and improving.

Gadding: Bud ZS1B/ZS2CA passed through PE en route for Bird Island for an expedition with ZS2U and other DXpedition nuts. (It is *not true* that Bud went to recover DF equipment inadvertently left on the island last time he participated in a local DF hunt!)

New Members: Welcome to Kevern Layton (son of Sharon ZS2SL and Martin ZS2ML), Stuart White, Anne Smithers and Clive Hopkins. They are all students in the Club's RAE classes.

Farewell: Gail ZS2TM and Chick Mosley ZS2LM have dismantled their station and are leaving SA on 16 April for pastures new in the UK. Our good wishes go with you two. Keep in touch, will you?

By the way - In the lists of members that came with recent issues of QSX we gave ZR2JB's name as *Hani Baum*. It should read HANNI. Please amend your record. 

Your Society's Committee

Chairman, Repeaters, Packet.....	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	38-1344
Vice Chairman, Social.....	Dick Schönborn ZS2RS	38-5070
Secretary: Awards.....	Beavan Gwilt ZS2RL	30-6968
Treasurer: Assets Control.....	Clive Fife ZS2RT	32-3203
Social, Assisting with Assets Control.....	Lynne Crothall ZS2MM	35-4671
Ex-committee refreshments at meetings.....	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	51-2580
QSX Manager & distribution.....	Trevor Scarr ZS2AE	32-1746
Ex-committee QSX Editor & layout.....	Garth Laaks ZS2HB	38-1101
Technical Classes.....	Des Herselman ZR2DH	54-2911 (W)
		Cell 083 261 5402 (All Hrs)

PEARS' VHF & Other Services

REPEATERS

Town VHF.....	145,050/650	Kareedouw.....	† 145,125/725
Town UHF.....	431,050/438,650	Knysna.....	*145,075/675
Cockscomb.....	145,000/600	Lady's Slipper.....	*145,100/700
Cradock.....	*145,050/650	Uitenhage.....	145,075/675
Grahamstown.....	*145,150/750	Theescombe.....	† 145,175/775

* These form PE's long-range 2-metre repeater system, to which the East London 145.125/725 MHz repeater and the George repeater on 145.100/700 are also linked.

† These are privately owned repeaters and are not included in the PEARS linked repeater system.

OTHER SERVICES

Packet Bulletin Board (ZS0NTP).....	144,625
Packet Rose Switch ZS0GHT-3,046101 (144,675 in/out) or 046102 (UHF out to BBS).....	144,675
2m Beacon (ZS2VHF CW ID) (horizontally polarized).....	144,410
6m Beacon (ZS2SIX CW ID) (horizontally polarized).....	50,005
6m Simplex Link with Lady's Slipper 2m Repeater (vertically polarized).....	51,400
Wefax Relay (Meteosat).....	145,350

Sunday Bulletins

PEARS bulletins are transmitted on Sundays immediately after the SARL English transmission, i.e. at about 08:45, on 7098 kHz as well as the 2 metre linked network that provides coverage from East London to George and environs via the linked repeater system described above. PEARS' 7098 or 3640 kHz transceive facilities are also remotely linked as needed. In addition, the SARL's 40m transmissions on 7082 or 7066 kHz, alternatively 7070 kHz, can be remotely patched into the 2m network, either in receive-only mode or for full transceive capability for interactive events.

Date	Prepare and Read on 2m Rptr link
22	ZS2RT
29	ZS2AE
5 Apr	ZS2MM
12	ZR2DH
19	ZS2AAW
26	ZS2RS

DIARY DATES

MARCH

20 PEARS Monthly Meeting
26 Technical evening

APRIL

2 Wrinkly Ravers luncheon
5 Simulated Emgcy Contest
10 SARL 80m QSO Party
26 Marconi Day

★ *We Like Being Your Society!* ★