

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE
PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 10402
LINTON GRANGE
6015

June 1998

NOTICE OF MEETING

The monthly general meeting of the **PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** will be held on **Friday, 19 June 1998** commencing at 20:00 (8pm) in the Municipal Disaster Management Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park, Port Elizabeth (Civil Defence Centre).

It is not yet known whether we will have a guest speaker, but our members are known for their ability to talk so it shouldn't matter one way or the other.

Tea, coffee and munchies will be available after business is disposed of.

Technical Evening

The next technical evening will be on Thursday, 25 June 1998, starting at 20:00, in the Clubhouse (Municipal Disaster Management Centre) Des Herselman ZR2DH will display the homebrew frequency counter that he has completed and show how it can subtract or add the IF offset of your transmitter or receiver. This means it can display the actual transmit or receive frequency, without your having to perform any calculations.

He also hopes to demonstrate how a frequency counter can lock onto a VFO and keep its frequency stable – i.e. a Frequency Lock Loop system.

At the last meeting, Chris Scarr brought along some test equipment that would look great in most of our shacks, and checked out a number of members' items of ham gear. The results brought forth a good deal of animated discussion.



Wrinkly Ravers

THE NEXT RAVE WILL BE ON THE SECOND THURSDAY NEXT MONTH, I.E. ON 9 JULY.

I printed that **BIG** so you old geeks can read it, so there's no excuse for not turning up. Unless you forget, of course, but that would be quite understandable, I suppose.

I said the next rave will be on 9 July. *9 July!* At the Zwartkops Yacht Clubhouse. *Zwartkops, yes!*

Shuffle in between 12 noon and 12:30. Let Ken ZS2BWB know a few days beforehand if you're going. *Don't forget your pills.*

(We have changed to the *second* Thursday every month to accommodate some of our Wrinkled Ones who can't make it on the first Thursday of the month due to other commitments.)





A Word

From the Chair

*A*nother year of PEARS is behind us. With the AGM held last month came a new committee, and new ideas and spirit. It seems the gathering was enjoyed by all who could make it. Particularly gratifying was the comment heard on the repeaters after the event – that “there was not one grumpy face to be seen at the AGM!”

Congratulations to those who received awards. It is a pleasure for the committee to acknowledge contributions of members (even if the chairman is not aware of ALL the awards agreed to by committee...)

My thanks to you, the members of PEARS, who have put your trust in my chairmanship for another year – with the kind of support we are enjoying from members and visitors alike, it will make the task an easy one. Good luck wishes also go to the new committee members, two of whom are “in it” for the first time. I am sure all will go extremely well.

And the new committee takes over right in the face of another VW Rally, which must be the participation high-point of the Club. All interested amateurs, INCLUDING licensed XYL’s are more than welcome to join the fun. Keep a listen out on the Sunday morning bulletins for details as they develop.

Talking of bulletins, please encourage the new bulletin readers as much as possible, as this can only serve to calm those mic-shy bulletin-reading nerves.

73,

Chris, **ZS2AAW**

More Options for the Eastern Cape Repeater Network

CHRIS SCARR ZS2AAW

With the popularity of the coastal repeater network already well established, further extensions and improvements are always on the cards. Some would like to see the original link from George to Cape Town re-established, on which the EC Network was based.

It is a pity that these two systems never overlapped, from an experimental point of view. How easy it would have been to set up 6m long-distance skeds with ZR's in Cape Town, hey Mike?

However, the rapid deployment of cellular base stations has somewhat hindered the possibilities afforded amateurs as in the past, since land-owners now feel that they can earn good rentals from these companies, and are thus reluctant to allow freebies onto their high-sites.

With these developments counting against us, the link to Cape Town will be a lot more difficult to reinstate, and maintaining the link to George might even prove to be difficult. But we still manage to make improvements wherever possible.

With the VW Rally about to be run, comms are once again in the limelight, with the usual temporary repeater linked to the network a generally accepted feature. But what of the existing local repeaters for those stages held within the municipal areas?

In the feedback after last year's event, it was agreed that if possible, the town 650 and Uitenhage 675

repeaters be linked into the control network on a temporary basis. When the Uitenhage repeater was refurbished because of a change in Landlord, it afforded us the ideal opportunity of installing a UHF link with this repeater, and making it switchable via DTMF, as is the standard on all the other linked repeaters

But a further possibility was to make the UHF link work on two channels – one to look towards the EC repeater network UHF "hub" on Lady's Slipper, and the other channel to look towards PE Town UHF repeater, on 438.650. This repeater could then be used as another separate "hub", which could then be used to link the town VHF 650 repeater, or indeed any other repeater that can receive the UHF signal from the town UHF repeater, to form a separate local network, ideal for special events.

So the UHF link was prepared for Uitenhage, and two channels were installed, one on 438.700, and the other on 438.650 MHz. A DTMF control card was modified to allow selecting the UHF link channel by means of a different digit in the switching code – very similar to the way the Slipper HF autopatch operating frequency is controlled remotely via DTMF.

This has been installed, and is presently being run on soak test, linked to the UHF 650 repeater for the

[TO PAGE 5 →

New Members

We welcome Des Pettit ZS2ABU and Mervyn Akers ZS2F, who have joined ECARES. Glad to have you aboard.

Six Metre Nets

These nets, conducted on Wednesday evenings at 1900, have been quite successful.

Answers to Quiz

1. South African Telecommunications and Electrical Power Supply Authority.
2. National Sea Rescue Institute.
3. 107.
4. *Red* Medical and Fire emergency services.
Blue – SA Police and Traffic Police
Orange Warning of obstructions.
Green Disaster Management control point
5. NEARNET. (National Emergency Alarm

Radio Network).

6. It operates in the 67 MHz band.
7. There are five channels in the 29 MHz band allotted for this purpose.
8. Your first priority is to ensure your own safety and others with you, and this includes your vehicle.
9. Assess the situation and, where immediate action is necessary and you are competent to do so, assist.
10. Contact the emergency services by whatever means at your disposal (hopefully radio) and pass on relevant information. When in doubt as to who to contact, a safe bet is the SAP Services

73

Al Akers ZS2U

Provincial Director,
Hamnet East Cape/ECARES

EC REPEATER NETWORK (from p4)

trial run. Obviously to complete the temporary "special event network", a similar UHF link will need to be installed at the 650 VHF repeater site. Since equipment is available, only the relevant permission is required before this can go ahead also.

Another useful addition to the temporary repeater will be a second channel in its UHF link too. It would be identical in operation to the repeaters described here, which would then allow further diversity in setting up comms for special events, as the temporary repeater could then be linked either to the EC repeater network, or to the "sub network" (provided the temporary repeater is so located that it can see the UHF Town repeater "hub").

A look at the drawing (pp10/11) will show how the two local repeaters will be optionally switched into a linked mode. The idea is to leave these repeaters isolated as per normal, and only link them when required.

In the case of the PE 650 repeater, it may be interesting to leave this connected to the EC repeater network backbone as the local access point, and remove Slipper from the network, to run as a stand-alone "chat" repeater again.

What do you think? The nifty thing about having the two UHF link channel options remotely switchable is that it is simply a case of entering the relevant control codes to reconfigure the system in the PE area according to local needs.

73, and happy hamming.



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE, MILL PARK, PORT ELIZABETH ON FRIDAY, 17 APRIL, 1998

The Chairman Chris ZS2AAW opened the meeting by welcoming the Leighton family from Uitenhage, and Louis ZS2CB from Despatch.

Present & apologies

Attendance as per the register, and apologies tendered for ZS2EHB, ZS2KU, ZS2CNL.

Minutes of previous meeting

Proposed by Fred ZS2JS, seconded by Trevor ZS2AE.

Matters arising

Garth ZS2HB to take the cheque of R1000 for two bricks in the HQ building fund with him to the AGM.

Finance

Our Minister of Finance, Clive ZS2RT, reported that a healthy state of affairs existed.

Correspondence

A wad of interesting advertising material received from Radio Accessories & Data Modems.

General

1. Alex ZR2T needs help in erecting his new mast on Sunday.
2. The two motions received for the PEARS AGM were read out. (Proposed by Garth ZS2HB and seconded by Fred ZS2JS).
3. Motions for the SARL AGM were discussed and members indicated which way they wanted Garth ZS2HB to vote. The meeting was in

favour of both motions.

4. Chris ZS2AAW reported that the Uitenhage repeater has been modified and should be running within 2 weeks.
5. The 2 m beacon is ready to go into service.
6. There will be Intecnet on 25 April at 14:00.
7. Bill ZS2BY had donated some old unwanted equipment, which was going for nothing to any interested party.
8. Neil ZR2NT will arrange a DF hunt for the younger members.
9. Colin ZS2AO will attend to the ailing Wefax this coming week.
10. Viv ZS2VM mentioned that some of the students who were attending the classes at the technical school could not afford the fees for the forthcoming RAE exams. There was a generous response from the floor, and a number of candidates were sponsored.

After the traditional tea break, Viv ZS2VM gave a most interesting talk on his hobby of remote controlled yachts and the meeting closed at 2210.



Instant Printing

FOR ALL YOUR
PRINTING REQUIREMENTS

9 St. Patricks Road, Port Elizabeth 6001

Telephone: (041) 55-2614

Try us for your QSL cards!



PEARS AGM

ANOTHER HAPPY OCCASION

The AGM held on 16 May, was well attended, with members and friends coming from as far afield as East London and Plettenberg Bay. Nearly 60 members and visitors turned up.

Our popular Chairman, Chris Scarr ZS2AAW, was unanimously re-elected to lead the Society for another year. True, Louis Luyt was also *nominated* (proposed by Ken ZS2BWB) but, strangely, a seconder could not be found. Other committee members elected are listed on the back page.

We all forgot at the meeting to express our thanks to Chris and the outgoing Committee for the fabulous job they had done during the past year. Lionel ZS2DD passed a vote of thanks on the Sunday bulletin net but, for the printed record, we again say *Thanks, all of you. PEARS is fortunate to have people like you. We're glad that a nucleus of the 'old' Committee are continuing, but are equally happy to see some new and younger faces doing their thing. It augurs well for the future.*

Both motions on the agenda were adopted, which paves the way for the awarding of honorary life membership to members who have rendered outstanding service to PEARS or Ham Radio in general, and for assisting, in special cases, those members who cannot afford the full annual subscription to PEARS.

Certificates and awards were presented as follows:

Merit Certificates to—

- Ken Tremeer ZS2BWB for organising the successful monthly Wrinkly Ravers' gettogethers;
- Viv Moore ZS2VM for his important involvement with the technical classes and general assistance to fellow hams;
- Gary Laaks ZR2ABU for initiative and excellent job of creating our Web page;
- Chris Scarr ZS2AAW for his outstanding work in extending and

maintaining the renowned East Cape repeater network.

Ou Toppie Certificate to young Pieter Liebenberg ZS2PL recognizing his upcoming 80th birthday.

Achievement Certificate to Bryan Haefele ZS2BH for his perseverance with the use of CW in spite of considerable difficulty.

Trophies, with accompanying certificates, went to the following members—

- ZS2OB DX Trophy – Ken Tremeer ZS2BWB
- VHF Trophy – Alex Gogos ZR2T
- ZS2AB Constructor's Trophy – jointly to Phil Hopper ZS2PP and Ewan Mathieson ZS2EN
- Ham Spirit Trophy – Shawn Corder ZR2SC.


The following **SARL awards** were also conveyed to:

- Alex Gogos ZR2T (Arthur Hemsley VHF Trophy)
- Mike Bosch ZS2FM (J J Pienaar Trophy).

A certificate for the 1997 ZS2AB Constructor's Trophy was presented to Fanie Swiegers ZS2EM since he had received neither the trophy nor a certificate last year.

Garth ZS2HB gave a summary of the events at the SARL AGM held on 2 May, a report on which appears elsewhere in this issue, and Nicolas Thomas ZR2NDT, Chairman of the Newton Amateur Radio Club, reported on the activities of the younger members. Shawn ZR2SC also informed the meeting that more braais were in the pipeline for the 'middle-aged' younger set (that's the unruly 'smoothies' chucked out of NARC and barely tolerated by PEARS). Hope the Wrinklies will also be invited to some of those braais, Shawn.

Ken ZS2BWB expressed the view that we had outgrown the capacity of the Disaster Management Centre used for a meeting place and suggested that it was time for us to look for another venue. Garth ZS2HB referred to a small building within the security area at Telkom's Walmer Park training college and thought we might approach Telkom if it looked suitable on closer inspection.

After the meeting, those present socialized while braaiing and partaking of their handiwork, together with delicious salads and various kinds of bread rolls prepared by our lady experts. A vote of thanks is due to them for their ever-willing contribution to the success of these events. 

NOTICE TO ALL CLUBS

We have been posting QSX-PE every month to all clubs whose addresses we have on record. However, we receive the newsletters of only a handful of other clubs in return.

We realize that some clubs probably do not produce newsletters and we are happy to continue sending QSX-PE to them if they require it. We would be glad, however, if all who *do* produce newsletters would check and, if necessary, place us on *their* mailing list.

THAT WAS THE TITANIC

The Titanic has been topical of late, and Dudley ZS2AW sent us the following details forthcoming from an enquiry at the time of her sinking.


White Star Line's *Titanic*, 48328 tons, left Southampton on her maiden voyage. Five days later the ship sank to the ocean floor, two miles below the surface. It was Sunday, April 14, 1912 at 11.40 pm that she struck an iceberg 100 feet high, ripping a hole 300 feet long in her starboard side. She foundered within three hours.

There were three radio operators. Chief Jack Phillips sent out CQD (come quick danger) then SOS. The German vessel *Frankfurt* heard it but was 153 miles away. Then *Carpathia*, 58 miles away, changed course. The *Californian* was also close but failed to realise the gravity of the situation. Seven other ships were in the vicinity.

1500 lives were lost in the ice cold sea. 700 were saved, nearly all first class passengers. Phillips stayed at his key until water reached his knees and the Captain ordered him to leave. Witnesses said he swam around for a while then quietly sank away.

The radio room was fitted with Marconi rotary spark gap, 1½ KW of raw CW tunable from 150 kHz to 3 MHz on morse only. An emergency plant running 500W from accumulators was also installed.

Ships hearing the distress calls assumed it was a training exercise - *Titanic* was unsinkable and nothing serious could happen to her! Marconi, on hearing the news, was extremely distressed as he felt his apparatus could have done more.

T. Cottam, wireless operator on the *Carpathia*, which handled most of the traffic, died only a few years ago. He was over 90. 

CB TO MULTIBAND HF TRANSVERTER

Part 2

VIV MOORE ZS2VM

Previously in QSX we outlined how the different modules of the transverter are coupled to a standard 27MHz CB radio, to enable multiband operation with a super sensitive rig. The original unit works well and was designed for 3 to 5 Watt QRP use on 80, 40, 20, and 15 meters. With a recently tested linear amplifier we achieved some 15 to 20 watts.

A further option would be to convert the CB radio to 28 MHz and use the set *without* the transverter for 10 meters. If one chooses this route one would of course have to change the mixer crystal frequencies to suit.

THE OSCILLATOR AND LOWPASS FILTER BOARD

As a start, one must decide which bands are to be used as the correct mixer crystal frequencies must be determined. Mixing the operating frequency of the CB set with the frequency of a crystal oscillator, one will arrive at a new frequency which is either the sum of, or the difference between, the two frequencies.

In this transverter we have opted for the *difference* and have selected the crystals accordingly. The *sum* of the two frequencies is excluded by means of a filter tuned for the operating band.

The frequency of channel 1 on all the CB sets is 26.965MHz. The chosen crystal frequencies, therefore, are:

26.965 – xtal freq 23.465 = 3.500 (80M)

26.965 – xtal freq 19.965 = 7.000 (40M)

26.965 – xtal freq 12.965 = 14.00 (20M)

26.965 – xtal freq 5.965 = 21.00 (15M)

If your set is not fitted with a 40 channel switch and only has 9 channels, don't panic, this can be

sorted out by fitting an add-on up-down channel selector with display.

Assembly of the oscillator board is fairly easy, and placing of components is identical for all the oscillators. Start by populating the board, doing one section at a time.

You will note that the board has a copper "groundplane" on the component side and one must remove the copper around the holes where components pass through the board to the tracks below. This can be done by taking a 3 or 4 mm drill in your fingers, inserting it in the hole and giving it a light twist.

Some components have one leg grounded and, where applicable, this must be soldered directly to the copper groundplane. When completed, carefully check your work for correct component placement and good solder joints.

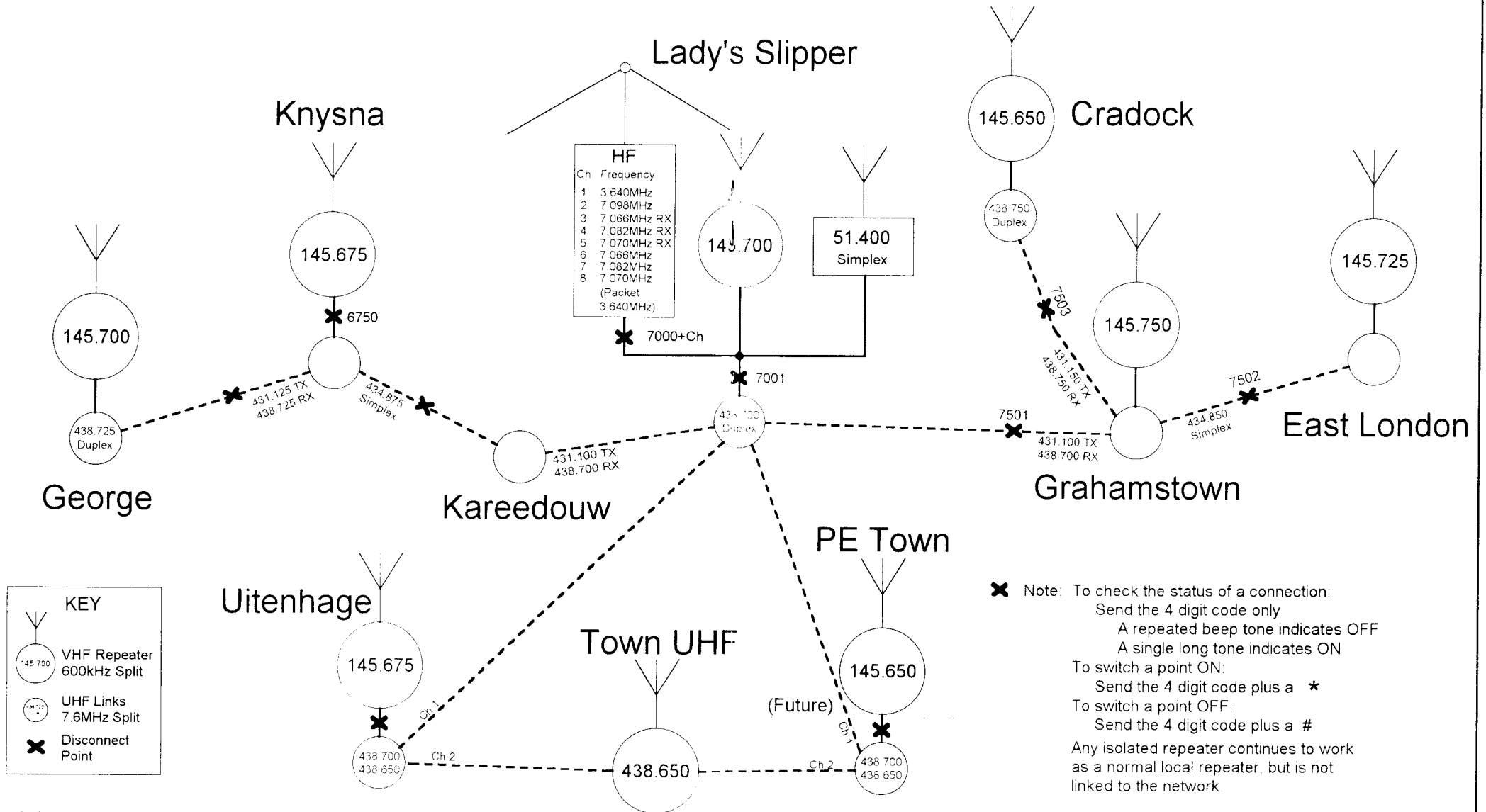
TESTING

The board can be tested by applying 12V individually to each oscillator and connecting the oscillator output to a frequency counter. If you do not have a counter, attach a short length of wire to the output of the oscillator and tune a receiver to the crystal frequency. You should be able to receive a strong signal on each of the crystal frequencies. [TO PAGE 12 ⇒

PE Amateur Radio Society

In conjunction with the Border and Garden Route Radio Clubs

Eastern Cape Linked Repeater Network



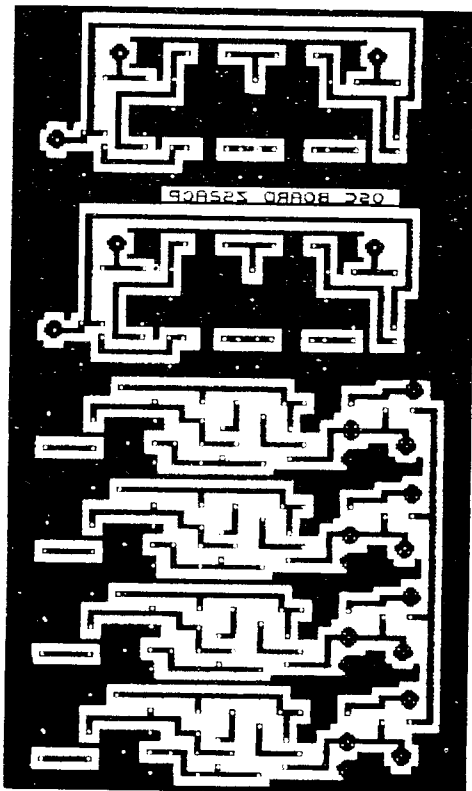
CB TO HF CONVERTOR (from p9)

LOW PASS FILTER

The low pass filters are included on this board and are connected to the output of the linear amplifier on the transverter board. Their purpose is to filter out harmonically related signals that may be generated in the operating circuit of the transverter.

The circuit board measures 90mm x 145mm. It is available from ZR2DH, Des Herselman, at MTS Electronic World, tel (041) 54-2911. 

Figure 1 — Printed circuit board (as if viewed from component side) for the oscillators and low pass filters. It is shown here approximately 70,7% of actual size, i.e. a reduction as from A4 to A5. In fact, the component side is actually covered by a layer of copper which serves as a 'groundplane' (see text).



CURE JAMMED ALUMINIUM TUBES IN BEAMS

GM4UTP @ GB7EDN #77.GBR.EU


Having seen recent discussion on the above subject, here is what I have done when confronted with the above problem over the past twenty years.

The problem is caused by acidic rain running into the tube joints and creating aluminium oxide between the two tubes, expanding and insulating them from one another. The effect is similar to the material insulation one finds in a PYRO supply cable.

PREVENTION is easy – When you first assemble the tubes, coat each tube with COPPEREASE product, then seal the joint either side by first using amalgam tape, then covering with a layer of plastic tape. Do this at each and every joint on the antenna – not forgetting, either, to fit end

caps on the ends of the tubes. (One must keep the water out at all costs). If this is done with a new antenna it will last a lifetime.

For those lazy hams who never assembled their antennas by this method and now find it has gone open circuit, YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES. You either replace the two jammed tubes, or the easy cure is to drill and fit three 1/8th inch pop rivets through the joint of the tubes. This will return the conductivity that is missing due to the buildup of aluminium oxide. But don't forget to tape up the rivets as you would with a joint as above.

Over the past 20 years I have repaired dozens of antennas by this method. 

SARL AGM REPORT

GARTH LAAKS ZS2HB

There was a rather different 'feel' at this, my first AGM under the new SARL Constitution. Most of the usual faces from around the country were not there, while a large number of more local hams who would previously have been mere onlookers, were now sitting as participants.

I must say the venue was not what I expected after the somewhat glowingly appreciative descriptions we had had of the facilities at Sentech. The 'auditorium' was really no more than a hall, and participants had to rest their documents on their laps and make their notes with some awkwardness. My idea of a conference centre is one with a writing surface.

Hopefully, too, when the new SARL building is erected there, signs (*double-sided!*) will be placed at the various turn-offs from the main thoroughfare and further on. I was not the only one to get lost on the AGM morning, in spite of having 'reccied' the route previously!

There were 60 members present at the AGM with 213 proxies (of which I had 21), making a total voting strength of 273. Total SARL membership with voting rights stood at 1622.

President Chris Turner ZS6GM gave an interesting annual report and touched on much of the work done by various councillors during the year. This brought home just what our largely unsung councillors do for us.

The financial report showed a healthy situation at last, and the President reiterated a Council decision that no money would be spent in future until funds were

available. This attitude was reflected in the budget which, although provision was made of necessity for the salary of a second employee at HQ, and in spite of general price increases in all spheres, required only a small increase in the various subscription levels (see PEARStalk for details), leaving an expected credit balance of R30250 for the year.

Motions 1 and 2 (re-establishment of branches) were taken together. These were submitted by Chris Scarr ZS2AAW on behalf of PEARS and Roger Davis ZS1J respectively. They were lost by a large majority.

Many clubs had grown tremendously since they became independent and expected to lose a large number of members if they reverted to branch status. Others just seemed to prefer their independence and it was agreed to leave things as they are for two or three years to see how they go.

After the vote was taken, the President stated that, in his view, the disbanding of branches had been a grave mistake and had led to a serious drop in membership.

Agenda Item 1 (increasing membership) drew much discussion and it was agreed that clubs should do everything they can in the interests of all amateurs to achieve satisfactory growth in League membership.

I asked that reports on the activities of all councillors be given publicity *throughout* the year and not only in the President's annual report so that we may regularly hear more about *all* our councillors rather than just one or

two. This will not only engender a spirit of appreciation of their value but also better equip SARRL members when they are required to vote for councillors at election time.)

Irritation with one or other SARRL personality should not stop one from supporting the League although, significantly, the chairman of one club told me that that was the reason for a large number of his members remaining out of the SARRL and he knew of others in the same position.

Agenda Item 2, (Radio ZS to be included in basic package) could not be acceded to without a subscription hike. The current small profit from ZS might not be repeated and is in any case needed to cover other necessary expenditure.

Agenda Item 3 (SARRL to provide clubs with news) The SARRL felt that its web site and bulletins on packet radio provide information that can be used in club newsletters and bulletins. A member (Bud ZS1B?) asked that packet be used more extensively by the SARRL because our hobby is, after all, *radio*. This brought 'hear hears'.

Agenda Item 4 (confine spending on new building) Since Chris Turner had already stated that Council will not spend what they don't have, it remained only for me to suggest that, until there is a decided upturn in membership, it might be prudent to delay sinking our whole building fund on a building on another party's property.

Chris and others maintained that the League *will* grow, although I reminded them that they had said that for the last three years. Colin de Villiers displayed a graph showing the serious downward trend over the last few years. It was again stressed that


an all-out effort is needed to increase membership.

Agenda Item 5 (Councillors to reside in Gauteng). Chris immediately knocked the proposal, saying that we would lose four current councillors who live in Durban. He felt that other regions should try to provide councillors to represent them. No other views were expressed and members decided to leave the status quo.

Agenda Item 6 (Enforced membership) I suggested that some 4000 disgruntled hams, forced to pay up against their will as members, could create havoc even to the extent of passing a motion to disband the SARRL. Unfortunately this fell on deaf ears and it was decided that HQ should appoint a committee to go into the pros and cons and report back in four months' time.

Agenda Item 7 (RAE dates) Chris said the SARRL is working towards the concept of examinations on demand, in terms of which the RAE would be set for a minimum of ten candidates at any time of the year.

My thanks to the Club for authorizing me to speak on its behalf. Although PEARS, as an affiliated member, had no actual vote at the AGM, it was good to have the Club's mandate. Our motions were lost, but our intention that membership must be increased was strongly supported and tended to permeate most of the discussions.

PEARS received a well-earned boost when the President referred to it as a progressive and successful club, and our linked repeater system also drew favourable comments in some of the discussions. Even QSX got an unexpected compliment at one of the forums... see PEARStalk. 

7 CARSTALK

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Are you one of the 96 members who remembered to let the Treasurer have their subs for our new financial year? If not, you may not even receive *this* copy of QSX. Considering the cost of producing and posting the Newsletter, the Club unfortunately *has* to remove from the distribution list the names of all who have not renewed their subs.

It's R50 for full membership and R30 each for family and student members.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN

Gary ZR2LG says a heartfelt "thanks" to all who stood by on the 2m link to offer help if necessary while fires were raging through his area, threatening lives and property, during April. Fortunately his property was spared.

VW RALLY IN JULY

The VW Algoa Rally is scheduled to take place on 17-18 July. The area has yet to be determined. The usual gang – and hopefully many newcomers – will doubtless be rarin' to go to help with communications, a job our members do well every year.

You will hear more details in due course, especially via bulletins but also on the 2m repeater system. However, now is the time to get your mobile equipment spruced up. Remember, good antennas are essential.

NOTED HAM DIES

Long time friend of Amateur Radio, K7UGA, Senator Barry Goldwater, passed away in Phoenix at the end of May at the age of 89. He was the Republican candidate for president in

1964, running against Lyndon Johnson. He retired from the senate 12 years ago.

Barry was a big help to AMSAT in various spheres and, with his public statements, supported Amateur Radio in general.

He was responsible at the US end for getting the reciprocal agreement between South Africa and the US introduced.

SHAWN HELPS SCHOOL

As part of his ongoing outreach program to entice the younger set into amateur radio, Shawn ZR2SC has donated a computer to the Newton Park Technical High School. It is intended for use for packet radio, wefax reception and other amateur radio purposes. Transmissions will be under the control of an appropriately licensed operator.

Viv ZS2VM has scrounged a suitable receiver and a wefax modem from Vic Olivier ZS2SZ for them.

SARL GETS SEVEN NEW COUNCILLORS

At the SARL AGM on 2 May, seven new councillors were elected: Bill Norval ZS5KD, Hans Potgieter ZS6ALJ, Gys van Rietveld ZS6GYS, Michelle van der Merwe ZS6TO, Andre de Villiers ZR6AN, John Fielding ZS5JF and Kobus Botha ZS6KOB.

At a short meeting of Councillors immediately after the AGM, they re-elected Chris Turner ZS6GM as President, and Michelle van der Merwe accepted the position of Secretary. Mike Goldstein ZS6MWG was app-

ointed honorary legal adviser.

We congratulate all on their election and wish them well in their labours in the interests of Amateur Radio.

Michelle, incidentally, is the first lady councillor since the days when HQ was located in Cape Town and the ever-popular *Annie* van der Merwe and her OM Koos served for many years on Council. They have something else in common too – Michelle's OM is also Koos! [Aren't they *all*?—Ed.]

QXS SAYS THANKS

It is appropriate, with another PEARS year having ended, to thank all those who contributed towards the success of QXS during the past year. We are fortunate to have a good deal of happenings to report on, and to regularly receive articles to fill our pages. We don't even have to nag the regular feature authors too much to furnish their copy timeously.

Then, also, we have Trevor, Julie and Lionel taking care of the drudgery part of producing a newsletter – collating, folding, labelling and posting. And our printers, Instant Printing, always give us a quick turnaround time.

Perhaps it's not surprising that, during the seminar on 'Growing your Club' held after the SARL AGM, a speaker from Boland expressed the view that QXS was the best club newsletter in the country!

So take a bow, all of you – thanks for a great job, done in your usual quiet way, just for the fun of it, without fanfare!

SMALL INCREASE IN SARL SUBS

The budget accepted at the SARL AGM included a small increase in subscriptions for all categories of membership: full membership as well

as club affiliation fees rise by R10 to R115, while other categories go up by R5, i.e. Senior and Incapacitated classes pay R75, Spouse R35 and Student R50.

Radio ZS now costs R65 for six issues (up by R⁵), while for QSL facilities you will pay R30 for 1-1000 cards, R85 for 1000-3000 cards and thereafter R60 per 1000 cards.

The budget was very well presented and expenditure held to a minimum in spite of the fact that provision was also made for an assistant to the General Manager. Len, incidentally, is officially on half-day duties, having taken a commensurate cut in salary to help get the SARL back into the black, yet he continues to provide virtually full-time service.

His XYL Marcia also quietly puts in many hours of voluntary service, especially running the QSL Bureau. Full-time assistance of a clerk is essential if the League is to provide the kind of service that members demand and rightly expect.

A vote of thanks is due to Len and Marcia for their efforts 'above the call of duty' and for putting up with the inconvenience of accommodating the League in their home, with attendant disturbances such as frequent knocks at the front door and an incessantly ringing telephone.

We must also thank Council for getting the financial situation back on an even keel and their commitment to 'not spending it if we don't have it'. Colin de Villiers ZS6COL seems to have had a big hand in the upturn and it is a pity that he was not able to stand for Council again. Hopefully there is a worthy replacement for him in the new Council.

ARE YOU A LEAGUE MEMBER?

We hear a lot about the need to protect our frequency spectrum from the commercial sector. Perhaps the frequent repetition is actually counter-productive, generating a suspicion of a hidden agenda, but the danger is very real and Council spends a lot of time protecting our spectrum.

Not only that, but they also get involved in many other matters to ensure our continued enjoyment of our hobby. To name just a few:

- securing the adoption of regulations to control the manufacture and supply of equipment that might be susceptible to interference from RF sources;
- negotiating an agreement with Sentech regarding the use of all their sites for amateur repeaters.
- fighting municipalities regarding unacceptable restrictions on amateur antenna systems;
- conveying our wishes and sentiments to the International Amateur Radio Union and, through them and our own authorities, to the International Telecommunications Union.

Every ham benefits from the protective activities, but running the League obviously costs money. If you are not a member but can afford it, you really should consider supporting the League by joining.

If finance is *not* the problem, why not write to the SARL or us, explaining

what is stopping you from joining? You may remain anonymous if you wish, but let us try to get down to the reasons for the serious drop in membership. Presented with the facts, perhaps the League will be able to do something.

WEFAX TRANSMITTER BACK ON AIR

Thanks to Colin ZS2AO for restoring our Wefax retransmission at the Museum, which had been off the air for a while due to the antenna mast coming down. Circumstances at his saltmine preclude Colin's running to fix problems in non-museum equipment at the drop of a hat, and he has to fit it in as best he can, hence the occasional delay in restoring Wefax problems.

2 METRE BEACON BACK TOO

The 2 metre beacon is back on the air on 144.410 MHz, with the CW ID V V ZS2VHF KF25UX.

The ERP is in excess of 160 Watts from a 5 element Yagi located on top of the UPE tower block, using the same mast as the ZS2SIX 6 Metre beacon antenna.

Thanks go to ZS2AAW Chris, ZS2DD Lionel, ZS2U Al, ZR2T Alex and ZS2FM Mike for refurbishing the station.

Mike would appreciate reports. Please contact him at telephone (041) 51-2425 or Cell 082 654 0623. 

FOR SALE * WANTED * SWOP

WANTED

* Two Metre FM mobile transceiver – Al Akers, ZS2U, Tel. 360-2983

Condolences—We have learned with regret of the demise of five hams who were known to many, if not most, PEARS members **Ron Herman ZS2R** passed away on 26 April, **Brian Peckham ZS2BP** of Grahamstown on 26 May, **Pieter van Niekerk ZS2OQ** (East London) on 22 May, **Wally Rivers ZS2ELL** (East London) during the night of 5/6 June and **Stan French ZS1YD** (Cape Town, formerly Plettenberg Bay), also very recently.

We extend our condolences to the wives and families of these ham friends, all of whom made their mark on the ham radio scene in one way or another.

Congratulations...

on your birthdays:

June

- 18 Ossie Osborne ZS1KP
- 20 Evadne Pearse XYL of Haydn
- 27 Robert Pokorny ZS2ABJ
- 28 Pieter Liebenberg ZS2PL (80th!)**
- 28 Ken Tremeer ZS2BWB

July

- 3 Julie Scarr ZR2EY
- 5 Petrus de Jongh ZS2NQ

- 7 Jim van Loggerenberg ZS2LR
- 9 Lambert le Doux ZS2LL
- 11 Isaac Greeff ZS2ZG
- 12 Keith Fensham ZR2KF
- 14 Alex Gogos ZR2T
- 16 Selwyn Staples ZS6SS
- 17 Elsa Schilder XYL of ZR2ABE
- 19 Arthur Baynes ZR2ARB
- 19 Bill Browne ZS2BY

on your anniversaries:

June

- 24 Blanka & Vic Batt ZR2BBH
- 24 Ali & Ewan Mathieson ZS2EN
- 26 Mandy & John Masters ZS2AAN

July

- 4 Marge ZS2OB & Brian ZS2AB

- 7 Joan & David Grünewald
ZS2DCG
- 12 Julia & Bill Atteridge ZS2V
- 12 Joan & George Bowes ZS2QN


on your new callsign Attie Barnard, ex ZR2DY, now ZS2Q.

on your new car Johannes Pieterse, ZR2JLP, who is running around in a beautiful, brand new, red BMW Z3 Roadster, which cost him around R5 – yes, *five rand!* He merely had to send in two chocolate wrappers in a competition, and he came out tops. Or topless, if he prefers.



Sick list: Several, not so lucky with *their* gift – the latest model flu virus.

Welcome new members: Ossie Osborne ZS1KP (Cape Town); Theunis Potgieter ZR2TP; Danie Pretorius ZS2CX and Ralph Hall ZS2IV. Hope you'll enjoy your stay with us.

Welcome also to Carol, cause of Dick ZS2RS's frequent visits to the UK. Carol will be here until 29 July. 

Your Society's Committee

Chairman, Repeaters, Packet	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	38-1344
Vice Chairman, Social, Special Events	Dick Schönborn ZS2RS	38-5070
Secretary, Repeaters, Packet	Jacques van der Heide ZR2JH	73-3728
Treasurer, Assets Control	Clive Fife ZS2RT	32-3203
Awards, Refreshments, QSX collation	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	51-2580
QSX Editor	Garth Laaks ZS2HB	38-1101
Assisting QSX collation distribution	Trevor Scarr ZS2AE	32-1746
Technical Classes, Social	Shawn Corder ZR2SC	360-7369
Librarian	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	# 43 1,050/438,650	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 can also be linked as required. † These are privately owned repeaters and are not included in the PEARS linked repeater system.

OTHER SERVICES

Packet Bulletin Board (ZSONTP)	144,625
Packet Rose Switch ZSOGHI-3,046101 (144,675 in/out) or 046102 (UHF out to BBS)	144,675
2m Beacon (ZS2VHF CW ID) (horizontally polarized, 160W ERP)	144,410
6m Beacon (ZS2SIX CW ID) (horizontally polarized, 25W ERP)	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 SARI English transmission, i.e. at about 08:15 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 SARI'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 Repeater link
21 June	ZS2ABZ
28	ZR2SC
5 July	ZS2HB
12	ZS2AAW
19	ZS2RS
26	ZR2JH

DIARY DATES
JUNE
19 PEARS Monthly Meeting
25 Technical evening
JULY
5 Wrinkly Ravers luncheon
19 Prov. 2M QSO Party
(according to RADIO ZS)

★ We Like Being Your Society! ★