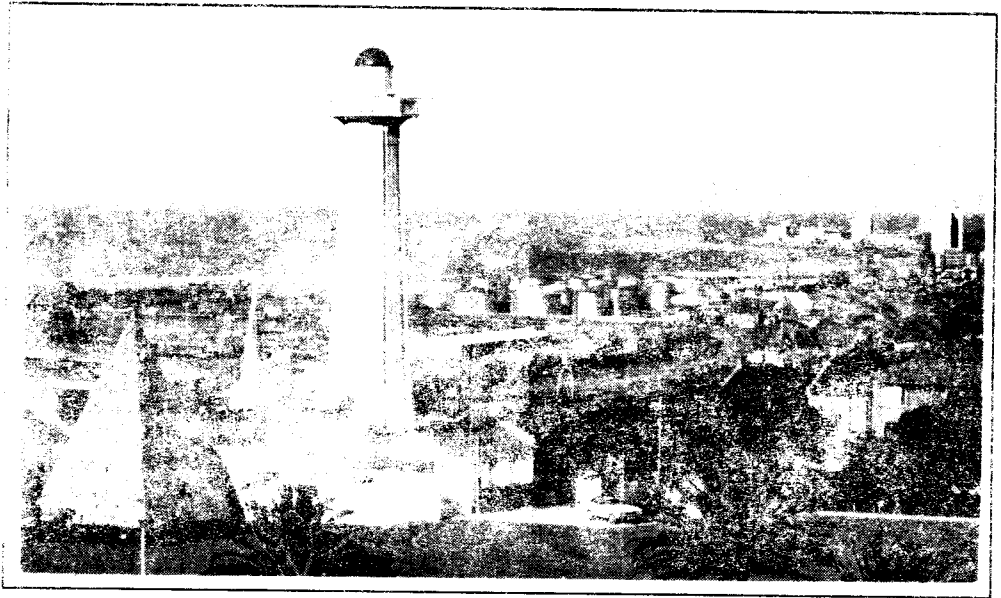


Q S X  
P E



THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE  
PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 10402  
LINTON GRANGE  
6015

**January 1999**

## NOTICE OF MEETING

The monthly general meeting of the **PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** will be held on **Friday, 15 January 1999** commencing at 20:00 (8pm) in the Municipal Disaster Management Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park, Port Elizabeth (Civil Defence Centre).

Tea, coffee and munchies will be put in place by OM Bill ZS2ABZ and a contribution in the bowl provided will broker you a cuppa and a biscuit or two.

## Wrinkly Ravers

The second rave of the new year will be held at the usual venue, the Zwartkops Yacht Clubhouse, on 4 February. Roll up from about 12 noon.

Hopefully we will have a good turnout and get back into our stride after the strains that Christmas and the Season put on one's pocket and feeble frame.

Hopefully, too, the get-together at the Bushman's River QTH of Julie and Trevor Scarr was the usual huge PEARS success. This issue of QSX will be with the printers as the event takes place, so we can not report on it yet.

## PEARS VHF/UHF CONTEST

Don't forget the VHF/UHF contest that takes place during the weekend of 16/17 January. The event is sponsored by PEARS and it is hoped that it will put the fun back into this kind of contest, with equal opportunities for all participants.

The rules appeared in last month's QSX. A fuller version, including some comments by the originator of the contest, Mike Bosch ZS2FM, can be found on the PEARS web site: [pears.8m.com](http://pears.8m.com).



**Happy  
New Year  
to you all!**



# *A Word From the Chair*



**G**reetings from a relaxed Bushmans River Mouth!

I am making use of amateur radio technology to send this text through to our QSX editor in PE, via packet and the Grahamstown Rose Switch. I recall trying a similar thing last year, only to be let down by the system as the Grahamstown Rose switch went off the air just when needed. However I am hoping Murphy is on vacation in Plett this year too!

My first duty is to wish all PEARS members and their families a healthy, peaceful and blessed new year. May your SWR always be better than 1.2:1! And may those that travelled away on vacation return home safely. I also wish the visitors to our lovely coastline a safe trip home.

Our year gets off to a quick start with the VHF/UHF Contest in a week or so's time. I must convey the committee's appreciation for a job well done to Mike, ZS2FM, who has organised and promoted the event. A great opportunity to chalk up some VHF simplex DX contacts. Let's hear you on the air, even if it is only to generate points for other competitors.

Our Western Cape counterparts are hoping to have the Riversdale link and repeater installed by the end of January, so we can look forward to the long awaited PE-CT link being operational soon. I propose that once operational, it be connected through for maybe one day a week, and for any other special occasions. I wait with interest to see what quality audio emerges at the far ends, with so many links in tandem...

The next big event is the Grahamstown Science and Technology Week, happening in March. We as a club hope to promote Amateur Radio with various displays at the stall we have booked. All assistance will be appreciated. Neil, ZR2NT has indicated willingness to construct the stand hardware, and some of the permanent loafers club have volunteered their manning abilities. I hope this first club attempt works out well.

So from the chair, many thanks for your support, and let's get radio-active!

73,

*Chris* ZS2AAW

**H**ERE WE ARE IN A NEW YEAR. Let us hope that all goes well not only for our emergency service but generally.

We wish a warm welcome to John ZS2J, Jim ZR2JRD and Jim ZR2JRF, who have joined ECARES. It is good to see the steady growth in membership, which now stands at 44.

Thanks to the PRC77's which we recently acquired, we now have the following members in the PE area with either TR71's (A44) or PRC77's to monitor on six metres (52,950 MHz); ZR2BC, ZR2BLK, ZR2JRD, ZR2JRF, ZR2NT, ZR2NDT, ZR2T, ZS2ABU, ZS2BH, ZS2C, ZS2F, ZS2FM, ZS2IC, ZS2OC, ZS2PF, ZS2U, ZS2VM and ZS2W.

As a result, too, the nets on Wednesday evenings at 2000 have more participants.

It is also good to have six metres coupled onto the two metre linked

repeaters at the Lady's Slipper repeater. The frequency is 51,400 MHz simplex.

It is not yet permanently connected into the network as there is too much interference which triggers the repeaters on frequently. It can be switched on with a DTMF unit, 7006\* and off again with 7006#.

As soon as a filter is obtained and installed, six metres will be permanently connected into the network.

A big thanks goes to Ken ZS2OC who supplied the antenna and to Chris ZS2AAW who did the installation.

73,

Al ZS2U

Provincial Director,  
Hamnet East Cape/ECARES

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### **Sign in a Yugoslavian hotel:**

The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.

### **In a Japanese hotel:**

You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

### **In an Austrian hotel catering for skiers:**

Not to perambulate the corridors in the hours of repose in the boots of ascension.

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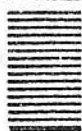
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# Meet Al Akers, ZS2U

Last month, under the title *Who's Who in the Zoo*, we printed a photo of Shawn Corder doing his thing in a tree, demonstrating the art of absailing. Below that was a laterally advantaged picture of Al Akers ZS2U, who you were asked to identify. Guess you had no difficulty with that. But for the record, we place the original pic of Al alongside here somewhere.

We asked Al some time ago for a bit of personal background history relative to the ham radio scene, and this article gives us a rundown.



•• I got interested in radio and built my first receiver at age 15 in 1945. I discovered amateur radio by accident in late 1945 or early 1946 when tuning around on my dad's 1934 vintage HMV table model radio and I heard Wally White ZS2CR, who stayed about 200 metres from me.

The bug had bitten and I later heard more and more stations on what I later discovered was the 40M band. I had been interested in the morse code since I was 14 years old, but now started to copy CW stations on 40M with the vintage HMV, to which I had added a BFO. As my speed improved I migrated to 20M and DX stations.

Round this time I met Pop Britton, who had been a first class signal instructor in the first world war and used to send beautiful CW. He got me to join the PE Branch of the League in February 1948. We used to practice morse together and, through my encouragement, he got his licence not long after I got mine.

While champing at the bit to get my licence (those days you had to be 18), I became interested in logging different countries. By the time I got my licence, 2 December 1948, on my dad's birthday, I had logged about 96 countries.

My first station I contacted – you guessed it – was Wally ZS2CR. On 29 December I worked my first DX station W1CUX in the USA. I worked all continents by April 1949 and worked DXCC by January or February 1951.

Though not a certificate hunter, I was interested in and got Worked All Zones,

Worked All States, All Africa Award and Worked All Europe. I also wanted to reach that difficult 300 country mark and now have 305 total.



Al Akers, ZS2U

My great interest right from the start was antennas and you name it, I have probably built it, except for exotic ones like Beverage antennas and the like.

Up to 1977 I had always built my own transmitters. After about two years on the air I built my own double conversion superhet and later a triple conversion receiver.

Having never been a high power operator, by far most of my contacts have been made with output powers of 50 watts or less.

In late 1976 I came on two metres and this opened up new avenues for antenna experimentation. Here you can build antennas which you can only dream about on HF.

I have derived much pleasure and benefit from amateur radio and have tried to put back something into the hobby by promoting it in various ways. I gave classes for the RAE since 1973 and helped members with the morse code. I was instrumental in the formation of the Algoa Radio Club, later the Algoa Branch and have been involved with Hamnet since about 1980. I have also written a number of articles for Radio ZS and QSX and was involved with the production of QUA, the Algoa Branch newsletter.

I have also operated several DXpeditions to the Ciskei, mainly to provide a new prefix to prefix hunters. ☐

# 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 20 NOVEMBER 1998

**Present & Apologies :** 16 members as per the register plus one visitor.

**Opening :** The Chairman, Chris ZS2AAW, welcomed all present, especially our visitor Rob Chandler from the PE Traffic Department.

Chris handed over the floor to Rob, who gave an interesting talk, interspersed with humorous anecdotes, on the configuration and operation of the Traffic Department's radio system, touching also on their speed checking equipment.

Refreshments were then taken before business was resumed.

**Minutes of the previous meeting :** Acceptance proposed by Dick ZS2RS, seconded by Peter Lunow ZR2PEL.

## **Matters arising:**

– Science Fair – Dick reported that a banner to replace our obsolete SARL one is being made.

– Duplexers – Chris reported that a Division 1 operator had acquired a number of duplexers. Chris had asked him to reserve two or three duplexers for us and will try to twist his arm for more.

The duplexers constructed by Wolf had been installed at Grahamstown and were working well.

**Finance :** Clive ZS2RT reported that our savings and investment accounts were healthy. It was mentioned that the interest received helps to finance ongoing expenditure such as repeater/digipeater equipment, licences, QSX, social occasions etc. that might otherwise necessitate periodic subscription increases.

**Correspondence:** None except newsletters from other clubs.

## **General:**

– Raphey ZS2SP commented that he found the latest issue of RADIO ZS very interesting.

– Linking Cape Town to our repeater system – Chris said this project was proceeding apace. The equipment needed at Riversdale was expected to be installed by the Cape Tonians during December to couple their existing Jonaskop-Cape Town link to our system.

– Chris planned to re-install the 6 metre link into the 2 metre system on Slipper the following day and was going to Cradock the following week to install equipment to enable the 2 metre repeater there to be linked into our system.

– An electricity meter had now been installed on Lady's Slipper to replace the one that was destroyed in the fire on the mountain a while ago.

– Proposed new Radio Regulations by SARL: A round-table discussion would be held after the upcoming bulletin, followed by a meeting of concerned members on Tuesday evening.

– Bill Browne ZS2BY donated a number of magazines for the library or disposal to anyone who may find them of some use.

**Closure:** The meeting closed at 21H45.



# What's in a Grid Square?

By Bruce Paige, KK5DO, AMSAT Area Coordinator  
[and thanks to Shawn ZR1EV, Grid Loc JF96ic]

**M**AIDENHEAD GRID SQUARES: what are they and where do they come from?

Have you ever worked a satellite or sideband contact and the operator says "I'm in EL29hk"? I know where Houston is and I know where New York is. But where is EL29hk? Where do those funny letter and number combinations come from?

At a conference in Maidenhead, England many years ago an international group decided this type of coordinate system would be used because the older QRA locator system could have a duplicate location outside Europe.

Maidenhead grid squares, or simply *grid squares*, represent a position on the earth based on latitude and longitude. The world is first divided into

$18 \times 18 = 324$  large areas, called *fields*. These fields cover 10 degrees of latitude (starting at the South Pole, i.e.  $90^{\circ}\text{S}$ ) by 20 degrees of longitude starting from  $180^{\circ}$  West.

Each field is divided into 100 squares. This is where the name grid squares comes from. Each of these 100 squares represents 1 degree latitude by 2 degrees longitude. This gets us the EL29, which is the level that most people will exchange and also what is used for awards such as the VHF UHF Century Club award.

The two letters that follow a grid

square further define your location within that square by dividing each square into a sub-square. These sub-squares,  $24 \times 24 = 576$  of them, are 5 minutes by 2.5 minutes. If I remember my high school math, 1 minute of latitude is equal to 1 mile.

It is more difficult to calculate longitude, since 1 minute of longitude *at the equator* is equal to 1 mile but it decreases as it goes towards the poles. But each sub square near the equator, such as EL29hk is equal to about 5 miles by 2.5 miles. And the grid square EL29 is equal to roughly 120 miles by 60 miles.

So, as you can see, one grid square covers a large area. In fact, you will almost find everyone in New Jersey that you work is in FN20. It seems that is one of the most densely populated areas of the country for Hams that operate satellite.

So, now that you know where these numbers come from, how do you find out what yours is?

I live about 2 miles from an airport. I called the FAA and asked them for the latitude, longitude and elevation of the airport. They looked it up in a book and gave me those numbers.

Then, I loaded the values into my Instant Track program under station information. Instant Track did some calculation and showed me, on the screen, my grid locator.

The PE Amateur Radio Society offers a fine certificate - the QRP20 Award - to stations that provide proof of having worked at least 20 Maidenhead Locator grid squares using a maximum of five watts

Instant Track needed this information so that it could tell me what direction to point my antennas so I could work a satellite. It also tells me when that satellite will rise and fall at my location.

But, what if you have just worked a station, got the QSL card and there is no mention of a grid square? You worked him and you have earned credit for that grid square.

There are several programs that you can get from packet or a bbs. They are GRID.COM, GRID.ZIP, GRIDLOC.ZIP and GRIDX.BAS. All of these programs do basically the same thing, the authors just have different whistles and bells. They allow you to input a latitude and longitude and out comes the magical grid square. You can also go the other way, input the grid square and out comes the latitude and longitude.


So, your next question is simple. Where do I get the latitude and longitude of the station I worked? That is not too difficult in the U.S. I use a program called MAP EXPERT by Delorme. You can also use AUTOMAP by Automap. When you

enter the name of the particular city, the latitude and longitude is displayed for you. You can locate any place in the U.S. in no time at all.

For foreign stations, you will have to look in an atlas and figure it out. And finally, the ARRL publishes a World Grid Locator Atlas. This is great if you know a major city near where the station says he lives. Sometimes you get a city that is tiny and will not appear on all maps.

Of course, the best thing is to get into the practice of saying "I'm located in EL29, what is your grid square?" Almost everyone on satellite knows theirs. I say *almost* everyone, because I have worked some people that never bothered to look at the Instant Track screen and no one ever asked them for their grid square before.

So, there you have it. My grid square is EL29hk.

I have worked stations in 193 different grid squares that I have confirmed so far. As you work more stations on satellite, keep track of your grid squares and in no time at all, you will have your first 100 and earn your VUCC award. 

---

All together now...

Ø1, 1Ø, 11, 1ØØ

SHARED WITH US BY SANey ZR1S

In binary language, ØØ is none,  
which cannot be said to be new.  
Nor is it novel that Ø1 is one,  
but in binary, 1Ø is two!

If you ponder and strive, perhaps  
you'll contrive  
a matrix from which you will see,  
that 1Ø1 stands for the numeral five,  
while the simple 11 equals three.

Computers, of course, speak binary  
perforce,  
though we mortals the language  
abhor:  
we'd sooner endorse the numerical  
morse,  
but *we're* not who the language is  
1ØØ.

— Francis Cartier



# RAZORBLADE RECEIVER

BRYAN MARSHALL, ZS1NQ

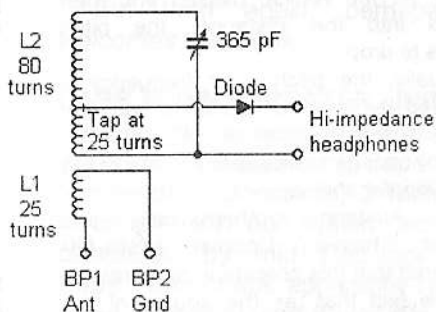
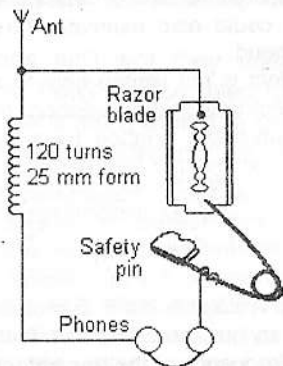
**T**HIS LITTLE RX WAS KNOWN AS THE FOXHOLE RADIO and was used during the \*last world war. It was very popular with POW's and front-line troops.

A station was found by moving the point of the safety pin, anchored at one end, over the opposite end of the razorblade from where the latter was connected to the coil and the antenna.

The phones were inserted between the pin and the grounded side of the coil. Better results were found by replacing the pin with a pencil lead.

The following diagrams illustrate the difference between the Pin-and-Razorblade radio and the conventional crystal set.

*\*Bryan means WW2, but who says that was the last world war?—Ed*



□ Appropriate passages from the Bible were frequently used in ship-to-ship naval communications. On one occasion a corvette signalled the C-in-C in Plymouth: "ROMAN EMPEROR IN TOW. BADLY DAMAGED. PLEASE SEND TUGS".

From Plymouth the admiral replied: "REVELATIONS CHAPTER 3 VERSE 11".

Looking this up in his Bible, the corvette captain found the following: "Behold I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."

**FOR SALE \* WANTED \* SWOP**

## WANTED

\* Bencher paddle (morse keyer paddle) — Bryan Haefele ZS2BH, tel. [041] 35-4100.

\* Valves 6SQ7, 5879, 6V6 or equivalents, needed for restoration project — Martin Layton ZS2ML, tel. [041] 966-2298 or 992-1206.

# DOPPLER SHIFT

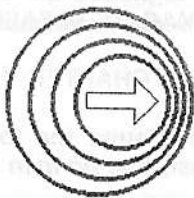
One often hears references to *Doppler shift*, especially in regard to the frequencies of transmitters aboard satellites. But just what is this Doppler shift?

You have often heard the effect with racing car exhaust and engine noises or, more often, when an ambulance rushes along the street with siren blaring. You have noticed how the pitch of the noise changes as the vehicle races towards and then away from you. As it approaches, the ambulance's siren seems to be high pitched. As the vehicle passes and then recedes into the distance, the pitch appears to drop.

Actually, the pitch – or frequency – generated by the siren remains constant as the vehicle rushes on its way. The apparent change in frequency is the result of the *Doppler shift*.

The Austrian mathematician and physicist Christian Doppler (1805-53) discovered that this change in pitch results from the fact that, as the source of the sound travels towards you, the sound waves are compressed relative to you, i.e. each wave front reaches your ear sooner than it would if the source was standing

Wave fronts  
expanding



Wave fronts  
compressing

still. The intervals between sound waves reaching you diminishes, and your ear interprets the higher incidence of waves as an *increase in frequency*.

When the source is travelling away from you, the interval between sound waves is *expanded* relative to you, i.e. each wave reaches you a little *later* than it would had the source been static – the interval between waves grows longer.

Again, your ear interprets this as a *decrease* in frequency.

The direction of change in pitch of the siren (higher or lower) tells you whether the ambulance is coming nearer or receding. If you

could measure the *rate of change* of the pitch, you could also estimate the ambulance's speed.

The effect is not limited only to *sound* waves. Electromagnetic radiation (e.g. a radio transmission) emitted by a moving object also exhibits the Doppler effect. The waves from a signal transmitted by an object moving toward a listener are squeezed and the frequency consequently appears to increase. For this reason, when tuning in to a satellite as it approaches, it is necessary to tune *higher* than the published frequency of the transmitter.

As may be expected, the signal from an object moving away is *stretched* and you need to tune *lower* as the satellite recedes. When it is directly overhead, the receiver frequency will correspond with that of the transmitter.

The actual frequency radiated by the transmitter also has a bearing on the degree of shift that will be encountered. So it is that, on 2 metres FM, one can usually get away with tuning to the nearest 5 kHz step on a channelized receiver. On higher bands, however, the shift may be too great for satisfactory communication unless the receiver frequency is continuously variable, i.e. it can also be tuned *between* channels.

Even on 2 metres the amount of Doppler shift from a satellite requires continuous tuning of the receiver when SSB is used.



Christian Doppler

# PEARSTALK

## RAE RESULTS DELAYED

According to an SARL bulletin, due to the 'unavailability' of the moderator – presumably the SATRA chappie is on holiday – it would not be possible to announce the RAE results before some time in January. Moreover, because SATRA's computer has been occupied with printing out licence renewal reminders, they would not be able to issue new licences for the time being.

Fings ain't wot they used ter be. The old PMG's office used to see that there were more than just one person capable of marking papers, and there seems to be no excuse for printing licence reminders so late in the year. It could surely have been started much earlier.

Plans are afoot for the RAE to be written almost on demand at any time during the year, subject to certain minimum criteria. This would alleviate year-end pressure on SATRA.

## CRADOCK REPEATER COVERAGE

Travellers north of Cradock report good coverage of the newly-linked repeater as far away as Middelburg and Steynsburg.

Once the Cradock chaps discovered that the link was through, they were heard chatting happily to people along the eastern seaboard.

Before the holiday-makers arrived for the Christmas season, Chris ZS2AAW and members of the Repeater Working Group travelled many kilometres and put in many long hours getting Cradock on stream and shaking the bugs out of the

Grahamstown and Knysna repeaters. As a result, our expanding linked repeater system has continued to draw complimentary comments from visitors – well-deserved feathers in the caps of Chris and the working group wallahs.

And don't forget XYL Vanessa ZR2VM, who has to forego the company of OM Chris while he is out playing 'repeater, repeater'.

But then again, perhaps she *welcomes* the break.

## CAPE TOWN REPEATER LINK

Although it was hoped that the extension of the existing Cape Town-Swellendam (Jonaskop) 2 Metre link to couple with our system would be completed by mid December, the Cape Town chaps apparently ran into some difficulties and it was not to be. But listen to bulletins and watch this space for further news.

## A.R. MIRROR QSYs

The Sentech transmissions of the SARL's Amateur Radio Mirror International programme, which goes on the air every Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, have been moved from the 41 and 19 metre bands to the 31 and 13 metre bands respectively. The new frequencies are 9750 and 21530 kHz. The broadcasts are, of course, on AM.

The amateur band SSB relay by Louis, ZS5LP, continues as usual on 7082 kHz.

## ZS1B VISITS ANTARCTIC

Old friend Bud ZS1B has been cavorting around the South Atlantic

and was last heard operating from the supply ship on bay ice in the Antarctic, using the call sign ZS7B. He will be there until 15 January. If memory serves us well, he visited Tristan recently too.

### **MIR ON SSTV**

For the first time, live SSTV images have been transmitted from the Russian MIR space station. Several amateurs reported copying the images from space on 2 meters, but plans call for the SSTV transmissions to move to a 70-cm frequency that has been coordinated for that purpose.

ROMIR was transmitting SSTV on some passes and packet on others on 145.985 MHz. Pictures transmitted on 14 and 16 December showed one of the solar panels and part of what appeared to be the lower outline of the spacecraft.

Neither of the cosmonauts aboard MIR during the current tour of duty is a licensed amateur. The system operates in automatic mode and can display a new image every two minutes.

A 70-cm frequency, 437.975 MHz, for the SSTV project has been agreed upon with AMSAT. The 2-metre 145.985 MHz frequency is coordinated for FM voice and packet use. The SSTV facility was expected to move to 70 cm on or before 1 January.

### **LICENCE RENEWALS DUE**

Licence renewal reminders have been posted by SATRA. If you do not receive yours by the end of January you should make enquiries about it. SARL bulletins will no doubt address this matter as time goes by and will probably suggest appropriate action –

whether to contact SATRA Head Office or regional office, or perhaps the SARL itself.

Together with the licence reminder was an advance warning that SATRA is revising licence fees and we can expect to pay more next year. We can hardly complain about that, since our fees have remained unchanged for several years and I imagine that, individually or collectively, we give the Authorities a lot more trouble than their commercial clients.

I would be happy to pay R50 a year if SATRA would help to clean up the amateur scene by regular monitoring and positive action. Standards – behaviour, language and signal quality – are, regrettably, dropping continually and things will not improve until the bulldog uses its teeth. It is a fallacy to say that amateur radio is self-policing.

### **BUZZWORDS**

I wonder who sits and thinks up the new buzzwords that come along periodically? They are eagerly embraced and slavishly woven into news items and common or garden conversations. During the past year or so we frequently 'put programs in place', 'levelled the playing field' etc. More recently taking things 'into the 21st Century' became an important landmark, only to be quickly outdone by the more impressive sounding 'new millennium'.

But two new ones are sneaking up on us: 'brokered' and 'upbeat' – so we might soon hear something like "SA radio amateurs are upbeat about the new regulations brokered with SATRA by the Winning Team".

It's enough to send one to see the Man in the White Coat and maybe end up in the White House, or one could

even get taken to the Big Doors, where the Man in the Black Robe will read a passage from the Good Book over you – QSL? QRT!

### COAST STATION CLOSSES DOWN

The longest established maritime radio service in the world – Scheveningen Radio, PCH, in the Netherlands – closed for good on 1 January, 1999. To mark the sad occasion, PCH held a "Farewell Day" special event during December, on its 94th anniversary.

It invited hams worldwide to participate by contacting either special event station PA6PCH (from the Radio Club Kennemerland station, PI4RCK), on 2 and 75 meters, or PCH itself using crossband mode in cases where amateurs are allowed by their administrations to communicate with commercial stations.

### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Listening on the 'local' bands is hardly a pleasure these days. Signal quality seems to be going from bad to worse, rigs and speech processors are horribly overdriven, the latter usually used unnecessarily, often together with equally unnecessary (and sometimes illegal) amplifiers; more operators seem unable to express themselves without vulgar language and blasphemy.

Tell someone he's spreading and he and his cronies will say your receiver is at fault, or you must expect splatter when the band is open. None of his friends will take the trouble to determine whether the report is well founded.

One particular regular group seems to attract a surfeit of these sloperators. Told he was very wide recently, one replied that nobody else had complained of his splatter, his SWR is 1:1 and he is running only 100 Watts, so he can't be spreading.

Wouldn't it be nice if all hams would resolve in the new year to clean up their

acts – and, when someone tells them they have a problem, to immediately check it out with their pals. That, after all, is what is expected of a true ham. It is the whole purpose of exchanging reports. Not just simple 5/9+40, but *honest and critical* comment on quality.

I commend the thought for other clubs and the SARL to pursue.

### WHEN NO VOTE IS YES VOTE

The SARL intends to propose to SATRA that the morse requirement for a ZS licence be reduced to 5 words per minute, and that a new category of licence – a *Learner's* licence – be introduced to make it easier for newcomers to get on the air, especially on HF.

The League is asking its members to vote on the two matters and opinion poll papers were delivered to members' postal addresses during the festive season. They had to be returned to the SARL by 8 January.

If you did not return your paper by that date, perhaps because you were away on holiday, or the postal service failed in one or other direction, yours have been recorded as YES votes!

*Democracy in action!*



### NUTS TO YOU!

A young man was on a courtesy call at the home of an elderly lady. Enjoying a cup of tea, he spotted a large bowl of peanuts on the coffee table and helped himself to a handful. He just couldn't stop eating them. Eventually, after having eaten most of them, he felt guilty and apologised saying "Gee, I'm sorry, I've eaten up nearly all your peanuts."

She replied cheerfully: "Oh, that's all right." Then she added: "You see, I'm having trouble with my dentures, and all I can manage is to suck the chocolate off of them!"

**Condolences**— We learned with great sadness of the passing of our old friend Mike Smuts, ZS2XE, on 19 December. Mike was a regular attendee at Club functions and his presence will be sorely missed.

We also learned with regret of the passing of Guy Kidson, formerly ZS2CP, and of the mother of Ralph Hall ZS2IV. Our condolences go to the respective families.

## ***Congratulations...***

### on your birthdays:

#### *January*

- 18 Dudley Forsyth ZS2AW
- 21 Margaret France ZR2BCG
- 22 Judy Tremeer XYL of ZS2BWB
- 22 Bill Atteridge ZS2V
- 24 Anthony Bruyns ZR2APB
- 28 Rosemary Osborne XYL of ZS1KP
- 28 Martin Layton ZS2ML
- 29 Stuart White ZR2BBR

#### *February*

- 2 Shirley Winter XYL of ZS2MC
- 3 Tom Cockbain ZS2TC
- 7 Joan Bowles ZR2ABA
- 10 Lynne Crothall ZS2MM
- 11 Dirk Ligthelm ZS2D
- 12 Peter Lunow ZR2PEL
- 12 John Magee ZS2RG
- 13 Johanna de Jongh XYL of ZS2NQ
- 14 Arno du Preez ZS2ABT
- 16 Anne Butcher XYL of ZR2GIB
- 16 Mike Hanslow ZS1RMS
- 18 Peter Flynn ZS2PF
- 19 Gary Laaks ZR2ABU
- 20 Vic Batt ZR2BBH
- 20 Jim Duck ZR2JRD

### on your anniversaries:

#### *January*

- 20 Nita & Roger Davis ZS1J
- 29 Margaret & Ken Victor ZS2OC

#### *February*

- 15 Vanessa ZR2VM & Chris Scarr ZS2AAW

on your forthcoming marriage Natasha Smithies ZR2BCS and Anthony Bruyns ZR2APB, who are tying the knot on 23 January. We wish you every happiness.

on passing the CW test Kevern Layton ZR2KJL, who should soon become our youngest ZS member.


on your engagement Mike Bentley ZS2IC and Karin Bayman.



Sick list Graham Butcher ZR2GIB had a hernia repaired; Jo Akers ZS2W is undergoing surgery this month, and Cyril Hislop's son, who was shot when he went to the aid of a woman being assaulted, returned to hospital with complications. We wish you all speedy recoveries.

Empathy with Kevin Hopper, who had a kudu jump on his car on the Cradock road while en route to Johannesburg. Shaken but not hurt, Kevin continued, having a new windscreen fitted along the way.

Farewell to Karen Bowles ZR2AAW, who is leaving to study neuroscience at Cambridge University in the UK. Good luck, Karen.

Correction: Last month we greeted Ron Clarke ZS2MF on his birthday as Ron *Grobelaar*. Sorry, Ron. We've fixed the data base. 

## 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
c-mail the Editor at .....		
Assisting QSX collation/distribution .....	glaaks@iafrica.com	
Technical Classes, Social .....	Trevor Scarr ZS2AE	32-1746
Librarian .....	Shawn Corder ZR2SC	360-7369
	Des Herselman ZR2DH	54-2911 (W)
	Cell 083 261 5402 (All Hrs)	

## PEARS' VHF/UHF & 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 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 (ZSØNTP) .....	144,625
Packet Rose Switch ZSØGHT-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 (Metcosat) .....	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 as well as Cradock 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 Repeater link
17 Jan	ZS2HB
24	ZS2AAW
31	ZS2RS
7 Feb	ZR2JH
14	ZS2RT
21	ZS2ABZ

## DIARY DATES

### JANUARY

15 MONTHLY MEETING  
16/17 VHF/UHF national  
contest initiated by PEARS

### FEBRUARY

4 Wrinkly Rave

\* We Like Being Your Society! \*