

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE
PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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P.O. BOX 10402
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6015

April 1999

NOTICE OF MEETING

The monthly general meeting of the PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY will be held on **Friday, 16 April 1999** commencing at 20.00 (8pm) in the Municipal Disaster Management Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park, Port Elizabeth (Civil Defence Centre).

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available during the interval.

Members are reminded that any motions that they wish to place on the agenda for the annual general meeting, which will be held on 22 May, must reach the Secretary not later than 16 April 1999. They may be handed to the Secretary at the general meeting.

Wrinkly Ravers

The next rave will be on **Thursday, 6 May 1999** at the Zwartkops Yacht Club Clubhouse.

The rule is that Ken ZS2BWB will assume that, if you were at the last rave, you will be at the next one and he will book accordingly. Therefore, if you were there but will not be coming in May, you must phone Ken to cancel. On the other hand, if you were not at the last rave but plan to attend the upcoming one, please phone Ken so that he can do the booking. Ken's phone number is [041] 466-1786.

If all that is just too much for your old grey matter to comprehend, phone Ken anyway. Even *I'm confused, and I wrote the stuff.*



Of course, if you were *not* at the last rave and do *not* intend to come to the next one, you don't even need to read this. Press ESC to exit.



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A Word

From the Chair



*G*reetings fellow amateurs—

A busy time in the life of the PE Amateur Radio Society is now past, with the successful run of the 1999 Sasol Science Festival in Grahamstown. I would be wrong if I did not congratulate and thank all those hams that helped to make this show work out so well. As a first attempt, I am sure all will agree that we did ourselves proud.

Many hams made the trip through to Grahamstown to take in the festival's offerings, and also to assist those manning the stall, and for that I say a big thankyou. Some comments that the social side of the fest was the best, are quite right. So now we know we can still do it – what ever happened to the hobbies fair days?

Progress is being made on the Cape Town to Eastern Cape link system, with the Riversdale repeater up and running. Coverage reports are favourable, with Mossel Bay and George hams getting into this 145.650 repeater. The UHF link towards George is running, but insufficient signal from the George end is preventing the system from working properly. This will be remedied with an additional UHF yagi being fitted at George towards the West, to serve Riversdale – hopefully by the end of April. From Riversdale to Cape Town should be up and running already, so the last hop is all that is required...

It is worthwhile noting that the intermod interference from Knysna has been killed with the mods done to the repeater last year.

Take a look at the centre page in this issue for an updated local repeater network diagram. Some additional switching points are shown. A "big picture" of the entire Cape system will appear in a future article.

Happy hamming!

73,

Chris ZS2AAW

HAMNET / ECARES NEWS

Emergency Equipment

Items mentioned last month are essentially of a personal nature, but what about your vehicle?

Three relatively simple problems that can nonetheless leave you stranded are punctures, flat battery or a broken fan belt. Make sure you have a good, inflated spare tyre, with jack and wheel spanner, jumper leads and a spare fan belt and shifting spanner with which to fit it.

Other tools to take with are pliers, screwdrivers (small, medium, large, including Phillips tip), hammer, knife and insulation tape. A multimeter could come in very handy.

Have some form of light such as a torch or one of those extension lights that plug into a cigarette lighter socket.

Keep a pen and notebook in your vehicle cubbyhole with your list of emergency telephone numbers. Also have paper on a clipboard and a watch or clock with you.

Emergencies and Major Disasters

When assisting during these situations, make sure you have warm clothing with you, liquid refreshment and food for at least a day or two. A

gas stove to warm or cook food and make hot beverages. Do not forget a lighter or matches and appropriate utensils.

Have equipment for two metres at least, but preferably HF as well. Make sure you have sufficient battery power. A small petrol engine generator can be useful for charging batteries.

Other items you can consider are headphones, morse key, street maps, other maps such as road maps, change of clothing, tow rope and small spade.

A crowbar can be useful to lever open jammed doors, etc.

Binoculars are handy for quickly scanning an emergency or disaster scene and checking, for example a vehicle carrying hazardous chemicals, from a safe distance.

Consider extra tools such as vicegrips, sidecutters, longnose pliers, various spanners etc.

Contact me if you have any queries or further suggestions.

73,

Al Akers ZS2U
Provincial Director,
Hamnet East Cape/ECARES

FOR SALE * WANTED * SWOP

FOR SALE

* Yaesu FT7B 50-watt transceiver — Phil Kauffmann-Sorenson ZS2NP, 14 Darlington Rd., Vincent, East London 5247, Cell no. 082 5775 249.

* HF Linear Amplifier — Mitch Rundle ZS2DK, 26 Caledon St. Sherwood PE 6015.

WANTED

* Valves: two each of type 6JS6C and 6HF5 — Dudley Forsyth ZS2AW, tel. 046 622-3985.

Keys go Silent at SA'S Maritime Stations



At midnight UTC on 31 March 1999 (02:00 SAST on 1 April), the Medium Wave wireless telegraphy (W/T, or CW in our parlance) service to ships came to an end at South Africa's coast stations.

The closing of the nostalgic era was marked by functions at the Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town stations, to which a number of dignitaries, representatives of the maritime fraternity and other persons associated with the various stations in one way or another were invited.

Each station had a turn to transmit a farewell/closing message in a ten-minute slot on the W/T distress frequency of 500 kHz. Cape Town Radio, as the senior of the three stations, ended its final transmission as the hour struck.

The coast stations then stood by for cross-band contacts with well-wishing hams, the former continuing transmission on 500 kHz while the amateurs operated on pre-arranged frequencies in the 40 metre band.

Four PE stations – Bryan ZS2BH, Al ZS2U, Mike ZS2FM and Garth ZS2HB – passed greetings to Port Elizabeth Radio (ZSQ), who acknowledged them suitably. The poignant moment was enhanced a few minutes later when we were greeted on 500 kHz by our octogenarian member Allan Ansell, formerly ZS2AJ, who sat down at the key at ZSQ.

Allan was on the engineering staff at ZSQ in the days when the transmitters were still situated at Linton Grange and, although since retired for a number of years, was invited to the function.

Allan tells that he was 'hijacked' into giving a keynote speech at the closing function. And who is better equipped to do so? After all, Allan is one of the small band who has

experienced just about every stage of commercial wireless telegraphy, from the days of the old spark transmitters (which he operated and maintained aboard ships in his younger days) to the most sophisticated modern CW equipment; from the early "hand pump" key, through the side-swiper or "bug" key, the electronic hand key; electromechanical code converters used by telegraph companies and finally morse code generation and reading on personal computers right in the ham shack.

Mike Bosch points out that the cross-band operation between hams and the coast stations on this special occasion brought the wheel full circle – in the early days, there was no prohibition on such communications and hams could contact any station that was prepared to talk to them. With the rationalization of telecommunication services throughout the world, such inter-service communication was stopped, and hams were permitted to make contact only with other licensed amateurs, except in emergency situations.

We have been informed that Cape Town Radio will maintain some W/T services on *shortwave* for the time being.

See ZSQs final message on the next page



**FINAL WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY MESSAGE
TRANSMITTED BY ZSQ
23:40 UTC ON 31 March 1999**



CQ CQ CQ DE ZSQ ZSQ ZSQ

Since 1921 when our first transmitter was keyed, ZSQ has been providing a W/T service to our maritime customers. Countless communications have been handled during this time. Some brought sadness, some joy. Some posed questions and others answered them, but all were welcomed by this station.


Friendships were forged on these airwaves and many extended beyond it. Above all this however is the lives that were saved as a result of the distress watch we kept and it is for this that we would most like to be remembered.

Unfortunately all things come to pass and so too has our time come. Advancing technology and reduced demand has made our W/T services redundant. It is therefore with deep regret and genuine sorrow that we advise you that this is the last transmission to be made by Port

Elizabeth Radio. As from 0000 UTC on the 1st April 1999 all of the South African Telkom Maritime Radio Stations will cease operations on the MF W/T band. Our other services will remain unaffected.

Thank you for all the years of Marconi wizardry. We wish you all calm seas and fair weather. May God protect you.

This station is now closing down but we will remain on the air for a short while longer to respond to any last farewells.

Thank you and goodbye. 

PEARS wishes to place on record its grateful thanks to OM Van ZS2Y for his generous donation of a service monitor for use in the maintenance of our repeater network.

The monitor is a test instrument incorporating a signal tracer and other features that should make the lives of our repeater working group somewhat easier.

Thank you, Van. Your interest and generosity is greatly appreciated.

April being the month for jiggery pokery, it wouldn't be right to let it slip by without a little nonsense, so

here's one of those "Who's who" mug shots for you to identify.

Believe it or not, I'm nominating him for Chairman to see us into the new millennium.



**TALKING OF THE
NEW MILLENNIUM,
REMEMBER - YOUR
SUBSCRIPTIONS
FOR 1999/2000
ARE DUE NOW.**



SciFest “Great Social Event”

FROM AN ARTICLE BY CHRIS SCARR ZS2AAW

PEARS's participation in the Sasol Science Festival in Grahamstown from 17 to 23 March was another resounding success, not only for the publicity and as a recruiting drive for ham radio but also for the renewed camaraderie that it generated among the participants.

Under the guidance of Neil Thomas ZR2NT, a sub-committee, which included scholars Nicolas Thomas ZR2NDT and Marc Gatley ZR2BLK, arranged for various facets of our hobby to be displayed. Modes exhibited included weatherfax on a PC, SSTV, CW, satellite tracking software also showing Sunsat, and HF and VHF operations.

A section of the Club's portable HF beam and a 2 metre beam for weatherfax reception were mounted on our tower *inside* the display area for visual effect. Chris ZS2AAW and Trevor ZS2AE had previously erected a temporary repeater to replace the 145,750 one which was removed from the link when needed for Festival purposes, e.g. exchanging SSTV with PE stations etc.

Several homebrew items were displayed prominently on the backdrop, all neatly labelled. These included Clive ZS2RT's mini 40m crystal controlled CW transmitter, André ZS2ACP's CB-to-6m transverter, a Baycom kit by the Scarrs ZS2AE and ZS2AAW, a SAATI 9600 TNC by ZS2LR/ZS2AAW, Viv Moore ZS2VM's miniature HF QRP

transceiver, a grid dip oscillator and variable and fixed (dual) output PSU by ZR2NT.

A mini PA system with 8-channel mixing desk enabled the outputs from all receivers as well as a microphone to be fed at will to speakers atop the backdrop so that visitors could hear the various modes.

Printed Z-fold pamphlets, compiled by Garth ZS2HB, explained what ham radio is all about, and were handed out to any promising-looking visitors, especially school groups, at which the Festival was largely aimed.

We had more operators than were detailed on the roster, thanks to spontaneous support from additional members from PE, Jeffrey's Bay and the Grahamstown-Port Alfred area. It turned out to be a great social event for members, allowing good interaction between PE and “KGB” (Kowie/Grahamstown/Bathurst) hams.

All in all, our first Club attempt at the festival was a great success, and thanks are due to all who helped put it together and made it work.

Some photographs of the stand appear on the following page. 

Sign in Bucharest hotel lobby: “The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.”
In a Belgrade Hotel: “To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin

should enter more persons, each one should press number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order.”
So now you know!

Sasol Science Festival, Grahamstown 17-23 March 1999

PEARS Amateur Radio Stand



⇨ Viv Moore ZS2VM (standing) and George Bowes ZS2QN (left) watch Phil ZS2PP set up the weather satellite receiver and display. Chairman Chris ZS2AAW (centre) squats to coax the SSTV computer to co-operate, having lost its BIOS during the trek to Grahamstown.

Trevor Scarr ⇨ ZS2AE makes final adjustments to the PEARs stand before the show opens. Various home-brew items are displayed on the backdrop. On the table an HF station, morse training software and satellite tracking software are displayed.



HANDY POWER SUPPLY REGULATOR

ANDRÉ BOTES ZS2ACP

Power supplies using this voltage regulator driver circuit (Fig 1) have appeared many times and it is thought that having a standardised pc board layout available would make construction a lot easier.

The MJE2955 (or a TIP147) transistor and LM317T (or TW) are mounted to the heatsink. The output from the board is connected to the output of the power supply that you are constructing. Point B is connected to the common bases of the power transistors in your power supply.

This driver could easily handle two or more power transistors such as the 2N3055. Since it is capable of delivering as much as a single 2N3055 it would not be used in a circuit using only one power transistor but would rather *replace* the transistor.

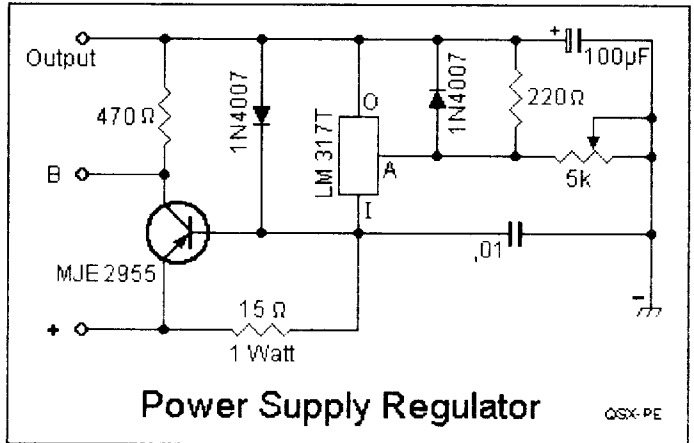


Fig.1—Circuit diagram of the regulator unit

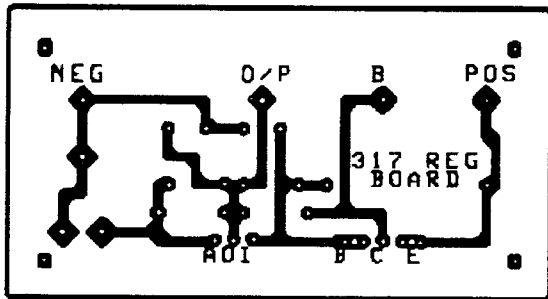
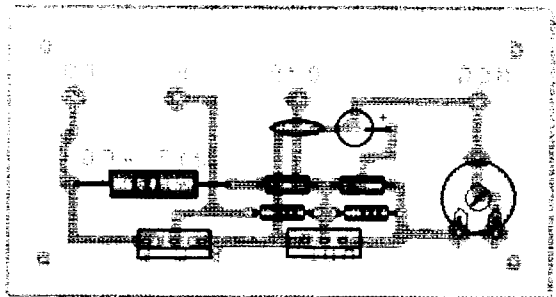


Fig.2—Printed Circuit Board for the regulator unit (actual size)

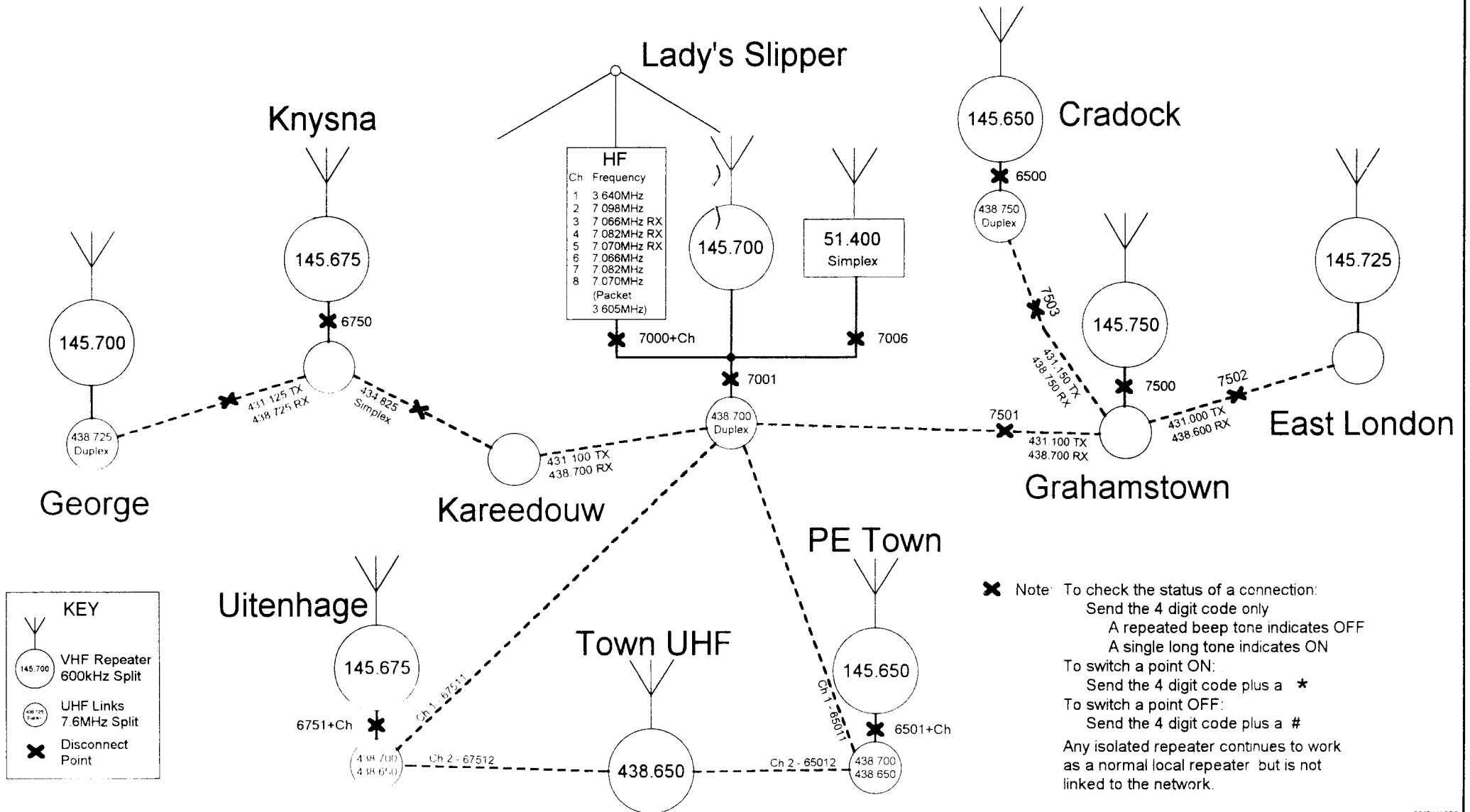
Fig.3—Component side overlay for the regulator unit



PE Amateur Radio Society

In conjunction with the Border and Garden Route Radio Clubs

Eastern Cape Linked Repeater Network



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 26 MARCH 1999

Present & Apologies : As per the register. Apologies were tendered on behalf of ZR2ABU and ZR2AI.

Opening : Chris ZS2AAW opened the meeting with a welcome to all, especially our guest speaker Brent Apple.

Minutes of the previous meeting : Acceptance proposed by Lynne ZS2MM and seconded by Bill ZS2ABZ.

Matters arising : none.

Finance: Clive ZS2RT reported a satisfactory financial situation. There would be one or two withdrawals yet to come, relating to our participation in the Science Festival at Grahamstown.

Correspondence : A newsletter from another club had been received.

General :

Science Festival: The Chairman gave a report on our participation at the Festival and thanked those who had given of their time and energy to erect, man (person?) and dismantle (dispersontle?) it.

Garth ZS2HB reported that the South African **maritime coast stations** would terminate their medium wave morse services at 02:00 SAST on 1 April (midnight UTC). After transmitting their last CQ to ships on 500 kHz, they would stand by for cross-band contacts with amateurs calling on 40 metres. Garth asked for participation from members.

Beavan ZS2RL and Lynne ZS2MM reported that they had still not received their **radio licences** in spite of having paid their fees. It was recommended that they contact SATRA. The Chairman pointed out that Lynne, having paid at a Post Office, at least had ready proof of payment. Beavan had paid by cheque and would need to approach his bank if necessary to prove payment.

Closure : The Chairman closed the meeting at 20H55 and gave the floor to Brent Apple, our guest speaker for the evening.

Brent delivered an interesting talk, accompanied by a slide show, on his recent visit to Antarctica, touching on Bouvet and other islands along the route. He also spoke of the antics of Bud Voortman ZS1B, ex ZS2CA, who not only had to repair his antennas frequently due to wind damage but also kept the team and crew of the vessel in good cheer throughout the trip.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JAARVERGADERING

The Annual General Meeting of the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society will be held on **Saturday, 22 May 1999**, commencing at **14:00 (2pm)** in the **Walmer Scout Hall, Fordyce Road, Walmer (near 4th Avenue)**

Die Jaarvergadering van die Port Elizabeth Amateurradio Vereniging sal om **14:00 (2nm)** op **Saterdag 22 Mei 1999** plaasvind, en wel in die **Walmer Verkennerssaal, Fordyceweg, Walmer (naby 4delaan)**

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 1998 Annual General Meeting
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Club awards
6. Election of Chairman
7. Election of Committee
8. Discussion of motion/s
9. General
10. Close of Meeting

Die Sakelys is soos volg:

1. Verwelkoming
2. Notules van 1998 Algemene Jaarvergadering
3. Voorsitter se verslag
4. Tesourier se verslag
5. Klubtoekennings
6. Verkiesing van Voorsitter/voorsitster
7. Verkiesing van Komitee
8. Bespreking van mosie/s
9. Algemeen
10. Sluiting

Please note that any motions that you would like to have discussed at the AGM must be in the hands of the Secretary by not later than the April 1999 general meeting of the Society

Neem asb. kennis dat enige mosies wat u graag op die sakelys vir die AJV wil laat plaas, die Sekretaris teen nie later nie as die April 1999 algemene vergadering van die Vereniging moet bereik.

PEARS VHF/UHF CONTEST RESULTS January 1999

The final count indicates that at least 270 different amateurs participated country-wide in this 48 hour contest, but only around 40 logs were received. Here are the results:

LONG DISTANCE WINNERS

50 MHz	ZR1ADS Cape Town	&	ZS6PJS Pietersburg	1543 Km
144 MHz	ZS5JA Durban	&	ZS6OTL Dullstroom	505 Km
432 MHz	ZS6OTL Dullstroom	&	ZR6ZL Sasolburg	269 Km
QRP 2M FM	ZS6XT Dunnottar	to	Dullstroom	183 Km

DIVISIONAL WINNERS

(Total points scored)

Division/Category	50 MHz Band	144 MHz Band	432 MHz Band
Div. 6 - Fixed	ZS6PJS 5302	ZS6HS 569	ZS6XL 510
	Club ZS6OTL 5652	ZS6OTL 13306	ZS6OTL 3645
	QRP N/A	ZS6XT 850	N/A
Div. 5 - Fixed	ZR5ADQ 2429	ZS5JA 505	---
	QRP N/A	ZR5EE 150	N/A

Div. 4 - Fixed	*ZR6ZL	2843	ZR6ZL	3254	ZR6ZL	1309
Club	ZS4SRK	994	ZS4SRK	3588	ZS4SRK	776
Div. 2 - Fixed	ZS2FM	3122	ZS2AH	2525	ZS2BWB	30
Field	ZS2U	629	ZS2U	2103	---	---
QRP	N/A	---	ZR2JLP	180	N/A	---
Div. 1 - Fixed	ZR1ADI	7871	---	---	---	---
Namibia - Fixed	V51C	1407	---	---	---	---
Swaziland - Field	---	---	3DA0BD	159	---	---

*Note: ZR6ZL is resident in Sasolburg but licensed with a Division 6 call sign.

Web Sites for Hams

THANKS TO BLOEMFONTEIN ARC'S QUA
AND OTHER SOURCES

The following Internet web sites might be of interest to members. The integrity of the information is not guaranteed, however – some might be out of date.

AEA: www.aea-wireless.com

Alinco: www.alinco.com

Ameritron: www.ameritron.com

Bencher & Butternut antennas:

www.bencher.com

e-mail: bencher@bencher.com

Comet antennas:

www.cometantenna.com

Daiwa: www.elecdist.com

GAP antennas: www.gapantenna.com

Icom: www.icomamerica.com

Kachina: www.kachina-az.com

e-mail: sales@kachina-az.com

Kantronics: www.kantronics.com

e-mail: sales@kantronics.com

Kenwood: www.kenwood.net

Click on *amateur radio*, then *FTP files*

for mods, service advice

Or access directly with [ftp.kenwood.net](ftp://ftp.kenwood.net)

KLM Antennas: www.klm_antennas.com

e-mail: klm_antennas@msn.com

M2 antennas: www.m2inc.com

e-mail: m2inc@m2inc.com

MFJ: www.mfjenterprises.com

Ten-Tec: www.tentec.com

Yaesu: www.yaesu.com

Ham Radio Organisations

ARRL: www.arrl.org

PEARS: pears.8m.com

e-mail: [QSX: glaaks@iafrica.com](mailto:QSX:glaaks@iafrica.com)

RSGB: www.rsgb.org.uk

SARL: www.sarl.org.za

e-mail: sarl@intekom.co.za

For radio modifications on most rigs,
try these:

www.qrz.com/mods/index.html

www.acs.ncsu.edu/HamRadio

www.nobarc.com (click on *other sites-technical*)

QRP Sites:

www.qrpclub.demon.co.uk

www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/5179

www.nsknet.or.jp/~ja9mat/Index.htm

www.kanga.demon.co.uk

www.daneris.com/~ki7mn

For propagation conditions and predictions: www.dxlc.com/solar/

For general information, DX

addresses and links to other sites:

www.nobarc.com (click on *links to other sites*)

www.hamradio-online.com

www.hamrad.com

www.imax.net/~kd9jq

www.qrz.com

PEARStalk

BARKLY EAST – PE ON 2M SIMPLEX

The regular evening skeds on 144,450 MHz FM simplex often produce some good long-distance contacts. PE-EL and even Jeffrey's Bay-EL is now old hat. But, on 9 March, Nico ZS4NIC in Barkly East worked three PE locals direct.

André ZS2ACP, Jim ZR2JRF and Des ZS2ABU chatting during the regular evening get-together on this dedicated long-distance FM channel were surprised to hear a ZS4 station break in – OM Nico calling them from Barkly East. Reports exchanged varied from S5 to S9+.

Beams (horizontally polarized for optimum long-distance operation) are turned westward from PE from about 20:30 daily, hoping to hear some activity from Cape Town and environs some day. QSOs have been established with Roger ZS1J west of Plettenberg Bay, and Cape Town should be within reach.

Beams are turned eastward from around 21:00 nightly to look for our Natal friends, some of whom are often heard and worked on 144,450.

RAE EXAMINATION

The RAE will take place on 20 May but, to our knowledge, there are no locals enrolled for it. Four people have in recent weeks indicated interest but it is rather late to start classes aimed at

writing in May. Hopefully these and other interested parties will make it worthwhile starting classes in the second half of the year for the November exam.

Viv Moore ZS2VM has again indicated his preparedness to give classes but there must be a reasonable number of takers. If you know of anyone who might wish to avail themselves of the service, please get him or her to contact Viv without delay.

SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Following the success of our participation at the Grahamstown Science Festival, Viv Moore has suggested that we put on a similar display here in PE. Considering the amount of work involved, we should run the show for a full weekend, perhaps a long weekend.

Viv pointed out that several hams who visited our stand had not previously seen one or more of the facets of ham radio that were in operation, especially slow scan, weather fax and even packet radio. Perhaps many members in and around PE are in the same boat and would enjoy an introduction to other ham activity options. It could be opened to the public as well.

Our clubhouse was suggested as a possible venue.

The proposal was received well at the general meeting and the

Committee will pursue the matter.

■ A well-known Gauteng ham visited our stall at the Festival. Clive remarked that it must be wonderful to live in Gauteng, in the thick of all the ham activities, to which the visitor replied: "Forget it! *This* [indicating our stall] is what you call *activity*. You don't get this sort of participation or enthusiasm up there!"

Guess we must be doing something right!

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Unless you're an Honorary Life Member, remember to let Treasurer Clive have your bucks as soon as possible. In a month or two's time our membership list will be brought up to date and them as hasn't paid will stop receiving QSX. (Just think...no more nagging to pay your subs!)

They're unchanged again this year at R50 for a full member and R30 for a family or student member.

Clive assures all members that his computer is Y2K compatible so there will be no hanky panky with your subs.

Besides, all seats to the Seychelles are fully booked for the year ahead so he'll have to wait until he gets your subs *next* year for his holiday in the sun.

SUNSAT REPEATER FORETASTE

On Sunday, 21 March, Sunsat's repeater was enabled experimentally for one pass over the RSA commencing around 14:15. A great number of stations called and some were actually heard among the

cacophony.

Ken ZS2BWB was heard, but it turned out that his receiver was not working properly and he did not hear the acknowledgement from the control station.

A Div. 4 operator was heard calling CQ in normal HF fashion, blotting out calls from others as well as responses from Control. Guess his face is red if he heard the recording broadcast on Radio Mirror International!

Perhaps a little more forewarning and repetition of the rules for operating via the satellite were required. Not all active hams listen to bulletins and they get their information second-hand, often corrupted in the process like the good old latrinograms of yore.

Obviously the great interest in our own South African satellite drew a larger number of operators than normal and the demand will drop off as time goes by, but the need for thoughtful use of the satellite repeater will remain when the facility is enabled for permanent use.

■ Sunsat has been given the designation OSCAR SO35.

SSTV TRIGGERS INTEREST

The exchange of SSTV pictures between operators in PE and at the Science Festival seems to have generated a good deal of interest in this mode among Eastern Cape hams.

Several have obtained copies of the program and plan to get themselves operational soon. For transmissions between PE and other centres it will be necessary to use repeaters and those scanning the channels might from time

to time hear the dulcet tones of slow scan. Since each picture takes only a minute or less, however, hopefully all who are *not* interested in this facet of ham radio will not mind putting up with the transmissions. In fact, the "music" might create yet greater interest in a change from normal voice chit-chat!

SSTV operators will *try* to remember to leave adequate gaps between transmissions in case anyone else wants to break in for more urgent purposes. Don't we *all*?

SOMETHING NEW TO CHEW ON!

The International Electrotechnical Commission, which creates standards for electronic technologies, is adopting new prefixes to describe data values.

The new term "kibibyte" will more accurately describe the number of bytes in a kilobyte – rather than being 1,000, as could be inferred by the prefix "kilo," a kilobyte actually has 1,024 (2 to the 10th power) bytes.

The metric prefixes currently employed – kilo, mega, giga, etc. – accumulate as a power of 10, rather than the binary system used in computer code. Thus, the Commission will use kibi, mebi, gibi, tebi, pebi and exbi to express exponentially increasing binary multiples (2 to the 10th power, 2 to the 20th power, etc.).

"There was a need to straighten this out," says Barry Taylor of the Australian National Institute of Standards and Technology.

[This message came via packet during March, but one wonders whether it is nevertheless an April Fool's joke. Time will tell—Ed.]

MARION ISLAND TO BE ACTIVATED

Marion Island will soon be on the air again when Deryck Yelverton ZS6DE arrives on the Island after a five-day voyage from Cape Town on board the SAS Agulhas. Deryck is part of the 56th South African weather and biological research crew to Marion Island.

Deryck Yelverton has been licensed as ZS8D. While he is not an experienced HF operator, he has spent much of the last few weeks in intense training. He has also had exposure to big-time DXing, when he was part of a previous crew with ZS8IR.

Two years ago, the rhombic antenna farm on the island was dismantled to reduce the impact on the bird population. Deryck is the first operator having to take all his own antennas. This requirement greatly complicated preparations. Within 6 weeks all the equipment had to be secured and Deryck had to pass his morse test to qualify for a ZS licence.

FIRST EME OPERATOR DIES

The man who first bounced a radar signal off the moon – John DeWitt Jr., N4CBC – died at his Nashville home recently, some 53 years after making radio history.

His death came just a few days after Orrin 'Hank' Brown, W6HB, also became a silent key. Brown engineered the first *Amateur Radio Earth-Moon-Earth* (EME) contact in 1960. Both DeWitt and Brown were 92.

[From ARRL Letter and SARL News]



Condolences — We extend our condolences to Helga St Clair and family on the passing of John ZS1JR/ZS2JR in Hout Bay last month, to Clare Smailes and family on the tragic loss of Jack ZS2SM in a road accident on the outskirts of Grahamstown on 16 March, and to Lovell Rothman ZS2GS, whose XYL Hester passed away last month.

Congratulations...

on your birthdays:

April

- 20 Joey Pettit XYL of Des ZS2ABU
- 20 Trevor Scarr ZS2AE
- 22 Allan Bowles ZS2BO
- 23 George Bowes ZS2QN
- 26 Soekie Moolman XYL of ZS2KU
- 28 Chris Scarr ZS2AAW
- 29 John Hugo ZS2J
- 30 Louis Jordaan ZR2J

May

- 6 Joan Browne XYL of Bill ZS2BY
- 6 Anne Smithers ZR2XT
- 6 Wim van Vorstenbosch ZS2WW
- 8 Clive Hopkins ZR2CLV
- 9 Sean Allen ZS2SNA
- 9 Chick Mosley ZS2LM (his UK call sign unfortunately not on record)
- 10 Attie Barnard ZS2Q
- 12 Elizabeth Oliphant XYL of André ZR2BC
- 15 Merle Jordaan XYL of Louis ZR2J
- 16 Dot Plumridge XYL of Vic ZS2VP
- 19 Johannes Pieterse ZR2JLP
- 20 Marjorie Forsyth XYL of Dudley ZS2AW
- 21 Ron Fitzmaurice
- 21 Neville Roebert ZS2NR
- 22 Saney Martin ZR1S
- 22 Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ

on your anniversaries:

April

- 21 Elizabeth ZR2EJ and Joe Jasson ZR2JLJ
- 29 Hanni ZR2JB & Gerhard Baum ZS2UM

May

- 2 Shirley & Gus Winter ZS2MC



On the Health Front – We were glad to hear Les ZS4WA back on the air, sounding hale and hearty, after learning of the mild stroke that he suffered last month. Fortunately, he was in his doctor's rooms at the time. Take care, Les, we like having you around!

London Letter: Shawn ZR2SC keeps us informed of his progress in England via e-mail from time to time. He says he's becoming a real Limey, but is glad the sun is staying up a little later each day, so much so that he is taking daylight saving time in his stride. Sends best wishes to all his pals and may just have felt a little homesick on his birthday on 2 April. 🇬🇧

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
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Technical Classes	Viv Moore	360-4433
Librarian	Des Herselman ZR2DH	54-2911 (W)
	Cell 083 261 5402 (All Hrs)	

PEARS' VHF/UHF & Other Services

REPEATERS

Town VHF	# 145.050/650	Karecdouw	† 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 (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, 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
Web Site	pears.8m.com

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
18 Apr	ZS2AAW
25	ZS2RS
2 May	ZR2JH
9	ZS2RT
16	ZS2ABZ
23	ZS2HB

DIARY DATES

APRIL

11 Hamnet Simltd Emgcy C'test
16 MONTHLY MEETING
 22 80m QSO Party 1900-2200
 23/24 SARL AGM & events
 24 Marconi Day

MAY

6 Wrinkly Rave
 17 World Telecom Day

*** We Like Being Your Society! ***