

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE  
PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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**March 2001**

# NOTICE OF MEETING

The monthly general meeting of the PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY will be held on **Friday 16 March 2001** commencing at 20:00 (8pm) in the Municipal Disaster Management Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park, Port Elizabeth (Civil Defence Centre).

At this stage it is not known whether there will be a talk by anyone but, even if there is not, we can have a pleasant 'eyeball', which always goes down well.

Speaking of which, warm beverages and cold munchies will be available.

## Wrinkly Ravers

The next rave will be enjoyed on Thursday, 5 April 2001. Although The Works, in Luke Road, Charlo, would not normally be open between 1 and 2 they have agreed to remain open for our benefit on that day. From all accounts, the food is good and reasonably priced, so roll up from noon and enjoy a couple of hours in some of the *best company* PEARS has to offer - and the Editor won't be the *only one* for you to talk to.

**(NOTE)** this is NOT the eatery in 8th Avenue, Walmer! It's the branch in Charlo

We often have some Smoothies attending and all are welcome.

The March rave at the Ocean Basket was another pleasant occasion. Unfortunately Beavan could not twist the arm of the Port authorities to give us the guided tour of their communications facilities that we had hoped to take in before lunch.

## VISIT TO PLETTENBERG BAY

Remember that this event will take place on **Saturday, 17 March**. It will take the form of a bring and braai, so please bring all your eats and drinks, crockery etc. Fires and grids will be provided by Roger.


Roger intends to *give away* many useful items from his shack since he regrettably is no longer able to tackle jobs at his workbench.

Bring along any items that *you* wish to dispose of because there will be a **boot sale** too.

If you wish to attend and require a lift or

if you have a spare seat in your vehicle and can take a passenger who will share fuel costs, please let Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ know (tel. 581-2580).

**TO REACH THE VENUE:**- About 12 km west of Plettenberg Bay on the N2, near a cellular telephone tower, you will find a dirt road crossing, with a small signpost indicating an airfield to the south.

Turn southward down this gravel road (provincial route P1770) and 3½ km along, you'll reach the turnoff to the farm WHITEWEBBS on the right. 

## PEARS AGM

The 2001 Annual General Meeting of the PE Amateur Radio Society will be held in May on a date and at a venue to be announced in the April issue of QSX. Motions for consideration at the AGM must be in the hands of the Secretary by not later than the April 2001 meeting. They will be published in the May issue of QSX.

Motions, which may be posted to the Society's address or handed to the Secretary personally, must be signed by the proposer and seconder, both of whom must be paid-up members of PEARS.



## *The* Chairman's Chat

**I**t was with great sadness that we said a final farewell to Louis ZS2CB on the 22nd February: a large contingent of his fellow amateurs attending the funeral service in Despatch. He will be remembered as a person who was always willing to help his fellow man - we will miss him. Our condolences go to his XYI, Alet and family.

A recent Inteenet dealt with the subject of MFSK, a sort of super RTTY. It was mentioned by Hans ZS5AKV that a comprehensive article on MFSK had appeared in QST, and copies would be made available. A number of our members said they would like a copy, so I speedily sent off a SASE to HQ to secure a copy for PEARs. This has now arrived, and it does a good job of explaining what it's all about. I have scanned the four pages into my PC, where they now reside in digital format. Members wanting copies have the following options -

- a) Hard copy (a donation of R2.50 to cover my printing costs would be appreciated -- have you ever worked out the cost of a page printed on an ink-jet printer?!);
- b) A zip file spanning 3 stiffies (bring your own stiffies);
- c) By e-mail, the 4 pages as bitmap files, zipped and sent separately (largest file size is 1.3 MB);
- d) By e-mail, the 4 pages in JPG format, zipped into one file of size 800 KB. (Note that JPG format does result in a noticeable loss of image quality, but the type is still legible and prints OK).

Don't forget the social being planned for the 17th March, at the QTH of Roger ZS1J. This all sounds vaguely familiar(!), but I'm sure the WX will be more co-operative this time.

The technical meetings are being well attended, and full credit and thanks to Viv ZS2VM for organising these. Also to those who assist him, among them being Al ZS2U with his talks on antennae.

73,

**Beavan ZS2RL**

# HAMNET / ECARES NEWS

## ANTENNAS FOR EMERGENCY USE

An important aspect of portable operation is antennas and, with the influx of new members, it is probably a good idea to pass on some information on antennas.

You never know when you may be confronted with an emergency situation where you need communications. With the Volkswagen rally coming up in July, and if you intend assisting with communications, now is a good time to start preparing for it.

If you do not have a two metre antenna on your vehicle, and perhaps you do not wish to install a permanent one, the magnet mount quarter wave antenna is difficult to beat. When not in use, it can be stored in the boot of the car.

When operating from fringe areas, a mobile antenna may not be good enough. About the simplest antenna to use then is a ground-plane on a mast from about three metres high upwards. It is simple to make and easy to get a low SWR.

The mast could be made up of a single length of pipe, telescoping sections or screw-in or plug-in sections. For example, I have used poles from an old tent.

A portable HF antenna is somewhat more of a problem owing to the longer wavelength used. A loaded whip can

give a creditable performance. A random wire antenna (often referred to as a long wire antenna) may also be used and performs very effectively.

I have worked quite a bit of DX with one about twenty metres long. It can be fastened to a portable mast or thrown up into a tree. It does need a transmatch, especially if used on more than one band.

An inverted vee also deserves consideration as it works well and needs only one support. I can supply information on these antennas if you are interested.

## Social

We are sorry to report the passing of one of our members, Louis Saunders ZS2CB on Sunday, 18 February. Our condolences go to his XYL and family. It is sad to lose such a nice guy.

Another member, Bryan Haefele ZS2BH, is very ill and our thoughts are with you, Bryan.

We welcome another new member, Ken Corlett ZS2KMC from Plettenberg Bay. Good to have someone there as well.

73,

**Al Akers ZS2U**  
**Provincial Director,**  
**Hamnet East Cape/ECARES**

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## IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER...

■ The Lone Ranger and Tonto are camping in the desert, set up their tent and go to sleep. Some hours later, the Lone Ranger wakes his faithful friend. "Tonto, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Tonto opens his eyes and replies, "Me see millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?" asks The Lone Ranger.

Tonto ponders for a minute. "Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. *Astrologically*, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. *Time wise*, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three. *Theologically*, it's evident the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. *Meteorologically*, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What it tell you, Kemo Sabi?"

The Lone Ranger is silent for a moment, then speaks: "Tonto, you dumb-ass, someone has stolen our tent."

# 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, 16 FEBRUARY 2001

## **Welcome**

The chairman welcomed those present especially Morag, fiancé of Greg, Colin Porter ZS6RP, son of Scamp Porter, and Lyle Laaks, an RAE student.

## **Present & Apologies**

As noted in the attendance register.

## **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Adopted with amendment of venue of January meeting to read Walmer Scout Hall.

Proposed: ZS2RE

Seconded: ZS2MM

## **Matters arising: None**

**Finance:** Membership still on the increase. Finances were reported to be sound.

## **Correspondence:**

*In:*

Bank statements and repeater licenses

Various newsletters

Letter from WDC re Lady's Slipper giving permission for refurbishment

*Out:*

Letter authorising the SARL to use the PEARS RAE manual

Letter about the on-air training of candidates

## **General:**

*VW Rally*

Chris to steer the organising committee. Volunteers were requested from the floor. Lynne, Al, Shawn, Trevor and Lionel responded. Thanks to them.

*AGM*

Coming up soon – motions and new committee members – some committee members might not be available for the following year

*Bryan ZS2BH and Louis ZS2CB (Cuyler Clinic) in the sickbay, both with cancer.*

*Scifest:*

The official Scifest video was screened

Greg then took the floor to discuss the upcoming event. Suggestions were taken from the floor for contents of the display.

**Meeting closed** at 21h10, whereafter members viewed a video taped by Garth of our stand at the Scifest as well as a few other items.

# The Knysna Field Station

BY PEET NEL, ZR2PET

## Planning and Preparation

Approximately two months before the actual contest, Johan, ZR2GJ and I decided that we would put up a field station for the contest. Preparation began with the testing of linear amplifiers and working out which rigs to take, etc.

As the time flew by and the competition drew closer, we still had no amplifiers up and running, and we had not yet paid much attention to antennas. About two weeks before the competition we decided on taking a generator, 6m and 2m rigs, a 6m beam, a 2m beam and the necessary supplies.

I had by then started looking at antenna plans and decided to build a 2m beam, which consists of two 5 element yagis stacked about 2½m apart. Meanwhile Johan had located a 2m beam of some sort, which we would be able to use during the contest, provided he did one or two small repairs to it.

A week before the contest I went ahead and bought the necessary materials for the beam I wanted to build, and Johan picked up the antenna he had arranged for, which turned out to be a 10 element skeleton slot, in need of a delta match.

My antenna was completed two days before the competition, and worked beautifully when I did a test on simplex with Ken ZS2KMC, who lives in Plett.

## Getting There

As the competition weekend drew closer, it became evident that only Ken

and I would participate in staying overnight on the mountain top. We had decided to go to the site on Saturday the 20th, and stay until the Sunday. As we were missing out on Friday night, we decided to go really early on Saturday (although very optimistically, we had initially decided to go at four o'clock in the morning!).

On Friday afternoon it became apparent that the generator was unavailable and I hastily started arranging for batteries. I had one charged battery and Ken had two batteries, although they were not well charged.

At half past five on Saturday morning Knysna experienced a general power failure and it was too dark to pack. At this delay Ken decided to give the whole weekend a miss. I decided to continue packing, and once I was ready I called Ken again and asked him if he was sure he was going to skip the event, at which point he decided to go for it anyway.

At eight o'clock we were eventually underway. Apart from a few problems in finding the site, we finally arrived.

## Setting Up

Setting up went reasonably well, although at that stage we still had no 6m rig and the skeleton slot had not been brought up yet. We proceeded with my 2m beams and put up the station, with the rigs in a five-man tent and the antenna outside on a 6m mast (made from a security gate boom now pressed into vertical service!), which worked reasonably well as a strong arm rotator.

My antenna proved to have a very sharp matching curve, we could tune it to 1.3:1 on 144.400 and if we went up to 145.500 we would get a SWR of 5:1, so we had to choose on which frequencies we wanted to run this antenna.

Unfortunately it was not easy to mount the antenna horizontally so we were running vertical only, which resulted in our contacting fewer stations than we might have done if we also had horizontal.

Our first contact was at 10.48, which was ZS1ZR, who had called to us earlier while we were battling to tune the antenna. Later in the day Trevor ZS2AZR brought the skeleton slot up, together with a very nice portable mast, and after some tuning we had our second 2m antenna.

As the 6m rig was unavailable we did not have to put up the 6m beam.

### **Working the Station.**

Operating went well, with myself and Ken taking turns to call for stations and calling each other for any new stations. Coffee was a most important addition to keeping us going and was made by pouring boiling water through the coffee machine's filter into a convenient bowl, after measuring the required amount of water in the actual cups.

I am always one to take filter coffee along. Having once made coffee

through a T-shirt on Magalies Mountain I now tend to remember the filter!

In between contacts we enjoyed the magnificent views from atop our mountain Eyrie and spent the time generally chatting away on sundry topics. This was regularly interrupted whenever a break in the squelch caused one of us to dive into the tent to ascertain whether a new station had caused the break.

We managed a total of 11 contacts, all of them on the 2m band.

### **Breaking Down and Going Home.**

At two o'clock on Sunday afternoon Ken started getting restless and we decided to pack up as it seemed very quiet and our enthusiasm was waning somewhat.

Apparently that's more or less when the bands *opened*, and many contacts were made by others!

A good time was had by all and I look forward to participating again next year.

### **Technically Speaking.**

We had two vertical antennas, one consisting of two 5 element yagis fed by open wire feeder, the other being a 10 element skeleton slot. We had two rigs delivering up to 50 watts on both FM and SSB. Car batteries powered the lot. ☺



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# SARL ADOPTS PEARS' MANUAL

When he addressed us at our January general meeting, SARL President Hans Potgieter ZS6ALJ mentioned that the League intended to produce an RAE manual as a cheaper substitute for the increasingly costly RSGB (British) handbook. Greg Maynard ZS2RE told Hans that a new manual had already been compiled here and was used successfully for the RAE course in 2000.

At Hans' request, Greg posted a copy to Johannesburg and a few days later Hans telephoned to say that the SARL would like to adopt and produce the manual as the official one. Approval was duly granted by PEARS, an updated copy posted, and the book is probably already available to any

club or individual who wants one, at a very competitive price compared to the overseas article.

PEARS retains copyright as well as the right to continue producing the book for its own purposes.

Congratulations go to Greg for initiating and compiling a first-class, professional looking handbook. He was assisted by Garth ZS2HB (diagrams, typesetting and an item on Operating Procedures) and by Bill Browne ZS2BY, Beavan Gwilt ZS2RL and Chris Scarr ZS2AAW with some of the technical content.

PEARS sells the manual at cost (about R35) plus P&P to its RAE students and members.

## WANTED

\* **Manual for Tono 9000E; Battery box** for Icom IC2E handheld — Tony Marran ZR2AI, tel. (041) 585 2420 or packet @ZS0NTP

## FOR SALE

\* Estate late Lou Middendorp ZS2UI: **Tower** +14 metres; beam **rotator**; 5-element **HF beam** (note that there might be minor damage to one or more elements when the beam was blown down, but the traps are understood to be fine)—Mrs. Middendorp, 112 Cannon Street, Uitenhage, tel. (041) 992 3154.

\* **FT200 HF transceiver** (valve job) going for a song—Vic Olivier ZS2SZ, tel. (041) 360 2440

## Renewal Of Subscription

**Please cut out this slip and hand or send it to the Treasurer, PEARS, with your remittance so that we may update our records**

PEARS membership fee/s for 2001/2002 for the following member/s is/are attached (first name and surname, call sign, day/month/year of birth and address):

.....  
.....  
.....

Spouse/partner's first name: ..... Birthdate: ..... Anniversary: .....



# An Amateur's Inexpensive Anemometer

BY BRYAN HAEFELE ZS2BH

Anemometers are now frightfully expensive items costing into thousands of Rands. It seems that this type of instrument is dear to the heart of most hams, and here is an inexpensive solution which would suit an inspired tinkerer like myself.

It might interest the chaps with RC gliders as well, as it can be made portable on a pole with the digital readout at the base of the pole.

This is a simple project requiring a minimum of talent and tools and a few readily available parts.

One of the advantages of this type of wind speed indicator is that the inertia of the rotating cups tends to have a damping effect on the indicated speed. This means that you won't see the wild swings in speed readout so typical of many hand-held units.

An added advantage is that the cycle computer has several modes such as Average Speed and Maximum or, in our case, peak gust.

The basis of the device is a bicycle computer available in any cycle shop and costing from R100 – R200. Make sure that the calibration does not dictate a minimum calibration number and that the features of average and maximum speed are available.

You'll also need a bicycle hub (free – R50 at any cycle shop) and some brass sheet and strip. Try to get an *aluminium* bicycle hub – the cheapos are made of stainless and are *very* difficult to drill. A cheap hardware store drill bit will give up long before you finish the first hole in stainless.

The three cups are cut from a sheet of ~0.4 x 100 x 310mm brass and the support arms from a ~1.6 x 12 x 300mm brass strip.

None of this is critical – metal from an

old juice can and some coat hanger wire would suffice. I chose brass because it's easy to solder and I wanted this thing to survive a while in the corrosive environment in Port Elizabeth.

The circles for the cups are cut from the sheet metal, a pie shaped wedge is cut out of each and the remaining part rolled into a cone and soldered at the joint.

Cut some slots for the arms and solder them in place. Drill a couple of holes in each arm to match the spoke holes in the bicycle hub and pop rivet them onto the rim. The magnet from the cycle computer attaches to the other (bottom) rim.

Don't forget to clean and lubricate the hub bearings. Adjust them so they are just on the point of wobbling and don't use a heavy grease to lubricate them. BTW, my favourite is Gun Oil - nice and light, contains Teflon.

The whole assembly mounts with the standard axle to a nut welded/glued/whatever to the top of a stick/pole/whatever.

You'll need to make some sort of bracket to fasten the computer pickup in close proximity to the rotating magnet. Then, the wires down the pole to the readout in the shack means that the wires will have to be extended. This was probably the most difficult part of the job - those wires are *tiny!* If you wish to use plugs and sockets for the connection this can also be done.

Once the anemometer is assembled, it can be calibrated against a known good instrument or the weather bureau reading or by simply having *an assistant* hold it out of the window of a moving vehicle on a windless day and comparing the readings of the anemometer and speedometer.

Do not try to do the automotive calibration by yourself. You'll be looking at the anemometer reading instead of the road and end up breaking something expensive.

If the reading is off, enter the *calibrate* mode and tweak the calibration number up or down a bit. For what it's worth, I ended up using 195 on my Avocat.

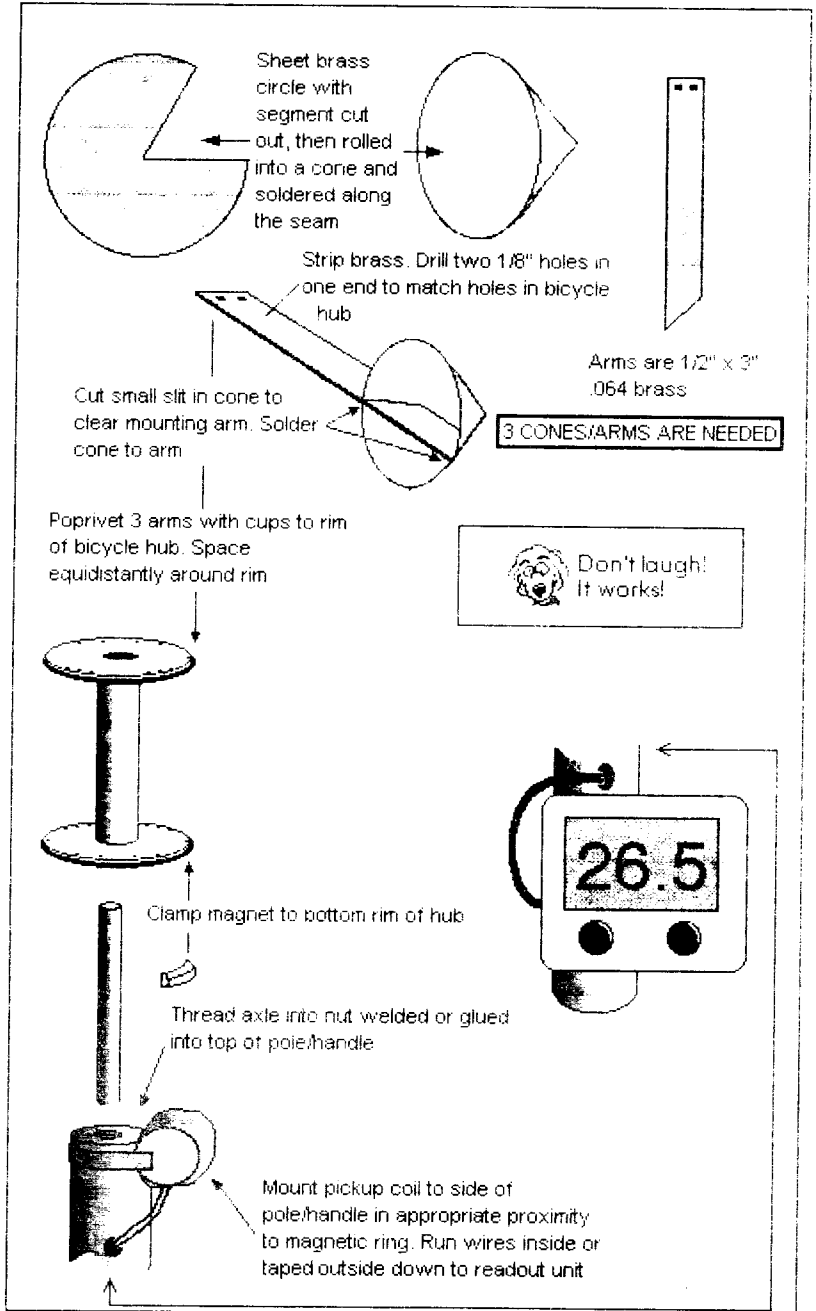
Sorry, but this process is just trial and error (mostly error, but cheap, right? – nobody said this was rocket science!).

By refining the calibration over time, you'll be within 1 or 2 kph of the official Weather Bureau readings.

One further word of advice. Don't get hung up on the calibration – close enough is good enough IMHO. You can't compete with the Weather Bureau – they have more money.

Don't pay any attention to the naysayers either – there

will be lots of folks offering the opinion that your reading is too high or too low. Tell them to buy their own meter! ☹





# PEARStalk

## **RADIO SPECTRUM: USE IT OR LOSE IT....**

The frequency spectrum must be used efficiently and effectively on a use it or lose it basis. This was the recommendation to the Minister from the plenary at the recent National Telecommunication Policy Colloquium.

The South African Department of Communication arranged the forum to elicit input from the telecommunications industry, communities and stakeholders.

The Minister was expected to place the recommendations from the colloquium before the Cabinet after which the Department of Communication and ICASA would be working on new regulations and changes to the current Act.

It is expected that changes to the Act will be completed during the second session of Parliament and that regulations will be gazetted in September this year.

The South African Radio League says it is acutely aware of the dangers to Amateur Radio and is formulating action plans to create more awareness of amateur radio as a national resource.

### **.... BUT TIME FOR A RETHINK?**

We are perpetually being warned of the danger of losing some of the spectrum allocated to amateur radio.

On the other hand, we also often hear how the numbers of amateurs in various major countries are failing to grow to our liking or are even on the decline despite ongoing attempts to cultivate an interest in the hobby among the youth. South Africa is no exception.

We are clearly unable to make reasonable use of the many, many megahertz of spectrum allocated to us (more, we are told, than any other single user, and remember, most amateurs are *only chewing the rag*).

**Is the time not ripe, then – does it not make sense – for us to hand at least some of it back to the Authorities so that Commerce and Industry, on which the economic well-being of any country depends, can put it to good use for more important things?**

The purpose of amateur radio is clearly defined and we enjoy the privilege of our allocations for the pursuit of those noble purposes. The

Authorities are unlikely to be blinded by efforts to swamp our bands with idle chatter in an

unconvincing effort to hold onto them.

On the other hand, they would doubtless be impressed by a gracious offer from our side to hand back what we really do not need. We could expect them, in return, to maintain the allocations that we *do* want and can

**Remember the Hamnet 40 metre Simulated Emergency Contest on 8 April. It is managed by PEARS. AI ZS2U can provide details.**

use with justification.

We usually express horror at the thought of giving up parts of the bands that we don't even use and probably never will, yet we support efforts by the IARU to secure even more spectrum for us without a care for the current users thereof. Do we think of the cost and inconvenience to *them* when *they* have to relinquish their present frequencies so that we can play around on them?

The Amateur's Code says hams are *considerate* and *balanced*. But *are we*? Are we not acting like the proverbial dog in a manger?

### **SCIENCE FEST**

**Volunteers to help man the PEARS stand at the Science Festival in Grahamstown are still urgently required. The event will run from 28 March to 3 April.**

**If you can assist on one or more days, please contact Greg ZS2RE without delay. PEARS will subsidise fuel for one car per day to carry helpers to Grahamstown.**

**Our stand will be accommodated on the 2nd floor of the 1820 Settlers' monument, where we will be better able to show what hams can do.**

**Even if you cannot help, it is well worth a visit to the event.**

### **NEW 6M REPEATER ON THE AIR**

The Magalies Radio Amateur Club recently commissioned a six meter voice repeater on the Magaliesberg. It is thought to be the only six meter repeater on the air in the RSA at present. The frequencies are 51,150/52,750 MHz and reports to the

### **INDIAN HAMS HELP IN QUAKE RELIEF**

Amateur radio played an important role in the relief effort in the State of Gujarat, Western India, which was

struck by a devastating earthquake.

Amateurs established HF and VHF nets throughout Gujarat to aid in supplying food, clothing, medicine and shelter to the earthquake victims. More than 20 000 residents perished, and the death count was expected to go much higher.

Amateurs from ARSI – the IARU member-society – and from the National Institute of Amateur Radio were on the scene since January 27 providing communications support and information on victims.

VU2DVO reports that amateurs were "working round the clock." Most telephone services in the earthquake zone were disrupted.

### **ISS EES BEEG IN 2005**

According to astronaut Chuck Brady, who was been operating on Bouvet Island as 3YØC for a while, when the international space station is completed in about four years time it will be the size of four football fields.

It will be the only manmade object in orbit that is *visible in the daytime*.

### **INTECNET IN SEARCH FOR ET**

Recently, the notion that we share our universe with countless advanced species has emerged out of the realm of fiction and into the scientific mainstream, says a report.

The SARL Intecnet in February dealt with the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence, with the Executive Director of the SETI League, Paul Shuch, taking us into this part of the science world.

Dr Shuch, who obviously knows his absorbing subject exceptionally well, mentioned how hams can become involved and use their technical ability to advance SETI.

He said SETI is a science, not a single search, so it will be around for quite a while yet.

## **MORSE PRACTICE**

Isaac Greeff ZS2ZG wants to put something back into ham radio by running morse practice sessions on HF.

Starting on Monday, 19 March, he will transmit morse on the 80m band – 3640 kHz – using the Koch method, i.e. starting with two letters sent randomly at 12 w.p.m. for the first period, then gradually adding more characters on subsequent nights.

The sessions will run from 18:30 to 19:15 Mondays to Thursdays. At the end of the session, Isaac will listen on the 2m link for feedback from ZR operators. Unlicensed listeners are asked to telephone him on (041) 371 2160 or e-mail him at [zs2zg@ananzi.co.za](mailto:zs2zg@ananzi.co.za) to say how they are progressing.

## **REGISTRATION FOR MAY 2001 RAE**

Registration for the next RAE on 10 May closes on 10 April. Late registration will be accepted until 17 April but at a greatly inflated fee. The fees for early and late registration are R135 and R235 respectively. These include R35 for your licence if you are successful.

Greg ZS2RE will take the necessary action to ensure that all PEARS candidates are registered timeously.

## **SARL LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH ICASA**

The SARL has concluded a new agreement with ICASA regarding the allocation of call signs and issuing of licences.

League HQ announces that it has the sole right to run the RAE and morse code tests on behalf of ICASA, to issue the relevant operators' certificates, and now also to allocate call signs. Call signs will be furnished to successful RAE candidates along with their operators' certificates and may be used immediately. The licences, however, will still be issued by ICASA.

ZRs who pass their morse tests can similarly apply, with their payment of R35, via the SARL for their ZS licences and receive their new call signs together with the morse code certificates even before ICASA issues the licences.

The fee to be included with the application to write the RAE, and also for a change of call sign if applied for via the SARL, is R35.

■ A suggestion that a ZR licence be issued automatically on passing the exam if a candidate so requests was submitted by a PEARS member several years ago after discussing it with SATRA. The SARL amended the application form to include the option but the procedure was never introduced.

## **PEARS SUBS DUE END OF MARCH**


**This is a reminder that the end of PEARS' financial year is coming up and members should let the Treasurer have their subscription renewals by 31 March please.**

**The current subscription levels will remain: R50 for full membership, R30 for spouse and student categories.**

**Please remit your subs with the cutout provided on page 8 in this issue.**

## **PEARS IS ALIVE & WELL**

At the last count, PEARS had 148 paid-up members. In the meantime, a few other members have also joined, so the Society remains very healthy.

The Committee intends to recommend that, when a new member joins after 30 September in any year, his or her subscription for the remainder of that financial year of the Society should be reduced to a half of the applicable annual fee. 

**Condolences:** We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Alet Saunders and family on the passing on 18 February of OM Louis, ZS2CB. Louis was a well-loved personality in amateur circles, friendly and helpful, had a great sense of humour, and was always the perfect example of a gentleman and good radio operator. We will all miss and remember him.

## *Congratulations...*

### on your birthdays:

#### *March*

- 21 Andrew Gray ZS2G
- 22 Peggy Moore XYL of ZS2VM
- 25 Jean Kauffmann-Sørensen XYL of ZS2NP
- 29 Allan Whitehead ZR2WH

#### *April*

- 2 Shawn Corder ZR2SC
- 5 Mike Jones ZS2MJ
- 5 Ré Martin, XYL of Saney ZR1S
- 5 Heather Hoole, XYL of ZS2ABM
- 13 Lizette Oelofse, XYL of ZS2N
- 13 Graham Butcher ZR2GIB
- 14 Gareth Rathbone ZR2GR
- 17 Allan Ansell
- 17 Helen Staples, XYL of ZS2AAS
- 18 Tony Marran ZR2AI
- 20 Trevor Scarr ZS2AE
- 20 Joey Pettit, XYL of ZS2ABU

### on your anniversaries:

#### *March*

- 21 Maureen & Neil Fulton ZS2MG
- 21 Anne & Norman Dowler ZS2XF
- 27 Shaunna & Gary Laaks ZR2ABU

#### *April*

- 6 Kathy & Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG
- 8 Marlene & Andrew Gray ZS2G
- 21 Elizabeth ZR2EJ & Joe ZR2JLJ Jasson

**on your call signs:** Colin Whitehead ZR2CU, Allan Whitehead ZR2WH, Gareth Rathbone ZR2GR, Michael Mkrakra ZR2MK, Henning Kriel

ZR2HRL and Shaun Pohlmann  
ZR2SAP.

**on passing your final exam** Collette Schönborn ZR2CBS, who is now a fully fledged quantity surveyor. Collette is studying further to qualify as a Valuator and Arbitrator.



**Sick List:** Raphey ZS2SP was hospitalized for a few days but discharged when nothing wrong was found; Owen ZS2AZ's condition has deteriorated noticeably, while George Bowes ZS2QN is mending back at home after his recent second op.

Bryan Haefele ZS2BH is not at all well and visitors are most welcome.

**Moving Out:** Fanie Swiegers ZS2EM is leaving JayBay for Worcester. Sorry to lose you, Fanie, but we wish you and your family every happiness in your new sphere.

**Welcome** to new member Dawid Petzer ZR1DJP of Dana Bay, and newcomer to Despatch Chris ZS6BST ex Pietersburg. He's a CW and QRP fan.

**Correction:** We were given the wrong surname and last month welcomed Selwyn *Cornelius* to the RAE course. That should have read Selwyn *Whitebooi*. Sorry, Sel! ☹

## Your Society's Committee

|  |                     |          |
|--|---------------------|----------|
| Chairman - Awards.....                       | Beavan Gwilt ZS2RI  | 360-6968 |
| Vice Chairman, QSX collation & mailing ..... | Trevor Scarr ZS2AE  | 367-1746 |
| Secretary - repeaters, packet.....           | Chris Scarr ZS2AAW  | 368-1344 |
| Treasurer - Assets Control.....              | Clive Fife ZS2RI    | 367-3203 |
| Social - Refreshments.....                   | Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ  | 581-2580 |
| QSX Editor .....                             | Garth Laaks ZS2HB   | 368-1101 |
| e-mail the Editor at.....                    | glaaks@iath.com     |          |
| Technical Classes, RAL .....                 | Greg Maynard ZS2RE  | 581-0991 |
| Librarian .....                              | Neil Thomas ZR2NT   | 487-2403 |
| Special Events.....                          | Ewart Bouwer ZS2EHB | 933-3482 |
| Youth - Affairs.....                         | Greg Maynard ZS2RE  | 581-0991 |

## PEARS' VHF/UHF & Other Services

### REPEATERS

|                   |                   |                      |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Town VII .....    | # 145.050/650     |                      |
| Town VIII .....   | # 431.050/438.650 |                      |
| Cockscomb .....   | 145.000/600       |                      |
| Colesberg .....   | * 431.075/438.675 |                      |
| Cradoek .....     | * 145.050/650     |                      |
| Grahamstown ..... | * 145.150/750     |                      |
|                   |                   | Knysna .....         |
|                   |                   | * 145.075/675        |
|                   |                   | Lady's Slipper ..... |
|                   |                   | * 145.100/700        |
|                   |                   | Noupoort.....        |
|                   |                   | * 431.150/438.750    |
|                   |                   | Uitenhage.....       |
|                   |                   | # 145.075/675        |

\* These form PE's long-range 2-metre repeater system, also linked to which are East London 145.775 MHz repeater, George 145.700, Danabaaai 145.600, Stilbaai 145.750, Butterworth 145.725, King Williams Town 145.625 and Umata (438.725 duplex). It is further extendable to Cape Town via the WCRWG system. # These can also be linked as required.

### OTHER SERVICES

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Packet Bulletin Board (ZSONIP) .....  | 144.625 |
| Packet Rose Switch ZSOGHT-3,046101 (144.675 in/out) or 046102 (UHF out to BBS)..... | 144.675 |
| 2m Beacon (ZS2VHF CW ID, FSK) (horizontally polarized, 160W ERP).....               | 144.415 |
| 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 08:45, on 7098 kHz as well as the 2 metre linked network that provides coverage from East London to George as well as Cradoek and environs. PEARS' 7098 or 3640 kHz transceive facilities are also remotely linked as needed. In addition the SARI's 40m operations on 7082 or 7066 kHz or Hamnet's 7070 kHz can be remotely patched into the 2m network, in receive-only mode or with full transceive capability for interactive events.

| Date   | Prepare and Read on 2m Repeater link |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 11 Mar | ZS2RT                                |
| 18     | ZS2ABZ                               |
| 25     | ZS2HB                                |
| 1 Apr  | ZS2RE                                |
| 8      | ZS2EHB                               |
| 15     | ZS2RL                                |
| 22     | ZS2AE                                |

### DIARY DATES

#### MARCH

- 16 Monthly meeting
- 17 Visit to Plett

#### APRIL

- 5 Wrinkly Rave at The Works
- 8 Hamnet Simulated Emgcy Contest

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