

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE
PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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June 2001

NOTICE OF MEETING

The monthly general meeting of the PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY will be held on **Friday 15 June 2001** commencing at 20:00 (8pm) in the Municipal Disaster Management Centre, Westview Drive, Mill Park, Port Elizabeth (Civil Defence Centre).

No speaker has been arranged, but a recording of the Sê Wie? broadcast on Radio Sonder Grense, to which Beavan refers in his Chairman's Chat on page 3, will be played – it runs for about 20 minutes – whereafter members can natter to their hearts' content.

No ice cream or wine this month, but warm tea and coffee plus tasty biscuits will be available during the break.

Wrinkly Ravers

Remember the next rave on Thursday, 5 July 2001. Since the June rave had not taken place by the time this issue of QSX went to the printers, we do not know what decision was taken regarding the venue for the July outing, so please listen to bulletins.

The June rave was scheduled to be held at the ZYC and we trust the food and catering was as good as the last visit we paid to this pleasant venue. *We know the companionship* would be out of the top drawer.

VW RALLY 6/7 JULY

Yes, it's that time of the year again. Time to get your equipment ready for the rally, time to let Chris Scarr ZS2AAW know that you will be available.

The questionnaire that was to have been included with QSX last month was not available, but there should be one in this copy of your favourite reading material if you have not already completed one at the general meeting – and if our Circulation

Manager Trevor ZS2AE thinks from experience that you might be able to assist with comms, e.g. you're not too far from PE etc. *If you don't receive a questionnaire but would like to participate, please contact Trevor right away. The more the merrier.*

It seems that there might be some new scenery on the 2001 route, which should be interesting.

TECHNICAL EVENINGS

Technical get-togethers are held at the Clubhouse on the Monday evening immediately following the monthly general meetings of the Society. The subject for discussion on **18 June** will be *practical antenna construction techniques*, in particular a magnet mount and a small beam, with some examples of Al Akers' imaginative units on view. The door opens at around 19:15 and the talking begins in earnest at 19:30.

It is envisaged that, in the near future, the group will do some daylight experimentation and carry out measurements on the antennas that have been constructed. 📡



The Chairman's Chat

Now wasn't that something to remember? I'm talking about the AGM – good weather and most of all, good fellowship. It was particularly heart-warming to see our “country cousins” from as far afield as East London and Plettenberg Bay making the effort to attend. 'Twas good seeing you.

By the time you read this you will probably have heard about the half-hour that Radio Sonder Grense devoted to amateur radio. Full credit to Ewalt ZS2EHB who sent them an e-mail the day before, suggesting that they consider such a topic for one of their phone-in programs, “Sê Wic?”. It proved to be most successful – even SARL President Hans ZS6ALJ phoned in. Dare we say it again, albeit softly? – PEARS shows the way once again!

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold, and a big thanks to Neil ZR2NT for offering to serve on the committee. Welcome aboard.

We stand on the threshold of another year in the life of PEARS, and here's hoping that our Society will continue to grow as it has in past years. And in conclusion, thank you for your confidence in electing me to the hot seat for another year – being there is no hardship, considering the vitality of the membership.

73 & 88,

Beavan ZS2RL

HAMNET / ECARES NEWS

DATES TO REMEMBER

- * *Hamnet informal net at 09:10 on 10,130 MHz Sundays.*
- * *Hamnet bulletins and nets at 17:00 on 7,070 MHz and 10,130 MHz on Sundays. The latter is the preferred frequency for the East Cape.*
- * *ECARES nets at 20:00 on 52,950 MHz on Wednesdays for those using PRC77 sets or A44 sets. With a bit of luck you will get through with other six metre equipment.*

Hazchem Signs

These signs are displayed on the sides and/or rear of fuel tankers or cargo haulers carrying flammable or dangerous materials. As mentioned last month, if such a vehicle is involved in an accident that you are reporting, pass on all the information displayed on this sign. A copy of a detailed explanation on these signs is available from me.

Social

We welcome three more members to ECARES, namely Martin Ras

ZR2MR, Theunis Potgieter ZR2TP and Hermanus Nell ZR2NH.

It is really great to have so many joining ECARES of late. Normally, the greatest contribution we make is to report accidents, veld fires etc., so the more members we have who are either travelling around or monitoring at home, the better.

73,

Al Akers
Provincial Director,
Hamnet East Cape/ECARES

HAM RADIO RENAISSANCE

A private investigation has been launched by Mike Bosch ZS2FM into the disappointing level of membership of the South African Radio League. His driving motive is to help amateur radio to flourish in South Africa and thus preserve the hobby for our future generations.


Mike therefore appeals to all radio amateurs, especially non-members of the League, to drop him a line stating their honest reasons for not supporting the SARL.

Any practical suggestions that they have to offer as to how the dissatisfaction can be eradicated will be greatly appreciated.

Please write to Mike Bosch at PO Box 1614 Port Elizabeth 6000. Kindly

include your name and a contact telephone number in case he needs more information. Mike gives the assurance that your identity will not be divulged to anyone unless you include specific authority for him to do so.

The President of the SARL, Hans Potgieter ZS6ALJ, has given his personal blessing to this research project and looks forward to hearing the outcome – without the identities of the correspondents – in due course.

This is your opportunity to play an important role in helping amateur radio to thrive once again in South Africa and strengthen the League to every amateur's benefit. Grasp it with both hands and write to Mike today. Urge your friends to do so too. 

PEARS AGM 2001

Even a number of out-of-town visitors to our AGM were still talking about it days after the event – the camaraderie, the good turnout (some 70 to 80) of locals and visitors from as far as East London, Plettenberg Bay and elsewhere, the fun way in which business is conducted, the boot sale and of course the happy chatting around the braai fires.

It is not surprising, then, that PEARS continues to show a healthy growth in membership – Beavan reported an impressive increase over last year and applications continue to roll in even from distant places, such is the allure of our happy Society.

After a moment's silence in memory of members who had passed on during the year (Van ZS2Y, Louis ZS2CB and Owen ZS2AZ), Chairman Beavan congratulated the Eastern Cape RAE candidates, all five of whom had passed and received their call signs. Lyle Laaks ZR2LL received special mention, having been the youngest in South Africa to pass the May RAE.

The Chairman's annual report, published in QSX and reflecting a healthy, dynamic PEARS, was adopted as well as that of the Treasurer, who reported that 109 members had renewed their subscriptions to date. A vote of thanks was passed to the Honorary Auditor, Gus Winter ZS2MC.

At election time, Beavan ZS2RL was unanimously re-elected Chairman to a hearty round of applause. He thanked the outgoing committee for their work during the past year. Calling for nominations for committee for the year ahead, there was the usual non-rush of volunteers.

Trevor ZS2AE was not available for re-election, and on a proposal from the floor the rest of the old committee was re-elected *en bloc*. Neil Thomas ZR2NT was cajoled into 'army-volunteering' to fill the vacancy. He has been given the portfolio of Minute Secretary (no, it's not that he's *small* – he has to do the *minutes*). Garth said it was a pity the younger members do not stand for election, to which Neil responded that he *did* accept nomination! (I meant younger in *years*, Neil!)

The meeting approved a motion from Committee that the "Ou Toppie" fun award be formalized and granted automatically to members of at least 10 years' continuous standing upon reaching the age of 80, whereafter such member shall be exempt from paying annual subs. Members who reach 80 with less than 10 years' membership will be presented with the certificate only.

Mike Bosch ZS2FM announced that he was researching, on his own initiative, the loss of

membership of the SARL and he invited non-members of the League to write to him in full confidentiality setting out their reasons for not joining, or for letting their membership lapse.

At this point, trophies and awards were presented as follows:

ZS2OB DX Trophy – Ken Tremere ZS2BWB (DX prowess)

ZS2AB Constructors' Trophy – Phil Hopper ZS2PP (ongoing construction projects)

Ham Spirit Trophy – André Mulder ZR2A (manning PEARS station at SciFest)

Merit Cup – Greg Maynard ZS2RE (promotion of Ham Radio)

Achievement Certificate – Greg Maynard ZS2RE (RAE Manual)

Appreciation Certificates – Trevor Scarr ZS2AE, Chris Scarr ZS2AAW, Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ, and Shawn Corder ZR2SC for their work in erecting and manning the station at the SciFest;


- Phil Hopper ZS2PP for providing a Wefax signal from Port Alfred for the SciFest;
- Isaac Greeff ZS2ZG for conducting morse sessions on the air;
- Viv Moore ZS2VM and Al Akers ZS2U for their technical get-togethers;
- Greg Maynard ZS2RE, Beavan Gwilt ZS2RL, Garth Laaks ZS2HB, Neil Thomas ZR2NT and Jim France ZS2JF for lectures at the RAE course;
- Jim van Loggerenberg ZS2LR for his unseen work maintaining the BBS;
- Chris Scarr ZS2AAW for his upgrading and maintenance of the PEARS web site
- Cliff Smyth for his service on SARL Council until recently as the PEARS representative.

CW Merit Awards: the *premium* level certificate for a minimum of 1000 contacts using Radiotelegraphy were presented to Ken Tremere ZS2BWB and Beavan Gwilt ZS2RL.

Awards accepted on behalf of the recipients at the SA Radio League AGM were handed to Mike Bosch ZS2FM (2 Metre Trophy), Al Akers ZS2U (winning single operator portable station in Hamnet contest) and André Botes ZS2ACP (Tinus Lange 7066 Technical Excellence Award).

The meeting adopted a motion of appreciation to the SARL and, in particular, Councillor Rassie Erasmus ZS1YT for the 'speedy' announcement of RAE results and issuing of call signs.

Braai-ing, on fires already prepared by "the fairies" (I think Trevor ZS2AE was one of them) started in earnest and the proverbial good time was had by all.

[Some photos on next page] 

AT THE AGM: *Right: "Take that!"* –

Lynne Crothall ZS2MM shows her chop – and some of the newer members – who's boss around the braai fire. Sickened at the sight of the abuse, Clive ZS2RT hies way from the scene. *Below:* André Mulder ZR2A receives his trophy and certificate from Chairman Beavan Gwilt ZS2RL.



■ Unfortunately the brilliant (and hot!) sunshine streaming through the windows of the hall rendered the other photographs too contrasty and less suitable for publication. These have been doctored. Hopefully the printers will reproduce them acceptably.

FOR SALE

* Alinco DX 70 HF & 6 metre transceiver, 100W HF and 10W 6 metres — Neels Du Plessis, Tel 041 994 8265, Fax 041 994 8291, Cell 083 770 6727
e-mail neels.duplessis@eskom.co.za

* TH3 Junior beam; five 811A valves — Neil Fulton ZS2MG, Tel. 360 2527, e-mail nmfulton@hotmail.com

* *From the shack of Bryan Haefele ZS2BH (prices are for guidance) —*

1. Kenwood TS 870 +/- 1 year old R9000.00
2. Kenwood TR 9000 All Mode R800.00
3. Daiwa CN 101 L 1.5KW cross-needles R250.00
4. Bencher key R450.00
5. Electronic keyer R450.00
6. Kenwood Station Monitor SM 220 with Panadapter +/-R700.00
7. 2 Power supplies each x 20 amp R600.00 ea
8. Post Office Key R150.00
9. Yaesu 780R 70 cm R800.00

Tenders for Bryan's items, in sealed envelopes, must be addressed boldly to **TENDER**, c/o Neil Fulton ZS2MG at 6 Culemborg St, KABEGA PARK, P.E. 6025. They should contain your offer/s and a contact telephone number. It is expected that decisions on the offers will be made within a few weeks, so do not delay. Bryan will not let the gear go if the offers are far below his guideline prices, which are considered fair and certainly not inflated.

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY HELD AT THE MUNICIPAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE, MILL PARK, PORT ELIZABETH ON FRIDAY 20 APRIL 2001

Welcome: Beavan (ZS2RL) welcomed all present and gave a special welcome to Bill and Barbara Hickson who had just joined the club.

Present and apologies: as per register

Minutes of previous meeting: Proposed by: Bill (ZS2ABZ), Seconded by: AL (ZS2U)

Matters arising: None

Finance: Clive's report confirmed that all was well with the Club. He also reported that membership renewal was going well, 48 members had so far renewed.

Correspondence:

In: E-mail from SARL HQ to say that they are taking up the issue of the post RAE net with ICASA.

Out: Nothing

General:

1. *Subs:* The chairman reminded all present that club subscriptions are due.
2. *SARL AGM:* Garth will be the PEARS representative. He requested that all SARL members give him their proxy.
3. *RAE:* The chairman informed the meeting that the RAE classes had been discontinued. Reason being that at times no students attended classes. He also mentioned that the Club would not hold another RAE course unless there were a guaranteed 6 students attending lectures.
4. *Purchase of radio equipment:* The club had given the committee approval at a previous meeting to purchase a VHF/UHF radio. One is available from ZS2CR at a cost of ± R3 000.00. The meeting approved the purchase of the rig.
5. *Purchase of a laser printer:* Due to the current printing company being unable to continue printing QSX, alternative avenues have to be sought. Garth suggested purchasing a laser printer to do own printing. Colin (ZS2CR) has access to good second hand ones from his salt mine. Approval was given to purchase a HP laser printer for R741.00.
6. *Project of a direction finder antenna:* Beavan had a copy of a project for the construction of a direction finding antenna if anyone wanted a copy. The meeting said that there had also been a project featured in QSX on the antenna.
7. *Nominations for awards:* Nominations were called for for awards at the upcoming PEARS AGM. Neil ZR2NT said that Chris (ZS2AAW) had done a lot of work on the website.
8. *Technical meeting:* The next technical meeting would be held on Monday 23 April and Al (ZS2U) will be giving a talk on the 6m band.
9. *Sensitive issue:* Beavan and Garth had mentioned this in the April issue of QSX. It is in regard to two operators starting their QSO on a frequency of 7045 kHz and interfering with a QSO already in progress on 7047kHz. The ZS2 operator has cancelled his PEARS membership and has said that he would occupy the bulletin frequencies on HF before the bulletins were due to start. It was agreed that, should this happen on 7098kHz, the PEARS bulletin would be manually patched onto HF 3kHz down the band.
10. *Open issues from the floor:* Garth asked if anyone had received any info from the SARL re the AGM. No one had received anything.

Meeting closed at 20h35. After tea, Neil (ZS2MG) gave a talk and showed a video on his recent trip to Turkey.

Antennas (part 2)

BY AL AKERS ZS2U

We have quite an extensive two metre repeater network which uses vertically polarized antennas to provide an omnidirectional radiation pattern. Vertically polarized antennas are more suitable for vehicles. Thus, particularly for the benefit of new members, it was decided to devote this series specifically to vertically polarized two metre antennas. They can of course be scaled to other frequencies.

Ground-plane Antenna

This antenna is easy to make and works well. Figure 1 shows a vertical radiator and four radials. Any number of radials may be used; the more radials the greater efficiency, but the more cumbersome the antenna becomes. A good compromise is four radials.

The radiator length is:

$$l = 7125 / f(\text{MHz}) \text{ in centimetres.}$$

The radial lengths are:

$$l_r = 7490 / f(\text{MHz}) \text{ in centimetres.}$$

If the radials are horizontal, the impedance of the antenna is about 36 Ω and will give an SWR of 1,4:1, which is quite satisfactory. If you want a better match than this, the radials may be sloped. At an angle of 45° the impedance will be 50 Ω , providing a 1:1 SWR.

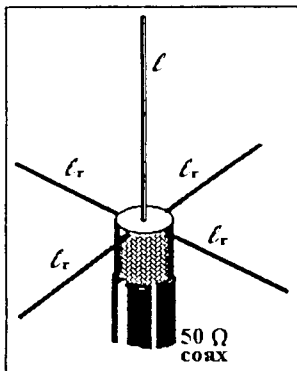


Figure 1

the vehicle roof may be used for a ground plane. Few people would be prepared to fasten the

feedline screen directly to their vehicle roof, so the answer is to use a magnet mount antenna and capacitively couple the feedline screen to the vehicle roof.

Correction – The formula in the last line of Part 1 last month should have read:
Loss = $10 \times \text{Log}(\text{SWR}+1 / \text{SWR}-1)$ dB

Ceramic speaker magnets are ideal for this purpose. Figure 2 shows the construction. A is a stand-off insulator on

which the radiator is mounted, B is the steel pole-piece, C is the ceramic magnet, D is a brass shim, glued to the bottom of the magnet and to which the feedline screen is connected.

E is adhesive plastic fastened to the bottom of the shim to prevent the shim scratching the vehicle roof and it also acts as the capacitor dielectric.

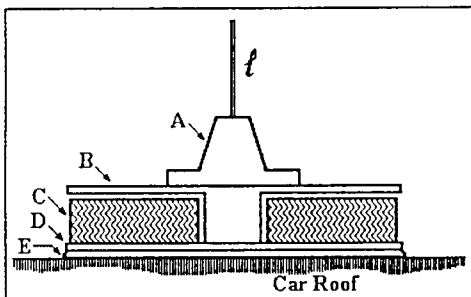



Figure 2

The shim and vehicle roof act as the capacitor plates.

The vehicle roof also functions as a horizontal ground-plane, so the SWR will be about 1,4:1. If you want a better match than this, lengthen the radiator by about 25%, which will give an impedance of 50 Ω resistance and some inductive reactance.

Connecting a trimmer capacitor of about 30 picoFarads in series with the radiator and feedline centre conductor will allow you to tune out this reactance. Adjust the trimmer for minimum SWR.

If it is not low enough for your liking, alter the length of the radiator and adjust the trimmer till you are satisfied.

The most suitable radiator is a stainless steel whip. 

This and That

PRINTING OF QSX

Members may have noticed a gradual drop-off in the print quality of QSX, especially of photographs, over the past couple of years. Eventually, our printers of some 20 years, Instant Printing, ran out of the cheap plates and, due to ageing of their paper plate maker, could not see their way clear to continuing in that mode. The only answer would be metal plates, which would not only be more expensive but would also require the Editor to print his "copy" on transparent film (also expensive) instead of ordinary paper as heretofore.

The April and May issues were printed from paper originals using a photocopy process by two different

companies, at a considerably higher cost than we have had in the past. The results, especially the May issue, were still disappointing.

We are looking at alternatives and have had a couple of suggestions but would welcome any news from members who might have contacts where we could get decent quality printing, especially of the grey-scale photographs, at a reasonable price.

With the growth in membership we have to increase the number of copies of QSX. We are fast reaching the point where the annual subscriptions barely cover the cost of producing and posting the newsletter.

OUR FINANCES

Speaking of costs – At the AGM, an oft-heard question was put following acceptance of the financial statement: "We have a healthy bank balance, now when are we going to start spending some of it?"

We are perhaps more fortunate financially than many other amateur

radio clubs. Thanks to this, the interest from our savings helps to cover running costs that exceed the income from subscriptions alone. This means that we can keep the subs relatively constant in spite of the high cost of providing and maintaining top class facilities throughout the Eastern Cape.

RAE MANUAL

From time to time we receive orders for copies of our RAE manual from people all over the country. Since we gave the SARL the go-ahead to adopt our RAE manual as the official South African handbook, and they hold a stock at Headquarters which represents idle capital while they are on the

shelves, we have decided to sell copies to members of PEARS only in future. Non-members must apply to the SARL for copies.

PEARS' present price is R40 plus postage.


OPERATING

One of the "new boys on the block" expressed fear that their lack of experience on the repeaters might cause irritation to other users. Well, there should be no cause for complaint if operators keep their conversations reasonably *short and relevant*, avoid the excessive use of *jargon*, and use *call signs* correctly – with *phonetics* if appropriate.

It is preferable to move to a *simplex frequency* after making contact via the

repeater, especially for longer contacts, if direct communication is practicable.

Remember that the airwaves are not the place to discuss *private* (e.g. *intimate family or workplace*) matters. Also, we are not permitted to conduct *business of any kind*. However, you *may* say how many *rands* your rig cost or where you bought it, or even the brand of car you drive. That's *not* advertising!

Have fun! 

The APPLE EXPRESS STEAM TRAIN

(Continued from last month)

The Apple Tavern is a passenger coach that has been converted into a tuck shop. Here, plenty of goodies are on sale such as cooldrinks, sweets, chips, souvenirs, beer etc. Your purchase will help with the restoration of the coaches and locomotives.

The "Chelsea Dam" which we passed just before entering Chelsea junction used to be a quarry that supplied stone for the building of the P.E. Harbour. The story goes that at some point during operations an underground water source under pressure was breached and the quarry quickly filled with water. There was not enough time to remove the quarrying machinery which, so they say, is still at the bottom of the dam.

The branch line at Chelsea junction goes down to the PPC cement factory in New Brighton. The line was closed last year when the stone quarry at Lorie ceased operations. The PPC factory used to have its own steam locomotives which shuttled the stone laden trucks between Chelsea station and the cement factory in New Brighton.

From Chelsea we now rattle and bang our way further into the country passing the Greenbushes drive-in screen seen in the distance on the right, then later on past the Altona School on the left, established by a German from the Altona region in Germany and past the Fairview Race course also on the left if you look carefully through the trees.

A few kilometres further on, on the righthand side of the train is a large open field that is often covered with water during the rainy season. Next to the line is a large slab of concrete on which once stood a water tower. This is known as the 17½ mile water stop. The early Garrett locomotives had to stop here to take on water to get them as far as Van Staden's Station.

One and a half hours after leaving Humewood Station we arrive at Van

Staden's Station. Here the train stops for about 20 minutes for another leg stretch. Passengers have the option of walking the 500 odd metres to the Van Staden's River bridge, the highest narrow gauge railway bridge in the world, or staying on the train. If you are brave of heart and decide to walk across the bridge, stop for a brief moment and look down to the river bed 77 metres below. Hang on to your hat if the wind is blowing.

Looking south you can see the road bridge in the distance. After crossing the bridge on foot we wait for the train to arrive. Here the locomotive puts on a special show for photographers. With a spectacular display of hissing steam and black smoke pouring from all sides, she makes her way slowly across the bridge.

After reboarding, passengers are treated to some of the best scenery of the trip as the train winds its way through the picturesque farmlands of the Thornhill area.

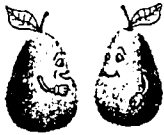
About half-way between Van Staden's and Thornhill we pass through Sunnyside. This siding is the highest point above sea level (837 ft) between Humewood and Thornhill.

About two hours and 53 km after leaving Humewood, we arrive at the little village of Thornhill. For those who have made prior arrangements before leaving Humewood station, a delicious meal awaits them in the Thornhill Hotel, while the rest of us relax in the hotel grounds under the trees with a picnic basket or, if you are quick, a braai near the hotel lapa.

Two hours later a toot from the locomotive signals that it is time to arouse oneself and break the spell of a reverie encouraged by the fresh country air.

The return journey affords us time to reflect on an unforgettable experience of being part of a mode of travel from the past, that is fast disappearing.

The future of the line and the Apple Express is in the balance. Current proposed government policy could see the closing of all unprofitable railway lines. If this should happen, Port Elizabeth could lose a valuable part of its heritage. 📍



PEARSTALK

ITU [GC1]DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS DOCUMENTS APPROVED

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has announced the approval by the International Telecommunications Union Development Sector (ITU-D) of two landmark documents related to amateur radio disaster communications in developing countries. These documents represent the culmination of two years of work by the IARU and ITU-D Study Group 2.

The first is Recommendation ITU-D 13, *Effective utilisation of the amateur services in disaster mitigation and relief operations*. It recommends that administrations include the amateur services in their national disaster plans, **reduce barriers to the effective use of the amateur services for disaster communications**, and develop memoranda of understanding (MoU) with amateur and disaster relief organisations.

- *The exclusion of the voluntary services of non-SARL members from Hamnet must top the list of barriers that the SARL must eradicate urgently in terms of the ITU Recommendation. The present ban by the SARL is diametrically opposed to the spirit of the Recommendation and ham radio itself - Ed.*

AO-40 ALIVE AND WELL

The RUDAK system was activated successfully for the first time following the December incident. Command station operator W4SM reported that the power stayed within bounds and everything looked normal during the first test. The RUDAK team then began uploading programming to the RUDAK CPU's.

James, G3RUH, reported good copy

of the RUDAK beacon, which is about the same signal strength as the IHU middle beacon.

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, commented: "It was with great pleasure that I worked AO-40 early in the morning of Saturday, May 5th. Signals were generally good. To satellite enthusiasts there is nothing quite as exciting as working a new bird, especially when we have all watched and waited as AO-40 went through it's troubles and (now) is returning to us as a great satellite."

JOIN THE SARL NOW

"Membership of a national amateur radio society is one of the most important parts of being a radio amateur. While your local club provides activities, the SARL looks after the interests of amateur radio at national regulatory level and is continuously engaged in the protection and expansion of the allocated frequency spectrum,". Ned Kekana, chairman of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Communications, said at the recent annual dinner of the SARL.

He continued: "The SARL has to raise its profile beyond its traditional footprint. Organizations have to grow and attract new blood. Numbers are important if you are to be taken seriously by government and the private sector. Therefore the growth of SARL both qualitatively and quantitatively is a necessity for the survival and viability of amateur radio in South Africa.

"Without being too prescriptive, I think your organization should be a home to all South Africans who have an interest in amateur radio. The SARL membership must reflect a cross mixture of our country's population including women and the disabled. There has to

be a special effort to reach out to young radio amateurs in the rural areas."

You can make it happen by joining now, says the SARL. Full membership for the 2001/2002 year costs R265.

NEXT RAE WILL BE ON 25 OCTOBER

The Councillor responsible for the RAE, Rassie ZS1YT, has announced that due to university, technician and school examinations, the SARL decided to advance the date of the next RAE to 25 October 2001.

By advancing the examination it can be assured that the issuing of call signs to successful candidates will be completed before the end of the year.

The closing date for registration is 25 September. No late registrations will be accepted. Registrations received after 25 September will be carried forward to the next examination in 2002. The registration fee is R135-00.

PEARS will run a course, starting on 5 July, provided there is a minimum of six candidates prepared to attend regularly. The last course was abandoned when attendance dropped to a non-viable level. If you know of anyone interested, get him or her to contact Greg Maynard ZS2RE without delay.

Apart from the R135 that goes to the SARL, PEARS requires R40 for the manual and R50 for membership of the Society (R30 for scholastic students).

WORLD TELECOM DAY EVENT

Chris ZS2AAW, Michael Mkrakra ZR2MK, Ewalt ZS2EHB and Trevor ZS2AE ran a special event station for this occasion at the Ndzondelelo High School in Zwide on 17 May.

"With disappointment, we were unable to copy Gauteng stations on HF during the event, and only copied Gaborone clearly. Eshowe was also heard. However, with such high ambient noise in the classroom too, there was no way we could get a clear enough signal for the learners to hear or participate," Chris reports.

"When conditions were out, we

decided to get onto VHF and let the learners chat to other hams along the repeater network between 11 and 12 noon, and this they did with great excitement and cheering from classmates etc. So they had plenty of fun in the end, and we had numerous queries and lots of pamphlets taken."

Chris says that, next time, we need to either do an internet style linkup or choose a different band. He reported to Hans that they could not copy well enough to even know whether there was perhaps another frequency in use, e.g. in the 10 MHz band, or whether 7082 was the only transmitter going.

RAE RESULTS IN RECORD TIME

From a total of 144 entries, 125 candidates wrote the Radio Amateur Examination. 117 Candidates passed, which represents a pass figure of 93%. The candidate who attained the highest marks was WPS Swart from Heibron with 98%.

The youngest candidate to pass the examination was 13 year old Lyle Laaks ZR2LL of Port Elizabeth. Lyle is the son of Gary ZR2ABU.

Congratulations, Lyle!

Candidates' official amateur radio operator's certificates and licences for 2001 have hopefully been processed by ICASA and mailed by the time this appears in print.

The examiner for the RAE, Rassie ZS1YT, must be congratulated on the speed with which he marked the papers and got the results out. They appeared on the SARL web site less than a week after the exam was written. It was really a magnificent job of work.

Rassie extends his thanks to all the invigilators and persons involved with administering the examination for their co-operation, which ensured that the results became available in record time.

WESTERN CAPE REPEATERS

Those who visit the south-western Cape are often given incorrect responses to enquiries about the various

repeaters in that area, says Ron Marlow ZS1RON. These are the current locations:

145,600 – to be located on NW part of Piketberg range soon.

145,625 – Tygerberg – next to the Sentech mast on the south end overlooking Plattekloof/Parow North.

145,650 – DuToitskloof – close to the Telkom microwave tower that can sometimes be seen from the N1.*

145,675 – Jonaskop – at 5400ft, 30km North of Caledon.

145,700 – Constantiaberg – on Sentech mast.*

145,725 – 'Gansbaai – Still at temporary site - ZS1WC.

145,750 – Kanonkop – on North end of Tygerberg range, close to concrete Telkom tower.

145,775 – Hanskop – conical peak that overlooks Somerset West from Sir Lowries Pass, with many other masts on site.*

* These require 88,5 Hz CTCSS tone for access.

YARIA MAKES A RETURN

YARIA, the once popular Youth for Amateur Radio in Africa programme, will return to the airwaves, a bulletin of the SARL reports. This follows the agreement between the SARL and ICASA that registered club stations may introduce amateur radio to newcomers by arranging special events during which non-licensed persons may operate an amateur radio station using a club call sign under the supervision of a licensed amateur.

The SARL petitioned ICASA for relaxation of the rules as "we believe that this is the most effective way to let newcomers experience amateur radio", SARL president Hans Potgieter said.

This new arrangement, which we think arose from a proposal by PEARS, will offer clubs the opportunity to introduce practical operating experience sessions during the courses for the Radio Amateur Examination.

Clubs are required to register their

club call signs for this purpose with the SARL. Each event must be registered with the SARL.

SETI LEAGUE SWITCHES ON MOOBOUNCE BEACON

The SETI League, the privatized search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, has placed a transmitter on the air that bounces microwave signals off the surface of the moon. The transmitter operates on a frequency of 1296,000 MHz.

The SETI League's more than 1200 members in 60 countries have collectively assembled over 100 small radio telescopes, constructed out of discarded satellite dish antennas along with sensitive microwave receivers and powerful home computers.

In the SETI application, it is not natural phenomena but artificial radiation from other technological civilizations that the telescopes seek to identify. The moonbounce beacon is intended to enable radio astronomers to verify the proper operation of their equipment.

- On 22 July the SETI League Executive Director, Paul Shuch will again be a guest on the SARL Intecnet to continue his discussion on the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence. He was a popular speaker on the February Intecnet.

MORSE CODE INTEREST GROUP

Tubby Waldeck, ZS5TUB has planned a CW event for their Morse Code Interest Group based in Durban to honour our South African radio pioneers.

The event will take place from 12:00 to 16:00 on Saturday 11 August 2001. The mode will be CW only. Frequencies will be 7.012 MHz in the 40 metre band, 14.050 MHz in the 20 metre band and 21.130 MHz in the 15 metre band.

This should be a pleasant way of renewing old acquaintances and making new ones, as well as offering contacts to newcomers who are trying their hand at CW or those improving their proficiency in the art. ☐

Congratulations...

on your birthdays:

June

- 18 Ingrid Petzer XYL of ZR1DJP
- 18 Ossie Osborne ZS1KP
- 21 Rene Roebert XYL of ZS2NR
- 23 Steven O'Reilly
- 28 Pieter Liebenberg ZS2PL
- 28 Ken Tremeer ZS2BWB

July

- 1 Brett Tapson
- 2 Rosemary Robertson ZR2RR
- 3 Julie Scarr ZR2EY
- 5 Nico Oelofse ZS2N
- 11 Isaac Greeff ZS2ZG
- 13 Cyril Hislop ZR2H
- 14 Alex Gogos ZR2T
- 19 Arthur Baynes ZR2ARB
- 19 Bill Browne ZS2BY
- 20 Sally Jacobs XYL of ZS2BW
- 20 Vic Olivier ZS2SZ

on your anniversaries:

June

- 20 Bernice & Bryan Marshall ZS1NQ
- 24 Blanka & Vic Batt ZR2BBH
- 24 Ali & Ewan Mathieson ZS1EM

July

- 2 Sally & Donald Jacobs ZS2BW
- 4 Marge ZS2OB & Brian Weller ZS2AB
- 12 Julia & Bill Atteridge ZS2V
- 12 Liz & Allen Lubbe ZS2AEG
- 12 Joan & George Bowes ZS2QN
- 19 Charmaine & Sel Whitebooi ZR2KAT

on passing the RAE Lyle Laaks ZR2LL, youngest successful candidate in the exam, Selwyn Whitebooi ZR2KAT, Vernon van der Watt ZR2WC, André Roets ZR2AR and Hermanus Nel ZR2NH. We're sure you are going to enjoy your new hobby.

on upgrading to ZS Stefan du Toit, ex ZR4SED, passed his CW exam recently and now sports the call sign ZS2SDT.



Sick List: Attie Barnard ZS2Q had a heart attack on 7 May, a pacemaker fitted on 8 May, and was back home by the 11th. He sounded strong on the phone – hope you're fully recovered by now, Attie.


Trevor Holmes ZS2AZR had a stay in hospital for a gall bladder operation just as he was about to take an overseas trip in mid May. He recuperated quickly enough to be driven to Johannesburg to start his trip abroad.

Moved: Stefan du Toit ZS2SDT has moved from Schweizer Reneke to Carnarvon for business reasons.

Welcome New Members: Alan Lubbe, Ivan Newman ZR2LN of EL and Ian Moore. We're glad to have you with us and hope you will enjoy your stay.

Brag: Lyle Laaks ZR2LL, who passed the May RAE at age 13, is the fourth generation ham in the Laaks family. First generation was OM Bill ZS2KW, next is Garth ZS2HB (who actually obtained his licence a year or two *before* Bill, although Bill had been playing around with radio almost since it was invented).

Both Garth's sons are licensed hams – Keith ZS6TW and Gary ZR2ABU, as well as daughter-in-law Renate ZR6RX (who scored the highest aggregate nationally in her RAE and received the SARL's Arland Usher Gold Pen award).

The tally of five hams in the family now equals the Oliviers' local record – Vic ZS2SZ, Anne ZR2ABC, Keith ZR2AAX, Renee ZR2ABD and Sean ZR2DET. 

Your Society's Committee

Chairman Awards.....	Beavan Gwilt ZS2RL	360-6968
Vice Chairman, repeaters, packet.....	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	368-1344
Secretary.....	Neil Thomas ZR2NT	372-1969
Treasurer, Awards Control.....	Clive Fife ZS2RT	367-3203
Social, Refreshments.....	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	581-2580
QSX Editor.....	Garth Laaks ZS2HB	368-1101
e-mail the Editor at.....	glaaks@africa.com	
QSX distribution (ex committee).....	Trevor Scarr ZS2AE	367-1746
Technical Classes, RAE.....	Greg Maynard ZS2RE	581-0991
Librarian.....	Neil Thomas ZR2NT	487-2403
Special Events.....	Ewald Bouwer ZS2EHB	933-3482
Youth Affairs.....	Greg Maynard ZS2RE	581-0991

PEARS' VHF/UHF & Other Services

REPEATERS

Town VHF.....	# 145.050/650	
Town UHF.....	# 431.050/438,650	
Cockscomb.....	145.000/600	
Colesberg.....	* 431.075/438,675	
Craddock.....	* 145.050/650	
Grahamstown.....	* 145.150/750	
		Knyvsa..... * 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, Danabaai 145.600, Stilbaai 145.750, Butterworth 145.725, King Williams Town 145.625 and Umtata (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 (ZSONTP).....	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 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 as well as Craddock and environs. PEARS' 7098 or 3640 kHz transceive facilities are also remotely linked as needed. In addition, the SARL'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
10 June	ZS2HB
17	ZS2RE
24	ZS2EHB
1 July	ZS2ABZ
8	ZS2RL
15	ZS2AAW
22	ZR2NT

DIARY DATES

JUNE

- 15 PEARS Monthly meeting
- 18 Technical Evening

JULY

- 5 Wrinkly Rave – Listen to bulletins for venue
- 6/7 VW RALLY

* We Like Being Your Society! *