

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE  
PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Web site: [pears.8m.com](http://pears.8m.com)

P.O. BOX 10402  
LINTON GRANGE  
6015

**November 2001**

## NOTICE OF MEETING

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

As is usual, this will be the last meeting of the Society this year. Business will be disposed of in double-quick time and will be followed by a Cheese & Wine evening. PEARS will provide a good spread of appropriate eats and a few boxes of wine. If you are not a wine fancier, you may bring your own selection of liquid refreshments.

This is naturally a social occasion and it is hoped that all the spouses will come along and enjoy the evening too.

## Wrinkly Ravers

The next rave will be held on **Thursday, 6 December 2001** at the Charlo Grill in Luke Road, Charlo.

It would be nice if all Wrinklies could make a point of attending this rave, being the last in 2001 and with the festive season starting to get into its stride.

The November rave at Barney's

Steakhouse, in Lorraine, was attended by 12 ravers, including one or two Smoothies. However, the grub was not up to previous standards and a good deal of disappointment was expressed. Service, too, was very unsatisfactory. We don't expect to go there again soon, in spite of its convenient situation for most of the ravers.

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## ON A TECHNICAL NOTE


The series of articles on transistor theory that have been appearing in QSX – the current one being the last on the three types of transistor amplifiers – seem to have generated a good deal of interest.

Remember to get together on Monday evenings for discussion of the article and any questions that you may have. The nets are held on the linked repeater system starting at 20:30 every Monday. Expert advice can also be found on the link on Thursday evenings, when the PIC lads do their

thing on the link.

The new PIC course revolving around the development of a weather station that, we reported, would start soon seems to have enjoyed little support initially, according to Neil ZR2NT. Could it be that members were put off by the statement that some programming effort from their side will be required?

Come on, lads – you can't leave everything to Neil and Co.

PIC discussions take place on Thursday evenings from 20h30. 



## *The* Chairman's Chat

**C**ontrary to popular belief, Mel and I are not busy planning our next trip – if only for the mundane reason that the piggy bank is empty. The cost of fuel really does put a damper on things.

On our return from Johannesburg recently, we passed through Queenstown at 16:30 on a Friday afternoon. As you can imagine, we found ourselves amidst a horde of taxis, loaded to the brim and in various states of roadworthiness, all engaged in a headlong dash towards the Transkei. Fortunately for the passengers in the taxi ahead of us, we came upon a police roadblock about 20 km out of Queenstown. As the taxi slowed down to about 20 kph a rear wheel bearing gave way, and the wheel parted company with the axle as if on a telescopic extension – this of course being the half-shaft working its way out.

Mike ZS2FM tells me that some time ago he saw what must be the ultimate in unsafe motoring: a tyre on a vehicle had suffered a 30 cm cut to a sidewall, and the enterprising owner had very carefully and neatly sewn it together with wire!

And now, in the interests of greater road safety, we are prohibited from using a microphone while mobile. But I believe it is still legal to gesticulate with both hands while addressing the passenger in the back seat. Ek weet nie ...

Morse code is alive and well. Congratulations to Alan ZR2A for passing at 12 wpm, and to André ZR2A for passing at 5 wpm. And thanks to Al ZS2U and Jim ZS2JF for being our CW examiners.

Don't forget that tradition has it that our November meeting takes the form of a cheese & wine 'do'. Planning for this is well in hand, and we look forward to seeing everybody there.

73,

*Beavan ZS2RL*

# HAMNET / ECARES NEWS

## Hamnet/ECARES General Meeting

A general meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21 November at 19:30 at the Municipal Disaster Management Centre. On the agenda will be discussion and acceptance of the ECARES constitution.

Also, Ken ZS2OC will give us a talk on the latest developments with regard to disaster management.

## Social

We were sorry to hear that Neville ZS2NV has had a stroke and we wish him well soon. Seems like he is making good progress.

Congratulations to Allan ZR2WH who passed the 12 words per minute morse test and to André ZR2A, who passed the 5 words per minute morse test.

## Emergency Power Supplies

Major disasters are likely to be accompanied by power failures and a power failure may even be the cause of the emergency situation, as occurred recently in the West Cape.

The most common source of emergency power must surely be vehicles' 12 volt batteries. As most radio equipment is designed for 12 volt DC operation, a vehicle battery is usually the best choice. You can organize your vehicle and station so that the vehicle battery can be used during power failures and, if necessary, you can charge the battery by running the vehicle engine.

A more convenient arrangement is to have a battery in the shack for emergencies. You could buy a new battery for this purpose, but there is a cheaper way to do it. Usually a vehicle battery needs replacing because it loses capacity with age and eventually does not have sufficient capacity to operate

the starter. It does still have sufficient capacity for up to two years to operate a radio.

When buying a new battery for a vehicle, hand in a dud one and keep the one you take out for your radio equipment. To get maximum life from the battery, keep it fully charged.

There are a number of different ways to set up a station, depending on your equipment, circumstances, etc. and you will need to evaluate this yourself. I will describe my station to give some ideas.

Transceivers I use regularly for emergency monitoring, two metres, six metres and NEARNET, are connected to the battery. HF sets which are not so likely to be required for emergencies are operated from mains supplies, but can quickly and easily be connected to the battery as well.

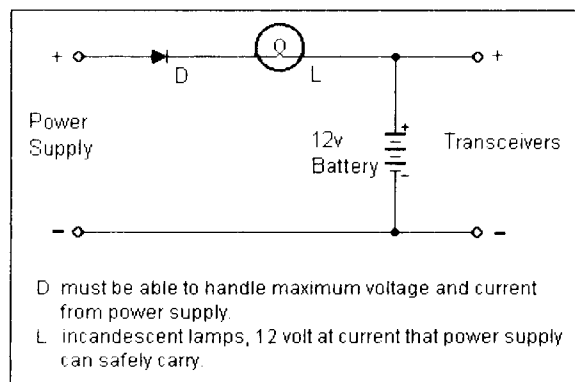
The battery is kept charged with a power supply as described elsewhere in this issue. Being voltage regulated, the charge rate will depend on the battery state: high when the battery is discharged and dropping to a trickle when the battery is fully charged. As the power supply is well filtered, there is no hum when the battery is low.

The power supply is capable of a high current and a battery has a low internal resistance, so the charge current could become excessive if there has been a mains failure for a while and battery voltage is low.

To prevent this, the circuit shown below is used. The diode prevents the battery becoming discharging through the power supply when the mains fail.

The lamp or lamps used are incandescent ones and have a current regulating action. I use six 12 volt 21 watt lamps in parallel because they are cheap and are also replacements for my vehicle indicators.

In the worse case scenario – a short circuit on the battery side – only about 10 amps will be drawn from the power supply, which it will be able to handle.



As the voltage across the lamps drops, so does the resistance. For example, with 5 amps flowing through the lamps the voltage drop is only 1,4 volts and at 2,5 amps it will only be 0,2 volt.

Recommended floating voltage for the battery I am using is 13,5 volts. I set the power supply voltage at 14 volts as there is a drop of about 0,6 volts through the diode.

73,

**AI ZS2U**  
**Provincial Director,**  
**Hamnet East Cape/ECARES**

## MOBILE OPERATING BANNED unless it's hands-free

The 12-month period of grace that was allowed users of radio apparatus operating in the 2 to 500 MHz range lapsed in August and, since then, it has been illegal to operate any kind of radiocommunication device while driving on a public road unless it is done without holding any part of the device in the hand "or any other part of the body" except that a headset may be used.

As originally published, Regulation 308A of the Transport Regulations would have been thus restrictive on us. However, the Department of Transport (DoT) was approached by various bodies who use two-way radio equipment – as well as your Editor – to try to limit the regulation to cell phones only, which is what triggered the whole idea in the first place.

The DoT managed to persuade the Minister to give two-way radio users a reprieve – but he was adamant that it should be for 12 months only. The previously published Regulations were amended accordingly from the date on which they became effective – in August 2000.

The reprieve has now fallen away and

anyone caught transmitting with a hand-held radio or microphone while driving on a public road can end up paying a fine. As Cyril ZR2H puts it after checking it all out: "Basically, what they are telling us is that you will have to have your rig fixed to the car and have a mic that is mounted close to the face, but it must be operated by a remote PTT switch or VOX. Failing which, you must pull off the road, stop and complete your QSO before continuing your trip. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!"

♦ It is strange that the DoT permits the use of headphones "connected to the [cell phone or radio] directly or indirectly, while being fitted to or attached to one or *both ears of the driver*"!

Surely, in the interests of road safety, a driver should have at least one ear open for traffic sounds, sirens etc?

♦ A thought – how many of the so-called 'road-rage' incidents have been triggered when a driver doesn't realize that the other chap is using his hands-free cell phone, sees him jawing away and gesticulating wildly, thinks the chap is giving him a lot of lip, so gets out and donners him? ☹

**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 19 OCTOBER 2001**

In the absence of Beavan and Chris, Greg ZS2RE chaired the meeting.

**1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES:**

Beavan, Chris and as per register.

**2. WELCOME:**

Greg ZS2RE chaired the meeting and welcomed all present.

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

It was proposed by AI ZS2U and seconded by Bill ZS2ABZ that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as correct.

**4. ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

None

**5. FINANCE:**

The Society finance is in good standing. Greg stated that PEARS is one of the few amateur radio societies/clubs with a membership over 100 and is also one of the most active.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

6.1 Greg read a letter received from the chairman of SATEPSA who monitored the VW rally communications and complimented the radio operators and organisers for a well-executed task.

**7. GENERAL:**

7.1 Greg congratulated Allan ZR2WH who passed the 12 WPM and André ZR2A who passed the 5 WPM Morse test.

7.2 Bill ZS2BY displayed some second hand equipment up for sale.

7.3 Greg reported that Beavan spoke to André ZR2A from Grahamstown re the SciFest and André will be able to assist with the organisation and setting up of the PEARS station.

7.4 Participation in the SciFest was discussed at length. Several present questioned whether amateur radio benefits

from our participation. Neil pointed out that he was introduced to amateur radio twenty years before he wrote the RAE! AI also reported that he received a phone call from two scholars in Adelaide interested in doing the RAE. This interest stemmed from the SciFest.

Bill ZS2BY proposed an interesting exhibit using an oscillator with a beam antenna coupled to an incandescent light bulb. The light would light up brighter as elements/reflector are added to the antenna.


It was decided to have an on the air meeting to discuss the participation of PEARS and what to present to the public at the SciFest. The meeting would take place on Sunday evening 21 Oct. 2001 at 20h00 on the linked repeater system.

7.5 Ewalt and Bill ZS2ABZ informed the meeting that any interested scouts will visit Bill's QTH during JOTA the following day. The local scouts have not organised any official event this year.

7.6 AI reported that he received a letter from Soekie Moolman, XYL of the late Jack Moolman, thanking all hams that regularly visited Jack during his illness and also for attending the funeral.

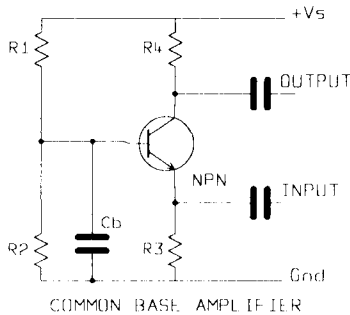
7.7 AI informed all that he and Mike Bosch ZS2FM had to forward amended VHF/UHF contest rules to SARL without submitting to committee because of the printing schedule of RADIO ZS. If the amendments were first submitted to the committee the rules would only appear in RADIO ZS after the contest.

7.8 Greg proposed a vote of thanks to the Port Alfred ladies for providing all the tea, cake and dessert at the PA bash arranged by Pat and Ginny. **Thank you to all.**

The official business closed at 20h55 after which tea and coffee were enjoyed. The next meeting will be the last for this year and will be in the form of a cheese and wine. 

By Alan Whitehead ZR2WH

This month we will look at a common base amplifier as set out in the diagram.



This common base amplifier has its input between the emitter and ground and its output between collector and ground.

The calculations for setting up the biasing conditions are the same as in part 3. Set the base at  $1/3$  of  $V_s$  and  $R_3$  will determine the emitter current.  $R_4$  is selected so as to set the collector voltage at about  $2/3$  of  $V_s$ .

The base will be at A.C. ground. To achieve this, capacitor  $C_b$  is used. The impedance of  $C_b$  must be negligible at the lowest frequency to be handled by the amplifier.

Of the three amplifiers discussed so far, the common base amplifier has the lowest input resistance, usually below 100 ohms. The output resistance will be approximately equal to  $R_4$ .

The gain of this amplifier will be approximately  $R_4/R_3$ .

The output signal will be in phase with the input. This can be explained by considering the effect of a positive going input signal. This will bring the emitter voltage closer to that of the base, thus tending to turn the transistor

off. The collector current will decrease, which means that the voltage across  $R_4$  will decrease, with a resultant rise in the collector voltage.

The common base amplifier is primarily used at very high frequencies (50 MHz and higher), because the transistor base physically separates the input and output. Thus there is minimal feedback possible from input to output. This minimises unwanted oscillations in practical circuits.

That completes the short articles on the three types of transistor amplifiers. To summarise, the input and output resistance of each amplifier is given below.

*Common emitter:-*

Input  $R = \beta \times r_e$  in parallel with the biasing network

Output  $R = R_4$

*Common collector:-*

Input  $R = \beta \times R_3$

Output  $R = (\text{biasing network}/\beta) + r_e$  in parallel with  $R_4$

*Common base:-*

Input  $R = r_e + (\text{biasing network}/\beta)$

Output  $R = R_4$

Where  $r_e = 26 \text{ k}/I_e(\text{mA})$

When debugging one of these amplifiers note: -

1. Is the base-emitter junction forward biased at 0.6V? For an NPN transistor the base should be positive with respect to the emitter.
2. Is the base-collector junction reverse biased by at least 2V? For an NPN transistor the collector should be positive with respect to the base.
3. Is the collector current at least 1mA? Check this by measuring the DC voltage drop across  $R_3$  or  $R_4$ .

# HEAVY DUTY POWER SUPPLY

AL AKERS ZS2U

The circuit shown here has been around for some time and is well tried. I have built two such supplies, the first in 1982 and the second several years ago. Both have given excellent service, with but one fault, a poor contact on the slider of the pot to set the voltage on the first power supply, after some twelve years.

I believe that some have experienced oscillations with their supplies. Judging by one such supply I saw, I can only conclude that good construction techniques were not adhered to.

Leads should be short and thick, especially those carrying high currents, and connections should be well made.


One 2N3055 should be used for each five amps drawn, i.e. this is a fifteen amp supply.

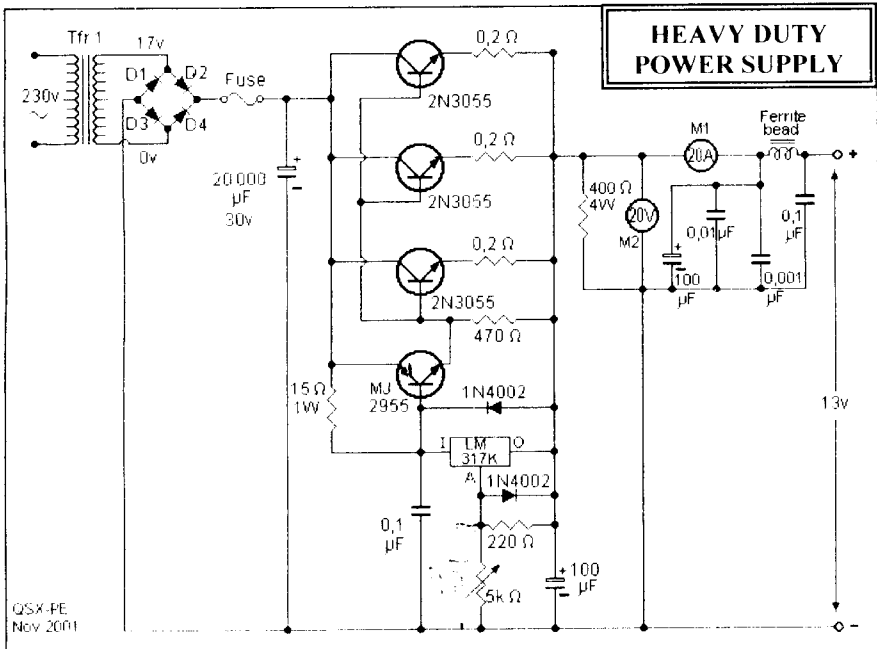
The 0,2 ohm resistors should be equal in order to equally distribute the current between the 2N3055

transistors and they should be capable of carrying at least five amps.

Diodes D1 to D4 should have ratings at least double the voltage and current they will be handling. As each handles half the voltage and current of the supply, each should be rated at least the supply voltage and current.

Use good heatsinks on these diodes, the 2N3055 transistors and the MJ2955 and LM317K regulator. The regulator could be a LM317T.

The 5 kilohm pot is used to set the output voltage of the supply. The capacitors in the supply should have at least a 30 volts rating. 





# RF PRE-AMPLIFIER

(Reprinted from Fiddlers' Corner, QSX-PE, April 1996)

*Amateur Radio can be quite inexpensive. Constructing your own gear keeps costs down, and using items that you have put together yourself provides a measure of satisfaction that you do not get when using something that you have simply bought.*

*One of the main objectives of Amateur Radio is self-education, and the best way to learn is to do it yourself. In this article, Viv Moore ZS2VM brings us a useful pre-amplifier that can be added 'outboard' to perk up an existing receiver or to enhance the sensitivity of test equipment.*

The wideband RF pre-amplifier described here provides high gain over frequencies from 200 kHz to well over 50 MHz. As the frequency increases, the gain decreases. It is ideal for use with test instruments such as oscilloscopes and digital frequency counters.

The unit can provide a considerable increase in sensitivity, which is particularly useful when measuring very low voltage signals.


It can also be used as an untuned pre-amplifier for receivers on all bands from LF to VHF and it will give a useful boost to the performance of any receiver. The pre-amp has been used successfully with the QRP receiver kits.

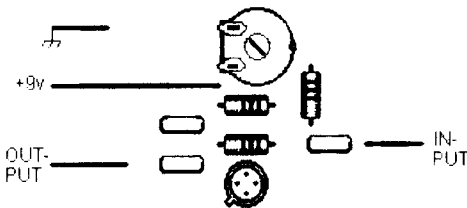
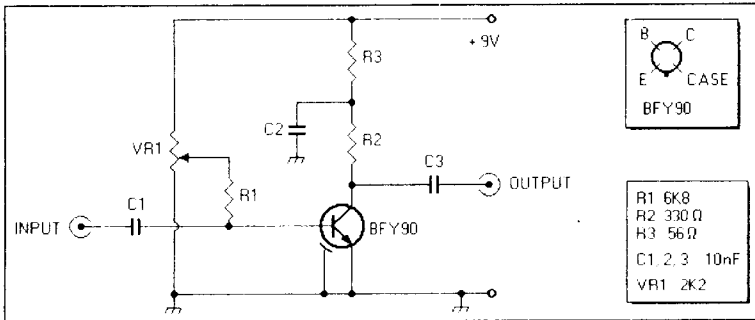
## Setting it up

Carefully inspect the printed circuit board and wiring, connect the supply and measure the supply current, which should be 10–20 mA. If this is not the case, adjust VR1 until 15 mA is being drawn.

Now connect the pre-amplifier into the coaxial line between aerial and receiver and tune to a steady signal between 5 and 15 MHz.

Adjust VR1 for maximum indication on the receiver's signal strength meter and then repeat the procedure at VHF (a receiver for the 144 MHz band would be ideal for this purpose), once more adjusting VR1 for maximum 'S' meter reading. The wideband RF pre-amp is now ready for use.

Use screened coaxial input and output leads. Note that when the pre-amp is used in an unmatched system, it is important to keep the lengths of coaxial cable to a minimum. 



PC BOARD (component side)



PC BOARD (copper side actual size)

# HF PROPAGATION BEACONS

*From Short Wave Magazine, May 2001*

The ionosphere refraction qualities vary constantly and in order to follow as accurately as possible the changes, amateur and scientific HF beacons have been installed around the world. These beacons transmit on a tight schedule a signal of varying power. Thus, by listening from your own location to these beacons, you can get a very good feeling of the quality of the refraction path to the location of the beacons.

There are at present two main series of beacons being operated. The first one is a joint NCDXF/IARU operation and is responsible for 18 beacons around the world. These beacons operate in the amateur bands and they all are equipped with the same type of equipment.

The beacons are located in about every region of the world, so by listening to their signals on one frequency, you can visualise very rapidly what the conditions are around the globe. What is interesting with these beacons is the fact that they transmit a signal of decreasing power: 100, 10, 1 and 0,1W, and you can hear the signal getting fainter and fainter.

The transmissions are continuous, on schedule, around the clock. The total transmission time during one cycle on each frequency is only 10 seconds. The timing at all stations is accurately maintained by using a GPS receiver as the basic clock.

Seventeen sites are currently operational or are schedule to become operational in the near future. The frequencies used are: 14,100, 18,110, 21,150, 24,930 and 28,200 MHz.

A second series of beacons is being installed and operated under the aegis of the ITU by at least two countries. The original intent of the ITU experiment was

to have as many countries as possible install propagation beacons and gather as much information as possible from automatic receivers. The signal transmitted by these beacons is a fairly complex one, but was designed so that it would be possible to gather as much information as possible and the information could be computer analysed.

This ITU field-strength measuring campaign will eventually produce the necessary data to help improve even more the propagation forecasting techniques and software. The specifications for the transmitting and receiving equipment to be used are very stringent, making it possible to compare the results between all stations.

The transmitted signal format is a complex one using a combination of CW and FSK (frequency shift keying) modulation methods. The signal contains all the information necessary to help the automatic extraction of the data required to obtain the hourly field strength at the receiving site.

To date, only two countries have installed transmitters for this campaign: Norway with station LN2A and Australia with station VL8IPS. The transmitters and antennas used at these stations are completely dissimilar, but they use the same set of frequencies: 5,470, 7,870, 10,407, 14,405 and 20,945 MHz.

As more transmitters are added to this chain, it will become necessary to find additional frequencies since the transmission cycle of these two stations is four minutes on each frequency compared to 10 seconds for the NCDXF/IARU beacons.

The following web pages will be of interest: [ncdxf.org/](http://ncdxf.org/) for information on the NCDXF/IARU system, and [lps.gov.au/beacon](http://lps.gov.au/beacon) regarding the ITU system.

There are, of course, also other beacons used to check the propagation. They are mostly operating in the amateur bands. ©



# PEARS

## OCTOBER RAE

A total of 138 candidates registered for the RAE on 25 October, which was written at 16 centres across the country. Only 125 candidates actually wrote the examination, and 108 passed. This represents a pass percentage of 86%, which seems to be more in keeping with general exam pass rates than the high nineties in past years. Presumably the raising of the minimum requirements was responsible and has made the exam more meaningful.

The youngest successful candidate, 11 year old Chris Berkemer from Alberton, has already passed the 5 wpm CW test and proudly possesses the call sign ZU1C.

The results were available on the SARL web page early in November, barely a week after the exam was written, thanks to a very stout effort by the chief examiner, Rassie ZS1YT, who is to be congratulated.

Not so the person who authored the warning in a recent SARL bulletin. It said that a licence application form would accompany the examination numbers and "this form must be completed in full and handed to the invigilators. Candidates who fail to complete this form in full will neither receive the examination result nor a call sign."

• *The Boss has spoken! This autocratic attitude has exasperated many, to judge from several comments heard. Who gives the SARL the right to withhold the exam result from a*

*candidate who has paid for the service? Perhaps he doesn't want a licence just yet! Attitudes like that are no way to win friends and increase membership!*

## MORE FELICITATIONS TO PE HAMS

Congratulations to André Botes ZS2ACP on his successful contacts via AO-40, using 2 metres up and 2.4 Gigahertz on the downlink.

We believe that André was the first South African station to accomplish this and that he will be presented with a certificate by SA Amsat in recognition of the achievement. Meanwhile, he has been swamped with DX stations calling him when he accesses the satellite.

Other members to be given a hearty pat on the back are Anne (get your gun) Smithers ZR2XT and Alex Gogos ZR2T on gaining EP colours for

practical pistol shooting. Anne is the first lady to gain this distinction.

## ITU STUDIES 7 MHz ALLOCATIONS

ITU-R working groups have been discussing the spectrum available to the Broadcasting service between 4 and 10 MHz, which is inadequate. The debate also deals with a proposal to make 300 kHz available to amateurs world-wide in the 7 MHz area. The IARU is lobbying for a 7000 – 7300 kHz allocation but there are several alternative proposals.

The SARL recently discussed the matter with ICASA in an effort to seek African support

### ALL PEARS CANDIDATES PASS

**All the candidates who enrolled through PEARS passed the RAE and have been allocated their call signs with authority to go on the air immediately.**

**We extend our congratulations to Ashley Goosen ZR2AG, Bill Hickson ZR2WJA, Timothy Joubert ZR2TW, Linton Röhl ZR2LIN, Terence van der Linde ZR2VDL as well as Derek Hislop ZR2DJH, who studied privately.**

**Derek is the son of Cyril ZR2H. Will father or son get his full ZS first?**

**We are sure that all the successful candidates will enjoy their newfound hobby and we hope that they will join in all the activities provided or supported by PEARS and the SARL.**

**We also congratulate all the other successful candidates, especially those of the Border Radio Club.**

for the 7000 – 7300 proposal. The debate will continue for some time.

The League says this again points to the issue of “do national societies have the support of radio amateurs in their Country? If their membership were much larger, they would have more muscle. The current status creates the impression that there is a large group of radio amateurs in the world who do not really care and for frivolous reasons do not join their national society.”

“South Africa is not excluded in this lack of adequate support syndrome. Is it not time that those outside the SARL join and put their support behind the organisation?” the League asks. “The annual fee is small in comparison to the investment radio amateurs have made in equipment and time.” Visit the SARL website [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) for details on how to join, or call 011 675-2393 during weekday office hours

- There we go again! *Frivolous! The annual fee is small!* When will the SARL start to recognise the views of the majority of hams – at least, those outside Gauteng?

## **YARIA**

YARIA – Youth for Amateur Radio in Africa – is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14 November between 13:30 and 15:00 from the IARU stand at the ITU Telecom Africa 2001.

At the time of going to press it was not known whether any Eastern Cape schools would be active.

## **PEARS WILL BE AT SCI-FEST AGAIN**

This event is scheduled for 13–19 March next year and PEARS has decided that it will, after all, participate again. The views after the last event were heavily in favour of dropping our participation because it always ends up with the same small band of people putting all their energies into setting up, manning and dismantling the stand.

However, our concern for the future of ham radio and the desire to influence young people to pursue a useful hobby overrode those considerations and we hope that a few more hams in the Eastern Cape and Border areas will throw in their weight behind us by way of personal involvement.

It is felt that the usual view of expensive-looking commercial radio equipment, often with

no activity due to HF conditions, QRM or non-availability of stations to work on VHF, has given rise to the merely superficial interest generally shown by passers-by. Consequently, next year we want to display and use home-brew equipment, have kits available that youngsters can put together to make useful gadgets, and encourage hands-on participation.

This will include the use of our Telereader to which a morse key can be attached. (Contrary to normal expectations, the morse keys and oscillator have drawn the most attention from the youngsters on various occasions and they obviously enjoyed trying their hand at the art!)

Neil Thomas ZR2NT is organising our involvement. If you would like to assist in any way – and we hope you will – please contact him. Neil’s telephone number is on the inside cover of every issue of QSX.

## **PORT ELIZABETH VHF BEACONS BACK ON AIR**

The two VHF beacons in Port Elizabeth are once again on the air after undergoing major service.

The 14 year-old ZS2SIX beacon on 50,005 MHz FSK has been received world-wide during F2 openings, while ZS2VHF on 144,415 MHz FSK has been received in Divisions 3, 4, 5 and 6 during the early mornings and sometimes also at night.

The beam width of this beacon covers an area stretching from north-east through north to north-west as centered on Port Elizabeth. Both transmit horizontally polarized signals.

## **SARL MUM ON BOSCH REPORT**

The Council of the SARL has not yet offered any comment in Radio ZS or bulletins on the findings in Mike Bosch ZS2FM’s independent investigation into the drop-off in membership of the League, nor has it published the report, either in full or in extract. It was sent to them some three or four months ago.

Council seems to have left it to the Editor of Radio ZS to deflect the flak: Without actually referring to the report, pages in the September issue dealt with some of the matters that had been quoted in the investigation as turn-offs for potential members. Hopefully members will, in the near future, see what those sore points are

and whether Council is reacting suitably to give the League an urgently needed shot in the arm. One complaint was that Council does not listen...

We have heard a rumour that somewhat fewer than a thousand members have renewed their membership so far. If this is so it is extremely serious. Subs were due on 1 July – four months ago – so, if you have not yet sent in your subs, you have probably been removed from the Radio ZS distribution list.

### CHASING DX?

Tom Davies of Grahamstown reports on the following operations:

- GHANA, 9G – 9G5KW has been QRV using RTTY on 20, 17 and 15 meters around 1230 to 1730z and then from around 2000 to 2200z.
- PAKISTAN, AP – Bob, AP2JZB has been QRV on 10 meters using SSB around 1600z. QSL via K2EWB.


• IRAN, EP – Mohsen, EP3SMH has been QRV on 10 meters around 1500z.

• JAN MAYEN, JX – Per, LA7DFA is active as JX7DFA for the next six months.

• ANTARCTICA. Chris, N3SIG is active mainly on 20, 17 and 15 meters using SSB as KC4/N3SIG from the McMurdo Station on Ross Island, IOTA AN-011, until March 2002. QSL via AI3D.

• CHAD, TT – Chris, TT8DX has been QRV on 17 meters around 1800z and 6 meters around 2000z. QSL via F5OGL.

### NEW SARL HO ADMINISTRATOR

The SARL's administrator at head office, Veronica Lewis, has resigned for personal reasons. Council has since engaged the services of another lady, Marlette Kroukamp, who started on 1 November. We join the SARL in wishing her a long and happy association with amateur radio. 

## FOR SALE ★ WANTED ★ SWOP

### FOR SALE

\* Trio 9R-59DS all-band comms receiver with bandspread (valve type) in very good condition, R50 — Bill Browne ZS2BY, tel. (041) 368-7419.

\* From estate of late Pat Brent ZS2PAT. Prices suggested are negotiable. In reply quote ID number of item and price offered. Items are supplied in good faith, voetstoots but tested if possible:—

(1) 13m tower, Cushcraft A4S 4 element 20,15, 10 meter tri-bander, 11meter Shakespeare white stick, Super J 2meter, Slim Jim 2meter, 40meter inverted V, guy wires, winch and all feed lines, KR400 Kenpro rotator (All going as one job lot only) R3000; (2) KDK FM44-10 2meter radio, 10w output - OK R600; (3) heavy duty PC based PSU -unknown – good xfrmr R40;

(4) GE Super Base 11meter radio, AM/SSB - OK R500; (6) AEG CX3 3x1 antenna switch R50; (5) Motorola PSU 12V@2.5A. - OK R50; (7) homebrew speech processor R30; (8) Yaesu FTC1610 2meter 7channel radio, ±10W – OK (requires xtals) R300;

(9) Datong Electronics RF clipper R20; (10) Craig CB, scrap R10; (11) Radiophone transceiver - uhf, req xtal ±5w R30; (12) Sidebander 6 CB radio, AM/SSB - faulty - NO OUTPUT R50; (13) Toshiba charger, scrap R10; (14) Telefunken Starfire AM/SSB CB sets – OK R250; (15) Ekco FM car radio R30; (16) IBM PS1 PC + keyboard + MONITOR R400;

(17) Canon BJ10SX mono printer with 2 units as spares R180; (np1) Tedelex TE 6000 AM/SSB CB – OK R300; (32) 18v DC PSU - heavy duty (possibly 12V capable) R150; (20) Reace RS101 SWR meter, 0-30Mhz R30 — Offers/enquiries to Ed ZS2DI, Tel. (043) 726-3323, e-mail digipoint@digipoint.co.za. [Numbering is as supplied by advertiser—Ed]

# Congratulations...

## on your birthdays:

### **November**

- 18 Cornelia Geyer XYL of ZS2OT
- 18 Martha Terblanche XYL of ZS11
- 21 Shaunna Laaks XYL of ZR2ABU
- 26 Fred Strutt ZS2JS
- 28 Elizabeth Jasson ZR2EJ
- 28 Nellie van Zyl XYL of ZS2VZ

### **December**

- 5 Clive Fife ZS2RT
- 6 Lionel Coombe-Davis ZS2DD
- 6 Phil Kauffmann-Sorensen ZS2NP
- 7 Dawid Petzer ZR1DJP
- 7 Natasha Bruyns ZR2BCS
- 12 Shaun Pohlmann ZR2SAP
- 13 Rees Naude ZR2RN
- 13 Kay Strutt XYL of ZS2JS
- 18 Anne Olivier ZR2ABC
- 20 Marlene Gray XYL of ZS2G
- 20 Marlene Ashwell ZR2ED
- 20 Donald Jacobs ZS2BW
- 21 Paul de Vos ZS2ABY
- 21 Ron Clarke ZS2MF

## on your anniversaries:

### **November**

- 19 Jeanette & André Mulder ZR2A
- 20 Shirley & Stoffel Carr ZS2C
- 20 Mel & Beavan Gwilt ZS2RL
- 27 Maggie & Ian Moore ZR2IJ

### **December**

- 2 René & Neville Roebert ZS2NR
- 8 Barry & Graham Griggs ZS2ABK
- 9 Dot & Vic Plumridge ZS2VP
- 10 June & Mike Jones ZS2JJ/ZS2MJ
- 11 Ingrid & Dawid Petzer ZR1DJP
- 11 Marlene & Colin Ashwell ZR2ED/ZS2AO
- 12 Jane & Clive Fife ZS2RT
- 12 Santie & André Greyling ZS2ACG
- 13 Martie & Dick van den Berg ZS2VV
- 14 Lizelle & Dean Russouw ZR2DWR

- 16 Maureen & Bert von Rahden ZS6AVD/ZS6LP
- 19 Lida & Dirk Ligthelm ZS2D

**on your marriage** Libby and Mike Hanslow ZS1RMS, who tied the knot on 28 July. May you enjoy many happy years together. (We need Libby's birth date for our records).

**on passing your CW tests** Allan Whitehead ZR2WH @ 12wpm and André Mulder ZR2A @ 5wpm. Will we hear those fists on HF soon?

**on knocking 'em out** Ken Tremeer ZS2BWB, who took first place in Africa in a recent international RTTY contest hosted by Australia.



*Sick List:* Neville Vroom ZS2NV had a stroke in mid October and Tom Davies of Grahamstown had an aorta bypass at Greenacres. We're glad to report that both are getting along well.

### *Welcome New Member*

Andy Soper ZS2VJZ of Grahamstown. Glad to have your company, Andy.

*Leaving Town:* Morag and Greg Maynard will be moving to Durbs after their marriage in January. We wish you all good things in your new abode, you two.

*Gadding:* Viv & Peggy Moore ZS2VM to the USA for a couple of months again; Cathy & Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG to Europe for a month.

*Not gadding:* Mel & Beavan Gwilt are staying home for a change.

*Bad Luck:* Ewalt ZS2EHB had his tower blown down in high winds last month, damaging one of his beams. ☹

## Your Society's Committee

Chairman, Awards.....	Bevan Gwilt ZS2RL	360-6968
Vice Chairman, repeaters, packet.....	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	368-1344
Secretary .....	Neil Thomas ZR2NT	372-1969
Treasurer, Assets 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@iafrica.com	
QSX distribution (ex committee).....	Trevor Scarr ZS2AE	367-1746
Technical Classes, RAE.....	Greg Maynard ZS2RE	581-0991
Special Events.....	Ewalt 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	Knysna..... * 145.075/675
Cockscomb.....	145.000/600	Lady's Slipper..... * 145.100/700
Colesberg.....	* 431.075/438.675	Noupoort..... * 431.150/438.750
Craddock.....	* 145.050/650	Uitenhage.....# 145.075/675
Grahamstown.....	* 145.150/750	

\* 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 (ZSONIP) .....	144.625
Packet Rose Switch ZSOGII1-3,046101 (144.675 in/out) or 046102 (UIHF out to BBS).....	144.675
2m Beacon (ZS2VII CW ID, 1SK) (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 Craddock 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
4 Nov	ZS2AAW
11	ZR2NT
18	ZS2HB
25	ZS2RT
2 Dec	ZS2RE
9	ZS2EHB
16	ZS2ABZ

### DIARY DATES

#### NOVEMBER

- 16 CHEESE & WINE after short monthly meeting
- 19 Tranny theory, 2m link @ 20:30
- 21 HAMNET/ECARES meeting
- 22 PIC discussion, 2m link @ 20:30

#### DECEMBER

- 6 Wrinkly Rave @ Charlo Grill

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