



QSL PE



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE
PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

WEBSITE: www.qsl.net/zs2pe

**PO BOX 10402
LINTON GRANGE
6015**

MARCH 2004

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

The monthly general meeting of the PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY will be held on Thursday, 18 March 2004 at the St Hugh's Church Hall, Newton Park, starting at 20:00 (8 pm).

Our local muso, Ewalt ZS2EHB, will be giving us a rundown on **home recording** using a PC with sound card, audio mixer with microphone, and a CD writer to cut your own music CD. He will also show how MIDI can be used to control musical instruments from your home computer.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided by Bill ZS2ABZ.

Remember the **bring and buy** table to get rid of what's filling up your shack at present.

Wrinkly Ravers

We had a good 17 members at the March effort. Joan and Bill Browne ZS2BY also attended but Bill had a sudden diabetes attack, and Joan took him home after he had recovered. Maureen and Neil ZS2MG were also there, but not Peggy and Viv ZS2VM, who left the same day by plane and ultimately the USA for two months. Peggy gets to celebrate her --70th-- birthday over there. (*You can't get me, Peggy, you're too far away!!*).

Next month, April, we'll get together on **Thursday the 1st**. Remember, you still have a spot of time to pull some of your *first of April* fast ones on the others at Barney's Steak Bar, Circular Drive, Lorraine.

REHASH OF OUR SUNDAY BULLETIN

Don't forget to listen to the rebroadcast of our Sunday bulletin on the subsequent Monday evening. It comes up at 8 pm on 145,700 MHz.

Following the bulletin there is usually a talk on some or other item, which seems to find a good deal of interest.

NEW VERSION OF WSJT SOFTWARE

A new version of WSJT has been released and is available for downloading. The major change to this version is to FSK441 and is not compatible with the present FSK441.

It is suggested that everyone download it as soon as possible and that usage of the new version begins from the weekend of 13-14 March 2004.

The K1JT home page format has been greatly improved but can still be found at the same address as usual: <http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/K1JT/>. The new version can also be downloaded from the PEARS website, <http://www.gsl.net/zs2pe>, under the VHF section. ☺



from The Chairman

There are so many time-markers to remind us just how quickly this commodity passes us by. For those of you in business, or enjoying retirement, the end of February marked the end of yet another financial year, and March, the beginning of a new one. My on-air operation has been severely limited with all the preparation that goes into “closing the books”.

We are still grappling with the same issues in our hobby – how to encourage the public to become interested in amateur radio. During February, several enquiries were received from the public, mainly as a result of the exposure we are receiving in both Port Elizabeth “knock-and-drop” freebie, weekly newspapers. Also as a result of this exposure, one of our local community radio stations, Radio Kingfisher contacted me with a request to do two live interviews about PEARS and amateur radio.

The following week, another of our members, Michael Mkrakra, ZR2MK was also interviewed in Xhosa. Hopefully this will lead to more and more exposure for our wonderful hobby.

You, too, can also assist in promoting amateur radio by making contact with your local newspaper or community radio station. Should you require

assistance with the preparation of articles to submit for publication, etc. I, and several other committee members are ready and waiting to help.

Our February meeting was a great success, not only did we have an interesting talk and demonstration on small 2m beam antenna construction by Al, ZS2U, we also had the pleasure of meeting two visiting hams from overseas. Please, make every effort to attend the monthly meeting folks, your hobby needs you!

In closing, a word of caution: Those of you with transceivers that have been “opened” to cover frequencies other than the amateur bands take note. A local amateur recently received a surprise visit from ICASA, supported by the SAPS dog unit, and had his Icom 7E dual-band handy-talkie confiscated because it had continuous receiver coverage from 100 MHz to 999 MHz. They considered this radio to be a scanner. Remember, an amateur radio licence does not give you permission to own such equipment. It is my understanding that only a radio dealer may have access to such a device.

See you at the next meeting!

73,

Rory, ZS2BL

CONTESTS

As you probably know, I am very much in favour of members participating in contests as this is an excellent way to improve their operating skills.

We have several contents coming up, so please make a special effort to take part and have some fun.

PEARS AQ 2 METRE CONTEST

This takes place on 20th March from 1500 to 1800.

All amateurs in the East Cape are eligible for the contest, but stations outside the East Cape are welcome to give points.

There will be two categories: Fixed station and Field station. Both categories will be single operator, but two or more amateurs may operate the same station under their own callsigns. See the February QSX for full details.

You may send your logs either to Al Akers ZS2U, at his home address, or by e-mail to glaaks@iafrica.com . The chaps have found it impossible to lodge their logs on the website.

HAMNET SIMULATED EMERGENCY CONTEST

This is scheduled for Sunday 11th April from 1400 to 1600 on the 40 metre band SSB.

I may be contacted for any further information.

News of further contents will be included in future issues of QSX.

STICKERS AND ARMBANDS

I have a limited supply of ECARES stickers, kindly organized by Martin ZR2MR, which may be attached to your vehicle or a board to be displayed when the occasion demands; also Civil Defence reflecting armbands. First come, first served.

SOCIAL

We welcome Barry Murrell ZR2DX, who has joined ECARES. Great to have you with us too, Barry.

73,

Al ZS2U
Director: ECARES

SOME MORE COMMENTS BETWEEN PILOT & GROUND

ENGINEERS on the gripe sheet showing problems the pilots have encountered while in flight (P = Pilot, S = Solution):

P: Something loose in cockpit

S: *Something tightened in cockpit.*

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: *Evidence removed.*

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: *That's what they're there for.*

P: IFF inoperative

S: *IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.*

P: Suspected crack in windshield

S: *Suspect you're right.*

P: Aircraft handles funny.

S: *Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.*

P: Mouse in cockpit

S: *Cat installed.*

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.

S: *Took hammer away from midget.* ☹

OUR 2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Society will take place during May – probably the 22nd – at a place that has yet to be decided. It will probably start with a bring and buy and end with a bring and braai. Watch QSX next month for full details.

In the mean time, you are invited to place any items that you want discussed at the AGM in writing with the Secretary not later

than the April 2004 meeting. Anything that you have needs to be proposed and seconded by two members of the Society.

This would also be a good time to recommend to the Committee any members who you feel should be considered to receive any of our awards, or to put in a claim for any trophies that you think you might have earned.

YOUR 2004/5 SUBS

Your subscriptions for the 2004/2005 financial year fall due on 1 April 2004. They are R50 per full member and R30 for Spouse and Student categories.

If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, you can deposit your subscription in the PEARS account: Nedbank Main Port Elizabeth branch, a/c no. 2212527594. The branch code is 121217. Please enter your name in the reference blocks on the deposit slip so that Clive knows who it is from.

As you know, the subs have remained unchanged since the Society was established some years ago. The interest from our investment helps us to bear the cost of QSX as well as several other outpayments. These, including postage rates themselves, have continually increased and it will probably be necessary for us to raise the subscriptions as well from the 2005/2006 year.

WELCOME TO NEW CLUB

We hear that a new club has been formed at Worcester, the Wynland (Amateur. Radio?) Club

Our congratulations go to all concerned.

We surely trust that all the Club's members will support the organisation and do everything they can to steer it well into the future.

FOR \$ALE ★ WANTED ★ SWOP

FOR SALE

- * Local short wave listener wishes to sell his Kenwood *R1000*. Asking price: R1000 negotiable — Derek Davidson, tel. 041 373 7068 (H), 041 403 2319 (W) and Cell 083 554 9612 or email: derek.davidson@delta.co.za
- * 2 x Transistors 2N706A (used among others in FT200 VFO Oscillator) — Clive Fife, tel. 367 3203 or Cell. 072 435 3880.

WANTED

- * An accurate and stable RF signal generator, range 1 – 450 MHz. Must be in 100% working condition. Will also consider different units that cover the HF, VHF and UHF spectrum — Johan ZS1I, tel. 044 693 3136 or e-mail zs1i@mweb.co.za
- * Communications receiver for listening to amateur bands — Gary Robertson (member of club, but no callsign yet), tel. 041 372 1318.

SATELLITE NEWS

by Barry Murrell ZR2DX

Satellite linking for Africa - a suggestion by Bob Bruninga WB4APR

In response to a comment posted on the AMSAT-BB mailing list, Bob Bruninga WB4APR (the creator of the APRS system and a satellite enthusiast) had the following suggestion:

"One way to look at the total lack of users on the LEO's on the African continent is to look at it as an opportunity. Yes, the obvious solution is waiting for someone else to put up an ideal HEO satellite. That is one way...

But someone with a little ingenuity could use their creative energies to connect a LEO satellite rig in South Africa to the internet (ECHOlink or IRLP?) and then, via the LEO's, anyone on the continent would have someone to talk to. All you would need are a few of these internet gateways.

No, it isn't the same thing at all, but it is something that could be done as an interim thing, using local resources without waiting for your ideal satellite... and anyone in Africa with an FM mobile rig could play..

We cannot do things like that in Europe and USA or just about anywhere else because of extreme loading making such a concept useless. But placing ECHOlinks (or IRLP) ground stations in South Africa, Antarctica, Hawaii, and other remote areas would be a very practical extension of the utility of the LEO's to global communications via Amateur Satellites.

I would imagine that not everyone in Africa is within range of the few linked repeater systems and would relish the availability of FM voice connectivity from the wilderness a few times a day. The

LEO's over such areas are just HIGH repeaters with coverages of over 3 million square miles..

Yes, HEO satellites are ideal, but this is just a thought of what can be done in the mean time.. In fact, linking "ECHO" to ECHOlinks kinda makes sense (but ONLY in areas that are 1000 miles away from any other HAM population density...

BTW. If you are still reading, LEO's like SUNSAT, ISS, PCsat, fly over Africa several times a day and give live worldwide connectivity to anyone anywhere within 1000 miles of South Africa to be able to use packet to communicate with any Ham anywhere else on the planet via APRS (Live). This is because there is a full time APRS sategate in South Africa that links every packet heard in to the global APRS internet system so that it can pop out anywhere else on the planet.

This ECHO idea is simply extending this global connectivity to VOICE the same as we have been doing with packet for the last several years...

de WB4APR, Bob"

Parkes 64m Radio Telescope Listens for AO-40

The 64m Radio Telescope situated in the town of Parkes, Australia (and made famous in the movie "The Dish") has been used to assist in attempts to recover the stricken AO-40 satellite.

The Parkes Observatory in Australia (<http://www.parkes.atnf.csiro.au/>) is operated by the "Australia Telescope National Facility (ATNF)" which is part of "Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial

Research Organisation (CSIRO). The dish was used to receive the live pictures of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing in 1969. The radiotelescope has a diameter of 64 metres and the system noise figure is approx. 25 K.

From about 6:00 UTC on 19 February 2004, a 4 MHz wide spectrum with centre frequency of 1097 MHz was scanned with high level technique in order to find the LO frequency of the AO-40 L1 receiver. A band of approx. +/- 20 kHz around the actual LO frequency was examined intensively. Three hours were needed to prepare the setup for AO-40 and to search. Unfortunately nothing was heard which could be a signal of AO-40!!

The fact that nothing was heard of the L1 receiver's LO does not lead to the conclusion that AO-40 is completely dead. The receivers of Parkes are not really fitted for frequencies below 1.25 GHz, and naturally one does not know how good the L1 receiver's LO is shielded or how much of the signal would go through the antenna to the outside world. During the next days more research follows.

The L1 command receiver is continuously switched on, and it would have been good news if we had such a confirmation that the 10 V power source for the L1 receivers is still functioning. All receivers and also the IHU are supplied with the 10 V source. All command stations are continuing to send commands to the satellite in order to switch the batteries.

UO-11 Commemorative Event

On 1 Mar 2004, UO-11 (aka UOSAT-2) will have been in space for 20 years! To mark the event, AMSAT-UK will be issuing a commemorative QSL card in exchange for listener reports from stations hearing the signals during the month of March 2004. The reports MUST be made by way of the reporting page on the AMSAT-UK web site (<http://www.uk.amsat.org/uo-11>).

The QSL card will be in the form of a downloadable "E-QSL". Depending on

the numbers of reports received, it MAY be possible to issue printed QSL cards. A decision will be taken on this when AMSAT-UK can gauge the numbers involved.


UO-11 was the second satellite to be launched by Martin Sweeting's group at the University of Surrey, and its telemetry beacon can now be heard on the 2 metre and 2.4GHz amateur radio bands (The 2.4 GHz signal is not very strong and represents quite a challenge).

Depending on the status of the satellite, it sometimes goes into 'safe' mode, and the beacon transmitters are not activated for days at a time. AMSAT-UK has asked the University of Surrey Ground station staff (who can still command the satellite) to maximise the number of days the transmitters are active during March, but other duties might preclude them from doing this.

ISS Uplink (temporarily) changed

Kenneth N5VHO reported on 22 February 2004: "As many of you have noticed, the ISS has been silent for the past few days. In actuality it has been operational but listening on another uplink frequency. It is currently configured for uplink on 145.825 and downlink remains 145.800. However, this is temporary, and the uplink frequency may revert to 145.990 at any time. From time to time the uplink may be switched back briefly to 145.825.

In addition, due to the upcoming EVA, the crew's time has become very restrictive. This demanding schedule will cause lesser priority items to be postponed and at some point will mean the amateur radio equipment will be turned off for a time.

After the EVA, it is expected that ISS operations will return to normal frequency pairing and operations." 

KITS AVAILABLE FROM SAATI

from Barry Murrell ZR2DX

SAATI HAVE THE FOLLOWING KITS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE:

YAM-MODEM

The YAM-modem is well known abroad and very much used in Europe. With local tests very good results were obtained. It directly interfaces to the PC's serial port. It, however, does not work with some PCs. A simple converter for converting TTL to $\pm 12v$ overcomes this problem and is required in these cases between the PC and this modem.

It is used with the AGW or Winpak software packages.

In stock at the moment are only two kits with the following components: PC-board, XC5202 FPGA), XC5202-holder, box and DP25.

The price of these kits is R200-00 plus postage and packaging. In future, however, only the PC-boards will be supplied and the price depends on the production cost at the time of production.

SAATI 9600-BAUD MODEM

This modem is close to the famous G3RUH-modem, which is very much used for satellite operation. It must be used with a TNC (like the SAATI TNC 2). It works very well.

It is supplied as the PC board with two DACs (ZN429E) and the two required and programmed EPROMs (2764 & 27128). We also program EPROMs on request for this modem.

The price of the PC board plus and the two DACs is R110-00 plus postage and packaging. The EPROMs' prices

can only be determined when they are bought.

MULTI-INTERFACE CIRCUIT

This can be used with various programmes, like HamCom, JVFax, etc. PC boards only at R10.00 a piece.

OE5DXL 9600-BAUD MODEM

This modem is nearly the same as the Baycom 1200 Bd modem, but it is based on discrete components. It uses three integrated circuits: 4538, 4013 and TL064. It is apparently used with great success abroad. Locally, however, we experience difficulty with the receive functionality.

Abroad they use it with the AGW, L2PCX and LTerm software packages.

SAATI only supply the PC board. The price depends on the cost at the time of the production. The PC board can only be produced in quantities of ten and more else the setup cost is too high to make it affordable at all.

SOFTWARE (also available from the Internet)

Easy PSU Design: Freeware program about power supplies and how to design them.

Teach In 2000 (Freeware program). This course covers components, DAC-ADC, computer interfacing, frequency generation, frequency counting, etc.

Anyone interested in these kits can contact Ams Amsenga ZS6YV on (012) 664 3629. ☺

An "OUTBOARD" OVER-VOLTAGE PROTECTION PROJECT

by JOHAN TERBLANCHE ZS1I

I know that there were many articles in the past in QSX relating to the above subject. However after constructing the Heavy Duty Power Supply described by Andre ZS2ACP a while ago, I looked again at the over voltage protection circuitry.

A thought came to mind that a separate PCB that hosts the over voltage protection components could come in handy especially if you have a power supply with no such protection.

I changed the PCB outlay to suit my needs and came up with a board as

shown in Fig. 1 (not to scale). As this is a simple project, I will not go into all the detail to construct the protection circuitry other than providing you with the component overlay (Fig. 2) and a photo of the prototype project.

If you want the schematic diagram, refer to the original power supply project.

Just a word of advice: Use thick wire on the input as well as the output side depending on the amount of amps your power supply provides.

COMPONENTS:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Green LED | 9. 10K Resistor |
| 2. 1K2 Resistor | 10. 470 ohm 5 watt resistor |
| 3. Relay 30 Amp auto 12 volt | 11. 0.01 Capacitor |
| 4. Relay Takamisawa RY5W-K | 12. 0.0001 Capacitor |
| 5. Push switch | 13. 0.1 Capacitor |
| 6. BC 108 or BC 109 | 14. 470 ohm Resistor |
| 7. 1K Resistor | 15. Red LED |
| 8. 13V Zener diode | |

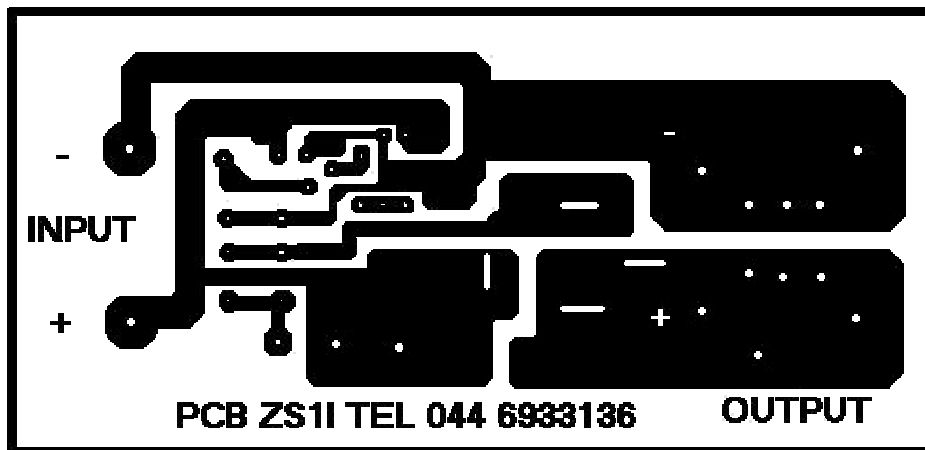


Fig. 1 – PCB for the over-voltage protection unit

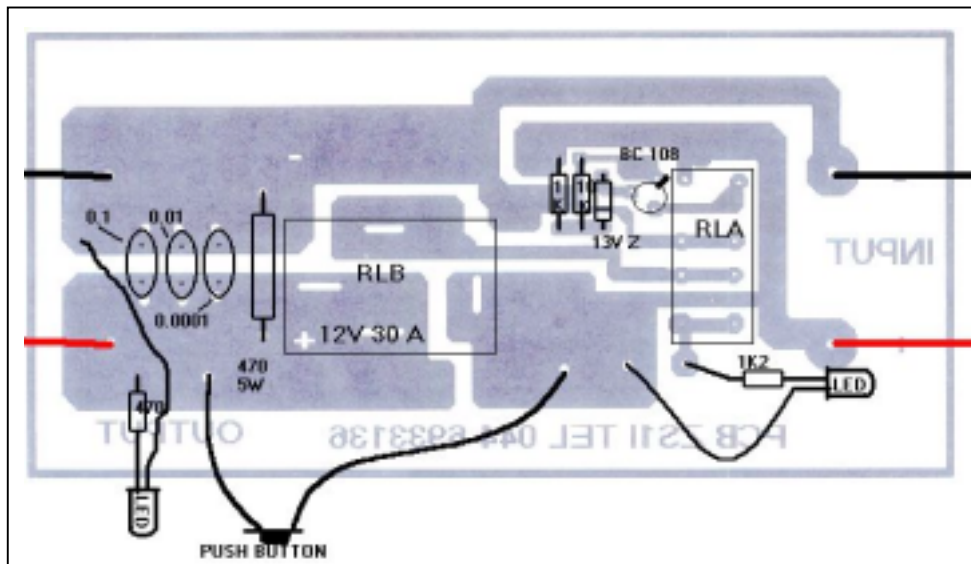


Fig. 2 – Overlay for the unit showing components

Enjoy building this handy little unit. It could save you a lot of tears if your power supply decides to go “silent key”.

PC Boards are available from Johan ZS1I, tel. 044 693 3136 or e-mail zs1i@mweb.co.za ☺

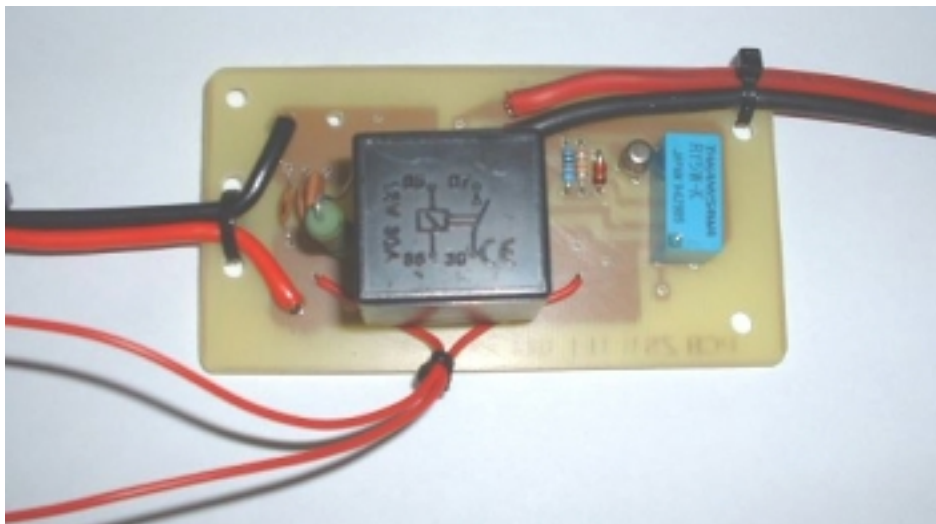


Fig. 3 – Photograph of the completed unit

SIMPLE PSK, SSTV, RTTY, PACKET MINI-PTT **INTERFACE**

from JOHAN TERBLANCHE ZS1I

I had numerous requests for a simple sound-card interface PTT that would be easy to construct, without 1:1 isolation transformers and other fancy components. These amateurs requested a PCB design that could be used on 2M FM for various digital modes.

Personally I fancy the idea of installing 1:1 transformers in the various lines, but if radio amateurs insist on "kiss" projects, who am I to express my personal preferences?

After a little scrounging I came up with the following simple project.

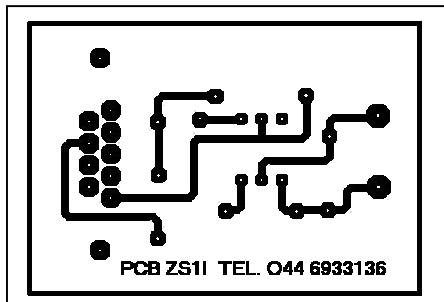


Fig. 1 – Printed Circuit Board (actual size)

The Mini-PTT Interface allows you to connect your 2M radio to the computer serial port (RS232). This interface is compatible with most of the communication software which requires sound-card operation and a PTT control through the serial port of the computer.

You will need a compatible PC with SVGA video card, 1 serial port (RS232) and sound-card. No power supply is needed.

With this Mini-PTT Interface and extension cable from the speaker socket of the sound-card to the audio

line on your 2M radio, you will be able to receive and transmit, SSTV, PACKET, RTTY, PSK31, MORSE, etc. Do I have to say more, seeing that this is a "kiss" project?

List of components:

- 2 x 1N4148 diodes
- 1 x Red LED
- 1 x DB9 female connector
- 1 x 4N35 opto-coupler
- 1 x 1K2 resistor
- 1 x 1M resistor
- Radio microphone connector (8 pin or specified radio connector)
- 2 x 3.5 mm Stereo jack plug (for speaker- and line-in socket on sound-card)
- 1 x 3.5 mm Mono jack plug (for radio external speaker)
- 3m of four core screened cable

Finally. This project (including the PCB) is available as an electronic kit. Contact ZS1I at 044 6933113 or zs1i@mweb.co.za for further information. ☺

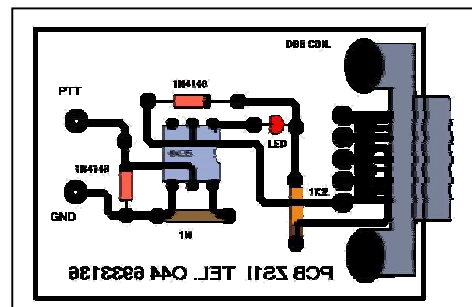


Fig. 2 – Component side

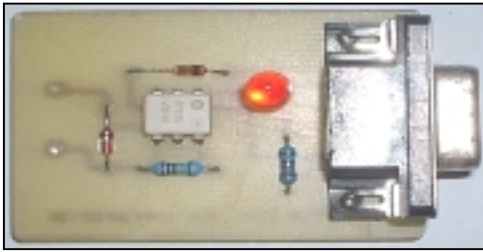


Fig. 3 –
Photograph of
the completed
item.

LED TORCH

Rev. Thomas Scarborough

A common problem with small torches is the short life-span both of the batteries and the bulb. The average incandescent torch, for instance, consumes around 2 Watts. The LED Torch in Fig. 1 consumes just 24 mW, giving it more than 80 times longer service from 4 AA alkaline batteries (that is, up to one month's continuous service).

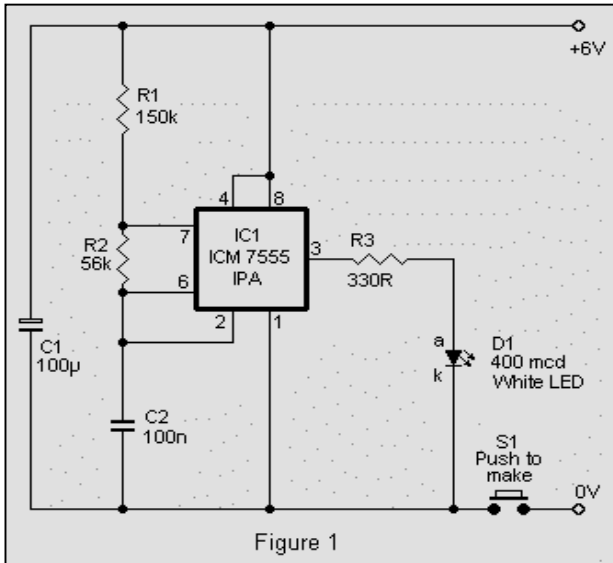


Figure 1

Although the torch's light output is modest, it is nonetheless quite sufficient to illuminate a pathway for walking.

The LED Torch is based on a 7555 timer running in astable mode (do not use an ordinary 555). A white LED (Maplin order code NR73) produces 400 mcd light output, which, when focussed, can illuminate objects at 30 metres.

Try Conrad Electronic for what appears to be a stronger white LED (order code 15 37 45-11). (I guess that means you need to check around for a stronger white LED in this

country. Perhaps Yebo Electronics (previously Maplin Electronics) could help. My available information is e-mail sales@fort777.co.za – Ed.)

A convex lens with short focal length is placed in front of the LED to focus the beam. If banding occurs at the beam's perimeter, use another very short focal length lens directly in front of the LED to smooth the beam.

If a 9v supply voltage is preferred, the value of resistor R3 should be changed to 470 Ohms.

[The writer says one should see his "Wind-up Torch" in the October 2000 *Everyday Practical Electronics* for a completely battery-free, go-everywhere torch.]

VHF NEWS

By Barry Murrell ZR2DX

BLOEMFONTEIN – PE ON 144MHz:

On the evening of Thursday 26 February 2004 a 2-way digital contact was made on 144MHz between ZS4PV in Bloemfontein (KG30bv) and ZR2DX in Port Elizabeth (KF26TA), using the JT65B mode (part of the WSJT 4.2.1 package). This was a distance of 543km.

Signals were well copied despite being between -23dB and -29dB and the contact was completed relatively quickly (bearing in mind that the JT65B mode uses 1 minute periods!)

Both stations were pretty evenly equipped: ZS4PV has a 18 element homebrew yagi and output power of 90W, whilst ZR2DX has a Cushcraft 17 element yagi and 100W.

ZS4PV will now be shifting his attention to attempting a QSO with ZS6NK in Polokwane, a distance of some 660km.

V51E TEMPORARILY OFF THE AIR

Kosie V51E suffered an unfortunate setback during a FSK441 sked with ZR2DX recently when his power amplifier went up in smoke. This leaves Kosie temporarily off the air, but he plans to get the amplifier fixed up as soon as possible, and is still planning to be QRV for the PEARS Digital Contest in June.

ZS6DDG NOW IN DIV 5

Well-known VHF enthusiast Derek Gravett ZS6DDG has now completed his relocation to Natal, where he is licensed as ZS5Y. Derek is currently busy with the setup of a powerhouse VHF station, covering 6m, 2m, 70cm and 23cm. A WSJT enthusiast, Derek has worked 9 stations on 144MHz EME from Division 6 using a single yagi and 160W. Due to saltmine activities Derek travels extensively, and has also activated numerous rare grids around the country. His current plans include trying 70cm WSJT operations down the coast towards

East London, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

ANTENNA OFFERED FOR 144 MHz EME EXPEDITIONS

Hal Lund ZS6WB reports as follows: "A tentative offer has been made by one of the U.S. EME operators to donate a large Yagi to be used for 144 MHz EME operation. Used in conjunction with a WSJT-capable station generating power output in the region of 75-100 watts it should be possible to contact many smaller EME stations around the world.

The antenna under consideration is the M2 2M8WLHD which uses 21 elements on a 55 foot (16 metre) boom. Although the antenna is very large when assembled, it is designed for travellers and fits into a box less than 2 metres long. Shipping weight is about 15 kilograms or 38 pounds.

The donation would be made on the condition that the antenna be made available to activate countries in the Southern Africa region that have previously had little or no activity on 144 MHz. An effort will be made to assemble a complete portable station including a 144 MHz multimode transceiver, portable computer capable of running WSJT, GPS for timing and all the other accessories and interfaces that would permit the station to made operational with a minimum of time and effort.

It would be hoped that this antenna would help establish operation from nearby DXCC countries such as Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zambia, Madagascar, Reunion, St. Helena, Malawi and perhaps even Zimbabwe.

Please let me know if you would have any interest in using the antenna to activate any of the above countries. 73 - Hal ZS6WB " 📧

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY HELD AT THE St HUGH'S CHURCH HALL, NEWTON PARK, PORT ELIZABETH ON 19 FEBRUARY 2004

Welcome:

Rory welcomed everyone who had made the effort to attend the meeting. A special welcome was extended to Lasse SM5TA, Mark KD6KQ and Paul ZS2OE

Present and Apologies :

As noted in the attendance register.

Acceptance of Previous Meetings Minutes :

Proposed : ZS2RT Secoded ZS2ABZ.

Matters Arising:

Nil

Correspondence:

In: Logs from VHF Contest; Various Club Newsletters

Out: None

Finance:

The Treasurer reported on the Society's financial position, which was accepted by the meeting.

Social: Nil

Special Events:

Kids Day – the Kids Day stations run by the BRC were very successful. We should be looking at similar activity for the next Kids Day

Repeaters:

ZS2AAW was not present, so no report-back was available. The problems with the GHT repeater mast were mentioned.

General:

- Rory ZS2BL made mention of the advert for Amateur Radio running in the Port Elizabeth Express, the local free newspaper. This is the cheapest way of advertising the hobby, and we need to look at how best to utilise it.
- A discussion was held regarding the old meeting venue at the Civil Defence Centre in Westview Drive. Apparently this has been refurbished and a security fence erected. Al ZS2U agreed to enquire as to the possibility of us once again making use of this venue for our meetings and activities.
- Clive ZS2RT suggested a donation to ZS2AE/ZS2AAW's relatives (or their designated charity) as a result of their loss. Garth ZS2HB mentioned that this has not been done in the past and he wondered how it would affect us in the future. It was then suggested that a letter or card of condolence be sent by the Chairman on behalf of the club.
- Barry ZR2DX repeated his request for information to be included on the PEARS Website.
- The recording and playback of the bulletins was discussed: at the moment Jim ZS2JF is handling this on his own, and volunteers to assist him are needed!

The business of the meeting was concluded at 20h30, and tea and refreshments were enjoyed. After the break Al ZS2U gave us a very informative and interesting presentation on lightweight portable VHF beam antennas. ☺

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY HELD AT THE St HUGH'S CHURCH HALL, NEWTON PARK, PORT ELIZABETH ON 19 FEBRUARY 2004

Welcome:

Rory welcomed everyone who had made the effort to attend the meeting. A special welcome was extended to Lasse SM5TA, Mark KD6KQ and Paul ZS2OE

Present and Apologies :

As noted in the attendance register.

Acceptance of Previous Meetings Minutes :

Proposed : ZS2RT Seconded ZS2ABZ.

Matters Arising:

Nil

Correspondence:

In: Logs from VHF Contest; Various Club Newsletters

Out: None

Finance:

The Treasurer reported on the Society's financial position, which was accepted by the meeting.

Social: Nil

Special Events:

Kids Day – the Kids Day stations run by the BRC were very successful. We should be looking at similar activity for the next Kids Day

Repeaters:

ZS2AAW was not present, so no report-back was available. The problems with the GHT repeater mast were mentioned.

General:

- Rory ZS2BL made mention of the advert for Amateur Radio running in the Port Elizabeth Express, the local free newspaper. This is the cheapest way of advertising the hobby, and we need to look at how best to utilise it.
- A discussion was held regarding the old meeting venue at the Civil Defence Centre in Westview Drive. Apparently this has been refurbished and a security fence erected. Al ZS2U agreed to enquire as to the possibility of us once again making use of this venue for our meetings and activities.
- Clive ZS2RT suggested a donation to ZS2AE/ZS2AAW's relatives (or their designated charity) as a result of their loss. Garth ZS2HB mentioned that this has not been done in the past and he wondered how it would affect us in the future. It was then suggested that a letter or card of condolence be sent by the Chairman on behalf of the club.
- Barry ZR2DX repeated his request for information to be included on the PEARS Website.
- The recording and playback of the bulletins was discussed: at the moment Jim ZS2JF is handling this on his own, and volunteers to assist him are needed!

The business of the meeting was concluded at 20h30, and tea and refreshments were enjoyed. After the break Al ZS2U gave us a very informative and interesting presentation on lightweight portable VHF beam antennas. ☺

Pearstalk



(Some of these items are from SARL bulletins and ZS4BS Dennis Green's HF Newsletter)

AL TALKS ON ANTENNAS

At the February meeting, OM Al ZS2U gave a talk on various 2m beam antennas that he had put together. The general idea was that many might want to do something in order to participate in the various 2m contests that are coming up but do not know how easy it can be to get going.

He spoke initially about a simple two-element antenna with no matching device – connect the coax across the driven element and, with the additional element up front, get a few dB of gain.

The whole thing is simply plugged together. Al uses PVC electrical tubing. A three-way connector piece and end bits connect up sections of tubing, making a solid boom. Elements are added to the end bits, and so is the coax.

By turning the end pieces one can make the antenna horizontally or vertically polarized.

Using the same setup, Al also made up a three-element antenna, although in this case he used a gamma match.

All elements were fitted with banana plugs, while banana sockets were used on the boom parts.

Judging by the discussion and testing at the end of the talk, the whole idea seemed to find favour, and we expect to find a number of two-metre antennas in the future.

FEBRUARY MEETING

We had a lovely turnout at the meeting with ZR2VDL Terence from Addo, ZR6ACV Paul Galpin from Gauteng and ZS2OE Paul Smith ex USA, as well as Lasser and Ingrid SM5TA and Mark Oppenheim KD6 KQ all

present.

RODRIGUES ISLAND

GU4YOX, the 3B9C Amateur Radio Club Sponsorship Manager, writes as follows:

"In the next few weeks a team of radio amateur operators will be leaving for Rodrigues Island in the Indian Ocean to operate 3B9C. We have called our project *Project Star Reach* and the prime objective is to rekindle interest in operating on all the amateur bands and to allow every operator in the world the opportunity to make at least one contact with us.

"Since our last trip to D68C, many thousands of new HF operators have joined the HF bands. We hope to encourage good operating skills across the bands and effectively rejuvenate amateur radio – our great hobby.

"There has been considerable effort made in operating a trophy program for 3B9C with many categories. "The Nevada Trophies" can be seen on our website www.fsdxa.com/3b9c where the beauty of the hand crafted trophies can be found. I hope you enjoy chasing after one of these!

As you can imagine, to put a DXpedition like this on is very expensive, the shipping container with 9 tonnes of "top notch" kit in it, cost \$10,000 alone in shipping costs. All operators are paying their own expenses. If you would like to sponsor our project, any amount would help! Please let me know.

"So, on behalf of the Five Star DXers Association (FSDXA) very best wishes and we hope to make a contact with you on any band from Satellite to 160 Metres!"

NASA'S "RETURN TO FLIGHT"

MISSION

In NASA's program to get the shuttle Atlantis back in service, they call the first planned mission, STS 114, "Return to Flight" mission.

They expect that it might not happen until 2005. It will be the first since Columbia broke apart on February 1, 2003, during re-entry following a 16-day science mission. The mishap claimed the lives of seven astronauts--three of them Amateur Radio licensees.

NASA has announced the names of the members of the Atlantis crew of seven, six of which are radio amateurs. Mission Commander will be Eileen Collins, KD5EDS. A veteran of three space flights, Collins has logged more than 530 hours in space.

Other crew members are Pilot James Kelly, KC5ZSW; Mission Specialists Charles Camarda, KC5ZSY; Wendy Lawrence, KC5KII; Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP; Stephen Robinson, and Andy Thomas, KD5CHF/VK5MIR.

During the Return to Flight mission, the crew will test and evaluate new procedures for flight safety and shuttle inspection and repair techniques.

CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR THE SABL COUNCIL

Among the ZS2s nominated for election to the SABL Council in April are Barry Murrell, ZR2DX, and Richard Seddon, ZS2CLI.

Fifteen candidates have been nominated for 15 vacancies. There were 16, but Vice-President Peter Hers ZS6PHD has indicated that he has withdrawn his nomination.

This means that a postal ballot will no longer be necessary following the original 16 nominations, and the remaining nominees will automatically take office following the AGM, scheduled for 3rd April 2004 in Johannesburg.

Peter has indicated that he is

withdrawing for personal reasons but will continue to support the SABL, and play an active role in support of the new Council.

In his letter of withdrawal he states: "I got involved in SABL matters last year in an honest attempt to resolve the difficulties in which the SABL found itself. It was not my intention to get elected onto Council.

"I have found that SABL matters have occupied a large proportion of my time to the detriment of my personal life, and prevented progress on some major personal projects.

"I will continue with my responsibilities on Council until the AGM, and will be available to assist the new Council in a limited capacity should it so desire.

"I wish the new Council all success in its endeavours to strengthen the SABL and develop our hobby in the future."

ECHO SATELLITE'S LAUNCH DATE POSTPONED

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, has announced that due to a delay in the delivery of the primary payload to the launch site in Kazakhstan, the launch of the ECHO satellite has been delayed by some three months. "The 'official' launch date is now June 29, 2004."

A web site has been created which shows the integration and lab testing of the Echo Satellite. It contains images of the modules and on-air recordings of the testing taken in December 2003 at SpaceQuest in Fairfax, VA

The site can be found at:

<http://web.infoave.net/~mkmk518/echo.htm>

MEMBERS TO UPDATE EMAIL ADDRESSES

The e-mail system has important advantages for the SABL, as it will allow the SABL to substantially reduce postage costs. Last year, for example, it cost the SABL around R2.40 to print and mail each renewal notice via the normal mail system, resulting in a total cost to members of almost R5000.

Further costs are incurred when reminders are sent out to those who do not respond within a few months.

These costs would come down to less than R250 if all SARL members could be contacted via email.

Members who have email accounts are requested to check that the SARL has the correct email address. This can be done online by accessing the callbook on the SARL web site at www.sarl.org.za/callbook.asp.

Any corrections can be submitted directly from the website. You do not need to be a member of the SARL to check your entry.

Corrections can also be sent via email to admin@sarl.org.za, by fax to (011) 675-2793, or even via snail mail to PO Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735.

Please help your society to reduce unnecessary costs, says Peter Hers ZS6PHD.

SARL'S RESPONSE TIME OKAY!

When our place was burgled last August, my Jack Twine merit badge also took a walk as it was attached to the suit. Just recently, Elize asked Rory how to get a new badge, and Rory e-mailed the SARL President, Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH.

The next day Debbie phoned Elize to say she is sending one – we would need to do the engraving, but there were no other costs – and within a week my new Jack Twine badge had arrived, as well as a standard SARL membership badge!

My compliments go to all concerned, but especially to Graham and Debbie.

SARL CONTESTS

The first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Contest will take place over the weekend of 20 and 21 March, starting at 12:00 CAT on the Saturday and ending 24 hours later.

Phone and CW activity will be on 6, 4 and 2 metres, 70 and 23 cm.

On Thursday 1 April the first 80 metre QSO Party will be on the air, starting at

19:00 CAT. This is a phone only contest.

On Sunday 11 April the SARL HAMNET 40 metre Simulated Emergency Contest will run from 14:00 to 16:00 CAT.

The rules for all these contests are available on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za.

There is also contest software available for the VHF/UHF Contest on the website. **SARL KIDS DAY**

The SARL Kids Day and SARL HF Field Day went off well in East London. Our Committee believes we should try to do something similar here next year.

ITEM FROM MAIL & GUARDIAN

(thanks to Greg & Morag)

Two recent court cases have earned the attention of newspaper readers in South Africa.

One person was fined R1 000 for not having a TV licence. Another was released on bail for R500 after being arrested for murder.

The moral of this South African story: *if you do not have a TV licence and the inspector comes round, kill him.*

You'll save R500.

TROPO PATH REUNION-SA

Hal ZS6WB says this tropo site shows the path from Reunion to south-eastern South Africa and should be of interest to all wishing to attempt a 144 MHz QSO over that path:

http://www.iprimus.ca/~hepburnw/tropo_afi.html

FINAL THOUGHT

I f a birdy in da skaai,
Drops a poopy in ur aai,
Don' t ju worri don' t ju kraai,
Just be very happi - Whaai?
Becos *elephants* don' t
flaai! 🐘

Condolences: We extend our sympathy to Jenny Maltby and her two children, Scott and Amy, on the recent unexpected loss of their husband and father, Graham Maltby. Graham was the son-in-law of Julie ZR2EY and Trevor ZS2AE, and brother-in-law of Vanessa ZR2VM and Chris Scarr ZS2AAW, to whom we also extend our condolences.

To those celebrating special days (21.3 to 17.4) we say

Have a Happy Day... 

... on your birthdays

March

- 21 Andrew Gray ZS2G
- 22 Peggy Moore, XYL of ZS2VM
- 25 Corien Berlyn, XYL of ZR2GB
- 25 Jean Kauffmann-Sorensen, XYL of ZS2NP
- 29 Allan Whitehead ZS2R
- 31 Terence van der Linden ZR2VDL

April

- 1 Joan Jackson, XYL of ZS2H
- 2 Shawn Corder ZR2SC
- 3 Theunis Potgieter ZR2EC
- 4 Barbara Hickson, XYL of ZR2WJA
- 5 Heather Hoole, XYL of ZS2ABM
- 5 Ré Martin, XYL of ZR1S
- 5 Mike Jones ZS2MJ
- 13 Graham Butcher ZR2GIB
- 13 Lizette Oelofse, XYL of ZS2N
- 17 Helen Staples, XYL of ZS2AAS
- 17 Allan Ansel

... on your anniversaries

March

- 21 Maureen and Neil



- Fulton ZS2MG
- 21 Anne and Norman Dowler ZS2XF
- 27 Shaunna and Gary Laaks ZR2ABU
- 30 Emmie and Martin Venter ZS6AZV

April

- 4 Vanessa and Glen Cummings ZR2GV
- 6 Kathy and Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG
- 8 Marlene and Andrew Gray ZS2G
- 9 Charmaine and Otto van Rooyen ZR2VAN
- 12 Corien and Gerald Berlyn ZR2GB



New Member: Congrats to Johan Groenewald ZR2GJ, of Knysna, for joining us.

In Hospital and out again: Janet, XYL of ZR2AG, went in for a knee operation, and Joe Jasson had a gall bladder operation but came out the next day!

Gone Overseas: Peggy and Viv Moore ZS2VM have left for the States again for two months.

New Address: Terence van der Linden ZR2VDL has moved from Cradock to Addo. ☺

Your Society's Committee

Chairman, Awards.....	Rory Norton ZS2BL	585-9330	rory@commco.co.za
Vice Chair,	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	368-1344	cvscarr@intekom.co.za
Secretary, Internet Website	Barry Murrell ZR2DX	083 717 9210	zr2dx@mnet.co.za
Treasurer; Assets Control	Clive Fife ZS2RT	367-3203	cfife@absamail.co.za
Repeaters, packet,.....	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	368-1344	cvscarr@intekom.co.za
Social, Refreshments,	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	581-2580	whodges@absamail.co.za
Special Events	Ewalt Bouwer ZS2EHB	933-3482	ewalt.b@freemail.absa.co.za
QSX printing and info	Ashley Goosen ZR2AG	372-2052	ashleygoosen@xsinet.co.za
QSX Editor (ex com).....	Garth Laaks ZS2HB	368-1101	glaaks@iafrica.com
QSX distribution (ex com)	Trevor Scarr ZS2AE	367-1746	t&j.scarr@intekom.co.za
Technical Classes (ex com) ...	Al Akers ZS2U	360-2983	makers@firestone.co.za

PEARS' VHF/UHF & Other Services

REPEATERS

Town VHF	# 145,050/650	
Town UHF	# 431,050/438,650	Knysna
Cockscomb	145,000/600	Lady's Slipper.....
Colesberg	* 431,075/438,675	Noupoort.....
Cradock	* 145,050/650	Uitenhage.....
Grahamstown	* 145,150/750	

* These form the PEARS long-range 2-metre repeater system, also linked to which are East London 145,775 MHz, 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 (ZSØNTP)	144,625
Packet Rose Switch ZSØGHT-3,046101 (144,675 in/out) or 046102 (UHF out to BBS).....	144,675
2m Beacon (ZS2VHF CW ID, 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

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 Cradock 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 to the 2m network, in receive-only mode or with full transceive capability for interactive events.

Date	Repeate and Read on 2m Repeater Link
14 Mar	ZS2ABZ
21	ZR2DX
28	ZS2BL
4 Apr	ZS2EHB
11	ZS2AAW
18	ZS2RT

<u>DIARY DATES</u>
<u>MARCH</u>
18 PEARS MONTHLY MEETING 20-21 SARL vhf/uhf contest
<u>APRIL</u>
1 Wrinkly Rave
1 SARL 80 m QSO Party (1st leg)
3 SARL AGM

* We like being *your* Society *