



Q S X P E



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

WEBSITE: www.qs1.net/zs2pe

**PO BOX 10402
LINTON GRANGE
6015**

MAY 2004

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society will be held in the **1st Kabega Scout Hall** (*not the St Hugh's Hall*) **on Saturday, 22 May 2004**. The activities will commence at **14:00 (2.00 pm)**, and the **AGM itself will start at 15:30 (3.30 pm)**.

The agenda appeared in last month's issue of QSX. No motions have been received by the Committee.

A welcome is extended to all members and other hams and their families, although only the paid-up members of PEARS will naturally be allowed to vote.

Starting at 14:00 there will be a **boot sale** in the grounds of the area. Bring all your usable radio stuff and maybe find a purchaser here. There will also be a large number of items from OM Roger, ZS1J, who is moving to Napier and is getting rid of much of his worthwhile gear. **No buying or selling** of any goodies before 14:00, please!

The meeting will start at 15:30 and will be followed by a bring-and-braai, for which the Society will, as it always does, provide the fires as well as a few cartons of wine and fruit juice and also ice cream.

Please bring your own meat, other eats including salads, and additional liquid refreshments as well as utensils, drinking glasses, stools and braaiing tools.

NOTE THE ADDRESS! – This is our **first time** at this venue. Go south in Northumberland Avenue, Kabega. Turn right into Avondale Road. It's the second building on your left. Bill ZS2ABZ will have his rig on 145,650 to guide you in if you get lost.

Wrinkly Ravers

We had thirteen members attending the Wrinkly Rave in April. There had been some change at Barney's, which seemed to be reflected in the food. However, let's give them another chance and see how it goes.

Pat Pullinger ZS2PJP was able to make the April Rave, his trip to Johannesburg having been cancelled at the last minute, and he found himself in PE over the lunch period. Bill ZS2ABZ was *not there!* I understand he had a bit of a tummy bug and decided not to take a chance.

There were another 13 at the May get-together, where the food was again great – and all except two were served within minutes of each other. The next Rave is scheduled for **3 June**. So let's see you all at **Barney's Steak Bar**, Circular Drive, Lorraine.


YOUR SUBS!

Your subs for the 2004/2005 year (see item on page 4) are now overdue and QSX for the defaulters will come to an end soon. Please remit your subs right away if you have not already done so.

You can, of course, hand them to the Treasurer before the start of the AGM,

which will then also entitle you to vote.

If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, you can deposit your subscription in the PEARS account – Nedbank, Port Elizabeth Main branch, (code 121217) and the account no. 2212527594.

Please enter your name and call sign in the reference blocks on the deposit slip so that Clive knows who it is from. 



from The Chairman

Wow, so much electioneering has taken place over the last number of weeks. The country's general elections appear to have gone off without a hitch – and the incumbents are guaranteed fat pay-cheques for another five years.

April also saw the AGM of the South African Radio League taking place – and after having met Graham Hartlett, I'm sure that most of us are pretty happy that he will be holding the presidency for another year. Graham, and his team, managed to turn-around the "very ill" SARL – taking it from a most certain bankrupt state, to that of financial viability, in under a year!

This was achieved by making some pretty unpopular decisions – like suspending the printing of Radio ZS, and curtailing councillor's travel. The turn-around was not based on rocket-science principals, just plain and simple common sense. I am also pleased to note that the Eastern & Western Cape Provinces will have considerable influence at the SARL, with more than six "local" amateurs being elected to council.

This month sees the PEARS AGM taking place on the 22nd. Please make an extra-special effort to attend. The event will kick-off at 14h00, and we will do our very best to get business taken care of as quickly as possible so that the social can begin. As per usual, there will be a bring and buy, as well as the opportunity to sacrifice some meat and wet the whistle.

If you have any matters that need discussing at the AGM, please forward your motions to the club secretary without delay. This is your opportunity to exercise

your democratic right – but be warned, there are no promises being made of free rigs, shacks or such....

On the subject of shacks, there has been much discussion on the air pertaining to the need for PEARS to find a permanent home. It would be fantastic if we could secure a club-house. This would allow us to set up a shack, build a bar, and in short, have a base from which to market our hobby far more effectively. Visitors to our monthly meeting leave, still not knowing much more about our hobby – a working station would give them immediate insight into amateur radio. Having a home would also allow us to plan far more social-oriented activities, etc.

Ideally, we need to find an unused, municipally owned hall – please apply some grey-matter to the issue and let us have your input. Let's strive to find that home this year!

As noted in a recent SARL news report, there appears to be a resurgence of interest in Fox Hunts. Should enough of you be interested in DF hunting, we could follow the trend. Fox hunts became very "hi-tech" in Gauteng during the late 1980's. The 2m band was used, and many participants constructed sophisticated Doppler-shift systems.

Years ago, the club ran hunts on 160m – what band would you like to be used in the future.

See you all at the AGM.

73,

Rory, ZS2BL

Two Metre Audio Levels

We are indeed fortunate in the Eastern Cape that we seldom experience major disasters and when we do, they are usually small compared to disasters that occur in many other parts of the world.

It is nonetheless important that we are well prepared for the disasters that we are likely to experience.

We are fortunate too that we have a superb repeater system in the Cape Province which serves us very well under normal circumstances and which would serve us equally well during any major disaster or emergency.

One problem I have noticed however is the variations in audio level from one repeater to another, and ask our already hard worked repeater engineers if they would be so good as to give this some attention. This would be much appreciated.

What appears to be an even more serious problem is the variation in audio levels or deviation among the various amateurs who operate on two metres. It would be great if all these operators make an effort to adjust their equipment to a suitable level and advise and assist others where possible to obtain a suitable deviation.

Maybe there are amateurs who have access to equipment which will measure deviation and who would be prepared to check the equipment of two metre operators. Their assistance would also be very much appreciated.

73

Al Akers,
Director:
ECARES 

THANKS

We offer our grateful thanks to Donald Jacobs ZS2BW of Cradock for his kind donation to our repeater system costs.


CONGRATS

To André Botes, ZS2ACP, our congratulations on his earning silver and bronze medals at the world shoot recently. We saw his picture in the UD freebee and read all about it!

SUBS FOR 2004/2005

The current subscription amounts are: Ordinary membership – R50; Spouse and Student: R30.

Subscriptions for the current year have not been adjusted, although there have been a number of increases in other services, for example the mail, since PEARS was formed. Last year we thought there might be a need to increase the subs, but the Committee has been able to stave off an increase at the moment.

The interest from our investments helps us to bear the cost of QSX as well as several other outpayments. As from next year, however, we will probably need to withdraw funds from the investment unless there is a small increase in subs – probably about R5 or so per member. This is just a little reminder..... 

PRESIDENT OF SARL VISITS US

At the April meeting of PEARS we had the good fortune to have the President of the SARL, Graham Hartlett ZS6GJH and his wife Natasha ZS6NHA with us. They had been holidaying down the coast and agreed to visit PE and East London.

In his general overview of the SARL, Graham said that they had ended with a good balance last year. In spite of that, they started the current year with the assumption that there were no funds available from the past, and they expect to finish with yet a further balance at the end of the year.

Council has a very tight situation regarding the use of funds. There has been an important saving in that Council meetings have been conducted mainly by teleconference, and Radio ZS has been published only on the website in spite of a previous AGM decision to use the website for only two issues.

This was dictated by the fact that there were not quite enough new members and in order to at least balance the books for the year. In the future, there will be only four issues a year, i.e. every quarter.

With Graham at the controls there seems to be every indication of noticeable movement of the SARL in the right direction. Councillors, who come from various parts of South Africa, are clearly all keen to see the League climb back to its former glory



– the situation that has always been foremost in our criticism of Council in previous years.

Graham's talk was punctuated with a good deal of laughter, especially when he related how, with two year's amateur experience and little knowledge of how the SARL worked, it was decided that *he* was the man to run the League!

In spite of that acknowledgement, something like six local attendees went along and signed application forms for membership of the SARL, while several others have indicated their intention of doing so.

Graham was also a bit concerned when, as his first President's Net came up, he asked what one has to do and was told "Just call CQ President's Net, and the members will come back with their complaints."

Things are looking up!! 📡

SARL MATTERS

FROM THE RSGB WEBSITE:

The cost of taking the Radio Communications Examinations is to go up with effect from the 1st of April 2004. The RSGB has endeavoured to keep the Foundation examination fee as low as possible since its introduction in 2002 in order to encourage growth in the licence and in amateur radio, and this strategy has been extremely successful. However, the cost of running and administering the exam was set unrealistically low and it has enjoyed a high level of subsidy.

The administration of the Radio Communications Examination scheme must be cost effective and the fee structure for the three exams must be set at a level consistent with today's market. In view of this, from the 1st of April the fees charged for the Foundation exam will be £15, the Intermediate £20 and the Advanced exam £25.

COMMENTS ON REGULATIONS

ICASA has stated that there has been approximately 20 comments from the Public.

The process is going forward:-

- Evaluation of submissions - (2 weeks)
- Determination if public hearing is required - (4 weeks for hearing)
- Conduct public hearing if required
- Compile final submission
- Send to Ministers office for signing - (3 to 4 weeks)

DRAFT DOCUMENT ON ZS LICENCE ASSESSMENTS

A draft document on ZS licence assessments that is being considered by Council has been published on the SARL website.

In Chapter 3, B1 (3), the document proposes that candidates for the ZS license would be required to complete an assessment in one of the following areas:

- Operating achievement
- Electronics construction
- Software development
- Public service and emergency communications
- Morse code proficiency


Some radio-related professional qualifications would also be recognised.

RADIO ZS

The March/April electronic issue of Radio ZS will be posted to the SARL website during the coming week. The printed issue of Radio ZS will only commence after July 2004. The editor requests members to provide material for the next issue.

VHF/UHF NEWSLETTER

Derek, ZS5Y, the SARL councillor responsible for VHF/UHF activities, has started a VHF/UHF Newsletter. Members are asked to provide Derek with news for the Newsletter, which will be distributed electronically on a regular basis.

Derek can be contacted with email to derek.gravett@siemens.com. 

VHF DIGITAL NEWS

from Barry Murrell, ZR2DX

WSJTGROU SHOWS INTEREST IN SOUTH AFRICAN OPERATIONS

Recent E-mail discussions between Hal Lund ZS6WB and Randy Tipton WA5UFH, the co-ordinator of the American-based WSJTGROU have seen considerable interest in South African operations from the overseas operators.

The WSJTGROU sponsors Sprints, Random Hours and contests. The WSJTGROU also has an award for working 15 random stations during activity periods.

Close cooperation with the WSJTGroup is planned, and our local operations have been certified for awards and contests sponsored by the WSJTGROU. Plans include linking of web pages, Random Hour Summaries for South African activities being posted on the Group website and submissions for awards.

Hal ZS6WB will serve as awards manager for South African stations. South African WSJT enthusiasts are encouraged to visit the WSJTGROU website at :
<http://www.qsl.net/wa5ufh/WSJTGROU/P/global.htm>

WSJT RANDOM HOURS

The first WSJT RANDOM HOUR was held on Sunday, April 11 2004 and will be a regular fixture each Sunday morning. There will be one hour of operation on 144 MHz from 0300-0400 utc followed by a 50 MHz period from 0400-0500 utc. No schedules are permitted and contacts must be made by calling or answering CQs or tailending after another contact.

Contacts made during these periods

will count towards the RANDOM HOUR AWARD.

Watch the WSJT GROUP INTERNATIONAL PAGE for frequency information as well as other events scheduled. It can be found at:
<http://www.qsl.net/wa5ufh/WSJTGROU/P/global.htm>


ZS6BTE/P EXPEDITION

Ian Roberts ZS6BTE is once again undertaking his annual tour of the Game Parks of Southern Africa, and is operating on WSJT as he goes. His operations this year are as follows:

Will TX at all sites 6-6.30 on 2m (144.220/alt 225) and 6.30-7.30 on 6m. Will also TX from 10.00pm on 2m for a short while using JT6M and looking for tropospheric ducting.

Parameters: 50.220 MHz else 50.225 MHz and 144.220 else 144.225 MHz depending on local QRM 1st period, 30 sec., FSK441a or as otherwise arranged, antenna 3 el yagi at 4m for 6m, 5 el yagi for 2m, beaming in most likely directions, horiz polarisation, TX : mornings / evenings after 1st date.

13-17 April Letaba KG56
17-? April Sabie KG54
21-23 April Golden Gate KG41
23-25 April Mountain Zebra KF27
25-27 April Karoo KF17
27-29 April Wilderness KF16
29-? April possible Stilbaai KF05 then/else
29-30 April Colesberg/Gariep KF29

This is an excellent opportunity to add some rare grids on VHF Digital!! 

SATELLITE NEWS

from Barry Murrell ZR2DX

FO-29 SILENT PERIOD

FO-29 shut down its analog transponder on 9 April due to low battery voltage. Telemetry data showed that the control program ran out of control. The Japanese command station decided to recondition the batteries, and the analog transponder was shut off at 0350z on 14 April. On 19 April the command station turned on the analog transponder and reset the CPU. The analog service was restored at 0240z on 19 April, and is once again functioning well..

3B9C EXPEDITION OVER

The 3B9C Rodrigues Island expedition is now a thing of the past, and only four satellite contacts were made from the island, three of which were South African stations. The lucky stations were Chris ZR1L, Barry ZR2DX and Ken ZS2BWB. Robert ZS1AFE tried calling 3B9C on a couple of passes, but was unsuccessful.

EAGLE Q&A

Rick Hambly, W2GPS, AMSAT Executive Vice President and Board of Directors member recently answered some questions about AMSAT's upcoming high Earth orbiting satellite project Eagle.

Q: I put together a pretty decent S-band downlink for AO-40, and had great results! I really enjoyed U/s operation but am not in a position to build an L-band uplink at this point. Will U/s be included on Eagle?

A: It's too soon to say for sure what will be on Eagle, but I would expect Mode U/s will be accommodated to support all those who have invested in this mode

for AO-40. One of the experimental modes that can be activated on Echo is Mode U/s (FM voice and data only) but that will be a challenge due to the high Doppler shift and the rapid movement.
Q: Will Eagle have fixed transponders or a matrix such as was used on AO-40?

A: The current state of Eagle's design includes a matrix so any receiver can be connected to any transmitter. The design is not finalized and I expect there may be at least one exception to this, the mode C/c transponder (see the C-C Rider article by W3IWI in the 2003 Proceedings).

[Thanks Rick, W2GPS for the above information]

ECHO LAUNCH GOAL

As of 30 March, AMSAT has raised \$61,988 of the \$110,000 needed to launch Echo, the next AMSAT satellite planned to be launched. The current target launch date is 29 June, 2004.

NEW WAYS TO REDUCE QRM TO AMATEUR SATS IN REGION 1

Graham Shirville G3VZV, the IARU Region 1 Satellite Co-ordinator, has the following to say:

"At the recent meeting of the IARU Region 1 VHF Managers held in Vienna, the subject of QRM to satellites operating in the amateur spectrum allocated to satellites was discussed. As a result of good work performed by Ib, OZ1MY, we were able to demonstrate both by written log and by .WAV file the QRM that is occurring, especially but not exclusively to 145MHz uplinks and when the satellites are over Africa and the Middle East.

"The IARU Region 1 has a Monitoring Service which has been active for some years but which has, up to now, concentrated on frequencies below 30 MHz. In view of the wide area of QRM that can be caused by satellites relaying signals across many borders, the team has now enthusiastically agreed to add our problems to their portfolio.

"What is needed therefore are regular reports showing the following details which can be usefully backed up by .wav files as these can enable more precise recognition of accents and dialects to be made. This information obviously can aid identification. Use the following as column headings:

*Sat Name; AOS/LOS;
Real QRG down (allowing for
Doppler); UTC; Day; Month;
Mode; Identification; Country or*

language; Remarks.

"The team has good contacts which are already used daily to "remove" some of the intruders to our bands so we should try to see if similar success can be achieved on VHF and UHF.

"The system works generally through national societies so you should send your reports to the MS coordinator of your Region 1 National Society in the first instance.

"For the time being could you also please send me a copy as well for information. In response, I will try to provide everyone with a quarterly report on the MS activities as they apply to our branch of amateur radio!

"I would be grateful if you could forward this information to all Region 1 AMSAT organizations." ☐

HIGH POWER MERCHANT !!

A couple of weeks ago we heard a South African ham on 40 metres saying repeatedly that he was running **3 KILOWATTS!** However, he added that it is not illegal – according to *his* copy of the Regulations one can do so for test purposes only, as long as one does not run the amplifier continually. And, he kept adding, the amplifier had just been constructed for someone in "Malawi".

According to *my* copy, Regulation B10 (3) specifically states that the holder of an amateur radio station licence shall **not use or own equipment** that may exceed the restrictions imposed by subregulations (1) and (2) above.

The referenced subregulations specify the DC input as not exceeding 150 W, or the output radio-frequency

PEP as not exceeding 400 W in the case of single-sideband operation.

Someone in the Cape chipped in to say it *is* illegal.

With his 34 years in the police force, one would expect the offender to know better.

But this leads one to ask the question: what does one do when he is sure somebody is running excessive power? If you *tell* the chap, you get the nickname "policeman", even if the fellow is causing QRM, which his pals will always deny.

There are two other alternatives: report him to ICASA, or just *do nothing!*

Most seem to use the latter alternative, but with the SARL asking for a novice type licence with low output power, who is going to check on them? ☐

10,7 MHz CRYSTAL OSCILLATOR

from Johan Terblanche ZS1I

After an unsuccessful search for a good HF/VHF/UHF RF Signal Generator at a decent price, I decided to take the "el-cheepo" route to construct various types of signal generators to suite my project needs.

The first on the list was a 10.7 MHz crystal oscillator that would measure the local oscillator frequency of an ordinary FM set. Yes, you can build yourself a simple crystal oscillator for IF frequencies if you can obtain the correct crystal. I was lucky enough to scrounge a 10.7 MHz crystal from an old U/S Icom 2m set.

With a crystal and a few junk box parts, you have yourself a very useful alignment oscillator.

The schematic appears in Figure 1, and the oscillator is quite simple and easy to construct on a piece of Vero board. However for your convenience I have included a PCB track and component layout (not to scale).

LIST OF COMPONENTS

- 1 x 7400 TTL gate. (74C00, 74HC00, 74HCT00 74LS00)
- 2 x 1K resistors
- 3 x 0.01uF capacitors
- 1 x 1K potentiometer
- 1 x 5 – 60 pF trimmer
- 1 x 10.7 MHz crystal

NOTE: I did not install C? (0.01) at the output.

USING THE OSCILLATOR


Many radios are dual conversion. They convert the frequency of interest first to 10.7 MHz and then convert the 10.7 MHz IF frequency down to 455 kHz for detection.

Many radios' second IF conversion is crystal controlled. Unless in the very unlikely case this oscillator crystal has drifted, you can use your 10.7 MHz signal generator to align the entire IF. Note: It is vital to have the service manual for instructions when working on any radio's IF and detector.

If you choose to build this 10.7 MHz test oscillator it has another use as well. You can use it to "zero beat" your radio's local oscillator crystal on frequency.

Let's say for example you want to set a crystal for 145.01 receive on frequency. Have another radio amateur transmit a carrier with no modulation on that frequency. Loosely couple the signal from your 10.7 MHz alignment oscillator into the radio. Vary the coupling of the 10.7 MHz signal till you can clearly hear a beat note. Then adjust the receive crystal's trimmer for zero beat.

What you are doing is beating the signal of your 10.7 MHz oscillator against the incoming received signal after it has been converted to 10.7 MHz by the radio's mixer and local oscillator. If there is any difference in frequency between the two signals after mixing, a beat note will be generated.

As you trim the local oscillator crystal on frequency, the error decreases and the frequency of the beat note you will hear will decrease. This method works so well that many professional service monitors use it in preference to digital displays. In their case the error frequency is displayed on an analog meter as well as hearing the beat note on a meter. 

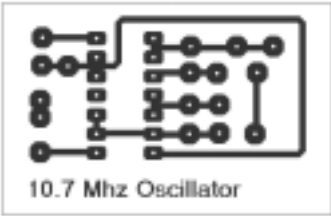
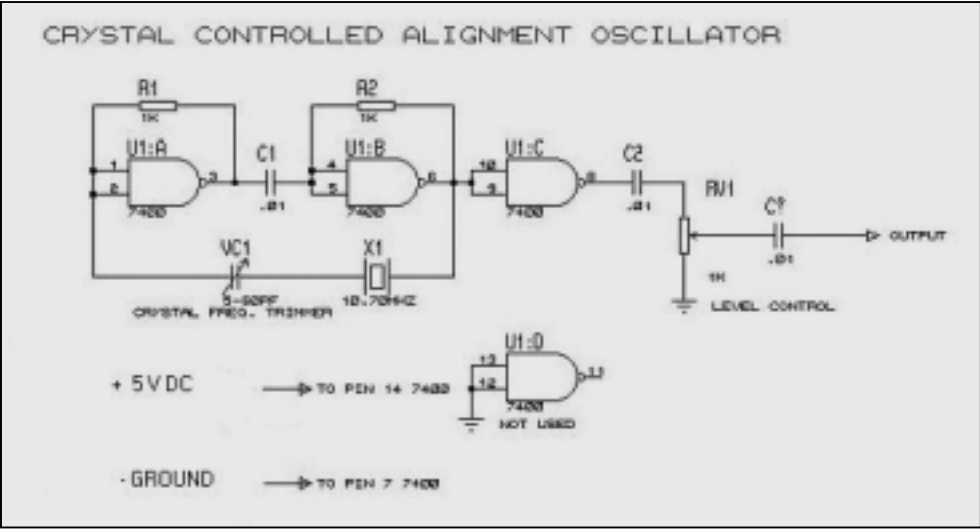
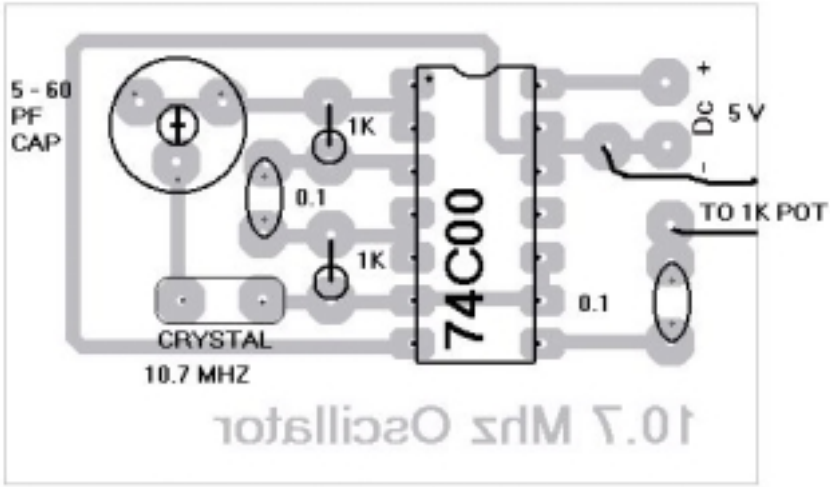


Figure 1 (above) – Circuit diagram of the 10,7 MHz crystal controlled oscillator.

Left – Printed circuit board.

Below – Component side of printed circuit board (enlarged).



THE LEAGUE'S AGM

Subscriptions for membership of the SARL will be as follows for next year:

Ordinary member – R290; Senior member – R230; Family member – R100;
Affiliated club – R290; Foreign member – R350.

This entitles you to four printed copies of Radio ZS and 1000 outgoing QSL cards per annum. For incoming cards, you need to let the League have a suitable stamped, pre-addressed envelope.

A **Jack Twine** Award went to Francois Botha, ZS6BUU, for running of the SARL QSL bureau and overseeing the office of the NARC. *[I thought he had long ago qualified for, and received, this award, but that was not the case.]*

The **Radio ZS Shield** went to Mike Bosch ZS2FM and Eddie Leighton ZS6BNE, while the **Gary Immelman Radio Amateur Heritage** floating trophy went to Mike Bosch ZS2FM for his story on "the Digital Era".

Certificates from the League went to André Mulder ZS2AJ, Donovan van Loggerenberg ZS2DL, Al Akers ZS2U and Nico Schoonwinkel ZS4NS.

We congratulate all these chaps.

The **motions** for the AGM as well as the two Points for Discussion were all withdrawn after discussion, with the exception of Motion 2, which was carried. This motion deleted the word "third" from Rule 16.4 and also the second sentence. In the future, councillors will be elected for a year, rather than three years as in the past.

In Motion 1, which sought an increase in power to 600 Watts, it was stated that ICASA would provide an additional power limit in a particular case. *[I am not sure that this has already happened, as suggested – but there is a paragraph in the proposed regulations that would allow it. The present rules don't.]*

Motion 3 intended to amend the Constitution about indemnity as well as Rules 7 (payment of subs) and 17 Proxies). With regard to the last item, Council was instructed to have a look at the rules with regard to the use of e-mail and internet.

Item 1 of the Points for Discussion sought an improved method of representation of the various divisions on council, while Item 2 wanted the IARU to allow phone on the 30 metre band at night. In the last-mentioned case, our Radio Regulations allow voice at all times and it was unnecessary to go to the IARU.

At the **evening's dinner** and presentations, Mr. Wojtek Skowronski, the General Manager, Engineering Technology of ICASA, talked on "PLC in Africa". He discussed the background in the development of PLC; The regulatory perspective on PLC technology; The potential for interference; Some of the Pros and Cons; and he examined the provision of communication services by municipalities to rate-payers by means of cellular and other technologies, finishing up with future scenarios and development around PLC.

FOR \$ALE ★ WANTED ★ SWOP

FOR SALE

* Thunderbird 3 element TH3JR-S-Junior (unused) brand new, still in box, complete with instruction manual — Bill Atteridge ZS2V, Tel. 041 583 2598.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY HELD AT St HUGHS CHURCH HALL, NEWTON PARK, PORT ELIZABETH ON 17th MAY 2003.

Present and Apologies

As noted in the attendance register.

Welcome

The Chairman, Beavan, welcomed the good crowd present despite the rain.

Acceptance of the previous AGM minutes

Proposed ZR2NT (Neil), Seconded ZS2JS (Fred)

The Chairman's Report

Beavans report appeared in the May issue of QSX and drew no adverse comments.

Proposed. ZS2U (Al), Seconded ZS2EHB (Ewalt)

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Clive, (ZS2RT) ran through the Income and Expenditure statement for the past year.

No anomalies were brought up. ZS2BWB enquired whether the club still possessed any assets. Clive indicated that there were indeed many valuable assets, but were reflected in the Clubs balance sheet only.

Annual Awards:

The annual awards by PEARS, SARL & HAMNET followed.

PEARS Appreciation Certificates went to the following,

Gus ZS2MC for his cost free auditing of the Clubs books.

Martin ZR2MR for his relaying of the SARL and Club news bulletins on CB Radio.

Rory ZS2BL for reading the SARL bulletin in English on Sundays

Ewalt ZS2EHB for reading the SARL bulletin in Afrikaans on Sundays.

Ashley ZR2AG for printing the QSX each month at cost.

ACHIEVEMENT Certificate: Ken ZS2BWB for all band activity.

PEARS ZS2OB Trophy: Ken (ZS2BWB)

PEARS ZS2AB Trophy: Al (ZS2U) for Construction of Antennas

PEARS Merit Award: Ewalt (ZS2EHB) for Promotional work for Ham Radio.

SARL Ham Spirit Trophy: Cyril (ZR2H)

Special Award Cup: Chris (ZS2AAW) for outstanding work on repeater network.

The SARL's *Gary Immelman award:* Mike (ZS2FM) for Historical article in Radio ZS.

Hamnet Shield: For reliability: Des (ZS2ABU)

Election of Office Bearers for 2003/2004.

Chairman

Rory (ZS2BL) – Proposed ZR2H (Cyril), Seconded ZS2HB (Garth).

Elected unopposed.

Committee

Ewalt (ZS2EHB), Chris (ZS2AAW), Clive (ZS2RT), Bill (ZS2ABZ) and Ashley (ZR2AG). All elected on unanimous vote.

Motions – None.

General.

1) **Echolink:** A short discussion on the feelings of the members toward running the Echolink on the repeater link was held. Gerald (ZR2GB) of East London, gave the meeting a short rundown on the running and since it was switchable in/out, was given the OK. Details were to be supplied to the Editor by Gerald, for publication in QSX. Gerald indicated the link was due to Richard (ZS2CLI)

2) **Repeaters:** Replying to an enquiry regarding the possible link to Aliwal area Chris (ZS2AAW) reported that he was awaiting info regarding the Springfontein setup.

3) **Packet Radio:** The Packet Radio link at Grahamstown was to be restored shortly and a work party will be put together to install the ZS2AAW repaired / rebuilt system .

4) **Repeaters and QSX:** The outgoing Chairman, Beavan, asked the meeting to think about assistance for the maintenance of the Repeater Network. This was currently being carried solely by Chris who reported that an assistant was at present being canvassed.

QSX Editor Garth was also being hard pressed to keep QSX going on his own. Offers of support were called for. ZR2H (Cyril) has offered to try and assist with content processing.

5) **Lucky Draw**

The Lucky Draw for part of the proceeds of the Tea Fund Donation list was done by Ginny ZS2GIN. Won by Dirk (ZS2D) and Saney (ZR1S) in equal shares with the Club.

Closing: At this point the Outgoing Chairman handed over the gavel to the new Chairman, Rory, who thanked the outgoing Committee members for their input during 2002/2003 and closed the meeting at 16h51. A chat and braai followed.

HEYPHONE TO THE RESCUE

The amateur-developed 'Heyphone' transceiver played a major role in the rescue at the end of March of the six British cavers who were trapped underground in a cave in Mexico.

The experienced cavers became trapped after unexpected heavy rain caused rising water levels to block the entrance to the cave. The six kept in contact with the surface using a Heyphone, developed and constructed by John Hey, G3TDZ.

Following the rescue, John Hey was interviewed on BBC 1's Breakfast News programme. John said that the design has not been patented, and anyone can build one from plans and circuit boards that he can provide. He personally makes no money out of the Heyphone at all.

John has supplied a total of 79 Heyphones to the Cave Radio & Electronics Group (CREG).

John Hey described the Heyphone in 'Cave Radio: the Story so Far', in RadCom July 2000. The full story, including circuit diagram, photos etc, has been downloaded and will no doubt appear in Radio ZS in the near future. Alternatively, send a CD to Rory ZS2BL. ☐

Pearstalk



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

JUST A THOUGHT

"I've just read this posting on QRZ and it bears some thought – it could also help us! If we can spawn an interest in 'instant' radio as was the case in the 70's and early 80's with CB, we may just grow some hams in the process..." says Rory ZS2BL.

(PS – for those of you unfamiliar with the term FRS, it stands for Family Radio Service, and it is here in SA too. Not the same frequencies, but it requires no licence application and uses UHF on around 460 MHz with a maximum power of 500mW).

Brandon Watson, N4BGW says: "You know, love them or not, FRS is very useful. As hams, these could have some use to all of us. You know how people carry them around at events, right? I think I know a way to use them to the ham's advantage: if we advertise that 'We Monitor FRS 6' or something.

"Think about it, we all have FRS at each of our locations. We have our VHF/UHF to communicate with Net Control, but FRS to contact anyone within range, which is about the distance between our positions. For most of the events we do, we can pretty much cover the entire route this way.

"And, hams could get a GMRS licence, which shares with FRS channels 1-7, which would make it easier for us in case net control gets busy on the ham side, they can have a quick QSO relating to the event on GMRS.

"AND, that's not all! You can use GMRS for long range information, so

even though others have a FRS, they'll still hear the GMRS users.

"It's also great PR for us. They'll see how their little thingys helped them communicate something important and learn that there's something a lot bigger and better out there.

"So what do you say? Everyone should get the best FRS radio they can find, and take it to the next event. Find event coordinators and get the information out!"

Z2 QSL BUREAU

The Daily DX reports that on 5 April the Zimbabwe Amateur Radio Society voted to close the local QSL Bureau. Outgoing Z2 cards that are presently on file in Zimbabwe will be returned to the local Z2 operators.

SARL COUNCIL

Bill Norval, ZS5KD, was not available to serve on the SARL Council this year. We take this opportunity to thank him for his long years of service to the League and its members.

Chris Gryffenberg, ZS6COG, was co-opted as councillor in the vacancy thus created, although not in the post of Treasurer. Abe Zwiendelaar, ZS1ZS, has since been appointed as the Honorary Treasurer.

Council portfolios have been allocated as follows:

Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH - President,
Hamnet;
Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT - Vice
President, Club Liaison;

Henry Chamberlain, ZS1AAZ - Secretary;
Abe Zwiendelaar ZS1ZS – Treasurer;
Andrew Roos, ZS1AN - Education, RAE;
Barry Murrell, ZR2DX - Digital Matters;
Derek Gravett, ZS5Y - VHF Activities;
Chris Gryffenberg, ZS6COG - Youth and PDC Development, Promotion, Recruitment;
Dave Perry, ZS1SG - VHF/UHF Bandplanning and Repeaters;
Dennis Green, ZS4BS - HF Manager, Bulletins, Radio ZS;
Derek Gravett, ZS5Y - VHF/UHF Activities;
John Fielding, ZS5JF - IARU liaison;
John Watson, ZS6ABJ - Office Manager;
Kobus Conradie, ZR6D - New Technology, Technical Standards, Interference;
Matt Greyvenstein, ZS1MJJ - SARL membership;
Olivier van Staden, ZS1OLI - Buildings, Zoning and Environmental;
Richard Seddon, ZS2CLI - Web Site.

Council also appointed the following members for specific duties: Hans Potgieter, ZS6ALJ - Technical Standards, Interference; Tjerk Lammers, ZS6P - Awards; Francois Botha, ZS6BUU - Hamnet; and George Honiball, ZS6NE - Bulletins.

Our thanks go to all who are prepared to render their services in the interests of amateur radio.

SILENT KEYS

News has been received of the passing of Ian Sutherland, V51C, of Walvis Bay after losing the battle against cancer. Ian was also known under the call sign ZS2IS.

I am sure that all members of PEARS would like to extend condolences to his wife and family.

We are also sorry to report on the passing of Renché (Ron) Harper ZS6EG, one of South Africa's finest high speed

CW operators, who died in Klerksdorp on 15 April following complications after abdominal surgery.

Renché was a leading light and a member of the former SA Woman's Radio Club. Ron's beautiful CW fist will be sorely missed.

COLIN ZS2AO SAYS...

Hi All, just for interest sake you may be interested in these two sites that will download satellite pics of your home town or wherever.

Both are commercial and both expect to be paid for the good stuff. Some of the downloaded pics will not save, etc. to protect copyright but what the heck its fun. On **terraserver** they even take you on a 3 dimensional fly by over area 51 in the Nevada desert.

Try www.terraserver.com which seems to cover most of the world but some areas are not so good. Below the 8 metre resolution you have to subscribe to see anything. Sometimes you get a small area like the Sundays or Gamtoos river mouths. One has to first call up the nearest big city and then pan around afterwards to find the spot you want. If you have the long and lat it's easier.

The other site www.terraserver-usa.com only seems to work well in the USA but you it has very good resolution.

If you have a street address of anyone in the States, you can zoom right in on the house and even see who's car is parked outside (*Viv & Peggy*,. see *who's visiting your family!*)

The un-watermarked site is from the USGC and is black and white only. All you do is draw a square of the area of the USA you want to survey and then zoom in.

SIX METRES MARATHON 2004

The Six Meters Marathon 2004 is open to all amateur radio operators worldwide. The objective is to work as many DXCC entities as possible on 6

metres between 00:00 UTC on 8 May and 23:59 on 8 August 2004.

The results will be continuously updated at www.50mc.tk. For further information please contact Hannu Saila OH3WW at e-mail:- marathon@saila.org.

ZS 50MHz OPERATORS COMPLIMENTED

G0CHE says "I like the way the ZS stations qsy up the band and keep 50.110 clear, very good operating." (From the on4kst 50MHz chat page, forwarded by Paul Smit ZS6NK).

KENTUCKY HAM OFFERS OPERATING TIPS

Don Snodgrass K4QKY believes that being a good "Elmer" (Amateur Radio mentor) involves much more than assisting someone to pass the licence examination. He says he's eager to do his part to welcome new operators to the HF bands when the time comes.

In the meantime, he's offering his recommended "Good Operating Practices" on his Web site:

campus.murraystate.edu/org/msuarc/goodoperatingpractices.htm

"Most hams develop their operating practices – most good, but some not so good – simply by listening to more-experienced hams," Don said.

"These suggested guidelines are based on what one ham feels he has learned from listening to other hams since 1972." His philosophy, expressed within his list of dos and don'ts, is that amateurs who develop good operating practices will help to sustain Amateur Radio's "long and proud tradition of self-regulation."

SPECIAL EVENT CALL SIGN

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial station at ARRL Headquarters, W1AW, will sign with a special designator /90, through the rest of 2004. The call sign reflects the 90th anniversary of the

League's founding by Maxim and Clarence Tuska in 1914. Operation as W1AW/90 will begin April 3.

Special QSL cards will be available for W1AW/90 contacts, and self-addressed, stamped envelopes should accompany all QSL requests.

MATTERS MILITARY

Watch for the following stations:

GB6OL – The 60th Anniversary of Operation Overlord the invasion of Fortress Europe. 6 June 2004 for 4 weeks.

GB6LOG – The 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam. 21 July 2004 for 4 weeks.

GB6LOP – The 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of Paris. 25 August 2004 for 4 weeks.

Your QSL card will be required beforehand in order to receive the special QSL from these stations. PSE QSL via the RSARS QSL Bureau.

Additionally a special certificate is available on request if you work any of the five stations listed. If you would like a certificate then US\$1 or €1 with QSL to GØSWY, 4 Bluebell Road, Bassett, Southampton, Hampshire SO16 3LQ (and NOT to the QSL Bureau). If you cannot do any of the above a cheque made payable to RSARS for £1 will suffice.

GB6DD - The 60th Anniversary of D-Day. 1 June 2004 to 28 June 2004

GB6ØOL - The 60th Anniversary of D-Day 6 June 1944. Tuesday 1 June 2004 to Monday 7 June 2004. The station will operate on various bands SSB and CW at 21 Signal Regiment (AS) Colerne.

QSL via Bureaux (RSGB RSARS RNARS RAFARS). For a DIRECT QSL a stamped, addressed return envelope is essential.

GB4OL – The 60th Anniversary of Operation Overlord. Thursday 3 June 2004 to Monday 7 June 2004. 📧

To those celebrating special days (23.5 to 19.6) we say

Have a Happy Day...



... on your birthdays

May

- 24 Vicky Ansell, XYL of Allan
- 25 Danie Pretorius ZS2CX
- 31 Shirley Carr, XYL of ZS2C
- 31 Joe Jasson ZS2JLJ
- 31 Dennis Flynn ZS2DB

June

- 2 Vanessa Cummings, XYL of ZR2GV
- 2 Vernon van der Watt ZR2WC
- 3 Tim Joubert ZR2TW
- 5 June Jones ZS2JJ
- 6 Linton Rohl ZR2LIN
- 7 Maria Marran, XYL of ZR2AI
- 9 Gus Winter ZS2MC
- 10 Magda van der Merwe, XYL of ZS2JC
- 10 Ken Victor ZS2OC
- 11 Maureen Fulton, XYL of ZS2MG
- 13 James Hoole ZS2ABM
- 16 Ian Moore ZR2IJ
- 18 Ingrid Petzer, XYL of ZR1DJP

... on your anniversaries

May

- 23 Rouhe and Henry Danielson, ZR2HPD
- 24 Denny and Tom Davies, ZSL037
- 25 Laurene and Charlie Stevens ZS1AWG
- 25 Merle ZR2MP and Neil Thomas ZR2NT
- 31 Del and Neil Bousfield ZR2DR



June

- 4 Marge and Jim van Loggerenberg ZS2LR
- 14 Heather and James Hoole ZS2ABM
- 16 Peggy and Viv Moore ZS2VM

on your engagement Miriam Leighs and Russell Fife, son of Jane and Clive ZS2RT, on 4 April. Clive is now looking for ways and means to get to London for the *big* date.



New Member: Congrats to Serge Smetryns ZR2SJE of Redhouse and Gert Schwarz of Fort Beaufort, who have joined our company. We're sure you will enjoy your membership, chaps.

In Hospital and out again: Ewalt Bouwer ZS2EHB was in hospital for a ligament operation and is out again taking things easy at home.

Gone Overseas: Janet and Ashley Goosen ZR2AG have left for 3½ months in the UK and America.

Back from Overseas: Peggy and Viv Moore ZS2VM have arrived back from their Stateside visit with various bits and pieces.

Thanks to Donald Jacobs ZS2BW of Cradock on his kind donation to the Club. 🍷

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
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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
16 May	ZS2BL
23	ZS2EHB
30	ZS2AAW
6 June	ZS2RT
13	ZS2ABZ
20	ZR2DX

<u>DIARY DATES</u>
<u>MAY</u>
20 RAE Exam
22 PEARS AGM, Bootsale & BRAAI
25 Marconi Day
<u>JUNE</u>
3 Wrinkly Rave
11-13 PEARS mid-year Digital Contest
16 Kid's Day

* We like being your Society *