



QSL PE



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

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APRIL 2005

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

The monthly general meeting of the PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY will be held on **Thursday, 21 April 2005** at the St Hugh's Church Hall, Newton Park, starting at 20:00 (8 pm).

Barry Murrell ZR2DX will give us a talk on HF digital modes. He will also give us a demonstration of the various systems. With the upsurge in digital systems in recent times this should be an interesting evening.

Bill ZS2ABZ will supply our tea and coffee as well as biscuits.

Wrinkly Ravers

At the April Rave we had a mere five people! (Elize and Garth were unable to attend as a result of a family death.) We hope all this does not mean the end of a lengthy, happy monthly get-together!

The next Wrinkly Rave will take place on 5 May 2005 at the usual spot, i.e. Barney's, in the shopping complex in Circular Drive.

Can we expect you there? Or do you want a different place?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JAARVERGADERING

The Annual General Meeting of the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society will be held on Saturday, 21 May 2005. It will take place in the **Walmer Scout Hall** and it will start at 1400 (2pm).

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2004 Annual General Meeting
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Club awards
6. Election of Chairman
7. Election of Committee
8. Discussion of motion/s
9. General
10. Close of Meeting

Please note that any motions that you would like to have discussed at the AGM must be in the hands of the Secretary by not later than the April 2005 general meeting of the Society.

Die Jaarvergadering van die Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Vereniging sal op Saterdag, 21 Mei 2005 plaasvind. Dit sal in die **Walmer Verkennerssaal** gehou word en sal om 1400 (2nm) begin.

Die Sakelys is soos volg:

1. Verwelkoming
2. Notules van 2004 Alg. Jaarvergadering
3. Voorsitter se verslag
4. Tesourier se verslag
5. Klubtoekennings
6. Verkiesing van Voorsitter/voorsitster
7. Verkiesing van Komitee
8. Bespreking van mosies
9. Algemeen
10. Sluiting

Neem asb. Kennis dat enige mosies wat u graag op die sakelys vir die AJV wil plaas, die Sekretaris nie later nie as die April 2005 algemene vergadering van die Vereniging moet bereik. ☺



from *The* *Chairman*

Technology is evolving at such a rapid pace, that it becomes increasingly difficult to remain savvy to what is happening around us.

It's hard to comprehend that just 30 years ago, the VCR was introduced into the consumer domain. At about the same time, the microwave oven started finding it's way into our kitchens – and the CD player was still a few years away! In the early 80's the telex machine was still around, only to be replaced by the fax machine towards the middle of that decade.

Personal computing was in its infancy. "Proper" computers were only to be found in banks. Along came the ZX80, the TRS80 and then slowly computers evolved until the 90's, when their power started to multiply at a mind-boggling rate.

The 90's brought us the Internet, CD-writers, cell-phones, and the VCD.

If one looks back at the past 5 years, DVD machines, DVD-writers and GPS's have become everyday toys.

Our hobby, too, has moved with the times. From CW to AM phone to SSB and RTTY, the digital age is influencing how we spend our time communicating.

Sure, you can still use CW, pick up a microphone and chat on SSB or work RTTY, but there are so many new, exciting modes available to us now, which are less propagation-reliant. At our next meeting, Barry Murrell, ZR2DX will be giving a talk and demonstration on the digital modes, just how easy it is to get operational on these modes, and what can be achieved. Make a point of being there, or get left behind!

We are also approaching AGM time, and once again thought needs to be given to the direction that the club should be taking to steer us into the future.

If you have something to contribute, why not stand for election to the committee. PEARS needs you.

I'm pleased to see a few more members have signed up with the SARL, but there is still a considerable number who have not. The question goes begging, once again, why?

If you are still not an SARL member, now is the time to rectify matters.

You asked the League to change, now it's your turn!

DIRECTOR, ECARES

There has been only one nominee proposed for this post, that is *yours truly*, so it seems that I am saddled with this task for another three years. Further news later.

I would suggest that all hams take the trouble to check that they are not slipping up like this. Misread or unreadable call signs, or for that matter any other information passed on could result in serious problems, especially in an emergency. Although we are amateurs, we need to operate and sound professional.

OPERATING PRACTICE

On the headquarters bulletin of the 3rd of April a ZR member complained about the poor pronunciation of call signs on the HF band and also that call signs were given very fast. This made it difficult or impossible to copy.

73


Al Akers, ZS2U
Provincial Director:
Hamnet/ECARES

Raphey Remembered Us!

We were extremely pleased to receive a cheque for R1000, being a bequest from the estate of the late Raphey (Raphael) Schauder ZS2SP.

Raphey was an experimenter in various disciplines as well as being absorbed in many aspects of science. Ham Radio was just another one, but a major one, of his fascinations.

Even though he was not able to come to many of our meetings after his car was in a smash, and especially during his latter days, he remembered us. And we will remember *him*. Thank you, Raphey.

 *In a message to Neil ZR2NT, Rudi ZR2RCG says:* “We surprised Al and George last night by hiking up Lady’s Slipper in the dark. They sat cosy in Al’s kombi on top by the repeater at 9:00pm when suddenly there was a knock on the window. ZS2U, ZS2U was the call. Al didn’t know what was happening but when I fished a bottle of wine out of my backpack he was very happy and we spent almost two hours huddled in the kombi and chatting.

[Amazing what a good bottle of wine will do! But what did you other bods drink while Al was busy with the wine? – Ed.]

RESULTS OF PEARS WELCOME TO HF CONTEST

The final results of the PEARS Welcome To HF QSO Party are as follows:


ZR SECTION:

- 1st - Wayne Lourens ZR6STC 575 points
- 2nd - Rudolf Nagel ZR6JRN 478 points
- 3rd - Chris Bothma ZR6MVK 207 points

ZS SECTION

- 1st - Jannie Swanepoel ZS6ZYM 204 points
- 2nd - Jan Botha ZS4JAN 82 points
- 3rd - Pieter Bosman ZS3AOR 61 points

A total of 14 logs were received for this event – a very poor return considering the activity heard over the weekend.

Our congratulations go to all the winners. 

The 40 METRE BAND on SUNDAYS

(partly from a HQ bulletin)

Following the promulgation of the new regulations and the increased use of the HF Bands, the League would like to remind users of the 40 metre band about a "gentlemen's agreement" made many years ago. This agreement concerns the use of the 40 metre band on Sundays.

Many years ago the SARL coordinated the frequencies and times for the broadcasting of headquarters and branch bulletins in order to prevent clashes and interference.

It was decided to have 4 kHz spacing between the frequencies. The following frequencies were selected:

7046, 7050, 7054, 7058, 7062,
7066, 7070, 7074, 7078, 7082,
7086, 7090, 7094 and 7098 kHz.

This agreement has not been changed. Some frequencies are, however, probably no longer being used by clubs.

Frequencies from 7000 to 7045 are allocated to CW, RTTY, packet and other digital uses and should NOT be used for SSB communications.

Users of the 40 metre band on Sunday mornings are requested to ensure that they are not causing interference to the recognised bulletin

frequencies and, where possible, select a frequency for a rag chew away from the bulletin frequencies.

Always remember to tune up and select a frequency at least three kHz away from a busy one – and note that your CW signal might not always be where you *think* it is! Check your operator's manual.

Preferred Emergency Communication Frequency

The frequency of 7070 kHz is the preferred emergency communications frequency in the 40 metre band. Although normal activity on this frequency is encouraged, one requests that a suitable pause be given between overs to allow anyone with emergency traffic to break in.

"It has been noted that some users are very fast on the PTT," says the League newsroom. This makes break-ins difficult. In *military or police-style* use a quick response is often essential, but in the *amateur* context, a rapid reply to an over is totally unnecessary. Wait a second or two before replying – and even, when you do, let your PTT button drop out once or twice to ensure that nobody else is talking.

A COMPLAINT FROM A ZR ON HF

(partly from a HQ bulletin)

A ZR licensee has described his experience on the HF bands, which have recently become available to them:

"As a newcomer to HF I have noticed that some operators don't use

their call signs often enough and also the call signs are said so quickly that you cannot make out even the first letter. As I am a person who has to wear two hearing aids it makes it even worse.

"When one breaks into a conversation one gets maybe acknowledged but then you are forgotten as a breaker. No sufficient gaps are left between overs.

"As a beginner on HF I am really enjoying it but I would like to see the operators practicing proper radio etiquette. I also want to encourage other ZR's to come onto HF but they might be scared that ZS's will bite them.

The SARL news editor says he trusts that this was an isolated, unfortunate incident. Let us all remember two items in the Radio Amateur's Code which read:

- The radio amateur is CONSIDERATE, never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- The radio amateur is FRIENDLY, slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit".

On the other hand...

As a ZR breaking in on a conversation, do you join in on, and add to, the topic being discussed? Or do you

simply ask for QSL cards from the other chaps in order to reach your 100 QSLs?

One of the main ideas about amateur radio is to join a QSO and continue with the existing topic, especially if you can add something to it. Changing the subject to something totally different is unacceptable: when two chaps are embroiled in discussing a particular matter, they do not wish to be diverted to something else. *A simple request for a QSL card might just not be met with success.*


Incidentally, on the subject of QSLing, remember that, if you are not a member of the SARL you may not ask others to QSL via the bureau. You will need to post the other chap's card direct and include a self-addressed envelope together with a postage stamp if his address is in South Africa.

If he is in another country you would need to include an IRC (usually available from the Post Office, but maybe they don't keep them anymore) or a "greenback", i.e. a dollar bill.

If you *are* a member of the SARL, don't forget to let HQ have a large envelope in which your cards can be placed for posting – and of course remember to replace it whenever you receive a full one.

OUR SUBS ARE DUE

Subscriptions for the 2005/2006 PEARS year fall due at the end of April. **The fee for the year has been increased to R60** and may be paid to Clive Fife ZS2RT or paid into our bank account.

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. 

**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
17 MARCH 2005**

Welcome:

Rory ZS2BL welcomed all who had made the effort to attend.

Present and Apologies :

As noted in the attendance register.

Acceptance of Previous Meetings Minutes :

Proposed : ZS2RT Seconded ZS2ABZ.

Matters Arising:

Nil

Correspondence:

Received: Newsletters and repeater licences

Finance:

The Treasurer presented a report on the finances of the Society.

Social:

Recent outings have been well received, and we need new ideas for future outings. Trevor ZS2AE suggested a visit to the new VW Museum. Beavan ZS2RL suggested the Airforce Museum at Southdene.

Repeaters:

Chris ZS2AAW gave feedback on the current status of the Society's repeaters.

General:

Contests : we need to look at interesting HF-orientated contests. The PEARS Welcome to HF contest attracted much favourable

comment. The meeting agreed that we should look into organising more similar events. We can also work on the fact that we have a large number of out-of-town members to generate more on-the-air activities.

The AGM is coming up on the 21st of May. The Walmer Scout Hall in Fordyce Road has been booked for the event. Members were advised to give thought to election of a new committee, as Rory ZS2BL will NOT be available as chairman for another term, and Barry ZR2DX will not be available to serve on committee at all. New blood is needed for the committee.

Trevor ZS2AE pointed out that subs are due from the end of this month, and that the subs have been raised to R60. The third issue of QSX after this date will be the last if not paid! Winterberg Rally : Chris ZS2AAW is still looking for volunteers for this event.


RAE Classes Al ZS2U reported that classes for the May RAE are under way, and that 4 people are attending so far.

The business of the meeting ended at 20h30. Neil ZR2NT then gave a presentation on PIC projects that have been undertaken by the PIC Working Group. Refreshments were served (handled as usual by Bill ZS2ABZ) after which Neil continued with hands-on demonstrations.

SARL MEMBERSHIP

The question of the membership status of the SARL comes up regularly. As the AGM of the SARL will have come and gone by the date of publication of this issue of QSX, the following statistics for the year 2004/2005 may be of interest:

As of 31 March the SARL had 1180 members. For one reason or another 219 members failed to renew from the previous year. Despite this the membership total is up by 48 from last year's total. This means that the SARL actually gained 267 new members this year.

This is definitely a move in the right direction!!! 

Portable End-Fed HF Antenna

from Johan Terblanche ZS1I

I have used many types of antennas but I prefer antennas that can operate efficiently without any connection to the lossy ground or that require an extensive radial system.

The type of antenna shown above has always performed well for me and is easy to adjust for a good match no matter how you erect it.

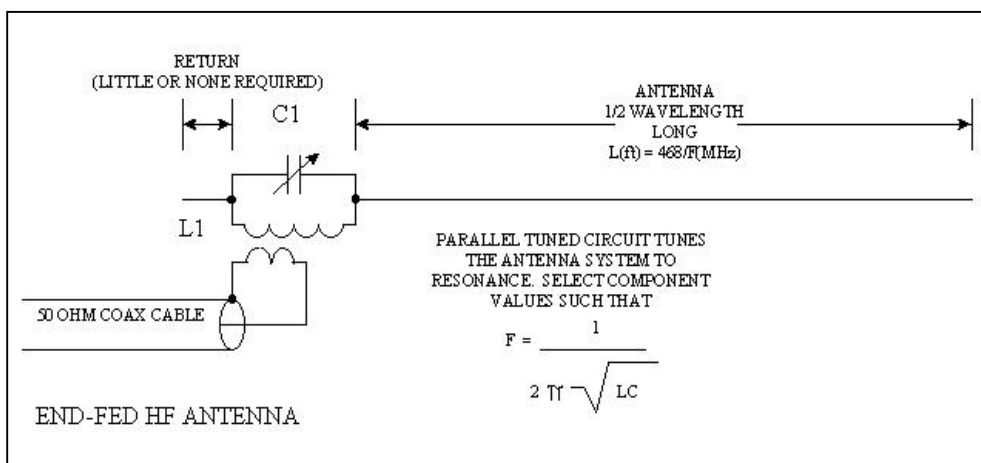
Simply get the half wave antenna part as high as possible in the trees, bushes or whatever you can find and you can place the feed point anywhere you want. I usually place it on the ground.

This type of antenna (Fig. 1) only

C1 to resonate in the band of interest. L2 is usually just a couple of turns of wire around the counterpoise end of L1.

To tune, simply adjust C1 for a dip in the SWR and adjust the turns in L2 for a minimum SWR at the dip.

The number of turns in L2 and its position determine the coupling and will determine the impedance when L1 and C1 are tuned to resonance.



needs a couple of pF capacitance from the antenna to the return side to operate properly, which can usually be just a few feet of loose wire.

Connecting the return side to a grounded object will not distract from its performance.


Choose inductor L1 and capacitor

I find that once I adjust L2, it can usually be fixed in place even if I reinstall the antenna at another location.

It is not necessary to prune the antenna. Simply cut the wire to the formula and the tuned circuit will take care of tuning everything to

resonance and best match.

The orientation of the antenna can be whatever you like but treat it as

you would a dipole. For best DX, of course, try to place it high or orientate it vertically. 

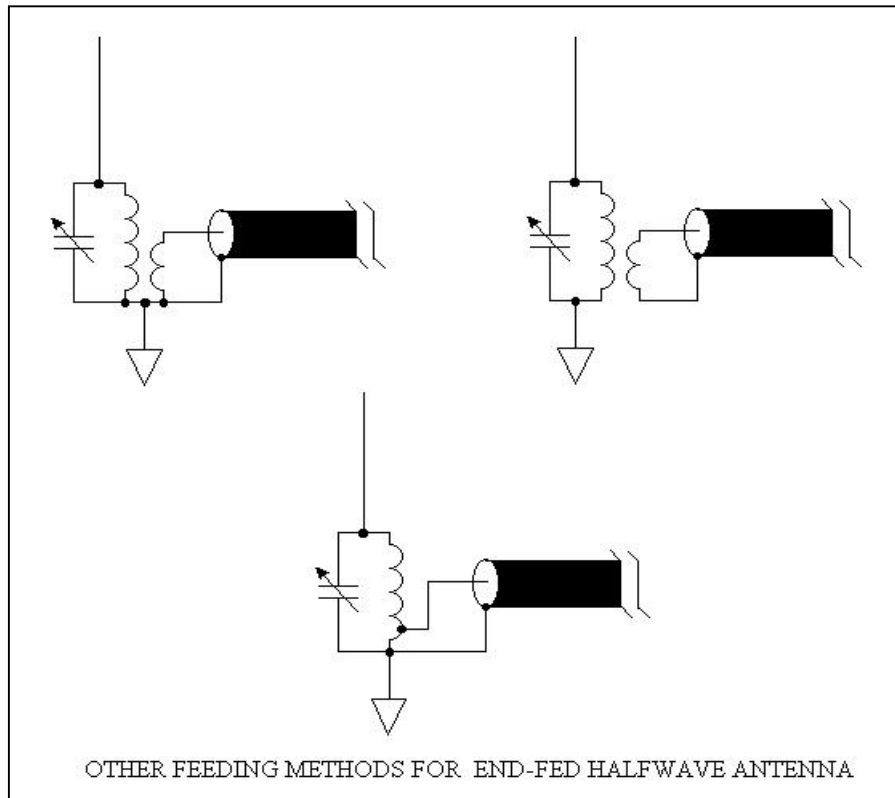


Fig. 2 showing different feeding methods for this antenna.

FOR SALE ★ WANTED ★ SWOP

FOR SALE / SWOP

* National HRO (Jnr) circa 1936, rack and panel mounted, complete with full set of plug-in coils 130 kHz–30 MHz, power supply, no speaker. — Barry Jackson ZS2H, tel. 041-360 3052 or e-mail zs2h@absamail.co.za.

* Midland 70cm programmable (commercial-type) FM radio, 30W output 99 channels, programmed for repeaters and main simplex frequencies. With 70cm Collinear vertical antenna; R500 — Contact Barry ZR2DX on 041-581 2305 or 083 717 9210.

WANTED

* New type (large) IRCs or \$1 bills — Contact Barry ZR2DX on 041 581 2305 or 083 717 9210.

100 YEARS of AMATEUR RADIO in SA [part 3]

Mike Bosch ZS2FM – from Radio ZS Jul/Sept 2004

The new 6-metre band was the first to be released to amateurs in the Union of South Africa, the other bands followed later. In October 1947, Henry Rieder ZS1T worked G5BY cross-band then PA0UN direct on 6 metres; brother Charles ZS1T and Guy Swarts ZS1AX joined him. During the maximum Sunspot Cycle in 1948, Henry ZS1P received the first live television pictures from Alexandra Palace on 45 MHz. Several years later Alan Achurch ZS5PA of Durban built the first amateur television station and transmitted fast scan TV signals to local radio amateurs, with video on 145 MHz and sound on 50 MHz. Schalk van der Merwe ZS2Y of Port Elizabeth, VHF Editor of RADIO ZS, covered all the VHF news in his column "On The Very Highs" for a period of many years.

The Golden Years

The golden era of Amateur Radio really started when hundreds of radio operators and technicians were demobilized from the Signal Corps to bolster the amateur fraternity. The HF bands were packed at the time with local QSOs on 40 in the day and 80 metres at night, as well as DX operation on 20 metres. Hams invariably constructed their own tube type transmitters and AM modulators, but employed commercial communications receivers. A transmitter equipped with a pair of 807 tubes in the final and a Hallicrafters SX28 receiver was very popular at the time. Most of the construction came to an end when Single Sideband was introduced and black boxes, in the form of solid-state transceivers, were imported from Japan etc.

Amateurs once again discovered a new mode of VHF propagation, namely Trans-equatorial (TE). In 1947 XE1KE of Mexico, unexpectedly logged Argentinean stations on 6 metres in the afternoons and evening hours. Ray Cracknell ZE2JV, in Southern Rhodesia, investigated the TE path over Africa to the Mediterranean on the 6 metre band with 5B4WR.

During Solar Cycle 21 Fred Anderson ZS6PW and Dave Larsen ZS6DN joined Ray and they pioneered TE propagation on 2 metres with 5B4WR, 5B4AZ and 5B4HY in Cyprus and Costas SV1DH in Athens Greece.

Van ZS6LW set up a new TEP record with

SV1AB, but it was later broken by Gerhard Schlorf ZS3B in Luderitz when he worked I4EAT in Faenza over a distance of almost 8000 km. Dave ZS6DN who was involved in many research projects also pioneered the commercial Meteor Burst Communications in this country and invented the frequency hopping system for the military.

Arthur "Windy" Gale ZS2CK and the writer, both from East London, pioneered Microwaves on the 3 cm band in 1962. The equipment was homebrewed around klystrons, microwave diodes and arc lamp mirrors etc.

Two metre repeaters were introduced in the new Republic of South Africa and became a real boon for mobile operation and local chatting. However, unfortunately, it had a detrimental effect on simplex operation and long distance VHF experiments.

In Pietersburg, Jack de Villiers became the doyen of 6 metre operation; he made numerous DX contacts, some cross-band to 10 metres with European amateurs who were not permitted to operate on the 6 metre band. He also established a world record in 1979 with KH6IAA located at Hilo Hawaii. This record stood for 21 years before Paul Smit ZS6PJS and K6MIO/KH6 finally broke it.

Space Communications

Hans van de Groenendaal ZS6AKV formed SA AMSAT and inspired amateur satellite operation in the Republic of South Africa. This gave the ZR operators their first opportunity to work real DX. Later Hans also promoted amateur radio in his Radio Mirror programme that was broadcast over the SABC.

In 1979, the first local moon bounce (EME) two-way contact was made between Gary Howarth ZS6ASO and K1WHS on 2 metres. In 1984, Kobie Furstenberg shared the world 2 metre EME record with K1WHS that is still standing today. Ivo Chladek ZS6AXT pioneered EME on Microwaves in the RSA and holds several SARL records including a world record with NU7Z on 13 cm. Giel van Niekerk qualified for the first EME WAC on 70 cm in the RSA.

Finally, Hal Lund ZS6WB, who is well known to all 6 metre enthusiasts, introduced the latest weak signal Digital Data communication modes to South Africa and in so doing has given Amateur Radio a jump-start into the 21st

Century.

There are many more radio amateurs who have made great contributions to Amateur Radio in this country, but unfortunately, it is impossible to cover them all in a single article. We shall leave a more detailed research of the post-war era to someone like Tjerk Lammers ZS6P to complete.

Amateur Radio of the Future

What will happen to Amateur Radio in the Republic of South Africa during the next 100 years? Will it survive or just disappear like the ox wagon? Amateur interests are diverse and cover a very wide field, such as HF DX, RTTY, SSTV, Packet Radio as well as exciting experiments on VHF, UHF, Microwaves, Satellites, EME and the latest Digital modes. So what can be done to restore the past glory and support for a fantastic scientific hobby?

World-wide DX for All

One of the first steps that should be taken is to grant all ZR stations ZS status, which will entitle them to work DX on HF too and thus liven up these bands. This could become a great draw card to entice newcomers to the hobby. All transmission modes should be permissible, but Morse code tests must be scrapped.

Radio Amateur Emergency Service

When a recent hurricane struck the East Coast of the USA, all the local cellphone networks were knocked out and Radio Amateurs once again came to the rescue. It happened again during a major power failure in the United States. The FCC in the USA has recognized Amateur Radio as being among the most reliable means of medium and long distance communication in disaster areas.

The flood disasters that occurred in the RSA at Laingsburg, Montagu, Robertson and the other areas created havoc and loss of life. The spontaneous help by so many radio amateurs, including HAMNET and WRR members, were staggering. They provided the radio links for days until normal communications could be restored.

Unfortunately, due to red tape, HAMNET enjoys only limited support from amateurs at present. There are thousands of licensed Radio Amateurs spread out all over the country, but sadly, many have been alienated from the SARL. Most of them would be willing to be of

service to their countrymen in time of need. Therefore, HAMNET should seriously consider taking them under its wing and thus extending its influence throughout South Africa. After all, disasters are not going to occur only where a few HAMNET members reside! A change in policy might just bring the estranged amateurs a little closer to the League.

Modern Amateur Radio

Today's generation has grown up with computers, video games, cellphones and the Internet. Therefore, Amateur Radio must be made more appealing to the younger generation by encouraging all forms of Digital communications as this opens up many more worlds for the young amateur to explore. Videophone transmissions as well as a new breed of broadband amateur satellites in the future could add more lustre to our hobby.

Extra-Terrestrial DX

Amateur Radio will take a giant quantum leap into the future when the first moon base is established. Amateurs who are equipped with efficient VHF or UHF stations plus high gain Yagi beam antennas, could enjoy daily Lunar DX on SSB or FM, whenever the moon is visible.

Likewise, when the exploration of Mars takes place in the not too distant future, then Amateur Radio could achieve a new high point this century. Hopefully the first spacecraft would also carry amateur microwave equipment including a beacon transmitter that could be monitored en route to the planet. Once the spacecraft has been placed in orbit around Mars, it will become a lot easier to point the microwave dish and automatically track the planet, since it will be visible to the naked eye at night.

Amateur communication should be possible with Mars but it will call for a very efficient amateur microwave station that can operate on the latest weak signal digital data or digital voice modes. Signals will be delayed by about 15 minutes when the planet is at its closest to the Earth. This could be only the beginning of a new and more fascinating Amateur Radio world in the 21st Century that our younger generation may experience!

Amateur Radio could survive this century providing that a true pioneering spirit is again cultivated among amateurs to experiment and rise to challenges. ☺

Pearstalk



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

NEW COUNCIL

The ten members nominated for the new Council were unanimously elected to Council during the SARL AGM on 9 April. They are: Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, President; Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT Vice President; Henry Chamberlain, ZS1AAZ Secretary; Abe Zwiigelaar, ZS1ZS Treasurer; Dennis Green, ZS4BS; Derek Gravett, ZS5Y; Kobus Conradie, ZR6D; Olivier van Staden, ZS1OLI; Richard Seddon, ZS2CLI; and Ivan Newman, ZR2LN, the only new member without previous Council service.

We thank the retiring members for what they have done for amateur radio, and also to those just elected, who will continue to do the same. The members have full confidence in all of you.

MOTIONS AT THE LEAGUE AGM

The shorter periods of 4 weeks proposed in Council's motion were rejected, but the use of email and the web site for notices was accepted. This will result in large savings in postage.

We are glad that the shorter periods were rejected. The current six week period was a PEARS proposal accepted with widespread enthusiasm at the AGM in Cape Town. Although the clubs were branches then, most are still members of the League and should be able to discuss any motions at their monthly meetings.

VHF/UHF CONTEST

Derek ZS5Y, the VHF/UHF Contest Manager reminds everybody who took part in the first leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Contest recently to send their logs to the following address only –

by e-mail to derek.gravett@siemens.com

or

by snail mail to The Contest Committee, 69

Erskine Street, Scottburgh, 4180.

Please do not use any other address.

OUR BEACON HEARD IN SPAIN

The ZS2SIX beacon was heard on Monday, 21 March at 1639 UTC by EH7KW in southern Spain (IM67xi). At the time both ZS6NK and ZS6WB were monitoring European video frequencies and nothing at all was heard in our part of South Africa during the day.

Another example of the magic of 50 MHz.

ICASA WILL NOT HANDLE UPGRADE REQUESTS

ICASA has requested the SARL to inform all ZR's not to send upgrade requests to ICASA. The new regulations spell out clearly that these requests must be channeled through the National Society for evaluation.

While the SARL has appointed a number of Assessors, some additional regulatory issues need to be attended to by the authorities before the Assessors can start their work. This means that applications for upgrading will take a little longer.

The amended regulations require the appointment of the national body, a process that is currently being attended to by the ministry. Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, explained that this process could only begin once the amendments to the regulations were gazetted.

"The SARL is working closely with the authorities to get this last piece of regulatory action in place. As soon as the process has been completed details will be published on www.sarl.org.za and announced on SARL news.

MAY RADIO AMATEUR EXAMINATION

The May 2005 Radio Amateur Examination will be conducted on Thursday evening 19 May 2005. Persons interested in writing the examination must register with the

SARL by no later than Thursday 14 April 2005.

You can visit the SARL web site at www.sarl.org.za for more information.

5 MHz IN NORWAY

The Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority has granted permission to Norwegian amateur radio club stations to operate on eight 5 MHz-band spot frequencies from 1 April 2005 until 31 December 2007.

The permitted modes are upper sideband and CW, with a maximum transmitter power of 100 watts. The centre frequencies of the channels are 5,280, 5,290, 5,332, 5,348, 5,368, 5,373, 5,400 and 5,405 MHz, with the upper sideband 'dial frequency' being 1.5 kHz lower in each case.

GOOD SAMARITAN

Hi Garth, – Just a short note to tell you that Basie ZR2BA came around on Easter Monday and took all my antennas down for me. He went up 4 times and was quite stiff the following day.

Best regards, Mitch ZS2DK

Our thanks to Basie. ***Now we know who to contact to climb our towers!***

SOUTH AFRICAN VISITING D.R. of CONGO

Mike ZR5MGK is currently working in the DRC as part of the South African contingent for the United Nations. He has obtained the call sign 9Q6MGK to use up to end April 2005. Therefore, if any South African stations would like to work Mike, they can get him on all the HF bands, especially on the 20 and 15m bands.

DIGITAL SSTV FROM W CAPE

On 21 March 2005 Johan ZS1WC in Gansbaai and Leon ZS1MM of Worcester successfully exchanged digital images with each other on a noisy 40 mete band (7.035 MHz). They were using DIGTRX software, written by Roland Zurmely PY4ZBZ and available free on the internet, to obtain a copy visit

<http://planeta.terra.com.br/lazer/py4zbz>.

Even with a QRN filled band, it was amazing to see the clear digital images appearing on the computer screen. Johan says to compare SSTV as we know it with

this software is like comparing compact disks (CDs) with the old vinyl records.

No problem for the software – the sending station finds the bad blocks and resends those blocks to the receiver – and you end up with a perfect photo. No noise lines or stripes – digitally perfect.

Johan says that, as far as he knows, this was a first for the Western Cape. He is not sure if this "Digital SSTV" has been used somewhere else in South Africa. The software is used with great success by various other amateurs world wide.

Johan and Leon say they are now going to try some DX contacts and look if they get the same results over longer distances.

Well done to Johan and Leon and good luck with the DX!!

SPECIAL PREFIXES FOR NORWAY

Radio amateurs in Norway will be allowed to replace their normal LA and LB prefixes with LI and LJ respectively between 17 May and 7 June to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of the union between Norway and Sweden.

There will be an award scheme for working the special prefixes and details will be published in English on the NRRL's website at www.nrnl.no.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION ZS100RI

The Rotary Club of Midrand will be operating a special events station from the Olivenhout Bosch community centre where Midrand Rotary has been running a community project known as Thusanang. They will be broadcasting as ZS100RI from 12 March 2005 to 28 February 2006 in celebration of 100 years of Rotary.

QSL via Craig ZS6CKB.

PRESIDENT'S NET

The next President's Net will be held on 2 metres on Sunday, 24 April, starting at 1900. Following this event, Intecnet will take place, with Clive Simpkins delivering a talk on managing a club, motivating committees and enthusing membership.

I guess this is exactly what Rory wants to hear, as he often speaks about growing membership and encouraging activities not only in the Club but also in the SA Radio League. 📺

Condolences: Our sympathy goes to Elize and Garth Laaks on the passing on 6 April of Elize's father, Daniel van Vuuren, of Despatch. Daniel had a stroke over the Easter weekend and was taken to hospital and later to a frail care centre. He passed away after a second stroke.

To those celebrating special days (24 Apr to 21 May) we say

Have a Happy Day... 

... on your birthdays

April

23 George Bowes ZS2QN
24 Deidré Allen, XYL of Tony
27 Tom Wilm, ZS2BBG
28 Chris Scarr ZS2AAW
29 John Hugo ZS2J
30 Louis Jordaan ZR2J

May

1 Marge Weller ZS2OB
4 Chum Rhodes ZS2VU
7 Rouhe Danielson, XYL of ZR2HPD
12 Chris du Plessis ZS2BST
13 Gerald Berlyn ZR2GB
15 Tanya Becker, XYL of Christo
16 Lynne Thomas
19 Johannes Pieterse ZR2JLP
20 Otto van Rooyen ZR2VAN
20 Marjorie Forsyth, XYL of ZS2AW

... on your anniversaries

April

NONE from 24 to 30 April

May

2 Shirley and Gus Winter ZS2MC
20 Magda and Albrecht van der Merwe ZS2JC



Congrats to Louis Jordaan and Ann Thomson, who are getting married on 7 May. We hope you will both be exceptionally happy in the future.

Also to ZR2AAW, Karen Bowles, daughter of Joan ZR2ABA and Alan Bowles ZS2BO, who was married in Pietermaritzburg recently.

In Hospital: John Hugo, ZS2J, is going in for a knee operation and will be hospitalized for a few days from 21 April. He will have his handheld with him and hopes to enjoy a number of 2-metre contacts.

Out of Hospital: Joan Bowles ZR2ABA was in hospital to have her gall bladder removed. A close call – they found the item gangrenous and, if left in much longer, it would have meant “tickets”.

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@mweb.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 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 Butterworth to George and up to the Free State and their 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	Prepare and Read on 2m Repeater Link	<u>DIARY DATES</u>
17 Apr	ZS2RT	<u>APRIL</u>
24	ZS2ABZ	14 Closing date for RAE entries
1 May	ZR2DX	21 PEARS MONTHLY MEETING
8	ZS2BL	24 President's Net at 1900, Intecnet at 2000.
15	ZS2EHB	<u>MAY</u>
22	ZS2AAW	5 Wrinkly Rave
		19 RAE

* We like being your Society *