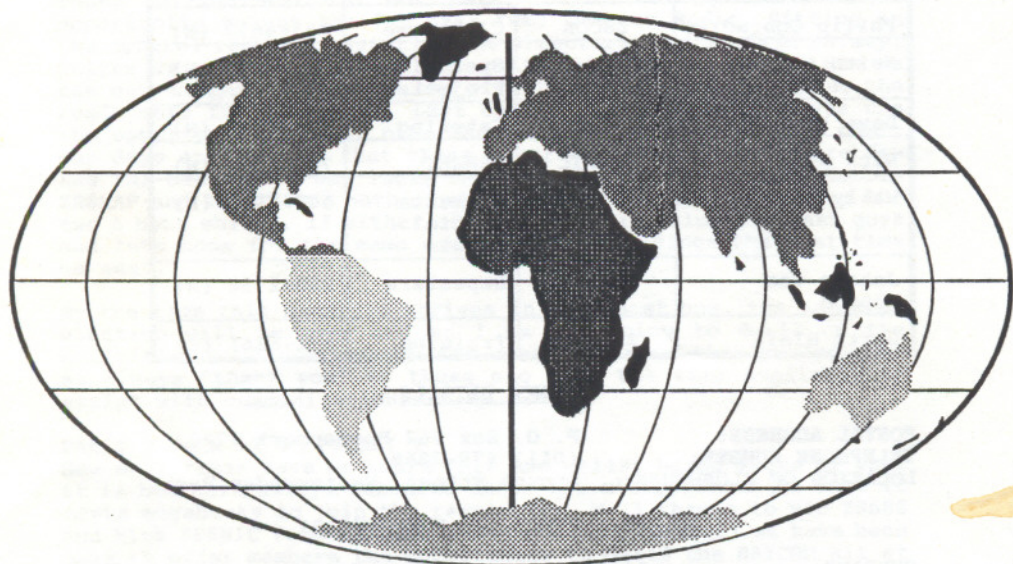


APRIL 1994

ANODE

NEWSLETTER of the WEST RAND BRANCH
SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE



*West Rand Branch
Wesrand Tak
SARL
P.O Box 562
Roodepoort 1725*

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE**WEST RAND BRANCH****LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND PORTFOLIOS**

NAME	CALL SIGN	PORTFOLIO	TELEPHONE
Cedar Ryan	ZS6JQ	Chairman	763-6929 (H) 636-3436 (W)
Sarel Rossouw	ZS6APO	Vice Chairman Civil Protection	768-2091 (H)
Rina Wessels	ZR6RM	Secretary	766-3847 (H)
Karen Burger	ZS6KBM	Treasurer	679 1210 (H)
Philip Conradie	ZSCON	Clubhouse	763-4673 (H)
Keith Liddle	ZS6AGF	Special Projects	766-3293 (H)
Dave Lloyd	ZS6ACC	Catering	763-5128 (H)
Nick King	ZS6NIC	HAMNET	763-4333 (H)
Wally Sime	ZS6WAL	Contests Special events	672-7958 (H)
Johann van Vuuren	ZS6JVV	Repeaters	955-2788 (H)
Garth Blain	ZS6BXT	Training	672-6161 (H)

BRANCH DETAILS

POSTAL ADDRESS: P. O. Box 562 Roodepoort 1725
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (011) 475-2368
LOCATION OF CLUBHOUSE: Kroton Street, Weltevreden Park

BULLETIN TIMES AND FREQUENCIES.

SUNDAYS: 11:15 start call in of stations
11:30 bulletin starts
145,025/,625 Mhz (West Rand repeater)
7,066 Mhz.

MEETING DATES AND TIMES:

Branch meetings:	2nd Monday of the Month
QRP/Construction Group and Satellite interest group:	1st Monday of the Month (unless otherwise advised.)
Committee meetings:	Last Monday of the Month
Radio Examination classes:	Every Wednesday Night.

ALL MEETINGS START AT 19:30

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK.....

What a way to start off this month's column; the Easter Road Safety Campaign just finished and we are full swing again to assisting various Local Authorities with communications for the last week of April. Just when we thought we could go back to ham radio like it used to be !! Nevertheless good fun.

We have had a number of inserts on the weekly bulletin concerning the Easter Road Safety Campaign so I don't wish to repeat all of them here but there are members who are not able to listen to the program on a Sunday Midday but certain must be done. First of all a big thank you to those who erected the station; Jeff ZS6AUG, Chris ZS6RI, Craig ZR6REV and of course Rad ZS6RAD who was the main "mover and shaker" in this event. Thanks to all of you for the time spent in making this one of the technically best stations. In the 12 hours that I spent there nothing went wrong. Which cannot always be said for other stations of this nature. Those of you who did not participate, well you missed an opportunity to put the fun back into Amateur Radio. Sitting in the control room and assisting the Directorate of Traffic Safety, Police as well as the Taxi Association was eye-opening. Now we can get an appreciation of the effort which goes into making the roads safe for all users. Last but not least it also gives one the opportunity to meet other Amateurs and simply sit and chat; our days are so busy that these short social interludes are few and far between. I was lucky enough to be partnered with Robbie ZR6RAP and Ray ZS6RAE both of whom kept me fully occupied for the two 6 hour shifts. If either of you read this column, thanks guys and lets hope for the same convivial surroundings the next time we meet.

By the time this magazine arrives in your post box, the national election will be over and so I am not going to dwell on the activities of the Amateur Radio operators over this period. But as always "thank you" to those who made the time available to assist with communications.

PAKIT ? PACK IT ? PACKET ?

How many times have we heard this and whilst being aware of what it is but have always laboured under the misapprehension that it costs megabucks to join the revolution. Well thanks to Vic ZS6SZ and Nick ZS6NIC (sounds like a concert hall turn !!) we have been able to offer members the opportunity to build the BAYCOM kit at a cost of R90-00. As a result we now have 4 stations QRV busy swapping mail amongst the rest of the community in South Africa and world-wide. Now that so many members have this at their disposal input for ANODE will no doubt come in thick and fast as this provides an ideal opportunity to get information to your editor / chairman. Talking about ANODE, a number of people have expressed an interest on how this publication is put together. Well, it's simplicity itself. I use Word Perfect v5.1 to write the articles. You will notice that each section is usually a full page long; this makes the photocopying and layout easy. Sometimes we have to put in a short "filler" on one of the inside pages. Once the typing has been done and the layout / format finalised, Keith ZS6AGF attends to the job of reducing the pages to A5! Thereafter, it is copied with the envelope stuffing (yes that

is the right terminology) done by the committee before our monthly meeting. Labels are produced by Steve Gommersall who maintains our membership database in fine condition and delivers the labels at short notice. So, not difficult at all. If you would like to contribute to ANODE I will appreciate a document in Word Perfect form or failing that in "simple" ASCII which is then read into Word Perfect. Please don't give me computer generate graphics as my Bubble Jet printer won't cope. Rather send these in separately for subsequent copying with the balance of the article. The most important thing to bear in mind is to limit the amount of typing which I have to do (both work and studies suffer at ANODE time) therefore as long as the article is clearly written with the drawings likewise and it can be reduced to A5 (so that us okes with failing eyesight can read it) then it's fine. Both Alan ZS6BIK and RAD ZS6RAD have given me material in these forms and its now a case of sifting through to publish the selected articles. EASY HEY !!

If you look at the calender appearing on the inside front cover you will see a number of new additions; the most significant being the inclusion of the "special event dates" for the Amateur Radio Stations affiliated to the Air Force Museum as well as the "War Museum" located North of the Johannesburg Zoo. Malcolm Kriel ZR6MDK regaled us at our Branch Meeting of 11 April with exploits surrounding the museum and it's equipment. The upshot of this is that Malcolm is looking for assistance at the Museums on an ad-hoc basis every second month or so to assist to cleaning, sorting and classifying the various radios and electronic equipment often dating back to the turn of the Century. If you are interested in doing this give me a call and I will liaise with Malcolm. This year 6 June to be precise also sees the 50th celebration of the D-Day Landings in Europe. Malcolm is looking for operators to assist him at the War Museum over the period 6 to 10 June. If you took part in these landings or in other theatres of war over the period 1940 to 1945 Malcolm would appreciate your time to operate. Please give me a call and I will get your name etc to Malcolm. He is looking to us as one of the League's Best Branches to help him out. Let's live up to this reputation.

Before this column comes to an end for this month, Pierre ZR6ADZ who is the secretary for the Amateur Radio Marshalls Association (ARMA) is looking for additional members. They have some innovative schemes going insofar as membership etc is concerned plus they also get to see most of the motor races held on the Highveld as well as neighbouring countries. What about joining them ? Give Pierre a call on the repeater network or alternatively contact Johan ZS6JVV who is an absolute stalwart in that organisation.

I hope that you enjoyed reading this column and it served to keep you up to date on the more mundane issues of Amateur Radio. Keep the hobby alive, vibrant and rewarding. Fire up that rig which is lying at the bottom of the cupboard, activate the ether and join us at 11:15 every Sunday Morning for the Branch Bulletin.

Till the next time, 73 de Cedar ZS6JQ.

OBSERVING THE JUPITER IMPACT IN LATE JUNE 1994 ?

The West Rand Branch of the South African Radio League in conjunction with the local chapter of the Amateur Astronomical Society i.e. Johannesburg, are going to set up several observation stations to observe the impending/predicted collision or impact of the broken up comet with the planet Jupiter. This event is expected to occur on the 24th June 1994 and last several days. At present four different locations in various parts of South Africa are participating with radio amateurs providing the communication links, naturally, between these points. What we would like to know is whether there are any other groups, clubs or individuals anywhere in the world who are possibly planning similar projects over the predicted period? If indeed there are, we would like to hear from you.

If you are interested and require more details on our project please let me know. Everybody is more than welcome to join in, so lets hear from you. 73 de John ZS6AOP @ ZS0HUT.TVL.ZAF.AF

HEARD AT ZS6AOP

In between satellite passes (amateur radio satellites) I usually listen around the bands, and, usually hear something a little different. That is different to me. For instance, I was tuning around the airways frequencies after the third day's play of the second cricket test between South Africa and Australia and heard the following. A person in Mauritius via Air Mauritius asked of a Qantas Airline pilot what the close of play score of that day was. The pilot told the operator on Mauritius to "hang on a mo" (he got the answer from who knows where) and informed the operator, who was obviously not very au fait with the game of cricket. After some very explicit clarification of terminology and in a very friendly manner the Aussie accent managed to get the message across to every one's satisfaction. I thought it was quite a humorous incident.

On another day I was searching for a soccer commentary from the BBC late on a Saturday afternoon, I eventually found it (one) on 21650 Khz. The normal BBC World Service does not seem to transmit live commentaries. Does anyone have any comment on this? I have written to the BBC for a schedule which will probably enlighten me, but I would welcome any feedback from anybody.

As far as the satellites themselves are concerned, I managed to copy AO10 for the first time on the 29th March. The signals were quite readable, although as this bird is wont, it ceases operating whenever it feels like it, and just suddenly quits on its own. The frequency by the way is 145.810 for the beacon. Another interesting satellite is AO21 which transmits on a frequency of 145.987 in FM Mode. At present there is a voice transmission every 6 minutes or so, 59+ signals. Of course one needs to know when the satellites are passing over the West Rand, if any one is interested, please let me know (if you do not have the facilities of determining these for yourself)

If you have similar items of interest of activities around the shack why not drop me a line (as per the comments made in the Chairman's column) for inclusion in following editions of ANODE

**** TIPS FOR LEARNING CW ****

by

Richard K Leah VE3ANB / G0TZD

If you have an electronic keyer or manual key, take it to your wife or girlfriend and carefully hand it to her asking her to LOCK it away somewhere for you. Until you know what morse code is supposed to sound like, you will surely not be able to send it properly. I've heard some guys that appear to be sending code using a loose toggle switch as a key. (A good musician always learns how an instrument should sound prior to playing it). There will be plenty of time to send later.

The secret of learning the code, is to LISTEN, LISTEN, and LISTEN! By listening to code that is sent well, you will get a feel for the rhythm (consistent speed PLUS consistent gapping between each character). Morse code consists of a series of dits and dahs (NEVER dots and dashes) that make up the alphabet and, for the purposes of your examination (Canada), you will need to know the alphabet, the numbers 0 - 9, comma, period, slash and question mark.

Learn the sound of each character clearly in your mind. Try to learn each character at a CHARACTER speed of 13 wpm leaving big gaps in between each character. This way, as you progress, you can narrow the gaps between each character WITHOUT changing the character speed, thus, increasing your WORD speed. To try and learn the code at 5 wpm and then increase it to 10 wpm, and then to 13 wpm will result in frustration and in all likelihood, having to re-learn the sound of each character all over again at the new speed.

Try to get into the habit of writing down on paper each character in LOWER CASE letters rather than writing in upper case. You will save a lot of time doing it this way. Think about it... It takes more pen strokes to write a capital letter E than a lower case e (as an example of what I mean). DO NOT translate the sound on paper to dits and dahs and THEN to the character. This is like double translation and you will end up extremely frustrated. Also if you miss a character, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! just train your mind to go on to the next character. If you dwell too much on the character that you missed, you will surely miss the next two or three coming at you. Also do not try to anticipate the next character or word. Second guessing is a NO NO.

Take full advantage of the W1AW morse code practice sessions. They are an excellent tool of assistance. The quality of code is perfect and error free and they have a variety of different speeds to cater to your particular level of progress. The times and frequencies of the W1AW code practice sessions are usually available on packet, QST and the ARRL and RAC. When listening to W1AW, try to listen FIRSTLY to the code session at 15 wpm. YES! 15 wpm, I know your probably saying to yourself, this VE3ANB fellow is fellow is a little nuts, but believe me, although you may only be able to pick out two letters from two words sent, when you then listen to 10 wpm, you will maybe pick out 2 letters to EACH word and at 7.5 wpm, you will no doubt pick out MOST of the letters from EACH word. The point being, this leaves you with a sense of ACCOMPLISHMENT!! and you will also feel good about yourself and the progress you made on each session. Most people give up out of sheer frustration, so it's very important to end a practice session having that positive feeling that you DID accomplish something.

Do not spend more than 1 hour at a time, as it will result in you having to over-absorb and hence, like a sponge when it is saturated, you will not be able to grasp the new stuff being thrown at you. If you find that you are not grasping it, WALK AWAY and try later. (We all have off days). Once you have a fair grasp for each of the characters and their sound, send the code to yourself in your mind. eg: When you are walking

down the street, sound out the street sign in code to yourself. YIELD (da di dah dah, di dit, dit, di dah di dit, dah di dit). etc. Yes you might get some strange looks from passersby, but, what the heck! That's OK. There's a lot more stranger people out there than you and I.

You should be prepared to spend at least 30 - 45 MINUTES PER DAY just listening. Set yourself a schedule!! If you are not prepared to do this, you have obviously decided that you don't really want to learn and your just kidding yourself and everyone else. Don't create excuses!! I've heard them all. (The dog's sick, I'm tired, my xyl wants to go shopping) There are few excuses if you have the true desire to learn. I never passed an examination with good marks without doing my homework.

****ALL THE ABOVE DOES NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A KEY****

Now that you have all the characters and what they are supposed to sound like impressed in your mind, you are now ready to start a little sending. Now is the time to ask for the secret location of you key (the one you asked to be locked up somewhere). Don't worry about the speed at this point, remember, what counts is the quality, good spacing and clear dit and dahs. Adjust your key to a comfortable position and check the gapping on the contacts. Don't set it so wide a Sherman tank could fit between the contacts!! A small gap will result in a lot less work and more ease of sending.

If you feel that you might get into some contesting later, (Field day, CQWW etc), you might want to use your NON WRITING hand to do the sending with. Sounds odd but, if you keep your writing hand free, it will benefit you greatly! This is not overly important at this stage, just a suggestion that any avid CW operator will endorse.

Adjust you key, get comfortable and relax. Send code to yourself or to a friend. You might wish to send text from a newspaper or magazine but remember, pay special attention to the spacing between your characters. CW operating can be and is a very enjoyable mode. IT IS NOT A LOST ART!!! It is merely another mode to which thousands and thousands of Amateurs across the world choose to employ out of their CHOICE. I know guys that operate CW and nothing else, despite their ability to work other modes. Many QSO's I have had could never have taken place on SSB due to bad QRN and QRM or QSB. CW has a way of "punching" through all of that. I have managed to pass traffic using CW on a number of occasions when SSB simply would not have allowed it.

Remember, don't rush, be relaxed, and always use International Morse Code. For further information on how you can begin to learn international morse code, or upgrade your speed, contact your local Amateur Radio Club or check on your local BBS boards to see if they have any Morse Tutors in their files section.

Very best 73 to you and Good Luck (vy 73 to u es gl) de Rich VE3ANB@VE3DTV

This article was published in
"The Canadian Amateur" January 1992
and
"Hagal" in Israel shortly thereafter

* * * * *

BRANCH ACTIVITIES and CALENDER

The following is a calender of amateur radio activities for the next few months.

3 April 1994	Bulletin	Keith ZS6AGF
10 April 1994	Bulletin	Rina ZR6RM
11 April 1994	Branch Meeting	Malclom Kriel ZR6MDK SAAF Museum.
16 April 1994	Satellite Interest Group	Houtkoppes Space Research Facility
17 April 1994	Bulletin	Nick ZS6NIC
24 April 1994	Bulletin	Cedar ZS6JQ
25 April 1994	Committee Meeting	Clubhouse

1 May 1994	Bulletin	
2 May 1994	Satellite Interest Group:	Cedar ZS6JQ using the "WHATS-UP" program to acquire and analyse satellite telemetry
8 May 1994	Bulletin	
9 May 1994	Branch Meeting	Bob Innes ZS6RZ Cellular Telephones
15 May 1994	Bulletin	
22 May 1994	Bulletin	
29 May 1994	Bulletin	
30 May 1994	Committee Meeting	

4/5 June 1994	VHF/UHF Competition	FIELD STATION
---------------	------------------------	---------------