

ISSUE 1

JULY 1993

ANODE

**NEWSLETTER of the WEST RAND BRANCH
SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE**



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S.A.R.L WEST RAND BRANCH A.G.M 1993

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well it seems like only yesterday that I was sitting out there in the audience like you, when I was asked to come and sit in this seat and start my new job as Chairman of the Branch. My first feelings were ones of excitement needled to say. These feelings just about disappeared when I sat in the chair and realised that I had absolutely no idea what to do or say for the rest of the meeting. These first few seconds of Chairmanship is where I first started to appreciate the help and support of the other members of the committee. At that particular time Philip ZS6CON was prompting me along with the standard procedure for the remainder of the meeting. Since that first meeting I have had an enormous amount of assistance and support from all the members of the Committee, and I would like to thank them most sincerely for all of their help. I believe it is customary for the Chairman, in his report at the AGM to give a crash course in the activities of the branch over the last 12 months. So please bear with me as I attempt to do this almost impossible task of summing up on years activities in a few minutes.

1. TRAINING

My first thought about the last year is training, when I became a radio ham a couple of years back I had the privilege of attending Garth Blain's class at this club before I wrote the RAE. This proved to be a great help to me, not only did it help me pass the RAE but I made a few very good friends there. Garth still give up Wednesday evenings to help those interested in passing the RAE to get through the first time. I must add, these courses are free and Garth receives no payment in any form for his time. Another great group of trainers is the CW group headed by Bill ZS6ZC and Johan ZS6AOP, they have given up many hours of their time to encourage people to develop the skills necessary to pass the dreaded 12 wpm CW test. My sincere thanks to these dedicated people who's work will most probably never come to and end as long as

3. CLUB HOUSE

During my time as Chairman I have heard many people comment on our club house, all of these have been something like "what a fantastic club house you have, I wish ours was this good". There are many people who deserve a special work of thanks for our club house. Without the help and support of people in the Roodepoort Municipality as well as civil protection we would'nt even have a club house, we should always keep this in mind when we are asked to help them in their time of need. Another massive work of thanks to our "old timers" group who often come down here and perform countless tasks in maintaining our club house and adding new features and facilities. Another person who deserves separate mention is Philip ZS6CON who is continually cleaning up and performing other unpleasant tasks, none of which fall in the normal portfolio of a Vice Chairman. My sincere thanks to these people who have made and keep our club house the way it is right now.

4. BULLETINS

The bulletin in our branch have been considerably more casual than other branches like JHB etc, but there have been some drastic improvements over the last few months. Thanks to people like Rad, Will and Philip our bulletins are being relayed and replayed with more and more technical excellence very week. This is a task which many people take for granted, sit back and think about giving up a chunk of every Sunday morning to relay the recorded bulletin. Think about having to be at home every Wednesday evening to replay the bulletin on our repeater. These things happen every week without fail, thanks to the dedication of these three people and the other members of the committee who have to prepare the bulletin.

5. ANODE

I believe that a monthly newsletter is something vitally important to a club like ours. Since Ray ZS6CBC has taken over the job of Anode editor Anode has become quite a professionally layed out document with a large number of interesting items of news. Much criticism has been heard from people about Anode coming out late etc., but I think those who have a keen interest in computers as Ray does, will understand the phrase "have toys, must play" that phrase applies particularly well to myself and I know that when playing around with computers things generally tend to go wrong. Ray seems to have perfected this with his extensive turbo-charged piece of equipment. Since he has been editing Anode, his hard drive has crashed over 3 times, he has had who knows how many viruses, and apart from all the faults, normal things like upgrades have taken place as well. In the end Ray normally always comes through, and we really have to thank him for his hard work and perseverance with Anode. While Ray is the one who produces Anode, the person who makes Anode possible for us is Will ZR6WX who has sponsored us and continues to do so even in these trying financial times.

6. REPEATERS

As most of you already know, our repeaters work exceptionally well. They have slowly but surely seen improvement after improvement, with the installation of a new 4 stack antenna system, the servicing of the repeaters themselves as well as new plugs and cables a number of times each time trying to improve performance and reliability of our repeater system even more. I can quite confidently say that we have one of the best repeaters in the country as far as performance is concerned and our repeater man Johan ZS6JVV is still upgrading front ends of receivers, talk of upgrading power supplies is also heard often. Johan spends a lot of his time on our repeaters and I think we as a branch are extremely lucky to have a knowledgeable person like him to help us, thank you Johan.

7. CATERING

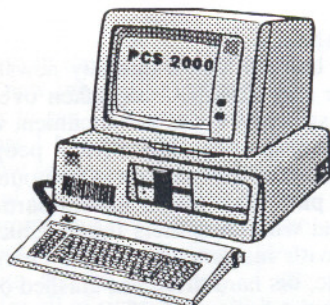
Those of you who attend our meetings and functions often will know that there is always something here as far as food and drink is concerned. Many people despise this job of catering even for themselves at home never mind catering for a club like ours permanently. All our club activities are taken care of by Dave ZS6ACC and his team of helpers who vary from week to week. Mostly he does things on his own, things that we don't even think about like buying beer and cold drinks and keeping tabs on the money that comes in, not to mention all the hard work that goes into a big function like one of our boot sales. Those of you who attended our first committee meeting last year will know that no one wanted to accept the job of catering manager, they most probably all realised how much work was involved. Dave, on behalf of the whole branch I would like to thank you and your family for an excellent job done over the past 12 months.

8. GENERAL

I would like to thank all members of the branch for their support and their interest in the activities of the branch, I'd also like to thank you all for putting up with me as Chairman for a whole year, and last but not least I really hope that you all benefitted in some way by being a member of the SARL.

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