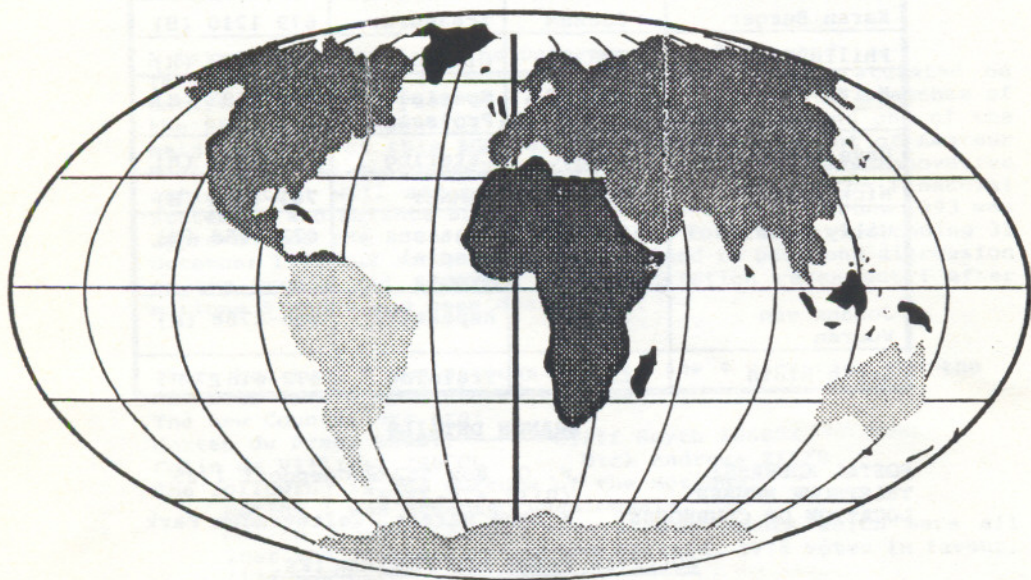


**MARCH 1994**

# 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	1st Monday of the Month (unless
Satellite interest group:	otherwise advised.)
Committee meetings:	Last Monday of the Month
Radio Examination classes:	Every Wednesday Night.

**ALL MEETINGS START AT 19:30**



## ALL ABOUT THE SARL AGM IN PORT ELIZABETH

The Port Elizabeth Branch is to be congratulated on organising a successful Annual General Meeting last weekend. Delegates and just about the entire Port Elizabeth amateur fraternity attended the cocktail party Friday evening the 11th of March. Many old friendships were renewed and a good time was had by all. A band, aptly called "The Sidebanders" and consisting of active radio amateurs provided the background music. The AGM itself started shortly after 8 AM on Saturday morning at the Port Elizabeth Technikon. The conference hall was well appointed and the sound system allowed the delegates to hear every word that was spoken during the discussions. The scrutineers Renee Olivier ZR2ABD and Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG operated the computer driven voting records and by means of an overhead screen, delegates were able to see the results of the voting immediately.

A letter was read from the Department of Posts and Telecommunications in which the League was congratulated on entering its 70th year of existence. 29 of the 32 branches of the SARL were present or represented by proxies and one of the main features of this AGM was the tremendous amount of Amateur Radio that was discussed, setting the scene for many innovative actions that will add more value to the hobby. The Financial Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ending 30 June 1993 was approved and the Interim Balance Sheet for the period ending 31 December 1993 was accepted. It was decided to postpone discussion of the Budget and proposed new Subscription rates until after motions 5 and 6 had been dealt with.

There had been 4 nominations to fill the 4 vacancies and the nominees were duly declared elected.

The new Councillors are:

Marten du Preez ZS6ZY,	Cliff Smyth ZS6BOX
Colin de Villiers ZS6COL	Dick Andrews ZS5FB

The following is the outcome of the motions:

Motion 1 was accepted unanimously.

Motion 2 went through several amendments which were all lost. The original motion was carried, 1778 votes in favour, 1126 against.

Motion 3 was adopted unanimously.

Motion 4 was withdrawn.

Motion 5 was adopted with 1771 votes in favour and 1133 against. In terms of this motion, branches will in future receive 25% of the subscriptions.

Motion 6 was carried in amended form with 1517 votes in favour and 1387 against. Headquarters will establish a travel fund to assist out of town councillors. The maximum amount is to be determined by Council.

After these discussion the budget was presented by Treasurer, Cliff Smyth ZS6BOX, who explained projected income and expenditure. The budget was adopted unanimously. The subscription rates arising from the budget were adopted with 2871 votes in favour and 53 abstentions.



Motion 7 was lost, 2455 voting against, 413 in favour and 36 abstentions.

Motion 8 was accepted with many valuable suggestions having been made.

Motion 9 was withdrawn.

Motion 10 was amended to ask that ZU callsigns should eventually fall in line with the allocation of ZR and ZS callsigns.

Motion 11 was amended to allow future discussions to take place. The amendment was accepted with 2275 votes in favour, 451 against and 178 abstentions.

Motion 12 dealing with the promotion of the Novice licence, generated much discussion. It was adopted, giving Council directives for further planning.

Motion 13 was approved and the workshop on the Radio Amateur Examinations, which was held later in the afternoon provided much input.

Motion 14 was amended and the Band Planner was instructed to further investigate this subject.

Motion 15 was adopted with 1861 votes in favour and 1043 against.

Motion 16 will be referred back to the branches.

In the afternoon an interesting and well attended talk was delivered by Mike Bosch ZS2FM on the subject of Sporadic E openings.

The AGM Dinner was very successful and the Port Elizabeth Technikon Hotel School provided some excellent fare. Iris Hayes ZS2AA was the guest of honour and regaled the guests with some of her reminiscences. It is tradition that the League Awards are presented at the AGM dinner.

The Silent Keys Memorial Phone Trophy was won by Tak Vrystaat, ZS4B.

The Silent Keys Memorial CW Trophy was won by Vidi la Grange ZS6AL.

The Joseph White Trophy by Barry Jackson ZS2H

The Anon Trophy by Donavon van Loggerenberg ZS2DL

HOS Trophy by Brian Ottery 9J2BO

Branch Participation Trophy by the Pietermaritzburg Branch.

The Bert Buckley 6 Metre Trophy was awarded to Ronald Baris ZR1EV

Arthur Hemsley 2 Metre Trophy - Michael Parker ZR5ADQ

RADIO ZS VHF Trophy - John Bryson ZS2AH

Joseph White Trophy - shared between Vincent Harrison ZS6BTY and Gerard de Jong ZS6KX.

Gary Immelman Gold Pen Award - Mike Bosch ZS2FM.

RADIO ZS Shield - Mossie Mosterd ZS4XJ.

JJ Pienaar Trophy - H Stanley ZS6AZJ.

Neill Efficiency Shield - Sandton Branch.

This was one of our more successful AGMs and we thank the Port Elizabeth Branch sincerely for a job well done.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK.....

Who can believe that nearly 25% of the year has already gone past and that it is only three months left before the Branch AGM early in July ? What with the elections rapidly approaching and the SARL AGM in Port Elizabeth now a thing of the past there seems to be little time to devote to amateur radio; my own time is even more limited as the UNISA study cycle is now in full swing. However we should remember the old maxim of "....all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy ...." Leave some time over for amateur radio even if it is only on a Sunday Morning for the Branch Bulletin.

Looking at the activities of the last month these were overshadowed by the arrangements for the SARL AGM. Much work was in put in by the Headquarters staff, the members of the Port Elizabeth Branch as well as our own membership for this event and I would like to thank all of those involved for their efforts. I was intending to write a full report of the happenings in the Friendly City but the Headquarters Bulletin of 20 March provided a fairly concise report as a result this was used instead and appears later on in this edition of ANODE. My thanks go to Reno and Gerald for the input. However, ANODE would not be complete without some comments on the journey to the Eastern Cape by Sarel and myself.

Other than the delays experienced outside Craddock with the road works and the grasshoppers found just south of Steynsburg all went well considering that we had 50kg of books taken down for sale at the AGM !! We visited Leon ZR2LE and Chris ZS4?? at Oviston which is on the southern bank of the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam after hearing them chat on 2 meters whilst still some distance away from the dam. How can 2 amateurs living not more that 50 meters apart have call-signs with different area identifications ? The answer is (quite) simple. The call sign areas are allocated by reference to lines of longitude (Latitude? Anyway the vertical ones) Leon lives on one side of the line whilst Chris lives on the other !! Easy. It is not without reason that Port Elizabeth is called the Friendly City. Wherever we went we were met with enthusiasm, help and a genuine effort to make our (brief) stay there as enjoyable. I know where I would like to spend my next Christmas holiday. THANKS PORT ELIZABETH.

One issue which was not fully resolved at the meeting was the question of a national repeater policy covering diverse things like procedures to followed for new applications as well as actual repeater frequencies. We were not in favour of the proposals as submitted and instead raised an alternative proposal as an amendment which was unfortunately disallowed as it "introduced a new principle." Whilst we had many disagreements about the document submitted our main objection relates to the vacating a portion of the 144 Mhz area to allow "experimentation" and move the affected repeater channels to between the "existing" repeater frequencies. This would then leave a large slice of the 144 Mhz portion largely unoccupied as well as cause many crystal controlled radios to have new crystals to be fitted. This without even considering whether the radios can operate on a 12,5 Khz channel spacing. Nevertheless this proposal will be



reviewed by the National Band Planning Committee and forwarded to Branches for their approval before final acceptance which is currently scheduled for end 1995. So, lets wait and see what happens. You can however be rest assured that you committee will be looking after your interests to prevent additional expenditure being made or unbearable interference being suffered.

Also in this issue you will find an article about Santa Claus which I retrieved from the packet network. I found it amusing and I hope that you do as well. If it causes any offence, this was not intentional but rather a genuine attempt to share some of the "digital" messages flowing across the world.

The trip to Port Elizabeth was not all work. Vic Olivier ZS2SZ gave me the artwork, software and user manual for the BAYCOM packet system. The idea behind this was to satisfy the need to get onto packet at the cheapest possible way. Nick ZS6NIC has taken orders for the kits which will probably cost about R90-00 so if you would like participate in the "digital revolution" contact him. I might add that the first two kits are already working so it is not difficult to construct. Say 3 hours tops and your'e on packet !!

By the time that you receive this edition of ANODE a number of events will either be over or in process. Two of these which come to mind immediately are the BACAR launch and boot sale of 26 March and the other the manning of the Ben Schoeman Ultra City as part of our contribution to the Easter Road Safety Campaign. To those involved in these operations, Thanks for your help. A big round of applause to Rad for organising the operator roster for this event. Not an easy task the best of times !!

Finally, please use the calender which appears on the back page to plan your month. Don't forget the Satellite Interest group meeting at Houtkoppes on Saturday 16 April nor the preparations for the VHF/UHF contest in June. Ignore the dates given in the February edition of RADIO ZS as these are incorrect; the proper ones will be in the next edition. Remember the story about work, Jack and too little leisure and join us on the bulletin on Sunday Morning at 11:15.

73 de Cedar ZS6JQ

## CAPACITOR DESIGNATION TABLE

1 PF	=	.001 nF	=	.000001 uF	=	1R0
10 PF	=	.01 nF	=	.00001 uF	=	100
100 PF	=	.1 nF	=	.0001 uF	=	101
1000 PF	=	1 nF	=	.001 uF	=	102
10,000 PF	=	10 nF	=	.01 uF	=	103
100,000 PF	=	100 nF	=	.1 uF	=	104
	=	1000 nF	=	1 uF	=	105



## IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

As a result of an overwhelming lack of requests, and with research help from that renown scientific journal SPY magazine (January, 1990) - I am pleased to present the annual scientific inquiry into Santa Claus.

- 1) No known species of reindeer can fly. BUT there are 300,000 species of living organisms yet to be classified, and while most of these are insects and germs, this does not COMPLETELY rule out flying reindeer which only Santa has ever seen.
- 2) There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world. BUT since Santa doesn't (appear) to handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total - 378 million according to Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that's 91.8 million homes. One presumes there's at least one good child in each.
- 3) Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west (which seems logical). This works out to 822.6 visits per second. This is to say that for each Christian household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about >.78 miles per household, a total trip of 75-1/2 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding and etc. This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, 3,000 times the speed of sound. For purposes of comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle on earth, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a pokey 27.4 miles per second - a conventional reindeer can run, tops, 15 miles per hour.
- 4) The payload on the sleigh adds another interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized lego set (2 pounds), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" (see point #1) could pull TEN TIMES the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine. We need 214,200 reindeer. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. Again, for comparison- this is four times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth.
- 5) 353,000 tons traveling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance - this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as spacecraft re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUINTILLION joules of energy. Per second. Each. In short, they will burst into flame almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force.  
MAKES YOU THINK NOT SO !!



# BRANCH ACTIVITIES and CALENDER

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

21 March 1994	QRP Meeting	Clubhouse
26 March 1994	BACAR FLIGHT	Clubhouse
26 March 1994	BOOT SALE	Clubhouse
27 March	Bulletin	Wally ZS6WAL
28 March 1994	Committee Meeting	Clubhouse

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31 March to 10 April	Easter Road Safety Campaign	Ben Schoeman Ultra City
3 April 1994	Bulletin	Keith ZS6AGF
10 April 1994	Bulletin	Rina ZR6RM
11 April 1994	Branch Meeting	Speaker to be advised
16 April 1994	Satellite Interest Group	Houtkoppen Space Research Facility
17 April 1994	Bulletin	Nick ZS6NIC
24 April 1994	Bulletin	Cedar ZS6JQ
25 April 1994	Committee Meeting	Clubhouse

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18/19 June 1994	VHF/UHF Competition	FIELD STATION
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