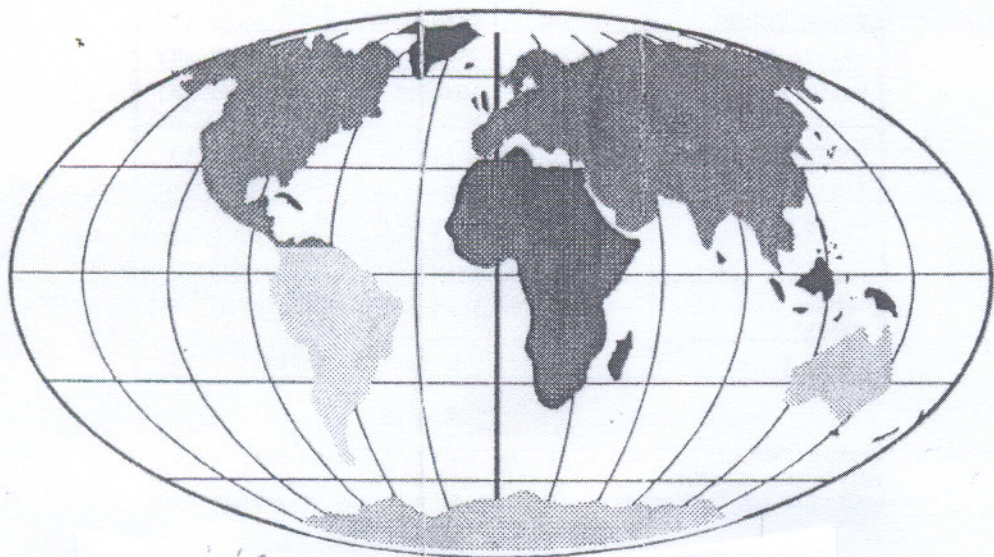


**MAY 1994**

# **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**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CALL SIGN</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>
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  
otherwise advised.)**Satellite interest group:**

Last Monday of the Month

**Committee meetings:****Radio Examination classes:**

Every Wednesday Night.

**ALL MEETINGS START AT 19:30**



From the Chairman's Desk.....

First of all my apologies for the late despatch of the April edition of ANODE. Unfortunately I had to be in Cape Town at short notice and thus could not finalise the arrangements for the printing and postage of the newsletter in time. A big thank you to those committee members who also assisted with bulletins and meetings in my absence.

Congratulations to all those stations who participated in the September VHF contest and especially to the operators of ZS6WR who won the Home Station Multi-operator category with a score of 2844 points. Also to Rad who came in third with 1881 points in the Home Station - Single operator category (Modesty prevents me from proclaiming that I came second in this latter category !!) Congratulations to the Johannesburg Branch for winning the Field Station Multi Operator class with 12180 points and of course Ivo Chladek ZS6AXT (7168) for winning the Home Station Single operator class. Branch scores for this leg are as can be expected: Johannesburg 21408; **WEST RAND 9920**; Highway 6105. Our commitment to winning this years event is therefore justified. **THE WEST RAND BRANCH - SIMPLY THE BEST !!**

Many previous columns have been devoted to the VHF/UHF contest - so 'nuff sed !! However please read the April edition of Radio ZS to see the new rules for the contest which now starts at 12:00 (SAST) instead of 14:00 as in the past. We need every score possible; imagine the total score we could accumulate if each and every 160 Branch members has only 20 contacts (some 16000 not counting the biggie stations who would generate substantially higher scores.) REMEMBER EVEN IF YOU ONLY HAVE A 2 METER FM RIG YOU CAN STILL TAKE PART. ALL IT NEEDS IS TO SWITCH IT ON AND TALK!!! (Judging by the number of "private conversations" held during Branch meetings it would appear that once a HAM starts talking you can't stop him/her !!!)

This edition carries somewhat shorter commendations awarding the Jack Twine Merit Awards to certain of our members than what was sent as the motivation to Council. Those ran into some 4 pages and we could not reproduce them in full here. **CONGRATULATIONS TO GARTH ZS6BXT, PHILIP ZS6CON, KEITH ZS6AGF, DAVE ZS6ACC** for their award. At last the effort which each of you put into Amateur Radio has been recognised. If I look down the list of Branch members there are still a number of other well justified awards to be given and this "omission" will be corrected over time. Tina Turner says it all and the words of that particular song are applicable to each and everyone of our members because without you we would have no Branch nor League as we know them today.

These last few weeks have set me wondering about amateur radio and what drives it forward. There is no doubt in my mind that two key inter related elements serve this purpose: knowledge and social interaction. Knowledge translates into technology and afterall amateur radio is a technical hobby; the amateurs of today are no less pioneers than our forefathers. Only the technology differs ("from Sparks to Space" encapsulates those thoughts ) How does the one increase one's knowledge about a particular subject ? From my own personal stance there is only



one way to do this and that is by reading, reading and more reading. It is almost impossible for someone else to do the learning for you; the availability and scope of books available today is staggering (all the way from bread baking to a do it yourself brain surgery course ) can be found in most bookshops (although one might struggle to find the latter; if you do let me know !!) It is an inescapable fact that we deal in technology but more often than not we approach it in a "laissez faire" way. How many times have you heard on the air about the new radio just purchased but the operator (good choice of word) can only use limited facilities because the "manual is too complicated/not had time to read it" What a poor reflection on our heritage. Let's start a revolution on the West Rand and master the complexities which our hobby presents us with. Participate in technical discussions, attend the Satellite Interest Group/QRP meetings held on the first Monday of each month and look over the offerings from the SARL Bookshop. It is unlikely that you will better prices on a consistent basis from commercial booksellers on books of similar quality. My personal favourites are The Space Radio Handbook by John Branegan GM4IHJ and Basic Packet Radio by Joe Kasser G3ZCZ/W3. If your interest is in antennas consider purchasing Transmission Line Transformers, Antenna Impedance Matching and (the) Physical Design of Yagi Antennas. The ARRL UHF/Microwave Experimenters Guide for the VHF enthusiast. Old Faithful, the ARRL Handbook should be part of everyone's personal library.

What to do with all this knowledge bursting out of your head. Easy, share it and swap it for some more. Come to Branch Meetings, start special interest groups within the Branch membership, activate discussion groups on the air, summarise the results of your reading in an article for ANODE or Radio ZS, make some money by writing book reviews for magazines such 73 Magazine. (to buy some more books ?!!!) So, now you can see where the inter-relationship is between technology and social interaction

Finally, albeit on a similar note as a result of pressures from other concerned members we will be resuming our Wednesday evening net before the rebroadcast of the bulletin but this time devoted to specific technical topics directed at the prevailing interest of members. The first net will take place on 11 May and will focus on the basics of packet radio, how it works and how to make the most out of the local BBS system. Thereafter the net will be held second Wednesday of the Month. THIS SIGNALS THE END OF THE DARK AGES, THE RENAISSANCE IS UPON US. Space activities are likely to feature prominently as well but please approach me if you would like your own particular topic researched and presented although you may be asked to do that yourself as just one way of knowledge transfer.

\* As always this column must come to an end. Please have a look at the Branch calender which appears elsewhere in this edition and try to join as many activities as possible. The date of 2 July has provisionally been set for the Branch Annual General Meeting where we would like as many members possible present to elect their committee for the new year. Until the next edition of Anode 73 es gud dx. \*

NOTE: AGM NOW 16 JULY 1994.



## JACK TWINE MERIT AWARDS

For some time now it has become apparent that we have not been acknowledging the contributions made to Amateur Radio or the affairs of the Branch by certain of its members. To this end we discussed the matter at our Committee Meeting held on 28 March 1994 and it was unanimously agreed that we approach Council to consider awarding the Jack Twine Merit Award to those members mentioned below.

### **GARTH BLAIN ZS6BXT**

Served on the Committee in various capacities since 1986 as Secretary initially and latterly as the member in charge of the RAE training.

Upon his initial induction to the Committee was single-handedly responsible for the re-introduction of the Branch news letter (ANODE) which he edited, produced and mailed in addition to his normal secretarial duties.

He is a keen advocate of home construction and QRP activities. Provided much assistance to our own QRP group in construction techniques and general QRP ideas.

His biggest, most measurable success over the last 4 years has been the enthusiasm with which he has approached the RAE training courses.

He has pioneered his own unique style of teaching which has won acclaim from his students. One of his innovations is the use of "breadboarding" simple circuits using home made outsize components to illustrate the electronic phenomena encountered in the RAE syllabus.

### **DAVID (DAVE) LLOYD ZS6ACC**

Has been a member of the Branch in excess of 15 years and served on the committee in previous years in various capacities.

His most recent appointment since 1989 has been in charge of the catering for the Branch.

He has carried out this duty with diligence far in excess of requirements. Some examples of this are that the cash takings are collected and balanced after every meeting held at the clubhouse. A full reconciliation of sales, purchases, stock and cash on hand are continuously available.

He devotes some two or three hours most Saturday mornings to ensure that sufficient stocks are available of both food and drink as well as spending time at the clubhouse to pack the fridges.

He spends time in ensuring that the members have variety in the food and drink on offer at the club and each meeting will usually be characterised by a different food. Unusual items like soup and warm rolls can be found in winter months while the summer times ham sandwiches and salads compliment the usual fare of pies, hot dogs and boere wors rolls.

His life does not revolve around catering but is ready to assist with general Branch activities such as operating contest and special event stations run by the Branch. Some

examples are the Eisteddfod Station, Hunting Lions in the Air, VHF contests and JOTA.

#### PHILIP CONRADIE ZS6CON

Has served on the Branch Committee for the last 5 years and has been both Chairman as well as Vice Chairman in this period.

Was recently co-opted to Council as the Councillor responsible for Licensing which entailed him forming part of the National Bandplanning committee.

Has represented the Branch for a number of years on the Transvaal Technical Co-ordinating Committee and of late the PWV Repeater Planning Committee.

His present portfolio encompasses the maintenance of the Clubhouse which he does together with Ron Caldecott and their band of fellow retirees. In addition to cleaning up after Committee and Branch meetings he attends to the general maintenance of the building including washing the carpets in the clubhouse. Every Thursday he can be found mowing the lawns of the clubhouse grounds (in addition to his own property which like all others needs constant attention.)

He is responsible for recording the Sunday Branch bulletin and handling the re-broadcast on a Wednesday night. Both these activities impact upon his free time but they are performed without complaint week after week.

The success of the Roodepoort International Eisteddfod Station was largely due to him. He spent the week before the event arranging the display of vintage radios from Westonaria, having the descriptor plates made for each of the radios and each day was there at the station from 09:00 to 22:00.

He is also involved in most of the Club stations run such as Hunting Lions in the Air, VHF/UHF Contests and BACAR launch tracking at the clubhouse.

#### KEITH LIDDLE ZS6AGF.

Is a member of HAMNET and the Roodepoort Civil Defense Organisation.

Whilst no specific portfolio has been accorded him on the committees, this has allowed us to use him in a variety of capacities such as clubhouse manager, contest manager and HAMNET representative for a time.

His biggest contribution is his willingness to assist in Branch and League affairs. Hardly any activity is organised without his input and actual assistance.

He has taken part in almost every Branch VHF/UHF contest station. He provides transport for the equipment, operators and assists with the catering of such events. He takes part in our JOTA stations, Hunting Lions in the Air, works long hours for our Branch Boot sales and generally does what he can to assist the committee in the execution of their duties.



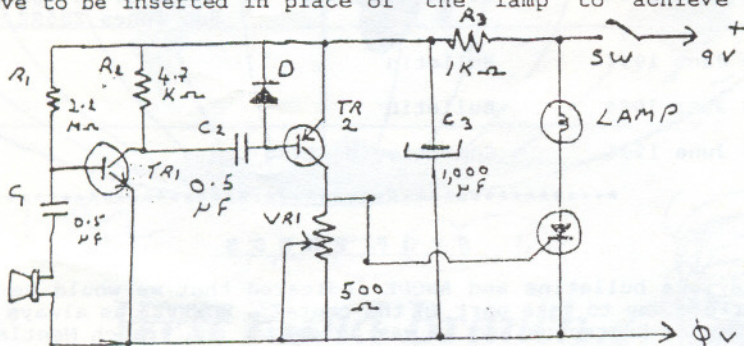
## A SOUND OPERATED SWITCH

This circuit was first used as it was difficult to hear either the doorbell or the telephone ringing over the sound of the TV when watching it in another room, the unit did not have to have any physical connection to either device but had a lamp on an extension lead to give the indication. A lamp is not necessary as it could equally as well have been replaced by some other warning device such as a buzzer or bell. Devices of this kind could be used by a deaf person who sometimes has to answer a ring or a knock.

The circuit is simple, a small microphone; or, as in the prototype, a speaker from a transistor radio picks up the sound which is amplified by TR1. This amplified signal is rectified by the diode and provides the base bias for TR2 causing it to conduct. This current is applied to the gate of the silicon controlled rectifier causing it to either operate the indicator lamp as in the sketch or a relay in place of the lamp, the contacts of which can be used for other purposes. VR1 provides an adjustment of the operating conditions and controls the sensitivity. R3 and C3 provides a small delay for the operating conditions of TR1 and TR2 for without this it was found that the circuit self-operated on switching on and these overcome this.

To set up the circuit have VR1 at a low value, carefully rotate this until the SCR triggers, VR1 should then be turned back slightly from this position and set for local conditions. Too great a sensitivity can cause troubles as passing cars etc may cause it to operate. As a rough guide snapping the fingers at about 2 ft from the 'microphone' is about right.

The indicator will operate until the switch SW is broken to reset the device, but if indication is only required when the operating noise is present a relay and auxiliary contacts will have to be inserted in place of the lamp to achieve this.



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### A Salutory Tale for Christmas.

Mary had a little lamb, cold custard and some prunes,  
A pint of ale, a sip of gin and a plate of macaroons.  
She ate some apple tart, a little sturgeon's roe;  
And when they carried Mary out her face was as white  
as snow.

# BRANCH ACTIVITIES and CALENDER

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

16 May 1994	Satellite Interest Group:	Cedar ZS6JQ using the "WHATS-UP" program to acquire and analyse satellite telemetry
	Communications Excercise	Assist Johannesburg Mountain Bike Club with Communications for Race and fun day. Rad ZS6RAD.
30 May 1994	Committee Meeting	

4/5 June 1994	VHF/UHF Competition	<u>SEE STOP PRESS BELOW</u>
6 June 1994	Satellite Interest Group	
11 June 1994	Race Day at Kyalami	Marshalls wanted. Contact Pierre ZR6ADZ 489-2658 (w) 763-1941 (h)
12 June 1994	Bulletin	
13 June 1994	Branch Meeting	Cellular Telephones Bob Innes ZS6RZ
19 June 1994	Bulletin	
26 June 1994	Bulletin	
27 June 1994	Committee Meeting	

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## STOP PRESS

Previous bulletins and ANODE indicated that we would be having a field day to take part in the contest. HOWEVER as always Father Time has beaten us and it was agreed at the Branch Meeting held on 9 May that we not be doing this and that all the stations would take part from their own preferred location. This does not mean that you cannot participate in the event as any of the stations who are due to operate will only be too happy for additional assistance.

16 JULY 1994 AGM.  
FOLLOWED BY A BRING & BRAAI.