

Newsletter  
of the  
West Rand Branch  
of the  
South African Radio League

Nuusbrief  
van  
Tak Wesrand  
van die  
Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga



NOVEMBER 1991

## FINAL ANODE FOR 1991

This edition is the last for 1991 being a combined October to December effort. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the several articles. The next Anode will appear at the end of January 1992.

Our final major event of the year is the Xmas party and boot sale on Saturday 30 November - be there !!! The boot sale starts at 14:00 and during the day Dave ZS6ACC and his helpers will be braaing sheep on the spit. This evening meal will cost R15 for adults and R8 for children under 12. The usual refreshments such as hot dogs etc. will be available during the day. Music will be supplied for the evening's bash.

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## XMAS GREETINGS

The committee wishes all members and readers a happy xmas and a prosperous new year.

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Once again we include with Anode a form which members may fill in for our birthday book. Please return the form to the club secretary or to one of the committee members. Also included with this issue is a list of all (158) West Rand members and their call signs. Hope you find this of use.

Thanks to Dave Cloete ZR6AOC for donating several concrete paving stones to the club. Phillip ZS6CON put a lot of effort into laying these in front of the clubhouse. This not only makes the club more attractive, but it will help to keep the club clean. Thanks to all who assisted.

WEST RAND BRANCH COMMITTEE 1991/2

			HOME	WORK
CHAIRMAN	Philip Conradie	ZS6CON	763-4673	773-3827
VICE CHAIR	Wally Sime	ZR6ARX	672-7958	
SECRETARY	Gill Dorfling	ZS1234	764-6052	
TREASURER	Des Dorfling	ZR6DED	764-6052	783-4480
TRAINING	Garth Blain	ZS6BXT	672-6161	339-5311
TECHNICAL	Johan v Vuuren	ZS6JVV	955-2788	760-3018
				X 226
TECHNICAL	John Murdoch	ZS6MUR	760-1426	714-5338
CLUBHOUSE	Keith Liddle	ZS6AGF	766-3293	638-2592
LIBRARY	Chris Botham	ZR6AVA	673-2726	376-2310
CW/CONTESTS	John Forbes	ZS6AOP	673-1642	493-2900
PUBLICATIONS	Alan Franzsen	ZS6BIK	786-8995	638-2808
CONTESTS	Clive Carr	ZS6CLC	763-4692	
PRO/CIV DEF	Sarel Rossouw	ZS6APO	768-2091	332-8183
HAMNET	Wally Sime	ZR6ARX	as above	
CATERING	Dave Lloyd	ZS6ACC	763-5128	407-4684

BULLETINS

Sunday / Sondag 11:30 SAST  
145.625 MHz FM 7.066 MHz SSB 51.625 MHz FM

Heruitsaai / Rebroadcast  
Woensdag / Wednesday 19:30 SAST  
145.625 MHz

Monthly Meeting / Maandvergadering

Tweede Maandag van die maand om 19:30 SAST

Second Monday of the month at 19:30 SAST

KLUBHUIS / CLUBHOUSE

Stand 2447 - 2449 Erf Krotonstraat  
WELTEVREDENPARK EXT/UITBR 12

WEST RAND BRANCH - SARL  
P.O. BOX 562  
ROODEPOORT  
1725

TAK WESRAND - SARL  
POSBUS 562  
ROODEPOORT  
1725



# WEST RAND BRANCH MEMBERS NOVEMBER 1991

WILHELM	ARNDT	ZS6BBV	PETER	KEANLY	ZS6GZM
FRANK	AUSTIN	ZS6BIO	P. J	KEANLY	ZR6AEG
GAVIN	BADENHORST	ZS6AAZ	NICHOLAS	KING	ZR6HIC
FRANS	BADENHORST	ZS4FH	FRED	KOOHIN	ZS6AGR
CALLUM	BALLARD	ZS6314	GERHARDUS	LABUSCHAGNE	ZR6AVJ
VYVYAN	BARNES	ZS6CV	RAY	LANGTON	ZS6EJ
STEVEN	BAYNES	ZS6XU	ROY	LARSEN	ZS6QU
H. EGON	BEHRINGER	ZS6ADL	ANDRE	LATEGAN	ZS6AA
PETER	BEHEIMANS	ZS6CDS	BRETT	LE ROUX	ZS61515
CLIFF	BESTALL	ZS6BNY	KEITH	LIDDLE	ZS6AGF
DICK	BIRKILL	ZS6OL	DAVE	LLOYD	ZS6ACC
GARTH	BLAIN	ZS6BXT	D. B	LORT	ZS6XAT
W. J. L.	BOOYSEN	ZS6BXW	LIONIL	LUCAS	ZS6AEE
PETER	BOSMAN	ZS6BIA	PETRUS	MAREE	ZS6BLB
W. J. N	BOTHA	ZR6AFK	AMANDA	MILLS	ZS7777
CHRIS	BOTHAM	ZR6AVA	F	MOLLER	ZS6CEN
BEN	BRESLER	ZS6ANZ	JOHN	MURDOCH	ZS6MUR
HANS	BRITS	ZS6HJB	STEPHEN	NEL	ZS6BIE
COENRAAD	BUDDINGH	ZS6BBX	H. D	NICOL	ZR6AW
ALAN	BUNCOMBE	ZS6ABP	PIERRE	OLIVIER	ZS6AJT
CHARLES	BUTTRUM	ZS6IM	NINA	OPPEL	ZS61524
MOHSIM	CAJEE	ZR6AUO	SIMON	OVERBEEK	ZS6AST
ROH	CALDECOTT	ZS6BHH	ROBERT	PAYNTER	ZS61529
CLIVE	CARR	ZS6CLC	GAVIN	PENKIN	ZR6GJP
JOE	CHOMSE	ZS6AJC	A. B	PEREIRA	ZS6AXQ
HENDRIK	CILLIERS	ZS6BSF	RICHARD	PHILIP	ZS6ADM
D. H	CLOETE	ZR6AOC	DAVID	PHILLIMORE	ZS61521
CONRAD	COCKCROFT	ZR6CRC	W	POINTER	ZS6BNJ
JOHANNES	COETZER	ZS61520	J	POTGIETER	ZS6GGW
ROBERT	COLE	ZS6AQN	ALBERTUS	POTGIETER	ZS6ARE
ANTHONY	COLEMAN	ZS6BJQ	ALBERT	POTGIETER	ZS6NU
PETER	COLEMAN	ZS6PLC	HANS	POTGIETER	ZR6AVP
LOUISA	COLEMAN	ZR6LOU	GUSTAV	PRETORIUS	ZS61533
PHILIP	CONRADIE	ZS6CON	MARTINIUS	REYNHEKE	ZR6MJR
ROBERT	COX	ZS61522	BILL	ROBERTSON	ZS6ATC
T	COX	ZS61516	H. H. KURT	ROHRS	ZS61463
GORDON	CRICHTON	ZS6AME	G. H. W	ROODE	ZS6BWL
PETER	CURTIS	ZS6319	S. D. G	ROSSOUW	ZS6ATO
RUTH	DAVEY	ZS6BYP	CEDAR	RYAN	ZS6JQ
CHRIS	DE BEER	ZR6TAA	KEITH	SCHWEGMANN	ZR6PRO
ERROL	DE LANGE	ZS6KED	DENNIS	SCOTT	ZS6DHS
NEVILLE	DE GRUCHY	ZS6AON	GAVIN	SELFE	ZS61507
M. W.	DE GROOTE	ZR6ARP	JEFF	SIBSON	ZS6AUG
AL	DIBB	ZS6BMP	WALLY	SIME	ZR6ARX
DESMOND	DORFLING	ZR6DED	WELLEM	SLIER	ZS6317
GILLIAN	DORFLING	ZS61526	WILLEM	SNYMAN	ZR6WX
JIMMY	DOS SANTOS	ZS6BAL	HAYDN	STANLEY	ZS6AZJ
ARNOLD	DREYER	ZS6AAD	TIMOTHY	STANLEY	ZS6HID
J. S. C	DU TOIT	ZS6DAA	EGBERT	STEHVET	ZS6301
WILLEM	DU PLESSIS	ZS6AKZ	TERRY	STRYDOM	ZS6AEH
L	DU PLESSIS	ZR6ATZ	NEVILLE	SWANEPOEL	ZS6AQX
LIONEL	DU BOIS	ZS6LDB	E	SWART	ZR6EMH
JAN	DU TOIT	ZS6ALC	JOHN	SYGO	ZS6JOH
GEORGE	EASTON	ZS6BVY	CRAIG	SYMINGTON	ZR6REV
LANCE	EDMUNDS	ZR6AUN	D	THORN	ZS6ARJ
CHRIS	ESTERHUYSEN	ZS6CU	REX	TURTON	ZS61525
RONALD	EVA	ZS61532	ANTHONY	TURTON	ZR6CST
GEORGE	EVA	ZS6KL	DANNIE	UNGERER	ZS6AMQ
STAN	FLACK	ZS6BLC	M. H. D	UNGERER	ZS6HXX
JOHN	FORBES	ZS6AOP	PETER	UNSTEAD	ZS6PBU
SAH	FORD	ZS6BRZ	NORMAN	V D WALT	ZS6OI
CEDRIC	FRANZ	ZS6NX	JOHAN	VAN VUUREN	ZS63VV
ALAN	FRANZSEN	ZS6BIK	NICO	VAN DUFFELEN	ZR6AEZ
CRAIG	GIBSON	ZR6CG	HERMAN	VAN REES	ZS6HCQ
BILL	GIBSON	ZS6ZC	BOKKIE	VAN ROOYEN	ZS6AEZ
MARK	GRAY	ZR6MEG	H	VEENHDAAL	ZS6ENK
DIANA	GREEN	ZS6GH	J	VERNER	ZR6ADJ
IRVINE	GREEN	ZS6BPE	MUNRO	VORSTER	ZS6IN
FAB	GROSSO	ZS61528	VIVIAN	WELLS	ZS6CAA
ABE	GROVE	ZS6BMX	ANDRE	WESSELS	ZS6AWW
SHERLOCK	HOLMES	ZS6PRT	ARIE	WESSELS	ZS6UY
P. R	HORROCKS	ZS6B1Z	RICHARD	WESTMACOTT	ZS6AGI
CRAIG	HUNT	ZS6HAM	V. W. A	WILKIN	ZS6AQQ
BOB	IMHES	ZS6HZ	G. H. W	WILKENING	ZS6HWV
ANDREW	JANSEN	ZR6HH	DOH	WISE	ZS6TEN
CLIFFORD	JONES	ZS6BJU	WILLIAM	WRIGHT	ZS6310
SIMONE	JONES	ZS6S1H	JOHN	YOUNG	ZS6KY
M	JOUBERT	ZS6AEO	M. C	PEREIRA DO NASCIMENTO	

#### PUT 14 HAMS ON A HILL AND WATCH WHAT HAPPENS!!!

Yes the West Rand branch actually took part in the SARL VHF-UHF contest this time.

The Trek up to Hill-Snacks road house in Krugersdorp started about 4pm on Friday 20 September. Our first priority was to set up the tents, this took longer than expected as we battled for about 45 minutes setting up one of Gavin's (ZR6GJP) complicated tents (so much for being a Scout Master HI HI!). In the mean time Keith (ZR6PRO) arrived with another tent and a generator, and before we knew it, both tents were up and our site started to look as if it might turn into our planned 'antenna farm' yet.

As it was starting to get dark, we decided to get the generator going; whoops generators need petrol, don't they. Chris (ZR6TAA) had to rush off to the nearest petrol station to fetch some for us, while we lit up the gas lamps and waited patiently for his return.

Not much more work was done that evening, we tried to get some sleep in preparation for the hard weekends work ahead of us.

Early Saturday morning we started assembling antennas and putting up masts. We put up a 10-12 metre armstrong rotatable mast for 2m, with 2 2BCX 16 element yagis on it, one mounted vertically and the other horizontally. We also slapped a 70cm slim jim on the top. Mil spec cable was used courtesy of Craig (ZR6REV) .

Next we decided to start putting up the 6m antenna, we had a 8m pole planned for this, which turned out to be closer to 10m long. Before pulling up the mast with the clubs 5 element yagi on top, we thought it would be a good idea to set the SWR, or at least check it. Our next problem was then encountered when we took Wally's (ZR6ARX) 6m rig out of the box, plugged it in and found, after about half an hour of trying to convince ourselves otherwise, that it was faulty (no power out) .

In desperation we sent John (ZS6JON) with the rig to Peter (ZS6ZM) to see if he could do something with it. John promptly came back with Peter's own rig, which he kindly offered to let us use. We proceeded to check the antenna, found that it was alright and pulled the mast up, without much difficulty.

While all this was happening Keith (ZS6AGF) arrived with our tables from the club, these were promptly set up in the tents and the rigs wired up to power supplies and extra large 12 volt batteries supplied by Tony (ZS6BJQ) and Johan (ZS6JVV) .

The 70cm yagi and a co-linear were also added to our already extensive looking collection of antennas. All the rigs were connected up and ready to go after some last minute cable making and repairing.



About 1pm on Saturday John had to rush off again to Peter's place, the VFO had gone faulty on his rig, fortunately it was something small and we had it back in no time at all (about 10 minutes before the contest started). At about 13h30 while John was away with the 6m rig, there was action over the edge of the cliff, one of the hang gliders had crashed into the cliff face, injuring himself very badly. Our 'in house' paramedic Chris (ZR6TAA) was off like a shot down the mountain with his first aid box, an ambulance was arranged via the 625 repeater with the help of Hans (ZS6HJB). There was about 15 minutes to go and half our operators were down the mountain helping Chris with his patient. Fortunately the majority returned before the contest actually started.

At 14H00 sharp the contacts started pouring in on all the bands, in spite of our fantastic collection of antennas we found Wally's slim jim the most usefull for 2m and most of our contacts were made using it.

Later on that afternoon, the weather changed and a bad storm started. I was standing on the edge of the ridge trying to make a 1296 contact with ZS6TJ when the wind came up, Nic's ZR6AEZ 1296 yagi nearly went over the edge with his radio with the first violent gust of wind. Within five or ten minutes the storm was in full swing and mumbles of unplugging anntenas, radios and covering the generator were heard floating around the now crouded operating tent.

Our BRAVE operators refused to leave their microphones and ZS6WR remained on the air throughout the storm. Many contacts were being made at this time, espescially on 6m where quite a lot of good DX was coming through. John ZS6JON handled most of that, with a bit of help from Louisa ZR6LOU when we needed a bit more power from the linear (her higher pitched voice made quite a difference). Halfway through the storm, the SWR on the 6m antenna rose above acceptable operating limits, and because of the good conditions on this band it was decided to repair the antenna immediately. It was promptly lowered and the gamma-match dried off and sealed with a plastic bag. Within twenty minutes it was back in service, and the contacts were rolling in again.

Our site being almost on top of the world, was very susceptible to the violent wind that went with the storm, as Craig ZR6REV found out when he saw the remains of his small two man tent that had been just about completely flattened. With a bit of help Keith ZR6PRO just managed to keep his ten man tent on the ground. It was obviously not designed to withstand winds of such a magnitude, but using a few locally available rocks and people placed in strategic positions inside the tent acting as supports, the tent survived and remained on the ground. Our generator also stopped during the storm, fortunately we had battery power so the operating was not affected that much. The generator was working again within a few minutes after it was discovered that it was low on oil.

At about 22H00 we had a visit from the municipality security department, apparently they had received reports of suspicious activity on the ridge and our floodlights could be seen for quite a long way. The man was quite relieved to find out we were only a bunch of crazy Hams and not an A.W.B. political meeting like he was expecting. He stayed with us for a while as we explained the basics of amateur radio to him.

Operating continued till late that night, or should I say early the next morning, the last contact was made sometime between 1 and 2 am on Sunday. Most of us slept in cars that evening, due to the conditions of the tents after the storm.

Operating continued early in the morning about 06H30, while the rest of us started breakfast and tidied up the place a bit.

Kees ZR6AOR arrived during the course of the morning, with some 10/20 GHz equipment which he used to try and establish contact with ZS6TJ, quite unsuccessfully we might add. While he was in our grid square we grabbed a contact of him on 1296 which increased our points quite considerably, thanks go to ZS6TJ for sending us some points.

The rest of the contest went pretty smoothly, with the last contact coming in at 14H00 exactly, after which we started the big job of dismantling the station.

Our sincere thanks go to all the operators and to the people who helped with transport of equipment as well as the loan of equipment ranging from tents to generators to radios. Special thanks must go to Craig ZR6REV for all his help with equipment and antennas, and to Wally and Peter ZS6ZM for their help with 6m.

We definitely didn't win the contest, but a great time was had by all. Watch out TJ !! we'll be ready for you next year.

Clive

ZS6CLC



## HUNTING LIONS

January 1992 is just around the corner and the month of January as far as the West Rand Branch is concerned is Hunting Lions month. In the past our branch has been very successful in this International Contest. This is an advanced appeal for any branch member to assist as far as operating our station for the 1992 Hunting Lions on the Air International Contest is concerned.

Please, if you are interested in operating either CW or Phone section, let any member of the committee know or preferably myself. Also please include your telephone number where you may be contacted. Listen to the branch bulletin for further news.

John ZS6AOP Tel: (H) 673-1642 (W) 493-2900

### ROODEPOORT INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFORD

Once again the West Rand Branch had a successful week in manning an amateur radio station at the RIE beside Florida Lake. This event is well known throughout the nation as well as many parts of the world. The Eisteddford took place from the 27th September to 6th of October 1991. Briefly the station consisted of the following:

HF SSB/CW Rig (TS830) operating on 80, 40, 20, 15, & 10 meters, 2 Meter FM rig, Satellite Station. Weather satellite monitoring system (Courtesy of Julius Lieberman. PC with satellite tracking program running.

The station was set up on the 26th Sep and testing commenced so that by the 27th all was ready to go.

Following are some statistics which very nicely depicts the success of the station.

Number of VHF QSO's logged	---	120.
Number of HF QSO's logged	---	375.
Number of countries worked	---	58.
Number of competing countries at Eisteddford	---	28.
Number of these countries worked	---	21.

Some, to mention four, of the rare stations worked were ALBANIA, SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS, TRANSKEI and DES ROCHES ISLANDS. During the 10 days of operating and manning the station 10 ZR's and 21 ZS's of the branch gave of their time to keep things going. When one considers that each day was divided into three shifts and each day started at 8:00 am and ended at about 11:00pm it was a stout effort indeed by the club members. I thank all the of those who in one way or another contributed to making this what has probably been the most successful, and enjoyable, events that the club has undertaken to support. I include those members who were physically unable to be at the RIE site for also standing by and giving us the support on the air. I do however, thank Om's Cedar ZS6JQ, Clive ZS6CLC and Chris ZR6TAA for their efforts which were really over and above what one expects, but which made this event so much more of a success and easier to manage. To each and everyone, on behalf of Keith ZS6AGF and Philip ZS6CON THANKS GUYS! We are looking forward to the next RIE, which is even going to be better, see you there.

de John ZS6AOP.



## J.O.T.A. ( JAMBOREE ON THE AIR)

In an endeavour to promote JOTA amongst amateur radio operators, the following are some comments and explanations on JOTA from a Scouting point of view.

Jota has two main objectives :

- 1 To Make the 4th Scout Law Live. (A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout)

The average Scout has few opportunities of meeting Scouts from other countries. Although he can't shake hands with them during the Jamboree, he can talk to them.

- 2 To Open New Fields of Interest.

An introduction to amateur radio may help a boy discover a latent interest, which may lead him to an eventual career in electronics - radio, television, computers, space travel etc. It may also encourage him to work on Proficiency Badges related to radio, electricity, signalling etc.

### WHAT IS J.O.T.A.

Jamboree on the air is an annual event which uses amateur radio to enable Scouts and Guides in many countries to talk to each other. It always takes place during the third full weekend in October and is co-ordinated by the World Scout Bureau in Switzerland.

JOTA is getting young people to talk to each other using ham radio. It is not trapping youngsters into getting bored out of their minds watching and listening whilst you shout what sounds like gibberish to them into a microphone, or worse still demonstrate your skills with a morse key.

### JOTA PROMOTES PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP.

The 34th Jamboree on the air is scheduled to take place during the weekend of the 19/20th October 1991. This years event is being promoted under the theme of "Peace and Friendship through communication".

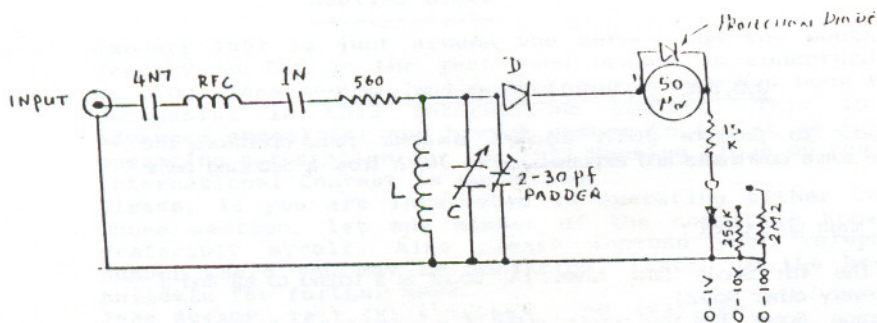
I believe that in order for to scouts to appreciate JOTA and really have a fun filled weekend, Scouts should set up a field station. It is great fun building a tower out of gum poles and then securing antennas to the tower. It is not necessary to use beams as JOTA is not a contest to see who can contact the most number of stations, it should be seen as an opportunity to give the Scouts the chance to talk to as many other Scouts as possible.

Scouts get bored very quickly if they have to just sit and listen to what is going on they will get bored very quickly. The more they are involved, the more they will enjoy JOTA. If a lot of boys are present it is usually a good idea to divide them into groups. While one group is operating, the other groups can be busy with other activities. Many other activities such as basic electricity, electronics etc can be taught to the boys over such a weekend.

With a bit of planning on the part of the Scouters and with the assistance of the ham radio operator JOTA can be one of the most exciting activities in the Scouting life of a boy.

GAVIN PENKIN (ZR6GJP) TROOP SCOUTER FLORIDA AND PROTEA RIDGE SCOUT TROOPS.

# WAVEMETER



$L = 17$  TURNS ON YELLOW T50 TOROID  
 $C = 10-260$  PF VARIABLE CAPACITOR  
 $RFC = 300$  TURNS ON T37 TOROID  
 $D =$  GERMANIUM DIODE OA91 OR SIMILAR

} TUNES 7-28 MHz

THE WAVEMETER CAN BE USED TO MEASURE APPROXIMATE VOLTAGES & FREQUENCIES.

IT IS COMPLETELY PASSIVE SO THAT IT HAS LESS INFLUENCE ON ASSOCIATED CIRCUITS, IT CAN BE USED IN TWO BASIC WAYS.

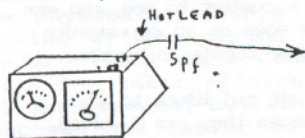
## (1) TWO LEAD USE



GIVES MOST SENSITIVITY  
& ACCURACY

BUT ALSO DISTURBS MEASURED  
CIRCUITS TO A 'DEGREE'.

## (2) ONE LEAD USE



LESS SENSITIVITY  
+  
ACCURACY

VERY LITTLE EFFECT ON  
TUNED CIRCUITS ETC.



**SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE : WEST RAND BRANCH**

**MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 1991**

**PRESENT :** As per register 28 members, 4 visitors and 4 apologies.

**VHF CONTEST:** The venue is the hill above the HillSnacks Roadhouse in Krugersdorp. Clive appealed to everyone to participate and send in logs.

**RIE :** We will require lots of operators. We have a better position this year as regards HF transmitting as we are not near PA equipment as previously but are in the main entrance area.

**JOTA :** 19 & 20 October. We are trying to support 4 troops. 1st Randburg who will be operating from Loch Vaal. They have 4 operators already. 3 Way Scouts, Witpoortjie maybe require some assistance. Krugersdorp Scouts we can use the clubhouse as a station. Bacar will be operating at the same time 6 people will be required to erect station of Friday evening. Carletonville Scouts also require assistance most people felt it was too far Cedar to try and arrange with people in the area.

**HAMNET :** Hamnet need operators at Kyalami on a regular basis call HQ if you are interested. You do get free tickets. There are about 8 races per year. On the Hamnet on the air discussion, Wally brought up the fact that it took so long to process membership applications.

**INTERNATIONAL CALL SIGN BOOK :** Contributions are to be collected by John ZS6AOP.

**BIRTHDAY BOOK QUESTIONNAIRES :** Questionnaires were available at the meeting and in the Anode. It was decided to continue the practice.

**FINANCIAL REPORT :** Des ZR6DED reported that we had R4 146,40 in the bank. The membership presently stood at 154.

**NOVEMBER MEETING RANDFONTEIN :** We would meet at the site of the old clubhouse and travel together. Meeting is in CD boardroom. Sarel ZS6APO to arrange antennas.

**GENERAL :** 1. Sarel ZS6APO said that 6 amateurs were required to assist with communications for the Roof of Africa rally 10 to 12 October. Passports would be required, they would pay for hotel but you would have to pay your own transport. Contact Sarel for details.

2. Bulletin. After a long discussion it was decided to try and shorten the bulletin to be finished by 12h15.

3. CD Day 9 October. We would have to transport the tower from RIE to CD building and erect it on Tuesday night. Ron ZS6BHH was to organise operators. Sarel ZS6APO and Wally AR6ARX were to speak to CD.

4. Talking to schools about amateur radio. It was decided to approach HQ to test reaction and then take it from there.

5. Buck, a visitor, said there was an opportunity for a display of equipment and PR for the West Rand branch at Cresta Centre.

6. Technical meeting 16 September. Alan ZS6BIK said there would be a follow up talk on test equipment and Bob would talk on transistors. After a short break, Tasso Karantonis of the Satellite tracking station at Hartebeeshoek gave a very interesting talk on the equipment used to track and contact satellites.



**SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE : WEST RAND BRANCH**  
**MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 1991**

**PRESENT :** As per attendance register - 22 members, 4 visitors and 6 apologies. Philip ZS6CON opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, acceptance was proposed by Oom Jan ZS6BAA and seconded by Johan ZS6JVV.

Chris ZR6AVA said that the construction course had been cancelled due to lack of interest. It would now be combined with the QRP/Homebrew meeting.

John ZS6AOP thanked all involved with RIE for their help and singled out Cedar ZS6JQ, Clive ZS6CLC and Chris ZR6TAA for their special efforts. The operation was very successful with 120 QSO's being logged on 2m and 375 on the HF bands. 58 countries were contacted, and of the 28 competing countries 21 were worked. John also mentioned that Roy ZS6QU's higher speed morse sessions on the air had been discontinued. They would recommence next year after an article was published in the ZS. Ron ZS6BHH was thanked for his assistance in co-ordinating operators and for operating the Civil Defence Day Station. Chris ZR6TAA, Philip ZS6CON, Dave ZS6ACC and Craig ZR6REV were thanked for their assistance on the Tuesday evening in setting up the station. Ron ZS6BHH gave a short report on the proceedings of the day and reported that CD stations on the air were scarce. Welkom Radio Club was contacted. During the evening Verwoerdburg branch set up a station.

**ROOF OF AFRICA RALLY :** According to reports, radio communications were good but none of the members that had participated were present to report more fully.

The meeting was advised that the committee had decided to purchase the 70cm and 2m repeaters from Johan ZS6JVV and to sell ours. We would purchase one now and the other one later. The committee was to contact members after it had rained in order to organise work parties to plant grass at the club. Johan ZS6JVV was thanked for removing the fallen trees.

Don ZS6XAT was asked to again collect contributions from members for the international call book. The call sign book is at the printers and should be ready at the end of November. The club will pay in the shortfall on the collection.

Members were again requested to return the birthday book questionnaires to a committee member. Further questionnaires were available at the meeting.

Clive ZS6CLC said that the club was organising a fox hunt on 23 November. It would be held on 2m and held in the West Rand area. Further details would be announced on bulletins.

**NOVEMBER MEETING - RANDFONTEIN :** Talk on antennas.

**NOVICES - ZU LICENCES ON 2M :** The meeting was informed that the committee had had 2 lengthy discussions on the matter. HQ had decided to hold the matter over to the AGM as they had had an overwhelming response. Ron ZS6BHH said that if it were allowed strict control should be exercised over procedure and the use of call signs.

Oom Jan ZS6BAA mentioned his thanks to Paul ZR6AEG for his assistance in writing up the log at RIE.

After a short break the team from SAATI gave an interesting talk and display of their new TNC packet.



SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE : WEST RAND BRANCH

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MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 1991

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PRESENT : Per register - 20 members, 2 visitors & 2 apologies.

MINUTES : The previous minutes were read & accepted as correct.

FOX HUNT : This will take place on 23 November at 15h00. No dopplers and there is a cut off time of 2 hours.

BOOT SALE & XMAS PARTY : Cedar ZS6JQ gave an outline of what would take place & asked for helpers. A meeting to finalise arrangements is planned for tomorrow night.

WORK PARTIES FOR SLAB LAYING & CLEANING CLUB : Assistance was called for to lay the slabs on Saturday 17 November and cleaning the clubhouse on Friday 22 November.

GENERAL : Chris ZR6TAA & Don ZS6XAT gave reports on ordering QSL cards in bulk. It was decided to hold the matter over until further information was obtained. There were about 10 members interested in a placing a bulk order & taking at least 100 cards each.

Chris ZR6TAA displayed a magnetic call sign plaque which could be placed on a vehicle. Anyone interested was asked to see Chris.

Out of the 7 amateurs that assisted with the Roof of Africa Rally, 5 were from the West Rand.

The meeting was advised that although no Anode had been sent out for quite some time a bumper issue was to be sent out soon.

Chris ZR6AVA said that he would showing interested parties how to make PC boards, using the iron on method, at the next QRP/ Homebrew meeting.

Peter ZS6ZM advised the meeting that an ex member, Mike Harveld ZS6BSV, had been killed on Saturday. Our condolences to his family.

After a short break for refreshments, Peter ZS6ZM gave an interesting talk on wire antennae. A lot of discussion followed.

response to my  
I have forwarded a copy to him too!

Call

To the secretary W.R.B. of the SARL. OM Gill Dorfling.  
From ZR6ARP (ex PA00V).

As a guest in your country, and licensed in 1957 in the Netherlands, I would like to comment regarding OM Roy's ZS6QU, statements on the Morse code Holy Cow article by OM Alen ZS5ABU.

Dear Roy,

Due to respect to those who can receive and transmit in CW up to 30 words per minute, and to those who are QRP-ing the world with less than 2 Watts ERP, I would like to have a look in the possibilities of the modes the ZR Ham have within the license.

Your beautiful, and vast country, covers Western Europe, has a Ham density approaches vacuum in respect to Europe and the USA. Cross country QSO, in spite of the repeater links is a illusion on two meters. I appreciate well indeed for all the efforts the OM's put into to keep the gear in running condition.

Satellite communication will be the answer for the ZR Ham. Helas, from the birds AO10 and AO13, the first one joint, in my opinion, the heavenly debris chorus, that gives the ZR a opportunity to QSO to the world, but wait a minute, it depends on the orbit time difference to QSO other continents.

The majority of the Mirostats, are based on the Russian concept, HF uplink two meters down, so also a no-no for the ZR Ham. Besides the footprint barely covers Southern Africa.

May be EME gives the ZR a possibility? If he gets a license to run 1 Kw ERP, or more, and a bit of money, yes he can make a QSO for instance to the USA, in CW mind you.

By EME across country QSO I can not see it at all.

The ZR Ham is condemned to "Local" QSO in the R.S.A. !  
Than your statement "the ability to operate CW in a live/death situation"

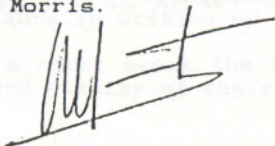
World wide there are one million people aloft in 747's and other aircraft-per hour, and the MAY-DAY call sign is not in CW. The recent disaster with the Oceanos, was detected and the rescue operation afterwards, so well performed, communication was not CW.

The data transmission, Ham radio is one form of it, undergoes a dramatic change, in reliability, and electronics the last two decades, and more will follow, you can see it already.

I agree, to the letter and intension, Alen made in his statement, and more over there is room for all of us, to enjoy their hobby, in their way, but to pin down a ZR to local QSO's, as the CB people do, seems to me a bit strange in this vast country.

I will follow with intense interest the discussion on the Holy Cow issue. As a guest in your country, I have some ideas in this matter, but for me the time is not ripe yet to ventilate them, I am sure others will continue in this Cow matter.

73's Morris.



15-09-1991