
ANODE

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From the Chairman's Desk.....

What a way to start the month of June!! Rather like "Jaws" "...just when you thought it safe to go back into the water..." What else can go wrong? Firstly, the bane of all editors of technical journals; an article is published and then lo and behold the very next month an, update/correction to it!! This is exactly what happened with the power supply reproduced from the Port Elizabeth Branch Newsletter. However, you will see elsewhere in this edition the necessary correction. The second "wheels off" came with the VHF simplex evening on Sunday night. Guess what, not one participant. Oh well, I took the opportunity to polish shoes in readiness for the following week.

The biggest disaster to hit us was the break-in to the clubhouse this last week-end. You can imagine the shock when I opened the clubhouse on preparation for the Friday get together and I found the security gate and wooden door broken. The scene inside the clubroom was likewise not too pleasant to look at. Luckily the inside gate held despite obvious attempts to pry it open. The monetary losses were contained to the microwave oven; the balance of the items stolen were donated to us. In particular, the AVO valve tester and some other museum items, the FM tuner, speakers, amplifier, tea/coffee machine and kettle. However, a number of our trophies were also stolen. Including the SARL Neil Efficiency Trophy won a few years ago. This has, of course, no value whatsoever and will probably be dumped.

Some benefit has come out of this in that the security has been substantially improved around the access of the clubhouse. Many thanks must go to Brian Burger, Dave Cloete, Ghys du Plessis and John Murdoch for the work which they put in on the Saturday.

Like all editions, this one must come to an end. Your next ANODE will be published under the auspices of the new committee which will be elected at the Branch Annual General Meeting to be held on 8 July where we are hoping for a **BIG** turnout. See you then.

73 de Cedar

HAMNET Readiness... from another perspective.

The article which appears below has been extracted from the ZS6AI bulletin board system and concerns the actions taken by the Hams of Oklahoma City to provide assistance to the civil authorities at the time of the bombing of the Government building in that city some weeks ago. It was interesting to read but more so the message behind the written word. Their ARRL publicity officer did a good job in spreading the word around on exactly what the Hams can and did do. Also, the pre-planning which went into the operation. Only with such attention to detail before the event can one guarantee success when disaster strikes.

".....The April 19th bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma shocked Americans like no event has ever before. The heavy loss of life, 168 people, and the emotional rescue effort drew worldwide attention. Among the people helping put lives and affairs back in order after the blast were amateur radio operators. We have a special report on the role hams played after the bombing.

Tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, that's what Oklahoma is used to dealing with. For amateur radio operators in the state, emergency communications usually means operating nets to assist with severe weather spotting and damage recovery. But April 19th brought a new sense of reality. A new sense of understanding about what disaster can mean.

