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WATTS

11 - 2005

Year 75+11m

Monthly newsletter of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club
Maandelikse nuusbrieff van die Pretoria Amateur Radio Klub.

✉ PARC, PO Box 73696 Lynnwood Ridge 0040, RSA

web <http://www.qsl.net/zs6pta>

Bulletins : 145,725MHz 08:45 Sundays / Sondag
Relays : 1840, 3700, 7066, 10135, 14,200 MHz
depending on season

✂ Swapshop: After bulletin 2m and 40m (also on-line)

CQ Hou koers by Garsvallei Kommando 15 Oktober.

Joleen (graad 11 leerling by Garsfontein Hoërskool) is glad nie bang vir 'n mikrofoon nie!



Richard ZS6UK het in Garsvallei op die gronde van Garsfontein Laerskool waargeneem.

Heelwat stasies was in Gauteng en oor die hele land beman. Vyf daarvan deur 12 lede van Pretoria se drie radio-amateur klubs.

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Next Meeting 02-11-2005

Time: 19:30 for 20:00
PARC Clubhouse,
South Campus,
University of Pretoria.
SE cnr University and
Lynnwood roads.

PARC Management team / Bestuurspan Aug 2005- Aug 2006:

Committee members						
Chairman, SARL liason, Fleamarkets	Almero Dupisani	ZS6LDP	almero.dupisani@up.ac.za	012-567-3722	082-908-3359	
Vice Chairman, Secretary Rallies, Social, Hamnet	Johan de Bruyn	ZS6JHB	johandbr@absa.co.za	012-803-7385	082-492-3689	
Treasurer, Clubhouse, Database, DF hunts	Richard Peer	ZS6UK	peerrk@safrica.com	012-333-0612	082-651-6556	
Newsletter Kits	Hans Kappetijn	ZS6KR	hans@qrw.co.za	012-333-2612	072-204-3991	
Historian Awards	Tjerk Lammers	ZS6P	zs6p@iafrica.com	012-809-0006		
Repeaters , Technical Public Relations	Craig Symington	ZS6RH	craigsym@global.co.za	012-997-4504	083-259-3233	
Repeater custodian	Pine Pienaar	ZS6OB	janpienaar@ananzi.co.za	012-345-1801	082-447-7823	
Co-opted / Geko-opteer:						
Repeater, technical	Johan Lehmann	ZS6JPL	jlehmann@csir.co.za	012-804-6173	083-300-8677	
	Hans Gurtel	ZR6HVG	adele123@absamail.co.za	082-940-0623	082-940-0623	
	Pieter Human	ZR6AHT	humanp@telkom.co.za	012-800-2888	082-565-6081	
Repeater Maintenance	Willie du Plessis	ZS6AEA	hesterdup@webmail.co.za	012-565-5555	083-653-2101	
Auditor	Egbert Begeman	ZS6AZG	egbert@worldonline.co.za	012-347-1905	082-490-1963	
Asset control	Andre v Tonder	ZS6BRC	andre.vtonder@absamail.co.za	361-3292	082-467-0287	
Tydrenne	Johann de Beer	ZR6YV		011-918-1060	082-857-1561	
Klubfasiliteite, vlooiemark	Willie Greyling	ZR6WGR	willie@up.ac.za		082-940-2490	
Webmaster,	Edwin peer	ZR6ESP	zr6esp@peer.co.za	012-333-0612		
RAE	Brian Scott	ZR6BJS	scottbri@gmail.com	084-312-7407		
Hamnet, projects	Roy Newton	ZS6XN	newtonr@telkomsa.net	012-547-0280		
Morse testing	Bill Ingleson	ZS6KO		012-331-2327		
Tea	Molly Peer	ZR6MOL	molly@peer.co.za	012-333-0612		
	Doreen de Bruyn	ZR6DDB		012-803-7385		

Editorial

Our jubilee year is drawing to a close and we have been able to look back on many memorable events through our history page that appeared regularly in WATTS. Obtaining the material involved paging through hundreds of old Radio ZS's as well as what remained of our club archives with our historian, Tjerk ZS6P. Everything worth while had to be scanned and stored for future use. Thanks an older member Mike ZS6AFG more photo material has come to light and will appear in future issues.

For your notice, your editor keeps a library of all scanned material and digital photos submitted, published or not, and members are welcome to electronic copies thereof. Electronic media storage has been applied since some 3 years ago, and in my opinion, just in time.

It has since then been your editor's intention that every issue of WATTS reflects club- and member state of affairs at the time - as, contrary to the past - and being an independent club, it will be the only remaining reference for posterity.

For this reason also, it is imperative that every member submit newsworthy material when so obtained or involved therein. As said before, your editor is not a reporter, though he keeps his ear to the ground. Your club's image and standing is transmitted through you, the members, and is preserved in tangible form in WATTS.

Redaksioneel

Ons jubileumjaar loop ten einde en ons kon 'n terugblik kry op baie heuglike gebeurtenisse deur middel van ons geskiedens-bladsy wat gereeld in WATTS verskyn het. Om materiaal bymekaar te maak, is honderde Radio ZS'e deurgeblaai asook die oorblyfsels van ons klub argief wat deur ons argivaris Tjerk ZS6P gehou word. Alles wat die moeite werd was moes geskandeer en gestoor word vir toekomstige gebruik. Danksy 'n ouer lid Mike ZS6AFG het nog foto-materiaal vorendag gekom wat in toekomstige WATTS uitgawes sal verskyn.

Vir u kennisname onderhou u redakteur 'n biblioteek van alle geskandeerde materiaal en digitale fotos wat my bereik, gepubliseer of nie, en lede is welkom om elektroniese kopieë daarvan te kry. Elektroniese media berging is sedert drie jaar gelede toegepas - en in my opinie, net op tyd.

Dit was sedert die tyd u redakteur se doelstelling dat elke WATTS uitgawe ook klub- en lede aangeleenthede op die tydstip volledig weerspieël - omdat, in teenstelling met die verlede - en omdat ons 'n onafhanklike klub is - dit die enigste oorblywende verwysing sal wees vir die nageslag.

Ook vir hierdie rede is dit noodsaaklik dat elke lid nuuswaardige materiaal voorlê wanneer u dit bekom of waarin u betrokke is.

Soos voorheen gesê, is u redakteur is nie 'n verslaggewer nie, alhoewel hy sy oor teen die grond hou. U klub se beeld en status word deur u, die lede, uitgedra en dan behoue gemaak in tasbare vorm in WATTS.

ZS 75

PTA

1930-2005

Jan 1948

USE OF 50—54 Mc/s FREQUENCY BAND

Since the 50—54 Mc/s frequency band is used by amateurs throughout the world and will be allocated for use by South African amateurs with effect from 1 January, 1949, it has been decided that amateurs in the Union may use this band forthwith.

It should be noted, however, that the spot frequencies 50, 51, 52, 53 and 54 Mc/s in this band have been allocated to other radio services in the Union, and care should be taken at all time to avoid interference.

It will be appreciated if you will notify members of your League accordingly.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
for **Under-Secretary,**
Telecommunications.

Oct 1949

THE Pretoria Branch is proud to announce that it has received the first permanent three-letter call-sign (ZS6PTA) for its headquarter station. Branch bulletins will be transmitted by this station in English and Afrikaans on a frequency of 7185 kcs. immediately after the Headquarter bulletin on Sundays. For all the latest "gen" listen to the bulletins from this, the Premier branch.

Branch membership is increasing steadily thanks to the untiring efforts of your chairman (6AK) and publicity manager (6TO). What about doing *your* bit by introducing just one new member before the end of the year.

The branch committee attended a special meeting with Council to discuss certain matters which were causing dissatisfaction in the branch. The meeting was an undoubted success and it is felt that both Headquarters and the Pretoria branch have benefited as a result. The only disappointed individual was Jack (6AK)—OM Bob Taylor (6CO) handled the meeting so diplomatically that Jack could find no opportunity to take the gloves off—never mind Jack there is still your pet aversion, Fred Smith (6EN) hi.

Six metre activity is increasing and the following are already active: 6HS, 6JW, 6MY, 6GF, 6AK, 6EK, and 6EY will soon be joining the gang. 6HS and 6MY are also on the 2 metre band and will shortly be active on the 220 mc. band.

Portable stations from the branch will be conducting a cycle race relay on the 22nd October and will be operating on a frequency of 7185 kcs. All Hams are requested to keep this frequency clear between 2 and 5 p.m.

Eavesdropping

July 1948

6MC was heard giving points in the contest and now has a small rig for use on the 80 and 40 meters bands. His BIG rig is to be rebuilt.

6JW is busy with DX on 10 meters and is trying to sell his spare parts to get money to buy a car. YLS DAVE.

6JU has just got a new car and radio is the poorer. Kom Albert, gee ons 'n kans.

6BD was heard giving points in the contest and only visitors prevented her from giving it big stick.

6AK busy with the contests and judging the marks can be heard sometimes.

6HO sporting a Bendix and was very prominent in the contest. We believe that a corner of his operating table has been cleared to make room for the CW trophy.

6ET has built a FS meter and it is rumoured that he can be seen around Pretoria looking for the Kruger Millions with it. Halves, Richie.

6EK believed to be still living. Can anyone give information or was it a ghost we saw at the meeting. Has 40 lost its attraction, Dennis?

6FX, what a worker. Is your throat O.K., Emil; by the way you got around during the contest your VFO must have run a hot box.

6GF, silent, silent, must be scheming how to get nearer the jack or perhaps his rig has been sold for a new set of woods.

6LO has a new rig and his signal is terrific. Did you win the Irish, OM?

6GO was heard during the contest and what a note. Your basso profundo voice was even more so. Mike. Can we get you to sing the "Volga Boatman" song for us at the next meeting? What is your frequency—10 cps. or less.

It is greatly regretted that the rest of the Pretoria gang have gone into retirement. We hope the rest will do them the world of good and that when they are able to come on the air again they will find that their rigs still work. We hope that the CW contest next month will entice the newcomers on to the air. Our congrats to Douglas, ZSL6PR, who won the ZSL competition. Nice work and how about some more of you giving it a flap, OM's.

We welcome a new XYL in Mrs. H. Hoogenout. May you get your enjoyment in the ham game, XYL.

Also a welcome to ZS6DC (six dead cats). How is it out your way, Johnny?

Well, that's all so far, C U AGN.
"BEAM"

1952 The PTA Branch was well represented at the Pretoria Show.

Pienaar Rothman ZS6ACU played a major role in organizing a stall and supplying all the structural materials, lighting, paint, transport and poles for the mast wires and stays.

The apparatus was given by various hams and ZSL's. There was a complete 40m transmitter with an SX28 RX, and a home-built 20m rig. Two oscilloscopes, a field strength-wavemeter, grid-dip meter, WAC, WBCN, WBE certificates for the walls, great circle maps, QSL cards, clock, beam indicator and a beginner's single valve TX completed the shack.

Coverage was good. The operators were pretty busy and, despite heavy QRM from Geiger counters in an adjacent building, many contacts were logged.



Here is a picture of the shack we had at the show. The operators are 6AK and 6ET.

Minutes of the monthly club meeting of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club held at the South Campus of the University of Pretoria on 5 Oct. 2005

Welcome: Almero ZS6LDP declared the meeting open and welcomed all who attended.

Attendance: 21 members, 4 visitors. Apologies were received for Bill ZS6KO, Don ZS6AQS, Malcolm ZR6OLM, Helen Newton, Martin ZS6BQP, Hubert ZS6HVM, Johan ZS6JPL, Hal ZS6WB, Pieter ZS6PVW, Magda ZS6MWW and Lynette ZR6LHT.

Personal Matters/Lief en leed: Bernie ZS6ANU was in hospital.

Craig Symington and Tobile Koni upgraded from ZR to ZS.

Matters arising from previous minutes: None.

Minutes of previous meeting: Approval proposed by Willie ZR6WGR and seconded by Craig ZS6RH.

Club Activities/Klub Bedrywighede.

Rallies/Tydrenne: Johan ZS6JHB – Toyota Dealer 1000 km veldren – Vind plaas vanaf 13 – 15 Oktober in Lydenburg, Sabie, Dullstroom, Stofberg, Roosenekal en Belfast.

Total Limpopo Rally – 21 – 22 October 2005. Rally will be contested over a distance of 499.54 km costing of 14 special stages. The entire rally will be run in Tzaneen and surroundings.

Fox Hunt/Jakkals jag. – Richard ZS6UK – Next Fox hunt – 30/10/2005. Start time 14:00 at Botanical Gardens in Silverton.

Sosiaal/Social. – Johan ZS6JHB – Next social event will be a bring and braai at the home of Sylvie and Tjerk ZS6P in November – date to be announced.

Financial/Finansies. Richard ZS6UK – informed the meeting regarding the club's financial status – all is well.

Projects/Projekte – Hans ZS6KR – Overvoltage protection kits available .

Technical/Tegnies. – Craig ZS6RH – Power cable at repeater site had to be replaced - damaged by a veld fire – circuit breaker installed – needs new batteries

Vlooiemark/Fleamarket. – Almero ZS6LDP – Next Mega fleamarket 3/12/2005 at the premises of PARC.

Ham Diary/Dagboek.

October

6 – SARL 80 metre QSO Party – 2 nd leg.

14 – 15 CQ Hou Koers.

15 – 16 Jamboree on the Air Worked all Germany Contest.

21 – Closing date for logs for SARL 80 metre QSO Party.

29 – 30 CQ WW DX Phone Contest .

30 – SARL President's Net

Algemeen/General.

Hans ZS6KR – asked members for participation in the SARL HF Field Day contest – venue will be at Roodeplaat Dam 12–13 Nov.

Roy ZS6XN - reported on a high-jacking which involved a 20 month old baby. Jean ZS6ARA played a vital role in recovering both the vehicle and baby.

Johan ZS6JHB – Hemde wat bestel is kan afgehaal word. Dasse is ook beskikbaar.

Roy ZS6XN – Informed the meeting on Hamnet Gauteng North operations.

Johan ZS6JHB, Provincial Director of Hamnet Gauteng North, informed the meeting that Roy was recently appointed Assistant Deputy Provincial Director of Hamnet Gauteng North.

Presentation/Aanbieding. Pierre ZS6PJH gave a presentation on **WLANS**.

Next Meeting – 2 November 2005. Meeting closed at 21.40.

November

5 – National Marine Day

11- Armistice Day

12-13 SARL HF Field Day Contest – 2nd leg

Birthdays

November
Verjaarsdae



02 Hennie ZR6LOM
03 Blaine, son of Vince ZS6BTY
05 Jan ZR6BKL
06 Brian ZR6BJS
06 Frederic (Aba) ZR6CAB
06 Sollie ZS6SV
07 Adele lv van Hans ZR6HVG
07 Gerhardt, seun van Pieter ZR6KSA
07 Andrew, son of Andre ZS6BRC
10 Luther ZS6E
11 Peggy, sw of Ed ZS6UT
16 Hendrik ZR6RPC

November

Anniversaries Herdenkings

04 Estelle en Simon ZS6AST (33)
11 Aletta en Alf ZS6ABA (38)

16 Jean, daughter of Andre ZS6BRC
16 Vlasta, sw of Ivan ZS6CCW
19 Joe ZS6TB
22 Heila, SW of Melvyn ZS5MF
22 Caitlin, daughter of Vince ZS6BTY
27 Carel ZS6-2508
27 Janice, daughter of Joe ZS6AIC
27 Albert ZS6JU (**89**)

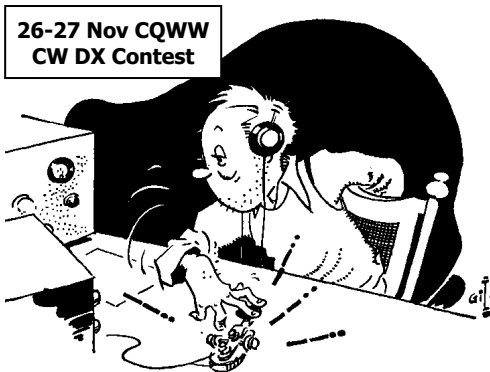
Sick Parade | Krukkelys Bernie ZS6ANU made a turn in hospital. Hope all is under control.

Geluk aan Bernice en Pieter ZR6KSA met wat 'n dogtertjie Celeste op 3 Oktober ryker geword het.

PARC Diary | Dagboek

Nov 02 PARC Club meeting
12-13 SARL HF Field Day 2nd leg
17 RAE
19 Antenna ope-dag by Centurion ARK

26 Bring and braai at ZS6P QRA



Dec 07: PARC Club Social Evening Des 07: PARK Aand Geseligheid

**HF and VHF construction trophies:
Bring your home-brew hardware!**

**Desert Island Trophy:
Who has the best yarn?**

**Eats and refreshments on the house!
Kom geniet die laaste byeenkoms.**

Snippets | Brokkies

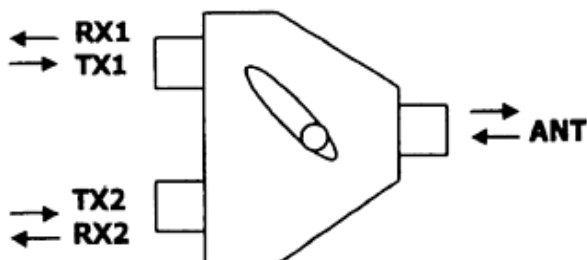
- **Upgrades:** Craig formerly ZR6REV is now **ZS6RH**, Tobile formerly ZR6TDK is now **ZS6TKO**, en Japie voorheen ZR6JH is nou **ZS6JLP**.
- **New members / Nuwe lede:** Chris **ZS3B** en Nico **ZS6-2510**
- **Our Club** made 2nd place in the recent SARL HF Contests. Due to a lack of participation by our normally active members we did not have sufficient points to make first place. It will however take other clubs a few years to catch up to our record of eight first places in succession!
- **Our new Webmaster is Edwin ZR6ESP.** Thanks to Sander ZS6SSW for managing it in the past

Radio protection kits as published in WATTS July 2005 are now available @ R80 from Hans ZS6KR. Postage is R10 extra. Full instructions are provided. Order by phone 012-333-2612 or cell 072-204-3991 or email hans@grv.co.za. Installations can be done at a moderate consideration.

SOURCING 2 TX's TO ONE ANTENNA SYSTEM - using a 2-way coaxial switch.

Being able to employ a standby- or alternative rig at short notice is very handy and neat if one could just flip a switch and not worry about RF cable connections.

Having studied the specifications of various coaxial switches available such as MFJ and DAIWA it turned out that both had very similar specifications (surprised?) and apart from insertion loss, the port-port isolation is of course the important parameter when configured as shown below:

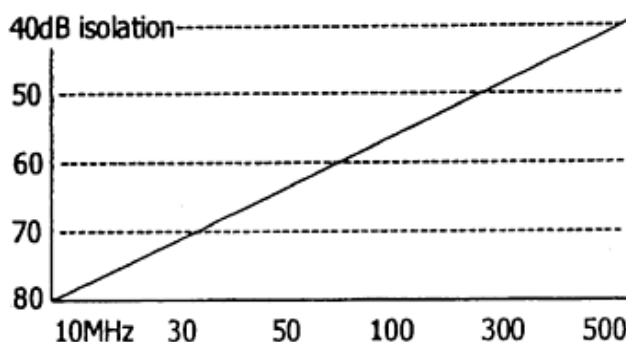


A basic precaution in such a scheme is to ensure that both rigs cannot TX at the same time. This is generally not a problem as only one MIC/PTT is handled at any one time, or only one rig is switched on at the time. It is also important not to use a switch that has a middle position that grounds both sockets.

Performance

Let us now examine their isolation properties at various frequencies. Both types under discussion have typical characteristics as shown by the graph:

Port-Port at 30 MHz ~ -70dBm
 150 MHz ~ -55dBm
 450 MHz ~ -45dBm



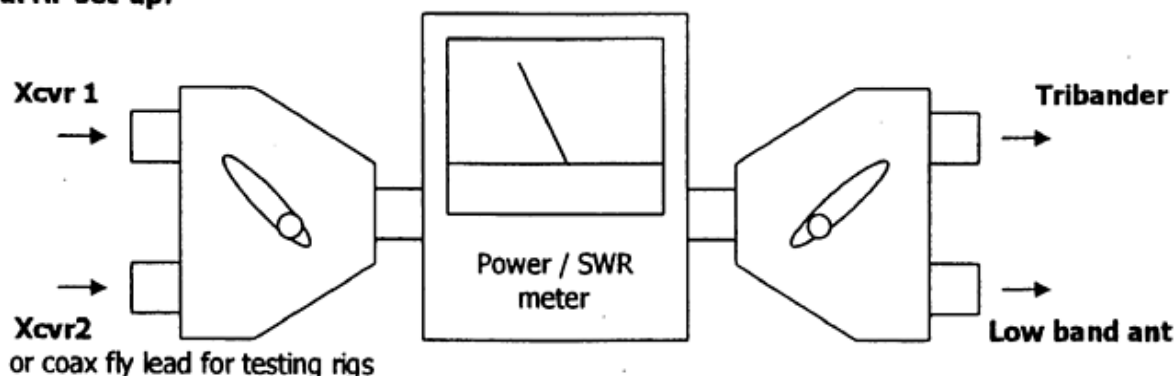
Thus, the most pessimistic isolation or worst crosstalk that takes place can be calculated:

100W (=+50dBm) HF generates +50-70 = -20dBm = 22mV (~ S9+50dB)
 50W (=+47dBm) VHF generates +47-55 = -08dBm = 90mV (~ S9+60dB)
 50W (=+47dBm) UHF generates +47-45 = +02dBm = 282mV (~ S9+70dB)

The voltages leaked through are very much more than a strong signal, but except for the last one, can probably all be easily be accommodated without damage in a radio front-end. Remember that these figures are only applicable if the receiving side is tuned to exactly the same frequency. Nevertheless, the use of these particular two-way "low cost" coaxial switches is not recommended for UHF, nor using them in this specific configuration for more than 100W throughput at any frequency.

There are improved versions such as the DAIWA 201a for which an isolation of 60dB is claimed at 600MHz; and the DAIWA 201G that is specifically made for UHF (50dB at 1GHz). Few manufacturers appear to manufacture quality coaxial switches that amateurs can afford and an internet search has only yielded a WELZ CH20N (66dB at 400MHz) and various doubtfuls which are probably for CB use.

Useful HF set-up:



Activities and contributions



Wynand ZS6ARF built this beautiful linear amplifier.

From the looks of it should do at least 100W per bottle...



Hans ZS6KR has this stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of A.R in Japan.

Below: Some more boat anchors from the inventory of Stan ZS6SDZ



NATIONAL MOD. NC - 44



RME MOD. 69



RCA MOD. AR - 77



Clive ZS6AVP in Witbank wondered why his yagi was detuned. It must have been the bird watt-eaters..



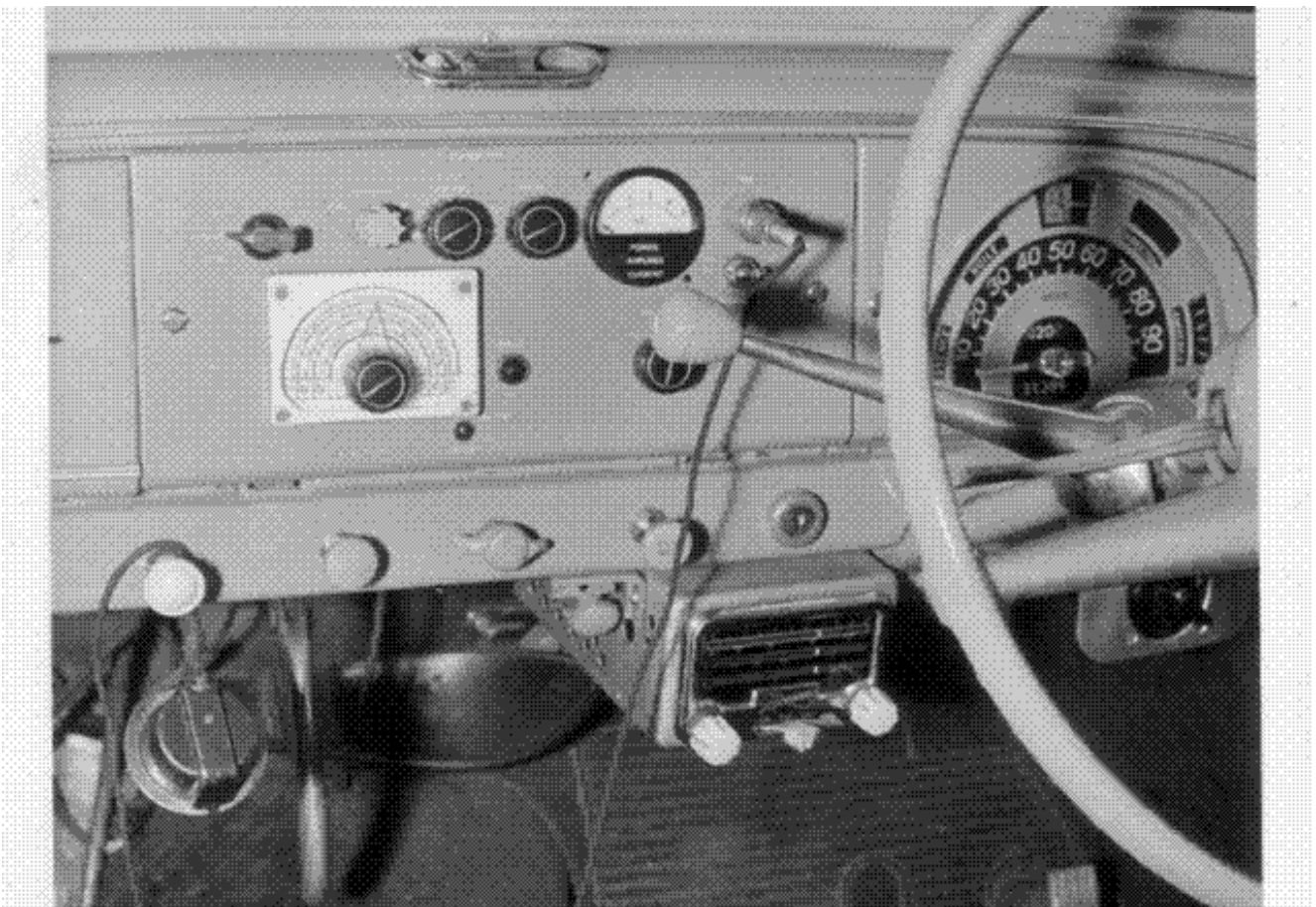
NATIONAL MOD. NC - 100

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Glimpse from the iron age: Mobile installation of Andre Leeb du Toit ZS6AQ. TX on dash and RX below.

Whodunit?

ZS 1953-54

By P. J. WARNER, ZSL5PF.

In Kokstad the municipal electricity supply has only partially been converted to A.C., so that part of the town is still on D.C. When I was there a few years ago I stayed in a boarding-house which was in the D.C. area. A friend who also lived there and I each brought second-hand A.C./D.C. table model radios and tried to get as much as possible out of them.

In an effort to improve reception my friend John decided to earth his set. He accordingly obtained an iron standard and drove it into the ground just out-

side his room window. A lead was then taken from the set to this standard.

I do not know whether reception was improved or not, but at this stage I should say that power was taken from the electric light connection by means of an adaptor plug. John always cut the power by the switch on the wall instead of at the wireless itself.

After connecting his earth lead, when John next switched off the radio just kept on playing. He couldn't believe his ears, and tried the switch again. It made no difference. He had to use the control knob on the radio set to cut the power. It was only when the earth lead was disconnected that the wall switch was again effective. I tried earthing my set in the same way, but without the same result.

Can anyone explain how this worked?