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WATTS

01-2013

Year 83 + 1m

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

✉ PARC, PO Box 12602, Die Hoewes, 0163, RSA

web <http://www.parc.org.za> mail: zs6pta@zs6pta.org.za

Bulletins: 145,725 MHz 08:45 Sundays/Sondae
Relays: 1.840, 3.700, 7.066, 10.135, 14.235, 51.400, 438.825, 1297 MHz
Activated frequencies are announced prior to bulletins

Swapshop: 2m and 7.066 MHz Live on-air after bulletins
Bulletin repeats Mondays | herhalings : Maandae 2m 19:45



PARC Fleamarket 8 December had a record number of visitors - more on p.4



In this issue

- Member news and activities Lede-nuus en Aktiwiteite
- Technical | Antenna Defence Fund | Tegnies
December fleamarket
Radio ZS collection
- Page eight -- Bladsy agt
The Semaphore Alphabet

In hierdie uitgawe

Next club events

Fleamarkets at PMC
Sat 2 Feb Wed 1 May
Sat 10 Aug Sat 7 Dec

Club social at U.P.
Thursday 3 Jan 7pm
Club committee meeting
Thursday 17 Jan 7pm

PARC Management team / Bestuurspan Aug. 2012 – Aug. 2013

Committee members

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Chairman, Contests | Pierre Holtzhausen | ZS6PJH | zs6pjh@telkomsa.net | 012-655-0726 | 082-575-5799 |
| Vice Chairman, SARL liason | Fritz Sutherland | ZS6SF | fritzs@icon.co.za | 012-811-3875 | 083-304-0028 |
| Secretary, Clubs, Strategy | Jean de Villiers | ZS6ARA | zs6ara@webmail.co.za | 012-663-6554 | 083-627-2506 |
| Treasurer, SARS | Andre van Tonder | ZS6BRC | andreh.vtonder@absamail.co.za | 361-3292 | 082-467-0287 |
| Rallies, Social | Johan de Bruyn | ZS6JHB | zs6jhb@gmail.com | 012-803-7385 | 079-333-4107 |
| Webmaster | Graham Reid | ZR6GJR | greid@wol.co.za | | 083-701-0511 |
| RAE, Bulletin co-ordinator | Vincent Harrison | ZS6BTY | zs6bty@telkomsa.net | 012-998-8165 | 083-754-0115 |
| Repeaters, Technical | Craig Symington | ZS6RH | zs6rh@hotmail.co.za | | 081-334-6817 |
| Technical, Kits. PR, youth | Rudi van Dyk | ZS6RVD | vdykr@telkomsa.net | | 082-962-4141 |

Co-opted/Geko-opteer:

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Auditor | Tony Crowder | ZS6CRO | tcrowder@telkomsa.net | 011-672-3311 | |
| WATTS newsletter/Kits | Hans Kappetijn | ZS6KR | zs6kr@wbs.co.za | 012-333-2612 | 072-204-3991 |
| Clubhouse | Pieter Fourie | ZS6CN | pieter2@vodamail.co.za | 012-804-7417 | 083-573-7048 |
| Fleamarket | Alméro Dupisani | ZS6LDP | almero.dupisani@up.ac.za | | 083-938-8955 |
| Historian, Archives, Awards | Tjerk Lammers | ZS6P | zs6p@iafrica.com | 012-809-0006 | |

SARL LAUNCHES THE ANTENNA DEFENSE FUND

While Radio Amateurs are exempted from having to apply for environmental scoping for antenna towers and structures under 15 metres, there are compulsory building plan and zoning Scheme regulations approvals required which administratively are a major challenge. The fees for a building plan approval vary from metro to metro but are on average R2 000. To this must be added the cost of advertising for objections in two newspapers which on average will cost around R3 000. The total cost for the basic application is around R5 000. There is always the possibility that someone may lodge an objection which can cause further complications and legal fees.

The Council of the SARL has decided to launch an appeal to the relative authorities to have amateur radio towers and antenna structures under 15 metres exempted from the current building regulations. To achieve this legal, environmental and structural experts will have to be engaged to prepare a submission.

At this stage it is expected that this may involve expenditure of up to R50 000. To fund this vital initiative the SARL Council has set up the Antenna Defence Fund (ADF) and is seeking contributions from radio amateurs. To contribute please make an electronic transfer to the SA Radio League at ABSA bank. The account number is 407 158 8849, the branch code is 632 005, also send an email to adf@sarl.org.za with the payment slip showing ADF, your name and callsign. A web page will be set up to list all the donors and information on the progress being made with the project. This is the ideal opportunity for members of the SARL and NON members to contribute to a very important case for amateur radio.

This project will be of the benefit to all radio amateurs and as it may affect you in the future we urge you to make a contribution. Council will, in their budget submission to the AGM in April 2013, make a proposal for some funding from the accumulated funds possibly on a Rand for Rand basis, in other words match the donations received by the ADF with an equivalent amount from reserve funds.

Ed: at the time of writing the fund was just beyond the halway mark. Please consider a donation.

From the management of PARC and your editor



Birthdays Verjaarsdae

Jan.



06 Brendan ZS6BW, son of Peter ZS6PJ
08 Darren ZR6TY, son of Selma and Joe ZS6TB
12 Gustav ZS6BWN (83)
20 Errol ZR6VDR
20 Theresa, dogter van Margriet en Tobie ZS6ZX
23 Mark ZS6USA
25 Margriet, lv van tobie ZS6ZX
31 Elize, lv van Pieter ZS6PA

Anniversaries Herdenkings

Jan.

03 Margriet en Tobie ZS6ZX
05 Louise and Almero ZS6LDP (22)
07 Doreen ZR6DDB en Johan ZS6JHB (24)
25 Marilize ZS6MVD en

Lief en Leed | Joys and Sorrows

Joe ZS6TB has (at last) retired and hope to hear him more often
Bill ZS6KO was in hospital as well as his daughter Lynette.

Heather, sw of Vince ZS6BTY was in hospital for a while
Pieter ZS6PVW was onlangs nie van die beste nie.

Diary | Dagboek (UTC times)

Jan

05-06 EU CW 160m Contest 20:00-07:00
12-13 Hunting Lions in the Air 00:00-24:00
13 DARC 10m contest 09:00-10:59
19 LZ open contest 00:00-04:00
19-20 Hungarian DX Contest 12:00-12:00
25-27 CQ 160m CW Contest 22:00-21:59
26-27 UBA DX Contest 13:00-13:00
26-27 REF Contest CW 06:00-18:00
31 **Last day for submission of nominations of council members and motions for the SARL AGM**
? **Last day for submission of nominations for SARL Awards**

Did you know?

PARC has a library of Radio ZS publications going back to 1947 albeit with a few gaps. 1947 is significant in that Radio ZS was resumed for the first time after WWII. Various "Pretoria Notes" and Branch News items have been scanned out of all publications for our history file and many were already published in WATTS over the years - one of which yet unpublished is now on page 5. Many issues were found from SK estates and we must give a very big thanks to OM bill ZS6KO for providing us with a collection of various bound yearbooks from the early days. Still wanted for completion are:
1949 Aug, Sept, Nov, Dec. 1950 Jan, Feb, Ma. 1955 June, July, Aug. 1961 Aug. 1962 Dec. 1967 Ma, Nov. 1968 Ma, Apr. 1970 Aug.
There are also large gaps from 2001-2006. Please keep a lookout for these issues.

The 7P8D DX-pedition ended 2 December

Standing L to R: Roger ZS6RJ, Bill VE7XS, Neil VA7DX, Frosty K5LBU, Donovan, ZS2DL, Mitch, ZS2DK,
Sitting: Emil DL8JJ, Chris DL2MDU, Jo DJ3CQ, Keith VE7MID, Sidi (local helper), Aid worker with orphans and 2 household staff





Tom, N4XP is traveling in South Africa and visited our Flea Market with two friends ...

(l to r) Tom, N4XP; Tjerk, ZS6P and Chris, ZS6RI.



The Worm Has Turned

Darwin Award Nominee for improving our gene pool

(October 2002, Norway) It's a well-known fishing trick. Put 12V electrodes into the ground if you want worms come to the surface. One 23-year-old Laagendalsposten man withdrew his genes from the pool when he tried to speed up the process. He figured that 220V, 50Hz, would bring more worms out faster, and he decided to test his theory. Alas, he did so squatting on a steel bucket, one hand holding an electrode while the other was embedded in the ground a few feet away. He seemed determined to enter the eternal fishing grounds.

Quicker than spit, that wish was granted. Our Darwin winner leaves only parents -- and no offspring.

Club history 1951

PRETORIA

The 84-mile cycle race along Church Street, Hennops River, Krugersdorp Road, via Mooiplaats, was a great success, thanks to the assistance of the relay stations, Duff 6AAO, Brown 6EK, Brook 6PB, Bennet 6AK, and the Central Station Uys 6E and Hoogenhout 6P who all supplied transmitters and receivers, and thanks also to all the able assistants at these various outposts who directed traffic and spotted the numbers of the riders for the station operators.

We welcome to the Branch the following members, Rev. Fisher ZSL6PCJ, Blignaut 6ACJ, Schutte ACY, Weyers 6XS, Mr. Grobler ZSL6PCS, Smart 6ACZ, Schoeman ZDC, de Witt 6ADF, Rossouw 6AGG and the SW of OM Uys ZSL6PCK. Also renewed their subscriptions OM Dr. van der Lingen and the Frazer Bros., Ralph and Clary. The prospects are that quite a few more will be joining at the beginning of the new term.

We are looking forward to the July meeting which will in all probability be a visit to the Receiving Station of the Post Office at Derdepoort.

The Branch Xmitter was on the air for the cycle race and perked fine; this rig will soon be seen at one of our monthly meetings, and thanks is due to OM Duff for the building and conversion of transmitter and receiver parts supplied by OM Prins. The box to hold all the parts, originally housed an aircraft Xmitter.

Get your names ready for the new Committee as I have it on good authority that quite a few new members will be needed for replacement on the outgoing committee.

Country members we would like to hear more about you; send in a few lines and let us know how you are keeping and if still active, and how you find conditions, what new experiments you have undertaken. Nick Venter is about the only one from whom we get news, keep up the good work, Nick, and as promised in a previous letter, one day we will make you "Die Platteland Voorsitter."

Now OM's we would appreciate a short note from each of you, "Do you want a Sunday morning bulletin?" If so, are you prepared to assist in the supply of items of interest? Let us know, the Box Number is Pretoria 1259 and a postcard is all that is necessary.

Anyone interested in the charges for RADIO ZS advertisements can obtain the rates from any committee member. More advertising is necessary to supplement the upkeep of our magazine. So get busy and do some canvassing at your Radio dealer and electrical supply stores.

FLASH:

We congratulate OM ZS6P and SW on the addition to the circle. „Piet is nou pa van 'n dogter," nou begin die Q.R.M. Piet.

Cheerio, 73,

EDWARD THOMAS.

OM summer exercises - OK oefeninge

THE COMPLETE MORSE INSTRUCTOR

55

See next page - Volgende bladsy

SEMAPHORE

There is little to add to the remarks already made about visual generally. The choice of background is of the utmost importance, and since one station cannot always accurately judge what its background is like, as seen from the distant station, there should be no hesitation in conforming each with the other's request to move to the left or the right, or higher up, etc., use being made of the appropriate signal.

In the early stages, before classes are divided into stations with allotted call signs, the Alphabetical sign "J" is used for calling up, and in this respect there is a lot to be said for the naval method—waving the arms continuously backwards and forwards from "J" to "P." A slight agitation of the arms or flags at the position "J" does not readily attract attention, unless sender and receiver are in close proximity, with both on the look-out for a call.

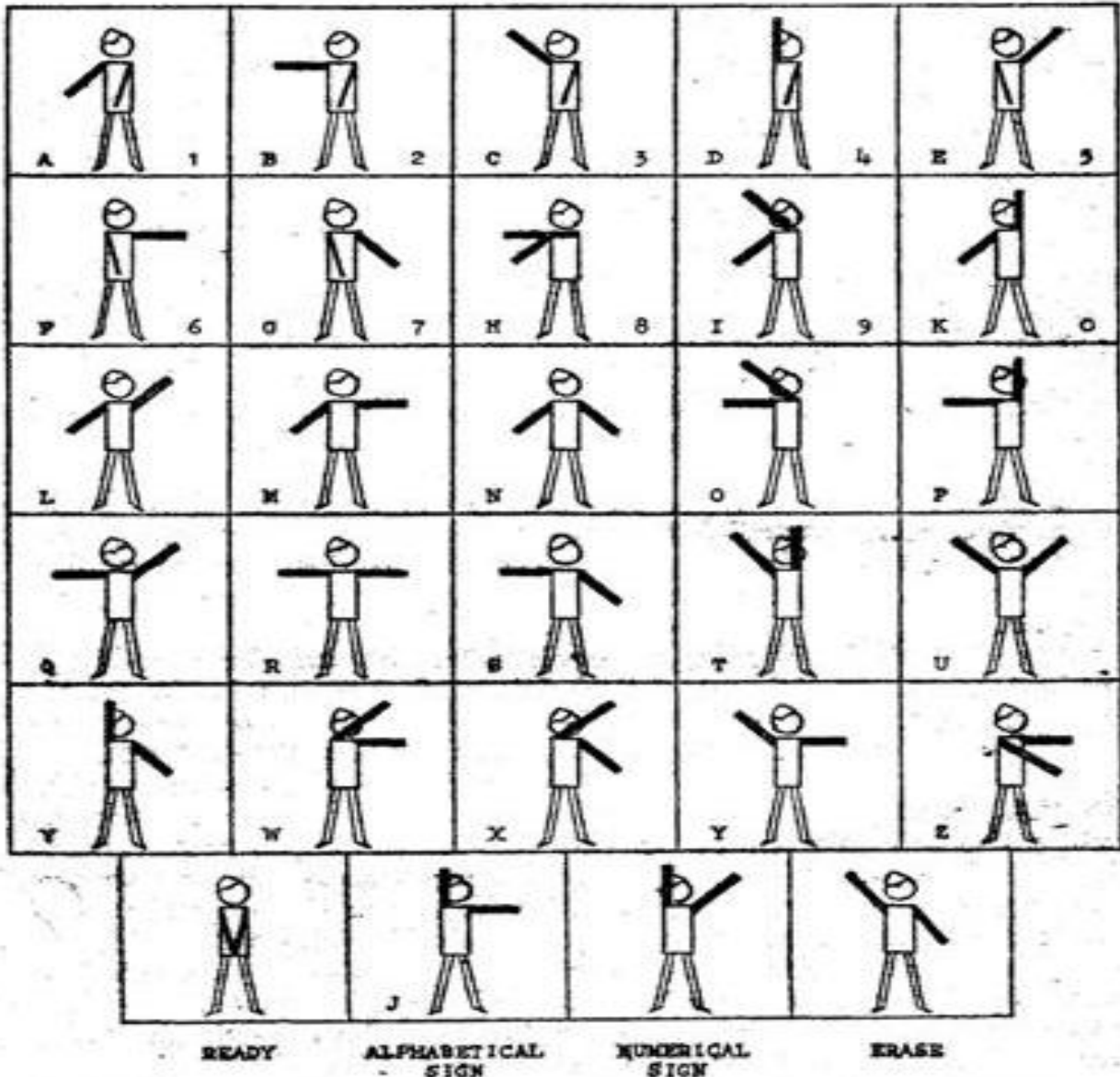
It is important to have the arms in exactly the right position, and some practice is usually necessary in the presence of the instructor, in order to have the angles corrected, for the beginner is not always able, at first, to judge his own angles.

The letters belonging to each word should be smoothly linked together. Where the position of one arm is the same in consecutive letters, there is no need to move that arm from its first position. For instance, in the word "PANAMA," after the letter "P" has been formed, the right arm moves to "A" and stays there throughout the rest of the word, while the left arm takes up the various positions required of it. When similar letters, however, come together in one word, the arm or arms must be moved away from the position and back again, as in the case of two "E's." Where two "O's" succeed each other, an effective if unofficial sequence is obtained by reversing the position of the arms with a scissors motion: that is, carrying the right arm from position "B" to "C," and the left arm from position "C" to "B."

This scissors movement can also be effectively used in the case of AAA, where the right and left arms follow each other smartly into position. The SEPARATIVE sign II and COMMA III are also suitable for this treatment.

Apart, however, from this scissors movement, one arm should not take up a position proper to the other arm. When moving from "D" to "E," for example, the right arm should return from "D" to the ready position, while the left arm is moved to "E."

THE SEMAPHORE ALPHABET



It will be observed that the sign for the letter "J" interrupts the sequence of arm movements. Since it is also used for the ALPHABETICAL SIGN, and as a call, it is usual to place it at the end of the Alphabet.

C/O NELSPORT & 801 MALMESBURY STR, WINGATE PARK, PRETORIA [S25.49.36 & E28.16.07]

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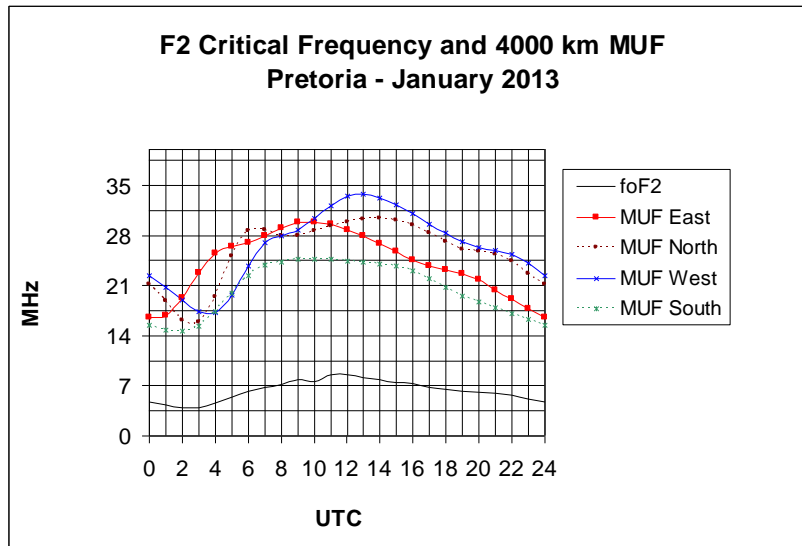
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- General equipment and TV repairs
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- 3rd Party scrutiny of projects and documents
- MFJ 259/69 Analyzer repairs and calibration
- Valuation of ham estates and their disposal

and products:

- Legal limit 30m and 40m dipole traps
- Linear power supply O.V. protection kits
- 30A DC switching supplies
- 30A DC Anderson Power Poles
- Connectors RF and Audio
- Plug-in triple sequential industrial timer

Contact Hans at 012-333-2612 or 072-204-3991



Long Term HF Propagation Prediction for January 2013

Courtesy ZS6BTY

(see also our website propagation tab)

DX Operating

The graph shows the 4000 km maximum useable frequency (MUF) to the East, North, West and South from Pretoria for the first hop using the F2 layer.

Local Operating

The F2 critical frequency (foF2) is the maximum frequency that will reflect when you transmit straight up. E-layer reflection is not shown.

Some humorous and true observations

- "The slide rule helped to design the very machines that would render it obsolete." - Robert Ragen, designer of the Friden 130 electronic calculator
- "Real radios glow in the dark" - Ed Mustoe (referring to tube types)
- While theoretically and technically television may be feasible, commercially and financially I consider it an impossibility." - Lee DeForest, American inventor (1873-1961)
- "Programming today is the opposite of diamond mining. In diamond mining you dig up a lot of dirt to find a small bit of value. With programming you start with the value, the real intention, and bury it in a bunch of dirt." - Charles Simonyi, inventor of WYSIWYG
- "Man is the best computer we can put aboard a spacecraft ... and the only one that can be mass produced with unskilled labor." - Wernher von Braun
- "When persons become part of an electric circuit, the result is often substantial damage to the human machine." - Dr. Michael S. Morse, Dept. of Electrical Engineering University of San Diego
- "The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once." - Albert Einstein
- "Those who do not mind asking silly questions become scientists." - Leon Lederman
- "If it hasn't been tested, it doesn't work." - Charlie Potter, Agilent Technologies
- "Blink your eyelids periodically to lubricate your eyes." - A tip from page 16 of the Hewlett Packard Environmental, Health & Safety Handbook for Employees
- "People in the computer industry use the term 'user,' which to them means 'idiot.'" - Dave Barry
- "An inventor is simply a fellow who doesn't take his education too seriously." - Charles F. Kettering
- "Basic research is what I am doing when I don't know what I am doing." - Wernher von Braun

FASTEST ELECTRONIC BRAIN UNVEILED 1953

The most rapid electronic computer that has been developed has been put into use at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey. Small for the tremendous amount of mathematical computations it carries out, the machine is eight by eight by two feet. It has 2,340 vacuum tubes (enough for 750 television sets), and a mile of wiring.

Data planned by mathematicians is fed into the computer on a perforated tape. From this point on the machine seems to work by itself. It has four main divisions: a calculating unit, a control organ that carries out the instructions given the machine, an input-output organ and a memory section that stores the figures and the instructions for use when needed.

The computer is capable of producing 2,000 multiplications; 1,200 divisions or 100,000 additions per second. One of its recent tasks took about an hour and involved 800,000 multiplications.