

SHACKNEWS

HIGHVELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PO Box 1111, Bedfordview, 2008

February 2004

e-mail zs6bfl@telkomsa.net

COMMITTEE



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Sunday morning BULLETINS - 145.7875 MHz & 7062 KHz @ $\pm 08h45$.

COMMUNICATION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME



It is with deep regret that the club announces the passing away of **ZS6RG.**

Johannes Hendrik Bekker better known as Johnny passed away during the early hours of Wednesday 28th January 2004. Born on the 11th December 1917 he served as a radio operator during WW2. According to the attendance register of the Southern Suburbs Radio Club Johnny joined on the 7th May 1953. He will always be remembered for his willingness to assist at any amateur radio function e.g Hunting Lion in the Air, Jamboree on the Air and Field days to name a few.

The first meeting for the year was held on Saturday 7th February. At this meeting there were 11 members present which took the form of a discussion on the way ahead for 2004. A number of issues were discussed and all that is needed is to action them.

A big welcome to ZS6SEE, OM Stan Englebrecht who joined the club. Hope to see more of you. I wonder how many of you listened to the bulletin on Sunday 15th February. During the call in on 7062KHz, a station from Mozambique, C91JR came in with a medical problem. His name is José, ex ZS6JRR, who had a bad form of diarrhoea and was unable to get suitable help. OM Gerry, ZS6GMJ, contacted OM Emile, ZS6EGB, who is a medical doctor. Emile came up on frequency and was able to assist José with a formula to combat dehydration. All in the true sense of amateur radio. There are now 12 paid up members of the club. What has happened to the rest?

Next meeting:- 6th March 2004

Southern Suburbs Radio Club held its first meeting 14th February with 10 members present. A big welcome to Frank, PA3GMP, who is on a return visit. OM Johnny, ZS6EH, gave a little history on the construction of domestic radio in Johannesburg when he was a youngster. The name Valiant mean anything? What started the talk was the article from Shacknews, December issue, on the Barlow Wadley. SMD then and SMD in the article had two different meanings. This in turn lead to many interesting discussions about characters from amateur radio's past.

On the lighter side. A monks story

A man's car broke down as he was driving past a beautiful, old monastery. He walked up the drive and knocked on the front door of the monastery. A monk answered, listened to the man's story and graciously invited him to spend the night.

The monks fed the man and led him to a tiny chamber in which to sleep. The man thanked the monks and slept serenely until he was awakened by a strange, beautiful sound.

The next morning, as the monks repaired his car, he asked about the sound that woke him. The monks said, "We're sorry. We can't tell you about the sound. You're not a monk."

The man was disappointed, but eager to be gone, so he thanked the monks for their kindness and went on his way. During quiet moments afterward, the man pondered the source of the alluring sound.

Several years later, the man was driving in the same area. He stopped at the monastery on a whim and asked admittance. He explained to the monks that he had so enjoyed his previous stay, he wondered if he might be permitted to spend another night under their peaceful roof. The monks agreed and the man stayed.

Late that night, he heard the sound again. The next morning, he begged the monks to explain the sound. The monks said, "We're sorry. We can't tell you about the sound. You're not a monk."

By now, the man's curiosity had turned to obsession. He decided to give up everything and become a monk if that was the only way to learn about the sound. He informed the monks of his decision and began the long and arduous task of becoming a monk.

Seventeen years later, the man was finally established as a true member of the order. When the celebration ended, he humbly went to the leader of the order and asked to be told the source of the sound.

Silently, the old monk led the new monk to a huge wooden door. He opened the door with a golden key. That door swung open to reveal a second door of silver, then a third of gold and so on until they had passed through twelve doors, each more magnificent than the last. The new monk's face was awash with tears of joy as he finally beheld the wondrous source of the mysterious sound he had heard so many years before.....(??? Goto the end ↓)

AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

- 1) Ham Band Receiver – Yaesu FR100B (5 Band) - CW/AM/SSB
- 2) Ham Band Transmitter – Johnson Viking Valiant (6 Band) – CW/AM
- 3) Ham Band Receiver – Eddystone EA12 (5 Band) - CW/AM/SSB
- 4) Panadaptor – Panoramic Radio Corp. (455 KHz IF)

All items vootstoots. Buyers to collect. What offers?

Digby Londt ZS6BLV 011-888-2408

Anyone with design and construction capabilities?

SA AMATEUR RADIO DEVELOPMENT TRUST DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COMPETITION

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust has launched a design and construction project for a mixer/controller unit. The project is in response to the SARL request for such a unit to facilitate various programmes such as the Chairman's net and other on the air discussion and education projects. The unit will typically connect the inputs and outputs of several transceivers, a microphone, tape and other audio devices. The competition will be run in two parts. The first part is the design of the unit and the second part the construction of a working model. The winner of the design competition will receive R2000. A maximum of R3000 will be made available to the winner to construct a working unit, which will be used by the SARL President or any other person running the President's net.

The entries must be fully documented. After evaluation of the working model the design will be made available to clubs and other groups or individuals who have a need for such a unit.

To participate you need to register with the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust by sending your contact details by email to saardt@intekom.co.za or by fax to 012 991 5651. You will receive a specification document setting out the requirements. The closing date for the design is 29 February 2004.

THE SUNSPOT SITUATION (Came up during the SSC meeting. Maybe explains a few happenings)

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reported that Solar flux and sunspot numbers were up slightly last week, and average planetary A index was down a little. Unfortunately, this isn't likely a trend, at least over the long term.

Over the next few days expect solar flux to stay around 110, then gradually decline toward 100, where it should stay until around February 22. Due to a coronal hole and a solar wind stream, geomagnetic conditions should remain unsettled to active.

Remember when.....

You lived as a child in the 50s or the 60s or earlier, much earlier. Looking back, it's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have...

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

Our baby cribs were covered with bright coloured lead based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. (Not to mention hitchhiking to town as a young kid!) We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. Horrors.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then rode down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve the problem.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. No cell phones. Unthinkable.

We played dodge ball and sometimes the ball would really hurt. We got cut and broke bones and broke teeth and there were no law suits from these accidents. They were accidents. No one was to blame but us. Remember accidents?

We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.

We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank sugar soda but we were never overweight.....we were always outside playing. We shared one grape soda with four friends, from one bottle and no one died from this?

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo 64, X Boxes, video games at all, 99 channels on cable, video tape movies, surround sound, personal cellular phones, Personal Computers, Internet chat rooms ...

We had friends. We went outside and found them. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rung the bell or just walked in and talked to them. Imagine such a thing. Without asking a parent! By ourselves! Out therein the cold cruel world! Without a guardian. How did we do it?

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Some students weren't as smart as others so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade...

Tests were not adjusted for any reason.

Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. No one to hide behind. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law, imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years has been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

And you're one of them. Congratulations

The things kids say...

"Never trust a dog to watch your food."

-Patrick, age 10

"When your dad is mad and asks you,

"Do I look stupid?" Don't answer."

-Hannah, age 9

"Never tell your Mom her diet's not working."

-Michael, age 14

"Stay away from prunes."

-Randy, age 9

"Don't pull Dad's finger when he tells you to."

-Emily, age 10

"When your Mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair." -Taylia, age 11

"Never let your three-year old brother in the same room as your school assignment."

-Traci, age 14

"A puppy always has bad breath-even after eating a Tic-Tac." - Andrew, age 9

"Never hold a dustbuster and a cat at the same time." - Kyoyo, age 11

"You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk." -Amir, age 9

"Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts." -Kellie, age 11

"If you want a kitten, start out by asking for a horse." -Naomi, age 15

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Berridge

But, I can't tell you what it was. You're not a monk.