

# SHACKNEWS

## HIGHVELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PO Box 1111, Bedfordview, 2008

June 2004

e-mail [zs6bfl@telkomsa.net](mailto:zs6bfl@telkomsa.net)

### COMMITTEE



#### Office

Chairman:  
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#### Call sign

ZS6REX  
ZS6BFL  
ZS6ANA  
ZS6BFL  
ZS6LT  
ZR6TBL  
ZS6ALH

#### Telephone number

011-948-9533  
011-893-1291  
011-683-2424  
011-893-1291  
011-888-5362  
082-623-3704  
011-902-1432

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

### COMMUNICATION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

**Meeting** The meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June did not see a good turnout. Six as per the register with three apologies. What happened to the rest? OM Doug, ZS6BXU, brought along the piece of radio equipment that originated from a German Luftwaffe aircraft circa 2WW. I has a manufactures label "Telefunken" and is suspected to be some sort of RDF unit. Lots of discussion followed of general interest to amateur radio.





SSC This months meeting was held at the QTH of OM Rex. Smaller turnout than usual and the distance most likely had something to do with it. OM Doug brought along the radio to show those who were not present at the HVB meeting. Pics above. Thanks to Rex and Ingrid for the use of their home and all those who brought the eats along.

Pictures taken at the Youth day event at the Rand airport. Tnx Doug.



Gerry ZS6GMJ



L to R. Gene ZS6TA, Doug ZS6BXU, Berridge ZS6BFL, André ZS6HE & Gerry ZS6GMJ

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## DVD Video

The DVD-Video format has revolutionized the home entertainment industry by offering image and sound quality far superior to that of VHS videotape. This impressive digital format can generate pictures in amazing detail using nearly 500 lines of horizontal resolution! And, it's capable of delivering six discrete channels of exhilarating audio to create the ultimate surround sound experience. The DVD format also allows for an incredible amount of data to be stored on a single disc: up to 17 gigabytes worth!

Thanks to almost 500 lines of horizontal resolution, you'll immediately appreciate the startling brilliance and clarity of the picture quality delivered in the DVD-Video format nearly twice that of standard VHS tapes! And because DVD-Video uses a laser pick-up system, nothing touches the disc's playing surface. So it won't wear out. Of course, you don't rewind a disc, which makes it even more durable.

DVD-Video players are compatible with whatever aspect ratios are encoded on the DVD-Video disc you're watching. You can play movies recorded in a 4:3 format (conventional TV proportions), or in letterbox, which presents an image for panoramic viewing on a conventional TV. If you own one of the latest 16:9 wide screen TVs, you can select the wide screen format for maximum impact.

Much like a CD player, a DVD-Video player uses a laser to translate the microscopic pits that are in the disc, into music, video or information. But that's where the similarity ends. A DVD-Video disc holds much more information than a standard CD. Engineers increased its data-storage capacity by shrinking the microscopic pits and placing them closer together. However, the standard CD laser could not read this tightly packed information. A unique laser, with a thinner beam and shorter wavelength was developed.

Theoretically, the most efficient method to put more information onto a disc was to construct a disc with two layers of information. A dual-layer disc stores an astounding 8.5 gigabytes of information, while a dual-layer, double sided DVD-Video disc can store as much information as roughly 12,000 floppy discs, which would create a pile 120 feet high. That's 17 gigabytes worth of information!

DVD-Video players can also play CDs. In order to make this possible, a dual-focus hologram lens is used to split the beam of the already super-fine laser so that it can read two different depth levels, one for DVD-Video and one for CD or Video CD. Some players even have two lenses.

DVD-Video has the same NTSC vs. PAL problem as videotape and laserdisc. The MPEG video on DVD is stored in digital format, but it's formatted for one of two mutually incompatible television systems.

Some players will only play NTSC discs, some players will only play PAL discs, and some will play both. All DVD players sold in PAL countries play both. These multi-standard players partially convert NTSC to a 60-Hz PAL (4.43 NTSC) signal.

DVD players also feature a system to protect motion picture studios that want to control the home release of movies in different countries. Therefore they have required that the DVD standard include codes that can be used to prevent playback of certain discs in certain geographical regions or zones. Each player is given a code for the region in which it's sold. The player will refuse to play discs that are not allowed in that zone. This means that discs bought in one country may not play on players bought in another country.

Regional codes are entirely optional for the maker of a disc. Discs without codes will play on any player in any country, but there aren't many of these out there. Some players (often called world zone players) will play all zones and other units can be modified to play all zones.

There is also a few forms of copy protection system incorporated on the discs, the most common is called macrovision. This system prevent a video recorder to lock on to the DVD picture rendering the copy unwatchable. If it was not for this system the piracy of movies would be enormous There are modifications for some units to turn macrovision off, so its often a good idea to do some research on the unit you are purchasing if you want a world zone unit or macrovision free unit.

One last note to remember is that you may not be able to watch a DVD via a video recorder

as most discs have a copy protection format (called macrovision) on the disc to stop us making a copy of the disc, this can cause problems when watching a movie via your VCR.

### **Brainteaser from previous issue's solution**

1. Midnight after 10 days, which is 240 hours later. They both show 4 o'clock, one clock has gained 240 minutes (4 hours) and the other has lost 480 minutes (8 hours)
2. Midnight after 30 days, which is 720 hours later. They both now show 12 o'clock.

### **New brain teaser**

At the university of Enigma two professors were engaged in a conversation:

*Philosophy professor:* "How old are your children?"

*Mathematics professor:* "John is twice as old as Jane was when he was as old as she is now and the sum of their ages is 63."

How old were the two children?

**YOU HAVE TO TRY THIS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Ok this is really freaky...but REALLY amazing!!! This is one of the strangest things I have ever encountered. Left brain, right brain. While sitting at your desk, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles. Now, while doing this, draw the number "6" in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction and there's nothing you can do about it.

(That's all folks. 73 ed.)