SHACKNEWS

HIGHVELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FEBRUARY 2008

COMMUNICATION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

Meeting The meeting held on Saturday 2nd February saw two members from the members from the AWA paying a visit. Thanks to Rad, ZS6RAD and Andy, ZS6ADY for their presentation on how to restore old (ancient) amateur radio equipment. The next meeting to be held on Saturday 1st March will be looking at the "Dipper". For those that have Internet access please visit the club web site. You never know what you will find there. Bulletin readers please check regularly to see if there are any changes made to the Sunday roster.

SSC Meeting A successful meeting was held at the home of Doug and Merle 9th of February. It was decided amongst all present, including the ladies, to hold the social get-togethers every second month. The next meeting will now be held at the home of Errol and Betty on Saturday 12th April.
There will be a gathering of HVB/SSC members at Rex's QTH on Saturday 8th to look at an field antenna setup.

---oooOOOooo---

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of this desperate criminal - Hop-A-Long Capacity.

This un rectified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber.

He was charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Milli Henry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules.

He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. If encountered, he may offer series resistance.

Capacity is also charged with driving dc motor over a Wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.

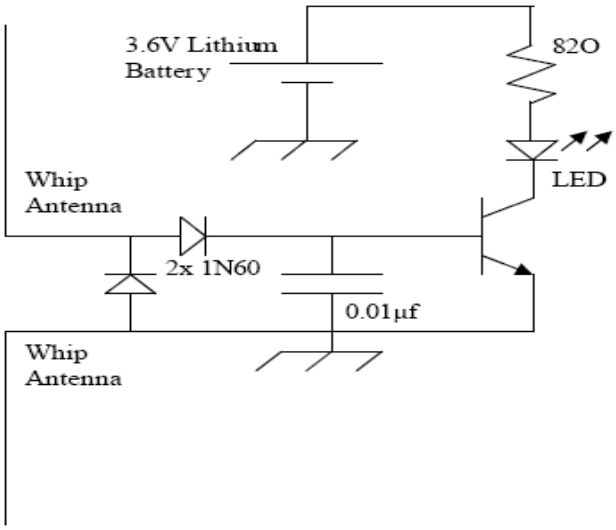
The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend eddy current who was playing a harmonic.

Author Unknown

RF Sniffer

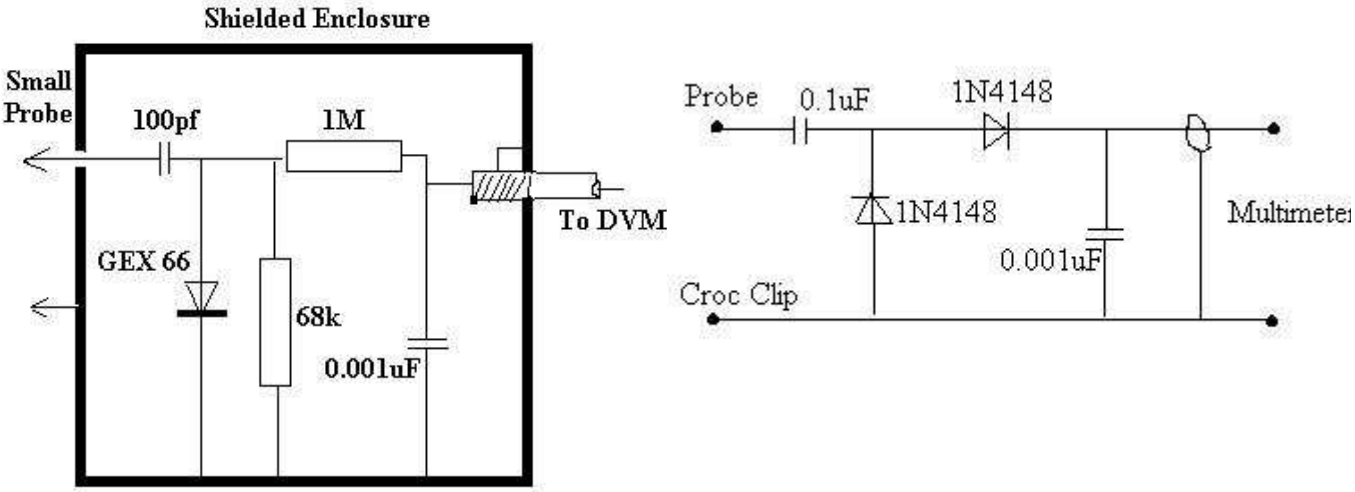
This simple RF detector works well from HF through to about 500 MHz.
Almost any RF energy detected by the 1N60 diodes will forward bias the junction of the 2N2222A transistor, which lights the super-bright LED which can be easily seen in daylight . No on/off switch is required, since no current is drawn from the battery unless the transistor is biased on.



---oooOOOooo---

This R.F. probe allows RF to be measured in the presence of d.c. The germanium diode should be tested for high reverse resistance, otherwise misleading results may be obtained. The 100pf capacitor should be capable of withstanding the highest dc voltage which is likely to be met. The 1M ohm and 0.001uF capacitor act as a low pass filter to prevent RF entering the Digital Voltmeter.

An alternative circuit is shown, again the probe should be in a screened enclosure and the connection to the DVM should be screened lead.



To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or students-here is something to make you chuckle.
Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was "DON'T!"
"Don't what?" Adam replied.
"Don't eat the forbidden fruit." God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve, we have forbidden fruit!"
"No Way!"
"Yes Way!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!", said God.
"Why?"
"Because I am your Father and I said so!", God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants. A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was ticked off!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?", God asked.
"Uh, huh," Adam replied.
"Then why did you?", said the Father
"I don't know," said Eve.
"She started it!", Adam said
"Did not!"
"Did too!"
"DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus, the pattern was set and it has never changed.

---oooOOOooo---

Ponder this ...

Does the statement, "We've always done it that way" ring any bells? The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US Railroads.
Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.
Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.
So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.
And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.
The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. And bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the

back ends of two war horses. Now the twist to the story ...
When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds. So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a Horse's ass.
And you thought being a Horse's ass wasn't important?

---oooOOOooo---

http://kb2ljj.serveftp.com/prompt.htm - Operating and service manuals

http://www.maeselectronics.be/index.htm?page=icom/reset.htm - Rig resets

http://www.brothersoft.com/ - Free software (Is there such a thing ?)

http://3d2f.com/ - Software archive. Some of it free

http://www.dvdexploder.com/how.htm - Make your DVD region free (?)

CLUB INFORMATION

Postal address PO Box 19937 Sunward Park 1470

Website http://www.gsl.net/zs6hvb/
http://www.gsl.net/zs6ssc/

e-mail zs6hvbinfo@zs6ro.co.za

Monthly meeting venue

Witwatersrand Rifles HQ
Cnr Barlow and Cavaleros Str
Industries West
Germiston

Bulletins Sunday morning - 145.7875 MHz & 7062 KHz @ 08h45.

Committee

Chairman	Doug Wetton	ZS6BXU	011-680-4906
Vice Chairman	Frank van Wensveen	ZS6TMV	082-294-2648
Secretary/Treasurer	Berridge Emmett	ZS6BFL	011-893-1291
Repeater/Packet/Technical	Ton van Dijk	ZS6ANA	011-432-5494
Shacknews Editor	Berridge Emmett	ZS6BFL	011-893-1291
Shacknews Printing	Harry Lautenbach	ZS6LT	011-888-5362
Webmaster	Yvonne van Dijk	ZR6TBL	011-432-5494

Repeater

145.1875 MHz input
145.7875 MHZ output
Linked on a Sunday morning during bulletin time to 70 cm - 438.850 MHz