

SHACKNEWS

HIGHVELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PO Box 1111, Bedfordview, 2008

September 2003

e-mail zs6bfl@telkomsa.net

COMMITTEE



Office		Call sign	Telephone number
Chairman :	Rex Pattison	ZS6REX	011-948-9533
Secretary / Treasurer:	Berridge Emmett	ZS6BFL	011-893-1291
Repeater/Packet Radio/Technical	Ton Van Dijk	ZS6ANA	011-683-2424
Shacknews Editor:	Berridge Emmett	ZS6BFL	011-893-1291
Shacknews-Print & Posting:	Harry Lautenbach	ZS6LT	011-888-5362
Website manager	Yvonne Van Dijk	ZR6TBL	082-623-3704
QSL Manger:	Reg Hartslief	ZS6ALH	011-902-1432

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

COMMUNICATION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

MEETING The last meeting, held on Saturday 6th September 2003, was the AGM. A reasonable turn out of members was present to vote in a new committee, which is mentioned above in the heading. Thanks to those past committee members who did a great job and all the best to the new committee. The president of the SARL, Graham Hartlett ZS6GJH, paid us a visit and after the proceedings gave an update as to what is happening at the League. Most enlightening tnx Graham.

SSC The SSC club also held their AGM on Saturday 13th September and the following office bearers were chosen (again). Chairman – Shaun ZR6SMR and Secretary/Treasurer – Berridge ZS6BFL. Being a small and social club a small committee is sufficient.

Forthcoming event. There will be a social get together at Rex's place on **SUNDAY** the 5th October 2003. It will take the form of a bring&braai and bootsale/flea market. Please bring your own chairs, umbrellas (sun will shine), drinks etc. Starting time 12:00.

A BIT OF HUMOUR

Farmer Charley lived on a quiet rural highway. But, as time went by, the traffic slowly built up at an alarming rate.

The traffic was so heavy and so fast that his chickens were being run over at a rate of three to six a day. So one day Farmer Charley called the sheriff's office and said, "You've got to do something about all of these people driving so fast and killing all of my chickens."

"What do you want me to do?" asked the sheriff.

"I don't care, just do something about those crazy drivers!"

So the next day he had the county workers go out and erected a sign that said:

SLOW: SCHOOL CROSSING

Three days later Farmer Charley called the sheriff and said, "You've got to do something about these drivers. The 'school crossing' sign seems to make them go even faster."

So, again, the sheriff sends out the county workers and they put up a new sign:

SLOW: CHILDREN AT PLAY

That really sped them up. So Farmer Charley called and called and called every day for three weeks.

Finally, he asked the sheriff, "Your signs are doing no good. Can I put up my own sign?"

The sheriff told him, "Sure thing, put up your own sign."

He was going to let the Farmer Charley do just about anything in order to get him to stop calling everyday to complain.

The sheriff got no more calls from Farmer Charley. Three weeks later, curiosity got the best of the sheriff and he decided to give Farmer Charlie a call.

"How's the problem with those drivers. Did you put up your sign?"

"Oh, I sure did. And not one chicken has been killed since then. I've got to go. I'm very busy." He hung up the phone.

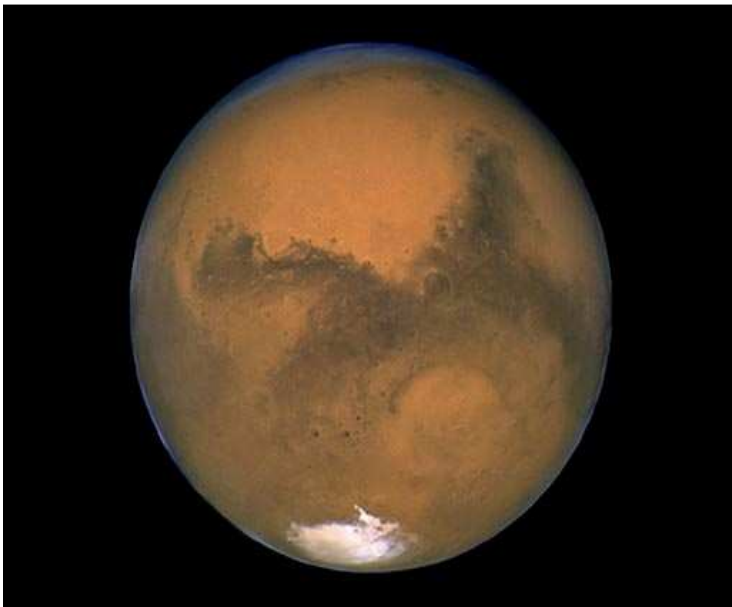
The sheriff was really curious now and he thought to himself, "I'd better go out there and take a look at that sign, it might be something that WE could use to slow down drivers..."

So the sheriff drove out to Farmer Charley's house, and his jaw dropped the moment he saw the sign. It was spray-painted on a piece of wood:

NUDIST COLONY

Go slow and watch out for the chicks!

Hubble Space Telescope took this close-up of the red planet Mars.



IMPORTANT NOTICE Submitted by Gene ZS6TA

A sign of the times – The following notice has been circulated to people in Primrose but is obviously valid wherever you live!

In my neighbourhood, cooldrink cans are left on the pavement to indicate the level of force involved in breaking in or stealing from you.

Cream soda cans are used as green and Coke as red. Flattened plastic milk bottle is used as white. These items are strategically left on you pavement to look like general public litter and are always placed so that a passer by won't kick it out of the way. Be alert. In Edenvale most burglaries occur between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. in the morning and 90% are through the roof.

Three different colours are used to indicate difficulty i.e.:

- Red - be prepared to use force or will encounter resistance.
- White - easy target.
- Green - somebody on the premises will provide assistance.

These indicators are placed on the pavement outside your property in different forms. In certain cases, red rope has been used or white stones. It could be a plastic bag tied to a branch of a shrub, a tree or grass. It could be grass knotted in a bundle. They have previously used pieces of metal or plastic, which could be stuck, into your ground.

Please check the outside of your property on a regular basis and remove any identifying marks you find.

Would-be criminals follow people home from shopping centres (particularly the ladies). Ladies are advised not to wear expensive jewellery or flash large sums of money around at shopping centres. We are advised that people have been followed home from shopping centres, have entered boomed areas and have been robbed at their premises within the closed off area.

Please be aware of what and who is around you, at home and at shopping centres and who may be following you.

Flip a Sun's pole for more dust Submitted by Ken ZS6BLI

Astronomers once thought they understood how the Sun worked. A large ball of gas, generating energy by nuclear fusion, it also created a magnetic field enclosing Earth and the other planets in a gigantic magnetic bubble. This bubble protected us from the dusty cosmic debris that shoots through space beyond the Solar System. Thanks to ESA's solar polewatcher Ulysses, that picture is changing...

11-year switch. Ulysses has revealed a complexity to the Sun's magnetic field that astronomers had never imagined. The Sun's magnetic field consists of a North Pole, where the field flows out of the Sun and a South Pole, where the field re-enters. Usually, these line up, more-or-less, with the rotation axis of the Sun. Every 11 years the Sun reaches a peak of activity that triggers the magnetic poles to exchange places. The reversal was thought to be a rapid process but, thanks to Ulysses, astronomers now know it is gradual and could take as much as seven years to complete.

During this slow-motion reversal, the line connecting the poles - known as the magnetic axis – comes close to the Sun's equator and is swept through space like the beam of a light house. Eventually it passes through this region and lines up with the opposite pole.

Imagine if this happened on Earth! Compasses would become useless, given that they rely on the fact that

Earth's magnetic axis is roughly coincident with its rotation axis, which passes through the North and South geographic Pole. Although it seems surprising, magnetic pole reversals have happened on Earth also. The last time was about 740 000 years ago. After studying magnetic rocks, scientists conclude that field reversals on Earth take place once every 5000 to 50 million years (but are impossible to predict). Reversals on the Sun, however, are almost as regular as clockwork - every 11 years, with its magnetic axis changing position for most of that time.

More shooting stars. Earth's magnetic field is more stable because it arises in the metal-dominated regions in the deep interior of the planet. The Sun's field, however, comes from a high-temperature, electrified gas called plasma so it is a much more volatile thing. Loops of the magnetic field can burst through the surface of the Sun and when they do, they create the dark patches known as sunspots.

Astronomers are still studying the precise reasons behind the Sun's 11-year magnetic flips. However, using Ulysses, they have now shown that, when the Sun's magnetic axis points near its equator, it allows much more cosmic dust to enter the Solar System than normal. What does that mean for us?

If there is more dust in the Solar System, more of it will fall on Earth also. Scientists estimate that in the coming years, about 40 000 tonnes of dust could fall on Earth every day. However, most of it will be so small that it will burn up in the atmosphere before reaching the ground. This will certainly increase the number of faint shooting stars during the next 11 years, but fortunately the Earth will not become a dustier place!

Another sign of the times?



Left the office for a couple of minutes and.....