

SHACKNEWS

HIGHVELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PO Box 1111, Bedfordview, 2008

November 2003

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COMMITTEE



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

COMMUNICATION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

MEETING The last official meeting, held on Saturday 1st November 2003, was to be a demonstration of Mixw software. I was unable to record any audio of CW, PSK31, SSTV etc. as the HF conditions at the beginning of the month were terrible due to the large solar flare. So I resorted to demonstrating what the various modes sound like when in transmit mode. Will try to get some sound files during better conditions and try the demo next year. (see top of page four)

SSC meeting was held on the following Saturday afternoon with a small turn out. OM Doug ZS6BXU told us all about the pacemaker that has been inserted in his chest and how it gets tuned/regulated/adjusted. What was most interesting was the first ever attendance register showing all who attended the **inaugural meeting of the SSC dated Thursday 14th August 1952.**

That was Fifty One plus years ago! See page two.

End of year social

It will be held at the QTH of OM Rex on **Sunday 7th December 2003**. This will take the form of a braai (meat of your choice). This do is for paid up members of HVB & SSC. The clubs will be supplying breadrolls as well as refreshments such as softdrinks and beer. It is requested that the ladies please bring a plate/bowl of their favourite salad. Also bring along the other goodies like chairs and eating utensils, umbrellas etc. Braaiing time 13:00. See you there

Reminder to those who are behind with their subs. Now is the time to pay up

Inaugural Meeting
 Thursday 14th August 1952.

Whinnon	Z56BJ	(X) Om. Chair.	32 1765
Dave Blaw Com	Z56ADZ	Om Sec.	26 1601
Diana Tuck	Z56GH		
Hath Williams	Z56AFI	—	
Lennis Lough	Z56YU		47 Short St
John Enner	Z56AEW	—	
Gordon Williams	Z56A.F.H.	(X)	
Harry Williams	Z56AHC	—	
W. Hogg	Z56RI		
Ronald B. Hood	Z56DZ		
J. Hogg	Z56RBY		
W. Rogers	Z56ZN		
J. G. Montcastro	Z56GMC	74 Seville St S. Inf.	
J. Hogg	Z56MI		
J. Stanfield	—	147 Sheffield St Kenilworth	
J. Davies	Z56V		
—			
Visitor			
Rene Tade	60F		
G. J. Stenerson	620		
J. Hogg	6KN		
R. E. Green	6J		

Anyone know /knew those above?

THE ENIGMA MACHINE

(Interest in the Enigma Machine has been revived recently with the screening on the cinema circuit and on TV of the film "Enigma" and other films dealing with the subject.)

The Enigma machine enciphered messages in the field. It was a battery-operated electro-mechanical device that used a typewriting-style keyboard to activate its circuits to encode a message. Two operators were required, one to input the message, and one to read the output and operate the separate radio equipment to send the message. When a key was pressed, a light would illuminate the letter that the machine had encoded as the output. A number of variations, or "improvements," were made to the Enigma machine over the course of time. In its most advanced form used by the U-boat command, there were 150 trillion possible starting positions to encode messages. The key to deciphering messages was knowing where to start. In about 1938, the British government began recruiting the best minds from its academic giants, Cambridge and Oxford, to accomplish the feat. The enterprise grew into a major component of wartime planning and strategy, with the intelligence services playing a dramatically more important role than ever before. Bletchley Park was selected and acquired as the home of that operation in 1939. It was affectionately known as "Britain's Best Kept Secret." It was located about 80 kilometres north-west of London in a remote location in the countryside which lent itself to secrecy and protection from bomber attack. Bletchley Park itself was an operating station site, housing Station X, for the intelligence services, but only for a short time. The station was closed because it was feared that its antennas might attract attention from surveillance aircraft, and radiolocation techniques might turn it into a target or a navigation aid for the enemy.

(tnx to the Sandton Amateur Radio Club newsletter Dipole November 2003)

A BIT OF HUMOUR

A local business was looking for office help. They put a sign in the window saying: "HELP WANTED. Must be able to type, must be good with a computer and must be bilingual. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer."

A short time afterwards, a golden retriever dog trotted up to the window saw the sign and went inside. He looked at the receptionist and wagged his tail, then walked over to the sign, looked at it and whined. Getting the idea, the receptionist got the office manager. The office manager looked at the dog and was surprised, to say the least. However, the dog looked determined, so he led him into the office. Inside, the dog jumped up on the chair and stared at the manager.

The manager said, "I can't hire you. The sign says you have to be able to type."

The dog jumped down, went to the typewriter and proceeded to type out a perfect letter. He took out the page and trotted over to the manager and gave it to him, then jumped back on the chair.

The manager was stunned, but then told the dog, "The sign says you have to be good with a computer."

The dog jumped down again and went to the computer. The dog proceeded to demonstrate his expertise with various programs and produced a sample spreadsheet and database and presented them to the manager. By this time the manager was totally dumbfounded! He looked at the dog and said, "I realize that you are a very intelligent dog and have some interesting abilities. However, I still can't give you the job."

The dog jumped down and went to a copy of the sign and put his paw on the part about being an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The manager said, "Yes, but the sign also says that you have to be bilingual."

The dog looked at him straight in the face and said, "Meow."

The biggest solar X-ray flare ever is classified as X28 6 November 2003

It has been announced that the massive solar X-ray flare, which occurred on 4 November, was, at best estimate, an X28. There is still a small chance this will be revised by a small amount, but it is now official: We have a new number 1 X-ray flare for the record books, the most powerful in recorded observational history.

On Tuesday, 4 November 2003, this flare saturated the X-ray detectors on several monitoring satellites. The associated coronal mass ejection (CME) came out of the Sun's surface at about 2300 kilometers per second (8.2 million km/h). Only part of the CME is directed towards Earth, so we expect the Earth will receive only a glancing blow, since the source region is pointing away from us on the right on the limb of the Sun as seen from Earth.

How we classify solar flares

Scientists classify solar flares according to their brightness in the x-ray wavelengths. There are three categories:

X-class flares are big; they are major events that can trigger radio blackouts around the whole world and long-lasting radiation storms in the upper atmosphere.

M-class flares are medium-sized; they generally cause brief radio blackouts that affect Earth's polar regions.

Minor radiation storms sometimes follow an M-class flare.

Compared to X- and M-class events, C-class flares are small with few noticeable consequences here on Earth.



"All the other women in the office are suing you for sexual harassment. Since you haven't sexually harassed me, I'm suing you for discrimination."

73
Berridge
ZS6BFL