

JUNE 1993



Never received any complaints last month but how many people read the small print. You are not missing a month because the new ascii month idea was to bring the newsletter in line with the month to hand. There are exceptions but you hardly ever publish a magazine at the end of the month, so, here we are with the June issue of your favourite journal (?). Reading literature from around, not only the Ham world, but in general there is a growing concern that people although wanting to belong are not too ready to be involved. There are exceptions of course otherwise we would be in a sorry state, no magazines, no bulletins, no repeaters, no BBS's. The list is endless but we do have these nice useful accessories to help us enjoy the hobby so let us not forget the people who are willing to get involved. We hear songs of praise to certain people, well deserved naturally, but there are others that are sometimes overlooked. One in particular is OM Gert ZS1ABM of ZSOSTB fame and fame it is because he has brought in the latest technology and state of the art to our packet networking, all at his own expense and time. At the same time we mustn't forget the forerunners of the network OM's Francois, taking a well deserved rest, Reg still up and running and Dereck although having a rough time at present his call is still there on the packet frequency. A very big 'thank you' to you all and especially to Gert for not only serving those already on packet but for those who are now getting more interested in the mode through his efforts. Through the coming months I shall endeavour to find other 'backroom boys' who are somehow taken for granted. If you know of any please get in touch. On the subject of letting me know (ie Communication) I have at last has some very welcome feedback and it does the soul good to know that some of you can actually communicate. We are not supposed to transmit music via Ham radio. But unless we let some of the music of our souls sing out, our hobby could dry up and blow away. How about contributing a few strokes to the backbone of Ham radio: live messages, friendly messages, messages with juice? Be yourself, not Superham, expressing what you think and feel. It's wild. It's where the juice is. It's more refreshing than Coke!
73 Ed

FOR BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

ZS1AGJ - ZS1AEY - ZS1EV - ZS1-044 - ZS1AEI - ZR1ACR
 ZS1APE - ZS1API - ZS1-256 - ZS1KB - ZS1RON - ZS1-213
 ZS1-246 - ZS1BS - ZS1-006 - ZS1DU - KB7HO - ZS1CDV
 ZR1B - Happy Birthday to all

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following recent new members -
 A Smith ZS6BXP - S McCullam ZS1259 - B Hammond V51BH
 C Gilliers ZR1AEL - D Erwin ZR1DQ - A Coetzee ZS1260
 Andre Coetzee in Kleinzee ZS1-260
 Owen Dixon-Paver in Panorama ZS ?
 We trust your membership will be a long and fruitful one.

Committee Telephone numbers

Chair. 644285 - Dudley 7944031 - Bernie 732011
 or write to - The Sec. SARL, PO Box 5100 Cape Town

NEW COMMITTEE

The False Bay Radio Electronic and Computer Club have a new committee as follows:-

- Chairman.....Buddy McCallum ZS1MP
 - Secretary.....Ron Marlow ZS1RON
 - Treasurer.....Bob Swier ZS1QJ
 - Technical Manager.....Graham Robertson ZR1HG
 - Computer Manager.....Jack Vine (no callsign)
 - Club Room Manager.....John Fold ZR1AEI
 - Projects Manager.....Bill (6m) Dewey ZS1EK
- We wish them a successful term of office.

BRANCH AGM

You are reminded that the next AGM of ZS1CT will be held in August. That's not too far distant and you must start looking for possible new members for the committee. It is on the cards that some will be standing down and will have to be replaced. If there is something that you are not happy about in the everyday matters of the club, the AGM is the place for it to be discussed and any changes made. To ensure a smooth meeting you must have your motions or ideas prepared in advance and for official changes to the Branch Constitution as we know it motions must be in writing and handed in at the July meeting (deadline July 26th)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's that time of the year again when all thoughts turn to money. (Mine are on a permanent track)

Subs are as follows:-

From 1st July '93 to 30th June '94

Ordinary Member	R94.00
HQ Member	R94.00
Spouse	R27.00
Student	R39.00
Pensioner	R47.00
Incapacitated Member	R47.00
Associate Member	R90.00
Corporate Member	R570.00

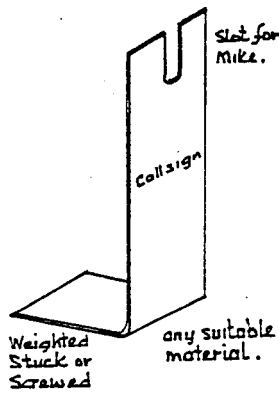
Entrance fee R25.00

(To make it easier to fork up, plan now, sell something or do some fundraising. Selling matches at a popular braai spot could be very profitable especially if the wood is WET.....Sell wet braai wood or wet matches)..... ED
 Subs paid after the 30th Sept. will be announced at a later date.

PREFIX CHANGES news from ZS1BSC

Croatia 9A	UB is now EM/EO/UR/UZ
Slovenia S5	UM is now EX
Bosnia YU4	UG is now EK
Old Yugoslavia, YU1, YU6, YU7, YU8	UL is now UN/UP
Czech Radio Club	UI is now UK/UM
OK Czech Rep.	UF is now 4L
OM Slovak Rep.	UO is now ER
Bangladesh S2	UU is now EY
	UD is now 4J
	UN is now UL
	UH is now EZ

We sometimes have a problem when someone accidentally sits on or somehow activates his PTT button thereby blocking the frequency that he was last using or listening to. It has happened on numerous occasions during rallies, or when fellows operate a lot of mobile. It sometimes happens from the fixed station as well. The problem stems from the fact that most rigs today use hand held microphones as opposed to the older style of a desk mike on a stand. The accompanying drawing shows how to organise a simple stand for your hand held microphone that makes it more convenient for shack operation and with a little imagination can be adapted for the car as well. At least it will lessen the chance of pressing the PTT accidentally and causing you some embarrassment.



COMING UP NEXT MONTH
 Our new regular monthly feature 'Constructors Corner' EMI Electromagnetic Interference. A problem most of us experience at one time or another. A professional balun made cheap by homebrewing. A two meter colinear antenna for home construction. And more. Stay tuned into RAGCHEW.

HOMEBREW CORNER by One Decibel

Ever since I started out in Ham Radio I have been a very active builder of modest projects but it has never been one of my objectives that the finished project should look commercially made. I am very content if it works to requirements and looks fairly neat. What did worry me however is the question of the treatment of the copper on the PCB's that I have made. I was always envious of the lovely tinned/silvered PCB's that are made up commercially, whereas mine always looked pretty disgusting after a few weeks. I was under the impression that treating copper is an expensive/complex operation. I discovered not long ago that this is not the case and one can purchase a fluid in which you immerse a nicely cleaned PCB and after a matter of seconds the copper acquires a lovely silver covering. This not only looks nice but the solder runs so much easier, and of course the problem of corroding copper is solved. The fluid is not expensive but is unfortunately not available in small quantities. It is highly poisonous. If any of our members would like their PCB's silvered they are welcome to contact me and I will certainly help if I can. 73 Dudley

RECENT SWOPS

A request add this column each month for the benefit of those who are not able to hear the weekly feature on two meters. Some of the items listed here may still be available, its worth a call. F=FREE W=wants H=has

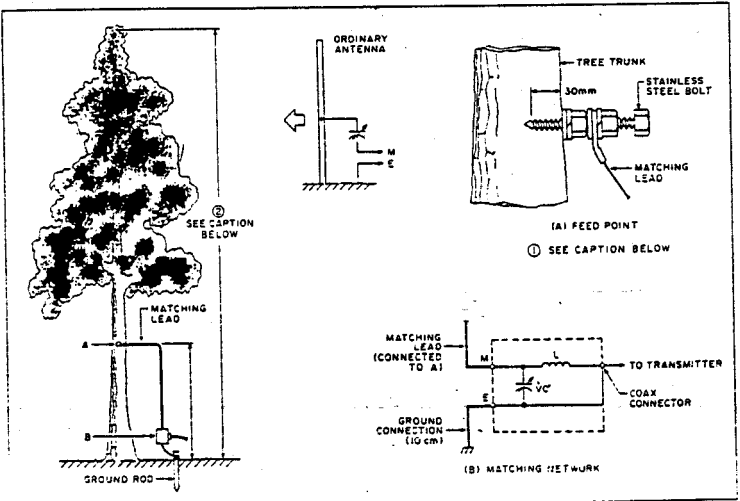
Swapping	L/L	W/R/F	Item for swop
ZS1BW	Bernie	732011 H	Commodore printer Riteman C+
ZR1DS	Doug	334564 F	Latest Virus S/W for IBM PC
ZS1SG	Dave	751880 H	TS120
ZS1CQ	Brian	4394019 H	Yaesu lin amp. H Trio TS510 + Ext VFO H HF Vert Ant
ZS1JMM	Jerry	9871503 H	AC106 6m Power radio + desk mike W HF Rig
ZS1QU	Mike	7944517 H	Complete packet stn H Bondwell Laptop computer
ZS1RAH	Rodger	733326 H	IBM Compat. XT-40meg HD+ 60k+2xS+1xP ports+MonoM
ZS1TRD	Andre	9511797 H	Kenwood H/H+SpkrMike+Chgr
ZS1AEC	Daanie	9484541 H	Trio C01303D Osc/Scope
ZS1FD	Henry	722077 H	Drake 2B RX H Kyoritso SWR Bridge H Balun & GPO Morse Key

Swops are also on packet BBS.

INVISIBLE ANTENNA FOR THE BIRDS???

Another novel way to keep your ham activity on a low key as far as the neighbours are concerned. Your neighbour can object to a mast of 30/40 feet but accepts that tall 60 foot tree nearby. OK, then you need not worry about the expense of a mast/tower or moving QTH. Simply use the tree. Sounds stupid but it actually works, some better than others but it sure is worth a try even as a fun project. It could pay off on your next field day. Find a suitable spot with a 80/100 foot sapling and away you go.

The drawing says it all.
 The tree used was 3.73 meters high. Feedpoint diameter at 'A' 12.5cm. Height above ground found by experiment. VC=70pf 500v variable & L=0.9mH. both encased in a watertight box. Have a go and we will give a prize to the one who produces the best results.



NEXT BRANCH MEETING

MONDAY MAY 24th 19h30 for 20h00 sharp
CHESS ROAD - RONDEBOSCH

This will be a social evening.

A talk on antennas by OM Vernon ZS1KS should be a very interesting one. Vernon has had a lot of experience not only in antennas but with many other aspects of the hobby. Being a professional man his experiments and workings were and still are down to the last 'nth'. Remember, non-members are welcome to attend our meetings as visitors as are members from Tak Boland.