



ZR6FD logo

Drukwerk
printing
ZS6JPL

Papier / Paper
ZS6JPL

WATTS

04 - 2009

Year 79 +4m

Monthly newsletter of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club
Maandelikse nuusbrieff van die Pretoria Amateur Radio Klub.



PARC, PO Box 73696 Lynnwood Ridge 0040, RSA



<http://www.parc.org.za> mail:zs6pta@zs6pta.org.za

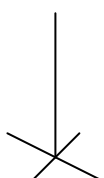
Bulletins :145,725MHz 08:45 Sundays / Sondag

Relays : 1840, 3700, 7066, 10135, 14235, 51400, 438825, 1297000kHz

Activated frequencies are announced prior to bulletins

Swapshop: Live on-air after bulletin 2m and 40m

Bulletin repeats | herhalings : Mondays 19:45 on 145,725 MHz



New venue for PARC fleamarket ?

See page 3 notes.



In this issue

- Minutes 11 Ma Notules
- Member's pages Lede-bladsye
- Member news / Activities Lede-nuus en Aktiwiteite
- Technical Getting onto the WUG Tegnies
- The plight of getting a license
- Page eight Bladsy agt

In hierdie uitgawe

Next Meeting 4 April 2009

Time: 13:30 for 14:00
PARC Clubhouse
South Campus
University of Pretoria
SE cnr University and
Lynnwood roads

PARC Management team / Bestuurspan Aug. 2008- Aug. 2009:

Committee members

Chairman, Rallies, Hamnet	Johan de Bruyn	ZS6JHB	chairman@zs6pta.org.za	012-803-7385	082-492-3689
Viice-Chairman	Alméro Dupisani	ZS6LDP	almero.dupisani@up.ac.za	012-567-3722	082-908-3359
SARL liason, fleamarket					
Treasurer, Secretary	Richard Peer	ZS6UK	treasurer@zs6pta.org.za	012-333-0612	082-651-6556
Repeaters, Technical	Craig Symington	ZS6RH	craigsym@global.co.za		083-259-3233
Public Relations	Graham Reid	ZR6GJR	greid@wol.co.za		083-701-0511
Social	Doréén de Bruyn	ZR6DDB		012-803-7385	082-857-9691

Co-opted / Geko-opteer:

Auditor	Elma Basson				
Newsletter/Kits	Hans Kappetijn	ZS6KR	editor@zs6pta.org.za	012-333-2612	072-204-3991
Asset control	Andre v Tonder	ZS6BRC	andreh.vtonder@absamail.co.za	361-3292	082-467-0287
Klubfasiliteite, vlooiemark	Willie Greyling	ZR6WGR	willie@up.ac.za		082-940-2490
Rallies	Johann de Beer	ZR6YV		011-918-1060	082-857-1561
Rallies, Hamnet, Projects	Roy Newton	ZS6XN	newtonr@telkomsa.net	012-547-0280	083-575-7332
Contests	Pierre Holtzhausen	ZS6PJH	zs6pjh@telkomsa.net	012-655-0726	082-575-5799
Webmaster	Nico v Tonder	ZS6AQ	nico@admin.co.za		082-326-9345
Hiistorian/Awards	Tjerk Lammers	ZS6P	zs6p@iafrica.com	012-809-0006	
Public relations	Thobile Koni	ZS6TKO	toko40@mweb.co.za		082-493-2483
Social	Molly Peer	ZR6MOL	molly@peer.co.za	012-333-0612	

Minutes of the monthly club meeting of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club held at the South Campus of the University of Pretoria on 11 March 2009

Welcome: The chairman welcomed all present.

Present: See register, 14 members and 6 visitors.

Apologies: 8 as per register

Personal: Mike ZS6AFG became silent key on 7 March. Funeral details are not yet known.

Molly ZR6MOL is in Weskoppies. Suzette van Wyk now has a new call – ZS6SZT.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting read by Johan ZS6JHB and were accepted. Proposed by Alméro ZS6LDP and seconded by Pete ZS6PJ.

Matters Arising: None.

Finances: The balance in the current account is now R2621.51 and R128 in cash.

Activities

Rallies: Johan ZS6JHB reported that the next rally is in Warmbaths and consists of 8 stages. The Sasol rally clashes with the SARL AGM on the weekend of 25 April and will consist of 18 stages in the Sabie/Nelspruit area.

Fox Hunts: The fox hunt will now be held on Sunday 29 March.

Flea Market: The PARC flea market was held on 7 March at the PMC premises. By all accounts it was very successful. Alméro ZS6LDP has provided some photos.

Social: A social bring and braai will take place after the April 4 meeting.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be Saturday April 4, 2009 at 14:00. This is a week earlier as the second April weekend is the Easter weekend.

Web site: Projects can be uploaded to the web site. HF propagation by Vince ZS6BTY is also available on the web site and updated weekly.

Contests: A new contest manager is required. The RSGB commonwealth contest is this weekend and the SARL VHF/UHF contest is following weekend.

General: The new members Sarel ZS6EK, Gawie ZS6GJJ, Whitey ZS6JJJ and Fritz ZS6ASF were welcomed.

Editorial

I must make a new appeal to members to make more use of our website. If you are new to it, please log in as **xyzyy** initially and then change your password to what you prefer. Remember your callsign must always be entered in **capitals**. Check and correct your personal details on the member's page. Add photos to the gallery, place tech articles, projects, activity and forum discussions on the relevant pages etc. Our website is open to all our members to use and contribute items. This privilege is not only restricted to the webmaster or moderators. The latter will however keep an eye and remove undesirable postings!

Redaksioneel

Ek moet hier 'n nuwe pleidooi aan lede maak om meer gebruik te maak van ons webwerf. As jy nuut is, log dan in met **xyzyy** en verander dan die wagwoord na wat jy verkies. Onthou om altyd jou roepsein met **hoofletters** in te tik. Gaan jou persoonlike besonderhede na en korrekteer dit op die lede-bladsy. Voeg fotos by op die galerye, tegniese- en projek artikels, aktiwiteite en forum besprekings op die betrokke bladsye ens. Ons webwerf is daar vir al ons lede om te gebruik en by te dra. Hierdie voorreg is nie net vir die webmeester of moderators nie. Laasgenoemdes sal egter wel ongewenste plasinge verwyder!

March 7 Fleamarket

Our recent fleamarket was held at the PMC grounds and attended fairly well. The venue is not yet familiar to many of our regulars and will have to be promoted more intensely. With the rugby season coming on and the run-up to many soccer events in the coming years at Loftus, and the closing of roads on Saturday events, it may be wise to stay with PMC. Some of our visitors complained of having to take a longer route but the PMC venue offers better parking, good facilities and a relaxed atmosphere.



Birthdays

Verjaarsdae

April



- 01 Melanie, daughter of Peggy and Ed ZS6UT
- 04 Joe ZS6AIC
- 07 Tamzyn, daughter of Gary ZR6GK
- 08 Ronell ZR6BRX, dogter van Susan en Freddie ZS6JC
- 08 Bertha, lv van Hans ZS6KR
- 08 Klasie, seun van Sylvia en Tjerk ZS6P
- 09 Tanya, daughter of Pat ZR6AVC and Frank ZS6GE
- 10 Joey, sw of Graham ZR6GJR
- 10 Callan, son of Phil and Craig ZS6RH
- 11 Susan, dogter van Susan en Freddie ZS6JC
- 12 Jan ZS2LJ
- 13 Liam ZR6RF, son of Heather and Vince ZS6BTY
- 16 Tobie, seun van Margriet en Tobie ZS6ZX

April

Anniversaries

Herdenkings

- 02 Pieter ZS6PVW en Magda ZS6MVW (26)
- 05 Chrissy ZS6JX and Dave ZS6JW (57)
- 06 Lynn and Andre ZR6BRC ()
- 08 Marilyn and Deryck ZS6KQ (48)
- 12 Rika and Errol ZR6VDR (40)
- 30 Joey and Graham ZR6GJR (26)

- 21 Wynand ZS6ARF
- 22 Marieta, sw van Roy ZS6MI
- 25 Erna, dogter van Susan en Freddie ZS6JC
- 28 Tracey, daughter of Rita and Vitor ZS6VG
- 29 Heather, sw of Vince ZS6BTY

Joys and Sorrows | Lief en Leed

† **Mike ZS6AFG SK.** Mike has departed us after a long illness prior- and following a serious operation. Mike was a long standing member of PARC with a gap of some years when residing away from Pretoria. He was an SARL member since licensed at age 17 in December 1948. All these years he was a Gentleman Ham and a constant tinkerer on various projects. To his wife Rae and family we extend our sincere condolences.

- **Ivan ZS6AUT** is still in a nursing home in Mountain View
- **Lizette van Wyk** het opgegradeer na ZS6SZT. Baie geluk.

New members | Nuwe lede

- ZS6ASF** Fritz Sutherland
- ZS6EK** Sarel Stapelberg
- ZS6GJJ** Gawie Basson
- ZS6JJJ** 'Whitey' Joubert

Web applications received | Web aansoeke ontvang:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ZR4LP Johan Visagie | ZS6WDL Jaques Swanepoel |
| ZR6IIF Pierre Massyn | ZR6JLL Jaco Lubbe |
| ZS6LME Louw Erasmus | ZR6RAF Liam Harrison |
| ZS6ALP George Tokarczyk | ZS6OS Johan v/d Schyff |

Rally Calendar

SA NATIONAL RALLY CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 23 May** SCC Ermelo
- 24 Oct** Toyota Gauteng

NATIONAL OFF-ROAD

- 3 Oct** TD400

Diary | Dagboek (UTC times)

- Apr** 02 1st leg of SARL 80m QSO Party
- 04 **PARC Saturday Meeting** – a week earlier
- 18 World Amateur Radio Day
- 24-26 SARL National Convention in Cape Town

Snippets | Brokkies

- **Hans ZS6KR** received the first issued SARL 5-band CW All Africa Award in April.
- **We require a new Contest Manager.** Due to many commitments Pierre ZS6PJH is unable to continue. Volunteers?
- **Almero ZS6LDP** also erected a landmark in Magalieskruin. The insert shows a protective box he made in which a balun for his dipole is housed.



Getting onto the WUG

By Roy ZS6MI

www.ptawug.co.za



Pretoria Wireless User Group

Just due to the nature of the activities of this group of people, being communications and of course the Radio side of things it is an ideal addition to our existing Amateur Hobby, all this takes place in the 5 – 5.8 GHz portion of the band.

Well to start off these are a bunch of very dedicated people that have put together a network of computers and routers across the biggest part of Pretoria as well as most of the country. I was on the keyboard to a guy in Cape Town just the other day.

It is most probably one of the most interesting ventures I have ever embarked upon. Just the thought of getting into networking and all that extremely complicated setting up gave me the shivers, my stomach went ballistic good thing there is stuff like Immodium, but fortunately these guys were one step ahead of me and supplied an easy getting started, manual if you like, article just for dummies like me.

If and when you want to get going, there are a few reasonably simple things to do, firstly you go onto the internet and connect to www.wug.za.net, you register on the WUG and activate your account and login. Next click on WugNet -> WugPlotter -> add your location, You can get your Lat and Long coordinates from a GPS or from Google Earth, You must give your Node a name, Asterix might just be a good one, the **Height input** is the height that the antenna will be from the ground, 8 or 10 is usually a good measure. After this has been done and you have entered all correctly and saved the info you can now download the .kml file from the WUG. You just click WugPlotter -> Download KML. You see it is a breeze nothing to it, simple all this stuff.

Now go and load Google earth and from the files menu load the .KML file and watch, it is simply magic as all the Fellows, Nodes, are imposed on the map. Zoom in and locate your node. Then have a look around and see which, HS, or High Sites are near you and note them, you will need them for doing Line of Sight calculations just now.

Going back to the WUG again click WugPlotter -> Line of Sight Calculator using the arrow in the box go and select you site on the top box and then select the HS in the bottom box, do the calculations and have a look at the pictures displayed.

Let's assume there is a beautiful path straight to a HS for you, all that is left is to get some equipment to put up and start having fun.

The main mode of communicating is via IRC, Internet Relay Chat, to do that go and install mIRC or X-ychat, you can even download that from the WUG, You then connect to irc.ptawug.co.za #ptawug. There on the irc you will be given the information needed to get the hold of the equipment and how to set up your very own node, If you happen to give a call during the day, remember there are a lot of these people at work so just wait some one will answer you.

If I can be of any assistance at all please feel free to call me on 012-993-2381. I have been down the road already and can help you with some of the things you may want to know, better still give me a call and we can set up a time so that I can show you a working node.

Long Term HF Propagation Prediction for April 2009

courtesy ZS6BTY

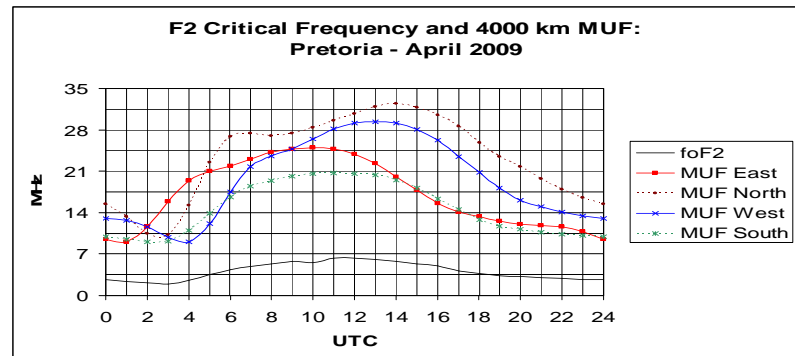
(see also our website prop tab)

DX Operating

The graph shows the 4000 km maximum useable frequency (MUF) to the East, North, West and South from Pretoria for the first hop using the F2 layer.

Local Operating

The F2 critical frequency (foF2) is the maximum frequency that will reflect when you transmit straight up. E-layer reflection is not shown.



QRV Tech cc offers the following services:

- General equipment repairs and calibration
- Small-scale design and manufacturing
- Technical writing
- 3rd Party scrutiny of projects and documents
- Expert TV repairs and second-hand TV sales
- MFJ 259/69 Analyzer repairs and calibration

and products:

- Morse Reader PCB, PIC and LCD kit
- Legal limit 40m dipole traps
- Radio power supply OV protection kits
- Nissei SWR/Power meters HF and VHF/UHF
- Connectors RF and DC
- Plug-in triple sequential industrial timer

Contact Hans at 012-333-2612 or 072-204-3991



Amateur Electronic Supplies

Your Affordable Amateur Radio Dealer

Johan Lehmann ZS6JPL

083 3008677 / 012 8413648

aesham@telkomsa.net



CABLE & INTERCONNECT SOLUTIONS FOR TELECOMS, BROADCAST AND MIL/AERO MARKETS



The race with obstacles (licensing woes at their best)

(Francisc Grunberg YO4PX)

You've read *Dictators and Amateur Radio* in our last newsletter. Now read of his personal road to Amateur Radio...

This text was published in the Romanian magazine Radiocommunications and Amateur Radio and on the independent website

www.radioamator.ro A translation was found on:

<http://www.ultradx.com/Community/Articles/tabid/82/ctl/ArticleView/mid/422/articleId/34/THE-RACE-WITH-OBSTACLES.aspx>

I was 16 when a class mate, a violoncellist inoculated me with the bug of amateur radio by giving me a few issues of the *The Radio Amateur* magazine and revealing me the «secret» that on the short wave bands, amidst the broadcasting stations one can hear radio amateurs ragchewing freely, something fast unconceivable to the spectators of the propaganda films of those years, in which the only ones operating radio stations were either brave Soviet soldiers, or spies, disgusting traitors in the service of the Western intelligence agencies, who ended always by being caught, thanks to the patriotism of a pioneer or a Comsomolist (member of the Soviet Young Communists' organization), who discovered their activity and informed the authorities.

I found quickly in our rudimentary radio set the 40 and 20 meters bands and, amazed, I started to listen the QSO's of the local amateurs and of the foreign stations in AM, among them many Italian stations, with their extremely strong signals. Then, with the help of an old scout guide I learned by myself to copy the CW contacts too; obviously the signals didn't have a musical sound, they were only «buzzing», and I remember the thrill felt when I heard in a very early morning the trembling signal of a W6 station sending QTH CA and then a Chilean station from Antofagasta. I even manufactured log sheets, keeping record of my receptions and I started to dream that one day I will send QSL cards bearing my SWL call-sign!

In the winter of 1959 I entered my name for the telegraphy courses organized by the A.V.S.A.P., the «Voluntary Association for the Defence of the Homeland», held in the main room of the radio club and I graduated them in the summer of 1960. I became also the happy owner of a fabulous booklet with gray covers, the *Radio Amateur Traffic*, from which I learned a lot of new things. It comprised the list of the DXCC countries, their prefixes, their CQ zones. After a few months I knew most of them by heart, many of the prefixes appeared already in my «logs», so that when a member of the examinations commission for the amateur radio certificates asked me about some European prefixes I had no trouble at all to give him the right answers. In November 1960 I became the proud bearer of the Amateur Radio Short Wave Listener Certificate No.184 and I filed together with my telegraphy courses colleagues the application for the SWL License. Everything seemed to be all right, nothing foreboded the enter of comrade Alexandru in the scene and in my life, to overshadow the enjoyments of my young years.

I haven't seen him very often before, in the afternoons when the telegraphy courses were held I could admire only the skill of a few amateurs constructing in the room on the right side an enormous station, while in the room of the left side the legendary Mir, YO2CD was busy with his exotic CW QSOs. It was said that the new radio club chief is coming from the Army and that he has no idea about amateur radio whatsoever. Well, this haven't prevented him to reject my license application, while the other applicants - among them Hungarians and Germans besides Romanians, but none of them Jewish - received their licenses and went off hastily to the workshop to order the stamps with their brand new SWL call signs. Alexandru was supported in his categorical verbal refusal - like in all other his actions - by a well-known ham from Timișoara, today an old-timer, who was shaking his head and shrugging enigmatically his shoulders alike the «boss», as an answer to my desperate questions. This was the beginning of a tormenting time, marked by permanently renewed and afterwards unfulfilled expectations. Alexandru hoodwinked me, appointing time and again new dates when I had to present myself to the club, and I remember the winding staircase mounted by me with pang and hope and descended soon full of sorrow, having in mind a new date when - who knows, maybe, possibly, nevertheless - a misterious and unseen guardian of the Law, arised out of the writings of Kafka, will finally take pity and will agree with the supplication of the poor unlicensed short wave listener, who desired so much to be within the Law.....

I have kept record of these visits to the radio club. They were as much as 35. At the thirty-fifth visit Alexandru, probably bored of the monotony of this repeated scenario, opened with soldierly courage a new battlefield: one has to be member of the UTC (the Union of the Communist Youth) to become a licensed short wave listener. The homeland has confidence only in UTC members. I objected: among my course colleagues who obtained the license I know a few who are not UTC members, some of them didn't even reached the necessary age to become UTC members. Alexandru sank for a while into his thoughts, but at last he found the saviour solution. A letter of reference from the school, that's it, I need to obtain a letter of reference from the school, but for this we'll go together, comrade Alexandru and me, to request the letter of reference from the headmaster. As a disciplined military man, he was waiting for me at the entrance of the high school on the appointed day and time, wearing his greenish uniform; in front of the headmaster's office he told me to stand by and he stepped in alone.

The headmaster was very fond of me, I was always included in his «troupe» of student-artists, able to perform a complete musical programme, sent by him to take part in all the artistic festivals held in the county, and with my xylophone, accompanied by a colleague at accordion, I scored fulminant successes. I'll never find out what exactly they discussed inside the cabinet, the fact is that after a time Alexandru came out and showed in direction of the door: the headmaster is waiting for me. This entire suspicious theatre seemed to be of very ill omen. With burning face and stammering of emotion I presented to the headmaster my grievance to be issued with a letter of reference. As long I live I'll never forget the profound embarrassment of the poor man, constrained to deny my request, without being able to offer me any explanation at all. I left astounded the cabinet. Alexandru disappeared.

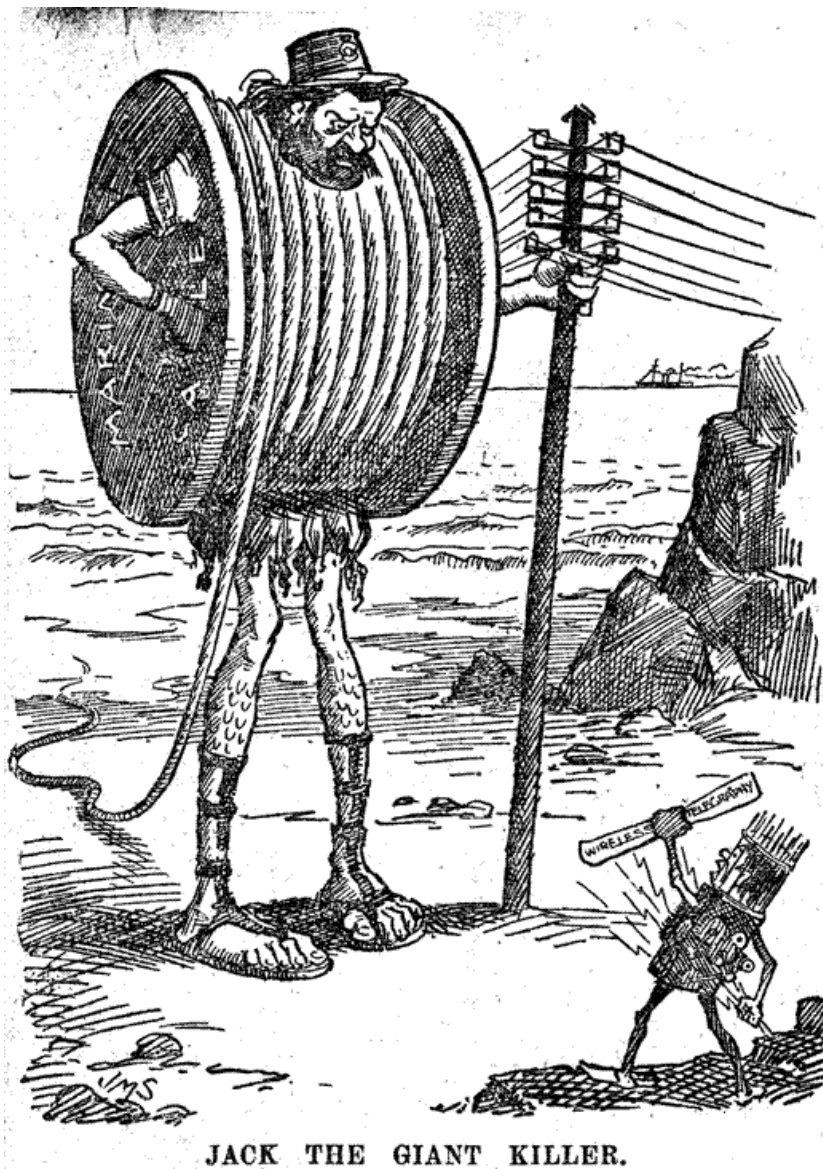
And with this all my hopes collapsed. I decided to give up irrevocably to this hobby, which for me seemed to be forbidden. But before that I've done however something: for the first time in my life I exercised my right of petition, granted by the Constitution, in my capacity of young citizen of the Romanian People's Republic. I wrote a long letter to YO3**. I heard him Sundays transmitting on 40 meters band the official QTC's of the Romanian Amateur Radio Federation, and I thought that somebody must nevertheless learn about the mockery I've been inflicted, it must remain somewhere a trace of it. I counted him day by day the 35+1 summons to the club and I asked for his help, simply unable to understand why I have been refused to get something obtained by others without any difficulty. I sent one copy of the letter to the Central Radio Club, another one to his personal address, I found both addresses in the telephone directory. A few months I still watched the arrival of the postman. In vain. The Romanian citizens' right of petition was laid down all right by the Constitution, but not so the obligation of the institutions or the officials to give them an answer. Probably that's why the addressee did not condescend to reply to my S.O.S.....

After a year or so I came across on the street with a course colleague. He received already his transmitting license, he told me that he worked ZS4 on 40 meters. And he gave me another information: comrade Alexandru was called back to active service, the new chief of the radio club is Costi Dumitrescu, YO2BI. Go to the club, he's a good guy, maybe he'll give you a hand, added the colleague before we gone apart. I ascended with trembling feet the well-known wooden stairs. And indeed: in the room tapestried in blue by comrade Alexandru, near the station sate a nice looking young man. I narrated him in short what I have been through and I showed him my SWL certificate. He smiled sadly, sympathetically, then he rose to his feet, extracted from a locker a form, he filled it in with my name and with the «receptionable bands» in my poor radio set: 7 and 14 MHz. Then he consulted a register and he filled in also the «call sign» column: YO2-1117. Go to the Central Post Office and ask them to stamp it, he said. Then he turned to another ham present in the room: Unbelievable, isn't it?

After a month I was there again, this time with about 300 QSL cards, my very first receptions as a licensed SWL. I brought with me the log copy as well - probably the younger colleagues doesn't know that in those years one had

to present carbon copies, even for receptions, in order to be verified by the «authorities». Costi run over the pages and he said: Well-well, how nice would be if the transmitters could keep their logs as orderly as this one!

With this a chapter came to an end for me, but not so the ordeal of my race with obstacles. I reached its finish only in 1980, after 17 years of form-fillings, applications, petitions, remonstrances, memorials ... and receptions. I obtained my transmitting license at the age when other hams accumulated some 20 years of activity. This is the way I've acquainted comrade Alexandru. I hope with my whole heart that on the way of their evolution our younger colleagues won't come upon such characters, who were able to do much harm to the Romanian amateurs, in those years plagued by arbitrariness and totalitarianism.



Cartoon, Western Mail, December 1902

These are actual air traffic control exchanges from various sources:

Tower: "Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, 6 miles."
Delta 351: "Give us another hint! We have digital watches!"

=====
"TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 degrees."
"Center, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?"
"Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"

=====
O'Hare Approach Control to a 747: "United 329 heavy, your traffic is a Fokker, one o'clock, three miles, Eastbound."
United 239: "Approach, I've always wanted to say this...I've got the little Fokker in sight."

=====
One day the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the active runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee. Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said, "What a cute little plane. Did you make it all by yourself?" The Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger: "I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like yours and I'll have enough parts for another one."

WAT SE SOORT SALARIS KRY JY?

Die uieskilsalaris: As jy daaraan vat begin jy huil.

Die Vrystaat salaris: Gee jou eenkeer elke 26 jaar rede om te glimlag.

Die Dieëtsalaris: Laat jou elke keer minder eet.

Die Bloubulsalaris: Jy was so seker dat dit goed sou wees maar toe stel hy teleur.

Die Ateïs-salaris: Jy begin ernstig twyfel oor sy bestaan.

Die Tsoenami-salaris:

Die Kulkuns-salaris: Kul jou hier en kul jou daar en siedaar, hy's weg.

'n Hengse hoë salaris

Die Donderstormsalaris: Jy weet nie wanneer dit gaan kom nie en hoe lank dit gaan hou nie.

maar jy versuip in die

Die Galgehumorsalaris: Jy lag histories om te verhoed dat jy huil.

bolle wat jy moet

Die Konserwatiewe salaris: Ontneem jou van enige inspirasie.

verduur om dit te kry.

Die Impotente salaris: Laat jou in die steek wanneer jy dit die nodigste het.