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WATTS

01 - 2006

Year 76+1m

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.qsl.net/zs6pta>

Bulletins : 145,725MHz 08:45 Sundays / Sondag
Relays : 1840, 3700, 7066, 10135, 14,200 MHz
depending on season

Swapshop: After bulletin 2m and 40m (also on-line)

Fleamarket 12-2005
More pictures on p3



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- Bladsy agt

Next Meeting

11-01-2006

Time: 19:30 for 20:00
PARC Clubhouse,
South Campus,
University of Pretoria.
SE cnr University and
Lynnwood roads.

PARC Management team / Bestuurspan Aug 2005- Aug 2006:

Committee members					
Chairman, SARL liason, Fleamarkets	Alméro Dupisani	ZS6LDP	almero.dupisani@up.ac.za	012-567-3722	082-908-3359
Vice Chairman, Secretary Rallies, Social, Hamnet	Johan de Bruyn	ZS6JHB	johandbr@absa.co.za	012-803-7385	082-492-3689
Treasurer, Clubhouse, Database, DF hunts	Richard Peer	ZS6UK	peerrk@safrica.com	012-333-0612	082-651-6556
Newsletter Kits	Hans Kappetijn	ZS6KR	hans@qrv.co.za	012-333-2612	072-204-3991
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	Hans Gurtel	ZR6HVG	adele123@absamail.co.za	082-940-0623	082-940-0623
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Auditor	Egbert Begeman	ZS6AZG	egbert@worldonline.co.za	012-347-1905	082-490-1963
Asset control	Andre v Tonder	ZS6BRC	andre.vtonder@absamail.co.za	361-3292	082-467-0287
Tydrenne	Johann de Beer	ZR6YV		011-918-1060	082-857-1561
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RAE	Brian Scott	ZR6BJS	scottbri@gmail.com	084-312-7407	
Hamnet, projects	Roy Newton	ZS6XN	newtonr@telkomsa.net	012-547-0280	
Morse testing	Bill Ingleson	ZS6KO		012-331-2327	
Tea	Molly Peer	ZR6MOL	molly@peer.co.za	012-333-0612	
	Doreen de Bruyn	ZR6DDB		012-803-7385	

Editorial

Without further ado I wish to congratulate and thank all involved in making our December Fleamarket and December meeting a success. The various pictures included in this issue prove that all had a great time.

We must now look to the future of ourselves and our role in the hobby. I suggest that members seriously consider saving for- or buying a modern technology radio if you still have a steam model. So much can be enjoyed and experienced with digital technology. Do it while the Rand is still strong – then it will only hurt the first month!

Redaksioneel

Sonder om enige drukte te maak wil ek almal bedank wat betrokke was om ons Desember-vlooiemark en Desember vergadering 'n groot sukses te maak. Die fotos in hierdie uitgawe bewys dat almal dit uiters geniet het.

Ons moet nou vorentoe kyk mbt tot onself en ons plek in die stokperdjie. Ek stel voor dat lede nou ernstig oorweeg om te spaar vir- of om 'n moderne tegnologie radio te koop as julle nog 'n stoom-model bedryf. So baie kan geniet en ondervind word met digitale tegnologie. Doen dit terwyl die Rand sterk is – dan maak net die eerste maand seer!

Minutes of the monthly club meeting of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club held at the South Campus of the University of Pretoria on 7 Dec. 2005

Welcome: Almero ZS6LDP declared the meeting open and welcomed all who attended. He extended a special word of welcome to all visitors .

Attendance: The meeting was attended by 30 members and 8 visitors. Apologies were received from Lizette ZS6LZT, Allan de Souza ZR6AHL, Anne de Souza ZR6AUL, Martin ZS6BQP, Sander Wissing ZS6SSW and Hal ZS6WB.

Personal Matters/Lief en leed: None.

Matters arising from previous minutes: None.

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by Willie ZR6WGR and seconded by Egbert ZS6AZG.

Club Activities/Klub Bedrywigthede.

Rallies/Tydrenne: Johan ZS6JHB – Volgende Tydren - 21/01/06 - All Tar Rally.Tydren sal begin in Johannesburg – Wesbank Raceway – Kyalami Gerotek – Zwartkops Raceway.

Foxhunts/Jakkalsjag: Richard ZS6UK – Foxhunts will commence from January 2006 .

Social/Sosiaal : Johan ZS6JHB – Next social will be in Feb/March 2006. Date will be announced.

Financial: Richard ZS6UK – Informed the meeting on the financial status of the club – all is well .

Projects: Hans ZS6KR – Lightning protection kits are still available .

Technical/Tegnies: Pine ZS6OB – Thanked Pieter ZR6AHT and Johan ZS6JPL for worked done on the repeater .

Tegniese praatjie wat op Maandae aande geskied sal vir eers oorstaan tot tweede week in Januarie 2006.

Fleamarket/Vlooiemark: Almero ZS6LDP – Fleamarket was well attended – Almero thanked everybody who visited the fleamarket. Baie dankie aan Pieter, Magda en Lizette vir die maak van die worsbroodjies en hamburgers, Richard en Molly vir die verkoop van die koeldranke en Willie ZR6WGR vir die opstel van die klank sisteem .

Ham Diary / Dagboek.

December. Jan. 1- New Years Day

10 – 11 – ARRL 10 Meter Contest . 2- Public holiday

15 – NARC closes.

16 – Day of Reconciliation.

25 – Christmas Day .

26 – Day of Goodwill

Awards : Desert Islands Trophy – Bill Ingleson ZS6KO.

Roy Alexander VHF/UHF Constructors Trophy – Pieter van Wyk ZS6PVW (2 m J pole antenna)

Eric Brook Memorial Constructors Trophy – Alf Joubert ZS6ABA (10 watt 80 meter AM Transmitter)

Richard ZS6UK then handed a small gift to the following ladies to say Thank You for their contribution during the past year at social gatherings and fleamarkets : Mary Ingleson , Serina Greyling , Vlasta Jancuska , Marilize Holtzhausen , Doreen de Bruyn , Molly Peer and Magda van Wyk.

The meeting then closed and members congregated for drinks and snacks and a pleasant get-together.

Next Meeting/Volgende vergadering – Wednesday 11 Jan 2006 – 19.30 for 20.00 .

Birthdays

Januarie

Verjaarsdae



02 Alf ZS6ABA
03 Stan ZS6SDZ
04 Mike ZS6AFG
05 Pierre ZS6PJH
06 Carmyn, daughter of Gary ZR6GK
08 Robert ZS6ARC
08 Darren ZR6TY, son of Joe ZS6TB
11 Braam ZR6EM
12 Ivan ZS6AUT
14 Gert ZS6ZB

January

Anniversaries Herdenkings

05 Louise en Alméro ZS6LDP (15)
07 Doreen ZR6DDB en Johan ZS6JHB (28)
20 Helga en Hans-Peter ZR6AJS (45)

18 Mary, sw of Bill ZS6KO
20 Errol ZR6VDR
24 Miemie, lv van Hennie ZR6HEN
31 Elize, lv van Pieter ZR6AHT

Sick Parade | Krukkelys

Bertha, lv van Hans ZS6KR was weer terug in die hospitaal met ernstige voet-infeksie en operasie.

New Member

Welcome to Sig ZS6SIG

PARC Diary | Dagboek

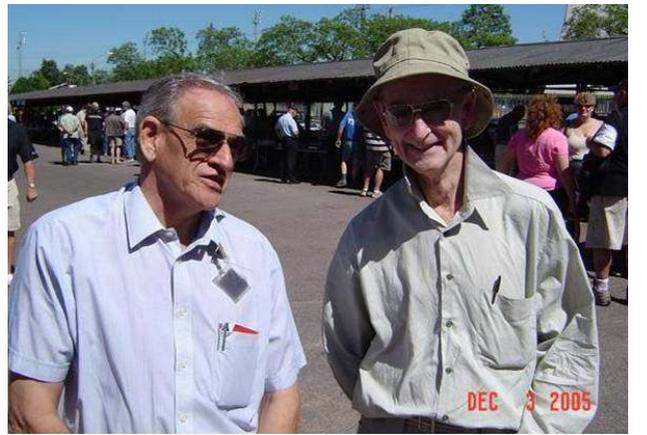
Jan 09 SARL office opens
11 PARC HF Awards applications to be handed in
14-15 Hunting Lions on the Air
Pears VHF-UHF Contest
end SARL Tinus Lange Awards call for submissions

Feb 01 PARC Club meeting
11-12 SARL HF Field Day – 1st leg

Snippets | Brokkies

- PARC captured an over-all second place as ZS6PTA/p in the multi-operator category of the SARL HF Field Day Contest. First was the East-Rand radio Club ZS6ERB/4 and third was the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre ZS1CT.
- Rallies: Our Club's first engagements for the year are the 21 Jan All Tar and the 14 Feb Belfast rally.
- Missed out on some WATTS issues? Want all issues? Visit ZS6KR and bring your memory stick or CD. Electronic WATTS dates back to June 2003.

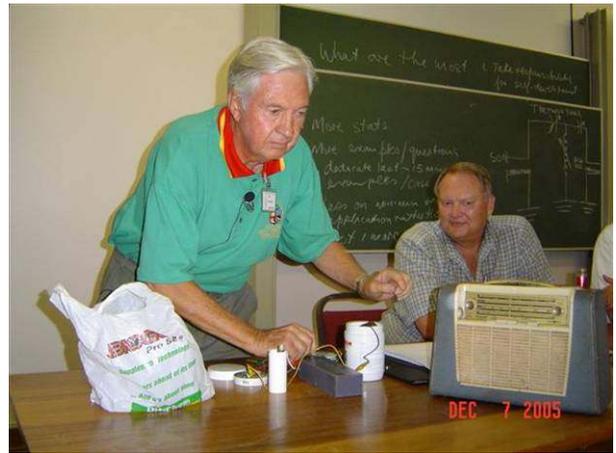
Vlooiemark flitse



December Meeting, Desert Island Trophy and Constructor Contest



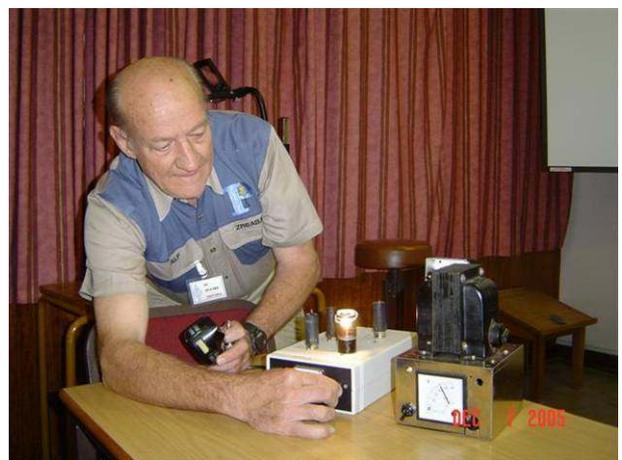
Good attendance duly noted by the Secretary



OM Bill ZS6KO demonstrating his desert island QRP TX



Ed ZS6UT (right) showing his T-match motorized ATU



Alf ZS6ABA demonstrating his 80m valve TX and PSU



Piet ZS6PVW wys sy verskeie J-poles



Pierre ZS6PJH en sy enkel dipool vir 2m/70cm

Bill ZS6KO and his QRP TX received the Desert Island Trophy for QRP TX.

Alf ZS6ABA received the Eric Brooke Memorial Constructor's Trophy for his 80m AM TX.

Pieter ZS6PVW kry die Roy Alexander VHF Constructors Trophy vir sy antennas.

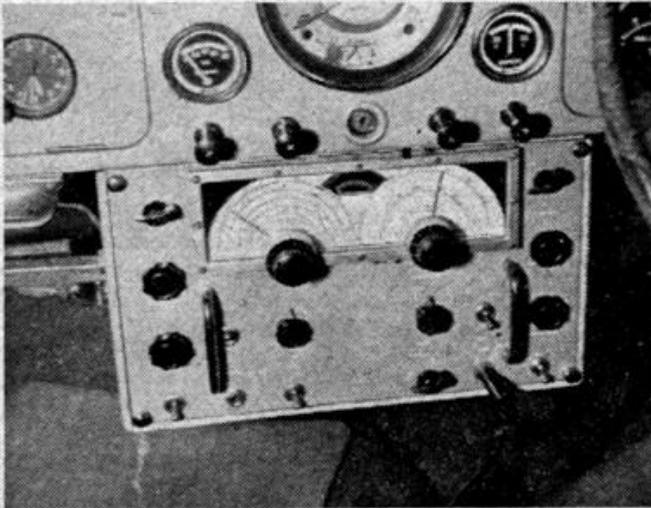
ZS 6 PTA

1930-2006

May 1950

HAMMING ON THE MOVE By

There are many different aspects to this hobby of ours, and I think that mobile operation is certainly one of the most fascinating. Apart from the technical side of things it also allows the whole family to get out in the open and perhaps makes one a little more popular with the XYL. Apart from hamfest-picnics, field days, etc., the Pretoria mobile group are frequently called upon to provide communications for motor races and rallies and have usually turned out quite a good job. They have even had a ham motor rally on their own!



ZS6AFG's Mobile Rig.

PRETORIA

The airmodellers held a meeting at which the following members assisted: OM Jack, 6AK, on 6 metres mobile went chasing errant miniature planes all over the country and making a good job of it too, whilst OM Davis, 6EK, on 40 metres at the starting point kept in touch with 6P and 6PA, on 6 and 40 metres. These OM's kept 6AK informed on 6 metres. Nice work, OM's.

Volunteers are wanted for the 31st May for another 84-mile cycle race relay and for the first Sunday in June for a plane-spotting race, so here is your chance to get the necessary experience for portable and mobile work. The Branch transmitters will be ready by this time, so there should be quite a few transmitters, together with the assistance of the other willing OM's with past experience who always help at these functions, OM Van, 6OV, was the successful winner of the C.Q.D.X. 10 metre phone competition for this zone, and also Pretoria. Keep up the good work, Van.

OM's we need advertisers for our Radio Magazine ZS. So have a chat with your employers, those that can assist in this matter will be assisting our magazine.

We are sorry to hear that OM Gell from Rustenburg, a polio victim, has surrendered his licence to the PMG, his disability being too great. The transmitter for this OM has been returned to the Branch and OM Aubrey, 6H, who did most of the work and also supplied most of the parts, has donated the transmitter to the Branch. Thanks, Aubrey, good use will be made of these parts.

OM Stofberg, ZS6ABA, and Deasy, ZS6ACI, are welcomed to this Branch, as also new arrivals from Division 4, namely, OM Luther Uys, ex ZS4E now ZS6E, and his S.W. Welkom Luther, ek hoop ons sal bele van jou hoor, en binnekort sal ons lede vir 'n nuwe komitee nodig he.

League Blazars can now be obtained in Pretoria, contact your Secretary OM Smittie, ZS6ZB (Yes, we have a new secretary, thanks, Smittie) for particulars and vouchers of permission for the firm to sell to you. League Badge and colours are now registered.

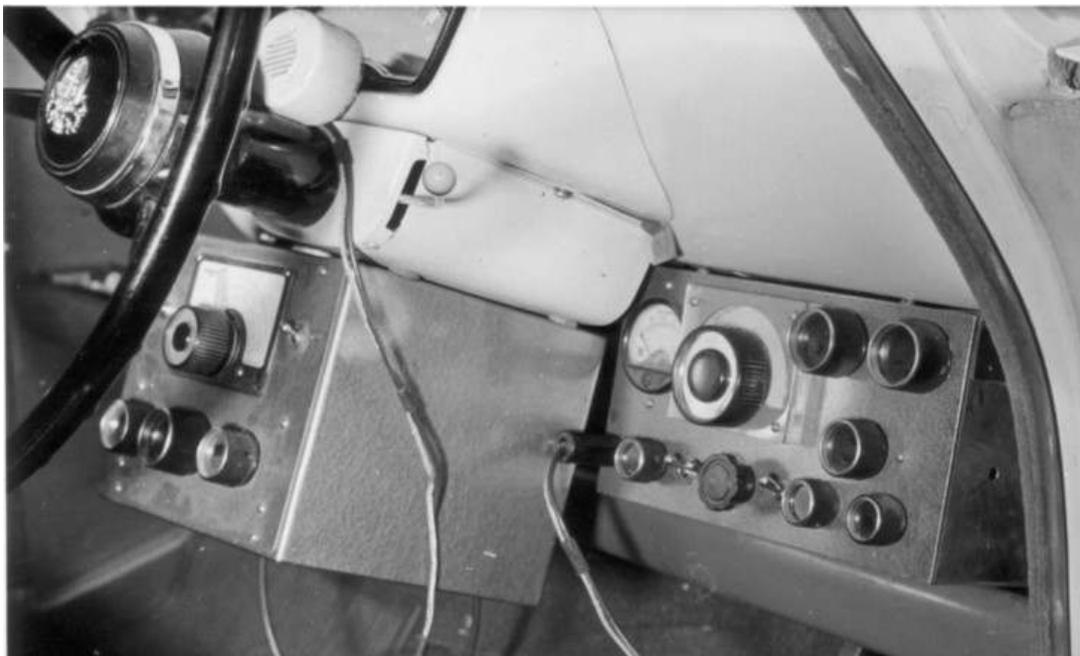
Two-metres is making progress. These OM's can be heard nightly on 145 megs, approximately at 20 hours. Beams are making their appearance on this band as well. Four- and six-element beams can be seen round some of these shacks with 2-metre transmitters.

Some 6-metre transmitters can also be heard and there are more being built. There is also talk of transmitters on 420 megs. So get cracking OM's, there is plenty of room on these frequencies. So instead of musical frequencies on 80 and cluttering up 40 with useless ragchews, get busy and do some good work on the higher frequencies.

Our delegate to the AGM OM Leon, 6GF, did a good job at Conference, and I am sure we are all grateful to him for his excellent work and the good co-operation of all the other members at Conference.

Nice work, OM's, we are all pleased to see that you worked together for the benefit of all members.

6ET.



HF mobile installation of Tubby Gilson ZS6AJ0 sk.

Activities and contributions

Long Term HF Propagation Prediction for January 2006

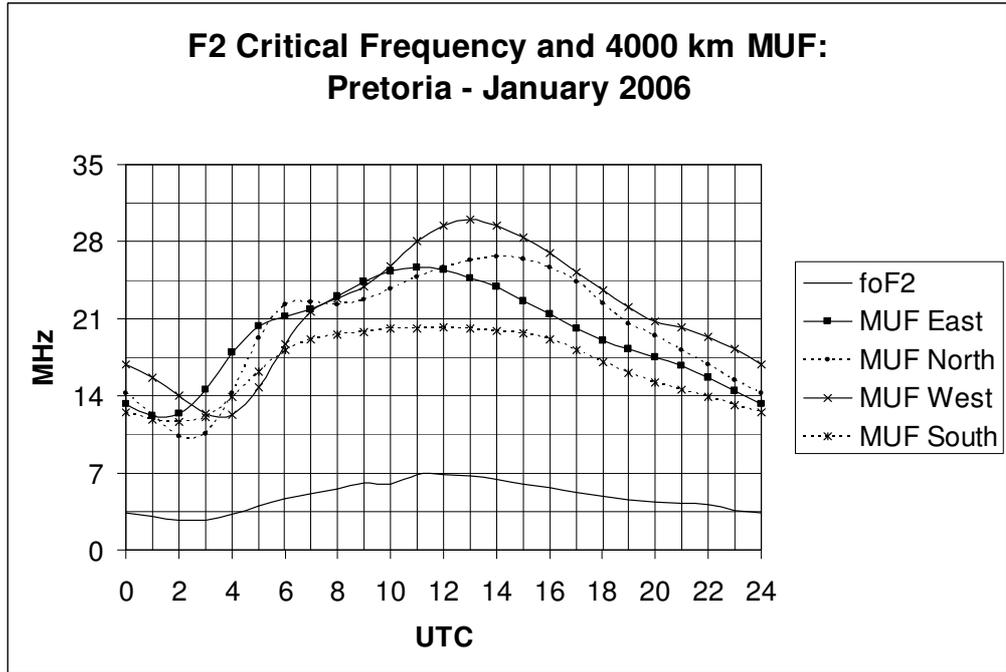
Vincent ZS6BTY

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.



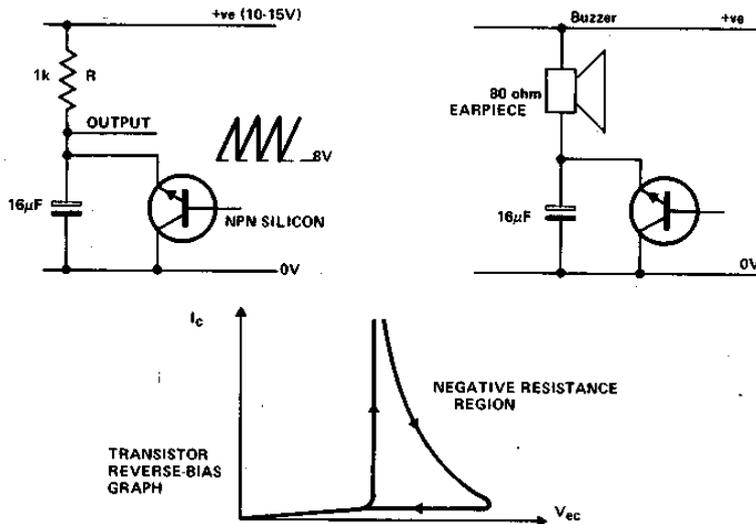
Received from Edwin ZR6ESP:

As reported on the Mars-net email list Flight Refuelling Amateur Radio Society's resident satcom + WLAN guru Paul J. Marsh (M0EYT) has managed to detect and receive NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter on X band at a staggering range of 45 million miles from Earth using a home made receiver setup and a RFspace SDR-14 software radio.

<http://science.slashdot.org:80/article.pl?sid=05/12/19/041205>

SIMPLE OSCILLATOR

The negative resistance region of a reverse-biased silicon transistor can be used in a relaxation oscillator circuit. Its advantage is that a surplus transistor is used instead of a UJT (which is more expensive) and it does provide a minimum of components. The frequency is governed by the time constant RC , the power supply voltage and the size of the negative-resistance region. The latter also governs the signal amplitude, so various transistors (from a surplus batch) should be tried for best results. The output is a sawtooth waveform with a mean dc level around 8V. Replacing the resistor with an 80 ohm earpiece makes an effective buzzer.



Radio protection kits as published in WATTS July 2005 are now available @ R80 from Hans ZS6KR. Postage is R10 extra. Full instructions are provided. Order by phone 012-333-2612 or cell 072-204-3991 or email hans@qrv.co.za. Installations can be done at a moderate consideration.

NB: Owners of FP757 power supplies must not apply these kits without modification instructions.

1950



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PMR (land-mobile) radios for the North American market are usually fitted with SO-239 antenna sockets. PMR radios in Europe are generally fitted with an N or BNC socket.

Some years ago, I asked the shop manager at a Motorola service facility why this was the case. He replied that Motorola had done some studies, and had come to the conclusion that **the average two-way radio installer could not be relied upon to terminate a coax feedline in a BNC or N plug correctly.**

Adam VA7OJ/AB4OJ

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than **German**, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan that would become known as "Euro-English".

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy.

The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up konfusion, and keyboards kan have one less letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f" This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterent to akurate speling.

Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropt from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech oza. Ze drem of a united urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking **German** like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

Can you raed tihs? Olny smat poelpe can. cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg.

The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdnrig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihg is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit plcae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot spleling was ipmorantt!

Sick of TV. If you broadcast a TV signal that flashes between red and blue at a certain frequency you can cause the viewers to have convulsions and seizures. This effect was discovered by a Japanese cartoon show called **Pokemon**.