

OAKDALE CLUB, AMATEUR RADIO SECTION



February 2011

ACORN TIMES

Hard Work and Dedication Pays Dividends



Dennis Wells, ZS1AU, a well known DX'er in our midst, who has made contacts as well as friend all over the globe, recently joined the ranks of South Africa's top DXCC members.

The following is an excerpt of a letter of congratulations from the President of the SARL.

AT, on behalf of all its readers, would also like to extent our congratulations to Dennis on this magnificent achievement

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

30 January 2011
Dennis Wells,

ZS1AU

Dennis,

JOINING THE RANKS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP DXCC MEMBERS

On behalf of the members and the Council of the South African Radio League, I would like to congratulate you on the award of the DXCC certificate by the ARRL. However, what makes this DXCC certificate more special is the fact that with the 337 entities credited; you are now number three in South Africa on the DXCC Phone listing.

Well done my friend, may it be an inspiration to younger radio amateurs to work towards such an achievement.

Greetings

DENNIS GREEN, ZS4BS

Len Wells Ham Spirit Trophy

Info: Dennis ZS1AU

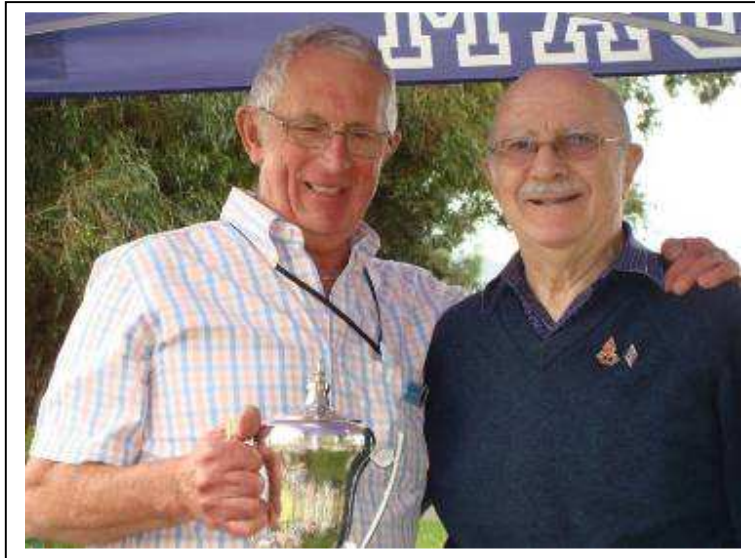
The recipient this year of the Len Wells Ham Spirit Trophy was Noel Futter, ZS1FW, and Chairman of CTARC.

It was reported that Noel both surprised and speechless when the award was announced at the Club's end of year function..

Both his wife, Joan, and his daughter who were present at the function, were so excited by the news that both jumped up, put their arms around Noel and congratulated him with a big hug and a kiss.

Noel is a very worthy recipient of this trophy. He has amateur radio at heart, takes part in events, demonstrates in practice what ham spirit is all about, is a fine gentleman and a good family man.

Congratulations Noel from all your fellow Hams.



January Club Meeting

At the meeting, which was well attended by members and visitors as well, Klaus, ZS1QO delivered a presentation entitled:

Introduction to the Construction
of an efficient
Very Short RF Vertical Antenna

This is a very comprehensive presentation with detailed drawings and examples of how to perform the calculations required for the parameters.

The full article will be featured in the next edition of AT².

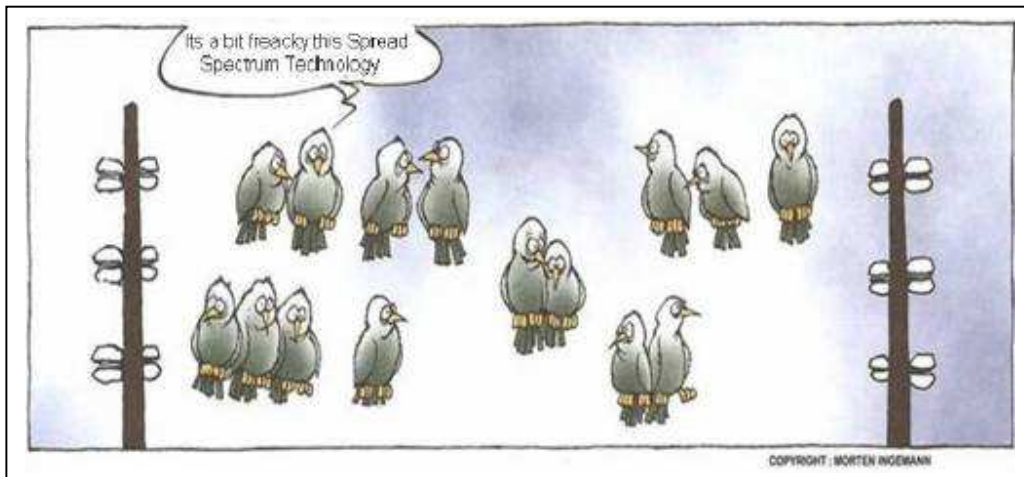
Saying Farewell to 2010 the Proper Way



Photo: Etienne ZS1AX

The Annual Dinner of the Amateur Radio Section, which has now become a yearly institution, were again this year well attended by members and family.

Vaste Lyn Tegnologie in Aksie



Dankie Fred, ZS1FCS

ZS1OAK Performing Well

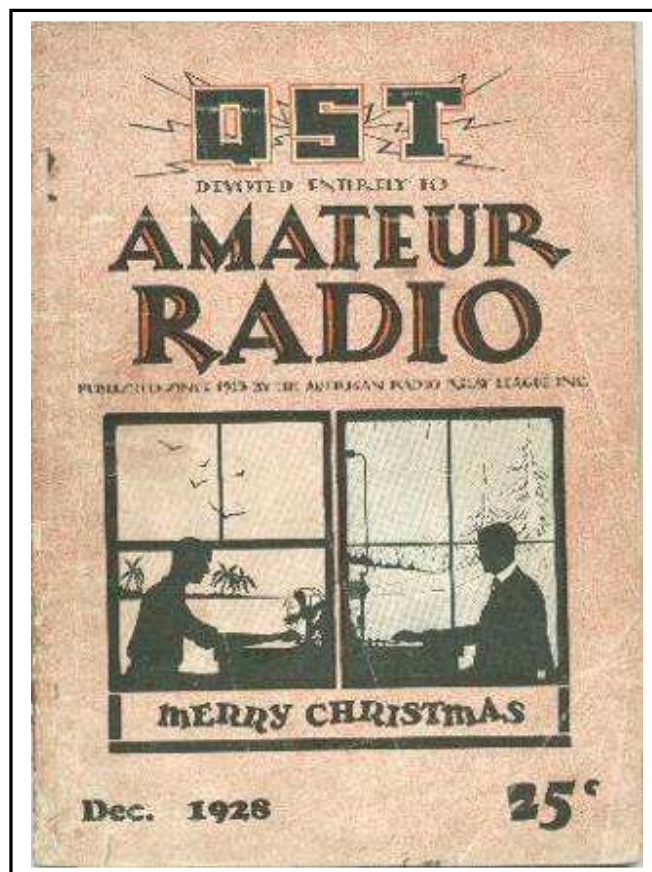
Klaus, ZS1QO, completing the log after a number of very successful DX QSO's which included amongst others, contacts made with hams in Germany.

Dave, ZS1SG, over the last few months, reported that on many occasions he was capable of successful contacts under less than ideal propagation conditions.

A scrutiny of the log since the installation of the new beams bears testimony to this most satisfying outcome of all the efforts put in to get the antennas installed.



Photo: Fred ZS1FCS



Thank you Dennis, ZS1AU, for this wonderful piece of memorabilia.

A Ham With Many Talents



Dirk, ZS1VDB, has become well known for his enthusiasm in taking used electronic, many of which are in quite a dilapidated state, and restoring it to a mint and fully operational state.

In addition, his interest in electronics and electronic circuits has led him to construct various pieces of equipment. A number of trophies won in the Club's home brew competitions bears testimony to this.

He is of course also known for his restoration work on Hallicrafters receivers. In many cases this often entails replacing many of the old non-functioning components.

The effort is however, at all times, most rewarding. In addition the experience and knowledge gained is priceless.



Old Capacitors removed from the receiver on the left

Needing a RF frequency generator to align the stages of the receivers, Dirk jumped in, and remembering the circuit of the Grid-Dip Meter, the workings of which was discussed on the Thursday evening Technical Net, he decided to build one.

By slightly modifying the circuit and installing fixed coils selectable for frequency by means of rotary switch, the result is an instrument capable of generating RF signals from 2MHz up to 30MHz.

Well done, Dirk, and we look forward to featuring more of your work in the future.

The result



EXTENDING AMATEUR RADIO TO AUGMENTED REALITY

RADIO ARCALA & OULU UNIVERSITY,
CENTER FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

August 2010

Older age groups will be gone over the next twenty years, reducing the population to the point where Amateur Radio will be just fond memories of those other days. Can today's amateur radio community realize their responsibility and set forth a new strategy?

A simulated amateur radio-like approach on the internet provides an easy-to-enter communication medium - a set of new "bands" and a natural learning experience for today's youth while traditional amateur operators access internet-based amateur radio for a healthy cross-communication experience and technology upgrade.

Current license holders were attracted to Amateur Radio by the extremes and excitement of those other days. Today's youth are attracted by extreme elements beyond the scope of free and reliable global person-to-person communication in their urge to be part of the social groupings of their like-minded peers.

We need to redefine current attractions and introduce new elements in a natural way to take Amateur Radio into the world we live in today. Approaching the youth in their regular hangouts is essential. This assumes accepting something totally new and giving away something from the past. It is all part of progress in evolving societies.

Amateur Radio has many supportive activities on the World Wide Web, but here the core is extended to let the internet reach the core of Amateur Radio - or the other way around - Amateur Radio's core is shared on the Net with the young people already there.

These extensions and adjustments to traditional Amateur Radio result in a new AR category not initially using radio waves – described here as “Simulated Amateur Radio on the Internet”. Such can be this new approach to AR embodied by the new term – Augmented Reality Amateur Radio.

Old Timers are aware of the changing world and the fact that young people tend to get excited when the target is set at a new extreme and not a time-honored achievement of bygone years. It is thrilling to witness yet another success story of Amateur Radio when Old Timers share the world with youth while preserving the original values of Amateur Radio.

Bringing traditional practitioners of our passion as well as new recruits together creates a basis for a healthy cross-learning experience. The introduction of many features associated with modern radio equipment and accessories and linking them to the internet can be of benefit even to today’s Amateur Radio population.

**Looking to the Future has always been more
Challenging than reviewing
the Past**

AGM

A reminder that the Oakdale Club, Amateur Radio Section, will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday evening the 14th March 2011. Nominations for committee members, which must be permanent members of the Oakdale Club, to be submitted to the Chaiman, Fred ZS1FCS