OAKDALE CLUB, AMATEUR RADIO SECTION

AT ACORN TIMES

August 2010

Radio Technology in Action 2010

Cape Peninsula University of Technology

The 2010 RTA seminar arranged by the SARL in the Cape on the 24th of July 2010 was again one of the top highlights on the amateur radio calendar.

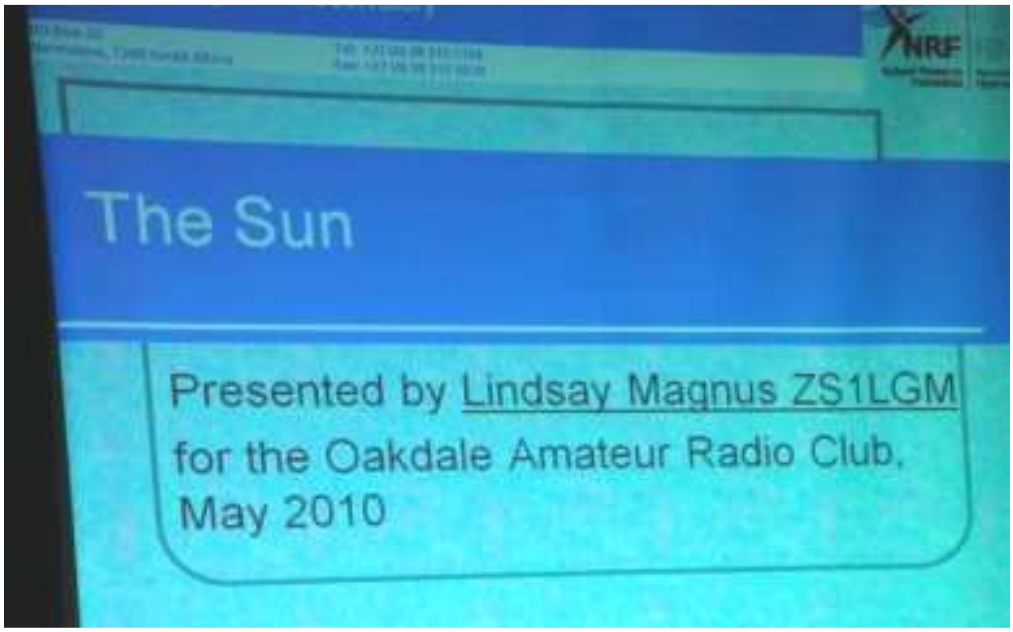
Ben Groenewald, from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, in his opening address, stressed the important role Radio Amateurs are playing in building an interest in science and technology amongst the youth of this country. He was especially pleased to also see a number of students amongst the audience.

The popularity of the RTA was demonstrated by the large number of delegates who attended the day's program The speakers, all experts in their respective fields, gave a clear picture of the exciting future that lies in front of all with a interest in the technology of radio and electronics.

Ben Groenewald delivering his opening address

Developments such as cubesats, which brings experimentation with satellite technology within reach of the radio amateur, is but one of the many fields explained by Francois Visser of CPUT in his detailed discussion of their efforts to have such a satellite ready by the end of next year.

With the amount of manmade electronic noise on the increase, amateur radio and the present technology used, faces a challenge. New modes, and digital methods of limiting interference will have to be implemented, said John Willescroft ZS6EF.



Lindsay Magnus ZS1LGM recently gave a very interesting talk to the club on the sun as topic.
Radio Amateurs are well aware of the influence the sun and its eleven year cycle has on propagation conditions. The actual mechanisms involved is however not always well understood

By explaining the processes happening in the sun and on its surface and the resultant effect in causing solar winds, makes that published information of solar activity became less of a mystery to all who attended.
By kind permission the complete presentation is attached to this edition of AT on the Oakdale website. (www.oakdaleclub.co.za/events)

Boot Sale

Please remember that the next sale of surplus equipment and electronic odds and ends will be held at the club on Saturday 18 September.

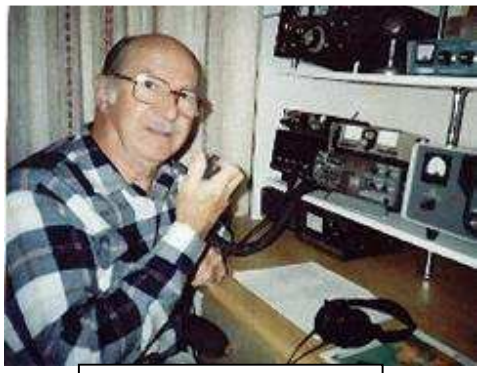
Be sure to make an entry in your diary so as not to miss this important and profitable event.

It Runs in the Family

Dennis ZS1AU celebrates Sixty Years in Amateur Radio

1950 to 2010 and still going strong

ZS1AU I (1935)



ZS1AU II (2010)

(**The following is an excerpt from a page on www.QRZ.COM which can be accessed by using Dennis's call sign.)**

This is my Diamond Year, being licensed in July 1950 as ZS1AU, for 60 years, 1950 to 2010, & counting

I took over my father's call sign (LEN WELLS ZS1AU) in 1950.

In 1966 I received the only illuminated address for services rendered and regular attendance over a period of 20 years, from the Cape Town branch of the SARL. In 2003 was elected Life Member of CTARC and at the 2006 SARL AGM in Durban, elected Life Member of the SARL.

I have served on club committees, as chairman and also as a councilor on the Council of the SARL.

I have been blessed with amateur radio all my life and it is the greatest hobby one could ever have. Thanks to my XYL Joan, who has been my best friend for 55 yrs and has supported me in all my AR activities.

Congratulations, Dennis, from AT and all our readers, and my we wish you many more happy years of DX ing.

SARL HF Phone Contest

The HF Phone contest took place on Sunday 1 August, and ZS1OAK was there calling CQ from the Club's Shack

The aim of the SARL HF Phone Contest is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on the 20, 40 and 80 m bands.

Pieter ZS1SD

Henk ZS1VDP

Hard at work to get them in the log

Dirk ZS1VDB proudly displaying a page from the log.

Banking on Seeds.

Concern amongst scientists over the loss, caused by future climatic changes, of crop diversity and global food security has in recent years led to the establishment of some 1,500 seed vaults around the world. The aim is to preserve the genetic make-up of many thousands of food plants, thereby providing plant breeders with the basic material for developing plant strains that can survive climatic change. Between them the vaults contain over 5 million seeds.

Few of the vaults meet international standards for long-term storage, however, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which reports that almost one-fifth of its seeds are already degenerating. Hence the creation in 2004 of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, affiliated to the UN, operating from the FAO's offices in Rome, and financed by some 15 national governments, civil-society foundations and the private sector. Interest earned on the money it received is used to improve the construction and management of seed vaults.

Preserving the genetic material of many of the most important food crops merely requires their seed to be kept frozen. That cannot be guaranteed in developing countries where temperatures are often high and electricity supply unreliable. The Trust's current major project is therefore the co-financing of a seed vault being built on the Norwegian island of Svalbard, close to the north pole. Despite Svalbard's ground being permanently frozen, the vault will be built underground, surrounded by rock, and accessed by a 120-meter tunnel. Moreover, it will be located about 130 meters above the current sea level, safe from the expected rise in sea levels caused by global warming melting polar ice.

Svalbard Global Seed Vault

Source: OPTIMA Volume 53 Number 1

The Old Times were not always so Good

A member of the Royal Corps of Signals equipped with a portable wireless outfit.

Courtesy: Mike ZS1FP

Technical Net

Remember to join in on Thursday evenings at about 20h15, just after Swapshop, on the 150. 750MHz repeater for the weekly technical discussions on radio and electronic topics.
This, together with our publication on the Web, Acorn Times Technical, is the ideal opportunity to get to know more about how electronic circuits work. If you are already conversant with the topic, please volunteer by joining in the discussions and enable fellow hams to share in your knowledge.