



# HAMS

JANUARY 2009

# KEYWITE NEWS

P.O. BOX 1076, HILTON, 3245

M I D L A N D S   A M A T E U R   R A D I O   C L U B



AFFILIATED TO  
THE SARL & IN  
ASSOCIATION  
WITH THE  
NATAL  
CARBINEERS

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## RUMINATIONS

Maybe it's trifle late to wish you a Happy New Year – but lest you may feel deprived and may have missed my earlier greetings, I really do hope that 2009 will be kind to you and to yours. I also hope that the New Year will bring you increased enjoyment from your hobby and from your membership of our Club.

We had a Committee meeting and a general meeting on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January, both held at the new times of 10.00 hrs and 11.00 hrs respectively. Whilst the former was attended by all Committee members available (Mickey had a wedding to attend and Peter had a house-sitting in Ballito), there were only two members and one visitor extra at the General meeting. Not, I'm afraid, a very auspicious start to 2009.

Notwithstanding this, however, your Committee were able to give careful attention to a number of items and several useful decisions were made. One of these was to agree to a regular insertion of a summary of the benefits to which MARC members – YOU – are entitled: known as “**infrastructure**”. This will appear regularly on page 2 of HHN, and will be kept valid and up-to-date. The first one is on the next page.

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Saturday, saw the arrival of a vicious wind and rain storm – which did a great deal of damage to the trees of Hilton, some damage to some of our repeater masts, and snapped my own HF mast. A ham's life is not always rosy.

Hope you enjoy this edition of HHN.

Best 73, de Robin (ZS5MRS), Editor

## **The M.A.R.C. Infrastructure**

### **Voice Repeaters (FM)**

<b>VHF</b>	<b>Worlds View</b>	<b>145.750 MHz (Tx)</b>	<b>145.150 MHz (Rx)</b>	<b>Emcom SA256 25W</b>
	<b>Windy Hill</b>	<b>145.700 MHz (Tx)</b>	<b>145.100 MHz (Rx)</b>	<b>Emcom SA256 25W</b>
	<b>Estcourt</b>	<b>145.675 MHz (Tx)</b>	<b>145.075 MHz (Rx)</b>	<b>SCR200 15W</b>
	<b>Greytown</b>	<b>145.775 MHz (Tx)</b>	<b>145.175 MHz (Rx)</b>	<b>Storno</b>
	<b>Swartberg</b>	<b>145.725 MHz (Tx)</b>	<b>145.125 MHz (Rx)</b>	
	<b>Underberg</b>	<b>145.7875MHz (Tx)</b>	<b>145.1875MHz(Rx)</b>	<b>YaesuFTC1525a20W</b>
<b>UHF</b>	<b>Mt Gilboa</b>	<b>439.225 MHz (Tx)</b>	<b>431.625 MHz (Rx)</b>	<b>General Electric MII</b>

### **Packet Digipeater**

**Mt Gilboa**      **144.800 MHz (Tx & Rx)**      **Kantronics KPC3 + V9.10**  
**Alinco DJ -135 50W**  
**Diamond X-200 Omni 6.db**

The PBBS (mailbox) is on ZS0PMB-1. The digi is on ZS0PMB-2. The KA-node is on ZS0PMB-7. Use Winpack on 144.800MHz to connect to the PBBS and leave a message for someone. The packet digi also acts as the aprs digi (ZS0PMB) and will respond to WIDEn-n or TRACEn-n.

### **APRS**

The national APRS frequency is 144.800 MHz (Tx & Rx). The I-Gate is at ZR5S (Polly Shortts). Fixed stations should beacon at approximately 30min intervals with a path of WIDE5-5. Mobile stations should beacon at approximately 1min intervals with a path of WIDE5-5.

### **ECHO-LINK “voip”**

Our node number is 244279 Call Sign ZS5PMB. This Echo-link facility is available on the Midlands linked Repeater network.

### **E-QSO “voip”**

We are in the “101ENGLISH” virtual room, on the “repeater.dns2go.com” server. This is linked to RF at Polly Shortts on 433.400 MHz simplex..

### **BEACONS**

**Hilton: 50.321 MHz (Tx) ZS5SIX FSK**

**WEB SITE**    MARC'S very own website: [www.marc.org.za](http://www.marc.org.za)  
SARL's website: [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za)

**IF YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T HAVE CHILDREN, THERE'S  
A BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE THAT YOU WON'T HAVE  
ANY EITHER.**

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### **The Modern Ham**

**I came across the Amateur's Code (below), which is probably known to most if not all Hams. As a relative newcomer to this Club, I have met some amazing people here. However, I have also encountered some bickering and discord – something you will find in any club. Perhaps we could not do better than to read the timeless code again to remind ourselves as to why we love our hobby.**

**A question on many of our minds is : “how can we attract new members to our wonderful hobby?” Well, if you read point number 3 (in the code), we can see why our hobby has become outdated – in general we have not embraced new technology. When packet radio came out, the Internet was just starting in its first primitive form – Amateur Radio was ahead in the “race” at this stage.**

**But sadly, to-day it is still at the same stage, whilst the Internet has grabbed the world by storm, making many previously impossible dreams a reality. There have been huge benefits for Amateur Radio as well, such as the development of Echolink and APRS. In addition, a wealth of Amateur Radio information can now be found on the Internet: old radio manuals, and all sorts of general information about projects and modifications. In fact, the Internet makes it possible to remain in contact with our fellow HAMS, even when all bands are closed.**

**I believe that our hobby, and radio communication as a whole, has a great future if we learn to integrate it with modern technology. For example: modern technology does not always work in all areas: cell phone coverage is and always will be wanting in many areas, especially in mount-ainous areas such as Inanda, or in remote areas like the Karoo and outlying areas in neighbouring countries. Here radio communications work, and that is why, for example, Hamnet still gets called**

in to provide reliable communications in many important events, like the races along the Duzi in Inanda.

Another example is APRS. Where cellphone coverage is good locally, vehicle tracking using cell phone towers works well. But APRS using HF propagation gives us coverage everywhere. Not only that, but a few travelers are using HF packet radio to retrieve e-mails while in the remote bush.

By the way, I have just come across the website of an American training academy for overland traveling and expeditions. Part of the requirements is to have a "Ham Radio License".

There are many more ways in which we can integrate our radios in the modern world. If we do this, there will be a future for our hobby. We should love to hear ideas from every one as to how and what we can do to get back on track and stay with the times.

Sincerely

Mike

(ZS5ML)

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## **THE AMATEUR'S CODE**

(ORIGINALLY WRITTEN BY PAUL M. SEGAL, W9EEA, IN 1928)

1. The Amateur is always **CONSIDERATE....**  
He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of other persons.
  
2. The Amateur is **LOYAL.....**  
He offers his loyalty, encouragement and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his Club and to the South African Radio League, through which Amateur Radio is represented.
  
3. The Amateur is **PROGRESSIVE.....**  
He keeps his station abreast of science. It is well built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.
  
4. The Amateur is **FRIENDLY.....**  
Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner,  
kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of True Amateur Spirit.

