



HAMS

DECEMBER 2008

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

CLUB COMMITTEE: 2008-2009

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RUMINATIONS

I wish to start off by apologizing for the absence of HHN in November. Truth of the matter is that you are lucky to have this copy in December 2008! Since the untimely death of OM Wessel (who also handled HHN), affairs in our Club have been topsy-turvy to say the least. However, with the help and co-operation of a number of worthy stalwarts, things are coming right. You will remember we had a Special General Meeting on the 15th November to sort out the question of a permanent chairman, and to appoint a number of new Committee members. At this meeting I was elected Chairman, and Messrs. Peter duPlessis, Errol Wilson, and Rob Billing joined the Committee. A week later, on Saturday 22nd November, the whole group met at my house for our first official meeting.

Before I go any further, I should like to print the short acceptance speech which I made after my election.

I made these few notes not knowing whether I had been elected your new Chairman – so they may never see the light of day. However, in the event that you have elected me, I needed to be prepared – as the old slogan goes.

First, I thank you all for your vote of confidence. I promise that I shall do my best adequately to fill the place so sadly vacated by OM Wessel (ZS5BLY), and so ably previously held by folk such as OM Bert ZS5MQ, and OM Rod ZS5RK, and many others.

Our Club is in a state of semi-collapse. Total membership figures are low, and attendances are miniscule. One way of dealing with this situation is to invoke the terms of Clause 16 of our Constitution – which deals with the Winding Up processes.

I do not favour this route. I believe that with some thought, and with some effort we can reverse the trend and transform MARC into a dynamic organisation. I intend calling a special meeting of our Committee in the very near future at which I shall spell out some of the ideas which I have and examine those of the Committee members. Once we have a road to follow we shall ask you for your approval.

I know that we can succeed, if we have the will. As they say in the States: YES WE CAN! YES WE CAN! QRT for now! God Bless you all.

(Continued on page 2)

(Ruminations continued)

The Committee will meet again early in the New Year. When it does so, it will take a number of decisions which will affect us all. I shall detail the main items hereunder for your information, and, hopefully, to get some feedback as to whether you approve of our plans, or not!

The most important matter concerns the club general meetings, which, as you know, are held on the third Saturday of every month except December, at 13.00 hrs (the Committee meets at 12.00 hrs.) The general consensus of your Committee is that these times could be considerably improved were they to be brought forward as follows:
Committee to meet at 10.00 hrs; with the general meeting at 11.00 hrs – still on the third Saturday every month except for December. The second issue is **content**. In our view, unless there is a GOOD reason for a meeting to be held, it should NOT be held.

The Committee has already decided that monthly Club meetings will be based on three sections: one being news; one having a technical component; and one being a **presentation of interest**. It is hoped/anticipated that with careful structuring and preparation, Club meetings will be events of attraction .

There now follows three News flashes:

NEWS FLASH # 1 : We hope to have a Christmas celebration lunch on Saturday 13th December at the Clubhouse, starting at 11.00hrs, and going on until later in the afternoon. We explored several alternative venues, but none was as convenient nor as inexpensive as the one chosen. The Club will provide meat and rolls and butter and cool drinks and some fresh fruit. Members are asked to provide a dish of salad (one per family) plus the usual implements and plates and glasses.

NEWS FLASH # 2 : The next Club meetings will take place on 17th January 2009, usual venue, as follows: Committee at 10.00hrs; main general meeting at 11.00hrs – hopefully ending at about 12.30hrs.

NEWS FLASH # 3 : In order to keep in line with HARC (Highway), we plan to hold the February meetings at MIDMAR on Saturday 14th February – this would also coincide with the SARL HF Field Day. HARC reckons to make a week-end of it, i.e. camping and so forth, on the Saturday and the Sunday. We would revert to normal for the March meetings on the 21st March 2009.

I guess that that's about all the serious reading for now, save for the splendid little story which follows.

I nearly split with laughter.

There is not one dirty word.....

MAKING BABIES

The Smiths were unable to conceive children and decided to use a surrogate father to start their family. On the day the proxy father was to arrive, Mr. Smith kissed his wife goodbye and said, "Well, I'm off now. The man should be here soon."

Half an hour later, just by chance, a door-to-door baby photographer happened to ring the doorbell, hoping to make a sale. "Good morning, Ma'am", he said, "I've come to..."

"Oh, no need to explain," Mrs. Smith cut in, embarrassed, "I've been expecting you."

"Have you really?" said the photographer. "Well, that's good. Did you know that babies are my specialty?"

"Well that's what my husband and I had hoped. Please come in and have a seat".

After a moment she asked, blushing, "Well, where do we start?"

"Leave everything to me. I usually try two in the bathtub, one on the couch and perhaps a couple on the bed. And sometimes the living room floor is fun. You can really spread out there."

"Bathtub, living room floor? No wonder it didn't work out for Harry and me!"

"Well, Ma'am, none of us can guarantee a good one every time. But if we try several different positions and I shoot from six or seven angles, I'm sure you'll be pleased with the results."

"My, that's a lot!" gasped Mrs. Smith.

"Ma'am, in my line of work a man has to take his time. I'd love to be in and out in five minutes, but I'm sure you'd be disappointed with that."

"Don't I know it," said Mrs. Smith quietly.

The photographer opened his briefcase and pulled out a portfolio of his baby pictures. "This was done on the top of a bus," he said.

"Oh, my word!" Mrs. Smith exclaimed, grasping at her throat.

"And these twins turned out exceptionally well – when you consider their mother was so difficult to work with."

"She was difficult?" asked Mrs. Smith.

"Yes, I'm afraid so. I finally had to take her to the park to get the job done right. People were crowding around four and five deep to get a good look."

"Four and five deep?" said Mrs. Smith, her eyes wide with amazement.

"Yes", the photographer replied. "And for more than three hours, too. The mother was squealing and yelling – I could hardly concentrate, and when

darkness approached I had to rush my shots. Finally, when the squirrels began nibbling on my equipment, I just had to pack it all in.”

Mrs. Smith leaned forward. “Do you mean they actually chewed on your, uh.... equipment?”

“It’s true, Ma’am, yes....Well, if you’re ready, I’ll set up my tripod and we can get to work right away.”

“Tripod?”

“Oh yes, Ma’am. I need to use a tripod to rest my Canon on. It’s much too big to be held in the hand very long.

Mrs. Smith fainted.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR!

KEEP SMILING

