



Q S X  
P E



THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE  
PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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**May 2000**

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society will be held in the **Walmer Scout Hall, Fordyce Road, Walmer (near 4th Avenue) on Saturday, 13 May 2000**. Preliminary activities will actually commence at **15:00 (3.00 pm)**, and the **AGM itself will start at 16:00 (4pm)**.

Please see last month's issue of QSX for the agenda. No motions for discussion have been received.

Starting at 15:00, and continuing after the meeting if necessary while the braaiing is going on, there will be a **boot sale** in the grounds of the scout hall. Anyone who has usable 'junk' to dispose of is welcome to bring it along and flog or swap it. A percentage of your takings for PEARS is not a prerequisite, but feel free to disregard the fact.

The meeting will be **followed at about 17:00 by a bring-and-braai**, for which the Society will provide the fires as well as a few cartons of wine, fruit juice, ice cream and bread rolls.

Please bring your own cats, including salads, and other liquid refreshments as well as utensils, drinking glasses, stools etc.

All members and other radio amateurs and their families are welcome, but only paid-up members of PEARS will be allowed to vote, of course.

## Wrinkly Ravers

The **next rave** will be on **Thursday, 1 June** at the Zwartkops Yacht Club Clubhouse. Amble in from about 12 noon. While waiting for the gong you may check the Chief's new gait after his hip op, but keep your hands off his crutch!

Amazing, isn't it? Here we are already in the middle of the first year of what, just the other day, was the new millennium.

See you on 1 June!

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## VW RALLY APPROACHING

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Yes, it's also *that* time of the year again when we need to prepare ourselves and our equipment for the annual VW Algoa Rally. The Rally is set down for Friday 21 and Saturday 22 July this year.

A questionnaire will be included with this issue of QSX to all members who we think can or may be able to assist with communications. If you receive one and can indeed participate, please complete it and let Beavan Gwilt have it without delay. His postal address is 34 Cornelia Avenue, Framesby 6045 Port Elizabeth or see him at the AGM.

**ANOTHER REMINDER** - Subs are now a little overdue and this should be the last issue of QSX for non-renewers. Please remit your subs right away if you have not already done so.

You can, of course, hand them to the Treasurer before the AGM starts, which will then also entitle you to vote.



## A Word From the Chair



Once again the cliché applies – “my, how this year seems to have flown by!” Another great year in the life of the PE Amateur Radio Society. Browsing through QSX I noted—

- A great gathering at Bathurst, with hams from EL and PE in attendance, along with the SARL President
- Wrinkly Raves continue to be an institution
- CB to 6m conversion project in QSX
- Another well-run communications event in the form of the 1999 VW Algoa Rally, albeit at a much later date than usual
- PIC Programming course run
- SUNSAT operations get going – ZS2ACP gets the first SA AMSAT certificate
- Stilbaai and Danabaai repeaters linked to the coastal network
- Fire puts Lady's Slipper repeater out of action due to loss of mains power for a few days
- Y2K preparations assist the rapid expansion of the ham backbone to Umtata and Colesberg
- Field day operations set up from a houseboat
- Link to Cape town finally switched through
- Social gathering at ZS1J's QTH near Plett
- New Golf shirts printed
- Wrinkly Rave at Bushmans River Mouth also well-attended
- V/UHF contest very popular
- Amateurs well represented at the Grahamstown Scifest
- PEARS council nominee elected at SARL AGM
- Field Day Contest staged from ZS2U's smallholding
- Linked system extended to Springfontein and into the Free State (briefly, until solar panels were “removed”)

And with sadness we remember the Silent keys - Barry ZS2DT and Iris ZS2AA.

My life is set to change considerably soon, with the advent of our first child. So much to learn in this new area! But I look forward to this next chapter with great expectations. I have a feeling I might be heard on the repeaters at all sorts of strange hours...

My thanks to you, our valued members, for your support over the last year. And to the committee, well done, let's go from strength to strength. To all the background workers, your effort is appreciated, and would be sorely missed. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

God Bless

73,

*Chris* ZS2AAW

# HAMNET / ECARES NEWS

## VW Rally

This rally is without doubt the best emergency exercise that we Hamnet/ECARES members can participate in.

Sometimes it is not just an exercise, but the real thing.

As July, rally time, is just around the corner, volunteer your services and start checking on all your equipment to see that you are well prepared for it.

If you have not yet participated in rally communications, you don't know what you are missing. Maybe it is not your cup of tea, but try it at least once to find out.

## PRC261 Evening

The PRC261 transceiver is a military surplus set which operates on six

metres FM. It is an excellent, robust little set, with an output power of 300 milliwatts, operates off 12 volts and has several crystal controlled channels.

As there are a number of these sets in the possession of local amateurs, it is being considered to have a PRC261 net some time. Probably the best would be in place of one of the current Wednesday evening six metre nets, tentatively some time in August.

This would not exclude users of other equipment from joining in.

Please let me have your views.

73,

**Al Akers ZS2U**

**Provincial Director,  
Hamnet East Cape/ECARES**

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## COMPUTER FANS 2 METRE GET-TOGETHER

Some of the Southern Cape chaps have decided to get together on the linked repeater system from 19:30 SAST on Thursday evenings to talk computers. Michael ZS2GMT of Mossel Bay, who is "into" computers in a big way, will be on tap to give advice and explain some of the things that baffle most of us, at least from time to time. All are welcome to join in.

Here is your chance to sort out your particular problems

Michael says, however, that he does not want the nets to become one-way monologues with him holding sway. Rather, they should be interactive discussions, with others also offering their advice or the benefit of his/her own experiences in solving the problem under discussion.

Remember the time and day: 19:30 every Thursday.

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## What are '501s'?


Many of us have heard certain operators wishing one another '501s' instead of the usual greeting '73'. In case you are wondering what it means, an explanation that Leo Alexander ZS5WF, a leading member of the WACRAL Christian amateur radio group, gave recently went something like this:

Once upon a time, an old man lay dying. He had been unable to speak for some while, but his close friend spent much time with him. As he was breathing his last, he managed to utter "one, four, one".

The friend did not know what to make of this. However, listening to a particularly long

and uninspiring sermon one day, he kept himself awake by paging through the hymn book and, on reaching Hymn no. 141, he observed the words "God be with you till we meet again". Suddenly the penny dropped.

Now, we all know about 73 and 88, while 99 is said to be the abbreviation for "good luck", and 101 means "God bless you". Combining all these codes into a single value by adding them together, a sharp ham came up with 501, and that has become a standard greeting in the WACRAL group, wishing the recipient just about everything he could wish for himself

Neat, huh? 

# THE SARL ARA2000, SGM & AGM

BY GARTH LAAKS ZS2HB

The first event on the ARA2000 calendar that Elize and I attended was the Friday evening finger supper.

The Friday evening get-together, whatever form it takes, is usually the most popular of all the AGM weekend's activities because members from around the country can renew old acquaintances, make new ones and perhaps do a little lobbying.

Many do not actually attend the next day's meeting but turn up here to make the visitors feel welcome.

It was very disappointing to find that only *eleven people* turned up – two from Cape Town, two from Port Elizabeth, while the remaining seven included councillors (some from Durbs) and a couple of chaps from Gauteng! Elize was the only YL there.

## The Special General Meeting

Sixtytwo members attended the SGM and ensuing AGM. They had a total of 194 proxies, making the voting strength 256. It was mentioned that the SARL had 1360 members on the books just prior to the meeting.

**Motion 1**, enabling the creation of branches, was carried. A committee was appointed later to go into the constitutional ramifications. It was pointed out that the actual creation of branches would be up to the members to arrange with the approval of HQ.

The SARL cannot force clubs to close down in favour of establishing branches.

**Motion 2**, seeking to change the name of the SARL, was rejected unanimously.

## The Annual General Meeting

Explanation: A recent innovation at SARL SGMs and AGMs, I discovered, is that proposals dealing with amendments to the Constitution are dealt with as motions, while others are designated agenda items. The decision of a successful motion can only be amended at another AGM or SGM, while agenda items can be cancelled or altered during the course of the year. This could be if changed circumstances warrant it, at the request of a sufficient body of members, or at another representative forum such as the Chairmen's Indaba.

**Agenda Item (AI) 8.1** – SARL to represent all non-commercial users of radio spectrum: Carried unanimously. The way in which different existing clubs (e.g. Citizen's Band, Radio Model Control, etc.) would be incorporated will have to be agreed upon by consultation between all concerned. It is expected that this step will broaden the League's membership basis and lead to a reduction in subscriptions.

**AI 8.2** that family members of paid employees should not be eligible to sit on Council was carried unanimously. (At this juncture I discovered that the SARL Constitution published on the web site was very much out of date!)

**AI 8.3** VHF/UHF Bandplanner to investigate re-allocation of frequencies was carried. Because some repeaters are operating in non-repeater spectrum, the bandplanner often finds it difficult to allocate frequencies for new services.

**AI 8.4** that clubs be disbanded and returned to branch status was rejected. The League has no jurisdiction over clubs and cannot dictate to them.

**AI 8.5** to ask SATRA to allow DX

visitors to operate in SA without applying for permission was rejected by a large majority.

**AI 8.6** SARL to make suitable award to Stellenbosch University team for its success with SUNSAT was carried unanimously, with suitable comment regarding limiting the cost.

**AI 8.7** Use of computer and other means for sending to CW candidates was withdrawn after the facts were explained to the proposer. (One wonders why they did not actually consult the Regulations before presenting the motion, since they are pretty clear).

**AI 8.8** Hans ZS5AKV gave a presentation to show that we need to do something about public relations and it was agreed to establish a Strategic Public Relations Committee, who would produce a progress report every six months or more often if necessary. Financing of the activities would come from a special fund to be created from donations by clubs and individuals.

**AI 8.9** Report back on proposal from previous AGM on establishing SARL as a Statutory Body or creation of a SARL Charter—The President read from a letter directed to the Minister for Communications by Marc Lurie ZS6HZ arising from a previous AGM decision to pursue the possibility that the SARL should become a statutory body, membership of which would be a prerequisite for an amateur licence.

After discussion, Council was given a mandate to go into the matter further.

To say the least, I was not impressed with the contents of the letter and, if I heard the President correctly, one or more of Marc's statements to the Minister were rather

ill-considered and could actually rebound on us to the detriment of amateur radio in South Africa. I have tried to obtain a copy of the letter but to no avail as yet.

**AI 9.** There were only eleven nominations for the 15 posts on Council. Consequently, all were elected without voting being necessary. The new councillors are—

- Hans Potgieter, ZS6ALJ;
- Sid Tyler, ZS6AYC;
- Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS5AKV;
- Laurie Devereux, ZS5DL;
- Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT;
- John Fielding, ZS5JF;
- Dennis Green, ZS4BS;
- Chris Turner, ZS6GM;
- Bill Norval, ZS5KD;
- Machael Castelyn, ZS6BML;
- Cliff Smyth, ZS6BOX.

Cliff, of course, was PEARS' nominee, so we are happy to learn that he will be representing us on Council!

During a minor exchange, I was able to point out that members were left in the dark as to who the nominees were before the AGM and that it is normal practice for the names to be announced, even if balloting is not needed, so that attendees and proxies may make up their minds before the AGM.

**AI 11.** Honorary Life Membership, the SARL's highest honour, was bestowed on Gerald Klatzko ZS6BTD, Laurie Devereux ZS5DL and Phil Unterhorst ZS5RJ amid enthusiastic applause.

### The Budget

I tried to convince the meeting that a healthy membership is critically important for the continued existence of the League and to enable it to provide the services expected of it. In

order to reduce subs, we should consequently cut everything out of the budget that we can exist without, at least until we are well and truly on our feet again.

Alas, the plea fell on deaf ears and the budget – with increase in subs once again – was accepted. Time will tell whether this was wise or not, but the President appealed to all to do everything they can to gain more members in spite of the increase.

The main subscriptions for 2000/2001 are:

Full.....	R240	Senior.....	R180
Spouse.....	R50	Incap.....	R180

### The AGM and 75th Anniversary Dinner

At the dinner on the Saturday evening, Hans ZS5AKV gave an eye-opening presentation on the League's 75 year history, with some extremely interesting inserts from early days of wireless in South Africa. The presentation also referred to Port Elizabeth's own Mr. Jennings, who possibly discovered radio waves independently of the renowned Marconi.


The presentation of awards took place at the dinner and I was proud to be called up no fewer than four times to receive trophies and awards on behalf of our members. They were—

The prestigious **Jack Twine**

**Award**, which recognises qualities such as unselfishness, clean operating and a genuine interest in Amateur Radio and its affairs. This award is made to amateurs who, in the opinion of their fellow amateurs and the League's Council, exemplify the qualities desirable in a Radio Amateur. I was pleased to receive the award on behalf of **Mike Bosch ZS2FM**.

The **Radio ZS Two Metre Floating Trophy** is awarded by Council to the amateur (or pair of amateurs) who achieved the longest distance on the 2 metre amateur band during the year. The 1999 winners were **Dirk Ligthelm ZS2D** and Dave Jones ZS5DJ.

The **Arthur Hemsley 2 metre Trophy**, awarded by Council to a radio amateur for his/her individual achievements with transmissions in the 2 metre amateur band, is made for extraordinary performance on EME or modes such as tropospheric propagation. It is not for the longest distance worked but rather for persistence in achieving something special on 2 metres. The award for 1999 was made to **Mike Bosch ZS2FM**.

**SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emergency Contest** – A certificate was awarded to Al Akers ZS2U for taking first place in the single operator portable category of the 1999 contest 



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# TIPS ON USING THE BBS

JIM VAN LOGGERENBERG ZS2LR, SYSOP: ZS0NTP

Every effort is made to stay out of the users' hair and allow free use of the BBS with as little "interference" from the SysOp (System Operator) as can be. There are instances, however, where intervention is inescapable.

While it is understood that newcomers do not know about BBS operation and have to follow the learning curve, yet even users that have been with us for long periods still make thoughtless mistakes – or are they sometimes intentional?

## CENSORSHIP

One sees a lot of trash written concerning this subject. For example, I read a bulletin by a ZR6 who stated that it was illegal for a SysOP to destroy personal mail. This is not true. Anything that contravenes the Radio Regulations is liable to be deleted. For this reason, SysOps running BBS's are held accountable and therefore make use of filters (discriminatory programs) that look for key words and place those messages on hold for inspection by the SysOp *who has a veto*.

Users who habitually transgress are placed on hold and, if they persist, are warned and eventually put in the reject file if they fail to comply. This is really a very drastic step and at present nobody on the local circuit falls in that category (YET - hi). With all these precautions, some rubbish still gets through.

Also – contrary to certain opinions, there is no such thing as "private mail" – "personal mail", yes. The SysOP has the right to read *everything* passing through his station. Every message is readable, no matter what program the user is using. 7PLUS bulletins are automatically decoded and brought to the SysOp's notice. Yes – I read those too. You should see some of the crazy ideas that pass through my station! No names – no pack drill.

Oh – and SP's that are not delivered or undeliverable are "returned to sender". We do *not* destroy them indiscriminately.

SysOps have the right to *choose* what bulletins they transmit. For example, some of the @EU FLOAMA bulletins are rejected at ZS2LR/ZS0UTE because they are contrary to the regulations. Use your right to free speech *within the regulations* please.

## THE CRAZY THINGS PEOPLE DO

Keep in mind that the BBS ZS0NTP is situated on top of Lady's Slipper mountain and is unattended. It does not have a body called "SysOp" present on the mountain! Any system problems have to be corrected REMOTELY – by radio.

I usually am the first to notice system reports and attempt to correct it or get it corrected. Sometimes the problem is so serious that it needs physical intervention by Chris ZS2AAW. It *is* a hassle. And Chris is a busy man.

The BBS uses a number of programs to carry out its tasks. Basically, it is just a dumb machine doing what it is told to do. It does not have the ability to think for itself. It just follows the criteria laid down for it in its operating programs.

- It will not see "ZS" for "ZR" or vice versa.
- It will not see "O" for "0" or vice versa.

The "O" is a letter; the "0" is a number. That it knows! For example, ZS0NTP is not a valid callsign. ZS0NTP is a valid callsign. Can you tell the difference?

Be careful which keys you use. If you make a mess, please delete and try again.

The White Pages record does not have the route information to every ham in creation. If you are sending a message to somebody whose WP information is not present in the records of the BBS, then you must supply the route.

For example, if you send a message to me, ZS2LR, the route is present on the BBS (ZS2LR.UIT.ECP.ZAF.AF) but as a recent example, if a message is sent SP ZS5NUF @ ZS0WTE with no route information, it will result in an "UNKNOWN ROUTE" system report to the SysOp. It will get stuck on the BBS and not be forwarded, reason being



that the route to ZS0WTE was not present in the records.

We would require a massive SWAPP.SYS file to cover every BBS in the world. If the SysOp does not intervene, the stuck message will eventually be returned to the sender. But we try! Sometimes the message is "force forwarded" manually, only to return a few days later as "UNDELIVERED MAIL"!

Oh - the correct address for ZS0NTP is @ ZS0NTP.PEL.ECP.ZAF.AF (Some people forget the "PEL" bit).

All incoming and outgoing traffic at ZS2LR/ZS0UTE is forwarded by radio. We do not use the internet except in a dire emergency. After all, this is supposed to be ham radio and not ham telephone.

We use the most suitable frequency for the time of day according to propagation on HF. We use 14, 10 and 7 MHz for forwarding across country and UHF/VHF locally.

HF, for those with no experience, is a very variable medium, not at all like VHF/UHF. At present short skip conditions are extremely poor with selective fading and high noise levels due to the weather we are experiencing.

On HF the baud rate used is 300 bps and not 1200/9600 bps as on VHF/UHF. However, due to the poor conditions, the retries (missed packets) can become excessive. The maximum baud rate allowed by regulation is consequently never fully realised due to band conditions and the actual throughput may drop below 60 bps.

Now, with this in mind, we do have users who waste the data bandwidth with unnecessary contents in the text of their messages. However -- we try!

### HOW IS THE BANDWIDTH WASTED?

Several ways - I am apprehensive of telling this. Here are a few examples:-

- One user signs his messages *three* times in different ways. Why he does it beats me. I would say that he lacks confidence.

- This same guy sends the time and date *twice* at the end of his messages and adds an /ACK to *every* message.

- Then there are those *huge* number plates at the end of a message which just look fancy and provide a lot of useless information which is usually just a repeat of the previous extraneous signatures anyway.

- Keep your messages to the point.

- Another thing is requesting long 7PLUS files from across the country. Very often those files are locally obtainable from fellow users who have access to the Internet.

My bandwidth was wasted a while back by a guy who requested a file that took me nearly two days to download from Gauteng - and then he had the gall to complain about the lack of bulletins on the BBS!

To crown it all, one 7PLUS part was missing and never showed up. What a waste of valuable bandwidth. Such thoughtlessness is unfair to the other users on the BBS. Never mind the wear and tear!

### ADVICE TO NEWCOMERS

- Type "? help" [enter] at the BBS prompt and save the help file that comes out. Make a hard copy of it. Print it. Keep it close at hand and *read it* from time to time.

- Think about what you are going to do on the BBS.

Very best regards and happy packeteering - Jim ZS2LR/ZS0UTE

*[Next month we will publish an article on how the BBS system handles all the traffic - Ed.]*

**SITUATION VACANT**— QSX sorely needs the services of a top notch proofreader - someone who will not only check for typos but also correct factual errors. For example, last month we said Pat Pullinger ZS2PAT had had an operation. In fact, it was Ginny ZS2GIN. Pat is her OM. Moreover, his callsign

is ZS2PJP, not ZS2PAT.

We also congratulated only Shirley Winter on her anniversary and omitted her spouse, Gus ZS2MC. But then, perhaps Shirley deserves it more? Anyway, congrats, Gus.

Sorry, everybody.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH  
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY HELD IN THE WALMER SCOUT HALL, PORT  
ELIZABETH ON SATURDAY 22 MAY 1999**

**Opening and Welcome:** The chairman Chris, ZS2AAW opened the meeting and welcomed all, especially those who travelled from afar –

Trevor                ZS2AZR  
Roger                ZS1J  
Jerry                 ZS2JL  
Colin                 ZS2CR  
Richard Borello    ZR2RB

**Present and apologies:** As per register

**Minutes** of the AGM held on 16 May 1998 were accepted: Proposed by Lynne ZS2MM, seconded by Fred ZS2JS

**Matters arising:** None

**Chairman's report** as published in the May 1999 edition of QSX was accepted: Proposed by Trevor ZS2AE, seconded by Lionel ZS2DD.

**Treasurer's report:** Clive, ZS2RT explained certain items in the financial report as circulated, which was then accepted. Proposed by Roger ZS1J, seconded by: Viv ZS2VM.

The chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Clive for his excellent handling of the Society's finances

**Awards:**

DX trophy	Not awarded. In future members will be called on for recommendations
VHF trophy	Dirk ZS2D
Ham Spirit trophy	Viv ZS2VM
Constructor's trophy	André ZS2ACP

Merit awards to:

Al ZS2U for good work done in the emergency services in the Eastern Cape  
Mike, ZS2FM, for the excellent initiation and organisation of the PEARS VHF contest

Chris ZS2AAW for the repeater and packet network maintenance and expansion

Certificate of Achievement:

Roger, ZS1J for the articles on modifications to the FT101, printed in the international Journal QST

Ou Toppie award: Van, ZS2Y on achieving his octogenarian status

Forget-me-nut award: Jacques, ZR2JH, for many meetings and bulletins missed.

Certificates of Appreciation to:

Lionel ZS2DD for repeater work and help with QSX collation and mailing.  
Trevor ZS2AE for repeater work and QSX production

Bill ZS2ABZ for all-round Society support  
 Neil Thomas ZR2NT for planning and manning the Grahamstown Scifest Stall  
 Marc Gatley, ZR2BLK for assistance in preparing and manning the  
 Grahamstown Scifest Stall  
 Nicholas Thomas ZR2NDT for assistance in preparing and manning the  
 Grahamstown Scifest Stall

### Election of chairman

Lionel, ZS2DD took the chair on request of the outgoing chairman and conducted proceedings. He called for proposals for chairman.

Chris, ZS2AAW, proposed by Garth ZS2HB, seconded by Roger ZS1J. was unanimously re-elected

### Election of Committee: The following officers were elected:

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Proposer</i>	<i>Secunder</i>
ZS2HB	ZS2VM	ZS2JS
ZS2RL	ZS2PL	ZS2HB
ZS2RT	ZS2MC	ZS2VM
ZR2H	ZS2RT	ZS2JS
ZS2AE	ZS1J	ZS2DD
ZS2ABZ	ZS2MC	ZS2MM

**Motions:** No motions were tabled for discussion

### General

1. Ken, ZS2BWB stated that complaints had been aired about the female SARRL HQ bulletin reader. She is difficult to copy over SSB. It was proposed that it may be better if it was read locally.
2. Trevor, ZS2AZR asked if QSO could be put on email
3. Dirk, ZS2D proposed that the AGM and financial year dates coincide
4. Colin, ZS2CR congratulated Chris on his re-election and hoped that PEARS and the BRC would enjoy a closer association during the coming year.
5. Raphey, ZS2SP proposed a vote of thanks to the treasurer Clive, ZS2RT for his excellent work and presentation of the financial report.
6. Nicholas, ZR2NDT reported on the activity at the Newton Technical School.
7. Dick, ZS2RS presented a bouquet to Julie, ZR2EY, for her regular attention to the culinary side of Society functions, and Vanessa (in her absence) for her putting up with the pains of having her OM heavily involved in Amateur Radio.
8. Trevor, ZS2AZR proposed a vote of thanks to the XYL's for the preparation of the eats.

**Closure:** The meeting was closed at 16h05. The braai fires being ready, the members moved to more social environs around the grids.

Our Chairman, Chris Scarr ZS2AAW, has quietly done wonders for the PEARS web page. Take a look for yourself - pears.8m.com is the address. It is not yet complete, but certainly looks good so far. Congrats, Chris!

# PEARS

## PEARS COUNCILLOR ELECTED

We congratulate Cliff Smyth ZS6BOX on his election to Council at the recent AGM. Cliff was nominated by PEARS, who he will represent on Council. We know he will do a good job and help to keep things on the straight and narrow in the SARL.

## THANKS

PEARS wishes to place on record and express its thanks to André ZR2A and Jeannette Mulder of Grahamstown for accommodating some of our members during the Science Festival in March/April. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## REDUCED SUBS OFFERS NOT ACCEPTED

The special call that we made in QSX for would-be SARL members to offer the maximum that they can afford resulted in ten applications from QSX readers, with amounts ranging from R100 to R125.

Unfortunately the President said he could not accept these (and similar approaches via other clubs who took up the idea). However, they could be considered if applications are supported by club chairmen.

Those who applied are therefore asked to let our Chairman have a short letter to the effect that the amounts offered are the maximum that they can afford but that they would like to support the League. The Chairman will then forward the applications to the SARL. They are treated confidentially at all levels.

The cheques/postal orders will be held until the PEARS AGM in case applicants choose to hand their letters to the new Chairman at the meeting. Any that are not disposed of by then will be returned to the applicants the following week.

## PEARS MEMBERS TAKE HONOURS

Hearty congratulations to—

■ Mike Bosch ZS2FM on being awarded the SARL's prestigious Jack Twine merit award for exemplary qualities as a radio ham as well as the Arthur Hemsley 2 metre Trophy for his well-known activities and enthusiasm on the two metre band;

■ Dirk Ligthelm ZS2D for achieving the longest distance on the two metre band during the year, reaching from his QTH in Jeffrey's Bay to Margate on the KZN south coast;

■ Al Akers ZS2U for taking first place in the Stationary Mobile section in the Hamnet Simulated Emergency Contest in 1999.

Keep up the good work, chaps.

## PRESIDENT'S NET NOW ALSO ON 20 METRES

The President's Net is run on 7082 kHz every Sunday, starting at 12:00, to give members and non-members of the SARL a chance to speak to the President or, in his absence, a Councillor to discuss League or ham radio affairs.

Conditions on 40 metres have been poor for some time, making reception rather unpleasant, but the good news is that President Hans has now

arranged a 20 metre relay on 14250 kHz, which will be fully interactive.

Hopefully more operators in the "Southern States" will make themselves heard on the net in future. This is one's chance to air one's grievances or get the facts straight from the horse's mouth.

### **FUN AT OUR AUGUST MEETING**

On a proposal from Greg Maynard ZS2RE, we will have something different for our August meeting. It will be a fun evening and dinner at the Zwartkops Yacht Club clubhouse, with entertainment in various forms provided by members.

Keep an ear and eye open for further details, including an appropriate notice in *this* august publication, of course.

### **PORTISHEAD RADIO GKA CLOSSES DOWN.**

BT Radio Services are shutting down Portishead Radio. All its VHF stations closed down at 12:00 UTC on Sunday 30 April, and the MF stations will follow at 12:00 UTC on Friday 30 June.

Portishead Radio first came on air 80 years ago in 1920 and was to become the largest communications centre in the world. It employed over 340 people and was the CW and RT centre for the Commonwealth.

BT Maritime Services agreed to run a special crossband maritime/amateur event on Saturday 29th April 2000 from 07:00 to 19:00 UTC. If you made contact, and are a member of the SARL you should receive a QSL via the Bureau in due course.

Your Editor was pleased to have a contact with Portishead crossband on 12835,4/14050 in the last hour.

### **MIR HEARD AGAIN**

Ian Coots, VK3YIC, reports that the Russian Mir space station was on the air working VK stations on 2 metres FM simplex (145.985 MHz) when passing over Australia on 13 April. The operator identified variously as ROMIR and U8MIR.

"Your signal 59, very nice. Thank you for contact. 73. Bye!" the Russian-accented operator told one VK station in an audio clip that Coots provided. Several other stations were worked or heard calling.

### **MORSE CODE EXAMINERS TO REGISTER REGULARLY**


The HQ Administrative Manager has announced that persons who would like to be appointed as Morse code examiners/moderators should apply in writing via their clubs to HQ. After approval by the SARL Council, a certificate will be issued to the persons concerned.

This also applies to existing examiners/moderators wishing to obtain a certificate. Examiners/moderators should apply annually to continue in these posts.

It was stated on a later President's net that examiners/moderators have to be members of the SARL. I guess that knocks the list of capable volunteers a bit.

### **VW HISTORY WELL RECEIVED**

The talk by John Lemon at the April meeting was, as we expected, extremely absorbing and educational. Photographs showed that the very first design was anything but pretty, yet the VW Beetle that we eventually got to know and love was unmistakably there.

We hope that John can pull something else out of his sleeve in the near future. 

**Condolences** — Our condolences go to Rosemary ZR2RR and Colin Robertson ZS2CR and their family on the passing away of Rosemary's mother on 12 April.

# Congratulations...

## on your birthdays:

### **May**

- 21 Neville Roebert ZS2NR
- 22 Saney Martin ZR1S
- 22 Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ
- 24 Vicky Ansell XYL of Allan
- 26 Daleen Hall ZR2DOL
- 31 Shirley Carr XYL of ZS2C
- 31 Joe Jasson ZR2JLJ
- 31 Dennis Flynn ZS2DB

### **June**

- 1 Jeff Bowes-Taylor ZS1VS
- 5 June Jones ZS2JJ
- 7 Maria Marran XYL of ZR2AI
- 9 Gus Winter ZS2MC
- 10 Ken Victor ZS2OC
- 11 Maureen Fulton XYL of ZS2MG
- 13 Jimmy Hoole ZS2ABM
- 15 Neville Vroom ZS2NV

## on your anniversaries:

### **May**

- 24 Denny & Tom Davies
- 25 Merle ZR2MP & Neil Thomas ZR2NT

### **June**

- 14 Heather & Jimmy Hoole ZS2ABM
- 16 Peggy & Viv Moore ZS2VM

**on your achievement** Robert Bosch ZR2ABK, who gained his BSc Hons. recently.


**Sick List:** Dick Schönborn ZS2RS, nursing a broken scapula (posh for 'shoulder blade'), injured hip and miscellaneous other bruises and abrasions.

He stripped the insulation off a live 220V AC wire, which grabbed fast and rattled him at 50 Hz. Saw his whole life flash past and realized too late where he was likely to end up.

Fortunately this prompted an involuntary vertical take-off, which disconnected him from ground and the wire. On landing, he did a back-flip, rolling over a safety barrier, and folded backwards down a couple of steps. Real top grade material for America's Funniest Videos. We're happy to announce that he won't be going to the warmer place just yet.

■ Not to be outdone, Trevor Holmes ZS2AZR fell off a ladder, cracking his pelvis and ribs and not doing the ladder good either. Trevor and the ladder are doing fine.

■ Pam Hopper ZU1PAM has been down with bronchitis and was in bed for a week or so.

**Other News:** John Randall ZR2JR, now resident in Basildon, Essex, UK, greets his old friends. He holds the call M5ABA. His e-mail address is johnjr@m1cuu.freeseve.co.uk. 

## Your Society's Committee

Chairman, Repeaters, Packet .....	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	368-1344
Vice Chairman, Secretary .....	Beavan Gwilt ZS2RL	360-6968
Treasurer, Assets Control .....	Clive Fife ZS2RT	367-3203
Awards, Refreshments .....	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	581-2580
QSX Editor .....	Garth Laaks ZS2HB	368-1101
e-mail the Editor at .....	glaaks@iafrica.com	
QSX Collation/Distribution, repeaters, packet .....	Trevor Scarr ZS2AE	367-1746
Technical Classes (convening/administration) .....	Cyril Hislop ZR2H	360-8482
Technical Classes (lectures) .....	Viv Moore ZS2VM	360-4433
Librarian .....	Neil Thomas ZR2NT	487-2403
Special Events, Social .....	Cyril Hislop ZR2H	360-8482
Youth Affairs .....	Greg Maynard ZS2RE	581-0991

## PEARS' VHF/UHF & Other Services

### REPEATERS

Town VHF .....	# 145,050/650	
Town UHF .....	# 431,050/438,650	
Cockscomb .....	145,000/600	
Colesberg .....	* 431,075/438,675	
Cradoek .....	* 145,050/650	
Grahamstown .....	* 145,150/750	
		Knysna .....
		* 145,075/675
		Lady's Slipper .....
		* 145,100/700
		Noupoort .....
		* 431,150/438,750
		Uitenhage .....
		# 145,075/675

\* These form PE's long-range 2-metre repeater system, also linked to which are East London 145,775 MHz repeater, George 145,700, Danabaai 145,600, Stilbaai 145,750, Butterworth 145,725, King Williams Town 145,625 and Umtata (438,725 duplex). It is further extendable to Cape Town via the WCRWG system. # These can also be linked as required.

### OTHER SERVICES

Packet Bulletin Board (ZSONTP) .....	144,625
Packet Rose Switch ZSØGHT-3,046101 (144,675 in/out) or 046102 (UHF out to BBS) .....	144,675
2m Beacon (ZS2VHF CW ID) (horizontally polarized, 160W ERP) .....	144,410
6m Beacon (ZS2SIX CW ID) (horizontally polarized, 25W ERP) .....	50,005
6m Simplex Link with Lady's Slipper 2m Repeater (vertically polarized) .....	51,400
Wefax Relay (Meteosat) .....	145,350

## Sunday Bulletins

PEARS bulletins are transmitted on Sundays immediately after the SAREL English transmission, i.e. at about 08:45, on 7098 kHz as well as the 2 metre linked network that provides coverage from East London to George as well as Cradoek and environs. PEARS' 7098 or 3640 kHz transceive facilities are also remotely linked as needed. In addition, the SAREL's 40m operations on 7082 or 7066 kHz or Hamnet's 7070 kHz can be remotely patched into the 2m network, in receive-only mode or with full transceive capability for interactive events.

Prepare and Read on 2m Repeater link		DIARY DATES
7 May	ZS2AAW	<u>MAY</u>
14	Chairman	13 PEARS A.G.M.
21	Vice Chairman	27-28 CQ WPX CW contest
28	Secretary	<u>JUNE</u>
4 June	Treasurer	1 Wrinkly Rave
11		16 PEARS monthly meeting
18		

\* We Like Being Your Society! \*