



# QSL PE



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE  
PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

**WEBSITE: [www.qsl.net/zs2pe](http://www.qsl.net/zs2pe)**

**PO BOX 10402  
LINTON GRANGE  
6015**

**JANUARY 2005**

## MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

The monthly general meeting of the PORT ELIZABETH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY will be held on **Thursday, 20 January 2005** at the St Hugh's Church Hall, Newton Park, starting at 20:00 (8 pm). This is the first meeting of the new year, so please come along. Bring another ham with you!

As we said in regard to the November meeting, the NSRI are looking for shore-based radio ops, and we hope that Ian Gray will come and give us a talk as well as tout for some new operators at the December meeting. Ian was unfortunately not able to attend our November meeting.

The usual bring and buy table will be there, and Bill ZS2ABZ will let us have tea and coffee with biscuits. Hopefully the key to the kitchen will be available on this occasion – but I don't think anybody missed the item at the November meeting anyhow!

## Wrinkly Ravers

**T**here were some 15 members at the December Rave and 16 at the January one. As you know, Bill Browne's wife Joan as well as Allan Ansell have passed away and we will miss them at the monthly Raves.

The get-togethers will continue, however, and we hope there will be a really good turnout on **Thursday, 3 February 2005**. Do come along.

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### ***HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR LICENCE?***

Renewal notices for the 2005 licensing year have been sent out by ICASA and everyone should have received theirs by now.

The annual fee is still R27, and it can be paid at the local post office.

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### **GET-TOGETHER AT ASHLEY'S PLACE**

Ashley has offered his QTH at Colchester for a get-together, and it must be decided when this should be. At the January meeting there will no doubt be some discussion and a decision made, so give it a thought and let's hear what you have to say. ☺



# from *The* *Chairman*

**W**ell, the New Year is here, and at the time of writing, the Department of Communications has yet to get its act together. The publication of the amended Radio Regulations still eludes us, and ZR's are still confined to VHF and above.

**Experiencing**, first-hand, the inefficiency of government departments must surely convince us all that we need the SARL to be in a position to manage as much of our affairs as possible – we do have some degree of influence and control over our elected representatives! However, for them to effectively handle our affairs, they need funding, and without the support of all of the amateur community, this cannot be achieved.

**It** was with shock and sadness that I learned this morning of the sudden death on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of January of Mike Poulter, ZR2LM. Mike had been a ham since the late 1970's, and had begun his career in radio-communications with the SAP in the early 70s, where he rose through the ranks, to eventually head up the radio workshops at the then Mount Road Police Station. He resigned from the SAP and then went on to work for a number of two-way radio companies, before going into business for himself as a specialist in computer video editing.

Mike was in his early 50's. He is

survived by his daughter, Michelle, now living in KZN, and fiancé, Retha. They were to be married on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January.

**The** devastating earthquake, and resulting Tsunami in South East Asia has been dominating media from around the world, and yet again, amateur radio is playing an important role. Although a great tragedy, events like this are an opportune show-case for what we have to offer the world. Let's hope that amateur radio gets some of the media exposure, and assists in the recruitment of new life-blood into the hobby.

We all have a part to play in promoting amateur radio – why not put pen to paper and write an article and submit it to each and every publication you can think of. Call in to talk radio shows, and wave the flag.

**AI**, ZS2U will be giving a talk on HF antennas at our January monthly meeting. This is an excellent opportunity for the inexperienced ZR's to gain some knowledge on the construction of short wave aerials, so do plan to attend.

We also look forward to seeing the latest "crop" of hams at future monthly meetings.

73

**Rory, ZS2BL**

With a number of new licences coming on the air and the prospect of restricted licensees (ZRs) having access to the HF bands in the near future, this would be a good time to talk about correct operating procedure. Some of the older amateurs would do well to also read this.

- \* Learn to speak slowly and clearly.
- \* Keep your voice level reasonably constant.
- \* Use the phonetic alphabet when any important information needs to be passed.

You may well feel that you are already doing all this, but recording your transmissions and listening to it at a later stage may well reveal otherwise.

- \* Hold your microphone fairly close to your mouth, but to the side so that you speak past it, not into it. This will minimize sibilants, pops etc. I have

seen even professionals speaking straight into a microphone and with their lips just about touching it. Needless to say, it resulted in bad sibilants, pops etc. Practice this till it becomes habit.

- \* If you are ever involved in any emergency operation, where conditions are likely to be bad, you need to *automatically* operate correctly. This is not the time to learn correct operating procedures.

Under these circumstances one is likely to get excited and talk faster to pass information quicker. Resist the temptation as it often results in having to repeat messages, and this slows down the rate of handling information.

73,

**Al Akers, ZS2U**  
**Provincial Director:**  
**Hamnet/ECARES**

## SIMPLE TWO - METRE BEAM by Al Akers, ZS2U

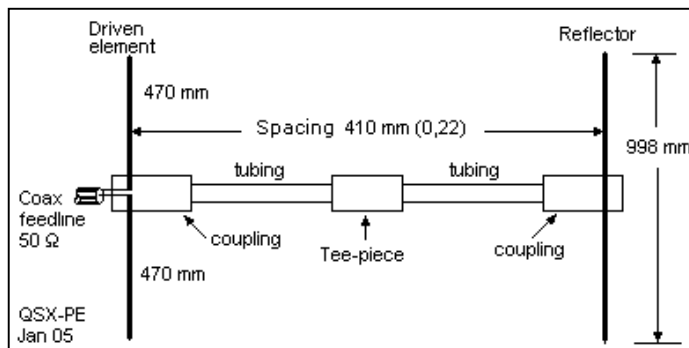
To quote the advertisers, this is a *new, improved* version of the beam published in the February, 2004 issue of QSX. The parasitic element is now a reflector and the only difference is the element lengths.

The boom still uses 20 mm electrical PVC tubing and fittings and the elements are still 3 mm brazing rods. See figure for construction details.

The elements are fitted through one half of the couplings and these halves are filled with epoxy resin, fibreglass resin or something similar to hold the elements in place.

Whether used as a two element beam or using the driven element only as a dipole, the SWR is a maximum of 1,2:1 over the two metre band.

Gain is estimated at 4 to 5 dB.



## OPERATING HABITS

I wonder how many have also noticed the odd performance of some of the operators around the country. A certain bulletin reader, for example, uses a low voice pitch during his bulletin, which suggests that what he is telling us is monotonous and not worth getting excited about.

What he says is, in his view, of *considerable* importance. Why else broadcast the bulletin? When speaking to other stations on the net, however, he gets a lot more life into his voice.

He – and many others too – uses far too many ‘er’s and ‘ar’s in virtually every sentence, which makes the going heavy for listeners. (What about the number of SABC newpeople who do this too?)

The operator very seldom uses his own callsign, and simply passes it over to the next chap using *that fellows* callsign.

The latter, by the way, is a frequent habit of another station too, whose bulletins often call for the use of proper procedures! Not using one’s own callsign is strictly against the rules! In fact, we are required to use our callsign during every ‘over’, although the Postmaster General some years ago said it can be overlooked in a *quick* back-and-forth sequence.

*The idea that one needs to use it only every 15 minutes or so is just a fallacy.*

How about the stations that have no fear of the rules

anyway? They speak of their 500 watt or 1000 watt (or more) amplifiers, yet they know we are limited to 400 watts PEP!

Then there are the chaps who *relay* bulletins but have so much background noise that one battles to read the voice.

I know of at least two such stations, who hardly ever get signal reports. Nobody listens to them!

Perhaps SA Radio Mirror International could give its listeners a bit of advice on how to relay one another and also what we may say or *not* say. This would be a good idea at this time, when many new ZRs are due to come up on HF. 📻

### HOWZAT FOR A BEAM?

A photo of Mike K6MYC up his 100 ft cranked down tower fixing his *80 m* Yagi. It has a 4 inch, 58 ft boom and 95 ft 3 inch element tapering to half inch ... and weighs over 300 lbs!

*Don’t ask me what these are in the metric system!* 📻





**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PORT ELIZABETH  
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY HELD AT THE St HUGH'S CHURCH HALL,  
NEWTON PARK, PORT ELIZABETH ON 18 NOVEMBER 2004**

**Welcome:**

Rory ZS2BL welcomed all who had made the effort to attend.

**Present and Apologies :**

As noted in the attendance register.

**Acceptance of Previous Meetings Minutes :**

Proposed: ZR2AG, Seconded: ZS2ABZ.

**Matters Arising:**

Nil

**Correspondence:**

Nil

**Finance:**

The Treasurer presented a report on the finances of the Society.

**Special Events:**

Bill ZS2ABZ running a station near Greenbushes on 27-28 November, arranged by George ZR2GLP.

The PEARS Welcome to HF QSO Party has been scheduled for 11-12 December.

**General:**

\* Feedback was given regarding the *PEARS 2m FM Field Day Contest*.

\* *Alternative meeting venue:* discussion took place in this regard, and Rory ZS2BL advised that the next potential venue to be checked out would be the Italian Club. Barry ZS2H outlined why the VCC venue proved unsuitable, and also outlined the potential benefits of the Italian Club. Barry will handle the investigations into suitability on behalf of the society.

\* Barry ZR2DX reminded the members about *nominations for SARL Council*, which are due by end November.

\* Upon suggestion by ZS2BL, Barry ZR2DX once again outlined the process for *upgrading from ZR to ZS* under the new regulations.

\* A call was made for volunteers to assist with *bulletin preparation and reading*.

\* Paul ZR6ACV gave *feedback on the RAE*, taking place during the time of the meeting.

\* Terence ZR6VDL asked about *repeaters*, and the possible linking of our repeater network up into Natal. Chris ZS2AAW discussed the options.

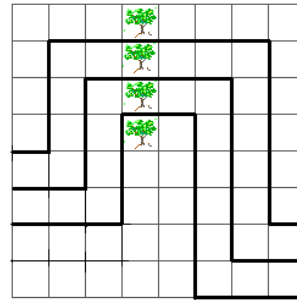
The business of the meeting ended at 20h30. As this was the final meeting for 2004, a social cheese and wine evening was then enjoyed.

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## ANSWER TO CHRISTMAS PUZZLE

Last month we asked how the plot of land could be divided between four sons, each obtaining the same area and each receiving a tree.

This is how it was done.



## FOR \$ALE ★ WANTED ★ SWOP

**FOR SALE**

\* Kenwood TS-50 HF transceiver with hand mic – R5000; 20amp psu – R800; atu – R250; Yaesu FT-7B HF transceiver with accessory digital display – R1000. Contact ZS2NP, 043 726 1689 or 072 724 4923. (Equipment belongs to OM Arthur ZS2MID).

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# OUR REPEATER NETWORK EXPANDS

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from Chris Scarr, ZS2AAW

The Aliwal North trip went off pretty well on 1st December. Tuesday and Wednesday were spent up there, and thanks to Nico coming along on the Tuesday afternoon, the tie cable was run between the Eskom and ham site.

The Backup link, removed from Gariap Dam (Eskom site) was installed in the Eskom Kramberg site, with the aim of linking it to Nico's Ham repeater via the tie cable. Unfortunately (or fortunately) the Motorola (ham) repeater did not have the line driver interface cards fitted, so connection to the tie cable was not easily possible.

The Eskom backup link to Colesberg would also not work – no signal. The link signal was finally corrected on Wednesday when a bad connector was found on the Yagi's tail piece. Signals were then good, and the Noupoot DTMF cards responded well at Kramberg via UHF.

The backup link was connected to the Eskom voice repeater network via the backup DTMF connection card, which will allow Eskom the use of this link if they encounter microwave backbone problems to East London.

Then efforts turned to the ham repeater, and the existing Tait UHF mobile link radio was checked out. The interfacing to the Motorola was problematic, in that the RX audio point chosen loaded the squelch discriminator noise signal level, causing squelch to open when the audio line was connected. Nico had identified this problem before, and had to tighten the squelch so far to close it again, that the repeater became deaf.

After some poking around on the Motorola backplane (no circuit diagram

for the rack itself available on site at the time) I found a suitable gated audio point that was not affected by loading, and did not affect squelch settings at all. This was connected to the interface box built by Hennie.

A loose PTT wire inside the Tait was also re-soldered to allow keying to work, the TX audio pot in the Tait was re-adjusted to cater for the different audio level now presented by the Motorola, and the reverse audio from Tait to Motorola was also checked in the interface box, for equal deviation in and out from link to repeater and vice versa.

The Tait yagi was then swung from Springfontein to Colesberg, and hey presto – we were in business! Thanks Hennie, for programming the Colesberg link frequency into the Tait, and for making the channel names so easy to identify!

So now the ham repeater is running as a stand alone unit with link to Colesberg, and the Eskom backup link is running independently. They can talk to each other via Colesberg without de-sensing, so signals are pretty good. DTMF tones respond well from Noupoot, and even as far as Danabaai, when the UHF conditions via Cradock are good. So we welcome Aliwal North to the Cape Linked system.

Cradock was also visited in the same period. Thanks to Donald, ZS2BW for meeting me up on the mountain, and providing delicious hamburgers for lunch! The UHF collinear antenna was changed, but to no avail – signals are still non-existent.

The Link was reverted to the Yagi towards Grahamstown in the interim. It

appears the UHF feeder is faulty. A spare feeder is available right to the top, but its condition is unknown. Donald, ZS2BW undertook to return to site that week if possible, in better weather conditions, to swing the antenna up top onto the other feeder.

The weather deteriorated rapidly on Monday while we were on site, so we decided not to climb the tower again to swing feeders after finding the new antenna no better. We travelled back to PE in heavy rain downpours, and reports of floods in the area later that day were received.

I am pleased to report that Nico has been heard quite well in PE when switching in the Aliwal North repeater onto the network, even though the Noupoot signal is onto the back of the Yagi at Cradock. The link is isolated at Noupoot because the UHF signals from the PE side are borderline, and lots of chopping occurs. When things are corrected, this will run permanently connected, as per the rest of the backbone.

Nico also mentioned that Hennie has given good reports of signals in Bloem on UHF, and is busy completing the linking to the Bloem repeater, so soon we will have a permanent backbone system right up to the Northern part of the Free State.

Thanks to all concerned in the efforts to get things running properly again.

#### ***Other repeater sites***

Cradock UHF link problems have since been finally sorted out. The long-suffering hassle we had via Cradock turned out to be three problems in one. Firstly, the UHF omni link antenna was changed, with no improvements. Then Donald, ZS2BW found the tail piece

between heliax and antenna was bad, so he managed to cure that problem by remaking the N-type connector up top.

Signals were still bad towards PE, but now fine towards Noupoot. Another trip to site to check link frequencies etc proved all was well, but showed that using a UHF handheld direct onto the antenna, signals to and from Grahamstown were poor.

A later trip to Governorskop showed that the antenna was faulty (SWR >1.6:1 on a long feeder) and pointing in the wrong direction. The heliax connector was changed, no real improvement. Into a dummy load, the feeder was fine.

A new Yagi was taken along, but the bracket bolts were too rusted to change the antenna (no spare bracket). So an unused UHF packet link antenna towards PE was "borrowed" and swung to Cradock, panned properly, and signals were now fine.

Thirdly the UHF link receiver at Grahamstown was 6 or 7 kHz low. This was adjusted successfully, and cured any distortion or chopping from Cradock to the coast. All link frequencies and adjustment parameters were checked at Governorskop, and another suspect link antenna was found towards PE. This will be investigated at a later date, as it is still working fine at present.

Link TX frequency to Mount Kempt was corrected by replacement of the suspect crystal and oven with a spare on hand from the Y2K days. But there still appears to be a problem at the Mount Kempt end on signal quality from GHT and Butterworth to EL. This Jim will look into at some stage, but is also working OK at present.

Hennie ZS4HG managed to get the Bloem side of things up and running via Springfontein on the weekend of the



18th December. So when Cradock and GHT was corrected, the Free State chaps are coming in to the system very well. Well done to Hennie.

Aliwal North is also sounding great, after the problems on the UHF links were sorted out. The DTMF test tone at Aliwal North (8904) can be reached reliably from PE

I spoke to David Petzer, ZR1DJP, who will take a look at Riversdale repeater site to correct a link TX frequency problem towards Jonaskop

as noticed by Dave Perry, ZS1SG when visiting Jonaskop, and if he manages to do this, the complete link will be re-instated to the Cape.

Quite an achievement by all concerned. And for this, I wish to thank each and every one of you all for your input to this. Well done. We can be proud of the quality of workmanship, and the end result.

Thanks guys

73 Chris 

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## PEARS 2m FIELD DAY CONTEST

This contest, held on 21 November 2004, was well supported with seven stations participating, and a good time was held by all despite the high wind and relatively poor conditions.

The seven stations were ZS2CE with four operators, ZR2GB ZS2CLI, ZR2LN and ZR2NC from Dohne Peak; ZS2EHB operated by ZS2EHB, ZR2MR, ZR2HPD and ZR2TW from Lady's Slipper; ZS2U operated by ZS2U and ZR2GLP from Cape Recife; ZR2DX and ZS2F, both from Lovemore Heights; ZS2R from Elandsrivier and ZS2ABZ from Walmer.

The winner is ZS2CE and runner up is ZS2U. The longest distance was from ZS2CE to ZS2EHB, a distance of 261 km.

Scores were: ZS2CE 4330, ZS2U 950, ZS2EHB 843, ZR2DX 691, ZS2F 491, ZS2ABZ 416 and ZS2R 239.

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## PEARS VHF DIGITAL CONTEST FOR 2004

The PEARS Contest Committee is pleased to announce the results of the PEARS VHF Digital Contest held last year.

There was a disappointing number of logs submitted, but good tallies were nonetheless posted. The results, with points scored, are as follows:

*Terrestrial Single Operator:*


1. ZS1AGF 58 026
2. ZS6ANZ 30 383
3. ZS5Y 26 225.

*Terrestrial Multi-Operator:*

1. ZS4SRK 44 234.

*EME:*

1. ZS5LEE 1 815 649
2. ZS5Y 476 166.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who submitted logs. 

# Pearstalk



*(Some of these items are from SARL bulletins and ZS4BS Dennis Green's HF Newsletter)*

## **6M JT6M DX ATTEMPT**

Rolf has asked that those on WSJT mode JT6M should know that he is running a high-gain high power array in beacon mode beaming ZS every evening for the next couple of months. He is TXing 30 seconds first period from 1500z to 2000z each afternoon on 50.170 MHz USB. And weekends also from 9:00 - 11:00 Z.

If a link gets through he will switch to very high power. His cellphone number is 55-21-9956-6407, 55 being the country code. Just let it ring twice, he won't attend until four complete rings. The display will show it's a call from outside Brazil.

## **THANKS TO MY XYL & G'DAUGHTER**

Many thanks to my XYL, Elize, and granddaughter Chanté for colouring in the front page of last month's QSX. What a job!

And also many thanks to you for the good wishes on Elize's birthday.

## **PEARS WELCOME TO HF PARTY**

In light of current circumstances, the PEARS Committee had no choice but to postpone the planned PEARS Welcome to HF QSO Party scheduled for its original weekend. A new date will be announced once the Regulations are ultimately gazetted.

The PEARS Committee regrets this situation, but wishes to stress that this is due to circumstances totally out of the control of both PEARS and the SARL. We

apologise for this unfortunate situation.

"I suggest we wait until the regs are actually gazetted before setting a date again!" says Barry Murrell ZR2DX.

## **AMENDED RADIO REGULATIONS**

At long last, the news that we have all been waiting for, the amendments to the Radio Regulations have been received by the Government Printer but, due to the Christmas weekend, was expected to be printed on Tuesday 28th December and will be available for purchase on Thursday the 30th.

For all, that is a good prospect to start the new year with. For what has been achieved through the efforts of the SARL over a long period of time, if you want to say thanks to the League and are not a member at present, you can think of becoming a member and so strengthen its ranks in the interest of all amateurs in the country.

## **BIGGER 40 METRE BAND**

At the last Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) Working Group FM meeting held in Budapest (22 - 24 September) IARU Region 1 proposed to allow amateur activity in the band segment 7.100 - 7.200 MHz before 2009.

WGFM decided to have this subject on the agenda for the WGFM meeting in January 2005 and that the Dutch administration would draft a recommendation.

The following Region 1 countries

already allow amateur activity in the new part or will as from 1 January 2005:

*Croatia, San Marino (not a CEPT country), Norway, Iceland, Ireland, UK, Serbia & Montenegro (situation not clear although in the national allocation table), Switzerland and Denmark*

All societies in CEPT countries with a good relationship with their national administration should ask their administration to support this document.

The SARL is in discussion with the amateur radio societies in a number of these countries to obtain information with a view to approaching our regulator to obtain a similar dispensation.

We have received a response from the United Kingdom and have a copy of the Netherlands draft.

Finland is in the same situation as we are and are enquiring about documentation.

### **COPING WITH CABRILLO**

Dave Pruett, K8CC, in an article in QST November 2000, tells us that few developments have affected Amateur Radio contest operating as much as the development of logging software for personal computers.

Such programs quickly replaced paper logs, dupe and multiplier sheets on the operating desk. These same programs make it a simple task to submit your log electronically to the contest sponsor.

#### **Standardisation Needed**

In early 1999, computer professional Trey Garlough, N5KO, worked with many of the major developers of amateur radio logging software to develop a standardised electronic contest entry specification for the ARRL. The result was the Cabrillo File Format Specification, which in late 1999 was adopted by the ARRL as its standard format for electronic contest entries.

Beginning with contests in November 2000, all logs for ARRL contests that are electronically generated must be in the Cabrillo file format. The ARRL will continue to accept paper logs written by hand. However, contest entries generated using a computer must submit the electronic Cabrillo file.

### **SPECIAL PREFIX FROM BELGIUM**

Egbert, ON4CAS, the UBA Award Manager, says that, to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Belgium's independence, Belgian stations may use the special prefix "OO" instead of "ON" during 2005.

The UBA will take part in the celebrations by issuing an official commemorative award. The "175 Years Belgium Award" can be earned by contacting stations using the OO prefix between 1 January and 31 December 2005.

A sum of at least 175 points is required for the award.

For more details on how to earn points and a picture of the award, please visit the following Web page at

[www.uba.be/hf/awards/175yr\\_en.html](http://www.uba.be/hf/awards/175yr_en.html)

### **SOUTHERN AFRICAN HF CENTURY AWARD**

The Southern African HF Century Award has been available to all amateur radio operators as from 1st January 2004

This award is available for contacts made since that date. The aim is to contact Maidenhead grid locators on the African mainland south of the Equator on the nine high frequency amateur bands.

Score one point per grid locator on each of these bands. Only one contact per grid locator is eligible. Total points are the sum of points on each band.

There are three categories for the award:

**Bronze Award:** Score at least 100 points

in five (5) different countries.

**Silver Award:** Score at least 200 points in ten (10) different countries

**Gold Award:** Score at least 300 points in fifteen (15) different countries.

All contacts must be made from within a radius of 25 kilometres. Contacts must be confirmed either by QSL cards or by other means acceptable to the awards committee, such as electronic means. Decisions made by the awards committee shall be final.

Logs must be submitted to The Awards Committee, PO Box 10402, Linton Grange, Port Elizabeth, 6015, South Africa.

Further information on these and other awards offered by the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society can be found on the website of the Society at [www.qsl.net/zs2pe](http://www.qsl.net/zs2pe).

### **3Y0X – PETER ISLAND**

Bob/K4UEE and Ralph/K0IR.report on "Counting the days":

"The Peter I DXpedition team members are counting down the final 30 days until their departure from home and their rendezvous with other team members in Punta Arenas, Chile. The 40 ft. sea container was loaded with the help of members of the SEDXC and is now just a few days away from arrival in Valparaiso, Chile.

Upon clearing Chilean customs, the container will be trucked the 1 500 miles to the port in Punta Arenas. The team will begin arriving on 11 January for the scheduled departure on 14 Jan. Here is part of the itinerary for the Expedition:

19–21 Jan: Arrive Peter I, move ashore via helicopter

21 Jan – 4 Feb: Radio operations begin, the ship stands offshore during entire operation

5 Feb: Depart Peter I

10 Feb: Arrive at Punta Arenas

The Expedition website has been expanded and now includes pages with basic information for the non-ham viewer, information such as 'What is a DXpedition', 'Prior DXpeditions to Peter I', 'Tell me about Peter I Island', etc. The idea is to help inform and interest others, outside the ham community, in our hobby and adventure.

All the members of the team ask you to assist them in this regard: Talk to your local school, Boy or Girl Scout troop, Kiwanis Club, Rotary, the local press, etc. about the Peter I website. Encourage them to follow along as the DXpedition unfolds - to the most isolated island on Earth. The website can be found at: [www.peterone.com](http://www.peterone.com)

This is a huge undertaking and very, very expensive. The team members are funding 74% of the total cost and need your help with the remaining expenses. Your contribution will be very much appreciated.

### **HOW TO USE THE QSL BUREAU**

Sort all outgoing cards by prefix call sign, except for the USA, and put together in alphabetical order. Remember that some countries have more than one prefix, so cards for these should be put together, e.g. Hungary HA and HG, Russia all R, and UA-UI, etc. For call sign information, please refer to the Country listing at [www.sarl.org.za/members/interest/dxcclist.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/members/interest/dxcclist.asp)

USA cards must be sorted in numerical order i.e. all 1's, 2's, etc. together irrespective of the prefix. It would also help the bureau if the cards for Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Alaska etc. could be separated.

Do not tie each bundle (country) in elastic or string. No cardboard or other

separator is necessary as long as the cards are correctly sorted.

Please note that not all countries have Bureau facilities. Please refer to the Bureau column in the country listing at [www.sarl.org.za/members/interest/dxcclist.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/members/interest/dxcclist.asp). Do not send cards for countries marked as N as these cards will eventually be returned to you.

Where a QSL manager is used, the card must be sorted to the country of that manager, and not to the original call.

### **GUINNESS RECOGNIZES HI-SPEED KEY OPERATOR**

Guinness World Records Ltd has recognized the high-speed telegraphy achievement of Andrei Bindasov, EU7KI.

"On 6 May 2003 Andrei Bindasov (Belarus) transmitted 216 marks of mixed text per minute during the 5th International Amateur Radio Union's High Speed Telegraphy World Championship in Belarus," the Guinness database listing states.

Witnessing the accomplishment in Minsk were HST International Referee Oscar Verbanck, ON5ME, Region 1 Executive Committee member Panayot Danev, LZ1US, and IARU Region 1 HST Coordinator Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO.

He also sent 271 letters per minute and 230 figures per minute during those phases of the 2003 HST competition.

Bindasov says he has received the official certificate from Guinness.

### **FIRST RTA LECTURE FOR 2005 ANNOUNCED**

The first lecture for 2005 in the South African Radio League Radio Technology in Action programme will be held at the National Amateur Radio Centre on Saturday, 12 February. The guest speaker will be Prof Justin Jonas of the Rhodes University.

He will talk about the Square Kilometre Array. This fascinating lecture will start at 10:00.

Radio telescopes allow us to observe cosmic objects at great distances from our vantage point here on Earth. For astrophysical and technical reasons, radio telescopes are better suited to studying the distant cosmos than the more familiar optical telescopes.

Because we see distant objects as they were many billions of years ago, we can piece together an evolutionary history of the universe by observing objects at different distances. This process is very similar to an archaeology or palaeontology "dig".

"In particular, we hope to discover how the universe evolved from the featureless cloud of hot gas left over from the Big Bang into the diverse environment of galaxies, stars and planets that it is today.

To dig deeper into our universe's history – into the so-called Dark Ages – we need to construct a massive new radio telescope. This telescope, dubbed the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), is currently being designed and may be located in South Africa", Prof Jonas told SARL News.

The RTA lecture will describe the scientific opportunities and technical challenges that characterize the SKA project, with particular emphasis on the South African perspective.

### **NEXT PRESIDENT'S NET ON JANUARY 23**

The next President's net and Intecnet will be held on 23 January 2005.

The SARL President and the Intecnet Net team wish you an enjoyable festive season and a prosperous and healthy New Year and look forward to your participation on 23 January. 📻

**Condolences:** We regret to record the passing of OM Allan Ansell, formerly ZS2AJ, on Thursday evening, December 23rd. Allan had been a long-time member of PEARS but he had not been active on amateur radio for several years, and consequently allowed his licence to lapse a long time ago. He nevertheless continued his membership with PEARS and was a regular at the Society's monthly old-timers' "Wrinkly Rave". To his wife, Vicky, his family and friends, our sincere condolences.

Our deep sympathy also goes to Retha his fiancée and Michelle, daughter of Mike Poulter ZR2LM, on Mike's sudden passing from a stroke on the evening of 3 January, just five days before he and Retha were due to marry.

*To those celebrating special days (23.1 to 19.2) we say*

**Have a Happy Day...** 

**... on your birthdays**

**January**

24 Anthony Bruyns ZR2APB  
24 Michael Mkrakra ZR2MK

**February**

2 Shirley Winter, XYL of ZS2MC  
2 Ginny Pullinger ZS2GIN  
2 Paul Galpin ZR6ACV  
2 Charlie Stevens ZS1AWG  
3 Tom Davies ZSL037  
4 Ivan Newman ZR2LN  
4 Kendall Watson ZR2WAT  
7 Joan Bowles ZR2ABA  
10 Wanda van Ree, XYL of ZS2JW  
10 Lynne Crothall ZS2MM  
10 Mark Hugo ZR2M  
11 Dirk Ligthelm ZS2D  
12 Rose MacGeoghegan ZR2MCR  
12 Peter Lunow ZR2PEL  
14 Del Bousfield, XYL of ZR2DR  
14 Arno du Preez ZS2ABT

16 Mike Hanslow ZS1RMS  
18 Peter Flynn ZS2PF  
19 Gary Laaks ZR2ABU

**... on your anniversaries**

**January**

23 Natasha ZR2BCS and Anthony Bruyns ZR2APB  
29 Margaret & Ken Victor ZS2OC

**February**

1 Lizette and Nicolas Oelofse ZS2N  
5 Anita and Jacques Human ZR2XTC  
15 Vanessa ZR2VM and Chris Scarr ZS2AAW



**Back from holiday** – Ken and Judy Tremeer are back from their Pretoria holiday, visiting their children and various hams. 📺



## Your Society's Committee

Chairman, Awards.....	Rory Norton ZS2BL	585-9330	rory@commco.co.za
Vice Chair, .....	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	368-1344	cvscarr@intekom.co.za
Secretary, Internet Website .....	Barry Murrell ZR2DX	083 717 9210	zr2dx@mnet.co.za
Treasurer; Assets Control .....	Clive Fife ZS2RT	367-3203	cfife@absamail.co.za
Repeaters, packet,.....	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	368-1344	cvscarr@intekom.co.za
Social, Refreshments, .....	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	581-2580	whodges@absamail.co.za
Special Events .....	Ewalt Bouwer ZS2EHB	933-3482	ewalt.b@freemail.absa.co.za
QSX printing and info .....	Ashley Goosen ZR2AG	372-2052	ashleygoosen@xsinet.co.za
QSX Editor (ex com).....	Garth Laaks ZS2HB	368-1101	glaaks@iafrica.com
QSX distribution (ex com) ....	Trevor Scarr ZS2AE	367-1746	t&j.scarr@intekom.co.za
Technical Classes (ex com) ...	Al Akers ZS2U	360-2983	makers@firestone.co.za

## PEARS' VHF/UHF & Other Services

### REPEATERS

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

\* These form the PEARS long-range 2-metre repeater system, also linked to which are East London 145,775 MHz, 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 (ZSØNTP) .....	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, FSK) (horizontally polarized, 160W ERP,) .....	144,415
6m Beacon (ZS2SIX CW ID) (horizontally polarized, 25W ERP) .....	50,005
6m Simplex Link with Lady's Slipper 2m Repeater (vertically polarized) .....	51,400

## Sunday Bulletins

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

Date	Prepare and Read on 2m Repeater Link
16 Jan	ZS2AAW
23	ZS2RT
30	ZS2ABZ
6 Feb	ZR2DX
13	ZS2BL
20	ZS2EHB

<u>DIARY DATES</u>
<i>JANUARY</i>
19 NC, WC, EC and KZN schools reopen
<b>20 PEARS MONTHLY MEETING</b>
<b>21-23 PEARS Natl VHF-UHF contest.</b>
<i>Sometime, maybe: ZR's Welcome to HF QSO Party. Or perhaps it'll be next month...</i>
29 Youth Day

\* We like being your Society \*