



**August 2008**



A view of the pyramid erected by Sir Rufane Donkin, in memory of his wife Elizabeth, who had died in India, and after whom the city of Port Elizabeth is named.

This Newsletter is published by the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 10402, LINTON GRANGE. 6015

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Ashley ZS2AG

**QSX-PE - A Newsletter for the discerning Radio Ham**

**Download QSX from [www.zs2pe.co.za](http://www.zs2pe.co.za)**

## The next monthly PEARS meeting

will take place at Londt Park Sports Centre on the 19th August at 20H00. The guest speaker will be Rob ZS2ROB, who will give a talk on Snakes in the Eastern Cape.

Should be an interesting presentation - Rob is bringing some live examples too!!!

**See you at the meeting!!!!**



## Unit Madness

After helping with a local ham radio course, I realise how confusing some of the units, symbols, & names are to new comers.

Here is a short look at the problem if the names/units/symbols get misused or are unclear. They can normally be distinguished by the context & a thorough knowledge of the subject concerned.

UNIT/

SYMBOL POSSIBLE MEANINGS

A	Amperes, Area (a), Acceleration, Angstrom, Atto $10^{-18}$ , Attenuation, Altitude, Argon.
B	Magnetic Induction, Bars, Boron.
C	Coulomb, Capacitance, $\emptyset$ Centigrade/Celsius, Calories, Speed of Light, Cycles, Carbon.
D	Distance, Density, Dynes, Direction, Drag.
E	Energy, Electric Fields, EMF, PD, Voltage, (e)rgs, Exa $10^{18}$ .
F	Farad, Frequency Occurance, Force, Feet (Ft), Femto $10^{-15}$ , Fluorine.
G	Force of Gravity, Giga $10^9$ , Conductance, (g)rams, Gauss, Gain.
H	Henrys, Magnetic Field, Height, Hertz (Hz), Hydrogen.
I	Current, Inductance, Inertia, Iodine, Imaginary in Maths.
J	Jules, (j) imaginary in Electrical.
K	$\emptyset$ Kelvin, (k)ilo $10^3$ , Potassium, Any Constant.
L	Lumens (Lm), (l)itre, Lux (Lx) Inductance, Loss, Length, Lift.
M	Mass, Moments, (m)etre, Mega $10^6$ , (m)illi $10^{-3}$ . Mile (Mi), Mo(1/£).
N	Newton, Nano $10^{-9}$ , Nitrogen. O <sup>TM</sup> rsteds, Oxygen.
P	Power, Pressure, Pascal (Pa), (p)ico $10^{-12}$ , Peta $10^{15}$ , Phosphorus.
Q	Charge, Resonant gain.

# Hamnet / ECARES News

## THE RADIO AMATEUR EMERGENCY SITUATION. PART 2

Amateur radio on the one hand is a hobby which enables us to enjoy the various fields that we are interested in. Normal everyday emergencies is handled by the various professional emergency organisations, except on the occasions that we are first on the scene of an emergency, such as a car accident, when we call for help and provide aid within our own capabilities. On the other hand, we owe our existence to the fact that we represent a body of self-trained operators and technicians available to the State in time of need, such need could be during major disasters when the normal emergency services communications is overtaxed or maybe even the non-existent. What is important is that as many amateurs as possible should be able to provide reasonably efficient assistance when such need arises. To do so requires at least some guidance and training. This could be organised by amateurs experienced in this field, and this suggests the formation of groups countrywide to do so. We do have Hamnet, but unfortunately Hamnet membership is only about three per cent of the radio amateurs in South Africa, not a healthy situation. To improve this situation then, we need to form emergency groups in addition to Hamnet. Our experience in the East Cape should serve to illustrate this point. I was appointed Provincial Director, Hamnet East Cape about 1982 and I have been fortunate to have Ken Victor ZS2OC as my deputy as he is very knowledgeable when it comes to emergency operation. Membership grew a bit to the forties, then dwindled to about ten by 1997, despite all our efforts. The main reason was that only members of the league could belong to Hamnet. It was suggested to the National director that Hamnet be open to all amateurs, but only league members would be eligible for office bearers, but this was rejected. In desperation, a meeting of thirteen interested parties was held to consider the formation of a emergency organization open to all radio amateurs. After some discussion, this was agreed to unanimously. Thus ECARES (Wast Cape Amateur Radio Emergency Service) was born. At the following SATEPSA (South African Telecommunications and Power Supply Authority) meeting, which included a representative from ICASA, the subject of ECARES being accepted as an emergency organization was raised and there were no objections.

73

AI ZS2U

## **PEARS Subscription Fees Now Due**

At a recent meeting members voted that subs be increased to R80.00 per year for full membership. Spouse membership and student membership will remain the same i.e R30.00/pa.

Direct deposits into the club bank account can be made but members must use their callsign or name as a reference for identification purposes on the bank statement.

Club bank details is

**NEDBANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT NO. 2212527594**

**BANK CODE 121217 (MAIN BRANCH)**

# Minutes of PEARS Annual General Meeting

Held at Londt Park Sports Club on 8 July 2008 at 20h00

## Welcome

The Vice Chairman ZS2AAW welcomed everyone, especially Mel (XYL of Beavan ZS2RL ) as the sole representative of the fairer sex, Ivan ZS2ILN from East London who had come down specially for the VW rally, and Shawn Corder an ex member on a visit from the UK where he is now resident.

## Attendance and Apologies.

As per the attendance register. Apologies tendered at the meeting for ZS2DL (sick), ZR2BA and ZS2WG (sick).

## Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Acceptance proposed by ZS2EC, seconded by ZS2E.

## Correspondence

Nil.

## Finance

The treasurer Clive ZS2RT reported on the society's finances.

## General

1. ZS2AAW said that the UHF link between Brenton and George had been repaired, and was now at his QTH awaiting transport back to George.
2. The repeater at Governor's Kop is faulty – stations in East London can hear us but we cannot hear them. It will be repaired as soon time permits.
3. Bull of Africa: ZS2AAW reported that the approximate location of the field stations was now known, and the possibility of placing a temporary repeater to give VHF coverage could be investigated. ZS2RL added that the latest information was that volunteers would not be required to sleep in tents, and asked that anybody interesting in assisting with the comms event to please contact him.
4. The briefing for the VW rally then followed.

## Qso Net CQ 100

**This should be of interest to those of us who have reached the time in our lives where we have to close down the station, drop the tower and remove the beam and sell all the ham gear except for a Handie Talkie. Then the throwing away of things that were stored for a rainy day and special projects that were never built.**

Finally the big move to a secure retirement complex that frowns upon the erection of towers and any form of antenna. So to be able to listen to HF and not talk to anybody is not fun at all.

If you are fortunate to have a DSL line( dial up also works, though not as well) to your home then all is not lost with the event of CQ100. This is a VOIP program only for licensed hams and allows you to chat to friends even when the propagation is as poor as it is now.

Proof of having a station licence is required and you get three months free use of the program. After three months then a fee of 32 dollars (USA) is required each year. You would need a computer with a sound card, speakers and a microphone.

The nice thing about CQ100 is that if you are a CW boffin then you can use the keyboard to send CW or there is also the option of fitting a straight key or electronic keyer to the sound card. I have heard SSTV, RTTY and BPSK31 being used on this mode as well. Imagine working a DX station without QSB, QRM and QRN, what bliss.

Have a look at the CQ100 page on the internet and download the program. Send your station licence via e-mail and away you go. After a few microphone settings you can call CQ and have loads of fun.

Best regards

Mitch Rundle

ZS2DK

# Pearstalk



The Volkswagen Rally has come and gone but certainly not forgotten. This picture was taken at the Stage 10 Mid Point where Beavan ZS2RL and Clive ZS2RT were stationed.

## Unit Madness continued from Page 2

R	Resistance, Radius, Reluctance.
S	Siemens, (s)econds, Suseptance, Speed, Distance, Sulphur.
T	Tesla, Tonne, Ton, Torque, Temperature, Network Type.
U	Uranium, (U Signal Phase Axis). (U can be voltage says DK3UZ)
V	Voltage, velocity, Volume, Vanadium, (signal Phase Axis).
W	Watts, Work, Weight (Force), Tungsten.
X	Reactance, Left Right Axis, Unknown.
Y	Up Down Axis, Yttrium, (Luminance Signal).
Z	AC Impedance, Far Near Axis, Network Type
æ	Permeability, micro.
ê	Ohms.
ã	Pi, Network Type.
ë	Delta, a Little bit.
λ	Lamda, wavelength.

# A New Ham and Proud of it!

By Robert Gulley, AK3Q

## Something old is new again.

I'm a new ham operator and I say that with real pride. I have an undergraduate degree, several master's degrees and doctoral work all under my belt, but the day I passed my Technician exam was one of the best days of my life. Ten days later I passed my General license and I couldn't have been happier. (Okay, I will probably be even happier when I pass my Extra exam -- I admit!) I passed both tests in



*Author's Shack: I use an ICOM IC-718 for HF, a Kenwood TM-V71 mobile as a base dual band rig, Yaesu VT-170 for handheld communications and Ham Radio Deluxe for my software logging program. I also have my ARRL frequency chart handy to make sure I stay legal and a map of the world handy for marking my future DX conquests! [Robert Gulley, KJ4AXU, photo]*

December of 2007, so the last couple of months have been incredibly exciting for me as I fulfilled a long-held dream of becoming an Amateur Radio operator.

1. My interest in ham radio started over 35 years ago when I saw my cousin's bedroom wall filled with all kinds of radios. My uncle custom made a storage rack built into the wall for all Mark's equipment, and it was an impressive sight to say the least. I was about 10 or 11 at the time and I talked my mom into buying me a Realistic DX-160 receiver, which my cousin had recommended. Those of you who remember that radio know that it had SSB and something called a variable BFO (Beat Frequency Oscillator) -- that meant I could play with the dial and make those Donald Duck sounds I heard sound normal -- way cool! And of course, I was able to "tune in the world" on the shortwave bands. I was in heaven! This was even better than covertly listening to my transistor radio at night under the covers when I was supposed to be asleep. Tuning in AM stations from as far away as St Louis, Chicago and New York was great, but listening to the BBC from London was even better!

I began studying for my Novice exam, devouring everything I could get my hands on and listening to Morse code tapes. About the same time I was getting near to taking the test, I moved in with my father and everything changed, causing me to leave my childhood dream behind. As the years passed I often had a spark of interest, but life always got in the way. You probably know the story -- it happens to all of us in one way or another. Vintage Receiver Fans the Flame

Fast forward to the present when I decided innocently enough to take up shortwave listening and playing around with radios again. I found an old DX-160 on eBay and in a moment of nostalgia, bought it just for the good memories it held. When I told my wife about the fond memories I had of my cousin and his ham radio addiction, she said "Who knows, maybe one day you will have your own room filled with radios." I harrumphed and brushed the thought aside, mumbling something like "those days are long gone."

One thing led to another (my wife had planted the seed, confound it, and it just kept nagging at me.) and soon I started reading up on HF radios and antennas and all the new things hams were doing and I knew I was a goner. The itch, the bug, the unrequited love of all things radio took over and I started plotting and planning how I would get my first license, and then my General, so I could start talking to people around the world. I purchased both of the ARRL study books for these licenses, the Antenna Book and the 2008 ARRL Handbook for good measure. I studied like a fiend for several weeks for the Technician exam, then several more weeks for the General. I checked every day online for my name to show up in the FCC database and let out a yell when it showed up December 5, my wife's birthday. And was I ever ready! I had purchased a used ICOM IC-718 transceiver and a used Astron RS-35a power supply, and was waiting on my G5RV antenna to arrive in the mail. In the meantime, I used a 50 foot long-wire out the window and made my first contact almost a week after getting my General license. I really did intend on making my first contact right away, but I was plenty nervous and the timing never seemed right. I would hear people talking, wait until one of them was signing off and then try to make contact, only to have the band shift a bit or have someone else jump in before I did.

## That First Contact

When I finally made my first contact I couldn't have met a nicer fellow if I tried. John, N4SXJ, from Jackson, Tennessee was as pleasant as could be, welcomed me to ham radio and was honored to be my first contact. Believe me, the honor was all mine! We talked only for a few minutes, but when we were done you would have thought I just climbed Mt Everest! I was almost breathless with excitement and I wore a grin big enough to split my face in two! I meticulously wrote down the details of my first

contact and was overjoyed several days later to receive my first QSL card from John. I hope to talk with him again someday as we traverse the bands.

I still find it hard to enter into conversations and, of course, as any experienced operator will tell you this part of the sunspot cycle can make DX contacts very hard. My house and my yard are not conducive to good antenna placement; I live near a moderately large city with a lot of electrical interference. Also, I haven't found a particularly good way to avoid interference issues through our two sets of computer speakers, but I am having a whale of a good time nevertheless!

### **More Experiences -- More Excitement**

Here are just a few of the exciting moments I have had already. I heard a fellow from Australia just the other day (my "barefoot" system couldn't reach him) and I was like a kid in a candy store. On another occasion I was catching a CQ from the back side of a fellow's antenna in Colorado calling for DX across the Pacific and heard just the faintest scratching of someone responding to him from Johannesburg. While I couldn't make out what he was saying, I could hear something and that was exciting all by itself. And to top it off, I recently spoke to a fellow over my Kenwood dual band mobile who lives in England and was using his PC/EchoLink connection to hit a 2 meter repeater in my area. Is this a great hobby or what!

In addition to DX one of my main interests in ham radio is working some of the satellites. While it all seems a bit like magic to me at the moment, I know it won't be long and I will make my first contact from space and I can't wait! I know right now is a special time as almost everything is a "first" for me, but I have a feeling this is not going to get old or boring to me anytime soon. I recently joined a local amateur club here in northern Kentucky and met a number of people who seem to be almost as excited about all this as I am, and they have been operators for many years. With ARES, MARS and other public service opportunities, I know there are many ways to give back to the community and I look forward to these experiences as well.

### **Stepping Into a Wide World of Radio**

Ham radio has a lot to offer folks with a wide range of interests and I am the type of person who never wants to stop learning and trying new things. I am also the type who has to share what I learn and so I look forward to someday teaching others about Amateur Radio and hopefully sparking the same interest in them as I have in me.

I envy those of you with many years of great experiences, which certainly overshadow my meager ones, but I know many more exciting times await me as I take my first fledgling steps in this lifelong journey. Through some of the contacts I meet I hope to find an Elmer who will take me under their wing and help me get the most out of this hobby. I have so much more to learn and I've already let too much time go by (35 years!) not to make the most of every opportunity.

Here's to hoping you never lose the joy of your first contact, or the excitement of trying something new that renews your passion for radio all over again. If you hear my CQ I hope you'll answer back and just maybe you'll be another "first" for my logbook and we'll have the opportunity to share a good story or two!

Robert Gulley, KJ4AXU, passed both his Technician and General tests in 2007 and upgraded to Extra in May of 2008. He spends most of his radio time on HF, but has also made some friends locally on VHF and UHF. He is a member of the Northern Kentucky ARC and his local ARES group. When not operating, Robert is an adjunct college professor and a retired minister. He also teaches classes in woodworking and dabbles in photography, digital imaging and computers.

***Please remember that your yearly  
subs were due.***

# Congratulations .

## *on your birthdays*

### **August**

- 28 Claud Arnott ZS2AZT  
29 Teresa Joubert, XYL of  
ZS2X

### **September**

- 02 Renette van Deventer,  
XYL of ZS2BK  
02 Mel Gwilt, XYL of ZS2RL  
04 Leonard Du Plessis ZR4L  
06 Grant Currin ZR2GEC \*  
07 Merle Thomas, ZR2MP  
08 Philemon Hopper, ZS2PP  
09 Jack Koen ZR1JAC  
10 André van Deventer  
ZS2BK  
11 Barry Jackson ZS2H  
11 Joan Bowes XYL of  
ZS2QN  
11 Jane Fife, XYL of ZS2RT  
12 Pam Hopper ZU2PAM  
12 Libby Hanslow, XYL of

ZS1RMS

- 12 Jo Akers ZS2W, XYL of Al  
ZS2U

## *on your anniversaries*

### **August**

- 26 Norma and Terry  
Flanagan ZS2ABB

### **September**

- 02 Joan ZR2ABA and Allan  
Bowles ZS2BO  
03 Yvonne and Chum  
Rhodes ZS2VU  
14 Daphne and Paul Galpin  
ZS2PG

### *From the Editor:*

By the time the September edition of QSX gets to your hands, I shall be in the United States. My only request is that your articles etc. get to me timeously as at this stage I will not know where I will be from one day to the next, and how much time I will have to put it all together. I will however endeavour to have articles in from Hams in the USA, should I be lucky enough to be able to visit one or more.

Lord willing I arrive back on the 3rd Dec.

73 Ashley ZS2AG

# Sunday Bulletins

# Bulletin Roster

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 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.

24th Aug	Beavan	ZS2RL
31st Aug	Clive	ZS2RT
07th Sep	Barry	ZS2EZ
14th Sep	Eric	ZR2ECH
21st Sep	Bill	ZS2ABZ
28th Sep	Glen	ZS2GV

**Please note that the deadline for material to Sept QSX is the 24th August 2008. Tks Editor**

## HAM RADIO OUTLET—SOUTH AFRICA cc

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# Your Societies Committee for 2008

## Committee

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Marketing & PR	Basie DuPlessis ZR2BA		
Catering at meetings	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	041-5812580	hodges@absamail.co.za
Youth Development, Liaison between PEARS & Mountain Club	Eric Hosten ZS2ECH	041-3681505	Eric.Hosten@nmmu.ac.za
Website, Awards & Guest Speakers	Barry Murrell ZS2EZ	041-5813561	zs2ez@zs2ez.co.za

## Co-opted sub-committees

RAE Classes Admin.	Donovan ZS2DL	0828524885	zs2dl@hamradio.co.za
Class A (ZR) Training	Paul Galpin ZS2PG	041-3721779	galpinp@absamail.co.za
Class B (ZU) Training	Donovan ZS2DL	0828524885	zs2dl@hamradio.co.za
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QSX			
Editor	Ashley ZS2AG	082-3726696	Fax 0865416386
Mailing	Mitch ZS2DK	083-7153375	

## PEARS' VHF/UHF, Packet & Other Services

### REPEATERS

**Town VHF** # 145,050/650    **Town UHF** # 431,050/438,650    **Uitenhage** # 145,075/675  
 # - These repeaters form a separate sub-net in the **PE - Uitenhage - Despatch** area  
**Cockscomb** 145,000/600    **Lady's Slipper** \*145,100/700    **Colesberg** \*431,075/438,675  
**Noupoort** \*431,150/438,750    **Cradock** \*145,050/650

\* 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.

### PACKET NETWORK

ZS0NTP-2 Packet Node - **Lady's Slipper** 7.040 300bd, 144.625 1200bd, 434.875 9600bd, 433.800 1200bd APRS, Cape Linked Network listen-only for APRS.  
 ZS0NTP Packet Bulletin Board - **Lady's Slipper** Access via the node, or use "VIA ZS0NTP-7"  
 ZS0GHT-2 Packet Node - **Governorskop** 144.675, 438.275, 434.875  
 ZS0CDK-2 Packet Node - **Cradock** 144.675  
 ZS2ABZ-4 WMR918 Weather Station on APRS 144.625

### BEACONS

**2M Beacon** (ZS2VHF CW ID, FSK) Horizontally polarised 25W ERP 144.415

**6M Beacon** (ZS2SIX CW ID, FSK) Horizontally polarised 25W ERP 50.005

See the **PEARS web site** at [www.zs2pe.co.za](http://www.zs2pe.co.za) for further details and network diagrams.