



Q S X - P E

December 2010



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

Editing, Composing and Printing by

Ashley ZS2AG

Q S X - P E - A Newsletter for the discerning Radio Ham

Download Q S X from www.zs2pe.co.za or www.commco.co.za/pears.htm

PEARS Monthly General Meeting

to be held at the Italian Club, in Lorraine at 19H30
on Tuesday the 18th January 2011

Please note our new starting time

Our Guest Speaker will be Paul Galpin ZS2PG

Come and enjoy the Meeting.

WRINKLY RAVERS

The next regular monthly lunchtime meeting of the Wrinklies will take place on Thursday the 6th Jan 2011. You will only be excused if you have a "more" important appointment, or you do not have any wrinkles. Come join the folks at Legacy in the Garden Shopping Centre for some tremendous company and fun, whether you have wrinkles or not. ----- **SEE YOU THERE!!!**

From the Chairman



2011 is approaching and I am looking forward to a New Year filled with opportunities which we must take hold of and do to the best of our abilities. The first exciting event is that of the PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest. If indications are correct, it promises to be a fun filled weekend with quite a number of field stations taking part. So come join in the fun.

I just happened to talk to David ZU2DK during this month and am impressed with the number of licensed hams there are at Alexander Road High School. With this in mind I wish to thank Donovan ZS2DL and all who assisted him since, for the good work they have done in promoting the hobby in the schools. This I believe is the way we should go. I hope all of you that are away have taken some form of rig with you so that you can say "Hello" to your ham family.

Finally, I wish to thank the committee and members of PEARS for all the support you have given me since taking the chair, for 2010, and trust that I will receive the same support in 2011.

73

Ashley ZS2AG

ECARES News

With regard to emergencies, this has been a quiet year. It seems that the mountain club search and rescue section also had a quiet year. Activities have revolved around operating, construction and experimenting which is, after all, what the hobby is all about.

Thank you to all the amateurs who in one way or another helped to promote the hobby. May you all have a very enjoyable Christmas and a happy and prosperous New "Year.

73,

AI ZS2U

Director ECARES

MINUTES OF P.E. AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

**Held in the Italian Sporting Club on Tuesday 16th
November 2010 at 19h30**

Present: ZS2AG, ZS2GV, ZS2RT, ZR2BA, ZS2ABZ,
ZS2AAW, ZR2TX.

Members as per the attendance register

Financial Report: The Treasurer reported that there is still money in the bank.

Minutes of the October meeting were proposed by ZS2OC and accepted by ZS2EC.

ZR2EKT, Eddie, has been re-instated and is a member of PEARS.

The idea of swopping the PEAS and SARL bulletins around was shouted down. The bulletin will therefore go back to the old time on a Sunday. If a committee member cannot do his bulletin, he may give it to

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This Month's Stiff: Michael Faraday

Entered Mortal Coil: 22 September 1791

Assumed Room Temperature: 25 August 1867



"I've got two. How many do you have, laddie?"

Michael Faraday should be rightly remembered as one of the greatest experimental scientists of the 19th Century. As mentioned in a previous essay, in my opinion, one is truly great when a unit of measure, for instance, is given your name at some point after you slip the bonds of this mortal existence. Dearly departed Mike had not one, but two scientific units named in his honor! The Brits are rightly proud

of this man.

Unlike his contemporaries, Mike had extreme trouble with mathematics. In fact, it is said he knew very little. His mind was geared towards the "hands on" approach. A sheet of formulas and arcane calculations did not presage any of his discoveries. No, Mike just went out and found out first hand whether his ideas had any merit. However, given the broad scope of his contributions, he is often listed amongst the other greats who understood the "new math", and showed their work on paper before the final answer.

Unfortunately, I am afraid a modern professor would have given Faraday an "F" in lab for that very reason! So, what did the gentle scientist discover? Here is the grocery list of the high points:

1. Transformers: Discovered mutual-inductance, which is the basis for modern transformers.
2. Self-Inductance: Discovered this characteristic of coils at approximately the same time as Joseph Henry. However, the unit of self-inductance is named for his American contemporary (see DED No. 11).
3. The Dielectric Constant: Faraday described the fundamental characteristic of capacitors, and he also invented a variable

capacitor. The unit of capacitance, the Farad, designated by the letter F, is named for Mike as a result of this discovery.

4. Electric motor and dynamo: Every piece of modern electrical machinery owes its existence to these two inventions of Faraday.

5. Faraday Rotation: Polarized light will change its rotation when influenced by an electromagnet. This phenomenon is also known as the Faraday Effect.

6. Faraday's Constant: Mike discovered that a specific amount of electric charge is required to deposit one mole of a substance on an electrode via electrolysis. This unit of charge is referred to as a Faraday, and is denoted by the symbol Fd. A Faraday is equal to 96.4853 kilocoulombs.

A coulomb is defined as the number of electrons stored when a potential difference of 1 volt is applied across a capacitor of 1 Farad. We'll talk about Mr. Coulomb later, if someone will kindly remind me to do so. Whew! Okay, that's enough difficult electronic theory for now!

7. Terminology: Mike made up some cute electrical terms for us. These include anode, cathode, electrode, and ion.

8. Other stuff: Faraday discovered Benzene.

Ever mindful of his obligations to his fellow man, Faraday always gave a lecture on Christmas day for children. These lectures are classics of the scientific method, and described various concepts in a way that the common person could understand. The tradition of these lectures continues to this very day. Faraday's work in electricity and magnetism helped pave the way for his fellow countryman, James Clerk Maxwell. Mike was truly a hard act to follow.

References:

Internet: <http://chem.ch.huji.ac.il/~eugeniik/history/faraday.htm>

Internet: A Ridiculously Short History of Electricity and Magnetism,

<http://maxwell.byu.edu/~spencerr/phys442/node4.html>

Internet: <http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Faraday.html>

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AMATEUR RADIO STORIES

By Leonard A. McHugh

Radio Road Trip

About ten years ago I went to a HAM Fest with some friends. These HAM Fests are a combination of used and new radio sellers. There are many stands of people displaying their products.

This HAM Fest was about fifty miles south of my hometown. We had no problem finding the location because of talk-in directions; if you were not sure of directions to the HAM Fest, you could tell a radio operator on site where you are and they would give you exact directions to get there.

We spent the better part of the day having a really great time at the HAM Fest. We left for home about four o'clock in the afternoon. I was sitting in the rear of the car next to the door.

Travelling home I said to the driver "You are going the wrong way." He answered, "Be quiet."

As I said I was sitting in the back on the right side of the car. The sun was hitting the right side of my face. Now at four o'clock if the sun were hitting my right side, we would have to be going south, further away from home. As far as I always knew the sun sets in the west.

Again, I said Roger you are going the wrong way and again I was told to be quiet, they are looking for landmarks. I told one of the other guys to tell Roger that he is going the wrong way. Another "Be quiet Lenny!" was shouted.

Now these guys are also hunters and spend a lot of time in the mountains. Surely, they would understand the positioning of the sun, it seemed so hopeless convincing them.

After we went about forty miles the wrong way they finally realized I was correct.

They never lived that down, I was the only blind guy in the car, and the only one who knew that they were going the wrong way!

Interesting Ride

Many years ago I was active with the Pottsville Jaycees. On one occasion I had a very interesting short ride. The Jaycees host an annual soapbox derby. This is a race where kids race gravity - powered, homemade cars. The cars are constructed as a family project and must meet specific safety standards.

Anyway, race day was here. I was assigned the task of releasing the cars and drivers for each run down the hill. There was a ramp on which two cars were loaded. When I was given the word, I just had to release the brake.

A picnic and awards presentation was scheduled immediately after the race. Since I was standing in the hot sun for several hours, I decided to go home and lie down. I had a little too much sun and wasn't feeling very well.

My wife and kids attended the picnic, and there was no way to contact them.

Well, after a few hours I felt pretty good and decided to go back for some great food. I couldn't call for a ride, and the picnic was between two and three miles away at the far side of town.

I grabbed my cane and portable radio and started the trek.

I hadn't walked around this area since I was about twelve years old, but I still had a pretty good mental picture of the terrain.

I walked downtown, crossed the highway, and proceeded up the other side of town. I knew when I got near the hospital I didn't have too much more to travel. I found the hospital and walked a few more blocks to a large curve in the road. Now I knew I was close. After rounding the turn I located the first driveway which would take me up to the park area. I went up the hill and in the distance, maybe two hundred yards, I could hear the kids and music playing. I started walking that way and oops! I was in some woods. I backed up and tried to go straight

Amateur Radio Stories contd

THE OLD DXER

The sunspots were roaring and the Old Dixer was working DX night and day.

The faithful XYL had had it with his QRZing and blew her stack.

"DX DX DX - thats all you ever think about!" she groaned

"Why I'll bet you don't even remember our wedding date!!

"I mostly certainly do" was the immediate reply.

"It was June 14th, 1958 - Thats the night I worked the XT1, the CRØ, and the AC6!! -- By AC6V

OF GENIES AND THINGS

A ham operator is operating Field Day alone at a deserted beach. He is taking a little break from the action, walking around on the beach and notices an antique brass bottle mostly buried in the sand. He digs it out and discovers it's a genie bottle! He manages to get it open and a genie appears. "Thank you for freeing me, O Master!" said the grateful genie. "I will grant you any one wish you want." The ham thinks about it and says, "OK, I got it. I live right now in a restrictive neighborhood. I would like to have a 500 foot tower with all sorts of antennas, despite the homeowners association." The genie looks worried. "O Master! That's a big order. The power of these HOAs and their CC&Rs is most powerful! In fact, they are more powerful than even I, O Master! I would beg you to please choose something else for your wish." The ham says, "OK, let's do this." He goes over to his ham station and pulls out his log books. "See this entry? This is a contact I once made with AC6V. I would sure like to get his QSL card after all this time." The genie looks at the logbook. Then he says, "Now regarding that 500 foot antenna tower, do you want it galvanized or stainless steel?"

another non committee ham to read on his behalf. ZS2EC offered to record the Sunday bull and re-broadcast it on a Monday night.

Al had a few goods for disposal, as did Donovan.

RAE classes – there are 2 classes of school children that want a type of competition between the 2 schools. A volunteer is also needed to help the kids build electronic stuff. Any takers to please talk to Donovan.

Activities:

HF QSO party – 5 December.

VHF contest – 21 – 23 January.

The evening closed at 19h55.

The club provided light snacks after the meeting as a year end party.

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CONGRATULATIONS ...

on your birthdays

December

- 20 Nina Smetryns, XYL of ZS2SJE
- 20 Marlene Ashwell, ZR2ED
- 20 Donald Jacobs ZS2BW
- 21 Ron Clarke ZS2MF
- 23 Noel Hislop, XYL of ZS2EJ
- 24 Colette Rundle ZS2CR, XYL of Mitch ZS2DK
- 25 Mike Bosch, ZS2FM
- 25 Betty Greeff, XYL of ZS2ZG
- 25 Graham Pearson ZR2ABQ
- 28 Elize Laaks XYL of Garth ZS2HB
- 29 Susan Du Plessis, XYL of Neels ZS2ND
- 30 Alida Ligthelm, XYL of Dirk ZS2D
- 30 Lee-Anne McKinnell ZS2LAW
- 31 Willem van der Walt ZS6WDV

January

- 09 Andre Greyling ZS2ACG
- 09 Trevor Lloyd ZR2MCL
- 09 William Hickson ZS2BIL
- 10 Tony Allen ZR2TX

- 14 Jacques Human ZS2BZ
- 15 Ashley Goosen ZS2AG
- 19 Dudley Forsyth ZS2AW
- 20 Barry Murrell ZS2EZ

on your anniversaries

December

- 19 Alida and Dirk Ligthelm ZS2D
- 21 Lilane and Francois Anker ZR2NM
- 21 Llise and Mark Dodd
- 23 Noel and Cyril Hislop ZS2EJ
- 24 Grace and Herman Nell ZR2NH

January

- 02 Julie ZR2EY and Trevor Scarr ZS2AE
- 02 Chantelle and Linton Rohl ZS2ICE
- 03 Brenda and Allan Whitehead ZS2R
- 09 Pam ZU2PAM and Phil Hopper ZS2PP
- 16 Cygnett and Willem van der Walt ZS6WDV
- 22 Renette and André van Deventer ZS2BK

PEARS NATIONAL VHF/UHF CONTEST

JANUARY 2011

The contest starts at 18:00 Friday 21st and ends at 14:00 Sunday 23rd.

This is one of the highlights of the year for PEARS members. Field stations in particular are fun and it would appear that there will be several active. Do join in the fun. See the PEARS website for details.

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.

26th Dec	Bill	ZS2ABZ
2nd Jan	Basie	ZR2BA
9th Jan	Tony	ZR2TX
16th Jan	Chris	ZS2AAW
23rd Jan	Glen	ZS2GV

YOUTH ELECTRONICS

PCB Boards, Tin plated

Contact: Basie ZR2BA

Cell: 0828882118

basiedp@gmail.com

PEARS' VHF/UHF, Packet & Other Services

Local Repeaters:

Town VHF 145,050/650 Town UHF 431,050/438,650 Uitenhage 145,075/675 Tygerhoek 145.000/600

These repeaters form a separate sub-net in the PE - Uitenhage - Despatch area

Cape Linked System Repeaters:

Lady's Slipper 145,100/700 Grahamstown 145.150/750 Cradock 145,050/650 Noupoort 143,150/438,750

Colesberg 431,075/438,675 Kareedouw 145.725/125 Plett 145.775/175 Brenton 145.675/075

These form the PEARS long-range 2-metre repeater system, in conjunction with the Border, Southern Cape and

WCRWG systems

Packet Network:

ZSONTP-2 Packet Node - Lady's Slipper 10.151 LSB 300bd APRS 144.625 1200bd 438.275 1200bd (FWD)

438.875 9600bd 434.800 1200bd APRS - Cape Linked System

ZSONTP BBS - Lady's Slipper On all node frequencies

ZS0GHT-2 Packet Node - Grahamstown 144.675 1200bd 438.275 1200bd 434.875 9600bd

ZS0CDK-2 Digi - Cradock 144.675 1200bd

ZS2ABZ-4 WMR918 WX Station 144.625 1200bd

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

Banking details (for subs & donations): Nedbank Savings, No:221 252 7594, Code: 121217. Call Sign as Ref.

See the PEARS web site at www.zs2pe.co.za for further details and network diagrams.

Your Societies Committee for 2010/2011

Chairman & QSX Editor	Ashley Goosen ZS2AG	082-3726696	ashleygoosen@yahoo.com
Vice-Chairman/Technical	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	041-3681344	christopher@peham.co.za
Secretary	Glen Cummings ZS2GV	082-4112743	glen@peham.co.za
Treasurer	Clive Fife ZS2RT	041-3673203	clive@peham.co.za
Club Social Activities	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	041-5812580	zs2abz@isat.co.za
Marketing & PR	Basie Du Plessis ZR2BA	082-8882118	basiedp@gmail.com
Contest and Awards Manager, Convener of VHF Contest Committee	Tony Allen ZR2TX	082-9562920	tony@zr2tx.co.za
Website Manager	Jarrad Brown ZR2JAB		webmaster@zs2pe.co.za
Co-Opted sub-committees			
RAE Examination Admin.	Donovan ZS2DL	082-8524885	zs2dl@hamradio.co.za
Assessors	Rory ZS2BL	072-0268909	rory@commco.co.za
	Chris ZS2AAW	041-3681344	christopher@peham.co.za
	Donovan ZS2DL	082-8524885	zs2dl@hamradio.co.za
	Bill ZS2ABZ	041-5812580	zs2abz@isat.co.za
Contest Committee	Tony Allen ZR2TX	082-9562920	contest@peham.co.za
	Al Akers ZS2U	041-3602983	
	Mike Bosch ZS2FM	041-5812425	
QSX Distribution	Mitch Rundle ZS2DK	083-7153375	mrundle@axxess.co.za

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Interesting Ride

and again more woods. Every direction I went I found woods. I called out to the kids but they could not hear me. I gave it one more try, and now I found myself in a little trouble. I could not find the driveway.

I took my portable radio and made a radio/telephone patch call to the local police. I told them exactly where to find me. I explained to them that when you come around the curve take the first left. At the top of the hill I was about ten to fifteen feet into the woods. It was starting to get dark and I no longer had the sun to help with directions.

Anyway, about five minutes later, I heard a car coming up the hill. I started walking towards the officer. He asked me how I got there. I described my route. He was quite impressed and explained that the driveway I came up wasn't there twenty years ago. The one I needed was only about twenty yards further. I thanked him and started walking down the hill. He said, "No, get in." I said no problem, I can find it now. And another "Get in." You should have seen everyone when the police drove me up to the picnic. I tried to get the police officer to put on his lights and siren, but he wouldn't cooperate. He wished me well, and told me that he still couldn't believe that I travelled that far using only my cane.