



August 2022



Al Akers, ZS2U sporting his SARL membership Award as well as
PEARS Trophy Certificate

This Newsletter is published by the Port Elizabeth Amateur
Radio Society

P.O. Box 10402, LINTON GRANGE, 6015

Editing by Ashley Goosen ZS2AG

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

PEARS Monthly Meeting

19:30h at the Italian Sporting Club, 17 Harold Road, Charlo

The next meeting at the Italian Club will be on the

20th September 2022



ZS2DL

From the chair

From the outset it just seems that the months are simply flying by. As we enter into August it seems like just yesterday (May) that Ashley said it was only 3 months to him departing for the USA. And my word he has been there for a week already and reminding me that my small contribution is once again late!

I think what I need to remind everyone of at this stage is that the club meeting is coming up on the 16th August and we will have Tony ZR2TX talking us through LoraWAN. Now it sounds Interesting and being Computer challenged at the best of times I am actually looking forward to hearing what the man has to say.

I encourage everyone to join us for the meeting and presentation at the usual spot. I have also meant to say thank you for the great support we have been having in the form of turn out to our meetings the past few months. It really is great.

I do know the shirts have now been ordered and I was informed that the lead time would be 7 to 10 days, so who knows we may even get our shirts at the meeting!

Your Committee are also currently working on a few things in the background and will keep you up to date as things develop.

Right now stay active get involved and keep your ears to the ground for any announcements that might be forthcoming.

I am also still looking for interest to be shown in the possible Contest University as suggested in the last QSX. Sadly it seems not much interest exists.

See everyone on the 16th.

Until next time....

PEARS, WE LIKE BEING YOUR CLUB

73,

Donovan, ZS2DL

Minutes of PEARS Monthly Meeting

Held at the Italian Club on the 19th July 2022 at 19h30

Welcome:

Chairman Donovan welcomed all present, Johan ZS5JPV joined for the first time.

Silent Keys

The meeting observed a moment's silence in memory of two recent silent keys:

ZS2VA Les Barker

ZR2AW Aloma XYL of ZS2NB of the Border Radio Club

ZR2CRS has samples of the nameplates he has had made for the Memorial board for the Jamtin. Very nicely done.

Attendance:

Approximately 20 people present.

Apologies:

ZS2JIM, ZS2MIC, ZS2GS, ZS2ZA.

Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes:

Proposed: ZS2RT

Seconded: ZS2SG

Matters arising:

None

Finances:

All in good standing. Thanks to Mike ZS2MIC for sending figures in his absence.

General:

Shirts

Kevern ZR2BK awaiting 6 payments for the second round of PEARS shirts.
Cut off date next Wednesday 27th July.

Rally comms

Past weekend event went off very well. Organisers were very happy with comms. Newcomers to the hobby did well.

Events

Transbaviaans event 13th and 20th August. Please get hold of Tony ZR2TX.

Get added to the PEARS events WhatsApp group if interested in being involved in future events.

Lighthouse weekend clashes with second weekend of Transbaviaans 20th August. Cape Recife Lighthouse is usually manned by PEARS. Speak to Andrew ZS2G to assist/join them.

Jamtin

Jimmy always keen on Friday evenings for gathering at the Jamtin – welcome to all to attend

Qsx

Ashley is off to the States for a few months. Bon voyage! Please send articles to the Qsx email address, he will still be publishing from stateside.

Al ZS2U has received an SARL membership certificate recognizing his uninterrupted membership since 1948!

ZS2CJ

Anyone with e-waste, get it to Chad who will convert to cash for the club.

Closure:

Meeting ended at 19h58

Next meeting in 16th August-ZR2TX on LoraWAN

ZS2KU Quintus will speak at September meeting about his COVID project – the magnetic loop antenna

Keith presented a talk on Audio

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

DONOVAN VAN LOGGERENBERG(ZS2DL)

C SCARR(ZS2AAW)

Calling Back the Past

My partner on the Emergency Communications Response Vehicle (ECRV), Richard McMahon, KB9TOR, and I were deployed to the Red Cross forward headquarters in Montgomery, Alabama, while Hurricane Katrina made its devastating landfall along the Gulf coast. Then we received our instructions. We were to take a case of self-heating meals and a case of water from the supply area and head to Gulfport, Mississippi. A few hours later, as we got close to our destination, we checked our ARRL repeater directory to determine which amateur radio frequencies were usually used in that community. Here are two guys from Chicago driving in an unfamiliar area with no electricity, no telephone service, no cellular service, and not even being able to rely on local landmarks for guidance because Katrina had leveled them just a few hours earlier. Bob Jackson, KC5OAE, answered our call on the radio and provided turn-by-turn guidance to the building from which the Red Cross was operating. Bob was able to do this because, as a licensed amateur radio operator, also known as a "ham radio operator", using only his own radio equipment, an antenna on his truck and the truck's battery, he was able to talk with other operators across the southern part of Mississippi. To explain, our ECRV is one of nine identical Ford Excursions which is equipped with a satellite dish, 52' mast, satellite television, more than a dozen different types of radios, notebook computers, a communications interoperability system, antennas capable of world-wide communications, and an 8000 watt generator powered by the truck's diesel engine. The site to which we were assigned was to be a bulk-distribution site where large truckloads of food and supplies were being unloaded and reloaded into smaller Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles (ERV's), which then delivered the food and supplies to people in the heart of the affected area. Like any organization, this site needed telephone and email capability to order supplies and manage the operation. As our ECRV approached the building under Bob's guidance via ham radio, the Red Cross personnel waved us in and already had a parking place cleared next to the building so we could run our cables directly into the facility. There were still puddles in the parking lot and boards on the windows. As my ECRV partner began to establish satellite communications with Red Cross national headquarters and raised the satellite television dish, I ran data and coax cables into the facility through a side door. I also setup wireless networking equipment, unpacked a few notebook computers, distributed voice-over-IP telephones, and located a television. We ran extension cords

from the ECRV to power our networking equipment, and within about an hour of arriving, a few dozen Red Cross personnel were able to make phone calls, begin sending and receiving e-mail for supplies and logistics, and were able to see for the first time on network television the hurricane which had passed through their community. By the way, while we were setting up the high-tech equipment, Bob kept providing essential communications from his radio and his pickup truck. But that was only the beginning. With essential communications in place for the Red Cross operation, it was time to plan for communications with the rest of the affected area. And that meant using amateur radio. For the rest of week that I was in Gulfport, Richard and I used a combination of handheld and mobile ham radios to stay in contact with the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties. Amateur radio operators took turns working virtually around-the-clock for weeks passing emergency and logistical radio traffic between EOC's, local agencies, and our operation. Because ham radio was being used so extensively for communications, it would sometimes take fifteen minutes or more for a break in traffic so we could transmit a message requesting supplies or assistance. When the airwaves would go silent, it was usually followed a few minutes later by an explanation that there had been a problem with a generator or other piece of equipment, and that a ham had found a few spare parts from his or her toolbox, fixed the problem, and restored radio service. 2 Messages of all types were passed. The space from which the Red Cross was operating was generously made available to us by the regional EMS provider. After a day or two I realized that a ham radio operator was receiving EMS calls for help via ham radio and passing the messages across the aisle to a dispatcher. With the Red Cross operation stable, having worked in the fire service for a few years, and being a licensed ham, I asked him if he'd like some relief. He introduced me to the dispatchers and then walked away to get some much needed and deserved rest. This rotation continued for the rest of the week. Richard, the fellow in the dispatch area, and I helped cover each other's radio traffic when one of us stepped away for a break. In fact, there was so much ham radio traffic that my crewmate and I took turns listening to the radio so we wouldn't miss important messages. Once, an EOC, knowing that we could make telephone calls via our satellite connection, called via radio and asked us to locate an important person from a local commercial facility that was vital to the region. At other times we passed radio traffic regarding missing persons, requests for ambulances and police assistance, and called for more supplies. Additional ham radio operators began to

arrive a few days into the operation. These folks arrived prepared to be self-sufficient with food, water, tents, generators, fuel, and lots of radios. They were ready to provide emergency communications where needed. One evening when it was no longer possible to bring diesel fuel to our ECRV, we had to shutdown and go get it from a local facility that was open to emergency vehicles only. Of course, once we shutdown the ECRV, the Red Cross operation had no communications. Our new ham radio friends who had just arrived stayed and maintained radio contact with the ECRV while it left for a couple of hours. As days and weeks passed, operators were in service at shelters, field kitchens, other bulk distribution sites, and wherever needed. I deployed again about three weeks later for Hurricane Rita, this time with an ECRV in Jasper, Texas, supporting communications, computers, and other types of response technology for a field kitchen operated by a partnership between the American Red Cross and the Southern Baptist Convention. Once again, ham radio operators were there to support the operation. They worked around-the-clock using their own equipment, tents, and campers. I earned my amateur radio license less than two months before being deployed for Hurricane Katrina. I am humbled by the selfless service demonstrated by the amateur radio operators I met in Gulfport, southern Mississippi, and Alabama. Although I know most of these people only by their call-signs, I feel as if they are my friends.

Craig Dieckman, KC9HWK

Volunteer Lead,

Response Technology American Red Cross of Greater Chicago

www.chicagoredcross.org dieckmanc@usa.redcross.org

FROM THE EDITOR

Hi Everyone, This copy of QSX comes to you from Birmingham, Alabama in the USA. Just to let you know that my flight went well. I wish you happy reading, and if you have an article or two that you would like published in future copies of QSX, please let me have your contribution by email to qsx.zs2ag@gmail.com. Thank you for the articles you have submitted for this issue.

73,

Ashley ZS2AG

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

August

18-Aug Al Akers ZS2U

26-Aug Nicole Cummings ZU2NX

September

02-Sep Johannes (Joe) Geldenhuys ZS2JO

05-Sep André Oliphent André

09-Sep Andrew Bouwer ZS2AFB

10-Sep Andre van Deventer ZS2BK

Spouse Birthdays

August

18-Aug Maggie Moore Ian ZS2IJ

24-Aug Daschell Geldenhuys Johannes
(Joe) ZS2JO

29-Aug Teresa Joubert Tim ZS2X

September

2-Sep Renette van Deventer Andre ZS2BK

2-Sep Mel Gwilt Beavan ZS2RL

09-Sep Merle Thomas ZR2MP Neil ZR2NT

11-Sep Jane Fife Clive ZS2RT

12-Sep Dixeeta Gajjar Tejas ZS2TG

12-Sep Jo Akers ZS2W Al ZS2U

Anniversaries

August

24-Aug David Beverley Higgs ZS2DH

September

02-Sep Allan ZS2BOJoan ZR2ABA Bowles

06-Sep Les Lyn Barker ZS2VA

11-Sep Neville Sandra Bowden ZS2N

14-Sep Paul Daphne Galpin ZS2PG

DISCLAIMER

Please note:

The Editor, nor any PEARS club member shall be held liable for errors and/or omissions in any article and/or drawing contained in this newsletter. Furthermore, any view expressed is not necessarily that of the Editor, any committee member or other members of the Club. The material contained in this newsletter is not meant to defame, purge, humiliate and/or hurt someone's person or feelings.

If copy is unintentionally infringed, we apologise. The newsletter is published as a free service to Amateur Radio Operators and friends.

SUNDAY SARL AND MONDAY
EVENING PEAR'S
BULLETINS

PEAR'S provides a local reading of the SARL bulletin every Sunday morning at 8:15 in Afrikaans read by Kevern ZR2BK and 8:30 in English read by Rory ZS2BL, transmitted through the Town 2M Repeater on 145.650MHz.

PEAR'S bulletins are transmitted on Monday evenings at 20h00 on the Lady's Slipper repeater, 145.700 MHz, 88.5Hz, Narrow and 438.700 MHz, no CTCSS Wide. (Standby option is 145.650MHz Town repeater 88.5Hz, Narrow)

Bulletin Roster

15-Aug	Mike	ZS2MIC
22-Aug	Kevern	ZR2BK
29-Aug	Glen	ZS2GV
5-Sep	Jimmy	ZS2JIM
12-Sep	Shaun	ZS2SG
19-Sep	Donovan	ZS2DL
26-Sep	Dave	ZS2DH
3-Oct	Chris	ZS2AAW
10-Oct	Mike	ZS2MIC

<http://www.zs2pe.co.za/bulletins.html>

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Our 2022/2023 PEARS Committee

These committee members can be reached as a group by sending email to [committee\[at\]peham.co.za](mailto:committee[at]peham.co.za)

PORTFOLIO	NAME	CALLSIGN	EMAIL	CONTACT No
Chairman, RAE classes, Technical Workshops, HF tests	Donovan van Loggerenberg	ZS2DL	zs2dl[at]hamradio.co.za	082 852 4885
Vice Chairman, SARL liaison, Hammies, Youth, Contest Scoring	Dave Higgs	ZS2DH	om[at]zs2dh.co.za	082 387 5657
Treasurer	Michael Steenkamp	ZS2MIC	zs2mic[at]jigen.co.za	082 523 5677
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CO-OPTED POSTS

PORTFOLIO	NAME	CALLSIGN	EMAIL	CONTACT No
Contest Liaison Officer	Theunis Potgieter	ZS2EC	zs2ec01[at]gmail.com	064 901 8079
Events & Rally organising	Tony Allen	ZR2TX	tony.zr2tx[at]gmail.com	082 956 2920

(Please note: The "@" sign has been replaced with "[at]" in the above addresses to try to prevent spamming)

PEARS' VHF/UHF, Packet & Other Services

Local Repeaters: These repeaters form a separate sub-net in the PE - Uitenhage - Despatch area.

Town VHF	Longmore	Uitenhage	Town UHF	<----- IRLP available on this subnet
145.050/650 88.5Hz, Narrow 12.5k	145.025/625 88.5Hz, Narrow 12.5k	145.075/675 Wide 25k	431.050/438.650 Wide 25k	
Cockscomb	Viewlands	<----- These form linking hubs for events, hence no tail	DMR	D-Star
431.000/438.600 Add 88.5Hz for squ tail	431.075/438.675 Add 88.5Hz for squ tail		430.675/438.275 QTH: ZS2VA	145.175/775 QTH: ZS2N

Cape Linked System Repeaters:

These form the PEARS long-range 2-metre repeater system, in conjunction with the Border, Southern Cape and WCRWG systems. See www.zs2pe.co.za/Repeaters/repeaters.htm for more details.

Lady's Slipper	Grahamstown	Cradock	Noupoort (link only)
145.100/700 88.5Hz, Narrow 12.5k	145.150/750 Wide 25k	145.050/650 Wide 25k	438.750 / 438.675 Wide 25k
Colesberg	Kareedouw	Plett	Brenton
431.075/438.675 Wide 25k	145.125/725	145.175/775	145.075/675

APRS/Packet network:

ZSONTP Node	ZSOKDK APRS Digi	ZSOKDB APRS Digi
Lady's Slipper 434,800 1200bd 439.850 9600 bd	Mount Road 434,800 1200bd	Longmore 434,800 1200bd

VHF Beacon: 50,007 MHz FSK – ZS2X, 25 Watts into 2 element Yagi beaming north.

Banking details (for subs & donations): NEDBANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT No. 221 252 7594, Bank code 121217, A/C name: Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society. **Please use call signs as a reference.**