



January 2023



Jimmy ZS2JIM operating from the Jamtin, a certain passion of his. See article on Pages 6 to 8

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 will be at the Walmer Scout Hall
will be on the 17th January 2023**



ZS2DL

FROM THE CHAIR

We are already half way through January 2023. True story! But here is a belated happy new year to you all no matter where you are. We seem to have stuttered along in December and have now had to say goodbye to Shaun ZS2SG from the committee as he has become so busy at work he has to reprioritise and decided to reduce his involvement in the hobby. I would like to thank him for his time and effort up until now.

We are also having problems with a monthly meeting venue as the Italian club seems to be going through management issues. We are currently trying to sort this problem out and will keep the club informed as to the developments in this regard.

There has also been a shortage of bulletin readers over the holiday season but hopefully it will improve now as we all get back into the swing of things.

As for Ham Radio, the PEARS national VHF/UHF contest is this month and also the 3Y0J Bouvet DX pedition starts at the end of the month. Be on the lookout for both these exciting events.

So even though we are having our challenges as we start 2023, we have gone through a lot worse and I am sure we will get through these issues too.

You can make all the difference by getting involved.

The club is nothing without its members.

Until Next time.

73,

Donovan, ZS2DL

Amateur Radio is the best back up Communication in the World!

FROM THE EDITOR

Hi Everyone, from me wishing you a belated Happy New Year for 2023.

I also wish you happy reading this edition of QSX 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 your continued support of QSX and the articles you have submitted for this issue.

73,

Ashley ZS2AG

Minutes of PEARS Monthly Meeting

No minutes in November as we had the Fish and Chips evening and no meeting in December.

Rewriting the RAE 48 Years Later.

I first wrote the RAE in 1974 shortly after turning 16 in May the same year. Having successfully passed the requirements I received the callsign ZR2AQ.

Over the following years I become involved with radio communications and electronics at a professional level, initially as an electronics prototype technician then more specifically in the field of commercial RF comms.

In the late '80s I left the industry as I found there were just too many obstacles for a small business to grow and I had little desire to spend many years working as an employee.

Over the years other factors that come up for all of us; relationships, changing interests, different work arenas, etc. arose. By 1992 I had not been active on amateur radio for several years so I let my licence lapse.

Jump ahead in time to more recent years and I once again became interested, especially as now there were a whole lot of new interesting aspects to amateur radio and electronics in general. So I began to seriously consider rewriting the RAE. It was suggested I try to get my old operating licence reinstated.

However long ago; even before I let the licence lapse, I had decided one day I would take the exam again. So when I decided to return to the fold I still wanted write the exam anyway. In any case my ham certificate had long before gone west, along with a lot of other items, during my quite frequent moves of QTH around South Africa. Then along came COVID19 which put many things, including any intentions of rewriting the RAE, on hold for a while.

Jump ahead to 2022 and a good friend, OM Rory ZS2BL convinced me it was time to return to ham radio and helped facilitate the necessary processes. Thank you OM, if you hadn't taken the bull by the horns no doubt I would still be vacillating, finding rea-

sons to put it off.

More or less 7 weeks later in October it was off to Port Elizabeth to the qth of OM Dylan ZS2DL to take the hf assessment and RAE. I admit I found the exam really easy and surprised myself how well the technical stuff was still so well remembered after all the intervening years.

A tip for prospective new amateurs when taking the RAE is keep an eye on the ball, and watch out for the one or two slightly ambiguous answer choices. HiHi.

I am really glad I decided to redo the exam as I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

I applied for my old call ZR2AQ and duly received my HAREC with this callsign. However ICASA decided to issue my licence as ZS2AQ, which is fine by me.

To any prospective ham considering taking up the hobby I can only say "Go for it, it's not as difficult as it may appear."

The SARL provides all the study material that is needed, although it is always good to research further e.g. get hold of publications e.g. the ARRL handbook. You'll find the more information you find the more interesting it gets. The SARL material is rated by a number of international hams as world leading material for preparation to take the exam.

If you prefer the more formal way of learning your local radio club usually run courses to this end. You may be required to join the club and SARL to participate in the course. A small price and worth every cent not only for the course but also for the services the SARL and the local club provide to radio amateurs.

It's a worthwhile endeavour and will lead to a lot of enjoyment whatever your area of interest may be. Whether it's the more technical aspects of RF technology, bringing computers and radio equipment together, making contact with other hams locally or around the world, there's lots of fun to be had.

Mike Otgaar ZS2AQ

zs2aq@qsl.net



From the JAMTIN.....

The Jamtin continues to grow and provide great results. This is because of great work done by the Friends of the Jamtin.

During various contests run from the Jamtin contacts were made to all parts of the world. Even HF novice ZS2JIM made contact with Russia and China.



Amongst all the other upgrades is a smart charger connected to a 102a/h battery. This battery is connected to a power rail which provides 12v DC outlets to the work area. So loadshedding is a bit less of a pain.

Outside ZS2G and ZS2CJ have been hard at work and we now have additional antenna for 10m and 20m. At the moment these appear to be the most active DX bands.

There are a number of DX expeditions underway at the moment, all hams are encouraged to join us in the Jamtin on a Friday evening to try and make contact with these expeditions.



As always there are also many contests on the calendar, we try to participate in as many of these as possible. ZS2EC will call for participants for these contests and slot you into a period where you can operate in the Jamtin. There is also a special ZS contest callsign which has been created for use during contests.

Looking ahead into 2023, we will continue to build on the progress we

have made to get the Jamtin into the place to be for all hams. Together with the Jamtin infrastructure we also have a large piece of safe ground to setup field stations where hams can operate from.



Well done to the Friends of the Jamtin. Through your efforts and hard work, you have created a place where hams can practice their hobby. Some hams have sophisticated shacks with excellent antennae. Others are finding that “local noise” has grown to the point where operating is becoming very challenging. And then you have the novices who are slowly building their infrastructure.

We believe that Jamtin is there for all hams regardless of where they are in terms of experience or personal equip-

ment. It's great that new hams have a place to learn and operate. But this learning needs the input of the experienced hams. So, there is a place or a role for everyone in the building of the Jamtin and growing the hobby.



Our regular Friday evening operations have started for 2023. We look forward to seeing you at the Jamtin or making contact with you down the co-ax.

Jamtin is there for you

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

January

17-Jan Andre van Biljon ZS2PL
17-Jan Albie Gibson ZS2AZ
23-Jan Paul Schoeman ZS2PS

February

02-Feb Paul Galpin ZS2PG
04-Feb Ivan Newman ZS2ILN
04-Feb Shawn Gilbert ZS2SG
14-Feb Arno du Preez ZS2ABT
17-Feb Jeffrey Ferreira ZR2JEF
18-Feb Peter Flynn ZS2PF
19-Feb Gary Laaks ZS2GRL

Spouse Birthdays

January

24-Jan Suzette Greyling Bennie ZR2BC

February

02-Feb Ginny Pullinger ZS2GIN Pat
ZS2PJP

03-Feb Wanda van Vuuren Johan ZS2JV06-
Feb Neels Kruger Patricia (Patsy)
ZS2PTY

07-Feb Chantal Loock Yacov ZS2YCL
07-Feb Joan Bowles ZR2ABA Allan ZS2BO
12-Feb Jackie Norton Rory ZS2BL

Anniversaries

January

17-Jan Jimmy Barbara De Scande ZS2JIM
19-Jan Tejas Dixeeta Gajjar ZS2TG
22-Jan Andre Renette van Deventer ZS2BK
24-Jan Shaun Adele Baumeister ZS2L

February

02-Feb Ginny Pullinger ZS2GIN Pat ZS2PJP
03-Feb Wanda van Vuuren Johan ZS2JV
06-Feb Neels Kruger Patricia (Patsy)
ZS2PTY
07-Feb Chantal Loock Yacov ZS2YCL
07-Feb Joan Bowles ZR2ABA Allan ZS2BO
12-Feb Jackie Norton Rory ZS2BL

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

23-Jan	Dave	ZS2DH
30-Jan	Chris	ZS2AAW
06-Feb	Mike	ZS2MIC
13-Feb	Kevern	ZR2BK
20-Feb	Ashley	ZS2AG
27-Feb	Glen	ZS2GV
06-Mar	Jimmy	ZS2JIM
13-Mar	Donovan	ZS2DL

HAM RADIO OUTLET-SOUTH AFRICA cc

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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]igen.co.za	082 523 5677
Secretary, Repeaters, WIFI	Christopher Scarr	ZS2AAW	christopher[at]peham.co.za	082 925 6367
Technical Workshops, RAE class assistance, HF tests				
Technical support & maintenance	Kevern Burger	ZR2BK	k.burger[at]stfrancislinks.com	083 401 9587
Technical/repeaters, Search and Rescue & Emergency comms	Glen Cummings	ZS2GV	glenvanessa[at]gmail.com	082 411 2743
Socials, Scouts interface, "Jamtin" Scouts operating container	Jimmy De Scande	ZS2JIM	jimmy.descande[at]gmail.com	083 650 9422
QSX Editor	Ashley Goosen	ZS2AG	qsx.zs2ag[at]gmail.com	082 372 6696

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:

ZS0NTP Node	ZS0KDK APRS Digi	ZS0KDB 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.**