

March 2023



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

will be at the Italian Club, **21st March 23**



ZS2DL

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everyone, from the chair seems to be due on a permanent basis. Ashley does a very good job of chasing me up for it when I just think he has forgotten. We had a successful meeting in February at the Italian club and I must be honest and say you can clearly see the effort the guys have put in to get the place cleaned up and ready to serve again like it was in the

old days.

It was decided based on this that we would continue with our meeting there for now but keep the scout hall as a backup but leave the German club idea for now.

I do however wish we could get the attendance up a little. We hover around the 22-25 mark and it would be nice to get it into the 30's. How about YOU making the difference and joining us this coming Tuesday 21 March at 19:30. You can make the difference!

We will be entertained by Gert ZS2GS this coming month so come see what he has for us.

Then I have also been told that 15 April (Saturday) is not to be missed. There is a fox hunt being presented by Marais

ZS1NOS at the Walmer Scout Hall and afterwards there will be a meet and greet with the SARL President, Nico ZS6QL, who will be presenting PEARS with some promotional items and following which a Bring and Braai will follow. Festivities commence at 10am. Bring the whole family!

So with that, Exciting news I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Until Next time.

73,

Donovan, ZS2DL

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

FROM THE EDITOR

Here's wishing 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

Held at the Italian Club on the 21st February 2023 at 19h30

Welcome:

Chairman Donovan welcomed all present.

Attendance:

Approximately 14 members. As per Register

Apologies:

ZS2AAW, ZS2MIC, ZS2GS, ZS2TJ, ZS2TAH

Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes:

Proposed: ZS2DK

Seconded: ZS2RT

Matters arising:

None

Finances:

Unavailable

The chairman later confirmed figures for the record, these were in good standing.

General:

QX

ZS2AG-Ashley will be away in March and requests any Articles or Contributions towards QX to reach him ASAP so that he could prepare it before He leaves. Chairman Thanked Ashley for another excellent edition of the monthly newsletter.

The Club was also informed of the need for volunteers for the Addo 100miler to assist with repeater and cross band radio facilities on the weekend as both ZS2AAW and ZR2BK are unavailable. Should anyone be able to assist to get hold of Tony ZR2TX.

Volunteers are also sought for Ironman for the 5th March.

The Visit of ZS6QL to PEARS was also mentioned and the club was told to listen out for further news in this regard, as well as the possible FOX hunt to coincide with this event. Possible all to be held in the form of a bring and braai at the Jamtin. Dates to be advised.

Further those present were informed about the current status of our meeting venue and that we await feedback from the Italian club as to our renewal of membership As well as the MOU with the Scout group in Walmer.

ZS2DK made contact with Ted ZS2TED and says Ted is poorly and has recently taken a fall. He has unfortunately taken the decision to give up Ham radio due to his health but passes on his best 73 and say we are in his thoughts all the time. ---- As he is in ours! ----

With no further business

Closure:

Meeting ended at 19h58

Meeting was followed by a DVD of the 2005 FT5XO DX pedition to Kerguelen Island. Everyone stayed to watch and seemed to enjoy it. We all went home around 21h30.

Next meeting in 21 March.

ZS2GS Marine Radio Operating Procedure.

CHAIRMAN (& Secretary)

DONOVAN VAN LOGGERENBERG (ZS2DL)

License Renewal Reminder

ICASA licenses are due for payment (and receipting) BEFORE 1 April!

The online process with ICASA is relatively painless if paying by credit card - I got sorted with my new license "in my inbox" within about 10 minutes.

If you paying "offline" you need to upload the POP and that will take much longer - perhaps even days - so don't leave it to the last minute!

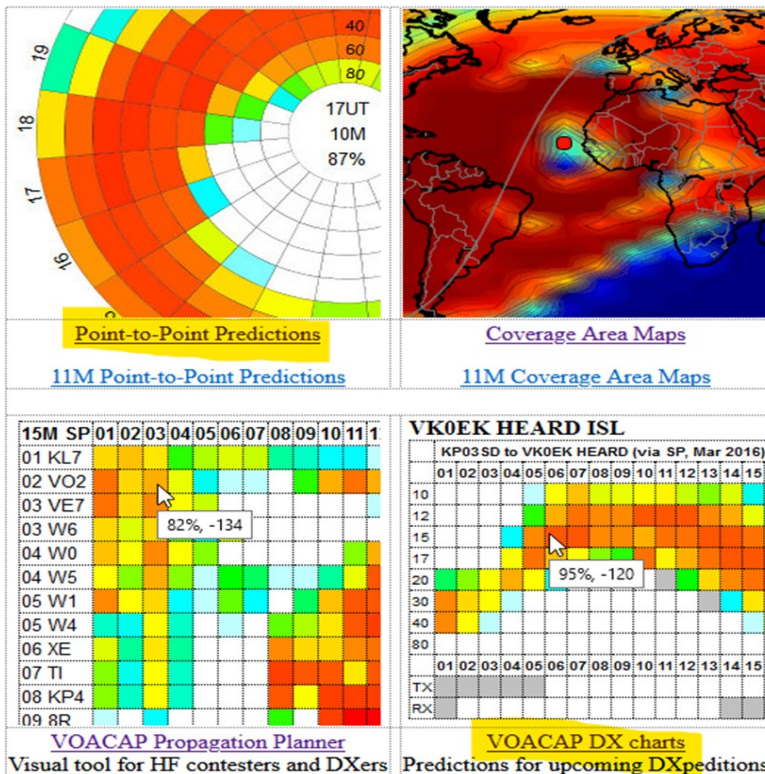
Some of my favourite online DX Tools

Last month we took a look at Clublog's live streams and this month something completely different: The **Voice Of America Coverage Analysis Program**, better known as VOACAP.COM is a HF propagation prediction tool. And it is great!

In your browser, go to <https://www.voacap.com> and take a look – there are a lot of “goodies under the hood”, but I'd like to take a look at just two of them.

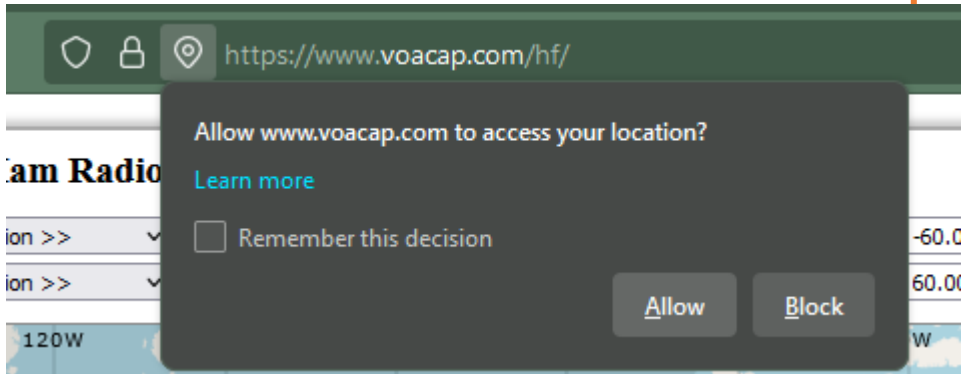
The VOACAP.com site looks something like this – with a bit of blurb above it and a greyline indicator below. Locate this and you are in the pound seats!

VOACAP Online Prediction Services



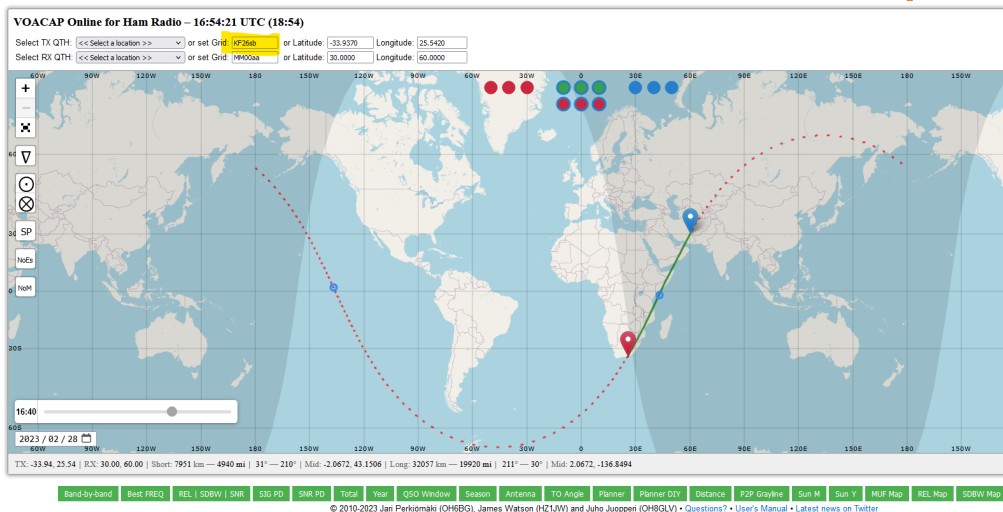
There are two links highlighted in yellow – top left and bottom right. You still with me?

Let's take a look at **the Point-To-Point Predictions tool**.



When you click the link, it will open a new tab and prompt to get your location. You can allow the browser access to your location if you like, or you can fill in your location manually (great if you are not where you will be when operating for example).

The tool looks something like this: Note Your (TX) grid locator and the tools on the top right including “Prop Charts” – marked in yellow on the image below.

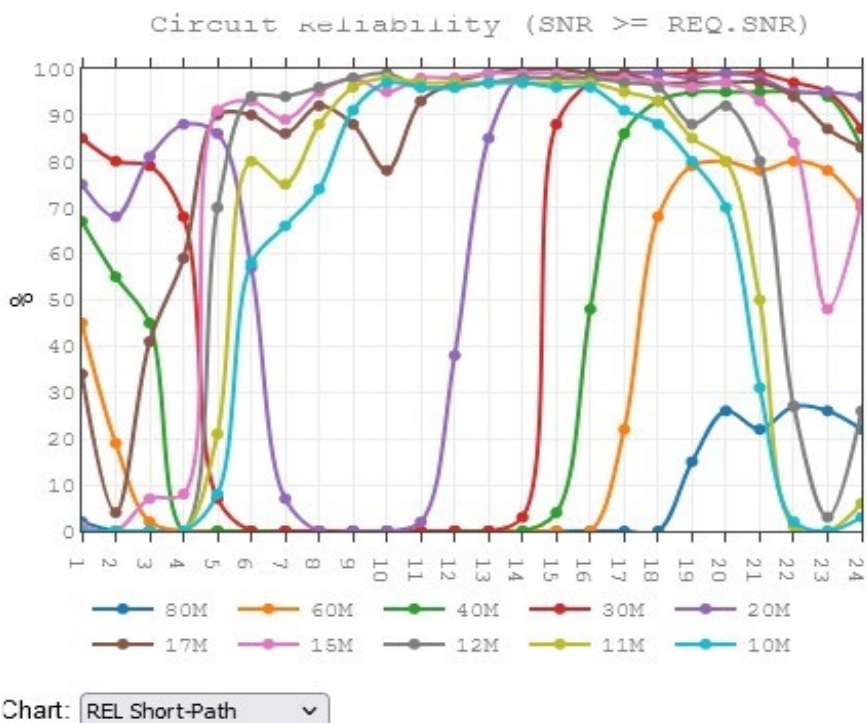


What are you looking at? Well obviously, there is a map of the world, but there is also the famous “Greyline” as set “at the moment” but you can use the slider in the bottom left to move around the day time.

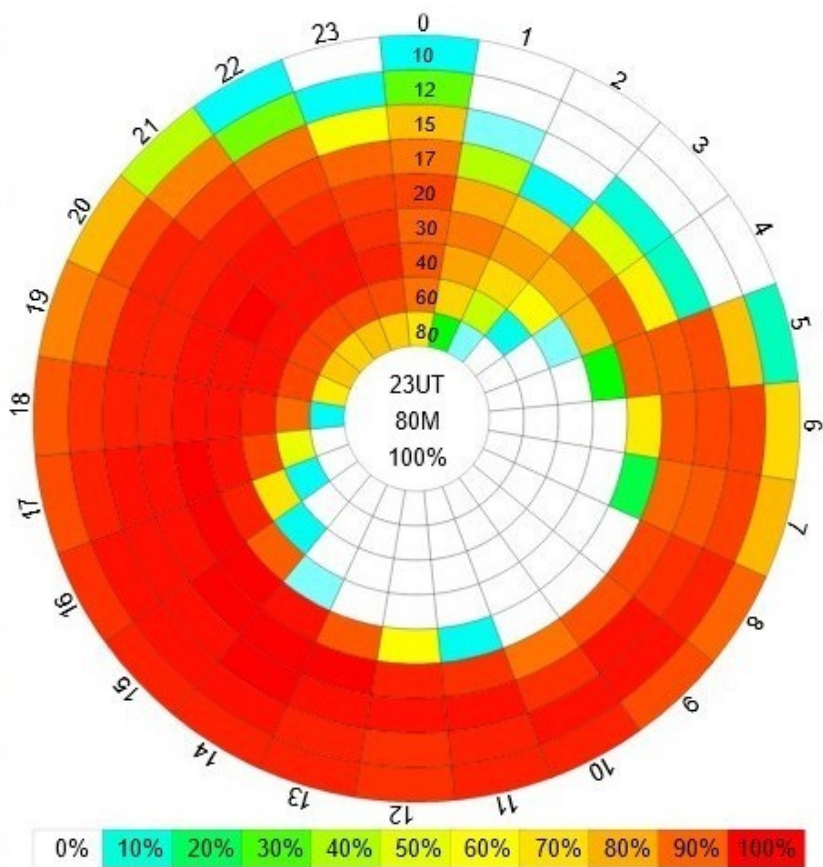
You are red (TX) and they are blue (RX). Click to move them around all you like – and time travel the sunset too while you are at it!

When you are where you want to be in terms of setting your location, their location, and the time you plan to operate, its time to make a few more settings – Mode, Power, and antennas! Click the dropdowns to toggle the mode and power. Click the Antennas button and set the antenna configuration as needed. I usually set lower power and antennas than I anticipate using – that way I’m not disappointed and I feel like a superhero when I make the contact.

Charts look like this:



There are two kinds of DXers in the world – those who like charts and those who like wheels. I like wheels. Click either to get a prediction of the likelihood of mak-



Bands are concentric circles, and the wedges are UTC hour of the day. The “redder-the-better” approach to colours is used here where a dark red implies 100% and white 0% chance for the contact.

Both the wheel and the charts are mouse-aware so move your mouse around – there is plenty to learn here.

Give it a try – what is the best time to work Mongolia on 15m?

Back to the beginning and click on the other link – VOACAP DX Charts. This is a whole lot of power in your hands for very little effort.

Back to the beginning and click on the other link – VOACAP DX Charts. This is a whole lot of power in your hands for very little effort.

VOACAP DX Charts

Short-path and long-path HF propagation predictions to DX sites.

An introduction to [VOACAP DX Charts](#).

Your grid locator:

KF26sa

☐ Use Es

Run!

Your Antennas

10M	1/4 wl Vert Gd Gnd
12M	1/4 wl Vert Gd Gnd
15M	1/4 wl Vert Gd Gnd
17M	1/4 wl Vert Gd Gnd
20M	1/4 wl Vert Gd Gnd
30M	1/4 wl Vert Gd Gnd
40M	1/4 wl Vert Gd Gnd
60M	1/4 wl Vert Gd Gnd
80M	1/4 wl Vert Gd Gnd

DX Site Antennas

10M	Dipole @ 10M (33ft)
12M	Dipole @ 10M (33ft)
15M	Dipole @ 10M (33ft)
17M	Dipole @ 10M (33ft)
20M	Dipole @ 10M (33ft)
30M	Dipole @ 10M (33ft)
40M	Dipole @ 10M (33ft)
60M	Dipole @ 10M (33ft)
80M	Dipole @ 10M (33ft)

Save setup

Reset setup

Swap antennas

DX Sites

- 9N7AA Nepal, Feb 2023
- FT8MW Crozet, Feb 2023. See also: [Complete FT8MW predictions](#)
- 9U4UX Burundi, Feb 4-27, 2023
- YJ8A Vanuatu, Feb 9-23, 2023
- FT4YM Antarctic Base Dumont d'Urville, Feb 13-27, 2023
- CSC Gambia, Feb 14 - Mar 14, 2023
- VK9CVG Cocos (Keeling), Feb 17-24, 2023
- 3B7M St Brandon, Feb 25 - Mar 8, 2023. See also: [Complete 3B7M predictions](#)
- TZICE Mali, Feb 25 - Mar 16, 2023
- US5 Swains Isl, Mar 2023
- CV95 Sabie, Mar 20-30, 2023
- 9G4X Ghana, Mar 22-30, 2023
- E6AM Niue, Oct 10-27, 2023
- H40WA Temotu, Oct 31 - Nov 14, 2023
- YJ Vanuatu, October 2024

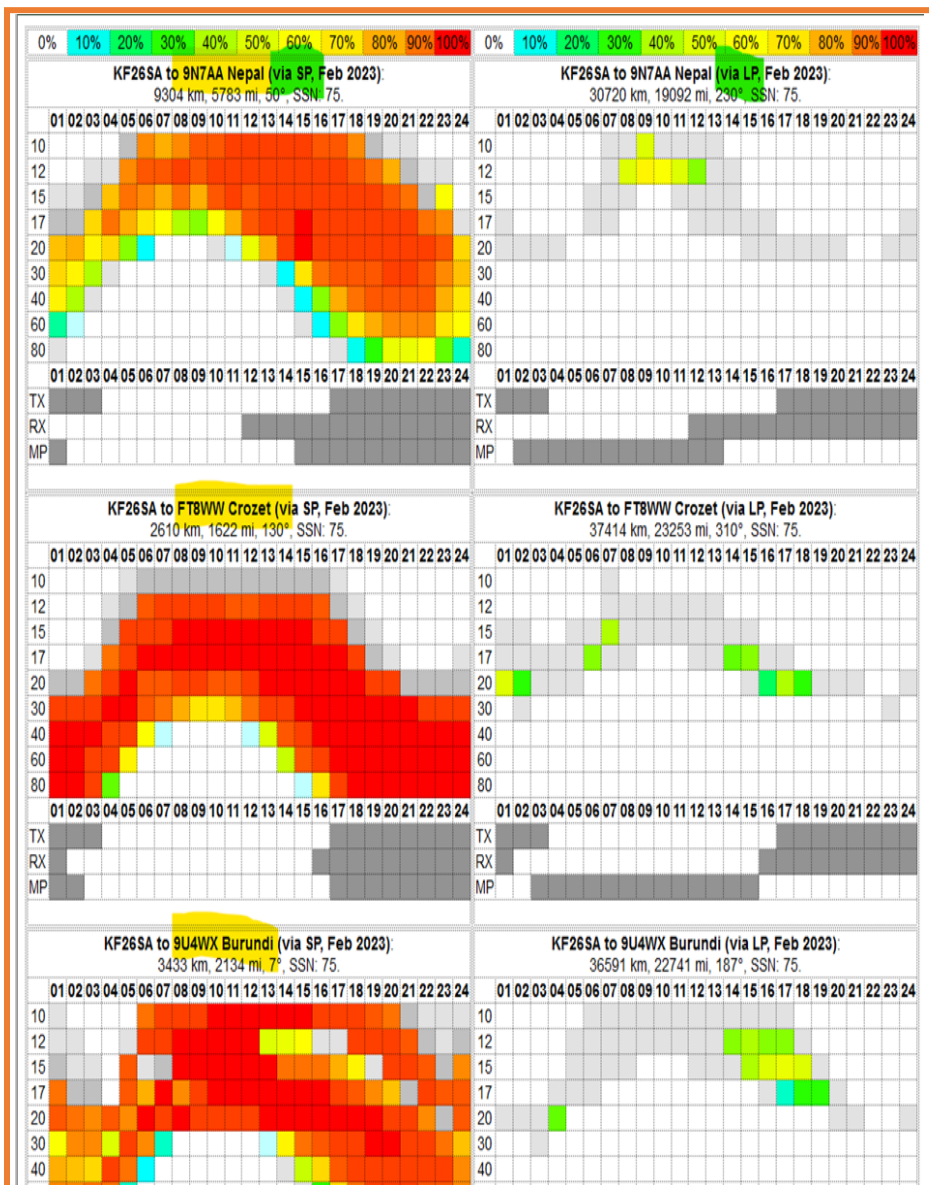
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Fill out your grid locator and set the antennas as you think best. You can save the setup if you want to – just click the “Save Setup:” button below the antenna information.

Near the bottom is a list of current DXpeditions – and these change with time, so do keep coming back! If there is a link it will take you to the official website/additional information for the DXpedition. They don't always have a link.

Click run and get the propagation charts – both long and short path to each of these expeditions!

It will look something like this (but probably much longer):



Really neat hey? The X-axis is the hour of the day, and the Y-axis is your band. The redder the block the more the chance of making a contact on *that* band in *that* hour. White blocks represent great times to mow the lawn, chat to the XYL, or do some saltmine activity.



The Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society presents a

FOX HUNT

facilitated by ZS1NOS, Marais Schoeman.

Join us afterwards for a meet and greet with the
SARL President, ZS6QL, Nico van Rensburg who
will be handing over promotional Items to the club.

A bring and braai will follow.

Venue: Walmer Scout Hall, Fordyce Rd,
Port Elizabeth

When: 15 April 2023

Time: Fox Hunt starts at 10h00



ALL CLUB MEMBERS WELCOME TO JOIN WITH THEIR FAMILIES

The power of contest multipliers

Many hams don't seem to grasp the basics of how contest multipliers work. I've always said that the way to win a contest is to work the multipliers.

What are contest multipliers?

Reading the rules for a contest will tell you if there are any multipliers and how they will be applied. Usually multipliers apply to a station type/power level (eg x3 for QRP), bands worked, grids/dx entities worked, etc.. A multiplier is a factor that you use to MULTIPLY your score (qso points). This is used to make it easier for a qrp station to compete with larger base stations for example.

Multipliers, as their name suggests, can take a good score and make it a great score! Let's look at an example: The recent SARL Digital contest. For the sake of simplicity, let's just take one band – say 40m. *Actually, you could work several bands and then add up the score per band to get a final score.*

There are a bunch of local entities (South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Mauritius, and a few others) all bundled into a group and any contact with any of these countries gets you 3 points. Any QSO with a station outside of these countries only gets you 1 point each. **There is a multiplier per dx entity worked.**

Ah you say, lets work ZS stations and cream a lot of points. You work 3 ZS stations and have a total of 9 QSO points. I work 9 different DX entities – all for just 1 point each, but I too have 9 QSO points.

So why work all those extra Qs if working 3 easy local stations gets you the same points? Well, the answer is in the multipliers. When you take the QSO points and MULTIPLY them by the number of DX entities worked you get your band score.

You get $3 \times 3 = 9$ QSO points and then multiply that by the multiplier (you only worked 1 dx entity) and you have $9 \times 1 = 9$ band points. I get $1 \times 9 = 9$ QSO points, but $9 \times 9 = 81$ band points.

Contests like the PEARS VHF contest have a multiplier for the number of grid squares worked. QSO points are per Km and working Oliphantskop will get you around 75 points, depending on where you live. Now working another station just 10 Km away from you, *but in another grid square* brings in some “math magic”. Your score goes from **75** (75×1) to **170** ($10 + 75$) $\times 2$.

Next time you enter a contest, look at the rules first, the multipliers are in there and they are key to winning most contests.



From the JAMTIN.....

Atmospheric conditions continue to be reasonably good and this has shown in the contacts made from the Jamtin.

ZS2EC and ZS2G have had some success with competitions and the DXpedition to Bouvet Island also gave the hams an opportunity to hone their CW skills with ZS2G making contact with the expedition from the Jamtin to the island.

Unfortunately, the Bouvet Island crew had to scale down their project due to the severe weather conditions experienced.

One of the upsides of Bouvet was that the whole worlds antennae were pointing south so we managed to make a number of good contacts, especially out of Europe.

The highlight for ZS2JIM was to make contact with DM5EE, Uli, our PEARs member now situated in Germany.

Over the last few Friday's we have made many contacts into Europe. With countries like Portugal, Holland, Germany, Italy. Austria, Norway, Slovenia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Poland all popping up. A bit further west we have spoken to hams in Nebraska and St Kitts island which is in the Caribbean.

In February one of our good friends of the Jamtin, ZS2CJ Chad departed for Belgium to join his family. Chad did some great work in the Jamtin and his enthusiasm and contributions will be missed. The upside is we now have another contact up north. Many thanks Chad for all your help getting the Jamtin into shape, we look forward to some contacts once you have got settled.

Jamtin is now operating regularly on Friday nights so please feel free to pop in for a chat and making a few contacts. We are also on 145.650 and 145.700 for information on who's listening on HF or just to catch up on how things are going.

Jamtin is there for you

ZS2JIM

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

March

21-Mar Andrew Gray ZS2G
26-Mar Mark Duppa-Whyte ZS2DW
29-Mar Allan Whitehead ZS2R

April

03-Apr Theunis Potgieter ZS2EC
05-Apr Hugo Ras ZS2HR
12-Apr Andre Potgieter ZS2ZA
13-Apr Graham Butcher ZS2GIB
16-Apr Danie Steyn ZS2DRS
16-Apr Hans Rohwer ZR2AX

Spouse Birthdays

March

22-Mar Dubennette Moolman XYL of Quintus ZS2KU
25-Mar Petra Schoeman XYL of Paul ZS2PS

April

01-Apr Rosalie van Loggerenberg ZS2DN XYL of
Donovan ZS2DL

03-Apr Dané Steenkamp XYL of Michael ZS2MIC
05-Apr Rey Martin XYL of Saney ZR1S
11-Apr Adele Baumeister XYL of Shaun ZS2L
13-Apr Michelle Duppa-Whyte XYL of Mark ZS2DW

13-Apr Lizette Oelofse XYL of Nico ZS4N
18-Apr Annelize Baker XYL of Aldrin ZS2AGB

Anniversaries

March

22-Mar Rudi & Ellie Goosens ZR2RCG
29-Mar Shawn & Wendy Gilbert ZS2SG

April

03-Apr Hugo & Juan Ras
04-Apr Glen & Vanessa Cummings
05-Apr Michael & Chantel Nolan
06-Apr Michael & Dané Steenkamp
06-Apr Wolf & Cathy Gerstle
08-Apr Mitch & Colette Rundle
11-Apr Aldrin & Annelize Baker

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

20-Mar	Dave	ZS2DH
27-Mar	Chris	ZS2AAW
03-Apr	Mike	ZS2MIC
10-Apr	Kevern	ZR2BK
17-Apr	Ashley	ZS2AG
24-Apr	Glen	Zs2GV
01-May	Jimmy	ZS2JIM
08-May	Donovan	ZS2DL
15-May	Dave	ZS2DH

<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]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.**