

June / July 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**

Next PEARS Monthly Meeting

Will be at the Walmer Scout Hall on the 19th July 2023



From the Chair:

June was AGM month this year and it has now come and gone. I would really like to extend my thanks to all those who attended both the AGM and the Social after the fact.

I think it is safe to say that a good time was had by all. The AGM did run a little late about 30min which is not the norm but we did have a good discussion about Monday night bulletins, Its relevance and the appropriate time and day for it as we continue to strive for larger participation. It was agreed for now that we keep it on a Monday night but continue to encourage members to call in afterwards so that we can judge effectiveness of the day and time.

We also took a decision to now start holding our monthly meetings at the Walmer Scout hall on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in an attempt to encourage more people to attend the Meetings. Please watch QSX and all the WhatsApp groups for further details regarding this move and I encourage all members to support this initiative by attending the meet-

ings.

As we go into winter it's time to do maintenance as the HF bands go quiet for a while, make the most of it. Get ready for summer and all that new DX!

We are also taking names for the next RAE class.

Please forward any names you may have to me

ASAP so that we can continue growing the hobby and indeed the club.

Until next time.....

PEARS, WE LIKE BEING YOUR CLUB

73,

Donovan, ZS2DL

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. Please do not send me QSX material on WhatsApp as I am inundated with WhatsApp messages and I will miss your material.

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 16th May 2023 at 19h40

Welcome:

Vice Chairman Dave ZS2DH welcomed all present.

Attendance:

Approximately 16 attendees. As per Register.

Apologies:

ZS2DL, ZS2DK, ZS2JIM, ZS2IW.

Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes:

Proposed: ZS2AG

Seconded: ZR2BK

Matters arising:

None

Finances:

Finances were reported to the meeting. All was in order, a good boost to funds were the subs and Ironman payments received.

General:

AGM

Meeting was mentioned. Hartwigs apologised up front as they are away for the AGM weekend.

ZS2PA antenna

Mike MIC reported back, it was postponed due to weather and missing parts. Some help in Uitenhage was then used for the day, is up and running and is working.

Repeaters

Slipper batteries might need replacement due to age and loadshed-

ding. Cockscomb long term maintenance not an issue as we are sponsored power 9using the landlord's DC system. Kareedouw still in progress for re-establishment.

RAE happening this Saturday FYI

Post bulletin net

Call-ins are difficult for some due to loadshedding. Some suggested a WhatsApp option to report in. It

was proposed to run a whatsapp poll on the PEARS social group to survey the preferred bulletin time -

Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Monday morning.

AI ZS2U

Has a problem with loadshedding preventing him being on air. Batteries are not lasting for the 4m net and then the PEARS bulletin. Any donations? Kevern ZR2BK will check for something to sponsor.

ZR2BK

The first HF century award certificate number 001 went to Jan Botha ZS4JAN.

ZS2AAW

Mentioned the upcoming events, Great Zuurberg Trek and Trans-Elands MTB.

Closure:

Meeting ended at 20h03

Unfortunately there was no guest speaker for the evening.

Next meeting is the AGM on 10th June.

VICE CHAIRMAN

PEARS 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

10 June 2023 @ 15h00

QTH – Walmer Scout Hall, Fordyce Rd

1. Welcome

The Chairman ZS2DL welcomed all present.

2. Silent Keys

ZS2ACP assisted in commemorating the following amateurs who had passed since the last AGM:

Callsign First Name Surname SK Date

- ZS2DJ Danie vd Merwe 2022/07/01
- ZS2VA Les Barker 2022/07/15
- ZS2C Stoffel Carr 2022/08/05
- ZS2RL Beavan Gwilt 2022/10/19

3. Present and apologies

All present were asked to sign the attendance register.

Apologies tendered before the meeting:

ZS2TJ, ZS2TAH, ZS4Z, ZS2GIB, ZS2ECH, ZS2IW, ZS2MC

Apologies noted from the floor:

None

35 signatures, with 5 apologies noted in the attendance register.

4. Minutes of the AGM May 2022

These were circulated to all members via email as part of the official AGM Notice.

Proposed: ZS2EC

Seconded: ZS2EZ

5. Matters arising

None

6. Treasurer's report

The financial statement was made available prior to the meeting via link on the AGM notice email.

The treasurer ZS2MIC explained the income and expenses statement as circulated. Overall balances were explained to the meeting.

No questions from the floor.

Proposed: ZS2RT

Seconded: ZR2TX

Chris proposed a vote of thanks to Mike ZS2MIC for his efforts as treasurer, along with the events volunteers who bring in donation funds, that allowed the club to spend around R70 000 on the Lady's Slipper tower and now already have a healthy positive bank balance, only a few years later.

7. Chairman's report

The chairman tabled the past year's report.

My Fellow Amateur Radio operators, Ladies and gentlemen. Sitting at my desk the other day thinking about what to say during this report the one thing that immediately came to mind is that Ham radio is more than just radio it's the friendship and comradery and every person's desire for adventure.

Then I realised that's what I said last year!

I was so tempted to go and look back at what I had to say last year but I knew that it was time to leave the past behind in many ways and get on with the future, yet the two seems so dependent on each other. Maybe that is why CW will never die! So much has stayed the same yet so much has changed in the last year. But one thing we must not allow to happen is that our traditions and Standards get lowered or disappear. After the passing of a few of our senior members for example it was as if the breakfast show on 650 never happened. I encourage this to change. If you are in your car or at home or where

ever you are take a deep breath and say hello! We need that, you need that, PEARS needs that, and Ham radio needs that! Call ins' after bulletins- Same thing. The committee members spend time preparing mostly to give you a bulletin of news directed specifically at you and your interest, and yet when we have just about burnt the finals out all we want is for someone to say hello. I heard you. You need that, PEARS needs that, Ham radio needs that! Club meetings have a similar need. Without you making the decision to be part of something it will never happen, it can never happen. So it is my challenge to you the member of PEARS today. Make it happen. All it takes is a call in or monthly meeting and you are doing just that!

During the past year we have started to forget that we ever had to stay locked in our homes for a whole month and started to get out and about like nothing ever happened. As a result, many of the regular events which Tony convinces you guys to part take in happened and this is not only something for you to have fun with, but I want to emphasise how these events affect the club and its finances.

During the past 12 months your subscriptions amounted to R15 100. Just Lady Slipper Electricity and bank Charges

amounted to 2/3 of the total subscriptions. The events income after claims amounted R13 000. R41 000 Income and

R28 000 Claims paid back to members. It really is because of these events we are still able to have meetings in good venues, offer Club Social events and still keep the membership fees low. Once again, this year we have decided to keep the annual membership at R200 for ordinary members and R100 for pensioners. I do believe this is very fair, however no ham gets left behind and if there is someone that cannot afford this, come and speak to me! I would much rather have you as a member than not at all.

A few months ago now we had PEARS first VHF fox hunt and it really was a great amount of fun. There were 10 active participants but many more that came for the social side of things and a great time was had by all. Gert and his brother Marais did an outstanding job of presenting it, and as a result we have decided we will host another

one soon. I think the agreement is that the winner of the previous event hides the fox on the next event, so we may ask ZR2BK to decide on a date too. Maybe somewhere in September. We would with this also like to host a small workshop on a Saturday on how to build a small VHF Yagi that you can use during fox hunts.

The RAE was written on 20 May and sadly we only had 2 candidates write. We welcome ZS2OD, and ZS2ST For the October exam we currently only have two interested parties. Guys it kills my legs to stand and give these classes but if there are enough people in the class it makes the pain worth it. Encourage all your relatives, neighbours.... No, wait, scratch that idea.... kids and friends and tell them about Ham radio.

I would at this point like to say a very big thank you to those brave men of the committee who offer their time and intellect up to run this club for everyone's benefit. As my esteemed colleague ZS2GV put it honourable Mr Chairman you would not be able to do it without us! Thank you to each and every one of you for the roll large or small you play in the life of this club.

Get involved, get radioactive!

Remember you are the CLUB!

Then I wish the new committee well in their endeavours. I trust PEARS will enjoy a great 2023-2024 and I trust you all will enjoy the rest of this AGM with us and make at least one new friend before you go home.

73

Donovan

ZS2DL



South African Radio League Amateur Radio Hall of Fame



Iris Hayes ZS2AA

Inducted in 2016

Iris was born in Queenstown in October 1903 the granddaughter of a former Lieutenant-Governor of Kaffraria. She qualified as a nurse and married Samuel Hayes. They farmed at Whittlesea near Queenstown. Sammy died in 1973. Iris suffered a stroke which confined her to bed, shortly after her 95th birthday. She died in May 1999.

Iris developed an interest in amateur radio after hearing radio amateurs conversing on her radiogram. She was licenced in 1937, the first female radio amateur in South Africa. She set up a large station on the farm, using rhombic antennas. She started with a 2½ W transmitter, which later grew to 10 and 50 W, allowing her to work 97 countries.

On the 2nd June, 1952, the S.A. Women's Radio Club came into being, with Iris Hayes, ZS2AA, as Organizing President, Muriel Neill ZS5KG, Vice-President Marie Cormack ZS6KK, Diana Green ZS6GH, as organising Secretary, the subscription being the magnificent sum of 50 cents. On formation, 33 ladies joined and by the end of 1952, the club had 71 members, consisting of YL amateurs and interested listeners.

Iris was also an ardent member of the World Association of Christian Radio Amateurs and Listeners (WACRAL).

Iris was the Chairman of the Whittlesea branch of the Red Cross for 23 years. During the Second World War, she was a Commandant of the SA Women's Auxiliary Association.

She was the President of the Young Ladies' Radio League (YLRL) in 1950. Iris earned a Worked All ZS certificate in 1962.

During 1981, she spent three months in the USA and Canada, mostly being met at the airport by her radio amateur hosts.

In March 1994, she was the keynote speaker at the SARL AGM in Port Elizabeth, and presented the SARL awards at the Awards Dinner.

Iris was awarded the SARL Honorary Life membership in 1985

In 1996, she was unanimously elected as Honorary Life President of the Border Radio Club.

To put the S.A. Woman's Radio Club on the map, the club issued two Certificates, the W.A.Y.L. (Worked All YL), the rules being drafted in Division 1 with the help of Iris Hayes, ZS2AA, in 1955, and the K.K.K. (Key Keen Klub) being suggested by Gwen Smith, ZS1NQ).



To obtain the W.A.Y.L. Certificate, amateurs must work 12 LYLs in Southern Africa, south of the former Belgian Congo from the 2nd June, 1952, submitting QSLs and enclosing a remittance of 25 cents. For the K.K.K. Certificate, copies of Logs must be sent duly certified for 100 C.W. contacts, 500 or 1000, together with 50 cents. Contacts must be made from the 31 December, 1956. Certificates were free to SAWRC members.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN H.F. CENTURY AWARD

This award is available to all amateur radio operators for contacts made since 1st January 2004. The aim is to contact Maidenhead grid locators on the African mainland South of the Equator on the nine high frequency amateur bands. Score one point per grid locator on each of these bands. Only one contact per grid locator is eligible. Total points is the sum of points on each band.

There are three categories for the award:
Bronze Award: Score at least 100 points in 5 different countries.
Silver Award : Score at least 200 points in 10 different countries
Gold Award : Score at least 300 points in 15 different countries.
All contacts must be made from within a radius of 25 kilometres.
Contacts must be confirmed either by QSL cards or by other means acceptable to the awards committee, such as electronic means. Decisions made by the awards committee shall be final.

PEARS QRP Certificate

20 different maidenhead locator contacts. Power $\leq 5W$. Endorsements for each additional 20 contacts up to a max of 100. Contacts within same home square do not count. Only one contact per station. Logs must indicate the home square, and the other contacts' locations. Logs must be signed by the chairman of the applicant's club, or two other amateurs. The recipient need not be a member of PEARs.

TROPODUCTING

— GETTING OUT BEYOND THE HORIZON

Tropoducting, also known as tropospheric ducting or simply ducting, refers to a phenomenon in which radio waves are guided or trapped within a duct formed in the Earth's lower atmosphere, known as the troposphere. This ducting effect can significantly enhance the propagation of radio signals over long distances, beyond what would normally be possible due to the curvature of the Earth.

Several meteorological factors contribute to the creation of tropospheric ducts, including temperature inversions, humidity, and atmospheric pressure. Temperature inversions occur when a layer of warm air is sandwiched between colder air masses, effectively trapping the radio waves within the duct. Humidity and pressure also affect the index of refraction, influencing the bending of radio waves and allowing them to propagate through the duct rather than escaping.

Now, imagine that under certain atmospheric conditions, such as the presence of a temperature inversion or an atmospheric pressure gradient, a duct is formed within the troposphere. This duct acts as a waveguide, allowing radio waves to propagate along its path rather than following the curvature of the Earth.

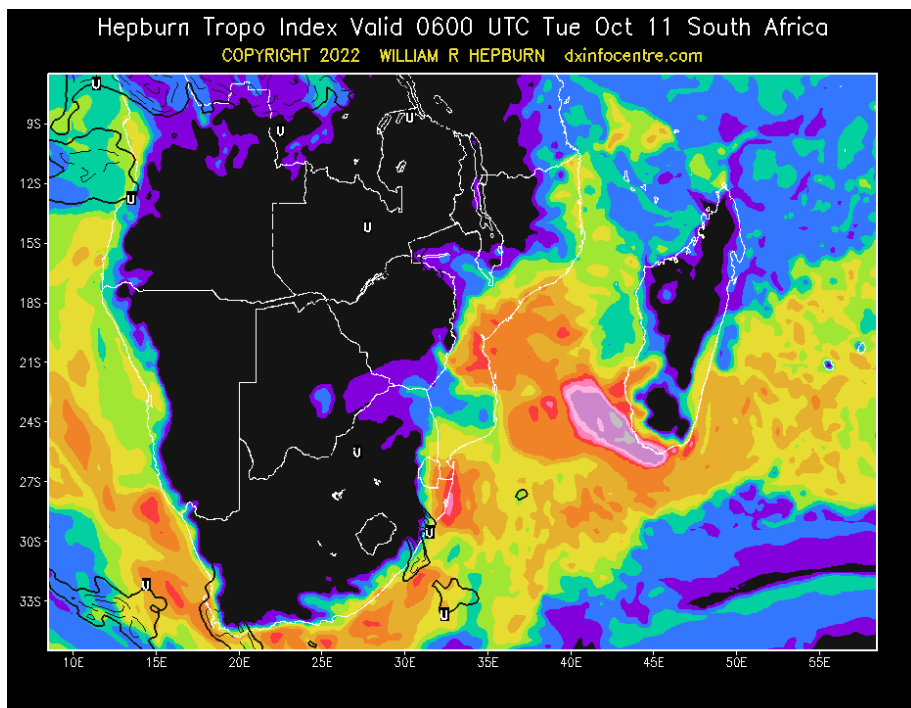
When radio waves encounter a tropospheric duct, they can be refracted or trapped within it, allowing them to travel over much longer distances than they would in normal atmospheric conditions. This effect is especially notable in the VHF (Very High Frequency) and UHF (Ultra High Frequency) bands, typically used by television and radio stations.

In the summer months Tropospheric ducting is common at the coast and it is often possible to work the East London repeater on a Watt or less. The East London repeater is on 145.650 - just like our "town" repeater, except that no tones are needed to open the East London repeater, while a tone is required to open our local repeater. To see if you are hitting the East London repeater, simply REMOVE the tone from your radio and operate "650" as normal. If you hear a tail coming back - or some other radio hams coming back to you you know it is not our town repeater, so guess what - you hitting the East London repeater!

I remember on warm evening, well after 21:30, having a long chat to Andre ZS2ZA (who at the time stayed a few Kms down the road from my QTH). We were using

the East London repeater and both operating 0.5W. At times we were joined by others in East London - often Lunga ZS2LN. I talk of operating VHF into East London like that is a feat - but on less than a single Watt, I think it is special. Tropoducting with some power will get you into KwaZulu Natal or down as far as Still Baai or even Cape Agulas.

Where can you find out about tropoducting-favourable conditions? https://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo_ino.html. The Hepburn charts give pictures indicating the likelihood of tropospheric ducting in a near-live forecast. Go to the link above, find the drop-down box for region and select South Africa.



The “hotter” the more likely the conditions are favourable for tropoducting. This was a great opportunity in 2022, but conditions like these are common in the warmer months here in Port Elizabeth.

Tropoducting is very interesting from an academic perspective, but in reality it is a lot of fun!



From the JAMTIN.....

The Jamtin and its various antennae continue to provide good DXing.

Friday evenings on 10m, 15m, 40m, 80m give varying results.

40m has been quiet on the DX side of things until some Fridays ago I picked up ZS1PZ speaking to a group of hams in the USA. Most of them were a bit too far down in the noise but one, N7EKD, was a bit clearer than the rest. After a while ZS1PZ asked if any other ZS hams would like to try a QSO with N7EKD. I grabbed my mike and accepted the offer. Pretty soon I was chatting to Frank in Oregon. That was my second QSO into the USA from the Jamtin, my previous one being to a ham in Nebraska.

That same evening, I spoke to RN1B in St Petersburg. Once he turned his antenna a bit more South he came through 5/9+++.

DL4EEC, Alex in Hamburg, was also looking south and he came through 5/9++ as well.

Very often I hear USA hams 5/9 but can't get through to them. They are pointing towards Europe and running high power rigs. Hence their TX floods down to ZS. If I call the ham in the USA sometimes the ham in Europe will respond and turn his antenna more south.

Waiting for ZS2CJ, Chad who is now in Belgium to get his rigs sorted out so we can get some comms going there.

At the last AGM it was decided to move the monthly meeting to the Scout Hall. This is great news for the Jamtin as there are plans to open

the Jamtin early on meeting night so members can play radio. I have an ICOM 7300 which members are welcome to use. You are also welcome to bring your own radios to test or operate.

There will also be a soldering station available should you wish to make up some coax or work on a project.

Remember, Jamtin is available for all hams. I am there most Fridays from about 16h00/19h00+. And now also on the Wednesday afternoon of the monthly meeting. I also try and post my DX contacts on the Technical WhatsApp group so if you are in your shack, you can try make contact as well.

Remember

Jamtin is there for you. Just say HELLO

ZS2JIM



PICS FROM THE AGM



Our Chairman, Donovan ZS2DL opens the meeting and addresses those present.



PEARS Secretary, Chris ZS2AAW hard at work taking down the minutes at the AGM



This years meeting was well attended, and after the meeting we all gathered around the fires to enjoy a braai which was enjoyed by all. See picture on Page 12 where it was dark before many of us went home.



After the meeting many of us stayed behind for the braai and as you can see, it was dark and we were still enjoying ourselves talking and generally enjoying one another's company.

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

June

16 Ian Moore ZS2IJ
19 Quintus Moolman ZS2KU
19 Neville Bowden ZS2N
22 Kelly Cummings ZS2KC
29 Vaughan Rizzo ZS2VR
30 John Ashworth ZS2GB

July

02 Mario Tiran ZS1AMT
05 Nico Oelofse ZS4N
07 Chad Jackson ZS2CJ
07 Aldrin Baker ZS2AGB
10 Mitch Rundle ZS2DK
11 Marius Rautenbach ZS2JR
11 Joao Pereira Da Silva ZS2DS
11 Gert Schoeman ZS2GS
13 Cyril Hislop ZS2EJ
14 Alex Gogos ZR2T
25 David Higgs ZS2DH
26 Werner Swanepoel ZS2WS
28 Yacov Loock ZS2YCL

August

04 Tim Jones ZS2TIM
06 Gavin Oosthuizen ZS2GAV
09 Nicholas Thompson ZS2NT

15 Serge Smetryns ZS2SJE

15 Chris Knowles ZS2CK

Spouse Birthdays

June

13 Yolande Ollphent André ZS2YA
17 Adele van Biljon Andre ZS2PL
19 Louisa Rautenbach Marius ZS2JR
23 Beverley Higgs David ZS2DH
30 Barbara De Scande Jimmy ZS2JIM

July

08 Ronel Du Plessis Basie ZR2BA
12 Sandra Bowden Neville ZS2N
29 Jacqui Ryder Peter ZS2PR

August

04 Brenda Whitehead Allan ZS2R

Anniversaries

June

26 Kevern Eugenie Burger ZR2BK

July

01 Gerrit Laetitia Rautenbach ZS2XD

August

01 Pat ZS2PJP Ginny ZS2GIN Pullinger
06 Barry Tracey Murrell ZS2EZ
08 Neill Kerstin Purdon ZS2NIL

SUNDAY SARL AND MONDAY
EVENING PEARs
BULLETINS

PEARs 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.

PEARs 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

26-Jun	Chris	ZS2AAW
03-Jul	Mike	ZS2MIC
10-Jul	Kevern	ZR2BK
17-Jul	Ashley	ZS2AG
24-Jul	Jimmy	ZS2JIM
31-Jul	Paul	ZS2PS
07-Aug	Volunteer #1	?
14-Aug	Volunteer #2	?
21-Aug	Volunteer #3	?

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

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Our 2023/2024 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 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
New Member	Paul Schoeman	ZS2PS	paul.costcutters[at]gmail.com	083 582 9660

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.**