

February 2024



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 on Tuesday,
20th February at the Italian Club.



From the Chair

The month of February sees the RAE Classes start up again and currently I have 6 guys booked in for the course. That is basically full up for my small shop. Please listen out for requests to assist with the usual Transceiver tests. And we will get them to join the club ASAP. Other than that I actually am a man of few words this month. What I can say is currently there is a DXpedition to Juan Fernandez Island off the coast of Chile Call sign CB0ZA. They are really strong operators but a challenge to work as the pileups remain huge. Also 8R7X from Guyana, Also magic operators but the guys have been so starved of DX the pileups are massive.

I would also like to make an appeal to everyone to try and contribute to QSX so that Ashley has enough material to make his life a bit easier putting this publication together on a monthly basis.

Something he has done with great success and for

which we are grateful. Let us show him our gratitude by contributing.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Tuesday 20 February at our monthly meeting.

Please make an effort to attend.

So once again enjoy the hobby, get involved with the Club activities.

Most importantly remember to “Say Hello”!

PEARS, WE LIKE BEING YOUR CLUB

73,

Donovan, ZS2DL

FROM THE EDITOR

Here's hoping you enjoy reading this edition of QSX. 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 January 2024 at 19h30

Welcome:

Stand-in Chairman Dave ZS2DH welcomed all present. Specifically welcomed ZR2GW Gordon, a new member.

Attendance:

Approximately 16 attendees. As per Register.

Apologies:

ZR2BK, ZS2DL, ZR2RG, ZR2BC, ZS2TJ, ZS2TAH, ZS2IW, ZS2ECH, ZS2WS, ZS2EC, ZS2MIC

Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes:

Proposed: ZS2BO

Seconded: ZS2RT

Matters arising:

None

Finances:

Mike has reported that all is in order. (He had to leave due to work requirements, but reported at the committee meeting). 2 events still to donate to the club – Longmore Classic and LoFER. License renewals are the next big expense. 1/5 of all licenses will be done on a 5-year renewal, to stagger the large expense, and end up with all licenses on 5 year renewal, in due course.

General:

MOU with the Scouts group is being drawn up by Jimmy. Gert asked about the liability insurance, which will be covered in the MOU.

Repeaters:

Vandalism and Theft is killing the sites. We won't replace any equipment at Lady's Slipper until the security situation has improved. Meeting for all interested parties scheduled for the 24th.

Hobbies Fair:

Paul gave a recap on the last fair, and proposals on the Schools to be approached – Charlo and/or Priory. However, not if we have to pay for a stand.

Events and Contests:

PEARS VHF UHF contest this past weekend. Logs are due in by Friday 19th. This wasn't well advertised in QSX and on local bulletins – improve for next year. 20th (coming weekend) summer leg of the SARL QRP contest (40m), 1st leg of four. All modes.

27th SARL 40m club contest.

31st closing date for SARL motions and award nominations.

9-10 March is SARL Field Day

11th Feb Herald MTB race (Sunday). We don't do the road race any more. Camping at Hayterdale.

Beware – there is a scammer on the swopshops. Cell no 072 109 2368 is the number being used by him.

Afrikaans speaking male.

QSX articles to Ashley please. Any interesting web sites, competitions entered, and so forth are welcome.

CW classes on a Tuesday evenings except club meeting nights, 50.225MHz CW/SSB, starting first Tuesday in February. Send and Receive will be done. 19h30. No keyboard/computer based CW! Thanks to Andrew ZS2G.

Jamtin – call-ins on Fridays, Jimmy will have a 6m antenna available. Good to experiment to see coverage and distances achieved. A good alternative if repeaters are no longer available due to vandalism and theft.

ZS2RT offered mA meters and valves in a box to anyone interested.

ZS2GS – Fox hunt. If ZR2BK not available, anyone else can set it up. Committee to decide on the date, proposed in February. 11th is Herald MTB. Maybe 24/25th Feb.

ZS2DH — SOTA is awesome! Try it! And chasers can sit at home and also participate. Awards – SOTA mountain goat (climbers) and SOTA Sloth for

chasers. 1000 points needed for recognition. E.g. Slipper is 1 pt, Table mountain is 4 pts. Only ZS2VR has made 1000 points in ZS2. Well done Vaughan!

Meeting topics needed – panel discussions e.g. batteries? Digital logging (ZS2PS) what is legally required? Morse Code (ZS2DL).

Closure:

Meeting ended at 20h06. There was no speaker.

Next meeting 20th February 2024.

UPCOMING EVENTS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Addo Elephant Trail Run 22-24 March

Nanaga MTB 24 March

We need you! The Addo Elephant Trail Run is a big deployment into areas the Addo Elephant National Park that is not open to the general public. These events bring considerable donations into the club's finances and are not possible without you.

Please let Tony, ZR2TX know if you are available to assist.

THE SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre (CTARC) will be hosting the 2024 SARL National Convention at the Garden Court Nelson Mandela Boulevard, corner of Melbourne and Coronation Roads in Cape Town. The accommodation at the Hotel costs R1 500 per room per night and includes breakfast - it is a double room. Bookings must be made by contacting Miranda at Reservations on 021 448 4123 and tell her you are booking a room for the SARL Conference. This will ensure you pay the special conference price.

There will be a welcoming cheese and wine function, hosted by CTARC in the hotel pub area from 17:00 to 19:00 on Friday

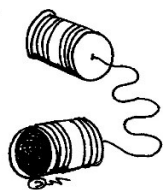
evening 19 April. From 09:00 to 13:00 CAT on Saturday 20 April, the Annual General Meeting will be held in the conference room at the hotel. Tea and coffee will be served. The Annual General Meeting will be a face-to-face meeting with streaming. Lunch will be for your own arrangements. Saturday afternoon will be at leisure and a shuttle bus has been arranged to take delegates and partners, significant others, etc., to the V&A Waterfront. There will be a small charge for this. The CTARC Clubhouse will be open that afternoon from 14:00 until 16:00 for any delegates who wish to visit the CTARC clubhouse in Rondebosch. ZS1TK's 'RF Café' will be open for refreshments. Transport can be arranged if necessary.

Saturday evening is the Gala Awards Dinner. Arrival at 18:30 for 19:00. This year it will be a three-course buffet dinner with tea and coffee included. The dress is smart casual. The cost for the Awards Dinner is R300 per person and bookings must be made with Kelley at the NARC at admin@sarl.org.za. Pay your Dinner fee into the SARL Bank Account and include the proof of payment with your booking.

Register for the SARL National Convention at <https://forms.gle/iFMfeRUESfwx8y3N9>. See you in Cape Town in April!

UPCOMING LOCAL CONTESTS

- | | | |
|---------|---|--|
| 2 MARCH | – | The ARRL International DX Phone Contest
The SARL YL QSO Party |
| 3 MARCH | – | The ARRL International DX Phone Contest
The SARL HAMNET 40m Contest |



From the JAMTIN.....

The new year is not so new anymore, at this stage we are already in mid February 2024 and it looks like another year is going to fly by.

The Jamtin and its technology remains simple but very effective. 100w on the ICOM 7300 coupled to the 2 element 15m Yagi continues to surprise on the DX front.

To date we have contacted most of the European countries as well as East Europeans. Canada is popping up more and more our latest contact was with VE2PEP Germain in Quebec City.

Success lies in having a half decent radio coupled to a very decent, well-tuned antenna. We make contact with hams all over the world. Some of them have sophisticated equipment, amplifiers boosting their signals into the Kilowatt range. So powerful that even though they are in the Northern hemisphere with antennae pointing East-West or West-East, their signal reaches down to the tip of Africa. We respond to them and they turn the antenna South and suddenly everything is a good 59.

The ZS2JIM QRZ log book is now 36 countries with 45 confirmed QSOs. South America still eludes us. I need to speak to ZS2G to find direction and best time to throw a line towards South America.

Jamtin will be operating for the SARL uhf/vhf contest 9-10 March, there will also be members out in the field in Kouga

Remember, Jamtin is available for all hams. I am there most Fridays from about 16h00/19h00+. We have battery backup and can operate for the 2 hours of loadshedding.

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

ZS2JIM

REPLACEMENT OF POLARIZED FILM ON A ICOM IC-706MIIG

For several months the LCD display on my IC-706MIIG has been getting worse, the appearance is a big blotch on the LCD and makes reading the display difficult. This is normally caused by excessive light exposure such as the sun. I only use this rig in the field for SOTA, field days etc.

I contacted Donavon, ZS2DL, and asked how one can rectify or replace the screen. After receiving some guidance, the first step is to purchase polarized LCD film, and it must be the adhesive type. The sheets normally come in A4 size.



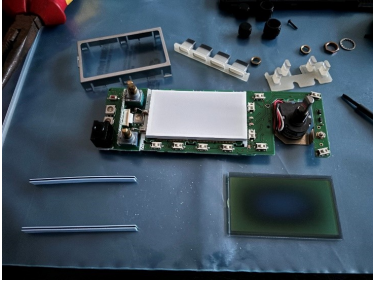
The sheets were ordered from the US, and 9 days later they arrived. But the task at hand is not so simple. Below is an outline of the process in order to replace the existing factory screen film.

The picture left is the unit before any work is carried out. The first step is to remove the back cover, there are two small screws. Then remove the dials in

front, and screw off the nuts on each knob attached to the cover. The photo below shows the unit now reading for the removal process of the screen.

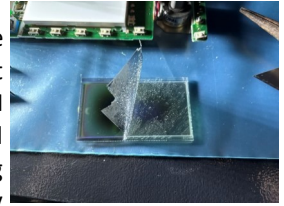
Remove the silver cover holding the screen in place. It is held down with clips on the metal frame. Once done, the screen can be removed, however, it is extremely important to note that there are two communication strips on either side of the screen. You have to make sure that the way they came out is the way they go back in! Otherwise you are going to end up with a screen that will not work.



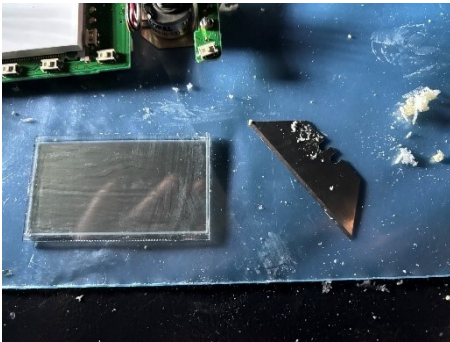


Now we can get to work on the screen. Start by removing the film on the display as shown below.

Next is to remove the very sticky residue that is sitting on the screen. I used pure alcohol and fibre optic cleaning wipes to do this. Apply

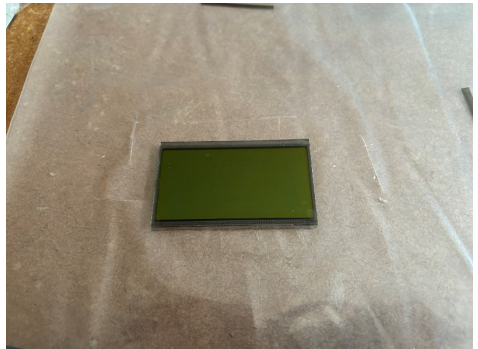


the alcohol and rub it into the residue. Take a carpet knife blade and gently start removing the sticky bits. Be careful not to scratch the screen. The screen has to be completely free of this residue.



I used the screen as template to cut the remaining sides off.

I used the screen as template to cut the remaining sides off.



And now the test.....the screen looks brand new and the rig is ready to go!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

February

25 Kevern Burger ZR2BK
26 Jacques van der Heide ZR2JH
28 Basie Du Plessis ZR2BA
29 Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG

March

01 Rudi Goosens ZR2RCG
02 Barry Bester ZS2BB
08 Errol Kleynhans ZS2EK
10 Michael Gooden ZS2MG

Spouse Birthdays

February

25 Jacqui Saayman Matthew ZS2SA

March

01 Wendy Gilbert Shaun ZS2SG
03 Daphne Galpin Paul ZS2PG

Anniversaries

February

22 Matthew Jacqui Saayman ZS2SA
23 Colin Cheryl Schroder ZR2CRS

March

03 Tim Teresa Joubert ZS2X
15 Amo Cheryl du Preez ZS2ABT
17 Andre Adele van Biljon ZS2PL
18 Andrew Roslyn Prideaux ZS2PA

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 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-Feb	Kevern	ZR2BK
04-Mar	Chris	ZS2AAW
11-Mar	Mike	ZS2MIC
18-Mar	Dave	ZS2DH
25-Mar	Ashley	ZS2AG
01-Apr	Jimmy	ZS2JIM
08-Apr	Paul	ZS2PS
15-Apr	Rory	ZS2BL
22-Apr	Donovan	ZS2DL

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Our 2023/2024 PEARS Committee

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Chairman, RAE classes, Technical Workshops, HF tests	Donovan van Loggerenberg	ZS2DL	zs2dl[at]hamradio.co.za	082 852 4885
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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: ZS2ZN

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.*