

*December 2014 - January 2015*



*Season's greetings to all our members and families!*

This Newsletter is published by the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 10402, LINTON GRANGE, 6015

Editing by Christopher ZS2AAW

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

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# PEARS Monthly Meeting

## Remember....

There is NO monthly meeting in the month of December  
We will meet again in the new year – 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015.

## WRINKLY RAVERS

The regular monthly lunchtime meetings of the Wrinklies take place every first Thursday of the month at 'Beyond Beans' in Newton Park. You will only be excused if you have a "more" important appointment, or you do not have any wrinkles. Come join the folks for some tremendous company and fun, whether you have wrinkles or not.

**SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

### DIARY OF EVENTS

1-31 December	YOTA month
6 December	SARL Digital Contest
13-14 December	ARRL 10 meter contest
16-18 January	PEARS VHF/UHF Contest (see November 2014 QSX)

## COMPASSBERG SOTA ACTIVATION - 9 NOVEMBER 2014

Dave, ZS2DH



I was late getting to the Compassberg farm and Mandy had me on death row or at least due for a public flogging had I not arrived. My arrival not only brought me a reprieve, it also brought them instant joy – with the realisation that the heavy load would now be split three ways. All was forgiven, thankfully.

Saturday evening in the Compassberg farmhouse was spent packing, checking, repacking and rethinking everything. Failure was not an option!

Forgetting something behind would result in a fate worse than death! Carrying something we did not need was almost as bad, but we would rather err that way. With everything finalised we set the alarms for 3am hoping to get a good night's sleep and an early start to make the summit in time for the PEARs bulletin.



As you can imagine, 3am arrived far too quickly. How many of you got up that early to make sure you did not miss the bulletin? We drove for a few kilometres along the 4x4 track to the point at which we were allowed to park, after which it was a 4km walk to the foot of the mountain. Wild horses on the slopes near the foot of the mountain seemed amused by our

presence as they watched us walk by, headlamps lighting our way. Toward 5am the sun started to rise and the headlamps were turned off. (Yes, there is a 5am, why do you ask?) At this point we still had warm clothing on, but we soon warmed up as we started the climb. We climbed and climbed and climbed. Then we rested for a few minutes and climbed some more. For the sake of brevity, we will leave it at that.

The actual climb was about 600m vertical taking us to a height of 2503m above sea level. To put that into perspective, Kilimanjaro is 5895m above sea level and is the highest point in Africa. We climbed to a height of 42% of that of Kilimanjaro – and that in our own back yard!



Mandy (ZS2AV) led the way with Andrew (ZS2G) and I (ZS2DH) trying to keep up. The load: radio, antenna tuner, 17Ah battery, 4m mast, antenna, coax, and safety kit was getting heavy. The water was getting lighter, but not nearly fast enough! We were blessed with the weather – a cool calm morning with the wind only picking up near the summit, which we reached just after 8 am. Weather can really make or break a climb like this and we were lucky to have no wind or rain and a temperature suitable for climbing.



The summit of Compassberg is like many other summits I have seen. You think you are nearly there from about half way up! Compassberg seemed to always be a little further up. Having reached the top and taken the required photos (just touching the trig beacon, no pole dancing pictures allowed!) we set up the station and caught the familiar voice of Chris ZS2AAW reading the news.

We tried to make some 2m contacts into Queenstown, but to no avail. We had (intentionally) left the 2m antenna at the farm and brought only the rubber duckie antennas. As soon as the post bulletin net was opened by ZS2ABZ we jumped all over the

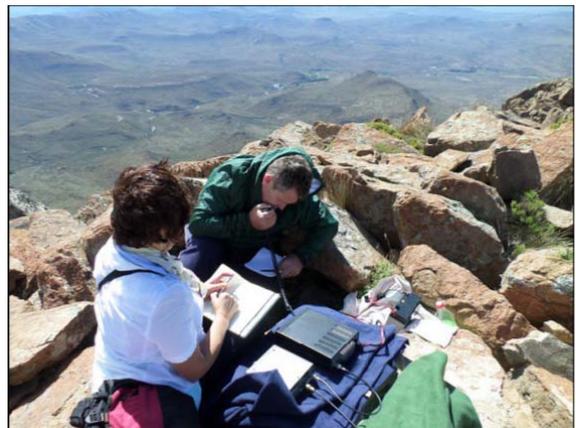
radio making contacts into Bloemfontein (ZS4N), Hout Bay in Cape Town (ZS1KM) and a bunch of the local crowd including ZS2ABZ, ZS2BO, ZS2VDL, and ZS2ZA. Signal reports were all between 57 and 59 and we were very happy with that!

I don't think I have ever seen Andrew smile quite as broadly as he did when he had his 4 contacts. Talking over the radio is always a wonder - a miracle of science, but talking over a radio at the top of a mountain is something very special indeed. A sense of freedom, independence, and awe. Personally, I was worried about the descent. It was steep – I knew that already, but the wind picking up to about gale force and the temperature dropping slightly was enough motivation to move. Following the cairns is a must. Not only for safety, but for motivation too. While they are small milestones, you realise the progress you are making when you get to one and sight the next.



About half way down, the hills around us seemed to grow and the entire perspective changed. We reached the bottom of the mountain just in time with a few spots of rain being reported by those with enough energy left to do so. The relatively short 4km walk we had made before sunrise seemed decidedly longer on the way back. As if to torment us, the wild horses ran to and fro across the fields proving they had more energy than we could possibly muster. The day was wonderful, tiring, but safe and rewarding – and for that we are all grateful.

Given the scientific definition of work being force times displacement ( $W=Fs$ ), and the fact that we returned to our starting point making the (final) displacement zero, then from a scientific point of view we did no work all day. I assure you, this was not the case. To the chasers out there who make it fun for us – Thank you! Please keep an ear out for the simulSOTA on 6/7 December – there will be SOTA activations all over the country. More details on the SARL forums.



---oooOOOooo---

## PEARS HF DX Contest

Vaughan, ZS2VR

Having spent many school holidays in Graaf-Reinet (my mother hails from there), I often visited the Valley of Desolation with my dad; we got there the hard way by hiking up. In those days things were a lot less regulated and we often overnighted on top - anybody familiar with the area will know of the cave-like spot which is now unfortunately off-limits. On a clear day it seems like you can see forever.



With those memories in mind, I had often chatted with Alex ZR2T about setting up a field station there for one of the PEARS competitions. It has a clear 180 degree view south and is at the start of the plateau going north towards Bloemfontein.



We headed out early on the 9th so as to get all ready for the start. A work colleague was camping close by and had told us they were packing it in because of the heat! Fortunately for us, when we arrived it was overcast.

Just after setting up the overcast turned into a thunderstorm which led to us hurriedly disconnecting everything and retreating to the safety of the car. This happened three times during the course of the day.

Contest-wise, things were rather quiet with all our few QSO's coming in in a short period. The huge static crashes from the passing storms didn't help either.



We took it in turns to operate to avoid stepping on each other, a bit of a pain but it worked out OK in the end. We packed up at six and headed off for a quick meal and a slow drive home keeping a wary eye out for kudu.

Was it worth the drive? Did we submit huge contest winning scores? Yes and probably not! It was a good boys day away, something which neither of us has had time in recent years to do and which we would like to do again.

73,  
Vaughan, ZS2VR

---oooOOOooo---

## PEARS Field Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> November

AI, ZS2U

This event, having already been postponed due to rain, appeared again to be a case of rain washed out play. However, after the shower before the start, it cleared and turned out to be a good day. We had a total of twenty one people and started off by displaying and testing various pieces of equipment, mostly antennas, then having a braai. All this accompanied by much chatting and joking. We also had a model aeroplane display. Altogether a most enjoyable and successful day

Thanks to Martin ZS2MR and Ewalt ZS2EHB for supplying the braai fire and thanks to all those who attended and made the day.

73  
AI, ZS2U

---oooOOOooo---

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations go to Theunis, ZS2EC for recently being awarded the 2013 SSB Africa, Single Op, All band, HP assisted award. He was also the continental winner, and has received the certificate as shown below, in the post:

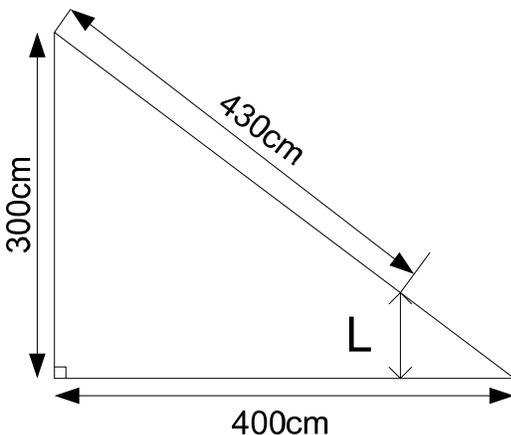


Well done, Theunis!!  
Ed

## Brain Teaser...

## Heinesport Rally – 5-6 December

What is length "L"?



This one will have been planned and possibly already happened by the time of going to press. Details included here to allow interested parties to raise their hands and be included as radio operators for 2015 if they can assist ☺ - Speak to Tony!!

The stages are taking place until late Friday night, in the Jachtvlakte - Despatch - Motherwell areas not far from home. Of note is the running of stages until midnight Friday, so be prepared for darkness operations (as you already are, thanks to Loadshedding!☺ ). Control is located at "Innibos" near Despatch.

# Minutes of the October PEARS meeting

## 1. WELCOME

ZS2GV (Glenn Cummings) welcomes all present and reads letter of apology from Chairman.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Attendance and Apologies as per Attendance register

## 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Club Shirts – the question was raised whether the Club or members should pay upfront for the shirt orders. It was decided that members should pay upfront before orders will be placed. Due to the fact that the order date has been moved on so many times, we will wait for feedback from Colin and then proceed with the order.

Antenna Testing Day – ZS2U informed members that the planned Antenna Testing Day has been moved to 23/11/2014 at Lont park. The day will be open to all interested parties where all are invited to display, test or sell their radio related goods. There will be braai afterwards.

## 4. UPCOMMING EVENTS

ZR2TX (Tony Allan) requested members to assist with a rally planned for the 5-6 December 2014. The event will take place in the Uitenhage Despatch area but control will be situated at Rangers Outdoor on the Graaf Reinet Road and interested parties are welcome to sleep over.

31 January – Half MTB – please put your names forward if you are able to assist with this event.

## 5. FINANCES

Clive gives a breakdown of the Club finances.

## 6. GENERAL

Trailer : In order to complete our mobile radio unit, we need trailer plans – ZS2PTY will find out from trailer building company if they could assist in this matter

Barry requested any member travelling to Pretoria or Johannesburg if they would be willing to take a parcel with them.

## 7. MEETING ADJOURNED

ZS2GV thanks all present and adjourned meeting.

# CONGRATULATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS – December

- 05 Clive Fife ZS2RT
- 06 Lionel Coombe-Davis ZS2DD
- 07 Dawid Petzer ZS1PC
- 17 George Pearson ZS2E
- 20 Gerrit Rautenbach ZS2XD
- 20 Donald Jacobs ZS2BW
- 21 Ron Clarke ZS2MF
- 23 Noel Hislop, XYL of Cyril ZS2EJ
- 24 Colette Rundle ZS2CR
- 25 Mike Bosch ZS2FM
- 28 Elise Laaks, XYL of Garth ZS2HB
- 30 Alida Ligthelm, XYL of Dirk ZS2D

## BIRTHDAYS – January

- 08 Juan Ras, XYL of Hugo
- 10 Tony Allen ZR2TX
- 15 Ashley Goosen ZS2AG
- 20 Barry Murrell ZS2EZ

## ANNIVERSARIES – December

- 11 Dawid & Ingrid Petzer ZS1PC
- 12 Clive & Jane Fife ZS2RT
- 19 Dirk & Alida Ligthelm ZS2D
- 21 Llise & Mark Dodd ZS2LLD
- 23 Cyril & Noel Hislop ZS2EJ

## ANNIVERSARIES – January

- 02 Linton & Chantelle Rohl ZS2ICE
- 03 Alan & Brenda Whitehead ZS2R
- 09 Phil & Pam Hopper ZS2PP
- 22 Andre & Renette van Deventer ZS2BK
- 29 Ken & Margaret Victor ZS2OC

**If you are a member and your birthday or anniversary details are omitted or incorrect, please notify Clive ZS2RT (or any committee member) to update our records.**

## Sunday Bulletins

PEARS provides a local reading of the SARL national bulletins in Afrikaans at 08h15 and English at 08h30. The club bulletins are transmitted immediately after the SARL English bulletin, i.e. at about 08:45 on 7098 kHz as well as the 2m linked network that provides coverage from Butterworth to George and up to the Free State and their environs.

A recorded rebroadcast of the society bulletin takes place on the Eastern Cape Linked Repeater Network every Monday night at 20h00, courtesy of Ewalt, ZS2EHB.

## Bulletin Roster

7 December	Nick	ZS2NT
14 December	Chris	ZS2AAW
21 December	Glen	ZS2GV
28 December	Johannes	ZS2JO
4 January	Tony	ZR2TX
11 January	Theunis	ZS2EC
18 January	Chris	ZS2AAW
25 January	Nick	ZS2NT
1 February	Clive	ZS2RT

**The bulletin readers are always looking for something to announce. If you have something to contribute, please forward it to the next reader.**



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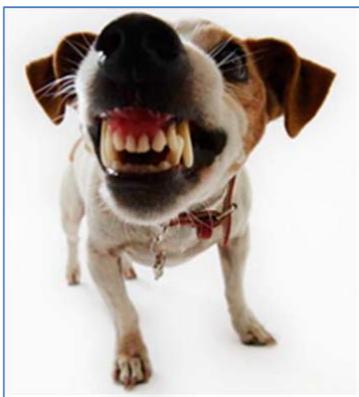
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## Jack Russell en die Leeu

Jannie vertel sy skooljuffrou 'n wolhaarstorie: "Juffrou, laas naweek het ons gaan visvang en ons het 33 babers gevang. Nie een was onder 15 kilogram nie."

Die juffrou wil nie vir Jannie sê hy praat tjol nie. Sy besluit om dit op 'n diplomatese manier te doen deur ook 'n groot storie te vertel en hom so 'n les te leer.

Juffrou: "Jannie, laas naweek loop ek en die kinders kortpad deur die veld, en toe grom daar 'n leeu hier reg langs ons. Jannie jy sal dit nou nie glo nie, maar die leeu wou ons opvreet. Toe kom daar 'n Jack Russel uit die bos, hy gryp die leeu en hy verniel hom. Hy skud daai leeu so woes rond dat sy nek breek en hy vrek. Maar Jannie, glo jy die storie wat ek jou nou net vertel het?"

Jannie antwoord: "Maar natuurlik juffrou, dit was my Jack Russel!"

# Your Society's Committee for 2014-2015

<b>Chairman</b>	Nicholas Thompson ZS2NT	082 490 0824	Nick.peham[at]gmail.com
<b>Vice Chairman, Technical/repeaters</b>	Glen Cummings ZS2GV	082 411 2743	glenvanessa[at]gmail.com
<b>Secretary, Functions organising</b>	Patsy Kruger ZS2PTY		patsy[at]peham.co.za
<b>Treasurer</b>	Clive Fife ZS2RT	041 367 3203	clive[at]peham.co.za
<b>Public Relations</b>	Johannes Geldenhuys ZS2JO	082 320 3032	Johannes[at]s4.co.za
<b>Events, Rally organising</b>	Tony Allen ZR2TX	082 956 2920	tony.zr2tx[at]gmail.com
<b>QSX Distribution, Contests, Awards, ZS2PE</b>	Theunis Potgieter ZS2EC	082 766 8830	zs2ec[at]vodamail.co.za
<b>Technical/repeaters, WiFi</b>	Chris Scarr ZS2AAW	082 925 6367	christopher[at]peham.co.za

## CO-OPTED POSTS

<b>RAE Examination Admin.</b>	Donovan ZS2DL	082 852 4885	zs2dl[at]hamradio.co.za
<b>Assessors</b>	Rory ZS2BL	072 026 8909	rory[at]commco.co.za
	Chris ZS2AAW	082 925 6367	christopher[at]peham.co.za
	Bill ZS2ABZ	041 581 2580	zs2abz[at]isat.co.za
	<i>Vacant</i>	-	-
<b>Hamnet scoring</b>	Al ZS2U	041 360 2983	al[at]peham.co.za
<b>Contest Committee</b>	Theunis ZS2EC	082 766 8830	contest[at]peham.co.za
<b>PEARS VHF/UHF Contest</b>	Mike ZS2FM	084 612 9600	mikebosch[at]gmail.com
<b>Meetings catering</b>	Bill Hodges ZS2ABZ	041 581 2580	zs2abz[at]isat.co.za
<b>QSX Editor</b>	<i>Vacant</i>	-	-

Replace [at] with @ when you want to send an email (this is done 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.

<b>Town VHF</b> 145,050/650	<b>Town UHF</b> 431,050/438,650	<b>Uitenhage</b> 145,075/675	<b>Longmore</b> 145,025/625	<b>IRLP available</b> on this subnet
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### 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](http://www.zs2pe.co.za/Repeaters/repeaters.htm) for more details.

<b>Lady's Slipper</b> 145,100/700	<b>Grahamstown</b> 145,150/750	<b>Cradock</b> 145,050/650	<b>Noupoort (link only)</b> 438,750 / 438,675
<b>Colesberg</b> 431,075/438,675	<b>Kareedouw</b> 145,125/725	<b>Plett</b> 145,175/775	<b>Brenton</b> 145,075/675

### Packet network:

<b>ZS0NTP-2 Packet Node</b> Lady's Slipper  144,800 1200bd 439,850 9600bd 434,800 1200bd APRS	<b>ZS0NTP BBS</b> Lady's Slipper On all node frequencies	<b>ZS0GHT-2 Packet Node</b> Grahamstown 144,800 1200bd 434,800 1200bd 439,850 9600bd (to LS)	<b>ZS0CDK-2 Digi</b> Cradock 144,800 1200bd
	<b>ZS0KDJ APRS Digi</b> Mount Road 434,800 1200bd	<b>ZS0KDB APRS Digi</b> Longmore 434,800 1200bd	<b>ZS2ABZ-4</b> WMR918 WX Station 144,625 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.**

### Disclaimer.

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