

May 2024



Jimmy ZS2JIM See story on Page 6

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Radio Society

P.O. Box 10402, LINTON GRANGE, 6015

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

Next PEARS Monthly Meeting will be on Tuesday,
21st May at the Italian Club.



ZSDL

From the Chair

After 3 and half years of this column it will be my last one for now as I bow out as chairman of PEARS. Thank you for all your friendship, help advice and assistance over the years and I look forward to being just a normal member again.

We are fast approaching the AGM again. It really is hard to believe that it is that time again. Time simply goes by far too fast for my liking. So please diarise 11am 1 June at the Walmer Scout hall or the Italian Club for our AGM. Please listen out for final announcement on the venue. As usual there will be the boot sale at 10am and the AGM at 11am and the Braai at 12am. Please come and be part of your clubs Annual General meeting. Come see who wins a trophy, who knows it may be you.

Come see who will be the new committee and Chairman, it could be you. Or simply just come and have fun! I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Please also use the link on **zs2pe.co.za** to vote for the recipients of the **awards**. It's a fun way of having your say and also takes a lot of pressure off the committee to not have to decide these things.

After all the awards are for you, the members.

Please also remember to call in after the Monday Bulletins and remember the transmission starts at

6:30 pm already with a rebroadcast of the Afrikaans SARL bulletin and followed by a rebroadcast of Amateur Radio Today with the host Hans ZS6AKV.

Most importantly remember to “Say Hello”!

See you all on the 21st May. Our Guest Speaker will be someone.....

So thanks again for your support and I wish the new chairman well.

PEARS, WE LIKE BEING YOUR CLUB.

73,

Donovan, ZS2DL

FROM THE EDITOR

It is with sadness that I learnt of Jimmy's ZS2JIM passing on the 25th April. Jimmy was a friend to all. When visiting the Jamtin, I always looked out for him. It was never the same when he was not around. I could call on him at any time for his article “From the Jamtin” which was always interesting, giving us updates as to what was going on at the Jamtin. He is sorely missed. My condolences to Barbara and family.

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 April 2024 at
19h30

Welcome:

Chairman Donovan ZS2DL welcomed all present. Specially Basie and Tony!

Attendance:

Approximately 20 attendees. As per Register.

Apologies:

ZS2JIM, ZS2PS, ZS2GKP, ZS2DK ZS2CR, ZS2IW.

Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes:

Proposed: ZS2RT

Seconded: ZR2BK

Matters arising:

None

Finances:

Mike has reported that all is in order.

Expenses are the PEARS repeater license costs, electricity and ISP, income is Subs renewals, Nanaga

MTB event.

License renewals have been processed. Total cost R4 420.00

Subs are due, this amounts to around R10k, expenses cost the club about R13k, so we need the events income as well. Subs are remaining the same this year, but a motion is needed for increased subs at the AGM this year, for next year. Possibly as much as a 50% increase...

Asset register was discussed, as well as their current value. Need to add a column to show the estimated replacement value, for info.

General:

ZS2DL

ZR2NT cleared the bush around the Slipper container – many thanks to him.

Apathy in the club – nominations for AGM awards. The committee opened this up to member participation. PLEASE do it!! Only 3 callsigns have made use of it thus far.

AGM

1st June, 3pm, Walmer Scout Hall, boot sale at 2pm, not a long meeting, bring a Dop and Chop and join the social afterwards.

Meeting venue

Back to the Italian Club, the manageress has assured us of good service going forward.

QSX

Donovan asked if there were any volunteers to do QSX editor - None offered. But all enjoy the magazine, so PLEASE contribute!! Unfair on the editor to have to scrounge for articles in the past week. ZS2VR is the SOTA man! DL will give an SARL AGM article. ZR2BK will cover events when he is involved. What about those that build projects – SEND us an article!!

ZS2GS

Fox hunt – what is happening? Last one was September, and the winner will organise the next one. Let's set a date and have a fox hunt. ZR2BK proposed consulting the contest calendar and picking a suitable date around those. It doesn't take a lot to organise... Propose a date in June - 22nd. Organise on WhatsApp. Avoid traffic of Saturday mornings, make it afternoon 3pm. In future also consider an early morning one, with a breakfast afterwards.

ZR2TX

Events – Sunday is Ironman.

24-26th May is Great Zuurberg Trek.

ZS2DH

SARL AGM – financial statements are up for approval, pls vote BE-FORE the AGM.

Closure:

Meeting ended at 20h11

Gert ZS2GS then presented a talk on Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB's) as used for search and rescue purposes.

Next meeting 21st May 2024.

DONOVAN VAN LOGGERENBERG (ZS2DL)	CHRISTOPHER SCARR (ZS2AAW)
CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY

Jimmy de Scande ZS2JIM

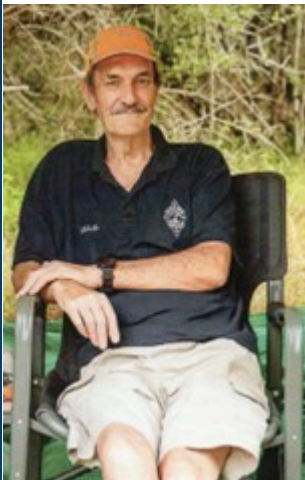
20 October 1954 – 25 April 2024

by Dave ZS2DH

Jimmy was born on October 20, 1954, and would have turned 70 later this year. Jimmy wrote his RAE in 2016 and in the short time he was a member of the PEARS he managed to make himself an integral part of every aspect of the club.

Jimmy's commitment to the PEARS is reflected in the awards he earned over the years. Jimmy earned the Merit Certificate and an Appreciation Award for his work with the Jamtin, an Achievement certificate for his work with tropoducting, and the ZS2AB constructor's trophy for his HF man pack radio. However, it is the fact that he won the Ham Spirit Trophy twice that truly shows his character.

Jimmy made a name for himself operating in the Jamtin. Always inviting anyone who



would listen to join him. Jimmy's work with the Jamtin and the relationship between PEARS and the First Walmer Scout Group will be a part of the legacy he leaves behind. While reports of Jimmy working dx on a Friday afternoon may no longer be in our QSX magazine, they will remain in our hearts for years to come.

Jimmy was also always at events and provided radio communications for everything from Ironman to mountain bike races, car rallies and even the Presidents Trophy air race! While the TransBaviaans mountain bike race and the Great Zuurberg Trek were, I believe his favourites, he enjoyed any event involving camping over! In fact, a bottle of wine and friends around the campfire is, I think, the way Jimmy would choose to be remembered.

We will all miss him but the legacy Jimmy leaves behind is far wider reaching than just ham radio. Just as with ham radio, Jimmy made an impact in every sphere of his life and he also leaves a big pair of boots to fill in Scouts South Africa. Jimmy, your key might have gone silent, but you will be remembered. Rest In Peace my friend.

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.

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PEARS 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

10 June 2023 @ 15h00

QTH – Walmer Scout Hall, Fordyce Rd

Welcome

The Chairman ZS2DL welcomed all present.

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

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.

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

Matters arising

None

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.

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

Motions

There were no motions submitted for discussion at this year's AGM.

General

ZS2GS:

PEARS Events used to be well supported, but these days Tony struggles to get volunteers. Gert says the subs would double if no event income. He pleaded for members to support events as it supports the club. We get a chance to go to places that the public doesn't have access.

Donovan ZS2DL agreed, and said it must be made known that a 4x4 is not a requirement everywhere. Tony ZR2TX also explained that an ideal example is the national rally coming up in July. Mentorskraal is the HQ, with stages in Longmore forest. 28-29 July. Committee organize an in person get together within the next three weeks, and Tony to say how many volunteers are needed.

Colin_ZS2CRS

Colin queried the list of assets that missing in the financial report. There are none listed. Assets are depreciated but still should be listed since they do have a value if the club folds, they would be disposed of. Chris mentioned that the list is available from the club database, and will send a list to all members and ensure they are shown in future statements.

ZR2NT

Neil thanked the committee for the work done during the last club year..

ZS2DL

Donovan opened the floor for discussion on committee membership, and doing bulletins. Does a bulletin put you off? If you are prepared to assist by doing a bulletin, please volunteer. Some committee members will be removed from the bulletin list due to unavailability. We would like the bulletin call-in numbers to improve. What is the reason for the low interest? Maybe a different day or time? Or you DO listen but don't call in? ZS2DK mentioned loadshedding does have a negative effect. ZS2AG said maybe we need to examine our priorities and support the club. ZR2TX admitted to laziness 😊. ZS2MIC suggested a Sunday evening. ZS2VR admitted Monday's are difficult with work etc. Suggestion to use Echolink, but it is not 100% reliable. Mike proposed trying Sunday at 20h00. ZS2SG said Monday evenings are a rush after work, getting home at 7pm. ZS2CRS suggested alternate weeks? ZS2YA, why not both Sunday and Mondays? Could be recorded and replayed by someone. ZS2BL said the debate was never ending. Changing the norm creates more confusion. At least half the members should be able to pick up the mic and say hello after the bulletin. Make the net more interesting and they would partake. Rob mentioned tip on how to handle meetings – send it out via whatever means, let members listen and they can send comments back. ZS2DL commented that it was not ham radio, then. ZS2DK said send a reminder on the social and technical WhatsApp groups.

An impromptu vote was called for the bulletin night:
Keep on a Monday night – approx. 30 supported
Move to Sunday evenings – 3 hands
Thus the meeting resolved to keep the status quo of Monday evening at 20h00

Monthly meetings lack of attendance?

Sometimes only 6 or 7 people, apart from the committee members, present. ZS2PG mentioned visiting a UK club – they ONLY discussed amateur radio matters. First half was people coming in and doing ham radio stuff. Then the chairman gave the latest news, asked for questions, and then those that wanted to, stayed on. They do this once a week. They had a room, not a clubhouse. And they had an HF setup.

PEARS has never had our own club house. ZS2DL and ZS2SG had tried in the last 12 months to organize a clubhouse. Unfortunately the local government politics leads to instability and the person they dealt with changes all the time. Having a Saturday morning meeting combined with a practical workshop etc revolves around having a clubhouse. ZS2EC Monthly meeting starting time – can it be adjusted? Unfortunately not as the Italian club use the venue before our slot.

ZS2AAW and ZS2G said the meeting topic was important, and when the topics were blank on the calendar, interest dwindled. Mike agreed - Scout Hall is a nice venue. Colin proposed making catering plans. Jimmy to check on availability of the venue. Mountain club is here every Thursday. Hall is available on Wednesdays. Costs are an issue that needs checking up on. Meeting voted to try Wednesday evenings going forward. The current venue at the Italian Club subs have not been paid. Hall is available all afternoon so members can come early. Jimmy is here from 4pm.

ZS2DL agreed to arrange related topics for meetings going forward. Please offer lifts to those that can't or don't drive at night.

Awards

The Chairman spoke of the Southern African HF Century award, only recently handed out. Not an easy achievement, but our first recipient was ZS4JAN Jan Botha. He received certificate number 001. The meeting congratulated Jan with a round of applause in his absence.

The Chairman handed out the following 2023 PEARS Awards:

2023 Awards

Appreciation Award: (Certificate)

Jimmy ZS2JIM - For his work and many days spent at the JAMTIN, and regular reports in the QSX

Mitch ZS2DK - Mitch is always willing to help in machining difficult parts for antennae and homebrew projects. His workmanship is immaculate and the parts are not easily manufactured in the average workshop/shack.

Kevern, ZR2BK Not only did he put up his hand when we needed an Afrikaans news reader for the SARL bulletin - now he has joined the SARL News team to assist with compiling the news. This sheds a good light on PEARS and ensures ZS2 representation in the news content.

Tony ZR2TX - Organizing deployments for events and bringing in much needed funds for the club

Ashley ZS2AG – QSX

Andrew ZS2G - Painting, installing power rail, new coax and various antennas at the JAMTIN

Achievement: (Certificate)

Mike ZS2AQ – for his return to amateur radio after a 20+ year license lapse and now being very active on HF and 2m with a somewhat limited station.

Merit: (Certificate)

Kevern ZR2BK for always getting involved in PEARS (Repeaters) and SARL Bulletin reader

Gert ZS2GS Gert has been active all year - attending MOST events, gave a talk as a guest speaker, and facilitated the Fox hunt which has generated significant interest within the club.

Lunga ZS2LN in [recognition of receiving the SARL Hammies Youth Development award.](#)

Shaun ZS2SG in [recognition of receiving the SARL Jack Twine award.](#)

ZS2AB Constructor's Trophy: (Cup + Certificate)

Vaughan ZS2VR - Vaughan has done an immense amount of research, and been building magnetic loop projects for a couple of years now. This year he has taken it to the next level. He has made parts with his CNC machine, printed prototype parts on his 3D printer, and is now producing mag loops in various sizes, that can be tuned to multiple bands. He's also working on a smaller portable version for

SOTA outings, and the quality of the antennas he has made is exceptional. His mag loop antennas work phenomenally well, and from the lawn at his townhouse making solid DX contacts week after week. This is a true reflection of his engineering capability driven by his passion for amateur radio.

ZS2MIC DF Hunt Trophy (Cup + Certificate)

Kevern ZR2BK – because he won it!

PEARS Merit Cup: (Trophy + Certificate)

Theunis ZS2EC - With a very limited station he partakes in virtually all the competitions local or otherwise. He is one of the very few div2 operators that keeps the div2 flag flying high. He has achieved - and keeps on achieving - good scores in the competitions that he partakes in.

The vice chairman then took the stand and handed out the following awards:

Appreciation Award: (Certificate)

Donovan ZS2DL – for conducting RAE classes and thereby boosting licensees in the PE area.

ZS2OB DX Trophy: (Cup + Certificate)

Donovan ZS2DL – unanimously awarded for his DXCC achievement on 160 metres. Donovan becomes 2nd ZS2 to make it to 300 Confirmed DXCC entities on Digital modes, an outstanding achievement.

Ham Spirit Trophy: (Cup + Certificate - Cup donated by Marge, ZS2OB)

Donovan ZS2DL - Always thinking of ways to motivate members through technical projects

The Chairman handed out the last award:

HRO/PEARS Ham Operator of the year Certificate)

(Cup +

Andrew ZS2G - Andrew has for many years done plenty behind the scenes and specifically over the past few years spent a lot of time and effort in the Jamtin and those using the facilities there. He has supported the Jamtin by doing great work on maintenance and infrastructure. He has assisted hams working in the Jamtin supporting DX work and competitions. He had also stepped in to keep the Jamtin operating during ZS2JIM's health issues. Andrew shares his knowledge, experience and skills with other hams and is always willing to assist.

The Chairman then thanked the outgoing committee for their dedication. He mentioned that the entire committee has offered their services for the coming year. The floor was opened for nominations for committee:

ZS2PS nominated by ZS2DH, seconded by ZR2TX. Accepted.

No further nominations were received.

Donovan stood down and asked ZS2BL to preside over the election process for a new chairman.

Election of chairman

ZS2DL - nominated by ZSEC, seconded by ZS2GS. Donovan unanimously re-elected as chairman.

No further nominations were received, ZS2DL resumed chairmanship.

Closing

The chairman thanked the attendees and called the meeting closed at 16h35. Thereafter, braai fires were lit.

SIGNED:

Chairman:

Secretary:

SARL 2024 National Convention Cape Town 19 -21 April

**By: Donovan
van Loggeren-
berg, ZS2DL**



Well I promised Ashley I would do an article for QSX with regards to our exploits at the SARL AGM for 2024, and immediately was gripped by fear as to what ex-

actly I would be able to say about a meeting! But true to form Ham



Radio is



I know, I Could have smiled!

Our Chariot to Cape Town

Dave and Bev (ZS2DH), Kevern ZR2BK and I, ZS2DL, set off to attend the AGM of the South African Radio League in Cape Town. Dave and Bev Left earlier and managed to get to the welcoming Cheese and wine event but Kevern and I only managed a late evening flight and as a result we got to Cape Town in the dark. (First time ever catching an Uber for me.)

After we booked into the Garden Court Hotel, there were still a few hanging around and as a result we managed to have a cold drink with one or two while catching up on old times, before heading off to our rooms.



Like I said we got there in the dark

RIGHT: Dave is like is this the time to get here? Hi



Saturday morning started with a hearty breakfast before we headed off to the conference room for the actual AGM.

During the AGM a detailed president's report was given and I must compliment President Nico ZS6QL for a comprehensive examination of the league and its duties performed during the year and the openness in which he shared the strengths and indeed its short comings with the delegates.



Nico ZS6QL and Donovan ZS2DL

There were also 10 motions that needed discussion and voting and here I want to thank the PEARS members that gave Dave, Kevern and myself you're Proxies as it mattered a great deal. Not only towards the

motions but also obtaining the quorum required to have a valid vote. I think we had 42 votes between the 3 of us. Thankfully sanity prevailed and the most contentious motions were defeated unanimously and as a result we, I do believe still have a very strong League to represent us.



ZS1YT and ZS2DL

One thing that really stands out to me is the importance of each and every one of us being a member of the league and so doing assisting them in protecting our interests with the authorities here and abroad.

I also had the privilege of catching up with several old Friends- Friendships some of which date back 30 years.



ZS2DL and ZS4BS



ZS6P/ZS1J and ZS2DL



My mate ZS4JAN (still bigger than you Jan, Hi)

Then Paul ZS1S offered us a trip to the CTARC, as a result ZS6GM, ZS1S, ZS6BOX, ZS2DH and ZS2DL squeezed into a Honda Jazz for a trip to the ZS1CT Shack.

The AGM itself ended at 14H00 after which we needed a serious lunch.





LEFT: Bud ZS2CA/ZS1B

Filled with memorabilia and a few radios and amps too! I found one picture of one of our former members and someone I had a lot of time for, Bud ZS2CA/ZS1B, I will always remember Bud as not only one of the CW examiners I had to face back in 1991 but also a true gentleman.



CTARC attendance at SARL AGM in Port Elizabeth 1984- I recognise two PEARS members.

How many can you spot?

After inspecting the antennas and shack we squeezed back into Pauls Honda for the trip back to the Garden Court Hotel.

At this point there was just enough time for us to powder our noses and get ready for the Awards Dinner. This too was catered for by the hotel and really was well presented with an excellent Buffet dinner. All the PE lads and gal shared a table and



**Kevern,
ZR2BK, all
dressed up for
the event**

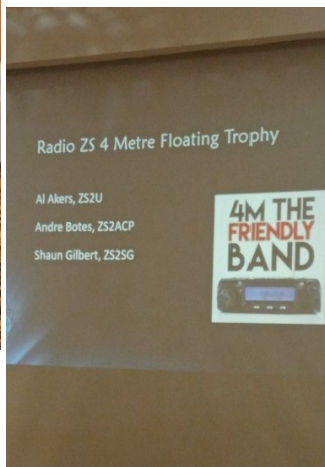
had a great view of the festivities. Brian ZS6XY and his XYL gave a presentation on SARL 100 in lieu of the SARL centenary which happens in 2025. They are busy putting a book together of the history of Radio and amateur radio in ZS which should be ready for the centenary. The fact and figures and indeed the photos they shared are truly remarkable.

Then it was on to the main event of the evening the prize giving. Many awards were handed out many going to clubs and individuals and as tradition has it ZS4JAN received the majority of the HF operating awards.

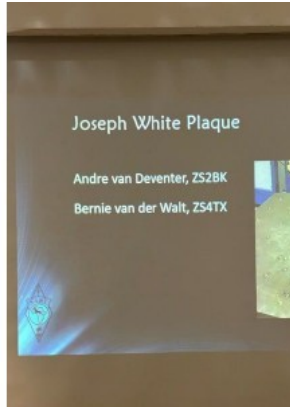


**ZS4JAN assured me he
has now retired from con-
testing..... Ja Right! Hi**

PEARS however were well represented and the following received awards and brought recognition to themselves and indeed PEARs.



**ZS2ACP,
ZS2SG and
ZS2U
shared the
4M floating
trophy.**



Top: ZS2BK received the Joseph White Plaque and the ICOM Excellence Award.



ZS2DL was honoured and humbled with the Willy Wilson Gold badge. Left: Receiving The Willy Wilson Award from ZS6QL for service to Amateur Radio.

As I have stated many times awards presentations are one of my favourite things to such an Extent I will even sit through an

AGM. Hi!

Indeed Congratulations to all the award winners.

Afterwards we still sat around chatting before sadly all good things come to an end and we retired to our rooms around midnight.

Up again at 4am! For..... My second Uber ride. Arriving back at the Cape Town international airport at around 5am for our flight back to Port Elizabeth. Kevern and I arrived back safely at about 8am.

I think a good time was had by all. I would certainly like to thank CTARC, SARL, Garden Court for their hospitality and to Dave ZS2DH and Kevern ZR2BK for their Support and friendship and to ZS1YT, ZS1J, ZS4BS and ZS4JAN and ZS6QL for always making me and PEARS feel special!

We look forward to 2025 and the SARL Centenary Event.



Person Locator Bean Triggered!

By Kevern ZR2BK

On Monday the 15th of March 2024, Andrew Gray, ZS2G posted the following on the HAMNET EC Group: “Good day, we have a PLB going off in the EC. The position is around PE, Jeffreys Bay. Is there anyone available to assist in tracking the beacon?”

The request was sent by the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre. Co-ordinates were provided and the point was mapped on the R102 outside Humansdorp, just past the Orange Grove farm.

I made myself available as I reside close by in St Francis Bay. Gert, ZS2GS and Andrew, ZS2AFB made themselves available on standby. When I arrived at the co-ordinates that were sent out, nothing was heard on the homing frequency of 121.500Mhz.

ARCC then provided the next set of co-ordinates and they plotted on the map to the rubbish dump in Humansdorp. I then made my way there and en-route in Humansdorp heard the homing beacon (a loud siren).

When I arrived, just inside the entrance the signal was very strong. I then drove further along into the dump and the signal got weaker, so the beacon was close to the entrance. Below are the photos of the rubbish dump where the signal was the strongest.



At this point, I only had the dual band antenna on the vehicle to work with. I went off frequency to weaken the signal and then drove slowly backwards. The signal got stronger. So after having a good idea, the task was to find it. Gert and Andrew started to get ready to leave Port Elizabeth to bring a yagi antenna out so we could pin point the location. While walking around, something caught my eye, a bunch of electronic devices dumped near the notice boards. First I stumbled upon a Garmin eTrex GPS. I then lifted up some bags, and there it was lying, the PLB.



I immediately notified ARCC that I found the beacon and turned it off. Below are some photos of the beacon.



WOLVEFONTEIN CAR RALLY

By Gert ZS2GS

On Saturday the 11th of May, 2024 the Algoa Rally Club (ARC) held its 2nd rally of the season. The rally control and PARC Fermi was at the Wolwefontein hotel. The rally stages were held in the Glen corner area and consisted of 3 stages.



PEARS was once again requested by ARC to do the comms for the rally. The following members availed themselves for the day, namely Gert ZS2GS, Colin ZR2CRS, Neil

ZS2NT, Kevin ZR2KO and Gordon ZR2GW.

The crew met at 07:00 at the Engen / McDonald parking area in Linton Grange from where we drove in convoy to Wolwefontein. Gert, ably assisted by Gordon, set up and manned the VOC in the hotel (Conveniently right next to the bar), while Colin, Neil and Kevin went off to man the different points. We use the Cockscomb repeater (438,600 MHz) to the operators in the field. I used my Icom 2730 dual band radio into a X50 antenna mounted on top of a 7.5 metre mast. We had good comms, but it required x banding to one of the points.



The rally consisted of 3 stages. 24 cars entered for the rally, but 2 did not show. Of the 22 cars only 12 completed stage 3.

On stage 1 a car broke its suspension and was out of the rally. It took some maneuvering to get this car off the road. In each of stage 2 and 3 a car rolled, but fortunately no one was injured.



During the drivers briefing, it was mentioned to the drivers that should they roll and the car ends upside down they must first brace them self before releasing the



safety belt. This is to prevent them from falling on heir head which

could result in a serious spine injure.

The rally was done and dusted by about 16:00 and we were all safely home by about 18:00.

The weather was good and all had a good time.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

May

22 Saney Martin ZR1S

June

03 Tim Joubert ZS2X

09 Gus Winter ZS2MC

16 Ian Moore ZS2IJ

Spouse Birthdays

May

26 Eugenie Burger Kevern ZR2BK

27 Mia Gibson Albie ZS2AZ

31 Shirley Carr Stoffel ZS2C

June

02 Vanessa Cummings Glen ZS2GV

03 Lindi Bester Barry ZS2BB

04 Sonya Swart Jan ZS2JS

13 Yolande Ollphent André ZS2YA

Anniversaries

May

25 Neil Merle Thomas ZR2N ZR2MP



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

20-May	Dave	ZS2DH
27-May	Ashley	ZS2AG
03-Jun	Chairman	
10-Jun	V-Chairman	
17-Jun	Secretary	
24-Jun	Treasurer	
01-Jul	tba	
08-Jul	tba	
15-Jul	tba	

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Our 2023/2024 PEARS Committee

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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 431.000/438,600 Add 88.5Hz for squ tail	Viewlands 431.075/438.675 Add 88.5Hz for squ tail	<----- These form linking hubs for events, hence no tail	DMR 430.675/438.275 QTH: ZS2VA	D-Star 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 431,075/438,675 Wide 25k	Kareedouw 145,125/725	Plett 145,175/775	Brenton 145,075/675

APRS/Packet network:

ZSONTP 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.**