

January 2025



A View From The Kareedouw Berg Repeater Site. See Page

This Newsletter is published by the Port Elizabeth Amateur
Radio Society

Editing by Ashley Goosen ZS2AG

QsX-PE - Newsletter for the discerning Radio Ham

Next PEARS Monthly Meeting will be on Tuesday,
21st January 2025 at the Italian Club.

From the Chair



Dear Members,

All the best for the new year and may you have a wonderful year ahead! I trust that you had a good holiday and some radio time as well during the holidays.

2025 is a special year as the South African Radio League celebrates 100 years of existence. A special callsign, ZS100SARL is being operated throughout the year, and is open to be used by any licensed amateur radio operator by prior arrangement. On the League's website, there is a link to request permission to use the callsign. Theunis, ZS2EC has already jumped in and operated ZS100SARL from his QTH.

In December, the club provided communication for the Longmore Classic and the Longmore Forest Endurance Run, thank to all the volunteers for availing themselves. Also, the container at Lady Slipper was replaced, thank you to all those that came to help on the day. More on these to follow in the QSX articles.

This month kicked off with the PEARS VHF/UHF contest. Access was arranged for Olifantskop pass, where ZS2PS and others operated ZS2PE from. A field station was also erected at Noordhoek. There was some good activity on the air and we now await the results of the contest. Thank you to all who par-

ticipated.

Tuesday, the 21st is our first meeting of the year sat the Italian Club in Port Elizabeth at 19h30. Our guest speaker will be Dennis Green, ZS4BS on the history of QSL cards. We hope to see you there!

On a final note, thank you to Neil Thomas, ZR2NT and Allan Whitehead, ZS2R for presenting a constructor's corner meeting every Tuesday night on Zoom at 20h00. Three meetings have taken place already, and Allan has shown designs for oscillators and Neil has started showing how to use MPLABS for programming of a PIC controller. Should you wish to join, please send an email to Neil, neil_thomas@mweb.co.za and he will send you a link for the meeting.

I trust you will have a good month ahead, and remember, please support our events, meetings and projects. Without the members, we would not be a club.

73,

FROM THE EDITOR

Wishing all a Happy and Prosperous 2025.

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

NEWS FROM ZS2

Kevern ZR2BK

PEARS provided communication for two events this December. The first being the Longmore Classic MTB Race, held in the MTO Longmore Forest Plantation. Three positions were manned, by Tony ZR2TX; Eric ZS2ECH with Isolda ZS2IW; and Chris ZS2AAW.

The club has been providing communication for years for events held in the Eastern Cape, and is a great way of promoting amateur radio and providing the necessary communication from checkpoints to the race organizers. The event was on the 1st of December 2024.



The second event was the Longmore Forest Endurance Run, known as the LoFER. This event requires camping in the Longmore Forest, and was held from the 20th to the 22nd of December 2024. The communication provided was for the 100 mile and 200 mile event. This is a non stop race!

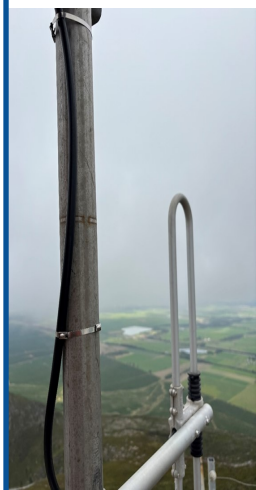




KAREEDOUW BERG REPEATER

Thanks to a new landlord, work has begun in re-commissioning the Kareedouw Berg repeater site. The site sits west of the Kareedouw turnoff on the N2. Antennas have been erected, feeders have been installed, and now the container work is left.

This is not the easiest site to work on, as all equipment has to be carried while climbing some rocks next to the road. And then a bit of an incline towards the site. Never mind the four seasons in one day weather that is experienced up there!



UPGRADE FOR THE LADY SLIPPER REPEAT- ER

The Lady Slipper Repeater site west of Port Elizabeth received a much needed container upgrade. This was made possible by Donovan, ZS2DL who donated a second hand container in a far better condition than what was on site.

On the 14th of December, club members started to strip the old container, by removing electrical supply, repeater racks and then all the coax feeders. The old container was removed and the newer one was put in place, by Glen ZS2GV who offered his services and use of his crane truck.

Then the mission began of installing all the equipment back in to the site. A big thanks goes to all the members who helped on the day to make it a success. Both VHF and UHF repeaters were made operational again.

On site was Donovan ZS2DL, Glen ZS2GV, Chris ZS2AAW, Neil ZR2NT, Shaun ZS2SG, Johannes ZS2JO and Kevern ZR2BK.



The history of Allan Bowles, ZS2BO and Terence Van Der Linden, ZS4VDL with the PEARS VHF/UHF Contest

Submitted for publication by Kevern ZR2BK

It all began in 2003, the 1st time they went up the Olifantskop mountain for the contest, however the first year a storm came over whilst on top. For 13 years, these two amateurs would go to the mountain to participate in the contest. They would go up at 18:00 the Friday afternoon, camp over and leave on the Monday morning. Terence lived in Queenstown and Allan in Port Elizabeth.



Allan Bowles ZS2BO

Allan supplied all the camping gear, 10 element beams for 2 meters, 4 meters and 70cm. Terence supplied the 6m yagi. A maximum of 100W was used, and made contact several times with Nico, ZS4N in Bloemfontein on 2 meters.

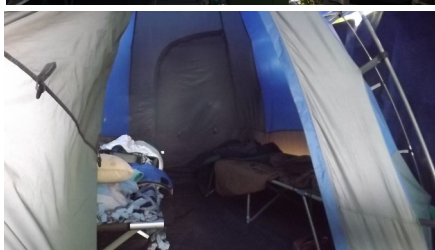
On a lighter note, the farmer, (who we still have contact with today) Clive Brown was ever so happy to have the amateurs on the mountain as it kept the strays away. Another highlight was when a single engine aircraft appeared from behind just above their antennas, they could literally count the rivets on the plane! At the time they were in the middle of a QSO and they had to apologize for the language!

In one of the photo's, you will see that Allan and Terence built a brick oven to bake their bread in. The photo's of the antennas showed how committed these two amateurs were to ensure they erected a



station to be reckoned with while at the same time having fun.

This shows, that while partaking in contests out in the field, many memories are made, and plenty of fun can always be had!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

January 2025

20 Barry Murrell ZS2EZ
23 Paul Schoeman ZS2PS
26 Ulrich Ann ZR2A

February 2025

02 Paul Galpin ZS2PG
02 Dirk Swart ZS2JD
04 Shawn Gilbert ZS2SG
04 Ivan Newman ZS2ILN
06 Etienne Lotter ZS2LE
10 Regardt van Heerden ZS2RH
11 Clinton Schram ZS2CS
14 Arno du Preez ZS2ABT
17 Jeffrey Ferreira ZR2JEF
18 Carlin Mitchell ZS2NM
18 Peter Flynn ZS2PF

Spouse Birthdays

January 2025

24 Suzette Greyling Bennie ZR2BC

February 2025

02 Ginny Pullinger ZS2GIN Pat ZS2PJP
03 Wanda van Vuuren Johan ZS2JV
06 Neels Kruger Patricia (Patsy) ZS2PTY 07
Joan Bowles ZR2ABA Allan ZS2BO
08 Tracey Hartwig ZS2TAH Trevor ZS2TJ
12 Jackie Norton Rory ZS2BL
15 Megan Farthing Matthew Matt

Anniversaries

January 2025

22 Andre Renett van Deventer ZS2BK

February 2025

01 Nico Lizette Oelofse ZS4N
08 Jan Sonya Swart ZS2JS
15 Christopher Vanessa Scarr ZS2AAW
ZS2VS
22 Matthew Jacqui Saayman ZS2SA

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 at 8:30 in English read by Rory ZS2BL, transmitted through the Lady's Slipper Repeater on 145.700MHz.

PEARS Bulletins are transmitted on Monday evenings at 20H00 through the Lady's Slipper repeater 145.700MHz 88.5Hz Narrow, which is coupled to the Longmore Repeater 145.625 MHz 88.5Hz Narrow.

Bulletin Roster

20th Jan	Paul	ZS2PS
27th Jan	Vaughan	ZS2VR
03rd Feb	Rory	ZS2BL
10th Feb	Kevern	ZR2BK
17th Feb	Dave	ZS2DH
24th Feb	Chris	ZS2AAW
03rd Mar	Mike	ZS2MIC
10th Mar	Donovan	ZS2DL
17th Mar	Ashley	ZS2AG

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Our 2024/2025 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, Technical support & maintenance	Kevern Burger	ZR2BK	k.burger[at]stfrancislinks.com	O83 401 9587
Vice Chairman, SARL liaison, Hammies, Youth, Contest Scoring	Dave Higgs	ZS2DH	om[at]zs2dh.co.za	O82 387 5657
Treasurer	Michael Steenkamp	ZS2MIC	zs2mic[at]igen.co.za	O82 523 5677
Secretary, Repeaters, QSX emailing, club database	Christopher Scarr	ZS2AAW	christopher[at]peham.co.za	O82 925 6367
RAE Training	Donovan van Loggerenberg	ZS2DL	zs2dl[at]hamradio.co.za	O82 852 4885
Technical/repeaters, Search and Rescue & Emergency comms	Glen Cummings	ZS2GV	glenvanessa[at]gmail.com	O82 411 2743
QSX Editor	Ashley Goosen	ZS2AG	qsx.zs2ag[at]gmail.com	O82 372 6696
Public relations, special events displays, Scouts interface, "Jamtin"	Paul Schoeman	ZS2PS	paul.costcutters[at]gmail.com	O83 582 9660
RAE Training	Vaughan Rizzo	ZS2VR	vaughan[at]netaddress.co.za	O82 882 6555

CO-OPTED POSTS

PORTFOLIO	NAME	CALLSIGN	EMAIL	CONTACT No
Contest Liaison Officer	Theunis Potgieter	ZS2EC	zs2ec01[at]gmail.com	O64 901 8079
Events & Rally organising	Tony Allen	ZR2TX	tony.zr2tx[at]gmail.com	O82 956 2920
Website renewal and updates	Graham Pearson	ZS2GKP	gpearson[at]bjsmedical.co.za	O82 321 4798

(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 145.050/650 88.5Hz, Narrow 12.5k	Longmore 145.025/625 88.5Hz, Narrow 12.5k	Uitenhage 145.075/675 Wide 25k	Town UHF 431.050/438.650 Wide 25k	<----- IRLP available on this subnet
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 145,100/700 88.5Hz, Narrow 12.5k	Grahamstown 145,150/750 Wide 25k	Cradock 145,050/650 Wide 25k	Noupoort (link only) 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:

ZS0NTP Node Lady's Slipper 434,800 1200bd 439.850 9600 bd	ZS0KDK APRS Digi Mount Road 434,800 1200bd	ZS0KDB APRS Digi Longmore 434,800 1200bd
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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.**