



***May-June 2025***



This Newsletter is published by the Port Elizabeth Amateur  
Radio Society

Editing by Ashley Goosen ZS2AG

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

PEARS AGM will be on Saturday,  
14th June 2025 at the German Club.

## From the Chair



Dear Members

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest newsletter from the club. A big thank you to Ashley for compiling this edition of QSX.

The second fox hunt was held at the German Club, with Donovan ZS2DL being the fox. Some interesting antenna designs were shown and methods of tracing the fox. Congratulations to Shaun, ZS2SG for winning this round in a very short period of time.

The SARL AGM was held in Pretoria, and representing the club was myself, Donovan ZS2DL and Dave ZS2DH. This was also the 100<sup>th</sup> centenary celebration of the South African Radio League. The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club celebrated their 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the Friday evening with a dinner.

The Saturday morning was the Annual General Meeting, followed by a flea market that was very well organized. There were many dealers and private sellers. The gala awards dinner was held on the Saturday evening, and a big congratulations to Donovan, ZS2DL for being inducted into the SARL Hall of Fame. Also, congratulation to Theunis, ZS2EC for being awarded the Koos and Annie van der Merwe Gold Award.

Congratulations to all the candidates that passed the RAE exam. A big thank you to Donovan, ZS2DL, with the support of Vaughan, ZS2VR and Shaun ZS2SG for all their time and effort that was put into the classes.

As you may have already heard, Donovan, ZS2DL has taken over from Noel ZR6DX as the RAE Administrator for the SARL from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2025. We wish Donovan well with his new portfolio.

A reminder that the AGM takes place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 at the German Club in Port Elizabeth at 3pm. Preceding the AGM is a boot sale that starts at 2pm. Please make every effort to attend, as we present the business of the club and of present the awards to our deserving members.

I wish you all a good two months ahead and see you at the AGM!

73,  
Kevern  
ZR2BK

### **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](mailto: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 German Club on the 15th April 2025 at 19h30**

## **Welcome:**

Chairman Kevern ZR2BK welcomed all present. Specifically ZS2ILN Ivan Newman and ZS2IJ Ian Moore

## **Attendance:**

Approximately 13 attendees. As per Register.

## **Apologies:**

ZR2CRS, ZS2PS, ZS2DK, ZS2CR, ZS2SG

## **Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes: February 2025 and March 2025**

Proposed: ZS2AG Feb, ZS2GS March

Seconded: ZS2VR Feb, ZS2BO March

## **Matters arising:**

None

## **Finances:**

Mike has reported that all is in order.

Subs are coming in nicely. And Addo Trail Run has also donated, but claims still need to be reimbursed. Also have to pay License fees, approximately R5000.

Financials have been submitted to the auditor, and thanks for no auditor fees again this year.

## **General: AGM**

Will happen on the 14th June, due to the German Club unavailable in May. AGM notice with documents will be sent 30 days before the AGM date. Please pay subs before the AGM.

Web site has a link for nominating award recipients. Some awards are not nominated for, as yet. Please visit the voting form.

SARL AGM is 16 May. Donovan will be inducted into the SARL Hall of fame. ZS2EC is receiving an award as well.

Friday is World Amateur Radio Day. ZS4JAN is keen to WAZS in one day. Also ZS100SARL will be on air on 40m, run by the Boland ARC.

## **Antenna workshop**

R250 per person, look out for a whatsapp message and reply YES if interested, so Vaughan can prepare enough kits. Will be a Saturday here at the German Club, date to be advised.

## **QSX**

Thanks to Ashley for the latest edition just sent out. Please contribute articles EARLY, don't leave until the last minute.

## **Fox Hunt**

Congrats to Shaun ZS2SG on his win. 8 teams participated.

## **Events**

George MUT again this year. 23-25 May. Eden Radio Club assisted by manning control.

Trans Elands MTB race on 7th June.

Trans Bavians will be one big race weekend this year, confirmed we are asked to assist.

Ironman took place successfully.

## **ICASA**

Govt Gazette printed today, states an extension granted to re-new radio licenses, until 30 June 2025. Mostly due to system issues on their side.

## **Repeaters**

Slipper and Longmore working fine, ZR2BK has been checking battery volts, and Slipper has a number of mains failures but remains alive. We will soon add AllStar and Echolink to Slipper – ZU9KCD/R. We will in future use AllStar to link to Kareedouw and other nodes in SA.

Neil will soon start with the security gate welding.

## **Silent Keys board**

Is installed on display at HRO shop. Need to add Barry ZS2BIC sadly.

New member has joined, ZS2TC, Plus another 2 new members from St Francis.

Please return trophies for preparation for the upcoming AGM. Please nominate!

Scout Hall mast – is still standing. Robbie is interested in purchasing it. ZS2GV can assist, liaise with each other.

ZS2AI asked if the Kareedouw 2m repeater going? Nope.

## **Closure:**

Meeting ended at 20h02

Next meeting 20th May 2025

## **Speaker:**

Gert, ZS2GS gave a recount of his involvement in the search and recovery of another EPIRB in the PE area

CHAIRMAN

KEVERN BURGER (ZR2BK)

SECRETARY

CHRISTOPHER SCARR (ZS2AAW)

# **Minutes of PEARS Monthly Meeting Held at the German Club on the 20th May 2025 at 19h30**

## **Welcome:**

Chairman Kevern ZR2BK welcomed all present.

## **Attendance:**

Approximately 18 attendees. As per Register.

## **Apologies:**

ZS2DK, ZS2GKP, ZS2E, ZS2TAH, ZR2JG, ZS2PDS, ZR2AS, ZS2TJ, ZS2MDL, ZS2IW.

## **Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes:**

April minutes not circulated in QSX until the June issue, so could not be accepted

## **Matters arising:**

None

## **Finances:**

Mike reported all in order.

Licences still to be paid. Some claims for Addo Trail Run also need to come off. Subs money has come in, albeit slowly.

## **General:**

### **AGM**

Notices were emailed out. Financial statements will be uploaded ASAP, by Friday 23rd. Pls pay your subs. Thanks to those that nominated awards, the voting link is now closed. Applause given for SARL AGM recipients, ZS2DL and ZS2EC. AGM is 14th June here at the German Club. 14h00 boot sale.

### **Antenna workshop**

ZS2VR has 4 names, needs 5. Another 4 hands were raised. Date will be mid June. Kevern will publicize this.

## **Qsx**

Next edition is before the AGM. Pls send articles to ZS2AG. If there is enough support for content, we can rather return to monthly editions. Suggestion to interview hams and publish an article on them in Qsx. Start with Al Akers ZS2U. "Meet the Member". Donovan will set up the standard "interview questions sheet".

## **Events**

7 June is Trans Elands MTB race. No further details available at present.

## **ICASA**

Licence renewal site is working. Rather make EFT payments and upload proof of payment.

## **Repeaters**

Slipper security gate is making good progress. ZR2NT was thanked. He will fit the frame and then send all for galvanising. Chris provided a standard padlock for use with the gate.

## **RAE**

6 wrote, 5 passed. Congrats. One will re-write, and 2 more ready for the next class. Cut off for locals is the week before classes start, approx. mid August.

## **Meeting activity**

Propose a social/supper evening every 3-4 months. Supper worked well, good to involve families.

## **Closure:**

Meeting ended at 20h05

## **Next meeting AGM 14th June 2025**

## **Speaker:**

Andrew, ZS2G presented 3 methods for testing parallel resonant circuits

CHAIRMAN

KEVERN BURGER (ZR2BK)

SECRETARY

CHRISTOPHER SCARR (ZS2AAW)



PEARS 2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes  
1 June 2024 @11h00  
QTH — Walmer Scout Hall, Fordyce Rd

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman ZS2DL welcomed all present. 35 persons seated

**2. Present and apologies**

All present were asked to sign the attendance register.

**Apologies tendered before the meeting:**

ZS2PTY, ZS2LLD, ZSZAV

**Apologies noted from the floor:**

ZS2R, ZS2AQ, ZS2U, ZSZW, ZS2EZ

31 signatures, with 2 apologies noted in the attendance register.

**3. Silent Keys**

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

Jimmy de Scande ZSZJIM

Quintus Moolman ZSZKU

Otto van Rooyen ZS2Q

**4. Minutes of the AGM 10 June 2023**

These were circulated to all members via email as part of the official AGM Notice, and in the May edition of QSX

Proposed: ZS22AG

Seconded: ZR2TX

**5. Matters arising**

None

**6. Treasurer's report**

The financial statement was made available to members 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. A positive balance was achieved at the end of the financial year.

No questions from the floor.

Proposed: ZS2EC

Seconded: ZS2 RT

## **7 Chairman's report**

The chairman tabled the past year's report.

Friends running a club is never easy. There are so many facets to it. As a result it cannot be done without an outstanding group of people that make up a committee. I cannot single out anyone in specific because the group I have had the privilege to lead at PEARS is simply a fantastic group of guys with a common cause. I would however like to thank them wholeheartedly for their continued contribution to the well-being of the club.

And of course the committee will really battle if they do not have the support of the entire club membership.

There are however a few external factors that we have no control over that sometimes is very challenging for anyone to cope with. I think of the theft and vandalism of high sites specifically. The cost in replacing the stolen items the cost of renovations of the site and the cost of time to the members tasked with the repair to these sites. We have had to take difficult decisions about repeaters and sites because of this South African problem and as a result are faced with the reality that our communications network is not what it used to be.

Or indeed what it could be. It is my and the committee 's hope that this will change in time and I call on everyone that is able to offer their assistance in the work that lay ahead. Especially when we attempt to get lady Slipper Up and running again.

Another factor that has really impacted us this year again is the Italian Club and their internal problems. We have moved the meeting to the Scout Hall, and when we do we get promised that all is sorted and we can come back to the Italian club and every time we are letdown. We

have as a committee decided to call a meeting with them so that we can get some form of assurance before we commit again.

Moving on - the Club is the members and activities that keep the members interested are vitally important.

Tony ZR2TX continues to guide the various events that the club partakes in and certainly keep those that are able, entertained. Long may this continue.

The RAE was written on 18 May and sadly we only had 3 candidates write. ZS2BTO and ZS2NM are now licensed. After 16 Years of running the RAE I have decided to step back and allow someone else to take up this responsibility. I have calculated that during this time I have had in excess of 250 people pass the exam here in Port Elizabeth. It has been fun most of the time but circumstances dictate that I need a break. I trust that Shaun ZS2SG and Vaughn ZS2VR that have agreed to take on this challenge, will find it as rewarding as I have. I will be available to assist incumbents for the next session so they will not be dumped in the deep end, so to speak.

Then also on this note I will also be bowing out as Chairman of PEARS after 3.5 years also believing that the club will be in good hands going forward. I encourage all of you to support the incoming Chairman and his or her committee as much as you can. I look forward to seeing everyone at the monthly meetings and various activities in the future. One event being our FOX hunt coming up, date to be confirmed.

In closing remember you are the club. 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 after a bulletin or monthly meeting and you are doing just that!

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.

Thank you to each and every one of you for the role, 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 2024-2025.

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

## **8. Motions**

Two motions were submitted for discussion and voting at the AGM. Chairman invited Dave ZSZDH to explain the reason for the changes.

**1. PEARS Constitution update** — Postal voting and notices of meetings.

### **a. Introduction**

To update the relevance of the PEARS constitution and rules regarding the use of the postal service.

### **b. Background**

There are several references to outdated methods and unless updated these could lead to a deadlock. The postal service is no longer a viable way to send information and alternative electronic ways need to be used.

### **c. Proposal**

The following wording changes are suggested:

It is proposed that the wording of paragraph 5.1.3 change from "a general postal ballot of all members of the Society shows that not fewer than two-thirds of the members participating in the ballot favour the dissolution."

To

"a general electronic ballot of all members of the Society shows that not fewer than two-thirds of the members participating in the ballot favour the dissolution."

It is proposed that the wording of paragraph 13.1.1 change from

"Notices shall be posted to all members at least thirty days before an annual general meeting or ten days before a special general meeting and shall specify the date, place and hour of the meeting and, except in the case of ordinary meetings, the nature of the business to be transacted. It is not necessary to serve notice of ordinary meetings that are held at the customary venue on the customary day of the month."

To

"Notices shall be sent by electronic communication to all members at least thirty days before an annual general meeting or ten days before a special general meeting and shall specify the date, place and hour of the meeting and, except in the case of ordinary meetings, the nature of the business to be transacted. It is not necessary to serve notice of ordinary meetings that are held at the customary venue on the customary day of the month."

It is proposed that the wording of paragraph 15.1.1 change from

"To this end, the secretary shall post voting papers to all Society members, clearly indicating the question at issue and requesting the return of the voting papers to reach the secretary by 16:00 on a date not later than seven days before the next ordinary meeting of the Society or, if that date is deemed to be not practical, the following ordinary meeting."

To

"To this end, the secretary shall send by electronic communication

instructions on where, when, and how to vote to all Society members, clearly indicating the question at issue and requesting the votes be cast in time to reach the secretary by 16:00 on a date not later than seven days before the next ordinary meeting of the Society or, if that date is deemed to be not practical, the following ordinary meeting."

It is proposed that the wording of paragraph 18.1 change from "In the event of ambiguity or uncertainty regarding the provisions, or any matter not provided for, in this Constitution or the Rules, the decision of the Committee shall be final unless and until the Society decides the question otherwise at any annual or special general meeting or by general postal ballot."

To

"In the event of ambiguity or uncertainty regarding the provisions, or any matter not provided for, in this Constitution or the Rules, the decision of the Committee shall be final unless and until the Society decides the question otherwise at any annual or special general meeting or by general electronic ballot."

It is proposed that the following definitions be added to the definitions paragraph of the rules.

"1.1.6 "electronic ballot" shall mean an electronic communication indicating a choice or options for a voting process. This could include voting via a website, or via any other electronic method as is acceptable to the committee from time to time."

"1.1.7 "electronic communication" shall mean a communication sent electronically. This could be by way of email, SMS, WhatsApp or any other means acceptable to the committee from time to time."

#### **d. Recommendations**

That should the motion be approved, that the Secretary be mandated to update the Constitution and Rules.

The first motion was carried unanimously

## **2. PEARS Constitution update — Proxy voting.**

### **a. Introduction**

To grant the proxy submitter the right to grant carte blanche if he/she so wishes. This does not invalidate the proxy submitters right to submit specific instructions should they feel so inclined.

### **b. Background**

Currently a member submitting a proxy must give written instructions on each matter and cannot grant the proxy holder the right (on any or all) matters to use their own discretion. Often when a motion or matter is discussed at the AGM it becomes clearer and the proxy submitter might not have a clear understanding or be "in two minds" about a matter, but as it is currently any proxy granting carte blanche is invalid.

### **c. Proposal**

The following wording changes are suggested:

It is proposed that the wording of paragraph 17.1.1 change from "The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing under the hand of the grantor, in a form acceptable to the Committee, and shall be valid for only one meeting or any adjournment thereof. It shall reach the secretary at least thirty minutes before the commencement of the meeting and indicate clearly how the grantor wishes his vote to be recorded in regard to each matter to be discussed. A proxy granting carte blanche to the person acting as proxy shall not be acceptable."

To

"The instrument appointing a proxy shall be electronic or in writing, in a form acceptable to the Committee, and shall be valid for only one meeting or any adjournment thereof. It shall reach the secretary at least thirty minutes before the commencement of the meeting and indicate clearly how the grantor wishes his/her vote to be recorded in regard to each matter to be discussed. A proxy without instructions on individual or all matters to be discussed will grant the holder of the proxy the right to vote as he/she deems fit on such matter(s)."

#### **d. Recommendations**

That should the motion be approved, that the Secretary be mandated to update the Constitution and Rules.

The motion was carried unanimously

#### **9. General**

- ZS2GLP: Updating the website — offered assistance. Gratefully accepted.

- ZSZGS:

**Fox hunt** — date to be determined as the Italian Club is not available on the wanted date. Avoid the 6<sup>th</sup> July as it is the national rally. Use a different venue, or investigate using the Scout Hall again. ZSZPS is the new custodian of the Scout Hall liaison, so he will identify a date that the Scout Hall is available. Saturday mornings 9-2pm.

ZR2CRS will assist Paul to fix a date. Dates are 22 or 29 June, 27 July. ZR2CRS investigated and the meeting agreed on 22 June as planned before, but the venue being back at the Scout Hall.

- ZS2EC

**Jamtin** — what will happen with it now? Will it still be available? ZS2PS said if he is in town, he will open the container on some Fridays... ZS2G suggested alternate uses for the Jamtin, such as a workshop with soldering station, test equipment etc. He felt there was not enough space for both station and workshop. ZS2JV asked who will benefit from each option? Currently only 2 or 3 members use HF at the moment. Investigate the workshop option and discuss it at the general meetings.

- ZS2PF

Repeaters are underutilized, is it worth spending money on them? Uitenhage is not really needed. ZR2NT will investigate a more robust container option. ZS2GV also reminded the meeting of the offer from ZS2NT. ZR2BK updated the meeting on the security situation on Slipper, things have improved. ZS2AAW mentioned the need



from 145.700 for the upcoming National Rally, so a plan would be made.

- **ZS2DL**

Increase in subs is required. Monthly expenses are not covered by subs. Proposed increase to R300 per annum, R350 for +spouse, R80 for students, R150 for pensioners. ZS2JV recommended smaller annual increments PEARS AGM minutes 2024-O6-O1.docx (more regularly, rather than a big jump). Club needs to cover costs. Johan proposed approving a regular percentage increase, and propose a motion at the next AGM that the increase be an annual percentage and be allowed to take effect in the CURRENT club financial year.

Meeting supported the increase proposed by ZS2DL unanimously

## **10.Awards**

The Chairman handed out the following 2024 PEARS Awards:

2024 AGM Awards

SARL AGM Awards handed out:

### **Radio ZS 4m floating trophy**

- Al Akers ZS2U
- Andre Botes, ZSZACP
- Shaun Gilbert, ZS2SG

### **Hammies awards**

- ZSZOK, ZU2DN

### **Joseph White Plaque**

- ZS2BK

### **Icom Excellence award**

- ZSZBK

### **Appreciation Award: (Certificate)**

Made in appreciation of services rendered to the benefit of the Society

or its members, at the discretion of the committee. Can be presented at any appropriate occasion. The recipient need not be a member of PEARS.

- ZR2NT - Clearing around the repeater
- ZR2NT, ZS2DH, ZSZGS, ZS2PTY - Participation in the ZS2VHF event in Kouga Wildernis
- ZS2AG - Continues to generate QSX for the club sometimes with very little assistance with articles. It is truly a thankless job Ashley does very well. The time and effort that Ashley puts into the QSX is highly appreciated.
- ZS2BL - For being the only volunteer to read the PEARS Bulletin
- ZSZPS - for always been happy and prepared to help and share knowledge
- ZR2TX - For pushing events and Meshtastic. Tony is active on the meshtastic WA group and offers help and in general drives the hobby wrt events and meshtastic. Tony has spread the word about Meshtastic and has managed to grow the number of users in the club. Tony also continues to conduct research and is very active in sharing information with members and giving advice. Tony has managed to get members excited and involved in something new.
- ZS2G - Andrew has come to PEARS rescue on several occasions with monthly meeting talks. Continues behind the scenes work on Hamnet at the jamtin and finds time to dabble on the radio too. He is one of the older statesman in the club now but his enthusiasm and willingness to help anyone remains a hallmark of his.

### **Achievement: (Certificate)**

Made in recognition of a special or outstanding achievement in the context of amateur radio, at the discretion of the committee. Can be presented at any appropriate occasion. The recipient must have been a PEARS member during that year.

- ZSZBK - Became only the 3rd ZS to achieve DXCC on satellites. and only the second to do this on geo orbiting non stationery sats. it has taken Andre in excess of 30 years and desen/es recognition as a massive achievement.
- ZRZGW - Most motivated operator in trying conditions

### **Merit: (Certificate)**

Made to persons who have made an exceptional contribution to the society. At the discretion of the committee, and presented at the AGM. The recipient must have been a PEARS member during that year.

- ZR2TX - The co-ordination with event organizers to ensure an income stream for the club. Without this contribution from Tony, the club's finances would not be in the position they are today.
- ZS2AAW - Chris' communication is always professional and the important role of a good secretary is crucial for the promotion of any club. I consider Chris as an excellent secretary.
- ZSZSG - Shaun has over several years not only displayed enthusiasm for the hobby and PEARS but has now also started to act as mentor to some of the newer members. He continues to assist with RAE classes and Transceiver tests, while still finding time for operating. He also has assisted without fanfare at events offering radio communications in the public eye bringing good publicity to the hobby and indeed PEARS.

### **Ou Toppie Award: (Certificate)**

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has not only reached the ripe old age of 80 years, but has managed to retain all his/her senses in spite of his/her close and lengthy association, both in person and over the air, with men and women of the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society and other hams around the world.

PEARS salutes him/her on this fine achievement.

- ZS2RT Clive Fife (5 December 1943)
- ZR2AX — Hans Rohwer (16 April 1944)

### **ZSZOB DX Trophy: (Cup + Certificate)**

Applications and nominations to be considered by the committee, and awarded to the person whom the committee considers most deserving.

- ZS2PS - Paul Continues to be very active on the bands and has

managed some pretty impressive totals up to now. He is currently probably the most active ZS2 on HF DX.

### **ZS2AB Constructor's Trophy: (Cup and certificate)**

Applications and nominations to be considered by the committee. In deciding, the committee shall take recognition of the number of construction projects undertaken, their complexity and the quality and appearance of the finished product/s. The recipient must be able to display the items at the AGM where the award is made, or as soon as possible thereafter. The recipient must have been a PEARS member during that year.

- ZS2VR - In Recognition of the Fox hunt Yagi Kit he manufactured en mass for Club Members and assistance in technical presentation and assembly workshop. For his work in constructing quality antennas

### **W. Watson VHF Trophy (one for both 2m and 6m): (Cup + Certificate)**

Awarded by the committee for commendable achievements on VHF. The recipient must have been a PEARS member during that year.

- ZS2BK - DXCC on sat along with a SARL award

### **DF Hunt Trophy: (Cup + Certificate)**

To be decided by the committee and awarded to the person who performed most successfully during DF hunts that took place during the year. The recipient must have been a PEARS member during that year.

- ZR2BK - For the rapid response, liaison with SAPS, tracking and retrieval of the Emergency Personal Identification Rescue Beacon triggered in the Jefireys Bay area.

### **Ham Spirit Trophy: (Cup + Certificate - Cup donated my Marge, ZSZOB)**

The award to be decided by the committee in confidence. The award to be made in recognition of those qualities which make a good all-

round Ham, viz willingness to help, activity on the air, friendliness, courtesy to his/her fellows and participation in the activities of the Society.

- ZR2BK - Its Kevern. Need I say more. Always willing to help with the repeaters wherever they are. Kevern is always prepared to help, even though it often means he must come all the way from Jeffrey's. His help with the repeaters, checking on repeaters sites is noteworthy.

### **QSX Contributor Trophy: (Cup + Certificate)**

Awarded to the person that provided the most contributions in terms of articles for the monthly newsletter QSX. At the discretion of the editor and committee. Recipient does not have to be a PEARS Member - ZS2JIM — for his many articles reporting on the Jamtin.

The trophy was received by Colin ZR2CRS for delivery to the de Scande family

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

### **Merit: (Certificate)**

- ZS2DL - ZS2DL's passion for PEARS and willingness to chair the club makes him a good candidate for this award.

### **Appreciation Award: (Certificate)**

- ZS2DL - Donovan - for 16 years of RAE classes. This is no small achievement and he has facilitated the entrance of many into the hobby/sport for many PEARS members, myself included. Because I appreciate all the work and help he had put into the HAM community. He is motivated by doing good for other hams and did a lot getting young people involved in doing the RAE and also enjoying the hobby as we do. For 16 years of teaching the RAE and keeping education alive in the Ham world of Port Elizabeth.

### **PEARS Merit Cup: (Cup + Certificate)**

A floating trophy initiated in 2001, to replace the certificates.

- ZS2DL - Receiving the Willie Wilson Gold Badge award from the

SARL, one of the highest awards bestowed upon an amateur by the SARL The Chairman handed out the last award:

### **HRO/PEARS Ham of the year: (Cup + Certificate)**

Awarded to a deserving member for their contribution to the hobby in general

- ZS2JIM - As an acknowledgement for all that Jim had done since becoming a ham. For his passion the Jamtin. While certainly not the most technical member of PEARs, Jimmy was always willing to help where he could. This includes making the jamtin (and often his radios) available to others. Jimmy was always on the air and telling people about it, operating DX from the jamtin and a regular on the post bulletin net. Jimmy's willingness to encourage young people at Scouts to pop their heads into the Jamtin to listen to him making HF contacts around the world. Plus ensuring the facilities were open to all when required. The trophy was received by Colin ZR2CRS for deliver to the de Scande family

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 - ZS2VR nominated by ZS2DH Seconded by ZSZSG.

Donovan stood down as chairman, and was not available for re-election, so he could preside over the election process for a new chairman.

### **11.Election of chairman**

ZR2BK nominated by ZS2DL, Seconded by ZS2G

No further nominations were received, ZR2BK assumed chairmanship from ZSZDL, who stood down.

### **12.Closing**

The chairman thanked the attendees and called the meeting closed at 12h40. Unfortunately, the braai was called off due to inclement weather.

SIGNED:

Chairman: Kevern Burger ZR2BK

Secretary: Christopher Scarr ZS2AAW

# **SARL Website Gremlins**

**From Mike Otgaar ZS2AQ**

In this article I hope to explain the situation with the old SARL website [sarl.org.za](http://sarl.org.za), and also the new site currently undergoing construction [mysarl.org.za](http://mysarl.org.za)

I know many of my fellow hams are irritated, frustrated, or even perhaps annoyed with the slow progress of repairing the damage caused by hackers recently, and the time it is taking to switch over to the new website.

[sarl.org.za](http://sarl.org.za)

Let's first take a look at the situation with [sarl.org.za](http://sarl.org.za). as I'm sure we all know by now the website was badly hacked several weeks ago, as I write this article May 1 2025. As well as taking down the website itself the email system was also taken down at the same time. Remember the ARRL website also suffered from a successful attack not too long ago. We cannot possibly compare the massive ARRL organisation to our own SARL in terms of finances available.

Support for our SARL websites is predominantly undertaken by volunteers who receive no payment for the time they put into maintaining the site. They provide their efforts in between working time and family time.

Now that is just for the actual website. The background, in other words the hosting server is supported by the ISP. It's not common for websites like SARL to be hosted on a dedicated server, or even on a user managed virtual server. It simply costs too much.

This morning I received an update regarding the hosting from Chris ZS2GM. The [sarl.org.za](http://sarl.org.za) site was initially created on a Windows platform using a Win web platform. The ISP was unable to continue supporting the website, and an alternative ISP was found. I won't mention who this organization is (it would be unethical for me to do so) however it is my opinion this is not a really competent service provider, just one among many such services.

Considering both the website and mail server systems were affected indicates to me that the attack penetrated system at the actual server level, rather than just the site itself. These type of hacks are less common than just the website being penetrated by the hacker which is the usual case.

So we have a situation where the server is supported by the ISP, and the site content supported by our team.

Possibly the hosting server fault has not been rectified satisfactorily yet, or so much damage occurred that content and functionality have to be completely recovered. Now please understand, such a recovery is tantamount to a complete rebuild of much of the website, a very time consuming process. It is not as simple as copy/pasting recovered data. The data needs to be checked for any possible malicious code before being replaced either back on the old site or the new one..

Also remember the plan is to move all sarl.org.za content to the new website, creating an extra burden on the team.

New Website mysarl.org.za

Right, onto the new website mysarl.org.za. Chris ZS2GM indicated the hope is to have this new website fully functional by the end of June this year. Chris advises us a full time web support person has been hired for the new site so things are looking up going forward.

Once again converting the old outdated site system to the new up to date system using the WordPress CMS (Content Management System) is not a simple select a few boxes and click, and it all happens automatically. A subsystem or module needs to be written or perhaps adapted from an existing module to cater for things like the callbook and the QSL system especially. Of these the callbook is probably the easiest. Then all the content from the old site has to get transferred. Again, this is a manual, labour intensive procedure.

Word of Support for the Web Team

Please bear all of this in mind before getting too annoyed. I ask you all, in the spirit of ham radio, to exercise patience and offer



the SARL web team a strong vote of moral support. I believe they deserve such for all the work they do on behalf of us, the members of the SARL. Thank you team from me.

### A Note About Myself

I have been a web system manager for quite some years where I worked mainly with WordPress CMS and Drupal (A Web Management System, meaning it's uses extend beyond purely managing websites and the content thereof). Both these systems are open source free to use. Developers of the core system and add on modules receive no remuneration for the contributions made. Some create paid for module versions that include more features, and/or free priority support.

Currently I am not in a position to work in this field, which is another story altogether that I wont bore you with.

During my active years I worked on technical support for these systems which included debugging contributed modules and creating one or two of these add ons. Along with the day to day managing of client's websites.

A big percentage of my time was used in website security, recognising and combating hacking attacks. Believe me when I say there are just so many you have to see it to believe it.

Acknowledgement goes to Chris ZS2GM for his input and to all those who have contributed snippets of information, thanks guys.

Thanks for bearing with me, regards

Mike Otgaar ZS2AQ in Paradise Beach. 73

# The SARL Website Latest

Shortly after writing my article regarding the hacking of the SARL website the following update was received from the SARL web team

"As many of you are aware, the sarl.org.za was the victim of a cyber-attack, that resulted in lots of spam e-mails. This was first indication that our system had been breached. In response to this we shut down the web site and the certain mail services while the breach was investigated.

During the investigation it came to light that there were also other attempts to attack the system that included the possible exfiltration of members name, e-mail and SARL password Hash.

Considering this, it was advised not to resurrect the old sarl.org.za server, but rather re-direct to the new web site, that has by far better security because it is deployed on an up to date and security patched system with the necessary security enhancements. This was done in the best interests of all members.

To enable us to interact we switched sites without warning, we apologise for this, but it was necessary.

We are in the process of migrating pertinent content from the old to the new, and this will take some time. Please bear with us during this period.

To access the new site, you can either go to sarl.org.za or mysarl.org.za, you will see lots of information on the page to try and showcase what we as amateurs do.

The Ham Portal requires you to register and fill in your details and verify your e-mail address, and at which point the SARL will update your status from pending to member, etc. Please give a little time for this process as it requires us to check and allocate the correct status to your profile.

Once your status has been updated, please log in and update your profile by adding your call sign and club at the bottom of the profile page.

When updating your status, you will be added to the FORUM, where you can log in with the e-mail address you registered with in the Ham Portal. Click the forgot password option, where you can fill in your e-mail address again and request a password to the forum.

Moving forward we will be adding features to the site, this will take some time. We will be prioritizing the work, so please be patient".

Update information courtesy of the SARL.

Mike ZS2AQ

## FOX HUNT BUT THE REAL McCoy

On Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 at 15:15 Hamnet in PE received a call from the ARCC (Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordinating Centre) that is situated at OR Tambu airport, requesting assistance in tracing an ELT (Electronic Locator Beacon) that was transmitting on 121,5 MHz about 3 nautical miles west of the airport. A number of aircraft taking off from the airport picked up the signal I plotted the given position to be on the corners of Glendore road and Victoria drive, near the Arlington ref usage dump.

Andrew Gray (SZ2G) Andrew Bouwer (ZS2AFB) assisted by hid XYL and myself assisted by my brother-in-law immediately deployed. ZS2G was first in the area and stated that he is receiving a signal. We went into the ref usage tip and lost the signal. ZS2G walked into the bushes next to the ref usage dump, but lost the signal.

At this stage ZS2ABF joined us. We split up and attempted to triangulate the position of the ELT.

After driving around for about 3 hours we were certain that the ELT is in the area that ZS2G lost the signal earlier on.

ZS2G and ZS2AFB walked into the bushes and ZS2G spotted a light in some bushes. On closer investigation it was found that it was not an ELT but a maritime EPIRB (Electronic Position Identification Rescue Beacon) and the strobe light was still flashing. The EPIRB's housing had been broken and ZS2G disconnected the battery to stop it from transmitting. ARCC was informed that the transmitter had been found and disabled. As it is a maritime rescue beacon ARCC passed the information on to MRCC (Maritime Rescue Co-ordinating Centre) in Cape Town.

ARCC was not only pleased that we found the transmitter but impressed by our service.

EPIRBs not only transmit on 121,5mHz, for homing in on it, but also on 406mHz that is received by satellites and beamed down to earth stations. However it seems that for some unknown reason it never transmitted on 406mHz. The vessel that the EPIRB was registered to was near Mauritius on Sunday. There is a lot of speculation as to how the EPIRB ended up where it was recovered. If it had fallen off the vessel it should have started transmitting. If an EPRB lands in the water it is automatically activated.

It was later established that the ship was dock in the Coega harbour a few days earlier, thus I make the deduction that the EPIRB was removed from the ship while in the Coega harbour. It was either stolen or handed to the ship's agent to have it destroyed as its battery life had already expired in January 2021 (Battery life on an EPIRB is 5 years)

I am sure that all of you can now realize why fox hunts are important, they are not only for the fun of the event, but also to keep our equipment in good order and ready to deploy at a moments notice. I normally carry all my equipment in my vehicle, but have not checked it lately and made sure that everything is in place after the last field day. On arrival at the scene I realized that I do not have the U clamps to secure the yagi to a short mast on my vehicle. Fortunately I could overcome my problem by using cable ties. My next problem was that I did not have the antenna adaptor for my hand held radio ZS2G came to my rescue. Just illustrates do not take things for granted.

**By ZS2GS**

# EMERGENCY BEACON DETECTORS

(Fox hunting tools by Gert ZS2GS)

Hamnet are often tasked by MRCC and ARCC to assist in the location of emergency beacons. Due to the recent searches I decided to construct two antennas – A Yagi for 2m and a “Coffee Tin” directional antenna.



## The 2m Yagi antenna

The Yagi is designed to cover 121.5 MHz – the international emergency frequency for rescue beacons and is designed using conduit piping and aluminium rods.

During the tracing of an emergency beacon near the airport some time ago I found that once one gets close to the transmitting beacon which is at right angle to the Yagi, the signal was still giving me a S9 reading on the signal strength meter.

As constructed, it has a SWR of 1.7.

It can be attached to my vehicle or used with a handheld transceiver while walking around.



**The other antenna is a “coffee tin” directional antenna.**



My experience with the Yagi prompted me to construct an antenna that is more directional, with the antenna being inside a coffee tin.

The tin shields the signal if the tin is at a right angle to the transmitter, giving me a more accurate (directional) reading.

I have tested this “antenna” during the fox hunt that was held on the 12th of April 2025 and found that it works quite well.

Naturally, being a radio ham, the plan is to try and improve on it. I used a coffee tin, a cabinet mount SO 239 and a short homemade antenna.

The antenna is mounted at 90 degrees on the inside of the tin.

Further I attached a bracket to the bottom of the tin to house a handheld transceiver and it also acts as a handle.



# Pictures from the SARL AGM submitted by Kevern ZR2BK for publication



## 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.





# Why a fox hunt?

**(by Gert ZS2GS)**

Many Radio Hams forget that the licence they have is to experiment and to train for situations where they can be of assistance. Assistance in emergency situations must be the most noble of causes, and helping to quickly locate someone in need must be near the top of that list!

Fox hunts, on the other hand are a fun activity and coincidentally, a great training tool for emergencies in which locating someone vital.

Let's have a look at the emergency location landscape: Emergencies where people are in distress at an unknown location fall into three major categories – Land, Sea, and Air.

Emergency radio beacons, such as Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), play a crucial role in maritime safety in South Africa. These devices are designed to transmit distress signals, allowing search and rescue teams to locate vessels or individuals in distress. EPIRBs can be manually activated or automatically triggered upon immersion in water<sup>2</sup>.

In South Africa, EPIRBs must be registered with the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) to ensure accurate information is available during emergencies. The MRCC monitors distress signals and coordinates rescue operations. Registration involves providing details about the beacon, its owner, and the vessel it is associated with<sup>2</sup>.

The signals from EPIRBs are detected by the international Cospas-Sarsat satellite system, which helps pinpoint the location of the distress within the critical "golden day"—the first 24 hours following an incident.

## Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

PLBs are compact devices designed for individual use in emergencies. They transmit distress signals via the Cospas-Sarsat satellite system, like EPIRBs. PLBs are commonly used by hikers, climbers, and adventurers in remote areas. They operate on the 406 MHz frequency and can be manually activated to send a distress signal, pinpointing the user's location for rescue teams.

## Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs)

ELTs are specifically designed for aircraft. They automatically activate during a crash or significant impact, transmitting distress signals to aid in locating the aircraft. ELTs also use the 406 MHz frequency and are monitored by the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) in South Africa. The ARCC, based at O.R. Tambo International Airport, coordinates search and rescue operations for aviation emergencies.



# *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

## *Birthdays*

### **Apr 2025**

16 Hans Rohwer ZR2AX  
20 Wayne Pohlman ZR2CIA  
22 Allan Bowles ZS2BO  
28 Christopher Scar ZS2AAW

### **May 2025**

03 Anmar Swart ZR2AS  
08 Jimmy De Beer ZS2LTW  
11 Jan Swart ZS2JS  
14 Rory Norton ZS2BL  
17 Matthew Saayman ZS2SA  
28 Mike Otgaar ZS2AQ

### **June 2025**

03 Tim Joubert ZS2X  
04 Daniel Herselman ZS1ND  
09 Gus Winter ZS2MC  
16 Ian Moore ZS2IJ  
19 Neville Bowden ZS2N  
22 Kelly Cummings ZS2KC  
29 Vaughan Rizzo ZS2VR  
30 John Ashworth ZS2GB

### **July 2025**

02 Mario Tiran ZS1AMT  
05 Nico Oelofse ZS4N  
07 Aldrin Baker ZS2AGB  
10 Mitch Rundle ZS2DK  
11 Gert Schoeman ZS2GS  
11 Isak Greef ZS2ZG  
11 Glynn Rudman ZS2SWL  
11 Marius Rautenbach ZS2JR  
13 Cyril Hislop ZS2EJ  
14 Alex Gogos ZR2T

## *Spouse Birthdays*

### **Apr 2025**

18 Annelize Baker Aldrin ZS2AGB

24 Deidre Allen Tony ZR2TX

### **May 2025**

03 Anmar Swart Johan ZS2PDS  
18 Mark Dodd Liise ZS2LLD  
20 Natasha Swart Dirk ZS2JD  
21 Cecilia van der Heide Jacques ZR2JH  
26 Eugenie Burger Kevern ZR2BK

### **June 2025**

01 Bianca van Heerden Regardt ZS2RH  
02 Vanessa Cummings Glen ZS2GV  
04 Sonya Swart Jan ZS2JS  
03 Yolande Ollphent André ZS2YA  
14 Sherise Cilliers Tristen ZS2TC  
19 Louisa Rautenbach Marius ZS2JR  
23 Beverley Higgs David ZS2DH  
26 Anschen Conradie Johan ZS2JC

### **July 2025**

08 Ronel Du Plessis Basie ZR2BA  
09 Vanessa Dicks Dwane ZS2DBD  
12 Sandra Bowden Neville ZS2N

## *Anniversaries*

### **Apr 2025**

21 Rory Jackie Norton ZS2BL  
23 Patricia (Patsy) Neels Kruger ZS2PTY  
27 Albie Mia Gibson ZS2AZ  
27 Matthew Megan Farthing Matt

### **May 2025**

02 Johannes Daschell Geldenhuys ZS2JO  
03 Ettiene Petro Lotter ZS2LE  
05 Bennie Suzette Greyling ZR2BC  
25 Neil Merle Thomas ZR2N ZR2MP  
28 Robbie Ronel Styles Robbie  
29 Marius Karla Van Rensburg ZS2MVR

### **June 2025**

15 Ashley Jenny Goosen ZS2AG  
26 Kevern Eugenie Burger ZR2BK



## 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

09th Jun	Rory	ZS2BL
16th Jun	Chairman	
23rd Jun	Vice Chair	
05th May	Secretary	
30th Jun	Treasurer	
07th Jul	Member	
14th Jul	Member	
21st Jul	Member	
28th July	Member	
04th Aug	Member	

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

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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, SAREL 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]blsmedical.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
<b>Cockscomb</b> 431.000/438.600 Add 88.5Hz for squ tail	<b>Viewlands</b> 431.075/438.675 Add 88.5Hz for squ tail	<---- These form linking hubs for events, hence no tail	<b>DMR</b> 430.675/438.275 QTH: ZS2VA	<b>D-Star</b> 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](http://www.zs2pe.co.za/Repeaters/repeaters.htm) for more details.

<b>Lady's Slipper</b> 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:**

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