



August 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 Monthly Meeting will be on 19th August 2025 at the German Club.

From the Chair



Dear Members,

Another month has flown past, and it is my pleasure to report back on the last month's activities and what lies ahead for the next month.

Firstly, a big thank you to Neil, ZR2NT who manufactured and installed the security gate inside the container at the Lady Slipper Site. This has improved the security even more at the site and keep the long fingers away.

This past month also say the club doing communication for the Transbaviaans again. Members manned four checkpoints, namely Zandvlakte, Smitskraal, Bergplaas and Hadleigh. Thank you to everyone for the long hours and working through the night in most cases for this event.

A mix of communication methods were used for the Transbaviaans this year. A temporary repeater was set up on top of Grasnek pass which linked into Longmore, enabling Smitskraal to have comms. Bergplaas and Hadliegh used Longmore direct. Meshcore devices were also used, and a permanent Meshcore repeater was installed on the mountain top above Zandvlakte. Zandvlakte, used an Allstar node for comms, linked into Slipper this year. Now, some of you might be wondering what is all this talk about Allstar and how does it work? Well, I will be giving a presentation at a club meeting soon to demonstrate how Allstar works and how you can set up your own node.

The arrangements for the SARL AGM taking place next year have started, and a suitable venue has been identified, with good pricing

for accommodation. This will hopefully attract many SARL members to visit us in Port Elizabeth. A working group for the AGM has been established, and if you would like to help with the arrangements, please contact me so that we can include you in the communications.

The SARL Field Day and VHF/UHF Contest takes place on the weekend of the 6th and the 7th of September. The committee is busy arranging a venue with accommodation available, please watch the various groups for all the information. This is a great opportunity to get out and get on the air!

A reminder that the PEARS weekly news bulletin takes place every Monday evening on the Slipper repeater, at 20h00 CAT. Preceding the bulletin is a re-broadcast of Amateur Radio Today, relayed by Rory, ZS2BL at 19h00 CAT.

The next monthly meeting is on Tuesday the 19th of August at the German Club in Port Elizabeth. The meeting starts at 19h30. See you there!

Till next month,
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.

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 July 2025 at 19h30

Welcome:

Chairman Dave ZS2DH welcomed all present.

Attendance:

Approximately 18 attendees. As per Register.

Apologies:

ZR2BK

Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes:

Proposed ZS2PTY

Seconded ZS2AG

Matters arising:

None

Finances:

Mike reported all in order.

Chris made payments after the AGM Boot sale/estate sale, Paid around R9000 to Mel, FYI

General:

PEARS AGM

Was the last meeting we had. Dave summarised some of the awards like the Noel Hammond award for the highest marks in RAE, Donovan's Honorary life membership and others. Committee - 2 new members were elected, ZS2AFB, and ZS2PTY. Portfolio's - Fox hunts and field days go to Andrew, and social events goes to Patsy

SARL AGM

hosting has been allocated to PEARS. ZR2BK is looking for volunteers for the working group. Willows is the main option, accommodation and conference facilities required. Pine Lodge also mentioned.

Antenna Day

ZS2VR gave feedback on the Saturday workshop held. 8 people or so attended, venue at the last moment was a glitch, moved to ZS2SG QTH. Antennas were erected and tested. There are still some bits not claimed by those that didn't make it but booked. Suggestions for a future workshop – manual ATU? Vaughan will look into it, watch this space.

Events

Next is the Algoa Rally in July 25-26th. More help is still needed. 10h00 Friday until about 19h00 in Uitenhage area, Daniel Pienaar school. Saturday from about 08h00 – 15h00 in the Longmore Forest. Please get in touch with Tony

TransBaviaans in early August 9th. PEARS manages 2 complete checkpoints in the kloof. One weekend only. Response is fair, but always space for more!

Hamnet activity

ZS2G gave feedback on the recent HAMNET gathering of the past weekend. About 11 attended, testing field setups, Meshcore, HF, VarAC, mag loop antenna, etc. Was a great success. Weather was great too.

Contests

19 July – QRP contest

Sunday 20th – ZS2PE QSO party, SSB on 40m, ZS2's are sought after.

August – SARL HF (3rd Phone, 10th Digital, 24th CW). The more we can get to take part, the better in terms of participation awards.

JOTA 17-19 October, we have been approached to assist.

Repeaters

Chris gave an update on the Governorskop repeater, and the Longmore antenna work required for the TransBaviaans weekend coming up soon.

RAE

ZS2VR gave the meeting a status report. 8 people on the list, invites due to go out tomorrow night. Any others that anyone knows of that are keen, please send details to Vaughan. Venue is needed, please give suggestions so we can move away from HRO shop and give ZS2DL a break.

Qsx

Ashley needs articles. Latest one has been published today, but not circulated as yet. Chris will email out tonight.

News bulletins

This week is ZS2VR, then ZS2PTY, then ZS2AFB. Additional reader volunteers are more than welcome! Please offer your services to ZR2BK.

Field Day

Sept 6-7th. Venues being considered are the Voortrekker camp site, or Van Stadens resort. Any other suggestions? Falcon's rest another suggestion, has lots of space, showers, bar and braai facilities etc. ...

ZR2TX

Ironman made contact – they want to sell their DMR “radio system”!! 2 repeaters and about 30 handhelds, no longer supported by the manufacturer. Contact Tony.

Closure:

Meeting ended at 20h05

Next meeting 19th August 2025

Speaker:

Tony ZR2TX gave a presentation on the MeshCore system, which was also streamed live on YouTube, and should also be available for future viewing by anyone.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

KEVERN BURGER (ZR2BK)

CHRISTOPHER SCARR (ZS2AAW)

Ham Radio Users Clash With Starlink Rival AST SpaceMobile Over Spectrum Use

AST wants to use the 430 to 440MHz band for a satellite-to-phone service. Ham radio enthusiasts say the company's plan is vague and could interfere with their slim slice of spectrum.

By [Michael Kan](#)

July 18, 2025



(Credit: AST SpaceMobile)

AST SpaceMobile and its [giant satellites](#) are facing opposition from a surprising group: Amateur "ham" radio operators.

The community is protesting AST SpaceMobile's request to use the 430 to 440MHz band, which includes spectrum already allocated for ham radio operations, including emergency communications.

An amateur radio operator in Germany named Mario Lorenz is [asking](#) the US Federal Communication Commission to deny AST's proposal to use the spectrum outside the US. "AST seeks worldwide access to a significant portion of this spectrum in a way which would almost guarantee significant international harmful interference," Lorenz says.

Texas-based AST wants to use the spectrum outside the US to track

and control its proposed fleet of 248 satellites, which promise to deliver internet connectivity to everyday smartphones in cellular dead zones. However, Lorenz claims AST's application is "vague" and lacks details about how it'll harness the spectrum and avoid interference with ham radio operators.

Thus, in a worst-case scenario, the proposal is an "unprecedented grab of spectrum, and in violation of applicable Radio Regulations," Lorenz told the FCC.

"Unlike Amateur Radio stations in the US, who have a much larger 70cm allocation (420 MHz ...450 MHz) and other bands (220 MHz) not available to Amateur Radio stations in Region 1 (Europe), amateur radio activity is much more concentrated," he added. "The 70cm band is heavily used. It is one of the few bands available to Novice class operators in Germany."

The complaints arrive as the FCC has kicked off a process to [review](#) and possibly greenlight AST's proposal to power a commercial satellite-to-phone service through the company's emerging satellite constellation. AST currently has five BlueBird satellites in orbit, but plans to launch dozens of larger second-generation satellites in the coming months and years to compete with SpaceX's cellular Starlink service.

AST didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. But the turf battle highlights how next-generation satellite constellations can rankle existing services by harnessing radio spectrum already in use. SpaceX, for example, has been waging a regulatory battle to use the radio spectrum that [Globalstar](#) and [EchoStar](#) currently rely on in an effort to bolster the cellular Starlink service for T-Mobile.

AST's [application](#) to the FCC shows it plans on using different radio frequencies to track and control the satellites in the US. The company also notes the FCC cleared it to use the 430 to 440MHz radio bands for its first five BlueBird satellites.

Domestic and International Capabilities		
Frequencies	Use	Direction
37.5-42.0 GHz	Gateway/Feeder Links, Routine TT&C	space-to-Earth
47.2-50.2 GHz	Gateway/Feeder Links, Routine TT&C	Earth-to-space
50.4-51.4 GHz	Gateway/Feeder Links, Routine TT&C	Earth-to-space
Additional Non-U.S. Capabilities²⁹		
Frequencies	Use	Direction
400-410 MHz	<i>Non-U.S.</i> Off-Nominal TT&C and Orbit-Raising Maneuvers	space-to-Earth and Earth-to-space
430-440 MHz	<i>Non-U.S.</i> Emergency TT&C Communications	space-to-Earth and Earth-to-space
45.5-47.0 GHz	<i>Non-U.S.</i> Gateway/Feeder Links	Earth-to-space
2025-2110 MHz	<i>Non-U.S.</i> Off-Nominal TT&C and Orbit-Raising Maneuvers	Earth-to-space
2200-2290 MHz	<i>Non-U.S.</i> Off-Nominal TT&C and Orbit-Raising Maneuvers	space-to-Earth

Table 1 – Gateway/Feeder Link and TT&C Frequencies

But in his letter to the FCC, Lorenz argued: “With a planned total of 248 satellites in orbit, almost certainly there would always be one or more satellites in view, causing significantly more interference potential.

“At the very least, the FCC should require from AST a clear showing and commitment to protect the Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio Satellite services,” he added.

End.

(Acknowledgement - PC Mag U.S.A.)

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

August 2025

20 Andrew Prideaux ZS2PA
23 Mike De Lange ZS2MDL
26 Nicole Cummings ZU2NX

September 2025

02 Johannes (Joe) Geldenhuys ZS2JO
09 Andrew Bouwer ZS2AFB
10 Joel Greaves ZR2JG
10 Andre van Deventer ZS2BK 10

Spouse Birthdays

August 2025

24 Daschell Geldenhuys Johannes ZS2JO
29 Teresa Joubert Tim ZS2X

September 2025

02 Renett van Deventer Andre ZS2BK
09 Merle Thomas ZR2MP Neil ZR2NT
11 Jane Fife Clive ZS2RT
12 Dixeeta Gajjar Tejas ZS2TG
12 Jo Akers ZS2W Al ZS2U
15 Shanelle Mitchell Carlin ZS2NM

Anniversaries

August 2025

20 Andrew Retha Bouwer ZS2AFB
24 David Beverley Higgs ZS2DH

September 2025

02 Allan Joan Bowles ZS2BO ZR2ABA
11 Neville Sandra Bowden ZS2N
14 Paul Daphne Galpin ZS2PG

PEARS MEMBERSHIP

YOU can become a member of PEARS - you do not have to be a radio amateur, nor do you have to be in the PE Area. We would like to have you as a member, and to include you in the QSX mailing list. Send us your details or [download a PEARS Membership Application form](#), fill it in and email it back to us on [committee\[at\]peham.co.za](mailto:committee[at]peham.co.za)

The society membership subscriptions are renewable at the beginning of April each year. The rates are:

Standard : R300.00
Pensioner : R150.00
Spouse of a member : R50.00
Student/scholar : R80.00

(rates updated after the 2024 AGM)

its into the club bank account can be made but members must use their callsign or name as a reference for identification purposes on the bank statement.

Club bank details:

**NEDBANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT NO. 2212527594
BRANCH CODE 198765 (NEDBANK SOUTH AFRICA)**

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

18-Aug	Kevern	ZR2BK
25-Aug	Dave	ZS2DH
01-Sept	Chris	ZS2AAW
08-Sept	Mike	ZS2MIC
15-Sept	Ashley	ZS2AG
22-Sept	Vaughan	ZS2VR
29-Sept	Patsy	ZS2PTY
06-Oct	Andrew	ZS2AFB
13-Oct	Rory	ZS2BL

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

HAM RADIO OUTLET-SOUTH AFRICA cc

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Our 2025/2026 PEARS Committee

PORTFOLIO	NAME	CALLSIGN	EMAIL	CONTACT No
Chairman, Technical support & maintenance	Kevern Burger	ZR2BK	k.burger[at]stfrancislinks.com	083 401 9587
Vice Chairman, SARL liaison, Hammies, Youth, Contest Scoring	Dave Higgs	ZS2DH	om[at]zs2dh.co.za	082 387 5657
Treasurer	Michael Steenkamp	ZS2MIC	zs2mic[at]igen.co.za	082 523 5677
Secretary, Repeaters, QSX emailing, club database	Christopher Scarr	ZS2AAW	christopher[at]peham.co.za	082 925 6367
RAE Training	Vaughan Rizzo	ZS2VR	vaughan[at]netaddress.co.za	082 882 6555
Technical/repeaters, Search and Rescue & Emergency comms	Glen Cummings	ZS2GV	glenvanessa[at]gmail.com	082 411 2743
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Public relations, special events	Patsy Kruger	ZS2PTY	patsykruger68[at]icloud.com	082 513 9493
Fox hunts, Field Days	Andrew Bouwer	ZS2AFB	andrew[at]bouwer.cc	072 546 7836

CO-OPTED POSTS

PORTFOLIO	NAME	CALLSIGN	EMAIL	CONTACT No
Contest Liaison Officer	Theunis Potgieter	ZS2EC	zs2ec01[at]gmail.com	064 901 8079
Events & Rally organising	Tony Allen	ZR2TX	tony.zr2tx[at]gmail.com	082 956 2920
RAE Training	Shaun Gilbert	ZS2SG	gaswise3[at]gmail.com	083 672 5241

(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.**