

Nov. Dec 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
20th January 2026 at the German Club.



From the Chair

Dear Members,

As we come to the end of another year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a rewarding and active year for our club.

Thanks to the enthusiasm, dedication, and goodwill of our members, we have enjoyed a wide range of activities—from regular nets and technical projects to field operations, contests, and social gatherings. Whether you are a long-standing operator or someone who joined us this year, your participation and support are what keep our club strong and vibrant.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the committee and all volunteers who have given their time and energy throughout the year. Your behind-the-scenes work often goes unnoticed, but it is essential to everything we achieve as a club.

Amateur radio continues to evolve, but the spirit of learning, experimentation, and community remains at its heart. It is encouraging to see that spirit alive and well within our membership, and I am confident that we will continue to



grow and adapt in the year ahead.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and peaceful festive season. May the coming year bring you good DX, clear signals, and many enjoyable hours on the air.

Thank you for being part of our club. I look forward to seeing and hearing you in the new year.

73,

Kevern, ZR2BK



FROM THE EDITOR

Here's wishing each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year 2026.

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,



Minutes of PEARS Monthly Meeting

Held at the German Club on the 14th October 2025 at 19h30

Welcome:

Chairman Kevern ZR2BK welcomed all present.

Attendance:

Approximately 30 attendees. As per Register.

Apologies:

ZR2CRS, ZS2GS, ZS2DK, ZS2GV

Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes:

Not yet circulated in QSX as it was not emailed out prior to this meeting. To stand over until the November meeting

Matters arising:

None

Finances:

Mike reported all in order at the meeting.

QSX

Will be circulated ASAP after the meeting, and thanks to the contributors (ZS2PTY, ZS2RT) for this edition. Please assist Ashley with articles. qsx.zs2ag@gmail.com

Next Month's meeting

November meeting is the year end function on the 21st November. Menu and costs will be circulated on the usual club groups, as well as a google form for bookings. Lucky draw prizes will also be given out.

RAE

11 candidates booked for the exam this Saturday. ZS2DL is now the national examiner and is setting the paper. Good luck to them.

Fox Hunt

The recent one in October didn't pan out to well, was called off.

ZS2AFB may set up a fox and let it run for 4 hours, as an exercise, once in a while. Also, will make a proper fox hunt more a social event with braai afterwards.

SARL AGM

Next year at the Willows 1-2 May. Confirmed with SARL and the Willows resort. The league is advertising it already. Booked 70 seats preliminarily. A lot cheaper event than others in recent years. Only costs to the club is an optional attendee gift/memento.

Events

Only LoFER coming up in December. 19-21 December. 200/100 mile event. 4 checkpoints plus control. Tony will start planning soon. January 2026 starts early with the Herald MTB race.

Contesting

PEARS VHF UHF contest early January, probably at Olifantskop. Club to purchase antennas specifically for contesting.

Closure:

Meeting ended at

Next meeting 18th November 2025

Speaker:

Neil ZR2NT spoke about keeping your antenna up – looking at masts, antennas, wind loading etc.

Tony ZR2TX will give an introduction of the PEARS Pico balloon project. Club will contribute R3000 towards the project.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

KEVERN BURGER (ZR2BK)

CHRISTOPHER SCARR (ZS2AAW)



The Morse Code Key Story

By Clive ZS2RT

It seems that nearly every Morse code key has a story to tell. During a recent two meter chat on the town repeater, the subject of how a Morse code key landed up in the ham shack was aired. Some interesting stories were told. This is my story.

In my early years of hamming I had a rather flimsy, skinny key which served its purpose at the time. One day my brother-in-law came visiting and asked if I would be interested in a Morse key (see picture). He showed me this rather cool, heavy duty, classy looking key which to me was love at first sight. At the time he was a naval diver and said that while diving wrecks along the West Cape coast he and some mates found a sunken fishing vessel.

During their dive of the wreck, he came across this Morse key in what was probably the radio room. It looked to him like a good salvage artifact that might be of interest to me. Good thinking.

The key is fastened onto a white marble slab that sits on top of a black Bakelite base. The key itself is solid stainless steel. Note the string wound around the arm of the key. Someone once told me that the string was purposely wound around the shaft to prevent the user's damp sea fingers from slipping during sending.

The key has provided me with many successful code contacts during my HF career. Unfortunately I don't know the name of the sunken fishing boat from where the key was "rescued"

Longmore Classic MTB Race

This race was established in 1996 and is the longest running MTB race in South Africa. It is held annually in the Longmore Forest outside Port Elizabeth and currently uses the Crossways complex as the Start / Finish.

PEARS has been involved for a number of years providing assistance with communications in areas with no Cellphone reception. While the event caters for a number of different distance we are only involved with the longer 50km race.

Our deployment consisted of an operator at the start/finish – Tony ZR2TX and 3 field stations operated by Mike ZS2MIC, Neil ZR2NT and Chris ZS2AAW. Chris also brought 2 newly licensed Hams along, Robyn ZS2RJ and Jared ZS2JMR. Both handled some of the radio traffic and came across as very relaxed and competent. Was great to hear some new voices on the air. Robyn also happens to be the daughter of Chris so has a good mentor.

The field stations entered Longmore via the Culturama Gate and due to the early start needed to be in position by 07:00. Our main function was emergency management and fortunately all proceeded smoothly. Along with this we also reported leading riders in both Male and Female categories and then sequenced the last 4-5 riders, along with the sweep motor bike, to ensure that everyone was accounted for.

As mentioned all went well with no mishaps and the last station closed down at around 11:30. All in all an enjoyable morning out in the forest, as well as promoting Ham Radio and providing a community service.

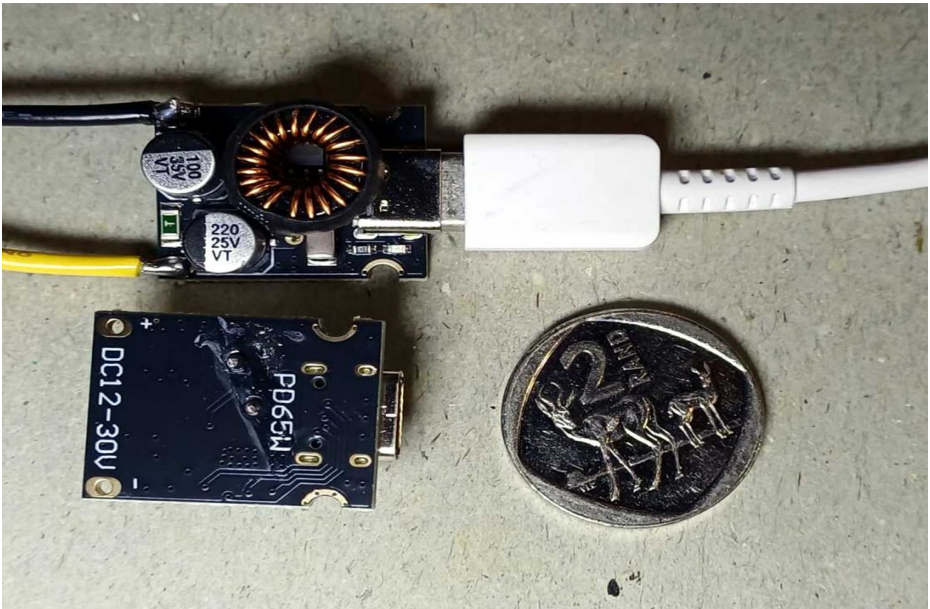
Thanks to those who assisted, maybe you will volunteer next time.

Tony ZR2TX

The Mini 65W Fast Charge Module

These days one can find many different electronic modules to incorporate in ones projects. Here's one module that campers might find useful.

Cell phones, tablets, etc. have unfortunately become an integral part of life. Charging these devices is easy at home, but sometimes it comes a bit more difficult when camping over longer periods. Up to now I have been using 5 V buck regulators to charge devices from a 12 V source. This works but takes time because they are not fast charged. With a USB-C device one actually needs a PD (Power Delivery) charger that communicates with the device to optimize the charging at higher voltages. The Mini 65W Fast Charge Module (<https://www.robotics.org.za/USBC-65W-MOD>) is such a module. The module is very small making it easy to incorporate in one's project. This module does not have a boost function (doesn't boost the voltage), so the level of power depends on the voltage of the supply. However with a 12 V supply one still gets a faster charge than with a plain 5 V supply. The input voltage can vary from 12 to 30 V.



Note the module doesn't come with a R2 coin!

Eric ZS2ECH

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

November 2025

19 Marius Van Rensburg ZS2MVR
21 Aidan van Loggerenberg ZS2CV
23 Colin Schroder ZR2CRS
25 Michael Steenkamp ZS2MIC

December 2025

02 Kevin O'Donoghue ZS2KO
03 Brendan Oelofse ZS2BTO
05 Johan van Vuuren ZS2JV
05 Clive Fife ZS2RT
07 Damien Field ZS2DLF
13 Craig van Loggerenberg ZS2LR
13 Thian De Jager ZS2Y
13 Rhys Naude ZS2FRN
15 Lance Henegan ZS2LB
25 Graham Pearson ZS2GKP

January 2026

03 Tristen Cilliers ZS2TC
10 Tony Allen ZR2TX
15 Ashley Goosen ZS2AG

Spouse Birthdays

November 2025

20 Yvette du Toit Steven ZS2SDT
20 Monique O'Donoghue Kevin ZS2KO
21 Karla Van Rensburg Marius ZS2MVR
21 Shaunna Laaks Gary ZS2GRL
26 Isolda Hosten ZS2IW Eric ZS2ECH

December 2025

02 Jenny Goosen Ashley ZS2AG
03 Nadia Herselman Daniel ZS1ND
08 Petro Lotter Ettiene ZS2LE
09 Cheryl Schroder Colin ZR2CRS
23 Noel Hislop Cyril ZS2EJ
24 Collette Rundle ZS2CR Mitch ZS2DK

January 2026

08 Juan Ras Hugo ZS2HR
15 Janine Oosthuizen Gavin ZS2GAV

Anniversaries

November 2025

19 Jacques Cecilia van der Heide ZR2JH
27 Ian Maggie Moore ZS2IJ

December 2025

01 Johan Wanda van Vuuren ZS2JV
12 Anmar Johan Swart ZR2AS
12 Johan Anmar Swart ZS2PDS
12 Clive Jane Fife ZS2RT
18 Mark Helle Bernard ZS2MB
19 Eric Isolda Hosten ZS2ECH ZS2IW
21 Lise Mark Dodd ZS2LLD
23 Cyril Noel Hislop ZS2EJ
28 Albert Sarita Brand ZS2BA
30 Tristen Sherise Cilliers ZS2TC

January 2026

03 Allan Brenda Whitehead ZS2R
06 Daniel Nadia Herselman ZS1ND
09 Lance Lani Henegan ZS2LB

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

22-Dec	Kevern	ZR2BK
29-Dec	Dave	ZS2DH
05-Jan	Chris	ZS2AAW
12-Jan	Mike	ZS2MIC
19-Jan	Ashley	ZS2AG
26-Jan	Vaughan	ZS2VR
02-Feb	Patsy	ZS2PTY
09-Feb	Andrew	ZS2AFB
16-Feb	Rory	ZS2BL

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

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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
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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	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 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:

ZSONTP 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.**