



Feb - Mar 2026



Bouvet Antenna

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
17th March 2026 at the German Club.



FFrom the Chair

Thank you for reading another edition of our Club's Newsletter. Unfortunately, there was no QSX last month, due to the lack of articles. I encourage every member to please submit an article, picture or technical article for publication. Please send them through in Word, to qsx.zs2ag@gmail.com.

I certainly hope you had to opportunity to work Bouvet Island. Quite a few members have indicated that they caught them on SSB. I guess for us in ZS2, working the Island should not be a problem at all.

The club participated in the SARL National Field Day, and you can read more in this edition of QSX. Also, there is a new contest that takes place this weekend, the SARL 20m Club Contest. Remember that if you participate you earn points for the Club.

This coming weekend also sees the Club doing communication for the Addo 100 miler. We wish all those volunteering their time all the best and enjoy the beauty of nature in a section of the Addo Elephant Park that the public does not have access to.

Are you perhaps battling with your ICASA license renewal?

Please do not hesitate to contact a committee member if you are struggling. Remember, you must be registered on the new ICASA portal, and the renewal is done online. If the SARL manages your license, you need to pay ICASA via EFT and send the proof of payment to the SARL for them to upload it onto the portal.

Reminder that the SARL AGM takes place over the weekend of the 1st of May 2026, and you must register to attend. Our Club hosts the welcoming function as well at the Willows. Please go to www.mysarl.org.za and click on the AGM button on the home page to register.

The Easter weekend is around the corner, and I trust you will be taking a break. If you are travelling to friends and family, I wish you safe travels and enjoy the short break.

73,

Kevern
ZR2BK

FROM THE EDITOR

Here's hoping you enjoy reading this 2nd edition 2026 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 20th January 2026 at 19h30

Welcome:

Chairman Kevern ZR2BK welcomed all present.

Attendance:

Approximately 18 attendees. As per Register.

Apologies:

ZR2CRS, ZS2G, ZS2GS, ZS2IW, ZS2MIC, ZS2PTY

Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes:

No minutes circulated for November or December. October minutes were circulated

Proposed: ZS2AG

Seconded: ZS2PS

Matters arising:

None

Finances:

No report available at the meeting.

Events

Thanks to all that assisted at LoFER

Next is the Herald MTB race. Tony has the minimum volunteer base, but more would be welcome. Camping

at Heyterdale is always great!

QSX

Thanks to Ashley, circulated on whatsapp and email

RAE

10 candidates already.

ZS2DL mentioned the paper is already set!

SARL AGM

- We are the host club.
- Willows conference centre is fine, it didn't burn down!
- There has been a meeting with the Willows event co-ordinator, finalising the invoice.
- Plea to please book accommodation early as it will be fully booked due to the long weekend.
- Alternative Pine Lodge 9km away
- Friday evening is a social, welcome the delegates, braai and dop in the Boma
- Saturday 09h00 is the meeting
- Saturday afternoon is free, for activities and visits. ZS2G will set up HF station. ZR2TX and ZS2AFB demo Meshcore.
- 19h00 is the Gala dinner
- There is an organising subcommittee, more help is welcome. Eugenie, Bev, Patsy in the committee. This is for the AGM itself, Gala Dinner décor, seating arrangements etc.
- Need shuttling for airport or Pine Lodge transport.
- Booked for 70 delegates for AGM and Dinner. RSVP's, people pay for the dinner. Will also ask for

RSVP for the braai.

- SARL News ZS4BS is pleading for nominations for council and awards. We need to motivate as many ZS2 awards as possible. Please add names, cut off before 31st January. SARL members can nominate, and non-SARL members can be nominated.

- ZS2DL wants to nominate Noel Hammond to Council, needs 10 signatures.

- ZS2DH is stepping down this year, and nominating ZR2BK for council.

- Heading for a new president

- SARL Membership is half price, R280 from 1 Feb

Youth

Hammies is flying in Bhisho, but limited to no interest in the rest of the country. Of all the ZU's, only 1 is still in SA, the rest are overseas ☐

Kelly ZXS2KC is now working full time at Gardmed. Hopefully she comes up on the air more often ☐

VHF UHF Contest

Fires prevented Kevern from participating.

8 Logs were received country wide. No 2m FM only category logs received.

Dave has done the results, there was only ZS2EC in div2 ☐. These will be sent to SARL.

There were only 2 digital contacts made, so no digital or FM certificates will be awarded this year

Maybe need to re-think the dates – very early in the year.

Slipper: Thanks to Neil for doing bush clearing at the

repeater site. Cleared AND carted away.
But it needs another trip or two, with assistance.

Closure:

Meeting ended at 20h08

Next meeting 17h February 2026

Speaker:

Kevern ZR2BK gave an account of the recent bush-fires threatening Cape St Francis and surrounds, where he was involved in JOC Communications and ground staff for the bombers

CHAIRMAN

KEVERN BURGER (ZR2BK)

SECRETARY

CHRISTOPHER SCARR

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 Mermbership 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)**

Minutes of PEARS Monthly Meeting

Held at the German Club on the 17th February 2026 at 19h30

Welcome:

Chairman Kevern ZR2BK welcomed all present.

Attendance:

Approximately 20 attendees. As per Register.

Apologies:

ZR2CRS, ZS2G, ZS2PTY, ZS2AG, ZR2CRS, ZS2DL, ZR2TX

Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes:

January minutes were not yet circulated

Proposed: n/a

Seconded: n/a

Matters arising:

None

Finances:

ZS2MIC reported that all was in good standing.

Events

Thanks to all that assisted with the Herald MTB race

Addo Trail run coming up in March. Camping required, in the greater Addo area, you get to see some

nice secluded places, but must be self sufficient

RAE

Approximately 7 candidates.

Classes set for next week, new venue at the German Club

RAE Registration opened yesterday .

SARL AGM

- We are the host club. 1st Weekend in May

- Arrangements are going well.
- Friday evening welcome function at the Boma, cost R150 pp including catering
- Sponsors Fitch & Leeds, and Cool Wines providing some liquid refreshments.
- Gala Dinner on Saturday, R250 pp. Fully catered, at the Boma.
- Register for any of these functions via MySARL web page, click on AGM. Payments go to SARL, not PEARS!
- Accommodation is almost full at the Willows, many staying at the Pine Lodge resort
- ZS2PS has the banners
- Assistance/volunteers with the AGM arrangements, please let ZR2BK know.
- Listen out to SARL News, and local bulletins for the latest info
- ZR2TX will present a talk on Meshcore, Meshtastic, LoRA etc.
- Club that has the most participation will win something (except the host club)

ZS2BK Andre van Deventer

Donated some equipment to the club for proceeds to the club. A list will be circulated.

Mount Road:

Work party needed for Mount Road. Will be arranged via PEARS Technical groups

Slipper and Longmore:

Will do a trip to check on batteries at both these sites

General:

ZS2NM:

Uitenhage repeater - will check what is still available, and make plans to re-

install at the QTH of

Andrew ZS2PA

ZS2GS:

Club meeting every 2 months maybe? ZS2PS considers the meetings important to be held monthly.

Might not have a topic, but the interaction is always appreciated. ZS2GS agreed, but should be 50/50

business and social. We are falling short after the meeting with the social part.

ZR2BK:

Next month is the field day. Options being considered are

1 Voortrekker camp site

2 Sitrusoewer camp site. Not expensive, but busy/difficult to get a gap there.

ZS2DH:

Licence renewals coming up soon. Some have received renewal notices.

DXpedition to Lesotho, let's make plans!

Closure:

Meeting ended at 20h00

Next meeting 17^h February 2026

Speaker:

ZR6DX presented a talk on digital logging software, connecting via MS Teams from Gauteng.

Additional attendees on Teams were ZS2TAH, ZS2TJ, ZS2PTY, ZS2PA, ZS4N, ZS2EC, ZS2TC, ZR6DX

CHAIRMAN

KEVERN BURGER (ZR2BK)

SECRETARY

CHRISTOPHER SCARR (ZS2AAW)

An Incredible Amateur Radio Rescue Story

Submitted for publication in QSX by Ashley ZS2AG

10/04/2024

Editor's note: The following story was submitted by Don Gardner, W7PJ, ARRL Idaho Section Emergency Coordinator.

On the evening of September 21, 2024, Greg Owen, WX7Z, heard an amateur radio emergency call on the VHF frequency known as the national simplex calling frequency, 146.52 MHz. Ed Clark, K7ELC, was calling to get medical help for a 51-year-old man who had rolled his four-wheeler.

Mac Mackintosh, W7ENZ, found the accident and injured man near his property where there isn't any cellphone service. Mackintosh had given his handheld radio to Clark to make the call for help while he gave aid to the injured man. The injuries were serious... head trauma, broken collarbone, broken ribs, and difficulty breathing.

Owen called 911 to request help. An ambulance, Life Flight helicopter and law enforcement were dispatched to the location, which was 35 minutes outside Orofino, Idaho. Meanwhile, Owen continued using the amateur radio to relay updates to the dispatcher. The injured man was transported to the hospital via Life Flight and at last report was recovering.

Gardner said hams in Idaho support an old national program called the Wilderness Protocol which encourages the use of the national simplex calling frequency, 146.52 MHz.

"As amateur radio operators, we train to be available to help when help is needed. The more that ham radio operators listen to the radio, the more chance there is that someone will be listening to take your emergency call. This is something that has been used many times throughout this county and here in Idaho," he said. "This is another incredible story to share."

REPEATER NEWS

From Kevern ZR2BK

As many of you were aware, we suffered a very long power outage at the Lady Slipper repeater. Unfortunately, this caused our batteries to run completely flat, and the site went offline.

After many escalations through various channels, the power was restored to our site, and I took a trip up to resuscitate the equipment. The breaker had tripped at the meter box and was reset. The three batteries were filled up with 7L of battery water. When I arrived, the batteries measured a mere 5.7V.

After an hour of charging, the voltage picked up on the batteries and the VHF and UHF repeaters were back on.

At the time of the outage, it appears that the mountain single phased and this could have caused damage to the UHF repeater. The UHF transmits but cannot receive. We will investigate this to determine the exact fault.

Town repeater is due for its upgrade to the new repeater. Please watch out on the Technical WhatsApp group, as we will ask for assistance, especially in carting the equipment up and then with the installation.

PEARS TAKES SARL NATIONAL FIELD DAY TO NIESHOUTKLOOF IN KIRKWOOD

The weekend of the 14th and 15th of March 2026, saw PEARS take the SARL field day to Nieshoutkloof in Kirkwood. Nieshoutkloof is a camping ground that is very popular in the Wildsfees period.

A dipole was erected for 40m and 20m, whilst another dipole was strung up through a series of trees for 80m and 160m. Club members, ZS2G, ZS2OD, ZS2DH and ZR2BK represented ZS2PE whilst ZS2KP erected his own antenna and operated with his own call sign.

A total of 46 QSO's were recorded of which two were on the 160m band. HF conditions were poor and there was bit of local QRM. All 9 provinces were worked with only 50W of power.

ZS2NM joined on Saturday evening and did some braaing! A lot of fun was held on the weekend and thank you to those who came out. Hopefully we will see more participation at the next field day in September.

73

Kevern ZR2BK

See picture on cover page as well as following this article.



**Left: Kevern ZR2BK and Right: ZS2G
and Below: Dave ZS2DH**





Above: Andrew ZS2G with the horses. Right: The wording on his T-shirt. **Below:** Odette ZS2OD with one of the horses.

Below: Cooling off



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 2026

14 Arno du Preez ZS2ABT
17 Jeffrey Ferreira ZR2JEF
18 Peter Flynn ZS2PF
19 Gary Laaks ZS2GRL
25 Kevern Burger ZR2BK
26 Jacques van der Heide ZR2JH
28 Basie Du Plessis ZR2BA
29 Wolf Gerstle ZS2WG

March 2026

01 Rudi Goosens ZR2RCG
02 Barry Bester ZS2BB
08 Errol Kleinhans ZS2EK
10 Michael Gooden ZS2MG
21 Andrew Gray ZS2G

Spouse Birthdays

February 2026

25 Jacqui Saayman Matthew ZS2SA

March 2026

01 Wendy Gilbert Shawn ZS2SG
03 Daphne Galpin Paul ZS2PG

Anniversaries

February 2026

22 Matthew Jacqui Saayman ZS2SA
23 Colin Cheryl Schroder ZR2CRS

March 2026

03 Tim Teresa Joubert ZS2X
15 Arno Cheryl du Preez ZS2ABT
17 Andre Adele van Biljon ZS2PL

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,

Bulletin Roster

16 March	Chris	ZS2AAW
23 March	Mike	ZS2MIC
30 March	Ashley	ZS2AG
6 April	Vaughan	ZS2VR
13 April	Patsy	ZS2PTY
20 April	Andrew	ZS2AFB
27 April	Rory	ZS2BL
4 May	Kevern	ZR2BK
11 May	Dave	ZS2DH
18 May	Chris	ZS2AAW

<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
Technical/repeaters, Search and Rescue & Emergency comms	Glen Cummings	ZS2GV	glenvanessa[at]gmail.com	082 411 2743
QSX Editor	Ashley Goosen	ZS2AG	qsx.zs2ag[at]gmail.com	082 372 6696
Public relations, special events	Patsy Kruger	ZS2PTY	patsykruger68[at]cloud.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	Longmore	Uitenhage	Town UHF	<---- IRLP available on this subnet
145.050/650 88.5Hz, Narrow 12.5k	145.025/625 88.5Hz, Narrow 12.5k	145.075/675 Wide 25k	431.050/438.650 Wide 25k	
Cockscomb 431.000/438,600 Add 88.5Hz for squ tail	Viewlands 431.075/438.675 Add 88.5Hz for squ tail	<---- These form linking hubs for events, hence no tail	DMR 430.675/438.275 QTH: ZS2VA	D-Star 145.175/775 QTH: ZS2N

Cape Linked System Repeaters:

These form the PEARS long-range 2-metre repeater system, in conjunction with the Border, Southern Cape and WCRWG systems. See www.zs2pe.co.za/Repeaters/repeaters.htm for more details.

Lady's Slipper	Grahamstown	Cradock	Noupoort (link only)
145,100/700 88.5Hz, Narrow 12.5k	145,150/750 Wide 25k	145,050/650 Wide 25k	438,750 / 438,675 Wide 25k
Colesberg 431,075/438,675 Wide 25k	Kareedouw 145,125/725	Plett 145,175/775	Brenton 145,075/675

APRS/Packet network:

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

VHF Beacon: 50,007 MHz FSK – ZS2X, 25 Watts into 2 element Yagi beaming north.

Banking details (for subs & donations): NEDBANK SAVINGS ACCOUNT No. 221 252 7594, Bank code 121217, A/C name: Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society. **Please use call signs as a reference.**