



# WATTS 2025-09

Year 95 + 09

Monthly Newsletter of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club

Maandelikse Nuusbrieff van die Pretoria Amateur Radio Klub

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 <http://www.parc.org.za>

f [PARC ZS6PTA Group](#)



**Bulletins : 145.725 MHz : Sundays from 08h45 / Sondag vanaf 08h45**

Relays: 1.840, 3.700, 7.066, 10.135, 14.235, 51.400, 438.825, 1297 MHz and Echolink.

Activated frequencies are announced prior to bulletins

**Swopshop : 2m and 7.066 MHz live on-air after bulletins**

Bulletin repeats on Mondays / herhalings op Maandae: 2m 19h45



## 2025 Southern African Lighthouse Award



It is hereby certified that

*Tugela Bluff  
Lighthouse,  
ZS6PZ/5-L*



*Operated by Pierre Smit, ZS6PS; Louis de  
Wet, ZS6SK and Charles Mills, ZS6CJM*

Made one hundred and thirty-five QSOs  
and contacted eleven lighthouses in  
Southern Africa and 1 DX lighthouse  
during the 2025 International Lighthouse  
and Lightship Weekend

Hood Point Lighthouse – ILLW number ZA0007

18 August 2025

016/2025

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### PARC ANNUAL CLUB FEES: PARK JAARLIKSE LEDEGELDE

Bank	First National Bank	Ordinary Members / Gewone Lede : R200 Spouses and Pensioners : R100	Your call sign must appear as statement text!
Branch Code	25 20 45		
Account No	546 000 426 73		
Please remit your subs in time to our Treasurer, or pay per transfer into the PARC account			
Betaal asb. u ledegelde betyds aan ons Tesourier, of betaal per oorplasing in die PARC rekening			
Please Note : If your Club fees are not paid up to date, birthday details cannot be displayed in Watts			

### Did you know...

September isn't just the start of spring down south—it's also prime time for VHF enthusiasts. The ARRL September VHF Contest kicks off the second weekend of the month, inviting operators to chase grid squares above 50 MHz using everything from CW to digital modes.

Thanks to shifting ionospheric conditions and tropospheric ducting, September often brings surprise openings on 2 meters and beyond. So, if your signal suddenly skips across provinces—or continents—you might just be riding the seasonal magic.

## Birthdays / Verjaarsdae, Joys and Sorrows / Lief en Leed

*Wishing you loud signals, clear frequencies, and zero interference on your special day. May your logbook overflow with joy and friendship. From shack to celebration—happy birthday and 73!*

### Members's Birthdays September 2025 / Lede Verjaarsdae September 2025

Birthday	Name	Callsign
02 September	Vernon Fryer	ZS6AIG
11 September	Johan Lehmann	ZS6JPL
13 September	Zack Pienaar	ZR6ZAK
15 September	Willie van Niekerk	ZS6WVN
18 September	Louis Coetzee	ZS6GLC
19 September	Johan Classen	ZS6IAM
20 September	Dubbeldiff Pretorius	ZS6HP
22 September	Charlie Pretorius	LISTENER
26 September	Jacques Snyman	ZS6QS
26 September	Pieter Malan	ZS6OP
26 September	Graham Reid	ZS6GJR
27 September	Ryan Gibson	ZS6GGR
28 September	Irene Myburgh	ZS6IEA
28 September	Jakes Kruger	ZS6JLK

### Spouse's Birthdays September 2025 / Eggenote Verjaarsdae September 2025

Spouse Birthday	Member Name	Callsign	Spouse
16 September	De Jager Burger	ZS6ZO	Annelize
27 September	Sybie Van der Spuy	ZS6SY	Liesel
28 September	Pieter Myburgh	ZS6PAM	Irene

*Wishing you a fantastic day filled with laughter, love, and everything that makes you smile. May the year ahead bring new adventures, great memories, and all the happiness you deserve. Enjoy your celebration!*

### Member's Birthdays October 2025 / Lede Verjaarsdae Oktober 2025

Birthday	Name	Callsign
01 October	Brian Allchin	ZS1ABW
01 October	Evan Seligmann	ZS6ELI
02 October	André van Tonder (Hon Mem)	ZS6BRC
02 October	Hans-Peter Knoepfler	ZS6AJS
09 October	Ed Willers	ZS6UT
16 October	Nico Michael	ZS6BVR
18 October	BAAS JAN Van Wyk	ZS6MRM
20 October	Johnny Schmidt	ZS6MES
22 October	Johannes Petrus Strydom	ZS6ZZZ
25 October	Gawie Marais	ZS6GJM
30 October	Andre Coetzee	ZS6GCA
31 October	Pieter Myburgh	ZS6PAM

## Spouse's Birthdays October 2025 / Eggenote Verjaarsdae Oktober 2025

Spouse Birthday	Member Name	Callsign	Spouse
01 October	Jurie Ferreira	ZS6JFE	Geraldene
04 October	Rita Schroder	ZS6SLR	Lukas
06 October	Trev Thomsen	Z21GX	Fiona
12 October	Ryan Gibson	ZS6GGR	Juanita
14 October	Nic Louw	ZS6NWL	Wilma
21 October	Alméro Du Pisani	ZS6LDP	Louise
30 October	Marcel Van Wyk	ZS6MRM	CINDY
31 October	Irene Myburgh	ZS6IEA	Pieter

## Wedding Anniversaries September 2025 / Huweliks Herdenkings September 2025

Anniversary	Name	Callsign	Spouse
02 September	Elias Tibane	ZR6TT	Sarah
03 September	Joseph Katzman	ZS6TB	Selma
25 September	Hugo Pretorius	ZS6HP	Aida
28 September	Benjamin D Greyling Greyling	ZS6YVC	Jessica
28 September	Roy Newton	ZS6XN	Retha
28 September	Jan Pienaar	ZS6OB	Erika

## Wedding Anniversaries October 2025 / Huweliks Herdenkings Oktober 2025

Anniversary	Name	Callsign	Spouse
1971-10-09	Pieter Fourie	ZS6CN	Annatjie
2001-10-13	Nicolaas Willem Louw	ZS6NWL	Wilma
2005-10-15	de jager Burger	ZS6ZO	Annelize
1988-10-29	Cornelius Heydenrich	ZS4CFH	Nicolene

## Joys and Sorrows / Lief en Leed

No joys or sorrows to report this month.

Perhaps the silence is a sign of steady skies and peaceful frequencies.

## PARC Sunday Bulletins / PARK Sondag Bulletins

PARC Bulletins are presented on Sunday mornings at approximately 08h45, after the SARL Bulletins in English and Afrikaans, from 08h15. The Bulletin Presenters for the following two months are presented below. Please do contact the applicable presenter beforehand if you wish to contribute to the Bulletin. PARC Bulletins are broadcast on the 2-meter repeater on 145.725 MHz, and 70 cm on 438.825 and 439.025 MHz. Relays are done on 7.060 MHz by Pierre ZS6PS and Corlia ZS6CHS Smit and on Echolink by Johan Lehman ZS6JPL. A re-broadcast of the Bulletin is done the following Monday evening at 19h45 by Louis de Wet ZS6SK.

PARK Bulletins word op Sondag oggende aangebied om 08h45, na die SARL Bulletins in Engels en Afrikaans, vanaf 08h15. The Bulletin aanbieders vir die volgende twee maande word onder aangedui. Kontak gerus die toepaslike Bulletin leser indien u 'n bydrae tot die Bulletin wil maak. PARK Bulletins word uitgesaai op die 2-meter herhaler op 145.725 MHz, en 70cm op 438.825 en 439.025 MHz. Herleidings word gedoen op 7.060 MHz deur Pierre ZS6PS en Corlia ZS6CHS Smit, en op Echolink deur Johan Lehman ZS6JPL. 'n Heruitsending van die Bulletin geskied die opvolgende Maandag aand om 19h45, en word behartig deur Louis de Wet ZS6SK.

### PARC Bulletin Presenters: September 2025 – October 2025

Date	Presenter	Date	Presenter
7 September 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	5 October 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
14 September 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	12 October 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
21 September 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	19 October 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
28 September 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	26 October 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP

💡 *"A heartfelt thank-you to our dedicated bulletin presenters — your energy, commitment, and clear voices keep the amateur radio community informed and inspired. Whether rain, shine, or QRM, you show up and deliver with professionalism and passion."*





## Diary of Contests & Events / Dagboek van Kompetisies en Gebeure

Contests and Events – September 2025 / Kompetisies en Gebeure – September 2025 (UTC Times)	
01	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB: 1900Z – 2030Z
02	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest: 0100Z – 0159Z; Also on 09/09; 16/09; 23/09; 30/09
03	UKEICC 80m Contest: 2000Z – 2100Z
04	NRAU 10m Activity Contest: 1800Z – 1900Z (CW); 1900Z – 2000Z (SSB); 2000Z – 2100Z (FM); 2100Z – 2200Z (Digital)
06	CWOps CW Open: 1200Z – 1559Z
06 – 07	<b>SARL National Field Day: 0800Z – 1000Z <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a></b>
06 – 07	<b>SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest: 0800Z – 1000Z <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a></b>
10	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW: 1900Z – 2030Z
13 - 14	WAE DX Contest, SSB: 0000Z – 2359Z
13 - 14	ARRL EME Contest: 0000Z – 2359Z
13	Africa FT4 DX Contest: 1500Z – 1800Z
15	RSGB FT4 Contest: 1900Z – 2100Z
16	<b>Start of the SARL 6m Challenge <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a></b>
20 – 21	<b>Spring ZS SOTA Activity: <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a></b>
20 - 21	Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW: 1200Z – 1200Z
21	North American Sprint, RTTY: 0000Z – 0400Z
24	UKEICC 80m Contest: 2000Z – 2100Z
25	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data: 1900Z – 2030Z
27 - 28	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY: 0000Z – 2400Z
Contests and Events – October 2025 / Kompetisies en Gebeure – Oktober 2025 (UTC Times)	
2	SARL 80 m QSO Party: 1700Z – 2000Z
5	RSGB DX Contest and the Antique Wireless Association AM Valve QSO Party: 1300Z – 1700Z
8	Early Morning Coffee QSO Party: 0400Z – 0500Z
15	SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Contest: 1700Z – 1800Z
15	End of the SARL September Equinox 6m DX Entity Challenge <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a> ends at 2359Z
18	SARL QRP Contest: 1330Z – 1530Z
The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of contest details listed above. For verification and more information, please visit the SARL website, <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a> , as well as the WA7BNM international contest calendar at the following website: <a href="http://hornucopia.com">http://hornucopia.com</a>	



**Pretoria Amateur  
RADIO CLUB**  
SINCE 1930

**ZS6PTA Exhibitions, Flea Market and Boot Sale**

**Saturday 6 December at 09:00**  
**Pretoria Old Motor Club in Silverton**  
**Almero du Pisani 083 938 8955**  
**[almerodps@gmail.com](mailto:almerodps@gmail.com)**

**Next Flea Market Date: 6 December / Volgende Snuffelmark Datum: 6 Desember**

**CONTACT PERSON: Alméro Du Pisani (T) 083-938-8955 (E) [almerodps@gmail.com](mailto:almerodps@gmail.com)**

### Ham Flea Market Fun Facts

#### **1. The Original “Eyeball QSO” Zone**

Ham flea markets are where operators finally meet the voices behind the call signs. It’s not uncommon to hear someone say, “So *you’re* ZS6XYZ—I imagined you taller!”

#### **2. One Ham’s Junk Is Another Ham’s Treasure**

From vintage rigs to mysterious coax connectors, flea markets are treasure troves of gear with stories. Some hams swear they’ve bought back the same item three years in a row—each time with a new modification.

#### **3. Morse Code Makes a Comeback**

At some boot sales, you’ll hear Morse tapping from demo tables or kids trying their hand at a straight key. It’s the only place where beeping at strangers is considered polite.

#### **4. The Unofficial “Rig Whisperers”**

There’s always that one ham who can identify a transceiver by the smell of its power supply or the shape of its knobs. They’re usually surrounded by curious newcomers and nostalgic veterans.

#### **5. The Great Swap Dance**

Negotiating at a ham flea market is an art form. It often involves a bit of storytelling, a dash of technical jargon, and a handshake that seals the deal faster than a contest exchange

## PARC Upcoming Events

### PARC Pensioners' Breakfast / PARK Pensionaris Ontbyt

Kom kuier saam! Die jaarlikse Pensionaris Ontbyt vind plaas op **Saterdag 11 Oktober 2025 om 11:00** by **Oppiplaas**, hoek van Codonia- en Terblanchestraat.

Kom geniet 'n heerlike oggend vol geselskap, stories en 'n bietjie radio-nostalgie.

**RSVP asseblief teen 3 Oktober** aan **Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA** at: **082-462-6001/ 084-544-0618** or [irene.myburgh@outlook.com](mailto:irene.myburgh@outlook.com)

Join us for a lovely morning! The annual pensioners' breakfast will take place on **Saturday, 11 October 2025 at 11:00**, hosted at **Oppiplaas**, on the corner of Codonia and Terblanche Street.

Come enjoy good company, shared stories, and a touch of radio nostalgia.

Please **RSVP by 3 October** to **Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA** at: **082-462-6001/ 084-544-0618** or [irene.myburgh@outlook.com](mailto:irene.myburgh@outlook.com)

## UITNODIGING: PARK PENSIONARIS ONTBYT



VRIENDELIKE GROETE

## ZS6PTA

**DIE PRETORIA AMATEUR RADIO KLUB  
NOOI ALLE RADIO-VETERANE  
HARTLIK UIT NA ONS JAARLIKSE  
PENSIONARIS ONTBYT**

**DATUM: SATERDAG, 11 OKTOBER 2025  
PLEK: OPPIPLAAS, CORNER OF CODONIA  
AND TERBLANCHE STREET**

**TYD: 11.00 VM  
KOM GENIET N SMAAKLIKE ONTBYT EN  
GESELLIGE SAAMKUIER MET MEDE-RADIO  
AMATEURS.**

QSL No. 2025-ONTBYT



**Invitation: PARC AGM 6 December 2025 / Uitnodiging: PARK AJV 6 Desember 2025**

**NOTIFICATION: PARC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 06 December 2025**  
**KENNISGEWING: PARK ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING: 06 Desember 2025**

**Agenda for the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of PARC**  
**At 12h00 on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 at the Pretoria Old Motor Club,**  
**Silverton**

**Agenda vir die 95<sup>ste</sup> Algemene Jaarvergadering van PARK**  
**Om 12h00 op Saterdag die 6<sup>de</sup> Desember 2025 by die Pretoria Ou**  
**Motor Klub, Silverton**

- 1 Welcome and Attendance / Verwelkoming en Teenwoordigheid
- 2 Apologies and Proxies / Verskonings en Volmagte
- 3 Declaration of Quorum / Verklaring van Kworum
- 4 Opening: PARC Chairman: Graham Reid ZS6GJR
- 5 Minutes of Previous AGM / Notules van Vorige AJV: Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA
- 6 Treasurer's Report / Penningmeester Verslag: Graham Reid ZS6GJR
- 7 Appointment of Auditor / Aanstelling van Ouditeur
- 9 Chairman's Report / Voorsitter Verslag: Graham Reid ZS6GJR
- 10 Discussion of Motions / Bespreking van Mosies
- 11 Election of Committee 2025-26 / Verkiesing van Komitee 2025-26
- 12 General Matters / Algemene Sake
- 13 Guest Speaker / Gasspreker : Louis de Wet ZS6SK: Chemistry of the Sun and Solar Indices
- 14 Closing / Afsluiting
- 15 Lunch / Middagete

**PRETORIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL SUPPLY LUNCH, AND EATING UTENSILS FOR LUNCH. SOFT DRINKS AND ALCOHOLIC DRINKS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE BAR.**

**PRETORIA AMATEUR RADIO KLUB VOORSIEN DIE MIDDAGETE EN EETGEREI VIR DIE MIDDAGETE. KOELDRANKE EN ALKOHOOLIESE VERVERSINGS KAN BY DIE KROEG AANGEKOOP WORD.**





**95<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**95<sup>ste</sup> ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING**  
**Pretoria Amateur Radio Club**



**Pretoria Old Motor Club**  
**Keuning Str. Silverton**

**Venue:**

**Saturday 06 Desember 2025**

**Time: 12h00**

**Agenda: To be published**

**Plek:**

**Saterdag 06 Desember 2025**

**Tyd: 12h00**

**Agenda: Sal gepubliseer word**

**NB**

Nominations awaited. Latest acceptance by 11h30 on 06 Desember 2025  
Nominasies word afgewag. Laatste indiening teen 11h30 op 06 Desember 2025

**PROXY Form (cut out) || VOLMAG Vorm (knip uit)**

Only paid-up members may submit proxies || Slegs opbetaalde lede mag volmagte indien

I/Ek .....being ZS/R/U..... give/gee .....ZS/R/U.....

Proxy to vote on my behalf at the 2025 PARC AGM

Volmag om namens my te stem tydens die 2025 PARK AJV Geteken/Signed.....

**NOMINATION Form (cut out) || NOMINASIE Vorm (knip uit)**

**Committee Nominations** must be in writing and signed by both the Proposer and Nominee and be handed in on **06 December 2025 at 11h30 at the latest**. Use the Nomination Form below. The Proposer and Nominee must both be paid-up members.

**Komitee Nominasies** moet skriftelik wees en deur beide die Voorsteller en Voorgestelde geteken word en moet **op laaste teen 11h30 op 06 Desember 2025** ingehandig word. Gebruik die Nominasievorm hieronder. Beide Voorsteller en Voorgestelde moet opbetaalde lede wees.

Proposer:

ZS

Signature:

Voorsteller:.....

ZR.....

Handtekening:.....

ZU

NOMINEE GENOMINEERDE	CALLSIGN ROEPSEIN	NOMINATION ACCEPTED NOMINASIE AANVAAR
1		
2		
3		
4		

## Activating the Tugela Mouth Lighthouse, ZA 0028 - By Pierre Smit, ZS6PS

During 2023, an eyeball with Woody ZS3WL led to the idea of joining the Bo-Karoo Amateur Radio Club on the next International Lightship Lighthouse Weekend (ILLW). Unfortunately, the weekend was missed. In 2024, Pierre, ZS6PS, decided to activate a lighthouse himself. The idea led to registering the Tugela Mouth Lighthouse for the 2025 ILLW.

Checking with the previous team, the Tugela Mouth Bush Camp was recommended as the place to stay, but no replies were received to several emails. After phoning one of the owners, the team learned that the place is no more. ZS6PS began searching for alternative nearby accommodations and discovered the Sometimes Tugela House. With accommodation taken care of, we started looking for a team.

At the same time, ZS6PS started planning the equipment to take with. This was to address a situation where electricity might not be available. The Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) Lighthouse & Navigational Systems was contacted for access to the lighthouse. Unfortunately, access to the lighthouse was not authorised.

A team was needed to activate the lighthouse. A presentation was given about the history of lighthouses, as well as the activation process involved. Requests for team members were made regularly on the MRK and PARC bulletins. In the end, the team consisted of 3 couples from Pretoria.

The team was finalised and consisted of the following persons:

1. Pierre ZS6PS and Corlie ZS6CHS
2. Louis ZS6SK and Sharmaine
3. Charles ZS6CJM and Beth

The setup in the shack included the following:

1. 9 m Clark mast on a stand
2. Inverted V for 40 and 20 metres
3. "Enough" RG213 coaxial cable
4. ICOM 7300
5. PS15 power supply
6. Homebrew box for 12-volt connectors
7. LP100A Watt Meter
8. Expert 1K linear amplifier
9. Rig Expert AA600
10. Soldering iron
11. Odds and ends



ZS6PS arrived on Wednesday. The antenna, consisting of an inverted V, was set up on Wednesday evening with a headlight, and most of the equipment was connected. The making of contacts and rag chewing began on Thursday morning. After several contacts, the inline watt meter and linear amp were connected to commence communication in earnest. Thirty-two contacts were made on Thursday, with an additional 25 contacts made on Friday. With this, ZS6PS was pleased that the station would be able to withstand the test of participating in its first ILLW.

The Sunday morning was less successful, with only 21 QSOs made. The team had breakfast while listening to the PARC bulletin; afterwards, the team took down the antenna and began packing all the equipment. The team travelled in a convoy from Mandini, had lunch at Harrismith and all arrived safely at their respective QTHs at around 21:30.

### **Some statistics**

Braais – 3

Distance travelled – 13700 km.

### **Contacts**

Lighthouse – 12

ZS1 – 17

ZS2 – 7

ZS3 – 3

ZS4 – 13

ZS5 – 25

ZS6 – 54

Other – 2

The event was such a success that the Hondeklipbaai Lighthouse has already been reserved, and the notes made to improve the setup are being prioritised.

The team would like to thank all those HAMS who made the effort to contact the Tugela Lighthouse. ZS3WL deserves special mention for his continued support, guidance, and regular check-ins, ensuring that a soldering iron is included in the kit taken with.

ZS6PS and team are looking forward to the 2026 ILLW.



*Figure 1: The support and team members.*



*Figure 2: The antenna.*





Figure 3: ZS6PS testing the setup for the ILLW.



Figure 4: Breakfast.



Figure 5: The dishwashers (once only)



Figure 6: One of the braais with the braaiers.



Figure 7: Packing-up.



Figure 8: Strapping the antenna on the roof.





Figure 10: The Operators of ZS6PS/L



Figure 9: Operators of ZS6PS/L



Figure 11: The support team.

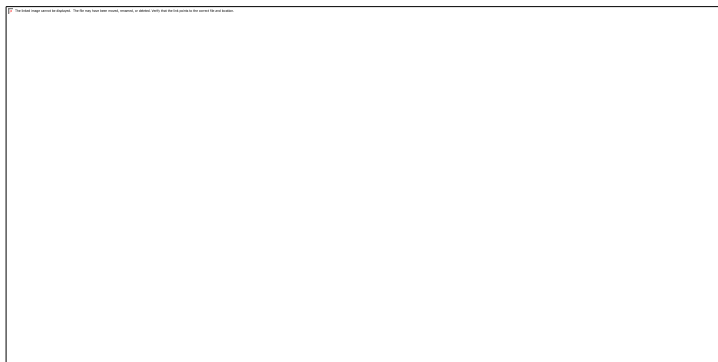


Figure 12: Team ready for the long road home.



Figure 13: Late lunch on our way home (the photographer is missing)

## Resilience Through Amateur Radio for National Preparedness Month 2025



September is [National Preparedness Month](#), which is a good time to look at your personal, family, and community resilience levels. For 2025, the National Preparedness Month theme is “Preparedness Starts at Home.”

Amateur radio is a valuable resource for communication and community service before and during times of crisis, and can be a significant factor in your home’s level of preparedness.

“Now is the time to make sure everything is in order,” said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV. For hams, it means taking the time to check their equipment – from the ground to the antenna, so that it is ready. “Many hams already participate in daily, weekly, and monthly nets that help them hone their communication skills, but if you’re not already active in one, this could be a good opportunity to get into it,” said Johnston.

To extend your personal preparedness into helping provide community resilience, Johnston invites operators to become active in their local [ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) activities. “ARES has been leveraging the utility value of the Amateur Radio Service for 90 years,” he said. “We saw last year during Hurricane Helene how vital of a lifeline ham radio operators were for the affected areas.”

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [is predicting an above-normal 2025 Atlantic hurricane season](#).

Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, says that should motivate hams, but not scare them. “Never let your guard down,” said Graves. “Don’t live your life in fear, just be aware.” Graves added that his net operators are spread across the Western Hemisphere, but they still have training sessions via radio nets and Zoom meetings.

- [National Preparedness Month - Have a Go Kit](#)
- [National Preparedness Month - Ensuring Family Safety](#)
- [National Preparedness Month - Station Readiness](#)
- [National Preparedness Month - Get Involved](#)

***Should you wish to receive further details on the bullet points above, please contact us via email [watts@parc.org.za](mailto:watts@parc.org.za), and we will gladly provide expanded coverage in the next publication.***

# The Ultimate Morse Sender Programs – By Nico Michael ZS6BVR

There are two versions of the ZS6BVR Morse programs

1. One for use as the ultimate Morse Trainer program (which I wrote in Java)
2. The Other as a Morse sender to use with your CW rig to transmit Morse on the HF  
(Which I wrote in MicroPython)

<https://github.com/nic0michael/MorseSender/blob/master/TheUltimateMorseSenderProgram.pdf>

## 1. Introduction to Morse Code Today

Morse code is still widely used by amateur radio operators for long-distance and low-power communication.

It can be copied by ear even in noisy or weak-signal conditions where digital modes fail. Emergency services and hobbyists value Morse as a reliable backup communication method. Practicing Morse also trains memory, focus, and pattern recognition skills useful in many fields e.g.:

- Working DX during periods of **Low Sunspot Counts** can be done with CW when SSB is dead
- Working QRP can be done with CW even **below 1W power**

## 2. ZS6BVR\_MorseCodeSenderPiPico

The purpose of the project is to Key your HF Rig and send Morse from your keyboard by operating a read relay to key your CW Transmitter.

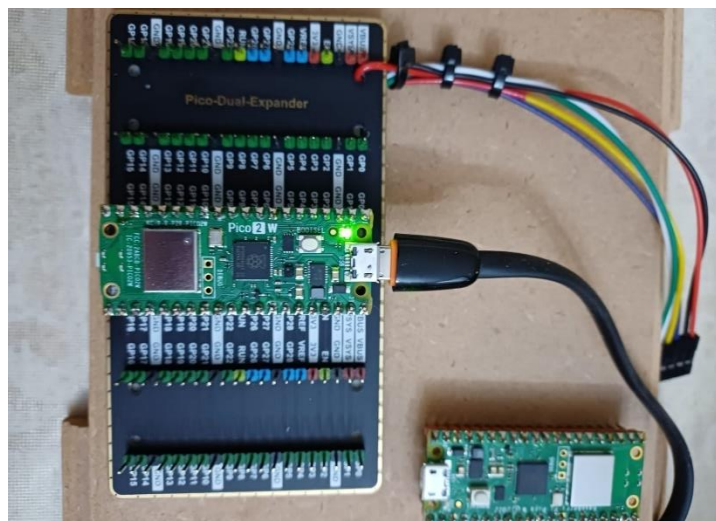
Phase 2 of this project is to read Morse Code giving you a CW Transceiver program.

### Features:

This program gives you 9 memories to save and send for example “CQ CQ DX DE ZS6BVR”

### It also has commands:

- a. @ will send continuous dots (scope calibration)
- b. # will send continuous tone (frequency counter calibration)
- c. [text] Repeat text 3 times with pauses
- d. #H Show this help message
- e. +/- Increase or decrease the speed



*My Raspberry Pi Pico 2W running this program*



```

Thonny - Raspberry Pi Pico :: /zs6bvr-morse-senderV2.py @ 194:1
File Edit View Run Tools Help

<untitled> [ zs6bvr-morse-senderV2.py ]
1 # ZS6BVR Morse Sender (Raspberry Pi Pico W) V2.1
2 from machine import Pin
3 import time, random
4
5 # -----
6 # Version and Calibration
7 # -----
8 VERSION = "2.1"
9 CALIBRATION = 1.0 # Adjust to correct timing, e.g., 0.997 or 1.0045
10
11 # -----
12 # Pins
13 # -----
14 relay_pin = Pin(1, Pin.OUT) # Relay on GP1
15 led_pin = Pin("LED", Pin.OUT) # Onboard LED
16 red_led_pin = Pin(4, Pin.OUT) # RED LED on GP4 (Morse output)
17 green_led_pin = Pin(5, Pin.OUT) # GREEN LED on GP5 (Future use)
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### 3. ZS6BVR Morse Sender (Java Project)

This program uses your computer's Sound System to send Morse code.

The purpose of this program is to help you increase your Morse code receiving speed.

#### **This is the ULTIMATE MORSE TRAINER PROGRAM**

*I have not seen a program with all its features.*

It can send groups of five "wide-spaced" sent at 20WPM but effectively 10WPM helping you increase your receive speed. In 1980 I wrote my first program to do that and passed the 12WPM ZS exam.

#### **Features:**

A unique feature is it generates 9 new Lesson files

- a. 3 files with Random groups of five
- b. 3 plane English word files
- c. 3 random Callsign files

#### **It also has commands :**

- a. [n] will send n lines on random groups of 5
- b. @ will send continuous dots (scope calibration)
- c. # will send continuous tone (frequency counter calibration)

You can download this program from here :

<https://github.com/nic0michael/MorseSender>

### 4. Software Requirements

This will depend on which hardware or software option you want to use.

#### **The Java program (Morse Trainer) requires:**

- Java 17 or later.
- Maven if you want to build and run.
- Git is useful for cloning both projects and keeping up to date with future updates.

#### **The Pico program (CW transmitter and Receiver) needs:**

- MicroPython firmware flashed onto the Raspberry Pi Pico 2 W.
- Thonny IDE is recommended to upload and run the Python script on the Pico.

### 5. Hardware Requirements *This will depend on which hardware or software option you want to use.*

#### **For the Raspberry Pi Pico version, you need:**

- The Raspberry Pi Pico 2 W (We plan to introduce a WIFI remote option)
- Reed Relay
- 2N3439 NPN transistor
- 7805 voltage regulator
- USB cable
- Small fuse is recommended for safe operation.

For the Java version (Morse Trainer), no extra hardware is needed beyond a computer with a sound card and speakers or headphones.

## 6. Installation Steps

### Clone the projects

Git clone both repositories: the “Morse Trainer” (Java-based) and the “CW Sender and Receiver” (Pi Pico-based). Refer to the online instructions of my two projects here in Github:

<https://github.com/nic0michael/MorseSender> (Morse trainer)

[https://github.com/nic0michael/ZS6BVR\\_MorseCodeSenderPiPico](https://github.com/nic0michael/ZS6BVR_MorseCodeSenderPiPico) (CW Sender and Receiver)

You can also get comprehensive instructions there

## 7. Command Overview

### Morse Trainer (Java Program)

- @ → Continuous dots (scope calibration)
- # → Continuous tone (frequency counter calibration)
- [n] → Send n lines of random groups of 5
- + or - → Increase or decrease speed
- #H → Show help
- [text] → Repeat text 3 times with pauses
- \*

What ever text you type will be sent

### CW Sender and Receiver (Pi Pico Program)

- @ → Continuous dots (scope calibration)
- [n] → Send n lines of random groups of 5
- + or - → Increase or decrease speed
- #H → Show help
- [text] → Repeat text 3 times with pauses
- \*

## 8. Future Development

### Software developments

1. We plan to write our own Adaptive CW Reader program
2. We also plan to add WIFI remote to our CW Sender Receiver so you can control this from the Browser

### Hardware developments

1. After EagleCAD made their recent announcement we are now moving to KiCAD which is Open-source and **Fully FREE**.
2. This means we have to re-design our PiPico Transciever board

## 9. Contribute & Feedback

**How to report bugs, request features, or contribute via GitHub.**

Send us an email to: [nicomichael@yahoo.com](mailto:nicomichael@yahoo.com)

## Gridlocked in the shack

### “The Phantom Signal”

#### Scenario:

You’re operating on 20m during a contest weekend. You notice a strong signal at 14.070 MHz—clean, steady, and oddly persistent. It’s not FT8, PSK31, or any known digital mode. You attempt to decode it with multiple software packages, but nothing works. You switch rigs, antennas, and even try a waterfall snapshot—still no luck. The signal appears every 7 minutes, lasts 45 seconds, and then disappears.

#### Clues:

- The signal has no call sign, no ID, and no modulation pattern.
- It’s strongest when your beam is pointed 60° northeast.
- You hear faint bursts on 14.074 MHz just before it appears.
- Your neighbor recently installed a solar inverter system.

#### Challenge:

What’s the most likely source of the signal? What steps would you take to confirm it and mitigate the interference?

#### Have you found the cause?

If you’ve got a theory, a wild guess, or a perfectly reasoned solution to this scenario, we’d love to hear it! Send your answer to [watts@parc.org.za](mailto:watts@parc.org.za).

If your answer hits the mark—or even dances charmingly close—we’ll send you the official solution straight to your inbox, and you’ll get a well-deserved **shoutout in the Sunday bulletin**.





## Motor Rallies: Dates of Events for 2025 / Motor Tydrenne: Datums vir 2025

*Please see Circulars 3 and 4 below from Motorsport South Africa regarding changes made to the MSA National Rally-Raid Championship Calendar.*

Before the first engine growls and the gravel flies, there's a quiet frequency humming in the background—populated not by race cars, but by radio amateurs. While spectators cheer and drivers chase seconds, a different kind of operator is chasing clarity, coordination, and the elusive art of making chaos sound like calm.

Enter the hams. Armed with handhelds, mobile rigs, and enough coax to lasso a rally car (not recommended), these volunteers form the invisible net that holds the whole event together. When cell towers tap out and terrain gets tricky, amateur radio steps in with simplex grit and repeater magic. It's not just communication—it's orchestration.

From checkpoint chatter to emergency alerts, hams are the unsung pit crew of the airwaves. They log, relay, troubleshoot, and occasionally explain why their radios can't order pizza. And while the rally may be about horsepower and hairpin turns, for us it's also about signal strength, teamwork, and the thrill of being part of something fast, loud, and wonderfully unpredictable.

Because at the end of the day, when the dust settles and the last car crosses the line, it's clear: ham radio isn't just a backup—it's the backbone. And sometimes, it's the only thing standing between a missed call and a mission accomplished.



As the rally vehicles drove between stages, they encountered an unexpected challenger - one not listed on the entry sheet but built for gravel.



# MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA NPC

Reg. No 1995/005605/08

[www.motorsport.co.za](http://www.motorsport.co.za)

2nd Floor, Meersig 1, Cnr. Upper Lake Lane & Constantia Boulevard, Constantia Kloof, Roodepoort  
e-mail: [msa@motorsport.co.za](mailto:msa@motorsport.co.za) Telephone (011) 675 2220

## MSA RALLY CIRCULAR 3 OF 2025

Affected parties are hereby advised that the following changes to the MSA National Rally Championship Calendar are made with immediate effect:

Round	Date	Venue
1 & 2	27 & 28 June 2025	Tzaneen, Limpopo
3 & 4	25 & 26 July 2025	Uitenhage, Eastern Cape
5	29 & 30 August 2025	Ermelo, Mpumalanga
6	26 & 27 September 2025	Fouriesburg, Free State
7	31 October & 1 November 2025	Dullstroom, Mpumalanga

MSA sincerely apologises for any inconvenience these changes may have caused. Please be assured that they are a result of circumstances beyond MSA's control.

SAMANTHA VAN REENEN  
SPORTING SERVICES MANAGER: CARS, KARTING AND LEGAL

29 May 2025

*MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA IS THE ONLY RECOGNISED MOTORSPORT FEDERATION IN SOUTH AFRICA*



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## MSA RALLY-RAID CIRCULAR 4 OF 2025

Affected parties are hereby advised that the following changes to the MSA National Rally-Raid Championship Calendar are made with immediate effect:

Date	Round	Venue	Comment(s)
14 & 15 March 2025		Vryheid, KwaZulu-Natal	Moved to 31 October & 1 November 2025
27 & 28 June 2025	1	Legends Adventure Farm, Gauteng	
15 & 16 August 2025	2 & 3	Stonehenge Lodge, Parys, Free State	
19 & 20 September 2025	4	Louvain Guest Farm, Western Cape	
31 October & 1 November 2025	5	Vryheid, KwaZulu-Natal	Moved from 14 & 15 March 2025
21 & 22 November 2025	6	Thabazimbi, Limpopo	Moved from 27 & 28 June 2025

MSA sincerely apologises for any inconvenience these changes may have caused. Please be assured that they are a result of circumstances beyond MSA's control.

SAMANTHA VAN REENEN  
SPORTING SERVICES MANAGER: CARS, KARTING AND LEGAL

24 June 2025

*MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA IS THE ONLY RECOGNISED MOTORSPORT FEDERATION IN SOUTH AFRICA*



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**For More Rally information please contact the following Radio Marshalls:**

**Graham Reid ZS6GJR at: 083-701-0511 or [greid@wol.co.za](mailto:greid@wol.co.za)**

**Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA at: 082-462-6001/ 084-544-0618 or [irene.myburgh@outlook.com](mailto:irene.myburgh@outlook.com)**





Setting up communications, making sure the antenna is perfectly in place, crucial to the safety and overall success of the event.



Day 1 and Day 2 control rooms. Keeping everyone in check, logging times and making the event a success.



Roy Newton (ZS6XN) and Pieter Myburgh (ZS6PAM)



Martie Venter (ZS6MV) and Joey Reid



Hendri Ehlers (ZS6HFE) and Graham Reid (ZS6GJR)



## Gridlocked in the Gravel: A Ham's Tale from the Rally Frontline" by ZS6MV

Long before I ever dreamed of earning my ham licence, I had another secret craving: rally dust. The roar of engines, the scent of scorched rubber, and the thrill of watching cars defy physics—all while clutching a clipboard and pretending to know what's going on.

And then the call came.

Two rally marshals needed. Could my OM and I go help? At that moment, my heart was redlining with RPMs higher than the fastest car on the grid. I hadn't felt this level of excitement since I logged a rare DX on 80m during a thunderstorm with a bent dipole and a prayer.

Shopping, packing, paperwork—all done with the flutter of a turbo. Our checklist looked suspiciously like a field day prep sheet, minus the coax and plus a lot more gravel. High-vis jackets were folded with military precision, snacks selected for their ability to survive nuclear fallout (and possibly a rally car's glovebox), radios were charged and tested with the same reverence we give to contest gear, and as for a sense of direction—well, let's just say that was marked "optional" and left somewhere between the GPS and wishful thinking.

Of course, being hams, we couldn't resist turning our handhelds into rally command centres. Frequencies were flying, batteries were sweating, and I may or may not have tried to sneak in a cheeky CQ call between stages. My OM, ever the voice of reason, reminded me that yelling "QRZ?" at a rally car is generally frowned upon—especially when the car's doing 120 sideways and the driver's not exactly looking for a signal report.

The day unfolded like a well-tuned contest: fast-paced, unpredictable, and full of characters. Calling in the first round of times to Control without a single phonetic fumble felt like nailing a pileup on 20 meters. Every successful transmission was a little victory, every confirmation a silent fist-pump. We met incredible people—some rally veterans, some curious newcomers.

As the first car screamed past in a cloud of dust and turbo noise, I instinctively reached for my mic and nearly called "CQ Rally, CQ Rally, this is ZS6RLY portable gravel." My OM gave me the look—the one that says "not now" usually reserved for moments involving antennas and ladders. I settled for logging car numbers and times instead of call signs, though I swear one Subaru winked at me in Morse.

Throughout the day, we relayed times to Control with the precision of a contest net, dodged flying stones like rogue RF, and made new friends who didn't blink when we said, "we're with the radio club." There was camaraderie, chaos, and just enough static to make it feel like home. And when the final car passed and the dust settled, we packed up with the satisfaction of a well-run field day—minus the braai, plus a lot more adrenaline.

By the end of the day, we were sunburnt, dust-coated, and grinning like contest winners. We didn't make a single QSO, but we did make memories—and possibly a few new converts to the amateur radio cause.

Getting to know fellow club members better was a bonus we hadn't expected. Turns out rally dust is a great bonding agent, especially when shared over lukewarm coffee and tales of near misses. And sharing it all with my OM made it even better.

Between the adrenaline and the laughter, we found a rhythm that felt like a well-synced multi-op station—minus the logbook, plus a lot more gravel. At one point, I nearly logged a car as "ZS6RLY" out of habit. It had a spoiler, a sticker, and a certain DX-worthy aura—I swear it was calling CQ at 6000 RPM.

Would I do it again? In a heartbeat. Just give me a rally stage, a handheld, and a clipboard—and maybe next time, I'll sneak in a QSL card for Car 47.

## Long Term HF Propagation for September 2025

**Long Term HF Propagation for September 2025 : Courtesy Vincent Harrison ZS6BTY**

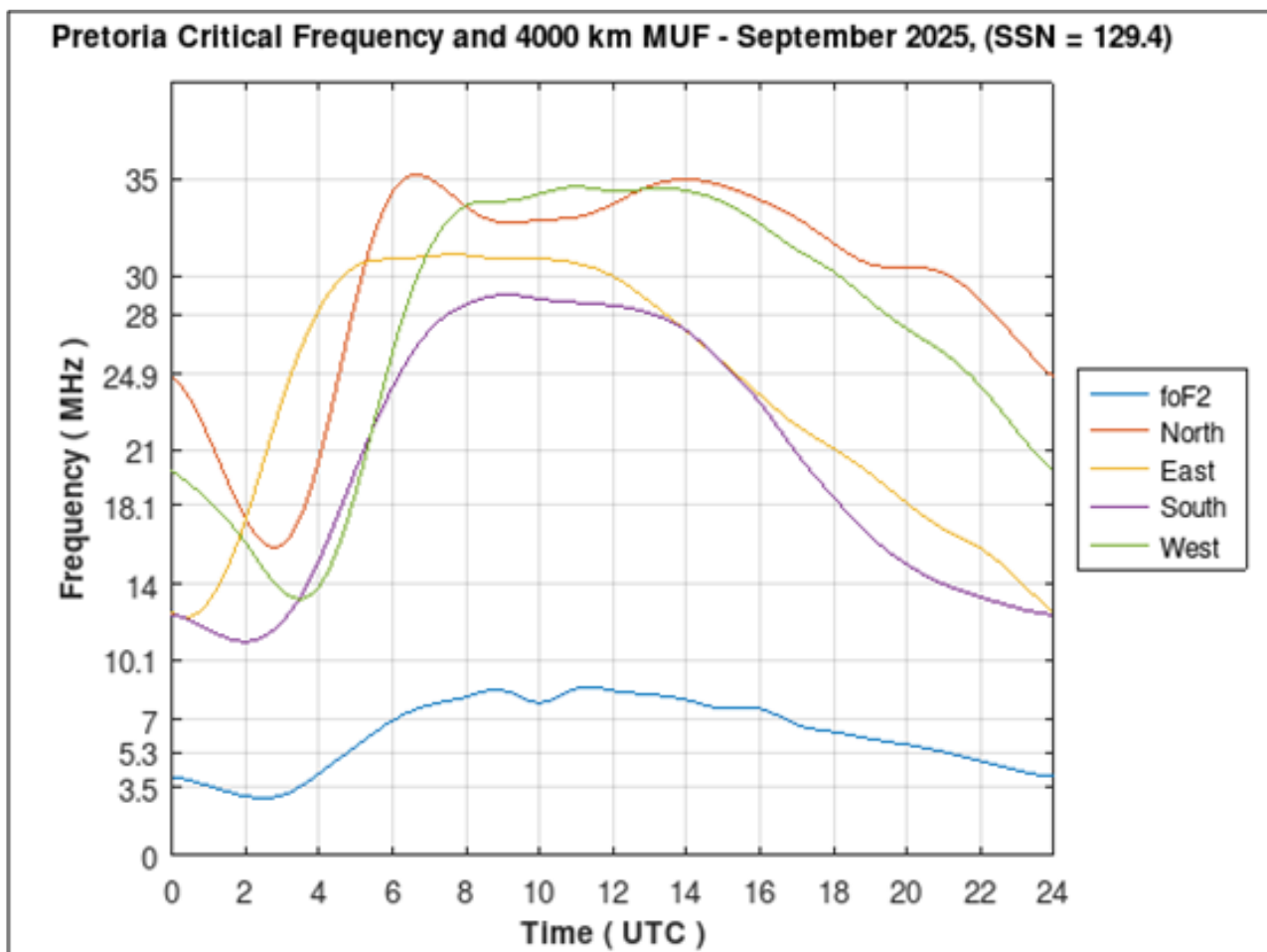
The graph below shows the predicted F-layer Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) for propagation from Pretoria<sup>[1]</sup> using monthly sunspot numbers from SILSO<sup>[2]</sup>.

**Local Propagation (up to 500 km):** The F or F2 critical frequency ( $f_oF2$ ) is the MUF for short range, near vertical incidence sky-wave (NVIS) propagation.

**Long Distance Propagation:** The MUF for a first hop of 4000 km in the cardinal directions are labeled North, East, South and West. They indicate the direction that propagation may be expected.

**Worldwide Propagation Maps:** <http://www.parc.org.za/index.php?page=propagation>

*"Prediction is difficult, especially when dealing with the future". . . Danish Proverb. 73 Vincent, ZS6BTY*

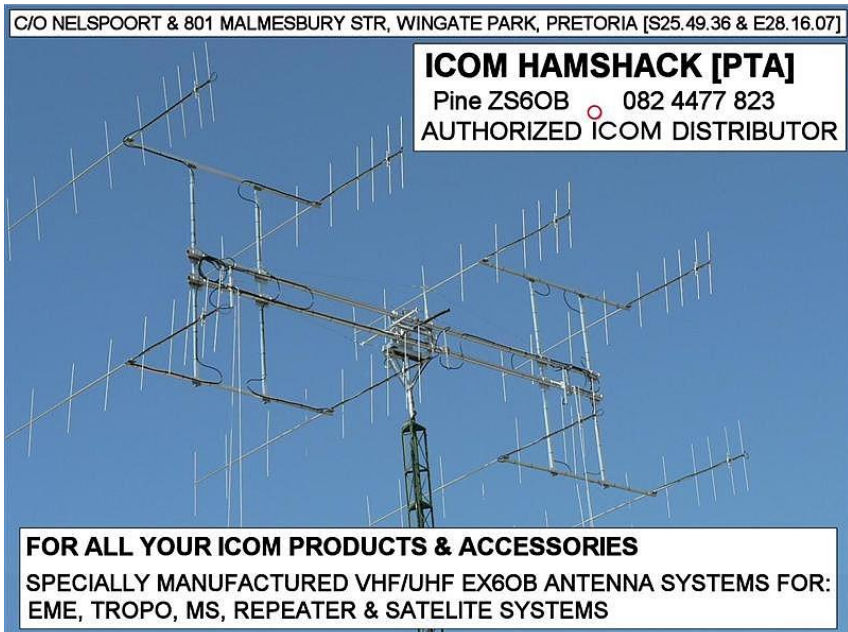


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### **Calling all operators — got a signal boost for Watts?**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who's contributed to Watts—whether through stories, photos, puzzles, or those delightful snippets that make us smile between QSOs. Your input keeps our signal strong and our spirit even stronger. Each edition reflects the voices, and heritage that make PARC more than just a club—it's a community.

We're always tuning for new frequencies of inspiration. If there's a topic you'd love to explore, a mystery you'd like decoded, or a skill you'd like to sharpen, let us know. Whether it's a tale from the shack, a tip from the field, or just a spark of inspiration, we'd love to hear from you.

Send your transmissions (aka emails) to [watts@parc.org.za](mailto:watts@parc.org.za) and help us keep the newsletter dialled in and full of good vibes.

*“Don't let your ideas fade into static — key up and share!”*