



WATTS

Pretoria Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Website: www.parc.org.za

Email: zs6pta@parc.org.za

WATTS Monthly Magazine of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club

Woman In Ham Radio



Highlights in this Issue

Birthdays Verjaarsdae, Joys and Sorrows Lief en Leed.....	3
Contests and Events Kompetisies en Gebeure.....	7
PARC Flea Market PARK Snuffelmark.....	8
PARC RAE Preparation Training.....	11
The Epitome of Ham Spirit and Friendship by Joe ZS6TB.....	12
The SARL National Field Day.....	17
East Rand Club Ham Fest – 27 February to 1 March.....	19
ARRL News.....	21
Long Term HF Propagation - March 2026 By Vincent, ZS6BTY.....	27
Motor Rallies 2026 Motor Tydrenne 2026.....	28
PARC Committee Members PARK Komiteelede.....	32
Co-opted Committee Members Gekoöpteer Komiteelede.....	32

To every reader, supporter, and contributor who's tuned in to Watts—thank you. Whether you've shared a story, sparked a laugh, or simply kept the signal strong by reading along, you're part of what makes this frequency worth broadcasting.

We'd love to hear more from you. Got a quirky club tale, a burning question, a bright idea, or a moment worth amplifying? Send it our way at watts@parc.org.za. The mic is always open, and your voice keeps the airwaves alive.

Stay curious, stay connected—and keep the dial on Watts. 73

Stay Connected

- WhatsApp Group: Contact any committee member
- Bulletins: 145.725 MHz (Sundays 08h45)
- Relays: 439.025, 438.225, 145.725, 7.066 MHz + Echolink
- Swopshop: 2m & 7.066 MHz live after bulletins
- Rebroadcast: Mondays 19h45 (2m)



Birthdays | Verjaarsdae, Joys and Sorrows | Lief en Leed

Members' Birthdays — March | Lede Verjaarsdae — Maart

Date	Name	Callsign
01 March	Ben Greyling	ZS6YVC
05 March	Martie Venter (Ehlers)	ZS6MV
08 March	Trev Thomsen	Z21GX
14 March	Uys Classen	ZS6UYS
15 March	Dave Bingham	ZS6AAI
22 March	Julian Bouttell	ZS6AOU
22 March	Ivan Jancuska	ZS6CCW
24 March	Marike Roux	ZS6MRX
27 March	Sarel Stapelberg	ZS6EK

Wishing you loud signals, clear frequencies, and zero interference on your special day. Happy birthday!

Spouses' Birthdays — March | Gade Verjaarsdae — Maart

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
08 March	DP Du Toit	ZR6DP	Vasthi
12 March	Vitor Gouveia	ZS6VG	Rita
15 March	Charlie Pretorius	LISTENER	Alice
16 March	Brian Allchin	ZS1ABW	Alta
18 March	Albert Schreuder	ZS6SE	Joydene
20 March	Nico Michael	ZS6BVR	Mary
22 March	Charles Mills	ZS6CJM	Bertha
23 March	Attie Reynecke	ZS6REY	Anne.marie
24 March	Andre Roux	ZS6ARX	Marike
30 March	George William Ellis	ZS6TA	Madelaine
31 March	Pieter Fourie	ZS6CN	Annatjie

May your celebration be filled with laughter, love, and new adventures. Enjoy your special day!

Members' Birthdays — April | Lede Verjaarsdae — April

Date	Name	Callsign
07 April	Henk Badenhorst	ZS6BA
10 April	Nic Louw	ZS6NWL
16 April	Andre Roux	ZS6ARX
19 April	Etienne Naude	ZS6EFN
24 April	Jaco Steyn	ZSL6119
28 April	Elias Tibane	ZR6T

Spouses' Birthdays — April | Gade Verjaarsdae — April

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
10 April	Graham Reid	ZS6GJR	Joey
15 April	Dylan Foord	ZS6TDK	Tali Foord
15 April	Evan Seligmann	ZS6ELI	Joanne
16 April	Marike Roux	ZS6MRX	André
16 April	Andries Lombard	ZS6ABL	Tania
18 April	Elias Tibane	ZR6TT	Sarah
25 April	Dave Bingham	ZS6AAI	Ansa
29 April	Vincent Harrison	ZS6BTY	Heather

Wedding Anniversaries March 2026 | Huweliks Herdenkings Maart 2026

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
02 March	Corlia en Pierre Smit	ZS6CHS, ZS6PS	Pierre en Corlia
15 March	Adriaan johannes Reynecke	ZS6REY	Anne.marie
17 March	Christiaan van den Heever	ZS6CMH	
25 March	Irene en Pieter Myburgh	ZS6IEA, ZS6PAM	Pieter en Irene
26 March	Louis de Wet	ZS6SK	Sharmaine
27 March	Etienne Naude	ZS6EFN	Fiona
30 March	Daniel Petrus Du Toit	ZR6DP	Vasthi
31 March	Sybrand Van der Spuy	ZS6SY	Liezel

Wedding Anniversaries April 2026 | Huweliks Herdenkings April 2026

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
05 April	John Bernard Olivier	ZR6GV	Esta
07 April	Jacques Coetzee	ZS6RFJ	Jacqueline
10 April	Evan Seligmann	ZS6ELI	Joanne
12 April	Maria Schroder	ZS6SLR	Lukas
12 April	Louis Coetzee	ZS6GLC	Marita
30 April	Graham Reid	ZS6GJR	Joey

New Members | Nuwe Lede

Fernando De Oliveira ZS6FCO

Frikkie van Niekerk ZR4FN

We're really glad to have you with us. Whether you're brand new to amateur radio or bringing years of experience along, you're among friends here. PARC is about learning together, sharing what we know, and enjoying the hobby as a community. We look forward to getting to know you and having you be part of the journey.

Joys and Sorrows / Lief en Leed

Hierdie week het ons klub 'n baie spesiale sein ontvang —

een wat Woensdag 25 Februarie 2026 hard en duidelik deurgekom het!

Baie geluk aan Pierre Holtzhausen (ZS6PJH), wat nou amptelik die trotse titel van oupa dra.



Electronic Component Supply:

Lantis Electronics imports and supply various electronic components in South Africa.

Equipment Repairs:

Lantis Electronics repairs professional audio and studio equipment.

Phone Numbers:

+27 12 348 4858

+27 66 124 7281

Email: Salesbox@lantis.co.za

Web Site: www.lantis.co.za

481 Alsatian Ave

Faerie Glen
Pretoria

0043

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. Die 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: March 2026 – April 2026

Date	Presenter	Date	Presenter
1 March 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	7 April 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
8 March 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	12 April 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
15 March 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	19 April 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
22 March 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	26 April 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
29 March 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	3 May 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP



Contests and Events | Kompetisies en Gebeure

March 2026

- 1 March — SARL HAMNET 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest (1200Z -1400Z)
- 3 March — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z - 0159Z)
- 7 March — SARL YL QSO Party (1400Z - 1500Z)
- 7 March — ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB (0000Z, Mar 7 to 2400Z, Mar 8)
- 10 March — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z-0159Z)
- 14 March — SARL National Field Day - start 0800Z
- 15 March — SARL National Field Day - end 1000Z
- 16 March — SARL March Equinox 6m DX Challenge - start 0001Z
- 17 March — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z-0159Z)
- 21 March — SARL Saturday 20 m Club Contest (1100Z - 1200Z)
- 24 March — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z-0159Z)
- 28 March — Africa All Mode International DX Contest - start 1200Z
- 29 March — Africa All Mode International DX Contest - end 1200Z

April 2026

- 2 April — SARL 80 m QSO Party Thursday 17:00 20:00
- 4 April SARL QRP Contest Saturday 13:30 15:30
- 7 April — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z - 0159Z)
- 11 April — Africa FT4 DX Contest Saturday (1500Z – 1800Z)
- 12 April — ZS4 QSO Party Sunday (1400Z - 1500Z)
- 14 April — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z-0159Z)
- 16 April — SARL March Equinox 6m DX Challenge - end Thursday 2026/04/16 23:59
- 18–19 April — World Time Zone Challenge (1200Z, Apr 18 to 1200Z, Apr 19)
- 21 16 April — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z - 0159Z)
- 25 April —SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest Saturday 2026/04/25 15:00 16:00
- 28 April — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z - 0159Z)
- 30 April —End of ISS Contact Session Thursday 2026/04/30 23:59

The Pretoria Ammateur Radio Club does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of contest details listed above. For verification and more information, please visit the SARL website, www.sarl.org.za , as well as the WA7BNM international contest calendar at the following website: <http://hornucopia.co>

Tip: Always verify contest details on SARL and WA7BNM calendars.

PARC Flea Market | PARK Snuffelmark

Snuffelmark

FORGE PAUL POOLE

NEXT FLEA MARKET

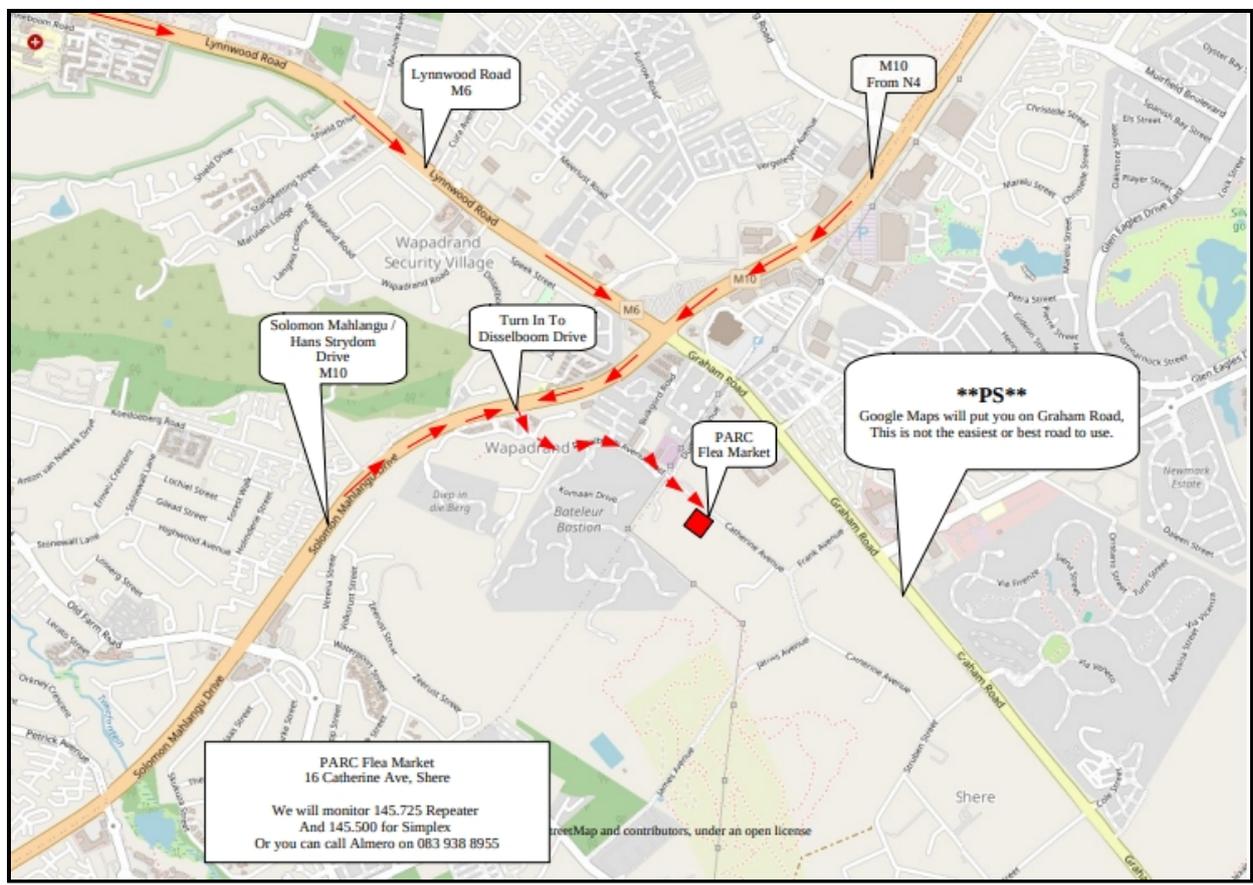
April 4

16 Catherine Rd, Shere

BOOK YOUR TABLE:
Almero du Pisani | 083 938 8955 | almerodps@gmail.com

JOIN US

16 Catherine Road, Shere, Pretoria East



Next Flea Market Date: 4 April / Volgende Snuffelmark Datum: 4 April

CONTACT PERSON: Alméro Du Pisani

(T) 083-938-8955

(E) almerodps@gmail.com

**** Please take note: the price of a table at the fleamarket is now R30 per table.**

**** Neem asseblief kennis: die prys van 'n tafel by die vlooiemark is nou R30 per tafel.**

Upcoming Dates — 2026

- 4 Apr 2026 — PARC
- 6 June 2026 — PARC
- 1 August 2026 — PARC
- 5 December 2026 — PARC

Other Clubs — 2026

- 7 March 2026 — West Rand Radio Club



Pelican Cases at

R100 each

WhatsApp orders to 0832326146 or email

zs6pie@gmail.com



PARC RAE Preparation Training

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club (PARC) is thrilled to announce that we are officially hosting **RAE (Radio Amateur Examination) preparation training** at our very own **registered exam centre**. This marks an exciting milestone for our community: we are fully equipped with **HF trainers, a qualified invigilator, and all the resources needed** to help aspiring radio amateurs succeed.

At PARC, we believe there is always room for learning, growth, and new voices on the airwaves. Whether you're just starting your journey into amateur radio or looking to sharpen your skills, our training sessions are designed to be **inclusive, professional, and supportive**.

We're ready to get started—and we'd love for you to be part of it. If you're interested in joining our RAE preparation training, simply send us an email at RAE@PARC.ORG.ZA

Or you can visit our PARC web page <https://www.parc.org.za/index.php?page=rae>

Let's make 2026 the year you earn your amateur radio license and join the vibrant world of radio communication. The airwaves are waiting—are you ready to answer the call?



RAE Preparation training now available
Email rae@parc.org.za for details

RAE

RADIO AMATEUR EXAM

Pretoria Amateur Radio Club



The Epitome of Ham Spirit and Friendship by Joe ZS6TB

Getting old is not for sissy's.

Due to health problems and the fact that after 58 years of marriage, my wife refused to cook.

Our children insisted we sell our home of 52 years and move to a retirement complex with care facilities. NOT AN OLD AGE HOME.

Now to clean out my shack of 46 years... HOW??

I had a beautiful 15M tower on which I had a 5 element tri-bander—a Japanese construction called TET, above which was a 6/6 skeleton slot for 2M and a multi element 70cm Yagi attached on the side of the tower. The tower was a tilt over one and had to be removed. The bottom 1/3 section of course was planted into and supported by a deep concrete block fitted 42 years back by the late Herman Wessels ZS6AM.



After trying unsuccessfully to sell the tower and beams, my very good friend Vernon Fryer, ZS6AIG came to the rescue to ASSIST IN LOWERING the tower, dismantling the 5 element. Beam wrapping it up to be couriered it to ham in the Free State.

This was an immense job and took some days to complete. This of course for Vernon having to climb up and down the tower seeing to it that it came down perfectly, causing no damage, while I sat in a chair watching and feeling very sorry for myself. (NO MORE TOWER AND ANTENNAS).



The amount of work he did was unbelievable and displayed the best ham spirit you could imagine.

Vernon, thank you my tjomie, for all your help and friendship. I could not have asked for a better friend and will NEVER forget your kindness and help.

I would also like to thank my friend Mervyn Schmidt, ZS6MES, for going through my junk (as my wife called it) sorting out what to keep and what to toss. You have always been there for me when I needed your help.

Bless you both for displaying ham spirit and friendship of the top order, because I could never have been able to do this without your help.. I now even have a small ham shack or maybe setup in the retirement home.

May our friendship continue for many years through this wonderful hobby of ours, HAM RADIO.

Joe Katzman.

ZS6TB



The SARL National Field Day

Fellow hams, the **SARL National Field Day** is fast approaching, and once again it offers us the chance to enjoy amateur radio as it was meant to be—out in the field. Field Day is not only about operating under portable conditions, but also about camaraderie, learning, and showcasing our skills. All members are encouraged to take part, whether by operating, assisting, or simply coming along to support the event. Let's make this year's Field Day a strong and enjoyable showing for our club.



The PARC Contest Team will be operating as a Class A station — get on the air and show your support.

Class A – Field Station, Multi operator. Such stations must be located in places that are not regular station locations and must comply with the requirements of a Field Station and Station Equipment as defined in the general section of rules. A single licensee or trustee for the entry is responsible for the group entry under a single callsign. All equipment (including antennas) must lie within a circle whose radius does not exceed 500 metres. All contacts must be made with transmitter(s) and receiver(s) operating independent of mains power.

Below are the basics you need to know, with more detailed information on the **SARL National Field Day** available in the [2026 SARL Contest Manual](#).

Aim

To work as many stations in the Southern African SADC region as possible on all the HF amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17 and 12 m bands). In doing so, to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less-than-optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

The focus of National Field Day is QSOs with SADC based stations, QSOs with stations outside the SADC region score less points.

To encourage General Stations to participate and contact field stations a specific award of Field Station Master Contactor will be made to General Stations that contact all the field stations listed in the 'Friday List' (per leg and overall).

Date and Times

- 08:00 UTC on Saturday 14 March to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 15 March 2026 (2nd full weekend of March)

Frequencies and Modes

- 3.1. 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m.
- 3.2. The segment from 7 100 to 7 130 kHz is contest free
- 3.3. The segment from 3 651 to 3 699 kHz is contest free
- 3.4. The modes that may be used are Phone and CW.
 - 3.4.1. Phone and CW modes on a band are considered as separate bands.
 - 3.4.2. A station may be worked only once per band under this rule.

Shack Talk by Vernon - ZS6AIG (Part 4) Woman in Ham Radio



Women have played a fascinating and often under-appreciated role in the history of ham radio. While the hobby was historically male-dominated, women have been active participants since the early 20th century and continue to shape its future. Their involvement highlights the inclusivity and diversity of amateur radio, expanding the hobby beyond technical experimentation into a global community-building tool.

In South Africa, YLs are part of a supportive network through SARL and local clubs, contributing to contests, education, and emergency communications. Currently, SARL has 44 female members, though many more licensed YLs may not be registered with SARL. At PARC, we are fortunate to have five licensed YLs, and I believe this number will grow by year-end.

One remarkable woman who comes to mind is Annie van der Merwe. Licensed in 1946 in Bloemfontein as ZS4AZ (later ZS1AZ), she was among the first women hams in South Africa. Annie served as the founding secretary of the Bloemfontein Branch of SARL and later became Awards Manager in the late 1950s, overseeing certificates and awards. Her dedication to administration, awards, and community-building helped strengthen SARL during its formative decades. I was privileged to log her former call sign, ZS4AZ, in 1989.



Her articles in Radio ZS highlighted the role of women in amateur radio, and it is fitting that she was inducted into the SARL Amateur Radio Hall of Fame for her pioneering role. Annie's story represents the family spirit of ham radio in South Africa and continues to inspire future generations of YLs.

Lady ham operators are not about "pink rigs" or carpeted shacks — it is about family and community building. In all my discussions with YLs, they share the same sentiment: ham radio is about connection, service, and friendship.

In the next issue of Shack Talk, I will be highlighting one of our own remarkable lady hams. Stay tuned as we continue exploring the rigs, people, and stories that make ham radio such a special part of our lives. Until then, keep those signals strong and those friendships stronger — 73!

And don't forget to join us at the new flea market venue

East Rand Club Ham Fest – 27 February to 1 March

We popped in at the East Rand Club Ham Fest weekend and had a great time.

What really stood out was the spirit — the sense of community, shared passion, and genuine connection that makes this hobby special.

Always good to see people coming together around radio, learning from each other, and keeping the tradition alive.

Thanks to everyone who made it happen!







Icom America Named Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club

02/26/2026

Newington, CT – ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is pleased to announce that Icom America is the Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club, supporting the initiatives that spotlight and strengthen ARRL Affiliated Clubs throughout 2026.

The ARRL Board of Directors designated 2026 as the ARRL Year of the Club, recognizing the essential role that local amateur radio clubs play in building community, mentoring new operators, and delivering public service at the grassroots level. This nationwide focus celebrates clubs as engines of civic engagement and increases public awareness of the Amateur Radio Service through local connections across the United States.

“Amateur radio clubs are the backbone of the hobby,” said Ray Novak, N9JA, Senior Sales Manager at Icom America. “Icom works closely with them to support education, growth, and engagement. Strong clubs create strong communities, and Icom is proud to support them.”

Supporting Clubs On the Air and Beyond

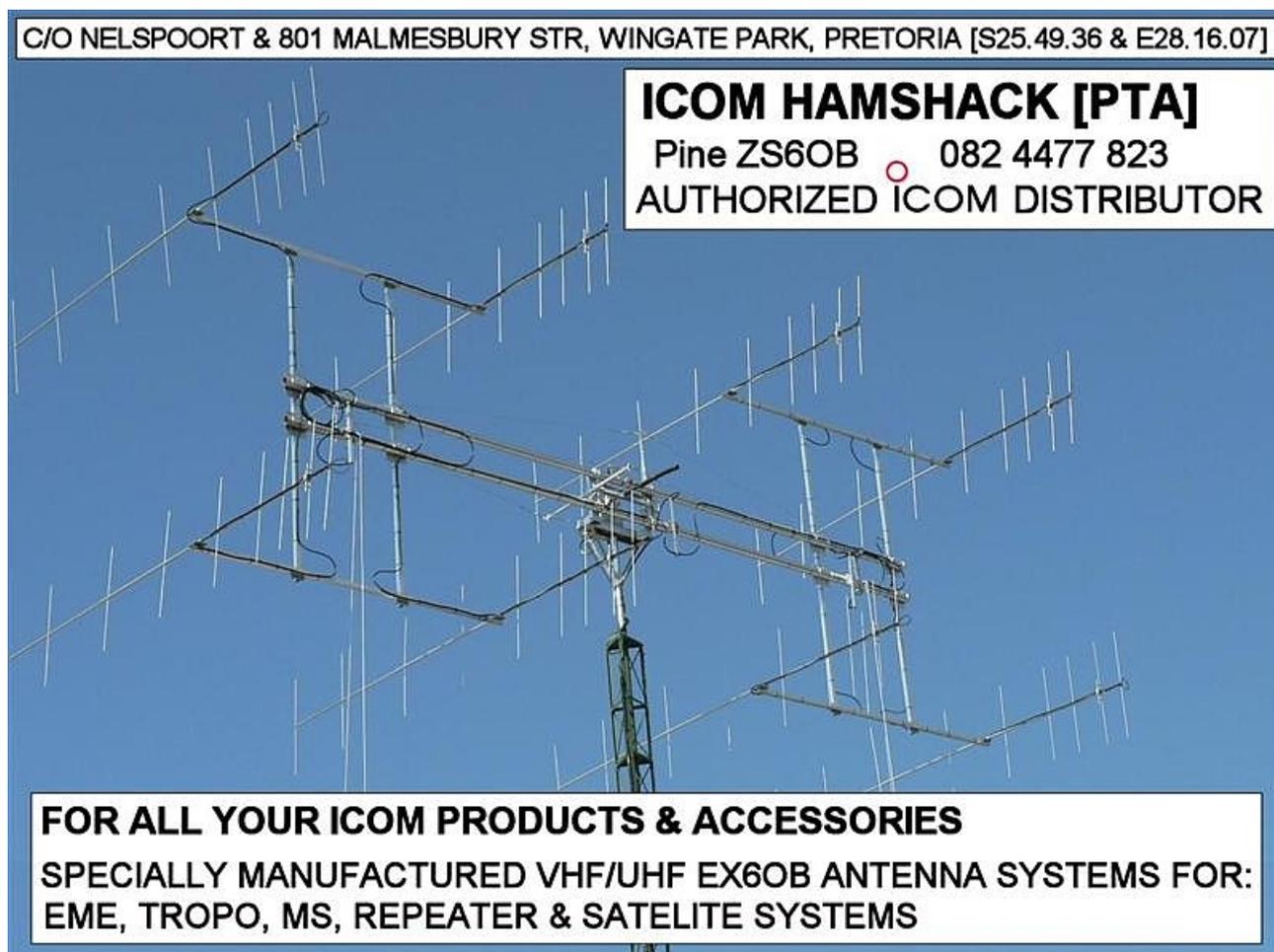
ARRL has emphasized the broader impact of the initiative. “The Year of the Club places a spotlight on the vibrant community of radio clubs,” said ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA. “By investing in clubs, Icom and ARRL are reinforcing the local foundation of amateur radio—where mentorship begins, technical skills are shared, and public service takes root,” said Minster.

Through its sponsorship, Icom is supporting content that highlights the work of radio clubs in *QST*, ARRL newsletters and publications, and through resources and activities designed to help clubs thrive.

As part of ARRL’s broader 2026 activities, ARRL has launched the America250 Worked All States (WAS) operating event, a year-long on-air activity encouraging amateur radio operators worldwide to make contact with all 50 US states in honor of America’s 250th anniversary. Radio clubs are participating and supporting a special endorsement for operators who contact ARRL Affiliated Clubs in all 50 states during the year. In addition, clubs and hamfests are hosting W1AW/portable activations in all 50 states, creating another endorsement opportunity for participants.

ARRL also announced that the theme of 2026 ARRL Field Day, held June 27–28, will be “Amateur Radio: A National Resource.” Since 1933, Field Day has been the largest on-the-air operating event in North America, showcasing amateur radio’s readiness to provide resilient communications in times of need while engaging the public through hands-on demonstrations and community outreach. This year’s Field Day will emphasize club participation and the use of club call signs.

For more information about the ARRL Year of the Club, the America250 Worked All States operating event, and 2026 ARRL Field Day, visit www.arrl.org.



C/O NELSPOORT & 801 MALMESBURY STR, WINGATE PARK, PRETORIA [S25.49.36 & E28.16.07]

ICOM HAMSHACK [PTA]
Pine ZS6OB 082 4477 823
AUTHORIZED ICOM DISTRIBUTOR

FOR ALL YOUR ICOM PRODUCTS & ACCESSORIES
SPECIALLY MANUFACTURED VHF/UHF EX60B ANTENNA SYSTEMS FOR:
EME, TROPO, MS, REPEATER & SATELITE SYSTEMS

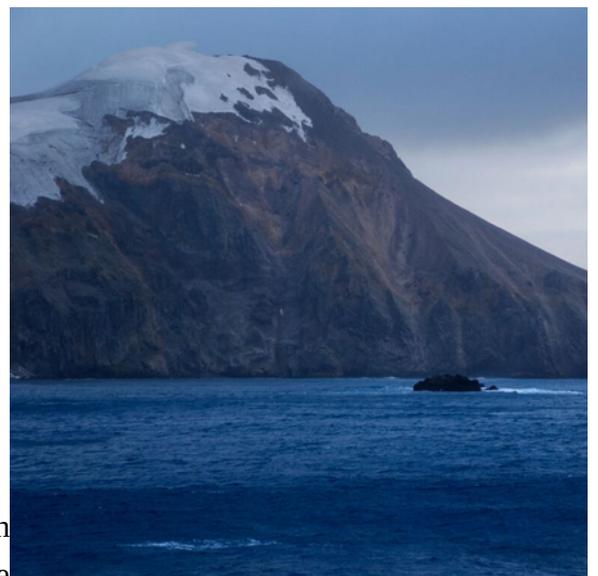
The Bouvet Islands

Bouvet Island (Bouvetøya) is an uninhabited sub-Antarctic volcanic island and a Norwegian dependency, widely recognized as the most remote island in the world. Located in the South Atlantic Ocean, it is 93% glaciated, features extreme terrain, and serves as a nature reserve with a small research station.



Key Facts about Bouvet Island:

- **Location:** South Atlantic Ocean, approximately 2,600 km southwest of South Africa and over 1,600 km north of Antarctica.
- **Geography:** A small, 49 volcanic island almost entirely covered by glaciers, with steep, icy cliffs making access extremely difficult.
- **Status:** A Norwegian dependency since 1930 and a protected nature reserve.
- **Climate & Environment:** Sub-Antarctic with harsh conditions. The only accessible area is Nyrøysa on the northwest coast, home to a small, often unmanned weather station.



- **Wildlife:** The island is a breeding ground for southern elephant seals, Antarctic fur seals, and penguins (Macaroni, Chinstrap).
- **History:** Discovered in 1739 by French explorer Jean-Baptiste-Charles Bouvet de Lozier

Norwegian band plan and IARU Region 1 shall apply

The following band plan is contingent on frequency availability at the time we are QRV.

Band	CW	SSB	FT8	Band	Mode
160m	Free	N/A	1836 kHz	160m	CW/FT8
80m	Free	N/A	3567 kHz	80m	CW/FT8
60m	Free	N/A	5357 kHz	60m	CW/FT8
40m	Free	Free	7090 kHz	40m	All mode
30m	Free	Free	10131 kHz	30m	CW/FT8
20m	Free	Free	14090 kHz	20m	All mode
17m	Free	Free	18095 kHz	17m	All mode
15m	Free	Free	21090 kHz	15m	All mode
12m	Free	Free	24911 kHz	12m	All mode
10m	Free	Free	28090 kHz	10m	All mode
				SAT	QO-100

NO TX portion of bands

Band	CW
160m	1810-1815
80m	3500-3510
40m	7000-7010
30m	10100-10105
20m	14000-14010
17m	18068-18073
15m	21000-21010
12m	24890-24895
10m	28000-28010

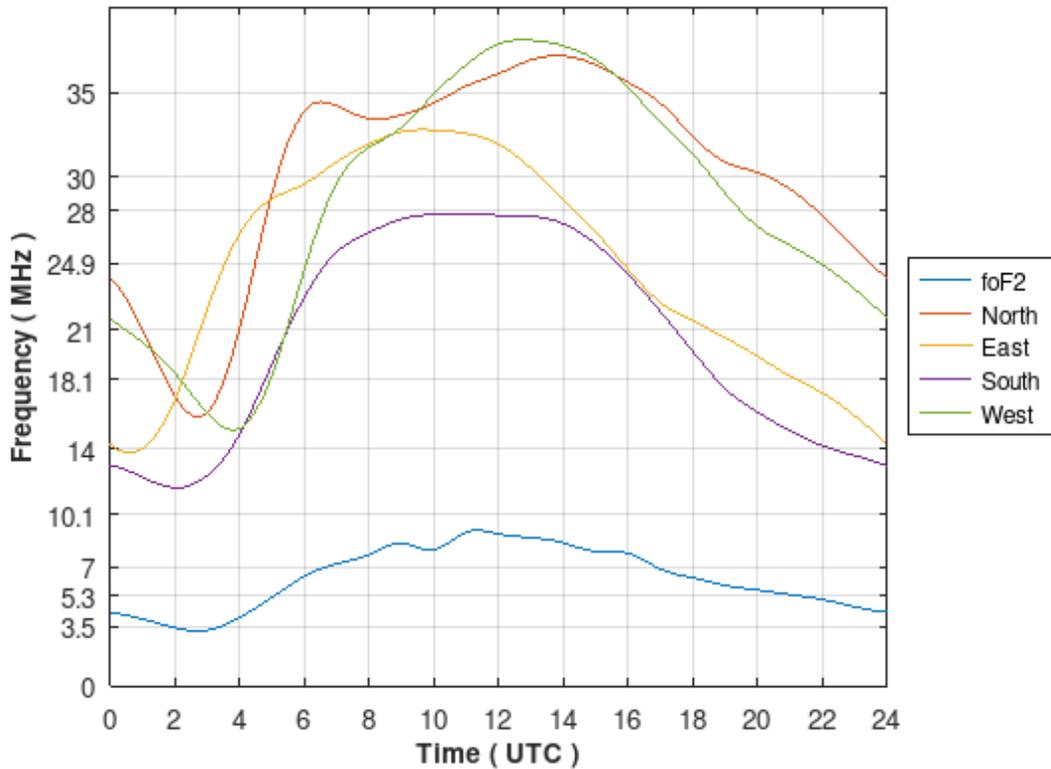
DQRM simplex windows

Band	CW (kHz)	SSB
80m	3510-3530	N/A
40m	7010-7030	7120-7150
30m	10105-10125	N/A
20m	14010-14030	14.160-14.190
17m	18073-18088	18.130-18.160
15m	21010-21030	21.160-21.190
12m	24895-24910	24.940-24.970
10m	28010-28030	28.320-28.350

Long Term HF Propagation - March 2026 By Vincent, ZS6BTY

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

Pretoria Critical Frequency and 4000 km MUF - March 2026, (SSN = 100.2)



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

[1] FTZMUF2: A simple method of estimating the ionospheric parameters of f_oF2 and $M(3000)$ with the aid of a home computer - Thomas Damboldt and Peter Süßmann, Deutsche Bundespost, December 1988.

[2] Silso 12-month forecasts of the monthly sunspot number (<http://sidc.oma.be/silso/FORECASTS/prediML.txt>)



The graphic features the Shield Racing logo at the top, which includes a checkered flag and the text 'SHIELD RACING'. Below the logo is the title '2026 RALLY SEASON'. The main content is a vertical list of seven rally events, each presented in a black bar with white text for dates and months, and yellow text for the event name. The background of the graphic shows a yellow and black rally car driving on a dirt road, kicking up dust.

Date	Rally Name
21 MAR	ALL TAR GEROTEK
24/25 APR	SWARTLAND RALLY
29/30 MAY	TZANEEN RALLY
10/11 JUL	ALGOA RALLY
21/22 AUG	TGRSA ERMELO RALLY
25/26 SEPT	FOURIESBURG RALLY
25/26 OCT	TRACN4 DULLSTROOM



MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA NPC

Reg. No 1995/004665/08

www.motorsport.co.za

Ground Floor, Quadrum 1, Quadrum Office Park, 50 Constantia Boulevard, Constantia Kloof, Rondebosch
e-mail: msa@motorsport.co.za Telephone (011) 675 2120

MSA NATIONAL RALLY-RAID CHAMPIONSHIP CIRCULAR 1 OF 2026

Affected parties are hereby advised of the following amendment to the 2026 MSA National Rally-Raid Championship Calendar, effective immediately, as approved by the MSA SA Rally-Raid Championship Promoter:

DATE	NAME OF VENUE	PROVINCE	ROUND	STATUS
6 – 7 Mar 2026	Stella	North-West	1	POSTPONED
8 – 10 May 2026	Outeniqua	Western Cape	2-1	
19 – 20 June 2026	Parys	Free State	3-2	
24 – 25 July 2026	Bronkhorstspuit	Gauteng	4-3	
28 – 29 August 2026	Reserve	Reserve	5-4	
9 – 10 October 2026	Vryheid	KwaZulu-Natal	6-5	
13 – 14 November 2026	Thabazimbi	Limpopo	7-6	

A revised 2026 SA Rally-Raid Championship calendar will be communicated to all stakeholders once finalised.

MSA apologises for any inconvenience caused by this change, but it is due to circumstances beyond MSA's control.

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Charmaine Fortune - charmaine@sarallyraid.co.za

CARMEN HILL
SPORTING SERVICES MANAGER
27 January 2026

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



Chairperson: Ms. C. Louw, Directors: V. Maharej (Chief Executive Officer), F. Joubert (Financial),
Ms. T. Hamman, Mrs. S. Lubanogovic-Joubert, Ms. E. Maharej, D. Rasmussen, Ms. M. Spoor
Interim Appointed Directors: K. Lortie, N. Trueman

For More Rally information please contact the following Radio Marshalls:

Graham Reid ZS6GJR at: 083-701-0511 or greid@wol.co.za

Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA at: 082-462-6001/ 084-544-0618 or irene.myburgh@outlook.com

Housekeeping



Want to stay in the loop with PARC?
 If you'd like to join the PARC WhatsApp group, simply share your contact details with any committee member — we'll make sure you're added and welcomed aboard!

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

Membership Fees & Financial Year Reminder

To help members stay in sync with club commitments, please note that our financial year runs from **1 July to 30 June**. Membership fees are payable annually during the month of July, marking the start of our new financial cycle.

We encourage all members to renew their subscriptions in July to ensure uninterrupted participation in club activities and communications.

**** If membership fees remain overdue for three months, the membership will automatically be marked as inactive.**

Each member is responsible for updating and maintaining their personal information on the website.

PARC Committee Members | PARK Komiteelede

Name & Callsign	Portfolio/s	Email Address	Mobile No
Graham Reid ZS6GJR	Chairman Treasurer Rallies	greid@wol.co.za	083-701-0511
Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA	Vice Chairlady Secretary Social	irene.myburgh@outlook.com	082-462-6001 084-544-0618
Hendri Ehlers ZS6HFE	Website & Social Media ICASA Liaison Repeaters	zs6hfe@gmail.com	083-460-5586
Louis de Wet ZS6SK	Club Historian Awards SARL Liaison	louis.zs6sk@gmail.com	072-140-9893
Martie Venter ZS6MV	Watts Newsletter RAE Training Club Membership	zs6mv73@gmail.com	072-273-1370

Co-opted Committee Members | Gekoöpteer Komiteelede

Name & Callsign	Portfolio/s	Email Address	Mobile No
Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP (Hon.)	Flea-markets Swop Shop	almerodps@gmail.com	083-938-8955
Pieter Myburgh ZS6PAM	Repeaters	wooden@mweb.co.za	076-140-7562
Pierre Holtzhausen ZS6PJH	Contests	zs6pjh@gmail.com	082-575-5799

To every reader, supporter, and contributor who's tuned in to Watts—thank you. Whether you've shared a story, sparked a laugh, or simply kept the signal strong by reading along, you're part of what makes this frequency worth broadcasting.

We'd love to hear more from you. Got a quirky club tale, a burning question, a bright idea, or a moment worth amplifying? Send it our way at watts@parc.org.za. The mic is always open, and your voice keeps the airwaves alive.

Stay curious, stay connected—and keep the dial on Watts. 73