



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

PARC May RAE



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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, 438.825, 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 — June | Lede Verjaarsdae — Junie

Date	Name	Callsign
04 June	Rivac Jacques Alberts	RIVAC
07 June	Chris Oosthuysen	ZS6OC
09 June	Charles Mills	ZS6CJM
10 June	Louis Pires	LISTENER1
13 June	Graeme Van Schalkwyk	ZS6GVS
14 June	Attie Reynecke	ZS6REY
16 June	ebe Terzakis	ZR6EBE
19 June	Fanus Ferreira	ZS6BUH
21 June	Marc Vanoverbeke	ZS6ON
22 June	Dylan Foord	ZS6TDK
25 June	Janre Buys	ZS6SI
26 June	Pieter Stronkhorst	ZR6PSR
26 June	Jacques Coetzee	ZS6RFJ
27 June	Leon Fouche	ZS6LEF
30 June	Annelie van Niekerk	ZS6AVN

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

Spouses' Birthdays — June | Gades Verjaarsdae — Junie

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
01 June	Etienne Naude	ZS6EFN	Fiona
16 June	Christoff Havenga	APOLLO84	Maritza
24 June	Johnny Scott	ZS6JSS	Belinda
27 June	Joe Katzman	ZS6TB	Selma

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

Members' Birthdays — July | Lede Verjaarsdae — Julie

Date	Name	Callsign
04 July	Marjoke Schuitemaker	ZS5V
05 July	John Olivier	ZR6GV
06 July	Helen Newton	ZR6HN
13 July	Braam Devenier	ZS6AYE

Date	Name	Callsign
13 July	Pieter Human	ZS6PA
17 July	Pine Pienaar	ZS6OB
19 July	Theo Bresler	ZS6TVB
20 July	Roy Newton	ZS6XN
26 July	Frank Schneider	ZS6GE
30 July	Dawid Dawid Schalk	ZS6VS
31 July	Erens Swanepoel	ZS6EFG

Spouses' Birthdays — July | Gades Verjaarsdae — Julie

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
01 July	Theo Bresler	ZS6TVB	Avida
09 July	Johann Morkel	ZS6HW	Marichelle
12 July	Louis de Wet	ZS6SK	Sharmaine
17 July	Jacques Coetzee	ZS6RFJ	Jacqueline
22 July	Pete Smith - Curren	ZS6PJ	Ria
27 July	Johan Lehmann	ZS6JPL	Elmarie

Wedding Anniversaries June 2026 | Huweliks Herdenkings Junie 2026

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
None			

Wedding Anniversaries July 2026 | Huweliks Herdenkings Julie 2026

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
04 July	David Bingham	ZS6AAI	Ansa
21 July	Andries Benjamin Lombard	ZS6ABL	Tania
28 July	Frank Schneider	ZS6GE	Patricia

New Members | Nuwe Lede

- Wolter van den Ham ZR6HAM
- Duncan Dean LEARNER
- Johan Morkel ZS6HW
- Pieter Piek ZS6PWA
- Ryan Sylvester ZS6RSZ
- Graeme van Schalkwyk ZS6GVS

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.

Contests and Events | Kompetisies en Gebeure

June 2026

- 2 June — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z - 0159Z)
- 3 June — SARL Top Band QSO Contest Wednesday (2201Z)
- 6 - 7 June — ARRL Inter. Digital Contest (1800Z, Jun 6 to 2400Z, Jun 7)
- 7 June — SARL Top Band QSO Contest - end Sunday (2159Z)
- 9 June — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z - 0159Z)
- 13 June — SARL VHF/UHF FM Mode Contest Saturday (1000Z - 1300)
- 14 June — Hammies QSO Party Sunday (1400Z – 1500Z)
- 14 June — Portugal Day Contest (1200Z, Jun 13 to 1200Z, Jun 14)
- 16 June — SARL Youth QSO Party Tuesday (1200Z - 1300Z)
- 16 June — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z - 0159Z)
- 20 June — SARL Saturday 20 m Club Contest Saturday (1100Z – 1200Z)
- 20 June — ARRL Kids Day (1800Z - 2359Z)
- 20 – 21 June — All Asian DX Contest, CW (0000Z, Jun 20 to 2400Z, Jun 21)
- 23 June — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z – 0159Z)
- 30 June — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z – 0159Z)

July

- 4 July — SARL Newbie QSO Party Saturday (1100Z – 1600Z)
- 4-5 July — Marconi Memorial HF Contest (1400Z, Jul 4 to 1400Z, Jul 5)
- 5 July — ZS5 QSO Party Sunday (1400Z – 15:00Z)
- 11 - 12 July — IARU HF World Championship (1200Z, Jul 11 to 1200Z, Jul 12)
- 18 July — SARL QRP Contest Saturday (0700Z - 0900Z)
- 18 – 19 July — IARU Region 1 70 MHz Contest (1400Z, Jul 18 to 1400Z, Jul 19)
- 19 July — ZS2 QSO Party Sunday (1400Z – 1500Z)
- 19 July — YOTA Contest (1000Z-2159Z, Jul 19)
- 25 July — SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest Saturday (1500Z - 16Z00)
- 26 July — ZS1 QSO Party Sunday (1600Z – 1700Z)
- 26 July — ARS Flight of the Bumblebees (1700Z-2100Z, Jul 2)

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, 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

5 FORGE
ACADEMY & LABS

ISGPTA

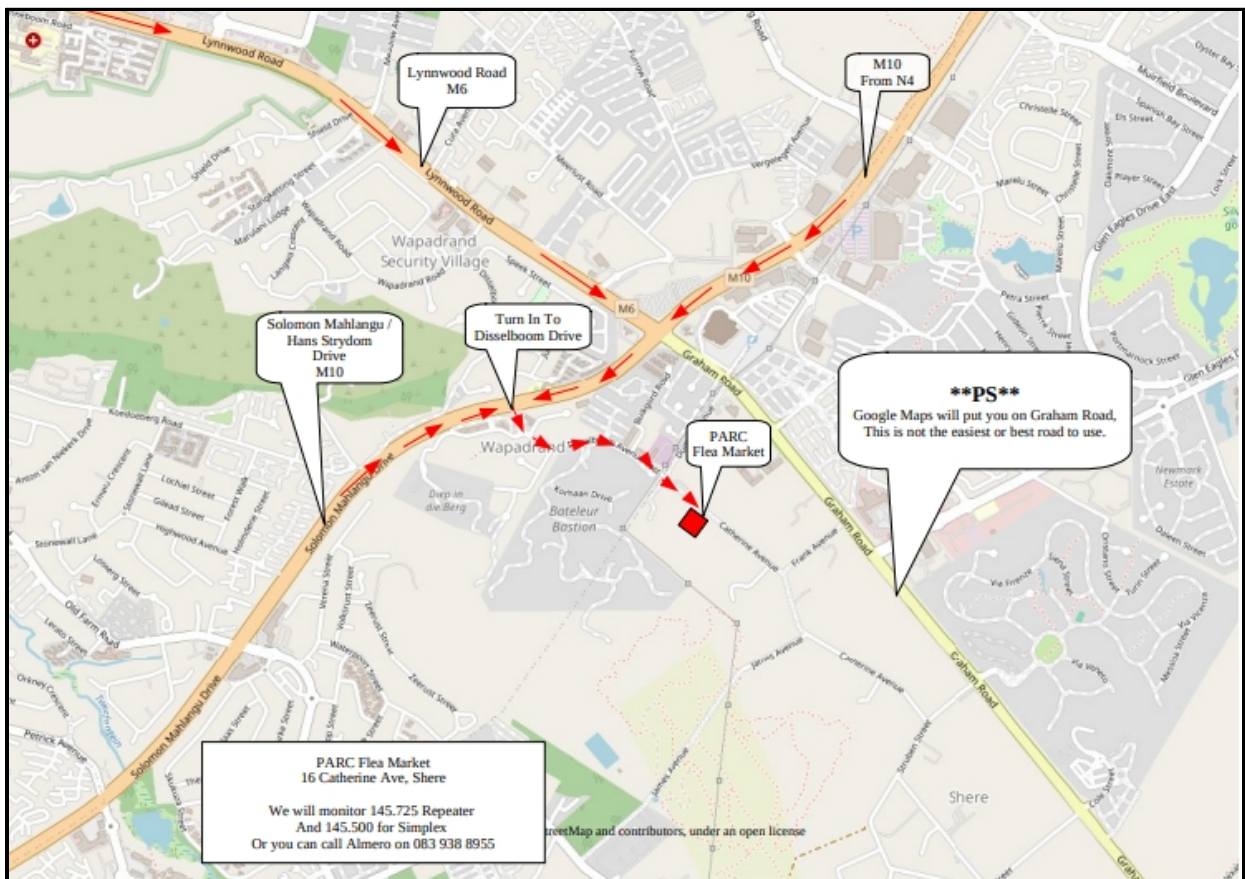
NEXT FLEA MARKET

AUGUST 1 @ 16 Catherine Rd, Shere

BOOK YOUR TABLE!
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almerodps@gmail.com

JOIN US

16 Catherine Road, Shere, Pretoria East



Next Flea Market Date: 1 August / Volgende Snuffelmark Datum: 1 Augustus

CONTACT PERSON: Alméro Du Pisani

(T) 083-938-8955

(E) almerodps@gmail.com

Secure your table today for just R30!
Verseker jou tafel vandag vir net R30!

Upcoming Dates — 2026

- 1 August 2026 — PARC
- 5 December 2026 — PARC

Other Clubs — 2026

- 29 August – West Rand Boot Sale
- 3 October – East Rand Boot Sale

The advertisement features a black AnyTone D168UV radio on the left. The screen displays '435.22500' and 'Zone 1'. To the right is the Radiomaster logo, which includes a stylized character wearing a cap and holding a radio. Below the logo, the text reads 'Back in stock' in large white letters, followed by 'Price: R2695' in white text on an orange background. At the bottom, a blue banner says 'Free Pudo delivery' in white.

The advertisement is divided into three parts. On the left is a photograph of an open black Pelican case containing a radio. On the right, there is text: 'Pelican Cases at R100 each', 'WhatsApp orders to 0832326146 or email zs6pie@gmail.com'. Below the text are two photographs of closed black Pelican cases. The first is a side view with a vertical dimension line indicating a height of '18 cm'. The second is a top-down view with horizontal and vertical dimension lines indicating a width of '28 cm' and a depth of '23 cm'.

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



RAE October 2026 RAE exam entries open Saturday 1st August 2026

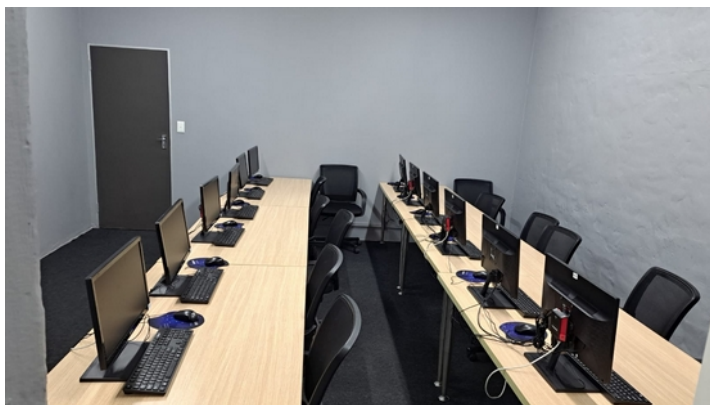
PARC MAY RAE

16 May could not come soon enough for the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club's RAE Team: Hendri Ehlers (ZS6HFE), Pierre Holtzhausen (ZS6PJH), Johan Lehmann (ZS6JPL), Louis de Wet (ZS6SK), Almero du Pisani (ZS6LDP), Vernon Fryer (ZS6AIG), and Martie Venter (ZS6MV).

With an official SARL Registered Exam Centre ready for action, the stage was set for something truly special — a new wave of operators preparing to light up the bands and strengthen the future of amateur radio.

The aspiring hams, trainers, and behind-the-scenes helpers had all worked tirelessly toward this day. Although not every member of the training team could be there in person, messages of encouragement came pouring in. Fellow club members and ham-family from near and far sent their best wishes, proving once again that amateur radio is far more than a hobby — it is a community.

Hendri, Vernon and Martie arrived early to prepare the exam centre and break room. The club banner proudly went up, refreshments were unpacked, and the clubhouse slowly came alive with anticipation.





Just after 08:00 the aspiring amateurs began arriving, welcomed by the comforting aroma of fresh coffee and toasted sandwiches delivered from the restaurant — appropriately named *The Clubhouse*. You honestly could not script it better. Hi hi.

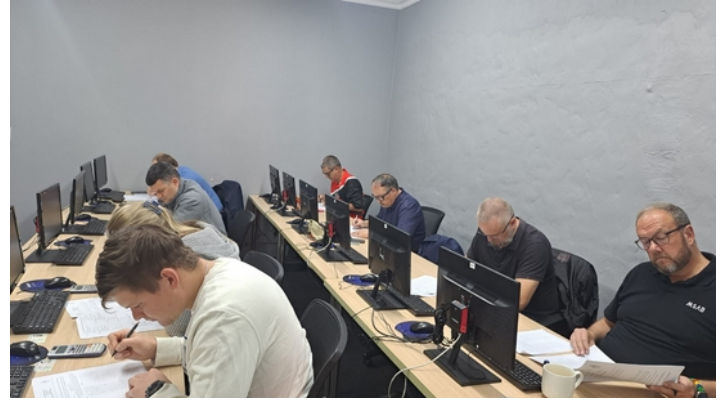
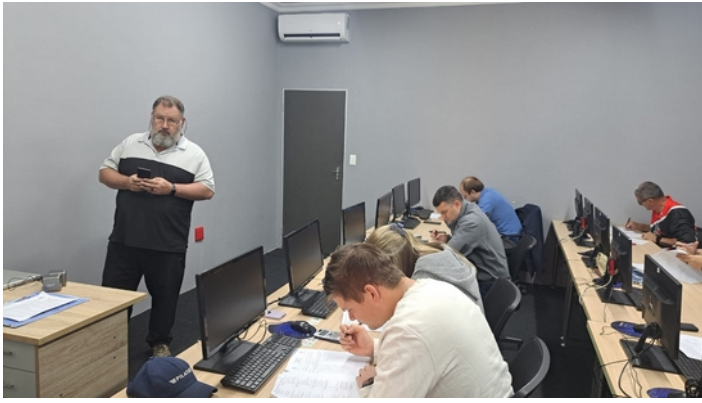


The atmosphere was electric — buzzing like a perfectly tuned rig on a clear frequency. Excitement, nerves, and eager conversation filled the air. Coffee cups were refilled, muffins nervously nibbled, and discussions bounced around the room with the rhythm of CQ calls waiting for replies.

Then came the moment.

When invigilator Hendri announced it was time to move into the exam room, the mood shifted instantly. Suddenly it was all very real. In almost ceremonial fashion, the sealed exam envelope was opened before the seated candidates while nervous smiles and focused faces looked on. If you listened carefully, you could probably hear heartbeats running QRO.





Not long after the exam began, Guy Eales ZS6GUY, President of the SARL, arrived with company to show support for the candidates and the club. Outside, we waited patiently in the sunshine for the aspiring hams to emerge — each one greeted with a handshake, congratulations, and of course, a cupcake. Because every successful transmission deserves good modulation *and* good snacks.



Before long, everyone was gathered outside, chatting, laughing, and replaying exam questions like a post-contest debrief. The tension had lifted, replaced by relief, camaraderie, and the unmistakable excitement of people standing at the threshold of their amateur radio journey.

And?

The outcome?



PARC

— • IS PROUD TO WELCOME • —
THE FOLLOWING
NEWLY LICENSED AMATEURS:

- ◆ Peter Fryer ZS6HMF
- ◆ Johan Morkel ZS6HW
- ◆ Pieter Piek ZS6PWA
- ◆ Caitlin Robinson ZS6CVO
- ◆ Ryan Sylvester ZS6RSZ
- ◆ Kieran van Oldenborgh ZS6KVO
- ◆ Graeme van Schalkwyk ZS6GVS



NEW CALL – NEW ADVENTURES – NEW FRIENDSHIPS

Shack Talk: Bumper Edition by Vernon - ZS6AIG (Part 7)

Yes, another article from *Shack Talk*! Hold on to your chair—this one’s a bumper edition, packed with all the doings and happenings at PARC over the past couple of weeks, plus a few surprises about what’s still to come.



For months I’ve wondered why so few Hams are building or getting involved in radio-related projects. It’s rare to find someone willing to share what they’re working on, or to show off a new gadget they’ve added to the shack.

Just as I was starting to worry about how we’ll pass on our knowledge to the next generation—who will take up the challenge, share their experiences, or showcase their projects—I realized our hobby isn’t dying as quickly as it sometimes seems. In fact, I’ve met two great guys who are busy with some awesome builds, love experimenting, and most importantly, are eager to share what they know.

I recently listened to **Janre (ZS6SI)** talking about building his Superheterodyne receiver. I’ve connected with him to follow his progress and hope to get him involved in my builder’s group. We need more young Hams like Janre, full of curiosity and energy.

Then last week, I met another bright mind—**Cameron Eales (ZS6CYE)**. He’s deeply interested in both old and new technologies, and his knowledge really impressed me. I’m thrilled that he’s willing to join in on the direction-finding SDR project I’m working on, which aims to track down the “happy trigger” on the PARC repeater.

Moving on to some exciting developments—plans are under-way to begin work on the foundation for our new **15m tower**. The first step will be digging a hole measuring **1.4m x 1.4m square and 1.4m deep** to support the tower base.



The second phase of our **tower-raising party** will involve sanding and painting, and we’ll be calling on volunteers to lend a hand. If you’d like to get involved, please reach out to **Martie (ZS6MV)** via our PARC Facebook group.

And just when I thought that was all for the month, another surprise project has started generating lots of discussion. We’re taking the next steps forward by launching a new initiative: once a month, we’ll be hosting

gatherings at our new clubhouse. These sessions will feature guest speakers on ham radio topics, opportunities to share experiences, and of course, plenty of eyeball QSOs.

Bring a friend along—it's a great chance to learn, ask for free advice, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Hams. There's even more happening behind the scenes that forms part of this bigger vision, but I'll save those details for the next *Shack Talk*.



Just watch the happening to come shortly

Some pictures lent from Martie ZS6MV



The newbies with the old timer.

Wrapping up this month, we celebrate the successful completion of the **RAE exams**, hosted at our new PARC venue. This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and support of **Hendri (ZS6HFE)**, **Louis (ZS6SK)**, **Johan (ZS6JPL)**, **Pierre (ZS6PJH)**, **Almero (ZS6DP)**, and the driving force behind us all, **Martie (ZS6MV)**—with me serving as observer. It's a shining example of what can be accomplished when friends come together for a common goal.

We also welcome our new members who will soon join the PARC family. Speaking of family, I am especially proud that my son Peter, who is also the main sponsor of our new venue, has finally sat for the RAE after many years. It means so much to have someone so close to me sharing the same shack and passion for the hobby.

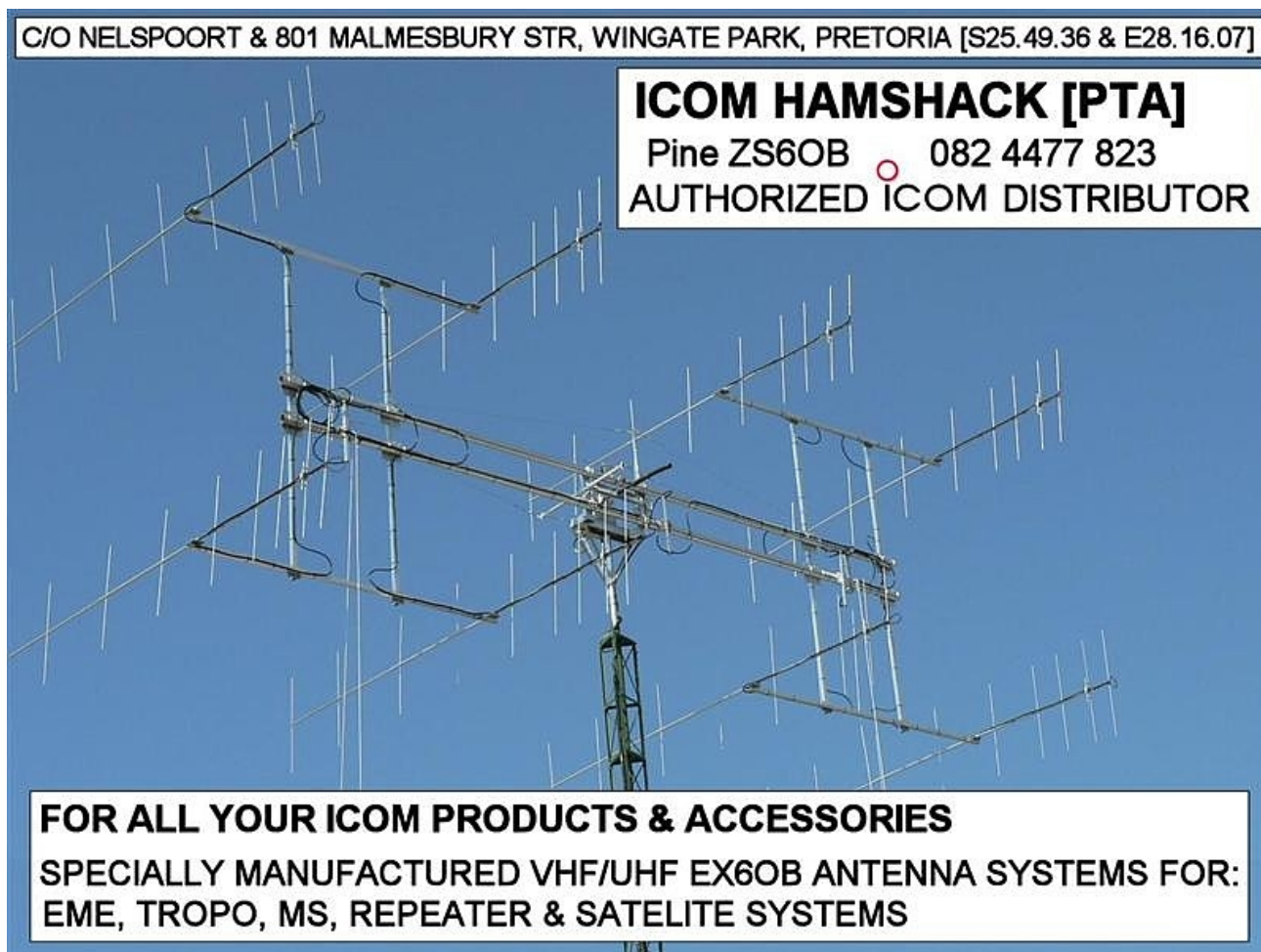
By the time this article is published, we'll be hearing those **new call signs**. Best of luck to all, and may this be the start of many great adventures on the airwaves!

In closure I am looking forward to the responses to our invite to join us at our monthly get together.

Until next time

73's

Vernon ZS6AIG



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

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The Noise Nightmare

Why Your Antenna is Acting Like a Noise Magnet (and How to Fix It)

Picture this: your antenna setup looks perfect on paper, your SWR is a sweet 1:1.1, but your radio is just screaming with a solid S9 background hiss. You can thank cheap LED lights, phone chargers, or solar setups for that.

Before you go spending money on a bigger wire or a taller mast, you need to understand why your antenna is practically *inviting* this electronic rubbish into your radio.

Radio Waves Have a "Split Personality"

Every radio wave is made of two parts working together:

- 1 An **Electric part** (the E-field)
- 2 A **Magnetic part** (the H-field)

Here is the trap: almost all standard antennas we use—like long wires, dipoles, and verticals—are obsessed with the **E-field**. They act like a giant fishing net designed specifically to catch electric fields.

Unfortunately, all the annoying static and buzz created by modern household gadgets is *mostly* E-field noise when you are close to it. So, by putting up a standard wire antenna in a crowded neighbourhood or retirement complex, you have essentially built the world's best local noise catcher.

LED Lights / Gadgets ---> Heavy "Electric" Noise ---> Sucked up by Wire Antennas

The Hack: Go Magnetic

To drop that horrible background noise without losing the signals you actually want to hear, you need an antenna that tunes out the E-field and only listens to the H-field. That is exactly what a **small magnetic loop antenna** does.

Because a magnetic loop is shaped and shielded differently, it ignores the electric noise entirely and only hunts for the magnetic part of the radio wave. Since local TVs and LED drivers don't produce much magnetic noise, your radio's noise floor instantly plummets, and the signals you want pop right out of the quiet background.

Even better, loops have a massive **blind spot** (called a null). If the worst noise is coming from a specific room down the hall, you literally just spin the loop antenna until its blind spot faces that room. *Poof*—the interference drops by up to 30 dB, while you can still hear everything else.

2 Quick Fixes for Your Shack:

- 1 **Try a Loop:** Experiment with a small magnetic loop antenna for receiving. It's a total game-changer for noisy areas.
- 2 **Choke the Cable:** Sometimes the noise isn't coming through the air; it's crawling up the outside of your coaxial cable from the wall sockets. Clamp some **ferrite snap-on chokes** onto your cable right where it plugs into your radio to block the noise.

PARC Flea Market – 6 June

The flea market on 6 June was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who contributed, participated, and helped make the day so special. The photos speak for themselves — what a fantastic turnout and atmosphere. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at the next one.





AI and Machine Learning Entering the Shack – By AI

For decades, amateur radio operators have embraced technology at the cutting edge of communication — from spark gaps and valves to satellites and software-defined radios. Now, a new frontier is emerging in the shack: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).

What once sounded like science fiction is quietly becoming reality on the amateur bands. The modern ham shack is evolving into something far more than microphones, coax, and antennas. Increasingly, it includes algorithms, automation, and intelligent software capable of “learning” from radio signals themselves.

What Exactly Is Machine Learning?

Machine Learning is a branch of AI where software learns patterns from data instead of following rigid instructions. In radio terms, this means software can learn to:

- Identify different signal types
- Separate weak signals from noise
- Recognize digital modes automatically
- Improve audio clarity
- Detect interference patterns
- Predict propagation trends



Instead of telling the computer exactly what to do every time, operators “train” systems using large amounts of signal data.

In many ways, this mirrors what experienced radio amateurs already do naturally. A seasoned operator can often identify a mode, signal issue, or propagation condition simply by listening. AI aims to teach computers to do something similar.

Weak Signal Decoding: AI's Natural Playground

One of the most exciting applications is weak signal detection.

Amateur radio has always pushed the limits of communication. Modes like FT8 already allow stations to complete QSOs with signals barely visible above the noise floor. Machine learning may take this even further.

Researchers are now experimenting with AI systems capable of:

- Recovering signals buried deeper in noise
- Improving decoding reliability
- Distinguishing overlapping transmissions
- Reducing false decodes

Imagine software that can “hear” a barely detectable CQ call hidden beneath static and interference — almost like giving your receiver an extra set of ears.

This could dramatically improve emergency communications, EME work, weak-signal DXing, and experimentation on crowded bands.

Intelligent Noise Reduction

Every operator knows the battle against noise:

- Power supplies
- Solar inverters
- Ethernet noise
- LED lighting
- Urban RF pollution

Traditional DSP filtering helps, but AI-based noise reduction is becoming remarkably effective because it learns the difference between “wanted” and “unwanted” audio.

Modern machine-learning noise reduction can:

- Clean up distorted SSB audio
- Remove repetitive interference
- Preserve voice clarity better than conventional filters
- Adapt dynamically as conditions change

Some operators already describe certain AI audio filters as sounding “almost magical” during poor band conditions.

Automatic Signal Recognition

One particularly exciting development is automatic signal classification.

Traditionally, identifying an unfamiliar signal required operator experience, reference charts, or waterfall analysis. AI systems can now analyze characteristics like:

- Bandwidth
- Timing
- Frequency patterns
- Modulation behavior

...and identify modes automatically.

This has applications for:

- Contest monitoring
- Spectrum analysis
- Interference hunting
- Educational tools
- Digital mode discovery

Future software may eventually watch an entire band in real time and instantly label every active mode on screen.

AI and SDR: A Perfect Partnership

Software Defined Radio (SDR) opened the door for AI integration because SDR radios already convert RF into digital data. Once signals become data, software can manipulate them in extraordinary ways.

The combination of SDR and AI allows:

- Real-time spectrum monitoring
- Automatic signal spotting
- Dynamic filtering
- Intelligent waterfall analysis
- Adaptive receiver performance

The shack of the future may rely less on physical controls and more on intelligent software assistants continuously optimizing reception behind the scenes.

The Human Side of the Debate

As with every major change in amateur radio, opinions are divided.

Some operators embrace AI as the next great technical frontier. Others worry that excessive automation could remove the human skill and challenge that make amateur radio rewarding.

Questions naturally arise:

- If software makes contacts automatically, where is the operator's role?
- At what point does assistance become automation?
- Can AI enhance the hobby without replacing the operator?

These are important discussions — and very familiar ones. Amateur radio has faced similar debates during the arrival of:

- Repeaters
- Packet radio
- SDR
- FT8
- Internet-linked systems

History suggests that amateur radio rarely abandons old technologies when new ones appear. Instead, the hobby expands to include both.

CW survived SSB. Valves survived transistors. Knobs survived touch screens. The bands always find room for experimentation.

Why This Matters for Amateur Radio

AI is not replacing amateur radio — it is giving operators new tools for experimentation.

And experimentation is at the very heart of the hobby.

The arrival of AI may inspire:

- New digital modes
- Better emergency communication systems
- Smarter propagation tools
- Improved accessibility for newcomers
- Advanced weak-signal research

Perhaps most importantly, it may attract a new generation of technically minded experimenters into amateur radio — programmers, engineers, data scientists, and makers who see the bands not only as places to communicate, but as laboratories for innovation.

Final Thoughts

For over a century, amateur radio operators have adapted to every technological revolution placed before them. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning may simply be the next chapter in that story.

The future shack may still contain antennas, microphones, and Morse keys — but sitting beside them could be software quietly analyzing the spectrum, decoding impossible signals, and helping operators push communication further than ever before.

The next great DX breakthrough might not come from a taller tower or bigger amplifier. It may come from a smarter algorithm.

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Senator Ted Cruz Praises Amateur Radio Volunteers for Emergency Preparedness

05/24/2026

Senator Ted Cruz, in a strong pre-Memorial Day message, publicly highlighted the critical role that Amateur Radio Service volunteers play during disasters, praising and thanking ham radio operators who provide essential communications when storms and emergencies knock out power and cellular networks and communities are cut off. Sen. Cruz observed that in these emergencies it is ham radio operators who step forward, bringing with them the tools, expertise, and the commitment to reconnect people when it matters most. He noted this dedication was clearly demonstrated in 2017 when Hurricane Harvey's catastrophic flooding devastated communities across Texas and that it was demonstrated again more recently in the horrific Camp Mystic floods. He emphasized that as the Nation prepares for yet another summer storm season, ham radio's role remains just as vital as ever.



Watch video now at youtu.be/4ZNeMXyCQ7Y

Stating that while future emergencies will come, Sen. Cruz pointed out that so would Amateur Radio — ready to respond, ready to serve, and to make a difference. He ended his statements, thanking ham radio for its courage and commitment, noting that Amateur Radio's work strengthens our communities.

Senator Cruz is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. His comments align with the ARRL's ongoing efforts to strengthen and protect Amateur Radio's role in emergency preparedness and public service communications.

His comments also reflect growing Congressional recognition of the value Amateur Radio Operators bring to communities across the country. ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® continues to advocate for legislation that protects and strengthens Amateur Radio's role in emergency preparedness and public service communications.

ARRL's nationwide grassroots campaign supporting the bipartisan Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act has generated more than 155,000 letters to members of Congress in support of H.R. 1094 and S. 459. The legislation seeks to ensure that Amateur Radio Operators can install and maintain effective outdoor antennas at

residences where private land-use restrictions might otherwise prohibit them, helping communities maintain resilient emergency communications capabilities during disasters.

ARRL Legislative Committee Chairman and West Gulf Division Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, said the continued outreach effort has required “long hours on the ground and an uncountable number of personal meetings with Senators, Representatives, and their staffs” to raise awareness of the importance of Amateur Radio to the nation.

“The most recent proof that those efforts have, and are, increasing Congressional support for Amateur Radio is evidenced by the decision of Chairman Cruz to publicly share his personal views on the value and importance of Amateur Radio to the Nation,” Stratton said.

ARRL encourages Amateur Radio Operators to participate in our letter writing campaign, located at Send-A-Letter.org/HOA, in support of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act and to share information about the public service role Amateur Radio plays in communities nationwide.

SPECIAL COMBO FOR NEW HAM'S!
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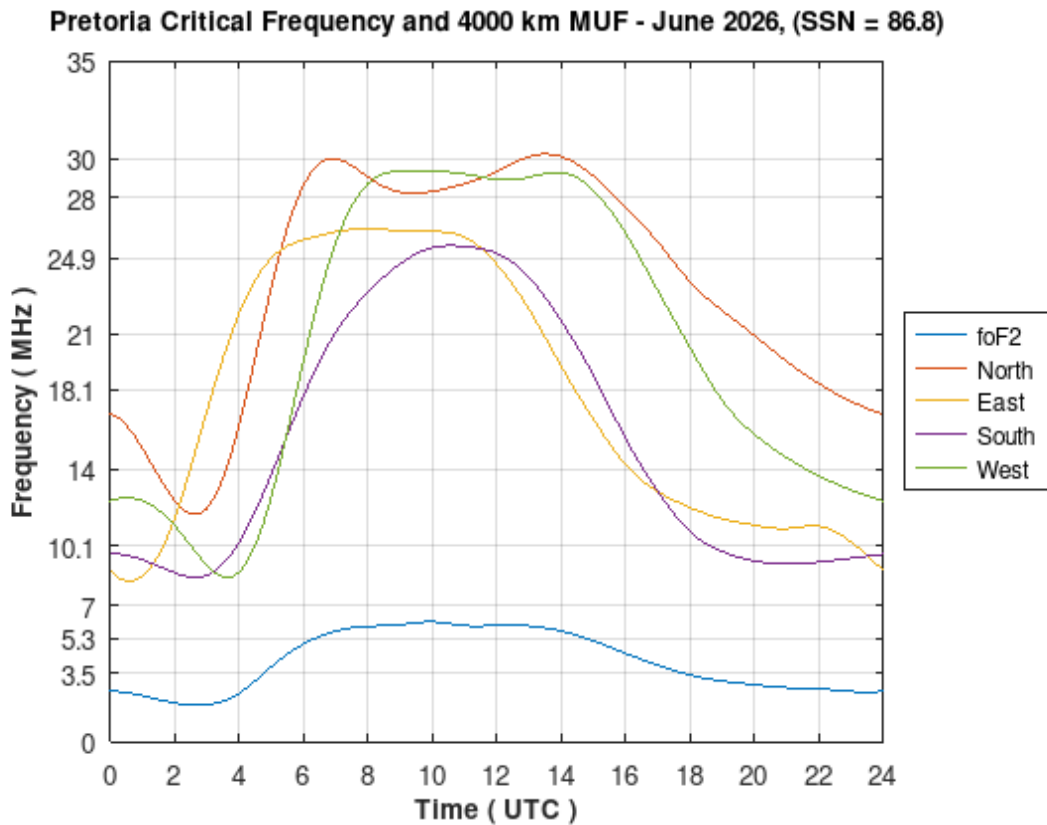
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Long Term HF Propagation - June 2026 By Vincent, ZS6BTY

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



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	Month	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	Oudeniqua	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	

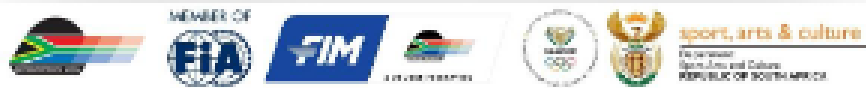
A revised 2026 SA Rally-Raid Championship calendar will be communicated to all stakeholders once finalised.

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. Homan, Mrs. S. Lubbe-Engel, Ms. E. Mubwa, D. Renschwiler, Ms. M. Spier
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

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 7.066 MHz by Pierre ZS6PS and Corlie ZS6CHS Smit and on Echolink by Johan Lehmann 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 7.066 MHz deur Pierre ZS6PS en Corlie ZS6CHS Smit, en op Echolink deur Johan Lehmann 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
7 June 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	4 July 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
14 June 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	11 July 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
21 June 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	18 July 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
28 June 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	25 July 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK



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 | Gekoöpteerde 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