



# WATTS

2025-08  
Year 95 + 08

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



Louis de Wet ZS6SK received a token of appreciation from Vernon Fryer ZS6AIG for all the time, dedication and contributions to PARC, News Bulletins, Watts and so much more.

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### Did you know...

#### **Ham Radio Is Used in Classrooms**

##### **Ham Radio in Classrooms: A STEM Powerhouse**

Ham radio isn't just a hobby—it's a hands-on teaching tool that brings science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to life. Educators use it to:

-  **Demonstrate Electronics:** Students learn about circuits, signal propagation, and antenna theory by building and operating real radio stations.
-  **Explore Geography & Language:** Making contacts around the world introduces cultural exchange and multilingual communication.
-  **Boost Problem-Solving Skills:** Troubleshooting interference or optimizing antenna setups teaches critical thinking.
-  **Enhance Communication:** Whether via voice, Morse code, or digital modes, students develop clear and confident communication.
-  **Connect with Space:** Programs like ARISS let students talk to astronauts aboard the ISS, sparking dreams of space exploration.



## Member's Birthdays August 2025 / Lede Verjaarsdae Augustus 2025

*Birthdays / Verjaarsdae; Joys and Sorrows / Lief en Leed*

01	Rita Schroder	ZS6SLR	08	Tobie Jansen van Rensburg	ZS6ZX
03	Paul Sterling	ZS6BMF	11	Andries Lombard	ZS6ABL
05	Hans Gurtel	ZR6HVG	26	Fanie De Kock	ZS6FDK
07	Whitey Joubert	ZS6JJJ			

*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!*

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

09	Helga	Eggenote van	Hans-Peter Knoepfler	ZS6AJS
24	Riana	Eggenote van	Leon Fouche	ZS6LEF

*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!*

## Wedding Anniversaries August 2025 / Huweliks Herdenkings August 2025

07	Edmar Willers	ZS6UT	Peggy
12	Jurie Ferreira	ZS6JFE	Geraldine
18	Charles Pretorius	LISTENER	Alice
29	Albert Schreuder	ZS6SE	Joydene

## Joys and Sorrows / Lief en Leed



Dit is met leedwese dat ons verneem het van die afsterwe van Roy Alexander ZS6MI op die 3<sup>de</sup> Augustus 2025. Roy was baie aktief en alombekend in die tydren geledere en was werksaam by die WNNR as 'n Elektroniese Ingenieur. Twee PARK toekennings, naamlik die Roy Alexander VHF Constructors Trophy en die Roy Alexander Rally Trophy is na hom vernoem. Hy word oorleef deur sy gade Marita, en seuns Roy en Neil. Hiermee ons innige meegevoel aan Marita en familie.



## PARC ANNUAL CLUB FEES: PARK JAARLIKSE LEDEGELDE

Bank	First National Bank	<b>Ordinary Members / Gewone Lede : R200</b> <b>Spouses and Pensioners : R100</b>	<b>Your call sign must appear as statement text!</b>
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**

## 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 Schedule / PARK Bulletins Aanbieders Skedule

### PARC Bulletin Presenters: July 2025 – August 2025

Date	Presenter	Date	Presenter
10 August 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	14 September 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
17 August 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	21 September 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
24 August 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	28 September 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
31 August 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	5 October 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
7 September 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	12 October 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP

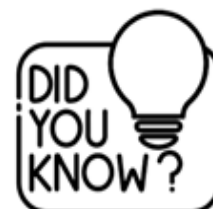
📢 “A heartfelt thank-you to our dedicated bulletin presenters—your energy, commitment, and clear voices keep the amateur radio community informed and inspired. Whether rain, shine, or QRM, you show up and deliver with professionalism and passion.

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

Contests and Events – August 2025 / Kompetisies en Gebeure – Augustus 2025 (UTC Times)	
02 – 03	10-10 International Summer Contest, SSB: 0001Z – 2359Z
02	European HF Championship: 1200Z – 2359Z
02 – 03	North American QSO Party, CW: 1800Z – 0600Z
03	<b>SARL HF Phone Contest: 1300Z – 1630Z: <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a></b>
05	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest: 0100Z – 0159Z (Also: 12/8; 19/8; 26/8)
07	NRAU 10m Activity Contest: 1800Z – 1900Z (CW); 1900Z – 2000Z (SSB); 2000Z – 2100Z (FM); 2100Z – 2200Z (Digital)
09	<b>Women’s Day and SARL YL QSO Party: <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a></b>
09 – 10	WAE DX Contest, CW: 0000Z – 2359Z
10	<b>SARL HF Digital Contest: 1300Z – 1600Z <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a></b>
13	NAQCC CW Sprint: 0030Z – 0230Z
16 – 17	SARTG WW RTTY Contest: 00h00Z – 08h00Z (16/8); 1600Z – 2400Z (16/8); 0800Z – 1600Z (17/8)
16	<b>SARL Youth QSO Party: 1200Z – 1300Z <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a></b>
16 – 17	CVA DX Contest, CW: 1800Z – 2100Z
16 – 17	North American QSO Party, SSB: 1800Z – 0559Z
16 – 17	International Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend: 0001Z – 2400Z <a href="https://www.lighthouse-weekend.international/">https://www.lighthouse-weekend.international/</a>
20	<b>SARL Wednesday 80m Club Contest: <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a></b>
23 – 24	YO DX HF Contest: 1200Z – 1200Z
23 – 24	CVA DX Contest, SSB: 1800Z – 2100Z
24	<b>SARL HF CW Contest: 1400Z – 1700Z <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a></b>
30 – 31	World Wide Digi DX Contest: 1200Z – 1200Z
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</b> <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
20 – 21	<b>Spring ZS SOTA Activity:</b> <a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
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

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](http://www.sarl.org.za), as well as the WA7BNM international contest calendar at the following website: <http://hornucopia.com>



#### Did you know...

- **Reactance can be positive or negative** depending on whether you're dealing with capacitive or inductive components—this affects how signals behave in filters and matching networks.
- **A quarter-wave vertical antenna** over a good ground plane has a theoretical gain of about 5.16 dBi—perfect for DXing with minimal hardware.
- **The Smith Chart** isn't just for impedance matching—it can also visualize reflection coefficients and VSWR in complex RF systems.
- **The 3 dB rule** means doubling your power only gives you a 3 dB increase in signal strength—so going from 100W to 200W isn't as dramatic as it sounds!

## PARC Flea Market / PARK Snuffelmark



### 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)**

## PARC 2 August Flea Market / PARK 2 Augustus Snuffelmark

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club's 2 August Flea Market turned out to be one for the books—buzzing with energy, packed to capacity, and embraced by an enthusiastic crowd that filled every corner of the venue.

From the earliest arrival to the final handshake, the event radiated camaraderie and connection. Tables were fully booked, each vendor showcasing everything from vintage gear to handmade treasures. Shoppers browsed with curiosity and purpose, sparking lively conversations and unexpected finds. The atmosphere was electric, and smiles were the currency of the day.

🙏 A huge signal report of thanks to Almero Du Pisani ZS6LDP for orchestrating such a well-tuned flea market! Your coordination was nothing short of 5/9—loud and clear. From setup to final QRT, everything flowed smoothly across all frequencies. Thanks for being the key to such a successful day.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our incredible vendors, dedicated sellers, and every single shopper who made the day unforgettable. Your support brings our community to life, and it's what makes PARC gatherings truly special.

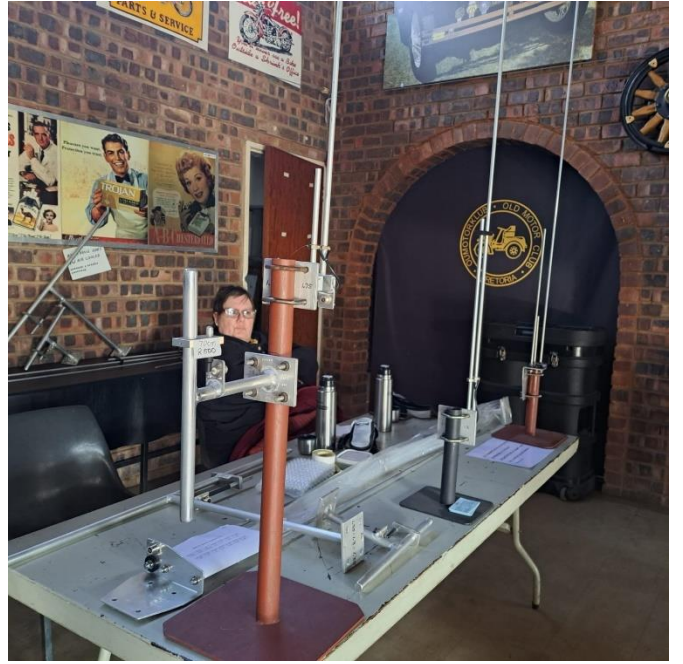
👉 Special mention must be made of Louis de Wet ZS6SK and his support team: Sharmain de Wet, Hendri Ehlers ZS6HFE and Martie ZS6MV; whose boerewors rolls became the culinary star of the show. Grilled to perfection, they sold out before you could say “Zebra bandpass filter”.

Here's to more vibrant flea markets, more stories shared over sizzling wors, and a community that keeps growing stronger with every gathering.











## Why do we use weird codes and phrases? By Evan Seligmann ZS6ELI

### XYL, OM, 73, Q-codes and other weird stuff

[Rick Donaldson](#) Apr 20, 2025

#### In amateur-radio parlance:

- YL stands for “Young Lady.” It simply refers to a female amateur-radio operator.
- XYL originally meant “ex-Young Lady” and was used to refer to an operator’s wife (i.e. an “ex-YL” from the operator’s perspective), but over time it’s become a general term for any female—especially a non-licensed spouse—associated with a ham operator.

The male counterpart to YL/XYL is OM (“Old Man”), used for a male operator. These are purely friendly, traditional shorthand on the air and in Q-signaling.

Thanks for reading Ham Radio for Preppers! Subscribe for free to receive new posts and support my work.

In ham-radio shorthand, “73” is the numeral code for “best regards” (or “best wishes”) when signing off a QSO. It traces back to telegraphic “Phillips Code,” where 73 conveyed “best regards” in just two characters.

#### But, you might ask, what about “Ham”?

I know the term started out as a pejorative, referring to amateur telegraphers as “ham-fisted” (meaning clumsy). But amateur operators took it on and wore it proudly. It’s an older term that even predates radio, with “ham actor” in theater referring to over-the-top performers. The first known use in amateur radio goes back to a 1909 article.

The term “ham” in “ham radio” actually began as a pejorative among professional telegraphers and early radiotelegraph operators, and only later was embraced by amateur enthusiasts:

- **Late 19th-century land-line telegraphy**

Telegraph unions and trade groups used “ham” (and “plug”) to disparage inexperienced or clumsy operators—so-called “ham-fisted” telegraphers—whose mistakes could derail traffic and even cause train wrecks. By the 1880s and ’90s, unscrupulous telegraph schools were derisively labelled “ham factories.”

- **Early wireless (pre-World War I)**

As wireless telegraphy emerged, seasoned commercial radiotelegraphers carried over “ham” to mock hobbyists. In August 1915, Hanby Carver noted that the commercial service called amateurs “hams.” <sup>[2]</sup>

- **First printed instance in amateur circles (1909)**

In April 1909, Robert A. Morton reported overhearing an on-air remark—“I think he is a ham”—referring to a new spark-transmitter station. Yet at this point it was still slang, not yet badge of pride.

- **Amateurs reclaiming the name (circa 1920)**

By 1920, young operators began using “ham” affectionately—much like “Yankee Doodle” was once a slur—appearing in poems and QST articles as a mark of identity rather than incompetence. <sup>[2]</sup>

Over time, the original insult lost its sting, and “ham” simply became the friendly shorthand for any radio amateur.



## Where did Q codes Originate?

The “Q” codes began life in **early maritime radiotelegraphy**, as a way to compress common questions and answers into three-letter groups:

- **Origins with British Marconi and Post Office (circa 1901–1909):**

To speed up ship-to-shore wireless messages, the Marconi Company and the British Post Office introduced a handful of “Q” abbreviations—three-letter groups all starting with Q—for routine queries (e.g. “QTH?” for “What is your location?”).

- **International standardization at the 1912 London Radiotelegraph Convention:**

Delegates from the world’s major maritime powers met in London in July–August 1912 and formally adopted an expanded set of Q codes for use in the international marine service.

- **Further refinement under the ITU (from 1919 onward):**

After World War I, the newly formed International Telecommunication Union (ITU) took over maintenance of the Q codes, adding and pruning entries for maritime, aeronautical, and eventually amateur-radio use.

Amateur radio operators later adopted the ITU’s Q codes wholesale—many of which (like CQ, QRZ, QSL, 73, etc.) remain in daily use on the ham bands.

## The World of Software Defined Radio with the Bin Tolk BT7700 Handheld 18-999 Mhz By Vernon Fryer ZS6AIG

My shack has had some SDR enabled radios since the early 2000, mostly operating in the HF and VHF bands using a discone antenna or the dipole for weather sat. When I purchased the ICOM IC-9700 I got all excited about 144Mhz-1200Mhz range giving 100Watts on VHF and 10 Watts on SHF. Looking at my old faithful Hellicraft SX-42 with AM, SSB and 160-10 m band was and still is a fanatic experience in the day. Now in the shack is a SDR receiver giving me a frequency range from 1 Mhz to 7Ghz continuous turning RX only and I thought that is great, until I purchase the Bin Tolk BT7700 Handheld. (*Please note that I am not comparing the BT7700 with any other professional amateur radio equipment*) I am also planning to conduct technical functionary tests later and will publish the findings in a follow-up article.

The BT7700 is a SDR handheld transceiver covering the following frequencies with 10-Watt output:

1. 18-108 MHz (TX/RX)
2. 108-136 MHz (RX)
3. 136-580 MHz (TX/RX)
4. 760-999 MHz (TX/RX)

**The other functions are:**

### **10W Tri-power Radio】**

Adjustable H/M/L mode balance range and battery efficiency, you can adjust according to different scenarios. Low power 1 Watt, Med power 5 Watt and High power 10 Watt. Suitable selection for driving the linear when mobile.

## Bluetooth Phone Programming

The easy part is simply pairing with my mobile device and swiftly input and adjust frequencies. It streamlines the process, eliminating complex cables and enhancing user convenience. Also pairing it to the blue tooth speakers in the car is great.

## Intelligent Noise Reduction

It has an effected noise reduction function to ensure clear voice communication even in noisy environments, improving communication efficiency.

## Type-C Charging

The nice function it has it is compatible with most Type-C chargers/power banks. Fast and stable charging, saving you time.

## Wireless Copy Frequency

It allows for easy and fast replication of frequency programming and reducing manual programming.

## Aviation frequency band reception

Easy flip between bands

## Helpful Functions to have:

1. Scanning mode
2. Time Operation Mode (TO)
3. Carrier operating mode (CO)
4. Search Operation Mode (SE)
5. Weather forecast NOAA function (Not very impressive)
6. FM radio reception function
7. Dual Watch Function (Works great)
8. 256 channels
9. DTMF encoding transmission (love this)
10. PTT-ID function
11. VOX function
12. Wide/Narrow Bandwidth



The primary function for the handheld will be used as a quick spectrum analysis to track down those noisy LED and Solar installations in my area, also disable the TX function on the frequencies not licensed for. The overall look and feel do not feel like cheap plastic and the battery lasted two days under normal operating conditions, The battery does get hot when TX is keyed for more than a minute at a time, I noted that this also happens with my TYT UV8000D when TX more than a minute.

I cannot compare the radio with my Baofeng or ICOM, but the price was under the R700 mark including import, final thought this is a great little rig for the poor Ham or disciplined listener. I recommend that changing the antenna between frequency bands improves reception and SWR, I am using the Diamond D3000N Discone as base antenna and the SG7900 for the mobile which is good for 130-500Mhz but don't expect fanatic SWR across all bands.



[ARRL](#) announces the DXCC® Trident Plaque, a new program to honor the accomplishments of radio amateurs who have confirmed QSOs with at least 100 ARRL DXCC award entities on each of three modes (phone, CW, and digital).

## **New ARRL® DXCC® Trident Award Plaque Honors 100 Confirmed Entities on Three Modes**

The basic award is issued upon application and confirmation by the ARRL Awards Department, and it is endorsable at levels of 200, 300, and Honor Roll, based on achieving that level **on all three modes** at the time of application.

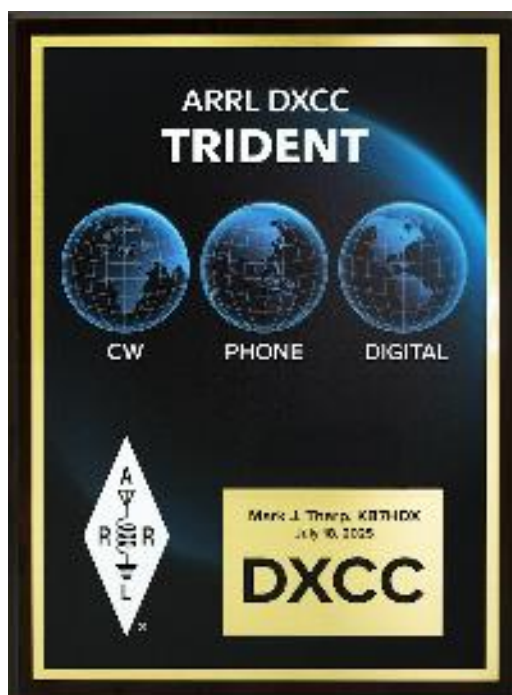
The earliest QSO date, and starting date for the DXCC Trident Award, is November 1, 1976, when RTTY (now named digital) DXCC was introduced.

ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Affairs Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the new award should be exciting to hams. “It gives all participants of the DXCC program, especially those new to DXCC, something fresh to work towards,” he said. ARRL has long had the Worked All States Triple Play award, but this introduces the multi-mode achievement to the DXCC program.

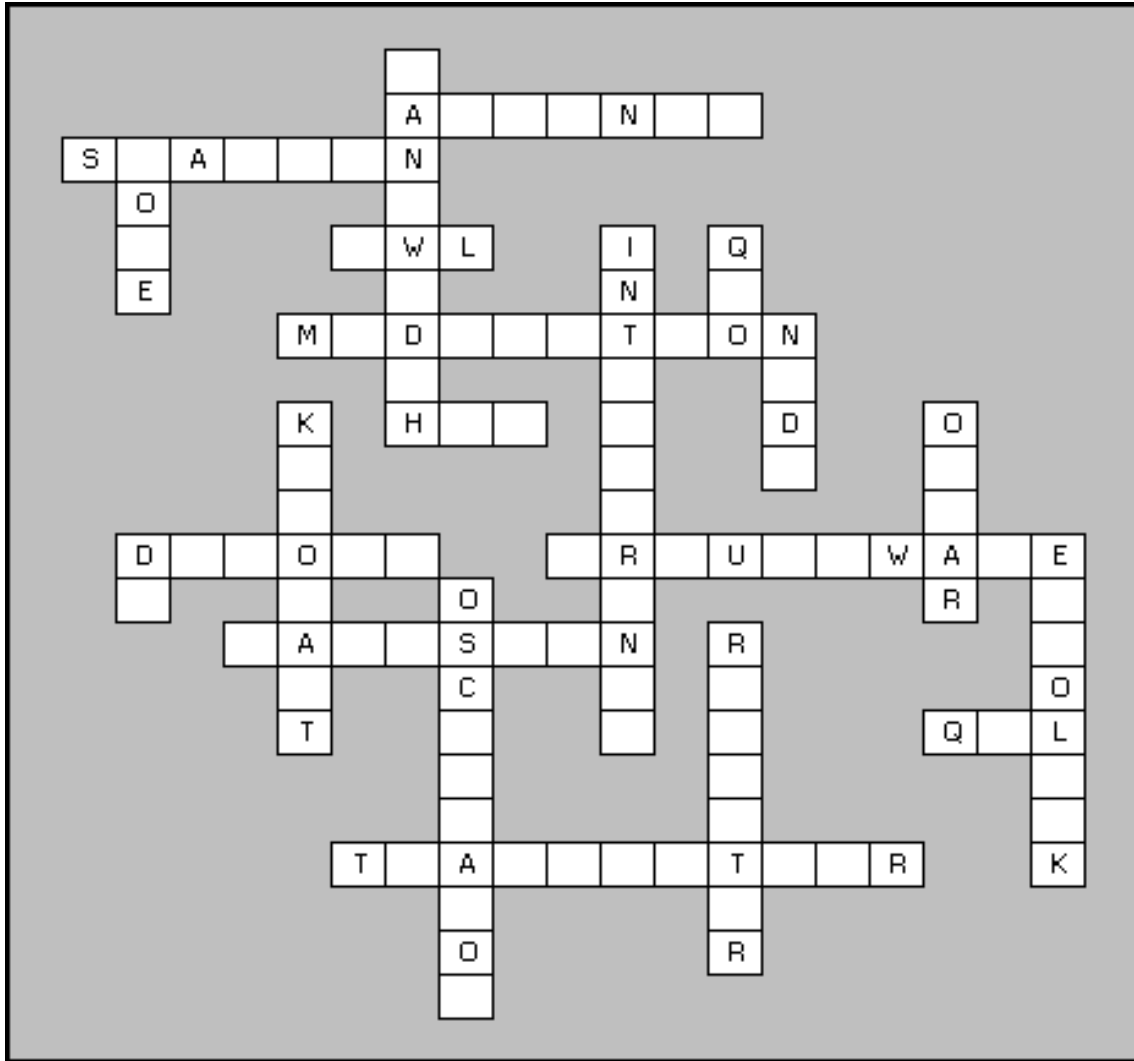
Confirmation of QSOs toward the Trident is done only through the standard process by credits within the ARRL DXCC program via Logbook of The World® (LoTW®). No QSL cards will be accepted with a plaque application. If your DXCC credits are not already visible in LoTW, you must first link your DXCC and LoTW profiles by requesting a credit merge from the [ARRL Awards Desk](#).

To apply for the plaque or learn more, visit [www.arrl.org/dxcc-trident-award](http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-trident-award).

Celebrate your achievement and dedication to the DXCC program across all modes with the ARRL DXCC Trident award – a symbol of excellence in amateur radio operating and DXing.



## Gridlocked in the Shack



### CQ Quick Fix

#### Tape that talks back!



A roll of self-amalgamating tape is a must-have in any ham's go-bag. It bonds to itself without adhesive, making it perfect for sealing coax connectors, patching cable nicks, and crafting emergency insulators. Rainy field day? No problem — it's waterproof, UV-resistant, and leaves no sticky mess.

Pro move: Use it to reinforce mic cable strain reliefs or wrap your feed point connections for extra durability. It's duct tape's RF-friendly cousin — silent, strong, and always ready to save your signal.



## 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.



### 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*



MEMBER OF



sport, arts & culture  
Department  
Sport, Arts and Culture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directors: A. Roux (Chairman), V. Maharaj (Chief Executive Officer), P. Zeelie (Financial),  
Mrs. D. Abrahams, Mrs. D. Ballington, K. Govender, Ms. T. Human, Mrs. S. Labuscagne Jonck, D. Ramchander, M. Rowe, A. Scholtz (Executive).



# 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-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)

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**Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA** assisting with the awards at the Tzaneen Rally in July 2025. Irene is the event secretary of the NRC Rallies.



Drivers briefing at the Tzaneen Rally



The night before the engines fire up at the NTT Tzaneen Rally, the atmosphere shifts from logistics to laughter. Marshals and First Aid teams—usually seen in high-vis vests and focused expressions—gather for a moment of connection and camaraderie before the adrenaline kicks in.



**Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA and Pieter Myburgh ZS6PAM**  
getting some sun at the SA safari Rally

When engines roar and crowds gather for high-speed rally events, one group stands quietly behind the scenes ensuring that communication stays clear, fast, and reliable—amateur radio operators. These unsung heroes form a critical part of the support network, coordinating between race marshals, emergency services, and control points.

At the heart of rally operations is real-time situational awareness. Cell networks can be unreliable in remote or mountainous terrain, but ham radio operators bring their own infrastructure, using mobile rigs, repeaters, and simplex frequencies to bridge communication gaps.

Relaying incident reports from stages to central control

- Tracking vehicle positions and delays
- Supporting emergency response teams in the event of crashes or medical needs
- Providing weather updates and logistical support

Their presence transforms chaos into coordination. Whether it's manning checkpoints with handheld radios or setting up temporary base stations at command centres, these volunteers merge technical prowess with calm reliability under pressure.

For many hams, it's not just about gear and signals—it's a chance to use their skills for safety, teamwork, and community service. At rallies, ham radio isn't just a backup—it's the backbone.



## Long Term HF Propagation for August 2025

### Long Term HF Propagation for August 2025 : Courtesy Vincent Harrison ZS6BTY

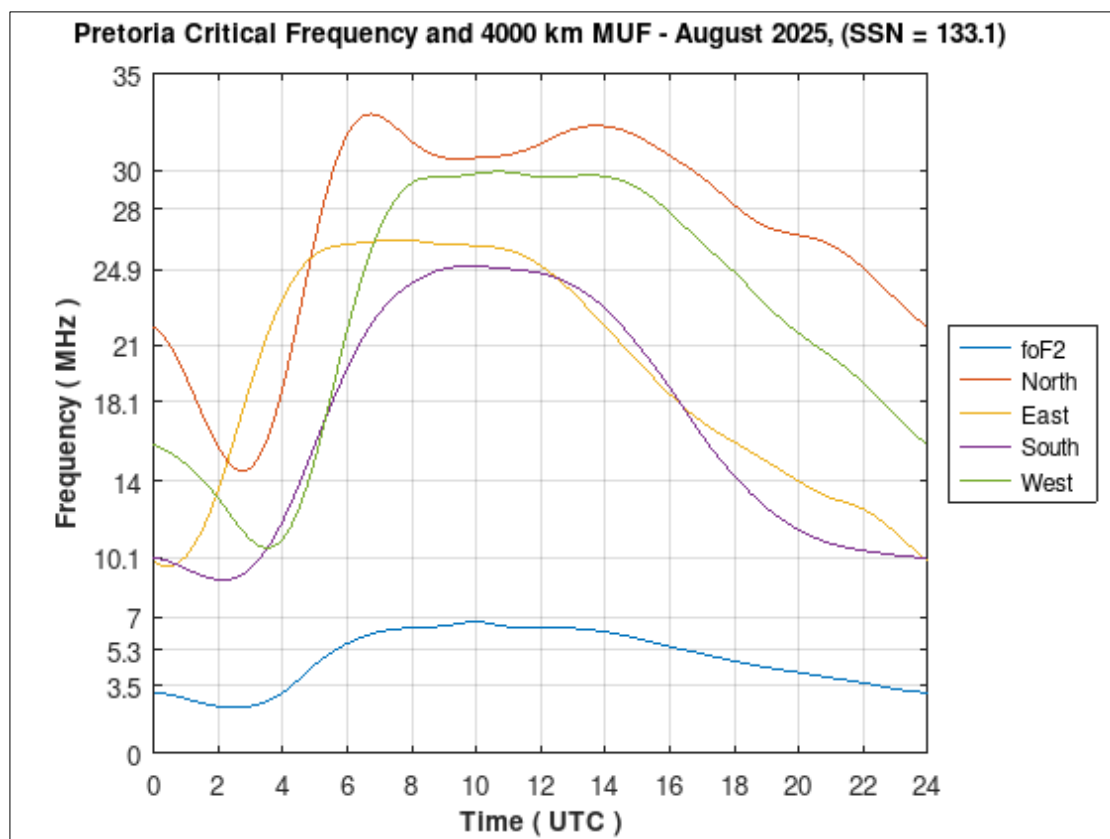
The graph below shows the predicted F-layer Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) for propagation from Pretoria<sup>[1]</sup> using monthly sunspot numbers from SILSO<sup>[2]</sup>.

**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*





## Advertisement

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

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!"*