



WATTS 2025-10

Year 95 + 10

Monthly Newsletter of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club

Maandelikse Nuusbrief 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

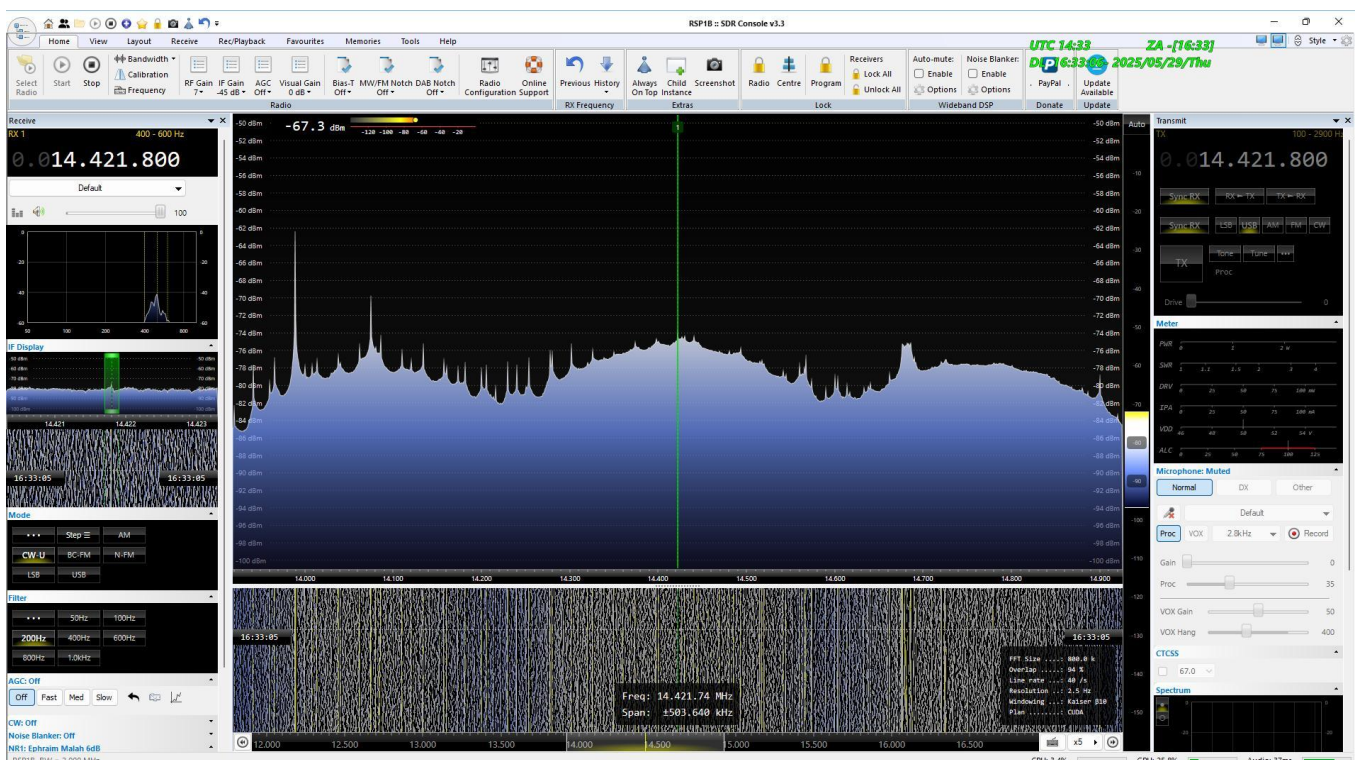
Swapshop : 2m and 7.066 MHz live on-air after bulletins

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



Read more about our cover photo on page ...:

[Radio Interference By Frank Schneider - ZS6GE](#)



In this issue / In Hierdie Uitgawe

Birthdays / Verjaarsdae, Joys and Sorrows / Lief en Leed	3
PARC Sunday Bulletins / PARK Sondag Bulletins.....	5
Diary of Contests & Events / Dagboek van Kompetisies en Gebeure	6
PARC Flea Market / PARK Snuffelmark	7
PARC Upcoming Events.....	8
Invitation: PARC AGM 6 December 2025 / Uitnodiging: PARK AJV 6 Desember 2025	9
Proxys and nominations / Volmagte en Nominasies.....	10
Notules van die PARC Algemene Jaarvergadering: 07 Desember 2024	11
Radio Interference By Frank Schneider - ZS6GE.....	15
SARL Field Day 2025 By Pierre ZS6PJH.....	19
The Importance of the Phonetic Alphabet.....	22
ARRL News by Johan Lehmann ZS6JPL	24
Echoes from the Ether: A Tribute in QSL	25
Duct Tape and Chocolate—The Shack Survival Kit.....	26
Motor Rallies: Dates of Events for 2025 / Motor Tydrenne: Datums vir 2025	27
An Open Letter to Fellow Hams / Oop Brief aan Mede Hams	30
Long Term HF Propagation for October 2025 By Vincent, ZS6BTY	31
Advertisements.....	32
PARC Committee Members 2025 / PARK Komiteelede 2025.....	34
Co-opted Committee Members 2025 / Gekoöpteer Komiteelede 2025	34

PARC ANNUAL CLUB FEES: PARK JAARLIKSE LEDEGELDE

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

Did You Know?

On **October 1st, 1919**, amateur radio officially restarted after World War I restrictions were lifted. Operators across the globe fired up their rigs again, marking a new era of experimentation and international connection. That October became a symbolic rebirth for the hobby—proof that even after silence, the airwaves always find their voice.

Birthdays / Verjaarsdae, Joys and Sorrows / Lief en Leed

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

Members' Birthdays October 2025 / Lede Verjaarsdae Oktober 2025

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

Spouses' Birthdays October 2025 / Eggenote Verjaarsdae Oktober 2025

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!

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

Members' Birthdays November 2025 / Lede Verjaarsdae November 2025

Birthday	Name	Callsign
10 November	Leon Grobler	ZR6AVI
16 November	Vlasta Jancuskova	ZS6-2501
19 November	Joe Katzman	ZS6TB

Spouses' Birthdays November 2025 / Eggenote Verjaarsdae November 2025

Spouse Birthday	Member Name	Callsign	Spouse
11 November	Ed Willers	ZS6UT	Peggy
18 November	John Olivier	ZR6GV	Esta
27 November	Hugo Pretorius	ZS6HP	Aida

Wedding Anniversaries October 2025 / Huweliks Herdenkings Oktober 2025

Anniversary	Name	Callsign	Spouse
09 October	Pieter Fourie	ZS6CN	Annatjie
13 October	Nicolaas Willem Louw	ZS6NWL	Wilma
15 October	De Jager Burger	ZS6ZO	Annelize
29 October	Cornelius Heydenrich	ZS4CFH	Nicolene

Wedding Anniversaries November 2025 / Huweliks Herdenkings November 2025

Anniversary	Name	Callsign	Spouse
13 November	Dylan John Foord	ZS6TDK	Tali Foord
26 November	Marika Roux	ZS6MRX	André
26 November	Andre Roux	ZS6ARX	Marika
29 November	Hendrik Stefanus Ferreira	ZS6BUH	Maira

Joys and Sorrows / Lief en Leed

No joys or sorrows to report this month.

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

Correction of an error in the September Issue of Watts

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

Die afstand afgelê na die vuurtoring naweek was 1370 km, al het dit soos 13700 km gevoel.
Ons vra om verskoning vir die fout.

PARC Sunday Bulletins / PARK Sondag Bulletins

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

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

PARC Bulletin Presenters: September 2025 – October 2025

Date	Presenter	Date	Presenter
5 October 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	2 November 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
12 October 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	9 November 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
19 October 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	16 November 2025	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
26 October 2025	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	23 November 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 – October 2025 / Kompetisies en Gebeure – Oktober 2025 (UTC Times)	
01	UKEICC 80m Contest: 2000Z – 2100Z
02	NRAU 10m Activity Contest: 1700Z – 1800Z (CW); 1800Z – 1900Z (SSB); 1900Z – 2000Z (FM); 2000Z – 2100Z (Digital)
02	SARL 80 m QSO Party: 1700Z – 2000Z
03	German Telegraphy Contest: 0700Z – 1000Z
04 - 05	Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest: 0600Z – 0559Z
04 - 05	Oceania DX Contest, Phone: 0600Z – 0600Z
05	Antique Wireless Association AM Valve QSO Party: 1300Z – 1700Z
06	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW: 1900Z – 2030Z
07	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest: 0100Z – 0159Z: Also on 14/10; 21/10; 28/10
10	10-10 International Day Sprint: 0001Z – 2359Z
11 - 12	ARRL EME Contest: 0000Z – 2359Z
11 - 12	Oceania DX Contest, CW: 0600Z – 0600Z
11 - 12	Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB: 1200Z – 1200Z
15	SARL Wednesday 80m Club Contest
15	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data: 1900Z – 2030Z
18	CQ Hou Koers, October RAE & SARL QRP Contest
18 - 19	JOTA
18 - 19	10-10 International Fall Contest, CW: 0001Z – 2359Z
18 - 19	Worked All Germany Contest: 1500Z – 1459Z
22	IRTS 80m Counties Contest: 2000Z – 2100Z
23	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB: 1900Z – 2030Z
25 - 26	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB: 0000Z – 2359Z
26 - 29	Classic Exchange, CW: Oct 26 – 27: 1300Z – 0700Z; Oct 28 – 29: 1300Z – 0700Z
29	UKEICC 80m Contest: 2000Z – 2100Z
Contests and Events – November 2025 / Kompetisies en Gebeure – November 2025 (UTC Times)	
01	Silent Key Memorial Contest: 0600Z – 0859Z
01	IPARC Contest, CW: 0600Z – 1800Z
01 - 02	UK/EI DX Contest, SSB: 1200Z – 1200Z
01 - 03	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB: 2100Z – 0300Z
02	IPARC Contest, SSB: 0600Z – 1800Z
02 - 05	Classic Exchange, Phone: Nov 2 – 3: 1400Z – 0800Z; Nov 4 – 5: 1400Z – 0800Z
03	RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data: 2000Z – 2130Z
04	Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest: 0100Z – 0159Z
05	UKEICC 80m Contest: 2000Z – 2100Z
06	NRAU 10m Activity Contest: 1800Z-1900Z (CW); 1900Z- 2000Z (SSB); 2000Z-2100Z (FM); 2100Z-2200Z (Digital)
08 - 09	WAE DX Contest, RTTY: 0000Z – 2359Z
08 - 09	ARRL EME Contest: 0000Z – 2359Z
08 - 09	10-10 International Fall Contest, Digital: 0001Z – 2359Z
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.com	



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

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

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

Ham Flea Market Fun Facts

1. The Original “Eyeball QSO” Zone

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

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

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

3. Morse Code Makes a Comeback

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

4. The Unofficial “Rig Whisperers”

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

5. The Great Swap Dance

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

PARC Upcoming Events

PARC Pensioners' Breakfast / PARK Pensionaris Ontbyt

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

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

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

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

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

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

UITNODIGING: PARK PENSIONARIS ONTBYT



VRIENDELIKE GROETE

ZS6PTA

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

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

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

QSL No. 2025-ONTBYT

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

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

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

Agenda vir die 95^{ste} Algemene Jaarvergadering van PARK
Om 12h00 op Saterdag die 6^{de} Desember 2025 by die Pretoria Ou
Motor Klub, Silverton

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

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

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





95th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
95^{ste} ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING
Pretoria Amateur Radio Club



Pretoria Old Motor Club
Keuning Str. Silverton

Venue:

Saturday 06 Desember 2025

Time: 12h00

Agenda: To be published

Plek:

Saterdag 06 Desember 2025

Tyd: 12h00

Agenda: Sal gepubliseer word

NB

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

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

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

I/Ekbeing ZS/R/U..... give/geeZS/R/U.....

Proxy to vote on my behalf at the 2025 PARC AGM

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

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

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

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

Proposer:

ZS

Signature:

Voorsteller:

ZR

Handtekening:

ZU

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

Notules van die PARC Algemene Jaarvergadering: 07 Desember 2024



Pretoria Amateur Radio Club / Pretoria Amateur Radio Klub
Annual General Meeting: 07 December 2024 / Algemene Jaarvergadering: 07 Desember 2024

1. Verwelkoming en teenwoordigheid

Louis de Wet ZS6SK verwelkom almal en bedank hulle vir hulle teenwoordigheid.

2. Verskonings en volmagte

Verskonings is gemaak deur Pine Pienaar ZS6OB, Emil ZS6EGB en Roy ZS6XN

3. Verklaring van kworum

'n Kworum is verklaar.

4. Opening PARK Voorsitter Louis de Wet ZS6SK

5. Notules van vorige AJV

Die notules van die vorige AJV word goedgekeur. Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB en Jaco Nieuwenhuisen ZS6JLN

6. Penningmeester verslag

Graham Reid ZS6GJR lê die verslag voor aan die lede. Dit word so aanvaar. Almero du Pisani ZS6LDP en Paul Sterling ZS6BMF.

7. Aanstelling van ouditeur

Daar word voorgestel om die huidige ouditeur (Divan Olivier) weer aan te stel vir 2025. Dit word eenparig aanvaar.

8. Voorsitterverslag

Dear Members of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club and Guests:
Geagte Lede van die Pretoria Amateur Radio Klub en Gaste:

Baie welkom aan almal teenwoordig en baie dankie dat julle tyd ingeruim het om die 94ste Algemene Jaarvergadering van die Pretoria Amateur Radio Klub by te woon.

A hearty welcome to all present and thank you very much for all who have given up their time to attend the 94th Annual general Meeting of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club.

Thank you very much to Pretoria Amateur Radio Club- and Committee Members for your support the past two years in my role as Chairman. This has been an enriching and fulfilling time to serve four years in total over the past six years. The two years serving during the pandemic was particularly difficult when PARC lost a number of members. However, the human spirit has prevailed and the will to survive has been demonstrated by those who are still with us. We look with great anticipation forward to the future with the 95th anniversary of PARC approaching and the celebration planned in 2025. PARC has volunteered to host the 100th anniversary of the South African Radio League and

both events will take place on the 16th to the 18th of May 2025. Going towards this exciting time ahead it is therefore a tremendous honour and pleasure to present my Chairman's report to you today.

Silent Keys: Last year we remembered with sadness and paid tribute to PARC members Henk Stuivenberg ZS6CS / PA0STU, Menno Havelaar ZS6AGC, Johnny Scott ZS6JSS, Johannes (Attie) Reyneke ZS6REY and Hans Kappetijn ZS6KR who passed away. Fortunately this year, we had no members who passed away.

Club Membership: PARC membership is currently at 132 active, and 8 non-active members, which is an increase of <1% compared to the membership number during 2023. It is a concern that amateur radio is not growing under our youth as we have wanted it to. However, we still sincerely thank our Members for their support and loyalty.

I hereby wish to thank the following Committee- and Club Members according to the different categories they have contributed to for the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club:

Finances: PARC sincerely thanks Graham Reid ZS6GJR for his hard work and dedication with his accurate and meticulous handling of the financial matters of the Club. His monthly updates of transactions and bank balances to the Committee is sincerely appreciated.

Secretarial: For the past four years, Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA has served with distinction on the PARC Committee as Secretary. Her accurate record taking and swift production of minutes of committee meetings has set a high standard. We sincerely thank Irene for her excellent service towards the Club.

PARC Website: Graham Reid ZS6GJR is sincerely thanked for the maintenance and administration of the PARC website, as well as liaising with the host of the domain when problems and issues arise.

Swop Shop: Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP has taken over Swop Shop since the passing of Hans ZS6KR handling call-ins every Sunday morning after bulletins. Tjerk Lammers ZS6P / ZS1J handles this function on the PARC website. Our sincere appreciation to Alméro and Tjerk for your efforts and dedication.

Bulletins: Sunday morning bulletins are such an essential medium of Club to Member communications, relaying valuable information and news regarding Club and SARL matters. The number of Members involved is quite extensive, and we would sincerely like to thank the following people for their appreciated efforts:

Alméro DuPisani ZS6LDP: Playback of Afrikaans and English SARL bulletins and report back on Echolink listeners. Regular hosting of PARC bulletins.

Johan Lehman ZS6JPL: Providing and maintaining the Echolink service and repeater to PARC. Periodic HF relay of bulletins.

Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB: Editing of SARL bulletins and regular hosting of PARC bulletins.

Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA: Reading and recording of Afrikaans SARL bulletins.

Pierre ZS6PS and Corlie ZS6CHS Smit, for the handling of HF call-ins on Sunday mornings and maintaining a database on the demographic distribution of listeners.

Louis de Wet ZS6SK: Regular hosting of PARC bulletins and repeats on Monday evenings.

Lastly, the past three years with access to PARC bulletins by means of Echolink, the number of bulletin listeners has increased significantly. This includes listeners from Kwazulu-Natal, Free State,

Eastern, Southern and Western Cape, Mozambique, The DRC, Mali, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland and others.

Repeaters: Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB and Pieter Myburgh ZS6PAM for keeping the repeater network operational and dealing with numerous issues such as burglaries and power outages at the sites. Johan is in regular communication with Jasco High Sites communication who maintains the repeater sites. Last year PARC members were encouraged to join a repeater maintenance team which is going to be established in 2025 to ensure better maintenance on transceivers, feedlines and antennas. However, nothing has come of this proposal, and I again emphasize that this proposal be taken in all seriousness this coming year.

Rallies: The rally team provides an essential radio communication service at regular events, and their excellent representation of PARC is sincerely appreciated. We thank Graham Reid ZS6GJR who is the communications coordinator with these events, as well as his support team, Joey Reid, Irene and Pieter Myburgh ZS6IEA and ZS6PAM, Willie Greyling ZR6WGR, Willie ZS6WVN and Annelie ZS6AVN van Niekerk, Roy Newton ZS6XN and his daughter Helen ZS6HN, and all other members. We also sincerely thank Johan de Bruyn for his organisational efforts behind the scenes.

Flea Markets: Our most sincere appreciation to Alméro DuPisani ZS6LDP for organising and hosting all-successful flea markets. The flea markets are always well attended by members from other clubs. In addition we sincerely thank Irene and Pieter Myburgh ZS6IEA and Louis ZS6SK for their assistance with the preparation and selling of boerewors rolls and coffee at these events.

Contests: This past year has seen good individual participation by PARC Members in local and international contests. However the team effort and spirit has died down a bit, and PARC members are encouraged to come up with a rejoined effort to get the PARC name back up with other clubs as far as contests are concerned.

Watts: Having been the editor of Watts the past 10 years has been a tremendous pleasure, and I sincerely thank our Club Members for their treasured contributions. In particular Vincent Harrison ZS6BTY is thanked for his monthly contributions on HF propagation. Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA is thanked in particular for the electronic distribution of the Newsletter. I have realised that Watts need not only contain radio related topics, and that articles on general science are also well received. My sincere thanks to all who have contributed over the past ten years.

RAE Training: John Minter ZS6LED is sincerely thanked for his hard work and contributions with RAE training and getting prospective radio amateurs registered for the examination. John has achieved getting a group of prospective hams prepared for the examination, and all of them have passed. PARC sincerely appreciates his contributions. However, it seems that the interest in amateur radio is dying down, looking at the numbers of candidates writing and passing the RAE.

Ham Spirit: We sincerely thank Alméro ZS6LDP, Pierre ZS6PS, Corlie ZS6CHS, Tjerk ZS6P / ZS1J and all for their willingness to accept tasks and carry on with them with dedication after the passing of Hans ZS6KR. Our sincere appreciation.

In conclusion, I wish to thank everyone for attending this AGM. We sincerely hope and believe that 2025 will in all ways be blessed and satisfying as this year was. However, I wish to stress this today: this Club needs young blood in leadership positions. The future Committee of PARC needs a young, strong and dedicated leader who is willing to boldly lead this Club past its 95th towards its 100th anniversary.

Thank you very much for your attendance.

Sincerely.

Louis de Wet ZS6SK

Pretoria Amateur Radio Club

9. Bespreking van Mosie

Daar is besluit om die ledegelde op te sit soos volg:

Lede was R160 nou in 2025 R200

Pensionaris was R60 nou in 2025 R100

Dit is aanvaar. Jaco Nieuwenhuisen ZS6JLN en Almero du Pisani ZS6LDP

Die repeaters se posisies en die kostes daaraan verbonde sal deur die nuwe komitee hanteer word.

10. Verkiesing van Komitee 2024-25

Nuwe komitee nominasies

Louis de Wet ZS6SK

Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA

Graham Reid ZS6GJR

Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB

Hendri Ehlers ZS6HFE

Al die nominasies is so aanvaar deur die lede. Jaco Nieuwenhuisen ZS6JLN en Kenny Martin ZS6KMM.

11. Algemene Sake

Swopshop se items sal slegs vir drie maande op die site gehou word en sal dan verwyder word. Daar is 'n voorstel dat persone wat adverteer 'n klein donasie doen aan PARK.

Almero du Pisani ZS6LDP bedank vir Louis de Wet ZS6SK vir sy bydrae vir WATTS.

12. Gasspreker

Nico Michael ZS6BVR het 'n interessante toespraak gelewer oor 'n self gemaakte "tap" vanaf 'n transmissie lyn.

13. Afsluiting

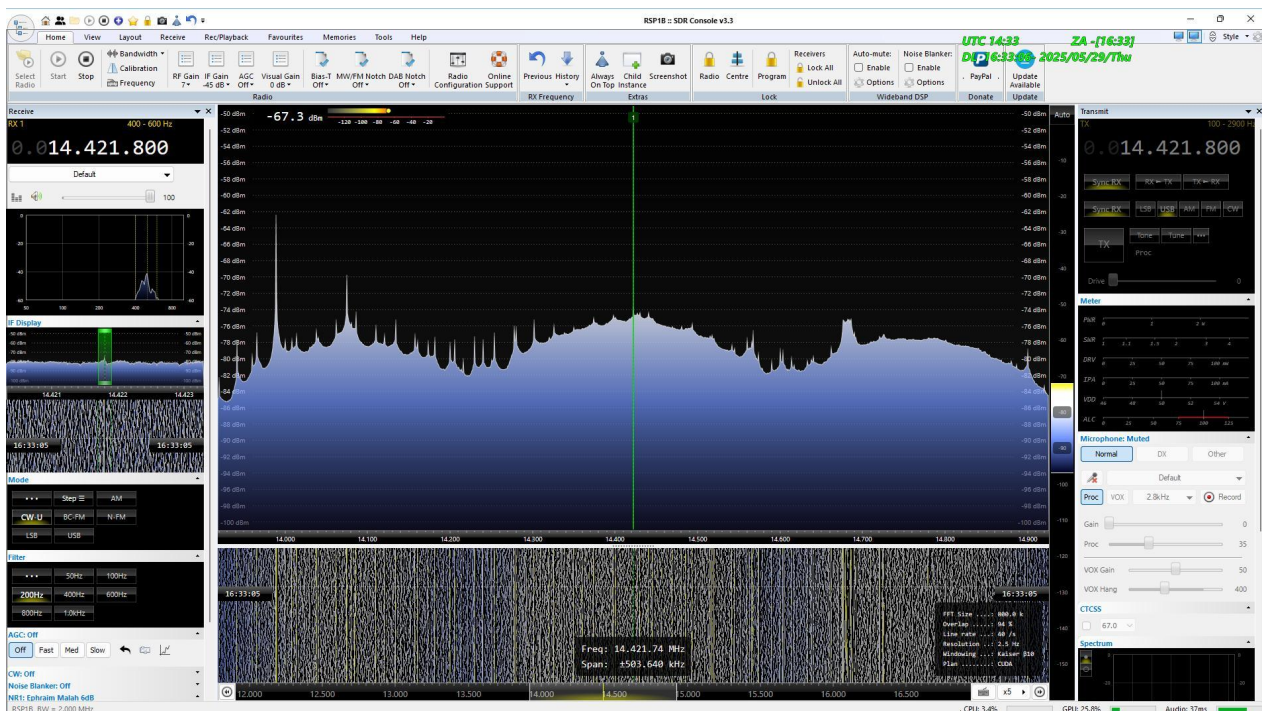


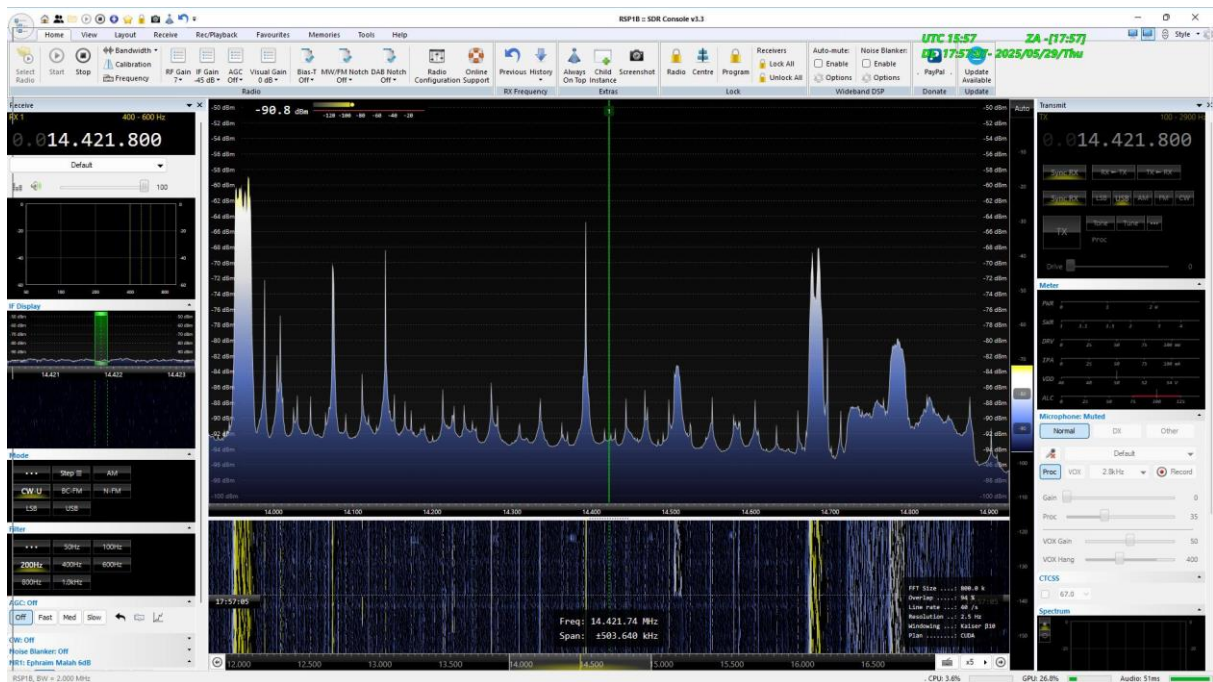
Radio Interference By Frank Schneider - ZS6GE

Over the last two years or so, the background noise on the HF bands was getting stronger and stronger. Then, about six months ago, the S meter levels went up to S8 to S9. Now my S meter is calibrated to 50uV, quite a strong signal for S9. I am using only 14MHz up. All the bands had this broadband noise.



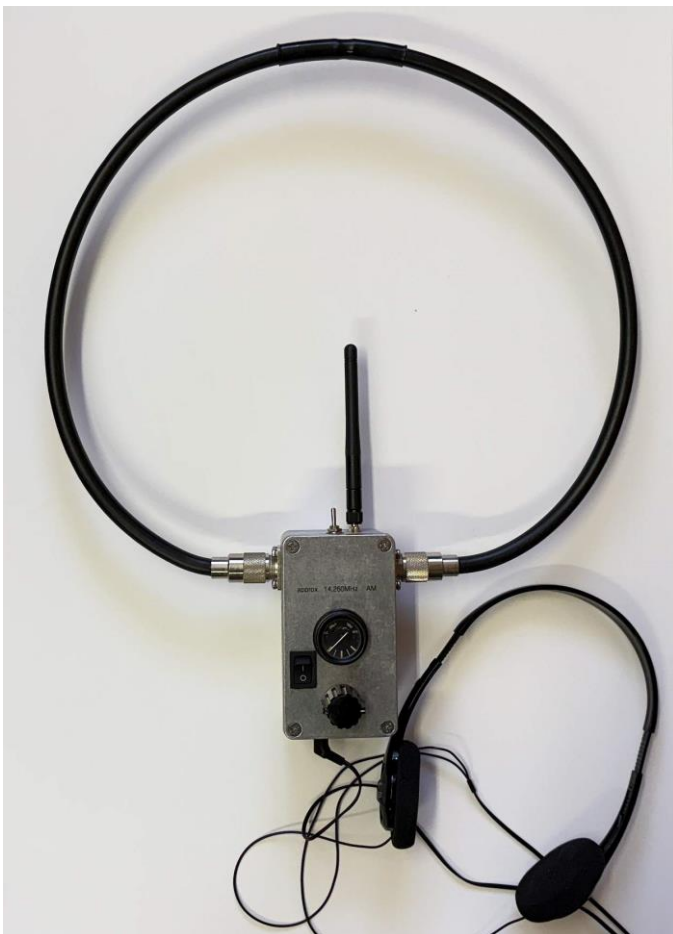
So, for interest's sake, I assembled a so-called noise eliminator kit, which I have bought long time ago. I have a beam and a vertical. Using the vertical as a secondary antenna, I could indeed reduce the interference somewhat. This implies, that the interference is local. I also noticed that the noise died down considerably, when the sun set.





Conclusion: It must be a solar installation. But which one? For a long time, I was the only one with an installation in the neighbourhood, but now every second house has one. With the beam I found the noise coming from a north westerly direction.

So, I decided to do something about it. Leon, ZS1MM made me a small 14MHz AM receiver. I put it in a box and made a wideband untuned loop for it. Rectifying the audio gives me a meter reading.



I found that this arrangement was not sensitive enough. So, I bought a SDR receiver and built a tuned loop for it.



Now I could receive the noise and get directivity. So, I put SDR receiver and a laptop into the car, headphones on my head and the loop in my hand outside the car window.

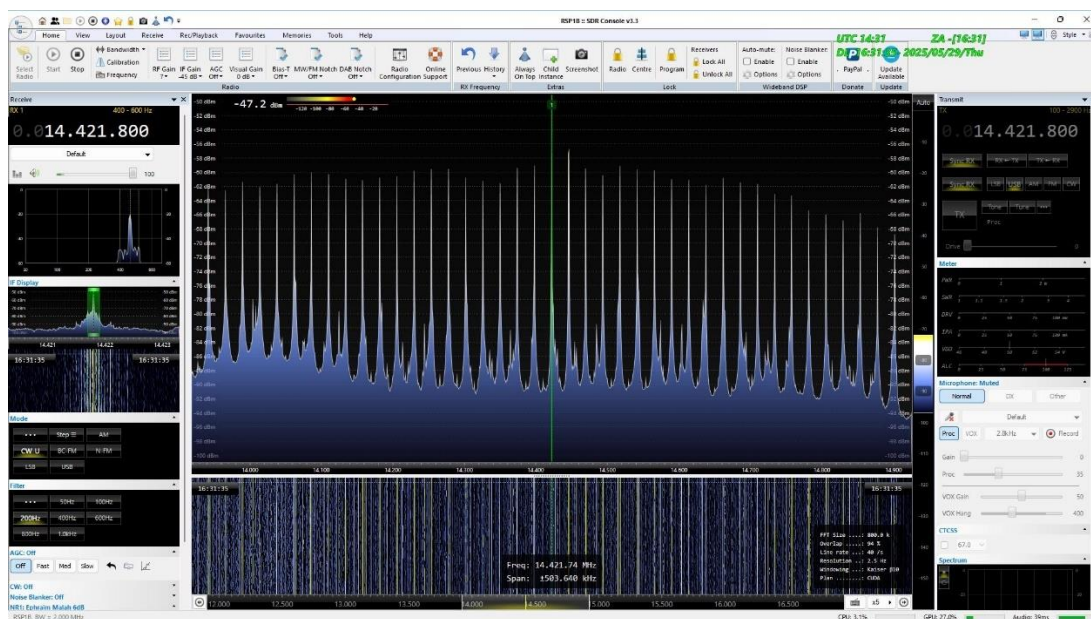
Started circling the neighbourhood and got some very strange looks. When I found a maximum, I walked around, taking bearings only three houses down the road. The owner was quite helpful, letting me onto the property and take bearings. Those pointed to a house round the block. Once there, the signal got very strong. Now I used the wide band loop. Much easier to carry around. With it I found the exact house. The owner was not impressed and very defensive. It took a few days before I was allowed onto the property. If one is this close, everything seems to radiate. Eventually, I was convinced the noise came from the solar inverter in the roof. It is a version, which is essentially a glorified Voltage regulator, which feeds DC to a dual heating element of the geyser, which can also use AC. I was not allowed to touch anything, nor did I want to. A definite no-no. The owner had no idea, how the system works, nor how to switch it off. So, the Installer had to be called, for which the owner paid...

The installer climbed into the roof and switched the inverter off. Bliss! Silence! Now what? I ordered 12 clip-on ferrites, for which I paid.



The installer had to come again and fit them to every cable going into the inverter. As somewhat expected, it didn't help too much. About half a S point on 20m, 1.5 S points on 10. From the Installer I got the name of the supplier, a company in Cape Town. As luck would have it, one of the staff was an amateur and knew, what I was talking about. He talked to the boss, and I must say, they were very helpful and eventually installed a new inverter. All was quiet...Looks like something in the original box had gone haywire.

However, there was a problem...., because now I could see more interference, from a different direction, that was previously masked.



This, too, disappeared at night. So, the same exercise again, going for a hunt. I was pretty sure I found another neighbour causing the problem. Only finding somebody at home during daytime was tricky. Eventually I managed and found a good looking installation, that radiated like crazy. It is not the owners property, he rents it. This helps, because it was not really his responsibility. Many e-mails and six weeks later, the inverter was replaced. Bliss! This interference was gone!

However, there is a problem....., because now I could see similar interference, albeit a bit weaker, that was previously masked. See the small spikes between the large ones.

So, I will have to go through the same exercise again... I also hear a wideband buzzing sound, day and night. Now that will have to wait a bit...

Update: I found the house where the interference comes from. No to find the owner and explain...

SARL Field Day 2025 By Pierre ZS6PJH

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club (PARC) took part in the National Field Day on 6 and 7 September 2025. The selected venue was ideal, attracting interest from pilots of various aircraft that fly in for the renowned breakfasts prepared by the restaurant.

Jaco ZR6JCL set up his camp on Friday, while others established theirs on Saturday morning. Those staying over for the weekend included Jaco ZR6JCL, Pierre ZS6PJH, Gabriël ZS6GJM, Pierre ZS6PS, and Corlie ZS6CHS. Charlie ZS6CRR attended on Saturday but did not stay overnight.

After setting up the three antennas, solar panels, and connecting the radios, the fun began. The team operated three stations, with Jaco ZR6JCL mainly on the 20m band, Gabriël on the 40m band, and Pierre ZS6PJH on the remaining bands. Pierre ZS6PS and Charlie ZS6CRR assisted Jaco ZR6JCL in logging his contacts and ensured he did not switch to bands where others were active.

Marinda and Corlie ZS6CHS looked after the snacks and the salads for the braai. The braai was a great success, but it interfered with the time that could be spent on the radio. A total of 55 QSOs were made. The field station was active on 10m, 15m, 20m, 40m and the 80m bands.

This was not the last event, and the PARC will use its success to involve more amateurs and encourage them to become active. Jaco ZR6JCL plans to operate CW, so someone capable of decoding CW will be required to assist Jaco with the logging on our next “outing”.

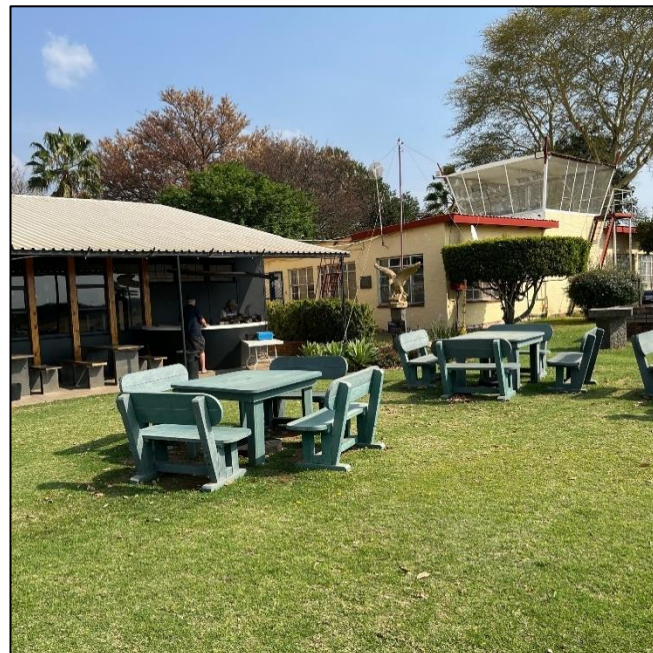
Lastly, thank you to the team at the Brits Flying Club for your hospitality and to those who helped make our stay comfortable, especially with the antennas and cabling. You were excellent, and we will support you again in the future. Jaco ZR6JCL, thank you for your great contacts; it was fantastic weekend.



Brits Flying Club



An Old Airplane That Got a Second Life as a Windsock



Setting up and the setup. Pierre (ZS6PJH), Pierre (ZS6PS) and Gabriël (ZS6GJM)



Charlie (ZS6CRR) and Jaco (ZR6JCL) on 20m, Pierre (ZS6JPH) on 10m, Gabriël (ZS6GJM) on 40m and Pierre (ZS6PS), no battery



The braai minus the photographer. Pierre (ZS6PS), Charlie (ZS6CRR), Pierre (ZS6PJH), Jaco (ZR6JCL) and his YL Marinda. Corlie (ZS6CHS) was behind the camera.

The Importance of the Phonetic Alphabet

The phonetic alphabet, specifically the NATO or International Telecommunication Union (ITU) standard, plays a critical role in ensuring clear and accurate communication, particularly in South Africa's diverse linguistic landscape and during long-distance (DX) contacts. This article explores why the correct use of the phonetic alphabet is essential for ham radio operators in South Africa and when engaging in DX communication.

The Role of the Phonetic Alphabet in Ham Radio

The phonetic alphabet assigns distinct words to each letter of the alphabet (e.g., Alpha for A, Bravo for B, Zulu for Z) to avoid confusion caused by similar-sounding letters like B, D, and P. In ham radio, where operators rely on voice communication over potentially noisy or weak signals, the phonetic alphabet ensures that critical information—such as call signs, locations, or emergency messages—is transmitted accurately. This is especially important in South Africa, where operators communicate across vast distances and diverse environments, and during DX contacts that span continents and languages.

South Africa's geography poses challenges for radio communication. From urban centres like Johannesburg to remote rural areas, operators face issues like signal fading, interference, and atmospheric noise, particularly on HF bands used for long-distance communication. The phonetic alphabet helps overcome these obstacles by providing clear, universally recognized code words that cut through static and distortion. For instance, saying "Sierra" for S instead of the letter itself ensures clarity, even in poor signal conditions.

In emergency situations, such as natural disasters like floods or wildfires, which are not uncommon in South Africa, ham radio operators often provide critical communication support when conventional systems fail. The phonetic alphabet is vital for relaying precise information, such as coordinates or medical details, to emergency services or other operators. Miscommunication in these scenarios could have serious consequences, making adherence to the standard phonetic alphabet a matter of life and death.

The Importance of Phonetics in DX Communication

DX communication, where operators connect with stations outside their country, is a hallmark of ham radio and particularly popular in South Africa due to its strategic location for reaching Europe, the Americas, and Oceania. However, DX contacts often involve weak signals, atmospheric interference, and language barriers, as operators may not share a common native language. The NATO phonetic alphabet, recognized globally by ham radio operators, military, and aviation communities, is essential for overcoming these challenges.

For example, a South African operator with the call sign ZS6XYZ might use "Zulu Sierra Six X-ray Yankee Zulu" to ensure their call sign is understood by a station in Japan or Brazil. Without phonetics, letters like Z and S could be misheard, leading to errors in logging or missed connections. DX communication often occurs in competitive settings, such as contests, where operators exchange information rapidly. Using standard phonetics like "Kilo" instead of non-standard terms like "Kilowatt" ensures efficiency and avoids confusion, especially when the receiving operator's first language isn't English.

Moreover, DX contacts frequently involve operators with varying levels of English proficiency. The NATO phonetic alphabet's universal adoption minimizes errors caused by unfamiliar accents or

pronunciations. For instance, a South African operator contacting a station in Eastern Europe might struggle with mutual intelligibility, but using “Alpha” instead of “A” ensures the letter is understood regardless of linguistic differences.

Common Mistakes and Best Practices

Despite its importance, some ham radio operators in South Africa and beyond deviate from the NATO phonetic alphabet, often for creative or humorous reasons. For example, an operator might use “Zesty Zebra” instead of “Zulu” for Z, thinking it’s memorable or fun. However, this undermines the alphabet’s universal recognition, especially in DX communication where non-standard phonetics can confuse operators unfamiliar with the substituted words.

To maximize clarity, operators should:

- Use the NATO/ITU phonetic alphabet exclusively for call signs, locations, and critical information.
- Pronounce words clearly and slowly, especially in noisy or weak signal conditions.
- Practice regularly to build familiarity with the alphabet, leveraging the brain’s phonemic restoration ability to recognize familiar words even in poor conditions.

Cultural and Practical Considerations in South Africa

South Africa’s ham radio community is vibrant but relatively small compared to global counterparts, making it essential for operators to adhere to international standards to integrate seamlessly into the global ham radio network. By consistently using the NATO phonetic alphabet, South African operators uphold professionalism and foster a sense of unity with the worldwide ham radio community. This is particularly important during international events like the CQ Worldwide DX Contest, where South African stations are highly sought after due to their unique ZS prefix.

Furthermore, South African operators often serve as ambassadors for the country in DX communication. Clear use of the phonetic alphabet enhances their reputation for reliability and professionalism, encouraging more international contacts. For new operators, mastering the phonetic alphabet is a practical step toward building confidence and competence in both local and DX operations.

Conclusion

The correct use of the NATO phonetic alphabet is indispensable for ham radio operators in South Africa and during DX communication. In a country with diverse languages and challenging radio conditions, the alphabet ensures clarity and accuracy, especially in emergencies.

For DX contacts, it bridges language barriers and overcomes weak signals, enabling South African operators to connect with the world. By adhering to the standard phonetic alphabet, avoiding non-standard substitutions, and practicing clear pronunciation, operators can enhance communication efficiency, uphold professionalism, and contribute to the global ham radio community’s seamless operation. Whether relaying a call sign in Johannesburg or connecting with a station in Tokyo, the phonetic alphabet is a lifeline for clear, reliable communication.

Amateur Radio Licensing Update During US Government Shutdown

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, ARRL VEC, wants members to know that we are closely following the impact of the US Government shutdown on licensing for the Amateur Radio Service.

The government shutdown began at 12:01 Eastern time on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, when Congress had not passed an appropriations bill or other plan to keep the government funded for the new fiscal year (begins October 1).

The Federal Communications Commission, which issues Amateur Radio Service licenses, issued a Public Notice on Tuesday, September 30, indicating that it would suspend most operations following a shutdown. "Aside from a few emergency and auction filing systems, all other Commission electronic filing systems will be unavailable to the public until normal agency operations resume," said the FCC Notice.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said the FCC systems appeared to go off-line around 1 PM Eastern time, and are redirecting to the Public Notice. This means the FCC will not be processing any amateur radio license applications during the shutdown, which includes individual, club, and exam session (new and upgrade) applications.

"But ARRL Volunteer Examiners should continue giving exam sessions," said Somma. "Keep doing what you're doing. Keep serving new and upgrade candidates for amateur radio licenses." Somma also urged that Volunteer Examiners continue to promptly forward session results from their exams to the ARRL VEC.

"Please do not hold your session results. Send your sessions to us, and ARRL VEC will continue to queue all applications as they are received. Once the federal government reopens, ARRL VEC will promptly resume submitting applications to the FCC for processing. So, keep sending sessions to the ARRL VEC."

The FCC Notice indicates that the CORES registration system will remain available to the public and will not be affected by the shutdown. Exam candidates can still register in CORES and be assigned an FCC Registration Number (FRN) at <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>. The FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) databases are currently unavailable to the public. ULS and related systems (like the License Manager, License Search, Application Search, etc.) are not accessible during the shutdown. Users cannot file applications with the FCC, or access license data, including address information.

Echoes from the Ether: A Tribute in QSL

Every QSL card tells a story. These are a few of the stories of Hans Kappetijn - ZS6KR, a cherished member of our amateur radio family whose signal may be silent, but whose presence still resonates. Through these cards—each a handshake across the airwaves—we remember the warmth, curiosity, and camaraderie he brought to every contact.

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU SSB

YJ8RG

QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHZ	RST	2 WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
ZS6BSZ	31	5	83	0630	21	5-6	SSB

Regards Hans *73, Ron*

R. S. Graham
P. O. Box 229
Port Vila

PSE QSL TNX A WAMPY QSL

ZS30SRC

Secunda Radio Club - 40th Anniversary

Secunda Radio Club
PO Box 10072
Secunda
South Africa
2302

Loc: KG43ol

☒ Pse QSL via Bureau / Direct / LOTW / E-Qsl
☐ TNX QSL

CONFIRM QSO	DATE	UTC	FREQ/MODE	POWER	RST
ZS6KR	25/01/18	13h13	40m SSB	800	59

PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA USA
Hennepin County

KCØURL

Ray Goebel
4820 Orleans Lane N.
Plymouth, MN 55442

Confirming QSO with	Day	Month	Year	UTC	MHz	RST	MODE
ZS6KR	14	10	11	1812	28.003	599	CW

PSE QSL ☐ **TNX QSL** ☒

www.cheapqsls.com

UV5U

UV5U
Confirms 2-Way QSO with

Zone CQ: 16
Zone ITU: 29
URDA: KO-17
Loc: KO50CO

via BUREAU

ZS6TVB

Date UTC Band Freq Mode RST or DB

30 MAR 2019 1139 15 21279.00 USB 59

PSE QSL 73! de Sergei **UV5U**

73, Sergei

OTH: Gostomel near Kyiv
Sergei Litvinov **UX1UA** aka **UV5U, EN1U**
ux1ua@qsl.net, Logs and photos at www.qsl.net/ux1ua
QSL via P.O.Box 111, Kyiv 01001 Ukraine or via bureau

UX5UO print

Thanks for the QSO, please QSL!

Zone CQ: 16
Zone ITU: 29
URDA: KO-17
Loc: KO50CO

Ex calls:
RB5KIX - 1959
UB5ICS - 1973
RB5IA - 1984

Antennas:
Monst'R Yagi 40 - 10 @ 32m
4L SteppIR 20-6 @ 18m
Dipole 80 @ 30m
Delta Loop 160 @ 30m
RX system of Beverages

Equipment:
FTdx5000D, FT-2000, K3
Alpha 87A, Expert 2K-FA, OM3500A

Software:
DXBase, MixW

US2UZ

Vladimir Radchenko
ul. Osinki, 15 Zazemye
Brovsky r-n, Kyiv obl.
07415 UKRAINE

ex UR4UEQ

E-mail: ur4ueq@gmail.com

50°33'11" N
30°38'27" E
URDA KO-10
ITU 29 CQ 16
QTH Loc KO50HN

Confirming our QSO

To Radio	DATE			UTC	MHz	2-Way	RST
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
ZS6TVB	07	09	2017	17 29	18132	SSB	58

☒ Pse QSL ☐ TNX ☐ via bureau, P.O.Box 56, Kyiv, 01001 Ukraine 73, Vladimir

UX5UO print

KA4BDW

Jerry W. Peel
116 Terry's Place
Cleveland, GA 30528

White County

Confirming QSO with	Date	UTC	MHz	RST	Mode	QSL
ZS6TVB	10-25-2020	18:45	21.380	59	SSB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

www.cheapqsls.com

Duct Tape and Chocolate—The Shack Survival Kit

What every ham should keep within arm's reach (and why it's not just about solder)

Murphy doesn't knock—he barges in. One moment you're calling CQ, the next your mic cable's frayed, your rig's rebooting, and your coffee's gone cold. That's why every amateur radio operator needs a Shack Survival Kit: a stash of essentials that can rescue your signal, your sanity, and your snack break.

The Core Kit: Tools That Save the Day

Let's start with the basics—items that should live within arm's reach of your operating position:

The Morale Kit: Comfort in Chaos

Let's be honest—some days, the shack feels more like a battlefield. That's where the morale kit comes in.

- **Chocolate or biltong:** For stress relief, celebration, or bribing your spouse to let you finish the net.
- **Sticky notes:** For reminders, antenna tuning notes, or passive-aggressive messages to Murphy.
- **Club mug + emergency tea bag:** Because hydration is key, and PARK pride tastes better in ceramic.

The Mental Toolkit: Staying Sharp

Not everything you need is physical. Keep your mental toolkit stocked too:

- **A printed troubleshooting flowchart:** When panic sets in, a visual guide helps you stay calm.
- **Your “Murphy Logbook”:** A notebook of past mishaps, fixes, and lessons learned.
- **A backup net control script:** Because one day, someone will say “You're up!” and you'll need to sound ready.

Optional Add-ons (Highly Recommended)

- **Zip ties and Velcro straps:** For cable management and impromptu antenna lashings.
- **Spare fuses and adapters:** Because the one you need will vanish when the shops are closed.
- **Mini first aid kit:** Soldering burns, coax cuts, and bruised egos happen.



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

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

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

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

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

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





MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA NPC

Reg. No 1995/005605/08

www.motorsport.co.za

Ground Floor, Quadrum Building 1, Quadrum Office Park, 50 Constantia Boulevard, Constantia Kloof, Roodepoort
e-mail: msa@motorsport.co.za Telephone (011) 675 2220

MSA RALLY CIRCULAR 4 OF 2025

Affected parties are hereby advised that Round 7 of the 2025 MSA National Rally Championship, originally scheduled for 26th and the 27th September 2025, has been cancelled.

This decision was taken due to the ongoing wet conditions in the Fouriesburg area, following the heavy rains experienced during the past summer and which have persisted throughout the 2025 winter season.

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 & 6	29 & 30 August 2025	Ermelo, Mpumalanga
7	26 & 27 September 2025	Fouriesburg, Free State
7 & 8	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

4 September 2025

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



Directors: V. Mahanaj (Chief Executive Officer/Interim Chairman), P. Zeelen (Financial),
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e-mail: 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

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Mrs. D. Abrahams, Mrs. D. Ballington, K. Govender, Ms. T. Human, Mrs. S. Labuscagne Jonck, D. Ramchander, M. Rowe, G. Waberski,

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

An Open Letter to Fellow Hams / Oop Brief aan Mede Hams

Dear fellow ham,

If you've ever been in a contest where your fingers had to move faster than your tongue, you know: that QSO is gold. But gold means nothing if it's not logged *and* confirmed.

We've all been there—you hear the 59, fire off your callsign like a CW ninja on espresso, and think, “I'll log it later.” Later becomes never, and that contact vanishes like rare DX on a Sunday afternoon.

So here's our friendly nudge: log that QSO. Confirm it. Use QRZ.com, use SA-QSL from SARL, use a napkin if you must—just make sure it counts. Because for those chasing awards, an unconfirmed contact is just a bedtime story without a stamp.

SA-QSL isn't just a digital system—it's your brag book. And QRZ.com? It's like Facebook for hams, but with fewer selfies and more callsigns.

Let's help each other honour our contacts. Every QSO is a thread between two people, and every confirmation makes that thread stronger.

Keep calling, keep logging, and keep building the band.

73 from the shack,
A Fellow Keeper of the Mic

Liewe mede-ham,

As jy al ooit in 'n kompetesie was waar jou vingers vinniger moes tik as jou tong kon praat, dan weet jy: daardie QSO is goud. Maar goud beteken niks as dit nie gelog én bevestig is nie.

Ons weet hoe dit gaan—jy't die 59 gehoor, jou roepsein uitgespoeg soos 'n CW-meester op turbo, en dan... “Ek sal dit later log.” Later word nooit, en daardie kontak verdwyn soos 'n rare DX op 'n Sondagmiddag.

Dis hoekom ons wil vra: log daardie QSO. Bevestig dit. Gebruik QRZ.com, gebruik SA-QSL van SARL, gebruik 'n servet as jy moet—maar maak seker dit tel. Want vir die mense wat toekennings jaag, is 'n onbevestigde kontak net 'n mooi storie sonder 'n stempel.

SA-QSL is nie net 'n digitale stelsel nie—dis jou digitale spogboek. En QRZ.com? Dis soos 'n ham se Facebook, maar met minder selfies en meer roepseine.

Laat ons mekaar help om ons kontakte te eer. Want elke QSO is 'n draad tussen twee mense, en elke bevestiging maak daardie draad sterker.

Hou aan roep, hou aan log, en hou aan bou aan ons band.

73 uit die shack,
'n Medehouer van die mikrofoon



From call sign to confirmation—one click, one connection.

Long Term HF Propagation for October 2025 By Vincent, ZS6BTY

Local Propagation (up to 500 km): The F or F2 critical frequency (f_oF_2) is the MUF for short range, near vertical incidence sky-wave (NVIS) propagation.

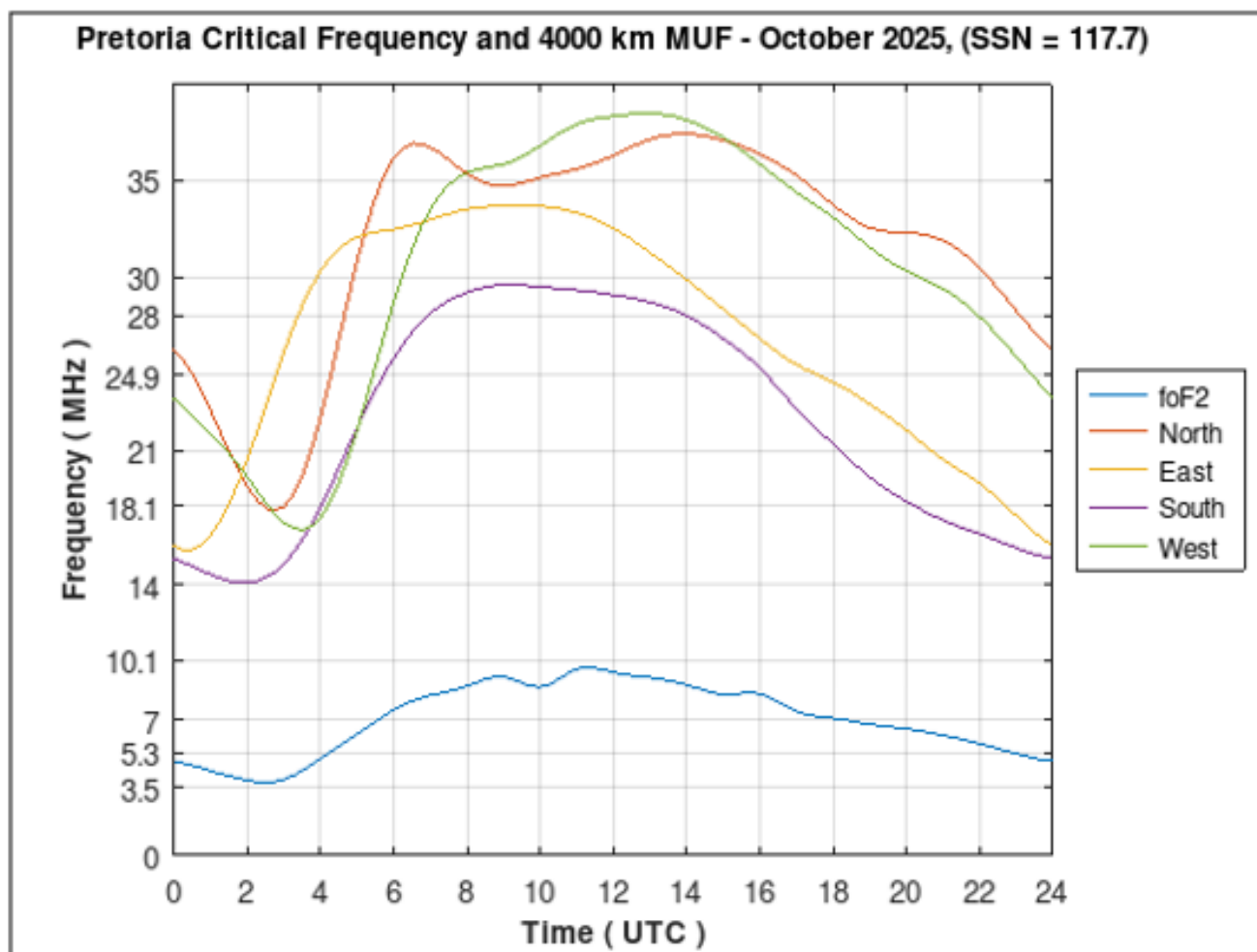
Long Distance Propagation: The MUF for a first hop of 4000 km in the cardinal directions are labelled North, East, South and West. They indicate the direction that propagation may be expected.

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

“Prediction is difficult, especially when dealing with the future”. . . Danish Proverb

[1] FTZMUF2: A simple method of estimating the ionospheric parameters of f_oF_2 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>)



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

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

Send your transmissions (aka emails) to watts@parc.org.za 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!”