



Pretoria Amateur Radio Club / Pretoria Amateur Radio Klub
Annual General Meeting: 31 October 2020 / Algemene Jaarvergadering: 31 Oktober 2020

90th Annual General Meeting of PARC Chairman's Report: Louis de Wet ZS6SK

90^{ste} Algemene Jaarvergadering van PARK Voorsitters Verslag: Louis de Wet ZS6SK

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 historiese 90^{ste} Algemene Jaarvergadering van die Pretoria Amateur Radio Klub by te woon.

A hearty welcome to all present and thank you very much for all have given their time to attend this historical 90th Annual general Meeting of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club.

Last year on the 21st of September during the previous AGM I opened the report with the topic "PARC": 90 years and forward", with the words: "With the 90th anniversary of PARC approaching, I see a strong and fruitful future for the oldest amateur radio club in South Africa, and this event will pave the way for the 100th celebration of PARC. Indeed, exiting times lie ahead, and I call on all members to participate and share in the momentous occasion". None of us were prepared for the times that lay ahead. The historical significance of this year need not be emphasized again, but for the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club on its 90th celebration in 2020 was indeed an illustration of how Amateur Radio survived and proliferated even under these difficult circumstances. It is thus a tremendous honour and pleasure to present my Chairman's report to you today.

Silent Keys: We remember with sadness and pay tribute to PARC members Johan Classen ZS6IAM and Tony Crowder ZS6CRO who passed away this year. Johan was the father of Uys Classen ZS6UYS. Tony was well known for many years in the rally community, and was also the auditor of PARC.

Club Membership: PARC membership currently is 125 paid up members, which is an increase of 15% compared to the membership number the previous year. We sincerely thank our Members for their support and loyalty.

Club Veterans: Our annual veterans breakfast has proved to be a tremendous success every year. It is an event where Club Members older than 60 years old get the opportunity to meet, have a good time to converse about their wonderful times they had, and enjoy a meal. This year we had the opportunity to meet at "Jan se Skuld" on the 10th of October, as was attended by seventeen Club Members and seven guests. It was our honour to host the following members which were 70 years and older: Hansie Meyer ZS6AIK, Richard Peer ZS6UK, Joe Katzman ZS6TB, Roy Alexander ZS6MI, Gawie Basson ZS6GJJ and Whitey Joubert ZS6JJJ. PARC sincerely thanks them for their attendance, as well as Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA, Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB, Graham ZS6GJR and Joey Reid for organizing this pleasant event. May this wonderful tradition continue for many years to come.

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



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Finances: Thanks to the efforts the past two years by Graham Reid ZS6GJR and Etienne Naude ZS6EFN, our accounting system and banking matters have been upgraded and consolidated significantly, such that all transactions are recorded and paid electronically by EFT and cell phone bank applications. Automatic invoices are generated and send by email to Club Members, with the result that our membership payments have increased satisfactorily. We sincerely thank Graham en Etienne for their efforts. During this year, Albert Schreuder ZS6SE, who is a Chartered Accountant, has joined the Committee, providing us with specialized advice on financial and taxation matters. We sincerely thank him for his contributions.

Secretarial: For the past two 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 have set a high standard. During the lockdown period, Irene has initiated on-line meetings which have been done with great success. 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. Our sincere thanks to Vincent Harrison ZS6BTY for the regular contributions on propagation information.

Swop Shop: Hans Kappetijn ZS6KR, who is responsible for the maintenance of the Swop Shop section of the PARC website is sincerely thanked for this essential service the Club provides, not only to PARC Members, but also to many other members of other clubs who use this service. It is always interesting to consult this section and look out for interesting deals. During the lockdown period, this service has proved to be of great value.

Bulletins: Sunday morning bulletins is 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:

Hans Kappetijn ZS6KR: Relays of bulletins, English SARL bulletin reading, recording and play-back, Call-ins on 40m, Swop Shop, playback of PARC bulletins on Monday evenings, HF- and International Contest news on PARC bulletins.

Alméro DuPisani ZS6LDP: Playback of Afrikaans 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.

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

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

Albert Schreuder ZS6SE and Louis de Wet ZS6SK: Regular hosting of PARC bulletins.

Repeaters: Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB for keeping the repeater network operational and dealing with the various issues associated with it. Johan is in regular communication with Greg Jared of Webb Industries who maintains the repeater sites. Unfortunately the Radcliff



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site has lately been the victim of regular burglaries, and replacements of batteries and a power supply had to be conducted by Johan.

Rallies: The rally team provides an essential radio communication service at regular events, and their excellent representation of PARC is sincerely appreciated. We thank Johan de Bruyn who is the communications coordinator with these events, as well as his support team, Graham ZS6GJR and Joey Reid, JB de Beer ZR6YV, Irene en Pieter Myburgh ZS6IEA and ZS6PAM, Willie Greyling ZR6WGR, Willie ZS6WVN and Annelie ZS6AVN van Niekerk, Tony Crowder ZS6CRO (SK) and all other members.

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 Johan Corrie de Bruyn, Whitey ZS6JJJ and Erna, Kenny ZS6KMM and Paddy, Sarel ZS6EK and Karen as well as Louis ZS6SK for their assistance with the preparation and selling of boerewors rolls and coffee at these events.

Contests: This past year has, even during these difficult circumstances, seen good participation by PARC Members in local and international contests. Under the leadership of Albert Schreuder ZS6SE, local and international contests were well supported by Gerrie Leonard ZS6GTK, Zack Pienaar ZR6ZAK, Pierre Holtzhausen ZS6PJH, Theo Bresler ZS6TVB and Hans Kappetijn ZS6KR. We sincerely thank these members for their hard work while having lots of fun, and encourage members to join them in making PARC again a competitive force with radio contests.

Watts: Having been the editor of Watts the past 4 years has been a tremendous pleasure, and I sincerely thank our Club Members for their treasured contributions. In particular Hans Kappetijn ZS6KR and Vincent Harrison ZS6BTY for their regular contributions, and in particular again Vincent for the electronic distribution of Watts. I have realised that Watts need not only contain radio related topics, and that articles on general science have been well received. My sincere thanks to all have contributed the past four 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. Even during the lockdown period, John has achieved getting a group of prospective hams prepared for the examination, and all of them have passed. A most significant feat he has overcome. PARC sincerely appreciates his contributions.

Ham Spirit: On two occasions have two of PARC members from their own funds in their time fabricated and installed radio masts for our handicapped Club Members. PARC hereby with great appreciation salute Gerrie Leonard ZS6GTK and Zack Pienaar ZR6ZAK for their magnificent efforts in assisting fellow radio amateurs. Andre Coetzee ZS6GCA has been for a number of years been involved with the Kungwini home for the disabled, and has with Gerrie Leonard, set up a ham radio display during their November display and sale of goods manufactured by the residents.

In conclusion, I wish to thank everyone for attending this historical AGM. The year 2020 and associated, but necessary restrictions have placed a severe restriction on Club Activities. However, it did not dampen the Ham spirit. A significant increase in radio activity resulted in a revival in the use of radio communications. We sincerely hope and believe that a great number of good has come from this unfortunate global pandemic. With regards to the 90



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years and beyond future of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club, I propose a number of goals for the next Committee which include the following:

- 1) Due to restrictions encountered this year, the opportunity to host a 90 year celebration function was not possible, and a re-planning of this event should be considered and conducted at a time when conditions are more favourable.
- 2) Although our Sunday morning bulletins are of a good standard, opportunities for improvement should be identified and implemented in order to provide an even better service to our local and international listeners. Contingency plans need to be formulated in the event where the inevitable may occur.
- 3) We are in the process of conducting inspections and evaluations of our current repeater sites, recording all the necessary details of equipment of all the sites. Consequently, using the new electronic registration procedure on the ICASA website, five year in advance licence renewals will be conducted using this platform.
- 4) An evaluation of our current website design and layout need to be conducted, and suggestions and participation from Club Members are invited and encouraged. A blog where active participation by club members on various matters should be considered.

If there are any other matters which warrant consideration for our future goals, please feel free to contact the new committee in the near future.

Thank you very much for your attendance.

Sincerely,
Louis de Wet ZS6SK
Pretoria Amateur Radio Club