

# WATTS

Monthly Newsletter of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club Maandelikse Nuusbrief van die Pretoria Amateur Radio Klub

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Bulletins : 145.725 MHz on Sundays / Sondae at 08:45 Relays: 1.840, 3.700, 7.066, 10.135, 14.235, 51.400, 438.825, 1297 MHz 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 19:45

04-2016

Year 86 + 4m



Motor 88 van Robbie Coetzee en Chris Coertse in aksie tydens die Goldfields Tydren gedurende 4-5 Maart 2016. Meer hieroor op bladsy 3.

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Club Meetings / Klub Vergaderings

#### Club Social Meeting :

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2016 from 14h00 <u>at SAM</u>. Talk by Louis ZS6SK on Poisons, Venoms and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

#### **Committee Meeting :**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 from 19h00 <u>at SAM</u>

# PARC Committee Members / Komiteelede : 2015 - 2016

Elected Members				1.142.142.8	
Chairman, Social & Rallies	Johan de Bruyn	ZS6JHB	zs6jhb@gmail.com	012-803-7385	079-333-4107
Vice Chairman, Contests	Pierre Holtzhausen	ZS6PJH	zs6pjh@telkomsa.net	012-655-0726	082-575-5799
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Secretary, Bulletin Coordinator	Jean de Villiers	ZS6ARA	zs6ara@webmail.co.za	1	083-627-2506
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Web co-ordination	Graham Reid	ZR6GJR	greid@wol.co.za	18.21426537	083-701-0511
Repeaters	Craig Symington	ZS6RH	zs6rh@hotmail.co.za		081-334-6817
Competitions	Jaco Cronje	ZR6CMG	jacocronje@yahoo.com	부산 소재하는 것	081-474-2220
Clubhouse & Contests	Whitey Joubert	ZS6JJJ	zs6jjj@gmail.com	2010 22212	072-120-4516
Technical, Web & Repeaters	Gawie Marais	ZS6GJM	zs6gjm@gmail.com		083-663-2222
Repeaters	Andre Coetzee	ZS6GCA	Johncoetzee@absamail.co.za	and the second	082-772-5811
WATTS, RAE & Clubhouse	Louis de Wet	ZS6SK	louis.zs6sk@gmail.com	012-349-1044	072-140-9893
Co-Opted Members	STERN SHARES SET	242063		2.4 S.S.F.M.S.M.	Section and a
Fleamarkets	Alméro Dupisani	ZS6LDP	almero.dupisani@up.ac.za		083-938-8955
Auditor	Tony Crowder	ZS6CRO	tcrowder@telkomsa.net	011-672-3311	
Historian, Archives, Awards	Tjerk Lammers	ZS6P	zs6p@iafrica.com	012-809-0006	083-976-4387
		A DESCRIPTION OF THE OWNER OWNER OF THE OWNER OWNER OF THE OWNER			

# Birthdays – April / Verjaarsdae – April

01 Melanie, daughter of Peggy and Ed ZS6UT 08 Klasie, seun van Sylvia en Tjerk Lammers ZS6P 19 Etienne Naude ZS6EFN 04 Dino Cottis ZS6DNO 13 Liam, son of Heather and Vincent ZS6BTY

#### Spouse's Birthdays – April / April

10 Joey, sw of Graham Reid ZS6GJR 15 Joanne, sw of Evan Seligmann ZS6ELI 22 Marita, eggenoot van Roy Alexander ZS6MI 29 Heather, sw of Vincent Harrison ZS6BTY

#### Anniversaries / Herdenkings – April / April

06 Andre ZS6BRC en Lyn van Tonder 10 Evan ZS6ELI and Joanne Seligmann 30 Graham ZS6GJR and Joey Reid

#### **April Birthstone: Diamond**

Diamonds are thought to provide those who wear them with better relationships, balance, clarity, abundance, and an increase in inner strength.



Please Note : If your Club fees are not paid up to date, birthday details cannot be displayed in Watts

Contests and Diary of Events – April 2016 / Kompetisies en Dagboek van Gebeure – April 2016 (UTC Times)				
02	SARL RaDAR Challenge			
02 – 03	SP DX Contest : 15h00 – 15h00			
07	SARL 80m QSO Party : 17h00 – 20h00			
09 – 10	JIDX CW contest : 07h00 – 13h00			
10	Hungarian Straight Key Contest : 15h00 – 17h00			
15 – 16	Holyland DX Contest : 21h00 – 21h00			
16 – 17	YU DX Contest : 21h00 – 05h00			
23 – 24	10-10 International Spring Digital Contest : 00h01 – 23h59			
23 – 24	SP DX RTTY Contest : 12h00 – 12h00			
23 – 24	Helvetia Contest : 13h00 – 12h59			

#### PARC SUBS / LEDEGELD FROM / VAN 31-10-2015

Bank	First National Bank	Ordinary Members / Gewone Lede : R150 Spouses / Pensioners : R50	A HAR AND A COMPANY		
Branch Code	25 20 45		Ordinary Members / Gewone Lede : R150 Spouses / Pensioners : R50	appear as statement	
Account No	546 000 426 73		text!		

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

# PARC Fleamarkets for 2016 are scheduled for the following dates:

# 5 March ; 28 May ; 27 August ; 5 November

Please do contact Almero du Pisani ZS6LDP (<u>almero.dupisani@up.ac.za</u> 083-938-8955) for more information or to book a table, or if you wish to donate any old equipment to PARC

## Die Goldfields Tydren, Welkom : 4 -5 Maart 2016

Die 2016 tydren seisoen het in volle swang afgeskop met die Goldfields tydren gehou in Welkom vanaf die Phakisa renbaan. Vrydag oggend die 4de Maart het 'n groepie van ons by die vulstasie net voor Krugerdorp ontmoet en die tog aangepak Welkom toe. Net buite Potchestroom het ons gestop vir 'n lekker ontbyt langs die pad, en daarna was dit weer fort verby Vierfontein en Bothaville op paaie wat letterlik gemaak is van slaggate. So teen 2 uur die middag het ons by die die Phakisa renbaan aangekom, bene gerek en deurgestap om die deelnemers se tydelike werkswinkels en motors te bewonder. Na 'n vinnige afpak en stort by die gastehuis is ons na die tweede trajek wat om 19h00 sou afskop in sentraal Welkom.





Vir die wat Welkom ken met sy unieke straatuitleg, kan jy jouself voorstel watter uitdaging dit moet wees om teen volspoed deur middelman kruisings te snel, om te draai aan die einde, en weer volspoed kris kruis weer terug te jaag in die pikdonkerte. Glad nie vir die swakhartiges nie! Die publiek het wonderlik saamgewerk en skarebeheer was 'n plesier gewees. Maar soos dit werk, vyf minute voor die aanvang van die tydren was daar 'n huislose man reg in die middel van die trajek met 'n klomp plastieksakke, salig onbewus, wat ek eers moes help na veiligheid. Willie ZR6WGR (onder) was druk besig met sy koplamp om tyd resultate bymekaar te kry en reg oor te skryf terwyl gekontroleerde chaos rondom hom geheers het.







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Die volgende oggend vroeg is ons uit na die onderskeie trajekte met Johan ZS6JHB en Louis ZS6SK op Harmony 1 & 2, Tony ZS6CRO en Pieter ZS6CN op Esperanza 1 & 2, Brian ZS6YZ en Anette ZR6D op Buks 1 & 2, en Pieter ZS6PAM en Willie ZR6WGR op Nooitgedacht 1 & 2. Mobiel 1 was beman deur John ZR6JAO, terwyl Menno ZS6AGC Kar 0 was. Ben ZR6BVB was Marshal 1, terwyl JB ZR6YV die beheerkamer beman het. Irene Muyburgh en Annatjie Fourie het saam met Pieter ZS6PAM en Pieter ZS6CN op die trajekte gewerk en gesorg dat die manne se kele nie te droog word nie. Natuurlik soos altyd was stof en adrenalien 'n groot deel van die pret gewees wat enige tydren 'n heerlike ervaring maak.



Na die oggend se aksie by die trajekte is ons terug na die Phakisa renbaan waar Johan en Louis die Phakisa 2 trajek beman het. Daar was baie geleenthede vir aksieskote en videos (wanneer tyd dit toegelaat het) wanneer die motors teen meer as 160 kilometer per uur voor die hoofpawiljoen verbygesnel het.



Pretoria Amateur Radio klub bedank hiermee graag met groot waardering lede en nie-lede vir hul bydraes tot die Goldfields tydren. Die volgende tydren is die SASOL wat vanaf 22 April sal plaasvind in- en rondom Sabie. Vir meer inligting aangaande die komende en ander tydrenne, kontak gerus vir Johan ZS6JHB.



Saterdag aand na die tydren aksie was almal rasend honger en het ons heerlik gekuier by 'n plaaslike restaurant.





Na die ete het PARK en Magalies Klub lede die dorp rooi geverf...

Die volgende oggend 5 uur is ons fort huistoe en het teen so 9 uur ontbyt genuttig in Potchefstroom. Onder is Eugene, seun van Louis, Brian ZS6YZ, Anette, ZR6D, Pieter ZS6CN en gade Annatjie.



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### Does the kilogram need to be re-defined?

The kilogram is the last of the SI (International System) base units to be defined by a physical object or artefact. The kilogram is defined as "the mass of a particular cylinder of platinum-iridium alloy, called the International Prototype Kilogram (IPK), which is preserved in a vault at Sevres, France, by the International Bureau fo Weights and Measures" (CRC, 1998; NIST, 2001; BIPM, 2006). It is the only SI base unit which has the prefix "kilo", and the only unit which is defined by an artefact, rather than a fundamental physical property which can be reproduced in any laboratory. Other base units which are affected by the definition of the kilogram include (i) the Ampere, whose definition relates to the Newton; (ii) the Mole, whose definition refers to 0.012kg od carbon-12, and (iii) the Candela, which relates to the Watt.



The international prototype of the kilogram, officially sanctioned in 1889, and designated as  $\mathfrak{R}$ , is a platinum (90%) and iridium (10%) cylinder of diameter and height roughly 39mm (left centre). The IPK was commissioned by the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) under the authority of the Metre Convention in 1875. The original artefact ( $\mathfrak{R}$ ) as well as six official copies are stored in a vault at the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), and is only accessible by permission of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM).

In order to ensure international compatibility, the unit of mass is disseminated throughout the world by comparisons with  $\mathcal{K}$ , made indirectly through a hierarchical system. The first comparisons are made with a subset of "official copies" of  $\mathfrak{K}$ . This is followed by calibrations of additional copies known as "national prototypes", which ensures that countries worldwide can ensure that the mass of it's prototype and all measurements that derive from it are traceable to  $\mathfrak{K}$ .

Ten years after the initial distribution of the national prototypes, member states were invited to send their prototypes to the BIPM to check their stability. In the period 1899 - 1911, measurements were conducted on 25 prototypes. The international prototype was not used during this exercise. This was a true "verification" as now new certificate was issued unless the mass value calculated at the end of the verification changed by more than 0.05 mg from the value certified in 1889.

In 1939 the CIPM authorized a comparison between  $\Re$  and it's six official copies. The 1939 study is notable for the first mention of a hypothesis that  $\Re$  may have lost some tens of micrograms since 1889, relative to that of the copies. During the war years methods were developed to clean the copies with ethanol and bi-distilled water steam washing, as it was thought that they may gain mass through adsorption of atmospheric contamination on their surfaces.



Subsequent comparative verification exercises during the 1947 - 54 and 1988 - 92 periods have shown the masses of worldwide prototypes of  $\Re$  to be slowly but inexorably diverging from each other. Relative to the prototype mass pieces and official copies, it was evident that the mass of the IPK decreased by at least 50 µg over the past century. In the press however, this relative change of mass has often been misreported which stated that the IPK "lost 50µg", and did not mention that this apparent mass decrease was "in comparison with it's official copies" or other prototypes. The United States, for example, originally purchased prototypes 20, 4, 79, 85 and 92, of which K20 is designated as the primary national prototype, and K4 the check standard. Prototypes K79 and K92 serve as additional checks for K20. In the period 2010 – 2011 when K20 and K4 were send to the BIPM (no cleaning was done), significant changes in their masses were recoded, being +0.045 mg for K20 and +0.053 mg for K4, which were unprecedented in the history of both artefacts. Similar deviations, were recorded for K79 (+0.047 mg) and K92 (+0.022 mg), necessitating the recalibration of all prototypes. Similar deviations have also been recorded for other countries participating (Figures next page).



It has therefore become apparent that the definition of the kilogram, based on a 120 year old platinumiridium cylinder should be redefined in more modern scientific terms, as the mass of the IPK could be changing over time. The replacement of the classic definition by an intrinsic (non-artifact) definition thus has been deemed a high priority. Mills et al. (2005 ; 2006), who are representatives of the BIPM and the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), including the head of the Consultative Committee on Units (CCU) advisory committee to BIPM, and the head of the Fundamental Constants Data Center at NIST, have proposed new definitions of the kilogram and other SI units. Since the percieved weakness of the current SI definitions of other units such as the ampere, mole and candela "derives in large part from their dependence on the kilogram... the definition of the kilogram is thus central to the more general problem of improving the SI (Mills et al., 2006).

The CCU/NIST (2005) subsequently described two possible methods to redefine the kilogram:

- Fixing the value of Planck's constant (h), and then using a watt-balance, and
- Fixing the Avogadro constant  $N_A$  and then using a silicon-sphere (XRD X-Ray crystal Diffraction) method to realize the definition.

In a subsequent paper (2006) the authors settle on the fixed-h method, which is based on two fundamental physics equations:  $E = mc^2$  (special relativity) and E = hf (quantum mechanics). Using both equations for m yields  $m = hf/c^2$ , and solving for f yields  $f = mc^2/h$ . Using the equation solving for f, three concrete definitions were proposed:

- The kilogram is the mass of a body whose equivalent energy is equal to that of a number of photons whose frequencies sum to exactly (299792458<sup>2</sup> / 66260693) x 10<sup>41</sup> Hertz.
- The kilogram is the mass of a body whose de Broglie-Compton frequency is equal to exactly 299792458<sup>2</sup> / (6.6260693 x 10<sup>-34</sup>) Hertz.
- The kilogram, or unit of mass, is such that the Planck constant is exactly 6.6260693 x 10<sup>-34</sup> joule per second.

The above definitions, although scientifically thorough, sincerely complicates the definition of the kilogram for the average person beyond understanding, and a sound understanding of quantum mechanics is required to fully understand the theory behind the proposed definitions. The two above definitions for the kilogram require vastly different approaches, one being the Watt balance, and the other a spherical crystalline silicon mass piece, which redefines the kilogram in terms of Avogadro's constant, which relates an element's atomic mass to it's bulk weight. In next month's issue of Watts we will cover the Watt balance and the silicon sphere in more detail. Louis de Wet ZS6SK

BIPM, 2006. The International System of Units. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. International Bureau of Weights and Measures. Sevres Cedex. France.

CRC, 1998. CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics. CRC Press. New York.

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NIST, 2001. The International System of Units (SI). Special Publication 330. National Institute of Standards and Technology. PRATT, J.R. 2014. How to weigh everything from atoms to apples using the revised SI. J. Meas. Sci. 9(1): 26 - 38.

# **PARK VHF / UHF Kompetisie**

Die PARK VHF / UHF kompetisie het gedurende die naweek van die 19de tot 20ste Maart plaasgevind. PARK lede het 'n wel toegeruste basis opgerig en die terrein by SAM was volgepak met antennas en voerlyne wat oor die grond geloop het en met tye soos 'n spinnerak gelyk het. PARK was goed verteenwoordig deur ons Voorsitter Johan ZS6JHB en sy gade Doreen, ZR6DDB, Pierre ZS6PJH, Jaco ZR6CMG, Rvan ZS6GGR, Pieter ZS6PA asook Kallie ZS6KCS en Ina. So tussendeur die kompetisie werk het Ryan tyd gemaak om sy energieke honde die nodige daaglikse oefening te gee, en ons het met tye 'n "Vreemde Vlieende Voorwerp", of is dit nou 'n weerballon ... ?.. dopgehou ... PARK moedig u aan om by ons kompetisie aan te sluit en nie net radio te geniet nie, maar ook 'n bietjie kampering en braaivleis ook as u vir die dag net wil wegkom van alles. Kontak gerus vir Jaco Cronje ZR6CMG vir meer inligting oor komende kompetisies.



Doreen en kleindogter, Ryan, Pierre, Jaco, Pieter, Ina en Kallie



Pierre se legendariese karavaan



Kallie en Ina Marais wat saam luister



CQ kompetisie... ZS6PTA...

Pierre in aksie



Is dit 'n weerballon of 'n VVV?



Ryan met Alpha en Batman

# The Arecibo Observatory

The Arecibo Observatory, located on the island of Puerto Rico, is since 1962 the largest single dish radio telescope in the world. The spherical primary reflector is 305 meters in diameter, 49 meters deep and covers approximately 7.3 hectares. The spherical surface of the primary reflector consists of 38 788 peforated aluminium panels. Constructed from 1960 to 1963 by Cornell University under contract to the U.S. Air Force, it was operated by Cornell for the Air Force initially, and then for the National Science Foundation (NSF), which took over the facility from the Department of Defence in 1969. Since 1971, the observatory has been part fo the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Centre (NAIC). Research is conducted primarily in astronomy, planetary studies, as well as space and atmospheric sciences.



Location of Puerto Rico relative to the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Cuba



Incoming signals are reflected by a parabolic antenna to a single focus. As the primary reflector surface of the antenna is fixed, the receiver above it needs to be moved in order to examine different parts of the sky. Due to imperfections or spherical aberrations in the reflector surface, signals are not reflected to the principal focus, but to points at various heights above the reflector surface. Subsequently, line feed receivers were initially utilized to collect signals.

The receivers are mounted on a rotating azimuth arm, which is in turn suspended from a large supporting platform approximately 150 meters above the reflector surface (left and next page).

The entire structure, with a mass of approximately 900 tons, is supported by 18 steel cables strung from three reinforced concrete towers placed around the antenna with 120° separation. When completed in 1963, the primary reflector surface consisted of wire mesh, which limited operating frequencies to lower than 600 MHz. During an upgrade in 1974, perforated aluminium panels (1 x 3m each) were installed to replace the wire mesh surface. They are supported by a grid of cables, which are in turn held in place and shape by 2000 additional cables attached to concrete blocks (or tieback points) on the ground below the reflector.



This upgrading of the parabolic antenna, which enabled operators to adjust the surface, increased the upper operating frequency to 3 GHz. However still, line feed receivers could not be constructed to specifications allowing operation at the highest usable frequencies. During a second upgrade in 1992, all but one feed receiver were replaced by a Gregorian reflector system permitting operation up to 8GHz and even higher.



Specially shaped secondary and teriary reflectors are housed within a 90-ton radome designed to protect them from the tropical weather. The radome is suspended from the azimuth arm, approximately 137 metres above the primary reflector surface. Incoming radio signals are brought to a single focus point of 3 millimeter by the new reflector combination.

For the past 53 years, the Arecibo Observatory has been intstrumental in a large amount of scientific research in radio astronomy, planetary studies (via radar and passive observation), as well as space and atmospheric science. To the scientific community it is well known for its many contributions to science, one of which earned the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1993. The Arecibo also featured in two films, namely Golden Eye where James Bond and the villain settled their score on the reflector surface. In the film Contact Jodie Foster features as 'n young scientist making contact with alien intelligence. The Arecibo Observatory has been actively involved with the Search for Extre Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project for many years. The Arecibo Observatory Amateur Radio Club (AOARC) also managed to successfully achieve EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) on 432 Mhz using the large parabolic antenna. More on this and the improtant scientific research being conducted at Arecibo in the next Issue of Watts. *Louis de Wet ZS6SK* 





# Long Term HF Propagation for April 2016

#### DX Operating

The graph shows the 4000 km maximum useable frequency (MUF) to the East, North, West and South from Pretoria for the first hop using the F2 layer.

#### Local Operating

The F2 critical frequency (foF2) is the maximum F-layer frequency for short range communications.

See also the Propagation tab at <a href="http://www.parc.org.za/">http://www.parc.org.za/</a>

**Courtesy Vincent ZS6BTY** 

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