



# WATTS 2018-05

Year 88 + 05m

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

✉ PARC, PO Box 73696, Lynnwood Ridge 0040, RSA  
<http://www.parc.org.za> [zs6pta@zs6pta.org.za](mailto:zs6pta@zs6pta.org.za)



**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



Die Nasionale Konvensie van die Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga, gehou te Farm Inn op die 14de April 2018 was 'n reuse sukses. Tydens die vlooiemark was daar 'n groot verskeidenheid uitstallings en items te koop aangebied. PARC is goed verteenwoordig met lede wat hul toerusting en komponente uitgestal het. Meer oor die SARL konvensie, vlooiemark en gala prysuitdeling in hierdie uitgawe van Watts.

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## Club Meetings / Klub Vergaderings

### Club Committee Meeting :

**The next Committee Meeting will be on Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of May from 18h00. Venue to be announced**

## Next PARC Fleamarket / Volgende PARK Vlooiemark

Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of July from 10h00 at POMC

Saterdag die 21<sup>ste</sup> Julie vanaf 10h00 by POMC

To book a table, please do contact: / Om 'n tafel te bespreek, kontak gerus:

[Almero Du Pisani ZS6LDP](mailto:almero.dupisani@up.ac.za) at 083-938-8955 or [almero.dupisani@up.ac.za](mailto:almero.dupisani@up.ac.za)

## Member's Birthdays May 2018 / Lede Verjaarsdae - Mei 2018

03 Andries Schoombee ZS6SCH  
 06 Christopher Coetzee ZU6CC  
 17 Vincent Harrison ZS6BTY  
 25 Tjerk Lammers ZS6P (Erelid)  
 31 Gawie Basson ZS6GJJ  
 31 George Ellis ZS6GWE

06 Lourens Erasmus ZS6KRT  
 14 Johan Momberg ZS6BPP  
 21 Lukas Dorfling ZS6LMD  
 31 David Botha ZS6O  
 31 Dave Williams ZS6JW

### Anniversaries May / Herdenkings - Mei

01 Ria and Peter Smith-Curren ZS6PJ

## Member's Birthdays June 2018 / Lede Verjaarsdae - Junie 2018

07 Chris Oosthuysen ZS6OC  
 26 Pieter Stronkhorst ZS6PSR

22 Richard Peer ZS6UK  
 27 Emil Bohma ZS6EGB

### Member's Spouses June 2018 / Lede Gades Junie 2018

01 Fiona, Gade van Etienne Naude ZS6EFN

### Anniversaries June / Herdenkings - Junie

24 Marita en Roy Alexander ZS6MI

## PARC Bulletins / PARK 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 make a contribution to the Bulletin. PARC Bulletins are broadcast on the 2 meter repeater on 145.725 MHz, and 70 cm on 438.025 MHz. Relays are done on 7.060 MHz by Hans Kappetijn ZS6KR and on Echolink by Johan Lehman ZS6JPL. A re-broadcast of the Bulletin is done the following Monday evening at 19h45 by Hans ZS6KR.

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 438.205 MHz. Herleidings word gedoen op 7.060 MHz deur Hans Kappetijn ZS6KR, en op Echolink deur Johan Lehman ZS6JPL. 'n Heruitsending van die Bulletin geskied die opvolgende Maandag aand om 19h45 wat behartig word deur Hans ZS6KR.

PARC Bulletin Presenters : April - May 2018			
Date	Presenter	Date	Presenter
06 May 2018	Etienne Naude ZS6EFN	24 June 2018	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
13 May 2018	Alméro DuPisani ZS6LDP	01 July 2018	Etienne Naude ZS6EFN
20 May 2018	Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB	08 July 2018	Alméro DuPisani ZS6LDP
27 May 2018	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	15 July 2018	Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB
03 June 2018	Etienne Naude ZS6EFN	22 July 2018	Etienne Naude ZS6EFN
10 June 2018	Alméro DuPisani ZS6LDP	29 July 2018	Alméro DuPisani ZS6LDP
17 June 2018	Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB	05 August 2018	Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB

*Please do contact Etienne Naude ZS6EFN for more information or any Bulletin arrangements*

PARC SUBS : PARK LEDEGELD : FROM / VANAF : 30-06-2017			
Bank	First National Bank	<b>Ordinary Members / Gewone Lede : R160</b> <b>Spouses / Pensioners : R60</b>	<b>Your call sign must appear as statement text!</b>
Branch Code	25 20 45		
Account No	546 000 426 73		
<b>Please remit your subs in time to our Treasurer, or pay per transfer into the PARC account</b> <b>Betaal asb. u ledegelde betyds aan ons Tesourier, of betaal per oorplasing in die PARC rekening</b>			

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

**PARC Committee Members Contact Details / Komiteelede Kontakbesonderhede : 2017 - 2018**

<b>Elected Members</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Email Adress</b>	<b>Tel No</b>	<b>Mobile No</b>
Chairman, Web co-ordination	Graham Reid	ZS6GJR	<a href="mailto:greid@wol.co.za">greid@wol.co.za</a>	012-667-2720	083-701-0511
Vice Chairman, Treasurer & Rallies	Johan de Bruyn	ZS6JHB	<a href="mailto:zs6jhb@gmail.com">zs6jhb@gmail.com</a>	012-803-9418	079-333-4107
RAE Training, Bulletins & SARL Liaison	Etienne Naude	ZS6EFN	<a href="mailto:etienne@afgrid.com">etienne@afgrid.com</a>	012-661-6745	082-553-0542
Club Secretary	Irene Myburgh	ZS6IEA	<a href="mailto:irene@srsa.gov.za">irene@srsa.gov.za</a>	012-304-5109	082-462-6001
Social & Contests	Whitey Joubert	ZS6JJJ	<a href="mailto:zs6jjj@gmail.com">zs6jjj@gmail.com</a>	012-993-2267	072-120-4516
Watts Newsletter & RAE Assistance	Louis de Wet	ZS6SK	<a href="mailto:louis.zs6sk@gmail.com">louis.zs6sk@gmail.com</a>	012-349-1044	072-140-9893
Youth Development & Competitions	Nic Louw	ZS6NWL	<a href="mailto:nic.louw@telkomsa.net">nic.louw@telkomsa.net</a>		083-596-1026
RAE Training & Technical	John Minter	ZS6LED	<a href="mailto:john.minter.za@gmail.com">john.minter.za@gmail.com</a>	012-349-0019	083-291-5422
<b>Co-Opted Members</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Callsign</b>	<b>Email Adress</b>	<b>Tel No</b>	<b>Mobile No</b>
Fleamarkets	Alméro Dupisani	ZS6LDP	<a href="mailto:alméro.dupisani@up.ac.za">alméro.dupisani@up.ac.za</a>	012-420-3779	083-938-8955
Auditor	Tony Crowder	ZS6CRO	<a href="mailto:tcrowder@telkomsa.net">tcrowder@telkomsa.net</a>	011-672-3311	

**Contests and Diary of Events - May 2018 / Kompetisies en Dagboek van Gebeure - Mei 2018 (UTC Times)**

05	<b>SDR workshop at National Amateur Radio Centre (NARC) : Details on SARL website</b>
05 - 06	<b>Antique Wireless Association Valve QSO Party</b>
05 - 06	10-10 International Spring Contest, CW : 00h01 - 23h59
05 - 06	ARI International DX Contest : 12h00 - 11h59
12 - 13	VOLTA WW RTTY Contest : 12h00 - 12h00
19	<b>May Radio Amateur Examination : 10h00 - 13h00</b>
19	<b>AMSAT SA Space Symposium : Innovation Hub, Pretoria</b>
20	XS3 Sprint
19 - 20	His Majesty King of Spain Contest, CW : 12h00 - 12h00
26 - 27	<b>Pretoria ARC Rally communications at the Secunda SCC</b>
26 - 27	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW : 00h00 - 24h00

**Contests and Diary of Events - June 2018 / Kompetisies en Dagboek van Gebeure - Junie 2018 (UTC Times)**

01 - 03	Ham Radio 2018 : Friedrichshafen Germany
02 - 03	10-10 International Open Season PSK Contest : 00h00 - 24h00
02 - 03	IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW : 15h00 - 14h59
02 - 03	RSGB National Field Day : 15h00 - 15h00
04	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data : 19h00 - 20h30
13	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW : 19h00 - 20h30
16 - 17	All Asian DX Contest, CW : 00h00 - 24h00
16 - 17	Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest : 12h00 - 11h59
23 - 24	His Majesty King of Spain Contest, SSB : 12h00 - 12h00
23 - 24	ARRL Field Day : 18h00 - 21h00
21 - 25	<b>SARL Top Band QSO Geselligheid</b>
28	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB : 19h00 - 20h30
30	International Asteroid Day

More information can be obtained from the SARL website, as well as the WA7BNM contest calendar at the following website: <http://hornucopia.com>

**The SARL 2018 National Convention and AGM  
Die SARL 2018 Nasionale Konvensie en AJV**

Following the successful SARL 2018 National Convention, PARC Chairman, Graham Reid ZS6GJR wishes to thank all that contributed with the following letter of thanks:

Dear PARC SARL AGM Team

Thank you to one and all for the work that you did both before and on the day to make this event a resounding success. This effort was acknowledged by the SARL President and his committee in a Letter of Appreciation soon after this event.

Thanks especially to Etienne for coordinating this event which was a mammoth task and to John Minter ZS6LED for pulling the cat out of the bag to ensure that the outside broadcast of the AGM went off successfully.

Thanks also to Almero du Pisani ZS6LDP for another Fleamarket that was a resounding success. The amount gathered from the table rental has helped tremendously to cover the expenses that PARC had to cover for this event.

Thanks also to Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA for arranging the decorating of the venue for the awards dinner – it really looked magnificent.

Thanks also to Louis de Wet, ZS6SK, for filling in as guest speaker at the last moment – your talk on Water in the World was very interesting and enjoyed by all.

You have been a great team to work with and I really appreciate all that each one of you has done to date. Each member of the team made sure that their tasks were completed and this is what ensured the success of both the AGM event as well as the Awards Dinner.

I am extremely proud and honored to have had you all on the PARC SARL AGM team

Kind Regards  
Graham Reid ZS6GJR  
PARC Chairman

**PARC sincerely thanks the following individuals and organizations for their efforts and participation:**

**Etienne Naude ZS6EFN** : Hoof organiseerder en koördineerder van 2018 SARL Nasionale Konvensie en Algemene Jaarvergadering.

**Graham Reid ZS6GJR** : PARK Klub Voorsitter : Organiseerder vir borge en baniere. Aan Joey Reid 'n besondere woord van dank met hulp tydens die dinee.

**Johan de Bruyn ZS6JHB** : PARK Klub Vise-Voorsitter : Organiseerder vir borge en baniere.

**Almero du Pisani ZS6LDP** : Organisering en koördinerings van vlooiemark tydens AJV, en werwing van uitstallers.

**Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA** : PARK Klub Sekretaresse : Koördineerder van SARL AJV dinee en ontvangs van gaste.

**John Minter ZS6LED** : Voorsiening en hantering van klanktoerusting en radio uitsending van SARL AJV verigtinge.

**Johan Lehman ZS6JPL** : Echolink uitsending van AJV verigtinge.

**Nick Louw ZS6NWL** : Assistensie by Vlooiemark en Algemene Jaarvergadering.

**Theo Bresler ZS6TVB** : Besondere dank aan Theo vir die fotografie van alle aspekte van die AJV, vlooiemark en gala ete geleentheid.

**Louis de Wet ZS6SK** : Assistensie by Vlooiemark en PARK uitstalling en werwing van uitstallers.

South African Radio League (SARL)  
Southern Africa Amateur Radio Satellite Association (AMSAT SA)  
BACAR  
Antique Wireless Association of South Africa (AWASA)  
RaDar  
Pretoria Amateur Radio Club (PARC)  
Hamnet  
SAM's Radio  
ICOM Hamshack  
Giga Technologies  
Waterlab Pty Ltd  
Batman  
Hot Tools cc  
Hammies Club  
JD Services  
QRV Technologies  
Computer Development Systems cc  
Oos Transvaalse Radio Klub  
Centurion Amateur Radio Klub (Ken) ZS6CEN  
Louis Roode ZS6AKD  
Hennie Rheeder ZS6ALN  
Tim Meyer ZS6TIM  
Uys Classen ZS6UYS

PARC sincerely thanks the President of the SARL, Nico van Rensburg for the letter of thanks and appreciation received from him.



## **SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE**

*The National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa*

*A Member of the International Amateur Radio Union*

P.O. Box 1721, Strubensvallei 1735, South Africa  
Telephone +27 11 675 2393 Fax +27 86 299 0566  
Email [secretary@sarl.org.za](mailto:secretary@sarl.org.za) Website [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za)

19 April 2018

The Chairman  
Pretoria Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 73696  
Lynnwood Ridge  
0040

### **Re: SARL AGM and Awards Dinner - 14 April 2018**

Dear Graham; ZS6GJR,

Allow me to express my sincere appreciation to you and your team for hosting an excellent and most memorable SARL AGM, flea market and Awards Dinner at the Farm Inn Country Lodge.

It was an honour and privilege to have been part of this great event, to meet newcomers to the hobby and shake hands with old radio amateur friends including guests in attendance.

This event demonstrated true South African hospitality and ham spirit, a day that certainly will be remembered for many years into the future.

I would like to conclude in wishing PARC all the best with their club activities, keep up the good work in promoting and growing our hobby to ensure a future for amateur radio.

Sincerely,



Nico van Rensburg – ZS6QL  
President  
South African Radio League

• • •  
+27 83 269 9939  
[zs6ql@mweb.co.za](mailto:zs6ql@mweb.co.za)

### **Councillors of the South African Radio League**

Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL (President); Chris Turner ZS6GM (Vice-president); Cliff Smyth ZS6BOX (Treasurer); Geoff Levey ZS6C; Rassie Erasmus ZS1YT; Glynn Chamberlain ZS6GLN; Dennis Green ZS4BS; Louw Erasmus ZS6LME; Leon Uys ZR6LU; Etienne Naudé ZS6EFN.

The main event of the day was the Annual General Meeting of the South African Radio League, which was well attended by numerous Members of other Clubs and Provinces. The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club sincerely thanks all the Delegates for their attendance and support during this successful day.



The venue for the 2018 SARL National Convention was filled with Delegates



Uys Classen ZS6UYS van PARK



Klanktoerusting en radio uitsendings is behartig deur John Minter ZS6LED



Tjerk ZS6P en Fritz ZS6SF besig met 'n indiepte gesprek voor die aanvang van die AJV



SARL President Nico van Rensburg ZS6QL aan die woord met Vice-President Chris Turner ZS6GM en Dennis Green ZS4BS wat die verloop van die AJV bystaan

Radio transmissions and sound mixing of the Annual General Meeting was conducted by John Minter ZS6LED who supervised the 2 meter broadcast, while Johan Lehman ZS6JPL conducted the Echolink transmission of the event. PARC sincerely thanks them for their valued efforts.

Terwyl die AJV verrigtinge aan die gang was, het dit behoorlik gegons by die stalletjies waar verskeie items te koop aangebied was. PARC bedank hiermee Almero du Pisani ZS6LDP vir sy koördinerende van die vlooiemark en inligting kiosks.



Ryan Gibson ZS6GGR by sy uitstalling



Hans ZS6KR besig met verkope



Jan (Pine) Pienaar ZS6OB en Sheldon



Pieter ZS6CN en Louis ZS6SK van PARK



Displays of the Antique Wireless Association of South Africa



Hannes Coetzee ZS6BZP by die AMSAT SA uitstalling



Jong lede van die Hammies Amateur Radio Klub



Linda Lessing ZS6LML van CDS cc



Sam Ford ZS6BRZ of Sam's Radio



Uitstalling na die Oos Rand Hamnet rampbestuur vrywilligers



Bo en onder: Oos Transvaal Liga se opstelling met luggrade en toerusting





Die dag se verrigtinge is afgesluit met die gala dinee waartydens Hans van de Groenendaal ZS6AKV die seremoniemeester was, en Tjerk Lammers ZS6P die prysuitdeling behartig het.



Hans van de Groenendaal ZS6AKV was die Seremoniemeester vir die aand



Nico van Rensburg ZS6QL President van SARL ontvang ere-lewenslange lidmaatskap van die Ambassadeur van Switzerland, Haar Edele Helene Budliger Artieda



PARC Chairman Graham ZS6GJR and Joey Reid



Almero ZS6LDP en Louise du Pisani



Pieter Fourie ZS6CN



Wilma Louw en Annatjie Fourie



Nick Louw ZS6NWL



Pieter ZS6PAM en Irene ZS6IEA Myburgh



Pierre Holtzhausen ZS6PJH



Louis ZS6SK en Sharmaine de Wet



Tjerk Lammers ZS6P het die toekenning van pryse en erkennings behartig



Die *Musique Romantica* stringkwartet het gesorg vir die aand se ligte vermaak

## Taking the FCC Amateur Radio Examination

### Dear Fellow Radio Amateur

You're receiving this message either because you've expressed an interest in obtaining or upgrading an FCC-issued American amateur radio licence, or because you are known to be involved in training and recruitment into Amateur Radio, and may want to help with future examination efforts in South Africa and elsewhere in Africa.

Since 2013, we've had a Volunteer Examiner team in Pretoria, acting on behalf of the US FCC to administer examinations for US amateur licences.

We have administered several exam sessions. For some time there was little interest in a session, but I've recently received a spate of enquiries. It seems like there is a need for another session.

You can find full information here: <http://zs6ez.org.za/fcc-exam.htm>

Something that isn't mentioned on that Web page is that we are contemplating the use of FCC licences to get around the impasses around amateur licencing in several African countries. This approach has worked well in Ethiopia and Tunisia, and could solve the regulatory impasses elsewhere too.

You can see more about our work on promoting amateur radio in Africa and the role that FCC licences might play here: [http://zs6ez.org.za/articles/ISTAfrica2017\\_Paper\\_ref\\_11.pdf](http://zs6ez.org.za/articles/ISTAfrica2017_Paper_ref_11.pdf)

Currently, it seems like there would be enough interest for an examination session in Gauteng around August.

Please let me know if you are interested in general, as well as whether you would be interested in a session during August. As always, if we have more than about five takers, we'll set something up and let you know. In the mean time, you can download the study materials and get to work!

If you know of anyone else who would be interested, please let them know about us and let me know about them. You're even welcome to draw attention to the possibility of FCC examinations in your local club newsletter.

Finally, please let me know if you are not interested at all, so that I don't bother you again.

Regards

Chris R. Burger  
ZS6EZ

### **FCC Exam Session in Pretoria**

Last updated 2018-04-30

The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issues amateur radio licences to anyone with a US mailing address. No residence or citizenship is required. For South Africans, an FCC licence is useful in that it enables you to operate from countries with which the US has a reciprocal agreement, but South Africa does not. It is not required when operating from the USA, as a South African citizen can use a South African licence in the USA under the CEPT agreement.

Examinations for FCC licences are conducted by Volunteer Examiners under the auspices of a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC). The most ubiquitous VEC is the [ARRL](#).

The leaders of the [C82DX DXpedition](#) in October 2013 agreed to assist locals in setting up an exam session in the Pretoria area, just after their return from Mozambique. Using N3EZ, N4XP, NF4A and the late WF4W as examiners, we were able to qualify six locals for FCC licenses. Three of the locals have qualified as examiners, allowing us to establish a permanent team.

Our team held its first exam session in May 2014. In future, we'll try hold exam sessions whenever we have at least four or five takers.

#### **Some background on FCC licensing**

There are three license classes: Technician, General and Extra. You can take only the Tech test, or Tech and General, or all three. If you already hold an FCC license, you can take only the higher tests to upgrade to General or Extra. The higher licence classes provide more privileges, in the form of operating frequencies, modulation modes, power output and short call-signs.

Anyone with a reasonable electronics and amateur radio background should be able to pass the exams with a dozen hours of study. Some of the candidates who passed their exams at our October 2013 session reported as little as three hours of study, against the background of a good working knowledge of amateur radio.

#### **A Morse code test is no longer required.**

You can even obtain a callsign of your choice under the Vanity Call programme. I opted for N3EZ--they wouldn't let me keep W6O after I'd used it in 1996!

#### **Preparing for the Exam**

Courtesy of Steve Roux ZS6XRS, who kindly did the dirty work of finding all the stuff, I've placed a comprehensive set of [study materials on the Internet](#). You'll find separate Zip files

for the three licence classes. Remember that you have to pass the Technician-class exam even if you want a higher class licence, and you also have to pass the General if you want an Extra.

[Technician class study material](#)

[General class study material](#)

[Extra class study material](#)

Once you think you're ready, you can take a fake exam to assess your ability. There are many such exams on the Internet, with examples being at [Eham](#) and the [ARRL](#).

How to Enter for the Exam

**1. Find a friend in the USA** who is prepared to act as a maildrop. The person does not need to be a radio ham, but of course a radio ham is more likely to understand what to do with any paperwork that may arrive there. *Hint: You may consider finding someone in an exotic area such as Hawaii or Puerto Rico, so that you can get an exotic KH6 or KP4 callsign!*

**2. Ensure that an exam session has been scheduled.** Liase with me (ZS6EZ) if you are interested. Once we have at least four takers, we'll schedule the session.

**3. Pay your entry fee** into the account:

- Name: Pretoria VE Team
- Bank: ABSA
- Account number: 9288289592
- Branch Code: 632005
- Reference: Your callsign (or your surname and initials, if you don't already have a callsign)

Electronic payments are preferred, as cash or cheque payments attract horrible fees. If you make the payment less than a week before the session, please bring a printed payment notice with you as your payment may not have been detected in the account before the exam. The exam fee will be R 200, unless there is a substantial change in the exchange rate.

**4. Send me an email**, if you haven't already done so. I need your contact details for in case any last-minute information needs to be distributed. Let me know which licence class exams you intend writing. We'll try to accommodate walk-in candidates, but we may have limited resources and you may be disappointed.

## Exam Arrangements

### What to bring with you

- **Your US address.** You will need it to fill in the application forms. If you don't have one, we may still be able to help you, but *you must let us know well beforehand.*
- **A pen.** We may be able to help you, but it's safer to bring your own weapon.
- **Some cash** (to be on the safe side). Your entry fee covers everything, including snacks. You may attempt all three exams (Tech, General and Extra) once. However, if you fail any of the exams and want to try again, another fee will be payable. Some cash will cater for such possibilities.
- **Photo Identification.** You can bring a South African ID, driver's licence or passport.
- **Existing FCC licences and CSCEs.** If you already have an FCC licence that you want to upgrade, or if you have previously passed some of the exam elements somewhere else, bring the relevant paperwork with you.
- **Calculator.** You should bring a simple non-programmable scientific calculator. You will not be allowed to use your cellphone or other programmable device, but you will need a calculator for the technical part.

### How long it will take

You'll need 30 to 40 minutes each for the Technician and General exams (35 questions each) and 45 to 60 minutes for the Extra exam (50 questions). We'll aim to be open at least for three hours, so you should have enough time to pass all three exams and also attempt a rewrite.

## What you'll get

Assuming that you pass one or more exam elements (which we fully expect you will!), you will receive a CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Element). This Certificate proves that you have passed the exam, and can be used to obtain or upgrade your FCC licence. If you already have a licence, the CSCE allows you to immediately start operating with your new privileges, subject to a special callsign suffix (/AG for General and /AE for Extra). If you do not have an FCC licence, you'll have to wait for the licence to appear on the FCC ULS (which you can find through Google). The exam team will submit the paperwork directly to the ARRL, who will submit it to the FCC. The process generally takes less than two weeks. The FCC will mail your licence certificate to your address in the USA. Be sure that there is someone at the address who can forward things to you.

## Can I do it?

The answer is probably "yes".

*Our experience: Most reasonably experienced South African radio amateurs find that they can pass Tech and General with a few hours of cramming. Most electronics professionals find that they can pass Extra with a little cramming. No-one has ever left our sessions empty-handed.*

At our first exam session, six South Africans arrived. Some reported that they felt under-prepared, with as little as three hours of study. All of them were licenced South African radio hams.

All six passed the Technician exam on the first try. Five of the six passed General on the first try. Three passed Extra on the first try.

Three candidates attempted re-writes. The one who had failed General managed to pass on his second attempt, and went on to obtain an Extra licence. Two attempted to re-write Extra. Both failed again.

Three hours after we started, only one candidate was still writing. The others had all completed either three or four exam papers (including re-writes), and all the paperwork had been completed.

The session ended with all six candidates getting licences--three Extra and three General. Three of the six had to pay an extra fee to cover re-writes.

At the second exam session, one candidate passed all three papers, one of which required a re-write. He obtained an Extra Class licence.

If you need first-hand feedback, you can ask South Africans who have passed US licence exams. Known examples include ZS1EL (K1VL Extra), ZS6BK (KK6HTS General), ZS6DT (KB7JB Advanced), ZS6EZ (N3EZ Extra), ZS6FDX (KK4VDA General), ZS6LMG (AC9GU Extra), ZS6LDP (AC2NN Extra), ZS6MDH (KV4SK Extra), ZS6PJH (KK4VDB General), ZS6RI (KF6NOF General) and ZS6SF (KV4SL Extra).

## Details of the Next Exam

We were planning to hold examinations twice per year, on the same dates as the [South African Radio Amateur Examination](#). We were also planning to use the same registration deadlines. However, there has not been enough interest. Accordingly, we will arrange sessions as and when required. If your club has at least five candidates, we would consider coming to your club premises. Please contact us in this regard.

Full details of all future sessions will appear closer to the time, here and on the [ARRL's Web site](#). We'll also circulate details to anyone known to be interested. If you are, make sure that I know about you.

Regards

Chris R. Burger N3EZ (also ZS6EZ), ARRL Volunteer Examiner, Pretoria

## 2018 Tydren Kalender / 2018 Rally Calendar

Met die 2018 tydren seisoen wat voorlê, kan ons weer uitsien na 'n besige program met baie radio-aktiwiteit tussen die aksie, stof en geraas! Die Tydren Kalender is voorsien deur Johan de Bruyn, wat tydren aktiwiteite koordineer. Indien u belangstel om deel te wees van tydren radio-diens, kontak gerus vir Johan by 079-333-4107 of [zs6jhb@gmail.com](mailto:zs6jhb@gmail.com). Die datums van die Nasionale- en Streekstydrerne word onder aangedui.

With the 2018 rally season approaching, we can again look forward to a busy program loaded with radio-activity in-between the action, dust and noise! The Rally Calendar was provided by Johan de Bruyn, who is the coordinator of rally activities. If you are interested in becoming part of rally radio-service, feel free to contact to contact Johan at 079-333-4107 or [zs6jhb@gmail.com](mailto:zs6jhb@gmail.com). The dates of the National- and Regional rallies are presented below.



Round 1	9-10 March	L&G Tools Rally Balito - KZN
Round 2	20-21 April	York Rally Sabie-Mpumalanga
Round 3	25-26 May	Rally Star Carnival City
Round 4	6-7 July	Algoa Rally Port Elizabeth - EC
Round 5	17-18 August	Electrothread Rally Bronkhorstspuit - Gauteng
Round 6	28-29 Sept	Lake Umuzi Rally Secunda - Mpumalanga
Round 7	26-27 Oct	<b>TBA</b> Tzaneen or Sabie Limpopo / Mpumalanga

Rounds 3 & 7 : Venues to be confirmed








Round 1	21 April	York Rally Sabie-Mpumalanga
Round 2	26 May	<b>Delmas/Carnival</b> Mpumalanga
Round 3	23 June	<b>SAM RALLY</b> Location to be confirmed
Round 4	18 August	Electrothread Rally Bronkhorstspuit - Gauteng
Round 5	29 Sept	Lake Umuzi Rally Secunda - Mpumalanga
Round 6	27 Oct	<b>TBA</b> Tzaneen or Sabie Limpopo / Mpumalanga

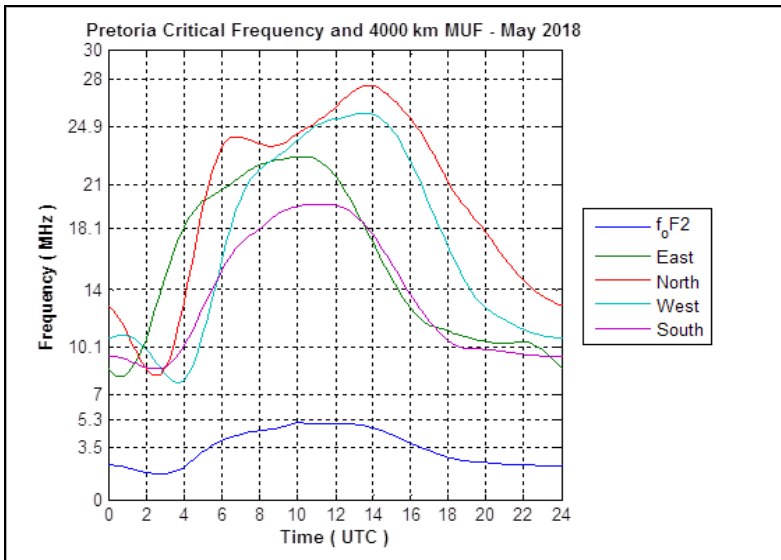
Rounds 2,3&6 : Locations for these events to be Confirmed.









## Long Term HF Propagation for May 2018

### 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.

For worldwide propagation see: <http://www.parc.org.za/index.php?page=propagation>

Courtesy Vincent ZS6BTY

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

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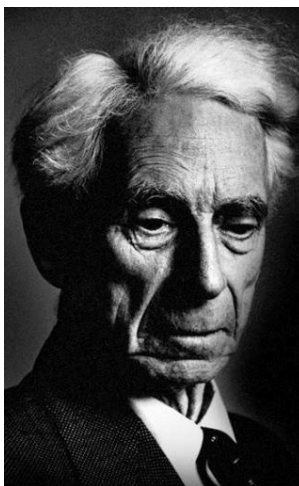
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  - 30A DC switching supplies
  - 30A DC Anderson Power Poles
  - Connectors RF and Audio
  - Plug-in triple sequential industrial timers
- Contact Hans at 012-333-2612 or 072-204-3991



The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts.

—Bertrand Russell

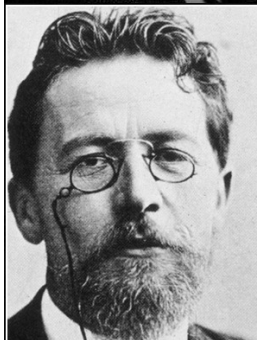
By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. Socrates



Philosophers of genius, children, and the people are equally wise - because they ask equally foolish questions. Foolish to a civilized man who has a well-furnished European apartment, with an excellent toilet, and a well-furnished dogma.

— Yevgeny Zamyatin —

AZ QUOTES



They say philosophers and wise men are indifferent. Wrong. Indifference is a paralysis of the soul, a premature death.

— Anton Chekhov —

AZ QUOTES



Throughout all history, the great wise men and teachers, philosophers, and prophets have disagreed with one another on many different things. It is only on this one point that they are in complete and unanimous agreement. We become what we think about

— Earl Nightingale —

AZ QUOTES