



WATTS

Pretoria Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Website: www.parc.org.za

Email: zs6pta@zs6pta.org.za

WATTS Monthly Magazine of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club



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Stay Connected

- WhatsApp Group: Contact any committee member
- Bulletins: 145.725 MHz (Sundays 08h45)
- Relays: 439.025, 438.225, 145.725, 7.066 MHz + Echolink
- Swopshop: 2m & 7.066 MHz live after bulletins
- Rebroadcast: Mondays 19h45 (2m)



Housekeeping



Want to stay in the loop with PARC?
If you'd like to join the PARC WhatsApp group, simply share your contact details with any committee member — we'll make sure you're added and welcomed aboard!

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

Membership Fees & Financial Year Reminder

To help members stay in sync with club commitments, please note that our financial year runs from **1 July to 30 June**. Membership fees are payable annually during the month of July, marking the start of our new financial cycle.

We encourage all members to renew their subscriptions in July to ensure uninterrupted participation in club activities and communications.

**** If membership fees remain overdue for three months, the membership will automatically be marked as inactive.**

Each member is responsible for updating and maintaining their personal information on the website.

Birthdays | Verjaarsdae, Joys and Sorrows | Lief en Leed

Members' Birthdays — January | Lede Verjaarsdae — Januarie

Date	Name	Callsign
05 January	Pierre Holtzhausen	ZS6PJH
07 January	Bertus Viljoen	ZS6VIL
10 January	Wynand Wessels	ZR6WW
12 January	Gustav Snyman	ZS6BWN
12 January	Barry Bester	ZS2BB
18 January	DP Du Toit	ZR6DP
21 January	Albert Schreuder	ZS6SE
25 January	Corlia Smit	ZS6CHS

Wishing you loud signals, clear frequencies, and zero interference on your special day. Happy birthday!

Spouses' Birthdays — January | Gade Verjaarsdae — Januarie

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
01 January	Barry Bester	ZS2BB	Anna
10 January	Ben Greyling	ZS6YVC	Jessica
13 January	Jannie Badenhorst	ZR6BBX	Elsa
15 January	Fanus Ferreira	ZS6BUH	Moiria
18 January	Wynand Wessels	ZR6WW	Zelda
25 January	Tobie Jansen v. Rensburg	ZS6ZX	Magriet
25 January	Pierre Smit	ZS6PS	Corlie

May your celebration be filled with laughter, love, and new adventures. Enjoy your special day!

Members' Birthdays — February | Lede Verjaarsdae — Februarie

Date	Name	Callsign
02 February	John Minter	ZS6LED
03 February	Willie Greyling	ZR6WGR
04 February	Louis de Wet	ZS6SK
08 February	Jannie Badenhorst	ZR6BBX
09 February	Kenny Martin	ZS6KMM
16 February	Pat Scheider	ZS6XYL

Date	Name	Callsign
16 February	Pierre Smit	ZS6PS
16 February	de jager Burger	ZS6ZO
21 February	Nickus de Vos	ZS6US

Spouses' Birthdays — February | Gade Verjaarsdae— Februarie

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
05 February	Neels Heydenrich	ZS4CFH	Nicolene
10 February	Kenny Martin	ZS6KMM	Paddy
16 February	Corlia Smit	ZS6CHS	Pierre
23 February	Pine Pienaar	ZS6OB	ERIKA
23 February	Martie Venter (Ehlers)	ZS6MV	Hendri Ehlers
24 February	Cobus Kruger	ZS6TLX	Adri
28 February	Jacques Snyman	ZS6QS	Connie
28 February	Zack Pienaar	ZR6ZAK	

Wedding Anniversaries January 2026 | Huweliks Herdenkings Januarie 2026

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
05 January	Louis Du Pisani	ZS6LDP	Louise
16 January	Leon Fouche	ZS6LEF	Riana
20 January	Hans-Peter Knoepfler	ZS6AJS	Helga

Wedding Anniversaries February 2026 / Huweliks Herdenkings Februarie 2026

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
03 February	Vincent Harrison	ZS6BTY	Heather
07 February	Ryan Gibson	ZS6GGR	Juanita
13 February	Cobus Kruger	ZS6TLX	Adri
17 February	Trevor Thomsen	Z21GX	Fiona
27 February	Kenneth Martin	ZS6KMM	Paddy
27 February	Wynand Wessels	ZR6WW	Zelda

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.

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. Die 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: January 2026 – February 2026

Date	Presenter	Date	Presenter
4 January 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	1 February 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDPK
11 January 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	8 February 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
18 January 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	15 February 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
25 January 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	22 February 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK



Contests and Events | Kompetisies en Gebeure

January 2026

- 1 January — ISS Contact Session begins
- 1–31 January — YOTA Month
- 9–11 January — PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest (two sessions)
- 17 January — SARL QRP Contest (0700Z–0900Z)
- 24 January — SARL Saturday 40m Club Contest (1500Z–1600Z)

February 2026

- 1 February — Antique Wireless Association CW Activity Day (1300Z-1500Z)
- 8 February — HamSat-SA ZS QO-100 QSO Party (1300Z-1500Z)
- 10 February Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z-0159Z)
- 18 February — SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Contest (1700Z - 1800Z)
- 21 February — to 22 February ARRL International DX Contest, CW (0000Z, Feb 21 to 2400Z, Feb 22)
- 22 February — World Wide Argentina DX Contest (0000Z-2359Z)
- 24 February — Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest (0100Z-0159Z)
- 27 February to 1 March — CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB (2200Z, Feb 27 to 2200Z, Mar 1)

The Pretoria Ammateur 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.co>

Tip: Always verify contest details on SARL and WA7BNM calendars.



Next Flea Market Date: 4 April / Volgende Snuffelmark Datum: 4 April

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

**** Please take note: the price of a table at the fleamarket is now R50 per table.**

**** Neem asseblief kennis: die prys van 'n tafel by die vlooiemark is nou R50 per tafel.**

Upcoming Dates — 2026

- 4 Apr — PARC
- 6 Jun — PARC
- 1 Aug — PARC
- 5 Dec — PARC

Other Clubs — 2026

- 7 Feb — East Rand Radio Club
- 7 Mar — West Rand Radio Club



New Year's Message | Nuwe Jaars Boodskap

Dear PARC Members,

The new year has officially keyed up, and 2026 is already coming in strong on the band. May your days be filled with clear signals, friendly voices, and just enough QRM to keep your operating skills sharp.

As we step into this fresh chapter, may your antennas stand tall, your batteries stay charged, and your coax behave better than it did last year. May every CQ you call be met with a warm reply, a good laugh, or a surprising DX that makes you forget you were still in your slippers.

Thank you for the spirit, humour, and heart you bring to PARC. You are the spark in every net, the magic in every fleamarket, and the reason our club frequency never feels empty.

Wishing you a year of good health, good company, and excellent propagation. May 2026 treat you like a perfect 5/9 report.

Happy New Year — see you on the airwaves!

Liewe PARC-lede,

Die nuwe jaar het amptelik ingeskakel, en 2026 kom al klaar sterk deur op die band. Mag jou dae gevul wees met duidelike seine, vriendelike stemme, en net genoeg QRM om jou vaardighede skerp te hou.

Nou dat ons in hierdie vars hoofstuk instap, mag jou antennas trots staan, jou batterye vol bly, en jou koaks beter optree as verlede jaar. Mag elke CQ wat jy roep beantwoord word met 'n glimlag, 'n grappie, of 'n verrassende DX wat jou laat vergeet jy was nog in jou pantoffels.

Dankie vir die gees, humor en hart wat julle na PARC bring. Julle is die vonk in elke net, die magie in elke vlooiemark, en die rede waarom ons klubfrekwensie nooit stil voel nie.

Ons wens vir jou 'n jaar vol goeie gesondheid, goeie geselskap en uitstekende propagasie. Mag 2026 jou behandel soos 'n perfekte 5/9-verslag.

Gelukkige Nuwejaar — sien julle op die lug!



PARC Flea Market 6 December | PARK Snuffelmark 6 Desember

The last flea market for PARC 2025 finally came round, and what a send-off it was! By the time we arrived, the venue was already alive with a hum of voices, laughter, and the clatter of crates being unpacked. Sellers were jockeying for space, buyers were circling like hawks, and the tables hadn't even been set up yet. The air was thick with the irresistible aroma of sizzling boerewors rolls.





It wasn't just a market; it was a carnival of community. Bargains were struck with hearty handshakes, laughter echoed across the aisles, and every stall seemed to tell its own story. From antique treasures to quirky crafts, the day was a celebration of creativity and connection.



By the afternoon, sellers left with lighter loads and fuller pockets, buyers with arms full of finds and smiles on their faces. As the final boerewors was served and the last deal sealed, it was clear: PARC's flea market had ended the year not with a whisper, but with a triumphant cheer.



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481 Alsatian Ave

**Faerie Glen
Pretoria**

0043

PARC Committee Members for 2026 | PARK Komiteelede vir 2026

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club held its 95th Annual General Meeting on the 6th of December 2025 at the Pretoria Old Motor Club.

During this meeting, Committee Members for 2026 were elected. Their names, callsigns and portfolios are as follows:

Graham Reid ZS6GJR: Chairman, Treasurer and Rallies
Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA: Vice Chairlady, Secretary and Social
Hendri Ehlers ZS6HFE: Website, ICASA Liaison, Social Media and Repeaters
Martie Venter ZS6MV: Watts Newsletter, RAE Training and PARC Membership
Louis de Wet ZS6SK: Club Historian, Awards and SARL Liaison

The following persons were elected as co-opted Members:

Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP: Flea-markets and Swop Shop
Pierre Holtzhausen ZS6PJH: Contests
Pieter Myburgh ZS6PAM: Repeaters

PARC hereby sincerely congratulates the elected Committee Members and wishes them all the best for the new year.

Die Pretoria Amateur Radio Klub het hul 95^{ste} Algemene Jaarvergadering op die 6^{de} Desember 2025 gehou by die Pretoria Ou Motorklub.

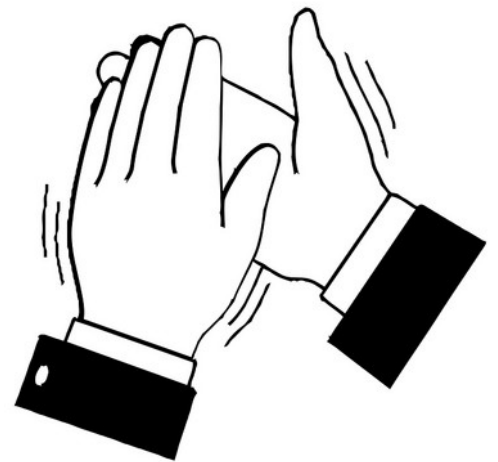
Gedurende die vergadering is Komiteelede verkies vir 2026. Hul name, roepseine en portefeuljies is soos volg:

Graham Reid ZS6GJR: Voorsitter, Penningmeester en Tydrenne
Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA: Vise Voorsitster, Sekretaresse en Sosiaal
Hendri Ehlers ZS6HFE: Webwerf, OKOSA skakeling, Sosiale Media en Herhalers
Martie Venter ZS6MV: Watts Nuusbrief, RAE Opleiding en PARK Lidmaatskap
Louis de Wet ZS6SK: Klub Historikus, Toekennings en SARL skakeling

Die volgende persone is verkies as ge-koöpteerde Lede:

Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP: Snuffelmarkte en Swop Shop
Pierre Holtzhausen ZS6PJH: Kompetisies
Pieter Myburgh ZS6PAM: Herhalers

PARK wens hierme die verkose Komiteelede van harte geluk, en wens hul alle voorspoed toe vir die nuwejaar.



How to update your personal information on the PARC Website

Each member is responsible for updating and maintaining their personal information on the website.

Elke lid is verantwoordelik om hul persoonlike inligting op die webwerf op datum te hou.

- 1 Go to PARC Website, select “Member Login”, enter your login details and then select “Login”.

If you can't remember your password:

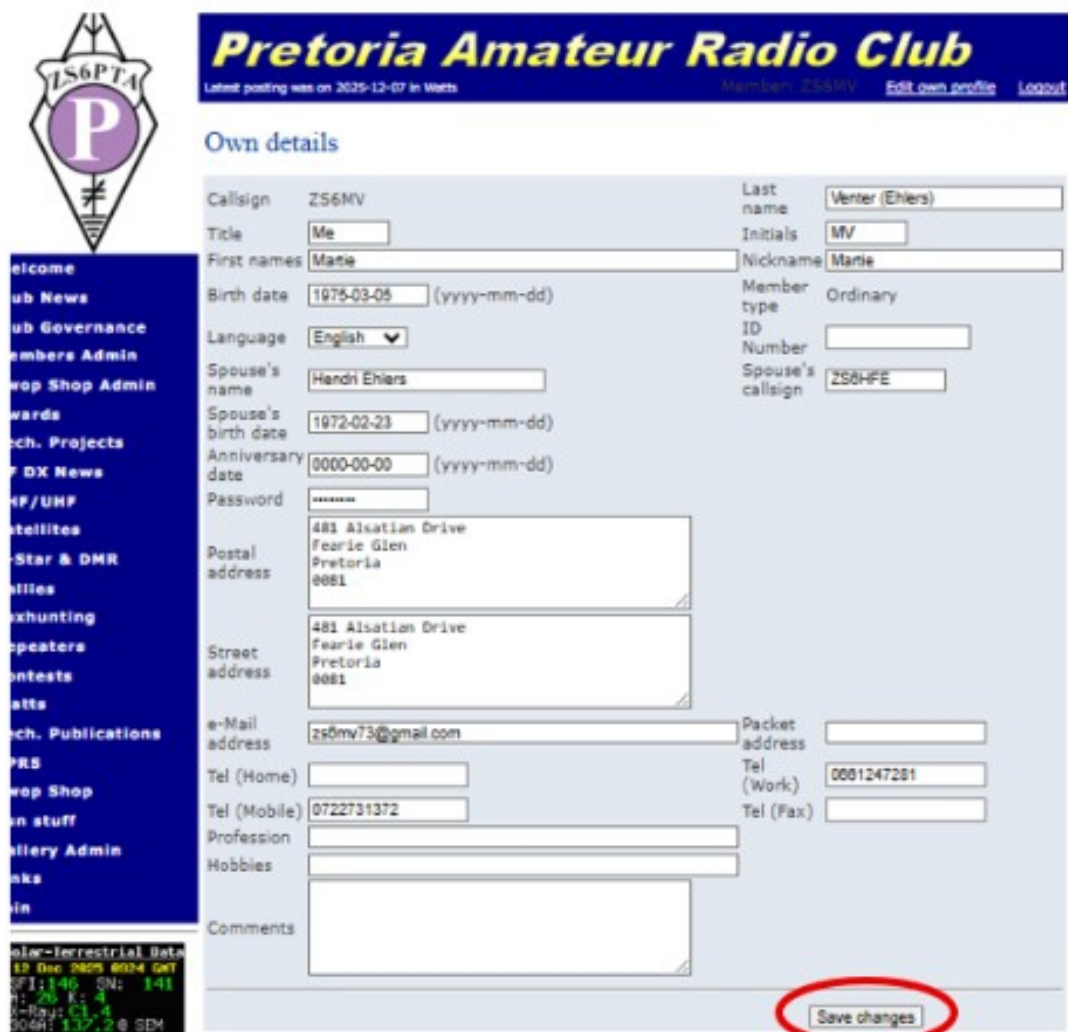
Send a Whatsapp to 083 460 5586 with your call sign and the word “password”, your password will be reset and sent to you via WhatsApp ONLY.



2. Select Edit own profile



3. Edit your profile and select "Save Changes"



Pretoria Amateur Radio Club
Latest posting was on 2025-12-07 in Watts

Member: ZS6MV [Edit own profile](#) [Logout](#)

Own details

Call sign	ZS6MV	Last name	Venter (Ehlers)
Title	Mr	Initials	MV
First names	Matie	Nickname	Matie
Birth date	1975-03-05 (yyyy-mm-dd)	Member type	Ordinary
Language	English	ID Number	
Spouse's name	Hendri Ehlers	Spouse's call sign	ZS6HFE
Spouse's birth date	1972-02-23 (yyyy-mm-dd)		
Anniversary date	0000-00-00 (yyyy-mm-dd)		
Password	*****		
Postal address	481 Alsatian Drive Fearie Glen Pretoria 0081		
Street address	481 Alsatian Drive Fearie Glen Pretoria 0081		
e-Mail address	zs6mv73@gmail.com	Packet address	
Tel (Home)		Tel (Work)	0001247261
Tel (Mobile)	0722731372	Tel (Fax)	
Profession			
Hobbies			
Comments			

[Save changes](#)

4. Bingo! Have a cup of coffee, your information is updated.

NOTE: should you want to reset your password, please update it in the section right above address and save changes.

Spouse's name	Hendri Ehlers
Spouse's birth date	1972-02-23 (yyyy-mm-dd)
Anniversary date	0000-00-00 (yyyy-mm-dd)
Password	*****
Postal address	481 Alsatian Drive Fearie Glen Pretoria 0081

Shack Talk by Vernon - ZS6AIG (Part 2)

Shack Talk is a series of articles of yester years of ham radios and old timer shacks, how you got involved, what was your first rig and that home brew build. In this series I am going share the memories of the evolution of My Shack: From Yaesu FT-101 to Kenwood TS-820.

Almost all the OMs I know have owned one of the two classic rigs, usually purchased from HAMRAD or Lieberman in Johannesburg. In the earlier days, most hams would repair or even build their own rigs, but often someone from the club would stop by to help with a faulty unit. During the late fifties through the early seventies, fellow hams formed a very close-knit community.

When FM and repeaters arrived, technology began changing rapidly. Rigs became more reliable, with a wide range of makes and models available for purchase. The circuitry and design grew more complex, requiring specialized equipment. I believe this marked the beginning of the end for home-brew construction and self-repair.

The Famous Yaesu FT-101

When the first FT-101 arrived on my workbench, I found it surprisingly pleasant to work on. The FT-101 was a modular transceiver, produced during the 1970s and 1980s.

This was my first true hybrid rig. Its solid-state features offered high performance with low current consumption, while its tube amplifier provided an almost mismatch-resistant transmitter and tuner stage. The final tubes, which were something new at the time, were a pair of 6JS6Cs—an upgrade from the older 6DK6 sweep tubes that had been popular in those days.

The layout was also impressive: plug-in circuit boards that could be easily replaced or repaired. Until then, modular design was virtually unprecedented in the amateur radio community. This innovation helps explain why so many FT-101s are still in use today.

The most common problems found on the FT-101 included issues with the speech processor, the Tx/RX relay, replacement of the 12BY7A driver tube, and failures in the FT-101ZD digital display board. In many cases, tube replacement was the result of operator error—often due to improper load tuning or over-driving the finals under high SWR conditions.

A properly tuned FT-101 with low SWR could comfortably deliver between 110 and 130 watts. The cooling fan was essential for maintaining reliable operation. Other frequent issues arose from poorly executed modification attempts. Present-day faults typically involve capacitor replacements, dry joints, re-alignment, and problems in the IF amplifier stage. Despite these challenges, the overall performance of the FT-101 was excellent, and many units can still be found in the shacks of seasoned operators today.

The Kenwood TS-820

It was only in the late 1990s that I acquired my first Kenwood TS-820, and then in the mid-2000s I managed to find an affordable TS-820S. The Kenwood has always held a special place in my shack and on my workbench. Over the years, I have had many 820 and 820S units pass through the workshop. I am not comparing the Yaesu FT-101 with the Kenwood TS-820, but the 820 is less accessible when it comes to reaching components during repairs.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Kenwood TS-820—a hybrid transceiver—was well known for its quality construction and advanced technology. It succeeded the TS-520 and was part of Kenwood's popular series of "hybrid" radios that combined vacuum tubes with semiconductors. A key distinction was that the TS-820S version included a built-in digital display, which the standard TS-820 model lacked.

As the TS-520 approached the end of its production life, the TS-820 was seen as the new generation of solid-state design. This era of radio moved away from the traditional TV sweep tubes and instead employed a pair of 6146 tubes, with a 12BY7A driver delivering a solid 100 watts to the antenna.

Except for the TS-820S, I have never had any TS-820 in the workshop with the same recurring problem. The most common fixes involved replacing the 6146 cup resistors, decoupling capacitors, and open resistors—components that frequently needed attention in the 820 series. The TS-820S, however, had a well-known fault with resetting the digital display board and a loose cable connection. Only once did I need to replace a transformer, and that was after a lightning strike.

The TS-820 range came with a wide variety of accessory options, including an external VFO, monitor scope, ATU, RTTY readers, and CW filter upgrades. At the time, this was the rig to have in your shack at an affordable price. It was more expensive than the Yaesu, but it also had more knobs (hi). To this day, the TS-820S still holds a special place in my shack.



The Kenwood TS 820s in my shack

In the next edition of Shack Talk, I'll be interviewing OM Ed, ZS6UT. He will be sharing his memories of how he first got involved with amateur radio, along with some of his favoured rigs and shack experiences. It promises to be a fascinating look back at the early days of ham radio and the equipment that shaped his journey.

Stay tuned for the next edition of Shack Talk, where we'll continue exploring the rigs, people, and stories that make ham radio such a special part of our lives. Until then, keep those signals strong and those friendships stronger — 73!"

How to use a Repeater – Submitted by Johan Lehmann (ZS6JPL)

A repeater is an unmanned station usually located on a HIGH SITE such as the top of a hill or a tall building. Very often there are several repeaters on one HIGH SITE. Repeaters are designed to relay the weak or strong signals from Mobiles (vehicles) or Hand-Held transceivers over a far greater area than would normally be possible without it. In fact the mobile station's coverage area becomes that of the repeater.

The repeater consists of a receiver (the Input) and a transmitter (the Output) and some control gear known as "the logic". With the aid of special filters, it can transmit and receive at the same time.

Unlike most types of operating, you will need to transmit on one frequency (the Input frequency) and receive on a different frequency (the Output frequency). Amateur Radio 2-meter repeaters have the Input frequency 600 kHz lower than the Output frequency.

To conserve the repeater's power the repeater remains in the receive mode until the transmitter is switched on when required for use (Accessed). To 'access' a repeater, make sure that your receiver and transmitter are at the correct frequencies, then say "ZS4XX on frequency" or "ZS4XX standing by for a call".

Do NOT say "ZS4XX listening" and release the PTT button (Press to talk) and expect someone to come back to you. You simply said, 'you were listening' and did not ask for contact.

If correctly accessed, the repeater will have relayed your signal. If no one replies to your call, it will drop out after a few seconds.

It is important to realise that you are listening to the repeater's transmitter, relaying whatever signals it can hear, be it yours or someone else's. You are not hearing the mobile station directly, so it is no good giving a signal report in the usual way. Reports are limited to estimating how strong the mobile is at the repeater's receiver. The Input.

There are three levels: "Full quieting" meaning that there is no background noise, "Smooth noise" meaning that there is a little hiss on the signal, and "Rough Noise" meaning that it is difficult to understand the station because of background noise. These reports are only useful, however, if the repeater has a strong signal with you.

It is often a good idea to listen on the Input frequency to check whether a station can be heard without the aid of the repeater. It is not good practice to use a repeater when direct contact (Simplex) can be made and the repeater is very active. Move to a simplex frequency and leave the repeater open for other, not so fortunate stations, to use.

Each repeater is shared by hundreds of operators, so transmissions must be kept short - preferably not longer than two to three minutes - and a pause of a second or two should be left between before transmitting to allow any other stations to make short or urgent calls. Every repeater has its own characteristics. The Golden Rule is: "listen carefully before transmitting".

Remember not to shout into the microphone and to get the correct position of your mouth in relation to YOUR microphone, for best speech quality. Do some tests with a good operator.

Using high power does not necessarily help. Remember that no matter what enters the repeater the output power remains the same - the power set for the repeater output. High Power can also cause problems when used in the vicinity of other repeaters.

Use only enough power to access the repeater you are using well. Remember that when using Satellites you are communicating via a repeater that is programmed for a shut down if excessive power is used into the Satellite. In all cases of repeater use only sufficient power to make the contact properly.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR REPEATER OPERATION

Before attempting to transmit, ensure that:

- 1 Your transmitter and receiver are on the correct frequency.
- 2 Your peak deviation is correctly set.
- 3 Check that you will only access the repeater that you wish to use. This is especially important when conditions are very good.
- 4 Listen to the repeater before you transmit to make sure that it is not in use. If you hear a local station you wish to call, listen on the input frequency to see whether the stations is within simplex range before calling.
- 5 Unless you are specifically calling a particular station, simply announce that you are on frequency and available for a call. One announcement is usually sufficient. If you are calling a specific station give that stations' call sign followed by your own call sign e.g. "ZS2XYZ from ZS2WW".
- 6 Once contact is established:
 - 6.a At the end of each over give his call sign followed by your call sign e.g. "**ZS2XYZ from ZS2WW.**"

Change frequency to a simplex channel (frequency) at the first opportunity especially if you are operating a fixed (base) station and wish to have a long conversation with the station.

- 6.b Keep your overs short and to the point.
 - 6.c Do not monopolise the repeater as others may want to use it.
 - 6.d Do not call "break break". In emergencies call "ZS4XYZ with traffic".
 - 6.e If your signal is very noisy into the repeater, or if you are only opening the repeater squelch intermittently, finish the contact and try later when you are putting a better signal into the repeater.
- 7 If the repeater is busy, emergency calls may be made by tail-ending during the one to three second break and announcing:
 - 7.a That you have emergency traffic, and
 - 7.b Which facilities you wish a station to provide.

In "risk of life or emergency" situations, this will normally require a telephone call by the other station to the Emergency Services such as Police or ambulance etc.. Do not reply to an emergency call if you cannot provide the service requested. Only you can determine what an "emergency" is. Use your common sense. Imagine these two scenario.

- 1 A woman and two small children in a car breaks down in a public street not far from a Service Station in a built up area. This is not an Emergency situation in its normal context.
- 2 The same woman breaks down on a highway where there are no houses, service stations or anyone to turn to for assistance and where she is vulnerable to possible attack. This is an Emergency situation.

In the same way a vehicle breaks down in the middle of a off ramp from a freeway at NON peak period. No emergency. If the same situation occurs at near peak hour times this could be construed as an emergency because if not cleared may cause a massive build up and possible accident.

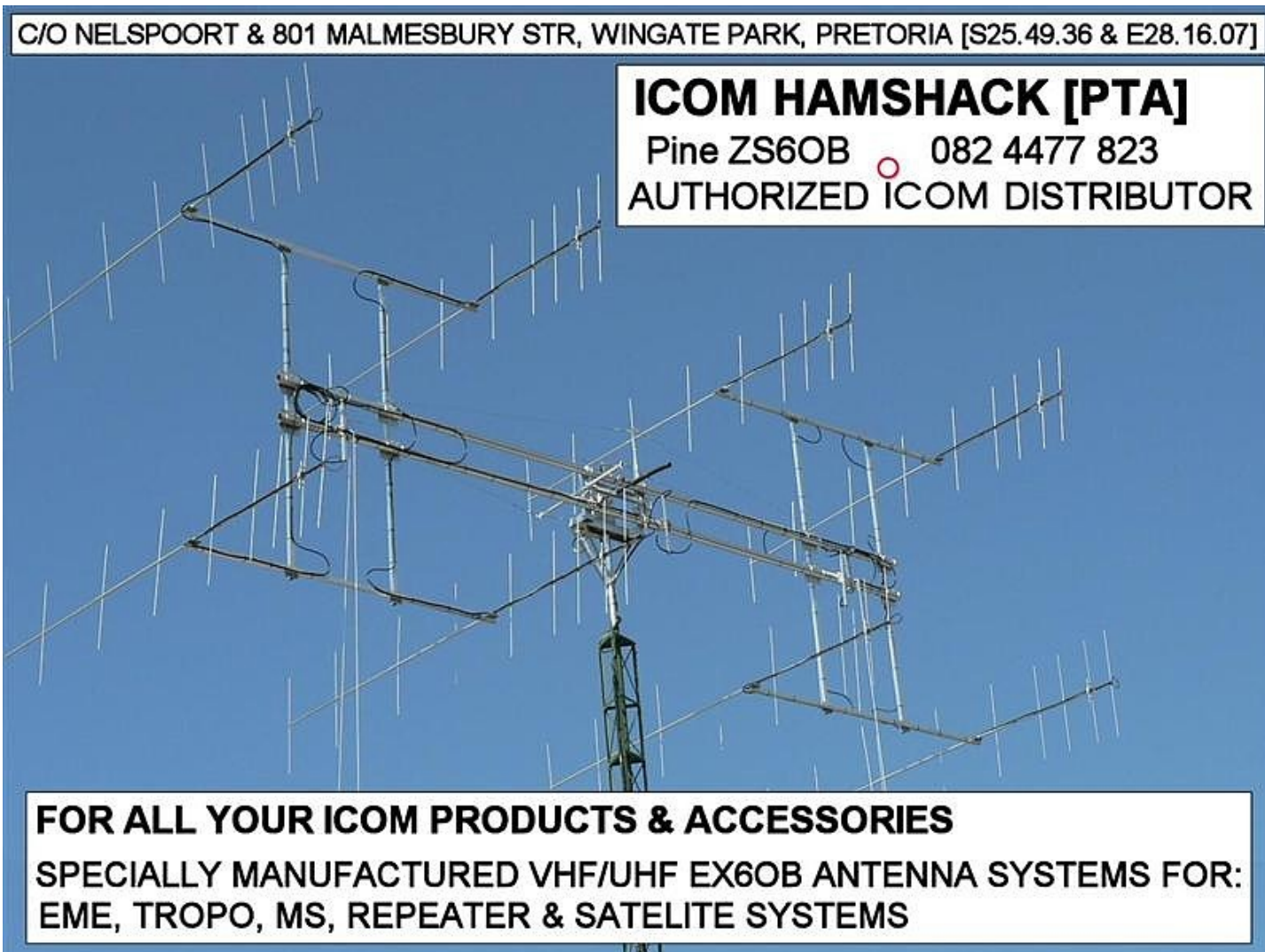
No hard rules can be laid down in this regard but YOU MUST USE YOUR COMMON SENSE AND TREAT EACH CASE ON ITS MERITS.

Once again if you are not in a position to go to the assistance of the emergency caller directly, leave the call to a station that has a telephone available or other facilities available. Time taken up when you cannot be of useful assistance may cost a life.

Well let me hasten to tell you that we have only really glanced over the entire subject of Operating Procedures because there are always special cases to be considered. These must be looked at logically and in a gentlemanly way, and then the answer should be obvious to you.

Nothing in this world ever "entitles" you to do any act or thing which impinges on the rightful pleasures of other users of the radio spectrum or is an act which if done to you, you would find objectionable. Do the right things and Ham Radio will be pleasurable and you will enjoy it.

MAKE YOURSELF A GOOD OPERATOR AND BE PROUD OF IT!



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

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Get to know your fellow Hams

Radio Roots & Identity

1 What first sparked your interest in amateur radio?

Growing up, around 1983, my cousins had a CB in their vehicle. When their parents left the vehicle to go shopping, my cousins connected the CB and started talking to people. It blew my mind that you can talk to random people without knowing where they are.

2 What's your callsign, and is there a story behind it?

ZS6HFE, I am completely unimaginative and just used my initials.

3 When did you get licensed, and what was your proudest moment on the air?

October 2011. I was a member of an emergency radio club we created for security reasons. I was one of the founding members and on the committee. One of the other committee members and i did not get along , we were in a constant knowledge rivalry. He wanted to become a licensed ham and I had to beat him to it. And I did! Hi hi hi. (He is still not a ham)

4 Who was your biggest mentor or influence in your ham journey?

I have a few mentors in ham, but if I have to be honest, my mentor crossed my path way back when I was wet behind the ears, barely a teenager, when my dad finally gave in to my begging and got me a CB. I plugged a wire hanger in as an antenna and started transmitting. Fortunately a guy from Silverton come on the air and asked me what I am using as an antenna. With authority he told me not to transmit again and listen. He gave me his phone number and told me to phone him, if I don't, I would destroy my radio. Fortunately I listened and phoned him. He helped me build an antenna and from there the bug never let go.



Operating Style & Passions

5 What modes do you enjoy most—voice, CW, digital, or something quirky?

SSB, to me that is the essence of radio amateur. I do dabble in most other modes, specially Digital.

6 Do you prefer rag chewing, contesting, experimenting, or another form of comms?

I like rag chewing and experimenting.

7 What's your favourite band or frequency to hang out on?

40m, it suites my routine the best.

8 Any memorable DX contact or QSO that stands out?

There are many memorable QSOs, but the one that stands out most, is N2XRV, Ivan "The Voice of Brooklyn" if you have ever had a QSO with him, you will understand.

Gear & Shack Tales

9 What's your current setup like—rigs, antennas, shack quirks?

Kenwood TS120 S, Kenwood TS130 S, Yaesu FT847 ,Kenwood TK 705, Icom IC2200 H, Anytone D168. 40M EFHW.

10 Any homebrew projects or Franken-rigs you're proud of?

I found a Kenwood TS130 S – donated for spare parts and long story short, it came back to life, instead of becoming spare parts. It has been named Frankenstein by my YL.

11 What piece of equipment would you never part with?

Leave my toy alone. Hands off, it's mine!



Personality & Humour

12 What's your ham radio superpower—or your funniest operating blunder?

I am borderline psychotic about getting the SWR 1:1 and will not give up till it is indeed 1:1.

13 If your shack had a mascot, what would it be?

The Linux penguin.

14 What nickname would your fellow hams give you?

Tech 1. Long story – ask my YL.

Beyond the Shack

15 What other hobbies or interests do you enjoy?

4x4 Off-roading, photography, programming, travelling and anything that connects to an antenna.

16 How has amateur radio shaped your friendships or travels?

I have met lots of great people and it turned into lasting friendships.

17 What's one thing people might be surprised to learn about you?

I am not sure, I am still surprising myself daily.

Wisdom & Legacy

18 What advice would you give to a newcomer?

Pick up the mic and talk. Ignore the negative and savour the negative.

19 What do you hope to see in the future of amateur radio?

More hams, more camaraderie.

20 If you could send one message to the world via ham radio, what would it be?

Can't we just get along?

Motor Rallies 2026 | Motor Tydrenne 2026



CALENDAR


ROUND 1 7 FEBRUARY	ROUND 2 18 APRIL	ROUND 3 23 MAY
ROUND 4 27 JUNE	ROUND 5 1 AUGUST	ROUND 6 5 SEPTEMBER
ROUND 7 10 OCTOBER	ROUND 8 14 NOVEMBER	AWARDS 28 NOVEMBER

VENUES TO BE ANNOUNCED


[gxccracing](#) [GXCC Racing - Gauteng Xross Country Club](#) [GXCC Racing](#) [GXCC Racing](#)
[www.gxccracing.co.za](#) [081 777 0411](#) [GXCC Racing 2023](#) [admin@gxccracing.co.za](#)

PROVISIONAL 2026 RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

TBA	GAUTENG	MARCH 2026 20 / 21
SWARTLAND RALLY	MALMESBURY	APRIL 2026 24 / 25
TZANEEN RALLY	TZANEEN	MAY 2026 29 / 30
ALGOA RALLY	GQEBERHA	July 2026 10 / 11
TGRSA RALLY	ERMELO	AUGUST 2026 21 / 22
FOURIESBURG RALLY	FOURIESBURG	SEPTEMBER 2026 25 / 26
TRACN4 RALLY	DULLSTROOM	OCTOBER 2026 25 / 26



BEST OF 2025

From the blistering heat and dust to freezing temperatures and mud, rally photographers place themselves exactly where the action unfolds. Often long before the first car arrives and long after the last one has passed, not to mention hours of editing after the event.



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

Long Term HF Propagation for January 2026 By Vincent, ZS6BTY

Local Propagation (up to 500 km): The F or F2 critical frequency (f_oF2) is the MUF for short range, near vertical incidence sky-wave (NVIS) propagation.

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

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

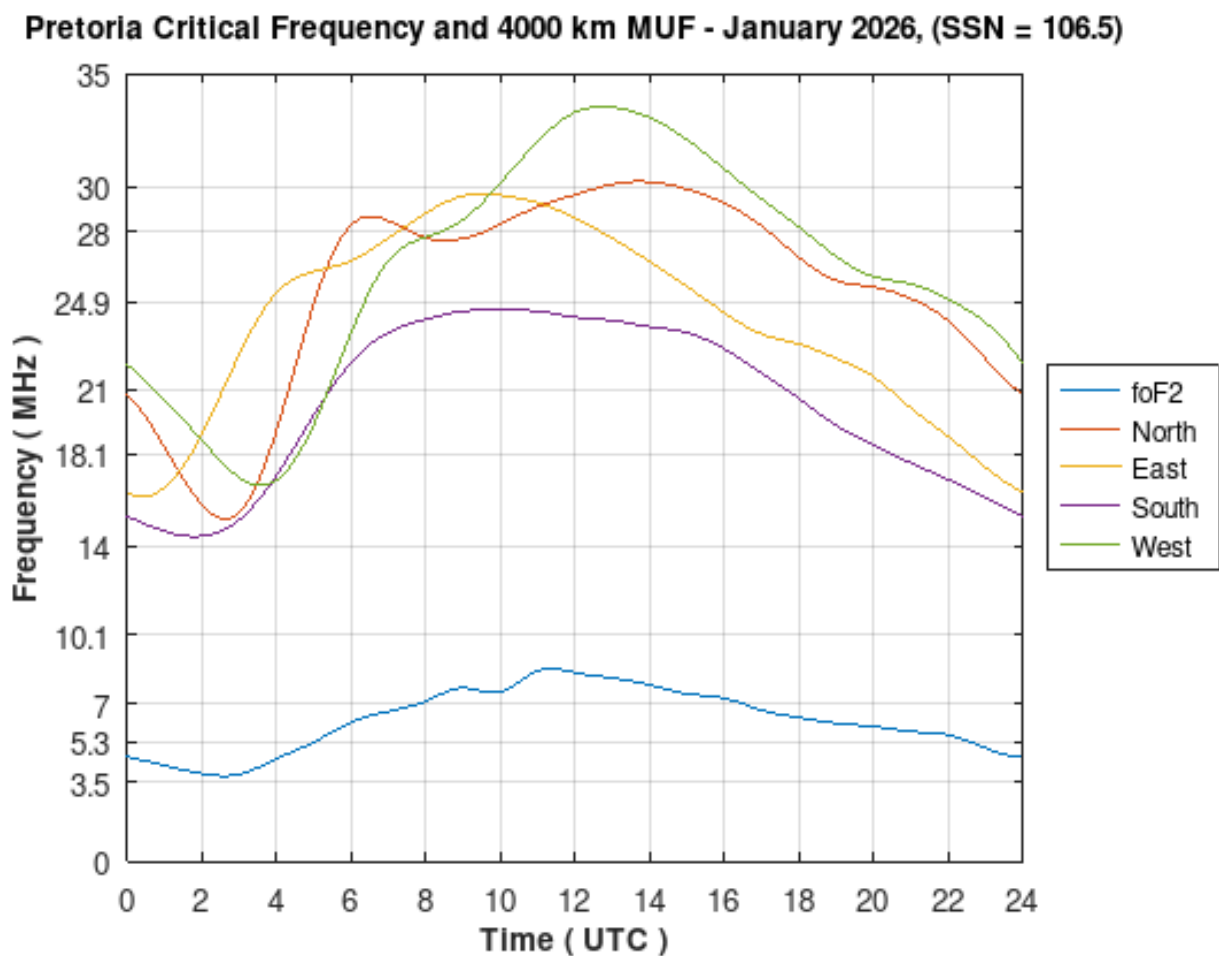
“Prediction is difficult, especially when dealing with the future”. . . Danish Proverb

73 Vincent, ZS6BTY

[1] FTZMUF2: A simple method of estimating the ionospheric parameters of f_oF2 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>)

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



PARC Committee Members | PARK Komiteelede

Name & Callsign	Portfolio/s	Email Adress	Mobile No
Graham Reid ZS6GJR	Chairman Treasurer Rallies	greid@wol.co.za	083-701-0511
Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA	Vice Charlady Secretary Social	irene.myburgh@outlook.com	082-462-6001 084-544-0618
Hendri Ehlers ZS6HFE	Website & Social Media ICASA Liaison Repeaters	zs6hfe@gmail.com	083-460-5586
Louis de Wet ZS6SK	Club Historian Awards SARL Liaison	louis.zs6sk@gmail.com	072-140-9893
Martie Venter ZS6MV	Watts Newsletter RAE Training Club Membership	zs6mv73@gmail.com	072-273-1370

Co-opted Committee Members | Gekoöpteer Komiteelede

Name & Callsign	Portfolio/s	Email Adress	Mobile No
Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP (Hon.)	Flea-markets Swop Shop	almerodps@gmail.com	083-938-8955
John Minter ZS6LED	RAE Training Technical	john.minter.za@gmail.com	083-291-5422
Pieter Myburgh ZS6PAM	Repeaters	wooden@mweb.co.za	076-140-7562
Pierre Holtzhausen ZS6PJH	Contests	zs6pjh@gmail.com	082-575-5799

A hearty shout-out to all who've fed Watts with tales, photos, puzzles, and those irresistible between-QSO morsels. You keep this newsletter humming like a happy rig with a fresh cup of coffee beside it.

Send your transmissions to 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!"