



WATTS

Pretoria Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Website: www.parc.org.za

Email: zs6pta@parc.org.za

WATTS Monthly Magazine of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club

THE 13 COLONIES

- ★ DELAWARE
- ★ PENNSYLVANIA
- ★ NEW JERSEY
- ★ GEORGIA
- ★ CONNECTICUT
- ★ MASSACHUSETTS
- ★ MARYLAND
- ★ SOUTH CAROLINA
- ★ NEW HAMPSHIRE
- ★ VIRGINIA
- ★ NEW YORK
- ★ NORTH CAROLINA
- ★ RHODE ISLAND

13 COLONIES
— SPECIAL EVENT —
CELEBRATING THE 13 ORIGINAL COLONIES
AMATEUR RADIO • HISTORY • FRIENDSHIP

THE 13 COLONIES CALL SIGNS

- K2A DELAWARE
- K2B PENNSYLVANIA
- K2C NEW JERSEY
- K2D GEORGIA
- K2E CONNECTICUT
- K2F MASSACHUSETTS
- K2G MARYLAND
- K2H SOUTH CAROLINA
- K2I NEW HAMPSHIRE
- K2J VIRGINIA
- K2K NEW YORK
- K2L NORTH CAROLINA
- K2M RHODE ISLAND

July 1-7

We the People

WORK ALL 13 COLONIES • EARN YOUR CERTIFICATE • BE PART OF HISTORY ON THE AIR!

Highlights in this Issue

Birthdays Verjaarsdae, Joys and Sorrows Lief en Leed.....	3
Contests and Events Kompetisies en Gebeure.....	5
PARC Flea Market PARK Snuffelmark.....	6
PARC RAE Preparation Training.....	8
Shack Talk by Vernon, ZS6AIG.....	9
The 13 Colonies Special Event.....	10
From Knobs to Waterfalls: The Rise of SDR.....	12
When Hams Bounced Signals Off the Moon.....	13
ARRL News.....	15
Long Term HF Propagation – July 2026 By Vincent, ZS6BTY.....	16
Motor Rallies 2026 Motor Tydrenne 2026.....	17
PARC Committee Members PARK Komiteelede.....	21
Co-opted Committee Members Gekoöpteerde Komiteelede.....	21

To every reader, supporter, and contributor who’s tuned in to Watts—thank you. Whether you’ve shared a story, sparked a laugh, or simply kept the signal strong by reading along, you’re part of what makes this frequency worth broadcasting.

We’d love to hear more from you. Got a quirky club tale, a burning question, a bright idea, or a moment worth amplifying? Send it our way at watts@parc.org.za. The mic is always open, and your voice keeps the airwaves alive.

Stay curious, stay connected—and keep the dial on Watts. 73

Stay Connected

- WhatsApp Group: Contact any committee member
- Bulletins: 145.725 MHz (Sundays 08h45)
- Relays: 439.025, 438.825, 145.725, 7.066 MHz + Echolink
- Swopshop: 2m & 7.066 MHz live after bulletins
- Rebroadcast: Mondays 19h45 (2m)



Birthdays | Verjaarsdae, Joys and Sorrows | Lief en Leed

Members' Birthdays — July | Lede Verjaarsdae — Julie

Date	Name	Callsign
04 July	Marjoke Schuitemaker	ZS5V
05 July	John Olivier	ZR6GV
06 July	Helen Newton	ZR6HN
13 July	Braam Devenier	ZS6AYE
13 July	Pieter Human	ZS6PA
17 July	Pine Pienaar	ZS6OB
19 July	Theo Bresler	ZS6TVB
20 July	Roy Newton	ZS6XN
26 July	Frank Schneider	ZS6GE
30 July	Dawid Dawid Schalk	ZS6VS
31 July	Erens Swanepoel	ZS6EFG

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

Spouses' Birthdays — July | Gades Verjaarsdae — Julie

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
01 July	Theo Bresler	ZS6TVB	Avida
09 July	Johann Morkel	ZS6HW	Marichelle
12 July	Louis de Wet	ZS6SK	Sharmaine
17 July	Jacques Coetzee	ZS6RFJ	Jacqueline
22 July	Pete Smith - Curren	ZS6PJ	Ria
27 July	Johan Lehmann	ZS6JPL	Elmarie

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

Members' Birthdays — August | Lede Verjaarsdae — Augustus

Date	Name	Callsign
01 August	Rita Schroder	ZS6SLR
03 August	Paul Sterling	ZS6BMF
05 August	Hans Gurtel	ZR6HVG
07 August	Whitey Joubert	ZS6JJJ
08 August	Tobie Jansen van Rensburg	ZS6ZX
11 August	Andries Lombard	ZS6ABL

Date	Name	Callsign
12 August	Ryan Sylvester	ZS6RSZ
26 August	Fanie De Kock	ZS6FDK

Spouses' Birthdays — August | Gades Verjaarsdae — Augustus

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
09 August	Hans-Peter Knoepfler	ZS6AJS	Helga
24 August	Leon Fouche	ZS6LEF	Riana

Wedding Anniversaries Jyly 2026 | Huweliks Herdenkings Julie 2026

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
04 July	David Bingham	ZS6AAI	Ansa
21 July	Andries Benjamin Lombard	ZS6ABL	Tania
28 July	Frank Schneider	ZS6GE	Patricia

Wedding Anniversaries August 2026 | Huweliks Herdenkings Augustus 2026

Date	Member	Callsign	Spouse
07 August	Edmar Willers	ZS6UT	Peggy
12 August	Jurie Ferreira	ZS6JFE	Geraldene
18 August	Charles Pretorius	ZS6CRR	Alice
29 August	Albert Schreuder	ZS6SE	Joydene

Joys and Sorrows / Lief en Leed

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of **Joseph (Joe) Katzman ZS6TB** on the 7th of June 2026. Joe was a well known and beloved member of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club. We will fondly remember his voice on the 2-meter repeater in the mornings and during Sunday morning bulletins. He was a regular attendant of the PARC veterans breakfast functions and will sincerely be missed. Our sincere condolences to his wife Selma and his daughter Andy and sons Darren and Gary. You will sincerely be missed.

Contests and Events | Kompetisies en Gebeure

July

- 4 July — SARL Newbie QSO Party Saturday (1100Z – 1600Z)
- 4-5 July — Marconi Memorial HF Contest (1400Z, Jul 4 to 1400Z, Jul 5)
- 5 July — ZS5 QSO Party Sunday (1400Z – 15:00Z)
- 11 - 12 July — IARU HF World Championship (1200Z, Jul 11 to 1200Z, Jul 12)
- 18 July — SARL QRP Contest Saturday (0700Z - 0900Z)
- 18 – 19 July — IARU Region 1 70 MHz Contest (1400Z, Jul 18 to 1400Z, Jul 19)
- 19 July — ZS2 QSO Party Sunday (1400Z – 1500Z)
- 19 July — YOTA Contest (1000Z-2159Z, Jul 19)
- 25 July — SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest Saturday (1500Z - 16Z00)
- 26 July — ZS1 QSO Party Sunday (1600Z – 1700Z)
- 26 July — ARS Flight of the Bumblebees (1700Z - 2100Z, Jul 2)

August

- 2 August — SARL HF Phone Contest Sunday (1400Z – 1700Z)
- 9 August — ARRL EME Contest (0000Z, Aug 8 to 2359Z, Aug 9)
- 9 August — SARL YL QSO Party Sunday (1400Z - 1500Z)
- 9 August — SARL HF Digital Contest Sunday (1300Z - 1600Z)
- 15 August — SARL Youth QSO Party Saturday (1200Z - 1300Z)
- 19 August — SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Contest Wednesday (1700Z - 1800Z)
- 22 August — RSI VU DX Contest (1200Z, Aug 22 to 1200Z, Aug 23)
- 23 August — SARL HF CW Contest Sunday (1400 – 1700Z)
- 30 August — World Wide Digi DX Contest (1200Z, Aug 29 to 1200Z, Aug 30)

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of contest details listed above. For verification and more information, please visit the SARL website, www.sarl.org.za , as well as the WA7BNM international contest calendar at the following website: <http://hornucopia.co>

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

PARC Flea Market | PARK Snuffelmark

Snuffelmark
5 FORGE ACADEMY & LABS

ISGPTA

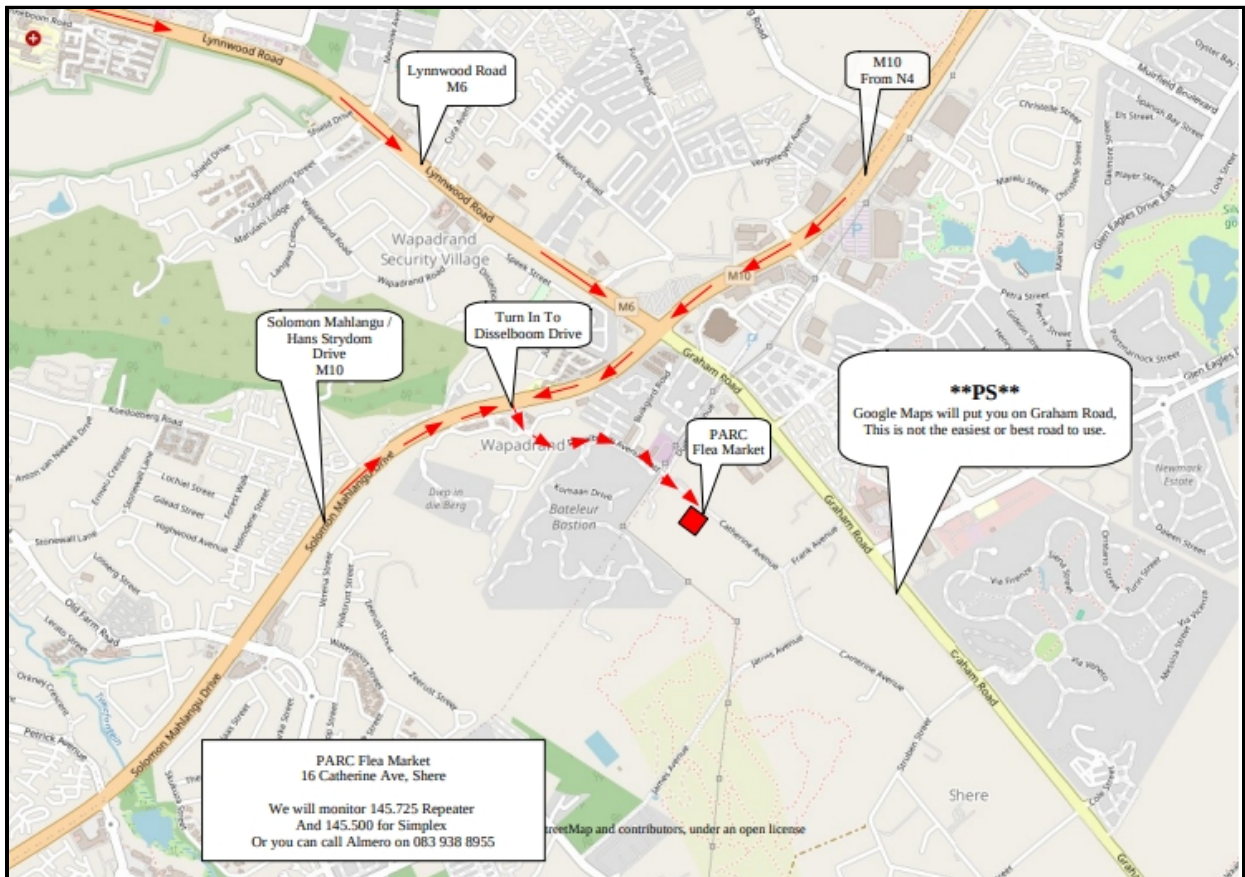
NEXT FLEA MARKET

AUGUST 1 @ 16 Catherine Rd, Shere

BOOK YOUR TABLE!
Almero du Pisani | 086 938 8955
almerodps@gmail.com

JOIN US

16 Catherine Road, Shere, Pretoria East



Next Flea Market Date: 1 August / Volgende Snuffelmark Datum: 1 Augustus

CONTACT PERSON: Alméro Du Pisani

(T) 083-938-8955

(E) almerodps@gmail.com

Secure your table today for just R30!
Verseker jou tafel vandag vir net R30!

Upcoming Dates — 2026

- 1 August 2026 — PARC
- 5 December 2026 — PARC

Other Clubs — 2026

- 29 August – West Rand Boot Sale
- 3 October – East Rand Boot Sale



Pelican Cases at
R100 each
WhatsApp orders to 0832326146 or email
zs6pie@gmail.com

PARC RAE Preparation Training

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club (PARC) is thrilled to announce that we are officially hosting **RAE (Radio Amateur Examination) preparation training** at our very own **registered exam centre**. This marks an exciting milestone for our community: we are fully equipped with **HF trainers, a qualified invigilator, and all the resources needed** to help aspiring radio amateurs succeed.

At PARC, we believe there is always room for learning, growth, and new voices on the airwaves. Whether you're just starting your journey into amateur radio or looking to sharpen your skills, our training sessions are designed to be **inclusive, professional, and supportive**.

We're ready to get started—and we'd love for you to be part of it. If you're interested in joining our RAE preparation training, simply send us an email at RAE@PARC.ORG.ZA

Or you can visit our PARC web page <https://www.parc.org.za/index.php?page=rae>

Let's make 2026 the year you earn your amateur radio license and join the vibrant world of radio communication. The airwaves are waiting—are you ready to answer the call?



RAE Preparation training now available
Email rae@parc.org.za for details

RAE

RADIO AMATEUR EXAM

Pretoria Amateur Radio Club



RAE October 2026 RAE exam entries open Saturday 1st August 2026

Shack Talk by Vernon - ZS6AIG (Part 8)

The bond of friendship.



Ham radio has never been about the tallest tower, the biggest Yagi, or that kilowatt amplifier that keeps your feet warm in winter. At its heart, amateur radio is about the bond between Hams across the globe.



My own journey began in the late 1990s when I switched on my 2m rig and tuned to 145.650—the East Rand repeater. What a QSO I stumbled upon! On the air was my old friend, Duppie ZS6BDD (SK), affectionately known as “Baie Doom Duppie,” chatting with OM Joe ZS6TB (SK), mobile from Pretoria to Brakpan, where he had just opened his Ben Pharmacy. Little did I know then that this conversation would mark the beginning of a lifelong friendship between them.

Listening to the two, with their sharp wit and humor, I couldn’t help but smile. They were like the “terrible twins”, instantly bonded—just as so many others had bonded with OM Joe. Later, I often kept Joe company during his early morning or late evening drives between Pretoria and Brakpan. For five years, we spoke about everything from cars to music, sharing a passion for both.

After returning from overseas, I set up my shack in Pretoria. One morning, I tuned to 145.725, this time using the VFO instead of channel select—hi hi. Among the familiar voices of the “Ou Toppie” group, I suddenly heard that Tango Bravo call sign. I knew immediately it was Joe, now retired and no longer making the daily trip to Brakpan.

The very next day, after the Ou Toppies signed off, I called Tango Bravo. Without hesitation, Joe recognized me. From that moment, our bond grew even stronger. We spoke often of OM Duppie’s passing—Joe’s sadness was palpable, a testament to their deep friendship. He proudly shared that his sons, Darren ZR6TY and Gary ZR6TB, had taken the RAE, and even Auntie Selma had attempted it.

Over the next 15 years, Joe and I enjoyed daily chats filled with humour, discussions about cars, his beloved saxophone, and even spirited debates about local politics. What I cherished most was Joe’s passion for radio. Being in his presence was magnetic—his humour, his wisdom, and his love for the hobby made every conversation unforgettable.

There is so much more I could share about my dear friend. I know many other Hams also had that special bond with Joe, whether through local QSOs or the countless global contacts he made over the years. His voice carried far, but his warmth and friendship reached even further.

The second time I truly felt Joe’s sadness was the day I helped bring down his tower while he was moving QTH. As the 5-element TET Yagi and the legendary Skeleton Slot were dismantled, I could sense the weight of that moment. His sorrow stayed with me for a long time.

You made your mark, Tango Bravo. You will be remembered for a long time and missed by many. If heaven has a Ham shack, I know you and OM Duppie are already in a QSO, sharing that humour that made you both unforgettable.

I will miss those long chats about the things we loved and condolence to his family.

Rest in Peace, Tango Bravo.

The 13 Colonies Special Event

Every July, amateur radio operators around the world have the opportunity to take part in one of the most anticipated events on the calendar – the 13 Colonies Special Event. More than just a chance to collect contacts, the event celebrates the original thirteen British colonies that eventually became the United States of America.

First held in 2009, the event has grown from a small idea into a worldwide celebration that attracts tens of thousands of operators. During the event, special stations representing each of the original colonies take to the air using unique one-by-one callsigns, beginning with K2A and ending with K2M. Participants who successfully contact all thirteen stations can apply for a certificate, while many also try to work the bonus stations that add an extra challenge and historical flavour to the event.

The original thirteen colonies represented are:

- Delaware
- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Georgia
- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- Maryland
- South Carolina
- New Hampshire
- Virginia
- New York
- North Carolina
- Rhode Island

What makes the event particularly special is that it welcomes everyone. Whether operating from a large contest station or a modest home shack, amateurs from around the world can participate. Contacts can be made on CW, SSB, digital modes and even via satellite, giving operators plenty of opportunities to add the coveted colonies to their logs.

The event is not a contest, but rather a celebration of amateur radio and history. Operators often spend the week chasing all thirteen stations, comparing notes with friends and helping fellow amateurs complete their collections. For many, earning the "Clean Sweep" certificate by working every colony has become an annual tradition.

From South Africa, the event offers a wonderful opportunity to experience international propagation, improve operating skills and enjoy the camaraderie that amateur radio is famous for. It is also a reminder that, despite the distances between us, radio continues to bring people together across borders and cultures.

Whether you are a seasoned DXer or newly licensed, the 13 Colonies Special Event offers something for everyone. So, dust off the microphone, tune the bands, and get ready to travel back in time—one contact at a time.

How the Event Works

- **Call Signs:** Each of the 13 states operates a special event station using a unique call sign (e.g., K2A for New York, K2B for Virginia, etc.).
- **Bonus Stations:** Organizers also include three bonus stations: **WM3PEN** (representing the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia), **TM13COL** (in France), and **GB13COL** (in the United Kingdom).
- **The Exchange:** Participants log brief exchanges consisting of the station's call sign, a signal report, and their own state, province, or country.
- **Bands & Modes:** Operations take place across all HF (High Frequency) bands and various modes (SSB, CW, RTTY, Digital).

Participating & Awards

- **Certificates:** Operators who successfully contact the special event stations can earn a collectible, personalized certificate.
- **Logsheets:** Participants can track their progress by using dedicated trackers, such as the [Annual 13 Colonies Logsheets](#).
- **Official Rules:** To view all regulations, schedules, and frequencies, check out the [Official 13 Colonies Special Event Website](#). [1, 2]

THE 13 COLONIES

- ★ DELAWARE
- ★ PENNSYLVANIA
- ★ NEW JERSEY
- ★ GEORGIA
- ★ CONNECTICUT
- ★ MASSACHUSETTS
- ★ MARYLAND
- ★ SOUTH CAROLINA
- ★ NEW HAMPSHIRE
- ★ VIRGINIA
- ★ NEW YORK
- ★ NORTH CAROLINA
- ★ RHODE ISLAND

★ 13 COLONIES ★

SPECIAL EVENT

CELEBRATING THE 13 ORIGINAL COLONIES
AMATEUR RADIO • HISTORY • FRIENDSHIP

K2A DELAWARE
K2B PENNSYLVANIA
K2C NEW JERSEY
K2D GEORGIA
K2E CONNECTICUT
K2F MASSACHUSETTS
K2G MARYLAND
K2H SOUTH CAROLINA
K2I NEW HAMPSHIRE
K2J VIRGINIA
K2K NEW YORK
K2L NORTH CAROLINA
K2M RHODE ISLAND

July 1-7

We the People

WORK ALL 13 COLONIES • EARN YOUR CERTIFICATE • BE PART OF HISTORY ON THE AIR!

From Knobs to Waterfalls: The Rise of SDR

Not so long ago, tuning across the bands meant slowly turning the VFO knob and listening carefully for a faint voice or the familiar rhythm of Morse code. Finding a station required patience, skill, and perhaps a little luck. Today, a glance at a colourful waterfall display reveals an entire slice of the spectrum at once. Welcome to the world of Software Defined Radio, or SDR.



Over the past decade, SDR technology has transformed amateur radio. What was once the preserve of expensive commercial equipment has become accessible to almost every radio amateur. From entry-level receivers costing less than a good microphone to sophisticated transceivers with panoramic displays, SDR has changed the way many of us experience the hobby.

Unlike traditional radios, where much of the signal processing is handled by hardware, an SDR performs many of these functions in software. This allows features that were once unimaginable: spectrum scopes, waterfalls, adjustable filters, noise reduction, recording of entire bands, and even remote operation from anywhere in the world.

For newcomers, the colourful display of an SDR may seem perfectly normal. But many seasoned operators remember a time when locating a station meant listening, not looking. Some jokingly say that today's operators "hunt with their eyes instead of their ears."

Yet SDR technology has not replaced the skills that have always defined amateur radio. Good operating practices, understanding propagation, and the ability to recognise weak signals remain just as important. The tools may have changed, but the spirit of experimentation and communication remains the same.

Perhaps that is what makes SDR so fascinating. It represents the perfect blend of tradition and innovation. Vintage enthusiasts can still enjoy the warm glow of analogue equipment, while digital pioneers explore the possibilities of software and computer-controlled radios. There is room for both, and many shacks proudly house equipment from both eras.

As amateur radio continues to evolve, one thing is certain: innovation has always been part of our hobby. From spark-gap transmitters to vacuum tubes, from transistors to digital modes, each generation has embraced new technologies while preserving the values that make amateur radio unique.

Whether you prefer the reassuring feel of a tuning knob or the vibrant colours of a waterfall display, we are all pursuing the same goal: making contacts, learning something new, and enjoying the magic that happens between antenna and operator.

So, are you a knob-turner, a waterfall watcher, or perhaps a little bit of both?

When Hams Bounced Signals Off the Moon

Today, communicating through satellites is almost taken for granted. But long before amateur satellites became commonplace, radio amateurs were already dreaming of using the Moon itself as a reflector.

The idea sounded almost impossible. A signal would have to travel nearly 385,000 kilometres to the Moon and another 385,000 kilometres back to Earth. The equipment required would need exceptional sensitivity, high power, and antennas with remarkable gain.

Yet radio amateurs have never been known for accepting that something cannot be done.

Their efforts culminated in July 1960, when the first successful two-way amateur radio contact via the Moon—known as Earth-Moon-Earth, or EME—was achieved on 1296 MHz. What many considered impossible had become reality. A signal had travelled nearly 770,000 kilometres, bounced off the lunar surface, and returned to Earth carrying intelligible information.

The achievement marked a new chapter in amateur radio. Operators were no longer limited by the ionosphere or terrestrial propagation. The Moon itself had become part of the station.

EME operation remains one of the most technically demanding aspects of the hobby. Modern digital modes and improved equipment have made it more accessible, but the sense of wonder remains unchanged. Every successful "moonbounce" contact is a reminder of what amateur radio operators have always done best: experiment, innovate, and push the boundaries of communication.

Perhaps that is what makes amateur radio so unique. While others looked up at the Moon and saw a distant object in the night sky, radio amateurs looked up and saw a reflector.

And they proved that even the Moon could become part of the antenna system.

@LANTIS CC ELECTRONICS

YOUR ELECTRONIC COMPONENT SUPPLY & EQUIPMENT REPAIR SPECIALISTS!

481 Alsatian Ave,
Faerie Glen, Pretoria
0043

+27 12 348 4858
+27 66 124 7281

www.lantis.co.za

Salesbox@lantis.co.za
www.lantis.co.za

FAST & RELIABLE SERVICE

Project OSCAR: When Hams Reached or the Stars

Long before satellite communication became part of everyday life, a small group of amateur radio operators dared to ask a remarkable question:

"What if we put a ham radio station into space?"

At the height of the Space Age in the late 1950s, the idea seemed almost impossible. Launching satellites was the domain of governments and military programmes. Yet a group of Californian radio amateurs believed that space should not belong exclusively to the professionals.

In 1960, they formed Project OSCAR – Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio – with the ambitious goal of placing the world's first amateur radio satellite into orbit. Working in their spare time and funding the project themselves, these dedicated hams designed and built a tiny satellite no larger than a briefcase.

On 12 December 1961, their dream became reality when OSCAR 1 was launched as a secondary payload aboard a U.S. Air Force rocket. To the surprise of many, the satellite worked perfectly. For twenty-two days, radio amateurs around the world listened as OSCAR 1 transmitted its simple but historic Morse code beacon:

"HI."

Just two letters.

Yet those two letters represented something much bigger. They proved that ordinary radio amateurs, driven by curiosity and determination, could successfully venture into space.

The success of OSCAR 1 marked the beginning of a new era. It paved the way for a succession of amateur satellites that have enabled communications, experimentation, and education for generations of operators. Today, dozens of amateur satellites circle the Earth, allowing hams to make contacts through space using equipment that would have seemed unimaginable in 1961.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Project OSCAR is that it embodied the very principles upon which amateur radio was founded: self-training, technical innovation, and international goodwill. The pioneers behind the project were not seeking fame or fortune. They simply wanted to push the boundaries of what was possible.

More than sixty years later, their legacy continues every time an amateur points an antenna skyward and hears the unmistakable signal of a satellite passing overhead.

From a modest workshop in California to orbiting the Earth, Project OSCAR demonstrated that with enough imagination and perseverance, even a handful of radio amateurs can reach for the stars.

And all because someone asked, "Why not?"

Young Ham Radio Operator Supports the America250 Celebration

While many teenagers spend their evenings playing video games or scrolling social media, 14-year-old amateur radio (also known as “ham radio”) operator Micah Sandoval, KB4MPS, was busy this past week making radio contacts across the US. Sandoval participated as part of a special event station supporting the ARRL America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award program, a year-long operating event celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States. ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® is a Supporting Partner of America250 the national, nonpartisan organization charged by Congress to lead the commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a milestone that marks America’s Semiquincentennial.

Operating alongside his mentor, James Hooper, K9QJS, Sandoval logged over 150 ham radio contacts. The event has attracted the participation of ham radio operators from across the country, and even around the world. Sandoval’s amateur radio journey began when he was just nine years old. Inspired by his grandfather, Philip Wagner, WA6NER, who would bring a handheld radio during visits, Sandoval became fascinated by the hobby. That early interest turned into a passion for amateur radio when he earned his Technician Class license in October 2022, upgraded to General Class in June 2025, and achieved the highest amateur radio license level, Amateur Extra, a month later at the age of 13.

Asked whether he encourages other young people to explore amateur radio, Sandoval said, “Yes, I do talk to them and recommend they at least look into it and the things it can teach you.”

Sandoval continues to learn about amateur radio, communications, public service, and emergency preparedness. He is also involved with a faith-based youth leadership and outdoor adventure program, teaching and inspiring the next generation about ham radio.

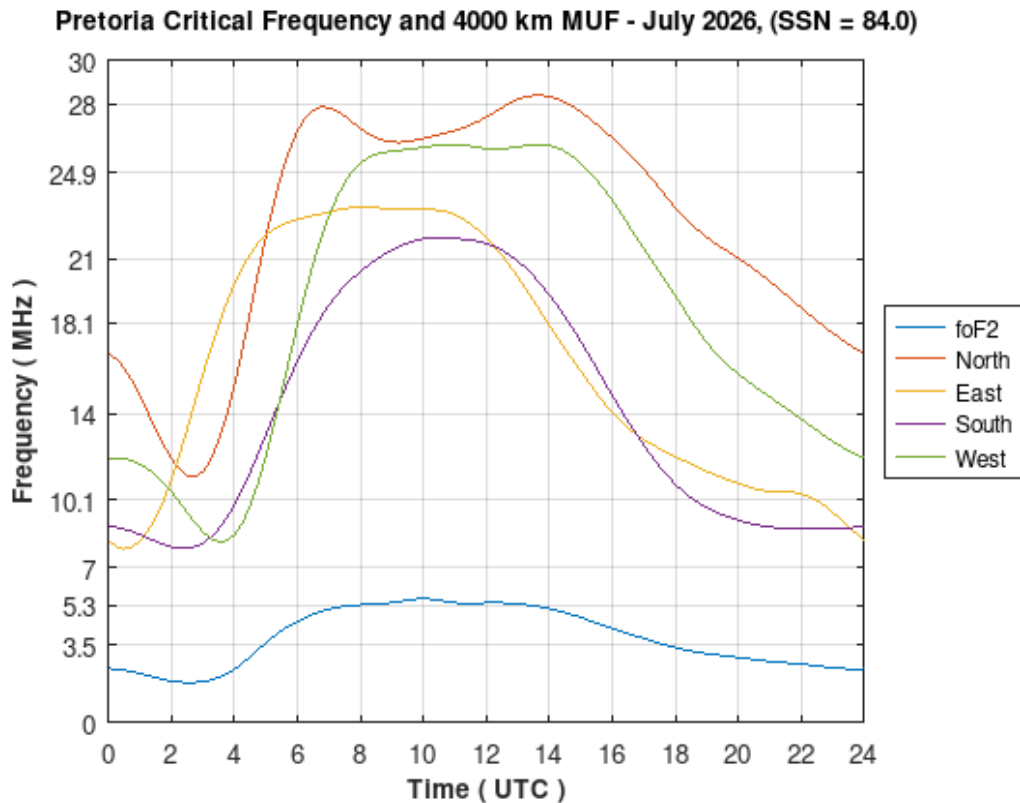
Throughout 2026, ARRL has assigned the iconic W1AW call sign to stations nationwide, activating each state twice during the year. W1AW is a memorial to ARRL’s Founding President, Hiram Percy Maxim (1914-1936). Sandoval’s participation with the W1AW/4 activation showcased not only the technical side of amateur radio but also the value of mentorship. With guidance from James Hooper, Sandoval gained valuable operating experience while contributing to a successful special event activation on the airwaves.

The ARRL America250 WAS event runs through December 31. Ham radio operators can pursue the award by making contact with other hams in all 50 states and confirming their contacts through the ARRL Logbook of The World® – LoTW®. A process for ordering the award certificate and endorsements will be available soon.

Three separate endorsements can be earned by confirming contacts with all 50 states on CW (Morse code) and phone and digital modes for a Triple Play; by contacting the W1AW/portable station activations in all 50 states, or by contacting ARRL-affiliated radio clubs in all 50 states.

Long Term HF Propagation - July 2026 By Vincent, ZS6BTY

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



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 labelled North, East, South and West. They indicate the direction that propagation may be expected.

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

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

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 graphic features the Shield Racing logo at the top, which includes a checkered flag and the text 'SHIELD RACING'. Below the logo is the title '2026 RALLY SEASON'. The main content is a vertical list of seven rally events, each presented in a black rectangular box with a white tab on the left side. The white tab contains the date and month, while the black box contains the rally name in yellow text. The background of the graphic is a photograph of a rally car driving on a dirt road, kicking up dust.

Date	Rally Name
21 MAR	ALL TAR GEROTEK
24/25 APR	SWARTLAND RALLY
29/30 MAY	TZANEEN RALLY
10/11 JUL	ALGOA RALLY
21/22 AUG	TGRSA ERMELO RALLY
25/26 SEPT	FOURIESBURG RALLY
25/26 OCT	TRACN4 DULLSTROOM



MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA NPC

Reg. No 1995/005605/08

www.motorsport.co.za

Ground Floor, Quadrum 1, Quadrum Office Park, 90 Constantia Boulevard, Constantia Kloof, Rondebosch
e-mail: msa@motorsport.co.za Telephone (011) 675 2220

MSA NATIONAL RALLY-RAID CHAMPIONSHIP CIRCULAR 1 OF 2026

Affected parties are hereby advised of the following amendment to the 2026 MSA National Rally-Raid Championship Calendar, effective immediately, as approved by the MSA SA Rally-Raid Championship Promoter:

DATE	NAME OF VENUE	PROVINCE	ROUND	STATUS
6 – 7 Mar 2026	Stella	North-West	1	POSTPONED
8 – 10 May 2026	Outeniqua	Western Cape	2-1	
19 – 20 June 2026	Parys	Free State	3-2	
24 – 25 July 2026	Bronkhorstspuit	Gauteng	4-3	
28 – 29 August 2026	Reserve	Reserve	5-4	
9 – 10 October 2026	Vryheid	KwaZulu-Natal	6-5	
13 – 14 November 2026	Thabazimbi	Limpopo	7-6	

A revised 2026 SA Rally-Raid Championship calendar will be communicated to all stakeholders once finalised.

MSA apologises for any inconvenience caused by this change, but it is due to circumstances beyond MSA's control.

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Charmaine Fortune - charmaine@sarallyraid.co.za

CARMEN HILL
SPORTING SERVICES MANAGER
27 January 2026

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



Chairperson: Ms. C. Louw, Directors: V. Mabasa (Chief Executive Officer), P. Zindle (Finance),
Ms. T. Humez, Mrs. S. Lubatogwe-Jacob, Ms. E. Mabasa, D. Ramakhoete, Ms. M. Spoor
Interim Appointed Directors: K. Lethake, R. Tshepoane

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

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 7.066 MHz by Pierre ZS6PS and Corlie ZS6CHS Smit and on Echolink by Johan Lehmann 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 7.066 MHz deur Pierre ZS6PS en Corlie ZS6CHS Smit, en op Echolink deur Johan Lehmann ZS6JPL.

'n Heruitsending van die Bulletin geskied die opvolgende Maandag aand om 19h45, en word behartig deur Louis de Wet ZS6SK.

PARC Bulletin Presenters: July 2026 – August 2026

Date	Presenter	Date	Presenter
4 July 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	1 August 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
11 July 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	8 August 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
18 July 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP	15 August 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP
25 July 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK	22 August 2026	Louis de Wet ZS6SK
		29 August 2026	Alméro Du Pisani ZS6LDP



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.

PARC Committee Members | PARK Komiteelede

Name & Callsign	Portfolio/s	Email Address	Mobile No
Graham Reid ZS6GJR	Chairman Treasurer Rallies	greid@wol.co.za	083-701-0511
Irene Myburgh ZS6IEA	Vice Chairlady 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 | Gekoöpteerde Komiteelede

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

To every reader, supporter, and contributor who's tuned in to Watts—thank you. Whether you've shared a story, sparked a laugh, or simply kept the signal strong by reading along, you're part of what makes this frequency worth broadcasting.

We'd love to hear more from you. Got a quirky club tale, a burning question, a bright idea, or a moment worth amplifying? Send it our way at watts@parc.org.za. The mic is always open, and your voice keeps the airwaves alive.

Stay curious, stay connected—and keep the dial on Watts. 73