



EAST RAND RADIO CLUB

Newsletter

March 2025

Amateur Radio





INDEX

1. Introduction
2. Rekkie trip to Nigel
3. Silent Keys
4. Club Activities
 - a. Pears VHF/UHF Contest (11 Jan)
 - b. Maintenance Day / SARL QRP (18 Jan)
 - c. Flea Market
 - d. KARTS Feb Club Meeting
 - e. Ride for Sight
 - f. SARL National Field Day
5. Zello Meetings
5. HF Assessment Training
6. Closing Remarks

INTRO

Hello club members and friends of the Eastrand Radio Club, and welcome to our next quarterly club newsletter.

So what's been happening at the ERB? Or is it the ERC?

We started the year off, on schedule, with our 1st activity for the year happening on the 4th of January, when we did a "Rekkie" trip out to Dick ZS6BUN's farm, outside Nigel.

We met Wayne and his son Micheal, at the clubhouse around 10 am, on Saturday morning. We first checked out the club's HF antenna's, there's an old inverted V type antenna at the clubhouse with a real ugly balun on it, we think its on 80, 40 and 20 meters, can anyone confirm this?

We made up a fly lead from the orange box, to where we decided the HF radio must go, and connected up the beam, and rotator, Stephen made a contact with IZ1WYO Lorenzo

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REKKIE TRIP TO NIGEL

We left the club around 12 pm, heading for Nigel, and we met up with Francois ZS6COI, and Judy ZS6JDY. Francois showed us the progress on repairing the club's 4 stack VHF Folded dipole array. Afterwards, we followed Francois and Judy to Dick's house.

My car wouldn't make it all the way, so we hopped on the back of Francois's bakkie, and hitched a ride to Dick's house. Thanks Francois and Judy.



Dick's farm house is situated on Bakenkop, which is in the Klipfontein area, at a height of 1840 meters, above sea level. Dick's QTH is situated at the highest point on the koppie, with a Web Industries highsite to the right of Dick's house.

So we enjoyed the afternoon with Dick and his wife, Dick showed us his antenna's, and Shack, and the corner he'd earmarked for us to operate. ending the day round 4 pm, just ahead of a storm which was brewing in the east.



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SILENT KEYS

It is with deep regret and sadness that we learned of the passing of **Ben Fourie ZS6BEN** whose key fell silent on the 4th of January 2025. Ben had been very active in the club in the early years.

Then on 13 February, **Andre van Tonder ZS6HE**'s key also went silent.

The club will miss both these gents, you gave a lot of themselves for the Eastrand Radio Club.

Rest Well and



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PEARS VHF / UHF CONTEST 11 JANUARY

11th of January, our day started early, the team only consisting of Mario ZS6TAN, Stephen ZS6SKY and Stephen's wife Elaine. We left our house in Kempton Park, at 5:30 am, on a cool, and rainy Saturday morning, not discouraged by the weather, we headed to the clubhouse, arriving just after 6am, to collect the clubs 6 element yagi, which we tied to the cars roof, before hitting the road.

After a brief stop in Nigel, we headed to Dick's place, the road up actually requires a 4x4, so progress was slow and deliberate, I'd studied the tracks with Google maps in the week, and had a good idea of how to ride, I did however take one wrong turn, ending us up outside someone else's farm gate, requiring some skillful steering to get us back on track.

Once up at Dick's place, the weather remained cool, and very overcast, rain threatening to spoil the day at any time. We had to go find a cross over bracket, and then Mario and I mounted the clubs yagi on a tripod supplied by Dick.



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PEARS VHF / UHF CONTEST 11 JANUARY

Things didn't quite go according to plan, and that's where being prepared comes in, better luck next time! Dick had to step in to assist us, with his ICOM 9100. We operated horizontal, and only made a few VHF contacts, but the main thing is, ZS6ERB was on the air, we were heard, and we had fun. Thank you Dick for the invite, and your time and effort...



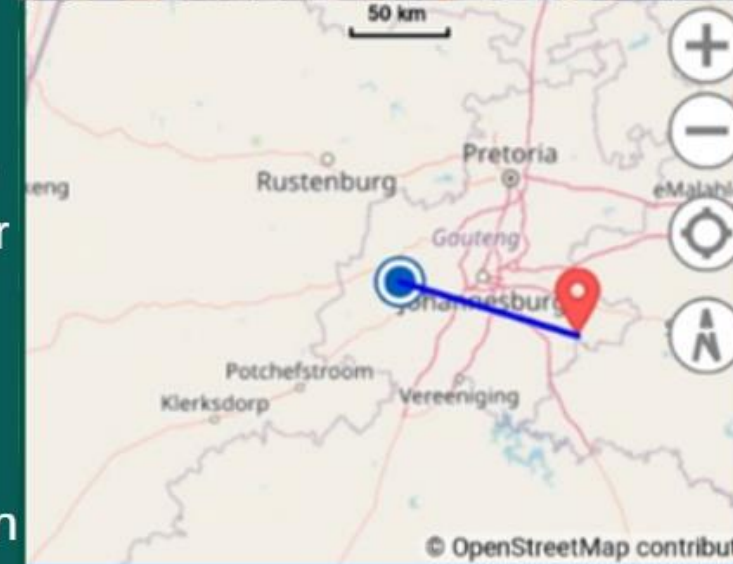
I gave Koos ZS3JPY a call, beaming South Westerly, we hoped to make an early morning contact with Koos on 144.300 MHz USB, well we did not hear Koos, only on Whatsapp.

Koos said he'd ask the Cape Town guys to try us, nothing heard

Anyways, it was a nice day out, we were only active for 4 hours, as rain stopped play after 1pm, and we had to hightail it down the slippery mountain road.

Thank you to all those that made the effort to contact us.

It was much appreciated,



KG33TS



KG43GN

Our furthest distance

9:36 PM

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PEARS VHF / UHF CONTEST 11 JANUARY

Things didn't quite go according to plan, and that's where being prepared

PEARS VHF/UHF Contest

stuttards@gmail.com

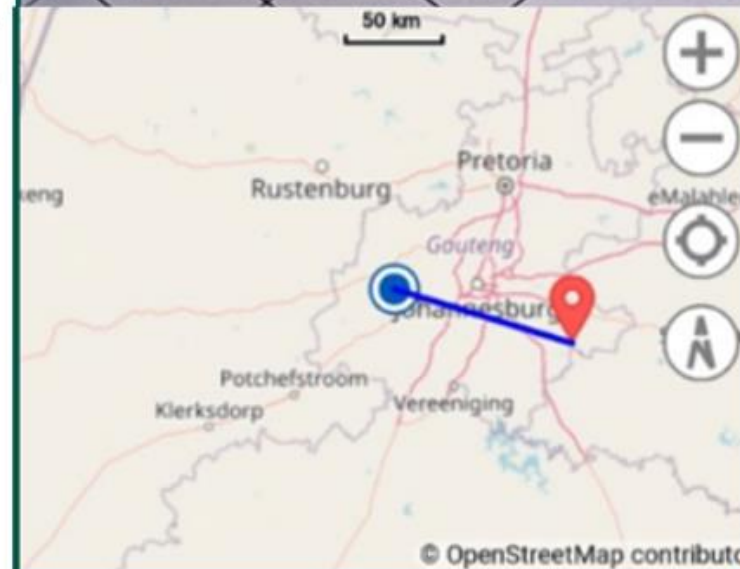
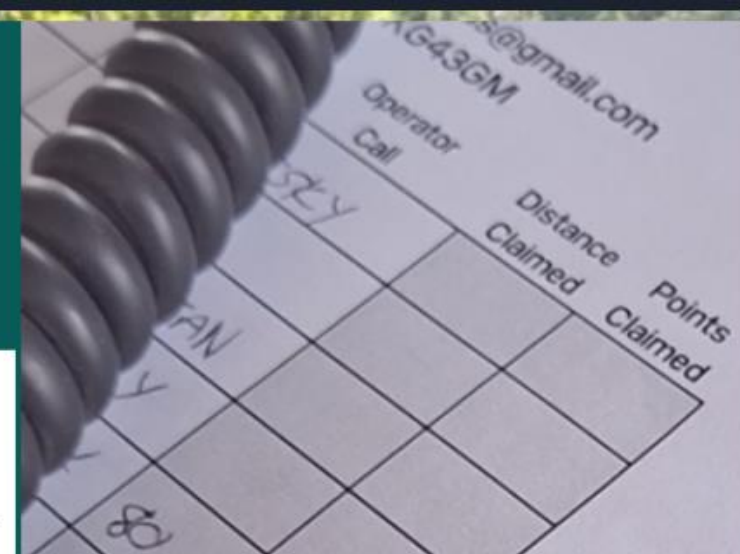
Club Multi-Operator Station

ZS6 ERB

Stephen Benjamin Stuttard ZS6SKY KG43GM

Date: 11 January 2024

	UTC Time:	Frequency:	Mode:	Call Sign:	Signal Report Sent: Received:	/ Co-ordinates Grid Locator:	Operator Call:	Distance Claimed:	Points Claimed:	Notes:
1	08:10	144.300	SSB	ZS6COI	59 59	Nigel	ZS6SKY	9.5	10	Worked with 5 watts Contacted Jaco, while he was mobile on the N12 Turned power down to 1.5 W, and could still reach Johan Turned power down to 1.5 W, and could still reach Johan
2	09:00	145.500	FM	ZS6ADT/M	59 59+	KG43AR	ZS6SKY	55	10	
3	09:06	145.500	FM	ZS6DC	59 59	KG33TS	ZS6SKY	91	10	
4	09:11	145.500	FM	ZS6RST	59 59	KG33TS	ZS6SKY	91	10	
5	10:00	145.500	FM	ZS6RF	42 44	KG43CS	ZS6TAN	43.3	10	
6	10:15	145.500	FM	ZS6OPS	42 45	KG43EW	ZS6SKY	49.2	10	
7	10:17	145.500	FM	ZS6JNG	42 45	KG43EW	ZS6SKY	49.2	10	
8	10:24	145.500	FM	ZS6KBS	41 44	Suikerbosrand mobile KG43AM	ZS6SKY	12	10	
9	11:00	145.500	FM	ZS6WG	31 33	KG343CV	ZS6SKY	53	10	
10	11:02	145.500	FM	ZS6RFI	59 59	KG43	ZS6SKY		10	
11								453.2	100	
12										
13										
14										



Our furthest distance 9:36 PM

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MAINTENANCE DAY / SARL QRP

Elaine, Mario, Micheal, Stephen and Wayne, met at the clubhouse on 18 January, our mission:

Check out the fanned dipole. We checked out this antenna, and then decided to rather build a fit for purpose dedicated 40 meter inverted V antenna.

The 18th marked the 3rd weekend in a row, that we were busy with an activity for the ERC Club, today we took part in the SARL QRP Contest at the clubhouse, in attendance were Mario, myself and Wayne. Wayne brought his Icom 7000 along, and we also used the club's Icom 746 Pro, firstly the 746 was connected to Ham Radio Deluxe running on Wayne's laptop, Wayne also had his SDR dongle running through an SDR switch, and running SDR Console and Panadaptor on his laptop, Wayne was able to scan the chunks of the 20 meter band at a time, identifying strong signals, and then remotely tuning the 746 from his pc, Mario and I did the calling, a highlight of the morning was talking to Fred, ZS5SAM/Div1, Fred was in Barrydale in the Western Cape, and we worked him on 20 meters on the beam, Fred was also using a tri bander.



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MAINTENANCE DAY / SARL QRP

While the contest was running, I installed an alloy plate off the front side of the tower, with a new pulley, and pulled up the clubs try bander, while 80 meters showed a relatively low swr, at 3.8 MHz, and 20 meters also had a low swr, on 40 meters,, the swr is 2+

This antenna is well used, and also well rusted, it was decided rather to re-do this antenna at a later stage (next week) and thus the antenna was removed again, the good news is the new pulley remains in place, meaning I don't need to climb the tower again 😊 In the afternoon we worked 3B8HE Paul, in Mauritius, and a lady operator OM4AIM, Mia in Slovak Republic, both contacts on 10 meters. Mario also spoke to a station in Russia. Wayne did some comparison tests between his Icom 7000 and the clubs 746 pro, Wayne's idea to bring along his SDR, and run SDR Console worked out great, we had a very nice day playing radio 😊



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SARL 40M CLUB CONTEST

Wayne showed us where the magic happens. This design proved to be very effective, it was also super easy to tune the antenna, only requiring one shortening, and it was ready for action. The contest is only an hour, from 2 to 3 pm. Mario and Stephen manned the radio, Making 34 contacts in 60 minutes, that's a contact every 2 minutes or so.

25-Jan-25	02:41 PM ZR6JV	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Jafran	KG33	6SRL	ZR6JV
25-Jan-25	02:43 PM ZS5RY	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Ryan	KG61	6SRL	ZS5RY
25-Jan-25	02:45 PM ZS6MDX	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Mark	KG33	6SRL	ZS6MDX
25-Jan-25	02:46 PM ZR6LO	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Leon	KG43	6WR	ZR6LO
25-Jan-25	02:47 PM ZS6WNL	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Wollaston	KG54	6LOW	ZS6WNL
25-Jan-25	02:48 PM ZS3VP	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Paul	KG12	3NC	ZS3VP
25-Jan-25	02:49 PM ZS6TLX	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Cobus	KG44	6SRL	ZS6TLX
25-Jan-25	02:51 PM ZS5V	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Maria	KG50	5PMB	ZS5V
25-Jan-25	02:52 PM ZS6MIV	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Brett	KG43	6STN	ZS6MIV
25-Jan-25	02:53 PM ZS5YH	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Heather	KF59	5HAC	ZS5YH
25-Jan-25	02:54 PM ZS6MJM	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Thys	KG44	6MRK	ZS6MJM
25-Jan-25	02:55 PM ZS3VP	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Paul	KG12	3NC	ZS3VP
25-Jan-25	02:56 PM ZS6GPH	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Gerrit	KG33	6WR	ZS6GPH
25-Jan-25	02:58 PM ZS3HJ	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Herman	KG12	3NC	ZS3HJ



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SARL 40M CLUB CONTEST

On 25 January, we took part in the SARL's 40 meter Club contest. In attendance were Elaine, Frank ZS6FN, Mario ZS6TAN and Wayne. Wayne had been constructing a 40 meter inverted V antenna, but it still needed to be tuned, this was done just before the contest started, and ZS6ERB was on the air waves...

25-Jan-25	02:14 PM ZS6XY	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Mark	KG33	6WR	ZS6XY
25-Jan-25	02:16 PM ZS6HON	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Helgard	KG44	6MRK	ZS6HON
25-Jan-25	02:17 PM ZS6JBZ	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Johann	KG33	6WR	ZS6JBZ
25-Jan-25	02:18 PM ZS6JJK	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Jack	KG33	6WR	ZS6JJK
25-Jan-25	02:19 PM ZR6TVK	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Veronica	KG33	6WR	ZR6TVK
25-Jan-25	02:20 PM ZS4AZ	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Nathaniel	KG30	3VDK	ZS4AZ
25-Jan-25	02:21 PM ZS6WIM	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Wim	KG43	6ERB	ZS6WIM
25-Jan-25	02:22 PM ZS6AEM	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Chris	KG43	6SRL	ZS6AEM
25-Jan-25	02:23 PM ZS6RL	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Riaan	KG43	6POT	ZS6RL
25-Jan-25	02:25 PM ZS6ACC	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Dave	KG33	6WR	ZS6ACC
25-Jan-25	02:27 PM ZS6JGP	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Justin	KG43	6STN	ZS6JGP
25-Jan-25	02:28 PM ZS6AGF	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Kieth	KG33	6WR	ZS6AGF
25-Jan-25	02:30 PM ZS6MMA	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Kirin	KG33	6WR	ZS6MMA
25-Jan-25	02:31 PM ZS6HKL	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Herman	KG33	6WR	ZS6HKL
25-Jan-25	02:32 PM ZS5ZG	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Jurie		5HAC	ZS5ZG
25-Jan-25	02:33 PM ZS5Y	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Derek		5HAC	ZS5Y
25-Jan-25	02:34 PM ZS6AF	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Johan	KG54	6LOW	ZS6AF
25-Jan-25	02:35 PM ZS6FY	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Phillip	KG54	6LOW	ZS6FY
25-Jan-25	02:37 PM ZS6GSK	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Gerald	KG33	6WR	ZS6GSK
25-Jan-25	02:38 PM ZS2AQ	7140	SSB	Mario	KG43	6ERB	Michael	KF25	2PE	ZS2AQ
25-Jan-25	02:40 PM ZS6KVN	7140	SSB	Stephen	KG43	6ERB	Kevin	KG33	6WR	ZS6KVN



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FLEA MARKET



On 1 February the club had its first Flea Market for 2025
Albert ZS6AHY had a table, and had the latest Anytone D168UV onsale



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FLEA MARKET

Sam and June from Radio Accessories also joined us for the morning, Francois and Judy were there, and Francois braai'd the borrie rolls for us. All in all 24 people attended our flea market, making it quite an successful event, thank you OM Chris and company for painting the safety gate, and Elaine for washing down the glass doors and cleaning up the clubhouse. It was nice to see some old faces like Lisa and Louis, and Scott, thanks to Anton too, who joined us all the way from Radio Kop. It was nice to see Klaas, ZS6SU, Bill ZS6VRB, Nigel ZS6RN, Dries ZS6NX and his son Andries. Anzel, Daisy and Ethan too. The day ended with a committee meeting with the Elders of the club.



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KARTS FEB CLUB MEETING



On 8 February, the ERC hosted the February club meeting of the Kempton Amateur Radio Technical Society, KARTS was let known at the last minute that the premises shared with the Hoogland Voortekkers would be in use by them on the 8th, so with no where to go, the ERC offered up Arrowe Park, all in all we were 10 people at the meeting, it was a pleasure to host KARTs, and we hope that we can assist them in the future again, we also hope that by doing this we can build synergies between the clubs through collaboration, and we hope to see more KARTS members at our next club activity and flea market.

The day ended with Frank ZS6FN on the air, and calling CQ.....



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March 2025

15

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RIDE FOR SIGHT

The Diskem Ride for Sight race took place on Sunday the 16th of February this year, and some club members and friends of the club took part, under the auspices of HAMNET.

Each year, HAMNET is tasked with providing the communications for the event, and is overall responsible for the safety of the entire event. Planning had been ongoing for a while, and workshops were held in preparation for the event, Hamnet members met at Arrowe Park on a number of occasions to check and prepare their equipment for the event.

On Saturday Stephen ZS6SKY joined the crew at the Boksburg Stadium, to prepare for the race on Sunday, we had to make final adjustments to the APRS tracking units, and check they were all operational, this included ZS6CAC installing sim cards, and ZS6SKY verifying the units are updating in on www.aprs.fi other team members arrived, and the sweep bakkies were installed with radio's and trackers. The JOCC Antennas were installed, and wifi links set up for the race.

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March 2025

16

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RIDE FOR SIGHT

All in all the team consisted of 30 members, also making use of Hamnet members from the Vaal, who've assisted in past races too.

Sunday morning was a very early start for Stephen, leaving his house at 3:15 am, a lonely ride ensued though to the Boksburg Stadium, as I came into Boksburg, I noticed a lone ambulance with its red lights on, approaching from behind me, the road was very dark, and is riddled with pot holes, I was right, this ambo was on route to the same venue, I let it pass, and fell in behind it, using it as my guide.

Apon arrival at the stadium, their was no time for coffee, other members had slept over at the venue, and were up and about, I set up my Yausu FT7900 as my base radio, and then installed radio's and trackers into Alpha 2 and 3 ambulances, other members assisted to install Ambulances 1, 4 and 5.



RIDE FOR SIGHT

The Response vehicles Romeo 1 and Romeo 2 also got installed, I was up in the JOCC, testing the tracking on the Ambulances, Response vehicles, the Lead cars for the Short and Long Route, and Tail end Charlie for both routes. Gideon ZS6GJA had arrived by then with his radio in a flight case, a quick connect and the Joint Operations Control Center was on the air...

My job was to coordinate the Ambulances and Response vehicles to incidents, and Gideon communicated to the Water Points, each water points started with two sweep vehicles.

Sweep Bakkie 1	Lizette	ZS6ZET
Sweep Bakkie 2	Ettienne	ZS6ET
Sweep Bakkie 3	Hannes	ZS6EMS
Sweep Bakkie 4	Riaan	ZS4PR
Sweep Bakkie 5	Anja	ZS6SJC
Sweep Bakkie 6	Nigel	ZS6RN
Sweep Bakkie 7	Dirk Hattingh	ZS6DH
Sweep Bakkie 8	Friedrich	ZS4VW
Sweep Bakkie 9	Hendri	ZS6HFE
Sweep Bakkie 10	Maryka	ZS6MVS

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RIDE FOR SIGHT

Leon ZS6LMG had made the final touches to his QR Code tagging system, so this was used as an additional tracking system for bicycles that came a cropper in the race, tagging them with a tag and QR Code that could be scanned with a cell phone, and tracked in the system. 220 QR codes were printed, and handed out to the sweep operators on Sunday.

QR Code tracking test:

records found for Q1001

```
Q1001 0000-00-00 00:00:00 0 Test
Q1001 0000-00-00 00:00:00 1 Test2
Q1001 2025-02-15 17:20:59 2 TEst3
Q1001 2025-02-15 17:21:14 3 Picked up
Q1001 2025-02-15 17:21:48 4 Picked up
Q1001 2025-02-15 17:23:15 6 test 5
Q1001 2025-02-15 17:24:46 7 Hello delivered to jocc
```



Well done Leon, and Thank you!

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RIDE FOR SIGHT

Hamnet members made use of multiple trackers on the day, including RF and GSM systems, some call signs in use: ZS6ET-12 water point 1 sweep, ZS6EMS-5-1, ZR6DFK-i Bus 2, ZS6CAC-10 S Bends.

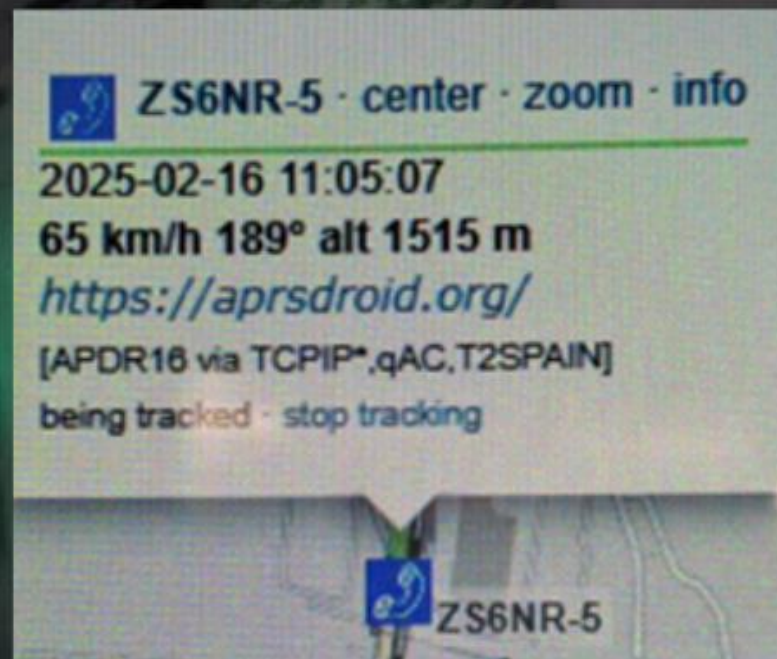
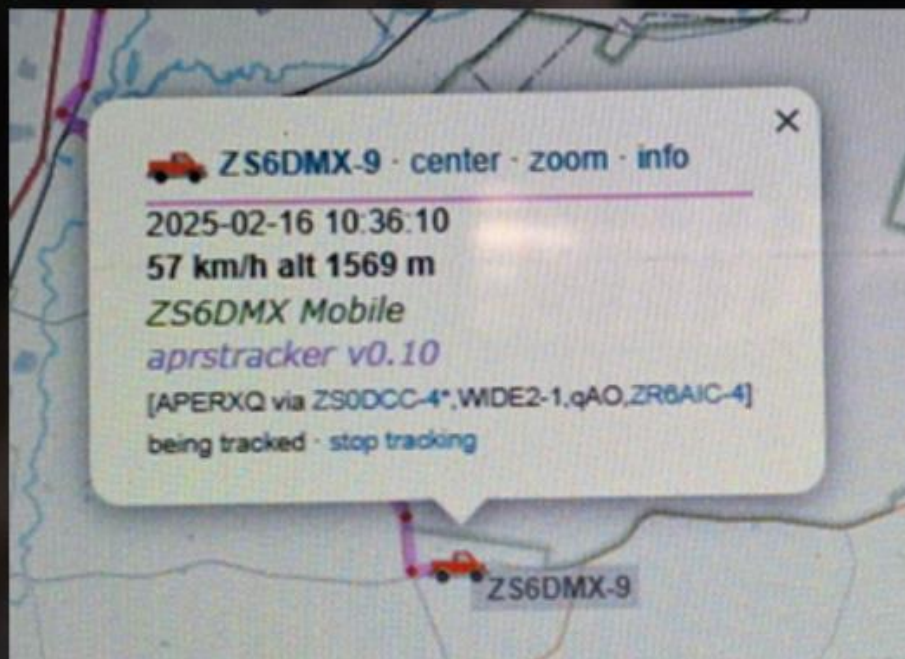


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RIDE FOR SIGHT



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SARL NATIONAL FIELD DAY

On 8 March, Mario and Stephen, supported by Micheal and Wayne, took part in the SARL National Field Day contest, this was part 1 of the contest, the 2nd leg is in September.

Stephen set up a portable mast and Wayne's 40 meter Inverted V antenna, Pieter ZS6PNP, popped round and lent us a gell battery, which really helped, also making us fully complaint as a field station.

Thanks also to Stewart ZS6SGM who loaned us a solar panel and solar charger, much appreciated Stewart

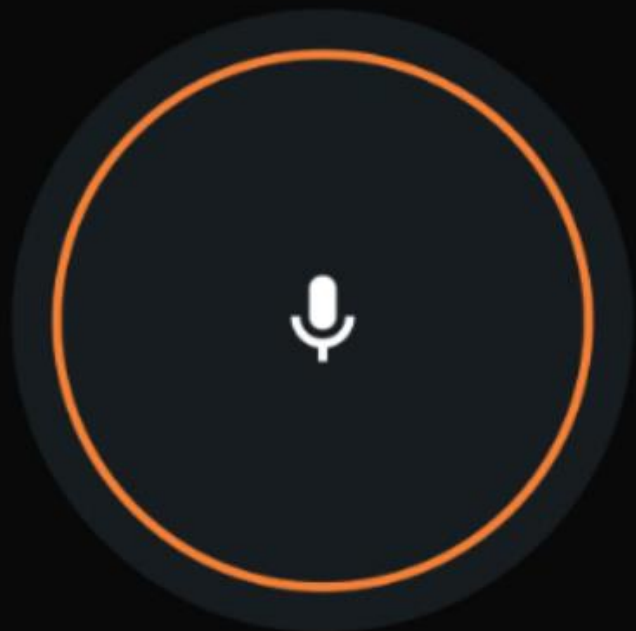


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<https://zello.com/channels/k/iR8uV>



INTERIM REPEATER PLAN ZELLO

Join us – Zello group channel:

Monday night's at 7pm – Weekly news broadcast

Interim plan while we get our Repeater back on the air.

Zello via Google Play Store or iOS market place:

1. Once installed, click on the link, to connect to the East Rand Radio Club Zello channel, or search for us under channels,
2. Select channels, then Add a channel by name, then type: East Rand Radio Club (Exactly as seen) otherwise you will not find it
3. Channel password is: ZS6ERB all capital letters

<https://zello.page/AgzatFb8VXfFegho7>

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HF ASSESSMENT TRAINING

On 8 March, Wayne did his 2nd session of HF Assessment training, under the supervision of Stephen ZS6SKY, after going over the HF Assessment manual, and identifying the station components, and Wayne having given feedback on how to tune an antenna and explaining how the IF Shift and Speech Processor work etc, Wayne was allowed to call CQ, and start making some more HF contacts.



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EAST RAND RADIO CLUB

Newsletter



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Amateur Radio & Electronics Society

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064 543 7252 (ZS6JDY)
e-mail: zs6erb@gmail.com
url: www.zs6erb.co.za



Expect more fun in the next quarter!!!

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