



EASTRAND RADIO CLUB

Newsletter

September 2025

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A word from the Club Manager

Well we finally done with winter, and it was cold, but we managed to stay warm over the weekends with some good company, the clubhouse was open most weekends, and when we weren't at the clubhouse, we were mostly out and about playing radio, and enjoying our hobby.

Our winter activities started off with Wayne coming 1st in the SARL Newbie's contest, that was held on Saturday 5 July. at our clubhouse. Saturday 19 July proved to be lovely and warm, we had a great morning out in the sunshine, first taking part in the SARL QRP contest, then setting up and then receiving sstv pictures from the ISS.

On the 26th of July, the club took part in the SARL's 40 m club contest, and the HF Phone contest on 3 August. On the 9th of August, we were doing HF assessment training for an RAE student Ferdi, and on the 16th of August it was the Lighthouse / Lightship weekend, and club members took part again. On 30 August we were tasked to provide Radio coms on the scout hike at Klipriversberg Nature Reserve.

On the 6th of September Stephen was in Nigel at Francois ZS6COI's QTH, to work on the Club Repeater, full story on [page 16](#). On the 13th of September we took part in the SARL FT4 contest, lastly there's an insert from me, on working the Islands on FT8



Amateur Radio
July 20252025

SARL Newbie Contest

On 5 July, we took part in the SARL Newbie's contest, the day was attended by Dave ZS6AAI, Frank ZS6FN, Elaine, Rashaad from the Sandton Radio Club, Stephen ZS6SKY, Stewart ZS6SGM, and Wayne ZS6ORB. Timothe ZU6TG and Wayne ZS6ORB were on the air, Timothe brought his Yaesu FT707 HF Radio, and I set some settings, on the radio, after that it seemed to work fairly well, from what I can remember. Wayne used his Icom, while Mario and I looked on. A great day was had at the clubhouse.



July 2025



SARL QRP Contest

On 19 July Club members and friends of the club, Dave, Elaine, Malcolm (RAE candidate) Mario, Stephen, Timothe and Wayne, got to the club in the morning, our mission, get on the air with 5 watts, using Wayne's Icom 7000 radio, and the club's inverted V antenna on the mast, contacts were few, and band conditions on 40 meters weren't great for hearing some QRP stations.

When the contest was over, we started setting up for the ISS SSTV event.

Wayne was on the air, making the contacts. Wayne came 11th in SA, not bad for a beginner, well done Wayne.

QRP Champion Award Points		
1. Phillip Fischer ZS6FY	-	238.15
2. KOBUS BOSHOF ZS6BOS	-	152.52
3. Brandon Zietsman ZS6LZ	-	135.77
4. Keith Barker ZS6HI	-	80.31
5. Gerrit van Huyssteen ZS6GVH	-	74.79
6. Celso Moreira Derrick du Plessis ZS1CRG	-	65.84
7. Matthew Varkevisser ZS6MDV	-	63.98
8. Mark Walker ZS6MDX	-	63.84
9. Willem (Johan) de Villiers ZS1DE	-	49.55
10. Luke Strugnell ZS6LUK	-	45.5
11. Wayne Bevan ZS6ORB	-	44.31
12. Paul Tye ZS1PTY	-	38.61
13. Anthony Walley ZS6ARW	-	32.4
14. Stewart Clark ZR1WT	-	31.71
15. Richard Eades ZR6DE	-	18.57
16. Graham Busse ZS6GL	-	11.41
17. Michael Spencer Wilson ZS6MSW	-	9.52
18. Alex Miller ZS1ALX	-	9.4
19. James Miller ZS1JWM	-	6.99
20. Eddie Leighton ZS6BNE	-	3.6
21. Carel Reyneke ZS3CA	-	3.19

Wayne ZS6ORB our club planner, started early in the week, Wayne's approach was to use his home built QFH antenna. the ideal setup is the QFH, then 20db LNA, then LMR400, then SDR, however the total system loss is around 1.30 dB (including antenna) so decided to forego the hassle. Wayne started receiving sstv pictures on 15 July. Today I'm emulating the performance of a QHF at resonance (swr 1.05 or so) for 137 Mhz (noaa and meteor sats) but at SWR 1.5 for 145 Mhz this will mean 1 antenna will handle both, same setup, same software, it'll perform better with the 137Mhz frequencies but should still do well with 145Mhz (swr 1.5) if needed I'll add the 20db Ina to mitigate coax losses

July 2025

SSTV Series 28: 14-20 July

The theme will be the Apollo Soyuz mission and STS-51F which pioneered SSTV on Shuttles



This series of 12 images will be transmitted from the ISS on 145.800 MHz using PD120 encoding.

Scheduled Start:

Monday, 14-July at 09:15 UTC | 5:15 AM Eastern

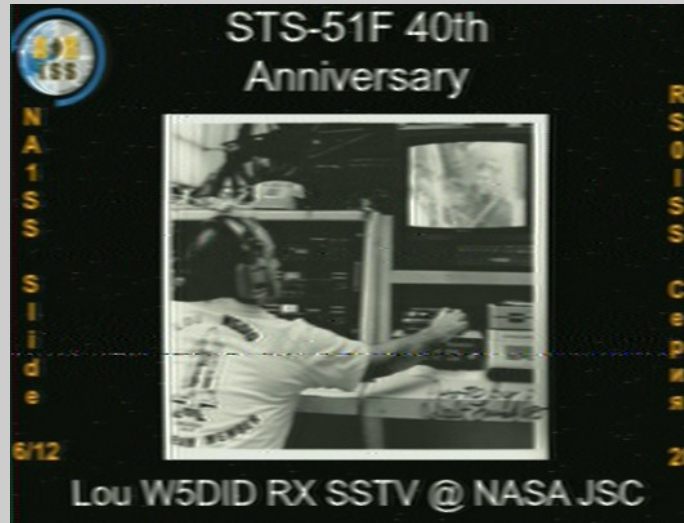
Scheduled Completion:

Sunday, 20-July at 18:00 UTC | 2:00 PM Eastern



Slow scan pictures from the International Space Station

On the first run, I had a fair amount of good luck, with the first image being in the sweet spot and the second ending around 30 secs before the ISS went below the horizon, so very close call. I wasn't expecting the second one to come out so well. It was very low to the horizon around 6 degrees or so as it was ending.

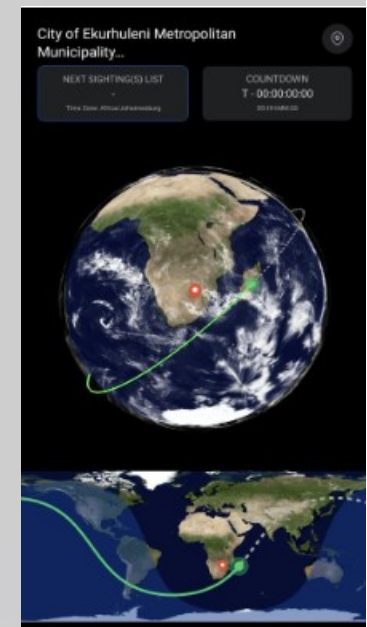
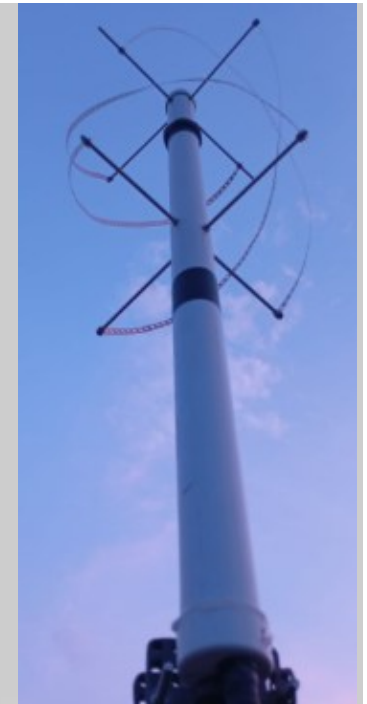


If you downloaded any sstv images from the ISS, they can be uploaded here: [ARISS SSTV Image Submission](#)

After the QRP contest was over, it was time to track the ISS. RAE candidate Malcolm, and Dave ZS6AAI and his grandson Timothe ZU6RG were already there. Wayne had brought his tri pod and bolted the club's 2 meter yagi to it. We proceeded to move out onto the scout grounds, to a nice clear spot to the west of the clubhouse.

Wayne set up his station, preparing to track the ISS on its 11:30 am pass, from the South, moving over in an Easterly direction. Wayne used his compass and tracking software on his laptop to position the yagi correctly for the pass. Wayne used a set of Bluetooth headphones to hone in on the signal, and received the signal on his SDR and laptop, Timothe used my tape measure antenna, and Baofeng portable to receive the signal, processing it in real-time using his cell phone and the Robot 36 SSTV app.

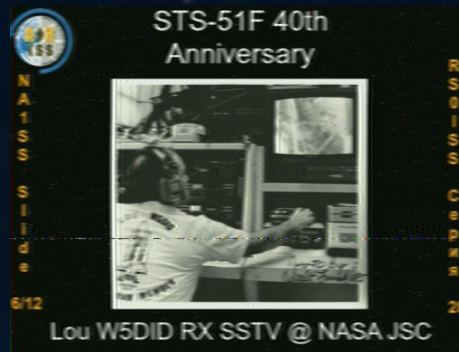
July 2025





Click here, to download ISS detector to your android cell phone:

[ISS Detector Satellite Tracker – Apps on Google Play](#)



Another certificate for the club, thank you Wayne



SARL 40 meter Club Contest

The club took part in the SARL 40 meter Club contest on 26 July, from 4 to 5 pm in the afternoon. The weather was cool, but not too cold till the evening. Dave, Elaine, Mike, Stephen, Timothe and Wayne attended. We used the clubs FT101Z radio, with Wayne's SDR and SDR switch.

We managed 40 - 45 contacts in the hour, We got contacts from ZS2 , 3, 4, 5 and of course ZS6



Even managing to work Frank, ZS6FN, thanks Frank

Timothe had a contact via Zello network radio, to an overseas station.



July 2025

HF Assessment training

9 August, was a club day, and we were at the clubhouse in the afternoon.

RAE student Ferdi came round, and I was doing some HF assessment training with him, I was up the mast to adjust one of the pulley's, then it was our mission to pull up what looks like an old army antenna, together with some sort of antenna matching unit. Thank you Frank ZS6FN, Stewart ZS6SGM and Marius for your input.

The antenna is resonate on 3.5 MHz (80m) and 9 MHz, indicating it might be some sort of military antenna, it has large traps, and heavy duty wire on it, The idea is to have a short multiband dipole for general use that covers up to 80m

August 2025



Our club secretary Judy ZS6JDY paid our SARL membership in August, so our club is still a member of the SARL

On Saturday 16 August, Stephen ZS6SKY and Wayne ZS6ORB gathered at the clubhouse, our mission, to contact at least 4 lighthouses, in order to obtain our worked the lighthouse certificates.

Elaine, Liza, Loui Mike, Stephen and Wayne attended the club meeting. Loui ZS6BGG came to visit us, and Stephen crimped on some microphone connectors for Loui, Loui also gave a CQ call on the Radio



The way we worked was that I'd make a followed by Wayne, or visa versa, most of our contacts were on 40 meters, but the working conditions weren't great, Wayne made use of his SDR receiver to hone in on the illusive lighthouses, and

then used the extra filtering capabilities of the SDR to clean up the audio, so some contacts were made this way, whilst others, used the Icom receiver directly, we made only one contact on 20 meters with ZS1CT Roman Rock Lighthouse

Date	UTC Time	Call Sign	Band	Frequency	Received Signal	Sent Report	Operator	Lighthouse	Lighthouse number
16 August 2025	07:03:00 AM	ZS1SMP	40m	7.15	4/5	5/5	Jacob	Cape Seal Plettenburg Bay	SAF038
16 August 2025	07:38:00 AM	ZS1CRG	40m	7.155	5/5	5/5	Matt	Cape Point	ZA0014
16 August 2025	09:00:00 AM	ZS6PS	40m	7.125	5/9	5/7	Pierre	Tugela Bluff	ZA0028
16 August 2025	12:10:00 PM	ZS1CT	20m	14.23	5/6	5/6	Ian	Green Point	ZA0006
17 August 2025	05:56:00 AM	ZR3VDK	40m	7.1	5/5	5/5		Doringbaai	ZA0020
17 August 2025	06:10:00 AM	ZS0SPL	40m	7.12	5/5	4/4		Cape St Francis	ZA0021
17 August 2025	06:22:00 AM	ZS1CRG	40m	7.166	5/5	3/8		Cape Point	ZA0014

International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend – ILLW

Normally held on the 3rd full weekend in August

00.01UTC 16th August
2025 to
24.00UTC 17th August 20
25 (48 hours)

ZS1COR Corne
ZS2CC Willie
ZS1HEB Eben
ZS1VIS Llewellyn

Ystervarkpunt
Lighthouse
event 2025
Eden Radio Club



2025 Southern African Lighthouse Award



It is hereby certified that



Wayne Bevan,
ZS6ORB

Made four QSOs and contacted four
lighthouses in Southern Africa during the
2025 International Lighthouse and
Lightship Weekend

Dennis Green

11

Hood Point Lighthouse – ILLW number ZA0007

18 August 2025

010/2025

Scout hike at Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve on 30 August

Our club was requested to provide communications to the Arrowe Park Rovers, for a Scouting excursion at Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve on Saturday 30 August. The scouting expedition at Klipriviersberg Nature reserve, was for scouts patrols of 6 to 8 scouts, with their patrol leader, and most of these scouts were from disadvantaged areas, including Soweto, Katlehong and Deneyville. The hike consisted of 8 bases, each with a rover or senior Scouter, we were situated just above base 5, Wayne created a radio coverage .kml file, and shared it with me, license free UHF portables were chosen, and Wayne purchased 10 UHF portables for the hike. I was concerned about the coverage, and wanted us to have a base set up on top of one of the koppies, to ensure we have good radio coverage across the area of operation. As it turned out, the Rovers had radio coms with 7 of the 8 radio bases, and used us to relay messages when needed.

From the clubs side, Mario ZS6TAN, Elaine and Stephen ZS6SKY, and Wayne ZS6ORB, son Micheal and wife Helge attended the hike, the first party left around 9:30 am, hiking along a straight and flat path heading towards the koppie on the right, we trekked round a lower koppie on our right, then down to a small stream, once across, we followed the path to the right, then turned onto a path on the left, this led forward for some time, then turning right and starting to rise, into a steady upward hike, moving over loose rocks, and climbing up and over steps created by rocks, up and up the path went, we'll stop at the top, but when we thought we'd reached the top, there was yet another upward slog ahead of us. The Rovers that helped us, were nice and fit, assisting in carrying our gear up the mountain.

August 2025



Justice from Arrowe Park Rovers



I helped Scouter "Moose" at Base 5 with showing the young scouts how to tie some basic knots, like the reef knot, the bowline, the sheepshank, the clovehitch etc



Team ERC sporting our new blue club shirts, and our support crew, Mike's, Helge, Elaine and Mario.

Bellow is Wayne's Icom 7000, which was used as our base radio, with our Diamond X200, on the 5 meter pole strapped to the left of the gazebo, which also needed to be hauled up, and down the mountain.

A big word of *THANKS* to our *Rover* team for their support.



The club is forming new relationships, and cementing new partnerships with the Rovers and Scouts based at Arrowe Park.

The club now has 10 uhf portables that can be handed out at scout events, thanks to our planner Wayne ZS6ORB for your forward thinking, our next interaction with the Scouts, will be the JOTA / JOTI event coming up in October, the club will assist Hamnet members at their radio base, the Rovers have approached us to run a radio base for the National Rover Moot 2025, which will be held at Arrowe Park in December.

And to host a radio base at the 2nd Africa Scout Moot coming to Johannesburg, South Africa from 1-8 August 2026 the club will seek to have the SARL involved in this event next year.



Club Repeater

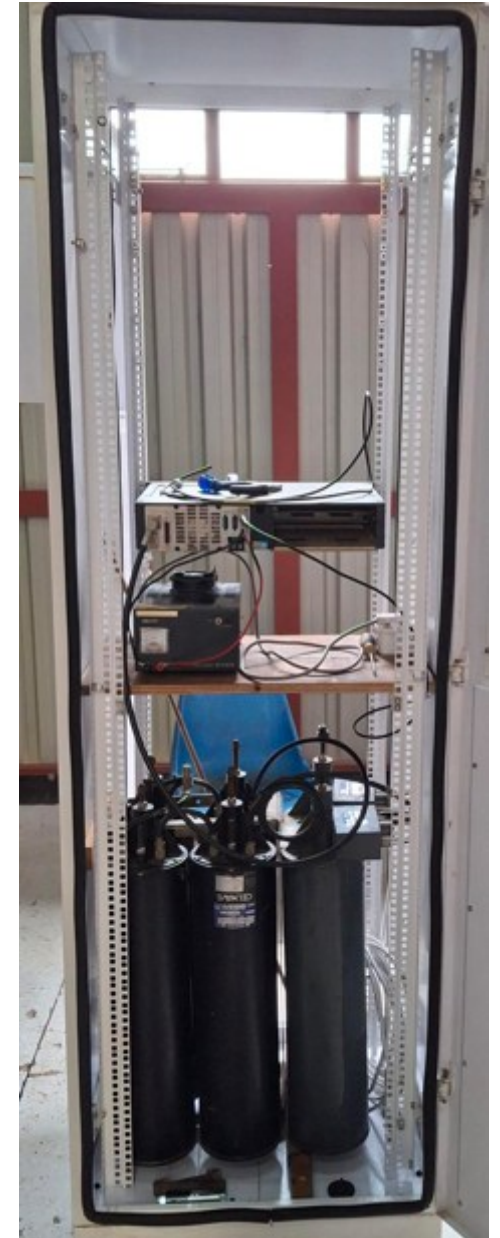
Progress report on our club Repeater.

On 6 September, I met up with Francois ZS6COI & his helper Steven, together we completed the assembly of the club Repeater, into the repeater cabinet, the cavities can be seen below the repeater, these were recently serviced by Web Industries, and the Kenwood repeater was serviced by Bi Com. We installed a mains power socket, filtering for the air vents, and installed the repeater into the rack. Next we secured the repeater cabinet onto a pallet, and it was lifted onto Francois truck, the 4 stack and support pole was also loaded into the truck, we also loaded Francois's bob cat onto a trailer, and connected the trailer to the back of the truck, Francois and his helper drove the truck out the back of Nigel, onto a dirt road, leading up to a farm, which is approximately 1750 meters high.



I followed up behind, when we got up as far as we could with the truck, we off loaded the bob cat, loaded the antenna and pole onto the roof of the bob cat, and

then went even further up to the top of the koppie, to the farm house, where we off loaded the 4 stack antenna and support pole, by now it was around 3 pm, and the clouds were swirling around the koppie, we were quite high up, and we could see it was raining in the valley, I was praying it wouldn't start raining soon, as I was more worried about lightning, as we were about to hoist the antenna and pole up, but first we needed to secure the pole to the flag pole base that Francois had installed recently.



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Once the support pole was mounted, it was on to the task of mounting the 4 stack antenna to the pole, (or trying to) with only 3 of us, it was difficult, now the wind had picked up, and the rain was very close, the time was now about 3:30 pm, the antenna array heavy, Francois used the bob cat to come in under the antenna, lifting and aliening it with the pole, this made things a bit easier for us, we installed and bolted up the cross brackets onto the pole, next we installed the lightning arrestor, at the top of the antenna and ran the earth cable down to the bottom of the pole, with all the connectors connected, and sealed, the feedline tight and secured and all the cable ties checked, it was time to.....

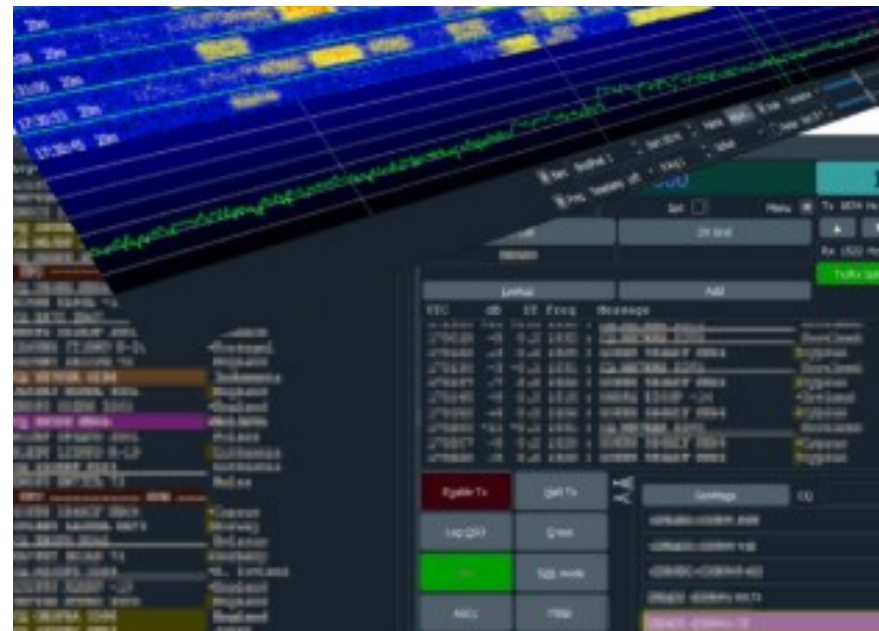


September 2025

hoist the antenna, first we tried to walk it up, 3 of us in front of the base, slowly pushing forward, but we didn't have the strength to lift the pole, now top heavy with the antenna and lightning arrester.

Next Francois positioned his bob cat in front of the pole and antenna, with Francois driving the bob cat, and Steven standing on the roof of the bob cat, and me supporting the pole below, we had hoped that we could lift the pole past its tilting point, and I'd be able to pull it into place in the flag pole bracket, but it was flexing too much, and we also had the now howling wind to deal with.

Unfortunately at some point the support pole bent too much, and broke, we were probably lucky it broke when it did, as we were able to safely capture the antenna before it got damaged, by hitting the ground, we now had a very bent support pole, (the wall thickness wasn't thick enough) lightning threatening to strike us, the wind howling in our ears, there was a growl in the wind telling us "pack up and get yourselves off the mountain top" but before we could do that, we needed to disassemble everything, it was rather difficult and time consuming to now have to remove the 4 stack antenna from the bent pole, then we needed to remove the pole from its support base, luckily Francois had some great tools on hand, including a battery powered ratchet and other spanners, but it still took a while, then it was the steep drive down to where the truck was parked, then we had to go in reverse order, loading the antenna and broken pole back into the truck, thank goodness we hadn't off loaded the repeater cabinet yet, but we still needed to resecure the cabinet on the pallet, once re-secured, we had to load the bob cat back onto the trailer, then we slowly made our way back down the mountain, and back to Francois's house. So its back to the drawing board for now, the club needs a stronger / thicker wall pole now, Many thanks Bill for the donation of an aluminium pole, if you can assist, please contact Francois or Stephen — **Wish us LUCK.....**



SARL FT 4 Contest

On 13 September club members Stephen, Wayne and Mario ZS6TAN gathered at the clubhouse, our mission: to be on the air and "seen" on the SARL's FT4 contest.

We came, we tx'd, but we did not concur ☹️

We gave a lot of calls, and worked some SA station's we did make contact with 2 or 3 African counties, but our score was apparently too low to count, not much activity out of SA or Africa for that matter on FT4. but the main thing was, ZS6ERB was "On Air" we were being seen, and the club was active.

Amateur Radio September 2025

*July ZS6JDY celebrated her Birthday on the
25th of September, Happy Birthday Judy,
from the gang at the Eaststrand Radio Club,
we do hope you enjoyed your day*



Working the Islands on FT 8 with Stephen ZS6SKY

Having been on leave for a few days, and it being Spring, I thought I'd try my hand at working some new DX stations, my working conditions, are a Icom running 50 watts, into a home built soundcard interface, and a modified QYAGI SR26 with 4 elements, instead of the standard 2 elements, all this, on a 6 meter pole, with rotator on top.

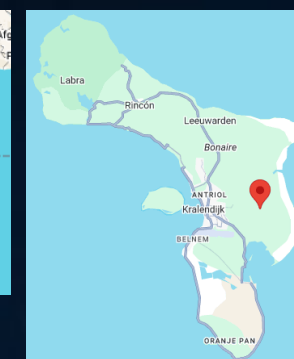
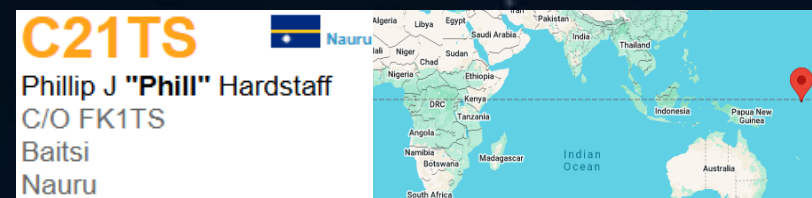
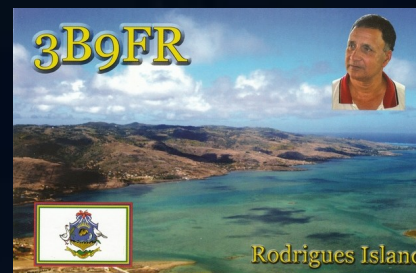
On Monday 22 September, I was trying my luck on FT8, using version 2.7 of the WSJT-X software, I was beaming towards China, and a ZS1 station called me, had to swing the beam right round towards the South, and made the contact, I was on 10 meters, and waiting to see if any countries in purple (new DXCC) would pop up, Cameroon popped up a few times, and I answered the station, but the operator never came back to me.

My first Island contact, was to 3B9FR on Rodriguez Island.

My 2nd Island worked, and another new DXCC for me, was on 15 meters, C21TS, Nauru Island, I tried a few times to reach this station, which appears to be located directly on the Equator line, by beaming directly east towards the Island, but they weren't copying me, so I swung the beam round to the West, and managed to contact them on the long path. After several tries.

The Island is 14,697 km's away from my QTH.

My 3rd Island contact for the day was to PJ4GR on Bonaire Island, which is 11.231 km's from my home, this contact was on 10 meters again.



2025-09-22	09:21	3B9FR	(10m)	28.075	FT8	MH10rh		Rodriguez Island	Robert Felicite	Rodriguez Island
2025-09-22	11:10	C21TS	(15m)	21.075	FT8	RI3911		Nauru	Phillip J Hardstaff	Nauru Island, worked long path ★
2025-09-22	14:15	PJ4GR	(10m)	28.075	FT8	FK52ud		Bonaire	Gerard Van De Reep	Bonaire Island ★

Note from the Club Manager

Hi folks, well we made it through winter, and I have to admit it was cold, but the friendships we've developed, made it feel warm, the club is getting stronger, even though our numbers don't show it, we are rising again, the "Pheonix" is rising, we are rising together. We are rebuilding the ties with the scouts and rovers, this can be seen by the invites we are getting from both Rovers and Scout leaders, we are preparing for the summer months, where there'll be lots of activities taking place at the clubhouse. Our next big events include our upcoming flea market, taking place next Saturday 4 October, this will be the club's second flea market for the year, our dates are now set for the future, February and October, we've invited the SARL, and are hoping to see both the President & vice President at our club, we are hoping for a large turn out, so if you can, please come and say Hi, we'll have our HF station on the air, for those that want to use it.

The following Saturday 11 October, is the BACAR centenary activity, and the club will assist some Rovers, and possibly some Scouts, to be able to track the balloon's payloads and download and decode the SSTV Images from the balloon.

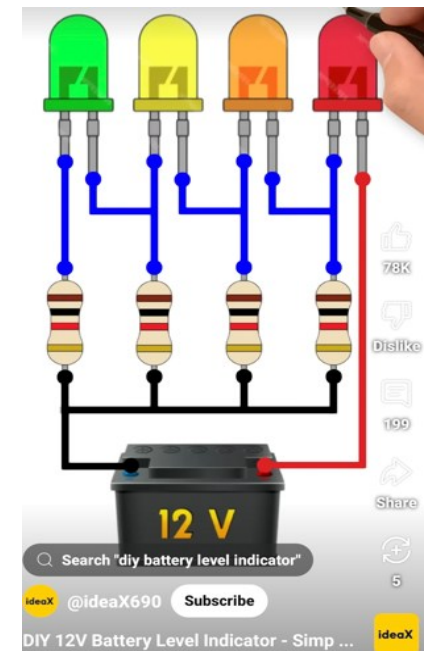
The Saturday after that 18 October, is the RAE in the morning, but we'll be taking point and setting up the Radio Base for the Scouts, for their JOTA (Jamboree on the air) weekend activities, assisted by Hamnet members if required, the club will be expected to operate from Friday evening through to Sunday, providing a base radio and allowing scouts to be on the air for the JOTA event. We need assistance with this event, and are reaching out to anyone that can assist on these days.

25 October is the CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest, the club will be open in the afternoon, for all those wishing to come make some DX voice contacts

8 November is the clubs official club meeting day

22 November is the SARL 40 meter Club contest, the 4th and last one for 2025

The club has been invited to run a Radio Base on Saturday the 13th of December, for the 10th National SA Rover Moot, we are hoping to have at least three live radio display's, Satellite coms using QO100, weather Satellite tracking, and an HF Base, we could also provide coms via Zello network radio channels for JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet) purposes.



Here's a simple weekend project, any takers?

So you see, the club's been quite active over this past 9 months and the year's not over yet. After passing the RAE in May, Wayne took it upon himself to start doing online RAE lessons for the October exam candidates, although this news is not club specific, Wayne is assisting the Sandton RAE candidates, and thus far, student comments are that Wayne's training methods and guidance are of great value to them. Again putting the club out there. so come say hi to us some time soon, we really looking forward to meeting and seeing you soon, stay tuned, watch our ERB Carrier Whatsapp group for updates on our activities, help out where you can, help us grow, we can't do it without you.

We still hoping to get our Repeater up and "On Air" before the year is out, but we need your help, again, we can't do it alone, I'd like to thank our committee and my management team for their hard work thus far this year, you guys are amazing.....

73
Till next time



ERC

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