

# ERC Christmas Newsletter

December 2025





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## Eastrand Radio Club Open day and Boot Sale 4 October 2025



Our Club Chairman  
Chris ZS6COG  
thanked everyone  
for coming, and  
explained that the  
Eastrand Radio club  
is alive and well, and  
open for business,  
we starting to get  
some traction in all  
the right places.

Nico ZS6QL thanked the ERC for the invite



Amateur Radio  
October 2025





## Flea Market and Club Open Day

On 4 October 2025, the Eastrand radio club held its 2nd flea market for the year, and Open Day.

The event was well attended by club members, new and old, the open day was a chance for old and new to get together, a chance to rekindle some old relationships, and bring out the spirit of Amateur radio on the Eastrand. One of the highlights was that Nico ZS6QL and Guy ZS6GUY from the SARL attended. Various clubs also attended, namely the AWA, EARS, KARTS, the Pretoria ARC and the Westrand Radio Club, the "Cable Guy" Pieter ZS6PJE was selling his co-ax bundles and some very nice plastic enclosures.

Francois ZS6COI and Judy ZS6JDY made up some tasty boerie rolls, and restocked the freezer with some cold drinks, which were well received. The morning was rainy and rather cool, but this did nothing to stop the crowds from gathering, and could not dampen the spirits of those attending. Stephen ZS6SKY provided the music, while Wayne ZS6ORB was busy showcasing the club, we had our club shirts on display, with our previous news letters for the year.

Just as quickly as the flea market got rolling, it was over, and time to start planning for our next activity, October was to prove to be a very busy month.





It was nice to see the Hamnet guys also, Diederich, Henry Hannes, Maud & Wim. Raj was also spotted.....





## Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Любительское радио на борту Международной космической станции



### ARISS SSTV Award

No 290260

#### WAYNE BEVAN ZS6ORB

Received SSTV images broadcast on the occasion of World Space Week 2025, which this year takes place under the slogan "Living in Space". The images were transmitted using an amateur radio system in the Russian segment of the International Space Station.

Принял изображения SSTV переданные по случаю Всемирной недели космоса 2025, которая в этом году проходит под лозунгом «Жизнь в космосе». Изображения были отправлены через радилюбительскую систему в Российском сегменте Международной космической станции.

Руководитель Радилюбительской  
Деятельности на МКС  
Сергей Самбуров RV3DR

ARISS International Chair  
Frank Bauer KA3HDO

ARISS Europe Chair  
Oliver Amend DG6BCE

SSTV Gallery Operations Coordinator  
Will Marchant KW4WZ

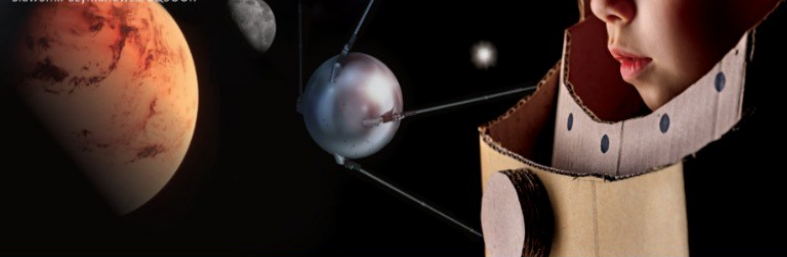
Mentor ARISS Europe  
Armand Budzianowski SP3QFE

ARISS SSTV Award Manager  
Sławomir Szymanowski SQ30OK



RSOISS NA1SS

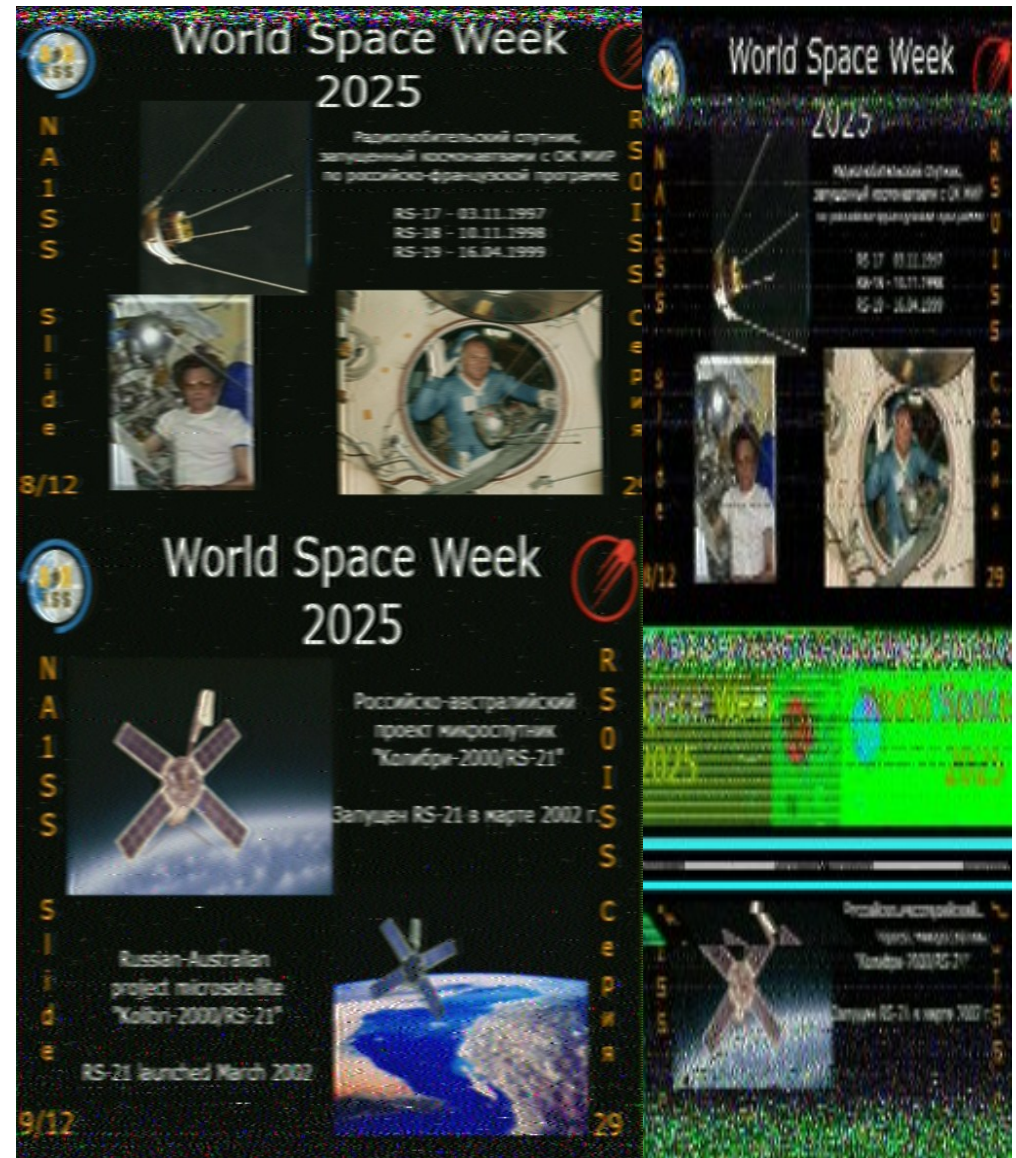
October 3 - 9, 2025



World Space Week 2025  
Всемирная неделя космоса 2025

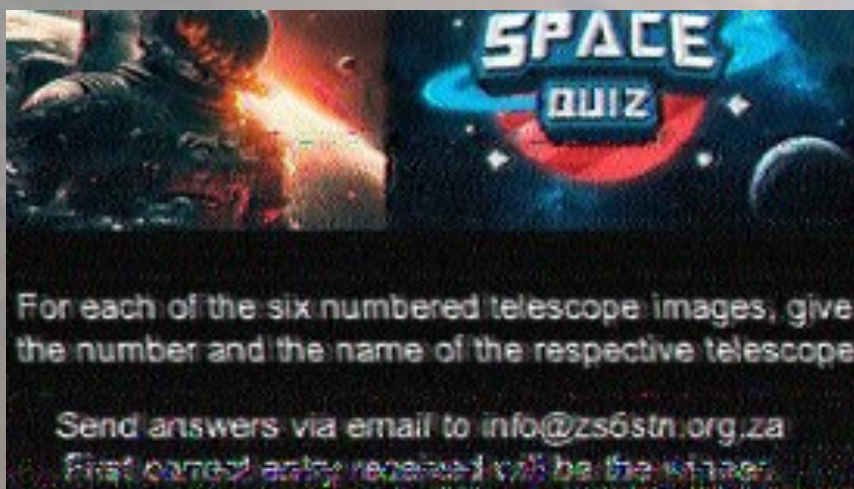
## Space week - 3 to 9 October

Stephen ZS6SKY and Wayne ZS6ORB took part in the ARISS SSTV event from 4 October in the evening, Wayne submitted his pictures, and got sent another SSTV award. Well done Wayne.





## BACAR 13 - Rover Event - 11 October 2025



October 2025

The Eastrand Radio Club's participation in this years Bacar event, was limited to showing the Rovers at Arrowe Park how to track the balloon and receive SSTV from the balloon. Stephen took point on this, as Wayne was away at a wedding. Stephen arrived at Arrowe Park at around 7 am, meeting Peter from the Rovers a little later.

Stephen set up to track the ADS-B transponder on 1090 Mhz, and to receive SSTV on the 2m and 70 cm frequencies. We set up my 8 element collinear antenna on a 6 m pole, but never got one position from the BACAR. Shortly after lift off, we started receiving SSTV pictures from BACAR 13, firstly on UHF, after having tried a few times on 2 meters, Peter was using my original, but repaired tape measure antenna, and was a fast learner, after a crash course in tracking the balloon. We were able to receive ZS6JRC, pictures from the onboard camera, looking downwards from the balloon capsule, also showing the dropping temperature.







Pictures were received using the robot 36 app on our cell phones, recording the SSTV audio being received on our Baofeng portable radio's on both 2 m and 70 cm's now. Peter enjoyed the morning and another lady Rover joined our group a bit later, we were also able to show her how to receive the sstv signal, using a pre-recorded sstv audio clip.

Great fun was had at the clubhouse, and Stephen submitted some of our pictures, and a write up to the Secunda Amateur Radio clubs feedback site afterwards.....





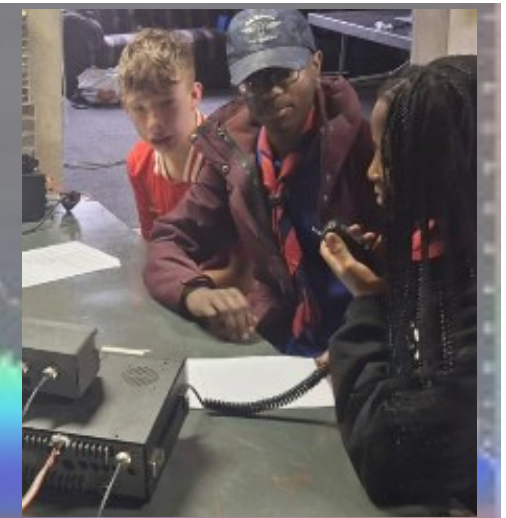
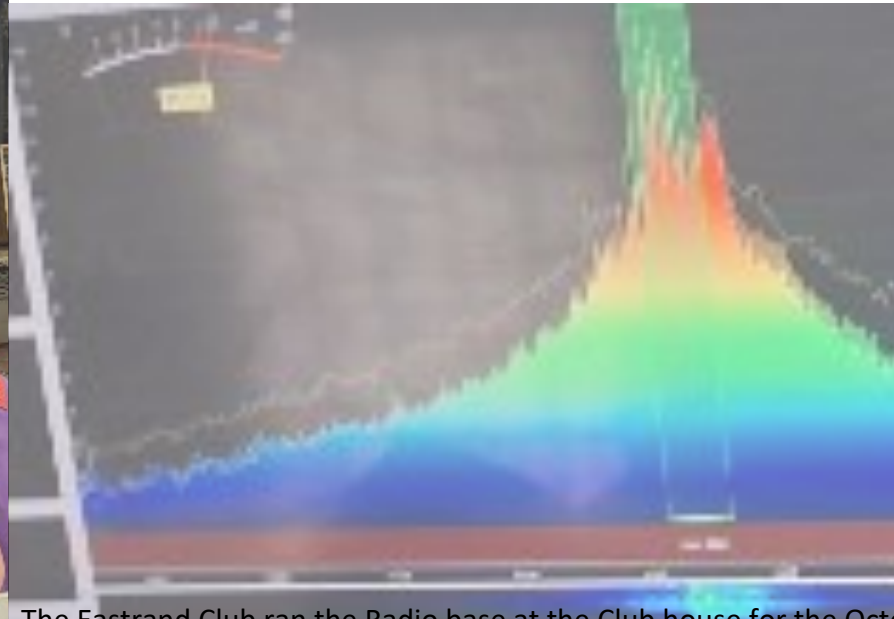


# Jamboree on the Air



October 2025





The Eastrand Club ran the Radio base at the Club house for the October 2025 Jamboree on the air.... We had HF and 2 meter radio's running. Nigel ZS6RN from Hamnet ran the ever popular Battleships which again was a great hit this year. We had about 60 scouts that were on the air, between Saturday and Sunday.

Thanks to the guys at Hamnet for letting the club run the radio base this year, it was great to have the Hamnet guys available to assist us if



we ran into any issues though. Here's Nigel giving out instructions to the Battleship warriors.





# JOTA/JOTI 2025



## The East Rand Radio Club connects Scouts at JOTA 2025

Stephen Stuttard, ZS6KY

The East Rand Radio Club was proud to participate in the Scouts JOTA/JOTI weekend on October 18 and 19 at Arrowe Park. The event proved to be a memorable experience, combining the technical challenges of radio operation with the boundless energy of the Scouts.

Our weekend began with a challenge, as an overnight setup left us wrestling with our 40-metre antenna on Saturday morning. It was shortly after the official opening parade that the first wave hit. A "stampede" of eager Scouts descended upon our radio base and we had to briefly hold them back while Brian, ZS6YZ and I secured the Inverted V to the tower. Once the antenna was up, the airwaves immediately filled with calls.

Alongside the HF and 2-metre bases run by Stephen, ZS6KY and Wayne, ZS6ORB, Nigel, ZS6RN's electronic version of the game of Battleships, with its "awesome sound effects," proved to be a major hit. The Scouts were enthralled, providing a fun and interactive way to engage with the technology. Brian and Wim represented SARL Hamnet at the event.



The club featured in the November issue of Radio ZS



(JOTA 2025 (rare page 17))

On Sunday morning, the activity continued, with Wayne helping the HF station and making more contacts on 40 metres. Pierre, ZS6PS was instrumental in assisting with Scout contacts. Thank you, Pierre, for helping to make the end of JOTA such a success. In total, 60 of the 100 Scouts camping at Arrowe Park made a contact from our station.

Spending time with the next generation of radio enthusiasts brought back fond memories of my own time as a Scout.



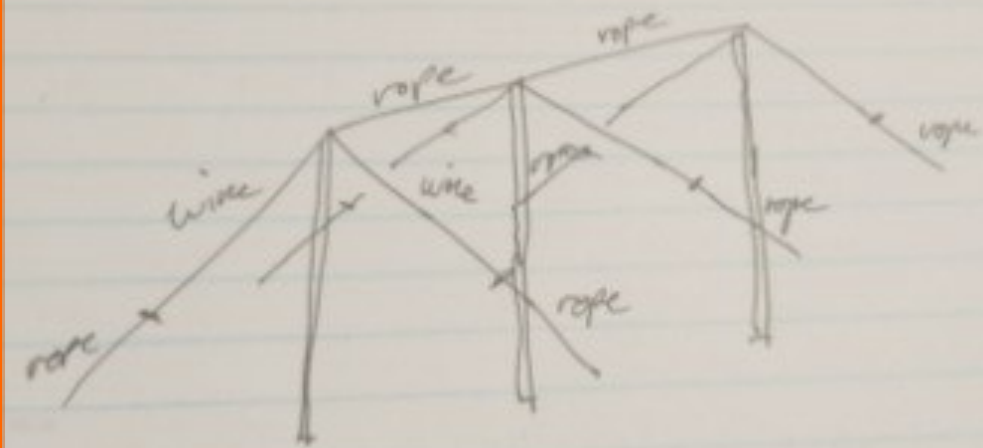
## 8 November Club Meeting

At our November club meeting, we assisted newly licensed Ferdi ZS6FER with his mobile antenna installation on his bakkie, that was causing interference on his after fitment Tablet Radio, installed in the dash, moving his antenna from the left front fender, to the right rear of the bakkie, using a mag mount, we tested various positions, and options, including other antenna's, till we could eliminate the interference. We also had a visitor from the CB Radio group, and another old ERB member popping round in the afternoon, even had a QSO with someone on the air, looking forward to many more of these meet ups in the New Year.





## SARL 40 m Club Contest - 22 November



With the SARL's 40 meter contest around the corner, the Club got a "Secret Weapon" in the form of an invite to Wynand Wolmarans V51WW, who just happened to be in Johannesburg for a 2 week visit. Wynand jumped at the opportunity to come out to the club, said he wanted to man the club station, but had plans to not only take part, but to win this leg of the contest. Wynand spent Friday afternoon, till Sunday at ZS6SKY's QTH. Wynand wanted us to build a 2 element inverted V for 40 meters, to this end, we visited the club amid rain on Friday afternoon 21 November, and arrived on Saturday morning early, to start the build. The day was very well attended. Dave, Mario, Timothe, Stephen, Wayne and Wynand, But the weather wasn't playing along, with Thunderstorms developing in the early afternoon. When the rain came, did they come, flooding out our grounds, The Thunder and lightning was terrible, Wynand's Icom had a very difficult time seeking our the signals, in the noise and static. The boom was over 8 meters, and Timothe had a brain-wave, as to how to lift the antenna, Stephen installed a 2nd pulley on the tower, and 4 sets of ropes were used to hoist the antenna, which comprised of Wayne's inverted V for 40 m's, acting as the "Director" and Stephen's 40 m inverted V antenna detuned, and acting as a "Reflector" Wynand wanted us to point the antenna towards the South, betting on getting more coastal contacts. When the contest started, we made contact with stations in Durban, Pietermaritzburg, and Port Elizabeth.

Working conditions were very poor and contacts very difficult, Wynand operated like a master on the air, using our club call ZS6ERB





We claimed a score of 90 points on this leg of the contest

### 2025 SARL 40 m Club Contest

|                           |                                                           |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Your Call sign            | V51WW /ZS6                                                |
| Club Name                 | Eastrand Radio Club - Call sign used for contest - ZS6ERB |
| Abbreviated Club Callsign | 6ERB                                                      |
| Your Name                 | Wynand                                                    |
| Your Surname              | Wolnarans                                                 |

| Club Results - 4th leg |               |                                      |        |              |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Place                  | Abb Call Sign | Club                                 | Points | Participants |
| 1 st                   | 3NC           | Noord-Kaap Amateurradioklub          | 398    | 6            |
| 2 nd                   | 5HAC          | Hibiscus Coast Amateur Radio Club    | 344    | 6            |
| 3 rd                   | 6WR           | West Rand Amateur Radio Club         | 269    | 6            |
| 4 th                   | 6LOW          | Laevel Amateur Radio Klub            | 187    | 2            |
| 5 th                   | 6MRK          | Magalies Radioamateurklub            | 173    | 3            |
| 6 th                   | 4BFN          | Bloemfontein Amateur Radio Club      | 139    | 1            |
| 7 th                   | 1WK           | Weskus Amateur Radio Klub            | 118    | 4            |
| 8 th                   | 6STN          | Sandton Amateur Radio Club           | 114    | 2            |
| 9 th                   | 6SRL          | SARL Member                          | 113    | 1            |
| 10 th                  | 2PE           | Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society | 103    | 2            |
| 11 th                  | 6ERB          | East Rand Radio Club                 | 90     | 1            |
| 12 th                  | 1BAK          | Boland Amateurradioklub              | 76     | 3            |
| 13 th                  | 1ERZ          | Eden Amateur Radio Club              | 32     | 1            |

Wynand, V51WW, operating ZS6ERB



### Individual Results - 4th leg

| Place | Name          | Call Sign | Points | Club    |
|-------|---------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| 1 st  | Michael       | ZS4BHF    | 139    | 4BFN    |
| 2 nd  | Gerhard       | ZS3TG     | 114    | 3NC     |
| 3 rd  | Dave          | ZS6DDT    | 113    | 6SRL    |
| 4 th  | Phillip       | ZS6FY     | 105    | 6LOW    |
| 5 th  | Eastrand Radi | ZS6ERB    | 90     | 6ERB    |
| 6 th  | Ledge         | ZS6OLM    | 87     | 6WR     |
| 7 th  | Adele         | ZS5APT    | 86     | 5HAC    |
| 7 th  | Sid           | ZS5H      | 86     | 5HAC    |
| 9 th  | Pierre        | ZS6PS     | 82     | 6MRK    |
| 9 th  | Wallie        | ZS6WNL    | 82     | 6LOW    |
| 11 th | Peet          | ZS3PL     | 79     | 3NC     |
| 12 th | Esmarie       | ZS3EL     | 75     | 3NC     |
| 12 th | Petrus        | ZU3PL     | 75     | 3NC     |
| 14 th | Keith         | ZS6HI     | 70     | 6STN    |
| 15 th | Louis         | ZS5LS     | 60     | 5HAC    |
| 16 th | Helmar        | ZS1H      | 58     | 1BAK    |
| 17 th | Andre         | ZS2ALN    | 57     | 2PE     |
| 18 th | Jurie         | ZS5ZG     | 56     | 5HAC    |
| 19 th | Thys          | ZS6MUM    | 55     | 6MRK    |
| 20 th | Phillip       | ZS6PVT    | 51     | 6WR     |
| 21 st | Laurens       | ZS6PLO    | 47     | 6WR     |
| 22 nd | Theunis       | ZS2EC     | 46     | 2PE     |
| 23 rd | Mark          | ZS6MDX    | 44     | 6STN    |
| 24 th | Johann        | ZS6IBZ    | 40     | 6WR     |
| 25 th | Renier        | ZS6RJC    | 36     | 6MRK    |
| 26 th | Roy           | ZS1YR     | 35     | 1WK     |
| 26 th | Esmé          | ZS1YE     | 35     | 1WK     |
| 28 th | Heather       | ZS5YH     | 32     | 5HAC    |
| 28 th | Llewellyn     | ZS1VIS    | 32     | 1ERZ    |
| 30 th | Alec          | ZS3AJ     | 31     | no club |
| 31 st | Leon          | ZS3LB     | 30     | 3NC     |
| 31 st | Charles       | ZS1CF     | 30     | 1WK     |
| 33 rd | Gert          | ZR6GRT    | 29     | 6WR     |
| 34 th | Jonathan      | ZS3IWO    | 25     | 3NC     |
| 35 th | Gawie         | ZS5R      | 24     | 5HAC    |
| 36 th | Derek         | ZS1TFK    | 18     | 1WK     |
| 37 th | Johan         | ZS6IVD    | 15     | 6WR     |
| 38 th | Martin        | V51MJ     | 10     | 1BAK    |
| 39 th | James         | ZS1JWM    | 8      | 1BAK    |

We came 5th out of 39 submissions, and 11th out of the 13 Club submissions. But the main thing is, the Eastrand Club is on the map again.

LMR 400 Times Microwave 50m rolls @ R300 various connectors adaptors converters even Crimping Tool WhatsApp your orders to 0832326146

November 2025





The club came 11th, out of 101 overall entries submitted, and 9th overall for 2025

#### 2025 SARL Saturday 40m Club Contest

##### Individual Results - Overall 2025

| Place | Name          | Call Sign | Points | Club    |
|-------|---------------|-----------|--------|---------|
| 1st   | Gerhard       | ZS3TG     | 546    | 3NC     |
| 2nd   | Dave          | ZS6DT     | 508    | 6SR     |
| 3rd   | Danie         | ZS6DP     | 384    | 6WR     |
| 4th   | Ledja         | ZS6GLM    | 373    | 6WR     |
| 5th   | Kath          | ZS6H      | 372    | 6STN    |
| 6th   | Phillip       | ZS6VF     | 331    | 6WR     |
| 7th   | Michael       | ZS4BH     | 312    | 48FN    |
| 8th   | Kobus         | ZS6R05    | 298    | 6WR     |
| 9th   | Phillip       | ZS6FY     | 289    | 6LOW    |
| 10th  | Ross          | ZS4RI     | 304    | 3NC     |
| 11th  | Eastrand Rad  | ZS6ORB    | 282    | 6WR     |
| 12th  | Wesley        | ZS6R4     | 277    | 6WR     |
| 13th  | Woody         | ZS3WL     | 266    | 3VDR    |
| 14th  | Gert          | ZS6GRT    | 214    | 6WR     |
| 15th  | Sid           | ZS5H      | 208    | SHAC    |
| 16th  | Esmaie        | ZS3EL     | 207    | 3NC     |
| 17th  | Adale         | ZS5APT    | 181    | SHAC    |
| 18th  | Daniel        | ZS6GM     | 166    | 6GPG    |
| 19th  | Johannes      | ZS6IOH    | 153    | 6WR     |
| 20th  | Mark          | ZS6MDX    | 151    | 6STN    |
| 21st  | Mike          | ZS2AQ     | 150    | 2PE     |
| 22nd  | Jurie         | ZS3ZG     | 148    | SHAC    |
| 23rd  | Heather       | ZS5TH     | 141    | SHAC    |
| 24th  | Karin         | ZS6AT     | 137    | 6GPG    |
| 25th  | Jakobus       | ZS6DIA    | 134    | 6WR     |
| 26th  | Therese       | ZS2EC     | 131    | 2PE     |
| 27th  | Veronica      | ZS6TVK    | 130    | 6WR     |
| 28th  | Gerhard       | ZS6GSC    | 129    | 6WR     |
| 29th  | Hank          | ZS3HC     | 127    | 3KBY    |
| 30th  | Jack          | ZS4TH     | 126    | 6WR     |
| 31st  | Kath          | ZS5WFO    | 125    | SHAM    |
| 32nd  | Wallie        | ZS6WNL    | 124    | 6LOW    |
| 33rd  | Herman        | ZS6HKL    | 118    | 6WR     |
| 34th  | Tim           | ZS5TIM    | 112    | SHAC    |
| 35th  | Leson         | ZS6LO     | 106    | 6WR     |
| 36th  | Ryder         | ZS6VX     | 106    | 6WR     |
| 37th  | Chris         | ZS6CXL    | 105    | 6WR     |
| 38th  | Graham        | ZS6GL     | 105    | 6STN    |
| 39th  | Geerit        | ZS6GVH    | 103    | 6STN    |
| 40th  | Hulmar        | ZS1H      | 102    | 1BAK    |
| 41st  | Johann        | ZS6JZ     | 100    | 6WR     |
| 42nd  | Kobus         | ZS4BS     | 97     | 4SRK    |
| 43rd  | Kevin         | ZS6KVN    | 93     | 6WR     |
| 44th  | Thys          | ZS6MUM    | 88     | 6MRK    |
| 45th  | Marius        | ZS6MS     | 85     | 6STN    |
| 46th  | Pierre        | ZS6PS     | 82     | 6MRK    |
| 47th  | Karin         | ZS6MMA    | 75     | 6WR     |
| 48th  | Lue           | ZS6LC     | 73     | 6STN    |
| 49th  | Guillaume     | ZS1GVW    | 71     | 1BAK    |
| 50th  | Jack-Louis    | ZS6LX     | 71     | 6PTA    |
| 51st  | Sasolburg Rad | ZS4SRK    | 70     | 4SRK    |
| 52nd  | Gawie         | ZS5R      | 70     | SHAC    |
| 53rd  | Brandt        | ZS6DI     | 64     | 6WR     |
| 54th  | Roy           | ZS1RB     | 63     | 1WR     |
| 55th  | Gert          | ZS6GEB    | 63     | 6WR     |
| 56th  | Nedus         | ZS3NN     | 60     | 3NC     |
| 57th  | Louis         | ZS5LS     | 60     | SHAC    |
| 58th  | Johan         | ZS6VD     | 60     | 6WR     |
| 59th  | Lodie         | ZS6LJT    | 60     | 6WR     |
| 60th  | Matthew       | ZS6MDV    | 60     | 6STN    |
| 61st  | Andre         | ZS2ALN    | 57     | 2PE     |
| 62nd  | Nico          | ZS1ZAN    | 54     | 1BAK    |
| 63rd  | Pierre        | ZS6PH     | 52     | 6PTA    |
| 64th  | Jonathan      | ZS3WQ     | 49     | 3NC     |
| 65th  | Jan           | ZS6VRE    | 48     | 6VTR    |
| 66th  | Laurens       | ZS6PLO    | 47     | 6WR     |
| 67th  | Sasolburg Rad | ZS6SRK    | 44     | 4SRK    |
| 68th  | HF Contest 68 | ZS2X      | 42     | 2PE     |
| 69th  | Paulk         | ZS3VP     | 42     | 3NC     |
| 70th  | Martin        | ZS5MRB    | 41     | SHAC    |
| 71st  | Nico          | ZS6LCL    | 39     | 6WR     |
| 72nd  | William       | ZS6WIM    | 39     | 6SRK    |
| 73rd  | Robekah       | ZS6RRK    | 39     | 6SRK    |
| 74th  | Martin        | ZS1MI     | 38     | 1BAK    |
| 75th  | Emil          | ZS1XB     | 38     | 1BAK    |
| 76th  | Remus         | ZS6ARQ    | 38     | 6WR     |
| 77th  | Justin        | ZS6IGP    | 37     | 6STN    |
| 78th  | Jamie         | ZS3CM     | 36     | no club |
| 79th  | Renier        | ZS6RJC    | 36     | 6MRK    |
| 80th  | Eunle         | ZS1HE     | 35     | 1WR     |
| 81st  | Dave          | ZS6ACC    | 35     | 6WR     |
| 82nd  | Stephan       | ZS6STE    | 33     | 6WR     |
| 83rd  | Llewellyn     | ZS1VBS    | 32     | 1BR2    |
| 84th  | Alan          | ZS3AI     | 31     | no club |
| 85th  | Anthony       | ZS6ANT    | 31     | 1WR     |
| 86th  | Charles       | ZS1CT     | 30     | 1WR     |
| 87th  | Leon          | ZS3LB     | 30     | 3NC     |
| 88th  | Odette        | ZS2OD     | 27     | 2PE     |
| 89th  | Michael       | ZS6MGW    | 27     | no club |
| 90th  | Dylan         | ZS2B      | 24     | 2PE     |
| 91st  | Frank         | ZS6FN     | 24     | no club |
| 92nd  | Kevin         | ZS6KNA    | 22     | 6STN    |
| 93rd  | Nico          | ZS1NR     | 20     | 1BAK    |
| 94th  | Chris         | ZS1TR     | 19     | 1WR     |
| 95th  | Bruce         | ZS6BK     | 18     | 6STN    |
| 96th  | Eddie         | ZS6BNE    | 18     | no club |
| 97th  | Lucas         | ZS6ACT    | 17     | SHAC    |
| 98th  | Magda         | ZS6MWS    | 17     | SHAC    |
| 99th  | Bennie        | ZS1T      | 17     | 1BAK    |
| 100th | James         | ZS1JWM    | 8      | 1BAK    |
| 101st | Jakub         | ZS1KUB    | 5      | 1BR2    |

#### 2025 SARL Saturday 40m Club Contest

##### Club Results - OVERALL 2025

| Place | Abb  | Call Sign | Club                                 | Points | Participants |
|-------|------|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| 1st   | 6WR  |           | West Rand Amateur Radio Club         | 3445   | 27           |
| 2nd   | 3NC  |           | Noord-Kaap Amateurradioklub          | 1491   | 8            |
| 3rd   | 6STN |           | Sandton Amateur Radio Club           | 1026   | 10           |
| 4th   | SHAC |           | Hibiscus Coast Amateur Radio Club    | 995    | 10           |
| 5th   | 6SRK |           | SARL Member                          | 508    | 1            |
| 6th   | 2PE  |           | Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society | 431    | 6            |
| 7th   | 6LOW |           | Laeveld Amateur Radio Klub           | 413    | 2            |
| 8th   | 1BAK |           | Boland Amateurradioklub              | 343    | 8            |
| 9th   | 6WRB |           | East Rand Radio Club                 | 321    | 2            |
| 10th  | 48FN |           | Bloemfontein Amateur Radio Club      | 312    | 1            |
| 11th  | 6GPG |           | Gauteng Amateur Radio Club           | 303    | 2            |
| 12th  | 3VDR |           | Bo-Karoo Amateurradioklub            | 266    | 1            |
| 13th  | 4SRK |           | Sasolburg Amateur radioklub          | 211    | 3            |
| 14th  | 6MRK |           | Magalies Radio amateur klub          | 206    | 3            |
| 15th  | 1WR  |           | Weskus Amateur Radio Klub            | 146    | 4            |
| 16th  | 3KBY |           | Kimberley Amateurradioklub           | 127    | 1            |
| 17th  | SHAM |           | Highway Amateur Radio Club           | 125    | 1            |
| 18th  | 6PTA |           | Pretoria Amateur Radio Club          | 123    | 2            |
| 19th  | 6VTR |           | Vaal Triangle Amateur Radio Club     | 48     | 1            |
| 20th  | 6SRK |           | Secunda Amateur Radio Club           | 39     | 1            |
| 21st  | 1BR2 |           | Eden Amateur Radio Club              | 37     | 2            |

What is clear from the scores, is we need more operators, and we need these multiple operators all operating together, on different frequencies, and at the same time, from different locations, we require better planning, and much more participation from members. then we'd stand a better chance, but we still made it onto the scoresheet, which is again putting the club on the map.

## 29 November at the Club



29 November was spent at the Clubhouse, Wayne ZS6ORB assisting Stephen in making up the necessary fly-leads and connections to connect Stephen's new QRM Eliminator and SDR switch to Stephen's Icom.

## National Rover Moot

A lot of preparation went into preparing for the National Rover Moot to be held on Saturday afternoon 13 December, our club was invited to present a Radio Base at the 4 day event, culminating with the rovers visiting our Radio Base on Saturday afternoon. The Rovers were expecting over 100 Rovers to book for the camp, which would have run over 4 to 5 days.

Wayne, the clubs Planner, planned a Technology review as the theme, and included the following systems for demo at the event: GOES Weather Satellite system, a Sat Rover system, to be demo'd by Ronald ZS6RVC, an HF Radio set up, with contacts on stand by, and ADS-B aircraft tracking. imported equipment, and also bought a SAT PAK antenna system locally from a ham in Pretoria. We also invited the SARL to join us for the afternoon. The President of the SARL contacted me after various internal meetings with council, to advise that the SARL would be donating a gazebo to the club, as part of the SARL's "Giving back to the Clubs" campaign.





## Rover Moot gets MUTED

Entries for the event were coming in very slowly, and early indications indicated, that the event may need to be cancelled. All was going well from the clubs side, equipment had arrived, and was being set up and tested, the weather was again not playing along, with bad weather expected for the weekend, Peter from the local Rover organizing committee advised us on Monday morning 8 December, that the event had been cancelled, due to too little confirmed entries, and camp fees being paid in advance.

Guy ZS6GUY collected the clubs new Gazebo on Thursday, and Guy and Nico 🧑🏻🧑🏻 delivered our new Gazebo on Saturday, as promised, it proved to be a cold and wet afternoon, but undeterred the team was at the clubhouse to host the President and Vice President

Saturday 13 December, was also the ARRL's 10 meter DX Contest, we'd not planned on taking part, as we'd planned being too busy with the Rover event, but we had our HF station on the air, and were able to make some contacts on 10 meters....

### **A note from the Club Manager**

Hi all

Looking back on 2025, and where the club has come from, or rather let me rephrase, where the club has gone, I think we've had a great journey, since stepping in to assist in October 2024, Wayne and I have been very busy, getting the club going again, this included smoothing the muddy waters, and clearing a new path for the club at Arrowe Park, getting to know the Rover and Scouts leadership, building synergies between ourselves, the club, Hamnet, the scouts and the rovers, engaging where we could with members and ex members, below is an AI generated review of our activities for 2025.

### **A Year of Signal and Spirit: The East Rand Radio Club's 2025 Journey**

Looking back at 2025, it's clear that the East Rand Radio Club hasn't just been "on the air" we've been on the move. From mountain peaks to local scout parks, our members have demonstrated the true spirit of amateur radio: community, technical skill, and a fair bit of grit.

The Early Surge: Contests and Community

We wasted no time getting started. On January 11, we kicked off the year with a "rekkie" trip to Dick's house on the mountain outside Nigel, followed immediately by the VHF/UHF contest. The technical momentum continued with a maintenance day on January 18, where Wayne flew the club flag during the SARL QRP contest. followed immediately by the VHF/UHF contest. The technical momentum continued with a maintenance day on January 18, where Wayne flew the club flag during the SARL QRP contest.

By the end of the month, we proved our efficiency during the first leg of the SARL 40m Club Contest, racking up an impressive 34 contacts in just 60 minutes.



One of the major highlights of 2025 was our commitment to bringing hams together.

February 1: Our first Flea Market of the year was a resounding success, drawing a healthy crowd and several newcomers to the hobby.

October 4: Following a massive advertising push across local clubs, our second Flea Market and Open Day was even bigger. We were thrilled to welcome visitors from as far as Pretoria, proving that the East Rand is a destination for radio enthusiasts.

#### Building Bridges (and Repeaters)

In February, we hosted the KARTS team for their monthly meeting, a collaborative effort we plan to grow in the future. This spirit of connectivity led to the launch of our Zello group, which now allows members to cross-link via the KARTS repeater or use a closed Zello channel on Tuesday evenings.

Speaking of repeaters, September 6 was a massive technical milestone. Alongside Francois (ZS6COI) and Stephen (ZS6SKY), we assembled the club repeater into its new cabinet. With cavities serviced by Web Industries and the Kenwood unit tuned by Bi Com, we loaded the entire rig, including a 4-stack and support pole—onto Francois's truck. We transported it to a farm site sitting at 1,750 meters.

We still haven't managed to get the repeater operational by year-end. I take this delay as a personal failure, but it remains a top priority as we move into 2026.

#### Training the Next Generation

A club is only as strong as its members, and 2025 was a big year for the RAE candidates. We held HF assessment training in March, leading to Timothe passing his assessment on May 3. Later in the year, Ferdi also stepped up for his HF training. With Ferdi getting his ticket in October.

We also kept our hands busy with practical workshops, including an Inverted V antenna build on 24 May.

Find out more about Wayne's QRM Eliminator MOD, and why he thinks its necessary, visit us at the Eastrand Radio Club



### Service and Scouting

The East Rand Radio Club remained a pillar of the community, assisting with:

Dis-Chem Ride for Sight (Feb 16)

Hamnet Scout Kontiki at Arrowe Park (May)

Scout Hike at Klipriversberg Nature Reserve (Aug 30)

JOTA/JOTI Event (Oct 18-19), where we ran the Radio Base.

### The Contest Grind

From SOTA "Queens of the Mountains" in June to the Newbie QSO Party and ISS Event in July, our members were constantly active. Our performance in the SARL 40m Club Contest on July 26 was a standout, where we pushed our limits to manage 40 to 45 contacts in a single hour.

We rounded out the year with the FT4 contest in September, an SSTV event in October, and the ARRL HF DX contest on December 13.

### Final Thoughts

Thanks to our Secretary, Judy (ZS6JDY), our SARL membership is fully paid up, ensuring we remain a vital part of the national radio body. While the cancellation of the Rover Moot in December was a disappointment, it doesn't overshadow what has been an incredible year of growth.

Wow, quite a year indeed!



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.

I'd like to thank our committee and my management team for their hard work thus far this year, and everyone who came, attended our meetings and get together, all those who assisted the club this year

.....you guys and Girl's are amazing.....

**73**  
**Till next time**



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