



Our 1st ever Ham Festival took place over the weekend of 27 February 2026 (My Birthday) and Sunday 1 March, with most of the activities happening on Saturday 28 February. Wayne is our "Visionary" and the clubs "Planner" Wayne having been very busy lately, wanted to upgrade our Flea Market, to a Ham Festival, the Ham Festival's idea was that we'd have our Flea Market in the morning, followed by various demo's on various modes of operation, my input was "Hey - Anything goes" "If you want to bring your Flea Market to the Eastrand, you're

welcome, bring a demo with, come and enjoy the weekend with us, we have a fantastic and safe venue. Wayne was hard at work the week before the event, gathering pictures from the Gauteng based clubs, resizing and encoding these into SSTV format, this was for our transmission on 2 meters, I on the other end was busy changing the format of some samples into BMP format for transmission on 40 meters.

Ons eerste Hamfees ooit het plaasgevind oor die naweek van 27 Februarie 2026 (my verjaarsdag) en Sondag 1 Maart, met die meeste van die aktiwiteite wat op Saterdag 28 Februarie plaasgevind het. Wayne is ons "Visionêr" en die klub se "beplanner". Wayne was die afgelope tyd baie besig en wou ons Vlooiemark opgradeer na 'n Hamfees. Die Hamfees se idee was dat ons ons Vlooiemark in die oggend sou hê, gevolg deur verskeie demonstrasies op verskillende maniere van werking.

My inset was: "Haai - Enigiets is welkom." "As jy jou Vlooiemark na die Oosstrand wil bring, is jy welkom, bring 'n demonstrasie saam, kom geniet die naweek saam met ons, ons het 'n fantastiese en veilige lokaal." Wayne was hard aan die werk die week voor die geleentheid, het hy foto's van die Gauteng-gebaseerde klubs versamel, dit herskaal en in SSTV-formaat gekodeer. Dit was vir ons uitsending op 2 meter. Ek aan die ander kant was besig om die formaat van sommige voorbeelde na BMP-formaat te verander vir uitsending op 40 meter.







Myles ZS6MYL arrived on Friday afternoon, camping over till Saturday, Myles setup his Yaesu FT 710 with his Buddy pole, and we were on the air with his field station into the evening.

Saturday saw an attendance of around 60 + hams, CB'ers, and some other curious folk, descending on Arrowe Park, this included 2 couples from Pietermaritzburg, Stephen & his wife Marie, arriving on Friday evening and Stan ZR5SEM and his wife Rachel arriving on Saturday, Mark

ZS4OIL arriving from Sasolburg, and hams from Pretoria doing the trip to Arrowe Park, Local ham participation was also good, with most people there to buy or sell, Ronald set up his "Sat Rover" and 60 cm dish connected to his Icom 706 MKII radio. Various hams enjoyed making contact on QO100 in the afternoon, once things had quietened down, SSTV didn't seem to be as much of a hit, with only a few opportunities to show and tell. Here is Ronald ZS6RVC setting up the QO100 and Sat Pak antenna's.



Myles ZS6MYL het Vrydagmiddag aangekom en tot Saterdag gekamp. Myles het sy Yaesu FT 710 met sy Buddy-paal opgestel, en ons was tot die aand op die lug met sy veldstasie. Saterdag het 'n bywoning van ongeveer 60+ radio-amateurs, CB'ers en 'n paar ander nuuskieriges gesien, wat op Arrowe Park toegesak het. Dit het twee paartjies van Pietermaritzburg ingesluit, Stephen en sy vrou Marie, wat Vrydagaand aangekom het, en Stan ZR5SEM en sy vrou Rachel wat Saterdag aangekom het, Mark ZS4OIL wat van Sasolburg af aangekom het, en radio-amateurs van Pretoria wat die reis na Arrowe Park onderneem het. Plaaslike radio-amateurdeelname was ook goed, met die meeste mense daar om te koop of te verkoop. Ronald het sy "Sat Rover" en 60 cm-skottel opgestel wat aan sy Icom 706 MKII-radio gekoppel is. Verskeie radio-amateurs het dit geniet om in die middag op QO100 kontak te maak. Nadat dinge bedaar het, het SSTV nie so 'n sukses gelyk nie, met slegs 'n paar geleenthede om te wys en te vertel. Hier is Ronald ZS6RVC besig om die QO100 en Sat Pak-antennas op te stel.

Wayne demonstrating another digital mode, using SDR Angel software. Borrie Rolls and Gourmet Chicken Burgers with chips were on sale, plus lots of cold drinks to cool everyone off, due to various reasons, including not enough man power from our clubs side, not all the demo's could run, we ended up not being able to transmit our SSTV on HF, but many hours were transmitted on 144.500 MHz, and a few participants managed to decode the signals, we also gave a few calls on the "Queens of the Mountains" contest later in the day. We are hoping for a bigger turn out next time, a big thank you to Wayne ZS6ORB



for organizing the event, and to everyone that attended, your being there made this event Special...

Wayne het 'n ander digitale modus gedemonstreer met behulp van SDR Angel-sagteware. Borrie Rolls en Gourmet hoender Hamburgers met skyfies was te koop, plus baie koue drankies om almal af te koel, as gevolg van verskeie redes, insluitend nie genoeg mannekrag van ons klubs se kant nie, nie al die demonstrasies

kon loop nie, ons kon uiteindelik nie ons SSTV op HF uitsaai nie, maar baie ure is op 144.500 MHz uitgesaai, en 'n paar deelnemers het daarin geslaag om die seine te dekodeer. Ons het ook later die dag 'n paar oproepe op die "Queens of the Mountains"-kompetisie gemaak. Ons hoop vir 'n groter opkoms volgende keer, 'n groot dankie aan Wayne ZS6ORB vir die organisering van die geleentheid, en aan almal wat dit bygewoon het, julle teenwoordigheid het hierdie geleentheid spesiaal gemaak...

73 Stephen

ZS6SKY

