



## South African Radio League

### Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

#### Chris de Souza, ZS6AVC (SK)

Inducted in 2019

FCL (Chris) de Souza was born in Pretoria on 3 January 1939. Chris attained his Amateur Radio Licence at age 18 - in 1958 with the call sign ZS6AVC.

Although he operated fairly regularly, filling his log book with QSOs, he will be best remembered for the time he spent using Amateur Radio in the service of others.

In 1962 he provided communications when translocating Rhinos from Kruger Park to Hluhluwe.

In 1963 along with Bill, ZS6KO and Tubby, ZS6AJO he investigated DF hunts at the East Rand Branch. Chris then built his own DF set and helped other Pretoria Branch members to build theirs and they started having hunts around Pretoria which were very popular and ended with a braai. He built an automated transmitter that sent out the DF signals both on HF and 2 m which meant that operators did not have to be proficient in CW. In the late 1980s he built a 2 m DF receiver that was successfully used to find various spurious transmissions

The Total Rally started with radios in 1957 and he eventually became involved in operating both Field Stations and the Control station in Pretoria up to 1977. He enjoyed a challenge - working with his hands making things. He liked building his own radio equipment - he built his own radio sets for his Mini and eventually collaborated in building the NETSET which used the most up to date technology

From 1980 he was involved in communication for the Castrol rally and in 1985 became the organising for the next 10 years. Here he was involved with some notable firsts when the communication was moved to 2 m mobile repeaters as well as attempting digital communication between the control stations.

During this time, he modified his Land Rover to efficiently run a control station which included a telescoping mast and would sometimes even be heard when on holiday.

Other events he assisted with were the Off-road Cars and Motorbikes, Kyalami Race track and the Roof of Africa where once they were snowed in.

Other aspects of the hobby he enjoyed was JOTA, as well as encouraging other to take up the hobby, including all his family, He lectured for the RAE exams and even hosted classes at his home. He enjoyed helping others and often assisted other hams putting up antennas or repairing equipment.

He was awarded the Jack Twine Merit Award in 1973 for helping other amateurs.

Chris obtained his NTC V in Electronics and Industrial Instruments in 1969 and then in 1976 decided to build his own TV.

He was a member of Pretoria Branch for more than 25 years sometimes serving on the committee. He was a regular contributor to both Watts - the Branch newsletter - as well as Radio ZS. He was also instrumental in the rewriting of the SARL constitution.

He still currently holds 3<sup>rd</sup> position for the 10 GHz distance record.

After living in Pretoria all his life, he died there aged 56 on 12 August 1995.