



South African Radio League

Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

Colin de Villiers, ZS6COL

Inducted in 2019



Colin de Villiers was licensed as ZR6COL in 1991. He upgraded to ZS6COL in 1993. After retiring from a career in mechanical and electronic engineering in which his focus was on office automation, he now consults in business systems for small and medium companies, runs a public weather station and builds steam engines.

Colin was one of five co-founders of the Sandton Amateur Radio Club (SARC) in 1992. He remained the Secretary and/or Treasurer of the club for 21 years, ending in 2013. Over the same period, he was also active with the installation and maintenance of the SARC repeaters on 2 m and 70 cm, at metropolitan and rural sites covering the Johannesburg area. From 1992 to 2005, Colin was an active member of Hamnet, participating in many exercises, including the classic car rallies.

From 1995 to 1998, Colin was an SARL Council member. He was closely involved in the strategic aspects of restructuring the Council around 2003. In 1996, the then SARL president approached Colin to replace the membership administration system that was no longer being supported. Colin developed a new system, which he continues to support to this day. Colin has also trained seven successive SARL office administrators.

Colin's wide experience of the SARL, the way it operates, the Constitution and Rules, as well as his knowledge of the SARL member database system makes him critical to the day to day operation of the SARL and provides invaluable continuity of institutional knowledge.

Colin also liaises closely with the Webmaster to ensure seamless integration between the SARL Web site and the membership database, facilitating such online facilities as the Radio Amateur Examination (RAE) enrolment system.

Since 2001, Colin has constructed and operated an automatic system to record and retransmit weekly club information bulletins. The system has rebroadcast approximately 700 bulletins since inception. Starting in 2001, Colin has supplied software for the operation of the SARL QSL bureau.

Since 2006, Colin and his wife Mary, ZR6MY have conducted the registration of attendees and proxies at every one of the SARL's Annual General Meetings.

In 2007, Colin updated the SARL's RAE Manual to ISO compliance. Since that date, he has revised the question pool to align with the Manual and has maintained the question pool, as well as generating RAE papers, marking templates and moderating documents for all national RAEs. With the extensive revision of the Manual in 2016, Colin provided support to update and revise the question pool in accordance with the syllabus that had been expanded to comply with CEPT requirements.

Since 2005, Colin has been a member of the ICASA regulatory work group that liaises with ICASA regarding the regulation of amateur radio, including quarterly meetings.

Colin was extremely active in satellite communication in his early years as a licensed operator and made many contacts via the Oscar satellites and with various operators aboard the Space Shuttle (STS missions).

Colin received the SARL's Jack Twine merit award in 2005, the Willy Wilson Gold Badge in 2007, the MTN Radio Amateur of the Year award in 2012 and Honorary Life Membership in 2014.