



South African Radio League

Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP

Inducted in 2019



Hannes Coetzee ZS6BZP was born in 1965 and licenced in 1981. He works as an RF design and development engineer for a military communications system provider near Pretoria.

Hannes's primary strength is his technical acumen. However, he has not simply pursued his own technical interests, but has published a series of tutorials, construction projects and information bulletins that have benefited other amateurs.

Hannes has been an active member of AMSAT SA, regularly presenting papers at their annual conference. His first contributions were to BACAR. He was on the team that developed the amateur payload for Sumbandilasat, specifically working to reconfigure the secondary VHF and UHF telemetry links for use as beacons, or as a simple transponder between amateur bands, or as a parrot-like audio store-and-forward system. The system provided numerous opportunities for South African and international schools to get involved in satellite technology and proved very popular. Starting in 2011, Hannes has been instrumental in the development of Kletskous, a 1U CubeSat slated to fly in 2017. Kletskous is to include a 20 kHz linear transponder for amateur use.

For more than a decade, Hannes has contributed regular weekly propagation bulletins to SARL broadcasts. Hannes's Master's degree dissertation dealt with HF propagation, and he works in the development of professional HF communications and direction finding systems. His depth of insight and access to information stand the amateur community in good stead.

Hannes has published numerous articles, often aimed at introducing the layman to topics in modern communications systems. His articles have appeared in magazines in South Africa (Radio ZS), the USA (QST, QEX) and Britain (Practical Wireless) as well as on the Internet. Some of his articles were included in books by the late Pat Hawker G3VA.

Hannes also regularly supports station-building efforts by others with design support, using his access to professional-grade software and his knowledge of ferrite transformers to good effect.

In the days when South Africa's VHF-only licences could gain access to HF by several means, there was a strong demand for kits

that a relative newcomer could construct to meet the entry requirements. Hannes produced a receiver for the 7 MHz band that enabled many amateurs to gain access to HF. He also co-designed a binaural transceiver covering 7 and 14 MHz, which again put many South Africans on the HF bands.

Hannes is a trustee of the Southern African Amateur Radio Development Trust. Apart from his activities in supporting the Trust, he was also the public face of the Trust's recent Innovation in Radio initiative. He has also featured on the Amateur Radio in Action programme.

Hannes has a degree in Electronic Engineering and a Master's degree in Space Physics. He is enrolled as a PhD student in HF radio propagation at the University of Pretoria.