



South African Radio League

Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

Willem Weideman, ZS6X

Inducted in 2019



Willem Weideman was licensed as a Radio Ham in October 2002.

Willem Weideman has been running the SARL QSL bureau for the last 15 years. Willem joined Henk, ZS6ENK, Viv, ZS6CAA, Ron, ZS6BHH and Martin, ZS6MSG (SK) after hearing them on air discussing the QSL bureau and the sorting of the QSL cards. Willem joined the QSL team on a Tuesday morning in 2003 and has been involved with the management of the QSL bureau ever since. In December 2004, Willem took over the QSL bureau and has been running it on his own, to date.

On average 60 000 QSL cards get processed every year. This means Willem has handled nearly 800 000 cards in his time while involved with the bureau. This translates as an average of 240 QSL cards per day in a 251 working day year. This is an enormous task and Willem has put in many hours to satisfy the needs of the local and DX community, who send and receive QSL cards.

Willem collects cards twice a week from the Post Office. The cards then get sorted into the different divisions. These cards are then bundled and are posted to the various divisions. The division one and two cards get posted to Johan, ZS2I. The division three and four cards are posted to Dennis, ZS4BS. The division six cards get sorted and then are hand posted to the relevant members. When Willem receives QSL cards from local DXers, they in turn have to be sorted into the various countries and their divisions. Once there are

sufficient cards for a particular country, the cards are then bundled and are sent off to the corresponding QSL bureau. At times Willem also hand delivers QSL cards to members. You will find Willem at every West Rand club flea market handing out QSL cards to members.

By running the QSL bureau, Willem performs an essential service to the Amateur Radio Community, making the hobby more rewarding. Without this service many operators would not have been able to achieve their DX awards, or it would have been a lot more difficult and costly. Willem also attends to all queries pertaining to the QSL bureau and QSL problems.

Willem is one of the pillars of the SARL and we should all applaud him for his continued effort, passion and dedication to the South African amateur community.

Willem received the Jack Twine Merit Award in 2012 and the Willy Wilson Gold Badge in 2015

