



# SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

The National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa  
A Member of the International Amateur Radio Union



## MINUTES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2024 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE GARDEN COURT HOTEL, CAPE TOWN

Present

Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, SARL President

Members registered and by proxy – 316.

Dennis Green, ZS4BS, SARL Secretary

Item	Discussion	For Action
	<b>WELCOME</b>	
1.1	Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, opened the meeting at 09:15 and welcomed everybody at the 2024 AGM at the Garden Court Hotel and members on the Webex platform. A word of thanks to Rob, ZS1SA and the Cape Town ARC for all the arrangements. Special welcome to Aldo from Italy.	
1.2	The agenda is projected on the screen.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>RULES OF DEBATE</b>	
2.1	Nico, ZS6QL presents the rules of debate. It was projected on the screen for the meeting.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
	Apologies were received from ZS1ES; ZS1IC.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF QUORUM</b>	
4.1	There are 1 701 (1 617 can vote) members allowed to vote. To allow the AGM to proceed, a 10% quorum or 161,9 members is required. Rounded off to 162 members. At 09:20 on Saturday 20 April 2024, the SARL Secretary has 57 members registered and 259 proxies = 316 members or 19,5%. Thus, there is a quorum to continue with the meeting. The oldest member present at the AGM is Barry Fletcher, ZS1FJ at 91 years young and the youngest is Cameron Eales, ZS6CYE in his early 20s.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>REMEMBRANCE</b>	
5.1	Dennis Green, ZS4BS, read the Remembrance for the Silent Keys and the meeting observed a moment of silence.	
	Dennis Wells, ZS1AU; Piet Badenhorst, ZS6G; Johan Latsky, ZS6KY; Carl Minne, ZS6CBQ; Peter Avenant, ZS5PA; Philip Venter, ZS4PV; Athol Masdoll, Z21LV; Johann Langeveld, ZS5JL/ZS5POL; Terry Cotton, ZS1AYJ, ex ZS1HS; Marten du Preez, ZS6ZY; Johnny Scott, ZS6JSS; Bernd Brozio, ZS1ABN; Hans Kappetijn, ZS6KR; Marcel Upfold, ZS1OTB/ZS6OTB; Dr Kosie Smit, ZS1SR ex ZS6ST; Dr Lee-Anne McKinnell, ZS1LAW/ZS2LAW; Pierre Tromp, ZS1HF; Bill (William) Pointer, ZS6WP; John William Cilliers, ZS1WI; Susan Browne, ZS6BSE; Vic Raath, ZS6ZGL; Attie Reynecke, ZS6REY; Russell Mycroft, ZS1VK; Henry van Reënen, ex ZS1XH, ZS6SR and ZS6OT;	

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SARL Secretary: [secretary@sarl.org.za](mailto:secretary@sarl.org.za)

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	Gert Buns, V51GB; Martin Smuts, ZS6BZM; Seewoosankar "Jacky" Mandary, 3B8CF; Charles Carr, ZS5QR; Gudrun Lauterbach, ZS1GEL; John Fletcher, ZS1ZR; Jo Snyders, ZS5PO; Geoff Tinker, ZS1LM; Ben Rademeyer, ZS1RL; Neilen van Breda, ZS6NG; Johan Alberts, ZS1B; Quintus Moolman, ZS2KU; Martin Blake ZS6GUN; Sid Coosner, ZS1MG/ZS4MG/ZS6MG; Pieter Gildenhuis, ZS1FPO; Phillip Botha, ZS6PMB; Adam Farson VA7OJ/AB7OJ (ex ZS1ZG/ZS6XT); Arie Wessels, ZS6UY	
<b>6.</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF THE 2022 AGM MINUTES</b>	
6.1	The Minutes of the 2023 AGM are accepted by the meeting. Proposed by ZS1DFR and seconded by ZS1J.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>PRESIDENTS REPORT</b>	
7.1	Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, presented the Presidents Report and the SARL Annual Report.	
7.2	<p>Dear Esteemed Members of the South African Radio League,</p> <p>We have arrived in the month of April, a time to get together for the SARL's AGM and this year is exceptional in that we are excited to once again, as we were accustomed to pre Covid normality to have the privilege of a face-to-face meeting here today.</p> <p>As we gather to reflect upon the year that has been, it is with a deep sense of appreciation that I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you in attendance.</p> <p>It is always good practice to consider the various lessons learned, focused on how we continue to maintain contact on air make the most of our allocated spectrum.</p> <p>This includes the many meticulously organized events such as contests, club activities and flea markets, RAE classes and examinations in May and October has not only honed our skills but also significantly amplified our presence within the broader amateur radio community.</p> <p>In the face of numerous challenges, particularly in the aspect of membership growth, our activities across various fronts have not only kept us connected but have also fostered a spirit of innovation and cooperation that is essential for our future.</p> <p>Despite the ongoing global economic uncertainties that have tested many organizations worldwide, the SARL has continued to thrive, thanks to the robust foundation built on your commitment and passion. I am pleased to report that for now the SARL maintained stability both from a membership and a financial perspective.</p> <p>However, growth from an RAE perspective is disappointing, with a drop in numbers, as reflected in the annual RAE report. This impacts directly on our vision to grow and expand amateur radio in South Africa.</p> <p>The challenges on our doorstep will require us to become be more adaptive and innovative than ever. As we navigated these</p>	

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	<p>complexities, our members need to rise to the occasion, to ensure that the SARL remained a beacon of stability and progress in the amateur radio world. It is most important for us to expand our educational initiatives, enhance our technological infrastructure and increase our community engagements. We will only be able to do so if each step is driven by our shared vision of a vibrant and evolving amateur radio community in time to come.</p> <p>As individuals, the pursuit of a certain aspect of interest can lead us down so many paths in keeping amateur radio interesting and exciting for many years to come. It is a way of life and part of our identities, as we proudly declare ourselves as radio amateurs. Find your passion, your topic of interest and take up the challenge to grow and contribute along the way in assisting a fellow radio amateur as part of the amateur spirit as we know it.</p> <p>Amateur radio has no borders and therefore we are part of the international amateur radio community of member societies through membership of the International Amateur Union (IARU) being the international recognised representative body of the global amateur radio fraternity. The work being done within the IARU feeds directly into the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) being the highest levels of international telecommunications policymaking for global communications spectrum allocations and management. Telecommunication Regulators worldwide take their cue from these policies for implementation in their respective countries and therefore it is of most importance to have representation at this level to ensure that amateur radio spectrum allocations are protected.</p>	
7.3	<p><b>IARU Region 1 Conference</b></p> <p>During November 2023, the South African Radio League had the privilege of participating in the 26<sup>th</sup> IARU Region 1 General Conference, held in Zlatibor, Serbia. Hosted by the Amateur Radio Union of Serbia (SRS). This event was a significant occasion for the global amateur radio community, drawing more than 120 delegates from across the region.</p> <p>This conference served as a vital platform for discussing key issues and developments within the amateur radio world. Key topics included the governance and administrative strategies under the C3 (Administration and Organisational Committee), as well as technical discussions led by the C4 (Permanent HF Committee) and C5 (Permanent VHF/UHF/Microwave Committee). The gathering also focused on emergency communications and the Spectrum and EMC (Electromagnetic Compatibility) challenges, reflecting the ongoing commitment of the IARU to adapt and respond to the evolving technological landscape.</p> <p>During the conference, our delegates engaged in comprehensive discussions and collaborative sessions aimed at shaping the future</p>	

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	<p>of amateur radio. This included participating in debates on the integration of modern digital technologies within the amateur radio spectrum and addressing the strategic initiatives under the IARU's "Shaping the Future" programme, which aims to ensure the sustainability and relevance of amateur radio for the coming decades.</p> <p>A briefing session provided insight into the work underway at the IARU level to strengthen and streamline the three regions (Region 1, 2 and 3) into a single entity. It is work in progress and the implementation of this objective is earmarked for as early as 2025.</p> <p>In retrospect, this event underscored the importance of international cooperation and the shared vision among IARU members to drive the amateur radio hobby forward, both technologically and in public engagement.</p>	
7.4	<p><b>ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23)</b></p> <p>During the same period in November 2023, the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) took place in Dubai, bringing significant outcomes for the amateur radio community. The conference concluded with several key revisions to the ITU Radio Regulations which are essential for the spectrum management and allocation that directly impacts amateur radio operators.</p> <p>A highlight from the WRC-23 was the focus on spectrum sharing and technological advancements, which are crucial for maintaining and enhancing the spectrum access for amateur radio operators. Notably, the conference outcomes ensured that the amateur radio bands were protected and even expanded in some cases, allowing for enhanced capabilities in amateur operations, including potential new allocations and adjustments that favour amateur use.</p> <p>Additionally, the presence of the ITU Secretary-General, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, who is also a licensed amateur radio operator (KD2JTX), highlighted the amateur community's influence and visibility at the highest levels of international telecommunications policymaking. Her involvement underscores the relevance and advocacy for amateur radio within the broader context of global communications policy.</p> <p>The conference also addressed other important issues like the coexistence of amateur services with other services in the 1 240 – 1 300 MHz (23 cm) band, which saw a positive resolution.</p> <p>This was a critical item for amateur satellite communications and its favourable outcome was a relief for the amateur community, ensuring continued access to this important band without significant restrictions.</p> <p>The man who safeguarded the successful outcome was Barry Lewis, G4SJH who has been awarded the Calcutta Key for outstanding service and work in defending amateur radio access to the 23cm band.</p>	

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	<p>Over many years Barry has led efforts in the IARU, countless international professional technical meetings and the 2023 World Radio Conference to show that amateur radio operation and the Galileo navigational satellite system could co-exist. This provided the foundation for a World Radio Conference compromise position that has allowed 23 cm amateur radio operations to continue.</p> <p>It is not only through the IARU that inputs are submitted but working with industry in attending the industry preparatory meeting and was responsible for South Africa’s input on agenda item 9.1B as mentioned above, was resolved with no impact on Amateur Radio.</p> <p>These developments and outcomes from WRC-23 are expected to provide a more stable and predictable environment for amateur radio operators to innovate and continue their contributions to technology and communications.</p>	
7.5	<p><b>SARL HAMNET</b></p> <p>SARL HAMNET, the SARL group for disaster communication, under the leadership of Grant Southey, ZS6GS the national HAMNET Director and Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ, the deputy national Director including the regional directors, does excellent work within society that allows for awareness and public relations pertaining to amateur radio.</p> <p>It is well known that the government resources for Search &amp; Rescue (S&amp;R) are dwindling, this means that more reliance is made on volunteer organisations in the country, including SARL HAMNET.</p> <p>Last year, the Minister of Transport gave recognition to the work and role of SARL HAMNET in society, awarding them a trophy and certificate which reads: <i>in grateful appreciation for many years of outstanding service and commitment to the South African Search and Rescue Organisation.</i></p> <p>During October 2023, I had the privilege to join the regional directors from across the country in a workshop held at NARC to discuss the performance, challenges and future of the organisation.</p> <p>Taking this opportunity to thank you all for always being the best you can be, working as a team in the execution of this important task of providing emergency communications during search and rescue incidents.</p> <p>There is a wealth of SARL HAMNET news on the HAMNET website – please visit the site and keep up to date with all the news compiled by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR.</p> <p>Should any SARL members be interested to join SARL HAMNET please do not hesitate to contact the regional or national Directors.</p>	
7.6	<p><b>Expanding and Promoting of Amateur Radio in Southern African Countries</b></p> <p>The STARS programme of the IARU-R1 was established to defend, protect, extend, develop and promote the amateur radio</p>	

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	<p>service to those areas of the Region where amateur radio activity is low or non-existent.</p> <p>The South African Radio League are involved and is playing a major role in the training of Radio Amateurs. To date 16 new licences were issued by the National Communications Management (INCM) following HAREC based training courses conducted by Chris Turner, ZS6GM, SARL Vice President during last year, with the able assistance of Noel Hammond, ZR6DX, the SARL RAE Manager, providing training material and set and marked the examination papers.</p> <p>There are currently five new amateur radio club stations funded by the INCM and operating from INCM offices in Maputo. If you are on air and looking for a contact, please try and provide these new Mozambique stations with a signal report and encourage them to engage in QSOs.</p> <p>One of the outcomes from the STARS working groups workshops during the IARU conference last year, Remy Denker, PA0AGF - Chairman of the STARS Working Group committed his support for the work being done to establish Mozambique as a IARU member society.</p> <p>The following from Remy in the latest e-mail to Chris, ZS6GM reads as follows and I quote, <i>"I see potential that STARS can play an important role in supporting Chris with building up a real radio society. Based upon his enthusiasm and the positive feedback from Dennis and Nico I would like to work out a plan to organise a regional conference in Mozambique and invite surrounding societies to participate."</i></p> <p>The following countries are earmarked for invitation to a two-day conference in Mozambique during September or October 2024, the SARL in South Africa and then delegates from Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Madagascar, Seychelles and Kenya.</p> <p>Reaching out and getting involved with our neighbours is of vital importance as amateur radio offers a wealth of opportunities for youth development and disaster communication with assistance from SARL HAMNET that is so needed in Mozambique during tropical storms such as Storm FILIPO in 2023.</p>	
7.7	<p><b>QSL Bureau</b></p> <p>Amidst the challenges posed by the postal service situation in South Africa, the South African Radio League (SARL) has been exploring alternative methods for handling QSL cards, which are critical for confirming amateur radio contacts. The disruption caused by the declining efficiency of the South African Post Office has necessitated this shift, prompting the SARL to consider innovative solutions to ensure that amateur radio operators can continue to exchange QSL cards reliably.</p>	

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	<p>During the 26<sup>th</sup> IARU Region 1 General Conference, discussions were held with delegates from the Deutscher Amateur-Radio-Club (DARC) to explore the feasibility of appointing a QSL manager or utilizing a bureau in Europe. This collaboration aimed to leverage DARC's established infrastructure and expertise in QSL management, providing a stable and efficient alternative to the struggling local postal system from an international perspective.</p> <p>The consideration of a European QSL bureau or manager represents a strategic move to maintain the flow of QSL cards without interruption. Such a partnership could facilitate smoother and faster handling of QSL cards for South African operators, particularly for international exchanges where timeliness and reliability are paramount.</p> <p>These discussions underscore the SARL's commitment to adapting its operations to overcome international logistical challenges while ensuring that its members remain active and recognized in the global amateur radio community. This proactive approach highlights the importance of international cooperation among amateur radio organizations to support each other in times of need.</p> <p>We need our clubs to become more involved in the collection and distribution of QSL cards to maintain the service. Please do not hesitate to contact Gert du Plessis, ZR6GRT, our QSL Manager, to offer personal assistance or participation as a club.</p>	
7.8	<p><b>Volunteering in the SARL</b></p> <p><i>“Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.” - Jane Goodall.</i></p> <p>As a member’s society, the SARL relies on a group of volunteers to perform various tasks and to fill several portfolios. To recruit capable volunteers with the time, dedication and commitment to execute these routine and time-consuming work within the SARL, is challenging.</p> <p>Most concerning is that certain skills and experience and a willingness of members to step forward to fill positions within the SARL, is declining. We are extremely grateful for the excellent work being done by fellow councillors, portfolio managers and appointees with families and full-time occupations, committing their personal time and expertise at no cost, to run the SARL successfully.</p> <p>When we focus on this group of volunteers, you will note that our news team ensures that a national news bulletin is compiled and delivered on a weekly basis for transmission on Sundays from various clubs and by individuals. This includes the newsreaders and relay stations as well. The monthly SARL publication of Radio ZS and HF Happenings are published through the dedicated work of the Editor of Radio ZS.</p>	

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	<p>This is not where it ends as a dedicated group of individuals attend to the Forum and Swop Shop, the Website and performing Database Management. The portfolios pertaining to Awards Management, Repeater Coordination working groups, V/UHF working group, QSL Bureau Management, Contest Management, Youth development, the Amateur Radio Today-programme and Regulatory Affairs.</p> <p>We also acknowledge the crucial work of the SARL/ICASA liaison committee, the work done by our Legal Advisor, Treasurer and councillors and the excellent work of the SARL HAMNET organisation, serving our communities and providing a public service. Your devotion and dedication in applying your talents, skills and experience timeously to fuel our mutual efforts in running the League is remarkable and is sincerely appreciated.</p> <p>As the SARL looks to the future, it continues to appeal for more volunteers to support its expanding scope of activities, especially considering the upcoming centenary celebrations and other large-scale projects. This ensures that the league not only maintains its current initiatives but also scales up to meet future challenges and opportunities.</p>	
7.9	<p><b>Lectures and Annual RAE Examinations</b></p> <p>The RAE examinations during May and October are administrated by the SARL on behalf of ICASA, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ICASA and the SARL.</p> <p>Worldwide newcomers to amateur radio start off with the Radio Amateurs Examination to obtain their licences and in South Africa it is no different as the SARL on behalf of ICASA administers the examination process.</p> <p>Lectures including practical training in preparation for the examination is provided by clubs and on a national level, a huge coordination and administrative effort is required to accommodate the two examination sessions annually.</p> <p>This is accomplished with the dedication and commitment of the RAE Manager, Noel, ZR6DX; Gerhard, ZS6CRS, assistant RAE Manager, Kelley Heslop, our Office Administrator, Gary Immelman, ZS6YI; Peter Hers, ZS1PHD, numerous lecturers including Chief Invigilators allowing for a successful RAE to be held countrywide.</p> <p>I am delighted and most grateful for the excellent work being done by these individuals, including everyone who continually seek better ways to accomplish successful lectures and training.</p> <p>In reading the RAE report submitted by Noel, ZS6DX, attention is drawn to the fact that where is an unceasing decline in the numbers of candidate registering and passing the RAE. Since 2019 there is a 67% decline. More concerning is the reality that fewer clubs are presenting lectures.</p>	

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	<p>Taken from statistics captured since 2009, the SARL retains around 36% of all RAE candidates who successfully pass the RAE as members.</p> <p>The fact that we retain so few new members passing the RAE is cause for major concern.</p> <p>To make the picture look even worse, is the reality that many candidates who successfully passed the RAE, lose interest over time and do not renew their licences. The root cause is mainly that there is very little support after becoming licenced.</p> <p>I would like to refrain from generalising but there is another trend observed contributing to the current scenario. In many instances practical training for the HF Assessment appears to be a last-minute activity and performed as a group activity not allowing for individual assessments to be performed. Individual confidence is lost and the opportunity to assist candidates to become seasoned operators are lost.</p> <p>On the bright side, the above noted tendency is not standard practice within our well-known clubs who continue to support newcomers, building their on-air confidence in various ways to ensure that they become seasoned operators.</p> <p>As mentioned in the 2023 annual report, I would like to appeal to our clubs to continue to invest the necessary resources to ensure that we promote amateur radio, not only through the provision of lectures and examination centres, but also through continual support to newcomers to the hobby. Worldwide it is a proven fact in that it is vital to a club's survival and growth to continually recruit newcomers, young and old, to ensure the sustainability of the club as well as the SARL.</p> <p>The objective is to allow RAE candidates of all ages to become active, knowledgeable and responsible members of the amateur radio community now and into the future.</p>	
7.10	<p><b>SARL Centenary 2025</b></p> <p>The South African Radio Relay League (SARRL) was formed in May 1925 through the efforts of several regional and local radio societies and clubs, some of which were established around the time of the First World War. Later, the name was changed to become the South African Radio Relay League (SARL) as we know it today.</p> <p>From May 2025 onwards, less than a year from now, we will celebrate the League's Centenary.</p> <p>It is therefore quite logical that we will celebrate the 100-year anniversary in an appropriate manner.</p> <p>In 2021, the SARL 100-project was launched under the leadership of Anette Jacobs, ZR6D.</p> <p>A significant effort is underway to capture and document the rich history of the SARL through a memorial book and digital archives. These resources will serve as a valuable reference for</p>	

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	<p>current and future generations, detailing the achievements and challenges faced by the league over the past century.</p> <p>A 100-year Commemorative Handbook is in the making to be published in May next year. The research and processing of all historical information into a book is an enormous task and, in all fairness, does not end as the League's history will need to be kept alive and recorded as we journey into the future.</p> <p>Should you be in possession of any information to contribute to the wealth of history of the SARL and amateur radio, please do not hesitate to contact Anette via the SARL office.</p> <p>Thinking in terms of a 100 years the following quote is quite appropriate, <i>"If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people"</i> - Confucius</p> <p>A warm thank you to Anette, ZR6D supported by Brian, ZS6YZ who took on this enormous task to ensure that the history of the League will be preserved for future generations.</p> <p>An exciting aspect of the celebrations is the yearlong contest, being organized by the Contest Work Group. This contest aims to engage amateur radio operators in South Africa and globally, encouraging active participation and fostering a competitive yet collaborative spirit within the amateur radio community. Details about the contest's structure, rules and awards are currently being finalized, with the intention of making it a highlight of the centennial celebrations.</p> <p>As the SARL Centenary 2025 approaches, the anticipation and excitement within the amateur radio community continue to build. These celebrations and initiatives in the planning at present not only honour the past achievements of the SARL but also aim to strengthen and expand the amateur radio community in South Africa, ensuring its vibrancy and relevance for years to come.</p> <p>It is also important to note that On Saturday, the IARU was formed on 18 April 1925 in Paris and will celebrate its centenary in 2025.</p>	
7.11	<p><b>Technical Workshops and Public Events</b></p> <p>Amateur radio is a diverse hobby and a service to the community. Radio amateurs worldwide have access to a substantial portion of spectrum strategically allocated to the amateur radio service. This in turn allows for and encourages a myriad of activities such as technical investigations, Digital and RF experimentation and the various modes of radio communication in use today.</p> <p>The SARL, in collaboration with AMSAT SA, continues the important work to present a variety of topics during online workshops to encourage self-learning, experimentation and innovation. It is important to note that, to find local presenters to contribute to a successful event by presenting excellent topics, is</p>	

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	<p>most challenging. Despite this, we will continue with workshops, so please be on the lookout for announcements with dates and content details. Your suggestions, participation and attendance will be much appreciated.</p> <p><b>Science Forum South Africa 2023</b></p> <p>A recent highlight that needs to be mentioned was the combined SARL / AMSAT SA participation and display at the Science Forum South Africa 2023 held during December received recognition with being awarded a special mention award for the best display and audience interaction.</p> <p>The award was presented at the closing ceremony of the forum on Friday afternoon. Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV and Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ, who were responsible for developing and executing the display, received the framed certificate from the Dr Phil Mjwara, Director-General of the department of Science and Technology and Innovation. The forum at the CSIR convention centre was attended by over 4 000 delegates.</p> <p>Brian, ZS6YZ manned the stand full time assisted at various times by Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV; Cameron Eales, ZS6CYE; Koos Fick, ZR6KF and Ruben van Rensburg, ZR6RJV.</p> <p>The event was a worthwhile experience and a great opportunity to show that Amateur Radio is just not another hobby but a true technology pastime.</p> <p><b>AMSAT South Africa Space Symposium</b></p> <p>Another event that deserves to be mentioned involving many of our members is the AMSAT South Africa Space Symposium that was held on Saturday, 23 September 2023. Annually this event attracts local and international interest. The aim of the AMSAT SA Space symposium is to take amateur radio into space, encourage more amateur satellite operation, development and research.</p> <p><b>The 2023 BACAR 11 Launch</b></p> <p>Last but not the least is to mention the successful BACAR launch held on 14 October 2023 in Secunda.</p> <p>This event annually attracts many of our members to participate including HAMNET, students from universities including the youngsters from the Jeugland Radio Amateur Club.</p> <p>This activity covers many aspects of amateur radio, is exciting to fly experiments and communication equipment as close to space as possible and a golden opportunity for the HAMNET guys to track and recover the balloon with payloads. An excellent overview of this event was published in the December 2023 edition of Radio ZS.</p>	

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	<p>The team in Secunda Radio Club is a group of seasoned experts and the team gave us their commitment to do so again as stated by Christo ZR6LJK during last year’s launch.</p> <p><b>Future Expansion and Planning</b></p> <p>Looking forward, the SARL plans to expand its workshop and presentation offerings by incorporating more virtual sessions, which have become increasingly popular and necessary due to their convenience and the broader reach they offer. This expansion will likely include more collaboration with international experts and amateur radio organizations to bring diverse perspectives and expertise to SARL members.</p>	
7.12	<p><b>New Generation Beacon Project</b></p> <p>It is important to mention the work being done on this project. It is a challenge of note with very little support for the team at present.</p> <p>A full presentation including discussions during the IARU conference with delegates from various member societies generated important international interest, especially the scientific aspect of opening the possibility for V/UHF inland propagation research something that was not accomplished to date with no data available past or present is significant. Crowded funding is currently at an all-time low since the inception of the project.</p> <p>Work continues and the Karoo beacon project remains the main objective of the V/UHF Working Group. We invite individuals with a strong technical background willing to get involved with this project to contact the SARL office or Brian ZS6YZ, directly.</p> <p>Please read the excellent comprehensive commentary on this project in the SARL Annual Report with all facts and details since the Working Group started in 2019. The report includes all the information pertaining to science and propagation research envisaged.</p>	
7.13	<p><b>Youth Development and the Regional YOTA Summer Camp in Hungary</b></p> <p>What is the League without a younger generation including youth activities if we wish for a future in keeping the Radio Amateur Service alive to succeed for another 100 years?</p> <p>Looking at the statistics from the RAE report, the Class B RAE candidates is quite low in comparison with the Class A candidates registering to write the examination. Only 10 youngsters for 2023 and it is noticeable that youth activities at club level hardly features.</p> <p>Guy Eales, ZS6GUY overseeing the youth and novice portfolio mentions in his report and I quote “Youth development within the SARL has still not reached pre-covid levels and this is a huge concern to the League’s future”.</p>	

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	<p>The IARU region 1 Youngsters on the Air is an activity for the younger generation during the month of December when several youngsters from member countries becomes active on the air with YOTA as suffix in the callsigns is most popular worldwide. This event is aimed at young people and is a golden opportunity for clubs to get youngsters who are interested in or want to find out more about Amateur Radio.</p> <p>The SARL annually makes available the ZS9YOTA educational callsign for use by the youth and clubs. Unfortunately, very little interest is received including participation from individuals and clubs.</p> <p>Active on the air was the ZR6JRC the Jeugland high school radio club with some youngsters who made use of the station at the National Amateur Radio Centre (NARC) during December.</p> <p>On an international level the well-known annual IARU Region 1 Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) event be held in the town of Gyor in Hungary during the week of the 5th – 12th August 2023 and the SARL was represented by Janre Buys, ZS6SI and Johann Nefdt, ZS6JPN. I am sure you read about their fascinating experience in the September 2023 edition of Radio ZS.</p> <p>We are aware of a limited number of active youngsters on the air. However, there is room for improvement and as in the past, I challenged our Clubs, to embark on and support activities to regain the interest of our youth once more. Please invite youngsters and newbies to operate the club station under supervision using the club callsign to learn all about amateur radio and gain operating experience. It is imperative to include the younger generation to lay a foundation for them to be part of our fascinating hobby now and well into the future.</p>	
7.14	<p><b>Licensing - ICASA Online System</b></p> <p>Since ICASA introduced their online customer portal for industry during 2020, the system in certain cases has not been fully optimised, is under continual improvement. Despite these improvements, individuals experience the portal to be not user friendly, while others find it working for them.</p> <p>Since the SARL have been approached by numerous members after the launch of the new portal, members called for assistance with their licences to be administer on their behalf and to date a total of 850 licences are managed by the League.</p> <p>Receiving e-mails and telephone calls daily from members and non-members requesting assistance from the League are attended to by Kelley, our office administrator and Noel, ZR6DX. It is important to note that many non-members end up in joining the League and it is in these instances that individuals recognise the importance of the services being provided to its members.</p>	

Item	Discussion	For Action
	<p>With many challenges such as licence fees being paid into the SARL account, proof of payment made out to ICASA with no references to name but a few, our members are for this service and I commend and thank Kelley and Noel for being instrumental in the success achieved to date in providing this service.</p>	
7.15	<p><b>Contest Working Group</b></p> <p>The Contest Working Group of the SARL has been actively involved in enhancing and promoting the competitive spirit within the amateur radio community through various contests throughout 2023 and into 2024. Under the experienced leadership of Johann Bezuidenhout, ZS6JBZ with team members Gerhard Coetzee, ZS3TG; Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT; Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WN and Karel Bezuidenhout (Junior), ZR6K.</p> <p>The group has successfully executed and managed a comprehensive schedule of contests, contributing significantly to the vibrant contesting environment in South Africa.</p> <p>The results of these contests were diligently published in SARL News and HF Happenings, providing participants with timely feedback on their performance and encouraging a healthy competitive environment.</p> <p>One of the challenges faced in 2023 was the noticeable drop in participation in the VHF/UHF contests during the second half of the year. Recognizing this, the Contest Working Group has initiated discussions on strategies to revive interest in V/UHF activity and participation in these contests for 2025. These discussions are crucial for addressing the specific needs and preferences of the VHF/UHF enthusiast community, ensuring that contests continue to cater to a broad spectrum of amateur radio operators.</p> <p>It is most pleasant to work with this group of individuals and I would like to thank you all sincerely for your continued support and dedication in providing and executing this important work.</p> <p>Looking ahead to 2025, the Contest Working Group is focused on not only maintaining the momentum gained in recent years but also expanding the reach and impact of contests within the amateur radio community. With the SARL Centenary celebrations on the horizon, there is an added impetus to showcase the dynamism and technological sophistication of amateur radio through well-organized, inclusive and competitive events.</p>	
7.16	<p><b>Regulatory Matters</b></p> <p>In the domain of regulatory matters, the South African Radio League (SARL) plays a pivotal role in advocating for the rights and interests of amateur radio operators in South Africa. This involves continuous interaction with the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), the governmental body responsible for regulating telecommunications and broadcasting, including amateur radio frequencies and licensing.</p>	

Item	Discussion	For Action
	<p>Communication and interaction with ICASA remain problematic due to major changes in the Regulators council and officials. The new appointed CEO has agreed to resume the liaison meetings as held in the pass. The meeting is scheduled for the last week in May.</p> <p>ICASA has recently published two important Government gazettes that requires the SARL attention and scrutiny. These two documents are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Draft Radio Frequency Migration Plan consisting of 340 pages</li> <li>➤ Draft international Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) Roadmap consisting of 232 pages.</li> </ul> <p>The League prepares and submits detailed responses to policy proposals by ICASA that could impact amateur radio. These submissions are informed by thorough research and consultation with the amateur radio community to ensure that they accurately reflect the needs and views of SARL members.</p> <p>The Draft Radio Frequency Migration Plan is the most important document which requires comment by 31 May 2024.</p> <p>There are many aspects that normally do not attract much attention and the amateur fraternity is unaware of the SARL interacts with ICASA on the following topics which I would like to bring to your attention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Spectrum Management: The SARL has been actively involved in discussions with ICASA to ensure that amateur radio operators maintain access to critical radio spectrum. This includes efforts to protect existing amateur bands from potential encroachment by commercial interests and to advocate for access to additional spectrum as technology and needs evolve.</li> <li>➤ Licensing Framework: The SARL has worked closely with ICASA to streamline and improve the licensing process for amateur radio operators. This collaboration aims to simplify the application and renewal procedures, making it easier for newcomers to join the amateur radio community and for existing operators to maintain their licenses.</li> <li>➤ Regulatory Compliance: Ensuring that members comply with national and international regulations governing radio communication is a continual focus. The SARL provides education and resources to its members to help them understand and adhere to these rules, thereby promoting responsible and effective use of the radio spectrum.</li> <li>➤ Policy Submissions: The SARL prepares and submits detailed responses to policy proposals by ICASA that could impact amateur radio. These submissions are informed by thorough research and consultation with the amateur radio community to ensure that they accurately reflect the needs</li> </ul>	

Item	Discussion	For Action
	<p>and views of SARL members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Enhanced Advocacy for Spectrum Preservation: As competition for spectrum usage intensifies with the proliferation of new technologies, the SARL recognizes the need to intensify its advocacy efforts to preserve the frequencies allocated to amateur radio.</li> <li>➤ Education and Awareness: The SARL endeavours to increase awareness among policymakers and the public about the value of amateur radio, particularly in areas such as emergency communication, education and technological innovation and is seen as vital for securing ongoing support and understanding.</li> </ul> <p>The SARL's proactive stance on regulatory matters ensures that the interests of amateur radio operators are well-represented and protected, allowing the community to thrive and contribute effectively to South Africa's communications landscape.</p> <p>Additional information pertaining to WRC23, WRC27, SABS TC 73, TC74 and the IARU EMC committee are covered in the SARL annual report.</p>	
	<p><b>SARL Web Development</b></p> <p>The South African Radio League has continued to focus on enhancing its web presence to improve access to information, member services and community engagement through its current and new development websites. These platforms serve as vital resources for both current and prospective amateur radio operators, providing up-to-date news, resources and interactive features.</p> <p>A dedicated team lead by Dave, ZS2DH and partners Jaco-Louis, ZS6JLK; Devin, ZS6DEV and Cor, ZS6COR is working behind the scenes on the new website. The details of the work being done is outlined in the SARL Annual Report.</p> <p>The SARL's commitment to web development is part of its broader strategy to modernize its operations and provide valuable resources to its members. These enhancements not only improve the functionality and accessibility of the SARL's online presence but also help to foster a more connected and informed amateur radio community in South Africa.</p>	
	<p><b>In closing....</b></p> <p>I have touched on various topics in this report. The detailed information on these topics is available in the SARL Annual Report. Please read more about these topics, achievements and work done by the League, working groups and appointees, as compiled by our Secretary, Dennis Green, ZS4BS.</p> <p>May I use this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for another successful year. Your admirable commitment and</p>	

Item	Discussion	For Action
	<p>dedication over the past year has been pivotal in managing the League and I sincerely appreciated it.</p> <p>You as League members may ask the question “but how can I as an individual make a difference?” The answer is quite simple. When you become active in your environment, you become part of a very noble cause that demonstrates in many ways our commitment to the amateur radio service – from inspiring young and new, people to learn about amateur radio and its associated technologies, to knowledge-sharing and assistance for fellow amateurs in various ways. Each of us have a place and a role to play to ensure that amateur radio continues to grow and evolve to be sustainable well into the future.</p> <p>In conclusion, the South African Radio League (SARL) has experienced a year filled with significant achievements and valuable lessons. Throughout 2023 and into 2024, we have witnessed our community come together to overcome challenges, celebrate successes and work tirelessly towards a future that promises even greater accomplishments. As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the resilience, dedication and passion that define our members.</p> <p>Looking ahead, for the remaining of 2024 and into 2025, we are poised to build on this foundation with renewed vigour and focus. Our plans for the centenary celebrations are set to not only commemorate our rich history but also to inspire and engage our members and the broader community. We will continue to advocate for the interests of amateur radio operators, ensuring that our voices are heard in the local and international regulatory arenas that shape our hobby and service.</p> <p>As we close this report, I extend my heartfelt thanks to every SARL member, all our volunteers and our office administrator, your contributions and work have been indispensable. Your efforts are the backbone of the SARL and it is your enthusiasm and commitment that fuel our progress. Together, we look forward to a year of new opportunities, challenges and achievements, united by our shared passion for amateur radio.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Let us carry forward the spirit of innovation and community as we tune into the future, ready to make the next year another remarkable chapter in the history of the South African Radio League.</p> <p>Acknowledgments - Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre – CTARC It is difficult to know how to tell you and all the CTARC club members what a wonderful job you all did in organising this event.</p> <p>Last but not the least - We express our appreciation for hosting the AGM, the huge amount of effort and hard work done in such a short period of time.</p> <p>I sincerely thank you!</p>	

Item	Discussion	For Action
<b>8.</b>	<b>FINANCES</b>	
8.1	Corrie de Beer, ZS6CDB presented the Financial Report.	
8.2	<p>I am happy to report that Council has again succeeded in improving the financial position of the SARL. The Cash and Cash Equivalents have risen from R2,731,267 to R2,935,857 a net change of R204 590 (7.5%) for the financial year ending 30 June 2023.</p> <p>The League's income decreased year on year by R1,407 mainly due to a reduced income form RAE registrations post COVID. The reduction is very small and thus the year on year can basically be seen as unchanged as it's only a 0.15% reduction.</p> <p>The SARL, excluding HAMNET showed an operating surplus of R32 419 against the budget deficit of a R10,400. Thus, equating to a net gain of R42 819 for the year. The difference between the AFS surplus of R26,295 is directly attributed to expenditure of HAMNET. Because HAMNET is a division of the SARL, the league is legally required to report movements in the AFS. Any increase or decrease in the HAMNET finances does not affect SARL members related finances in any way.</p> <p>The Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 30 June 2023 and a summary of Income and Expenditure vs Budget for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 and the proposed budget for 2024 / 2025 is available in the 2024 AGM Booklet that was made available to all members.</p> <p>For information purposes, a similar summary of Income and Expenditure vs Budget for the year ending 30 June 2023 is also attached as well as a breakdown of the Award Accounts and Reserves as per the Annual Financial Statement.</p>	
	<b>2024 / 2025 BUDGET</b>	
8.3	As per AGM booklet council proposes to increase membership subscriptions by an average of 7% except for club affiliation and SADC Members. This will be the first real increase from 2018 / 2019.	
<b>Note.</b>	<b>List of reserves – reserve funds dedicated to certain projects.</b>	
<b>8.4</b>	<b>The Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 30 June 2023</b>	
8.4.1	Voting on the Annual Financial Statements closed on Friday evening 19 April 2024. One hundred and eighty-one (181) members out of 1 619 voted, this is 11,19%. Votes in favour: 178, votes against: 1 and votes abstaining: 2. The 2023 Annual Financial Statements are thus accepted.	
<b>8.5</b>	<b>Motion 2024-02. Receive the proposed budget for year ending 30 June 2025.</b>	
8.5.1	The budget was accepted - Agree: 316. Disagree: 0. Abstain: 0	
<b>8.6</b>	<b>Motion 2024-03, Receive and ratify the proposed subscriptions for year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025</b>	
8.6.1	The proposed subscription was accepted - Agree: 316. Disagree: 0. Abstain: 0.	

Item	Discussion	For Action
<b>8.7</b>	<b>Motion 2024-04. Appointment of Beans Accounting Services as Reviewers.</b>	
8.7.1	The proposal was approved - Agree: 316. Disagree: 0. Abstain: 0.	
<b>8.8</b>	<b>SARL Services to Members and Non-Members</b>	
8.8.1	The proposal was approved - Agree: 316. Disagree: 0. Abstain: 0.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>MOTIONS</b>	
9.1	<b>Motion 2024-06. Limit of Councillor Terms.</b> The motion was not accepted – Agree: 0. Disagree: 312 Abstain: 4	
9.2	<b>Motion 2024-07. Limit of Presidency Terms.</b> The motion was not accepted - Agree: 0. Disagree: 315. Abstain: 1.	
9.3	<b>Motion 2024-08. Clearing instances mentioning Postal Ballots.</b> The motion was approved - Agree: 316. Disagree: 0. Abstain: 0.	
9.4	<b>Motion 2024-09. Changes to Rule 11.3.</b> The motion was approved - Agree: 316. Disagree: 0. Abstain: 0	
9.5	<b>Motion 2024-10. Council Nomination Criteria.</b> The motion was approved - Agree: 315. Disagree: 1 Abstain: 0	
<b>10.</b>	<b>ELECTION OF COUNCIL</b>	
10.1	<p>The following Councillors are in the middle of their two-year term of office which ends at the 2024 SARL AGM – Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL; Corrie de Beer, ZS6CDB; Karel Bezuidenhout, ZS6WN; Guy Eales, ZS6GUY; Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT.</p> <p>The following Councillors are at the end of their two-year term of office which ends at the 2024 SARL AGM - Dave Higgs, ZS2DH; Karel Bezuidenhout, ZR6K; Chris Turner, ZS6GM; Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT and Dennis Green, ZS4BS.</p>	
10.2	<p>By 31 January 2024, nominations, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, were received for Dave Higgs, ZS2DH; Karel Bezuidenhout, ZR6K; Chris Turner, ZS6GM; Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT and Dennis Green, ZS4BS.</p> <p>There are five vacancies and five nominations and in terms of Rule 16.5, such nominees shall be declared by the chairman of the relevant AGM to be duly elected.</p> <p>Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL declared the five nominees duly elected.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>OTHER MATTERS</b>	
11.1	<u>SARL News Website.</u> ZS2DH gave a presentation of the work being done on the new SARL website.	
11.2	<u>Beacon Project.</u> ZS6YZ gave a short presentation about the status of the Project.	
11.3	<u>ICASA Licensing.</u> ZS6QL gave a short presentation about the ICASA licensing system.	
11.4	<u>SARL 100 Project.</u> ZS6YZ will give a short presentation about the SARL 100 Project at the Awards Dinner.	
<b>12.</b>	<b>THE 2025 SARL AGM</b>	

Item	Discussion	For Action
12.1	Council will be presenting the 2025 SARL National Convention. Online AGM for 2025. And in May 2025 a Centenary Gala Event in Johannesburg.	
<b>13.</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	
13.1	The meeting closed at 14:40	