

West Rand Amateur Radio Club - ZS6WR

59th AGM - Minutes 11th July 2015



Members present:

ZS6JVV, ZS6NCK, ZS6CJB, ZR6AOC, ZS6RED, ZR6AEZ, ZR6GRT, ZS6X, ZS6CCD, ZS6AGF, ZS6DVV, ZS6ARQ, ZS6BM, ZS6IA, ZS6GW, ZS6C, ZR6AEZ, ZS6GW, ZS6ACC, ZS6ACE, ZS6BOX, ZS6NTO, ZS5RJ, ZS6RBJ

Committee members present:

Nick ZS6NCK, Johan ZS6JVV, Geoff ZS6C, Dave ZR6AOC, Willem ZS6X, Marinus ZS6BM, Nic ZR6AEZ

Proxies:

Proxy was received from Noel ZR6DX and entered for the meeting.

Apologies:

Roger ZS6RJ, Phillip ZS6PVT

Chairman:

Nick ZS6NCK

Secretary:

Dave ZR6AOC

Welcome by Chairman

Nick ZS6NCK welcomed everyone to the 59th WRARC AGM

A quorum was constituted. Members 24 plus one proxy. Total paid up members 54. This represents a 46.29% present. Require 25%.

Chairman's report 2015

Here we are again standing at the end of another year. A year that saw us face some challenges but also some exciting developments.

1. The theme for the year has been "embracing new technologies". John ZS6WL has really embraced the theme by running workshops on the Raspberry Pi. The feedback from those who have attended has been that it is a lot of fun and a lot of learning is taking place. John has indicated that he will be continuing with these workshops. If there are people who would like to join it is never too late.
2. One of the outstanding events from last year was the finalisation of the Constitution. Even though at times it caused a lot of bitterness and fights the Constitution was finalised and accepted by the majority of club members. Here credit must go to Noel Hammond ZR6DX who put in a lot of effort in drawing up the constitution.

3. The club's membership stands at 94 members of which 53 have renewed for 2016. Compared to last year this time the membership was 70 of whom 35 were paid up. There has been a steady growth in membership mainly due to the RAE.
4. While we are on the RAE. In the past year 27 RAE students have successfully completed the examination. During the last examination in May 14 students wrote the exam and all fourteen passed. For this semester running from June to October there are six students. A big thank you must go to Dave Cloete ZR6AOC, Noel Honey ZS6NTO, John Brock ZS6WL, and Phillip van Tonder ZS6PVT. They did a sterling job giving up their time to be here every Tuesday evening. Without them there will be no RAE.
5. On the contest front successes were mixed. The Club managed to win the QRP contest and received the ARRL Handbook for 2015 as prize. Kicking off the new year we came second in the first round in January. We were well beaten by Rudi Venter ZS6DX. He used an ultra-light station, walking a kilometre and by doing so had a high multiplier which pushed his points up even though he had less contacts than us. We did however make up some lost ground during the autumn leg of the contest which we won. Next weekend we are going to put up another QRP station for the winter leg of the competition, and hope to make up the points needed to gain the first position again. We really do need your support by making contact and giving us some points.
6. Regarding the HF Field day contest we came third overall during last year's contest we hope to turn the tables this year. We are again lying second after the February contest so are going to put in a massive effort on the 12 – 13th September. Phillip ZS6PVT is starting the planning for this event. I will be responsible for the total 40 meter station. We seem to run into the same challenges every year such as band pass filters and computer interfaces, and therefore will focus on eliminating these. We again need your support by giving us some points.
7. The club again received a request from the Wilro Cycle race organisers for assistance in setting up a radio communication network for their race planned for the 6th of September. Last year this race was postponed. We will again support them.
8. With all the club activities it was found that we needed public liability insurance. With the help of Kevin ZS6KVN club obtained this insurance.
9. With all the donations to the club over the years the space in the clubhouse had become too small. This became a problem with the RAE and club meetings due to lack of space. It was decided to somehow increase the space. A decision was made to purchase a 6 meter container. This was done for two reasons.
 - a. To provide storage space.
 - b. If we one day have to relocate, we would have the container to use as temporary storage space.

Graham McNally ZS6GPM manufactured a steel ramp for the lawn mower. This has been installed inside the container to make it easier to get the big lawn mower in and out of the container.

10. Going with the container is the great job Cliff Smyth ZS6BOX has done by drawing up an asset register for the club. All assets are now placed on record. A soft copy as well as a hardcopy is kept on record. Thanks Cliff and the POP's that helped Cliff.
11. You would also have noticed that a start has been made for recycling the glass bottles and tins. A dustbin has been purchased for the paper, plastics and other rubbish. We will be getting rid of the blue bins.
12. The Club was involved in the CQ hou koers with the Voortrekkers and the JOTA (Jamboree on the air with the Scouts. For those who do not know this is a worldwide event where Scouts and Voortrekkers get an opportunity to talk on radio. Here Dave ZR6AOC, Hugh Wason ZS6WAS now ZS5WAS, Stuart Wason ZS6MVK now ZS5MVK, Johan van Vuuren ZS6JVV and Dirk van Vuuren ZS6DVV did a sterling job putting up HF stations for the young ones. Dave ZR6AOC with some scouts made the front cover of the November/December issue of Radio ZS.
13. One of the biggest improvements made to the club was something I thought was a pipe dream. There are not many clubs in South Africa that can boast about having one. This is mainly thanks to Nic van Duffelen ZR6AEZ who made it a reality for the club by organising and setting up Internet connectivity in the clubhouse free of charge. The Internet is used by club members doing research and Joop Hesp ZS6JP to identify stations to contact using CW. He also uses the internet to log his contacts that he makes from here.
14. Then there were all the Flea markets that were held at the Club. These were all very well attended.
15. The Pop's with Keith Liddle ZS6AGF as organiser is still going strong.
16. Keith is also involved in organising our involvement in Scopex. After last year's event Tony Voorvelt ZS6CCD offered his services to show the young ones the connection between astronomy and radio. On the 25th of July the Club will again be at Scopex with Tony and some Wits students doing some experiments with radio astronomy. This promises to be a great event for us. So please visit the exhibition at the Military Museum at Zoo Lake. It opens at 09:00 until 21:00 CAT.
17. At the SARL convention which was held in Bloemfontein the club received the SARL Participation award. This is awarded by the Contest Committee to the Club who achieves the highest participation in both annual HF CW and Phone Contests. On the individual front Noel Hammond ZR6DX received the Jack Twine award for exceptional service to Amateur Radio in general. Jack Twine ZS1A was the fifth president of the SARL from 1950 to 1953. He was serving as Vice President when he died in November 1954 at a relatively young

age. In 1957, the SARL's merit award was renamed the Jack Twine Merit Award in his honour. Willem Weideman ZS6X received the coveted Willy Wilson Gold badge award. Where did this award originate from? When awards were brought into being within the SARL, the highest was Honorary Life member followed by the Gold Badge and then the Jack Twine Merit Award. Harold Wilson ZS1BF served a record term of 12 consecutive years as President. To avoid confusion, Harold was called Willy as there were four Harold's around at the time. When told by Colin Duff ZS1CA that Willy was going to retire at the next AGM and what do we give a man who has already received every award of the SARL, Dennis ZS1AU out of sheer intuition, suggested that the Gold Badge be renamed the Willy Wilson Gold Badge. Willy Wilson set the ultimate example of dedication, honesty, loyalty and devotion in our hobby and already held every award within the SARL. At the 1971 SARL AGM held in Cape Town, Willy retired from Council as President and was awarded the Willy Wilson Gold Badge. Roger Jones ZS6RJ had an excellent year. Roger received the following awards;

- a. ZS4BS Digital awarded to the amateur who achieves the highest score on any one band, during the annual HF Digital Contest.
- b. Silent Key memorial trophy awarded to the amateur who achieves the highest score during the annual HF CW Contest.
- c. Anon trophy for highest score on any one band during the annual HF CW Contest.
- d. SARL Digital trophy awarded to the amateur who achieves the highest score during the annual HF Digital Contest.
- e. Hos Trough Trophy awarded to the amateur who achieves the highest aggregate score in both annual HF Contests (CW and Phone).

Congratulations to Roger. Well done. Roger was also involved in two DXpeditions. One was to Botswana where the team did exceptionally well and one to Malawi.

I hope I have covered everything of the past year. As outgoing chairperson I would like to thank the committee for their support and to the club members who were always willing to help. You can see how an active club this is. This is a great club to belong to and I am proud to be associated with the West Rand Amateur Radio Club.

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing the new committee, to be elected, the best for 2016. Thank you very much.

Nick Dreyer
ZS6NCK

1. Minutes from previous meeting

Read by the Vice Chairperson Johan ZS6JVV
Accepted by Roy ZS6RED
Seconded by Dave ZS6ACC

2. FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR JULY 2014 THROUGH JUNE 2015

Read by Dave ZR6AOC

Balances from previous year:

Bank	R34 790.52	30 June 2014
Cash	R2 500.00	30 June 2014
Total Funds	R37 290.52	30 June 2014

Balances from January 2015:

Bank	R42 022.21	20 January 2015
Cash - Till	R1 635.00	15 January 2015
Cash - Safe	R5 300.00	15 January 2015
Total Funds	R49 187.21	20 January 2015

Balances 30 June 2015:

Bank	R16 954.12	30 June 2015
Cash - Till	R2 030.00	11 July 2015
Cash - Safe	R400.00	30 June 2015
Total Funds	R18 984.12	11 July 2015

Major Purchases during 2015:

(Excluding fridge stock consumables)

Raspberry Pi	R7 244.92 16 -	21 January 2015. Recovered from attendees.
Brush Cutter	R6 663.00	11 February
New Laptop	R3 999.00	10 April 2015
Container	R23 370.00	17 April 2015

3. Club awards

- 625 Repeater award
 - – Nic van Duffelen ZR6AEZ
- Ham of the year
 - – Dave Cloete ZR6AOC
- Chairman's award
 - Nic van Duffelen ZR6AEZ
- RAE Mentorship award
 - Dave Cloete ZR6AOC ◦ John Brock ZS6WL ◦ Phillip van Tonder ZS6PVT ◦ Noel Honey ZS6NTO
- Club Radio Operators award
 - Roger Jones ZS6RJ
- Club Fellowship award
 - Dave Cloete ZR6AOC ◦ Keith Liddle ZS6AGF ◦ Cliff Smyth ZS6BOX
- News Reader Award
 - Johan van Vuuren ZS6JVV ◦ Romeo Nardini ZS6ARQ
- Honorary Life Membership
 - Dave Cloete ZR6AOC

4. Election of committee

Committee stepped down and Willem ZS6X was called on to assist with election of new chairman. Johan van Vuuren ZS6JVV

Committee members:

- Chairman – Johan van Vuuren ZS6DVV proposed ZS6NCK 2nd ZS6C
- Vice Chairman – Nic van Duffelen ZR6AEZ proposed ZS6JVV 2nd ZS6X
- Secretary – Phillip van Tonder ZS6PVT proposed ZS6JVV 2nd ZS6NCK
- Treasurer – Gert du Plessis ZR6GRT proposed ZS6C 2nd ZR6AEZ
- Member - Dave Loyd ZS6ACC proposed ZS6JVV 2nd ZS6AGF
- Member – Johan ZS6ACE proposed ZS6DVV 2nd ZR6AOC
- Member - Ivan Balabanov ZS6IA proposed ZS6JVV 2nd ZS6ZS6RED
- Member - Geoff Levey ZS6C proposed ZS6BM 2nd ZR6GRT
- Member - Dirk van Vuuren ZS6DVV proposed ZS6AGF 2nd ZS6CCD
- Co-opted member for Pops Keith Liddle ZS6AGF
- Co-opted member for PRO Willem Weideman ZS6X

All the above nominations were unopposed and accepted by each nominated member.

5. Address by New Chairman

Johan ZS6JVV thanked all for the trust vested in him and the new committee. Johan said that the club can only function if members are prepared to put in an effort to support the committee. Date for next committee meeting 16th July 2015.

AGM adjourned by Chairperson Johan ZS6JVV

**Minutes drawn up by Nick Dreyer
ZS6NCK Stand-in Secretary.**