



Official Newsletter of the West Rand Amateur Radio Club

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## PTT

- Clubs VHF Repeater 145.625
- UHF Repeater 439.000
- Echolink active on VHF
- DMR Repeater ACTIVE!!!

## CLUB BULLETINS

*Please Join us every Sunday from 11h15  
CAT on the West Rand 145.625 Repeater  
for our club bulletins.*

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*Relays on HF 7140 in the 40m band !  
Echolink Available!*

## VISIT THE CLUB !!!!!

**OPEN** every Monday from 19h30

Wednesdays from 10h30 for POPS

Second Monday of every month is clubs  
General Meeting from 19h30

## ANODE - ISSUE 5 / VOLUME 17 / SEP/OCT 2017

Club Calendar	September 2017
	Club Open Day from 12h00 onwards FT8 Digital Mode talk, Be in line for the lucky draw make contact with the club field station.
9 September	Bring and Braai. Collect your membership badges
9 - 10 September	SARL Field day contest
10 September	No bulletin due to field day.
11 September	Club General meeting
16 September	SCOPEX - To be announced
6, 13, 21, 27 September	Pops (Poor Old Pensioners) social event with Keith ZS6AGF. 10h00 - 15h00
7, 14, 21 September	Hamnet training on air. 20h00 - 21h00 with Chad ZS6OPS report in with your GW tactical call.
28 September	Hamnet West Rand Meeting - ZS6WR Club 19h00 - 21h00
5, 12, 19, 26 September	Novice Net Presented by Kyle ZS6WTF
30 September	Hamp Comp - Stand in till John WL return. - TBA
	<b>October 2017</b>
	Project Build day at the Club with ZR6AEZ and ZS6YPJ.
14 October	Order your kits to build.
21 October	RAE Exam at NARC
21 October	Scouts - Jota, Voortrekkers - CQ hou koers(TBA)
28 October	Antenna Build Day and RAE Braai.
5 November	Wilro 100 Cycle Race
25 November	WARC Mega - Boot Sale

### **Editors Note:**

Another edition for your perusal. This month I have only received one article from a club member for publication. Please send any articles, pictures, information which you may have and would find of interest for publication. Our Anode will only be as good as the information received for publication. Most anything can be Googled these days and I would like to see the Anode filled with articles by our own members.

This edition also contain a link to the flickr page of Theo ZS6TVB who was kind enough to make photos he took of our September flea market available to us. There are over 140 pictures. Please follow the link on the West Rand Flea Market article below to view all the pictures taken. Thanks Theo for some really good shots captured on the day.

Hope we all enjoy the warmer weather now that spring is here.

Rory

ZS6RBJ

### **Chairman's Note:**

Greetings to one and all. We had an successful AGM on the 15<sup>th</sup> July and congratulations to all the prize winners.

Honorary Life Membership – Phillip van Tonder  
ZS6PVT

Radio Amateur of the year – Gert du Plessis  
ZR6GRT

Chairman's award – Chad Mileham ZS6OPS

625 Award – Kyle Mileham ZS6WTF

Anode award – John Stiekema ZS6YPJ

Nic van Duffelen ZR6AEZ

Contest Supporters award – Arno Janse van  
Rensburg ZS6APN

RAE Award – Riaan Heenop ZR6GRM

Werner Venter ZS6WCX

September is going to be a busy month for the Club. The SARL HF Field Day contest will be taking place over the 9/10 September. We will be having a low key event at the Baptist Church grounds. The Club will be open as well for the weekend, but you will be receiving a more detailed notice in connection with this.

Scopex is taking place on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. This event is held at the war museum and the Club has always had a stand there. Please come and support the club

73

Geoff Levey ZS6C

Chairman

### **WE NEED YOUR INPUT !!!!**

Please send any articles, pictures, information, anything you would like to see in the Anode to :

[rorycrouch@mweb.co.za](mailto:rorycrouch@mweb.co.za)

All input and suggestions welcome!!!!

Visit the clubs Website

[www.zs6wr.co.za](http://www.zs6wr.co.za)



# HAMNET Emergency Communications

*A division of the South African Radio League*

**Gauteng South**

**West Rand Unit**

## July 2017 to August 2017 Roundup

Greetings and salutations to the West Rand and all the readers of this edition of the  
HAMNET Gauteng South - West Rand Unit Roundup.

### Information Sharing and Social Media

*A subjective view by Chad Mileham – ZS6OPS*

With so many people using various social media platforms including WhatsApp messaging and similar chat platforms, all HAMNET members must know that they are required to act in a responsible manner in terms of what they say on-air and on social media groups.

We live in interesting times and the simplest of actions or the slip of a tongue can cause absolute chaos in our individual lives and could even impact our fellow HAMNET members. We have seen how lives have been destroyed by what has been said on social media and just how quickly it can become a political or racial issue in our country.

As HAMNET members we all must be extremely careful in terms of what we do and what we say and especially careful in terms of what information we share amongst ourselves via radio and social media. We as HAMNET must never forget that as a division of the South African Radio League SARL, we represent SARL at all times and should be the shining example of amateur radio.

We need to remind ourselves daily that as time passes, other radio amateurs (whether SARL members or not) become aware of who is and is not a HAMNET member and therefore our actions and spoken word will always be associated with HAMNET. All actions and spoken word will have both either a positive and negative impact on HAMNET as a whole and usually these actions and spoken words only create an impression or assumption which leads to either a positive or negative reflection on HAMNET and its members as a whole.

As an example recently on one of the repeaters there was a discussion between 2 radio amateurs (neither being a HAMNET member) as follows:

*"... my security company WhatsApp group sent out a message this morning warning people to be careful of here they drive today and that there are even snipers out there, so be very careful where you travel today ..."*

Let us look at some background to this as there could be many arguments made (and honestly arguments are NOT needed) and/or a fully blown debate could be held over this message.

Earlier in the day the following message was posted on an official emergency group

*[08/08, 04:55] Sniper: Koma road and Bolani road around Soweto is barricaded with rocks and burning tyres*

which was clearly a copy and paste from another group and this leads me to believe :  
as one group reposted the message, the same details were visible to all the recipients.

The word "*sniper*" is probably the nickname of the original sender and whoever reposted the message deleted his/her telephone number from the message.

When read quickly, the reader may perceive the message to say "Sniper at or in *Koma road and Bolani road around Soweto*" and the rest of the message is lost in translation.



The PERCEPTION of a sniper existing was created unintentionally as the above message clearly DID NOT state that there was “a sniper” active in that area. This could be disastrous in many areas for many people and would like to point out the discussion on the repeater could have followed a different narrative altogether.

Imagine a different narrative -

*“... Joe Blogs (who is a HAMNET member whether mentioned or not, yet is just known as a HAMNET member) sent out a WhatsApp group message this morning warning people to be careful of here they drive today and that there are even snipers out there, so be very careful where you travel today...”*

Wow now it looks like HAMNET is the OFFICIAL source of this information and is therefore speaking from a position of authority. Wait! Stop! What do you mean “speaking from a position of authority”? This is just HAMNET, a group of hobbyists. Good question. Let us look at the HAMNET Rules and Organisation for guidance on this.

Section 2.4 states –

*“to be at the disposal of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, SATEPSA, any Provincial Government, Disaster Management or any other body or organisation vested with similar aims and objectives in time of any emergency or at such other times when lives, safety, welfare or property of the community may be endangered;”*

As a relationship between HAMNET and the authorities (in this case it could be the Government at any level or Disaster Management) should exist, the authorities may need to share information with HAMNET in order for HAMNET to be informed of any situations etc. that could result in HAMNET being activated by these authorities.

If information is shared with HAMNET, then HAMNET is in possession of official information which may NOT be common knowledge to the public. If this information is shared with non HAMNET members or the public for that matter, then HAMNET can definitely be an OFFICIAL source.

The question to be asked is, did HAMNET have the right, authority and/or permission to share this information with others?

Well unless the originator or agency who shares the information with HAMNET expressly grants HAMNET the right, authority and/or permission to share the information with NON HAMNET members, then HAMNET HAS NO RIGHT, AUTHORITY AND/OR PERMISSION TO SHARE THE INFORMATION OUTSIDE OF HAMNET AND ITS MEMBERS.

If the above statement is not enough to convince you of how serious this topic is, allow me to take this a step further by adding that when we as HAMNET are provided information of any nature from Official sources, we generally do not know what information is sensitive or restricted or private and confidential. When we share the same information with others parties, either in writing or on-the-air, we may be disseminating sensitive, restricted, private and confidential information of which 3 major consequences must be considered.

1. The HAMNET reputation can be tarnished resulting in no further information sharing taking place with HAMNET; and
2. Widespread panic can be created due to either a bad perception resulting in misinformation or fake news being shared with others. (Go back to the sniper issue above, panic on this could result in others being injured or killed due to the fear of having a sniper running around.)
3. We in our individual capacity and /or HAMNET as a division may find ourselves operating outside of the law.

### **Yes the LAW!**

I would like to remind ALL HAMNET Members of THE RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM REGULATIONS (currently Gazette No. 38641 as published in the Government Gazette 30 March 2015) Section 32 in particular.

#### *32. Indecent Language and Fraudulent Transmissions over Stations*

*(1) No person shall transmit language which, judged within context:*

*(a) Violates the dignity or privacy of a person;*

*(b) Amounts to profanity;*

*(c) Amounts to obscenity;*

*(d) Amounts to propaganda for war;*

*(e) Amounts to incitement of imminent violence;*

*(f) Amounts to the advocacy of hatred based on race, ethnicity, religion or gender and that constitutes incitement to cause harm;*

*(2) Sub regulation (1) shall not apply to bona fide literature, drama, documentary or scientific material or to bona fide religious debate.*

It now goes without saying that HAMNET MEMBERS should not engage in or participate in discussions on-air or via social media which could be perceived or judged in or out of context which may amount to war, violence and incitement to cause harm or violates the dignity or privacy of a person.

I should not have to remind you that we live in a country that unfortunately is highly politicised and racially charged and any small mishap whether intended or not can cause serious ramifications for you as an individual and HAMNET as an organisation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Technology is great, as long as it works.

***“When all else Fails, Amateur Radio will not.”***

*I therefore encourage all HAMNET members to make a concerted effort to get both your base stations and mobiles operational as a matter of urgency. If you need help, ask, I know there are members who will be more than willing to assist you. Also come and spend more time on air with us.*

**HOW PREPARED ARE YOU**

**Marketing HAMNET.**

During the May meeting, Glynn (ZS6GLN) and Leon (ZS6LMG) raised the need to engage the City of Johannesburg Disaster Management and highlighted the need for a full blown MARKETING campaign to draw in new members and grow the teams throughout Gauteng South. The East Rand have an existing MOU with the City of Ekurhuleni and now need to expand into COJ as well. The central and south areas also needs to be developed and grown.

All members are therefore asked to talk with other hams and potential hams and bring them on board.

73 and 88 to one and all  
Chad Mileham - ZS6OPS  
HAMNET Gauteng South - West Rand Unit Coordinator

**“Be Safe, Be Prepared and be Happy”**

**"HAMNET, the Emergency Communications division of the South African Radio League (SARL), provides communications for emergencies and can mobilise experienced communicators who with their own radio equipment will back up official channels or take over when all else fails."**

All Amateur Radio Operators in good standing with SARL are welcome to join HAMNET. Please sign up on the National HAMNET Members Portal website. [www.hamnet.co.za](http://www.hamnet.co.za)



# SEPTEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> FLEA MARKET



Pictures from 2 September Flea Market. A huge thank you to Theo ZS6TVB for taking the photos and making them available.

There are over 140 pictures from the market on Theos flickr page, please go have a look

[WR Market Pics](#)



# WEST RAND AGM 2017

The 15<sup>th</sup> July saw the West Rand Amateur Radio Clubs yearly AGM. The event was well attended and ran smoothly. Congratulations to all who were presented with awards and certificates. Well done and thank you to all committee members, previous and newly elected. We all look forward to another productive year of club activities and growth. Another huge congratulations must go to Phillip ZS6PVT for receiving his well deserved life membership award.

Our new committee list can be found on the final page of the Anode.

Awards Presented to the following Club Members:

Honorary Life Membership - Phillip van Tonder ZS6PVT

Radio Amateur of the Year - Gert du Plessis ZR6GRT

625 Award - Kyle Mileham ZS6WTF

Chairmans Award - Chad Mileham ZS6OPS

Anode Award - John Stiekema ZS6YPJ

Nic van Duffelen ZR6AEZ

RAE Award - Riaan Heenop ZR6GRM and Werner Venter ZS6WCX

Contest Supporter Award - Arno Janse van Rensburg ZS6ARN

Congratulations to all members who received awards.

Here's to another successful year!

## AGM PICTURES





# Home brew 20m Antenna

*Jadranko ZS6DJA*

I'm not a writer so I'll keep it short and simple.

I like building antennas. At this moment there are five around and on top of the house. About every two weeks I build a new one and retire one of the old, it is nice to have space.

## DAY ONE

While cleaning out the garage on my XYL's request I came across some old aluminum tubing, and after measuring found enough for 3 element full size 20M yagi. The problem is, that thing would be enormous in size. As I start to scale it down thinking of my fellow HAM without back yard space, the idea that prevailed was a 1/4 wave vertical. So it goes,  $234/14.15=16.537$ (feet) x0.3048=5040mm(metric) or 5.04M. Few hose pipe clamps, and minutes later, the element was done.

Next was mounting bracket. I had a 150x250x3mm piece of steel in my garage. Quick trip to hardware store for two U bolts and, made use of a 25mm piece of conduit which I was given for free, which would, fit over bottom part of aluminum pipe to insulate from U bolts and bracket. My 1/4 wave antenna was made and up in less than 2 hours.

Than HAM bug bites again. How about some gain and direction?

Calculator out :

$468/14.15=33.07$ feet or 10.08m (1/2 wave length element).

I needed 1/2 wave length for director calculation. REMEMBER, actual antenna is half of that at 1/4 wave.

$10.08 - 5\% = 9.57$ m, rounded of to 9.6m and now I have my director length. Only problem is that the director is for 1/2 wave and antenna is 1/4 wave. Thankfully XYL came out and to let me know coffee was ready and as i looked up to answer her call, there it was, The SUN, X BEAM on top of the roof and XYL in one line. There was my answer. X BEAM.

Quick cup of coffee down my throat and ran back out to try my new idea. 3 peaces of nylon string, quickly taking antenna down,tying down everything,l ifting antenna up again and done. Or so I thought. Director pointing towards Europe(about NNW direction), but radio quiet as a grave. QRM and QRN was plentiful. Quick visual on connections and coax, everything seemed ok. Back to radio, same result. Started getting late, so I left it for the next day.

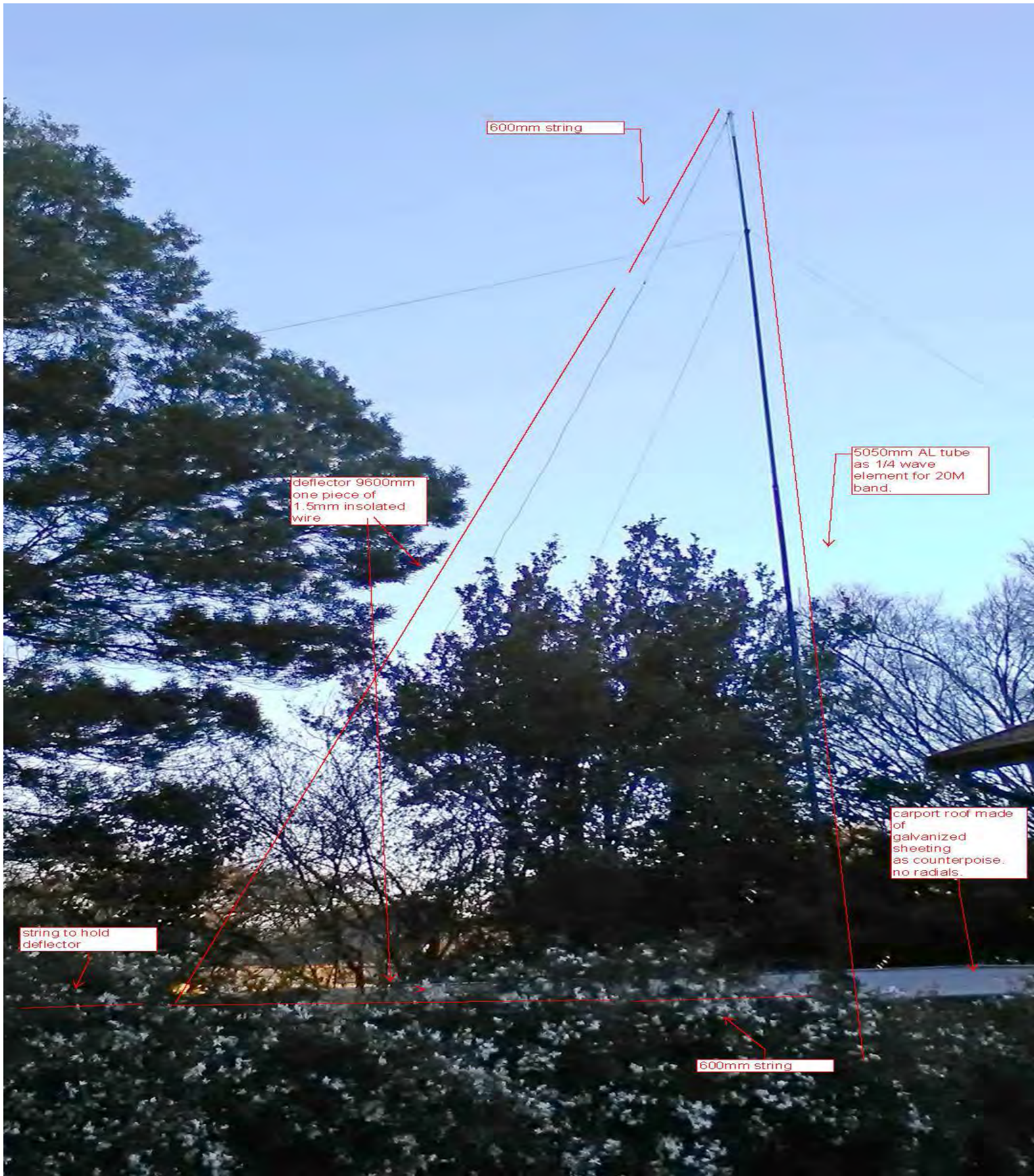
## DAY TWO

Earphones on top of a head .Head against table. Finger turning dial on IC 707,and BOOM. Not actual Boom,but a voice, VK3MO. At that moment I'm happy. Few minutes later after nice QSO I'm walking around whistling and Boom again. Now I am running back and grabbing a log book. That is where this last Boom came from. He said "just outside Melbourne, Australia".

Now, all the pieces fell into place. Not perfectly, but they do fit. No need to run any more, as antenna works, but casually walk outside to so called DIRECTOR now known as DEFLECTOR. Easy 180 degrees turn around of newly appointed deflector, few hours wait for propagation to open and another QSO. This time in right direction, EA5IKJ from Valencia, Spain.

That was one interesting and productive weekend. Garage still requires some cleaning out, but at least a new antenna is up.

See picture of installed antenna on next page.





# ADVERTISE

If you would like to advertise your amateur radio related items or services here, please send full details including any pictures or text to

[rorycrouch@mweb.co.za](mailto:rorycrouch@mweb.co.za)

This space is intended to be used as a members swap shop in future issue.

### THE ULTIMATE IN HEADSETS—Heil Pro 7



**Also available  
Pro 7iC**  
The Pro 7 iC is supplied with an AD-iC eight pin iCOM adapter cable.

The Pro 7 brings new technology to the headset industry. The 2" thick gel foam ear pads provide extreme comfort for extended periods of time while exhibiting passive noise reduction rated at -26dB, ideal for use in high ambient noise environments.

The speaker cone provides very low distortion with maximum voice articulation providing the ultimate sound reproduction for communications. The exclusive Heil Phase Reversal system (HPR) allows you to acoustically move the signals forward and creates a spatial widening of the sound field. This feature makes it easier to pull a weak signal from a pileup. A speaker balance control allows preferred level between the speakers.

### Alinco DRB-185 80 W of 2 metre mobile



### Wouxun KG-UVV8D With x-Band repeat



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Micrometals ferrite, selected Amidon ferrite, teflon co-axial cable



## Home of the Mamba and Mini Mamba antennas

<http://www.cds.co.za/store/>  
TEL local: 087-550-2352  
TEL Int: +1-574-206-4963  
FAX local: 086-239-1384  
FAX Int: +1-845-470-0194



## **West Rand Club Membership:**

R 250.00 per year

Pensioner: R 125.00 per year

Scholar: R 125.00 per year (School going)

Student: R 125.00 (College / University)

Family Membership: R 375.00

RAE student: R 125.00

## **Committee Members**

Chairman	Geoff Levey	<a href="mailto:glevey@gmail.com">glevey@gmail.com</a>	082 546 5546
Vice Chairman	Nic van Duffelen	<a href="mailto:srs@eject.co.za">srs@eject.co.za</a>	083 555 9622
Secretary	Phillip Van Tonder	<a href="mailto:zs6pvt@gmail.com">zs6pvt@gmail.com</a>	083 267 3835
Treasurer	Gert Du Plessis	<a href="mailto:Gertcduplessis@gmail.com">Gertcduplessis@gmail.com</a>	083 334 0794
Member Anode	Rory Crouch	<a href="mailto:rorycrouch@mweb.co.za">rorycrouch@mweb.co.za</a>	082 448 4445
Member RAE	Stephen Reynolds	<a href="mailto:zs6sjr@gmail.com">zs6sjr@gmail.com</a>	082 566 5900
Member	George Voortman	<a href="mailto:georgev@netactive.co.za">georgev@netactive.co.za</a>	083 300 0900
Member	Shane Clark	<a href="mailto:ham.zs6sc@gmail.com">ham.zs6sc@gmail.com</a>	083 631 0384

## **Co-opted**

Hamnet	Chad Mileham	<a href="mailto:chad@domainsolutions.co.za">chad@domainsolutions.co.za</a>	082 859 2684
POPS	Keith Liddle	<a href="mailto:zs6agf@polka.co.za">zs6agf@polka.co.za</a>	082 457 1501
PRO	Willem Weideman	<a href="mailto:zs6wwj@gmail.com">zs6wwj@gmail.com</a>	082 890 6775
Members list	Nick Dreyer	<a href="mailto:zs6nck@gmail.com">zs6nck@gmail.com</a>	082 454 1272
Hampcomp group	John Brock	<a href="mailto:brockjk@gmail.com">brockjk@gmail.com</a>	0741935582