

# History of the Centurion Amateur Radio Club ZS6CEN

## **Background**

This document is based on the original broad overview originally written by Pam Momberg ZS6APT/ZS1PAM (SK) as published on the club's website.

Since July 2021 Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6WN (ex ZS6BPJ/ZR6GP) took the task to update the history as far as possible. Contact was made with Pam, who made further contributions by, *inter alia*, supplying her collection of club's newsletters dated from March 1982 to March 2013, to Karel. Pam, unfortunately, also became SK before the completion of this project. Dave Smith ZS6AZP and others also added to the collection of newsletters.

This project is considered as "work-in-progress" with additions made as information and other sources became available.

## **Overview of where and when our club originated.**

### **History of the founding clubs (SARL branches)**

Long, long ago, at a house situated in Pretoria Gardens, a meeting was called to establish a new amateur radio branch of the South African Radio League in the greater Pretoria area. This followed not long after another group of radio amateurs of the Pretoria-area and Far Northern Transvaal met about a year earlier to establish another branch to serve those areas.

- On the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1975, a group of amateurs got together and the Jacaranda Branch of the South African Radio League was founded. There were 24 radio amateurs and various listeners present at that meeting. Pam Momberg ZS6APT/ZS1PAM, the last of this founding members left as a member of the club, also recently became SK.
- In the September 1975 edition of Radio ZS (p.11) this new branch of the SARL (call sign ZS6TJB) is welcomed, stating that the HQ of the branch is Pretoria, serving members of the Silverton, Valhalla and Verwoerdburg area. The first branch committee was Chairperson: Gert Terblanche ZS6BIK (SK) (remember Hamrad's Pretoria branch in Sunnyside?), Vice chairperson: Paul Van Der Hoven ZR6DQ (better known as Doppies, later ZS6BAQ), Honorary Secretary/Treasurer: Steve Schmidt ZS6AWH (SK) and committee members Gert Meyer ZR6DZ (SK), Albert Le Roux ZS6AXL (SK) and Sakkie Henning ZS6ADT (SK).
- Herman Wessels ZR6DP (later ZS6AM) (SK) was elected chairperson at the first AGM of Jacaranda a year later.
- Another branch of the SARL, Radio Tak Impala, was established in September 1974, with the call sign ZS6RTI. The chairperson of the club was Roelf Kloppers ZS6ATK. At the time the branch had 31 members – as can be seen on the cover page of the October 1975 edition of Radio ZS with more photos on p. 7. On p. 9 the chairperson, Roelf ZS6ATK reports that within a year the membership to 65 paid-up members. Some of

these founding members are still alive and active on the air but unfortunately not members of the club anymore.

- Jannie Kuhn ZS6FG (SK) of Impala and Tinus Lange ZS6TL (SK) of Jacaranda were awarded the SARL Jack Twine Merit Award in 1974.
- Roelf Kloppers ZS6ATK of Impala received the SARL Jack Twine Merit Award in 1975.
- The 1975 Impala branch committee were Roelf Kloppers ZS6ATK (Chairperson), Willie Lottering ZS6BDM (SK), Hein Beyleveldt ZS6BHZ (SK), Chris Horn ZS6BLD (SK), Ernst Lindner ZS6EN, Joe Rooz ZS6TZ (SK), Dirk Lighthelm ZS6BEY, Paul Erasmus ZR6CD, Fritz Sutherland ZS6ASF (later ZS6SF) (SK) and SARL President between ????????, John Gibson ZS6AYZ (SK), Harry Blomerus ZS6BDZ (later ZS1ADN) (SK) and Kobie Furstenburg ZS6ALE (SK).
- On 16 December 1975 Impala suffered the loss one of its committee members, Paul Erasmus ZR6CD.
- Impala held regular quarterly weekend long meetings at the Constantia Holiday Resort near Naboomspruit (now Mookgophong).
- Many members of Impala held a regular early morning AM net on 80m 3600 kHz (sometimes 160m 1840 kHz during wintertime) called the “Dagbreekspan”. Regulars were Gideon Zietsman ZS6OG (SK) from Skukuza, Hugo Beyers ZS6OH (SK) from Barberton, Jan Bosman (SK) ZS6BHC operating from Belfast in summer and Nelspruit in winter, Willie Lottering ZS6BDM (SK) from Pretoria, Mike Thom ZS6FV (SK) from Alldays, Dawie Malherbe ZS6ZA (SK) from Hartebeespoortdam, Jannie Van Niewenhuizen ZS6WAS (SK) from Nylstroom, Pen Wessels ZS6BAS (SK) from Pietersburg, Pieter Smith ZS6BGX (SK) from Tzaneen, Chicot Ernst ZS6BLJ (SK) from Tzaneen, Roelf Kloppers ZS6ATK from Pretoria, Herman Dormehl ZS6SN (SK) from Pretoria, Dries Van der Walt ZS6AHD (SK) from Potgietersrus, Klasie Strydom ZS6XV (SK) from Kempton Park, Karel Niewenhuys ZS6ALB (SK) from Vaalwater, Chris Horn ZS6BLD (SK) from Nylstroom, Jannie Kuhn ZS6FG (SK), and Fritz Sutherland ZS6ASF (later ZS6SF) (SK). This group was instrumental in the recruiting and introduction of many youngsters and new members to amateur radio. The “Dagbreekspan” eventually all moved over to SSB and remained active until a few years ago (mostly by members of the present Wolkberg Amateur Radio Club – see further down).
- Tak Impala was allocated a 2-meter repeater frequency of 145,775 MHz whereas Jacaranda Branch made use of the then Hamnet repeater on 145,725.
- (It should be noted that at that time the channel spacing for the FM mode on 2-meters was 25kHz. Repeater channels were from 145,625 to 145,825 and FM simplex was 145,400 to 145,600. Initially the channel spacing was 50kHz. In Pretoria alone the repeater channels were allocated: 145,725 - Hamnet/Jacaranda, 145,750 - Tak Noord Transvaal ZS6TNT (now ZS6MRK), 145,775 - Tak Impala ZS6RTI, 145,800 - SAPWRR and 145,825 - Pretoria Branch ZS6PTA. Impala was also in the process of erecting repeaters in the far Northern Transvaal (now Limpopo Province) to serve its many new members in that area. The first repeater was at Vygeboom near Nylstroom (now Modimolle) on 145,700, commissioned in 1975 (causing a lot of QRM with the SAP-WRR repeater on the same channel located in Johannesburg).
- Around the time the Jacaranda Branch was established the two branches (Jacaranda and Impala), together with the Pretoria Branch, arranged what was then called “technical classes (RAE-classes)” to prepare new recruits for the amateur radio examination in November 1975. These classes were held weekly at the Pretoria Fire Station in Bosman Street and were well attended resulting in many new call signs early 1976.

Technical classes were also held in Pietersburg (Polokwane). Roelie Du Plessis ZS6GM was the able lecturer.

- During the 1976 SARL AGM held in Bloemfontein, Jacaranda was represented by Tinus Lange ZS6TL (SK) whereas Impala was represented by Roelf Kloppers ZS6ATK and Charles Stiemie ZS6CZ (SK).
- During 1976 the SARL Jack Twine Merit Award was awarded to Impala's Charles Stiemie ZS6CZ (SK) and Kobie Furstenburg ZS6ALE (SK).
- ZS6RTI was very involved with recruiting the youth into amateur radio and in 1976 established a radio club, Radio Klub Impala at the Hoërskool Wonderboom with callsign ZS6RKL. This club had several young members such as Karel Bezuidenhout ZR6GP (later ZS6BPJ/ZS6WN), Tertius Van Zyl ZR6JL, Christo Botha ZR6JN (later ZS6WN until his departure to Denmark), André Brink ZR6EM (later ZS6DIL), Eugene Malherbe ZR6FN, Gerhard Wilsnach ZR6MS, Herman Dormehl ZR6QT to name a few.
- Another effort to introduce the youth to amateur radio was the annual CQ Hou Koers of the Voortrekkers under the leadership of Chicot Ernst ZS6BLJ (SK). In 1976 the Voortrekkers held the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CQ Hou Koers, supported by many of the members of Impala and Jacaranda.
- Members of the two branches made regular contributions to Radio ZS, such as one of many excellent articles by Henri Schoeman ZR6FK (later ZS6AHS (SK)), in the September 1976 Radio ZS "Maak koelvinne u warm?" In the same edition is an article of Harry Blomerus ZS6BDZ (later ZS1ADN) (SK) on impedance matching a high impedance microphone to the lower impedance required for transceiver of the time. Hennie Ferreira ZR6CF wrote about the origins of Ohm's law. Frits Sutherland ZS6ASF (later ZS6SF) (SK) – later to become President of the SARL, wrote an article for the November 1976 Radio ZS regarding an emergency power supply for the shack. Henri ZS6AHS published another must read article in Radio ZS May 1977: "Ferrietringkern Balun Transformers". Jannie Kuhn ZS6FG (SK) in turn published in Radio ZS of June 1977 "Spêrspoele vir Meerband-lugdrade". In Radio ZS of August 1977 Kobie Furstenburg ZS6ALE (SK) published a detail report on the new 2-meter repeater on Wolkberg, near Tzaneen with Mike Van Niekerk ZS6BPO (SK) adding some humour with his "Wederveringe op Wolkberg".
- On Saturday, 15 January 1977, the 4 Pretoria branches (Takke Noord Transvaal, -Pretoria, Impala and Jacaranda) help a get-together and DF-hunt at Fonteinedal with 80 radio amateurs attending.
- The Jacaranda branch was especially highly active on VHF/UHF in the late 70's. In 1977 members of the branch won 3 of the first four places in the first leg of the 1977 VHF/UHF contest (1<sup>st</sup> Jan Roos ZS6BOL, 3<sup>rd</sup> Gert Meyer ZR6DZ and 4<sup>th</sup> Herman Wessels ZS6AM (SK). Jan ZS6BOL operated portable from Steenkampsberg, near Dullstroom and achieved the longest distance of 460km on 144Mhz with a QSO to ZS5TR/p on Mount Gilboa north of Pietermaritzburg. Jan's team consisted of youngster of Radio Tak Impala: Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (now ZS6WN), Christo Botha ZR6JN and Tertius Van Zyl ZR6JL. Herman ZS6AM achieved the longest distance on 70cm from his portable location from a mountain near Volksrust to Jan ZS6BOL – a distance of 240km. Jan ZS6BOL repeated his performance by winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the contest in November 1977, with Gert ZR6DZ obtaining 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Janetta Roos ZS6-703 (XYL of Jan ZS6BOL) winning the listeners division.
- Members of Jacaranda were also very active on the amateur satellites. Callsigns that frequented OSCAR 7 were ZS6AM, ZS6APS, ZS6BOL, ZS6BMN ??????????

- Even on the local HF contests Jacaranda and Impala made their mark with Herman Wessel ZS6AM achieving 2<sup>nd</sup> position in the 1977 SARL HF Phone Contest and Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ 6<sup>th</sup> in the 1977 HF CW Contest.
- During 1977 Radio Tak Impala constructed and commissioned another 2-meter repeater in the Far North. The Wolkberg repeater situated on Iron Crown near Haenertsburg, on 145,100/-700 at a height of 2126,5m ASL covered an area from well into Zimbabwe down to Nelspruit, Groblersdal and Nylstroom. The team consisted of Kobie Furstenburg ZS6ALE (SK), Jaap Besteman ZS6PK (SK), Joe Roos ZS6TZ (SK), Pieter Smith ZS6BGX (SK) and Fanie Hattingh ZR6KB (now ZS6BHE). This was followed up with yet another repeater on Ysterberg between Pietersburg (Polokwane) and Potgietersrus (Mokopane) on 145,050/-650. This frequency was later changed to 145,000/-600 due to the overlapping coverage with the Johannesburg repeater.
- Towards the latter half of 1977 46 radio amateurs of far northern Transvaal (now the province of Limpopo) decided to form their own branch of the SARL by establishing Tak Wolkberg ZS6TWB on 15 October 1977. This drastically reduced the membership of Radio Tak Impala to 32 members (Jacaranda had 62 members at the same time).
- Impala branch held their AGM during the same month and elected the following committee members:  
Chairperson: Jannie Kuhn ZS6FG (SK), Vice chairperson Harry Blomerus ZS6BDZ (later ZS1ADN) (SK), Honorary Secretary Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (later ZS6WN), Treasurer Willy Wilson ZR6CY (SK) and member Christo Botha ZR6JN.
- The IARU Conference scheduled for 2 -3 December 1977 in Johannesburg was cancelled but the biggest Hamfest ever held in South Africa at the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) proceeded as a huge success and well supported by members of both Impala and Jacaranda.
- Members who became Silent Key during 1977 were:
  - Jan Britz ZR6ARK (Impala): OM "Jan Ark" was a telegraph operator in the then Post Office and had the ability to send and receive morse code while having a chat or reading a newspaper.
  - Gideon Zietsman ZS6OG (Impala): OM Gideon was a National Parks game-ranger based in Skukuza. As a regular member of the "Dagbreekspan" his beautiful AM signal early mornings on 80-meters with the birds singing in the background remains a fond memory for many an old-timer till this day.
- Events during the year 1978 can be seen, in retrospect, to have paved the way for the later formation of our club. Co-operation between the two branches gained momentum, strengthening the mutual bond.
- Still continuing were the joint technical classes to prepare newcomers to amateur radio to write the radio amateur examination (RAE) in May and November, as well as the morse code classes to assist those with restricted (ZR) licenses to upgrade to the unlimited ZS callsigns (at the time the passing of a 12 word per minute receiving and sending morse code test). Henri Schoeman ZS6AHS (SK) played a vital role in this regard and even published a training manual that became very popular countrywide. Over a period of 4 years his classes resulted in over 100 new radio amateurs successfully completing the RAE.
- During the night of 28/29 January 1978 the Pretoria-area experienced very high, continuous rainfall causing severe flooding that resulted floods all over the city and surroundings. Eventually the telephone network and electricity power grid failed. The Hamnet and SAP-WRR components of the local radio amateurs were activated by the Civil Defence department of the Pretoria City Council to establish an emergency radio network to handle the initial radio communication while the conventional systems are restored. For the rest of

the 29<sup>th</sup> January radio amateurs (HAMNET members belonging to the Jacaranda branch and SAP-WRR members of Radio Tak Impala, played a crucial role during this period (see Radio ZS of February and March 1978).

- Also in 1978, the YL's of Jacaranda were also making their mark by their election to the council of the SA Women's Radio Club (affiliated with the SARL) with Lizzie Wessels ZS6AMO as President, Rhona Schoeman ZS6BRF as Vice-president and Pam Momberg ZS6APT as Honorary Secretary. The SAWRC commemorated their Silver Anniversary (25 years) during that year.
- During the same year the SARL Jack Twine Merit Award was awarded to three members of Jacaranda Branch: Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK), Pine Pienaar ZS6BRN and Steve Schmidt ZS6AWH (SK), as well as Impala's Jannie Van Nieuwenhuizen ZS6WAS (SK).
- Ean Retief ZS6UD (later ZS1PR) operated from Gough Island as ZD9GG having been based there for a year.
- On 10 June 1978 Jacaranda held their 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM at the Palms Hotel, Silverton, Pretoria (oh yes, that venue of many things to come). The following members were elected to serve as the branch committee:
  - Chairperson: Steve Schmitdt ZS6AWH (SK)
  - Vice-chairperson: Gert Meyer ZR6DZ (SK)
  - Secretary/treasurer: Renier Janse Van Vuuren ZR6MV
  - Committee-members: Tinus Lange ZS6TL (SK)  
Gert Terblanche ZS6BIK (SK)  
Henri Schoeman ZS6AHS (SK)  
Doppies Van Der Hoven ZR6DQ (later ZS6BAQ)  
Sarel Nienaber ZR6FF (later ...)  
Jan Roos ZS6BOL  
Ken Pickersgill ZS6NB  
Johan Botha ZS6JN (SK)
- Radio Tak Impala in turn held it's AGM on 24 June 1978, electing the following members as the 1978/-79 branch committee:
  - Chairperson: Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (now ZS6WN)
  - Vice-chairperson: Harry Blomerus ZS6BDZ (later ZS1ADN) (SK)
  - Secretary: Christo Botha ZR6JN (later ZS6WN till his departure to Denmark)
  - Treasurer: Willy Wilson ZR6CY (SK)
  - Auditor: Roelf Klopper ZS6ATK
  - Committee-members: Johan (Graatjie) Pelser ZS6BE (of Bosveld Stereo-fame)  
Sakkie Liebenberg ZS6BFE
- Kuki De Beer ZS6ABO achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 1978 SARL HF Phone Contest. Kuki was also awarded the SARL Fred Mills Trophy for her outstanding first-time achievement.
- Around 1978 pressure started at the IARU to have the portion 145,800 to 146,000 MHz exclusively allocated internationally for the amateur satellite service. The effect will be the phasing out and eventual loss of two of the repeater channels 145,800 and 145,825 (at the time allocated in the greater Pretoria-area, to the SAP-WRR and the Pretoria Branch). Also on the IARU R1 agenda was the move to 12,5kHz channel spacing as well as the utilization of 145,200 to 145,475MHz as simplex channels.

- The YL's of especially Jacaranda remained very active during 1979 with the SA Women's Radio Club having a regular weekly net on Monday evenings on 80-meters. Pam Momberg ZS6APT served as the club's secretary.
- The SARL Jack Twine Merit Award was awarded to the following members of Jacaranda: Herman Wessels ZS6AM (SK), Henri Schoeman ZS6AHS (SK), Mannie De Beer ZS6AK (SK) and Albert Le Roux ZS6AXL (SK).
- During 1979 two members of the two branches, Gert Terblanche ZS6BIK (SK) and Jannie Van Nieuwenhuizen ZS6WAS (SK) opened a branch of the well-known Hamrad in Sunnyside, Pretoria, making it a lot easier for the local hams to obtain radio equipment instead of travelling to Johannesburg.
- On 30 June 1979 Jacaranda held its AGM, electing a new branch committee as follows:
  - Chairperson: Herman Wessels ZS6AM (SK)
  - Vice-chairperson: Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK)
  - Secretary: Chris De Jager ZS6BRV
  - Treasurer: Koelaai Enslin ZS6BRW
- During September 1979 Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK), Pam Momberg ZS6APT, Mannie De Beer ZS6AK (SK) and Kuki De Beer ZS6ABO activated the independent homeland of Venda with the callsign T4A. About 2600 QSO's were made with 73 DXCC entities in 3 days.
- Around this time the Citizen Band craze hit South Africa.
- Ferdi Mostert ZR6KV (Jacaranda) moved to Cape Town during 1979 and not only became ZR1CT but also the editor of Radio ZS.
- Kuki De Beer ZS6ABO took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 1979 HF Phone Contest

### **Almalgamation of the two founding SARL branches (Jacaranda and Impala) into Protea Branch of the SARL**

- Towards the latter half of 1979 the branch committees of Jacaranda and Impala engaged to discuss the possibility of amalgamating. The branches held separate Special General Meetings and the majority of the members voted in favour of forming a single branch in January 1980. This branch was called the Protea Branch of the SARL with the call sign ZS6TPB. At the first meeting of the new branch the following members were elected to serve on the branch committee:
  - Chairperson: Herman Wessels ZS6AM (SK)
  - Vice-chairperson: Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (now ZS6WN)
  - Secretary: Chris De Jager ZS6BRV
  - Treasurer: Willy Wilson ZR6CY (SK)
  - Committee members: Frik Crouse ZS6BOZ (SK)  
Flip Louw ZS6BSI (SK)  
Pine Pienaar ZS6BNK (SK)  
Koelaai Enslin ZS6BRW  
Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK)

- The newly formed branch of the SARL attended their first SARL AGM held in April 1980 in Pretoria, hosted by the Pretoria branch. During this AGM Jannie Kuhn ZS6FG (SK) received Honorary Life Membership to the SARL.
- On the technical side members of the new branch (Tinus Lange ZS6TL (SK), Pierre Du Plessis ZR6GS, Fanie Schönfeldt ZR6EU and Pieter Weideman ZR6QH) were instrumental in getting the first dual-band repeater on the air by linking the 2-meter Pretoria Hamnet repeater with a 70cm repeater on 434,725MHz.
- RAE technical classes continued by Henry ZS6AHS, assisted by Willy ZR6CY.
- Initially Protea branch held monthly meetings on the last Saturday of the month at the Waterkloof Air Force Base Recreational Club.
- The new branch also now faced a new challenge having inherited the repeater channel of 145,175/775MHz. Unfortunately, the equipment was outdated and to add to the frustrations the site used at the time was lost. The new club committee, under the leadership of Herman ZS6AM, immediately began various fundraising efforts so that new equipment can be obtained. In a mere four months the members raised about R5 000 (an amount equal to price of a good family car!). A state-of-the-art Motorola repeater was imported from the USA, duplexers were sourced, and a stacked dipole array was obtained. However, for the next year or so, the branch struggled to get a proper home for this brand-new repeater. Eventually the repeater was located in the Elardus Park water reservoir, covering the area of Verwoerdburg, Pretoria and Midrand.
- The new club participated under its club call sign ZS6TPB during the 1980 VHF/UHF and managed 2<sup>nd</sup> place as a field station. Other club members that also made their mark was Menno Havelaar ZS6AGC, Pieter Weideman ZR6QH and Chris De Jager ZS6BRV.
- Kuki De Beer ZS6ABO again excelled during the 1980 SARL Phone Contest with a joint 1<sup>st</sup> place. Other Protea members who participated were Pam ZS6APT (13<sup>th</sup>), Karel ZS6BPJ (15<sup>th</sup>), Frik ZS6BOZ and Deon ZS3AM. Only Chris ZS6BCR (later ZS6EZ) participated in the HF CW Contest.
- During the 1981 AGM Protea elected the following members as the branch committee:
  - Chairperson: Chris De Jager ZS6BRV
  - Vice-chairperson: Pierre (Dupie) Du Plessis ZRGS
  - Secretary: Pieter Weideman ZR6QH
  - Treasurer: Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) (SK)
  - Committee members: Gerard De Jong ZR6QR (later ZS6KX)  
Alan Bower ZS6ADB  
Henry Schoeman ZS6AHS (SK)  
Jochen Göldner ZS6AHJ (SK)  
Kallie De Waal ZS6AEN (now ZS6AAR)  
Allen Preston ZS6BUM (resigned due work and substituted by Renier Janse Van Vuuren ZR6MV)
- Branch chairperson, Chris De Jager ZS6BRV attended the 1981 SARL AGM in Cape Town as the delegate of Protea branch.
- In 1981 Ean Retief ZS6UD (now ZS1PR) was instrumental in the IARU beacon project on Gough Island with the call ZD9GI. (The complete story is reported by Ean in the September 1983 issue of Radio ZS).
- Protea also played host to the 1981/-82 VHF/UHF Contest with Pieter Weideman ZR6QH the 1<sup>st</sup> convenor of the contest committee, later to followed up by Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (ZS6WN).

- Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) (SK) took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 1981 SARL Phone Contest (also awarded the Silent Keys Memorial Trophy) with Kallie De Waal ZS6AEN (later ZS4AAR) came 4<sup>th</sup>. Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS achieved 6<sup>th</sup> place in the 1981 SARL CW contest and Chris Burger ZS6BCR (now ZS6EZ) came 11<sup>th</sup>. Other Protea member also active during the CW contest were Ean Retief ZS6UD (now ZS1PR), Dave Smith ZS6AZP and Alan Bower ZS6ADB
- A team of Protea members (ZS6BUH, ZS6AEN, ZR6QH and ZR6AGV) achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place during the 1981 VHF/UHF Contest.
- A group of members took part in the 1981 ARRL DX Contest using the branch callsign ZS6TPB.
- Protea also played a vital role in the newly established Transvaal Technical Coordinating Committee (TTCC).
- Tinus Lange ZS6TL was appointed the Regional Co-ordinator for HAMNET Northern Transvaal in 1981.
- Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (later ZS6WN) received the SARL Jack Twine Merit Award in 1981.
- On 30 January 1982 the Transvaal Working Group of SA-AMSAT launched the first of three BACAR balloons. This project caused a lot of interest nationally. Protea members were also actively involved in tracking the balloon on 145,550MHz, heard as far as Cape Town. The 2<sup>nd</sup> launch was on 27 February 1982. The 3<sup>rd</sup> launch on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1982 carried the very first transponder (2m uplink / 70cm downlink) and a beacon ZS6EXP on 144,075MHz. Several successful launches followed later in 1982.
- During this time many club members worked DX on 6-meters due to the sunspot maximum. As from 1 January 1982 ZR's were allowed to use 50MHz and up and the new WARC bands were made available to ZS-hams (unfortunately 40m was reduced to only 7,000 – 7,100MHz) and many club members jumped at the opportunity to make QSO's on those bands. Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ, during his national service, obtained permission to take his rig along to South West Africa (now Namibia) and operated ZS6BPJ/ZS3 (ZS3 was then the prefix for Namibia) and worked over 2500 QSO's while deployed in the military base at Grootfontein. Many QSO were made on the new WARC bands and even on 160m.
- Protea Branch was represented by Chris De Jager ZS6BRV and Kallie De Waal ZS6AEN (now ZS4AAR) during the 1982 SARL AGM.
- On 5 June 1982 Protea held their AGM at the Palms Hotel in Silverton and elected the following members as the branch committee:
  - Chairperson: Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK)
  - Vice-chairperson: Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (now ZS6WN) (substituted by Stan Botha ZS6AXP due to Karel's military service in SWA/Namibia)
  - Secretary / Treasurer: Pam Momberg ZS6APT (now ZS1PAM) (SK)
  - Committee members: Stan Botha ZS6AXP  
Alan Bower ZS6ADB  
Gerard De Jong ZR6QR (later ZS6KX) (SK)  
Koelaa Enslin ZS6BRW (due to transfer to Witbank later substituted by Dave Smith ZS6AZP)  
Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB (now ZS6GJC)  
Renier Janse Van Vuuren ZR6MV  
Pine Pienaar ZS6OB and Jochen ZS6AHJ (SK) were later co-opted.
- During this AGM the following branch awards were made:
  - Marie van Niewenhuizen Trophy: Hein Louw ZS6BWK



- Gordon Stewart Trophy: Jannie Kuhn ZS6FG (SK)
  - ZS6TL Trophy: Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK)
  - VHF Trophy: Kallie De Waal ZS6AEN (ZS4AAR)
  - Jan Roos ZS6BOL YL Trophy: Kuki De Beer ZS6ABO
  - Die Perd DF HF-contest Award: Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) (SK)
  - Radio Amateur of the Year: Henri Schoeman ZS6AHS (SK)
  - ARRL WW Contest: Kuki De Beer ZS6ABO
- After desperate attempts by the branch committee to secure a meeting venue or even a permanent clubhouse, the branch settled their venue for the monthly meetings to the Dalveria Boy Scout Hall, Riveria, Pretoria at the cost of R30 per meeting.
  - Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS and Allen Bouwer ZS6ADB held frequent morse code training classes and Solly Conradie ZS6SV made training cassettes available.
  - Hans Kappetijn ZS6BSZ (later ZS6KR) published a series of articles in the September 1982 Radio ZS: Building your own CW keyboard. Henri Schoeman ZS6AHS (SK) continued his RAE classes, having a pass-rate of around double that of the national pass-rate.
  - Yet again Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) (SK) achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 1982 SARL HF Phone Contest. 14 members of Protea participated in this contest.
  - The club, using the club call-sign ZS6TPB, operating portable from Kransberg near Thabazimbi (now part of the Marekele National Park) wiped the floor, winning the portable station division of the October 1982 SARL VHF/UHF Contest, also working the longest distances on 6- and 2meters. The team consisted of Pine Pienaar ZS6OB, Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (ZS6WN), Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB(ZS6GJC), Stan Botha ZS6AXP and Gerard De Jong ZS6KX The branch also came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the branch participation leg of the contest.
  - Larry Murray (later ZS6LA), a new member of Protea, was awarded the SARL Arland Usher Gold Pen Award for achieving the highest marks in the October 1982 RAE.
  - On 5 November 1982, members of Hamnet Northern Transvaal, including members of Protea branch partook in a simulated emergency exercise. Pierre (Dupie) Du Plessis ZR6GS was instrumental in the organising of this event.
  - The branch was donated a 6-meter repeater. The 2-meter repeater was moved to the Erasmus-rand Water-tower.
  - Pierre Du Plessis ZR6GS took over the SARL VHF/UHF Contest Committee from Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (ZS6WN) when Karel was transferred to SWA/Namibia for military duties.
  - An Antenna Brag Day was arranged by the branch. Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB (ZS6GJC) and Stan Botha ZS6AXP won the prizes for the event.
  - Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS and Pam Momberg ZS6APT represented Protea branch at the 1983 SARL AGM held in Pietermaritzburg.
  - On 20 May 1983 Sakkie Henning ZS6ADT became SK as a victim of the "Church Street bomb".
  - During June 1983 Protea activated its 6m repeater on 51,200/51,800 MHz in Elardus Park. Gerard De Jong ZR6QR (later ZS6KX) (SK) was in charge of this project.

- The branch once again won the 1<sup>st</sup> leg of the 1983 VHF/UHF contest as a field station operating as ZS6TPB/p from the mountains near Potgietersrus (Mokopane). Dupie ZR6GS was the convenor of the contest committee.
- Chris Burger ZS6BCR (later ZS6EZ) achieved the WAZS (Worked All ZS) Award in 1983 – the start of many more things to come.
- On 4 June 1983 Protea held its 4<sup>th</sup> AGM. SARL Councillor Dick Stratford ZS1RO attended the AGM. The following members were elected to serve on the branch committee:
  - Chairperson: Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK)
  - Vice-chairperson: Stan Botha ZS6AXP (later substituted by Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS)
  - Secretary / Treasurer: Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) (SK)
  - Committee members: Dave Smith ZS6AZP  
Pine Pienaar ZS6OB  
Gerard De Jong ZR6QR (later ZS6KX) (SK)  
Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS  
Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB (now ZS6GJC)  
Ad Liefbroer ZR6AMH (later ZS6AE)  
Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ (SK)
- During this AGM the following branch trophies were awarded:
  - Marie van Niewenhuizen Trophy: Pine Pienaar ZS6OB
  - Gordon Stewart Trophy: Gerard De Jongh ZR6QH (ZS6KX) (SK)
  - ZS6TL Trophy: Ad Liefbroer ZR6AMH (ZS6AE) (SK)
  - Jannie WAS VHF Trophy: Stan Botha ZS6AXP
  - Jan Roos ZS6BOL YL Trophy: Elsa Coetzee XYL of Gert ZR6AAB (ZS6GJC)
  - Die Perd DF HF-contest Award: Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) (SK)
- On 16 June 1983 the branch suffered the loss of one of its great spirits when Herman Wessels ZS6AM (ex ZR6DP) became silent key after a long sickbed. Amongst the many contributions made to the branch and amateur radio, by Herman, is the “Die Perd” Trophy.
- Chris Burger ZS6BCR (ZS6EZ) achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 1983 SARL HF CW Contest. However, Chris came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1983 HF Phone Contest with At Du Plooy ZS1FY 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Protea branch won both categories in the October 1983 SARL VHF/UHF Contest, once again operating a field station using ZS6TPB and ZS6PKS as a home station.
- A weekend away was held at Klein Kariba over the weekend of 4-6 November 1983.
- Henry Schoeman ZS6AHS (SK) and Larry ZS6LA organised participation in the SARL Field Day Contest during November 1983.
- During this time serious talks commenced with the Verwoerdburg Fire Department and the -City Council regarding a permanent clubhouse for Protea Branch.
- At the end of 1983 Protea Branch had 125 members.
- Another weekend away was held at Klein Kariba over the first weekend of March 1984.
- Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS represented Protea Branch at the 1984 SARL AGM held in Port Elizabeth. At this AGM “Motion 25” was passed to pave the way for the moving of SARL HQ from Cape Town to the Transvaal. Jimmy and Pam also attended a SARL Council meeting in Cape Town.

- Gerard De Jongh ZR6QR (later ZS6KX) achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place during the 1<sup>st</sup> SARL VHF/UHF Contest of 1984. Pine Pienaar ZS6OB worked the longest distance on 2m – 439km from Pretoria to ZS4KW in Bloemfontein.
- During the AGM of Protea on 9 June 1984 held at the usual Palms Hotel in Silverton, attended by 40 members and 19 visitors, the following members were elected to serve on the branch committee:
  - Chairperson: Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK)
  - Vice-chairperson: Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS
  - Secretary / Treasurer: Pam Momberg ZS6APT (now ZS1PAM)
  - Committee members: Dave Smith ZS6AZP  
Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (later ZS6WN)  
Johan Engelbrecht ZR6YO  
Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ (SK)  
Sarel Stapelberg ZS6EK  
André Du Plessis ZR6AGA
- Jannie Van Nieuwenhuis ZS6WAS (SK) presented Stan Botha ZS6AXP with the ZS6WAS trophy for outstanding performance of VHF/UHF and Jannie Kuhn ZS6FG (SK) presented Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) with the Gordon Stewart Trophy for her outstanding services to the branch. At Liefbroer ZS6AE received the CW Trophy for reaching the 200 CW QSO's in the shortest time.
- On 28 July 1984 Protea held their very first DF-hunt. Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (ZS6WN) was the fox, hiding on Strubenskop in Lynnwood. A total of 14 members and friends participated. The 1<sup>st</sup> to uncover the hidden transmitter was Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS, followed by Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS and Doppies Van der Hoven ZS6BAQ. The next DF-hunt was held on 22 September 1984.
- Dave Smith ZS6AZP achieved 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 1984 SARL QRP Contest with Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK) and Sarel Stapelberg ZS6EK also representing Protea.
- At Du Plooy ZS1FY came 7<sup>th</sup> in the 1984 SARL HF Phone Contest.
- Pam Momberg ZS6APT (now ZS1PAM) received the SARL Jack Twine Merit Award in 1984.
- Gert Terblanche ZS6BIK (Hamrad Pretoria) joined the SK league on 19 August 1984.
- On 23 September 1984 members enjoyed a "Day-in-the-sun" at the Willem Prinsloo Museum near Cullinan.
- Protea also held a flea market on 6 October 1984.
- A branch contest station (Home Station Category) was set up at the QTH of Ad Liefbroer ZS6AE for the SARL VHF/UHF Contest of 21/22 October 1984. This was preceded with an "Antenna Day" the weekend prior. Members that partook were Ad Liefbroer ZS6AE, Johan Engelbrecht ZR6YO (now VK4KR), Gerard De Jong ZS6KX (then ZS6CEI for a short while), Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS, Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB (ZS6GJC), André Du Plessis ZR6AGA and Johan Keulder ZS6CAQ. Pine Pienaar operated ZS6XPS from Kransberg near Thabazimbi and also set the national Meteor Scatter record by working Mike Bosch ZS2FM over a distance of 1045km.
- Another weekend getaway was held at Klein Kariba over the weekend of 10/11 November 1984.
- Larry Murray ZS6LA and Theo De la Rey ZS6CAT arranged the Protea branch participation during the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1984 SARL Field Day Contest, followed-up with a amateur radio film evening.
- Protea was notified that the Dalveria Scout Hall will not be available from January 1985 and alternatives venues were urgently needed.

- Notice was also received that the Elardus Park Water-tower repeater site will have to be vacated early in 1985.
- A very busy 1984 was brought to a close with a “Bring & Braai” at the QTH of Jochen Göldner.

### **Changing from Protea Branch to the Verwoerdburg Branch**

- 1985 kicked off with the challenges of finding a new meeting venue and a site for the Protea repeaters. A temporary extension for the Dalveria Scout Hall was secured for the time being.
- At the February 1985 branch meeting, the chairperson, Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK) announced that the Verwoerdburg City Council (then an independent municipality) offered the branch a clubhouse in Verwoerdburg. The only requirement was that the branch change its name to the Verwoerdburg Branch of the SARL. The meeting approved the name change in principle pending final approval at a Special General Meeting. This well attended SGM was held on 20 March 1985 at the new clubhouse, approving the name change. The branch newsletter was also renamed to CQ Verwoerdburg- the first version published in April 1985.
- Yet another Klein Kariba weekend away was arranged for 15 – 17 March 1985 and was attended by about 16 families. Jannie Nel ZR6CBN was the sheep spit-braai master.
- Dave Smith ZS6AZP organized a QRP activity day for 31 March 1985.
- At this time the branch had 140 members, thus one of the largest branches of the SARL.
- Frik Crauze ZS6BOZ became SK killed in a tragic motor accident.
- During 1985 At Du Plooy ZS1FY also served on the SARL Council responsible for training and technical portfolio.
- After final negotiations the Verwoerdburg Town Council handed us the use of a clubhouse situated in Basden Avenue, together with radio equipment, valued at that time at R15000.00. This was in March 1985. The clubhouse, which was named The Verwoerdburg Amateur Radio Centre was kitted out and many happy years there. The branch call sign was changed to ZS6TVB.
- The first clubhouse was situated within the municipal magazine grounds in an old house. The house was used as an old store and members spent weeks to convert the old house back into a proper clubhouse. Several fundraising events and projects were arranged to obtain funds for the new clubhouse. Other than the usual monthly branch meeting, members also held a social “Bring and Braai” once a month at the clubhouse, as well as several other meetings such as the QRP Activity Group, SADXA and the RAE Technical classes held by Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS.
- Branch bulletins were transmitted every Sunday at 11:30 on 2m/6m/20m and 40m. Branch committee members took turns to compile and read the bulletins. Gert Viljoen ZR6BV transmitted a recording of the bulletins on the Sunday evening at 20:30.
- At the 1985 SARL AGM held in Pretoria, the branch with its new name walked away with the Neill Efficiency Award. Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) SK was awarded the SARL Jack Twine Award.
- A new repeater site was secured at the Donkerhoek Mine east of Pretoria but an interim extension for the Elardus Park site was obtained, giving branch time to preparations at the new site.

- Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS arranged a team of members to participate in the SARL VHF/UHF Contest of 27/28 April 1985 using his callsign from Steenkampsberg, near Dullstroom. Another team under the leadership of Pine Pienaar ZS6OB operated from Kransberg near Thabazimbi.
- The 1985 Branch AGM was held on 8 June 1985 at the new branch clubhouse. The new branch committee was elected:
  - Chairperson: Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK)
  - Vice-chairperson: Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS
  - Secretary / Treasurer: Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) (SK)
  - Committee members: Arthur Jordaan ZS6CCV (later ZS1AIJ) (SK)  
Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (later ZS6WN) – resigning in Jan 1986 due to relocating to Pietersburg/Polokwane  
Johan Engelbrecht ZR6YO (now VK4KR)  
Paul Roos ZS6HQ  
Sarel Stapelberg ZS6EK  
André Du Plessis ZR6AGA  
Terrence Bartle ZS6ABE  
Chris De Jager ZS6BRV
- Dupie Du Plessis commenced with RAE classes at the clubhouse in preparation for the October RAE.
- Another Day-in-the Sun was arranged for 22 September 1985 at the Willem Prinsloo Museum.
- Karel Bezuidenhout (now ZS6WN) came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1985 SARL HF CW Contest. Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK), Sarel Stapelberg ZS6EK, Theo De La Rey ZS6CAT and Corrie Bodenstein ZS6AVK operated a station from the clubhouse during this contest, using the branch callsign ZS6TVB. Dave Smith ZS6AZP operated QRP and came 34<sup>th</sup>.
- Kallie De Waal ZS6AEN (later ZS4AAR) came 14<sup>th</sup> in the SARL Phone Contest for that year. Pam ZS6APT and Karel ZS6BPJ also operated a station from the clubhouse using the branch call sign ZS6TVB and came 18<sup>th</sup> out of 65 entries.
- The October 1985 weekend away to Klein Kariba was well supported by several members and families. Another weekend was planned for March 1986.
- Pine Pienaar ZS6OB, together with Stan Botha ZS6AXP and Gideon Bothma ZS6BZT (SK), operated a multi-operator home station during the September 1985 VHF/UHF Contest from Pine's QTH, claiming 1<sup>st</sup> place in that class, 2<sup>nd</sup> overall as well as the longest distances worked on 6m, 2m and 70cm. Verwoerdburg Branch again hosting this contest with Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ as the convenor of the contest committee, also partook from the Branch Clubhouse under the callsign ZS6TVB.
- During the 1985 SARL Field Day Contest held on 16 November, the branch operated a station from the plot of Larry Murray ZS6LA, using the branch callsign ZS6TVB. Theo De la Rey ZS6CAT assisted Larry with the organising.
- In January 1986 Johan Engelbrecht ZR6YO (later VK4KR) took over the Contests portfolio from Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (ZS6WN) after Karel's resignation from the committee due to his relocation to Pietersburg/Polokwane.
- The membership of the branch (with full SARL voting rights) stood at 123.

- CW/Morse code training classes were done twice weekly on the branch 2m-repeater by Arthur Jordaan ZS6CCV (ZS1AIJ) (SK).
- In April 1986 the rules for the Verwoerdburg Branch Award were published.
- Branch bulletins were transmitted every Sunday at 11:30 SAST on 80m 3656kHz, 40m 7076kHz and 20m 14150kHz as well as on the branch repeaters. Gert Viljoen ZR6BV faithfully ran a recorded repeat of the bulletins every Sunday evening at 20:30 SAST for many years.
- The chairperson, Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK) was delegated to represent the branch at the 1986 SARL AGM at Bloemfontein.
- During the 1986 Branch AGM the following members were elected to the branch committee:
  - Chairperson: Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK)
  - Vice-chairperson: Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS
  - Secretary / Treasurer: Pam Momberg ZS6APT (now ZS1PAM)
  - Committee members: Ad Liefbroer ZS6AE  
Gerard De Jong ZS6KX (SK)  
Alan Bower ZS6ADB  
Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB (later ZS6GJC)  
Gert Viljoen ZR6BV  
Roelie Oelofse ZS6RO
- On 19 May 1986 Pine Pienaar ZS6OB set a new 6m Meteor Scatter record by working ZS1EK in Simonstown on SSB.
- Pine ZS6OB also made his usual mark in the March 1986 SARL VHF/UHF Contest (Home single operator) and working the longest distance on 144MHz. Pine also received the Cape Town Branch VHF/UHF Award.
- This was also the last VHF/UHF Contest hosted by the branch as the Pretoria branch offered to be the new host.
- The branch, operating a station using its call-sign ZS6TVB achieved joint 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 1986 SARL HF Phone Contest and joint 12<sup>th</sup> in the SARL HF CW Contest
- The branch managed a 3<sup>rd</sup> place during the 2<sup>nd</sup> SARL VHF/UHF Contest of 1986. Special mention was made of André Du Plessis ZR6AGA who managed to contact 95 stations in 7 grid squares on 144MHz using just a SlimJim antenna! As the first contest hosted by the Pretoria branch, they simply dominated the contest with the University of Pretoria Amateur Radio Club ZS6TUK achieving 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- During 1987 the branch contributed to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Verwoerdburg by operating the special event station ZS25VWB.
- The first Cumulative VHF/UHF Contest was hosted by the Highway Branch of the SARL over a period of a year (1986/87). Pine Pienaar ZS6OB managed to win some of the operating periods, came first on 50MHz and managed to work the longest distance on 50Mhz (1325km).
- Pine ZS6OB's multi-operator home station took 1<sup>st</sup> spot in that class in the SARL VHF/UHF Contest held 14-14 March 1987. The branch managed a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the branch/group participation division. Kalie De Waal ZS4AAR won the division 4 category from his home in Bethlehem. Andre Du Plessis ZR6AGA also participated in the Home/Single Operator/2m only category.
- Dave Smith ZS6AZP managed 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 1987 SARL QRP Contest.

- Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) achieved a 9<sup>th</sup> place in the 1987 SARL HF Phone Contest with Larry Murray ZS6LA 18<sup>th</sup> out of 60 entries.
- Corrie Bodenstein ZS6AVK and Sarel Stapelberg ZS6EK achieved 9<sup>th</sup> place operating as ZS6TVB and Pam ZS6APT 18<sup>th</sup> during the 1987 SARL HF CW Contest.
- The results of the September 1987 SARL VHF/UHF Contest show that ZS6OB once again topped the multi-operator home station category and Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB (now ZS6GJC) winning the field station single operator category. Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (ZS6WN) managed the longest distance establishing a contest record with a QSO on 144Mhz portable from KG47 with ZS4AAB in KG11 – a distance of about 900km.
- Around this time the clubhouse was taken away from the club, and the members were moved to a prefabricated building, next to the fire station in Verwoerdburg. This served as the clubhouse for a number of years.
- The club's repeater was also moved to a new site near Donkerhoek, east of Pretoria.
- In March 1988 Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW published the first "The QRP Column" in Radio ZS. The Verwoerdburg branch was very involved with the promotion of QRP for many years. Frequent meetings of QRP enthusiasts were held at the Verwoerdburg clubhouse.
- Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS (SK) and Pam Momberg ZS6APT (ZS1PAM) were the branch delegates to the 1988 SARL AGM, held in Pinetown, Natal.
- The branch took top honours in the March 1988 SARL VHF/UHF Contest (Branch/group participation category), also operating under the club call-sign ZS6TVB with many of the branch members participating. Pine Pienaar ZS6OB yet again achieved winning the multi-operator home station category. 90 logs were submitted as entries into this contest – 15 of those were from our branch (Ben Meintjes ZS6AIB, Gerhard De Jongh ZS6KX (SK), Johan Boessenkool ZR6A, Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB (ZS6GJC), Jan Hattingh ZS6BMN, Roedolph Oelofse ZR6RO, Gert Viljoen ZR6BV, Melanie De Jongh ZS6KH, Paul Roos ZS6HQ, Cobus Hechter ZR6AJN, Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ (SK), Johann Van Rooyen ZS6AAG (ZS6L), Amelia Van der Westhuizen ZR6AKD, Japie Bruyns ZS6UK (SK).
- The following members were elected to the Branch committee for 1988/-89:
  - Chairperson: Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS
  - Vice-chairperson: André Du Plessis ZR6AGA
  - Secretary / Treasurer: Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (ZS6WN)
  - Committee members: Gerard De Jong ZS6KX (SK)  
Paul Roos ZS6HQ  
Johan Boessenkool ZR6A (SK)  
Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ (SK)  
Roelie Oelofse ZS6RO  
Jimmy Lamb ZS6GS.
- The year 1989 was a year of big changes for the South African Radio League when the head-office of the SARL was moved to Johannesburg after having been in Cape Town since 1949 when it was moved from Johannesburg to Cape Town. An interim committee was appointed to manage the move to Johannesburg until a new council was elected after the 1989 SARL AGM held in Stellenbosch. SARL's new Head Office

was accommodated in the Johannesburg branch clubhouse in Houghton, Johannesburg. SARL membership increased with 13,9% within the next year and by 21% the following year.

- The results of the March 1989 SARL VHF/UHF Contests shows that Pine Pienaar ZS6OB again took the home station multi-operator category (Pine was assisted by Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (ZS6WN) and Len Greyling ZS6LEN), also making the longest distance on 144MHz with a QSO to ZS4AAB. Johan Van Rooyen ZS6AAG (now ZS6L) came first as a field station single operator in division 6. The branch was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the branch/group participation category. A total of 11 branch members submitted log entries for the contest (Pine Pienaar ZS6OB, Johan Van Rooyen ZS6AAG (ZS6L), Johan Boessenkool ZR6A (SK), André Du Plessis ZR6AGA, Colin Neethlingh ZR6AJY, Gert Viljoen ZR6BV, Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS, Johan Engelbrecht ZR6YO, Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ (SK), Danie Brynard ZS6AWK and Paul Roos ZS6HQ). Andre Du Plessis ZR6AGA commented that he managed his first DX QSO on 6m during the contest, Johan Boessenkool ZR6A (SK) stated that he had great fun, Gert Viljoen ZR6BV complained about inconsiderate operators chatting on contest frequencies and Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS only managed to operate for 2 hours. Johan Engelbrecht ZR6YO suggested that "salt-mine activities be banned during the contest", Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ (SK) also complained about selfish operator despite him having fun in testing his equipment but Paul Roos ZS6HQ said the spirit amongst participants was great.
- In Radio ZS April 1989 the following members were listed as active QRP'ers: Johan Van Rooyen ZS6AAG (now ZS6L), Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW, Alan Bower ZS6ADB, and Dave Smith ZS6AZP. The QRP enthusiast continued with their regular meetings as the ZS6TVB Clubhouse.
- Jannie Kuhn ZS6FG, Verwoerdburg branch's only Honorary Life Member of the SARL, became SK on 9 May 1989. Aged 73.
- Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (ZS6WN) was awarded the Die Perd Trophy for the 1988/89 year.
- Pine Pienaar ZS6OB once more won the Home-station multi-operator category in the September 1989 SARL VHF/UHF Contest. Verwoerdburg Branch topped the Branch/Group Participation category.
- Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS was the Verwoerdburg Branch delegate to the 1990 SARL AGM held in Johannesburg.
- The branch won the Multi-operator Home-station category during the 1<sup>st</sup> 1990 SARL VHF/UHF Contest using the call-sign ZS6VWB. 16 Verwoerdburg members (André Du Plessis ZR6AGA, Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB (later ZS6GJC), Jan Hattingh ZS6BMN, Izak Schoonraad ZR6AEM, Hannes Coetzee ZS6BZP, Roelie Oelofse ZR6RO, Paul Roos ZS6HQ, Gert Viljoen ZR6BV, Louis Kloke ZR6WJ, Thomas Funk ZR6TMF, Johann Van Rooyen ZS6AAG (ZS6L), Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ (SK), Dwight West ZS6NT, Cobus Hechter ZR6AJN and Johan Keulder ZS6CAQ) entered resulting in the branch obtaining the 4<sup>th</sup> position in the Branch/Group Participation category.
- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> SARL VHF/UHF Contest of 1990, the branch once again took top honours as ZS6VWB Multi-operator Home Station and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Branch/Group Participation category. Members who entered were André Du Plessis ZR6AGA, Johan Boessenkool ZR6A (SK), Pieter Human ZR6AHT later ZS6PA, Ben Meintjes ZS6AIB (SK), André Brink ZR6EM (ZS6DIL), Jan Hattingh ZS6BMN, J?? Du Preez ZR6K, Gert Viljoen ZR6BV, Izak Schoonraad ZR6AEM, Willie Naude ZS6BAK, Dino Cottis ZS6DNO, Jan Le Roux ZS6BPV, Theo De La Rey ZS6CAT, Alan Johnson ZR6AOI, Pierre Rossouw ZR6AVE (ZS6ROS), Johann Van Rooyen ZS6AAG (later ZS6L), Thomas Funk ZR6TMF, Dwight West ZS6NT, Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW, Gustav Van den Berg ZS6GUS and Mannie De Beer ZS6AK (SK).



- Club station of the branch - ZS6VWB (operated by Karel Bezuidenhout ZS6BPJ (ZS6WN)) came 7<sup>th</sup> in the 1990 SARL HF Phone Contest. Other members who participated were Hannes Coetzee ZS6BZP and Corrie Bodenstein ZS6AVK.
- ZS6VWB again won the Home-station multi-operator category in the March 1991 SARL VHF/UHF Contest. The branch managed the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot in the Branch/Group Participation category. André Du Plessis ZR6AGA, Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB (ZS6GJC), Pieter Human ZR6AHT (ZS6PA), Hannes Coetzee ZS6BZP, Paul Roos ZS6HQ, Malcolm Kriel ZR6MDK (later ZS4SM) SK, Izak Schoonraad ZR6AEM, Ben Booyesen ZR6ATA, Pine Pienaar ZS6OB, Jan Hattingh ZS6BMN, Lynn West ZR6LYN, Alan Johnson ZR6AOI, Dwight West ZS6NT, Wally Moll ZS6BCI, Jannie Van Niewenhuizen ZS6WAS (SK) and Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW submitted their logs.
- Badie Badenhorst ZS6YH became SK during 1991.
- The logs of the September 1991 QRP Field Day show that Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW and Dave Smith ZS6AZP were still doing their part as Verwoerdburg members.
- The branch club station ZS6VWB once again took top honours in the Home-station multi-operator category during the September 1991 SARL VHF/UHF Contest. Member participating were Colin Neethling ZR6AJY, Malcolm Kriel ZR6MDK (ZS4SM) SK, Izak Schoonraad ZR6AEM, Alan Johnson ZR6AOI, Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB (ZS6GJC), Pieter Human ZR6AHT (ZS6PA), Lester Talbot ZR6AVD, Lynette West ZR6LYN, Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS, Theo De La Rey ZS6CAT and Dwight West ZS6NT.
- Branch chairperson Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS attended the SARL council meeting held on 27 June 1992 as a visitor.
- In the March 1992 SARL VHF/UHF Contest Gert Viljoen ZR6BV won the Single operator home-station category (FM only) for division 6. André Du Plessis ZR6AGA achieved 6<sup>th</sup> spot in the same category for all modes. Other members that entered were Lynn West ZR6LYN and Dwight West ZS6NT. Only 32 logs were entered nationally.
- September 1992 the compulsory 200 QSO or one year waiting period for new ZS's to be allowed phone privileges on HF was scrapped so that anyone who passed the 12 w.p.m. morse code test and obtaining a ZS callsign can immediately use any phone mode (SSB/AM/FM) on the HF bands. Those who passed the 5 w.p.m. test were still allowed a Novice class ZU1 callsign and CW only on certain HF bands with limited power output (even if you had a ZR-call-sign).
- Jan Hattingh ZS6BMN published a comprehensive article "SA Amsat and the Satellite Station Development Programme" in the August 1992 edition of Radio ZS.
- Japie Bruyns ZS6UK, one of the old timers of the branch became SK October 1992.
- Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW, Dave Smith and Malcolm Kriel ZR6MDK (ZS4SM) SK assisted the Irene Air Scouts station ZS6FLY during the 1992 JOTA.
- Corrie Bodenstein ZS6AVK was the only branch entrant in the 1992 SARL HF Phone Contest and CW Contest.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> SARL VHF/UHF Contest of 1992 was boycotted by the traditional division 6 participants due to a disagreement regarding the rules, causing the hosting branch, Pretoria to resign and the matter to be referred to the 1993 SARL AGM for discussion.
- The March 1993 SARL AGM, hosted by the Pretoria branches of the SARL, was held at the University of Pretoria, coinciding with an Amateur Radio Convention / hamfest "Amateur Radio Africa 1993".

- Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW received the Radio ZS Shield for his consistent support of Radio ZS with his “The QRP 80/40 Column”.
- Dwight West ZS6NT published a comprehensive article in the April 1993 Radio ZS “VLF as a diagnostic tool for ionospheric observations & short-term predictions”.
- Fred Pentz ZS6AWE, another old timer of the branch became SK in April 1993.
- During 1993 Jan Hattingh ZS6BMN has been asked to assist the OSCAR 16 command team with the collection of the activity diary. Jan was the first South African to have completed the American Command Station Development programme level 0 with honours and has been the driving force behind the SA AMSAT Command Station Development programme.
- The Branch Committee for 1993 was as follows:
  - Chairperson: Alan Bower ZS6ASJ
  - Vice-chairperson: Vic Du Preez ZS6BKS
  - Secretary: Cas Badenhorst ZR6CHB
  - Treasurer: Pierre Du Plessis ZR6GS
  - Committee members: Gerhard De Jongh ZS6KX (SK)  
Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ (SK)  
Danie Brynard ZS6AWK  
Phillip Luwes ZR6AKL.
- Due to the boycott by division 6, protesting the changed rules, interest by branch members in the 1<sup>st</sup> SARL VHF/UHF Contest for 1993 was limited. The same occurred during the September 1993 leg of the contest with only 23 logs entered nationally.
- Gerard De Jong ZS6KX (SK), assisted by Danie Brynard ZS6AWK set a QRP record on 19 September 1993 by working Vincent Harrison ZS6BTY (of Johannesburg Branch) on 10,25GHz over a distance of 268km between Kransberg, near Thabazimbi and De Berg on the Steenkampsberg near Dullstroom, using only 50mW! A photo of this endeavour appears on Radio ZS of February 1994.
- The technical team of the branch, Gerhard De Jongh ZS6KX and Danie Brynard ZS6AWK developed a 2m synthesizer in 1993, made available in kit form.
- Jan Hattingh ZS6BMN was the first recipient of the SA-AMSAT Technical Achievement Award in 1994. Jan was also the first station on the African continent to receive very weak signals from Oscar 13 during tests by AMSAT North America.
- The following Verwoerburg members were considered QRP enthusiast at the beginning of 1994: Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW, Alan Bower ZS6ASJ, Corrie Bodenstein ZS6AVK, Danie Brynard ZS6AWK, Dave Smith ZS6AZP, Jan Hattingh ZS6BMN, Sarel Stapelberg ZS6EK, Hannes Coetzee ZS6BZP and Jack Sinden ZS6QJ. Hannes Coetzee ZS6BZP related his experiences with QRP in an article “QRP in die Drakensberge” in Radio ZS of January 1995.
- Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS represented Verwoerdburg branch at the 1994 SARL AGM held in Port Elizabeth. At the AGM Gerhard De Jong ZS6KX and Vincent Harrison ZS6BTY were jointly awarded the Joseph White Trophy for their earlier achievement on 10GHz.
- The achievements of Gerard ZS6KX is followed up with an article by Hannes Coetzee ZS6BZP in Radio ZS January 1995: “X-band!”
- The Branch Committee for 1994 was elected as follows:

- Chairperson: Pierre Du Plessis ZR6GS
- Vice-chairperson: Jack Sinden ZS6QJ
- Secretary: Dirk Van der Elst ZR6DHE
- Committee members: Johan Engelbrecht ZR6YO  
Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ (SK)  
Danie Brynard ZS6AWK  
Cas Badenhorst ZS6RA  
Phillip Luwes ZS6MZ  
Malcolm Kriel ZR6MDK (ZS4SM) SK  
Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW  
Gert Viljoen ZR6BV
- In November 1994 Jimmy Lamb ZS6GS became SK.
- During 1994 the participation by branch members in any SARL contest was minimal. Corrie Bodenstein ZS6AVK was as the only Verwoerdburg entry into the 1994 SARL HF CW Contest with a 16<sup>th</sup> place out of 30 entries.
- Gerard De Jongh ZS6KX, assisted with Danie Brenard ZS6AWK again set up a new UHF record on 20 November 1994 with ZS6AIR/ZR6SIX on 24GHz over a distance of 24km using FM (a photo of the station appears on the frontpage of Radio ZS of February 1995 – older members will remember the fondly called “klub se bakkie”).
- At its AGM on 25 March 1995 the Verwoerdburg Branch elected its new committee:
  - Chairperson: Pierre Du Plessis ZR6GS
  - Vice-chairperson: Jack Sinden ZS6QJ
  - Secretary: Dirk Van der Elst ZR6DHE
  - Treasurer: Pierre Du Plessis ZR6GS
  - Committee members: Johan Engelbrecht ZR6YO  
Paul Roos ZS6HQ  
Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ  
Cas Badenhorst ZS6RA  
Phillip Luwes ZS6MZ  
Malcolm Kriel ZR6MDK (ZS4SM) SK  
Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW  
Johan Keulder ZS6CAQ  
Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB  
Izak Schoonraad ZS6IJS
- Jannie Van Niewenhuysen ZS6WAS was the only member reported as active on 160m during April 1995.
- A group of Verwoerdburg branch members, Malcolm Kriel ZR6MDK (ZS4SM) SK , Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW and Theo De la Rey ZS6CAT assisted in identifying military radio equipment in storage over 50 years at the SA National Museum of Military History in Saxonwold, Johannesburg.
- SARL President, Chris Turner ZS6GM, attended a branch meeting in April 1995 as part of the SARL Council’s drive to improve communication between council and branches.

- Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW began another regular series of articles in Radio ZS in 1995: "Radio Scouting" to promote amateur radio in the Scouts and Guides movements.
- Derek Gravett ZS6DDG (now ZS5Y) took 1<sup>st</sup> honours in the 1995 SARL VHF/UHF Contest in the Multi-operator Field-station.
- In 1995 the name of Verwoerdburg was changed to Centurion due to the changes in the political landscape since 1994.
- The 1996 Verwoerdburg Branch committee members were:
  - Chairperson: Jack Sinden ZS6QJ
  - Vice-chairperson: Pierre Du Plessis ZR6GS
  - Secretary: Dirk Van der Elst ZR6DHE
  - Treasurer: Pierre Du Plessis ZR6GS
  - Committee members: Johan Engelbrecht ZR6YO  
Paul Roos ZS6HQ  
Jochen Goldner ZS6AHJ  
Cas Badenhorst ZS6RA  
Phillip Luwes ZS6MZ  
Malcolm Kriel ZR6MDK (ZS4SM) SK  
Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW  
Johan Keulder ZS6CAQ  
Gert Coetzee ZR6AAB  
Izak Schoonraad ZS6IJS  
Theo De la Rey ZS6CAT  
Phillip Luwes ZS6MZ  
Gert Viljoen ZR6BV  
Ray Webber ZR6RSW
- Derek Gravett ZS6DDG achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> position in the March 1996 SARL VHF/UHF Contest Multi-operator Field Station.
- Further changes came about in 1996 when the SARL changes its constitution after a national postal ballot to make provision for branches to become associated amateur radio clubs. Draft club constitutions were developed for those branches who chose to change to clubs. The oldest branch of the SARL, the Pretoria branch, then 67 years old, formally changed status to an independent club associated with the SARL on 11 July 1996.
- The Verwoerdburg branch held its last meeting on 6 July 1996 to vote on the inauguration of the new club - the Centurion Radio Amateur Club, with the call sign ZS6CEN, associated with the SARL and with the retention of the recently elected committee to maintain continuity.
- Within a matter of weeks almost all the former branches of the SARL changed status to become independent clubs.
- Corrie Bodenstein ZS6AVK and Larry Murray ZS1ALA were the only two club members participating in the 1997 SARL HF SSB Contest.
- Dave Gemmel ZS6AAW, Dave Smith ZS6AZP and Theo De la Rey ZS6CAT assisted during the 1997 Jamboree-on-the-air (JOTA).

- Derek Gravett ZS6DDG again won the Multi-Operator Field-station category in the September 1997 SARL VHF/UHF Contest.
- Club chairperson, Jack Sinden ZS6QJ attended a meeting (“Indaba”) of club chairperson with SARL Council on 17 January 1998. The meeting was chaired by SARL President, Chris Turner ZS6GM. Various burning issues were discussed.
- Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW was awarded the Radio ZS Shield at the 1998 SARL AGM.
- Hannes Coetzee ZS6BZP was the only club member submitting an entry for the 1998 SARL HF SSB Contest.
- Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW was once again active during the 41<sup>st</sup> JOTA held over the weekend on 17-18 October 1998 operating ZS6MUS and ZS6FLY.
- Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW, Dupie Du Plessis ZR6GS, Wally Moll ZS6BCI, Theo De la Rey ZS6CAT and Malcolm Kriel ZR6MDK (ZS4SM) (SK) were frequent supporters, called “Friends of the SAAF Museum” at Zwartkop AFB.
- On 23 April 1999 the SARL officially opened its new headquarters at Sentech Park, Radiokop, Johannesburg. For the first time since 1989, when headquarters was moved from Cape Town, SARL had a permanent home.
- Danie Bynard ZS6AWK gave a talk on portable microwave operation at the West Rand VHF/UHF Symposium held at the West Rand Amateur Radio Club on 5 June 1999.
- Dave Gemmell ZS6AAW operated from ZS6MUS during the SARL HF Field Day held 8 – 9 October 1999.
- The results of the 1999 SARL HF Contest show that none of the Centurion ARC members submitted a log.
- During the 2000 AGM of the Club, the following members were elected to serve as committee members:
  - Chairperson: Jack Sinden ZS6QJ
  - Vice-chairperson: Ben Booyesen ZR6ATA
  - Secretary: Dirk Van der Elst ZR6DHE
  - Treasurer: Ben Booyesen ZR6ATA
  - Committee members: Annetjie ????? ZR6ANN  
Theuns ????? ZR6TNS  
Gert Viljoen ZS6BV  
Johan Keulder ZS6CAQ  
Willie Opperman ZR6ARF
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- Needless to say that clubhouse was also taken away from the members, and somehow we landed up in a building up at the Soccer field in Hatfield.
- When Jimmy and Pam resumed their amateur activities, Pam once again started serving on the committee, firstly as Treasurer and now Chairman/Treasurer.
- On 9 July 2002 Willy Wilson ZR6CY, founding member of the club, from the time of Impala- and Protea branch, became SK.
- Malcolm Kriel ZS4SM (ex ZR6MDK) became SK on 15 July 2015, aged 72.
- Founder member of Jacaranda- and Protea branch, and chairperson/committee member for many terms, Jimmy Momberg ZS6APS became SK on 11 July 2017, aged 81.

- Fritz Sutherland ZS6SF (ex-ZS6ASF), founder member of Impala- and Protea branch, later councillor and President of the SARL, became SK on 11 November 2020, aged 75.