



Hammies



South African Radio League
News Letter



Wow, the last few months have really flown. Exams have started, Christmas is just around the corner and before we blink our eyes, it will be 2016.

The Hammies have accomplished so much as a group since May this year. A remarkable achievement was when we came third overall in the QRP contest. This was a fantastic effort on part of all the youngsters, as we only took part in two of the four legs. Every team member put in a lot of effort and this contributed to the success.



Robert ZU6BOB logging contacts with Nathan ZU6X calling CQ during the Spring QRP contest



The Hammies showcasing amateur radio at the Eskom EXPO for young Scientists at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg, in October

L/R Dylan ZU6DRM, Noel ZR6DX, Connor ZU6CM, Nathan ZU6X and Matthew ZS6MDV

Hammies Amateur Radio Club KZN (ZS5ZU)
Welcome to Andre Rheder ZS5AW, and Corrie Struwig ZS5AC, who have taken up the challenge to start a "Hammies franchise" in Vryheid, Kwa-Zulu Natal. The Hammies community is growing, with the addition of six keen youngsters, who cannot wait to go on air as qualified Hammies. The ZS5ZU call sign has been registered with ICASA/SARL as an educational station. This means that the youngsters will soon be on air, so listen out for ZS5ZU and give them your support.



Riaan Norval talking on the radio supported by Marcus le Roux on the left with Ryno van Zyl looking on

Both ZS6ZU and ZS5ZU set up a station on Saturday the 21st November. At first conditions were not good, but improved by midday. Contacts were made on 7.135 MHz, and both groups chatted to each other in English and Afrikaans. This was an historic occasion, as this was the first QSO between the two Hammies groups. We are looking forward to many more of these "get togethers" in the future.

The new Hammies Class B course will be starting in January 2016. There will be a lot more practical projects and fun activities for all involved. The Gauteng course will be held on Saturday mornings. For further information e-mail zr6dx@iafrica.com



YACHT Friendship Net

The YACHT/Hammies Friendship Net is going from strength to strength. This is great opportunity to meet fellow young radio operators from the USA. This Net takes place every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, at 8pm local time. Download Echolink on your phone or PC, and come and join in the fun on the W8PIF-R node.

Hammies Net

The Hammies Net takes place every Friday evening at 7:00pm on the West Rand repeater, 145.625. This is a weekly social chat affording the Hammies an opportunity to catch up on news and have a chin wag. Connor ZU6CM has proved to be a very capable net controller.

Year end function

The year end function was held at NARC on the 21st November. We had an adventure-filled morning, with the Hammies taking part in a Fox Hunt. We really missed Glen ZU6G and Neo ZU6SM



Dylan ZU6DRM listening for the Fox .



F/R L/R Connor ZURCM, Nathan ZU6X, Robert ZU6BOB, Dylan ZU6DRM. B/R L/R Graham ZS6GL, Noel ZR6DX



Diary of Events

19 – 20th December: YOTA (Youth On The Air). Hammies will be operating a station at NARC for 24 hours, using the call sign ZS9YOTA. YOTA is for all young people under the age of 25. The event is held annually, and the aim of the contest is to make as many contacts as possible, with other youth stations throughout the world. This is a fun event, and a great opportunity to talk to like-minded youth all over the world.. We will be setting up a camp at NARC, so that the Hammies can operate the station non-stop for a marathon 24 hours !

23rd January 2016

A “get together” at NARC. Details to follow.

Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following:

Nathan 6th December

Dylan 25th December



Editors note:

I can't believe it, the year is drawing to an end, it just seems that we started the Hammies club yesterday. Much has been accomplished; building of power supplies and ground plane antennas; 3rd place overall in the SARL QRP contest; to name a few...

Thank you to all the generous donors who have made the Hammies club possible. A special thanks to the Masimirembwa family for the Hammies shirts, to Roger Jones ZS6RJ for the ICOM 2M/70cm mobile radio, to Nic van Duffelen ZR6AEZ for the ICOM hand-helds and other goodies; and to all the committee members for making the Hammies a very special club. A big thank you ! To those who will be travelling over the holiday period, drive safely, and I hope you all have a relaxing break over the holidays.

Festive greetings to all,
Noel Hammond ZR6DX



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