

ZS6STN News update

Dear ZS6STN club member

2020/06/28

I trust you are all well and safe. Herewith, an update as to club activities and some news.

The committee has been meeting via one of the virtual platforms on a regular basis. We met this past Wednesday and a new initiative has been implemented called "*ZS6STN Virtual Club Talking Tech*". The idea is to hold a topic of interest every second Wednesday evening, starting this coming Wednesday the 1st July. This will operate in the form of a Net, where the presenter is the net controller. In the beginning, the topic of discussion will be announced, and we will have a round of call-ins to see who is listening. Once the topic is presented there will be another round of call-ins to see if there are other listeners who would like to add their name to the list. Each person will then have a chance to make a comment or to ask a question. There will be a panel on standby to answer any questions. This is open to all radio amateurs, so please spread the word. Where possible the session will be recorded and will be put on the Sandton Club website as a podcast.

If you have a field of expertise and would like to present a topic then please contact me via email; zr6dx@iafrica.com.

ZS6STN Virtual Club Talking Tech

Date: Wednesday 1st July.
Time: 7pm
Duration: Approximately 1 hour depending on the topic and the Q & A
Mode: 145.700 repeater
Topic: Coaxial cable, covering RG-58, RG-213 and LMR-400 for the shack.
Presenter: Noel Hammond ZR6DX

RAE:

The RAE under the management of Richard ZR6DE is progressing extremely well. Sessions are held once a week and the lecturers are currently holding revision sessions on their topics. Last week's session covered a mock exam on Regulations and Operating procedures. This session was held by Gerhard ZS6CRS. Gerhard will hold the next round of Mock exam questions covering the Technical side this coming Tuesday. The feedback from all is extremely positive. I would personally like to thank all the lecturers for the time and effort you are putting into mentoring the RAE candidates.

D-Star Repeater:

The licence has been received for the D-Star repeater with the call sign ZU9A. The licence was paid for a period of 5 years. Justin ZS6JGP, Henry ZS6MC Nic ZR6AEZ, Hans ZS6B and with the help of Jan ZS1VDV are currently putting the D-Star together. Once covid-19 regulations allow us to have small gatherings, the repeater will be installed at the IEEE in Observatory. Once installed, a notification will go out to all members.

Club fees:

The committee has taken the decision not to increase the club fees for the new financial year, so the membership fee will remain R200.00 for the 2020/2021 financial year. Henry ZS6MC, the club treasurer, will be emailing all the invoices out during the first week of July.

Your Amateur radio Licence:

If you missed the SARL news or don't receive the news, herewith an extract from Today's SARL news bulletin.

“ICASA INVOICES AND WHAT TO DO - "The ICASA license renewal phase is very important for the new online system to work and for the protection of call signs issued to radio amateurs. The Authority extended the renewal date to 30 June 2020 and this is the process that we are busy with. The fact that a payment was made earlier in the year does not mean that the licence is renewed", Dewald Kuhrau told the SARL

The new online system puts control over the licence in the licensee`s hands. All amendments and/or renewals are done online by the licensee. For those radio amateurs who applied for their licences online the process is extremely easy. If you are not yet registered on the system then you need to register, create your legal entity, and then press the renewal button on the manage page. The system will then prompt you to indicate for how many years the licence must be renewed, and an invoice will be rendered after submission. Thereafter you can pay online through your manage portal or upload the proof of payment if payment is made through another method. Renewal for the following year will then be an easy exercise.

If this process is not followed, radio amateurs not only stand a chance to get the licence cancelled but more importantly lose their call signs. These call signs will then be available and assigned to other radio amateur which can cause much unhappiness.

To access the portal, go to <https://online.icasa.org.za/>

Please do not call the SARL or any of the SARL officials as they cannot assist you. They do not have access to your ICASA account. The system is identity driven. If you are experiencing any problems, send an email to dkuhrau@icasa.org.za.”

NOTE: Following on from the extract, I would recommend that you try and register as mentioned. If you do not have any joy, then you should write an email to Dewald Kuhrau, dkuhrau@icasa.org.za who is the head of the ICASA licensing division. If you don't get a response within a few days, then keep on emailing ICASA until you receive a reply.

Stay safe.

Noel Hammond
ZR6DX
Chairman ZS6STN