



South African Radio League Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

Chris Burger ZS6EZ
Inducted in 2016



Chris was born in 1964 and licenced as ZS6BCR in 1980. He holds MEng and BCom degrees from the University of Pretoria and is an accredited professional linguist. He works as a Senior Researcher for the CSIR, specialising in information security and in artificial intelligence applications. He is also a pilot, active in air ambulance operations and training, and acts as pilot examiner for the SA Civil Aviation Authority.

After being licenced on his sixteenth birthday, Chris soon became an active DXer, mostly on CW. During the early Eighties he ran over a dozen DXpeditions to neighbouring countries: His two DXpeditions to the Penguin Islands produced more than two-thirds of all contacts made from that DXCC entity during its brief existence.

For almost two decades, Chris has maintained comprehensive records of South African operating achievements on his Web site. Chris assisted with the writing and editing of the SARL Awards Directory, and provided all his data for inclusion.

The Web site has provided the rallying point for Chris's ongoing efforts to promote efficient operating, DXing and contesting in Southern Africa. In 1999, Chris put his professional acumen to work on the problem of electronic QSLing. He formulated a solution that involved cryptographic authentication and included a business model for supporting DXpedition activity, analogous to the support generated by direct QSL requests. The resulting proposal was prescribed as reading matter for the team designing the Logbook of the World, which came into use some four years later. LotW followed a similar cryptographic approach but used a centralised rather than a distributed architecture.

In 2000, Chris helped to formulate the rules for the expansion of the Worked All ZS awards programme. He also advised Richard Seddon ZS2CLI regarding the then-new SA-QSL system. The combined effects of the expanded programme and SA-QSL lead to explosive growth in WAZS, which continues to this day.

After decades of trying, Chris established an FCC examination team in 2013, allowing South Africans to locally obtain US amateur radio licences.

He has published over 200 articles and three books. These days, he continues to write regularly about amateur radio, travel and aviation.

During 2015, Chris edited and expanded the SARL's RAE Study Guide, aligning it with the HAREC syllabus. The resulting book, Introduction to Amateur Radio, is available on the Internet and is now the standard study guide for SARL supported Radio Amateur Examination lectures. He also worked through the existing examination question pool, ensuring that it reflected the content of the study guide.

During 2016, Chris translated the RAE study guide into Afrikaans as Inleiding tot Amateurradio. To facilitate the process, he produced an English-Afrikaans list of around 1000 radio terms that is now freely available on the Internet.

He is active in advocacy for African countries to adopt amateur radio as a youth development mechanism.

Chris has provided mentorship to many DXers and contesters in South Africa. Although his own world-beating participation has been in limbo since about 2000, many Southern African DXers and contesters recognise Chris as one of their prime sources of inspiration and assistance.

Chris has been an SARL member since 1979, and was awarded the League's Jack Twine merit award in 2011 and the Willy Wilson Gold Badge in 2016.