



South African Radio League Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

Dr Gary Immelman ZS6YI Inducted in 2016

Gary was born in 1956 and licensed in 1973, aged 18. He is a businessman, active in the manufacturing of automotive components and pharmaceuticals. He has a BEng degree from the University of Pretoria. He has been a member of the SARL since 1969.

Gary was appointed Secretary of the Southern Transvaal Branch of the SARL at age 15. He later served numerous terms as Chairman. He started the University of Pretoria's Amateur Radio Club in 1975. He was a founding member of Hamnet and head of the School of Signals Amateur Radio Club. He founded the Vaal Triangle Branch of the SARL and was Chairman of the SARL's Band Planning Committee during 1992 and 1993.

He tutored some 200 RAE students from 1972 to 1980 and was rewarded by becoming the youngest recipient of the SARL's Jack Twine Merit Award. He presented numerous lectures around the country and as examiner taught most of his students Morse code.

Gary's articles have been published overseas, as well as in radio club magazines and Radio ZS. He conducted research into antennas, duplexers and cavity resonators and continues to develop filters and repeater facilities such as the DSP Voting System.

Gary was custodian of the Southern Transvaal Branch repeater from 1980 to 1993. He then became custodian of the Vaal Triangle repeater situated at Brakfontein, equipped with latest DMR Motorola Digital state of the art repeater. He has designed, built cavity resonators for many branches and clubs. He has also continued to develop new technologies, including a DSP voting system now used by the Vaal Triangle Amateur Radio Club's repeater system and a linking system for a network of repeaters covering southern Gauteng, the Free State and KZN.

He obtained ministerial permission to use the Telkom Tower at Brakfontein and later the NGK Church Steeple in Parys. He got special permission to install a repeater on top of the Lethabo Power Station smoke stacks. Repeaters are the backbone of many radio clubs, and his contribution to repeater infrastructure has contributed greatly to the clubs' viability.

Gary has made humanitarian contributions too. He has donated equipment to newly-licensed radio amateurs and missionaries.



Gary has received a number of club recognition awards and Honorary Life Membership of the Vaal Triangle club.

He is the only National Serviceman to have been granted the "Friends of the Army Gymnasium School of Signals" award.

He established the SARL's "ZS6YI Amateur Radio Heritage Award" and is a custodian of early amateur memorabilia.

He has co-ordinated two SARL AGMs and assisted with the 2016 meeting.

His latest contribution is the digitising of all the old SARL Callbooks.

Gary received an honorary doctorate and the Gold Class award from Vaal University of Technology, being the first Vice Chairman of the Technology Centre and inaugural member of their amateur radio club.

In 2015, Gary was awarded Vaal Triangle "Businessman of the Year".

In 2016 the SARL awarded Gary the Willy Wilson Gold badge Award