



# Hammies

South African Radio League  
News Letter



We are now on the final sprint for the 2nd Class B Radio Amateur Exam, which will take place on the 14th May, at the National Amateur Radio Centre, Sentech, Radiokop. We have 8 candidates that will be writing the first exam based on the new Class B manual. I wish the students all the best for the exam and look forward to hearing them on air, using their new call signs.

Matthew ZS6MDV has started the Arduino course and we have had three lessons to date. The attendance has been fair, with three or four youngsters attending each lecture. We have great plans for the future of Arduino.

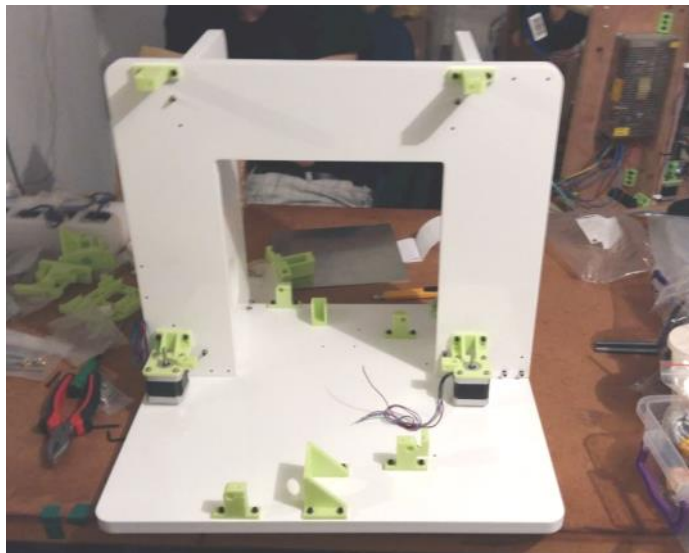
Arduino is an open source platform used for building electronic projects. Arduino consists of a programmable microcontroller and software that runs on a computer. This software uploads the code to the microcontroller, which in turn controls, sensors, motors, electronic circuits etc.



Glen ZU6G learning to programme and build simple circuits using Arduino.



Robert ZU6BOB and Nathan ZU6X With their Arduino Kits. .



*The Hammies 3-D printer taking shape.*

The printer is a Mendel-90. For further information and specifications on the printer, go to the following site: <http://reprap.org/wiki/Mendel90>

Arduino is an extremely popular and easy platform to learn, for those just starting out in programming and electronics. There are many projects available for downloading from the web. These can be simple projects, such as switching on an LED, detecting motion or to more complex projects, such as Three-D printers and complex robotics.

There are many HAM related projects for the enthusiastic builder, such as Power and SWR meters, rotator controllers and simple Morse code generators.



## SARL youth Contest

Three of the Hammies took part in the SARL youth contest that took place on the 20th February.



Congratulations to Robert ZU6BOB and Nathan ZU6X for coming joint second. Connor ZU6CM busy making a contact came fourth. We are all extremely proud of the youngsters, three Hammies in the top four places. Dunne' Duveen and young Willem Weideman looking on.

## Autumn QRP contest

The Class B RAE students joined in with the qualified Hammies for the Autumn leg of the QRP contest. We set up a field station at NARC and used a ICOM 703 with a ZS6BKW antenna at 8 metres.



From L/R Willem, Luke, Ullrich making the contact with Dylan looking on and Robert filling in the logbook.

The youngsters worked as a team and all the hard work paid off as they won the Autumn leg of the QRP contest, by a fairly good margin. A big thanks to all the youngsters. Just goes to show what you can do with a little effort.



## Class B RAE



Young Amy, Kyle and Willem, showing off a project that they built.

During the course the students had tremendous fun learning all about electronic components such as resistors, capacitors, diodes etc. They spent time building various circuits and even built a few circuits using a 555 timer IC.



From L/R Angelo Logan, Ullrich, Willem, Dunne', Luke, Kyle Rhys.. With Nic ZR6AEZ, Richard ZS6RKE and Graham ZS6GL

The class -B RAE students using their new Uni-T Multi-meters

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO 3-D AGENCIES**

3-D Agencies have kindly donated a few Uni-T multi-meters to the Hammies ARC. These multi-meters are easy to use, and just what the Hammies need. They will come in very handy for our future projects like the building of the Hammies power supply and other electronic projects. From all the Hammies, a big, big thank you to 3-D Agencies.



## Hammies PE ZS2ZU

The Hammies trip up to Witteklip (Lady's Slipper) repeater city to look at the PEARS club repeater.



From L/R PE, Class B RAE candidates, Mike, Ryan and Ashton standing outside the PEARS repeater site



Witteklip (Lady's Slipper) repeater site

We arrived at 9 a.m. outside the PEARS club repeater. The repeater is housed in a container and maintained by Chris and some others. I'm not sure just what the kids expected, but I was surprised at how much "stuff" was in there! And packed so neatly too! We discussed the canisters, the VHF and UHF repeaters, the use of the computer and Wi-Fi – all quite something to take in. We then took a look at the antenna – which was a little more familiar to the kids. The Hammies correctly identifying a dipole, a Yagi, and a vertical antenna, which made me feel as proud as any Hammies instructor could be. Being told the 7.009 MHz on the radio meant it was on the 10m band brought me back to earth rather quickly. Sigh. A little more work on the bands then.

Dave Higgs ZS2DH



## Hammies South Africa / YACHT Friendship Net.

The 7<sup>th</sup> of May saw an exciting get-together of Hammies and YACHT folk to exchange news and to get acquainted on Echolink ( W8PIF-R ).

Thank you to Ed KG8CX, who kindly hosted the exchange and did the Net control. This is a fantastic opportunity for youngsters to establish contact with other like-minded youth living in the U.S.A. Our Hammies were well represented by the following: Glen ZU6G, Connor ZU6CM, Robert ZU6BOB, Michelle, ZS6MEM, Graham ZS6GL, Shane ZS6ZSB and Nic ZR6AEZ.

## Diary of Events

### **SARL AGM**

The SARL National Convention (AGM) will be held from 20-21 May 2016 in the Vaal triangle. The convention will be hosted by the Sasolburg Amateur Radio Club. For further information contact the SARL Office at [admin@sarl.org.za](mailto:admin@sarl.org.za)

### **Hammies ZS6 Sprint**

**Date:** 12 June 2016

**Time :** 14H00 to 15H00 UTC 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. local time

This is a fun activity to promote contacts between radio amateurs in ZS6 and radio amateurs in Southern African countries with an emphasis on ZU stations. This is a phone contest on the 40M band and the exchange is RS report and provincial abbreviations. Certificates will be awarded to the first three places for ZU stations as well as ZR/ZS stations.

### **QRP Winter leg**

**Date:** 16 July 2016

**Time:** 12H00 to 15H00 UTC 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. CAT

The Hammies are currently leading the competition. We will once again set up a field station at Brian's ZS6AE plot in Chartwell. This will be a fun event, with fox hunting and our resident braai master ZS6GL will be making boerewors rolls.

**Keep warm and kind regards**

**73 ZR6DX**

