

# About the NARL (1968 - 2010)

This chronic has been compiled for the 21th independence anniversary celebration of the Republic of Namibia and the 21th anniversary of the Namibian Amateur Radio League (NARL).

It will try to provide the reader with the reflection of amateur radio development in the then South West Africa and will pay tribute to those who supported the development to grow from strength to strength. A very special thanks should herewith mentioned to those radio amateur operators who contributed a large amount of information to compile this chronic to be a standing long lasting document for those who will join the NARL in the future.



Here some of the QSL Cards from ZS3:



Gerd ZS3D

- 1968** South West African Radio League was a branch of the South African Radio League as per info of Treasurer Smittie ZS3XQ, Chairman Bevis Pfhol ZS3BP, Secretary Bee ZS3??, Member Gerd Schlorff ZS3B; South West Africa with its +/- 55 licensed Amateur Radio operators joined the world of the IARU with approximately 6 million hams around the world. The IARU prefix at the time was ZS3.
- 1970** Jack ZS4KC moved to Swakopmund and started to operate as ZS3KC with the nickname given by himself of "Kontant Cohen", "Kalahari chicken";
- 1971** "Swakop Show" organized by the Swakopmund Municipality with an own stall set up by Smittie ZS3XQ and Jack ZS3KC;



Smittie ZS3XQ and Jack ZS3KC;

**September 1972 "Cape Cross Expedition"** with call sign allocated ZS3CCE/KC and operators Smittie ZS3ZQ and Jack ZS3KC;



Jack operating ZS3CCE/KC;

**June 1974** QSL card of Max Planck Institute at Tsumeb



Max Planck Institute / Tsumeb



Kosie ZS3E



Van Rooyen ZS3K;



Klaus ZS3L



George ZS3M;



Norbert ZS3N

**30.03.1979**

DX record on 144Mhz by Gerd ZS3B with I4EAT in CW;



Gerd ZS3B

**1980**

**"Dayton / Ohio Hamfest"** visit by Jack ZS3KC and his daughter Itha;

**1981**

**"Swakopmund Jamboree"** special event station for the Swakopmund boy scout with the special call sign ZS3SBS operator: Jack ZS3KC;

**1983**

**"100 Years Lüderitzbucht"** with special event call sign ZS3LDB and operating from Gerd Schlorff shack with the operators: Gerd Schlorff ZS3B, Erich ZS3BT, Gerd Bruns ZS3GB, Arnold ZS3BI, Ulf ZS1ZO and Rainer ZS6AHU;



the XYL of all the operators;

**11.06.1985**

OSCAR 10 satellite communication by Gerd ZS3B with VS6XMT;



William ZS30;



Gert ZS3T



Chris ZS3Z;



Jan ZS3BL

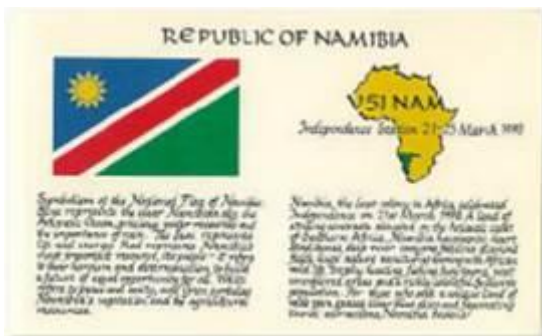


Erich ZS3BT;

### In 1990:

**1990** The IARU prefix was changed to V5.

**21.03.1990** **"Namibia's Independence"** celebrated country wide by all amateur radio operators with a special call sign: V51NAM;



issued QSL card used by many operators county wide in Namibia;

### In 1992:

**12.10.1992** 100 years Swakopmund with special call sign V5100SWP by Arnold V51BI;



Arnold V51BI

### In 1994:

**01.03.1994** "Return Of Off shore Islands and Walvis Bay to Namibia", DX expedition to Penguin Island prefix ZS0X, special event station with call sign V59PI operated by: Hermann V5/DJ6JC, Baldur V5/DJ6SI and Arnold V51BI;



Barney ZS3AB;



ZS3AG



Frank ZS3AK;



ZS3AM



**In 1995:**

**September 1995** "Ham get together" in Okahandja organized by Danie V51DF, Jan V51AP and Jack V51KC;



Jack V51KC given his speech;

**In 1996:**

**September 1996**

**"Ham get together"** in Gobabis organized by Giel V51TX, John Kirkpatrick V51X elected as President of the League;



President elect John V51X in discussion with other hams;



ZS3AN



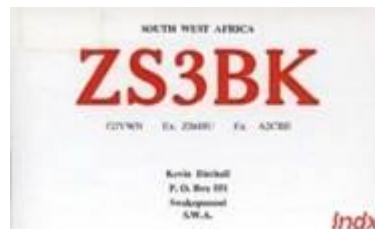
Nigel ZS3AV;



Max Plank Ins. Tsumeb;



Arnold ZS3BI;



*indx* Kevin ZS3BK;

**In 1997:**



**01.11.1997** **"Ham get together"** in Tsumeb organized by Gerd V51GB and Chad V51TX, President elected: Klaus V51L, Vice President elected: Jack V51KC, Secretary elected: Ian V51C, Treasurer elected: Trusty V51TT, Additional Members: Gerd V51GB and Chad V51CM;



Ham get together in Tsumeb;

### **In 1998:**

**October 1998** **"Ham get together"** in Swakopmund organized by Branden Hammond V51BH at an posh restaurant, Photos can tell the story..., all documentation of this meeting went missing on the resignation of the late Ian V51C;



Frank V51AK and Ian V51C;

### **In 2000:**

**20.02.2000** **"Informal Meeting – review the situation of amateur radio in Namibia"**, attended by: Rainer V50BB, Peter V50PA, Peter V51PA, David V51DR, Herbert V51HT, Karl-Heinz V51KH, Klaus V51L and Siggie V51SG;

**05.04.2000** **"Invitation to a General Meeting"** on the 15.04.2000 at 16h00 at Peter's (V50PA) place, signed by (Klaus V51L President), with underlined marks on "2000 W" and hand written remarks on the backside of the page as follows:

(a.) under what condition are you acting as a president, (b.) in 1968 after certain people left the league – the whole situation changed;

**13.04.2000** **"Subject NARL – Secretary Resignation"**, email from Secretary Ian V51C to Jack V51KC, Ian V51C tender his resignation as Secretary of the League and claimed no interest in the league anymore;

**15.04.2000** **"General Meeting discuss problems with the League"** held at 25 Mission Rd. in Windhoek, after discussion it was decided to elect a new committee, elected President: Jack V51KC, Secretary: David V51DR, Treasurer: Chris V50CV, Award Manager: Karl-Heinz V51KH, NCC Liason: Klaus V51L, SADEC Liason: Peter V51PB, QSL Manager: Siggie V51SG, Technical Adviser: Peter V50PA;



Jan ZS3BL;



ZS3EW;



Gerd ZS3GB;



Hans ZS3HF;



Horst ZS3HL;

**19.08.2000 "PELICAN POINT LIGHTHOUSE"**, extract from the World Wide Web used as general info for the event station;



Frank V51?? & Jack V51KC operating from Pelican Point Lighthouse;

**13.10.2000 "Die Amateurkode"** compiled by Paul W9EEA in 1928, via email from [marten@mweb.co.za](mailto:marten@mweb.co.za);



Herbert ZS3HT;



ZS3HX;





Inge ZS3IL & Horst ZS3HL;



Jan ZS3JA;



ZS3JJ;

### In 2002:

- 14.08.2002** "Pelikaan-Point word poort tot die Wereld" in the ERONGO news dated 14. Aug. 2002;
- 19.08.2002** "Set of Pictures" showing the radio operators of the Lighthouse event station;
- 01.10.2002** "Application for a Namibian guest amateur radio license" (spesiale roepsein benodig vir CQ Hou Koers van Voortrekkers, signed Jack V51KC;

### In 2004:

- 20.08.2004** "Swakopmund Lighthouse 2004", special event station with call sign: V51??? with the operating radio amateurs: Karl-Heinz V51KH, Ulli V5/DJ??? and Baldur V5/DJ6S



Karl-Heinz V51KH, Ulli V5/DJ??? & Baldur V5/DJ6SI;

- 20.08.2004** "Lighuis deel in radio geselsies wereldwyd" in the WEEKEND LIFE STYLE news dated 20. Aug. 2004, compiled by H. Lamprecht;

- Sept 2004** "The Team IARU Field Day 2004", with set of pictures showing the amateur radio operators at the Otjikoko Farm of Martin V51W, using the special call sign V550/P operated by the group of amateur radio operators as follows: Klaus V51L, Siggie V51SG, Holger V51HH, Frank V51AS, Peter V51PA, Martin V51WM, Robert V51RS, Jack V51KC, Jürgen V51JF, Gerd V51GB, Erich V51EF and Eike V5/DJ5AO;



Jack ZS3KC;



Koos ZS3KW;



ZS3LD;



Roland ZS3LK;



Werner ZS3LU;



Region1 Fieldday Contest with Call sign V550/p

## In 2005:

- 02.01.2005** "2m repeater" up in running again;
- 01.05.2005** "repeater has been replaced" with a new one, Robert V51RS;
- 03.07.2005** "CQIDX: Echolink" will not be considered as valid for this award program;
- 19.08.2005** "radio amateur demonstration" at the DHPS by Holger V51HH;
- 20.08.2005** "Swakopmund Lighthouse 2005", special event station with call sign: V51??? With the operating radio amateurs: Karl-Heinz V51KH, Jack V51KC and Jürgen V51JF;



Lighthouse crew Hendric V51LR, Karl-Heinz V51KH, Jack V51KC and Jürgen V51JF

SOUTH WEST AFRICA  
**ZS 3 TL** S.A.R.L.  
DL 3174 3175  
CONFIRMING CONTACT

TO BAND	DATE	TIME	MODE	POWER	REMARKS
14ZSQ	4 Nov 70	17:00	SSB	100W	3.2

THE QSL IS THE PROPERTY OF THE IARU  
AND SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE IARU  
P.O. BOX 1000  
S.W.A./NAMIBIA

Rudi ZS3TL;

SOUTH WEST AFRICA / NAMIBIA  
WORLD COMMUNICATIONS YEAR 1983  
**ZS3WCY**

DATE	GMT	CALL
3.11.83	20:59	A4430

BAND	Mode	RST
21	SSB	53

OPERATED BY: ZS3BI (ARNOLD)  
TX. RP's TNX A. B. KOLMANN

CERTIFIED BY DF3AL  
QSL MANAGER OF ZS3BI

F2E QSL VIA:  
DF3AL QSL MANAGER  
DR. P. G. BOX 1933  
800 SWAKOPMUND  
S.W.A./NAMIBIA

Arnold ZS3BI;

**ZS3FDC-P** TSUMEB  
Special call for region 1 Field Day Contest

ZS3FDC band  ZS3FDC Jamb  ZS3FDC Vloc  
 ZS3FDC News  ZS3FDC Fax  ZS3FDC Chart

TSUMEB  
Box 6, 6 Nov 1981  
mode 2 X 100  
via for contest  
Tx. QSL via IARU  
QSL via ZS3H1

Field day Contest held in Tsumeb;

Other Hams with guest licenses operating from ZS3

**ZS3 / DJ7XG** ICGHME

QTH: Gussberg  
QTH: Groß Bornum, S.W.A./Namibia

TO BAND	DATE	TIME	MODE	POWER	REMARKS
FELAC	13	04:30	12W	20	14

QSL: 1000 QSL  
via IARU

Gus ZS3/DJ7XG;

**03.09.2005** "The Team IARU Field Day 2005", with set of pictures showing the amateur radio operators at the Otjikoko Farm of Martin V51W, using the special call sign V550/P operated by the group of amateur operators as follows: Frank V51AS, Siggie V51SG, Hendrik V51SL, Jack V51KC, Klaus V51L, Martin V51WM and Eike V5/DJ5AO;



Martin V51WM, Klaus V51L, Jack V51KC & Hendrik V51LR

- 02.10.2005** "Windhoek repeater is still not functioning properly", Hendrik V51LR busy with a second repeater;
- 24.11.2005** "Kosie V51E" in Outjo, silent key; †

**In 2006:**

- 04.02.2006** "Karl V51BG" in Windhoek, silent key; †
- 05.03.2006** "setup of Windhoek's Mailbox V51VHF" completed by Nico V51NH;
- 07.05.2006** David has taken over the "maintenance of the NARL web" page;
- 04.06.2006** "part of Windhoek's repeater has been retrieved" from its location for relocation on the Gross Herzog mountain;
- 04.08.2006** "Derrick V51DV" Cape Town, silent key; †
- 19.08.2006** "intern. Lighthouse weekend" (4 operators);



Dirk ZS3/DL8ZBL;



Pierre HB9LA/ZS3;



ZS3/W6QL;  
UNTAG Force in Namibia



2 members of the



Intern. Lighthouse weekend in Swakopmund;

- 01.09.2006**     **"IARU Region 1 field day"** held on Martin's V51WM farm (10 operators);
- 03.09.2006**     **"Windhoek's Mailbox"** for 4 month on the air. Only 3 hams made use of it. Martin V51WM, Robert V51RS and Dave V51SC inspected the repeater and tested possible sites;
- 22.09.2006**     **"radio amateur demonstration"** at the Windhoek Air Show;
- 05.11.2006**     **"Windhoek's repeater still in the test phase"** at Gross Herzog mountain. Awaiting more cavity filters to be installed additionally to 6 filters has already on site. Windhoek's Packet Mailbox up in running again. Only hands full of hams use this service;

### **In 2007:**

- 22.01.2007**     **"Windhoek 6m beacon installed"** at the Gross Herzog mountain by Dave V51SC and Robert V51RS on 50.0212 MHz;
- 04.02.2007**     **"Windhoek's Packet Mailbox has not been functioning correctly"** for some weeks due to faulty 2m transceiver;
- 01.04.2007**     **"Robert V51RS and Wolfgang V51WG went upgrading the Windhoek repeater"** by running several test with different cavity filters and positioning the antenna at different locations, 6 meter beacon currently off the air due to faulty antenna;

### **Some of our hams in their Shacks**



Gerd Schlorff ZS3B;



Norbert Forster ZS3N;





Gerd Bruns ZS3GB;



Martin Walter V51WM;

**27.06.2007** "Louis V51VZ", silent key, †

"V55V" used in the participation in the King of Spain contest;

**05.08.2007** "**Windhoek 2m repeater new call sign V51W**", Robert V51RS and Wolfgang V51WG testing a 4way antenna switch, which designed by Wolfgang V51WG, after lot of if discussion, the committee has decided to change the CTSS tone of the Windhoek repeater;

**10.09.2007** "**Spesiale Lisensie**" Letter to the director of the NCC, attention Mr. Kruger, request for the call sign V55OTW, signed Jack V51KC;

**28.10.2007** "**Windhoek repeater taken off the Gross Herzog mountain**" for maintenance and repair, the CTSS tone also be changed to 88,5hz;

**28.10.2007** "**Replacement repeater**"- taken off by Robert V51RS and Wolfgang V51WG without an CTSS tone, the Gross Herzog repeater now operates with a CTSS tone of 88,5hz at 145,775Mhz minus 600Khz, Windhoek 2m packet mailbox is operational again;

### In 2008:

**02.02.2008** "Graham V51GP", silent key; †

City repeater installed at its new site "ice cream" cone water tower by Wolfgang V51WG and Robert V51RS; testing and final adjustment still to be done;

**27.02.2008** "Jacobus V51JH", silent key; †

**30.03.2008** "Zeeberg V51ZM", silent key; †

### Here some pictures of radio hams in Namibia:



Jack V51KC;



Klaus V51L;





Hendrik V51SL



Siggie V51SG;

**06.07.2008** **"Windhoek repeater system's sensitivity could be improved by a working group"** who has been working on the repeater;

**19.07.2008** **"The special repeater working group"** consisting of Karl-Heinz V51KH, Martin V51WM, Klaus V51L, Wolfgang V51WG, Robert V51RS and Michael V51RU agreed after long heated discussion that the 2m system will continue as presently operation, including EchoLink and will remain with CTSS tone of 88.5Hz; martin V51WM has offered to donate the equipment for the new repeater;

### **In 2009:**

**01.03.2009** **"The repeater working group has been working on the Gross Herzog and ice cream cone repeaters"**. Both repeaters was dismantled and taken to Wolfgang's (V51WG) workshop for repairs. Lightning damage on the Gross Herzog repeater needed to be replaced and realigned;

**02.04.2009** **"New NARL office barrier elected"**;

**16.05.2009** **"Windhoek mail box V51MBX to be taken over"** and maintain by Karl-Heinz V51KH;

**25.05.2009** **"Werner V51JP, Klaus V51L and Robert V51RS visit the Gross Herzog repeater to take over"** the amateur radio equipment. A power supply was donated by Dave V51SC;

**01.06.2009** **"Intern. Lighthouse weekend:"** Lighthouse Swakopmund by Karl-Heinz V51KH, in Walvisbay by Martin V51WM and Lüderitz by Pierre V51PP;

**01.09.2009** **"Region 1 Field day contest"** from Martin's V51WM farm;

**19.09.2009** **"Visit to Tops V51TP in Gobabis"** by 4 hams from Windhoek;



Frank V51AS



Herbert V51HT



Karl-Heinz V51KH

**01.10.2009** "Herbert V51HT", silent key; †

**27.10.2009** "**Dismantling and transporting of antenna and mast of late Herbert V51HT**" to Willie's (V51WP) place by Werner V51JP and others;

**01.12.2009** Fitted a Kenwood repeater to Gross Herzog Windhoek repeater station. Change in NARL bulletin transmission time to 09.00 local time every first Sunday of the month. Spares for the new 145.700Mhz repeater have arrived and where installed. A new facelift to the NARL website was given at [www.qsl.net/narl](http://www.qsl.net/narl)

### **In 2010:**

**15.02.2010** After a few breakdowns over the holidays we are happy to announce that all repeaters are up and running again. The 145.700 MHz repeater is still not perfect but the repeater team under coordination of Dave, V51SC are doing their best to find a solution. Special thanks go to Martin, V51W for the knowledgeable assistance in this regard;

**09.03.2010** 1. Council News:

Klaus, V51L and Arnold, V51BI represented all Namibian Amateurs in a recent workshop held by the NCC to discuss legislation and frequency use. Their presence is important to the future of ham radio in Namibia. Thank you for your time and effort, it is greatly appreciated;

2. Repeater News:

The 145.500 repeater is of the air temporary for some much needed improvements. All other repeaters are up and running. The Echo-Link computer has broken down resulting in some connection difficulties but has been replaced and is now working normally. Thank you Robert V51RS;

4. Members Input

A special thank you goes to Robert V51RS for securing the sponsorship of a brand new wind charger and regulator for the repeater building effort. This wind charger will help us to achieve our goal of having a repeater system that is not dependant on mains power.



2008 AGM selected committee;



2009 AGM Selected Committee;



2010 AGM Selected Committee;

**05.04.2010**

1. Council News:

Arnold V51BI has jaundice and is currently on sick leave. We wish him a quick recovery. The monthly newsletter will be a lot shorter than usually because of this and I apologise for this.

2. Repeater News:

Robert V51RS is busy setting up an Echo-link station at the QTH of Jacques V51VA. The link will operate on 145.500 MHz until all tests have been conducted. If you are at the coast please use the new link to help test it. Furthermore we can report that a deal for a new high site for the repeater is about to be sealed. Robert V51RS and Michael V51MB have started conducting tests and are very confident that things will take a turn for the better. Thanks to everyone involved for your commitment and input;

**05.05.2010**

1. Council News:

With the help of Klaus V51L, David V51DR and myself (Arnold V51BI) and a group of St. Pauls College students presented a Ham Radio based project at the annual Science Fair. The two students determined the directional properties of an HB9CV antenna. The antenna graph was plotted with the help of Klaus at the transmitter station and rest of the crew on the spot field of the school and later presented to the judges. A total of 35 of a possible 40 marks were rewarded. It makes me proud to see young people interested in ham radio and old hands willing to share their knowledge! Thank you Klaus and David.

2. Repeater News:

Martin V51W is currently experimenting with the Omaruru repeater to gain more range. If anyone is travelling to the coast in the near future please call Martin so he can conduct some tests;



V59SWK/L

Lighthouse 2004 V59SWK/L



Lighthouse 2004



V55SWK-L

Lighthouse 2006 V59SWK/L



Lighthouse 2007



Lighthouse 2008 V55SWK-L



Fieldday 2004 V550/P



Fieldday 2005 V550/P



Fieldday 2008 V55V/P



Fieldday 2008 V55V/P

## 07.06.2010

### 1. Council News:

The AGM was a great success and the new office bearers are as follows: Werner V51JP: President; Klaus V51L: Liaison Officer; Arnold V51BI: Editor; Robert V51RS: Technical support; Juergen V51JF: General Support and the two ladies in our team: Angela V51SA: Treasurer and Dagmar V51DB: Secretary. We are here to serve you, the radio amateur! So please feel free to contact anyone of us if you have any queries. The SARL turned 85 this year and they have a special events station on the air to commemorate this prestigious achievement, so listen out for ZS85SARL on the bands in the coming months.

### 2. Repeater News:

Robert V51RS is now in charge of the repeaters and we expect some great news in the near future. The 70 cm repeater surprised us all as it could be opened all the way from Bitterwasser and other locations in the south.

### 3. Members Input:

Werner V51JP has updated the website and can be enjoyed by all at: [www.qsl.net/narl](http://www.qsl.net/narl) (now [www.narlnam.com](http://www.narlnam.com) since February 2013)

### 4. Local news:

From May 2 to May 14, 2010, a group of six NARL members (V51DB, V51MB, V51RS, V51SA, V5/DH3FBS, and V5/DL5XL) with their families went on a camping trip to Southern Namibia. Amateur Radio was used throughout this trip to communicate between the vehicles on 2 meters FM, and also to keep in touch with other NARL members from our mobile stations. Regular contacts were established with Gerd (V51GB), Jürgen (V51JF), Werner (V51JP), Jack (V51KC), and Klaus (V51L), both on 80m and 40m.

When we stayed at Hardap Dam near Mariental, Jack (V51KC) advised us during a QSO on 40m that he had been contacted by a Short Wave Listener from Keetmanshoop who was very interested in learning more about Amateur Radio. As the Quiver Tree Forest was our next destination, we arranged a meeting with Mr. Albertus Pieters who joined us at the camp site for a friendly chat and a beer; and immediately decided to join NARL.

After a relaxing visit to /Ai-/Ais and a scenic drive along the Orange River, we arrived at Rosh Pinah where we met league members André (V51LZ), and Russell (V51RJ). The night was spent at the QTH of Pieter (V51PJ) who showed us his impressive workshop and ham station, and gave us a very interesting insight into his EME (moon bounce) experiments. By coincidence, we also came across Fritz (V51FW) from Windhoek who happened to stay in Rosh Pinah at that time.

We then went to Lüderitzbucht. Pierre (V51PP) was already expecting our group. We established contact with him on 2 meters FM and later got together. As we approached Windhoek, we made a few tests to find out more about the range of the V53W repeater on 70 centimetres. We were surprised to learn that about 20W and a single 4 element Yagi, built by DL1ZU and V51RS, were sufficient to reliably access the repeater from places as far away as Bitterwasser and the Spreetshoogte Pass. Felix Riess, V5/DL5XL, for the Namibian Amateur Radio League (NARL);

**04.08.2010**

1. Repeater News:

A new Co-Linear Antenna is currently being tested on the 70cm repeater; please help us test this antenna by becoming a little more active on 70cm.

2. Local News:

Michael V51MB was the first ham in Namibia to successfully operate Echo-Link via his iPhone. The App for the iPhone can be downloaded from the internet and is free. Further Echo-Link apps for other smart phones are being developed.

**06.09.2010**

1. Repeater News

Thanks to the help of Martin V51W and Robert V51RS the 145.700 repeater is back on the Gross Herzog Mountain. It appears that the pre-amplifier between the filters got damaged somewhere along the way and was removed. Now the repeater is functioning satisfactory and developed so expect a whole new generation of mobile operators to hit the airwaves;

tests are being conducted. A repeater is planned for the Gamsberg. Robert and Friedhelm V51FH are busy preparing for this project.

**30.12.2010**

**"HISTORY AND ACTIVITY OF RADIO AMATEUR STATION ZS3KC / V51KC"**, compiled by Jack V51KC;

Compiled by Arnold V51BI

Edited by Fritz Weinrebe V51WF for the new 2013 website.

More information on the NARL website: [www.narlnam.com](http://www.narlnam.com)

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