

Nomination for SARL Amateur Radio Hall of Fame: Louis de Bruin, ZS5LP

Brief Biography of Nominee

Louis de Bruin was born in Bloemfontein. He joined the SARL in 1958 and was licenced as ZS5LP in 1961.

Nominee's Contribution to Amateur Radio

Louis's contribution to amateur radio started with his election to the Committee of the Durban Branch in 1966. Louis has been instrumental in the growth of amateur radio in Durban. He has been a committee member of the Branch (now Club) in various capacities for 49 years, including Chairman for 28 years and newsletter editor for 21 years.

In 1969, Louis started training classes for prospective radio amateurs. Using his handbook for radio amateurs, "From the Electron to Radio Amateur", Louis assisted more than 680 students in passing the Radio Amateur Examination (RAE) to 1996. Louis's candidates have achieved exemplary results in the RAE. Five of them have won the Arland Ussher Gold Pen Award, for obtaining the highest marks countrywide in the RAE. He remains in training and operating assessments to this day.

Louis initiated Radio Direction Finding ("fox hunting") competitions in Durban, building the transmitter and making available receiver kits.

Louis founded a technical support group that has made available electronic kits and assisted members with electronics and radio problems. Louis continues to be active in this field.

In 1983, Louis negotiated the use of Railways premises for amateur radio flea markets, lectures and meetings.

Around 1998, Louis introduced the SARL 80 m QSO Party. He also introduced the SARL Contest Blue Book in 1999. He has also organised VHF contests and sprint sessions to promote VHF activity in ZS5.

Louis has also worked on repeater systems. He installed an upgraded 2 m repeater in 1973, providing long-distance coverage into the Eastern Cape. In 1992, he solved increasing intermodulation problems at the high site by separating the receiver and transmitter, using a UHF link.

He encourages emergency communications capabilities, and became the first Hamnet coordinator in ZS5 when the organisation was introduced. His activities have resulted in the saving of lives on at least one occasion.

Louis is the Durban controller for the Intecnet. He has fashioned interfaces and hardware to facilitate these relays. For almost 30 years, he has relayed Amateur Radio Today (previously Amateur Radio Mirror) on HF to extend its coverage.

Nominee's Other Achievements

Louis has won 13 certificates and trophies in SARL contests. He won the SARL's Tinus Lange 7066 Excellence Award in 2002 for the design and construction of a DTMF controller for Intecnet relays. He won the SARL's Jack Twine award in 1973 and SARL life membership in 2001.

Word Count

413

Links to Source Material

<http://www.durbanarc.org.za/page10.html>

<http://www.durbanarc.org.za/page2.html>

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/mar2005/mixer_controller.htm

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/april2008/sa_construction_competition.htm

Details of Proposer

Kurt Linsin, ZS5KL, Secretary of the Durban Amateur Radio Club.

I am a member of the SARL in good standing since 1986.

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Seconded by Daniel Giraud ZS5DG.

Editorial

Edited for style and references added by ZS6EZ.