

## Harold R. Lund ZS6WB

Chris R. Burger

2026-03-06

Hal Lund ZS6WB died of natural causes near Pretoria on 28 February 2026, at the age of 90.

Less than a week before his death, I still had an opportunity to visit him and exchange tall tales about the olden days. Hal and I shared a history of more than 40 years. I arrived at the Lund family home the same day that his daughter Andrea arrived from the maternity ward in 1982. I was still a schoolboy. Hal was an established businessman with a family.



### Hal the neighbour.

We met through ham radio, but we also shared a passion for flying. I was amazed both by his amateur radio acumen and by his flying tales. He allowed me to use his station in contests several times in the late Eighties. I also helped him with station construction, getting exposure to some higher-grade hardware that I would never have been exposed to with my own limited resources. Later, when his interest shifted back to VHF, I conducted several VHF DXpeditions, during and outside contests, which, shall we say, were not entirely funded from my own pocket. Hal had a very successful computer peripherals and consumables business. I remember my amazement when he was informed that his business now turned over more than twice the sales of the second-largest Hewlett-Packard distributor in the southern hemisphere.

I may have been an early beneficiary of Hal's mentorship and sponsorship, but I was certainly not the last. Through the decades, he continued to provide information and equipment to support

DXpeditions by me, ZS4TX, ZS6JDE and ZS6XK. Perhaps the most prominent were the ZS9Z/ZS1<sup>1</sup> and ZS0Z<sup>2</sup> DXpeditions from the Penguin Islands, which produced more than two-thirds of all the contacts ever made from that DXCC entity while it existed.

He also supported several residents in neighbouring countries, encouraging them to become active on VHF by supplying information and equipment. 3DAOCA, A22KZ and ZS3AT were good examples— all of them supplied many hams with their first VHF contacts in those respective countries. He published a weekly VHF newsletter which he distributed at his own expense. In 2009, he joined a specialised VHF/UHF DXpedition to Namibia<sup>3</sup>.

Hal devised a voice protocol to facilitate Meteor Scatter contacts using simple VHF equipment. Meteors falling into the atmosphere leave a brief trail of ions that can reflect radio signals, providing propagation over perhaps 1500 km for a fraction of a second. Using Hal's protocols, we were able to make contacts over such distances fairly reliably, greatly expanding the reach of leading VHF stations.

Hal was the first to suggest the locator-based scoring system for the SARL VHF contests. Previously, a fiendishly complex scoring system involving exact distances, which of course involved knowing exactly where the other station was, had been in use. With the locator being part of the exchange, scoring suddenly became simple enough not to deter participants. I remember several VHF contests that involved thousands of km of travel, activating several inactive grid squares in the process.

One of these contests ended in a helicopter crash, which became a bit of a distraction in the contest. The Lund family took me and fellow expeditioner ZS4TX into their home while we recovered from our injuries.

Years later, I was able to reciprocate the hospitality to some extent when Hal lived on my farm for several years. He had his own antennas and even his own tower on my property. Needless to say, we had spectacular mutual interference, but at least I wasn't awfully active; even less so on VHF where he mostly hung out. He later moved to a different location and then to his daughter's house on a normal city lot. He spent the last few years in care homes, with no access to ham radio.



Real grid square bashing?

Nevertheless, we always had a lot to talk about. His recollection of his radio and flying days was crystal clear. Having his flying logbooks handy helped to provide context for amazing stories.

Hal really lived large!

<sup>1</sup> <https://zs6ez.org.za/stories/ZS9Z-1%20TDXM%201991-04.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://zs6ez.org.za/stories/ZS0Z-7P8EN%20CQ%201993-04.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://hb9q.ch/?page\\_id=53](https://hb9q.ch/?page_id=53)

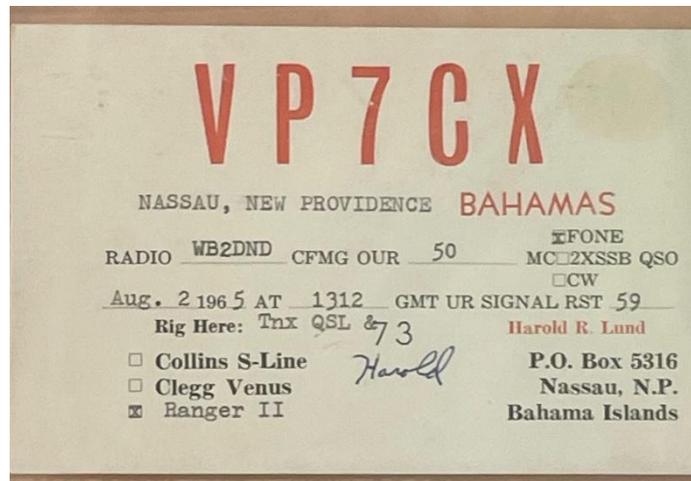
## History



The farmhouse where Hal grew up. It is now a high-class B&B.

Hal was born in 1935. He grew up on an apple farm<sup>4</sup> in Waupaca, Wisconsin, USA. His family later moved to Ironwood, Michigan, where he obtained his amateur callsign WN8LIM, and then W8LIM, in 1952. He made good use of his radio knowledge by becoming a TV repairman while still at school. Later, he was a disk jockey in music radio station WJMS<sup>5</sup>. He was also a salesman for Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee. He converted a second-hand hearse into a mobile showroom. Prominent DXer Don Karvonen K8MFO remembers meeting Hal in 1957 or '58, after which Hal was a regular visitor to peddle ham radio equipment to Don's dad.

He later joined the US Army reserve as a radar technician. This assignment led to him becoming a radar technician for RCA, just as the US space programme was shifting into high gear. Hal was posted to Nassau in the Bahamas, where he obtained the callsign VP7CX. He was very active on 50 MHz, a band that was in its infancy as it had only recently been introduced. Hal made many DXers happy by providing them with a new country. The QSL card shows one resulting QSL card. WB2DND is now N1DG, a prominent DXer and DXpeditioner in his own right.



VP7CX  
NASSAU, NEW PROVIDENCE BAHAMAS  
RADIO WB2DND CFMG OUR 50  FONE MCE2XSSB QSO  
Aug. 2 1965 AT 1312 GMT UR SIGNAL RST 59  
Rig Here: Tnx QSL # 73 Harold R. Lund  
 Collins S-Line  Clegg Venus  Ranger II  
P.O. Box 5316  
Nassau, N.P.  
Bahama Islands

During this assignment, Hal also travelled to other Caribbean islands to activate them, using callsigns like HI8XHL, VP2AO, VP2KL and VP2ME. Later, as the space programme progressed from Mercury to Gemini to Apollo, he moved downrange to Ascension as ZD8HL, then to Pretoria and then to Madagascar. He settled in Pretoria around 1975, with the callsign ZS6WB.

When I first met Hal, he was active on HF, mostly on SSB. However, the old interest in VHF and especially in 50 MHz had been rekindled around 1979. The band was being vacated by TV broadcasting, allowing many new countries to open access to the band. Solar Cycle 21 was still producing fireworks, and we in Pretoria had a grandstand seat into southern Europe, using Trans-Equatorial propagation. As activity increased, his emphasis moved almost entirely onto 50 MHz. Hal never missed a thing. In the period from 1986 to 1992, Hal was the top South African in terms of "firsts" (i.e. countries that had never been worked from South Africa before)<sup>6</sup>. He continued adding new "firsts" to 2003. Amazingly, he was the first South African to contact each of at least 57

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.appletreelanebb.com/the-inn>

<sup>5</sup> Recollections of Don Karvonen K8MFO.

<sup>6</sup> <https://zs6ez.org.za/lists/50zs1st.txt>

different countries (possibly 58) of the first 155 countries contacted from this country—more than a third of the total!

After Hal's death, I became aware of another amazing fact. Hal, not content with having been one of the early 50 MHz DX pioneers, could be regarded as having launched another whole new era. Lance Collister W7GJ<sup>7</sup> is now perhaps the world's leading 50 MHz DXpeditioner, having operated from around 30 countries, including several rare ones. Lance relates how Hal coaxed him into trying digital modes for the first time, making contacts between Pretoria and Montana on two successive weekends, just to prove that it was no fluke. Lance has been using this newfound skill to great effect, ushering in a new era of DXing on 50 MHz. To prove this point, one only needs to look at the list of "firsts" from South Africa. Lance has single-handedly provided seven of the 40 new "firsts" worked from South Africa since 2015. Most of these are from countries that have no resident activity that could have produced these contacts.

## Radio Awards

Hal was the first African to earn DXCC<sup>8</sup> and VUCC<sup>9</sup> on 50 MHz, in 1998 and 1999 respectively. He remained in the Top Three for South Africa on both leaderboards to his death. Only eight South Africans have achieved these awards to date.

He was a member of the DXCC Honour Roll<sup>10</sup>, with a score of 346 and needing only four countries on Mixed and six on Phone. He held DXCC on nine bands, from 3,5 to 50 MHz. He held VUCC on 50 and 144 MHz and on Satellite. He had a DXCC Challenge score of over 2400, mostly from a modest station.

He was the first to earn the SARL's Worked all ZS and All Africa Award on 50 MHz; in 1993 and 2001 respectively<sup>11</sup>.

He was an Honorary Life Member of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club since 2006. At his death, he was the longest-standing Life Member of the club. He also won their Jack Bennet trophy for VHF activity a record seven times, between 1986 and 2001. He was a member of the Club for 47 uninterrupted years.

Hal was elected as a member of the SARL's Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2017. He was the SARL's Radio Amateur of the Year in 2011. He won the SARL Icom Excellence Award in 2004, the President's Award in 2002 and the Bert Buckley Six Metre Trophy in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

## Flying

Hal was a keen pilot for many decades. He held a US Commercial Pilot Certificate with single-engine and multi-engine land airplane and glider ratings, as well as an instrument rating. He also held glider flight instructor and advanced ground instructor certificates. He was an instructor at the Schweizer glider factory<sup>12</sup> in Elmira, New York, for several years. In South Africa, he mostly flew aeroplanes. He owned a Super Cub<sup>13</sup> that he had flown in from Madagascar as well as a Beaver—by far his favourite aeroplane. He was professionally involved in geophysical survey on arrival in the country. Using his

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bigskyspaces.com/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://zs6ez.org.za/lists/dxcc-zs.htm>

<sup>9</sup> <https://zs6ez.org.za/lists/vucc-zs.htm>

<sup>10</sup> <https://zs6ez.org.za/lists/dxcc-hr.htm>

<sup>11</sup> [https://zs6p.com/SARL\\_Awards\\_Directory.pdf](https://zs6p.com/SARL_Awards_Directory.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schweizer\\_Aircraft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schweizer_Aircraft)

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.surfacezero.com/g503/data/576/IMG\\_0557m\\_800.jpg](https://www.surfacezero.com/g503/data/576/IMG_0557m_800.jpg)

Cub, he was a tug pilot at many glider events. I am often surprised at how many glider pilots still remember him, almost 50 years later.

He set foot in around 40 countries, operating from around 10 of them.

## Legacy

I have already related some of the influences that he had on amateur radio, both in South Africa and worldwide. Perhaps I should make it a little more personal.

His mentorship extended beyond technique. I think the biggest lesson I learned from Hal was how to do things with abandon. He was not into half measures. It was from his station that I scored my first Top Three performance in a major contest<sup>14</sup>. The difference was not any brand-new technique or equipment. It was grit—simply not taking no for an answer.

His influence can be seen in South African VHF operating and even in South Africa's participation in world-wide contesting. The majority of South African winners in major contests and all our participants in the World Radiosport Team Championships can trace their origins to him in some way.

Less than a week after his death, it hasn't fully sunk in. However, I'm certain the lasting memory will be a feeling of privilege. In my lifetime, I have benefited greatly from several larger-than-life mentors in various arenas. Hal Lund is certainly one of them.

---

<sup>14</sup> CQWW CW 1987, third in the world on 21 MHz.