

Logging satellite QSO's

Wolter ZR6HAM is active on the QO-100 satellite and wanted to log his QSO's on The COOL. The COOL's frequency field only catered for frequencies up to 400 MHz (70cm). QO-100's uplink frequency is 2,400 MHz.

What would be a good idea is to identify the satellite QSO by the satellite name but many systems, including The COOL only see the frequency as an important criteria and from there on the band is determined.

In order to do this it was decided to write a separate but similar system to The COOL and call it The COOL SatComms system which sees the satellite name as an important criteria. Including this within the original COOL system would require many changes and would cause many ripple effects. The PIN system is applicable to both The COOL and the SatComms system.

So, the COOL SatComms system was born. Wolter could log his SSB QSO's via the QO-100 satellite, on the new SatComms system. He later also made CW contacts via QO-100.

This created some excitement on the satellite front and SO-124 came onto the scene. The rather amazing SO-50 satellite too was included. QSO's were made via SO-50 and logged on the SatComms system. To date, Johan ZS1A, Pieter V51PJ and Eddie ZS6BNE have had QSO's via SO-50.

The SatComms system offers most of the facilities that The COOL offers including ADIF downloads so that QSO information can be shared with other systems. Like The COOL, the SatComms system becomes the master logging system and is completely open.

The logging of CQ's is a good idea so that all can see there were attempts to use the satellite. The comment field explaining what was experienced. Like The COOL, confirmation of any QSO shows support for each other working towards a common goal. The red colours show where QSO confirmations could have taken place and if exchanges were made, like a grid locator, that would be evaluated too.

The COOL SatComms - The OPEN View [v 18.08.25] (Sorted by Date and Time) Note: Click on sortable column headers to sort. Double click for a QSL card.													
New Log Edit Log Delete log Export to Excel Reload COOL													
Search callsign Search other Prepare for selective download --> Download ADIF													
Callsign	Other	Comments	Date	Time (UTC)	Satellite	QSL	Mode	Watts	sRST	Own Exchange / Grid	rRST	Other's Exchange / Grid	CHK
ZS6BNE	CQ	GOOD SIGNALS, NO HAMS	2025-08-17	12:03:00	SO-50		FM	5	00	KG34AC19	00		
ZS6BNE	CQ	FM REPEATER ACTIVE INTERMITTENTLY. STRONG SIGNAL.	2025-08-17	09:34:00	SO-124		FM	5	00	KG34AC19	00		
ZS6BNE	CQ	EXCELLENT SIGNALS	2025-08-16	13:26:00	SO-50		FM	5	00	KG34AC19	00	NIL	
ZS6BNE	3B8FA	PATRICE	2025-08-16	11:49:00	SO-50		FM	5	59	KG34AC19	58	NIL	
ZS6BNE	V51PJ	CLEAR SIGNALS	2025-08-14	14:26:00	SO-50	Y	FM	5	59	KG34AC19	59	NIL	
V51PJ	ZS6BNE	THANKS FOR FAST OVER EDDIE	2025-08-14	14:26:00	SO-50	Y	FM	10	59	JG82IE	59	NIL	
ZR6HAM	HB9JNH		2025-08-13	18:40:00	QO-100		CW	10	599	KG44CE	599	JN47KL	
ZS6BNE	ZS1A	CLEAR SIGNALS	2025-08-13	14:06:00	SO-50		FM	5	59	KG34AC19	59	NIL	
ZS6BNE	3B8FA	SCRATCHY SIGNAL LOWISH ELEVATION, EAST	2025-08-13	12:30:00	SO-50		FM	5	55	KG34AC19	58	NIL	
ZR6HAM	F5RRS		2025-08-13	08:10:00	QO-100		CW	10	599	KG44CE	599	JN36EB	
ZS6BNE	CQ	EXCELLENT SIGNALS	2025-08-12	13:54:00	SO-50		FM	5	00	KG34AC19	00	NIL	
ZS6BNE	CQ	RESPONDS ONLY WHEN FLYING AWAY	2025-08-12	08:58:00	SO-124		FM	5	00	KG34AC19	00	NIL	
ZR6HAM	OM0AAQ		2025-08-11	18:15:00	QO-100		SSB	10	59	KG44CE	59	NIL	
ZR6HAM	DH7IF		2025-08-11	18:11:00	QO-100		SSB	10	59	KG44CE	59	JN49IK	
ZR6HAM	DL2LTM		2025-08-11	18:09:00	QO-100		SSB	10	59	KG44CE	59	JO61GH	
ZR6HAM	IV5DKM		2025-08-11	18:07:00	QO-100		SSB	10	59	KG44CE	59	NIL	

I did a query on the new SARL SA-QSL system seeing Johan stated he only logs on LOTW and SA-QSL. SA-QSL is a WAZS database and **according to the WAZS rules only the first contact with the station is important.** What about the many others that follow? There are no records of them. This is where the SatComms system can shine. A history of satellite communications in ZS.

My first satellite QSO was with Andrew ZS1AN on the 7th of September 2005. Soon after I attended a RTA where Andrew had given a talk on working LEO (Low Earth Orbit) satellites. The information on SA-QSL shows nothing else. It was however the AO-51 satellite.

ZS6BNE-FM

SAQSL CSV Export

Callsign: ZS6BNE
 Band:
 Mode: FM
 Date: 2025-08-14 07:15:23

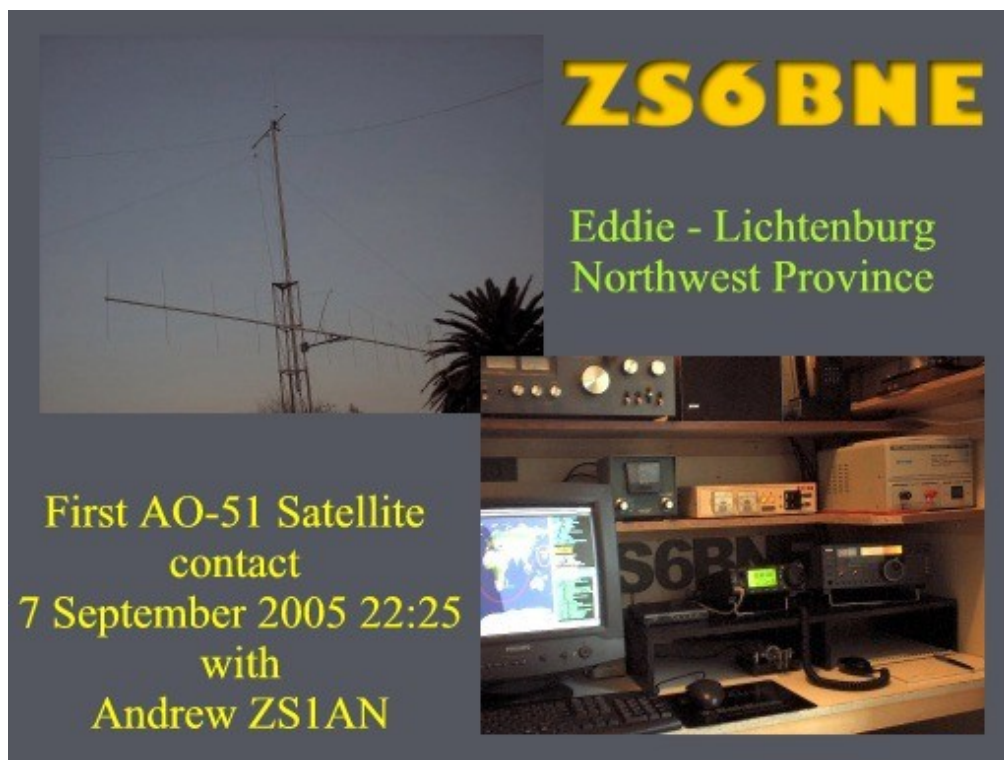
ZS1ALJ	20180329	1100 2M	FM
ZS1AN	20050907	2025 2M	FM
ZS1LS	20090527	1616 2M	FM
ZS1MBR/P	20080826	1930 70CM	FM
ZS1TX	20080325	1820 70CM	FM
ZR2XTC	20090104	905 2M	FM
ZS2ACP	20080415	1749 2M	FM
ZS2AP	20090301	1801 70CM	FM
ZS2M	20240924	1518 2M	FM
ZR3SVD	20090117	1144 2M	FM
ZS3WL	20180223	1117 70CM	FM
ZS5GI	20200419	916 70CM	FM
ZR6HLT	20090614	1800 2M	FM
ZR6SHF	20080324	508 2M	FM
ZS40VDK/ZS6	20171128	1110 2M	FM
ZS4CGR/ZS6	20161222	1130 70CM	FM
ZS6A	20101218	600 70CM	FM
ZS6ARW	20210817	938 70CM	FM
ZS6BB	20090117	1725 2M	FM
ZS6BQS	20081004	1705 70CM	FM
ZS6BVT	20101226	1447 2M	FM
ZS6G	20090225	1320 2M	FM
ZS6GTW	20210817	938 2M	FM
ZS6JEB	20090227	1241 70CM	FM
ZS6JON	20240928	719 2M	FM
ZS6SI	20231024	724 70CM	FM
ZS6TDF	20090315	1530 2M	FM
ZS6XN	20080326	1746 2M	FM
ZU6ET	20081103	458 2M	FM

Other Zones

ZS40VDK	20171108	1145 70CM	FM
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Ignored CallSigns

Luckily I had made up this QSL card so many years ago and found it on some very old CD backups I had made.



I had a QSO with Stacey ZR1SC three days later. Stacey is Andrew's XYL. Luckily I had made up this QSL too. Stacey's information on QRZ is very old, like in 2003. **Note there is no record of this QSO in the SA-QSL database.** What is the SA-QSL database really worth in this case?



The point I'm trying to make is that the SatComms system can add a lot of value to those active on the satellites but requires commitment to be part of the system. There is nothing like it in the world!

The COOL SatComms - The OPEN View [v 18.08.25] (Sorted by I

Edit log

Your update PIN:

Your callsign:

Other callsign:

Comments:

Date:

Time (UTC):

Satellite:

Mode:

Power:

RST Sent:

Grid locator / Text:

RST RCVD:

Other Grid / Text:

Save log Cancel

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The Satcomms system can generate an immediate QSL from the data logged on the system, at the double clicking of the record. Very much like her brother, The COOL.

