

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

January 2018

ZARC Committee

Chairman: Warren Snyders ZS5WOZ

Vice Chairman: Gerald Scrooby ZS5GS

Treasurer: Willie Axford ZS5WI

Secretary: Dawn Snyders ZS5ME

Ham Net: Vacant

Editor: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Member: Jan Erasmus ZS5G

Webmaster: Chantel Pelser

Club Repeaters

Ntumeni 145.675 MHz

Empangeni 145.700

Club Nets

There is also a club discussion net on Tuesday evenings at 18:30 on the 145.675 repeater
Club Members have a schedule on Thursdays between 17:30 and 18:45 On 7.175 Or 3.645 Depending on propagation
ALL are more than welcome to join us for a "rag chew"

SARL News

08h30 - Sundays - 145.650, 7.066 MHz

NEXT ZARC MEETING

DATE: To be announced (**Sunday**)

TIME: Braai ± 11:30, followed by meeting at ± 12:30

QTH: To be announced

E-Mail: dawnjo@telkomsa.net (Secretary)

Club Web site: <http://zs5zlb.org.za/>

Editor, Q.R.L.



Greetings & Salutations fellow members, I trust that this news letter finds you all in good health. The date of the next club get-together/meeting to be announced. Venue to be announced. Please make a note in your day books and diaries. The Chairman & committee members wish you all a happy, healthy & prosperous 2018

**Have you bought insurance to continue enjoying your hobby yet? SARL membership IS that insurance!!!
Is your hobby worth R1.26 per day to you? YES?! Then join the SARL, it's the RIGHT thing to do!!!**

The radical opinions, and rantings of the Editor, are not necessarily the opinions of, or supported by, the ZARC Committee, or it's members.

Wots Potting In The ZARC

Birthday Greetings Go To:

Jan: Daniel, grandson of Jo & Dawn on the 10th.



Many happy returns to all of you, and may you be spared for many more happy, healthy, years. (If your birthday wishes do not appear here, it is because you have not informed me of your birth date).

Get Well Soon



Dawn, ZS5ME still NOT in the best of health. We wish her a speedy recovery.



Club Happenings Competitions:

ZS5ZLB did not take part in any competitions during this month. The first SARL National Field Competition will take place on 10 and 11 February.

The club is contemplating on setting up a field station in the Dhlinda Forrest offices on the 18th of February. This will be a POTA (Parks On The Air) Station. More information will be made available later.

Amateur Radio License fee increase

-ICASA has informed the SARL that the licence fee will be increased by 5.3% on 1 April 2018. The new fees will be

1 Year	-	R 141.00
2 Year	-	R 269.00
3 Year	-	R 386.00
4 Year	-	R 492.00
5 Year	-	R 588.00

ICASA will start the invoicing process for the 2018/2019 period from 5 February 2018. **Radio Amateurs are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure their license is up to date.** If for some reason no invoice is received, check that ICASA has been informed of any address changes.

Avoid the hassles of having to renew each year, opt for a multi-year licence.

Simply, when renewing, pay the appropriate amount. **On the EFT state 5 Year licence, and your call sign.** Also send an email to dkuhr@icasa.org.za with a copy of the EFT payment.

APRS

People in the Richards Bay/Empangeni area can get into the PMB I-Gate on 144.800.

Repeaters

145.675: This repeater has a problem with the RX antenna, and the antenna needs to be replaced. As we do not have any more members who are fit & able to climb up the tower to do this job, it will have to stay like this until we can find a volunteer who can climb the tower to do the job.

145.700: This repeater is now a DEAD puppy, and needs to be recovered from this site. **STILL waiting for ESKOM to open up for us to get into this site.**

“SWAP SHOP”

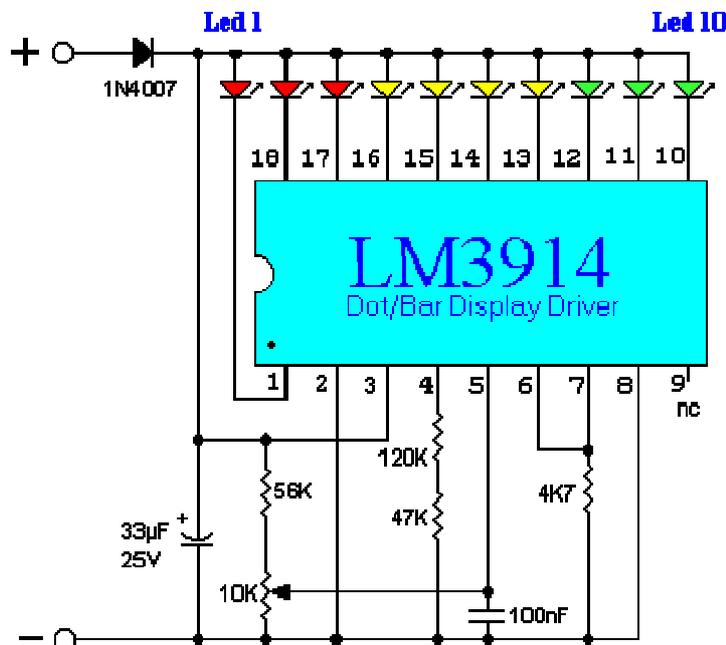


If you have any items you want to get rid of, or if you are looking for something, Please let the Editor know and he will advertise it in the swap column for you.

Home Brewers Hoekie



12 V Lead-Acid Monitor



(C) 2001 Jan Hamer (NL)

Posted with permission of [Jan Hamer](#)

This simple circuit makes it possible to monitor the charging process to a higher level. If you need more information then check out the [LM3914 Datasheet](#).

Final adjustments are simple and the only thing needed is a digital voltmeter for the necessary accuracy.

Connect an input voltage of 12.65 volt between the positive and negative poles and adjust the 10K trimmer potentiometer until Led 10 lights up. Lower the voltage and in sequence all other Led's will light up. Check that Led 1 lights up at approximately 11.89 volts.

At 12.65 volt and higher the battery is fully charged, and at 11.89 is considered 'empty'.

The green Led's indicate that the battery capacity is more than 50%, the yellow Led's indicate a capacity of 30% - 50% and the red Led's less than 30%. This circuit, with the components shown, uses less than 10mA.

Of course you can adapt this circuit to your own needs by making small modifications. The circuit above is set for 'DOT' mode, meaning only one Led at a time will be lit. If you wish to use the 'BAR' mode, then connect pin 9 to the positive supply rail, but obviously with increased current consumption.

The LED brightness can be adjusted up- or down by choosing a different value for the 4K7 resistor connected at pin 6/7

You can also change the monitoring voltage level. For example, let's say you wanted to change to 10 - 13 volt, you connect 13volt to the input (+ and -) and adjust the 10K potentiometer until Led 10 lights up. Change temporarily the resistors at pin 4 with a 200 Kilo-ohm potentiometer and reconnect a voltage from 10 Volt to the input. Now, re-adjust the 200K potentiometer until Led 1 lights up.

When you are satisfied with the adjustment, feel free to exchange the 200K potentiometer with resistors again.(after measuring the resistance from the pot, obviously).

The diode 1N4007 was included to protect the circuit from a wrong polarity connection. It is however strongly recommended to connect the monitor directly to the battery, in principle a connection to the cigarette lighter would suffice but for reasons unknown at this time the voltage at that point is 0.2 volt lower than the voltage measured directly on the battery. Could be some residual resistance caused by ignition switch and path through the fuse?

If you have any questions or suggestions, put them to [Jan Hamer](#) in the Netherlands. He does speak and write English.

PLEASE NOTE: the **LM 3914** has been replaced by an equivalent, the **LM 3915**



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Chairman & Committee of the Zululand Amateur Radio Club, wish you all well for the year 2018

If you would like to contribute to your Club newsletter, or to contact me for any reason, please use the address / Phone numbers below.

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