

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

February 2014

ZARC Committee

Chairman: Andrew Jansen ZS5AND

Vice Chairman: John Kramer ZS5J

Treasurer: Willie Axford ZS5WI

Secretary: Dawn Snyders ZS5ME

Ham Net: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Editor: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Webmaster: Andrew Jansen ZS5AND

Member: Warren Snyders ZS5WOZ

Member: Anne Griffiths ZS5FAB

Club Repeaters

Ntumeni 145.675 MHz

Empangeni 145.700

Club Packet Digipeater/Mail-drop & APRS Digipeater

Ntumeni 144.625 (ZS5ZLB Mail, ZS5ZLB-2 Digipeat, ZS5ZLB-7 KA-Node) PBBS: ZS5AND

Club Nets

CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST

SARL News

08h30 - Sundays - 145.650, 7.066 MHz

NEXT ZARC MEETING

DATE: 4th May 2014 (**Sunday**) (Tentative)

TIME: Meeting will take place at 13:h00, Braai will take place at 12:00. (Tentative)

QTH: To be decided after the date has been confirmed

E-Mail (Secretary) dawnjo@telkomsa.net

Web site <http://196.21.81.139/zarc>

Editor, Q.R.L.



Greetings & Salutations fellow members, I trust that this news letter finds you all in good health. The next club meeting date is tentatively **4th May 2014**. The venue will be decided after the meeting date has been confirmed. The meeting will take place at **13:00**, and braai at **12:00**. Please make a note in your day books and diaries. The time of the meeting will be **13:00**, giving everybody a chance to get there after Sunday morning commitments.

**Have you bought insurance to continue enjoying your hobby yet? SARL membership IS that insurance!!!
Is your hobby worth R1.09 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

Birthdays Greetings Go To:



March: Rob, OM of ZS5FAB, on 14th, Jo, ZS5PO on 15th.

April: Warren, ZS5WOZ, on 13th, Brian, ZS6AE, on 26th.

Many happy returns to all of you, and may you be spared for many more years.

(If your birthday wishes do not appear here, it is because you have not informed me of your birth date).

Get Well Soon



I have heard that Andrew, ZS5AND has still been having problems. Willie, ZS5WI has also been in hospital for a back operation. We wish both of you all the best for a speedy and complete recovery. GBWY both.

Club Happenings

Having heard nothing from other club members regarding interest in taking part in the February SARL field week end competition during the week end of 8th and 9th February, Warren ZS5WOZ and myself, decided to represent the club



during this compo. As there was only going to be the two of us, and both of us living in the same town, why not set up a "field" station close to home. How much closer to home could we get, but in Warren's front yard. The pump-up mast was erected on the front lawn, and Warren's brand new 80M OCF Windom antenna was used to give it a trial run. The short end of the antenna was attached to a tree across the road at the front of the house, and the long end went over the roof and into a tree across the road



behind the house. The top of the mast was 11M above ground level, and we had to make sure that both legs of the di-pole were high enough so as not to fall foul of any high vehicles passing on the roads. The radio and other station gear was set up in the carport, and the generator hidden away so as to deaden the noise (not that it makes much noise anyway). A lap-top was running UI-View, and our station icon was visible on Google maps world wide by going in to www.aprs.fi and entering ZS5WOZ-3. Broke the record this year for the number of club members worked during the weekend. They were: ZS5ME, ZS5J, ZS5WI, ZS6AE, ZS5GS. Thanks a lot folks, it was brilliant working you!! Now we get to the lousy bit



to the lousy bit QRN!!! We had QRN like you would not believe, and no matter WHAT we wound around ferrite cores, nothing helped. Anything below an S8 did not exist for us. The result was only 28 contacts overall. Oh well, better luck with the November leg of the compo!! Meantime, Warren must try and sniff out where the QRN is coming from!



Eeeeish!!!

The day before the club meeting in January, Willie ZS5WI, put up a brand spanking new 80M OCF Windom antenna at his new home in Eshowe. He then came and told the members about it at the meeting, and asked for members to come up and work him so that he can get some reports. Weeeeeell that SAME evening after the meeting, he gets a direct lightning strike, and 90% of the Windom was vaporized. Luckily the antenna was not connected to any radio equipment at the time. He has since put up an 80M G5RV, but he is STILL going to put up an 80M OCF Windom, which he went and collected in Durban on the 12th. Well Willie, we wish you better luck with this one than you had with the first one.

Packet

On the packet Mail-Drop scene. The TNC is beaconing out. The coax on this set-up still has to be renewed, and the antenna moved to the east side of the tower

APRS

Your path to any stations in RSA, (or anywhere in the world via the I-Gate on 144.625) will be **ZS5ZLB-2, RELAY4-4**. The I-Gate should be available between the hours of about **09:00** and **22:00**, WHEN I AM AT HOME. People in the Richards Bay/Empangeni area can get into the PMB I-Gate on 144.800.

For those of you Zululanders who have Internet, go and look on the www.aprs.fi web site, and put your call sign in the slot at the top of the column on the right, and press enter, and see if your station comes up on the map.

Repeaters

145.675: This repeater was replaced after the Xmas meeting & lunch, and the old Storno is working well.

145.700: This repeater is now a DEAD puppy, and needs LOTS of TLC. 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.

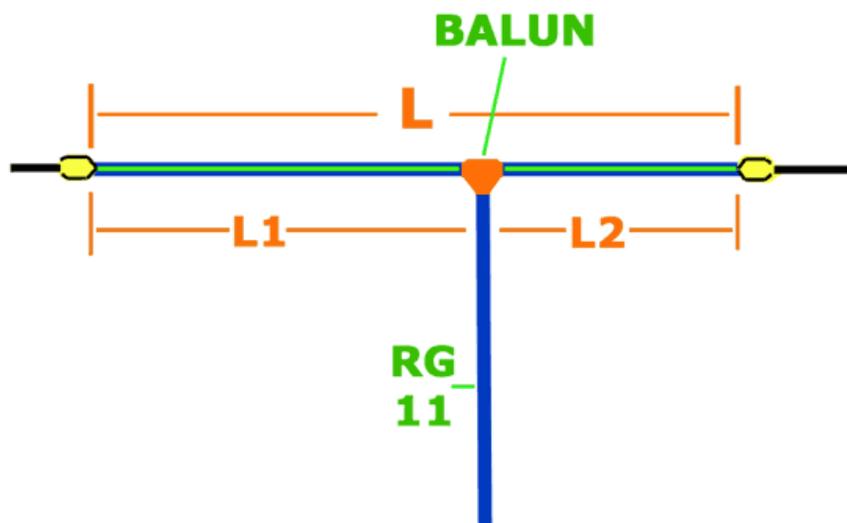
Home Brewers Hoekie

Coaxial Fed Windom Antenna



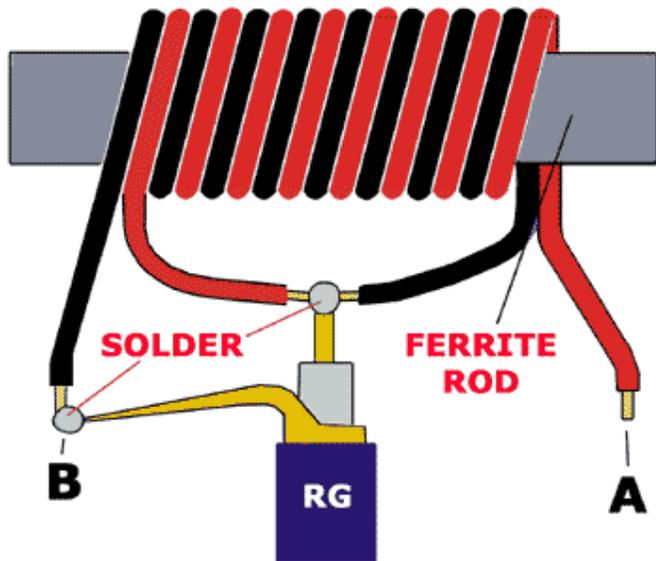
The Windom is an Off-center wire multiband Antenna. The old version was fed by just a single-wire connected on 1/3 of the antenna's overall length, or with an open-wire feeder (later versions).

Here is another version with a coaxial feeder, which is compatible with Solid State - 50Ω output transceivers .



The page describes a Windom antenna with a 4:1 homebrew transformer. The feed-point of these type of antennas (off center) have an impedance of about 300Ω. With a 4:1 Balun transformer it is possible to feed it easily by using a coaxial cable of 75Ω ($300/4=75$), such as RG59 or RG11. In practice, under these conditions, we have an SWR ratio of 1:1.5, but that is no problem if your transceiver has an internal Antenna Tuner. The SWR 1:1.5 can be easily minimized by using the antenna tuner.

FIG.1 The antenna works on all bands between 3.5 - 28 MHz, including the WARC bands, **other than 10.1 MHz**. The accepted power using this balun is 300 W, and the SWR is quite low, not more than 2:1 at the band edges. FIG. 2 shows the Balun transformer.



One or two ferrite rods are necessary for the Balun, depending on the output Power of your transmitter. The wire is a simple 1 – 1.5 mm double "Red-Black" wire, as used for Loud Speakers. 9-10 turns on the ferrite rod will be enough, but keep in mind, before winding: "cut" the two cables (red & black in Fig.2) to an equal length. The "B" point of the balun must be connected to "L1" on the antenna and the "A" point with "L2" (see FIG.1).

This aerial can be manufactured in two versions:

FIG.2

1) Full size with an overall length (L) of **41 m**. In this case "L1" is **27.5 m** and "L2" is **13.5 m**.

2) Half size with an overall length (L) of **20.5 m**. In

this case "L1" is **13.75m** & L2 is **6.75 m**

ATTENTION: the half size version works only on 10, 20 & 40 meter Bands.

Actually, this antenna is a compromise, but in practice, works very well! On the other hand, it is a simple-wire multiband antenna, it can be manufactured very easily by anyone, and that is a great advantage. I have used the small version at my QTH for a couple of years, and the results are very good. On 40 m band the antenna is about -6 Db (1 S) lower than a full size dipole, but in practice it has the same results on local and DX stations. On 20 meter Band, the antenna is excellent. The multi lobe radiation pattern of the antenna giving excellent results and it is much - much better than a dipole. I have thousands of QSOs on 20 m band using this antenna, and almost 4.000 QSOs with State-side stations on CW, just by using an output power of about 150 Watts.

The behavior of this antenna on 10 m. band is a "mystery" to me! Some times it is excellent with DX stations but other times it's like a "Dummy load"! Probably, because the antenna is 2λ on this band, and has a very complicated radiation pattern on this band, with several "shadows" on transmutation lobes.

Finally: if you want an antenna for any Field Day, walk in the country, contest, try it! It's my favorite antenna for any mini DX-pedition, IOTA operation around the Greek Islands. It's just a wire "plus" a balun!



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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