

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

February 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: 25th March (**Sunday**)

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

QTH: Dhlinda Forrest Boardwalk Eshowe 28°53'31.01"S 31°27'05.09"E

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 will be 25th March. Venue will be at the Board-Walk in Eshowe. Please make a note in your day books and diaries.

**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:



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

April: Warren ZS5WOZ, on 13th, Jan ZS5G, on 15th, Brain ZS6AE, on 26th.

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 club is setting up a field station at the Dhliza Forrest offices on the 26th of March. This will be a POTA (Parks On The Air) Station, **ZSFF-0102**. The club meeting will be taking place at the same venue at the same time. To get there, you get into Kangela Street, pass the Eshowe hospital, past the Eshowe High School, then about 100M further on turn left (see signs) and follow that dirt road to the Board-Walk. **28°53'31.01"S 31°27'05.09"E**

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



This is an interesting article, but due to its length, it will be serialised over the next 5 issues.

A Pioneering Background

By [Chris Rolinson G7DDN](#)

1 Of 5

I was musing recently on the wonderful history of Amateur Radio, from the early pioneers with spark transmitters and the race to get the first signals across the Atlantic, up to the Microwave enthusiasts who developed the way forward for space communications and satellite technology (and, whisper this, mobile phone technology!)

The history of Ham Radio and RF technology is inextricably linked – there was even a time here in the UK where it was believed, anecdotally, that a Ham Radio call-sign would help you to get a job with the BBC!

However change came very quickly, relatively speaking, in the early history of radio. From Marconi's experiments to the first Public Broadcast Stations was only 25 or so years. TV was only another 15 years or so behind that, and so on...

Resistance (or not feeling at “Ohm”)

Yet the history of Ham Radio is also one of *resistance* to change – not from the pioneers, they were often instigators of it, but from the “everyday” Hams.

Let me see if I can give you some examples, with my tongue planted very firmly in my cheek...

“That’s not Real Ham Radio!”

The early Hams used CW pretty much exclusively. So when AM arrived as one of the first of the voice modes, there was a bit of an uproar... “*It’s not real Ham Radio! Real Ham Radio involves using a Morse Key! What in the world is the hobby coming to, using voice to communicate over the airwaves? It’s sacrilege!*”

But life went on, AM found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then transistor technology arrived in the late 1940s and early 1950s, provoking quite a response. “*Hang on! That’s not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radios glow in the dark – we can’t be having this miniature technology – they’ll never last as long as valves or be as reliable*”

But life went on, solid state devices found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then SSB arrived and there was *more* discontent... “*That’s not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radios don’t sound like Donald Duck! It’s a fad, it will soon fall away once people get fed up of hearing those silly voices*”

But life went on, SSB found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then FM and repeaters arrived and there was polarisation within the hobby (and it wasn’t horizontal or vertical either!) “*That’s not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radio doesn’t need to use that thing on top of the hill to help your signal get somewhere! Real Ham Radio is point to point!*”

But life went on, FM & repeaters found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

To be continued

On The Dry Side



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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