

# Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

March 2015

ZARC Committee

Chairman: Andrew Jansen ZS5AND

Vice Chairman: Warren Snyders ZS5WOZ

Treasurer: Willie Axford ZS5WI

Secretary: Dawn Snyders ZS5ME

Ham Net: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Editor: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Member: Anne Griffiths ZS5FAB

Member: Gerald Scrooby ZS5GS

Webmaster: Chantel

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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

ZS5PO & ZS6AE Have A Sched 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: AGM 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (**Sunday**)

TIME: Meeting will take place ± 13:30, after the customary Braai at 12:00

QTH: Tattenham Resort Dam Lapa

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

Club Web site: <http://zs5zlb.zs5and.co.za/>

# Editor, Q.R.L.



Greetings & Salutations fellow members, I trust that this news letter finds you all in good health. The next club meeting will be our **AGM on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015**. The venue will be at Tattenham Resort near Gingindhlovu. The meeting will take place at ± **13:30**. Please make a note in your day books and diaries. The time for the customary braai will be at **12:00**, giving everybody a chance to get there after Sunday morning commitments. **THIS WILL BE THE CLUB AGM!!**

**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.

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## Wots Potting In The ZARC

### Birthdays Greetings Go To:



**April** : Warren ZS5WOZ, on the 13<sup>th</sup> . Brian ZS6AE, on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**May** : Tinkie, SW of Willie ZS5WI, on the 18<sup>th</sup>. J-J, son of Warren ZS5WOZ, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**June**: Reg ZS5REG, on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Sakkie ZS5ID, on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Gerald ZS5GS, on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**July**: Dawn ZS5ME, on the 12<sup>th</sup>. John ZS5J, on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Rod ZL1RK, on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

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).

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### Get Well Soon



I have not heard of anyone who has been Doctor bothering lately

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## Club Happenings

After sending out queries regarding the preferable July dates for the club AGM, those who bothered to answer seemed to all prefer **Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>**.

As Tattenham Resort is as near as “dammit” central for those who normally attend all the meetings, it was decided to use the lapa again, and we have found out we can have the use of the lapa free of charge. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CAMPING CHAIRS, they are much more comfortable, and safer, than those plastic megafatters available there.

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## 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](http://www.aprs.fi) web site, and type your call sign into the slot at the top of the column on the right, and press search, and see if your station appears on the map.

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## 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.**

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## Re-licencing

It is "THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN"

RENEWAL OF AMATEUR RADIO LICENCES AND FORM B - **Form B is no longer required**. Amateur radio licenses are due on 1 April 2015. ICASA will be sending out reminders in January but the responsibility remains with the licensee to ensure that the license is paid. **Unpaid licences will expire at the end of April**. Radio amateurs also have the **option to pay for 5 years**. Simply send an email to [dkuhrau@icasa.org.za](mailto:dkuhrau@icasa.org.za) and advise him that you are converting to a 5 year license then when making payment, **pay R500**. This is a saving of **R100** and protects the licensee against **inflation increases** which will be introduced from the **2016** license year. **When paying ICASA, please ensure that you quote your licence number and call sign.**

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## "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.**

1 X **Neutec SM-1645** 16 channel 2Mtr VHF radio for sale.  
Service, user and reprogramming instruction manuals available.  
**Reason for selling: Surplus to requirements**  
Please contact Gerald, ZS5GS on: **071-143 5433**



**NB** This picture of the radio was found on the internet, and is NOT a picture taken of the actual radio that is for sale

Please contact me if you are looking for a **Hy-Gain TH-MK4** beam antenna, The price being asked is **R4500**, and this one is in very good condition. Brand new they go for around **R9500**.

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## Home Brewers Hoekie



### PL 259 to Coax Installation Done Right.

**By David - K3DAV**

I installed my first PL-259 on to RG-8 coax at age 12. My family just got our first CB radio. A Courier 23+. We also got a CushCraft Ringo CR-1 1/2 wave antenna, and 50 feet of RG-8 coax. It was my job to put the connectors on the coax, so I talked to a CB friend (Joe) and he told me how to do it. I installed the connectors the way my friend told me to, and did a pretty good job. I hated the part about soldering the 4 little points of the shield through those 4 little holes. I wondered how good of a connection those 4 little solder points were, and how strong they are if the wire twists or turns while it is firmly connected to the antenna. But we put it all together and the SWR was about 1.6 on channel 9.

We noticed the SWR go higher after just a few days. My experienced friend Joe came over and we pulled the antenna down and checked it out. Everything looked OK, then Joe noticed how easy it was to twist the coax in the PL-259. So he re-soldered the connector and we put it all back up. The SWR was still 1.6 so we adjusted the matching bar on the antenna and got it down to a 1.4. That was the best it would get, so we used the radio that way.

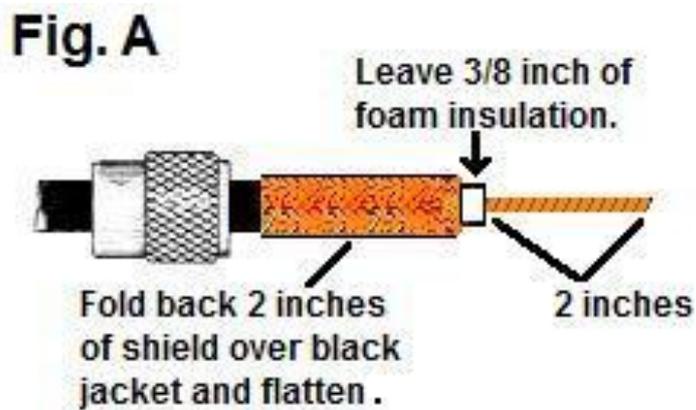
A few months later, the SWR went up to 1.9, and I knew something was not right. So we pulled the Ringo down again, and it was still OK, but that damn connector was loose again. This time I studied the connector and noticed threads inside the open end. I found out later that they were for adaptors for smaller coax. But after looking at the connector and the coax, I decided to try something a little different. And it brought the SWR down to 1.2, and lasted for 8 years before I took the antenna down.

Now I am not claiming that I invented this method of installing a PL-259 onto RG-8 coax, but at the time I thought of it by myself and I have done it this way ever since. After using the method I am about to describe for 45 years, I have never had one single connection go bad, and SWR has always been very good.

# How To Install A PL-259 on RG-8 Coax

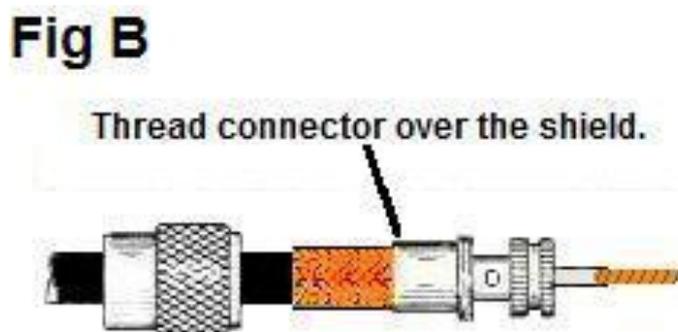
## The Better Way.

I remove about 2 inches of the black jacket from the end of the coax. Then I fold the braided shield back over the remaining black jacket so the white foam insulation is all showing. Then I remove the foam insulation except for 3/8 inch of it. **Figure A** below shows the coax preparation.



Now you are ready to install the PL-259. First remember to remove the outer threaded cover, and slide it onto the coax. And make sure it is facing the right direction. I have made that mistake a couple of times after finishing the connector installation, and my reaction was not pretty.

Now slide the PL-259 onto the coax right up to the shield wire. Start threading the connector over the shield wire. Just like screwing a nut onto a bolt. If it becomes too tight to do by hand, then use 2 pair of pliers to hold the coax and thread the connector. See **Figure B** below.



Continue to thread the connector onto the coax. Keep looking into the little solder holes on the connector. You will see the copper centre conductor in the middle. When you begin to see the edge of the white foam insulator cover about half of the solder hole, STOP THREADING. Trim off the excess braided shield wire so that only about 1/8 inch of it is still showing. See **Figure C** below.

## Fig. C

Stop threading when you see the white insulation foam fill half of the solder hole.



Trim back braided shield wire, but leave about an 1/8 inch. Then continue threading the connector onto the coax until the remaining shield is just inside the connector. Then STOP!

Now continue threading the connector onto the coax until the remaining shield wire just disappears into the connector then stop. Don't go any further.

Now cut the excess centre conductor wire flush to the end of the centre conductor shaft of the connector. Solder the tip well, and try to allow a little of the solder to roll down inside the shaft just a little for a good solder joint. And you are finished. See Figure D below.

## Fig. D

Cut off excess center conductor and solder the tip of the wire in the center shaft of the connector.



**TO BE CONTINUED**

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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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