

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

March 2016

ZARC Committee

Chairman: Mike Kramer ZS5MB

Vice Chairman: Warren Snyders ZS5WOZ

Treasurer: Willie Axford ZS5WI

Secretary: Dawn Snyders ZS5ME

Ham Net: Mike Kramer ZS5MB

Editor: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Member: Gerald Scrooby ZS5GS

Webmaster: Chantel Pelsler

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

There is also a club discussion net on Tuesday evenings at 18:30 on the 145.675 repeater
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: 24th July 2016 (**Sunday**) (**Tentative**) This will be the club AGM

TIME: Braai will take place ± 11:30, Before the Meeting at ± 12:00

QTH: **To Be Advised**

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 meeting will **Tentatively** be on the **24th of July 2016**. **This will be the AGM** The venue will be advised at a later date. The Braai will take place at **± 11:30**, and the Club meeting at around **12:00**. Please make a note in your day books and diaries. The time for the meeting will be at **11:30**, 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 R1.26 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:



April: Warren, ZS5WOZ, on 13th. Brian, ZS6AE, on 26th.
May: Tinkie, SW of Willie ZS5WI on 18th. J-J, son of Warren, ZS5WOZ, on 23rd
June: Reg, ZS5REG, on 4th. Sakkie, ZS5ID on 09th. Gerald, ZS5GS, on 15th
July: Dawn, ZS5ME. On 12th. John, ZS5J on 20th. Rod, ZL1RK, on 31st.

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



I have not heard of any club members, or their families, who have been "doctor bothering" lately!!

Club Happenings

Field Event



ZSS5PO & ZS5WOZ put out a notice, to find out if any club members would like to take part in the SARL Field Event over the weekend of **13th – 14th February**. We got one answer back, SO, we still wanted to take part in the field week end, so it was decided to put up a station at the QTH of ZS5WOZ in Mandeni, same as last year, & the year before. This is also only about 8 houses away from MY QTH. The day was extremely hot, and propagation was really grotty. Only 60 contacts were made on 40Mtrs & 80Mtrs. This netted us a 7th position in the first leg of the contest.

Club 21st Birthday

On **Thursday 18th February 2016**, **OUR** club turned **21 years old**.

We set up a special event field station on Sunday 21st Feb 2016, at the Fort Museum in Eshowe, and combined this with the club's "Christmas Lunch".

We operated from 09:00 to 12:00, and made 34 contacts.

ICASA

The Amateur Radio licence fee will increase from 1 April to R126 per annum.

To safeguard against future increases, radio amateurs may take out a 5 year licence at R525.

ICASA advised the SARL that they will start their billing process next week which means that licensees should receive their bill in the next few weeks.

When making payment please ensure that you include your licence number which can be found on your current licence and your call sign. If you decide to opt for a 5 year licence, please send an email with your payment details and a request to convert to a 5 year licence to DKuhrau@icasa.org.za.

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 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.

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.

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**.

Home Brewers Hoekie

Effective in-line filters

Many city-based RAYNET groups have increasingly suffered interference from nearby PMR and pager sites, as well as other RF sources. The solution to the problem is, of course, effective filtering of the receive signal.

Groups in Greater London, Surrey and Leicester have had considerable success with band-pass filters for 2m and 70cm from one particular manufacturer, DCI.

Significant filtering

These filters have been used in environments where stations and talk-throughs have been in very close proximity to hilltop PMR sites, and in temporary control rooms with multiple PMR systems being used in the same room and on the same mast as the RAYNET equipment.

In all cases, the result has been to **filter 100% of interference**, even when using amateur equipment with "barn door" receivers.

Contacts

DCI's agent in the United Kingdom is [Waters & Stanton plc \(www.wsplc.co.uk/\)](http://www.wsplc.co.uk/). Readers may also be interested in more technical background on the filters from [DCI's own Web page, \(www.dci.ca/\)](http://www.dci.ca/) which includes Network Analyser plots for all their filters.

For further information on these filters, please post an e-mail to [Brian Davies, G3OYU, \(101756.460@compuserve.com\)](mailto:Brian.Davies@compuserve.com) The County Controller, Surrey, or to [Jim Andrews, G1HUL, \(jim.andrews@raynet-uk.net\)](mailto:Jim.Andrews@raynet-uk.net) Group Controller, Leicester

On The Dry Side

I HATE BEING
SEXY
BUT I'M A
HAM RADIO
OPERATOR
SO I CAN'T HELP IT

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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