

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

March 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: 29th July (Sunday) **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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

QTH: Eagles Nest Eshowe 28°53'28.44"S - 31°28'23.66"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 29th July. Venue will be at the Eagles Nest Eshowe. **This will be the club annual general** meeting. 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.
May: Tinkie, SW of Willie ZS5WI on 18th, J-J, son of Warren ZS5WOZ on 23rd.

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 set up a field station at the Dlinza Forrest offices on the 26th of March. This was a POTA (Parks On The Air) Station, **ZSFF-0102**. The club meeting took place at the same venue. 11 contacts were made before a thunder and rain storm sent us packing. Operators were Willie ZS5WI, Gerald ZS5GS, Warren ZS5WOZ, and Jo ZS5PO. A reporter from a local news paper visited us and took some pictures.

ZS5ZLB



ZS5ZLB
 P. O. Box 98
 Mandini 4490
 RSA

Dlinza Forrest
 Eshowe
 KG50RC

ITU - 57 CQ - 38 DXCC - 462 TKS-QSL-PSE

2 WAY QSO WITH	DATE	UTC	MODE	R	S	T	FREQ	OPERATOR

The above "home brewed" QSL card will be sent to all contacts made.



Jo and Warren Snyders with Gerald Scrooby watch Willy Axford engage with another operator as part of the WorldWide Flora and Fauna event
 Larry Bentley

'Hams' talk nature

Larry Bentley

WorldWide Flora and Fauna. The programme aims to draw attention to the importance of protecting nature. In this spirit the amateur radio operators set up and operate their radio stations from designated nature parks and protected nature areas, thus generating attention for these areas while providing the ham radio community with an interesting activity. In 2012 the programme was relaunched as the WWFF -

WorldWide Flora and Fauna. The programme aims to draw attention to the importance of protecting nature. In this spirit the amateur radio operators set up and operate their radio stations from designated nature parks and protected nature areas, thus generating attention for these areas while providing the ham radio community with an interesting activity.

25/03/2018

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](#)

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Then Packet Radio arrived and there was *real* trouble... “*That’s not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radio doesn’t need one of those new-fangled computer thingies in order to work. Get your key or your mic out and start working other Hams properly!*”

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

Then Digimodes arrived and there was yet more strife... “*That’s not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radio doesn’t involve typing messages to other Hams – and those perishing computers again! What on Earth are they doing in the hobby?*”

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

Then Digital Voice modes arrived and there were some *very* serious disagreements... “*That’s not real Ham Radio. Real Ham Radios don’t sound like R2D2! Real radios don’t use the Internet to help them get round the world, they ABSOLUTELY HAVE to use atmospheric propagation. What is happening to this hobby???*”

But life went on, D-STAR and other Digital Voice modes found acceptance and all was well in Hamland once again.

Then we arrive at today and Network Radios come onto the scene and all hell breaks loose! “*That’s not real Ham Radio. This is playing at Ham Radio – there’s no Amateur RF so it is simply not Ham Radio. What is more, I worked hard for my license, everyone else should have to too! How dare people enjoy communications in an incorrect manner!*”

So will life go on and will all ever be well in Hamland again?

The 21st Century Challenge

This is why the advent of Network Radios represents such a challenge to us as Hams – it is causing us to completely rethink what it means to be a Radio Amateur in 2018 and beyond.

And we will have to start facing up to questions similar to these...

- What exactly defines a Radio Amateur?
- What do we mean by “Amateur RF”?
- Is it RF generated by someone who is an Amateur?
- Or is it RF generated on a particular band allocated to us by the government?
- If so, does it absolutely HAVE to be that?
- Can it be nothing else?
- Does any of this really matter?

What about our bands?

As Hams we are very “attached” to our bands. Whether it be 160m or 2m, we almost have a psychological sense of “ownership” of them.

We have “favourite” bands, we have bands we *never* frequent.

We even have “our” spot frequencies and some Hams will get somewhat “assertive” if a fellow amateur who is not in their “group” *dares* to use “their” frequency!

And yet in the 21st Century, I believe that the whole concept of bands & frequencies is becoming ever more fluid. Why would this be?

To be continued

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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