

# Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

April 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

ZS5PO & ZS6AE Have A Sched On Thursdays From 18:30 To 18:45  
On 7.175 Or 3.635 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

**WILL BE THE AGM**

DATE: 27<sup>th</sup> July or 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 (**Sunday**) To be decided

TIME: Meeting will take place Approx 13:30 ish, after **the annual luncheon @ 12:00**

QTH: At the QTH of ZS5ME & ZS5PO

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

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 the AGM, on **27<sup>th</sup> July or 3<sup>th</sup> August 2014**. The venue will be at the home of ZS5ME & ZS5PO. The meeting will take place at **13:30**. Please make a note in your day books and diaries. The time for the Luncheon will be **12:00**, giving everybody a chance to get there after Sunday morning commitments.

**Have you bought insurance to continue enjoying your hobby yet? SARM membership IS that insurance!!!  
Is your hobby worth R1.09 per day to you? YES?! Then join the SARM, 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:



**May:** Tinkie, SW of ZS5WI, on 18<sup>th</sup>, J-J, Son of ZS5WOZ, on 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

**August:** Anne, ZS5FAB, on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Melissa, daughter of ZS5WOZ, on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Andrew, ZS5AND, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Bridget, daughter of ZS5ME & ZS5PO, on the 20<sup>th</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).

### Get Well Soon



I have not heard of anyone who has been doctor bothering lately, except Willie ZS5WI, who has been in and out of hospital with back problems. We wish you well, and a quick and total recovery after your next visit to hospital, which is coming up.

## Club Happenings

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, the club meeting was held at the new QTH of Willie ZS5WI, and despite it being on a golf course, there are no grounds for the rumours that we were dodging golf balls during the meeting.

After hearing some reports regarding dissatisfaction regarding the quality & pricing of the last "Christmas" luncheon, Dawn, ZS5ME suggested that we rather have the club annual "Bun Fight" on the same day as the AGM. She also offered to cater for the lunch at around R80.00 per head, compared to the R120.00 charged by our usual venue. She said she could also offer a similar menu. The venue MUST be in Mandeni. (where her kitchen is) The luncheon will be held first at 12:00 followed by the meeting. Those present at the Club meeting decided that the AGM will take place on either **July 27<sup>th</sup>** or **August 3<sup>rd</sup>**. SO, can all the other members **PLEASE let Dawn know, ASAP**, which of the two dates suit them, so that she can do her planning. This will also let us know which is the most popular Sunday for the meeting.



This will be a GHOST lunch, in other words ..... Bring your own spirits!!



### **STARTERS:**

Choice of: Salmon Mousse      or      Butternut soup      Served with Melba toast

### **MAINS:**

Roast Pork                      Roast Lamb                      Cold Tongue                      Chicken Casserole

### **Vegetables:**

Roast Potatoes      Cauliflower & Broccoli Bake      Roast Pumpkin      Green Beans      Baby corn      Rice

Gravy                      Mint Jelly                      Apple Sauce                      Green Salad



The latter sometimes manifests itself with RF bites when touching equipment, varying SWR when touching equipment, or RF on cables connecting PC equipment to radio equipment. WARNING! This is a common problem with all stations or unbalanced antenna systems. I've damaged computer equipment in the past, so ALWAYS do some basic checks first before applying more than about 10 watts.

You will note that I also specified a T Match ATU. A T Match will provide a much greater range of impedance matching as opposed to something like a Pi or L match system.

Both the balun and ATU MUST be used actually at the feed point of the loop, and never ever at the rig end. If you try the latter you will get a reduction in performance.

At the top centre of the loop you may put a simple open/close switch.

This can be used on 10/12m to alter the polar pattern by 90 degrees.

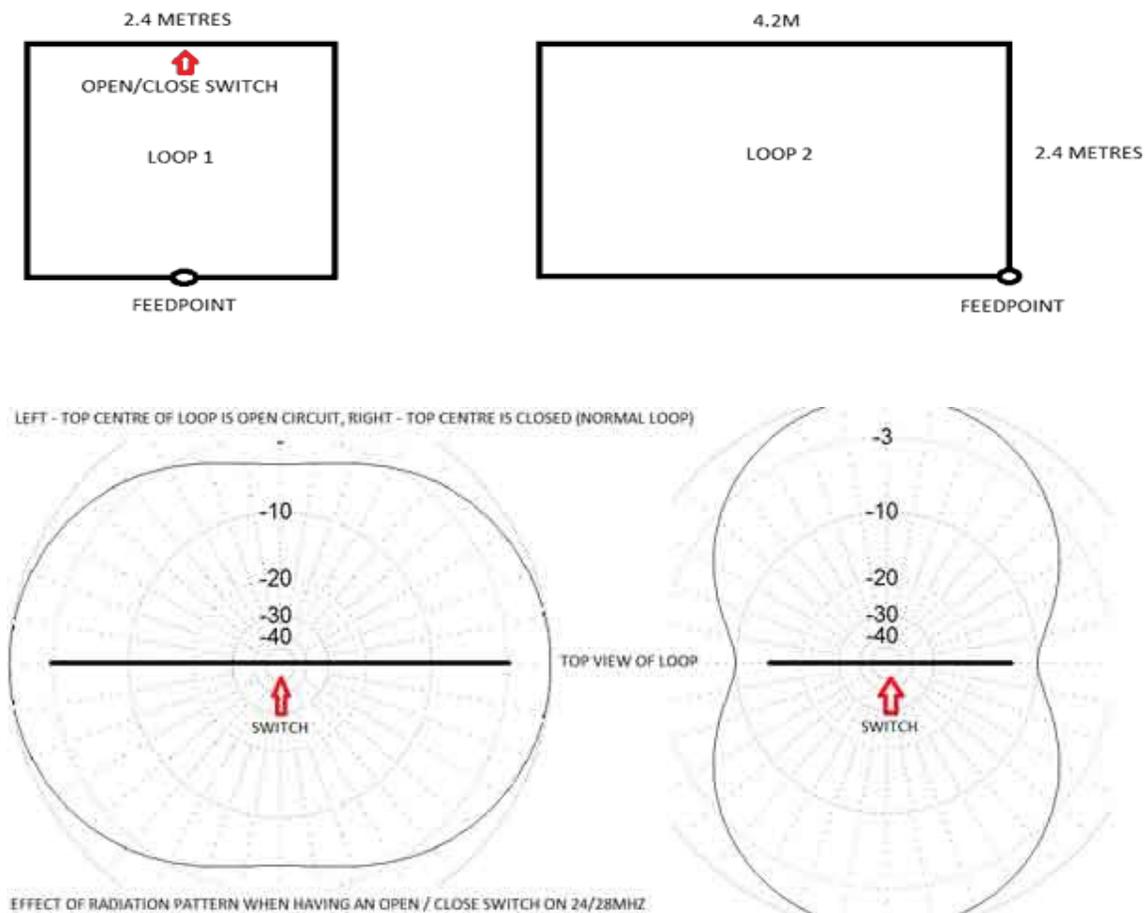
In other words, you are able to rotate the beam of the antenna around without actually moving the antenna! It also switches that radiation from vertical to horizontal.

This loop can be used from 160m - 6m. I have rarely used more than 15w and had massive success especially from 30m upwards.

What have I worked ?

The world! Right down to VK land, South Africa and South America. On 6m I've never used more than 5w and I seem to work just as many stations as anyone else during the summer sporadic E season.

On the LF bands performance is reduced, but I have worked the Ukraine on 80m, Cyprus on WSPR and regular QSO's on 3.560Mhz CW on the QRP frequency at night. I've made a few local QSO's on 160m, about 30 miles away but I've never made too much effort on that band using this small loop.



## Loop Version 2

In an attempt to improve LF performance I tried a large loop. This was approximately 4.2m x 2.4m and fed in the corner. Again the use of a balun and T Match atu is essential. This seemed to give a useful performance boost on the LF bands, and works well up to 6m. The radiation pattern is pretty omni- directional at LF, moving to bi-directional on the upper HF bands, and then on 6m it becomes a four lobed system offering about 2db gain over a dipole.

## Using an Indoor Station

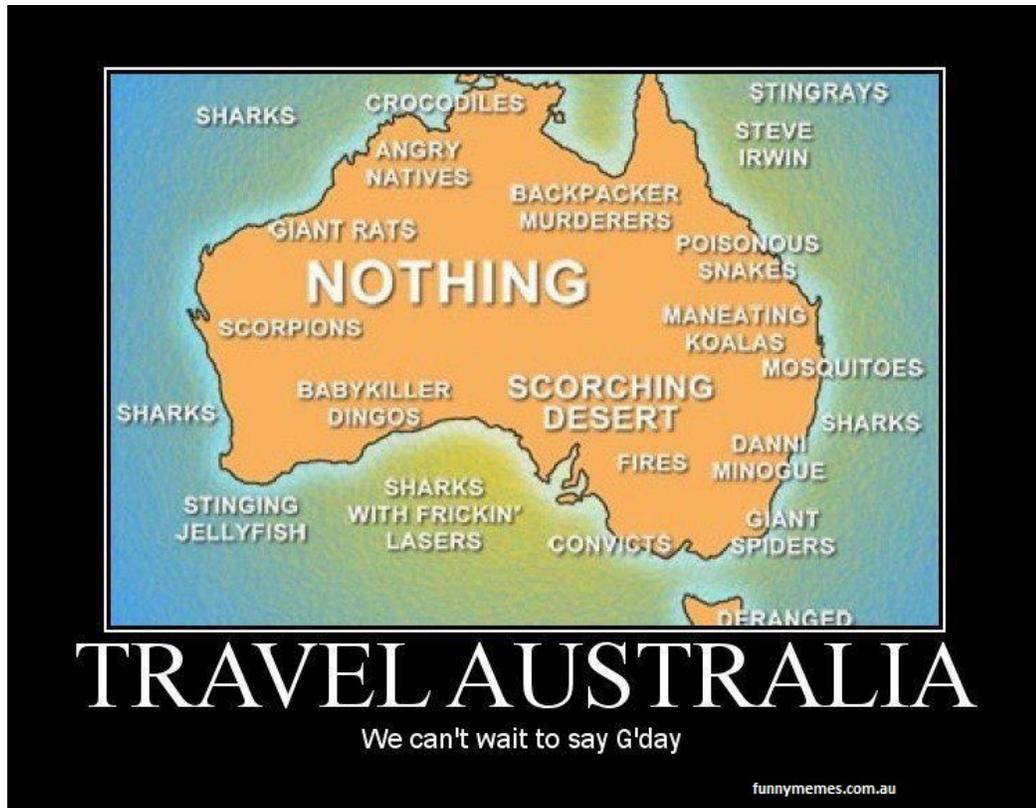
I originally wanted to use these loops purely for indoor use, and I've had a lot of fun with them over the years. Naturally you cannot expect to be as big a signal as others, but that doesn't stop you working DX. I usually find CW scores over SSB, and now there are modes like PSK31 and WSPR. The latter mode is an indoor QRP'ers

delight and I thoroughly recommend it. So if you are a flat dweller, have no garden or live in a broom cupboard this proves that the HF bands ARE available to you. So now the sunspots are up - get cracking and have some fun.

73 de  
Andy GOFD

---

## 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.

Jo Snyders ZS5PO  
PO Box 98  
Mandini 4490

Telephone      032-456 2301  
Mobile (Cell)    083-666 0709

Email      [jodawn@telkomsa.net](mailto:jodawn@telkomsa.net)

