

# Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

April 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 Gingindlovu. 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? SARC membership IS that insurance!!!**  
**Is your hobby worth R1.09 per day to you? YES?! Then join the SARC, 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>**.

### HAMNET 40Mtr Simuated Emergency Contest

Only one club member, that I know of, took part in this contest on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and that was Mike, ZS5MB. Congratulations are due to Mike for achieving first place in his category, Single Operator Portable, with a score of 500 points. Well done Mike!!

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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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## “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**

Continued from March edition

## **Cons Of The Old way.**

The old way used 4 little solder points of the copper braid to the connector. The rest of the braid inside the connector was touching air. Only those 4 tiny points made your entire ground connection. Ground connections are the most important for a good SWR. The coax usually was not very tight in the connector and could turn or twist, breaking the 4 tiny little solder points, and you wouldn't even know it until you physically inspected it.

## **Pros of this better way.**

Using the method that I just described here, ensures that the entire 360 degrees of the copper braid is firmly and quite tightly touching 360 degrees of the inside of the connector. This adds strength to the connection from the coax twisting or being pulled out of the connector. Soldering is not needed for the shield. The connector is twisted onto the coax so tightly, that the ground connection is solid and will not work loose. You could hang from the coax with this connection. The centre conductor is soldered firmly so it also has a solid connection.

As I said, I have installed hundreds of PL-259 connectors onto RG-8 coax for many of my friends and myself for over 45 years. Every single one of them were still working perfectly until the antenna system was removed or changed or blown up by lightning. Not one of them has ever failed, and always provided a great SWR.

## **For Use On LMR-400 Type Coax.**

For many years now, I have only used Times Microwave LMR-400 for all of my antennas. It is a little harder to install a PL-259 onto LMR-400, but I have done dozens of them and they work great. The trick is to unbraid the shield wire, and fold back the now straightened shield wires very tightly over the black jacket. The connector is harder to thread over the shield, but with 2 pair of pliers you can do it. Just remember to make sure the foil that is moulded around the foam insulation is trimmed back just enough so it doesn't come in contact with the centre conductor inside the connector. That could be a whole new problem.

My good friend Mike (KD0WTE) in Iowa has made a very good instructional video on YouTube, on how to install a PL-259 on to LMR-400. His instructions can also be used for basic copper RG-8 type coax. [CLICK HERE](#) to see Mike's great video

By the way.... There have been a few guys who asked me if using this install method, would the threads in the PL-259 connector cut into and break off the short braided shield wires leaving a poor ground connection? The answer is no if it was installed correctly.

Mike installed a PL-259 onto LMR-400. He later needed the connector to use on a much longer piece of coax. So he heated the tip of the connector enough to melt the solder and unscrewed the connector off from the coax. The following photo shows the piece of LMR-400 after Mike removed the connector.



**Photo courtesy of Mike Root - KD0WTE**

As you can clearly see, all of the shield wires are still in tact and none of them are broken or mangled.

You can even see the crinkles in the wires where the threads of the connector gripped into the shield wire strong and firm enough to make a solid contact over the full 360 degrees of the inside of the connector. You can also notice that the

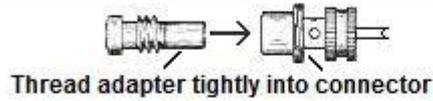
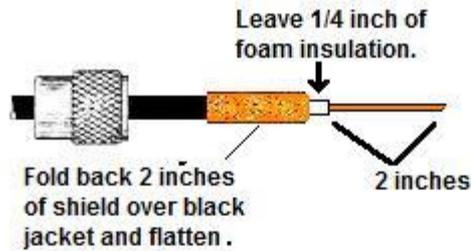
connector threads gripped the wires hard enough to scrape the tin coating from the copper shield, exposing the copper colour of the wire. But not so hard that it damages the wire.

### **RG-58 and RG-8X coax.**

You may be wondering how this method works for smaller diameter coax. If done right, it works very well. But it is an option if you still prefer your way. When removing the black jacket and folding back the braided shield wire, do not sleeve it back so tightly. Just push it back lightly and it will be thicker to slide the connector over it firmly. The smaller coax adaptor does not have threads inside to grip the wire. If it still feels a little loose, put a piece of electrical tape on the jacket, then bring the braid back over it. This will add thickness to it for a firmer connection. You can use more tape if necessary. I have done this for all of my indoor jumpers of RG-8X, and once again, they have never failed me for good performance.

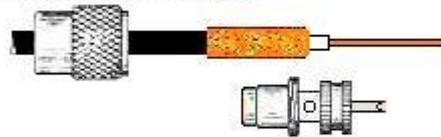
**Figure E** below is pretty self explanatory after seeing how it was done for the RG-8 type coax.

# RG-58 & RG-8X



The reducer adaptor end goes into the connector far enough to cover the little solder holes, so you will not be able to see the copper shield to know when to stop.

Take the bare coax wires and put them next to the connector to get a eyeball measurement of how far into the connector you can go.



Twist connector onto coax over the braided shield. Stop just before it is seated all the way inside the connector.

Trim back excess braid leaving about 1/8 inch.



Continue twisting connector onto coax until it is seated, and can not go any farther. Do not try to force it any farther.

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



**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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