

# Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

April 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

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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

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:** 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016 (**Sunday**) (**Tentative**) This will be the club AGM

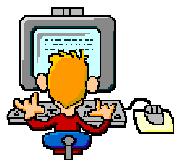
**TIME:** Braai will take place ± 11:30, Before the Meeting at ± 12:00

**QTH:** **To Be Advised**

E-Mail: [dawnjo@telkomsa.net](mailto: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 **24<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>. Brian, ZS6AE, on 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

**June:** Reg, ZS5REG, on 4<sup>th</sup>. Sakkie, ZS5ID on 09<sup>th</sup>. Gerald, ZS5GS, on 15<sup>th</sup>

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

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

### Competitions



**No club members have taken part in any competitions since the Field Event in February!!!!**

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The Yaesu dual frequency repeater has, at long last, been taken in to Durban for repairs. Craig ZS5N is now working for a commercial radio company based on the Bluff, Craig manufactured that repeater for the club many years ago, using a Yaesu 12 Channel crystal controlled commercial radio. He also built in capability for plugging in a VHF radio, if we ever want to link our club repeaters

## 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](mailto: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](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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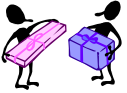
## Repeaters

**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



### **2 METER SSB ANTENNA PROJECT**

AF4AR/W6ARQ/KC5BBP

"modified"

2 METER SQUARE LOOP

**GET ON 2 SSB IN STYLE WITH THIS NEAT AND STURDY PLUMBER'S DELIGHT RF PROJECTOR !  
LOOK DOWN BELOW FOR ALL THE GOODIES!**





**Gamma Match Closeup**



See closeup below.

**BLAST OFF!!  
BEWARE OF THE SHOCK WAVE!**



**ADJUSTING SCREWS FOR TWEAKING SWR**





Mounting parts and assembled

**MIKE (AF4AR)  
RICK (KC5BBP)  
JOHN (W6ARQ)**

**CAN BE FOUND ON THE 146.67MHZ  
NASHVILLE, TN AREA MACHINE MUMBLING SOMETHING ABOUT GRID SQUARES  
AND DX IN THEIR SPARE TIME! EMAIL THEM FOR ?????  
AF4AR USES THIS ANTENNA MOBILE ON AN 18 WHEELER!  
FILM AT ELEVEN!**

**Here are the building instructions on the 2 meter square loop.**

**Credit is given to K0FF for most of this design.**

**We have added modifications that proved useful in the design.**

The mods will be presented under modifications in the design instructions. Special thanks to **W6ARQ** and **KC5BBP** for their input on this Antenna.

## 2 Meter Square Dipole by K0FF

Here is the parts list and dim. sheet for the 2 meter square dipole, made of copper water pipe.

### Parts List

1/2 Inch Copper Water Pipe  
Long Sides 9 1/2 inches  
Open Ends 3 1/4  
2 X Short Pieces on each side of "T" 4 7/16  
4 X 90 Degree Elbows  
2 X Copper Caps  
1 X Copper Tee  
Brass Plate for SO239  
Gamma Tube 4 3/4 of 3/8 Copper Tubing  
RG8 (RG-213) is 5 1/2 inches long  
Copper or Brass Gamma Tube Bracket  
1 X SO239

### Modification Parts **(DO NOT USE STAINLESS STEEL)**

6 X Brass Nuts-Note Any size  
2 X Brass Screws at least 1 1/2" long

**Instructions:** The mounting array to be affixed to a standard mobile mast that presents 3/8 X 24 threads.

Run coaxial cable right to the antenna and connect it to the built in SO-239.

There are two adjustments on the Antenna to match the coax Impedance.

Adjust the Gamma Match Tube for Lowest SWR, then the tuneable stubs move in or out for lower SWR.

Do not use Stainless Steel Screws, Soldering them to the end caps is almost impossible.

The 2 meter square loop is a folded Dipole around itself.

**The shape is 11" X 11".**

Solder the antenna parts together using 90 degree elbows at the corner open ends and mind the gap.

All measurements are critical. The brass plate to hold them form an "L" 1-3/4" tall with a 1/2" lip.

A 5/8" hole is provided 1-1/4 inch from the bend, and attached using stainless steel or brass hardware.

Two small holes are drilled in the lip and mounted to the copper TEE with #6 self tapping screws.

Solder the 5 1/2 inch piece of RG8 ( RG-213) to the SO-239.

When using the RG8 ( RG-213) discard the outer shield and use only the Dielectric. Slip the RG8 ( RG-213) inside the 4-3/4 Gamma Tube.

The Gamma bracket should be at least 1 1/2" long brass or copper.

Secure with stainless steel screws right before the 90 degree elbow.

Either side doesn't matter.

The Gap between the Open Ends is 2-3/8".

Adjustments to the gap in or out can be made with the modification of installing the brass screws on the end caps.

The Antenna is more or less Omni Directional and horizontally polarized.

It presents a high takeoff angle and is intended for use in the **144.200mhz** area.

The Antenna can handle 100 Watts and has proved useful in working some satellites such as AO-27.

The Antenna provides excellent SSB results while mobile and has talked with other stations 200 miles with similarly equipped Antennas.

For further Information on assembly or instruction details Email the following hams below.

[Af4ar6077@aol.com](mailto:Af4ar6077@aol.com)

[W6arq@charter.net](mailto:W6arq@charter.net)

[Kc5bbp](#) lives too far back in the hills of Tennessee to get daylight...much less email!!!!

**PLEASE DON'T EMAIL HAM UNIVERSE.COM FOR QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS ANTENNA..GO TO THE EXPERTS ABOVE!!**



**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)

