

# Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

April 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

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## 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: 29<sup>th</sup> 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](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 get-together/meeting will be 29<sup>th</sup> 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:



**April:** Warren ZS5WOZ, on 13<sup>th</sup>, Jan ZS5G, on 15<sup>th</sup>, Brain 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:** Sakkie ZS5ID, on 9<sup>th</sup>, Jan (RAE), on 11<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



Dawn, ZS5ME still NOT in the best of health.

We wish her a speedy recovery.



### Club Happenings Competitions:

ZS5ZLB took part in the Div-4 Sprint on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month. 31 contacts were made, which netted us a 7<sup>th</sup> place. Thanks go to Gerald ZS5GS who ran the ZS5ZLB station from his QTH.

## Farewell



It was with heavy hearts that Willie ZS5WI and Jo ZS5PO went to Mtunzini to bid farewell to John ZS5J. We also presented him with an Honorary Life Membership certificate. John is one of the founder members of the Zululand Amateur Radio Club, and also served as our chairman for many years. I will be missing John, as we worked Lighthouses On The Air, and SARL Field Events together for many years. I will now not have anyone to tease any more. 😊

John is immigrating to Kenya, where he will be representing Bell earth moving equipment. This is on a trial basis, and if it does not appeal to him, he will be emigrating to settle permanently in Ireland.

John-o, we wish you all the very best for the future and hope to maybe work you on HF some time.

VY 73

De ZS5ZLB

### 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.

**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.**

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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.**

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## 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

### 3 Of 5

Not that long ago, we could tune into broadcast stations on Long Wave (LF), Medium Wave (MF), Short Wave (HF) and FM (VHF Band II). Stations frequently referred to themselves by frequency: “247 metres Radio 1” or “1152 AM” for example. It was seen part of the station’s identity – many had the frequency in their station names!

But today, we increasingly hear less of this. When you listen to broadcast stations these days, they seem to be eschewing giving out frequencies, instead they just announce that they are on “FM, DAB and Digital” or something similar to that.

Why? Because radio is something you probably increasingly consume in one of two ways – either digitally (via DAB or Satellite or similar means) or by streaming via the Internet. Frequencies and by extension, bands, are not as relevant as they once were.

### **Moving Out!**

The large broadcasters are also increasingly moving away from “traditional” radio.

On Short Wave – only a few countries & various religious groups seem to operate there now. The big guys are moving out of Long and Medium Wave too. If commercial broadcasters are moving away, we need to ask why.

### **Do Bands matter?**

I have a suspicion that this is, in part at least, because bands and frequencies don’t matter so much these days. Domestic radio appliances are more about push buttons and screens that get you to your station instantly, rather than tuning dials with frequencies. It’s the end product that is important, not necessarily the manner in which it gets to you.

Who tunes a modern broadcast radio in these days with a manual tuning dial? Anyone? It was the main knob on all radios not that many years ago! I can even remember tuning old VHF TV in with a dial in my early days on this planet – that *really* seems odd now!

Going one step further, many broadcast stations are not even using direct RF at all these days! We still refer to them as “radio stations” (or occasionally “Internet radio stations”)

Is there any reason to think Ham Radio as a hobby will not invariably move in a similar kind of direction? One of our strengths historically as Hams has been that we are good at embracing new technologies and adapting them for our own uses.

The point I am leading up to is this – I suspect “bands” and “frequencies” are not really as big an issue in the digital age as we might *like* them to be.

In essence, bands only exist because of propagation.

To be continued

## 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.

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