

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

May 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

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 19th 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 (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 19th July 2015**. The venue will be at Tattenham Resort near Gingindhlovu. The meeting will take place at \pm **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.

Wots Potting In The ZARC

Birthdays Greetings Go To:



May : Tinkie, SW of Willie ZS5WI, on the 18th. J-J, son of Warren ZS5WOZ, on the 23rd.

June: Reg ZS5REG, on the 4th. Sakkie ZS5ID, on the 9th. Gerald ZS5GS, on the 15th.

July: Dawn ZS5ME, on the 12th. John ZS5J, on the 20th. Rod ZL1RK, on the 31st.

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



Richard, the son-in-law of Willie ZS5WI, was involved in a rather serious motor cycle collision, and needed to undergo a number of medical procedures. We wish Richard a speedy complete recovery, and our thoughts & prayers are with Willie & Jillian during this trying period. Our Chairman, Andrew, ZS5AND, is once more at home in bed with his ongoing leg problem. Andrew, you are also in our thoughts and prayers, and we wish you a speedy recovery.

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 19th**. So it is going to be **Sunday July 19th**

18th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE / LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

00:01 UTC 15th AUGUST 2015 TO 24:00 UTC 16th AUGUST 2015



It is nearly that time of year again. The month after our AGM is Lighthouses month. Will ZARC be taking part, or not??? If so, who will be attending, and where are we going to set up station? At Cape St. Lucia Light, or Tugela Bluff Light. Come on members, please do not leave it to the last moment. Bookings have to be made if it is to be Tugela, permission must be obtained if it is to be St Lucia. I don't know if it is just my imagination, or is it really becoming more difficult every year to get members to take part in field events, so that I can get material for the news letters. It is starting to feel as if I am just baying at the moon!!

Early Warning

The second leg of the 2015 South African Radio League National Field Day, takes place over the weekend of **12 and 13 September 2015**.

No, NOT November – National Field Days are now February and September!

Can we please be notified as soon as possible, regarding who will be attending the field day, so that we can book accomodation early. We don't want a repeat of all the last minute "Hanna-Hanna" we had in February.

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.

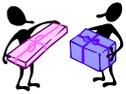
For those of you Zululanders who have Internet, go and look on the www.aprs.fi web site, and type your call sign into the slot at the top of the column on the right, and press search, and see if your station appears on the map.

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.**

“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**.

Home Brewers Hoekie



PL 259 to Coax Installation Done Right.

By David - K3DAV

Continued from April edition

Some Very GOOD Advice To Follow

Two small pieces of advice to all newer radio operators that experienced hams SHOULD already know.

1. **NEVER NEVER NEVER use crimp connectors!!!!** They are not good connections and they will fail. Crimp connectors are why cables you buy with pre-installed connectors provide poor SWR, less power to the antenna, and why they always fail. Come on people, wise up. You are not making a simple cable TV jumper connection here. You are putting connectors on coaxial cable that will carry high power raw RF going through these bad boys to your big expensive quality antenna. Use a real connector that has to be soldered. Unless you don't care about quality.

2. **NEVER NEVER NEVER buy coax with pre-installed connectors already on it.** They use those crappy crimped-on connectors I just talked about, and they will fail. They let water in to arc and burn out the centre conductor wire. Most of the time, the coax they use is not a good grade of quality either. Learn how to install the connector yourself even if it is a royal pain in the butt. You will have a better connector and a better

connection that will last for many years if you do it yourself. It's not rocket science. It's just a connector, and it's YOUR expensive radio at stake.

If you have any questions or comments about this article, please feel free to contact me at k3dav@msn.com

©k3dav.com

End of the coax connector series, next month we start a new one



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

