

# Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

May 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.

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## Wots Potting In The ZARC

### Birthday Greetings Go To:



**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 9<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).

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### Get Well Soon



I have not heard of any club members, or their families, who have been "doctor bothering" lately!!

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## Club Happenings

### Competitions



**No club members, that I know of, have taken part in any competitions since the Field Event in February!!!!**

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### Article Received from Peter ZS5PL: [Ham Etiquette on the Air](#)

Over the festive season I have been monitoring various frequencies and in particular the local repeaters, both Analogue and DMR. Whilst there has been very little to complain about on the International side of DMR, that has not been the case as regards local DMR and more particularly local analogue. Profanity, i.e. the use of bad language, has become more common than is usual and is quite likely due mainly to the time of year which encourages persons to become more relaxed than normal and pay less attention to their choice of words. This, I'm sure, will improve as we get back into the swing of work hours and recover some of our personal disciplines. However there are two areas which have concerned me for quite some time, namely the topic I mentioned a week or so back regarding the incorrect use or abbreviation of amateur call-signs. The common fault is to respond to another station as "5ABC" instead of the full ZS5ABC, ZR5ABC or ZU5ABC. Apart from the fact that it is contrary to the amateur regs, in which there is no provision whatsoever for the use of an abbreviated call-sign at any time, it actually indicates a lack of pride in one's achievements in obtaining your amateur licence and associated call-sign. Also, when reception conditions are less than optimal, it could even create the erroneous impression that you are from one of our northern neighbours or even Cyprus. Use your full call-sign. You worked hard to get it!

The second area is of greater concern as it could potentially affect all of us to our detriment. It has been noticeable recently that more discussion is taking place of a kind which comes very close to contravening regulation 32. of the 2015 Regs (published on 30 March 2015 in GG.38641), specifically reg 32.1.(f), and amounts to what could be considered "hate speech". Please be aware that there has recently been a considerable amount of publicity regarding hate speech as a result of certain posts on social media platforms. Also understand that the amateur bands are no longer the exclusive domain of amateurs, albeit they should be. Many interested parties monitor the bands for their own purposes or amusement and we do not need stories to start circulating that the Hams spend a lot of their time "skinnering" about other

race groups or religions, etc. Whatever your feelings or opinions are about the competency of the various levels of government, other racial groupings or cultures, religious beliefs which may differ from your own, or the state of affairs in general regarding non-amateur related matters, remember they are just that. **Your** feelings, **your** opinions, which should not be open to general discussion on amateur bands but kept for conversation with others of like mind around the braai fire or over the dinner table. We have in recent years made several notable advances regarding amateur facilities, operating procedures and licensing conditions and hope to make more. Don't be responsible for giving the authorities an excuse to reverse these advances as a result of an unguarded word in an on-air, public discourse.

Very 73 de Peter/ZS5PL

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The Yaesu dual frequency repeater (ex Ntumeni) has, at long last, been repaired, and is back in my tender care, thanks to Craig ZS5N, who is now the KZN branch manager for **RFi** and is based on the Bluff. Craig's contact details are: **072-692 7081**

### 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

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## Home Brewers Hoekie

### 12 VOLT GEL CELL CHARGER

BY N1HFX

Recently, a fellow amateur was looking for a gel cell charger which would first charge at a fixed rate and then later switch to a trickle charge when the cell was fully charged. After reviewing several catalogs and web sites, the MAX712 IC was discovered. This IC meets all the requirements for almost any type of battery charging system. The circuit in Figure 1 was designed specifically for 12volt gel cells.

When a discharged gel cell is connected, the charger goes into a fast charge mode at a fixed rate of 400 ma. After the chip detects the voltage leveling off or when 4 1/2 hours has elapsed. (Which ever happens first.) the fast charge will stop. After the fast charge has ended, the IC goes into a trickle charge rate of about 50 ma. This trickle charge continues until 13.8 volts is reached which will stop all charging current since the cell is now fully charged. If the cell voltage should drop for any reason, either a fast charge or trickle charge (IC will detect what is needed) will start again.

When constructing this circuit, be sure to attach a small heat sink to Q1. Apply a DC (partially filtered) voltage of at **least** 15.3 volts. The voltage must never go below this level even under load conditions. Many of the DC wall transformers available will work just fine as long as they meet the minimum voltage requirement. The input voltage can be as high as 24 volts. If the input voltage must be in the 30 volt range, increase R1 to about 820 ohms.

The output voltage must be aligned prior to use. Disconnect the battery from the circuit and apply power. Connect a digital volt meter or other accurate volt meter to pin 2 (positive lead) and to pin 12 (negative lead). Adjust R7 until exactly 13.8 volts is read.

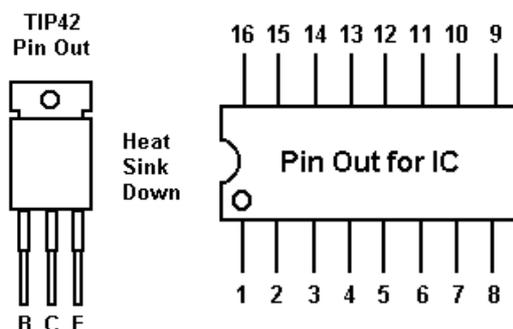
Because this circuit will not overcharge a gel cell, the battery can be connected indefinitely. This circuit is designed primarily as a 12v backup system and can be connected to the load provided the device to be powered only draws current during power line interruptions. Use a diode from the battery to load if needed. This circuit makes an excellent battery backup to an amateur transceiver.

The MAX712 IC and the .62 ohm resistor are available from Digi-Key, 701 Brooks Ave, Thief River Falls, MN 56701 (1-800-344-4539). Order part numbers MAX712CPE-ND and 0.62W-1-ND respectively. All other parts are available at Radio Shack.

DE N1HFX

#### PARTS LIST

- C1 MAX712 Battery Fast-Charge Controller IC (Cost is \$6.27 from Digi-Key)
- R1 680 ohm 1/2 watt resistor (Blue Gray Brown)
- R2 150 ohm resistor (Brown Green Brown)
- R3 68K resistor (Blue Gray Orange)
- R4 22K resistor (Red Red Orange)
- R5 .62 ohm 1 watt resistor (Blue Red Silver) (Cost is 27 cents from Digi-Key)
- R6 1.8K resistor (Brown Gray Red)
- R7 10K PCB trimmer resistor (103)
- R8 470 ohm resistor (Yellow Violet Brown)
- C1 1 microfarad tantalum capacitor (observe polarity)
- C2, C4 .01 microfarad capacitor (103)
- C3, C5 10 microfarad electrolytic capacitor (observe polarity)
- Q1 TIP42 PNP transistor or similar (attach heat sink)
- D1 1N4001 Diode (observe polarity)
- LED1, LED2 2 volt standard LED (observe polarity)



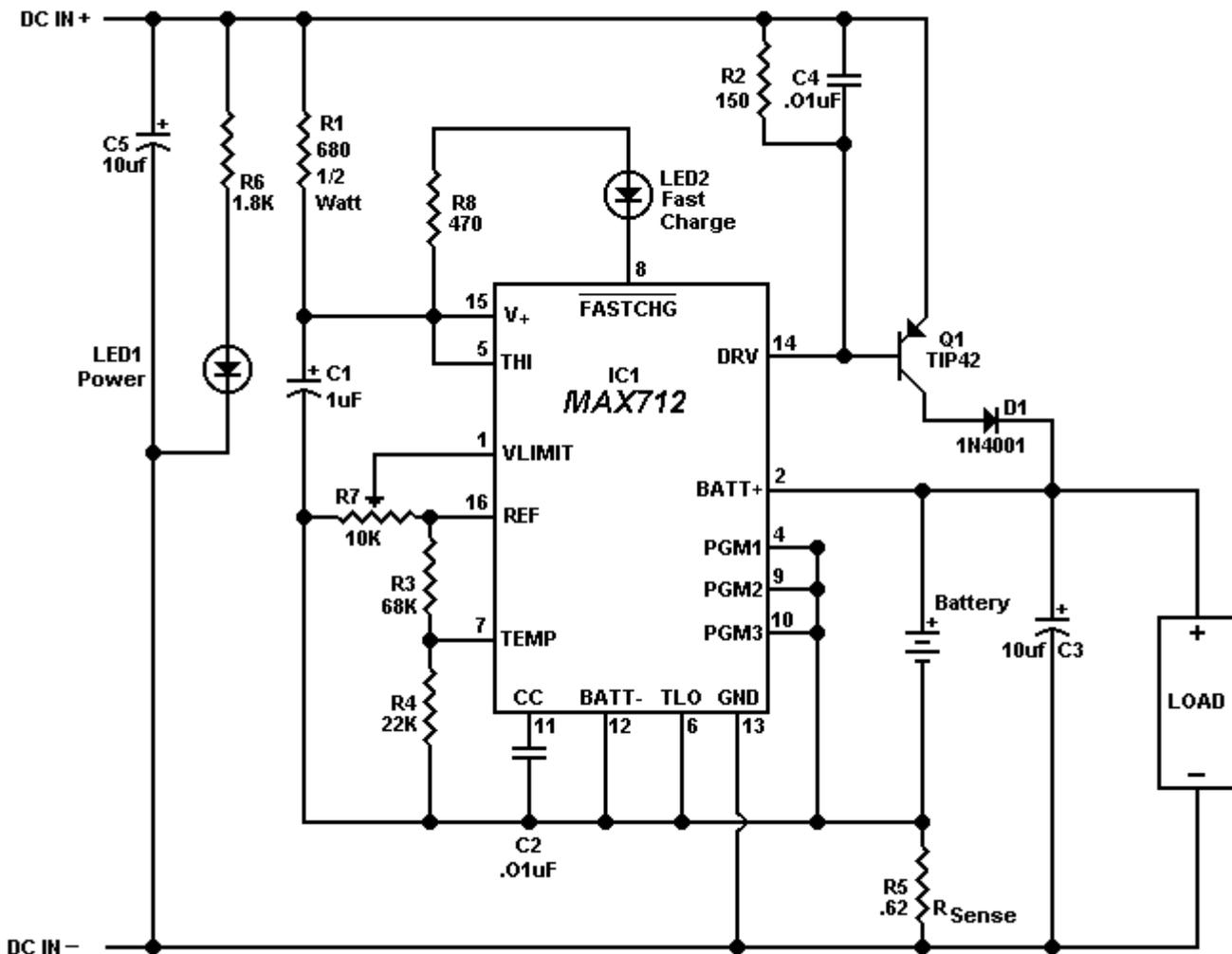


Figure 1

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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