

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

May 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

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: 29th July (Sunday) **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

TIME: 11:30 for 12:00 followed by lunch.

QTH: Eagles Nest Eshowe 28°53'28.44"S - 31°28'23.66"E

E-Mail: 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 29th 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:



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

June: Sakkie ZS5ID, on 9th, Jan ZS5HJ, on 11th, Gerald ZS5GS, on 15th.

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

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-3 Sprint on the 20th of May. 11 contacts were made. Conditions were really grotty. Thanks go to Gerald ZS5GS who ran the ZS5ZLB station from his QTH.

Congratulations

Jan Holtzhausen wrote the RAE On Saturday May 19th

His results for the examination are as follows:

Licence Class: **A**

Paper Symbol

Paper 1: Regulations: **A**

Paper 2: Technical: **A**

Total Pass Symbol: **A**

Overall result: **Pass**

Call-sign allocated: **ZS5HJ**



Congratulations from the Committee & members of ZARC Jan, may your stay with the ZARC be a long happy one.

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.**

“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.

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](#)

Propagation again 4 of 5

160, 40m, 20m, 10m, 2m etc. are all, in reality, “line-of-sight” bands. To over-simplify the subject, it is the ionospheric or tropospheric layers that enhance this line-of-sight propagation and turn it into something else.

Each band has differing propagation qualities as a result, giving each band its “character” and for some, the study of propagation in itself is a fascinating part of the hobby.

Man-made propagation is just different

When we think of (and use) the *Internet* as a man-made propagating medium (which is what it is – it propagates signals around the world) then the concept of bands becomes redundant.

The Internet is like one, almost infinitely wide, worldwide “band”, constantly open S9+40 to all countries 24/7 with few vagaries – and not just for voice, but for vision and other digital modes as well.

Put like that, who wouldn’t want to use it? Would it actually matter what “band” you were (or were not) on, if there even were one?

So the concept of “bands”, by which so many of us define our activities, may be crumbling in front of us in this digital age and we may not even realise it yet! That is not to say our bands don’t still exist, by the way – clearly they do. It is just that, to many people these days, bands are a foreign concept.

And then what?

As the hobby starts to come to terms with some of the implications of this, other issues then start to arise, such as...

- Do we need an exam any more to get a licence?
- Do we even need a licence?
- What form or forms should it take, if so?
- Might we see an influx of new people coming into the hobby because the entry to it is more straightforward?
- How would we cope with that?
- Do we even *want* new people coming in, especially if their views differ from ours?
- What will the hobby even look like in 20 years time?
- What happens to our “traditional” bands?

I expect to see a lot of discussion in the future about this – it’s actually quite exciting!

Out of the Comfort Zone...

However it will make many of us feel extremely uncomfortable – the ground is shifting beneath our feet and the traditional raison d'être of Ham Radio is waiting to be challenged to change and adapt...

I don't see this as a bad thing – intelligent honest debate is to be welcomed. The most important thing is to keep our minds and our thinking wide open. We shouldn't reject something just because it is new or because it challenges our preconceived ideas of where radio is going in general.

Equally, we shouldn't throw the baby out with the bathwater and reject traditional Ham Radio as it has been for years. The Ionosphere and the Internet are complementary

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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