

# Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

June 2017

## ZARC Committee

Chairman: Warren Snyders ZS5WOZ

Vice Chairman: Gerald Scrooby ZS5GS

Treasurer: Willie Axford ZS5WI

Secretary: Dawn Snyders ZS5ME

Ham Net: Mike Kramer ZS5MB

Editor: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Member: Vacant

Webmaster: Chantel Pelser

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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)

## 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:** 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (Sunday) **This will also be the AGM**

**TIME:** Meeting at ± 12:00, followed by the lunch at ± 12:30

**QTH:** Eagle's Nest Eshowe ( **Directions will be circulated later**)

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 be on the **16<sup>th</sup> of July 2017**. The venue will be **Eagles Nest Eshowe**. The meeting will take place at **± 12:00**, and the lunch at around **12:30**. Please make a note in your day books and diaries. The time for the meeting will be at **12:00**, 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:



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

**August:** Anne, ZS5FAB on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Melissa, daughter of Warren ZS5WOZ on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Bridget, daughter of Jo ZS5PO, on the 20<sup>th</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



Dawn, ZS5ME has been suffering from a dose of flu for a number of weeks now. We wish her a speedy recovery.

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## Club Happenings

### Next Club Meeting

**This will be the AGM.** Taking place on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> of July** at The Eagle's Nest B/B & Restaurant in Eshowe. It has been decided to try a new venue for a change. I will be sending out a copy of their menu as soon as I can get one. Directions to the venue will be forwarded closer to the date.

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## Competitions



**ZS5ZLB** took part in the Div 5 Sprint on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month. Gerald ran the club station, ZS5ZLB on behalf of the club, and in the allocated 1 hour made 46 contacts. Propagation conditions left a lot to be desired, and the ONLY div 5 stations he managed to work were ZS5WI, ZS5PO & ZS5ME. The last two stations were worked under VERY trying conditions, with signals of R3-4 right down in the "mush". All his other contacts were with all the other 5 divisions. Thank you very much Gerald!!

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## 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

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 is working, and the old Storno is doing its job, but the antennas need to be checked, as the thing is very "deaf".

**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.

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**



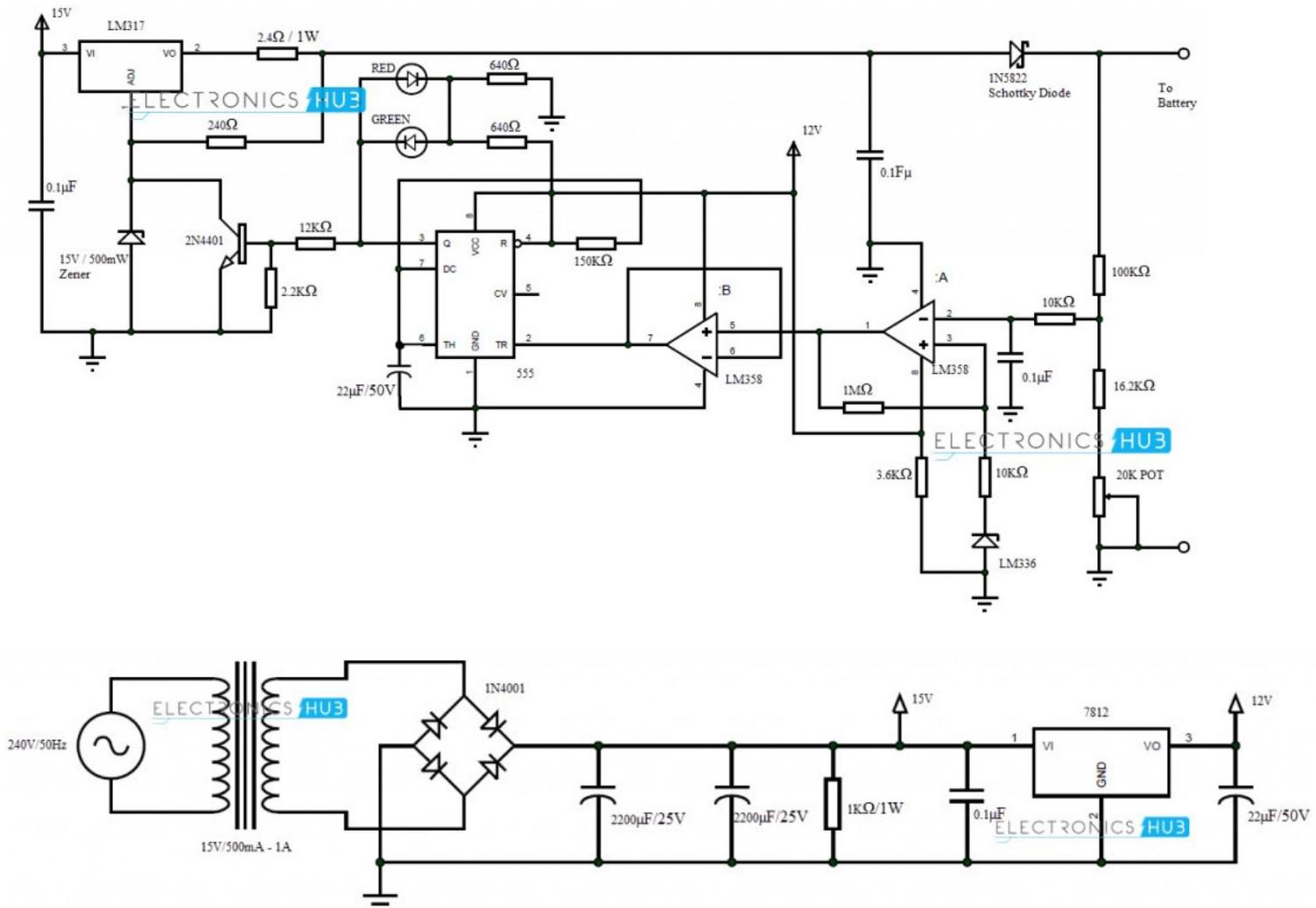
If anyone has an Icom **OPC-581** or **OPC-587** separation cable for the **Icom IC 706** to swap or sell. They can contact me, **Willie ZS5WI**, via **078 351 9597**, or email me at [zs5wi@telkomsa.net](mailto:zs5wi@telkomsa.net). Thank you.

## Home Brewers Hoekie

*The second charger schematic in a set of three*

### 2. Automatic Battery Charger

#### Circuit Diagram



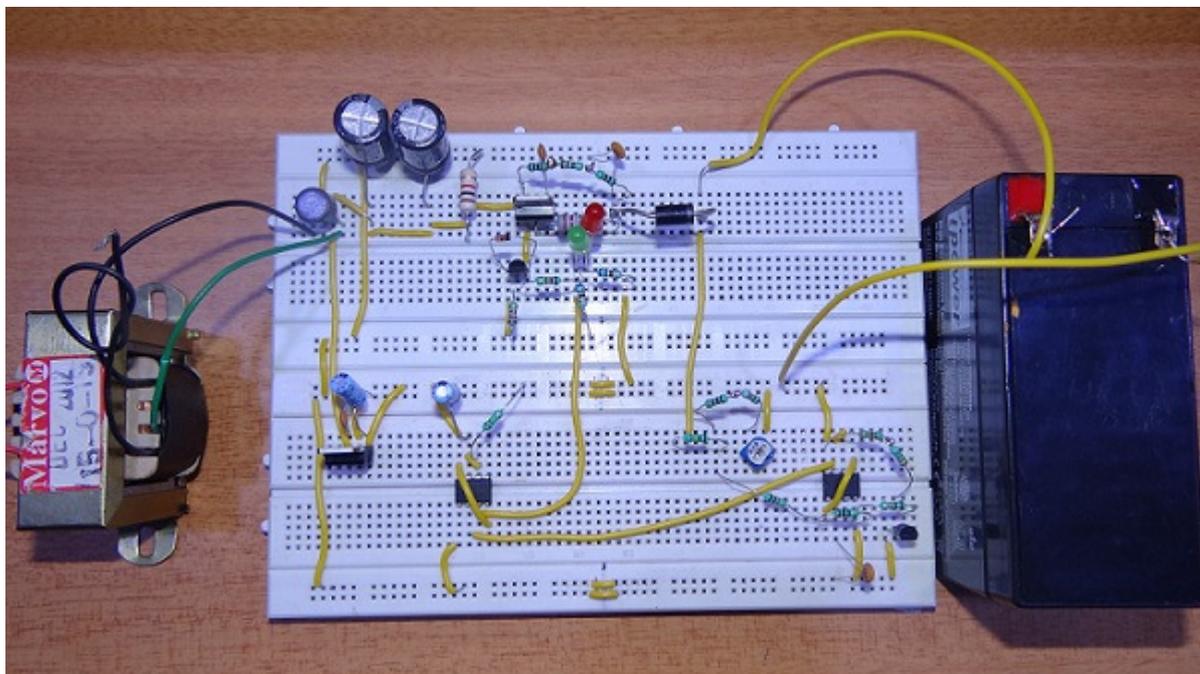
An Automatic Battery Charger Circuit for sealed lead acid batteries is mentioned in this project. It is a pulsed-charger type circuit which helps in increasing the life of batteries. The working of this circuit is explained below.

LM317 acts as voltage regulator and current controlling device. The 15V Zener diode is used to set the LM317 to supply 16.2V at output in the absence of load. When the 2N4401 is turned ON by the output of 555, the ADJ pin of the LM317 is grounded and its output voltage is 1.3V.

LM358 acts as a comparator and voltage follower. LM336 is used to supply a reference voltage of 2.5V to non-inverting terminal (Pin 3) of LM358. A voltage divider network is used to supply a portion of battery's voltage to inverting terminal (Pin 2) of LM358.

When the charge in the battery reaches 14.5V, the input to inverting terminal of LM358 is slightly greater than 2.5V at Pin 3 set by LM336. This will make the output of 555 go high.

As a result Red LED glows and the transistor is turned on. This will ground the ADJ pin of LM317 and its output falls to 1.3V.



When the charge in the battery falls below 13.8V, the output of LM358 is high and the output of 555 is low. As a result, voltage flows from LM317 to battery and Green LED glows to indicate charging.



**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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