

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

June 2018

ZARC Committee

Chairman: Warren Snyders ZS5WOZ

Vice Chairman: Gerald Scrooby ZS5GS

Treasurer: Willie Axford ZS5WI

Secretary: Dawn Snyders ZS5ME

Editor: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Member: Jan Erasmus ZS5G

Webmaster: Chantel Pelser

Club Repeaters

Ntumeni 145.675 MHz

Empangeni 145.700 (Off-line.)

Club Nets

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:



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.

August: Anne ZS5FAB, on 2nd, Melissa daughter of ZS5WOZ, on 17th, Bridget daughter of ZS5ME & ZS5PO on 20th

September: Ian, Partner of Chris ZS6RI, on 12th, Chris ZS6IR, on 17th.

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



Besides Dawn, everybody seems to be weathering the cold WX quite well.



Club Happenings Competitions:

ZS5ZLB took part in the Div-5 Sprint on the 1ST of July. 13 contacts were made, and 13 Logs were sent in. Conditions were really grotty. Thanks go to Gerald ZS5GS who ran the ZS5ZLB station from his QTH, and managed to get an 8th position.

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](#)

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My own opinion?

If you have read this far and you really want my personal thoughts...

Why can we not have the best of both worlds? Surely we can.

Network radios (at this stage in their development at least) are not contest radios for example, and the Internet is not yet a contest-friendly mode of propagation. (That might change of course!) so contesting is still best on the traditional Ham bands. I'll see you on 80 metres – 59 001 OM...

However, regular reliable high-quality contacts around the world are but one thing Network Radios excel at, so why not just use that when you want to (or when the HF bands are full of noise or are otherwise dead)? I do! I don't see the expansion of choice in the hobby as a bad thing.

Enjoyment is the key

Does the fact that I am transmitting on cellular frequencies at 800MHz, 900MHz, 1800MHz, 2100MHz or on Wi-Fi on 2.4GHz or 5GHz matter? Is there something intrinsically evil about that? Is there more virtue in using 21 MHz or 432MHz, for example? They are just “frequencies” after all.

I prefer to see myself following the motto of my local radio club, “Having fun with RF”. Whether I choose to use a Network Radio or a Yaecomwood super-duper base station is not as relevant to me. Enjoyment of the hobby is everything, otherwise why have a hobby?

Whichever way this debate goes and whichever direction this great hobby takes, my line would be to keep *all* the richness of *every* aspect of the hobby.

In other words, to go back to the title of this piece and change but one word, “*It's ALL 'real' Ham Radio*”

© March 2018 – [Chris Rolinson G7DDN](#) Ω

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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