

# Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

## August 2016

### 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 Pelsler

---

### 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:** 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (**Sunday**) This will also be the club Christmas lunch

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

**QTH:** Adams Outpost

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 **27<sup>th</sup> of November 2016**. This will also be the club Christmas lunch The venue will be **Adams Outpost**. The meeting will take place at  $\pm$  **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.

---

## Wots Potting In The ZARC

### Birthday Greetings Go To:



**Sept:** Ian, partner of Chris, ZS6IR, on 12<sup>th</sup> . Chris, ZS6IR, on 17<sup>th</sup> .

**Oct :** Kiana, daughter of John ZS5J, on 31<sup>st</sup>

**Dec :** Belinda, SW of Warren ZS5WOZ, on 17<sup>th</sup>

**Jan :** Daniel, grandson of Jo & Dawn on 10<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).

---

### Get Well Soon



I have not heard of anyone who has been "Doctor Bothing" of late.

---

## Club Happenings

### Next Club Meeting

This will take place at **Adams Outpost in Eshowe** on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November** Meeting at  $\pm$  12:00, followed by the lunch at  $\pm$  12:30. For those who can, for some reason or other, not attend, please remember to send your proxies to the Secretary, Dawn, at [dawnjo@telkomsa.net](mailto:dawnjo@telkomsa.net). It was decided at the AGM to combine the club "Christmas Lunch" with this meeting. It is early enough not to interfere with the December school holidays, and other Christmas functions. Details of Menu and costs involved will be forwarded at a later stage.

---

## Competitions



On the 7<sup>th</sup> April, Dawn, ZS5ME, took part in the 1st leg of the SARL 80Mtr QSO party, and this resulted in her achieving 10<sup>th</sup> position.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Dawn ZS5ME & Jo ZS5PO represented the club in the "ZS5 Sprint", scored 42 points, resulting in 9<sup>th</sup> position .

On Sunday 28 August, John, ZS5J took part in the SARL HF CW Contest, representing the ZARC, and came 3<sup>rd</sup> with 106 points. Putting the ZARC in 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the Club Competition with 106 points. Well done John!!

---

The ZARC did NOT take part in Lighthouses on the air this year, and neither did it take part in the second SARL Field Event.

---

## 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.

---

## 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

---

## Home Brewers Hoekie

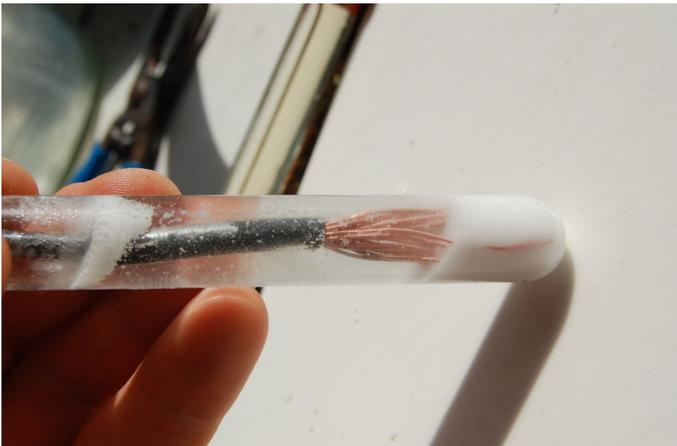


## How to perfectly clean wires for soldering in minutes

by **NH7ZE**

Here is an old ham radio operator's trick for cleaning old and corroded copper wires for soldering. It is hard to find this technique printed anywhere! I am a ham, NH7ZE, and learned it from my Elmer (mentor). I am passing it on. I hope it helps people who need to clean copper wires

Normally, if you strip a wire, and see it is corroded, there is not much you can do to restore its shiny new conductive properties. There is scraping and scratching which comes to mind, but you'll never get it to the solderable slickness it once was long ago. After laboring and fretting over the corroded pieces of wire for a long, long time, you see that your



sweat coming out of your palms and fingers are corroding the copper AGAIN!!!! Oh, dear. NOT TO WORRY!!!! Give yourself a pat on the back, because what you will pull out of your bag of tricks now, will send all the corroded copper wires scurrying and scampering away in fear!!!! Here is how to clean any corroded wire without even touching it, in 30 seconds!! And what's more, you can even solder it!!!

This process uses two solutions, one is regular table salt and vinegar. Any kind of vinegar will work, from balsamic, to rice, to white vinegars. It's the acidity and corrosiveness of the salt and vinegar together that you want. The other solution is Sodium Bicarbonate, or baking soda, and water. This is used to neutralize the corrosive properties of the other solution, and to further clean the wires.

**Step 1:** Strip the wires to be cleaned.

**Step 2:** Get 2 containers, one for each solution. They can be paper cups, plastic, glass, bowls, whatever you can find. I have vials, because I am a professional electronics installer and I use these solutions out in the field.

**Step 3:** Get 1 tablespoon of raw salt, and put it in one of the containers. Fill up the rest of the container with vinegar, and stir the both together. As a general rule of thumb, put as much salt in the vinegar as will dissolve.

**Step 4:** Get 1 tablespoon of Sodium Bicarbonate, (baking soda) and add it to the other container. Fill up the rest with water, and stir well. Add more baking soda to make it cloudy. The amount is not important, as long as it is alkaline to cancel the acid of the vinegar solution.

**Step 5:** Put the stripped end of the wire in the vinegar solution, and stir the solution with the wire. any wire you want cleaned needs to be under the solution. Movement of the wire in the liquid speeds up the process.

**Step 6:** After 2 minutes or so, the wire will look very shiny and new in the vinegar solution. The acid and salt in the solution is etching away the oxides, exposing the bare metal. Make sure the metal is uniformly shiny. Leave it in longer if it is not perfectly clean throughout.

**Step 7:** Once the wire is satisfactorily clean, remove the wire from the vinegar, and plunge it into the baking soda solution to neutralize the acid's corrosive properties. If the wire was exposed to the air, without neutralizing the acid first, it would quickly corrode again. The baking soda keeps it clean and shiny. Swish the wire around in the baking soda water for about 10 seconds, and then you are done!! Shiny new wire ready for soldering, and conducting once again!!

---

**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](mailto:jodawn@telkomsa.net)**

