

# Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

*The newsletter for the discerning Ham*

August 2017

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 Pelsler

---

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:** 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (**Sunday**)

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

**QTH:** Tattenham Resort Gingindhlovu (29°02'39.23"S 031°35'12.60"E)

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 **29<sup>th</sup> of October 2017**. The venue will be **Tottenham Resort Gingindhlovu**. The Braai will take place at ± **12:00**, and the meeting at around **12:30**. Please make a note in your day books and diaries. The time for the meeting will be at **12:30**, 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.

---

## Wots Potting In The ZARC

### Birthday Greetings Go To:



**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>.

**September:** Chris, ZS6RI on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Ian, Partner of Chris ZS6RI on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**October:** Willie, ZS5WI on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mike, ZS5MB on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Kiana, Daughter of John ZS5J on the 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).

---

### Get Well Soon



Dawn, ZS5ME still NOT in the best of health. Chris, ZS6RI, underwent a Gall-bladder operation, and is well on his way to recovery.

We wish both of them a speedy recovery.

---

## Club Happenings

### Competitions



ZS5ZLB took part in the Div 2 Sprint on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Gerald, ZS5GS, again ran the club station ZS5ZLB on behalf of the club, Gerald came 11<sup>th</sup> in this Compo. Thank you very much Gerald!!

Despite the grotty propagation, Dawn & I did manage to work him.

ZS5ZLB did NOT take part in the LHOA this year, nor the SARL HF compo.

Dawn, ZS5ME took part in the YL Sprint on Wednesday 9 August, and came 3<sup>rd</sup> with 124 points. Well done Dawn.

---

### Packet

**It was decided at the AGM to discontinue this service**, due to the fact that nobody is making use of it anymore. It will be removed from the Ntumeni repeater site on our next trip to the repeater site.

### 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.

---

## 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

Contact Gerald ZS5GS 073-543 6298



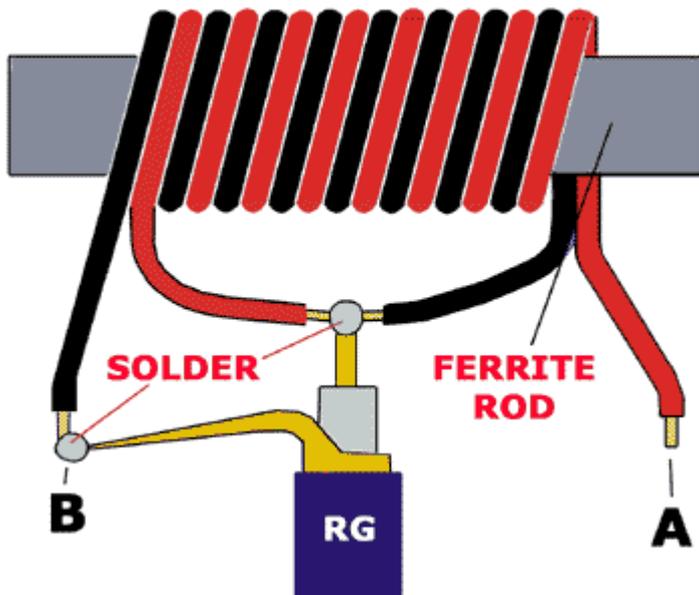
## Home Brewers Hoekie



## Coaxial Fed Windom Antenna

The Windom is an Off-center wire multiband Antenna. The old version was fed by just a single-wire connected on 1/3 of the antenna's overall length, or with an open-wire feeder (later versions). Here is another version with a coaxial feeder, which is compatible with Solid State - 50Ω output transceivers .

FIG.1

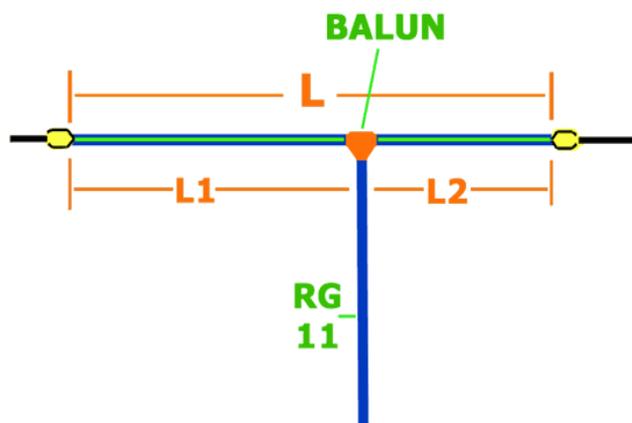


The page describes a Windom antenna with a 4:1 homebrew transformer. The feed-point of these type of antennas (off center) have an impedance of about 300Ω. With a 4:1 Balun transformer it is possible to feed it easily by using a coaxial cable of 75Ω (300/4=75), such as RG58 or RG213. In practice, under these conditions, we have an SWR ratio of 1:1.5, but that is no problem if your transceiver has an internal Antenna Tuner. The SWR 1:1.5 can be easily minimized by using the antenna tuner. The antenna works on all bands between 3.5 - 28 MHz, including the WARC bands, **other than 10.1 MHz**. The accepted power using this balun is 300 W, and the SWR is quite low, not more than 2:1 at the band edges. FIG. 1 shows the Balun transformer. One or two ferrite rods are necessary for the Balun, depending on the output Power of your transmitter. The wire is a simple 1 – 1.5 mm double "Red-Black" wire, as used for Loud Speakers. 9-10 turns on the ferrite rod will be enough, but keep in mind, before winding: "cut" the two cables (red & black in Fig.1)

to an equal length.

The "B" point of the balun must be connected to "L1" on the antenna and the "A" point with "L2" (see FIG.2). This aerial can be manufactured in two versions:

FIG.2



1) **Full size** with an overall length (L) of 41 m. In this case "L1" is 27.5 m and "L2" is 13.5 m.

2) **Half size** with an overall length (L) of 20.5 m. In this case "L1" is 13.75m & L2 is 6.75 m

**ATTENTION:** the half size version works only on 10, 20 & 40 meter Bands.

Actually, this antenna is a compromise, but in practice, works very well! On the other hand, it is a simple-wire multiband antenna, it can be manufactured very easily by anyone, and that is a great advantage. I have used the small version at my QTH for a couple of years, and the results are very good. On 40 m band the antenna is about -6 Db (1 S) lower than a full size dipole, but in practice it has the same results on local and DX stations. On 20

meter Band, the antenna is excellent. The multi lobe radiation pattern of the antenna giving excellent results and it is

much - much better than a dipole. I have thousands of QSOs on 20 m band using this antenna, and almost 4.000 QSOs with State-side stations on CW, just by using an output power of about 150 Watts.

The behavior of this antenna on 10 m. band is a "mystery" to me! Sometimes it is excellent with DX stations but other times it's like a "Dummy load"! Probably, because the antenna is  $2\lambda$  on this band, and has a very complicated radiation pattern on this band, with several "shadows" on transmutation lobes.

Finally: if you want an antenna for any Field Day, walk in the country, contest, try it! It's my favorite antenna for any mini DX-pedition, IOTA operation around the Greek Islands. It's just a wire "plus" a balun!

---

## 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.

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)

