

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

September 2015

ZARC Committee

Chairman: Mike Kramer ZS5MB

Vice Chairman: Warren Snyders ZS5WOZ

Treasurer: Willie Axford ZS5WI

Secretary: Dawn Snyders ZS5ME

Ham Net: Mike Kramer ZS5MB

Editor: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Member: Gerald Scrooby ZS5GS

Webmaster: Chantel Pelser

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

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: 18th Oct 2015 (**Sunday**)

TIME: Meeting will take place ± 13:30, after the customary Braai at 12:00

QTH: **Tattenham Resort Lapa**

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 meeting will be on the **18th of October 2015**. The venue will be Tattenham Resort Lapa, same as the AGM was. The meeting will still take place at **± 13:30**. Please make a note in your day books and diaries. The time for the customary braai will also still 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? SARC membership IS that insurance!!!
Is your hobby worth R1.26 per day to you? YES?! Then join the SARC, 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:



Oct: Willie ZS5WI, on the 2nd. Mike ZS5MB, on the 6th. Kiana, daughter of ZS5J, on the 31st.
Dec: Belinda, SW of ZS5WOZ, on the 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



Our Treasurer, Willie ZS5WI, has been to hospital again, and is back home again, we wish him a speedy recovery.

Club Happenings

At the ZARC AGM that took place on **Sunday July 19th** , **it was decided to leave the club membership fee at R75.00 for SARC members, and R90 for non-SARC members.**

The Club 2014 – 2015 year came to an end at the end of July 2015, and club membership fees are now again due, for the 2015 – 2016 year. For those that have already paid their renewal fees, we thank you.

For those that have not renewed yet, please do so as soon as possible. **You have THREE months grace**

Account name: **Z.A.R.C.** A/c number: **602 194 201 50** A/C Type: **Savings Bank: FNB**

Branch: **Eshowe** Code: **22 02 30** Please **quote your call sign and first name** in the reference section.

Please E-mail proof of payment to zs5wi@telkomsa.net.

80Mtr QSO Party

On Thursday 01st October, Dawn ZS5ME took part in the 80Mtr QSO Party, and despite very poor WX & propagation conditions, managed to make nine (9) contacts.

Radio League National Field Day

The second leg of the 2015 South African Radio League National Field Day, took place over the weekend of 12th and 13th September 2015.

Warren ZS5WOZ & Jo ZS5PO set up a station in Warren's front yard. Under the noisy, but, fair propagation conditions, managed to make 67 contacts, which netted us 7th position in the competition.

In the combined February and September competitions, ZARC achieved 6th position overall for 2015



Welcome

The Committee and members of the ZARC hereby welcome **Jan ZS5G** back as a club member, and wish him a long and happy membership.

Club Birthday & Web Site

Next year on **Friday 15th February 2016**, **OUR** club turns **21 years old**. We are thinking of adding a Photo Album page on our web site, depicting a selection of photographs taken during various club functions eg. meetings, field stations, and other interesting occasions that have taken place during those 21 years.

If any one has any photos that were taken by them at any of the club functions, and you think they would look good on the site, please send them along with names and call signs of the people in the photographs, and also the occasion and the date taken.

At the AGM, a discussion took place regarding setting up a special event field station on Sunday 17th Feb 2016, at the Fort Museum in Eshowe, and combine this with the club's "Christmas Lunch", and the first 2016 club meeting. More about this later.

Packet

On the packet Mail-Drop scene. The TNC is beaoning 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 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

Please contact me if you are looking for a **Hy-Gain TH-MK4** beam antenna, The price being asked is **R4500**, and this one is in very good condition. Brand new they go for around **R9500**.

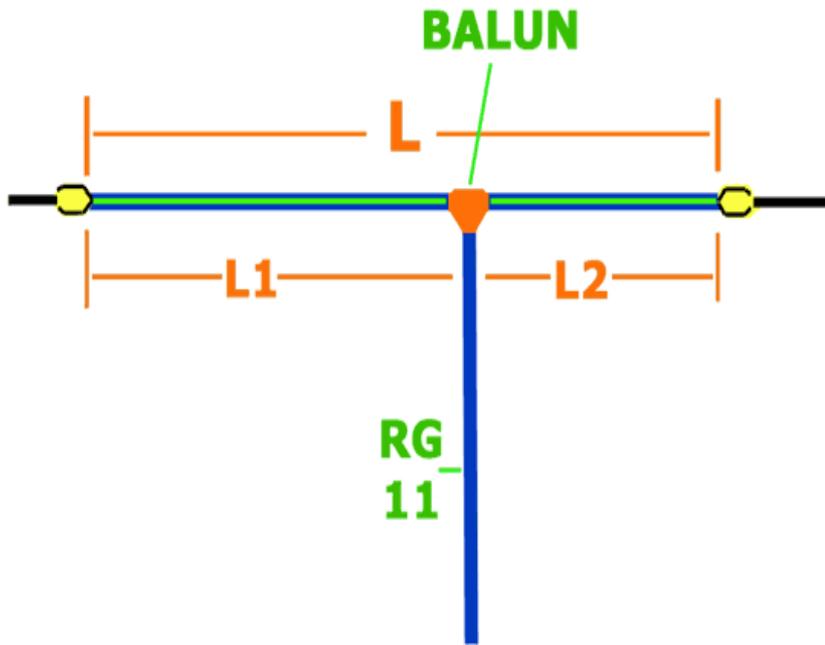
Home Brewers Hoekie

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 .

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 RG59 or RG11. 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. 2 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.2) to an equal length.

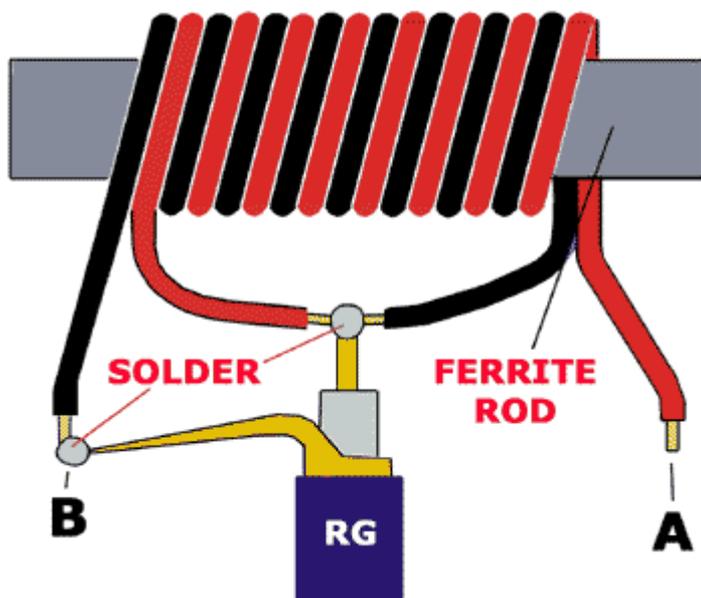
The "B" point of the balun must be connected to "L1" on the antenna and the "A" point with "L2" (see FIG.1). This aerial can be manufactured in two versions:

Fig.1

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

FIG.2

DX stations but other times it's like a "Dummy load"! Probably, because the antenna is 2λ 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!

STOP PRESS

Our club web site used to be sponsored by the late Andrew, ZS5AND, and due to his passing away, the web site sponsorship died with him.

Luckily we were able to get assistance from **Brad ZS5Z**, who offered to register a new domain for us, which was registered in the name of the club. The domain name is zs5zlb.org.za He has also offered to host our club web site on **20GB** of space on HIS own web site. This, we owe Brad our eternal gratitude for. That is not all!!, The registration is costing the club R100.00 per year, **BUT**, Brad is hosting our web site on **HIS** web site, and donating the **20GB** web space to ZARC free, mahala & for niks!!

Hence, once our NEW webmaster, **Chantel**, has loaded our web page onto the new web site, you can go and have a “sneak-peek” in a few days time at <http://zs5zlb.org.za/> **REMEMBERING that this page is still heavily under construction**, SO, don't come and complain, or ask, “why don't you do this”, or, “why don't you do that”!! As you will NOT even get an answer!!! This page is a LONG way from being anywhere even NEAR finished, SO, please don't upset our “new” webmaster!!!

Once again, our most profuse thanks for your assistance Brad, you are an “Officer & a Gentleman”!!!!

Anyone wanting to know ANYTHING about web pages, and setting up your own web sites, contact **Brad Phillips** at.

Webblast - Website Design and Hosting.

Cell: 082 990 6533

Email: admin@webblast.co.za

Website: <http://webblast.co.za>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/www.webblast.co.za>

Editor

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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