

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

September 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: 27th 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 (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 **27th of November 2016**. This will also be the club Christmas lunch The venue will be **Adams Outpost**. 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.

Wots Potting In The ZARC

Birthday Greetings Go To:



Sept: Ian, partner of Chris, ZS6IR, on 12th . Chris, ZS6IR, on 17th .

Oct : Kiana, daughter of John ZS5J, on 31st

Dec : Belinda, SW of Warren ZS5WOZ, on 17th

Jan : Daniel, grandson of Jo & Dawn on 10th

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, has been back in hospital for another week, again, but is back home again. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Reg, ZS5REG is also on the sick list, and is undergoing Chemo-therapy. Reg, you are in our prayers, and we hope you have a speedy recovery.

Club Happenings

Next Club Meeting

This will take place at **Adams Outpost in Eshowe** on **Sunday 27th November** Meeting at **± 12:00**, followed by the lunch at **± 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. 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 7th April, Dawn, ZS5ME, took part in the 1st leg of the SARL 80Mtr QSO party, and this resulted in her achieving 10th position.

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

On Sunday 28 August, John, ZS5J took part in the SARL HF CW Contest, representing the ZARC, and came 3rd with 106 points. Putting the ZARC in 3rd 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.

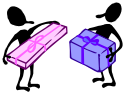
For those of you Zululanders who have Internet, go and look on the www.aprs.fi web site, and type your call sign into the slot at the top of the column on the right, and press search, and see if your station appears on the map.

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



HOME BREW 4:1 BALUN

Many modern HF transceivers come fully equipped with built in tuners. While these tuners are great for changing bands, the manufacturers left out a very important accessory; the 4 to 1 balun. Without a balun the transceiver can only feed an antenna which uses coaxial cable. While this may be satisfactory for some operators, this is a real problem for those of us who prefer the super low loss ladder line. The only other alternative is to buy an external tuner with a built-in balun which is really absurd after spending the additional money to have one built into the radio. Fortunately, a 4 to 1 balun can be easily home brewed as illustrated in **Figures 1 and 2**.

Figure 1 shows a bifilar winding on a toroid. The toroid should be **type 2** (red) material and can be any of the following sizes but the number of bifilar turns should be adjusted accordingly:

TOROID-	NUMBER OF TURNS	-POWER RATING
T80-2	25	60 Watts
T106-2	16	100 Watts
T130-2	18	150 Watts
T157-2	16	250 Watts
T200-2	17	400 Watts
T200A-2	13	400 Watts
T400-2	14	1000 Watts

The exact number of turns is not critical but the numbers listed in the preceding table should yield optimum results. It is possible to exceed the power ratings listed above but the performance of the balun may be degraded during high SWR causing heating of the core.

Toroids of this type are available from Palomar Engineers, P.O. Box 462222, Escondido, CA 92046 (1-800-883-7020). If enough inquires are made, the author will make a limited number of toroids available at RASON meetings for those who

hate mail order. The author will even wind the toroid for the faint of heart. The balun should be housed in a suitable metal enclosure such as those available at Radio Shack. Use a SO239 or BNC connector for the unbalanced input. Nylon binding posts such as RS 274-662 work just fine for the balanced output.

DE N1HFX

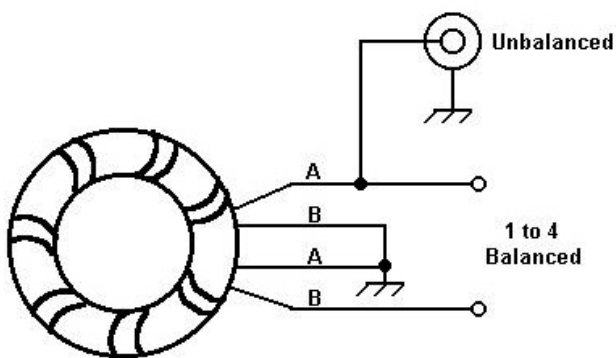


Figure 1

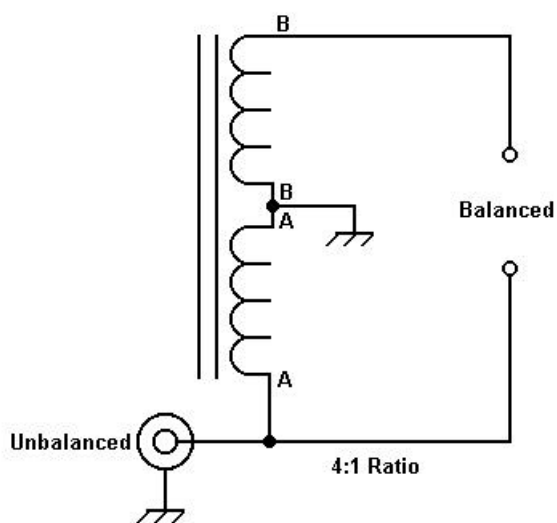


Figure 2

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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