

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

September 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 Pelser

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: 29th October 2017 (**Sunday**)

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

QTH: **To be advised**

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 advised. due to **Tottenham Resort Gingindhlovu** being occupied on our scheduled date, we are looking for alternate venues. The Braai will still 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:



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

October: Willie, ZS5WI on the 2nd. Mike, ZS5MB on the 6th. Kiana, Daughter of John ZS5J on the 31st.

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

Jan: Daniel, grandson of Jo & Dawn on the 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 still NOT in the best of health.

We wish her a speedy recovery.

Club Happenings



Competitions:

ZS5ZLB did not take part in any competitions during this month

Happenings:

We are sorry to be saying farewell to Mike ZS5MB, who is relocating to the Midlands. But in the same breath, we welcome a new member to the club, Jan Holtzhousen, who is studying to write the RAE early next year.

We also wish Chris, ZS6RI, a super fine holiday in the Far East. Take care, and have a wonderful time. We will be following you on "Facebook" 😊!!

Packet

It was decided at the AGM in July, 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.

Repeaters

145.675: This repeater has a problem with the RX antenna, and the antenna 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



Radio interference from LED light bulbs?

September 21, 2017 | 00:13

Radio interference from LED light bulbs?

The German Amateur Radio Club (**DARC**) has issued a press release identifying domestic LED light bulbs as a source of electrical interference. The increasing popularity of these light sources has led to a significant increase in reports of radio traffic disturbance, interruption of radio services and even poor DAB reception. In their opinion, the electrically noisy LED lamps are a result of a bad government policy which simply ignores regulations applicable to EMC and the generation of EMI by electrical equipment.



According to DARC, the recommendations outlined in the regulations governing electromagnetic compatibility have simply been ignored. The result is that LED lamps currently on sale and in use generate considerable wideband RF interference. The German station Bavaria Radio has also pointed out the problem on its web page. Mains LED lamps employ an integrated switching controller to power the LEDs from the high-voltage mains supply. Poorly or cheaply designed controllers can emit wide-spectrum electromagnetic RF noise because of unsuppressed fast switching signal edges. There are also stand-alone "electronic transformers" for low-voltage halogen and LED lighting systems which use the same voltage transformation techniques and these are often wired to the lamps using long cables/antennae. Such poor-quality products should simply not be on sale. On top of that, in the urban environment we have also witnessed a growing use of large electronic advertising hoardings and increasing use of **LED traffic signals** etc.

The resulting poor reception experienced by some radio listeners has caused them unwittingly to point the finger of suspicion at the manufacturer of their radio tuner. The German government minister responsible has underestimated the problem, stating that most future radio listening will take place via cable or satellite links which use more robust digital signals. The criticisms in the DARC paper target the current German government, which in its legislative procedure has rejected the recommendations of an expert independent investigation. According to DARC, the current Federal Government policy violates international law and the EU Charter.

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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