

# Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

October 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

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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 **± 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:



**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 anybody who has been “doctor bothering” 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 **± 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](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. **The Menu can be seen on the right.**

**We need the numbers attending by Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, so that we can try and negotiate a lower group price for the meals.**

*Adams Outpost Restaurant*  
035-4741787 / 0836812525

### **Sunday Lunch Buffet**

**R140 per person    R125 over 65's**

- Beef Curry
- Lamb Casserole
- Roast Chicken
- Rice, Roast Seasonal Vegetables, Roast Potatoes and Gravy
- Warm Malva Pudding with Vanilla Custard
- Vanilla Ice Cream and Adams Homemade Chocolate Sauce
- Filter Coffee / Tea

## Competitions



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.

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## 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.**

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## “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**



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## Home Brewers Hoekie



## Thunderstorm Predictor

Sure, listening to VHF FM has great advantages over MW/LW AM from the old days — now we have bright stereo free from interference, fading and noise! However, your FM radio will no longer predict the arrival of a thunderstorm as did the AM radio many years ago-reliably and hours before the trouble was upon you! The crux is that AM detection will faithfully reproduce the effects of lightning and other massive static discharges approaching in a very simple way: they're audible as slight crackling noises in the loudspeaker, almost irrespective of the tuning of the radio! Assuming no AM radio is available anymore, a dedicated VLF receiver tuned to about 300 kHz can faithfully detect the crackle of approaching lightning.

The simple receiver shown here consists of a loosely tuned amplifier driving a kind of flasher circuit that blinks an LED in synchronicity with the lightning bolts. The frequency and intensity of the LED activity indicates the intensity and distance of the storm respectively. Looking at the circuit diagram, the LED driver is not biased to flash until a burst of RF energy, amplified by T1, arrives at the base of T2. The receiver works off 3 volts and has a negligible standby current of about 350 microamperes which will hardly dent the shelf life of a couple of 1.5-V D-size cells. T2 and T3 form a monostable generator triggered by sudden drops in T1's collector voltage.

**Circuit diagram:**

