

Zululand Amateur Radio Club News

The newsletter for the discerning Ham

December 2014

ZARC Committee

Chairman: Andrew Jansen ZS5AND

Vice Chairman: Warren Snyders ZS5WOZ

Treasurer: Willie Axford ZS5W1

Secretary: Dawn Snyders ZS5ME

Ham Net: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Editor: Jo Snyders ZS5PO

Member: Anne Griffiths ZS5FAB

Member: Gerald Scrooby ZS5GS

Webmaster: Chantel

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: ??th February 2015(**Sunday**)

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

QTH: Tentatively at the QTH of Andrew ZS5AND, in Empangeni

E-Mail: dawnjo@telkomsa.net (Secretary)

Club Web site: <http://zs5zlb.zs5and.co.za/>

Editor, Q.R.L.



Greetings & Salutations fellow members, I trust that this news letter finds you all in good health. The next club meeting will be in February **2015**. The venue will tentatively be at the QTH of Andrew ZS5AND in Empangeni. The meeting will take place at \pm **13:30**. Please make a note in your day books and diaries. The time for the customary braai 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 R1.09 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:



January: Daniel, Grandson of ZS5ME & ZS5PO, on the 10th.

March: Rob, OM of Anne, ZS5FAB, on the 14th. Jo ZS5PO, on the 15th.

Many happy returns to all of you, and may you be spared for many more years.
(If your birthday wishes do not appear here, it is because you have not informed me of your birth date).

Get Well Soon



Willie, ZS5WI, is off to see a Chiropractor in the new year, to see if he can get his lower back problems sorted out. I believe that Sakkie ZS5ID, had a stroke during the end of last month some time, we all wish you both well, and hope you have a speedy recovery. GBWY

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

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 Tips And Tricks



Word to the Wise

A fall is a common reason for a trip to the Emergency Room for older adults, usually male, when they look up, feel faint, then pass out when working on a ladder or on a tower. The usual cause is restricting blood flow in the arteries at the base of the brain when tipping one's head back. It seems to be a condition that becomes more pronounced with age. You can test this fairly easily: stand straight and tall - then tip your head back as far as it will go without bending your back. A few seconds of readjustment before you get your equilibrium back, is more or less normal. If dizziness persists or gets worse, you have a problem to have checked out by your doctor. It is better to find this out at ground level, than aloft on a ladder, or on your tower, don't you think?

DON'T think that you are safe if you are standing on the roof itself!! You are looking up while working on an antenna attached to a pole affixed to the side of the house, and projecting up 2.5M above the roof, & due to loss of equilibrium caused by loss of blood flow to the brain due to your head being tilted backwards while working, you fall down, and roll off the roof, or, fall over the edge.

Grounding and Lightning protection

Summer is with us! And that means thunder & lightning storms There is a good collection of down-loadable white papers on grounding and lightning protection from the Polyphaser Company at the Smiths Power website. The list includes a paper specifically on grounding amateur stations. <http://www.smithspower.com/brands/polyphaser/services/media-library/white-papers?page=2>

Pulleys and Wire Antennas

If you use rope running through a pulley to hold up wire antennas, it is important to move or shift the rope from time-to-time. Leaving the pull rope "setting" in one spot for extended periods of time causes excess wear, as the outer fibres are elongated/stretched more than the inner ones. Just a little movement 2 - 3 times per year will go a long way toward keeping that rope flexible and doing its job. (Thanks, Don K4ZA)

Stainless Steel

While we may consider stainless steel to be the best of the best materials, it can corrode when deprived of oxygen and needs to be inspected like everything else. Sailors know corrosion as well as anyone, and this Cruising World article describes the problem and how to check for corrosion.

<http://www.cruisingworld.com/how/beware-stainless-steel-corrosion>

(Thanks, Kirby, AF6OP)

The Zululand Amateur Radio Club Committee and members wish everybody a safe, healthy and happy festive season, and God's richest blessings for 2015.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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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