

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

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3	ZS6JRH	John		
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5	ZR6JT	Johan		
6	ZS6GFS	Gert		
7	ZS6SKY	Stephen		
8	ZS6MHH	Tienie		
9	ZS6LS	John		X
10	ZS6CGV	Connie		
11	ZS6WG	Anton		X
12	ZS6REN	Renato		X
13	ZS6OY	Barry		
14	ZS6PJE	Pieter		
15	ZS6IMM	Jan		
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ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 23rd of April 2024

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by **Corrie ZS6CDB**, with the weekly news bulletin of the Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society.

This bulletin is being transmitted on the 2m Kempton Park Repeater, on 145.6625 MHz

Only if Echolink is available: Echolink users can connect to ZS0AWA-L (ZS6KTS, or node 8041), to listen to and partake in the news bulletin.

Welcome to everyone on frequency. Please stay tuned for some interesting SARL and Club news items.

SARL NEWS:

THE 2024 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION:

On Friday evening 19 April, the delegates gathered at the Garden Court Hotel, Nelson Mandela Boulevard in Cape Town and were welcomed by Rob, ZS1SA, chairman of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre, at the cheese and wine function.

The 2024 SARL AGM started at 09:15 CAT on Saturday 20 April at the Hotel Conference Centre with 57 members present and 259 proxies. The youngest member at the meeting was Cameron, ZS6CYE and the eldest was Barry, ZS1FJ at 91 years old. While the AGM was on the go, the partners were taken to the V&A Waterfront.

Nico, ZS6QL presented the Presidents Report, the report is available in the SARL Annual Report which is available on the front page of the League's web site.

Corrie, ZS6CDB presented the financial reports to the meeting.

Motion 2024-01. The SARL Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2023. Voting was done via the electronic voting page and one hundred and eighty-one (181) members out of 1 619 voted, this is 11.19%. Votes in favour: 178, votes against: 1 and votes abstaining: 2. The 2023 Annual Financial Statements thus accepted.

Motion 2024-02. Receive the proposed budget for year ending 30 June 2025.

Votes in favour: 316. Votes against: 0. Votes abstaining: 0. The 2024/25 Budget thus accepted.

Motion 2024-03. Receive and ratify the proposed subscriptions for year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. Votes in favour: 316. Votes against: 0. Votes abstaining: 0. The 2024/25 subscriptions thus accepted and available on the front page of the League's website.

Motion 2024-04. Appointment of Beans Accounting Services as Reviewers.

Votes in favour: 316. Votes against: 0. Votes abstaining: 0. Beans Accounting Services thus accepted as Reviewers for 2024/25.

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Motion 2024-05. SARL Services to Members and Non-Members.

Votes in favour: 316. Votes against: 0. Votes abstaining: 0. The list of SARL Services to members and non-members thus accepted and available on the front page of the League website.

Other Motions:

Motion 2024-06. Limit of Councillor Terms.

Votes in favour: 0. Votes against: 312. Votes abstaining: 4. The motion is not accepted.

Motion 2024-07. Limit of Presidency Terms.

Votes in favour: 0. Votes against: 315. Votes abstaining: 1. The motion is not accepted.

Motion 2024-08. Clearing instances mentioning Postal Ballots.

Votes in favour: 316. Votes against: 0. Votes abstaining: 0. The motion is accepted.

Motion 2024-09. Changes to Rule 11.3 about proxies.

Votes in favour: 316. Votes against: 0. Votes abstaining: 0. The motion is accepted.

Motion 2024-10. Council Nomination Criteria.

Votes in favour: 315. Votes against: 1. Votes abstaining: 0. The motion is accepted.

Election of Councillors:

The following members were elected to serve on council for 2024 to 2026 - Dave Higgs, ZS2DH; Karel Bezuidenhout, ZR6K; Chris Turner, ZS6GM; Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT and Dennis Green, ZS4BS.

Election of Officers:

At the first council meeting held at 18:30 on Saturday evening 20 April, Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL was elected as President; Guy Eales, was elected as Vice-President; Corrie de Beer, ZS6CDB was elected as Treasurer and Dennis Green, ZS4BS was elected as Secretary. At the May 2024 Council meeting, the portfolios will be dealt with.

2025 SARL National Convention:

The 2025 SARL National Convention will have two events – the 2025 AGM will be a virtual event and the SARL Centenary Event (Technical Symposium, Hamfest and Awards Dinner) will be held in the Johannesburg area on either the weekend of 16 to 18 May or 23 to 25 May. The SARL was founded on 20 May 1925.

The President and Council thank the Cape Town ARC for a well organized and presented Convention Weekend.

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PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There are currently fourteen sunspot regions with simple to complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C and M-class solar flares. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 157. The 10 to 30 m bands may, especially in the late afternoon, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

24 April – The Sandton ARC Power Hour Tech Talk

25 April – Marconi Day

27 April – Morse Day

1 May – Worker's Day

CLUB NEWS:

MAY CLUB MEETING:

Please save the date 11 May 2024. We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting for April on Saturday 11th of May 2024 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards.

See you all there!!!

Call Etienne ZS6ZA, to give feedback and update on HF happenings:

HF and Other News:

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We want to wish **Corrie ZS6CDB** congratulations on receiving the Willie Wilson Award for exceptional and meritorious service by a member to the South Africa Radio League. Also his re-election as Treasurer to the South Africa Radio League. Well done from all of us!

- * There has been problems for the installation of our **wi-fibre network** to the Club, but it seems to have been resolved. Watch this space!
- * Last Sunday Stephen **ZS6SKY** and myself spent some time at the Club with Martin Twaddle, with training for the **HF Assessment** to be conducted shortly. We wish Martin well for the upcoming RAE due to take place on the Saturday the 18th May at the Club.
- * A **laser printer** has been bought for Club/Committee use.
- * Our **Raffle tickets** have been printed and will be ready for distribution at the next Club meeting.
- * A reminder that our **Weekly News Bulletin** can now be found on the KARTS website under the Members tab. If you have missed the Weekly Bulletin you can download it there.

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Elon Musk's Starlink satellites could be eroding Earth's magnetic field

An ex-NASA physicist warns cheap satellite 'megaconstellations' like Elon Musk's Starlink could disrupt Earth's magnetosphere exposing all life to deadly cosmic rays.

Dr. Sierra Solter-Hunt's new study draws on new estimates that Musk's SpaceX is burning up over 2,755 lbs (1.3 tons) of wireless internet satellite debris into Earth's atmosphere every hour — creating a metal layer of 'conductive particulate' in orbit. 'I was very surprised,' physicist Dr Solter-Hunt said. 'No one has given much research to the accumulation of metal dust from the space industry.' There are 5,504 Starlink satellites now in orbit, as of the last estimate by astronomers this March, of which 5,442 are operational. But tens of thousands more are planned. Particles from these satellites at the end of their lifecycle could 'distort or trap the magnetic field' that keeps Earth's atmosphere from escaping, the physicist said, 'with all of the highly-conductive metal trash that is all settling in one region.'

Although she notes it is an 'extreme case,' such a layer of charged metal dust could lead to 'atmospheric stripping' akin to the ancient fates of Mars and Mercury. After working on NASA's comet-catching Stardust spacecraft research team in 2012, Dr Solter-Hunt spent three years at the US Air Force Research Laboratory. There she studied the electromagnetic behaviour of plasma plumes in low-Earth orbit (LEO), the region of the upper-atmosphere where Starlink's orbital network resides. She now consults on space weather's impact on the aerospace industry. 'We are at about 10,000 satellites [in orbit] right now, but in 10 to 15 years there are likely going to be 100,000,' Dr. Solter-Hunt said.

'By the time we get to 100,000 I think it could be too late,' she said, 'in terms of this unplanned geoengineering experiment that is going to occur.'

The cause for her concern is that vast this fine-particle metal debris already vastly outweighs the weight of the magnetically charged particles that protect Earth from cosmic radiation.

AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK LOGS MORE THAN 17,000 QSOS WORLDWIDE

If you were lucky enough to score a QSO with W2A here in the United States or any other callsigns that were part of the recent global Autism Awareness Week, join the crowd.

Organizer James KB2FMH reported that logs collected as of April 15th reflect a total of 17,129 QSOs. Contacts were made across 50 US states, 44 Canadian provinces, 146 countries and 6 continents. James said that this translates into having radio signals travel nearly 83 million miles to carry the message from 45 volunteer operators worldwide that "it's OK to be different." Congratulations to the special event team!

DXPEDITIONERS REASSESS BOUVET PLANNING FOR 2025

Contributions to next year's Bouvet Island DXpedition were put on hold.

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The 3Y0K Bouvet Island DXpedition set for January 2025 has suspended its acceptance of donations temporarily while the team reassesses its financial picture. The DXpedition made the announcement on its website 3Y0K dot com.

DX-World.net posted a statement made on social media by Ken, LA7GIA, who explained: "Unfortunately, the financial risk for the small team is too high and we will spend the next few weeks in April assessing the situation and deciding what to do. We will explore all possible options and will return with more information once we have reached a conclusion."

According to the DXpedition website, the team has secured 80 percent of its \$400,000 budget but was still needing \$75,000. The 21-day DXpedition is to have three operators and a four-person support team.

UNESCO and broadcasting organisations around the world recently called on the tech and automotive industries to **keep radio available in cars**. A call that only very few echoed in the press.

Unesco is concerned that the rise of electric vehicles has led to the design of future car models without integrated radio, favouring internet-connected features. However, much radio listening is done in cars, where people rely on it for breaking news, traffic updates, weather forecasts, entertainment and, most importantly, emergency information. The radio is especially effective in a crisis. In emergency situations, private vehicles are usually part of the solution, allowing occupants to stay safe and informed when the lane is blocked and power is out. This is a call that was launched in conjunction with broadcasters associations.

IN THE WORLD OF DX :

In the World of DX, time is running out to work Kevin, N4DVR, who is on the air as V6DVR from Chuuk, IOTA Number OC-011, in Micronesia. He is using SSB on 20 through 10 metres. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Listen for Tom, NL7RR, from Wake Island, IOTA Number OC-053, until the 15th of May. He will be on the air on or around 14.200 MHz using the callsign KH9/NL7RR, See QRZ.com for QSL details.

A team from Norway will be active from Market Reef (IOTA EU-053) as OJ0T from the 27th of April to the 4th of May 2024. They will operate on 160 - 6m, CW, SSB, Digital Modes. OJ0T call sign will be used CW, SSB. On FT8 they will use OJ0/LA1UW, OJ0/LA3WAA, OJ0/LB5SH, OJ0/LB0VG.

Dave, VK2DS will be active as VK0DS from Davis Station, Antarctica until November 2024. He will operate on HF Bands, plus 6m and EME 2m and 23cm.

9X, RWANDA Harold, DF2WO will once again be active as 9X2AW from Kigali from the 2nd to the 17th of May. Operation on HF and 6m using CW, SSB with some FT4/8.

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Seven radio amateurs from Belgium will be active as 5P5LI from Lolland Island, IOTA Number EU-029, until the 6th of May, operating CW, SSB and the digital modes on 160-6 metres. QSL via ON6EF, direct or bureau.

TT, CHAD The Italian DXpedition team will be active as TT8RR (CW, SSB and RTTY) and as TT8XX (FT8) and as TT8TT (sat QO-100) until the 30th of April. Operation with 4 stations from 80 to 6m plus 1 station dedicated for sat operation.

Good DX to all! 73 de ZS6ZA

Call Pieter ZS6PJE, Technical Manager to give feedback and update:

Call Johan ZR6JT, Contest Manager to give feedback and update:

Upcoming Contests and results

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

Voyager 1 Feedback news

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday and one anniversary on our list for this week. **Tienie ZS6MHH** will be celebrating his birthday on Wednesday 24th of April and on Monday, and Elaine XYL of Stephen **ZS6SKY** on Monday 29 April with **Johan ZR6JT** and his XYL Rene will be celebrating their wedding anniversary. Congratulations from all of us, hope you have a great day and year ahead.

If we have missed out on your big day, please contact any committee member to update our records.

ADDITIONAL NEWS:

If there is anyone who would like to share any additional or any specific club news with the listeners, you are welcome to call in now.

1. _____ 2. _____

SWAP SHOP:

This is your opportunity to advertise a swap, or any amateur equipment for sale.

Please note that NO prices are to be quoted on air. Only a description of the items and your contact details must be provided.

1. _____ 2. _____

That brings us to the end of tonight's bulletin.

You have listened to the weekly news bulletin of the Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society, compiled and read by **Corrie ZS6CDB**.

Thank you for having listened!