

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 25th of February 2025.

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Anton ZS6WG, 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 ZS6KTS, or node 8041 (or ZS0AWA-L), 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:

SILENT KEYS:

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Andre van Tonder, ZS6HE went silent on Thursday 13 February 2025 after losing the battle against cancer. Andre was 63 years old and became a SARL Listener ZS6-1429 in 1989 and obtained his license with the callsign ZS6HE shortly thereafter. Andre got interested in the hobby through his late father ZS6ANJ and was a member of the East Rand Branch and a dedicated member of SARL HAMNET Gauteng. He was awarded the Jack Twine Merit Award that was handed to him at a small ceremony when he returned home from treatment in December 2024. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that the Hibiscus Amateur Radio Club reports that the key of Mervyn Todd, ZS5QI of Port Edward went silent on 14 February 2025 at the age of 90 years. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Beth, his family, and friends. He was a founder member of the Club in 2000, was also an honorary life member and was more active on the key than on the microphone during his more active radio years. He lived a fairly active lifestyle till about 5 years ago. For example, he went with groups on tree identification trips. He was also our chef at all our away functions (Field days, Lighthouses, etc) where he excelled. He will be missed by all of us.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

At the February Council meeting, it was decided to provide a special on the SARL Membership fees starting on Saturday 1 March and ending on 30 June. You can join the SARL as an ordinary member at R250; a senior member at R150; a spouse member at R100; a student member at R60; a shortwave listener at R100; a family membership at R350 and a senior family membership at R200. Make use of the online application form at www.sarl.org.za/public/membership/join.asp and join from Saturday 1 March.

SARL VHF/UHF AND MICROWAVE RECORDS:

A request for all the VHF'ers and UHF'ers. Please keep Paul, ZS6NK informed of your VHF and higher activities - especially the distances achieved. Paul is the keeper of the SARL VHF/UHF and Microwave Records and can be reached at zssixnk@gmail.com. The VHF and higher records can be found at www.sarl.org.za/public/local/VHF_SA_Records.asp. Council, at

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its February meeting, had to phone around to get information on 2 metre and 70 cm activity to award trophies, as this information is not available in the records.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There are currently 10 sunspot regions with simple to complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C-class, and a low to moderate probability for M-class solar flares. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 124. The 10 to 20 m bands may, especially in the late afternoon and early evening, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

26 February – The Sandton Power Hour Tech Talk

27 February – The International Milk Tart Day

1 March – The West Rand Boot Sale, The Cape Town Boot Sale

8 March – International Women's Day

THE SANDTON POWER HOUR TECH TALK:

There is something special at 19:00 CAT this coming Wednesday, 26 February and you are invited. Tune in to the February Power Hour Tech Talk to discover the mysterious and intriguing ways of the 160 m band. This often-unvisited band has some surprises and delights in store for you. During this session, you can learn how to set up an antenna to radiate at this low frequency, with the correct pattern for optimal results. You will also learn what it takes to acquire your Top Band certificate, a very rare trophy indeed!

Grab a pen as here are the Zoom login details. The Meeting ID is 830 7855 2021 and the Passcode is 585181. Do not miss out, spread the word and join the tech talk this coming Wednesday 26 February at 19:00 CAT with our special guest, Phillip, ZS6PVT to expose 160 m magic. If you missed anything, please visit the SARL upcoming events diary for all the details.

WEST RAND BOOT SALE:

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club invites you to join us at the next "Best in the West" boot sale on Saturday 1 March. Be at the West Rand clubhouse around 10:00 for a boerewors roll breakfast. Vendors can set up shop at 11:30 and you are guaranteed to find a treasure or two and maybe even long-lost treasure. Thinking of cleaning out your garage or shack? This is your opportunity - why delay? Book your table by e-mail to info@zs6wr.co.za or contact Phillip, ZS6PVT on mobile 083 267 3835.

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CLUB NEWS:

MARCH CLUB MEETING AND AGM:

Please save the date 8th of March 2025. We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting and AGM on Saturday the 8th of March 2025 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards. Communication in this regard was send out on Friday the 14th of February to all members.

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP:

Please remember to renew your membership. Could ALL members fill in the form (honorary members as well). We need to update our records. Communication and forms was send out last week regarding this.

Note: Our Club Constitution

“b. All subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance at the beginning of the Club’s financial year, being 1 January. The final date for subscription renewal payment will be the last day of February.

c. A member whose subscription is in arrear shall not have the right to vote until arrears have been paid.

d. A member shall be deemed to have resigned from the Club if, by the last day of February, his subscription renewal fee has not been paid. No membership applications shall be considered as from 1 March until after the AGM.”

As per the January club meeting feedback the fees for 2025 is as follows:

Full Member Renewal **R400**

Senior Member (age 65+) Renewal **R240**

2nd same household Family Member **R200**

3rd and more same household Family Members **Gratis**

Student Member (scholar or college\university) **R200**

New Membership or re-activation or RAE candidate **R600**

New Senior Member Application or re-activation (65+) **R360**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for the week. On Thursday the 27th it’s the birthday of Stephen ZS6SKY. Congratulations from all of us hope you have a great day and year ahead.

If we have missed 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. _____

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SWOP SHOP:

This is your opportunity to advertise a swop, 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, read by Anton ZS6WG and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!