

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 4th of March 2025.

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Alvin ZS6ASK, 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

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

SARL NEWS:

THE MARCH 2025 RADIO ZS:

The March 2025 issue of Radio ZS was uploaded to the SARL website on Friday 28 February 2025. Get information about the 2025 National Convention and the A2/D2/V5 - ZS4TX African Tour. We visit the Still Bay repeater, make an antenna with a milk carton and look at a vertical antenna with a spiral counterpoise. Eddie, ZS6BNE reminisces about 50 years of amateur radio, SARL Hamnet provides communications for the Ride for Sight Cycling Event, we look at homebrewing software with Python and see how old AM radios are restored.

The Johannesburg ARC is busy with a fox hunting/ARDF project, so read more about amateur radio direction finding, we look at Coordinated Universal Time, the RSGB Commonwealth and the Africa All Mode International DX Contests and return to 1977 for HAMFEST 77 in the Museum Column. And more.....

GREAT CONTENT AT SARL CENTENARY TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM ON 22 MARCH 2025:

The centenary technical symposium which will take place online on Saturday 22 March, just three weeks from now, which features interesting speakers with a wide range of subject covering the technical as well as operational aspects of Amateur Radio. Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ will be exploring the propagation opportunities of the troposphere in a presentation that is expected to focus on many of the unresearched aspects of tropospheric propagation, aspects which are likely to become better known once the SARL Karoo beacon becomes operational later this year.

"Contesting: An incentive to push technology" is the title of Chris Burger, ZS6EZ's presentation. Chris is a well-known author about contesting. He has many years of experience in the subject and has made a major contribution to this aspect of Amateur Radio.

Anton Janovsky, ZR6AIC will present a "poor man's" RF noise monitoring system based on the Raspberry Pi. It is an ideal system to monitor local RF noise issues on a time lapsed basis. It can be built easily from inexpensive locally available components. The required software was developed by Anton and will be made freely available.

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Participation in the SARL Centenary online symposium is free of charge. Registration only is required. Visit the SARL webpages and click on the registration link in the symposium advertisement on the righthand page. Registration closes at 17:00 CAT on 21 March 2025.

MORE NEWS ABOUT THE 2025 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION:

A reminder that the 2025 South African Radio League National Convention will celebrate the SARL's 100th birthday. The event will take place at the Royal Elephant Hotel and Conference Centre, located at the corner of Willem Botha and Wierda Road, Eldoraigne, Centurion over the weekend of 16, 17 and 18 May 2025 with the Pretoria ARC as our hosts. Council is busy finalising the Convention registration form, it will be available in the coming week.

On Friday 16 May, the Pretoria ARC is celebrating its 95th birthday at the hotel and you can attend at R300 per person, members of PARC speak to your committee.

On Saturday 17 May, after breakfast, the 2025 SARL AGM will be held. The PARC is busy arranging a partner's programme with the Menlyn Shopping Centre as a possibility. After the AGM, you can visit and interact at the Mega Flea Market and exhibits by Clubs, SARL Hamnet and other interest groups. There will be lunch available at the venue for own costs. Saturday closes with the SARL Awards Dinner at the hotel at R350 per person. The weekend closes on Sunday 18 May with breakfast and departure for home.

Clubs, Interest Groups and Radio Dealers are reminded to contact Almero du Pisani, ZS6LDP on e-mail almerodps@gmail.com to arrange for your Club's participation on 17 May.

CHANGES TO SARL HAMNET STRUCTURE:

Following the February meeting of the SARL Council, the Council hereby announces that Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ has been appointed as the National Director of SARL Hamnet and Keith Lowes, ZS5WFD as the Deputy National Director.

Council thanks Grant Southey, ZS1GS/ZS3GS for his contribution to SARL HAMNET in his role as National Director and expresses its sincere appreciation for all the good work done.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There are currently 9 sunspot regions with simple to slightly 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 104. 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:

8 March – International Women's Day

17 March – St Patrick's Day

20 March – Autumn Equinox @ 08:58 UTC

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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 and again yesterday 3rd of March to all members.

Need as many members as possible to come and enjoy the afternoon with us. Please bring along any unused or surplus equipment that you wish to contribute to the club. As mentioned previously we want to have a table at the Mega Flea market in May at the SARL National Convention where we can sell the equipment to raise funds for the club.

For catering purposes we are running a poll on the WhattsApp group to get an indication of how many members will be attending. Please participate and vote before end of day tomorrow 5th of March 2025. We will have some cold drinks in the cooler box, so make sure to bring some cash to feed the green monster!!! See you all there!

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We no birthdays or anniversaries on our list for the week.

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. _____

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 Alvin ZS6ASK and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!