

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 30th 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

Read 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:

SILENT KEYS:

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Hennie Greyling, ZS4HG went silent on Saturday 20 April 2024. Hennie was an honorary member of the Bloemfontein ARC and looked after the Club repeaters for many years. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Jimmy de Scande, ZS2JIM went silent on Thursday 25 April 2024. Jimmy served on the committee of the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society and was very involved in communications for events and in promoting amateur radio in the Scouting community. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

THE ZS5 HAMFEST:

Following on from the success of this event in 2023, the Highway and the Midland Amateur Radio Clubs are delighted to host the ZS5 Hamfest again on Saturday 25 May 2024. The event will be a Mega Swap Shop with free tables which will run from 10:30 for most of the day. This is a good opportunity to promote our hobby and foster conversation and goodwill amongst our Radio Amateurs.

The venue provides plenty of space both indoors and out and facilities cater for an enjoyable family day out. Visitors are welcome. Camping is available on site and there are several guesthouses in the area. Contact zs5om@harc.org.za for any information or if you are interested in registering a swap table.

2024 MILLS ON THE AIR:

The 2024 Mills on the Air takes place on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May with activation of wind and water operated mills. There is a list of South African Mills available from the League website, so click on the link on the front page. The list covers the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Lesotho, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Northern Cape, eSwatini and the Western Cape. Find a mill in your area and activate it. Mostert's Mill has already been booked!

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

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 75. The 10 to 30 m bands may provide some good DX fun especially in the late afternoon. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

1 May – Worker's Day
4 May – ZS4SRK meeting
4 and 5 May – The ZS-SOTA Activity weekend
12 May – Mother's Day

ZS-SOTA ACTIVITY WEEKEND:

You have six days to find a summit to activate and get your radio equipment ready. The ZS SOTA Activity is no longer a one-day event; it is now a weekend event! The ZS-SOTA Autumn Activity Weekend will run from 00:00 to 21:59 UTC on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 May 2024. You can register your SOTA activity on the ZS SOTA Facebook page. Read more about the Activity weekend on page 64 of the SARL Contest Manual.

CLUB NEWS:

MAY CLUB MEETING:

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

See you all there!!!

Call Etienne ZS6ZA, for an update on HF happenings:

HF and Other News:

=====

As expected, there is a lot of discussion and activity surrounding the announcement by the DXCC desk of the new entity of Freedonia. SWODXA filed the petition for this new entity based on the criteria found in DXCC Section III, rule #2B, "In countries where Amateur Radio operation has not been permitted or has been suspended or where some reluctance to authorize amateur stations has been noted..."

There has been no activity in Freedonia since 1933 since two brothers operated GR0UCH/0. Zeppo manned the AM station and Harpo handled the CW chores.

Freedonia is located on the Ionian Sea, a peninsula off the coast of Albania.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

The DXPedition will be led by W8GEX - Joe. Other team members will include K8DV – Dave, AD8FD – Brian, and K4YJ - Dwight. Billy, AA8KY, will be the pilot station.

The IARU has agreed to allow the same call sign to be used for this inaugural DXPedition, GR0UCH/0.

The DXPedition will be QRV from capital city of Chicolini. The Prime Minister of Freedonia, Rufus Firefly, has made it his agenda to bring Freedonia up to par with his neighbors in the region. He views amateur radio as a great public relations event and has put his whole hearted support behind this project.

Jam-Resistant Radios Keeps Ukraine's Long-Range Drones Flying

There are three basic approaches to dealing with radio interference, and they use all of them. One is filtering, so that the receiver can block out everything except the exact wavelength being used to communicate. Another is using multiple bands and the third is hopping to a different band where [there] is no interference.

Jammers are constantly evolving, but they are staying a step ahead with new techniques to defeat them. The time to switch to a new frequency is now measured in milliseconds. One of the challenges with such “rapid channel”, and now rapid band switching is for the two ends of the communications link to stay in sync to maintain two-way communication.

Drones on the battlefield is an example of literally life and death depending on having superior... or at minimum... survivable radio technology. Ukrainian drones are surviving the best jamming technology that Russia can throw at them.

A number of crossovers in Amateur Radio to the technologies being implemented, including the “monitor everything, simultaneously” approach (which we can now do with ka9q-radio and inexpensive Software Defined Receivers), is the ability to dynamically use multiple bands depending on requirements of the moment (such as selecting 50-54 MHz to communicate with one friend, and 1240-1300 MHz to communicate with another).

DSS-43 is the only antenna that can communicate with the probe.

For more than 50 years, Deep Space Station 43 has been an invaluable tool for space probes as they explore our solar system and push into the beyond. The DSS-43 radio antenna, located at the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex, near Canberra, Australia, keeps open the line of communication between humans and probes during NASA missions.

Today more than 40 percent of all data retrieved by celestial explorers, including Voyagers, New Horizons, and the Mars Curiosity rover, comes through DSS-43.

“As Australia’s largest antenna, DSS-43 has provided two-way communication with dozens of robotic spacecraft,” IEEE President-Elect Kathleen Kramer said during a ceremony where the antenna was recognized as an IEEE Milestone. It has supported missions, Kramer noted,

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

“from the Apollo program and NASA’s Mars exploration rovers such as Spirit and Opportunity to the Voyagers’ grand tour of the solar system.

“In fact,” she said, “it is the only antenna remaining on Earth capable of communicating with Voyager 2.”

It is a remarkable accomplishment that we still have a communications path to Voyager 1 and Voyager 2, thanks to antennas like DSS-43... and the people who design, build, maintain, and operate them. Can you imagine the sense of pride that the DSS-43 team feels that every bit of knowledge from Voyager 1 and 2 and other deep space probes is available to humanity because of what they do to keep that antenna working?

It’s one of the harder things to get new Amateur Radio Operators to understand that in a radio communications system, an optimal antenna is the primary component. If the antenna isn’t (or can’t be, by design) optimal, it’s possible to compensate for a less than idea antenna (as we’ve seen with our mobile phones, especially direct communications with satellites), with higher transmit power, a more sensitive receiver, software / protocol such as Forward Error Correction, etc. But nothing beats an optimal antenna, which is why after more of a century of Amateur Radio experimentation with antennas, we’re still trying new things.

IN THE WORLD OF DX :

In the World of DX, listen for special event station GB6WW on the air from Glasgow, Scotland from the 1st through to the 28th of May, marking the anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe on V-E Day, May 8, 1945, and remembering the sacrifices made by those who served and suffered. The GB6WW Award is available via download to hams who complete three contacts on three different bands, regardless of mode. QSL via George MMÄ~DFV.

A group of 13 Camb-Hams from Cambridge, England, will be on the air from the Isle of Mull, IOTA Number EU-008, as GS3PYE from April 27th through to May 3rd. Listen on 80-10m and on the QO-100 satellite. See QRZ.com for QSL details.

Listen for Harald, DF2WO, operating as 9X2AW from Kigali, Rwanda from the 2nd through to the 17th of May. He will operate on the HF bands and 6 metres using CW, SSB with some FT8/FT4.

5X, UGANDA: Jack, NP2OR (ex 5X7JD), is currently active as 5X3L from the village Kayabwe on the equator. He was joined by Don 7Q6M (K6ZO) on the 25th. QRV until May 10 while preparing some local newcomers for their license exams.

A2, BOTSWANA: Remo, HB9SHD, will be active holiday-style as A25SHD between April 30 and May 13 on HF. QSL via LoTW.

Good DX to all! 73 de ZS6ZA

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

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

B34 Small Linear Amp

Echolink Installation update

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

Satellite news

Johan ZR6JT, Contest Manager to give feedback and update:

Not Available - KZN

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for the week **Selwyn ZS6/5SEL** celebrating this birthday on Sunday 5th of May. Happy birthday and congratulations from all of us.

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. _____

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.

ZS6PJE LMR400 coax available

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 by Corrie ZS6CDB and read by Johan ZR6JT.

Thank you for having listened!