

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 11th of June 2024

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Johan ZR6JT, 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

Echolink users can connect to ZS6KTS-R, 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:

AMATEUR RADIO AND THE NEW SPECTRUM POLICY:

The Next-Generation Radio Frequency Spectrum for Economic Development was gazetted on 28 May 2024. (Government Gazette 50725). The policy is commonly referred to as the Spectrum policy. The policy derives its enabling principles and guidelines from the 2016 integrated white paper and the 2010 spectrum policy of South Africa and has taken into consideration written comments from the Authority (ICASA) and interested parties in accordance with the Electronic Communication Act (Act 36 of 2005).

The SARL submitted its input to the Department of Communication and Digital Technology in October 2022. Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ and Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, representing the SARL, met virtually with the Departmental heads and presented the SARL's position.

The SARL team requested that in the table of definitions the following be added:

Amateur service: A radio communication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

Amateur-satellite service: A radio communication service using space stations on earth satellites for the same purposes as those of the amateur service. This was achieved.

The acronyms SARL and IARU were not included as proposed by the SARL. Under the heading context, the SARL requested that amateur service, and amateur satellite service be added. Only amateur service was added.

Spectrum allocation - the SARL proposed that:

(b) There should be a time limit for the updating of the NRFP. The SARL proposes within 3 months of the publication of the final acts of a WRC.

(c) The regulator must at the same time as (b) above update the radio regulations affected by WRC outcomes. (Currently the last update of the radio regulations was in 2015. The NRFP does not specify assigned spectrum.) The final policy recognises that decisions of the WRC

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applicable to South Africa must be implemented. The policy gives ICASA a maximum of one year to implement and publish updated regulations.

Spectrum outlook - the SARL proposed that:

If the WRC is held every three years, then the spectrum outlook should also be revised and updated on a three-year basis. The policy adopted is 5 years.

Licensed spectrum bands - the SARL stated that: This clause is confusing. In ITU regulations, a service operating as a primary user is automatically protected against interference from any other user in a shared band. Secondary allocation users cannot claim any protection.

The policy does not go as far but acknowledges the right to protection from interference. This is an important point.

Reservation of spectrum

(a) The Minister, in consultation with the Regulator, must reserve certain spectrum, whether for Public Protection and Disaster Relief (PPDR), government use for present or future use, for public or community use, Amateur Radio use, or for responding to any national emergencies including pandemics.

The SARL proposed amateur radio be added. The policy instead states for public good and community use. The policy clarifies the responsibilities of the Minister and the Authority. There are several general clauses that can be used to the benefit to protect Amateur Radio in negotiation with the Ministry and the Authority.

One important aspect is to consider that SARL HAMNET is a community organisation within the SARL and as such many of the protection mechanisms will apply not only to SARL HAMNET in their role of providing emergency communications, but also to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services.

Going forward the team who represented the SARL proposes that the Council set up a sub-committee to interrogate the Spectrum policy and develop a reference document for internal use and for engaging with the Department and the Authority on spectrum policy matters.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at moderate levels. There are currently eight sunspot regions with simple to complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C-class and a 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 119. The 10 to 30 m bands may provide some good DX fun especially in the late afternoon and early evening. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

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DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

11 to 13 June – Shavuot
14 June – The Provincial Schools close
16 June – Father's Day, Youth Day
17 June – Public Holiday
21 June – The Winter Solstice @ 22:50 CAT

CLUB NEWS:

JUNE CLUB MEETING:

The meeting was well attended by members as well as 3 visitors.

A new club chairman needs to be elected at the July Club meeting. Members were asked to forward any suggestions to the committee.

RAE results:

Congratulations to Martin ZS6MJT for passing the exam. We hope to hear you on the air soon.

Members were reminded to support the Raffle ticket initiative as it is one of the few ways of raising funds for the club.

The Echolink/Allstar is currently with Dave & Justin for repair. This matter has the highest priority and will receive immediate attention to be resolved.

The committee requested members to volunteer for reading the weekly club news bulletin. There are currently only 3 news readers and anyone's willingness to assist will be greatly appreciated. Thanks goes to Pieter ZS6PJE, Corrie ZS6CDB, Johan ZR6JT and Jacques ZS6MAV for their weekly contribution to the bulletin. Also thanks to Renato ZS6REN for making the AWA Echolink available.

Antonette presented a sample of the golf shirt as alternative to the button-up shirt. This will be embroidered by Gert ZS6GFS and will be on display at the next club meeting.

The meeting was ended by a very insightful and informative talk on the operations and purpose of Hamnet. Brian ZS6YZ (Deputy National Director of Hamnet) explained the importance of emergency communications as backup when the normal ways of communication fails. He also encouraged amateur operators to consider volunteering for this service.

Thanks to everyone that joined for the club meeting. Remember next month will be the antenna build and Nano VNA demonstration.

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

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

Johan ZR6JT, Contest Manager to give feedback and update:

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for the week. Cindy XYL of Jacques ZS6MAV celebrating her birthday on Sunday the 16th of June. Congratulations from all of us, have a great day and enjoy the long weekend!!!

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, compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB and read by Johan ZR6JT.

Thank you for having listened!