

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 13th of August 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

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:

TWO NEW SATELLITES CARRYING SEVERAL AMATEUR RADIO FOCUSED PAYLOADS ARE NOW IN ORBIT:

The first one, SONATE-2 originates from Julius-Maximilians-University in Germany and features an APRS digipeater. Four hundred and twenty-one messages were digipeated this past weekend. The satellite also features a VHF transceiver with SSTV downlink sending images captured by onboard cameras.

SSTV downlink. Regular downlink of images captured by the on-board cameras on 145,880 MHz using Martin M1 SSTV FM (F3F) and transmit power of 500 mW.

APRS digipeater. APRS digipeater in half-duplex operation. The digipeater is only active when published at <https://x.com/JMUSpace>. When activated, it will transmit a greeting message every 2 minutes. Make sure to include the SONATE-2 call sign DPØSNX in the APRS route. Frequency: 145,825 MHz Up/Down using 1k2 AFSK (F2D) with AX.25 protocol and transmit power of 500 mW

The second one: ROBUSTA-3A, a 3U CubeSat built by students at Université de Montpellier in southern France, carries a 9k6 GMSK AX.25 store-and-forward digital system. The UHF transmitter features a powerful 3-watt downlink. Procedures and uplink frequency will be published soon. In the meantime, short telemetry bursts can be heard on its downlink frequency of 436,750 MHz.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at moderate levels. There are currently eleven sunspot regions with simple to complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C-class and M-class solar flares and a moderate to low probability for X-class solar flares. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 189. The 10 to 20 m bands may especially in the late afternoon and early evening provide some good DX fun. The 6 m band may also hold some pleasant surprises. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

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DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

17 to 18 August – The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

28 August – The Sandton Power Hour Tech Talk

31 August – The West Rand Boot Sale

THE 27TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE / LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND ON 17 AND 18 AUGUST:

The event began in 1998 as the Scottish Northern Lights Award run by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group. The ILLW attracts over 500 lighthouse entries located in over 40 countries. It is a popular international amateur radio event, not a contest and there are very few rules. It is also free and there are no prizes for contacting large numbers of other stations. There are currently 312 lighthouses and their call signs registered. The complete list can be found on the ILLW homepage.

Amateur radio operators may use any authorized frequency or mode as defined by their individual licenses. Digital modes such as FT8 may be used, but because FT8 is a keyboard-to-keyboard mode of communication, the visiting public may not fully understand what amateur radio is about. ILLW guidelines suggest an HF transceiver and a wire type antenna is a better way to demonstrate amateur radio. The event runs from 00:01 UTC on Saturday 17 August to 24:00 UTC on Sunday 18 August (48 hours).

Look out for the following lighthouses next weekend - Cape Columbine, Danger Point, Mouille Point, Ystervarkpunt, Cape Agulhas, Cape Point, Slangkop, Doringbaai, Shelly Point, Cape St Blaize, Roman Rock, Saldanha North Head and Coopers Light. Twelve in the ZS1 call area and one in the ZS5 call area. Download the Lighthouse Award log sheet from the front page of the SARL website.

CLUB NEWS:

AUGUST CLUB MEETING:

Please save the date 17 August 2024. We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting for August on Saturday 17th of August 2024 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards.

See you all there!!!

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:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for the week. Paulette XYL of Selwyn ZS6SEL celebrating her birthday on Friday the 16th of August. Congratulations from all of us, hope you have a great day and year ahead!!!

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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!