

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 17th of September 2024.

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 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:

OCTOBER RAE REGISTRATION:

The registration for the October Radio Amateur Examination closes at midnight on Friday 20 September 2024. All registrations must be completed before this date, as no late registrations will be accepted. Clubs who are giving classes must make sure that all their candidates have complied with the required registration process. This includes the selection of exam centres and call signs. Do it today!

THE ARRL TESTING AMSATSA YAGI FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECT:

Five AMSAT SA dual band 2 m/70 cm Yagis arrived at ARRL headquarters this week for evaluation as a tool in an educational project. If the antenna meets the requirements of the project team, a large order may be placed with AMSATSA. The Yagi has been exported to radio amateurs in the USA, the UK, New Zealand and Australia. Over 600 have been supplied to radio amateurs in South Africa and are used from satellites to fox hunting and tracking applications.

The Yagi has a unique element called an 'Open Sleeve' which is a director very close to the driven element. The driven element is sized for 2 m. When operating on 70 cm the 'Open Sleeve' acts as part of the driven element on 70 cm (the third harmonic of 2 m). The original concept was developed in 1946 by Dr J T Bolljahn of the Stanford Research institute but was not introduced into amateur radio until the 1950s. The AMSAT SA version is based on a design by DK7ZB with modifications by WB5CXC.

The first South African version was a collaboration between Guy Eales, ZS6GUY and Gary Immelman, ZS6YI. It was developed for YOTA 2018 where young people successfully used the antenna, operating satellites using hand-held transceivers.

The mechanical structure was redesigned by Gary, ZS6YI. A choke around the boom was added to isolate the antenna from the coax and reduce the effect that human contact has on the antenna. A handle was added on the boom end which makes it more comfortable to hold and further isolates the antenna from the handler. The AMSAT SA Yagi is manufactured in one of Gary's factories in Vereeniging. It has two elements on 145 MHz and 3 elements on 435 MHz.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

For its size the antenna has excellent gain: 145 MHz – 4,12 dBd or 6,3 dBi and 435 MHz – 6,23 dBd or 8,4 dBi. The Yagi is broadband with measured SWR almost flat over the entire bands. The antenna is “plug and play”. No tools are needed except for soldering on a connector to suit the application. It comes complete in a carry bag with full instructions. This antenna can be assembled and disassembled in minutes. Currently AMSAT SA has stock. Visit www.amsatsa.org.za for details.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at moderate to high levels. There are currently seven sunspot regions with simple to complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C-class 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 148. The 10 to 20 m bands will, 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

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

20 September – The closing date for October RAE registration and the provincial schools close
22 September – The Spring equinox
24 September – National Braai Day and Heritage Day
25 September – The Sandton Power Hour Tech Talk
1 October – the provincial schools open

SANDTON POWER HOUR TECH TALK:

The upcoming Sandton Power Hour Tech Talk scheduled for 19:00 CAT on Wednesday 25 September will be taking place on Zoom. Clint, K6LCS, AMSAT Ambassador, ARRL instructor and Affiliated Club Coordinator will be live from California with an entertaining and interactive presentation on how to Work Amateur Satellites with your HT. You do not need 100 W of transmit power nor expensive antenna arrays to work the ISS and amateur satellites!

Everyone is welcome, so please spread the word and be sure to join the Power Hour Tech Talk for a collaborative and interactive learning experience with Clint, K6LCS on Wednesday evening, 19:00 CAT on 25 September. Get all the details on the SARL upcoming events diary and let us show Clint our enthusiastic South African amateur radio community.

CLUB NEWS:

OCTOBER CLUB MEETING:

Please save the date 12 October 2024. We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting for October on Saturday 12th of October 2024 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards.

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

Call Johan ZR6JT, Contest Manager to give feedback and update:

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have no names 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, compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB and read by Anton ZS6WG.

Thank you for having listened!