

## **ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN**

Good evening, it is Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of August 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

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 Rae Vincent-Lambert, ZS6RAE went silent on Wednesday 14 August 2024. Rae was one of the founder members of the Sandton Amateur Radio Club and was an active member until ill health limited his mobility. He was an early member of SARL Hamnet and actively participated in many Club contests and activities. We extend our condolences to his wife, Sharon, family and friends.

### **THE SPECTRUM AND TECHNOLOGY WORKGROUP:**

The STWG will meet on Monday 19 August on the WebEx platform at 20:30 The STWG will have two items on the agenda. The discussion of The Next-Generation Radio Frequency Spectrum for economic development policy which was gazetted on 28 May 2024. (Government Gazette 50725). The policy is commonly referred to as the Spectrum policy. The objective of the discussion is how to use the policy to the best advantage to protect and expand Amateur Radio.

The second item on the agenda is the SARL RF noise monitoring project. If you would like to contribute to the discussions, please send your details to [admin@amateurradio.org.za](mailto:admin@amateurradio.org.za) by noon Monday and you will receive an invitation and joining details.

### **PROPAGATION REPORT:**

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low-to-moderate levels. There are currently nine sunspot regions with simple to slightly complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C-class solar flares 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 154. 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](http://spaceweather.sansa.org.za) for further information.

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### **SOLAR CYCLE 25 PRODUCING RECORD HIGH SUNSPOT NUMBERS:**

Record high Solar Cycle 25 Solar Maximum Sunspot Numbers have improved HF Propagation since mid-July and possibly bringing worldwide 6 metre F2 propagation this spring in the southern hemisphere and autumn in the northern hemisphere. According to the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Centre (SWPC), Solar Cycle 25 likely reached its highest sunspot number yet, at least 299 on 8 August.

The World Data Centre - Sunspot Index and Long-Term Solar Observations (SILSO) publishes near-real-time Estimated International Sunspot Number (EISN) reports based on its global network of reporting stations. Daily EISN reports during Solar Cycle 25 were consistently well below 200 until suddenly rising to 218 on 14 July and reaching 289 on 18 July, but then declining to 178 on 22 July.

While occasional brief daily EISN increases are not unusual during solar maximum, after only five days, the daily EISN suddenly rose to 212 on 27 July, reaching a Solar Cycle 25 record high of 297 on 8 August and a prediction of 300 for early September. Daily EISN reports are likely to remain well above 200 during most days through late September and possibly much longer.

Since February 2002, worldwide 6-metre propagation has been mostly limited to sporadic occurrences of trans-equatorial propagation (TEP) near the equinox months and occasional sporadic-E propagation reaching many thousands of kilometres during June and July. Worldwide 6-metre F2 propagation may occur again, perhaps very frequently, starting in late October 2024 if daily EISN reports consistently remain well above 200. See [www.sidc.be/SILSO/eisnplot](http://www.sidc.be/SILSO/eisnplot). (ARRL Letter)

### **DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:**

28 August – The Sandton Power Hour Tech Talk

31 August – The West Rand Boot Sale

### **CLUB NEWS:**

**Call Anton ZS6WG, for feedback on the August club meeting and update:**

The August club meeting was well attended by 12 members.

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 has received a high priority over the last few weeks. Hopefully the last stumbling blocks can soon be put behind us. KARTS extends it's gratitude to everyone that assisted in resolving the technical issues with the repeater and thanks the members for their patience.

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.

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The schedule of upcoming events towards the end of the year is as follows:

September: SARL HF Field Competition at Blaauwpan 7 and 8 September. Two stands are booked for this event. Club members need to indicate their availability to support this competition. The usual monthly club meeting will also be held at Blaauwpan on the Saturday. We will put out a poll on the WhatsApp group this week for members to respond. The previous event at Blaauwpan can be remembered as very successful with lots of fun.

October: Antenna build at the clubhouse and a presentation of how to use a Nano VNA.

November: Year End Function and draw of the raffle ticket. Members are requested to share ideas on catering needs. Should it be a braai or something different.

December: A normal club meeting and bring and braai for those members not going on vacation.

The meeting was ended by Tienie giving an interesting demonstration of a component curve tracer that displays component characteristics that can be used to assist in fault finding on electronic circuit boards.

Thanks to everyone that joined the club meeting.

**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:**

### **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. \_\_\_\_\_

## **ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN**

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 and read by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!