

Good evening, it is Tuesday 15th of July 2025.

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Stephen ZS6SKY, 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 ZS6KTS, or node 8041 (or ZS0AWA-L), 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:

THE BOLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ONLINE RAE COURSE:

It is time to get ready for the next RAE in October 2025. The Boland Amateur Radio Club would like to invite you to register for our nationwide online RAE course, which is presented in Afrikaans. The 13-week course takes place on Monday evenings from 19:00 to 21:00 CAT via Zoom and starts on Monday 21 July. The course fee is only R250 per person and includes club membership for the first year. For more information, the full schedule, as well as the registration link, please visit <http://bark.org.za/kursus-rae> or contact Jannie, ZS1JFK at zs1jfk@gmail.com.

POWER HOUR TECH TALK:

The July 2025 Sandton Power Hour Tech Talk is scheduled for Wednesday evening 30 July at 19:00 CAT, and this month we will be learning and discussing a new and popular keyboard to keyboard digital mode, VarAC. Without giving too much away, VarAC is one of the newer Digital Mode Chat Programs for Ham Radio. This mode uses highly efficient error correction techniques to ensure reliable communications even in weak signal conditions, whilst also offering faster data transfer rates and lower power consumption when compared to many other modes. It is a FREE, modern HF P2P real-time chatting and emergency communication application for amateur radio operators, leveraging the VARA protocol, and it has become very popular.

Sound interesting? Then please join our special guest, Alistair, ZS2OK, during the next Power Hour Tech Talk to listen and learn all about VarAC, and how you can join the over 80 000 amateurs around the world that are already actively having fun with VarAC.

The Tech Talk will take place on Zoom to enable everyone everywhere to participate in the conversation and see VarAC in action, so grab a pen as here come the Zoom details.

The Power Hour Tech Talk is scheduled for Wednesday 30 July and will start at 19h00 CAT. The Zoom Meeting ID is 891 1944 0458 and the Zoom passcode is 674977. Everyone is welcome, so please diarise the next Power Hour Tech Talk on 30 July with our special guest, Alistair, ZS2OK.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the low to moderate solar activity levels are going to continue during the week. There are currently 6 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 52. The 30 and 20 m bands may provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za

for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

15 July – World Youth Skills Day and Delville Wood Day

19 July – SARL QRP Contest

20 July – International Moon Day and the ZS2 QSO Party

22 July – Provincial Schools Open

CLUB NEWS:

JULY CLUB MEETING:

Call Corrie ZS6CDB to give feedback of the July club meeting:

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for this week. Gert ZS6GFS celebrating his birthday today, happy birthday from all of us, hope you have a great day and year ahead.

If we have missed out on 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, read by Stephen ZS6SKY and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!