

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 29th of July 2025.

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 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:

SILENT KEYS:

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Riaan Venter, ZS6RXY went silent on Sunday 20 July. Riaan will especially be remembered for his involvement with the Centurion Voortrekker commandos and the CQ Hou-Koers field stations and for the Radio Amateur Examination classes presented at Nkoka, his training facility in Centurion. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

THE AUGUST RADIO ZS:

The August 2025 issue of Radio ZS will be available for download from the League website from Monday 28 July. Get the programme for the AMSAT SA Space Symposium in this issue. We say, "Look Up and Live," safety tips for antenna installations, get more information about the HamSCI's Meteor Scatter QSO Party and read about the SARL Centenary Pico Balloons.

Derek, ZS5Y, discusses long-distance VHF/UHF SSB contacts, while Martie, ZS6MV, talks about her first contest. Then Adele, ZS5APT, gives feedback on the Queens of the Mountains event and Heather, ZS5YH, keeps us informed what the YLs are doing. Viv, ZS6VD, explains how to build a RF dBm and power meter; Johan, ZS1I, reports on the meeting of the ZS-Link Network Group and Alan, ZR6AQV, takes us into the Drakensberg to activate a SOTA summit.

In the Museum Column, we look at the Luxembourg Effect and we visit the Cape Hangklip Lighthouse. There is information about the 2025 Lighthouse award and more in this issue.

IN EARLY AUGUST, AMATEUR RADIO FREQUENCIES WILL BE ACTIVE WITH FELINE AND CANINE QSOS!

International Cat Day special event station W1C, in the United States, will be on the air from 00:00 to 23:59 UTC on 7 and 8 August. All HF frequencies will be in use, CW and SSB only; call signs in Europe will be DAØCAT from Germany; YL1CAT from Latvia and GB9CAT in the United Kingdom. International Cat Day was created in 2002 by the International Fund for Animal Welfare. It is a day to raise awareness for cats and learn about ways to help and protect them. A QSL certificate can be downloaded from qrz.com.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

International Dog Day (IDD), National Dog Day in the United States, is held on 26 August every year. Special event station K2D will be on the air, joined by operators in Europe. The US-based team of 10 operators will be operating from 00:00 to 23:59 UTC on 20 to 26 August. The tradition was created 21 years ago in 2004 (147 in dog years) by pet advocate Colleen Paige, a pet and family lifestyle expert. August was chosen because it was the month her family adopted their first dog, Sheltie, from an animal shelter. International Dog Day stations will be using Hamlog Online. Four awards will be available to amateur radio operators making contacts with IDD stations.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the low solar activity levels are going to continue during the week. There are currently 8 sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C-class solar flares but a low 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 86. The 30 to 15 m bands may provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

30 July – Power Hour Tech Talk
3 August – the SARL HF phone contest
7 and 8 August – International Cat Day
9 August – Women's Day and the SARL YL QSO party.
10 August – the SARL HF digital contest

POWER HOUR TECH TALK:

Do you remember that this coming Wednesday you have a date? Yes, a date starting at 19:00 CAT this coming Wednesday evening 30 July, with our special guest, Alistair, ZS2OK, who will be live on Zoom during the July Power Hour Tech Talk. This month we will be learning and discussing the new and very popular keyboard to keyboard digital mode, VarAC.

Need a quick teaser? VarAC is one of the newer Digital Mode Chat Programs for Ham Radio that 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 modern, HF Point to Point real-time chatting and emergency communication application for amateur radio operators that leverages the VARA protocol.

We are sure you do not need another incentive to go on this date, but just in case, here we go. The Power Hour Tech Talk is free, and so is VarAC. There you are, no costs, only online collaboration, sharing and learning together. Please join our special guest, Alistair, ZS2OK, during the upcoming 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.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

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 – 19:00 CAT on Wednesday 20 July - the Meeting ID is 891 1944 0458 and the Zoom passcode is 674977. Everyone is welcome, so please spread the word and if you have not yet done so, diarise your date with our special guest, Alistair ZS2OK, for the upcoming Power Hour Tech Talk this coming Wednesday evening

CLUB NEWS:

AUGUST CLUB MEETING:

Please save the date 9th of August 2025. We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting on Saturday the 9th of August 2025 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards.

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for the week. Pieter ZS6TP celebrating his birthday on Thursday the 31st. Congratulations 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 Anton ZS6WG and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!