

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 1st of July 2025.

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 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 JULY 2025 RADIO ZS:

The July 2025 issue of Radio ZS will be available for download this evening. Visit <https://mysarl.org.za/> and look under the News tab.

We look at repeaters — your friends in high places, and sometimes very quiet! What is antenna polarisation and why does it matter? The 2025 IARU HF World Championship Contest takes place on the second weekend of July, and we are looking for operators for ZS9HQ, both CW and phone operators. In the Museum Column, we look at John Logie Baird and television.

Bernie, ZS4TX, gives feedback on his A21TX - V5/ZS4TX - D2TX VHF/UHF DXpedition in April and May 2025, and there is feedback on the 9L5A Sierra Leone 2024 DXpedition. We look at the amazing technology of pico balloons and what the Secunda ARC is doing with pico balloons. We visit the Ifafa Beach Lighthouse, one of three lighthouses near the Aliwal Shoal... and you can read about the Earth-Venus-Earth (EVE 25) experiment and more in this issue.

GET THE SARL NEWS BULLETINS BY E-MAIL:

The SARL Secretary has set up a mailing list on Groups.io for the distribution of the weekly SARL News Bulletins and SARL Communications from Council to members. The initial invitation was sent out on 12 May to 1 569 e-mail addresses. On Thursday 5 June, the Secretary sent out an invitation to join the mailing list again. To date, 502 members have responded and are receiving the weekly SARL News bulletins via e-mail. The other 1 067 members, please look in your inbox or spam folder for the invitation. You can subscribe by sending an e-mail to sarlcommunications+subscribe@groups.io.

THE SECUNDA ARC PICO BALLOON PROJECT:

The Secunda Amateur Radio Club (ZS6SRC) is proud to announce a series of twelve commemorative pico balloon launches, the first one on Saturday 24 May 2025, from the Trichardt Model Aircraft Club. These launches form part of the 100-year centenary celebrations of the South African Radio League (SARL), founded in May 1925.

The project also pays tribute to more than a decade of BACAR – Balloon Carrying Amateur Radio – and honours the individuals who contributed to its success since its inception. The first

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BACAR event took place over 12 years ago and the idea itself dates to the late 1970s, when Hans, ZS6AKV laid the foundation for amateur radio ballooning in South Africa.

Each pico balloon will commemorate one of the individuals who made a significant contribution to BACAR. The target launch window runs from 24 May to the second Saturday in October 2025. The balloons are transmitting WSPR on (dial): 14,09560 MHz and/or 14,09578 MHz.

ZS6SRC-21 'Stewart' was launched at 09:30 on Saturday, 7 June 2025 and around midnight on Wednesday 25 June, it completed its first trip around the world. At present it is southwest of Madagascar on its second trip around the world and has travelled 42 412 km. Some interesting facts about pico 'Stewart' – at 09:00 CAT on 9 June, the pico achieved a speed of 289 km/h and at 20:40 CAT on Friday 20 June, Stewart achieved its highest altitude of 12 420 meters. At 12:50 CAT on 22 June, the minimum temperature was -31 degrees Celsius at the height of 12 220 metres, and at 08:30 CAT on 26 June, the pico had travelled 3 566 km overnight.

ZS6SRC-22 'Tiffany' was launched at 11:16 CAT on Monday 16 June 2025. Tiffany has travelled 17 929 km and at 01:36 CAT on 24 June was travelling at 321 km/h. On 24 June, the longest distance travelled overnight was measured at 01:26 CAT at 3 621 km, at 23:46 CAT, Tiffany reached 11 740 m above ground and at 23:56 CAT the lowest temperature was measured at -36 degrees Celsius.

Other pico balloon news is that LU7DZV-1 pico is close to entering Namibian airspace, close to the South African border. It could turn south to cross South Africa. See if we can decode and spot this one also.

Then the Eden Amateur Radio Club in George announced that they will launch a Pico Balloon today, Sunday 29 June, weather permitting. This pico balloon will be carrying a WSPR beacon transmitting on 28,126 MHz. The goal is to achieve a long-duration flight and circumnavigate the globe multiple times before the mission ends. The WSPR payload will transmit every 10 minutes using the call sign ZS1ERZ. Thanks to Stewart, ZR1WT, for his work with the balloon.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the low 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 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 80. 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:

5 July – the SARL Newbie QSO Party, and the ZS6PTA Flea Market

6 July - World Rural Development Day and the ZS5 QSO Party

7 July – closing date for AMSAT SA Paper proposals

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CLUB NEWS:

JULY CLUB MEETING:

Please save the date 12th of July 2025. We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting on Saturday the 12th of July 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 this week. Jacques ZS6MAV celebrating his birthday on Monday the 7th of July, 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 and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!