

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 8th 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:

SILENT KEY:

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of John Fielding, ZS5JF went silent on Saturday 28 June 2025. On 9 June, John was diagnosed with cancer. John was a founder member of the Highway ARC and served on the SARL Council for many years as the VHF/UHF Manager. He also represented the SARL at several IARU Region 1 Conferences. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Penny, family and many friends.

THE NEW WEBSITE – AN UPDATE:

Thank you to the members who have signed onto the portal! Passing 500 is a milestone, but not the finish line. But we are slowly getting there. Please encourage members and non-members to sign on to the portal.

The website was given a boost this week with a new NEWS menu. Under the News menu item on <https://mysarl.org.za/> you can submit news items through the News Inbox, link to old news bulletins and download the Radio ZS. The new Recent News Posts will take you to recent posts where you can catch up with what is happening in the world of amateur radio in South Africa. At the time of writing this news item, the recent posts include contest information, Pico balloon, SOTA and club news. Go to <https://mysarl.org.za/> and click on the NEWS item on the menu.

Your club can also submit articles – send the contact details for your club's secretary/scribe/editor to webmaster@sarl.org.za and we will create an account for you. Several clubs have already taken up the opportunity.

We know you all loved the old site, but like a good wine or a summer vacation, that too has passed. The familiarity of the old site, along with bookmarked links, is gone. We are trying to put all the information you need at your fingertips. If there is something you cannot find – please ask the webmaster. If there is something you feel is not in the correct place – tell the webmaster. Without feedback, we can only assume everything is perfect and everyone is happy.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Please join the new normal – sign up on the portal, use the forum and submit news items. It is your hobby too!

AN UPDATE OF THE BALLOON LAUNCH FROM GEORGE

The balloon launch was originally scheduled for Sunday 29 July 2025. Several enthusiastic Eden Radio Club members, along with a reporter from the George Herald, gathered at 9:00 in anticipation of the event. However, by 11:00 we made the difficult decision to cancel the launch due to persistent cloud cover, which posed a potential risk to the mission.

Fortunately, the next day brought ideal conditions—clear blue skies and minimal wind. Although the morning began with a light breeze, by 10:00 the launch was successfully executed by Stewart, ZS1WT. The balloon began transmitting as expected every 10 minutes and tracked a southeasterly course toward Antarctica. Its final transmission was received at 14:56 that afternoon. By that time, it had travelled 254 km and reached an altitude of only 4,600 meters. It was moving at 85 km/h, with the sun at an elevation of 22 degrees and the solar panel producing 3,6 volts. It was expected that the balloon would stop transmitting at that time of day due to insufficient solar power.

Regrettably, there have been no further signals received since. Analysis of the conditions at the last known location using tools such as Windy.com suggests strong north-westerly winds, likely pushing the balloon deeper toward Antarctica, where the sun remains at a very low angle during this time of year. It could be several days before it encounters a southeasterly wind stream capable of redirecting it toward Australia. Then

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the low solar activity levels are going to continue during the week. There are currently 7 sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a moderate 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 63. 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:

9 July – closing date for AMSAT SA Paper proposals
12 and 13 July - the IARU HF Championships
15 July – World Youth Skills Day and Delville Wood Day
19 July – SARL QRP Contest

CLUB NEWS:

JULY CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting for July this Saturday 12th of July 2025 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

We will continue with our quest to conquer the elusive fox. So come and enjoy the afternoon with us as we learn more about all the ins and outs of foxhunting, equipment requirements and everything else we need to know in order to have a successful foxhunt.

As usual and if we have enough members that are interested, we will end the meeting with the traditional bring and braai, so make sure you bring something to enjoy afterwards.

We will have some cold drinks in the cooler box, so make sure to bring some cash to feed the green monster!!!

See you all there!

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have no birthdays or anniversaries on our list for this week.

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!