

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 12th of August 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 at we announce that the key of Roy Alexander, ZS6MI went silent on Sunday 3 August 2025. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Marita and sons Roy and Neil, family and friends.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Tuesday 12 August is International Youth Day and to celebrate this event, you are invited to participate in the SARL Youth QSO Party from 12:00 to 13:00 UTC on Saturday 16 August. It is a fun activity to celebrate the Youth and to promote contacts between young radio amateurs in Southern African countries. The exchange is a RS or RST report and the age of the operator. Get all the information in the 2025 SARL Contest Manual.

The IARU Region 1 Youngster on the Air Summer Camp will be held between 18 and 25 August at the Chateau Jambville, just outside Paris, France. Elri du Rand, ZU6EDR has her visa, her flight ticket and tons of enthusiasm. Elri, all the best and enjoy the YOTA Summer Camp.

THE INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND ON 16 AND 17 AUGUST:

The International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend will take place from 00:01 UTC on Saturday 16 August to 23:59 UTC on Sunday 17 August. The event is not a contest and participation is free. Each station's operators decide on which bands and modes they will operate, there are no restrictions on antennas or power, each station must be operated in compliance with the operator's license. Amateur radio operators are encouraged to enjoy the event and make as many contacts as possible.

The log sheet for the 2025 Southern African Lighthouse Award is available from <https://mysarl.org.za/hf/>, the completed log sheet must be sent to secretary@sarl.org.za. At present there are 11 lighthouses in ZS1 and 1 lighthouse each in ZS2 and ZS5 registered. Visit <https://illw.net/index.php> for complete information, including registration, guidelines and a current list of participants.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

HISTORIC SOUTH AFRICAN PICO BALLOONS IN FLIGHT – MORE LAUNCHES

PLANNED:

The South African Pico Balloon Tracking Group reports that South African amateur radio enthusiasts are celebrating two successful pico balloon launches, with both balloons currently performing exceptionally on their global journeys.

ZS6SRC-25 was launched on 2 August 2025 at 09:30 from Secunda on 20 m, Channel 82. Despite an intermittent transmitter in the early phase, the balloon quickly stabilised, reaching 11 800 m over Australia with speeds up to 228 km/h. It has since crossed the Pacific Ocean and continues toward South America.

ZR6TG-3, launched on 3 August 2025 from Vanderbijlpark on 20 m, Channel 63, achieved excellent stability using a 60-inch Mylar balloon with 8 g free lift. It has already crossed Madagascar, traversed the Indian Ocean and passed New Zealand, with speeds recorded at 250 km/h. Reception reports have been received from spotters across Africa, Australia and New Zealand, with a maximum confirmed reception distance of 19 957 km.

The South African pico balloon community is now preparing for its largest coordinated launch event yet, scheduled for 16 August 2025 (weather permitting), featuring - ZR6TG-4 – 20 m, Channel 125; ZS1ERZ-12 – 10 m, Channel 24 and ZS6SRC-26 – 20 m, Channel 194. A possible fourth balloon to be confirmed. The Pico Group encourage local amateurs to track the balloons using WSPR.

This event marks a milestone for amateur radio and high-altitude ballooning in South Africa. Spotting stations worldwide are encouraged to prepare to receive and report signals, contributing to global tracking efforts. Contact the Pico Balloon Tracking Group at e-mail secradio@jenny.co.za and visit <https://wsprtv.com>

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at moderate levels during the week. There are currently 10 sunspot regions with simple to complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C-class 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 82. The 30 to 10 m bands may provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

12 August – International Youth Day

12 and 13 August – the Perseids meteor shower.

16 August – the Hibiscus Coast ARC 25th Birthday, the SARL Youth QSO party and the Pico Balloon launch

16 and 17 August - the International Lighthouse Weekend

18 to 25 August – the Region 1 YOTA Summer Camp

CLUB NEWS:

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

AUGUST CLUB MEETING:

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

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for this week. Paulette XYL of Selwyn ZS5SEL celebrating her birthday on Saturday the 16th of August, 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!