

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 2nd of September 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 if club Echolink is not available 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 announce that the key of Sidney Freedman, ZS6SID and ZS5SID, went silent on Monday, 25 August 2025. We extend our sincere condolences to his brother, Joseph, EI2JVB (ex-ZS6JOE), family, and friends.

YOTA 2025:

Elri Du Rand, ZU6EDR, represented the SARL at the recently held YOTA 2025 at Château de Jambville, near Paris, France. It was a very successful week by all accounts, with Elri safely back at home carrying a suitcase full of enthusiasm for amateur radio. More information is available at <http://www.ham-yota.com>.

ARISS CONTACT WITH LEARNERS FROM THE ORION PRIMARY SCHOOL IN ALBERTON:

A successful direct contact with the International Space Station (ISS) via Amateur Radio took place at 11:35 CAT on Friday 29 August 2025, allowing youngsters to ask their questions to astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AI and encouraging students to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in extracurricular activities.

Eight schools participated, with representatives from each school present at the ground station asking their individual questions. In total, 15 questions were answered by Mike from the ISS before contact was lost. The event was streamed to the participating schools and on social media.

Congratulations to Dr Gerhard Gericke, ZS6CRS and the team of dedicated radio amateurs from the Alberton Amateur Radio Interest Group, who supplied equipment and manned the ground station. The callsign ZS9LSO was operated within the school hall. In attendance at this remarkable event were all the learners of the school, teachers, and invited guests.

The SARL was represented by the President, Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, and Vice President, Guy Eales, ZS6GUY, who expressed their appreciation to the ground station team for making this event possible and for promoting amateur radio to the public.

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PICO BALLOON NEWS:

ZS4SRK launched its first Pico Balloon on Saturday morning, 23 August 2025, out of Vaalpark. Exciting updates on the high-flying ZS4SRK Pico Balloon, launched on 23 August 2025, on its journey to Australia's coast. ZS4SRK-60 commemorates the 60th year of the Sasolburg Radio Club in 2025. What happened on 24 August 2025 at 04:30 UTC?

The balloon experienced a sharp change in direction while cruising at about 11,4 km altitude. This was likely caused by the jet stream's dynamic winds — the powerful, high-altitude westerly winds near 24° S latitude. As the balloon moved through meandering jet stream curves, it entered a new wind corridor that steered it south-eastward. Daytime solar heating may also have nudged it into different wind layers, affecting its path. After seven days into its journey, the balloon slipped out of the main slipstream to hover at an average of 11,5 km over the Pacific Ocean. It is drifting further north than many other ZS-Pico balloons, and we keep our eyes peeled and receivers active to know where it will report from next.

The Secunda ARC is challenging other clubs to launch a Pico Balloon! The Eden ARC (George), the Sasolburg ARC, and Tom, ZR6TG, have balloons flying around the world. To help you get hold of all the bits and pieces required, contact Gideon Jannasch, ZS4GJA, on WhatsApp 072 601 0058. Gideon and his team want to order parts and do a bulk order to bring costs down. Send your name, your QTH, your mobile number, and how many kits (Pi Pico, Jetpack, and 60-inch balloon) you want. We will then calculate the cost and let you know. If you are satisfied, the order will be placed.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels during the week. There are currently 12 sunspot regions with simple to slightly complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability of C-class, and a moderate probability of M-class, solar flares. If you want to make your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 76. The 30- to 15-metre bands may provide some DX fun. Please visit spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

6 and 7 September — the Region 1 Field Day, the RSGB SSB Field Day, the SARL National Field Day and the SARL VHF/UHF FM Contest

7 September — a lunar eclipse over South Africa

13 September — the European SOTA Day and the Africa FT4 DX Contest

13 and 14 September — the ZS SOTA Spring Weekend

CLUB NEWS:

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting this coming Saturday the 6th of September 2025 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards.

We will continue with our foxhunting experiments. 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.

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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 one birthday on our list for the week. Roelie XYL of John ZS6LS celebrating her birthday on Thursday the 4th. 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 Stephen ZS6SKY and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!