

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 9th of September 2025.

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Get ZS6GFS, 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:

THE ZS SOTA SPRING WEEKEND 2025:

The ZS Summits on the Air Spring weekend is just around the corner, taking place on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September. The European SOTA day takes place on Saturday 13 September, so there is an opportunity for DX contacts as well. More information is available on the SOTA/POTA ZS WhatsApp group. And in the 2025 SARL contest manual you will find information about logging your contacts. Please keep an ear open for the activators, most of who will be operating at relatively low power - working a small pile-up makes the slog uphill worthwhile!

THE FLIGHT REPORT ON THE ZS1ERZ-12 PICO BALLOON:

On Saturday, 16 August 2025, Stewart, ZR1WT in collaboration with the Eden ARC, ZS1ERZ, successfully launched the high-altitude pico balloon ZS1ERZ-12 from the Ystervark Point lighthouse as part of the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW).

The payload is a WSPR beacon transmitting on the 10 m band (channel 24) at 20 mW. Within three hours, the balloon ascended to 12 320 metres, where it recorded a temperature of – 30 °C and a solar panel voltage of 4,05 V. From there, it crossed the coastline and began its journey over the Indian ocean toward Australia. The launch video is available from <https://youtu.be/oswlUXJywoE>.

Initial speed reports showed 107 km/h on the first day, but in the following days the balloon accelerated to over 200 km/h. At 07:56 UTC on the morning of Thursday 28 August, ZS1ERZ-12 reawakened and confirmed it had completed its first circumnavigation of the Earth. By Friday 5 September, it is about to complete lap #2 of planet Earth. The first lap took 12 days from 16 August to 28 August. Lap two will possibly take 9 days from 5 September.

It is great to see the interest and plans from amateurs in Mauritius to launch a pico balloon soon. Follow the ZS Pico Balloon WhatsApp Group.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels during the week. There are currently 10 sunspot regions with simple to slightly complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C and M-class solar flares. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 108. 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:

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

13 and 14 September — the ZS SOTA Spring Weekend

22 September – the Spring equinox

CLUB NEWS:

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING:

Our September club meeting was held this past Saturday at our club house. Unfortunately the club meeting coincided with the SARL Field Day Contest. However the usual members was in attendance with one exception. John ZS6LS was on the East Rand and made the effort to come and enjoy the afternoon with us, thanks John it was great to see you!!!

The following update on our Fox hunting learning progress courtesy of Anton ZS6WG: KARTS members had lots of fun sharing information regarding the fox hunt. We had 2 visitors that joined us and shared some of their valuable experiences and ideas with the their fellow club members. Richard ZR6DE from Sandton ARC and legend Renato ZS6REN showed their enthusiasm in finding the elusive fox. We played around by tuning to the 3rd harmonic frequency of the fox (which ideally falls in the 70cm band), but although it improved the results the signal was still too strong to do effective direction finding. The biggest challenge of the day was when we realized that the signal emitted from the fox required attenuation, especially when getting in close range with it. Various methods were tried to muffle the signal, all without much success until Renato's suggestion to use a variable attenuator which he kindly donated an proved to add significant results.

From the afternoon's fun and collaboration, the following was evident:

- A good directional antenna is required.
- Even when using triangulation methods, it is essential to use signal attenuation to reduce
- strong signals when getting closer to the fox.
- A certain level of technical skill is required.
- Finally, a great sense of adventure is essential to find the hidden fox.

Thanks for everyone's knowledge, contribution and making it a fun afternoon.

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

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 by Gert ZS6GFA and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!