

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 16th of September 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 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 2026 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION:

The Port Elizabeth ARS will be the hosts of the 2026 SARL National Convention over the weekend of 1 to 3 May 2026. PEARS is busy with arrangements at the Willows Resort and Conference Centre just south of Port Elizabeth - <https://thewillowspe.co.za/>. There is accommodation in chalets, cottages, rondavels and bungalows as well as caravan and camping sites. The Conference Centre will be used for the AGM and the Awards Dinner.

The nomination forms for the various SARL Awards are available from the SARL website, as well as the forms for submitting a motion or a point of discussion at the AGM <https://mysarl.org.za/sarl-agm-2026/>. The closing date for Award nominations, motions and points of discussion is midnight on Saturday 31 January 2026 and must only be sent to secretary@sarl.org.za.

THE CENTENARY BACAR FLIGHT:

Do you know that it is almost October and what this means is you better get ready for the Centenary BACAR flight. For those who do not know anything about BACAR, this is the shortened term for Balloon Carrying Amateur Radio and the Secunda ARC, the BACAR and Pico Balloon guru's will be launching the next Weather Balloon BACAR flight at around 07:00 CAT on 10 October, weather permitting. These flights contain multiple 10 cm x 10 cm cubesat style payloads coupled together in a long string hanging down below the balloon. All amateurs and Clubs are invited to include their payloads on the flight. The balloon is likely to get deep into the stratosphere and fly at a height of around 30 km with a flight time of between two and three hours if all goes to plan.

We have it on good authority that once again there will be several cross-band repeaters onboard for making QSOs across the country via the BACAR balloon, several cameras taking pictures of the curvature of the earth, a VHF SSTV transmitter, LORA and APRS transmitters and perhaps even a WSPR beacon.

The Sandton Amateur Club will also be represented with two payloads this year, one of which is being built by Nathan, ZR6BN, and the second will be a UHF SSTV transmitter built by Keith, ZS6Hi, but that is not all. In certain of the UHF SSTV images there will be embedded

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clues and besides the pleasure of successfully decoding the transmitted images, the first person to identify the answer to the embedded clues will also once receive a Takealot gift voucher as an added incentive.

For those that do not know how to receive SSTV images, do yourself a favour and do a bit of googling and preparation, as it is relatively easily done. All that is really needed is a mobile phone with the Robot36 app and a handy talkie tuned to the SSTV transmitter frequency, or alternatively a laptop/pc with a programme like MMSSTV loaded and a speaker to listen to the audio from your receiving radio. An AMSAT Yagi or satellite antenna for your radio pointed at the balloon may also assist, but it's not 100% necessary.

With only four weeks to the BACAR centenary launch, everyone is racing to get prepared. Are you excited yet? Well then, get that heart pumping, that mind working, and your systems prepared. It is going to be a flight for the history books.

SARL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

The SARL thanks all the Members who have renewed their membership. If you have not yet renewed your membership, visit <https://mysarl.org.za/membership-rates/> to get the SARL Bank details and the amount you need to pay. Please use your call sign as the reference when doing the EFT. You have until Friday 31 October 2025 to pay your membership fees.

THE OCTOBER RAE:

The RAE team has informed the News Team that ninety-five (95) candidates have registered for the October RAE to be written on Saturday 18 October 2025.

SARL WELL REPRESENTED AT WRC NPWG TECHNICAL MEETINGS

The Department of Communications and Digital Technology hosted the second World Radiocommunication National Preparatory Work Group meeting at the CSIR conference centre on Friday 12 September to review reports from all South African WRC-27 agenda item rapporteurs. The meeting was arranged to provide feedback to the Department and interested parties. The South African Radio League was represented by Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ and James Archibald, ZS6NS. Due to time constraints, not all rapporteurs were able to make their presentation. They presented at a virtual TEAMS meeting on Wednesday 10 September.

As stated in the SARL's Spectrum and Technology workgroup's WRC-27 Position Paper V3, it is recommended that monitoring of the SA NPWG WRC-27 continues so that the league can ensure that there is no "frequency allocation scope creep" before CPM-2. CPM-2 will be held in early 2027. Having members of the SARL attending the SA NPWG meetings bodes well for the League as networking with other organisations is important.

The follow up meeting was attended by James Archibald and Hans van de Groenendaal. Brian Jacobs was attending to Hamnet matters. The meeting was well attended by industry. James Archibald reported to SARL News that from his observations there is still nothing serious for the SARL to be concerned about regarding the WRC-27 Agenda Items having an influence on

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amateur radio services. He said that the last version of the SARL's WRC-27 position paper (version 3) still stands.

Until the end of 2025 many WRC-27 working parties will be holding meetings on their agenda items, therefore it is envisaged that any changes to agenda items will only be seen at the next SA NPWG session which is planned for the first quarter of 2026.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels during the week. There are currently 5 sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C-class 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 69. 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:

16 September - The start of the SARL 6 metre challenge

22 September - The Spring equinox

22 to 24 September - Rosh Hashanah

24 September - National Braai Day and the Sandton Power Hour Tech Talk

CLUB NEWS:

OCTOBER CLUB MEETING:

Please save the date 11th of October 2025. We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting on Saturday the 11th of October 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 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. _____

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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!