

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 21st of October 2025.

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Anton ZS6WG, 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

Read 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 host of the 2026 SARL National Convention over the weekend of 1 to 3 May 2026. PEARS will present the National Convention at the Willows Resort and Conference Centre just south of Port Elizabeth - <https://thewillowspe.co.za/>. The SARL Technology Symposium will be held on Saturday 11 April 2026.

The nomination forms for the various SARL Awards and Trophies, as well as the forms for submitting a motion or a point of discussion at the AGM, are available from the SARL website at <https://mysarl.org.za/sarl-agm-2026/>. The closing date for Award nominations, motions and points of discussion is midnight on Saturday 31 January 2025 and must only be sent to secretary@sarl.org.za.

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. Please do it as soon as possible.

DISTURBING NEWS ABOUT TYPE APPROVAL:

On the 28 September 2016, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) published a Discussion Document on Equipment Type Approval Exemption, General Notice 621 of 2016 (Government Gazette No. 40309) ("the Discussion Document"), in terms of Section 4B of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act, 2000, as amended. The purpose of the Discussion Document was to solicit input from interested parties on prescribing the following: The types of equipment, electronic communications facilities and radio apparatus, the use of which does not require approval where such equipment, electronic communications facilities and radio apparatus has been approved for use by the European Telecommunications Standards Associations or other competent standards body where the equipment complies with type approval standards prescribed by the Authority.

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It was expected that the final document would be gazetted at the beginning of ICASA's financial year in April this year. Recently the SARL requested ICASA for an update. ICASA replied as follows, "The procurement to appoint certification bodies was unsuccessful and we currently have to re-do the process. This means we are yet again stuck with no prospect of enforcing the regulations yet and we are going to invite prospective certification bodies again some time in November. This means we will potentially be able to active (sic) the regulations early next year."

It should be noted that this does not affect home brew equipment. The SARL will discuss the situation at the next liaison meeting in November

BACAR-13

The Sandton Amateur Radio Club would like to extend a weather balloon sized thank you to Christo and the Secunda Amateur Radio Club for arranging and hosting the BACAR-13 balloon launch that took place on the morning of Saturday 11 October, the SARL Hamnet team that successfully chased and recovered all the payloads, those that spent hours constructing and flying their CubeSat payloads, as well as those that came to spectate, or track and interact with the payloads.

The furthest SSTV receiving station was most likely John, A2NEW in Botswana who received multiple VHF and UHF SSTV images in great quality, with the extremely low power WSPR transmissions being received by many local and European stations.

The data analysis and review of what worked and did not work is now on the go. And here is a hot tip, if you want to fly your payload in October 2026, best start preparing now before time runs out. Thanks, BACAR team, it was a great event.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There are currently 8 sunspot regions with simple to complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C- and M-class solar flares and a low probability for X-class flares. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 98. The 10 to 30 m bands may especially during the early mornings and late afternoons provide some DX fun.

Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

21 and 22 October – the Orionids Meteor Shower

25 and 26 October – the CQ WW DX SSB Contest

29 October – the Sandton Power Hour Tech Talk

CLUB NEWS:

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING:

Please save the date 8th of November 2025. We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting on Saturday the 8th of November 2025 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards.

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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 by Anton ZS6WG and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!