

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 28th of October 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

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 DIARY OF EVENTS:

On Monday 13 October, the SARL Secretary sent out a draft copy of the 2026 SARL Diary of Events in PDF and MS Publisher format. The SARL Communications mailing list was used, the one used to send out SARL News each Saturday (519 members).

Thank you to the East Rand, West Rand and Pretoria Clubs for providing dates of their flea markets. The SARL Technical Symposium will be held on Saturday 11 April 2026 and the AMSAT SA Space Symposium on Saturday 1 August 2026. Send the dates of your Club's activities to secretary@sarl.org.za.

THE NOVEMBER 2025 RADIO ZS:

The November 2025 issue of Radio ZS will be available for download from Thursday morning 30 October. In this issue we look back to 1984 and a new two-metre EME world record, while Gary, ZS6YI talks about the Lost Diode. Elri, ZU6EDR takes us to the YOTA 2025 summer camp in Jambville, France: we look at Morse for the younger generation and contesting with the Youth Overlay. Read about the ZS Elmer Mobile Application, the Ground Loop Antenna and Parks on the Air from a Hot-Air Balloon. In the Museum Piece, we look at the invention of László Bíró, we look what is inside your go-box and build a CAT cable for a Kenwood TK-90. And more.

There is still time to submit your article – send it to radiozs@sarl.org.za by Wednesday 29 October 2025.

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

The ZS1ERZ-12 pico balloon has now started its seventh circumnavigation of the globe. The balloon has travelled over 210 000 km in 62 days. On Friday 24 October, the balloon was at 12 640 m asl and west-south-west of Amsterdam Island and north-north-east of Kerguelen Island. It is regaining height and moving back up to 38° S latitude. You can follow the balloon on aprs.fi, type in zs1erz-12 and press the search button.

THE IARU MAKES ITS POSITION CLEAR: AMATEUR RADIO BANDS MUST BE PROTECTED:

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), as an ITU-R sector member and observer in several international and regional organisations, has called for the protection of the complex and diverse range of existing radiocommunication services listed in the Table of Frequency Allocations under RR Article 5, Section IV. This comes in response to an application by a commercial satellite company for the use of five frequencies in the 430 – 440 MHz band.

Why does the 430 – 440 MHz Band matter?

The 430 – 440 MHz band supports a wide range of amateur and amateur satellite applications, including: Weak-signal communications, Space communications, Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) links, Digital television, Data transmission, Repeaters and Emergency communication systems. Because of these critical functions, the amateur community has raised strong opposition to the commercial application.

Massive Public Response and FCC Intervention

The IARU, together with national amateur radio societies, associations, and individuals, submitted over 2,550 objections to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). On 29 August, the FCC Space Bureau responded, “At this time, to address the concerns raised by amateur radio operators and petitioners, we issued a limited grant to AST to conduct emergency operations in the 430 – 440 MHz band when no other bands are available for a period not to exceed 24 hours.” The IARU welcomes this decision but continues to stress that invoking RR Article 4.4 is not appropriate in this case.

Concerns About RR 4.4 and Spectrum Allocation Practices

The IARU has started examining the broader implications of RR Article 4.4—particularly where one country authorises international frequency use for non-GSO systems outside of the established RR Article 5 Table IV. These actions often bypass: Compatibility studies and Spectrum sharing analysis. Transparency measures used during World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) study cycles. Furthermore, there are no technical or operational justifications from the applicant AST to use the 430 – 440 MHz band.

A Better Way Forward

According to the IARU, the most rational, plausible, and secure approach to spectrum use is to adhere to international best practices: Use the Table of Frequency Allocations, Apply correct bands for telemetry, tracking, command, and emergency operations and promote harmonised use without causing harmful interference

The Need for Regulatory Reforms.

There may be a need to review and strengthen RR No. 4.4 and other relevant regulations. This would reduce the risk of harmful interference and restore transparency to the spectrum management process. The IARU supports the recent discussions in ITU Working Party WP 4A, which focus on improving and clarifying the use of RR No. 4.4, especially for non-GSO satellite operations.

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South Africa's Involvement through the SARL

The SARL Regulatory Team, who represent South Africa on the National Preparatory Working Group (NPWG) for WRC-27, are currently in active discussion with the National Team participating in WP 4A.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels during the week. There are currently 7 sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C- 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 99. The 30 to 10 m bands may provide some good dx fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

29 October – the Sandton Power Hour Tech Talk

4 and 5 November – the Taurids Meteor Shower

8 November – the West Rand Flea Market

9 November – Remembrance Day

11 November – Armistice Day

THE OCTOBER POWER HOUR TECH TALK:

The October Power Hour Tech Talk is this coming Wednesday evening, 29 October at 19:00 CAT and you are invited. Many chased and managed to make SOTA contacts with Brandon ZS6LZ or 7P8LZ, as he battled the weather whilst attempting to activate 10 SOTA peaks during his Lesotho mini SOTA DXpedition in September 2025.

Now it is your chance to relive the adventure, feel the cold, take shelter from the rain, be buffeted by the wind, negotiate cliffs in the mist, and celebrate the achievements and the joy of all the contacts made, through photographs and stories direct from the adventures themselves, via Zoom, this coming Wednesday evening 29 October.

Brandon ZS6LZ, the intrepid hiker and SOTA activator and Matthew ZS6MDV, the ground support and overwatch station, will be our two guest speakers for the evening. They will give us all the details on the ups and downs, literally and figuratively, of their Lesotho mini SOTA DXpedition, as they plan, travel from Johannesburg, enjoy a beer in Nottingham, negotiate Sani Pass and activate SOTA peaks during Brandon's hike across the berg all the way to Giants Castle, with lots of pictures and stories to excite and keep us entertained.

Did you chase the SOTA activations? Then please come along and perhaps even add your voice to and share your chaser view and experience with the talk. Please diarise this coming Wednesday evening, 29 October at 19:00 CAT to join the Power Hour Tech Talk on Zoom. The Zoom Meeting ID is 873 2411 8244, and the Passcode is 186458. Let us relive the adventure.

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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.

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 Stephen ZS6SKY and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!