

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 11th of November 2025.

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Gert 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

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:

ZS4AFV AT THE MALUTI MILITARY FAIR:

The Maluti Military Fair is taking place on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 November at the Sandstone Heritage Estate in the Eastern Free State. Apart from the steam trains, military vehicles, airplanes and other exhibits, there will be a display of military radios and an amateur radio station. The call sign of the SA Armour Museum will be active. Listen out for ZS4AFV or ZS4 Armoured Fighting Vehicle on the HF bands. All the QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog.

SABS TC73 RESPONSE TO THE HF INCREASING NOISE LEVEL DISAPPOINTING:

The increasing level of RF noise on the HF band, which is now, according to reports, encroaching VHF, was on this week's SABS TC73 agenda as an emerging need discussion. Technical Committee 73 deals with EMC and related standards. The item was originally placed on the April meeting agenda after a presentation by Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV.

At the April meeting members of the committee were charged to review the presentation and video about the DARC ENAMS RF noise monitoring system and submit their comments by 31 August for further discussion at the November meeting. No input was received. It appears that the material was not made available on the TC73 portal.

The Chairman of TC73, Frans Cebisa, expressed his disappointment and requested that the presentation and video link be placed on the TC73 portal. Members are requested to review the proposal and to submit their input on the way forward by the end of February for a report to be tabled at the Meeting on 21 April 2026. He also undertook to approach the responsible department at ICASA to make input.

The TC 73 meeting was attended by Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ and Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV

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PICO BALLOON NEWS:

The high-altitude pico balloon ZS1ERZ-12 completed its seventh circumnavigation of our planet on Wednesday 5 November at 09:42. As of Friday 7 November, it has been 82 days and 19 hours since launch and balloon has travelled 247 541 km. Thursday brought a tense period of radio silence, with no spots detected. Fortunately, BM2KVV in Japan picked up the signal at 05:32 the following day — ending 4 700 km of silence. Subsequent reports from Australian stations confirmed that ZS1ERZ-12 is still transmitting.

WEST RAND REPEATER OFF THE AIR:

The West Rand ARC would like to announce that the West Rand 145,625 MHz repeater, located at the Wilro Park Water Tower in Mimosa Street, Roodepoort, will be off the air for a week or so. The main reason for this is maintenance and an upgraded solar system. Yes, that is correct, our Club repeater has been a solar-powered repeater for almost four years, to the week. Following a series of cable thefts and power outages in the past, both the West Rand 2-metre and 70-centimetre repeaters have been powered by a solar system. This system has powered both repeaters for years on end and it was almost forgotten that it had not used any mains power for so long.

Earlier this year, the system had a setback after a prolonged two weeks of continuous overcast weather. This caused the battery to drain beyond a point of recharge. The battery was replaced with a standby eight-year-old battery and it seems like the duty cycle has gotten the best of this old battery in the past few overcast weeks as well.

The technical team plans to source a Victron MPPT charger and double the solar panel potential by adding a second panel in series. This will be enough to allow extra capacity and free, sun-powered energy for the Saturday AWA bulletin and Sunday bulletin from the All-Star ZA-Net that we came to enjoy and love. More information on this upgrade is to follow.

The West Rand ARC would like to invite other Clubs and individuals to partner in our next exciting repeater project. Having had a good experience with the All-Star Network, we believe this paves the way to link two radios on different sites.

Our next plan is to find a partner and sponsors for a 10-metre FM repeater location and the necessary equipment. It was very exciting to hear a European 10 m FM station the other day during a 10 m opening. This will be the ideal way to test the proof of local and DX propagation by simply adding a CW beacon or calling CQ. The ideal radio for this project is an Anytone AT-6666 10 m radio capable of FM and CTCSS. For more information, contact the West Rand ARC at info@zs6wr.co.za.

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 seven sunspot regions with simple to 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

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week will be around 77. 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:

11 November – Armistice Day

15 November – the Newbie QSO Party

17 and 18 November – the Leonids Meteor Shower

21 and 22 November – ZS4AFV at the Maluti Military Fair

22 November – the SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest

CLUB NEWS:

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING: Call Corrie ZS6CDB for feedback and update:

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 Gert ZS6GFS and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!