

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 25th of November 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:

SARL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORK GROUP (STWG) REPORT BACK:

Two members of the SARL Science and Technology Workgroup attended the recent African Telecommunications Union virtual meeting. Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ, attended day one, while James Archibold, ZS6NS, attended both days. On day one, the input document "Strengthening the Role of Amateur Radio in Africa" was presented by Dr Alfred Bogere from Uganda. The chairman requested that examples of where Amateur Radio has played a key role in emergency communications be incorporated and that the document be updated. James, ZS6NS submitted a summary of eight past instances of Amateur Radio involvement in disasters to Dr Bogere for inclusion in the document. It was also suggested that hyperlinks to the respective societies be included in the final document.

THE DECEMBER RADIO ZS:

The closing date for your article for the December issue of Radio ZS is Wednesday 26 November. Send your article in MS Word or Open Office Write to radiozs@sarl.org.za.

NEED A BOOK? GET IT ON BLACK FRIDAY

The SA Amateur Radio Development Trust online book shop is offering a Black Friday discount on all stock items this Black Friday. For more details, visit www.amateurradio.org.za. This offer is valid until 15 December 2025.

PICO BALLOON NEWS

The high-altitude Pico balloon ZS1ERZ-12 completed its eighth circumnavigation of our planet on Monday 17 November. As of Friday 21 November 2025, it has been 96 days since the launch and the balloon has travelled over 272 000 km.

During this lap, it spent a few days near the Antarctica station DP0GVN. From there, it headed north to the Indian Ocean. However, when last heard, it was again travelling south-east towards Antarctica.

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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 moderate to 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 50. 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:

26 November – the Sandton Power Hour Technical Talk

29-30 November – the CQ WW CW Contest

1 December – the start of December YOTA Month

3 December - International Day of Persons with Disabilities

5 December - International Volunteers Day and World Soil Day

SANDTON POWER HOUR TECHNICAL TALK:

The November Power Hour Tech Talk is this coming Wednesday evening, 26 November, at 19:00 CAT and as advertised, we will be delving into the BACAR-13 mission that flew to the edge of space on 11 October and all the payloads that it carried deep into the stratosphere.

You will hear all about what is needed to fly BACAR and perhaps even why we do this, as it's a tad more involved than flying a Pico balloon. You will also hear the details of the various payloads, what was achieved and what data was collected. You will also get to see some of the awesome photos and videos that were obtained.

Be warned, this presentation may fire up your motivation to build your own payload, or at the very least celebrate the experimentation and learnings that are part of the BACAR experience.

Please spread the word and join us this coming Wednesday evening, 26 November, at 19:00 CAT for the Power Hour Tech Talk on Zoom. The Zoom Meeting ID is: 819 7366 6605 and the Zoom Passcode is: 161225. Come along to see another awesome facet of our Amateur Radio hobby in action and be inspired.

CLUB NEWS:

DECEMBER CLUB MEETING:

The members have spoken and the December club meeting and year end function will move to the 6th of December, so please save the date 6th of December 2025 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards. We will be running another pole this week, will you be attending and how many people will be attending in order for us to finalize the catering arrangements. More details to follow in next weeks bulletin.

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday and two anniversaries on our list for this week. First up is Anton ZSWG and his XYL Leigh-Anne celebrating their anniversary on Saturday the 29th and then on Sunday the 30th Brand ZS6PES will be celebrating his birthday and also celebrating their anniversary with his XYL Debbie. Happy birthday and congratulations from all of us hope it's a great day and year.

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!