

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 6th of January 2026.

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:

SILENT KEYS:

It is with deep regret that we announce that the keys of John Norman, ZS5JX and Pieter Machiel du Toit, ZL1PDT, ex-ZS1PDT, have gone silent. Pieter passed away on Monday, 1 December 2025. We extend our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

THE JANUARY 2026 RADIO ZS:

The January 2026 issue of Radio ZS was uploaded to the SARL website on Tuesday, 30 December 2025. Rob, ZS1SA, asks if NASA has become an “old boys” amateur radio organisation and we look at the development of a contesting and DXing dashboard for the HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station.

What is Digital Mobile Radio, an open-sleeve antenna and Parks on the Air? Stewart, ZR1WT, explains WSPR for newbies; Chris, ZS6GM, gives us TLC for RF power tubes; Eddie, ZS6BNE, reflects on a lifetime in amateur radio; and Brandon, ZS6LZ, takes us on the Lesotho SOTA DXpedition.

Thanks go to the Sandton and Sasolburg ARCs for providing club photos as requested in the December Radio ZS. And there is more in this 128-page issue.

THE NEWS TEAM HAS A VACANCY:

The SARL News Team has a vacancy for an Afrikaans proofreader to join Team 1. If you would like to assist, please contact Dennis, ZS4BS, at secretary@sarl.org.za.

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

Pico Balloons ZS6SRC-32 and ZS6SRC-33 were successfully launched on 29 December 2025 from Bloemfontein. ZS6SRC-32 reached an altitude of 12 620 m in three hours. During the first two days it travelled northwards into Mozambique, but today, Friday 2 January, it was well on its way to Australia at approximately 180 km/h and an altitude of 12 500 m. It should reach Perth by Saturday.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

ZS6SRC-33 reached 10 960 m in about two and a half hours, but then sadly began losing altitude. By 16:34 on the day of launch, it was down to 3 360 m. Its last transmission was at 16:44.

ZS1ERZ-12 completed its eleventh circumnavigation of the planet on New Year's Day. To date, as of Friday 2 January, it has travelled 353 679 km over 139 days. On Friday 2 January, it ventured into the Indian Ocean at the start of its twelfth lap of the world. It is presently at an altitude of 12 840 m and travelling at 60 kph. It went silent about a month ago while visiting the Antarctic. At one point it was further south than 79 degrees, did not transmit for about nine days, but thankfully is now back on track. You can follow its track on aprs.fi.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at moderate levels. There are currently 6 sunspot regions visible, with simple to slightly complex magnetic configurations. There are a high probability of C-class and a moderate probability of 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 10 to 30 m bands may, in the early mornings and late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

14 January - Provincial schools open
17 January - The Delta Cancriids Meteor Shower

CLUB NEWS:

JANUARY CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our 1st club meeting for 2026 this coming Saturday the 10th of January 2026 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards.

We will discuss our 2026 club activities, so put on your thinking caps and bring all your ideas. If we have enough time left we will continue with our foxhunting experiments.

As usual and if we have enough members that are interested, we will end the meeting with the traditional bring and braai, so make sure you bring something to enjoy afterwards.

We will have some cold drinks in the cooler box, so make sure to bring some cash to feed the green monster!!! See you all there!

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.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

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!