

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 27th of January 2026.

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

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Welcome to everyone on frequency. Please stay tuned for some interesting SARL and Club news items.

SARL NEWS:

SARL PRESENTED ITS VIEWS AT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE NATIONAL FREQUENCY PLAN:

Three representatives of the SARL attended the ICASA public hearing on the second draft of the 2025 National Radio Frequency Plan. The SARL presentation was developed by the SARL Science and Technology Work Group. Three of its members, Guy Eales, ZS6GUY, Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ and Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, attended the hearing on Thursday, 15 January 2026.

In April last year, the SARL made input to draft one, which were all included in draft two. The SARL presentation focused on how technology developments have also impacted Amateur Radio and how radio amateurs are embracing these developments.

The SARL said that as technology has developed, so has the Amateur Radio Service, as it is defined in the ITU Regulations, with today an even greater emphasis on technical investigation as set out in ITU Regulation 1.56. The League said this also requires a fresh look at some of the maximum power limits on various frequency bands, which ITU Regulation 25.7, paragraph 4, has delegated to national administrations. The proposals include a review of maximum power limits on the 135 kHz, 472 kHz and 1 810 kHz bands.

The presentation also dealt with the use of the 70 cm band by unlicensed users and the freely available equipment. Although this is not a frequency issue, the SARL said it was prudent to point this out again, as ICASA is responsible for the protection of licensed users.

The SARL also requested that Annexure I, the table of Amateur Frequencies last updated in 2015, be brought up to date.

Following several questions from the ICASA panel and subsequent discussion, the SARL was requested to submit an updated Annexure I to ICASA for review. The SARL complimented the ICASA team on the excellent work done on the second draft of the National Radio Frequency Plan. The SARL has seven days to submit an updated Annexure I proposal.

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SEE YOUR CLUB IN RADIO ZS:

To celebrate our Amateur Radio Clubs and everything they do for amateur radio, we would like to honour the Clubs. Radio ZS will feature club photos in every 2026 issue. If your Club wants a shot at being highlighted in the pages of Radio ZS, here is what to do:

Get your Club members together, looking their best — if you have a Club T-shirt or golf shirt, this is a perfect occasion for wearing them. Consider posing with your Club's sign or banner. Take high-resolution images. If you are taking photos with a phone camera, please make sure it is set for "highest quality". Take photos in horizontal and vertical orientations and please do not crop or otherwise edit the photos. Type up the names and call signs of all the amateurs pictured, the name (and call sign, if applicable) of the person who took the photos and the full name and call sign of the Club.

Send the information, along with one vertical and one horizontal photo, to radiozs@sarl.org.za. Read Radio ZS each month in 2026 to see if your Club has been featured! In January, the Sandton and Sasolburg ARCs were featured. Who will be featured in February?

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

Here is a brief update on South Africa's three pico balloons, all of which are currently flying in the Pacific Ocean region.

ZS1AFB-1, launched on 5 January, is nearing completion of its first circumnavigation of the globe. It is presently over South America, having travelled approximately 40 000 km in 17 days and is currently flying at an altitude of 12,32 km with a ground speed of about 105 km/h.

ZS6SRC-32, after 25 days in flight, has covered roughly 55 000 km and is now in its second lap around the world, cruising at an altitude of 12,34 km with a ground speed of approximately 110 km/h.

ZS1ERZ-12 is currently in its 13th circumnavigation of the planet. Over 160 days, it has travelled approximately 407 000 km and is presently flying at an altitude of 13,2 km with a ground speed of around 180 km/h.

A CALL FOR TECHNICAL MANUSCRIPTS:

Share your technical insights on your Field Day setups. Radio ZS invites submissions of technical manuscripts from licensed amateur radio operators for upcoming issues focused on SARL National Field Day operations. We are looking for educational, how-to pieces that help fellow amateurs improve their setups, strategies and technical know-how.

What are we looking for? Technical solutions for Field Day operations — power, antennas, logging, modes, etc. Integration of new technologies (e.g. SDR, mesh networking, solar power) in field scenarios. Examples of how the popularity of Parks on the Air (POTA) and Summits on the Air (SOTA) portable activations has changed your approach to setting up Field Day stations. Examples of how portable antennas and LiFePO batteries have replaced base station antennas and generators.

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Manuscripts should have a strong “how-to” component. Tell us what you did, but more importantly, tell us how you did it. Length: 1 000–1 800 words, plus high-resolution images with captions and photo credit information (name and call sign of photographer). For the February Radio ZS, share what works in plain text, OpenOffice or MS Word document format by 25 January 2026 and send it to radiozs@sarl.org.za ,(NOT WhatsApp!).

Why contribute? Your article could be published in Radio ZS, which reaches fellow amateurs across the country and beyond. It is a great way to give back to the community and inspire others with your experience.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity for the week is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There are currently ten sunspot regions with simple to complex magnetic configurations visible. 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 124. The 10 m to 30 m bands may, in the early mornings and late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

27 January – closing date for articles for Radio ZS

28 January - Power Hour Tech Talk

30 January – The closing date for a short summary of the proposed presentation for the SARL Symposium

31 January – The closing date for SARL AGM motions, SARL awards nominations and Council nominations

1 February – The Antique Wireless Association CW Activity Day

7 February – The East Rand Boot Sale

POWER HOUR TECH TALK:

Are you curious about digital radio, or eager to learn more about D-STAR? Then do not miss out! Mark your calendars for 19:00 CAT on Wednesday 28 January 2026 and join us for the very first Power Hour Tech Talk of the year! We are thrilled to welcome our renowned guest, Dick, ZS6BUN who will guide us through a fascinating Digital D-STAR Primer.

Whether you are a seasoned operator or just starting out, this session promises to spark your interest in this amazing digital mode. D-STAR or Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio lets you connect with operators worldwide using digital voice and data.

Want to know more? Spread the word, set a reminder and join us on Zoom for an evening of discovery and inspiration. Do not miss this opportunity - Power Hour Tech Talk, 19:00 CAT on 28 January. See you there!

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CLUB NEWS:

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING:

Please save the date 14th of February 2026. We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting on Saturday the 14th of February 2026 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 birthday's 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!