

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 3rd of February 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 KEY:

It is with deep regret that Boland ARK announces that Gerick Vercuiel, ZS1DG, passed away peacefully on Wednesday 28 January. Gerick had been experiencing health challenges for the past few months. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Petro and family at this time of great loss.

THE FEBRUARY 2026 RADIO ZS:

The Editor uploaded the February 2026 issue of Radio ZS to the mysarl.org.za website on Friday 30 January. We ask if your Club is an active Club, where are the young people and we look at Club leadership. Derek, ZS5Y says you must not miss the magic above HF and Johan, ZS6JPL explains how to use a repeater. We delve into the EFHW 80 – 10 Myth, the Great Double Bazooka Antenna Debate, the Helium Balloon Deflation Mystery and Spectrum Analysers.

There is an introduction to THz (Optical) communications, a look at a short history of Spy Radios in WW II and the Q-codes. John, VA3KOT asks, "This is still a hobby, isn't it?" and discusses what really determines the efficiency of an antenna? Get your slingshot or catapult ready to deploy antennas for HF and more in this 96-page issue. Unfortunately, no Club provided any photos for this issue, let us hold thumbs for March

THE 2026 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION:

The 2026 SARL National Convention will be held at the Willows Resort and Conference Centre just south of Port Elizabeth over the weekend of 1 to 3 May 2026. The Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society (PEARS) is our host for the event.

PEARS has planned a welcoming function for Friday evening (1 May) at the Lapa at the Willows. The AGM will take place on Saturday morning 2 May in the Conference Centre at the Willows and the Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday evening in the same venue. There is a partner's programmes and of course, the YLs, SOTA, POTA, HOTA, IOTA, CWers, VHFers, etc., are welcome to arrange a get together to chat, exchange ideas and QSL cards and just enjoy themselves.

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There are various accommodation options to choose from – chalets, cottages; rondavels; bungalows and caravan and camping, Visit the website at <https://thewillowspe.co.za/> for all the information. The National Convention takes place over a long weekend, so book early. You can also book at Pine Lodge <https://pinelodge.co.za/> about 9 km from The Willows.

What about a Club effort - chat with the guys and girls at your Club - make it a road trip and attend as a Club effort. Share the costs. The best represented Club at the Convention (excluding the hosts) will win Club Affiliation for 2025/26. The hosts will also win something.

PICO BALLON NEWS:

A brief update on South Africa's Pico Balloons as of Friday 30 January 2026)

ZS1AFB-1, is now in its second lap of the world and currently mid-way in the Indian ocean on its way to Australia. Stats: altitude 12,6 km, -28 C, 24 days, 54 000 km and ground speed of 44 km/h.

ZS6SRC-32, after 58 398 km and 1,5 laps of the world, appears to be MIA. There has been no RX from this payload for over 5 days. Gert, ZS6GC, says ZS6SRC-34 is ready for launching, just waiting for clear weather.

ZS1ERZ-12 is currently in its 13th circumnavigation of the planet and should reach Africa by Sunday. Stats: altitude 13,4 km, -20 C, 166 days, 420 000 km, and ground speed of 120 km/h.

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-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 76. 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:

7 February – The East Rand Boot Sale

11 February – International Day of Women and Girls in Science

13 February – World Radio Day

14 February - Valentine's Day

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.

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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 Anton ZS6WG and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!