

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 10th of February 2026.

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:

SILENT KEY:

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Jan Erasmus, ZS5G of Richards Bay went silent on Thursday 5 February. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife, his daughter Elrina, ZR4E, family and friends.

THE 2026 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION:

Thank you to everybody who nominated a fellow radio amateur for an award or trophy. The names of the various recipients will be made known at the Awards Dinner on 2 May. Recipients will be receiving a letter from the SARL Secretary informing them of the awards and trophies.

The Registration form for the National Convention is available at <https://mysarl.org.za/sarl-agm-2026/>, so click on the link and fill in your details. You will see the costs for the Friday evening get together and the Awards Dinner on the form, Friday evening is R150 per person and Saturday evening is R250 per person, so pay the amount into the SARL bank account and upload a copy of the PoP on the registration form.

The 2026 SARL National Convention Booklet and the electronic proxy form will be made available on Thursday 2 April 2026.

There are various accommodation options to choose from – chalets, cottages; rondavels; bungalows and caravans 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. Or make use of one of the many accommodation webpages.

What about showcasing your Club at the Convention? I understand that the Northern Cape ARC have some plans, but we don't speak outside the radio room! Which other Clubs and groups will be there? What about the advertisers in Radio ZS and on the website – come and set-up a table with your equipment.

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SHARE YOUR TECHNICAL INSIGHTS ON YOUR FIELD DAY SETUPS:

The first leg of the SARL National Field Day takes place over the weekend of 14 and 15 March at a campsite in your area. You have just over a month to do your planning.

On page 15 of the December 2025 Radio ZS and on page 10 of the February 2026 Radio ZS is a call to share your technical insights on your Field Day setups. We are looking for technical solutions for Field Day operations — power, antennas, logging, modes, etc. The integration of new technologies (e.g., SDR, mesh networking, or 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. Your article should have a strong “how-to” component. Tell us what you did, but more importantly, tell us how you did it. Send your article to radiozs@sarl.org.za.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity for the week is expected to be at moderate to high levels. There are currently 9 sunspot regions with simple to complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C- and M-class solar flares and a low probability for X-class solar flares. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 81. The 10 to 30 m bands may provide some good DX fun in the mornings and in the late afternoons. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 11 February – International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 13 February – World Radio Day
- 14 February - Valentine's Day
- 14 and 15 February – The Sasolburg ARC supports the Ride for Sight cycle race
- 16 February – The May RAE registration opens
- 17 February – Partial Solar Eclipse

CLUB NEWS:

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting for February this coming Saturday the **14th of February 2025** at our **clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards**.

The plan is to have an interesting and interactive debate about piko balloons. Have you done your homework and read the articles? If not you still have time before the club meeting on Saturday so hurry up and don't get left behind!!

We will also continue with our foxhunting experiments if time allows. So come and enjoy the afternoon with us as we learn more about all the ins and outs of foxhunting, equipment requirements and everything else we need to know in order to have a successful foxhunt.

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As usual and if we have enough members that are interested, we will end the meeting with the traditional bring and braai.

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 one anniversary on our list for this week. Barry ZS6OY and his XYL Jenny will be celebrating their anniversary on Sunday 15 February. Congratulations from all of us!!!

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!