

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 24th of February 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

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:

DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE FOR RADIO ZS?

The Editor would like to upload the March 2026 Radio ZS on International Milk Tart Day. Do you have an article for this issue? Please send it in MS Word or OpenOffice Write format to radiozs@sarl.org.za by Wednesday 25 February. Thank you to Heather, ZS5YH; Chris, ZS6GM; Eddie, ZS6BNE; Helgard, ZS6HON and the Cape Town ARC for your contribution

CHECK YOUR ICASA LICENCE INVOICE:

ICASA has started the Spectrum Licence invoicing process. Please check that your information on the invoice is correct and check the invoice amount. The SARL Secretary has seen an invoice with the amount of R20 200,00 instead of R202,00 for the licence fee

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

A brief update on South Africa's Pico Balloons As of Friday 20 February 2026. ZS1AFB-1, is now on its third lap of the earth, while passing south of Australia at an altitude of 12,4km at an amazing speed of 186 kph. At one point at 04:00 on Friday it got to 253 kph! ZS6SRC-34, although off to a slow start, is now well underway on its first lap of the earth having just passed Brisbane at an altitude of 12,9 km and 85 kph.

ZS1ERZ-12 has met its end after an extraordinary 170 days aloft, covering 445 526 km and 13,4 circumnavigations of the Earth. In its final hours of transmissions, the balloon reported a gradual descent from 13,5 km to 5,940 km, followed by a sharp climb back to 13 km. Approximately an hour later, it began descending once more. Correlation with data from Ventusky indicates that these pronounced altitude oscillations aligned closely with a regional low-pressure vortex system. Temperature readings during this period were equally dramatic, fluctuating between -31 °C and +6 °C, reflecting the dynamic atmospheric conditions associated with the system.

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PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity for the week is expected to be at very low levels. There are currently 3 sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a moderate 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 64. The 10 to 30 m bands may in the mornings and in the late afternoons provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

25 February – the Santon Power Hour Tech Talk

27 February – International Milk Tart Day

7 March – the West Rand Boot Sale

8 March – International Women's Day

THE SANDTON POWER HOUR TECH TALK ON WEDNESDAY EVENING:

Get ready to fire up your calendars and mark this coming Wednesday evening, 25 February at 19:00 CAT, in bold, bright ink — because the next Power Hour Tech Talk is imminent and gearing up to deliver something truly special! We are diving into the world of logging with a session that promises to energise, educate and elevate your contesting game. And leading the charge is none other than the legendary Phillip Fisher, ZS6FY — a name and call sign that every serious contester knows.

Phillip will be opening the door to the inside track of N1MM Logger, showing you how to sharpen your accuracy, streamline your workflow and give your contest station the competitive edge it deserves. Whether you're a seasoned operator or just getting into contesting, this is the kind of knowledge that transforms your operating experience.

Grab a pen as here come the Zoom login details. The broadcast will also be relayed onto the connected repeater network, 145,700 and Echolink ZS6STN-R. The zoom login details are: Meeting ID: 853 0134 3276 and the Passcode: 304951. Spread the word and join the Power Hour Tech Talk this coming Wednesday evening 25 February at 19:00 CAT

CLUB NEWS:

CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES:

If you have not paid your club membership fees for 2026 as yet, please remember to do so before the end of February. If you have not paid by the end of February you will not be eligible to vote at the AGM. No new membership applications or renewals will be allowed in March before the AGM.

AGM AND MARCH CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our Annual General Meeting at the March monthly club meeting. Please note that the AGM will be on Saturday the **14th of March 2026** at our **clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards** as per the notification that went out yesterday and not on the 8th of March 2026 as per the first notification. Please

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remember that the committee is to be advised in writing at least 7 days prior to the AGM of any matter to be tabled under general at the AGM.

Call Anton ZS6WG to give feedback of the February club meeting:

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday's on our list for this week. Stephen ZS6SKY celebrating his birthday this Friday the 27th. 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 Gert ZS6GFS and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!