

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 3rd of March 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

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(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 Rob Mac Geoghegan, ZS2ROB went silent on Thursday 19 February 2026 after a long illness. He was involved with SA Search and Rescue and was a senior member of the Mountain Club of South Africa. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

THE 2026 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION:

At 18:30 on Friday 1 May, PEARS will welcome you to the 2026 National Convention at the Boma at the Willows Resort in Port Elizabeth. There will be gin and tonic and wine sponsored by Meridian Wine Merchants and Fitch & Leedes. You are also welcome to bring your own drinks.

Registration will start at 08:00 on Saturday 2 May in the foyer of the Conference Centre with tea and coffee to start your day. The AGM will start at 09:00. The Partners programme will also start at 09:00 and consists of a visit to The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) with a chance to feed the Penguins. PEARS will provide a boerie roll for lunch and at 14:00 there will be a talk and demonstration of Meshcore at the Boma.

The Awards Dinner will be held in the Conference Centre from 18:30 onwards. There will be a cash bar and sponsored wines. 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. Friday evening costs R150 per person and Saturday evening R250 per person. Please pay the amount into the SARL bank account and upload a copy of the PoP with 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, 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

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PICO BALLOON NEWS:

A brief update on South Africa's Pico Balloons as of Friday 27 February 2026. Currently only 2 South African pico balloons are in flight. ZS1AFB-1 is currently over the Atlantic Ocean heading towards South Africa. All going well, it should complete its third lap of the earth by Saturday.

ZS6SRC-34, the last transmission received more than a day and half ago, which is a bit concerning, indicates it was mid-way between Australia and South America at an altitude of 12,9 km and travelling at 67 kph. Crossing the Pacific Ocean is particularly treacherous. Several SA pico-balloons have gone missing in the region including ZR1ERZ-12 and ZR1ERZ-13.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels during the week. There are currently 3 sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C-class and a low to moderate 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 71. The 30 to 10 m bands may provide some good DX fun especially in the late afternoons. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

7 March – The West Rand Boot Sale

8 March – International Women's Day

IS SOLAR CYCLE 25 WANING?

On 23, 24 and 25 February there were no sunspots. This week has brought the first "spotless days" since 2022. This breaks an uninterrupted 4 years of non-stop sunspot activity. It is an early warning of Solar Minimum, the low point of the 11-year solar cycle. During years around Solar Minimum, whole months can go by without a single sunspot, racking up dozens of spotless days in a row. Between 2018 and 2020 (the last Solar Minimum) there were more than 700 spotless days in total. By the time of this broadcast the sunspots are likely back. Solar Cycle 25 still has years of life left in it. However, these spotless days tell us that the current cycle is waning.

CLUB NEWS:

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 on the 16th of February 2026. Please 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 Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

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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!