

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 10th of March 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

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

SARL NEWS:

SILENT KEYS:

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Alwyn Petrus Burger, ZS6BTH, went silent on Wednesday, 19 November 2025. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

It is also with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Koos de Kock, ZS5KDK, went silent on 3 March 2026 after a long illness. Koos was the incumbent Chairman of the Midlands Amateur Radio Club and was involved in many aspects of amateur radio, specifically the upkeep of repeaters in the KZN Midlands. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends

THE 2026 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION:

Registration for the 2026 SARL National Convention has been open for quite some time. Have you registered? Registration is for attending the event in person or for attending the AGM on the virtual platform. The 2026 SARL National Convention Booklet and the electronic proxy form will be made available on Thursday 2 April 2026. Visit the SARL website and click on AGM to get the registration form.

The Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society has arranged the weekend at the Willows Resort and Conference Centre. There will be a welcoming function on Friday evening, the AGM and a partner's programme to SANCCOB, followed by the Awards Dinner. Meridian Wine Merchants and Fitch & Leedes will be sponsoring the wine and gin & tonic.

Also arrange your accommodation in Port Elizabeth for the weekend of 1 to 3 May. See you in the Friendly City for the National Convention.

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

As of Friday 6 March, ZS1AFB-1, currently the only South African pico balloon still in flight, is just south of Perth at an altitude of 12,14 kilometres, travelling at a ground speed of 100 kph. It has now completed 3,3 laps around the world over a period of 59 days. This achievement is particularly remarkable given that several of its solar panels were damaged during launch when it passed through a tree. Andre, ZS1AFM did not think he would ever hear from the balloon again.

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AN INCREASE IN THE HF NOISE:

The CSIR technical committee on EMC, TC73, met on Thursday and again discussed the increase in the noise level on HF as an emerging concern. The SARL made a presentation on the increasing problem at the April 2025 meeting of the committee. It was then agreed to publish the SARL presentation on the CSIR TC73 portal for comment and input. It was agreed to request the ICASA technical department to report on the extent to which they are able to monitor the situation. Through some administrative confusion the presentation was not placed on the portal. The SARL was requested to resubmit the presentation to the CSIR secretarial support group to ensure the presentation was placed on the portal for TC73 committee members to comment. A decision will then be taken at the November 2026 meeting on how to proceed.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low levels during the week. There are currently five 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 98. The 30 to 10 m bands may, especially in the late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. For further information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

16 March - The start of the SARL Equinox 6 m Challenge

17 March - St Patrick's Day

20 March - Autumn Equinox and Eid ul Fitr

21 March - Human Rights Day; World Down Syndrome Day, the Namibian Independence Day

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.

After the AGM we will have something inserting on the braai, so come and enjoy the afternoon with us. We will be running a poll on the club's WA group tomorrow 11 March 2026. So please indicated if you will be attending as we need to finalize the catering arrangements.

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:

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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 Stephen ZS6SKY and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!