

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 17th of March 2026.

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Corrie ZS6CDB, 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:

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.

SARL CALL SIGNS;

Would you like to use the ZS100SARL, ZS9HQ or ZS6SRL call signs? They are available for Clubs and individuals to use for events or just for the fun of it. ZS100SARL is available until Tuesday 19 May 2026, which is the closing of the SARL Centenary Year! Contact Johann, ZS6JBZ to arrange for the use of one of these call signs, with the understanding that after the event, you will submit an ADIF file of all QSOs for uploading to LoTW, Clublog, QRZ and the SARL QSO matching system.

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

ZS1AFB-1, currently the sole South African pico balloon still aloft, is traversing the mid-Pacific on route to South America, cruising at an altitude of 12,6 kilometres and a ground speed of 110 km/h. Its flight history has proven fascinating from the very outset, on day one, it defied the prevailing easterly winds by pressing westward for four days toward South America before arcing gracefully around and resuming its customary eastward course. In a curious echo of that early behaviour, it has once again spent two days drifting westward across the Pacific before reasserting its usual trajectory. It has now completed 3,6 circumnavigations of the globe.

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PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels during the week. There are currently 6 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 80. The 30 to 10 m bands may, especially 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:

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

22 March – World Water Day

23 March – World Meteorological Day

CLUB NEWS:

Corrie ZS6CDB to give feedback and update of the March AGM and club meeting:

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for this week. Andrew ZS6AJK will be celebrating his birthday on Monday the 23rd of March. Happy birthday from all of this!!!

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. _____

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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 and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!