

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 24th of March 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:

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.

9J2EME DXPEDITION TO ZAMBIA:

From 28 March to 1 April, the Ribbetjies EME Team of Bernie, ZS4TX; John, ZS6JON and Lins, PA3CMC plan to be active from grid block KH22 in Zambia with the call 9J2EME. Paul, ZS6NK had to cancel because of medical reasons. Activity is planned on 6 and 2 metres and 70 and 23 cm using Q65, JT65 and CW upon request. We will be on the HB9Q and the N0UK loggers. Previous African expeditions by members of this group include operations from: Z2, 3DA0, D2, A2, V5, ZS and 7P. Satellite operations - A QO-100 Sat-rover station will be part of the equipment to work stations that missed the previous 9J activations. RS-44 will also be monitored during passes that do not overlap with EME activity. TEP tests on 2 m and 70 cm will also take place at fixed times during the operation. QSL via PA3CMC.

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

ZS1AFB-1, currently the sole South African pico balloon still aloft, is traversing the mid-Atlantic en route to South Africa, cruising at an altitude of 12,78 kilometres and a ground speed of 85 km/h. It should complete its fourth circumnavigation of the earth by Sunday. It has covered 161 000 km over 72 days

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PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at moderate levels during the week. There are currently 6 sunspot regions with simple to slightly complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C-class and a 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 80. 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:

25 March – the Power Hour Tech Talk
27 March – the provincial schools close
2 to 5 April – the Sandstone Cosmos Festival
2 April – the 2026 National Convention Booklet made available
3 April – Good Friday
4 April – the Pretoria Boot Sale

POWER HOUR TECH TALK;

The March Power Hour Tech Talk. At 19:00 CAT this coming Wednesday evening, 25 March, our special guests Keagan, ZU6KEA and Albert, ZS6AHY, will take us deep into the realm of Digital Mobile Radio or DMR.

If you have ever wondered what all the DMR buzz is about, time slots to talk groups, this is your chance to discover how it all fits together and what you can achieve with DMR in your shack or on the road. Whether you are brand new to DMR or already experimenting, this session will give you fresh insights, practical understanding and a glimpse of what's possible when you unlock the power of DMR.

Everyone is welcome and this is your personal invitation. Mark your diary and set a reminder to join the conversation on Wednesday 25 March at 19:00 CAT to learn something new or share your experience. Grab a pen as here come the Zoom login details. The broadcast will also be relayed onto the 145,700 MHz repeater and Echolink ZS6STN-R. The zoom login details are Meeting ID: 853 0134 3276 and Passcode: 304951. Please spread the word and join the Power Hour Tech Talk this coming Wednesday evening 25 March at 19:00 CAT.

CLUB NEWS:

APRIL CLUB MEETING:

Please save the date 11th of April 2026. We are looking forward to enjoy our monthly club meeting on Saturday the 11th of April 2026 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards.

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday and one on anniversary our list for this week. Roelie XYL of John ZS6LS will be celebrating her birthday on Monday the 27th of March Also on the 27th of March Gert ZS6GFS and his XYL Susette will be celebrating their anniversary. Happy birthday and congratulations 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. _____

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!