

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 21th of April 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:

SILENT KEY:

The Hibiscus Coast ARC sadly reports that the key of Brian Best, ZS5SB, went silent on 13 April 2026. Brian resided at the Umdoni Retirement Village in Pennington. Brian was a long-standing club member and served as Secretary for several years. Despite suffering from poor health recently, he remained a valued part of the community and will be missed by all. We extend our sympathy to his wife Connie, his family and his friends.

THE 2026 SARL AGM – 2 MAY 2026:

There seems to be some confusion among members about the AGM process.

Firstly, we have the elections for councillors. There are five vacancies on Council with eight nominations. Voting opened at 00:01 CAT on Thursday 2 April and will close at 23:59 CAT on Friday 24 April 2026. The Election Form is available on the AGM page at mysarl. To date, 247 members (16.79%) have cast their votes. Thank you!

Then there is the registration for the AGM. If you are attending the AGM in person or following via the video platform, you need to register. We need to prepare the goody bags for those coming to the Willows. You also need a link for the video platform. There are 40 members attending the AGM at the Willows. There is a lucky draw for an HF Radio at the AGM. You must be present to participate.

Thirdly, the proxies. If you are attending online or cannot attend, submit your proxy form. Voting on all motions will take place at the AGM by the members physically present. The Proxy Form is available online on the AGM page at mysarl. We have received 162 proxies to date. Two of the motions require a quorum of 15%, or 220 members, present at the meeting or represented by proxy.

Then, for those asking about the invoices for membership fees, you will have to wait until after the voting on Motion 2026-03 on 2 May. Thereafter, the invoicing process can start.

This is your AGM. Register for the meeting or submit your proxy and cast your vote for the councillors. Do it now!

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

A brief update on South Africa's Pico Balloons as of Friday 17 April 2026. ZS1AFB-1 is currently the only South African pico balloon still aloft. After 100 days and 238 000 km, it completed its sixth lap of the earth on 13 April. This morning, Friday 17 April, it began its journey across the Pacific Ocean to start its seventh lap.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to remain very low this week. Three sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations are currently visible. There is a low-to-moderate probability for C-class flares and a low probability for M-class flares. For those doing personal frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week is 52. The 30 to 10 m bands may provide good DX fun, especially in the late afternoons. Visit spaceweather.sansa.org.za for more information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

22 and 23 - Lyrids Meteor Shower
24 April – The closing date for Councillor voting
25 April – Marconi Day
27 April – Freedom Day and Morse Day
29 April – The closing date for AGM proxies and the Power Hour Tech Talk
30 April – ISS Contact season ends

CLUB NEWS:

MAY CLUB MEETING & TOWER MAINTENANCE:

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have no birthdays 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.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

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!