

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 28th 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:

THE OFFICE AT THE NARC CLOSED:

The office at the National Amateur Radio Centre will be closed from Tuesday 28 April to Thursday 30 April. Kelley will be back in the office on Monday 3 May.

WEBSITE SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE: 29 APRIL 2026:

Please note that from 08:00 – 17:00 CAT on Wednesday 29 April 2026, the SARL website, SA-QSL system, SARL forum and the contest log upload system will undergo scheduled maintenance. This will be the first phase of two scheduled maintenance timeframes. Please note that the website and systems might be unavailable for use during the scheduled maintenance timeframe. The SARL website, SA-QSL system, SARL forum and the voting system will undergo further maintenance early in May 2026.

THE 2026 SARL AGM – ONE WEEK TO GO

The election for councillors closed at midnight on Friday 24 April 2026. Thank you to the 343 members who cast their votes! 343 out of 1 480! The result of the election will be made known at the AGM by the ballot and election team.

Bookings for the Friday evening function and the Awards Dinner also closed on Friday, the PEARS team need to inform the caterers for their planning.

You can still register for the AGM if you are attending in person or following via the video platform. The members attending the AGM will receive a goody bag and stand a chance to win a HF radio. You must be at the AGM when the draw takes place.

If you are attending online or cannot attend, submit your proxy form by midnight on Wednesday 29 April 2026. The link for the video platform will be sent out closer to the AGM.

To all members travelling to the Willows, travel safely and see you on Friday 1 May.

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PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity for the week is expected to be at very low to moderate levels. There are currently 4 sunspot regions with slightly complex 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 52. The 10 to 30 m bands may, 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:

29 April – The closing date for AGM proxies and the Power Hour Tech Talk

30 April – ISS contact season ends

1 May – Worker's Day and the SARL National Convention in Port Elizabeth

2 May – The SARL AGM and Awards Dinner in Port Elizabeth

6 and 7 May – The Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower

THE POWER HOUR TECH TALK:

The Power Hour Tech Talk on the 160m Top Band. This coming Wednesday evening 29 April at 19:00 CAT our special guest, Phillip ZS6PVT, will guide us on how we can work the 160m Top Band and prepare for the upcoming Top Band contest with details of various antennas and technical tips that will help us to work the 160m band and earn our Top Band certificates.

If you think your home is too small for a 160 m half-wave dipole, you should join the conversation as Phillip will share several options tailored for smaller spaces. Discover new techniques to energise your operation and make use of those wire scraps you have been saving for just such an occasion. If you are already a Top Band guru, please join us to share your knowledge and experience.

Not only will you be empowered to work the Top Band, but you will also have sufficient time to prepare for the Top Band contest that runs from Thursday 4 June to Sunday 7 June. During this four-day window, 1.850 MHz will be a great place to meet, greet and QSO after sunset to log contacts for your Top Band certificate.

Get your pens ready for the Zoom details as the Power Hour Tech Talk will take place on Zoom for the full visual experience. It will also be broadcast on Echolink ZS6STN-R and the interconnected repeater network. The Zoom Meeting ID is 853 0134 3276 and the Passcode is 304951.

The tech talks are for everyone, so please pass on the invitation and prepare your questions and insights for the knowledge-sharing session to be hosted by our special guest Phillip, ZS6PVT, this coming Wednesday evening 29 April at 19:00 CAT.

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CLUB NEWS:

MAY CLUB MEETING & TOWER MAINTENANCE:

We are looking forward to enjoy our May monthly club meeting, on Saturday the 9th of May 2026 at our [clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards](#).

Call Anton ZS6WG, for update on the tower maintenance:

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for this week, Elaine XYL of Stephen ZS6SKY celebrating her birthday on Thursday 30 April. Happy birthday from all of us hope you have a great day and year ahead.

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!