

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 19th of May 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 SARL 100 COMMEMORATIVE BOOK:

Brian, ZS6YZ wants to have more SARL 100 Commemorative Books printed, but he needs to know how many. We know that the Pretoria ARC is looking for 8 books, the Boland and Cape Town Clubs are looking for 30 books, Bloemfontein wants 10 books and another 10 for the east of Johannesburg. What about the other Clubs? Find out from your members and let Brian know at bjacobsza@gmail.com. The SARL 100 Book costs R150 per book plus the courier costs. If your Club places a bulk order, the courier cost comes down. Let Brian know how many books your Club wants.

60 METRE RELAYS:

How about trying the 60-metre band for the relay of SARL News and Amateur Radio Today? Is there someone who would be willing to do such a relay? If you are willing to test 60 metres, contact the SARL Secretary

A BRIEF UPDATE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S PICO BALLOONS:

ZS6SRC-36 was launched last Saturday and after travelling 17 000 km over 4 days and 16 hours, began losing altitude last Thursday. Sadly, its final transmission was at 01:36 that morning, reporting an altitude of 6 200 m. At the time, it was partway over the Pacific Ocean.

ZS1AFB-1 is currently partway over the Atlantic Ocean and heading towards South Africa, where it will complete eight circumnavigations of the Earth.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels during the week. There are currently 3 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 37. The 30 to 15 m bands may especially, in the late afternoons, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

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DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

20 May – The SARL's 101st birthday and World Bee Day

21 May – International Tea Day

27 May – Power Hour Tech Talk

30 May – The West Rand Boot Sale

THE END FED HALF WAVE ANTENNA FEATURED IN THE NEXT POWER HOUR:

We are already well into May 2026... this is just in case you had not noticed. This also means it is time to let you know about the May Power Hour Tech Talk with our special guest Chris, ZS6GM. You have all read the many articles published by Chris in Radio ZS, so you already know he brings the word Professional into our Amateur Radio hobby and now lucky for us, we are going to be privileged to have Chris as our special guest during the May Power Hour Tech Talk to give us all the facts and fictions on the famous, or infamous, End Fed Half Wave antenna.

There are definitely two sides to every coin, so this talk could get controversial, which will make it even more exciting. Do you love or hate the EFHW antenna, or have you never given it a try? Then diarise Wednesday 27 May at 19:00 CAT, as this is your opportunity to come along to discover what is myth and what is fact and perhaps even how to construct one and why the EFHW antenna is often found in many Radio Go boxes, but the question is, does it work or does it not?

Prepare your questions and prepare your opinion, and be sure to bring along both, together with a healthy dose of curiosity to the Power Hour Tech Talk on the EFHW antenna with our special guest Chris, ZS6GM that will be taking place live on Zoom and the repeater network at 19:00 CAT on Wednesday evening 27 May. Grab your pens as here come the zoom details - Meeting ID: 853 0134 3276 and passcode: 304951. Please spread the word and join the Power Hour Tech Talk.

CLUB NEWS:

JUNE CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our June monthly club meeting, on Saturday the 13th of June 2026 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards. Please save the date!!! See you all there!!!

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have no birthdays or anniversaries on our list for the week.

If we have missed out on your big day, please contact any committee member to update our records.

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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!