

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 2nd of June 2026.

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Stephen ZS6SKY, 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 JUNE ISSUE OF RADIO ZS:

The June 2026 issue of Radio ZS was uploaded on Friday 29 May, go to mysarl and click on News and then Radio ZS to get your copy.

We welcome the new radio amateurs from the May RAE, find out about the awards and trophies handed over at the Awards Dinner and the new ZS2BK Satellite Award. Stewart, ZR1WT discusses the SDR Revolution and Kevin, ZS6KAT tells how to build a Qatar-OSCAR-100 Satellite Narrowband Transponder Ground Station. What causes lightning? We visit the ZS0BOT low-power Beacon, find out about Number stations - Ghosts on the Shortwave Bands and look at the WT3J GUI-Based Morse Code Controller.

In the Museum Piece, we look at the radios that started and ended World War II in the Pacific, we look at the surprisingly long life of the vacuum tube and multiband HF centre-loaded off-centre-fed dipoles.

PRAISE FOR AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Senator Ted Cruz, in a strong pre-Memorial Day message, publicly highlighted the critical role amateur radio volunteers play during disasters. He praised and thanked amateur radio operators who provide essential communications when storms and emergencies disrupt power, cellular networks and normal communication systems. Senator Cruz said that, during emergencies, amateur radio operators step forward with the tools, expertise and commitment needed to reconnect communities when it matters most.

He noted that this dedication was clearly demonstrated during Hurricane Harvey in 2017, when catastrophic flooding devastated communities across Texas. He added that it was again demonstrated more recently during the tragic Camp Mystic floods.

As the United States prepares for another summer storm season, Senator Cruz emphasized that amateur radio remains as vital as ever. He stated that while future emergencies are inevitable, amateur radio operators will continue to stand ready to respond, serve and make a difference. He concluded by thanking amateur radio operators for their courage and commitment, saying their work strengthens communities across the country.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Senator Cruz is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. His comments align with the ARRL's ongoing efforts to strengthen and protect amateur radio's role in emergency preparedness and public service communications. His remarks also reflect growing Congressional recognition of the value amateur radio operators bring to communities across the United States. [with thanks to the ARRL Letter for 28 May 2026]

THE NOVICE NET:

Attention all radio amateurs — new, returning and well-seasoned! Get ready to light up your Wednesday nights with the exciting return of the Novice Net. After a successful run by the West Rand Amateur Radio Club, the net is now being relaunched in partnership with the Sandton Amateur Radio Club. The Novice Net is once again building momentum and any club or experienced operator is welcome to host a net or two.

If you are new to amateur radio, this is where the journey becomes exciting. If you have years of experience behind the microphone, this is your opportunity to inspire the next generation. Tune in via your local interconnected VHF repeater, or connect through the West Rand, Sandton, Kempton EchoLink or AllStar nodes and take part in a lively, welcoming and informative net.

Expect a centrally controlled net with energy, variety and plenty of opportunity to participate. Introduce yourself, ask questions, share ideas, learn something new and perhaps become the voice that encourages someone else to get on the air.

The Novice Net takes place every Wednesday evening from 19:00 CAT for approximately 30 to 60 minutes, starting this coming Wednesday, 3 June 2026. Expect great conversation, useful insight, practical radio knowledge and the kind of atmosphere that keeps operators coming back week after week.

So, mark it down, charge the batteries, key the microphone and join the Novice Net this Wednesday at 19:00 CAT — then make it part of every Wednesday thereafter. The next contact, the next idea or the next spark in your radio journey could be waiting for you on the net!

A BRIEF UPDATE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S PICO BALLOONS:

ZS1AFB-1 was last heard from 11 days ago. We assume the worst. ZR1WT-6 was launched last Saturday. Due to the delay from the original launch date, the balloon by Saturday only had ~5 gm neck lift. But should be sufficient? Half of 1 solar panel was damaged on site. However, on measuring the final voltage, the whole assembly still produced 3,5 V so a call was made to still launch. Finally, WSPRNET was down on Saturday so if any progress spots were received, they were lost. Sadly - not a squeak out of the balloon since launch.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity for the week is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently 11 visible sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations. There are a high probability of C-class solar flares and a low probability of M-class solar flares. If you would like to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week is approximately 92. The 15 to 30 metre bands may provide good DX conditions, especially during the early evenings. For further information, please visit spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

3 June – The Novice Net

6 June – The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club flea market and boot sale

13 and 14 June – the ZS SOTA Activity Weekend and the Queens of the Mountain event

15 June – a school holiday

16 June – Youth Day

THE PRETORIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB FLEA MARKET AND BOOT SALE:

You are invited to join the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club for their next flea market and boot sale on Saturday 6 June 2026 at their new clubhouse at 16 Catherine Street, Shere, Pretoria East. Come and enjoy socialising with fellow amateurs and friends. Other amateur radio clubs are also welcome to sell amateur radio equipment and promote their clubs.

Bring the whole family. There are padel courts, a restaurant with a special HAM menu and playgrounds for the grandchildren. Starting time is 09:00 for sellers and 10:00 for buyers. To book a stand and table, contact Almero, ZS6LDP, on 083 938 8955 or e-mail almerodps@gmail.com. See you on Saturday 6 June at the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club flea market and boot sale.

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.

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

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 Stephen ZS6SKY and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!