

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Corrie ZS6CDB, 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 KEYS:

It is with deep regret that we announce that the keys of George Oosthuizen, ZS1GJO; Charles Grimsdell, ZS4CLG and Hennie le Roux, ZS1LR have gone silent.

George, ZS1GJO of Moorreesburg passed away on Saturday morning 11 July 2026. Charles, ZS4CLG of Bloemfontein passed away on Tuesday morning 14 July 2026 and Hennie, ZS1LR passed away on Friday 17 July. We extend our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

SARL MEMBERSHIP INVOICES:

The SARL Financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June of the following year. You have from 1 July until 30 September to pay your membership fees, either in one payment or after arrangement with the Office, over three months.

Please note there is no pensioner membership category. According to Rule 1.5.3 of the SARL, there is a senior membership. The Rule states that he/she shall be a licensed radio amateur and be over the age of 65. And important, Rule 1.5.3.1 states that the onus is on such a member to notify the League that he/she is over the age of 65. You do not automatically become a senior member at age 65.

THE EAST RAND RADIO CLUB AND THE INTERNATIONAL ROVER MOOT IN AUGUST:

The East Rand Radio Club would like to inform radio amateurs in South Africa and the region that the Club will be using the callsigns ZS9YOTA and ZS6ERB during the upcoming International Rover Moot. The event will run from 1 to 8 August with the amateur radio portion on Sunday 2 and Monday 3 August. Contacts are planned on forty metres with stations across the country. We will be operating on forty metres but will move to higher bands if necessary. We will be on the air on Sunday and Monday between 09:00 and 16:00.

We would like to contact Rovers (Senior Scouts) in the Western Cape and other provinces, especially those who are unable to attend the Rover Moot. The Rover Moot is like the Scout World Jamboree and takes place every four years. This year it will be coming to South Africa in August, more specifically to Arrowe Park in Benoni.

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We are looking for volunteers on the East Rand to help us on Sunday and Monday, as well as stations across the country to help with contacts between Rovers and Pathfinders. There are still 27 days left. Get involved! Contact Stephen, ZS6SKY at 082 568 4019 or Wayne, ZS6ORB at 079 167 2925.

BACAR 14: MISSION SKYBRIDGE IS PLANNED FOR LAUNCH ON 17 OCTOBER 2026:

This year the focus will be on testing airborne amateur radio technologies that may assist SARL HAMNET during disaster response and search-and-rescue operations. The mission will test Meshtastic on two frequencies, LoRa APRS, LoRa point-to-point links, 2 m APRS, SSTV imaging and cross-band repeater capability.

We would also like to invite clubs, radio amateurs and experimenters to submit payload proposals for consideration. Please send your payload ideas or proposals to Christo, ZR6JLK at christokriek461@gmail.com. Let us use BACAR 14 to learn, experiment and build practical emergency communications capability from the sky.

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

ZS6SRC-37 on channel 104 on 10 m is presently just west of southern Africa and is about to complete its second lap of the Earth. It has set a blistering pace with speeds mostly above 200 km/h and hitting 300 km/h occasionally. In the past week, another three Pico Balloons were launched from Mauritius by Jean Marc, 3B8DU and his team.

ZS6SRC-84 on channel 465 on 20 m is already over Peru, South America on its maiden first circumnavigation of the Earth, this after 5 days and 22 000 km. ZS6SRC-85 on channel 532 on 20 m and ZS6ZU-11 on channel 424 on 20 m are both presently over the mid Indian Ocean well on their way to Australia.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels during the week. There are currently four sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a moderate probability for C, 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 64. The 30 to 15 m bands may, especially in the late afternoon, provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

21 July – Provincial Schools Open

25 July – Alberton

29 July – The Power Hour Tech Talk

1 August – The AMSATSA Space Symposium and the ZS6PTA Flea Market

2 and 3 August – ZS9YOTA from the African Rover Moot

HAVE YOU HEARD OF A LEAKY FEEDER?

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Well now is your chance to find out all about leaky feeders and how they facilitate underground communications during the July Power Hour Tech Talk with our special guest Henry, ZS6IIX. On Wednesday evening 29 July, Henry will be sharing his extensive knowledge on underground radio communications, a difficult and challenging environment for radio. Can you use your handy talky underground? What frequencies and radios do they use underground? What are the challenges and how have they solved these?

Please diarise to join the Power Hour Tech Talk on Wednesday evening 29 July at 19:00 CAT on Zoom or interconnected repeater to experience and share the knowledge, and perhaps even obtain some tips on how to get your signal working from your basement. The Power Hour Tech Talk Zoom details are as follows, the meeting ID is 853 0134 3276 and the passcode is 304951.

CLUB NEWS:

Corrie to give feedback of the July club meeting:

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have no birthdays or anniversaries our list for the 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.

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 and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!