

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Anton ZS6WG, 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:

It is with deep regret that we announce that Jack Olivier, ZS6JAC, became a silent key on Tuesday 10 February 2026. The Office at the NARC was informed on 28 July 2026. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife, family and friends.

THE AUGUST RADIO ZS IS AVAILABLE TO READ:

The August 2026 issue of Radio ZS was uploaded to mysarl on Wednesday 29 July. Read about the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend on 15 and 16 August as well as the 27th IARU Region 1 General Conference to be held in Vienna, Austria in September. A link to the conference documents is included in the article. We also visit the Durnford Lighthouse and head to the Southern Cape for the Blandsdrif Radio Day.

In the Museum Column, we look at the SCR-300 World War Two Radio Backpack—the "Walkie Talkie" that shaped the war. Antenna coverage starts with the Quagi Directional Antenna and the 5-Band, Lazy-L, Linear-Loaded, Ladder Line Antenna. You can also read about the Leffell School Space Engineering Programme, the M5Stack Fire Band Conditions Project and the W4BOH Fox. Plus, tips on soldering, reverse-polarity prevention and solving the USB charger problem for good.

SUCCESS IN TRACKING DOWN ILLEGAL USE OF AMATEUR RADIO FREQUENCIES:

Members of SARL HAMNET Gauteng have successfully tracked down illegal commercial operations on amateur frequencies on the East Rand. Following weeks of signal monitoring and direction finding on interference affecting East Rand repeaters, SARL HAMNET volunteers narrowed the source to an industrial area in Germiston.

Working alongside an investigating officer from ICASA, inspections and interviews were conducted on site. A commercial service provider was identified operating on the premises using unapproved equipment between 430 and 440 MHz. Their unlicensed transmissions caused severe interference to amateur repeaters across Gauteng. Due to ongoing legal proceedings, further details are currently withheld.

The SARL reminds all listeners that radio spectrum is strictly regulated. Purchasing or programming two-way radios without the proper ICASA licences or dealer permits is illegal and punishable by law. Unlicensed imports pose a serious risk to legitimate radio users and

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emergency communications. The League extends its sincere thanks to ICASA, SARL HAMNET Gauteng and all volunteer direction-finders for their dedicated work in protecting our bands.

CHANGES TO THE RADIO AMATEUR EXAMINATION PROCEDURE:

Registration for the 10 October 2026 Radio Amateur Examination (RAE) is now open. Please note that several important changes have been introduced to the examination and licensing process. From the October 2026 RAE onwards, candidates will be responsible for registering on the ICASA website and submitting their own amateur radio licence applications.

As a result, examination fees have been reduced to R500 for the Class A examination and R450 for the Class B examination. Candidates who successfully pass the examination will now pay the applicable ICASA application and licence fees directly to ICASA. After examination papers are marked, successful candidates who have also completed the required HF assessment will receive the necessary SARL certificates. These certificates must then be uploaded by the candidate as part of their licence application on the ICASA website.

Candidates who pass the RAE will also receive one year's complimentary membership of the South African Radio League once they provide the SARL with their ICASA licence number and allocated call sign.

A PowerPoint presentation explaining the ICASA registration and licence application process will be made available shortly. RAE course presenters are kindly requested to assist candidates with this process and, where possible, include a short presentation on these procedures as part of their course.

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

Pico balloon ZS6SRC-37 has completed three circumnavigations of the earth and is currently over Australia. After 36 days in the air, it has logged 127 654 kilometres and is presently the only active ZS balloon. ZS6SRC-84 was last heard from 4 days ago as it entered central Africa, after covering 33 009 kilometres. Meanwhile, the launch of ZS6SRC-38 is planned for Monday 3 August. Sponsored by Windreiter, this special test balloon measures 1,93 metres and 0,97 metres in diameter, with a volume of 1 089 litres. The team aims for a target altitude of 17 kilometres, with tracking on 10 metres, Channel 16

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity for the coming week is expected to remain at low to moderate levels. Eight sunspot regions are visible with simple to slightly complex magnetic configurations. There is a high probability for C-class flares and a low to moderate probability for M-class flares. For individual frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week is around 64. The 15 to 30 m bands should offer good DX opportunities, especially in the early evenings. Visit spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

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9 August – Women's Day

10 August – A public holiday

12 and 13 August - The Perseids Meteor Shower

15 and 16 August - The International Lighthouse Weekend

CLUB NEWS:

AUGUST CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our August monthly club meeting, on Saturday the 8th of August 2026 at our clubhouse in Ysterhout Street, Birchleigh from 14h00 onwards. Please save the date!!!

We will continue with the balloon and the fox hunt antenna projects. If anybody is busy with a project or has just completed a project, please bring it along and do a bit of show-and-tell.

As usual and if we have enough members that are interested, we will end the meeting with the traditional bring and braai.

We will have some cold drinks in the cooler box, so make sure to bring some cash to feed the green monster!!!

See you all there!

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have no birthdays and one 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

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. _____

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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 Anton ZS6WG and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB.

Thank you for having listened!