

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 11th of August 2026.

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 KEY:

It is with deep regret that we must announce that the key of Angus Dick, ZS5GV went silent on Tuesday 4 August 2026. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Jean, the family and many friends.

WHY CAN WE NOT LOOK UP CALL SIGNS ON MYSARL?

This is a question that Council receives from time to time. Members want to look up a call sign to get an e-mail address or a name for a QSL card, but there is no such facility. Blame the Protection of Personal Information Act or PoPIA. To have such a facility on mysarl.org.za, we would require each and every radio amateur to give the League permission to publish their information. An impossible task. It is much easier to go to QRZ.com and do a look-up, there is no PoPIA involved

NEWS FROM ICOM:

ICOM Inc. proudly announces the launch of the SM-J1, the desktop microphone for amateur radio, planned for summer 2026. This microphone was jointly developed by JAIA* member manufacturers. The SM-J1 features dual dynamic microphone elements, delivering superior audio quality with excellent frequency response and ensuring clear, rich audio. The dual-element design also minimizes the impact of strong low-frequency air pressure, so you can speak naturally without worrying about breath noise and plosives even in close-mic use. Unidirectional mode captures front-facing audio while reducing off-axis background noise, while omnidirectional mode maintains a consistent frequency response at any mic distance, making it particularly effective for DX contacts and pileups.

The main features are a dual dynamic microphone element delivers superior audio quality, Directional pattern switch (unidirectional/omnidirectional) for versatile operating environments, The microphone is compatible with 5/8 inch thread boom arms, Footswitch connector for hands-free PTT operation, the manufacturer selects a switch to use with a transceiver from ICOM, Alinco, JVC or KENWOOD and compatible with the IC-7760, IC-7610, IC-7300MK2, IC-7300, IC-9700, IC-718 and IC-78. For more information visit the ICOM Japan web page or search ICOM SM-J1

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PICO BALLOON NEWS:

Balloon ZS6SRC-37, after three circumnavigations of the Earth, 44 days aloft and over 148 000 km travelled, is currently over the Atlantic Ocean. ZS6SRC-38 was launched on 3 August as a special test balloon sponsored by Windreiter. Unfortunately, the launch was unsuccessful after the balloon struck a tree. Gert, ZS6GC promptly prepared and launched a replacement, ZS6SRC-39 on 5 August.

ZS6SRC-39, also using the larger Windreiter balloon, was filled with just enough helium to provide a 6,5 g neck lift. It reached an altitude of 15,3 km within 3,5 hours and is currently traversing the Indian Ocean enroute to Australia. To monitor its progress, tune to channel 65 on the 10 m WSPR band.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity for the week is expected to be at very low levels. There are currently 5 sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a low to moderate 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 47. The 20 and 30 m bands may especially in the early evenings, provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

12 and 13 August - The Perseids Meteor Shower

15 and 16 August - The International Lighthouse Weekend

THE INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND (ILLW):

The 29th International Lighthouse/Lightship Week-end (ILLW) runs from 00:01 UTC on Saturday 15 August to 23:59:59 UTC on Sunday 16 August 2026 and you can participate for the full 48 hours or part thereof. The event is NOT a contest. There are no prizes, certificates or other enticements to participate and therefore, participation is free. Each station's operators decide how they will operate their station regarding modes and bands while complying with their amateur licence. There are no restrictions on antennas or power. We want operators to enjoy themselves and have fun whilst contacting as many amateur radio stations as possible. We request that stations take time to work other lighthouses or lightships as well as the slow operator, or the newly-licensed or QRP stations.

There are fifteen Southern African lighthouses registered – one in Namibia, one in the Northern Cape, twelve in the Western Cape and one in KwaZulu-Natal. The log sheet for the 2026 Southern African Lighthouse Certificate is available at <https://mysarl.org.za/hf/>.

CLUB NEWS:

Corrie to give feedback of the August club meeting:

Call Jacques ZS6MAV, for any AMSAT feedback and update:

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

We have one birthday on our list for the week. Paulette XYL of Selwyn ZS3SEL will be celebrating her birthday on Sunday the 16th of August. Happy birthday from all of us hope you have a great day!!!

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!