

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 25th of August 2026.

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 KEYS:

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Maureen Bellingham, ZR1MYB, went silent on 2 January 2026. The NARC office was informed on 14 August 2026. We extend our sincere condolences to her husband, Ivone, ZR1IB, family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Geoff Wagner, ZS5AGM, went silent on the evening of 9 August 2026. The Highway Amateur Radio Club extends its sincere condolences to his wife, Val, ZS5VAL and to his family and friends. Geoff was also a very active member of SARL HAMNET KZN until declining health forced him to move into a nursing home.

THE SEPTEMBER RADIO ZS:

The editor plans to upload the September 2026 issue of Radio ZS by Friday, 28 August. Do you have an article for the September issue? What about the Lighthouse Weekend? Have you been working on any home-brewing projects? Perhaps your club has hosted an interesting activity, or you have participated in POTA, HOTA or SOTA. Articles in both English and Afrikaans are welcome. Please send your article in MS Word, OpenOffice or plain-text format to radiozs@sarl.org.za as soon as possible.

THE 2027 SARL DIARY OF EVENTS:

The SARL Secretary is compiling the 2027 SARL Diary of Events. Clubs are invited to submit dates for club events, flea markets and other activities. The SARL thanks the West Rand, East Rand and Pretoria Amateur Radio Clubs for submitting their flea market dates and the Contest Working Group for providing its draft contest calendar. Please send your information to secretary@sarl.org.za

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

ZS6SRC-37 — After four circumnavigations of the Earth and more than 180 000 kilometres, the pico balloon has not been heard for over three days. Its last report indicated that it was about to enter South America.

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ZS6WBT-1 was launched on 17 August. Using the larger Windreiter balloon, it is travelling at an altitude of 15,7 kilometres and continues to perform well after four days.

ZS1ERZ-14, launched by the Eden Amateur Radio Club from the Ystervark Point Lighthouse during the 29th International Lighthouse Weekend, has unfortunately not been heard from again since the day after launch. Before contact was lost, it had reached an altitude of 14 kilometres.

BACAR 14: MISSION SKYBRIDGE ENTERS FINAL PREPARATION PHASE

The BACAR 14 team is preparing for Mission Skybridge, scheduled for launch on 17 October 2026, weather and operational conditions permitting, from the Trichardt Model Flyers airfield east of Secunda. Flight approval has been received from the Civil Aviation Authority and the team is now entering the final preparation phase. The mission will test practical airborne amateur radio technologies that could assist SARL HAMNET during disaster-response and search-and-rescue operations.

The proposed payload list includes contributions from the Secunda ARC, ZS6SRC; Barend, ZS6BAM; Willie, ZS6WBT; Paul, ZS6PQ; SARL HAMNET; Jeugland ARC; Sandton ARC, ZS6STN; BACAR; ZS6SRK; Hendrick, ZS6HJH; Nathan, ZR6BN; and Daniel and Cameron, ZS6CYE. Payloads include APRS, LoRa APRS, LoRa point-to-point links, Meshtastic, SSTV, imaging, telemetry, tracking, a cross-band FM voice repeater experiment and various other amateur radio technology tests.

Ground stations within a 300-kilometre radius of Secunda are encouraged to participate, although participation is not limited to this area. Stations further afield are also welcome, particularly once the balloon reaches altitude. Ground-station participation will assist with APRS reception, LoRa and Meshtastic testing, SSTV image reception, voice relay tests, logging and signal reporting.

The technical frequency table will be frozen on 17 September 2026, 30 days before launch. After this date, no changes to frequencies, transmitter power, modulation modes, tones, or operating windows will be permitted unless approved by the BACAR Coordinator and technical team. Further operator briefings and ground-station information will be shared as the launch date approaches. For more information, contact Christo Kriek, ZR6LJK, the ZS6SRC BACAR Coordinator, at christokriek461@gmail.com

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to remain at moderate levels during the coming week. There are currently four sunspot regions visible, ranging from simple to complex magnetic configurations. A high probability of C-class solar flares exists, while the probability of M-class flares remains moderate. For those who generate their own propagation predictions, the effective sunspot number for the week is expected to be around 64. The 15- to 30-metre bands may provide some enjoyable DX opportunities, particularly during the early evening hours. Further information is available at spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

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DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

26 August - International Dog Day

29 August - The West Rand Boot Sale

2 September – Secretary's Day (and not all secretaries are female!)

THE WEST RAND BOOT SALE:

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club reminds everyone about the upcoming Boot Sale on Saturday, 29 August. Consider this your early wake-up call — do not leave it until the last minute. Give your shack a spring clean and bring your surplus equipment to the market. You may turn that unused gear into a new addition for your station or perhaps find the missing item for your next restoration project. The event will follow the familiar West Rand format, with refreshments available and plenty of opportunity to socialise with fellow radio amateurs. Book your stand or table early by contacting Phillip on 083 267 3835 or by e-mail at info@zs6wr.co.za.

CLUB NEWS:

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our September monthly club meeting, on Saturday the 12th of September 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

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. _____