

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 22nd of September 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:

HAREC AND CERTIFICATE OF OPERATING COMPETENCE WILL IN FUTURE NOT DISPLAY CALLSIGN:

The Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate awarded after a candidate has successfully passed the Radio Amateur Examination will in future not carry a callsign. HAREC and Operating Competence Certificates are life time documents. In interaction with ICASA the authority said that the licence is not a life time document but renewable; "The call sign should therefore not be reflected on the certificate as the callsign belongs with the licence, and it can be changed at any time per request by the licensee or by any other cancellation reason."

ICASA also pointed to Regulation 23 (5) that reads, "*The Authority will issue call signs to licensed amateur radio stations, and no person shall acquire call signs on behalf of a group of persons or amateur radio stations.*" In the past the SARL provided the certificate and the licence at the same time to the candidate but in future the licence will be issued after the certificate has been issued. The previous arrangement was agreed to overcome the ICASA portal issues which have since been resolved. The SARL will however assist candidates with the necessary information. A PowerPoint presentation is available on <https://mysarl.org.za/about-amateur-radio-menu/> explaining how to apply for a licence.

BOOKS ON AMATEUR RADIO:

Several ARRL books on Amateur Radio are available from the SAARDT online bookshop at reduced prices. Visit www.amateurradio.org.za for details. Titles include amongst others: ARRL 2023 Handbook in 6 volumes (50th anniversary edition), ARRL Antenna Book 24th Edition boxed set 4 Volumes, Basic Antennas, Basic Electronics and Amateur Radio Satellite for beginners.

THE OCTOBER RADIO ZS:

A call to all those lighthouse stations in August, what about an article on your activity during the Lighthouse Weekend. And this weekend is the Spring SOTA Activity weekend – send an article about your trip up the mountain and the QSOs you made. What about that project you are working on. Send your article to radiozs@sarl.org.za by Sunday, 27 September 2026.

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THE 27TH IARU REGION 1 CONFERENCE:

The 27th IARU Region 1 Conference was opened at 09:30 on Saturday 19 September at the Parkhotel Schönbrunn in Vienna, Austria. There are 93 delegates from 38 Member Societies and 16 proxies. Further there are 29 delegates from the International Secretariat, Region 1, 2 and 3. There are 19 partners as well.

Michael Kastelic, OE1MCU, President of the Austrian Society welcomed the delegates to Vienna. Tim Ellam, VE6SH, the IARU President welcomed delegates and mentioned that we are one year away from the next World Radio Conference. He thanked the Austrian team for the organisation of the Conference and the Executive Committee for their work since the last General Conference in Serbia. Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR, the Region 1 President welcomed delegates to the Conference, he thanked the present EC team for their work and encouraged delegates to participate fully in the conference.

After lunch, the HF, VHF and higher and the Youth Committees had their first meeting. After dinner, a session on the Region 1 Constitution and Bylaws was held. On Sunday, the Conference started with the Second Plenary where the Credentials reported on the MS and proxies for voting purposes. This was followed by a report of the HAREC Working Group and VHF, EMC and the Spectrum and Regulations Committees that met. Before dinner, there was a Electromagnetic Interference presentation and after dinner a ENAMS presentation to do with the noise floor.

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

ZS6WBT-1 flying aboard the 2m tall Windreiter balloon is now well into its second orbit of the Earth and was just south of Australia on Friday 18 September. Its reported altitude is 15.38km and travelling at 115 km/h. The temperature is -38C and a solar panel voltage of 4,25V.

ZS6WBT-10 flying aboard a "giant" 3m tall Windreiter balloon was launched by Gert, ZS6GC and his team on Wednesday 16 September. There were complications during the launch and the upper antenna became entangled with the solar panels. Despite this glitch a TX was received the next day. The telemetry reported an altitude of 17,46km - which is a record for SA and Windreiter balloons. No further spots received so far.

The SARL team at the Region 1 Conference received an inquiry from the Region 2 Secretary, from El Salvador, regarding the pico-balloons.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at very low levels during the week. There is currently a single sunspot region with a simple magnetic configuration 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 25. The 30 to 15 m bands may especially in the late afternoons provide some DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

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DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

23 September – The Spring Equinox and provincial schools close

24 September – The National Braai Day and Heritage Day

30 September – Power Hour Tech Talk

1 to 10 October – the 2026 SOTA Expedition

CLUB NEWS:

OCTOBER CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our September monthly club meeting, on Saturday the 10th of October 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 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!