

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 6th of October 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 KEY:

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Jan Schubart, ZS6ARV, went silent on Sunday, 13 September 2026. Jan was known for his role as a National Director of Hamnet in the early 1990s and early 2000s, his membership of various disaster management committees promoting the usefulness of radio amateurs, his role as a founding member of the Sandton Amateur Radio Club, his membership of Scouts South Africa (hence radio amateurs' involvement in the annual "Kontiki" event) and his volunteer work with the Red Cross of South Africa. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

THE OCTOBER 2026 RADIO ZS:

The October 2026 issue of Radio ZS was uploaded to the League website on Tuesday, 29 September 2026. We look at preserving South Africa's Morse Code heritage; two radio amateurs, one lighthouse and an adventure at Diaz Point; the ARRL VUCC and FFMA Awards for VHF/UHF Grid Chasers; amateur radio frequency usage around the SKA; and using generative AI for radio design.

There is information about the 2026 SOTA Expedition, the NR-1 Antenna Noise Blanker, an 80-metre portable vertical, RLC-loaded multiband OCFD antennas and a variable DC load power supply rated from 0 to 15 A. We look at modulation, BACAR-14, recording sound from your transceiver, DMR for beginners and an alternative use for the FreeDV software. Download your copy today.

PICO BALLOON NEWS:

ZS6WBT-1, now 46 days into its journey and having travelled 66 503 km, has finally picked up the pace and is cruising along at around 100 km/h. It spent much of the past week meandering at roughly 30 km/h, even doubling back westwards several times instead of following its usual eastward course! It is now well out over the Pacific Ocean, heading towards South America. The telemetry received suggests that it is in good health. It is flying at 15,84 km, with a reported temperature of -24°C and a solar panel voltage of 4,15 V.

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THE YOUTH NEEDS YOUR HELP NEXT WEEKEND:

CQ Hou Koers is the Voortrekkers' national amateur radio communication day, taking place on Saturday, 17 October 2026. Yes, it falls on the same weekend as Jamboree on the Air and the BACAR-14 launch! Chat via amateur radio with other Voortrekkers and Scouts from across South Africa, Namibia and even the rest of the world. Learn more about a fascinating hobby that fosters resilience and aligns perfectly with the Voortrekkers' commitment to service. Contact Andries Visagie (ZS6VL) at andries.visagie@gmail.com for more information about CQ Hou Koers and to offer your assistance in getting a Voortrekker Commando on the air.

Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet are the world's largest digital and radio Scout event, promoting friendship and global citizenship. The event takes place every year in October. It is a great opportunity for Scouts and Scout groups to take part in an international jamboree. JOTA/JOTI 2026 takes place from Friday, 16 October, to Sunday, 18 October. Scouts from around the world can join in over the internet or amateur radio, take part in activities and learn about one another's countries.

JOTA/JOTI is open to Scouts and Guides of all ages. To take part, register your branch or group on the JOTA/JOTI website: <https://www.jotajoti.info/>. You can make JOTA/JOTI 2026 part of an event about communication and international Scouting. For a JOTI-only event, you need a computer and a good internet connection. Details are available online when you register.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at very low levels during the week. There are currently two sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. There are a low probability of C-class solar flares and a very low probability of M-class flares. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 23. The 30 to 15 m bands may provide some DX fun, especially in the late afternoons. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

DIARY OF SOME UPCOMING EVENTS:

10 October – The RAE

17 October – The BACAR-14 launch and CQ Hou Koers

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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.

We will continue with the Pico 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 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 by Anton ZS6WG and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB. Thank you for having listened!