

ZS6KTS NEWS BULLETIN

Good evening, it is Tuesday 20th of October 2026.

This is **ZS6KTS**, being operated by Gert ZS6GFS, 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:

OCTOBER 2026 RAE NEWS:

A total of 81 candidates sat the examination on 10 October 2026 at registered examination centres. The results were released to candidates on Friday afternoon, with 66 candidates successfully passing the examination. The SARL congratulates all successful candidates on their achievement.

Candidates who were unsuccessful are reminded that they may rewrite the examination in May 2027 at no additional cost. However, they must register for the examination again.

The SARL would like to thank all the instructors who presented classes, as well as the invigilators and their assistants at the examination centres, for their efforts in ensuring that the examinations proceeded smoothly. Our thanks also go to the HF assessors who assisted candidates with their HF assessments.

Candidates who passed may now proceed with their licence applications through ICASA. Two PowerPoint presentations are available on the SARL website at <https://mysarl.org.za/about-amateur-radio-menu/> to guide candidates through the registration and licence application processes step by step.

HF CONDITIONS SA HAS A NEW HOME:

Georg, ZS1GFL reports that HF Conditions SA has a new home at <https://zs1gfl.gpio.co.za/HFSA/> - see SARL News 4 October 2026. The site runs 2 instances and a load balancer to spread the load between them. This is hosted by long-time friend and amateur John, ZS1EQ/ZL1VMM.

If you have done the app install on any of your devices, please uninstall and reinstall from the new site, and re-enter your Callsign and Grid Square. Site functionality is identical as before. The old site will be shut off by weekend and will become the development site for further expansion/development/testing before being pushed to the production site.

Georg says he would like to thank John, ZS1EQ/ZL1VMM for the hosting space and time and effort he put in to make his more accessible. Comments to zs1gfl@glech.co.za please.

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PICO BALLOON NEWS:

ZS6WBT-1 was last heard on 9 October at 11:54 UTC. The final transmission indicated a sudden drop in altitude from its usual 15,8 km down to 4,16 km, signalling that the balloon had clearly failed. Over a period of 53 days, it travelled 75 303 km, completing 1,8 orbits around the Earth.

PROPAGATION REPORT:

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at very low levels during the week. There are currently three sunspot regions with simple to slightly complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability for C, and a moderate 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 64. The 10 to 30 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:

4 and 5 November – the Taurids Meteor Shower

7 November – the West Rand Flea Market and the SARL Spring QRP Contest

11 November – Armistice Day

THE 2027 SARL DIARY OF EVENTS:

The draft 2027 SARL Diary of Events is available for download from the League website, go to Special interest groups and click on the first menu item - SARL Diary of Events. Please have a look at the Diary and provide the SARL Secretary with information on your Club's events, special event stations, etc. Please send the information to secretary@sarl.org.za by Saturday 31 October 2026.

CLUB NEWS:

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING:

We are looking forward to enjoy our November monthly club meeting, on Saturday the 14th of November 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.

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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 Gert ZS6GFS and compiled by Corrie ZS6CDB. Thank you for having listened!