



Rockwell
Collins



Rockwell International



COLLINS



July 2006 Issue #7

This newsletter is sent out to all who have called in on the AWA net and who have email facility, and those who have paid for mail envelopes, with the hopes that it will encourage you to call in again and help to keep the AWA net alive and well.

Should you not want to receive any further publications of this newsletter, drop me a note and I will take you off the mailing list. Should you prefer to receive a hard copy via snail mail, please send an SASE for the period you would like to receive these and I will process for you.

Happenings:

Anyone still interested in having a lapel badge, same as the logo at the top of this page, can get hold of Cliff by email at csmyth@altron.co.za to place an order with him. The cost involved is R22 per badge, PLUS R6.00 postage. The bag used for postage can take up to 12 badges, so order a few and save on postage.

Cliff's banking details are as follows:

ABSA branch code 515-205 (Northgate) account C.J. Smyth. Number 0711107967. Use your call sign as a reference number.

Due to no interest, only one enquiry, I will abandon the supply of the logo in the form of a cloth badge (embroidered).

ZS0AWA/CW.



Remember the AWA CW net on Saturday afternoons at 14:00 SAST, run at 12 wpm and so should meet the needs of all interested in CW. 7020 is the frequency.

I will be away on leave from Saturday 01 July to Monday 10th July and as such will not be around to run the CW net. If anyone else would like to take charge of that for me, please do so and I hope the net continues.

Then of course the Straight Key net on Monday evenings at 19:30 on 80m, freq 3579. I have heard that there is also a QRP CW net that runs on the same frequency in the mornings at 06:30, which has been going for 15 years.

AM Net:

AM call in at 09:15 on Saturday morning after the SSB net. This group has been steadily growing and its amazing to see the interest in AM.

Remember the AM group on Wednesday evenings at 07:30 SAST on 80m, freq 3615 (-5kc for QRM) Please come up and join us if you have the time and the inclination.

Stations who have called in on the evening net during this last month are:

Dudley Z22JE; Rod ZS5RK; Don ZS5DR; Brian ZS2AB; Johan ZS6HA; Ken ZS20C; Rad ZS6RAD; Andy ZS6ADY.

SSB Net:

A hearty welcome to those newcomers to the group and we hope to see you all come back again.

Some of the rigs heard recently:

Dudley Z22JE KW 2000, Don ZS5DR HT 37 and SX28; Rad ZS6RAD FL/FR50 B;
Gary ZS5NK Collins S Line; Ian – ZS5IE Collins KWM2-A; Ian ZS5IAN Heathkit HW100;
Malcolm ZS4SM B25; Dave ZS6AAW FT101; Brian ZS2AB FT400;



Hammarlund

Hammarlund was a very old company, and something of a pioneer. It was founded in the 1920s, by Oscar Hammarlund in Manhattan. Its initial Comet Super Pro line led to the legendary SP- series of comm receivers, that was made, by the thousands, until the 1970s. Later on, Hammarlund introduced the HQ- line of receivers at a more affordable price for hobbyists. These, too, were made by the thousands, until the early 70s. Oscar Hammarlund died in 1945, and was succeeded by his son, Lloyd. In the 50s, Hammarlund began a move to North Carolina, which became complete in 1965. The company was sold to Telechrome in the late 50s, then to Giannini Scientific.

Hammarlund got into transmitters in the 50s and 60s, with its HX- series. The first ones were obviously intended as companions to the HQ- line of receivers, as the cases are quite similar. Just about all tube transmitters had turret dials for their VFOs, but Hammarlund's had a slide-rule dial more like what Hallicrafters put on its receivers. The later Hammarlund transmitters, plus the high-power, external linears, look quite a bit beefier, but they weren't big sellers and I don't know anything about them.



HAMMARLUND HQ-140X.
Less speaker. Net \$264.50.

The HQ- receivers were large, in the real boat anchor style. The HQ-140 had those ominous, gun-port-like, little holes through which you read the dials (the Super-Pro commercial/military series had these too). Later HQ- models were more generally streamlined, still large boxes, but hardly heavyweight ones, with bigger openings. The HQ-170 was ham bands only, the -180 was general coverage. These radios also had a large, strange,

Telechron clock in one corner, matching the large S-meter in the center. The clock, which could turn on the radio, was optional at a cost so low that there was no excuse NOT to get it. However, you still see a lot of radios with just a dumb, empty hole plugged up with a cheesy logo. Yuk. Hams are such cheapies.



Hammarlund's top line, the Super Pro series, is the kind of thing that makes radio freaks drool. It never changed that much. It just got better. The best one is the last one, the redoubtable SP-600. Following the R-390, it's probably the receiver that defined the boat anchor scene.

SP-600s were built to a spec, not a price. A standard version ran \$1000 in 50s money when \$1500 bought a car, and the -VLF model ran \$2000! Thousands of these were made, mostly for military and commercial use, sometimes with one of several different AN/FRR- or R- type designations.

[More than you ever wanted to know about the SP-600](#)

Classic BA #2:
Hammarlund SP-600-JX



Hammarlund continued selling the SP-600 until the very end. They did try to market solid state gear to hams, but it didn't sell. In the late 60s, Giannini sold the company to Electronic Assistance Corporation, which spun off assets, eventually selling all parts and stock (including the last few unsold SP-600-VLFs) to Cardwell Capacitor Corporation. The factory closed around 1972, and that was that.

With thanks to the Ominous Valve Company website for the article.

Promotions:

The following are the dates for the Radio technology in Action, which is going around the country. This is a great time to get out your Antique's and set them up on display. We have found that there is a lot of interest drawn to the old rigs as people reminisce on what they used to operate and how many contacts they made on them. Come on guys, how about putting up a display in these areas?

- **KwaZulu-Natal** - 15 July University of KwaZulu-Natal
- **GAUTENG** - 19 August SARL National Amateur Radio Centre

If anyone does set up a display, please take some photo's and email them to me for inclusion in the newsletters.

Should you feel so inclined, send us pictures of your shack that we could have them included in this newsletter.

Restoration News:

See the swap column for some interesting ideas.

Brian – ZS2BA, has told me of his restoration of a TCS12 to near perfect condition. I looked this up on the internet and found this info for interest.

The TCS12 series of Transmitters and receivers were originally designed and built for the US Navy by the American Collins Company, though later several other companies also built them. The series was numbered consecutively from TCS1 to TCS14. The US Navy numbered them COL 52245 for the transmitter and COL 46159 for the receiver. The code prefixing the Navy number determines the manufacturer e.g. COL Collins, CHI Hamilton etc. They were supplied to the US Navy for duties, similarly to the British W/S19 e.g. /P and /M from tanks trucks and similar vehicles. The TCS was also used as an emergency radio aboard Merchant ships. Although intended to work as a single inter-connected unit, the transmitter and receiver are in fact physically separate.

The Transmitter runs approximately 30W input on phone and 80W on CW.

More info can be read at the following link :

<http://www.shoppingathome.com/TCS%2012%20Transmitter%20Receiver.htm>

TCS12 Tx



TCS12 Rx



Shack News:

Rad - ZS6RAD, sent us this photo from his shack with his newly restored Yaesu FL&FR50 B (right center) and KW 2000 (left center) lighting up the shelves. We have worked Rad on several occasions on both SSB and AM using the 50B series with good reports both ways.



Swap Column:

There is an online swap shop on the website of the Highway Amateur Radio Club for ALL amateurs and interested parties to use - it is not restricted to members only. We have been invited to make use of this facility too. Should you want to, use the link to the HARC at the end of the page to take you to their website.

As you may have heard on air, we are in the process of buying a fairly large stock of valves at a very reduced price. These valves will be catalogued and made available to AWA members who are in need of valves for their rigs, or restoration work. I will distribute lists to all on email and should you need a valve, we would ask you to make a reasonable donation to the AWA coffers in exchange for the valve/s.

Coupled to this, I have 2 Heathkit HF Transceivers with spares and manuals, which have been donated to the AWA. One a SB101 and the other an SB102, both in working condition, full valve rigs, except the power supplies are faulty. Apparently the power supply transformers are U/S. Our thanks to Barrie, ZS6AJY, for these donations. We are asking tenders on these rigs in order to raise funds to purchase the valves mentioned above. These rigs are sold "voetstoots". The highest bid will obviously get the rig/s. You may send your offers to me at cairns@xsinet.co.za. Should there be no interest from the AWA members, I will advertise them on SARL Swap Column.

Should you want to donate towards the purchase of the valves anyway, as you feel it might be your good deed for the day, then you may do that by sending us your donation. Records of all money collected will be kept and will be available to anyone should they want to see them.

Account details: A.Cairns - Standard Bank Benoni – Savings account.

Account Number : 225334119

Use your Call Sign as a reference number.

Should you want to donate valves to be put in to stock with the others, you may do that too. Just let me know what valves you have, where they are, and we will try to arrange transport for them to my QTH.

I also have a Hammarlund SP110-XL AM/CW receiver, made around 1937, which has been donated to the AWA (picture below from Rig-Pix.com) from Harry ZS6MH. This is a rack mounted receiver and there is no case for it. John – ZS6ABJ, brought around a case which is not perfect fit, but which may be suitable. Should you be interested in a good restoration project, please contact Andy – ZS6ADY. The rig is complete and I am told when removed from its rack, it was working. It comes with a 110V power supply. I have no documentation for the rig.



If you would like to forward this newsletter to any other interested parties, please feel free to do so. Print it out and put in on your club notice board, or give it to someone interested in valve radios. If you know of any who report in on the net but don't have email, print it out and give them a copy.

Net days and times:

Saturday 08:30 SSB net - frequency – 7070Mhz

Saturday 09:15 AM net – frequency 7070Mhz

Saturday 14:00 CW net – frequency 7020Mhz

Wednesday 19:30 AM net – frequency 3615 (-5 for QRM)

This, and past copies of the AWA Newsletter can be downloaded from <http://members.harc.org.za/newsletters/AWA/>. Our thanks to the Highway Amateur Radio Club in Durban (<http://www.harc.org.za>) for providing this service to our members and other interested parties.

Thanks for the bandwidth.

DE ZS6ADY FOR ZS0AWA