



## September 2007

### Issue #21

My sincere apologies for the late delivery of this months newsletter, but I have been off ill for the past 2 weeks and simply have not been able to get it out on time. Hopefully this will not happen again.

This newsletter is sent out to all who have called in on the AWA net with the hopes that it will encourage you to call in again and help to keep the AWA net alive and well.

With some of the money gathered from sales of donated goods to the AWA as well as donations being received from some of our readers, we are now able to pay for envelopes and mailing of the newsletter to almost all who want it.

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.

### **Happenings:**

Things have been fairly quiet this month with no unusual happenings. The RTA has come and gone, the bands have been quiet due to low sunspot activity and no one wanting to strain their ears to hear what's happening.

We continue our Saturday morning AM and SSB nets unperturbed by the poor band conditions with Willem needing coffee earlier than usual these days either due to frustration levels being higher than normal or just that by 09:30 everyone is signing off. We still seem to average around 15 – 20 calling in on the net, which I suppose is not too bad.

The 80m relay has proved to quite successful with fairly good reports coming in from those who listen in. I have been plagued with a bit of noise on my KWM2-A which is used for the relay and have now been loaned another one with a noise blanker in, which we hope will do the trick. I

would still like to get a Collins Noise Blanker for the KWM2-A, so if you have one lying around and it's just gathering dust, let me know and we can come to some arrangement.

I have gotten no further on doing a relay on to 2m on the Centurion repeater, but am working on this. I Don't know how many people will be able to take advantage of this relay, but time will tell.

**ZS0AWA/CW.**



Heard on frequency this last month has been Barrie ZS6AJY, Ian ZS5IAN, John ZS5JON & Pierre ZS6BQS. Join us on Saturday afternoons at 14:00 SAST. The net is run at  $\pm 12$  wpm and so should meet the needs of all interested in CW. 7020 is the frequency. Although the band has not been that co-operative, we have still managed good Q5 signals on CW.

Ian, ZS5IAN, has started running CW in the evenings on 80m – 3579 and/or 40m 7020 from 19:30. Just a casual get together for those wanting to have a rag chew on CW. Look out for that one.

### **AM Net:**

The Wednesday evening net has really been an up and down story with band conditions varying from 5/9 signals to absolute silence. I must admit though, the times when the band is good we have been able to take advantage of it, because we have been there. If you don't switch on and try, you'll never know what's happening.

Please come up and join us if you have the time and the inclination. On Wednesday some of the guys start transmitting on AM from 17:00 in the evening, so log in when you can. Saturday mornings from 06:00 on 3615.

The band certainly has not been very favourable, but we continue to stick it out.

The Saturday morning net has been well attended. Heard on frequency this month have been Gary ZS5NK, Rod ZS5RK, Don ZS5DR, Munro ZS5IN, Rad ZS6RAD, Barney ZS6BLL, Willem ZS6ALL, Denis ZR6DNS and yours truly ZS6ADY.

The AM net has mostly turned in to an MF(Musical Frequency) net, but please don't be deterred from joining us on frequency.

### **SSB Net:**

With 40m remaining a difficult prospect for local as well as div 5 stations, the 80m relay is proving to be quite popular. However, there are times that I will not be available to do the relay and wonder if there is anyone else who has the capability to do a relay from 40m to 80m and vice versa. The main thing is not just to have 2 HF rigs, but to have 2 separate antenna's, preferably in opposing directions. In other words one north/south and the other east west, if mounted close to each other. If you are able to assist with this, please contact Andy either by email or by phone on 082 448 4368.

Pine – ZS6GST, has secured the use of the Pretoria Centurion club repeater for use by the AWA on Saturday mornings to relay the net on to 145.775. We will certainly look in to this as well as this should make it a lot easier for the Pretoria stations to get in on the net as well. At present we

may only relay the net there and not take call in's, until we can relay back to 80 and 40 from there.

We appeal to all of you, when calling in on 40m, should you not be able to hear the control station, try letting someone know who you can hear and you know can hear the control station. It's better than doubling over everybody. Better still, try 80m.

We seem to be averaging around 20 callers every week, which goes to show the kind of interest being generated in valve rigs at the moment.

I also am aware of a few people who are getting in to some serious rebuilds, so let us have some articles and photo's of your labours of love.

Dave, ZS6AVM, sent me this well prepared article and I could not help but put it in. Well done Dave, at least now I know where to look for a future editor for the newsletter

### **A Tribute to a "Real Ham" – 1949 - 1999 Norman Shields Scully**



The Shack of Norm (ZE8JZ - Gwelo Rhodesia) in the early 1960's (note the trophy, he won the SARL Phone and CW Contests two years in succession, 1960, and 1961 respectively. I have the Award Certificates, which I should take out and display

My father, Norman, was born on the 19th August 1924, in Durban South Africa. He passed away on the 3rd December 1999, he was effectively a Ham for 50 years

Rigs in the picture on the left, are a Johnston Viking Ranger Transmitter, and an Eddystone Receiver

His mother came from Sydney Australia, and his father was of Irish decent. Norm had an elder brother, Sydney. Syd was killed along with 12 others whilst on a training flight in 1961. Syd had served in the SA Air force during World War II, and had been in North Africa

Picture on right – Norm in Cairo – Just after the War (1946 -1947)





Norm during Training - SAAF (UK 1944)

Norm served 14 years in the South African Air force, and was station in Durban on the "flying boats", Sunderlands/Catalans (35 Squadron), as well as being stationed on Robben Island, on the "Crash Boats", Air/Sea Rescue

He was trained as an air-gunner/radio operator, and underwent training in the United Kingdom during the war years. His background in the post office came in handy, as he was a qualified telegraphist

The Morse Code wasn't anything new to him, in fact during his training was often called upon to give CW lessons to the other recruits

Norm really enjoyed CW, he operated SSB as well. He was very active on the WARC Bands, 30M, 12M, 17M, at one time he was top of the list of countries worked on 30M, 12M and 17M by a South African Station (Norm never owned an Amplifier). He always said, "I only work stations who can hear me running 100W". He in fact despised Amplifiers, and expressed his opinion in that regard, when I built my fist Amplifier

After World War II, the South African Air force flew supply missions from Cape Town to Cairo. Norm was engaged in these supply missions. It was a long trip (from the bottom of the continent and all the way back again) with many refueling stops on the way. They flew DC3's (Dakota's) carrying much needed supplies to Egypt

Norm was licensed in 1949, and held the following call signs ; ZS5KN (1949) - ZS6AOI (1953 - 1958) - ZE8JZ (1958 - 1963) ZE1CB (1963 - 1981) - ZS6AVM (1981 - 1999/12/03)

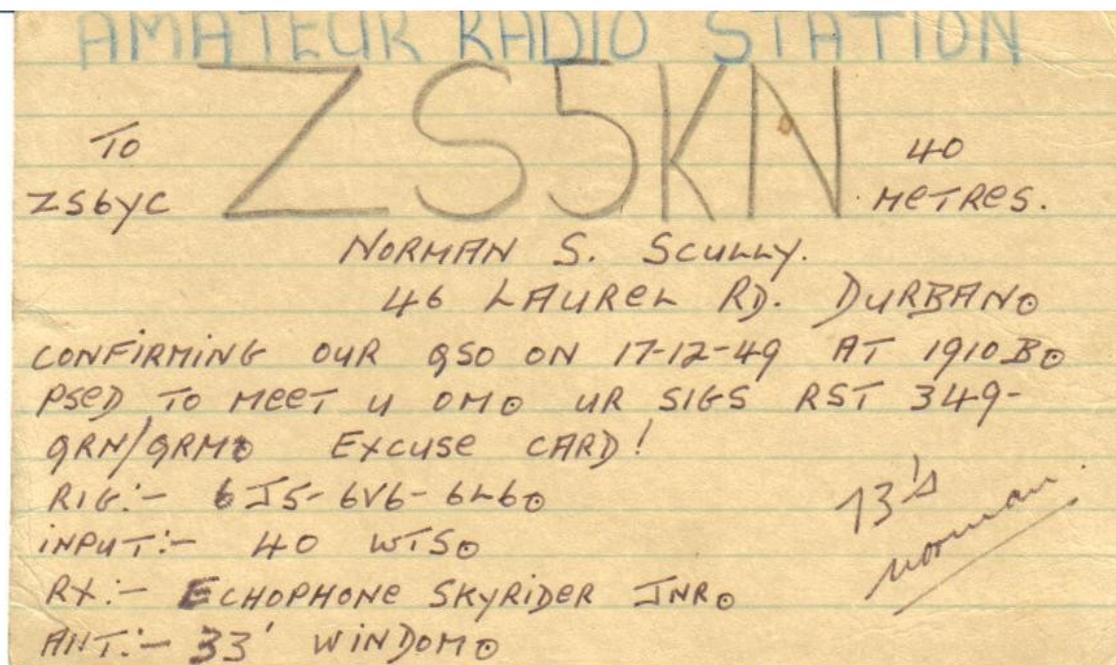
The family moved to Rhodesia in 1958, where Norm joined the Rhodesian Air force. He was responsible for running the communications at the Thornhill Air force Base, which was situated in a small town called Gwelo

Norm operated AM and CW, using a Johnson Viking Ranger transmitter, and an Eddystone receiver. His first SSB rig was an FT 101ZD, which he purchased in 1981. I still have the FT101ZD in my Shack, and the Eddystone in the storeroom



Norm on Robben Island – Air/Sea Rescue (late 40's)

## QSL CARD SENT TO MY DAD IN 1949 FROM ZS6YC



Times were difficult in those days, hence the homemade QSL Card written on SAAF stationery (cardboard)

This scanned image of the QSL Card was sent to me by Ian, VK2EYC. Ian informed me that my late Dad was his first contact on having received his Amateur Radio License in 1949

Ian has since sent me the original of the above QSL Card, together with one of his ZS Cards (ZS6YC) from his time in South Africa for which I'm truly grateful

The picture on the right seems to be the model of receiver that my Dad used. The Transmitter was home made using 6J5, 6V6, and 6L6 valves

### General Coverage Shortwave Communications Receivers

As the WW2 ended, Hallicrafters introduced the Echophone EC-1A as an entry level shortwave receiver. Its unique band spread dial layout as well as its circuit design to provide low cost yet best performance, was definitely the predecessor of popular Hallicrafters S-38 series



**Echophone Commercial  
EC-1A / EC-1B**

Compiled by ;

Dave Scully (son)  
ZS6AVM

My previous call was ZS6GS, in 2000, for sentimental reasons, I applied for my late father's Call Sign

As kids, we had this receiver in our bedroom, on which we would listen to the SW Stations, including all those "serials" which were of great interest in the 60's and early 70's

## **Swap Column:**

Any swaps or items for sale in the antique line ? Let me have the details and we will advertise it here.

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.

I have some interesting items to be collected for the AWA and will let you know more about those in next months newsletter. Thanks to our popularity, people are no longer just throwing away old rigs, but letting someone know who has contacts within the AWA. It is thanks to these people that we can ask for a donation with every rig that finds a home, so that we can keep the newsletter going. Almost like the SPCA.

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 06:00 AM Net – frequency 3615Mhz  
Saturday 08:30 SSB net - frequency – 7070 with a relay on 3615  
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