



AWA Newsletter

#68

August 2011

A Member
of the
SARL



Antique
Wireless Association
of Southern Africa

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- * President—Don ZS5DR
- * Technical Advisor—Rad ZS6RAD
- * Net Controller—Willem ZS6ALL
- * Secretary/PRO—
Andy ZS6ADY
- * Western Cape—John ZS1WJ

Reflections:

I know there are some radio hams out there who have made great roads in to the field of amateur radio. Those whose names will forever be remembered for years to come. Well maybe for as long as those who met the person or chatted with them on air or even just heard the names mentioned. Reno Faber is one that comes to mind.

I was still a very young ham (young in amateur radio that is) when Reno was SARL president. As he was for many years.

Some will remember him as a legacy in Amateur Radio, while others may have disliked him totally, as life is, but his is a name associated with SARL and amateur radio and there will be many who remem-

ber him or at least know the name, for years to come.

For the more mundane hams, there may not be the remembrance for years to come, but there is always a circle of friends who will remember you or who you will remember, and you will always regard them as friends, whether you have met them in person or not.

When I visited Munro in Umtentwini in July, something his lovely wife Anna said to me made me dwell on this point and how it affects us in our daily lives.

We are a big family. No matter what race, religion, colour or creed. Once you have chatted a few times with someone on air, they become your friend, and

you will chat with them more often and learn more about them. What makes it even more pleasant is when you meet them face to face.

When I think of the circle of friends I have made in Amateur Radio, I get quite excited. Some have had an impact in my life, others are acquaintances, but all are friends. I may have a few people who think I'm not such a great guy, as life is, but I think for the majority, good friendly relationships have developed.

What a wonderful hobby, experience, after hours pleasure machine, whatever you may want to call it. I certainly enjoy the time I spend chatting with friends and making new acquaintances.

Best 73

Andy ZS6ADY

Wikipedia—Radio

Radio is the transmission of signals through free space by modulation of electromagnetic waves with frequencies below those of visible light.^[1] Electromagnetic radiation travels by means of oscillating electromagnetic fields that pass through the air and the vacuum of space. Information is carried by systematically changing (modulating) some property of the radiated waves, such as amplitude, frequency, phase, or pulse width. When radio waves pass an electrical conductor, the oscillating fields induce an alternating current in the conductor. This can be detected and transformed into sound or other signals that carry information.

The etymology of "radio" or "radiotelegraphy" reveals that it was called "wireless telegraphy", which was shortened to "wireless" in Britain. The prefix *radio-* in the sense of wireless transmission, was first recorded in the word *radioconductor*, a description provided by the French physicist Édouard Branly in 1897. It is based on the verb *to radiate* (in Latin "radius" means "spoke of a wheel, beam of light, ray"). This word also appears in a 1907 article by Lee De Forest, it was adopted by the United States Navy in 1912, and became common by the time of the first commercial broadcasts in the United States in the 1920s. (The noun "broadcasting" itself came from an agricultural term, meaning "scattering seeds widely".) The term was then adopted by other languages in Europe and Asia. British Commonwealth countries continued to mainly use the term "wireless" until the mid-20th century, though the magazine of the BBC in the UK has been called Radio Times ever since it was first published in the early 1920s.

In recent years the term "wireless" has gained renewed popularity through the rapid growth of short-range computer networking, e.g., Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN), Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth, as well as mobile telephony, e.g., GSM and UMTS. Today, the term "radio" often refers to the actual transceiver device or chip, whereas "wireless" refers to the system and/or method used for radio communication; hence one talks about *radio* transceivers and *Radio* Frequency Identification (RFID), but about *wireless* devices and *wireless* sensor networks.

CW Activity:

It is promising to see that the CW net still continues unabated under the leading of Barrie ZS6AJY and of course all those who ardently support the net.

It was also encouraging to hear the latest report on the QRP contest that recently took place. According to the results released, there was an increase in the amount of stations using CW in the QRP contest, and for SA, that is really encouraging.

It seems to be generally recognised that since CW has been de-regulated and no longer a necessity for licence conditions, there has been a steady increase in numbers of people taking interest in CW.

Although we see large numbers of CW contestants from the UK and USA in DXCC contests, I really believe there is a genuine interest in SA for CW and be-

cause it is no longer a necessity, those who do take up keys, or paddles, show a genuine interest in doing CW.

So all we can do is try to encourage more and more people to use CW and find an interest in it. I do believe that once mastered, and not to a 40 WPM mastery either. Even at 12 WPM one can really enjoy CW.

There are so many who have left CW for years and then decided to come back to it as a mode and do not take too long to get back in to the swing of things.

I myself am one of those, and really do get a lot of pleasure out of plodding along at 12 to 15 WPM and having some good old rag chews on the band.

For the serious contester, it is a different world. The exchange of numbers and very



Begalli Graciella Jnr

little else. But as a good friend of mine always says "its whatever blows your hair back" that does it for you. I certainly won't complain about the way any of you use CW, just use it.

Best 73

DE ZS0AWA/CW ...--

SSB Activity:

Well it seems that time of the year and that time of the solar cycle and some additional wondrous activities are all having their effect on the bands again. Especially 40m, which has been decidedly poor these last few weeks.

This last Saturday did see some improvement as the Div 1 stations were coming through quite well for a change. But in general, 40m has not been great.

80m on the other hand has become extremely good, especially in the early hours and continuing to later during the day. The relay on 80 is certainly a lot quieter than 40m and for the local stations a lot easier to copy. Good

5/9 plus reports are easily obtained even down in to Div 5.

I have heard reports of 10m openings again and I must say, not a band that I have spent any time on, but for those who have time on their hands, definitely worth looking in to.

20m has not been that great, but I have heard a fair amount of Dx activity on 15m. Always a favourite band of mine and most of my Dx contacts have been on 15m.

I have even found that PSK contacts on 15 have been great. It is one of the bands I have always found contacts on and tends to be fairly consistent.

You'll never know how much activity is out there if you never switch on your rig and listen. Try it.



FTDX 100

AM:

The AM sessions still remain fairly consistent. Saturday mornings are definitely the best time to be testing AM and the band is so open and quiet it makes listening an absolute pleasure.

Wednesday evenings on the other hand are often a challenge. Sometimes the band is really in good condition and the transmissions are really good with Div 5 stations running a good 9 plus, but some evenings the noise is competing steadily at a good 9 plus. Then there is the QSB to contend with and of course some of the stations who run on low power.

I have given up trying to make predictions

about the bands and the only way to know if it is working and what condition its in is to get out in to the shack and switch on.

It would be wonderful if weather conditions were as good on a Saturday morning as they are on a Wednesday evening, but then one can't have their AM transmissions in perfect harmony with the weather.

Most times this winter, my shack has been no warmer than 4 deg on a Saturday morning, but with a bit of heat from the valve rigs and of course a fan heater, it soon gets to a comfortable temperature, and with conditions being as good as they have been, its all really quite worth it.

If you are bold enough to brave the cold, join us on Saturday morning at about 06:30, and listen to some good AM signals from across the country.



Gonset GSB100

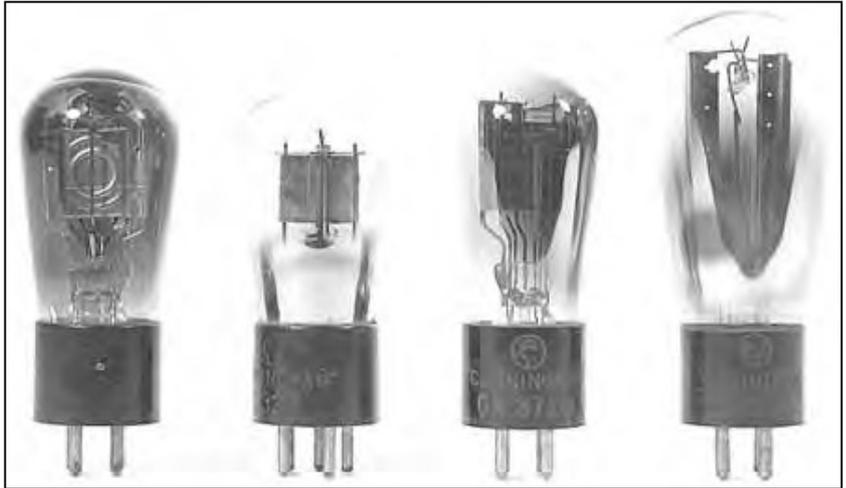
Part 2: The First AC Tubes; Screen Grid Tubes

By Marc F. Ellis, N9EWJ

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Here

Last time we covered the development of all tubes commonly used in home battery receivers at the beginning of the broadcast era. Take a few minutes, now, and think about what those battery radio owners had to put up with. If the set was large enough to have good sensitivity and operate a speaker (such receivers would typically be “3-dialers” using five 01-A tubes), energy to light the filaments came from a six-volt lead-acid storage battery of the type used in automobiles. Plate (and possibly grid bias) voltage came from two or more large dry batteries of the non-rechargeable type.



Here are the tubes that made the first true AC sets possible. From left: UX-226, UY-227, UX-171-A and UX-280.

BATTERY RADIO AGGRAVATION

Consider the nuisance and expense of operating these radios. First of all, the typical coffin-shaped case of such sets was not designed to house the batteries. Unless the family purchased a piece of special furniture to accommodate the receiver and its accessories, battery location was a problem. Those energy sources, bristling with interconnecting wires and tied to the radio via a long umbilical, looked quite untidy under the radio table.

The plate and bias batteries (called the “B” and “C” batteries) had to be disconnected, discarded, and replaced when exhausted—an annoying and expensive recurring chore. But the filament storage battery (or “A” battery) was a special problem. It was definitely miscast in the living room because a few stray drops of acid from the battery could play hob with the living-room carpeting.

Moreover, when exhausted, it had to be disconnected and recharged. The hapless radio owner could either manhandle this 40- or 50-pound load down to the nearest service station and back or purchase a home battery charger. Of course the latter option placed another unit, with more interconnecting wires, under the radio table.

Folks tolerated those messy, inconvenient and expensive batteries at first. They were part of the mystique of owning a radio set at a time when listening to distant signals in one’s living room was a thrilling and magical activity. But there was obviously going to be a great market for plug in radios as soon as they could be invented.

BATTERY ELIMINATORS

Eventually “B” and “C” eliminators appeared on the market. These converted the 110-volt AC house current to the various direct current voltages needed for the set’s “B” and “C” supply. Less common, more cumbersome and more costly were the “A” eliminators that replaced the storage battery, converting house current to six volts DC for lighting the tube filaments.

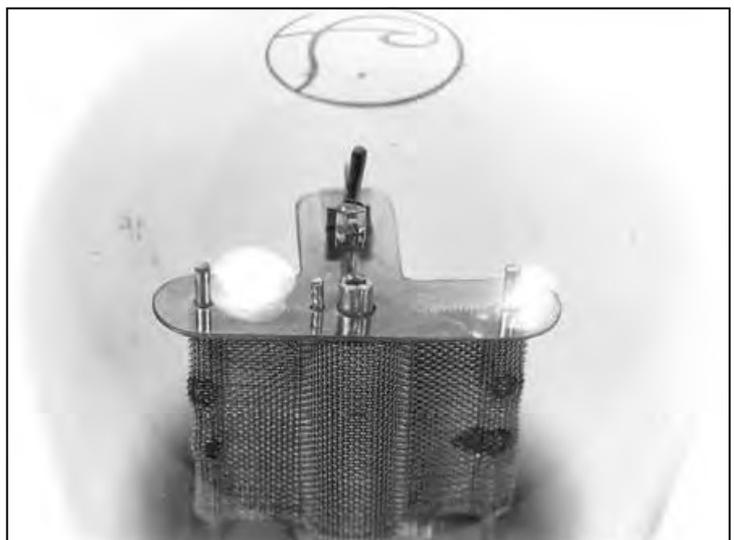
By purchasing these “eliminators,” at some expense, the radio owner could free himself from dependence on batteries—but he still had a bunch of hardware and interconnecting wires under his radio table. Some time in the mid- 1920s, the first AC-operated sets (“light socket” radios, as they were called) were introduced. But they were really just battery-set designs with built-in “A” and “B” eliminators.

These radios were neater because all of the hardware was housed in a single cabinet. But they were just as cumbersome and just as expensive (if not more so) than battery sets with separate eliminators.

True AC-operated sets, with power supply and radio circuitry compactly integrated in one case, would have to wait until the power-hungry filament circuit could be operated directly from an AC source. Then the bulky and costly AC-to-high-current-DC “A” battery eliminator equipment could be abandoned

AC TUBES ARRIVE

The problem with operating the filaments of most battery tubes from an AC source was hum. The 60-cycle hum from the alternating current supply would mix with the radio signal and be amplified along with it, causing a loud and unpleasant raspy noise that made it virtually impossible to hear the broadcast. In 1927, RCA released two new tubes that solved the problem—each in a different manner. Except for



Note the cylindrical cathode emerging from the top of the UY-227’s interior structure.



Straight-down view of an AK 42. Power supply with 80 tube

Because it was necessary to bring out an electrical connection from the cathode, the '27 needed a new base having an extra pin. Called the "UY" base, it was like the "UX" design except for having five pins instead of four. The '27's original full designation was UY-227.

THE FIRST AC SETS

The earliest integrated AC radios (the familiar metal cased Atwater-Kent Model 42 is a good example) tended to use '26s as RF and first AF amplifiers and the '27 as a detector. In more mature designs, as engineers became more comfortable with the new "cathode technology," the '26 was phased out—which, incidentally, eliminated the necessity of supplying an extra filament voltage winding on the power transformer. A good example is the very common RCA Radiola 60, which employs '27s throughout—except for the power amplifier and rectifier tubes.

A few power amplifier tubes (otherwise known as audio output tubes) were designed for battery sets. Among them were the '120 (discussed last time), '112 and '171. They weren't widely used, however, because their extra power drain significantly shortened battery life.

As it turned out, the audio output stage wasn't as sensitive to hum as the earlier stages of the receiver. Battery types used for this purpose could be lit from an AC source with no ill effects. So, at least at first, no special AC audio in the early AC sets was the UX-171-A, an improved version of the '171. Both the RCA and AK sets just mentioned used this tube as the power amplifier. Its filament operated on 5 volts at .25 amperes, just like an 01-A.

With tube filaments (and heaters) operating nicely on alternating current, one more arrangement had to be made to achieve an efficient "light socket" radio circuit: the conversion of the AC line voltage to well-filtered DC for use as the "B" and "C" supply. To achieve this required a full-wave rectifier circuit. Half-wave rectifier tubes (simple diodes having a filament and a single plate, but no grid) had been available since battery set days, but it required two of them for full-wave rectification.

In 1925, the first tube designed specifically for full-wave rectification (containing two plates in addition to the filament) was released. It was called the UX-213. This tube became obsolete almost as soon as it was released; radio circuits were rapidly becoming more sophisticated and powerful and the '213 wasn't able to deliver enough current to operate them. Very few radio sets incorporated a '213. I've never come across one myself.

The UX-213 was replaced, less than two years later, by the UX-280—which had about twice the current rating. The latter provided more than enough power for the sets then in use (both our examples above are powered by '80s) and for those that would be manufactured for years thereafter. In fact, the '80 is probably the most enduring tube type ever introduced, having been manufactured continuously for at least 50 years.

The availability of the types '26, '27, '71-A and '80 tubes made possible the development of the first generation of truly integrated AC-operated radios—receivers containing a compact power supply developed as part of the original design and built right into the cabinet along with the rest of the set. Even the table models, complete with internal power supply, were hardly bigger than the 3-dialer "coffin" sets of the previous generation.

Gone was the heavy umbilical dropping down to a jumble of batteries or eliminators under the table. Gone were the batteries themselves and the need to replace or charge them. The only power cable coming out of the new sets was a slender AC cord with a plug to be inserted into the wall socket. The cord took care of all energy needs, and the receiver could be operated for hours on just a few pennies worth of electricity.

Not only that, but the new sets were more sensitive and far easier to operate than the old 3-dialers. They also had better volume and tone quality. Is it any wonder that the old battery sets were relegated to attics, basements and (alas) ashcans as fast as their

its filament design, the type UX-226 looked very similar to the type '01-A it was designed to replace. But engineers had found that one way to reduce hum was to balance it out by operating the filament at a lower voltage and a higher current. The '26's filament ran on 1.5 volts at 1.5 amperes (compare the '01-A's heater specs of 5 volts at .25 amperes).

The type '27, however, was a true breakthrough design—the prototype for all AC-operated tubes to follow.

Instead of directly supplying the tube's electron stream, the filament served only to heat a surrounding structure called the cathode (originally a ceramic cylinder coated with a metallic substance) which, in turn, emitted the required electrons.

The cathode had enough "heat inertia" to smooth out the AC pulsations, so the tube ran without hum. The '27's filament (properly called a "heater" in this application) ran at 2.5-volts, which was to become the industry standard for all AC tubes designed over the next several years.

CX-313: 5 VOLT

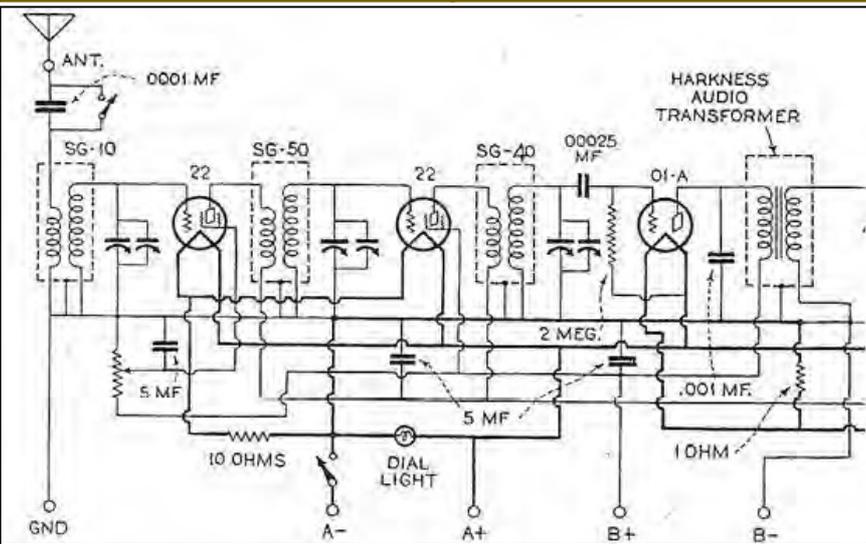
2 Ampere Full Wave Rectifier



This full wave rectifier tube is equivalent to two single wave tubes, being constructed with two plates, or anodes, and two filaments. It is capable of giving an output of approximately 65 milliamperes, and is designed for use in "B" battery eliminators. It is capable of rectifying voltages up to 220 volts AC.

Price \$6.00

Type '13 as introduced in an early ad. As a Cunningham tube, it was designated CX-313. RCA's version was designated



The "Harkness" battery-operated screen-grid set (1929) used type 22s as first and second RF amplifiers. Detector tube was the usual Type 01-A.

The tendency for self-oscillation increased as the frequency of the signal being amplified was raised. So the heightened interest in shortwave communication beginning in the late 1920s intensified the need to solve the problem.

ADDED—A NEW GRID

Like so many important technological breakthroughs, the needed solution was arrived at, almost simultaneously, by experimenters working in different countries. It was found that the internal grid-plate capacitance of a triode (three-element tube) could be reduced several hundred percent through the introduction of an additional grid between the original grid and the plate.

A technical explanation of the effect is beyond the scope of our discussion, but the capacity reduction was achieved through an "electrostatic shielding" effect obtained by maintaining the new grid at a voltage that was positive with respect to the tube's filament or cathode (but generally quite a bit less positive than that on the plate). This added element was known as the "screen grid" to distinguish it from the "control grid," which carried the signal being amplified. The screen grid actually was a piece of fine-mesh wire screening wrapped into a cylindrical shape. Tubes containing a screen grid were known as "tetrodes" (four-element tubes) to distinguish them from triodes.

THE TYPES 22, 24, AND 24-A

The first screen-grid tube generally available in this country was the type 22 introduced by RCA. The 22, which was a battery tube, never saw wide usage because it was released as the era of AC-operated sets was dawning. In fact, the first true AC operated tube (type 27) was already on the market when the 22 was introduced.

In providing a connection for the 22's extra grid, the designers chose not to alter the standard 4-pin base. Instead, they brought a lead out to a cap at the top of the tube. This was used for the control grid because, by separating the control grid connection from the leads going to the other elements, they could further reduce grid-plate capacitance.

The base pin previously occupied by the control grid was now connected to the screen grid.

The type 22 was quickly superseded by the AC-operated 24, released in May, 1929. This was a tetrode containing a cathode and a 2.5-volt heater like that on the type 27. It used the same 5-pin base as the 27, with base pins assigned to the heater, cathode, plate, and screen grid. As with the 22, the control grid connection was brought out to a cap at the top of the tube.

Very soon after the 24 was released, it was replaced by the 24-A, a quicker heating version of its predecessor.

The 24-A saw very wide use, and will be found installed in virtually all of the early screen-grid sets you will come across.

Even sets originally equipped with type 24s were eventually re-tubed with the quicker-heating 24-As. If you have any type 22s or type 24s in your collection, I'd suggest hanging on to them as collectibles. It's not that these tubes are now incredibly valuable.

But they are certainly not common, and will be getting more rare as the years pass.

The introduction of the screen-grid tube had an impact at least as great as the introduction of the first AC tubes. One contemporary radio historian wrote: "...the improvement in gain and efficiency by this development over the original triode has not been duplicated by any single advancement since that time."

SOCIOLOGICAL IMPACT

Certainly, the impact on radio listeners, hobbyists and manufacturers was profound and immediate. Listeners marveled at the distant stations they could pull in with the new circuitry, and the magazines and trade papers were full of manufacturer's ads

owners could get together the money to buy one of the AC models?

TAMING SELF-OSCILLATION

After the introduction of the first AC tubes, the next major innovation was aimed at overcoming a serious problem that limited the amplification available from vacuum tubes operating at radio frequencies. The problem was caused by the internal capacitance that existed between a tube's grid and plate. The unwanted capacitance resulted in feedback that caused instability and self-oscillation.

To combat the problem, early set designers had to either neutralize the oscillation (as in the well-known "Neutrodyne" circuit) or find ways to lower the efficiency of tubes operating as RF amplifiers. Either way, the full amplification potential of the tubes could not be realized.



hyping new screen-grid sets.

Hobby magazines overflowed with articles explaining screen-grid theory and providing constructional details on receivers utilizing the new tubes.

The development of the screen grid tube made it possible for the tuned radio frequency (TRF) radio design, originally embodied in the old "3-dialer" battery sets and also used in most early AC radios, to approach the sensitivity of the much more efficient superheterodyne circuit. This was a boon to the many manufacturers of the era who were reluctant to invest in an expensive superheterodyne license from RCA.

While the development of AC tubes had provided new convenience for the radio set owner, the development of screen-grid tubes enhanced his power over the airwaves that distinguished him from less affluent neighbors who couldn't swing the new equipment.

In an era when almost all types of technology were advancing rapidly, the introduction of the screen-grid radio was another part of the picture. Switching to one of the new sets was a little like trading in the old 4-cylinder Ford on a supercharged Lincoln V-12. And the physical appearance of a screen-grid receiver certainly fostered that illusion.

A row of three or four 24-As, each with its top cap connected to the variable capacitor via a heavy rubber-covered wire, projected an image of power and energy-not unlike the ignition system of a high-performance car.

VARIABLE MU TUBES

The unique electrical characteristics of the screen-grid tube created an effect called "cross-modulation," which tended to reduce the selectivity of the set's tuned circuits. This was a problem because, by the time the screen-grid sets were being marketed, many parts of the country were able to support several powerful radio stations operating in the same metropolitan area.

Once again, the theory here is beyond the scope of our discussion-but the problem was corrected by redesigning the control grid of the tube. The spiral of wire forming the grid was changed so that the distance between its turns was non-uniform. Besides correcting the selectivity problem, the design change provided some important additional benefits.

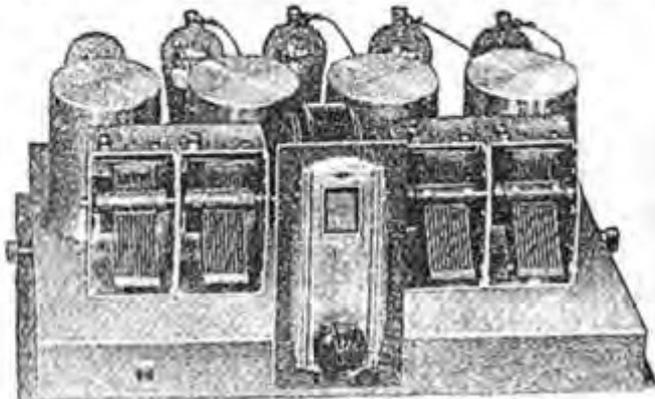
The amplification of a tube equipped with the new-style grid could be smoothly controlled by varying the d.c. grid bias that was applied. This effect would make possible the design of efficient automatic volume control (AVC) circuits.

Such circuits reduced the set's sensitivity when strong local stations were being received, thus preventing overloading, while automatically increasing gain to the maximum for the reception of weak, distant signals.

Tubes with a grid having this design are called variable- mu, remote-cutoff, or super control amplifiers. The first variable-mu tetrodes became available in 1931. RCA designated its version the type 35, while the virtually-identical tube released by most other manufacturers was dubbed the type 51. Like the 24 and 24-A, these tubes had cathodes and 2.5-volt heaters based on the design pioneered in the type 27.

A New Screen-Grid Tuner

by Glenn H. Browning and James Millen



This 1929 National Company ad hyped a screen-grid tuner by two prominent radio engineers.

Though the type 51 was discontinued not long after it was introduced, most manufacturers of replacement tubes labeled the type 35 as "35/51" indicating that it would replace either version. This practice went on for many years, and tubes labeled 35/51 seem to be more common than those specifically designated with either number.

Screen-grid tubes burst on the radio scene like a skyrocket, but their impact was fairly short-lived. The tetrode was replaced, in its application as a radio-frequency amplifier, by a new class of tubes known as pentodes-about which, more later!

AWA Net Days and Times:

AM — Saturday mornings 06:30 (depending on band and time of year) freq 3615

Wednesday Evenings 18:30 freq 3615

SSB — Saturday morning 07:45 Western Cape—3630

Saturday morning 08:30 National—7070 and 3615

CW — Saturday afternoon 14:00—7020

A Visit to the UK

The ability of an ever expanding bum to fit into an economy class seat on long haul flights dictated the idea of a holiday in Scotland should not be delayed for too long. Plans made to pay our first visit since leaving there for RSA 29 years ago.

Several trees were sacrificed for numerous amended YL paper lists on what she intended to take. Dummy runs and pre-exercising on a trampoline required before weight in order and suitcase could close. The overflow into my suitcase might have, if searched by customs, put me down as a cross dresser.

Had no problems with hand luggage, packed Yaesu FT 857, hi mound straight CW key, MFJ switching power supply, 40 metre inv vee antenna, small pulley, some coax, earphones, rope, and copy of radio licence, handy during security checks. To prevent hassle the 2 metre magnetic mount antenna was placed in hold luggage.

Anyone travelling overseas is advised to get items registered for re-importation by SARS, office is near departure section. Its proof on return that items were not purchased overseas.

Although not hobby related, I was warned by Travel agent that SARS might be doing random checks on RSA citizens travelling overseas. To prevent confiscation take proof that foreign currency came from an authorised source.

If you suffer from high blood pressure then do not attempt to buy anything in the international departure lounge at O R Tambo airport. Price asked for two cups of coffee and two muffins, a staggering R176. Goes to show all the crooks are not behind bars.

Flight to Amsterdam and then on to Glasgow went well. Security was tight at Amsterdam.

Much has changed in the 29 years we have been away. Price of food in S Africa is now more expensive than UK. Petrol at R15 a litre, cigarettes at R80 a packet, heavy traffic volumes, narrow twisting roads, huge parking problems, speed cameras everywhere, unemployment and drugs. Only thing that had not changed was the weather. Gales, heavy rain, cold temperatures, no sun, angry black clouds, you name it we had it. The Taliban wear fewer clothes to keep warm. Good old Sunny S Africa with all its problems is not so bad after all.

Enough of the waffle, set up station, inv vee hung on gutter, gave few CQ's on CW and waited in anticipation for response, not quite what I expected, increasing sound of hooters and flashing lights , the local fire brigade pitched up a few minutes later at the house. My sister is hard of hearing; her house fire alarm is linked to the fire station. Not RF compatible.

Moved the antenna around, was relegated to garden hut, here managed to transmit without too many problems. Contacts on CW made with stations in England, Ireland, Wales, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany. Not quite as busy as I thought it would be but a vast improvement on response to a CQ compared to ZS land. With a straight key and call sign MM / ZS6JBJ I did not have the energy to try operating QRP. Many of the UK contacts were ex Royal Corps of Signals.

Operating wise I thought radio practices there were poor and generally lacked discipline. Being jumped on by another station whilst in QSO was common, few bothered to check if the frequency was busy. Lots of stations calling on same frequency and not willing to move.

One very noticeable difference was minimal requirement to use call sign. I was told every 8 minutes or so was sufficient. Quite the reverse for example of what we have here in a net, 3 minutes of call signs and 30 seconds voice. Apart from it's in the rules am curious on reason for need to repeat call signs every over here.

Licences in U.K are free, was made so because regular renewal was costing too much to administrate.

I was invited to attend a meeting of Kilmarnock and Loudon Amateur Radio Club. They were very inter-

ested about what things were like in ZS as far as Ham radio goes. There were 25 members present, a very enthusiastic committee certainly arranged lots of activities throughout the year. Age of those present possibly around 50 or so.

Well Andy not much really on ham radio. Perhaps best to round off with something about the welcome home party held in our honour. I was asked about crime in S Africa, is it bad?

I told them strange things happened especially in Witbank, how recently a black man on pay day jumped on his bike and left the location to go shopping in the local supermarket for groceries. On way home he popped into shebeen for few beers. When he left he was grabbed by 3 bandidos who stole his bike, stole his groceries, stole his money and even stole his false teeth.

There was silence then the usual oohs and aahs and eventually someone asked why steal his false teeth. I told them there was a huge demand for false teeth; they used them to crimp the edges of the home made pies.

A week later along with my sister and her husband we went out for a day drive to a small fishing village about 300 Kms away from her home. You will never guess what I found in the car park, of all things the bottom half of a set of false teeth. I asked my YL if they belonged to her, she assured me not so by giving me the "Colegate smile of confidence"

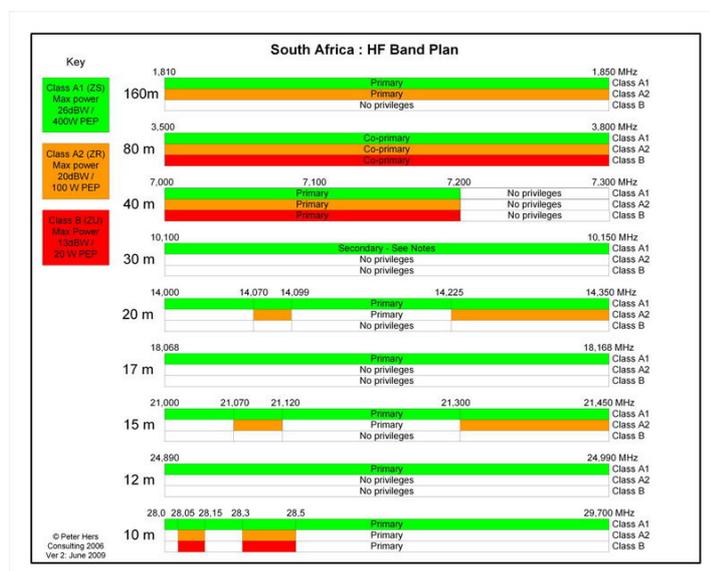
We then asked everyone passing by if the teeth belonged to them, much merriment but no takers. My sister said false teeth were expensive and perhaps should be handed in as lost property at the police station. I can well imagine the big highland Bobby's reaction if I had done so.

I put them on a bollard for all passers by to see. Eventually a man, must have been member of the magic circle, sleight of hand as he passed by and walla teeth were gone into his pocket on way to his car..

And if you think that is the end of this true story you would be mistaken, my brother in law said he thought he knew him, went over to the car to talk to him, heard him telling his wife she should have sewn hole in his pocket up to stop teeth falling out. It turns out the couple were from the same village as brother in law and had just arrived there on holiday. How about that for a coincidence!!!!

When we drove back home no one would believe us. I was informed in no uncertain terms that they would never believe another word of what I said after hearing about crimping of pies by false teeth story. Oh them of little faith, hi.

Best 73 de John
ZS6JBJ



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Get your backdated issues at
[http://harc.org.za/
newsletters/AWA/](http://harc.org.za/newsletters/AWA/)

**Antique Wireless Association
of Southern Africa**

Mission Statement

Our aim is to facilitate, generate and maintain an interest in the location, acquisition, repair and use of yester-days radio transmitters and receivers. To encourage all like minded amateurs to do the same thus ensuring the maintenance and preservation of our amateur heritage.

Membership of this group is free and by association.

Notices:

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MY EMAIL ADDRESS— andyzs6ady@vodamail.co.za

Wanted:

Leon ZR6LLS is looking for some 6CB6 valves for his Collins 75S-1 receiver and a "G" stand for a D104 microphone. If no one can help with the G stand, a mic suitable for valve rigs would do.

Contact him on 0844500301 or email zr6lls@yahoo.com

If you are considering getting rid of any valves or old rigs, donate them to the AWA and we will find someone who will take care of them. Valves will be added to the collection we have and made available for anyone doing restoration projects.

We are planning another raffle for a fine set of valve radios that have been donated to the AWA. The funds go towards the printing and mailing of the AWA newsletter for those who want hard copies and for the SARL membership fees and annual licence fees for ZS0AWA.

Remember, if you are planning on running a station somewhere and want to show of your valve radios, you can always ask for the use of the AWA call sign. It is registered as an educational call sign which can be used to encourage others in Amateur Radio. Application should be made to the President for permission to use the call sign.

