



AWA Newsletter

#70

November 2011

A Member
of the
SARL



Antique
Wireless Association
of Southern Africa

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AWA Committee:

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

Reflections:

This year is drawing to a end rather quickly and before we can say Jack Robinson, or any other of your favourite sayings, we are going to be heading in to a new year.

This year has, I think, been full of challenges in personal lives and issues as well as issues in amateur radio.

We have seen a few of our old friends depart this world and also seen a few new call signs joining the AWA. One thing for certain, the demand for hollow technology certainly has not waned.

There have been exchanges of radio's taking place and the bands have improved tremendously.

It would seem that in many instances, there

have been so many changes, one does not know exactly where to begin and where to end. Have the changes all been good ones ? I think the answer to that question will greatly depend on how you see the glass. Half full or half empty.

Whichever way it has gone for you, we can only look forward to greater things, both in amateur radio and in our personal lives.

With the AGM now a thing of the past. A new President on the cards. My personal thanks to Don ZS5DR and the sacrifices he made during the last two years to attend meetings and be on air as much as time would allow him.

To Rad, for the fine work he has put in to being available to offer advice

and even carry out some valuable repair work to some of the fine rigs that sit in our shacks.

To John who has played the part of bringing the Western Cape members together and organising events down there.

To each and every one who has played an integral part in keeping this fine organisation of radio enthusiasts together, we salute you.

I can assure you, no one ever thought the AWA would be around for this long, and I can see there are still a good many years ahead that it will be around.

That's the opener for my end of year Trilogy.

Best 73

De Andy ZS6ADY

Dudley Kaye –Eddie Z22JE

It was with sadness we learned of the passing of Dudley on the 9th October 2011. Dudley had been around on frequency for as long as I could remember plus a good few years. He loved the old valve radios and had a lot of fun restoring and keeping them going.

We shall certainly miss his voice on the AWA net, as Dudley had been there from the beginning and was a member of the Collins group which became the AWA.

Condolences were sent on behalf of the AWA to his wife Margaret to which she very kindly responded and thanked us.



CW Net:

I have been greatly encouraged by some of the messages on the SARL Forum about CW and ways to improve and get back in to CW.

There is a small group of enthusiasts out there who are now become excited about using CW again. Why? I have absolutely no idea, but I do know one gets a certain pleasure out of every successful CW contact you make.

Now, you may ask, what is a successful CW contact. In my point of view, its any CW contact where someone replied to you and you can exchange information.

It does not matter how fast or slow the QSO went, or how many mistakes you did or did not make. It makes no difference if the QSO lasted 1 minute, enough time to

exchange numbers, or 15 minutes, enough time for a bit of a rag chew.

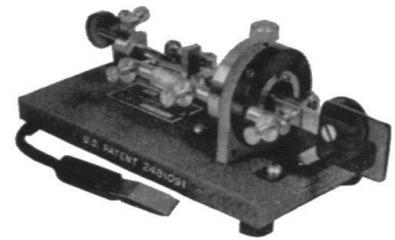
The fact is, you have successfully read and sent CW and the call is logged.

It would be nice if we could encourage more people to join the AWA CW net on a Saturday afternoon, but often it is not possible, as there is rugby, soccer, cricket or croquet on the TV.

However, there are some who will forfeit this pleasurable afternoon activity to instead play some boring CW.

My thanks go of course to the regulars, and not so regulars, who do come up on the net and make it a successful net.

There has been much activity on the DX



bands over the last while and 10, 15 and 20m have been giving excellent results. Listen out in the CW portion of these bands and you will be pleasantly surprised. CW from 12 wpm to 40 wpm. Whatever your preference.

Best 73,
De ZS0AWA ... --

SSB activity:

This summer has certainly brought about that long awaited and spoken about change to 40m. The band is wide open, but mostly to KZN from Div 6.

The div 1&2 stations can be heard Q5, but certainly not with the vigour of the div 5 stations.

The problem associated with this of course is that 80m has effectively lost most of its Oomph, by the time the SSB net gets going and can only really be heard by local stations. There have been reports of still being able to hear very good communication to div5 on 80m but for the rest it is pretty dismal.

We will of course continue to run the 80m relay for those of you who still enjoy operating there.

Our contact list continues to grow and every Saturday morning there are a few more who call in on the net. It's so good to know this group will continue for many years to come, thanks to the interest of those who still like to use valves.

The DX bands have been extremely active and 10m of course has been producing some outstanding results.

I get regular communications from groups in the UK and US and it would seem the 10m

activity has been really good from there. 20m and 15m have also been quite active.



Hallicrafters SX28

AM:

I am afraid that with the improvement in the 40m band and the decrease in the 80m band, AM activity has also been affected quite badly.

Unfortunately most of our AM activity takes place on the 80m band. It would seem we may have to try getting up a bit earlier on a Saturday to try and make the most of 80m conditions, which these days start to fade fairly quickly after sunrise.

With sunrise being around 05:20, an early start may be necessary. I still have to try and get my head around that one, but I am sure that once the alarm goes off I will be up and about. Winter really sucks for getting up so early, but in the summer it's not so bad.

So there we have it. Don has committed himself to an early start too, and Rad, who by the way never sleeps much anyway, may just be there.

It was great hearing Barney ZS6BLL back on frequency a short while ago and we wish him all the best with his recovery after the radiation therapy.

We sure missed that gruff voice of yours for a while there Barney and good to hear you back on frequency.

I read with interest on the Collins Collectors the other day that the guys there even use AM on 10m. I don't know how successful that would be from here and I wonder if there are any 10m enthusiasts who use AM at

all?

Lets keep trying on AM and I am sure we will have more success than failure, so look forward to hearing you on frequency.



Collins 75A-4

ANTIQUUE WIRELESS ASSOCIATION AGM 2011

The AGM was held in typical fine Highveld weather at the TAC (Transvaal Aviation Centre) at Rand Airport on Saturday 12 November.

There were an obvious few faces missing but in general the meeting was fairly well attended.

A Total of about 45 people were counted being at the venue, although not all attended the AGM.

There was the usual banter at the flea market, some very interesting boatanchors on display and of course the top of the sales were a Collins 32V-1 transmitter and receiver with matching speaker, bought by Oliver.

The outgoing President, Don ZS5DR, gave a welcome speech, thanked all those who had made the effort to be there and of course thanked the committee who had supported him throughout his tenure as President.

Don also gave a brief breakdown of the activities that had taken place during the year and thanked all who had participated in the morning nets and of course the QSO party.

Don also mentioned the establishment of the AWA Yahoo Groups site which was done by Brad ZS5Z.

As most of you are aware, the Highway Branch in Durban has for a few years offered to place the archive of the AWA newsletters on their website. Unfortunately they are running out of space and so Brad created the Yahoo group to assist us in having a place to archive the newsletters.

There will always be at least a year of Newsletters available on the Yahoo website, and should anyone want any older back issues, they can always contact one of the committee members who would be able to organize it. (Invitations to join this group are attached with the newsletter mail. Simply click on the shortcut and you will be taken to the website where you can register).

After this, nominations for a new president were called for, and Richard ZS6TF, was nominated, seconded and unchallenged was appointed as the new president.

No nominations were taken for Secretary/PRO or for Technical Advisor, but if there are no objections, Don suggested they remain as they are at present.

Photo's taken at the AGM will be posted on the Yahoo website soon.



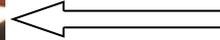
This fine display of restored HRO's and Eddystone receivers from as early as the 1930's, was put on display by Oliver. A collector of valve rigs.



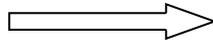
The happy onlookers prepare for the Outgoing President Message



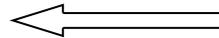
This beautifully restored HRO was put on display by Oliver.



A beautiful set of Collins 32V-1 Transmitter and Receiver with matching speaker took the prize when they were sold for a handsome price.



This fine looking Hammarlund was also for sale, but went home with the owner. (Don't get too excited about the funny things standing on top of it.)



And this youngster stole the show

AWA GROUP ON YAHOO

Thanks to Brad ZS5Z, we now have a group established on Yahoo.

You will find that we will post items of interest, articles, photo's, back issues of the newsletter etc on this site and would also like it to be a kind of forum where our membership can post requests, swops start threads on repair or refurbishment and so on, as well as a chat room.

All we would ask is that you do not load large articles or high resolution pictures to the group as we only have 100Mb available. Of course as with most groups, there are moderators who will be checking what gets loaded on to the site.

For those of you who are already listed on the email address system, you will have received invitations to join the group. There are however some who get the newsletter by snail mail, but who do have internet. If you are one of those and would like to join the group, send us an email and we will in turn send you an invitation, which will take you to the registration area for the group.

We look forward to meeting you on the group and getting feedback on many different areas from you, the members.

Best 73

Andy ZS6ADY



The Gathering of the Clan (Waiting for morning Coffee)

Bletchley Park

By Richard ZS6TF

I was fortunate to be able to visit Bletchley Park at the end of August 2011 and I realised from the outset that one day would not be enough to see everything. As I queued to buy my ticket, I asked the security official about access to the RSGB national amateur radio centre as I had seen the signage and antennas on the way in. He told me that it was closed indefinitely due to lack of funds caused by embezzlement of society funds by a senior official. Inside the park I found out that the radio hut, and the Churchill memorabilia exhibition were also closed. There was nothing for it but to put myself on a guided tour which started from the front door of the mansion.

My initial disappointment was dispelled within minutes as our guide was totally passionate and highly knowledgeable about the interception and code breaking activities of WW2, the “Y” listening service, Enigma, the Bombe machine, and finally Colossus, the analogue computing device which was used to decode enemy Lorentz machine encrypted teleprinter messages at the end of the war.

Colossus utilizes about 2500 valves and is built of telephone exchange components. At the end of the war there were 10 machines in operation and they were kept secret during the cold war as the Russians were using the same encryption system that they captured from the Germans, but were unaware of the British ability to decode it. The machines were broken up in the 1960's and all drawings and photographs destroyed. The machine at Bletchley is a replica built by people who worked on the original project, the difference being that they did it in 9 months during the war and the replica took 15 years to recreate with lots of appeals for funds and parts. They have enough valves to keep the device going for about 10 years at the present failure rate but not enough for future generations.

The message is clear. Most valves are an un-renewable resource apart from the few types of audio and power valves produced by the Chinese and the Russians. Conserve them before it is too late!



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**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:**NET TIMES AND FREQUENCIES:**

The following are times and frequencies for the AWA nets:

AM Net—Wednesday evenings from around 18:30: Saturday mornings from around 06:00 or when band conditions allow. Frequency—3615.

SSB Net—Saturday mornings from 08:30. Frequencies—7070 with a relay on 3615.

CW Net—Saturday afternoon from 14:00. Frequency—7020.
(Times given are CAT or SAST)
