



AWA Newsletter

#82

November 2012

Affiliated
to the
SARL



**Antique
Wireless Association
of Southern Africa**

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Reflections:

What a year its been. Full of interesting happenings. Especially here on the amateur radio side of things. Band conditions have gone from poor to excellent to up and down and then somewhere in between that.

In this issue there is a lot about the AGM , so don't get too excited about what you see here. But it really was good to get together again.

It is always such a pity we cant get more people to come to these gatherings, but then I suppose that's life.

In many ways, this has been a difficult year for me and I suppose there would be many of you out there who would tell me to stand in line. One always

wishes you could say things To those of you going away will get better, but I don't over the Holiday period, do think any of us can say drive safely. To those of you that with much confidence staying behind, do drive these days. It seems to be a safely. This is not a good world wide trend.

When I look at the happenings in may parts of the world with the violent storms, earthquakes, volcanoes, mud slides, wars etc, New Year be even better I sometimes am glad that I am where I am.

Yes we can all give negatives for living where we do, but sometimes I think we all tend to miss many of the positives of being here in sunny SA.

I for one, am not anxious to leave this place in a hurry when I look at what is going on in the rest of the world. So as the old saying goes, "prop me up beside the Juke Box when I die".

Thank you for all the support we have received over this past year and may the New Year be even better than the last one.

We look forward to hearing many of you on frequency over the coming weeks and months to keep the flag of the AWA flying high. After all, who else will keep the tubes glowing and the shacks warm.

Happy holidays to you all.

Best 73

DE Andy ZS6ADY

AWA Committee:

- * President—Richard ZS6TF
- * Technical Advisor—Rad ZS6RAD
- * Secretary/PRO—Andy ZS6ADY
- * Western Cape—John ZS1WJ

WIKIPEDIA

A revolution in wireless telecommunications began in the 1900s (decade) with pioneering developments in wireless radio communications by Nikola Tesla and Guglielmo Marconi. Marconi won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909 for his efforts. Other highly notable pioneering inventors and developers in the field of electrical and electronic telecommunications include Charles Wheatstone and Samuel Morse (telegraph), Alexander Graham Bell (telephone), Edwin Armstrong, and Lee de Forest (radio), as well as John Logie Baird and Philo Farnsworth (television).

The world's effective capacity to exchange information through two-way telecommunication networks grew from 281 petabytes of (optimally compressed) information in 1986, to 471 petabytes in 1993, to 2.2 (optimally compressed) Exabyte's in 2000, and to 65 (optimally compressed) Exabyte's in 2007. This is the informational equivalent of 2 newspaper pages per person per day in 1986, and 6 entire newspapers per person per day by 2007. Given this growth, telecommunications play an increasingly important role in the world economy and the global telecommunications industry was about a \$4.7 trillion sector in 2012. The service revenue of the global telecommunications industry was estimated to be \$1.5 trillion in 2010, corresponding to 2.4% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).

CW Net:

Straight Key Century Club

What future does CW have in S Africa?
Not much based on so few new ZS call signs heard using this fun mode.

Getting reply to a CQ even at week ends seldom gets a response.

The AWA is the only organisation I know of in S Africa that regularly encourages use of CW mode

For years each Saturday at 14:00 SAST OM Andy ZS6ADY or OM Barrie ZS6AJY have run the AWA CW net using call sign ZS0AWA/CW on behalf of the Antique Wireless Association. Their efforts deserve more support than the disappointing 4 or 5 stations that do make the effort by reporting in to keep CW alive.

Is it just S Africa that has apathy and lack of interest regarding CW or is it

world wide?

Certainly not the case with the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC). Membership is free.

It's a club totally dedicated to use of CW using a Straight Key, Bug or Side Swiper. In the 6 years since it was founded its numbers have grown to a staggering 9,800 and still increasing. Although mainly in USA it now boasts members in over 84 different countries. There are 7 in South Africa, only 1 is active!!!!!!

There are dedicated calling frequencies on all bands, 21.050 / 14.050 / 28.050 / 10.120 / 18.080 and 24.910.

Speeds are generally slow making it easy to copy. It's ideal for those who may be interested in CW but struggle to



send or receive CW at fast speeds. If you're up for a challenge check the numerous SKCC awards for different activities. For more information look up SKCC on Google.

A bigger and more rewarding challenge would be more support on the Saturday ZS0AWA/CW net.

John ZS6JBJ

SSB activity:

Activity on SSB is certainly not lacking as can be seen by the stations calling in on Saturday mornings. Even the Western Cape net is going along quite nicely with calls of up to 13 stations.

The bands have certainly not been great, are well workable giving good readability at most times. Even though 40m tends to fade to the Western Cape as the net progresses.

Running the net from the West Rand Clubhouse on Saturday 17th of the AGM, there were still a number of stations calling in, which was really pleasing to the ear. Even if I could not set up the big Icom with all its fancy buttons.

The joys of using antique wireless certainly can have its downside when you go from a rig with 8 knobs on it to one where you need to have attended a specialised training course to become a "machine operator" to run it.

Eventually we had the right buttons pushed and the other ones un-pushed and it seemed to work alright.

We continue to run the 20m relay on 14125 for those who may have difficulty working us on 40m, so to the guys down in the Cape, please do take advantage of using the 20m band.

There will be times when the relay is not

available, like the weekend of the 1st December, when I will be away, but otherwise we will be up on frequency.



Hallicrafters HT37

AM:

The AM net continues every Saturday morning from around 05:30 with regular calls from the faithful who continue to support the net on 3615.

It is a net that has a lot of promise and also produces excellent results, even though the band is not that stable after 07:00.

The majority of stations on frequency are all running in the region of 25—30 W and get out quite well. Of course in the greater scheme of things, that is equivalent to ERP of about 100w, so they will still be heard quite well.

Then there are a few, who run with higher levels and are heard well throughout the net.

AM is always very soothing on the ears and always gives a nice stable audio, especially when it comes to doing musical frequencies.

Although the rigs we have are capable of transmitting a wide spectrum of sound, they are good enough to reproduce some excellent results.

There are still those who are always looking for ways to make their stations work a lot easier, without too much switching of antennas and inputs and outputs, while some work on the simplest of systems without too much fuss.

Don't let the fact that you do not have an old valve rig that transmits only AM put you off joining in on a Saturday morning. I think we

have more FT101's and 102's on the net than any other rigs. Then we also have some of the guys who have worked very effectively on solid state rigs too. Once again, a word of caution, to those who use solid state, be very careful about overdriving your rig, you could damage the finals.



Yaesu FT101

AWA AGM 2012

The 2012 AGM was held at the West Rand Clubhouse on Saturday 17 November 2012.

The meeting started off at 09:00 with a Flea market and most of the goods sold went to the AWA kitty to support the monthly Newsletter which is mailed out.

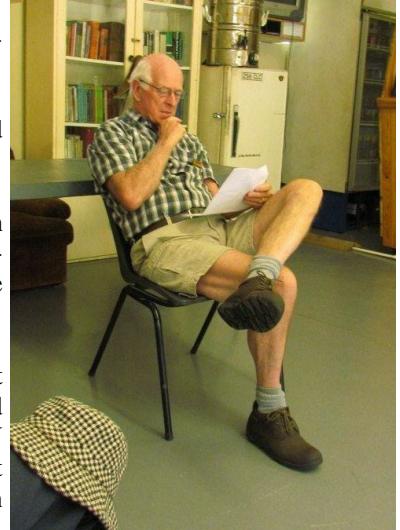
The following is a copy of the Presidents Report as presented by Richard ZS6TF:

Richard started off by reading the Mission Statement and then proceeded with the following.

Thank you for taking the trouble to attend this year's AGM, especially those who travelled a long way to be with us today.

The 2011 AGM was the last to be held at the Transvaal Aviation Club which has been closed. We are fortunate and thankful to Geoff ZS1GRL and Phillip ZS6PVT to have access to and to use the ZS6WR club facilities for our AGM and I am sure that the ambience and facilities of the venue is a plus for the occasion.

I am pleased to report that your association continues to grow and membership stands at 142 from 102 at the beginning of the year. Some of this growth comes from the increased call-ins on the Saturday 40m SSB net, run by Rad ZS6RAD, relayed by Andy ZS6ADY onto 80m or as now on 20m, and it is now attracting 20 to 25 callers per session. The rest comes from the indefatigable efforts of John ZS1WJ in the Western Cape, established in 2011.



Richard ZS6TF

The AM net from 05h30 on Saturday mornings on 3615kHz has not shown any major growth in numbers but is well patronised by an enthusiastic and musical group, whose quality of transmissions have improved a great deal under the watchful eye and tactful intervention of Rad, ZS6RAD and his "spy" SDR.

Likewise the CW net run faithfully by Barry ZS6AJY on 7020kHz on Saturday afternoons at 14h00, has a solid core of participants and I suspect he has a lot of silent and shy listenership whom we would like to encourage to join in.

The AWA Western Cape Saturday net on 3620kHz is run by John ZS1WJ backed up by Willie ZS1WHL, held at 0730 during the winter months and on 7070kHz at 0730 during the summer with a great improvement in call-ins in the last few weeks due to improved 40m propagation. Matt ZS1MJL contributes AWA news on the Cape Bulletin net on the first Sunday of every month.

By request of the SARL we have become affiliated rather than a club within the SARL. This has the advantage of not needing to pay fees and we can still maintain our close ties with the national body. ZSOAWA was absent this year from the SARL Club contest due to poor participation by members in the past. In contrast, although the May QSO party was not well attended with very few participants, the October party improved greatly but we appeal for more logs to be submitted next time.



Results of the AWA QSO Party held on 13 and 14 October 2012.

AM: 1. ZR6DNS Dennis

No other logs were submitted, although there were 32 stations active.

SSB: 1. ZS1ZS Abe 2. ZS2EC Theunis 3. ZR6DNS Dennis

There were 2 additional check logs submitted and 43 stations active.

The Western Cape section of the AWA had a successful Expo over the Easter weekend on the farm Lochinvar near Stanford, belonging to John ZS1DI and Judy ZS1JEG. A large and varied display of radios of yesteryear and associated equipment were on show in John's aircraft hangar. A classic Kenwood radio station operated throughout the event. 16 AWA radio amateurs attended on the Saturday. Organiser John ZS1WJ received a D104 from the President in recognition of his efforts.

Denis ZR6DNS receives his certificate for the AM section of the QSO Party

The Overberg Club are having their Field day event this weekend (17th & 18th November 2012) at the same venue. The AWA will be there in full force and are arranging a display of old test



After the important work—a braai and the regular eyeball QSO

Instrumentation.

Your committee has been discussing ways of adding interest and value to the AWA membership. The recent introduction of topics at the beginning of the SSB net and the launch of the “Helping hand scheme” for members to access help, services, or parts to support their repair or restoration projects are examples. Past president OM Cliff ZS6BOX has volunteered to do the compilation of the list for the latter and the finished document will be sent out to the newsletter “e” and snail mail list as a benefit to members. I appeal for members input to this worthwhile project especially for volunteers to run the SSB net from time to time.

The AWA-SA Yahoo Group was established mainly as a storage point for AWA Newsletters but with the hopes it would become a place where questions could be posed, and answered by not just one person but by many who have a great field of experience. This is not well used, although there are about 20 members listed in the group.

The AWA newsletter continues to be a mainstay of communication with members. The back numbers are a steadily growing resource with overseas readership and our PRO Andy ZS6ADY is to be congratulated on production of such a professional newsletter sometimes under duress such as when the affirmative shoppers acquired his laptop. He would be very grateful for increased contributions from members.

The restorers and operators of valve rigs are particularly indebted to Rad ZS6RAD for his technical advice and assistance. No major donations have been received by the AWA this year but Rad has made a sizeable input by selling donated equipment and parts at the various flea markets. As a consequence we have R795 in the kitty after postal expenses on the newsletter, which is not bad for a free membership association

Mention should be made of the other Gurus who freely provide technical help to those members struggling with their projects, such as past president Don ZS5DR, John ZS5JF, William ZS4L and Oliver, still a listening member.

My task would not be easy without the support of committee members Andy, Rad, and John for which I thank them. I have enjoyed being president of the AWA for 2012 very much, especially for the fellowship of its members, and those members who have helped me with my projects. Thank you.

73 Richard ZS6TF



Of course it would not be an AGM without a display of some fine valve equipment.



Fleamarket stuff.



Home Brew Valve equipment
by Tony Voorveldt



More Home brew valve equipment.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Heritage in another guise by Richard ZS6TF

The AGM has been and past and it seems that the same volunteers are being tasked with taking the AWA to new levels of activity. The introduction of topics on the SSB net is proving very popular and is generating some excellent contributions from members. One topic that did not generate much comment was the question "Was clandestine radio the father of QRP?" After seeing the outstanding exhibit at the AGM by Tony ZS6CCD of a superb homebrew transmitter, modulator and power supply, maybe the question I should have asked was clandestine radio the father of hollow state homebrew in the 21st century!

Since my second visit to Bletchley park last year I have become aware of a group of people who build and operate replica's of world war 2 spy radios and two popular subjects are the SIS Whaddon mark III (Tinker box) which was a transmitter designed to work with an HRO receiver, and the SIS Whaddon mark VII (Paraset) which is a transceiver. Neither of these is QRP as the Tinker box has a 6F6 crystal oscillator driving an 807 with 675 volts on the plate, and the Paraset has a single 6V6 crystal oscillator with 360 volts on the plate.

The story of the two sets is fully told in a chapter of Geoffrey Pidgeon's excellent book "The secret wireless war" the story of MI6 communications 1939-1945 published in 2008. The mark III is the most famous of the SCU (special communications units) sets of which a few hundred were built at the stately home of Whaddon hall, not far from Bletchley park, and were used throughout the war in embassies, by agents, and by SCU's handling secret Ultra traffic for the allied commanders from fixed and mobile locations. Only five originals are known to survive and they differ in minor details.



Original Mk III Tinker box



KF9CM MkIII replica

Tony White G3ZPA, the curator of the Bletchley park wireless hut, has kindly allowed enthusiasts to photograph and measure his example and publish the constructional details and circuits on the Web for constructors on a Yahoo group moderated by OM Douglas 4Z5TO.

Early Parasets were made in a wooden case, but most were made with a metal case and would fit in a biscuit tin, and the separate power supply could be concealed in another domestic container as the enemy were becoming suspicious of attaché cases. These were made in large quantities and dropped into enemy occupied territory for use by agents.



Early original MkVII



G3PVU replica Mk VII

The Paraset champion is OM Henk van Zwam who supplies contemporary parts for replica constructors see his webpage at <http://www.paraset.nl/>.

I never cease to be amazed how diverse a hobby amateur radio is, of which the AWA activity is a small but expanding section. The AWA mission statement is silent on hollow state homebrew specifically but it is well covered by the statement "maintenance and preservation of our amateur heritage". What better way to do it by building and operating one of these sets.

A Report on the AGM

The AGM was held at the West Rand Clubhouse in a very pleasant environment on a lovely sunny summers day. After major storms across the Gauteng area on Friday afternoon and Friday night, the Saturday turned out to be a brilliant day.

It would have been a lot brighter and a lot better had we had a better turn out, but it seems over the past few years, the AGM and open days have dwindled in popularity. This in itself is disappointing, but there still seems to be a core of people intent on keeping the AWA and its principles going and these were the ones present at the meeting.

After Richard gave his Presidential speech, the meeting turned to a more open meeting where thoughts about various aspects of the AWA were discussed. The good news is that Richard was voted, seconded and installed for a second term. Rad ZS6RAD retains the post as Technical Advisor and was thanked for the outstanding job he has carried out so far. Andy ZS6ADY retains the post of Secretary/PRO.

The CW net was discussed, and some of the listeners felt it may be a good idea to take calls on SSB after the CW net, on 7070 ± 5 , depending on whether the frequency was occupied. This will be done as a standard after the CW nets for those who feel they are not ready to call in CW but listen to improve their CW.

The relay on 20m will continue until winter, or poor band conditions, when it may be necessary to reintroduce the 80m relay.

After a bit of bantering and other points of discussion, the fires were lit, meat dragged over the coals, a few drinks in various forms shared and then it was time to go home. Well for some of us that is, others stayed to share a few more drinks and banter a bit more.

Andy ZS6ADY

CONTACT US:

P.O. Box 12320
Benoryn
1504

Fax: 27 86 620 3291
Mobile: 082 448 4368
Email: andyzs6ady@vodamail.co.za

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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 yesterdays radio's and associated equipment. 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 19:00, when band conditions allow.
Saturday mornings from around 05:300. Frequency—3615.

SSB Net—Western Cape net Saturday morning from 07:30. Frequency 7070
National net Saturday mornings from 08:30. Frequency —7070 with a relay on 14125

CW Net—Saturday afternoon from 14:00. Frequency—7020.

(Times given are CAT or SAST)