



December 2006

Issue #12

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:

Well our new Committee for 2007 has been elected and once again congratulations to those who have agreed to take up the positions required.

President : Gary Potgieter ZS5NK
Technical Advisor : Rod Radford ZS5RK
Public Relations: Alan Franzsen ZS6BIK
Treasurer: Willie Axford ZS5WI
Net Controller: Willem Nel ZS6ALL
Newsletter Editor : Andy Cairns ZS6ADY

We wish them all the best for the coming year to keep the AWA in the limelight.

Report from Andy Cairns – ZS6ADY, Outgoing President.

We have seen a definite increase in call in's for the Saturday morning net. This has become evident by the time that it takes for us to get through a morning net, which is most encouraging.

The middle portion of the year did not run without its problems as 40m became almost non-workable during the winter months. However, we overcame that by adding an 80m relay, which worked quite well, enabling all the various divisions to be heard by everyone, either on 40 or on

80. With the 40m band coming back in to it's own again over the last month or so, we have stopped the relay, and due to the fact that by 08:30 the 80m band has faded quite drastically.

At the beginning of the year we decided to try and develop a stock of spares for antique wireesses. A few Heathkit transceivers were donated to the AWA and we then decided to sell them off to purchase a stock of valves. With the sale of the 2 rigs the entire amount was raised to purchase the valves. Since then we have had a few small donations of valves added to this list as well as some of the members of AWA stating that they also have stocks of valves which they will make available to AWA members, should they not be able to acquire stock from the AWA.

A few antique radios were donated to the AWA and these were given out to members who indicated an interest in restoring the rigs and putting them to use in their shacks. I still have an old Hammurlund receiver and an HC200 standing on a shelf in my shed, which is looking for an owner. Should you want to tackle the restoration of these rigs please let me know.

The sale of embroidered call sign tags and the metal badges brought in a few additional Rand's to the coffers, enabling the payment of our annual licence fee. Because we have a separate call sign for the AWA, we have to pay a licence fee on this every year. Please remember that the call sign is available to you to use should you want to run a special events station, using valve rigs, or just to promote the AWA. Contact the President if you should want to use this call sign at any time to promote the AWA. Already a CW group is run on Saturday afternoon and the AM net on Wednesday evenings is run using the AWA call sign ZS0AWA.

The beginning of the year also saw the introduction of a Newsletter to bring items of interest around antique wireless to each of our members. This has so far, been well accepted and is presently distributed via email and by snail mail to a few members who do not have email facility. Those wanting to receive the newsletter through the normal postal channels sent prepaid envelopes to the editor who distributes the copies. It would be great if we could distribute this newsletter to all the members, but the cost of postage, envelopes and printing would need to be covered to enable this to happen.

It has been wonderful to see the interest that has been generated in the use of valve rigs again and I am sure we will see even more growth in the years to come. There are still plenty of them out there, lying around on shelves in garages or in shacks, and as Eddie ZS6BNE wrote on the SARL forum, we have been spoiled with today's plug and play rigs that you don't even have to tune up. There is nothing as exciting as getting an old valve rig with separate Tx and Rx up and going and having to sit down and tune it to get them both to operate on the same frequency as what everybody else is.

May your shack glow brightly with valves and keep you warm in the winter days.

ZS0AWA/CW.



The CW net continues along with very little activity over the past month probably due to band conditions. Heard on frequency this last month has been Barrie ZS6AJY, John ZS6ABJ, Ian ZS5IAN, Ben ZS5SIB and Andrew ZS6AAA. 40m is definitely starting to improve as can be heard on the morning SSB net. Join us on Saturday afternoons at 14:00 SAST. The net is run at 12 wpm and so should meet the needs of all interested in CW. 7020 is the frequency.

AM Net:

Unfortunately with the size of the SSB call in on Saturday's, it has been impossible to get through everyone within the time allotted, and still do an AM call in. Besides which, 40m has not yet shown that it is that favourable for AM transmissions. Although, if you listen to the conditions that we work through on Wednesday evenings on 80m, 40 would be a breeze excepting that we would be plagued by short skip.

The AM group on Wednesday evening may start to have even more problems now, as propagation improves, so has the QRN with the upcoming summer storms. So far we have still managed some good comms and we look forward to hearing more stations on frequency.

The following stations have called in on the AM net on Wednesday evenings: ZS5RK, ZS5DR, ZS2AB, ZS6ALL, ZS6BOX, ZS6RAD, ZS6BNE, ZR6DNS and yours truly ZS6ADY

Please come up and join us if you have the time and the inclination. 19:30 Wednesday evenings on 3615. Where only the brave hang out after dark.

SSB Net:

This past month we have been plagued again with short skip conditions, but unfortunately we do not have 80m to fall back on to. For a few weeks we have had pretty good conditions on the net, but every now and then, the gremlins creep in, destroying all our faith in the bands again. Rest assured, there are quite a few out there who seem convinced that things will improve, eventually, so lets just keep at it.

We appeal to all of you, when calling in on 40m, should you not be able to hear the control station, please try 80m if you are able to. Otherwise we have people doubling and it really does make life difficult for the net controller.

Promotions:

Remember to promote the AWA to any Hams you might know who have an interest in the old valve rigs. I have spoken to many at flea markets and other gatherings who are not really aware of the AWA and what it is we are doing. Remember, our mission statement says that it includes all "Like minded amateurs who have an interest in.....". We need to be looking out for those who have an interest in antique wireless.

Restoration News:

We want to remind you again that the valves that have been collected are there for your use as a member of the AWA. We are not asking exorbitant prices for the valves, but want to encourage the restoration of the old rigs by making these valves available to anyone who needs them.

All we ask is that you make a donation to the coffers of the AWA, which help for the costs of our annual license and any small sundry items that may creep in.

Brian ZS2AB and John ZS2J, have also said they have a collection of valves and anyone wanting valves which may not be on our stock list, should contact them.

Shack News:

John ZS2J, sent me this picture of an old National which was given to him and he says weighs a ton with plenty of coils inside. We managed to identify it for him as an NC100 built between 1938-1945. If we could narrow down the exact model type we could get closer with the date. The NC 100 came out in variants of "A" "S" and "X", depending on what improvements were made. They covered 5 bands from .54 - 30Mhz. There were 2 battery operated variants as well.



Anyone who can help John with more info on the rig or diagrams etc, should get hold of him.

Brian ZS2AB also sent me a photo of an HRO500 that he has in for repairs from a local ham. This rig is in outstanding condition.



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.

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.

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