



AWA Newsletter

Issue 36

December 2008

Antique Wireless Association of Southern Africa

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AWA Committee:

- * President—Rad ZS6RAD
- * Technical—Don ZS5DR
- * Net Controller—Willem ZS6ALL
- * Newsletter/PRO—Andy ZS6ADY

Something To Look Forward To:

The gathering of the Clan has taken place. The contests are all at an end. The 2009 committee has been elected.

What can we look forward to in the New Year. Hopefully there will be some improvement in band conditions (notice how we play it down these days).

A few things we can definitely tell you is the AWA will still be around and pushing for the use and restoration of Antique Wirelesses. The first activity for the year is going to be a CW activity day, which will be in February and take place from Saturday the 7th mid-day to Sunday the 8th mid-day. This is to encourage people to get up on frequency and use their keys, paddles, whatever, and do some CW.

Then on April 4th we have our annual Open Day at Rand Airport. Guaranteed to bring the crowds and a pleasant outing for all.

Then 09 & 10 May the QSO party with AM on Saturday and SSB on Sunday and again in October on the 10th and 11th, leg 2 of the QSO party.

In November (no date as yet), we hope to be back in Harrismith for an AGM to have another get together and elect a committee for 2010.

Make a note of these dates on your calendars, PC's Notebooks, cell phones, on the back of the toilet door if you have to, because these are the days when the focus is on the AWA in Amateur Radio. We want this to be a good year for the AWA and for Amateur



Radio in Southern Africa, but most of all we want your participation in it all. It's the members of the AWA that have made it what it is. A few hams had a vision, and today we sit with a wonderful collection of antique radios and their operators all standing together for a common cause in Amateur Radio.

To each and every one, no matter how you celebrate over this coming period, "Happy Holidays" from the AWA Committee. We will hear you all on frequency at some time soon.

Harrismith 2008



El Presidento, surrounded by his Merry Men.

Of course you can see the fire burning in the left of the photo. Who would have thought in Summer, in the Free State, one would be burning wood to keep warm. Eish !

CW Net:

I thought last month was quiet on the CW scene, but this last month it has been really quiet.

Fortunately every Saturday when I have come up and called CQ, Om Barrie ZS6AJY has been there to have a chat with me, so what happened to the rest you may ask ? I asked the same question.

Of course, we can always blame it on conditions, now the summer storms have arrived the bands are really in a bad state, but it seems there is a general down turn in all activity in SA.

I say in SA, because when Barry and I have finished our chat, I go on to 20m and play some glorified CW on BPSK31. The European stations are all over you when you call in. Unfortunately I don't hear many stations on CW there either.

The DX CW contest was on this last weekend of November and there was plenty of activity around then, but I'm afraid those guys are just too quick for me.

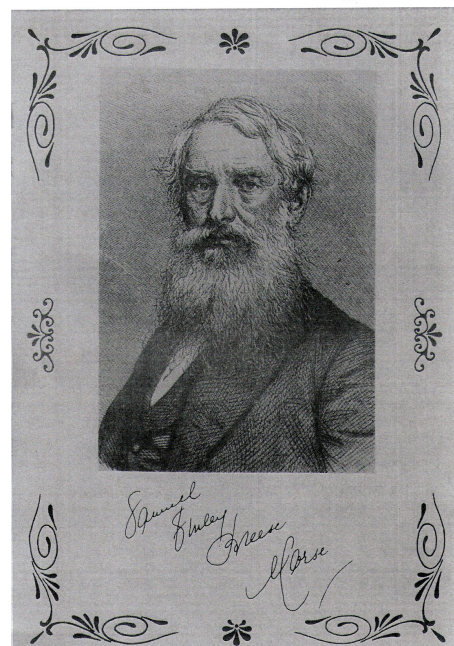
Anything above 20wpm and I am totally lost.

As our founder of CW did, maybe I'll take up painting instead, although I am pretty miserable at that.

Now with the holidays coming up, I suppose there is going to be even less occupation of frequencies, but we can only live in hope.

73

De ZS0AWA/CW—SK



SSB activity:

It just doesn't seem to get any better, does it ? Yet there is activity out there on the bands. We still have a good 12-15 people calling in on the SSB net on a Saturday morning, so all is not lost yet.

The elusive Div 5 stations on 40m have certainly started to come back at us, even with QSB causing a few problems, but short skip is still very prevalent in the Gauteng region. I know that you can all hear the Div 5 and Div 2 stations, but if the control station cannot hear you, then you not going to get in on the net.

So once again, we remind you of the 80m relay, which is still pretty good, and at least we can all hear you then. Those who have made use of the relay all say that it works well, and it can even be heard as far as PE by Om Ken ZS2OC.

I need to ask, "What would you like to hear on the Saturday morning net ?". Are you happy with just a call in ? Would you like to hear some things of a technical nature ? Send me an email or SMS or letter and let us know what you

would like to hear on air in the new year.



Latsky Museum—Van Rhynsdorp

AM:

Conditions on the AM net have definitely not improved at all. So much so that our last Friday afternoon net was changed to an SSB net on 7075 because of the QRN running a good S9+20.

The Saturday mornings have proved to be the best times to work AM, but the band openings are also best from around 05:30. So you really have to be either an early riser, an insomniac or totally crazy. I know I fall into the last category because I still enjoy a good nights sleep.

Never the less, it's a great hobby, sport, form of entertainment. Call it what you like, I love it.

The rains won't be here forever and I am sure we will get a period of calm over December/January, when the storms become a bit less frequent until about end of February/March again when our last rains before the winter come. Of course we can't predict these things anymore, just look what has happened to the sunspot cycle. I think we been predicting for the last 4 years that conditions

will improve and still they elude us.

Keep those valves glowing and "Switch on, listen or call CQ, you never know what's going to happen".



Hallicrafters HT37

Report on the AWA Open Day Saturday 08 November 2008

Most of the people set off on early Saturday morning from Div5 and 6, with thoughts of a warm summers day in Harrismith. Sitting around a braai fire, reminiscing with old friends and the inevitably talking about radio.

The first signs of it not being so became pretty obvious for those travelling from Div 6 around Villiers/ Warden area where a small amount of rain fell and the temperature started to drop from 20 deg down to 15 deg and decrease in increments the closer we got to Harrismith.

For the guys travelling from Div 5, it was much more obvious as they drove in rain most of the way. But then, I don't think anyone was expecting the 10 deg that greeted us at Williams farm with an extra wind chill factor probably bringing it down another 5 deg. There were a few who turned up in short pants, or as the fashion would have it these days with long shorts (or short longs) but pretty soon went in search of warmer clothing.

The first few hours were spent in getting the fire inside the lapa going, catching up on chit chat, meeting new faces and re-acquainting with the old ones. The fully enclosed lapa became the central point and was quite snug with a fire going in the Jetmaster fireplace.

Eventually down to business and the main meeting was called to discuss the business of the day.

20 members presented themselves for the main meeting, which was really a great turnout.

With overall majority, the Rules of Association were accepted with a few minor changes. These will be re-published and made available to interested parties. This task out of the way, voting for the new President and committee for 2009 commenced. You will be glad to know (those that don't already know) there was no change to the 2008 committee. So Rad ZS6RAD remains as President, Andy ZS6ADY as PRO/Secretary and Don ZS5DR as Technical Advisor. Duties of the committee members is as described in the Rules of Association.

We will remain an association with no membership fee, relying on donations and fund raisers to cover our expenses, which mainly go around the mailing of the Newsletter, annual license fee and now also membership to the SARL. R1650 was raised with donations towards the draw for the HRO500 and the KWM2-A.

Then it was time for lunch and the braai fire (also in the enclosed lapa) was started while most went to view the items at the flea market which was really well provided for. This was moved in to Williams garage with the weather looking even more bleak and some rain falling.

It turned out to be a really great event with lots of discussion and many a problem being sorted out around the fireplace.

Before some of the people set off on their return journey, the draw was made for the HRO 500, and Ronnie ZS5ABD was the recipient of this fine rig. Don't forget the KWM2-A is still up for grabs and should you want a chance at winning this fine piece of valve equipment, then you need to send your R50 donation to Andy, or deposit in to his account with the reference being your Call sign and KWM. Numbers will be randomly allocated for entrants who have not already got them.

For those who stayed over on the Saturday night, some voluntarily, while 2 others had no choice after a vehicle break down forced them to stay, it was a good evening. There was some work in Williams shack with a Kenwood 520 being the centre of attraction. (You know the old adage which says put a point to 2 Jews and you stand a chance of getting 4 opinions, well try putting 10 hams in a room with 1 faulty rig and see how many opinions you can get). Those with partners had rooms to themselves, while the rest of us bunked out in the lapa. This gave rise to a very eventful night with many a chorus being sung out of tune and quite a few bleary eyes in the morning.

Breakfast was cooked by Rad and Don and devoured with gusto, while Andy and Pierre had another unsuccessful attempt at getting away from the farm in a car that refused to go more than a few kilometres before coming to a standstill. This problem was eventually sorted out by John ZS5JF and Collin ZS5CF, after performing some open heart surgery in the bowels of the fuel tank of Andy's car. By shortly after 10:00, everyone was well on their way, heading back home, after a great weekend of doing what Radio Ham's do best.

Our thanks to William and Lianne for the wonderful catering and fantastic weekend.

SURVIVAL RADIO

(For those of you who can remember John ZS6HK's article on this subject, I received an email from Adrian ZS1TTZ commenting on the article. The article was in last month's Newsletter) Ed.

I found John's article about the marine survival radios particularly interesting. I am an ex ship's radio officer and as such am familiar with these sets. I only came across the Marconi manufactured sets, they operated on 500khz A2A, 2182khz A3E and 8364khz A1A.

On 8mhz they were transmit only, but 8364khz was bang in the middle of the ships common calling frequency, the idea being that if you hadn't managed to raise anybody on the lower frequencies then it could be profitable to put out regular blind SOS's on 8mhz with your position in the hope that a coast station operator somewhere across the globe might hear you and alert the relevant authorities.

It was the radio officers duty to test this set at least once per month and log that you had done so. I can't speak for the others, but I for one religiously used to do this, as there's nowhere to hide on a small lifeboat should you have to fess up to the fact that the damned thing doesn't work !!

On the ships that I served it was required that you wore sleeves and a tie in public rooms after 6pm, and I'd usually perform this testing duty on the Sunday night watch which was usually dead quiet traffic wise. They were easy to unpack to retrieve the crank handles which as John stated, were stowed in the lid.

Even the older valve models were reasonably easy to crank on receive but both valve and the later semiconductor models of course offered significantly more cranking resistance on key down and was very difficult to operate single handed.

Anyway, packing the thing away again after testing was nearly always a mission, in addition to the crank handles, there was also a wire antenna, a sectioned vertical antenna / mast, earth wire with sinker and of course the headset with boom microphone which all had to fit in the lid, and of course it never all went back in the way it came out. The lid was secured with three webbing straps which had to latch closed, and even when you had everything stowed properly it still required considerable effort to close it.

One evening I had battled more than usual and it was with relief when the last strap finally snapped shut, only to realise with dismay (and a few choice words I might add) when I tried to stand up that I had securely clamped my tie in the lid too !!

I'm sure if I could have reached the drawer with the scissors I would have cut it off and left it there.

Incidentally, you would usually find a notepad and pencil packed in there too which some previous r/o had thoughtfully added to the kit, and if they weren't there I'd add the items myself, but on one occasion I found a neatly folded pair of underpants as well !! Obviously this chap, whoever he was, felt that after the trauma of having to abandon a possibly burning and sinking ship in rough weather they might come in handy !!

Adrian ZS1TTZ.

Harrismith 2008



The Gathering of the Clan

World Radio Laboratories

WRL started as Wholesale Radio Laboratories in Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1935. Its owner, Leo Meyerson, WØGFQ, already had quite a bit of radio experience by then, being something of a pioneer broadcaster and ham in the Midwest since age 10.

After Pearl Harbor, Meyerson went in with a friend to start a company making military radio crystals for the duration of the war. After the war, he returned to WRL, changing its name to World Radio Laboratories. Thus arose a number of Midwestern businesses involved in retail and manufacture of kit and wired transmitters for hams.

WRL Manufacturing, a subsidiary, began offering the Globe line of sturdy, reliable AM/CW transmitters, using proven circuit designs with comfortable operating margins. This is great equipment. All but the smallest beginner's rigs had full high-level AM modulation, and all but the massive Globe King 500 were available kit or wired. These transmitters included:

Globe Chief 90	90W (CW only, 75W Novice, 1954)	\$50
Globe Chief 90A	90W (CW only, 75W Novice, screen mod. kit available, 1958)	\$75
Globe Chief Deluxe	90W (CW only, 75W Novice, easily adapted for AM, 2 807s, 1960)	\$80
Globe Trotter 40	40W CW, 25 AM (Simple rig, low-level mod, single 807 PA 1946-49)	\$70
Globe Scout 40	50W CW, 40 AM (3-stage mod, 6146 PA, 1953)	\$100
Globe Scout 65, 65 A-B	65W CW/ 55 AM (160-10 meters, 6146, pi-net matches ANYTHING, 1953-56)	\$100
Globe Scout 680	65W CW/ 55 AM (Added 6 meters, 1957)	\$100
Globe Scout 680A	65W CW/ 55 AM (80-6 meters, 1958)	\$120
Globe Champion 300, 300A	300W CW/ 250 AM, VFO	\$500
Globe Champion 350	350W CW/ 275 AM, 400 SSB w/exciter, VFO (1960)	\$500
Globe King 400, 400A-C	400W CW / 350 AM, (No VFO, later ones had circuit changes & more power 1949-54)	\$400
Globe King 500, 500A-C	500-540W CW/AM/SSB w/10W exciter, VFO, wired only, 270 lb., 1954-58	\$700 - \$900
Globe Sidebander DSB-100	100W PEP SSB, 50W CW, 40W AM (1953)	\$150
LA-1	Amplifier w/300W CW in Class C, 200W AM Class B, 400W PEP SSB/DSB w/20W exciter (1957)	\$110
LA-1600 "Power Master"	1600W PEP SSB/DSB, 800W CW, 200W AM (Class AB1 linear amplifier, 1958)	\$400

WRL'S NEW
GLOBE KING 500B
 with the **Built-In VFO**

540 WATTS
 Fone, CW & SSB[®]
 (P.E.P.)

Only \$38¹⁰
 per mo.

Pay \$69.90 Down
Cash Price: \$699.00



Sturdy - Compact!
Newly Styled! [®]With External Exciter

Completely Bandswitching, 160-10M. 540 watts on Phone and CW, on SSB with external exciter. Built-in VFO with illuminated dial. Pi-Network matches antennas 52-600 ohms. Completely TVI screened and by-passed. Provisions for SSB input and operation. Electronic Grid Block Keying with timed sequence. New audio compression circuit, using 6AL5 tube, holds modulation at high level without usual clipping distortion. New, easy-to-read, plastic meters. Separate power supply for modulator, allowing better overall voltage regulation.

"The Globe King 'Audio' Speaks for itself!"

The Globe King 500 was a true boat anchor, with modular chassis in racks several feet high and weighing hundreds of pounds. Borrow a pickup truck to get this thing home. It has separate decks for power/VFO, modulator (811As), and RF (single 4-400A, driven by a 6146). The modulator has its own power supply, for better regulation when cranking audio through the 6AL5 limiter. This is very heavy duty stuff, reliable and serviceable, like commercial gear. The transformers alone in this awesome rig probably weigh more than some other people's radios.

WRL made quite a few other accessories and kits. In 1953, the company name was changed to WRL Electronics, and then to Globe Electronics in 1956. In 1959, the company was sold to Textron. Meyerson continued in the retail radio business with World Radio, and then got back into manufacturing with Galaxy Electronics in 1962. The Galaxy line of innovative SSB transceivers was highly regarded. They also made linears, and a CB. This company was sold to Hy-Gain in 1970.

Meyerson retired in 1977, dividing his time between Omaha and the California desert, and continuing as an active amateur well into his 90s. He was Ham of the Year at Dayton in 1997. His collection of over 200 ham radios went to a museum in Omaha, where its current status is not known.

The parent company, World Radio, continued in the retail business, making a transition to consumer electronics with a large chain of Midwestern stores run by Leo's son Larry. This business was sold in 1988, and declared Chapter 11 a year later, closing most of its stores. It is not known if the company still exists.

(I wonder how many of these rigs are still around) Ed



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Hams Doing What They Do Best—Talk About Radio



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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:

Angus ZS5GV, is looking for the "(Mixer unit) High Frequency IF PB1180B module" and the "Low Frequency IF module PB1183B" for his Yaesu FT-101E. Anyone who can help please contact Angus at

KWM2-A Raffle:

This fine rig is still up for grabs and we have decided to do the draw at the Open Day in April at the Rand Airport. Donations for this draw are R50 and should you want a chance to own this 100% valve rig made by Collins, then you need to send your money, either wrapped in a plain piece of paper via snail mail, address at top of this page, (this works well and I have never lost any money yet, but do wrap it in a plain piece of A4 paper) or deposit it to my Savings account using the reference area for your "call sign" and "KWM" at:

Standard Bank Benoni
Branch code 01 30 42 40
Acc #: 225334119

We will acknowledge receipt of all donations either by email or snail mail.

Tip From Barry ZS2H

It is more than likely that on older transmitters which use ceramic switches the centre rotating section will be "stuck" to the switch shaft. thus making it rather difficult to remove the whole wafer, without breaking the bit in the middle.

Solution,

Do not try this when your XYL is at home (unless she has a "ham" licence or you do not have a marriage licence) Firstly remove all the screws etc that retain the wafer(s) to the switch index. Go to the kitchen , get out a small cooking pot, place the switch in said pot ,add water, hot or cold , your choice. (no salt needed) Bring the water to the boil ,remove pot from stove, allow switch assembly to cool off. or take it out of the water, again your choice. Now comes the tricky bit, VERY GENTLY lever off the centre portion of the switch assembly from the switch index side.

Works for me. and what's more you have a nice clean switch