



SHACKNEWS

HIGHVELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

October/November 2012



COMMUNICATION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

ZS6HVB Meeting At the October meeting a demo was given on "Radio Mobile", a program that displays the coverage pattern of a transmitter e.g. A repeater. It can also display the path between a transmitter and a receiver.

The November meeting saw Willie, ZS6WC, give a talk and demo on various antenna test instruments. A remote FSM and the MFJ259B were demonstrated.

Thanks to those who have assisted with content for this news/information letter. It is difficult to find suitable content on my own so any assistance is always appreciated.

ZS6SSC Social Club The last social meeting was held at Doug and Merle's home which was reasonably well attended.

It has been decided to reinvent ZS6SSC as a properly constituted club. ZS6WC and a few other amateur from the southern areas of Johannesburg will be running it. Best of luck guys.

This does not mean that the three monthly social meetings have come to an end. No way, we can't leave the ladies out of it.

It will carry on as the HARC social get together.

GREAT TRUTHS

The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.
- Mark Twain

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.
- Winston Churchill

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.
- Ronald Reagan

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have.
- Thomas Jefferson

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!
- Pericles (430 B.C.)

HISTORY OF THE CAR RADIO

Thanks to Jimmy ZS6OX for this info

Seems like cars have always had radios, but they didn't. Here's the true story:

One evening, in 1929, two young men named William Lear and Elmer Wavering drove their girlfriends to a lookout point high above the Mississippi River town of Quincy, Illinois, to watch the sunset.

It was a romantic night to be sure, but one of the women observed that it would be even nicer if they could listen to music in the car.

Lear and Wavering liked the idea. Both men had tinkered with radios (Lear had served as a radio operator in the U.S. Navy during World War I) and it wasn't long before they were taking apart a home radio and trying to get it to work in a car.

But it wasn't as easy as it sounds: automobiles have ignition switches, generators, spark plugs, and other electrical equipment that generate noisy static interference, making it nearly impossible to listen to the radio when the engine was running.

One by one, Lear and Wavering identified and eliminated each source of electrical interference.

When they finally got their radio to work, they took it to a radio convention in Chicago.

There they met Paul Galvin, owner of Galvin Manufacturing Corporation.

He made a product called a "battery eliminator" a device that allowed battery-powered radios to run on household AC current.

But as more homes were wired for electricity, more radio manufacturers made AC-powered radios. Alvin needed a new product to manufacture. When he met Lear and Wavering at the radio convention, he found it.

He believed that mass-produced, affordable car radios had the potential to become a huge business.

Lear and Wavering set up shop in Galvin's factory, and when they perfected their first radio, they installed it in his Studebaker.

Then Galvin went to a local banker to apply for a loan. Thinking it might sweeten the deal, he had his men install a radio in the banker's Packard.

Good idea, but it didn't work -- Half an hour after the installation, the banker's Packard caught on fire. (They didn't get the loan.)

Galvin didn't give up.

He drove his Studebaker nearly 800 miles to Atlantic City to show off the radio at the 1930 Radio Manufacturers Association convention.

Too broke to afford a booth, he parked the car outside the convention hall and cranked up the radio so that passing conventioners could hear it.

That idea worked -- He got enough orders to put the radio into production.

That first production model was called the 5T71.

Galvin decided he needed to come up with something a little catchier.

In those days many companies in the phonograph and radio businesses used the suffix "ola" for their names - Radiola, Columbiola, and Victrola were three of the biggest. Galvin decided to do the same thing, and since his radio was intended for use in a motor vehicle, he decided to call it the Motorola.

But even with the name change, the radio still had problems: When Motorola went on sale in 1930, it cost about \$110 uninstalled, at a time when you could buy a brand-new car for \$650, and the country was sliding into the Great Depression.

(By that measure, a radio for a new car would cost about \$3,000 today.)

In 1930 it took two men several days to put in a car radio -- The dashboard had to be taken apart so that the receiver and a single speaker could be installed, and the ceiling had to be cut open to install the antenna.

These early radios ran on their own batteries, not on the car battery, so holes had to be cut into the floorboard to accommodate them.

The installation manual had eight complete diagrams and 28 pages of instructions.

Selling complicated car radios that cost 20 percent of the price of a brand-new car wouldn't have been easy in the best of times, let alone during the Great Depression --

Galvin lost money in 1930 and struggled for a couple of years after that. But things picked up in 1933 when Ford began offering Motorola's pre-installed at the factory.

In 1934 they got another boost when Galvin struck a deal with B.F. Goodrich tire company to sell and install them in its chain of tire stores.

By then the price of the radio, installation included, had dropped to \$55. The Motorola car radio was off and running.

(The name of the company would be officially changed from Galvin Manufacturing to "Motorola" in 1947.)

Galvin continued to develop new uses for car radios.

In 1936, the same year that it introduced push-button tuning, it also introduced the Motorola Police Cruiser, a standard car radio that was factory preset to a single frequency to pick up police broadcasts.

In 1940 he developed with the first handheld two-way radio -- The Handie-Talkie -- for the U. S. Army.

A lot of the communications technologies that we take for granted today were born in Motorola labs in the years that followed World War II.

In 1947 they came out with the first television to sell under \$200.

In 1956 the company introduced the world's first pager; in 1969 it supplied the radio and television equipment that was used to televise Neil Armstrong's first steps on the Moon.

In 1973 it invented the world's first handheld cellular phone.

Today Motorola is one of the largest cell phone manufacturer in the world.
And it all started with the car radio.



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CLUB INFORMATION

Postal address PO Box 19937 Sunward Park 1470

Website <http://www.zs6hvb.za.net>

Back issues of Shacknews available on the club website

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Repeater 145.1875 MHz input - 145.7875 MHz output

Linked to 70 cm - 438.850 MHz (Sunday bulletins)

Bulletins Sunday morning - 145.7875 MHz & 7062 KHz @ 08h45.
Relay - 80M - 3662KHz

Monthly meeting venue

Germiston Methodist Church
Room at back of the offices
Lady Duncan Rd
Germiston

3rd Saturday of the month at 14:30

Committee

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