

# SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1411, 11 juli 1999. Deadline nästa nr: 23 juli 1999 (fax & E-mail 25/7 kl. 0900 SNT)

Nu har sommaren gjort sitt intåg på allvar. Vädret är väldigt fint här nere i nordvästra Skåne. Vi har några dagar med skön värme. Snart blir det läge att åka till stranden för årets första dopp. Semestern har även drabbat våra medlemmar att döma av bidragsmängden.

Sommarens åskväder märks tydligt på de lägre frekvenserna, vilket tillsammans med rätt usla konditioner, omöjliggör några intressanta loggningar.

Detta nummer innehåller en hel del intressanta kommentarer om nya Icom IC-R75.

Mycket nöje!

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## Elektronisk SWB.

SWB på nätet hittar du på dessa sajter: TN:s <http://home.sverige.net/thomas.nilsson/swb.htm> och AHK:s <http://www.algonet.se/~ahk/swbhome.html>

## QSL, kommentarer, mm.

**Rolf Wikström** (WIK): [wicstrom@swipnet.se](http://wicstrom@swipnet.se), Hammarlund SP600, NRD JRC535D, Drake SPR4, och en gammal Eddystone. Antenner: 50 m. byggd i fyra plan med spolar och jordad med nergrävd wire på 50 m. + 82 m. och 100 m. longwires, alla i exakt nordväst-sydost. Favoritområde alltså LA på KV, men jagar även nya länder (just nu 216), men lyssnar även på MV där UK och Spanien är favoritområden. QTH: Spannarboda City, en by c:a 2 mil nordost om Lindesberg. Var med i SWB från början när bullen delades ut i blästencilformat.

**Lars-Erik Svensson:** Jag accepterar SWB i PDF format. Ganska enkelt och smart på alla sätt. Har data hemma men är då beroende av sonen. Min egen är ej igång. Nästa SWB vill jag därför ha per post då jag har semester. Därefter kan jag ta den på data. Skulle det vid något tillfälle vara mest praktiskt per post så säger jag till.

6955 min i förra numret OID:ade. Vid bandgenomgång har jag klart med ID det är Radio Difusora Paratón. JUST nu svaga signaler på KV. Det är likadant på MV, i natt hörde jag en brassa på 1570, svag men den starkaste LA:n. Flera andra frek. gick oxå men mkt svagt men påfallande stabilt. Jag tycker jag har konstiga störningar på KV. Kan konstatera att något telecomföretag har satt upp en mkt stor relästation på silon, 60 meter upp och 300 meter bort. Kan denna ha någon inverkan?

**Jan Edh:** Har litet att rapportera efter ett par nätter ute i Fredriksfors. Rent allmänt kan konstateras att tiden för att lyssna varit ganska kort ? men det har funnits mycket utrymme för att snacka. Rent bedrövliga konditioner under förnätterna. Sedan har visserligen framför allt Peru (och brassar förstas) kommit bra igång, men tidig soluppgång betyder också att de fadar ut rätt snabbt. Detta då tillsammans med riktigt tuffa åskstörningar (däremot har vi i princip inga som helst problem med det elstängsel som satts upp på husväggen!) gör det hela inte fullt njutbart...

**Kurt Norlin:** Här kommer ett litet bidrag till SWB. Först vill jag nämna att jag även fortsättningsvis - åtminstone tills vidare - vill ha bulletinen distribuerad via postverket. Ett kv-QSL har kommit nämligen **Radio Mexico Int. 9705** med ett trevligt innehållsrikt brev. Dessutom trevliga amatör-QSL från bl.a. Tristan da Cunha, Macao och Kiribati.

Jag lyssnar mest på amatörradio nu för tiden. Att lyssna på IOTA- stationer (Islands On The Air) tycker jag är intressant. Det är dessutom lärorikt och fascinerande att lyssna på dessa - oftast korta expeditioner på 2-14 dagar. Här några av de senaste: Isla de Flores utanför Uruguay, Glorioso Island utanför Madagascar och den ryska ön Malyj Vysotski.

Ikväll ska jag åka ut till klubbstugan och försöka höra Påskön och några andra intressanta öar. Från Påskön är det igång en exp. perioden 7-9/7. M.h.a. eventuella tips från clustret finns den en chans. Är cx de rätta kan den säkert höras med de fina amatörantennerna som finns där. Förra gången jag försökte var för någon vecka sedan då jag plötsligt såg ett tips på clustret på en som flög västerut från Chile över några av de chilenska öarna i Stilla Havet. Tyvärr gick signalerna inte fram hit den gången.

Dina insatser beträffande SWB är värda stort beröm och ett stort tack. En fortsatt bra sommar tillönskas.

**Tore B. Vik:** Reiser tillbaka til hytta igjen der de lange antennene gir mindre statisk støy og bedre signalnivå. Ha en god helg. Så var det SWB via Internett: Har fulgt ditt råd og sett på [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) - det jeg finner der er det samme som jeg finner i SWB-siden. Går jeg inn på "Platform" har jeg to filer for Mac som jeg kan ta ned. Har kopiert "Mac-.hex" - en stor fil på 5.4 M. Jeg får ned versjon 4. Når jeg så skal åpne denne er jeg egentlig like langt - jeg får opp at jeg mangler "StuffIt Expander". Det jeg egentlig trenger er en oppgradering fra 2.0.1 til 4. Tar nå en liten tenkepause og håper du fremdeles vil lage SWB også som HTML-fil i ukene fremover. Jeg skal ha dette til å fungere, men ettersom Mac-miljøet er lite må jeg finne frem til rette person som kan avhjelpe meg med dette. Papirversjonen er OK - vanligvis har jeg den på tirsdag. (det er precis som i PC-världen - filerna är packade och där man för PC använder zip eller arj kör man i Mac-miljö med bin eller hex, som packas upp med StuffIt Expander. Hämta detta program på t. ex. <http://www.10.torget.se/tucows/localmac.html> /red)

**Rolf Wikström:** God fortsättning på den fina sommaren vi fått. Har lyssnat några nätter, men åskan förstör det mesta. Har fått reaktioner på att jag skrev "fiaskot Drake SPR4" för några nummer sedan. Det är inte illa menat till någon SPR4-ägare (köpte själv en SPR4 för en billig penning när min SP600 pajade och som jag fortfarande har kvar). Vill gärna utveckla och förklara vad jag menade. Det fanns de som hade tur att få

ett bra exemplar av denna mottagare, exempelvis SUM Sune Martinsson som hörde "allt" på den. I ett brev skriver Dario Monferini, Mr. PlayDX, att det nog är den bästa MV-mottagare som fanns. Vad jag menar med "fiasko" är att det var så enormt stor skillnad på kvalitet från exemplar till exemplar. Vet många som fick ett dåligt exemplar av denna mottagare, däribland jag själv. Detta bidrog i högsta grad till att jag slutade dx-a då (en av många gånger jag slutat). När jag kom mig för att byta till en SP600 istället så drog det igång igen. Alltså, jag var mycket besviken på Drake att de inte kunde hålla en jämn och hög kvalitet på sina apparater och detta anser jag vara ett fiasko. Jobbar själv med kvalitet och tänk om vi skulle leverera den ojämna kvalitet som Drake gjorde. Det går bara inte !  
**QSL:Radio Comas TV 3250** brev, dekal, nyckelring. 2 m. v/s Gamaniel Francisco Chahua, Programador.

**Christer Brunström:** Är nu hemma igen efter en vecka i Paris. Där blev det enda lyssnandet France- Infos runt 105 mHz på min lilla transistor. Utmärkt radiokanal med en mängd aktuell information. Nyheter i princip var 30:e minut och väder 07 och 37. Nytt QSL är **Radio Comas 3250** med långt och informativt brev, reklamblad för stationen samt nyckelring. Mycket trevligt svar!

## LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC



2460	4.7	2355	R Alvorado, Rio Branco fortsätter att gå bra och ofta QSA 2-3 JE
3172,7	1.7	0230	Radio Municipal med blandad mx. QSA 2-3 WIK
3234,9	5.7	0010	R Luz y Sonido med söndagsgudstjänst QSA 2-3 JE
3325	6.7	0045	Radio Tupi. Religiöst. QSA 2 JE
4409,5	6.7	0055	Radio Eco, Reyes QSA 2 JE
4600			Min OID. i förra bullen var R. Perla del Acre efter bandmangling och ID före fotbollsmatchen. Själva matchen var tydligen nån sorts sam/reläsändning med R. Santa Clara. WIK
4649,1	4.7	2320	Radio Santa Ana QSA 2 JE
4754,8	4.7	0030	Radio Huanta 2000 som även i år haschar omkring mellan 4746-4757 kHz. C/d 0100 med nat.sång. QSA 4 ! WIK
4777.7	20.6	0010	Radio ANDES Q 2-3. KN
4780	7.7	0205	R.Satelite er nå her - hört med Id + comunicados i noen minutter QSA2 TBV
4788	20.6	0015	Oid men allt tyder på Radio Emisora Balliván i Bolivia KN
4814,5	28.6	0230	Radio El Buen Pastor med religiöst. För en gångs skull så var frekvensen fri. En station som jag jagat i över ett år nu. QSA 2. WIK
4824,4	6.7	0015	Radio Selva QSA 3 JE
4826,4	6.7	0030	Radio Sicuani QSA 2 JE
4875	6.7	0050	La Cruz del Sur QSA 3-4 JE
4875	3.7	-0100	La Cruz del Sur dominerade frekvensen - s/off - QSA 2/3 TBV
4890,2	6.7	0040	Radio Chota - mensajes QSA 2 JE
4905	4.7	2330	R Anhanguera/Araquaina. Telefonönskeprogram, halvkänd musik, men mest i "egna" versioner QSA 3 JE
4919	6.7	0035	Radio Quito refererade från Copa América QSA 4 JE
4945 4	.7	2315	A Voz do Sao Fransisco QSA 3 JE
4945	6.7	0050	Radio Illimani - musik, brassen rejält nertryckt QSA 3 JE
4990,3	1.7	-0115	R.Animas med s/off - QSA2/3 denne natten - har hatt en svak stasjon på frekvensen i flere ganger og fikk endelig et brukbart optak og Animas nevnes ved programslutt - obs for Ancash som ligger på omlag 4992 - TBV
4995,6	5.7	0040	R Andina blandade friskt i den inhemska musiken, dragspel, japanskklingande mm QSA 3 JE
5015	5.7	2310	R Brasil Tropical (Radio Cultura) Cuiabá med en summering från Copa América. Senare svårt störd (av peruan?). Men var var Turkmenistan? QSA 3 JE
5523,2	1.7	0130	R.Sudamerica - Id + mx - QSA2/3 TBV
5770	7.7	0125	R.Miskut fri for QRM - rlgpx - QSA2 TBV
5927	1.7	0240	R.Mineria - svak + QRM - sport - QSA2 TBV
6025	10.7	0230	Radio Illimani med Copa América. QSA 3. WIK
6674	5.7	0025	Radio Super Nueva går ofta, men sällan mer än knappt hörbar QSA 2 som bäst JE
6797,7	5.7	2350	Radio Ondas (del Rio Mayo) hade otroligt många "mensajes" att läsa QSA 3 JE
6955,7	6.7	0055	Oid som vel er R.dif Paraton - QSA2 TBV
9721,7	8.7	0430	Radio Victoria hördes bättre idag än igår (7-7). Q 2-3 nu. KN
9737,4	4.7		R Nacional Paraguay stark, men med bättre modulation än tidigare? QSA 3-4 JE
11515	1.7	1600	High Adventure Radio, South Lebanon med testsändning. 3-4 CB
15244	1.7	1815	RTNC Kinshasa med nyhetsprogram och tydliga anrop. 3 CB

## Stationsnyheter:

### BOLIVIA

**4599.9, Radio Villamontes (presumed);** June 27, 0050-0105, Spanish, soccer match, one team came from Santa Cruz, the speaker often mentioned "equipo de Santa Cruz"; I think it must be the Bolivian Santa Cruz. [Michael Schnitzer, [mschnitzer@swin.de](mailto:mschnitzer@swin.de) Hard Core DX]  
**5927,1 Radiodifusoras Minería,** Oruro. 1110-1119. Long commentary in aymara. 23332 (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentina June 27) [Hard Core DX]

## BRASIL

**2379.9- R. Educadora**, Limeira 0034 Noted in passing with Portuguese chatter followed by up-tempo instrumental theme faded down for emphatic talk. ID per recent Mohrmann logging in NU. (Hill, USA June 19) [TFW on Line, via Hard Core DX]

**2460 - Radio Super Alvorada** Extremely strong signal of Radio Super Alvorada (Rio Branco, Acre) on 2460 kHz at 0300 - 0335 fade/out ! (July 1). Never heard such strong signal in the 120 meter band before ! (Unfortunately no ID heard - this station is listed, but only until 0200 UTC. Heard also on June 30 at 0328 but not as strong as it was today). Not too much logs in this mailist these days, but the bands are not dead in this summer season in the northern hemisphere ! Along with the Brazilian stations in the MW band there were stations from Peru (1470 RPN, 1499.93 Santa Rosa) and some weaker Spanish speaking stations, but the time was too short and one DXer was too little to even note them all ... Karel Honzik, <[karel.honzik@vol.cz](mailto:karel.honzik@vol.cz)> [Hard Core DX]

## GUATEMALA

**4824.96, Radio Mam** After more than 30 years DX activities this morning I succeeded for the first time in tuning in to Radio Mam from Guatemala. Here now the log in detail: 4824.96, Radio Mam, Cabricán; June 28, 0255-0410, Spanish, Mam, many IDs, partly religious program. After 0400 a Brazilian was gradually dominating over Radio Mam. Michael Schnitzer, [mschnitzer@swin.de](mailto:mschnitzer@swin.de) Receiver: JRC NRD-525, Antenna: 25m longwire & DX-One Professional, Location: Hassfurt, Germany, [Hard Core DX] The normal schedule for this station is 1300 - 2400 UTC, which doesn't leave much of an opening for Europe. Here in Iowa, in the middle of North America, Radio Mam can be logged at sign-on every year in late December, early January, and even sometimes at sign-off. Otherwise, the only way to log Radio Mam here is to hear them when they are on an extended schedule, as Michael did.

Don Moore [mooredxer@yahoo.com](mailto:mooredxer@yahoo.com) [Hard Core DX]

Michael: Even here in the US of A, Radio Mam is not an easy catch. Congratulations! I got my QSL from them over 20 years ago.

Hopefully they are still in the mood to verify reports. Good luck & 73's Mark Mohrmann, Coventry, Vt. USA

[mohrmannm@mail.lsc.vsc.edu](mailto:mohrmannm@mail.lsc.vsc.edu) <http://homepages@together.net/~hackmohr/> [Hard Core DX]

## PERU

**5015.08 Estacion Tarapoto**, juli 4, 0138 Female speaker in Spanish with clear Tarapoto mention followed by Spanish male songs, at 0143 male and female speakers in Spanish, at 0145 male speaker with also Tarapoto mention followed by Spanish male songs, mixed with presumed Brazil. [Karl van rooy, Hard Core DX]

**6674, UNID LA-station (presumed Peruvian)**; June 27, 0105-0120, Quechua or Aymará, huayño music; unfortunately the station was blocked by heavy utility QRM at 0120, no chance for ID. [Michael Schnitzer, [mschnitzer@swin.de](mailto:mschnitzer@swin.de) Hard Core DX] (Även loggad ett flertal gånger av LES. /red)

**6797.7 R. Ondas**, Nueva Cajamarca, 03/07 23:32, IDs in SS "Radio Ondas", not mentioned del Rio Mayo+music.

Jordi Brunet, QTH: Vilanova i la Geltrú, Catalunya, Spain, Rx: Kenwood R-5000. Aerial: V dipole 15m. [Hard Core DX]

**6798- UNID** - (Presumed Peru) 11-60 (Once Sesenta), 0935 - 1056\* Spanish, Musical Program (SeNor Bolero), Man announcer, ID: "mas musica mas boleros en Radio Once Sesenta" "Estas escuchando Señor bolero en Radio 11-60" TC "cuatro y cuarenta y dos" "Radio once sesenta mas musica en español esta presentando SeNor bolero" "Hola soy Segundo Rossero y los invito a escuchar todas las mañanas SeNor bolero en Radio Once Sesenta" 1056 s/off cut of transmission with musical theme in progress without of announcement, SINPO 34443, June 19 NOTE: Segundo Rossero is a Peruvian singer of Peruvian folk and boleros I have a musical record of this musician, for this reason I presumed the station is from Peru on June 20 I listen this frequency and I listen Ondas del Rio Mayo with his program. (Eramo, Argentina) [TFW on Line, via Hard Core DX]

**6798,7 Ondas del Rio Mayo**, Nueva Cajamarca. 1029-1035. Andean music. Announcement: ".....escucharon musica de la hermana Republica del Ecuador...era un -sanjuanito-...amables oyentes, ya son las 5:30 de la mañana..."; "...saludamos a nuestros amigos ronderos que estan vigilando, acompañados de su botella de aguardiente, de coquita....saludos a todos los amigos ronderos de Nueva Cajamarca....". (Arnaldo Slaen, June 27) [TFW on Line, via Hard Core DX]

## SOMALIA ??

**A number of stations, perhaps of Somali origin**, seem to be active on the 6 MHz band. Below are the results of some observations made in the last weeks here in Taranto, in the south of Italy. UNID on 6689 kHz in (presumed) Somali. 18.50-19.02. At 18.51 TK by a male speaker, tentative ID as "Radio Somalia" followed by Horn of Africa style MX, at 18.55 Holy Quran, at 18.57 MX, at 18.58 (presumed) National Anthem and S/OFF. The signal was fair.

Perhaps someone could help me in identifying a station, perhaps, of Somali origin which broadcasts on 6980/6985 kHz. I received this station for the first time on 20th June, 1999, between 1741 and 1801 on 6980 kHz. The programme consisted of a number of Horn of Africa style songs. The station closed down abruptly and without any announcement at 1801. Reception was fair. The same thing happened on July 3rd. Also this time the station played a number of Horn of Africa style songs but on a different frequency: 6985 kHz. Reception time was from 1730 to 1758. Once again the station closed down abruptly and without any announcement at 1758. Reception was fair.

This is a message from "GADM (DX Fanzine)" <[tarantodx@hotmail.com](mailto:tarantodx@hotmail.com)>

## ST HELENA

This message just came up on the St Helena mailing list: We have just been informed that **a final(?) transmission on SW** (with support from the Cable&Wireless PLC) **will take place on Saturday 23 Oct between 1900-2400 UTC on shortwave 11092.5 kHz**. More information to be found on the web-page. I will release this information on Gotland at the NatWest Games (Island Games) next week to the present media. Please, look on [www.sthelena.se](http://www.sthelena.se) for more infos about the games and news. [John Ekwall]

## Övriga radionyheter:

**Angola is on the net (rec.radio.shortwave)**

For your [file://-checking](#) pleasure, Radio Nacional de Angola is up with streaming (stereo!) audio at:

<rtsp://netaudio.netangola.com/encoder/rna935.rm>

[Al Quaglieri Hard Core DX]

## Grayland 99, DXpedition

I had a look at the website of this DXpedition : <http://surf.to/grayland99> Everyone who has not yet done so, should check this saj. **This really sets a new standard in how to run such activities!** Thanks guys, this shows what is possible these days, both from the technical and communication point. All this reading about coastal effects makes me feel a bit land-locked. The scenery in my area (Black Forest, Germany) is probably as good as anywhere along the US Pacific coast, but for the ocean coast I have to travel 500 km at least. Only water of some importance is the river Rhine. I am afraid this does not qualify for "coastal effects".....  
[Aart Rouw, Hard Core DX]

## Patepluma web site

COSTA RICA (WEB): A new addition to my Patepluma web site is an extensive collection of over 40 Costa Rican radio graphics. The URL is: <<http://members.tripod.com/donmoore/ticogrph.html>>. Thanks to the CPRV and to John Herkimer for their contributions. (Check out the great QSL from shortwave pioneer TI4NRH!) I still have a number of photos and slides from my own collection to scan and add to the site. I would like to get additional contributions - letterhead, stickers, pennants, photos, QSLs, etc. I am especially interested in getting some graphics from Radio Noticias del Continente, a station active around 1979-1980. If you can contribute some scanned images or lend me some items to scan please contact me at <[mooredxer@yahoo.com](mailto:mooredxer@yahoo.com)> [Don Moore, Hard Core DX]

## Use your PC as a DSP-unit

I am a professional software engineer and a long time short wave listener. I have developed a Windows program that allows you to filter audio in real time. Connect the "Line Out" on your short wave radio to the "Line In" on your PC's sound card. Use the Windows "Volume Control" program to assign inputs and outputs and set levels. The program takes the digitized audio, filters it and plays it out through your PC's speakers! No special hardware or modifications needed. It does require a fast PC - 200 Mhz or better. For more information and a free Shareware copy of the program visit my web site: <http://www.winternet.com/~swezeyt/dsp.htm> I hope you will consider purchasing it.

Tom Swezey -- Check out my Web Site: <http://www.winternet.com/~swezeyt> E-mail me at [swezeyt@winternet.com](mailto:swezeyt@winternet.com)

## Station KFS shutting down (rec.radio.shortwave)

From another newsgroup: "Globe Wireless, through it's station KFS, has been in marine communications since 1910 using Morse code. That era is about to come to an end at 2359 UTC on 12 July, 1999 when the last KFS/KPH/WNU/WCC Morse code transmitters and receivers will be shut down. Ship, Ham and SWL operators may request QSL cards from Globe Wireless to commemorate this historic event. Please send your requests via Email to [cw@globewireless.com](mailto:cw@globewireless.com), or by facsimile message to: +650-372-2656. Titanic RIP"  
Peter Kierans, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs Globe Wireless  
[via radiomatt@aol.com (Radiomatt)]

## Re Icom IC-R75 (rec.radio.shortwave)

**I have one of the R75's and I have had no problems with it.** It has very good features for the bucks, not as good as my R8B, but for the dollars it is a very good radio. If you read the reviews from John Wilson (guy that designed the Lowe 225 I believe) in Short Wave Magazine you will find he likes it very well, comparing very well with everything in the price range. [Bryant "McAllister Bryant" [bryantm1@us.ibm.com](mailto:bryantm1@us.ibm.com)]

**Hello Bryant, I installed the DSP UT-106 option to my IC-R75 and it is working great cutting trash on HF.** I've been testing the R75's DSP buy listening to NCDXF signals around the world and the R75 is pulling stations out of the noise far better than a NRD-525I borrowed two days ago !

James. SysOp: World Data Exchange - Taiwan WEB BBS: <http://wins.twwde.com.tw>

## ICOM IC-R75 (Dave's Radio Receiver Page)

**This intresting receiver is now on dealer shelves for purchase in the USA.** A number of questions come to mind: Has ICOM taken a REAL intrest to manufacture a receiver with at least "Good" audio ?? (This is a BIG "NO"..read below). Of course this is has not been a high point for them over the years with the awful IC-R71, which has gone down for about the worst it can get !! I also hope that they left it open for the USER to choose if they wish to use the 12 Khz filter on AM signals ?? I would feel a HUGE loss here, as that bandwidth is useful when signals are in the clear. It does indeed look like we are dealing with good old light bulbs behind the display ??, if so replacement of these lamps might be a regular activity for owners ??

The Twin "PBT" looks intresting. The optional DSP is the same board that goes in other ICOM Amateur sets..so it's the old AF DSP stuff. Rubber pushbuttons have been used, that seems to be the norm with ICOM these days. Of course this type of button will not hold up in years to come as air reacts to the plastic/rubber, and also the printing on these type of buttons have a tendency to wear off with only minor use..time will tell. I do NOT own this receiver or have had a chance to play with one. So,I need your input to make this page work. So if you have taken the plunge...please pass along your comments so I can add them here..so we can share with others.

A note from Johan Letterstål in Sweden on the Bandwidth scheme (Jun 14,99) ..sounds like good news here ??

As for the bandwidth scheme: The standard R75 comes with 15k and 2.4k in 9MHz 2nd IF and 15k, 6k and 2.4k in 455kHz 3rd IF. There are one empty spare slot for both IF's. I've added a 1.9k narrow SSB filter in 2nd IF. Actually I'm considering stripping my R71, moving both the 2.4k 455k crystal filter (Inrad FL44 substitute) and a 4k 9M crystal filter to the R75. R75 gives you the ability to tailor each of the bandwidths (wide, normal, narrow) with any combination of 9MHz and 455kHz filters. Eg for AM I've choosed 15+6, 2.4+2.4 and 1.9+2.4 respectively. [Johan]

**Johan Letterstål in Sweden with his promised comments on his new IC-R75** (June 18, 1999). Well it looks like the audio and Sync circuit both.."Stink"..oh well so much for wishful thinking. Want the best audio, looks like the AR 7030 is still the winner on the market..



**The following are my first impressions and comments on the R75 after about 10 hours of usage**, including some comparisons with my other units, the AOR AR7030 (standard w NB/notch) and the Icom R71 (w/o PLAM). The review is based on PURE LISTENING (BC-stations, mostly AM) and not any scientific A/B testing. The R75 is equipped with the optional DSP and a optional 1.9kc filter in 2nd IF. The antenna is an 8 m (27ft) random wire with coax-feed and balun. For specifications and technical details, please refer to the Icom US website or other sources.

#### **First look:**

The R75 is small and light. The look and styling of the exterior is very nice although it doesn't have the robustness of the 7030. The buttons are the "rubber-type", but feels distinct and has a good "feedback". The main dial is ok, but the R71's big "free-wheel" is still superior. Also the solid metal knob of the 7030 has a better feeling. The other two knobs are quite small and I did have some minor difficulties to operate them (big fingers?). (No rotary encoders here, Davez! ;-){*Good to hear that.but if optical encoders were used I would not care....DaveZ*}

On the rear you will find the ordinary connectors for antennas, PC, recorder, speaker etc. "Why didn't Icom label them?" I asked myself, until I took a close look on the serial number label! The layout is shown there! The R75 has a traditional front panel with the "one control=one function" concept, compared to the 7030 which uses very few controls and a complex menu-system with lots of up and down toggling. The similarity to the "older brother" R71 is obvious in some cases and if you're a R71 user, the step to the R75 is a short step.

The manual for the R75 is ok (but far from the excellent 7030 manual).Schematic is not included (not even a blockdiagram).{*that stinks...DaveZ*}

#### **Usage:**

The first thing that 'hits' you at power up, is the display. Large, clear and with a nice background illumination. All the settings of the receiver are shown on the display. Icom calls it a "function display" and that's what it is! I especially enjoyed the S-meter with its 'peak hold'. R75 really wins here. The method of selecting bandwidth seems to be taken directly from the R71. Each mode has three bandwidths; wide, normal and narrow. Contrary to the R71, R75 gives you the possibility to combine the filters (15kc, 2.4kc, Spare in 2nd IF and 15kc, 6kc, 2.4kc, Spare in 3rd IF) for each bandwidth and mode. Eg for AM you could set 15kc+6kc, 15kc+2.4kc and 2.4kc+2.4kc for wide, normal and narrow respectively. The filter setup is very versatile and installing optional filters are easy. But, even this, I might still prefer the 7030 with its (up to) six filters and the excellent calibration feature. I lack a wider filter in either IF (2.8-3.3). The difference is very small, but points goes to AOR.

What about the twin-pbt? Again an heritage from the R71. The difference is that R75 uses two controls (a concentric knob) for moving lower and upper portion of the passband. Turning both controls together moves the entire passband. Works fine and it's much better than the R71 PBT. The 7030 uses one control and most importantly, shows the passband offset on the display. You see what you're doing (aka WYSIWYG!).

Entering frequency with the keypad works fine, but Icom should have included a kHz button as well. To enter for example 15565 kHz, you have to punch 1 5 5 6 5 0 0 ENT or 1 5 . 5 6 5 ENT. Another ex: 1100 kHz would be 1 1 0 0 0 0 ENT or 1 . 1 ENT. Other settings (and there are a lot), such as tuning steps, beep level, cw pitch, dimmer etc, are done in a setup menu. Very user-friendly and easy to use!

#### **The performance:**

Audio: The R75 has a SMALL front mounted speaker (Icom US webpage calls it large!). The audio output and fidelity are ok and with headphones it's even better. I've not tested any external speaker. In general the audio is clearly better than the R71 (could it be worse?) but still not better than the 7030 (could it be better?). Distorsion shows up when using very narrow filters in AM, but that's logical and could be remedied with the pbt. One way of getting nice audio is to use synchronous AM. Turning this on, the R75 will disappoint you! Honestly, I CANNOT hear ANY difference or improvement AT ALL! In fact, under certain circumstances, the s-AM will instead momentarily distort the audio! Very strange! Do I use it the wrong way or?...I suspect that Icom employs "carrier reconstruction" rather than "carrier replacement" for the R75 s-AM solution. The s-AM on the 7030 is superior and more versatile by all measures (even taking the disturbing low level heterodyne in account) The attack- and decay time for AGC fast and slow seems to be right and I'm satisfied with them. {*This is bad news indeed on the Sync Detection Circuit....Davez*}

The optional DSP has two functions; noise reduction and automatic notch. The notch isn't operational in AM according to the manual, but that's not 100% true! Certain het's are reduced completely, others not. It seems to be some limitations within the passband (perhaps due to the notch being optimized for SSB bandwidths, not AM at 6kc). Well, it works to some degree. Compared to my MFJ-784B DSP, the MFJ is of course better and more aggressive in hunting and eliminating het's. The noise reduction works very well, also compared with the MFJ. The level is variable between 1 to 15 (dB?) and at 5 the reduction is sufficient. As in any DSP, you will get 'echoing' or 'hollowness', when you increase the reduction level to maximum.

I would rate the R75 sensitivity as good and high enough for serious DX-ing. There are two preamps, +10db and +16dB, that works more and less over the entire spectrum (+16dB mainly used for 20+ MHz). Judging from S-meter readings and assuming that both S-meters are correctly calibrated (YES I know, this is not the right way) the R75 with preamp 1 equals 7030 w/o preamp on shortwave. With preamp 2, the R75 exceeds the 7030 with preamp. On mediumwave, the 7030 is better overall.

At a glance review, 1-5 (bad-excellent): Price/performance: 5, Design: 5. Controls: 4, User friendliness: 5, Sensitivity: 4, Features: 4. Specific functions/features: Filters: 3-4, Sync-AM: 2, DSP: 4, Setup menus: 5.

Also, everyone should be aware of that Shortwave Magazine has done a extensive review, published in the May and June issues. Read it! [Johan Letterstål, Sweden. ] [From: <http://www.ticon.net/~davez/> Email at [davez@ticon.net](mailto:davez@ticon.net)]

#### **Gert Nilsson bought the Icom IC-R75 (rec.radio.shortwave)**

I have just tested my R75 with DSP and 2,8 and 3,3 kHz filters for about a week and made a lot of comparisons with my old R71E (with PLAM, extra filters and 1024 memory board) and my very old Collins R390A (also modified with PLAM).

My conclusions are:

It is a much better receiver than the unmodified R71 and R390. It is also equal or better than the modified R71E. Sensitivity is very good, especially on high frequencies. Selectivity is very good with excellent twin passband tuning. The original 2,1 kHz filter is in fact more like 2,3 kHz. The 6 and 15 kHz AM/FM filters are low quality 450 (!!!) kHz Murata filter, not so easy to replace. The 455 kHz filters can not be used in the synchronous AM mode! The VFO has a lot of options with steps like 1 Hz, 10 Hz, 100 Hz, 1 kHz, 5 kHz, 6,25 kHz, 9 kHz, 10 kHz.....

I could not find any problems with internally generated interferences and I had no problems with strong signals despite using long amplified beverage antennas in the AM band.

[Gert Nilsson [gert.nilsson@mbox305.swipnet.se](mailto:gert.nilsson@mbox305.swipnet.se)]

### **IF in Icom IC-R75**

**Here are the detailed specs** I could get from the review: **1st IF 69,00115Mhz** no B/W given, **2nd IF 9,0115Mhz(???)** 15khz and 2.4khz and one empty socket for optional filter --- this is something curious --- **3rd IF with 2 DIFFERENT!! Centerfreqs, 450 !!!! khz** ceramic filters with B/W15khz (Murata CFWS 450E) and 6Khz (Murata CFWS 450HT) and 455 khz quartz-filter with B/W 2.4khz (Murata CFJ 455K5) one empty socket for optional filter with 455 khz center-frequency. --This CFJ 455K5 is comparable with my CFJ 455K13. It's not bad but miles away from "professional". It's in the US\$ 60 - 80 pricerange if you buy it seperately for new (I got mine -a used one- for US\$ 7 :-). Automatic synchronous detector on AM with 6 khz B/W -ECSS-mode without selectable sideband! Optional audio!!! DSP-unit UT106 known from other Icom's like the IC 706MKII and the PCR1000. - external DSPs or audio-filters work much better!!!- lowest price here -without optional additions- is US\$ 1000.  
odo <odo@mail.blinx.de>

### **INRAD crystal & mechanical filters (rec.radio.shortwave)**

There \*may\* be a little good news, to go with the terrible ceramic filter news re the R75.

INRAD {International Radio} - [www.qth.com/INRAD](http://www.qth.com/INRAD) - has come up with quite a few excellent crystal & mech. filters for those who want to upgrade/add to their hf radios. They work with a variety of brands. I bought one of their SSB filters, the #320 1800hz bw at 9011.5khz cf with a 1.8 sf, for my Icom R70 & have found it has excellent rejection with little, if any, noticeable insertion loss. Since INRAD also offers a 455khz cf SSB filter for the R70 I would think they would be able to fit the R75 with out alot of r & d. They have excellent prices too boot. A good example is their SSB 455khz/2400hz bw filter, which has as good or better numbers than Icom's famous FL-44/44a but cost's \$100.00usd less. For those of you who have not had the chance to compare your ceramic filters, including Kiwa's "premium" which, btw, has HORRIBLE insertion loss, to a good quality crystal filter will, to put it mildly, be amazed at the improvements.

[Al no@spam.here ]

### **Adding filters to Icom IC-R75 (rec.radio.shortwave)**

I just added two filters to my IC-R75. I've added a 455Khz SSB 1.8Khz (FL-222) filter and a 9 Mhz 500Hz (FL-100) CW / RTTY filter and they work great! Now this is the trick I think many people raise about the R75. The add-ons cost more which ups the price of the radio so why not get a radio with these types of filter built-in?

I don't fully agree but I will say that in Taiwan ICOM has the strangest price plan I've seen in a while. The thing I like about the filter add-on is that "I" can select what filter range I want for a recv. mode. I like that with most radios you just plug in your filter and may be doing some re-setting and your filter is ready to do it's job for the mode designed. With the IC-R75 if I want I could assign a 0.5 filter for AM! Won't hear anything that makes sense but being able to assign the filters the way that suits my situation is a nice feature (or lack of feature). I also installed the AF DSP unit UT-102 that helps the radio the most.

James , SysOp: World Data Exchange - Taiwan WEB BBS: <http://wins.twwde.com.tw>