

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1412, 25 juli 1999. Deadline nästa nr: 6 augusti 1999 (fax & E-mail 8/8 kl. 0900 SNT)

Att många SWB-medlemmar ägnar sig åt annat än radiolyssning märks tydligt bland bidragen, där salta bad, skärgården, båtliv, krogar, etc. är trevliga inslag. Dock har ingen vågat nämna Carlsberg eller Tuborg - nog är det väl någon som tagit en redig, dansk pilsner i hettan?? För i så fall hade nog flera fina loggningar skickats in. Men, men, var sak har väl sin tid....

En rolig grej som någon i klubben bör bidra till är: "RADIO IN MY LIFE" Radio Fest 99 Essay to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Ontario DX Ass. (Se mer under Övriga Radionyheter)

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QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Christer Brunström: Har fått följande nya QSL sedan sist: **SWR 6030 och 7265** med QSL-kort och dekalkort, **Radio México Internacional 9705** brev, kort, schema samt **Radio Mosoj Chaski 3310** med brev och reklamlblad. Tydliga en säker svarare vilket uppskattas! Trevlig sommar!

Lars-Erik Svensson: Det har nu gått en vecka sedan sista bullen. Inga stora saker har hänt på KV här hos mig. På MV har det varit intressant. Torsdag 15 DS var det fina conditioner, ett antal brassar gick fint samt 1620. Det var ändå en sorglig tillställning, alla brassar med fotboll och en envis CW på 1620. Åsk-QRM börjar bli intensiva igen, bara ett åskväder kan rensa bort detta. Tidigare under veckan hörde jag en brassa på 1380, anrop Radio Clube da São ingen listad här med det namnat här. Tvenne QSL har kommit, infobrev och kort från **Radio Nacional Arcangel San Gabriel 15476** och brev, diverse från **Radio Mosoj Chaski 3310**. Det var allt, händer det något hör jag av mig, salut!

Lars Skoglund: Skriver på kort från Lill-Babs krog i Järvsö om QSL från **Radio Comas -3250** brev, info och foto. **Radio Mosij Chaski -3310** brev och infofolder. V/s Eldon Porter, Gerente. Vill ha SWB med post i framtiden. Önskar alla en fortsatt skön sommar.

Kenneth Olofsson: Ett ynka litet bidrag denna gång, det är **Radio Mosoj Chaski** som svarat med brev och info-lapp på Quecha-språket. QSL brevet dock på spanska. Verie signer var Eldon Porter.

Dan Olsson: Här kommer bidrag från ett regnigt och kallt Furulund. Jag tänkte bidra till förra numret och väntade in i det sista med att renskriva. Vad hände? Jo, på lördagseftermiddagen drabbades jag av värmeslag och låg här hemma och frös trots att det var 29 grader inomhus, så denna gång väntar jag inte utan skriver lite i förtid. Jag vill gärna ha bullen i fortsättningen på pappersvis. Skulle det bli ändring så meddelar jag det. Några QSL har jag också fått: **13650 VOA/Tainan** kort och tidning (Svar nummer två på samma rapport) och **3310 R Mosoj Chaski** brev och info.

Nästa vecka åker jag på semester så jag undrar om du kan skicka bullen på följande adress: Dan Olsson, c/o Odd Påg, Daftö 2531, 452 96 Strömstad.

Tore Larsson: Några korta rader för att tala om att en ny station loggats: Tack för ett mycket fint arbete med SWB, en fortsatt god sommar önskar TL

Tore B. Vik: Brev har kommit fra **R.Mosoj Chaski** ved Eldon Poter. Fikk i april en e.mail fra Eldon Porter der han ba om en innføring i DX-ingens mysterier - han hadde ingen erfaring med hvordan han skulle behandle alle disse brevene fra lyttere i andre deler av verden. Han fikk et langt svar der jeg laget en anbefalt QSL-tekst med tid og dato for rapportering noe han desverre ikke har fulgt opp. Har enda ikke lastet ned Stuffit Expander - tar det neste uke. Ha en god helg.

Hermod Pedersen: Tillåt mig att säga att det är världens fina bulletiner du sätter samman. Även om loggsen inte alltid är av större klass, så gör dina citat från höger och vänster att bullen hela tiden har stort värde. Beundransvärt att du hinner med, tro mig, jag vet vilken tid sånt kan ta.

Du får som vanligt stryka och härja med tipsen, och även korta bland de kommentarer du finner lämpligt. De kanske blivit något annorlunda än brukligt, men det beror på att jag trixar litet med Filemaker för att få till en komplett databas för loggningar, tips, rapporter, QSL, heta nyheter, verisigners, adresser och allt möjligt annat som dyker upp på nätet. Jag har väl blott kommit 40 procent på vägen, men redan nu har jag börjat spara tid, få bättre överblick och en massa andra fördelar. Tur att man långt om länge skippat Microsofts Access till förmån för Filemaker (som en följd av att jag börjat använda den yrkesmässigt på webben). Det är vida enklare att i Filemaker få till en äkta databas (som ju består av en rad relaterade register). Nu skriver jag in loggningarna direkt när de görs, med diverse kommentarer och de programdetaljer jag uppfattar. De kompletteras sedan efter bandmangling. Sen är det bara att trycka på rapport, SWB, eller vad, och vips, så blir det en anpassad rapport för valt ändamål. Visst, det funkar än så länge sådär, men med tid och mer finlir så har jag snart den perfekta databas jag började snickra på för 20 år sen i HDs stordator. Nu har jag den här i min mobila Thinkpad, med mobiltelefonkontakt med Internet. Det har allt skett litet under åren, för den som försökt hänga med. Nå, slutbablat. Över till tipsen - och radion/databasen. (Intressant att arbeta med databaser, det är flera utländska DX-are som använder detta. Kör själv numera i Access på jobbet och även här hemma - använde tidigare Foxpro. Båda dessa

program är ju perfekta för de mindre företagen. Man sparar oerhört med tid när väl en utskrift är definierad. Tack förresten för omdömet - hoppas även övriga medlemmar tycker det är intressant med diverse klipp. /red)

Rolf Wikström: Har just kommit hem från en härlig veckas båtliv i Stockholms skärgård med strålande sol varje dag. Hemma i Spannarboda har det visst bara regnat och åskat. Lyssnade imorse, men de konditioner som var då är inte mycket att skriva till SWB om. QSL: **Radio Mosoj Chaski** 3310 brev, två dekal. 2m. V/s Eldon Porter, Gerente.

Jan Edh: tyvärr har jag inte haft mycket tillfälle (och lust) att lyssna den senaste perioden. Litet lätt lyssning ute i stugan (en dipol 2 x 15 m), men jag vet inte riktigt vad den går för än. Jag tycks besväras av en hel del störningar, troligen från element, kyl/frys etc. Ett bidrag till loggen kan jag klämma fram (VOAs test från Sri Lanka). Dessutom har jag fått ett QSL, **Radio Mosoj Chaskij 3310** med brev och visitkort, som väl lär ha kommit i snart sagt varje brevlåda vid samma tillfälle... Av arbetet att döma lär det bli klen med lyssnande den närmaste veckan också. (Se till att du kompletterar dipolen med 300 ohms nerledning, samt sätter en balun (bal./obal.) vid radion, alt. att du sätter balunen uppe vid antennen och går ner med koaxialkabel till radion. /red)

Ove Fransson: Ett par korta rader för att visa att jag lever och att jag DX-ar trots att jag aldrig hör något som verkar värt att rapportera till bullen. Ett QSL har jag i alla fall fått, halleluja: **VoA Tinian 13650** efter nästan ett halvt år.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC



Har för första gången på länge varit uppe och kollat banden några nätter. Den 15/7 gick brassarna kanonstarkt c:a 0230 UTC i samband med Copa America, matchen mellan Mexico - Brasilien på följande frekvenser (alla tent): 2380 R Educadora, 2460 R Alvorada, 3205 R.Ribeirao Preto, 3245 R Clube (mx), 3325 R Tupí (mx) samt 3365 R Cultura (mx). Den 23/7 hördes ett bl a flertal peruaner vid 0115 UTC, såsom, (alla tent): 4814,38 R el Buen Pastor, 4819,18 Cadena Radial, 4826,38 R. Sicuani, 4890,17 R Chota, 4990,95 R Animas samt 4995,58 R Andina. Styrkan varierade mellan 1-3. /TN

2380	ofta	0200	Radio Educadora förmodligen har ej väntat på ID, LES.
2460	4.7	0105	R. Alvorada, Rio Branco, BRA, med musik och ID till Q 3, Det är inte ofta man hör något nytt ifrån 120 metersbandet DO
3172,7	23.2	0115-0140	Radio Municipal, Q2, med en himla massa comunicados. /HeP
3392	24.7	0035-0115	Radio Camargo, Q2-3, med långt nyhetsprogram, bra mottagning trots hel del åska och sommaren elstängsle. Även 23.7 2345 med religiöst program. /HeP
4606,6	11.7	0010-0020	Radio Ayaviri tent med Q1-2, för mycket åska, annars hade den gått fram skapligt med sina huaynos. /HeP
4702	13.7	0005	R Eco San Borja fint med ballader. 2-3. OVE
4785	13.7	0250	Rádio Caiari med phone-in. QSA 3 WIK
4819,5	16.7	0145	LV Evangelica gick oerhört bra med fullt ID och skön musik. 4! OVE
5523,1	17.7	0020-0030	Radio Sudamérica, svag med Q1-2 tillfällig utility-QRM, åska -- trots det stundtals läsbara detaljer. /HeP
5770	23.7	0210-0245	Radio Miskut som tent. loggning då de endast körde nonstop musik till 0245, för att sen vara borta. Inte en enda annonsering. /HeP
5890	ofte	0200	HRMI - R. MI - musikk og rlg px med QSA 2/3 - har fra tid til annen hatt en svak bærebølge på 5890 - og i disse dager har det også kommet modulasjon - forholdsvis sterk - TBV
5927,1	16.7	2357-0007	Radiodifusoras Minería, bra med Q2-3 och ganska ren signal fram till några sekunder före 0000, då europé satte igång på cochannel, med en massa splatter som resultat. Annars blott en ton och en del åska. Möjlig c/d 0007, inget spår sen bland all splatter. /HeP
5952,5	23.7	0200	Radio Pio Doce med QSA 4 ! och c/d 0230 WIK
6115	11.7	0035	R Union - meget sterk 0035-0200 - QSA3 som best TBV
6165	17.7	2200	Radio Tchad räknade upp en massa namn. 3 CB
6190	12.7	2145	Rádio Senado med politiska nyheter från Brasília. Stänger varje kväll 2158 med följande annonsering: "A Rádio Senado operando em 6190 kHz na faixa de 49 metros encerra a sua transmissão de hoje. Boa noite." Jag har en perfekt rapport till denna nya brasse men utan adress. Någon som vet? 3-4 CB
6458.5	5.7	0000	AFRTS, Puerto Rico med nyheter. Gick bäst på USB. DO
6520,3	23.7	0025-0035	Radio Paucartambo, Q3, riktigt bra och med ett pampigt ID "desde las cordilleras peruana..." osv. (har inte lyssnat ut det än, då målning får gå före). /HeP
6955,5	23.7	0155-0210	Radiodifusora Paratón, Q2-3 /HeP
9565	3.7	2105	R Tupi, Curitiba, BRA med sedvanligt tråkigt religiöst program där de hojtar och skriker. DO
9680	21.7	2000	VOA/Iranawila Sri Lanka med testsändningar på engelska. Her väldigt mörk modulation för att vara VOA. DO
11805	5.7	2020	R Globo mod fotboll ifrån Copa America DO
11895	5.7	2150	R Rio Grande do Sul med program ifrån LBV DO
12115	12.7	1545	Kazakh Radio med inslag från den tyska redaktionen. Jag kollade även måndagen den 19 juli vid samma tid men då sändes inget på tyska. 3-4 CB
17640	18.7	1500	IBB Sri Lanka Transmitting Station med testsändning av VoA News Now. 4 CB
17640	23.7	15.00-	VOA Iranawila, med sin "proof of performance" test 17-24 juli 3-4 TL
17740	21.7	-06.59	VOA med test från Sri Lanka. Newshour. Slog av utan krusiduller mitt i snacket 06.59. QSA 3-4 JE

Stationsnyheter:

BENIN

7210.25 ORTB Cotonou, July 18, 2309-2316* Afropopmusic with french male songs, // 1475. At 2310 french male speaker with clear mention of Cotonou, with short musical breaks of afropopmusic, final announcement at 2313 by male speaker, at 2314 Nat Anthem and then carrier only until s/off at 2316 also off at 1475 then, undermodulated here replaces 4870. Also several years ago since I heard Benin here. ["Karl von Rooy" <kwrooyi@bart.nl via Hard Core DX]

BOLIVIA

Radio Mosoj Chaski, Cochabamba, Bolivia. A Spanish n/d veri-letter and Quechua info-leaflet for a Spanish snail-mail report. v/s was Eldon Porter, Gerente. Took about one month. Mailing address: Casilla 4493, Cochabamba, Bolivia, Street address: Calle Abaroa 254, Cochabamba, Tel:22 06 51, 22 06 44, Fax: 25 10 41, Email: chaski@bo.net. It is always interesting to see how fast or slow the envelopes travel from different parts of the world to your home. This letter from Bolivia arrived within 10 days. Recently I received a QSL from VNG, Llandillo, Australia and the Economy Air envelope was stamped 13 months earlier. I wonder what kind of aeroplanes they use delivering these letters, hi. Jari Savolainen, Kuusankoski, FINLAND [Hard Core DX]

4926.3 Radio San Miguel. I was happy to receive this station from Bolivia last night for the first time. The signal was quite weak, and also suffering from Radio Republik Indonesia on 4925, but it seemed to be on about 4926.3 and tuning up a bit brought it over the top. Definite ID as "Radio San Mig, La voz del Vicariato Apostolico de Pando" and also "Radio San Miguel" just after 1100.

Haven't seen this noted for a while, has it been off? [Richard Jary <jary@sydney.dialix.com.au>to hard-core-dx]

PERU

4750.1, Radio San Francisco Solano, Sondor; July 18, 0245-0302, Spanish, huayño music, time announcements, IDs, national anthem and c/d at 0302. [Michael Schnitzer, mschnitzer@swin.de, Location: Hassfurt, Germany, via Hard Core DX]

Övriga radionyheter:

DATELINE BOGOTA 1993 - 1998 edited by Henrik Klemetz

Updated versions 1993 - 1998 covering a selection of loggings and articles published in various publications such as Radio Nuevo Mundo, Japan, DX South Florida, USA, The Radio News, Venezuela, DX Listening Digest, USA, Kurier, Germany, as well as the WRTH LA-Newsletter, Distance and SWB, Sweden.

In addition to the loggings there is some QSL information, most of which has never been published. Dateline Bogotá 1998 also includes a Peruvian geography primer for DXers. **Go to URL** <http://www.algonet.se/~ahk/swbhome.html> and look in Contents for Dateline Bogotá.

The Online DX Logbook

The most up-to-date Shortwave and Tropical Band Loggings on the Net compiled by Graham Powell. The Online DX Logbook is updated on a daily basis with loggings submitted by email. The site also feature a section for your unidentified stations. Check it out at:- www.dxsheigra.freeserve.co.uk or www.bigfoot.com/~odxl

Nils Jakobsson`s Eldorado-pages

After a little more than a year at Nordic Shortwave Center, I have decide to move my Eldorado-pages back to my own internet-provider. The new URL is: <http://www.algonet.se/~mwm/eldorado/index.html> Please change your bookmarks!

Today I have added mor than 20 new veriesigners and also other useful information, so nowy you can find 851 veriesigners, 630 anniversaries and 430 e-mail addresses and/or links to web-pages, all about radiostations in Latinamerica! Your comments and/or contributions are, of course, very welcome! 73 Nils Jakobsson [Hard Core DX]

Internet Radio (rec.radio.shortwave)

Internet Radio in a rapidly expanding communication medium, find the latest internet only radio stations listed at <http://radioX.com>.

Internet only radio stations are listed by format in an easy to use and navigate interface. Try us out. You run an Internet only station.....

Pop along to <http://radiox.com> and add your url to the ever expanding list of internet only radio stations. And remember we would love a link back. [Phillip Jones <http://radioX.com>]

The best shortwave antenna (rec.radio.shortwave)

My vote would be for a tilted terminated folded dipole (TTFD or T2FD). I've been through about 20 antennas in 30 years. I put this one up this winter and I'm VERY happy with the results. It's about 50' long. It's the quietest antenna I've ever built. It's fairly omnidirectional when properly tilted and gives me good 6MHz to 30 MHz coverage. If you want to go lower in frequency, just open up the ground side of your coax and it makes a good tropical band antenna (much noisier in this mode, though).

bobnorton@earthlink.net (Bob Norton)

ICOM IC-R75

I have been testing the new Icom IC-R75 receiver for several weeks. I compared it with my old & faithful Icom IC-R71E which has served me since 1984. My conclusion is that R75 is better than R71 with one exception. Generally it can be said that R71 now has a good successor. Icom R75 is approximately as good as AOR-7030 or JRC NRD-525 while the price of R75 is lower.

The most important improvement is stability. In my view the most awful quality of R71 was unstability which sometimes makes frequency measuring difficult. R75 is a high stability receiver which makes it possible to measure frequencies reliably up to 0,01 kHz accuracy. Another improvement is better SSB. The frequency is not changed as in R71 when you change from USB to LSB. Audio quality or R75 is also clearly better than the somewhat bassy voice of R71. Unfortunately there is no notch-filter. However, it is available with an optional unit. The synchronous AM detection works but in my view the SSB of R75 is better.

The receiver is very sensitive. My friend Ilpo Leppanen measured the sensitivity of R75 and found that it is what is promised. Possibly the best property of R75 is the twin PBT. There are very few receivers in this price class that have any PBT. The twin PBT of R75 moves IF passband at two stages. It was very effective especially on tropical bands. I was able to hear some weak Papuan stations in the 3 MHz band on R75 with somewhat better signals than on R71. The difference was not great, however. IF-filters are good for DX'ing. Up to two optional filters can be installed. R75 covers 0,03-60 MHz and has good scanning properties. I used R75 during daytime to scan TV VHF-I audio frequencies to find sporadic Es conditions. It worked! Then comes that one exception. The info brochure of R75 promises "Superior dynamic range...of more than 100 dB..." I was not able to hear heterodynes or spurious signals until preamp 2 was switched on. I live in Kangasala which is located 100 km East from YLE Pori 963 kHz 600 kW. Several YLE-signals could be heard on unwanted frequencies around the AM-band. According to Ilpo Leppanen's measurements the dynamic range of R75 is nowhere 100 dB, actually it is around 70 dB. Is this important? No, it is not. You don't need to use preamp 2 which seems to be designed mainly for the 50 MHz VHF amateur band. Secondly, you can use an antenna-tuner or a preselector to hear weak AM/MW stations.

My summary is that Icom IC-R75 is a low-cost high-class receiver.

[Jorma Mäntylä - jmantyla@dlc.fi via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash, Hard Core DX]

Just bought the Service Manual on CD. It shows a 10 dB attenuator below 1,6 MHz. There is a CP (=connection point) where you can short it out! Easily done, gives some extra dB!

There also seems to be some kind of filter calibration in the R75. Turn the receiver off, short the remote jack, press the ANT and CLOCK buttons and turn the receiver on again. With the UP and DOWN buttons you can find the filter calibration on the display. I have not tried it out myself! Perhaps it will measure the bandwidths and adjust the BFO frequencies, as the AOR7030 does? No information in the Service Manual about what it really means! [Gert Nilsson <gert.nilsson@mbox305.swipnet.se> via Hard Core DX]

APU-100 phaser

Having used the MFJ-1025 (modified) phaser for some time on MW, I thought I'd send you a short note on a subject that hasn't been much focused on by the reviews I have read. Background: I live in a region where in many instances only atmospheric or galactic noise is of concern. Thus, I can use extremely sensitive equipment when listening. On the other hand, at one of my locations I have a very harsh RF environment, consisting of:

A) A Loran C navigational beacon at 100 kHz, 200kW, 4,500 meters away and visible.

B) An NDB at 399 khz, 100w, 1,500 meters away, not visible.

C) A shore-to-sea communications station on 1695 kHz, 10kW, 1,500 meters away, not visible.

Needless to say, these RF sources and the Loran C station in particular require well-designed and well-built antennas, ground systems, feedlines and listening equipment incl. amplifiers etc. I use two beverages of 100, resp. 200 meters, grounded and transformed to a 50 ohm coaxial feedline. My impression is that the amplifier supplied with the MFJ-1025 is not on par. During low signal level periods the amplifier clearly produces noise, especially from the AUX antenna input. During periods of high signal levels, such as nighttime, the effect is not as profound, but still noticeable. My theory is that the relatively simple amplifier is the reason why this effect appears.

For comparison, I purchased the APU-100 phaser from Wellbrook Communications. This phaser uses a push-pull amplifier with transformer feedback transistors and pulls out 5dB extra gain in addition to the gain used for the phasing unit. This amp has a TOIP of +40dBm and a SOIP of +72dBm and produces no noise at all in my environment. In fact it is totally transparent, in that when the phaser isn't used, you won't notice the phaser. While on the MFJ-1025, reception seems to degrade marginally as long as the phaser isn't switched off.

An added benefit to the APU-100 phaser is that it seems to produce deeper nulls than the MFJ-1025, although I have tested both phasers with only a limited array of antennas.

My conclusion is that anyone who is considering buying an antenna phaser should seriously consider the APU-100. At least this is true for European DX-ers (I have heard that Wellbrook for some reason declines to export to the US).

---From the world's northernmost DX-er--- 71°N, 29°E, Bjarne Mjelde, P.O.Box 58, N-9980 Berlevåg, Norway, Receivers: AR7030+, KWZ-30 [Hard Core DX]

Long and Medium Wave Stations in Europe, North Africa, and Middle East

The latest edition (publication date: 17 July 1999) of the publication "Long and Medium Wave Stations in Europe, North Africa, and Middle East" is now available. It can be obtained in two ways:

* electronically as a PDF file. Please visit my homepage to download for free: <http://come.to/dxing>

* as a paper publication at the modest price of BEF 300, USD 10, DEM 15 in banknotes.

Order your copy at: Herman Boel, Roklijf 10, B-9300 Aalst, Vlaanderen, (Belgium) [Hard Core DX]

Re: "RADIO IN MY LIFE" Radio Fest 99 Essay Contest (rec.radio.shortwave)

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Ontario DX Association - Canada's largest radio listener club - the ODXA announces a special essay contest. Radio listeners around the world; listeners of international shortwave, mediumwave, FM, scanning, amateur radio; listeners of all ages and levels of experience; all are invited to participate. Send us your essay on the following topic: "Radio in my life". Tell us about the importance of radio to you, how it has contributed to your life, why you love radio...share your emotions and passions with other radio listeners around the world. Length : up to 1000 words (approximately 4500 characters in computer wordprocessor file). All essays will be published in a booklet to be available at Radio Fest 99, September 24-25 in Oakville, Canada. All entrants will receive a complimentary copy of the booklet. Copies will also be made available to other radio clubs, publications and international radio stations, as chosen by the Ontario DX Association.

Prizes: First prize will be a portable shortwave radio. Four runnerup prizes will be awarded and will be the winner's choice of the 2000 Passport to World Band Radio or the World Radio TV Handbook 2000 edition.

Rules of Entry: There is no charge or fee to enter. Contest open to anyone, anywhere in the world. Entries must be submitted by e-mail or by printed copy. Printed copy must be typewritten. All entries become the property of Ontario DX Association. Essays must be received no later than September 1, 1999.

Contact: Harold Sellers, e-mail dxontario@compuserve.com Ontario DX Association, P.O. Box 161, Station A, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5S8, Canada. Web site: www.odxa.on.ca

Radio in my life (rec.radio.shortwave)

As a small child of 6 or so, I remember coming back from my grandparents in eastern Kentucky one evening as my mother got bored with the only clear radio stations we could receive on the car radio. (Back then "country" music was called "hillbilly" and was even more prone to having performers with no apparent talent for singing or playing any musical instrument) She was tuning towards the top of the dial when this amazingly clear classical music was just there. We listened and there was just a touch of fade. Dad (WW2 sometimes pilot and general electronic type) explained to mom (and I listened like it was the word of God) about the ionosphere and how radio waves bounced along between the earth and ionosphere. The announcer came on and IDed as "the voice of some college at Waterloo" Iowa. We listened for most of the then 4 hour drive back to Lexington and the station never faded completely out until we were almost home. It got real fluttery and then was gone.

Well I was kind of hooked. A lot of evenings would find my at mom's console radio just tuning around to see what was there. While that radio did have the 88 to 108 FM band on it, there were very few stations and none very far away. Dad bought me a gas station (Sinclair) atlas of the US, Canada and Mexico. I would slowly add new states by coloring them off as I received them. Mom and dad used this as a tool to get me interested in geography and reading. Over the following years my devotion to AM peaked and waned, much like a distant AM station. In the summer between 7th and 8th grade the lady across the street paid several of us kids to help clean out her attic. Paid us \$15 each. A lot of money to a kid. But toward the end of the cleanup I found an old Zenith table top AM/MW/SW radio. Just imagine my joy when she said to throw it away. Yea. Straight to my room. I even liked it better than the stash of old Playboys (her husband had died the preceding summer, and I always thought the magazines were his, not hers, but who really knows) and when my mother found the Playboys, she took them and boxed them up saying they would be worth some cash in the future. She was right I sold them back in 1980 for several hundred dollars.. and used that to buy my R2000)

When I showed dad the radio (I had been warned about plugging in "new" toys after an "all american 5" went up in smoke and the fire department lectured me for a long time about the dangers of "electricity" and "fire". So, we set the radio out on the patio, ran an extension cord to it, and turned it on. No smoke, just some static. Dad said that this radio was so old that it did not have an internal loop antenna, so he dug out another extension cord, used a scrap piece of wire to connect from the male connector on the cord to the ANT IN on the radio. The first station was the "domestic" service of "Radio Australia". With a 50 foot "antenna" stretched out on the grass. It was late, so with some reluctance I put the radio up until the next day.

As it was summer, and I had been banned from using the radio until dad oked it, I slept in late. About 9:00AM dad told me to get up and help him put up an ANTENNA. He took a day off (unheard of) and the ex-navy radio man down the street had given dad a set of egg-syle antenna insulators, 100' of copper clad steel "navy" antenna wire, scrounged up a 6' ground rod with 30' of #10 "ground" wire and was there to help us install it all. By noon we had a 96' "long wire" running west to east, a better than average ground and I was in business. He had a lot of "old junk" and was generous with his time and that junk. He gave me Q-multiplier, a radio to use as a Q5'er (a command radio set, from an airplane) to tune the 455Kc of the IF. This may not sound like much to those who were raised with digital dials, crystal filters and other modern equipment, but it was near state of the art in 1963. The Q5 had very a selective filter in its IF and you could separate radio stations as close as 4 or 5 Kc. Unheard of. So I was off in the wonderful world of SW. Started me down the path of electronics.

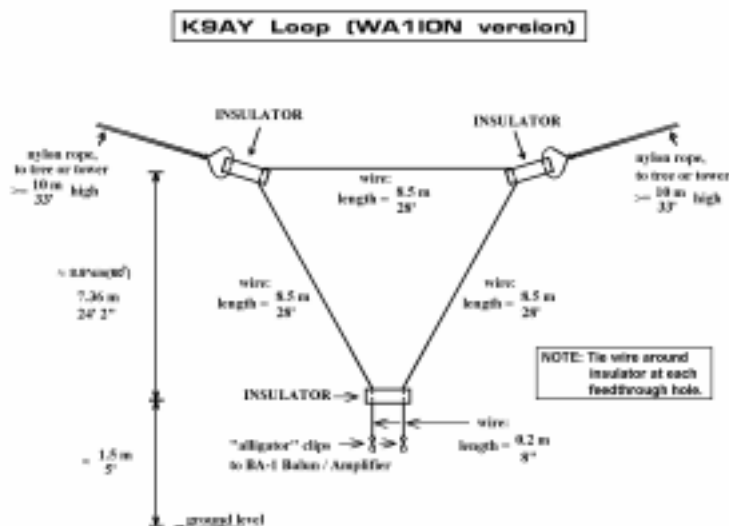
I have enjoyed SW every since. The girl that became the woman that I married, thought radio was "cool" and has gone on to become a SWL herself. We even have a SW in the car. This was written as a partial response to those that ask "Why SW?". The short answer is "it fun". The longer answer is "it is great fun!". I have learned a lot about the political structure of the world. The Cuban missile crisis was very exciting on SW, my parents figured out real fast just how close we were to war. When the Soviets crushed the "Prague Spring" I had a front seat and heard them go off the air.

It was a great way to learn about electronics, geography and about the "other" people in this world. And yes I know that we no longer use Kc, but in keeping with the spirit of "then", I intentionally used the obsolete term. And yes the ex-navy radioman was the guy that turned us in to my father after our attempt at doing a little more than listening with the military CW practice set. There are too few "Elmers" like him these days.

Good listening. Oh, and I still use the original egg insulators and I still have the command receiver. The Zenith "blew up" one day and that was the end of that radio. I do wish that folks in this group would listen and share a little more, and preach and fight a lot less. Oh well....

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K9AY Loop Antenna (at WA1ION, Mark Connelly, WA1ION - 25 JUN 1999)



The K9AY loop antenna can provide a cardioid (heart-shaped, single-null) pattern when one end of the antenna is connected to ground through a variable DC resistance. This occurs because of the interaction between electric and magnetic field pick-up patterns.

The antenna was first described by Gary Breed, K9AY, in QST magazine, September 1997, with an update in the QST of May 1998. Al Merriman, K4GLU, was the first to use this antenna for serious medium-wave DXing. A K9AY loop accompanied Al to Newfoundland on the very successful 1998 DXpedition. Andy Ikin of Wellbrook Communications in the UK has also done thorough tests on this antenna type. Read Al's discussion and the original QST articles for more information. The drawings I've provided are of a K9AY loop tested at sites in Billerica, MA and East Harwich, MA during 1999.

The BBL-1 Broadband Loop is a scaled-down version of this antenna. It is usually mounted on the roof of a car for seaside DXpeditions of brief

duration. BBL-1 documentation is may be obtained in PDF format from links found on the WA1ION DX Lab home page (as listed below: <http://members.aol.com/~MarkWA1ION/bbl-1b.pdf>). (Denna antenn är i det beskrivna utförandet gjord för MV, men den ursprungliga antennbeskrivningen i QST var avsedd för 80 resp 160 m amatörtrafik. Antennen har fått lysande kritik från några av de senaste MV- dx-expeditionerna i Canada och USA, bl a Grayland99, se <http://surf.to/grayland99> /red)

Box kites to work DX

I used to have an article by a somewhat famous amateur radio operator in New England who used to loft very long wires with balloons and box kites to work DX on 160-meters. The article is now lost, but I remember he used two box kites at the end and one at the middle to get 1100 feet of wire up in the air. Box kites have a better lift ratio than regular kites. He also used a hydrogen generator to fill the balloons. Much better lift than helium, but tricky to work with. You don't want to release any stray hydrogen because even a spark could set off an explosion. [Glen Kippel KF6LXI via Hard Core DX]

(Look at nordicdx.com, there are also some information regarding this type of antennas, /red)