

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1422, 19 december 1999. Deadline nästa nr: 01/01 2000 (fax & E-mail 03/01 kl. 0900 SNT)

Ännu ett DX-år är snart till lagt till handlingarna. Året har inte bjudit på några större sensationer vad gäller hörigheter. Däremot har SWB tagit det första trevande steget in i Internetvärlden. I de flesta bulletinerna har jag saxat friskt. Detta för att alla SWB-are skall få upp ögonen för hur enkelt det är att hålla sig a-jour. Bl. a. HCDX och Hackmohr's LA DX är utmärkta exempel på källor som kan anses vara absolut nödvändiga.

Till sist önskar jag er alla en riktigt GOD JUL och ett GOTT NYTT ÅR!!

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Medlemsavgiften betald före 31/1 år 2000!

Medlemmar Sverige: 220:- Medlemmar utrikes: 250:-

Inbetalning till postgiro nr 51 84 47-8 före 31/1 2000. (OBS! nytt pg-konto)

(Bengt Dalhammar meddelar att SWB:s eget postgirokonto kommer att avslutas vid årsskiftet och alla betalningsströmmar kommer att gå via BD:s eget pg. Posten har höjt avgifterna drastiskt för pg, och kontot används i princip endast för inbetalning av medlemsavgifter. Transferering kommer istället att ske mellan BD:s pg och SWB:s bg.)

Saxning av bidrag från Internet

Internet är en fantastisk källa att hämta bidrag från. Tänk bara på en sak - i samband med varje bidrag som saxas, ange hela vägen till källan, t. ex. så här: [Glenn Hauser, Glenn Hauser's SW/DX Report 99-72, via HCDX].

Risken finns annars att inte får hämta information från vissa källor. Bl. a. har just Glenn Hauser bannlyst några stycken publikationer från att hämta information från hans SW/DX Report.

Förresten, detta gäller inte bara saxning från Internet, utan även från alla andra informationskällor.

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Börge Eriksson: Det är inte bara året som håller på att ta slut, utan ett decennium, ett århundrade och till och med ett årtusende och min van trogen ger jag nu åter ett livstecken ifrån mig för att SWB:s medlemmar skall se att jag fortfarande finns. Ett och annat rykte florerade åter i augusti när en namne till mig hastigt avled, men liksom för något år sedan var ryktet om min dödlighet betydligt överdriven. Det märkliga denna gång var att det var en bekant till mig som jag vid flera tillfällen arbetat tillsammans med. Men nu är stora saker på gång. Efter en arbetsskada för en del år sedan har jag äntligen lyckats (eller egentligen min läkare) övertyga Försäkringskassans handläggare om att jag behövde förtidspension och från 1 januari blir jag förhoppningsvis en glad pensionär. Att sköta och driva ett företag när man inte är frisk är både fysiskt och psykiskt påfrestande, vilket bl. a. Medfört att mitt DX-intresse varit på noll under hela 90-talet. I stort sett är det bara under jul- och nyårshelgerna varje år som jag unnat mig lite lyssning då jag varit långledig. Vanlig semester har jag sällan haft. Och nu hoppas jag den nya ledigheten och friheten skall återföda intresset för DX. Och eftersom min gamle kompis Lennart Hane, också blir pensionär vid nyår kan det hända att vi sporrar varandra. Faran är att vi har så många projekt på gång att vi inte hinner med allt som vi tänkt oss.

Än så länge ber jag att få behålla brevutgåvan av SWB. Jag vet inte än om jag får med mig datautrustningen från företaget hem till min bostad, men om så blir fallet kommer jag att använda den e-mailadressen privat sedan. Jag återkommer om detta.

Och så den traditionella QSL-anmälningarna. Skickade 5 rapporter vid förra jul- och nyårshelgen och faktiskt kom hela 2 svar och dessutom har svar på gammal rapport ramlat in. Att denna minimala aktivitet gett 3 QSL är bra. Svar: *Voz Christiana* 21500 kort från både Englands- och USA-adressen. *Radio Dif. Aquidauana* 4795 med brev, kort, m.m. samt ett vykort-QSL från *Dif. Acreana* 4885 på en rapport från 1994. Den sistnämnda har jag av och till rapporterat sedan 60-talet.

Till sist vill jag tacka dig Thomas för ett fantastiskt arbete med SWB och jag önskar dig och alla andra SWB-are en GOD JUL OCH ETT GOTT NYTT ÅRTUSENDE!!!!

Lars Rydén: 12/12: Har just sett Mika Mäkelainens reportage om LEM132 i CNN:s World Report. Intressant, men litet extrem bild av DXing. Det känns lite uppgivet att sitta i störningsdimman i stan med en 15 m antennstump, då andra räknar 300 metersantenner som stumpar... Ett enda QSL, resultat av lyssning i sommarstugan i juli: *LRA36*, 15476: Kort och databrev. Kom i brunt kuvert, maskinfrankerat i Suc. San Miguel (BA), så inga mer specialstämplar eller frimärken från Antarktis... Ref. dagens DN, resebilagan: Om någon funderar på att resa till Gili Meno utanför Lombok, kontakta gärna mig för vidare info. Jag har varit där och slagits mot mygg och elverksstörningar!

Jan Edh: Jag vill passa på att önska alla (och naturligtvis framför allt dig Thomas som gör jättejobbet med att få ut SWB) en riktigt God Jul, Gott Nytt År och allt annat gott, så här inför det nya millenniet. Samtidigt har jag faktiskt ännu några QSL som behagat komma. Nu kommer det ju faktiskt QSL fast jag inte lyssnar också, för nu är det över två veckor sedan senast. Kanske det kan bli något i morgon eller i

helgen, om det inte stör till på nytt.... Litet mystiskt det här med att index nu är jättelågt, men konditions-prognosen fortfarande talar om usla konditioner. Men så var det ju för ett par veckor sedan också, och då stämde det verkligen. Så här ser mina QSL ut: **Radio A.N.D.E.S.**, 4777,7 brev på Radio Mallku brevpapper (v/s Erwin Freddy Mamani Machaca, Responsable de la programación). Berättar om att A.N.D.E.S. licens flyttats över på Radio Mallku med ny frekvens. Ung kille, men har jobbat i 2,5 år innan på A.N.D.E.S., och fortsätter med samma jobb på Mallku, 6 månader. **CBN Anhanguera**, Goiania, 4915, brev (v/s Eng. Domingo Vicente Tinoco, Gerente Technico) 15 månader. **Ecos del Atrato**, 5019,9, brev, julkort (v/s Absalon Palacios Aqualimpia, Adminstrador), 6,5 månad. Bästa hälsningar och förhoppningar om både goda DX och QSL!

17/12: Efter drygt två veckor, när jag inte ens funnit det mödan värt att försöka, drog jag ut till Fredriksfors på torsdagskvällen 16/12. Eftersom det var drygt 20 grader kallt var det tacksamt att Ronny Forslund åkt ut ett par timmar tidigare och börjat elda... Och det började så lovande. Men... känns klyschan igen? Det här börjar likna Grevinnan och Betjänten, bara med den skillnaden att där finns det en viss poäng i eländet. Redan vid 22.45 (svensk tid) hade vi t ex WTOP på 1500. Men allt blev platt intet den här gången också. En liten fingervisning var väl att ett antal bolivianer gick ganska bra litet senare. Resultatet av mödan blev nu några nya lokalkbriter på morgonen, men inga höjdare. (PS - jag hoppas väl ha anledning återkomma och önska God Jul, men med nuvarande konditioner vet man aldrig... DS)

Björn Fransson: Kul QSL-julkappar till BEFF: **Radio Minurca**, Centralafrikanska Republiken-9900 efter ett års väntan. Blått kort med Afrikakarta och Minurca + schedule. Hörd 981208. **China Radio**, religiös station via rysk sändare på 9450 kHz med svar via Richard E Adams, 53 Min Chuan West Road 9th Fl, Taipei, Taiwan 104. E-mail: readams@usa.net Tog ett år efter f/up. Det här var väl värt några rader? 73 och God Jul och Gott Nytt År till alla DX-vänner från Björn på Gotland.

Leif Råhäll: Har legat på 9810 i några veckor men inte hört något annat än en CC-talande efter 0800. Men den 12.12 kl. 06.50 så kom det fram en annan station som pratade i lugnt tempo och spelade lugn soft mx. Försvann efter ca 10 min. Kan vara Kiribati, vem vet. Den CC- talande hörs inte förrän efter 08.00 så den kan det inte vara, har ju ett annat språk dessutom. Konditionerna är för tillfället mycket dåliga, nästan inget på eftermiddagen och sen inget på kvällen, hur är det längre uppåt? God Jul och Gott Nytt År till alla SWB-are!

Lars-Erik Svensson: Det har inte blivit nåt dxande på sistone då kondsen inte är bra samt att jag har en el-störning. Jag får gå till botten med denna (eller att inte kasta yxan i sjön) som det så populärt heter! Vill tacka dig för det gångna året och önska dig en god jul samt ett gott nytt år. Jag vill även framföra samma önskan till alla swb:are!!!!

Ove Fransson: Jag har visserligen inte hört något som är värt att rapportera, men jag kan ändå inte hoppa över det här tillfället att önska dig och alla andra SWB-are en riktigt god och avkopplande julhelg! Må kondsen komma! Julsjuttiofreor från Ove

Tore B. Vik: Har ikke vært aktiv i kortbølgen de siste månedene - det jeg har hørt har bare vært det helt vanlig. Har registrert relativt gode forhold mot Bolivia omkring midnatt. Ønsker SWB pr post i en periode fremover til jeg får installert en ny maskin utpå vårparten (håper jeg). Ønsker deg og øvrige deltakere i SWB en Riktig God Jul og Godt Nytt År.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC



3214,8	16.12	2010	RRI Manado var renläriga och körde muslimsk musik QSA 2 JE
3215	12.12	1800	RRI/Manado var det väl med Ramadanstuk på bönerna. CWQRM ibland, men annars stark. S 3 BEFF
3264,8	16.12	2007	RRI Gorontalo snackade QSA 2 JE
3344,8	16.12	2005	RRI Ternate QSA 2-3 JE
3395,1	14.12	2201	RRI Bandar Lampung med nx (svag mod.) 2 LRH
3905	16.12	2015	RRI Merauke skratt och glam och västerländska covers i indonesisk tappning. QSA 2-3 JE
3905	12.12	1720	RRI/? kanonstark länge och väl, minst S 3-4. Önskeprogram. Kl 1757 började ett Ramadanprogram och sedan orkade inte jag lyssna längre. Någon slags teaterpredikan. Troligen RRI/Merauke. BEFF
4471,4	17.12	2235	R.Movima med "musica ranchero" 2 TBV
4649	13.12	2230	R.Santa Ana 2 TBV
4682	ofte	2245	Oid LA 1 TBV
4702,2	09.12	2300	R.Eco med Id + mx 2 TBV
4732,5	09.12	-2305	Oid La med rlg px - höres ofte når CWQRM letter omkring kl 2245 s/off registrert rett etter kl 2300 2/3 TBV
4770,0	14.12	1400	KOR Pyongyang började med ett klockspel 2 LRH
4775	16.12	2145	Radio Liberal id-ade men för dåligt för att få fram något rapporterbart QSA 1-2 JE
4796,5	16.12	2300	Radio Mallku oväntat bra (QSA 3). Samtidigt gick bolivianer hyggligt på 3310, 4649, 4702,27, 4732,3, 4875 JE
4919	17.12	0745	Radio Quito var morgonens dominant (och en av mycket få) med QSA 3 men häftigt överstyrd. I övrigt brassarna 4875 och 4885 vid denna tid JE
5020,0	14.12	1857	OID station hörs nästan varje kväll vid denna tiden och en halv timma framåt. Troligen Solomon Islands hörs för dåligt för att få något ID 1 LRH, TN
4906	5.12	0645	OID, ganska säkert en pirat som irrat bort sig. Spelade en "Heimat"-sång och polkor. S 1-3 BEFF
6025	17.2	2320	R.Amanecer International rlg mx 2/3 TBV
6035	13.12	0635	Radio Racja via Polen är en ny sändning riktad mot Vitryssland. Hördes under och över VOA News. Var Rätt stark ibland. Clandestine? BEFF
9470	13.12	0700	Radio Stantsiya Chechnya Svodbodnaya är ett ryskt frihetsprogram riktad mot krigsområdet och lär väl bara höras tills Grosnij ger upp. Fina ID's. S 4. BEFF
13650	11.12	0800	VOA/Tinian // 11995 med "VOA News Now". Hade ett break kl 0828. S 3-4, men blev sämre efter hand. List-loggad! BEFF

Stationsnyheter:

BRAZIL

Radio Rio Mar 9695 confirm my report in 35 days with nice letter, QSL, postcard and photo of the radio, v/s Jairo de Sousa Coelho, Diretor de Programação e Jornalismo, addr. Rua José Clemente 500, Manaus-Amazonas. [Daniele Canonica, Swiss.DX@freesurf.ch via HCDX]

COLOMBIA

Emissora Ecos del Atrato 5020 confirm my report in 75 days with letter, v/s Absalon Palacios Agualimpia, administrador, addr. Carrera 4a N° 25-28 A.A. 196, Quibdó-Chocó. [Daniele Canonica, Swiss.DX@freesurf.ch via HCDX]

MAURITANIA

4845: No chance to have Radio Mauritania in the past few years and it could easily be listed among the rare African stations which was not audible here until December 10. In fact, it was an unexpected surprise to hear this station on that day at 0015. The reception was poor and QRM from Malaysia [Tamil] at that time but started improving around 0135 until a sudden loss of signal at 0210. No ID has been heard but instead "Mauritania" mentioned in the announcement at 0200. The program was in Arabic as follows: 0015-0130 Chat between two men on political/religious matters; 0130-0200 Telephone program by auditors on religious; 0200-0210 announcement - Mx and then followed by recital of Koran until loss of signal. <file://again> on December 12 and no change in signal level. (Mahendra Vaghjee, Mauritius, Dec 14) This is of course, a benefit of Ramadan's extended schedules (Hauser) [Glenn Hauser, SW/DX REPORT 99-74, via HCDX]

PERU

Radio Amistad. 2358-0050 Dec. 4, Vernacular music; at 0000 announced frequency as 4515, and would be transmitting without interruption starting today, with schedule on SW converting to 0900-1100, 2300-0400 UT. This is the station reported by Canote on new frequency, ex 4575. [Glenn Hauser, SW/DX REPORT 99-70, via HCDX]

UNID

4515.7, UNID, 04/12, 1047 - 1136, mx huaynos, en musica del la sierra norte del Peru, mucho QRM. ID "A través de En los 4515 kHz, en nuestra programación hoy sábado 4 de Diciembre, saludos a nuestros amigos de Celendin, También. 4/12, 2235 - 2342, mxf huayno, cada vez se escucha con mucho ruido, imposible de seguir escuchando. Espero que la próxima semana la estaré definiendo su ID. [P Arrunategui, Peru via Play-DX 1048] (*troligen R. Amistad, se ovan /red*)

Övriga radionyheter:

WRTH 2000

I have the new WRTH 2000 since yesterday. After last year accuracy-disaster, I was of course very curious what this year's issue would bring. Last year we had to give the editor some extra credit because of the sudden take over of the project. Here are some thoughts about this year's issue. This is not an in-depth research but just a little comparison with last year after nosing about for an hour or so. This is not an in-depth research. Just a little comparison with last year after nosing about for an hour or so.

- Countries are in alphabetic order, and not divided into continents. The international radio section is still kept apart while drawing a line between national and international radio is very difficult. Some foreign language broadcasts are found under national radio.
- In the International Radio section, it is now indicated if the schedule is the one of the current winter B99 period. If this indication is missing, the presented schedule is an old one. A lot of them have the winter period indication, but there are also schedules without that marking for stations which schedule was surely available at the book's deadline (e.g. R Canada Int.).
- The Frequency list 'Shortwave stations of the world' contains now only International broadcasters. All national stations are left out. That means that the complete tropical band is only covered on half a page. Positive is the Time signal stations are in bold.
- For the 3rd consecutive year, there is nothing listed for Burundi, neither for Barbados nor Galapagos. It is although very simple to find out if there is something in the book for this country. If you check page 614 with the country index, you'll find Burundi and the others with the space for the page indication left blank.
- The used paper is, just like last year, too thick. It can't be kept open unless you crack the paperback.
- Just like last year, there is no listing for WBCQ under USA. Also no WTJC. No frequency is given for WWBS while (as far as I can recall) this has always been 11900 kHz.
- The television section is shrunk to only 32 pages. It doesn't give stations locations and channels anymore but only the range in which they are operating. Not very usefull of course.

It will surely be the last time I'll buy it every year.
[Guido Schotmans - Editor-in-Chief - DX-Antwerp, gs@dxa.be, via HCDX]

I agree with every word that Guido Schotmans has written about the new book. What a disappointment! It is almost as if WRTH were trying to kill off DXing. And it would be easy to have made it much better - I bet most HCDXers could have corrected most of the errors and obvious omissions in a day had they been asked to final-edit it. And what on earth use is a frequency listing which excludes domestic shortwave stations? This is the very reason most of us bought our very first WRTHs, I am sure. I have been buying WRTH every year for a long time. Last year I gave it the benefit of the doubt. This year will be the last time I buy it. Such a shame.
[Don Phillips via HCDX]

"WORLD RADIO TV HANDBOOK. The Year-2000 edition has been put on sale in the UK, and I expect to be able to provide an INFOVIEW of it in our next EDXP. Initial comments appearing in hard-core-dx suggest that this latest edition has some shortcomings; I

feel that the people writing these negative assessments should stand back and look at the product in its entirety, rather than dwell on problems affecting small areas of its editorial coverage. People should realise that no publication is 100% perfect. As I have not yet seen the latest edition I cannot comment; I wrote words here in EDXP about the 1999 edition which contained some criticism and ideas for improvement, and correspondence from the WRTH people advised that my views were being taken on board for the year 2000 version. We shall see!" [Bob Padula <BPadula@compuserve.com> via HCDX]

Tejano tunes run the gamut - as long as they're Texas-related.

Tejano music can mean just about anything and incorporate a wide range of styles (from country to old Mexican ballads to jazz to pop), as long as it's from Texas or by Texans.

"In Tejano, anything is fair game," says J.B. Hernandez, who produces a national radio show on the music from his home in San Antonio and also helps produce the annual Tejano Music Awards. "You can use any instrument. Basically, if it comes out of Texas, it's Tejano, it's taken that name. And once it crosses the border of Mexico, it's called Tex-Mex." Confusing! Only a little. Hernandez and Marcelo Tafoya, president of the Tejano Artist Music Museum in Austin, define Mexican and Mexican-American music:

Conjunto: Tejano roots music, produced primarily for a dance audience. Based around four instruments: accordion, drums, "bajo sexto" (12string guitar) and bass, often with vocals. Progressive conjunto uses accordion, but many groups feature keyboards and more percussion.

Corridos: Mexican ballads, storysongs that can be about anyone from Pancho Villa to local heroes or villains to musicians. Currently popular are "narco-corridos," stories about the derring-do of cocaine dealers along the Mexican-American border.

Norteflo: A style of dance music from the northern part of Mexico. It is more basic, with fewer chords. "The arrangements are more classical Mexican - not too jazzy or progressive," Hernandez says. Traditional norteno has no saxophone, conjunto norteflo does have sax, usually an alto.

Cumbia: A more Latin form of the music, with elements of Cuban, Puerto Rican and norteno rhythms and more percussion, such as congas, cowbells and timbales. The lead instrument is usually accordion or keyboard. And the arrangements are more modern and progressive. Los Chamacos is a well-known cumbia band.

Mariachi: A type of music that combines guitars, trumpets and violin. According to William Gradante, who teaches mariachi at Fort Worth's North Side Senior High School, the music began in southwestern Mexico in the mid-1800s with harp, guitar, violin and "vihuela," a precursor to the guitar. The large bands are often dressed in black "charro" outfits. Mariachi is very popular at weddings and other social functions.

Ranchero: Of all the types of Tejano, this is the closest to country music. One style of it is closer to a twostep, another is closer to a waltz. Jody Farias and Incredible are noted ranchera acts.

Polka: An instrumental with a ranchera beat, with a keyboard, accordion or wind instrument, such as a saxophone or trumpet, taking the lead.

La Onda Tejana: "The new wave" of Tejano that began in the late '50's. The music is smooth, reminiscent of the orchestras of Guy Lombardo and features a small orchestra of six or more members. There is always: saxophone and trumpet and most often electric bass, guitar and keyboards but never accordion, according to Tafoya.

[By Dan Ferman, Knight-Ridder Newspapers, via DX-News No. 30]

How many of the big SW stations are offering their feeds on the internet?

I think that best site for finding shortwave stations on the Web is "Mike's Radio World" at

<http://dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/place/abn39/ra.htm> You can just add whichever stations you like to your presets on Real Player G2 and above or on Windows Media. Incidentally, the VOA does have their News Now broadcast streaming on Real Audio but doesn't currently have the regional broadcasts available. You can find them on Mike's Radio World or you can go directly to the VOA website at <http://www.voa.gov>

[Sergeant Dan dnsloan@postoffice.swbell.net]

Here'a short observation on the Racal RA6790GM.

Over the years I've known a few of the AT&T High Seas Operators at WOM and KMI where they used numerous 6790's. Typical would be 15-20 receivers on line (computer controlled) with one for each of the RX freqs in use at the station. What I was told was that they also would have 5 or 6 standing by to swap with the others as they failed, which apparently would happen frequently. The 6790's run very hot, which is not good for components and that when they were sent to Racal for repair, they would be gone for a long time and come back with a hefty repair bill.

I really thought about getting one several years ago, but just heard too many horror stories from people that use them and the costs involved to follow through. Racal does not promote its products, especially one this old, to the hobbyist community and any repairs will be at commercial rates. This is the industry I work in and commercial rates are considerably higher than what I've found with Kenwood, Icom, etc. I have a couple of R5000's and a HQ180AC which have all been great. Also had a R71A for a short time----it was replaced in one month with the #2 R5000. BTW, commercial stations like KPH, KFS, and KMI (for monitoring purposes) all had numerous R5000's which were set up with crystal filters as needed by the type of traffic they handle.

[Dave dwave35@aol.com (DWAVE35)]

Why Northern Scandinavia for MW-DX?

I have never been DXing in Lapland, but based on loggings made there and listening experience in other parts of Finland I on the contrary think that it is much easier to hear also Asian MW stations in Lapland than in southern Finland. And it is not just the better antennae used in Lemmenjoki. There is also longer darkness in mid-winter, which is essential for just after noon Asian MW DXing. And what is even more essential for Asians than North Americans, they operate on the same fq's with Europeans, and interference from central European stations is lower in Lapland, that's what I have been told. Even a small loss in signal from the interfering station combined with some strengthening for the desired station means a lot.

So, I think travelling some 700 km northwards in Europe makes a huge difference regarding also Asian (especially Far Eastern) MW stations. Why would any Asian specialist bother to do that if things were otherwise? In early autumn Eastern Finland can be even better place for Asians than Lapland. And of course the more south and west lies the desired Asian station, the less is the advantage of northerly listening QTH. I have done most of my DXing 100 km south of the town of Oulu in western Finland and now I have been

living 1,5 year near the town of Joensuu in eastern Finland. Antennas towards Asia are about the same in both places, long-wires of 500 metres. Especially Thai stations seem to be easy here in the east. But I think I'd hear ALMOST the same stations in the west, too.

I'm still looking forward to hearing the ex-band Australians that have been heard here near my place! They should be "easier" here than in the west. Any other opinions/aspects? [Mauno Ritola <ritola@pp.inet.fi> via HCDX]

Though I don't live in Finland, I share the longitude with many Finnish QTH's, and live even further north than Lemmenjoki. I would like to second Mauno's views simply for the reason that the further away from European QRM one gets, the easier it is to hear Asians. It is a matter of improved S/N level.

My antennas are rather inferior to the "antenna park" at Lemmenjoki, measuring only 200 meters, still I'm quite capable of receiving low-powered Japanese stations (down to 300 watts in one instance), and I have heard 6 Australian MW stations here. I do not see how I could have achieved these results with similar equipment in Southern Norway. One drawback of a Northerly location is early- or late-season DX. It seems that for instance Australia is more easily heard in August than October. Jorma Mäntylä has proved this with several loggings of Australian X-band stations in mid-August; however the lack of daylight makes it difficult to obtain a dark signal path between here and Australia. I actually logged 5RN Adelaide 729 kHz on Aug. 25 this year at 1745 UTC, 45 minutes prior to local sunset here! ["Bjarne Mjelde", Berlevåg, [bjarme.mjelde@MoNet.no](mailto:bjarne.mjelde@MoNet.no) via HCDX]

INDEPENDENCE DAY DX-SESSION, MAAKESKI, FINLAND 3.12.-6.12.1999

Greetings from Maakeski DX-pedition! Jari Lehtinen; Racal RA-1792, Yaesu FRG-100. Pauli Holm: Yaesu FRG-100. Antennas: 400 m 60 o, 400 m 80 o, 90 m 260 o, 110 m 290 o.

RACAL vs. YAESU -receiver test: The Big Test between Racal RA-1792 vs. Yaesu FRG-100 (courtesy of Jokela signal monitoring station of Finnish Broadcasting Company) was the highlight of this DX-pedition. Racal RA-1792 was the ultimate professional receiver of 1980's. Today, many of its features and solutions have been adopted or imitated in hobby receivers as Yaesu FRG-100. The 100 stations memory bank of Racal was a luxury in 1982. Today it is a common sight to have at least 50 memories in even the cheapest hobby receiver. Racal is heavy as sin, 50x50x13 cm:s, rack cabinet receiver. For more information, look the web: www.anchor-supplies.ltd.uk/ra1792.htm

On mediumwaves, Racal sensitivity seemed to be in par or just slightly under Yaesu. Basically, the same NA stations that came out from Yaesu, were received with Racal (using the same antennas, of course). However, the background noise level made the signal sometimes less clear with Racal. Surprisingly, Yaesu's signal was a little bit more readable. Perhaps Racal needs a proper antenna tuner to work ideally on mediumwaves. In this first experimental test I didn't use any tuner or antenna matching unit. Anyway, the same AM stations were heard with Racal and Yaesu.

On Shortwaves, there were some stations that only other receiver could pick up. Racal's selectivity played a part here. On mediumwaves the Racal's 1 kHz filter wasn't any magical wand. When a megawatt station splats around on the next channel, it doesn't matter whether to use 6, 3 or 1 kHz filter - they all fail. On shortwaves the signal level was remarkably lower. So on 6315 the listening to Voice Of Tigray Revolution was just a question of filter bandwidth. The best Yaesu FRG-100 could offer was 2.7 kHz and with that only utility signals were audible. Racal's 1 kHz filter was absolutely necessary. RRI Sorong was a different case. It was received at 2100 UTC when there were a lot of electric noise from power line on background. Yaesu didn't survive with it, but Racal gave out both that annoying noise and signal. That was enough. As a professional receiver Racal wasn't designed the easiness of use first on mind. In the case of WBCQ that had to be listened on SSB, the weak signal and difficulty to adjust signal exactly made clear that Yaesu managed better, this time.

This is not the final doom of the capacity of either receiver. This was just the first, very preliminary test. When I learn to use the full capacity of Racal, its performance will obviously improve. It's noteworthy that this soon 20 years old British receiver, without maintenance after decades of heavy use, nor assistance of any antenna tuner, managed to give full resistance against modern Yaesu. [Jari Lehtinen, Lahti Finland, via HCDX]

Comparison Drake - JRC (rec.radio.shortwave)

I have owned both Drake and JRC radios, including the "legendary" Drake R7A and JRC NRD-515. Currently I own a Drake R7A, Drake R8B and a JRC NRD-545. In general, the JRCs have more rugged construction. The JRC NRD-515 was built like a tank, but the more recent JRC offerings are not as rugged as the 515 was, at least on the front panel (more plastic). The Drake R7A is a hot performer, but I wouldn't recommend taking it out of the house or bumping it around too much. All of the JRCs have excellent ergonomics. Again, the NRD-515 wins the ergonomics prize .. an absolutely wonderful radio to use hour after hour. The JRCs beat the Drakes in ergonomics. The Drake R8B's ergonomics are pretty good, except those "alternate functions" (where the same button does more than one thing) drives me crazy. The 545 has these too, but they are for seldom-used functions like channel programming and special options. I hate the R8B's tuning knob. The NRD-515 had the best tuning knob, followed by the R7A's knob, followed by the 545's tuning knob. I cannot heap enough praise on the JRC NRD-515, I am still sorry I got rid of it. The only complaint I have about the 515 is that its noise blanker was essentially worthless, and its passband tuning had limited range (only 1.5 khz if I recall correctly).

RELIABILITY: I have not had ANY reliability problems with these radios.

AUDIO : Drake R7A = acceptable, DRAKE R8B = very good, JRC NRD-515 = acceptable, JRC NRD-525 = pathetic, AM audio really sucked. JRC NRD-535 = acceptable, JRC NRD-545 = good.

SYNCH DETECTION (ECSS): DRAKE R8B = excellent, JRC NRD-535 = A total joke UNTIL the ECSS is properly aligned, then pretty good. JRC NRD-545 = excellent.

PERFORMANCE: I will limit my comments to the Drake R8B and the JRC NRD-545 because the earlier JRCs and the Drake R7A can be outfitted with various filter options, making a general comparison hard.

SENSITIVITY (R8B pre-amp off): I think the 545 wins, but in some cases the R8B with the pre-amp on wins. But I think the 545 has better overall sensitivity.

SELECTIVITY: 545 wins. For example, I compared both sets 5khz away from a local MW station, identical filter settings (the 545's variable selectivity allowed me to match it to the R8B), the 545 came out slightly better. I also did various other selectivity comparisons. The 545's continuously variable digital IF filters are great.

PASSBAND TUNING: Both radios are excellent.

NOTCH: The 545 has the BEST notch I've ever seen, even though the R8B's notch is acceptable.

NOISE BLANKER: I think the R8B's noise blanker is a bit better.

AGC: For AM, the R8B is better because you can select slow or fast, while the 545's is fixed. For SSB, the 545's AGC is better because you can vary the decay time over a wide range.

DSP: The R8B has none, but the 545 uses DSP in both RF and AF stages. The 545 has a NR/BC control which, to my ears, gives results similar to an outboard AF DSP unit. Although it works fairly well after you change the factory-set values, it could be better, especially the BC function. The BC is supposed to cancel out all "tones" (tune up whistles, etc.), but I find myself usually using the excellent notch control instead.

IMHO, both radios are excellent for DXing. The R8B is a good choice if you do a lot of broadcast listening because it has better audio. The 545, although the audio isn't bad, really shines if you do a lot of amateur radio, utility, or LW beacon listening. Actually, I would recommend any of the above radios (see AUDIO section) for DXing, except I wouldn't recommend the JRC NRD-525 for listening to AM broadcast signals because of its audio. There! That ought to end this argument! LOL !!! [rfcommsys@aol.com (RFCOMMSYS)]

I'm inclined to agree. I've owned a SW2, and R8, and an R8A, over the years. I think I was most impressed with the SW2, for the money. While performance was good, the R8* series seem to have a consumer, home entertainment stereo look to them. The controls don't have a nice feel to them either.

This time around, I opted for the Icom IC-R75. Mechanical fit, and feel, are excellent! The display, and controls, are some of the best I've ever seen! I'm still checking out it's performance, and so far, it's been very satisfactory! Icom is also offering their UT-106 DSP module for FREE, when you purchase the IC-R75. All for a fraction of the cost of a Drake R8B.

[Bill Crocker, bcrocker@home.com]

Documentation of variable IF stages in the R390A

I documented how the variable IF stages in the R390A work and have uploaded it to the R390A www site. Links to the explanation appear on the opening page, under: "Dual Tracking IF system, The Heart of the R390A explained" There are also links from the New Additions page and Technical Section. The URL is: <http://www.avslvb.com/R390A/>
[wa4hhg@amsat.org (Chuck) via rec.radio.shortwave]

KONG4 DXped

The log from the KONG4 DXped to Arctic Norway is now available on www.dxl.com/kong4/.

[Bjarne Mjælde via HCDX]

Rohde & Schwartz EK07 (rec.radio.shortwave)

Here is a list of German surplus dealers with web pages. These dealers are currently offering the EK 07:

- 1) **Helmut Singer**, <http://www.helmut-singer.de> Page in German and English, a lot of stuff, but prices are high ! Has EK 07, has an original EK 07 spare part kit as well (including tubes !!) for app. 170 DM
- 2) **Rainer Foertig**, <http://www.rainer-foertig.de> Page in German only, that is the dealer where I will get my EK 07 from. Made good experience with him, bought a 20 MHz oscilloscope for 230 DM there. (EK 07: operational 850 DM)
- 3) **Kraus**, <http://www.kraus-elektronik.de/index.html>, Page in German only, cheapest EK 07 (800 DM)

You should try to find out the shipping costs for the EK 07 (it weights more than 65 kg !!).

[Gerd Niephaus gniephaus@cityweb.de]

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