

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1519, 7 september 2003. Deadline nästa nr: 19/9 2003 (E-mail 21/9 kl. 0900 SNT)

Fortfarande håller den sköna varma sommaren i sig. Förvisso har vi haft en del regnskurar, men inga större mängder. Åtminstone bönderna här nere har varit glada för detta då höstplöjningen gått fantastiskt fint. Det är rätt otroligt att se den stora effektivitet man fått med hjälp av moderna maskiner. Det som förr tog en månad går på en knapp vecka.

Hoppas ingen blev drabbad av datavirus. Den värsta stormen verkar ha klingat av. Har hållit på att få ordning på grabbens gamla dator som fått en trojan i sig vilket medförde att surfning på Internet knappast var möjlig. Den enklaste lilla sida tog en evighet att ladda in och med 100 % processorbelastning. Ominstallation av hela datorn blev nödvändig. Tänk att Windows 2000 kan fungera så pass bra med bara 64 Mb minne på en gammal Pentium 120!

Som synes blev det nästa 6 sidor även denna gång – trots ganska få bidrag.

Nu måste det till nya tag inför hösten och vintern. Annars är det knappast lönt att ge ut någon SWB.

Keep on

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SWB-info

SWB online på HCDX: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb>
SWB old archive: <http://www.algonet.se/~ahk/swbhome.html>
SWB hot stuff: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/> (på denna sajt ligger alltid senaste SWB).
SWB member information: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/member.htm>
Jubileumstidskriften: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/> (html- + pdf-version).

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Christer Brunström: Rádio Nacional do Brasil 9665 epost från Lia Rangel, Chefe da Divisão de Notícias Internacionais. De var mycket glada över den ALLRA FÖRSTA lyssnarreaktionen på dessa sändningar som pågått sedan den 1 augusti. Är det möjligen så att dagens DXare helt har upphört att rapportera mottagningskvalitet och andra synpunkter till de stationer som specifikt ber om detta? Det är ju dessutom extremt lätt via epost. Adressen annonseras flitigt i programmen.

Rádio Guarujá Paulista 3235 brev, visitkort, scheman, dekal, vykort och broschyr om turistparadiset Guarujá som ligger på en ö utanför Santos. Rádio Guarujá sänder via Rádio Clube de Marilias sändare på 3235 kHz. Dessutom numera också på 5045 kHz via en sändare i Presidente Prudente. Roligt med en station som storsatsar på kortvåg. **Scandinavian Weekend Radio 11690 & 11720** QSL-kort, dekal, info samt turistbroschyr från Virrat. Från **Voice International i Australien** kom en T-shirt (förmodligen för liten).

Jan Edh: Äntligen en tur till Fredriksfors som gav resultat; En stor hög ved, kapad och inpackad i vedboden och därefter litet grillat och en flaska rött... Nu är det bara conditionerna som fattas! På tisdagskvällen när det sedan var dags för Ronny Forslund och mig att plocka fram radioapparaterna och dra igång antennerna, kunde vi inte oväntat konstatera, att det var inget vidare den här gången heller... Men vi blev inte lottlösa, även om conditionerna var sällsynt "spretiga". Afrika gav inget, Asien inget speciellt, och mot LA gick framför allt litet brassar plus en enda peruan (Atlantida) hyggligt på KV. På MV rusade det runt med både Colombia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Argentina och Brasilien. Bra signaler på många frekvenser ända ner mot 850 men bara mycket korta stunder. Och redan vid 04 (sommartid) började det dö ut. Ett QSL har också kommit: **CXA42 Emisora Ciudad de Montevideo 6010,2**. Handskriven qsl-text på "rivlappen" till en sticker. V/s Aramazd Yizmeyian, Director. 5 veckor

Björn Fransson: Hej igen! Först en riktigt tråkig nyhet, som jag vill delge SWB:s läsare: Ove har bett mig hälsa till alla SWB-are, eftersom han inte kan göra det själv just nu. Han ligger nämligen inlagd på Malmö Sjukhus, där man konstaterat att han har fått en tumör i Tolvfingertarmen. Eftersom han inte fått behålla någon mat på länge, har han magrat något alldeles förskräckligt och måste ligga med dropp. Han är trött, men vid gott mod. På måndag är det meningen att han skall opereras och det blir nog en stor operation. Jag skulle vilja att alla MDXX-are förenade sig med mig i ett ordentligt "håll-tummarna"-grepp för att operationen på min kompis och brorsa Ove skall bli lyckad och inte medföra några nya och/eller allvarliga komplikationer. 73 till er alla från Björn.

QSL: Sudan Radio Service via Woofferton, UK-17630. Så kom det också ett brev svar från denna station, v/s: Jeremy Grace. Skickade också dekal från Education Development Center, 1000 Potomac Street NW, Washington D.C. 2000, USA. **SW Radio Africa** via Meyerton, Sydafrika-4880. QSL-lapp med alla uppgifter ifyllda., v/s: Technical Manager S. Surrey (?). Infolapp. Kallar sig Zimbabwe's Independent Voice, så den skall in under clandestine. 2 v. Och så fyra "QSL", som jag knappast är stolt över, men vad gör man när inte "stationerna" själva behagar svara? **Jakada Radio International**, clandestine via TDP-12125. Kort från TDP. 16 m. **Radio Al-Islah**, clandestine via TDP-7590. Kort från TDP. 7 m. **Mezopotamian Radio & TV**, clandestine via TDP-7560. Kort från TDP. 2 m. **Radio Togo Libre**, clandestine via TDP-21760. Kort från TDP. 2 m.

(Usch, sådana trista nyheter du kommer med. Vi hoppas verkligen allt skall gå bra med Oves operation. Hälsa honom från alla i SWB och vi alla håller tummarna för ett lyckat resultat! /red)

Lennart Weirell: Äntligen ett livstecken från Västerås. Inga QSL att rapportera men väl några loggningar från förra helgen då BIH, MJT och undertecknad hade en lyssnarnatt på Norra Björnö, Västerås i samband med att Västerås Radioklubb och FRO anordnade Antenn dagar. (Som du ser så är bidragen verkligen eftertraktade, det är riktig lågnivå bland medlemmarnas aktivitet för tillfället, vi får väl se om den mörka årstiden hjälper. /red)

Rolf Wikström: Idag måste vi ut och njuta av det fina vädret då SMHI tror att detta är de sista riktiga sommarkdagarna i år. På dx-fronten blev det faktiskt några rapporter skrivna i sommar på KV medan MVn inte gav någonting. Bara att ta nya tag inför vintern. (Se kommentar ovan, är tveksam om det ändrar på den rådande situationen!? /red)

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

3223	3.9	1720	AIR Shimla med vackra indiska låtar. ID-ade ordentligt lokalt med "kiloherz och meterband" innan c/d 1730, då man egentligen skulle ha sänt nyheter från AIR. S 2-3 och en jobbig puls. BEFF
3330	3.9	1745	OID med prat. Intressant! Vad kan detta vara? Det gick inte ens att tyda ut språket. S 2. BEFF
3915	30.8	2245	BBC WS med indonesiska LWV
3965	17.8	1920	ADDX via Julish med rapport från EDXP LWV
4025	30.8	2240	Laser Hot Hits // med 6219. LWV
4025,33	2.9	2024	Laser Hot Hits här nu. QSA 2-3 JE/RFK
4049.9	3.9	1755	Hit Music Shortwave , Bishkek är egentligen OID för man spelade bara non-stop musik, med en blandning av internationellt och inhemskt. S 3-4 BEFF
4790	3.9	0020	Radio Atlantida pratade om Vatikanen. Enda med acceptabel styrka från Peru/Bolivia, men gick i stället desto bättre. QSA 3-4 JE/RFK
4845,25	3.9	0130	Radio Cultura , Manaus med fotboll. QSA 3 JE/RFK
4855	30.8	2258	R. La Hora med ID LWV
4869,96(?)	2.9	2015	RRI Wamena tent med poppig indonesisk musik. Svår att få riktig frekvens på. På AM gick stationen från ca 4869,3 till 4871,1 trots "smalt läge". QSA 2 JE/RFK
4915	2.9	2115	Radio Dif Macapá och Radio CBN Anhanguera, den senare //11830. Jämnstarka med QSA 3 JE/RFK
5045	2.9	2130	Radio Guarujá Paulista redan den här tiden. Senare (3.9 0015 bättre och då även //3245,07 mycket svag) QSA 2-3 JE/RFK
5045	30.8	0400	Rádio Guarujá Paulista med musikpx och täta ID. Säger att man sänder på både 5045 och 3235 vilket borde betyda att de nu äger båda sändarna ? På 3235 kan dock fortfarande Rádio Clube de Marílias program höras ibland. Relä ? QSA 3. WIK
5070	31.8	0040	WWRB Morrison med anti-judisk propaganda LWV
5920	30.8	2255	WBOH Newport med religiös mx LWV
6010.2	2.9	0350	(T) LV de tu Conciencia med colombianska rytmer efter ett långt religiöst inslag på engelska översatt till spanska. 2 CB
6040	31.8	0045	R. Clube Paranaense LWV
6180	31.8	0020	R. Nacional da Amzonía LWV
6295	30.8	2149	Radio Spaceman spelade Bruce Springsten LWV
9665	2.9	0505	Rádio Nacional do Brasil hälsade till en viss CHRISTER BRUNSTRÖM i Suécía. Kul! 3-4 CB
11925	30.8	2250	R. Bandeirantes LWV
12172	30.8	2330	WWRB Morrison om en "evil generationi" LWV
13855U	30.8	1505	AFN, Island med "The Car Show" LWV
15615	15.8	1630	APA Radio Amani sänder program för en organisation kallad "Afghanistan peace". Hördes knackigt på dari eller liknande. S 1-2-3. BEFF
17660	14.8	1700	Sudan Radio Service med "riktigt" program, även ibland på engelska, bl a ett långt ID. S 3-4 BEFF

South Florida Logs received from Robert Wilkner:

BOLIVIA 4600.24 Perla del Acre, Cobija 0940 - 1020 music, good signal [Wilkner-FL]
BOLIVIA 5964.80t. Radio Nacional, Huanuni 1003 to 1020, weak signal [Wilkner-FL]
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 5009.74 Radio Cristal with numerous ID's 1040-1055, "Esta es Radio Cristal" [Wilkner-FL]
GUATEMALA 3324.75 Radio Maya, Barillas 0907 - 1000 "...transmite onda cortaRadio Maya de Barillas .." [Wilkner-FL]
GUATEMALA 4780 Radio Coatan 1100-1131 frequent ID's by om over religious music, excellent signal "estudios de Radio Coatan...las palabras de Dios". Fqy and station ID 1130. [Wilkner-FL]
HONDURAS 3340 Radio Misiones 0115-0145 with "Radio Misiones" ID by om, religious music but no ments de Honduras. Per Malm logs [Wilkner-FL]
MEXICO 2390t. Radio Huayacocotla *1200-1205 with very weak signal. Anyone closer to confirm this? [Wilkner-FL]
MEXICO 6045 XEXQ R Universidad, San Luis Potosi 1205-1220 with sign on announcement by om, into classical music [Wilkner-FL]
PERU 3375.09 Radio San Antonio, San Antonio de Padua 0950-1110,, quick ID by om, news items on Guatemala, Peru [Wilkner-FL]
PERU 5039.25 Radio Libertad, Junin 1050-1100 Quick ID as "Radio Libertad" [Wilkner-FL]
PERU 4335.12 [v .46] R. Nylamp, Lambayeque 1030 ID by om, 28 August [Wilkner-FL]
PERU 3329.67 Ondas del Huallaga, Huanuco 0940-0950 with music, CHU very much present. [Wilkner-FL]
PERU 4426.66 Radio Bambamarca with ID's 1000-1015 [Wilkner-FL]
PERU 5486.67 Reina de la Selva 1007-1020 OA mx, om ments de Peru [Wilkner-FL]

UNID 4698.70 Latin first noted on 18 August with fair signal 1015-1030, noted since with latin programming. Also at 0030-0045 . Never pulled an ID, station prone to deep fades. This is regards to Hans Johnson question in Cumbre DX [Wilkner-FL]

Hello Robert! The station has been here for the last 2-3 weeks with bad signal and low modulation. Radio Amistad have been off air for a long time but it seems to have been reactivated, but I don't have any ID. A long time ago I noted the station almost on the same split as this unID today. In the mornings they have a program called "Mañanitas de Amistad". 73s de.... Bjorn Malm Quito, Ecuador.
 (Robert Wilkner, Florida)



BM i Ecuador – Bandscan KV-73, 7/9 2003

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Rx: JRC-535, Loewe HF-150, Sangean ATS-808 Antenn: 12 m lw Ö/V, 24 m lw N/S + Lw Magnetic Balun + MFJ1025 phaser

Hej Thomas! Går lite på tomgång just nu men rutinen fixar ändå ett par loggningar! /BM

6069.62 OID Brasilien. September 2003 - 0010 UTC. Religiöst program // med Radio Tupi 6060.18v och 11765.03 kHz.

Reaktiverad peruan med nytt namn!

6895.57 Radio La Voz de San Miguel, San Miguel de Faique, provincia Huancabamba, departamento Piura (Perú). 27 augusti 2003 - 0100 UTC. "Reaktiverad med nytt namn" tycker jag är en korrekt beskrivning men måste säga att det minst sagt är "rörigt" på frekvensen. "Radio San Miguel"-ID har jag inte hört här på mycket länge och i april innevarande år startade "La Nueva Radio Superior", San Miguel de El Faique. 3-4 dagar under augusti månad hördes "Radio La Voz de San Miguel"-IDs på 6895.57 kHz. DJen annonserade också MV 1360 kHz, som inte finns listad i WRTH. Ni kan lyssna på en inspelning från detta tillfälle: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/>

Info från "Ventanaperú": Provincia de Huancabamba, cuya capital es Chanchaque. Sus distritos son: El Carmen de la Frontera, Huancabamba, Huarmaca, Lalaquiz, San miguel de El Faique, Sónдор, Sondorillo; con una población total de 125,458 hab.



73 från  i Quito!

Stationsnyheter

EL SALVADOR. 17835.1v, Radio Imperial. Sept 1-2, 2350 with music in Spanish. 2356 heard "su programa . . . Radio Imperial." 0000 another ID and then what sounded like a Christian program. Fair signal, rechecked at 0020 and heard much deeper fades. Back to music at 0030. Might still have been on at 0110, but Radio Japan on 17835 in English at this time pretty much wiped them out. (Hans Johnson, Cody WY, Cumbredx mailing list via DXLD)

HONDURAS. Reactivated station in Honduras! 3340.00, Radio Misiones Internacional[es], Comayagüela. Aug 23 2003 - 0400 UT. Religious by OM and soft, quiet music. A reactivated station which I never have logged before. A somewhat dull audio so I had to turn up my MFJ-616 a bit to catch the ID at 0400 UT (Björn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, SW Bulletin Aug 24, translated by editor Thomas Nilsson for DX LISTENING DIGEST)

As I recall, this was previously explained as 2 x 1670, the frequency which is normally tripled for the intended output frequency 5010 (gh, DXLD)

INDONESIA - 3517.2v RSPK Ngada? 1230. The wandering Indo, noted yesterday on 3516.74, heard here this morning, seeming to vary a few hertz up and down. Seemed // to 9680 but not sure. Started deteriorating right after tune-in. (Wilkins 9/4) (John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Via HCDCX)

JAPAN. I send you the information about the experimental SW station JG2XA. As I live in the neighboring city, the transmission is well received: University of Electronics & Communications, Chofu City, Tokyo started experimental SW transmission for research of HF-band Doppler-Shift (HFD). They had been using 5 and 8 MHz signals of former JJY, which ended transmission in March. They decided to set up their own SW station for this purpose. The new SW station, call sign JG2XA, started regular transmission on July 3. Frequencies: 5006 and 8006 (width 1.5 kHz)

Power: 200 watt.

Transmitter: Yaesu FT-860 + linear amp + lubidium generator (2 sets)

Antenna: halfwave horizontal dipole. Schedule: 24 hours with continuous unmodulated carrier; ID in Morse Code is given at least every 30 minutes as "JG2XA JG2XA JG2XA UEC HFD STATION" in H3A mode.

Addr: Tomizawa Laboratory, University of Electronics & Communications, Chofugaoka 1-5-1, Chofu City, Tokyo, 182-8585 Japan Tel: +81 42 443 5598 E-mail: tomizawa@ee.uec.ac.jp URL: http://ssro.ee.uec.ac.jp/lab_tomi/index.html (Takahito Akabayashi, Japan, Aug 5, BC DX via DXLD)``

GERMANY: 5 September 2003

Kampala newspaper The Monitor has published more details of the new radio station Radio Rhino International-Africa (RRIA).

The station's director Godfrey Elum Ayoo, a Ugandan political activist living in exile, told the newspaper that the station, based in Berlin, will be launched on August 16 [sic] by former President Milton Obote and Col. Kizza Besigye, a losing presidential candidate in 2001. The two will host a one-hour show talking about politics and the need to redirect the democratisation process in Uganda. RRIA will broadcast in English on 17555 kHz at 1500-1530 UTC Mon-Fri and 0300-1600 at weekends. Ayoo said that RRIA "is a declaration of an airwave campaign in the liberation, protection and promotion of the freedoms of expressions and the rights to information by the press, mass media and the people of Uganda." He said the radio would cover news on current events, politics, economy, health, education, culture and environment.

© Radio Netherlands Media Network. <http://www.rnw.nl/realradio/html/medianews.html> (rec.radio.shortwave)

Övriga radionyheter

Ang. antennförstärkare

Jag var ute efter närmare info om en antennförstärkare som bygger på SN5109 och var man kan hitta en sån i Sverige. Det kan man inte, verkar det som.

Men jag har hittat den i England, och med rimlig fraktkostnad. Sen får vi se om detta med internethandel funkar i detta sammanhang; det brukar göra det. Antennförstärkaren är i princip en gammal ARRL lösning, som enligt en Connelly-sammanställning ger bäst effekt.

Dessutom verkar den inte vara vidare krånglig, som det skulle ju kunna vara kul att leka litet med den. Närmare info på

<http://www.qsl.net/wa1ion/amp/amptests.pdf> om du inte redan tagit del av allt detta.

(via Hermod Pedersen. *Den teknikintresserade bör ta en närmre titt på den sidan! /red*)

Out-of-production Mizuho station accessories

Hi Chris and all HCDXers: Your best hope of finding any of the out-of-production Mizuho station accessories, antenna tuners, preselectors, audio processors, etc is by contacting Rodney Tom an American ARO living in Japan: kh7l@yahoo.com I have been in contact with Rodney and he is very willing to locate these fine quality station accessories of the past. A word of caution, these items have found their way into the hands of "collectors" and the second hand prices reflect that, \$100-150 US depending on the device and condition.

I am considering the Mizuho KX-3 Sky Coupler, antenna tuner, \$100-\$130, which Rodney has located. Waters and Stanton sells the current Mizuho model tuner, KX-QRP, not a receive only antenna tuner as some of the older Mizuho antenna tuners were. The current KX-QRP is a ARO QRP (low transmit power antenna tuner). For those interested in the Mizuho company may want to have a look at: www.mizuhoradio.com/kx.html While I am on the topic may I ask our European DX friends this, if you have any station gear for sale consider contacting me: n52w113@hotmail.com I am always looking for non-MFJ accessories, antenna tuners, audio processors, a broadband tunable magnetic loop for the Tropical Bands and a Global AT-2000 antenna tuner.

(73. Joe Talbot Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. Via HCDX)

Anti-virus program

The best anti-virus program on the market is called AVG by Grisoft. The have a FREE version that is not a demo. It's a full version for non commercial use and makes Norton and McAfee look like child's play.

It's been my experience over the years that few people will listen to me about the AVG Anti-virus because it's free but I have not had a virus in my computers ever in 7 years and my computers are up 24/7, as I run a website hosting and design company. The free version sends you automatic updates on new worms and viruses several times a week and works in unison with your email program like OE 6.

Plus it's a very easy piece of software to setup and operate. http://www.grisoft.com/us/us_dwnl_free.php

(73, Thomas F. Giella via HCDX)

EUROPEAN DX COUNCIL

Last weekend more than 70 shortwave listeners, DXers and broadcasters (including yours truly) attended the annual conference of the European DX Council (EDXC) in Koenigstein, north of Frankfurt.

The event had been organised by a local DX Club, the Rhein-Main Radio Club (RMRC). As usual, it was a great occasion to meet old friends and make new ones, which is not difficult, because we all share an interest in international radio. Some are only interested in the technical side of the hobby, others only care about programme content, not to forget those who collect radio items, in particular QSL cards, or pennants.

At this year's meeting, the emphasis was on DRM - digital radio mondiale, with most amazing presentations about this new broadcasting technology and the latest from the DRM receiver's front.

The Secretary-General of the EDXC, signor Luigi Cobisi of Italy (left on photo, with predecessor Risto Vähäkainu of Finland), was pleased with the conference: (*SOUND Luigi Cobisi*) (listen to the programme via audio link on this page --- below) Meanwhile, the EDXC is in a bit of a crisis, or has been for several years now. It seems that in this age of new technologies, not only the DX hobby is in decline, but also the need of people to join up in special clubs or the need to publish club magazines. Everybody is hooked up to the internet anyway, and information can be exchanged more rapidly than ever before. In a move to save the EDXC Luigi Cobisi launched the idea to make it an organisation for individual members, not only collective members grouped in DX clubs. (*SOUND Luigi Cobisi*) Signor Cobisi is stepping down as Sec.-Gen. at the end of this year, and the future is uncertain. Who will step forward and take over, who will organise a conference next year? Nobody knows, we'll have to wait for another couple of months to see whether the EDXC can be saved.

And, as on previous occasions when I had the pleasure of meeting Luigi Cobisi, I also asked him this time to say something in Italian to his DX friends, and our listeners, in Italy. (*SOUND Luigi Cobisi*) in Italian I don't think you want to hear what my Italian sounds like.

Anyway, we'll hear more from the EDXC conference in Koenigstein in future editions of Radio World.

http://www.vrt.be/wm/rvi/rw_HI.aspx http://www.vrt.be/wm/rvi/rw_LO.aspx

FRANS VOSSEN (RVi Radio World Aug 24 via DXLD)

RUMORS OF DX DEATH GREATLY EXAGGERATED! Editorial by Doug Smith W9WI

Tests of the new IBOC digital broadcasts have FM and mediumwave DXers nervous. Both AM and FM DXers are saying things like "I'm going to catch all the DX now while I still can!" I suppose some of you may wonder why there hasn't been more concern expressed about IBOC in the pages of this magazine.

Well, for one thing I don't like to expend too much energy trying to change things I know can't be changed... The LPFM (low power FM) proceedings made it obvious that when an industry with lobbyists wants something from government, they'll likely get it. (I suppose scanner monitors can cite the ECPA and its amendments; and computer users can cite the DMCA.) If the National Radio Club can hire a team of Washington lobbyists, I suppose we might be able to stop IBOC. Somehow I doubt the NRC's treasury could support such an effort.

Existing broadcasters, and their lobbyists in the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), want IBOC. They seem to feel it'll stem the gradual decline in radio listening by bringing CD-quality sound to the FM band and FM-quality sound to AM stations.

Maybe more importantly, the IBOC system brings digital radio without changing the relative coverage areas of existing stations (unlike the Eureka system used in almost every other country that has digital radio). Radio hobbyists and media activists may try to stop IBOC, but without lobbyists bearing campaign contributions, I doubt they will have any effect.

Why such a hullabaloo about IBOC?

On the AM dial, the digital data is placed in the outer edges of the station's assigned channel and in the adjacent channels. An analog station on 710 kHz occupies the area from 705 to 715 kHz; an IBOC station on 710 occupies 695-725. A listener with a good receiver can DX 700 and 720 even if he lives near an analog station on 710. If that analog station switches to IBOC, this listener will no longer be able to DX 700 or 720 kHz.

On FM, IBOC stations do not spill into adjacent frequencies. However, they do occupy the outer portions of their existing channels. With analog, these areas are "guard bands" between stations. The effect is the same: it will prove impossible to DX frequencies adjacent to those used by IBOC stations.

So chances are we will have IBOC in the United States. DXers have two choices: Live with it, or give up and take up a different hobby.

DXers have learned to "live with it" before. Here are some of the developments that over the years have threatened to put an end to the DX hobby:

- Seven-night-a-week AM broadcasting
- The end of the typical midnight-6am silent period
- Power increases on Class C channels, from 100 watts to 250 to 1,000 • FM • TV • Breakup of the "clear" channels • Radio Martí and the high-powered retaliatory broadcasts from Cuba • Docket 80-90 (which made hundreds of new FM stations and FM power increases possible)
- Low-power TV
- Low-power FM
- The end of VHF TV in the U.K.
- Blanket nighttime operating authority for most AM daytime-only stations
- Internet "radio"
- Cable TV
- Satellite TV
- Digital TV

Yet the National Radio Club, International Radio Club of America, and Worldwide TV-FM DX Association are as strong as ever. People are still DXing.

Sure, there are some things you can't do anymore. You won't hear California from the East Coast every night. You won't log Hawaii with a table radio in St. Louis. Double-hop trans-continental TV skip is now a once-in-a-lifetime treat, not an annual event. Many (most) DXers don't care. They get a thrill out of whatever they hear that's new and unusual.

Just in the last year, many DXers logged the Virgin Islands for the first time, thanks to the expanded AM band. The widespread adoption of unattended computer recording techniques have filled logs with new DX. Record-breaking 850-mile digital TV reception has been accomplished, and then surpassed when a digital TV signal was received via sporadic-E at a distance of over 1,050 miles. We have the first ever reliable report of reception of U.S. FM stations in Europe. And Australian DXers are receiving American UHF TV signals via reflection off the moon. DXers adapt.

Wait and See

Nor is it a foregone conclusion that IBOC will work. AM IBOC is still experimental; recent tests have left many participants unhappy with the "codec" – the software that "tosses out" redundant parts of the audio to make the data stream fit in the necessary bandwidth.

Because of the adjacent-channel interference problems, the FCC is not allowing AM IBOC operation at night. For much of the year, commuters are driving home from work after sunset. These commuters are the most important radio audience. A digital radio system that doesn't work at night isn't going to work in the marketplace.

Finally, IBOC is expensive for the station. At the very least, an expensive digital "exciter" is necessary. At many stations, the entire transmitter will need to be replaced. At some, an entire separate digital transmitter and antenna may be necessary. At AM stations, complete redesign of the antenna system may be required.

Unlike AM and FM, IBOC is covered by patents. Those wishing to build IBOC receivers or transmitters must buy a patent license – and stations wishing to broadcast IBOC will also require this license. Many stations today (especially AM) can just barely afford to pay their existing bills. Extensive transmitter modifications and an IBOC patent license will be beyond their means. Many stations will remain analog.

So, to be concise... IBOC digital broadcasting is coming. We can't stop it. If it succeeds (and it may not), it will change domestic-band DXing. It will never eliminate it.

(Closing Comments, September MONITORING TIMES via DXLD)

Kiwa filter add-on for the Yaesu FRG-7

Here are some initial observations about the Kiwa filter add-on for the Yaesu FRG-7. I also posted these notes to the FRG-7 Yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRG-7/>), so pardon the redundancy for those who frequent both places.

1) I installed the filter last night. It is actually a little circuit board with two filters on it (wide and narrow) with two power leads (red positive and black negative), a little input coax lead (little insulated wire wrapped with a braid and covered in red insulation overall), and an identical output coax lead. I did not drill an internal mounting hole as the instructions suggest; rather I found an unused hole toward the back of the unit to the left of the power transformer but to the right of the back-left pc board. I had to expand the hole just a few millimeters with a small router, but that was easy enough to do by hand.

2) The desoldering of the original filter and resoldering of the six leads was a bit fiddly. It is a very small area, and there is ample opportunity to burn other wires and components if you aren't at least somewhat skilled using a soldering iron. Per the instructions, I did

use a little 30 watt soldering pencil rather than a hefty soldering gun (which would have created too much heat at the soldering points and perhaps damaged the pc board as a result). My suggestion -- if you are brand new with a soldering iron, don't cut your teeth on this project.

3) I ran the new wide-nar switch out of the back via the battery box (which I closed but didn't press in all the way with four snapped-in closers). I'm just fussy about altering the original box -- a collector's sensibility I guess.

4) As for operation, the first thing I noticed was that there was some noticeable insertion loss in the audio. I had to turn up the volume more for the same output I had previously enjoyed at a lower setting. In other words, the volume had to be consistently set to marker 7 or 8 rather than the 3 or 4 from before.

5) The new filter's wide position is terrific. You can really tell the difference from before, and it's now VERY clear which frequency a station is on. Of course it was clear before, but with very strong stations that imparted wide bandwidth, you had to fiddle back and forth to really get a read on where center-freq was. With the Kiwa filter installed, there's just no question. Plus, even better, I didn't notice any degradation in audio fidelity either. And, of course, there was far less adjacent-channel interference. On the other hand, single sideband (SSB) transmissions became a bit more fiddly to tune, but they came in beautifully and, again, benefitted greatly from the increased selectivity.

6) Now, turning to the new filter's narrow position, yuck. Fidelity was impaired with stations sounding muffled. Weak stations became even less intelligible in my opinion -- which really is the opposite of what you hope will happen during those occasions when you need to zero in on a weaker station that happens to reside near a powerhouse. Even worse, for some reason, the narrow filter just makes sideband signals practically incomprehensible. Lest you think that I just wasn't tuning them with enough finesse, even if you zero in on an SSB signal with the wide position (where SSB sounds great, by the way), when you invoke the narrow switch position, the audio range just drops way out, rendering even an otherwise loud SSB signal pretty hard to decipher. Narrow was so rotten, and wide was so terrific, that I just opted to tuck away that switch INSIDE the unit in the battery compartment (that I have NEVER used for batteries anyway -- somehow I just can't picture using the FRG-7 as a battery-chomping portable).

7) I would like to know if I can wire-rig the old filter in the Kiwa's narrow slot. That would provide a different sort of wide and wider. The old filter might impart just a bit more fidelity when listening to signals that are exceptionally loud anyway and don't require additional selectivity (certain CBC, BBC, VOA, or CRI broadcasts, for example). I will explore this further.

Well, that's it! I love the filter as is (as a single-filter improvement using the Kiwa "wide" switch position, which is one heck of a lot more selective than the original filter). I hope this little review helps someone.

Addendum to my review -- I just spoke with Craig @ Kiwa, and he mentioned that the symptom I described regarding SSB and Narrow is almost always due to an alignment issue. That is not a surprise and makes a lot of sense, as this radio has sat unused for more than 10 years. In any event, even with that problem, the Kiwa filter is such a tremendous improvement as is. On the other hand, it's time for me to align the old radio!

(Randy, via rec.radio.shortwave)