

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1530 8 februari 2004. Deadline nästa nr: 20/2 2004 (E-mail 22/2 kl. 0900 SNT)

I förra numret blev det ordning på tipsen. Normalt konverteras tipsen till tabellformat för att sedan sorteras med hjälp av Words sorteringsfunktion. Emellertid såg det inte bra ut och jag fick backa några steg. Efter att formateringen i kolumnerna blev OK, glömdes så klart en ny sortering bort. Därför skickades senare en uppdaterad bulle ut. Men, inte ens denna blev helt rätt. Word kan inte helt klara av att ordna tipsen på grund av att tipsarna använder olika format. Så, ha överseende med eventuella fel. Gemåle från HeP har kommit ang. HCDX online-log. BM har också skrivit ner lite synpunkter. Läs och begrundna. Inte en enda har kommenterat SWB-loggens utformning. Är det bara några få som är intresserade av att konvertera gamla loggar till statistik? Det är väl nästan enbart LRH som anger landkod? Vad sägs om utformningen i detta nummer? I övrigt verkar de flesta klaga på det lilla antalet stationer som finns kvar på KV att lyssna på. Medlemsförteckningen för 2004 är ännu ej helt klar.

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).

MEDLEMSAVGIFT 2004 (membership fee 2004): Medlemsavgiften för 2004 är SEK 75:- för internetbulle och SEK 250:- för pappersbulle. För utländsk medlem, som betalar direkt via postgirot, tillkommer SEK 30:- för att täcka den avgift postgirot tar ut. Betalning till Bengt Dalhammar, postgirokontonummer 51 84 47 - 8. Medlemsavgifterna skall vara betalda senast 31/1 2004.

Membership fee for 2004 is SEK 75:- for internet version and SEK 250:- for paper version. Payment to postal account 51 8447 - 8. Add SEK 30:- to cover postal costs. (Foreign members can contact the editor regarding other ways to pay.)

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Hermod Pedersen: Ni får gärna skjuta sönder och samman detta försök med HCDX Online Log, som kommer att kunna överleva vilka bredsidor som helst om det är så att användarna tycker tjänsten är bra. Trots det känner jag mig nödsakad till att kommentera vad som sagts om HCDX Online Log i senaste SWB, om inte annat för att ni ska kunna sikta in er på sånt som faktiskt gäller. Det finns nämligen massor med personliga inställningar som kan utnyttjas i Online loggen så att just du slipper att reta dig på allt idiotiskt:

- Du kan filtrera bort dumma och okunniga lyssnare (de största korkskallarna åker bort innan de ens drabbar er).
- Du kan välja vilka DX-områden du vill ha tips ifrån.
- Du kan välja vilka tider som ska gälla.
- Du kan välja dagar, veckor eller månader för att begränsa mängden.
- Och du kan blanda bäst du vill av allt.

Det betyder inte att datorer och databaser kan slå tryckta medier som ställs samman av en klok person. Det kan inget, så länge personen orkar hålla på och så länge du själv tycker att personen som gör jobbet är, just det, klok.

Björn Malm: Läste med stort intresse BEFFs och HePs inlägg om SWBs framtid och håller väl i stort sett med. Själv har jag numera valt bort pappersbulle men det beror mest på mina synproblem. Den elektroniska texten går ju lätt att förstora i datorn. Har flera gånger framfört till Thomas åsikten att när pappersbulle, som väl tappat mark hela tiden, inte längre är aktuell så kan klubben transformeras om till en mailinglista. Kanske i kombination med en mer sällan utkommande pappersbulle, som kan innehålla artiklar, personliga inlägg från medlemmarna, teknik osv. Själv har jag en tid varit med på 3 olika mailinglistor: HCDX, Cumbre och Conexión Digital. Det som jag från början inte trodde var möjligt känner jag nu mycket starkt, nämligen man får en stark "klubbkänsla" också i dessa mailinglistor pga att man efter en tid får många personliga kontakter världen runt. Det finns ju en "kärna" inom listan som ständigt återkommer med loggningar och andra inlägg. Jag upplever att det finns ytterst få problem med oseriösa inlägg även om det förekommer.

Otroligt spännande när en OID station avhandlades i mailinglistan "Conexión Digital" helt nyligen där DXare från många länder aktivt deltog: Sverige, Ecuador, Argentina, Paraguay, Finland plus kanske ytterligare några länder. Bandinspelningar skickades kors och tvärs mellan olika länder och efter en knapp vecka kunde problemet lösas.

Jag tror att motviljan från en del mot internet, mailinglistor osv bottnar i ointresse för "teknik", det känns svårt och främmande, men själv ser jag datorn mest som arbetsplats med skrivmaskin, papper och lådor med information = internet.

Det STORA problemet för oss som är intresserade av LA-stationer är att det under dom senaste 2 åren mycket snabbt har försämrats vad det gäller antalet stationer. Tidigare kunde jag i mina bandscans praktiskt taget varje gång berätta om något nytt och spännande på KV. Ni lägger ju märke till att mina scans nu till stor del innehåller harmonic-loggningar vilket beror på att det helt enkelt inte finns mer att hämta på banden.

Så jag menar: ska vi klara av att göra en höna av en fjäder ja då måste vi nog lägga samman alla de resurser som finns: pappersbulle, klubbkänsla, internet och mailinglistor = SWB fortsätter att existera men i nya kläder. TN kämpar på trots alla svårigheter och det tycker jag är värt en stor "björnkram"! 73s från Björn Malm, Quito.

Ove Fransson: Dan Olsson och jag ägnade den gångna natten åt att sitta och sucka i kör i Saxtorp - i den

mån vi inte låg och snusade i var sin scoutsång - men jag lyckades i alla fall logga ett antal LA på sextiometersbandet, så de anteckningarna kommer här. Inte en enda rapport kom jag hem med, vilket nog är första gången. Varken rapporthumöret eller programmen var riktigt med mig. Dessutom hade jag siktat in mig på litet kvardröjande MV-konds (hoppet är ju som bekant det sista som överger människan ...), varav det blev intet, så jag satt nog och var litet sur för det oxo. Några tips, alltid något. Skönt att få vara med och bidra för en gångs skull, även om det inte var något som ingen annan (eller jag själv för den delen) hört förr ... Ha det gött, OM.

Christer Brunström: Radio Habana Cuba 11760 kort, **Granma Internacional, Rádio Portugal 9755** brev, kort, schema, broschyr, CD. **HCJB 21455** snyggt kort, schema, kalender. **Rádio Guarujá Paulista 5045** brev, QSL-certifikat, dekaler, broschyr. Sänder med 1 kW på denna frekvens och med endast 500 watt på 3235 kHz. **Rádio Nacional do Brasil 9665** tvåsidigt brev med information om de nyupptagna utlandssändningarna. V/s Lia Rangel, Chefe da Divisão de Notícias Internacionais. Epost: radionacionaldobrasil@radiobras.gov.br. **HRMI Radio Misiones Internacionales 3340** kort från IMF, PO Box 6321, San Bernardino, CA 92412, USA). HRMI sänder enligt kortet med 1 kW på 90 meter.

Bjarke Vestesen: Jeg har været bortrejst på to forskellige DXpeditioner de sidste par gange, hvor jeg skulle sende bidrag til SWB. Nu samler jeg mine logs fra Saltum i Nordjylland og senest i den forgangne weekend fra Langeland, og mailer i god tid til næste SWB. I Saltum var jeg sammen med Stig Hartvig Nielsen og Peter Witten, og her lyttede vi især TA-mellembølge - men også Peru og Bolivia gik stærkt igennem på kortbølge. I den forgangne weekend var hele familien i luksussommerhus på Langeland, hvor jeg medbragte 250 meter ledning og den gamle NRD-525, som stadig kører fint. Elendige forhold på mellembølge, men nogenlunde mod Peru og Bolivia igen. Desværre havde jeg glemt en balun og koaxkabel, så det var nærmest umuligt at DXe, når fjernsyn, video og satellitmodtager var tændt - og derfor blev der også kun DXet, når resten af familien var gået i seng.

Jan Edh: Minorstorm-konditioner "som vanligt" den här helgen också och låga förhoppningar. Men trots det bänkade vi oss fyra man (Ronny Forslund, Rolf Larsson, Dan Andersson och Jan Edh) framför radioapparaterna i Fredriksfors medan det utanför fönstren blev en allt mer gnistrande grann och isande kall lördagsnatt, som slutade med -23 på morgonen från någon enstaka minusgrad på kvällen. Konditionererna var inte oväntad ganska klena, men det är ju faktiskt så att lyssnar man bara brukar det alltid gå att hitta något spännande konditionererna till trots, och den här natten var inget undantag. Ett par Thailandare gick bra på MV, medan t ex vanliga asiater som Family Radio 1577 och FEBC 1566 inte alls hördes. Och att överhuvudtaget något från NA skulle höras på morgonen var en högoddsare. Och en ny LPAM-britt satt fint. Men kortvågen var än en gång den största besvikelsen. Och några nattkonditioner på MV var det ju inte tal om. **Radio Guarujá, Florianópolis, 5980.** Email och fem foton (i tre omgångar) med månsken över Florianópolis, inifrån stationen etc (rapport via snailmail). Lovar brev på väg också... V/s. Carlos Alberto Silva, Executivo de Contas. 10 dagar.

Lars Skoglund: All India Radio, Bangalore, 9425, kort från Delhi. R Educacao Rural, Tefe, 4925, certifikat, info, foto.

Rolf Åhman: Några kortvågssvar har det kommit: **AIR Bangalore 9425** brev. **Radio Educação Rural Tefé 4925** certifikat, kort och information samt **Radio Apintie 4991** e-post.

Leif Råhäll: Inga större nyheter mest det gamla vanliga.

Dan Olsson: Här kommer några rader ifrån ett vårligt Kävlinge. Härute kan jag idag 8/2 se de första snödropparna blomma. Var igår ute några timmar (4) för att snygga till mitt antenntråd som inte hade blivit ansatt på några år. Blev inte färdig och tänkte fortsätta idag men hälsan sätter nog stopp. Förkylning och feber gör nog att jag får stanna inomhus idag. När jag har gjort trädet färdigt så finns det möjligheter att kunna höja antenn lite. Tipsen denna gång är från en lyssning i Saxtorp där Ove Fransson och jag deltog.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

2310	24.1	1945	ABC VL8A Alice Springs , eng. med australsk accent, ann., ikke // 2325 kHz. S2	BV
3235	25.1	0120	R Guarujá Paulista spelade "The winners take it all" med ABBA. Hördes med Q 2 här och med Q 4 på 5045.	DO
3249,6	2.2	2030	R Pyongyang slutade med marchmusik vid detta sändningsstopp som varar till 2100 2	LRH
3291	7.2	0730	Oid med BBCWS - det er vel mest sansynlig Guyana som relesender WS. Sterk QSA 3 - god kvalitet fremover mot 0800.	TBV
3905	31.1	2040	RRI Merauke har inte hörts på länge. QSA 3 nu.	JE/RFK
3925	5.2	1530	JPN Tampa med avannonsering 3	LRH
4605	31.1	2035	RRI Serui pratade. QSA 2-3	JE/RFK
4717	24.1	2310	R Yura snackade om "estudiantes" och spelade ganska underlig LA-musik. 2-3.	OVE
4747	24.1	2240	R Huanta 2000 spelade trevlig andinsk mx och pratade goja mellan låtarna. 3-4.	OVE
4775	25.1	0000	R Tarma med reklam för Natural som påstods vara bra för hälsan och Andesal.	DO
4775	24.1	2315	R Tarma gick som aldrig tillförene med häftigt tryck och härligt blandat mx-px. 4-5.	OVE
4855,98	24.1	2350	Radio La Hora , Cusco, sp., ann., tydeligt ID. S2	BV
4856	24.1	2320	R La Hora med flera ID och ekonomisnack. 3-4.	OVE
4869,9	2.2	2035	RRI Wamena med körmusik 2-3	LRH
4870	31.1	2050	RRI Wamena (tent) kunde bara anas. QSA 1	JE/RFK
4902,5	24.1	2325	R San Miguel gick som ett skott med vad som väl närmast får kallas för mensajes. 4-5.	OVE
4915	4.2	0730	Rádio Difusora de Macapá med livligt program. 2-3	CB
4920	25.1	0035	AIR/Chennai med prat om de förbättrade relationerna mellan Indien och Pakistan.	DO
4920	31.1	2052	Tibet med ganska poppig internationell musik fram till "start" 21.00 med annonsering bl a på engelska. Men förfärligt uselt ljud för kvällen och bara QSA 2-3	JE/RFK
4939,66	16.1	0150	Radio San Antonio , sp., mange ann., IDs, LA-musik. S2	BV
4945	1.2	0650	R.Dif. Pocos de Caldas kjørte et px med brasiliansk visesang	TBV
4949,97	24.1	2340	Radio Nacional , Luanda, portugisisk, ann., slogans som "Luanda, Luanda, Luanda", afrikansk musik. S2	BV

4955	24.1	2330	R Cultural Amauta spelade vacker musik, men snacket mellan låtarna var dåligt modulerat. 4.	OVE
4960	24.1	2250	R Villa eller vad den nu kan kalla sig, ID:ades på musiken, inget annat. Går ofta skapligt även hemma. 3.	OVE
4965	31.1	2310	Radio Santa Monica annonserade och spelade fin musik. QSA 3. En av få bra LA-signaler där inte ens brassarna gick acceptabelt.	JE/RFK
5010	25.1	0015	OID LA , men på musiken lät det onekligen som R Cristal. Riktigt störd. 2.	OVE
5066,3	3.2	1635	ZAI La Voix du Peuple , Bunia med mest prat på inhemskt språk, slutade denna dag 1710, nå annan dag senare. 2	LRH
5677,97	31.1	2313	Radio Ilucan , Cutervo har ju svarat trevligt till bl a RFK och fick därför en del tid. Ganska ren, men bara QSA 2 med "phone in".	JE/RFK
5906,38	24.1	2310	Radio Melodia , Arequipa, spansk, LA-musik, mange ann., tids-ann. og IDs kl. 2331. S2	BV
9290	7.2	2125	European Music Radio via Letland, eng., mange IDs, adr.ann., e-mail, Bob Marley-musik, efterlyste lytterrapporter, i æteren siden 1976 som piratradio, nævnte at man denne lørdag aften sendte med 100 kW. Stærk modtagelse og godt underholdende musikprogram. S4	BV
9560	23.1	1605	Radio Ethiopia , eng., nyheder, ID, ann., musik bl.a. Steve Wonder, hørt // med 7165.4 kHz (dårligst). S3	BV
9565	18.1	1100	Merlin Communication med båndsløjfe på engelsk: "Your programming can now be broadcast as a high quiality digital transmission over short wave and medium wave using DRM, the clearest and the most signifiant recent development in AM broadcasting. To find out how VT Merlin Communication can broadcast your programmes quickly and easily in DRM, visit www.vtplc.com/merlin and use the contact and location link.". Ikke hørt siden. S4	BV
9615	31.1	0701	Rádio Cultura de São Paulo med programmet Raízes do Brasil och jättefin sertanejamusik. 2	CB
9645	31.1	0700	Rádio Bandeirantes med "Identificação", dvs. stort ID med alla prefix och frekvenser. 3	CB
11765	7.2	0804	KNLS med sammanfattning av programinslagen. 3 CB 13840 7.2 1000 Radio Six via IRRS. Just vid denna tid hälsade man till mig. Kul! 3	CB
15120	7.2	0805	Voice of Nigeria med African Safari. 3-4 CB 15360 6.2 1500 Radio Veritas Asia med program på filipino till Mellersta Östern. 4-5	CB
21455	7.2	1230	HCJB med DX Partyline. 3	CB



BM i Ecuador – Bandscan KV-84, 8/2 2004

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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 alla i SWB! Återigen en bandscan innehållande enbart harmonics. Inte pga av lägre aktivitet från min sida eller ointresse: det händer helt enkelt inget av intresse på LA/KV-fronten.

COLOMBIA 2020.18 kHz HJZD Radio Panzenú, Montería 27/Ene/2004 1020 UTC. Radio Panzenú is new for me and it's the first time I'm hearing something on this frequency. IDs with prefix quite often and some ads. Harmonic from MW 1010 kHz.

ECUADOR 4609.99 kHz Centro Radiofónico de Imbabura, Ibarra 3/Feb/2004 0055 UTC. Some days ago I reported this station on its 2nd harmonic 6760.14 kHz (2x 3380.07). 4609.99 kHz is a much more rare type of harmonic: MW 1229.92 + SW 3380.07 = 4609.99 kHz.

COLOMBIA 5480.03 // 2740.02 kHz Radio Mundial SF de Bogotá 25/Ene/2004 1100 UTC. Religious program with OM up to 1100 UTC. 1100 the national anthem and ID. Harmonic from 1370 kHz (I did not hear anything there).

ECUADOR 6760.14 kHz Centro Radiofónico de Imbabura, Ibarra 30/Ene/2004 0100 UTC. This is my unID, something I was not expecting because of the very good signal strength, the same strength as the fundamental frequency of: 3380.07 kHz. So it's "nothing more" than a harmonic.



73 från i Quito! (When using my information give credit to: Bjorn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, SWB América Latina)

Stationsnyheter

ANGOLA. 7216.8, R Nacional, Luanda, 1445-1500, Jan 17, Vernacular with local rhythmical music and some talks, fair but weak. They must be using a small fraction of the rated 100 kW as this station is barely audible here most of the time. 11955v not heard lately so it will be irregular at best. So the only active Angolan SW frequencies are 4950 and 7216.8 (different programmes). (Vaclav Korinek, RSA, DSWCI DX Window Jan 28 via DXLD)

BHUTAN. First logging of this country here January 8th at 0101 on **6035**, SINPO 22211, also heard the next morning and three or four times since. The transmission starts with an extended interval signal of rather haunting music, an announcement mentioning Bhutan, the interval signal again, another announcement including the frequency, chanting (by Buddhist monks?) which is quite tuneful then further songs and announcements (Arthur Miller, Llandrindod Wells, Wales, Feb World DX Club Contact via Mike Barraclough, DXLD)

BURMA. Defence Forces Broadcasting Unit (BRM), Taunggyi is just now heard in background with nice signal on new 5770 kHz, ex-6570 kHz. Jan 24 they closed down 1630 UTC. Seems to be regular here in Turku. (73's, Jouko Huuskonen, Turku FINLAND via HCDX)

LIBERIA. On 2 Jan at 1545 tune in heard **Voice of Liberty** in Monrovia on **11514.4** with fair signal. Later the reception improved and it was audible past 1800, but their audio was distorted at times. Sounds like they announce "LCBN Radio" but use also "Voice of Liberty" name. Their FM frequency is 102.3 and also shortwave was mentioned. Contact info in Monrovia was also given, but I still have to confirm it to ensure correct information in the web :) Jari Savolainen Kuusankoski Finland via HCDX

Övriga radionyheter



ETON E1 XM

See

http://www.thiecom.de/shop1/index.html?target=Zubehoer_von_A_bis_ZAntennen_&znSchalter.html and SEARCH for ETON --- announced for summer 2004. 73 wb (Wolfgang Büschel, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Maybe June or July; price not yet set.

English segment: The Eton E1 XM is the world's first radio that combines AM, FM, Shortwave, and XM Satellite radio into one ultra high-performance unit. In development for more than 10 years in collaboration with RL Drake Company and XM Satellite Radio, the E1 is simply the finest full-sized portable in the world.

- XM Satellite Radio (optional?) or Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) Ready
- Continuous Shortwave with Selectable Single Sideband (SSB) Reception
- Dual Conversion Superheterodyne Circuit Design
- Digitally Synthesized PLL Tuner with Synchronous Detector
- Passband Tuning and Selectable Bandwidth Filters

- 1700 Station Presets with Memory Scan Function
- 5.7" Oversized Illuminated Multi-Function Dot-Matrix LCD Screen
- Stereo Line-Level Audio Inputs/Outputs and External Antenna Connections
- Dual Clocks and Programmable Timers Separate Bass and Treble Controls
- Dimensions: 13.1"W x 7.1"H x 2.3"D Weight: 4lbs. (approx.)

© Copyright und Erstellung: <http://www.thiecom.de> (via Büschel, DXLD)

TESTS OF COMPUTER NOISE EFFECTS ON SW RADIOS

Dear Glenn: I have just compiled a systematic report on various computer gadgets as they effect my shortwave radios:

<http://www.home.earthlink.net/~srw-swling/sw-comput.htm>

Unfortunately I find that the "ferrite RF suppressors" that so many people have recommended have little effect as far as I can measure. The solutions seem to be to use certain systems that have low intrinsic noise generating capacity, especially displays with excellent RF noise-avoidance design; to be cautious of some types of unshielded power supplies used in certain routers and peripherals; and to employ a *balanced* antenna system and shielded, well-grounded coax: the "received wisdom" offered by the best and most experienced SWL's is here born out by systematic tests. Best, (Steve Waldee - retired broadcast station CE, San José, CA, Feb 6, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Close-in dynamic range of NRD525 (from yahoo.groups NRD525/535)

Recently I became interested in improving the close-in dynamic range of this receiver. I already had installed the ESKA 70.455 MHz first IF filter. Looking at the spectrum of this filter with my spectrum analyzer, it was running 10 KHz at -6 dB and 80 KHz at -60 dB. The standard filter runs 20 KHz at -6 dB and 80 KHz at -60 dB. What was clearly needed here were more poles in the filter.

As it turns out, there is another filter available from Puehler Electronics in Germany. This filter has 6 poles, a bandwidth of 5.5 KHz at -6 dB and bandwidth of 10 KHz at -60 dB. Peter fixed me up with this filter, and the results are outstanding. I measured the close-in dynamic range at 4 KHz separation and it was 85 dB. This compares to the standard receiver close-in range of 72 dB. Dynamic range at 20 KHz separation remains 90-92 dB, as on the standard receiver. This close in dynamic range compares to the best receivers reviewed on the Sherwood Engineering web page: <http://www.sherweng.com/table.html>

Now, you might think that this lab test doesn't mean much in the real world. I have a 5000 watt broadcasting station about 1/2 mile from my home on 1450 KHz. There is a weak broadcast station on 1460 KHz. The modified receiver can bring up this weak station in the presence of this huge signal 10 KHz away with no problem. The standard receiver can't get a hint of it. The only other receiver that I have that comes close, but doesn't nearly match it is a Racal RA6793A. A Harris RF-590 doesn't even come close.

Recently someone mentioned Peter Puehler's mods were expensive and probably not worth the money. I'm here to tell you that this mod definitely works and is worth it if you need top performance. Peter had this filter built to his specs and it was expensive for him to do that. (John Reed, KA5QEP)

Slow and quick time signals from China

Hi, a week ago when I heard a couple of Chinese stations on MW (AM), I heard a "slow" time signal with pips in seconds

50.52.54.56.58.60. It was Jiangxi PBS on 1350 kHz. Otherwise I think all (or the most of) Chinese stations nowadays use a "quick" time signal with pips in seconds 55.56.57.58.59.60. In both cases the last pip is high and long. I think the "slow" type of time signal was used in China widely in the past. (BTW: did anybody noticed that CNR has a new version of national anthem which is slightly slower than it used to be?)

In the same evening (25 JAN 2004 between 2120-2155 UTC) I heard a station from Thailand on 1350 kHz. It was my UNID, now I have been told the language is Thai and the station should be Phon Neung Ror. Or. from Bangkok (10 kW). The only strange thing is that the

station faded out at 2155 UTC, although the Sun rose in Bangkok not earlier than 2330 UTC. In other case the Sunrise and the fade-out of a station worked perfectly: Jiangxi PBS faded-out at 2250 UTC and it was exactly the time when the Sun rose in that area. So my reception of Thailand remains a bit mysterious. I have got tape recordings so if anybody is interested to hear the language, I can send him a selected 35 seconds long MP3 file (140 kB).

It was interesting to watch this 10 kW Thai station competing with a 850 kW Gavar transmitter (Armenia) relaying DW in Arabic on the same frequency of 1350 kHz. There were moments when both signals were on the same level! Thailand is not very often reported on this frequency here in Europe, in fact I do not remember when I read it somewhere last time. But 10 kW Thai transmitters were heard on other MW frequencies by Dick van der Knaap in Holland about a year ago, so in general it is possible to catch them here. Unfortunately there seems to be very few people in (central) Europe this winter to point their antennas to the East... GOOD DX, Karel Honzik the Czech Republic (Czechia) via HCDX

Comparison R8 – NRD525 (from yahoo.groups NRD525/535)

Well having owned all the Drake R8 series and The JRC NRD's from the 515 to the 535, here is my take..... I like the build quality of the JRC receivers and the feel etc. The Drakes have better audio, better stock filters, better synchronous detector. Having said that, I prefer my NRD-525 over the R8B that I sold. The R8B has a cheap mechanical encoder, I was having problems with mine, I opened it up and cleaned it and lubed it and it seemed to be fine, then I sold it.

I have owned 3 NRD-525's and 2 NRD-535's. I prefer the 525 and here is why:

The 525 has less display noise, it has a txo built in, the 535 doesn't. The 525 is a quieter receiver, not by much, but quieter. I have owned a stock 525 which was purchased new in 1988, it had the typical Japanese and JRC problems, poor audio and agc action on am was terrible. I sold it soon after purchasing it. I then came across a 525 with the Eskab/Edvis modifications, what a difference! The agc problems were gone, the audio was good and it was a joy to use. Shortly after that, I obtained a 535 (plain) without ecss or bandwidth control. Just about that time, Kiwa started offering modifications. I realized that JRC had not corrected any of the audio or agc problems with the 535 model, so off to Kiwa it went. All the modifications were performed and I had two premium filter modules installed also. What an amazing difference it made. Craig Siegenthaler also installed a 455 if output on it so I could use a Kiwa Map or Sherwood SE-3 with it. I soon traded the 525 with the Eskab/Edvis mods to a good friend in Louisiana. Shortly after that, I traded the 535 for a AOR 7030 with all the Kiwa mods. After more trading, and selling of various receivers, I happened across a stock NRD-535DB. Off to Kiwa it went, good receiver and I enjoyed it. While using that, I obtained my present 525, sent that to Kiwa for all the mods and a 455 if output. Comparing the two, I sold the 535.

The present 525 has the following filters, 8.2, 6.0, 3.8 and 2.1. All the Kiwa modifications and a 455 if output. I use it with a Sherwood SE-3 MK III Deluxe. The audio has to be heard to be believed. During this time frame, I owned the R8, R8A and R8B. The R8B was the best of the R8 series. The only reason for selling was the encoder and the overall "feel" of the receiver. The tuning knob is not befitting a receiver of that caliber. Having been able to use a NRD-545 for a two week period, I wouldn't waste the money unless I was chasing utilities. Tey (JRC) still haven't got it figured out on am audio and agc. Imagine spending Approximately \$1,800.00 for a 545 and not having the controls over the agc on am like you do on ssb. Poor planning and engineering imho.

Well, that's enough, that was my 2 cents worth, I'll get off my soap box and leave comments to everyone else.

(Les Locklear, Monitoring from The Gulf of Mexico)

Testing tubes without a tube tester? (rec.radio.shortwave)

Well, there are several things that can be done. If you have a blue glow inside the plate, it's gassy and will cause noise. (Outside the plate is okay.) If you tap it, holding the top with a finger of one hand and flicking it, using thumb and index finger of the other hand, look for sparking around the cathode (and listen for a static like noise). The tube could be intermittently leaky, even shorting. Listen for a "bonging" sound. Although this won't affect performance too much, it -- a microphonic -- could interfere with decent reception of strong signals.

If the filament goes on and off, it, and a static noise without a shorting indication, most likely would indicate a bad socket contact. Short of replacing the socket, get a paper clip, straighten part of it, and cut barbs into the straightened part, scattering the barbs around the wire, preferably pointing out (up) so that they scrape any crud when the wire is removed. Then work the clip's wire in and out of each socket pin. The clip's wire should be the same diameter as the tube's pins. Unless there's a lot of crud in the pins, spray cleaning doesn't help much.

Sometimes a socket's pins will spread and lose tension. Take a scribe and squeeze the two halves of each pin closer together. Clean them first, though.

Maybe see "Troubleshooting the Stages of a Typical Superheterodyne <http://www.gbronline.com/radioguy/superhet.htm> (73, Bill, K5BY)

SONY MZ-B100 Minidisc recorder

Hello! If you remember, at the beginning of December I asked if anybody in the list knew of a Minidisc recorder unit with the following features:

- 1) Date/time stamp
- 2) Long time recording mode (LP4): about 320 minutes
- 3) Auto Time Stamp (automatic track marks every xx minutes)
- 4) On/off timer (capability to automatically switch the recorder on and off at given times)

My interest was in unattended recording using a timer. Thanks to your reactions, after some considerations I purchased a Sony MZ-B100. For details about this unit see http://minidisc.amulation.com/part_Sony_MZ-B100.html; you can also download the manual from there.

The B100 has automatic date and time stamp, that is you can read on its display when the recording was done: very useful when you listen to the disc at a later time. It has LP4 mode too. It hasn't the other two features, but there is a solution.

Thanks to the VOR mode you can use your receiver's built-in timer, or an external timer switching the receiver on and off. VOR means "Voice Operated Recording": in VOR mode, the B100 records only when an audio input is present. So the recorder pauses until the receiver switches on. The pause can have any length: hours or even days.

There are some problems anyway. The first one is that VOR works only if you use the built-in recorder's microphone, or an external microphone; it doesn't work if you connect the receiver through the usual line-in jack. Solution: you must connect the receiver to the external microphone jack.

Problem: this jack has two sensitivity levels, high and low; even at low sensitivity, the signal coming from the REC jack of the receiver is way too high, creating audio distortion.

Solution: an attenuating resistor in the patch cable coming from the receiver. With my JRC NRD-535, a 100 kilohm resistor gave a good audio level; a tiny 1/8 W or 1/4 W resistor will do. Different receivers may require slightly different values.

Another problem: VOR doesn't keep note of pauses and therefore stamps wrong dates and times. For example, let's say that you switch on the recorder at 2300 hours of 31 Dec. 2003, in VOR mode; the disc will be time stamped "23:00 / 31d 12m 03y". Then the recorder pauses until 0300 of 1st Jan. 2004, when the timer switches the receiver on and activates recording. The recorder will keep on stamping the disc as 23:00, 23:01, 23:02, etc. of 31d 12m 03y, although it actually is 0300, 0301, 0302 etc. of 01d 01m 04y. Solution: you can't directly use the time you read on the display, but knowing the switch-on time of the recorder and the switch-on time of the receiver you can correct the difference. Of course you must keep a note somewhere of the two switch-on times, if you are going to listen to the disc at a later time. You could write these data on the disc itself, using the label feature of the B100. By the way, you can select time in 24h or 12h (am/pm) format, as you prefer. And, of course, when not using VOR, date and time stamp is perfect.

The B100 doesn't put automatic track marks on the disc every xx minutes. These marks are of help when quickly checking the recording: you can leap forward from mark to mark, listening to the disc at xx minutes intervals. Actually this isn't a problem: the B100 has two "Easy Search" buttons that send the disc back or forward at 1 minute intervals. If you push "+" 12 times, you'll leap 12 minutes forward (leaps can't be longer than 20 minutes): very handy. When you find an interesting point in the recording, such as an ID, you can put a manual track mark on the disc (you can insert up to 254 marks), to find it again in a moment. There are two different types of mark you can use, normal and special, and they can be independently searched.

LP4 mode has a recording length of 320 minutes in stereo, with excellent audio fidelity. You could also record in mono, but with a 160 minutes limit. Not a problem: just record in LP4 stereo mode but, in the audio patch cable, short the Left and Right channel wires together, so that you'll have mono sound in both your ears when listening with stereo headphones. For what I know, all minidisc units have a stereo-only LP4 mode.

The B100 has a tiny built-in speaker, useful for quick checks; however its audio is poor and you should use headphones for real listening. Another useful feature is "Speed Control": with a knob you can adjust playback speed, for instance to slow down a fast-paced identification announcement for better intelligibility.

For other features, please refer to the manual.

Did the B100 satisfy my needs for minidisc unattended recording? Yes, although it still isn't the perfect recorder. But, then, did you ever find the perfect radio? A built-in timer would be welcome, or a VOR mode using the line-in input and with correct time/date stamp.

I hope this information can be of some help. I wish to thank all fellow DXers who replied to my request and, in particular, Martin Elbe for his suggestion about "Music Synch" recording mode (equivalent to VOR) and Guy Atkins for actually pointing me to the Sony MZ-B100. (Fabrizio Magrone, Forlì, Italy, via HCDX)

New weekly DX program

Dear Dxers, The DX Club of Brazil proudly announce a new weekly DX program produced in an exclusive partnership with Radio Guarujá Paulista.

The program content and format is produced by the DX Club of Brazil aiming the regional SWL bringing information of receivers, propagation of radio waves, culture of other countries through the shortwave, dx records, updated information on a weekly basis of world wide radio, and it's aired all Saturday at 23:30-00:00 UTC on 1.550 kHz 3.235 kHz and 5.045 kHz.

The Radio Guarujá Paulista is directed by a great entrepreneur, Mr. Rampazo, who believes on the shortwave and will continue investing in regional broadcasting.

And DX Club of Brazil believes too in the success of this initiative and is working in order to explain to the great audience of Radio Guarujá Paulista this great hobby of swl and DX, with lots of information and interacting with listeners in order to improve the content of the program.

The program is formatted into 6 blocks :

- 1- Conhecendo as Ondas Curtas (Learning about shortwave)
- 2- Panorama Atual (Present Panorama)
- 3- Momento Cultural (Cultural Moment)
- 4- Entrevista DX (DX Interview)
- 5- Gravacoes DX (DX Records)
- 6 - Correio do Ouvinte (Listener's Mail)

All blocks are recorded exclusively by club's members, of different Brazilian counties from all regions, which provide a special regional attractiveness and shows why our club is called "of Brazil". The 22 years of continuous experience in DXing, leads the DX Club of Brazil into this new challenge of producing a 30 minutes weekly program entirely dedicated to radio listeners.

This Saturday will be the 7th edition, and a special greeting will be aired to dxers of all over the world, through the voice of Pedro Machado - which has already attended DX events on the USA representing DX Club of Brazil - and we invite you to try to get this dx, since the station is receiving reception report from Finland, Sweden, Germany, USA and other countries.

All reception reports should be sent to : V/S: Orivaldo Rampazo, President-director QTH: Rua José Vaz Porto, 175, Santa Rosa, Guarujá, SP, 11431-190, BRASIL or through email : radioguarujaam@radioguarujaam.com.br

Best regards and good dx ! Sarmiento F Campos Rio de Janeiro – Brasil <http://radioescuta.aminharadio.com>

Membro do DX Clube do Brasil Junte-se à nossa família! <http://www.ondascurtas.com> (from HCDX)