

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1555. 23 januari 2005.

Deadline nästa nr: 4/2 2005 (E mail 6/2 kl. 0900 SNT)

Till förra numret hade stormens härjningar inte helt visat sig. I grannskapet hade 2 stora längor lagt sig och stora delar av skogen på Hallandsåsen står upp som avbrutna tändstickor.

Förra helgen ägnades bl a åt städning av häcken runt huset – den såg ut som påskris med gullfiber från ett raserat tak på granngården.

Flera har fått sina antennenläggningar förstörda och det kommer att ta åtskillig tid att reparera skadorna. Framförallt kommer det att ta tid att städa upp i skogarna då bristen på avverkningsmaskiner är enorm.

Bara läs bredvid hur det ser ut på bl a Kaneberget som ligger mitt inne i storskogen. Det är ju dessutom förenat med livsfara att själv försöka röja.

Keep on

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SWB-info

SWB online på HCDX: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb>

Dateline Bogotá: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/Dateline.htm>

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 2005 (membership fee 2005):

Medlemsavgiften för 2005 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, postgirokonto 51 84 47 - 8. Medlemsavgifterna skall vara betalda senast 31/1 2005.

Membership fee for 2005 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 please contact the editor regarding other ways to pay.)

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Ronny Forslund: God fortsättning på 2005! Jag har tillbringat några dagar tillsammans med övriga medlemmar i DX-gruppen inom DRAK (Delsbo Radioklubb) och även om kondsen inte var över sig så hördes en del. Främst var det ju kul att för första gången på länge få höra MV-jänkare, även om en orolig sol gjorde att det mesta hördes korta stunder och med kraftiga störningar. Ett kommande projekt blir att få upp någon form av antenn på Väddö, där jag nu bor. Fredriksfors ligger ju inte direkt inom pendlingsavstånd... I alla händelser så ser jag fram emot ett nytt år med SWB, DX-ing och önskar dig och alla SWB- are ett Gott Nytt DX-År 2005.

Christer Brunström: Jag misstänker att stormen skapat stor oreda i vår antennenpark på Kaneberget. Vägen dit upp är avstängd. **Radio NIKKEL 9595** kort. **Rádio Difusora de Poços de Caldas 4945** epost-meddelande från Cláudio Luiz Maia Nunes, Diretor. 4945 kHz återutsänder 1250 AM som beskrivs som "jornalística/popular".

17.1 Igår ägnade vi fem timmar åt att samla in så mycket antenncablar som möjligt efter stormens förödelse vid vår lyssnarstuga på Kaneberget. Tusentals träd - mest granar - har antingen ramlat eller brutits av. På ett avsnitt där vi hade två antenner har samtliga träd kastats omkull huller om buller och det var helt omöjligt att ta sig in där. Det är vår förhoppning är att markägarna snarast tar till vara virket och röjer upp. Först då ser vi möjligheterna att åter sätta upp antenner. Men mot Sydamerika kommer det nog tyvärr inte att finnas några träd kvar för antennuppsättning. Själva stugan saknar i nuläget både el och telefon. Vägen till den är avstängd även om man redan röjt bort alla de träd som ramlat över den. Förhoppningsvis kommer allt att vara återställt lagom till vårt vårkonvent.

Björn Fransson: Oj, vad dåligt det är på en massa fronter! **1.** Ove har på nytt blivit svårt sjuk! Nu får ni hålla alla tummar igen! Han är en riktigt modig kämpe med ett "sjutusandjävlar" gott humör och med en framtidstro som kan försätta berg, men han behöver alla radiokompisars stöd. Tyvärr orkar han inte ta emot ert stöd muntligt, men en liten rad till Ove Fransson, Kirurgen avd 7, sal 10, Södra Förstadsgatan 101, 20502 Malmö sitter aldrig fel. **2.** Det här är "bullshit" jämfört med punkt 1, men konditionerna är verkligen dåliga. **3.** Det är också småttigheter, men dunsarna i brevlådan blir allt mera sällsynta. Dock kan ett **QSL till BEFF** redovisas: **All India Radio, Panaji, Goa** på div frekvenser. E-mail från v/s: S. Jayaraman, Superintending Engineer, som i en tveksam veritext säger sig ha skickat min rapport vidare till New Dehli. Där kommer den att delta i det stora QSL-lotteriet, som hittills givit mest nitlotter. I brist på bättre, så inräknar jag nu Goa i samligen. Tyvärr missade jag att höra stationen, när det räknades som eget land.

23/1: Igår kom det efterlängtrade QSL-et från **Radio Que Me**, den vietnamesiska clandestinstationen, som sägs sända **via Tashkent-15385**. V/s Penelope Faulkner skriver så här i ett e-mail (queme@free.fr): "I confirm that you heard Radio Que Me on the 12th of December 2004. You described it very clearly and correctly, noting the time and length of every piece of music, voice-piece etc... Thank you for your interest". Har, mig veterligt, inte svarat någon tidigare. www.queme.net (Trist att höra att Ove blivit sjuk igen. Hoppas det skall vända i positiv riktning. Skicka en hälsning när du pratar med honom nästa gång! /red)

Leif Råhäll: Hoppas att allt är ok. Här kommer ett litet bidrag, inte är det mycket, men med tanke på A värden på 70 så blir det inte mycket.

Stefan Björn: 11/1: Har varit strömlös sedan lördag eftermiddag, ägnade hela söndagen åt att säga bort

trääd från byvägen och ska i morgon röja skogsbilsvägarna här i byn. Har själv bara "tappat" ett par hundra kubikmeter skog i stormen, så jag är lyckligt lottad. Min svåger har fått ca 3000-4000 kubikmeter nerblåst. De kan inte säga när vi ska få tillbaka strömmen (skriver detta på jobbet), så jag vet inte när radion kommer på igen.

Dan Olsson: Tänkte så här precis innan deadline slänga in några tips ifrån förra helgens lyssnande i Saxtorp. Våra antenner hade klarat av stormen väl: den ena hade gått av på två ställen och den var faktiskt hel. Kanske beroende på att vi bytte ut antenntråden i höstas. Dessvärre inträffade en grej igår som gör att min tid för radiolysning blir begränsad några månader framåt. Vid ett besök hos min mor fann hustru och jag henne sittande på golvet med trasigt lårben. Så halva eftermiddagen och hela kvällen tillbringades på sjukhus. När hon sedan kommer hem får man hjälpa henne mycket med de vardagliga. Här kommer några tips ifrån en icke lyckad natt.
(Tyvärr alltför vanligt hos äldre numera, men hoppas lårbenet läker snabbt och att hon kommer tillbaka till det vardagliga utan problem. /red)

Jan Edh: Tji bidrag till loggen den här gången. Jag har nöjt mig med att följa det ena störningsutbrottet värre än det andra på webben och övertalat mig själv att det inte varit någon idé att åka ut till Fredriksfors. Samtidigt vet jag förstås att hade jag bara åkt ut hade det säkert funnits nå t bara man ansträngt sig litet. Några QSL har glatt i stället, varav på kortväg: **Radio Eco, Reyes 4409,8**. Email. V/s Gonzalo Espinoza Cortez.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

3223	8.1	15.25	AIR Shimla svårt störd av utility. QRK 2. RFK
3315	8.1	15.35	AIR Bhopal med centrala nyheter fr Delhi. QRK 2. RFK
3365	8.1	15.40	AIR Delhi med telefoniQRM. QRK 2. RFK
3390	8.1	15.40	AIR Gangtok – första gången jag hört den. Mkt svag och utilitystörningar. RFK
3880.65	15.1	1630	Voice of Iranian Revolution med kurdisk, ann. og jamming. 22222 BV
3915	8.1	15.05	BBC Singapore med WS om FA Cup. QRK 3-4.
3940	8.1	15.10	Voice of Russia World Service med engelska. Varifrån? QRK 2. RFK
4025.35	8.1	16.05	Laser Hot Hits med "Anorak Hour" och en inspelning från RNI //6210 (bäst styrka) och 6218.9. RFK
4760	8.1	15.15	AIR Port Blair i kamp med OID. QRK 3. RFK
4775	8.1	15.30	AIR Imphal med eng. centrala nyheter. QRK 2-3. RFK
4790.8	8.1	16.05	Radio Pakistan med engelska nyheter. QRK 2-3. RFK
4800	8.1	15.48	AIR Hyderabad i kamp med kinesen. QRK 2-3. RFK
4810	16.1	07.35	XERTA, Radio Transcontinental äntligen! Det skall tydligen vara urusla konds för att den skall höras! Religiös musik och "phone-in". S 2-3. BEFF
4840	16.1	00.45	AIR/Mumbai med prat om Mumbai och Brahamaputra till Q 4 DO
4845	16.1	01.10	R Cultura Onda Tropicais med ID och kärleksballader. DO
4880	8.1	15.10	AIR Lucknow med bra styrka. QRK 3. RFK
4895	8.1	15.20	AIR Kurseong // övriga indier. QRK 3. RFK
4902.7	14.1	22.30	Radio San Miguel med "Atenciones" och S 2-3. BEFF
4910	8.1	15.43	AIR Jaipur med QRK 2. RFK
4920	8.1	15.40	AIR Chennai under kinesen. RFK
4940	8.1	15.42	AIR Guwahati centralnyheter // de övriga. Stark och QRK 4. RFK
4950	8.1	15.33	AIR Srinagar också stark och stabil. QRK 3. RFK
4955	16.1	01.25	R Clube do Rondonopolis hade reportage ifrån en fotbollsmatch DO
4960	8.1	15.35	AIR Ranchi svag och störd. QRK 2. RFK
4970	8.1	15.37	AIR Shilong QRK 2-3. RFK
4990	8.1	15.38	AIR Itanagar eng nx //övriga. QRK 2. RFK
5010	8.1	15.50	AIR Thiruvananthapuram en av de starkare indierna. QRK 3-4. RFK
5025	15.1	20.00	ORTB/Parakou med svängig affemusik DO
5030	7.1	22.00	Radio Burkina Faso med franska och bra signal. QRK 4. RFK
5040	8.1	15.45	AIR Jeypore med ID "This is All India Radio, Jeypore" efter nyheterna. QRK 3. RFK
9504,9	16.1	21.55	B R. Record fotbollsref. 2 LRH
9590	20.1	2045	Radio Centrafrique , Bangui, via TDF Issoudun, fransk, masser af afrikansk musik, tydeligt ID som "Radio Centrafrique". 34444 BV
9630	16.1	07.55	Rádio Aparecida med jingle, galande tupp och tidsangivelse: "Agora 5 e 55". I övrigt sertanejasånger. 2-3 CB
9820	17.1	em	AIR/Panaji , Goa hördes med olika språk på diverse frekvenser (Även på 11740/11775/15235/ 17810). Eftersom man bett om rapporter, så skickade jag en monitoring report. Olika hörbarhet, men de flesta frekvenserna var QRM-ade och ganska svaga. BEFF
9880,0	16.1	16.00	GRN AFRTS,Grindavik ID-AFN ,sen nx USB 3 LRH
9885	7.1	10.20	Radio New Zealand med programmet "Summer nights" innehållande bl a ett inslag med skivbolagsbossen John McCreehy och intervju med en pubägare som blivit strandsatt tillsammans med 15 kunder i sin pub längs Highway 8 p g a översvämning! Trevligt program och bra styrka. QRK 3-4. RFK
11585	17.1	13.15	AIR/Delhi med ett program för lyssnare på Andamanerna. Man spelade mycket musik, pratade vindstyrkor och angav ett kontaktelefonnummer: 9810778814. S 4-5 BEFF



Bandscan from BM, Quito, Ecuador

Björn Malm, c/o Susana Garcés de Malm,
Avenida la Prensa 4408 y Vaca, Quito, Ecuador.
Rx: JRC-535, Loewe HF-150, Sangean ATS-808

tel.: (+ 593 2) 2598 470
email: bjornmalm2003@yahoo.com

Antenn: 12 m lw Ö/V, 24 m lw N/S + Lw Magnetic Balun + MFJ1025 phaser

The following stations have been uploaded during the last 14 days at <http://www.malm-ecuador.com>

Recording of **Radio Unión**, Lima (Daniel Camporini). The Peruvian station Radio Unión, Lim is still active on shortwave 6115 kHz but it's interesting to listen to this old recording from 1969 and compare their "sound". The recording is made by Daniel Camporini, Buenos Aires. Thanks Daniel!

Recording of **HCJB R. Internacional via R. Buen Pastor 4815.00 kHz**. We have had a little "problem" with an ID I heard from my unID LA on 4864.96 kHz. Yesterday evening 2330 I was listening to R. Buen Pastor, Saraguro (Ecuador) on 4815.00 kHz with very good reception and I made a perfect recording of "ALAS HCJB Radio Internacional"-ID. Many stations are buying this program service from HCJB and it's good to know this ID. As you know I'm now always using my new DSP receiver Tem-Tec RX 350D.

Recording of **5975.00 kHz Radio Guiara**, Villarica (Levi P. Iversen.) This is the first guest-recording I have received from Levi P. Iversen, Paraguay, I hope it is not the last, thank you very much Levi!

Recording of **4774.98 kHz Radio Tarma**. Listen to wonderful Peruvian music and ID.

Recording of **4680.00 Radio Nacional Espejo** (Rafael Rodriguez). Espejo has been inactive on shortwave for many years but is still on mediumwave 1310 kHz. The recording is made by Rafael Rodriguez, Colombia. I talked to the station one year ago and they said they were thinking of a return to shortwave, but I do not believe them! Thanks Rafael!

Kommentar från Henrik Klemetz angående PERU. R. La Voz de Sallique, Sallique, Cajamarca, not R. La Voz del Faique, is the unID previously reported on 6329.11.

Several pieces of evidence are needed for an ID.

1) Phonetically there is a noticeable difference between "Sallique" [sah-YEE-keh] and "Faique" [FY-keh]. On the other hand, it is hard to distinguish between S and F under noisy circumstances. 2) In addition, one has to determine how many syllables there are in the word, 3) where the word stress is, and, 4) how to render what you are hearing in writing. 5) The identification will remain uncertain unless you have the "departamento" (and/or "provincia") identified. Finally, 6) refer to a map to see if the place is big enough to sustain a radio station. (Henrik Klemetz, Mailed Jan 6, 2005, to Björn Malm for publication on his website <http://www.malm-ecuador.com> DX LISTENING DIGEST)



Saludos Cordiales desde "La Mitad del Mundo"!

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

Stationsnyheter

FIJI. Station Manager Siti Halofaki sent me an email this morning, confirming my reception of **Radio Fiji One**, on **684 kHz**. It is probably the best QSL in my 32-year long "career" of DX-ing. Radio Fiji One was heard during the KONG11 DX-pedition in Kongsfjord last October (see <http://www.kongsfjord.no>) --- also heard by HAT in Lemmenjoki the same time. We heard signals on 639, 684 and 1152 kHz with 1152 being the "cleanest" but 684 the "strongest" frequency - although under heavy attack from a monstrous KBRW Barrow AK. I and my friends Arnstein, Odd-Jorgen and Rolf spent many hours trying to get a positive ID and readable levels of this one. My logging is from October 24 at 0945 UT. Hopefully the other guys will get their veries in due time. Awesome!! From world's northernmost DXer (Bjarne Mjelde <http://www.kongsfjord.no> weblog: <http://www.mjelde.blogspot.com> Receivers: Icom IC-R75 (mod), JRC NRD-525, Collins/EAC R-390A, Icom IC-746Pro (mod), Racal RA6790/GM Antenna: K9AY, beverages Jan 13, dxing.info via DXLD) (MV är ju inget för SWB, men värt att uppmärksamma ändå. /red)

INDONESIA 3961.11, RRI Palu (presumed) at 1428-1438 UT. Mellow Indo vocal music; announcements in soft voice unreadable. Fair/poor with Ham QRM. This has been drifting slowly upwards over the past three years. A check of the logbook shows them on 3959.87 in May '02; in April '03 on 3960.32; in Feb '04 on 3960.89 kHz (John Wilkins, CO, DXplorer Jan 4/5 via BC- DX via DXLD)

PERU. Logs from Hans Johnson Naples, FL Drake R8 + longwire: **UNID 4990.9**; Thought I might have had Surinam's R. Apintie here, but it sure sounded like a Peruvian just before 1000 today Jan 13. Campo music and talk in Spanish. Same station also there at 0000, but even weaker then (Hans Johnson, FL via Björn Malm, Ecuador, DXLD)

This unID is a reactivation of **Radio Ancash**, Huaraz (Perú) - on air the last two days (Björn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Övriga radionyheter

Wellbrook ALA330S received today First impressions

Living in the United States, I have the North American power supply for the Wellbrook ALA 330S which is perfectly adequate. Naturally I cannot comment on the English power supply, but I think that if Andy Ikins thinks it's adequate, it probably is. Why not give him a telephone call (or an e-mail) and ask him directly if you should stay with the supplied adapter or if he thinks you need something "better?" I suspect he will tell you that his power supply, though inexpensive, is all you need, but you should find out for yourself. I can't comment on the quality of the mounting plate for outdoor use. I have my antenna mounted to a Radio Shack rotator which is affixed to a rafter in my attic. You might want to discuss that with him also.

I have to tell you that when I first opened my package, I too wasn't really impressed with what I saw, especially in view of the glowing reviews in PASSPORT and WRTH. It really didn't seem like much. (The Postal Service Lady who delivered it asked me if I had ordered an imported "Hula Hoop!")

It wasn't until the Wellbrook antenna was connected to my new AOR AR7030 Plus receiver that I realized what a great piece of equipment it is.

I don't know what Andy Ikins puts in his little boxes, and, frankly, I don't care. All I know is that it is the best antenna I have ever used. The summertime here is usually a "wasteland" of poor signal strength, interference, and atmospheric noise. No other antenna I have tried has worked satisfactorily. This past summer, with the Wellbrook, the listening was so good that it was easy to forget it was summer! Some people, mostly non-owners, have questioned the price charged. Even you yourself, not having yet used it, have questioned the value.

Wait until you have the antenna operating. If you're like me, you'll know that you've in fact gotten a bargain! If the price were TWICE it would still be a bargain, at least at my location, in my opinion, where nothing else works! Let us all know your impressions after you've used it for a day or so. (Best, Joe via rec.radio.shortwave)

Solar Storms 'Could Hit Satellite Communications' Sat 22 Jan 2005 By Karen Attwood, PA
Massive amounts of radiation being spewed from the sun could cause disruptions to satellite communications in the UK, scientists warned today.

Effects of solar storms have been seen on Earth with brilliant auroras spotted over parts of the country last night. Reduced mobile phone, radio and television reception or even power cuts could be some of the problems caused by the large solar flares unleashed following a colossal explosion on the sun last week.

Peter Bond, spokesman for the Royal Astronomical Society said: "Flares can affect short wave communications and satellites in the earth's orbit which could mean problems for phones, television and radio signals.

"The flares have caused a huge amount of geo-magnetic activity as the magnetic field takes a while to settle." This is the largest radiation storm since October 1989, according to experts. Solar flares occur when energy stored in magnetic fields above sunspots is suddenly released.

Communication blackouts have been reported in parts of North America and northern Europe.

The two-man crew on the International Space Station were forced to sleep away from their normal quarters when their orbit took them through the worst of the storm - exposure to high levels of radiation can lead to health problems such as cancer.

<http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=4034877> (Mike Terry via DXLD)

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS. MY ANDAMAN EXPERIENCE

Dear Friends, From mid December 2004, I was in the Andamans and returned only yesterday to Hyderabad. Although I went there for logistic support for the VU4 DXpedition conducted by our National Institute of Amateur Radio, I ended up by providing emergency communications for those affected by the earthquake and tsunami. I could not get in touch via email from there as it was not easily available.

All our 6 members who were in the capital Port Blair escaped unhurt. Soon after the catastrophe, I had the opportunity to operate Ham Radio from Port Blair and a couple of days later from Rama Krishna Pur and Hut Bay in Little Andaman Island which were badly affected. I was mainly clearing health and welfare messages as there were no telephones. We used generators and batteries which were charged by solar power. Several days before the earthquake / tsunami we had given a lecture and demo of Ham Radio for the officials of All India Radio and Doordarshan. AIR Port Blair suspended most of its programs and were giving live phone in programs where listeners could send messages to their relatives / friends. This was broadcast on MW, SW and on the newly installed 10 kW FM transmitter on 100.9 MHz. Some photos of my visit to AIR Port Blair, etc. can be seen at <http://www.geocities.com/vu2jos/vu4>. The AIR web site also gives lot of info in the following site: <http://www.allindiaradio.org/Tsunami.htm>.

(More details later) Yours sincerely, (Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, National Institute of Amateur Radio, Raj Bhavan Road, Hyderabad 500082, India, Tel: 91-40-5516 7388 Telefax: 91-40-2331 0287, EchoLink: Node No. 133507 VU2NRO, http://www.niar.org/dx_india Jan 13 via DXLD)

Internet noise threatens emergency radio

AFTER the tsunami hit Sri Lanka on 26 December, Victor Goonetilleke, head of the island's amateur radio society, delivered a short-wave radio set and two 12-volt car batteries to the prime minister's emergency headquarters in Colombo. At the same time, three of his friends drove through the devastation to Hambantota, on the hard-hit south-east coast, where they set up another battery-powered short-wave radio. For two days, while the military struggled to restore electricity supplies and phone lines, the prime minister was able to use the short-wave link to talk to staff on the ground.

Short-wave signals from Sri Lanka, the Andaman Islands and mainland India also helped to spread news of the disaster around the world. The same happened after the 9/11 attacks and last year's hurricanes in the Caribbean. When phones and mains electricity are down, making the internet unusable, short-wave radio enthusiasts are able to maintain emergency communications.

But not perhaps for much longer. Plans to deliver broadband internet signals to homes and businesses down mains electricity cables, rather than telephone lines, could cause interference that will drown out the faint signals from distant short-wave transmitters.

Power companies in the US and Europe are pressing ahead with the technology, with the aim of setting up in competition to existing phone-based services. The downside is that the packets of internet data pulsing down unshielded mains cables makes the cables behave like aerials that send short-wave interference beaming out over a wide area.

Unless interference of this kind is tightly controlled, it could spell the end for emergency short-wave communications. "A few extra decibels of interference from future networks and I would not have been able to hear the news from amateurs in Sri Lanka, India and the Andaman Islands," says Hilary Clayton-Smith of the International Amateur Radio Union's UK branch.

The threat began when the US government gave the go-ahead to broadband over power line (BPL) technology in October. And the European Commission (EC) is close to approving its own version, called power-line communications (PLC). The names are different but the technology is the same: broadband data is sent into people's homes as a high-frequency signal piggybacked on the 50 or 60-hertz mains supply.

Because the mains is a noisy environment with ever-changing patterns of interference from sockets, switches, control circuits and electric motors in appliances, the power-line data must be spread over many high-frequency carrier signals if it is to be delivered at the 5 to 10 megabits per second that these services are aiming for. The carrier frequencies used range up to 30 megahertz - which by unhappy coincidence is the radio band that travels best around the world. It is used for amateur radio, short-wave broadcasting (such as the BBC World Service and Deutsche Welle) and includes several dedicated emergency frequencies (see Graph). Because these frequencies bounce off the ionosphere, they carry long distances, which make them ideal for long-range intercontinental broadcasting.

When the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) gave the go-ahead to BPL, it ruled that at frequencies up to 80 megahertz service providers must use filters on their household equipment. These could be set by a service engineer to chop out any internet

transmission frequencies shown to be causing interference to any short-wave radio receivers nearby. The EC and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC) are trying to set similar filtering rules. But radio amateurs fear that the rules will allow the filtering to be lifted if it is having a serious effect on internet access speeds. The EC says it wants firm rules that balance "technical, social and economic" factors against the "importance" of services which suffer interference. But who's to decide what is more important, and on what grounds, the radio amateurs ask.

Michael Copps, the one FCC commissioner who opposed BPL, believes the organisation has made a rod for its own back. It is going to have to "work hard to monitor, investigate and take quick action" over any power-line internet interference to radio amateurs and others, he says.

Some technical fixes may be in the works though (see "Aiming high"). The BBC, for instance, is developing a PLC modem that makes use of the fact that the short-wave frequencies for broadcast radio change throughout the day, as ionospheric conditions dictate. The BBC modem detects which frequency bands are in use at any one time - and filters them out. Such technology is not part of any PLC or BPL system currently in trials, however. From issue 2482 of New Scientist magazine, 15 January 005, page 26 Aiming high Corridor Systems of Santa Rosa, California, thinks it has hit on a way to set up an interference-free power-line internet service. It plans to use overhead power lines to carry data at frequencies between 800 megahertz and 10 gigahertz, way above the amateur radio and conventional power-line communications band and, which it will send in an outer power conductor.

Thanks to the "surface wave" effect, in which signals launched straight down a cable tend to stay inside the cable, near the surface, Corridor's system will not generate radio waves that might interfere with mobile phones at these frequencies. For the final link into subscribers' homes they will use very low-power radio transmitters, like those used for Wi-Fi hotspots, which will be fixed to the nearest power cable.

Source - <http://www.newscientist.com/channel/info-tech/mg18524827.000> (Ken Kopp via DXLD)

The 2005 release of Salvo Micciche's Dx Handbook is now available.

To download the latest release, follow the "Dx Handbook" link from the main page at <http://www.radioascolto.org>. A password and userid are needed and can be obtained for free at richiestahandbook@radioascolto.org (Renato Bruni, <http://www.radioascolto.org> via HCDX)

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS. UCF PROFESSOR SURVIVES, RELAYS MESSAGES TO WORLD ---

By Rich McKay, Sentinel Staff Writer, January 1, 2005 <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/orl-asectsunamiham01010105jan01.1.6937775.print.story?coll=orl-news-headlines>

The earthquake hit with the popping of concrete, screeching of twisting metal and the thudding sounds of bottles, books and bits of plaster falling from the shelves and walls of Charles Harpole's hotel room.

"I knew that I'd either be dead in a few seconds because the building would crash down or I'd get out and be fine," the vacationing University of Central Florida professor said early Friday. "There was that sense of finality."

Harpole and other members of a ham-radio club were just north of the quake's epicenter on the picturesque Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal between India and Thailand.

It was 6:30 a.m. Sunday, when Harpole was shaken from his bed to discover the walls of his room shaking and the floor turned to jelly.

"I was on the fifth floor, and it was difficult to walk because the floor was shifting. It was either too high or too low," he said in a telephone interview from the home of his wife's family in Samut Sakhon, Thailand.

Harpole said he knew the safest place to be was beneath a doorway, so he made his way to the bathroom doorway and held on for what seemed like six or seven minutes of shaking in the 9.0-magnitude earthquake. When things finally settled, Harpole got dressed and fled the building, discovering to his joy that everyone in his party has escaped uninjured.

Because their hotel was on a high mountain ridge, Harpole said, it wasn't affected by the tsunami. But as he and his team realized the scope of the disaster, they set up their radio equipment and started relaying messages.

For about 20 hours, the ham operators -- sometimes using car batteries to run their radios -- were the main link between the remote Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the outside world, relaying information about survivors to anxious relatives and friends.

And with most telephone lines down and cell phones scarce, the ham-radio club's efforts proved invaluable as the scope of the disaster increased day after day.

The first messages were to let people on the Indian mainland know that those on the island were safe and unharmed. A young waiter at Harpole's hotel asked them to get word to his mother in Hyderabad, India, that he was alive and well.

"We found a ham-radio operator on the mainland, gave the mother's telephone number," Harpole said. Within five minutes a ham operator in Hyderabad called the waiter's mother and relayed the message. "He told us the mother was crying with joy," he said.

Harpole's group cheered and clapped. Word spread quickly across the island, and their work went on for hours and hours.

When Indian government officials learned of the hamradio operators, they relayed messages for official requests for medicines, water and blankets. Several of the radio operators headed south to Nicobar. Harpole decided it was time for him to head to Thailand for a reunion with his wife and her family who were safely inland.

"I was concerned, that this being an Indian operation and here I was this American, I should step aside," he said. At his in-laws' house, he had his own radio equipment and has been relaying messages throughout Thailand, India and Sri Lanka.

"People are asking, 'Can you find so-and-so,' and so forth," he said. Harpole, an amateur-radio enthusiast since he was 14, had been working for years with fellow enthusiasts in India to get permission to set up a station on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which consist of 572 islands, big and small, inhabited and uninhabited.

Amateur-radio buffs collect calls from geographic zones, trying to reach remote parts of the world and put pins in maps to mark the locations. But because of the Indian government's concern for security, a swath of the globe had been off-limits until Harpole and his friends persuaded the leaders to lift the ban. About two weeks ago, Harpole and his friends arrived in the harbor town of Port Blair to set up the first ham-radio station and lounge on the tropical, white, sandy beaches. It was an idyllic holiday until the quake hit.

Harpole, who founded the film program at UCF, expects to be back in Orlando soon. He said that the devastation throughout the Indian Ocean rim is hard to comprehend. The full toll may never be known.

That's because many rural island and coastal villages never had a census, and "for some of those places, there isn't anyone left alive to say how many people had lived there," he said.

"Many islands were washed completely over from one side to the other. I've seen horrible, horrible destruction," Harpole said. "It's shocking beyond the telling. Piles of cars, broken buildings and boats where there used to be towns and people. The stories from people being hit by the wave -- so unexpected. People having coffee, and then they're gone."

Christopher Sherman of the Sentinel staff contributed to this report. Copyright (c) 2004, Orlando Sentinel (via Mike Cooper, DXLD)

Russia protests radio interference

Moscow, Russia, Dec. 29 (UPI) Russian radio officials have accused Ukraine of deliberately blocking their radio broadcasts, Interfax news agency reported Wednesday. Top executives of the Voice of Russia Radio have said they are not satisfied with the reasons they have been given for the blocking of their broadcasts during the Ukrainian presidential election campaign and they are determined to get to the bottom of it, Interfax said.

"The leadership of the Russian State Radio Company Voice of Russia is not satisfied with the explanations given by the Ukrainian Radio and Television Broadcasting Concern about the instances of interference in the reception of its broadcasts in Kiev and is sending a corresponding complaint to it," the Voice of Russia said in a statement.

A spokesman for the Russian Chief Radio Frequency Center said in the statement there was "documented evidence of the unauthorized artificial interference in the working frequency of the voice of Russia during the election campaign in Ukraine."

<http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20041229-030215-9661r.htm> (Mike Terry via DXLD)

NRD545 Remote Control application

Hello all, I just put a Free version of my NRD545 Remote Control application on my web Site. It has the B04 HFCC database as it's main database. Anyone who wants to download it can if they go to the following link:

<http://www.orchidcitysoftware.com/IMAGE41.HTML>

Here's your chance to try out a remote program on your NRD545 if you haven't already. It's free to use, so hope you get a chance to try it. I wrote this application and it's a basic version of my comprehensive Remote Program for the NRD545.

(Chuck Bolland, ka4prf@us-it.net Clewiston Florida via HCDX)

Korea - Making Radio Waves by Andrei Lankov, 12-22-2004

If you, our reader, fiddle about with the tuning of your radio set, sooner or later a militant march-like music will fill your room.

This indicates that you have come across a North Korean radio broadcast - they can be easily received in the Seoul area. The history of North Korean broadcasting began in October 1945, with what was from 1946 called Radio Pyongyang. In 1948 it was renamed the Korean Central Broadcasting Station or KCBS. Up to this day the station remains a mainstay of the North Korean domestic broadcasting media.

North Korean broadcasting produces a rather bizarre impression on a foreigner (or, for that matter, on a South Korean). In the North Korean broadcast music alternates with short information blocks. Every hour begins with the news, largely identical to that published by Rodong sinmun. Then there are several minutes of marches or songs about Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il, or other lofty political subjects. Those songs are followed by a short 5-10 minute talk - either a commentary on the internal situation, or on South Korea, or on the philosophy of *juche*. Often, articles from Rodong sinmun are also broadcast on radio. The intonation of the announcers is always peculiarly exaggerated, not to say hysterical.

The South Korean scholars often make a painstaking analysis of the content of North Korean programming. According to a recent estimate, in 2000 the KCBS programming spent 34.2 percent of its time praising Kim Jong Il or Kim Il-sung, 28.8 percent encouraging the workers to toil even harder, 17.4 percent explaining and promoting the *juche* ideology, and 12.0 percent telling stories about the suffering of the South Korean "masses" and schemes of the "Seoul puppets".

Most programs are as boring as articles from Rodong sinmun, even for the North Koreans who are deprived of better food for thought. However, there are some programs that target specific audiences, like "Soldiers Hour" or "Young Pioneers Hour", and they enjoy some popularity within their target audience. KCBS also broadcasts programs in foreign languages - Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, and Spanish. Their content is, once again, poorly presented propaganda. Alas, the North Koreans have been very inept in their PR activity in the West. The problem is not the message: after all we have seen how very unpleasant regimes managed to win the heart-felt support of the Western public (or at least its Right or Left-inclined sectors). The problem is the production, and the concomitant blatant inability to understand the mindset of foreign audiences.

KCBS broadcasts some 22 hours a day from its headquarters in the Moranbong district of Pyongyang. The owners of the standard North Korean radio sets can listen to KCBS alone, since their contraptions lack tuning and are fixed on the wavelength of this official broadcast. This means that until the recent influx of small transistor radios, smuggled in from China, the North Koreans were stuck with KCBS.

However, KCBS is not the only battleship in North Korea's broadcast system fleet. There are a number of others, but these target largely or exclusively the South. First of all, I should mention Radio Pyongyang. It was established in 1967 as the "Second KCBS" and acquired its present name in 1972. It broadcasts programs that are somehow adjusted to the tastes of the South Korean audience, as well as to overseas Koreans. It also has an FM branch whose transmitters target the northern part of South Korea. The "FM Radio Pyongyang" broadcasts musical programs, with an emphasis on classical music. It mixes that with radio dramas and book readings that eulogize the North and criticize the South. It cannot normally be heard in the North, and its intended audience are younger South Koreans.

Radio Pyongyang does not make a secret of whom it represents. However, the North is engaged in "black propaganda" as well. The North-based "Voice of National Salvation" declares itself to be a clandestine station secretly broadcasting from South Korean territory, and managed by the local leftist underground. I do not know whether anybody is silly enough to believe this improbable statement, but it is how the "Voice of National Salvation" describes itself. It actually broadcast from Haeju and employs a number of South Korean announcers and editors who have defected to the North, or who were kidnapped by the North Koreans (the difference in some instances between abduction and defection is hardly clear-cut).

It is unlikely that the efforts of the "Voice" are especially successful. However, it is difficult to deny that the Southern perception of the North has changed greatly over the last decade. But that is another story!

<http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/opinion/200412/kt2004122218564254140.htm> Mike Terry via HCDX

Maldivé news site

US media have barely mentioned Maldives as one of the countries hit, and I have yet to see any video from there, but there is a great deal of news about this at <http://www.e-maldives.com/> (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)