

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1559. 20 mars 2005.

Deadline nästa nr: 1/4 2005 (E mail 3/4 kl. 0900 SNT)

Glöm inte att anmäla er till årets konvent 23-24 april!

All snö har nu töat bort och det är extremt vått i markerna.

Vårbruket i Skåne blir minst 14 dagar senare än vanligt, vilket gör bönderna riktigt nervösa.

I detta nummer kan vi läsa att R-75 och R8 inte längre skall tillverkas. Det innebär att snart finns det inte längre någon nytillverkning av annat än amatörgrejor. Vi kan också läsa att tom BBC kommer att skära ner i sin utlandsverksamhet.

Vi får väl se vad som händer framledes.

Förmodligen kommer en del av dessa frågor upp på konventet då både SW- och ARC verksamheten måste följa med i utvecklingen.

Kan för övrigt berätta att det är endast 4 medlemmar som nu erhåller SWB per post!

Keep on

=====

R e d a k t i o n :

*Thomas Nilsson
Mardalsv. 372
262 93 Ängelholm*

Tel: 0431-27054

E-mail:

thomas.nilsson@sverige.net
thomas@mafa.se

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).

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Rolf Wikström: Länge sen jag hörde av mig. Tyvärr finns det inte mycket att hämta på kortvågen mot LA numera så de eventuella tips man kan ge blir bara upprepningar på de stationer som vandrat runt på internet en längre tid. Kommer dock att värma pytsen nu i vår och sommar, kanske kan någon ny bolivian dyka upp som man kan få rapport på innan internethysterin tagit överhanden.

Vill tillönska alla medlemmar en Glad Påsk! Även om snön just nu vräker ner så, gott folk, snart är det vår!

Jan Edh: Jag har fått igång bredband i helgen och det ser ut som om det ska kunna funka. Två datorer, en Mac och en PC tycks komma bra sams med samma router.

Jag har därmed också en annan emailadress, men jag föredrar att använda den gamla som mottagaradress. Detta som jag (inom kort) kommer att ha tillgång till den både på jobbet och hemma (som tidigare), medan jag inte kan läsa hemadressen på jobbet. jan.edh@ht.se är alltså den jag "alltid" kan läsa...

Vi var fyra personer, Ronny, Rolf, Dan och jag, ute i torpet på lördagsnatten 12-13/3. Ronny hela veckoslutet för övrigt. Men inte hjälpte det. Konditionerna var mycket klena. Kortvågen närmast makalöst usel. Ett par indoneser och Grönland gick bra på kvällen tillsammans med afrikanerna. Knappt läsbar signal ens på 4985 säger allt om LA. På morgonen var också kortvågen väldigt tam men Verdad gick förhållandevis bra. På mellanvågen var det Venezuela och Puerto Rico för nästan hela slanten.

18/3: otroligt grann om än kall morgon. Men inte liknar det vårdagsjämningstider. Sannolikt blir det inget mer till loggen, men ett QSL kan jag glädja mig över: **Radio Parinacota, Putre 6010.** Email. V/S Tomislav Simunovic Gran, Director.

Lars Skoglund: Har fått ytterligare ett kortvågs-QSL sedan sist nämligen **BBC Eastern Relay Station/Aseela Oman 7205** med brev direkt från Oman. V/S var Dave Batty, Resident Engineer. Adressen är VT Merlin Communications & Partners LLC, P.O. Box 40, Al Ashkarah PC 422, Oman.

Christer Brunström: RdP Internacional 9615 med brev, kort, vykort, dekal + CD-skiva med portugisisk musik som svar på en rapport på en testsändning. Det här var ett exempel på att jag som DXare (tillsammans med många andra) faktiskt genom min rapportering kunde ge RdP den information de önskade.

Who was the teenager that invented one of the most famous radio stations ever?

NIBI-NIBI [and non]. Refresh my memory, please. Who was the teenager that invented one of the most famous radio stations ever? And if you wanted to tell the whole story to entertain us, that would be all right too (Chuck Hutton, NRC-AM via DXLD)

I did an article that appeared in the NASWA bulletin some 30 years or more ago, back after NASWA went offset, so it must have been in the early '70s. I don't have a copy of that article now, but I do remember most of the details.

There were two issues with the kid whose report on Nibi-Nibi first saw the light of day in the printed Deutsche Welle DX bulletin. Nibi-Nibi was one of several fictitious stations shown on what actually was a clever satire for the reports Paul (Kary) Karagianis did anonymously as "Middle East Correspondent" when he was an FBIS monitor on Cyprus. The author used a code that fit the D-W format DED5, and called himself Southern California Correspondent. Horst A.C. Krieger, DWDXB editor, picked up the Nibi Nibi report and played it straight, as if it were real.

In 1958 after I'd mustered out of the service and took the West Coast bus trip, primarily to meet DX'ers, I stopped in Redlands, Calif. to

visit Rolan Kunkel, who was western SWBC editor for the old Universal Radio DX Club out of Hayward, Calif. (I was eastern editor.) Kunkel had the full satirical list of fictitious stations from "Southern California Correspondent" and the typewriter, format and paper matched that of a young San Diego DX'er who contributed to the URDXC bulletin. This San Diego DX'er, under his own name, claimed a great number of exotic BCB DX verifications, including 10 kw Bahrein on 610 kHz.

When I visited his home, he showed me his verification collection, and in many of the verie letters

indicated the verification had come after a follow-up letter to stations who said they never received his original report. (A technique we later were to find had been used by

one of the more famous BCB DX'ers.) A couple of the verifications indicated the stations were upset at the kid's angry tone in the follow-up letters, and I recall a 1 kw. Japanese station on 1380 khz which said, in essence, "This verifies your report on JO-- ... It's too bad you didn't send any program details so we could check them with our log."

The kid denied having sent the Nibi-Nibi report, which surprised me, because it was, as I said, clever and harmless satire. Later, Krieger turned over the original copy and a copy of one of the reports the kid had sent under his own name to German police, and they verified that it was the same typewriter and the same paper.

The San Diego kid was never a member of NRC or IRCA ... but one NRC member got hooked on the Nibi-Nibi report, claiming to have heard the BCB station (whose interval signal, if I recall correctly, was "the sound of falling Coconuts") during an eclipse of the sun. I also wrote a treatise for DX News called, I seem to recall, "The Value of the Verification," that for quite a while was part of the NRC publication file. In it, I wrote about ways that a clever "DX'er" could use printed material and fabricate reports that could convince a station (that wanted to be nice to its correspondents) to send a QSL- card or letter. Some stations, I know, QSL'd automatically. I called it collecting QSLs without going through the middle-man process of hearing the station.

Nibi-Nibi should have been harmless fun ... Krieger should not have published it as "real." But the kid's other activities were questionable.

Because he was a kid and it was nearly 50 years ago, I'd prefer not to identify him by name ... I have not seen his name in DX circles since 1958 ... and it was a common enough name that Switchboard.com says there are 100+ listings for the name, including four with the same middle initial.

It is an interesting and entertaining story, and I am not quite comfortable with having possibly been a part of making a mountain out of a molehill (John Callarman, Krum TX, NRC-AM via DXLD)

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

3815U	12.3	2110	Grönland - ett långt sjök modern jazz före "Fröken Ur". QSA 3-4. JE
4052,5	13.3	0530	Radio Verdad med engelsk religiös musik. QSA 3. JE
4790	12.3	2035	RRI FakFak QSA 3 och bra fart på musiken när inte mycket annat (även Serui 4605 och Makassar 4750 senare) gick. JE
5005	19.3	2110	Radio Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial , Bata med fina västafrikanska tongångar. 2-3 CB
5024,95ca	12.3	2245	Tent Radio Quillabamba . För svårt störd av Rebelde, men kan väl knappast vara annat. Men märkligt nog inga vettiga LA-signaler i övrigt. Santa Monica 4965 svag och ett par brassar knappt läsbar var allt det övriga! JE
5025	12.3	2245	Radio Rebelde behöver inga konditioner. QSA 3 och politik. QSA 4 och fin musik på morgonen. JE
5910	13.3	0635	La Voz de tu Conciencia (och inte Marfil) och nu också på 5910 (tidigare 5910,47). QSA 2 bara. JE
5910U	11.3	0400	Radio Marfil Stereo ej // 6010. Svår att ställa in, fick QRGn till 5910,06. Lätt LA-mx och många IDs. QSA 3 och rent runtom. WIK
11690	14.3	0530	Radio Okapi med franska om République Démocratique du Congo. Radio Okapi-jinglar. Tämmligen stark signal så säkert inte de 10 kW som används för kortvåg från Kinshasa. Förmodligen en relä från något land utanför Congo. 3 CB
11815	17.3	0740	Rádio Brasil Central med livligt morgonprogram. 3 CB
11995	19.3	1845	SWRadio Africa (förmodligen via Ascension) - mot slutet av sändningen läste man upp hela schemat och hoppades att lyssnarna i Zimbabwe hade kunnat höra programmen trots regimens försök att störa ut dem. 4-5 CB
12000	13.3	1145	Radio Habana Cuba med nyhetsprogrammet Mundo 7. Sedan gick man över till Andar La Habana. 2-3 CB
12015	19.3	1500	Voice of Mongolia hördes under några sekunder innan Voice of Korea i Pyongyang inledde en sändning på EE med mycket stark signal. CB
12085	19.3	1000	Voice of Mongolia berättade bl.a. att antalet kameler i landet har minskat drastiskt under senare år. 3 CB
15725	19.3	1000	IRRS med en testsändning. Ett trevligt program från Skottland med säckpipemusik. 4 CB
15748	17.3	1415	Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. med Jukebox, ett önskeprogram med fin något äldre musik. Sedan kom Pop Club kl. 1430 från The Commercial Service (vilken jag trodde hade ändrats till All Asia Service - kanske rör det sig om gamla inspelningar??). 3-4 CB



Bandscan from BM, Quito, Ecuador

Björn Malm, c/o Susana Garcés de Malm,

tel.: (+ 593 2) 2598 470

Avenida la Prensa 4408 y Vaca, Quito, Ecuador.

email: bjornmalm2003@yahoo.com

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

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

Recording of **Radio Sallique**, Sallique, Jaén, Cajamarca (Perú). With this short audioclip I want to close down this long time problem "6329.11 kHz unID. Peruvian". The name of the station is Radio Sallique transmitting from Departamento Cajamarca, Provincia Jaén, Distrito Sallique. The station is transmitting very irregular and the sound quality is not good but has been active the last 4-5 days with close down around 0130 UTC. The recording is from this evening thursday. Note: this is my personal opinion, if you do not agree - tell me! Thanks to Alfredo Cañote, Henrik Klemetz and Rafael Rodriguez for help.

Recording of **6054.28 Radio Juan XXIII**, San Ignacio de Velasco.

Recording of **4949.96 I.D.L. Radio**, Last night 0100 UTC I heard a station on 4949.96 kHz where I never have logged a LA station before. The ID was "I.D.L. Radio". The ID on my recording is very clear. Now, "what is this"? I want you to tell me and if you have the answer please send me a mail. The answer will be published on next edition of "Voces de América Latina" together with another recording from the same occasion.

Country: Peru. Name of program: Ideeleradio, or Ideele Radio See: <http://www.ideeleradio.org.pe>. The program is produced in Lima. Under "Red Nacional" a lot of relaying stations are mentioned. Puerto Maldonado on the move? /Henrik Klemetz

Recording of **4949.96 R. Madre de Dios**, Puerto Maldonado. I first thought it was a new station with name "I.D.L. Radio" but after listening a while I heard the recorded ID "Radio Madre de Dios". This station has been for several years on the same split 4950.16 +- 1 Hz so I was not at first thinking of them. The Swedish DXer Gert Nilsson was listening to "I.D.L. Radio" the same evening as I did. He, and Glenn Hauser, was close but Henrik Klemetz was closer! Thanks all for replies. So listen to Radio Madre de Dios with a program called "I.D.L. Radio" from El Instituto de Defensa Legal.

Recording of **3172.69 Radio Municipal**, Panao. Listen to my recording and enjoy the two photos Señor Pablo Albornoz rojas, working at Radio Municipal, has sent to me.

Recording of **6020.29 unID Brazilian station**, Sao Paulo (Relay from Radio Victoria, Lima). I have seen some reports of an unID Brazilian station on 6020 kHz but here in Quito without any trace. First I thought it could be some confusion with Radio Victoria and their Brazilian preachers with Spanish/Brazilian accent.

I now have exactly what I was looking for: recording of Radio Victoria with relay transmission of a Brazilian station in the Sao Paulo area. This is Brazilian/Portuguese and there is an ID for a station in the Sao Paulo area - perhaps not a local ID but ID for some "red". What I heard was a program from the church "Igreja Pentecostal Deus é Amor", Sao Paulo. Anyone knows the name of this Brazilian station?



Saludos Cordiales desde "La Mitad del Mundo"!

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

Stationsnyheter

CONGO 11690, 0419-, **Radio Okapi** Mar 13 Musical 'Okapi' by YL at exactly 04:19:30. S9 to S9 + 10 signal. I'm really having trouble believing this is only 10kw. Another ID at 04:21:45. 'Okapi', not 'Radio Okapi'. In vernacular as I listen. Mentions of 'democrasiya', 'Congo'. Best by far of the last few days I've listened. Are we sure this isn't from a 100+kw transmitter? ?Kigala, ?Meyerton, ?Madagascar. 'Okapi' again at 04:26:15 (Salmaniw, Victoria, BC, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Now's the time to pick up this elusive station (at least for us in North America!). I agree too, guys. Even at 0540 UTC, the signal is still much stronger here than a 10kw African ought to be. Walt, I see that Bernd Trutenau replied to your logging and says that a reliable source places this transmitter at Meyerton, South Africa. 73, (Guy Atkins, Puyallup, WA USA, HCDX via DXLD)

DJIBOUTI 4780, 0417-0422, **RTD Djibouti** Mar 19 Tentative. I didn't learn of this reactivated outlet until past 0400 tonight, but I presume it was Djibouti putting in a weak signal anyway, more than one hour past RTD sunrise. Male announcer in African-sounding language, a brief bit of music, and that was it. Signal quickly dropped into the noise by 0420. Some swisher (CODAR) interference. Thanks to Hallmann via Bueschel for tip. (Atkins-WA via HCDX)

GREENLAND. 3815, Kalaalit Nunaata Radioa, Tasiilaq, 2120-2215, Mar 04, there was a signal rising above the local noise. I could not ID the language for sure, but it did not sound in Danish then - but did after 2200. I hoped KNR might carry the DR news at 2200 but it was not // 243, and 1062 was also different. The 3815 signal must have been at least 4 S points when at its best, and would have been a useful signal but for the local racket. I also tried for the Greenland MW station using 650, but there was no propagation. I am told by a listener to Beacons that stations in Greenland as well as Newfoundland and Nova Scotia - as well as one in Quebec - have been logged after around 2130 on frequencies between 260 and 400 kHz. So, it could be that conditions are "right" for that area currently (Noel Green, Blackpool, England, DSWCI DX Window March 9 via DXLD)

JAPAN. 3373.5(U), NHK Osaka, Mar 6, 1058-1120, traditional Japanese song, ToH time clicks (3+1), clear ``NHK`` ID, into talking in Japanese, assume Radio 2 programming, fair-poor (Ron Howard, Monterey, CA, NRD545, with T2FD antenna, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

PAPUA: Wantok Radio Light (PNG) Status. I recently asked Joe Emert for another update on the planned Wantok Radio Light project (7120 kHz) in Papua New Guinea; they are evidently behind schedule as many new radio station operations are. The target date is now in the period from late May to early June (prior target was early March). Mr. Emert shared the following excerpt from the calendar of an HCJB engineer who is overseeing the installation: "May 5-28 Shortwave team from Elkhart is here to install and commission the Shortwave.

May 29-June 10 I travel to Rabaul, Lae, Goroka, and Lalibu to install the first remote FM transmitters. This schedule is predicated on the understanding that two of these sites have multiplexers and we won't need to install antennas.

Jun 11 Celebration of the commencement of shortwave and the first FM stations. This will be held in the highlands. More details are pending but I wanted you to know so you can mark your calendars that this is the plan at this time."

Guy Atkins Puyallup, WA USA via HCDX

SOMALIA [non]. A new target station was added to the TDP online schedule: <http://www.airtime.be/schedule.html> **Radio Horyaal** 1730-1800 12140 AM mtwt.ss, Somali Africa.

The website <http://www.halganews.com> quotes a different frequency, 12130: waxaa la idin ogaysiinayaa in uu hawada soo galay radio cusub oo la magac baxay Radio Horyaal : Codka Shacabka Somaliland Radio Horyaal waa Radio Madax banaan oo laga dhagaysan karo Dalalka Geeska Afrika ilaa Somaliland, Somaliya , Jabuuti, Etopia, Uganda, Tansaniya Eleteriya, iyo gabi ahaanba Geeska Afrika sidoo kale Sudan iyo wadamadda Khaliijka iyo Sacuudi Arabia. Laga bilaabo 21 March 2005, Horyaal waxa ay hawada soo geli doontaa habeen walba (Habeenka Jimcaha ah ee Sabtidu soo galayso mooyaane). Saacadda Somaliland markay tahay 8:30 ilaa 9:00 habeenimo. Waxana laga dhegaysan karaa mawjadda shortwave ka ee 12130 KHz. Iyo Shabakada Wararka Halganews Cinwaankeeduna <http://www.halganews.com> Ha moogaan idaacadda xorta ah ee Horyaal: Codka Shacabka Somaliland oo kuu haysa barnaamijyo iyo madadaalo XIISO iyo TAYO LEH. Bernd Trutenau-LTU via HCDX

Övriga radionyheter

"Short wave listening around the world is declining.

The downward trend is accelerating: the global short wave audience for BBC World Service has dropped from 122 million in 1996 to 97 million in 2003.

Like other international broadcasters, BBC World Service has been adjusting its short wave provisions in line with global demand changes.

Alternative ways to listen

At the same time BBC World Service has been investing in new delivery methods, all with the improved audibility now preferred by audiences, such as FM, cable, satellite and online.

BBC World Service is committed to making the best use of the money it receives from the government and has had considerable success in attracting audiences to these new methods of delivery; more than 50 million are using these and the numbers are growing fast.

Separately, online usage has grown from three million page impressions every month in late 1998 to almost 300 million by 2004, which is equivalent to 18 million unique users.

Alongside in-depth news and information, programmes are available streamed both live and on demand at the convenience of the listener.

There are now more ways to listen to BBC World Service broadcasts than ever before. To check for availability in your region please click here." http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/us/050318_short_wave.shtml (Mike Terry via HCDX)

The sales figure for shortwave radios in the US alone is UP each and every one of the past seven years. The number being manufactured in and pumped out of China continues to go up almost exponentially.

The BBC would like everyone to believe that sw listening is down, so it uses (cleverly, but dishonestly) figures for *its* shortwave audience. Well, if you've eliminated both North America and Australasia from your shortwave coverage area (two primary English language regions of the globe) and reduced the hours you cover the other areas with shortwave, of course your audience figures for shortwave will go down. It's a self-serving and self-fulfilling prophecy.

Next week on "Write On", Dilly Barlow will read a raft of letters from irate listeners once again. The BBC spokesman will intone (once again) that these are really a minority of listeners either too old, out of touch, unimportant or otherwise insignificant to matter. (Of course, he'll say it all much nicer that.)

What the "official" BBC won't tell you is that, internally, management was surprised by the volume, level and depth of protest the BBC received the last time they did this. But its management team is committed--in "non-crisis" regions--to reducing distribution costs by de-emphasizing high cost methods (like shortwave) and transferring an increasing amount of those costs to the listener.

The BBC claims that its audience accessing its broadcasts by means other than shortwave is increasing. As far as it goes, that's true--but not to the extent claimed. The BBC's figures don't differentiate between a listener who accesses its broadcasts for a few minutes a week and one who listens for hours a day. It also tends to fudge figures reflecting availability by equating overnight broadcasts via local FM with prime time hours on local radio and an occasional five minute newscast with the broader info/entertainment service that characterizes (or characterized) its shortwave service.

It is interesting to observe that, as the BBC reduces global access to its broadcasts, China Radio International is dramatically increasing such access by actively embracing ALL distribution methods, including shortwave. Shortwave hours and relays targeting NA by CRI are up just as dramatically as BBC hours are down. And CRI's use of the internet, satellite (including WRN on Sirius Satellite Radio) and local (FM) placement also has increased. There is even talk that CRI is planning to inaugurate a 24 hour English language news service in direct competition to the BBC.

I'm sure the rather smug management at Bush House will chuckle at all this and shrug it off. But I wouldn't be surprised if, while the BBC is dithering and dicing up audiences, CRI begins to eat the BBC's lunch in North America. Call it "Old Europe Makes Way for New Asia". While the BBC steadily abandons and discards the public service broadcasting principles it historically created, perfected and nurtured, CRI seems to--more and more--be embracing those very principles.

(John Figliozzi, Halfmoon, NY, via HCDX)

Medium Wave Circle CD

The Medium Wave Circle is pleased to announce the release of its latest archive CD. Included are more than 100 audio clips of DX catches heard in the UK, mostly on beverage aerials, plus audio from numerous other stations including the 1960's offshore pirates Radios London and City. There are also various video clips, 25+ useful maps, station lists such as the Pacific Asian list, EuroAfrican list etc, etc. Also included are 24 receiver manuals and 50+ receiver reviews from Radio Netherlands. There are also various other features too numerous to list in detail. Included for the first time are the 4 MWC All Time DX lists of MW stations heard in the UK since 1953. There are more than 2000 stations listed from all around the world. In addition to all the above, there are also 10 issues of our magazine Medium Wave News in PDF format from April 2002 - March 2003, plus 10 issues from April 2004 - March 2005.

There are many hours of listening, reading and watching on this CD. The cost is £5 in the UK, 10 Euros to Europe and US\$11 anywhere else in the world. Prices include postage & packing. To order the CD, send your money to MWC, 59 Moat Lane, Luton LU3 1UU, England. Alternatively, we accept PayPal payments from outside the UK. The payment should be sent to contact@mwcircle.org If you have any queries about the CD, please contact us at the address above or via treasurer@mwcircle.org (via HCDX)

Where is John Thorpe?

Richard Hillier at AOR-UK told me a couple years ago that John Thorpe had long since moved most of his electronics design efforts into other projects, like high-end audiophile stereo equipment.

There *was* the "JT-2000" all-DSP receiver planned at AOR, a commercial-grade "black box" rig which John Thorpe was supposed to design. As recently as 2004, AOR-UK claimed it was still going to happen, but I've lost any hope in this one appearing on the market. I think a prototype was displayed at Dayton 2000.

Will the real John Thorpe please stand up and take a bow? Your HF-series Lowe receivers and AOR AR7030 receiver will be forever remembered and respected in radio history. (Guy Atkins, USA via rec.radio.shortwve)

Fantastic tuning knobs

If you have the R8B, then you and it deserve more than that cheap tuning knob. I sell a fantastic tuning knob that looks great on the R8B and many other receivers. go to my web site to check it out. <http://home.comcast.net/~maghakian> (73's, mike maghakian, maghakian@comcast.net via rec.radio.shortwave)

AOR 7030 reviewed side by side with Drake R8A/B

There is still a lot of interest in these two radio's, so my side by side review of them is still relevant today. See <http://dobe.com/wts/funk/AOR7030vR8A.html> (John Plimmer, South Africa via rec.radio.shortwave)

Icom has discontinued the R75

Availability Note: Icom has discontinued the R75. No replacement is currently planned. Universal Radio obtained a quantity of this model before it was discontinued. We are pleased to be able continue to offer this excellent radio. <http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/comrxvr/0175.html> (dxAce, Michigan, USA via rec.radio.shortwave)

DRAKE R8B [and others?] DISCONTINUED

Rumours have been that Drake was discontinuing the R8B. Today, Universal has it as so in the description of the R8B: <http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/comrxvr/0082.html>, "Drake has discontinued the R8B. No replacement is currently planned. Universal Radio has a very small quantity left in stock". (Steve Lare, Holland, MI, USA, March 14, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

The word from another SWL e-group is that the Drake R8B and ICOM IC- R75 have both been discontinued. Universal Radio's website confirms this for the R8B (Harold Sellers, Ont., March 14, ODXA via DXLD)

R8B listed on the Drake web site as "limited availability, consult your Drake dealer today". Used to be a link for direct sales. Also missing, any indication of the existence of the Satellit 800 which used to be sold through the web site (Jay Heyl, NRC-AM via DXLD)

Help to get a QSL card/letter verification of my reception report to Radio Nepal

Ezeani Emmanuel wrote: Dear Thomas Roth, I found your email address in Hardcore Dx digest which I also subscribe to. Please since you are in Nepal I was wondering if you can help me get a QSL card/letter verification of my reception report to Radio Nepal. They have refused to reply all my previous letters to them. Emmanuel Ezeani

Hi Emmanuel and group, I cc this to the list for a certain reason. Over the years I've had various requests for help with getting QSLs from Radio Nepal. Now, here's the why I, unfortunately, cannot help in this respect:

Consider the Kingdom of Nepal for a few minutes. Most folks don't even know where Nepal is. Now, of course DXers do!!! Nepal is one of the most beautiful but also most poorest countries in the world and has been so for many many years. The sole reason Nepal keeps a shortwave tx, and a few medium wave ones, on the air is simply because it's the only means to keep the remoter parts of the country (of which there are many) supplied with news, or at least with what the government in Kathmandu wants them to know.

Since about 10 years we have a so-called 'Maoist Revolution' going on here that has turned outright nasty and bloody in the last 5 years. Just very recently the King threw the very corrupt and very incompetent 'elected' government out (and rightly so!!!) and took things into his own hands. These are news which you might or might not have heard. It goes without saying that, with all the other stuff going on in the world, this tiny and insignificant himalayan kingdom is not very high on the radar of international newscasters...

Naturally, at a very crucial time like this, during which the continued flow of foreign aid would be so important, big donors like the almighty U.S. of A. and the British, the IMF and WTO and others withhold desperately needed aid because they see their 'holy cow democracy' endangered. As if it had ever worked here in the first place!!! They, even their ambassadors who never leave their secure embassies and armor plated cars, haven't the slightest clue what's going on on the ground here but have the audacity to tell people here what they have to do, or else...

Now to the staff of Radio Nepal. They are chronically overworked and grossly underpaid people who know nothing beyond their immediate duties. They don't understand about the SWL hobby or DXing or that people even have time for hobbies!!! And in a country in which the station manager of the national radio station (monthly income about 10.000 NRs = less than 150 \$) has to drive taxi at night in order to put food on his family's table or pay school fees for his children, noone has time for answering these (to them) very strange requests for verification of reception of broadcasts which were never intended for the folks who sent these requests in anyway.

One other problem is the postal system. It is about as desolate as anything in this country and the majority of letters might not even make it to the Radio Nepal offices. Especially if they contain a dollar or two. Therefore my suggestion, if you hear Radio Nepal, log them. Record them and file that recording away. Let that be your verification. You know you heard them. You can prove it with your tape or .mp3 or what not.

As long as things are as desperate here as they are, bury any hope to ever find an envelope with a Nepali stamp in your letter box. Even if I went there and asked them nicely to do something about these requests, I would just draw blank stares...

(73 from Kathmandu and good DX to you all, Thomas via HC DX)

Permission to Norwegian amateur radio club stations

The Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority has granted permission to Norwegian amateur radio club stations to operate on eight 5MHz-band spot frequencies from 1 April 2005 until 31 December 2007. The permitted modes are upper sideband and CW, with a maximum transmitter power of 100 watts. The centre frequencies of the channels are: 5280, 5290, 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, 5400 and 5405kHz, with the upper sideband 'dial frequency' being 1.5kHz lower in each case.

The permission has been granted on a non-interference-basis. Thanks to the NRRL HF Traffic Manager, Tom Segalstad, LA4LN, for this news story. (RSGB) <http://www.rsgb.org/news/gb2rs.htm> (Mike Terry via HCDX)

DX meetings

Here follows a listing of some shortwave and DX meetings to be held this year. Updates are welcome, the list is in no way comprehensive. It has been compiled on March the 3rd 2005 by Risto Vahakainu. Your comments and questions are welcome.

March 11-12; Winter SWL Fest, Kulpsville, PA, USA. www.swlfest.com.

Note: this meeting usually gathers together over 200 participants. Mostly American radio enthusiasts but also some international broadcasters and DXers.

April 29-May 01; EDXC Conference, Prague, Czech Republic. www.edxc.org. This annual conference of the European DX Council is expected to have around 40 participants this time.

May 8-10; The annual meeting of the Czecho-Slovak DX Club to be held in a mountain hotel (excellent QTH for FM-DX). www.csdxc.cz.

Jun 10-12: The annual meeting of the Swedish DX Federation. www.sdx.org.

Jun 17-19: The annual meeting of the Danish Short Wave Club International in Jutland, western Denmark. www.dswci.org.

Jul 15-17: DX Camp of the Short Wave Listeners Club Saar, Saarland, Germany. www.swlcs.com.

Jul 29-31: The annual Mexican DX Meeting is most likely to be held this weekend. The information received last year lists the venue to be the city of Ascension in the state of Chihuahua, very close to the Texan border.

Aug 12-14: The annual summer meeting of the Finnish DX Association in Virrat, Finland. Organised jointly by the Scandinavian Weekend Radio and the FDXA. Includes a visit to SWR. www.sdxl.org. (best 73's, Risto Vähäkainu via HCDX)

The most fantastic collection of DX-links

Hi Herman, Bjorn and all DX friends: *Wednesday, March 9, 2005, 6:57:05 PM, you wrote: I just have to tell you about the most fantastic collection of DX-links I have seen on the internet. It's called "THE AC6V WEB SITE". ... 6,000 links on 132 pages! Visit this adress:*

<http://www.ac6v.com/>

No links to EMWG, PAL, Medium Wave Circle, BDXC, ... Seems nice for people living in the Americas, but not for European (or Asian, ...) people.

Well, some people are impressed by 6000 links. That's fine. What about more than 41.000 radio related links, categorized, with explanations in English and German, updated frequently (which means about 300 changes each month)?

I have checked every single URL myself. Further availability checks are done by a software. You just have to create YOUR linklist dynamically by a search. This works without having to know a specific term, as the "Category Search" allows to use two categories for a search, like 'Receivers' and 'Reviews' for example. Or 'Logs' and 'Tropical Bands'. Or 'Amateur Radio' and 'QSL-Information'. Well, you got the idea.

There is a button to search for Audio recordings, Webstreams, Webradios, Live TV. You will find "Starter's Info" with nearly 500 FAQs for all hobby related questions.

You can even offer or search for used hobby equipment. The whole service is free, I never asked a DX friend for "contributions".

BUT: I simply do not want having to recommend my own work frequently in mailinglists. That should be done by satisfied users. My time is used better in adding new sites and keeping the database up-to-date. And if I should continue to notice that public recommendations are restricted to Google and Co (although I never understood the benefit of some 100.000 search results) it makes no sense to keep on my work. A service which isn't used is useless! It's up to you...

(vy 73, Willi, DJ6JZ <http://www.radio-portal.org> via HCDX)