

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1569. 7 augusti 2005. Deadline nästa nr: 19/8 2005 (E mail 21/8 kl. 0900 SNT)

Sommarens(?) sista SWB håller just nu på att sammanställas.

Hoppas alla har haft en skön sommar. Trots allt blev det ett antal fina dagar, även om de två sista veckorna inte inneburit strandväder precis. Men man kan ju göra många andra saker.

På fälten runt huset här i Mardal är nu skördarbetet igång. Det dröjer alltså inte länge förrän hösten riktigt är i antågande och inte känns det bättre av att börja kneget i morgon bitti!

På kortvågen är det väldigt lugnt att döma av mängden bidrag. Vi får fylla upp med lite andra sparade artiklar som kanske kan vara av intresse för någon.

I övrigt vågar jag knappt berätta att radion inte varit påslagen mer än nån ynka kort gång under det senaste året!!

Keep on

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SWB-info

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

Dateline Bogotá: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/Dateline.htm>

SWB hot stuff: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/> (på denna sajt ligger alltid senaste SWB).

SWB member information: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/member.htm>

Jubileumstidskriften: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/> (html- + pdf-version).

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Jan Edh: Inget intressant. Inget spännande. Inget nytt! Det är den korta och tyvärr väldigt heltäckande sammanfattningen av mitt första Fredriksforsbesök på ungefär sju veckor!

Det har faktiskt varit så illa att sonen häromdagen, och inte utan illa dold förtjusning, påpekade att jag fått spindelväv på radioväskan!

Det enda som gick riktigt bra onsdagsnatten 27 juli var egentligen åkspraket.

Förmodligen var det relativt hyggligt mot Afrika också, även om det inte var så mycket att lyssna på. Sydliga Transatlanter gick på t ex 1190, 1470, 1480, 1510, 1630 och troligen också 1700 efter soluppgången. På kortvåg gick de flesta "vanliga". Men allt med så pass svaga signaler att åkspraket helt tog överhanden och det var inte meningsfullt att kämpa. Möjligen att 1510 var Belgrano, men det kan vara så att jag hörde det bara för att jag "ville" höra det anropet...

4/8: det blev en trevlig onsdagskväll (3/8) i Fredriksfors där en trio (Rolf Larsson - som hade med både lax och vin... - Peter Stållberg och jag (=JE)) hann med att grilla och äta, innan också Dan Andersson stötte till för en stund.

Radioaktiviteten höll sig på en betydligt beskedligare nivå, även om det märks att med mörkrets hjälp det börjar finnas hopp. Förmiddagen var direkt dålig med förhållandevis tveksamma brassesignaler på KV och spår av brassar på bl.a. 1130, 1470 och 1510. Möjligen CPN också på 1470?

Morgonen blev bättre mest på grund av att åkspraket inte var så kraftigt. Signalerna var dock överlag alldeles för dåliga. Inte ens 1470 var det någon stuns i. Inte minst kortvågen hade också problem (eller det kanske var jag som hade problemet?) med distorderade signaler. Litet bättre signalstyrkor på MV hade dock kunnat gjort morgonen riktigt trevlig.

Lennart Weirell: Här kommer en sommarhälsning från Västerås. Det var ett tag sen jag senast rapporterade in (SWB 1562) och sen dess har det kommit några QSL, men mest pirater. **R Saturnus** - 6290 e-mail efter 3 veckor, **R Mazda** - 6290 e-mail efter 5 veckor, **Orion R** - 6305 e-mail efter 1 dag, **Magic AM** - 6285 kort dekal efter 4 veckor, **R Free London** - 6275 e-mail efter 1 vecka, **R Six via IRRS** - 13840 kort schema efter 4 veckor, **R Spaceman** - 6305 e-mail med Word-fil efter 8 veckor samt kort och brev efter 16 veckor och slutligen **R Tattras Int** - 9290 e-mail efter 1 dag via KREBS TV.

Semestrar fortfarande en vecka till. Sen blir det förmodligen en resa till NDLS radioträff i Joristorp 20:e augusti och sedan skall Aros DX Club återigen delta på Västerås Radioklubb Antennndagar som i år äger rum på Södra Björnön första helgen i september. Vi hörs!

Leif Blomqvist: Det var längesen jag hörde av mig. Nu kan jag gå utan käpp och det känns mycket bra. Tack för det fina arbete du gör för SWB. Anmäler ett QSL, E-mail svar från **Special Radio. Moskva 6240.**

Henrik Klemetz samlar inte längre på länder eller stationer utan lyssnar på radioprogram. För att hålla kontakten uppe är det ibland stationerna som frågar, till skillnad från lyssnarna som frågar stationerna. Från Vatikanen har en fin uppsättning med broschyr, kort och klistermärken kommit. KBS World vill tydligen ha flera rapporter per post och har därför skickat mig ett snyggt pennset sedan jag svarat rätt på ett par frågor. Pragradien tycks också ömma om sina lyssnarens hälsa. Som tack för ett prisbelönt bidrag till deras uppsatstävling om tjeckiskt öl har jag fått en praktisk regnkappa med påsydd stationslogo. Att få vanliga brev och kort från DX-stationer kan komma att bli allt ovanligare med tiden. Jag hörde t ex att man i Colombia får betala motsvarande 10 dollar för ett vanligt brev till Europa och då spelar det ingen roll om det väger 5 gram eller ett par hundra. Det är en trist utveckling. Enligt vad jag hört har La Voz de tu Conciencia därför skickat ut ett antal QSL från USA, där portot fortfarande är "normalt".

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Schematics of an RF preamp

According to the ASWLC mailing list, the schematics of an RF preamp from 10 kHz to 54 MHz can be seen at <http://www.geocities.com/ko6bb/> (Philip Atchley-USA -> ASWLC) (Luca Botto Fiora - Italy via HCDX)

Hard-Core-DX is 10 years old

Hi All, Did you know that it has been 10 years since Hard-Core-DX started? I can not find the exact date, but this article that was sent on July 31, 1995 to rec.radio.shortwave is what I consider the kick off:

http://groups-beta.google.com/group/rec.radio.shortwave/browse_thread/thread/ef2c27c64452d85b/f3c3b058755cd3de?lnk=st&q=Hard-Core-DX&num=1&hl=en#f3c3b058755cd3de

So, it has been almost exactly 10 years. We have had multiple big changes and opportunities over the 10 years. Hopefully at least some of those have come to help DXers around the world over these years.

By now you must know that in Hard-Core-DX we believe the best part being you... over 1000 subscribers who have made it all possible. Keep up the good work... the first 10 years was just the beginning. (73! Risto Kotlampi, Hard-Core-DX)

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

4819,15	28.7	0115	HRVC La Voz Evangelica reaktiverad. Kristna ballader. QSA 2. JE
4826,5	4.8	0202	Radio Sicuani med "japansk" musik. QSA 2. JE
4845	3.8	2115	Mauritanien körde på precis som vanligt ("koransång") och QSA 4. Brydde sig tydligen inte om att en statskupp påstås pågå. JE
4950	4.8	0158	Radio Madre de Dios , Puerto Maldonado med smäktande sång, ett snabbt anrop och godnatt. Därefter två minuter nationalsång och allt var slut. QSA 3 JE
4990	4.8	0235	Radio Apintie staplade ballader. QSA 2-3. JE
4990	28.7	0205	Radio Apintie gick bra en stund (QSA 3), men dök ganska snabbt. JE
5005	27.7		Radio Nacional , Bata hade det politiskt besvärligt av kommentatorn att döma. Pratade pm "extraordinära åtgärder" från polisen... QSA 4. JE
5470	27.7	21.00	Radio Veritas annonserade med QSA 2-3. Slog eventuellt av sändaren redan den här tiden sedan, för jag hittade inget när jag kollade litet senare. JE
5470	3.8	2130	Radio Veritas gick bra nu - men inte på Afrikaantennen som var mycket mer besvärad av åskstörningar än de andra. QSA 3. Trevligt musikprogram senare. JE
5910	4.8	0145	Marfil Estereo QSA 3. Gillar att bryta musiken med annonseringar och korta reklamer. JE
5952,5	27.7	2235	Radio Pio XII otroligt bra. QSA 4-5. Tyvärr inte lika kul program. JE
6035	4.8	0150	La Voz de Guaviare med fotboll. Bucaramanga mot Cartajena (sade Rolf Larsson som lyssnade bättre). QSA 2. JE
6214,3	27.7	2230	Radio Baluarte . Religiöst. Ovanligt bra. QSA 2-3. JE
11925	4.8	0450	Rádio Bandeirantes med ett nyhetsprogram. 2 CB



Bandscan from BM, Quito, Ecuador

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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

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

Latest Recording 23.7 4819.14 HRVC reactivated. The station in fact was reactivated at 2200 UTC on Jul.23. They were inactive for the past three years.

They also carry IDs of their regional stations, so you might also hear some other MW QRGs mentioned in their IDs. I am trying to guess what your recorded ID says, but I'm at the office now, and can't use the speakers at a higher volume... You might try the WRTH and see in the mediumwave section. There should be a station listed on 1040 kHz by the same call HRVC, but with different location. That's your ID (or should be). I'll try to provide a full transcription of their IDs tomorrow. Please let me know if you find your ID in WRTH, I don't have mine with me now. The ID Bjorn has in his recording is that of the regional station in Juticalpa, Olancho. The 'volante' word you heard, Bjorn, is in fact the word 'Olancho', the name of the department. (Elmer Escoto, San Pedro Sula, HONDURAS via HCDX)

Recording of **6140.00 Radio Concordia**, Arequipa (Daniel Camporini). Daniel Camporini (Argentina) has sent me a fine recording of Radio Concordia on 6140 kHz. Thanks Daniel!



Saludos Cordiales desde "La Mitad del Mundo"!

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

Stationsnyheter

GUYANA: Guyana 3291.04 GBC Return Frequency, 0900-0940 with om announcer and pop music [Wilkner-Florida via HCDX]

INDONESIA RRI Denpasar, Bali heard on **3945** at 1129 July 26 with Indonesian pop song and gamelan Bali then Hindu relig px by YL about Women in Hindu, 1200 ID then news from Jakarta up to 1218 "Padamu Negeri" chorus. (On calling the station at 62 361

223087 one of staff at studio confirm on repair at their transmitter site at Latu - about 16 km from Denpasar - 1 or 2 weeks ago). 1300 OM tk about the next local election then music by request via phone. 1308 tune out then check on 1357 not heard anymore. (Tony Ashar, Depok Indonesia via HCDX).

SOMALIA [non]. Radio Waaberi is a new target radio program aimed at listeners in Somalia (in particular, Somaliland), produced by the California-based Waaberi Broadcasting Services. It is aired Fri 1330-1400 via JUL on 17550 kHz.

Website: <http://www.radiowaaberi.org>; email: info@radiowaaberi.org. Quote from the website: "Waaberi Broadcasting Services (Radio Waaberi) was incorporated on April 18, 2005 in the State of California and is currently seeking 501 (C) (3) Tax exemption code from the Internal Revenue Service.

Waaberi Broadcasting Services is nonprofit, nongovernmental international communication service broadcasting from overseas in Somali via shortwave to East Africa and the Middle East and of course via the internet to the worldwide diaspora." NB. This program was earlier reported in the DX press as "Radio Solmal/Soomal" and "Radio Nuateri/Muateri". (Bernd Trutenau-LTU via HCDX)

ZANZIBAR. Radio Tanzania in Swahili (including English news 1800-1810) again on SW: 1500-2100 on **11735.0*** (not on traditional 11734.0) *co-channel V. of Turkey in Arabic till 1555 and UN Radio in French 1700-1715 Mon-Fri (Observer, Bulgaria, July 29 via DXLD)

Övriga radionyheter

LIGHTNING GUARD - A SIMPLE REVIEW

I just recently subscribed to Electric Radio and ordered a Lightning Guard [as it is that time of the year]. Hooked it up last night. Quite pleased. Here is how it works. When turned off, it disconnects your antenna, grounds it, disconnects the hot and neutral AC wires of the rig or rigs [power bar!] you have plugged in AND connects the rig side hot and neutral wires to ground. It has an auto function that is pretty neat too. http://www.ermag.com/index.cfm?v_link=product_detail&v_key=265

Let's say that Phil is DXing late at night in his basement shack while the ladies [wife and daughter] are asleep. Some rumbles of thunder and flashes of light occur, but Phil is unaware [I usually have two or three rigs on at once and the window in the shack is very small]. The power flicks off for a second as often happens during a thunder storm. On automatic, that momentary power interruption will trip the device, disconnecting the antenna, grounding it, disconnecting the rigs' AC, grounding hot and neutral etc. If I want to get things back, I press the reset button. Otherwise, things are disconnected and grounded.

While unplugging and grounding the old fashioned way is cheaper and even more effective, you have to remember to do it. Now I am more confident at using the gear if there is the possibility of thunder and lightning in the weather forecast.

The rig looks very well made and looks to be GVFM [good value for the \$].

I have a few extra lines of defense too - a low amperage fuse, a 10 ohm 1/4 resistor with a weight [resistor blows, weight drops yielding over a one foot gap], the isolated grounded balun and now this device.

I'm happy to report that the new device does not hurt reception at all. Was enjoying listening to 80s rock and new rock as well on Virgin 1215 while static revealed distant thunder and lightning. I guess you could say my favourite nighttime DX stations to listen to are CINW [940 News Montreal], Virgin 1215, CKNB 950 in Campbellton NB, and of course, the ethnic strains of 1134 Croatia (Phil Rafuse, PEI Canada, August 3, ABDX via DXLD)

Lightning Guard may stop low level surges but a direct strike or big nearby strike will still jump across the disconnected line gaps and damage or destroy your equipment. 73 & GUD DX, (Thomas F. Giella, KN4LF, Plant City, FL, USA, via DXLD)

My thoughts on the E1 (from rec.radio.shortwave)

It sounds like the E1 is better than I thought it would be, this one could go down in history as a classic. I wonder if the Degen 1108 will be even better since it will have the E1 to jump off of.

many of the complaints I have read seem to be of the "misunderstood" nature and if the designer was present to answer them would actually make sense.

I believe that even though the set has XM circuitry, it is a bonus for american users and that the set was really designed for a global market and that is the reason for the antenna connector that is a pain for the US user. notice the choice for the FM range in the setup options.

I have a feeling that they left out the ferrite antenna because the set is too big to rotate and they wanted it to be more omnidirectional for the average user and that anyone that cared to MW DX would not be stupid enough to use a built in rod and would use at least a hardwire connected select-a-tenna for max signal gathering.

with a set of this awesome performance, ECSS is a waste of time. Ecsc is overrated because of the work involved in accurately tuning the signal for proper audio fidelity reconstruction and PHASING ! with the sync performance that is available ECSS could be forgotten and use that selectable sync.

even though I have no immediate plans to buy an E1, I will still study the manual. when I can get one for around \$300 used, I will pick one up. (mike maghakian maghakian@comcast.net)

It is not a matter of stupidity to use an internal loopstick antenna. It is quite possible to design a portable radio with a loopstick antenna that has MW performance that at least equals a good communications receiver that has an external amplified loop antenna connected to it. I have just finished up a prototype this evening that does just that. It is an easy matter to have facilities to switch the antenna out of the circuit the way that Grundig has done with their Satellit receivers for several years. It is also very easy to bypass the switching altogether and merely wind a small coupling loop around the ferrite for an external antenna connection. 5 to 10 turns of Litz wire would do the trick.

The E1 is a very good radio, and I will probably pick one up in the next year or so. Is it worth the money they are asking for it? Probably. Will the price come down after the initial wave of sales. Hopefully. The radio does have XM circuitry, and I know that XM radio was a big purchaser of the Analog Devices AD607 demodulator chip that I based my Sync detector on, so if this is the case, this could be a very good radio indeed.

A friend of mine did play his E1 over the phone and it did sound good.....quite a bit of gain. He told me that he didn't have any IMD problems, so it sounds like a winner. (Pete KE9OA)

I agree. The more and more I use this radio the more I LOVE it. It's a pleasure to use. Just a pleasure. The sync on it is fabulous. Couple that with the superb PBT and it's just fantastic. The display is just great to look at.

The sensitivity is right up there with the better rigs. The radio also has a "DX" button for extra gain on weak signals. I think the DSB {double side band} actually works as good as the Lowe HF-150 even though in the beginning I thought the Lowe was much better. It still is a bit better, but it seems to do more on this radio than the 150.

I can hear the difference using it. With the 150, it seems the lock range is much tighter. You have to really hit the needed signal perfectly to get it working and it's easily lost. With the E1, it's easier to use that feature. As Mike pointed out, ECSS isn't really needed on this rig though I still like to use it for fun and when it's necessary.

Now, many people are saying they will wait for later production runs before buying. I have a contrarian view on this. That Eton knows the first batch out will spread the news on how good or bad their radio is and tell the tale. That these first users and reviewers will set the tone for future sales.

They know what happened with the 800 and they know people will be looking for the same thing to happen again. So, I decided to go with the first batch. I know they payed very, very close attention to QC on this one imho. I would be more skeptical to buy later runs than the very first batch out.

If they only added DRM, it would have been a monster. But, I have a feeling XM had something to say about it. Why give people so many more options than going with XM sat programming? But, they had to include AM/FM and SW. I bet their is a easy mod for DRM once the radio gets dissected by the pros like you! :) Have a good one Pete! (Lucky)

Loggings from the Charlottes dpxpedition (Walt Salmaniv via HCDX)

21/7 05: Fellas, the first morning of the round the world virtual dpxpedition is under my belt. Results were rather mediocre, in my opinion for MW, and more interesting on the Tropical bands. I did hear a few new Alaskans. I don't think there was anything new for me for Trans Pacific. I'll be looking forward to reading how the others fared, and I'm hoping that tomorrow will yield more interesting DX. Here's my catch. Incidentally, I used 3 antenna (well really only 2 for MW: 2 mini-Beverages measuring 350 and 400' respectively, aimed 170/350 and 30/210 degrees. Still using 12 volts, although the power should be hooked up very soon. The electrician was installing the panel in the power house. I hear that the telephone workers are striking, so no internet access that way for a while, I'm afraid. I'll be leaving early Sunday morning in any case back to Victoria. After DXing, I had a nice time clamming. There was a zero tide this morning, so I harvested some 20 pounds or so of Razor clams. These little creatures are fun to catch. You use a specialized short little shovel. Somewhat like a spade and walk along the flat sandy beach. You see small depressions which give away their location. By walking near them, they withdraw their siphons, occasionally squirting water upwards, but more usually just enlarging the depression. With one hand, the spade-like shovel is inserted about 6" from the depression and then angled toward the clam. The wedge of sand is quickly removed, and if you're lucky you can grab the siphon and pull the clam out. If not, you have to go down after them, sometimes almost to your armpit! They can measure up to a foot (30 cm) long, although most are about 8". The shells are very sharp if broken, hence the name. They make fabulous clam chowder, but also things like Clam Fritters....after cleaning them, the meat is pounded and then fried. Something like calamari as I recall, but it's been a while. Tomorrow, there's a negative tide, so after dxing, I'll go back out for Dungeness crab and razor clams again. Life is tough in paradise!

PS: I'm listening to an unid station on 840. Never IDs except "840 Gold". I'm assuming a Canadian, since they don't legally ID. Confirmation anyone?

3235 PAPUA NEW GUINEA Radio West New Britain, Jul 21 10:52 - Not many PNGs on the air this morning. Good reception with local choir. Note that the 2 Christian stations are only poorly propagating..ie 4960 and 7120, with the later only being present as a het. Did they move frequencies already, as they had planned? Possibly Wantok Radio Light adjusted their NVIS antenna to reduce propagation further afield. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

3279.54 ECUADOR La Voz del Napo, Jul 21 10:55 - Good reception with Spanish programming. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

3290 PAPUA NEW GUINEA Radio Central, Boroko, Jul 21 10:56 - Good signal level, but mostly used USB to avoid an intermittent ute on LSB. Local vocals, and Pidgin talk. S7 signal. No TOH ID, but switched to the National news at 11:02. At 11:54, there was a time check for 6 minutes to 11:00. Later USB had a Russian fisherman net. At 12:01, Central province was mentioned as well as '3290 kHz in the 90 meter band', and signing off until '12:00 tomorrow afternoon'. Then the PNG anthem, and off at 12:03. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

4604.96 INDONESIA RRI Serui, Jul 21 12:04 - RRI news, with reports from the field. Mentioned Bandeh Aceh. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

4753.45 UNIDENTIFIED ?, Jul 21 04:23 - I have no idea who is on this off frequency at this time in AM mode. Weak but in the clear. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

5019.89 SOLOMON ISLANDS SIBC, Honiara, Jul 21 10:03 - Pidgin news, with mentions of Honiara, Prime minister, national parliament. ID for SIBC, Honiara at 10:07:30. Voice of Salvation also mentioned at 10:13. Always a real pleasure to listen to them!. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

5025 CUBA Radio Rebelde, Jul 21 04:34 - Not on the air when first checked at this time, but present at a weak level at 10:00 with Buenos dias, and mentions of North America and Cubano. Must be using either a back up transmitter or antenna system. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

22/7 05: Well another morning has passed, and conditions were MUCH superior to yesterday's for sure! I began dxing a bit later at just before 11:00 UTC and immediately found the bands to be alive. Most split frequencies had good hets on them. The big difference was the value of my short 120' random wire running very close to E/W. This was the best wire for many split frequencies, mostly because of the attenuation of North American signals, allowing for the numerous TP signals to propagate. That short length of wire provided excellent dx right up until sunrise at which time the ambient noise on that antenna rendered it useless for MW. This is in stark contrast to yesterday when that antenna was next to useless except on SW. My number 1 big puzzle (please help!) is 1575, which generally was stronger than the usually stronger 1566 HLAZ. I tuned in 1575 just before 13:00 to hear: "National Anthem", followed by a short possibly an anthem. Faded down quickly, but thought I heard "Armed forces" as well. Could this be one of the Japanese AFN stations? Generally I heard reasonably good signals from all over the Pacific, without any one region dominating. Perhaps Japan was best if I had to pick.

At 7:30 local, my father-in-law picked me up and we went off to the beach at Tow Hill to go after more Dungeness Crab, and Razor clams. I had slipped on my wet suit while dxing (a feat in itself!). Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate to yield anything substantive. On my first crack at the Crabs, I was able to wade out to chest depth and easily see the large male crabs on the bottom. This time, the

weather was gorgeous...warm and sunny, but there was a Northerly wind resulting in big swells and crashing waves churning the sandy bottom and making it very difficult to see. I ended up with only 5 medium sized male Dungeness crab, and after some time of not seeing a single large crab, I gave up and headed to shore to dig clams. I had a bit more luck quickly filling a bucket with good sized Razor clams. As the name suggests, the broken shells are very sharp. There were a number of expert Haida clam diggers. Somehow, they're able to use their shovel, and quickly grab the siphon before the clam retracts it. The clam itself is usually about 2 feet or 60 cm under the surface. As for me, out of the bucket, I was successful two or three times to grab the siphon. The rest of the time, I'd dig down with my hands and by feel, I'd slowly pull up the clam. The siphon although retracted, is still just reachable, with perhaps 1/2" or 2 cm still showing. Once the siphon is pinched, you carefully lift the clam. I'd never make a living at this, but after some 45 minutes I did fill the bucket with some nice large clams. The very best of the clam diggers can harvest several hundred pounds per low tide, compared to my 20 pounds or so. Tomorrow will be my last chance if the weather cooperates, that is. If the wind dies down or swings around from the south, then I'll likely try things again. If not, I'll probably pass and concentrate on dxing Alaska a little longer in the morning. I was just listening to KFBX Fairbanks on 970.

More on my house construction. As always on the Charlottes, nothing is easy or straight forward. At this stage, we have our power shed, a 6 by 10 foot structure or so on a concrete pad. It must be within 100' of a power pole, or they'll put in a power post at a cost of several thousand dollars. Needless to say, we built the shed. It'll be useful for small storage, and power access for things outside. It's about 40 feet from our home. The power will go to the house underground for aesthetics, and I can't help thinking that radio-wise it will be better too. The electrician was here yesterday adding a 200 amp panel to the shed. Now BC Hydro, our power authority can deliver the power line to the shed, once the permit is issued. Next week, I suspect. Then, we'll have power! Speaking of power, though, there are some concerns regarding electronics. The Charlottes power is primarily derived from diesel generators, compared to 99% of the rest of the province which is hydro (dam) generated. We have no nuclear power plants, nor coal or gas burning plants in BC. With frequent outages (often caused unfortunately by birds shorting the lines), voltage spikes are inevitable. Will the electronics be protected with regular surge protectors, or better yet line conditioners? If not, how can I reduce or eliminate the risk of damage, short of running everything on 12v only.

The concrete forms were poured last week. They still have to pour a skim coat for the crawl space (3') and add the stub walls, on which will sit the wood structure itself. Everything was looking just fine on Wednesday when I arrived again, but I noticed the contractor pulling them apart again! Evidently, he measured one last time and noted the wall to be 1 1/2" off. The fellow measuring, forgot to take into account the width of the plywood forms, i.e. 2 time 3/4". If he hadn't checked thinks simply would not have fitted. Better that he found the mistake when it was relatively correctable! The rest of the concrete will be poured any day now. We have the septic system all laid out on the east end of the property. The well should have been dug a while ago, but the only well person on the islands had his drilling rig vandalized and it's out of commission for a month or two. We're now looking for alternatives, including hiring an off-island company from Terrace, B.C. We grappled with the depth of the well. Wanda had thought artesian was the way to go, down up to 275'. However, the brave few who have (at GREAT expense too!) have found the water to be smelling of sulfur and not at all palatable. The table is only some 10 feet down. We'll likely compromise and descend 30 or 40' to ensure good quality water. The fresh water here is very dark, as it meander through the muskeg, presumably from the tannin in the water? I wonder how on earth the fish can see anything in the rivers! By digging a little deeper, I'm hoping to avoid this discolouration, and prevent surface water contamination from run-off. There are a lot of black-tailed deer on the islands, as well as black bear, and assorted rodents.

Yabo, our enterprising young man who has completed the shell of the post and beam red and yellow cedar construction will also be erecting the building on site, as well as finishing it to wrap-up stage hopefully before the fall monsoons. He began transporting the lumbar today to our site. The various materials required to erect the structure, and add the floors and walls were ordered Monday from Prince Rupert on the mainland, and should be delivered by late next week. Transportation costs to the islands have added another 15 to 20% to our already rapidly escalating costs. Ouch! Well we can't stop now. I'm just looking forward to our end result and all the fun I'll be having dxing.

I've considered the antenna issue again. Wanda won't tolerate easily visible wires obstructing her views. The wire I have in ample supply is a white teflon coated multistrand wire, identical to that used at Grayland, WA. I had purchased many miles of the stuff and various other odds and ends including coax, ground cable, etc, all for about \$35 at a government auction. No choice on wire colour. Sorry Wanda! While exploring yesterday our neighboring properties, I realized that the lot on the east may be an ideal place to conceal some wires. EWE, Kaz, or Pennants could very easily be put on that property, and fed with a short length of coax back to our home. Furthermore, I suspect some mini-Beverages up to 400' in length could also be run. Having traversed the site, it would be a very difficult property to develop, so I'm hoping it will remain "dormant" for many years to come. Of course if it is developed, then I'm back to some of my earlier plans to erect antennae across the road to the south of the property, for example. Furthermore, with many tall Spruce trees on the property, one could erect some traditional antennae such as dipoles and delta loops, and have them high enough that they wouldn't be noticed, at least not by Wanda!

To end this segment of my DX adventures, here are some loggings from last night and this morning. I'm taking part in a world-wide virtual coastal dxpedition, linking dxers from the United States, Canada, Scandinavia, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and perhaps elsewhere. I'll be eager to read their loggings! Here they are:

3235 PAPUA NEW GUINEA Radio West New Britain, Jul 22 13:29 - S6 to S7 signal, with the usual very enjoyable PNG programming, with a real local flavour. Announcements at 13:38. Off sometime by the TOH. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

3279.58 ECUADOR La Voz del Napo, Jul 23 0534 - Rosary programming in Spanish, and then into modern Spanish vocals. I'm listening as I was typing last night's loggings. Good reception except for atmospheric noise...the bain of summer listening!. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

3325 INDONESIA RRI Palangkaraya, Jul 22 14:02 - Good modulation and relatively slow speech in Bahasa Indonesia with many mentions of Palangkaraya, so likely a local program. Not parallel to 3345 Ternate. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

3340 HONDURAS HRMI, Jul 22 04:21 - Presumed logging with impassioned preaching, but too weak to be sure whether it was in English or Spanish. The tropical bands tonight are much weaker compared to last night. SF 73, A index 24, and K (at 03) 3. Minor GM storms measuring G1 (I think). Nothing expected for the next 24 hours according to WWV. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

3344.96 INDONESIA RRI Ternate, Jul 22 13:40 - Parallel to 3325 Palangkaraya with a sports play by play. Lots of mentions of Bali, Pontianak, Kalimantan, and Gorontalo. Great reception on both. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

4753.41 ?BRAZIL Radio Educacao Rural, Campo Grande, Jul 22 04:27 - This is my guess for my unid. of last night, and still here today. I listened for a while, and it appears to be in Portuguese, hence my guess. Any verification from out there?. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

5025 CUBA Radio Rebelde, Jul 22 04:35 - Rebelde is back with a much stronger signal than last night, but still suffering from slop, from a very messy transmitter on 5030.07 (University Network, Costa Rica with Dr. Gene Scott rambling from beyond the gravel). (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

23/7 05: Well, another night and morning of dxing here on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Reception was not great on MW, at least initially and was totally dominated by Japan. One abbreviated session tomorrow morning, and I'll be heading back to Victoria. Here are my results:

3235 PAPUA NEW GUINEA Radio West New Britain, Jul 23 13:28 - Good to very good reception with greetings reading long lists of names. No other regional stations were on at this time. 4890 on with excellent reception, and CRN 4960 only poorly heard, and 7120 Wantok Radio light, also poor. Interesting that at 14:00, there was a time check for 4:00 (I think), then dear air, and a major drop in signal level to fair only. Did they change transmitter or antenna at that time? I've never noticed this drop before. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

4604.95 INDONESIA RRI Serui, Jul 23 14:29 - Beautiful reception with Indonesian EZL music. Male DJ answering phone-in calls, with 'hello'. Still strong at 14:38. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

4925 INDONESIA RRI Jambi, Jul 23 14:13 - Good reception with very pleasant Indonesian music. Well after my local sunrise, but still going strong. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

4960 PAPUA NEW GUINEA Catholic Radio Network, Jul 23 14:02 - Reception now fair to good, compared to a half hour ago. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

24/7 05: Well, this morning was slightly abbreviated as my Father-in-law picked me up at 06:45 local, and I had to be totally packed by then. Again, Japan practically had the entire MW band to themselves yet again. I will be very interested in ascertaining whether this is a local phenomenon characteristic for the Charlottes, or more an issue of propagation conditions in general. I did have some fun hearing many more aeronautical voice LW beacons. I do need a better database, though. Today's beacon logs will have to be identified later as I left my list in my luggage (I'm typing this sitting in YVR, Vancouver airport waiting for my connecting flight to Victoria). Again I was pleased with my short random wire running close to due E/W (120' or so). If this antenna continues to perform in it's very quiet manner, basically nulling many of the lower 48 stations that spoil much of the Beverage antenna characteristics here, then I'll very likely erect one across my property near the sand dunes, and run it across the property to my east to achieve a "mini-Beverage" length. Assuming this property remains undeveloped (I hope so!), it will be an ideal site to conceal the bulk of my antennae without the problems of having to cross the road to reach the large land parcel to my south which had been my original plan. I have to admit a bit of disappointment in primarily hearing mostly Japanese stations. Not knowing the language, and finding the programming rather dull didn't really thrill me. I do hope that other more exotic dx will be in the cards in the future. Here are my loggings, including a single interesting Time signal logging from last night.

RUSSIA 9996, 04:17-, RWM Jul 24 Another offshoot to regular SW dxing. Noted an unmodulated signal on 9996 so I offset to 9996.2 to hear in LSB (or use CW). Double pips from the 9th to the 14th second. Data transfer started at 04:20 until 04:24:55, and then again from 04:25:00 to 04:29:55. A steady carrier tone from 04:30 until 04:37:55, and then RWM repeated over and over again in Morse from 04:38 until 04:40, and then back into regular unmodulated time pips. CW mode works well to listen to them. Excellent level. Transmitter, I think is in Moscow. I wonder how to demodulate the data stream. Didn't sound like any mode I've heard before. Any ideas?. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

ALASKA 245 etc, 11:15-, Aero Beacons Jul 24 I don't have my database with me for LW aero beacons, but I heard quite a few more voice Aero beacons. Here's the list: 245: 'Transcribed aviation weather broadcast is suspended'. Fair. 251: Aviation weather for Bethel, Kodiak, etc. 338: Aviation weather for Valdez Harbor field, Valdez city (missing), Cordova, etc. 371: Aviation weather, and synopsis for the Western Aleutians, Central Gulf coast, Kodiak Is, Bristol Bay, etc. poor. 379: Area forecast for Kodiak Is. Good. With 6 yesterday, and 5 today that's 11 total. I've only heard 2 or 3 of these services in the past. I'm not 100% sure that they're all in Alaska but I suspect so. (Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC)

Now that I'm home, here is some updated information, courtesy of the excellent www.navaid.com website. All up to date and clears up any confusion. I am referring to both of my aero beacon loggings.

I don't have my database with me for LW aero beacons, but I heard quite a few more voice Aero beacons. Here's the list:
245: 'Transcribed aviation weather broadcast is suspended'. Listed as HNS Haines, AK. Fair. Location 59.21N/135.43W.
251: Aviation weather for Bethel, Kodiak, etc. Listed as OSE Oscarville Bethel, AK. Location 60.79N/161.87W.
338: Aviation weather for Valdez Harbor field, Valdez city (missing), Cordova, etc. Listed as CMQ Campbell Lake, Anchorage AK. Located at 61.17N/150.05W.
371: Aviation weather, and synopsis for the Western Aleutians, Central Gulf coast, Kodiak Is, Bristol Bay, etc. poor. Listed as PDN Port Heiden, AK. Located at 56.95N/158.65W.
379: Area forecast for Kodiak Is. Good. Listed as IWW Wildwood Kenai, AK. Location: 60.60N/151.21W. Alternatively could also be AHT Amchitka, AK located at 51.38N/179.26W.

With 6 yesterday, and 5 today that's 11 total. I've only heard 2 or 3 of these services in the past. I'm not 100% sure that they're all in Alaska but I suspect so. I added this information upon arriving home.

An interesting sideline to dxing here on the Charlottes is listening for Aviation beacons, and especially those that have voice transmissions which I never hear in Victoria. This morning I was able to hear six different transmissions. My database appears to be woefully out of date, so I'll need to search more up to date sources. Help finding these would be appreciated.

On 209 kHz, the following was heard: 'The transcribed aviation weather forecast is suspended.' I have OYN, Nome listed on 208. Will need further research. I checked the excellent site at www.airnav.com and 209 is listed as CYT Yakataga, AK at 60.09N 142.49W, but they don't indicate any voice. Furthermore, I also heard the same message on 260 kHz. My sources do not list any Alaskan on 260. The closest is RL, Riboo WA and EU Frank, Eugene OR. More study is needed. Airnav.com lists ESS Wessels NDB at Middleton Is, AK. Location 59.42N/146.34W.

Aviation weather for Alaska was heard on 277 kHz. Weather for Kodiak Island, Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet, etc. I have ACE Kachemak, Homer AK listed. Location 59.64N, 151.50W.

355, also has the same aviation weather. Nothing listed on 355, but 356 lists HHM Hotham, Kotzebue, AK, FOX, Fox AK, and GRP Granite Point, AK. More research again needed! AirNav.com lists Saldo NDB at King Salmon, AK. Location 58.74N, 156.78W.

394 is listed as RWO Woody Is., Kodiak, AK. Confirmed. Located at 57.77N, 152.32W. They mention that, 'pilot weather reports are requested'. Included weather for Dutch Harbor, Eastern Bering Sea, the Aleutians, and the Gulf of Alaska.

Finally, 411 was heard well with aviation weather. Nothing listed in my databases, but 412 lists FXW Farewell Lake, AK. Included weather for Dillingham, Kodiak (temperature on 13 deg F....Brrr!). Ili Iliamna, AK. Located at 59.75N/154.91W.

Come to think of it, I wonder if US aviation weather uses degrees Celsius?
(Salmaniw, Tow Hill, Queen Charlotte Is, BC via HCDX)