

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1588. 30 april 2006. Deadline nästa nr: 12/5 2006 (E mail 14/5 kl. 0900 SNT)

Så är det dags igen att sätta sig för sammanställning av SWB. Vissa år kring Valborg har träden slagit ut och det har varit varmt och skönt. Denna vår går dock till historien som en av de kallaste som jag varit med om. Om inte annat så syns det på elmätaren. Vårbruket har precis kommit igång här, c:a 3 veckor senare än vanligt. Igår klipptes gräsmattan för första gången och så mycket snömögel har inte synt på evigheter.

Nästa helg är det konvent i Kanebergsstugan. Hoppas nu få se många av er där. Det brukar alltid bli en massa trevligt småprat och en hel del annat smått och gott. Detta nummer är ingen större hit vad gäller bidrag. Tyvärr är inte KV längre nåt som lockar till särskilt mycket lyssning. Snart kanske det är dags att göra ett appendix i ARC som tar hand om KV-biten??

Keep on

Redaktion:

Thomas Nilsson
Mardalsv. 372
262 93 Ängelholm

Tel: 0431-27054

E-mail:

thomas.nilsson@ektv.nu

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.

Christer Brunström: Haelsning fraan Xiamen. Hej! Jag aer sedan en vecka paa besoeik i Kina som gaest hos China Radio International. En fantastisk resa med en maengd upplevelser i baade Beijing och Xiamen i soedra Kina. Vi kom hit igaar kvaell och jag har redan hunnit med jaettemycket. Staden Xiamen bjoed paa bankett (i Beijing blev vi mottagna av ledaren foer CPPCC - radio och TV var daer och allt saendes paa CCTV4 samma kvaell men daa var vi och aat penkinganka). Jag har hela tiden en egen guide/tolk liksom oevriga tolv deltagare fraan olika spraakomraaden (jag representerar engelska avdelningen paa CRI).

30/4: Jag är nu åter hemma efter en fantastisk resa till Kina som gäst hos China Radio International.

Lars Skoglund: Ett QSL har kommit nämligen **Grönlands radio via Ammassalik Radio på 3815.** De svarade med trevligt brev på danska från Nuuk. V/S var Ivalu Sövendahl Pedersen.

Leif Råhäll: Hoppas att allt är väl, här går tiden sin gilla gång. Endast två tips denna gång, håller mej till bandet som min vridbara dipol täcker. Det var allt för denna gång.

John Ekwall: Har just återvänt efter 2 veckor på Karön med en avstickare till England på några dagar. Efter mycket tjat på kommunen fick jag äntligen vatten till huset nu i torsdags - så det blev hygien och disk den eftermiddagen. Vatten är nu indraget till det nya huset - tog ett par dagar men nu är det i princip klart fattas bara en ny kyl. Får väl fixa den under sommarsemestern. Passade på att inspektera mina antenner med dystert resultat - de 3 Bolivia-antennerna föll offer för en rasande död ek. CA-antennen av nära huset - La Plata antennen går i backen de sista 50 meterna på grund av nedfallna grenar - så det blir lite jobb att reparera framöver. Hade ingen radio med mig eftersom jag visste det skulle bli ont om tid för denna.

(JOE! Trevligt att du skickar in dessa rapporter -gamla minnen väcks till liv så fort Karön nämns - synd bara att du inte prioriterar radion istället för en massa arbete... /red).

Iranian censorship

In a newscast on Apr 27 the state-run Swedish TV showed a feature sent in from Tehran by one of their roving Middle Eastern reporters. There were pictures of Iranian women walking on the streets, wearing black robes and veils. When an unveiled Iranian woman approached the reporter to complain about the way women have to dress there was an IRIB disclaimer on the screen suggesting a faulty link. On the phone, the reporter later explained that the problem was with the censor who was sitting beside him in the studio. When hearing the unveiled woman complain he just hit the button to cut the feed. (Henrik Klemetz via DXLD)

The first word spoken on radio

'Hello!' Not surprisingly, it was the first word to be heard over the radio some 100 years ago.

From the time he was a young boy, Canadian Reginald Fessenden was fascinated with the idea of transmitting voice. Upon hearing his uncle describe Alexander Graham Bell's demonstration of the telephone, the 10 year-old reportedly asked, "Why do they need wires?" He then spent much of his life trying to figure it out.

His early attempts at voice transmission were unintelligible. With government backing, Fessenden, and his assistant Thiessen, kept trying various improvements until they met with success. The first words transmitted via radio were "Hello! Test, 1, 2, 3, 4. Is it snowing where you are Mr. Thiessen?"

Fessenden formed the National Electric Signalling Company with a pair of Pittsburgh millionaires as backers after his contract with the government ended, and began working with the United Fruit Company helping perfect their wireless communication between land stations and ships at sea.

Working in secrecy, he planned a surprise for a 9 p.m. broadcast on Christmas Eve in 1906. With the assistance of his wife and trusted employees, he scripted a programme of music and Bible readings.

Shipboard operators had been tipped to listen for something special during the December 24 transmission, but no one could have anticipated what was planned.

At the appointed hour, radio operators across the North Atlantic were surprised to hear voice coming from their radios, calling "CQ, CQ". It was Fessenden beginning the first "radio" program.

After a brief introduction, Handel's "Largo" was played from an Edison wax cylinder phonograph, followed by the inventor playing "O, Holy Night" on his violin.

The planned Bible reading by Mrs. Fessenden and his secretary had to be quickly covered by the inventor as the first reported cases of microphone fright and dead air occurred when both women froze.

Source: The South African Radio League <http://www.sarl.org.za/Default.asp> via <http://www.southgatearc.org/> (Mike Terry via DXLD)

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

3330	28.4	0245	R. Ondas del Huallaga med andinsk mx TBV
4409	28.4	0255	R. Eco også denne morgenen TBV
4385	23.4	0300	R. Imperio er tilbake med sedvanlig rlg. px - et vårtegn? TBV
5014.5	28.4	0315	Oid med andinsk mx - tipper R. Altura TBV
5952,4	28.4	2245	R Pio XII hyggeligt igenom. GW
6019,94	28.4	2315	R Victoria ett tag tills QRM helt tog överhanden. GW
6173,85	29.4	0030	Tent R. Tawantinsuyo svagt. GW
6192	23.4	0030	R. Cuzco kan indikere gode forhold mot Peru TBV
9345	23.4	1353	Voice of Peace , Badgram (Tent) med muslms mx, frekvensen blockerad av Holland och Israel efter 1400 och framåt.2 LRH
9675	29.4	2205	Rádio Canção Nova med "Além Fronteiras" och talrika inslag på spanska. 3-4 CB
9743,4	26.4	0725	Sorong med lagu populär, slutade 0800 2 LRH
11785	29.4	2152	Rádio Guaíba med talprogram. 2 CB
11805	29.4	2005	Rádio Globo åter igång på kortvåg. Nu med fotboll. 2 CB
11815	29.4	2150	Rádio Brasil Central med reklam för "Óptica Brasil" 3 CB
11830	29.4	2151	Rádio Anhangüera med fotbollssnack. Jinglade sedan bara "Anhangüera" utan något CBN. 3 CB
11925	29.4	2153	Rádio Bandeirantes med talat inslag. 2 -3 CB

Stationsnyheter

ECUADOR: Press Release from HCJB World Radio April 8, 2006 via mail from Harold Goerzen

Voice of the Andes Begins Antenna Removal, Scrutinizes Shortwave's Role

Even as HCJB World Radio has begun dismantling shortwave radio antennas at its Ecuador broadcast site in Pifo, strategic opportunities for spreading the gospel via radio are emerging for the mission.

To accommodate new international airport construction near the capital city of Quito, missionary engineers and national staff have lowered a two-antenna curtain array that Radio Station HCJB, the "Voice of the Andes," formerly used to air programs to the South Pacific and Europe. In 2003 the mission switched to local and regional AM and FM broadcasts in these regions while refocusing its Ecuador-based international shortwave outreach on Latin America.

Other antennas will also be dismantled in accordance with the mission's late-December agreement with the Quito Airport Corporation (CORPAQ) which is compensating the mission for labor, but not providing funds for new site construction.

"We know that 30 towers at the Pifo site have to come down by December 2007," explained Jim Estes, director of HCJB World Radio's Latin America region, referring to antenna systems that could obstruct the approach of landing planes. Pifo is a town about 15 miles east of Quito.

Of 48 towers sustaining 32 antenna systems on the 110-acre site, another 18 lower-height antennas-whose signals do reach Latin America-will not impede approach. But those too will be dismantled by the time airport operations are expected to begin in 2009.

Mission leadership has determined that the station will not risk potential radio interference to future air traffic communications once commercial flights begin. Barring unforeseen circumstances, all transmissions from the Pifo site (including Spanish, Portuguese, German, Low German, English and various indigenous languages, including Quichua) are expected to end sometime in 2009.

Beyond that, Estes and Radio Director Doug Weber are considering various options, including the idea of building a new, smaller site in Ecuador as the mission reviews how shortwave radio in Ecuador fits into its objectives of reaching the world for Christ. Other options include buying airtime from other broadcasters or placing transmitters at other sites owned by likeminded missions.

"We're going through a process right now with our engineering crew of studying all three of those options to see what the cost is," Estes said. "And cost is one of the issues for us. We're trying to be as economical as we can be."

A 100-kilowatt transmitter has already been shipped from Pifo to HCJB World Radio-Australia's shortwave site at Kununurra. That facility began transmissions in mostly Asian languages (in addition to English) in January 2003. Staff at the Australian site expect the transmitter to be on the air by early April.

Ten shortwave transmitters remain in Ecuador where Radio Station HCJB began broadcasting from Quito in 1931. The international transmitter site was later moved to Pifo in the early 1950s. Four of those transmitters were designed and built at the HCJB World Radio Engineering Center in Elkhart, Ind., including a powerful 500,000-watt unit.

Changes at Pifo are not expected to diminish the mission's participation in the World by Radio (previously known as World by 2000) effort begun in 1985 whereby Christian international broadcasters committed to make gospel broadcasts available in all the world's major languages.

Of the 28 World by Radio languages involving HCJB World Radio, those that once aired from Quito have since been shifted to other locations, including a shortwave site in the U.K. that reaches the Euro-Asia and North Africa/Middle East regions.

Of more than a dozen languages that air from Australia, two-Bhojpuri and Chattisgarhi, both spoken in India-are World by Radio languages. Still other World by Radio languages are aired by local stations and networks worldwide.

"We're involved in radio all around the world, but our involvement is much different than what we've done historically here from Ecuador," Estes said. "It's more of an involvement where we're helping local people develop their radio ministries to reach their own people."

"Here in Latin America we've helped [radio ministries] everywhere from Buenos Aires up to Havana with such things as studios, equipment, technical advice and training on how to do radio," he added. "It's quite exciting to see." Since the 1990s the mission has aided local Christian radio endeavors in some 300 cities in more than 100 countries while facilitating network programming via satellite in all but one of its five global regions.

Assistance to local partners is facilitated by the engineering center, and the center's pioneering work in digital shortwave radio also presses on, with continued development and testing of Digital Radio Mondial (DRM) equipment -digital broadcasting for the shortwave transmitters produced there.

The Pifo site is part of that project, said Weber, who also heads the DRM task force for HCJB World Radio. "We have participated in DRM tests from down here with the DRM consortium, and we will continue to do tests over the next few years," he explained. "We are very much monitoring DRM in its development in Latin America, hoping that we can eventually use that technology and be a pioneer within Latin America, not only in digital shortwave but in digital AM."

An announcement 10 years ago had alerted the mission's engineers that Quito's long-awaited new airport might be built just six miles from the mission's shortwave facilities at Pifo. Impending changes looked more certain by mid-1997 when aviation authorities said that due to potential interference, HCJB needed to dismantle its Pifo installations.

Subsequent plans to dismantle and move the Pifo installation to Ecuador's coast were first tabled in 2003 by mission leadership, and later scrapped due to concerns about increased energy costs. Electricity for the high-powered transmitters has been generated at a mission-built hydroelectric plant in nearby Papallacta.

For more information contact: Communications Director Jon Hirst, HCJB World Radio, 1065 Garden of the Gods Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80907, (719) 590-9800; fax: (719) 590-9801, jhirst@hcjb.org (Regards Alokesh via HCDX)

GHANA: I noticed recently that no-one, including myself, seemed to have logged Radio Ghana on shortwave (4915 kHz) for some months (perhaps many months), so I made some enquiries with friends at the GBC, and they now report: "Our transmitter for the 4915 kHz was off air for some time because some spare parts had to be changed. We had the spare parts about a week ago and they have been fixed. At the moment there is a test transmission going on and all will return to normal very soon. Management is even contemplating buying a brand new transmitter and also another one with the view of resuming our External Service." (Chris Greenaway via HCDX)

INDONESIA. RRI-Kendari (4000 kHz) QSYed to 3995 kHz on 15 Apr. heard at +1000-1300+, QRMed Nei Menggu PBS on 4000 kHz. de NDXC HQ (Nagoya DX Circle HQ, Japan, April 22, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

PERU. Hola amigos, Gracias a la oportuna comunicación del amigo Alfredo Cañote sobre la información que anteriormente envié de la peruana en **4620.4, Radio Espacial**, en la que me comentaba que el No. telefónico que reporté no correspondía; revisé y digitalicé el audio, y luego de mucho escuchar saque en limpio la dirección y teléfono de la emisora; así corrijo y es: RADIO ESPACIAL. QTH: Jirón Bolívar No. 130. Otuzco - Perú; Tel: 51 + 44 436236. Para constatar esto, llamé y muy amablemente fui atendido Maritza por la secretaria de la emisora quien me confirmó los datos; además fui entrevistado al aire ante la sorpresa de la llamada. Manifestaron el interés de conocer sobre oyentes fuera del Perú (Rafael Rodríguez R., Colombia, April 15, condig list via DXLD)

Övriga radionyheter

Review: Bob Dylan's first radio show

"This weatherman knows which way the wind blows". Caspar Llewellyn Smith, Sunday April 23, 2006, The Observer

No one would have expected Dylan the shock jock, emulating the on-air behaviour of a Howard Stern or Chris Moyles and discussing his interest in women's underwear. But it certainly is a shock to hear this voice of several generations behind the mic - stretching vowels out, teasing us, smiling half the time.

After 'Blow, Wind, Blow' by that giant of Chicago blues, Muddy Waters, our host for the next hour continues: 'Chicago is known as the Windy City, but it's not the windiest city in the US; the windiest city is Dodge City, Kansas. Other windy cities are Amarillo, Texas; Rochester, Minneso-taaa ... all of which beat Chicago.'

Didn't someone once say you don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows? Turns out that Dylan himself is a something of a meteorologist, besides his other talents.

As on his last album, Love and Theft, he pays homage to the music that continues to inspire him, flipping from gospel to calypso to Judy Garland. He's showing off his collection (he has assembled a true historian's archive) - and that, after all, is the motivation of any great DJ.

The story that he tells about the recording of 'Just Walking In the Rain' by the Prisonaires and their tragic singer Johnny Bragg lends it a whole other side. Most importantly, like everything he plays, the song's a cracker. He's probably making some sort of point about the value of modern music. Put it this way: he doesn't pick 'Why Does It Always Rain On Me?' by Travis.

Dylan once wrote about the anodyne radio stations of his youth, 'filled with empty pleasantries'. He remembers listening to Roy Orbison, but 'next to Roy the playlist was strictly dullsville ... It all came at you like you didn't have a brain.' One shudders to think of what he might make of a world in which Moyles is paid £630,000 a year. He describes the Santa Ana winds as being 'always on the edge of hellfire ... like the winds of the Apocalypse'; this is authentic Dylanesque language, steeped in biblical intensity, rather than the idiom of Nuts magazine.

Later, introducing 'After the Clouds Roll Away', he muses: 'I don't know what kind of clouds might be rolling away, but they're probably the alto-cirrus or the alto-stratus ...' The triumph of Dylan's show is that it really is unlike anything else you could hear, and as such is priceless.

Caspar Llewellyn Smith is the editor of Observer Music Monthly.

http://arts.guardian.co.uk/news/story/0,,1759477.00.html#article_continue

(Mike Terry via DXLD)

The first word spoken on radio

'Hello!' Not surprisingly, it was the first word to be heard over the radio some 100 years ago.

From the time he was a young boy, Canadian Reginald Fessenden was fascinated with the idea of transmitting voice. Upon hearing his uncle describe Alexander Graham Bell's demonstration of the telephone, the 10 year-old reportedly asked, "Why do they need wires?" He then spent much of his life trying to figure it out.

His early attempts at voice transmission were unintelligible. With government backing, Fessenden, and his assistant Thiessen, kept trying various improvements until they met with success. The first words transmitted via radio were "Hello! Test, 1, 2, 3, 4. Is it snowing where you are Mr. Thiessen?"

Fessenden formed the National Electric Signalling Company with a pair of Pittsburgh millionaires as backers after his contract with the government ended, and began working with the United Fruit Company helping perfect their wireless communication between land stations and ships at sea.

Working in secrecy, he planned a surprise for a 9 p.m. broadcast on Christmas Eve in 1906. With the assistance of his wife and trusted employees, he scripted a programme of music and Bible readings. Shipboard operators had been tipped to listen for something special during the December 24 transmission, but no one could have anticipated what was planned.

At the appointed hour, radio operators across the North Atlantic were surprised to hear voice coming from their radios, calling "CQ, CQ". It was Fessenden beginning the first "radio" program.

After a brief introduction, Handel's "Largo" was played from an Edison wax cylinder phonograph, followed by the inventor playing "O, Holy Night" on his violin.

The planned Bible reading by Mrs. Fessenden and his secretary had to be quickly covered by the inventor as the first reported cases of microphone fright and dead air occurred when both women froze.

Source: The South African Radio League <http://www.sarl.org.za/Default.asp> via <http://www.southgatearc.org/>

(Mike Terry via DXLD)

Radio Impacto II

I want to thank Ulis Fleming and Sergei Sosedkin from Moscow for their feedback regarding my article on Radio Impacto's story, who b.t.w. were both surprise for my good English, altho my thanks go the same to GH who kindly make some corrections where needed. We're on Dxing to support each other, even on our language failures.

Ulis was telling me that once he visited Costa Rica, and as the ham he is, had a radio contact with no other than our Arnie Coro and a nearly heated discussion. I told him that precisely some miles west from Guatuso were he was staying, that's near our border with Nicaragua, another CIA sponsored via VOA took place, with a transmitter park that was surrounded like a fortress. It was christinized Radio Costa Rica with studios in downtown San José on the frequency of 930. Mainly, the idea was to have a local signal for Spanish service from VOA's La Voz de los Estados Unidos de América, and fill the rest of the time with some local production and newcasts and pre-recorded tapes. A.f.a.i.k., it didn't last more than 5 or 6 years, as VOA's support was retired and the station was downgrading to a regular broadcaster with too much name for such insipid programming.

That 930 granted to RCR, was the channel were Radio Juvenil ended its glorious existence that began on 925 (before the relocation every 20 Kcs. on our local BCB) on October 12, 1965. It was the first Tiquicia's all day Top 40 station transmitting from 6 a.m. til midnight. And we spent our high school years glued to that programing which indeed, now I see it as the Golden Age of Rock music, that one between the British Invasion and the arrival of the Disco Nightmare. In the midst of that, everything was with full, real creativity, whatever Otis Redding, Herb Alpert, Deep Purple, Classics IV, The Zombies, Glen Campbell, The Meters or what have you.

Was in fact by October 1970 I entered Radio Juvenil as a DJ, when I was about to leave for Australia to get me a new life, encouraged by my listening, even after hours of RA, and the letters of two friends of childhood, who had migrated to Down Under, in a great time of job opportunities for foreigners. Those were the years after DX Juke Box on RNW and the birth of Espacio Dxista with Jorge Valdez, former name of today's Radio Enlace. Dewey Hughes was handling accurately "The Now Sound" and Willis Conover had a global audience in its pocket with "VOA's Jazz Hour".

When VOA was VOA. Sadly for me WNYW never shined the shoes of WRUL, and WLAC, my former after hours company, was folding down those good old R&B days.

That's the point that being young, we were looking for music most of the time, and news and political issues were less important. Were the readings of Jerry Cowan on RNW that opened my interest in building antenna tuners, while Radio New York's Dxing Worldwide, was never such a deal for me. I wasn't tuned with our hobby yet, altho through them I heard the word DX for the first time.

I can't tell now if it was some European pirate station with rock music, somewhere in the 41 mb. in 1969, that caught my attention by the way announcers went on the air. Someone has told me about Radio Caroline and I figured out "Baby I Need Your Loving"

by The Four Tops was coming with that weak signal from a vessel. So when I found out Radio Luxembourg on 6090 around 1972, became a regular for me after work. I enjoyed that rich bassy sound they had. And they provided my first ride on "A Horse With No Name".

Those guys from BBCWS really made it, with pop musicals like "Seen and Heard" and not so long ago "The Vintage Hit Parade". Recently I read that many of their announcers, were hired from the remains of former pirate stations. Johnny Moran, John Peel and even Brian Matthew, who sounded soberly presenting recordings as if he were a wiseman talking to a younger generation.

O.K., O.K., too much musical leaning I went by, but is part of our Dxing way of breathing too. Hey, you know what I miss a lot...that old theme from DX Juke Box that sounded like an elephant fanfare made with trombones. That reminds me those first QSL cards I began to ask for by the mid 70s. Must be that one from WRUL, which I didn't really request and was sent thanks to my comments, then came that lot from 1968 when I was a ham for a year but never got the most important, that TT8 from a Chad expedition. Next one must have been from Radio Nederland in Spanish in the early 70s.

Got to mention in this point that one of the things I really enjoyed was arab music. Fortunately most of these countries own real power houses that let you receive good signals most of the time. And I wanted to learn Arab too over any other language. Those old respectives Ann-Ids printed in the WRTH were my first Arab lessons.

By the time I was working for TIXE Radio Omega wasn't aware yet of the frustration that means send one report after another without any reply. In some way, I want to apologize with John Sgrulletta that recently referred not receiving any confirmation from the now defunct 625 for his taped reports from April 1975.

Someone let me hear one of those tapes, but was not in my hands to reply them. It is clear that not all AMers from Latin America are interested on these reports.

So different with TICAL Radio Rumbo that Mr. Sgrulletta logged little time after they had move from 525. Radio Sonora has moved recently to 700 Khz with a Christian Spanish pop format. That's the former frequency of TIHB Radio Reloj, completely gone from AM, now exclusively on 94.3 FM, and no more SW.

Radio Omega that was born on 625 around 1972, as I have explained, ended its days with the late 70s on 575. And when AM frequency relocation took place in Tiquicia around 1979, that transmitter was operating on 590 for Radio Nacional de C.R.

Back in time, 625 was home for La Voz de la Victor. As the name implies from RCA Victor's old Victrolas for those 78 rpm. But I can't tell which one came first, as there was the competitive Radio Columbia, without any commercial relation with the record label. Beside from TIQ Radio Casino from Puerto Limón (born after WW II, 1200 to 1220) I could tell that Radio Columbia that started in the 1940s on 725, now 760, are the two oldest commercial AMers on the air, despite the religious TIFC Faro del Caribe, nowadays on 1080, which during the 60s being on 1075, splattered our nighttime hearings from KAAY 1090 in Little Rock, Ark.

Thanks God, by 11 p.m. having TIFC signed-off, the door was open to enjoy Stand Recordshop's hour, with just occasional fading but no interference. Those mid 60s were great for AM Dxing being solar cycle at floor level.

While the 1980's were going, and before RFPI and Radio Impacto came to be, there was Radio Noticias del Continente operating only on SW. Frankly, I don't know much of that station, with the exception they were settled in a place call Puente de Piedra (Stonebridge) in Cantón de Grecia, Alajuela province. I heard they were about to move their studios near Paseo Colón on San José's West Side, when Costa Rica government shut down their operations, due to many claims from abroad of this communist station. I made a Google search recently, looking for some history and frequencies used by this station without any luck. I just read that was supported by a South American armed leftist organization called "Montoneros". Question is, where democracy really lays in Tiquicia? Not that everybody has the same rights, as well as Radio Impacto was granted a legal operation?

As the white elephant that RI was in the eye of most tico broadcasters, no local entrepreneur should be able to maintain those six -for this country- high power transmitters on the air, if we consider highest power here had been ranging from 5 to a rare 10 Kw.

So, all six of them were sent to Cahuita and AWR tico branch, altho situated in Ceiba, Alajuela, linked by microwave, supporting on Irazú Volcano relay to cross the Continental Division all the way to our Caribbean coast. Those six must have been too much financial weight for AWR and before too long that Cahuita site ended in the hands of Dr. Gene Scott Ministry.

AWR has kept operations here as Radio Lira, now only on 88.7 FM, after many years on 1500, being that name the former station of Costa Rica's father of radio Amando Céspedes, who once back in the 1920s had the privilege of a visit at home in Heredia from Admiral Richard Bird, who was impressed with the signal he received while in the South Pole. That was by the time Charles Lindbergh and his Spirit of Saint Louis (boy, he really squeezed the juice out of that plane!) on January 9th 1928 made scale on that former tiny landing field of La Sabana, until the mid 50s our international airport.

Years went by and yours truly had that blessing to born and live his childhood next door to former studios of TIQ Radio Casino at hometown Puerto Limón, visiting occasionally announcers Alvaro Espinach and (English prog.) Sidney Walters. Living just a block away from the railroad yard, I never became part as a worker of that craziness for trains. After losing innocence in San José, 35 years have gone by since my debut in Radio Juvenil to this very day on Super Radio as oldies format producer and reading for Eco News.com and 95.9

I forgot to mention the assistance to ANARCON '89 of a broadcaster engineer as well as former host of "Caribbean Wavelength" on TWR Bonaire, Chuck Roswell.

In fact, I enjoyed his show too and was my pleasure to receive from him some advice for antennas. Where is he now? Last time someone mentioned his name, referred him with Swaziland.

Also at ANARCON '89 was a former presenter for DXPL over HCJB; a young guy from New Zealand, I think Brent Olpride (?) is his name. And if someone else who was there remember any other personnel from HCJB, please refresh my memory. One thing I miss the same was that not even one of the Two Bobs took the chance to attend, a.f.a.i.k.
(Raúl Saavedra, Costa Rica via DXLD.)

ARRL Newsletter, April 7, 2006

Amateur Radio volunteers in northwestern Tennessee and elsewhere were active April 2 when a string of tornadoes struck the Midwest and South. The severe weather left more than two dozen people dead and many injured, most of them in Tennessee. ARRL Tennessee Section Emergency Coordinator Jimmy Floyd, NQ4U, reports SKYWARN volunteers relayed reports to the National Weather Service Office in Memphis as the twisters approached.

"Several hams were active in the Dyersburg-Newbern area Sunday night passing local traffic for the area folks needing to let relatives know that they were okay," Floyd told ARRL. "According to local hams, most of the communication infrastructure was intact after the storms."

Authorities in Dyer County, where 15 people died, say some houses were totally destroyed by the storms, and large trees across highways hampered access by emergency crews. Severe damage reports emerged from Gibson County where some 1200 houses and other structures--including the police station--were said to have been damaged. The NWS said it had received preliminary reports of more than 60 tornadoes April 2. Tennessee state police were continuing to search for additional storm victims and warning those "without legitimate business" to keep out of the affected areas and let first responders and law enforcement personnel do their jobs.

In Illinois, Lawrence County Emergency Coordinator Gary Auerswald, WB9UDJ, found himself in the middle of "a horrendous storm" while returning home with his family from Indiana.

"Trees were coming down, and people were getting blown off the road," he told ARRL Illinois Section Emergency Coordinator Pat Ryan, KC6VVT. "All electricity in the area went out." Fallen power lines prevented Auerswald from taking his usual route along Illinois Route 1. "We traveled by back roads and oil field roads and made it home," he said.

Downed trees and power lines and other property damage greeted his arrival.

"A lightning burst gave me a clue to what else was missing: My antenna farm," he said. Auerswald said that until he can "piece something together,"

he's off the air. He was providing power to his home from a generator.

Ryan reports the Illinois ARES HF Section Net on 75 meters secured early because of high atmospheric noise levels. The ARES Net on the Starved Rock Radio Club W9MKS repeater in Lenore yielded to an ongoing weather-spotter net activated earlier by Jim Morris, N9PLM, who served as net control.

"Weather Net members monitored for storm activity and, at one point, the LaSalle County EOC was activated," Ryan said. One person died in Illinois.

Other states affected by the tornadoes and high winds included Arkansas, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio. Kentucky Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, reported "plenty of nets up and running" the evening of April 2. Dodson says the storms decreased in severity by the time they reached his state. "Trees, power and phones lines went down," he said, "but there were no major structural incidents or injuries."

The April 2 tornadoes came less than a month after a huge string of tornados swept through the nation's midsection on another Sunday, killing 10 people in Missouri and Indiana and causing damage in several other states, including Illinois, Kansas and Arkansas.

Source: The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 14 April 7, 2006 (Mike Terry via HCDX)