

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1592. 25 juni 2006.

Deadline nästa nr: 7/7 2006 (E mail 9/7 kl. 0900 SNT)

Sitter just nu och sammanställer SWB i all hast. Det har varit en hektisk period med mycket arbete, dotterns arkitektexamen i Köpenhamn samt midsommarfirande. Därutöver kommer tillsynen av min gamle fader en gång i veckan vilket denna gång blev just idag på grund av midsommarfirandet.

I eftermiddag väntar första besöket på stranden – just nu är det 25 grader och molnfri himmel. Kan det bli bättre? Även temperaturen i vattnet är hygglig – i Skälderviken ca 20 grader redan.

Radiolyssnandet ligger som vanligt på en konstant låg nivå, endast några få bidrag har letat sig hit.

I övrigt är det bara att hoppas den fina värmen håller i sig till semestern.

Ha det så bra i sommarvärmen!

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 Hej, en "nyhet" som jag fått via RTA (Radio y TV Americana, radioyvtv.net). Hälsningar från en närmast sommarinaktiv Jan Edh

Anuncio de Evo Morales, Bolivia tendrá 30 radios comunitarias

los empresarios tienen derecho a tener radios y canales ¿por qué no los campesinos?. Vamos a tener nuestras radios y vamos a tener un canal de televisión”, prometió el Jefe de Estado boliviano, Evo Morales, durante el cierre del XI Congreso de la Federación Unica de Mujeres Campesinas Bartolina Sisa.

“Los medios de comunicación tergiversan nuestras declaraciones y hemos decidido que en la primera etapa vamos a instalar 30 emisoras campesinas en toda Bolivia”, confirmó Morales a APG Noticias.

Además hizo hincapié en que el objetivo será “educar” e “informar” y que ya consiguió el financiamiento para concretarlo el próximo año.

El primer medio comenzará a funcionar en la localidad beniana de Mojos.

La Dirección Nacional de Comunicación del Gobierno (Dinacom) firmó un convenio interinstitucional con la radiodifusión comunitaria en Bolivia, para llevar adelante una acción conjunta dirigida al fortalecimiento de la democracia a través del uso plural y participativo de los medios de radiodifusión comunitaria.

Según la Subdirectora de Dinacom, Ana Lilian Ortega, la firma del documento fue acordada luego del Encuentro de Radiodifusión Comunitaria de Bolivia, que se desarrolló en la ciudad de La Paz el 9 y 10 de mayo pasado.

El documento fue suscrito por representantes en Bolivia de la Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias (AMARC), la Asociación de Radioemisoras Indígenas del Altiplano de La Paz, la Asociación Provincial de Radios Comunitarias de Bolivia y la Dinacom.

De acuerdo con el texto, de once puntos, se establece que cualquier iniciativa gubernamental dirigida a actuar sobre la radiodifusión comunitaria, deberá ser consensuada con las entidades y organizaciones representativas de ese movimiento.

Para ello se constituirá una Comisión Representativa para el Fortalecimiento de la Radiodifusión Comunitaria en Bolivia, la cual estará integrada por miembros de AMARC. La experiencia alcanzada por la radiodifusión comunitaria será el referente que oriente las nuevas líneas de acción.

Ambas partes se comprometieron a promover el contenido de la oferta programática de la radiodifusión comunitaria, elevar su calidad técnica y estética, oferta educativa, información de calidad y vocación de participación y trabajo con la comunidad.

Rolf Åhman: Några trevliga svar har kommit senaste tiden, nämligen: **KNR via Ammassalik Radio 3815** brev, **Radio Djibouti 4780** brev och dekal, **TIFC Faro del Caribe 5055** kort och brev samt **AIR/Gangtok 3390** och **AIR/Itanagar 4990** båda med kort från Delhi.

Trevlig midsommar!

Christer Brunström: Jag har just återvänt från en kortare resa till Paris där jag besökte Le Salon du timbre & de l'écrit. Mycket varmt väder men Paris är ju alltid Paris. Lyssnade lite på La Radio de la Mer 1080 som jag aldrig lyckats höra här hemma. Loisir AM var också igång på 1314 och den blir väl mycket lättare att höra när NRK slutar på frekvensen. Ett nytt QSL: **FEBC International 12130** med QSL-kort.

Stig Hartvig Nielsen: Hermed lidit logs - inden ferien starter på tirsdag med tre uger i Cuba. Jeg ved endnu ikke, om jeg kan tage min AOR AR7030 med. Indrejsereglerne siger klart, at man kun må tage radioer med der ligner "husholdningsradioer" - så jeg har søgt om tilladelse fra den cubanske ambassade i Danmark, men endnu ikke fået svar.

Ellers får mine børn og jeg nok også tiden til at gå i Cuba endda :-)

Der har ikke været så meget at høre på kortbølge, men der har været gode DX-forhold på FM med E-skip til bl.a. Irland, Tunesien, Tyrkeiet (Istanbul) og Rusland (Moskva). Netop nu (lørdag eftermiddag) høres to spanske stationer kæmpe på 87.8 MHz. (*Låter hårligt med ferie på Cuba! /red*)

Dan Olsson: Jag får önska dig och alla andra en god fortsättning på midsommaren.

Aktiviteten på kortvåg de senaste veckorna har inte varit så hög utan har varit FM-lyssning på bilradion och MV på Panasonicen som gällt. FM har t.ex under juni måna givit ca. 15 rapporter i 6 olika länder. Ny FM-länder för mig är Rumänien och Grekland. Alla är hörda när jag har kört till och från jobbet.

Kortvågstipsen är ifrån en lyssnarnatt i Saxtorp där jag och Jan Thörnblom samt Jan Rasmusson deltog
QSL har inkommit: **6295 R Chaos** med e-brev och 6400 R Ramona e-brev och foto

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

3329.53			Peru, Ondas del Huallaga , Huánuco 1025 fair signal, yl and om, flauta andina; also noted 0100 16/17 June [Wilkner-FL]
3329.6	23.6	0240	Radio Ondas del Huallaga var bedst på LSB pga. CHU på 3330. Lang snak, senere andisk musik nonstop. IDs og slogans kl. 0300. 22322 SHN
4000.27			UNID carrier 1000 to 1030, noted from 16 to 18 June [Wilkner-FL]
4052.46	24.6	0200	Radio Verdad med stille, religiøs musik. 23332 SHN
4716.76	3.6	0100	Radio Yura havde kvindeligt vært og spillede lokal musik. 25333 SHN
4754.85			Brazil R Educação Rural , Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul 0912 with chorale, "Radio Ed." ID by om. 10 June [Wilkner-FL]
4779.96	24.6	0215	Radio Cultural Coatán spillede livlig musik, tids-annonceringer og IDs kun som "Radio Coatán". 25333 SHN
4790.2v			R. Visión Chiclayo, seem off the air or new fqy? [Wilkner-FL]
4790.24	23.6	0220	Radio Visión , Chiclayo, sendte religiøst program fra Pinsekirken (der ejer stationen). ID kl. 0229. 23332 SHN
4835.6			Peru, R Maraño Jaen 1025 OA National Anthem together with full ID " OCX... Radio Maraño Jaen ...onda corta....presenta" 10 June [Wilkner-FL]
4835.6			Peru, R Maraño Jaen 1025 OA National Anthem together with full ID " OCX... Radio Maraño Jaen ...onda corta....presenta" 10 May [Wilkner-FL]
4909.17			Ecuador R Chaskis , Otavalo 1050 with flute music solo beginning with the melody from the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" 15 June [Wilkner-FL]
4910	11.6	1945	AIR Jaipur med referat av en cricketmatch. 2-3 CB
4965.9			Peru, Radio Santa Ana La Convención , Cusco, presumed with fading signal, 1045 to 1100. om tk, flauta andina, etc. Band closes about 1030 at present in Southeast Florida. 17 June [Wilkner-FL]
4989.94			[t.] Suriname Radio Apintie , Paramaribo difficult signal, yl at 1000 18 June [Wilkner-FL]
4992.05			UNID at 1003 drifting up to 4993, then sudden off 1040. Peru?, 18 June [Wilkner-FL]
5000	6.6	0000	R Republica hørde här till min förvåning. DO
5019.95			Solomon Islands , SIBC, Honiara 0940 to 1020 programme in English, with minor interference from Cuba. 18 June [Wilkner-FL]
5580	6.6	0020	R San José med religiösa sånger. DO
5580.3	3.6	0115	Radio San José - musik og meget lidt snak. 25232 SHN
5870	19.6	1857	Family Radio , Madagascar, slut på religiøst program - ny frekvens (ex. 5905). 25332 SHN
5910	5.6	2258	R Marfil Estereo hördes bra i två minuter sedan blev de överkörda av R Republica. DO
5952.48	4.6	0100	Radio Pio XII spillede andisk musik. 32432 SHN
5952.5	5.6	2230	R Pio XII med program där man pratade om presidenten Morales DO
6114.87	3.6	0135	Radio Union med snak men ingen ID. 24322 SHN
6184.97	23.6	0200	Radio Educación på spansk. Ødelagt af Vatikanradioen kl. 0208. 24443 SHN
6214.1	8.6	0230	Radio Baluarte på portugisisk, musik og annonceringer. S/off 0258 UTC. 24332 SHN
11565	4.6	0800	KWHR , Hawaii, på engelsk og Peoples Gospel Hour. 24433 SHN
11690	3.6	1015	Scandinavian Weekend Radio med finsk ID og optagelser af bl.a. Skyline Radio, Fox 48 og andre piratradioer. 34433 SHN
11760	12.6	0420	Radio Habana Cuba med ett inslag på spanska om Santiago de Chile. 3 CB

Report from Florida [Bolivia Survey -Banda Tropical-](#) 21. Junio 2.006

Bob Wilkner - Pompano Beach, Florida. NRD 535 746Pro R75

Emisoras de Bolivia "logged" en Junio en La Florida del sur. Calquier comentario y "logs" adicionales recibidos aqui serán muy apreciados. Logs from 01 to 21 June. Corrections and additions appreciated!

3310.05			Mosoj Chaski , Cochabamba- 0000 to 0100, 0900 21 June
3390.29t			Emisoras Camargo , Camargo 0000 to 0020 very weak/ muy debíl. 21 June
4409.838			Radio Eco , Reyes 0016 to 0035, 21 June.
4449.90t to 4450.00			Estación Frontera , Cobija, Pando 0955 to 1020,21 June, per log in (Cumbre)... ADXN for July. Cataract Dam Dxpediton. John Wright, Kevin Branch, Lewis Lagarto, Robert Fitzgerald and John Sanderson. Australian Radio DX club. Appin 50 miles south West of Sydney.
4498.075			R Estambul Guyaramerín 1020, 21 June. weak/ debíl
4545.39v			Radio Virgen de Remedios , Tupiza.under CODAR, interferencia de CODAR, 0000 to 0045 21 June. 0120 to 0130 17 June con interferencia de CODAR!
4555.265t.			Radio Paititi Guayaramerin Depto. Beni 0000 to 0020,very weak/ muy debíl, 21 June

4650.2 **R Santa Ana**, Santa Ana del Yacuma 1030, weak/ debíl 7 June.
 4716.70v **R Yura**, Yura 0930 21 June. Fuerte! Todos los dias! Strong signal every day 1000 to 1030. 0120 to 0130 16 June.
 4781.35 **Radio Tacana**, Tumupasa Iturralde, 1015 to 1023 on 11 June;
 4796.42v **R Mallku Uyuni** *0900 to 0930 sign on, Fuerte! Todos los dias! Strong signal every day 1000 to 1030.
 4844.47 **R Norteño** Canaviri 1030, 5 June.
 4865 **R Centenario**, Santa Cruz de la Sierra. No Logs, Nada!
 4901.927 **R Sn Miguel** Riberalta. "Buenos DiasRadio Sn Miguel.." Fuerte! Todos los dias! Strong signal every day 0920 to 1030.
 5580.2 **R San Jose**, San Jose de Chiquitos, 0026 to 0045 on 27 June; 0940 18 June;
 5680.736 **Radio La Voz del Campesino** Sipe Sipe 0925 poor signal/ debíl 21 June, 0840 on 20 June.

Stationsnyheter

INDONESIA. 3269, RRI-Gorontalo, Gorontalo. Song of the coconut islands 1158 ID in Indonesian at 1200, News relay from Jakarta, sign-off 1206. Good level 17/6 (Cataract DX-pedition, NSW via John Wright, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

MALAYSIA/SARAWAK. 6050, RTM Sibul, June 18, 1017-1032 music program, poor/splatter from Japan on 6055; 1141-1218, W. announcer talking in vernacular over piano music (theme from Love Story?), light pop songs, 1200 singing jingle " ? – FM", musical fanfare, news in vern. (not // to 7270 nor 5965), 1205 singing jingle for "RTM – Kuala Lumpur", news continued, 1211 musical fanfare, singing jingle for RTM FM? (not positive), M. with program of on-air phone calls ("hello, hello, hello –"). Fair, about the same level as 5965, 7270 and 7295. Needs more work to get a positive FM ID. This has been off the air for some time now. A big "Thank You" to John Wilkins for the alert on this one. He measured this at 6049.65 Good job John! (Ron Howard, Monterey, CA, Etn E5, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

PERU. Un interesante listado de Estaciones de Radiodifusin Sonora a Nivel Nacional de emisoras en AM, FM y Onda Corta, actualizada el 18 Mayo 2006 en: <http://www.deperu.com/medios/sonora.pdf> El archivo es en pdf y contiene 100 pginas. 73 (Jos Miguel Romero, Spain, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Is in order by province, and those having (OC) show the SW stations first. It might be useful to extract the SW info only, showing addresses of studio and transmitter, but don't know how to do it except very laboriously one by one (Glenn Hauser, DXLD)

RUSSIA: 9855 Shiokaze Radio (p), Angarsk, Russia, 1038-1058, June 21, Japanese, long talk by male in Japanese; at 1050 UTC announcement by male and other talk, announcement, short music and other announcement & s/off. 44433 This is a service produced by the Investigation Commission of Missing Japanese and the transmission is for North Korea. (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentina via HCDX)

vriga radionyheter

Officile opening nieuwe studio's Wereldomroep

Official Opening of Radio Nederland's New Studios 11 October 1961 Many SWL's know that Edward Startz used to "clink" a spoon against his tea cup, while playing the song "Nice Cuppa Tea".....(that was his trademark on the Happy Station.)

Now you can watch Eddie perform this time-honored ritual on film from the Polygoon Holland Nieuws newsreel of 11 October 1961, entitled "Officile opening nieuwe studio's Wereldomroep."

Click here for streaming video: Official Opening of Radio Nederland's New Studios 11 October 1961

<http://cgi.omroep.nl/cgi-bin/streams/?ibg/sn063012-sb.wmv?title=Offici> opening nieuwe studios Wereldomroep;embed=1 (Horacio Nigro via HCDX)

Grayland DXpedition Loggings & Comments - June 10-11

This past weekend, I met with DXers John Bryant and Don Nelson for two nights of fishing for exotic signals at Grayland, Washington. It was great to see Don again after well over a year of our paths not crossing at DXpeditions; and John has recently returned to the Pacific Northwest where he is nearing completion of his summer and fall home on beautiful Orcas Island.

A few days before the DXpedition I felt a mild cold coming on, but I had hopes that it would pass quickly and not bother me while at Grayland. Nope--no such luck. Half way through the weekend, my head felt like an inflated weather balloon and my voice trailed away into broken, raspy speech as laryngitis set in. At least the fun of DXing would keep my mind off the misery!

Besides DXing, we each had related pursuits at Grayland. Don has been assembling a very impressive amateur radio setup, and during the daytime he was trying out a firmware upgrade to his computerized/motorized "Steppir" vertical antenna, along with working the kinks out of an amplifier and accessories. John erected a large 27 ft. X 100 ft. EWE antenna with adjustable termination to compare to the Beverages. I brought along my Eton E1 portable receiver, for what I expected would be very unfair comparisons against communications receivers.

John's carefully constructed large EWE antenna was disappointing in its performance at Grayland, with signals many dB down, providing no edge in S/N or signal intelligibility. In contrast, John says the large EWE is a "Beverage beater" back in his Oklahoma pasture land. Dramatic differences in ground conductivity are probably to blame, as we've always had difficulty getting good grounds in the sandy soil of Grayland.

The night of the 10th began with very good signals from Papua New Guinea on the tropicals, but virtually no signals or hets anywhere on medium wave. Finally, past 1000 UTC, some MW TP signals were heard; first were the Japanese, but then conditions quickly shifted to Australia and remained that way through dawn. The 11th was similar, but with far weaker PNGs on 90 through 60 meters (Wantok Radio Light was at good to very good levels both nights, though).

We had high hopes for spectacular MW propagation across the Pacific, based on the low solar flux and A/K indices the previous days. Unfortunately reception turned out to be "average", but I'll take average any day over the truly lackluster MW reception I experienced in January and April at the WA coast.

This DXpedition was my first chance to hook the portable Eton E1 to a "real" antenna. I fully expected the front end to "fold" when connected to the Beverage antennas, but happily the E1 responded beautifully. It was great fun to cruise the tropical bands and MW splits with the Eton, and experience reception which in most cases was every bit as high performance as that provided by communication receivers. Particularly memorable was listening to World Cup soccer on 2NR Grafton, Australia (738 kHz) using the synch-AM detector in LSB selectable sideband to avoid the domestic on 740.

Click on the links below to hear a couple of DX audio recordings made with the E1:

http://www.guyatkins.com/files/sdr/wantok_r_light_7120_11_jun_2006_e1.mp3 (Wantok Radio Light, 7120 kHz, with talk & ID)

http://www.guyatkins.com/files/sdr/r_vanuatu_signoff_3945_10_jun_2006_e1.mp3 (R. Vanuatu 3945 sign-off with IDs, announcements, and anthem)

Check my SDR-1000 blog site (URL below) in a few days for comments and recordings relating to the Flex-Radio's performance on the DXpedition.

INDIA 4910, 1320-1340, AIR Jaipur Jun 10 Weak but increasing signal approaching Jaipur sunset. Subcontinental music at tune-in, then apparent news items in Hindi by male announcer at 1330. John Bryant and I compared signals carefully on 4910, using my modded R-75, the SDR-1000, and my newest acquisition, the Eton E1. The best signal? The Indian-made Eton E1 in its remarkable synchronous AM mode! Antenna in use was a 1000 ft. NW Beverage antenna connected directly to each receiver. The E1 never showed signs of overload from this lengthy antenna, even on medium wave, where it provided very impressive reception (for a portable receiver) of trans-Pacific stations, such as the uncommon 8AL outlet in Alice Springs, Australia on 783 kHz. (Atkins-WA)

INDONESIA 2960, 1050-1110, RPDT2 Manggarai Jun 10 Presumed. Female announcer reading a list of some sort, with many mentions of Indonesian city names and individual names. Perhaps the Indo version of 'communicados'. No pause or ID at top of hour, but some mentions of Manggarai at 1108. Nice S4 signal. (Atkins-WA)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 3205, 1210-1216, R. West Sepik Jun 10 Very good signal of PNG pops music and male announcer in Pidgin with mentions of Vanimo, Papua New Guinea, and Sandaun. Phone interview at 1215. I did not do a formal bandscan of PNGs, but the following were also noted in passing: 3260 R. Madang; 3325 R. North Solomons; 3355 R. Simbu (weak-tentative); 3385 R. East New Britain; 3905 R. New Ireland; 4960 Catholic Radio Network; and 7120 Wantok Radio Light (see separate logs on these last two). (Atkins-WA)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 4960, 0845-1005, Catholic Radio Network Jun 10 Mellow acoustic guitar music and Christian vocals at tune-in. Into Catholic mass at top of hour without break or ID. I reviewed the recording of this station later, and noted that the Vatican Radio interval signal was heard at 1002 UTC, followed by a weak 'Catholic Radio Network' ID by man in English. Poor to fair signal at best. (Atkins-WA)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 7120, 0805-0940, Wantok Radio Light Jun 11 Very impressive and strong signal tonight. Sermon in Pidgin by native pastor; acapella vocals in English; Christian contemporary music selections. Female announcer in English with time check '15 minutes past seven o'clock' and Wantok Radio Light ID; introduction to local gospel music group with song 'Hosanna, Hosanna'. At 0900, into relay of NBC (Port Moresby) news. At 0910, an interesting PSA for malaria treatment was heard; the text from my recording: 'Every year in Papua New Guinea, there are more than one million reported cases of malaria. That means about one quarter of Papua New Guineans suffer from malaria each year. But malaria can be treated by sleeping under treated mosquito nets every night. The mosquitos that spread malaria only breed at night. Treated mosquito nets are safe for you and your family, and enable everyone to get a good night's sleep. Mosquito nets do protect against malaria. Pregnant women and children under five are at most risk of dying from malaria, and must sleep under a treated mosquito net every night. Be sure to have enough net for the whole family; the more people protected by mosquito net, the greater the level of protection for the whole community. They come in a range of sizes-- single, double, and extra large, and are available at the grocer or your local store. Get more information from your provincial health office; buying treated mosquito nets is the best investment you can make to protect your family from malaria. Malaria can be treated and cured. Sleep under a treated mosquito net every night, and together we can beat malaria.' (Wow...more than a million cases each year in PNG alone? Why are a few cases of bird flu getting all the Western press? Third world issues always take a back seat, it seems.) (Atkins-WA)

VANUATU 3944.8, 0945-1115, R. Vanuatu Jun 10 Lengthy sermon in presumed Bislama at tune-in; nice sing-sing music by choir and acoustic guitar. Conch shell and drums at 1000, and into news items. A mix of contemporary Christian and pop music was played up until 1111 when a female announcer gave ID and full sign-off announcements including MW, SW, and FM frequencies, and mentions of Port Vila. Into anthem and sign-off 1115*. Good signal level, and very enjoyable on both the SDR-1000 and the Eton E1 with a Beverage antenna. Our usual setup at Grayland includes an impedance matching transformer ahead of a ARR preamp upstream of an 8-way passive Mini-Circuits splitter. A separate trio of components is used with each of the Southwest, West, and Northwest antennas. (Atkins-WA)

SDR-1000 comments. The SDR-1000 was a pleasure to operate. I'm slowly learning how to make better use of the many features and controls. As on previous DXpeditions, a quiet location, a quiet, "clear" receiver like the SDR-1000, and quality headphones such as my Sennheiser HD-525 make for very pleasant listening to low-level DX signals. I'm convinced that frequency-limiting "voice" or "communications" headphones are actually a drawback with flexible DSP receivers like the Flex-Radio. "Hi-fi" headphones like the Sennheiser allow the full audio range if desired, or the radio can be adjusted with the "brick wall" DSP filtering to provide sharp cutoff to the non-voice frequencies if desired. In addition, the SDR-1000 has a high performance 3-band equalizer that's very effective to shape audio further. I think one day Flex will provide more bands to the equalizer; they had an 8-band (I think) equalizer in the past, but rewrote the code for better performance and reissued it as a 3-bander.

For medium wave DXing in rural areas like Grayland, far from local RF sources, I'm not sure that the superior blocking dynamic range and IP3 of the SDR-1000 is a unique benefit. Even receivers with modest front ends can perform surprisingly well in optimum surroundings. (I know of one veteran DXer in South Africa who has superb MW catches with an old Yaesu FRG-7 receiver. This is partly due to his years of DXing experience, and partly because of the very RF-quiet conditions where he lives.) In fact, even the amazing selectivity of the DSP filtering in the SDR-1000 is not a great benefit on medium wave, due to the widespread "splatter" of

domestic stations. No matter how good the selectivity, even the best receivers have a passband on the foreign "splits" that overlaps the domestic stations' audio to some degree.

Time will tell, but I'm beginning to think that the low phase noise and clear audio reproduction, along with the synchronous-AM mode, are the key features of the SDR-1000 on foreign medium wave catches. Of course, the panadapter display is a HUGE tool for spotting weak signals and hets, and is just downright fun to use!

At the end of two nights of sleep deprivation and DXing, I'm looking tired, but haven't fallen out of the chair (yet). If you look closely, you can see I've mounted the Griffin Powermate tuning knob vertically on the front panel of the SDR-1000. I think I may like this more traditional position for the knob rather than placing it flat on the desk or table.

Big fish dive into Arab news stream

By Doreen Carvajal International Herald Tribune. Published: June 18, 2006

PARIS The media battle for hearts and market share in the Middle East is evolving into a teeming crowd of Western news organizations poised to deliver headlines - and geopolitical views - in the language of the Koran.

Backed by government financing, Germany's public international broadcaster, Deutsche Welle, is preparing to beam as much as 24 hours daily of news programming in Arabic this autumn. France's yet-to-be-named CNN-style channel is in development for a year-end opening, along with a Web site in Arabic and later in 2007 an Arabic television version.

The state-owned Russia Today has similar plans for a Web site and Arabic television along with a \$40 million budget, while the U.S.-based news giant CNN is holding back for now, preferring to watch the development of its Arabic Web site, which currently attracts more than 300,000 unique visitors monthly.

"I'm losing track," said Jerry Timmins, head of the BBC World Service's operations in Africa and the Middle East. "There's pretty much of an announcement a week, and it seems to be part of the fashion industry."

The BBC World Service itself is also in the fray, with £19 million, or \$35 million, from the British government for an autumn debut of an Arabic news broadcast, starting with 12 hours of daily programming and expanding to 24 hours.

The headlong rush of these national news organizations reflects a practical approach to the Middle East: Conflicts can be influenced by story-telling and a relentless flow of information as well as by missiles and pin-striped diplomats.

But the debate is beginning about whether these foreign broadcasts will create understanding or more bitter conflict. "Lost in Translation" was the name of a panel at the Arab Broadcast Forum this month in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, that raised questions about how foreign broadcasters would address sensitive issues like suicide bombings.

The potential risks were apparent last week when about 500 Iraqi followers of a radical Shiite cleric attacked the Iranian consulate in Basra, Iraq, in anger over talk show commentary on Al Kawthar, an Iranian satellite television channel that broadcasts in Arabic.

For countries like Denmark and Spain, where Arabic news efforts are beginning, the benefits may well outweigh the hazards. Both nations have confronted geopolitical tensions, with the terrorist bombings in Madrid in March 2004 and the furor over the publication last year of cartoon caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in a Danish newspaper.

In late March, the state-owned Spanish news agency EFE started an Arabic service with financing from the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The service offers information to newspaper and media outlets and an Arabic Web site that eventually will be available in part for free to general readers.

"We want to be a piece of the big puzzle and try to offer a bridge between civilizations," said Javier Martín, head of EFE's Arabic services. "It's one of our aims. The other one is a commercial aim, and we're trying to sign up subscribers."

With a newly hired staff of 14 Arabic editors and translators in Cairo, the news agency is concentrating on reaching African media outlets in some of the countries closest to Spain: Tunisia, Mauritania and Morocco, the latter being the home country of several terrorists involved in the Madrid bombings.

In Denmark, the anti-immigration Danish People's Party is proposing to set up what it calls an Arab version of Radio Free Europe through the national public broadcaster, Danmarks Radio. They aim to set aside 25 million kroner, or \$4.2 million, to transmit radio and television programming to Arabic-speaking countries, tapping a 100 million kroner fund set up in 2003 by an initiative called the "Danish as an Arab."

"It has not been approved yet, but eventually it looks like it's possible," said Soren Espersen, the Danish People's Party's foreign policy spokesman. "We feel that there is a lack of democracy in Arab countries, and that was the reason for the crisis with the cartoons. It's important that they get discussions about democracy."

For the newcomers, the keys to success are credibility and performance, many Arab media experts say. Already, more than 200 free television channels cover the Arab region on the satellites Arabsat and Nilesat, with 10 percent devoted to news, according to Judeh Siwady, a media analyst with Arab Advisors Group, based in Amman.

That includes the American-backed station Al Hurra, which, according to the Arab Advisors surveys, lags far behind the news leaders, the Qatar-based Al Jazeera and the Saudi Arabian station Al Arabiya. In a poll last month by the BBC and Reuters of more than 10,000 adults in 10 countries, 59 percent of Egyptians ranked Al Jazeera as their most trusted news source.

"People will have a look" at the new foreign channels, said Nasib Bitar, a Dubai-based producer and media consultant who is advising Jordanian broadcasters and producers on setting up operations. "It all depends on content and how they run it. I believe if any broadcaster showed compassion through its programming, people would watch. The problem at this stage is that Arabic broadcasting is growing in numbers, but not in quality." Said Timmins of the BBC, "I think very few will have an impact, really."

While others are stampeding in, CNN is hanging back for a better commercial opportunity, lacking access to government financing available to the BBC and others.

"It remains a possibility in the future," said a spokesman for CNN, Nigel Pritchard, noting that "as a commercial broadcaster, anything we do needs to make both editorial and business sense."

In some ways, the BBC seems best poised to expand into Arabic broadcasting because of its long history, which dates from the start of its Arabic shortwave radio service in 1938.

The organization can leverage its established Middle Eastern presence with more than 12 million radio listeners and 1.5 million unique

visitors monthly on the BBC Arabic Web site.

Ahmed al Sheikh, the editor in chief of Al Jazeera, gave a backhanded compliment to his new competitor. "People are quite familiar with the BBC, and they trust it," he said. "I'm not sure whether the new generation trusts the same as the old one. I still remember my father tuning in when I was young, and he used to say, 'I heard it on Radio London.' Whether they can capitalize on that, I'm not sure."

Deutsche Welle, which last year rolled out its Arabic-language service with Arabic anchors, intends to expand the same general format with a mixture of news, features and documentaries exploring issues from health care to politics, according to Klaus-Dieter Seelig, head of its department of foreign language services.

New technology is central to the British and French strategies, with television programming designed to be interactive with Arabic Web sites.

The aim of the €80 million, or \$101 million, French project is to draw users to its Arabic Web site this autumn, leading them to the new television channel when it starts.

"The Internet is the heart of our whole machine," said Ulysse Gosset, who is leading the development of the French project, which is likely to announce its name this week. "We want to make sure that people will be able to address the channel, to participate in forums, to follow the blogs and video logs of our correspondents. We are really a multimedia channel."

All the discussion about new technology does not seem to faze Al Jazeera, which is preparing to spin off an international English version, the start of which has been delayed three times because of "technical reasons" involving the linkup of its four international news centers.

Sheikh, the broadcaster's editor in chief, said the new competition was positive. "It's a natural development that all these new news organizations are springing up," he said. "I think it's because of Al Jazeera's existence in the first place."

The stakes, he noted, are high: "Information is becoming more important than diplomacy. Diplomats sometimes screw things up, but if you play it right via television, then you can achieve so much more."

(Robert Wilkner via HCDX)

Yet another birthday in detention

BANGKOK: Myanmar's democracy icon **Aung San Suu Kyi**, who turns 61 today, will spend another birthday alone, under house arrest imposed by a junta that has ignored an international outcry for her freedom.

The opposition leader and Nobel peace prize laureate, known to many of her followers simply as "The Lady," has spent more than 10 of the past 17 years under house arrest at her lakeside residence in central Yangon.

Her only contact with the outside world has been a shortwave radio and a monthly visit from her doctor. She lives with two maids but is not allowed to receive guests, including her two adult sons.

Hopes for her release ran high after the isolated military regime allowed a top UN envoy to visit her on May 20 - the first meeting between a foreigner and the pro-democracy leader in two years.

<http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/Story.asp?Article=146673&Sn=WORL&IssueID=29091>

(Robert Wilkner via HCDX)