

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Issue no. 1596. Aug 20, 2006. Deadline next issue: Sept 1, 2006 (E mail Sept 3, 0900 SNT)

Först en liten väderbetraktelse: Nu är det normal svensk sommar igen med regn och åter regn. Vi skulle behövt några dagar med torrt väder så bönderna kunde få in sin spannmål utan kvalitetsförsämring.

En del trevliga bidrag har kommit till min brevlåda. Återigen har en gammal DX-are vaknat upp och anmält intresse för SWB.

Med en döende kortvåg så är ju inte längre loggningarna av ovanliga LA-stationer något som skulle ge SWB tillräcklig mängd bidrag för att berättiga dess existens.

Nää, numera får vi rikta in oss på KV-relaterat material istället och be medlemmarna om andra typer av bidrag för att kunna presentera nåt intressant i varje utgåva. Därför är det lika roligt varje gång vi kan öka på medlemsskaran i SWB.

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.

Igen har vi nöjet att hälsa en ny medlem välkommen. Som synes är det en hel del som kommer tillbaka med förnyat intresse efter både en och flera nytändningar! Det är också mycket glädjande att notera att SWB läses av en rätt många icke medlemmar. Vi låter Arne Nilsson själv presentera sig:

Arne Nilsson: Jag är en gammal DX:are som börjat om igen, för 4-5 gången! Jag är inte längre så fanatisk vad gäller att rapportera stationer, utan nöjer mig med loggningar. Men jag har börjat att spela in på en MD spelare!

Historia? Jag var aktiv in på början/mitten av 60-talet, var medlem i Sveriges DX förbund (visst hette det så?) Jag hade medlemsnummer 2218 (av ngn anledning har det fastnat!) och på deras rankinglista på den tiden låg jag väl runt nr 10, med ca 125-130 länders verifierade. Tyvärr har jag inte kvar tidningen sedan dess! Min favorittidning var dock SUBSTANTIAL, utgiven i Umeå??

Jag körde med en standard bordsmottagare, Dux, som byttes mot en S-38E och sedan en AR88Lf. Och en dipolantenn för 60mb.

Nu är mottagarna SP-600, Collins 54J3 och en IC-71E, antennen 25m lw i trädgården här i Uppsala. Jag har kvar AR88:an och dessutom en HQ-129:a, men dom är hemma i Norrland.

Men mitt original-QTH är i Piteå, med sommar-QTH ovanför Vidsel, med bättre möjligheter för längre antenner. Men jobbet håller mig kvar i 08/018-området! Så länge jag är kvar här i Uppsala, blir det lyssning 2-4 ggr pr vecka om jag inte hamnar på kortare utlandsuppdrag.

Jag är född mitt i det gyllene 40-talet (45) och borde lägga av med jobb och göra ngt vettigare, men jag trivs alltför bra med det jag gör (konsulting/anställningar inom logistik, s.k. supply chain management). Får man vara med o leka?? Jag ställer naturligtvis upp med mer info om ni vill!

Mvh, Arne, SM2EJB (Jo, jag är amatör oxo!)

Christer Brunström: Voice of Korea 13760 kort schema samt Pyongyang Times.

Jan Edh: jag var med och lyssnade på fredagsnatten (11/8) i Fredriksfors igen, men det var definitivt ingen bra natt. En del starka spanskalande efter 03.30 (sommartid) men det var det vanliga Venezuela/PR-gänget på t ex 1290, 1390, 1470, 1480, 1660 etc som gick med bra styrkor. Corporación 1380 tidig och brassen på 740 var också riktigt dåliga tecken på att det här inte skulle ge något. Kortvågen gynnande tydligen Huanta i Peru. De vanliga brassarna gick märkligt uselt.

18/8: hade tänkt lyssna kommande natt men avstår eftersom det tycks bli så pass kraftig störning och det inte varit något vidare innan heller. Tack vare hjälp av Rolf Wikström har jag dock fått ett efterlängtat QSL: Radio Huanta 2000, Huanta, 4746,9. Email. V/s. Teodoro Ronald Sapaico Maravi.

Rolf Åhman: RRI Ternate 3345 svarade överraskande med ett trevligt kort.

Björn Fransson: Nu är det på tiden att jag kommer med ett litet, men dock, bidrag till SWB! Sommaren på Gotland har varit helt sagolik och verkligen inte lockat till några som helst inomhusaktiviteter. Valet mellan barnbarnens stöj och glam och DX-ingen har varit lätt! På söndag träffas vi murgrönor igen för vår sedvanliga sensommarfamiljeaktivitet, det vill säga äta och dricka gott och uppdatera varandra på vad som hänt sedan sist. Då brukar också almanackorna komma fram och vi fattar visa beslut om höstens DX-nätter i Ygne. Det behövs något sådant för att komma igång igen.

QSL: Voice of China Reborn via Taiwan-9780. Automatiskt e-mail-tack på en dag. Knappast QSL en gång. ABC Far North, Cairns via ABC, Shepparton-11650 med trevligt personligt brev från v/s Richard Dinnen sedan jag lyssnat på cyklonvarningarna via ABC. Två dekalers med krokodiler på och en utbredningskarta fanns det också i kuvertet. Radio Free Asia-15525 med två trasiga special-QSL för DSWCI:s 50-årsjubileum. All India Radio, Chennai via Panaji-17810 med "The World's Smallest QSL-card" + brev från N C Gnanaprakasam och schema. Radio Sonar, tysk pirat-6283 med e-mail-QSL och några rader.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

3315	7.8		PNG Radio Manus 1058 "broadcasting form" drum rolls, news by yl "...in Auckland..." 1102 back to music. [Wilkner-FL]
4052.46	2.8		GUATEMALA Radio Verdad , Chiquimula 1108 to 1110 sermon in English on book of Isiah. [Wilkner-FL]
4746,9	11.8	2235	Radio Huanta 2000 med QSA 3 men murrigt ljud. Bästa styrkan på bandet, bättre än brassarna som gick otroligt uselt. Massor av reklamer. JE
4790,2	12.8	0130	Radio Visión , Chiclayo med religiöst. QSA 1-2 bara. JE
4796.5			BOLIVIA Radio Mallku , Uyuni 6 through 13 August, 1000 to 1015 + with good signal. Reliable CP signal [Wilkner-FL]
4799.60			GUATEMALA Radio Buenas Nuevas 1030 to 1100 continued transmitter problems 7 and 8 August [Wilkner-FL]
4799.79			GUATEMALA Radio Buenas Nuevas , San Sebastián, Huehuetenango noted 1015 to 1021, <i>en español</i> , with strong signal after a month off the air. [Wilkner-FL]
4800			INDIA AIR Hyderabad , Andhra Pradesh, Aug 16, seemingly 0030 to 0045 English news under local t-storm crashes, into sub continental music 0040 [Wilkner-FL]
4835.5			PERU Radio Marañon , Jaen off the air for three out of five mornings 1000 to 1130 including 12 and 13 August. [Wilkner-FL]
4876.3			BRAZIL Radio Difusora Roraima , Boa Vista 0900 to 1130 silent 6 through 13 August, not noted 0000 to 0200. Gone? [Wilkner-FL]
4900.8			BOLIVIA Radio San Miguel , Riberalta 1000 on 11 August with good signal. Most reliable Bolivian 60 meter band signal [Wilkner-FL]
4955	11.8	2320	Radio Cultural Amauta , Huanta. Tydiligen var det punktconditioner mot Huanta, för det här var enda station som kunde konkurrera med "Dos Mil". Kristet snack. QSA 3, fint ljud. JE
5025	16.8	0400	Radio Rebelde med Música Cubana. Sommarledigheten är över och det är åter dags att stiga upp tidigt igen - jag misstänker att Radio Rebelde kommer att bli favoritstationen. 3 CB
5040.34	7.8		BURMA Radio Myanmar 1110 traditional music, 1124 yl to 1130, music bridge, back to yl 1131, [Wilkner-FL]
5952.2			BOLIVIA R Pío XII Siglo XX seems to have a sign on at 1100. [Wilkner-FL]
6040	19.8	1500	Radio Hrodna (Grodno) har lokalt inslag i 60 minuter på lördagar //7110. 3 CB
7145	17.8	0340	Radio Mahilioú - efter flera månaders försök har jag äntligen lyckats logga denna station med regionalprogram. Har förmodligen även regionalt program 15.00-15.40 i likhet med lätthörda Radio Hrodna 6040/7110. 2 CB
7385	19.8	1630	China Tibet Broadcasting Station med "Holy Tibet" på engelska. Ofta mycket fin tibetansk musik. 3 CB
9560.4	11.8	1701	Radio Ethiopie började sändningen på franska. Mest blandad musik fram till nyheterna kl. 17.30. 2 CB
9704	12.8	1900	La Voix du Sahel nu på exakt 9704.0 3 CB
9705	18.8	1858	La Voix du Sahel , Niamey, nu på exakt denna frekvens. Långt trumsolo före nyheterna på franska kl. 19.00. 3 CB
12085	12.8	1000	Voice of Mongolia med nyheter och mongolisk musik. 2-3 CB
15650	15.7	1500	Voice of Oromia Independence via TDK och Radio Miami. Typisk Afrikahornmusik men svagt prat. Inledde med ett Radio Miami Intn'l-ID. S 2-3. BEFF

Stationsnyheter

ABKHAZIA. Another day and night of loggings from Kremenchuk, Ukraine. Enough to whet my appetite before leaving for Donetsk this afternoon. No more professional grade receivers nor antenna systems :- (Oh well. On the other hand I'll get the chance to DX in a small village. 4 years ago, there was 0 RF noise when I was there. I brought my Kaito/Degen 1103 with me plus about 10 meters of wire. I wish it had switchable side bands though. Can't have it all, I suppose. On to the loggings:

9494.75, 1414 17 August 06. Strong S9 + 20 signal, but lowish modulation. Russian heard at this time with local weather, and ID at 1418:35. Stronger when rechecked at 1435, or 1735 local time. Local, presumably Abkhaz music. Audio link seemed to have been lost at 1448 during a Russian language broadcast, but resumed 5 minutes later. Radio Kuban ID at 1453:40 with weather and Black Sea/Azov sea temps --- very warm! 35 to 38 during the day, with sea temps of 26 to 28. A bit overmodulated. At 1500 into Radio Rossii programming. Well worth pursuing this one. I left the mp3 player running for the hour during dinner. Hopefully some nice IDs in there somewhere! (Volodya Salmaniw, Kremenchuk, Ukraine, DXLD)

ALASKA. 3230, WKZ44, Bethel, 1530, ssb passing messages to several bush villages, 15 Aug 06.

13357 E3A: 1600 ssb msg 49213 also good signals on 11545 khz 15 Aug 06 No activity noted from either Magadan or Petropavlovsk naval this morning (rfprobe, Alaska, udx via DXLD)

log **3230 Kalskag:** 1600 ssb 16Aug 06 rfprobe

3230 kHz has seen some unusual activity recently. This HF frequency is normally used as support for remote Alaskan bush villages. Today at 1600 utc an individual contacted Bethel station and requested extraction from Kalskag. Heated argument occurred after being informed that his bush plane was cancelled due to weather.

"blood samples need immediate testing for bird flu" Pathogen outbreak? Many migratory birds summer nest here from Asia. (rfprobe, Alaska, ibid.)

I don't think there's an outbreak yet - there was supposed to have been a comprehensive ongoing sampling program starting in June to look for the H5N1 virus. Blood samples would decay quickly, so timely analysis is critical.

Keep listening; this could be quite interesting. I would actually begin to worry more if they weren't communicating anymore, as that might mean the powers-that-be want to keep things quiet...

5167.5, USB is another Alaska bush frequency, used by all kinds of stations. Government, civilians, even hams in an emergency, whoever has need of communications with the emergency services. Not unlike the Oz 4X4 and bush networks. If a bird flu outbreak began in Alaska, we most likely could expect it to become very active. Given that it is used only in Alaska (in the US) it may be very hard to hear outside the state, but being HF it may go farther than we think. My 2 cents worth (Brendan WA7HL, Tucson, Aug 16, UDXF via DXLD)

AZERBAIJAN. 6110.8, 1325 17 August 06, A most frustrating frequency to monitor. A strong carrier throughout the day, but no or virtually no audio heard. Finally heard some very weak audio in probable Azeri at 1659. IS at 1700 then talk, but too weak to understand the language. Should be English, but I have my doubts. Sounded more like Russian style, but this is listed at 1730. In fact nothing heard at 1730. This will need more investigation, but I fear my portable gear won't be up to the challenge! (Volodya Salmaniw, Kremenchuk, Ukraine, DXLD)

BELARUS. 6010, 1225 17 August 06, Belarus 1 HS program. I can't understand why there are so many low power channels carrying this service on 49 and 41 meters. All are easily heard during the day here. 6010 is listed with 5 kW from Brest and heard with fair strength. // are 6040 Hrodna fair/good with 5 kW, 6070 Brest with 5 kW at good levels, 6080 S9 + 20 with 150 kW from Minsk, 6115 also Minsk with 75 kW fair/good, 6190 Mahilou 5 kW good, over a cochannel, 7110 Hrodna 5 kW good reception, 7145 Mahilou 5 kW, much weaker than the rest at fair level. Nice ID at 1239 as "Belaruska Radyo Pershyi Kanal", or similar to this. Ads from 1255 to 1258. The only 2nd channel on SW is 7265 Hrodna at fair/good level with 5 kW. At 1259 5 + 1 time pips, and then "novyny na Kanaly Kultura" in Belarussian, i.e.: news on the cultural channel. Can anyone give a logical explanation regarding so many transmitters? (Volodya Salmaniw, Kremenchuk, Ukraine, DXLD)

Well, they are said to be leftover jammers, combined in some cases to add up to 75 kW (gh, DXLD)

BOLIVIA. 6025 Radio Patria Nueva (ex Illimani?), La Paz, 1055-1105, August 18, Aymara/Spanish, talk by female in aymara, announcement and ID at 1100 UTC as: "Radio Patria Nueva.....en todos los departamentos del pais....en treinta segundos comienza su red nacional"; other ID and ann. as: "La Radio Patria Nueva presenta.....su canal de noticias....Bolivia, primera edicion....completa y pluralista... integrando al pais"; TC: "7 de la mañana, 2 minutos", national news in spanish by male, 22432 (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentina via HCDX)

Just listened to their streaming audio (excellent sound quality and beautiful music, Aug 19, 1740 utc) and heard the speaker say "Red Patria Nueva emite por.../frecuencias/", also "Radio Illimani por la Red Patria Nueva" and "Red Patria Nueva, La Voz de Bolivia". To listen, open <http://abi.bo/index.php?i=patria-nueva> and click on the link on the last line of the page unless you have Winamp installed on your PC. (Henrik Klemetz via HCDX)

ECUADOR. RADIO NACIONAL ESPEJO. A STORY FROM BEHIND THE SCENES

At the end of 1974 and beginning of 1975 I was travelling in Colombia, Ecuador and Perú. In Quito, and after several unsuccessful attempts, I finally managed to make an appointment with the station manager of Radio Nacional Espejo, a non-verifier at the time. I had an enjoyable chat with Sr. Gerardo Brborich for some 15 minutes. He then opened a desk drawer bulging with letters.

-Here are the latest reports I have received, he said.

-There are probably IRCs in there, I said. You won't get the sufficient postage for a reply in Ecuador right now, I added, but in my home country it is different.

-OK, if you like, you pick out the best reports and send them these desk calendars and pocket agendas, he said, leaving a bundle just in from the printers on the desk.

-The secretary will take down the text of the verification letter, and I'll sign it for you ``in blanco``.

One of the letters came back to me, which was misspelt as ``Radio Nacional de Quito``, in red, blue, yellow and black.

I sorted out the 20+ best reports of a poor lot and sent the stuff out when coming back to Sweden. A good deal of the recipients came back to me, saying they were delighted at this unexpected and belated Christmas present (Henrik Klemetz, Sweden, MWC via DXLD)

MADAGASCAR. New 4999.74, 1825-1835, 28-07, R. Nasionaly Malagasy, Ambohidrano (tentative), ex 5010 Vernacular talk, music, nothing heard on 5010 or 3287, no carrier after 1900, QRM Time signal 5000 14121 (Anker Petersen, Skovlunde, Denmark, AOR AR7030PLUS with a 28 metre longwire antenna, via Dario Monferini, playdx yg via DXLD)

MONGOLIA. 4830, 2232 16 August. **Mongolian Radio HS2**. My most interesting 60 m logging. Very martial sounding music à la P'yongyang, but the language is totally different. Not at all oriental sounding. Hints of Slavic words but unlike anything else. Vlad says it sounds Kazakh to him. To me it's very similar to Tatar, which makes sense, I suppose. Fair to good at times with a solid S7 signal. // to 4895 which at times is more powerful and 7260 which also is well heard except for adjacent splatter. All in parallel initially, but when rechecked at 2302, 4830 and 7260 were in Russian, but not 4895. I could not find anything showing a Russian transmission at this time. By 2310, then reverted to HS2 programming, again all in //. I'll keep an eye on this during the days to come (although very late at night here!). (Volodya Salmaniw, Kremenchuk, Ukraine, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

MONGOLIA. 4895, 2141 17 August 06. **Mongolian Radio** heard with better results compared to the previous night. Sometimes at almost very good level. S7 to S9 signal. Confirmed that Russian NOT heard at 2300. All 3 frequencies remained in Mongolian. i.e. 4895, 4830, and 7260. 7260 heard after 2200 only and is the weakest, it seems. The m/w/f Russian schedule at 0000 to 0010 fits, kind of, since

in summer this would equate to 2300 to 2310 as I heard the first night, and remains m/w/f. Will check tonight if possible again (Volodya Salmaniw, Kremenchuk, Ukraine, DXLD)

TONGA. I see the TBC now has a website, strangely enough a .com despite, maybe because Tonga is one of those countries that rents out its domain for big bucks, isn't it? <http://www.tonga-broadcasting.com> No streaming, yet? But there are a couple of videos OD featuring the King, I think, in Tongan as is a good portion of the text on the site (Glenn Hauser, OK, Aug 19, DXLD)

VENEZUELA [non]. RNV via Cuba, on new 15250 at 2300 Aug 7. Unlike my first and previous log of this, now it's an excellent signal, barely a fade, with excellent modulation. 2258 tune-in to open carrier, 2300 opening, greets listeners as ``usuarios y usuarias`` (male users and female users); program previews explained what was going on in Bolivia yesterday: Aug 6 is their national day. Mentioned book by James Hatfield about GWB, ``Nerón del Siglo XXI``. 2303 with E-mail address as internacional @ rnv.gov.ve, web site as <http://www.rnv.gov.ve> then special program ``La Nueva Historia de Bolivia``, starting with a bit of Evo Morales` speech calling for the elimination of imperialism and neo-liberalism! Then some Bolivian folk music which helped me take a nap. 2341, Apartado 3979 P-mail address, despite many reports that mail bounces from it. // 13680 was quite strong too, roughly equal level with CRI via Canada, slight SAH as they took turns dominating. Never heard any times or frequencies announced, altho they may have done so before the hour was over (Glenn Hauser, OK, DXLD)

Övriga radionyheter

NEW TOY FOR THE BOYS - ICOM RECEIVER R-9500

Has anyone seen this one yet? The new Icom about to be released? http://ndl-dx.se/icom_r9500/icom_r9500.pdf (Dave Onley, NT, Aug 17, ARDXC via DXLD)

and at: http://ndl-dx.se/icom_r9500/ (via Bernt-Ivan Holmberg, Möklinta, Sweden, dx_india)

Email from Universal after I inquired as to the price:

"Thanks for the email. We are aware of this new receiver but at this time Icom has not released any information . We will post it on our website as soon as we receive it. Sure looks like a nice one."

And I'm certain you'll pay a respectable price as well. My guesstimate of the price is \$4500 (or more!). (dx-ace, rec.radio.shortwave)



SPECIFICATIONS

GENERAL

- Frequency coverage (Unit: MHz) : 0.005–3335.000000*
* Cellular bands are blocked in the U.S.A. version.
- France version : 0.005–29.999999 50.200–51.200000
87.500–108.000000 144.000–146.000000
430.000–440.000000 1240.000–1300.000000
- Mode : USB, LSB, CW, FSK, AM, FM, WFM, P25*
* Optional UT-122 required.
- Number of memory channels : 1020 (1000 regular and 20 scan edges)
- Antenna connector : SO-239 (50Ω for HF),
Phono [RCA] (500Ω for HF),
Type-N ×2 (50Ω, one each for
30–1149.99999MHz, 1150–3335MHz)
- Temperature range : 0°C to +50°C; +32°F to +122°F
- Frequency stability : Less than ±0.05ppm (0°C to +50°C)
after warm up (5 minutes)
- Frequency resolution : 1Hz
- Power supply requirement : 100V/120V/230V/240V AC
- Power consumption : Standby 70VA typ.
Max. audio 70VA typ.
- Dimensions (W×H×D) : 424 × 149 × 340 mm;
(projections not included) 16¹¹/₁₆ × 5⁷/₈ × 13³/₈ in
- Weight : 18kg; 39.7lb (approx.)
- PHONES connector : 3-conductor 3.5 (d) mm (1/8")
- External speaker connectors : 2-conductor 3.5 (d) mm (1/8")/8Ω

RECEIVER

- Intermediate frequencies : 1st 58.7/278.7/778.7MHz
2nd 10.7/58.7MHz
3rd 48k/10.7MHz
4th None/48kHz

• Sensitivity

	SSB, CW, FSK	AM	FM	WFM
0.100–1.799MHz* ¹	0.5μV	6.3μV	–	–
1.800–29.999MHz* ¹	0.16μV	1μV	0.5μV* ³	–
30.0–3335.000MHz* ²	0.32μV	1.4μV	0.5μV	1.4μV

*¹ Pre-amp1 ON *² Pre-amp ON *³ 28–29.999MHz
SSB, FSK=2.4kHz, CW=0.5kHz, AM=6.0kHz at 10dB S/N
FM=12kHz, WFM=150kHz at 12dB SINAD

- Squelch sensitivity (Pre-amp: OFF) :
USB, LSB, CW, FSK, FM, AM : Less than 5.6μV
WFM : Less than 1μV
- Selectivity (representative value) :
USB, LSB, FSK (BW= 2.4kHz) : More than 2.4kHz/–3dB
Less than 3.6kHz/–60dB
More than 500Hz/–3dB
CW (BW= 500Hz) : Less than 700Hz/–60dB
AM (BW= 6kHz) : More than 6.0kHz/–3dB
Less than 15.0kHz/–60dB
FM (BW= 15kHz) : More than 12.0kHz/–6dB
Less than 20.0kHz/–60dB
More than 150kHz/–6dB
WFM (BW= 150kHz)
- Spurious and image rejection ratio : 0.1–30.0MHz : More than 70dB
30.0–3335MHz : More than 50dB
- AF output power : More than 2.6W at 10% distortion
with an 8Ω load
- Internal modulation distortion : 110dB dynamic range at 14.1MHz 100kHz
separation, pre-amp OFF

The Monitoring Times Shortwave Radio Broadcast "BLOG"

MT Shortwave Central -by- Larry & Gayle Van Horn MT-SW => <http://mt-shortwave.blogspot.com/> The Monitoring Times Shortwave Radio Broadcast "BLOG". Here you will find Shortwave related information including loggings, listening tips, QSLing, pirate/ clandestine, and last-minute news or events that do not make it to my monthly column in the magazine. You will want to bookmark this page for reference as I will be posting shortwave items on a regular basis.

Larry Van Horn <http://www.blogger.com/profile/25067074> Gayle Van Horn <http://www.blogger.com/profile/25111769>
(that's all folks ~ RHF via rec.radio.shortwave)

The Eton E1 and the MFJ 1020C

The long awaited, backordered MFJ 1020C arrived last Friday from the factory. It is an Active Antenna/Preselector. It can be used as an indoor antenna with the supplied whip or it can serve as a preselector for an outdoor short random wire or vertical antenna .

I have been contemplating buying this particular piece of gear for a long time but have held off because of the general bad reputation of active antennas and my mixed experiences with MFJ. Recently, after reading some positive reviews, in Passport, the Shortwave SWL Antennas Yahooogroup and in the Shortwave Google group, I became intrigued.

The general consensus is that this piece of gear works so-so as an indoor antenna, but really shines as a preselector for a short outdoor antenna such as my 8.5 foot Pac-12 or a random wire. As I am living in a first floor apartment, I am always looking for ways to improve my received signal.

Using the Pac-12 antenna somewhat loosely tuned to resonance at one of the bands I typically listen to works OK for major broadcasters and some close tropical band activity (Radio Rebelde, 5025mhz, in Havana is about 200 miles away). I don't hear weaker European or South American stations unless the propagation conditions are really, really good. You know how often that has been lately.

What really got me going was how RHC in the Shortwave SWL Antennas group suggested using the MFJ 1020C with a "broomstick" antenna as an alternative to some expensive European antennas. I will not mention the names of the manufacturers to protect the guilty, but I could not imagine paying \$200 plus shipping for some passive vertical antenna less than seven feet high. How effective could some setup like this be?

I took another look at my setup and found that I could run random wires up a nearby Gumbo Limbo tree that would be almost invisible. This would work even better than a helically wound broomstick antenna. Would it be worth spending about \$100 for this little gadget?

The two biggest drawbacks to using a device like this one are the increased complexity of operation and the possibility of overloading the front end of the receiver. On the 1020C, you have to choose a band and then peak the signal via an internal variable capacitor. Then, you have to adjust the gain after you tune in a signal. As far as gain goes, generally, less is better. So you see, that changing frequencies involves a couple of extra steps.

Poorly designed front ends will be problematic with this family of devices. For example, I would hate to hear the S350 on an active antenna, as the images would really sound nasty. Same for the DX302 (sorry, Jerry). For a radio such as the R75 or my E-1, this should not be a problem.

So, how did it work? Great! Hooked up to the Pac-12, I noticed a 2 to 4 db improvement across the HF spectrum. I was able to clearly hear Argentina on 11710 on Tuesday at 0200. I moved to the tropical bands and heard Ghana on 4875, and a few Brazilian and Peruvian stations. I switched the 1020C in and out and noted several cases where I heard nothing without the 1020C and a readable signal with the 1020C switched in.

Listening to 10mhz CW, I frequently went from no copy to solid copy as I switched the 1020C in and out of the antenna feed.

Monitoring the majors, I was struck at how little evidence of overload there was. Even R. Netherlands on 9845 sounded really nice. All in all, \$100 well spent. I have been listening to lots of stuff that I couldn't get before. It is a great sidekick to my E-1 with the superb octave filtered front end.

Is the 1020C for everyone? NO. If you have room for a full sized wire antenna or a longwire (more than 1.5 wavelengths) you would not need it. If you are in a condo or a townhouse, this device might be just the ticket.

I am going to try it with the random wire idea next. Anyone else have any experience with this device?
(73, Ed, N4EJG via HCDX)

Thanks for the follow up. Sad to hear you were not happy with the model 1024. I had hoped more from it.

I am blessed with really long outdoor antennas, several of them. I tried the 1020C with each of these using a Kenwood R-5000 receiver: One that 200 foot long EWE- "u" shaped long wire, a 60 foot long wire, a 45 foot long wire, and an Eavesdropper tuned trap commercially made antenna. All work pretty well, so the 1020C did not provide much improvement.

I DO presume that it would help a SHORT long wire, say 30 feet long or shorter outdoor wire. I wonder how the North Country amplified outdoor antenna would do in your QTH. Or maybe the fabled Wellbrook or similar outdoor, amplified antenna. But, then, it would far out price the BARGAIN set up you have. And getting good results without spending the bank is always good! Thanks, again, for the feedback. I wish you had better things to say about the 1024, however....

(Richards via HCDX)

Beefed up version of Palstar R30C/CC?

I got an interesting email message from Paul Hrivnak of Palstar. He said they're hoping...hoping...to have a newer version of of the R30C/CC at the 2007 Dayton show. He couldn't go into any real detail about the features they hope to add because that's still up in the air to some extent. Still, it'll be interesting to see what they come up with.

He also remarked that Palstar gets back about one of these receivers PER YEAR for repair. That's a pretty good track record!

(Steve via rec.radio.shortwave)

QSL PRESERVATION

I was in the Baltimore area in 2000, and took the opportunity to visit the University of Maryland/CPRV QSL collection. At the time, the cards and letters were essentially in Manila folders and filing cabinet drawers with just a very minimal effort done to sort and categorize them. The temp/humidity was controlled but little else. This may have improved since then, but the visit was rather disheartening at the

time. I got to see QSLs with names like August Balbi and others on them, so it was worth it to me just to touch such a fantastic bit of treasure like that (Jim Pogue, Memphis, TN, IRCA via DXLD)

Patrick Griffith wrote: "Ideally the best form of preservation would be one that includes a scan that is freely available for viewing on line. That way they could be viewed by the masses at will without the necessity to travel."

Brief comments: 1. The best form of preservation is placing them in archival acid-free folders and boxes and storing them at about 68 degrees and low humidity. 2. Scanning them is a kind of "publishing," and would make them freely available, but would do nothing to ensure preservation of the originals. Except that handling in any way is bad from a preservation standpoint, so if scans reduced handling, that would improve preservation. 3. Libraries don't have the money to scan everything they own. 4. Even if UMD had an aggressive digital publishing program, there are probably far more significant collections that should be scanned and placed online way ahead of QSLs (Dave Hochfelder, ibid.)

They have been taken out of the binders and placed into (I assume acid-free) folders and grouped together geographically (Bill Harms, MD, ibid.)

Certainly glad to hear this. When I visited in 2000, the staff at the archive was really helpful, but as with so many similar endeavors, very short-handed. I truly appreciate their great work and the many hours of effort by DXers that have gone into preserving this precious part of our shared history. In all likelihood, they will have my collection someday (Jim Pogue, Memphis, Tennessee USA NRD-535, Wellbrook LA5030 loop, ibid.)

There is a museum in Chicago dedicated to the preservation of broadcasting related artifacts. I wonder if these folks would be interested in housing and preserving a broadcast QSL collection? Here is some info I pulled from a related web site.

The Museum of Broadcast Communications will be closed to the public until Spring 2007. The Museum is currently moving from the Chicago Cultural Center to a new home not yet announced. The new facility will include expanded archives and exhibit galleries, increased seminars and public events, a radio and television studio, a gift shop and a cafe.

The Museum of Broadcast Communications opened to the public in 1987. Bruce DuMont, the well-known political commentator and radio show host, is the founder and president of the Museum. The Museum includes broadcast-related exhibits and archives from which you can request videotapes to view in carrels on the premises. The Museum includes costume memorabilia, a Sports Gallery and an advertising exhibit. The Museum is also home to the Radio Hall of Fame, which exhibit includes collectibles and recordings from old radio shows.

I presently have about 125 medium-wave QSLs scanned into my AM-DXer web site (see link below). These are all postcard size or smaller. Due to the limitations of the WebTV system I am unable to scan the larger QSLs. So no QSL letters are included (Patrick Griffith, Westminster CO <http://community.webtv.net/NONNK/> <http://community.webtv.net/AM-DXer/> IRCA via DXLD)

There are dozens of broadcast musea across North America, but I expect most of them would only be interested in a few QSLs for decoration, not an exhaustive collection to be preserved and catalogued (gh, DXLD)

Hello DXers, in Europe, esp. in the German-speaking countries, the best thing you can do is to donate your QSL collection to the QSL Collection, based in Vienna, connected with the ORF; main person here is Wolf Harrant, OE1WHC

Visit <http://www.qsl.at/english/welcome.html> in order to learn more about the project! And before you decide to give away your collection please do send your QSL logs via E-mail to me, my QIP page at <http://www.schoechi.de/qip.html> now has more than 50000 QSL logs from more 10200 radio stations world wide (Martin SCHÖCH, Eisenach, East Germany, ibid.)