

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

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Igår kväll var det blix och dunder runt om oss i rätt många timmar när kallare luft drog ner över Skåne. Ovanligt med så pass kraftig åskväder i slutet av september.

Fortfarande påstår SMHI att även oktober kommer att bli en varm månad. Vi får väl se om Pär Holmgren har rätt.

En gammal medlem som jobbat utomlands ett par år har kommit tillbaka till fastare mark och vill åter ta del av vår bulle. Naturligtvis är det med största nöje vi hälsar Hans Östnell välkommen tillbaka till SWB-gänget.

Vi behöver verkligen allt stöd som går att få speciellt från medlemmarna för att kunna hålla SWB flytande med den utveckling som är för KV.

Ett tack också till HK som med sitt bidrag visar hur mycket annat än enbart jagandet av nya stationer det finns att ägna sig åt.

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: Torsdagsnatten (21/9) var det ganska mycket signaler i farten, men resultatet blev magert. Jag lade tiden på fel stationer och så "bytte konditionerna fot" i omgångar också och man fick börja om liksom. Kortvågen fortsätter dock att svika. Knappt att brassarna går...

28/9: jag var ute i Fredriksfors onsdagsnatten 27-28/9. Före midnatt hördes egentligen ingenting och jag (och Rolf Larsson) nattade till 04. Då visade det sig efter en stund funderande om det var möjligt, att det gick västkust på MV. Kortvågen hade inget spännande LA.

(Jan – ni är verkligen tappra som håller igång ute på torpet. Tack för alla fina rapporter! /red)

Torre Ekblom: litet tunt med bidrag sedan en längre tid. Har inte haft möjlighet att dx-a bland annat pga. av att min AOR7030 inte riktigt är OK och måste föra den till någon "radiodoktor". Den uppför sig konstigt, det interna batteriet troligtvis tomt, det är inte laddat sedan inköpet för 10års sedan.....eller vad det nu kan vara!

QSL har kommit sedan senast, men inget speciellt s.a.s.: **Radio Likedeeler 6275** med ett qsl efter 128dagar, **Radio Japan via Rampisham 5975** (Danmarks Kortvågsklubb specialprogram 50års jubileet), **Radio Free Asia/ Sri Lanka 7520** qslkort, **Little Saigon Radio(landestine) via Taiwan 7380** snyggt qslkort 205dagar. Det var allt!

Flyger med frugan kommande söndag till Kina och Shanghai på en vecka, men det blir inget DXande där kan jag tänka....

(Låter trevligt med turen till Shanghai, staden lär bjuda på mycket sevärt. /red)

Hans Östnell: Efter ett antal säsonger med mer jobb utomlands (jobbar numera för Norges Röda Kors), har jag återigen lust att vara med i SWB-gänget, om jag får. Gissar väl på att det blir en del MV-lyssning denna vintern, då vi snart passerar solfläcksminimum, men en och annan stund med KV blir det nog också.

Välkommen tillbaka – vi behöver verkligen hålla hårt i den lilla skara som fortfarande är aktiva.

Tack för mail, kul att se att du åter är tillbaka och lyssningssugen. Tyvärr är inte KV nåt att hurra över längre, men trots allt så lever SWB sitt lilla liv.

Om du hinner kan du kanske skriva några rader om ditt arbete i Röda korset och lite upplevelser på annan ort. /red.

Man tackar! Nja, att KV:n numera är mer eller mindre död, har ju till stor del med solfläcksminimat att göra. I går kväll var till och med 60-metersbandet "halvdött", när MUF kröp ner till regionerna kring 4,0 MHz... Vi får vänta några år på bättre tider - sett ur den aspekten. Att det sedan blir färre och färre stationer att försöka höra är naturligtvis ett annat problem, men fortfarande tycker jag det finns intressanta områden kvar som t ex Indonesien, PNG (och ett fåtal andra i pacific-regionen) samt lite grann från Peru/Bolivia på västkanten. Annars får man väl börja DRM-DX:a (Gud förbjude!). Det område som fortfarande är riktigt spännande är ju MV:n, som trots DRM-pesten på vissa frekvenser fortfarande kan bjuda på överraskningar. Denna säsongen har jag stora förhoppningar, av skäl som redan nämnts.

En lite mer utförlig rapport över mina förehavanden de senaste åren kommer, men det får bli till nästa bulle. Jobbar som sagt för Norges Röda Kors numera, efter en 20-årig karriär i den avsmnade svenska Försvarmakten. Har under de senaste 1,5 åren hunnit med att bevittna en hel del elände, där Thailand och Darfour toppar listan.

Den kommande helgen blir kanske den sista, där ordentligt utomhusarbete kan utföras. Nästa helg jobbar jag och förra året kom den första snön redan den 16 Oktober. Faktiskt samma dag som yngste sonen, Morten, föddes. Har fått "till det" två gånger nu, hi! Andreas, som snart är två och ett halvt år, föddes ju under min förra "sejour" i SWB-gänget. Hur som helst, så blir det stor röjning i trädgården - skräp skall slängas på tippen, gräset skall klippas en sista gång och ett antal jordspett till K9AY-loopen skall bankas ner i den nyklippta gräsmattan. Dessutom skall 200 meter tråd i riktning 355 grader upp. Stressad?

Nejdå!

Vi hörs till nästa bulle! Hans (HR) - aka LA2MOA

Henrik Klemetz. Det handlar om jubiléer den här gången. Mongoliet firade 800-årsminnet av landets tillkomst i augusti. VoM anordnade en Djingis Khan-tävling där jag vunnit pris i form av en vacker fotobok och en lyxig CD-skiva som getts ut för att fira detta evenemang. Pragradians utlandsprogram har firat 70 år och mot uppvisande av ett par gamla QSL från 1954 har jag fått ytterligare en retroradio från denna station. Radio Bulgaria, f d Radio Sofia, fyller också 70 år och har också begärt in gamla QSL. Få se vad de tycker om ett 50-årigt QSL. En bekant, veteran-DX-aren Sten Losenborg, bosatt i denna stad, besökte stationen år 1954 och jag har bett honom plocka fram dokument från resan. Som alla DX-are vet ska man ju inte kasta bort gamla verifikat(ioner). Detta har vållat viss uppståndelse i Sofia. Jubiléet inleds annars om ca en vecka. - Jag gläder mig också över att mitt upprepade tjt resulterat i att i dagarna 50-årsjubilerande SDXF sett till att Arne Skoogs gamla lackskivor överförs till CD. Det har skett med benägen assistans av Moritz Saarmann och dansken Erik Køie, som förresten alldeles nyligen fått DR:s förtjänstmedalj för 40 års trogen tjänst och som i december kan njuta sitt otium. Slutligen lyckades jag utan att själv lägga märke till det pricka in 50-årsdagen av ett QSL från Radio Vitoria i Spanien när jag skickade en scannad bild av det till en DX-are som ansvarar för stationens webbsida.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

3280	28.9	1550	Voice of Pujiang , Shanghai pratade skrattade och verkade ha roligt 2 LRH
3291,2	28.9	0530	Voice of Guyana med BBC-program. QSA 4 och rent och fint ljud! JE
3390	28.9	1559	AIR Gangtok kom igenom vid avannonseringen vid dagens sista sändning slutade 1600 2 LRH
3815U	21.9	2040	Grönland med program på grönländska QSA 3. Åtminstone en timme innan den fanns också på 650. JE
3925	24.9	2042	Nikkei med den vanliga klockringningen, tycks starta en 15 min senare än förut 2 LRH
4799.673			GUA Radio Buenas Nuevas , excellent at 0930 but by 1230 transmitter was broadcasting distorted noise; 2345 back to normal. 16 September [Wilkner-FL]
4990	22.9	0400	Radio Apintie "You are beautiful" sjöngs det, och det kändes ju bra. QSA 2-3 JE
6045			MEX XEXQ Radio Universidad , San Luis Potosí 1300 programme of classical music to 1320 tune out. 16 September [Wilkner-FL]
6139.8	30.9	0500	Radio Líder med långt nyhetsprogram. 2 CB
7235	23.9	1535	Radio Warna i Singapore med program på Malaysiska. Fin musik som man känner igen från Voice of Malaysia. Stark och ostörd signal. Stänger kl. 1600. CB
7301,6	24.9	1535	SLBC , Ekala slutade dagens px så här dags 2 LRH
9345	24.9	0800	Voice of Korea , med mandarin px 2 LRH
9595	26.9	1135	AIR Delhi med EE-nx och wx 2 LRH
9665	29.9	1957	Rádio Marumby med religiöst. Tyckte mig också höra samma program på 11750 kHz. 2-3 CB
9704.02	24.9	0525	La Voix du Sahel hördes alldeles utmärkt en stund med lokala tongångar. Sedan kom reklam på franska för ett nyrenoverat landsortshotell. 3-4 CB
9743,4	24.9	0755	Sorong svagt igenom, slutade 0759 1-2 LRH
9745	27.9	2115	Bahrain BS . Ändlös muslimsk, oannonserad musik med kvinnlig sång. Men minsann också ett kort prat 21.35. QSA 3 men stört. JE

Stationsnyheter

COLOMBIA. 6139.8, R. Líder, reactivated, heard 9/22 0550-0600+ with good signal but some QRM from station underneath on 6140. 0557 full ID by OM and mentioned HJCU and AM Estéreo (Alex Vranes, Jr., Harpers Ferry, WV, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

6139.8, R. Líder, Sept 22, 1008-1018, seemed to be news in Spanish, IDs, poor-fair. Back again, believe last heard earlier this year around May (Ron Howard, Monterey, CA, Etón E5, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

CONGO DR. Radio Kahuzi, 6210 --- I believe the schedule of Radio Kahuzi I posted some time ago is not complete and one thing was misunderstood in various bulletins. The Monday and Friday only note was for the 1600-1700 UT period only. I believe they are operating daily the other times. And the time segments I posted may refer to programmes produced locally; other times they may have pre-recorded programs produced by other organizations. On Mondays and Fridays they seem to be on at least until 1700, sometimes well past, say until 1725 or so. The other days sign-off time has been variable, around 1500 or around 1600. Sorry for the unclear wording in my posting. Hans Johnson in Jihad DX reports that the power is 830W (Jari Savolainen, Kuusankoski, Finland, Sept 22, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

I expect no one could DX it until after 1600, tho (gh, DXLD)

MICRONESIA. Sun. September 17th: Praise God, Pohnpei, Micronesia got their license after waiting over a year. Pray for guidance as they move ahead with this project.

Sat. September 30th: Pray for Pastor Norbert & Silvia Kalau, in Pohnpei, as they work out final details to install a Short Wave radio station (Galcom Prayer Bulletin, via DXLD)

WTFK? That's in the Eastern Caroline Islands. Not clear if these two items are related. There are some AM & FM stations in Pohnpei already, per WRTH, such as V6AF, 104.0 belonging to Calvary Christian Academy in Kings Mountain NC. Looks like beyond FCC jurisdiction they get to use "even" FM channels! Car radios OK with that? Or are there no cars? Here's an old story about Norbert, and his Pacific Missionary Aviation: <http://www.newsflash.org/2003/05/ht/ht003957.htm> In fact, the only hit on him, besides duplicates, in a Google search.

The GALCOM prayer bulletins for Sept thru Nov are now posted; this is the only significant mention of SW, tho many other radio projects are covered. Nothing in this quarter's edition about plans for a SW station in remote northern Ontario. Has God nixed it? In any event, no prayers required. Galcom is that purveyor of fixed-tuned radios allowing victims to hear only approved missionary broadcasts (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

MONGOLIA [and non], FANTASTIC MORNING or have I moved to Asia?

Greetings all, Well, the dial this morning reminded me of DX 20 years ago hearing so many Northern Asians. It was something else. The highlight of the morning was definite logs on both Mongolians on 164 and 209 kHz. Both were // and I stayed with them from 1300 to 1332 UT. I have had threshold reception of one or the other at times, but never well enough to ID the station. I got all sorts of Mongolian music (really nice) and lots of Mongolian chatter by a male announcer. For some reason this one eluded me for years. I have had tentatives on 990 and years ago. So I am pleased with this.

Besides Mongolia, I had Russians on 153, 171, 189, 261, and 279 kHz. 279 was over S9+. Unbelievable signals. I haven't heard them on 171 or 261 kHz in many years.

After 1332, I moved up to MW and found the band totally jumping. Where do I start?, I thought. 3 and 4 Asians on each channel. I thought, have I physically moved 4 thousand miles? Lots of Northern Asians, but little from the Philippines and South Asia. Koreans all over the dial . . . (Patrick Martin, Seaside OR, Sept 16, NRC-AM via DXLD)

Övriga radionyheter

Origin of the term "pirate" radio

Some believe that the term "pirate radio" originated with the stations off Scandinavia, Holland and England in the 1960s - not so! The Oxford English Dictionary cites the first recorded use of the term as in "Marconigraph" issue 2 1913... but there is an even earlier reference.

In May 1907 reports appeared in "Electronic World" of an amateur enthusiast interfering with wireless telegraphy from the US Navy station at Newport, Rhode Island, New York. This generated a letter, published in "Electronic World" on 22 June 1907, from Lee De Forest of the De Forest Radio Telegraphy Co, which had installed radio-telephone equipment in US ships. Part of De Forest's letter, criticising "damped" spark transmitter and promoting use of continuous wave transmitters, read: "The damped half-tuned wave is an etheric pirate and should be prohibited the world over"

De Forest also commented: "Radio chaos will certainly be the result until such stringent legislation is enforced" and "a `wireless detective` with small portable receiver can readily spot the source of annoyance by a brief scouting expedition..."

As to the OED reference, this is, in fact, reference to a reprint of an article which first appeared in "Chambers Journal" on 23 December 1911, with an account by an un-named wireless telegraphy operator on board an un-named ship. According to his story, he was about to send a message in Morse to another ship in 1910 when the teleprinter began printing.

The operator reported "There you are", said the captain, "unless we have been picked up again by some experimenting pirate; that ought to be the liner."

But, as the operator recorded, the printer issued "a queer sort of message - nothing but a disconnected jumble of signs and letters". On investigating the cause of this, the operator discovered "that a big beetle was crawling about the relay of the receiver and the dots and dashes were nothing more than a recording of his wanderings in a place where he had no right to be."

Steve Beddard: <http://www.anoraknation.com/knowledge/offshore/000098.html>

(Mike Terry via HCDX)

Post-2001 IRCs bear expiration dates, September 19, 2006

Many DXers still use International Reply Coupons (IRCs) issued by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to cover return postage for QSL cards. As of January 1, 2002, UPU-issued IRCs bear expiration dates, after which the coupon has no value. The so-called "Beijing model 1" IRC expires December 31, 2006. The newest IRC, the "Beijing model 2", expires December 31, 2009.

Check any IRCs you've got on hand for an expiration date!

Curiously, the United States Postal Service International Mail Manual states that the period of exchange for IRCs issued by the UPU on or after January 1, 1975, is unlimited. The UPU says IRCs are exchangeable in all member countries for the minimum postage of a priority item or an unregistered air mail letter sent to a foreign country. An IRC costs \$1.85 in the US. Although US post offices are not obliged to sell IRCs, it is mandatory for post offices in UPU member countries to exchange the coupons.

Link to this story <http://www.ar1.org/?artid=6792>

(Mike Terry via HCDX)

Is it goodbye AM in the UK?

(It looks like the regulator may be looking at going for a switch over to digital on Medium Waves earlier than expected)

Julia Day, September 21, 2006, MediaGuardian.co.uk

Ofcom is considering taking away Virgin Radio and TalkSport's AM radio licences in six years' time to use the spectrum for new digital radio stations.

Peter Davies, the media regulator's director of radio and multimedia, said three new national stations and a whole range of local stations could be squeezed out of the spectrum used by the two national AM services.

But his comments have provoked angry responses from both broadcasters. TalkSport said considering ditching AM broadcasts was "crazy" and "illogical" and Virgin said it would lobby for preferential treatment in the auction of the digital spectrum.

Both SMG's Virgin and UTV's TalkSport's licence are due for renewal in 2012 - after they were recently given a four-year extension. At that time, the licences will be auctioned by Ofcom.

But Mr Davies said that instead of simply auctioning the existing AM licences, Ofcom is looking at ditching the AM licences and converting the spectrum to "Digital Radio Mondiale".

DRM is an alternative digital radio standard to that already used by services such as BBC 6 Music, 1Xtra and Planet Rock in the UK, which is called Digital Audio Broadcasting, or DAB.

"Both licences are due for renewal in 2012 - possibly earlier, if they handed back their licences. These AM national licences could be

reused for DRM," Mr Davies told a digital radio conference organised by the broadcast and transmission company WRN. "You could get potentially two more national networks using a high-powered frequency and a range of local services [from TalkSport's licence]," he said. "With Virgin you could get a national frequency and a number of local services. "When those licences are up for re-advertisement in 2012 they have to be auctioned off. There is no mechanism to allow the incumbent to hang on to them ... whether we auction them on a technology-neutral basis or not is something we will look at nearer the time. "It is one of the possibilities that we are looking at, at the moment."

Scott Taunton, the managing director of UTV Radio, said the AM frequency was essential for his business and turning it off in 2012 would be "commercial suicide".

"Surely Ofcom is not thinking about turning TalkSport off. We have increase listening hours by 30% since 2000 on AM. He said that until many more households and mass market cars have digital radios as standard, it is "pointless" to talk about turning AM off. Ofcom should set a analogue switch-off timetable first, said Mr Taunton, who thought 2020 was about the right time. "I'll fight tooth and nail to have our licence extended even further, the public interest is best-served by an AM service being available until we have a date for switch-off. In 2012 more than half our audience will still be listening on AM, so to turn us off would be commercial suicide."

Mr Taunton added that the AM frequency may be more valuable to his speech station than to Virgin's music station. Music sounds worse than speech on the crackly AM signal and a much larger percentage of Virgin's listeners than TalkSport's have already have migrated to digital. He floated the idea that TalkSport be allowed to keep its AM service past 2012, even if Virgin were happy to have its AM licence turned into DRM.

A spokesman for Virgin Radio said: "We believe, that having persevered with the AM signal, we should be given preferential treatment on the allocation of any DRM spectrum."

The media regulator believes DRM could be used to "fill in the gaps" in digital radio coverage reaching parts DAB of the UK that DAB radio does not reach, or that are not commercially attractive. "DAB might not be enough by itself," said Mr Davies. "Some remote areas are not accessible by DAB, and for smaller stations DRM could complement [DAB]. "It might be that there isn't any commercial interest beyond the areas we advertise [for DAB licences] in the next year or so. It might be that DRM could fill in the gaps," he said.

But he recognised the crucial element in the plan could be missing: that people may not have radio sets that can receive DRM by 2012. Only 15.3% of adults have a DAB set at home compared with over 70% of UK households which already have digital TV. "But there is no point in auctioning DRM if there are no DRM sets available. It is a chicken-and-egg situation. By indicating now that there is a long-term plan to put services on those frequencies using DRM should encourage manufacturers [to produce DRM sets]. But we are only starting to talk about it now. It's early stages."

And he added that Ofcom is not in a position to announce a date for the switch-off of the analogue radio signal, mirroring the move that has been made in the television industry. "We are not anywhere near analogue switch-off yet," he said.

He added that Ofcom will put out a consultation early next year that will "start to ask the question about if [analogue switch off] is a good idea". <http://media.guardian.co.uk/radio/comment/0,,1876994,00.html> (Mike Terry via HCDX)

NEW ULTRA-WIDEBAND RADIO DESIGN HURDLES TRADITIONAL CHALLENGES

PhysOrg.com, September 22, 2006

A working prototype of an ultra-wideband digital wireless radio, a feat that the electronics industry has struggled to accomplish, has been built by four undergraduates from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The device could have applications in industrial monitoring and medical sensing by providing a cheap and reliable way of transferring data between electronic devices. A team of faculty and graduate students in the electrical and computer engineering department developed the novel approach to creating the prototype. Qu Zhang, a doctoral student in electrical and computer engineering at UMass Amherst, will present the new circuitry and experimental results on Sept. 26 at the 2006 International Conference on Ultra-Wideband in Waltham, Mass.

Ultra-wideband radio has been attractive to industry for some time, as it circumvents a tricky problem, says UMass Amherst's Dennis Goeckel, lead faculty member on the project. The radio frequency spectrum is crowded with radio, television and other bandwidth allocations. Ultra-wideband however, spreads the signal power across a wide number of frequency bands so the effect on any given frequency band is negligible.

"The basic idea is to override everybody out there on the spectrum - radio, TV, cell phones, everybody," says Goeckel. "So it causes each person only a little bit of pain."

Another appealing aspect of ultra-wideband is that it provides a very high resolution of the signal at the receiver. This makes for extremely reliable communications and makes it easy for the system to determine where the transmitter is located, important when tracking something carrying the transmitter, such as patients in a hospital or parts in a factory. But this benefit is also ultra-wideband's bane- the high resolution means that the receiver sees in great detail all of the distortion caused by the signal bouncing off metal structures.

"The resolution is great-but you see all these bounces, and if you can't process them, it hurts," explains Goeckel. "In our lab, for example, there are all these metal benches and file cabinets. So, because of that interference, the data are smeared and your receiver gets what appears to be a bunch of garbage."

Engineers have tried to address this problem in ultra-wideband by including a device known as a delay-line in the receiver, says Goeckel. The delay-line allows for recombining the radio signal that was subdivided at the transmitter, making it possible to compare and interpret all the data being transmitted, despite the reflections from the metal objects.

But the delay line for an ultra-wideband radio has proven incredibly hard to build. One solution in a previous industrial prototype was to employ a 20-foot-long cable, which is terribly unwieldy compared to the anticipated thumbnail-sized receiver to which it will be attached.

"It's a clever idea and has been studied like crazy in the literature, but you just can't build it, you just can't," says Goeckel. "People have been working very hard on this-but they aren't getting close to what's needed."

So the UMass Amherst team came up with an elegant solution that doesn't take the delay-line route. Instead of separating the two pulses by time as the delay-line does, the team decided to separate the pulses by frequency. It's a clever idea that requires only a mixer, a component that can be bought right off the shelf.

"We changed the system," says Goeckel. "By sending the reference signal and the data at the same time but at different frequencies, we can line everything up at the receiver without the need for the delay-line."

Armed with this new concept and design, a team of undergraduates took just nine months to construct a working prototype of an ultra wide-band digital radio, which they first unveiled in April at the Ultra-Wideband Workshop sponsored by University of Southern California. Members of the undergraduate team, under the leadership of Robert W. Jackson, electrical and chemical engineering, included then seniors Justin Burkhart, Brandon Mui, Matt Carrier and Nick Merrill.

"This is not the whole solution that people have historically been looking for to the ultra-wideband receiver design," notes Goeckel. "But it is part of the solution. What we're talking about here is a solution for radio devices with low data rates, lots of metal interference, things moving very quickly, really harsh environments. Ours is a good solution to that part of the problem."

Source: University of Massachusetts Amherst, <http://www.physorg.com/news78139813.html>
(Mike Terry via HCDX)

ICOM R9500

Universal Radio indicates that the ICOM R9500 will not be available until 2007:

<http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/widerxvr/0095.html>

HI from Ken in the UK, I was at a radio show here in the UK about two weeks ago and this new receiver was on display. The spec is equal to the 'ICOM-7800' regards 'IP2' and 'IP3' on the HF frequencies, in fact it's meant to be the companion RX for the '7800'. The price quoted for the UK is.....£7,000.00 (around about \$12,000.00 US). It will sell and sell very well, but not to us poor SWL's and Amateurs I'm afraid. Cheers all, Ken, G4KIR.
(dxAce, Michigan, USA via rec.radio.shortwave)

Attention - Shortwave Listening (SWL) Antenna Do-It-Yourselfers

Welcome to the WL1030 WideBand Magnetic Loop Antenna WebPage - In Honor of Maarten Hagg => <http://wl1030.com/content/>

- - - Wide Band Coverage VLF+LF+MW+HF from 10 kHz to 30 MHz

"The Intension is to Reveal the Design of the WideBand Magnetic Loop Antenna and make it possible for those of You who do have the Skills, to Build a WL1030 Wide Band Magnetic Loop Antenna Yourself. SIGN-UP-HERE =>

<http://wl1030.com/content/register.php>

Note - All the Relevant Documents will be made available here and the needed Documentation about the WideBand Magnetic Loop Antenna will be placed in the Folders accessible by each of the Registered Users.
(rec.radio.shortwave)

Station identification woes

Resulting from my recent Seefontein4 DXpedition. I thought I might share some verification woes with you.

I love DXing U.S. stations not only because they are so far away - 7,800miles/12,500 kilometers, but also because they tend to identify well and speak English. But to the South African ear, the various American accents can prove problematical.

I heard a station on 1510MW that ID' as WRAT, but could not find it anywhere in WRTH or other lists. I asked web friends, but no one had ever heard of WRAT, although I replayed my MiniDisc recorder back endlessly it still came up WRAT = bamboozled. Only after I started working on program details and did extensive web searches of all the stations on 1510 it became apparent that the ID is actually WLAC Nashville TN - I just couldn't grasp the announcers American accent.

Then on 1050MW I got a very clear what sounded like CSVN. Now Canada has the callsign's starting with "C" so I thought whoopee! I've got a very rare Canadian station, but alas, a search of WRTH and the web revealed no such station. So I played the recording to my super DXer friend Gary Deacon and he also felt it sounded like CSVN = really baffled now??? Then we played the recording to my other DX mate Vince Stevens and he immediately ID' it as ESPN, a syndicated sports program that is relayed on many U.S. stations. WRTH revealed that this had to be WEPN N.Y., N.Y. and a later web search confirmed it and that that they were running ESPN at the time I recorded it.

Syndicated programming can be a hellava problem for us DXer's here, as some stations play their Ads and programs for 55 minutes solid with no station ID, except for the FCC mandatory station ID just on or before the top of the hour. As serious DXer's will know, trying to get a station to come in clearly only at the top of the hour can be an impossible task, as often the really rare far off exotics may only appear for as little as five minutes and then fade away. The top of the hour can have a great burst of static from far off thunderstorms, or an interfering station may rise above your target station = difficult.

I got a nice QSL verification from 1700 KVNS Brownsville TX, 8,600 miles away without getting the station ID. I took a careful note of the programming from the recorder and did the web searches and was certain that the program content at that time matched KVNS's schedule exactly and so fired off a QSL request and they came back and verified. I cannot stress the importance of getting as much program content recorded as you can to help you verify that station ID.

Web searches today are a great assistance, as even some extremely small stations have websites, many containing detailed program schedules and program content to help you with your ID.

Lastly, an anecdote from the past - one or two South African DXer's got Tahiti, French Polynesia on 15 megs when they used to transmit there. Although I tried very hard, I never got that Tahiti station, but one day another DX friend phoned to say he had got it. I was green with envy so tried in the next couple of days for something to come in, and lo and behold I got a French language broadcast of what sounded like Pacific news. I was elated, but being a stickler for getting a proper station ID I waited and waited and eventually they ID' as Radio Beijing with a transmission for the French Pacific regions !#%&, so my friend had jumped the gun and assumed the wrong ID. Motto of the story is that you must get those program details clear and a good station ID before you can go crowing about that great catch you think you've got. Have fun fella's and good DXing.

(John Plimmer, Montagu, Western Cape Province, South Africa via rec.radio.shortwave)