

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Issue no. 1600. Oct 13, 2006. Deadline next issue: Oct 27, 2006 (E mail: Oct 29, 0900 SNT)

Hösten närmar sig med stormsteg – på morgonen + 2 gr ... Gräsmattan fortsätter växa som bara den då dagstemperaturen fortfarande ligger över 15 gr. Tyvärr hinner den inte torka upp men en multi-klipp ger inte upp så lätt!

Kul med alla bidrag till detta nummer – ser faktiskt ut som att kan bli en riktigt trevlig bulletin!

Om det mot förmodan finns någon som inte plockat St Helena så är tillfället snart inne. Läs mer under stationsnyheter.

Nu börjar väl snart också planeringen för höstens och vinterns expeditioner. Det skall bli kul att se om man via fjärrstyrning kan köra rx-arna i norra Finland medan man sitter gott tillbakalutad i södra Sverige och via datorn loggar stationer. Denna möjlighet är inte långt borta!

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.

Jan Edh: Venezuela kom helt att dominera natten 4-5/10 i Fredriksfors. Men den här natten var faktiskt kortvågen roligare.

På sena kvällen gick en radda ramadan-indoneser 3344,9, 4605, 4750 (tillsammans med kines), 4790, 4874,6. Buenas Nuevas 4780 gick vid en koll vid 04.30.

På sena morgon 08.30 gick Radio Reading Service lite svagt på 3935, inte så det hade räckt till en rapport om jag inte haft den förr, men ändå.

11/10: I Fredriksfors hade vi väldigt bra MV-konditioner 10-11/10, men kortvågen var igen en besvikelse. Tji indoneser på kortvågen, bara dålig signal på Papua 4890 på kvällen. På morgonen gick Apintie 4990 riktigt bra men i övrigt inget spännande.

På MV blev en klar försämring/svängning runt 7-tiden, då cubanerna på låga frekvenser och Venezuela började gå starkt och slog in också på NA-antennerna. Cuba enormt stark på 740 och 890, troligen också 640.

Två missar kan jag notera från natten; Dels kojade jag en stund (2,5 timme från 01.30) och tappade säkert en hel del, dels tillbringade jag väldigt mycket tid på 1430 och missade säkert en del.

Jag kom ut redan strax efter 21 och Rolf Larsson hade redan eld i spisen. Senare kom Dan Andersson också.

Litet trögt mot Asien. Japanerna (och några Koreaner) på MV kom inte igång (men inte som senast) förrän framåt 23, men det var knöckfullt med kineser.

En stund efter midnatt började det gå mer än NL-stationerna från NA.

Fick CIWW på 1380 med kanonsignal. Sport fram till 01 (fattade som man har det alla vardagskvällar) innan oldies tog vid. En del annat ON gick också bra som 1460 CJOY, 1200 CFGO och 1430 CHKT.

Åter efter "vilan" var det premiär för västkustantennen som Rolf och Dan fixat en trasig tråd i transformatorn till. Starka signaler från BC, en del WA, CA, OR och framför allt gick Alberta-stationerna kanon både på den och prairieantennen.

På 1430 var det flera stationer. Jag fick ut KLO men hade också en med sport och en som spelade oldies ganska stadigt men som jag missade id på.

1310 på morgonen hade tidigt fortfarande CIWW, senare bara RNV och en till LA med musik. Inget franska inget annat NA.

Efter 7-tiden gick framför allt Alberta fortfarande bra, men i övrigt som sagt mest Cuba/Venezuela, Mexico på 1700, 1570, 1470 (tillsammans med CPN). Tröttheten tilltog också och strax före 08.30 kom dessutom en lokal störning från grannskapet och dränkte kvarvarande svaga signaler.

Arnstein Bue: Vedlagt ligger mine tips fra KONG13 i oktober i fjor. Det er ikke en veldig stor kortbølge-andel der, men se helt på slutten så finner du noen få tips. Gjennomgangen har tatt veldig lang tid, og jeg er enda på langt nær ferdig. Men fordi KONG15 venter om bare ei uke så må jeg sende KONG13-loggen som den foreligger i dag. Travle tider!

DX har aldri vært så bra som nå, og svarviljen i Latin-Amerika er også forholdsvis god, mye takket være epostens inntok. Vi takker og bukker.

Kan ikke se at jeg har bidratt med kortbølge-QSL siden SWB nr. 1573, så her er det som har kommet siden: **RPDT2 Manggarai 2960** email, **Wantok Radio Light 7120** email med brev- og kort-vedlegg. **XERTA R Transcontinental de América 4810** email med vedlegg, **CP... R Mallku 4796,75** email, **HJ.. Marfil Estereo 5910** kort, brev, **HCAX3 R El Buen Pastor 4815** email med 4-siders brev, **HCVC3 R Centinela del Sur 4890** email (f/up), **OAX9R R San Martín 4810** email (f/up), **OAX7T R Sicuani 4826,4** brev, papirvimpel, lapp

Christer Brunström: Radio East Africa, Bata 15190 med kort för just Radio East Africa, brev och schema. Tydliggen finns kort även för Radio Africa och Radio Africa #2. Allt från Pan American Broadcasting i USA (som tydliggen fyller 70 år just i år).

Leif Blomqvist: Anmäler ett par QSL: **RRI Serui 4605** med brev. **AFRTS Keflavik 7590** mycket snyggt QSL-kort via USA.

John Ekwall: Ytterligare 100 nummer har producerats av dig (det var väl 4 år sedan sist) och jag tackar och bugar för ett strongt redaktörsskap genom åren.

Tack vare IT-åldern är det ju numera inte så mycket tangentryckningar som det var mellan 61 och 95. Tänk alla dessa stenciler som hamrades ner under timmar sena tisdagskvällar och på den gyllene tiden för SWB var det ju deadline sgs som varje vecka året runt. När jag till slut insåg att det bara var deadlines för mig var det rätt naturligt att dra sig tillbaka efter drygt 20 år som redaktör och dit har ju du en bit kvar (även om du varit mer eller mindre aktiv sedan SWB startade 1961). Situationen är ju en helt annan idag med mindre antal stationer att lyssna på men även nya störningsfenomen som inte gör det hela roligare.

Vad gäller mig själv finns intresset latent - kanske inte så mycket aktivitet de senaste åren på KV utan mer på FM. Jag har visserligen tillgång till en förnämlig antennpark i Norrköpings Distanslyssnars QTH men där blir det mest MV som gäller. Nere på Karön får jag nog dra in mina långa antenner (sparar kanske en eller två) efter år av förfall (snarare döda träd som faller ner). Eftersom jag sedan 1995 ägnat all min semester åt renovering och nybygge blev det inte någon ork kvar att sitta vid radion än mer att resa upp FM-masten med Galaxien (Galaxien i Nkp är nedtagen efter Gudruns härjningar).

Under sommaren 2006 färdigställdes nybygget "annexet" - 22 kvm vinterbonat med duschkabin och ny kyl/frys samt indraget vatten - premiärdusch den 7 juli. I mitten av augusti åkte jag ner för att förbereda stängningen inför vintern då olyckan var framme. Skulle ta och fånga några aborrar till kräftfiske när jag halkade på en sten och bröt fotleden. Har nu gått med gips sedan 25 augusti - operation den 12 sept - gipset skall tas bort den 26 oktober. Det har varit en nygammal erfarenhet att med kryckor att fixa mat och andra nödvändigheter balanserades på en fot i början (så jag vet vad du gick igenom Thomas efter din olycka).

Lycka till med dina kommande 100 nummer!

(Nog är det så att sedan DX-starten 1964 har mycket hänt, speciellt vad gäller bulletinskrivningen. Tänk i begynnelsen var det stencilmaskiner som gällde och allt som tipsades skrevs om av den stackars redaktören. Idag är det bara klipp och klistra som gäller. Dessutom kan bullen göras i takt med att bidragen trillar in.

Icke att förglömma är KRÖK-aktiviteterna på Karön. Det finns väl några få bilder från dessa minnesvärda meeting. Synd bara om dina fina antenner skulle rosta bort. John, inte är det nåt kul att gå med gips, hoppas nu att allt läker ihop som det ska! /red)

Börge Eriksson tycker att det börjar bli dags för ett livstecken, det första i år tror jag. Är nu inne på tredje året där jag varit helt befriad från DX, d.v.s. jag har inte lyssnat något. Även fast polare Lennart ringer var eller varannan dag och säger att "det och det hörs". Inte ens när jag i somras besökte Gotland för första gången och fick äran att sitta i BEFF:s berömda garderob, sände detta några signaler att börja lyssna. Men så fick jag och en gammal kompis som var med och startade Dalecarlian DX-Club på 50-talet för oss att vi skulle åka på DX-Förbundets 50-års jubileum i Stockholm för två veckor sedan. Jösses, här mötte man plötsligt DX-are som man inte träffat på decennier. Jan-Erik Rääf t.ex. tror jag att jag träffade på ett Parlament 1959 senast. Gamla SWB-are dök också upp t.ex. Nils Jacobsson och Kjell Bengtsson och så flera nuvarande medlemmar också förstås. Vi var ett 70-tal personer, men tyvärr hann man inte snacka med alla då programmet var mycket komprimerat. Men det blev något av en liten kick för mig och de senaste veckorna har jag börjat lyssna litet igen, men ännu inget allvarligt. Det finns inte så mycket att lyssna på i stadsmiljö med all lokal störning. Nog märks det att vi fått digital-TV och att det nu står digitalboxar i varje hem i standby läge. Mellanvägen är totalt körd och även tropikbanden är mycket utstörda. Vi får väl se om det blir någon rapport så småningom. Man skulle kanske börja jaga litet länder som inte finns i pärmarna ännu. Jag har ju kommit så här långt i alla fall och fått ett livstecken till SWB.

Björn Fransson: Hej! Efter en seg lyssnarnatt vid Ygne skriver jag ned ett litet bidrag till SWB. Litet CA-mellanväg på morgonen, men annars ingenting nytt, precis.

QSL: Radio Free Asia-15495. Spec-QSL med Marconi på. 1 m. **The Voice Asia-6260.** E-mail från v/s: "Shaun". **Radio Brandaris-6306.7.** E-mail med jättstor QSL-kortsfil, som inte fick plats på en A4-sida. **Radio Valencia-6304.8.** Världsrekordkort E-mail.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

3290	24.10	-1200	R Central , Boroko, with beautiful music and excellent signal. ABU/K
3291.2	14.10	0445	Voice of Guyana med BBC-discussionsprogram om "Our Life". BBC-nyheter kl 0500. S 3 tidvis. BEFF
3305	23.10	1122	Western Radio , Daru, continued after 1200, probably with relay of another station. ABU/K
3344,9	4.10	2105	RRI Ternate under Sydafrika och därmed svår att få riktig frekvens på. QSA 3. JE
3935,04	5.10	0620	Radio Reading Service med religiöst med en kvinna. En överraskning även om den inte gick så bra att jag hade fått ihop till en rapport om den varit ny för mig... QSA 1-2. JE
4319U	4.10	1715	AFRTS, Diego Garcia med NPR-program. S 3. BEFF
4605	4.10	2059	RRI Serui med paussignal, anrop och nyheter. QSA 3 men raspigt ljud. JE
4750			SUDAN Radio Peace presumed , per Bruce Churchill log. 0245 om talking, music at 0255 and 0256 back to om, 0305 fade out, 29th September. Have had them better in the past; was unaware that they were broadcasting until reading BC log, Tnx!!! The Economist [UK] weekly news magazine, frequently prints boundaries of South Sudan. CODAR was severe. [Wilkner-FL]
4750	4.10	2102	RRI Makassar (tent) med nyheter. Kines starkare. QSA 2-3 JE
4780	5.10	0225	Radio Buenas Nuevas . Mycket markerad trumma i musik som splattrade ut rejält. QSA 3. JE
4790	4.10	2100	RRI FakFak med nyheter. Inte så bra som förra säsongen. QSA 2-3 JE
4824.486			PERU La Voz de la Selva Iquitos 1038 to 1055, best signal ever, ID's by om, laser sounds. "la vide en las nueva ...la realidad...Peru..." 30 september [Wilkner-FL]
4835.4	5.10	1830	Mali är tydligen igång igen, men erbarmligt svag // 5995. S 2 och urusel modulation. BEFF
4855.38t.			PERU Radio La Hora , Cusco 1043v to 1100 fade, rather weak signal, om "en espanol" with OA programing 5 and 6 October [Wilkner-FL]
4874,6	4.10	2105	RRI Sorong (tent) med nyheter. Över till musik 21.25. Bättre ljud än de andra och gick fram bra på LSB. Övriga 60-metersindoneser går nästan enbart på AM. QSA 2. JE

4880	5.10	1845	SW Radio Africa via Sydafrika med EE om Zimbabwe. S 3-4. BEFF
4886.58			[PERU tentative] Radio Virgen del Carmen Huancavelica Peruvian at 1020 to 1030 long talk by om in Espanol, high noise level. Not often heard at this QTH. 30 September [Wilkner-FL]
4919			ECUADOR Radio Quito , "Radio Quito, La Voz de la capital" ID's good signal 0950 to 1055, anthem 1052. 6 October. Good to see them back on the air. [Wilkner-FL]
4930	2.10	1646	Turkmen Radio med nyhetsmagasin på engelska. Tyvärr är ljudet mycket otydligt varför det är svårt att följa med i programmet. 3 CB
4990	14.10	0500	Radio Apintie , egentligen OID, men... Nonstop musik. S 2. BEFF
6035	22.9	2215	LV de Guaivare med finfin musik. S 3. BEFF
6170	7.10	1010	SWR från Finland mycket stark, men bara på finska och hemsk musik. S 3-4. BEFF
6245	13.9	1820	Radio Zamaneh , iransk clandestine med program på farsi. Har lovat svara med QSL-kort! S 4-5. BEFF
6260	20.9	1700	The Voice Asia via Tashkent med poppig indisk filmmusik. Svarade snällt. S 3. BEFF
7120	22.10	1017	Wantok Radio Light - "Serving all of Papua New Guinea - Wantok Radio Light". ABU/K
11655	Ofta	0630	Voz Cristiana , Chile har hörts här varje morgon under sensommaren säher polare Lennart och även jag har hört dem, men sista veckan har det varit tyst så vi trodde på frekvensbyte. Men idag 14.10 hördes de igen. Sign-off 08.00. BE
11765	7.10	0803	KNLS startade sändningen på CC. Den engelska sändningen samma tid på annonserade 11870 kHz hördes inte och har inte hörts på länge. Problem med sändaren? 2 CB
11815	8.10	2015	Rádio Brasil Central med fotboll. 3 CB
11830	8.10	2016	Rádio Anhanguera med fotboll. 3 CB
11915	8.10	2020	Rádio Gaúcha med fotboll. 2 CB
11925	8.10	2022	Rádio Bandeirantes med fotboll. 3 CB
12085	7.10	1000	Voice of Mongolia hade en intressant intervju med en holländare som startat ett handelsföretag på Internet i Mongoliet. 3 CB
15190	1.10	0800	Radio East Africa , Bata med "The Hour of Decision" 2 CB
15345.2	8.10	2032	Radio Nacional med fotboll. Frekvensen tycks variera från dag till dag. 3 CB
15344.9	3.10	2000	Radiodifusión Argentina al Exterior med franska. Har nu glidit ner till under 15345. 3-4 CB
17810	8.10	1145	Vanoli Ulagam, "Radio World" via AIR/Panaji hördes mycket bra. Några ord om den Eter-Aktuellt som jag lät skicka till dem om världens minsta QSL-kort. BEFF

Stationsnyheter

BHUTAN. 6035, Bhutan BS on 9/25, 9/26 and 9/27 from DX Tuner Sweden. 9/27 sign-on 0059 with anthem or Bhutanese instrumental music, M at 0100 until 0117, local stringed instrumental music 0117.5, man again at 0118, more stringed inst mx 0121.5, M 0122, vocal/instrumental Bhutanese songs at 0124.5 and 0127.5 (more like man chanting here).

Programming was similar all three days until a daily wipe out at 0129 from 6040 adjacent channel sign-on with S5+ signal. Signal quality has consistently been S3+ and tonight (9/27) is S4 - never been heard this well before from either Johannesburg or Sweden DX Tuners - new 100 KW transmitter?? Even before 0129 had strong adjacent channel splash but strong BBS carrier punched thru that until 0129 QRM from 6040. Like Nepal, look for this on ECNA or Europe on a good So. Asian evening. WCNA will be possible later in Fall or early Winter (Bruce Churchill, CA, Jihad DX via NASWA Listeners Notebook via DXLD)

BOLIVIA. 5968,58v Radio Nacional Huanuni, Huanuni, 1020-1035, October 12, Spanish Reactivated!!!!!!

I listened the station on this local morning, with a information programme conducted by male and local and national news by same speaker, Good Signal. SINPO: 33322 (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentina via HCDX)

SAINT HELENA. RADIO ST HELENA DAY REVIVAL ON SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER

23 October 1999 was the last worldwide shortwave transmission from Radio St Helena, and this sadly ended a yearly event which began in 1990. The revival is being planned to go worldwide on Saturday 4 November this year, transmitting on 11092.5 kHz in Upper Side Band mode.

[QSL illustration] <http://blogs.rnw.nl/medianetwork/wp-content/uploads/2006/10/sthelen99.jpg>

The first construction works began a couple of weeks ago at Radio St Helena in Pounceys, St Helena, with the pouring of the concrete slab, which holds the base to the shortwave transmission antenna. This antenna will be erected later this month when the man behind the revival of the Radio St Helena Day, Robert Kipp, arrives from Germany.

This project was made possible entirely by generous donations. The antenna was funded by overseas shortwave enthusiasts and the concrete slab holding the base was sponsored by local building contractors and friends.

After this year's revival, Radio St Helena plans to continue this annual worldwide transmission, which is very popular with shortwave radio enthusiasts and local listeners - who can hear peoples' greetings from all parts of the world. Next year will be an extra special shortwave transmission, which will coincide with Radio St Helena's 40th anniversary. More information of the Revival of Radio St Helena Day, including the schedule, can be found at <http://www.sthelenase/radioproject> (Source: St Helena Herald via Media Network blog Oct 13 via DXLD)



This is one of these rare occasions when the local people are getting as excited as the shortwave hobbyists. St Helena has traditionally been one of the most isolated places on earth. With a population of around 4000, this tiny island in the South Atlantic has no airport (though that's about to change), and access has been via the Royal Mail Ship St Helena, which takes 5 days from Cape Town and about half that time from Ascension Island.

By 2010, the new airport should be ready, and the RMS St Helena will be taken out of service. The airport, with a 2,250m runway, will be established near the eastern coast - at Prosperous Bay Plain - and will be capable of supporting long-haul jet aircraft such as the Airbus A320 and Boeing 737-800. This will be a big boost to the economy of St Helena, which has all the requirements to become an exotic tourist destination. It will also be easier and quicker to deliver supplies to the island.

But will St Helena change for the better? There's a part of me that wonders if this new access to the outside world will spoil the idyllic and laid back lifestyle that the inhabitants seem to enjoy. Find out more at <http://www.sthelenaonline.com> (Andy Sennitt, via DXLD.)

I think that the building of a runway will spoil the island; it's one of the few places where time has stood still in a sort of way. The local people won't know what has hit them if it turns into a tourist spot (Steve Coombs, October 12th, 2006 at 19:12, via DXLD) But, \$\$\$

SOMALIA. Re 6-152: **Baidoa on 6798:** it was 1544 UT; I wanted to tip people off quickly. It had gone by the time the message got through. Talk in Somali language, surprisingly good audio but lots of hets either side, intentional jamming? Call it a presumed log, as I didn't get an ID (Tim Bucknall, UK, BDXC-UK and DX LISTENING DIGEST)

I did find a reference to a Radio Baidoa, Somalia operating on 6806 1500-1800, and seemingly reported by Clandestine Radio Watch and BBCMS back in 2002. <http://www.schoechi.de/crw/somalia.html> (Steve Lare, Holland, MI USA, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Övriga radionyheter

1st Asia DX Contest

From October 29, 2006 (00:00 UTC) to November 19, 2006 (23:59 UTC) the 1st Asia DX Contest is taking place initiated by the online- forums wellenforum.de (Germany) and A-DX.at (Austria).

Participation is possible for every DXer, no matter if a newcomer or oldtimer, membership in a club or association is not necessary. There is NO contest-fee - only if you want your diploma by mail you have to pay return postage! You can find more information about the Asia-DX contest and download of the contest-form (PDF) from this page: <http://www.ratzer.at/asiacontest.php>

We wish all participants good luck in the contest and hope you have a good time hunting for stations in Asia!
73 from Salzburg, Austria, Christoph Ratzer, www.a-dx.at (via HCDX)

The ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No 40

Website: <http://www.arrl.org/> October 6, 2006

A 160-meter beacon will take to the air this fall and winter from Cornwall, England, to explore how Guglielmo Marconi was able to span the Atlantic by wireless for the first time on December 12, 1901. Radio history says that's when the radio pioneer at a receiving station in Newfoundland successfully copied the Morse code letter "s" sent repeatedly by his team in the Cornwall town of Poldhu. The latter-day venture is a cooperative effort of the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club (PARK) in Cornwall and the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (MCRN). The Poldhu club's Keith Matthew, G0WYS, said the 2001 centenary of Marconi's achievement reopened discussion into the mechanism by which the 1901 spark transmitter signal propagated.

"The winter of 1901 coincided with a sunspot minimum, and it was realized that this coming December 2006 should show similar conditions to those of December 1901," he said. Just how Marconi was able to receive the transatlantic transmission has long been a topic of discussion and even controversy, especially given the frequency Marconi is likely to have used, thought to be between 800 and 900 kHz, and the time of day, afternoon in Newfoundland.

"The beacon will help understand the possibility of low sunspot number transatlantic medium wave propagation 24 hours a day, but especially 1400 through 1800 UTC," Matthew said. The 160-meter amateur band is being used, he explained, because Marconi's original frequency today is a highly populated piece of the radio spectrum.

"It was realized that a clear channel would be necessary on the nearest amateur band, and a temporary license to operate a beacon on 160 meters has now been obtained," Matthew announced. Starting on or about November 1 and continuing through next February, the GB3SSS beacon will transmit on 1960 kHz.

The 1960 kHz beacon will use a two-minute transmit sequence starting at the top of the hour. It will consist of a CW identification followed by a series of carrier bursts, each reducing in power by 6 dB. An identification in PSK31 will follow. The transmit sequence will repeat at 15-minute intervals.

On the listening end in Newfoundland will be well-known low-frequency experimenter Joe Craig, VO1NA, of the MRCN, who lives near St John's. "This is a very exciting project," Craig said. "I am very grateful for the support from my fellow members in the club and our sister club, the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club." Craig offered his own observations on Marconi's 1901 feat in a 2001 article "Marconi's First Transatlantic Wireless Experiment," for The Canadian Amateur, the journal of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) <http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~jrcraig/marconi.html>. <<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~jrcraig/marconi.html>> Also monitoring in North America will be the Antique Wireless Association's W2AN club station in upstate New York.

ARRL member and radio history buff Bart Lee, KV6LEE, proposed the 160-meter experiment to test the feasibility of Marconi's 1901 claimed achievement.

"Continuing cooperation between Canadian and British Amateur Radio operators can thus play a part in verification of one of the most interesting events in the history of our technology," Lee said in his article "A Plea for Timely Experiments" on the California Historical Radio Web site <http://www.californiahistoricalradio.com/photos53.html>. <<http://www.californiahistoricalradio.com/photos53.html>> Lee and Matthew recently visited with Craig and other MRCN members in Newfoundland.

E-mail beacon reception reports gb3sss@yahoo.co.uk <<mailto:gb3sss%40yahoo.co.uk>> .

Source: The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 40 October 6, 2006. <http://www.eham.net/articles/14962> <<http://www.eham.net/articles/14962>> (Mike Terry via HCDX)

Best MW radio and antenna

My DX pal, Gary Deacon has just caught KSL Salt Lake City on 1160 khz using his ancient (unmodified) rusted and salt encrusted Yaesu FRG-7 and his ALA1530 which sits hanging unmounted on his cupboard door. Salt Lake City is 9,700 miles from his suburban home in Fishoek, a small coastal resort near the main city of Cape Town. The catches he gets from home attests to the remarkable "sea gain" experienced on the MW band when you DX from the beach (or near it).

He did get a better catch than that at our September equinox DXpedition when he caught CASH in Tecate Mexico, right next door to San Diego CA. That was at the Seefontein DX cottage right on the beach of the Atlantic ocean, also using his Frog but then with a 1,300 foot beverage antenna over the shoulder to New York.

Motto of the story is that you don't have to have the world's latest whizz bang radio to get those amazing DX catches, but as Conrad Hilton said, it's all about position, position position!

More info on Gary's activities at Fishoek and our Seefontein DX site can be found at <http://www.dxing.info>

SEA GAIN is indeed a very interesting phenomena. A group of MW DXer's throughout the world have been researching this and confirmed the very beneficial results obtained when DXing by or near the sea. A couple of the fella's unearthed research done by the BBC over forty years ago when they were researching the best siting of MW transmitters. This was the definitive paper that confirmed the existence of "sea gain" on the MW band.

I did a sea gain experiment with my Drake SW8 at Veldrif in 2005. Using a reference station of France Info, Nice on 1557 I travelled inland from the beach. By the time I got 10km's/6 miles inland the signal had dropped off minus -23dB!

I can confirm after 40 years of DXing in various sites that DXing by the sea is spectacularly better than the best inland location. Most of your top American DXer's head for the coast during the DX season and get amazing catches not possible inland. (John Plimmer, Montagu, Western Cape Province, South Africa)

The effect is far more dramatic on the MW band!

MW propagation is greatly affected by ground conductivity. FCC regulation 73.190 (figure R3) is a chart of ground conductivity for the United States. In New England and the NYC area where MW propagation is notoriously poor, it ranges from 0.5 to 2mmho/m. Here in the South where it isn't much better, figures run between 2 and 8. (that includes Florida) In North Dakota where a single 5kw station can cover the whole state, figures between 15 and 30 are common.

The chart considers the "ground" conductivity of seawater to be 5000mmho/m. (yes, that's 200 times better than the best land) Two examples of direct observation:

- Wilmington, NC, at night. Car radio in the beach parking lot: Jamaica blasting in at entertainment quality on 760 and several other frequencies. I start driving inland; within a block the signals are noticeably weaker. Within a mile, they're barely audible. When I get back to my motel about five miles inland, Jamaica is totally gone.

- Massachusetts, high noon, car radio about five miles inland west of Newburyport. CHTN-720, Prince Edward Island, local quality. Drive about 20 miles inland to Andover; CHTN gradually fades into nothingness.

Interesting that you observed this on 20m. Maybe less local interference? The ground conductivity shouldn't have much effect on shortwave -- greater *distances* (i.e., being within maybe 200 miles of the Atlantic in Florida, rather than being within 900 miles here in Tennessee) should make a big difference but I wouldn't think the difference between Tampa and a Gulf island would be that dramatic.

(Doug Smith, W9WI, Pleasant View, TN, <http://www.w9wi.com>)
(via rec.radio.shortwave)

Ship/marine traffic HF radio (BC-221).

I was cruising around the HF bands last night look to see if I could snag the BBC in my area. I stumbled across a SSB HF broadcast of Alaskan seas conditions. This caused me to do a search on Google for HF marine stations. After drilling into various sites, I hit: <http://www.shipcom.com/frequencies.html> . I was surprised to see the front panel of an old BC-221 (SCR-211) staring back at me. It is good to see that venerable old frequency meter still considered "cool" enough to be part of a commercial web site. (Steven D. Swift, novatech@eskimo.com, <http://www.novatech-instr.com>)

AKA LM. I was lucky enough to find a nearly mint one complete with power supply and original calibration books, they are still very useful. The site you reference has two familiar calls, once coastal telegraph stations: KLB and WLO. Years ago I learned code partly from copying ship traffic. Both RCA and MacKay main stations (KPH and KFS in the West and WCC and WSL in the East) sent about two hours of press every day, machine sent at about 25 WPM. That went away sometime in the early 1980's when it was switched to teleprinter. (Richard Knoppow)

In 1966 the family did a car trip to Cape Cod. As a young ham, I was attracted to some huge rhombic antennas that we were driving past. At some point we found an RCA facility, knocked on the door and asked for a tour.

It was their ship-shore facility. There were rows of cubicles with a vibroplex key and a mechanical typewriter in each one. ISTR the receivers had an RCA logo and appeared to be late-WWII vintage. The transmitters were somewhere else. The whole room appeared to be essentially unchanged since the 30s, except for the receivers. (a d y k e s @ p a n i x . c o m)

I can't dredge up the details from my memory but think the transmitter location was at Marion Mass. The receivers were probably either RCA AR-77 or the later AR-88 types.

These are actually pretty good receivers. In the old days there were several different calls used but after WW-2 only one was used, WCC (Cape Cod). This was RCA's main east coast station. Its equivalent on the west coast was KPH. KPH had various locations but after WW-2 was co-located with the RCA Communications station on the Point Reyes peninsula above San Francisco. RCA Communications had its transmitters at Bolinas Point and receiver station at Inverness further up the peninsula. There is a web site dedicated to KPH. The call is a very old one, originally PH, for Palace Hotel, its original location, issued to the Marconi Company c.1907.

There are evidently other transmitting sites on the east coast which have been preserved to some degree. FWIW, the main RCA Communications station in the east was on Long Island with transmitters at Rocky Point and receivers at Riverhead. I don't know if there is anything at either location to indicate what was there. RCA Radiomarine also had a big installation at Tuckerton N.J. (WSC) the home of the famous 200,000 Watt Alexanderson alternator. This machine operated on a frequency near 100 khz and was kept in running order for many decades for "national security" purposes. I have no idea what became of any of this. Perhaps someone else in the group knows more. I suppose all this is at least partly O.T. here. (Richard Knoppow, Los Angeles, CA, USA, dickburk@ix.netcom.com)

<http://www.wjkane.com/wcchistory.html> (Chatham's Marine Radio Station Has Unsung Place In History) (HF Guy)
(via rec.radio.shortwave)

CHINESE OTH RADAR TEARS UP LOWER HAM BANDS

IARU Monitoring System seeks over-the-horizon radar reports. (October 5, 2006)

--- IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Bill Zellers, WA4FKI, says Amateur Radio stations on the West Coast and as far east as Arizona have reported hearing over-the-horizon radar signals on the low bands. VE7BZ in British Columbia recorded the radar's signal October 1, 1353 UTC, on 3795 kHz. The radar, apparently located on Hainan Island, Peoples Republic of China, has shown up on 160, 80 and 40 meters and sometimes is quite strong. ``We're talking about signals 40 over 9!`` Zellers told ARRL, adding that the radar is obliterating 160 meters in the Far East. On 80/75 meters it appears as high as 3.8 MHz, while on 40 meters, it's showing up on the lower 25 kHz or so. Typically there are about 50 seconds between signal pulses. He said the radar signals are strongest on a heading of between 285 and 320 degrees from California or Arizona. Zellers requests reports from stations hearing the over-the-horizon radar signals as well as any other signals that do not appear to belong on the Amateur Radio bands. He suggests the following format when reporting: Your call sign, time in UTC, frequency, emission type, signal strength, propagation and signal bandwidth in kHz. Send reports to Zeller via e-mail wa4fki@nc.rr.com This story: <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=6850>
(via John Norfolk, dxldyg, DXLD)