

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

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Starten på 2007 har varit märklig. Det är länge sedan vi i stort sett varit utan snö och haft 6-10 gr varmt varje dag. Dessutom har det blåst också nästan varje dag. Markerna runt i kring är så vattenbemängda att bara 1 mm regn gör att allt på nytt flyter. Hoppas det slår om inför sportlovet.

Verkligt kul att gamla SWB ser ut att läsas av en hel del aktiva. Till detta nummer kan vi glädjas över 2 nya medlemmar. Presentation finns här intill.

Som synes av den digra tipsspalten så hörs det trots allt en del även på KV.

Skall också bli intressant att följa de nya PC-styrda rx:arna som nu ser ut att bli allt populärare.

Kanske expeditionernas tid är förbi???

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).

MEDLEMSAVGIFT 2007 (membership fee 2007):

Medlemsavgiften för 2007 är SEK 75:- för internetbulle och SEK 250:- för pappersbulle. För utländsk medlem, som betalar direkt via postgirot, tillkommer SEK 30:- för att täcka den avgift postgirot tar ut. Betalning till Bengt Dalhammar, postgirokonto 51 84 47 - 8. Medlemsavgifterna skall vara betalda senast 31/1 2007.

Membership fee 2007 is SEK 75:- Payment to postal account 51 84 47- 8. Add SEK 30:- to cover postal costs. Payment before Jan 31, 2007. (Foreign members please contact the editor regarding other ways to pay.) /God Jul & Gott Nytt År önskar Bengt Dalhammar.

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Vi tackar Dagh för en trevlig presentation och hälsar honom välkommen i gänget och hoppas vi får många bidrag av varierande slag framöver.

Dagh Casselbrant: Jag ansöker om medlemskap i SWB. Jag vet att det är förenat med aktivitet i form av tips m.m. Och tips hoppas jag kunna bidra med vad det lider. Men först en presentation av mig: Född i Borlänge 1958 och där levde jag livet i nitton år. Under dessa nitton år började jag lyssna på kortvåg, det var brorsan som förledde mig (han är dock fri från alla symptom i dags läge..). Jag minns att jag var med i JSM i DX-ing runt 1969 och om jag inte minns fel så hamnade jag på en plats runt 650.. (det var tider det, trots allt fick jag en bok om Japan).

Det jag är mest stolt över i min radiokarriär är att jag var initiativtagare och grundare av Stora Tuna Dx-Klubb tillsammans med Lars Pettersson och Anders Gustafsson (LP & AGA, och som jag förstår är mer än oaktiva på radiofronten i dag). Efter starten i klubben kom det ju till flera högdjur. TOJ & POJ, Douren, Simmen, Hummel och nuvarande riksdagsledamoten f.d.(?) Borlänge-pampen Hultqvist. Dessa tillsammans med rävarna Börge Eriksson (som även var min arbetsgivare under ett par år) och Birger Norgren "förädlade" klubben så att den gjorde stordåd i slutet av 70- och under 80-talet.

Sedan har det varit hit och dit med lyssnandet. Dock har intresset alltid funnits.

I dagsläget är det mer än stort. Tyvärr så är tiden f.n. lite snål när det gäller möjligheterna att vara riktigt aktiv eftersom jag sedan ett och ett halvt år tillbaka är h-red för EA. Vilket är kul och spännande men dock förenat med mycket jobb framför skärmen. Dessutom har jag "blivit" med sambo och nyinköpt hus (ett hus med potential..).

Men med huset har det blivit möjligt att få till lite antenner, vilket jag jobbar med mellan tapetsering, gullande, h-redskap och arbete. Arbetet är förlagt till kommunens bibliotek där jag jobbar som bibliotekarie med ansvar för allt som har sladd & skärm.

I det nyinredda radiorummet finns bl.a. en WinRADIO G313i och en ICOM IC-761 (den senare nyttjar mest med signalen SM3RBR).

73 från Dagh i Kramfors, som har signaturen dcb

The second new member is Giampiero Bernardini from Italy. He is also very welcome to SWB and as it seems he is at present very active on the bands. We hope to get a closer presentation from him for next issue.

Giampiero Bernardini, Milano, Italy.

Ciao from Italy, I would like to subscribe SWB. I have been dxing since 1970, even if in some periods I was not active for job problems. I'm interested in SW, but also in MW, LW and FM dxing. I contribute to Play DX, DSWCI-DXW, HCDX, Cumbre, BDXC, MWC.

I have some blogs too: SW: <http://radiodxsw.blogspot.com/> LA: <http://lasw.blogspot.com/> MW:

<http://radio-dx.blogspot.com/> FM: <http://radiodxfm.blogspot.com/> INFO:

<http://radiodxinfo.blogspot.com/>

Down you can see my receivers. I have also 3 SDR. **Receivers:** Drake SPR-4 & R-4C (with DDS4); RFT EKD 315; RFSpace SDR-14; CiaoRadio H101; Winradio G33EM Marine; AOR AR7030+ AR5000+ AR3000A-DX; TenTec RX320 & RX321; Icom R7000 & R71E (both mod. by Capra), PCR1000; Lowe HF150; Kenwood R5000 & tuner KT-6040; Grundig Satellit 700 & 500; Yamaha T-85; Sangean ATS 909 mod. & DT-220; Degen DE1103; Alinco DJ-X3 (In all FM rx I use 110/80/53 kHz filters).

Antennas: wires 30 m.; RKB 5, 9 & 10 elements FM; RF Systems T2FD. 15 meters; Wellbrook LFL

1010, loops by A.Capra, PAORDT Mini Whip, Magnetic Loop L101

Christer Brunström: Radio "Virgen de Remedios", Tupiza 4545 kHz kom med ett svar per post efter ett tidigare svar per epost. Denna gång utförligt infoblad, julhälsning, bild av Virgen de Remedios de Tupiza och ett vykort föreställande ett intressant naturfenomen i trakterna kring Tupiza. **Marfil Estereo 5910 CD** skiva med bilder av sändare och antenner för stationerna i Lomalinda (Meta) samt en fem sex sånger. Den trevliga CDn sänds till alla som rapporterar 5910 eller 6010 under innevarande år. **Radio Station Belarus 7420 kHz** stort kort, kalender och diverse dekaler.

Lars Skoglund: Ett svar har kommit nämligen **Marfil Estereo 5910** med brev, trevligt kort och pappvimpel.

Jan Edh: På kortvågen har det inte varit var det ingen höjdare på senare tid. Men Mexiko 4810 gick kanon på lördagsförmiddagen och Apintie lurades med spanskspråkig sång på 4990 på söndagsförmiddagen. En decimeter blötsnö, duggregn och spårigt och eländigt efter vägarna. Blåsten kommer väl så småningom...

Lars Erik Svensson: Det var ett tag sedan, det är svårt att DX:a numera hos mig störningar av alla de slag förekommer. Inte minst egenproducerade sådana. Bara en sådan sak som trådlös telefon på laddning ger en pulsstörning utan dess like!

Har lyssnat av några vanligare stationer på KV, men även försökt mig på LA. Speciellt 4781 Bolivia men där finns en störning som jag tror är lokal. Så några tips blir det inte denna gång men jag hoppas komma igång så smått!

Däremot kan jag glädja mig åt några svar: Kort från **AFN Diego Garcia via USA 4319**, samt div trycksaker med info, vykort mm från **Radio Virgen de Remedios 4545** som QSL kanske det kan betecknas med viss tveksamhet. Det kanske är fler som fått och hur de tolkar textinnehållet!

Lennart Weirell: God fortsättning på det nya DX-året. Ingen logg bara några inkomna QSL kan rapporteras: **ABC Alice Springs** – 2310 b inf efter 3 v, **WWVH**, Hawaii – 5000 k inf efter 5 v, **Cupid R** – 3927 e-mail efter 1 d.

Stig Adolfsson: Hej TN och alla övriga i SWB. Missade förra stoppdatumet så något senkommet får jag önska God Fortsättning på 2007. Har lyssnat mycket efter Humpty Doo på 5050 men allt jag hört på kvällarna är WWRB.I/ Stig A.

Björn Fransson: Hej! Efter en halv natt vid Ygne i rykande storm rakt utifrån havet, känns det nu litet lugnare. Kondsen var riktigt skapliga eller också är det läget och mina antenner, eftersom det alltid är samma gäng stationer på ungefär samma tider (det börjar med brassar kl 21.30 och fortsätter sedan med Bolivia och Peru under 1-2 timmar kl 22-00) som går som tåget under den s k midnattstoppen. De flesta ID-ade jag inte, så dem tar jag inte med här.

QSL: Radio Virgen de Remeidos-4545.3. Gammaldags, härligt brev med frimärken och allt. Brev, broschyr, vykort, bönekort, nyckelring – ja, allt, utom QSL förstås... I brevet anger man frekvensen 5905 kHz, men jag lyssnade på dem på en helt annan.

John Ekwall: Jag glömde visst att dra väg mitt bidrag för 2 veckor sedan. Har införskaffat en SDR14 (vilket kanske skulle tala om för andra att jag inte lämnat hobbyn för gott) som jag testade på en liten träff bland de få nördar som finns kvar inom hobbyn - dvs Sveriges aktivaste förening vad gäller radio - Norrköpings Distanlyssnare (<http://www.ndl-dx.se/>). Det blev till att fundera och lyssna i andra banor än vad som gällde för 15 år sedan.

Nåväl - vi hade skapliga konds på kvällen och jag noterade att visst fanns det kvar en del stationer att lyssna på även om det emellanåt vara ganska tunt. Anledning till detta inköp är att göra 2 saker - först att främst att kunna testa vad denna burk går för på KV. Mig veterligen har inget seriöst lyssnade gjorts på kortvåg - de rapporter man ser har från MV och Parkalompolo och andra kalla orter norr om polcirkeln. Jag tänkte att testa den nere på Karön i april under några nätter. Nåja - det blir väl inspelning på natten för koll senare om höra det har fastnat något. Undrar just hur kondsen är 2300-0030 UTC på 49mb - går det fortfarande att hitta något? Att jag gör denna test beror på att jag tänker plocka ner merparten av min antennpark (väl åtgången efter de senaste stormarna och nedfallna döda träd) inför sommaren.

Liten logg från Väsby den 2 januari 2007-01-02. På 90mb hördes ett par afrikaner vid 1800 UTC.

2030 började R Serui höras på 4605 och blev allt bättre - kl 2058 "Peggy Sue" med Buddy Holly följt av "Summertime Blues". Snack från 2103 och framåt (nx!). 2107 mx rlg? sedan bidde det inte mer.

(JOE! Nu förväntar vi oss stor aktivitet – nu kan du ju sätta upp radion på Karön och ratta den hemifrån! /red)

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

2325	3.1	2039	VL8T Tennant Creek, //2485 fair GB
2430	4.1	0515	Greek Pirate , songs, good GB
2485	3.1	2038	VL8K Katherine, Australia, talks, very good signal easy listening. No signal on 2310 GB
3252,6	3.1	2049	Greek Pirate , talks in Greek, 2 X harmonic, good GB
3266.419	11.1	1415	RRI Gorontalo med "musik populär" Brukar nog stänga tidigare. Allra bäst hörs den på kvällarna men störs ibland av tredje övertonen från 1089 vilken då hamnar på 3267 kHz. Denna dag stängde man 1435. 2 SA
3296,8	3.1	2048	Greek Pirate , Greek music, 2 X harmonic, fair GB
3304.990	Ibl	2020	Radio Western , Daru hörs ibland med vanligen störd av digital trafik. 1-2 SA
3320	4.1	2219	Italian Pirate , Napolitan songs till 2223, again at 2228 then off GB
3330	5.1	0425	CHU Canada, time pips id FF & EE, good GB
3334	31.1	16	Under lyssning efter PNG:s på övertid hördes piraten Radio Bila Hora . Körde en del gamla schlagers. Skall enligt uppgift vara igång endast på nyårsafton. Tjeckiska förstås. Hygglig modulation. 2 SA
3335.000	Ibl	2010	Radio East Sepik hörs ganska ofta kvällstid. Efter nyåret också på em till cd 14. 2 SA
3335	3.1	2030	Radio East Sepik , Papua NG, talks, I think reports mentioning Sepik many times. Fair signal, clear voice GB
3396	3.1	2045	ZBC Gweru , Zimbabwe nice music GB
3880	5.1	0425	Voice of Communist Party , Iranian Clandestine, starting bc, playing also The International hymn.

			Farsi, really good but distorted mod GB.
3925	3.1	2055	Radio Nikkei , Japan, classical mx, fair GB
3976			RRI Pontianak noted at 1130 with excellent signal, Indonesian music. 13 January [Wilkner-FL]
3987.056	6.1	1250	RRI Manokwari . 1258 tidssignal och annonsering, 1259 cd eller "signal dalam" (kan också heta "tutup") 2 SA
4319	3.1	2310	AFN , Diego Garcia, usual reports, USB, good GB
4605	4.1	2132	RRI Serui , Indonesia, news, fair GB
4650.2			Radio Santa Ana , Santa Ana del Yacuma 1030 to 1040, y1 with "...y 35 minutos en Bolivia...." 12 January [Wilkner-FL]
4717.19			Radio Yura , Yura "...cinco en la mañana...Santa Cruz...Santa Ana...en el día de..." 12 January [Wilkner-FL]
4745.9	19.1	2155	Radio Huanta 2000 var den första sydamerikanska som gick njutbart. S 3-4. BEFF
4760	12.1	1645	TWR/Swaziland med vacker tidssignal och ID. S 3-4. BEFF
4777	12.1	1645	R Diff-TV Gabonaise , Libreville "long time - no heard", med afrikanskt stylad musik. Franskt prat. S 3-4. BEFF
4780	4.1	0140	Radio Cultural Coatan , Guatemala, talks, fair GB
4780	12.1	1645	R Dif-TV de Djibouti är starkare än 4777, men båda hördes samtidigt. S 4. BEFF
4790	3.1	2118	RRI Fak Fak , Indonesia, at 2130 regional news. Good GB
4790.1	9.1	0715	Radio Vision , Chiclayo var det mycket riktigt som jag hörde (se senaste SWB!) här. Sa: "Gloria Jesus" i minst varannan mening i 45 minuters tid. Stackars indianer i Chiclayo med omnejd! S 3, konstig puls-QRM. BEFF
4790.2			Radio Visión , Chiclayo is here. Radio Atlantida may be long off the air. At 1040 on 8 January, gave the unhelpful ID as "Radio Peru" followed by a time check. [Wilkner-FL]
4805	3.1	2235	R. Difusora do Amazonas , Manaus, Brazil, songs, fair GB
4810	13.10	0905	XERTA Radio Transcontinental anropade också på engelska. Religiös musik. Övåntat bra. QSA3. JE
4824,5	3.1	2243	La Voz de la Selva , Peru, music and talks, poor GB
4824.4	19.1	2245	LV de la Selva gick riktigt bra med ett håll-i-gång-program av klassiskt slag. S 3-4. BEFF
4845,25	3.1	2247	Ondas Tropicais , Brazil, nice even if Mauritania so close (in USB to avoid QRM), fair GB
4855,3	3.1	2255	Radio La Hora , Cusco, Peru, music, poor GB
4874,6	3.1	2150	RRI Sorong , Indonesia, talks, id and news, good GB
4895	3.1	2240	Mongolian R. Murun , music //4830, pleasant listening GB
4925	3.1	2305	RRI Jambi , Indonesia, news and songs, fair GB
4950	5.1	0448	Radio Nacional de Angola , afro songs, low voice mod., songs GB
4950			Radio Madre de Dios , Puerto Maldonado 1030 - 1040 " <i>creo en la justicia...espirtu santu...en la relaidad.....viente cinco...</i> " 8 January [Wilkner-FL]
4990	14.10	0800	Radio Apintie lurades genom att spela musik med sång på spanska. QSA3 JE.
5005	4.1	0020	Radio Nepal , talks, poor modulation, fair signal, poor voice GB
5010	3.1	2325	R. Nasionaly Malagasy (presumed but pretty sure), extended sched, nice afro music, at 0000 talks in Vn and music again. Really good but at 0017 QRM AIR s.on GB
5014,4	16.1	0310	Radio Altura , Cerro de Pasco, with nice signal here in Milano. Music, commercials and several ids. GB
5025	4.1	2120	ORTB , Parakou, Benin, nice mx, good, QRM Australia at 2130 GB
5040	4.1	2143	Hrvatski Radio , songs ..1134... too much good!!! GB
5066.3	1b1	1610	Candip regelbundet. Varierar i QRG mellan 5066.329 till 5066.332 kHz. Stänger alltid runt 1620. Vanligen svag. SA
5066,38	4.1	0420	La Voix du People , Bunia, Congo afro songs and talks Vn, talks in French at 0429.I didn't hear "Candip" but "La Voix" many times, fair to good GB
5100	12.1	1500	Radio Bana eller liknande från Eritrea med engelskt undervisningsprogram för vuxna. Gick riktigt skapligt på slutet, när man angav sin adress i Asmara. S 3 då! BEFF
5323.61			La Voz del Anta , Acobamba, ID at 1043 by om as "...La Voz de Anta..." this at tune in followed by music and back to om. Followed this one for a week before this ID. 9 January. [Wilkner-FL]
5517	15.1	1720	Jag måste bara ta med den här, eftersom jag var övertygad om att Mogadishus flygplats inte var öppen. Här hördes nämligen Mogadishu Aero bäst av alla (även Tripoli och Nairobi fanns på frekvensen). Den hade förbindelser med olika Boeing, som landade på flygplatsen. Nu får vi se om infrastrukturen i landet släpper fram min rapport på denna flygledarstation. BEFF
5750	16.1	1735	Radio Ashna betar sig konstigt. Jättestark ena dagen, inget alls nästa dag. Däremot gick 9855 med samma program riktigt starkt. S 4. BEFF
5910.1	10.1	0730	Radio Márfil Stereo går rätt bra om morgnarna. Härliga låtar och ID's. S 3-4 BEFF
5939,3	5.1	0440	Radio Melodia Arequipa , mx, short talks, poor GB
6010,1	5.1	0405	Radio Bahrain , pop songs non stop, (QRM Belarus 6010 //279 & 6040 nice signal but overall poor GB
6134,8	17.1	0125	Radio Santa Cruz , Bolivia, talks, commercials, ids SS, fair GB
6160	17.1	0238	CKZN St. John's, Canada, songs and talks, fair/good GB
6171v	4.1	0504	VOA (Biblis Germany?) reports, out of frequency! GB
6180	17.1	0030	Radio Nacional Brasilia , //11780 nice songs good GB
6215	17.1	0245-	CUBA (NOT)Radio Republica , TX? SS, mx and talks, great id at 0259 and off at 0300 poor to fair.
		0300*	Is this a new frequency? GB
6484.6	19.1	2300	Radio Nac de la RASD , Rabouni eller vad den nu heter gick riktigt starkt. Jag trodde ett tag att det var en sydamerikan vid denna tid, men språket berättade annat. Arabiska. S3-4. BEFF

7255	5.1	0631	FRCN Abuja , Nigeria, regional prg mentioning many times Abuja, at 0645 national again with this ann.: "Good Morning, wellcome back to the National Service of Radio Nigeria". Good GB
9290	13.1	0850	Latvia Today med information om lettisk folkmusik. 4-5 CB
9290	20.1	0845	Radio SWH via Ulbroka med "Latvia Today" på engelska. Ganska intressant program om "Latvian Ships and Ports". S bara 3, men det är vanligt, när jag kollar den sändaren. Trots sin närhet till mig, går den aldrig särskilt bra. Antennerna kanske är riktade söder ut? BEFF
9565	17.1	0112	Radio Tupi , Brazil, religious, fair GB
9630	17.1	0105	Radio Aparecida , Brazil, talks, good GB
9675	20.1	2145	Rádio Canção Nova med programmet Além Fronteiras som denna gång innehöll påfallande många inslag på engelska. 2-3 CB
9720	17.1	0100	Radio Victoria , Peru, usual talks, poor GB
11710,85	17.1	0045	RAE , Buenos Aires, PP talks & tangos & old songs, very good GB
11804.6	18.1	0902	Rádio Globo igång med "Notícias". 2 CB
11815	17.1	0039	R Brasil Central , Goiana BRA, religious talks, fair GB
11915	17.1	0033	Radio Gaucha , Porto Alegre, BRA, talks, fair GB

Stationsnyheter

ERITREA. 3 Jan at 1520 noted a station with educational program in English on 5100.

At the end they announced a P.O. Box number, then a short announcement in local language and off at 1530 after a song.

I told Mauno Ritola-FIN about this and we've been monitoring the frequency.

Next day reception was better 1500 onwards and we found out that they announce the address Adult Education and Media, Ministry of Education, P.O, Box 609, Asmara, Eritrea. Tel 125 546. And e-mail, that sounds like eriaduledradio @ yahoo.com which however doesn't work.

The actual name of the station is still unclear. It sounds like Radio Bama or Radio Bana.

We've tried to contact numerous related and unrelated e-mail addresses in Eritrea to find out more, but nothing came back so far.

English can be heard on 5100 from around 1500 til s-off 1530 weekdays.

The transmitter seems to be on the air earlier with some programming, but too weak to tell the language. Last Sunday (7 Jan) I think I heard them 1530-1630 but too much local noise to tell for sure.

Two other sw channels of Dimtsi Hafash (VOBME) 7100 and 7175 seem to be carrying their regular programming at that time. So this is additional transmitter. Possibly (I assume) the one which was used earlier to broadcast clanny VO Sudan on around 8000.

More info about this station is much appreciated.

(Jari Savolainen via HCDX)

INDONESIA. 3266.4 kHz, Radio Republik Indonesia Gorontalo. Jan. 6 at 1147-1228*. SINPO 35333. Music program with Indonesian popular songs. Music "Rayuan Pulau Kelapa" at 1158, followed by Jakarta News relay at 1200 (Iwao Nagatani, Japan, Japan Premium via DXLD)

VENEZUELA: Pulling the Plug on Anti-Chavez TV

Venezuela's Decision Not to Renew Station's License Draws Accusations of Censorship, By [Juan Forero](#), Washington Post Foreign Service, Thursday, January 18, 2007; Page A16

CARACAS, [Venezuela](#), Jan. 17 -- Inside Radio Caracas Television, actors make racy soap operas about love gone bad while an influential television host pillories President Hugo Chavez. Outside the station, none of that sits well with Alberto Carias, a beefy man with a bullhorn whose agitated followers promise that the days of Radio Caracas Television are numbered.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/17/AR2007011702003.html> (via Robert Wilkner)

Övriga radionyheter

Quoting a message from my friend Mika Mäkeläinen:

DXing.info has been deleted from the Google database. I have no idea why. As many of you know, DXing.info has been number two in results when you google "DXing" - but now it doesn't appear in the search results at all. DXing.info has also been deleted from the Google Directory. DXing.info's pagerank, a good indication of the value and quality of a website, has been six, the highest of all DXing-related sites. Now DXing.info doesn't even exist, as far as Google is concerned. Try any other search engine, and DXing.info still scores high.

Is the disappearance of DXing.info collateral damage in Google's fight against spam? Or is this website being censored deliberately?

I discovered this issue in November 2006. I have emailed to Google (they don't take calls), but I haven't received any response. So now it is time to take this public. You can read more of the story at http://www.lunchoverip.com/2007/01/google_killed_t.html in the January 16 posting titled "Google killed the radio star."

Feel free to comment. And I count on your support. This feels like being David against Goliath - or should I say Googliath... Mika Mäkeläinen

(Yahoo! Search has not erased DXing.info from its database.)

(via Henrik Klemetz, Luleå, Sweden)

MALAYSIA. RADIO BROADCASTING IN MALAYSIAN BORNEO - SABAH

Dear Radio Colleague, This article features all known information about the Japanese & Australian & Malaysian radio stations on Labuan Island and Malaysian North Borneo - Sabah during the formative years. On several occasions I have visited Kota Kinabalu in North Borneo and during my most recent visit I found an old radio receiver, a prewar model made in England. This radio had a glass dial upon which were printed the local radio stations, SW & MW, that were on the air in that part of Asia at the time. A splendid historic item, but how to get it back to USA! New Year greetings! AMP.

Located at the northern tip on the island of Borneo is the territory known as Sabah. This geographic entity is a state of Malaysia and it occupies an area of 29,000 square miles with a population something over one million people. The capital city, known in earlier years as Jesselton, was renamed Kota Kinabalu in 1968.

Back one thousand years ago, tribal groups were already settled in many areas of Borneo, and European explorers began to visit the area in the 1500s. In the mid 1800s, the British took over the coastal areas of north Borneo, and on January 1, 1942, Japanese forces landed on Labuan island off the coast of Sabah. For a period of more than four years, the island was known as Pulau Maida, in honor of the local Japanese commander. Australian forces landed on Pulau Maida on June 5, 1945, and soon took over the mainland areas of Sabah also. Sabah became the eastern-most state of Malaysia on September 16, 1983.

The story of radio broadcasting in Sabah goes back to the early days of wireless transmission, in the 1920s and 1930s, when two stations were installed, VCK on Labuan Island and VQA at Jesselton. Interestingly, more events in radio history occurred on the small and beautiful, touristy island of Labuan than in the larger territory of Sabah itself. So, let's take a look at these historic events as they transpired on Labuan Island.

Remarkable as it may seem, a total of six radio broadcasting stations were on the air on the island of Labuan in the short span of just two years. Mobile forces of the Australian army landed on Labuan on June 5, 1945 and just six days later, an army photographer took a series of black & white photographs of what was described as a broadcasting station. Obviously, because of the short time span, this had to be an installation that was abandoned by the Japanese. This is indeed a tantalizing news item. There are no known DX reports anywhere in the world that indicate that the Japanese were on the air from a broadcasting station located in North Borneo. We could ask the question: Was this station then a program broadcasting station, or in reality a station used for the broadcast of communication information to Japanese personnel throughout the area?

Now, just two or three weeks later, an Australian soldier in North Borneo reported to a radio magazine in Melbourne Victoria that he heard on local mediumwave a relay broadcast from the American shortwave station KROJ in California. A correlation of the specific dates assures us that this mediumwave relay of an American shortwave program took place more than three months before the arrival of mobile radio stations from Australia. Could we speculate then that radio personnel in the Australian army on Labuan began to experiment with the Japanese radio station and made a few test broadcasts on mediumwave using a shortwave receiver as a program source?

To add to this intriguing story, we find next, that a month or two later, an Australian soldier stationed in North Borneo visited a broadcasting station that was identified on air as JL2, apparently located on Labuan Island. He stated that the equipment was totally Japanese and that it was a neat operation. Maybe station JL2 was a subsequent usage of the same facility that was photographed by the Australian photographer.

The output power at station JL2 was 50 watts, and the antenna is described as a 100 ft wire, which fits the antenna system as shown in the black & white photograph. This station was heard in North Borneo, the Philippines and New Guinea on a shortwave channel given as 42 metres.

The broadcasting service from station JL2 was followed by Radio Labuan, a 500 watt shortwave station operating from a three ton army truck. This new Radio Labuan began service on October 1, 1945 and it was on the air for a period of six weeks. It is suggested that this was an army communication facility that was taken over for a program broadcasting service. The shortwave transmitter was an American-made Hallicrafters model BC610 fed into a half wave center-fed Zeppelin tuned to a 7 MHz channel.

Shortwave Radio Labuan was followed briefly by an AAAS station, unidentified at the time, but operating on 980 kHz. It is presumed that this was the 10 watt Australian mobile station 9AP which was known to be in the area at the time.

Next came another mobile AAAS station, 9AF, which was transported from Sydney Harbour on the American navy vessel, USS ``Henry Riceâ'', and delivered to Tarakan in Borneo and then apparently driven overland and ultimately delivered to Labuan Island in October. However, simultaneously, a specific radio building was under construction on Labuan Island and the electronic equipment from the three 3 ton trucks was installed into the more spacious building. This rather substantial radio station was inaugurated on November 8, 1945, and it was on the air for approximately five months.

Around November 1946, the noted Arne Skoog in Sweden heard a station that he identified as Radio Labuan on the unusual channel 2995 kHz. Nothing more is known about this station, and it could have been the first [sic] harmonic from a mediumwave unit on 1497.5 kHz, or a fundamental emission from an army communication station in the 100 metre band.

That's the end of the story about radio broadcasting on Labuan Island, Sabah, North Borneo, until the more recent era when Radio Malaysia established local relay stations on this notable tourist island. So, let's go across the waterways to the mainland area of Jesselton or Kota Kinabalu itself, the modern and progressive state capital of the Malaysian state of Sabah. As mentioned earlier, there was a spark wireless station, VQA, on the air for Morse Code communication with Singapore back in the 1920s and 1930s.

Then, in January 1946, there was a 10 watt mobile station on the air in Jesselton on 980 kHz. This station, with the callsign 9AO, was then transferred to the Indonesian island of Morotai a few weeks later, on March 4. It was then intended that another 10 watt mobile station, 9AP, would be transferred for service in the Jesselton area. However, that plan was deleted due to the fact that Australian servicemen had transferred out to other areas.

Next comes the story of regular radio broadcasting in Jesselton which began in 1952 with an experimental program service from the 250 watt shortwave communication station VS4S. Temporary studios were installed on Bruce Hill, the antenna was a folded dipole a quarter wavelength above ground, and programming consisted mainly of news and announcements.

It was announced in 1952 that a new shortwave station was under installation near Jesselton and it was officially inaugurated in November 1955 with 5 kW under the regular callsign VQA.

Some eleven years later, a new studio building was erected for Radio Sabah on Tuaran Road. This was at about the same time as the Federation of Malaysia was formed and the British colony of Sabah became the eastern-most state of Malaysia. The name of the state capital, Jesselton, was changed to Kota Kinabalu, in honor of the high mountain nearby, five years after federation.

This original shortwave transmitter at Jesselton - Kota Kinabalu was rated at 5 kW and it was in general broadcast usage for a period of nearly twenty years on two major channels, 4970 kHz and 5980 kHz.

However, in 1969, a new radio base was established at Laya Laya, near Kota Kinabalu, and two new 10 kW shortwave transmitters were installed. This new facility was officially inaugurated on May 1, 1971.

These two NEC shortwave transmitters from Japan were in constant usage for many years, and apparently one gave out half a dozen years ago, and the other just more recently. The last known logging of Radio Malaysia Sabah on shortwave occurred on September 27, 2003 when an Australian monitor, Craig Seager, heard the station and made the observation that this station ``was not often heard``.

However, in spite of the fact that this lonely shortwave station does seem to be off the air these days, yet the two shortwave channels, 4970 kHz & 5980 kHz, have been registered for use by Radio Malaysia in Kota Kinabalu in more recent time. It is probable that their nationwide mediumwave and FM networks, together with the high powered 700 kW mediumwave transmitter on 1475 kHz, now give adequate radio coverage throughout Sabah.

Back during the era when Sabah was active on shortwave, QSL cards were issued, both by the original Radio Sabah, and subsequently by Radio Malaysia Sabah (Adrian Peterson, IN, for AWR Wavescan, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

New initiative aimed at detecting extraterrestrial life

Astronomers from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in the US have unveiled a new initiative aimed at detecting extraterrestrial life. The project, which is due to kick off in early 2008, will use a new radio telescope to search other planets for radio transmissions similar to those that are generated on Earth. At present, most attempts to find alien life look for radio signal that are deliberately beamed across space. But the new initiative by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center is different in that it will look for the residue of radio transmissions sent from one place in a planet to another. It will search the part of the electromagnetic spectrum that is used on Earth for radar, television and FM radio broadcasts.

David Aguilar, director of communications at the Center for Astrophysics, said: "We may pick up spurious signals from people that never meant for us to hear them and get an inkling that something's going on."

A new low-frequency telescope is currently being built in the Australian outback to detect these weak signals. The outback was chosen because it is remote enough to avoid most radio interference. The researchers behind the project believe that they will be able to detect Earth-like radio signals within a distance of 30 light years. There are more than 1,000 stars within this area.

(Radio Society of Great Britain <http://www.rsgb.org/news/h11.php>)

(Mike Terry via HCDX)