

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Issue no. 1616 May 27, 2007.

Deadline e-mail next issue: 0900 SNT, June 10, 2007.

Efter en tidig vår med hög värme och ganska torrt är det nu dags för lite annat väder. Just nu kommer det ett fint vårregn som gör att naturen exploderar.

Gök och näktergal trivs som bara den och hörs så fort man går ut.

Till detta nummer har det kommit bara 2 bidrag och det känns allt svårare att producera nåt vettigt som avser KV. Det är trist att vi fått denna utveckling av vår hobby och man kan fråga sig hur det ser ut när mobiltelefoner och datorer tagit över all kommunikation.

Producenterna av mobiltelefoner tror att vi snart inte gör annat än tittar på TV. Vem sjutton orkar glo på all den reklam som pressas in var tjugonde minut? Visst var det bättre förut

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.

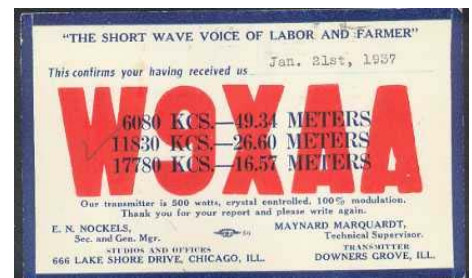
Arnstein Bue: I tillegg til en liten håndfull tips fra en DXpedisjon til Smøla i mars, har jeg et par kortbølge-QSL denne gangen: **ZLXA Radio Reading Service, Levin 3935,04** som svarte etter kort tid med kort, folder, sch, info. **O.... Radio Reina de la Selva, Chachapoyas 5486,68** som svarte med epost.

Börge Eriksson lever fortfarande om nu någon trodde något annat. Jag tänker anmäla mitt första QSL sedan 2004 och eftersom det är min enda rapport sedan 2003 så har jag alltså en 100% utdelning på mina rapporter sedan 2003! Naturligtvis är det **Radio St. Helena** som svarat och om jag inte minns fel är det fjärde gången jag får svar från dem då jag gjort till en sed att lyssna på deras kortvågssändningar sedan jag var litet involverad i premiären 1990 genom Stora Tuna DX-klubbs SM-tävling. Annars är det dåligt med aktivitet. Tropikbanden är helt utslagna här sedan vi fick digital-TV i maj 2006 genom en intensiv brusvägg. Med möda kan ibland VOA-Afrika eller någon ryss gå igenom, men annars bara brus. Jag får nog göra som polare Lennart och börja ägna mig åt amatörförbanden. Lyssnar dock litet då och då på 49-metersbandet och uppåt i frekvens, men skickar numera inga rapporter. Besökte i fjol Gotland för första gången i mitt 70-åriga liv och blev så frälst av ön att jag åker dit igen den 10 juni. Ett besök hos BEFF i fjol kommer troligen att upprepas i år om allt stämmer. Läser med intresse SWB varje gång och ibland dreglar jag litet över vad andra kan höra och få svar ifrån, men har insett att mitt läge här i stan gör det omöjligt till liknande hörligheter. Ha det så bra!

To be able to fill out this space I did a random web search for "QSL" and found one of the interesting pages showing QSL:s. The introduction to this site follows below:

"Welcome to the old time QSL card collection. A QSL card is used to acknowledge the reception of a radio station. QSL cards are also part of ham radio to confirm that two stations were in contact. On this page, I am showing broadcast band and shortwave stations QSL cards that were sent to my father in the 1930's. This page is written in memory of my dad, Robert C. Schmarder (1918-1981)".

For more QSL:s please take a look at <http://www.schmarder.com/qsl/index.htm>



LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

3291.72t. **Guyana, GBC** tentatively returning to the air, noted first 0020 on 19 May. Having been silent for almost a month, GBC shows the usual early signs of returning to the air with strong carrier but little audio. This pattern repeated over the last three years. [Wilkner-FL]

4045usb **Cayman Islands** 1335 to 1340 on 13 May with discussion of wx system over Cuba; effect on George Town, Cayman Islands. Subsequent days heard reports from various Islands in the Bahamas. [Wilkner-FL]

4485,96 10.3 2349 **O..... R Frecuencia VH**, Celendín. Mulig den stengte 2354, ellers forsvant den i støy da. ID som Radio Frecuencia ABU

4650,3 9.3 2256 **CP89 R Santa Ana**, Santa Ana de Yacuma ABU

5120,35 9.3 2304 **O..... Ondas del Sur Oriente**, Quillabamba ABU

5486,68 9.3 2308 **O..... R Reina de la Selva**, Chachapoyas. Det er noe tiltalende over hjemmesiden til denne stasjonen ABU

6214,18 9.3 2316 UID – **trolig Radio Baluarte**. Stengte 0105. Hørt fra 2204 neste kveld ABU

11092.5 17.5 1505 **Radio Saint Helena** med testsändning. De spelade diverse popmusik och läste upp epostmeddelanden från bl a Nederländerna och Japan. Uppenbarligen ville man kolla att sändare och antenn fungerar inför en kommande sändning. Hördes med en hyggelig 2:a fram till 1523 då signalen blev betydligt svagare. Kanske bytte man antenriktning? CB

Stationsnyheter

BHUTAN. I am pretty sure I heard **Bhutan on 6035** this morning at 0005-0030 UT fade out with the typical Buddhist monks choir. I have not seen them reported heard since January, so it may be their new 100 kW transmitter being tested. Are you able to confirm that they are on the air. They probably sign on at 0000, but may also quickly fade out at your locations. Best 73, (Anker Petersen, Denmark, May 17 via Alokesh Gupta, DXLD)

Hello Anker, Been inactive in DXing in the last 2 months; a lot of work in my school and the monitoring and also listening to the Cricket World Cup which Sri Lanka missed winning.

Yes, you are right, just checked at 0000: Bhutan on 6035 blasting in, in fact the strongest station on 49m. You didn't indicate the frequency but obviously you were referring to 6035. Good observation, Anker. 73 (Victor Goonetilleke, Sri Lanka, ibid.)

Just called up Thinley, station engr at BBS, confirmed that the new transmitter being tested since 17th May. Regds (Alokesh Gupta, May 18, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

PAPUA. While listening to **Wantok Radio Light** on the weekend (18th May) on the annual ARDXC dxpedition I heard a special announcement about a frequency change in June. I emailed them to get confirmation of date and frequency and received the following. Regards, Wayne

Greetings Wayne, Thank you for writing to us. Our frequency will change on the 3rd June, this year to 7325 KHz on the 41 meter band. But you will encounter interruptions starting 22 May since our engineers will begin work on our transmitters. Happy listening. Martha on behalf of the Engineering team (Wayne Bastow, Wyoming, NSW, Australia via HCDX)

PERU. REACTIVACION RADIO CENTINELA DEL NORTE 4655.2 KHZ

Transmitiendo desde el Distrito de Cortegana, Provincia de Celendín, Dpto. de Cajamarca; captada el 20 de mayo desde las 0005 UT hasta su cierre 0200. Promocionando la próxima fiesta patronal de Cortegana en honor a San Antonio de Padua. "...en el extranjero que están escuchando esta señal en **4655 de Radio Centinela del Norte**, desde Cortegana para todo el territorio nacional peruano; Cortegana tierra en el norte de nuestro querido país..." Anuncia transmisión simultánea por los 90.7 MHz "...arriba Peru, arriba Cortegana con Centinela del Norte..."

Durante los años 2000 y 2001 transmitieron tres emisoras a través de esta frecuencia: Radio Celendín, Ecos del Eden y Radio Nuevo Amanecer, todas desde la provincia de Celendín, por lo que ahora puede tratarse de los mismos equipos. En el 2005 el fallecido colega Björn Malm señalaba la escucha de esta emisora por los 4654.96 pero no identificando el lugar de transmisión (Rafael Rodríguez, Bogotá, Colombia, May 21, playdx yg via DXLD)

Övriga radionyheter

AIRPORT SECURITY AND AIRLINE-BASED DXPEDITIONING: Lessons Learned

John H. Bryant

While it is still fresh in my mind, I thought that I might share a few lessons learned from my recent DXpedition to Easter Island. In Spring 2007, I actually planned two DXpeditions, almost back-to-back, so that the first, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, might serve as

a test bed for the second, the main trip to Easter Island. I was particularly concerned about moving a lot of bits and pieces of radio gear through airport security.

For each trip, I used two large pieces of luggage which were checked for the flight and a medium-sized backpack which I carried on the aircraft with me. Even though specially miniaturized for these journeys, my radio gear alone weighed about 50 pounds and was made up of many small, suspicious-looking objects.

Given my history of lost luggage, I was also very concerned about arriving at my destination without some vital piece of radio equipment. Thus, I decided to keep my main DXing gear with me in my carry-on backpack: my main receiver, the Eton E1-XM, one matching transformer, my main audio recorder, the Edirol R-09 by Roland, a few spare batteries, ear bud headphones and 500 feet of 28 gage teflon-coated antenna wire. When viewed through an airport X-ray machine, I cannot imagine more suspicious looking carry-on luggage than that backpack.

I also planned to be at the airport at least two hours early for flights to allow for security problems. I planned similar long lay-overs at way-points for luggage security or customs problems.

Counting both trips from my home in Oklahoma, the carry-on backpack went through the security X-ray machine an even dozen times in the US, Santiago, Chile and Easter Island. It made it through X-ray 10 out of 12 times with no questions asked, a fact that I find both shocking and frightening. The two times that the backpack was inspected were each also interesting: one inspection was a rather cursory physical search, with the security agent being easily satisfied with my explanation of the wire as a radio antenna and with an offer by me to turn on the portable radio to demonstrate it.

During the second instance of carry-on inspection, the agent used a hand-held piece of equipment that was a black box with a long rigid tube attached; the security agent pushed the tube down into various pockets and crevices in the backpack, apparently using the device to "sniff" for explosive residue. That inspection was very quick and I passed, of course. I did also carry in the backpack a club bulletin and a commercial magazine with radio articles by me in them: aids to help me prove that I was a "radio enthusiast," if questioned in depth at security checkpoints. Those documents were never needed, but their presence was certainly reassuring.

My experiences with the checked baggage were considerably more thought-provoking. I encountered absolutely no Security problems during the trips between Oklahoma and Norfolk, VA on the Cape Hatteras trip, so I began to think that my concerns and planning in this area were way over-blown. Not so.

As was standard procedure, leaving for Easter Island, I arrived at Oklahoma City's Will Rogers World Airport with well over two hours to spare. I checked in, got my boarding pass and had to carry that darn backpack the full length of the airport to the most remote departure gate. I had just collapsed into a comfortable seat at my gate when the all-gates paging system squawked "Will American Airlines passenger Mr. John Bryant please report to the nearest American Airlines Agent."

Frankly, that sounded kinda scary; it got worse! I reported to the gate agent and was told that I needed to return the full length of the airport to the Baggage Claim area because the security people "could not unlock your checked luggage to inspect it." I told the agent in no uncertain terms that my luggage was NOT locked and there had to be a mistake... they then informed me that they couldn't solve the problem at the gate and I would need to make the half-mile hike, with my backpack, to Baggage Claim "if you want to travel with us today, sir."

So....

When I got to the Information Desk at Baggage Claim, I was confronted by an armed female Oklahoma City police officer who stayed at least 6 feet from me and maintained her hand on her holstered pistol, as she dealt with me. I haven't felt that threatened, personally, since my government-paid trip to Viet Nam in the late 1960s. She informed me that both Federal and Oklahoma City security agents had serious concerns about some of the contents of my luggage and that I'd need to "accompany" her to be interviewed by these agents. She would not walk with or ahead of me, but maintained the 6-foot space behind me and directed me, in a very loud voice, "Down that hall, sir!" "Through that door, sir!" "Walk to the left, sir!" I was later discouraged from describing the security apparatus that I viewed in the baggage-handling bowels of the airport on this little journey with the lady cop, but it was very impressive.

Eventually, the lady policeman, her pistol and I all made it to a table where they had my most equipment-laden suitcase opened out and were examining it like they were doing an autopsy on a particularly interesting but disgusting corpse.

I got interviewed by Oklahoma City police officers and by David W. Culver, Assistant Federal Security Director-Law Enforcement, who was not easily satisfied. It turned out that what had concerned them, what had tripped the alarm, was the PVC pipe enclosure on a Ramsey Active Ferrite Bar receiving antenna that I'd only brought along to use in the heavily noise-ridden environment of my downtown hotel room in Santiago. Mr. Culver told me that the L-shaped piece of 1.5 inch PVC pipe "looked just like a pipe bomb."

I told him that I thought that was kind of odd, since all of the pipe bombs that I'd ever seen in articles were from iron or steel pipe to produce shrapnel during the explosion. He didn't want to discuss that further, but informed me that ANYTIME that I carry any PVC product, I need to treat it just "like you do when you check in luggage containing a loaded pistol." That finally made me mad. I told him that I was very conscious of security matters and that I had NEVER seen an advisory cautioning against PVC and that I had no idea how to check luggage containing a loaded pistol; I hadn't owned one since I'd laid down my trusty six-shooter, when I turned 9-years old.

He explained that, carrying PVC, one should check your luggage at the airline counter and tell them of the PVC. They would then inspect the luggage at the counter and determine whether you could proceed... if so, they specially mark your bag. Well, after another 15 minutes of discussion, we all parted friends and they rushed me through more of the bowels of the airport, even taking me on a short-cut across the tarmac, and both I and my suspect bag did make the flight. They were appreciative of a large-scale typed note that I'd left atop the stuff in each bag, written to the security agents, thanking them for inspecting the bag, explaining that I was a radio hobbyist and volunteering to explain or demonstrate any of the equipment, if they had security concern. They were also very appreciative of the fact that I had checked in for my flight over two hours early. So was I, since I was just flying to Dallas to then catch a ten-hour overnight flight to Santiago.

Thinking things over later, I think that there is a good chance that Agent Culver wasn't telling me the exact truth. I'll bet you that the PVC pipe, which was almost brand new, was out-gassing and that their sniffer-sensors can't distinguish between PVC pipe and some forms of plastic explosives, hence the very-understandable red flag. At least, that explanation makes more sense to me. In any case, I will NEVER

knowingly carry PVC in my luggage, again. As a matter of fact, I disassembled that Ramsey antenna while I was on Easter Island and left the PVC pipe behind.

So, after this experience, here are my current working rules for airline-based DXpeditions:

1. Be at the airport and through the Security checkpoint at least two hours before flight time. The radio items in your luggage may well trip some sensor and the resulting close inspection/explanations with the Security personnel can be time consuming.
2. Having a note to Security in each checked bag about the contents seems like a smart thing to do. It helped in my case.
3. Beside having plenty of photo-ID, having a club bulletin or radio magazine that contains identifying material in it that shows you, personally to be a bona fide radio enthusiast is quite helpful.
4. Don't try to take PVC through any Security checkpoint. If you absolutely must do so, have the airline inspect that bag at the airline counter.
5. Getting mad or feeling unfairly singled out does NOT help. Keeping your cool, thanking them for doing their jobs and being sympathetic to the difficult choices that your gear might force on them also seems to work very well.

(John Bryant, OK, IRCA DX Monitor May 26 via DXLD)

GREAT SOFTWARE TOOL (EXPSTUDIO AUDIO EDITOR)

It's becoming increasingly important for DX'ers to be able to record audio directly on their computer. To reduce size, and make it practical to e-mail out reports, it's also handy to be able to convert those files into compressed audio files in formats like MP3. "Audio editing" is also helpful--being able to literally look at the audio waveform and edit out everything except what you need. For example, I have recordings of every logging in my book...reducing usually to just the legal TOH ID, or perhaps a few minutes at most of format, along with legal ID. A great tool for doing this is EXPStudio. It comes in both a free version (but it only saves in .wav format) and a very inexpensive \$30 "Pro" version that will save files in any number of formats. You can also amplify those weak sounds, do some basic filtering, etc. It provides about 90% of the functions that Sony's Sound Forge 9.0 provides, for a small fraction of the cost. It's available at: <http://www.expstudio.com/audioeditorfree.htm>

Audio can be routed from the radio to the computer in a number of ways. A trip to Radio Shack can yield a simple cable that will connect the 1/4" headphone jack on the radio to the 1/8" mini plug jack on most computer sound cards. Simply connect the headphone audio jack of the radio to the "mic" or "line" input on the computer and then use the sound recorder software in Windows to record. Some users may experience problems with hum or other issues using this set up. If so, you can purchase a variety of "sound card interfaces" intended for amateur radio use. I use the Rig Blaster Pro, which does connect using a USB adapter. Look for these at:

<http://www.westmountainradio.com> Hope this helps! (73, Les Rayburn, Birmingham, AL 35216, amfmtvdx at qth.net via DXLD)

Another good audio editor is "Audacity" from SourceForge.net. <http://sourceforge.net/projects/audacity>

(Bill Frahm - Boise, DXLD)

I don't like such unrequested advertising on mailing lists, even if it's for a tool which is (in its basic version) free and costs only for the "pro" version. So, I feel free to do some "counter-advertising". For the given purpose, there is also a lot of other software, that remains completely free, for all of their functions. To record, cut, filter and convert DX audio, I prefer for example "Audacity", which is completely free, open source and available not only for Windoze, but also for Mac and Linux. It also provides at least 90% of the functions of other software, for no cost at all. It's available at: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net> SCNR 73 (Udo, DL3GN, Deutscher, MWC via DXLD)

Udo, It was not intended to be "advertising" of any sort. I have no connection to the company, but know that many DX'ers are still trying to make the conversion from cassette tapes to digital media. Audacity is also a great tool. I personally use Sound Forge 9.0, because it's noise reduction plug in does a great job of cleaning up recordings that are typical of most of my domestic DX catches. Since I use it professionally, cost isn't an issue --- but otherwise it would be an expensive option simply for DXing. 73, (Les Rayburn, director High Noon Film, via DXLD.)

I still use the old Cool Edit Pro 2, which has great Noise reduction and hiss/notch filters. Its aging a bit now but is still what I use to convert the old cassette tapes onto disk. It converts wav to mp3 etc. I also use Total Recorder and Audacity at times.

(David Onley, Rijswijk ZH The Netherlands, via DXLD.)

I'm a routine user of Total Recorder which I find reliable & convenient. I also have Audacity loaded on the Pc but have not got past experimenting with it. Has anyone else noticed subtle yet audible degradation of noisy DX signals, when recorded in mp3 format. Sometimes when I'm listening live to Dx and I'm also recoding via TR, I can make out words first time through live that that later I struggle with on repeated listening when I play back TR. I generally use Mpeg 3 - 16kbit/s mono at 11025Hz sampling which should be OK I think. I suspect mp3 was never optimised for poor signal to noise ratio audio. 73s (Steve Whitt, UK, via DXLD.)

Steve, Yes, I have noticed a degradation of very weak DX signals (particularly those that are at the receiver noise level) when using the mpeg settings you use. Is it the mp3 algorithm or simply the settings that result in this degradation? I use 16 kb/s mono and 11025 Hz sampling because it results in file sizes I'm comfortable with, but these may not be the optimum for weak/noisy signals. I also use TotalRecorder, which fits my needs very well. I've been meaning to experiment with alternative settings to see if they improve matters, but haven't found the time yet. Anyone else experimented? 73s (Martin A. Hall, Clashmore, Scotland. NRD-545, RPA-1 preamp, beverages: 513m at 240 degrees, unterminated; 475m at 265 degrees, terminated; 506m at 290 degrees, terminated, 550m at 340 degrees, terminated. <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/clashmoreradio/> via DXLD.)

Steve, Absolutely - mp3 was optimised for music recording. Lossy compression systems, such as mp3, are particularly bad at handling random signals and sudden peaks. So, for example, applause often records very badly in mp3 and, for the same reason, so does radio

noise. The other big problem with using mp3 (or other lossy systems) is the cascade effect which results from multiple re-compression of the same material.

Even basic operations such as editing a short clip out of a longer recording or applying a filter to extract more detail from the voice will degrade the quality if you then want to save the modified file. I never use mp3 for DX recordings, only uncompressed WAV and AIFF. If file size is a problem, there are lossless codecs such as FLAC which can reduce this without degrading the sound.

I don't often need to use a recorder program because my Winradio G313 has a recorder built in (it produces wav files). When I do need a standalone recorder, I generally use Audio Hijack Pro on my Mac. For subsequent editing or processing I tend to use Bias Peak LE, also on the Mac. I do agree with the positive comments about Audacity, it delivers a lot for a free program and Cool Edit Pro is an all-time great (now renamed Adobe Audition - still excellent but more expensive). Best regards, (Jack Weber, via DXLD)

Interesting discussion ! I'm very interesting to receive some comments on my recordings. I use my IRiver IFP-895 recorder. After recording I get two files: one mp3 and one REC file, both are the same size. With Cooledit 2000 I can convert the files to wav files with are much, much bigger in size. This wav file really has the wav extension. However I always understood that it is impossible to convert mp3 to wav, because mp3 is compressed and is missing information. So, what is the file I get after converting? Is it still mp3 or I it really wav? 73 (Max van Arnhem, Netherlands, via DXLD.)