

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Issue no. 1667 May 17, 2009.

Deadline e-mail next issue: 0900 SNT, May 31, 2009.

Våren, eller kanske rent av sommaren har verkligen parkerat här. Förvisso har den senaste veckan varit förhållandevis sval med bara 15 – 16 grader på eftermiddagarna.

Men kvällarna är väldigt fina med den otroliga blomprakten i trädgårdarna. Igår kväll, när vinden hade mojnät, kunde man sitta och avnjuta näktergalarna runt om i trädgångar och märkegravar. De är verkligen på alerten nu.

Radiolyssnandet verkar vara i botten just nu. Har kollat lite då och då och bara de vanliga, starka stationerna går igenom. Till och med på MV verkar det vara ganska dåligt. Inte ens 1390 och 1470 ger några signaler ifrån sig mitt i natten. Ibland är det så illa så man kan undra om antennen fungerar som den skall.

Har en liten fundering som skall testas till sommaren – är det någon skillnad på en horisontellt polariserad antenn som ALA100 och en vertikalt polariserad som en Flag-antenn? Någon som har kollat?

Keep on

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SWB-info

SWB online på HCDX: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb>

Dateline Bogotá: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/Dateline.htm>

SWB hot stuff: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/password.htm> (länk till senaste SWB).

SWB member information: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/member.htm>

Jubileumstidskriften: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb> (html- + pdf-version).

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Björn Fransson: Hej igen! Den här gången blir det kort och gott: Inga tips!

Några QSL har dock glatt mig sedan senast jag skrev till SWB:

Radio Hargeisa, Somalia-7145 med kort via någon slags konsulat i Tyskland. Samma kort som tidigare, men med tillägget att man nu sänder med 100 kW, vilket betvivlas av många.

Free North Korea Radio, clandestine på okänd frekvens, svarade med brev. Jag vet inte vilken frekvens man verifierar, eftersom jag fick ett svar på flera rapporter under de senaste åren. V/s: Kim, Seong Min.

Amhara Regional State Radio, Bahirdar, Etiopien-6090 har svarat med tre e-mail från Dereje Moges, dereradio2000@yahoo.com.

Jag kopierar in en del text från Amhara Radio, som väl får betraktas som nyheter:

"heloo bjorn fransson.i am dereje moges radio director from amhara radio, bahirdar, ethiopia. thankyou for your feedback!!!!!!!!!!!! dear our radio station is stablish 12 years ago.for the first time it transmit for one hour a day.but now the transmittion time is 9 hours aday. our agency also have news paper and tv transmittion.the tv transmittion is by using etv transmitter one hour a day"

"hello bjorn fransson ? thank you for your feedback about our station!!!! I am dereje moges radio station director. dear,I confrim that the recaption report is correct .and I appreciate your hobby of listining shortwave radio .it is very intersting!!!!!!!!!!!! dear, amhara radio start its tansmittion 12 years ago.from this years the time coverage is 1 hora day for 10 years by using ethiopian radio transmitter on 594.. after this the rest 2 yeras transmittion is brodcast by its own transmitter on 801 khz mw by expanding the time to 3 hours a day THE TRANMITION POWER IS 100KW .And now from may 9 /2009 it started the transmittion on 801 kz mw and 6090kz sw by expanding the time to 9 hours aday.The amhara radio have news,music and entertaining,educational ,informative programmes."

"dear I am happy and ready to give any information .and i need your help.I THINK we will have strong contact..PLEASE CONTACT ME I WILL EXPLAIN YOUR SUPPORT TO US. TAHNKYOU VERY MUCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! DERE."

Över till lite allmän information:

Guy Atkins har efter en tids uppehåll åter lagt ut ett antal filer inspelade med Perseus på sin blog, **Five Below**. <http://perseus-sdr.blogspot.com/> Filerna är av varierande slag och bra exempel på vad som kan höras i olika delar av världen och på olika frekvenser.

Guy skriver så här:

“The new sidebar widget on the right contains drop-down lists of most of the Perseus files previously available, as well as a few new ones. The WAVs are now organized by geographic area and the files have a consistent naming convention: *DXer name, location, day/month/year, UTC time, frequency range*. All lengthy WAVs have been trimmed with Chuck Hutton's useful Perseus WAV Chopper utility to limit recordings to a maximum 30 seconds on either side of the top-of-the-hour.”

3250.00		Radio Luz y Vida , San Luis sermon en espanol 0045 on 9 May [Wilkner]
3329.53		Ondas del Huallaga , Huánuco since 0930 with exceptionally strong signal; still in at 1012. flauta andina, om one ID [Wilkner]
3329.62v		Ondas del Huallaga , Huánuco on the air 1000 to 1100 and 0000 to 0100. also noted in Cedar Key [Wilkner]
3375.12		R Municipal São Gabriel da Cachoeira , 0915 to 1000 om in Portuguese. 9 May [Wilkner]
4409.7		Radio Eco , Reyes 0035 om en espanol with pulsating effect noted here and in Boca Raton but not in Cedar Key. 2 May [Wilkner]
4451 R.		Santa Ana seems off the air according to LOB, our most excellent friend and dxer. rw
4699.34		Radio San Miguel , Riberalta, 1000 good signal 2 May [Wilkner]
4716.73		Radio Yura , Yura 1015 excellent Bolivian music 3,4, 5 May [Wilkner]
4716.74		Radio Yura , Yura 1038 to 1042 with Bolivian music, best station with CP music. 10 May; early sign on at 0915 on 9 May. [Wilkner]
4746.97		Radio Huanta 2000 Huanta Ayacucho 1030 to 1050 date given by om; not time or ID. 10 May [Wilkner]
4796.4		Radio Lipez , Uyuni noted 1010 on 2 and 5 May, [Boca Raton, Pompano Beach, Cedar Key]
4800		XERTA 1040 "Hip Hop" en espanol 10 May [Wilkner]
4805		Radio Difusora do Amazonas , Manaus, Amazonas 0950 to 1000 noted 3 May [Wilkner]
4814.95		Radio El Buen Pastor , Saraguro Loma Loja 1030 4 May [Cedar Key]
4814.95		Radio El Buen Pastor , Saraguro Loma Loja 1035 "el cinco en el ano de.....quaatro.." om and yl in discussion, good signal 10 May [Wilkner]
4824.49		La Voz de la Selva , Iquitos consistently the strongest Peru signal on 60 meters. 1048 to 1105, musica and om chatter, exotic vocal with back up band, good signal 10 May [Wilkner]
4826.46		Radio Sicuani , Sicuani noted at 1030 10 May [Wilkner]
4834.93		R. Virgen de Remedios , Tupiza heard 2300 to 0030 but not in the morning when the Peru dominates [Wilkner]
4900		Carrier at 0900 most mornings. Apintie? [Wilkner]
5059.16		La Voz de las Huarinjas , Huancabamba noted from 0030 to 0058 [Wilkner]
5059.43v.		La Voz de las Huarinjas , Huancabamba 1025 to 1055 fade with om ments de Jaen, Universidad de San Marcos, [http://www.unmsm.edu.pe/] ".en Peru hoy ... universidad de San Marcos... proxima de.." 10 May ; 0000 to 0058 9 May [Wilkner]
5460.45		Radio Bolivar Cd. Bolivar noted at 0050 on 9 May, fair signal also on 1000 some days 9 May [Wilkner]
5580.2		Radio San Jose . San Jose de Chiquitos 0040 to 0056 Bolivian music, deep fades. 9 May; this one is on about 50% of the time. [Wilkner]
5580.22		Radio San Jose , San Jose de Chiquitos with Bolivian music 0000 to 0035, 2 May [Wilkner]
15476	4.5 1845	LRA36 Radio Nacional Arcángel San Gabriel, Base Esperanza hörd med tangomusik. 2 CB

Here you have some tips made with an old Kenwood R-300 I got on eBay, while testing it. A real nice receiver, even if not a Drake. Look if you can find something of interesting for SWB. (Giampiero Bernardino)

4319	30/4	2035	AFN Diego Garcia Reports, USB, fair GB
4765	11/5	2325	Tajik Radio , Tajikistan, talks, good GB
4790	30/4	0435	Radio Vision , Peru, Music & talks, poor to weak GB
4800	1/5	0031	AIR Hyderabad , India, News in English, at 0039 local Id, songs, very good GB
4825	11/5	2321	Radio Educadora , Brazil, talks, fair GB
4845	12/5	0110	Radio Cultura , Manaus, Brazil, songs, good GB
4885	11/5	2318	Radio Clube do Pará, Brazil, talks, fair/good GB
4915	11/5	2314	Radio Difusora de Macapà , Brazil, music & talks, fair GB
4965	11/5	2309	Christian Voice Africa , Lusaka, Zambia, songs, fair GB
4976	30/4	0325	Radio Uganda , songs, good GB
4985	11/5	2305	Radio Brasil Central , music & talks, weak GB
5009,93	30/4	0328	Radio Madagascar , nice music, weak GB
5025	30/4	2138	VL8K, Khaterine, Australia Reports //4835 & 4910 fair GB
5910	12/5	0015	Marfil Estereo , Colombia, songs, poor, fading GB
5952,5	12/5	0010	Radio Pio XII , Bolivia, talks, QRM Family Radio 5950, poor-fair GB
5990,8	30/4	0320	Radio Ethiopia , talks and songs, good GB
6035	1/5	0010	Bhutan BS Usual slow music, fair, QRM PBS Yunnan China GB
6090	30/4	*0300	Amhara Radio , Ethiopia Start BC, mx, id, web url, good GB

6110	30/4	0310	Radio Fana , Ethiopia, MUica, id 0315, good GB
6185	12/5	0031	Radio Educacion, Mexico, old songs, fair GB
7100	30/4	1838	Voice of Korea , FF, still on Ham band, good GB
7110	30/4	1843	Radio Ethiopia , talks & songs, still on 40 m Ham band, good GB
7135	30.4	1845	Radio Belarus classical mx, still on 40 m, weak GB
7145,06v	30/4	1847	Radio Hargeisa mx, talks, fair GB
7175	30/4	1852	Voice of Broad Masses, Songs, good GB
7850	12/5	0003	CHU , Canada, pips, time, id, good GB
11770	11/5	2335	Radio Habana , Cuba, EE sports, good GB
11815	11/5	2329	Radio Brasil Central , songs & talks, fair GB
11840	11/5	2332	Radio Australia , EE reports, under CRI in EE too ! Poor GB
11920	11/5	2340	HCJB , Equador, PP, religious talks, good GB
11930	11/5	2343	Radio Martí , Cla via USA to Cuba, SS economics, very Good GB
15225	11/5	1216	Radio Veritas , Philippines, Asian Language, talks, fair-good GB
15250	11/5	2348	Radio Venezuela , Canal Internacional, via Cuba, SS economics, fair GB
15410	11/5	1210	CVC Voz Cristiana , Chile, talks PP, good GB

Propagation is going a little bit better (Solar Flux up to 74) RX: SDR-14. (Giampiero Bernardino)

4699,4	12/5	2330	Radio San Miguel , Bolivia, music, poor GB
4716,7		2334	Radio Yura , Bolivia, music, weak but clean GB
4790	12/5	2326	Radio Vision , Peru, songs, fair with fading GB
4805	12/5	2322	Radio Difusora do Amazonas , Manaus, Brazil, talks, weak GB
4824,5	12/5	2318	La Voz de la Selva , Peru, music, talks, poor in LSB to avoid R Educadora GB
4955	12/5	2310	Radio Cultural Amauta , Peru, talks, some mx, poor GB
5910	12/5	2340	Marfil Estereo , Colombia, usual songs, good GB
6010	12/5	2349	Voz de tu Conciencia , Colombia, talks, fair GB
6019,4	12/5	2344	Radio Victoria , Peru, fair, usual talks, fair GB
6155,3	12/5	2355	Radio Fides , Bolivia, talks, weak but clear GB

Stationsnyheter

BRAZIL: Regarding the Brazilian mystery on 5050, I have just noticed that the nominal 5055 station was recently reported to be active on 5050, altho Lúcio has also reported it (presumed) more recently on 5055. So could that have been the one on 5050, rather than a somewhat unlikely fifth harmonic of anything on 1010? (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST) Viz.:

BRAZIL. Rádio Difusora de Cáceres está ativa em 5050 kHz. O Dexista Itamar Nunes de Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, captou a emissora no dia 23 de março passado, pouco antes das 1400 UT. Também o George Henrique de Moura Cunha, telefonou para a emissora, onde o funcionário Francisco lhe informou que ela está ativa, e emitindo diariamente de 0900 às 1400 UT (Via lista Radio escutas via Célio Romais, Panorama, @tividade DX April 19 via DXLD 9-035)

Here are the previous pertinent items:

BRAZIL. 5050, R. Cidade (tentative), Juiz de Fora [Minas Gerais]. May 05, Portuguese, 1001, OM talks, news program about list of countries with people infected by vírus, Europe coming to a social crisis, OM "Manhã Legal" program announcements, ID "R. Cidade 1010 KHz", "Manhã Legal com Luiz Correa, um oferecimento CEMIG, a melhor energia", 1010 "bom dia Juiz de Fora!", 1011 sertanejo music. Many other mentions about "R. Cidade 1010 KHz", "Juiz de Fora". On May 02 I heard the same announcements on 5050. According Lista de Emissoras OM/OT/OC - Brasil of DX Clube do Paraná, 1010 kHz of Juiz de Fora have the nomination as "R. Solar AM". 24432 (Lúcio Otávio Bobrowiec, Embu SP Brasil - Sony ICF SW40 - dipole 18m, 32m, WORLD OF RADIO 1459, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Olá Lúcio, Veja o link da Radio Solar AM/FM e na programação da AM - Radio Solar 1010 kHz existe o programa Manhã Legal com o comunicador Luiz Correa : <http://www.radiosolar.com.br/amprogramacao.php>

Não satisfeito telefonei para a emissora (32-3215-1620) e falei com a recepção que me informou categoricamente que nos 1010 kHz é a Radio Solar AM mas que a razão social da emissora é Rádio Sociedade de Juiz de Fora que pode ser que o apresentador as vezes anuncie assim, teria que ouvir mais, mas pela sua codificação do SINPO o sinal estava um pouco débil, talvez interferindo no entendimento: Cidade/Sociedade. Quanto à frequência de 5050 kHz não seria um harmônico? Espero que algum colega da região que consiga ouvir possa nos tirar essa dúvida. 73 (Marcelo Bedene, Curitiba - PR, May 5, dxclubepyr via WORLD OF RADIO 1459, DXLD)

So apparently we are dealing with a fifth harmonic; also check 2020, 3030, 4040. In case you haven't noticed, nominal frequencies of all intentional Brazilian 60m stations end in -5, a remnant of some kind of SAM band plan to leave the 'even' frequencies for other countries, e.g. Venezuela (Glenn Hauser, OK, WORLD OF RADIO 1459, DX LISTENING DIGEST) e.g.:

5055, Brazil, R. Difusora de Cáceres (presumed), MT. May 05, Portuguese, 0938, music maybe religious, 0941-0949 religious talks by male "espírito santo". Very weak 14421 (Lúcio Otávio Bobrowiec, Embu SP Brasil - Sony ICF SW40 - dipole 18m, 32m, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

re 9-039: ** BRAZIL. Re 9-038, 5050: Hello Glenn, About 5050, something interesting is happening; I heard on May 7, 8, 9 a very defined sign on around, all days, 0946. If it's the fifth harmonic, originated of 1010 kHz, this frequency (1010) is signing on in the same time, of course. But that's very strange because this station certainly runs 24 hours a day (I don't checked it but if it's not this time, 0947 is not usual to a station sign on in Brazil). Checked the potential fourth harmonic 4040 and was nothing there around 0946. I made a mistake in my log about 5050, that's not R. Cidade but R. Solar. What do you think? 73 (Lúcio Otávio Bobrowiec, SP, May 9, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Harmonix tend to be either odd or even, so you might not hear 4040, but 3030, if propagation were working on the lower frequency too. Maybe it really signs on at that odd time for some reason, or maybe you have some other station entirely; are you sure of the Radio Solar ID now on 5050? (Glenn Hauser, *ibid.*)

BRAZIL. New 5044.95, 0230-0240 09.05, **R. Guarujá Paulista**, Guarujá, SP (tentative), Portuguese talk, reactivated with 1 kW according to Adalberto Azevedo, Brazil 15131. A very weak carrier, but no audio was also heard at 0050 on 10-05 (Anker Petersen, AOR AR7030PLUS in Skovlunde, Denmark, via Dario Monferini, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

CHINA: According to the Chinese DX'er Zhang ShiFeng, **Shandong Shidao Maritime Meteorological Station** started regular transmission in Chinese at 0020 on April 3 on **6750 kHz USB**. Their daily schedules are at 0020 and 0920, the broadcast includes maritime meteorological information on Bo Hai, Bo Hai Strait, and Yellow Sea (Huang Hai), produced by Shandong Meteorological Agency and seven regional maritime meteorological agencies. The broadcast is aimed to propagate as far as 1500km. When the warnings are issued, the station transmits at any time. I confirmed the broadcast at 0920, continuing about 3 minutes. Their address is: Shidao town, Rongcheng city, Shandong 264309, China (Takahito Akabayashi, Japan, May 7-8, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

SOMALIA I got a QSL card from the **Radio Hargeisa** German address yesterday. On the backside lines they have lined out by hand all frequencies, but changed 7122 to 7145 kHz - so it was confirmed. On the next line "10 kW" is changed by hand to "100 kW T-antenna"! (73 from Björn Fransson via HCDX)

Övriga radionyheter

Rapport från ARC/SWB-konventet 2009.

Ett stående inslag vid de välarrangerade konventen är det vackra vädret, det är svårt att minnas något annat. Årets begivenhet ägde rum den 25 och 26 april i Kanebergsstugan utanför Halmstad. Naturen är sig inte riktigt lik sedan stormarna Gudrun och Per, förutsättningar för bra antenner är inte längre lika goda. Vid en rikligt tilltagen fikastund infann sig deltagarna efter hand: TL, CB, RA, TN, LES, LSD, BD, RÅM, WA, HM och UQ. Nya för året var RFK och OB och sist men inte minst nygamle HK som det var ett tag sedan vi såg honom. Mikael och Gun Aspenström från Halmstad var också med ett tag. CB förmedlade hälsningar från några vänner som inte kunde vara med, bl a JER, LR och THE. Sedan konstaterade vi, att vi saknade några medlemmar som borde ha varit med och som det varit trevligt att träffa.

Mötet försiggick traditionsenligt med bra och soligt väder och i en god atmosfär. Nytt får året var att vi började med en antenninformation med TN och OB som huvudaktörer. TN presenterade "Flaggantennen" som reducerar elstörningar och är riktningsskänslig. Det var viktigt att testa olika komponenter och placeringar. OB redovisade erfarenheter av K9AY och Nortonförstärkare mm. Även UQ, HM och HK var aktiva på denna punkt. Det utspann sig också en diskussion om Perseus-"mottagaren" där det kom fram att "traditionella" NRD ansågs ha bättre ljud på grund av bättre filterfunktion. Utveckling pågår dock. Som nästa programpunkt genomfördes en presentation av deltagarna som också fotograferades.

Sedan vidtog den traditionella frågesporten med LSD som ansvarig. Minst ringrostig och därmed arrangör av nästa års frågesport blev BD, som får nöjet att arrangera kommande tävling. God tvåa blev OA med CB, HK och RFK på platserna efter. Vi fick som vanligt konstatera att är man inte hyggligt aktiv är det inte lätt att hänga med. Tradition är också att diskutera SWB's framtid. Här beslöts att TN får avgöra utgivningsfrekvens och innehåll i avvaktan på den fortsatta utvecklingen. TN avtackades också för en förnämlig insats under det gångna året och lovade att fortsätta ett tag till.

I samband med SWB-diskussionen berördes Glenn Hauser's fantastiska arbete med DXLD till fromma för alla oss DX-are. Henrik Klemetz föreslog, med tanke på att klubben faktiskt har hyfsad ekonomi, att vi borde lämna ett bidrag till Glenn Hausers verksamhet, vilket också beslutades.

Så gick vi över till en fördiskussion om ARC. LES flyttar eventuellt till Skåne framöver och kan behöva ersättas som tipsredaktör vilken härmed efterlyses. ARC fyller snart 50 år och olika alternativ diskuterades hur detta kunde firas på ett lämpligt sätt. En längre diskussion utspann sig om möjligheten att anordna ett lämpligt specialprogram. Innan kvällens slut avverkades en god middag, som omväxling åkte vi över till Vårdshuset i Simlångsdalen. HM demonstrerade under kvällen en DX-låda, en låda med DX-föremål som en gammal DX-are donerat till honom. Det låg då nära till hands att diskutera vad som skall hända med våra gamla QSL, något slutgiltig lösning har vi inte. Och så blev det också ett litet udda inslag, FM-historia.

Efter frukosten på söndagsmorgonen följde årsmötet i ARC, som avverkades i god ordning. De vanliga punkterna avverkades snabbt och styrelsen fick ansvarsfrihet. Förslaget utgivningsschema godkändes och kommer i EKOT. Valdes TN om som styrelseledamot och BD som ny sådan. Vidare beslöts om oförändrad medlemsavgift. Nästa konvent bestämdes preliminärt till den 24/25 april 2010 på Kaneberget. Konventet avslutades med sedvanligt stort tack till arrangörerna CB och RA för ett trevligt och lyckat konvent. Vi återkommer gärna nästa gång.
Rapportör BD.

"Then and Now..." - 20 years of Shortwave broadcasting - Series 3 Audio CD nearing completion

dxer.ca, May 4, 2009, Written by Colin Newell, 28 March 2009.

Welcome to the DXer.ca website. It is now late April 2009 - so what is going on? Well.

CD Series Three! Today we recorded the final Series 3 CD series - tentatively titled "Then and Now..." - 20 years of Shortwave broadcasting - where we were and where we are going. The series 3 CD package has been a long time coming - the reason being, we settled for nothing less than the best we could do in getting out some fresh material... And fresh it is! We combine a little of the old - going back to 1972! and pick it up in 1989... 20 years ago - and then zip into the future... today, talking to some of the finest minds of International broadcasting. One more studio session on May 2nd and we are pretty much done - judging by the overwhelming response on our poll (upper left...) - we are sure this CD is going to be a hit.

In our dialogue on the state of radio broadcasting, we bring in Ian McFarland, John Figliozzi, Kim Elliot, Jeff White and Bob Zanotti - men with strong opinions and lots of experience.

Our CD also features a dozen voices from a Kulpville event - SWL Fest 2007!

The CD disk with contain a minimum of 3 hours of material - a little of the old and a lot of the new.

Stay tuned for regular updates - the material is done and we are thinking of having this package professionally duplicated - and, as usual, reasonably priced - 100% of the proceeds going to the community foodbank in Ian McFarlands community.

Critical! Series 3 Audio sample + We need feedback!

We are considering producing 500 2-CD sets at one of North America's most beloved media duplication centers - Duplium.Com - We think there is the demand to justify the outlay on this project. We think. We are also somewhat motivated to offer the programs for paid download as MP3 on DXer.ca - whether or not we do that as well will depend on what our listeners and readers want. Short of using the poll (above right) we would really like to hear from everyone about this. If you are in favor of having a collectible and autographed (limited edition CD set) please send us an e-mail <http://www.dxer.ca/colin-email> and register for a copy. If you would like to be able to download the programs for a small fee, please also send us an e-mail <http://www.dxer.ca/colin-email> We really need to know! Here is a sample of what series 3 will start out [as...http://dxer.ca/latest/71-series-3-release](http://dxer.ca/latest/71-series-3-release)

Photo at right - November 1973 - I bought my first shortwave radio of merit - can you guess which one it is by looking at the picture?

Review queue news: We have finished testing the AirNav Radar box from Durham Radio - now perhaps this is not a traditional gadget that the average DXer would have on their radio table. None the less, we had a lot of fun with it - And at a price tag in excess of \$700, there are not likely to be a big line-up of non-pilot radio enthusiasts for one. Click here for our initial photo shoot of the AirNav Radarbox.

This that and the other things: Listen to the latest Happy Station program (with a DXer.ca spot!) over here. Web bugs, web bugs - we have web bugs... Every website has issues - especially ones with as many features as DXer.ca - If you are experiencing anything odd with DXer.ca by all means send me an e-mail. Reporting technical bugs to your friends or associates does not get things fixed. Send me an e-mail. Current issues we are dealing with: Login bugs. If you are having any trouble logging into DXer.ca or staying logged into DXer.ca - let me know. Details to include: Your OS (Windows XP, OS X, Linux, etc) and browser (Firefox, IE, Opera...) Thanks!
(Mike Terry via DXLD)

Scientists Predict Solar Cycle 24 to Peak in 2013

To all radio amateurs

Scientists predict that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. At the annual Space Weather Workshop held in Boulder, Colorado last month, an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather

Prediction Center (SWPC) predicted that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since Solar Cycle 16 which peaked with 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.

The panel predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles -- the solar minimum -- occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Solar Cycle 23 and the start of Solar Cycle 24. If December's prediction holds up, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet Sun also led the panel to a consensus that Solar Cycle 24 will be what they called "moderately weak."

Although the peak is still four years away, a new active period of Earth-threatening solar storms will be the weakest since 1928.

Despite the prediction, the scientists said that Earth is still vulnerable to a severe solar storm. Solar storms are eruptions of energy and matter that escape from the Sun and may head toward Earth, where even a weak storm can damage satellites and power grids, disrupting communications, the electric power supply and GPS. A single strong blast of "solar wind" can threaten national security, transportation, financial services and other essential functions.

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of sunspots -- Earth-sized blotches on the Sun marking areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur, but a major storm can occur at any time.

"As with hurricanes, whether a cycle is active or weak refers to the number of storms, but everyone needs to remember it only takes one powerful storm to cause huge problems," said NOAA scientist Doug Biesecker, who chaired the panel. "The strongest solar storm on record occurred in 1859 during another below-average cycle." The 1859 storm shorted out telegraph wires, causing fires in North America and Europe and sent readings of Earth's magnetic field soaring, as well as produced northern lights so bright that people read newspapers by their light, he said.

Biesecker cited a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences that found if a storm that severe occurred today, it could cause \$1-2 trillion in damages the first year and require four to 10 years for recovery, compared to the \$80-125 billion of damage that resulted from Hurricane Katrina.

The Space Weather Prediction Center is part of the National Weather Service and is one of the nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction. It is the nation's official source of space weather alerts, watches and warnings. SWPC provides real-time monitoring and forecasting of solar and geophysical events that impact satellites, power grids, communications, navigation and many other technological systems.

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(Mike Terry via DXLD)