

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Issue no. 1700 Aug 22, 2010.

Deadline e-mail next issue: 0900 SNT, Sept 5, 2010.

Så är det igen dags för ännu ett ex av SWB, denna gång med nummer 1700! Tänk att vi kan hålla liv i denna gamla publikation. Precis som SA skriver så är det många som bidragit genom åren. Tyvärr så är inte KV som förr, vilket gör att det blir svårare och svårare att motivera någon att lägga tid på att gå igenom dessa band. De senaste dagarna har däremot MV vaknat till liv. I natt, 22 aug var det en hel del signaler mot NA och knappast nåt alls mot LA. För 2 dagar sedan gick bl a 1290 Puerto Cabello och minsann om inte det också fanns ett svagt ID på 1400 från R Callao! precis när väsendet från 1395 tystnade en liten stund.

Igår gjorde vi en liten tur till Köpenhamn och fick dragit ner några pilsner – inte alls att förakta en lördagseftermiddag. Mycket folk som vanligt på gatorna och trafik kaos pga Pride-festival.

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>
SWB member information: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/member.htm>
SWB anniversary issue: http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/SWB_history.pdf
Dateline Bogotá 1993-1998: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/Dateline.htm>
SWB latest issue: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/password.htm>
Solar cycle progression: <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/>

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Jan Edh: Hej Thomas, så har jag gjort ett litet nedslag på kortvågen. Längre sedan jag hörde något vettigt överhuvudtaget. Härligt att se att du oförtutet jobbar på! Efter en längre tids "nästan inaktivitet" där de få besöken i Fredriksfors inte givit ett enda napp var förhoppningarna inte stora när jag åkte ut den 8 augusti. Ingenting tydde heller på annat när jag var på plats. Religiösa WTWW som bytte från 31 mb till "49" var det enda, och deras Scriptures of America manar inte till att lyssna på en gång till. Inte ens brassarna på 60 mb gick anständigt. Märkligt egentligen att Radio Bethel och Radio Pio XII gick ganska hyfsat i 49 mb.

Lyssnade också den 15/8. Det är förskräckligt vad dåligt det mesta gått på 60 mb när jag lyssnat de senaste gångerna. Inte ens brassarna går hyggligt. Fick efter att ha kollat många gånger äntligen fram något på 15550 men det var väldigt svagt. Blir kanske bättre lite senare i höst och då lite tidigare...
20/8 bästa kvällen österut (av de tre jag lyssnat) på sensommaren. Fortfarande har jag dock ingen läsbar signal på Radio Fly 3915. Inte heller tillstymmelse till signal från Guinea eller Genesis 4850. Är de igång? Däremot har det börjat gå indoneser igen så här under Ramadan.

Håller med om att det varit förskräckligt dåliga signaler på KV sensate tiden. Har knappt ens startat upp Perseus. Jag tror dock att de stationer du nämner är aktiva fortfarande. Har dock aldrig fått in något på 4850. /Thomas

Christer Brunström: Idag kom det ett QSL: **Radio St Helena 11092.5 kHz** nytt kort sponsrat av Japan Short Wave Club som svar på sändningen den 14 november 2009. Mitt kort var nummer 204 så nog fick de en hel del rapporter trots medioker mottagning.

Arne Nilsson: Jag håller fortfarande på att lära mig Perseus. Den var väldigt lätt att få igång, mjukvara mm funkade helt ok. I övrigt är det för tidigt att ge ett slutgiltigt betyg, men visst har den "features" som gör den helt underbar att ratta! Inspelningsmöjligheterna inte minst. Tyvärr har jag en del smärre problem med just det: Ibland, då jag startar en inspelning "manuellt" genom att klicka på "record"-knappen, så hänger sig Perseusprogrammet efter det att jag satt namn på filen och tryckt på "klart". Och då jag använder "TOTH Recorder", skrivit in uppgifter om frekvens och BW, fyllt i tid och också kollat "preferences" samt OK-at dessa, så får jag meddelandet att Perseus "is not responding, check preferences". Ändå har jag laddat o startat VSPE och "Vcom on" visas längst ner till höger på Perseus konsollen. Jag har då testat att stänga ner VSPE, Perseus och TOTH Recorder, starta om samtliga (VSPE först) och sedan fyllt i TOTH Recorder informationen. Då funkar det (oftast!). Får kolla vidare...

Jag har signal på frekvenserna 4989,98 (många gånger senaste tiden) och 3289,985 (natten 20-21/8 då störningen som brukar ligga där var frånvarande) men lyckas inte få fram tillräcklig audio för vare sig ID eller språk. Jakten går vidare...

Det var nån kommentar om samma problem med VSPE på Perseus YG för lite sedan. Programmet reagerade för långsamt. Vederbörande gick över till Com0Com och sedan hade han inga problem med sådan felmeddelanden. Testa att installera Com0Com och se om problemet kvarstår. /Thomas

John Ekwall: Har nu blivit gubbe genom ett lyckat födelsedagsfirande på Karön i släktens närvaro under lördagen med perfekt väder och god mat.

Min andra semestervecka går mot sitt slut - återstår tre.

Radion har varit på några gånger men med klen resultat - både på förnatten och i gryningstid. Knappast någon andinsk signal mer än de vanliga fåtalet. Inget på MV alls. Kanske det blir bättre de kommande dygnen.

Nya köket blev klart i fredags då kaklingen avslutades. Resultatet godkändes av de inblandade arkitekterna och smakråden - en fin 60-årspresent!

Som vanligt en massa nya projekt liksom underhållsarbete av gamla synder mm på stora huset - som blir 125 år under 2011.

Välkommen i gubb-klubben, det är väl snart dags för dig att dra dig tillbaka till Karön för ett tillbakadraget liv i sus och dus /Thomas

Stig Adolfsson: Hej Thomas och övriga i KV-gänget. Ett tusen sjuhundra bullar!! Ganska fantastiskt egentligen att hålla liv i denna bulletin sedan främre hälften av 1960-talet. Stort tack till alla redaktörer som dragit lasset, framför allt TN nu under senare år och dessförinnan John Ekwall. Många andra har förvisso också redigerat, skrivit och gjort utskick, till en början med post med allt vad det innebar av tryckning, frankering etc. De två nämnda står dock för det ojämförligt största antalet SWB så jag tar av mig gruvhjälm och bugar.... Några blygsamma loggningar från Vallentuna översändes.

Så blygsamma är de visst inte - inte dåligt att plocka t ex R Symban! /Thomas

Loggen

(UTC)

2368,482	11.8	2000	OID men med största sannolikhet Radio Symban med grekisk musik och sparsamt med prat. Gick som bäst vid 2015 med knappt QSA 2. Övriga "aussies" i 120 mb var ganska starka denna kväll. Fade out strax efter 2030. SA
2368.5			Radio Symban 1050 to 1105 audio with music, 11 August, only time logged [Wilkner]
3250			Radio Luz y Vida , San Luis, fading in 1100 to 1130 on 20 August, best at 0000 17 and 19 August. Standard espanol om with religion [Wilkner]
3290			GBC , 0830 under thunderstorm, religion by 0940, 17 August; 0910 vocalist soprano, 19 August; 0923 pop rock and caribbean music, greeting sent to several individuals, 0940 "Lord Jesus Christ...in Jesus Name.." 20 August. In the past used to broadcast funeral announcements and "call names" which are no longer heard. [Wilkner]
3309.98			Radio Mosoj Chaski , Cochabamba regular reception 0930 and 0000 [Wilkner]
3324,996	20.8	1940	RRI Palang Karaya med västerländsk musik. QSA 3. JE
3324,998	12.8	2029	RRI Palangkaraya med tidssignal och prat. Tidigare sign on pga Ramadan?? Hördes från kl 20. QSA 2. SA
3329.53			Ondas del Huallaga , Huánuco 1030 music to 1040 fading out 17 August. [Wilkner]
3334,952	20.8	1930	Radio East Sepik Wewak med lite blandning "söderhav" och västerländsk. Dålig modulation. QSA 3. JE
3334,965	11.8	2002	Radio East Sepik , Wewak med nyheter. Enda PNG som hördes i 90 mb. 2 SA
3344,964	20.8	1945	RRI Ternate . Stark (QSA 4). JE
3390.06			Radio Emisoras Camargo , Camargo noted occasionally with weak signal at 2345 to 0010, 18 August [Wilkner]
3375.34			Radio Municipal São Gabriel da Cachoeira 0930 sign on with music, om good signal 19 August [Wilkner]
4024,981	3.8	2015	Star Radio , Liberia med svag modulation. EE. Har visst flyttat in i 75 mb. 2 SA
4319 usb			Diego Garcia. AFRTS English language news under tty ute, 12 August [Wilkner]
4409.8			Radio Eco , Reyes 0000 to 0012, om with slow announcements "severcio de ?" 13 August, [Wilkner]
4451.2			Radio Santa Ana , Santa Ana de Yacuma 2340 to 2350, weak signal music 17 August [Wilkner]
4700			Radio San Miguel , Riberalta 1005 - 1020 "La Espananza de ?" into Music good signal 20 August [Wilkner]
4716.19			Radio Yura , Yura 1023 impressive rustic Peruvian vocal music, Time checks seem slow, 20 August [Wilkner]
4746.94			Radio Huanta 2000 Huanta Ayacucho 1001 hyper yl with rustic vocal, great signal 19 August [Wilkner]
4789,966	20.8	1930	RRI FakFak med musik. Bönestund cirka 1950. JE
4795.87			Radio Lipez , Uyuni 1033 program of music with om dj, ments de Bolivia 20 August. [Wilkner]
4805			Radio Difusora do Amazonas , Manaus 1000 noted with weaker signal than normal 19 August [Wilkner]
4814.95			Radio El Buen Pastor , Saraguro Loma Loja, 1040 17 August; 1000 noted with weak

			signal 19 August [Wilkner]
4826.665			Radio Sicuani , Sicuani, Cusco impressive signal 0920, traditional Peruvian music 19 August [Wilkner]
4835.409			Radio Marañón Jaen, yl en espanol 1010 with narrow filter lsb 13 August, [Wilkner]
4835.47	21.8	0005	PRU, R Maranon with a talk px. Quite weak. (AN)
4857.4			Radio La Hora , Cusco while a regular at 2330 beginning to be heard by 1120 in Florida 17, 19 and 20 August [Wilkner]
4925	18.8	1910	INS, RRI Jambi played local mx. Strength fair. (AN)
4925	18.8	2150	RRI Jambi reaktiverad på denna frekvens, stark som bara den. TN
4949,98	10.8	2205	R Nac de Angola med reklam lät det som, hyggelig styrka på Afrika antennen. TN
4950			Radio Madre de Dios , 1040 on 17 August. 1030 carrier sign on, weak audio 19 August [Wilkner]
5024,9	20.8	0000	PRU, R Qillabamba very close to R Rebelde but approx. same signal strength, fair to good. Program type similar to Rebelde's this hour. (AN)
5039.21			Radio Libertad Junin noted signing on as late as 1130 on 11 August. [Wilkner]
5754,988	9.8	0000	WTTW Lebanon, TN startade dagens sändningar på den här frekvensen. Religiös sång och bön. QSA 3, men sämre än 9480. JE
5755	20.8	0330	WTWW med sedvanligt religiöst programformat. ID vid denna tid. 2-3 CB
5800,217	9.8	0000	Radio Rapido . Engelsk(?) pirat som hade relä av mv-statioben Absolute Radio och programmet Rock'n Roll Fantasy. Dave Kenney löste det här problemet åt mig. QSA 3 JE
5985,8	20.8	2310	BUR, Myanmar Radio played local mx. Good signal and a fairly clear schannel. (AN)
6034,967	8.8	2324	La Voz del Guaviare med "Fiesta RCN". QSA 3. JE
6159,96	20.8	2355	CAN, CKZN St. John's played mx up to 00.00 Good signal. (AN)
7295	20.8	1520	MLA, Traxx FM with popular mx. Good signal. QRM de R Iran after 15.30. (AN)
9478,978	8.8	2359	WTWW Lebanon, TN avslutade dagens program med frekvensen. Spelade lite osannolikt "Rawhide" och annonserade bytet till 5755. Gick lite renare här. QSA 3. JE
9515	14.8	0800	IRRS med sitt DX-block (World of Radio, DX Partyline och 39 Dover Street) de flesta lördagar. Sänds samma veckodag kl. 18.00 UTC on 7290 kHz. Jag undrar hur många SWB-are som lyssnar på dessa DX-program? 4 CB
9526	11.8	2000	La Voix de l'Indonésie med franska på ny (?) tid. Trängd. 2 CB
10000	11.8	2030	Observatorio Nacional i Brasilien med kvinnlig tidsannonsering var 10.e sekund. QRM från BPM. SA
15190	14.8	1630	Radio Africa med religiösa program. Hörd till efter 2130. Ovanligt stark signal men tämligen dålig ljudkvalitet. 3 CB
15344.2	11.8	2033	RAE med "Actualités DX" - enbart loggningar från Anker Petersen. 3-4 CB
15550u	14.8	2159	WJHR , Milton FL svag och brusig med cd-procedur med pianohymn och snack. QSA 1-2 JE

Stationsnyheter

BOLIVIA: Radio Fides is active on **6155.36 KHz** NOW! at 1040. (Charles Bolland via HCDX)

BRAZIL. 3364.96, R Cultura, Araraquara, SP, 0110-0205*, Aug 04, Portuguese talk, male & female duet pop song followed by male singer with ballad and accordion/guitars. Full ID at 0205 by male speaker in Portuguese with bass voice followed by abrupt sign off, reactivated, 24222 noise utility (Graham Bell, Cape Town, South Africa, and Anker Petersen, Denmark, DSWCI DX Window Aug 11 via WORLD OF RADIO 1526, DXLD)

BRAZIL. 3375.38, R. Municipal, Cachoeira, 0906-0916, August 14, Portuguese. M announcer between music bits; up-beat music & "zinger" announcement of sorts; more music and a different "zinger" at 0915; fair (Scott R. Barbour Jr. Intervale, N.H. USA, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

BRAZIL: Hi, there are some doubts in our DX community whether I really heard **Radio A Critica FM** (Manaus, Brazil) on **5055kHz**. Some others report Radio Difusora. I have a recording now uploaded here:

<http://www.box.net/shared/a9vncjcdbl>

You can hear the ID at seconds :05 and :38 : At a second :05 there is a jingle (slowly spoken whispering) "A Crítica eFe eMe" At a second :38 there is and ID and slogan: "A Crítica FM - Uma rádio feita para voce". This slogan is a part of their logo too: <http://www.acriticafm.com.br/>

Date and time of the recording: August 3, 2010 - 0500UTC (Date and time is also a part of the MP3 file name) (Karel Honzik, CZE via HCDX)

COLOMBIA: BOGOTA (AFP) -- A powerful explosion rocked northern Bogota early Thursday, causing extensive damage to a private radio station and shattering windows of buildings in the area, witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of casualties. The blast caused the collapse of a large part of the roof of a building housing the Caracol radio station, forcing its evacuation, reporters for the radio station said. An AFP reporter at the scene said the explosion blew out windows and shook many buildings in the area. **(from Robert Wilkner)**

LIBERIA 3900, Star Radio. August, 09 0646-0714 male in studio and outside in English talks, female talks; 4025 silent, weaker than August, 08 25332. August 10 around 0645 silent both frequencies 3900 and 4025 (lob-B).

3955, Star Radio. August, 11 0646-0711 male in English "Liberia; constitution of Liberia; voluntary movement of the people; democratic process..", tribal music. At peak 35333 (lob-B).

3960, Star Radio. August, 17 0647-0702 male talks, many mentions of "Liberia". Weak, 25322 (lob-B). (73's Lúcio Otávio Bobrowiec Embu SP Brasil via DXLD, all items)

GUATEMALA. R. Verdad was reported from Germany Aug 5 at 0023 on 4052, indicating they have finally got the SW transmitter fixed. However, details were sparse and am awaiting any confirmation. On Aug 10 I did not get around to checking until 0557, but nothing there. Nominal schedule is until 0605*.

As of Aug 9 there was nothing on their website <http://www.radioverdad.org> or their blog <http://www.radioverdadguatemala.blogspot.com/> about this; I forwarded the report to Dr. Madrid, but no reply from him yet. So we need to keep looking for it earlier in the evening, and also from *1100 Mon-Sat. Nope, nothing there at 0310 Aug 11 either (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

MADAGASCAR: Aug 19th at 1744 nored unid afro.sounding station on 4910 USB. I guess it's Madagascar off nominal by some mistake. Nothing heard on 5010 at that time. Later ... Hphm.. Yep, it's Madagascar. Going on past 1900. Still there at 1813 when writing this. (Jari Savolainen, Kuusankoski, Finland via DXPlorer)

Dear Jari, 4910kHz seem to be the mistransmission of 5010kHz. Only in Aug.19, I can't receive it Aug.20 and 21. Thank you for information.

http://bcl2isid2over60.cocolog-nifty.com/blog/files/100820_040000_4910E2Uqd.mp3 by Show in Nagoya at 1900UT on Aug. 19. (S.Hasegawa via DXLD)

UGANDA. 7194.98, R Uganda, 1932 - 2117, Aug 19, English, DJ played western pop songs, among which Celine Dion: "The Power of Love", Elton John: "Candle in the Wind", late night musings. Pips at 2100 TOH while same program continued to abrupt 2117 s/off in mid-song. Just about reportable, badly splattered over by VOIRI & RFI at S9+40 on 7205. Had not heard them here since one-day appearance on April 13, tnx to Zacharias Liangas for report in DXLD 10-33. (73, Martien Groot, Schoorl, Netherlands via DXLD)

Övriga radionyheter

Radio St. Helena Day 2010 : Date , Times, and Targets

RSD 2010 will be on Saturday, 09. October 2010

Target	Region Times (UTC)	Beam Heading
EUROPE	1900 - 2030 UTC	10 degrees
INDIA	2030 - 2130 UTC	70 degrees
JAPAN	2130 - 2300 UTC	50 degrees
North America	2300 - 0030 UTC	310 degrees

Gary Walters, Station Manager of Radio St. Helena, has just confirmed the above information, and, as usual, Derek Richards will operate the RSD shortwave transmitting facility.

There will be a special email-address exclusively for the evening of RSD 2010. As soon as Gary sets up this special email account, we will publish the account name.

The RSD 2010 QSL cards are being sponsored by the Danish ShortWave Club International.

Reception reports for RSD 2010 should be sent with sufficient return postage to RSH using the special Airmail address via Ascension and the United Kingdom -- exactly the same procedure as for the RSD 2009 reception reports. ALL mail to RSH should use this procedure.

ALL 266 QSLs for RSD 2009 have been mailed and should now be arriving around the world.

The sunspot minimum between sunspot cycles 23 and 24 is the longest in history -- much to the dismay of shortwave listeners everywhere. This minimum has lasted since 2007 and is still ongoing. There are not very many sunspots to "help" propagation, and there is no real sign of significant change. The UTC-times for broadcasting to the various target area have been very carefully selected to <try> to have the very best chance of good reception in each area. Also, we need to have the RSD broadcasts one after the other. After RSD 2009, it was decided to change the times somewhat and to move RSD from November to October (as was the case back in the late 1990's -- Thanks, John). RSH hopes that everyone around the

world has excellent reception conditions during RSD 2010 and is looking forward to your emails and also, if possible, to your telephone calls.

With very best 73, Gary Walters , Station Manager of Radio St. Helena via Robert Kipp
(via John Ekwall, NORDX)

NASWA Loggings Database,

Ralph Brandi advised today that the NASWA Loggings Database, covering logs published in the NASWA Journal since 1998, is again up-to-date, at <http://www.naswa.net> .

(Dan Ferguson, North American Shortwave Association: <http://www.naswa.net> via DXLD)

Legendary Spy Radio Donated Back to Rockwell Collins

August 11, 2010

An unheralded group of Vietnam war-era Army signals intelligence officers took a step into the daylight Friday to donate one of their favorite radios back to its manufacturer.

The 265th Radio Research Company used many radios in their service in Vietnam from 1967 to 1972, but the R-390A HF (high-frequency) receiver they donated to the Rockwell Collins museum was something special, they said.

"This has been a workhorse," said Doug Bonnot of Jonesboro, Tenn., the president of the Radio Research Company Veteran Group .

Bonnot said he doubted that there was anyone who worked in uniform for the Army Security Agency, Air Force Security Service, Naval Security group or Marine Radio Battalion who doesn't remember the R-390 HF receiver fondly.

The receiver was so capable that it was considered top secret, the veterans said. It is now a favorite of amateur radio operators, who sometimes pay to buy and restore them.

Bonnot said members of his unit worked long hours at the radios day-in and day-out monitoring communications. Potentially valuable radio intelligence was recorded and passed off to other specialists who could decode and translate them, Bonnot said.

"You were in a battle every day," Bonnot said. "Your weapon is a radio, and your stock and trade is information the enemy put out over the radio."

Lawrence Robinson, who oversees Rockwell Collins' corporate museum, said almost everything in the museum has been donated to the company. He thanked the group for the 1952-vintage radio, one of the earlier models produced.

The radios were designed by Collins Radio, now Rockwell Collins, and many were manufactured by the company in Cedar Rapids. Many were made by other companies under defense contracts. About 20,000 of the 55,000-plus R-390 HF receivers made came from Collins.

Read the full KCRG-TV news story 'Legendary Spy Radio Donated Back to Rockwell Collins' at:

<http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Legendary-Spy-Radio-Donated-Back-to-Rockwell-Collins-100153114.html>

(Mike Terry via DXLD)

Plasma TV interference

The Register, Posted in Wireless by By Bill Ray, 12 August 2010

The Radio Society of Great Britain is asking anyone with a plasma TV to let it know if they've had trouble getting BBC Radio 4 lately.

The Radio Society of Great Britain represents the radio ham community, though it sees itself as having a wider remit. When not organizing competitions to see who has the biggest beard can transmit a 10MHz signal furthest, the RSGB tries to protect the interests of radio users of all kinds by tracking possible causes of interference, which prompts its latest appeal.

Recently the interference effort has been focused on mains networking kit - people running Ethernet signals over in-home electrical wires - but the Society reckons that plasma TVs are another source of interference worthy of greater attention.

Anecdotal stories abound of plasmas putting out interference below 30MHz, and even extending into the higher frequencies where commercial radio can be found, but the Society is trying to cast a wider net to see if it's a genuine problem.

The plan is to make a presentation to CISPR (the International Special Committee on Radio Interference) in the next few weeks if enough complaints can be accumulated - so if you've got a plasma and you think it's plotting against your radio, drop the RSGB a line at plasma.tv@rsgb.org.uk

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/08/12/plasma_tv_interference/

(Mike Terry via DXLD)

A leader and a report in the International section of the magazine; both interesting.

http://www.economist.com/node/16791852?story_id=16791852

"...Now technology is cutting costs and stoking competition, eroding the Westerners' advantages. Big transmitters were costly; podcasts and webcams, FM radio and cable television are cheap and often open to all. As the old signals fade, rival outfits are crowding the airwaves. Iran and Russia have both launched 24-hour English television-news channels. China added a second one last month. The newcomers may start off with unappealingly wooden presenters and nakedly biased reporting. But they can improve, as Al Jazeera (which is supported by the emir of Qatar) has done. China plans to outspend America hugely in coming years. Western budgets are flat or shrinking: Britain's Foreign Office, which pays for some of the BBC's external services, faces a 25% cut. The right response to such challenges is not for Western countries to bin their broadcasts, but to target them better. Compared with other forms of foreign aid (or defence spending) they are cheap..."

http://www.economist.com/node/16791638?story_id=16791638

"...The new arrivals are conquering territory (and sometimes hiring staff) shed by established Western organisations. Short-wave radio is a signal example. Since 2000 Voice of America has cut the number of short-wave frequencies on which it broadcasts by 24%, to 200. The BBC has abandoned short-wave broadcasts to Latin America, North America and most of Europe, to the chagrin and despair of some loyal listeners. In the same period China Radio International has almost doubled its short-wave output. It even broadcasts from Texas. Meanwhile the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which oversees Voice of America, proposes to abolish the last of its short-wave transmitters in the United States..."

(John Figliozzi, Halfmoon, NY via DXLD)

Sun's 'quiet period' explained

By Howard Falcon-LangScience reporter

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-10967292>

The Sun's conveyor transports plasma across its surface to the pole, where it sinks before rising at the equator. Solar physicists may have discovered why the Sun recently experienced a prolonged period of weak activity. The most recent so-called "solar minimum" occurred in December 2008.

Its drawn-out nature extended the total length of the last solar cycle - the repeating cycle of the Sun's activity - to 12.6 years, making it the longest in almost 200 years. During a solar minimum the Sun is less active, producing fewer sunspots and flares.

The new research suggests that the longer-than-expected period of weak activity may have been linked to changes in the way a hot soup of charged particles called plasma circulated in the Sun.

The study, conducted by Dr Mausumi Dikpati of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado and her US colleagues, is published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

The Sun's activity strengthens and weakens on a cycle that typically lasts 10.7 years. Since accurate records began in 1755, there have been 24 such solar cycles.

The 23rd cycle, which ended in December 2008, was both longer than average and had the smallest number of sunspots for a century. Sunspots are areas of intense magnetic activity that are visible as dark spots on the star's surface.

Currents of fire

The new research suggests that one reason for the prolonged period of weak activity could be changes in the Sun's "conveyor belt".

Similar to the Earth's ocean currents, the Sun's conveyor transports plasma across its surface to the pole. Here, the plasma sinks into the heart of the Sun before rising again at the equator.

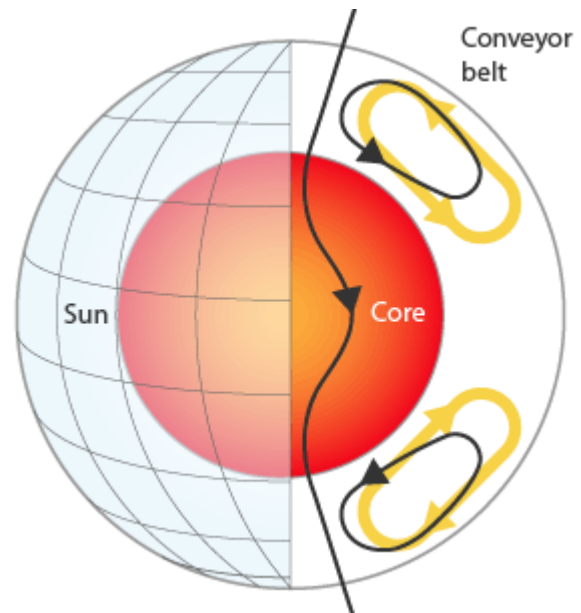
During the 23rd cycle, these currents of fire extended all the way to the poles, while in earlier cycles they only extended about two thirds of the way.

Dr Roger Ulrich of the University of California, Los Angeles, a co-author of the study, said the findings highlighted the importance of our monitoring of the Sun.

The research team used sophisticated computer simulations to show how changes in the conveyor might have affected cycle duration. They found that the increased length of the conveyor and its slower rate of return flow explained the prolonged 23rd cycle.

However, Dr David Hathaway, a solar physicist from Nasa's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, who was not involved in the latest study, argued that it was the speed and not the extent of the conveyor that was of real importance. The conveyor has been running at record high-speeds for over five years. Dr Hathaway said: "I believe this could explain the unusually deep solar minimum."

(Mauno Ritola via NORDX)



RADIO-STYLE SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION VIA MAGNETIC WAVES DEMONSTRATED IN DEEP MINES | Popular Science

New technology to improve mine safety. By Rebecca Boyle, Posted 08.09.2010 at 4:28 pm 2 Comments

The MagneLink system transmits magnetic waves through the Earth to allow wireless text and voice communication from deep within mines. Lockheed Martin [caption]

After 13 miners were trapped in a coal mine in Sago, West Virginia, four years ago, rescuers didn't know where to look for survivors -- they could have been anywhere between 11,000 and 13,000 feet from the entrance. Radio waves can't penetrate very far through rock, so there was no way to communicate with the miners.

A new system developed by Lockheed Martin aims to change that, by using magnetic waves to carry voice and text messages.

The MagneLink Magnetic Communication System works like a radio, but at extremely low frequencies. Unlike radio waves, magnetic energy can penetrate coal and rock, says Dave LeVan, the research engineer at Lockheed who developed the system.

It can connect to the short-wave radios miners use to communicate within mine shafts, but it has a much longer range and can reach the surface. . . [more]

<http://www.popsci.com/technology/article/2010-08/lockheed-develops-magnetic-communication-mine-safety>

(plus 6 comments now; via Mike Cooper, DXLD)

MEMORY LANE: GREAT OLD SW RX ADS . . .

For a real blast from the past, check this out. On the RadioIntelligencer website, click on "View with PicLens" link to see a slideshow of ads for a lot of favorite old boat anchors and others, from Heathkit, Hammarlund, Hallicrafters, etc etc etc. <http://radiointel.net/omnium-gatherum/photo-gallery/vintage-radio-ads/>

(Ralph W Perry, IL, Aug 14, NASWA yg via DXLD)