SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Issue no. 1703 Oct 3, 2010. **Deadline e-mail next issue: 0900 SNT, Oct 17, 2010.**

Ännu en av de gamla DX-rävarna har gått ur tiden.
JB var en mycket trevlig prick och jag minns speciellt en sammankomst i Vabacken där GJ också var med.
JB hade i sin sommarstuga ett perfekt QTH och JOE beskriver dessa träffar precis så som alla närvarande upplevde dem.

Det har varit ganska lugnt på KV och merparten av lyssnandet har skett på MV som nu börjar komma igång. Det har varit några korta öppningar mot Ecuador/Peru. Jag missade den stora öppningen med en halvtimme!
På SDR-sidan väntar vi på den nya netSDR som aviserats för leverans under Q4. Den verkar också få ett överkomligt pris.

Har ett bra tag gått och väntat på fler tester av Excalibur. Det enda som dykt upp på Yahoogruppen kan ni läsa om längre fram.

Keep on ....
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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://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/password.htm
Solar cycle progression:	http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Christer Brunström: **HCJB, Quito 6050** QSL-kort från Vozandes Media i Quito. Sändaren tillhör Vozandes Media och finns på Pichincha i anslutning till HCJBs mellanvågsstation. Vozandes Media är fd tyska avdelningen vid HCJB. 6050 reläar program från HCJB på spanska och olika indianspråk. Effekten är 10 kW. Vad jag förstår är detta en ny station.

John Ekwall: På lite lustiga vägar har jag fått kännedom att Johan Berglund lämnade denna värld den 16 september.
De senaste åren har jag haft sporadisk med Johan både per tfn och med epost, framförallt i samband med och efter träffen på Karön för några år sedan. För 2 år sedan råkade JB skada sig i stugan på Vabacken utanför Trollhättan, bruten höft och därmed oförmåga att röra sig under en längre tid. Kommunens omsorg tog hand om Johan och han fick plats på ett rehabiliteringscenter i Lilla Edet (inte Trollhättan eftersom gränsen mellan kommunerna gick precis vid Johans stuga). Trots mina uppmuntrande samtal om besök märkte jag att Johan tappade livsgnistan. Han fick svårt att prata och ville egentligen inte alls kommunicera längre.
Johan, känd under namnet "Juan Vargas" i de inre kretsarna i DX-världen, var en hejare på Honduras-stationer under mitten av 60-talet. Jag minns hans inspelningar av LV del Junco, Radio Morazan m fl på 49 mb men även hans eminenta kunskaper i spanska språket som hjälpte honom ut i världen. Han jobbade ett tag som turistvärd för Fritidsresor på Mallorca och beskrev det hektiska liv en representant kunde ha i telex till mig. Kunskaperna i spanska språket och intresse för radio tog honom senare till Radio Atlántico på Kanarieöarna där han blev "stand-in" för Xavier Palin för de svenska och engelska turistprogrammen under en tid.
Efter sina år utomlands var han under en tid lärare vid Göteborgs Universitet innan han började jobba på Trollhättans flygplats.

Under framförallt början av 70-talet var Johan värd för ett antal träffar i sommarstugan vid Öresjö. Många dx-are har varit där och blivit undfägnade av Johans lätta samtalsstil och goda humör, men även hans goda hand med matlagning med spanskt inflytande. Jag minns ett besök en nyårshelg när det var smällkallt, snabbare besök på JB's torrdass har nog knappast gjorts av mig (jag tror att jag fick upp livremmen...). Det starkaste minnet är trots allt efter 1970 års möte på Karön (Krök) när alla hade fått fantastiska höriheter med sig i bagaget och en oid på 6210. JB låg och lyssnande följande morgnar på frekvensen innan han lyfte luren och ringde mig lagom till deadline för SWB. Det är Galapagos vi hört killar!!
Må paella och HR-stationer omge Johan i sin nya värld.

Anders Hultqvist: Min senaste ALA 100 är monterad i min flaggstång högst uppe på vårt berg på Dalarö. Den har formen av en rätvinklig triangel och en total trådlängd av ca 50 m. Jag har länge varit nyfiken på att testa denna antennlösning, men varit lite orolig för att den skulle bli överstyrd eftersom mina tidigare tester visat att så långa trådlängder gav viss överstyrning. Men dessa tester var genom att linda fler än 2 varv på min första ALA 100 som har formen av en kvadrat med sidan 3 m (c:a).
Glädjande nog visar det sig att min "flaggstångs-ALA" fungerar alldeles utmärkt. Den är riktad norr-söder, och är tänkt för MV-DX mot Alaska i första hand. Antennen ger bättre signalstyrka

än mina andra mindre ALA100, och jag ser glädjande nog inga symptom på överstyrning.
Nu har det ju inte varit några Alaska-konds ännu denna höst, så jag vet inte om antennen fungerar för detta ändamål, men på kortvågen är antennen en succé. Rádio Brasil Central på 4985 tex var nu tidigare i morse flera S-enheter bättre än med de andra mindre antennerna. Ska testa mera, men tydligen går det bra med så lång tråd när den bara lindas i ett varv. Det stora testet lär väl bli hur antennen tål vinterstormarna..
(Såg i någon Yahoo-grupp att en del kör med förstärkare och långa antenner. För att undvika överstyrning så används 10 dB dämpning. Denna lösning ger ett bättre resultat än att bara använda antennen rakt in. När det gäller flag-antenner så är signalstyrkan direkt proportionell mot antennytan. En superloop (t ex 30x15 m) är med andra ord det man skall försöka få upp på tomten, hur det nu skall gå till. Naturligtvis kan dessa antenner ändå inte mäta sig med bevarage. /red)

Loggen *(UTC)*

3250			**Radio Luz y Vida**, San Luis [Wilkner]
3320	21.9	2103	**Nordkorea** med riktigt gammaldags propagandaprogram och kampmusik. Precis som på slutet av 60 talet när Vietnamkriget rasade som värst. QSA 3. På motsatt riktning gick Sydafrika klart och tydligt utan ett spår av Nordkorea med engelska nx. TN
3375.34			**Radio Municipal** São Gabriel da Cachoeira [Wilkner]
4055			**Radio Verdad** 0414 om en espanol,palabras de dios, 0416 distorted organ music with cantante over music, ID at 0433; om "Radio Verdad. .... metros banda de onda corta, ... Apardado ....., Guatemala, America Central". Best with agc off and RF set back. FMing ?, 22 September [Wilkner]
4055.13			**Radio Verdad**, music fair signal,at best. [Wilkner]
4409.8			**Radio Eco**, Reyes [Wilkner]
4451.14			**Radio Santa Ana**, Santa Ana de Yacuma [Wilkner]
4840	22/9	0032	**WWCR**, USA, religious talks in English, fair GB
5580.21			**Radio San José**, San José de Chiquitos, silent for several weeks [Wilkner]
5910	22/9	0004	**Marfil Estereo**, Colombia, slow songs, talks, weak –fair GB
5954,18	21/9	2357	**Radio Republica**, Clandestine to Cuba, talks, id, weak GB
5970	22/9	0010	**Radio Habana**, Cuba, reports //6000, fair GB
5985,8	21/9	2333	**Myanma Radio**, nice slow songs, in USB to avoid Family Radio on 5985. Weak but clear GB
6297,12	19/9	2130	**National Radio of SADR**, via Algeria, talks, Arabic, good GB
9395	26/9	1816	**Radio Pilipinas**, Philippines, //15190 in Pilipino not in English as reported by EIBI. Fair GB
9410	26/9	1830	**Bible Voice**, via Germany, religious songs, good GB
9500	19/9	2106	**Radio Australia**, Shepparton, reports, English, fair GB
9505	19/9	2110	**Radio Record**, Brazil, talks mentioning Sao Paulo, commercials, weak-fair GB
9525,96	26/9	1834-	**Voice of Indonesia**, Spanish program, report, talks about Indonesia, several ids and web URL, music and songs, very good, strong signal, stopped at 1858 by China Radio Int in Russian on 9525 kHz GB
9580	19/9	2115	**Africa 1**, Gabon, songs, talks in French, good. GB
9615	26/9	1905	**Radio New Zealand International**, English, reports, QRM from CRI 9620 kHz and Family Radio on 9610 kHz. Poor to Fair GB
9675	19/9	2120	**Radio Cancao Nova**, Brazil, religious, Portuguese, fair GB
9690	19/9	2124	**World Harvest Radio**, USA, Religious, ids, English good GB
10000	20/9	2120	**Observatorio Nacional**, Brazil, ids under BPM China, poor GB
11565	19/9	0814	**World Harvest Radio**, USA, religious talks, English, good GB
11620	19/9	0809	**Radio Ukraine Int**., songs, talks, ids, in Ukrainian, good GB
11650	26/9	1245	**KFBS**, Marpi Saipan, N.Mariana Islands, talks in Russian, good GB
11665	24/9	0103	**Voz Christiana**, Chile, long talks, Spanish, fair GB
11665	26/9	1250	**Radio Taipei Int**., Taiwan, Chinese, talks, mx, id, good //11710 GB
11725	19/9	2025	**R.New Zealand Int**. talks about internationals, English, fair-good GB
11765	19/9	2034	**R. Super Deus è Amor**, Brazil, usual long sermon, Portuguese, good GB
11775	19/9	2039	**Dr.Gene Scott Net**., Anguilla, religious, English, good GB
11775	24/9	0100	**Radio Martì**, Clandestine via USA, great id, fair GB
11780	19/9	2102	**Radio Nacional Amazonia**, Brazil, gooooooollllll (sport), fair GB
11815	24/9	0048	**Radio Brasil Central**, talks and songs, weak-fair GB
11945	19/9	0820	**Radio Australia**, Shepparton, talks, English, fair GB
12020	26/9	1255	**Radiodiff. Portuguese**, Lisbon, great Portuguese songs! Excellent GB
12075	26/9	1259	**Radio Sweden Int**., in Russian, start of Bc, very good GB
12120	26/9	1301	**FEBC**, Philippines, religious songs and talks in Asian lang., fair GB
12133,5	24/9	0040	**AFN**, Key West, USA, reports, in USB, fair GB

12155	26/9	1305	**Family Radio**, Dushambe, Tajikistan, in English, religious, fair-good GB
13660	26/9	1315*	**TWR**, Kigali, Rwanda, talks ans music,s.off at 1315 GB
13730	24/9	0030	**Radio New Zealand Int**., Reports, interview, weak GB
13845	20/9	1853	**WWCR**, USA, talks in English, id as University Network, good GB
14670	19/9	2049	**CHU**, Canada, usual pips & ids, fair GB
15000	19/9	2051	**WWV**, Fort Collins, USA, weak but clear GB
15120	29/9	1820	**Voice of Nigeria**, talks and songs, good, not so good modulation GB
15190	2.10	1545	**Radio East Africa**, första gången jag hört detta anrop. 3 CB
15190	26/9	1814	**Radio Pilipinas**, Philippines, songs, talks in Pilipino not in English as reported by EIBI, fair //9395 GB
15225	18/9	1255	**Radio Veritas**, Philippines, ending BC in Asian language, s.off 1257 GB
15245	18/9	1300	**Voice of Korea**, North Korea, starting BC in English, music, reports. Fair GB
15275	26/9	1809	**DW**, Kigali, Rwanda, talks in German, fair GB
15295	21.9	0930	**Voice of Malaysia** gick riktigt bra med Voice of Islam. 3 CB
15340	18/9	1235	**HCJB Kununurra**, Australia, Asian language, long talks, good in LSB to avoid RTM Morocco with fair signal on 15341,14 kHz GB
15341,14	18/9	1235	**RTM,** Nador, Morocco, out of frequency making QRM to HCJB, fair GB
15345,22	26/9	1910	**Radio Nacional Argentina**, sport live, Spanish, very good GB
15350	20/9	1830	**Radio Bilal** (presumed), clandestine to East Africa, African language, long talks. Reported via Samara, Russia. Fair s.off at 1900 GB
15420	26/9	1758	**WBCQ**, USA, Religious in English, deep fading, weak GB
15450	19/9	0850	**Radio Romania Int**. (freq not reported by EIBI), Medicine, music, in Romanian, good GB
15525	19/9	0847	**FEBC**, Philippines, in Chinese, slow songs and talks, fair-good GB
15580	26/9	1802	**VOA**, Selebi, Botswana, Reports in English, fair GB
15610	26/9	1805	**WEWN**, Catholic Radio, USA, religious in English, fair GB
15715	19/9	0842	**Radio Mashaal**, via Germany to Afghanistan, talks, in Pashto, fair GB
17685	19/9	0837	**Radio Free Afghanistan**, via Thailand, talks, songs, fair GB
17720	19/9	0831	**Radio Pakistan**, Islamabad, songs, talks, fair modulation, fair GB
17845	19/9	0827	**Radio Farda**, Sri Lanka, Farsi, talks, ids, fair-good, fading GB

Stationsnyheter

BRAZIL: I'm **hearing Radio Nacional da Amazonia on 5044.981**, // 11780 with a full ID at TOH. I thought this frequency was Radio Cultura do Para, but that's not what I'm hearing.
(Ralph Brandi via DXPlorer)

CANADA. 6030, Calgary - CFVP relaying CKMX (AM 1060), 0331-0354, September 27. “Southern Alberta born and raised, Classic Country AM 10-60”; played older C&W songs (“King of the Road” by Roger Miller, etc.); doing very well for listed 100 watts, per attached audio.
This station is a part of Astral, Canada’s largest radio broadcaster with 83 licensed radio stations; see map.
http://www.astral.com/mapradio/ (Ron Howard, Asilomar Beach, CA, dxldyg via DXLD)

DOM REPUBLIC 6025 Tnx to Ron Howard tip on CumbreDX, **R. Amanecer** hrd 10/3 from 0709 tune w/ sermon in SS by man to 0731, ID by man at 0731.5, then gospel songs to 0737, woman ann in SS at 0737.5 fol by more gospel vocals and ocnl anmts by man. Solid S4 to nearly S5 with I3 QRM from 6030 - this was managed by reducing B/W to 3.78 KHz and moving the passband down 1.2 KHz to mostly eliminate the 6030 QRM. This sounded more like a 10 KW xmtr than the nominal 1 KW - WRTH says 10 KW SW planned - could this be the new xmtr? Nominal hrs are 0900 to 0300, so as Ron says, definitely extended bcst tonight.
(Bruce Churchill via DXPlorer)

GERMANY. The following news became informally known already during an open house day in July. Could it be that I missed to report it in English and so the following will be a surprise? Anyway:
Today **Bayerischer Rundfunk** issued a press release about **the closure of the 6085 kHz** transmitter, effective Oct 1st. It refers to cost-saving measures and further states that "this decision has also been taken in light of the very low numbers of digital shortwave receivers, both on the market and amongst listeners. Very few models are available, the market has not shown a satisfying development. (...) Other broadcasters already transmit in the DRM standard, too. Nevertheless the choice of available receivers did not emerge from the situation of very few and expensive sets."
http://www.br-online.de/unternehmen/technik/kurzwelle-verbreitung-radioempfang-ID1285240493191.xml
Postings in the German-language A-DX mailing list indicate that the DRM signal now includes a text message that advises of the imminent closure.
(Kaj Ludwig via DXLD.)

HONDURAS. 3250.0, Sept 23 at 1138, hymns in Spanish, so the HRPC transmitter is currently in whack rather than spurring on 3288v. Some lite SSB QRM on side, perhaps MARS. 1143 YL sings ``Maravillosas Palabras de Vida``, appropriately for R. Luz y Vida, San Luís, Santa Bárbara. Their QSL with a map, spells out call as ``Honduras Radio Proclamando a Cristo``. Neither the current WRTH nor the final PWBR give us this info (Glenn Hauser, OK, DXLD)
INDONESIA, 4870, RRI Wamena, 1134-1145, Noted a person (believe it was female) in Indonesian comments until 1136 when music is presented. Signal was threshold but it was still encouraging to hear Indonesia fading in to South Florida on this freq. (Chuck Bolland, October 1, 2010 via HCDX)

Övriga radionyheter

WiNRADiO Excalibur initial thoughts

The WiNRADiO WR-G31DDC Excalibur SDR is now part of my MW DX arsenal. It arrived this week, only taking a few minutes to install and get running. The printed instruction manual is very thorough, 107 pages, but it lacks an index. The quick start instructions use an AM broadcast station as an example. Within an hour I was tuning in transatlantic MW DX. The 'Help' button overcomes the lack of a printed index when searching for specific information.

I'm quickly getting the hang of operating the Excalibur, but also finding some quirks - more on that in a moment. As I learned how to maximize the setup for MW DX purposes, I found that the 1.67 GHz CPU on my old computer was having difficulty with the load, running at 60% capacity. WiNRADiO recommends 2 GHz CPU minimum. So today I purchased a new laptop; 2.4 GHz Intel CPU, 2 GB RAM, and 500 GB hard drive. Now it's working great; at 1 MHz RF bandwidth with maximum selectivity, the CPU is running below 20%.

The quirks/deficiencies (RFSpace SDR IQ used for comparison):

The Excalibur clock doesn't have a 24-hour clock setting, so UTC is displayed in AM/PM format. How could something as basic as a 24-hour clock be overlooked?

Recording is easy, but unlike the RFSpace SDR IQ, Excalibur playback doesn't indicate the actual time/date of the capture, only the generic timespan. (The RFSpace SDR IQ playback time is referenced to the time/date when recorded.)

Excalibur RF recordings are frequency-stamped according to the center frequency, not by time/date. So the timestamp/filename must be entered manually in order to be meaningful. The reason for the frequency stamp becomes obvious in playback mode, because manually entering a numeric frequency as opposed to tuning around during playback will result in an offset and loss of the exact center frequency setting.

Excalibur recording is a memory hog. A four-minute recording at 200 kHz RF bandwidth results in a file size just under 500 MB. By comparison, an RFSpace SDR IQ four-minute recording at 190 kHz RF bandwidth is 180 MB.

RF recordings can't be played without the receiver hooked-up and powered on. (RFSpace SDR IQ software allows recordings to be played back without the receiver connected.)

The spectrum analyzer displays are a fixed -150 to 0 dB; there's no option to change the scale to a smaller range, let's say -140 to -40 dB for example. But there is a convenient zoom so that when at a wide RF bandwidth, you can at least zoom in on a smaller frequency range.

Audio, filtering, passband, and gain controls; very impressive. The AM Synchronous mode, though slow to obtain lock, performs really well. I initially experimented with some common signals where strong local interference was present. No problem hearing 684 Spain vs. 680 WRKO, 855 Spain vs. 850 WEEI, and 909 BBC5 vs. 900 WGHM, and that was on the old computer with reduced selectivity and the CPU at 60% capacity. Now on the faster CPU computer, with the selectivity at maximum, the separation is amazing. No problem separating 621 from 620 kHz for example, both visually on the spectrum analyzer, and in demodulation. As I typed this, I was listening to a wonderful signal from Iran on 1503 kHz with very little chatter from 1500 kHz. There's plenty of signal and audio gain. I haven't tried running more than one receiver yet; the Excalibur has three VFOs, essentially three receivers that can be operated simultaneously. In time...

(Bruce Conti via Winradio Excalibur Yahoo Group)

RMRC Broadcasts about RSD 2009 on 09. October 2010

The Rhein-Main Radio Club (RMRC) of Frankfurt, Germany, will broadcast two programs concerning **Radio St. Helena Day 2009** on Saturday, 09. October, 2010, using the 100KW transmitting facilities at Sitkunai in Lithuania.

Target Area	Time (UTC)	Frequency	Language
Europe	**15:30-16:30**	**9770**	**German**
North America	**22:30-23:30**	**6130**	**English**

Each program will be hosted by the RMRC. There will be several audio clips taken from a studio recording of RSD 2009. Robert Kipp will comment on these audio clips and present other information about RSH and RSD.
QSL-Cards for these programs will be issued < ONLY > by the RMRC. Do NOT send any email or other reports directly to RSH.
Reception Reports :
QSL via Regular Mail ("Snail Mail") : RMRC e.V. Postfach 700849, 60558 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

E-QSL via e-mail : mail(at)RMRC.DE
Good listening and best 73 de Robert Kipp Rhein-Main Radio Club www(dot)RMRC(dot)DE
(Från John Ekwall)

What are they hiding now?

Wednesday, 08 September 2010 13:23

Dear Family and Friends, It's been a long time since the news broadcasts on Short Wave Radio Africa have been deliberately jammed by loud, repetitive electronic noises but suddenly, alarmingly, its back.

The jamming of SW Radio Africa began at 7.20pm on the night of September 1. The news bulletin was by then more than two thirds completed and a report on the need for extra funding for the constitutional outreach programme was just about to be aired. A loud interference broke into the broadcast, the repeated tones continuing until 8.00pm, making it impossible to hear the remainder of the news reports or the following half-hour programme.

Suspicions were immediately raised and the automatic question is: What's going on? What is it that the Zimbabwe government doesn't want us to know?

Its been over 10 years since the fight for political dominance in Zimbabwe destroyed agriculture and business, chased four million people out of the country and turned our lives upside down; 10 years during which we all learned what signals to look out for when something is up.

The jamming of SW Radio Africa is one of those very clear signs and eyebrows are up.

You would think that that with the explosion of cell phone lines in the country and the return of an independent daily newspaper there wouldn't be a need for radio jamming anymore, but that's not the case. For the vast majority of Zimbabweans a newspaper is a luxury; computers, emails and internet access are a remote dream and sitting listening to a shortwave radio station for two hours a night is the only way to get information that's not blatant propaganda.

So what is that they don't want us to know? Could it be the news that a Bulawayo artist is facing charges with a 20 year prison term for an art exhibition? Or the fact that the former education minister and Mashonaland East Governor is in a renewed land grab on the few remaining farms in and around Marondera?

Perhaps it's the continuing reports of intimidation and harassment surrounding the constitutional outreach programme.

Maybe it's the 24-point document outlining action to be taken to apparently resolve issues outstanding from the tri party political agreement - issues which are 18 months overdue.

Or maybe, the jamming of SW Radio Africa is being done so that we can't hear the voices of ordinary people trying to live ordinary lives in a country where fear, intimidation and harassment are still all around us all the time and the only real change we see from our huge government is food in our shops.

When SWRadio Africa asked MDC Information minister Nelson Chamisa what was behind the radio jamming, Chamisa said he didn't know the station was being jammed. His response was a mirror image of MDC co Home Affairs minister Theresa Makone, when asked about the arrest and detention of a Bulawayo artist - she didn't know about it. How soon they've forgotten that SWRadio Africa was their only voice before they got into Zimbabwe's massive government – a voice they don't listen to anymore?

Ironically the jamming of SW Radio Africa doesn't make less people listen to the broadcasts, but exactly the reverse because now even more people want to know what the government are trying to hide.

(Via Robert Wilkner)

Say Goodbye to Sunspots? September 17, 2010

ScienceNOW carries an article that predicts that the sun may become spotless for decades after 2016 !

The article says: Scientists studying sunspots for the past 2 decades have concluded that the magnetic field that triggers their formation has been steadily declining. If the current trend continues, by 2016 the sun's face may become spotless and remain that way for decades-a phenomenon that in the 17th century coincided with a prolonged period of cooling on Earth.

Read the full article at http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2010/09/say-goodbye-to-sunspots.html

More information: Long-term Evolution of Sunspot Magnetic Fields, Matthew Penn and William Livingston at http://arxiv.org/abs/1009.0784v1

(Mike Terry via DXLD)

Wartime HF communications station in Melbourne

It is not commonly known, but during World War 2 the Australian Army operated a large HF wireless telegraphy communications station from locations in the outer east of Melbourne.

The facility was split geographically - the receiving station was sited in a farming region, on the fringe of the town of Warrandyte, in a bushland area of about 30 hectares, which in later years would become part of the suburb of Park Orchards, about 20 km from central Melbourne.

The unstaffed transmitting station was located near the country town of Coldstream, some 10 km east of Warrandyte, and included several rhombic antennas, an antenna switching panel, and five HF high-speed W/T transmitters. The antennas were designed for optimum radiation to places such as Alice Springs, New Zealand, Darwin, Hobart, and Chungking (China).

The receiving station consisted of an administrative block, a workshop, spare parts store, teletype equipment, and a receiver room which included several communications receivers. It was commonly known as "Hill 60" as it was located at the top of a hill just south of Warrandyte. The workshop manufactured transmitter equipment and other gear for use in the Army's HF radio network across Victoria, including the big facility at Diggers Rest, west of Melbourne.

All transmissions received and transmitted from the receiving centre were forwarded to the Army's communications headquarters known as "Grosvenor" in St Kilda Rd, Melbourne.
The principal receiving antenna was a Rhombic, with the main mast about 30 m high.
A switching panel allowed any of the receivers to be connected to any of the antennas, operating on Army fixed communication channels.
There were links to the transmitter site, using four lower powered transmitters of 750 Watts operating in the 30 MHz range, keyed remotely from the receiving station. These were part of the original "refugee cargo", diverted to Australia.
The station was part of the Land HQ Heavy Wireless Group, and occupied a building from 1940 which had been constructed in the mid 1920s, known as the Park Orchards Chalet. This building still stands, surrounded by houses which were built in the 1960s, and has been used until now for school functions, a restaurant and a conference centre.
The Wireless group was disbanded after WW2, and equipment was dismantled and removed. The site remained undeveloped until the late 1970s when the local community was successful in gaining Government approval for the land to be set aside as a bushland sanctuary, now known as the "100 Acres Reserve".
The precise location of the transmitting site is not known, and is believed to be the site of the present-day Coldstream Airport.
A series of photos taken in May 1943, held at the Australian War Memorial, in Canberra, show various features of the receiving and transmitting stations, and these may now be viewed on-line AWM website:
Receiving station http://www.awm.gov.au/search/collections/?q=ringwood+radio&conflict=all
Transmitting station http://www.awm.gov.au/search/collections/?q=coldstream+radio&conflict=all
(Regards from Melboune! Bob Padula via DXPlorer)

Hallicrafters SX-28

AWA I C8388 receiver

AWA I C8388 receiver

I searched the Internet for information on this receiver but it is totally impossible to find any information at all.
It seems it is improved version of the C6770 Communications Receiver used on outpost stations in the South West Pacific prior to WW2.

During the war the C6770 was used by the Coastwatchers, who used the radios to report the location of the Japanese shipping, troops and aircraft movements from behind enemy lines.

Picture from:
http://www.oldradios.co.nz/gallery/anchors/index.html

Hallicrafters SX-28 "Super Skyrider"
Hallicrafters announced the SX-28 "Super Skyrider" in July of 1940. The receiver's ultimate design was the result of the analysis of more than 600 requested reports, including input from government engineers. Twelve Hallicrafters' engineers were assigned the project of creating a receiver that not only satisfied government and commercial users but also gave the hams a receiver that performed better than any previous Hallicrafters. Additionally, the SX-28's modern, 1940 styling was to compliment the receiver's great performance. The circuit utilized 15 tubes in a double preselection front-end on the top four bands and single preselection on the lower two bands. The frequency coverage was .55 to 43MC in six bands. Amplified AVC, Lamb Noise Silencer, Calibrated bandspread, Push-Pull Audio were some of the features

incorporated into the design. The SX-28 would become an all-time ham favorite, famous for incredible audio coupled with amazing sensitivity, stability and selectivity - all at a reasonable selling price.

SX-28 SN H-151197 left the Hallicrafters plant on **February 21, 1942** and was purchased by W3ON, John Ridgway, who kept the receiver in superb original condition. John also kept the original manual, the original warranty card, the original inspection tag with dates and even managed to keep the original card that is riveted to the bottom cover. All components are original with the exception of the S-meter resistor. I purchased the receiver from John, who was 85 at the time (1997) and living in Galena, Nevada. John stated that the SX-28 was ",....so damn heavy I can't even turn it on its side anymore!" Note that the front panel on this receiver is black and there are panel screws flanking the main dial bezel. Internally, the receiver has the redesigned Lamb ANL circuit and the bandspread dial is driven by a dial string. The W3ON SX-28 is certainly an excellent reference as to how the later SX-28 receivers looked when new.
From **Western Historic Radio Museum** **http://www.radioblvd.com/**

AWA CR6-B Communications Receiver

The CR-6B was derived from the AWA CR-6 communications receiver. The CR-6B (AWA Type no 2C60600) was built for the then Department of Civil Aviation (Australia) to provide ground monitoring of in-flight HF aircraft communications, normally under crystal control, as well as provide the capacity to monitor the operation of the non-directional aircraft beacons in the 200 - 500 kc range.
The handbook dates from May, 1961

The receiver represents the end of the valve era and the circuit features approaches radically different from earlier receivers.

There are 6 wavebands : 0.2 - 0.54 Mc/s 2.0 - 5.0 M/cs 5.0 - 10 Mc/s 10 - 15 Mc/s 15 - 20 Mc/s 20 - 25 Mc/s
The CR-6B suffers from oscillator drift when using manual tuning. Crystal control solves this problem. Performance on the NDB band is not brilliant. This was not a problem for DCA as they only needed it to check performance of local beacons.
Material copied from http://www.vk2bv.org/museum/cr6-b.htm

WRPlus (improved version of Winrad)

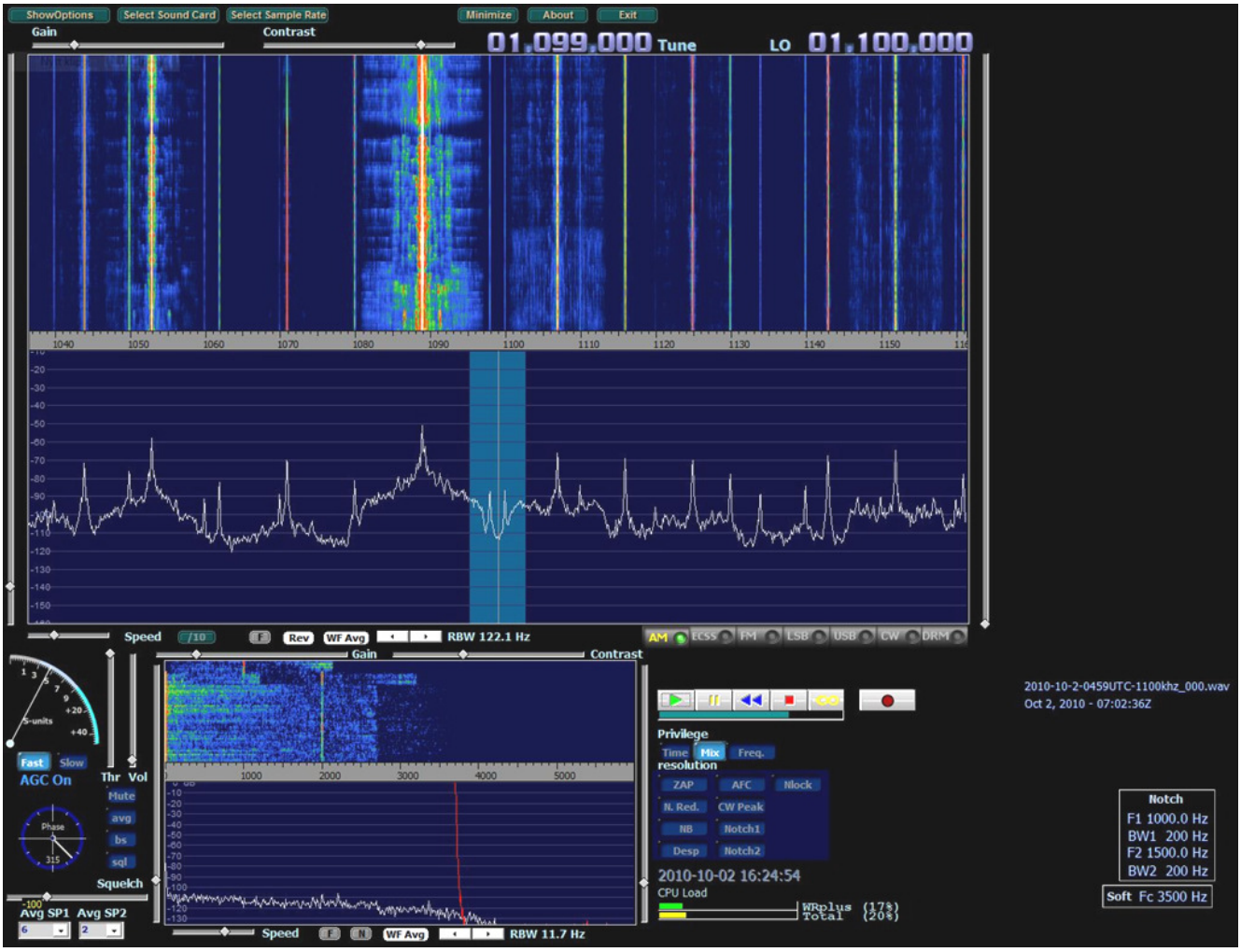
Hello to all, I'm Sandro, a 45 electronic engineer and also a SWL when I can. I like designing radio hardware and software. I'm releasing WRplus 1.0, a SDR program derived from the Open Source version of Winrad by I2PHD, Alberto di Bene. It is the result of well over 300 hours of analysis, coding and lab testing. I liked Winrad from the beginning: the concept, the efficiency of the code and smooth operation. I started to modify Winrad for my own needs but probably you will find WRplus useful too. There are several new features and improvements on which I focused more than the GUI (Ilike the Winrad GUI); please read the User Guide Upgrade (15 pages) included in the distribution package, which explains in details all the new features and how to use them.

The WRplus 1.0 new features in short:

- New DSP engine.
- New decimation anti-alias filters
- Two identical and independent pre AGC powerful notch filters with adjustable frequency and bandwidth.
- Redesigned NBFM mode: new demodulation algorithm, IF band pass filter, post-demodulation band pass filter, de-emphasis, correct S-meter indication.
- Squelch.
- Redesigned S-meter: true average or peak modes, peak hold, independent time constants, calibration, additional floating-resizable big S-meter.
- New AM (and ECSS) features: high-pass position, high-pass frequency, "soft" filter.
- Look-ahead AGC.
- New brick-wall, distortion free output limiter.
- Window view.
- Selectable recording folder.
- Mode-dependent filter settings.

As a preview, while I'm preparing the WRplus site at http://www.wrplus.altervista.org/
I have uploaded the WRplus_1.0.zip file in the Files section of the group (WRplus folder).
WRplus is free for non commercial, amateur use and is compatible with all the same hardware Winrad supports. Feedbacks and suggestions from users are welcome.
I'm currently working on the next release (1.1) that will include also a new "IF mode" intended for using WRplus + external hardware as the last IF of a receiver/transceiver, Icom CAT native support, DDE connection with HRD and more.

Hello, I have just released WRplus 1.01; it is a "bugfix" release that solves the problems on SP1/WF1 some users have reported. The problem was CPU dependent and I suggest to all users (even those that do not experience problems) to upgrade. Thanks to all for the useful feedbacks that helped a lot to solve the issue. (The file is in the files section of the group, WRplus folder). Enjoy WRplus. Sandro



I have tested WRPlus and I must say it is a vast improvement when compared to the original Winrad. The audio quality is superb. The soft filter is extremely useful just as the two notch filters.
Installation is very simple, just copy the zipped files into a new folder. If you want to use the software with Perseus the ExtIO zipped files must be downloaded from Perseus website and copied into the same folder.
What I miss most in WRPlus is a zoom function – nowadays almost all SDR-users will have a resolution down to the Hz.
(Thomas Nilsson)