

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Issue no. 1901, May 6, 2018.

Deadline e-mail next issue: 0800 UTC, May 20, 2018.

SWB will be a little delayed due to my visit at the combined SWB/ARC convention and the DX-Parliament held in Jönköping this weekend.

All in all we saw about 35 participants.

The highlight this year was the attendance of Mika Mäkeläinen.

He held some very interesting lectures about his work as a Finnish journalist visiting Beijing, the Chinese border to North Korea and also his visit inside North Korea.

Then he showed the fantastic listening post in Aihkiniemi, far up in the north of Finland. Their antenna park is amazing.

On Sunday morning we had a Skype lecture by Svenn Martinsen from Bergen where he talked about Bergen Krinkaster, R Northern Star and other interesting projects there.

A special thank you to Göte Lindströmat Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola for the arrangement.

Keep on

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SWB-info

SWB on HCDX:

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

SWB member information:

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

Dateline Bogotá 1993-1998:

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

SWB latest issue/archive:

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

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Manuel Méndez. Logs in the Gran Talaso Sanxenxo Hotel balcony, Sanxenxo, Pontevedra, Spain, with my XHDATA D-808 and telescopic antenna. Good propagation conditions Friday evening, but bad conditions Saturday evening and more of the stations heard on Friday could no be heard on Saturday.

Christer Brunström. Grattis till utgåva nummer 1900!!!! Om jag inte minns fel var jag själv vid något tillfälle redaktör för SWB.

Radio Taiwan International via Wooferton 6185 nice QSL-card featuring a lunch box. **Radio Romania International** 7345, 13750 QSL-cards (this year's QSL-cards depict scenery from the historic city of Iulia Alba).

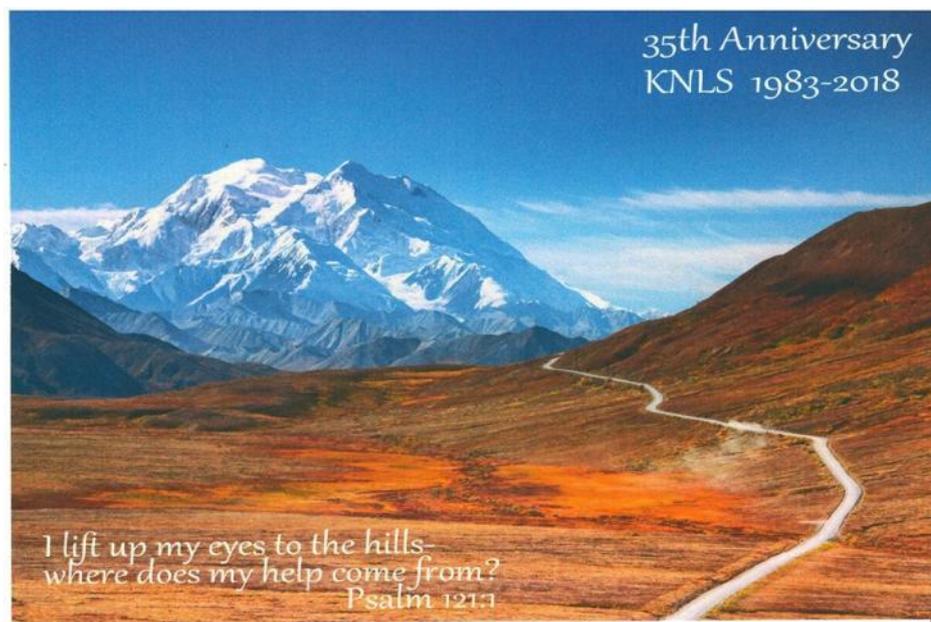
Tomas Burian. thank you for SWB issue 1900, you are very kind :-)

Glenn Hauser. The quote attributed to Wilkner in Florida is really from Mark Coady in The Great White North = Ontario, Canada, as forwarded by Wilkner.
(*Sorry for that mistake, didn't notice that in Bob's Mosquito Coast DX News /Thomas*)

John Ekwall. Du har lyckats igen att få ihop SWB - bara att gratulera till detta jub-nr. Var ute på Karön idag och konstaterade att antennen är oskadd efter vintern.

Lennart Weirell: Ett QSL att rapportera: **R Northern Star** - 5895 e-mail, 3 v.

Anatoly Klepov, Moscow. Congratulations on the issue of the jubilee edition!



QSL card "35th Anniversary KNLS 1983-2018"
Yimber Gaviria via DX-Listener's Club

3215	May2	0130	WWCR, Nashville, TN English religious talk (AP-DNK)
3240	Apr26	0313	TWR, Ndaou, tk mx, 33322. (TB)
3310	May5	2325	Radio Mosoj Chaski, Cotapachi, female, Quechua, comments. (Méndez)
3320	May2	1124	// 6400, Pyongyang BS. With 6400 strong signal, but this frequency certainly not on the air daily, while 3320 is daily (Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, CA, USA)
3325	Apr27	-1201*	NBC Bougainville, 1116 till cut off at 1201*, April 27. In Pidgin, with several long interviews; one with police commissioner; very little music being played today, but several C&W songs (Alabama with "Take Me Down," etc.); very slight RRI QRM. BTW - NBC Madang (3260) today also with decent reception (Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, CA, USA)
3910	May1	1925	Voice of the People, via Goyang, South Korea Korean talk // 3480, 3930, 4450, 6520 and 6600 - all frequencies still jammed ! (AP-DNK)
3975	Apr25	2015	Shortwaveradio in Germany with pop music. 3 (CB)
3975.0	May1	2123	Short Wave R - pir.Pops. 35343 (CG)
4055	May2	0125	R Verdad, San Esteban Spanish talk with heterodyne - best in LSB (AP-DNK)
4750	Apr26	1658	R.Bangladesh Betar, Bengali, IND mx ID mx TS Asalam Alejkum ID NX. (TB)
4765	May2	0045	Tajik R 1, Yangiyul Tajik ann, folksongs by choir (AP-DNK)
4774.94	Apr17	0125	R Tarma, Tarma Spanish talk celebrating the <u>60 years Jubilee of R Tarma</u> (AP-DNK)
4775.0	May5	0520	JBA carrier, on frequency and time make it TWR, rather than Perú or Brasil, currently scheduled in English at 0500-0700 weekends, 0430-0700 weekdays. LSR is an hour earlier, 0421 UT, with 22 minutes more to gain by latest in one bimonth. At 26.5 degrees south it doesn't get very wintry (Glenn Hauser, OK)
4800	May2	0050	AIR, Hyderabad Telegu ann, Indian song by man (AP-DNK)
4810	May2	-1845	Armenian Public R, Noratus Arabic ann, Armenian folksongs, 1844 ID: "Yerevan, Huna idha'ta Jumhuriyat al-Yermaniyah min Yerevan", closing music (AP-DNK)
4830	Apr26	1114	4895 & 7260, Mongolian Radio 3 (presumed), on April 26, after 1114+; only carrier on 4830 & 4895, with audio on 7260 (QRM China); 7260 is noted daily, while 4895 is on some days, while 4830 has not been used often. Jim Young (Calif.) was also hearing these today (Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, CA, USA)
4840	Apr24	0105	WWCR, Nashville, TN English religious talk (AP-DNK)
4850	May2	0055	Xinjiang PBS, Urumqi Kazakh conversation, short song // 6015 (AP-DNK)
4885.0	May2	2032	R.Echo Of Hope (cland.), Nowon-gu.Kor to KRE, songs, tks. 35332 (CG)
4885.04	May2	0100	R Clube do Pará, Belém, PA Portuguese talking and shouting, Brazilian song (AP-DNK)
4920	Apr24	0110	AIR, Chennai English talk (AP-DNK)
5005	May6	*0508-	Radio Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial, Bata, non stop Spanish, pop and Afropop songs and became inaudible due to daylight at about 0545. (Méndez)
5010	Apr20	1718	AIR, Thiruvananthapuram, Hindi songs. (Méndez)
5025	May2	0110	R Rebelde, Bauta Spanish ann, Musica de la Habana con canciones (AP-DNK)
5040	Apr20	1730	AIR, Jaipore, English, comments. Very weak. (Méndez)
5040	May2	0115	R Habana Cuba, Bauta Creole interview (AP-DNK)
5129.84	May2	0120	WBCQ, Monticello, ME English religious talk, CWQRM (AP-DNK)
5150.0	Apr24	2101	Charleston R Int'l - pir. Oldies, recorded IDs from time to time. 35332 (CG)
5840.0	Apr29	2111	World Music R (p) - pir.Mx. 35332 (CG)
5845	Apr25	2000	IBC (via Armenia) with Italian Shortwave Panorama as every Wednesday // Channel 292 6070 kHz. 3-4 (CB)
5915	May6	0401	Zambia NBC, Radio 1, Lusaka, African songs, at 0500 English program. (Méndez)
5939.74	Apr24	0135	Voz Missionaria, Camboriú, SC Portuguese animated talk (AP-DNK)
5950.0	Apr29	-1650	R.NZi, Rangitaiki.E (p), tks, anns. (p), no IS at closure. Adj. QRM. 14331 (CG)
5950	May5	1643	Voice of Tigray Revolution, Addis Ababa, Vernacular comments. (Méndez)
5995.0	May2	2108	R.Mali, Kati.Empty carrier. QRM de KOR. 44444 (CG)
6015	May6	0356	Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation, Dole, Vernacular, comments. (Méndez)
6030	Apr20	1727	Radio Oromiya, Addis Ababa, Vernacular comments. (Méndez)
6030	Apr25	1208	Calgary - CFVP relaying CKMX (AM 1060), 1208+, on April 25; mixing with stronger CNR12; comedians with lots of canned laughter; several clear IDs; "Laugh your ass off to and from work with Calgary's all new funny 10-60 AM" and "share a laugh with us . . . Calgary's all new funny 10-60 AM. Jerry Seinfeld"; Calgary and Monterey today with same sunrise time (1320 UT). Surprising how well 100w was doing up against 100kW (Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, CA, USA)
6030	May5	1710	Radio Oromiya, Addis Ababa, East African songs, Vernacular comments. (Méndez)
6035	May2	1135	with BBS (Bhutan), mixing with relay of FM99 (Kunming, Yunnan Province, China), via PBS

			Yunnan; BBS cut off at 1150*; after which FM99 was in the clear with their usual FM type programming in Chinese, and was still being heard at 1440, long past the former "Voice of Shangri-la" format that cut off about 1200* (Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, CA, USA)
6045	May2	1208	KNLS. Interesting anomaly. During my daily monitoring of the Voice of Freedom here from Korea, I had recently been observing KNLS with strong *1200, in English, but not so today; had Russian audio feed instead; normally would have been // 7355, but not so today, as that frequency indeed was carrying the correct schedule of English audio feed. Probably a one day mix up? (Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, CA, USA)
6050	Apr24	0140	<u>Vozandes Media, Pichincha</u> Quechua religious talk, Andean music (AP-DNK)
6050	May6	0603	ELWA Radio, Monrovia, religious songs in English. (Méndez)
6069.99	May2	0140	CFRX, Toronto English conversation - splashes from Cuba on 6060 (AP-DNK)
6090	May6	0430	Voice of Amhara State, Addis Ababa, Vernacular comments, East African songs. (Méndez)
6110	May5	1708	Radio Fana, Addis Ababa, East African songs. (Méndez)
6115	Apr27	*0538-	Radio Congo (presumed), on April 27, with *0538; programming entirely with announcers in French (no music) till tuned out at 0555; mixing with Japan (IDing as "RN2, Radio Nikkei"), which was playing mostly non-stop music; today RN2 weaker than normal; Brazzaville local sunrise was at 0457 UT (Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, CA, USA)
6134.8	May5	2331	Radio Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz de la Sierra. Very weak and QRM from Aparecida. (Méndez)
6134.9	May5	0413	Radio Aparecida, Aparecida, religious comments and songs. (Méndez)
6134.83	May2	0145	R Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz de la Sierra Spanish ann, Bolivian pop songs, ID (AP-DNK)
6135	Apr27	0354	R.Aparecida, Aparecida SP, Parestida...Parestida R...R.Nac.de Parestida...oft Parestida . (TB)
6185	May6	0347	Radio Educación, Ciudad de México, Latin American songs. At 0358 strong interference from Radio Romania on 6180 and BBC on 6190. (Méndez)
6205.0	May2	2039	Laser Hot Hits - pir.E, pops, chatter, wx. 35343 (CG)
6240.0	Apr28	1844	R.Waves Int'l - pir.Pops. ID via DX press. 35332 (CG)
6292.9	Apr28	1833	R.Mustang - pir.Du/E, pops, tks. 45444 (CG)
6320.0	Apr28	1904	R.Joey - pir.Pops. ID via DX press. 35332 (CG)
6325.2	Apr27	1838	R.Bogusman (p) - pir.E, tks, pops. 35332 (CG)
6399.7	Apr24	2107	Sunshine R - pir. Pops. Occ. adj. uty. QRM. ID via DX press. 35433 (CG)
7120	May5	1711	Radio Hargeisa, Hargeisa, Vernacular comments. (Méndez)
7140.0	Apr22	1738	Voice Of The Broad Masses, Selai Dairo. Vn, tradit. mx. QRM de amateurs. 23341 (CG)
7205	Apr17	0440	R Omdurman, Al-Aitahab Arabic ann and songs (AP-DNK)
7205	May5	1803	Sudan Radio, Al Aitahab, Arabic comments, East African songs. (Méndez)
7236.0	Apr29	1631	R.Ethiopia, Geja Jawe.Vn, tks, local pops. Adj. QRM. 34432 (CG)
7255-	May4	0625	check, VON is AWOL again; however, there is an unmodulated carrier pulsing on and off for a while, maybe this, or who knows, a ham experimenting. Stops before I can measure if it's the typical VON minus offset (Glenn Hauser, OK)
7255	May5	1758	Voice of Nigeria, Ikorodu, English, "This is the English service of Voice of Nigeria", "Voice of Nigeria", at 1800: "The news, the headlines..." (Méndez)
7260	Apr27	1245	being the only active frequency for Mongolian Radio 3 (presumed), on April 27; both 4830 & 4895 silent; 1245+; one of their better days here; mostly easy-listening pop songs; briefly with announcers; slight China QRM. My audio at http://goo.gl/hZvAyA (Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, CA, USA)
7290	Apr20	*1800-	Italian Radio Relay Service, tuning music, id. IRRS, Milano, Italy, English program. Despite being announced Radio City program, 1800-1900, third Friday of the month, Radio City did not go to air. I contacted whit the station about this, and here is the answer: "Dear Manuel, <i>It sometimes happens IRRS finds other customers for the Friday evening slot. The 3rd Saturday on 9510 kHz is guaranteed and if there is no other customers repeats of old programmes may be repeated other Saturdays. Radio City was on the air yesterday on 9510 kHz as announced. Best regards, Radio City - the Station of the Cars"</i> (Mendez)
7335	Apr25	0403	R.Marti, S, tk oft CUB ID R.Republica //6030 except jmm. (TB)
7505v	Apr26	1121	WRNO, on April 26, from 1121 to 1138. Have monitored their Chinese language programs a number of times, but today heard with a different format; native speaker of English preaching, saying a few sentences, followed by another person translating into Chinese; 1137 contact info in Chinese and English. My audio at http://goo.gl/jG2Znm (Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, CA, USA)
7725.9	Apr21	1901	R.Zeppelin - pir. Grk, oldies. 35332 (CG)
9410	May2	1033	BBC. As I daily check here for Fu Hsing BS (Taiwan), was surprised today to find BBC for the first time (ex: 9900), in English, with a good signal; interesting story about former Soviet Union causing the drying up of the Aral Sea, located by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. So 1000-1200 impossible to tell if Taiwan is here or not. 9774 (Fu Hsing BS) was silent today (Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, CA, USA)
9630.6	May1	2118	R.Aparecida, Aparecida SP.Rlgs. propag. Adj. QRM. 33442 (CG)

9650	May6	0730	Radio Guinea, Conakry, 0730-0758 religious Sunday program "Le Jour du Seigneur", "C'est Le Jour du Seigneur", 0800-0828 program "Guinée Culture", "un programme culturelle de Radio Guinée". (Méndez)
9665.0	May1	2116	R.Voz Missionária, Camboriú SC.Rlgs. propag. 35433 (CG)
9700.0	Apr28	1900	R.NZi, Rangitaiki.E, nx, wx, current affairs, ..., interview. Deteriorating. 35343 (CG)
9725.3	May1	2120	R.Evangelizar, Curitiba PR.Songs. Adj. QRM. 34432 (CG)
9745	May5	1610	Radio Bahrain, Abu Hayan, Arabic songs. (Méndez)
9830	Apr25	1830	DW via S. Thome in Hausa 3/45433. (UQ)
9955	Apr24	1330	AWR via Tashkent in Indonesian. 34533.(UQ)
11725.0	Apr28	2004	R.NZi, Rangitaiki.E, nx, ..., interviews. Deteriorating. 35332 (CG)
11735	Apr20	1745	Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation, Dole, Vernacular comments, at 1800 id. and news in English, female. (Méndez)
11735	Apr30	1500	Zanzibar BC, Sw?, cut start OM tk HQR AFRO mx... KRE children sg under. (TB)
11735	Apr30	1430	Vo.Korea (K(CB)S), Kor, IS id? min da NA tk socialistic chor sx, 33332. (TB)
11855.8	Apr30	2132	R.Aparecida, Aparecida SP.Songs. Adj. QRM. 34432 (CG)
12155	Apr24	1315	AWR via Dushanbe in Kashin to Myanmar 35533.(UQ)
13580	Apr22	1745	Banglades Betar in English. It now puts a decent signal into Europe. At this time a bulletin of news. 3-4 (CB)
13730.0	May2	2054	R.NZi, Rangitaiki.E, Pacif. songs, nx at 2100. Deteriorating fast. 25332 (CG)
15165	Apr25	1610	AWR via Moosbrunn in Urdu to Pakistan 35533 (UQ)
15275	Apr24	1030	DW via Talata MDG Swahili 25522/3 (UQ)
15430	Apr24	1255	AWR via Trincomalee in Hausa, commentary abt Korea 45544..(UQ)
15505	Apr27	1531	R.Bangladesh Betar, Hin,E, IND mx ID OM tk YL melancholic mx modern mx. (TB)
17760	Apr30	1528	AWR, Hin, tk IS? ID Adventist World R IND mx YL tk. (TB)

Contributors to the log:

wb, Wolfgang Büschel, df5sx, wwdxc BC-DX TopNews, DXLD, DXPlorer, A-DX Glenn Hauser, Enid, OK, USA (also from WOR&DXLD) Ron Howard,oceanside at Pacific Grove, CA, USA CB, Christer Brunström, Halmstad, Sweden UQ, Ullmar Qvick, Norrköping, Sweden	(CG) Carlos Gonçalves, Lissabon, Portugal (CGS) Carlos Gonçalves, SW coast, Portugal AP-DNK, Anker Petersen, Skovlunde, Denmark Manuel Méndez, Lugo, Spain TB, Tomas Burian, Morava, Czechia
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(CG) = **Lisbon**. JRC NRD-545DSP & PERSEUS *sdr*; homemade amp. (W7IUV version); 20 m & 16.7 m T2FDs, 5 MHz dipole, 6x19x6 m Ewe 135°, raised, 4 loop K9AY

(CGS) = **SW coast** JRC NRD-545DSP & DRAKE R8-E; *Advanced ReceiverResearch* amp.; 20 m T2FD, 30 m 180°/0° mini-Bev., 80 m 300°/120° Bev., 200 m 270°/90° Bev., 270 m 145°/325° Bev., 300 m 225°/45° Bev., raised, 4 loop K9AY.

Station news

NORTH AMERICA. 15085-AM, Saturday May 5 at 2218, here's Josiah the Station **YHWH** guy again, S8-S9 encountered on bandscan, as I predicted upon reactivation of 7470; he used this frequency at least twice before as last year in DXLD 17-42:

``PIRATE, 15085, 2119-, YHWH, Oct 7. OK, a daytime frequency found on a bandscan. Not as strong as during the evening, but still at fair level (S4 to S5) in the clear with the usual shtick. Checked the next day (8 October) and he was there at 2235 UT at weak levels. He signed off right at the time of my check, so it looks like a regular frequency (Walt Salmaniw, Masset, Haida Gwaii, BC, dxldyg via WORLD OF RADIO 1900, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

I discovered YHWH on 15085, July 27 at 2018, and until now have seen no other reports of it (Glenn Hauser, WORLD OF RADIO 1900, DX LISTENING DIGEST)`` (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Other radio news

ANIMALS & INSECTS IN RADIO - 2

On this occasion here in Wavescan, we present another episode in the story of animals and insects in radio - literally! We begin with a story from Australia, back in the middle of the year 1936.

It just so happened that a wayward field mouse crept stealthily into the transmitter building of a mediumwave station located in a country area adjacent to the River Murray in the state of New South Wales. The radio station was the go-

vernment-owned ABC mediumwave outlet, 2CO, which was located a few miles north of the town of Corowa and the mouse was a common field mouse.

During his intrusive explorations, the mouse crawled unobserved into the 7½ kW transmitter itself. Being unable to read, and not knowing just how dangerous this excursion could be, he crept stealthily over the high tension areas of the transmitter. Unwittingly, he shorted the high tension to earth, there was a brilliant flash, and the medium wave channel 670 kHz went silent for half an hour.

Likewise, there was a similar event at the small AWR shortwave station located at Forlì in Italy. The 10 kW Collins shortwave transmitter there had previously been on the air with the programming of Radio Free Europe in Holzkirchen in Germany, though with AWR in Forlì the power level had been reduced to 2½ kW. Back in October 1993, two mice entered that transmitter, they were electrically roasted, and they successfully put the station off the air.

On at least a couple of occasions the American radio journal, Radio World, has drawn attention to the technical problems mice can cause in radio transmitters. In 2002, they published a story about a radio engineer who had found on one occasion a large mouse nest inside a phasor housing unit. Five years later, they also reported a suggestion from another radio engineer that copper wool or stainless steel wool could be stuffed into small openings to prevent them from otherwise being used by mice to gain entry into technical equipment.

The larger rodent, the rat, can also cause its share of damage in the electronic equipment of a radio station. The AWR shortwave station KSDA on the island of Guam reports that a rat entered one of their transmitters back in 1993; in so doing, the large rodent was roasted, and the transmitter turned silent.

In a very interesting incident, Popular Communications (now no longer in print) reported that an American army Brigadier General was on service in South Vietnam during what Americans call the Vietnam War, and the Vietnamese call the American War. The army officer was interested in Morse Code, and he would sometimes practice sending Morse Code on his own little Morse key and oscillator in his underground bunker.

One evening, he was awakened by the sound of very irregular Morse Code coming from his little oscillator; and he was surprised to discover that a rat was playing with the Morse Code key and enjoying the sound it made. The army officer stated that this unusual event occurred on several subsequent occasions.

In the same issue of that now defunct American radio magazine Popular Communications, there is also a report that a swarm of flies put a radio station off the air in southern Sweden. The small FM station, Radio Active in the town of Ystad, maintained a small transmitter building adjacent to their studio building.

Unbeknownst to the staff, a swarm of flies had laid their eggs inside the transmitter equipment and when the eggs hatched, the new flies swarmed and disabled the transmitter. When the main door to the small building was opened, many thousands of newly hatched flies swarmed out into the open air. It took the staff another three hours to install new equipment and thus restore the station to its regular programming.

[Jeff:] That reminds me of another animal story that occurred here at WRMI in central Florida. We have a very large C-band satellite dish which we use to receive the signal of Radio Japan. We rebroadcast the Spanish service of Radio Japan live at 0400-0430 UT on 5985 kHz.

Well, a year or so ago, we suddenly started having trouble getting the Radio Japan signal via the large satellite dish. It was sporadic; sometimes it came in, and sometimes it didn't. We checked with the engineers at Radio Japan to see if they had made any changes to the satellite parameters that might account for the problem, but they said there had been no changes.

Our engineers scratched their heads and tried all kinds of things to try to figure out what was going on. Finally, they went out to the dish, took the LNB receiving device off and looked down inside. Much to their surprise, they found a wasp nest in there, and it was blocking the signal. They very carefully removed that wasp nest and its inhabitants, and our listeners in Central America were once again able to hear NHK World from Tokyo.

(Adrian Peterson, IN, script for AWR Wavescan April 22 via DXLD)

[Perseus-SDR] USB EMI

As a first step, try to connect USB ground (the cable screen) to a better ground point on your computer.

If you are lucky, connecting USB ground to soundcard ground, battery ground (use capacitors) or some other point on your computer, will reduce the current you see with the sniffer.

The current you see with the sniffer has to go through the computer to somewhere else. (I assume we are below 30 MHz) You might prevent currents from leaving the computer on all cables connected to it. Particularly easy on the power supply line where low pass filters would do no harm.

As a first test. Connect a dummy load to the Perseus and look for the interference. If you actually see something you have made a new discovery and I would be interested in the details. If you see nothing, the problem is that the current you send via the USB cable onto the screen of the antenna coax enters the coax at the feedpoint.

There are many solutions to that.

Step 1) Connect the screen of the antenna cable to a better ground point than the screen of the Perseus antenna connector.

Step 2) Add a choke or isolation transformer in the antenna cable well outside your house.

Step 3) Add a ground point at the far side of the isolation in step 2.

I read a lot about USB interference. For some SDR hardware it is a real problem, but for properly designed (or modified) hardware, noise on the USB screen is connected to the screen of the antenna cable and would not enter the receiver directly. I have published several videos on this issue.

Putting ferrites on USB and power supply cables makes the SDR a high impedance point for the antenna cable. As such the Perseus would be very sensitive to all electric fields in your shack. They would be picked up and sent towards the antenna.

If you connect the Perseus to a ground point of some kind, the antenna cable would see the Perseus as a low impedance point so it would be very sensitive to magnetic fields in the shack.

To get rid of problems you need to add a choke/transformer well outside the EMI smog of your house. Maybe 8 meters away. You would also need a ground point for the cable towards the antenna.

I made a couple of videos demonstrating the problem:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItLkn8r4s3E>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsZTX7MQSGQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgMbaJDFu9M>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C65u7Pmz7a0>

It will take quite some time to digest those videos....

(73, Leif Åsbrink via Perseus_SDR)

Musings about DXing aboard a cruise ship

Having spent a month now aboard the Holland America Line cruise ship, the Noordam, and now 5 days out from Honolulu, I thought it might be interesting for some to read about my experiences with DXing from a large cruise ship on the open ocean. This isn't the first time I've DX'd, having done so about 9 years ago on almost the same voyage between Sydney, Australia and North America. On that first voyage across the Pacific, I used a brand new Gary Debock furnished Eton e1 ultralight receiver, modified with an external ferrite rod, with an adjustable coil. From within the ship, of course, reception is near impossible. On that voyage, I DX'd from the aft end of the ship, high up on near the pool, in the open. Most of my DXing occurred after dinner, when the area was deserted. I recall the noise to be very low, and results very good, especially around New Zealand, where I was able to confirm most stations (on MW) on the air. I did no recordings, but posted occasionally to DX lists. In those days, SW was more widespread, so I also spent some time on those bands (recalling Radio Malaysia, for example, on 15295 in English after sunset), using about 20 feet of random wire attached by alligator clip to the Eton's whip.

Three years ago, we spent 35 days aboard another HAL ship, sailing from Vancouver, down the west coast of North and South America, around Cape Horn, to the Falklands, and finishing the journey in Buenos Aires, Argentina. On that voyage, I elected to bring along my original SDR-IQ, with an old Wind small laptop. For an antenna, I brought about a 50' length of random wire, through an impedance matcher, and into the IQ. DXing was done at the back of the ship, below the pool deck, along a very private area that virtually no one used, keeping me away from the many prying eyes and quizzical looks! Again, results were very good for more local MW broadcasts, and also for reception of LRA 36 on 15476 from Antarctica, which I enjoyed daily. Drawback was that I was limited to 192 kHz of bandwidth at a time.

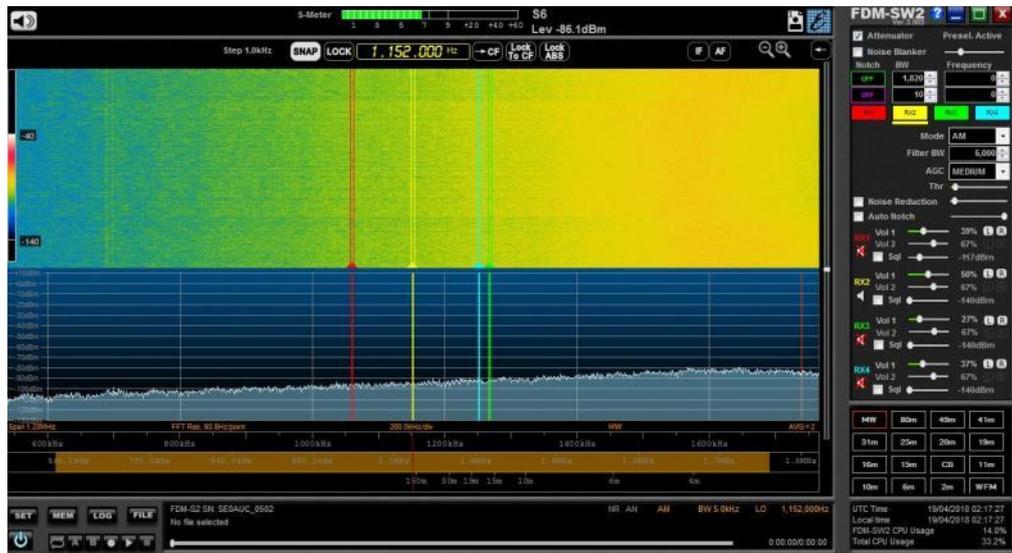
On this voyage, from Sydney to Tasmania, to New Zealand, and then back to Sydney, before proceeding to New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, American Samoa, and upcoming to the Hawaiian Islands, and home to Vancouver, I brought with me my underutilized Elad FDM-SW2 SDR, and a pretty fast Asus U36S series 13" laptop, and a Wellbrook ALA 100 loop antenna. For the first time, we have a veranda room on the 7th deck, high above the water on the starboard side of the vessel.

The first issue was to erect a loop. For this, I had brought some speaker wire which I was able to erect in a fixed near square loop oriented directly in the plane of the side of the vessel.

Drawback # 1: Directionality is fixed, wholly dependent on the ship's direction. The antenna and the ALA 100 antenna head have produced all of the issues, and have not been totally satisfactory. Of course, there's a certain amount of electrical noise in the ship, but I think most of the noise I'm seeing is coming from the antenna head itself. Let me explain.

On to **Drawback # 2:** The balcony, despite being 7 decks up is exposed to a huge amount of salt water spray and up to hurricane force winds. Unfortunately, the salt water infiltrated the antenna head, causing it to fail. A quick email response from Andy Ilkin from Wellbrook (and with the help of my wife) solved, in part, the problem with the salt water contamination. Having been unable to find any isopropyl alcohol on-board, I used one of the little single shot vodka bottles in the room fridge to soak the BNC connector for several hours. After drying, the antenna indeed came back to life. Thank goodness! Still, there remains more noise than I'd like to see, especially in the upper half of the MW band, making it almost useless to monitor. The lower half of the band remains quite quiet, except for **Drawback # 3:** Whether it's the

ALA 100 antenna head, or just the design of the ALA, the position of the wire is VERY sensitive. The noise floor fluctuates continuously, with the movement of the wires, and of course, I'm unable to stabilize this sufficiently to eliminate this, due to the constant wind. Taping to the plexiglass balcony ledge works temporarily but invariably, the wind, and saltspray loosens the tape (old white surgical tape), leaving the loop to flap in the wind (and with it major white residue marks on the plastic...hope no one from HAL notices ;-) .. Here's a screen capture of the MW spectrum and noise floor:



As you can see, the noise increases from a very respectable – 115 dB to a noisy – 90 dB...not so good. I might add, that the coax used is a small diameter RG-174 50 ohm cable...perfect for the job of fitting under the balcony door without damaging either the door, or crushing the cable. I wish I had brought another antenna head with me, but alas, I did not. In case some of you wondered about making your own loop, I would argue that nothing would stand up to the severe winds experienced on the ship, and only using the ship's superstructure is robust enough as an antenna support.

Drawback # 4: Finding the time to DX. Life aboard ship is very busy! While in port, we're always off the ship, so DXing during those days is impossible. On sea days, there's breakfast, lunch, and supper, evening shows, often lectures in the morning and afternoon, exercise, etc etc. Spending too much time in front of the SDR screen is also not conducive to a happy spouse, so one needs to be cautious here! Attempting to DX overnight also did not work as the flashing lights from the computer and it's screen promptly awoke my wife. Again, not a way to endear myself with her!!!

Drawback # 5: Some DX targets are passed in the middle of the night. On this voyage, returning from New Zealand to Sydney, the following day the Captain gave his noon time announcement, mentioning that we had passed within 15 km of Norfolk Island (my DX target on 1566) at 4:00 AM. Of course, I was sound asleep at the time. Grrr! There's not any good way of knowing position, or predicted route. I suppose I could have asked the navigation officers, but then, in this world, I wondered whether they'd think something was amiss with a passenger asking too many strange questions! I do recall a similar problem during a cruise, circumnavigating Cuba years ago. Of course, we went by Guantanamo Bay around the same time in the middle of the night, making it a tough catch to hear AFN from that base!

Drawback # 6: The record timer function on the Elad does not work for me. I only get error messages.

Advantage # 1 of the Elad: I LIKE the FM function! In Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and Fiji, I enjoyed doing an FM bandscan while in port after returning from our shore excursions. This is a first for me, as my normal go to SDR (which I still feel has the edge) is the Perseus receiver. I chose the Elad to eliminate another power source, as the Elad is powered directly via the USB chord.

In many ways, I was envious of Gary Debock who was safely on the ground in the Cook Islands while we were heaving in very rough seas north of New Zealand. With his setup, he could escape the noise completely, and DX some very awesome targets, that I can only dream about here. On the other hand, we are traversing many thousands of miles of ocean, enabling some armchair copy of stations rarely heard, or very difficult catches, especially while in port. On those days, I'd let the mp3 recorder run all day, while on an excursion, so it's fun to have a 5 to 7 hour recording of a local MW station (540 Samoa, 558 Radio Fiji 1, 990 Fiji Gold, 621 Radio Tuvalu to name just a few).

I hope that this essay may have sparked some interest in cruise ship DXing. I would love to hear experiences of others that might have done similar crazy antics. Please, while on a heaving ship in heavy seas, don't get up too high on a chair to secure a corner of the ALA loop like I did! 73, Walt Salmaniv, 4 days out from Honolulu and one day from American Samoa. 24 April, 2018.

(Walt Salmaniv via DXPlorer)

Comment on real dxing taken from ARDXC magazine May 2018: ...this from Bruce Churchill, in the U.S.

"First, I believe there is a misunderstanding of the difference between "Internet listening" and "remote receiver DXing". Not among all, of course but in some quarters at least. "Internet listening" consists of going to a station's URL and listening to a live radio stream. As you mentioned in the Bulletin, an excellent way to ID a \ station on shortwave. In fact, I used this just last night to positively ID Mongolian Radio on 7260 after tuning them on SW at 0849.

I actually used this mode of listening to hear Radio Nauru and even tried getting a QSL that way - just to show you how bad the QSL scene is these days, even that brought no response! ?? "Remote receiver DXing" on the other hand, requires the same skills that are used on your home rig(s) - understanding tuning, receiver optimization, using station schedules, unidentified stations, propagation factors and careful listening. But in addition to these, there are additional challenges: on some networks having your receiver "hijacked" in the middle of a rare DX recording session (Global Tuners); on other networks (Perseus, KiwiSDR), having the internet connection intermittently drop, requiring some innovative strategies to compile accurate logs/times, etc., or being unable to establish a connection at the critical moment because the receiver is "busy"; and perhaps most importantly, understanding shifting propagation factors across the globe. In regard to the latter, my biggest "tool" is a program called "DX Atlas" which gives me a real-time gray-line picture anywhere in the world. On my own receiver, this is hardly necessary.

Another tool I find very useful is a program called "Pizza", a freeware application that computes great circle paths from anywhere to anywhere on the globe. Thus I can compute the "DX value" of a reception using remote receivers. For example, WRMI in Okeechobee FL is not exactly a DX catch in Southern CA, but when heard from a remote receiver in NZ or Australia, becomes a bit more challenging. Sometimes the DX target broadcasts at a time that will never be heard in Southern CA, so no matter the distance, still becomes a decent DX target".

"So...what have I gained from using remote receivers? Access to stations that just would not be possible otherwise, including MW stations; "the thrill of the chase" so to speak, which matches anything I've done on my own rig; a richer educational experience in learning in-depth information about other countries; thousands of recordings of stations that are both good DX and those that provide better-than-normal reception from remote locations; and finally, extending my enjoyment of a hobby that is declining each year.

So, in my view, while remote receivers may be taking advantage of today's internet and software technologies unknown in the 1970's/80's heyday of DXing, this mode of listening should be considered as normal in today's world as sitting at your own rig - and every bit as challenging.

Over the years, many DXers have travelled on exotic DXpeditions to excellent listening sites all over the globe - remote receivers are a "virtual" form of DXpeditions without the travel and cost headaches. I value my remote receiver QSLs as much as any I've received - it's not how I heard the station, but the archival value of the station or a special broadcast that provides value. My country and QSL totals are modest by any standards, but what has always brought the greatest joy to my hobby is the education in geography, languages, music and cultures from around the world and the opportunity to meet new people (DXers and radio personalities) and create new friendships".

"Thus is my view on this aspect of our hobby. Don't necessarily mean to justify this view, but more to provide an insight into what "floats my boat"

about remote receiver DXing. ?? If you would like to view my Powerpoint "Show" on this topic as presented to two DXer fests in the past year, here is a link to the show: <<https://goo.gl/acynFU>>

This link is direct to the shared file - it does not require www.box.com membership. This file type is not supported for preview by www.box.com but the Show can be downloaded and viewed off-line. Feel free to share with the Club, again as you see fit. I don't know if this is feasible, but it would be interesting to try a webinar to share this at an ARDXC meeting sometime...

(Cheers, Bruce W. Churchill")

Rob Shepherd has kindly onforwarded an e-mail that he original sent to Bryan Clark of our sister club, the NZRDXL, in response to a similar discussion there:

"Via NZRDXL Dxdialog, you made some good observations re SDR and the benefits it could bring to older retired DXers and potentially attract new members (bring back some aging ones)".

"Those well considered comments resonated with me (hey I'm not old) as some SWL / DXers, including a few I know, have downsized kit, or sold kit as they need the extra funds for living costs etc".

"So SDR certainly isn't a gimmick, it has practical application depending on a person's needs.

For me I generally access SDRs for 1 of 4 reasons:

- (a) checking propagation conditions in other locations,
- (b) verifying if a station is operational,
- (c) confirming a low audio station I'm hearing is actually the one I believe it is, e.g. last Monday reception of Marconi Radio International on 6970 kHz USB 1000 Watts,
- (d) allows tuning to a station one would never hear in their own DX location".

"This is my opinion only, but beyond the above I don't class my SDR efforts as REAL DXing, just a bit of fun, e.g.

Found a good public domain SDR website and accessed systems in U.K., Paraguay, Brazil (Rats Island !) and Argentina. That exercise enabled me to hear UK SDR (Radio Caroline plus others), Paraguay (certain LA SW stations), Brazil (Radio Bandeirantes, etc.); Argentina (Argentine Coastal Naval Maritime station in Ushuaia on 2065 kHz - I guess classed as a ute), and ever hopeful of LRA36 15476 kHz, RN Arcangel San Gabriel, Antarctic Base at around 2100 UTC".

(taken from ARDXC magazine ADXN May 2018)

ps. I've given up real DXing via antenna now during my retired time phase since LOCAL NOISE on air in Germany increased heavily in 1997 year.

All RX units sold away now - or given to DXers in ex communist countries in rural areas in east European countries and Russia, - as presents. (wb)

(Wolfgang Büschel)

Sunspots are in short supply (and it's only getting worse)

Not a sunspot to be found. (Credit: SDO/HMI via Spaceweather.com)

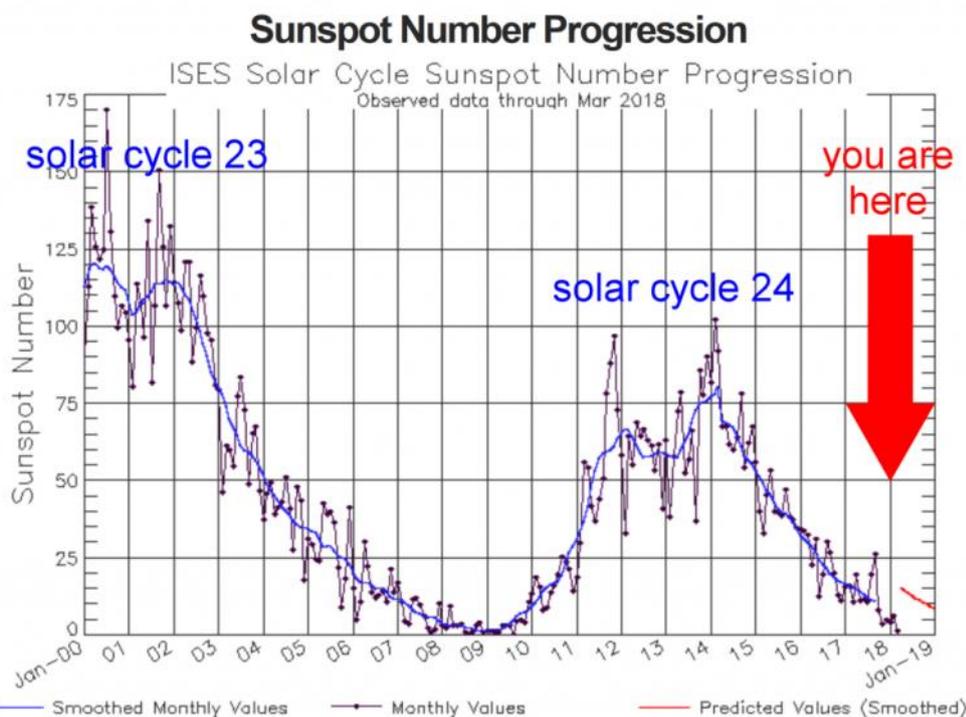
Unfortunately, this is not news to brighten your day. [According to Spaceweather.com](http://Spaceweather.com), sunspots are disappearing faster than expected:

Sunspots are becoming scarce. Very scarce. So far in 2018 the sun has been blank almost 60% of the time, with whole weeks going by without sunspots. Today's sun, shown here in an image [above] from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, is typical of the featureless solar disk.

The fact that sunspots are vanishing comes as no surprise. Forecasters have been saying for years that this would happen as the current solar cycle ("solar cycle 24") comes to an end. The surprise is how fast.

"Solar cycle 24 is declining more quickly than forecast," [stated](#) NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center on April 26th.

This plot shows observed sunspot numbers in blue vs. the official forecast in red:



"The smoothed, predicted sunspot number for April-May 2018 is about 15," says NOAA. "However, the actual monthly values have been lower."

Continue reading the full story at <http://spaceweather.com>

I will be very happy to see sunspot numbers rise again – they eventually will, of course. I've almost forgotten what a proper band opening feels like.

(From <https://swling.com/blog/2018/05/sunspots-are-in-short-supply-and-its-only-getting-worse/>)

USB Ground Loop Eliminator (for SDR) Update

Purchased the iFi iGalvanic 3.0 USB isolator as part of a package deal, bundled with the iFi iDefender 3.0 USB ground loop breaker and iFi iPower low-noise 5V power supply from Music Direct (<https://www.musicdirect.com/accessories/iFi-Nano-iGalvanic30iDefender30iPower-Bundle>) for less than the retail price of the iGalvanic 3.0 alone. The iGalvanic 3.0 USB isolator meets USB 3.0 standards with USB 3.0 connectors (USB 3.0 has more pins/wires than USB 2.0, but the USB 3.0 connectors are backward compatible with USB 2.0 connectors) and it operates at super speed.

Like the Intona USB 2.0 Hi-Speed Isolator (<https://intona.eu/en/products>), the iFi iGalvanic 3.0 uses an internal switching power supply to provide isolation between the host computer 5V USB power and the device, resulting in noise spikes at regular intervals. The iFi and Intona USB isolators are designed primarily for professional audio applications. Although extremely effective at elimination of ground loop hum and noise issues at audio frequencies, apparently the designers don't pay much attention to RF noise.

Initial tests show that the iGalvanic 3.0 isn't as good as the Intona USB 2.0 Hi-Speed Isolator, perhaps due to the higher operating speed and higher current power supply required for USB 3.0. The iGalvanic 3.0 internal switching power supply is noisier than the Intona USB 2.0 especially at frequencies above 20 MHz. However, when combined with the iDefender Ground Loop Breaker and iPower 5V power supply the noise at higher frequencies is reduced significantly. At medium wave frequencies, the iGalvanic 3.0/iDefender Ground Loop Breaker/iPower 5V supply combination results in overall noise floor reduction of about 3 dB.

Based on this initial test, if you only need USB 2.0 high speed to run an SDR, then get the Intona USB 2.0 Hi-Speed Isolator, which reduces the noise level 3 to 6 dB at medium wave frequencies. If you need USB 3.0 super speed for a wider bandwidth FM broadcast band SDR, then the iFi iGalvanic 3.0/iDefender Ground Loop Breaker/iPower 5V bundle is the only option available right now. Notice/qualifying statement: I don't have an FM broadcast band SDR, so whether or not this would reduce noise at FM broadcast frequencies is unknown.

Highly recommended for AM HF (LW, MW, SW): Combination of the Intona USB 2.0 Hi-Speed Isolator with the iFi iDefender 3.0 Ground Loop Breaker and iPower 5V on the USB output of the Intona. This eliminates the Intona switching power supply noise in the higher frequencies of shortwave. It's the best performance found so far in the rapidly developing new technology of USB ground loop / noise elimination devices.



<https://www.musicdirect.com/accessories/iFi-Nano-iGalvanic30iDefender30iPower-Bundle>
(Bruce Conti via DXing.info)

EDXC Conference 2018

Dear DX Friend, We would like to invite you to the EDXC Conference 2018 to be held in Bratislava, Slovakia on 31 August-2 September with an additional programme in Vienna, Austria on 2-3 September.

Our conference hotel in Bratislava is Hotel West (<http://www.hotel-west.sk>) We have agreed the following special prices with the hotel: Single room for 49 €/per room/per night. Twin bed room for 59 €/per room/per night

Prices include: buffet breakfast, VAT, parking. City tax (1,70 €/person/night) not included in the price

The rooms can be booked by sending an email to Ms Michaela Kvasničková (hotel@hotel-west.sk). For the booking, please add following information in your message: - Dates - Type of the room (single/twin) - Code: EDXC (to get our special prices)

There might be a possibility to book also triple rooms. Their availability can be asked from the hotel.

The preliminary programme is as follows: (All times in CEST)

Thursday, 30 August 2018

- informal gathering in the evening for those arriving already on 30 August or earlier

Friday, 31 August 2018

- 1200 Registration will be opened
- 1400 Opening of the conference
- 1430 Lectures and presentations (to be confirmed)
- 1900 Dinner on your own

Saturday, 1 September 2018

- Breakfast
- 1000 Tour in Bratislava and maybe Hungary, too, lunch during the tour
- 1530 DX programme at the hotel (to be confirmed)
- 1900 EDXC Banquet

Sunday, 2 September 2018

- Breakfast
- 0930 EDXC matters and future plans

- 1100 Lunch on your own
- 1200 Check-out, transfer to Vienna
- 1330 Arrival and a tour in Vienna (possibly visiting radio stations)
- 1700 End of the official programme, departures for those leaving already on 2 September
- 1800 Free time in Vienna, accommodation and dinner on your own (possible hotels to be informed)

Monday, 3 September 2018 (extended programme):

- visiting radio stations and other places of interest in Vienna
- departures

If you have anything to ask, please, do not hesitate to contact Kari (ksk@sdxl.fi). More information and updates can be found on EDXC blog (<https://edxcnews.wordpress.com/category/edxc-conference-2018/>).

Once again, we would like to see you at the EDXC conference 2018. You are warmly welcome!

(Kari Kivekäs, Secretary General of EDXC. Jan-Mikael Nurmela, Assistant Secretary General of EDXC)

Mexican Shortwave stations back in the 1970s & 80s

Back in the 1970s & 80s, there were a number of very good regional Mexican SW stations to listen to. Two of my favorite stations were **XEQM** (Sistema Radio Yucatán, in Mérida, Yucatán, and also **XEXQ** (Radio Universidad de San Luis Potosí).

Often listened to **XEQM** playing pop songs on 6105 kHz. Back in 1978, they even made me an "honorario" member of the station's "Club de las Panteras" (copy attached).

At the other end of the musical spectrum was **XEXQ**, located in San Luis Potosí, on 6045 kHz., with their very enjoyable classical music format. In 1988, they sent me a nice anniversary decal (copy attached). Every month they would send me their program schedule for the month. A very friendly station.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XEXQ-AM> : "XEXQ-AM is a radio station in San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí. It broadcasts on 1190 kHz and is one of two radio stations owned by the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, known as Radio Universidad 1190 AM. XEXQ is the second-oldest university radio station in Mexico, behind Radio UNAM.



Another university SW station back then was **XEUDS** (Radio Universidad de Sonora), broadcasting on 6115 kHz. They provided a nice QSL card (copy attached).

These stations are no longer on SW, but the memories remain.

(Ron Howard, California)

On July 28, 1938,[2] the UASLP's radio efforts began with the sign-on of XEXQ-AM, the second university broadcaster in Mexico.

Only a year prior, XEXX-AM in Mexico City, the station of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. The original station, licensed for 1250 kHz with a power of 50 watts, began formal transmissions the next day with programming from 1 to 3 pm and 6 to 8 pm, Monday through Saturday.[3]

The new AM radio station came with a shortwave counterpart, also XEXQ, on 6045 kHz, which by the 1950s was one of 16 shortwave radio stations in Mexico and is still in operation. In 2007, the station moved to 1190 kHz."

