

# SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1395, 22 november 1998. Deadline nästa nr: 4 december 1998 (fax & E-mail 6/12 kl. 0900 SNT)

Till detta nummer har bidrags-skörden varit tämligen tunn. Det verkar som aktiviteten bland Sveriges radio-lyssnare helt gått i stå. Kan det vara så enkelt att färre stationer på banden ger färre DX-are?? Tack vare saxningarna från Internet och andra publikationer, går det för det mesta att få ihop en hygglig utgåva av SWB. Skall bidragen även i fortsättningen vara på låg nivå eller utebli, får vi kanske gå över till månadsutgivning i stället. Vi får väl se vad jul- och nyårs-helgen ger.

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## QSL, mm.

**Christer Sandberg:** Nu börjar påfrestningarna att ta sig ut till ouppvärmade stugan. Inte mycket som hördes. Ett xplock kommer i bland tipsen. Ett QSL har kommit från WBCQ Monicello, ME 7415, kort.

**Lars Skoglund:** skickar ett kort med följande: QSL från: WBCQ 7415 kort, Radio Itatiaia 5970 brev, dekaler, v/s Claudio Carneiro, Diretor, Radio Luz y Vida 4852 brev, vykort och pin. V/s Hna. Maria Jiménez.

**Ove Fransson:** Här kommer i alla fall tre loggar från i natt, kondsen verkade inte riktigt lika kassa som vanligt, men det var knappast något spännande på gång.

Dessutom har jag ju faktiskt fått KV-QSL, vilket är så sällan så jag alldeles glömt bort att skriva till dig om dem tidigare. 'ere we go: WBCQ 7415 kort, KSDA 9385 kort, R Vlaanderen 7290 kort (de två sistnämnda från årets NorDX).

**Rolf Wikström:** Höll på att missa stopdate, hoppas det hinner fram ändå. (Rolf, lantbrevbäraren ringde på kl 0900 på lördagsmorgonen, så visst funkar ESS-brev. /red). Jag håller helt med dig i frågan om E-mail och att ev. gå ut på internet med information. Det som talar mot idén är väl endast, har alla internet?. I morgon tror jag alla har det. För min egen del skulle jag gärna ha skickat E-mail om det gått hemifrån, men av olika anledningar har vårt hyrpaket av datorer på jobbet försinkats, så vi får dem först om c:a två veckor. Har dator hemma även nu, men den är för svag för att gå ut på internätet med.

## Övrig DX-information:

### 450 kHz filter ([www.ecsxtal.com](http://www.ecsxtal.com))

**ECS Inc. Int.** i Kansas har ett antal 450 kHz filter motsvarande Murata CFW filter. Jag har tillskrivit dem för att få reda på om man kan beställa enstaka samt pris. Dessa filter är nödvändiga om man vill uppgradera en hel del transistoriserade mottagare som av någon outgrundlig anledning valt 450 kHz istället för den vanliga mellanfrekvensen på 455 kHz, där det finns massor av billiga filter.

Kiwa har också annonserat att man kommer att presentera 450 kHz filter under november på sin hemsida [www.kiwa.com](http://www.kiwa.com).

### Vintersäsongen:

Vintern är på väg med stormsteg. Detta visas inte minst av det tips på Solomon Islands som Stig Adolfsson ringde in på lördagkvällen. Denna har han hört några gånger tidigare, men endast då bärvåg.

Tyvärr är det så att antalet aktiva stationer på de intressanta tropikbanden minskar i rask takt. Så, man kan fråga sig vad vi som är intresserade av Asien skall jaga för pärlor i framtiden.

## LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC



3200	8.11	0300	TWR med god styrka 3 CS
3204,40	17.11	1950	RRI Manado tillbaka efter en tids bortvaro 2 LRH
3215,00	17.11	1940	PNG R Manus med söderhavsmusik, försvann ca 2010 2 LRH
3235	7.11	0130	Radio Luz y Sonido var en av de få LA som gick. 3 CS
3240	8.11	0320	TWR häre också. 3 CS
3306	8.11	0330	Zimbabwe gick också bra. 3 CS
4702	8.11	0000	Radio Eco 3 CS
4740,15	9.11	1340	VTN R.Son La (tent) med vv-tal, slutade 1347, (svag) LRH
4765,00	15.11	21.15	B R Rural Santarem, rel. Px. 2 LRH
4835	21.11	0120	R Tezulutlán i vanlig god ordning, fast utan marimban. 3. OVE
4955	21.11	0130	R Dif Nac går nå't himskans bra varenda natt. Bamse-ID så här dags. 4. OVE
4956,2	14.11	0700	OID Brasse, men troligen Rádio Cultura de Campos som är on air igen. Anrop endast "Cultura". I så fall höll senhor Marcio Alves sitt ord om att sändaren skulle reaktiveras i november om än att man hamnat snett i frekvensen. QSA 3 WIK
4960	21.11	0230	R Cima Cien verkar ha varit borta ett tag. Nu i full gång, fast burrig. 4. OVE
5019,980	21.11	1000	SIBS, Solomon Islands svagt. Kl 1100 en kort nyhetssnutt från R. Australia. QSA 2. Bärväg hörd några gånger tidigare. SA
5845	8.11	0015	OID, svag med SS, Voz Christiania ??, 1 CS
5952	8.11	0050	Radio Pio Doce, 2 CS
5985,8	18.11	1325	R. Myanmar med time signal kl 1330, 2-3 GW
6039,8	18.11	1315	OID assiat hörs här i nderkanten på 6040. QSA 2 GW

### Stationsnyheter:

#### AFGHANISTAN

**4771.2, tent. Voice of Sharia**, Oct 24, 1520, station with Farsi-like language (Pashtu or Dari?) and frequently mentioning Kabul and Afghanistan. Found to be in parallel with 7197,4 kHz. Again Oct/30 at same UTC time station was on 4776,3 kHz and the // was 7199,6 kHz. Believe this is the Voice of Sharia (or whatever the official name is) of the Taleban Government (Savolainen in HC-DX, DX-Window nr 138)

#### ANGOLA

**4914.43 R. Nac. Angola**, Oct 28, 0413-0428, "R.Nal da Angola a seu servico" Talking abt the death of some one. SINPO 34433 (Iversen, DX-Window nr 138)

#### BOLIVIA

3493.8 Radioemisora Padilla, 0023-0105, Nov 6, sports news about Oriente Petrolero and Copa Bolívar. ID "Usted esta en sintonía de Radio Emisora Padilla, transmitiendo en la frecuencia de 3475 kHz, banda de 90 metros onda corta... Padilla, capital de la provincia... en nuestros estudios son las 9 de la noche 5 minutos". (Iversen, DX-Window nr 138)

#### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**9900Radio Minurca, Bangui**, The UN sponsored radio station Radio Minurca in the Central African Republic is now on the air. The station, with the purpose of covering the legislative elections in the country, has been logged by several listeners in Europe on **9900 kHz**. Some reports: "The station was rather weak at first, around 1830 UTC, but reception became rather good around 2000 UTC", notes Swedish DXer Gert Nilsson. "The station suffered from interference from Radio Nederland on 9895 kHz. But fair signals at times", says Danish DXer Stig Hartvig Nielsen.

**Address** given as Radio Minurca, BP 2732, Bangui, Central African Republic. (Nordicdx.com)

#### ECUADOR

**4840.0 tent. R. Interoceanica**, 1025-1048 Oct 19, soft spoken, low key ancr in presumed native Andean lang., beautiful Andean instrumentals, guitar, pan pipe, organ, flute; TCs and possible ment. of "Quito" but no IDs. Definitely not sounding like Valera (cf. VENEZUELA (Ed.)), and a bit too late for

Andahuaylas. In the clear and very good signal until 1048 fade. (Mohrmann via Numero Uno, DX-Window nr 138)

## PERU

**5760,2 R. Sorocucho**, 1015 - 1050 Oct. 25. New station from Sorocucho, Oprovincia de Celendin, Dpto de Cajamarca, "5 de la madrugada con 20 minutos la hora que te informa tu nueva Radio Sorocucho, ahora amigos con la mejor musica en esta buena radio, la radio en la onda corta en los 5305 kHz ..." Noted nominal frequency of 5305 kHz, maybe that station is the reported by TIN in NU. After 1100 poor signal. (RR Rodriguez, Colombia, Play-DX nr 1001)

**5885,2 Radio Nueva Cajamarca**, 2315 - 2330 oct. 24. Mx fgolk. TC: "Atentos amigos a la informacion de la hora nacional a traves de Radio Nueva Cajamarca, exactamente ya tenemos las 6 de la tarde, 6 de la tarde con 26 minutos, estamos compartiendo lo mejor de nuestro aserbio vernacular a traves de una programcion encantadora ... estamos enviando el saludo muy cordial a usted amigo oyente que nos honra con su grata compania, somos Radio Nueva Cajamarca ...". Very distorted audio. (RR Rodriguez, Colombia, Play-DX nr 1001)

**9960 Radio Nor Peruana**, 2240 - 2250 Oct 24. Mx romantic with 70's singer. "Con la mejor musica aqui en Nor Peruana Radio ...." "Usted escucha Radio Nor Peruana desde Chachapoyas, Region Amazonas, Peru ..." (RR Rodriguez, Colombia, Play-DX nr 1001)

## *Saxat från rec.radio.shortwave:*

### **MINI-REVIEW: The Yaesu FT-920 as a SWBC DXer's Receiver**

When the JRC NRD-545's problems with abysmal ultimate selectivity became known, I was disappointed at the nx, especially since JRC announced they have no plans to further improve the receiver. Many DXers had hoped this would be a blockbuster digital signal processing (DSP) rig in the US. \$2000 price class. My second choice was AOR and I was close to buying a AR7030 Plus, fully outfitted with options. However, I decided to investigate current ham radio \*transceivers\* in the \$2000-and-under bracket, in case any of them have an excellent receiver section. So what if there also happens to be a transmitter under the hood? Perhaps one of the Big Three (Yaesu, Kenwood, & ICOM) had a model suitable for SWBC and mediumwave DXers.

Many internet web, newsgroup, and magazine research hours later I concluded that the Yaesu FT-920 would make an excellent choice. According to many, it approaches the receiving capability of its big brother, the highly regarded FT-1000MP/FT-1000 series (\$2700 and \$3400 street prices).

**The transceiver** was introduced in May 1997 at a list price of \$2300; actual price was a few hundred dollars less throughout 1997 and early 1998. I purchased a new FT-920 for \$1439 at Texas Towers, Inc. in July; the price has gone up slightly (\$10) since then. It's my guess that competition from new ICOM models and Yaesu's own FT-847 has led to the FT-920's current attractive price. As with most new electronics the FT-920 had a few bugs in its initial production run (almost all relating to transmitting functions). The units now available are being well received by the ham radio community.

**The FT-920 has a lot to offer** the serious SWBC DXer. The following are some features/specs that appealed to me:

- **150 kHz-30 MHz & 48-56 MHz** general coverage receive range (oh yeah, the FT-920 also transmits on 160-10 meters, plus 6 meters)
- **Automatic antenna tuner**: matches 16-150 ohms (works on both receive and transmit; serves as extra bandpass filtering on receive)
- **DSP voice recorder**: digitally stores the last 16 seconds of incoming audio on a "first-in, first-out" basis. This is an \*excellent\* feature and useful for a quick check of a suspected ID, etc., without disturbing a tape recorder or MD device that may be running. For the active "contest" ham operator, the DSP recorder can transmit voice or CW.
- **DSP audio filtering**: separate highpass, lowpass, variable noise reduction, and auto notch controls. Although the DSP filtering works in the audio frequency range, it performs excellently. The DSP CPU is a powerful 33 MIPS chip which results in natural-sounding audio. The sharp highpass and lowpass cutoff frequencies are typical of well-designed DSP circuitry. The FT-920's DSP features are powerful controls when used with the IF shift (passband tuning), RF gain, and Noise Blanker functions. I found the Ft-920's DSP audio shaping to be as good as the Timewave's top-of-the-line DSP-599zx audio filter I previously owned.



- **Antenna inputs:** three 50-ohm inputs are switchable from the front panel. Very handy!
- **Tuning Resolution:** the high speed DDS circuit offers 1 Hz tuning. The normal \*display\* is to 10 Hz, but an easy to use bargraph aid permits quick measurement of a carrier frequency to 1 Hz (i.e. 5020.013 kHz)
- **127 Alpha-numeric memory channels:** includes five special "Quick Memory Bank" memories which can store and recall stations very quickly and simply (a single button press).
- **Sensitivity:** on shortwave it is excellent, and definitely "hotter" than the AR7030. SSB sensitivity is reduced a small amount on mediumwave, but a recent DXpedition proved the FT-920 a capable performer on MW (Tahiti, Tonga, Australia, and Fiji heard). The radio has dual RF amplifiers, and it is possible to switch between a MOSFET and a JFET type. The FT-920's sensitivity reduction on mediumwave is less than on many receivers.
- **Front panel voltage display:** useful for monitoring battery voltage during DXpeditions. A front panel ammeter is also a feature, but works only during transmit.
- **Audio quality:** a pleasant surprise is the clear, crisp audio. There is no synchronous detection in AM mode but the FT-920's clear AM audio reminds me of the Kenwood R-5000. SSB (ECSS) audio is also great. No JRC-like "wooly" audio here!
- **Ergonomics:** this is a large, well-built radio; it has mostly "traditional" single-functions controls, yet presents a streamlined contemporary look. The cabinet color is a very pleasing dark gray and has a cast-aluminum chassis.

**A downside** of the FT-920 is the single SSB bandwidth of 2.4 kHz. Right from the start I decided to add an AM bandwidth and substitute the SSB filter. International Radio (INRAD) in Oregon sells high quality 8-pole crystal filters for many radios, including the FT-920. For an additional expenditure of \$210, I installed INRAD's 1.8 kHz SSB filter and their 6 kHz AM. Both have shape factors of 1 to 1.5 and ultimate rejection of 95db or greater. The INRAD filters were reported to be a "killer" filter arrangement for the FT-920, and I've found they indeed are top performers. In fact, I wouldn't have bought the FT-920 if the upgrade filters from INRAD were not available... they truly make the difference in tough DXing circumstances. INRAD also has a 2.1 kHz filter for the FT-920. The quality of INRAD's filters surpasses what Yaesu offers as optional filters.

**The useful IF shift** enables surprising recovery of bass frequencies with the narrow 1.8 kHz bandwidth. However, extended prgm listening is best done with the 6 kHz AM filter (whose tight shape factor gives very good adjacent channel rejection even though the passband is 6 kHz). Many further details and comments (from an amateur radio operator viewpoint) can be found at the following helpful URL. It contains one ham's journal of experiences with the radio since June 1997, and links to other online FT-920 reviews: <<http://www.wm7d.net/hamradio/ft920.html>> For general features and specifications, the Texas Towers website is better than Yaesu's official web presence: <<http://www.texas Towers.com/ft920.htm>>. International Radio's website is: <<http://www.qth.com/inrad>>

**There are a number** of other attention-getting ham transceivers (check out ICOM's FT-756 with its computer-like LCD monitor panel) that at first glance might appeal to the SWBC DXer. I recommend caution--and much research--before taking the route I did when buying a ham transceiver for receive-only use. However, the FT-920 with INRAD filters installed merits serious consideration.

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### **Subject: No more Drake service...**

You all may want to print this out...

It probably isn't news to everyone else, but on visiting the R. L. Drake site this afternoon, I found the this announcement...it was news to me, and in case you missed it too, here it is...

The R. L. Drake Company regrets that, due to the fact that many required unique parts are no longer available, it will no longer be able to perform service on the following products: (*ett antal mindre kända apparater har strukits på listan, /red*)

- >TR-4C HF Transceiver
- >TR-4 CW Transceiver
- > C-4 Station Console R-4245 Marine Receiver
- >TR-4 CW/RIT Transceiver
- > DSR-1 Receiver SSR-1 Shortwave
- > DSR-2 Receiver T-4 Reciter

- > ESR-24 Satellite Receive T-4C Reciter
- >TR-4310 Marine Transceiver
- > MSR-1 Marine Receiver TR-3 HF Transceiver
- > MSR-2 Marine Receiver TR-4 HF Transceiver

If any of these Items are received here, they will be returned to the sender unrepaired along with a bill for shipping, handling, COD fees if applicable, and a new carton if needed for safe reshipment. Please note that, although we do not have some of the unique parts needed to service the above products, we may still have the part you need if you choose to service it yourself. Contact our Service Department by E-mail for information concerning specific parts, and see a partial listing of available items by clicking on parts.

>About all I can say is: Buyer Beware. Unless you can fix 'em yourself or know someone who does, you better make sure they work properly before you buy them...because the factory isn't the game any longer...  
(John "John Berenyi" <jberenyi@parker.com)

### **"Radio Swan"**

Those of you as old as I am may remember hearing the mysterious, anti-castro "Radio Swan" back in the 1960s. There was much speculation in the SWL press at the time about this station... its location and actual ownership were hotly debated. The concensus emerged that it had been built by the CIA to support the Bay of Pigs invasion effort but they, of course, said nothing.

About 20 or 25 years ago, the CIA official who ran the propaganda effort for the Bay of Pigs invasion, David Atlee Phillips, published his memoirs in his book entitled "The Night Watch." He indicated that he had been responsible

for Radio Swan and gave many details about its construction and operation.

Having my interest "sparked" by Phillips' book, I began accumulating all of the oral history of Radio Swan that I could find by talking to several radio engineers of my acquaintance who worked for the government during this period. I never published any of it, out of respect for the fact that the CIA had never officially acknowledged their involvement.

Within the last couple of years, formerly secret government documents detailing the CIA's ownership of Radio Swan have been released under the FOIA. Those interested in reading more about it might like to look at:

<http://www.parascope.com/articles/1296/baydocs.htm>

Now that the CIA's involvement in Radio Swan has been officially acknowledged, I'll pass along what I know. The following is from a posting that I made to the group alt.talk.weather a couple of weeks ago when the subject of the radio history of Swan Island came up in the context of hurricane Mitch bearing down on it:

The first people to live on Swan Island, to my knowledge, were radio operators for the United Fruit Company when they had a radio relay station there early in this century. It was claimed as US territory then. The United Fruit Company needed a relay station halfway between the mainland USA and Central America, where they had plantations growing bananas and pineapples and such, to pass radio messages using the technology of the day, Morse code.

One interesting fact is that the development of triangular cross-section radio towers, such as are used almost exclusively today, followed the work of structural engineers who investigated the failure of the old square towers at the United Fruit Company station after a hurricane hit Swan Island in 1916.

Their investigation was the subject of a paper that was published in the peer-review "Proceedings of the Institute of Radio Engineers" in February, 1924. They concluded that triangular towers would have stood up to the winds better than the square towers did, for a given total amount of steel..

The United Fruit Company abandoned the island decades ago, but it has been used by others since. The FAA had a weather/communications facility there as late as the 1970s, but I'm not sure whether or not the USA has had anything there recently.

The CIA radio station operated there from 1960 until 1968. During that time, there was a dispute over whether Swan Island belonged to the USA or Honduras. Some time after the CIA radio station closed down operations, the USA gave up its claim to the island. It now belongs to Honduras.

The CIA radio station is a real interesting piece of cold war history for radio buffs. To help shape public opinion in Cuba before the Bay of Pigs invasion and to provide coded operational communications for the effort, the CIA built the AM station which operated on 1160 kHz with a 50 kilowatt transmitter and a two-tower directional antenna to cut down the signal radiated toward the US station on the same channel, KSL in Salt Lake City, while "beaming" the signal into Cuba. There was also a shortwave transmitter that operated on 6.000 mHz with 7.5 kilowatts.

The station was operated by a company called the Gibraltar Steamship Company.... it didn't own a single steamship but was a "front" corporation that was in the CIA's portfolio when they needed to set up the operation. The station was ostensibly a commercial operation and was at different times known as "Radio Swan" and "Radio Americas." It ran mostly spanish language programming. It's business office was in Miami.

The radio transmitting equipment employed by Radio Swan had an interesting history. It was originally constructed in the early 1950s for Radio Free Europe, which was a CIA operation at the time, and placed in service at a station near the Czechoslovakian border in Cham, Germany. The cold war was just getting underway at that time and so was the practice of broadcast jamming. The CIA learned an early lesson about jamming at Cham. The communists put up a transmitter on the same frequency just across the border from the Cham station and both signals were subject to the same skywave fading influences so the Radio Free Europe signal was totally jammed by the soviet jammer. They learned that, when they put the transmitters farther away from the "iron curtain," they could take advantage of differing skywave propagation for the two signals so that listeners could differentiate between the broadcasts and the jammer noise much of the time.

The Cham station was closed and the equipment was surplus when the need came to construct the Swan Island station, so it was moved there. The Swan Island radio station was built in a record 30 days. Navy SeaBees had to build a dock there for the ship carrying the equipment from Germany almost overnight. The station was very effective in penetrating Cuba with its broadcasts.

Since Swan Island is no longer considered US territory, I doubt that the USA had anyone there unless they were advisors to Honduras. I suspect that the Honduran military probably maintained some sort of outpost on Swan Island, but I have no personal knowledge about recent goings on there.

(Ron Rackley, Sarasota, Florida)

73/TN