

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1557. 20 februari 2005.

Deadline nästa nr: 4/3 2005 (E mail 6/3 kl. 0900 SNT)

Några stycken har ännu inte betalt medlemsavgift. Detta blir det sista numret som skickas ut till berörda.

Det hittills bara 4 st som vill ha bulle via snail-mail.

Vi får väl se när ytterligare ett år gått vad som finns kvar av den traditionella KV-lyssningen. Det finns ju trots allt en hel del trevligt att läsa på olika ställe på Internet och förhoppningsvis skall väl trots allt medlemmarna kunna bidra med ett och annat om antenner och mottagare som kan ge lite input till vår hobby.

I övrigt händer det inte så mycket just nu annat än på väderfronten. Förra helgen kom det en hel del blötsnö och förvärrade ytterligare den trista situationen i de sysdsvenska skogarna. Fortfarande är det mesta bara reparerat hjälpligt och ett stort antal elkunder blev igen utan el i flera dagar.

Keep on

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SWB-info

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

Dateline Bogotá: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/Dateline.htm>

SWB hot stuff: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/> (på denna sajt ligger alltid senaste SWB).

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

Jubileumstidskriften: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/> (html- + pdf-version).

MEDLEMSAVGIFT 2005 (membership fee 2005):

Medlemsavgiften för 2005 är SEK 75:- för internetbulle och SEK 250:- för pappersbulle. För utländsk medlem, som betalar direkt via postgirot, tillkommer SEK 30:- för att täcka den avgift postgirot tar ut. Betalning till Bengt Dalhammar, postgirokonto 51 84 47 - 8. Betalda senast 31/1 2005.

Membership fee for 2005 is SEK 75:- for internet version and SEK 250:- for paper version. Payment to postal account 51 8447- 8. Add SEK 30:- to cover postal costs. (Foreign members please contact the editor regarding other ways to pay.)

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Ivonne Eliasson: Lite tips i sena stund men en klassfest blev lite sen i natt. Min radio har lagt av, dvs ljudet och signal bara försvann, ändå är radion på. Det är inget med antennen som är fel så jag vet inte vad det kan vara. En kille i stan skall kolla på den annars får den väl skickas till Karlstad.

Jan Edh: Tyvärr är det en helsvart period vad gäller lyssning igen. När det passerat mig har inget tytt på att det funnits "något" att lyssna på. När det möjligen varit något till konditioner har det å andra sidan inte alls passerat mig... Det skulle möjligen kunna bli några timmar på lördagsnatten, men med prognos om "major storm", så tror jag knappast på någon lyssning då heller. Jag kan dock glädja mig åt att det trots allt kommer QSL fortfarande, t o m från den "döda" kortvågen: **Radio LTC, Juliaca 6011**. Brev (nytt svar, ett första redan för ett par år sedan) via Carlos Gamarra Moscoso. V/s Juana Rodriguez de Torres, administrador. **Radio Tawantinsuyo, Cusco 6173,8**. Brev via Carlos Gamarra Moscoso. V/s Claudia Montesines, secretaria. **Radio Melodia, Arequipa, 5940**. Brev, vykort, klistermärke för FM-stationen. V/s Elba Alvares de Delgado, manager.

Lennart Weirell: Från Västerås kan meddelas att Aros DX Club fyllde 20 år den 10:e februari och som ett led i firandet så anordnades en mini-utställning i Västerås Stadsbiblioteket under 10 dagar. Vi disponerade 2 glasmontrar, varav den ena visade lite DX-utrustning (apparater, handböcker och tidningar) och den andra visade QSL från olika delar av världen. Vi hade också gratisinformation i form av den nya DX-GUIDEN samt foldern Vad är DX-ing? och ADXC's Jubileumsfolder. 45 ex av DX-GUIDEN, 30 ex av Vad är DX-ing? och 26 ex av ADXC's Jubileumsfolder plockade besökarna på sig, vilket jag tolkar som att det fortfarande finns visst hopp för hobbyn. Får nu se om någon hör av sig också. Firandet fortsätter i samband med årsmötet i mars. Ett QSL att rapportera: **EMR - 9290**, e-mail med Word-fil efter 1 v.

Björn Fransson: Hej igen! Trots att jag varit hemma över en vecka och vårdat en svår förkylning har jag inte så mycket att komma med i tips- eller QSL-väg. Jag har haft tid att lyssna, men lusten har ramlat bort, när jag satt mig vid radion och konstaterat att det inte hörs särskilt mycket. Det var litet Asienkonditioner några dagar, vilket gör att jag i alla fall bidrar med någonting. Ja, det blev ju en del i alla fall!

QSL: HCJB via Wooferton, UK-3955. Det tristaste special-QSL jag någonsin sett från Rhein-Main-Radio-Club e.V. Det var ett digitalfoto av ordföranden Harald Gabler - utan någon som helst radioanknytning. Programmet var inte mycket roligare, det! 5 v. **Voice of Russia via Dushanbé, Tajikistan-4965/4975.** Kul QSL-kort, pers brev från v/s: Olga Troshina, schema. 2 m. **Radio Malaysia, italiensk (?) pirat-6310,1.** Snyggt QSL-kort, brev, v/s: V. Mowly, dekal. 1 m.

Kenneth Olofsson: inga loggningar av intresse denna gång, bara MarfilStereo igen. Jag har ett nödrop. Finns det någon i SWB/ARC som har en oanvänd, fungerande casette-bandspelare, typ Philips eller liknande??????? Eventuellt kanske man får köpa sig något nytt och modernt. Jag använder bandspelaren som förstärkare till min SONY FM-mottagare.

Dan Olsson: Här kommer en hälsning ifrån ett vintrigt Kävlinge. Ikväll ska jag och några andra ut i Saxtorp för att lyssna och reparera en antenn som inte är helt OK. Två kortvågsQSL har kommit på sistone: **R Malaysia 6310** med kort, brev och dekal samt **6239 R Black Bird** med e-mail. När jag hörde Black Bird sände med 25 w.

Leif Råhäll: Hoppas att allt är ok. Här kommer lite blandat, ibland går det riktigt bra och ibland inte alls, så är det bara. Vissa dagar är värdena riktigt bra, och då gäller det att vara med. Till hösten och vintern så är vi väl vid minima. Det var allt för denna gång, Ha det så bra!!

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

2310	9.2	2040	VL8A Alice Springs med engelsk og to studieværter, som morede sig ganske kosteligt. Hørtes // med 2325 kHz Tennant Creek. 22222 BV
3223	17.1	1530	AIR Shimla med nyheter. IE
3255	29.1	2250	R. Educadora 6 de Agosto med id ,musik och sport IE
3390	14.2	1630	AIR/Gangtok igen, men väldigt svagt och // 4900 under EE-nyheterna. S 2-3. BEFF
3905,0	14.2	1950	PNG R.New Ireland med romantiska folksånger 2 LRH
3970,55	5.2	1545	KRE KCBS Wonsan , med trad.folkmusik med song av YL // 2850 1-2 LRH
3976	14.2	1510	RRI/Pontianak med typisk musik. S 3, men dålig modulation. BEFF
4387	29.1	2327	Imperia Radio Peru med musik och id IE
4484.7	29.1	2345	Frecuencia Celedin Peru med id och musik IE
4605,0	1.2	2007	INS RRI Serui med populära sånger 2-3 LRH
4605,0	16.2	2030	INS RRI Serui inhemsk schlager mx 3 LRH
4739,8	14.2	1337	VTN Son La med tribehill mx 2 LRH
4745	30.1	0014	R Huanta 2000 Peru med musik och id IE
4760,0	5.2	2022	LBR ELWA , Monrovia med predikan 2 LRH
4785,0	5.2	1450	CHN Nei Minggu PBS ,Hothot med nat.mx och tk 2-3 LRH
4790,0	5.2	2012	INS RRI Fak Fak med pop mx 2-3 LRH
4790,0	16.2	2010	INS RRI Fak Fak med pop.mx och vilken styrka sen 3-4 LRH
4810	5.2	0700	XERTA Mexico med ett kristet program. Gick bra till min radio lade av. IE
4830,0	5.2	1415	CHN China Huayi BC ,Chengdu (T) kinesisk folk mx 2-3 LRH
4890	1.2	2030	Papua New Guinea hördes svagt med musik IE
4910	14.2	1800	Radio, Zambia med engelska nyheter och sedan fin afrikansk musik. S 3-4. BEFF
4925	14.2	1520	RRI/Jambi gick verkligen "kanon!". S 4 och mycket tjusig musik. BEFF
4990	14.2	1525	AIR/Itanagar hördes för en gång skull riktigt skapligt, men bara med LSB-knappen intryckt. Annars var det RTTY för hela slanten. S 3 och kinesen långt bakom. BEFF
4995		2312	Radio Andina med id och musik IE
5019,9	1.2	1533	SLM Honiara med BBC WS 2-3 LRH
5040,4	4.2	1510	BRM Yangon tk 3 LRH
5256	15.2	1050	Belarussko Radio via någon armésändare hördes mycket bra med musik och prat. S 3-4. BEFF
5910	13.2		Marfill Estero 88.8 med härlig musik. Q 2-4 DO
5910,4	7.2	2250	Marfil Stereo , Colombia bra innan Ukraina startar. KO
5910,46	9.2	0656	Marfil Estereo går bra varje morgon på min lilla stump till antenn. Just nu spelar man Abba som omväxling till den traditionella musiken. AHK
5910.46	6.2	0720	Marfil Estéreo hördes svagt i bruset med diverse colombiansk musik och korta annonseringar. 2 CB
5920	6.12	0700	FBN (Fundamental Bc Network) via WBOH med ID och webadress. S 3-4. BEFF
5940	30.1	2324	Radio Bethan Peru med id och musik IE
7260,13	9.2	0700	VUT Vanuatu med intervallsignalen sen nx 1-2 med QRM (första gången i år jag hört den) LRH
7590	10.2	1715	Voice of Oromo Liberation via TDP, oromo, flere IDs, ann., snak om demokrati, s/off kl. 1730. 32322 BV
7598L	11.2	0900	OID italienare , men troligen en italiensk armésändare, som snarare lät som om amatörer språkade med varandra. Angav en massa koordinater. S 1-3. BEFF
7598U	10.2	1000	Dagen innan pratades det franska på exakt samma frekvens och i USB, men jag misstänker en överton eller liknande. Diskuterade Pascál! Är det någon som har en liten aning om vad dessa båda kan vara? S 2 BEFF
9665	16.2	0510	Rádio Nacional do Brasil med nyhetsprogrammet "Reporter Nacional" följt av "Sons da Amazônia" där man bl a diskuterade guaraniindianernas problem i Mato Grosso do Sul. En intervjuad expert var missnöjd med pingstkyrkans verksamhet bland indianerna. 3-4 CB
9800	11.2	1700	Leading the Way med religiöst program från Bibeln på farsi! Adress I USA och sändaren I Tyskland (tror jag). S 3-4. BEFF
11585	10.2	1530	AIR til Andamanerne og angiveligt med relæ af den lokale FM-station Rainbow Radio, meget indisk musik, ann. og spots. 34333 BV
11735	6.2	1930	Rádio Transmundial , Santa Maria, RS ??? Religiöst på portugisiska (men inget ID). Stängde helt plötsligt 19.40. Tydligt sänder de inte kvällstid trots att detta anges på hemsidan transmundial.com.br. 2-3 CB
11765	14.2	0815	KNLS nu tillbaka på 25 meter. Vid denna tid inslaget "America's Last Frontier". 3 CB
11810	18.2	1615	Minivan Radio via DTK (Tyskland), vernacular, ann., reggae-inspireret musik, flere IDs - også lige før s/off kl. 1700. 33333 BV
12085	18.2	1600	The Arab Radio med s/on med IDs på arabisk, Koran-bøn i flere omgange, hørtes // med 7470 kHz (noget svagere modtagelse). 44444 BV
15190	18.2	0630	Radio Africa (förmodat) med religiösa program till efter 08.00. Jag hörde inget ID men å andra sidan lyssnade jag inte hela tiden. Vid den här tiden Christ Gospel Broadcast. Varierande styrka men störingsfri. 2-3 CB
15250	11.2	0915	Fu Hsing BS på Taiwan hade ett omväxlande program, men förstås totalt obegripligt. S 3-4. BEFF

The following is a summary of some observations in Kenya in January and February 2005:

CONGO (DR) Candip 5066, Kahuzi 6210 and Okapi 9550 all heard. Neither Bukavu 6713 nor Lubumbashi 7435 heard. Also, no sign of the new station reportedly on 4845.

DJIBOUTI. No sign yet of reactivated 4780 (but well worth watching as reports say that it may be on the air as early as next month).

ERITREA. 7100 and 7180 both active.

ETHIOPIA. **Radio Ethiopia domestic service:** 5990, 7110 and 9704 all confirmed active. However, 7110 and 9704 observed to be irregular at times. This didn't used to be the case. Furthermore, the 5990 transmitter, formerly right on-channel, now varies. It is a pity that of the three transmitters, the one likely to propagate best outside the region (9704), has the worst audio, sometimes very poor (low/very low modulation and a hum).

Radio Ethiopia external service: 7165 and 9560 confirmed active but with variable frequency, as usual. From a country with such a distinctive indigenous musical heritage, it is sad to hear hip-hop being played on this service.

Note: Although R. Ethiopia's transmitters can be irregular in operation, they were heard (at times) with all five on the air simultaneously. With the stations below, this means that Ethiopia still has nine working SW transmitters - quite impressive these days.

Radio Fana: 6210 and 6940 both active and heard well. Catch that beautiful interval signal if you can.

Voice of Tigray Revolution: 5500 and 6350 both active and heard nicely.

KENYA. 4915 is active, albeit irregular (as already reported). Despite these problems, the transmitter appears to be running the full 10kW, but with rather rough audio (probably overmodulated). At a listening post on the Kenya/Uganda border (much closer to Kampala than Nairobi), 4915 was much stronger than either 4976 or 5026.

MADAGASCAR. 3288, 5010, 6135, 7105 and 9689 all active, but can be irregular.

MALAWI. Nothing at all heard of listed TWR on 4870.

RWANDA. 6055 active.

SOMALIA. Radio Shabeelle 6960 and Radio Galkacyo 6980 both heard.

SUDAN. **Omdurman** 7200 and **Radio Peace** 4750 both active. 4750 noticeably stronger than last year. No sign of Radio Peace on 5895 (note: 5895 is occupied in the local evening by unlisted - in WRTH and PWBR - Moscow in Persian).

Mediumwave: I was delighted to hear Radio Juba reactivated on its former frequency of 693, not on new 810 as I was advised last year that it might be on. Heard with good signals on 693 in the evening with English music request programme and news in English at 1800.

Clandestines: As already reported, 8000 heard, 6985 not heard.

TANZANIA. 5050 and 6105 both active (but 6105 only on air at 0645-1315 approx, so only likely to be heard within the region). 5050 was a little irregular in operation. I can't confirm suggestions that 5050 has increased power - sounded about right for 10kW, unlikely to be much more.

Zanzibar: Neither 6015 nor 11734 heard. Not active on SW at present, I suspect.

UGANDA. 4976, 5026, 7110 and 7195 all active. As has been the case for some time, transmissions can be irregular. I suspect that neither transmitter has been running at the full listed 10kW for several years. The transmitter on 4976/7195 is noticeably weaker than that on 5026/7110 and is poorly modulated.

ZAMBIA. ZNBC 4910, 5915 and 6165 all heard well.

ZIMBABWE. 3306 heard.

End (Chris Greenway, UK. via HCDX)



Bandscan from BM, Quito, Ecuador

Björn Malm, c/o Susana Garcés de Malm,
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Rx: JRC-535, Loewe HF-150, Sangean AT5-808 Antenn: 12 m lw Ö/V, 24 m lw N/S + Lw Magnetic Balun + MFJ1025 phaser

The following stations have been uploaded during the last 14 days at <http://www.malm-ecuador.com>

Recording of **4865.05 kHz R. Verdes Florestas**, Cruzeiro do Sul. This ID site has not been updated the last week - we are moving up to new built 2nd and 3rd floor (where my radioshack now is). R. Verdes Florestas is a religious, catholic station and is dominating the frequency here in Quito.

Recording of **6139.77 kHz Radio Líder**, Bogotá. Radio Líder is the new name for "Radio Melodía", Bogotá. "Cadena Melodía" also has a FM transmitter 96.9 MHz "Melodía FM Estéreo".



Saludos Cordiales desde "La Mitad del Mundo"!

(When using my information give credit to: Bjorn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, SWB América Latina)

Stationsnyheter

COLOMBIA. Marfil Estéreo: I heard it on 6 Feb, too! 0645 UT, frequency was approximately 5910.5 kHz. Spanish-language songs, comments by male voice. SINPO 34433 (decreased to 24432 by 0700). WRTH says it is LV de tu Conciencia, Lomalindo. What amount of power is used, I wonder? At the same time carrier on 5912 kHz was observed, modulated in some digital mode for a while. Don't forget that Radio Ukraine Intl also uses 5910 kHz at 0000-0500, but we are becoming more and more disappointed with this frequency choice. It's possible that RUI will replace it with 7440 kHz in March (open_dx - Alexander Yegorov, Kyiv, Ukraine, Signal via DXLD)

CONGO DR. Candip 5066, Kahuzi 6210 and Okapi 9550 all heard. Neither Bukavu 6713 nor Lubumbashi 7435 heard. Also, no sign of the new station reportedly on 4845 (Chris Greenway, Jan-Feb observations from Nairobi, Kenya, dxldyg via DXLD)

GREENLAND. Dear Glenn, I've just received DXLD 5-030 and I noted with surprise the discussion on our (we were three that night at our DX-location in the lagoon between Venice and Trieste) listening of Greenland on 3815.

First of all we used a beverage antenna of 450 meters beamed 330 ; this is one of the five beverages we put on every time we are there. Then we have a digital tape (I can send it if you want) made with a minidisk and before writing the log we sent the recording to my friend Anker Petersen in Denmark, well known DXer and DSWCI chairman, to have a confirm that what we heard was really a talk in Danish. Anker gave us the confirm and more infos, too.

Then the news was published on Radiascolto.org by the webmaster Renato Bruni, but no one wrote that Greenland was heard in Italy for the first time, but just, as supposed by Anker Petersen, that it was the first time that it was heard on 3815! A little bit of difference, if anyone wants to read the facts as they really are! Best 73! (Alessandro Gropazzi, Feb 18, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

PORTUGAL. RDP, Lissabon, testar kommande lördag och söndag kl 2100-2400 på 9615. Hur hörs signalen i norra Europa undrar man. Rapporter mottas tacksamt av isabelsaraiva@rdp.pt Stationen svarar inte bara med kort nuförtiden utan också med diverse presenter. Så det kan alltså löna sig att kolla på söndagskvällen då väl bullen ligger ute i allas nätbrevlådor (HK)

TAIWAN. Fu Hsing Broadcasting Service, Taipei is now broadcasting their "3rd program" in Chinese on shortwave. The frequency is **15250 kHz**. According to research by Shigeyuki Aoki of NDXC, the schedules are 2300-0100, 0400-0600, 0800-1000, 1300-1500. There is no mention about this shortwave broadcast in their web site <http://www.fhbs.com.tw> but the shortwave program contents are the same as their online "3rd program" broadcast (MS Media Player format) provided in the web. The shortwave broadcast is 1 second ahead of webcast! Probably for Chinese mainland, but China does not jam this broadcast (Takahito Akabayashi, Tokyo, Japan, Feb 6, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

TINIAN. Dear Glenn: It has been some time since I have been in contact with you since the early days of NASWA. I am now the (contract) Station Engineer for the **IBB Tinian and Saipan** stations here in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The reason I am writing you concerns the tiny blurb on Tinian in the February 17th edition of DX Listener's Digest by one Olle Alm, who made some very incorrect observations and disparaging comments concerning our contract operation of these stations.

A bit of background about myself: I have survived (and "survived" is a pretty good word for it) over 35 years of shortwave and medium wave dx'ing and have been in the broadcast and related fields as an engineer for about the last 25 years. I frankly admit that I do not know Mr. Alm's qualifications, but as the "person-on-the-scene," I can tell you the following:

1. The incidents Mr. Alm refers to, such as spurious signals, were known to us and came from our PTS synthesizer which has since been repaired. Unfortunately, they were only +/- about 3.5 kHz as the High Q tuning of our Continental 419F transmitters would have precluded spurs over 30 kHz away, so I have no idea of what Mr. Alm heard, but he might want to have an alignment check done on his receiver.

2. Mr. Alm is incorrect about two transmitters being on the air at the same frequency and time. Due to our station's configuration and the fact that it is automated, the computer programming precludes this. What Mr. Alm heard was a secondary audio feed with a delay, patched into the existing transmitter by an operator due to an emergency schedule change because of proof of performance testing on two new low band antennas. Mr. Alm's assertions about two transmitters being on the air are completely erroneous and add little to his credibility.

As you can see, the entire issue was that of a delayed secondary audio patched into the transmitter, not of multiple transmitters. Perhaps it may have sounded like that to Mr. Alm, and maybe that is what he based his observations upon.

Lastly, the comments by Mr. Alm at the end of his observation that "apparently the BBG badly needs a new operator to take care of things," were extremely unprofessional even for a SWL, and I am dismayed that you saw fit to reprint them. Rome Research Corporation has many years of operation of government communications facilities at all power levels from LF through satellite, and we have always won and re-won contracts by honesty, integrity, good value and professionalism. Mr. Alm is correct that the contract is up for re-bid, however we fully intend to re-win the contract and continue our present high standard level of operation.

It may interest you to know that we have recently finalized proof-of-performance testing on two new TCI low-band antennas, boresighted at 270 and 305 degrees. They should be worked into our schedule upon acceptance by the government.

With warm regards, (Al Muick, BSEE CBRE MCSE, Station Engineer, Rome Research Corporation, IBB CNMI, Tel: 670-234-5080, Fax: 670-234-5079, PO Box 771, Tinian, MP 96952, Feb 20, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

VANUATU. Fred Vurobaravu - Vanuatu Daily Post Friday, February 11, 2005

The management of the **Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation** has announced the resurrection of its short wave transmitter, which was fired up 4pm last Tuesday. The people around the country who receive Radio Vanuatu services through the short wave frequency can now hear the station again on 7260 KHz.

Prime Minister and Minister responsible for media Ham Lini specially acknowledged the commitment and dedication of Radio Vanuatu senior technician Willie Daniel with the technical support of the consultant Hendrick Kettner to overcome the defaulted radio transmission wave link. The transmitter went down during the week of Christmas. For seven weeks VBTC technicians, led by Acting Technician Manager Daniel, sweated to revive the transmitter.

Midway through January, Kettner was brought in to assist. At the same time spare parts supplied by Radio Australia boosted their repair efforts. Mr Kettner said the problem was a series of faults in many areas of the transmitter, which took them time to identify and rectify. He said the final answer to the puzzle was located Tuesday morning. In the afternoon it was fixed and at 4 pm the transmitter was successfully fired up.

The management has decided to allow the transmitter to run for a few weeks before work begins to fix the faulty component for switching from the daytime frequency of 7260 KHz to the night time frequency of 3940 KHz.

For now listeners in some parts of the country will experience loss of signal starting from 5 pm to 7 am the next day. But during the day, the signal should be clear.

The prime minister's office also thanked Rod Newel for the provision of the services of his company the Renere Tech Ltd to VBTC when the short wave transmission was down for the last few months.

Radio reception in the islands is heavily reliant on the transmitter functioning well. The President of the Republic of Vanuatu Kalkot Mataskelekele has made repeated calls to have the radio transmissions in the islands reopened so that people can have access to news, information and entertainment.

<http://www.news.vu/en/news/national/050211-technicians-repair-radio.shtml> (Mike Terry via HCDX)

Övriga radionyheter

SHORTWAVE DX HANDBOOK

Last week we mentioned that the highly successful "Kurzwellen DX- Handbuch" by Enrico Stumpf-Siering, DL2VFR, originally published in German in June 2003, is now available in English. Several have asked "Where can I get the book?". We recommend checking out the following Web page at: <http://www.darcverlag.de>. Also, contact Harry Radke, DB2HR, via: verlag@darcverlag.de Or DARC Verlag GmbH, Lindenallee 6, 34225 Baunatal, Germany Tel. (05 61) 9 49 88-73 Fax (05 61) 9 49 88-55 (KB8NW/OPDX/BARF80 Feb 21 via Dave Raycroft, ODXA via DXLD)

Does it go beyond ham radio?? (gh, DXLD)

For One and All, All are WELCOME and "Invited to Join" the Loop Antenna News and Information Forum on YAHOO! This is the Loop Antenna Group to Ask Your Questions, Get Answers and Information about Loop Antennas for improved your Radio Listening and Enjoyment. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/loopantennas/>

- This is your "HOW TO" Loop Antenna Forum to : Get Information, Plan, Design and Build Loop Antennas for both Radio Reception and Transmission. <http://photos.groups.yahoo.com/group/loopantennas/lst>
- Loop antennas are used to reduce interference or can be used as compact antennas or for radio direction finding (RDF). <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/loopantennas/files/>
- Post Your Question Here! To Get Needed Information and Opinions about a Commercial "Ready-Made" Loop Antenna or help with a home-made loop. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/loopantennas/links>
- Discussion of this Group is focused on the subject of Loop Antennas. All types of Loop Antennas including Ferrite Rod Loop Antennas; Air-Core Loop Antennas, Shielded Coax Cable Loop Antennas; all types of loop antennas. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/loopantennas/>
- Loop Antennas for All Bands : VLF, LF, MF, HF, VHF, UHF, SHF etc. Longwave, Medium Wave (AM/MW/BCB), Shortwave and more. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/loopantennas/>
- The Loop Antenna Group is here for you to : Post Messages, Links, Photo/Images, Files, etc. Please write a good description of Photos, Files and Links when you post them to share with other members of the Group. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/loopantennas/>

and now you know - loopy loopy lou ~ (RHF via rec.radio.shortwave)

THE 160 METER BAND

You would think that with the 160-meter band relatively close in frequency to the 80-meter band that the two would exhibit very similar propagation characteristics. Truth be told, they are worlds apart. The 160-meter band: an enigma shrouded in mystery, say Cary Oler of the Solar Terrestrial Dispatch and Ted Kohen, N4XX.

The propagation characteristics of the 160-meter band (1800-2000 kHz) have puzzled both amateur and professional communicators for decades. While located not far below the 80 and 75 meter bands (3500-4000 kHz), predicting propagation on Topband, as it is affectionately called, has been an exercise in futility, they say. For example, John Devoldere, ON4UN, in his book Antennas and Techniques for Low-Band DXing notes that... ``The more I have been active on 160, the more I am convinced on how little we know about propagation on that band.``

Signals in the 160-meter band are most strongly affected by changes in the electron density of the ionosphere's D-region. During the day, the D-region is strongly ionized, and so, it is the major source of absorption on 160 meters. During the night, the density of the D-layer drops dramatically (though it does not disappear completely); this results in a corresponding drop in signal absorption. Small increases in electron density at low frequencies produce large changes in signal absorption. When conditions on the 160-meter band are so good that you momentarily believe you are listening to a good opening on the 20-meter band, what may in fact have produced these extraordinary good conditions were unusually large depletions in electron density in the D-region. Just what can cause such large drops in D-layer electron density is still not well understood by the ionospheric scientific community.

It is very interesting to note that 160-meter signal strengths are very difficult to correlate with solar activity, assert Cohen and Devoldere. The correlation between sunspot numbers and signal strength is only about 5% as strong as the correlation on higher frequencies, or often signal strengths of 160-meter signals completely disregard sunspot numbers or solar flux levels.

A considerable number of DX openings on Topband over distances greater than 4,000 km may owe their occurrence to a phenomenon known as Signal Ducting. A ball thrown into a narrow tunnel will bounce around the walls of the tunnel while maintaining its general direction of travel. In essence, it is ``ducted`` through the tunnel. Similarly, a radio signal that is ``shot`` into an ionospheric ``tunnel`` will duct between the walls of the tunnel until the walls either disappear or become weak enough to permit the signal to break through. The walls of an ionospheric tunnel are the edges of the ionospheric layers, say Oler and Cohen.

The winter season is the right time for Topband DXing! (DX Editor: Dimiter Petrov, LZ1AF, R. Bulgaria DX program Feb 11 via John Norfolk, dxldyg via DXLD)

This also applies to top end of the MWBC band -1700. (DF5AI via ARNewsline February 11 via John Norfolk, dxldyg via DXLD)

THUNDERSTORM EFFECTS ON 144 MHz SPORADIC E PROPAGATION

Do thunderstorm create sporadic E propagation in VHF? Some say yes and others say no. Now, an international team of radio amateurs has studied this subject in detail by analyzing scientific results and QSO data compiled during the 2004 sporadic E season. In a detailed paper, DL1DBC, PE1NWL, DK5YA, EA6VQ, DL8HCZ and DF5AI discuss a possible model of thunderstorm-triggered sporadic E propagation on very high frequencies. The paper will appear in the spring issue of the Dubus magazine. More about it and the topic is on line at <http://www.df5ai.net> (DF5AI via ARNewsline February 11 via John Norfolk, dxldyg via DXLD) ###

Sales of DAB digital radios

Sales of DAB digital radios in December exceeded expectations and pushed the cumulative total of products in UK homes past the one million mark, says the DRDB (Digital Radio Development Bureau).

Preliminary figures from electronics industry auditor GfK indicate cumulative sales through 2004 easily met the one million target set by the DRDB at the beginning of the year, and are expected to surpass the 1.2 million forecast in its Five Year Forecast published in October. An official sell-through figure for December will be announced by the DRDB in February.

DRDB Chief Executive, Ian Dickens said: "The sales figures for 2004 are totally in line with expectations and, as such, add weight and confidence to the DRDB's Five Year Forecast for set sales. The forecast calls for a further 1.2 million DAB radios to be sold in 2005. Based on the volume of products we know is coming through this year, and an ever increasing consumer interest in DAB, we are confident this target can be met."

The gap between sales of analogue radios and DAB digital models is closing. One retailer reported Christmas sales of 30% DAB versus 70% analogue; up from 15% DAB versus 85% analogue over Christmas 2003.

radionewsletter@ukradio.com (Mike Terry via HCDX)

HF 150 measurements (rec.radio.shortwave)

I just got through characterizing this unit.

HF-150 MDS = .15uV across the entire tuning range. Not bad.

Overload point = 120mV.

Icom R75. MDS = .07 to .1uV across tuning range.

Overload point = 110mV

Palstar R30 MDS = .06 to .1uV across tuning range

Overload point = 500mV

KE9OA MW receiver (to be marketed someday) MDS = .1uV

Overload point = 100mV

I am beginning to think that many of the radio manufacturers are measuring their overload points using the hard measuring technique, whereby instead of hooking up the RF Generator directly to the antenna input of the Rx, they are first running the generator through a 50 Ohm through load (I do have some of these types of loads).

In my area of Northern Illinois, the HF150 did a good showing for itself, but the LW band did have some IM products from the local MW broadcasters. My AOR 7030, which also has a wide open front end, did not exhibit this symptom. This is the first time I actually had one of these Lowe units open. If they weren't going for those silly eBay prices, I would probably pick one up as an extra toy to have around. It seems that the last three units that my friends picked up had that blown first mixer problem. Now, this could be solved if an RF limiter diode were placed ahead of that SL6440. It looks like the input transformer does not have its primary returned to DC ground, instead, providing V+ for the preamp transistor.

Oh well.....some of these design problems show up when it is too late. Looking at the schematic, there are back to back diodes ahead of that preamp transistor. Now, why would they go through all of the trouble to protect that 25 cent transistor and not protect the expensive mixer? Beats me!!!!!!! (Pete KE9OA)

Most RF generators are calibrated to a 50 ohm load. This load must be resistive in order to actually "burn power" against the generators output source impedance. Not having this resistive load means the generator output will be higher than calibrated. The generator is probably designed to be 50 ohms so if you connected it to a 100 ohm resistor you would have something like two times the indicated swing of the generator. The front end of most radios are reactive and their resistive component is large so I expect that the best thing to do is use a 50 ohm resistor across the receivers input terminals. (Telamon Ventura, California)

Ferrite cores

I picked up some ferrite cores today and have been attaching them to power cords, computer cables and my coaxial feedline. I can report a definite reduction in noise. This is especially gratifying because ferrite cores aren't too expensive. Any advice about how to position these cores? Are they best placed close to the electrical outlet or close to the computer, receiver or device being used (or both)? Would appreciate your insights. (Thanks....Steve)

The first ones go on each end of your coax so RFI picked up on the shield isn't radiated to your antenna, or brought back into the radio. After that, if it's a device you think causes RFI, put them on the end of the wire just as it comes out from the case first, to kill the RFI before the wire can act like an antenna.

With things like incandescent lamps, if you're going to use one, put it near the outlet so any RFI that snuck into your power line from something you didn't track down yet doesn't get radiated by the power cord.

Think of the power cords as antennas for transmitting RFI. You want to choke it off as close to the transmitter as possible.

Hope this helps. (Mark S. Holden)

I have found that I get the most noise reduction by placing them as close to the RFI source as I can get. I have found a very good source for ferrite "beads", your local PC/TV repair shop. They often have lots of dead VGA monitors, keyboards, mice etc. Almost all of these have ferrite RFI suppression on the cables. I wangled permission to cut the cables with the big blobs of plastic off flush with the device. For the smaller items, mice, keyboards, older hand held parallel scanners etc, I had to agree to haul the "junk" off.

A little careful work with a sharp knife and you can extract the ferrite beads. They, for the most part, aren't the type that snap together, but I am willing to replace a few connectors to get some quite. Lots of RFI suppression for cheap. The few snap apart ferrite beads I got I used for keyboards, my VGA monitor and other hard to replace connectors. I found that palcing several (10) on the coax that carries my SW RF in I knocked the last RFI from the PC down to "yea it's there, but it isn't a problem".

/Terry)