SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1583. 19 februari 2006. Deadline nästa nr: 3/3 2006 (E mail 5/3 kl. 0900 SNT)

Som vanligt är det bara några få bidrag. Vi får väl se om det går att få ihop nån vettig bulle även denna gång.

Nu syns det verkligen att vi går mot ljusare tider. Vi har haft en lång vinter här nere. De flesta dagar har det varit minusgrader och det är först nu snötäcket börjar ge med sig.

Av info som kommit under veckan ser det ut som K&D skall producera en efterföljare till KWZ-30. Detta är kul för oss DX-are. De flesta andra producenter tar bort en efter en av sina mottagare och eventuellt bara utvecklar någon av sina amatörriggar. Förvisso är dessa apparater mycket bra på mottagarsidan, men priset är inte överkomligt för gemene man.

För övrigt väntar vi på exp. rapporter för de som lyssnat MV – blir intressant läsning.

Keep on ....
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SWB-info

SWB online på HCDX: http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb
Dateline Bogotá: http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/Dateline.htm
SWB hot stuff: http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/ (på denna sajt ligger alltid senaste SWB).
SWB member information: http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/member.htm
Jubileumstidskriften: http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/ (html- + pdf-version).

MEDLEMSAVGIFT 2006 (membership fee 2006):
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. Medlemsavgifterna skall vara betalda senast 31/1 2004.
Membership fee for 2006 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.

Rolf Åhman: Årets första QSL blev ett kortvågsQSL, som också blev det första kortvågsQSLet på ett år. **Kyrgyz Radio, Bishkek-4010** svarade med ett kort och brev på engelska.

Jan Edh: Nu måste väl ändå konditionerna driva med oss DX-are?
Det tycks inte ens hjälpa att Jan Alvestad tog några av sina norska kolleger och drog på expedition. Trots att parametrarna tyder på att det ska vara kanon-DX så hörs det egentligen inget av värde.
Vad menas?
Kortvågen var som en öken med få oaser.
Runt midnatt de vanliga brassarna. Tidig morgon bara Verdad. 60 mb tomt så när som på VOA Sao Tomé! Inte ens Rebelde! Litet bättre framåt 9 då Faro del Caribe och La Voz de Evangelica gick väldigt bra igen Torsdagskvällen 9/2 började i och för sig hyfsat på mellanvågen när jag kom ut till Fredriksfors. Östkustarna började komma efter hand och i flera fall med fina styrkor och det ”bubblade” på de flesta frekvenser.
Men det blev inte så mycket mer. Vid 1-tiden tog jag (och Ronny Forslund som var uppe sedan två ganska misslyckade dagar) paus när signalerna började falna. Strax efter 5 sedan gick i princip inget så när som på några Venezuela. 7.30 var det litet bättre på gång, men det blev snabbt sämre igen och vid 8 fanns praktiskt taget inga signaler från andra sidan Atlanten. Vid 9 började sedan litet Colombia och några Venezuela gå igen och strax före 10 också några NA (östkust) men få och svagt.

14/2: Jag har varit ute i Fredriksfors i natt (13/2) faktiskt. Kortvågen försökte jag kolla av aktuella Peru- och Boliviafrekvenser på efter midnatt men bara antydan till signaler.
Mellanvågen mycket stationer, men ganska grötigt, starka européer, en hel del sprak och jag hade rätt svårt att få fram några brukbara signaler.
Det var också väldigt östligt ända fram till framemot 9-tiden, då det började svänga litet och blev till och med (svaga) signaler på västkustantennens vanligare stationer.
"Kvällen" var dålig med i stort sett bara NL-stationerna som dock i en del fall gick kanon (t ex VOWR 800).
Vid 04.30 var det betydligt mer stationer i gång, men så pass klena styrkor då att jag lade mig en stund till... Körde sedan från 06.30 till ungefär 10 då det bara var enstaka "fyrar" kvar i farten och väldigt mycket sprak. En av de sista jag hörde och låg kvar och pressade på en stund efter 9.30 var KCKK, Lakewood CO med country. Klart bättre än senast jag var ute i varje fall på mellanvågen och bättre än väntat.

Lars Skoglund: **China National Radio, Golmud 4800** med kort från Beijing.

Björn Fransson: Hej! I dessa OS-tider finns det inte mycket plats för DX-ing… Fast QSL kunde det ha fått droppa in ändå…
QSL: Voice of Korea, Pyongyang-9665. Är man nostalgiskt lagd kan dregla litet över det mycket gammalmodiga bruna kuvertet med maskinskriven adress och avsändare på. Innehåll: QSL-kort, stencil på engelska, propagandatidningen ”The Pyonyang News” + fyra almanackor, som ändrar färg, beroende på från vilket håll man ser på dem! Till sådant här finns det tydligen resurser!
HD210A, Instituto Oceanográfico, Armada del Ecuador-3810. Även det ett riktigt nostalgiskt kuvert, men av de possitiva slaget, försett med frimärken och fina stämplar! Innehållet var inte sämre: Brev med

underskrifter och stämplar, QSL-kort (oifyllt) och tryck information. Trevligt! **VMC, Charleville-6507** med email följt av ett riktigt brev från v/s Tony Baxter.

Christer Brunström: **ZYE440 Rádio Brasil Central 11815 kHz** med brev från Silvio José da Silva. Han inledde med "Expensive Gentleman" så engelska är kanske inte hans starka sida. **China National Radio 15540 kHz** med kort visande studiokomplexet i Beijing. Det jag rapporterade var CNR2 China Business Radio.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

2310	13.2	2100	**Australien** stark och fin (QSA 3-4). Däremot bara knappt läsbar på 2485. JE
4052,5	10.2	0445	**Radio Verdad** med kristen musik men svagt och sprakigt. Inte ens brassarna på 60 m gick dugligt. QSA 2. JE
4498.1	10.2	2235	**Radio Estambul**, Guayamerin med Mazdareklam och ID. S 2-3. BEFF
4746.8	10.2	2255	**Radio Huanta 2000** med andisnsk musik. Ej ID, men S 3-4! BEFF
4770	10.2	2150	**NBC, Kaduna** med engelskt ID. S 3. BEFF
4835	10.2	2130	**VL8A, Alice Springs** skapligt med intervjuer. S 3. BEFF
4855.6	10.2	2335	**Radio La Hora** med snack om cocoa. S 3. BEFF
5580.3	10.2	2305	**Radio San José** med boliviansk musik. Ej ID! S 2-3. BEFF
6185	14.2	0815	**Radio Educación** med klassisk musik. QSA3 JE
6878	10.2	2300	**Power FM** via en italiensk pirat, ”Radio Pirate Music”. S 3-4. BEFF
9505	10.2	1900	**Radio Omdurman** mycket stark med ID och nyhetsbulle. S 4. BEFF
9965	7.2	1055 - 1105	**Palau, T8BZ**, Koror with Christian px in Chinese (female announcer) and at TOH an ID read by male. "T8BZ (zed, not zee). To be sure I have listened to my recording of this id at least ten times. Best heard in LSB mode due to qrm from 9970 La Première, Belgium. SIO 344. This is my first logging of this station in 9 years, but of course I haven't made many attempts after I received a QSL in 1996. /Johan Berglund via HCDX
15344.68	5.2	2015	**Radio Nacional**, Buenos Aires med fotboll. Är som synes aningen "off frequency". 3 CB

BEFF har fyra OID-ade vid samma tid och med S 2-3:

4716.7	10.2	2220	**Radio Yura?** Snack !
4902.8	10.2	2220	**Radio San Miguel?** Snack!
4950	10.2	2220	**Radio Madre de Dios?** Snack !
4955	10.2	2220	**Radio Cultura Amauta?** Flöjtmusik.

Stationsnyheter

BOLIVIA: Radio Yura announces the following electronic address radioyura@hotmail.com and requests them to write to the same one. Perhaps be an opportunity to verify this radio station. (73s Nicolas Eramo via HCDX)

PALAU. Re 6-027: The regular schedule seems to be very limited: 15725: 0900-1000 Vietnamese, 15725: 1000-1100 English, 9965: 1000-1400 Chinese. The English program at 1000 is announced simply as "Gospel Radio", no mention about either KHBN or T8BZ. In the end these addresses were given: aprilchowradio @ hotmail.com --- CPO P.O. Box 6804, Hong Kong. 73, (Mauno Ritola, Finland, Feb 10, DXLD)

Hi Glenn and all, I found http://www.state.gov/r/rpa/ei/bgn/1840.htm among many other sites and it's from the US State Department. It explains a lot, but not exactly what the "Compact of Free Association with the United States" includes. This is the whole text [with my comments in brackets] : HISTORY [this is what interests me most]

Palau was initially settled more than 4,000 years ago, probably by migrants from what today is Indonesia. British traders became prominent visitors in the 18th century, followed by expanding Spanish influence in the 19th century. Following its defeat in the Spanish-American War, Spain sold Palau and most of the rest of the Caroline Islands to Germany in 1899. [I knew vaguely there was a Spanish-German connexion.] Control passed to Japan in 1914 [Japan sided with the entente cordiale between Britain, France and Russia in the First World War] and then to the United States under UN auspices in 1947 as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. [The United States conquered Palau in the Pacific War in September, 1944.]

Four of the Trust Territory districts formed a single federated Micronesian state in 1979, but the districts of Palau and the Marshall Islands declined to participate. Palau [formely also known as Belau] instead approved a new constitution and became the Republic of Palau in 1981, signing a Compact of Free Association with the United States in 1982. After eight [!] referenda and an amendment to the Palauan constitution, the Compact [agreement] went into effect on October 1, 1994, marking Palau's emergence from trusteeship to independence.

So far the web, which is fantastic, and really too much at times. Something, I really don't know what, sparked my interest. Now I rest satisfied with what I have learnt, so let's leave the matter.73/ (Johan Berglund, Trollhättan, Sweden, Feb 10, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Solomon Islands, 9543.30, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corp, 1124-1200 Noted typical music selections with comments from a woman between each tune.1147 woman gives ID as, "You are listening to the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, broadcasting from .... (missed)" The time is 13 minutes .. 11 o'clock ..." Audio was very muffled. At 1148 ADs presented. Noted this being reported on 9534 kHz the other day, but judging from what I am hear today, that freq was probably a typo and should have been 9543 instead. Signal here peaked around 1145 UTC to good, but still muffled. (Chuck Bolland, February 16, 2006 via HCDX)

VIETNAM 4739,75 R Son La -1400* with nice Vietnamese mx. Close down at 14 UTC. Signal strength S4 and overall reception poor to fair. Same time Voice of Vietnam, Xuan Mai was heard on 5925 kHz with pretty strong co-channel QRM by CNR 5, Taiwan Service. (Huuskonen Feb 10) (73, Jouko Huuskonen Turku FINLAND via HCDX)

Övriga radionyheter

ANALYSIS OF DX CONDITIONS UP TO END OF 2005

Many MW DXers realise that long distance DX over high latitudes depends fundamentally on the state of the 11 year solar cycle.
I have updated the chart showing how DX from North America received in the UK has varied over 20 + years. In the analysis I have examined the number of different stations reported by DXers at home (that rules out DX-peditions and Martin Hall at Clashmore) because that is what most of us will experience.
As you'll see from the graph the best DX years were 1986, 1997 and 200? It is clear that 2005 was unlikely to have been the peak. 2006 is the year of the forthcoming solar minimum and I would forecast that 2006 will be better than 2005 and I strongly feel that 2007 will be as good or better than 2006!
You'll see that 2005 was good year but there is some way to go to match 1997. 73 Steve Whitt, MWC via DXLD)
Graph shows 1997 the peak, 2002 the worst, and climbing every year since then but not yet up to the 1997 level (gh, DXLD) ###

KWZ30 pictures

Here are some pics of the KWZ30 provided by Jim G. showing some of the interior construction details and a shot of the outside. (dxAce Michigan USA via rec.radio.shortwave)

KWZ30 is menu driven. Each of the Function buttons can be assigned one of the menu commands.
The sub-menus are Mode, Bandwidth, AGC, Store, Recall, VFO1><VFO2, Setup, BFO, Passband tuning.
There are 14 bandwitdths available.
AGC rise, hang and decay times are adjustable also.
The Setup sub-menu allows you to adjust the Tuning parameters, Initialization menu, Language, and S meter delay.
Jim via rec.radio.shortwave

KWZ30-2

A reliable source (Kneisner) tells me that we can expect to see more information about the KWZ30-2 appear on their website (http://kd-elektronik.com/index_e.html) in a week or so. (Steve via rec.radio.shortwave)

(The following is quoted from from K&D website:)
10 years ago Kneisner + Doering has brought out the KWZ-30. It was the first DSP-receiver for amateurs worldwide.
Already at that time it was planned to build an improved successor. Finally now the development of a new receicer was started a half year ago. There will be a successor to the KWZ-30. The release date is still unknown, but we hope that we can present the receiver in 2006.
What can be improved in a device that can do everything? The main RF properties like intercept values, dynamic range and sensitivity

can hardly be improved substantially. Also the filters for the narrow band selection can not be improved.
What is remaining? At first it is the comfortable control which can be improved. The controls of the KWZ-30 were designbed very thrifty and the use was therefore partly complicated. On the other side there are now new components available which allow a different topology of the receiver with a higher performance. The technical equipment can be improved substantially. With this new performance level the receiver can also be used by professional users.

The Concept

Overview

The DSP-Receiver KWZ-30/2 is like its predecessor a receiver for the frequency range 10 kHz to 30 MHz (optional to 60 MHz) using digital signal processing.
It was predicted for a long time that the analog/digital converter moves closer to the antenna. This is the case too in the KWZ-30/2. The first intermediate frequency is 75 MHz as before. From there the signal is converted to 30 kHz using quadrature mixers. This second intermediate frequency is fed to the A/D-converters. Then follows the DSP-unit, which is equipped with a high performance DSP (32 bits).

The Controls

The controls of the KWZ-30/2 are much more comfortable than the controls of the predecessor, which intentionally were designed thrifty. The display is a colour display (quarter VGA) with a resolution of 320 x 240 pixels. On either side of the display are 5 programmable keys. So the current function of the key can be shown on the display. Besides the main encoder for the frequency tuning there are three more encoders with smaller resolution. One is dedicated for the volume control while the other two can be programmed for other functions. Of course there too is a key pad with the numerical block and other keys for the menue control and also for dedicated functions.

The Circuitry

The analog part of the set is a double conversion superhet with the first IF of 75 MHz and the second IF of 30 kHz. In front of the first mixer the signal is passed though a low pass filter, a switchable high pass filter and an amplifier/attenuator stage.
The conversion from the first IF to the second IF is performed using quadrature mixers which secures a high mirror frequency attenuation. The mixers are followed by two A/D-converters with a dynamic range of 120 dB. From the A/D-converters the signal is passed to the DSP. It is a 32-bit DSP from Analog Devices. So there is an almost unlimited dynamic range available for the signal processing. In the DSP the selection and demodulation of the signal is performed as well as the other processing like notch filter, noise reduction, squelch and others.
For the alimentation a switching power supply is used which accepts voltages from 90 to 240 Vac. With this unit no voltage selection is necessary worldwide. The set can also be run with 12 to 15 Vdc.

Optional Equipment

The frequency range can be extended to 30 - 60 MHz. This extension is performed using an additional front end module with filters and its own VCO.
The spectrum display allows the display of the frequency spectrum in a range of +/-100 kHz from the current frequency with a dynamic range of 80 dB. The visible frequency range can be selected as well as the attenuation.
DRM: it is our intention to use a module from Texas Instruments for the demodulation. At this time a sample unit is not yet available. In any case it will be a solution which will not need an external PC.

Flex-Radio SDR-1000 Update

Just a quick note to let rec.radio.shortwave readers know that I've added a few more entries lately to my SDR-1000 receiver blog. The most recent additions have screenshots, measurements, and MP3 files on the subjects of filter shape factors, and audio quality. www.sdr-1000.blogspot.com (Guy Atkins Puyallup, WA USA via rec.radio.shortwave)

BBC Screensaver

- worth a look http://www.climateprediction.net/
What is climate*prediction*.net? Climate*prediction*.net is the largest experiment to try and produce a forecast of the climate in the 21st century. To do this, we need people around the world to give us time on their computers - time when they have their computers switched on, but are not using them to their full capacity. [**read more about the experiment**] (via rec.radio.shortwve)

Transatlantic mediumwave audio clips

Hello everywhere, I compiled a special webpage with audio clips of transatlantic mediumwave stations:
http://home.arcor.de/mschnitzer/audio%20clips%20mw.htm
The most stations were heard on DX-camps with Beverage antennas up to 450 meters. vy 73 Michael Schnitzer, Germany (via HCDX)

RECEPTION CONDITIONS FOR DX

ZERO sunspots for about the 12th day running makes this the longest dry spell since the last lowest count in the last sunspot cycle 10 or so years ago. Amazing conditions for those interested in Dxing the AM broadcast band with many long distance stations heard, even in the daytime! Currently in Australia the maximum SW usable frequency is about 15 MHz during the day and at night time it drops to about 9 MHz (Keith Ashton, Feb 12, dxing.info via DXLD)

Drake R7 problem found

I found the problem with my Drake R7 with blank display. First of all, the display board does have other problems. I ordered a new DR7 board from that Charlie fellow on the east coast, and when I installed it the display was still blank.
Now, there are two signals that come from the VCO board. One of them is the 1st LO signal; a frequency counter confirmed that the system does lock, in addition to being able to receive signals in the first place.
Here is where the plot thickens.....there is another 3-pin Molex connector that mates with the DR7 board. This provides the 500kHz gating signal for the frequency counter portion of the circuit. This signal originates on the Translator board and is connected through the motherboard to the VCO board. This signal splits into two paths; one path is applied to the reference port of a 4046 phase detector while the other path is applied to that 3-pin Molex connector on the top of the VCO board. Since the PLL does lock up properly, we know that the 500kHz signal is present on the VCO board itself and it is getting to the input of the phase detector.
I didn't see this signal on Pin2 of the Molex connector so I applied a 500kHz square wave signal to the input of the 4017 divider chip that is supposed to be getting that signal. When the display started working, I realized that I had a broken connection on the VCO board.

Close inspection under a stereo microscope revealed that the contact in the 3-pin Molex connector had become unsprung.
When I received this unit, the connector was mounted crooked so I removed the solder from the pin connections and reseated the connector. Now, if I can either re-center that spring contact or find a new connector, I will be in business!
I was able to remove one of the ground contacts and place it in the middle position. Since those pins are both at ground potential, I used a wire bridge on the connector end of the VCO board. The unit is working ok now.
(Pete, KE9OA, via rec.radio.shortwave)

WJ-8716 review - initial impressions

OK, folks, I took the plunge and bought a "AS-IS but not DOA" Watkins-Johnson WJ-8716 on E-bay.

For those who haven't used or seen them before, this is not a SW portable. This is not a SW tabletop. This is a rack-mount receiver sold in the 80's to the military, certain 3-letter agencies, certain laboratory environments, etc. My particular unit has the GPIB interface, the Preselector, ISB, and the regular (not microprocessor) front panel.

The seller wasn't particularly communicative nor awfully quick to ship, but after a week it got sent via UPS and arrived safely. Packing job wasn't stellar but it was good enough (and after all these things are pretty sturdy).

Just for a base of comparison: I've owned many SW receivers over the years. My first was a Knight-Kit Space Spanner. Since then I've had an assortment of ham and SW equipment - if you can name a brand, model, or seller, I probably had at least some contact. Usually I stay away from the newest and shiniest stuff, and in the past couple years my main pieces of equipment were some R-390A's and the associated electromechanical maintenance. I was very happy with the R-390A's as AM and CW receivers, but they predate modern SSB stuff and the lack of a product detector was a sore point. R-390A's are also a true joy to work on - modular construction, nice big glowing tubes, a geartrain and cams up the wazoo, the works!

But I made the plunge and got the WJ-8716 anyway. Even though it is "digital", it's not newfangled digital, it's 20 years oldI unboxed it, plugged it in, and it worked.

Then (of course) I took off the cover. The microprocessor board had a good amount of damage from a NiCad battery that had leaked all over it. I pried off the battery, put it in an acid bath to neutralize the gunk that had leaked from the battery, scrubbed off some/most of the corrosion, rinsed it and let it dry off. Well, it had 10 years worth of damage from the gunk probably (the radio is 20 years old and I'm guessing the leakage started a decade ago) but at least that damage had been stopped from continuing.

Now I get to play with the radio hooked up to an antenna. WOW. This is amazing. It's got 5 filters (300 khz, 1 khz, 3.2kHz, 6kHz, and 16kHZ). The filters have the sharpest edges I've ever heard, and I've used a lot of ham and communications receivers over the years. If there's a hetrodyne, I just shift the center frequency or put on a narrower filter and that hetrodyne is GONE. Maybe every other crystal filter I've ever heard before is crap, but I doubt it, most of them are pretty good but they don't make a hetrodyne that's 9 S-units above the desired signal and a couple hundred Hz away disappear like that!

It doesn't officially have passband tuning in the modern sense but it's got a dial-in BFO offset and the different filter widths, and between the two I do just fine. Those who have used modern receivers without BFO knobs will probably have to learn the skill. My one caveat: I do not particularly like the thumbwheel BFO setting. I much prefer knobs.

Now, the tuning: My wrists are rather strong after prolonged usage of the R-390A's :-), but the WJ's big tuning knob works just like I'd want, smooth and precise with a nice spinner. The tuning steps are adjustable from 10kHz down to 10Hz, and I might've chosen different step sizes (on the SW bands a 5kHz step would've been nice) but they're workable.

Compared to any modern digital-display receiver, there are no bells and whistles. No memories, no bands, no scanning, no nothin'. That's fine by me, but others will miss their bells and whistles.

Internal modularization and construction is simply superb. No other way to describe it. Everything comes out on BNC's on the back, even the audio.

I'm guessing that this receiver must have a OCXO or at least a TCXO in its master oscillator, because frequency display is spot on from top to bottom, from turn on with zero observable drift during warm-up.

Reception on USB and LSB is superb. A couple spot checks of RTTY and utility frequencies, as well as tuning around the ham bands, were wonderfully simple and spot-on.

No synchronous AM detector, which some may miss. I have some but not very much experience with synchronous detectors, so I don't really miss them. I do occasionally hit the "USB" or "LSB" button when there is interfence to one side or the other, and that works

Audio quality is also excellent. I use a little outboard amplifier and some RatShack Minimus-7's. This is also a very quiet receiver - no hiss or hum at all. (My ears are particulary picky about hiss).

The receiver is also very well shielded and the preselector seems to do its job very well. I have a sizable AM broadcaster in my backyard and most consumer receivers have intermods and images of it showing up everywhere across the spectrum. My R-390A did a lot better but if I knew where to look I could find the images (although weaker). On the WJ-8716, no images anywhere. And I know where to look.

And as far as shielding, if I unhook the antenna then all the signals go away. Even that AM broadcaster in my backyard, which is strong enough that I'm sure some could pick it up on their dental fillings.

Still to explore: LW reception (I don't think it really goes down to DC but it basically goes there). It does a superb job on 160M ham band and on the AM broadcast band, though, so I suspect it'll do fine. And maybe I'll play with the GPIB computer interface someday.
Tim. shoppa@trailing-edge.com <shoppa@trailing-edge.com> via rec.radio.shortwave

THREAT TO HF DXing & AMATEUR RADIO

With experimental transmission of data over power lines to domestic and business premises continuing, the following item from Malcolm Pitt should be of interest. With BPL operational in Burnie, Tasmania, these comments from an Amateur operator friend of Malcolm's should alert readers of what the future may have in store.

``I went to the `Launch of BPL` in Burnie the other day. It was an invitation only meeting with the big bosses of Aurora Energy, Mitsubishi, Tas Tel, the Mayor of Burnie, Bryan Green MHA etc. I did not have an invitation but my business card was good enough to get me in.

What a biased presentation was put on. It was just that BPL was the greatest, interference issues have been solved, we are ready to roll out state wide, etc etc.

They did not mention that Tas Tel 'phones will not work if the power goes off. And they are pushing the 'phone aspect. Next day I drove along Malonga Drive, Burnie and the RF noise was wiping out reception on all the HF bands 3 - 30 MHz in the street. I have written to the State Government members Brett Whitely and Bryan Green as well as to ACMA, BPL is a dirty system, polluting the spectrum like a

smoky fire would pollute the air. I just hope the trials fail. There are better systems coming, fibre optic to the home, but wireless broadband on 2 or 3 GHz would be better. Time will tell``

This goes to confirm other comments from monitors about this interference on HF. Against this however, are the resources of the lobby supporting BPL. In a recent issue of a respected engineering journal I read that, ``the objections from Amateur Radio and like interests should be dismissed as BPL would give everybody much less costly access to broadband``, etc.

A prominent contributor of technical articles to A.R magazine recently suggested to the writer that all amateur operators should spend as much time as possible on HF to counter the broadband signals. Now, after 30 years as a licensed Amateur operator, for the first time, a HF rig is sitting on the shelf at this QTH; now some thought has to be given to antennas to suit! (Allen Fountain, Vic., Utility DX, Jan/Feb Australian DX News via DXLD)