

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1587. 16 april 2006. Deadline nästa nr: 28/4 2006 (E mail 30/4 kl. 0900 SNT)

God fortsättning på påsken och tack för alla glada påskhälsningar! Hoppas att ni fått lite ägg, sill och nubbe också!

Glöm inte bort konventet den 6-7 maj. Anmälan till LB som vanligt.

Vårbruket med harvning har precis dragit igång utanför huset. Tyvärr ser det ut att bli ännu mera regn. Kan inte minnas att det varit så här kallt och sent med våren på många år.

Lite av varje har hittats till detta nummer som eventuellt kan vara av intresse. Jag har försökt få med lite mer än bara tips och QSL för att öka läsvärdet av bullen, men det blir svårare och svårare att gräva fram info som kan passa de alla. Det är lätt att tekniken tar över, men radio och antenner är ju ganska viktiga bitar i DX-andet än så länge.

Keep on

Redaktion:

Thomas Nilsson
Mardalsv. 372
262 93 Ängelholm
Tel: 0431-27054

E-mail:
thomas.nilsson@ektv.nu

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).

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Jan Edh: jag har varit ute i Fredriksfors för första gången på åtta veckor lördagsnatten 8/4. Visste väl på förhand att det inte var något att hoppas på direkt, så jag blev heller inte besviken. På kortvågen spår av Huanta och Estambul, den första distad, den andra väldigt besvrad av någon ton som jag inte kom förbi med så svag signal. Marfil Estereo 5910 gick däremot bra redan vid 00.30, däremot inte på morgonen... På mellanvågen först litet asiater vid 23-tiden och senare lite Venezuela och PR.

Lyssnade från 4 på morgonen. Venezuela, Colombia och PR i första hand, men inget spännande vad jag upptäckte. Tarma 4775 hade starkaste signalen på morgonen på kortvågen. Som helhet inget nytt för mig del. Men jag har i alla fall lyssnat igen...

Christer Brunström: RaiWay (dvs. RAI International) 5965 kort, brev samt en fullständigt obegriplig "gadget" som tack för mina monitorrapporter.

Lars Skoglund: Ett svar har kommit nämligen **AIR/Aligarh 15770** med brev, dekal och världens minsta QSL-kort. Svaret kom från AIR Chennai för deras DX-program Radio World som är på tamil och sänds på söndagar kl 11:30 UTC. Jag har meddelat Bengt att jag from i år endast vill ha SWB elektroniskt så du kan sluta med att sända pappersbullen till mig. Jag önskar dig en Glad Påsk !

Stig Adolfsson: Hej alla! Efter en ganska hektisk vår med massor av resor och uppdrag konstaterar man att det plötsligt är påsk. Konstigt att tiden går så fort. Har bara ett par bidrag denna gång.

Björn Fransson: Trots obefintlig lyssning de senaste veckorna hade jag litet att bidra med. Man får ju inte frängå traditionerna med BEFF i signaturspalten. Glad fortsättning på påsken, alla SWB-are!

QSL: MV Baltic Radio-6130 med kort från Schwerin efter 3 m. **Radio Vaticana-6185.** Kort med påven på + fint jubileumsstämplat QSL med de gamla (1981) Radio Vaticanafrimärkena på. Trevligt! **sSIRI Project via Merlin, Ryssland-17660.** Pers e-mail från v/s Jane Namadi, som sitter på EDC:s kontor i Nairobi. Skickade också flera filer med info och utlovade ett kuvert med mer info per post!

Bjarke Vestesen: I næste uge tager hele familien i sommerhus ved den jyske vestkyst, og jeg tager min rejseradio AOR AR7030+ med i bilen, så forhåbentligt bliver der både tid og forhold til at tjekke latinamerikanske stationer på kortbølge.

Den jyske vestkyst venter igen, når DSWCI har 50-års jubilæum, DX-lejr og generalforsamling den 4.-7. maj, hvor jeg selv skal fortælle om at DXe i Florida, jvf. mit fem-ugers ophold for et år siden. Der dukker formentligt også nogle svenske medlemmer op til arrangementet. Udover nogle enkelte kortbølgetips har jeg også nogle oversøiske logs på mellembølge, bl.a. Venezuela på 1390 kHz (optaget automatisk med TotalRecorder om natten) og Carriacou på 1400 kHz.

Bjarke, låter fantastisk trevligt med ferie på Jyllands västkust. Har varit där några gånger och kört runt. Hoppas ni också får trevligt på jubileumsmötet. Av någon anledning är det flera danska DX-are som jag aldrig fått tillfälle att träffa men som varit aktiva lika länge som jag (från 1962) och varav en del även varit SWB-medlemmar tidigare! Mer info om TotalRecorder finns på denna länk: <http://www.highcriteria.com/> /red

Dan Olsson: Idag 15/4 har vi äntligen den första riktigt varma vårdagen. Det kan behövas som uppmuntran då den senaste veckan inte varit så bra för mig. I söndags 9/4 fick jag åka akut till sjukhuset då jag fick njurstensanfall. Typiskt var att jag inte var hemma utan på orientering vid Ljungbyhed, så det blev att köra 4,5 mil med plågsamma smärtor. I torsdag var jag inne och fick opererat knäet. Eller rättare sagt det var inget fel utan smärtan och svullnaden berodde på ärrbildningar i knäet så nu får man gå resten av livet med ont i knäet.

Kenneth Olofsson: QSL från **Radio Anacaona** i Dom. Rep. Svarade snabbt med email och lovade dessutom att skicka en försändelse med div. prylar, hoppas det kommer fram Veriesigner var Dr. Manuel A. Bello, Director Ejecutivo. Två oid intressanta SS har hörts. God och glad påsk.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

2310	8.4	2115	ABC Alice Springs med QSA 3. Inte samma program som 2485 med QSA 2. JE
4052,5	9,4	0310	Radio Verdad ska ha fått sändaren ordentligt fixad nu. Gick dock bara "normalstarkt" QSA 2, men låg möjligen något lägre än jag minns (,48). JE
4775	9.4	0306	OCX4W Radio Tarma anropade. Bättre kräm i musiken än talet som var väl distat. QSA 3-4 JE
5470	8.4	2210	Radio Veritas , Monrovia med religiöst föredrag. QSA 3 JE
5910	8.4	2235	Marfil Estereo anropade och gav tiden. Ovanlig tid för denna? Gick inte alls på morgonen. QSA 3-4. JE
3815	7.4	2003	Ammassalik Radio , OZL, med relä av KNR. Tråkigt program. USB. 2-3 SA
9344.997		1610	Voice of Peace , Bagram med afghansk non-stop musik samt nyheter och politik varje halvtimme. Hörs svagt. Israel och Holland täcker vanligen frekvensen. Bagram är ganska stabil på vanligen 9344.9974 kHz. SA
2310	21.3	1940	VL8A , Alice Springs spelade "Jackson". S 3. BEFF
4319	21.3	1935	AFRTS/Diego Garcia mycket stark + litet RTTY-störningar. S 3-4. BEFF
5995	19.3	0615	Mali med afrikanska rytmer. S 3. BEFF
6180	19.3	0550	Radio Nac de Amazonia med brasiliansk musik, förstås! S 2-3. BEFF
4779.97	13.4	0210	Radio Cultural Coatán , Huehuetenango, med spansk, LA-musik, tids-ann., ID som "Radio Coatán". 23232 BV
6274.99	15.4	0635	Laser Hot Hits på ny frekvens, engelsk udsendelse med mange IDs, frekvens-ann, og opgav både e-mail og almindelig postadresse, hørt // 4025.34 og 6219.01 kHz. 23222 BV
11860	7.4	1450	RRI Jakarta med hemmeprogram på indonesisk, flere IDs kl. 1500 og nyheder. 34444 BV
5910	1.4	0330	R Republica ifrån Tyskland med program till Cuba. Täcker Marfill effektivt tyvärr. DO
6050	1.4	0400	HCJB med program på spanska om kyrkor i Quito. Q4. DO
5680	13.4	2208	OID SS med reklam, mycket QRN och svag signal. KO
6165	8.4	2335	OID SS med rel program, svag och hemska spatter från 6155. KO

Stationsnyheter

KATANGA. QSL of Radio Katanga and other treasures found - enjoy on superb website of Finn Krone, Denmark. Great. <http://www.krone-web.dk> (Wolfgang Büschel, BCDX April 4 via DXLD)

PERU, Mi dear friend, the DXer Alfredo Cañote, La Molina, Lima, Peru, reported me about the following log: 4620 Khz Radio Espacial, Otuzco, La Libertad department, 1900-2300, with SINPO 44424 QTH : Bolivar 354 Otuzco, La Libertad, Perú. arnaldo slaen [slaen@ciudad.com.ar] via HCDX

PHILIPPINES. Several DXers in Japan had monitored that PBS, Philippine Broadcasting Service came back on 6169.8 kHz after long long absence. This station seems to relay DZRB-Radyo ng Bayan on 738 kHz, but detail is unknown because of heavy QRM. In Japan, this frequency is mainly heard in evening, around 0900 to 1200. Streaming sound is heard on

<http://www.pia.gov.ph/pbsradio.asp?fi=dzrb-live>

My received sound in Japan is http://toms-k-7.hp.infoseek.co.jp/index_e.html

This information was showed me as un-ID station by Mr.'e-geta'. Many thanks for all my friends. -- As for my all information it is for all people. But I prohibit the fact that all ILG's personnel utilize. 73 & FB DXing! (Kenji Takasaki in Mie pref, JAPAN, JRC NRD-545/535D/525/515, April 10, HCDX via DXLD)

Övriga radionyheter

The NATO Phonetic Alphabet

The phonetic alphabet, or commonly dubbed the NATO phonetic alphabet is universal not only for radio but wherever it can aid verbal communications.

During World War 1 phonetics were used on the western front based on air force slang, like Ack Beer Charlie Don, while during that same conflict the British Royal Navy used Apples Butter Charlie Duff.

However the first internationally recognised alphabet was adopted by the International Telecommunications Union in 1927, it underwent subsequent changes until 1932 when a set of mainly place names adopted including Amsterdam Baltimore and Casablanca Denmark.

During World War 2, due to allied operational requirements, the Army/Navy alphabet was introduced, consisting of a group of words such as Able Baker Charlie Dog, and one of them, Roger, still lingers today, despite being replaced with Romeo. Different alphabets were used by the Royal Air Force.

Alfa Bravo Coca Delta is one example.

Post war when the aviators entered or re-entered civil aviation there was confusion, particularly with air traffic controllers in non-English speaking Latin America.

In recognition of the value of using phonetics, efforts were made to come up with a set that was internationally usable and worked well under poor receiving conditions.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation devised a new alphabet in 1956 that was adopted shortly after by the International Telecommunications Union, appearing in the radio regs. of 1959. The alphabet also includes phonetics for numerals, such as five for five and nine for nine.

And how did it get dubbed the NATO alphabetic? Well, NATO is the acronym for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The alphabetic was used for joint naval activities of the NATO and United States, and to differentiate from what existed previously, it was referred to as the NATO alphabet.

Jim Linton, Victor Kilo 3 Papa Charlie. (Source: Wireless Institute of Australia via Southgate Radio Club)

"Alpha Bravo Yankee Zulu" Friday 7 April 2006 11:00-11:30 (Radio 4 FM) still available on Listen Again at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/history/pip/dho56/> (Mike Terry via HCDX)

"208 - It was Great!"

Dick Offringa's Radio Luxembourg site <http://www.offringa.nl/bailey.htm> contains an extract from a forthcoming publication '208 - It was Great! An affectionate anecdotal journey between 1958 and 1975 by studio engineer and producer Alan Bailey'.

In the extract, Alan tells of his first Luxy programme, where he gram-operated 'Italy Sings' with Keith Fordyce, a quarter-hour programme sponsored by the Italian State Tourist Office. No 'self-op' in those days and the records played at 78rpm! Alan lists some of the numerous recording stars he met in the course of his career and how he ended-up making his own sound effects for a Monty Python recording.

<http://www.radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/aprilmayjune06/aprilmayjune1.html>

And finally..

"The very last broadcast of the great 208 was in December 1991 from the Telefunken transmitter at Marnach and the last satellite broadcast was in December 1992. It was live from the station, with live links from London, and many of the past presenters paid their respects in those final hours - a very sad day indeed. My days and memories of Luxy were the best times of my young life in which I saw the many innovations and entertainers turn the whole of British radio on its head. I was extremely proud to have played a small part in it. It brings a little quote to mind, "The moving finger writes and, having writ, moves on, nor all thy piety nor wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line nor all thy tears wash out a word of it." I certainly wouldn't cancel any part of it. As for the tears? ..Well.

The future...

The good news is that with the advent of digital radio, it looks like Radio Luxembourg is again coming to the fore. R.T.L (Radio Tele Luxembourg) has plans afoot to launch an English speaking service on one of their many digital European transmitters. The word is it'll be based loosely on the old '208' format with some of their old well known names guiding and presenting the new digital station." <http://www.offringa.nl/bailey.htm> (Mike Terry, via HCDX)

Longwave radio - "The World of LF"

There is an excellent site at <http://www.wireless.org.uk> with up to date news and many features. The site reports on 2 April 2006 that Mitch, VE3OT has been operating experimental 137kHz station "MP" from his Ontario QTH for the past five years. Unfortunately his permit hasn't been renewed for another year, probably held up in layers of beurocracy. It may surface eventually but until it does MP is silent on 137. (Via DXLD)

The 108 minutes that changed the world 11 April 2006, Moscow, RIA Novosti, Political commentator Andrei Kislyakov

On April 12, 1961, all ears were turned to radios as Union Radio director Yuri Levitan, in his famous voice that became a symbol of Soviet victories,

said: "the Soviet Union has orbited Earth's ever-first satellite vehicle, the Vostok, with a man onboard. The Vostok is piloted by Major Yury Alekseyevich Gagarin, a citizen of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

Thus TASS, the official Soviet news agency, announced forty-five years ago what even today, in an era when space flights are treated as something useful and necessary but no longer fascinating, still sends powerful echoes throughout Earth's space history.

This is what people all over the world know. What they hardly know is that the backside of the ever-first manned space operation was probably as dramatic as anything that stands on the cutting edge of progress. For thousands of people, those first 108 minutes in space, marked by Gagarin's triumphal if ostensibly business-as-usual "Off we go" when the launch vehicle lifted off, meant 24/7 work for years, unprecedented pressure, unexpected casualties, and enormous sacrifice...

(much more at http://www.southgatearc.org/news/april2006/108_minutes.htm) (Mike Terry via HCDX)

Kneisner and Doering software defined receiver

Check it out: http://kd-elektronik.com/vasdr_e.html Things sure are beginning to hop over at Kneisner and Doering. (Steve via rec.radio.shortwave)

The New Quantum Loop "V2" (MW) Ferrite Rod Loop Antenna Review hosted by RadioIntel.Com

RADIOINTEL.COM => <http://www.radiointel.com/> Quantum Loop "V2.0" (MW) Review -written by- Jay Allen <http://www.radiointel.com/review-qloop.htm> RADIO PLUS+ is the maker of the Quantum Loop Antennas Gerry Thomas = DX Tools .Com => <http://www.dxttools.com/>

Quantum Loop V2 (MW) Review:

Desk top loop antennas offer a means to improve reception, especially on MW (AM), when there's not enough room to throw up a big external antenna. They are also useful too for nulling out other stations that may be on the same frequency with their directional characteristics. Jay takes a look at the new Quantum Loop V2 antenna and compares it with other antennas. [\[read the Quantum Loop V2 Review\]](#) Mar 28 (via rec.radio.shortwave)

sw and dx meetings

Hello everyone, here is a list of bigger sw and dx meetings and gatherings of 2006 and early 2007 (version 4). Updates and additions are most welcome, send them either to risto.vahakainu@helsinki.fi or directly to this list.

- **April 29-30:** XXIV AIR DX Meeting 2006 (the annual meeting of Associazione Italiana Radioascolto), Sacile near Pordenone, Italy. www.arpnet.it/air
- **May 5-7:** The 50th anniversary and annual general meeting of Danish Short Wave Club International in Jutland, Denmark. www.dswci.org.
- **Jun 9-11:** The AGM for the Swedish DX Federation "DX-Parlamentet" on the island of Aland, Finland. www.sdx.org.
- **Jul 28-30:** The National Mexican DX Meeting in Ascension, Chihuahua, Mexico. www.wrmi.net.
- **Jul 28-30:** The summer meeting of the Finnish DX Association at Korpilahti in Central Finland near Jyväskylä. www.sdxl.org.
- **Aug 19:** The Madison-Milwaukee Get-Together for DXers and Radio Enthusiasts will take place on Saturday, August 19, in the Milwaukee (Wisconsin) area. Additional details are pending, and we hope to make a full announcement in March. E-mail: DXing2 at aol.com.
- **Sep 22-24:** The annual IRCA Convention (International Radio Club of America) in Seaside, Oregon, USA at the Comfort Inn. mwdxer@webtv.net
- **Sep 30:** The 50th anniversary of the Swedish DX Federation in Stockholm, Sweden. www.sdx.org.
- **Oct 19-22:** The European DX Conference by European DX Council in St. Petersburg, Russia. www.edxc.org.

best 73's Risto Vahakainu, The Finnish DX Association (via HCDX)

DXTUNERS UPDATE

Hi Fellow Member, Welcome to our April 2006 DXTuners Newsletter. As usual and happily, lots of big happenings in the DXTuner Network, so we will jump right into news.

First of all, the Rommele site is now online and doing business, after a long absence. This site will have 8 directional EWE antennas soon, but we are fixing the relay box as we speak, so currently 4 antenna directions are possible. This super site is in southern Sweden. Having directionality with super long-haul EWE antennas is every dx'er's dream. It is an antenna farm and does take up a lot of space, something most listeners don't have, of course. We use the Icom R-75 communications receiver here.

We have several new receiver sites in the UK. The first is Chipping Campden. This is an excellent location 130m above mean sea level, with a discone a further 30m above that on a mast and has already demonstrated excellent receiving potential.

Another new UK site is FM Cotswald Hills, giving good reception of local FM stations in the Cotswolds using a SQBM800MKII Ultimate whip antenna.

The next new UK DXTuner is in Chislehurst, Kent, near London. It is currently equipped with a wire antenna, but will be upgraded to a better aerial soon. This new Chislehurst receiver is really something. We logged over 40 FM-pirates on this new receiver without any problem. The pirate scene is flourishing in the London area. Check it out.

We have launched the DXtuner on Shetland Islands. The specific location is Sumburgh on the south end of Shetland. The current antenna is a discone, but will later be improved with an EWE antenna.

The very popular Heathrow site will be offline for the time being. The operator is moving to a new location within the area.

DRM Receiver in southern Sweden. We are soon launching a new software for the DRM receiver. DRM stands for Digital Radio Mondial. It is simply digital radio on shortwave with outstanding audio quality. The old software has been a little unstable. This is an exciting project here at DXTuners. While looking at DRM we have also launched a temporary FDM77 in Sarone, Italy.

Sweden FM DX is back with a tuned low noise pre-amp 20dB with 1dB NF. The azimuth is aligned so it is accurate all 360 degrees around. As the amplifier is tuned, it removes unwanted adjacent noise. Even when tropo skip conditions do not exist, you can hear astoundingly far with this massive stack of antennas.

Here is an update from the Las Vegas DXTuner site-op "April 24th we should be changing the receiver to an AOR-3000A to replace the PCR-100 with a damaged front end. Also will change the audio feed to stereo, with the AOR on Left channel and a trunked fire radio on the right channel. Listeners can use their audio balance control to select one or both radios. The fire radio will run free and is not controllable."

Remember the Sydney node? This popular site will be returning soon, revamped with a NRD 525 receiver.

Lisbon is waiting for a new radio to arrive, and soon will be online. We have all been eagerly anticipating this site, it will be an interesting location, as it is so close to northern Africa. Look for this one soon.

We have as mentioned added a new site in Italy as well. The location is Sarone, and it uses the Elad FDM-77, with a 40 meter dipole. Great stuff.

Also, we are looking at a possible new site in southwestern Ireland. And as I understand, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Iceland, and return of our NDB beacon site are all still in the works. Here is a note from the site-op at Helsinki "we're waiting for approval for a good QTH for the receiver. We plan to put a PCR-1000 to it, and a discone antenna for VHF/UHF and a dipole or a window antenna for HF reception."

The new Ireland receiver should be open for customers in a few weeks, with a Uniden Bearcat 780XLT.

New Node Requests..

If you have a receiver you want to share with others on the DX-Tuner network, you are most welcome to contact us. The email address posted for new node requests was broken for a time, and we were not aware. So if you felt we ignored your email, we are sorry about that. We now have the link fixed, and you can check the grey box on DXTuners main page and actually contact us. Please do.

DXTuners would like to thank all of our members for being friendly, and respectful to other listeners, and asking before tuning the radios. This helps to make our DXTuners Network a nice place for all of us to relax and have some fun with the radios on a lazy Sunday afternoon, for example.

DXTuners membership includes newbies to shortwave listening, as well as some of the world's top DX'ers. We wish all to feel at home. There are friendships to be made, and much can be learned from veteran listeners.

We at DXTuners are proud of our support team, and if you need help or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us using the "customer support" option, the link is of course on our main page. I would also like to suggest that new members check out our very good aids, FAQ's and Visual Guide. These will increase your enjoyment of the radios.

We did not get to our new feature "site of the month" so it will wait until next news, but it will showcase in some detail a longtime site in the network, from the U.S.A.

That's about it for this time. We hope you enjoyed the news and are enjoying your visits to the DXtuner community. Remember, the DXTuners Network home is at <http://www.dxtuners.com/>

Brad Wall, DXTuners Newsletter Editor, San Bernardino, California, USA <http://www.dxtuners.com> (via Han Hardonk, April 4, BDXC via DXLD)

Köln e52

Jag söker Stig Adolfsson och har hittat det namnet på er SWB hemsida. I tidningen Radio och Television Nr 8 från 1980 efterlyser han någon som vet ifall 10 st mottagare Köln e52 faktiskt har levererats till Sverige.

Jag vet, för jag har en :-). Den har stått i ett förråd på LTH/Elektrovetenskap och har donerats hit av Televerket antagligen någon gång mellan 1965 och 1977. Den går att beskåda på <http://www.tde.lth.se/home/psm/>. Jag skulle bli glad ifall du kunde vidarebefordra detta brev till honom eller skicka hans adress till mig. (MVH Peter Sjöblom M.Sc. Perlos)
(Informationen är vidarebefordrad till Stig! /red)

Köln E52 b-2

During WWII, the perhaps best radio receiver was made by Telefunken and was called Köln E52. It was produced in a number of variants, depending of the exact configuration. The production also lasted after the war, but then with the rather large supply of spare parts that had been produced during the war. A small number of units were bought by Sweden, and delivered. They were painted in a silver colour. One of those units was donated to LTH by Televerket and has now been "rediscovered".

The intention is to find out more about this piece, and later on restore it to its original condition.

(Text + bilder från lth-hemsidan enl ovan /red)



Grayland DXpedition Loggings - April 9-10, & Antenna Report (via rec.radio.shortwave)

This two-night trip to Grayland turned out to be 95% tropical bands DXing, as I found very little to get excited about on the medium wave frequencies. There was some moderate geo-storming during the evenings (particularly 4/9), but I don't know if it was my lack of Beverage antennas or the propagation to blame.

The tropicals were far more productive than the meager catch of TP regulars listed below. Best catch was R. Diff. TV de Djibouti on 4780 with an ID, heard via longpath 1-1/2 hours after Grayland sunrise and 1/2 hour prior to Djibouti sunset. Botswana and Zambia were also logged during morning longpath.

Since I was staying at Grayland Beach State Park (1/2 mi. south of the Grayland motel venue), I was limited to antennas that would fit on the campsite (the few newer campsites at Grayland suitable for very short Beverages were already reserved months ago). I can only wonder if the noise would have been lower had I been in the new, expanded section of Grayland, where campers are a bit further apart, and a few sites allow for a few hundred feet of wire strung through the brush.

I used two newly-acquired antennas which complement each other well--the Wellbrook ALA 100 and the tiny PA0RDT "Mini-Whip" (about the height of a pencil). The antenna is powered through the coax (like the ALA 100) using a small interface box mounted near the receiver. The antenna and the well-built interface box are sold by Dutch NDB enthusiast Roelof Bakker, PA0RDT, for just 43 Euros (shipping to USA included). I think Roelof may have tweaked the antenna element to produce better results above longwave, based on some other information I've heard. By the way, this antenna uses an overload-resistant amplifier designed with some advice from well-known Oregon NDB'er Steve Ratzlaff.

The ALA 100 was in a 40-ft. circumference setup the first night, and the second evening I moved the poles apart and restrung the loop for a 54-ft. circumference. Both nights the null was oriented toward Seattle. I used two, 20-ft. "Black Widow" collapsible fishing poles as supports.

I mounted the Mini-Whip at 27 feet high on the second-to-last section of a DK9SQ mast. The generous height helped the gain, as its designer Roelof Bakker indicated it would. John Plimmer in South Africa mentioned that the Mini-Whip is very prone to electrical noise, and I'd have to agree that it's a real noise magnet. However, I was very impressed with its performance throughout medium wave up through the tropical bands. The gain drops off quickly above 9 MHz or so compared to the ALA 100. On medium wave the 5-inch long Mini-Whip kept right up with the Wellbrook, and many times was the antenna of choice. On some parts of MW though, it was considerably noisier than the Wellbrook (my campsite was near a number of RVs with TVs, light dimmers, etc. all polluting the bands). I think the Mini-Whip would have been the equal of the Wellbrook if I had been in a totally RF-quiet area. (Hmm..I wonder if a 1:1 isolation transformer between the Mini-Whip's power interface and the receiver would help reduce noise?)

The ALA 100 was impervious to 99% of the noise, and at times was *extremely* impressive. However, on the tropical bands the Mini-

Whip was the preferred antenna with better s/n ratio. I didn't have opportunity to experience the Mini-Whip's reported superiority on longwave, as the local noise and RFI buzzing was so bad below 500 kHz.

Both antennas are easily transportable and great choices when space is at a premium. Please check my blog site in a couple of days for some photos of these antennas, and also a few MP3 audio clips of DX from the trip to Grayland (the tropical band logs will be posted there, too).

The SDR-1000 showed its superiority over my modded R-75 nearly every time, although there were a couple tropical band frequencies where the ICOM was clearly the winner. I *really* like Jeff, WA6AHL's new version of the PowerSDR software for the Flex-Radio, with filter controls and operation that fits "my" DXing style, and the expanded panadapter of 85 kHz with panning and zooming features. The panadapter itself is far more useful than the "stock" PowerSDR software from Flex-Radio. Screenshots and comments will also be posted to the blog soon.

Guy Atkins via rec.radio.shortwave)

Fabulous catches there Guy and a most absorbing report. Thanks for that. Some of those mediumwave catches are over 7,000 miles away, quite remarkable for small active antenna's. I would think the performance of the two active antenna's is right up there with a 1,000 foot beverage.

I have the Roelof mini whip mounted well up, but it's performance doesn't match my RF Systems DX 1 Pro, although it is a remarkable performer for its tiny size and portability. (John Plimmer, Montagu, Western Cape Province, South Africa via rec.radio.shortwave)

Loggings from the Amazon

My apologies for the tardiness of this report, but hopefully it may be of some interest to you as reports from the Amazon and the Galapagos Is. are rather sparse. I spent three weeks in Quito, Ecuador and environs, the Napo River (a major tributary of the Amazon), and finally the Galapagos Is during three weeks in March. My listening equipment consisted of a Kaito/Degen 1103 receiver (highly recommended!), with a RS wind up antenna of about 5 or 6 meters in length. I recorded many hours (still to be listened to, by the way) on a tiny iRiver mp3 recorder which was capable of recording some 70 or more hours of time in mono mp3 format. Pretty amazing compared to the old days of cassette tapes, and then MD. I did occasionally encounter some noise from the mp3 display, but this was usually alleviated by moving the mp3 recorder away from the receiver. The jungle was quite amazing (radio wise) as it was exceptionally quiet, especially during times of no local power. At our j!ungle location, we had generator power from 1800 to 2200 local only, which was quite nice. Although not noticeable for the most part, there still was a slight amount of noise during those hours, but still far far less than what I experience in Victoria. It's like going back in time to the days without the myriads of electronics that pollute our RF environment these days. Quito generally was pretty quiet in our location as well. The Galapagos, for the most part were a write-off, as being on a boat made it next to impossible to do any serious listening. Hope you enjoy the report. One day I'll create some audio links to the various stations heard. Keep your eye on www.dxer.ca.Walt Salmaniw, Victoria, BC. (Via HCDX)

BOLIVIA 6165, 1044-, Radio Logos Mar 16 I spent some time searching for this one. At 0857 only a Chinese station could be heard. At this check, indeed there was some religious and possibly Spanish programming. At 10:53 there was a clear ID for 'Radio Trans-Mundial'. At that time, the language sounded more indigenous than Spanish. Perhaps someone with more information about this station could shed some more light about their scheduled programs. An open carrier came on at 10:57, but the presumed Radio Logos programming could still be heard. (Salmaniw, Napo River, Ecuador)

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS 88.70, 1245-, Radio Santa Cruz Mar 19 Just a brief comment on the Galapagos. During the day, the entire MW spectrum is simply absent of any signals. None. My FM bandscan showed nothing at all in common with my 2005 WRTH. I do hope that the newer versions are more accurate. Nice ID for Radio Santa Cruz at 12:45. Other FM stations noted were: Radio Maria on 100.70 in mono (heard at 0500), 101.9 (something Estacion) stereo, 95.9 in stereo with classical music, 97.1 in stereo weakly heard, 98.3 in stereo with an open carrier only. I never did hear anything else but an open carrier. 98.9 in stereo at fair level, with an ad for 'Wilson's' at 12:36. 100.70 mono station with low modulation but good reception otherwise. Due to the very early starts and long days in the water and hiking on land, plus the limitations of trying to listen on a boat, I did very little monitoring during this part of my trip. SW was often quite good especially on the higher bands during the day. (Salmaniw, Galapagos Is, Ecuador)