

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Issue no. 1602. Nov 10, 2006.

Deadline next issue: Nov 24, 2006 (E mail: Nov 26, 0900 SNT)

Dags igen att sätta sig framför PC:n och ställa samman det sista av SWB.

I veckan fick jag ett mail från Leif Åsbrink som hade ett inlägg i SWB 1597. Inlägget som handlade om SDR-14 och Linrad, misstolkades av mig så att hans e-mailadress blev offentlig. Tyvärr var inte detta meningen och nu började hans spam-mail öka.

Tänk på att om er e-mailadress finns med i ett inlägg, sätt in *nospam* i den, eller tala om att den inte får göras offentlig. Det är inte alltid man som redaktör ser upp tillräckligt när bidragen klistras in.

I övrigt har många trevliga bidrag trillat in. Bl a har periodens behållning varit St Helenas specialsändning och en hel del kommentarer om detta evenemang finns med.

Keep on

=====

R e d a k t i o n:

*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.

Olle Bjurström: Jag lyssnade på Anders störning och den är identisk med en som jag har och har lyckats identifiera och åtgärda. Den pulsanande störningen i mitt fall kom från en Siemens gigaset DECT telefon när den sitter i basstationen. Det är laddningen av batterierna som sker vi pulståg. Ta ur telefonen från basstationen och störningen försvinner troligen. V.g. vidarebefordra till Anders då jag inte har hans e-post adress.

Tyvärr skickade jag mitt bidrag till senaste SWD till din gamla e-post adress, varför det troligen har försvunnit. Här kommer det igen och Du får se om det är användbart till nästa nummer.

Jag får väl säga som andra, det vara länge sedan som jag kom med bidrag. Med det fina vädret tills för någon vecka sedan har utomhus aktiviteter varit helt dominerande. Under den senaste veckan med regn och rusk har dock radion varit igång några eftermiddagar och kvällar och genererat nedanstående bidrag.

Några artiklar i de senaste SWD om Dallas Lankford's elliptiska lågpas filter (ELPF) gjorde mig nyfiken och jag byggde ett med 3 kHz gränshfrekvens och adderade det till min "ljudlåda" som också innehåller en equalizer och ett notchfilter. Dallas Lankford utvärderade ELPF v.s. synchrodetektorn vid stark fadning och svaga signaler. Hans slutsats var att ett ELPF i många fall eliminerade distorsion och andra förvrängningar lika bra eller bättre än en synchrodetektor och man slipper vänta på att detektorn ska låsa.

Mina tester har fokuserat på läsbarheten av svaga signaler och finner att med en ELPF i loopen ökar läsbarheten märkbart i varje fall när man lyssnar med mellanfrekvens filter med en bredd på 3 kHz och mer. Dessutom reducerar den distorsionen som vanliga "klippande" störningsbegränsare ger vilket man också borde vänta sig, samt i viss mån splatter från närliggande stationer. Slutsatsen blir att en ELPF är en god investering.

9/11: Den senaste veckan har hörbarheten här i Roslagen varierat stort från dag till dag, tyvärr oftast till det sämre. Ett undantag var den 6/11 då SIBC gick med underbar styrka tillsammans med några Indoneser. St Helena underhöll mig också med skaplig styrka under ett par timmar den fjärde. Mitt under sändningen föll signalen bort från min K9AY antenn men återkom när jag växlade till en annan antenn. Följande morgon fann jag att kontrollkabeln, som ligger på marken, var avsliten. Boven var säkert ett rådjur eller en älg som traskade förbi.

Anders Hultqvist: Olles tankar visade sig stämma! Jag har en Siemens Gigaset A200 på Dalarö, och när jag plockade bort luren från laddaren slutade störningen. Ett jätte stort tack till Olle för tipset.

Jan Edh: Äntligen fanns det något att samlas kring kortvågen. Annars nästan bara Canada. Absolut ingen östkust. Så småningom Colombia och Venezuela med styrkor så att de dominerade även antenner ämnade för NA-västkust.

För att egentligen bli ganska dåligt resultat, var det väldigt bra...

Det blev en ganska oberäknelig avslutning på lördagsnatten 4-5/11 i Fredriksfors sedan vi samlats fyra man (Ronny Forslund, Dan Andersson, så småningom Rolf Larsson, och undertecknad) med anledning av St Helena-sändningen.

St Helena gick riktigt bra - redan i sändningen till Japan som föregick "vår" sändning.

Det började titta fram lite transatlanter också samtidigt. Framför allt Bermuda. Men det fanns också några Peru/Bolivia på kortvågen som omväxling. Inte i något av fallen kom det dock riktigt loss...

På morgonen var det alltså framför allt Canada och YV/HJ med en del "tillägg". Även om styrkorna var bra var dock signalerna väldigt ostabila och det var svårt att få några id - och än hopplösare att följa en station så pass att det dög till en rapport.

Nytt för mig var CHLW 1310, W Radio 850, jag hade också BC på 980 som dock Colombianen tog effektivt "död" på.

Rolf Åhman: Radio Mediterrane International, Nador 9575 svarade med kort, brev, programschema och dekal. Radio Madang 3260 svarade med ett trevligt brev.

Björn Fransson. Efter en litet mer positiv lyssnarnatt vid Ygne än förra gången skriver jag ned ett litet bidrag till SWB.

QSL: AFRTS, Diego Garcia-4319 Snyggt kort från AFRTS i Kalifornien. **Radio Spaceshuttle-9290** Finsk pirat med e-mail-QSL. **Radio Bonofox-6290.6** Holländsk pirat med E-mail. **Radio Omroep Zuid-6268** Holländsk pirat med QSL-fil och bilder. **Radio Zamaneh-6245** Mycket tjugigt QSL-kort från Amsterdam. Sänder på farsi via rysk sändare någonstans. V/s: Mehdi Jami. **Radio Lowland-6326** Holländsk pirat med kort QSL-text och bild på operatören Jos Tabak. **AIR/Chennai via Panaji, Goa-17810.** Tjockt kuvert från Radio World med ett nytt "Världens minsta QSL" + ministicker, minivimpel och minivisitkort. En klart trevlig indier! **Radio Paardenkracht-6208.6** Holländsk pirat, som skickade min första QSL-, ljud- och videofilm via dator och gjorde mig "halv vansinnig" med mitt tontiga modem. Dessutom skickade han hela rasket två gånger, eftersom mitt program sa att "Mailbox full", vilket den inte var, utan hade väl inga ord för att "filen är för stor". Den var på över 4 MB, så den tog en fruktansvärt lång tid att ladda ned. Inte mycket tanke på mottagaren här, inte.

LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

2310	26.10	1420	ABC // med 2325 och 2485. Går ofta men med mycket varierande styrkor. Denna dag S 4. OB
3291	5.11	0630	Guyana. Hör de flesta dagar denne dag med world news och diskussioner om politiska problem i världen. 2-3. OB
3291.13			Guyana "Voice of Guyana" GBC Sparendaaam 2345 to 0000 with subcontinental Indian music mixed with pop music. "this is number one selection, now on to number two. 1 November [Wilkner-FL]
3291.2	11.11	0055	VO Guayana med religiöst program vid denna tid. S 2-3. BEFF
3345	26.10	1410	RRI Ternate med telefonprat program. S 4. OB
3345	6.11	1455	RRI Ternate. telefonprogram med mycket skratt. 4-5 OB
3375,1	4.11	2250	Radio San Antonio, Callali med live musik med japanska influenser. QSA 3 men problem med modulationen. JE
3912	6.11	1955	V.O.P. stark men lite trängd av QRM 2-3 LRH
3930	5.11	1955	Hwasong kunde höras med vacker körsång 2-3 LRH
3976	26.10	1400	RRI Pontianak med nyheter. S 4. OB
4409.7			Bolivia Radio Eco, Reyes 0020 yl <i>en espanol</i> with several yl's talking at once, religious? 0025 into music. 3 November. [Wilkner-FL]
4498,1	4.11	2315	Radio Estambul med comunicados och en och annan musiksnutt. Bättre än på länge, QSA 2-3. JE
4545.3	11.11	0015	Radio Virgen de Remedios med politiskt och religiöst och ett tydligt ID. S 2-3. BEFF
4545,38t.			Bolivia Radio Virgen de Remedios, Tupiza, 0000 to 0020 om <i>en espanol</i> mixing with CODAR dominant. 3 November [Wilkner-FL]
4605	5.11	2033	Fak Fak med schlager mx 3 LRH
4605	26.10	1355	PNG Serui med mestadels musik av det lokala slaget. Cd.1500. S 3-4. OB
4678.3	10.11	2320	OID, men säkert Sam Neua, Houa Phan, Laos med vackra sånger. S 2. BEFF
4716.7	10.11	2345	Radio Yura med sånger – ej ID. S 2-3 BEFF
4750	5.11	1420	Bangladesh med obegripligt program, men idag ostörd och stark. 5 OB
4790	26.10	1345	PNG Fak Fak med bl.a. Elvis och annan trevlig lokal musik. Cd.1400. S 3. OB
4790.1	4.11	2245	Radio Visión med information om kommande gudstjänster. 2 CB
4870	5.11	2003	Wamena med nx och därefter mx 2 LRH
4870	31.10	1340	RRI Wamena med telefonprogram vilket tycks vara populärt i Indonesien. cd 1400. 2. OB
4870	24.10	1845	OID med mycket stark fading. Språk troligen Hindi. S 0-2. I bakgrunden en annan station med franska. Troligen Benin. OB
4910			Australia VL8T Tennant Creek, NT. 0805 Jazz programme followed by interview, this parallel with 4835, VL8A, Alice Springs, NT. Excellent signal 1 November [Wilkner-FL]
4937	4.11	2322	Radio San Miguel. Murrigt ljud men bra signal. QSA 3. JE
4937.1	4.11	2140	OID SS med fotboll mellan Universitario och 31 de Octubre om jag fattade rätt. Gissningsvis Radio Amazonas??? 3 CB
4990			Suriname Radio Apintie, Paramaribo 0630 "Your are my shining star..." with om commentary between songs in Dutch 0635 lyrics "I want to Know..." 3 November [Wilkner-FL]
5005.93			Peru Radio LTC, Juliaca seems the one with weak audio <i>en espanol</i> 1100 to 1120. 3 November [Wilkner-FL]
5015	30.10	1530	AIR Delhi noterad på sin nya frekvens (ex 90 meter) med nyheter på engelska. 3 CB
5019,9	6.11	1435	Solomon Islands med BBC WS 2-3 LRH
5020	6.11	1430	SIBC med BBC world news. Har ännu inte lyckats hör den med det egna programmet. Får vänta tills dagarna blir ännu kortare. 3-4. OB
5020	27.10	1256	SIBC med BBC WS relä. Cd.1300. S 2. OB
5025	10.11	2325	Radio Quillabamba brände av ett ID. S 3. BEFF
5040	10.11	2340	Hrvatski Radio lurades ordentligt genom att ha spanska här och nu // 1125 (som tur är, för ID-ets skull). S 3. BEFF
5040,4	6.11	1350	Yangoon i pratetagen 2 LRH
5460.1			Peru Radio Bolivar Cd. Bolivar 0030 music with om <i>en espanol</i> , decent signal for once. [Wilkner-FL]
5952.5	10.11	2300	Radio Pio XII skapligt. S 2-3. BEFF
6060	31.10	1400	Sichuan PBS med Life, Travel and City Service // 7225. Hörs varje eftermiddag fram till strax före 1500 då det kommer något starkt störande på frekvensen. Ofta behaglig musik. 2 CB
6209,7	6.11	1645	OID hördes svagt. Kahuzi ? 1 LRH
7120	27.10	1240	Wantok Light Radio med gospel samt talade om att man adderat tre ny FM sändar. S 4. OB
11092,5u	4.11	21.00	Radio St Helena gick bra (QSA 3-4) redan med sändningen till Japan. Ingen direkt märkbar skillnad på signalstyrka när sändningen riktades till Europa. Kul med hälsningarna som gått via JOE, men folket i

studion hade det ganska knivigt med våra namn... JE

11092.5 4.11 1800 **Radio St Helena** inledde med tidssignal, musik och diverse annonseringar. Hördes som bäst efter 2300. Trevligt initiativ! 2 CB

11092.5 4.11 1800, 2145 **RSD Revival** med ett trist program, som mest bestod av raspiga intervjuer och hälsningar + en del gamla låtar, som "Det var en lördag aften". Ändå blev det en positiv upplevelse med många kända DX-are, som medverkade. S 1-2 kl 1800 och 3 kl 2142. BEFF

11092,5 4.11 18.40 **Radio St Helena** svagt så här dags med Beatles/Get back. Senare under sändningen till Europa 22.00 och 20 minuter framåt klart starkare och helt störningsfritt på Dalarö, men jag var trött och det vara bara en massa snack, så jag orkade inte lyssna mer. AHK

11092,5 4.11 2000 **St Helena** med programmet för Japan. 2-3. När man riktade antennen mot Europa ökade läsbarheten till 3-4. OB

11815 1.11 0730 **Rádio Brasil Central** hörs nu på morgonen med fin musik. 2 CB

12000 31.10 1200 **Radio Habana Cuba** med programmet "Despertar con Cuba". 4 CB

12085 4.11 1000 **Voice of Mongolia** hördes ovanligt bra och berättade om bröllop i Mongoliet. 3-4 CB

Stationsnyheter

BANGLADESH. 4750.0, Bangladesh Betar, Khabirpur, 1530-1545, Nov 01, English news, ID at 1537 "This is Bangladesh Betar", 24432 (Franck Baste, St. Bonnet de Rochefort, France, DSWCI DX Window Nov 11 via DXLD) See also INDONESIA

GUAM. Thu Nov 9 at 1332 came upon 9615 which was just going from Chinese, into English lesson presented entirely in English for those already semi-fluent, as the teacher admitted she did not speak much Chinese. Woman went on and on for five minutes of introduction --- does she do the same in every broadcast of this program? And at 1337 finally got to the first expression to be explained, "the die is cast" which has nothing to do with death. Fair signal but clear. At first I guessed it was KNLS, which has used 9615 before, but actually it's listed as the AWR Mandarin service from KSDA (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

INDONESIA [and non]. **RRI Makassar, Sulawesi, 4750** at 1150z - 1205z, Nov 10. Domestic service, talk (male & female voices) and music. Into news at 1200z, including a mention of President Bambang Yudhoyono (using the English "President"). Passport and EiBi show sign off at 1600 but yesterday morning they went off at 1402. When listening yesterday there was no interference but this morning over an interfering station. I wasn't able to listen long enough to make a positive ID of the interference. I believe that Bangladesh is on this channel with a new transmitter but the station underneath sounded more like Chinese (Jerry Lenamon, Waco, Texas, Drake R8B with T2FD, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST) See also BANGLADESH

PERU. 4965.81, R. Santa Ana, 0926-1002 8 Nov. Already on this morning with tinkly OA harp campesino music. Canned shouted announcement during song by M mentioning Peru. Promo at 0927 with roosters and cuckoo clock. Nice huayno 0932, live M announcer in Aymara who made a baby crying SFX!!! Disney-like song at 0944. 0947 another canned promo by M with laser shooting [see my previous remark --- gh] and cuckoo clock SFX. Mention of Santa Ana. "Música" promo by M at 1000 with song clips and nice ID (Dave Valko, Dunlo PA, HCDX via DXLD)

 Ex-R. Santa Mónica, it seems, still listed as the latter in PWBR "2007". There may be a story here about one patron saint battling another to victory over the masses. Also, I was wondering if this was really Aymara, or Quechua, if Dave could tell them apart, so googled "Aymara language range" and found this fascinating article, altho it did not really answer that question; seems we cannot take timechecks in Aymara at face value! ---

BACKS TO THE FUTURE. AYMARA LANGUAGE AND GESTURE POINT TO MIRROR-IMAGE VIEW OF TIME

By Inga Kiderra | June 12, 2006 . . .

http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/thisweek/2006/june/06_12_backs.asp

Trying again, I found this at <http://www.losapushotel.com/index2.php?option=content&task=view&id=34&pop=1&page=0>

"Language --- Peru has two official languages: Spanish, spoken by 73 percent of the population, and Quechua, spoken by 24 percent. The Aymara [sic] language is also spoken, in an area on Peru's high altiplano on the border with Bolivia. There are also some 50 Amazon languages, including Ashaninka, Aguaruna, and Machiguenga."

So Aymara is not official in Perú and very much in the minority overall, but Cusco is in the area where it would be heard. Now I wonder if on the Altiplano it is the number 2 language or even number 1 (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

ST. HELENA: We have 4 hours and 41 minutes of Radio St. Helena 2006 day broadcasting, audio clips are available on <http://www.bclnews.it/sthelenas>. (Roberto Scaglione, <http://www.bclnews.it>, <http://www.fmdx.org> via HCDX)

 I still have a long face. Not a skerrick here from St. Helena. There was a 20 db over 9 local noise level during the entire time here in the northern Tasmania. It is so damn frustrating reading that they were heard in Europe, America and even Japan but I have yet to cite any reports from Australia. Methinks the MUF was just above 10 MHz. Today (November 6th) was unusually quiet on 11092.5 at 2000. It isn't fair and I deliberately refrained from using any dxtuners sites (Robin L. Harwood, VK7RH 'Spotlight on Swling' - Amateur Radio Magazine, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

 St. Helena not heard at this location - not a hint of it. Regards, (Adrian Verry, West Coast, North Island, New Zealand, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

 [and now for the recriminations]

As always, during some very special broadcasts the DX-mailing lists are filled with detailed logs of reception. Just the same with this R St Helena broadcast. A weak mind with poor reception/no reception at all can easily build up a reception report from these mailings. And if someone puts a recording of the whole transmission online, even better. There's gone the thrill of trying to log a station with sufficient program details by yourself. Well, good for RSH, they'll get more reports - more IRC's - more Greenstamps. But how about the

real reception? The broadcast was a great, hard work of Robert and all the sponsors and the staff of RSH. Thank you (Jari Savolainen, Kuusankoski, Finland, dxldyg via DXLD)

Jari, That is exactly why I omit certain details from my posts. 73, (Kraig, KG4LAC, Krist, via DXLD)

Jari - you are a good DX-friend of mine - so don't take this personally - but you're sounding like a voice from the 70'ies or 80'ies - when you would spend endless amount of time writing a detailed reception report to a radio station in order to prove you actually heard the station and get a QSL confirming your reception of the station.

Sorry, but that is history.

Today you've got so many ways of "cheating". Exactly as you have described - programme details and recordings of exotic and rare "DX-stations" are widely available on the internet. You can also listen to several stations streaming on the internet. You can utilize DX-Tuner. You can easily travel to far away counties and send reception reports to the stations in that particular area. Etc. - etc.

So obviously the idea of QSL'ing in the old sense is completely dead. I think.

If you bother sending out reception reports and the stations bother responding with a QSL, that's nice - and a nice souvenir but of course it doesn't really prove anything. I don't know whether 90, 95 or even 99 percent of the people sending out reception reports are honest people - or we've got more Giovanni Bellabarba's among us ...

But DX'ing is still a great hobby. I think that neither Giovanni Bellabarba nor the lack of "real" QSLs can take that away from us.

Trying to catch distant stations is - for me - still very exiting.

And - I too enjoyed the transmission from Radio St. Helena yesterday from s/on 1800 UT and for most of the evening here. Reception was quite good - armchair listening at times :-) Best 73s (Stig Hartvig Nielsen, Denmark, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Hi Stig, no problem, comments are always welcome. I agree with you, there are lot of ways to "cheat" if someone wants to. My comment was about this particular RSH transmission. Why should we make the (possible) cheating even easier by putting details or even audiofiles available in the net.

Oldfashioned, heh, I guess I am. But I don't think the received QSL from some station is a word of God. It's just a souvenir, reminding you of that particular listening moment. It proves nothing as you say.

You know you've heard the station, if there a QSL or not.

Sometimes there are pleasant verifications, in which you can clearly see that your report has been checked detail by detail and then verified. Some years ago I got a QSL-letter from a station, saying my report was correct except in one detail. The newsreader name was Michael Burden, not Michael Burton as I had written. I don't remember the exact name but that above shows how small the error was. That kind of thing shows that some (small) stations still check the details. Or an Indonesian station with minute-by-minute explanation of my details, what type of songs were played and what was said, (correct) program titles etc.

Nowadays I'm sending out only a handful of reception reports (mostly e-mail) per year. But as you say, the thrill of listening to DX-stations is here and stays, with or without QSL's.

Kind regards and best 73, (Jari Savolainen, Kuusankoski, Finland, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Jari and Stig: Just to enter the fray here... Like Jari, I have precious little time to send reception reports these days and am highly selective in what I can send. So, what I do is record every logging I make, whether on my home rig or on a DX Tuner receiver. I probably have over 400 recordings (software files using Total Recorder) since Feb 2004 - as far as I'm concerned, these recording are better than any QSL card to prove what was heard and from what location and receiver settings - they just don't have the card "collector" value.

On the other hand, I really enjoy going back and listening to these recordings anytime I want. I'm not going to make the mistake I did back in the late 70's and dump all my audio tapes of rare DX stations!

The down side of this is that I get lazy and don't log program details since most often I don't send a report - so if I decide to send a report I have to re-listen to the recording to recreate a written report. I also need a better log system for my recordings - Shortwave Log would be a good solution.

If folks feel they have to "cheat" to get a QSL, they only hurt themselves - I for one see no pleasure in receiving an "unearned" QSL. Of course the other downside is that such people can give our hobby a bad name if they continually send "bogus" reports. On RSH Day I made recordings from both DX Tuner (Sweden) for clarity and enjoyment, and from my own receiver in California for "DX" purposes. I will send RSH recordings from both sites which I think provides them very useful comparative information. The difference is 5,000+ miles vs. 8,000+ miles, not a big deal from a DX perspective for a 1 KW broadcaster, but again useful for comparative purposes.

My 2 cents worth; all in all it was a fun day and Robert Kipp should be profusely thanked for the effort to put this event together! (Bruce W. Churchill, Senior Project Manager, Emergency & Transportation Operations Division, <http://www.delcan.com> Systems Business, National Operations, La Mirada, CA 90638, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

With due respect, I have to agree with Mr. Jari Savolainen about his way of "hearing and confirming" stations heard when DXing. Very frequently, I see postings from some folks at the reflectors where I participate; colleagues posting three to ten stations at the same time, on the same day and same hours. Then I figure these colleagues, file reception reports and send them in the hope to get some more QSL cards to add to their collection.

Other colleagues for a change, uses a different approach. Many of them are not even interested in getting QSL cards at all. These people are more interested in first of all, listening to a good short wave station, the program it airs, the current daily news without any commercial ads or interruption, cultural affairs or music. Among them, there might some, that listen to a few stations and they stick to them on a daily basis. In this last category we must not forget, that there are folks, working as monitors for these short wave stations.

There are also some friends that are constantly proving and testing the proficiency of their radios and antennas as their main interest. These groups, file complete and good (as it should always be) reception reports, sends QSK cards but not necessary waits for a response.

It is very important to mention that, many short wave stations around the world are very aware of the various groups that exist; the cheating ones and the honest and serious ones where I am sure Mr. Jari Savolainen falls.

A final analogy. CB radio has been seriously affected in this part of the world; the other day I turned on my old CB Radio just to hear for a while. There, I still heard a few of the old and serious folks; fighting and struggling to do things the right in order to preserve CB radio to the best. Let's do the same for short wave radio (Luigi Pérez Díaz, PR, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Yes, I heard St Helena on 11092.5 kHz from South India with better reception on my SONY ICF-77 with narrow mode. Really enjoyable broadcast. Only broadcast to Japan was audible. My name for the e-mail report was read on the air. Incidentally I forgot to record the show. If any one posts the recordings I would like to hear it again (T. R. Rajeeesh, Kerala, INDIA, World DX Club Member, HCDX via DXLD)

I took 5 pages of notes on the RSH broadcast, and did not even hear it from one end to the other. Including music titles where possible,

names of people called or mentioned, etc. Rather than a minute-by-minute rundown, I will just mention some important points, especially if not mentioned much by anyone else.

Tuned in at 1801 UT (did I really say it started at 1830 on WOR 1334?), on the FRG-7 hooked up to the E-W longwire of 75-100 feet, my usual main receiver. Nothing at all heard on 11092.5, but trouble from a ute on 11090. Other things to do, so did not try again until 2038: Now the 11090 QRM was less of a problem, and some music could be made out on 11092.5. At 2040 I switched to the ICF-SW07, which uses only the Sony loop hanging in the south window, and that was enough to get it better, with USB and synch detection available. Even better: the DX-398 hooked up to the longwire. Now I could tune in 40-Hz steps, but frequency I would be toggling back and forth, as the signal's best audio seemed to be somewhere in between the steps.

The Japan segment was concluding at 2129. I took another break, and resumed at 2300 for the last of the European segment. This too wrapped up about 2327, said about to aim at North America, and altho signal was the best yet now, I was hoping to notice a definite improvement. Around 2330 the audio went into some kind of oscillation. At first I thought it might be a problem with a CD player. AT 2331:30 ID with address, but music breaking up, and dead air for a while.

By 2336 programming was resumed with a greeting from the governor, Michael ---, who said population is 4000, area about 47 square miles, discovered by Portuguese in 1502y, and the mandatory mention of Napoleon's exile; future plans of airport and hoped-for tourism to improve economy. RMS Saint Helena calls about every three weeks. Hopes RSH Day will be an annual event.

At 2342 acknowledged ``very nice`` e-mail from gh and hoped I was having good reception. Explaining the problem around 2330. It had started raining; and as the beam antenna was rotating toward NAM, the signal reflected off the 1548 kHz MW tower about 10 meters away, so they had to back off to only 345 degrees. (Is this something like a VSWR problem?)

Shortly after 0000 UT Nov 5, I noticed that the signal was weakening. Perhaps the MUF was falling as it was midnight there. 0009 faded down further. By 0030 it had faded up again to good level. At 0039 explained the 2330 problem again, solved by turning the antenna in different direction. Later said they had received 330 e-mails, plus phone calls, faxes, 20 people had been in and out of the studio helping out during the 7 hours. 2007 will be the 40th anniversary of RSH, and the 10th anniversary of the SW broadcasts. 0058 closed with a C&W tune, but I thought the lyrics were about SH. 0100 goodbye, fanfare and march, Over the Ocean Waves? But the music was cut off. 0103 resumed fragments of music, presumably trouble-shooting the antenna/rotation problem, still heard at 0107 but then gone.

The people, reception locations, or entities I heard mentioned, times omitted: Portugal; Oregon; Dan Srebnick, NJ; Robert Ross, Ont.; Tokyo; Chris Brand, UK; Kerala, South India; Anker Petersen, DSWCI; Montreal; HCJB; WRTH; French; German; Lars, Denmark; Glenn Hauser; Richard D'Angelo, WDXC, NASWA; Adrian Peterson, AWR; Arnie Coro; Robert Phillips, Los Angeles; NZ DX clubs; Portland UK; Silverio Gómez, Catalunya; Andy, 7th grader, new SWL in MA who wanted to hear his name; VE9WGS; Walt Salmaniw (couldn't pronounce his name), BC; Dan Hochfelder, NJ; Todd Roberts, Hilton Head Island SC, near another St. Helena island!; Raúl Saavedra, Costa Rica; Ralf, DL7DO, Berlin; Tony Ward, VE3NO, Canada; João Costa, Portugal; Bruce Churchill, CA phone call.

It was a real treat to hear Radio Saint Helena again, and thanks to everyone who made it possible. Now how about turning on the SW transmitter now and then when there is local programming, especially news? (Glenn Hauser, Enid OK, Nov 6, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Övriga radionyheter

QSL-CALENDAR 2007 JUST PRINTED

Hello Glen[n], The Rhein-Main-Radio-Club, Frankfurt and ADDX proudly present the 2nd edition of the unique QSL-Calendar 2007. The new calendar is available now. The full colour art print calendar offers real treasures from our historical QSL archives, covering QSL cards from the 1930's to present. The calendar is in English and costs 15 Euro or US\$15 including shipment world wide. We will give *DXers, DX Clubs, DX-Broadcasters and DX Organisations 20 percent*, ordering 20 copies or more.

The calendar is a beautiful marketing instrument, it is rare, unique and a special gift to business partners dealing with radio business. All details at our website <http://www.rmrc.de> (Harald Gabler, RMRC CEO, DrGabler @ t-online.de DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Sent me review copies of the 2006 and 2007 calendars. 2006 was in portrait, and 2007 in landscape. Excellent high-quality reproduction and printing, full color. Each month presents two QSL cards. With two more on the cover, that makes 26. Many of them are from stations which no longer exist, e.g. ZNB Mafeking, while some are contemporary. In 2007, I recognise only one from my own collection, DW, altho in a different color. Most have artistic or cultural merit, or at least interesting antique graphic design. Only the obverse sides are shown, so in most cases the actual verification info is not visible. The publication would be more useful as a calendar if a little more of the black space were taken up by a weekly date grid as we are accustomed to, instead of just a string of numbers across the bottom edge. The only way to get your bearings is from Sundays being printed in a different color than the rest of the days, and then you will be counting back and forth from Sundays. But the calendar function is very much secondary to the QSL art (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Latin American SW Logs site updated!

<http://www.rovers.net/~hackmohr/sw.htm>. An excellent resource that had not been updated since December 2004. (dxAce, Michigan, USA via rec.radio.shortwave)

Importance of IF skirts - (was - Winradio G313-E)

John Bryant writes a fascinating piece, with which I can't find any fault. I'd like to add a minor historical footnote.

I worked at ITT for a while in the 1980's following my broadcasting experiences, until ITT got out of the HF business. So all this is first-hand knowledge. Although the HF circuits were mostly all gone, as were the rhombics. Only six log-periodics were left.

ITT WorldComm used to run a lot of HF P-T-P links across the North Atlantic in the 1960-ish time frame. Many of them were voice, or RTTY in a voice-grade channel, and were ISB (this was independent sideband, with totally unrelated programming in the LSB and USB channels). A lot of this was actually done by Mackay Radio, prior to being acquired by ITT in its gobble-em-up days. They had 10 kW xmitters at Hauppauge, and receivers at Southampton, 40 miles to the east, all using rhombics. (Their competitor RCA operated from Rocky Point and Riverhead, in similar fashion). WSL 500 kc/s was part of this operation.

They achieved this ISB by using exciters on the transmit side with paired Collins mech. filters at 455 kHz to generate separate sideband

signals. The filters were paired so that the response curves intersected at about the -6 dB point. I recall they were 2.1 and/or 3.1 kHz wide. This composite RF envelope was heterodyned (not multiplied) up to the HF exciter frequency, and contained both LSB and USB energy.

What is perhaps more interesting is what they did on the receive side. They used modified SP-600 receivers with provision for phase locking the HFO to a stable local oscillator reference that was created by mixing a roughly 2 MHz VFO with a roughly 2.5 to 4 MHz crystal reference and multiplying it up to the needed HFO frequency, which was anywhere from about 4 to 22 MHz, and sending it to the first mixer. The SP-600 itself then needed to be tuned only close enough to peak the ant and mixer RF circuits and to let the HFO lock onto the substitute HFO. This allowed stably "tuning" the receiver to exact cycles. The 2 MHz was in an oven. This was not trivial to set up properly.

The 455 kHz IF was treated similarly by adding a new, outboard IF strip using two custom made L-C filters with bandpasses of 23 to 25, and 25 to 27 kHz. The SP-600 was also modded to use an added xtal oscillator of either 430 or 480 kHz (upright/inverted sidebands) to mix the 455 IF down to 25. These custom 25 kHz filters reportedly had very steep skirts, which were not obtainable at 455 kHz. And the independent sideband energy could be cleanly picked off and sent to two detectors. It was up to the receiver side to separate the sidebands as well as possible.

In addition, frequently, two SP-600s ran in space-diversity mode being fed from two side by side rhombics. Both ITT and RCA had dozens of them, many pointed across Europe. Mackay/ITT built combiners allowing the AGC to be slaved in both RX's, combining the audio demod, among other things.

I still have a in-house manual for the CNY-2061-D which is the ITT designation for the modified SP-600 which describes the mod. process and alignment for the SP-600. Much of this material was lost in November 1986 when the developer Racanelli razed the site (for an industrial park)* after ITT sold and walked away from it, after the end of all HF ops. I used to have an example of the 25 kHz IF as well as some other stuff I eventually wanted to give to a museum but no one I could find wanted it, and I got rid of it in 1990 when I sold my house and married. There was no eBay then...

*Adams Ave, Hauppauge, LI NY --- Rumor has it that, if you dig deeply enough under some office buildings there, you might find a dozen old SP-600's, vacuum caps, etc., etc. RBL's that were 'dozed under. Just a rumor, mind you.

The inability to get truly vertical skirts in IF was one of the main things Gordon Nelson always wished he could remedy. It is truly important for weak signal work, as John correctly notes (Bob Foxworth, FL, IRCA via DXLD)

Mysterious radio hiss blamed on space weather, October 4, 2006, By Robin Lloyd, Space.com

Weather that originates at the sun, not here on Earth, is responsible for radio waves that cause an unusual shape of two belts of radiation that encircle Earth and contain "killer electrons" that can damage satellites and pose a risk to space travelers, scientists report. It has been long known that low-frequency radio waves in space, known as plasmaspheric hiss, split the Van Allen radiation belts into two donuts of dangerous energetic electrons that travel at nearly the speed of light and are trapped in Earth's magnetic field.

Last year, NASA scientists reported evidence that lightning on Earth leaked radio waves into space and, after bouncing around in the magnetic field surrounding Earth, created the gap between the inner and outer radiation belts.

A team of scientists with the British Antarctic Survey, University of California and University of Iowa saw that they could test this theory by investigating whether there were more waves over Earth's continents than its oceans, because lightning occurs ten times more frequently over land than sea.

Data from the Combined Release and Radiation Effects Satellite (CRRES), launched in 1990 under the auspices of NASA and the U.S. Department of Defense, were used to measure the incidence of waves over continents versus ocean.

No relationship between the most intense waves at lower frequencies and the land masses was found. Instead these waves increase with the flow of the solar wind, which shoots electrons and other particles at Earth and throughout the solar system.

"Wave activity increases during geomagnetic disturbances driven by the sun, suggesting that natural wave turbulence is responsible for the gap," said Nigel Meredith of the British Antarctic Survey, lead author of a research paper reporting the findings in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*.

Plasmaspheric hiss consists of extremely low frequency radio waves with frequencies ranging from 100 Hz to several kHz. These waves scatter energetic electrons and divert some of them into the Earth's upper atmosphere, thereby creating the gap in the Van Allen radiation belts.

Fluxes of high-energy, or relativistic, electrons which occur during space weather events such as coronal mass ejections and sunspot activity, are a risk to humans in space and damage spacecraft. Fluxes in the outer Van Allen radiation belt are particularly erratic and even the gap can be filled with killer electrons during intense solar weather events, such as the Halloween Storm in 2003, Meredith said. A better understanding of solar weather and the source of plasmaspheric hiss will help scientists improve their forecasts of space conditions and make space travel safer for humans, he said.

"Understanding the source of hiss will help scientists produce the next generation of radiation belt models that will eventually be used for predictive purposes," Meredith told SPACE.com. "This will help humans in space plan their activities to avoid unnecessary exposure to extreme levels of radiation."

Explorer I, the first U.S. satellite, detected the Van Allen radiation belts in the late 1950s. The inner zone is relatively stable, while the outer zone is not. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune also have strong magnetic fields that trap high-speed electrons to create radiation belts.

The radiation belts were named for James Van Allen, who argued for a Geiger counter on Explorer I that detected the belts' charged particles. He died in August at aged 91. <http://www.cnn.com/2006/TECH/space/10/04/space.hiss/index.htm> (Mike Terry via HCDX)