SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Issue no. 2098, Feb 1, 2026 **Deadline e-mail next issue: 1000 UT, Feb 15, 2026**

In this issue we got an interesting story from Clint Gouveiawhere he tells us about his Christmas gift, a Tecsun S-2200X receiver which he has considered for a long time.

In WOR there has been and still is a discussion regarding the status of Shortwave and doesn't look good. There are only a few manufacturers left on the market and the prices for tubes are sky high. Young people don't know what SW is and rely completely of Internet for new and entertainment.

Also found an interesting story about radio dials in SWLing post written by Bob Colegrove.

The International Reply Coupon (IRC) enters the history books. It was discontinued as of Dec 31, 2026. To the right the Swedish version I remember from the old days when I sent a few listening reports.

As always – many thanks to Ronny Forslund for the Nostalgia Column.

Keep on ....

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SWB-info

SWB info: https://www.dxinfo.se
Dateline Bogotá 1993-1998: https://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/Dateline.htm
SWB latest issue/archive: https://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/archive.htm

QSL, comments, etc.

Christer Brunström: **Radio Six International** (via Woofferton 9670 kHZ) verified my report of reception with an eQSL.

Erik Jacobsen, Hasselager, Denmark: Me: Ham radio for 50 years, member of Dansk DX Lytter Klub (DDXLK) for 50 years, former member of DSWCI.
SW is deplorable these days, but I still listen on and off. Could I be on your mailinglist?
(You are now added to the mailing list. Welcome to the club. /TN)

RUS-DX EDITOR'S NEWS

The New Year holidays are over, and the harsh everyday life of 2026 has arrived.
I don't want to write about the sad and negative news from the world of radio, but everyone has probably already noticed the new internet radio blockages amid the unstable global situation, which have been discussed on various platforms. History returns, like fashion. The future of our hobby is unpredictable. It's impossible to predict anything here. I think there will be more clarity soon.
Wishing everyone success and good health, and the traditional 73!
(Anatoly Klepov, RUS-DX # 1378)

Cold War DX and Tactical Callsigns by Dan Greenall

During the Cold War years, many different signals could be found on shortwave that cannot be heard today. For example, there were two Germanys, several broadcasters from the USSR not including Radio Moscow, Radio Free Europe and others.

Full story here: https://swling.com/blog/2026/01/cold-war-dx-and-tactical-callsigns/
(SWLing Post)

The International Reply Coupon (IRC) enters the history books. Since its introduction in 1907, the IRC has enabled the holder to pay for postage of an unregistered international airmail letter between the UPU's 192 member countries.
With a view to adapting and simplifying the universal services, at the 28th #UPUCongress, the UPU member countries decided to discontinue the IRC as of 31 December 2026.

GLENN HAUSER LOG ROUNDUPS. Please note and spread the word - for those not on a list where my almost-daily all-band but mainly SW log reports appear -- or for those who are but find this a more convenient archive, weekly merged roundups of all these reports in their original form are posted early every Thursday via WOR:
http://www.worldofradio.com/Hauserlogs.html

The latest ones direct: https://www.w4uvh.net/ghlogs_2026_0122_0128.txt
Previous issue: https://www.w4uvh.net/ghlogs_2026_0115_0121.txt

Useful log links:

WOR: https://groups.io/g/WOR
WWDXC Top News: https://www.wwdxc.de/topnews.shtml
DXPlorer: https://groups.io/g/DXplorer/messages
Shortwave Central radio blog: https://mt-shortwave.blogspot.com/
DX Fanzine: www.dxfanzine.com (also pirate stations)
Liangas: https://zliangaslogs.wordpress.com/2022/ (mostly using KIWI's around the world)
Franz Bleeker https://kurzwellenradio.wordpress.com/

Here are some pirate tips links that might be worth spreading. /Per Eriksson, Sweden:

Pirates: https://shortwavedx.blogspot.com/ https://betajbk.blogspot.com/
https://ukdxer.wixsite.com/my-vxw-site-di06oi
www.hfunderground.com Shortwave Pirate Radio in North America and around the World
Achim Bruckner: https://www.achimbrueckner.de/
Lars Jeppesen, active listener: http://lhu-dx-log.blogspot.com/
Rick, Finland: http://pirateradiolog.blogspot.com/
Irish Paul: https://irishpaulsradioblog.blogspot.com/

Log (UT)

3310	Feb 1	0211	Radio Mosoj Chaski, Cotapachi, Quechua, comments, songs. (Méndez)
3955	Jan 20	2000	KBS World Radio, German, fair (Bleeker)
3975	Jan 26	2223	Shortwave Gold, Winsen. Pop mx. 2 (CG)
3995	Jan 29	2201	HCJB, Weenermoor. G, rlgs. songs. 2 (CG)
4755	Jan 29	1155	Voice of Indonesia, heard at the beach; was clearly able to make out the Chinese language until 1200, when they switched to Japanese; overall poor reception. (Ron Howard, Asilomar Beach, California) + (Méndez)
4775	Feb 1	0210	Radio Tarma, Tarma, comments, Peruvian songs. (Méndez)
4940	Feb 1	0545	Estación 4940, "Llaneras", religious comments and songs. (Méndez)
5020	Jan 20	1020	SIBC - The Voice of the Nation, randomly from 1020 till past 1215 with news/sports in English (my beach recording - https://app.box.com/s/varee861k5stpmeut-tldtb8ebs0g7b25); medical care advertisement (my beach recording - https://app.box.com/s/yjl2jl4xps4lau9tj7jzdn2t8cha1oin); 1200, closing ID and National Anthem, with a short break till start of non-stop variety of songs (C&W, pop songs in English and Pijin, etc.). Not often that I get a decent audio level at the beach. My audio - https://app.box.com/s/o29ou4u2c434579fi7z3fgiorg1t8l3q . (Ron Howard, Asilomar Beach, California)
5025	Jan 24	0618	Radio Rebelde, Bauta, Cuban songs, comments. (Méndez)
5040	Jan 24	0707	R. Vanuatu, heard via NZ Kiwi SDR remote; assume *0658. Recently I have not been able to hear RV before 0658, so are they on the air before that? What frequency? From 0707 to 0716, news/sports in Bislama; RV promo in Bislama with indigenous drum music; 0719, a very nice surprise to again hear the pop song that I have not heard for about five years during my frequent monitoring of RV, by the Black Brothers, titled "You Are The Only One." Way back in 2015, it was the signature song of RV and very frequently aired. The musical group Black Brothers came to Vanuatu in 1979, to live in self-imposed exile, in protest against Indonesian government policies and human rights violations. The group was originally from West Papua. Musical video on YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJewMMjmTRQ . (Ron Howard, Asilomar Beach, California) + (Méndez)
5900	Jan 23	1920	Radio Taiwan, German, poor (Bleeker)
5930	Jan 27	2249	World Music R (p), Bramming. Empty carrier. 3 (CG)
5939.5	Feb 1	0615	Voz Missionaria, Camboriú, religious songs. (Méndez)
5940.6	Jan 30	1933	UnID Dutch via R.Piepzender (p). Pops. 3 (CG)
5995	Jan 31	1843	Radio Mali, Bamako, African songs, No English Magazine today. (Méndez)
6005	Jan 31	1951	RealMix Radio, Raasepori, pop, oldies, id. "RealMix Radio", "...in the 49 meter band, this is RealMix Radio". (Méndez)
6005	Jan 31	1606	Radio Piepzender, Zwolle, pop mx, Dutch songs, id. "Radio Piepzender". (Méndez)

6010	Jan 30	0725	Spanish S7/S8, so it`s LV de tu Conciencia, not R. Inconfidência, Brasil also on 6010. I don`t think it`s really on the air overnight, so if not sure of language don`t assume it`s Brasil at this hour. However, EiBi shows Brasil 24h and slightly offset to 6010.1; Colombia ``test`` at 2200-1000. Aoki also shows Brasil 24h, but totally misses Colombia, instead on 6010 the imaginary XEOI México which has been gone for years. WRTH 2026 also has Brasil 24h (Glenn Hauser, OK, WOR) + (Méndez)
6010	Jan 31	2104	Radio Inconfidencia, Belo Horizonte, soccer, live matches. // 15189.8. (Méndez)
6020	Feb 1	0708	Radio Casanova, Dutch music & songs, comments, id. “Radio Casanova”. (Méndez)
6030	Jan 31	1811	Radio Oromiya, Addis Ababa, 1811-1827, 31-01, Vernacular, comments. (Méndez)
6040	Jan 24	0741	Radio Delta International, Elburg, pop, id. “Radio Delta…”. (Méndez)
6050	Feb 1	0448	HCJB, Pichincha, 0448-0459, 01-02, Spanish, rel. comments and songs. (Méndez)
6050	Feb 1	0705	ELWA Radio, Monrovia, English, religious songs and comments. (Méndez)
6070	Jan 25	1200	Welle 370, German, fair (Bleeker)
6070	Feb 1	0802	CFRX, Toronto, news, comments. (Méndez)
6110	Jan 31	1816	Radio Fana, Addis Ababa, Vernacular, comments, East African songs. (Méndez)
6140	Jan 31	1826	Radio Onda, Junglinster, pop songs, id. “Radio Onda”. (Méndez)
6140	Jan 31	1900	Radio Augusta via Radio Onda, Junglinster, pop, oldies, id. “Radio Augusta”. (Méndez)
6140	Feb 1	0712	Radio Gloria, Switzerland, via Radio Onda, Junglinster, German, religious comments and songs. (Méndez)
6150	Jan 24	0709	Europa 24, Datteln, pop, German, comments. (Méndez)
6180	Jan 31	2105	Radio Nacional da Amazonia, Brasilia, Brazilian songs, comments. // 11780. (Méndez)
6185	Feb 1	0539	Radio Educación, Ciudad de México, comments, Latin American songs, id. “Cultura México, Señal Internacional, la onda corta de Radio Educación”, classical music. (Méndez) + (CGS)
6195	Jan 25	0559	BBC, Dari, fair (Bleeker)
6200	Feb 1	0618	Radio Áncora, pop, oldies, Brazilian songs. (Méndez)
7205	Jan 28	1219	RRI Pro 3 (Pro Tiga), heard via Kiwi SDR remote at Bandung; audio is much improved (sharper), but now with frequent, brief hiccups; news in Bahasa Indonesia; 1226, as usual, ended the news with a very short portion of the patriotic song “Bagimu Negeri” (For You, Our Country), not like the full version as played over Voice of Indonesia. (Ron Howard, Asilomar Beach, California)
7289.992	Jan 29	0825	(thanks Wolfie), RRI Nabire Pro 1 (Pro Satu), heard at the beach; mostly EZL songs, but today with a lot more announcers than usual; 0920-0927, with the usual Islamic Shalawat Tarhim prayer, but today with a rare anomaly, with no Islamic Maghrib (sunset) call-to-prayer, but instead with Islamic sounding music; *0930, again with the start of CNR1 (7290.0) QRM. (Ron Howard, Asilomar Beach, California)
7780	Jan 26	0933	Voice of Indonesia relay via WRMI (USA), heard at the beach; long segment about the life of singer and songwriter Titiek Puspa, who after surviving cancer, dedicated her life to entertaining children. Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titiek_Puspa . (Ron Howard, Asilomar Beach, California)
9635	Jan 20	1242	R. Mali, Kati. Vn, tks. 3 (CGS)
9818.5	Feb 1	0545	Radio 9 de Julho, Sao Paulo, religious songs, religious comments, id. at 0600 “...ondas curtas, 9820 kHz, Radio 9 de Julho…”, Brazilian economic news. (Méndez)
11620	Jan 25	0800	Radio Romania, German, fair (Bleeker)
11756.9	Jan 28	2207	R. Voz Missionária, Camboriú SC. Natl. nx magazine A Voz do Brasil. // 5939.488 fair, 9665v inaudible. 2 (CG)
11780	Jan 31	1944	Radio Nacional da Amazonia, Brasilia, comments, Brazilian songs, pop songs in English, id. “Radio Nacional”. (Méndez)
12005	Feb 1	0741	Radio Delta International, Elburg, pop, oldies, id. “Radio Delta…”. (Méndez) + (CG)
12085	Jan 24	*0900-	Voice of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, interval signal, id. “Welcome to the Voice of Mongolia in English”, news, comments, Mongolian songs. (Méndez)
13640	Jan 25	1600	Radio Romania, German, fair (Bleeker)
15189.8	Jan 31	1930	Radio Inconfidencia, Belo Horizonte, soccer, live matches, “Campeonato Mineiro”. (Méndez)
15640	Jan 25	-0515*	Radio For Peace International, heard via Kiwi SDR remote at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; program in Persian/Farsi, broadcasting to Iran. Much earlier at 0335 UT, I had a definite open carrier (dead air) on 15640. My remote audio - https://app.box.com/s/rjmu8gnqm2zpj0dep0v4gg8zcxbtsfvn . Thanks very much to Mauno Ritola's WRTH Facebook posting (Jan 20): "Radio for Peace International will start transmission to Iran tomorrow 0500-0515 on 15640 kHz. https://www.rfpi.eu/ " (Ron Howard, Asilomar Beach, California)
15700	Jan 25	1034	World Music R, Randers. Mx & songs. Unreadable. 1 (CG)
15720	Jan 29	1934	R. NZ Pacific, Rangitaiki. E, interview. 2 (CG)
25800.1	Jan 25	1232	World Music R, Mårslet. Mx & songs. 3 (CG)

CLANDESTINE & TARGET BROADCASTING

6370	Jan 29	2206	Sound Of Hope R Int'l., unk. site. Mand to CHN, tks. Meas. 6369.984. 1 (CG)
7235	Jan 29	1141	National Unity Radio (National Unification Broadcasting - Unification Media Group), broadcasting from Taiwan to N. Korea, 1141-1142 UT, Jan 29 (Thursday); heard at the beach; the usual weekday quotation in English, "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet," a quotation by Helen Keller; light N. Korea jamming. (Ron Howard, Asilomar Beach, California)
9120	Jan 14	2234	Sound Of Hope R Int'l. Mand to CHN, tks. Meas. 9120.046. *** wrong fq of 8120 in the 10-16 Jan rpt *** 1 (CGS)

VOLMET & UTILITY STATIONS

6230	Jan 30	2136	VMW Marine Weather Station, Wiluna WA. Wx warnings. 1 (CG)
6501	Jan 20	2156	NMN Chesapeake R, VA. Ocean wx. 3 (CGS)
6676	Jan 29	1931	VKA-930 Australian Volmet, Alice Springs NT. Met rpt. 1 (CG)
6679	Jan 24	1853	ZKAK Auckland Volmet. Met rpt. 1 (CG)
6679	Jan 29	2216	VRK Hong Kong Volmet. Met rpt. 2 (CG)
6765.1	Jan 20	1842	HSW Bangkok Meteorological R. IS, fqs. ann., ocean wx. Uty. QRM, almost inaudible. 5 (CGS)
7906	Jan 17	2237	XVI Quy Nhon R. Ocean wx. Intermittent uty. QRM. 1 (CGS)
7906	Jan 20	2250	XVD Hue R. Ocean wx. Faint. 1 (CGS)
7906	Jan 26	2220	XVK Kien Giang R. Ocean wx. Better on 29/1, *2220. 1 (CG)
8113	Jan 19	0940	VMW Marine Weather Station. Wx warnings. 1 (CGS)
8176	Jan 30	0747	VMC Marine Weather Station. Wx warnings. Via west path. 1 (CG)
8740	Jan 24	1820	ZSC Kaapstad R. Ocean wx. 2 (CG)
8743	Jan 24	1824	HSW Bangkok Meteorological R. Ocean wx. 3 (CG)
8764	Jan 21	2209	NMN Chesapeake R, VA. Ocean wx. 3 (CG)
8812	Jan 17	1014	TAH İstanbul R. Ocean wx. 2 (CGS)
8828	Jan 24	1852	ZKAK Auckland Volmet. Met rpt. 2 (CG)
8828	Jan 29	2217	VRK Hong Kong Volmet. Met rpt. 2 (CG)
11387	Jan 29	2230	VKA-931 Australian Volmet. ID, met rpt. 2 (CG)
12365	Jan 24	0843	VMC Marine Weather Station, Charleville QLD. Wx warnings. 2 (CG)
13089	Jan 19	1602	NMN Chesapeake R, VA. Ocean wx. 3 (CGS)
13146	Jan 24	1818	ZSC Kaapstad R. Ocean wx. 2 (CG)
13282	Jan 19	1146	VRK Hong Kong Volmet. Met rpt, s/off ann. 1 (CGS)
13282	Jan 24	1850	ZKAK Auckland Volmet. ID, met rpt. 2 (CG)
15034	Jan 23	1846	CHR Trenton Volmet, ON. Met rpt. 3 (CG)
16528	Jan 19	0938	VMW Marine Weather Station, Wiluna WA. Wx warnings. 2 (CGS)
17314	Jan 25	1717	NMN Chesapeake R, VA. Ocean wx. 2 (CG)

Contributors to the log:

wb, Wolfgang Büschel, DF5SX, wwdxc BC-DX TopNews, DXLD, DXPlorer, A-DX Glenn Hauser, Enid, OK, USA (also WOR/DXLD) Manuel Méndez, Lugo, Spain	(CG)/(CGS), Carlos Gonçalves, Lissabon/SW Coast, Portugal Ron Howard, Asilomar State Beach, Calif. Franz Bleeker, Germany

Station news

SLOVAKIA, Radio Slovakia International

The technical department at **Slovak Radio and Television (STVR)**, the parent organisation of Radio Slovakia International, has notified RSI that STVR is "currently not interested" in shortwave transmissions within the European Union. One daily 6140 kHz transmission via Junglinster in Luxemburg may still be a faint possibility, but that, too, seems to be an RSI suggestion rather than an idea from the top. The good news remains that RSI will continue to produce (digital) audio content for European listeners in 2026. Earlier news or rumors had suggested otherwise.
(Source: RSI German service, mailbag program on January 18) Transmissions in English and Spanish via WRMI and the United Arab Emirates (in Russian, on 5990 kHz and on 9820 kHz) are likely to continue. (Franz Bleeker)

USA, VoA
VoA Mandarin is back on shortwave, kbysradio, a Chinese electronic-media blog, reported on January 20, but only from Mondays through Fridays, from 22:00 to 22:30 UTC (that's in the morning local time in China), on 7500 kHz (Philippines) and on 7560 kHz (Kuwait).
https://kbysradio.wordpress.com/2026/01/20/voa%E5%8D%8E%E8%AF%AD%E5%B9%BF%E6%92%AD%E6%81%A2%E5%A4%8D/

For Chinese listeners, this would mean that the programs run from Tuesday mornings to Saturday mornings (local time), which is, probably accidentally, sort of user-friendly, as Saturday provides more time for listening than the rest of the days on air.

If the transmissions are worth to be listened to is another question; the programs contain three identical 10-minutes news segments, one after another, five minutes of which, according to kbysradio, are focused on "Trump activities" respectively.

All the same, China's jammers reacted by about 22:20 on January 19, the first night of resumed transmissions. By then, the fields of presidential activities (Davos, Iran, Greenland) had been reported two times without being affected. Only 7500 kHz was then jammed, while 7560 kHz remained undisturbed. The way VoA Mandarin gets the classical media punditry on presidential statements certainly looks unusual, if you want to think of VoA as an independent broadcaster:

--> QUOTE (translated): *President Donald Trump plans to announce new U.S. policy initiatives this week at the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, aimed at making housing more affordable for Americans.*

The White House told Voice of America (VOA) that President Trump will discuss new policy initiatives on U.S. housing in a speech on Wednesday (January 21).

White House spokesman Davis Ingle said in an email to VOA, "President Trump is committed to improving housing affordability for Americans who continue to suffer from the economic catastrophe of Joe Biden, and this administration is dedicated to exploring all available tools to deliver results for the American people. UNQUOTE <--

The news bulletin in Mandarin on January 30 UTC was no different in its focus on the U.S. president: five minutes and a few seconds (out of a total of ten minutes) was about Trump, with the usual complaints about Iran, Cuba, Canada, China, and the United Kingdom.

VoA's focus on Trump is also a topic in this NPR report:
https://www.npr.org/2026/01/30/nx-s1-5683246/kari-lake-trump-voa-pnn-iran-firewall-propaganda
The soapiness in the interview described there, conducted by the Persian-language service, suggests a particularly high degree of soapiness.
(Franz Bleeker)

Other radio news

Tecsun S-2200X

At Christmas, I usually ask for a radio, well why not?! This year, I asked for a Tecsun S-2200X, a radio that I had been considering purchasing for quite some time. In fact, I was interested in its predecessor the S-2000 when that first came on to the market, however at the time, there were many negative reviews (and some pretty good) which resulted in me delaying my decision. In the meantime, the upgraded version was introduced as the S-2200X. This is a triple conversion receiver, as compared to the S-2000 dual conversion and there are many other improvements that I won't list here, as that has already been done many times and is freely available on the internet.

To be quite honest, I was initially very disappointed with the AM audio on longwave and Medium wave, with both the 9 kHz and 5 kHz audio bandwidth filters. It sounded as if the ACG was either clipping or compressing the audio. I almost asked for it to be sent back. However, with a little more testing, I realised that the external rotating antenna could not be solely relied upon when located in typical levels of QRM. The signal-to-noise just wasn't adequate, even though rotating the antenna did help to null several household noise sources.

Once I had the S-2200X attached to one of my Wellbrook ALA1530 or Bonito NTi magnetic loops, it was a completely different story - the audio was very good indeed. There are several antenna input options, for all the bands covered; 3.5mm audio jack for Longwave and Medium Wave, BNC for FM and HF and spring-loaded clips for a simple high-Z long-wire and RF earth. This is actually really important if anyone is planning to use the radio for serious DX. One of my Oxford Shortwave Log subscribers said to me the other day - what other large, table-top radio can you buy new right now? I replied there are no other options, unless you're prepared to pay around £2,600 for the Icom IC-R8600!

Testing thus far has mostly centred around the medium wave band, and I've copied signals such as: Harbour Light of the Windwards, Grenada on 1400 kHz, VOCM, Newfoundland and Labrador on 590 kHz, Radio Keralam, United Arab Emirates on 1476 kHz and Radio Sultanate of Oman on 1242 kHz.

On shortwave, I have only just started my tests, but I was very pleased to copy HSW Bangkok Meteorological Radio on 8743 kHz and the first attempt. This is actually quite a difficult catch from my QTH in Oxford. Tuning in a weak sideband signal can be quite difficult, because you can't clearly hear the tone of the broadcaster's voice very well, but I managed to get close enough. With multiple audio bandwidth filter options and sideband, the selectivity of this radio is actually very good. The synchronous detection circuit is only mediocre at best, which is usual for modern DSP radios. I often wonder why Tecsun and other modern radio manufacturers fail in the regard, when Sony and Eton etc., nailed this technology years ago. Having said that, I have other modern rigs with far worse synchronous detection capability, so it's not the end of the world.

Otherwise on shortwave, during these past two weeks, I was working from home one morning and copied Radio New Zealand International with an excellent signal on 11725 kHz, using the wonderful Yaesu FRG-8800. Now there is a rig I will never lose interest in!

That's about it for now. Much more testing on shortwave is in the pipeline for the S-2200X and of course, I will report back the results. In the meantime,

I wish you and your readers good DX and 73.
(Clint M0OXF)

[WOR] Bill Whitacre starts scanning his QSLs for posterity

With the recent death of Andy Robins, who I 'grew up' with in the hobby, I started thinking more about mortality and began scanning my old QSLs.
I have only begun the process but they are viewable here: https://realmonitor.com/qsl/
They are a mix of SW [HF] and AM [MW], domestic and international — reflecting my changing interests in the hobby.
(Bill Whitacre, IRCA iog, via WOR)

[WOR] Bob Biermann on the status of SW

The biggest challenge facing shortwave is the combination of aging equipment and aging engineers. At 71 I am young. In addition, there are now only 4 shortwave transmitter manufacturers left in the world, and only one in the western hemisphere. I am hearing Continental is going through major changes. If you order a new transmitter, they are 7 figures and a 3 year wait. Sadly, most domestic shortwave stations are on a shoe string so they can't afford new.
(Bob Biermann via WOR)

We have Continental Electronics, Ampegon, and BBEF still manufacturing shortwave transmitters, but what is the fourth? It had been posted on this forum that RIZ is now out of business,
supposedly going bankrupt around 2019. Anyone know?
(Stephen Luce.Houston, Texas via WOR)

Mr B is correct about the 'aging out' of technicians who are comfortable working on RF gear other than 'cell telephone' antenna systems, but the rest of this is just not looking at the 'big picture' (and that too belies the WHY behind the situation. People aren't going into RF engineering because the stations aren't hiring that help any more!)

For example, he neglects at least one critical factoid. The old equipment was designed to be repairable and maintainable. So long as the equipment is ***maintained*** properly it will continue to work as intended and will provide good service well into the future -- no 'new' equipment is needed unless there is a new station that wants to come on the air and they can't buy a used transmitter!
Of course, there are new PARTS required and the lack of new or even re-manufactured tubes (particularly the power output tubes) is a problem, but IF there were a will to continue, there would be a market that some enterprising companies would fill.

The ***problem*** *as I see it* is that there is no longer a 'will' for HF broadcasting to continue. "It's too expensive" and "Nobody listens" are ultimately self-fulfilling prophesies. If they turn off the stations, *of course* no one will listen. Isn't that obvious? The push to put 'everything' on the Internet has meant that *nothing* there reaches an audience except for the 'lowest common denominator' things like social media has become. With the glaring exception of the BBC can ANY of the old stations demonstrate they have an 'audience' on the internet? Why have they not announced what a success shutting off the SW transmitters was by touting their new huge audience numbers off the internet? I mean it -- where are the figures? Or are we going to go back to the tired trope 'we have the data but it is proprietary and we can't share it or we'd have to kill you so just trust us' talking point?

Sadly, I don't have an answer but I *do* know that the answer is not 'doom and gloom' prophets suggesting there is no future. Have YOU recently introduced SW to a teen or twenty something? Maybe if there were 20 year olds who listened, the stations would sit up and take notice? One can hope anyway!
(Ken Zichi via WOR)

Someone shared that my concerns about the future of Shortwave sparked some discussion among your followers. I would guess some might disagree. However, I have been dealing with high powered Shortwave rigs since 1983. I have build about 50 units that shipped all over the world in power levels of 10 KW to 100 KW. There were even several custom 1 KW units for the tropical bands. I have traveled to service 4 different SW stations in the United States. I remember how "lit up" the bands were just a couple of decades ago. In the 80s and 90s, there were 8 or 9 very viable manufacturers in the United States, including sime very big companies. Now it is down to one. Word is they are preparing for a major reorganization. Parts for older units may becime scarce. I do know a new unit from them is now in the millions with a three year wait. Internationally there are three companies left, down from 30 name plates or more that just I can recall. One in Europe, one in India, and one in China. India is pushing DRM.

Sure, I understand the value of shortwave. I understand the ability of long distance coverage and reaching over borders. But I also understand that it is still (in high power) using tubes. These tubes are skyrocketing in price and the build quality is far below just a decade ago. No company is investing in developing solid state options. Even Nautel, who makes a 400 KW medium wave solid state unit, won't touch SW.

The next issue is the general public. Outside of hobbyist and amateur radio folk, how many people even have working radios? I'm not being trying to be negative, just realistic. The world is being pushed online. Car manufacturers are talking removing AM and FM from cars and having just a "connection" dashboard using both satellite and WiFi technology.

Glenn, this is a world I don't like, but it is the time period we are entering. While China and the Middle Eastern world may invest, the entire western world is walking away. I just hope your followers don't shoot the messenger, which some tend to do. Sadly, the most critical have never worked in the business. They are often the proverbial "arm chair quarterback." The world of broadcasting has been my world since 1970. From on-air, management, and decades in engineering, I have lived through the many changes.
Honestly if the FCC would authorize 10 KW for transmitters in the USA, (Canada operates 6070 kHz with 1 KW into a 30 foot vertical tower) there would be solid state options. We had prototyped a 5KW unit in 1985. Omnitronics built a number of 10 KW units that were sent overseas in the early 1990s. A 10 KW unit with a highgain log period antenna could cover most of the United States and Canada from Belize, though you might need two antennas for full coverage. However, the FCC keeps the 50 KW minimum standard for private US stations. That makes it cost prohibitive to build a new station. It is doubtful you would ever pay off the investment.

I would appreciate your thoughts.
(Bob Biermann via WOR)

The FCC currently doesn't allow domestic shortwave broadcasting in the U.S. That would have to change, along with transmitter power requirements being lowered.

I think the proposals for low power shortwave broadcasting would simply be SWDX enthusiasts broadcasting to other SWDX enthusiasts. Where would a larger, general audience come from? And would stations have any programming that would convince that general public to purchase shortwave radios? Radio listeners have been abandoning AM for the past 50 years as there are now better alternatives with superior audio quality. What interest would they have in SW? Would they put up with all the reception and propagation quirks and nuances?

Then you have the issue of the business model for such stations. How would they support themselves? Would they make enough money to pay operational expenses, various taxes, site leases, and staff salaries? And if you play music, there are performance rights payments that go to ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, Sound Exchange, etc. (Are current producers of music programs on SW paying those rights fees? Or have they not been caught yet?). And advertisers need to have quantifiable audiences. How do you do that on SW, without any sort of ratings system?

I'm sure many on this forum would love to have more to listen to on SW. But there are plenty of reasons why domestic shortwave has almost completely died out across the world.
(Stephen Luce, Houston, Texas via WOR)

Bob's Radio Corner: What Is It About Radio Dials? Bob Colegrove

https://swling.com/blog/2026/01/bobs-radio-corner-what-is-it-about-radio-dials/

– Recollections of Bob Colegrove

In the late '60s, I worked as a mechanical assembler at Communications, Electronics Inc. (CEI) in Rockville, Maryland (acquired by Watkins-Johnson Company). We produced military-grade receivers, mainly for the military (whom else?). These covered the spectrum from VLF through microwave. It was the early days of electronic digital readouts. There were no LEDs or LCDs. Instead, some of our models featured the Numeric Indicator eXperimental, or "nixie" tubes. These were glass tubes filled with low-pressure neon/argon gas, featuring stacked wire cathodes shaped like numerals (0-9) and a mesh anode. An analog-to-digital circuit encoded the frequency to illuminate the correct digits.

Below is shown a DRO-50 Digital Readout from the 1968 CEI catalog. It contained 6 nixie tubes for the frequency display, and the unit had an accuracy of ±100 Hz. Interestingly, this frequency display was designed specifically for the Hammarlund SP-600 Receivers (R-274A/FRR (Army), R-274B/FRR (Navy)). I never saw a DRO-50 come across our line and suspect it may not have gone beyond the prototype. About that time, the SP-600s were ending their military service, so there wasn't much of a market for upgrades. It would still be a few years before I owned an SP-600 of my own, but how would I love to have one fitted with a DRO-50.

What I had instead of nixie tubes were variable capacitors or inductors, which changed the tuned frequency through a kluge of pulleys and strings, all these hidden behind a Raymond-Loewy-designed bezel and operated by the tuning knob. What was visible on the front of the radio was an irregular representation of frequencies covering the tuning range of the radio, in other words, *the dial*. As you rotated the tuning knob, you set the whole tuning mechanism in motion. Signals were progressively tuned, processed, and reported through the speaker or headset as you advanced higher or lower. Somehow the frequencies never quite agreed with the numbers or divisions on the dial. It could be that the circuits inside the radio were out of alignment. Just as likely, the design of the dial was determined using a preproduction prototype which could not possibly account for the tolerances of the components used on the assembly line.

Consider the figure at the beginning of this posting. It is a portion of the dial on a Hallicrafters S-38E – magnified somewhat. The full dial on the E model was big and bright. It extended across the front panel of the radio and presented frequency readout about as well as was possible. Nevertheless, there were real shortcomings.

kHz	BS	Station	Country
9009	85	4XB31 Te. Av'v	Israel
9360	67	R. Nacional	Spain
9520	58	OZF5	Denmark
9535	57	Swiss B/C	Switzerland
9550	56	R. Prague	Chechoslovakia
9570	55	R.Bucha'est	Romania
9580	54	R. Austra.ia	Australia
9585	54	CBC	Canada
9590	53	R. Neder.ard	Nederlands
9615	52	VoA	Morocco
9640	50	Deutche Welle	Germany
9655	49	OTC	Belgian Congo
9700	46	R. Sofia	Bulgaria
9745	43	HCJB	Ecuador
9770	41	4VEH	Haiti
9825	36	BBC	UK
9833	35	R. Budapest	Hungary
10000	0	WWV	USA

The figure is not only typical if communication receivers of the time but also living room console radios of an earlier period. Take the 31-meter band as an example. Broadcast stations were bunched roughly between 9400 kHz and 9800 kHz. At 5-kHz channel spacing, this resulted in roughly 80 channels. Of course, not all were in use at any given time, but still a smidgeon turn of the knob could traverse two or three stations.

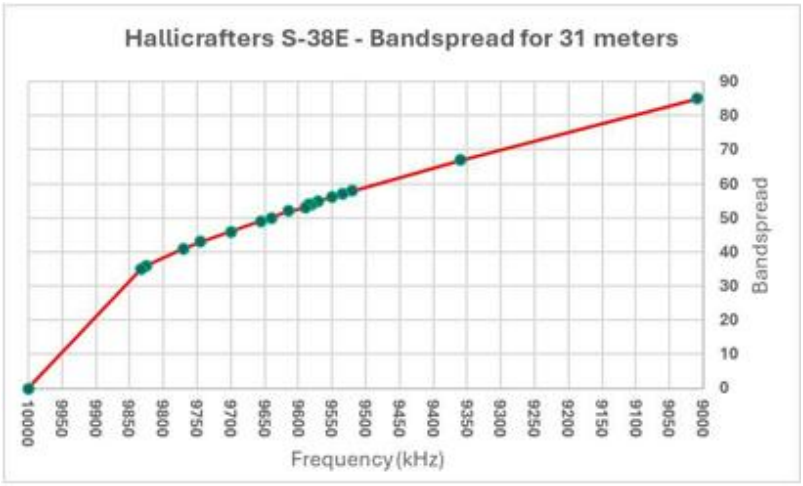
This situation was relieved somewhat on communication receivers by the addition of a bandspread – a separate tuning mechanism which could effectively *magnify* a small portion of the main dial. The idea was to place the main tuning dial at the high end of the desired band and the bandspread at 0. Then, by tuning the bandspread toward the other end, lower frequencies could be tuned with greater separation.

Since the bandspread could be used at any place within the tuning range of the radio, a separate dial became a problem, so it was usually annotated with a simple logging scale incremented linearly from 0 to 100. Thus, one had to compile a log-to-frequency conversion table or graph to interpret the frequency. More sophisticated receivers could display the 80- through 10-meter ham bands on the bandspread dials.

As an example, I located some notes made in 1959 using the S-38E. The table shows the frequency, bandspread reading, station and country. Thirty-one meters was an easy match for the bandspread, as WWV on 10000 kHz was a steady marker which you could use to calibrate the bandspread with the main tuning. For all practical purposes, the band was bounded by the Voice of Spain on 9360 kHz and R. Budapest on 9833 kHz. For many years, Tel Aviv was an outlier on 9009 kHz.

Alternately, one could construct a graph as shown below. Unfortunately, most inexpensive radios did not produce linear tuning, so you couldn't simply draw a straight line between two points on a graph and expect to interpolate the intermediate frequencies with accuracy. Instead, graphs were constructed laboriously by hand adding intermediate points for

known frequencies. The figure shows the resulting parabolic function where the slope is greater on higher frequencies and gradually levels off as the bandspread is tuned lower. Notice that most of the activity was mashed between 40 and 60 on the bandspread, then compare this with the picture of the bandspread above.



On the S-38E a bandspread was something of an improvement, but not the complete answer. The problem only got worse as you went higher in frequency. At 19 and 16 meters the band compression became quite severe.

Our esteemed leader, Thomas, occasionally uses a picture of the dial shown below as a lead figure of a posting. It is possibly an RCA Victor Model 110k console radio. When I see this, I think, who wouldn't give a king's ransom to own that radio in its fully restored condition? Note the 31-meter band has been magnified as its own separate band and appears in a near linear progression. Thirty-one meters was arguably the center of international shortwave broadcasting in the golden age.

Have you ever wondered what the rest of that radio looks like? Here's one in sore need of some Pledge. Now imagine yourself, perhaps 11 or 12 years old, perched in front of it on your grandmother's needlepoint stool tweaking the dial. If you have experienced this, no explanation is necessary. If you haven't, none is possible.

Source: https://www.liveauctioneers.com/

So, as it turns out, I have tempered my earlier conviction that a digital frequency readout is necessarily better than a classic dial. Not to say you can easily pry the PL-880 with 10-Hz resolution from my cold, stiff hands, but I have come to realize that intrigue and mystery of shortwave listening rested in the uncertainty of knowing exactly what frequency you were on. There was always the possibility that the elusive Nibi Nibi Islands lay somewhere near the shadow cast by the dial pointer. It was a land of enchantment, and once you left its borders, you could never return again. (SWLing Post)

TEXAS RADIO SHORTWAVE

Month	Date (UTC)	Time (UTC)	Freq (kHz)	Station	Target	Program
Feb	7	1500 1900	6160 3975	Shortwave Radio Gold	Eur Eur	Texas Music Mix #1
	8	1300 2300	9670 9670	Channel 292	Eur NAm	
	12	2000	3975	Shortwave Radio Gold	Eur	The Music of Amanda Shires (requested by Alan Roe, Teddington, UK)
	15	1100	6070	Channel 292	Eur	Michael Strah on Texas Radio Shortwave: The Music of Chris Whitley

Month	Date (UTC)	Time (UTC)	Freq (kHz)	Station	Target	Program
Mar	7	1500 1900	6160 3975	Shortwave Radio Gold	Eur Eur	The Music of Texas Mariachis (requested by Tooru Gouhara, Hamamatsu City, Japan)
	8	1300 2300	9670 9670	Channel 292	Eur NAm	
	12	2000	3975	Shortwave Radio Gold	Eur	The Music of Janis Joplin (requested by Greg Majewski, Oakdale, Connecticut, USA)
	15	1100	6070	Channel 292	Eur	Michael Strah on Texas Radio Shortwave: The Music of Texas Sidemen

(Terry Colgan)

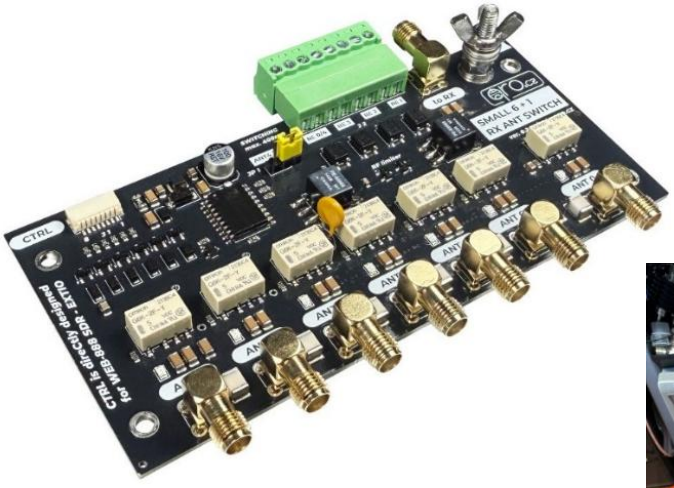
WEB-888 SDR with SMALL 6+1 RX Antenna switch

The **WEB-888 SDR** is a very robust RF and ADC design taken from the RX-888 SDR. It features a 16 bit ADC with a tunable sampling rate. Covering a spectrum from 1 KHz to 62 MHz and VHF range from 118 MHz to 145 MHz. A single-board design combining FPGA and CPU ensures lower power consumption, streamlined functionality, and a sleek, efficient form factor.
Take advantage of compatible HW with KiwiSDR and Red Pitaya applications, which are supported by the open-source community and provide new possibilities and innovations.

The Kiwi SDR web app allows up to 13 RX channels and 13 waterfalls to run simultaneously, enabling monitoring and listening across a wide range and at many devices. The built-in GPS module allow tuning of the oscillator and synchronisation with the GPS signal. This SDR also supports CW, RTTY and DIGI skimmer receivers.

This YouTube video is very instructive and shows setup and software used.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FpntwHhY9o

The **SMALL 6+1 RX Antenna switch** module was developed for direct connection to the WEB-888 SDR. From the web interface of this SDR, it is possible to easily switch between 6 antennas. Of course, the switch can also be connected to another IP relay or rotary switch. For more information, see the manual.



The switch requires a supply voltage of 5 V DC. The control inputs are controlled by a HIGH logic level. The control voltage must be between 3 and 5 V.

It means, there can be DIY Arduino/ESP32 project. It can work also with our Remote controllers, when it is right configured. The switch can be also controlled by beam map UI.
Anyway the original idea is WEB-888 and webSDR.

- Frequency range 0.1 ~ 60 MHz
- Dimensions: 125x77x27 mm (with connectors)
- Assembled and tested version

More information here:
https://hamparts.shop/small-6-1-rx-antenna-switch.html
https://hamparts.shop/blog/remote-controllers-by-qrocz-with-code-by-dm5xx.html

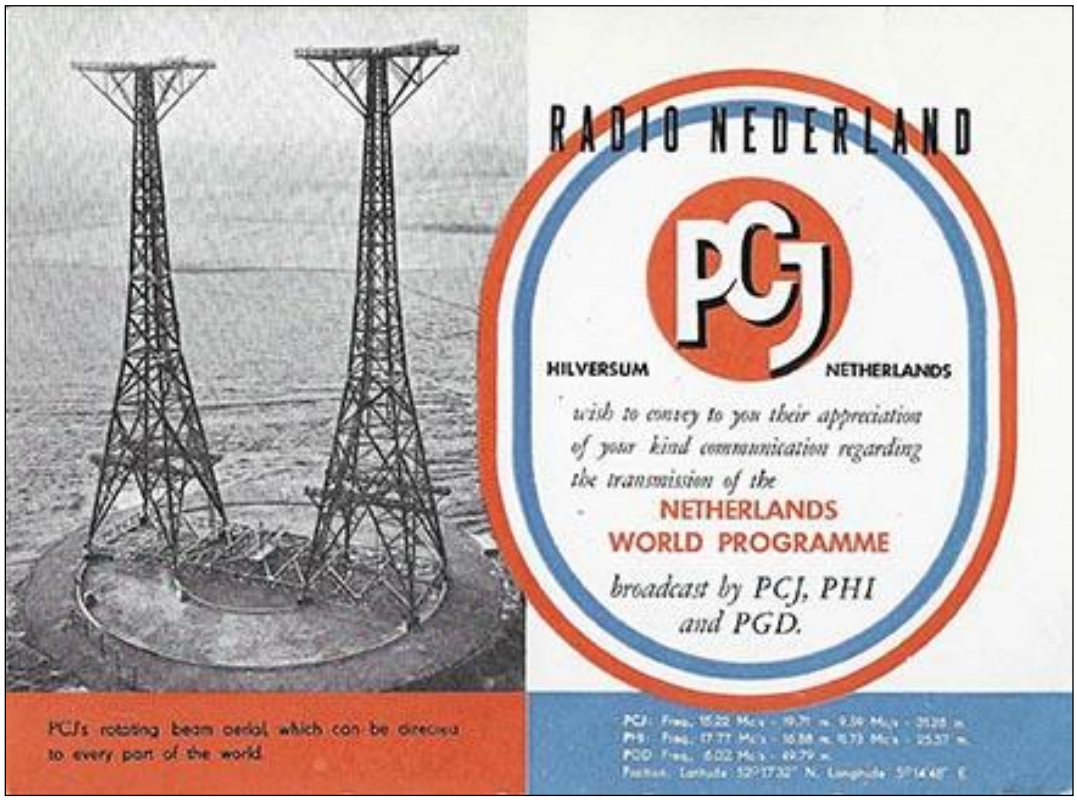
Jan Šustr at Hamparts also sent a picture of two coming items for remote RX antennas switching - there will be soon new 10x1 and 10x2 switch with BPF, preamp and full remote control.

DX nostalgia by RFK

Welcome to yet another edition of DX nostalgia and I hope you will find something of interest. I realize that many of us have lost our QSL collections over the years and that just the memories remains. Wasn't it a real happy time, sitting in front of your receiver in the night, everything quiet around you, the walls of your DX shack covered with pennants and other radio related memorabilia? Maybe one or two diplomas, some poster received from a station…. As for myself I originally used to put my QSLs on the wall but I realized they were better preserved being stored in boxes. I still have my QSLs and I think it's worthwhile preserving them. Each and every one of them represents a special listening experience. Who could forget all the exciting music you heard from all over the world? Some stations even sent local music on tape or records. Isn't all this material worth preserving? Yes, I think so. Not only is it a link to many pleasant memories but also a part of our cultural heritage. If you no longer have your treasured QSL collection I hope that the content of this column will evoke some memories of days gone by, of stations you used to listen to, stations you tried to hear but never succeeded to pick up, contacts you made through your DX hobby….

DXing is still a great hobby although times have changed. But the excitement is still there. Why don't you try it some time? Now let's share some DX memories. Here we have a pennant from Radio Inconfidencia of Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil. It's from the collection of Lars-Olof Hansson LOH.

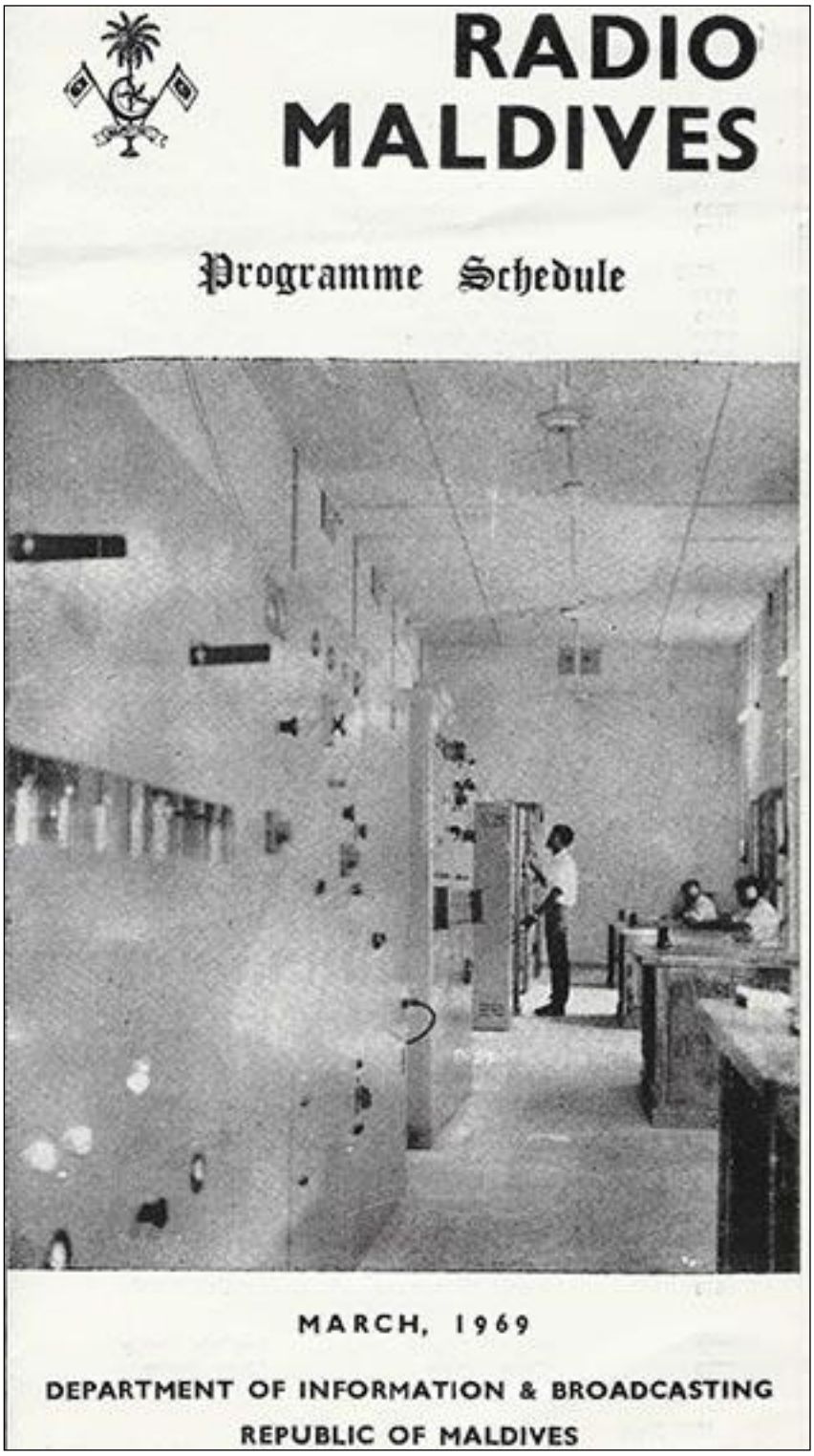
Certain radio sites have become legendary names and Hilversum in Holland is one of them. This QSL card, received by Knut Ivarsson in 1948, was signed by a real radio legend: Eddie Startz.



In the 1950s/60s it was very popular among DX clubs to produce their own programmes to be broadcast over some distant station. Here is a QSL card from Västerbottens DX-Förbund for a special programme on February 26, 1961 over Radio Renascença of Portugal. Received by Bengt Ericson BE.

..

The front page of this programme schedule shows the transmitter hall at Radio Maldives. An interesting detail is that on SW 4740 kHz the station often broadcast paid religious programmes like The World Tomorrow, Wings of Healing and The Voice of Prophecy. These programmes were often broadcast by British offshore stations in the 1960s and they accounted for a big part of the stations income. The schedule was enclosed with the QSL card sent to Bengt Dalhammar BD.



Many searched for Radio Noumea of New Caledonia without success. Lars Rydén LR succeeded in November 1963 and he was rewarded with this QSL card.


RADIO-NOUMÉA

NOUMÉA -- NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

Position géographique : 22° 17' 01' Sud — 166° 26' 10' Est

Fréquences (longueurs d'onde) d'émission
1.400 KH (200 m.)
3.355 KH (90 m.)
7.170 KH (42 m.)

Caractéristiques techniques :

EMETTEUR 4.KW (sur 3355 KH) (7170 KH)
Marque " T.R.T. " — Paris. Etage de puissance.
4 tétrodes " QB5/1750 " en push pull parallèle,
modulées en contrôle d'anode et de grille écran par
4 tubes " QB5/1750 " montés en push pull parallèle.
Antenne " Delta " orientée NE-SW

EMETTEUR 1 KW (1400 KH)
Marque " T.R.T. " — Paris Etage de puissance
4 tétrodes " QB3,5/750 " en push pull parallèle,
modulées en contrôle d'anode et de grille écran par
4 tubes " QB3,5/750 montés en push pull parallèle.
Antenne quart d'onde verticale.

Finally, a nice card which was one of a set of five cards made by AWR listener Freddy Nain Orantes of El Salvador. It has QSL text on the flipside and it verifies the reception of Adventist World Radio-PanAmerica of Alajuela, Costa Rica. It was Jan Edh JE who reported the station on February 28, 1998.

Do you want to contribute to DX nostalgia? Don't be shy – just go ahead! If you want to share something with us please mail me at info @ rock.x.se. Bye for now, GOOD DX AND 73!