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DXing HORIZONS

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DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO RADIO AND TELEVISION DX RECEPTION

SWL'g is a National Pastime . . .

IN THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN

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With
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(Part Three of Three)

Here in Sweden, shortwave broadcasting stations can be heard on ALL bands—11-, 13-, 16-, 19-, 25-, 31-, 41-, 49-, 60-, 75-, 90-, and 120-m. bands are available. *Personally, I find the 60-meter band proves the most interesting—there are NO Europeans transmitting in this band normally — only AFRICANS, ASIANS, AUSTRALIANS, and LATIN AMERICANS.* On the 75- and 90-m. bands, there are a few AFRICANS and LATIN AMERICANS—especially the VENEZUELA and BRAZIL stations can be heard in Sweden on “90” when conditions are good.

The *higher* frequencies—such as in the 11-meter band—are used mostly by the *Voice of America* and the BBC (London); the 13-meter band includes the whole of EUROPE and several “overseas” stations.

While you do usually find the shortwave broadcast bands *crowded with stations*, you can truly say that on them *YOU HAVE THE WORLD AT YOUR VERY FINGERTIPS!*
HAM BANDS

For ham band listening, I have been using a longwire antenna of 107 meters (approximately 352 feet) in length, which has been replaced by a V-beam of 180 meters (approximately 590 feet long).

In a mimeographed letter which accompanies my reception report to ham operators, I set forth, among other things, these facts which I hope will be of interest to the recipient:

“I have been listening to ham stations since 1956, and during these years I have received nearly 2,000 QSL cards; 285 countries have been logged, and I have *confirmations* from 265. I have HAZ (HEARD ALL ZONES) on CW and fone.”

I am particularly interested in listening to the 40- and 80-meter bands where you can find excellent DX when conditions are right.



A portion of Sven Elfving's Listening Post at Ornskoldsvik, SWEDEN . . . in the Land of the Midnight Sun. Of the 161 countries logged by Sven on the International Shortwave Bands, 142 countries have been verified. He has logged 285 countries on the ham bands, verified 265 of these. And he has logged 110 countries on the BCB. His QSLs total in the thousands!

So far, I have HAC (HEARD ALL CONTINENTS) on 40-meter fone and on 40-meter CW. I also have HAC on 80-meter fone—CW. On 40-meter fone, I have logged 46 States in the U.S.A., including KL7s and KH6IJ, Hawaii; I hear West Coasters on 40-meter SSB in December-February *only* from 0700-0900 GMT. I have also heard KH6PD/KM6, Midway, and KG6NTT, Guam, both SSB. I can log U.S.A. Novice Stations here on approximately 7.165-7.199 with good signals from 0000-0800A when they often *fade out*; “*best catch*” on the Novice bands is WV6JBF in California at 0758 on 7.178.

On the U.S.A. fone band—7.200-7.300—I can hear many “*rare*” DX stations from the Americas, but also here there is very bad QRM from European and “*foreign*” broadcasting stations. W3PHL has been heard at 0000 with fair signals, and in the winter of 1959 he was heard to 1130 (*an outstanding record!*) “BEST” signal from him, however, was heard at 0700-0800 when he was running 35 db over S9 level on peaks—almost like “LOCAL” hams! Other DX hams on 40 SSB-fone heard well here are W3NW, W2AB, K3GIF, K4BUR, W8JEH, W5DBN, W2FYT, and others.

On 40 meters, I have logged (*and received QSLs from*) such stations as AP4M (CW, 2245), CO2s, CN8, CN2BK (fone-CW), CR7CK, CT1, DU7SV (CW, 1400-1500), FM7WU (0050), HKOAI (0300), HR1JH,

HR3HH (fone), JA2-4-8-9 (fone and CW), JT1AA (2200), KM6AX (2250), KR6, many KP4s on SSB, MP4QAO (fone), OX3RH, PJ2MF (CW), 35 PYs, mostly CW, VE3BQL/SU (fone), TG9, TI2, all-U districts, VE1, VE3 fone—and on CW at 1100 (*outstanding!*). And 18 VK stations on fone, mostly around 0800, VK2-3 on CW (2130), VK9FN on fone, VQ4ERR on fone (0050), VR2s on CW (0700-0800), VS1-2 (2200) on CW, VS6, XE on fone, YV on *both* fone-CW, ZD7SA on CW; 10 ZLs on fone, ZL2BE, ZL3BL *strong*, 7.121 (0950); VP3IG on fone (1120), ZP5AY on CW; 20 ZS stations, ZS9N, all fone; ZS2HI FB on CW (0149), and lots, lots of more “rare” DX has been heard here.

Also, several “rare” DX “catches” have been made on 80 meters. JA2JW was logged on CW; VK/ZL, ZS6 stations, ZS8I, ZP9AY (often on 0000 on 3.500 on CW), KX6AF, ZL4TE (who worked the whole of Europe), lots of “G” stations, et cetera, around 0700-0800, and on this band 13 States have been logged on fone.

My mimeographed letter to ham operators continues:

“I am QSL Manager for Martin, OY7ML on Faeroes Islands, so anyone requesting a QSL can send me a report or card and be sure to get a QSL back. FAROES ISLANDS are a group of about 21 islands (which belong to DENMARK), of which *only* 17 are inhabited, lying midway between the Shetlands and Iceland.

“I am also a stamp collector and prefer UN-USED stamps,” my letter to ham operators goes on. I often use stamped self-addressed envelopes to bring me 100 per cent QSLs (*and which, incidentally, I find is much better than IRCs!*).

“To end this little story, I will ask you kindly to send me a QSL. The QSL situation speaks very badly for the hams throughout the world, who should at least take the trouble and write out a QSL for a SWL when this one has taken the trouble of listening in to your signals and mailing out a report. *The SWLs of Today are the Hams of Tomorrow! YOUR QSL IS MY HOBBY . . . 73 and good luck!*”

POLAR BEARS CLUB

Here in Ornskoldsvik, I have organized the POLAR BEARS RADIO CLUB. We have only 10 members; you see, *this hobby here in northern Sweden is almost “unkown”—but are fighting for our existence as an organization!*

The headquarters of our club is at my home, of course, since I am the leader of the group.

We have club meetings every second week when we come together at my home, have something to eat and drink, and talk about DX, the latest QSLs received, and other matters which pertain to DX and to the hobby in general.

Until lately, we have had no club paper as do many of the other clubs throughout Sweden. We were just a “LOCAL” group of SW DXers who cooperated and helped each other in the pursuit of *our mutual hobby—the world’s “BEST”—shortwave radio!*

However, we have just started a fine bulletin which already shows great promise of success, I believe! It is called “THE DX-ER” and is written in ENGLISH! It is being published *every THIRD week* from May to December (11 issues), and is available for only \$1.50 (\$4.00 via airmail) to the U.S.A.

We sent out a sample copy of “THE DX-ER” in March, which was quite successful; we’ve been receiving inquires almost daily from fellows who wish to become affiliated with “THE DX-ER.”

We also plan to issue several “diplomas” (or certificates) for SWLs—such as “HEARD SCANDINAVIAN PREFIXES” “HEARD 100 PREFIXES—ZONE 14,” and others.

I am editor of “THE DX-ER,” but all other members of the POLAR BEARS RADIO CLUB are helping with the publication. One addresses envelopes; one sends out free sample copies; another exchanges the bulletin with other clubs, and so on. We hope that through such cooperation, we can make the POLAR BEARS a “big” and “economically-strong” club! *Anyone interested in DXing and this bulletin may have a FREE COPY ON REQUEST TO ME—Sven Elfving, Solgardsgatan 15, Ornskoldsvik, Sweden.*

Among the other active members of the club are Lennart Westman, Ulf Edlund, Helge Broman, Per Engstrom, Gosta Bylund, Borje Persson, and Kjell Nordin.

I trust that those of you in other parts of the world have found this brief resume of SWL’g from the *Land of the Midnight Sun* of more than passing interest—and I am sure that the thousands of my fellow-SWLs in Sweden join me in wishing each of you the best of luck and success as YOU, too pursue the hobby!

SVEN ELFVING

INDIANA TV CHANGE

The fight to move WTVW-7, Evansville, Ind. to UHF channel 31 (making Evansville all UHF) is gaining ground. It could go either way, but the move to UHF is more likely.