

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1562. 1 maj 2005.

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Ännu en i vår medlemskara har gått bort. På konventet nådde informationen oss att Rolf Fredriksson efter en längre tids sjukdom inte längre finns bland oss. Tyvärr fick jag aldrig själv träffa honom. Läs här bredvid vad HK skriver.

I övrigt har var jag uppe en sväng på konventet. Det var en obeskrivlig syn att köra upp genom skogen till stugan och se de otroliga skador som stormen vållat. Runt stugan var det i princip rensopat på träd. Inte konstigt antennerna åkt all världens väg. Denna gång var vi inte så många Bl a visade BD bilderna från sin resa till Svalbard och Odd Päg hade skickat över en video med mycket DX-material. Ett fylligt reportage kommer i nästa nummer.

I övrigt inte mycket nytt.

Keep on

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SWB-info

SWB online på HCDX: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb>

Dateline Bogotá: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/Dateline.htm>

SWB hot stuff: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/> (på denna sajt ligger alltid senaste SWB).

SWB member information: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/member.htm>

Jubileumstidskriften: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/> (html- + pdf-version).

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

Veteran-DX-aren Rolf Fredriksson, Smedstråk, Boden, avled i tisdags efter en längre tids sjukdom.

Han skulle ha fyllt 80 år till hösten. Rolf var aktiv som kortvågslissnare redan vid slutet av världskriget och i början och mitten av 50-talet deltog han med framgång i flera av de lyssnartävlingar som anordnades av Teknikens värld, Teknik för Alla osv. Rolf gjorde inget större väsen av sig. Han spelade inget musikinstrument men om man bad honom gnola signaturmelodin till något gammalt radioprogram, Sweden Calling DXers eller annat, så kunde han göra det och talade också om vad låten hette. Att höra honom berätta om gamla tiders DX-upplevelser var alltid upplyftande. Rolf lämnar ett ljusst minne efter sig. /Henrik Klemetz

Christer Brunström: Radio Six International via IRRS 15725 kort, schema; Radio Africa #2 15190 brev och kort från Panamerican Broadcasting i USA. **XERTA Radio Trans-Continental de América 4810** med brev och kort långt om länge. V/s Lic. Rubén Castañeda Espindola. Den jag jag jagat länge!

Jan Edh: Trots litet tveksamma konditioner chansade jag på Fredriksfors på torsdagskvällen (21/4), och jag får väl anse att jag blev belönad för besöket eftersom jag lyckades få bolivianen Radio Virgen de Remedios i säcken. Men i övrigt var det väldigt tunt. Mellanvägen gav i princip ingenting. Det fanns en del (mest sydliga) signaler framförallt på högre delen av bandet sent på morgonen. På X-bandet gick 1620 (WDHP) och 1640 (Don Bosco) halvkent, Argentina på 1630 och möjligen 1670. Jag låg länge på 1510, men testade också t ex 1400, 1570 men signalstyrkan var för dålig och det var i princip bara musiken som gick fram. Noll med andra ord. Och kortvägen var inte så vass den heller. Brassar framför allt på tropikbandet. Men får man fatt i en ny bolivian så får man väl känna sig belåten.

27/4: det blev en ganska misslyckad natt i Fredriksfors. Inte ett spår (näja, möjligen en bärvåg...) av Radio Chaski. Inte heller hörde jag Virgen de Remedios. Mellanvägen var också heltrist under förnatten med några vanliga brassar. Senare fanns det en del som verkade "sydligt" men svagt på t ex 850, 10,70, 1190?, 1400, 1470 (förutom Rafaela och Cristal), 1510, och möjligen 1570, för att sedan svänga mot Venezuela (många stationer men svagt) och Puerto Rico, innan det slutligen strax före 6 (sommartid) bar mot NA-östkusten med t ex CHIN, med väldigt bra styrka, och WLAM. På X-bandet gick WDHP, Juventus Don Bosco och WGIT alla bra - den senare hörde jag för övrigt använda Radio Voz i anrop för första gången. Tidigare har jag bara sett det "på papper".

Bjarke Vestesen: På tirsdag drager jeg og hele familien til Florida på ferie i fem uger. Turen begynder med nogle dage i Miami og derefter er det af sted til Floridas vestkyst på Sanibel Island tæt på Fort Meyers, hvor vi har lejet et hus i fire uger ud til den mexicanske golf. Turen sluttes af på Key West for blandt andet at se Hemingways hus - tidligere har vi set hans beskedne bolig i Havanna. Min AOR7030+ er selvfølgelig med i bagagen sammen med MD-optager, 100 meter ledning, balun osv. med henblik på især at DXe på mellembølgestationer fra Caribien, Central- og Sydamerika, men også på kortbølge fra samme område. Og så selvfølgelig de amerikanske MB-stationer. Normalt huserer jeg kun i Mellemøsten, men man skal jo prøve noget nyt en gang imellem :-)

(Låter fantastisk og vi ønsker er alla en trevlig ferie! /red)

Dan Olsson: Här kommer lite bidrag ifrån en lyssnarnatt i Saxtorp som jag, Jan Thörnblom och Hans Kronkvist genomförde. En lyssnarnatt med lite strapasser. Vår La Plata-antenn visade vi genomgång var i sönder på ett ställe då man hade fällt ett träd över antennen. Antennen reparerades och förlängdes med 100 m som lades på marken. När vi skulle hämta in rullen på söndagsförmiddagen visade sig att någon slängt in antennen i skogen så att den pekade mot Island snarare än La Plata. Det var kanske därför som vi fick hyfsade Västindien konds på mellanväg. Ett QSL kan jag också redovisa. Nämligen **Antonio Radio 6300** med E-post.

Kan också att jag i torsdags tog ett sista farväl till min DX-kamrat som tyvärr gick bort aldeles för tidigt. Det kändes lite konstigt när man var i Saxtorp och OVE:s stol stod tom.

Lennart Weirell: Några QSL till Västerås: **R Scotland Int - 6306** b k 1 v, **Radio Dr Tim - 6301** e-mail med Word-QSL 1 d, **Jolly Roger Radio Int - 6235** e-mail med Word-QSL 3 v.

Rolf Wikström: Då jag, som vanligt, inte har något att komma med som inte redan finns på internet så

fick jag nostalgiska tankar häromdan och skickar därför in några fotos på ett av de tjugaste standaren jag fått ihop med QSL ifrån LA. Det är ifrån Rádio Difusora Aquidauana som numera troligen sänder på 4795. Svaret kom i början av sjuttioalet och de bifogade alltså Santos F. C.'s klubbstandar där Pelé då fortfarande var den stora stjärnan även om han då började trappa ner. Han finns med på gruppbilden och tycker nog att det här är ett av de mest värdefulla svar jag någonsin fått. Är nog en av Sveriges sämsta digitalfotografer med en kamera som är fyra år gammal, men hoppas att du ändå kan förmedla bilderna vidare.

(Tack för trevligt bidrag, Rolf. Som synes behöver bidragen inte bara bestå av QSL och tips! /red)



LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

3249,7	22.4	0245	Luz y Vida med predikan. QSA 2-3. JE
3249,7	27.4	0415	Luz y Vida med religiösa sånger och något anrop. QSA 2-3. JE
3254,9	21.4	2235	Radio Educadora 6 de Agosto med fotboll. QSA 2. JE
4052,45	22.4	0300	Radio Verdad - kristen musik. Men något lägre i frekvens än vanligt. QSA 2-3 JE
4052,5	27.4	0410	Radio Verdad. Spelade en fuga på vad som verkade vara en synt inställd på "cembalo" eller liknande. Enligt presentatören var det "Buena música". QSA 3. JE
4754,2	21.4	2300	Radio Educacao Rural , Campo Grande. Religiöst. Ska få en ny rapport på chans... QSA 3 JE
4990	27.4	0359	Radio Apintie kom äntligen med ett anrop. Gick så bra (QSA 4 stundtals) att jag började tro att det var något nytt på frekvensen. JE
5005,3	26.4	2335	Radio Nepal med musik. Oregelbunden? QSA 3 JE
5910	26.4	2300	Marfil Estereo med QSA 3. Däremot var den överhuvudtaget inte igång senare på natten när jag kollade. JE
5910	17.4	0215	Marfil Estero spelade en låt med Gloria Estefan i övrigt svängig hemmamusik. Q 4 DO
6025	21.4	2245	Radio Ilimani men Ungern förstörde nöjet att lyssna. QSA 2-3. JE
6050	17.4	0350	HCJB gick fantastisk bra med med religiös musik. Mycket njutbart program. DO
6139,8	27.4	0115	Radio Melodia , eller "Radio Lider" som man ju kallar sig med ett hälsoprogram; hjärtat, prostata etc. Gick väldigt bra. QSA 4-5. JE
6140	17.4	0145	R Lider med musik och ID mellan varje låt. Jag tror att de hade minst 5 olika ID. Precis så ska en radiostation låta. Q 4-5. DO
6193,4	27.4	0125	Radio Cusco ovanligt bra och mycket mindre problem med splatter än t ex grannen Tawantinsuyo. QSA 3. JE
7490	23.4	1600	Jambushi Iran e Farda via Moldova med s/on på farsi og flere IDs. 34433 BV
9223	21.4	2100	Radio Virgen de Remedios. Till en början väldigt svagt med musik och annonseringar och "apeller", men det tog sig. Blev en del känd musik (Let it be, Chiquitita, Sound of Silence) och när det sedan blev 22.05 var styrkan riktigt hygglig om än litet distad signal. Drev under den dryga timme jag lyssnade från ca 9223 till 9223,6. JE

9504,5	21.4	2215	Radio Tacna går bra mest varje gång nu och även ganska tidigt. Inte så stark (QSA 2) men fin signal ändå. JE
11820	23.4	2215	BSKSA Holy Quran med Koran-bøn og Mohammad nævnt mange gange. 44444 BV
12145	23.4	1735	Shortwave Radio Africa med ann., IDs, hørt // med 4880 kHz men intet på 3300 kHz. 34444 BV
15150	24.4	1940	La Voix de l'Indonésie med franska på sin "sommarfrekvens". 3-4 CB
15725	23.4	0830	Radio Mi Amigo via IRRS , Milano, eng., mange IDs, freq.ann., softrock og oldies. 23333 BV



Bandscan from BM, Quito, Ecuador

Björn Malm, c/o Susana Garcés de Malm,
Avenida la Prensa 4408 y Vaca, Quito, Ecuador.
Rx: JRC-535, Loewe HF-150, Sangean ATS-808

tel.: (+ 593 2) 2598 470
email: bjornmalm2003@yahoo.com
Antenn: 12 m lw Ö/V, 24 m lw N/S + Lw Magnetic Balun + MFJ1025 phaser

The following stations have been uploaded during the last 14 days at <http://www.malm-ecuador.com>

6110.02 Brazilian "mystery" This is a "mystery" at least for me. It sounds exactly as a local Brazilian station transmitting from Rio de Janeiro but nothing is listed on the frequency. Normally some strong station is dominating but this Sunday morning just this quite weak Brazilian station together with a weak Asian (?) station. I have two questions: Has this station some connection to "Voz Cristiana" in Chile? Is this really a local Brazilian station? A "mystery" to me so this time you can listen to 3 recordings.

Thank you very much to Samuel Cassio, Glenn Hauser and Andrea Lawendel for help with my unID "Brazilian" on **6110.02 kHz. Voz Cristiana** is a dangerous station, I have had an 100% ID on 6070 kHz for "HCVY2 La R. Dinámica, Guayaquil", a station transmitting on MW 1490 kHz. Voz Cristiana is working together with many stations.

Recording of **4762.00 kHz OCX4W Radio Inca del Peru** (Daniel Camporini) Another "Golden Recording" from Daniel Camporini, Buenos Aires. Listen to a good quality recording from 1987 together with photos from Buenos Aires and Lima.

Recording of **4824,49 kHz "LVS" LV de la Selva**, Iquitos

Recording of **4498.12 Radio Estambul, Depto Beni (Bolivia)**. Must be a new Bolivian station but you are welcome to correct me if I'm wrong. Some weeks ago I reported to the mailing lists an unID station on 4498.12 kHz with 100% Mexican music and I presumed it was some harmonic from 1500 kHz. But I was totally wrong.

This Friday night I first made a recording of Radio Ecos (Bolivia) on 4409.79 kHz, I have never heard them stronger. Some minutes later I was listening to the station on 4498.12 kHz and was very lucky to get an ID: Radio Estambul. I'm not 100% sure of the stations QTH. "Estambul" is a city but what I'm asking is if "Estambul" also could be a part of the city "Guayaramerín"? The DJ says they are transmitting on 4496 kHz.



Saludos Cordiales desde "La Mitad del Mundo"!
(When using my information give credit to: Bjorn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, SWB América Latina)

Stationsnyheter

BOLIVIA. 9216, 9235 R Virgen de los Milagros, Tupiza, 1240 español, misa en directo, retransmisión de noticias de la CNN Tv. Se la escucha prácticamente durante todo el día. la frecuencia de transmisión continua variando entre 9207 / 9235 (Alfredo Locatelli / Uruguay, Conexión Digital via DXLD) You mean Virgen de Remedios, as previously reported? (gh, DXLD)

9221.12, unID at 1017-1031, very weak signal, religious music, fading in and out (Bob Wilkner, FL, DXplorer via DXLD)

BRAZIL. Yes, R Guarujá is still heard on both frequencies, 3235 and 3385 in 90 meters, also on 5045 and 5930. But the official frequency in 90 meters is 3385 now. I will write to R Guarujá owner (Samuel Cássio for DX-Window, Apr 18 via DXLD)

"GAMBIA", 9430, "Gambia Democratic Project", *2000-2015*, Apr.27, English, Test transmission crash-start at 2000 with interview in progress b/w 2 OM re formation, mission of the "Gambian Democratic Project" and hopes for the Gambian 2006 election. Caliope like music over interview at 2014, then music only until 2015*. No ID given. Fair, best listening in USB. Thanks Nick Grace-CRW for the tip. Any ideas on transmitter site? (Barbour-NH via HCDX)

INDIA. Friday April 29, Kerala. **The All India Radio (AIR) Thiruvananthapuram** station, which is authorised to use 5010 and 7290 khz in the 60 and 41-metre band respectively for its domestic Malayalam service, regularly trespasses into the ham frequencies band, which is segmented between 7000 and 7100 khz. The station is transmitting errant and spurious signals, thereby hampering and interrupting exclusive frequencies of ham radio operators in the country. The noise has forced several ham amateurs in India to pull down the big switch.

"Several ham radio frequency bandwidths are affected as a result of the spurious emission. It causes extreme interference to our radio communication and we have changed several of our ham net programmes to other bandwidths and different time schedule," said Manohar Arasu, monitoring systems co-ordinator of Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI), who goes by the call sign VU2UR.

The corrupted bandwidths located till now are 7002, 7026, 7050, 7074, 7098 khz. There are also unwanted emissions on bands 7121, 7314 and 7362 khz, which do not belong to the hams.

"These bandwidths can even belong to radio services used for aviation communication, navigation, telephone services etc. The overpowering signals from the AIR station just elbow-in and interrupt our audio. This may not cost much for ham radios, but radio signals for aviation and navigation, if mangled, will lead to a disaster," said P.B.Sam Kumar, who has a call sign VU3MGU.

As per the rules charted in the International Radio Regulations, it is clearly stated that no unwanted emission should be allowed to trespass into the frequency allotted to ham operators. If any such cases arise, it should be rectified as early as possible, or the transmission must be stopped.

"We had sent letters to Thiruvananthapuram AIR station for restricting their emissions. But nothing has been done so far. Their spectrum analyser showed no harmonics (a type of emission) was their reply. But in the first place, I had never told them of any harmonics at all. AIR is violating the rules framed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)", said Manohar Arasu.

Top officials at the AIR Station, Thiruvananthapuram, are willing to solve the problem, provided the ham club co-operate. But the broadcast major has been ham-fisted in locating the erring line. The department has not changed its working frequency for several years.

"We had even summoned the Wireless & Planning Commission (WPC) in vain, to detect the emission. We are willing to hold discussion with members of the ham clubs regarding this. If worked together we will be able to find a permanent solution to the whole problem," said AIR-Thiruvananthapuram station engineer K.V.Ramachandran.

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IER20050428111932&Page=R&Title=Kerala&Topic=0>
(Mike Kerry via HCDX)

INDIA: On 30 Apr at 1654 noted an AIR station on 3220 with AIR Saturday Night musical program, parallels 3315, 4910, 5010 etc. Nothing heard on AIR Shimla usual 3323 frequency. Close down around 1741 after news relay, didn't catch local ID. Shimla now here, or just a temporary frequency change? Jari Savolainen Kuusankoski Finland via HCDX

SOLOMON ISLANDS, SW. SIBC Honiara are currently using half power on 5020, running just 6kW instead of usual 12kW. Coverage of outer provinces is reported to be unaffected. Money saving exercise because of high costs of fuel.
(Warm regards, Pacific News Update, David Ricquish, Radio Heritage Foundation, www.radioheritage.net via HCDX)

United Kingdom: Hi, **Pipeline Radio** a former London Pirate Station is about to broadcast on Short wave **9290** from Ativa using 100 kilowatts of power. at 15:00hrs Uk time on Sunday 1st May. From the 2nd May Pipeline will also commence regular weekday broadcasts from 16:00 hrs on Sky digital Channel 913. All reception reports and tec advie would be welcomed. Pipeline has the intetion of using a number of platforms to bring our award winning format to Europe.
The station currently broadcasts on www.pipelineradio.org and has seen its audience increase by over 140% with the news of these recent developments. (Yours Graham kirk via HCDX)

USA, Det här mailet kom bl a till mig (också BEFF), men infon kan ju vara av intresse för fler:

To Whom it may concern, During the last year we have received QSL's from all of you receiving this email. We thank you very much for you time. We have made a number of changes in our programming and broadcast set-up. We now broadcast primarily on 6125 Khz, and 9133 Khz but will be using 15500 Khz again soon. If you might be interested we would like to know if you are still able to receive our broadcast. If I can answer any questions for you please let me know. Thank you for your time.

Matthew Wilson, Chief Warrant Officer, United States Navy
(Hälsningar Jan Edh)

Övriga radionyheter

Shortwave is actually experiencing a resurgence. It's strange but true, so what do we base our findings on?

Mainly on the research carried out by the Mighty Merlin Communications, they that operate transmitters across the World on behalf of the BBC. This is what they had to say:

"Shortwave radio listeners are growing globally, with shortwave penetration at its highest in the developing countries. That is not to say that shortwave is not having an impact in the Western world. Recent surveys revealed that 97% of regular business travellers listened to international shortwave." This increase in the shortwave audience, according to Merlin, is "spelt out dramatically by just one factory in China that is frantically producing 300,000 shortwave radio sets per month just to support demand. Grundig in America report growth each year on their sales of shortwave receivers. There are at least 600 million shortwave radio sets worldwide."

In France, according to a Merlin survey, 70% of households with radio have access to shortwave. In Slovakia, the figure is 77%. "What is most interesting," according to Merlin, "is the growth over the last 10 years in shortwave usage by business travellers, diplomats, aid workers and others who move about the world as a result of their jobs.

This change has occurred because of the portability of new sets and the simplicity of their use. Modern synthesized sets, which have the facility of actually entering the precise frequency number, made shortwave easy for everyone.

People learned to pre-tune their sets, forgetting about kHz, MHz and wavebands. The new sets went in pockets, handbags and briefcases. Now sets weigh as little as 220 grams and are easily available and affordable."

Teledifusion de France, which operates Radio France International's extensive shortwave transmitter network, says that "an estimated 2.5 billion people tune in to programmes broadcast on shortwave, and about a billion receivers pick up shortwave transmissions. At any given moment, over 200 million receivers are tuned in to shortwave broadcasts.

Shortwave remains the only means of reaching a broad audience anywhere in the world, via a simple portable radio that can be bought for around \$25. Listeners include expatriates, business travellers, tourists, or simply people who want to hear programmes in a language other than their own or who want to open a new window on the world.

It doesn't matter where you are in the World, with shortwave you can always be in touch with Europa Radio International and you can't do that with the Internet or Sky satellite can you? There's always someone who will want to use the PC or watch the latest episode of the Simpsons. So get yourself a decent receiver, preferably with digital readout, check out our front page for the next transmission dates and times and come over and join us, there's a whole New World to explore.

Write to us, c/o PO Box 299, Kent CT5 2YA, UK E-mail to admin@europaradiointernational.co.uk
<http://www.europaradiointernational.co.uk/shortwave.htm> (Mike Terry via HCDX)

DRM receivers

Mike Terry asked: *Has anyone got or know of anyone who has a DRM receiver? Are there any affordable ones to recommend?*

The best way to see what people are saying and using is to go to <http://www.drmrx.org> and have a look at the forum on receiver modifications (877 posts in 174 threads as I type this). There are no affordable off-the-shelf DRM radios yet, and I suspect it may be a while. A few weeks ago the DRM consortium launched its licensing program meaning any receiver manufacturer, regardless of whether they are members of the consortium or have even done any development work on DRM, can purchase the right to all the patents etc. that are needed. This was a significant milestone in the development of DRM, but has gone largely unreported, probably because the press release was issued not by DRM but by the company that handles the licensing. Even so, design and development takes a while, so don't expect to see any new DRM receivers on the market for some time. (Andy Sennitt via HCDX.)

List of MW stns in South and South East Asia

Hi all, years ago DXer Alan G. Davies put together a very comprehensive list of MW stns in South and South East Asia. I still have that list here, but it's dated Sept. 2001. Does anyone know whether or not Alan has ever updated that list and were it might be available on the web? Of course, the address given in the old list <http://asiaradio.crosswinds.net> does not exist anymore... (73 from Kathmandu Thomas Roth)

Thomas, Here it is: <http://www.asiawaves.net/> (73, Glenn Hauser)

You might also try Bruce Portzer's fine Pacific Asian Log as a reference: <http://www.radioheritage.net/PAL.asp> (best wishes, Nick Hall Patch via HCDX)

Domestic Broadcasting Survey 7

Dear **DX-friends**, **The brand new Domestic Broadcasting Survey 7** from the Danish Shortwave Club International is now available. More details at <http://www.dswci.org/dbs>. (Best 73, Anker Petersen via HCDX)

'Free Radio - the Story of Clandestine Radio

Patrick Mountenay, aka Pat Edison, has written and produced an excellent documentary, 'Free Radio - the Story of Clandestine Radio in the UK', telling the little-known story of the land-based pirates that sprang up following the demise of the offshore stations. The tale emerges via interviews with key personnel from the likes of Radio Jackie, Radio Kaleidoscope, Invicta and Skyline. The 65-minute documentary is available on DVD, and Patrick has a 'making of' section on his Radio Kaleidoscope site, which also gives purchasing details.

The Radio London reviewers were very impressed by the high standard Patrick has achieved and found the documentary superior in quality to many which have appeared on television. <http://radiolondon.co.uk/kneesflashes/happenings/current/hapcurr.html> (Mike Terry via HCDX)

Taliban Return To Afghani Air Waves

19/04/2005 04:09 PM, Mirwais Afghan

Afghanistan's Taliban guerrillas launched a clandestine radio station on Monday, broadcasting anti-government commentaries and Islamic hymns from a mobile transmitter.

Called "Shariat Shagh", or Voice of Shariat, after the station the Taliban ran while in power, the broadcast can be heard in five southern provinces, including the former regime's old power base of Kandahar.

"We launched the broadcast today through a mobile facility," said Taliban spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi. "It goes on the air between six and seven o'clock in the mornings and same time in the evenings," he said by telephone from an undisclosed location.

Hakimi said the Taliban, fighting an insurgency in the south and east of the country since they were driven from power in late 2001, needed their own voice because the world's media were pro-American.

Many Afghans listen to the BBC and Voice of America which broadcast in the country's two main languages, Pashto and Dari. In addition to government-run radio, numerous small, private stations have sprung up, many funded by aid donors.

As well as Islamic hymns and anti-government commentaries, the Taliban station also criticised US and other foreign troops operating in Afghanistan since the Taliban were ousted.

Asked what the Taliban would do if US forces detected and destroyed their transmitter, Hakimi said they would set up another.

Taliban attacks have picked up following a winter lull after the guerrillas failed in a vow to disrupt an October presidential elections won by President Hamid Karzai.

But their activity is down on past years, fuelling speculation the movement may be struggling to find recruits and resources.

Karzai has said his government is in contact with Taliban members to try to persuade them to lay down their arms and abandon a bloody insurgency that has claimed more than 1,000 lives in the past two years.

The commander of US forces in Afghanistan, Lieutenant-General David Barno, said at the weekend the Taliban were desperate but still dangerous.

US-led forces toppled the Taliban government after it refused to hand over al Qaeda chief, Osama bin Laden, the architect of the September 11 attacks on US cities. Find this item at: <http://xtramsn.co.nz/news/0,,11965-4302473,00.html> (Paul via HCDX)

Check out this link: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4459121.stm (73 from Kathmandu, Thomas Roth via HCDX)

AS CARS BECOME MORE CONNECTED, HIDING THE ANTENNAS GETS TOUGHER AUTOS ON MONDAY | TECHNOLOGY By IVAN BERGER Published: March 14, 2005

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/14/automobiles/14CARS.html?ex=1111467600&en=ad068daf70d9b43c&ei=5070>

It makes sense that automakers borrow model names from the jaguar and impala to evoke speed and gracefulness, yet carefully avoid associating their products with a creature like the porcupine. But with all the antennas in some new cars - high-tech luxury sedans may carry 18 or more - it takes a major engineering effort to design vehicles that do not bristle with metal quills.

Today's cars need a selection of antennas just to serve their entertainment systems (separate units for broadcast and satellite radio, and another to receive television programming); navigation units and cellphones use different aerials again. The count increases further with systems that employ a "diversity" antenna to improve reception. This design uses two or more individual antennas tuned to the same band, relying on a microprocessor in the radio to select the clearest signal.

More antennas yet are required for cars equipped with telematics systems like OnStar or the Mercedes-Benz TeleAid. These systems offer concierge services and emergency notification in the event of a collision, using a second set of cellphone and global positioning satellite aeriels to contact a call center.

Keyless entry, security alarms and other functions controlled from the driver's key fob require one or more antennas, as do the short-range Bluetooth communications that link a driver's cellphone or handheld computer with the audio systems of some new cars to permit hands-free phone conversations. Direct-reading tire pressure monitors necessitate still more aeriels to keep tabs on the inflation of each tire, including that of the spare in the trunk.

Active cruise control systems, which maintain a preset distance to the car ahead (and can apply the brakes if the gap narrows too quickly), depend on a radar antenna mounted in the grille. Bumpers may carry a series of antennas that emit signals to measure the distance to nearby vehicles as part of a warning device intended to make parking less of a hit-and-miss affair.

Each feature making use of a radio frequency input requires an antenna tuned to its particular signal, presenting a big challenge to the engineers who must find places to install all of this hardware. Adding to the complexity is a wide range of size and shape requirements, which change with the wavelength of the signal.

Besides avoiding stickleback styling, incentives to strip antennas from the car's exterior and tuck them away include the potential to reduce wind noise and aerodynamic drag. Drivers also appreciate the elimination of breakage by carwashes and vandals.

Some of the earliest antennas in cars were wire loops hidden within the cloth tops of 1930's sedans, but with the advent of all-steel roofs the upright mast antenna became the preferred design. About 30 years later, carmakers tried hiding them again, integrating antennas into windshields or rear windows by applying wires to the surface or embedding them inside the glass.

"Those were simple antennas, and reception was poor," said Robert W. Schumacher, manager for integrated media systems at Delphi, a leading parts supplier.

Recent designs use an embedded metal film of tin oxide - thin enough to be transparent - that can be electrically heated for defrosting, said Eric Walton, a research scientist at Ohio State University whose designs are used in some General Motors cars.

Carmakers also hide antennas behind plastic panels that will not block signals, and in bumpers, parcel shelves, trunk lid trim, doors, under dashboards and in roofs.

For its PT Cruiser convertible, Chrysler is experimenting with antennas in the roll bar. Mercedes-Benz puts the antennas for its keyless-entry system in the doors, center console, bumpers and windows.

Antenna modules can also be concealed in outside mirrors, Dr. Schumacher said. In a pinch, several antennas can be combined in one compact housing.

Most of the new antenna types, Dr. Walton said, are "conformal" antennas, which follow the contours of the car so that "the entire car becomes the antenna." This design became possible only with the availability of computers that could calculate antenna performance for the curves of cars not yet built.

Properly aiming conformal and concealed antennas can be tricky. With early windshield antennas, for example, "you'd turn a corner and the station would disappear," Dr. Walton said, a problem solved by installing window antennas on all sides of the car. "We have to deal with the geometry the car designer gave us. Antenna engineers would prefer shaping cars to be effective antennas, but those would be some pretty funny-looking cars."

If the car's body panels are isolated from one another, they can be pressed into service as multiple antennas for diversity reception.

Phase diversity systems, a design coming soon to some DaimlerChrysler cars, add together the signals of several antennas to make them stronger. These systems can also be configured to work like a single antenna that electronically stays aimed squarely at the signal source, even as the car turns.

The number of antennas aboard cars is expected to increase further with the spread of wireless broadband services.

One maker of audio systems has proposed music downloads from home computers to a car parked nearby, using a high-speed wireless connection, and Mercedes-Benz has demonstrated a concept it calls drive-by infotuning, in which navigation and information systems can be updated at a toll booth or gasoline stop.

Will this forest of antennas doom the public to driving porcupines? No, cars will maintain the sleekness of dolphins - designers and carmakers prefer it that way. (via John Figliozzi, and Mike Terry, dxldyg via DXLD)

The Falklands' highest structure, March 10, 2005, by J. Brock (FINN)

The Falklands' highest structure, a medium wave mast measuring 433 feet - 132 metres - has been successfully painted in record time, despite February's challenging weather. Mario Zuvic and Luis Salazar of KTV Limited, along with three professional riggers, Hernan Corvilan, Juan Perez and Juan Ramirez, subcontracted from the Chilean company that manufactured, supplied and erected the FIBS Medium Wave mast and antenna in 1999 did the massive paint job. Other repair work and the replacement of some parts were also carried out on the structure.

At the same time, KTV and their riggers also carried out painting works on two Cable & Wireless masts one at MPA and the other at Sapper Hill.

The 530 KHZ medium wave mast is the highest structure ever built in the Islands and, according to Mario Zuvic, "The view from the top of the mast is breath-taking and so is the climb."

In 2000 - 2001 2000-2001 riggers carried out extensive repairs to the mast after a Tornado Aircraft collided with it causing extensive, thankfully not fatal damage. <http://www.falklandnews.com/public/story.cfm?get=3152&source=3> Mike Terry via HCDX

REE, Costa Rica

I visited REE site in Cariari, Cantón de Pococí in my native province of Limón, just once more than a decade ago. They were running three 100 Kw. Continental transmitters by then, and I haven't seen such behemots and those big antenna curtains, unless if were in pictures from major broadcasters.

I'm wondering the same that gh does, being Cariari so close to the North American continent, they only have a sesqui (is it a right word?) hour in English on 15385 at 0000.

That leads me to the idea that goes on and on with all broadcasters: if they don't get enough input of feedback with the listeners, they end with the impression of a scarce audience. At least in my case, I don't use to be writing or calling to a station all the time to let them know I'm a faithful listener. I could love their programs like many of us do: lonely wolves. Broadcasters should know (and I know they know) there are thousands of quite listeners out there in the globe, whose only reaction towards them comes when they threaten with program cuts. The bad thing to convince the managers to step back, is that decisions have been taken before going on the air.

(aúl Saavedra, Costa Rica. Via HCDX)