

DSWCI DX Camp at Vejers 4-6 June 2004

by Anker Petersen and Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen

24 persons took part in our successful DSWCI DX-Camp and Annual General meeting at Vejers Beach on June 04-06. The members came from: The Czech Republic: Mariá Gösselová. Finland: Torre Ekblom. Sweden: Tibor Szilagyí. Germany: Bernhard Hein, Hella & Karl Helt, Robert Kipp, Andy Schmid, Rolf Meyer, Simon-Peter Liehr and Eckhard Röscher. Denmark: Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen, Bent Nielsen, Anker Petersen, Torben Dahl, Vagn Nielsen, Kurt Pedersen, Knud Eriksen and Jens Søndergaard. The guests were: Germany: Helga Neuner, Gertrud Schmid, Brigitte and Franziska Meyer. Denmark: Karin Nielsen who was in charge of the Danish Buffet.

Upon arrival Friday afternoon we had the first surprise: A big DSWCI flag was kindly donated to the Club by Bernhard Hein and right away run up in the flagstaff of the scout camp Vardeborg where our DX-Camp and AGM was held.

Antennas then were drawn out in the 5 meters tall sand dunes along the west coast of Jutland. After that, DX-ing was done continuously until Sunday morning except for the AGM itself and the Danish Buffet. Reception conditions were good and many seldom stations were heard on SW and MW similar to a year ago. (Cf. TIPS in SWN July/August).

The second surprise was that Andy Schmid had organized a pennant competition which was won by Torre Ekblom.

On Saturday morning those not DX-ing had a nice walk in the sunshine through the rough nature along the sandy beach.

Annual General Meeting.

At 1400 local time the Chairman of the Club opened the AGM welcoming all participants and forwarding greetings from other members and previous participants around the world.

Tibor Szilagyí was elected Chairman of the Meeting and he read the relevant articles from the Statutes and found that the AGM was announced in good time before the event. The report of the previous AGM was approved and then the Chairman of the Club, Anker Petersen, gave his annual report:

"You probably remember that at each Annual General Meeting many years back I did report that our membership was going down. But a year ago I reported that the downgoing curve seemed to level out, and today I have the good news that our membership is increasing!

"In May 2003 we had 221 members and today we have 237 living in 34 countries in all continents of the world! At least some of these new members have been members before, but came back, because they appreciate what the DSWCI offers nowadays. In some cases they have got more time for DX-ing after retirement from their job.

"The number of "E-members" who pay a reduced membership fee and read SWN on our website instead of the ordinary printed version by postal mail, is included in the 237. It has nearly doubled up during the past year from 33 to 64 which now is 27% of our members. The trend is clear that more and more members prefer to read SWN on our website right after its publication and for a cheaper membership fee. At the same time our costs to printing and postage are reduced and this is good for our economy.

"The present members are living in the following countries: Germany 45, Denmark 28, the United Kingdom 23, Italy 21, Sweden 19, Japan 16, U.S.A. 14, The Netherlands 11, France 10, Finland 7, Spain 4, Argentina, Portugal and Switzerland each 3.

"We have 2 members in Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. Finally these countries are represented with one member each: Costa Rica, Cyprus, Honduras, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, Malta, the Philippines, Republic of South Africa, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan.

"We are pleased to have a small increase in the number of members in Sweden, U.S.A, Japan, Denmark, Finland, Canada, Russia, Switzerland and Ukraine. We are still THE DX-club publishing a printed magazine with the most worldwide membership.

"We have now had the present website for nearly two years and it is working and managed very well by Rolf Wernli in Switzerland. It has also been expanded quite a lot which was a request by our members in the answers to our questionnaire last year. This includes, that besides the SWN, also the DX-Window and various lists and articles with pictures are published in the Member Area. In the Public area can be found information about the DSWCI and some examples of old articles in SWN which might attract readers to join the club. I am not in doubt that this website is the main reason why we have been able to turn the downgoing number of members to a steadily upgoing trend! Thank you to Rolf for doing this outstanding job for the Club!

"Spam mails and virus cause big problems on the Internet. We get most of this infiltration in incoming e-mails, if our e-mail addresses have been published on one or more websites or public newsgroups. "Spam robots" are computers which constantly search through all such public areas on the internet. Each time they find an e-mail address, it is stored and later on sold on a CD to those people who intend to sell various products. They then send out their un requested advertisements as spam messages via e-mails to millions of people.

"In an attempt to counter these problems some members have installed spam-blocking software on their PC, but they have to add the sender addresses from our Club on the so-called "White List" in order to continue to receive e-mails from us. Some Internet Service Providers furthermore have installed Spam filters on behalf of all its customers. Such filters consider bulk-mailings to be spam, and such traffic is rejected, before it reaches the individual members. Some spam filters are even blocking all mail originating from Senders who have issued bulk e-mails.

"Our popular, electronic newsletter, the DX-Window continues to be sent out as bulk e-mails every second Wednesday to those interested who have access to the Internet. It has a good support with many contributions from our active members around the world. At the moment 113 members or nearly half of our membership get it as e-mail. Rolf Wernli also publishes it on our website in the Members Area where more members can read it using the current username and password.

"Unfortunately the Internet Service Provider "America on line" (AOL) in January installed a rigid spamfilter which classified the DX-Window as unsolicited bulk e-mails. This meant that I was unable to e-mail the DX-Window to nine members in USA, UK and Germany who all had an AOL-address. Protests to the AOL in Germany and the USA, and to my Danish provider Tele2 did not solve the problem. Fortunately most of these members were able to use an alternative e-mail address at another provider. If this is not the case, the DX-Window can still be downloaded from our website.

"The printed SWN has also been published every sixth week during the past year, but there have been many problems. With the permission of the Chairman of the meeting, I will hand over to the Editor-in Chief for a detailed report on the production of SWN."

"For many years now, it has been a tradition, that I, as the editor-in-chief give you a brief report concerning our bulletin – Short-wave News, and so I'll of course also do that this year.

"My report goes from May 2003 and to May 2004, where we published 9 issues, just as the previous years. It seems that our members are quite satisfied with this decreasing numbers of issues, which we have had for quite some years now. In this period, we have published a total of 256 pages, compared with 240 pages the period a year before, giving an average of 28 pages for each issue, and compared with 26 pages the period before. Out of those 256 pages just 7 pages were commercial pages.

"Besides the regular sections, we have also been able – similar to the previous years – to include some interesting articles, written by our own members. It is still my aim, that we for the most parts, just publish articles made by our own members, and we have succeeded with that for many years now, which I am most grateful for. Thank you very much to those members, having spend the time for writing those articles.

"Let me here mentioning the articles published during the year:

"Our chairman, Anker Petersen, has again been on an interesting tour, this time to the island of Sao Tomè, where he made an very interesting article, from this place that is not so crowded by tourists.

"The EDXC conference 2004 was held in K nigstein, near Frankfurt. Many DSWCI members attended the meeting, and some of you are present here today. Of course Anker also went to the meeting, and he made an article about this event.

"Another of our members, Maarten van Delft, who also likes to travel a lot, wrote an article with news from radiostations at his tour to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Bhutan, China and India.

"In the December issue, Anker has again been active by writing an article from the meeting called "Forum for listeners and Broadcasters" held on the island of Malta by the Voice of Mediterranean. About 6 DSWCI members among 30 participants took part in that meeting.

"Besides those articles, we also published various articles and surveys, such as DBS Updaters, replies to our questionnaire, a survey of the tropical bands in review, before and now, the contest sheet for our annual DX contest arranged by our Czech member, Jaroslav Bohac, and a survey of active Latin American stations. The last one is included here in your folder, so that you can see what to listen for to night! Most of these surveys were also made by our most active chairman, to whom I want to express my sincere thanks.

"As said in the beginning of my report, Short Wave News has been send out 9 times, most times very regular, namely the day after we got the printed copies from our printing house, which always has been Friday the week after the scripts were send to the printing house. During the past half year, we have however had some problems with our printing house, which, by the way, we have used for more than 15 years now. They moved to an new addresses twice during that period, and furthermore they were not so stable in delivering our bulletin. I had a meeting with the manager mid December, where they told me, that they prefer the scripts send to them as an attached file. Formerly I send it as paper copies. By doing this, the quality would be much better, they told me. So this May issue was sent as an attached file. Besides that, the delivery time was delayed with four days more, than we use to have. I myself am not satisfied with the printing quality, especially the pictures should be better than they were. I made myself the December/January and the February issue at my work, on a photocopying machine, and I think that the quality was just as good as that from the printing house. What the future will bring, concerning printing of our bulletin, I can not tell you at this moment, but I'll sure let you know, when something new is coming up.

"Turning back to the editorial side, once again I am happy to note and tell you, that all my co-editors have been the same since the last AGM, and as usual all have made a very good job. A Big thank you to you all for your stable work, which we in the Board do appreciate very much. My thanks also goes to all those members, who in one way or another have provided us with contributions in various ways – big or small. As said many times earlier, without your activity, we would not be able to make a Short Wave News packed with lots of useful information, and is highly respected in most DX communities. Thank you.

Anker Petersen continued: "Let me thank Kaj very much for all his extraordinary endeavours to get SWN published each time!

"In April, I finished editing the sixth edition of the Domestic Broadcasting Survey which is completely updated and unique, thanks to several monitors amongst our members. Again this year it includes the active Clandestine stations. Furthermore at each entry it is noted when the station was logged the last time before the deadline. No other list in the world has such a feature showing the topicality of each domestic shortwave station.

"We sold 28 printed and 140 e-mail copies of DBS-5 which was published a year ago. Since April this year we have already sold 26 printed and 66 e-mail copies of DBS-6, so that is pretty good in just six weeks! This is also good for our economy.

"Again in April this year our Czech member Jaroslav Bohac arranged our annual DX Contest "The Grand Tour with Cancer and Capricorn" for the 16th year in a row. It is really challenging to participate, and 23 DX-ers did so this year. In 2003 only 19 took part. Jaroslav is now working on the results, but let me here thank him for all his hard work for this Club contest.

" During the past year another DSWCI-project has been carried out on the initiative of Robert Kipp. Through his contacts with Radio St. Helena he has succeeded in providing a QSL on their last broadcast in 1999 to many DX-ers. Thank you very much for this great detective work, Robert!

"During the past year the number of broadcasting stations which left Shortwave increased. This includes domestic stations as well as international broadcasters. Three of these are R Denmark and NRK via the transmitters in Norway, and the Voice of the Mediterranean broadcasting from Malta via transmitters in Italy and Russia. They all ceased their shortwave broadcasts at the end of December 2003.(During Miscellaneous on the Agenda were played short recordings of the last broadcasts of these three stations).

"As you may remember, the DSWCI in April last year did send a letter of protest to our Minister of Culture, Mr Brian Mikkelsen, with info copies to the Chairman of the Board of Danmarks Radio, Mr J rgen Kleener, and to the Director General of Danmarks Radio, Mr. Christian Nissen, as an attempt to avoid closure of the SW service.

"The result was an immediately written, personal reply from the Minister of Culture and in June Stig Hartvig Nielsen and I were summoned to a meeting at the Radiohouse with the Director of Radio Broadcasting, Mr. Leif L nsmann and his secretary, Mr. Ole M lgaard. For two hours Mr. L nsmann tried to convince us that many other ways of communication could replace SW broadcasting, but we maintained that many Danes on travel highly appreciated the news broadcasts twice daily on SW from Denmark and that other means of getting these news either were impossible to use in their case, or too expensive. We also pointed out that there might be cheaper ways of leasing air time on SW, than used in the previous contract with Norkring in Norway. At another meeting in July with Mr M lgaard, we assisted Radio Denmark in developing a plan for a reduced schedule to all parts of the world using other transmitting sites. Then Radio Denmark did contact these transmitting organizations. We heard nothing more until the end of October when the decision had been taken to replace the

shortwave broadcasts with other media from the First of January 2004.

"This decision was taken by people at a high level of Danmarks Radio who are fascinated by modern technology. Our member Erik Køie who is a very experienced technician at Danmarks Radio and has been in charge of the technical side of these shortwave broadcasts for many years, was not even consulted.

"The DSWCI and several Danish listeners to Radio Denmark did send letters of protest on this decision, but these did not result in any changes. Instead our Club received a second letter from the Minister of Culture and an unexpected letter from the Chairman of the Board of Danmarks Radio, Mr. Jørgen Kleener. Both letters once more tried to explain all the advantages of the other media, but did not solve the problems for Danes travelling abroad as tourists.

"We all very much regret these large reductions at stations which most of us have listened to since we began shortwave listening. For us Danes the SW broadcasts particularly was our daily lifeline back home when we were travelling abroad.

"The only encouragement is that in the month of May Denmark returned on SW with the revived World Music Radio now broadcasting from a location near Karup. We wish our member Stig Hartvig Nielsen good luck with this project!

"Before closing my report I wish to mention that on the 18th of November 2006, the DSWCI will become 50 years old! We intend to do something special to celebrate this jubilee, probably in connection with the AGM in May or June 2006. Our members are welcome to forward their ideas to the Board before the end of August 2004."

"Finally my sincere thanks to all members of the Board, General Directors and the whole Editing Staff and our webmaster for your stable and very fine work done each month for the Club. Thank you also to the auditors for checking the Club account on behalf of our members."

Robert Kipp had some comments re. the report from the Chairman. He suggested that we should make a pin, that could be bought by members, which is very popular right now. Furthermore he suggested to stop printing the hard copy of SWN, however other participants did not agree in this. Kurt Pedersen proposed to contact radio manufactures as sponsors for our 50th anniversary.

Our treasurer, Bent Nielsen, then went through the audited account for 2003 which was published on page 8 in SWN March/April. The increasing number of E-members, the printing by Kaj Bredahl of a couple of issues of SWN, and a good sale of DBS-5 has improved our economy extraordinary. Furthermore he also thanked those many members who "round up" when they pay to the DSWCI as an extra gift. His proposal, that the membership fee in DKK shall be unchanged during the coming year, was accepted.

In connection to the audited account, Robert Kipp asked which public relation we're doing for our DBS. Anker answered what we are doing, namely sending out lots of information sheets, as well as hard copies to some DX-clubs.

The elections were easy as the only new candidate was Kurt Pedersen. The rest were re-elected:
The Board: Anker Petersen, Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen, Bent Nielsen, Christopher Siboni and Kurt Pedersen.
Substitute to the Board: Torben Dahl.
The General Board: Noel Green (UK), Gerd Klawitter (Germany) and Torre Ekblom (Nordic countries).
Auditors: Torben Dahl and Vagn Nielsen.
Under Miscellaneous Eckhard Röscher from Dessau revealed that the GDR Security Police (Stazi) had followed his DX-ing in

1972-1989 very closely. In their opened archives he has seen more than 100 pages about himself, including photocopies of reception reports to and replies from radio stations!

Robert Kipp suggested the WRTH as sponsor, as well as an jubilee edition of SWN. Torben Dahl proposed that we should contact WMR, and making special programmes for this occasion.

Talks after the AGM

Anker Petersen first gave a summary of the events at the European DX Council during the past year, including the EDXC Conference in Königstein and the Forum in Malta. Unfortunately no DX Club has offered to organize an EDXC Conference in 2004, and there were no new candidates to succeed Luigi Cobisi and Paolo Morandotti when their mandate ended at New Year. A Statute Commission is right now working with a new proposal of Statutes for the EDXC with emphasis on the individual DX-er.

Robert Kipp then explained the very difficult project to identify those DX-ers who had reported the last broadcast on shortwave from Radio St. Helena and to get them their QSL which finally happened last month.

Anker Petersen closed with a short talk on his monitoring of ORF, Radio Japan and Scandinavian Weekend Radio. He also explained that 30 days of successive monitoring of Andean SW stations between 2300 and 2400 UTC did not show any clear relation to the solar flux and A-index of the same days.

Saturday evening we had a very enjoyable Danish Buffet with new and delicious dishes prepared by Karin Nielsen.

All participants expressed great joy on having attended this DX-Camp and they look forward to our next gathering. We can only invite other members to consider to join us next year.