

Domestic Broadcasting Survey  
11<sup>th</sup> Edition, May 2009  
Edited by Anker Petersen  
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Reviewed by Richard A. D'Angelo

There are numerous providers of radio broadcasting information in the marketplace today, many of them offered for free, but a lot of them are not high quality offerings. The latest Domestic Broadcasting Survey 11 ("DBS-11"), once again edited by Denmark's world-renowned DX'er Anker Petersen, is one resource that continues to lead the pack in providing an accurate DX reference for the shortwave enthusiast. Published in May by the Danish Shortwave Club International ("DSWCI"), the DBS continues to be the top annual publication devoted to tropical and domestic band shortwave broadcasting stations. Along with its monthly updated graphical companion, the Tropical Band Monitor ("TBM"), the combination of these two DX references continues to be unbeatable in quality and value. The DSWCI offers the DBS in electronic form (pdf-format), which provides for a substantial reduction in price over a paper version thereby increasing its value and speed of delivery. Either way you will be receiving and using an important DX resource produced by an international array of top notch DX'ers that will prove its worth to you time after time. The DBS and TBM references are the first items I pack on each of the French Creek DXpeditions.



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As in past years, a copy of the Press Release can be found on the DSWCI website at [www.dswci.org](http://www.dswci.org). By clicking on the Domestic Band Survey, you will see the color front page Mandinka drum beat group "A le lac" in a tropical night near Toubakouta, Senegal. The photo, which was taken by Petersen during his African travels, and a sample listings from this year's DBS along with reviews from last year's edition all can be found at that location. By the way, Anker's cover photo's for the DBS continue to provide the local flavor associated with a domestic listening market.

The DSWCI is now fifty-two years old. It has a worldwide membership of experienced shortwave listeners scattered in 33 different countries all over the globe. Anker draws upon the knowledge and skills of the DSWCI's international array of top-flight DX'ers to produce a unique and extremely valuable hobby resource. In addition to the club's extensive monitoring activity, the new survey is also based upon many official sources and DX bulletins with A09 schedules included when available. Over the years, the DSWCI has published some of the best non-commercial hobby references available to the shortwave listener. The electronic and limited print editions of DBS-11 continue in this grand tradition. It is an essential reference for serious shortwave listeners and DX'ers.

This is the eleventh year that the DSWCI has incorporated its invaluable tropical band survey into a broader national survey that includes all domestic shortwave broadcasting. The old Tropical Band Survey ("TBS") portion of this publication, which has been tops in the field of shortwave broadcast lists for many years, is in its 37<sup>th</sup> year. Because most of the club's members devote the majority of their DX'ing time to domestic broadcasting stations on the tropical and international shortwave bands, many years ago the DSWCI decided to expand the traditional tropical band survey to include stations broadcasting to a domestic audience on the international bands. Consequently, the DSWCI now publishes a superb, comprehensive reference of domestic shortwave broadcasting throughout the shortwave spectrum. The DBS-11 covers all active stations broadcasting to a domestic audience between the frequencies of 2,300 kHz to 30,000 kHz. Part 1 is the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of Tropical Band Survey covering all active broadcasting stations in the 2,300 to 5,700 kHz range. Part 2 covers the domestic stations on the international bands above 5,700 kHz broadcasting to a domestic radio audience. Part 3 contains all active clandestine shortwave broadcasting stations with schedules and identifications in frequency order that enhance the value of the DBS-11 to the serious shortwave radio monitor. Part 4 contains deleted frequencies between 2 and 30 MHz, which have not been reported heard during the last five years, but may reappear at some future point in time.

A valuable, unique feature of the DBS-11 is the right hand column called Last Log. This column shows the last month and year prior to the April 27<sup>th</sup> deadline when a particular station was reported logged by a DX'er somewhere in the world. This gives the listener a reasonable indication of the audibility of the shortwave broadcasting station. As part of the updating process, most frequencies that have not been heard in the last year have been deleted from the list and moved to a section at the end of the survey, Part 4 as discussed above. This updating procedure makes the DBS current and very user friendly. My own personal monitoring and checking confirms that the 2009 edition of the Domestic Broadcasting Survey continues the tradition of providing very accurate and extremely useful information for the DX'er. Consequently, this is an extremely valuable addition to the DX shack where published radio resources are necessary in pursuit of elusive DX station catches. My copy of the Domestic Band Survey sits on my desk next to my communications receivers at all times.

To assure reliability, each of the 1,000 station frequencies has been checked by the club's extensive collection of worldwide monitoring experts since the last publication through the April 27<sup>th</sup> deadline closing date. Stations confirmed as being active is marked with an "A" (regular), or "B" (irregular), or "C" (sporadic) in the list. A "D" means the stations is likely inactive. This simple coding system provides valuable information when tuning the bands while trying to get a handle on rare, exotic DX catches. As a result of extensive monitoring, most of the frequencies already have been confirmed as being active in 2009.

The previously mentioned Tropical Bands Monitor feature was added four years ago as a monthly updater to the DBS. Its introduction provided a readily available electronic update of broadcasting stations below 5,700 kHz using a color-coded graphical presentation format. It has been a big success making the DBS/TBM combination extremely valuable tool for shortwave listening. This website based feature, which is updated each month, helps to keep the DBS-11 current. I download the latest version each month, it is usually available 3 or 4 days after the close of the previous month, and use it as a ready guide to what is being heard around the world on the domestic frequencies. This service alone is worth more than the price of the DBS itself. I can't over emphasize the value the TBM adds to the DBS. Together they form an indispensable package of DX reference sources. DSWCI members also receive periodic updates issued in the *Shortwave News* bulletin published by the club and through its electronic *DX Window*. These extra services keep the domestic band survey accurate, up-to-date and vital tools in chasing elusive DX catches. Details about becoming a DSWCI member are available at the club website. The electronic, pdf-format, club membership option substantially reduces the cost of being a member by

reducing the printing and postage costs. Because of the club's strong DX culture and its array of international DX'ers, membership in the DSWCI is well worth the annual dues.

The Domestic Broadcasting Survey and Tropical Band Monitor are high quality shortwave broadcast DX resources made available at a very reasonable price. The combination of high quality and low price make the DBS and TBM unbeatable in today's global resource reference marketplace. If you listen to domestic broadcasters, the DBS-11, and the monthly updates through the TBM, is a "*must have*" while tuning the bands. As I mentioned before, these are the first resources I pack when attending French Creek DXpeditions. I can't imagine DX'ing the shortwave bands without a copy of the Domestic Band Survey and the latest graphical update of the Tropical Band Monitor at my side.

How easy is the Domestic Broadcasting Survey to use? Simple, the DBS-11 is very straightforward and easy to use. The first column provides the reception code, A, B, or C as previously described. The second column lists the frequency. The third column provides the station transmitter output. The fourth column designates the broadcasting country utilizing the International Telecommunications Union ("ITU") country code abbreviations. For those not familiar with these abbreviations, a complete list of ITU country codes is given on page 3 of the DBS. The fifth column provides the station name and/or call letters and location. The next column provides transmission times and other useful information about the station such as operating schedules during Ramadan for Middle East and Indonesian stations. Other useful features for easy station identification are the parallel frequencies and station ID sentences. The final column is the Last Log feature previously described. Also, the survey includes a listing of Indonesian provinces and special districts, which is extremely useful for DX'ers with an interest in that part of shortwave broadcasting world. As the sunspot numbers slowly move up, I expect to be tuning more Indonesian stations during our upcoming DX season. See the sample extracts from the DBS at the end of this review.

The 35-page A-4 size Domestic Broadcasting Survey is available in electronic form in pdf-format of about 452 KB. The electronic DBS-11 is available via e-mail for only US\$8.00, EUR 5, or 5 International Reply Coupons ("IRCs"). The limited print edition is available for only US\$16.00, EUR 10, or 9 IRCs. This year's dollar price reflects a slight decrease from last year's price because of currency exchange rate adjustments. The DBS-11 can be ordered direct from the club treasurer at the following address:

DSWCI  
c/o Bent Nielsen  
Egekrogen 14  
DK-3500 Vaerloese  
Denmark

The 2009 edition of the Domestic Broadcasting Survey continues the long-standing, excellent tradition of being a very useful and reliable DX'ing resource that should be in the radio shack of every active shortwave monitor. I use the DBS on a regular basis while tuning the shortwave bands. I can't imagine DX'ing without this at my side especially while on a French Creek DXpedition. Though some enjoy operating a computer while tuning the bands, I print out a hardcopy to use thereby eliminating an electronic device from the radio shack while listening. During French Creek DXpeditions, my copy of the domestic Broadcasting Survey is in constant use! The pdf-format DBS is incredibly inexpensive and extremely useful. The monthly update to the Tropical Band Monitor keeps things current. At only US\$8.00, the electronic Domestic Broadcasting Survey continues to be the "*best buy*" of any hobby resource on the market today. Add the Tropical Band Monitor as a bonus and you have the deluxe package of DX resource tools. You must have the new DBS, which is an outstanding piece of DX hobby research. This is a "*must have*" for every DX radio shack and I can highly recommend its purchase so order a copy to enhance your DX'ing sessions.

