

King Chulalongkorn Memorial Amateur Radio Society in Ragunda, Sweden SI9AM

Like previous years, visiting SI9AM was scheduled for October and within the period of the CQWW contest. The participation in that contest was not really the main objective, but the large pile-ups that the callsign generates. The contest gave a special touch to the visit and we saddle the local Swedish radio amateur friends up with a good score, in other words, we have not been embarrassed them by a log of over 2800 QSOs.

Getting there now, in the middle of Sweden, to an amateur radio station, some ask why. A rare DXpedition is not, a rare DXCC either. Well, the nickname has a history. The king of Siam, Thailand now called, visited Sweden around 1897, he left the spot for Thai's with a beautiful pavilion building.

The radio amateurs of this part of the country saw an opportunity and there was a planning application for a station with the callsign SI9AM. Siam, that is clear, and the digit 9 in the call sign is simply the lucky number of the Thai's. This created SI9AM and they have celebrated their 10th anniversary this year.



In those 10 years, the station was serviced regularly by members of various clubs in the zone SM3. Recently, the old SB220 be replaced by a Acom1000. The monitors became flat screens, etc.. In this desolate area, even Internet is available to activate the cluster.

We hoped for a bit that the new Spyder Beam for the WARC bands was already installed, but this was unfortunately not happened yet. A job for the summer so the verdict.

In autumn 2009, our club donated a 4 element mono bander for 20m and this summer they put them on the mast.

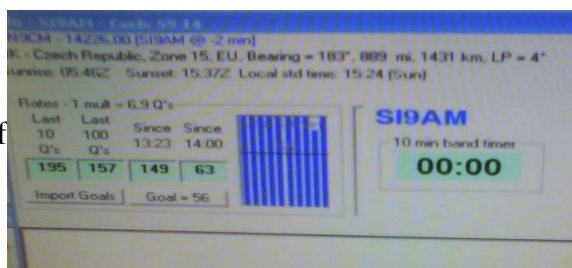
We had WARC bands as our main focus, but this was difficult. Partly due to the lack of new antenna but mainly because the poorer propagation on these bands. During the day it was no problem to create pile-ups, but in the evening and at night, there were not very approachable lowbands. This phenomenon is more common in the far north and when the circle of the aurora zone tip the used zone, it's give an extremely difficult reception.

Still, we made in the 6 days stay over 5000 contacts, which is not bad in our opinion. Also this year was without disaster, has already announced. One of us got the bad news that his mother was in the hospital and he was simultaneously saddled with a knee inflammation. This enthusiasm dropped him well below freezing point. One of us was supper motivated and ready for the full hundred percent.

It makes it extremely amusing when you speak five languages, Jef yes, it was just superb.

We used as logprograme N1MM for both, the contest and DX before / after

We had no function keys defined for SSB files to broadcast, so all via the headset and throat, which of course had to be lubricated regularly. Cola with a dash of Bacardi is perfect to wet the throat after a chat session. A straw was sometimes useful in one of the mouth corners.



Jef is a perfect SSB operator, calm and sure. He takes the calls in a flash from a sea of callsigns.

We show you a rate that was not uncommon during those days. Take it an attempt to match it, we wish you every success. Get him in one go or you'll lose a lot of time. We will in any case, try again next year.

Outside the contest, the contacts or usually much friendlier and there is more information exchanged, which in turn generates the interests of other stations.

There is a recording where Jef finish a QSO in Italian, clever of "Joseph Ɔ alias on4aca.

On6uq visit si9am to function as a CW operator, but was in a terrible mental and fysically state , but I have made more than 1000 CW contacts. Sometimes heavy pile-ups that lasted a few hours! . It is really hard work but that's why we do it, right? I do not understand where it all comes from.

We have had the opportunity to test the difference between a 6el.3bnd yagi and 20m mono band yagi fixedly towards NA. The mono bander at 10m height and the other at 18m. The 6el. Has less gain than 4el. Mono. Both had the same direction but sometimes inconsistent. This will be the beam angle etc..

It was certainly helpful in the contest.

We still haven't told you about the very warm reception we received from Ulla, and Jorgen SM3LIV and SM3JFJ on the way back.

The first night at the arrival to there Qth, It was already late night or early morning and we agreed that we will find the key to the station in their mailbox, and so it was.

Friday was Lars, SM3CVM, the chairman, come along. This happened as planned and with his friend Sven SM3SZW, we eats Swedish butter cake.

The last day was in sight, we certainly need to be at 11h00 in the airport.

The weather in that time of year can turn very quickly and also that we probably had to brave the morning mist, was scheduled to leave 9:00 p.m. considering the visit to Ulla & Jorgen.

The GPS guided us to the front door and at once the cameras were brought out. We were invited on a table covered with a variety of Swedish food. It was very pleasant.

Suddenly noticed that there was a textbook, case was ham text and was promptly asked whether anyone was learning. No, no, was the answer, I write books that course of SARS, I design them. He give us each a signed copy.

And sure enough, Ohm's law there, is the same as ours. We had 500 km to go and about midnight we left a lovely radio pair. It was raining now very heavy. After a 300 kilometers range we took a stop for coffee and rest a while. We had plenty of time and after our nap in the car we went to Stockholm Skavsta airport.

We did well, despite the fierce rain and were quietly waiting departure.

.My knee began to be quite difficult and I wondered if I could in and out of the plane. But my XYL stood ready at the arrival with my crutches.

2010 visit to SI9AM was again successful and we can highly recommend it, if you were born for a little adventure.

We thought that we needed to behave ourselves as some ambassadors, so brought Belgian chocolates for Lars. Ulla and Jorgen had already received once chocolate and we brought an exclusive bottle 'Elixir D'Anvers' on for them.

Marcel ON6UQ

Jef ON4ACA