

Denmark's Short Wave Radio's Collaboration with the Danish Shortwave Club International

Anker Petersen, DSWCI

The Danish Shortwave Club (Danmarks Kortbølge Klub) was established on November 18, 1956 by six Jutland shortwave listeners, who elected veterinarian Niels Jakob Jensen as chairman. They decided to publish a monthly magazine, called Kortbølgenyt, with shortwave radio station news, initially on four duplicated A4 pages. At that time, the following international radio stations broadcast in Danish to Denmark: BBC London, RAI Radiotelevisione Italiana, Radio Canada, Deutschlandfunk (West Germany), Radio Berlin International (East Germany), Radio Warsaw, Moscow Radio, Vatican Radio and United Nations Radio.

The club quickly got many Danish members, but the number of foreign members grew as well, so after a few years the club took the English name Danish Shortwave Club International (DSWCI). At the same time, Kortbølgenyt changed its language from Danish to English, and its name to Shortwave News. In the 1970s, the membership peaked at over 800, of which 85% were foreign members who lived in more than 45 countries on all six continents. DSWCI was the world's most global DX club! The club closed on December 31, 2016, after 60 years of effective existence, where it had in total 3,786 shortwave listeners as members. Only two others have been chairman: Anker Petersen and Carol Feil. For much of the period, Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen has been the editor of the club magazine, which was finally put on 40 offset-printed A4 pages.

In the autumn of 1967, Anker Petersen and Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen were invited to a meeting at Christian Flagstad's residence after he had returned from working at Greenland's Radio in Nuuk. There we agreed to participate in a 20 minute weekly radio program in English, where DSWCI delivered the radio news and Christian Flagstad would produce the program and the musical features.

Anker Petersen suggested that the program have the name "DX-Window," as a window into the exciting DX world. DX means "Distant Listening." "DX-Window" would normally be produced in one of Denmark's radio studios at Rosenørns Allé every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m., and would be broadcast the following Sunday at 1130 UTC on 9520 kHz to Europe from the transmitter in Herstedvester. Subsequently, the program was retransmitted five times a week in broadcasts to other continents on 9520 and 15165 kHz.

The first "DX-Window" was broadcast on November 5, 1967, and the last on December 28, 1969, before the English and Spanish broadcasts ceased from Danmarks Radio. Thus we had broadcast 113 "DX-Windows." The recording of each program usually took a couple of hours, with Anker Petersen and Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen reading the latest shortwave news and tips from the members (often assisted by the Shortwave Department's secretary, Susanne Jackson); Torre Ekblom's reading the popular Latin American tips; and Christian Flagstad's unique "swinging music style." So the technician was busy during each recording session. In addition, there were interviews with well-known DXers, and recordings of rare radio stations.

"DX-Window" became the most popular program among English-speaking listeners during its two years. Danmarks Radio received over 3,000 listening reports, which were confirmed by Radio Denmark's QSL card and a special QSL card from DSWCI.

The name "DX-Window" became associated with DSWCI. From 1987 to 1994, member DX editors in Germany and the Netherlands published a new, complementary, printed shortwave magazine with the same name. From 1996 to 2016, DSWCI published a digital "DX-Window," which was sent every two weeks to club members and other interested parties via the Internet.