

THE 9TH NORDIC SHORTWAVE CONFERENCE HF 10

Fårö, August 17 -19, 2010

HF 10, with the attached long-wave symposium LW 10, was held in August on the small island of Fårö, just north of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. It gathered about a hundred participants from Europe, USA, Canada, and Australia. Some 30 papers were presented and discussed. The conference was a great success, confirmed by the answers to the questionnaire.



Figure 1. The Täby Spa Octet, just before the flag hoisting.

Apart from URSI, the main sponsors were SNRV, the Swedish National Committee of URSI, and NRS, the Nordic Radio Society, a foundation cooperating with SNRV and responsible for the conference. All participants received a bilingual booklet, "SAA Karlskrona Radio 100 years," sponsored by ÅF-Consult AB.

After a morning session by the Täby Spa Octet (Figure 1), the conference was opened by Bishop Lennart Koskinen, of the Visby (Gotland) diocese, who is also



Figure 2. Bishop Lennart Koskinen opening the conference. HF 10 Chair Carl Walde (tie) and NRS President Mats Nilson (crossed arms) stood by

responsible for the activities of the Church of Sweden abroad ("In my diocese, the sun never sets"). The speech was received cum laude (Figures 2 and 3). The URSI representative, Åke Blomquist, honorary fellow of SNRV and honorary president of NRS, introduced the conference (Figure 4). The keynote speaker was professor L. W. (Les) Barclay, OBE, on "Ionospheric Communication – Opportunities and Barriers" (Figure 5).

The prize for best paper/presentation went to Mari-Anne Meister of Estonia (Figure 6), for her contribution, "Results of the Practical Research for HF Communication in Estonia." Incidentally, the Nordic National Committees of URSI have joined to get Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the URSI family: we hope to have them with us in near time.



Figure 4. URSI representative Åke Blomquist, Honorary President of NRS, introducing HF 10 in the auditorium.

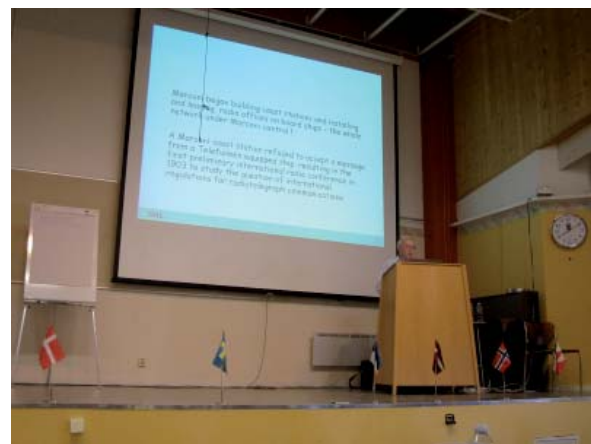


Figure 5. Prof. Les Barclay delivering his keynote (at 0800 am).

Dear Friends!

Welcome to Gotland and Fårö, only one of many centers in the universe, but definitely the most central place in the Baltic sea.

My name is Lennart Koskinen, and I am the Bishop of the diocese of Visby, the smallest och biggest diocese in the Baltic sea area. It consists of Gotland with less than 60000 inhabitants, but also of all the parishes of Church of Sweden abroad, in 119 places around the world. We try to be everywhere where there are many Swedes, from Australia to California. So we can say that the sun never sets in the diocese of Visby. We also collaborate closely with the foreign ministry to help our citizens when they for one reason or another are in trouble abroad. The tsunami in Thailand was perhaps the most striking example of that where more than 800 Swedes were killed by the waves.

This means that we are very dependent on communications. I have been sailing and racing a lot on most of the big oceans, and know the value of shortwave signals. Even if I don't understand the technology I can understand the importance of your conference in both peace and war, and specially in extra-ordinary situations which we all know can occur at any time. What you are improving here prevents us from being blind and deaf when we need to communicate the most. I congratulate you for having the opportunity to take part in this conference.

But communication is more than sending and receiving messages. In the church we communicate both horizontally and vertically, sometimes even without words. I hope you will also find new ways of communication here in Fårö.

You will definitely meet new friends and learn from one another. But try also to communicate without any technology with the marvelous nature here. I have been looking at your program, and you will have some spare time to do that. Silent communication with oneself and perhaps something bigger than our own selves is sometimes called meditation. You cannot find a more suitable place for that than the nature here.

Sometimes when I am staring at the sea from the shore and perhaps longing for going out sailing, I can ask myself: But is it really the sea I am looking at? It is and it is not. What I see, and what you see when you are looking out is not the real sea, it is only the surface. The sea itself is hidden there beneath the surface in the depths. That is a suitable metaphor for the life itself. Life is more than what you can immediately see on the surface. Depths beneath depths. And it is really deep here outside. Life is more than the obvious.

Another metaphor in line with your conference, is here just in front of us. What do you see here in front of me. Air, yes, but you know better than I, that this is no empty space. The air is full of signals, and if you have the right equipment, for example a simple mobile phone can pick up messages and even pictures, a radio even more, a portable television with an antenna can easily find moving pictures and music, right here in this seemingly empty space. My message to you is: make the invisible and silent visible and audible. Use your days and nights here in this magic island not only for a conference like many others, but for an expansion of your selves and your senses, and this will be one of your best weeks for a long time.

With that a wish you luck and all my blessings. With these words I declare this conference opened.

Lennart Koskinen

Figure 3. The Bishop's speech.

HF 10 included an exhibition (Figure 7), a foxhunt (radio direction finding), a concert in the nearby Fårö church where the famous film director Ingmar Bergman is laid to

rest, a banquet (Figure 8), and a bus tour of Fårö (Figure 9), all to create and maintain networks on VLF/LF/HF.



Figure 6. Mari-Anne Meister of Estonia receiving her prize for best-paper presentation, with Karl-Arne Markström, Technical Program Committee Chair.



Figure 7. The HF 10 banquet, Gotland style.



Figure 8. At the exhibition: A Swedish Navy communications shelter and van.



Figure 9. A rauk (limestone created by erosion) at Fårö.

The HF series is triennial, another being IRST, the IET Ionospheric Radio Systems and Techniques in the UK (presumably, in 2012). There is also a series of industry meetings sponsored by HFIA, the High Frequency Industry Association. The last one was in Solna on the Swedish mainland, just after HF 10. The tenth conference of our series since 1986, HF 13/LW 13, will be in 2013. However,

it may be somewhat earlier than the traditional week 33 in August. To keep informed, please visit <http://www.nordichf.org>, where you will also find more about HF 10.

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CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

URSI COMMISSION F TRIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM ON WAVE PROPAGATION AND REMOTE SENSING

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, March 8 - 11, 2011

Conference Objective

The next URSI Triennium Symposium of Commission – F will provide a forum that will feature state-of-the-art developments and scientific activities in the general areas of wave propagation and remote sensing. The conference intends to build a closer cooperation between the two related scientific streams, namely, wave propagation and remote sensing. Leading experts from both areas will present review lectures that will augment topical contributions from researchers currently engaged in the developing front of the areas of wave propagation and remote sensing. The symposium will also field several short courses in the two areas as an addendum to the main conference. This meeting will be a sequel to a very successful meeting held earlier in Garmisch – Partenkirchen in 2002. The conference venue is nestled in the picturesque alpine landscape at the foot of Germany's highest mountain.

Organisation and Technical Committee

General Chair: Wolfgang Keydel

Chairmen of the Organisation and Technical Committee:

Madhu Chandra, Chemnitz University of Technology, Chemnitz, Germany & Alberto Moreira, DLR, Wessling, Germany

Members of the Organisation Committee:

All members of the German National Committee for URSI Commission-F

Members of the Technical Committee:

All national representatives of URSI Commission-F

Conference Highlights

The scientific meeting will address scientific and technological aspects of wave propagation and scattering in communication, microwave remote sensing, navigation and other information systems. The conference programme will include a series of **review and keynote presentations** suited for both young scientists and experts. The conference programme will feature the state-of-the-art developments in areas of propagation, remote sensing and related areas.

In addition, on the *sidelines* of the meeting on Monday, 7th March, tutorial workshops/short courses on topics of radar remote sensing and wave propagation will be featured. These **workshops/short courses** will offer excellent opportunities to newcomers and professionals alike to acquaint or re-acquaint themselves with technical knowledge required in dealing with issues of the current state-of-the-art. The workshop presentations will be specially tailored to match the knowledge requirements of scientists from diverse backgrounds, engineering or non-engineering alike.