

DSWCI *Shortwave News* Historical DVD

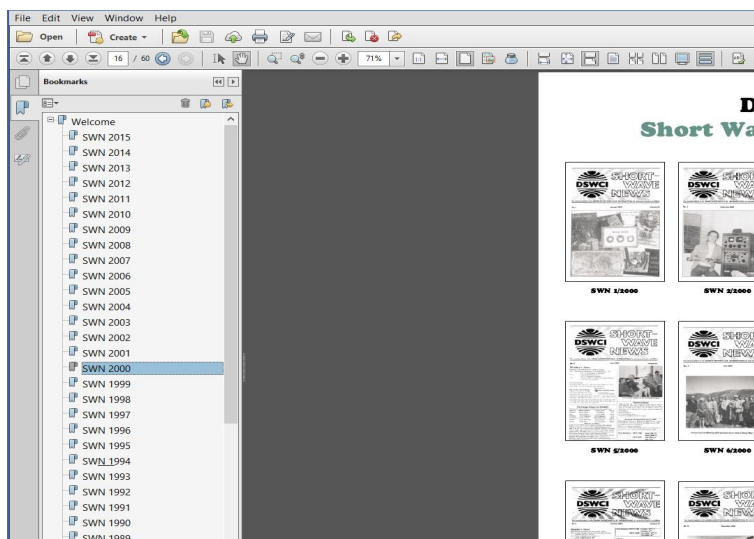
Reviewed by Jerry Berg
jsberg@rcn.com

The Danish Shortwave Club International has long been one of the best sources of information on shortwave broadcast DXing. Founded on November 18, 1956, the club has been producing a high-quality bulletin ever since. With an international membership and an experienced, dedicated staff, it has done an outstanding job of covering SWBCing, with an emphasis on DXing. So it was sad to learn in June 2015 that the club would be closing by the end of 2016. The decision was a product of the decline in shortwave listening and DXing, the aging of the DSWCI Board members, and the unavailability of younger members to take over.

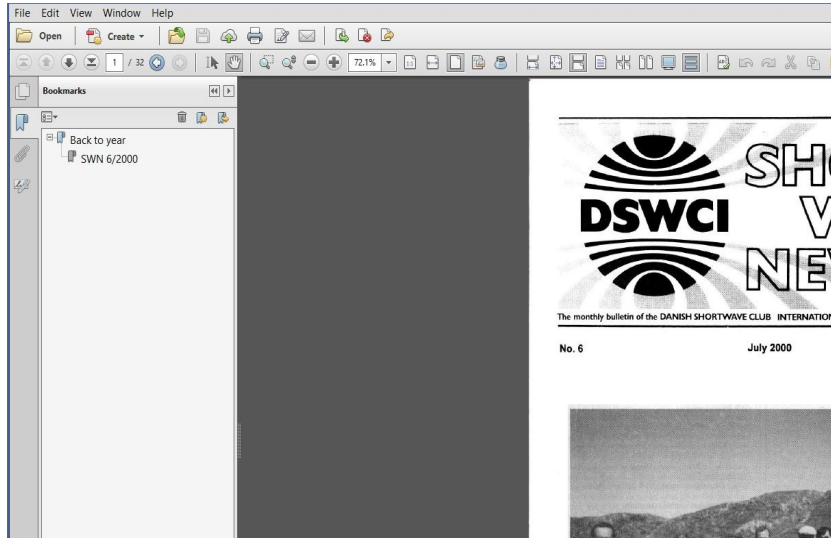
Recognizing the wealth of information that has been published in the DSWCI bulletin, *Shortwave News*, over the years, the club decided to issue a DVD containing the entire run of DSWCI bulletins—every issue ever published. The DVD was released in November 2015. The price is 49 Euros, including shipping. (See the notice, with ordering details, on p. 4 below.) It is a wonderful resource for serious shortwave research, or for those wishing to take a nostalgic walk through the shortwave world “of old.”

The first “SWN” was published in January 1957, and the DVD contains all DSWCI bulletins from then through November 2015—usually monthly through 1999, 11 issues in 2000, ten in 2001, and eight or nine per year thereafter.

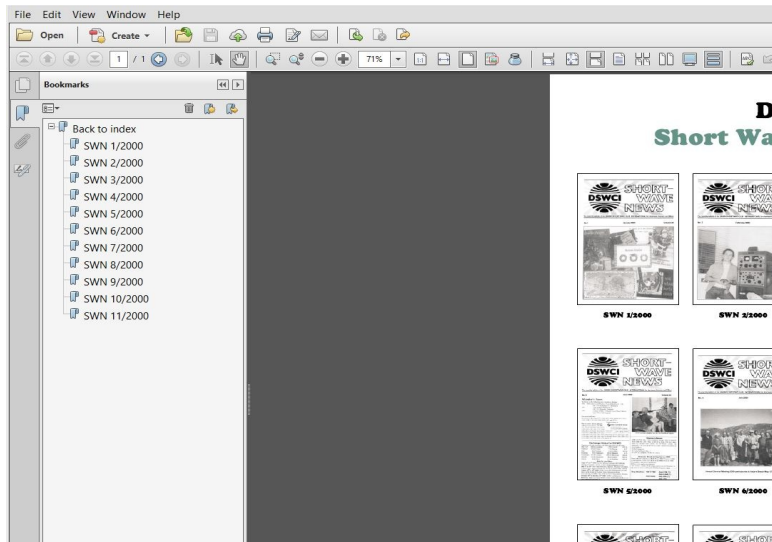
All the bulletins are in PDF format. In Adobe Acrobat (I use Acrobat XI) you navigate the DVD in the expected way. The years are arranged chronologically in the list in the left-hand “Bookmarks” panel. When you select a year, thumbnails of that year’s issues appear in the main panel on the right.



Click on the issue you want and it appears in the window.



To select a different issue, click on “Back to year” in the list and choose another issue from that year; or click on “Back to index” and select a different year.



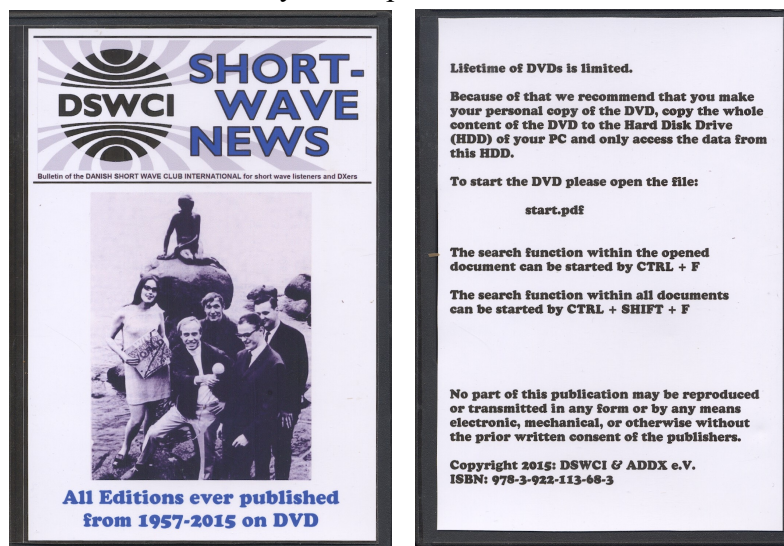
In 1957 and 1958, SWN was published in Danish only. From 1959 through 1969 it was published in both Danish and English editions, although in the Danish edition the loggings section and much else was in English. For 1959-69 both language issues are included on the DVD. (The DVD defaults to the English edition. After selecting the issue you want, click on “Back to year” and a list of all issues for that year, in both languages, will appear.)

For a few years there are some supplementary items besides the bulletins. The year 1969 contains Larry Magne’s 10-page clandestine station list of the time, as well as a seven-page discussion of propagation by Carol Feil. For 1971 there is a QSL-Survey covering QSLs received by members over the period of a year; in 1971, 1974 and 1975 you will find the DSWCI “statutes” (rules of the club); and for 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977 there is a list of club members.

One of the most useful features of the DVD is that it is completely searchable. I prefer the Acrobat “Advanced Search” option (“Edit/Advanced Search”). It provides a list of all the results, which you can then tap through. You can search each issue individually, or you can search all issues at once. You cannot search a discrete group of issues, such as year’s worth of bulletins or several years’ worth. There is a workaround: go to the DVD file structure, copy the issues you want to search into a separate directory on your hard drive, and then search the directory. However, searching *all* issues at one time is quite fast, and so if I wanted to search, say, the issues for 1976 only, I would do a search on *all* the issues and then look at just the entries for 1976. (Be sure to set “Sort by” to “Filename.”) Doing a search of all issues can take a few minutes the first time, but after that it is fast. After the first sort, a search for “Germany” in all issues took about 16 seconds (speed will depend to some extent on your computer).

The alternative “Find” function in Acrobat also works. As indicated on the back of the DVD case, “Find” is CTRL + F, “Advanced Search” is CTRL + SHIFT + F. They are also available in the Acrobat “Edit” dropdown menu.

On the back of the DVD case is a message urging that you copy the entire DVD to a hard disk and work from that rather than directly from the DVD. This is good advice, especially for searching, as searching from a hard disk is faster than searching from a DVD. I have put a shortcut to the DSWCI bulletins on my desktop.



Of course, the best thing about the DVD is the content. Paging through bulletins from a half century ago, with news of stations I had heard or at least knew about, and seeing contributions from DXers whom I knew then or know now, is a treat. Among the American names in the June 1974 members list: Richard Wood, Alan Roth, Don Jensen, Bill Sparks, Gerry Dexter, Serge Neumann, Bill Matthews, Larry Yamron, Dan Henderson, Perry Ferrell, Bob Hill, and yours truly—52 U.S. members in all. It’s hard to believe that was 40+ years ago. “We have come a long way, baby,” if not necessarily in the direction we’d have liked (at least lately).

The DVD was produced by Michael Schmitz, Mönchengladbach, Germany, Chief Editor for [ADDX \(Assoziation Deutschsprachiger Kurzwellenhörer\)](#) and its monthly publication, *Radio-Kurier weltweit hören*. He, as well as DSWCI Board Chairman Anker Petersen, Editor-in-Chief Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen, and the rest of the leadership of the [Danish Shortwave Club International](#), deserve thanks for this excellent contribution to the preservation of DX history.



**„Shortwave News“ on DVD –
Digital Reprint of all Editions ever published
from 1957-2015**

The „Danish Short Wave Club International“ (DSWCI) was founded in 1957 and is one of the most traditional and by far the most international club for radio enthusiasts worldwide. Since January 1957 the club publishes the regular magazine „Shortwave News“ which for decades now is a unique source of information due to a most international network of correspondents and monitors worldwide.

From 1957 to 2000 „Shortwave News“ was published on a monthly basis, and after that every sixth week. In 1957 and 1958 the magazine was published in Danish and from 1957 to 1969 two different editions were distributed: „Shortwave News“ in English and „Kortbølge Nyt“ in Danish. Since January 1970 the magazine is exclusively in English language.

The DSWCI decided on its last Annual General Meeting in 2015 to close the club at the end of 2016. But it was agreed that everything ever published from the DSWCI should also be available for future generations of radio enthusiasts: A unique blend of accurate news, reports and background information which was only possible with the great support of countless people during the past almost six decades.

During the last years we got access to every edition of „Shortwave News“ and „Kortbølge Nyt“ ever published. The magazines were scanned, digitized and processed with an OCR software. The work is finished and therefore we now can offer a DVD with almost 60 years of radio-history and club-history of the DSWCI.

DSWCI and ADDX in Germany offer this DVD to anyone interested:

Price: 49 Euro! incl. shipment worldwide via Airmail.



Orders: Orders should be made by sending the money in cash via registered mail to:

ADDX
Scharsbergweg 14
D-41189 Mönchengladbach
Germany

Alternative: Orders via E-Mail to „kurier@addx.de“ and transfer of the money to our ADDX-Bank Account IBAN: DE25 3007 0024 0868 6800 00, BIC: DEUT DE DB DUE. Payment via Paypal is possible on request. Please write to „kurier@addx.de“ for details.

The DVD will be shipped after the money has been received on our Bank Account.