

NASWA Notes

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The 32nd annual Winter SWL Festival is right around the corner so if you haven't made your plans to attend please do so now. This year's event will be held from February 28th through March 2, 2019 at the Doubletree Suites Philadelphia West, Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania. The Doubletree Suites offers a special \$119.00 king / \$129.00 2 queen rate that includes a full breakfast buffet. Reservations may be made by phone at +1-610-834-8300 or 800-222-8733. CO-FESTmeisters **Rich Cuff** and **John Figliozi** have assembled another outstanding group of speakers to host our forum sessions. Another good group of attendees is expected so make your plans so you don't miss this important radio event.

Member **Gary Donnelly** informs us of the passing of his SWL Elmer, neighbor and good friend, **Don Schimmel**. Don passed away at his Hedgesville, WV house at age 91. Don served his country first in the US Navy as a communications guy, then a career at the Central Intelligence Agency where he again was a communications expert. Don served at several locations in Central and South America. Don spent his retirement years in the communications/radio area. He was a "Scanner Scum" with others from the NASWA group attending several Winter SWL Festivals. He wrote for Popular Communications and also wrote a small monthly article called Radio Intrigue for Dxing.com, a publication of Universal Radio. Don remained in good health and spirits until past his 90th birthday.

Thanks to **John Herkimer** we feature African shortwave broadcaster the Voice of Nigeria on our cover this month. The QSL design in the upper left hand corner is one of my earliest from the African continent. A long time user of the shortwave spectrum, the Voice of Nigeria has been a listener favorite for several decades. However, in recent years they have had numerous transmitter issues

making reception of this station a lot more difficult than in the past. However, the Voice of Nigeria has begun relay operations from France and the USA to be relatively well heard these days (see *Listeners Notebook*).

The 2019 IRCA Convention will be held on September 5, 6 and 7, 2019 at the Courtyard by Marriott Seattle Southcenter, 400 Andover Park West, Tukwila, WA 98188 hosted by **Mike Sanburn** (mikesanburn@hotmail.com). Registration is free but the banquet, which will be determined later, will be paid for individually. Guest room rate is \$109.00 plus tax. Call for room reservations 800-321-2211 or 206-575-2500 mentioning the International Radio Club of American to get that room rate.

Finally, **Gayle Van Horn** W4GVH, CEO/Vice President Teak Publishing, notified us that the Global Radio Guide (Winter 2018-2019) is now available at Amazon. If you want to get in on the action, then this Amazon 'electronic' book is your ticket to travel the Global Radio bands. The heart of this publication is a 24-hour station/frequency guide with Winter 2018-2019 schedules for selected medium wave and all known long-wave/shortwave radio stations. This unique resource is the only radio publication that has by-hour schedules that includes all language services, frequencies and world target areas for over 500 broadcast stations. It has a listing of DX radio programs and Internet websites addresses for many of the stations listed in the book. The 11th edition of the Global Radio Guide e-Book (electronic book only, no print edition available) is available worldwide from Amazon and their various international websites at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07L3RYTPG>. The price for this latest edition is US\$8.49..

That's it for this month. Enjoy this month's edition of the JOURNAL; it's another good one.



Unity and Friendship

Publisher's Corner

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Apologies for the January *Journal* delay

A slew of delays crept into the production of the January *Journal*, and they were additive; this resulted in the (approximately) 10-day delay in when we mailed out the *Journal* versus when we planned to.

I had a recent job change, which reduced the frequency of my checking e-mail and my ability to respond and review things on the fly; a couple work days were lost just by that slowed cadence. The Christmas and New Year's holidays also messed up a couple of personal schedules. Our printer and mailing service also were bogged down by changes in holiday cadence.

I have since tweaked how I manage my work day so I can monitor *Journal* production more closely while on the fly, which should help things out.

Meanwhile, don't forget to take advantage of items like the Flashsheet, E-group (more on that in a minute), and the Facebook group for timely electronic communications regarding the shortwave hobby throughout the month. Reminders for utilizing any of these resources are sprinkled throughout the *Journal* each month.

NASWA's Yahoo Group moved to a new home

I'm a member of multiple groups that have moved their memberships off of the Yahoo Groups platform to one at the Groups.io membership. Yahoo has been slow to resolve issues and fix problems with groups over the past year, and Groups.io seems to be a decent platform with few hiccups.

NASWA has now moved its e-mail based E-group to this new host as well. All existing members were ported over by group moderator Dan Ferguson; if you have experienced

any trouble please e-mail Dan at k4voa@zerobeat.org. Membership to the group is closed to the general public, and it's only open to those with current NASWA memberships.

You can request to join the group by e-mailing Dan or by visiting the group's host at <https://groups.io/g/NASWA>.

E-Memberships now available

If you missed last month's column, a reminder that you can convert your NASWA membership to an e-membership and receive a monthly PDF *Journal* that you can read on a computer, tablet, or smartphone – or print off if that's your preference. Contact me at hq@naswa.net for more details or to request conversion.

Also, pass along this info to your friends whose memberships might have lapsed and who might be interested in rejoining the club – we've already had a couple additions this past month.

Don't forget the Flashsheet

Also, don't forget to sign up to receive the NASWA Flashsheet, a weekly compendium of logs and occasional club / hobby news sent via e-mail. As we all know, shortwave propagation is a dynamic phenomenon and you can jump on DX tips more quickly when they show up as e-mails versus the monthly *Journal*. Contact Rich D'Angelo at rdangelo3@aol.com to join the list; if you're already a member, send off your logs to Mark Taylor, Flashsheet Editor, at markokpik@gmail.com.

Don't forget the *Winter SWL Fest!*

Lastly – the registration form is here in the *Journal* for one last time. Alas, registration fees are a tad higher now, but don't let that be an excuse to meet up with fellow club members and have fun in our annual celebration of radio!



Listening Review

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Hello and welcome to the February edition of Listening Review. It may already seem like a long time ago, but I am going to take a look at some programs that I heard overnight New Year's Eve (ie. 31 December into 1 January). Some of this was heard live, and some via an overnight recording via my SDR radio set to record a bandspread from 3850 to 9950kHz continuously from 1800-0700UTC. This resulted in around 1 Terabyte of data onto my hard disk, but reviewing the data over the next few days was very rewarding, and reinforces my view that there is still plenty to hear on short-wave. Here are a few highlights.

1800-1900UTC: 31 December 2018

One program that I made a point of tuning in to live was Bill Tilford's *Uncle Bill's Rockless New Years' Eve Special*, transmitted for Europe at 1800UT 31 December on 9400kHz via Spaceline in Bulgaria. Reception was excellent, and I very much enjoyed the program about New Year's traditions around the world and music to match. There was a very enjoyable mix of music from Bulgaria, Spain, Macedonia and Scotland (with "Scotland the Brave") amongst many others. There was also a song from Estonia with an introduction that you do not hear that often: "*Here's an Estonian pancake-eating song*" (!). My favourite song was a lovely African tune from South Africa. All-in-all: it was a fantastic program, and the hour passed very quickly. I subsequently listened again to the program via my SDR recording in order to compile a reception report, and enjoyed it as much the second time around, so I also extracted an MP3 recording of the program. We are promised another NYE special next year: I'm already looking forward to it!

1900-2000UT: 31 December 2018

I join China Radio Int's *German service* mid-transmission (scheduled 1800-1957UT) at 1900UT on 7395kHz. After the news

headlines at the top of the hour, much of the remaining transmission is of gentle Chinese pop ballads, and very pleasant to listen to. There is some chat (ie on-location interviews) between songs, but these only last a few minutes at most before the music continues.

2000-2100UTC: 31 December 2018

Radio Romania Int's (RRI) *Romanian service* is relaying the Radio Romania Actualitati (RRA) New Year's Eve program *Revelion 2019* which is scheduled on RRA from 2000 to 0500UTC. Unfortunately, RRI is not on shortwave throughout this period, but I am able to catch the first hour from 2000-2100 on 5990kHz, with pop and party music. New Year in Romania is not until 2200UT so, unfortunately, I miss the New Year countdown with no extended programming here on shortwave to 'see in' the New Year.

The Voice of America is providing fairly good reception on 6195kHz for *African Beat* with David Vandy with a New Year's Eve special program of almost non-stop party music from around Africa "... *get ready for the ride, because I'm going to take you from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Uganda, Guinea, Cameroon, Ghana, Tanzania, Senegal, South Sudan, Nigeria and Zimbabwe...*" and a very enjoyable mix of modern African hit tunes.

There's a lot of enjoyable programming in this hour, and it continues with R Slovakia Int via Kall in Germany on 3985kHz with good reception. This edition of *Slovakia Today* is a New Year Eve special starting with some outtakes (or bloopers) from the past year, a re-run of a couple of special reports and a selection of songs. One of the reports was by Gavin Shoebridge, (who has now sadly left RSI and returned to New Zealand) about a device developed using technology that was originally designed for sniffing for explosives at airports, but now with a new commercial application to test for the best oakwood to be used for high quality whisky.

Gavin interviews a Professor and asks him to explain "... *in simple English*..." how it works:

Professor: "Ion mobility spectrometry is one of the techniques we have developed in our laboratories; it's a spectrometric method which allows identification of trace amounts of different substances at ambient condition...."

Gavin: "I wanted to know, in simple English, how does this technology actually work."

Professor: "The principle of ion mobility spectrometer is for an expert I would say is very simple, but for a broader audience we can say that we move ions in electric field and it is one of the basic properties that if the ions in an electric fields in a gas move they achieve some velocity, and this velocity is different for each type of ions, different ions achieve different velocity. So, if we make these ions move, or if we introduce only short paths of ions and they move in this electric field, they separate because some ions travel faster and some slower, and at the end when we measure the ion current we see the time spectra of ions; the fast ions arrive first, slow ions are later – that's the principle. In this way, we get spectra of ions according to their mobility."

Well, I'm glad we got the simple version (!) ... and well done to Gavin Shoebridge for making a rather impenetrable subject at least partly understandable, and he will be missed on the programs. One of the things that I really like about RSI is that all the presenters are so individual and bring their own personalities to the stories that they cover. With many international shortwave radio stations, the presenter is just someone reading the story. Not so with RSI: I applaud that and it remains one of my favourite stations.

The Voice of Turkey is putting in a good signal on 5980kHz for the hour leading up to

2100UT (ie, midnight in Turkey) with a nice program from around 2130UT of a selection of Turkish ballads and rather more lively pop music, so maybe a New Year countdown here?

2100-2200UTC: 31 December 2018

2100UTC: Midnight in Turkey. There is an announcement at 2100UT on V of Turkey, but not obvious as a New Year announcement, and the transmission continues with some talk which I cannot follow.

2200-2300UTC: 31 December 2018

2200UT is midnight in Greece, so I tune to the Voice of Greece on 9420kHz shortly before 2200 and enjoy some typical Greek music which continues through the local midnight hour without pause or acknowledgement. A standard "top of the hour" announcement is made at 2201UT and the music then continues. There is a good signal from Greece from transmitter switch-on at 1847UT which continues throughout the evening and night through to the end of my recording at 0700UT. Over the next few days, I return to 9420 from time to time throughout the period recorded to enjoy more of their broadcast ... but no New Year countdown here.

2300-2400UTC: 31 December 2018

2300UT is midnight in France and Spain. I check first on 9690kHz for Radio Exterior España. Reception is barely audible, but I do make out some bells chiming on the hour and what I think is some cheering, so this looks like this is my first live New Year countdown and I wish that reception had been better. The only frequency from Radio France Int at 2300UT is 3965kHz in DRM. Routing my recorded audio into the Dream software, I get a partial lock – enough to hear the presenters of *Le Journal* refer to "... *le premiere edition de le Journal pour 2019...*" and "...*au revoir 2018...*".

0000-0100: 1 January 2019

0000UT It's finally midnight here in the UK marking the start of 2019. So, time to check

BBC World Service. It seems that at this hour there are only two frequencies in use (both directed to South Asia) and I do find 5875kHz via the Woofferton transmitter with fair reception coming on air just a few seconds before midnight and in time to hear "...this is BBC World Service and we switch to Big Ben for midnight Greenwich Mean Time" followed by the Big Ben chimes and "... from all of us here at the BBC World Service, a very pleasant New Year". Pleasant? – nicely understated, I think! But were the chimes live or recorded. It was difficult for me to tell as 5875kHz was only providing fair reception with some noise. I found the following thread on the WOR iog mail list about this:

"BBC WS had the quarter chimes and the gongs of "Big Ben" at UTC midnight on New Year's Eve. But the quarter chimes bells and Big Ben have been disconnected from the clock mechanism since August 2017 while the Elizabeth Tower is undergoing renovations, which reportedly will last four years. For special occasions, such as New Year's Eve, a bespoke electric mechanism has been built to power the Big Ben 200 kg striking hammer. But, as I understand it, the quarter chimes can't be rung at the present time. BBC Radio 4 has acknowledged that they currently use a recording of Big Ben. So does the WS also do that? Further evidence comes from the BBC Radio 5 Live coverage where we could hear the gongs but no quarter chimes. In fact, the first two midnight gongs were double. Two live microphones with one delayed with respect to the other or a live mike and a recording that was subsequently cut off? Puzzling." ([Richard Langley](#))

"I listened to the Big Ben New Year's chimes on the BBCWS online, and the two things I noticed were much lower background ambient noise than usual, plus the lack of the rumble and tumble sounds of the traditional clock mechanisms. There was a loud "click" between each bell chime, but I did not hear any "doubling." The quarter chimes also rang as usual. During the following

newscast the BBC did say that Big Ben was under renovation, but had been reactivated for New Years. I figured some sort of temporary arrangement was in use to drive the bells, which might be the electric mechanism Richard referred to." ([Stephen Luce](#)).

So, still unclear as to whether the chimes were live or recorded.

A transmission that I've been continuing to listen to fairly regularly over the last few weeks (via playback of an overnight SDR recording, that is) is the *Mongolian Service* of China Radio Int (as mentioned in this column last month). Reception this evening on 7205kHz was again very good allowing opportunity to hear more Mongolian music around 0030UT – this time mostly modern Mongolian music along with (I think) some comments about the featured Mongolian artist. CRI is continuing to present a varied mix over various days of both modern and traditional Mongolian music.

0100-0200UTC: 1 January 2019

At 0130UT, R Romania Int *English service* is providing good reception of its one-hour transmission (on-air from 0100) on 7325kHz with *Your Music* with a "handful of songs that are just perfect for the winter holidays", which provided a pleasant ten minutes of modern songs including a modern folk song sung by folk singer Dana Florian. This program was followed by *Listener's Letterbox* in which my Christmas card to the station was read out. Even after all these years of shortwave listening it's still always nice to get a mention on-air.

AT 0100UT (actually: at 0058) on 7340kHz (and also very strong on 5910kHz) I pick up the *Revelion 2019* program from earlier in the evening (broadcast from R Romania Actualitati via R Romania Int) with a varied selection of songs including a vintage recording of a tango, some rock and pop music and some traditional folk music. The following hour from 0200UT was exclusively Romanian traditional folk music until the transmitter cut away at 0257UTC. It was an entertaining two hours of party music.

Radio Marti seems to be in party mood also at 0100UT on 7365kHz via the Greenville site, starting the hour with Auld Lang Syne and continuing with plenty of Cuban party dance music. I change frequency at 0200UT to 7435kHz and continue the party with lots more Cuban party dance tunes through until 0300UT, when an antenna beam change renders the transmission almost inaudible here. Never-the-less, it was an enjoyable two hours of Cuban music.

0200-0300UTC: 1 January 2019

At 0230UT on 7780kHz is R Ukraine Int (broadcasting via WRMI in Okeechobee). Reception is not too good, but is just audible with an interesting feature on Ukrainian traditions for celebrating winter holidays. Reception was not really sufficient to follow too much, but the nice Ukrainian traditional folk music punched through OK and was very enjoyable. After searching the RUI website, I found that this program was in fact an edited (shortened) version of The Roots previously broadcast on the RUI webstream on 28 December (the original version running 40 minutes, but is here on shortwave at only 29 minutes). It would be nice if we could hear the full one-hour RUI broadcast on shortwave, but we have to be content that there is at least some shortwave output from this station.

0300-0400UTC: 1 January 2019

The Voice of America's *Kirundi service* via Botswana on 7460kHz is providing fair reception from 0330-0430UT, and is including some rather good African music from around 0345-0415UT. I must check this transmission in future to determine whether music is a regular feature at this time, or if this is a New Year special. Reception deteriorated after 0400UT, but the music continued pushing through ok.

0400-0500UTC: 1 January 2019

The V of Turkey provided good reception at 0400UTC on 6125kHz. After a short news bulletin and look at the Turkish press, the remainder of the program was a special program *The Year in Review*. When I hear an

announcement saying something like "the next program is the Year in Review", I am quite likely to move on. However, on this occasion I hear:

"Contrary to what we've been doing in the past few years in the show, which was listing all the major political developments – most of which are unpleasant – instead this year I would like to concentrate on some of the good things and which happened in different parts of the world and which concern us all as citizens of the world. [...] It might be a trite idea, but I think that it is always better to focus on the good things rather than grand negative things that we have little power to change."

And so it proved – a quite refreshing program focusing on some of the positive news stories of the year including: The Ozone layer is gradually healing, the world's largest tropical rain forest National Park created in Colombia; an electrified road opened in Sweden which will recharge electric cars; the end of the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict; and a robot designed to repopulate corals on the Great Barrier Reef – amongst others.

The final good news in this program that we learned was that the station will remain on shortwave this year and that there will be some new programs on V of Turkey.

0500-0600UTC: 1 January 2019

R Japan's *English* transmission is always strong here on 6155kHz from 0500UT. Today's program was Plug-in Japan with a fascinating, but sobering, interview with Setsuko Thurlow, who is an atomic bomb survivor from Hiroshima. Thurlow talked about her feelings when the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted in 2017 when nearly two thirds of UN members voted in favour. She spoke of her memories of the day of the bomb, and of her work with ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons). She also talked quite graphically about her memories of the day of the bomb. When the US later in 1954, the same year that she had

moved to the US) tested a Hydrogen Bomb on Bikini Island, she spoke out against nuclear weapons. She received lots of hate mail including "You're the one that started the war at Pearl Harbour" and "Go back to Japan" and she eventually realised that she had to talk about "the evil that affects all of humanity regardless of race or nationality". She continued:

" ... we should never allow ourselves to use nuclear weapons: it's a crime against humanity. What I experienced in Hiroshima is a very tiny nuclear bomb, today we are talking about hundreds and thousands time more destructive nuclear weapons. People must survive; humanity must survive."

Finally, we learn that for the Treaty to take effect, it must be ratified by at least 50 UN states, but at present only around 20 have done so, and the studio presenters continue, telling us that:

"Nuclear powers like the United States, Russia and China didn't even participate in the conference that led to the Treaty's adoption. Japan (Thurlow's birthplace), and Canada (her current home) didn't attend the negotiations either. The Japanese Government said that although it shares the goal of realising a world free of nuclear weapons, it could not support the treaty while the North Korean nuclear threat still exists [...] and would ultimately not lead to disarmament."

This program particularly resonated with me as I had visited Japan last year on holiday, and included a visit to Hiroshima and the Atomic Bomb Dome and the sombre but informative Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

At 0530UT R Romania Int's *Romanian service* on 6145kHz (which had been on-air on this frequency from 0500UT) was just starting a half-hour of oldies, which was very enjoyable. Also noted during this hour was Dundal Kura R International with some African indigenous music amongst speech by the presenters on 7315kHz via Nauen.

0600-0700UTC: 1 January 2019

0600UT and time for R Austria Int's only shortwave broadcast of the day on 6155kHz running until 0720 (0710 at weekends) with their *Good Morning* program in German. There was just a brief few bars of "The Blue Danube" and an English ID "Radio Austria International" seconds before 0600, reminding me of days past when there was a daily half-hour English broadcast. The format was slightly different today comprising brief news headlines (rather than a longer news broadcast) and into some music by Johan Sebastian Bach and continuing with interviews and short extracts of classical works. I fast-forwarded through the interviews, and enjoyed the short musical interludes.

From 0630UT on 5960kHz, some talk by an African-accented man and some African indigenous music starts fading in, and two announcements by a female and a male voice at 0645 confirmed that the station was R Ndarason Int, which would be via Ascension. Reception was only fair, but the music punched through and was quite enjoyable. The transmission ended mid-note at 0659UT.

Finally in this hour at 0630UT on 7345kHz, I enjoyed R Romania Int's *English* transmission that included *The History Show* which, possibly apart from *Truly Romanian*, is my favourite RRI show on the English service. Today's subject was a topic frequently covered at this time of year, but no less interesting because of that: The Romanian Revolution of 1989.

There was an interesting comment to start from Poet Ana Blandiana who "was one of the first intellectuals to speak on Radio Romania" following the events December 22, 1989:

"Dear friends, I got to Radio Romania straight from Palace Square where I joined the tens of thousands of people who were altogether amazed that they lived to see this day. It was very hard to believe that after so many years of humiliation, we, and we alone - not through a political arrangement, not by support of others, greater and more

powerful than us - we, through our inner strength in which we no longer believed, were able to do this. The dead in Timisoara and the dead in Bucharest restored our confidence in ourselves and the strength in ourselves."

The historian Ioan Scurtu talked about how leading figures in Central Committee of the Communist Party "*were spineless*" and says:

"The most striking moment was when Ceausescu, irate at the fact that drastic measures had not been taken against the protesters in Timisoara, said: 'I can no longer work with this Executive Political Committee, go ahead and elect another secretary general'. And everyone rushed in to say: 'please don't leave us, we are loyal, we support you and we want to be led by you.' Meaning that not even when things were at a head, I would say, no one had the mettle to say: we are taking note of your resignation [and] maybe things would have evolved differently ...".

Looking back now on those events, the program talked about how:

" ... it wasn't long before regrets for the way the two [Nicolae and Elena

Ceausescu] ended up, and the very trial that brought them to justice was contested. Political scientist Ioan Stanomir, [...] believes that people were quick to forget the hardships they had endured, and once saved from their terrible situation, they became more forgiving. [...] Everyone who has lived through communism is bereft of innocence, whether they were victims, torturers, killers, or in the gray mass of those who were living those times. Totalitarian regimes rob people of innocence."

This was another fascinating program in the on-going series, and highly recommended. *The History Show* is broadcast in all transmissions from Monday at 1800UT through to Tuesday at 1200UT.

There were many more programs heard throughout the period, such as Vatican R (7365kHz at 2000), V of Vietnam (7315kHz at 0000), and V of Hope Zambia (6065kHz at 1800). Anyway, I will end there and hope that you have enjoyed this review of programs overnight on New Years' Eve and agree with me that there is still a lot to hear on shortwave.

Until next time - 73's Alan



NASWA Flashsheet

Are you getting the latest hot information about what is happening on the shortwave bands? If you have not signed up for the club's electronic *Flashsheet* service, you are missing out on timely news and information about the DX scene that will enhance your shortwave listening pleasure. If you are a current member of the club and want to receive the electronic Flashsheet just drop **Rich D'Angelo** (rdangelo3@aol.com) a note with your e-mail address, location and membership expiration date from your mailing label. You can participate by sending your latest logs to the electronic *Flashsheet* edited by **Mark Taylor**, markokpik@gmail.com. The club's electronic *Flashsheet* helps members stay on top of the action with breaking shortwave news and information. The electronic newsletter is an excellent supplement to the monthly *Journal* for the timely dissemination of DX loggings and breaking news.



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Shortwave Radiogram: Digital via analog via digital

On the windy, rainy day in January that I am writing this, I am faced with a two-fer: the deadline for this NASWA column and the deadline for my international radio broadcast Shortwave Radiogram. And, so, with Shortwave Radiogram weighing on my mind, I will write about that.

If you haven't heard Shortwave Radiogram on your shortwave radio, it consists of a brief voice and music introduction, followed by a half hour of strange noises. Patch that strange audio – it's mostly the MFSK32 and MFSK64 digital modes -- from your radio to your PC, and software turns it into text and images. Most listeners use the Fldigi software from w1hkj.com; some use MultiPSK. Android users can use TIVAR (Text and Images Via Analog Radio), an app that can be downloaded from SourceForge. Because it can be difficult to patch audio to an Android device, most TIVAR users just place the radio's speaker near the mic of the phone or tablet, with satisfactory results.

The idea of Shortwave Radiogram, and its predecessor VOA Radiogram, is that shortwave (or in some cases medium wave) can be a useful substitute when the internet is blocked or otherwise unavailable. Data via shortwave has nowhere near the speed of a broadband internet connection, but it's fast enough to transmit essential news and information as text, as well as a few small images.

Decoding text from the muck

On VOA and Shortwave Radiogram, we have discovered that text via analog radio works even better than voice via analog radio in delivering information in difficult reception conditions, which are not unusual

on shortwave. I have several recordings of Shortwave Radiogram received under miserable conditions, where voice content is unintelligible, yet those strange noises down in the muck are decoded 100% into text. Our MFSK32 mode is 120 words per minute, and our current favorite MFSK64 sails along at 240 wpm. That's faster than a newsreader can read the news, so there is that advantage, as well.

Under typical, i.e. typically bad, shortwave conditions, the MFSK images can be fuzzy. This is because MFSK images are, like slow scan television (SSTV), a strictly analog affair. The images do not have the error correction that is built in to the MFSK text. Nevertheless, the images are clear enough that listeners (viewers?) can discern the subject. Furthermore, shortwave propagation can turn a crisp photograph into a delightful impressionist "painting." In fact, Shortwave Radiogram now has a painting of the week, which is enhanced by thousands of kilometers of shortwave propagation. You can see many such images at the Twitter account @SWRadiogram; if you don't have Twitter, point your browser to twitter.com/swradiogram and scroll down. New stuff is added by listeners every weekend.

MFSK via WINB DRM

Since it began in June 2017, Shortwave Radiogram has been transmitted by WRMI in Florida three times per weekend, and once per weekend by Space Line in Bulgaria. (The schedule is below.) A recent addition is three transmissions from WINB in Pennsylvania. One of them is on WINB's DRM transmitter.

DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale) has its own methods for transmitting text and images. Shortwave Radiogram does not make use of those, but just employs the same audio that

is used for voice and music by DRM from WINB. While most DRM signals occupy 10 kHz (often to the dismay of listeners who want to receive stations on the adjacent channels), WINB's DRM signal devoted to its audio programming takes up only the top 5 kHz. The lower 5 kHz, which appears as vertical lines on a spectrum display, is some sort of data about which WINB is not talking.

Anyway, the MFSK of Shortwave Radiogram does not (so far) derive any advantage of DRM, and suffers from the disadvantage of DRM not decoding at all if the signal drops below a certain level, or if there is sufficient interference on the same channel – very typical scenarios on shortwave.

I have managed to decode WINB's DRM signal using sdr.hu receivers in Europe. The audio of the preachers before and after Shortwave Radiogram is funky, echoey, liquidy, otherworldly. This might be due to the 5 kHz bandwidth of the WINB DRM program audio, or to other peculiarities of WINB's audio chain. In any case, the MFSK text decoded just fine, except during the occasional drop-outs that are common on DRM. In theory, the images should have been perfectly crisp, but they showed the effects of the noises on the WINB DRM signal.

Near-shortwave quality

So would it make any sense to transmit MFSK and other digital modes via DRM audio? It might. DRM has C and D modes which are designed for especially difficult – or maybe especially typical – shortwave conditions. The tradeoff is that the audio is about the same quality as your old landline telephone. I call it near-shortwave quality.

Now some people can't stand the fading of a shortwave signal. DRM, when it works, gets rid of that, as well as any noise or interference in the background, as long as the interference is not too bad. Others might prefer the richer audio of an analog shortwave signal, and will put up with a certain amount of fading and background noise.

MFSK and other digital modes via shortwave do not require rich audio. Therefore, they should transmit successfully via the DRM C and D modes. This would include the digital text modes that clock in at 3600 wpm and usually fail via analog shortwave. And MFSK or SSTV images should be perfectly clear. Someday I would like to try this on a full throated 10-kHz-wide DRM signal.


For the most part, however, analog will be the best way to transmit text via shortwave. The MFSK from Space Line in Bulgaria has been received as far away as Alberta, and almost every weekend is decoded in Australia and New Zealand. WRMI's MFSK makes it to Europe, Qatar, Australia, New Zealand, and sometimes Japan, depending on the time and frequency. I don't think DRM can do this.

And that brings to mind another advantage of text via shortwave: You do not have to be awake, or at home, if the best propagation occurs while you are sleeping or at work. Set your radio to the frequency, start the software, then see what was received and decoded when you wake up or come home.

Please download Fldigi, MultiPSK, or TIVAR. Then tune in to Shortwave Radiogram:

Friday	1500-1530 UTC	13690 kHz	DRM WINB
Friday	2030-2100 UTC	7780 kHz	WRMI
Saturday	0330-0400 UTC	9265 kHz	WINB
Saturday	1400-1430 UTC	9400 kHz	B u l - garia
Saturday	1830-1900 UTC	9265 kHz	WINB
Sunday	0800-0830 UTC	5850, 7730 kHz	WRMI
Sunday	2330-2400 UTC	7780 kHz	WRMI

WINB times will shift when daylight time begins.

See Kim's projects: <https://twitter.com/kaedotcom> and <http://swradiogram.net> 

Shortwave Center

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This month, a blast from the past. Eleven years ago, the last of the VOA's WWII transmitting stations went silent. Here's an account of events leading up to that last act.

SHORTWAVE HISTORY

Last of VOA's Wartime Transmitting Stations Goes Dark

For the first time in nearly 63 years, the station is now strangely quiet. Save for an occasional lizard or cotton tail, the parking lot is vacant.

JAMES E. O'NEAL

MAR 1, 2008

RADIO WORLD Magazine

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The Voice of America's Delano shortwave transmitting station is difficult to ignore. Even though it's set back nearly two miles from California's Route 99, the massive metal antenna structures rising from the almond groves and citrus orchards can't help but command the attention of motorists. The sheer size of the installation makes it appear intriguingly close to the highway, yet few motorists ever stop to investigate. After the sun sets, the station begs attention with the bluish-white pulsing of strobe lights and red beacons, too numerous to even begin counting from a moving car.

If locals in the nearby town of Delano are asked about the steel appurtenances and the lights, most answer that it's some sort of government facility. Perhaps there's a little secrecy involved — some kind of a big radio station maybe, or something to do with radar, or a cold war left-over.

Should an extra-curious motorist decide to exit the main highway and meander along the series of right-angled section-line

byways leading to 11015 Melcher Road, he or she can't help but be impressed by the bulk of the buff-colored building and the acres of antennas spreading out around it. Most would-be visitors get no closer than the station's mail box. The operation is fenced and gated, with special permission needed to enter.

Few of those living in Delano have ever been past that gate, and as with most government facilities, there's something of a mystery about what goes on inside the compound, which occupies almost a square mile of the San Joaquin Valley.

The main structure was large at its inception and has grown over the years, standing now at some 26,000 square feet. Close by are a cluster of smaller outbuildings interspersed with large satellite dishes. Stretching far behind these masonry structures are the acres and acres of large antennas — immense Sterba curtain arrays and the more conventional rhombics, all connected to the building by a switching bay and open wire feeders.

No one in Delano takes much notice of the station. It's been there, just west of the downtown area, longer than most people can remember. The buildings and antennas are like the highways and railroad tracks that punctuate and define Delano — they're just there and they've always been there.

In the fall of 2007, the ebb and flow of daily patterns around the station changed rather abruptly.

For the first time in nearly 63 years, the station is now strangely quiet. Save for an occasional lizard or cotton tail, the parking lot is vacant. There's no roar from massive cooling blowers, no amplified voices in the control room booming in from Washington, no "dawn patrol" antenna and feeder inspections, no morning runs into town for coffee, rolls or breakfast burritos by station employees. There will be no more invisible thunderbolts generated by the station to slam into the ionosphere and rain down on the other side of the world. Instead of the megawatts they were designed for, the heavy feeders connecting the facility to the Southern California Edison grid now only carry a small trickle of electricity — just enough to keep the lights on.

After 23,000 days of continuous transmissions, the station is empty and silent. This past July, its management authority, the Broadcasting Board of Governors, made the decision to shut it down permanently at the end of October.

Among the VOA's international broadcasting assets, Delano is unique. It's the last of three such stations hastily constructed under extreme wartime restrictions and shortages for the express purpose of providing permanent shortwave broadcasting capability for the Office of War Information, the VOA's precursor organization.

Before the gigantic transmitters are removed for service elsewhere, or the tons and tons of steel antennas are hauled away as just so much scrap metal, it seems appropriate to pay tribute to the station's architects and the generations of those worked there by offering up a little history and a few facts about the facility.

For starters the Delano Transmitting Station wasn't even supposed to be located there. It was built under the watchful eye of an engineer who had earlier been occupied by building bigger and bigger radio transmitters for a quack medical doctor. Even though it was constructed for government purposes, a private entity, CBS (the Columbia Broadcasting System at the time)

was solely responsible for building the station and keeping it running, even down to obtaining call signs that were representative of that network.

During its first year of operation, the Delano station unknowingly found its way into the midst of the super-secret project to build the world's first atomic bomb.

The stated purpose of Delano was for transmitting wartime news from America to the Pacific Ocean nations during World War II. Afterwards, it lived on, performing a similar mission for the duration of the Cold War and beyond.

How It All Began

To get a better grasp on Delano's unique history, we have to go back to the first days after America's entry into the Second World War.

At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States government had no international broadcasting facilities, or any real interest in reaching out to the world by radio. It had been reasoned that this was something best left to the commercial broadcasting entities. In sharp contrast were the scores of HF transmitters that Hitler and Hirohito had been keeping busy, spreading their version of the facts to anyone within reach of a shortwave set.

Pearl Harbor changed the U.S. perspective on many fronts, and in early 1942 the international broadcasting imbalance began to change with the establishment of the Office of War Information (OWI) and construction of the first radio studios expressly for government use.

To get the message out, these studios were linked by AT&T Long Lines to shortwave transmitters owned by the likes of General Electric, Westinghouse, RCA, Crosley and virtually anyone else with an HF transmitter and a commercial shortwave broadcasting license.

However, the founding fathers of this first generation of U.S. international broadcasting knew that this was not good enough. Permanent transmitting facilities would have to be constructed solely for the government's purpose, and there would have to be more powerful transmitters than those that could be rented or leased.

R.J. Rockwell, director of broadcasting engineering for the Crosley Corporation, recalled the meeting that spearheaded that effort.

"In a drastic effort to remedy the situation, the Board of War Communications called a council of war in Washington. All interested parties were invited — international licensees, equipment manufacturers, representatives of the Federal Communications Commission, Office of War Information, Office of Inter-American Affairs (CIAA), the Department of State, and others — to determine how soon existing facilities could be augmented and new facilities added, and what powers could be attained. As a result of this and subsequent meetings, it was decided that, within one year, a total of 32 transmitters could be in operation and at the disposal of OWI and CIAA."

Engineering For The Goat Gland Man

The organization searched for an engineering presence to head up this massive and very demanding effort — someone who understood high power transmitters and radio broadcasting. That quest ended with the eventual appointment of one James Oliver Weldon to the position of the OWI's Chief of Communication Facilities Bureau.

Weldon's credentials were unique, as at that time there were only a handful of engineers with experience in high power transmitters and antennas, and most of these were fully occupied with critical wartime jobs and defense-related research.

Weldon's knowledge of high power operations, however, had not come from such conventional and orthodox directions as say, the 500 kW WLW station in Cincinnati

or RCA's vast Long Island international communications facility.

Weldon was 33 years old then and had been plucked from his work at the Federal Telephone and Radio Corporation in designing several 50 kW New York City stations. Just a few years before, Weldon's small consulting firm located in Del Rio, Texas had been kept busy catering to the demands of the notorious Doctor John Romulus Brinkley — aka "The Goat Gland Man," (or more simply "Doctor") — for a progressively louder and more potent radio station.

In a world before Viagra, Brinkley catered to the victims of impotence, offering male rejuvenation through the surgical implantation of testicular tissue taken from a particular breed of goat.

At a time when many in this country were facing starvation due to the Great Depression, this unique type of quackery made Brinkley a multimillionaire. His success in locating new patients was greatly enhanced by the power of radio.

Weldon first consulted for Brinkley in connection with the Doctor's first radio enterprise, a 1 kW station located in Milford, Kan. However Brinkley's rather questionable medical practices and battles with authorities eventually resulted in the loss of this station license and prompted a relocation of the Doctor's clinic southward to Del Rio. While exhausting his appeals, Brinkley had been busy cutting a deal with high Mexican officials, and secured permission to construct a new radio transmitter just across the Rio Grande, and out of the reach of the U.S. government. Weldon made the move to Texas too and was tasked with putting the new station on the air, and eventually expanding its power to more than 500,000 watts. Brinkley's XER/XERA became known as "The Sunshine Station Between The Nations" and Weldon made radio engineering history by constructing the first-ever high-power Doherty amplifier and installing an early "flattop" directional antenna to focus the Doctor's RF away from Mexico and into the heartland of America.

What the Doctor did with his station did not really concern Weldon. He loved radio engineering and was a workaholic of the first order, choosing to build stations over listening to them. The experience gained in constructing the giant transmitter in northern Mexico was to prove invaluable in Weldon's new position with the OWI.

Once he made the move to Washington, Weldon's first priority was in creating the needed permanent transmission facilities for the United States government. CBS, NBC and the Crosley Corporation all agreed to take part in this mission, with their respective engineering departments constructing and operating stations to OWI specifications. The government would run interference as necessary to ensure that any roadblocks to the project were removed and that the necessary equipment would be made available during this period of wartime shortages. As part of the arrangement, Crosley would continue to operate that company's existing shortwave station which was co-located with WLW transmitter plant in Mason, Ohio until a new free-standing facility could be built in nearby Bethany. NBC/RCA would assume the task of building a shortwave plant in northern California, and CBS would construct a sister station near Los Angeles.

An Easy Project?

For the CBS engineering unit in Los Angeles, on first appearance, the construction of an OWI shortwave station seemed to be an easy project — possibly no more than the purchasing some additional real estate near their existing KNX transmitter, putting up a few rhombic antennas per Weldon's specifications, along with a building to house some government-provided transmitters, and then staffing the operation with some members of IBEW Local 40. That would be it. After some preliminary east coast meetings in early October of 1943, the project went into high gear.

Lester Bowman, who was based at the CBS Columbia Square operation in Hollywood, drew the card to spearhead the effort to locate property and build the southern Cali-

fornia shortwave station. He had been with the CBS for some time, and in 1943 wore the title of Western Division Engineer. Bowman was remembered by his associates as a hard driving and successful manager. He would eventually head up all of CBS's west coast radio and television engineering operations.

During the east coast kickoff meetings, it was established that CBS would work in liaison with the Defense Plant Corporation (DPC), which had been chartered by Congress in 1938 in anticipation of the America's entry into war, and served as front end organization for expansion of military-related production. When the war began, it became the DPC's job to facilitate the construction of facilities that were deemed to be in "the public interest."

Bowman and representatives from DPC got the ball rolling on by contacting an L.A. real estate firm specializing in commercial property.

It was not long, however, before the CBS engineering personnel found out that their part of the OWI transmitting station project might not be quite so easy as first imagined.

For starters, Weldon had laid down some very specific criteria for the stations:

- they were to be sited at least three miles from the coast
- there must be no mountain peaks exceeding three degrees above the horizon within line-of-site from the transmitter location
- the real estate parcel for each had to be one mile long in the east-to-west direction and one-half mile in the north-south dimension
- the site would have to accommodate 150-foot high antenna masts (later changed to 170 feet) cost for land acquisition could not exceed \$400 per acre

50 Cycle Power

Not mentioned in Weldon's criteria was additional factor in the location of the sta-

tion — availability of electrical power, and as the southern California OWI team soon realized, not all power is created equal. In anticipation of the construction of the California station, a priority order had been placed for three RCA 50 kW transmitters and a behemoth Federal Telephone and Radio Corporation 200 kW machine (it required one of the RCAs as a dedicated driver stage), and a not inconsequential amount of electricity would be needed for their operation. A concern that was not so obvious was the frequency of the available power source.

It may come as a surprise, but for a time the entire Los Angeles area was supplied with 50 cycle (Hz) power. Although a move to put the region on 60 Hz power started in the 1930s, pockets of 50 Hz distribution existed for many years thereafter. (It's reported that as late as 1949, the power being supplied to Mt. Wilson was 50 cycle and early television transmitter installations there depended on rotary converters for 60 cycle power.)

As the original plans were to locate the southern California OWI shortwave station within the confines of Los Angeles, transmitters had been ordered with 60 cycle power supplies. While 50 cycle power supply components could be retrofitted, wartime shortages would likely have slowed things considerably.

The Oil Boom

Another factor put several other prospective sites off limits. This was a direct result of the wartime demand for petroleum products. To supply the needed fuel supplies for the military, drilling rigs and oil wells were springing up all over southern California. By late 1943, property that had at one time been considered worthless in terms of development was now selling and leasing at a premium.

Moving Out Of L.A.

As a station site within the environs of Los Angeles seemed more and more of impossibility, Bowman and his team extended

their search to include neighboring Orange County. This area was basically farm country then, with little commercial development and a population of less than 150,000. Some potential sites were identified, but before they could be claimed, objections to the planned 170-foot antenna masts were voiced. Even in a region as wide open and sparsely populated as Orange County, military aviation training fields were popping up like weeds.

By the time 1943 drew to a close, Bowman's group had investigated more than 40 sites, with each being rejected for one reason or another.

A Letter From The Union

The coming of the new year brought little joy and encouragement for the CBS group. Their project was really no further along than it had been in October. Compounding Bowman's worries was an early January letter from the business manager of the IBEW local representing CBS Columbia Square technicians. As the OWI project shortwave project was not swathed in a lot of wartime secrecy, the union was aware of it and of the ever widening search for a transmitter site. The letter to Bowman warned of some rather dire consequences if the station were to be built outside of greater Los Angeles.

"From its inception, such a project would be cursed by the shortage of skilled labor. Not long ago contractors who had undertaken jobs in these areas (remote from Los Angeles) were offering \$2.20 per hour for building and construction tradesman, with a guarantee of all the overtime that they could work. They had much difficulty in manning the jobs.

"Once the construction had been completed you would be faced with an even more difficult problem when you attempted to secure engineering personnel. As you know, almost the entire Pacific Coast area is classified by the WNC as a Number One Shortage Area, with broadcast technicians considered a craft in which a critical shortage exists."

The letter went on to warn Bowman that radio stations in the more remote parts of California were experiencing extreme difficulties in attracting and keeping qualified personnel and:

“...that no man, trained in radio, will desert the metropolitan areas where work can always be had in one of the many war industries, to bury himself in some such out-of-the-way place.”

Undaunted, Bowman continued his search for a place to build the new station.

Document, Document, Document!

As ground for the CBS OWI transmitter plant was scheduled to have been broken no later than the fall of 1943, concern arose in the network’s New York headquarters that someone might be called to task over the amount of time that was passing without tangible results. This prompted a letter from CBS’s director of radio engineering, William Lodge, instructing Bowman to create a document for the record, should there ever be any questions about the efforts to get the facility constructed.

Bowman complied, producing a five-page single spaced typewritten letter to Lodge. It described all of trials and tribulations befalling Bowman in his search for a suitable piece of real estate. This document, 60-odd years later, makes it much easier to follow the initial twists and turns on the road to getting the Delano station built.

The Search Expands Again

With any hope of locating the station within commuting distance of Los Angeles gone, Bowman’s search moved out further and further. He even investigated — without success — Mojave Desert acreage near Barstow for a site that met Weldon’s criteria. However this didn’t pan out either.

After the Mojave trip, proximity to the greater Los Angeles area didn’t seem to matter anymore, so the exploration team

decided to travel north. Land some distance from Bakersfield was examined, but rejected as too mountainous. Areas closer to that city had already been staked out for oil prospecting.

By now Bowman’s team was more than 100 miles from downtown L.A., so what difference could another 25 or 30 miles make?

They continued north past the small towns of Cawelo and McFarland, finally stopping with a surveyor in the small town of Delano on January 27.

The next day, C. R. Jacobs, a CBS staffer working with Bowman, fired off a terse telegram to CBS management in New York.

“SPENT THURSDAY JANUARY 27 IN BAKERSFIELD AREA FOUND PROPERTY APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILES WEST OF DELANO IN VICINITY OF SECTION 13 TOWNSHIP 25 SOUTH RANGE 24 EAST KERN COUNTY WHICH CAN BE HAD AT \$50 PER ACRE OR LESS STOP APPROXIMATELY 145 MILES FROM HOLLYWOOD OFFICE STOP DELANO POPULATION 5000 STOP NO OBSTRUCTIONS 360 DEGREES STOP WIRE REACTIONS TODAY SURE INCLUDING WELDON’S APPROVAL. AM STARTING ACQUISITION AND WILL ADVISE WITHIN A FEW DAYS IF ANY COMPLICATIONS SHOULD ARISE STOP NBC STARTED CONSTRUCTION JANUARY 27 STOP BEST REGARDS.”

C R JACOBS

(The NBC reference is to the parallel project being staged by that network — the construction of the OWI’s Northern California shortwave at Dixon.)

Initially, the presence of an emergency landing field some five miles away from the proposed Delano site created strong opposition from the Army and the CAA (Civil Aeronautics Administration). However, Bowman’s mind was made up that Delano was going to be the home to the CBS shortwave station.

A special meeting to resolve differences was set up on Feb. 15. Weldon had been briefed on the Army and CAA opposition,

and he prepared a telegram to be read at the meeting. It described the necessity for constructing the overdue station and also played on patriotic sympathies.

“THE OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION AND THE COORDINATOR OF INTERAMERICAN AFFAIRS AND THE ARMED FORCES RADIO SERVICE OF THE ARMY ARE CRITICALLY IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL HIGH POWERED BROADCAST TRANSMITTERS ON THE PACIFIC COAST FOR CONDUCTION (sic) PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MILITARY EFFORT IN THE PACIFIC AND IN THE CASE OF THE ARMED FORCES RADIO SERVICE FOR BROADCASTING PROGRAMS TO THE AMERICAN TROOPS SCATTERED OVER THAT AREA.... THE WAR EFFORT IS DEFINITELY CRIPPLED BY THE FACT THAT SUCH FACILITIES ARE NOT IN OPERATION AT THE PRESENT TIME....I HOPE THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THIS PROJECT AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE WAR EFFORT AND GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE NECESSITY OF PROMPT APPROVAL”

J O WELDON CHIEF COMMUNICATION FACILITIES BUREAU OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

Record Construction

In what seems nothing less than miraculous today, ground was first broken on the station project in May of 1944, and by that November, the first transmitter was delivering current to a 170-foot-high rhombic.

Not long after Delano went on the air, Jack Quinn, a CBS engineer who had previously worked at General Electric's KGEI shortwave station near San Francisco, was assigned to Delano in the capacity of engineering supervisor. He remembered the area then as more or less the end of the earth.

“There were no farms, no nothing, just arid desert — miles and miles of white alkali soil,” he recalled. “It was really worthless real estate. Maybe \$60 an acre. Of course that was before the irrigation canals were built, bringing water from Northern California.”

Badlands or not Delano became the first of the three OWI stations to go on the air, beating NBC's efforts at Dixon and those of Crosley at Bethany, Ohio.

Anticipating the day when the station would start operations, CBS, some months before had requested FCC call signs that reflected the network's operating presence. These were KCBA, KCBF and KCBR.

Delano And The Bomb

For reasons unknown today, the use of harmonic filtering in large transmitter output stages 60 or 70 years ago was not commonplace. Quinn, who would remain with the Delano station until 1952, recalled that the early transmitters there were not so equipped.

“The Federal and the RCA transmitters didn't have filters; they just weren't used then.”

Following the sign-on at Delano, the OWI had scheduled musical programming.

“The Voice of America program now punctuated Allison's countdown with rapturous background music. Ken Greisen, lying next to I.I. Rabi (both bomb scientists) listened dreamily to the waltz from Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings. The violins seemed to rise in crescendo with Allison's excited blurts.”

No VSWR Worries

The Federal transmitter at Delano also lacked other niceties taken for granted today. One of these was VSWR indication and a circuit for shutdown should there be a problem in this area.

Large stations with multiple antennas and transmission lines rely on frequent inspections to catch little problems before they can mushroom. Delano was no exception. At Delano, early in the day, before the valley sun beat down too fiercely, an operator would venture outside to make a routine

examination of the various antenna elements and feeders

In less than a year, this absence of harmonic energy trapping was to create problems in the most secret project of the war — the Manhattan Project's testing of the world's first atomic bomb at a secret New Mexico desert site, nearly 1,000 miles east of Delano.

That test, conducted in the predawn hours of July 16, 1945, relied on HF radio for communications between various observation posts. This radio communication system had been checked out and was functioning well as the minutes and seconds leading up to mankind's first nuclear blast ticked off. However, at a most inappropriate time (and completely unknown to the station's operators) Delano butted in.

As recorded in one account of the atomic test:

"The final countdown began at 5:10 a.m. with a crashing rendition of the 'Star Spangled Banner.' Just as (Kenneth) Bainbridge (a Manhattan Project scientist) gave the signal to Sam Allison (another Manhattan Project scientist and the countdown announcer) in the control center, radio station KCBA in Delano, California, crossed wave lengths with the Trinity frequency. The station, operated by the Office of War Information, was opening its morning Voice of America broadcast to Latin America. The National Anthem provided stirring accompaniment for Allison as intoned the announcement: 'It is now zero minus twenty minutes.'"

On one such occasion, the technician spotted a downed transmission line that had apparently failed during the nighttime operating schedule. There had been no alarms in the control room and it was business as usual. However instead of launching words and music from Washington to the world, the Federal 200 kilowatt spent the hours dumping its RF energy directly into the ground. When the downed feeder was being lifted back to its normal position, a large mass of glass was found, the result of the intense heat generated in the transmitter load that the desert sand provided.

Quinn remembers another heating effect provided by the Federal.

"The transmitter was just plain brute force, with unshielded open wire balanced 600 ohm lines," Quinn recollected. "The tank circuit consisted of two huge parallel three- or four-inch diameter water-cooled tuned lines approximately 15-feet long, with one having a variable shorting bar for tuning. There was a copper hairpin output loop which coupled directly to the transmission line and it went out the window to the switching bay. As a demonstration of how open this arrangement was, when there was arcing, I would go in alongside this output lines — maybe six-feet away — and have the operators close the interlocked glass door and turn the transmitter on. Almost immediately you could feel both feet heating up. Then the heat would slowly creep up your legs. When it almost reached the groin area you'd flag the operator to shut it down. After power was removed your legs were still hot to the touch for some minutes, before they cooled down to normal!"

(Later transmitters installed at Delano did concern themselves with VSWR and included measuring devices. For those of us who have spent our careers with slightly more modest transmitters and operating powers, it's instructive to run the numbers for reflected power on a good day from one of Delano's 250,000 Watt transmitters.

Assuming a reasonable VSWR of 1:5, or 4 percent reflected power, this is about a 0.18 dB loss, or only some 10,000 Watts arriving back at the transmitter!)

A 'Slightly Illegal' Ham Rig

Historically, many radio engineers and technicians were licensed as radio amateurs before beginning their professional careers. Such was the case with many of the operators at Delano.

Most of the ham fraternity is content with loading their rigs, generally limited to a few hundred watts, into dipoles, beams or sloppers. However, when there was time

for idle talk among hams at Delano it often turned speculative. Just what kind of signal might they deliver to their brethren on the other side of the planet, if only they had a transmitter the likes of the Federal and an antenna with 20 dB or so of gain like the station's giant co-linear curtain array?

One day, the temptation for experimentation proved too strong.

Quinn remembers that occasion well.

"I'll never forget connecting one of those curtains to the 200 KW transmitter, and connecting the station RCA AR88 receiver to another and calling CQ just once," said Quinn. "This was at noon and there was absolutely no propagation to Japan at my home station until 5 p.m. There must have been a thousand JA's calling back with S-9+ signals. Amazing what a good antenna and lots of power will do."

Eventually more modern and better behaved transmitters replaced the start-up Federal and RCAs. The first upgrade, saw two massive "walk-in" General Electric 100 kW machines were installed in wings located to the north and south of the control room.

During the 1960s, three much more modern 250 kW transmitters manufactured by Collins were added to the HF arsenal. This expansion necessitated "blowing out" the front of the building and creating another wing to accommodate this additional 750 kW of HF capacity.

The GEs, along with the Federal and the RCAs were eventually displaced by four much more compact and efficient Brown Boveri 250 kilowatt units.

A Place Called Pixley

During the same decade in which the building was modified for the Collins "autotune" transmitters, Delano received funding and a mandate to expand operations to another campus. This was located some 20 miles away, near the tiny town of Pixley.

The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis prompted the government to take another look at emergency preparedness and one of the areas examined was connectivity between Washington and Delano. Since its inception, Delano had been linked to VOA studios by AT&T Long Lines copper. Even though the communications giant had its own emergency preparedness plans, it was thought that U.S. VOA stations should have a work-around if, for some reason, AT&T couldn't deliver. Communications satellites were in their infancy then, so the only logical backup linkage was by HF radio. For Delano, the funding provided for the purchase of an isolated tract of land near Pixley. There, a large HF receiving station was constructed. It included numerous rhombic antennas and racks full of Racal "digitally-tuned" shortwave receivers. The Pixley facility was linked to Delano with a single-hop microwave system. Fortunately, the operation never had to be used during the remaining years of The Cold War.

HF Broadcasting Begins To Fade

In moving with the times, the VOA linked its relay stations via satellite and Delano, in addition to serving as an HF transmitting facility, became a gateway to the Pacific Ocean Region satellites.

This was expanded in the early 1990s by the addition of video capacity in order to push television programming from the Worldnet side of the VOA's parent organization, the United States Information Agency. This involved not only the installation of additional high power amplifiers and video exciters, but also standards conversion equipment needed to turn the 525-line NTSC programming produced in Washington into 625-line PAL required by most of the Pacific Rim countries.

For a time too, the Delano facility was also used to increase the reach of the BBC's worldwide shortwave broadcasting. In a sort of "trade-out" arrangement, BBC programming targeted to the Pacific was transmitted by Delano and, in turn, the BBC

transmitted VOA programming to Europe from its HF broadcasting facility in Wooferton, England.


However, times change.

Both the “Beeb” and the VOA have deemphasized program placement via HF radio, relying more and more on retransmission by existing AM and FM broadcasters in countries they wish to reach. The Internet has also come into its own as a conduit for international “broadcasting.”


In 1979, the Dixon facility was the first of these pioneer OWI/VOA stations to be silenced. It was initially placed in mothball status, coming back to life for a five year stint in 1983. It was completely decommissioned some years later.

The Bethany, Ohio station was next to go, transmitting its last VOA programming in late 1994.


The clock finally ran out for Delano on the evening of Saturday, October 27 at 8:30 local time. (Measured from the UTC reference, that was 3:30 a.m. the following day — October 28).

There was no special observance or program to honor the station’s nearly 63 years of continuous broadcasting to the world. The final transmission, done at 5,890 mHz, was nothing out of the ordinary — just a scheduled program in the Thai language. 

NASWA Flashsheet

Are you getting the latest hot information about what is happening on the shortwave bands? If you have not signed up for the club’s electronic *Flashsheet* service, you are missing out on timely news and information about the DX scene that will enhance your shortwave listening pleasure. If you are a current member of the club and want to receive the electronic Flashsheet just drop **Rich D’Angelo** (rdangelo3@aol.com) a note with your e-mail address, location and membership expiration date from your mailing label. You can participate by sending your latest logs to the electronic *Flashsheet* edited by **Mark Taylor**, markokpik@gmail.com. The club’s electronic *Flashsheet* helps members stay on top of the action with breaking shortwave news and information. The electronic newsletter is an excellent supplement to the monthly *Journal* for the timely dissemination of DX loggings and breaking news. 

NASWA Facebook Page

Join moderator **Richard Murphy** <richard.murphy@swri.org> at the club’s Facebook page which provides members with another way to keep in touch. This group is intended for social interaction between the club members and will not be used to publish loggings, articles, or other materials that would normally appear in The Journal, the NASWA Yahoo group, or the Flashsheet. While the existence of the group is visible to all Facebook users, the online postings are available only to group members and group members must be NASWA members. Comments and suggestions from the membership are welcome. To locate the NASWA Facebook page, simply enter “North American Shortwave Association” into the search box on the top toolbar. If you are into social media, give it a try. 

Listener's Notebook

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Times are UTC and frequencies in kHz.

ARMENIA Reception of *FEBA Radio* via BaBcoCk Yerevan on Jan. 5:

1730-1800 on 7510 ERV Silte, very good (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Frequency change of *BBC WS* via Yerevan from Jan. 8:

0000-0200 NF 5835 ERV English, ex 5830 (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of *Trans World Radio India* via Yerevan, Jan. 12:

1315-1330 on 9910 ERV Bengali Sat, fair/good (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of *Trans World Radio India* via CJSC Yerevan, Jan. 20:

1530-1600 on 7550 ERV English Sat/Sun, fair signal Wrong announcement ... every Sat/Sun from 1545 on 7505 at 31 meter band! (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

AUSTRALIA Will *ABC Shortwave* Broadcasts Really be Restored? The CEO and board chairperson who made the decision to switch-off the last remaining domestic and international shortwave broadcasts are now no longer with the ABC. They claimed a lack of listeners and use of obsolete technology. They did not promote the shortwave service, consult the listeners or try using the modern technology of Digital Radio Mondiale on the Tennant Creek transmitter. The fate of the ABC's international shortwave broadcasts rests with Department of Communications. When a shortwave AM transmitter is switched to DRM the expensive electricity consumption drops by 67 percent. The ABC needs to recognize the 600,000 remote residents as potential audience and provide them with clear radio regardless of where they are by using modern DRM technology. They will also need to promote the broadcasts. Alan Hughes is a technical author and broadcasting industry consultant. (Radio World International NewsBytes)

Reception of *Reach Beyond Australia* in 25mb on Jan. 13:

1230-1300 on 11945 KNX English, very good (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

5055, Innisfail North Queensland 1.5 kW ND *Radio 4KZ*, Dec 28 1358 - Fair reception with what clearly sounds like a relay. A lot of static crashes this morning. Into Australian accented news at 14:00. Still going at 14:15. Power appears much improved from previous sessions here. The next night, I recorded the frequency overnight from 06:00 to almost 14:00. I note that LSS at Innisfail is about 08:53, but I was already hearing audio about 07:49, over an hour before LSS! Signal was good by 08:10 (with Heh, Jude). 6:00 time check at 08:00 UTC. Marine forecast at 8:06 and ID with AM, FM, and SW 4055 announced. Good at this point already. By 09:00 more static crashes noted. 'National news on 4KZ' at 09:00:30. Weather at 09:06 again, and same ID at 09:07. Signal seemed to improve again towards 09:30 before fading off before 10:00. Signal continued, though at fair to good level right through 13:56 tune out. (Salmaniw-BC/DXplorer) 5055, I'm noting Radio 4KZ with a good late afternoon signal with audio peaking up to fair good levels at 1624. I've logged multiple times now Radio 4KZ being on the air later than its cut s/off time on schedules [1200]. the Christmas holidays? Noted using my Perseus SDR (Personal SDR) QTH Finland (Maakeski) (Jordan Heyburn-UK/British DX Club) 5055, Radio 4KZ. A few random songs noted today (Jan 19): 1125 - The Mamas & The Papas - "Monday, Monday"; 1158 - Billy Paul - "Me And Mrs. Jones"; 1200 - news not readable (1205 - music fanfare after news, into sea conditions(?) - "winds ..."). (Ron Howard-CA)11865, Reach Beyond via Kununurra. English Programme (Back to the Bible). Full data e-QSL received in 1 day for reception report sent to: b18@reachbeyond.org.au. (Hansjoerg Biener-Germany/Worldwide DX Club)

BANGLADESH Reception of *Bangladesh Betar* in 31mb on Jan. 20:

1315-1345 on 9455 DKA Nepali, good (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of **Radio Bangladesh Betar** in 19mb on Jan. 9:

1400-1430 on 15505 DKA Urdu, weak to fair (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

BHUTAN 6035, **BBS**, 1007-1047*, Jan 22. Some of the pop songs heard today - Whitney Houston - "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," The Beatles - "Hey Jude," etc.; 1020 seemed like an English lesson, talking about the meaning of words ; cut off at 1047*; very respectable signal, but not very readable. (Ron Howard-CA)

BOLIVIA 5936. **R. Yura**. Enero 10. 2336-2359. Música serrana, luego avisos de la emisora. Desde las 2352, solamente queda la portadora al aire. SINPO: 34333. (Claudio Galaz-Chile via HCDX/Shortwave Bulletin)

5952,48, **Radio Pio XII**, Siglo Veinte, SS, 31/12 1145. OM/YL: talk, typical mx. 25532 (Rudolf Grimm-Brazil). He had never picked up this station at 1145 before with other international stations present. (DX Fanzine)

BOTSWANA **Voice of America** via Selebi Phikwe in 19 & 16 mb, Jan. 14:

1400-1500 on 15580 English, very good
1400-1500 on 17885 English, good signal
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

BRAZIL Reception of **ZYE365 Radio Nacional da Amazonia** in 49mb, Jan. 12:

2100&2300 on 6180 Portuguese, good signal
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

5980, **Radio Marumby**, Curitiba PR, 31/12 1211. Px 'Clamor Missionario'. 35553. (Rudolf Grimm-Brazil)
Radio Marumby has spurious signals on 6020 and 6210. (DX Fanzine)

6010, **Radio Inconfidência**, Belo Horizonte MG, 29/12 2354. Brazilian song, 'Radio Inconfidencia...', another song. 35553. (Rudolf Grimm-Brazil/DX Fanzine)

6135, QSL **Radio Aparecida**. Received (for 2,5 months) QSL card from Cassiano Macedo for receiving "Radio Aparecida". Report in Portuguese sent to: contato@a12.com; producao@radioaparecida.com.br; and cassianomac@yahoo.com.br. (Ivan Zelenyi-Russia, hcdx Jan 19/TopNews)

BULGARIA Good signal of **AWR** via SPL Secret-brod, Jan. 12:

1300-1330 on 11730 SCB Chinese Mon-Fri
1300-1330 on 11730 SCB Uyghur Sat/Sun
1330-1400 on 11730 SCB Chinese Daily
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

9400, **The Mighty KBC** via Kostinbrod. English Programme. Full data e-QSL received in 4 days for reception report sent to: themightykbc@gmail.com. (Hansjoerg Biener-Germany/Worldwide DX Club)

CHILE 5800-AM, **RCW**. Enero 11. 0120-0200. SINPO: 45343 como máximo y 25232 como mínimo. (Claudio Galaz-Chile via HCDX/Shortwave Bulletin)

6925- AM. **RCW**. Enero 11. 0017-0030. SINPO: 35333. (Claudio Galaz-Chile via HCDX/Shortwave Bulletin)

CHINA 4850, **PBS Xinjiang** (Urumqi), Kazakh Programme. e-QSL received in 3 days for reception report sent to yinglian@cri.com.cn. (Rudolf Grimm-Brazil/Worldwide DX Club)

4940, **Voice of Strait**, 1430-1455, Jan 12 (Saturday), with the weekend 25 minute "Focus on China" program in English; started and ended with pop songs; audio feed from CCTV documentary, with native speaker of English; fairly readable, with interesting history of the Forbidden City, located in Beijing; IDs. (Ron Howard-CA)

4990, **PBS Hunan** - Xiangtan. Listed at 10 kW output, this is one of a handful of lower-powered Chinese regionals. Fading in at 1110 with Mandarin news talk or commentary, fair signal and an even earlier f/in than when previously noted on Jan 4 (then the f/in was 1125). (Rob Wagner-Australia)

6035, **FM99** (Voice of Shangri-la) relay via PBS Yunnan, 1200, Jan 17. Time pips; Beijing time check; station's singing "Radio" jingle; followed by English; so this is the usual canned recording for ToH. (Ron Howard-CA)

7210, **PBS Yunnan**, again broadcasting here after a considerable absence; Jan 22 at 1048, tuned in to hear the usual IS of a non-stop loop of EZL instrumental music till 1100; some Chinese and into vernacular; QRM underneath. Nice that this is now reactivated. (Ron Howard-CA)

9520, **PBS Nei Menggu** (Hohhot), Chinese Programme, e-QSL received in 1 day for reception report sent to: yinglian@cri.com.cn. (Rudolf Grimm-Brazil/Worldwide DX Club)

CHINA (TIBET) 4905, **Holy Tibet** (China Tibet broadcasting station). Tibetan Programme. Full data QSL card "Potala Palace in Lhasa" received in 104 days for reception report sent to: holytibet-program@163.com. (Alexander Golovikhin-Russia/Worldwide DX Club)

CLANDESTINE New clandestine via MBR Issoudun - **Radio International**, Jan. 22:

1900-1930 on 7265 ISS Nigerian Fulfulde, good signal (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Denge Welat via Issoudun and Grigoriopol, Jan. 23:

0330-0600 on 9525 ISS Kurdish, very good
0600-1500 on 11530 KCH Kurdish, very good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of **Voice of Oromo Liberation** via MBR Nauen on Jan. 19:

1700-1800 on 9610 NAU Afan Oromo Wed/Fri/
Sun, very good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Idaat Sawt Alsmood / Radio Voice of Stability via TDF Issoudun on Dec. 29:

1500-1600 on 17545 ISS Tigrinya/Arabic/Amharic
Sat, weak signal
(DX Mix-Bulgaria) Observed on 15 December from tune-in at 1535 with Horn of Africa Music and IDs in Arabic as "Idaat Al-Samood" or "Sawt al Samood". It was not audible in the UK but I could hear it with a weak signal on a Kiwi SDR in South Africa. Same on 22 December with Tigrinya at 1500-1520 followed by Arabic from 1520-1600. Arabic ID sounded like "Hababa Radio Samood" or something like that!
(Dave Kenny-UK/British DX Club)

Reception of **Radio Xoriyo Ogaden** via MBR Nauen, Jan. 19:

1600-1630 on 11970 ISS Somali Tue/Sat, good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of **Radio Itahuka** via MBR Talata Volonondry on Jan. 12:

1800-1900 on 15420 MDC Kinyarwanda Sat, good
to weak
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Radio Warra Wangeelaa-ti via SPL Secretbrod on Jan. 5:

1500-1530 on 15515 SCB Oromo Sat, good signal
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Radio Free North Korea on Jan 22:

from 1201 on 7610 TAC Korean, fair/good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Very good signal of **Eye Radio** in various lang, Jan. 23:

1559-1659 on 15410 ISS Juba Arabic* Mon-Fri
* including other langs English/Dinka/Nuer/Shiluk/Bari/Zande/Lutoho (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Radio Ndarason Int via ENC-DMS Ascension/Wooferton on Jan. 23:

0500-0700 on 5960 ASC Kanuri, good signal + hum
0700-0800 on 13810 WOF Kanuri, very good signal
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Radio Ndrason International via BaBcoCk Ascension on Jan. 3:

1800-2100 on 12050 ASC Kanuri, very good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Frequency changes of **JSR Shiokaze Sea Breeze** from Jan. 17:

1300-1400 NF 7345 YAM, ex 6085 as follows
1300-1330 Chinese Mon; Japanese Tue/Sat;
Korean Wed/Fri/Sun; English Thu 1330-
1400 Korean Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat; Japanese
Tue/Sun; English Thu
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Frequency change of **Furusato no Kaze** via Yamata on Jan. 17:

1405-1435 NF 7295 YAM Japanese, good, ex 7245
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Radio Ranginkaman via ENC-DMS* via Grigoriopol, Jan. 10:

1730-1800 on 7560 KCH Farsi, good signal

*Encompass Digital Media Services FM Organization, ex BaBcoCk FMO (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Radio Warra Wangeelaa-ti via SPL Secretbrod on Jan. 19:

1500-1530 on 15515 SCB Oromo Sat, good signal (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

9975, **Furusato no Kaze**, Japanese programme. Full data QSL-letter + frequency schedule in Japanese and Korean. received in 113 days for reception report to: info@rachi.go.jp. (Alexander Golovikhin-Russia/Worldwide DX Club)

CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF) Reception of **Radio Kahuzi** on Jan. 16:

1710 & 1805 on 6210.2 weak (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

6210.19, **Radio Kahuzi**, Bukavu, at 1640-1710, on Jan 18, French, comments, mentioned "Congo", at 1700 English, religious comments. At first fair signal but deteriorated. (Manuel Mendez-Spain, hcdx Jan 18/TopNews)

CONGO (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC) 6115, Brazzaville on Jan 5th at 1854 the ID in French was "**Radio Diffusion Congo Nacional**". (Rumen Pankov-Bulgaria via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews Jan 12)

DENMARK World Music Radio (WMR) commenced broadcasting on 15805 on December 24th 2018 with a power of 200 W. From January 7th 15805 will probably be on the air Saturday-Sunday only. Power is only 200 W. Transmissions on 5840 continues 24/7 with a power of 100 W. The transmitter site for 5840 as well as 15805 is Randers, Denmark. A new QSL design will be used in 2019. An eQSL is available for reports sent to wmr@wmr.dk. A reply can be expected within a month. A printed QSL is available for reports sent to World Music Radio, PO Box 112, DK-8960 Randers SØ, Denmark. For a fast reply enclose 5 euro or 5 USD (QSL will be mailed from Denmark, where postage rates are the highest in the world - 29DKK for a post card). If less return postage is enclosed, you will still get a QSL-card, but will have to wait some time till the QSLs can be mailed out from outside of Denmark. Please

note that no QSLs are available for reports made by listening via remote receivers. (Stig Hartvig Nielsen, World Music Radio - WMR / New Zealand DX Times and British DX Club)

5825, **Radio Oz-Viola** is a small low power legal hobby AM radio station broadcasting from Hillerød on short wave (lower end of the 49 meter band). We transmit mainly during weekends from 1300. You are welcome to write to us - maybe including an E-QSL card from us. (Via Oz-Viola website/New Zealand DX Times) 5825, Radio OZ-Viola, F/D eQSL in 2 hours. E-mail address: jansteendk@hotmail.com. (Jürgen Waga-Germany/DX Fanzine) 5825, Radio OZ-Viola, eQSL in 10 hours. E-mail address: jansteendk@hotmail.com. (Manuel Mendéz-Spain/DX Fanzine) Radio Oz-Viola is a new legal low power shortwave station from Hillerød, Denmark. They broadcast on 5825 mainly at weekends from 1300, also occasionally at other times. (Dave Kenny-UK/British DX Club)

15805, **World Music Radio**, eQSL in 16 minutes with friendly message: "yours is the FIRST reception report regarding 15805 kHz...so I am pleased to send you an e-QSL". Email address: hartvig@wmr.dk. (Manuel Mendéz-Spain/DX Fanzine)

ENGLAND Reception of **Radio Akhbar Mufriha** via BaBcoCk Woofferton, Jan. 12:

2100-2145 on 7300 WOF Tachelhit/Arabic, very good (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of **KBS World Radio** via BaBcoCk Woofferton on Jan. 3:

2000-2200 on 3955 WOF German/French, very good (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

ESWATINI TWR Africa QSL Manager Mrs. Lorraine Stavropoulos and TWR Swaziland: "Stephen and Lorraine Stavropoulos". Steve joined TWR Swaziland in May 1977 as an electrical engineer. In 1978 he met Lorraine. They returned together to Swaziland immediately after being married in January 1979. Steve worked shifts for a number of years, became operations manager and then became the chief engineer for 18 years before moving to West Africa in May 2014 to serve as TWR engineer for that region. From April 2017, they relocated to the TWR Africa Regional Office, South Africa, to be their base for future projects in Benin and other countries. At the end of September 2018, they are

moving back to Swaziland where Steve will take up the position of Station Director from 1st November 2018. Lorraine will continue as the DX secretary for Africa as well as audition programs before they air. TWR asked them to return for two years. For many years she has been the DX secretary for Swaziland and now for Africa. (via Prof. Dr. Hansjoerg Biener-Germany, ADDX Kurier magazine; via TopNews Jan 1)

Good signal of **Trans World Radio Africa** in 31mb, Jan. 7:

1802-1832 on 9500 MAN English Mon-Fri
1832-1847 on 9500 MAN Juba Arabic Mon-Fri
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of **Trans World Radio Africa** in 31mb, Jan. 5:

1905-1935 on 9940 MAN Lingala Daily
1935-1950 on 9940 MAN French Sat/Sun
1935-2005 on 9940 MAN Lingala Mon-Fri
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

FINLAND The next broadcast from **Scandinavian Weekend Radio** will be over the weekend of 12 February. Transmissions start at 2200 on Friday 1st continuing until 2200 on Saturday 2nd. Frequencies to check are 11720/11690 and 6180/5980. Reports welcome to info@swradio.net. (British DX Club)

FRANCE Radio Nigeria Kaduna in 41mb via TDF Issoudun, Jan. 23:

0500-0700 on 7335 ISS Hausa, very good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

0700-0900 on 13840 ISS Hausa, good signal
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of **KBS World Radio** via TDF Issoudun, Jan. 12:

2000-2100 on 5950 ISS French, very good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Sawtu Linjilia/Voice of Gospel via MBR Issoudun, Jan. 7:

1830-1900 on 9800 ISS Fulfulde, good signal
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Radio Taiwan International via TDF Issoudun, Jan. 13:

1900-2000 on 9680 ISS French Sun, fair
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

GERMANY Radio Waves International via Channel 292 on Jan. 19:

0800-0900 on 6070 ROB English Sat, fair
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of **Radio Sylvia** via Channel 292, Jan. 5:

2100-2300 on 6070 ROB German Sat, good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Good signal of **DWD Deutscher Wetterdienst** on Jan. 14:

0600-0630 on 5905 PIN German AM mode
0600-0630 on 6180 PIN German AM mode
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

6005, **Voice of Mongolia** via Kall. English programme. Handwritten partial data QSL text on a greeting card still today the camels carry the house ware of the nomads on their back". Received in 18 days (12 days postal delivery) for e-mail report sent to vom_en@yahoo.com. (Hansjoerg Biener-Germany/Worldwide DX Club)

GUAM KTWR Trans World Radio Asia in English in 31mb & 41mb on Jan. 12:

1230-1300 on 9910 TWR English Sat, fair/good
1317-1346 on 7510 TWR English Sat, very good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of **KTWR Trans World Radio Asia** in 25mb on Jan. 13:

1059-1156 on 11965 TWR English Sun, good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

15215, **KSDA AWR**, Agat, Ch, 26/12 2330. OM: talk, instrumental Christian mx "Showers of Blessings". A Christian message. 45444. (Rudolf Grimm-Brazil) Tx w/315° Az to China. (DX Fanzine)

INDIA AIR National Channel to close down with immediate effect. Thanks to Mr. K. Raja Raja for the flash news, Jose Jacob - VU2JOS:

But good signal from **AIR National Channel** on SW 9380 on Jan. 4 at 2029 & 2136 on 9380 ALG Mx/Hindi/English. No information about AIR Vividh Bharati Sce on 9865, 9380 & 6100:

0025-0435 on 9865 BGL Hindi
0100-0435 on 9380 ALG Hindi
0630-1200 on 9380 ALG Hindi
0900-1200 on 6100 DEL Hindi
0900-1200 on 9865 BGL Hindi
1245-1740 on 9865 BGL Hindi
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of **All India Radio** in English in 31mb, Jan. 23:

1135-1140 on 9620.0 ALG English, good
1135-1140 on 9949.8 DEL English, fair
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

4895, **AIR Kurseong**, 1512-1545*, Jan 23. Back on the air again; start of the New Delhi audio feed; became // to 5040 (AIR Jeypore); usual commercial segment in Hindi; 1515, the news in Hindi till 1530, when the news given again, this time in English; cut off just after the news in English, while AIR Jeypore continued on in English. Kurseong with very weak signal to start out, but by 1530 doing somewhat better and positive English. Very nice to have this one reactivated! Helping my reception was my local sunrise at 1515. (Ron Howard-CA)

4970, **AIR Shillong**, random checking Jan 12 to 17, during my mornings (1300+), have had no trace of this station, which formerly was one of the stronger AIR regional stations. (Ron Howard-CA)

9620, **All India Radio** via Aligarh and via Delhi (11560), QSL card in 111 days. E-mail: spectrum-manager@air.org.in. (Ivan Zelenyi-Russia/DX Fanzine)

INDIA (KASHMIR) 4950.015, **AIR Srinagar** (presumed). By chance, I checked this frequency after Gangtok faded completely out. Strong signal, with reasonable audio with female talking from 0133 to 0135, then singing music till 0139, additional talking, then back to more traditional Indian singing to past 0144. Have they increased their power? I have not heard them here for years with this strong of a signal. Worth checking guys. (Jim Young - CA)

INDIA (SIKKIM) 4835, **AIR Gangtok**. Carrier came on at 0057, very strong and clean! The AIR

IS was played till the hour, but the audio was very weak, and no other program details could be logged. Carrier remained until fade out after 0133. (Jim Young-CA)

INDONESIA 3325, Palangkaraya, Kalimantan 10 kW/ND **Voice of Indonesia**, Dec 30 1400 - Non-descript music until 14:02 with Voice of Indonesia heard and continued in Indonesian at excellent level into presumed news (with music in background). (Salmaniw-BC/DXplorer)

7289.92, Pro 1 **RRI Nabire**, 0739-0917*, Jan 22. Long time since I last checked on this, pleased to find them still active; started out poor, but slowly improved; 0801 time pips (late); into the news, followed by announcers; 0839 into music segment till 0914; started reciting from the Qur'an; cut off at 0917*. (Ron Howard-CA)

ITALY Closure of **IBC - Italian Broadcasting Corporation**: With great regret we announce the closure of our shortwave transmissions starting today, 31 December 2018. The reasons are economic, organizational and not least also the bad coverage of our signal in Italy. However, we plan to return as soon as possible. (IBC/DX Fanzine)

KOREA (SOUTH) Reception of **KBS World Radio** via Kimjae on Jan. 8:

2200-2300 on 11810 KIM English, good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

KUWAIT Radio Kuwait General Service on odd 9749.8, Jan.12:

1055-1325 on 9749.8 KBD Arabic, good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Radio Kuwait Holy Quran Sce on odd 11629.8, Jan. 12:

1355-1600 on 11629.8 KBD Arabic, good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

MADAGASCAR On Jan.7 no signal of **KNLS Madagascar World Voice MWV**. From the staff of Madagascar World Voice wrote: "We have a problem with Madagascar here. Yesterday there was a storm and lightning struck the station started a fire and the transformer burned out. So while broadcasting of Madagascar will not. The exact date of repair is unknown because the new the transformer must be brought from the mainland". (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

When installing the new transformer (made in USA) it would be wise also to install a better lightning protection. (Walter Eibl-Germany/Worldwide DX Club) Station has been heard on a single fq again recently. They have already three TX at their disposal locally. So, not the main power transformer of their diesel generator is blown up / burnt out by lightning recently. (wb, Jan 17/TopNews)

NHK World Radio Japan via Talata Volonondy, Jan. 11:

1430-1500 on 15720 Hindi, good signal (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

NHK World Radio Japan via Talata Volonondry, Jan. 17:

1730-1800 on 13730 Swahili, fair to good (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

5009.9, **R. Madagasikara** (presumed), 1526-1536, Jan 12. Via long path; music and announcers; believe I'm safe with "presumed," based on gray-line reception, low frequency and language heard; no AIR noted. My local sunrise today at 1519 and Antananarivo sunset was at 1533 UT, making for nice grayline reception. (Ron Howard-CA)

11720 **AWR Tanzania**, Adventist World Radio - Dar es Salaam studio, relayed by Talata-Volondry. Very nice signal 12/30 at 1702-1728 with Swahili service. Nice bouncy instrumental music with bass and stringed instrument from 1702 tune-in, then excited YL in Kiswahili telling story, crowd sounds in background, musical breaks. 1722 lovely African choral religious music with piano. 1724 OM and YL with requests for listener reports, mentioning clear ID for AWR-Tanzania. Kids sing two closing songs with piano. To 1727:30*. Program quite fun to listen to and yes, this studio will directly QSL reports sent to them. (Ralph Perry-IL)

MALAYSIA 9835, **Sarawak FM**, Jan 22, not heard 0945+; no signal at all. (Ron Howard-CA)

11665, **RTM** is currently on air @ 0530 playing some woeful pop ballads and occasional anncts. Interestingly, anncts don't appear to be in Malay. Perhaps Iban or Kayah? Not sure! ToH passed with continuous music, then news at 0502 for about 10 min. (Rob Wagner VK3BVW - Australia) So this goes off the air extremely early now. In the past the sign off was at 1600, so a radical schedule change recently. (Ron Howard-CA)

MOLDOVA Trans World Radio Africa via ENC-DMS* Grigoriopol on Jan. 11:

1815-1845 on 7245 KCH Tigrinya Fri, good signal *Encompass Digital Media Services FM Organization, ex BaBcoCk FMO (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

MONGOLIA Reception of **Voice of Mongolia** in English on Jan. 23:

0900-0930 on 12084.9* U-B English, fair * strong QRM 12080.0 Chinese CNR-2 (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

4895, **Mongolian Radio 1**, Murun, at 0730-0934 on Jan 11, nothing here in my QTH, no audio, no carrier, but heard via SDR Kiwi remote receiver in Irkutsk, Russia, with Mongolian comments, male and female, Mongolian songs, and with SINPO 25332. (Manuel Mendez-ESP, hcdx Jan 11) Yes, this seems to have reactivated since new year after a long inactivity, excluding some one-day appearances. Heard with weak signal here in Finland due to geomagnetic storm. Carries now 1st programme instead of 3rd. (Mauno Ritola-Finland, hcdx Jan 11/TopNews) 4895, Mongolian Radio 1 (presumed), prominent carrier heard on Jan 22, checking at 0919, 0943 & 1115; some Voice of Strait QRM from 4900. (Ron Howard-CA)

MYANMAR Fair signal of **Myanmar Radio** in English, Jan. 3:

1530-1700 on 5985 YAN English (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

5985, **Myanmar Radio**, 1557-1559, Jan 16 (Wednesday). The Wednesday only edition of "VOA Special English"; normally this starts earlier (1545+); buried under very strong CRI sign on at *1559. (Ron Howard-CA)

NEW ZEALAND Frequency change of **Radio New Zealand Pacific** in AM mode from Jan. 5:

1059-1258 on 9700 RAN English, good signal Jan.6
1259-1650 NF 6115 RAN English, fair, ex 7390 Dly
1651-1758 NF 6115 RAN English, ex 7390 Sat only (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

NIGERIA Fair signal of **Voice of Nigeria** in Hausa and Fulfulde on Jan. 23:

0600-0700 on 7254.9 AJA Hausa, B18 as scheduled
0700-0730 on 7254.9 AJA Fulfulde, not in French
0730-0800 on 7254.9 AJA Fulfulde, as scheduled (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Good signal of **Voice of Nigeria** on new morning frequency 9689.9 Jan. 24:

0700-0750 on 9689.9 AJA Fulfulde, instead of 7254.9 (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

OMAN Very good signal of **Radio Sultanate of Oman** in English on Jan. 3:

1400-1500 on 15140 THU English-distorted audio (DX Mix-Bulgaria) Radio Sultanate of Oman heard back on SW with their English broadcast at 1400-1500 on 15140 on 19 December. Had been unheard for a couple of months. (Dave Kenny-UK/British DX Club)

PALAU Very good signal of **WHRI T8WH Angel 5** on Dec. 29:

1000-1200 on 9965 HBN 100 kW / 345 deg to NEAs English Sat (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Reception of **World Harvest Radio International T8WH Angel 3**, Jan. 20:

1200-1300 on 9930 HBN English Sat/Sun, very good (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 3260, **NBC Madang**, noted transmitter went off at 1214* on Jan 19, but this was after their audio was cutting in and out. (Ron Howard-CA)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (BOUGAINVILLE) 3325, **NBC Bougainville** (Maus Blong Sankamap), 1127-1156*, Jan 17. DJ in Pidgin with all pop Western songs; 1152 local time check and full "NBC Bougainville" ID with frequencies; suddenly off in mid-song, after which had very weak carrier from Voice of Indonesia. (Ron Howard-CA)

PERU 5025. **R. Quillabama**. Enero 11. 0004-0017. SINPO: 55444. (Claudio Galaz-Chile via HCDX/Shortwave Bulletin)

PHILIPPINES Reception of **Vatican Radio** via IBB Tinang, Jan. 5:

2315-2400 on 9580 PHT Vietnamese, good (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Good signal of **FEBC Radio** Manila on Jan. 7:

2300-2330 on 9450 BOC Iu Mien (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

9405, FEBC (Bocau), Mandarin programme. e-QSL received in 54 days for reception report sent to norie.estabillo@febc.ph. (Rudolf Grimm-Brazil/Worldwide DX Club)

ROMANIA Reception of **IRRS EGR/UNR** via RADIO-COM Saftica on Jan. 20:

1030-1300 on 9510 SAF English Sun, fair signal (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

RUSSIA GTRK Adygeya / Adygeyan Radio is again on air Jan. 11/18:

1800-1900 on 6000 ARM Adygeyan Fri, good signal (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

SOUTH AFRICA Fair signal of **Channel Africa** in 16 mb on Dec. 28:

1500-1555 on 17770 MEY Swahili Mon-Fri (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Fair signal of **Channel Africa** in 25mb on Jan. 3:

0600-0655 on 11925 MEY English Mon-Fri (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

SRI LANKA Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in 31mb on Jan. 17:

1115-1200 on 9720 TRM Hindi, good signal (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

SUDAN Reception of **Voice of Africa Sudan Radio** on Jan. 12:

1630-1715 on 9505 ALF French, good
1715-1800 on 9505 ALF English-fair
1800-1830 on 9505 ALF Hausa, weak (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

TAIWAN Suab Xaa Moo Zoo, Voice of Hope via Tamshui, Jan. 12:

2230-2300 on 7530 TSH Hmong, fair/good (DX Mix-Bulgaria)

9410, **Fu Hsing BS** (tentative), unlike yesterdays (Jan 12) reception heard in H3E (USB+carrier), today at 1219, had a definite signal in LSB and only slightly weaker than the USB output; in Chinese; H3E of course is the normal format here. (Ron Howard-CA via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews Jan 13)

THAILAND HSK9 Radio Thailand World Service in 31mb, Jan. 14:

1230-1300 on 9940 UDO English, fair
1400-1430 on 9940 UDO English, fair
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

HSK9 Radio Thailand World Service in 41mb, Jan. 5:

1800-1900 on 7475 UDO Thai
1900-2000 on 7475 UDO English
2000-2015 on 7475 UDO German
2030-2045 on 7475 UDO English
2045-2115 on 7475 UDO Thai
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Radio Thailand. After a repeated reminder at the end of November, today a new QSL card from Radio Thailand was received for a report dated June 20, 2018. The card's theme is Democracy Monument, a public monument in the center of Bangkok, Photo by Pori Kittawornrat. The envelope put the current frequency schedule of the station. (Dmitry Elagin, Saratov-RUS, via RUSdx #1008 via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews Dec 23/Shortwave Bulletin)

TURKEY TRT Voice of Turkey in English on odd frequency 12035.7, Jan. 13:

1330-1425 on 12035.7 EMR English, instead of 12035.0
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Trans World Radio Africa via BaBcoCk Al-Dhabayya on Dec. 28:

1300-1315 on 17680 DHA Afar Thu-Sun, very good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

KBS World Radio via BaBcoCk Al-Dhabayya, Jan. 4:

2000-2100 on 5910 DHA Arabic, good
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

USA Frequency change of **Supreme Master TV** via WRMI Okeechobee:

2100-2400 NF 4980 YFR English tx#3
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Good signal of **Supreme Master TV** via WRMI-09, Jan. 14:

1400-2000 on 15770 YFR English
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Changes of **Supreme Master TV** via WRMI-05 Okeechobee on 5950, Jan. 11:

0000-0100 on 5950 YFR English new, instead of Oldies

0500-0600 on 5950 YFR Supreme Master TV is canceled

2000-2100 on 5950 YFR English new, instead WRN – RFI

(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

VATICAN Reception of **Vatican Radio** Liturgy in English & Russian, Jan. 13:

0830-1040 on 15695 SMG English, good, unscheduled

0930-1030 on 15595 SMG Russian 2nd Sun, fair/good

0930-1030 on 17590 SMG Russian 2nd Sun, weak/fair

(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

VIETNAM Voice of Vietnam (VOV World) English Service:

0000-0030 on 7315 Cyprus Creek

0100-0130 on 6175 Cyprus Creek

0230-0300 on 6175, 7315 Cyprus Creek

1000-1030 on 9840, 12020 Sontay

1100-1130 on 7285, 9840, 12020 Sontay

1230-1300 on 9840, 12020 Sontay

1500-1530 on 7285, 9840, 12020 Sontay

1600-1630 on 7280, 9550, 9730 Sontay

1800-1830 on 5955 Sontay

1900-1930 on 7280, 9730 Sontay

2030-2100 on 7220, 9550 Sontay


2130-2200 on 7280, 9730 Sontay

2330-0000 on 9840, 12020 Sontay

(Station Direct)

ZAMBIA Fair to good signal of **Voice of Hope Africa** tx#2, Jan. 13:

1200&1515 on 13680 LUV English Sat/Sun
(DX Mix-Bulgaria)

Schedules, news and other information about shortwave broadcasting activity can be send to Richard A D'Angelo, 2216 Burkey Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 or via e-mail to rdangelo3@aol.com (please indicate in the subject that your contribution is for Listeners Notebook). Thanks! 73, Rich 

Pirate Radio Report

George Zeller • 3492 West 123rd Street • Cleveland, OH 44111 • georgez@nacs.net

This month we start with a short apology. Your editor had enormous problems this month, starting with the huge local snowstorms. This got much worse when the clutch on my car quit working. As I write this, it just returned from the shop receiving expensive repairs. Various emergency issues associated with all of that made it difficult to write the column in a timely fashion. But, as you see here, we do have at least an abbreviated Pirate Radio Report this month.

Shortwave pirate broadcasting continued at a very brisk pace once again during the past month. Pirate broadcasting inevitably increases around major North American holidays. February has only a handful of holidays that are associated with increased shortwave pirate broadcasting. The first one is actually a fairly prominent holiday on February 14, which is Valentine's Day. A few days later on February 18 is President's Day, the USA holiday that combines the old Washington's birthday and Lincoln's birthday. Another major upside this month is that darkness propagation is the best time of the year for darkness propagation paths as we continue to be deep within in the Winter season in North America. Seasonal static levels on the shortwave bands reach their lowest levels of the entire year this month.

Once again this month we have few updates or news on Congressional committee hearings on the "Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement" act, with an acronym of the "Pirate Act." This bill would provide for fines of pirate radio stations of \$100,000 per day, with a maximum fine of \$2 million. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ) and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY). As of late January 2019, this bill's prognosis in the Congress remains uncertain. The Pirate Act on July 12 did get a vote in the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee, where it passed unanimously. At this point, the Pirate Act was merged with some provisions of the Net Neutrality legislation that is going through

Congress. At that point some opposition emerged from some Democrats in Congress. The radio legislation is further complicated by controversial bills to criminalize online internet privacy. All of this is further complicated by the literal chaos within the Federal Government associated with the takeover of the House of Representatives in 2019 by the Democrats as a result of the November 2018 midterm election, and the partial shutdown of the Federal Government late in 2018 that has continued into 2019 as the longest Federal Government shutdown in the history of the United States. The fate of this bill in the House and Senate of the Congress and on the desk of President Trump remains uncertain once again at column deadline time. The full text of the house bill is still on the internet at:

https://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF16/20180322/108059/BILLS-115pih-HR___-U13.pdf

The government shutdown appears to be heading for a protracted period of time as of the deadline for this column. Since the FCC is an agency of the Federal Government, the odds of FCC busts will decline depending upon how many FCC enforcement employees will agree to work without being paid. That probably will be a small number, of course. As this month's column arrives in your mailbox, you can check your local newspaper to see if the shutdown finally comes to an end.

Pirate busts by the FCC during the past month were mostly concentrated in the New York City metro area and in Florida as usual. Given the chaos in the government of the United States, we again omit the individual bust notices issued by the FCC this month.

Radio World via Rich D'Angelo pointed out on January 17 that the USA House of Representatives did unanimously pass the Pirate Act in July 2018. The bill was then forwarded to the USA Senate committee

on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. This committee and the full Senate took no action on the bill by the end of the year. Thus, the 115th Congress did not pass the Pirate Act. The bill is now in the process of being reintroduced in the 116th Congress, where all of this process starts all over again with the support of the National Association of Broadcasters. Of course with the current chaos in the Congress with the Federal Government shutdown is impeding all sorts of legislation right now, not just the Pirate Act. One other provision of the Pirate Act would authorize the FCC to issue a Notice of Apparent Liability without first having to issue a Notice of Unlicensed Operation. Since the Pirate Act has not yet been passed, none of that is true right now.

Once again this month the FCC issued no citations to shortwave pirates in the United States. Your pirate DX news and logs for this column are always welcome. Feel free to send them in so that others can follow trends on how and where others are hearing unscheduled and ever-changing pirate radio operations on shortwave. Modes are USB unless listed.

Captain Morgan Shortwave 6934.9 2155-2301 1/5/19 poor to good. Prgm of blues mx w/Twilight Zone theme. (Taylor-WI)

Captain Morgan 6935 AM 2259-2312 1/5/19 fair. Prgm of classic rock mx w/Twilight Zone theme. (Montney-MI)

Mix R. 6866 LSB 1826-2107* 12/24/18 fair. Prgm of classic rock and one Christmas tune. (Montney-MI)

Mix R. International 4863 2212-2222 12/31/18 poor. Prgm of hard rock & soul mx. (Taylor-WI)

Mix R. International 4863t 0055 1/5/19 barely audible. Prgm of 1960s mx. Id'ed by others. (Taylor-WI)

Mix R. International 6861 2138 12/31/19 weak but clear. Prgm of soul mx. Moved to 4863. (Taylor-WI)

Moonlight R. 6935 1549-1554 1/1/19 good. Prgm of rock mx w/some SSTV images. (Montney-MI)

R. Free Whatever 6960 2142 1/1/19 weak but clear. Dick Weed w/prgm of mx & tlk. Discussion of why he has been not as active as usual lately. (Taylor-WI)

R. Free Whatever 6960 2333-0006 1/1/19 fair. Dick Weed w/prgm of mx & ad libs. (Montney-MI)

R. Humper Do 6930 1826-2107* 12/28/18 fair. Prgm of some classic rock mx ancd as affiliation with Drunken Radio Pirate. (Montney-MI)

R. Ga Ga 6925 2238-2303 1/4/19 fair. Prgm of some classic rock mx & SSTV images. (Montney-MI)

R. Illuminati 6955t 2312 1/5/19 poor. Prgm of rock mx Id'ed by others. (Taylor-WI)

Skippy R. 6954t 0125-0213 12/30/18 S9+20. Prgm of some classic rock mx ancd as affiliation with Drunken Radio Pirate. Id'ed by others. (Hauser-OK)

Skippy R. 6925 2325 1/5/19 fair. Prgm of hard rock mx & SSTV images. (Taylor-WI)

Skippy R. 6925 2325 1/5/19 fair. Prgm of hard rock mx & SSTV images. (Montney-MI)

V. of Ozarks Corn Whiskey 4727 0208-0224 1/1/19 poor to fair. Prgm of light jazz mx, Happy New Year greetings from OM DJ. (Taylor-WI)

V. of Uncle Don 6950 2239-2312 1/5/19 good. Prgm of various 1960's pop mx. (Montney-MI)

WDDR 4015 0122 1/1/19 good. Prgm of classic rock mx, Happy New Year from Drunken OM DJ, and various SSTV images at close. (Taylor-WI)

Yeah Man R. 6925 AM 2009-2020* 1/4/19 good. Prgm of Steely Dan classic rock. (Montney-MI)



QSL Report

Sam Barto • 78 Blakeman Road • Thomaston, CT 06787

radio exterior rne

Confirmamos su informe de recepción

FECHA	HORA U.T.C.	FRECUENCIA
09/01/2015	17.58	17.850 Khz.
27/02/2015	20.00	9.620 Khz.
27/02/2015	20.27	12.030 Khz.

Atentos saludos

RADIO EXTERIOR DE ESPAÑA Apartado de correos 156.202 28080-MADRID ESPAÑA
 Teléfonos: 34 91 346 18 11
 Teléfono gratuito para Alemania, Argentina, Brasil, Colombia, USA, Francia y Reino Unido: 800 34 100 100
 Fax: 34 91 346 18 11 E-mail: rne@rtve.es http://www.rne.es

SPAIN: Radio Nacional de Espana 17850 12030 and 9620 f/d cds. for two almost four year old reports. I received my first QSL from RNE in the mid-60's I was glad they decided to return to shortwave but only in SP. I sent several f/u p reports, emails, SASEs but nothing

until today. I guess hope is eternal. (Dodt-VA).

ANOTHER BLAST FROM THE PAST: Radio Station CQM from Portuguese GUINE This station operated on 5838 kHz. for quite a while. It is one of my prized QSLs from my youth. After a while CQM moved to 7946 kHz. I guess they used these two odd ball frequencies to avoid interference from other broadcasters. Very smart on their part. Until next time...Sam.

CONFIRMAÇÃO OFICIAL DE RECEPÇÃO DA EMISSORA DA GUINÉ

CQM

BISSAU (Guiné Portuguesa)

POTÊNCIA: 1.000 WATTS
 TIPO DO EMISSOR: TELEFUNKEN
 ANTENA: DIRIGIDA COM REFLECTOR
 FREQUÊNCIA: 5.838 KC/S
 COMPRIMENTO DE ONDA: 51.37 M.
 HORÁRIO: 21:30 H / 23 H. GMT

Ao Ex.º Sr. Bud Basto

U. S. A.-

Com os nossos melhores cumprimentos pelas informações fornecidas na sua carta de referentes às emissões dos dias 28 de Abril de 1959.-


O Presidente de Comissão,

[Signature]

Contributors' Page

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IS THE 10th OF THE MONTH

The following members sent in contributions:

Eric BUENEMAN , DXpedition to Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area, Black Walnut, MO	PL-600, 20 foot longwire
Mick DELMAGE , Sherwood Park, ALB	Perseus SDR, Wellbrook ALA-100
Jerry ERVINE , TX	No equipment listed
John FIGLIOZZI , Sarasota FL	Sony ICF-2010, 40 foot longwire
Glenn HAUSER , Enid, OK	No equipment listed
Vince HENLEY , Anacortes, WA	Winradio G39DDC, Icom IC-R8600, RX-340, R8B, SDRPlay RSP Duo, PL-880, Alpha-Delta DX Ultra, whip
Ralph PERRY , IL	No equipment listed
Alan ROE , Teddington, UK	Winradio G31DDC, ELAD FDM-S2, SDRPlay RSP1, 17m long wire, ALA1530LN
Gianni SERRA , Roma, ITALY	JRC NRD 525 receiver; Alpha Delta DX-SWL Sloper-S antenna; RG 8 mini coaxial cable; JPS NIR 12 Noise & Interference Reducer-Dual DSP outboard audio filter; JRC NVA 319 external loudspeaker unit.
Ronald SIVES , Easton, PA	No equipment listed 

2000-30000 kHz

Loggings

Dave Turnick • 372 Spohn Road • Sinking Spring, PA 19608 • david.turnick@gmail.com

- 3905 **PIRATE (EUROPE) Radio Melkbus Int.** (tent.) 11.22.2018 1956-2001 rock song, heard in usb with inter filter, strong qrn, poor/very poor; from 2000 carrier on only (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 3985 **SOUTH KOREA Echo of Hope** in Korean 11.14.2018 2213-2241 woman/man talk, brief chant, continuing long talk by men, heard in ssb, fast qsb, strong qrn (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 3985 **GERMANY Radio Belarus**, Kall, 01/05, 2050. Spanish. Sign-on and news items read by OM. New today - the return to shortwave of the Spanish service via Shortwave Service. 45444. (Roe-UK)
- 3985 **GERMANY Radio Slovakia Int.**, Kall, 12/30, 2000. English. Listeners Tribune in particular looking at messages relating to New Year's resolutions. 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 4500 **CHINA P.R. PBS Xinjiang** Urumqi Changji in Mongolian 11.14.2018 1616-1629 western pop song, man /woman talk, music pauses and woman talk, heard in lsb, mild /moderate at times qsb and rustle qrn, fair (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 4765 **TAJIKISTAN Radio Tajikistan** Dushanbe-Yangiyul in Tajik 11.21.2018 1909-1938 local chants with instrumental music, woman talk after each track, heard in usb, strong qrn, almost fair/fair (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 4765 **TAJIKISTAN Radio Tajikistan** Dushanbe-Yangiyul in Tajik 11.25.2018 1611-1623 local chant with instrumental music, man/woman unclear talk, local chant, heard better in usb, fast qsb, strong qrn rustle, qrn het nulled with notch knob, poor (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 4765 **TAJIKISTAN Tajik R1 (pres)**, Yangi Yul, 01/08, 0230. Tajik. Mix of talk by male and female voices interspersed with mid-Eastern/Asian-sounding music. Program ended at 0300 (EiBi and AOKI both show Russian at 0330, but this was not heard although a carrier was still visible). 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 4774 **PERU Radio Tarma** in Spanish 11.06.2018 2243-2259 music program with slow song, LA ballads and man dj talk at times, heard in lsb, moderate qrn rustle, almost fair; in //www.radios.com.pe/99-3-fm-tarma/ with some seconds of delay from sw broadcast; (Serra, Roma, Italy)


- 4809 **ARMENIA V.o.Armenia** Yerevan in Kurdish/Yezidi (as scheduled) 11.25.2018 1625-1652 local chant, woman/man announcements, known music break and IS at 1630, anthem music, man ID "Yerevan", music bridge into program in Yezidi, good (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 4840 **UNITED STATES WWCR**, Nashville 12/30, 0725-0730, religious harangue. SIO 444 (Sives-PA)
- 4850 **CHINA P.R. PBS Xinjiang** Urumqi-Changji 11.10.2018 0140-0202 woman talk in Chinese (p), slow song, woman talk over slow music in possible Kazakh (as scheduled), , moderate qrn, fair (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 4875 **BRAZIL Radio Difusora Roraima** Boa Vista in Portuguese 11.21.2018 0330-0342 woman long religious sermon talk till 0339, music break, man unclear talk, heard in usb, strong qrn, poor; in // <https://www.radios.com.br/aovivo/radio-roraima-590-am-4875-ot/15023> in streaming (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 4875 **BRAZIL Radio Difusora Roraima** Boa Vista in Portuguese 11.23.2018 0349-0405* man Radio host talk, with one ballad and brief slow song, other man announcement with ID, (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 4885 **BRAZIL Radio Clube do Para Belem** in Portuguese 11.21.2018 0303-0316 music program with a miscellany of Braz. pop, romantic and ballads songs, and with man dj talk at times, heard in usb, strong qrn, almost fair (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 4885 **BRAZIL Radio Clube do Para**, Belem, 12/18, 0610. Portuguese. Brazilian pop music. 25332. (Roe-UK)
- 4910 **INDIA AIR** Jaipur in Hindi 11.04.2018 1642-1653 Indian chant, man /woman unclear talk, man boring vocal chant, heard better in usb, strong qrn statics, very poor/barely audible (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 4919 **CHINA P.R. PBS Xizang** Lhasa Baiding in Tibetan 11.16.2018 2221-2248 local pop song, woman brief talk, continuing same song, music pause with man/woman brief announcements, typical Chinese songs, with women /men talk with some sounds and music at times after each track, heard in ssb, moderate qrn, fair (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 4924 **BRAZIL Radio Educacao Rural Tefe** in Portuguese (p.)11.21.2018 0245-0258 woman unclear long talk with Braz.intonation, with presumed man talk at times, heard in usb, strong qrn, very poor/barely audible (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 4960 **SAO TOME Voice of America** Jan 15 at 0648, VOA relay indeed with dead air halfway+ thru the semi hour break between French and Hausa. Another example of USG waste of taxpayer money. (Hauser- OK)
- 4979 **CHINA P.R. PBS Xinjiang** Urumqi-Changji in Uighur 11.10.2018 0126-0137 slow songs, one time pip at 0130, man/woman announcements over slow music fair (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 5010 **INDIA AIR** Thiruvananthapuram in Malayalam (as scheduled) 11.01.2018 1717-1730 woman Indian chants with instrumental music, man announcements after each track, fair (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 5025 **CUBA Radio Rebelde** Bauta in Spanish 11.06.2018 2214-2242 slow song, LA brief ballad, man/woman talk alternated with slow songs, disco dance, poor/ almost fair (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 5025 **CUBA Radio Rebelde** - 12/29 2158 noted with salsa music, ID and news in Spanish. SIO 333. (Bueneman-MO)
- 5025 **CUBA Radio Rebelde** Jan 18 at 0713, S9+20 R. Rebelde is distorted and over modulated during Fox fanfare, not exactly Revolutionary. ` (Hauser- OK)
- 5040 **CUBA Radio Havana Cuba** - 12/29 2307 noted with ID into commentary in Spanish. SIO 333. (Bueneman-MO)
- 5060 **CHINA P.R. PBS Xinjiang** Urumqi-Changji in Mandarin (as scheduled) 11.10.2018 0100-0116 woman / men talk (ment. Zhongguo), with two brief announcements over music, fair (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 5845 **SINGAPORE BBC** relay in KK. SIO 555, December 16, 2018, 1616 – 1626. YL announcers, BBC ID. Conversation in KK. then language lesson in KK / EE. Key phrase is "I'm married" and variants thereof. A better signal on 7355. (Henley, WA)
- 5900 **BULGARIA Bible Voice Broadcasting**, Kostinbrod, 12/19, 1930. Arabic. Talk by male voice over Arabic music. 55555. (Roe-UK)
- 5910 **CHINA [non] China Radio Int'l**, Jan 14 at 0258, China Radio Int'l *0300 relay in English via CUBA is already on, in Chinese. Second harmonic 11820 is a JBA carrier correlating with RHC 25m fundamentals being weakened. Something`s always wrong at Radio Cuba (Hauser- OK)
- 5914 **ZAMBIA NBC Radio 1** Lusaka in vern. (pres.) 11-03-2018 1813-1825 woman / man talk, local chant, man talk, local song,, poor (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 5914 **ZAMBIA NBC Radio 1** Lusaka in Tonga (p.) 11.17.2018 2107-2127 woman Radio host chatting with men (phone calls) with brief tribal chant poor (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 5935 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int**, Tiganesti, 01/08, 1830. English. Truly Romanian (with folk music from Bucovina Region), DX Mailbag and people & Places (about the fight against TB in Romania). 45333. (Roe-UK)
- 5960 **ASCENSION Radio Ndarason Int**, Ascension, 01/01, 0630. Kanuri. Ndarason is scheduled from 0500, but all I heard at that time was R Kuwait in Arabic. By 0630, some African music was breaking through with announcements by African-accented male announcer. 35333. (Roe-UK)

- 5960 **KUWAIT Radio Kuwait**, Kabd, 01/01, 0400. Arabic. Announcement and short talk (likely news headlines) followed by a mix of Arabic songs and talk by both male and female voices. 45333. (Roe-UK)
- 5960 **GERMANY the Mighty KBC**, Nauen, 12/23, 0000. English. Dave Mason - "It's Radio, But Not as We Know It" with oldies music followed by Eric van Willegan's Giant Jukebox and rock oldies. 35433. (Roe-UK)
- 5965 **CHINA China Radio Int'l** in RR. SIO 444, January 6, 2019, 1520 - 1527. MX, YL vocalist.OM and YL announcers, with listed target of Siberia. Good signal, comfortable listening with commentary, announcements and pop MX. (Henley, WA)
- 5965 **CHINA China Radio Int'l** in RR. SIO 444, December 13, 2018, 1545 - 1548. OM announcer with strident monologue. MX clips. Listed target is Siberia. Minor QRN, steep QSB. OM monologue continues. (Henley, WA)
- 5970 **AUSTRIA AWR**, Moosbrunn, 01/01, 0200. Urdu. Sign-on announcements in Urdu and then into a Punjabi song and talk by male voice. Another song and then sign-off announcements by female voice. 55444. (Roe-UK)
- 5975 **AUSTRIA AWR**, Moosbrunn, 01/01, 0230. Punjabi. Sign-on announcements in Punjabi and then into a Punjabi song and talk by male voice. Another song and then sign-off announcements by female voice. 55343. (Roe-UK)
- 5980 **UNITED STATES Radio Marti**, Greenville 12/30, 0710-0722, in SS; musical program with two ancres.
- 5990 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int**, Galbeni, 12/30, 1907. Romanian. "Zi-le D-Alead-Ale Noastre" - Romanian traditional folk music presented by male voice. No interviews today - just music. 55555. (Roe-UK)
- 6005 **ASCENSION BBC WS**, Ascension, 01/01, 0600. English. World News followed by Newsday. 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 6005 **GERMANY Radio Belarus**, Kall, 12/19, 0935. German. Pop song. Multi-lingual ID jingle. Reports read by YL. 45333. (Roe-UK)
- 6005 **GERMANY V of Mongolia**, Kall, 01/05, 1305. English. Mongolian song. Talk about the traditional camel coaxing ritual inscribed by UNESCO in 2015. 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 6010 **VATICAN Vatican Radio**, SM di Galeria, 12/19, 2010. English. African News Panorama (news about South Sudan, elections. 45343. (Roe-UK)
- 6030 **UNITED STATES Radio Marti**, Greenville 12/22, 0703-0707, in SS; holiday mx. Such as "Feliz Navidad". Fair to poor (Sives-PA) reading of Qur'an with customary chanting. SIO 211 (Sives-PA)
- 6050 **TURKEY V of Turkey**, Emirler, 12/21, 1945. English. Agenda (about Syria & the PKK and US policy); letterbox and followed by selection of Turkish songs. 55444. (Roe-UK)
- 6060 **CUBA Radio Habana Cuba** in SS. SIO 555, December 16, 2018, Radio Marti in SS. SIO 555, December 16, 2018, 0122 - 0129. Strong and clear signal. Call-in or talk show. YL announcer with OM caller. Long monologue by YL. (Henley, WA)
- 6070 **GERMANY KAST**, Rohrbach, 12/16, 1140. Dutch. Oldies songs with male presenter. 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 6070 **GERMANY Radio Ohne Namen**, Rohrbach, 12/14, 1400. English/German. Episode 137 of Here We Go! Program of German 30s & 40s big band and jazz music. 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 6090 **ANGUILLA Caribbean Beacon** - 12/29 2233 noted with a sermon by Melissa Scott. SIO 444. (Bueneman-MO)
- 6090 **ETHIOPIA Amhara State Radio**, Addis Ababa, 12/17, 2035. Amharic. Some very nice HoA music. 45333. (Roe-UK)
- 6115 **NEW ZEALAND Radio New Zealand Int'l Pacific** in EE. New Frequency for this outlet, as of 5 January, 2019. SIO 444, January 6, 2019, 1528 - 1543. Interview and conversation in EE with OM and YL. Discussion of social media. Pop MX after interview concludes, station ID given. YL announcer. Listed target is Pacific. (Henley, WA)
- 6125 **TURKEY V of Turkey**, Emirler, 01/01, 0400. English. The Year in Review - focusing on Good News events of the year and including some contemporary covers of Turkish folk songs. 55444. (Roe-UK)
- 6125 **CHINA CNR 1** in CC, domestic broadcast. SIO 555, December 16, 2018, 1626 - 1631. MX and talk. OM announcer. Excellent signal on 6125. Listed target is China. OM with long monologue. (Henley, WA)
- 6155 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int**, Galbeni, 12/31, 0300. Spanish. News reports followed by brief burst of Jingle Bells and Season's greetings to start a program introduced by a female voice and then some traditional Romanian songs. At 0330 was Abba's "Happy New Year". 55555. (Roe-UK)
- 6155 **AUSTRIA Radio Austria**, Moosbrunn, 01/01, 0600. German. Mix of classical music, talk and interviews, starting with a piece by Judith Hoffnung (? sp) followed by some music by Johan Sebastian Bach 55555. (Roe-UK)
- 6155 **AUSTRIA Radio Japan**, Moosbrunn, 12/23, 0500. English. News and Friends around the World including some Christmas music. 55555. (Roe-UK)
- 6180 **BRAZIL Radio Nac Amazonia**, Brasilia, 01/05, 6180. Portuguese. Pop ballads with male announcer - almost parallel (a few seconds adrift) to their web stream at <http://aovivo.ebc.com.br/embed-audio.html?emissora=radio-nacional-da-amazonia>. 35433. (Roe-UK)


- 6185 **AUSTRIA AWR**, Moosbrunn, 01/01, 0400. Turkish. IS and sign-on announcement: "This is Adventist World Radio, the Voice of HopeThe following program is in Turkish". Talk by male and female voices with piano in background from time to time. 55444. (Roe-UK)
- 6195 **BOTSWANA VO America**, Mopeng Hill, 01/05, 2005. English. Heather Maxwell's Music Time in Africa with studio guest Gino Sitson. 55444. (Roe-UK)
- 7205 **SUDAN Sudan Radio**, Al Aitahab, 12/17, 0500. Arabic. Miss-timed time-pips (for 0501:15s!), followed by news headlines and then some African music. 25432. (Roe-UK)
- 7205 **CHINA China Radio Int'l** Beijing, 12/28, 0015. Mongolian. Long talk by female presenter, then some slow ballads with comments between by female host. Later an English-language pop song and into a (presumed) language lesson. 44444. (Roe-UK)
- 7210 **KOREA, NORTH Voice of Korea** in English at 1914 UTC with ID then music program. Fair (Delmage, AB) I have noticed 11710 kHz has not been in during the usual local mornings here. Further checking this week needed... Perhaps that transmitter has finally given out. (Delmage, AB)
- 7220 **SAO TOME Deutsche Welle**, Pinheira, 01/01, 0630. Hausa. Sign-on with ID by female voice, and into talk (presumed news) read by male voice followed by further news reports. 35443. (Roe-UK)
- 7230 **VATICAN Vatican Radio**, SM di Galleria, 12/28, 1715. English. Vatican and World News (leading with talk about the Indonesian tsunami tragedy a week earlier). 55555. (Roe-UK)
- 7235 **FRANCE Radio Nigeria Kaduna**, Issoudun, 12/30, 2030. Hausa. Talk by male voice - mixing with co-channel R Romania Int. 42432. (Roe-UK)
- 7250 **BANGLADESH Bangladesh Betar**, Dhaka, 12/15, 1635. Bengali. Bengali music and short talk by female voice. QRM crashes from CRI on 7255 kHz. 23332. (Roe-UK)
- 7285 **CHINA China Radio Int**, Kunming, 12/23, 1425. Urdu. A nice selection of Urdu modern music followed by language lesson. 55444. (Roe-UK)
- 7285 **UZBEKISTAN TWR India**, Tashkent, 12/28, 0045. Hindi. Sign-on announcement by female voice, followed by long talk by male voice. 25332. (Roe-UK)
- 7315 **UNITED STATES VO Vietnam**, Cypress Creek, 12/28, 0000. English. News. 33333. (Roe-UK)
- 7315 **GERMANY Dandal Kura Radio Int**, Nauen, 01/01, 0500. Kanuri. Transmitter on at 0500 with some African indigenous music and announcement by female voice. Talk continued with male and female voices with more African music between until transmitter off at 0559. 25332. (Roe-UK)
- 7325 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l**, Galbeni, 01/01, 0103. English. Your Music and Listeners Letterbox (including my Xmas card read out on-air). 55555. (Roe-UK)
- 7340 **ROMANIA Radio Romania**, Tiganesti, 12/23, 0200. Romanian. The Radio Concert Season program with a Christmas Concert from the RRI Radio Hall including medleys of Christmas carols and Christmas songs and some classical tunes. 55555. (Roe-UK) 01/01, 0100. Romanian. "Revelion 2019" program NYE program with a varied selection of songs including a vintage recording of a tango, some rock and pop music and some traditional folk music. 55555. (Roe-UK)
- 7345 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l**, Tiganesti, 01/01, 0630. English. History Show: The Romanian Revolution of 1989, followed by the football highlights of 2018 and the Hit of the day. 44444. (Roe-UK)
- 7375 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l**, Galbeni, 01/06, 1915. Romanian. "Zi-le D-Alead-Ale Noastre" Romanian folk music with guest interview via phone line. 55555. (Roe-UK)
- 7390 **NEW ZEALAND Radio New Zealand Int'l** Pacific in EE. SIO 444, December 13, 2018, 1548 - 1610. OM and YL in discussion with heavily accented Kiwi English. Time announcement, folk MX clip with YL vocalist... (Henley, WA)
- 7390 **NEW ZEALAND Radio New Zealand Int'l** Pacific in EE. SIO 232, December 16, 2018, 1635 - 1639. Talk discussion and POP MX with YL and OM announcers. Poor listening. Heavy QRM and weak signal. Not listenable at this time and frequency, or only with great difficulty. (Henley, WA)
- 7390 **NEW ZEALAND Radio New Zealand** Pacific (former RNZI) Rangitaiki in English 11.17.2018 1721-1758* talk program till 1730, (woman Radio host interviewing other woman, with some music pauses at times; fair/good (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 7410 **CHINA China Radio Int'l** in JJ. SIO 444, December 30, 2018, 1440 - 1447. Pop MX in JJ. YL announcer with CRI ID. OMs in conversation or debate. Slight QSB. (Henley, WA)
- 7440 **GERMANY from the Isle of Music**, Rohrbach, 12/15, 1220. English/Spanish. Cuban music from La Trovuntivitis and Privilegio de Origen. 25322. (Roe-UK)
- 7445 **MADAGASCAR BBC WS**, Talata-Volonondry, 12/24, 1600. English. The annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 7490 **UNITED STATES WWCR** 2 religious broadcast in EE from Nashville, TN. SIO 333, December 30, 2018, 1449 - 1453. OM preacher with anti-Muslim screed, with studio audience reaction and/or participation. A Bible-thumper, fire and brimstone preacher. (Henley, WA)
- 7490 **UNITED STATES WWCR** 2 religious broadcaster in EE. SIO 333, January 6, 2019, 1544 - 1555. OM preacher reading Bible verses and then telling us what they mean. Heavy QRM, rapid, steep QSB. Poor listening. (Henley, WA)

- 7560 **MOLDOVA Radio Ranginkaman**, Grigoriopol, 12/31, 1730. Farsi. Sign-on announcements including frequency details, followed by a mix of western mx and talk by male and female voices. Talk refers to "music video", so likely talk about new music releases. 45444. (Roe-UK)
- 7730 **UNITED STATES WRMI** WAVESCAN No 514 in EE SIO 545, December 31, 2018 0000-0030. Anncr. Jeff White and itro. Of Ray Robinson. RR began reporting on hurricane activity in a number of islands in the Caribbean namely St. Thomas and St. Bartholomew. How some radio stations were affected w/damage and flooding? JW introduced the new secretary general of EDX Council Christian Brown. MORE... G. (Ervine-TX).
- 7780 **UNITED STATES Radio Ukraine Int**, Okeechobee, 01/01, 0230. English. Ukrainian traditions for celebrating winter holidays and traditional Ukrainian folk music. 25332. (Roe-UK)
- 7780 **UNITED STATES RAE Argentina**, Okeechobee, 12/17, 2225. Italian. Radio/Shortwave news presented by female host. 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 7780 **UNITED STATES RAE Argentina**, Okeechobee, 12/28, 2330. French. News, pop ballad in French followed by talk by male voice. 45333. (Roe-UK)
- 7780 **UNITED STATES VORW Radio Int**, Okeechobee, 01/03, 2105. English. John giving a schedule update - very weak signal, not really usable. 35232. (Roe-UK)
- 9265 **UNITED STATES WINB** Red Lion, PA - 12/29 2240 noted with light Christian vocal music, brief sermon in English. SIO 444. (Bueneman-MO)
- 9265 **UNITED STATES WINB, Red Lion**, 12/17, 2140. English. Two men vigorously discussing God, knowledge of God and spiritual understanding. They seem to be arguing, but never-the-less agreeing with each other. 45444. (Roe-UK)
- 9330 **UNITED STATES WBCQ** Monticello, ME - 12/29 2244 noted with "The Overcomer with Brother R.G. Stair". SIO 434. (Bueneman-MO)
- 9380 **INDIA AIR** Nat.Channel Aligarh in Hindi /English 11.23.2018 1910-1939 Indian chants with instrumental music, woman talk after each track, man talk (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 9400 **BULGARIA from the Isle of Music**, Kostinbrod, 12/23, 1500. English. Music from albums nominated this year for a GRAMMY award, by Cuban and Cuban-American. 35322. (Roe-UK)
- 9400 **BULGARIA Uncle Bill's Melting Pot**, Kostinbrod, 12/31, 1800. English. Uncle Bill's Rockless New Year's Eve Special with songs and traditions from around the world. 55444. (Roe-UK)
- 9420 **GREECE V of Greece**, Avlis, 12/16, 0905. Greek. Typical Greek music - back-to-back songs with no announcements. On-air later than normal. 55433. (Roe-UK). 01/03, 2015. Greek. A nice selection of instrumental/orchestral/jazzy music presented by male host. 55444. (Roe-UK)
- 9475 **UNITED STATES WTWW** Lebanon TN 12/17, 1653-1705, "Scriptures for America" Fair to poor (Sives-PA)
- 9505 **UNITED STATES WHRI**, Cypress Creek, 12/30, 2055. English. Religious preaching; music fill, ID & TX off at 2100. 35433. (Roe-UK)
- 9515 **KOREA, SOUTH KBS World R**, Kimjae, 12/14, 1505. English. K-Pop Connection playing K-Pop music with male and female co-hosts. 35322. (Roe-UK)
- 9630 **BRAZIL [and non-]. Radio Aparecida** Jan 19 at 2349, R. Aparecida has been stable almost exactly split between 9630 and 9631 as if intentional, 24h, and most of the time lux out lacking any het from genuine 9630 stations --- but now there is a weak het in Chinese until 2357*. Aoki & EiBi show it`s CRI Cantonese this hour only, via Jinhua 831 site for Philippines (Hauser- OK)
- 9664 **BRAZIL Radio Voz Missionaria** Camboriu in Portuguese 11.14.2018 1943-2008 music program with slow songs and one slow music, one brief announcement by woman, then two announcements at times with ID by man (ment. Missionaria (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 9664 **BRAZIL Radio Voz Missionaria** Camboriu in Portuguese 11.17.2018 2129-2152 song, woman/man announcements with ID, other man enhanced announcement (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 9699 **NEW ZEALAND Radio New Zealand Int'l** Pacific, Thu Jan 17 at 0627, English programming obviously from RNZI and slightly displaced, but not a scheduled time for 9700; (Hauser- OK)
- 9700 **NEW ZEALAND Radio New Zealand** Pacific (former RNZI) Rangitaiki in English 11.11.2018 1150-1258* women/man talk program, man brief announcement over music at 1157, slow music pause, time pips at 1200 (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 9720 **CUBA Radio Havana Cuba** - 12/29 2245 noted with "Music with a Message" in English, featuring Cuban revolutionary songs. SIO 545. (Bueneman-MO)
- 9765 **NEW ZEALAND Radio New Zealand** Pacific (former RNZI) Rangitaiki in English 11.18.2018 0830-0908 music program Sunday Night with Grant Walker with vintage and nostalgia songs (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 9850 **SOUTH AFRICA AWR**, Meyerton, 01/03, 1930. Ibo. Sign-on with full ID in several languages including English "... the next program is in Ibo". Short talk by male voice then a musical introduction and into to discussion by male and female hosts. 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 9865 **INDIA AIR** Vividh Bharati in Hindi. SIO 444, December 16, 2018, 0058 - 0106. Instrumental MX. OM with ID and announcements at top of hour. OM singing Hindi MX. YL joining song as a duet. Good signal, moderate QSB, little QRN. MX continues. (Henley, WA)

- 9940 **SWAZILAND TWR Africa**, Manzini, 01/03, 1915. Lingala (listed). Hymn followed by talk by OM 45343. (Roe-UK)
- 11530 **CUBA Cuban Spy Numbers** 12/30, 1740-1748, in SS; YL speaker reads off a series of
- 11530 **MOLDOVA Radio Denge** Welat Grigoriopol in Kurdish 11.10.2018 0845-0915 man talk, music pause and woman brief announcement, nonstop Kurdish chants with instrumental music, with brief man talk over beginning of songs at times good (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 11560 **INDIA All India Radio**, Bengaluru, 12/27, 1440. Pashto. Indian film music and news read by male voice. 55444. (Roe-UK)
- 11600 **BULGARIA the Mighty KBC**, Sofia, 12/15, 1300. English. The Giant Jukebox. 55333. (Roe-UK)
- 11630 **KUWAIT Radio Kuwait**- Sulaibiyah 12/17, 1545-1555, in Arabic; presumed to be 11630 KUWAIT Radio. Kuwait- Sulaibiyah 12/17,1545-1555, in Arabic; presumed reading of
- 11660 **TURKEY V.o.Turkey** Emirler in Turkish 11.11.2018 0607-0633 local song, music pause with woman brief announcement (0609), (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 11710 **TURKEY V.o.Turkey** Emirler in Azeri 11.24.2018 0815-0854* two local chants with instrumental music till 0824, man talk (ment. telephone), other man brief talk, man talk at times over local strings sound, , good/almost good (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 11725 **NEW ZEALAND RNZI** Rare wintertime (here) 1/12 afternoon reception of RNZI (RNZ Pacific) 2045 w/National Radio relay of Insight program discussing whether cellphones should be banned in schools. Fair. (Figliozzi FL)
- 11730 **TURKEY V of Turkey**, Emirler, 12/28, 1740. English. Turkey in a Nutshell (about wooden Mosques) followed by Listeners letters in letterbox. 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 11745 **SAUDI ARABIA Al Azm Radio** Jeddah in Arabic 11.11.2018 0904-0918 Arab chant, man announcement, Arab music pause with man talk, almost fair/poor at times when fading (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 11760 **CUBA Radio Habana Cuba** in SS. SIO 555, January 5, 2019, 1524 – 1532. Latin MX with YL vocalist. Listed target is the Americas. Pleasant Latin MX with unusual instruments, such as bagpipes. Excellent signal. OM announcer with continuation of MX program. It sounds as if it were folk MX with Celtic roots. Quite interesting. (Henley, WA)
- 11780 **BRAZIL Radio Nacional Amazônia** in Portuguese 2350 UTC Jan 11 with phone interview. Very Good to Excellent (Delmage, AB)
- 11905 **SRI LANKA Sri Lanka BC**, Trincomalee, 01/08, 0200. Hindi. Hindi or Sinhalese music presented by female host. 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 11925 **BOTSWANA VO America**, Mopeng Hill, 12/17, 0450. English. 'International Edition' with talk about wild dogs followed by a feature on Otis Redding. 35433. (Roe-UK)
- 11930 **UNITED STATES Radio Marti** in SS. SIO 444, December 30, 2018, 1457 – 1504. Latin MX, moderate QSB and QRN. YL announcer with ID, followed by OM with another ID. News at top of hour with YL anchor. Audio clips with news items. (Henley, WA)
- 11934 **SAUDI ARABIA Radio Saudi** Riyadh in Arabic 11.25.2018 1123-1137 man Arab vocal solo chant till about 1134, man talk, with other man brief talk at times, man vocal solo chant, heard in usb, very good (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 11970 **KUWAIT Radio Kuwait**, Kabd, 12/17, 0530. English. Western pop music followed by Arab Pioneers. 44444. (Roe-UK)
- 12050 **CHAD [none]. Radio Ndarason International**, Jan 17 at 2027, poor S6 in presumed Kanuri, from Radio Ndarason International, tnx to absence of WEWN Spanish; also uncovering that "ASCENSION hum" (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING)
- 12055 **CHINA P.R. CNR 17** Lingshi in Kazakh 11.17.2018 1126-1145 man/woman talk, with music pauses at times, (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 12095 **MADAGASCAR BBC WS**, Talata Volonondry, 12/17, 0515. English. Newsday (with comment on China/Zambia finance) 35333. (Roe-UK)
- 12095 **MADAGASCAR BBC WS**, Talata-Volonondry, 12/24, 1500. English. The annual "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols", from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. 45444. (Roe-UK)
- 12160 **UNITED STATES WWCR 2** Religious broadcast. SIO 555, January 6, 2019, 1611 – 1618. Country MX with religion. Musical OM preacher talking about family and children, sports cars, and Harley motorcycles. Dedication of song to his wife of 21 years. (Henley, WA)
- 12160 **UNITED STATES WWCR 2** from Nashville, TN in EE. SIO 555, December 16, 2018, 1640 – 1645. Religious broadcaster. OM Preacher reading from Second Corinthians, claiming to be preaching for only ten minutes. Fire and brimstone Bible thumper. Excellent signal. (Henley, WA)
- 13700 **CUBA Radio Habana Cuba** in SS. SIO 555, December 30, 2018, 1505 – 1515. RHC with OM and news. Excellent signal. Commentary on President Maduro. Listed target is WNA. YL and OM announcer with ID after the news. OM and YL commentary and frequency announcements, contact information, and web broadcasts. (Henley, WA)
- 13745 **THAILAND Radio Thailand** in English at 0000 UTC Jan 12 sign on of the Radio Thailand World service, National Anthem then into morning news hour. Some station IDs as "FM88 and relayed around the country" noted. ((Delmage, AB)

- 13745 **THAILAND Radio Thailand** in EE. SIO 555, December 16, 2018, 0042 – 0052. Commentary of relations between Thailand and Cambodia... (Henley, WA)
- 13820 **UNITED STATES Radio Marti** in SS. SIO 555, January 5, 2019, 1532 – 1539. Latin MX with OM vocalist. Pleasantly listenable. OM announcer. Listed target is, of course, Cuba. (Henley, WA)
- 13820 **UNITED STATES Radio Marti** in SS. SIO 555, December 13, 2018, 1611 – 1618. Excellent signal, two OMs in discussion. Mention of Castro's Cuba as a fortress state... (Henley, WA)
- 13820 **UNITED STATES Radio Marti** in SS. SIO 555, December 16, 2018, 1646 – 1652. OM with lecture and/or commentary. Long monologue. Excellent signal. (Henley, WA)
- 15140 **CUBA Radio Habana Cuba** in SS. SIO 333, December 30, 2018, 1520 – 1525. RHC with listed target of SA. OM and YL announcers with ID and information. Commentary and instrumental MX. Strong QRN and steep QSB, with generally poor listening. RHC theme MX. Henley, WA)
- 15140 **CUBA Radio Habana Cuba** in SS. SIO 444, January 6, 2019, 1619 – 1633. YL announcer, Latin MX. Muffled audio with moderate QRN, slight QSB. Long monologue form YL announcer. ID at bottom of the hour with a program switch. Audio was quite bad and made for poor listening. (Henley, WA)
- 15140 **CUBA Radio Havana Cuba**, Quivican, 12/14, 1415. Spanish. Talk by female and male hosts. 25332. (Roe-UK)
- 15140 **OMAN Radio Sultanate of Oman**, Thumrait, 12/15, 1440. English. Pop song, Call to Prayers, Language Lesson. 35433. (Roe-UK)
- 15140 **CUBA Radio Habana Cuba** in SS. SIO 444, December 16, 2018, 1657 - 1701. OM announcer with ID and frequency announcements. Jazz MX. Good signal with slight QRN. (Henley, WA)
- 15460 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int**, Tiganesti, 01/05, 1215. English. Truly Romanian (Romanian carols for epiphany); DX Mailbag and Through the Looking Glass (Professor Michael Dobson talking about Shakespeare and Romania). 55555. (Roe-UK)
- 15530 **KUWAIT Radio Kuwait**, Kabd, 12/12, 0710. English. Program about Industry & Development followed by back-to-back Western (American) pop music. 55444. (Roe-UK)
- 15580 **BOTSWANA VO America**, Mopeng Hill, 12/19, 1910. English. Live program "Straight Talk Africa" talking about Nigerian issues, including Boko Haram and elections. 45433. (Roe-UK)
- 15759 **THAILAND Radio Mashaal** Udon Thani in Pashto(shifted on this frequency) 11.18.2018 0921-0939 men fast long talk only till 0930, brief music pause, man talk till 0937, with one brief music pause poor/barely audible at times; (Serra,Roma,Italy)
- 15759 **THAILAND Radio Mashaal** Udon Thani in Pashto 11.11.2018 0946-1014 men talk, chants with instrum.music at times, brief music break then some announcements, poor/almost fair (Serra, Roma, Italy)
- 15769 **INDIA AIR** (pres.) Panaji in Indonesian as scheduled 11.09.2018 0848-0900 man long talk only, heard better in Lsb, qrm ute and strong qrn rustle almost nulled with inter filter, notch knob and Nir 12, poor (Serra,Roma, Italy)
- 15770 **UNITED STATES Supreme Master TV**, Okeechobee, 12/15, 1510. English. OM listing languages that they provided subtitles for, then continuing talk in various languages followed by a woman seeming to be taking questions from an audience. 35232. (Roe-UK) 

NASWA Email Group (Updated Address!)

Join moderator **Dan Ferguson**, the club's Email Group, and other club members to discuss reception of shortwave radio broadcasts, program content, propagation, reception conditions, loggings, hot news and information as well as radio equipment and accessories and any topics related to shortwave radio in general. Please keep in mind that loggings, QSL news, schedule changes should also be reported to the appropriate column editor of the Journal for publication. This forum is a supplement to, not a replacement of, The Journal. Subscribe by going to <https://groups.io/g/NASWA/>. Any club members wishing to participate in the NASWA Email Group, moderated by Dan Ferguson (k4voa@zerobeat.org), but not interested in registering direct with Yahoo should contact Dan direct by e-mail for further information. Dan can manually add you to the group. 

32nd (!) Anniversary Winter SWL Fest

Sponsored by 

February 28th - March 2nd, 2019
Doubletree Guest Suites

640 Fountain Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA

Special 3-day edition: Attend your favorite forums Thursday, Friday and Saturday! Enjoy meeting with your friends in the Hospitality Room. Bring radio related items for the swap meet or to donate for the Silent Auction. Check out your friends' receivers; bring one of your own for others to try!

No frills; just shortwave, longwave, mediumwave, pirates, and scanning. Once again you will enjoy the camaraderie of your hobby friends.

Please note, there is an incentive for you to pre-register, as prices are more expensive for those who wait. Registration options are also more flexible than in the past, with new one-day and student registrations. **If you wish to participate in the banquet, you must complete registration and payment by Friday morning, March 1st.** If you choose not to participate in the banquet, there are many nearby restaurants.

Your registration must be postmarked by January 25th, 2019 for the best prices; registrations posted after that date are priced higher. See the registration form below.

GRAND PRIZE To be announced

SPECIAL Register early to win a sw portable! One free entry for an early-bird registration postmarked by January 25, 2019.

Please bring items for the Silent Auction. At least half of the proceeds are donated to charity.

Checks should be made payable to WINTER SWL FEST. Register directly with the hotel for your rooms by calling the Doubletree at (610) 834-8300. For 2019, the rate is **\$119** for a single king bed room, or **\$129** for a two-double bed room, including breakfast. To get this rate you **MUST** tell the hotel staff you're with the group code **swl**. **You can also reserve your hotel room online; check for the link as well as updated Fest info, at the WINTER SWL FEST Web Page at <http://www.swlfest.com/> or from <http://www.naswa.net/>.**

The Doubletree Guest Suites is conveniently located near the interchange of I-476 and I-276, at the I-276 Norristown exit (#333). Limo service is available from Phila. Intl Airport directly to the hotel.

Online registration available via PayPal – See <http://www.swlfest.com> for details!

If you aren't completing the online registration, please submit the following form with your registration amount or send for more information to:

NEW ADDRESS!! WINTER SWL FEST, P.O. Box 3292, Allentown, PA 18106 **NEW ADDRESS!!**

NAME: _____ (SPOUSE'S NAME) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ST/ZIP: _____ E-MAIL: _____
(REQ. FOR REG. CONFIRMATION)

CHECK ONE OR MORE | MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "WINTER SWL FEST"

REGISTRATION POSTMARKED BY
JANUARY 25, 2019:

- Full (\$95)
- 3-day no banquet (\$45)
- One-Day no banquet (\$30)
- Full Spouse / etc. (\$80)
- Banquet only (Spouse) (\$55)
- Student (\$10)

LATE OR ON-SITE REG.
POSTMARKED AFTER JANUARY
25, 2019:

- Full (\$105)
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RAFFLE TICKETS:

- raffle tickets, please
(\$1 ea./ 6 for \$5/ 13 for \$10)
- Registration Fee Enclosed \$ _____
- Raffle Tickets Enclosed \$ _____
- Total Check/Money Order \$ _____

Cancellations after February 9, 2019 cannot be refunded, however we will refund raffle ticket money if you have to cancel.

For more information, visit <http://www.swlfest.com>



On the Short Waves

by Jerry Berg

<www.ontheshortwaves.com> **Update, December 30, 2018**—This time we have posted two items, both pertaining to the Radio Nuevo Mundo group in Japan. It used to publish the Radio Nuevo Mundo newsletter, which was devoted exclusively to Latin American DXing. You can find some sample issues under “Specialized Resources/DX Newsletters.” And under “DX History/Clubs & Publications” we have posted some of the pennants which RNM issued over the years.

<www.ontheshortwaves.com> **Update, January 6, 2019**—Under “DX History on the Net,” we have updated all URLs, and we have posted nine new entries under “Stations & Countries on Shortwave,” “Latest Items.” They are: (1) The Forgotten Firsts--Remembering Radio Netherlands (Jonathan Marks); (2) Radio Atlantico del Sur; (3) Azanorak.com--European pirates; (4) BBC Radio Times; (5) Capital Radio, Transkei; (6) Radio Canada International; (7) Georgia’s Secret Radio Station: Jamming for the USSR; (8) Woofferton Transmitting Station; and (9) WWV.—Also, under “Specialized Resources” we have posted a new version of “Media Network Vintage Vault: An Index,” reflecting the restructuring of the Vintage Vault website. There is a ton of interesting history here.

<www.ontheshortwaves.com> **Update, January 13, 2019**—This is a follow up to our earlier postings of Radio Nuevo Mundo pennants < http://www.ontheshortwaves.com/RNM/RNM_Pennants.html> and newsletters < <http://www.ontheshortwaves.com/Newsletters/Newsletters.html>> Horacio Nigro in Uruguay has drawn our attention to an excellent series of recordings of Latin American DX stations. They were made between 1984 and 1993 during various LA visits by Tetsuya Hirahara and another old DX friend, Takayuki Inoue Nozaki (“TIN”), both of the Radio Nuevo Mundo group. Because they were recorded locally, sometimes in-studio, they have excellent audio. The recordings were originally published years ago for Radio Nuevo Mundo followers by Tetsuya, and now they appear on his RNM website < <http://radiophj.web.fc2.com/rnm/jp.html>> and also on Horacio’s excellent “La Galena del Sur” website < <https://lagalenadelsur.wordpress.com/2019/01/03/radio-nuevo-mundo-radiomanos-japoneses-y-su-pasion-por-la-radiodifusion-latinoamericana/>>. Thanks to Tetsuya and Horacio, we are adding them to ontheshortwaves.com as well, under “DX History/Recordings,” together with an index of the stations (which shows the index numbers where the individual recordings can be found). These recordings bring back great memories of early east coast mornings, searching out interesting Latin American signals “en la onda corta” before getting going to work.—Also on Horacio’s website (URL above, bottom of page): a great Spanish-language video of TIN being interviewed on Radio Chota during a station visit in 2018.

<www.ontheshortwaves.com> **Update, January 20, 2019**—Under “DX History/Stations,” we present a brief writeup, with pictures, about the Marconi radiotelegraph station at Banana, Congo Free State, in the early 1900s.—And under “Specialized Resources/Wavescan,” Adrian Peterson favors us with four new entries: (1) “Rebuilding a Caribbean Island After Hurricane Devastation” [St. Barthelemy], (Wavescan N514, December 30, 2018); (2) “Ancient DX Report 1916-II” (Wavescan N514, December 30, 2018); (3) “The Radio Scene in Portuguese Macao-II” (Wavescan N516, January 13, 2019); and (4) “Languages on QSL Cards” (Wavescan N516, January 13, 2019).

