

The **NASA** Journal

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NASWA Notes

Richard A. D'Angelo • 2216 Burkey Drive • Wyomissing, PA 19610 • rdangelo3@aol.com

Winter SWL Festival News: Rich Cuff and John Figliozzi have announced plans for the 2024 "Winter" SWL Festival to be held the weekend of May 10-11, 2014. The plan is to hold an in-person event once again in conjunction with the online "Zoom" platform. The 37th annual "Winter SWL Festival will be held at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Fort Washington (432 Pennsylvania Avenue, Fort Washington, PA 19034; Tel: 215-591-9000). Room rates are \$129 (Thursday, May 9) and \$184 (Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11) / night. Register directly with the hotel for your rooms by visiting the SWL Fest website - <http://www.swlfest.com> and look for the Group Hotel Reservations link. As this is our first in-person Fest since the pandemic, it will be a smaller event, with no silent auction and no Saturday night banquet. We'll arrange a group dinner for Saturday night at a nearby restaurant; you'll pay for your own. The registration fee is **\$45.00** for "in person" and **\$20.00** for Zoom participation. Checks should be made payable to WINTER SWL FEST (P.O. Box 3292, Allentown, PA 18106) and online registration available via PayPal - See <http://www.swlfest.com> for details! We are limiting in-person participation to **65**, and there will be no paper registration on-site. Register early so you don't get shut out. Updated information, including the schedule of activities, is at the Winter SWL Festival website, <http://www.swlfest.com>. See page

54 of this issue for the formal announcement with detailed information. Thanks!

From long time member Tim Noonan (DXing2@aol.com and (414) 813-7373) we get a "save the date" message for the 2024 Madison-Milwaukee Get-Together. The organizing team is not requesting that you RSVP at this time but be sure to mark your calendar and hold the day open if you can. Here are the specifics: The 2024 Madison-Milwaukee Get-Together will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2024, beginning at 1 p.m. The location will be 801 E Park Blvd, Oak Creek WI 53154 - the same location as in 2022. Tim will send more details and a request for responses around June.

Here's a brief reminder about sending your e-mail address to the club at journal@naswa.net. E-mail is the best way for us to contact you and it allows you to receive the e-Journal. This is especially important for print Journal recipients when communication is very important. Your address is not shared with anyone and will not be used for anything except NASWA business. Remember, send it to journal@naswa.net. Thanks!

John Herkimer takes us to the Philippines for this month's cover. Radyo Pilipinas Overseas (DZRP) is the overseas broadcasting service of the Philippine Broadcasting Service (PBS). Today, Radyo Pilipinas uses the facilities of the International Broadcasting Bureau

Unity and Friendship


(Voice of America) transmitter site in Tinang, Central Luzon. At this writing, Radyo Pilipinas can be heard from 0200-0330 in English on 9475, 15640, 17820 kHz and from 1730-1930 in Filipino 9925, 12120, 15190 kHz. The station has been a reliable verifier of listener reception reports.


Anker Petersen reminds us that since 1999, he has annually published a new edition of the Domestic Broadcasting Survey. Edition 26 can now be downloaded from www.dswci.org free of charge. It is introduced at "Latest News" on the top. If you click "More", the 15 pages are ready for download. Another way to get it is to click "Back Issues" and then download DBS-26. Over the years, I have relied on the Domestic Band Survey as the best DX resource for the tropical bands and the domestic broadcast band stations. The BDS-26 consists of 11.5 pages of active stations and 3 pages of stations that have been deleted since April 2019. The DBS-26 is highly recommended, and the price is pretty good too.

As usual, there is plenty of good reading material in John Figliozzi's *Shortwave Center* and Bill Tilford's *Shortwave Program Spotlight*. The *Shortwave Center* kicks off the radio buying season with a comprehensive review of an innovative new radio. As our deadlines approached, outlets selling the radio have been out of stock for weeks. A *Review and Analysis of the Choyong LC90 (Export Version)* by John A. Figliozzi and a *Review of the new Qodosen SR 286 High Sensitivity Multi Band Radio* by Phil Ireland, VK2GJF which appeared in the Australian DX

News. The developers say that improvements are being made in design and performance based on feedback they have received from initial buyers and that they expect these to be largely implemented in existing and new units by the end of March. Therefore, this review appears here in anticipation that new units will be available from several vendors shortly. The *Shortwave Program Spotlight* goes to go long-form on a couple of shows this month. First is Tony Pavick's *Pop Shop Radio*, which is an oldies show that promises to be something different – in addition to what you might expect from Canadian and US music from the 50s, 60s and 70s. One of last remaining classical music programs, public or private, on the shortwave bands is Brice Avery's *Encore* (aka *Radio Tumbiril*). This is very well-curated with an impressive mix of well-known, obscure, early and modern composers. As I mentioned earlier, a lot of good reading material.

From John Wright of the Australian Radio DX Club, we get an update on the massive QSL project they are undertaking (the Adrian Petersen collection). "We are on track with Adrian's QSL cards and the airlines are playing the usual games with the prices. Sam and Martin are into the heavy negotiations with the HFSA for finalization of the acceptance of the tens of thousands of QSL cards and letters. The final hurdle is the code and number for us to get the QSLs into Sydney for a less cost. We are so close."

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

Attention members! Some members do not have an e-mail address in the database and we encourage you to provide one. E-mail is the best way for us to contact you and it allows you to receive the e-Journal. Your address is not shared with anyone and will not be used for anything except NASWA business. Send it to journal@naswa.net. Thanks! 

Musings

Jerry Lineback • 4422 Sierra Del Sol • Paradise, CA 95969-8116 • jalinebk@gmail.com

Please e-mail your Musings , preferably as MS Word attachments, to jalinebk@gmail.com or mail to Jerry Lineback, 4422 Sierra Del Sol, Paradise, CA 95969. Please note that the deadline for contributions to the May issue is April 24, 2024.

[Ed. Note: This long musing has been split to stay within the column page limit. This is Part 1; Part 2 will appear in the May Journal]

Eric Bueneman, 631 Coachway Lane, Hazelwood, MO 63042

In recent months, I have asked myself this question: “What does shortwave radio need?” It definitely doesn’t need high-powered digital transmissions aimed at stock-trading interests. What it really needs to be is an alternative to your local AM (MW), FM or DAB service.

As a former broadcast worker and a radio listener, I have heard a lot of complaints about radio programming, especially on our local medium wave (AM) and FM stations. As far as I am concerned, most of the commercial talk radio programming I hear, especially on American radio stations, is socially and politically right wing; some views even extreme right wing, such as the views espoused by Alex Jones and the late Brother Ralph G. Stair. The talk programming on American public radio stations is usually centrist in nature. The music formats I hear on local radio are intangible, at best. I would prefer a much wider playlist than the same 200-300 songs repeated over and over again, like a broken record. Concentration of ownership of local radio stations on a handful of corporations certainly makes matters much worse. It doesn’t give a listener, like myself, much of a choice.

For many years, I looked to shortwave radio as an alternative to the bland programming on my local radio stations. Shortwave broadcasters gave me more perspectives to hear from than the American perspective. At one point in the first decade of the Twenty-First Century, I had a shortwave converter in my car. I was able to listen to Radio Australia on 9580 kHz on my way into work on numerous mornings. In the afternoon, on my way home from my college classes, I would turn on shortwave programming directed to West Africa from sites in Africa or the United States. When shortwave broadcasters began reducing or eliminating service to North America, that took away too many choices for listeners. These stations also shot themselves in the foot by abandoning areas like North America. There were many things shortwave broadcasters did right in the way of programming, but they did a very poor job in promoting and marketing the medium.

What does shortwave radio really need? First, it has to be effectively marketed. No honest efforts have been made to effectively market the medium to the public, especially an alternative to your local medium wave (AM) or FM broadcast station. It should also be

marketed as a long-range broadcast medium, regardless of whether it is in analog or digital format (especially in DRM). Another advantage shortwave offers that should be emphasized is having zero corporate ownership (i.e.: iHeart Radio, Cumulus Media, Audacy, Salem Media) and not relying on the artificial barrier of ratings in making programming decisions. There is also an opportunity for shortwave to embrace different programming niches, which most U.S. local broadcasters abandoned years ago.

Today's portable shortwave receivers are relatively inexpensive, compared with a generation ago. What's more, you don't need a computer to access the programming (paying sometimes exorbitant Internet access fees) when you should be getting it at no charge via shortwave radio. However, there is a lack of shortwave receivers available for mobile applications. This should never be overlooked when designing aftermarket receivers for mobile applications. Such receivers should decode not only FM Stereo signals, but also C-QUAM AM Stereo signals as well as digital signals in the DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale) and the North American HD (Hybrid Digital) Radio systems. The latter system (HD) should be used on FM only. Shortwave receiving capability should be optional on any receiver for new build automobiles. And what about using DRM for domestic and international shortwave broadcasting? One idea would be to reserve the entire 18 and 25 MHz bands for exclusive DRM use. Another would be to designate portions of the other shortwave broadcast bands for DRM use, such as the 2300-2480 kHz portion of the 120 Meter band or 3200-3310 and 3350-3400 kHz portions of the 90 Meter band, which would include a 20 kHz buffer (+/- 10 kHz) to protect Standard Time and Frequency stations on 2500 kHz and CHU on 3330 kHz.

The signal coverage of many shortwave stations must be put first and foremost in any marketing plan for the medium. For instance, shortwave radio stations offer a much larger signal coverage than your local medium wave (AM) or FM station. This is one point that must be emphasized in any promotional material on the shortwave broadcast bands. The most powerful FM signals can only be heard within 50 to 100 miles (80 to 160 km) of the station's transmitter facility, depending on local topography and where the listener is located. In the Saint Louis, MO area, where I live, the maximum power an FM station can operate on the Missouri side of the Mississippi is 100 kW at 300 meters above average terrain (give or take), covering up to a 90-mile (145 km) radius. On the Illinois side, the maximum power is 50 kW at 152 meters above average terrain, covering up to a 70-mile (113 km) radius of the transmitter facility. Many low-power FM (LPFM) stations only cover, at most, a five-mile (eight kilometer) radius around the transmitter. In the United States, medium wave (AM) radio stations are limited to 50 kW. The most powerful of these stations, operating with non-directional facilities at all hours, like my local KMOX (1120 kHz) only cover up to a 750-mile (1,207 km) radius at night. Daytime coverage of local medium wave stations is dependent on frequency and ground conductivity values. With a ground conductivity value of 15 (very good) in the Saint Louis area, KMOX's daytime coverage is roughly 150 miles (240 km). Even satellite radio's signal footprint is smaller than that of shortwave radio. I've been a subscriber to Sirius-XM Satellite Radio since July 2007, adding the subscription mainly for BBC World Service and CBC Radio One. Sirius-XM's signal only covers an area from roughly the Arctic Circle to Mexico City. Depending on where the program is beamed, a shortwave signal has a local-like signal for literally hundreds, if not thousands, of miles, overcoming many geographical and topographical barriers. In a mobile application, shortwave signals (especially those beamed to North America) can be heard under highway overpasses, like FM

broadcast signals. Internet services, which may be reliable in most cities, aren't as reliable in rural or low-income areas. In these areas, shortwave radio must be marketed as a low-cost alternative to local medium wave (AM) and FM radio, given that receivers can be purchased for a lower price than a computer.

What about programming? Daniel Robinson pointed out, in his column in the November 2021 *NASWA Journal*, that "stations like WBCQ and other shortwave broadcasters sell air time to a wide range of organizations that spread what I will call misinformation and hysteria based on disinformation." Robinson not only cited Alex Jones (of *Infowars* fame) as one who spreads misinformation, but also the group *World's Last Chance*, a "flat-earth" group. Shortwave really needs to have far better programming than the far-right wing views espoused by Jones, Brother Stair and their ilk. Such views are all over local AM and FM radio stations in the United States. I would consider the views espoused by such folks as Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck, Sebastian Gorka and Michael Savage to be extreme right wing and a prime source of misinformation. Even the late Rush Limbaugh's views were at times extreme right wing, in my view. At one point in the 1990s, Rush Limbaugh's right-wing rhetoric was heard on shortwave. I agree with Robinson that there should be a limit to free speech. It was unfortunate when a court in the United States ruled lying to be "protected speech". In my view, lying should not have been protected speech under the Constitution of the United States, and should never be worthy of such protections. [continued next month]

Thanks to our contributor, these pages are open to your contributions.

Shortwave Program Spotlight

Bill Tilford • 809 S. 20th St. • Lafayette, IN 47905-1551 • tilfordproductions@gmail.com

I am going to go long-form on a couple of shows this month. As an old song goes, you have to be slightly crazy (in a good way) to be on the radio with your own shows, and those individuals who dedicate their own time AND treasure **and** do it well deserve special recognition.

Pop Shop Radio



If Tony Pavick's *Pop Shop Radio* were merely another oldies show, of which the shortwave bands already have quite enough, thank you, this would not warrant my attention, but he delivers on his promise to be something different - in addition to what you might expect from Canadian and US music from the 50s, 60s and 70s, he pulls in other songs he likes from around the world, and the last 5-ish minutes are a radiogram for those listeners who like to decode them. You might hear Lawrence Welk, Billy Preston, and something from anywhere else in the same episode. As Tony explains it:

Well, back in 1967, a kid got bit by the shortwave radio bug. I spent my nights

listening around the world and tuning into the big clear channel AM powerhouses of the USA and Canada, like CKLW, WLS, WCFL, and WABC. I knew all the cool tunes kids in Europe were listening to because I listened to Radio Luxembourg and the show Top 20 on the BBC World Service. I knew then that I too wanted to be on the radio. My chance came in 1975 when my high school did a 1 hour show very week on a local 500 watt AM outlet in a small town of 9,000 souls. What started out as 5 students dwindled to 3 and then finally a girl named Amy and me. That summer I got my third-class FCC license with the all-important element 9 and next thing you know, I'm doing my own record show.

However, by 1979 radio started to change away from the Top 40 sound I grew up with. Less talk became the mantra. I left the biz and began a career in IT, and apart from a 6-month stint in 1988 at said same 500 watt AM station and late nights at an FM station, all at minimum wage, radio, along with the demise of shortwave, no longer seemed like fun.

Nonetheless the bug never left me, and in 2012, I began formulating my plan for Pop Shop Radio. I produced a demo and was flatly rejected by the local college station. Then COVID happened in 2020, and the world became an angry, hurting place. That's when it all came flooding back. The world needed the fun of Top 40 radio, music that people remembered, and well, fun. I also knew that the world wanted Canada to be back on shortwave since Radio Canada International went all podcast years ago. The idea that developed was "what if we took all the stuff the cookie cutter FM stations won't play and the talent couldn't do an ad-lib to save their souls, go back even as far as the 1930s for the roots of pop music, and present it as if Top 40 radio never died".

I dug back through my old notes, cued up some 78s and 45s and produced a few dress rehearsals, and investigated airtime. On 9 September 2020, the first show aired on Channel 292, thundering in with a 1960 78 rpm record from South Africa of a song called Piltown Rides Again, a takeoff on The William Tell Overture, by the group The Piltown Men. Within 10 minutes I had my first reception report. In 2021, I expanded to WRMI and began doing occasional special event shows, such as for Canada Day, via Woofferton at 250,000 watts.

The goal behind the show has been to play what corporate radio won't play. Pop Shop Radio lives for the 45-rpm single. In this world of things getting 1-zillion streams on Spotify, a world where every track that they are calling a single all sounding pretty much the same, I reach into the catalogues of the hitmakers that radio won't touch anymore and re-introduce them to the world. I dig out records that didn't crack the Top 40 and dare to ask, 'why wasn't this a bigger hit'. Knowing that my audience is worldwide, I dig into artists that you might remember as a teen in Australia or South Africa. A song doesn't have to be in English to be on Pop Shop Radio, because I enjoy playing non-English stuff and have done shows in Spanish, French, Finnish, Swedish, German and Italian. Being Canadian, I play a lot of Canadian oldies and have done shows recreating the Top 20 countdowns as heard on stations like CKLW and CHUM before they abandoned music.

Capturing the spirit of the offshore pirates, I try to keep it fun. The audience is now worldwide from Australasia through Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, all tuning in to hear radio and music that is truly different. Unlike those corporate FM stations, I don't have some bean counter in a city thousands of kilometres away telling me what to say and what to play. To keep it techie, I transmit a

SW Radiogram image of one of our records along with the playlist at the end of the show.

Back when I was a teen, I never dreamed that I would be on shortwave reaching the world. Never did I dream that my voice would one day go out over the same facilities, as is the case with Woofferton, that the BBC World Service I grew up listening to uses.

Representing Canada to the world, saying you've got a friend here, is what Pop Shop Radio is all about.

Pop Shop Radio's Current Schedule:

For the Americas, Mondays 0200-0300 UTC on WRMI, 5950 kHz

For Europe, Wednesdays 1600-1700 UTC, repeating Saturdays 2200-2300 UTC on Channel 292, 3955 and 9670 kHz.



Encore

One of last remaining classical music programs, public or private (Romania and Mexico have two noteworthy public ones), on the shortwave bands is Brice Avery's Encore (aka Radio Tumbri).

This is very well-curated with an impressive mix of well-known, obscure, early and modern composers.

Here is Brice's story in his own words (edited just a little bit for length):

I live in Edinburgh with my family and am a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist by day. I have a collection of restored WW2 and Cold War valve (tube) receivers and transmitters. Radio Ham - GMOTLY

I have always loved classical music, particularly chamber and lieder and used to listen to SW at night as a school boy on an old WW2 set.

The format loosely follows the old-style BBC World Service hour long magazine type shows:

A bit of chat but exclusively about the music and mostly music. I try not to get in the way of the music but give a few interesting details about each piece.

When making the program I allow for 56 mins of music and 4 mins of chat.

I select pieces that I think will go together and make a balance programme with wide appeal - If you don't like what's on now, something better is only a few mins away...

Broadcasting on SW, one has to be careful what music one chooses. Large orchestral themes can easily be turned to mush on their journey through the ether. Better to have bold music with not too many instruments and good dynamic range.

Some tweaking of the sound before I upload the files to either Channel 292 or WRMI is necessary, such as a little compression plus attenuation of the bass frequencies in my voice. Everything sounds about right where it eventually appears in air.

Someone like me can make a show like Encore because of the generosity of stations like WRMI and Channel 292 and because there are no rights to pay - it being impossible to control where SW ends up - or doesn't end up.

Encore has been going for 5 years this month. I haven't changed the format over that period.

Channel 292 has broadcast from day one. I was with WBCQ for a few years and then went to WRMI.

Last year I decided to reduce the workload by running each show for two weeks. Folk seem happy with this - more chances to listen I suppose.

I don't put the prog files up on any internet server like soundcloud. If you want to listen you have to tune in live. Even if by remote SDR receiver.

One of the unexpected payoffs is hearing from interesting folks from places I have never been to and have very different lives to mine. But we all enjoy the soul food of the music.

Another thing that happens is people say: I went out and bought this or that after hearing it for the first time on Encore. Nice. The playlist on the website helps make that possible.

Encore's schedule is as follows:

1. For the United States & Europe (all WRMI):

Fridays 0200-0300 UTC on 5850 kHz
Fridays 2000-2100 UTC on 15770 kHz
Sundays 0100-0200 UTC on 5850 & 7730 kHz
(as a simulcast)
Mondays 0200-0300 UTC on 5950 kHz
Tuesdays 1300-1400 UTC on 15770 kHz

2. For Europe (all Radio Channel 292):

Saturdays 1000-1000 UTC on 9670 kHz
Sundays 1900-2000 UTC on 3955 kHz



Radio Educación's Centennial Continues

Last month, I mentioned Radio Educación's new feature, Radio Centenaria, which presents programs emblematic of its century-long history. Right now, it is only on its AM channel, 1060 kHz, and on-line Monday-Friday at 15-19 hours local time. March featured programs from the 1950s, and I would expect April to feature the 1960s. Their Radio Centenaria special site is here and includes the program schedule for the month:

<https://sites.google.com/view/agendare/radio-centenaria?authuser=0>

All of this is a buildup to June's Encuentro Diexista, which will be of more direct interest to NASWA readers.

The Plain Old Doug Show (PODS)

WBCQ The Planet has some things of which it can be proud, but an accurate, up to date website has seldom been on that list and certainly has not been in recent times. Missing from the published schedule since its inception has been The Plain Old Doug Show, which runs from 9:00-9:30pm EST Sundays (currently 0100-0200 UTC Mondays) on WBCQ's 7490 kHz frequency. Doug does vintage music from classical to blues to country to whatever along with occasional poetry readings by the original poets such as Robert Frost and comedy bits from the likes of Stan Freberg. It's a nice, laid-back program that deserves more attention than

it gets (no thanks to the often-Jurassic WBCQ program schedule).



New Schedule for *From the Isle of Music* and *Uncle Bill's Melting Pot*

Starting April 13, *From The Isle of Music* and *Uncle Bill's Melting Pot* will be on Radio Channel 292 as follows:

From the Isle of Music will air every second Saturday from 0900-1000 UTC on 9670 and 1900-2000 UTC on 6070 kHz.

Uncle Bill's Melting Pot will air every Third Saturday from 0900-1000 UTC on 9670 and 1900-2000 UTC on 6070 kHz. The April 20

transmission will add a test broadcast on 3955 kHz

from 1900-2000 kHz, possibly a one-off for that specific frequency.

North American listeners will almost certainly need to use a web sdr, but both shows do recognize reception reports using those as long as they cover the entire program and specify which web SDR was used to monitor.

Do you produce or host a shortwave program listenable in North America that you think I should hear? Write me with details (content, times/frequencies) and I'll try to give it a listen for a possible review here.

73, Bill

International Broadcasting

Kim Andrew Elliott • 5001 25th St. North • Arlington, VA 22207 • kimelli@verizon.net
<http://www.kimandrewelliott.com>

Remembering a boss of my boss at VOA

State Department negotiator became VOA's associate director

Perusing Twitter (X), I saw an obituary from the New York Times reporting the death of Robert L. Barry, who was the chief U.S. negotiator for a 1986 troop inspections accord between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. His name was familiar to me, and so was his face in the accompanying photo. Reading further, the obit mentioned that Mr. Barry was "chief operating officer for Voice of America from 1986 to 1988." (tinyurl.com/296cxzqy) (I started at VOA in 1985.)

VOA never actually had a "chief operating officer." The title was Associate Director for Programs, the hands-on manager second to the VOA Director. I don't recall Ambassador (he was to Bulgaria 1981-84) Barry as a warm and fuzzy personality, certainly not in my very occasional direct dealings with him.

That was in the era when many managers at VOA were Foreign Service officers from the US Information Agency or the State Department. They rotated back to the States between overseas postings, and they had to be employed somewhere, so why not VOA? The problem was that diplomats and USIA

personnel advocated for U.S. foreign policy, whereas VOA, as a news organization, needed to be more objective and detached. VOA was no longer a stopping-off place for the Foreign Service after the International Broadcasting Act of 1994 and the creation of the Broadcasting Board of Governors. VOA completely separated from USIA in 1999, when USIA was abolished and its public diplomacy functions folded into the State Department.

VOA managers from the Foreign Service

Some of the Foreign Service managers at VOA tried to push VOA towards advocacy, which was their profession USIA and State. Others “went native,” embracing the journalist function of VOA and the need for independence.

The NYT obit cited a source with which I was not familiar, but probably should have been. It was an oral history, from 1996, for the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training (adst.org). Robert Barry’s responses for this project might tell us to what extent he supported VOA’s independence. In the oral history, he discussed his two stints at VOA. The first was in the 1970s, when he was head of the USSR Division (VOA Russian, Ukrainian, Armenian, Georgian and Uzbek). The second was in the 1980s, as stated above.

Excerpts of Mr. Barry’s discussion of his time with the VOA USSR Division, in the 1970s, are below:

“Barry: The people working at VOA, most of them of course were emigrants. Different waves of immigrants, some were from before the war, some of them were, one of the leading people there was a Chechan who had been a member of the institute of red professors and he had defected and I guess probably made his way to VOA. Anyhow,

there were some who were Jewish and there were some that were anti-Semitic and they spent a lot of time fighting with each other. The Ukrainians would fight with the Russians and all that sort of thing so it required a firm hand often. Also, there was the usual stress and strain of the State Department telling us what to report, what not to report. We’ve seen it again recently about reporting the comments of Osama Bin Laden and of course the idea of many of the people there is that we are journalists just like any other and we report all the news whenever we see it. Kissinger was particularly upset about the amount of attention paid to Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov and we would regularly hear from our colleagues at the State Department or from the USIA regional office that we had to tone this down. At some point I did because it was getting to the point where every other sentence was about this and nothing else was being reported. Then of course the people who I told not to do it so often went to the press and complained there. But it was an interesting experience.

Pan-Turanian propagandist: “We had to get rid of him.”

“Q: With the VOA at that time when you would get complaints from the State Department or elsewhere, you know, that you’re overdoing this, let’s not exacerbate our relations too much. How were these treated?”

“BARRY: I basically used my own judgment. I mean, I realized that we had to report all these things with credibility. I did also realize that there was a point beyond which we were doing what Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe were supposed to do. The other thing that was going on at that time was Watergate. I heard lots of complaints including from the Russians about why you’re reporting all this stuff about

Watergate. As Dobrynin's memoirs indicate the Russians never could believe that somebody as skillful as Nixon would have gotten himself into this kind of situation and that it couldn't be fixed overnight. A lot of our people in the staff didn't like reporting this stuff either, they thought it was not in our national interest to be airing our dirty linen, but that had to be reported for credibility. There were two lines of news reporting, one was the English reporting which was translated into Russian and carried and that I didn't have anything to do with because it was just a matter of automatically translating it. But then there was an awful lot of stuff that was original, it was either features or filler or news items from within the USSR that would be of particular interest. At one point I was warned about what we were saying in Uzbek. Now nobody in the management staff spoke any Uzbek. The guy who was the head of the Uzbek service was probably somebody who had been involved in the paramilitary actions against the Soviet Union during or after the war. I did finally hire somebody who did know Uzbek an academic from the outside who could come and tell me what was going on and it turned out that what was going on was pan-turanian propaganda. We had to get rid of him.

"Q: Were you looking over your shoulder at the BBC Russian service? BARRY: Oh, yes. Well, we were complementary in many ways. We exchanged visits, the head of the division in the BBC and I listened to them to see if they had things we didn't and so forth.

"I drew the line at reading large, long texts" by dissidents

"Q: Were you getting much feedback from the Soviet Union on what you were doing?

"BARRY: You'd get regular complaints from the Soviet press about what was going on. One of the big issues was did we read too many dissident documents. RFE and RL did that. I drew the line at reading large, long texts out loud on the air and wanted them simply to make excerpts. We'd certainly hear from groups in this country when they didn't like something that was going on. Usually, because some of the individuals within the Service would go and complain to them. "Q: You must have been carrying on a sort of a little war with all these various groups all of whom who had probably fought each other or something at one time or another?

"BARRY: Yes, but I mean in general I would say that a lot of them, most of them were people who were generally interested in even handed journalism. They realized that this was lacking there and we should not imitate them, so I had particular respect for the person who was the head of the Russian service Victor Frantsuzov who was a very respected person within among the listeners. He was a sort of Walter Cronkite of the Russian service."

In his recollections of his service at VOA during the 1980s, Robert Barry had a particularly unfavorable view of TV Martí, "one of the stupidest projects that we ever put together."

The ADST oral histories include conversations with several managers of VOA, going back to World War II. I will include excerpts in future columns. In the meantime, for some fascinating history of VOA, check them out at adst.org. See especially the entries for Tibor Borgida, Richard Carlson, Henry Loomis, Walter Roberts, Hans Tuch and Barry Zorthian.

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

Shortwave Center

John Figliozi • 45 Algonquin Rd • Clifton Park, NY 12065 • jfiglio1@nycap.rr.com

Welcome to April! This month we begin with a comprehensive review of an innovative new radio. At deadline for this column, outlets selling it and a slightly smaller version had been out of stock for weeks. The developers say that improvements are being made in design and performance based on feedback

they have received from initial buyers and that they expect these to be largely implemented in existing and new units by the end of March. Therefore, this review appears here in anticipation that new units will be available from several vendors shortly.

NEW SHORTWAVE RECEIVERS

A Review and Analysis of the Choyong LC90 (Export Version)

By John A. Figliozi



The Choyong LC90 sitting on the impressive box in which it was packed.

General

To my knowledge, this is the first radio to combine AM Shortwave with Internet Radio. This makes it the first true “full service” radio incorporating ALL of radio’s major platforms. Many radio listeners question

why this hasn’t been done sooner, so this very good first effort is most welcome.

The initial presentation of the radio to the new owner is impressive. The stylish box in which it arrives is worthy of a respected instrument of high quality. The radio has the solid substantial feel of a device with excellent build quality. Its sizing – that of a paperback book along the lines of some previous well-respected AM/FM/SW receivers like the Grundig YB-400 – gives it the perfect form factor for a radio that can be enjoyed both in the home and as a portable.

There is so much to like here. Over and above its unique combining of Internet radio and shortwave, there’s a “permanent” battery that offers many hours of use before it needs recharging, ATS tuning, the ability to save frequencies and stations in several preference lists, several ways of searching for Internet radio stations, an easy way to add



The reverse side of the Choyong LC90. Its two lithium polymer batteries, 2500 mAh each, are rechargeable and replaceable.

Internet stations not already listed by the manufacturer, and others.

But the LC90 really shines with its fantastic audio on FM and Internet radio. There's a woofer, a tweeter and a low frequency diaphragm inside the speaker cavity that occupies the left half of the case – and nothing else. The radio's developers' efforts to produce a world class audio section in a portable radio really pays off.

But no radio is perfect, and this one obviously is a work in progress. So, being critical – which is what a review and analysis like this does -- should not imply disapproval on any level. On the contrary, the LC90 is already a well-formed radio worthy of consideration by any purchaser.

The Screen

The screen that is the center of the LC90 provides much information depending on the platform being used. But in some cases, useful information is missing and in other cases the information provided seems unnecessary or of questionable utility.

In AM (MW), FM and SW, it is not readily apparent what all the symbols mean or why they are there. However, the time, signal strength and SNR (signal to noise ratio), bandwidth, meter band, heart (for including a frequency or station in "favorites") and the "Freq. vs. Addr." indicators are all helpful and understandable.

So, too, with the Internet Radio screen. What do the three dots mean? The ability to tune stations in sequence as they appear across the bottom of the screen depending on mode is both unique and helpful. But the use of a timer to tick off how long one might listen to a particular station seems of dubious value.

Some suggestions for better use of the screen are detailed below.

Operation

Initial setup matching the radio to home internet service proceeded flawlessly. The time clock is in 24-hour mode and showed correct time and date in my time zone, including the shift to daylight saving time. However, there is no facility to set the clock manually or select a time zone not in the listener's region. This is an oversight that should be addressed.

This is a sophisticated, multi-faceted radio. As impressive as it already may be, it should be perceived as a work in progress in need of the improvements it will get eventually through firmware updates and design modifications. It would be helpful if those updates could come directly and seamlessly through the Internet, something that apparently couldn't be done initially.

The LC90 comes with a rather short, almost cryptically worded pamphlet. This can serve as an ok quick start-up guide. But after using the radio, it's obvious that there's need

for a comprehensive operation manual with copious directions for the user, along the lines that Eton provided for the E1. A radio of this quality and at this price point demands such consideration.

In short, becoming fully familiar with and comfortable using all the features of the LC90 requires an experiential learning curve, one that is not intuitively discerned. I have to say that even after using it almost constantly for a few weeks, I feel I am still missing things.

- What does “Auto Play” mean in Settings?
- Getting to preferences (the “heart” icon) is confusing and I’ve inadvertently removed them without learning how it happened.
- Why does the screen show “Please add radio channel first” when I think I’ve already done that?
- Why does screen alarmingly show “Saved channels removed”, having done so when I press the tuning dial thinking I am obtaining a list of my preferred or saved stations?

If I hit the wrong keys in combination or hard press instead of soft press a key, I get a result I don’t understand and for which there is no explanation in the exceedingly short manual provided now. In some cases, I put myself in a corner I can’t get out of, so I must reset by shutting down and restarting the radio to get back to base.

Following are my observations on the performance of the LC90 by platform:

FM

The LC90 has a very good FM section that is quite sensitive. Using the ATS feature, (automatic tuning) it found 37 stations in Sarasota FL, for example.

For its size – and even considering many larger radios -- the LC90 has an excellent audio response on FM. However, although developers say it has activated stereo capability, it does not appear to actually provide stereo through its ear/headphone jack. This is because the same output is used to provide audio to the speakers and the ear/headphone jack. This feels like an oversight that should be rectified. The radio does “recognize” a stereo plug and audio does play into both ears. It’s just not stereo audio.

As currently configured this LC90 does not offer RDBS (RDS in Europe) on FM. This should be incorporated into a radio of this quality being offered at this price point.

Even so, in this user’s opinion it earns a 4.5 on scale of 5 on FM. But if it had stereo and RBDS, it would easily earn a 5.

A question arises: Were HD Radio (in North America) and DAB+ (in Europe and Australia – if these are targeted markets for the LC90) considered for incorporation into this radio by its developers? If not, why not; and, if so, why was a decision taken not to include them?

SW

Performance of the LC90 on shortwave is very good, especially since it clearly is not intended as a hobbyist’s DX machine. As such in my opinion, it doesn’t require the SSB capability that some have said they wish it has.

Rather, I see this radio as intended for the content-focused listener. I view the AM (MW), FM and SW platforms as back-up alternatives for and secondary to the primary focus -- Internet Radio. Nonetheless, the LC-90's performance is above average on both FM and SW which should be assuring to anyone considering its purchase.

The LC90 is quite sensitive on SW for a small portable using just its built-in expandable and rotatable 9 stage rod antenna. But it does especially well when a common clothesline reel external antenna is extended and plugged into the receptacle provided for that purpose on the radio's right-hand side. (Similar improvement is noted for AM (MW) and FM, as well.)

Complaints about placement of this receptacle close to the tuning knob is of no concern when an external antenna of the type described above using a 3.5mm plug connector is used. Any more sophisticated an external antenna would likely overload this radio considering that "birdies" -- false signals internally generated by the radio itself -- can be detected throughout the SW spectrum even when just using its built-in rod antenna. This flaw should be addressed in any future modification or upgrade.

The audio enhancements made on this radio through unique use of speakers and their orientation are not as apparent here as they are when listening to FM and Internet Radio.

On AM signals generally -- both SW and AM (MW) -- a listener can detect artifacts in the audio. Audible random "clicks" often can be heard -- usually when receiving weaker stations. Adjusting the bandwidth appears to offer only minimal help with this.

Indeed, the audio produced by SW and AM (MW) sounds somewhat mechanical except on very strong stations. It seems to lack



The right side of the Choyong LC90. Knobs from top to bottom: Tuning, Fine Tuning, Volume. Receptacles for External Antenna. Type C charging of the internal battery, Ear or Head Phones. The left side of the radio has no knobs, switches or receptacles.

body or depth on SW and AM. Some of this undoubtedly is due to the quality of AM audio to begin with. But the latter does sound more natural on other receivers. The 7 bandwidths provided (1, 1.8, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 6 kHz) do help to somewhat shape the audio, but it appears that there could be better choices for what this radio is apparently trying to achieve.

Nonetheless on SW, the LC90 rates a comparative 3.75 on a scale of 5 for sensitivity off its built-in antenna. That rises to a 4.0 when the external antenna described above is connected.

An unrelated anomaly was noted from using the radio on SW: The LC90 (or at least this test unit) apparently cannot be tuned directly to frequencies in the 25 MHz (11m) band. The radio will only accept 4 integers here, so it reverts to 120m instead of 11m. Instead, one must press the tuning knob to change the display to 11m and then tune manually via the knob to the desired frequency.



The base of the Choyong LC90 with receptacles for a TF card to play personal music and a SIM card to access internet radio via cellular.

AM (MW)

All Internet-capable radios up to now have avoided including AM – both MW and SW – into their designs due to noise and interference issues generated by the radio’s internal control signal and screen, and the difficulty involved in shielding both.

While acknowledging the considerable effort put forward by the LC90’s developers to ameliorate this problem, the radio does not fully overcome these challenges to producing “clean” AM audio.

The developers themselves recognize this problem. While they have incorporated an internal ferrite MW antenna in the radio’s design, its utility is overwhelmed by internal

interference. Rotating the radio to emphasize or null certain signals yields no apparent difference. Consequently, the developer suggests that the listener extend the internal rod antenna for “best results”.

The AM (MW) section is unfortunately the weakest aspect of this radio. Daytime reception is very poor – rated comparatively a 1.5 on a scale of 5. The LC90 receives and saves through ATS only very local stations and misses several of them.

Reception does improve after dark, largely due to skywave propagation. But it is only comparatively fair – 2.5 on a scale of 5.

Using the external clothesline antenna described above improves daytime reception to a 2.0, but those purchasing this radio should expect only marginal pedestrian – even comparatively substandard -- results with AM (MW).

In sum, the audio improvements the LC90’s developers have successfully worked to provide elsewhere in the LC90 are almost undetectable here unless one is listening to an exceptionally strong AM (MW) station.

INTERNET RADIO

To this observer, this is the core of the LC90.

There are three equally important tasks that an Internet radio must achieve to serve as a quality example for the genre:

- Stability of signal reproduction,
- Superior audio quality,
- Easy user interface.

Let me begin by pointing out that it is readily apparent that the developers put lots of work into this aspect of the LC90.

The stations that do play successfully sound very good with excellent stability. But compared to other internet radios I own and have experienced, there are just too many stations that lack that stability (characterized by frequent audio breaks or “hiccups”) or don’t load at all.

Here are some specific observations from use over several weeks:

Simply put, the user interface needs work. While the LC90 offers several flexible tuning assists, there seem to be too many that overlap and others missing. The effort does not seem to be centrally focused enough. For example, listings within each category appear randomly, and some are repeated within the same category.

Indeed, there are many individual listings that are repeated within the same and different lists which are found via the Tag, Menu, News, Music, Language buttons on the radio. Why? Is it to provide different codecs or levels of streaming quality? There is no indication as to the way each might differ one from another, if at all.

As mentioned earlier, there is much going on here that cannot be intuitively discerned by the user/listener -- and it must be! Comparing it to other Internet radios such as the Pure Elan Connect, which uses the constantly updated Frontier Silicon station and podcast database, the LC90’s Internet radio operation is confusing and the logic behind it is difficult to perceive.

Some stations appear in Chinese and Cyrillic script, and others just as dots across a line. This is unhelpful to listeners outside these cultures. Also, there appear to be features within the LC90’s architecture that are “hidden”. For example, through an inadvertent combination of key presses I found myself briefly in a listing that

appeared designed solely for the Chinese market until I reset the radio by turning the radio off and then on again.

The developers appear to have created their own stations database rather than use one of the others already in use on other Internet radios. It’s impossible to determine how it is updated, systematically modified or updated periodically according to some schedule.

Some domestic BBC links just don’t work. Given the importance of the BBC internationally, this is concerning and should be corrected with all deliberate speed.

This observer also experienced an inordinate number of links that didn’t seem to work at all. Some links also play initially, but then just “hang” or stop working or “hiccup” periodically.

When comparing the LC90’s admittedly many offerings with those on Internet radios using the Frontier Silicon database, stations appear to be missing. However, the LC90’s developers have included in the radio’s architecture a very accessible means for the radio’s users to add stations that are not already in the radio’s database. Whether these are just added only to the user’s radio or added globally to the LC-90 database is unknown.

In short, the way these lists -- and the way the user tunes them in -- work now appear to detract from rather than enhance the performance and user’s overall experience with the LC90. As stated, this user interface needs reconsideration and refinement in the opinion of this observer to make its use more intuitive for the user.

The LC90’s display for Internet radio is attractive but supplies only stream loading percentages and the station name. Unlike with the FM section for example, there is no

means of knowing the actual quality of the audio signal other than by ear. The timer provided counting how long the station has been playing is not really of any practical use when listening to an Internet radio station.

A better use of the LC90's screen would be to include visuals like station logos and station-provided metadata, neither of which are present now.

An anomaly that came to light through use. The "Podcast" button only seems to provide stations like other buttons, not podcast lists. This observer could find no way to access or listen to podcasts. Again, this needs to be corrected.

In the opinion of this observer, the Internet section of the LC90 earns an overall 3.5 on a scale of 5 with the proviso that the radio's audio performance with the highest quality Internet streams earns a clear 5.

BT

The LC-90's Bluetooth feature works well. Audio volume is jointly controlled by the source and the radio. Its set-up and operation appear seamless.

TF and SIM cards


Not tested. Since most SIM cards are tied to phones here, I anticipate that Internet access for the LC90 Export Version will remain with WiFi for the vast majority or, when and where WiFi is unavailable, by linking one's phone to the radio using Bluetooth.

Neither was the timer or sleep function tested, but it can be assumed that both work as they should.

FINAL NOTES

Other reviewers have expressed a desire for an air band, SSB capability and a fold out strip on the rear of the radio's case so that it might be angled when used.

Frankly, I didn't see the need for any of these with the LC90 or any future enhancement or modification of it, but Choyong representatives state that they are working on all of these. I would suggest that the developer recreate the rod antenna so that it clears the perimeter of the case and allows it a full 360-degree rotation.

NASWA Electronic 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 Cuff (hq@naswa.net) 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. 

Review of the new Qodosen SR 286 High Sensitivity Multi Band Radio

By Phil Ireland, VK2GJF
(Australian DX News)



Many thanks to Garry Cratt from Tecsun Radio Australia for the loan of this surprising radio for this review.

In the short time that I've "played" with the SR-286, I've pleasantly surprised by the sheer performance of this excellent little radio. Much has been said in various web reviews and I must confess to agreeing with the findings published. Check out the excellent write up by the well-respected reviewer from the US at his website www.Radiojyallen.com.

Most radios have currently used the Silicon Labs Si 4734 chipset used in say the Tecsun line of radios whereas this little beast uses the TEF family of chips notably the NXP TEF6686 DSP chipset. These chips were developed for use in car radios and as a result exhibit excellent sensitivity and selectivity.

There are some other radios now using this chip coming out of China all apparently showing excellent performance. Below is an extract from the Owner's manual highlighting some of the features found in the radio. As you can see, there are features aplenty!

Extract from Owner's Manual:

Welcome to the world of the QODOSEN SR-286 radio receiver! With its superior performance and rich features, this radio offers enthusiasts an exceptional long-distance reception experience.

The SR-286 employs the high-performance automotive chip TEF6686 from NXP, ensuring excellent selectivity and sensitivity. It supports FM, LW, MW, and SW bands, allowing you to thoroughly enjoy broadcasts from every band.

In terms of antenna, the SR-286 supports external antennas for all bands. The amplitude modulation bands (LW/MW/SW) come with a built-in low noise amplifier switch, enhancing the reception sensitivity.

The built-in adjustable antenna attenuator improves overload resistance. The overall signal-to-noise ratio >60db, brings an unprecedentedly superior sound quality experience.

The FM band supports 64-108MHz, with 17 different bandwidths for outstanding selectivity. It supports R(B)DS decoding, providing you with more information and entertainment. The LW and MW bands support the switching of telescopic antennas and built-in ferrite rod antennas, offering different reception experiences. Medium wave supports 9kHz and 10kHz stepping.

The SW covers international shortwave bands, allowing you to enjoy global radio programs. The SR-286 offers various tuning methods and

can set different search thresholds. Its compact, portable body supports power supply by 18650 batteries and can be charged and powered by an external power source. Equipped with a full-range speaker, the tone switching function brings superb tonal performance. Whether at home or on the go, the SR-286 is your perfect companion. Its portability, playability, selectivity, and sensitivity will revolutionize your understanding of traditional radios, opening the door to a wonderful world of information and entertainment and taking your listening experience beyond imagination!

In conclusion, based on my brief findings while using the radio:

PROS:

- Well-constructed small form factor radio ideal for portable use.
- Excellent sensitivity and selectivity on all bands.
- Surprising audio from a small speaker.
- Uses a rechargeable 18650 battery having reasonable life between charges.
- A multitude of features packed into the radio (see the above features).
- The ability to select either the internal ferrite rod or telescopic antenna when listening to MW or LW.
- Well-chosen bandwidths for use on MW, LW and SW.
- Multiple bandwidths on FM ideal for FMDX.
- World Time and Local Time clock (see Cons).
- External antenna socket for MW, LW and SW which can be isolated from the ferrite rod.
- Multiple tuning arrangements.

CONS:

- No SSB demodulation capability which may be a deal breaker for some listeners.

- No Synchronous Detector (not that it needs one).
- Setting World Time and Local Time quite a hassle (Manual could be better here).
- Requires a suitable USB charger which is common enough.

These are only a selection of my findings, there are so many features that it would take a book to cover them all.

Below are some technical specifications of the radio. You will note the figures quoted highlight the excellent sensitivity found.

Frequency Range/Tuning Step

FM: 64-108MHz (suitable for Russia/Eastern Europe)

76-108 MHz (suitable for Japan)

87-108MHz (suitable for Europe, Oceania, Africa, Asia)

87.5-108 MHz (suitable for China, Americas)
(Tuning step is 200KHZ/100 KHZ/50 KHZ/10KHZ)

SW:1711-2999kHz (Tuning step is 1kHz/5kHz)



MW: 522-1620kHz (Tuning step is 1kHz/9kHz)

520-1710kHz (Tuning step is 1kHz/10kHz)

LW:144-519kHz (Tuning step is 1kHz/3kHz)

Sensitivity:

Retractable Antenna Reception:

FM (S/N=30dB) \leq 0.5uv

SW (S/N=20dB) \leq 10uv

LW (S/N=20dB) \leq 10uv

MW(S/N=20dB) \leq 10uv

Internal ferrite bar antenna Reception:

LW (S/N=20dB) \leq 2mV/m

MW(S/N=20dB) \leq 1mV/m

Selectivity:

FM \geq 60dB (\pm 150kHz)

SW \geq 60dB (BW=3kHz、 \pm 5kHz)

LW \geq 60dB (BW=3kHz、 \pm 9kHz)

MW \geq 60dB (BW=3kHz、 \pm 9kHz)

S/N Ratio:

FM \geq 60dB 32

SW \geq 60dB

LW \geq 60dB

MW \geq 60dB

FM Stereo Crosstalk: \geq 40dB

Output Power: \geq 1W (at 10% harmonic distortion)

Quiescent Current: $<$ 190 mA

Shutdown Current: $<$ 150uA Speaker: 4 Ω 3W

Headphone Input: 3.5mm / 32 Ω

Power Supply:3.7V (18650 Li-ion battery x 1) or external DC 5V

Charger / Power:5V/500MA, micro-USB socket

Dimensions: 128(W)x75.5(H)x38(D)mm

Weight (excl. battery): 200g

So, can the SR-286 be recommended? A resounding YES! If you're looking for a feature packed small portable radio with excellent performance, this little radio may well fit your requirements.

Please remember to direct all communications about subscriptions, bulletin delivery issues, the use of PayPal as a payment method, etc. to Rich Cuff at the club's new business address P. O. Box 3292, Allentown, PA 18106 or to his e-mail address, hq@naswa.net. Missing issue emails go to missing-issues@naswa.net. Thanks!



The Robinson Report

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Management Turmoil at the U.S. Agency on Global Media (USAGM)

This month, we return to developments at USAGM, the federal agency that you support with your tax dollars but which is known for the numerous scandals and management problems that have played there over the decades.

USAGM has repeatedly pushed back a date for moving out of its rodent-infested headquarters on the national mall, just down the street from the U.S. Capitol, as new questions are raised about how the project is being managed.

In 2023, the agency put out a formal RFP (Request for Proposal) for a yet-to-be-chosen location somewhere in downtown DC. In internal meetings, the content of which was obtained from sources requesting anonymity, officials asserted that there would be no need for a supplemental budget request to Congress to help pay for the relocation. Officials said it could be accomplished using “efficiencies” from current operations, with staff transferring gradually to a new building over several years.

But the agency has struggled with internal management issues, a familiar story in Washington. In a recent shake-up, the official overseeing planning, Grant Turner, quit as Chief Financial Officer. He was shifted by CEO Amanda Bennett to Chief Risk Officer, a role he had also performed since 2021. The agency has a history of officials

simultaneously occupying multiple positions.

Despite confidence officials were voicing in 2023 about the relocation, sources say Turner was increasingly “frantic” about the ability of the agency to accomplish the move without large budget reductions, along with additional funds from Congress.

In an email, CEO Amanda Bennett praised Turner’s role in the search for a new headquarters. Not mentioned was the fact that a personal friend of Turner, John Barkhamer, would serve as his senior advisor (the agency’s personnel list shows Barkhamer at a GS-15 level). USAGM has some of the highest salaries of any federal agency.

In her email, Bennett said recruiting was underway for a new CFO. So, various other officials in the bloated USAGM bureaucracy are temporarily overseeing finance and budgetary matters. These and other changes reflect what sources describe as a remarkable level of turmoil at the top of the agency.

Voice of America and USAGM have called the Cohen Building at 330 Independence Avenue, SW home for decades. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent to upgrade the dilapidated structure to support things like TV and expanded Internet operations. Internal Town Hall meetings routinely feature employees complaining

about mice and rats, and recently black water coming from pipes. Some years ago, one particular story made the rounds at VOA – the appearance of a snake in one of the main studios.

USAGM has focused primarily on a downtown location for a future headquarters. Officials estimated that between 275,000 and 350,000 square feet will be required, a substantial shrinkage from the 736,000 square feet of the Cohen Building which was constructed in the 1950's.

Last September, Turner said “we don't have a glut of money to do this.” He and Bennett cited advantages in the commercial real estate market created by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, he said the agency had received some offers -- a recent report by The Washington Business Journal said the agency had rejected an offer to occupy space at Gallery Place in downtown DC.

The agency expects to obtain a period of free rent as part of a deal for its new headquarters. To “capture” savings in advance, operations in the Cohen Building would be scaled down, and space returned to GSA. Turner predicted a “couple of painful years”. Over the course of a 15-year contract in a new location, the agency estimated it could save “in excess of \$100 million.”

But critics point to the challenge of the relocation with “no financial cushion” despite what USAGM is highlighting as its highest ever funding level: \$950 million in President Biden's proposed FY 2025 budget. The agency also needs to find money for a 5 percent federal pay raise for its federal workers, in addition to funds for the relocation.

Sources requesting anonymity assert that Bennett could have delayed the relocation, since the agency has until 2027 before GSA

forces it to vacate the Cohen Building. Bennett also recently renewed an expensive contract with Deloitte (which has a decades-long history with the agency) to assess the agency's operations and factors involved in the relocation plan.

Meanwhile, Bennett is also clawing \$12 million from existing operations for a new non-Federal entity to be managed by USAGM. Called “Accelerator”, Bennett has described it as a way to circumvent cumbersome federal government regulations that the agency asserts prevent it from moving quickly on new projects.

During an internal meeting last December, Bennett said the new grantee would enable the agency to “do certain things . . . around the world in legal ways that we weren't able to do [before]...” because of restrictions on how federal money can be used and also enable the agency to raise money independently.

But at a time when the agency faces a budget crunch linked to its relocation plan, and may yet have to lay off employees (these would likely be PSCs (private service contractors) sources question why Bennett has taken \$12 million from elsewhere in its budget for what employees view as a vanity project for her. And in March, VOA's acting director issued an email announcing that the agency would suffer a \$16 million cut in its operating budget.

All of this came amid other controversies. For two years, USAGM and VOA have been under investigation by Michael McCaul (R-TX), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who alleged corrupt management practices. Four VOA/USAGM officials were questioned by the committee's Republican staff in connection with this.

The agency's Chief Information Officer and head of IT operations, among the highest paid officials at USAGM, was placed on paid leave pending the outcome of an investigation into social media posts in which he is alleged to have described white people as "snow roaches."

At the same time, Bennett, a former VOA director who returned to the agency in 2022 after being nominated as CEO by President Biden, has stirred new controversy by proposing that the position of VOA director – for decades a political position -- be changed to permanent career SES status.

This move, coming months before the November election, would erect further barriers to the ability of future presidents to bring about reforms at the agency, since it would make firing a VOA director who has already passed his or her probationary period, extremely difficult.

The drive to make the VOA directorship a career post is a response to actions taken by Michael Pack during his brief tenure as CEO in 2020, after which officials who had been ousted, then reinstated by the Biden administration, pressed Congress to strengthen protections against what was called "interference" by the CEO in journalistic matters.

A federal judge ruled in favor of a group of "whistleblowers" – one of whom was Grant Turner. But as I have noted in past commentaries, Pack was found to have been within his authorities existing in law at the time to remove heads of various networks at USAGM.

Bennett, who is married to Washington Post former publisher Donald Graham, is thought by sources to want to install a friend from the journalism world as VOA director. VOA has had acting directors since early 2021 when the Biden transition ousted the Trump administration management team at VOA.

When Bennett was VOA director from 2016 to mid-2020, she brought Sandy Sugawara, a friend who had worked at The Washington Post, into the agency to serve as VOA deputy director. Bennett brought Sugawara back to VOA yet again as a senior advisor after Bennett became CEO in 2022.

By the time you read this, three things may have happened: The agency may have announced a decision on a new physical location; a long-awaited report may have been issued by McCaul on alleged internal corrupt management practices; and more will be known about steps to transform the VOA directorship.

NASWA E-group at Groups.io: Join moderator Dan Ferguson, the club's e-mail based E-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 E-group at Groups.io, moderated by Dan Ferguson (k4voa@zerobeat.org), but not interested in registering direct with Groups.io should contact Dan direct by e-mail for further information. Dan can manually add you to the group.



Listener's Notebook

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Times are UTC and frequencies in kHz.

ANTARCTICA Juan Benevente confirms that a new 10 kW transmitter is due to be delivered this year. LRA36 often takes breaks around midsummer. (Manual Mendez-Spain / British DX Club/TopNews) LRA36 has been back since 31 January initially with several tests on 15476. Look out for regular broadcasts mainly on Saturday evenings around 2300-0100. Sometimes on Wednesdays around 2100-2300. Times and days are variable. Reception reports can be sent via the Contacto page at: <https://www.radionacional.com.ar/contacto>. (British DX Club)

AUSTRALIA A-24 season requested schedule for KNX:

9580 0928-1000 Korean
11825 1500-1535 Burmese
11870 1400-1430 Hindi
11875 1200-1230 Burmese
11900 1200-1400 Burmese
11905 1115-1200 Burmese
12010 1115-1230 Dzongkha
15400 2225-2300 Japanese
15460 1055-1130 Japanese
15460 1155-1400 Hindi
17650 2225-2300 Japanese (TopNews)

5055 has been off the air for about 6 months. I have semi-retired from KZ after 38 years at the helm. Shortwave was removed from the KZ site pending re-establishment as Radio 4DX with a similar oldies format as soon as I find an out-of-town home & site to buy. Also, I will be establishing 2485 nighttime with up to 2 kilowatts. (Al Kirton-Australia, VK4FFKZ/ARDXC) 4KZ 5055 not heard here

for a while either. Likely off. There has been some cyclone activity this season in Far North Queensland (same as most years!). TC Jasper made landfall in that general area before Christmas, but not sure if that is the issue. Will make some inquiries of contacts. Both 4970 and 4835 are very regular here, with the latter being the stronger of the two. (Bathurst, NSW)" (Ron Howard-CA/Shortwave Bulletin]

15320, Mar 10, 1159, Reach Beyond Australia, Kununurra, English, "Thank you for tuning to Radio Reach Beyond Australia", interval signal, "Welcome to the program...", from Reach Beyond Australia...", religious comments. (Méndez-Spain/Shortwave Bulletin)

15420, Japan Short Wave Club, via Kununurra, F/D e-QSL in 16 days. E-mail: jswcqml@live.jp V/S: Sakaé Obara (JH0BDK) E-QSL manager. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

BANGLADESH 4750, Bangladesh Betar, F/D QSL Card in about 2 months. E-mail: betar.external@yahoo.com. (Igor Kolke-Russia via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine) 4750, Bangladesh Betar. 1220, Tuned in to their usual test tone; 1227, BB IS; 1230, time pips; seemed to be in scheduled English, but very poor. Recently VOI has often been heard mixing with CNR1, before BB starts and has been clearly // VOI on 3325. (Howard-CA/ARDXC)

BRAZIL Radio Club de Ribeirão Preto in São Paulo has reactivated its frequency in the 19-meter band. It seems the reason is to obtain

one more FM frequency in the future. (Shortwave Bulletin)

A Transmitter Park in Brasilia Is Celebrating its 50th Birthday! The facility 40km northwest of Brasilia originally cost \$15 Million USD to build and will turn 50 years old on March 11, 2024. It's home to several SW, AM and FM transmitters, including Radio Nacional de Amazonas on 6180 and 11780. The owner stations, Empresa Brasil de Comunicacao, a government owned agency plans to recognize the facility's Gold anniversary. (via Anatoly Klepov-Russia RUSdx #1280 via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews March 10)

Radio Super Rede Boa Vontade, 9550 and 11895, has left shortwave forever. Celio Romais, from Brazil, informs me via email of the following: "On January 29, 2024, Uender Marques noticed, in Unai, Minas, that the three shortwave frequencies of the Super Rede Boa Vontade de Radios, in Porto Alegre, RGS, were out. He immediately got in touch, via WhatsApp, with the station's Technician, Geison Guedes. The technician informed that the station is in the process of migrating to FM. Therefore, he asked the Government to remove the frequencies of 6160, 9550, and 11895 from the air. And so, it was done! Therefore, it is yet another broad caster, that abandons short waves!" (Celio Romais-Brazil via Manuel Mendez-Spain, BrDXC-UK iogr/Shortwave Bulletin)

4885, 03.02.24, 0530, Radio Clube do Parà, Belem, PP: TK. F. (Roberto Pavanello-Italy/DX Fanzine)

6010, Mar 10, 0551, Radio Inconfidencia, Belo Horizonte, Brazilian songs, "Memoria Nacional". (Méndez-Spain/Shortwave Bulletin)

15190.1, 23.02.24, 2009-2116, Radio Inconfidencia, Belo Horizonte, Brazilian songs, TK, Commercials ID. At 2105 "A Hora

do Fazendeiro". 35432. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

15415, Radio Clube de Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo, they have been on the air every day. It seems that the FM license is the goal. (Pedro de Castro-Brazil) Radio Clube de Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo, reactivates its old transmitter on short waves, at a frequency of 15415. They did this because the Brazilian government expanded the law for migrating radio stations from medium waves to FM, also including concessions in short waves and tropical waves. This could result in the temporary return of many inactive Brazilian radio concessions on tropical waves and short waves. When they reactivate the short wave and tropical wave frequencies, they will request migration to FM and thus the owners gain another FM radio. (Jorge Freitas Brazil/TopNews) 15414.8, Mar 9, 1903, Radio Clube de Ribeirão Preto, at 2015 sports, soccer, "Campeonato Paulista", relaying Radio Bandeirantes sports, "Radio Bandeirantes futebol", "Bandeirantes". (Méndez-Spain/Shortwave Bulletin)

CANADA 7850, CHU, f/d QSL card in 11 days. Info on e-mail address used, was not circulated by the contributor but found this: radio.chu@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca. (Noboru Hasegawa-Japan via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

CHINA 4900, Voice of the Strait (Hǎixiá zhī shēng), 1059-1133*, Mar 1. EZL song; time pips; nice clear ID's and with Chinese programming and music. Since mid-January this frequency has been on an abbreviated schedule and is no longer airing the Hokkien language programs but is exclusively in Mandarin Chinese. (Ron Howard-CA/Shortwave Bulletin)

6060, Sichuan Ethnic Radio (Sichuan PBS-2) /7225, 1129, 29/2. Sound of horses; into the usual multi-language IDs ("Sìchuān mínzú

guǎngbò, Sichuan Ethnic Radio"). (Howard-CA/ARDXC)

CHINA (Tibet) China Tibet Radio and Television 6130 from Lhasa (Tibet). Holy Tibet Programme/English service of "Tibet Radio and Television Foreign program center". Full data color QSL card "Potala Palace" in English including greeting. Received in 853 days for e-mail report to holytibetprogram@163.com. The delay was mostly due to the Covid19 pandemic. On 1 September 2023, Holy Tibet English Service acknowledged receipt of my reception report and promised to "send you the QSL card as soon as possible. It usually takes one or two months to reach you. Glad to hear from you." (Dr. Hansjoerg Biener/Shortwave Bulletin)

CLANDESTINE Shiokaze (Sea Breeze) broadcasts to North Korea from Japan – new frequencies from 8 Feb:
1300-1400 on 7250, 7280
1600-1700 on 6095, 6180
1405-1435 on 6070, 7325
1705-1805 on 6020, 7320 The 1300 and 1600 transmissions are often in English on Wednesdays and Korean/Japanese/ Chinese other days. (Hiroshi blog <http://hiroshi.mediakat-blog.jp> translated/British DX Club)

Frequency changes of Voice of Tibet recently Voice of Tibet fqy changes continuously happen:

1300-1305 on 9899 DB Tibetan, ex9886
1305-1311 on 9891 DB Tibetan, ex9876
1311-1334 on 9884 DB Tibetan, ex9876
1330-1400 on 9826 DB Tibetan unchanged
1334-1400 on 9876 DB Tibetan unchanged.
Voice of Tibet still via TJK Yangi Yul. All frequencies are jammed by China x0 x5 kHz. Changes between frequencies vary from 5 to 7 minutes.

see Voice of Tibet entry in WRTH 2024 page #579. (wb df5sx, wwdxc BC-DX TopNews March 17)

COLOMBIA 5910, Alcaraván Radio, e-QSL, e-sticker and picture of the antenna tower received in 5 days in reply to report in Spanish with audio clips sent to: rafaelcoldx@yahoo.com v/s Rafael Rodríguez R., QSL Manager (Rafael Martínez-Spain/British DX Club)

CONGO 6115, Radio Congo, Brazzaville, 1802-1832* on March 13, French, news, male, female. at 1831 music and close abruptly at 1832. 15421. (Manuel Mendez-Spain, BrDXC-UK iogr March 13/TopNews) 6115, Mar 13, -1832*, Radio Congo, Brazzaville, French, news, male, female at 1831 music and close abruptly at 1832. (Méndez-Spain/Shortwave Bulletin)

CUBA 11760, Radio Habana Cuba, F/D e-QSL in 1 month. V/S: Irma Veitia Herrera, Jefe Grupo Analisis y Correspondencia. E-mail: radiohc@enet.cu. (Michele Gasparri-Italy via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

DENMARK World Music Radio (WMR) is testing a new 300 Watts transmitter (AM carrier) on 25800 since February 19 - instead of the old one which was 60 Watts only. Unfortunately, we are causing some interference to a local Ethernet set up. So, at times modulation has been lowered, and power is slightly under 300 Watts. Signals can be heard worldwide. With a bit of luck and patience as well as a good receiver and a good aerial. Best chances are in Southern Europe, Northern Africa, Russia, and Eastern North America. All World Music Radio frequencies: 927, 5930, 15700, and 25800 are on the air 24/7. QSL's available from World Music Radio, PO Box 112, DK-8960 Randers S?, Denmark. Please enclose return postage (2 IRCs or 5 euro) if possible. The printed 2024 QSL card will be available soon (before Summer hopefully). (Stig Hartvig Nielsen-Denmark/Hard Core DX)

5895, Mar 10, 0559, Radio Northern Star, Bergen, English, ID at 0600 "From the top of

the world, this is Radio Northern Star...".
(Méndez-Spain/Shortwave Bulletin)

ECUADOR HCJB 6050 signal from Ecuador has been reactivated. Listen today 19 Feb at 2130, retransmitting the 89.3 FM signal, Mention other FM relays "...HCJB...92.5 Manabí, 98.3 Esmeraldas, 96.1 Tungurahua y Coto paxi..." With overmodulation in the signal. FM programming continued after 2300 and 0000, when until December they presented programming for the Kichwa and Shuar groups. (Rafael Rodríguez R.- Colombia/Shortwave Bulletin)

ESWATINI Trans World Radio in A-24 season:

4760 at 1620-1635 Sun Tso
6100 at 1700-1730 Daily Yao
7410 at 1820-2001 Mon-Fri
Umbundu/Portuguese
7410 at 1850-2005 Sun/Sat
Umbundu/Portuguese
9380 at 1745-1800 Sun Tuv
9500 at 1630-1730 Daily Amharic/Oromo
9500 at 1730-1745 Sun Sindhi
9500 at 1730-1800 Mon-Fri Oromo
9500 at 1802-1902 Sun English
9585 at 1400-1443 Mon-Fri
Portuguese/Vmw
9585 at 1420-1450 Sat Vmw
9585 at 1455-1525 Mon-Fri Mal/French
9940 at 1905-1950 Sun/Sat Linga/French
9940 at 1905-2005 Mon-Fri Linga/French
11880 at 1500-1530 Daily Somalia
11880 at 1530-1545 Sun Somalia
13580 at 1530-1545 Fri Juba
13580 at 1557-1657 Sun KiRundi
13800 at 1802-1902 Mon-Fri Arabic
15105 at 1440-1457 Sun/Thur/Fri/Sat Aar
15105 at 1532-1621 Mon-Fri Tir
15105 at 1547-1621 Sun/Sat Kun/Tigrinya
(wb df5sx, wwdxc BC-DX TopNews March 14)

15105, Trans World Radio Eswatini, F/D e-QSL and MW/SW Broadcast schedule in 3 days. E-mail: info@twrafrica.org, V/S: Lorraine Stavropoulos. (Michele Gasparri-Italy via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

FINLAND Very exciting this time to be able to report that a new Finnish station, RealMix Radio, has started test transmission on 6185 with only 15 W. It seems that the station has been heard at various places here in Europe with quite good signal. (Shortwave Bulletin) RealMix Radio is an exciting new radio project based in Raasepori, Finland. Recently granted an official broadcasting license, they are planning a test broadcast on Saturday, the 2nd March 2024. This initial transmission is planned to begin at 0600 on 6185, utilizing a modest 15-watt transmitter. Later 250 watts is planned. The driving force behind this venture is Joakim Weckström. For further inquiries, this young gentleman can be contacted at realmix.sw@gmail.com. We're all eagerly anticipating the success of the test broadcast and are thrilled to witness new developments in AM radio broadcasting. (Jim Solatie via DXing.info/Shortwave Bulletin) In WRTH 2024 page 8 - an interview of Joakim - a Finnish dxer of 16 years, an eager radio enthusiast from Kaarina close to Turku. His radio station is located in Raasepori/Raseborg on the South coast of Finland on their summer cottage. Realmix's transmission license would allow up to 250 W power, but it has been difficult to find such a transmitter at an affordable price. This test transmission is done with a small 15 W transmitter with a folded dipole antenna. (Kari Kallio via nordx/Shortwave Bulletin)

6184.99, Mar 2, 0902, RealMix Radio Good signal here in South Sweden. Played The Who music. (Thomas Nilsson-Sweden/Shortwave Bulletin) 6185, Mar 2, 0600, Real Mix Radio was a big task here in Salzburg. As expected, Radio Educación, Ciudad de México, was much stronger on 6184.973, mostly with an S7 signal, which is also due to the fact that my antennas listen a lot but are not optimised towards Finland. But DXer's luck: I heard Joakim Weckström with the first station announcement of his station exactly

at the start of transmission at 0600, the email then mentioned could not be heard again, and at the same time the national anthem from Mexico began to play. I then spent almost 3 hours trying to better identify the station here, I was able to recognise three more music titles, enough for a few lines to Joakim Weckström. It's great how you can receive a 15-Watt station today. (Christoph Ratzer-Austria/Shortwave Bulletin) Apparently, the station has an e-mail address of realmix.sw@gmail.com and has requested for reception reports. (RAD)

RealMix Radio is an exciting new radio project based in Raasepori, Finland. Recently granted an official broadcasting licence. Plans are also underway to expand RealMix's broadcasting capabilities to include a medium wave frequency as well. The driving force behind this venture is Joakim Weckström. For further inquiries, this young gentleman can be contacted at realmix.sw@gmail.com. (Jim Solatie, DXing.info FB/British DX Club) Unfortunately there is a collision at that time with Radio Educación, Mexico, on the same frequency. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/British DX Club) RealMix Radio confirmed on 6185 on 2 March with oldies and IDs in English around 1000. Very weak signal in the UK but fair to good reception on Kiwi SDRs in Finland and Sweden. Scheduled to continue past 1500. Also heard testing on 3 March from 0930-tune in. (Dave Kenny-UK/British DX Club)

FRANCE Radio Amrum (Radio Oomrang) from Amrum, German North Frisian Islands had its annual SW SW broadcast on 21st February. As usual it was transmitted from 1600-1700 on 15215 via Issoudun beamed to North America. Programming was mostly in German with short English segments and possibly some segments in North Frisian dialect. Talks about Amrum Island and customs – 21st February is a significant date in Amrum with bonfires lit to dispel winter. Poor signal here

with audibility marred by very low audio. (Dave Kenny-UK/British DX Club)

11920, VORW Radio International, F/D e-QSL in 31 days. E-mail: vorwinfo@gmail.com. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

GERMANY 6070, The Dance Network (TDN) via Channel 292, Rohrbach. Reception report verified with full data beautiful eQSL received instantly. Email: tdn@freewaves.it. (Pradip Chandra Kundu-India/Asian DX Review) 6070, SM Radio Dessau via Channel 292. Special full colour QSL for the 5th "100 KW Marathon" including the stations SM Radio Dessau, Radio DARC, SATzentrale Dein Technikradio, Radio Klein Paris, Jake FM and Radio DX Freunde. Transmission via ORS transmitter site Moosbrunn. Received in 8 days for report sent to: Max Berger, Saalestr. 44, 06846 Dessau, Germany. (Reiner Schneider-Germany/Worldwide DX Club)

9670, The Gary Gordon Radio broadcast via Channel 292. Reception report verified with full data Text message in one day. Email: info@garygordon.net. (Pradip Chandra Kundu-India/Asian DX Review)

INDIA Akashvani: External Services Time Wise (Earlier known as All India Radio) B23 5 Feb 2024. Note: A 15-minute program in English called "Spotlight" is broadcast in the various services

0100-0130 Sindhi 7215(B) ex. 7380
0100-0230 Tibetan 11735(D) Jammed ex. 11570
0130-0230 Indonesian 15280(B) ex. 15200, 15050
0145-0230 Nepali 15410(B)
0230-0245 Hindi 15410(B)
0245-0300 English 15410(B)
0300-0315 Nepali 15410(B)
0300-0430 Baluchi 11805(D) ex. 11560
0315-0415 Burmese 15410(B)
0400-0530 Farsi 15280(B) ex. 15030

0430-0600 Dari 9735(D) 11875(B) ex. 9950 11620
 0430-0600 Pashtu 11805(D) 15185(B) ex. 11560
 0530-0630 Arabic 15280(B) ex. 15030
 0900-1030 Nepali 9735(D) 11805(D) 15400(B) ex. 9910 11560 15030
 1030-1200 Chinese 15400(B) ex. 15030
 1045-1215 Tibetan 9735(D) 11805(D) ex. 9940 9950 11560
 1215-1315 Swahili 15400(B) ex. 15030
 1230-1330 Baluchi 9735(D) ex. 9950
 1230-1400 Pashtu 11805(B) ex. 11560
 1330-1500 Dari 9735(B) ex. 9950
 1600-1730 Farsi 9620(B)
 1730-1930 Arabic 9620(B)
 1930-2030 French 9620(B)
 2345-0115 Chinese 15280(B) ex. 15200 15050

Note: Home Service and other languages may be heard briefly for a few minutes prior to the start / end of some of the scheduled External Services languages. Reception Reports to: spectrum-manager@prasarbharati.gov.in. Transmitter Sites:

(B) = Bengaluru 7215 9620 9735 11805 11875 15280 15400 15185 15410
 (D) = New Delhi 9735 11735 11805 (Jose Jacob-India, VU2JOS/DX India)

9620, QSL-card: 2002-2029, Dec. 27, 2023. Akashvani / ex-All India Radio. The program is in English. Report to spectrum-manager@air.org.in. The postcard is slightly larger than the standard one - 17.50 X 12.70 cm. (Konstantin Barsenkov-Russia via RUSdx #1279 via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews March 3)

15280, Akashvani at 2345, Mar. 4, when I could hear start-up of interval signal faintly; into Chinese programming at 2346. Very poor, Sound of Hope also on frequency. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer)

INDONESIA Return of RRI Nabire 40 kW SW with outstanding reception. 7289.93, RRI Nabire Pro 1, on March 8; very pleased to find

them back on the air again after being absent for a while; just in time for the start of Ramadan; decent reception, but after 0900 the usual QRN till suddenly cut off 0929*: (Ron Howard-CA via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews March 8)

PGA Palangkaraya INS 40 kW entry instead on 3325 channel.

3325 1000 1100 54E PGA 40 0 700 Eng INS RRI
 3325 1100 1200 54E PGA 40 0 700 Cmn INS RRI
 3325 1200 1300 54E PGA 40 0 700 Jpn INS RRI
 3325 1300 1400 54E PGA 40 0 700 Eng INS RRI
 3325 1400 1500 54E PGA 40 0 700 Ind INS RRI
 3325 1500 1600 54E PGA 40 0 700 Cmn INS RRI
 3325 1600 1700 54E PGA 40 0 700 Ara INS RRI
 3325 1800 1900 54E PGA 40 0 700 Spa INS RRI
 3325 1900 2000 54E PGA 40 0 700 Deu INS RRI
 3325 2000 2100 54E PGA 40 0 700 Eng INS RRI
 3325 2100 2200 54E PGA 40 0 700 Fra INS RRI
 3325 2200 2300 54E PGA 40 0 700 Eng INS RRI
 3325 2300 2400 54E PGA 40 0 700 Jpn INS RRI
 4750 1000 1100 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Eng INS RRI
 4750 1100 1200 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Cmn INS RRI
 4750 1200 1300 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Jpn INS RRI
 4750 1300 1400 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Eng INS RRI
 4750 1400 1500 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Ind INS RRI
 4750 1500 1600 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Cmn INS RRI
 4750 1600 1700 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Ara INS RRI

4750 1800 1900 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Spa
INS RRI
4750 1900 2000 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Deu
INS RRI
4750 2000 2100 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Eng
INS RRI
4750 2100 2200 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Fra
INS RRI
4750 2200 2300 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Eng
INS RRI
4750 2300 2400 51,54E JAK 3 345 800 Jpn
INS RRI. (wb df5sx, wwdxc BC-DX TopNews
Monday March 13)

3325, Voice of Indonesia from Palangkaraya,
on Feb 29, with the English. Is wonderful to
often now be able to hear VOI with semi-
readable reception or even better at times,
after having suffered in the past with
month-after-month of just a carrier being
heard with no audio detected. (Ron Howard-
CA via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews March 1)

7289.93, Mar 16, 0815, RRI Nabire Pro 1,
0815-0925. Very slowly fading up towards
Nabire's sunset at 0910. 0815-0820: EZL
songs. 0820+: Start of Ramadan program;
(Ron Howard-CA/Shortwave Bulletin)

IRAN Ramadan - TENTATIVELY in A-24
season (?) wb. Probably extra schedule
Ramadan A-24 from March 31st to April 9th
only:

6040 at 0020-0120 Turkish
7215 at 2020-2350 Turkish
5990 at 2120-2250 Tajikistan
7250 at 2250-0050 Arabic
7285 at 2320-0020 Kurdish
7205 at 2350-0420 Turkish (Worldwide DX
Club)

KOREA (North) Two North Korean stations
targeting South Korea have stopped
broadcasting: Pyongyang Broadcasting
Station used various MW frequencies (WRTH
lists 621, 657, 801, 855 and 873) as well as
SW 3220, 3320, and 6160 Echo of Unification
had used SW frequencies 3345, 3370, and

5905. According to news reports these
stations stopped around 12 January. Their
closure followed a decision by North Korea to
abandon its policy of seeking reunification
with South Korea. So, broadcasts and other
organisations aimed at promoting
reunification have closed. North Korean
leader Kim Jong Un has said unification with
the South is no longer possible and that the
constitution should be changed to designate
it as the "principal enemy". (Dave Kenny-UK
via BrDXC-UK "Communication" magazine
Feb 2024/Worldwide DX Club)

6185, Voice of Korea, Kujang. S/on 1000 in
English to SEAs. Booming signal but marred
by serious "motorboat" putt-putting
distortion making it almost impossible to
comprehend any content. 1/3. (Wagner-
Australia/ARDXC)

KOREA (South) KBS WORLD Radio. It has
become even easier to send an electronic
report about receiving broadcasts from our
website. You can open the report page using
the link that appears among the pop-up links
on the left side of the main page of our
website above the news. In addition, a link
to the report is located in the "Regular
Programs" section at the top right of the
home page. In order to send an electronic
report, you only need to fill out a few fields:
first and last name, email address, select a
country from the list, select a reception
method and note that you agree to provide
personal information. All other fields do not
have to be filled out. If you have not filled
in something, a hint will appear in a pop-up
window indicating what exactly is not filled
in. At the last stage, a completed report will
appear that can be printed. Let us remind
you that KBS World Radio has released a new
verification card, with which we have begun
to confirm electronic reception reports.
(Anatoly Klepov-Russia, RUSdx #1281 via
wwdxc BC-DX TopNews March 17)

LAOS The radio scene in Laos was observed at the end of January as follows: Vientiane: No MW signal on 567 or SW signal on 6130 were detected at all. (British DX Club)

LIBERIA 6050, Mar 10, 0618, ELWA Radio, Moronvia, religious songs. (Méndez-Spain/Shortwave Bulletin)

MALAYSIA 11665, Wai FM-Malaysia, F/D e-QLS in 2 days. V/S: Mohd Fauzi Bin Ali Hassan, Chief Assistant Director. Info on which e-mail address was used, not circulated by the contributor. Found this: pnk_rtmkajang@rtm.gov.my. (Atsuhiko Takezawa-Japan via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

MALI 5995, Mar 16, 2300, Radio Mali again heard on 5995. OM talking rapidly with another OM. Then music by Pepe Kalle "O Nager", African Rumba, S9+. (Ron Howard-CA/Shortwave Bulletin)

MONGOLIA 12085, eQSL from r/s "Voice of Mongolia", Feb 11, 2024, 1030-1100, 12085 Japanese program. Average reception at the Belki telescope in Moscow eQSL theme - Tsagaan Sar holiday. They sent us a booklet with information on all language services. (Evgeny Kornyxhin-Russia, deneb-radio-dx; via RUSdx #1277 via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews Febr 18) 12085, Mar 10, *0900-, Voice of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, interval signal, English, ID "Welcome to the Voice of Mongolia in English", news and comments. (Méndez-Spain/Shortwave Bulletin)

MYANMAR 5915, Myanmar Radio, Naypyidaw. Contemporary vocal group 1146, but well under CRI in RR at this time, 5/3. (Seager-Australia/ARDXC) 5914.977, measured at 0028 on March 22, noted Nay Pyi Daw new capital SW site signal in Doha Perseus SDR, S=7-8 fair signal, Burmese music/singer, but different Myanmar Radio program on 5985 even stronger signal from

Yangoon/Yegu site, at 0032 on March 22. (wolfie df5sx, wwdxc Germany)

NETHERLANDS 6060, Radio Casanova International, F/D e-QLS in 2 hours. Report sent to the following e-mail: radioacasanova@hotmail.com. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

15195, Cupid Radio, test broadcast. Reception report verified with beautiful full data eQSL instantly. Email: cupidradio@hotmail.com. (Pradip Chandra Kundu-India/Asian DX Review)

NEW ZEALAND The new AMPEGON transmitter at Rangitaiki should begin testing in about two weeks, means: past March 31, 2024. (RNZ, March 8, 2024/Worldwide DX Club)

Radio New Zealand (RNZ) is looking for a buyer for a block of land it owns in West Auckland to plug a financial hole and keep broadcast on the AM spectrum alive, at least for now. The block in Henderson is home to a longstanding red and white transmission tower. When RNZ's predecessor bought the land in 1934 it was a rural pasture, but it has long since been enveloped by urban sprawl. It has grown to a value of \$6 million. But, while the value of the land has continued to increase, the cost of the ageing AM transmission network has become a burden on the broadcaster. Chief technology/operations officer Mark Bullen said RNZ was looking at having to spend up to \$13 million across the whole network to keep it going. "Further remediation is not cost effective. We now need to consider other options, including removal and/or replacing the masts," he said. Old-fashioned AM radio is a potential lifesaver in emergency situations and the government is aware of its importance. In the latest round of funding, RNZ received an additional \$1.7 million a year for AM infrastructure, but that

money would also have to meet the cost of running Parliament Radio. "Land sales offer a potential avenue for funding the capital needs of the network without impacting on other RNZ priorities," Bullen said. RNZ has set itself a deadline of 2026 by which time a decision on the future of AM broadcast infrastructure must be made. Bullen still firmly believes AM has a role to play. That's because AM waves travel far greater distances than FM. RNZ's licence for the spectrum expires in 2032. AM's reach could be supplanted by new satellite technologies like Starlink in the not-too-distant future, in the opinion of an unofficial source within the organisation. Minister for Media and Communications, Melissa Lee, likewise said AM was still a "lifeline", but said she was speaking with RNZ about "transitioning away from legacy transmission infrastructure to newer, more cost-effective solutions". (Jonathan Killick via pages #11 - #13, New Zealand DX Times)

PERU 4775, 24.02.24, 0116-1023, Radio Tarma, Tarma, SS: TK. 15421. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine) 4775, 01.03.24, 2310, Radio Tarma, Tarma, SS: TK. F. (Roberto Pavanello-Italy/DX Fanzine)

4810, Feb 18, 1110, Radio Logos (presumed). Non-stop religious songs; best in LSB; better than usual; strong CO DAR QRM, which had a CW ID at 1122; their local sunrise about 1100. (Ron Howard-CA/Shortwave Bulletin)

4820, Mar 3, 1121, CODAR(?) from tune-in at 1121 to 1125*, with an assumed CODAR ID(?), but cannot recall ever hearing such a long CW ID; now QRM for Peru (Radio Senda Cristiana - The Christian Way Radio, with religious program/singing). (Ron Howard-CA/Shortwave Bulletin)

PHILIPPINES 12095, eQSL from FEBC; average reception at the Belki telescope in Moscow eQSL Theme - Blue Lagoon Ilocos Norte. The report to info@febc.ph was sent

successful. The answer came from Eduardo Bailad at Eduard.Baliad@febc.ph. (Evgeny Kornykhin-Russia, deneb-radio-dx; via RUSdx #1277 via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews)

12120, Radyo Pilipinas at 1731, Feb. 24, English IDs "Radyo Pilipinas, the Voice of the Philippines", into Filipino with IDs, frequencies, website for "Radyo Pilipinas World Service". Good, //9925 very weak. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer) 12120, Radyo Pilipinas, F/D e-QSL and program schedule in 1 day. Info on which e-mail address was used, not circulated but found this in DX Fanzine: dzrp.radyopilipinas@gmail.com. V/S: Jay B. Arevado, Broadcast Program Traffic Officer. (Mohamad Haidir II-Malaysia via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

POLAND Radio Poland Marks 88 Years on Air, launched on March 1, 1936, is part of Poland's public radio network. It broadcasts programmes on developments at home and abroad, Polish foreign policy, the economy, business and foreign investment. Radio Poland, also known as Polish Radio's External Service, aims to provide objective and impartial information about Poland and the country's stance on international affairs. It reports on developments in Polish society, its daily life as well as scientific and cultural achievements. Polish Radio launched shortwave broadcasts in English and Polish in 1936. They were discontinued with the outbreak of World War II in 1939. After the end of the war in 1945, the shortwave channel Warszawa III resumed external broadcasts. Today, Radio Poland broadcasts in Polish and five foreign languages: English, German, Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian. (Direct) Of course, no longer on shortwave (Craig Seager/ARDXC)

ROMANIA RRI apparently no longer has funding to send out printed QSLs but in a letter to Rumen Pankov from the RRI English Service dated in November said "we will start sending eQSLs to all listeners shortly. Please

leave us an email address with your next letter where we might reach you". The email address on the letter is engl@gmail.com. (British DX Club)

A24 Nexus Milano Italy schedule.
7290 at 1800-1900 English Daily European Gospel Radio/IPAR
9510 at 0800-0900 English Saturday European Gospel Radio/IPAR
9510 at 0930-1200 English Sunday European Gospel Radio/IPAR
15425 at 1500-1530 Oromo Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat IPAR
17895 at 1400-1430 Korean Daily European Gospel Radio. Reception reports to: reports@nexus.org. (Jose Jacob-India, VU2JOS, DX India/TopNews)

RUSSIA The Russian Ministry of Justice has added Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) to its register of "undesirable" organizations, according to the Russian Ministry of Justice register, media reports, and a statement by RFE/RL. This is an escalation from its previous designation as a so-called "foreign agent," and the designation bans it from operating in Russia. Anyone working for the organization now faces up to six years in prison and administrative fines. It also makes it a crime to distribute the outlet's content. Since 2021, Russian authorities have labelled more than a dozen media organizations "undesirable." The Russian Ministry of Justice added RFE/RL to its register of so-called "foreign agents" in 2017, making it the first media organization to be labelled as such, along with Voice of America. Authorities froze the bank accounts of the Russian branch of RFE/RL in May 2021 and a court declared it bankrupt in March 2023, following the broadcaster's refusal to pay fines issued for noncompliance with the country's foreign agent law. RFE/RL President Stephen Capus said the designation is the latest example of how the Russian government views truthful reporting

as an existential threat. (RFE/RL Press Release/ARDXC)

SPAIN Radio Exterior de España A-24 schedule is now on their website at: This shows frequency usage of:
15390 (1500-2300 mo-fr, 1400-2300 sa,su),
15520 (1500-2300 mo-fr, 1400-2300 sa,su),
17715 (1800-0200 mo-fr, 1400-2300 sa,su) and
17855 (1800-0200 mo-fr, 1400-2300 sa,su) (Alan Roe-UK)

9690, REE at 2303, Mar. 4, in English, woman with news. Fair, //12030 good, 17715 fair, 17755 useless. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer)

TAIWAN Since the departure of long-time hosts Shirley Lin and John Van Trieste have seen a succession of presenters on what appear to be short-term contracts. Major changes to their programming have taken place over the last year or so, but to me, RTI broadcasts are still far superior to the output from CRI. A shame they have lost so many short-wave listeners, especially in the Americas, after the cancellation of the Florida relays. And now only one daily short-wave release for English via Tamsui on 9405 at 1600. Most correspondence these days seems to come from QSL collectors in South Asia. (Alan Holder-UK, G4ZBH, TopNews)

7215, Republic of Korea/Taiwan – Revival Broadcasting System/Voice of Korean Revival. e-QSL: 7215, 1400-1428. (Konstantin Barsenkov-Russia, "deneb-radio-dx"; via RUSdx #1277 via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews Feb 18)

9405, Radio Taiwan International, F/D QSL Card from the English Service in 15 days for report by webform. (Michele Gasparri-Italy via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

9490/5900, we received two beautiful QSL cards from RTI on designer paper for reception on frequencies 9490 (Taipei

Danshui) and 5900 (Sofia Kostinbroad). The frequency of 9490 is received much better in winter than the "European" 5900. (Igor-Russia, "deneb-radio-dx" via RUSdx #1278 via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews Feb 25)

THAILAND 13750, Radio Thailand at 0002, Mar. 5, in English, woman with news. Fair. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer) 13750, Radio Thailand, F/D QSL Folder in 60 days. The report was sent to the following E mail address: rthworldservice@gmail.com. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

TURKEY 7275, Voice of Turkey in English logged and submitted reception report with audio file. Beautiful f/d QSL card arrived after 2 months for my email report to: tsr@trt.net.tr. (Babul Gupta-India/Asian DX Review)

Voice of Turkiye (TUR). Received two QSL cards for receiving VOT in English, French and Turkish in December /January. Both envelopes were sent from Ankara on January 31. Reported to the general VOT address tsr@trt.net.tr. (Konstantin Barsenkov-Russia, "deneb-radio-dx"; via RUSdx #1277 via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews Feb 18)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 12095, Radio Prague, via Dhabbaya, F/D e-QSL including transmitter site in 1 day. Report via webform at this link: <https://english.radio.cz/reception-report>. (Antonello Napolitano-Italy/DX Fanzine) 12095, Radio Slovakia International via Dhabbayah, QSL Card in 14 days. Report in French sent to: rsi_french@rtvs.sk. (Christian Ghibaudo-France/DX Fanzine)

15215, Gaweylon Tibetan Radio, via Dhabbaya, F/D e-QSL in 3 days. E-mail: gaweylon@gmail.com. (Carlos Alberto Erdmann-Brazil via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

USA There are rumours that the National Defence Authorisation Act requires the US Agency for Global Media to establish a Radio Free Africa service. "This would seem to cut across the services already provided by the VOA and has been compared with the Radio Free Asia and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty set up many years ago to present news pertinent to the target countries." (Ian Wells SW Bandwatch New Zealand DX Times Feb 23/British DX Club)

5850, Radio Prague International, via Okeechobee, QSL Card in 40 days. Report in French sent to: français@radio.cz. (Christian Ghibaudo-France/DX Fanzine)

6030, Radio Marti, via Greenville, F/D QSL Card and leaflet about The Edward R. Murrow Greenville Transmitting Station in 45 days. E-mail: mdail@bbg.gov & editor@martinoticias.com. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

15770, The Mighty KBC, via Okeechobee, F/D QSL Card in 15 days. E-mail address: themightykbc@gmail.com. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

UZBEKISTAN 6080, Norddeutscher Rundfunk via Tashkent. Card for Christmas Eve broadcast of "Gruss an Board" to ships at sea. Report sent by ordinary mail to NDR in Hamburg. (David Ansell-UK/British DX Club)

VANUATU 7260, Mar 1, 0650, Radio Vanuatu, Port Vila, back after about one week out. Comments, Island songs. Strong carrier weak to very weak audio. (Méndez-Spain/Shortwave Bulletin) 7260, Mar 16, 0648, R. Vanuatu, from 0648 to 0815; yet another day with nicely readable reception; 0648-0702: Public service health program in Bislama. 0702-0713; News/sports in Bislama, 0713: PSA in Bislama regarding the National referendum; 0733-0757: The weekend news

segment in Bislama. 0800+: The usual "Saturday night" "Customs and Culture" program in Bislama; March 15 - R. Vanuatu (7260), 0607-0740. (Ron Howard-CA/Shortwave Bulletin)

VIETNAM The German-speaking editorial team the voice of Vietnam has now confirmed receipt reports via email with an E-QSL, answered but also continue to receive postal receipts send by post. There are even new ones for this QSL cards with the inscription "Deutsche Redaction". There are also greeting cards sent by e-mail personal lines. The current broadcast schedule:

1830-1900 on 9730 11885

2000-2030 on 9730 11885 (Thomas Becker-Germany/ADDX)

9730, Voice of Vietnam (French Service), F/D e-QSL in 9 days. E-mail address: vovhanoi.france@gmail.com. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

12020, Voice of Vietnam, F/D Folder in 33 days. E-mail address:

vovjapanese2004@yahoo.co.jp. Heard via kiwi SDR Kyoto, Japan. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

ZAMBIA 9680, Voice of Hope Zambia Studio received this verification reply from Ray Robinson. Heard this station from 1452 to 1532 hours via the Johannesburg SDR Site. I Tried a number of other sites with poor results, and when I wrote to this station, I explained my attempts to hear their programming. Because of this Mr. Robinson my efforts proved my attempts, and he would make a exception and send me a QSL Card, which he did. If by chance you do hear this station, send your report to: ray.robinson@voiceofhope.com. (Edward Kusalik-AB/DXplorer)

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

Brian Penney • 30 Acorn Way • Brewster, MA 02631 • swradio@comcast.net

Welcome everyone to The Pirate Radio Report.

As most of our readers are aware, the 2024 37th Winter SWL Fest will be held in person as well as via Zoom this year on May 10-11. Once again, veteran pirate radio enthusiast Larry Will, will be our host for the annual Pirate Radio Session. This session is always informative and enjoyable, as Larry lends his insight to our unique facet of the radio listening hobby.

In pirate radio news, it was reported that the venerable European free radio broadcaster, Charleston Radio International had been raided by authorities and is now closed. Station owner and operator, Harry Richman, added this Facebook post on February 28, 2024: "*CHARLESTON RADIO INTERNATIONAL is shut down by authorities today afternoon. So its history and I thank you for listening and posting over the years. The project was made for 100 years of AM Radio. I hope you remember me fondly BYE BYE*"

From Texas Radio Shortwave, we've received the following announcement:

Texas Radio Shortwave returned to the pirate airwaves on March 17 with a program broadcast by Mix Radio International. The program featured Radio Igloo's (Swedish pirate) tribute to Swedish '60s FM pirate Radio Syd. TRSW hadn't been heard on pirate radio in North America and Europe since May 23, 2020, when the station switched its programs to commercial shortwave stations WRMI, WBCQ, and Channel 92. It ceased broadcasting commercially on September 3, 2023. TRSW is now contacting NAM and European pirate stations to carry its programs. New programming will include rebroadcasts of some popular TRSW programs, as well as new content focusing on old-time radio and rock music. The new music programs will feature content from the Oldies Project (Radio London), Rock-it Radio, and TRSW's music library. There's no schedule of future. TRSW's new email address is: texasradioshortwave@protonmail.com

March 14th brought with it a number of stations broadcasting the infinite value of Pi in CW, although these stations all chose a finite value for their broadcasts.

The following is a sample of what was heard last month; Pescadores Radio, WTF Radio Worldwide, 77LJS, WWBR, Ballsmacker Radio, Thunder Chicken Radio, Outhouse Radio, WDOG, Cloudsplitter Radio, Radio Free Whatever, Stern Radio, Captain Morgan Shortwave, Leeroy, WMPQ, Channel 94, ION Radio, Solar Federation Radio, Wolverine Radio, B-Side Radio, Frankie Wa Radio, Sycko Radio, YHWH, Liquid Radio, Radio Olah, Boat Anchor Radio, WHIZ, Lonely Housewives Radio, Musical Soundtrack Radio, KNOB, Radio 48, Mix Radio International, Voice of Nelson, Yeah Man Radio, WART, Sycko Radio, Boombox Radio, along with the usual and unusual list of unidentified stations. You

just never know what's going to pop up on pirate radio bands!

Thanks to the following folks for making this month's column possible: (QSL image courtesy of Christopher Bagge) Eric Bueneman, Ed Cichorek, Rich D'Angelo, Glenn Hauser, Greg Majewski, Bill Montney, Tony Pavick, Gianni Serra and Mark Taylor.



4875-AM, PIRATE-EUROPE. **CONTIKENZO**. 2231-2254, 03-10-24. In Dutch. Playing one rock song outro and some local pop songs, then pop music tracks, w/ usual man DJ talk a bunch over and after tracks, sometimes laughing briefly, almost fair/fair at times (Serra-Italy)

5800-AM, PIRATE-EUROPE. **RADIO MON AMI/MIKE RADIO**. 1829-1902, 03-08-24, in English, French & German. Playing rock music, man DJ talk over music, woman brief announcement, both in bad English, ID Radio Mon Ami, at 1848 DJ brief talk in English and Mike Radio twice, later brief talk in German and then longer in English. "Mike, Mike, Mike Radio" over music. (Serra-Italy)

6271.97-AM, PIRATE-EUROPE. **JOHNNY TOBACCO**. 1847-1906, 03-01-24, playing one rock song, carrier on only for about half minute, again on air w/ various pop songs, DJ brief talk and one phone call, later J.T. talk briefly at times over songs. ID: (This is Johnny Tobacco) (Serra-Italy)

6875-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO IGLOO** via **MRI & TRSW**. 0007, 03-17-24, good. Prgrm

rolling into lots of mx.YL next w/ Mix Radio International. 0:32 mx: "Yellow Rose of Texas"- Orlando Pops Orchestra. Short Anncr commenting on Texas Radio SW. and Radio Igloo via MRI. (Montney-MI)

6880-AM, PIRATE-NA. **ION RADIO**. 2033-2120, 03-17-24, Irish-themed music selections in honor of Saint Patrick's Day. YL w/ID. Nice copy. S9. (Penney-MA)

6880-AM, PIRATE-NA. **MIX RADIO INTL**. 0033-0057, 03-19-24, several vocal selections with a woman announcer giving the station ID at 0043 ("You are listening to Mix Radio International Worldwide"). Poor to fair signal. (D'Angelo-PA)

6910-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WDOG**. 0130, 02-04-24, noted with "WDOG" ID, rock music with occasional dog barking sound effects. Excellent signal. (Bueneman-MO)

6924.7-AM, PIRATE-NA. **CAPTAIN MORGAN SHORTWAVE**. 0251, 03-24-24, 'The Pleasure's All Mine' - Jimmie Vaughn, ID, 'Better Luck (feat. Elliott Sharp & Kenny Aaronson) - Floyd Lee, ID x2. Fair. (Taylor-WI)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **PESCADORES RADIO**. 1705-1740, 03-03-24, Relay of a religious show. OM w/ID. S7. (Penney-MA)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **YEAH MAN RADIO**. 0217, 03-03-24, program of oldies with Yeah Man talking and giving IDs between every 2 - 3 songs. "Million Dollar Weekend." Giving shout outs to folks who logged him on HF Underground (including me). Many well-known songs including 'I Lost That Lovin Feeling', 'I'm In With The In Crowd', etc. Poor to fair although noisy. (Taylor-WI)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **BLIND DOG RADIO**. 0308, 03-09-24, program of nice acoustic blues including some quite new as well as old

delta blues. 'Guitar Meditation' - Justin Johnson, SSTV ("Blind Dog Radio" w/ drawing of a dog w/ dark glasses), 'You're listening to Blind Dog Radio', Fair with fading to poor. (Taylor-WI)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **SYCKO RADIO**. 0012, 03-11-24, "Who we got in Radio Land?" Sycko and someone else in the studio. Shout out to HFU, found some music from years ago on some audio files and is playing them. Good. (Taylor-WI)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **LEEROY**. 0226, 03-17-24, hard rock. R75 Noise Blanker very much needed and helps a lot. Some reports on HFU as Leeroy, per fuzzy SSTV (Hauser-OK)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WMPQ**. 0115, 03-18-24, Mellow guitar blues, 0131 'Alcateia de Ovelhas' - Lucas Menor (?), 'The Shadows' - Blues Cousins, SSTV, 'Open the Door (featuring Levan Lomidze)' - Blues Cousins, Fair. (Taylor-WI)

6930-USB, PIRATE-NA. **BORK, BORK RADIO**. 0112, 03-09-24, 'Dogs' - Pink Floyd - 0114 "Bork ... Bork. Bork, Bork, Bork" over song ... SSTV (dog with jowls and floppy ears "Bork Bork Radio"), bit more music, OM w/ ID and off. Fair. (Taylor-WI)

6930-USB, PIRATE-NA. **77LJS**. 2106, 03-18-24, a nice show of Jazz music and shout outs to the posters on the HFU. After the 77LJS went off the air, the Russian channel marker was heard. 77LJS signal was good, the Russian poor. (Majewski-CT)

6930-AM, PIRATE-NA. **UNID**. 2058, 03-18-24, tuned in to 40's type jazz music with lots of saxophone and drums. At 2112 a male announced "we will have one more coming up." Then more instrumentals to 2118. Brief talk by the presumed host then a blues male

vocal, "you're wonderful". Poor with considerable noise. (Cichorek-NJ)

6934.9-AM, PIRATE-SA. **AD149**. 2348-2357, 03-05-24, Argentine pirate. Music selections from Los Fronterizos, Zamba Quipildor & Alfredo Abalos. Decent signal. S7. (Penney-MA)

6935-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO 1700**. 0003-0018, 03-01-24, via Cloudsplitter Radio. A brief show of music Good Signal (Majewski-CT)

6935-AM, PIRATE-NA. **MUSICAL SOUNDTRACK RADIO**. 0111-0145, 03-01-24, a new station doing musical soundtracks. Played the Hair soundtrack. Sent me an eQSL card for my post on HF Underground. Good Signal (Majewski-CT)

6935-USB, PIRATE-NA. **LIQUID RADIO**. 2305, 03-09-24, Yellow C. w/"C.O.M.A." Front line Assembly next w/"Body Count," anncr w/ ID @23:15. Closed here w/ The Fair Sex w/"What's To Be Done Now." (Montney-MI)

6935-AM, PIRATE-NA. **B-SIDE RADIO**. 0210-0305, 03-20-24, Jazz. Greetz and ID at 0219 followed by Artie Shaw. ID at 0228 and 0242. Theme from MASH at 0243. ID at 0300 and shouts to Canadian listeners (including me) followed by a Canadian track just for us! SINPO 55444 (Pavick-BC)

6935-AM, PIRATE-NA. **BBC HIT PARADE TOP 20**. 0149, 03-23-24, 2 rock-pop ballads, OM w/ talk incl. "BBC Hit Parade Top 20", pop music talk between about every 2 tracks. 0319 "Hello World" - The Tremeloes, few sentences from DJ. Poor, noisy reception. (Taylor-WI)

6935-AM, PIRATE-NA. **BOOMBOX RADIO**. 0059, 03-24-24, 'Tongues (featuring Kopps)' - Joywave ... 0135 'The Night is Young (feat. Cherub)' - Big Gigantic, and on with mostly

techno music with occasional difficult to understand IDs. Poor - fair. (Taylor-WI)

6938-USB, PIRATE-NA. **CLOUDSPLITTER RADIO**. 2223-2359, 03-08-24, a nice show of softer rock tunes (Joan Osborn, REM). Good signal (Majewski-CT)

6940.1-AM, PIRATE-NA. **WORLD WIDE BASEMENT RADIO**. 0223, 03-11-24, tuned into an ID, 'Bridge of Sighs (2007 Remaster)' - Robin Trower, "This is WWBR. World Wide Basement Radio", and into a program of music with frequent IDs. Fair. (Taylor-WI)

6942-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WKFC**. 2300-2331, 03-11-24, Bluegrass music with the theme of 'Kentucky'. Multiple Kentucky Fried Chicken retro-commercials. Relay by Cloudsplitter Radio. Nice audio. S8. (Penney-MA)

6945-USB, PIRATE-NA. **THUNDER CHICKEN RADIO**. 2336-0011, 03-02-24, music programming with station ID by man announcer after an SSTV transmission as "Thunder Chicken radio". Another SSTV image at 0005. Poor to fair signal. (D'Angelo-PA)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **DAMN SKIPPY**. 0420, 02-25-24, 'Brandy' - Looking Glass, 'Domino' - Van Morrison, 'Go All the Way' - Raspberries, SSTV ("Damn Skippy"), started fair to good and deteriorated. (Taylor-WI)

6950-AM, PIRATE-NA. **VOICE OF THE SONS OF LIBERTY**. 2242, 03-03-24, Neezy N.E.B. w/"White Chapel." YL anncr w/ ID, voice describing: Rioting on Capitol Hill, terror attack and insurrection. (Montney-MI)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WHIZ**. 0157, 03-09-24, 'Rikki Don't Lose That Number', "WHIZ. The wiz." 'Reelin' in the Years' into a program of mostly Steely Dan. "WHIZ. The wiz. ... WHIZ (Wiz) on your radio.' Fair. (Taylor-WI)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **ZHIM**. 0247-0250, 03-09-24, "ZHIM" repeated over and over in waterfall. Off abruptly at 0250. Good. (Taylor-WI)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO FREE WHATEVER**. 2210, 03-17-24, the good DJ Dickweed with a show on nice after dinner Indie music. He did shout outs to the posters on the HFU. Good Signal (Majewski-CT)

6950-LSB, PIRATE-NA. **OUTHOUSE RADIO**. 0232, 03-24-24, Techno, SSTV, YL repeated phrase several times indistinct but read on, repetitive atmospheric music w/ YL w/ phrase over music (hard to understand), eventually understood YL with "Pirate Radio. No Rules, No Direction, and No Plan" Fair. (Taylor-WI)

6951.7-AM, PIRATE-NA. **STERN RADIO**. 0230, 03-10-24, 'Home Computer' - Kraftwerk, 'You Don't Love Me Anymore' - And One, ID w/ email address by synth OM then YL ... on with program. Fair with fading. (Taylor-WI)

6955-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WDOG**. 0025-0043, 02-18-24, man announcer playing rock music selections with nice station ID at 0031 ("You are listening to WDOG"). Fair to good signal. (D'Angelo-PA)

6955-USB, PIRATE-NA. **VOICE OF NELSON**. 0104, 03-02-24, Program repeated several times: Synth YL telling a series of 4 "incidents" (the second involves someone who fell on a cement porch and hit his head. He was never the same.), then some rap music, "This message will be repeated." Repetitive singing, "This is the Voice of Nelson." Then the program repeats. (Taylor-WI)

6955-USB, PIRATE-NA. **KNOB**. 0027, 03-16-24, 'Tax Man' - Beatles, OM "don't, touch,that,dial", parody of 'Cat's Cradle',

'Spam', 'Amish Paradise' "KNOB, KNOB", 'Smells Like Nervana', OM, 'Canadian Idiot' all these by Weird Al Yankovich. Good. (Taylor-WI)

6960-AM, PIRATE-NA. **BALLSMACKER RADIO**.0134, 03-23-24, 'Gettting Down Tonight' - KC and the Sunshine Band; sudden signal improvement from S = 2 to S=3; 'Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me' - Elton John, 'I Won't Back Down' - Tom Petty, Poor. (Taylor-WI)

6960-USB, PIRATE-NA.**WOLVERINE RADIO**. 0000 - 0125, 03-24-24, Eclectic and varied music genre with the theme of "Night". SSTV image of a tree in the night sky. Synth OM w/ID. Good copy. S8. (Penney-MA)

6969/6960/6963-USB. PIRATE-NA. **WTF RADIO WW**. 0240, 03-16-24, ID, 'Ah! Leah!' - Donnie Iris. Moved to 6960 U. 0249 'There She Goes' - the Las, 'Tiny Sparks' - Brandon Benson, 'Places' - Georgie James, 'Glad Girls' - Guided by Voices, (Taylor-WI)

6970-USB, PIRATE-NA. **SOLAR FEDERATION RADIO**. 0049, 03-24-24,'Don't Fear the Reaper' - Blue Oyster Cult, OM (indistinct), start of another song then "Don't Fear the Reaper' again, "Attention all planets of the Solar Federation. Attention All Planets in the Solar Federation. We have Assumed control. We have assumed control." ID, Fair to good. (Taylor-WI)

6975-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WART**. 0130, 03-03-24, The Hives w/"Rigor Mortis Radio," ID next. Closed here w/ Rush - "Alien Shore." (Montney-MI)

6976-AM, PIRATE-NA. **STERN RADIO**. 0210-0310, 03-12-24, Mostly non-stop trance/ambient sort of music with announcement at about 0225 and ID about 0230. Varying quality signal until off air at around 0310. SINPO 33222 (Pavick-BC)

11514.9-AM, PIRATE-NA. **HIKARI FM.1638**,
03-05-24, JBA carrier, implying the pirate
Hikari FM is still running from Sonora or

Arizona on its signature off-frequency.
(Hauser-OK)

Contributors' Page


The following people made contributions to this issue:

The rightmost column is the column key: first letter of column name, except L = Loggings and LN = Listener's Notebook.

Member	Equipment	Column
Greg MAJEWSKI , Oakdale, CT		P
Mark TAYLOR , Madison, WI		P
Rich D'ANGELO , Wyomissing, PA		L,P
Ed CICHOREK , Somerset, NJ		L
Eric BUENEMAN , Hazelwood, MO		L,P
Glenn HAUSER , Enid, OK		L,P
Bill MONTNEY , Monroe, MI		P
Tony PAVICK , Hope, BC		P
Pedro de CASTRO , Lorena, Brazil		LN
David TURNICK , Sinking Spring, PA		L
Gianni SERRA , Roma, Italy		P
Stephen C WOOD , Cape Cod, MA		L
Alan ROE , Teddington, UK		LN
David ROSS , Hamilton, ON		L
Pamela PRODAN , Wilton, ME		L
Rick BARTON , Sun City, AZ		L
Vince HENLEY , Anacortes, WA		L
Anker PETERSEN , Skovlunde, Denmark		L,N

Errata: Vince Henley was omitted by mistake from the March contributors.

Equipment is listed only for new contributors. A year-end summary of all contributors, including their equipment, will be published in the December e-Journal.

Attention members! Some members do not have an e-mail address in the database and we encourage you to provide one. E-mail is the best way for us to contact you and it allows you to receive the e-Journal. Your address is not shared with anyone and will not be used for anything except NASWA business. Send it to journal@naswa.net. Thanks! 

Loggings

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- 3990 **CHINA Xinjiang PBS** 0215-0220 29.2, Urumqi, Xinjiang Uighur talk with music 35232 // 4980 (35333), 6120 (45434) and 7205 (25232) (AP-DNK)
- 4800 **CHINA CNR 1**, Ge'ermu 1157 18 Feb 2024 Very faint audio at tune in. YL heard in Mandurian (listed Lang.) w/fast paced announcements. At top of the hour some very tiny Time pips followed by an OM. Very poor signal, only brief audio over the noise. (SCW-MA)
- 4840 **UNITED STATES WWCR**, 0210-0215 29.Nashville, TN English religious talk 35434 (AP-DNK)
- 5050 **UNITED STATES WRMI Radio Miami Int'l** Okeechobee FL "Legends" program 0223 "Dance Dance Dance" by the Beach Boys. 0226 "The Groove Line" by Heatwave. 0228 plug for Nuts & Volts magazine and <https://www.nutsvolts.com/> web URL. Very Good signal Mar. 8 (Ross-ON)
- 5085 **UNITED STATES WTWW**, 0057, 3-9-24. Man in English quoting scripture and praying. End of the Timeless Truths program with a man asking for donations and information about Bible study. At 0100 clear ID by a man with frequency announcements and web, address. Good (Cichorek-NJ)
- 5800 **UNITED STATES WRMI**, 0017, 3-2-24. Greeting by a man to the Supreme Master TV followed by religious talk. Good (Cichorek-NJ)
- 5900 **BULGARIA Overcomer Ministry** 0102, 3-9-24. Overcomer ministry with recording of brother Stair greeting listeners. Fair with noise. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 5900 **BULGARIA Overcomer Ministry**, 0022, 3-2-24. Talking and wailing with religious talk. Fair with noise. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 5930 **DENMARK World Music R**, Bramming 0950-1000 2.3 French and English pop songs 35444 // 15700 (25232) and 927 MW (55555) (AP-DNK)
- 5950 **UNITED STATES WRMI** Okeechobee, FL 0100-0137 Mighty KBC/Dave Mason, music, incl 2 reggae songs by Phillis Dillon; good 2/18 (Prodan-ME)
- 5960 **TURKEY Voice of Turkey** 5960, continued from last report, VOT English: although s/on 2300 as if the 1330 broadcast only, March 19 at 2352 s/off with all-wrong full English sked of local times called UTC; 2354 IS, 2356 restart IS with German IDs; 0000 March 20 time signal 2 seconds late as heard direct, S/on extraneous German. Off by next check 0020. Something`s always erroneous at Emirler (Glenn Hauser, OK, WOR)
- 5995 **MALI Radiodiffusion-Télévision du Mali** via Bamako 0601 woman in French with ID into man singing an African tune followed by another song by man with children backing. Fair signal Mar. 17 (Ross-ON)
- 6030 **UNITED STATES Radio Marti** via Greenville NC 0306 Woman in Spanish talking about artificial intelligence and 5g connectivity. 0307 ID by man then talking about curiosities about science and technology. Excellent signal Mar. 14 (Ross-ON)

- 6050 **EQUADOR HCJB**, 0027, 3-2-24. Talk by man in listed Cofan then regional vocals. More talk to 0029 then ID at 0030 with choral singing. Talk by a man who transitioned to the Aorani language. Fair with noisy crashes. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 6070 **CANADA CFRX**, 0105, 3-9-24. Man in English with an announcement of upcoming topics including a human-interest story. Fair to good with noisy fading. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 6070 **CANADA CFRX**, 0040, 3-2-24. Talk show discussing Canada's liberal government to 0045 with traffic report. Good with noise and fading. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 6080 **SÃO TOMÉ Voice of America** relay via Pinheira 0357 "VOA Editorial" dealing with Gaza. 0400 VOA News by Tommy McNeil with comments by White House National Security adviser Jake Sullivan on President Biden remains concerned about the safety of Gaza resident amid Israeli military plans. Fair signal Mar. 19 (Ross-ON)
- 6080 **SÃO TOMÉ Voice of America** relay via Pinheira 0424 "Issues in the News" program with Laurie London speaking with Jen Koss, Coral Reef Conservation Program Director with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who says scientists are concerned the world could be on the cusp of a fourth mass coral reef bleaching event. Fair signal Mar. 10 (Ross-ON)
- 6105 **FRANCE Radio Japan** relay via Issoudun 0307 man in Japanese talking about President Biden and former President Trump on the 9th, held simultaneous rallies in the southern state of Georgia to begin direct confrontation. Very Good signal Mar. 10 (Ross-ON)
- 6125 **TURKEY Voice of Turkey** via Emirler 0410 woman in English with news. 0412 "Hoş Geldin" by Koray Avcı. 0417 Man with "Weekly Analysis" program talking about Turkey's ongoing military operations in Iraq. 0341 ID by man into "Gitme Kal Bu Şehirde" by Nazan Öncel. Good signal Mar. 16 (Ross-ON)
- 6125 **TURKEY Voice of Turkey** – Emirler, *0358-0417 Feb 22, instrumental music opening alternating with English language ID ("This is the Voice of Turkey") followed by 5+1 time pips at 0400 and a man announcer with opening announcements for English broadcast. Another man with news followed. Press Review at 0413. Good signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 6150 **FRANCE NHK Radio Japan**, 0322, 3-2-24. Pleasant female vocal then talk by a woman in Japanese with soft background music,. Sounded as if she was telling a story. Very good. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 6150 **FRANCE Radio Japan** relay via Issoudun 0314 man in Japanese with weather information for a number of Japanese cities. Very Good signal Mar. 10 (Ross-ON)
- 6195 **VATICAN BBC** relay via via Santa Maria di Galeria 0500 ID by woman & pips for 0500. BBC news by David Harper & Pentagon spokesman, Major General Pat Ryder commenting on the project constructing a floating pier and Causeway for humanitarian aid destined for Gaza will take one to two months to complete. Fair signal Mar. 9 (Ross-ON)
- 7215 **INDIA AIR**, 0056. 3-1-24. Talk by a man in listed Sindhi language followed by subcontinent vocals. Brief talk by a man at 0059 then more vocals at 0100. Very good signal. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 7285 **SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE BBC World Service** relay – 2/4 0630 noted with news and analysis in English. SIO 333. (Bueneman-MO)
- 7285 **ASCENSION ISLAND BBC** relay via English Bay 0500 ID by woman & pips for 0500. BBC news by David Harper & Pentagon spokesman, Major General Pat Ryder commenting on the project constructing a floating pier and Causeway for

- humanitarian aid destined for Gaza will take one to two months to complete. Fair signal Mar. 9 (Ross-ON)
- 7285 SAO TOMÉ BBC** relay via Pinheira 0601 "Weekend" program with David Harper with story of the former president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernandez, has been convicted by a U.S. court of conspiring to smuggle vast quantities of cocaine into the United States. Fair signal Mar. 9 (Ross-ON)
- 7285 TURKEY Voice of Turkey** via Emirler 0411 "Elbet Birgün Buluşacağız" by Zeki Müren. 0416 "That's Why" program with woman in English focusing on our feelings of fear and their biological and psychological relationship. 0421 "Weekly Commentary" program with woman talking about Mr. Anton Fedyashin, who is an Associate History Professor at the American University in Washington, DC. Fair signal Mar. 13 (Ross-ON)
- 7325 ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l** Romanian English 0149-59 Music Time - discussion with a composer; coming up next Simply Folk, ending with a folk song; fair 3/4 (Prodan-ME)
- 7325 GERMANY AWR** via Nauen 0450 man in French with awr.org url into a discussion with Pastor Pierre Péchoux regarding God who is rich in 3 things, in 3 qualities, kindness, tolerance and patience. 0456 "La Danza" by Alan Dixon. 0457 instrumental music with man with schedule info for 9515 kHz. 0500* Fair signal Mar. 13 (Ross-ON)
- 7330 CHINA China Radio Int'l** via Kashi (Kashgar) 0230 woman in Mandarin talking about Chinatowns in Melbourne, Yokohama & New York, with New York having the longest Chinatown in the world. 0231 man with comments that China will strive to achieve carbon peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. Fair signal Mar. 15 (Ross-ON)
- 7355 UNITED STATES Radio Marti** via Greenville NC 0326 ID by man in Spanish then talking about on May 20 1985 on the anniversary of Cuba's independence was celebrated, Radio Martí was born providing an alternative of uncensored information in which the people of Cuba, by Fidel Martínez, have achieved a place in the history of Cuba. Good signal Mar. 14 (Ross-ON)
- 7365 GERMANY HCJB** 1040-1055 2.3, Weenermoor Russian hymns 45444 (AP-DNK)
- 7390 FRANCE Radio France Int'l** via Issoudun 0545 man in French talking about African teams & qualifications for the 2026 World Cup. 0549 news by man. Good signal Mar. 18 (Ross-ON)
- 7410 ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l** via Galbeni 0250 woman in French talking about the development of Romanian television with the first color television transmission in Romania on the national holiday, August 23 1983. 0256 IS & off. Very Good signal Mar. 11 (Ross-ON)
- 7435 UNITED STATES Radio Marti** via Greenville NC 0339 "El Amor Que Espere" by Leoni Torres, Eddy K & Mauro El Código Secreto. 0341 "Copiloto" by Charly & Johayron & Gatillo. 0344 woman in Spanish talking with Nobel Prize-winning director, Fernando Fragueta. Good signal Mar. 14 (Ross-ON)
- 7490 UNITED STATES WBCQ** Monticello, ME 2310-2400 From the Isle of Music, Bill Tilford with great Cuban music and explaining why he has made the difficult choice with available funding to cut back to Europe - "more letters in a week from European listeners than in a year from WBCQ listeners"; very good 3/3 (Prodan-ME)

- 9330 **UNITED STATES WBCQ** Monticello, ME 1533-40 World's Last Chance "can never prove evolution," "you are saved by grace through faith," email address; very good 2/20 (Prodan-ME)
- 9395 **UNITED STATES WRMI** via Okeechobee, FL 0513 "Legends" program with "Turn, Turn, Turn" by The Byrds, "Stormy" by Classic IV, & My Heart Has A Mind Of Its Own" by Connie Francis. Very Good signal Mar. 15 (Ross-ON)
- 9395 **UNITED STATES WRMI** Okeechobee, FL Supreme Master TV 2150-59 AI used in Korea to develop easier-to-digest beans; "be vegan make peace"; fair 2/11 (Prodan-ME)
- 9395 **UNITED STATES WRMI** via Okeechobee, FL 0448 "Legends" program with "Tell Me" by The Rolling Stones, 0450 "Only the Strong Survive" by Jerry Butler, 0453 "You Can't Hurry Love" by The Supremes, 0455 "Yellow Balloon" by The Yellow Balloon, 0458 "The Closer I Get to You" by Roberta Flack & Donny Hathaway. Very Good signal Mar. 10 (Ross-ON)
- 9440 **CHINA China Radio Int'l/CGTN Radio** 2005 "The Bridge" program with man & woman in English talking about "AI" clones. Fair to Poor signal Mar. 9 (Ross-ON)
- 9485 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l.** 9485-9490-9495, March 19 at 2214, DRM noise S9 direct. First guess France test, but RRI Spanish hour is registered with HFCC as D = NOT DRM, from Tiganesti (Glenn Hauser, OK, WOR)
- 9510 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l** via Galbeni 0401 ID by man into news item of Romania has won the legal dispute against the Canadian mining company Gabriel Resources following the ruling of the Washington based Int'l Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes made public on Friday. 0407 "The Week in Review" program. Very Good signal Mar. 10 (Ross-ON)
- 9580 **PHILIPPINES BBC WS** 1020, news magazine, gay marriage topic. News headlines at 1030 by woman, leading with Indonesian elections and Ukraine reporting they've destroyed another Ruscist warship. Noisy band but strong signal here. -
- Very Good 2/14 (Barton-AZ)
- 9620 **INDIA AIR** 2008-2031* Feb 26, French language program with English Spotlight program commencing at 2011 with a man and woman in a heated (almost impossible to understand) talk. Flute music at 2028 essentially closing the transmission except a man came on at 2030 welcoming listeners before the carrier was terminated. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 9625 **TURKEY Voice of Turkey** - Emirler, 2116-2129* Feb 29, French language program with several English language station IDs over instrumental music after French program closed. Fair signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 9670 **GERMANY Channel 292** via Rohrbach 0430-0504 with string of songs "Eleanor" by The Turtles, "In the Air Tonight" by Phil Collins, "Living On the Frontline" by Eddy Grant, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Diana Ross, "Livin' Above Your Head" by Jay & The Americans, "This Is The Life" by Amy Macdonald, "Wild Side of Life" by Status Quo, "One Headlight" by The Wallflowers. Fair signal Mar. 17 (Ross-ON)
- 9670 **GERMANY Channel 292** 0307-0410 music through toh, no sta IDs; incl If I Needed Someone (Beatles), rap music, Let's Get Together, Proud Mary, songs in German, more; varied poor-fair 3/12 (Prodan-ME)
- 9690 **SPAIN REE** 9690, Mon Mar 18 at 2313, token English from SNR feature today is interview about March 17 being Comic Book Day, in Spain, as declared on July 11, 2022. Treated as if a serious subject! VG into Maryland SDR as always.


- 9775** **BOTSWANA** *Voice of America* relay via Moepeng Hill 0300 Yankee Doodle IS into VOA News by Tommy McNeil. 0305 "Daybreak Africa" program with reports covering Niger, the Gambia & Malawi & comments by White House National Security adviser Jake Sullivan. 0325 plug for "Our Voices" program. 0330 VOA News by Tommy McNeil. 0335 VOA "International Edition" program with Scott Waltermann with reports on the latest situation in Haiti, famine in Gaza is imminent and striking the balance between free speech and posting dangerous misinformation on social media. Good signal Mar. 19 (Ross-ON)
- 9780** **ROMANIA** *Radio Romania Int'l* Romanian 1943-59 m & 2f in discussion, folk music in background, at 1451 a lively song, finally; good 3/3 (Prodan-ME)
- 9790** **FRANCE** *Radio France Int'l* via Issoudun 0500 ID by man in French & woman in French with news of medicines and humanitarian equipment that will be distributed to the Gaza Strip successfully landed on the shores of Gaza yesterday. Fair signal Mar. 16 (Ross-ON)
- 9880** **THAILAND**, *Voice of America*, 0030, 3-1-24. Man speaking in listed Chinese nonstop to 0044. Poor with probable jamming. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 9955** **UNITED STATES** *WRMI* Okeechobee, FL 0045-59 Mike's Vintage Gospel, songs & preaching; poor 2/25 (Prodan-ME)
- 9955** **ARGENTINA** [none] *RAE*. 9955, Tue March 19 at 2350, WRMI-3 with continuous RAE multilingual IDs: default wasteful filler instead of RAE Portuguese on sked as M-F 23-24; like also happens at 1430-1500 ``French`` (Glenn Hauser, OK, WOR)
- 10000** **HAWAII** *NIST Barking Sands Missile Range*, in Kekaha, on the island of Kauai 0546 woman with time announcement at 0546:45. Equal strength with WWV. Fair signal Mar. 16 (Ross-ON)
- 11565** **CHINA** *CNR1* Jammer/Firedrake, 1822-1853 Feb 19, non-stop Chinese instrumental music effectively blocking Radio Free Asia's transmission. Fair signal but fading out by the time, I turned away (D'Angelo-PA)
- 11670** **CHINA** *China National Radio* 1 in CC to FE. March 12, 2024, 1637 – 1642. SIO 323. A radio play, jamming Voice of America in Tibetan. Multiple OM and YL performers. Flutter on signal, target is FE and / or Voice of America from Tinang. VOA signal is effectively jammed. (Henley, WA)
- 11680** **CLANDESTINE** *Radio ERISAT* – Talata Volonondry, 1845-1859* Feb 19, and 1853-1900* Feb 23, two men in discussion in the listed Tigrinya language until the carrier was terminated. Poor to fair signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 11690** **CHINA** *China Radio Int'l/CGTN Radio* via Xian-Xianyang 1224 man & woman in English with news item of what's happening in Gaza & how the Biden administration is struggling to try to get the government of Israel to not further their campaign in in Gaza. Fair signal Mar. 20 (Ross-ON)
- 11700** **FRANCE** *Radio France Int'l* via Issoudun 0435 man in French talking about the elections in Cameroon in February 2025 for the legislative and municipal elections & in October for the presidential election. Fair signal Mar. 16 (Ross-ON) 11785
ROMANIA *Radio Romania Int'l* via Galbeni 0334 woman in Spanish with ID and temperature reading into talk about celebrating International Women's Day, a date that commemorates the struggle of women for their participation in society and their development as people on an equal footing with men. Fair signal Mar. 15 (Ross-ON)

- 11710 **NORTH KOREA** *Voice of Korea* in FF to NAM. March 12, 2024, 1630 – 1636. SIO 333. YL announcer in FF. MX, various orchestral and choral pieces with YL commentary between MX pieces. (Henley, WA)
- 11720 **FINLAND** *Scandinavian Weekend R* 1015-1040 Sa 2.3, Virrat Finnish Ann, Finnish pop songs 35433 // 6170 (15231) (AP-DNK)
- 11760 **CUBA** *Radio Habana Cuba* in SS to the Americas. March 16, 2024, 0203 – 0208. SIO 555. Excellent signal via Bauta. Mixed OM / YL announcers with news clips. (Henley, WA)
- 11780 **BRAZIL** *Radio Nacional da Amazonia* in PP domestic program. March 16, 2024, 0158 – 0201. SIO 555. OM announcer with interview / debate with multiple YLs. Excellent signal, easy listening. Target is Brazil. Off the air at 0201. (Henley, WA)
- 11785 **CHINA** *RCI* Chinese 1406-08 m Ann; faint 3/2 (Prodan-ME)
- 11790 **CHINA** *China Radio Int'l* – Xian, 2305-2322 Feb 29, woman announcer with the English language news followed by various feature segments. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 11795 **KUWAIT** *Radio Free Asia* – Umm al-Rimam, 1320-1327 Mar 1, man and woman talking in the listed Burmese language. Poor signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 11795 **SOUTH KOREA** *KBS World* 1055 Tuning signal to open in Spanish, music program with some really strange music, female vocal and drums, woman presenter in Spanish -- Fair; Choppy 2/12 (Barton-AZ)
- 11815 **JAPAN** *NHK Radio Japan* in JJ via Yamata to SEA. March 12, 2024, 1623 – 1628. SIO 555. OM / YL in talk / conversation. Excellent signal, easy listening. Nearly clear signal, with minor to no QRN / QSB. (Henley, WA)
- 11825 **AUSTRALIA** *Reach beyond Australia* Burmese (listed) 1415-20 f Ann & song; fair- 3/2 (Prodan-ME)
- 11830 **ASCENSION ISLAND** *BBC World Service* relay – 2/4 0601 noted with news, analysis and sports report in English. SIO 333. (Bueneman-MO)
- 11830 **SAO TOME** *BBC WS* at 0700. BBC news headlines, magazine, leading with US airstrikes against Iranian-backed militias in Yemen. -- Fair 2/4 (Barton-AZ)
- 11870 **PHILIPPINES** *Voice of America* in Burmese via Tinang to SEA. March 12, 2024, 1616 – 1622. SIO 222. Poor, noisy signal. Mixed OM / YL announcers with talk and MX clips. Overall poor. (Henley, WA)
- 11875 **AUSTRALIA** *Reach Beyond Australia* via Kununurra WA 1230 man in English with ID & schedule info. 1231 "Mere Mangne Se Jyada" by Venje Benedict. 1232 man in Hindi with mentions of a Listeners Club & woman with schedule info for 31 meter band. Fair signal Mar. 20 (Ross-ON)
- 11880 **UNITED STATES** *KBS World Radio* (South Korea) with YLs in SS discussion to SAM via Greenville, NC. March 16, 2024, 0152 – 0158. SIO 555. Excellent signal, easy listening. (Henley, WA)
- 11880 **CHINA** *China Radio Int'l* English 1420-24 m & f discussing development & technology, financial burden; faint 3/2 (Prodan-ME)
- 11885 **VIETNAM** *Voice of Vietnam* in RR to Europe. March 12, 2024, 1655 – 1659. SIO 433. Via Hanoi. Rap MX followed by YL announcer playing various POP MX pieces. Off the air at 1659. (Henley, WA)
- 11895 **TAJIKISTAN** *Radio Free Asia*, 0140, 3-15-24. Man and woman speaking in listed Tibetan with most of the talking done by the man. Sounded like a possible interview. Poor with noise. (Cichorek-NJ)

- 11900 **SAO TOME *Voice of America*** French 2025-30 m & f in discussion, then country song (in English); at 2030 "this is the Voice of America, Washington, DC signing off"; (Prodan-ME)
- 11930 **UNITED STATES *Radio Marti*** Greenville, NC Spanish 1424-28 song, station ID; good 3/2 (Prodan-ME)
- 11965 **GERMANY *RFE/RL*** 1428-31 m spkr, Turkemen listed, but garbled; poor-fair with static 3/2 (Prodan-ME)
- 11980 **KUWAIT *Radio Free Asia*** via Umm al-Rimam 0355 ID by woman in Mandarin talking about the National People's Congress of China held in Beijing on March 5 with Premier Li Qiang of the State Council of China delivering his speech on the Chinese government work report during his term of office. Fair signal Mar. 15 (Ross-ON)
- 12015 **KUWAIT *Radio Free Asia***, 0152, 3-15-24. Men speaking in listed Uighur. At 0155 Two men talking in a rapid exchange then music at 0159 to abrupt end of transmission at 0200. Poor with noise. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 12015 **CHINA *China Radio Int'l/CGTN Radio*** via Kashi (Kashgar) 1239 woman in English with stock market results & news for those taking out loans or refinancing their mortgages and companies planning to raise capital. Fair signal Mar. 20 (Ross-ON)
- 12030 **SPAIN *REE*** Spanish 1612- f & m speakers; faint 2/20 (Prodan-ME)
- 12035 **GERMANY *Radio Farda*** via Lampertheim 0412 "Ooh" by Tohi, 0414 "yaar sabzeena e man" by Anil Bakhsh, 0417 man in Farsi (listed) followed by "Casablanca" by Reza Pahlevani, 0421 "Donya Laj Karde Baham" by Hana. Fair signal Mar. 21 (Ross-ON)
- 12050 **UNITED STATES *WEWN*** EWTN Catholic Radio in SS. March 16, 2024, 0146 – 0152. SIO 444. Via Vandiver, AL. Two OMs with a long religious discussion in SS with target of SAM. (Henley, WA)
- 12050 **UNITED STATES *WEWN*** Vandiver AL Spanish 1431-34 f & m in discussion; fair but faint 3/2 (Prodan-ME)
- 12075 **BOTSWANA *Voice of America*** – Moepeng Hill, 2159-2200* Feb 29, a man announcer with English language station ID at closing: "This is the Voice of America, Washington, DC signing off" followed by Yankee Doodle theme instrumental music. Good signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 12095 **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES *HK Radio Japan*** 1613- sounded like a language lesson or dramatization; faint 2/20 (Prodan-ME)
- 12095 **ASCENSION ISLANDS *BBC World Service***, 2129-2159* Feb 29, woman announcer with station ID followed by English language news. Program previews just before carrier was terminated. Fair to good signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 12105 **THAILAND *Voice of America*** Tibetan listed 1434-36 m spkr; very faint 3/2 (Prodan-ME)
- 12110 **KUWAIT *Radio Free Asia*** – Umm al-Rimam, 0142-0206 Feb 21, various talks in the Tibetan language followed by instrumental music at 0158 with nice "Radio Free Asia" station ID at 0200. News in the Tibetan language followed. Poor signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 12120 **PUERTO RICO *US Navy*** 1436-7 bubbly teletype, a faint voice under; fair- 3/2 (Prodan-ME)
- 13770 **CHINA *R The Great Bay*** (CNR 7 1005-1010 2.3 C, Kashgar Cantonese talk 35433 // 15550 (34333) (AP-DNK)

- 15105 **ESWATINI *Trans World radio*** – Manzini, 2000-2005* Feb 26, man announcer speaking in the listed Lingala language until IS before carrier was terminated. Fair signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 15120 **CHINA *China Radio Int'l/CGTN Radio*** via Beijing 0440 woman with ID and web url followed by man in "Special" English talking about tourism and the performing arts followed by a report from the global market research firm, International Data Corporation that China's Bluetooth headphone market expanded last year with an increase of 7.5% year on year. Fair signal Mar. 20 (Ross-ON)
- 15160 **CHINA *China Radio Int'l*** in CC to FE. March 16, 2024, 0104 – 0110. SIO 444. Mixed OM / YL announcers with monologues and news items. Good signal easy listening. (Henley, WA)
- 15250 **ROMANIA *Radio Romania Int'l*** German 1523-33 talk, quoting someone from Michigan; f & m Ann, sta ID at 1528; fair 2/20 (Prodan-ME)
- 15300 **FRANCE *R France Int'l***. at 1930. Heard off and on since after 1700, mostly M Ann in French, right at threshold, usually not heard here at all -- Poor 2/26 (Barton-AZ)
- 15350 **CHINA *China Radio Int'l/CGTN Radio*** via Kashi (Kashgar) 0500 man in English with ID into news by woman with news item about Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meeting with Australian counterpart to have dialogue over further high-level exchanges and consultations in various sectors. Fair signal Mar. 20 (Ross-ON)
- 15445 **CHINA *China Radio Int'l/CGTN Radio*** via Kashi (Kashgar) 0440 "Back in time" by Cold Bowl. 0421 woman in Russian talking about an ancient garden complex. 0346 "Forever Young" by Shan Yichun. // 15665 via Urumqi (Xinjiang). Both Fair signals Mar. 19 (Ross-ON)
- 15475 **ANTARCTICA *LRA36***. 15475.98 RC USB, March 16 at 2211, LRA36 is on, VG S9+10 into Argentine SDR, YL with historical info mixing bits of harp? Music. By 2340, hitting S9+40 with lots of noise, self-imposed? Or by the SDR, otherwise only S7. Expected to stop by 2400 (Glenn Hauser, OK, WOR)
- 15540 **CHINA *China Business R 1010-1015 2.3***, Lingshi, Shanxi Chinese talk, musical interludes 35434 // 11610 (35232), 11750 (25232) and 11800 (25232) (AP-DNK)
- 15565 **VATICAN *Vatican Radio*** at 1700, w/ long talk by M in French to 1727, Vatican IS, then reopening in (listed) Tigrinya (N. Ethiopia, Eritrea) at 1740. Weakened signal at that time due to azimuth change -- Very Good 2/24 (Barton-AZ)
- 15580 **BOTSWANA *Voice of America***, 1944, 3-4-24. End of an interview of a man by a woman in English but only the odd word understood due to noise. Next program in slow English, which sounded like an English lesson. Very poor with noise. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 15770 **UNITED STATES *WRMI*** via WYFR in EE, possibly "Supreme Master TV." March 16, 2024, 0125 – 0138. SIO 444. Mixed OM / YL announcers discussing the war in Gaza and other countries and conflicts. The commentary seems biased toward North Korea and "Strong leadership." Considerable discussion. Target is ENAM. (Henley, WA)
- 15770 **UNITED STATES *WRMI*** Okeechobee, FL 1945-55 VOA Flashpoint news, Gaza, Ukraine, Lech Walesa (Poland); fair 2/13 (Prodan-ME)
- 17490 **CHINA *China Radio Int'l*** in Cantonese to SEA. March 16, 2024, 0050 – 0100. SIO 555. CC MX with gongs, bells, drums, and horns. YL singer with orchestra. YL announcer with long monologue and interesting MX. Program and language switch at 0100. (Henley, WA)

- 17490 **CHINA *China Radio Int'l/CGTN Radio*** via Kashi (Kashgar) 1151 "World Today" program with man in English talking about various types of AI such as Open AI, ChatGTP, Gemini and how AI is learning how to operate in the real world. Fair signal Mar. 20 (Ross-ON)
- 17550 **CHINA *Voice of China*** 0945-0950 2.3, Beijing Chinese talk and music 35433 // 17580 (45434) (AP-DNK)
- 17555 **VATICAN STATE (Clandestine) *Radio Dabanga*** // 15550. in Sudanese Arabic to Sudan. March 12, 2024, 1601 – 1611. SIO 333. Via Santa Maria di Galeria. OM with talk and MX clips. Programming from the Netherlands. Mixed OMs in talk. Moderate QRN / QSB. (Henley, WA)
- 17600 **ALGERIA *Ifrikyia FM*** Arabic 1730-40 m Ann, N. African music; poor+ 2/28 (Prodan-ME)
- 17720 **TURKEY *Voice of Turkey*** Arabic 1543-54 f singer, f Ann, internet address; poor-fair 2/20 (Prodan-ME)
- 17790 **ROMANIA *Radio Romania Int'l*** 1357-1407 child & adult in some sort of drama through toh with no break; fair 3/2 (Prodan-ME)
- 17790 **UNITED STATES *WRMI*** Okeechobee, FL 1551-1601 singing in background of R Romania broadcast to 1557, at 1558 "you are listening to Radio Africa Network broadcast from WRMI..." 1600- Apostolic Church, Brandon, Washington; faint 2/20 (Prodan-ME)
- 17850 **FRANCE *Radio France Int'l*** Hausa 1602-05 f spkr; poor 2/20 (Prodan-ME)
- 17880 **MALI *China Radio Int'l*** Arabic 1605-08 f Ann, African music/singing; poor-fair 2/20 (Prodan-ME)
- 20000 **UNITED STATES *WWV*** time and frequency broadcast in EE from Fort Collins, CO. March 16, 2024, 0044 – 0047. SIO 555. Excellent signal from WWV on this frequency. Clear signal, easy listening. Recorded OM with voice announcements. (Henley, WA)

NASWA Facebook Page: Join moderator Richard Murphy < rm271828@gmail.com > 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 E-group at Groups.io, 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, log into your Facebook account and then enter "North American Shortwave Association" into the Facebook search box at the top of the page. If you are into social media, give it a try. 

37th (!) Anniversary
Winter SWL Fest
Sponsored by 

May 10th - 11th, 2024
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
432 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Washington, PA 19034
And Via Zoom

Attend your favorite forums Friday and Saturday! Enjoy meeting with your friends in the Hospitality Room. 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.

As this is our first in-person Fest since the pandemic, it will be a smaller event, with no silent auction and no Saturday night banquet. We'll arrange a group dinner for Saturday night at a nearby restaurant; you'll pay on your own.

Please note, We are limiting in-person participation to 65, and there will be no paper registration on-site. Register early so you don't get shut out.

Checks should be made payable to WINTER SWL FEST. Register directly with the hotel for your rooms by visiting the SWL Fest website – <http://www.swlfest.com> and look for the **Group Hotel Reservations** link. The hotel's direct phone number is + (1) 215-591-9000. For 2024, the rate is **\$129** for the night of Thursday, May 9th, and **\$184** per night for the nights of Friday, May 10th and Saturday May 11th. Hot buffet breakfast is included in these rates. The hotel has King rooms, double rooms, and King or Double suites available, but quantities are limited. To get this rate you **MUST** tell the hotel staff you're with the group code **NASWA**.

THIS SPECIAL RATE IS ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL APRIL 18, 2024. NEITHER SPACE NOR THIS RATE MAY BE AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE.

The Holiday Inn is conveniently located near the interchange of I-276 and PA Route 309, at the Fort Washington exit (#339). The SEPTA Fort Washington regional rail station is adjacent to the hotel.

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

Paper registration is only available if you're joining us in person. Please fill out the form and send to WINTER SWL FEST, P.O. Box 3292, Allentown, PA 18106.

If you'll be participating via Zoom, please register via the Fest website.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
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(REQ. FOR REG. CONFIRMATION)

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

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Cancellations after May 4, 2024 cannot be refunded.

For more information, schedule, Zoom information, and updates, visit <http://www.swlfest.com>

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