

# The **NASA** Journal

VOLUME LXIV NUMBER 5

MAY 2024



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# NASWA Notes

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The "Winter" SWL Festival is only a few days away with FESTivities planned for the weekend of May 10-11, 2014, at our new location at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Fort Washington (432 Pennsylvania Avenue, Fort Washington, PA 19034). Although it is too late to register for attending the event "in person", last-minute Zoom participation can still be arranged. See <http://www.swlfest.com> for details! We hope to begin hearing from participants in the pages of The Journal commencing next month.

Here is the formal announcement from Tim Noonan regarding August's gathering of radio hobbyists in the Milwaukee area. "The 30th annual Madison-Milwaukee Get-Together will be in the Milwaukee area this year on Saturday, August 17, beginning at 1 p.m. It is an all-band event, so all hobbyists are welcome. The address is 801 E Park Blvd, Oak Creek WI 53154. Contact me (Tim Noonan) for more information at [DXing2@aol.com](mailto:DXing2@aol.com) or 414 813-7373." I have been fortunate to be able to attend a couple of these gatherings in the past and enjoy the event. If you are looking to spend time with like-minded radio hobbyists, this is a terrific opportunity.

This month John Herkimer takes us into the interesting world of Time & Frequency Standard Stations. Most NASWA DXers are familiar with time & frequency standard stations that occupy the shortwave

spectrum. However, some are not as easy to hear as others since many share the same frequencies as well-known WWV in Fort Collins, Colorado. Shown is an assortment of time & frequency station QSLs: WWV U.S., WWVH Hawaii, BPM China, CHU Canada, RWM Russia, HLA South Korea, LOL Argentina, and PPE Brazil.

Another good month of reading material in John Figliozzi's *Shortwave Center* and Bill Tilford's *Shortwave Program Spotlight*. First up in the *Shortwave Center* is Shortwave Propagation department with "How Scientists Are Tackling the Tricky Task of Solar Cycle Prediction" by Javier Barbuzano. Next up is a Shortwave Station Profile about "Radio Rebelde's 66th Anniversary." In the Shortwave Jamming department, we read about "How Taiwan Breaches Censors' Barriers" by Robin Guess. In the Shortwave Vintage section Craig Seager provides a "Retro Review: YAESU FRG-8800". Finally, there is a review of John Figliozzi's "The Worldwide Listening Guide New 11th Edition" by yours truly in what John calls the Shameless Self-Promotion Department. The *Shortwave Program Spotlight* column takes us to the Korean peninsula where KBS World's North American transmissions (and WMRI relay) and its programming are featured. This is followed by the Voice of Korea's programming which can be heard. Closing out the *Spotlight* are shorter features such as Radio Educación's Centennial Continues, Texas Radio Shortwave Migrates

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## Unity and Friendship

to Europe and the May Schedule for From the Isle of Music and Uncle Bill's Melting Pot.

The European DX Council ("EDXC") is planning another gathering from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 September for the 2024 EDXC Conference in Tartu, Estonia. Tartu is one of the 2024 cultural capitals of Europe. On Friday 20th, a coach from Tallinn (leaving at 1300 latest) is planned. This will visit the Estonian Broadcasting Museum in Türi (central Estonia). Other bus connections are available, e.g. from Tallinn or Riga. Flights to Tartu are currently only from Helsinki. Conference presentations will take place on Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning. On Sunday afternoon a bus trip to Valga is planned (on the border of Estonia and Latvia). Conference pricing will be moderate. Questions are welcome, we would

like to hear from all who plan to participate (this is not binding). For further info contact the conference organizer Risto Vähäkainu [rv@sdxl.fi](mailto:rv@sdxl.fi).

Please send your e-mail address to the club at [journal@naswa.net](mailto:journal@naswa.net) if you haven't done so yet. 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](mailto:journal@naswa.net). Thanks!

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

# Musings

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This Part 2 of Eric Bueneman's Musing from April.

We should be hearing more regionally produced programs on shortwave radio stations based in the United States, especially those on a given region's history and tourist attractions. For example, WBCQ should look at encouraging production of shows on tourist attractions in, the history and culture of, the New England states. If I, for instance, wanted to buy a shortwave station or put one on the air in the Southeastern United States, I would much rather program the station with regional news and features from the Southeast produced by program producers based in the Southeast, as well as news and features from statewide networks in the region. In my home region, the Midwest, I would emphasize Midwest-produced programs, along with news and features from statewide networks in the Midwest, such as the Missouri Net in my home state or the Dakota Network. While Bill Tilford's *From the Isle of Music* and *Uncle Bill's Melting Pot* didn't have a Midwest focus, these shows are produced in the Midwest, and would work well on a Midwest-based shortwave station. I think people would rather hear features with a regional focus; I'm sure listeners overseas would much rather hear about the culture in different regions of the United States than extreme right wing economic, political and social views. Espousing these right-wing political views, especially on shortwave, does not present the United States or any U.S. region in a positive light internationally.

What about sports programming? The only play-by-play sports I've heard on shortwave has primarily been soccer (called football in other parts of the world) games from Germany and Spain and rugby matches from New Zealand. In the case of play-by-play sports programming, it would be beamed to an area where a particular sport is popular. As an example, a station in the Southeast could beam an Atlanta Braves baseball game to the Americas and/or Asia, an Atlanta Hawks or Charlotte Hornets basketball game to Europe and Africa or a station in the Midwest beaming Saint Louis Blues hockey to Europe. The same could be done for college sports programming. As an example, if you have a California-based shortwave station, you could program Stanford University American (gridiron) football games to North America and basketball games to Europe, Asia and/or the Pacific.

I would sell airtime to pro-Western international broadcasters that aren't presently directing programming in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese to the Americas. The idea behind this is to give audiences in the Americas a choice, in terms of programming and viewpoints. I definitely don't want to hear right wing extremist views or the views of governments we don't agree with (Russia, North Korea and mainland China are prime examples) on the radio. Many international broadcasters shot themselves in the foot when they ended shortwave broadcasts to North America. BBC World Service programming in the United States is confined to the overnight time slot in many areas (Saint Louis, MO, the metro area where I live, is included); the only market where it is available full-time, as far as I know, is Nashville, TN. Deutsche Welle and NHK World programming in English is not available via local AM (MW) or FM radio in the United States, to the best of my knowledge. If I owned a shortwave radio station in the United States and, for example, wanted to relay the programming of BBC World Service or Deutsche Welle to the Americas, I would take care of the QSL requests on their behalf. The relay stations should take care of the QSLs for BBC and other broadcasters' programs relayed via their facilities.


What else needs to change? First, the minimum power of shortwave broadcast stations in the United States should be reduced. The 50,000-watt minimum set forth by the Federal Communications Commission is a bit high, in my view. Even 5,000 watts on shortwave can cover the North American continent with a decent signal. The prohibition on domestic broadcasting on shortwave in the United States must be done away with, provided that a station in one region of the United States can beam that signal to another region of the country (such as a station in New England beaming a signal to the American Southwest with, say 10,000 watts). Non-directional, high power shortwave services should be encouraged. For example, a 500,000-watt non-directional service originating in the Midwest could cover practically all of the Americas, as well as portions of Western Europe, West Africa and the eastern Pacific with a signal equivalent to a local AM (MW) station. There also should be a total ban on corporate ownership of shortwave broadcasters in the United States. Media companies like iHeart Radio, Audacy, Cumulus Media and Salem Media would not be good owners of shortwave radio stations, as they would put the same programming on shortwave radio that I am very tired of and, in my view, makes the United States look bad in the view of the rest of the world. Shortwave stations in the United States should be owned by people with innovative new ideas on radio programming and employment policies, as well as providing access for international broadcasters to the radio landscape in the Americas. On local AM (MW) and FM stations in the United States, dependence on a ratings system, in my

view, stifles innovation in the areas of programming, on-air and off-air employment policies and service to a given community, especially the international community.

How about charging airtime rates based on the transmitter's power? That could very well depend on the age of the transmitter and other factors. An older transmitter could very well be less efficient than the newer ones, which could potentially have an effect on the station's utility bills. For example, if a shortwave station has transmitters of various powers and are all newer units (say, less than ten years old), you could charge a program producer a certain rate if that program is placed on a 50-kW transmitter; the rate would be higher if you place that program on a 100 or 250 kW transmitter, and premium rates could be charged if the program is placed on a 500 kW transmitter. You could charge more to place a program on an older, less efficient 50 kW transmitter than to place one on a new, more efficient 500 kW transmitter. Public service programs, like *World of Radio*, should be aired free of charge or at a minimal rate. Tourist programs could be placed at reduced rates. There are so many ways this can be done.

In light of recent events in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, we must emphasize the importance of shortwave radio in getting past most forms of censorship, especially the blockage of Internet content critical of a government like the Russian or Israeli government. Mainland China is also proficient in blocking content critical of the government in Beijing. The transmission of text and images via shortwave broadcast media (like Shortwave Radiogram) is one idea that is worth looking at for more widespread distribution. Shortwave radio long allowed the listener to hear different perspectives on the events happening at the present time. We should be allowed to do this again.

It's high time for shortwave broadcasting to be reinvented as an alternative broadcast medium. We need low-cost alternatives to our local AM (MW) and FM broadcasters without having to depend on subscription-based satellite radio, expensive Internet services and our cell phones. We shouldn't be listening to the naysayers who believe the lie that "shortwave radio is antiquated"; we should be exploiting shortwave radio's full potential as an alternative broadcast medium. It all starts with effective marketing and education. What other thoughts and suggestions do you have?

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 

# Shortwave Program Spotlight

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When I began this column last fall, my grand plan was confine myself to things that could be heard on actual radios IN North America. I still intend for that to be the primary focus, but with so many programs (including my own) refocusing upon Europe, and some interesting things where webSDRs are the only real option for North Americans, I am going to carve out a corner for things listenable on webSDRs as well. I hope our purists understand.

## Korea and Korea Duke It Out



## KBS World Radio for North America

The DPRK's Voice of Korea gets so much attention from DXers that we sometimes forget that the ROK transmits directly to North America in English as well on 15575 kHz from 1300-1400 UTC. It is usually quite listenable here in the Midwest on a regular radio albeit often with some noise given the

time of day of the broadcasts. They even use an old-school interval signal (something I miss on many stations now) a few minutes before they start!

The English-language programming corresponds to what the KBS website lists as stream 3, meaning Monday-Friday, the hour begins with the 10-minute News Today followed by Korea 24 for the rest of the hour. The weekends are the all-music Weekend Playlist (SAPL), and the announcer mentions that it is hour 3 of that program with a suggestion to check out the rest of it on the KBS website or app. Korea 24 is a current-affairs program hosted by Kwan Jang-ho. Every show begins with a News Briefing followed by a News & People segment, there is also a daily Korea Trending.

Other content in Korea 24 varies by day:

Mondays: Weekly Sports News Round Up

Tuesdays: Hallyu Highlights (a cultural segment regarding the international spread of many different aspects of Korean culture)

Wednesday: Korea Book Club. The primary hosts are Kwon Jang-ho and Barry Welsh with a monthly appearance by Beth Eunhee Hong to discuss new books and bestsellers not yet available in the English language.

Thursday: Explore Korea does just that.

Friday: Movie Spotlight (reviews of newly-released films of interest to listeners).

On Saturdays and Sundays, the Weekend Playlist takes over. Hosted by Lina Kwon, the broadcast hour is actually the final hour of a three-hour program (the rest requires using their website or an app) that on Saturdays is focused mainly on current KPOP hits, and Sunday is more nostalgic. I found the Sunday show to be musically more varied than I had anticipated (all songs in the Korean language but stylistically diverse, a very pleasant hour indeed).

From 1400-1500 UTC, KBS for NAM continues on 15575 in the Korean language.

KBS World Radio now shows up on WRMI by default in WRMI's World Radio Network slot on 5800 kHz from 0200-0300 UTC Tuesday-Saturday (the rest of the weekend is taken by religious programming). The WRN slot had been a half-hour of Deutsche Welle and a half-hour of NHK before the time change. Both the KBS and WRN websites incorrectly show WRN carrying the half-hour English Service 4 at that time, but the program corresponds more to the hour-long English Service 3. Although it is a pity that North American listeners lost Deutsche Welle (which is still an interesting listen in spite of all the managerial attempts not to be) and NHK (still interesting in spite of its attempted murder by a thousand cuts over the years), KBS is relevant and interesting as well. I wish WRN and the resources and desire to buy more time on a relay in the US but having just migrated to Europe for listenership reasons myself, my moral authority on that issue is admittedly limited.

### **The Voice of Korea (VOK)**

When I first began listening to the DPRK in the 70s, it was a true DX catch, and when I was able to catch it, the contents were mind-numbingly dull, "bested" perhaps only by Radio Tirana's Hoxha-era litany of the most recent cement production statistics and



other such indispensable nuggets. A couple of things have happened in recent years however – VOK (Voice of Korea) has been the beneficiary of significant transmitter upgrades (mostly at 200kw), making it easy listening on the North American west coast if still not so much here in the Midwest, and it has discovered that listenable, if sometimes-repetitive, music helps keep listeners tuned in. The repetitive feature is the marshal music segment opening each broadcast, but there is a healthy dose of lighter fare later in the broadcasts, especially on weekends, which are more heavily focused on music. You still won't hear hard rock or K-Pop, and not being fluent in Korean myself, I need to include the caveat that the lyrics may be a game-changer for those who do understand them given many of the ideologically-correct titles, but from a strictly musical perspective some of the songs can be pleasant, adding some cognitive dissonance to some of the more vociferous news and commentary (in fairness, in contrast to those Korean-language domestic TV clips threatening the West with incineration that sometimes turn up with captions on Western TV channels, the usual radio fare, while highly ideological, is usually much more laid back than that, inflicting more tedium than terror). There was some beautiful instrumental piano music on a recent Sunday morning broadcast, and another instrumental song made me wonder if someone had been watching old Lawrence Welk shows on the sly. I have observed many times in many settings that music

plays a critical role in the “force for peace” function of shortwave radio generally. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the two Koreas could settle things with a Battle of The Bands or a dance-off? Things won’t play out that way unfortunately, but one can dream.

For the English language service to North America, the official schedule is 1300-1457, then 1500-1657 UTC on 9435 and 11710 kHz. There are various other transmissions in English aimed at other continents; some noisy but potentially listenable options from those in Western NAM include 13760 and 15245 kHz from 1800-1857 UTC. Worth tuning in now and then, especially when the sabers are rattling on domestic TV. The radio version is often less ominous than what emanates from some North American end-times pulpits with some light tunes to boot.

### 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, April the 1960s, and I would anticipate the 1970s for May including of course music from those decades. Even if you are not hispanohablante, the 1970s was a special time in Mexican music, so worth checking that out. 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 the rescheduled Encuentro Diexista (now August 2-3, pushed back from the originally-planned June), which will be of more direct interest to Spanish-speaking NASWA members and others.

## TEXAS RADIO SHORTWAVE

### Texas Radio Shortwave Migrates to Europe

This is likely to be one of those things where North American listeners will need to use a webSDR, but Texas Radio Shortwave will be broadcasting on Radio Channel 292 the first Sunday of the month (May 4 this month) from 1000-1100 UTC on 9670 kHz and from 2100-2200 UTC on 3955 khz. It is uncertain whether the 3955 transmissions will be listenable in North America.

### May Schedule for *From the Isle of Music* and *Uncle Bill’s Melting Pot*



This is another “North Americans will need to use a webSDR” entry: *From The Isle of Music* and *Uncle Bill’s Melting Pot* will be on Radio Channel 292 as per the following schedule:

*From the Isle of Music* will air every second Saturday from 0900-1000 UTC on 9670 and 1900-2000 UTC on 3955 and 6070 kHz. 9670 uses a directional booster eastward (although that had technical issues in April),

and 3955 is an addition to the show's grid after successful tests.

May's episode will feature special guest Kiki Valera with his new son cubano album, *Vacilón Santiaguero*.

*Uncle Bill's Melting Pot* will air every third Saturday from 0900-1000 UTC on 9670 and 1900-2000 UTC on 3955 and 6070 kHz. 3955 is an addition after successful tests in April.

May's episode will feature Eugene Pao, Hong Kong's foremost jazz guitarist, with his new release.

North American listeners will almost certainly need to use a web SDR for both these programs, 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. The 1900 UTC transmission usually tracks well on UTwente.

### Also on WebSDR: Korches Radio

Having as I do an affection for Volksmusik (back in the day, Volkstümliche Hitparade was one of my favorite shows on Deutsche Welle's German service), I tuned in Korches



on Radio Channel 292, 6070 kHz using a webSDR in Italy. This is a monthly program with its next scheduled broadcast Sunday, May 5 from 1400-1500 UTC on 6070 kHz. April's offering was more in the Schlager (literally Hits, but in the context of German popular music often more like Germany's and Austria's answer to country-rock) than Volksmusik category, but I am hoping that perhaps some echte Volksmusik may show up in future episodes and will monitor accordingly.

*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

**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](mailto: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.



# International Broadcasting

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## US international broadcasting and regime change

### Hiring and firing entity heads becomes a bit less political

Much of international broadcasting has an audience because people in some countries are seeking news that is more objective and comprehensive than what they receive from their state controlled domestic media. To succeed, this type of international broadcasting must have credibility. To achieve such credibility, it must be independent. And it can be independent only if it is led by managers who are not skills for the government in power.

When the Broadcasting Board of Governors was abolished in 2018, its authority to hire and fire directors of the U.S. international broadcasting entities (VOA, RFE/RL, etc) was transferred to the *politically appointed* CEO of the US Agency for Global Media (BBG's replacement bureaucracy). This means that when a new president is elected, he/she (with Senate consent) could appoint a new USAGM CEO, who will in turn appoint like-minded heads of the entities, who will appoint managers who are on board with the new paradigm, and that will be evident in the broadcast content.

### Lessons from Radio Portugal and Radio Prague

You might remember Radio Portugal in the 1970s. At the beginning of the decade, it was in line with the right-wing colonialist regime

in Lisbon ("The West can and will win"). After the Carnation Revolution in 1974, Radio Portugal, with the same announcers, was in congruence with the new left-wing government. Then the "Group of Nine" brought Portugal back to a more moderate path, and Radio Portugal followed suit.

The same thing happened with Radio Prague. Previous to 1968, it was dutifully communist, albeit with glimmers of humanity not heard on the other Warsaw Pact shortwave stations. It became refreshingly candid during the Prague Spring and even for a bit after the Soviet invasion. Then new voices were heard on Radio Prague, and it reverted to staid party propaganda. A similar progression of events happened before, during and after the Velvet Revolution of 1989-90, minus the return to communism.

Radio Portugal and Radio Prague during those times were fascinating listening, but it also illustrated that the stations were not independent sources of news. Instead, they toed the line of whatever government happened to be in power.

The same thing almost happened to U.S. international broadcasting during the Trump Administration. Due to dawdling by the Senate, Trump's choice to be new USAGM CEO, Michael Pack, was not installed until 2020. Pack promptly appointed conservatives to head the entities, including

Robert Reilly at VOA and Ted Lipien at RFE/RL, and to fill top USAGM management slots. But they took over too late in the Trump Administration to have much impact on content. Had Trump been re-elected, U.S. international broadcasting would have a rather different complexion today.

### **USAGM entity heads in the Civil Service**

And, so, I read with interest an article in the National Review, April 11 ([tinyurl.com/24r725xr](https://www.tinyurl.com/24r725xr)). USAGM managers “announced that the heads of those outlets [USAGM entities] — who have been chosen by the agency’s politically appointed CEO for decades — would instead become civil-service posts.”

Actually, the USAGM CEO has been making such appointments for less than a decade. And, with recent changes of procedure, the International Broadcasting Advisory Board must approve any such appointment or dismissal by the USAGM CEO. Civil service status for entity heads adds another layer of protection from political pressure, beyond the IBAB’s approval authority. Note, however, that civil servants can be fired for any reason during their one-year probationary period. And I wonder about civil service status for the presidents of RFE/RL, Radio Free Asia, and Middle East Broadcasting Network, which are supposed to be corporations, purposely different from government agencies like VOA and Office of Cuba Broadcasting.

NASWA member Dan Robinson is quoted in the NR piece. Under the new plan, he said, “the VOA director ... can become in essence part of the embedded opposition to a new Trump-appointed CEO.” Should a new pro-Trump CEO of USAGM be able to hire a pro-Trump VOA director, resulting in pro-Trump content, or at least content completely in

line with Trump policies? When regimes changed, such jarring shifts in tone happened with Radio Portugal and Radio Prague. It also happened at VOA, less bluntly but perceptibly, until the late 1990s. When the bipartisan BBG existed, changes in leadership at VOA and the other entities were not abruptly pegged to presidential elections.

### **Michael Abramowitz will be the new VOA director**

Since the publication of the National Review piece, on April 19, USAGM issued this in a press release: “The U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) has named Michael Abramowitz as the new director of Voice of America (VOA). Abramowitz is currently president of Freedom House – a nonpartisan organization that works to create a world where all are free – and will succeed VOA Acting Director John Lippman later this year.”

The wording is vague. It does not specifically state that USAGM CEO Amanda Bennett made the appointment. And any role by the International Broadcasting Advisory Board in approving him was not mentioned. Will Abramowitz be Civil Service? At least it did not say that he was appointed by President Biden.

In the press release, Abramowitz is quoted: “Together, we will win the information war.” “Information war” is an unfortunate term for a news organization seeking to establish its credibility. The State Department’s Global Engagement Center might more appropriately be described as engaging in “information war,” but even there it’s not a brilliant turn of phrase.

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

# Shortwave Center

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*We're still basking in the top of the current solar cycle, even if there are fewer stations to chase in this one as opposed to the last one. So, we start May's SWC with an interesting story about signal propagation...*

## SHORTWAVE PROPAGATION

### How Scientists Are Tackling the Tricky Task of Solar Cycle Prediction

by Javier Barbuzano  
(Quanta Magazine via Juegen Kubiak/Worldwide DX Club)

*Scientists have struggled to accurately forecast the strength of the sun's 11-year cycle - even after centuries of solar observations.*

The sun looks immutable, a boring celestial lightbulb that's always turned on. But this fusion-powered ball of plasma is in constant flux. Every 11 years or so, it swings between slumber and an active, unruly epoch marked by sunspots and solar eruptions, such as flares and plasma outbursts.



*Figure 1: Solar flares release huge amounts of energy.*

The sun is now approaching its maximum level of activity in the current cycle, and it's not exactly behaving according to plan. Scientists had predicted that this cycle would be weak, like the previous one, but the sun is exhibiting a level of As the solar cycle marches toward maximum, sunspots migrate toward the sun's equator. This composite image is made from six months' worth of observations from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory. Photo by Senol Sanli activity unseen in more than 20 years. In June and July of this year, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), it averaged roughly 160 sunspots daily, more than twice as many as predicted. Solar flares are also increasing.

The discrepancy between prediction and observation was apparent as early as July 2022, when Nicola Fox - then the director of NASA's heliophysics division - wrote on NASA's website that "the Sun has been much more active this cycle than anticipated."

A reliable solar cycle prediction is now more important than ever because of our increasing dependence on vulnerable technology. Earth's atmosphere puffs up with solar activity and increases the drag on the (very many) satellites that need to maneuver in orbit. Solar outbursts can fry electronic equipment, jam radio signals, confound GPS systems, and disrupt power grids.

As with most forecasts, the challenges of predicting the solar cycle are numerous. It doesn't follow a clear pattern from one cycle to the next - some are shorter than others - and solar physics is still a relatively young discipline. "We like to say we're about 60 years behind the weather forecasters," said Robert Leamon, a solar physicist at the University of Maryland.

Historically, researchers looked for statistical correlations between solar activity and the number of sunspots, their total surface area, and the timing of their appearance. But the scientific consensus is that those techniques - even while modernized - don't reveal much about the sun's future behavior. Now, fueled by more sophisticated solar observations, scientists are evaluating and finessing methods that instead use the inner workings of the sun as a guide.

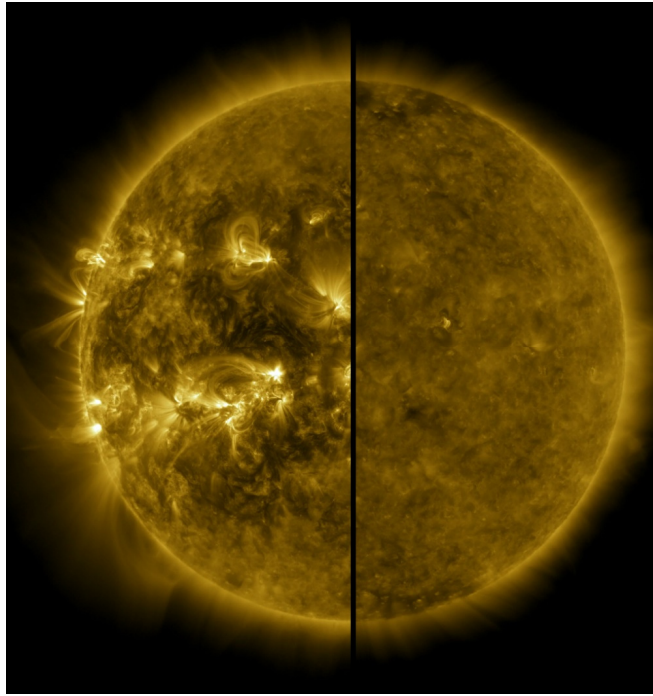


Figure 2: This split image shows the difference between an active Sun during solar maximum (left, April 2014) and quiet Sun during a solar minimum (right, December 2019)

While progress is slow - 11 years is a long time - let's take a closer look at the current state of solar system prediction.

### Chasing Sunspots

Scientists inadvertently started tracking the solar cycle more than 400 years ago, when Galileo first observed sunspots dappling the sun's face. Now it's clear that these dark blotches are abundant during solar maximum and mostly absent at solar minimum. Today, while scientists continue to improve

their understanding of the physics driving that oscillation, sunspots still serve as a proxy for the sun's activity.

In 1989, NASA and NOAA started asking solar cycle prediction panels to forecast the strength and timing of the next solar cycle. To do that, panel experts evaluate predictions made by other researchers in the field. These predictions typically use a value called R - the 13-month average of the number of sunspots (smoothed, or weighted, over the current month plus six months on either side) - as an indicator of the sun's activity.

Nailing R for the next maximum is considered the pinnacle of solar cycle prediction.

The panels don't have a great track record, though. In 2006, the Cycle 24 prediction panel began its deliberations; ultimately, the

team couldn't reach a consensus and predicted, unhelpfully, that Cycle 24 was going to be either very weak or very strong. (It turned out to be weak.) "They were very much split in half," said Lisa Upton, co-chair of the current Cycle 25 prediction panel and a solar physicist at the Southwest Research Institute. "There were some heated exchanges."

Predicting Cycle 25 - which kicked off in December 2019- looked to be much simpler. In March 2019, Upton and her colleagues predicted it would peak in July 2025 with an average of 115 sunspots. They had sifted through 61 predictions with R values ranging from 50 to 229, but they favored a class of predictions based on solar physics that were largely in agreement with each other.

"We had it pretty easy," Upton said. "We all agreed there was going to be a fairly weak cycle."

The sun had different plans.

### Signs of Change

Modern physics-based methods come in two flavors. One looks for observable physical parameters - called precursors - that foreshadow the strength of the upcoming cycle. The other uses computer modeling to re-create the physics of the sun and spin it forward.

Among precursors, the most successful predictor so far is the strength of the magnetic field at the sun's poles during solar minimum - which the Cycle 25 prediction panel based its current forecast on. When the sun is dormant, its magnetic field is a dipole, like a bar magnet with positive and negative ends. The strength of the dipole governs a process that eventually flips the polarity of the magnetic field, which causes the solar cycle. Scientists have found, over the years, that the strength of the polar field at minimum is strongly correlated to the strength of the upcoming cycle.

One hitch with this predictor is that the polar field has only been directly measured for the last four cycles, since 1976. But there are indirect ways to gauge its strength, like the aa-index, which uses disturbances in Earth's magnetic field as a proxy for the polar

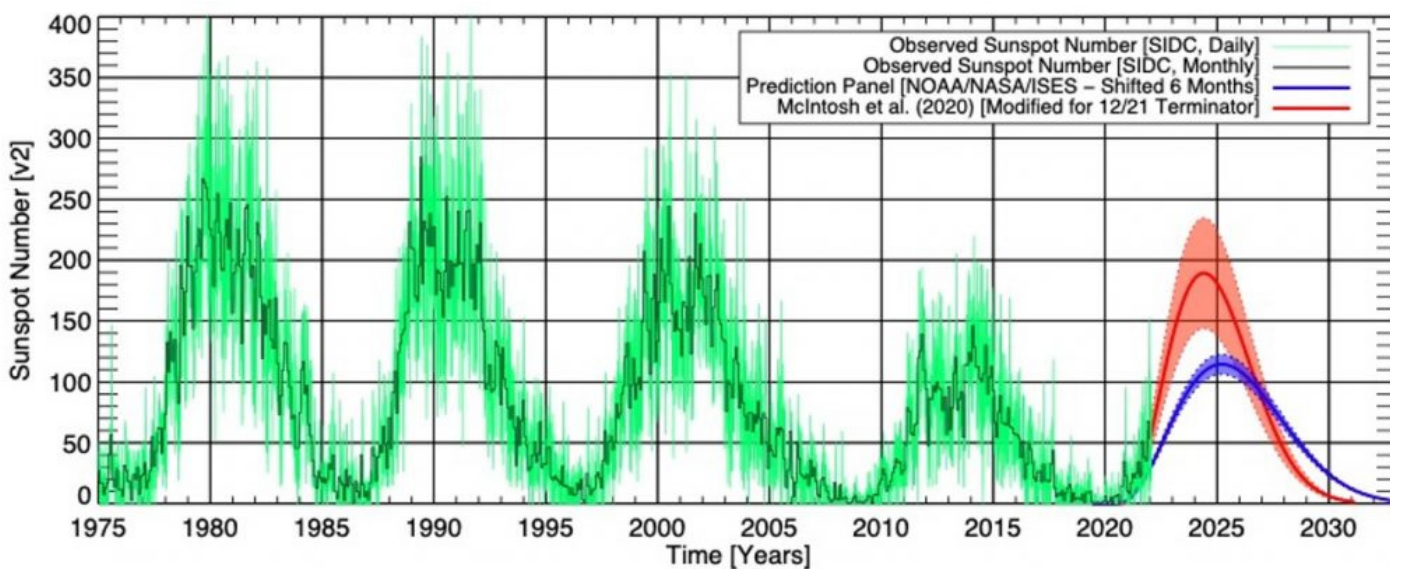


Figure 3: This chart shows the original predicted number of sunspots, represented by the blue line. The green line shows the observed sunspots, which are trending toward the red line which predicts a higher number of sunspots.

field strength; those have been measured for over 150 years - offering another cluster of data points.

"With four points, the correlation might be a coincidence, but once you get 13 points, it looks less like a coincidence," said Robert Cameron, a solar physicist at the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research in Göttingen, Germany, who was part of the last prediction panel.

## **A New Hope**

Recently, a study led by Robert Leamon and Scott McIntosh of the National Center for Atmospheric Research identified another promising precursor called a terminator event. It's the moment when magnetic activity from the previous cycle vanishes and is replaced by magnetic activity from the new one.

Leamon and McIntosh found clues in historical data suggesting that the timing of the terminator corresponds to the strength of the new cycle: An early terminator translates into more sunspots, and thus a stronger cycle. Based on the last terminator, which occurred in December 2021, the pair predicted that Cycle 25 would max out at 185 sunspots and peak in July 2024, nearly a full year earlier than the official prediction.

"I'm not going to gloat," Leamon said. "But [the sun] is certainly a lot more active than the panel consensus."

One limitation of most precursor methods, though, is that they are based on solar minimum- scientists can't make a new prediction until the cycle is about to begin. That's why they sometimes look for an assist from physics-based methods that are similar to complex climate prediction models. These computer simulations use fluid dynamics and electromagnetism to re-create solar physics;

scientists then feed in observational data to anticipate what the polar field and other precursors could look like a few years out.

## **A Buried Logic**

But physics-based predictions are only half of the forecasts the Cycle 25 panel analyzed. The rest, although perhaps less successful now, could prove useful in the future.

These are a mix of strategies, most of which use previous solar cycles to predict the current number of sunspots. Such methods sometimes find strong correlations between sunspots and things that initially appear to be pretty random, said Víctor Sánchez Carrasco, a solar physicist at the University of Extremadura in Spain. Those correlations might just be coincidence, he said, but there's also a chance they are tapping into "some underlying physics that we still don't understand."

And physicists continue trying new approaches, such as using artificial intelligence or neural networks to search for correlations among the centuries of sunspot data. "There's a mystique associated with such long time series," said the astrophysicist Eurico Covas, a collaborator with the Institute of Astrophysics and Space Sciences in Portugal.

For now, Upton still thinks that the panel's prediction isn't dead yet. "It's looking like the cycle [strength] might be a little bit larger than we predicted, but not significantly larger," she said. She notes that the smoothed curve, once all the data is in, probably won't deviate as dramatically as the monthly averages that NOAA plots. And based on the current cycle's evolution, Carrasco agrees that Cycle 25 will likely be stronger than the panel's prediction but still weaker than average. "The next six months

are key to see where Solar Cycle 25 is going," he said.

Despite these uncertainties, Leamon is confident that physicists are close to being

able to cast accurate predictions. By 2030, when the next panel convenes, "we are going to have a much better handle on it," he said. "This is going to be the last cycle we don't fully understand."

## SHORTWAVE STATION PROFILE

### Radio Rebelde's 66th Anniversary

(Michel Fremy Facebook Page 'Radio Magazine' (24 Feb 2024)

Google translated from French.)

(British DX Club's Communication)

24th February 2024 was the 66th anniversary of "Radio Rebelde, Emisora de la Revolución Cubana" ("broadcaster of the Cuban Revolution").

"Aquí Radio Rebelde La Voz de la Sierra Maestra": it is with these words that the radio of Ernesto 'Ché' Guevara first launched. The first transmission, which lasted 20 minutes, took place on 24 February 1958, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, followed by another at 9 o'clock. It began with the first notes of the rebels' Invading Anthem, then Captain Luis Orlando Rodríguez, the station's first director, read an editorial on the founding of the station.

"**Radio Rebelde** was created to contribute to the necessary and useful orientation of the people in this decisive hour of the country, to make known the true intention of this struggle and to encourage and practice virtue wherever it is found, and to come together and love and live in passion for the truth as Jose Martí had said."

In 1957, a few months after the landing of the yacht Granma, Che Guevara realised how necessary and useful it was to have a radio which served to coordinate combat actions between the rebel troops and to break the silence, imposed by the dictatorship, on the progress of the war in the mountains and

transmit directives and slogans for the development of the global struggle against tyranny. It was Che himself who ordered the transfer of the equipment to the island and its installation on the Sierra Maestra in the province of Granma.

The radio was installed in a small house located in Alto de Conrado, near Che's camp in La Mesa, Sierra Maestra. The transmitter, which was placed on the table, behind the microphone, was of the American brand, it was a Collins, model 32-V-2. It had a power of 120 to 150 Watts and broadcast on short wave in the 20-metre band.

To escape central power, failing to be able to install a powerful transmitter, the guerrillas quickly equipped each rebel column with a small radio station, thus forming the Freedom Channel. At the end of the war, 32 stations from the guerrilla columns were connected to **Radio Rebelde**. Rebelde played an important and unifying role in the Cuban revolution.

On 31 December 1958, by order of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the station was dismantled from Che's camp in La Mesa, Sierra Maestra and reinstalled in Palma Soriano (near Santiago de Cuba). On 1 January 1959, **Radio Rebelde** broadcast Fidel Castro's speech live to the people of

Cuba, the clandestine radio station thus becoming the national broadcaster of the new republic.

66 years later, **Radio Rebelde** broadcasts 24 hours a day a varied program of national and international music, news and sports programs on AM, FM and shortwave [5025 kHz]. With the help of the Soviets, the

station had set up a national network and after the end of the USSR, it was China that helped Radiocuba – Señal Radio y TV.

Another memory of the first broadcast still remains on the airwaves: the callsign of Radio Rebelde: the Invading Anthem is still the station sign used by Radio Habana Cuba!

## SHORTWAVE JAMMING

### How Taiwan Breaches Censors' Barriers

March 28, 2024, By Robin Guess (VOA News)  
(Australian DX News)



Radio-Taiwan International

#### Radio Taiwan International QSL card

Breaking the barriers of censorship in China, Myanmar and North Korea is a daunting task, as these countries have built almost impenetrable firewalls against outside news and information. But **Radio Taiwan International** is successfully using shortwave radio to break through.

“We potentially have 70 million to 1.2 billion listeners who rely on shortwave to get information [from] outside of their country,” said Isis Lee, RTI’s vice president.

On the air since 1928, **RTI** say their mission is to bring listeners stories they won’t or can’t hear or see on television, radio, online or in newspapers.

“One of our most important audiences to reach is the Mandarin-speaking society in China, which has very limited internet access,” Lee told **VOA**. “We have a very big audience in China, and they rely on **RTI** shortwave service to get perspective outside of China in their mother language,” she added.

There are more than 1 billion Mandarin speakers worldwide, and most of them are in China.

Shortwave radio is considered outdated and old fashioned by many in the digital age dominated by the internet. But two key advantages of shortwave radio for the people who rely on it for information and those doing the broadcasting are that it is difficult for governments to censor it or to track its listeners.

“Chinese central party authorities maintain an extensive censorship regime with the aim of preventing citizens from accessing information from overseas that might be problematic for the party,” said Carl Minzer, a China expert at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Like other authoritarian regimes that **RTI** reaches, censorship of news and information is Chinese government policy, experts say, and there is no freedom of the press.

“One of the key things they are focused on is Chinese language material that would be easily consumable by the population in China, because that is precisely the stuff that many more people could access, and it would be more troubling from the perspective of Chinese authorities,” added Minzer. Lee said RTI uses its shortwave radio programming to rebut propaganda, false narratives and disinformation circulating in repressed countries.

Xu Quan started listening to RTI when he was 12 years old and says his favorite programs are "Freedom" and "Cross-Strait News Herald."

“I like to get two types of information through RTI’s broadcasts,” Quan told VOA via email.

“One is news that cannot be heard or seen in mainland China, especially breaking news,” Quan said. “The other is news on the political situation in Taiwan, especially the elections, which can deepen my understanding of Taiwan’s democratic politics.”

Lee said **RTI** targets China, Myanmar, North Korea and areas of Southeast Asia where there is no free internet and little access to mobile phones and free media.

**RTI** broadcasts shortwave programs on politics, world affairs, culture, health and music, which they say reach 77 countries where listeners regularly give them feedback. They receive letters and messages on social media and conduct tests from various locations on different frequencies to measure their reach.

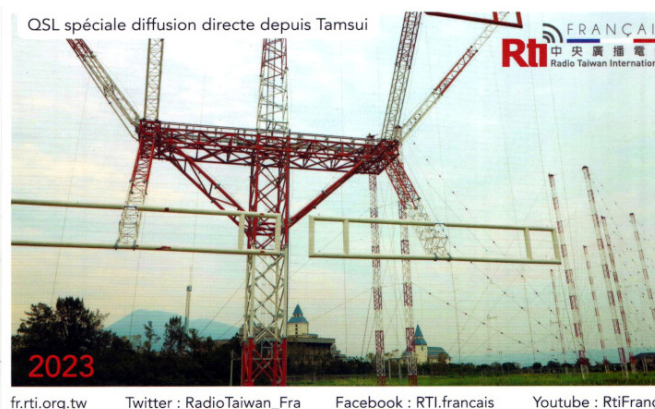
Lees says some of the most touching feedback they’ve received is from North Korean fishermen who say they are grateful to get RTI’s shortwave signal loudly and clearly.

**RTI** also touched American John Vantrieste when he was a boy living in Maryland.

“I had never heard of shortwave before, but I learned that these stations were out there, and I asked for a shortwave for Christmas,” Van Trieste told **VOA**. “And shortly after that, I came across Radio Taiwan.”

**RTI** also motivated Van Trieste to learn Mandarin, among the other languages he speaks. He now lives in Taipei and is a journalist at multimedia TaiwanPlus.

“I think it [**RTI**] is especially important for people in areas like Tibet,” said Van Trieste, who used to work for **RTI**. “And the Uyghur people of Xinjiang or East Turkestan. They are even further from where the information



*Radio Taiwan International QSL card from French Service featuring antenna system.*

is. Many people in the big cities of China have VPNs and can get around the firewalls. But if you are in a rural area, maybe the internet is not great, and the government is actively repressing you and your family.”

The use of analogue shortwave radio is declining worldwide. **VOA** and most other international broadcasters have curtailed use of shortwave in recent years, citing dwindling audiences that have migrated to FM and the internet, and electricity costs for high powered transmitters.

## SHORTWAVE VINTAGE

### Retro Review: YAESU FRG-8800

By Craig Seager  
(Australian DX News)

From 1976-1985 Japan's Yaesu-Musen company had established good credibility within both the DXing and casual listening communities with a series of desktop communications receivers that whilst not professional quality, had sufficient credentials to span the varied requirements of the in-home market. Lots of folk purchased FRG-7's, FRG 7700's, and yes, even FRG-7000's, leaving the question of "what's next" from this impressive niche manufacturer.

“A lot of people are saying that shortwave is not fashionable and an old way of communication, Lee told **VOA**. “But to us it is not, because we know that there are still a lot of people depending on shortwave radio to get information.”

Lee added that as long as audiences continue to count on **RTI**, there are no plans to stop broadcasting.

The answer was a much more modern looking unit, equipped with microprocessor control, and a large green backlit LCD panel that also incorporated a bar graph S meter. Computers had begun to make many more things possible, and though it was via a clunky CAT interface, The **Yaesu FRG-8800** could indeed be controlled remotely via a PC's RS232C port (option FIF-232C).

The **FRG-8800** is an all-mode receiver, covering a frequency range from 150 kHz to 30 MHz, with an optional VHF converter extending coverage to 118-173.999 MHz (catalogue FRV-8800) . It features triple conversion and improved frequency stability over its predecessors. AC supply voltages of 110, 120, 220, or 240V are accepted, increasing adoption across the globe. Audio quality is very good, via a front-mounted speaker. Squelch, tone and scanning facilities are included, as well as two 24-hour clocks (with timers).



*YAESU FRG-8800 Communications Receiver*



*Rear panel featuring memory battery retainer, remote jacks, CAT input, accessory DIN and a rather quaintly positioned noise blanker pulsing bandwidth switch. Additionally line-out, record jack and beep tone length adjustment for push button controls.*

Operation is straight forward, with both direct entry keypad and two-speed tuning. Frequency resolution is down to 100 Hz, which the author still maintains is sufficient for most applications, despite many more modern sets offering 1 Hz resolution.

12 memories are offered, and a standard retainer at the rear houses 3 AA batteries, for non-volatility. AM, FM, USB and LSB/CW modes are supported, and there are both attenuator and RF gain controls to suppress overload in strong signal areas.

The two available bandwidths are of the style we had come to expect from Yaesu, nominally 6 and 2.7 kHz, utilizing both ceramic and crystal filters. The configuration can be described as great for SWL activities, but just adequate for serious DXing. Ripe for modification with better shaped and/or narrower units!

Speaking of such matters, there are a variety of mods that will improve performance (and maybe fry your set if you don't have some basic electronics expertise!). The first thing I often go for with any Yaesu radio, is to remove the mediumwave attenuator. They all need that!

In some markets (mostly European, I think), frequency coverage was restricted to below

26.1 MHz This is easily remediable and documented also in the service manual.

Some odd problems sometimes emerge with these sets, including a wobbly tuning knob. There is a bit of web resource and a couple of YouTube guys that have solutions for that. Sometimes the display may blink, or other odd behaviours will manifest themselves. A simple reset (described in the operating manual) will usually do the trick. The green LEDs that backlight the display also fail over time. Jaycar to the rescue! (PN ZD0125 is a good substitute).

My own example had an unknown failure, and I stuck it under the house for a couple of years whilst contemplating the problem/procrastinating (you be the judge of which ☺), before getting the urge to work on it again. A total strip down, removing and re-seating all jumpers, resoldering suspect joints and cleaning earthing points seemed to do the trick. One wire to the display module had come adrift, but I can't hand on heart be certain that this occurred prior to my tinkering. In any case, the set is operating again, apparently to full spec.

It is unlikely that a full realignment will ever be needed, unless there is a catastrophic event, however such is described in the service manual, sourced readily online.

Overall, this is perhaps Yaesu's best-performed general coverage receiver, but not the most fun; that crown goes to the redoubtable **FRG-7**. The later **FRG-100** was the end of the line, and had mixed reviews, despite relative longevity. I bought one when they first came out, but moved it on after a couple of years, more due to lack of sustained endorphin rush during use than inherent poor performance. Lacking general appeal, one might say.

Key Specifications:

Sensitivity <0.4  $\mu$ V 10db S+N/N SSB/CW  
Audio output: 1.4W into 8 ohm  
Image Rejection: >60dB Stability

Stability <50 Hz after 30 minutes  
Selectivity: 6/2.7 kHz

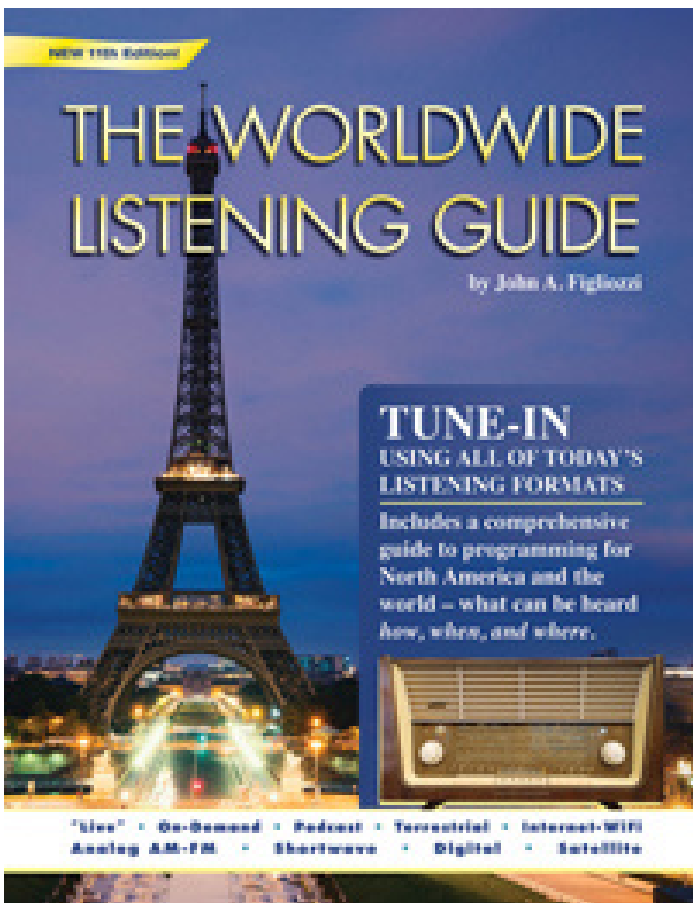
## SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTION DEPT.

[Ed. Note: To my credit, I did not write this review myself. I only twisted Mr. D'Angelo's arm to write it.]

# Book Review: The Worldwide Listening Guide

## New 11th Edition!

By John A. Figliozzi  
Reviewed by Richard A. D'Angelo



The new 11<sup>th</sup> edition of John Figliozzi's popular **Worldwide Listening Guide** ("the Guide") was published in January 2024 by Master Publishing, Inc. When the Guide

commenced over 30 years ago, its listings were found exclusively on shortwave, which was the only way a station could broadcast internationally to a worldwide audience. Over the years, other radio platforms emerged. The Internet has pushed shortwave more and more into the background. The author explains that today we may be on the threshold of the next major change in radio with delivery on demand or podcasting. The switch in behavior is happening quickly as radio content providers spur the shift mainly because of the financial challenges they are experiencing. The BBC and others are emphasizing their podcasts while they downplay their broadcasting and streaming program schedules on their Internet sites. Consequently, the Guide is oriented toward "appointment" listening while the principal focus continues to be on public radio. The Guide continues to change as listening formats evolve.

A little background information about the author who has been an active shortwave listener and programming enthusiast for several decades. John has always been a

consumer of radio content, critically analyzing and commenting upon the good, the bad and the ugly for many years. Currently, he is the editor for the club's Shortwave Center column as well as a member of its Executive Council. John has edited several other columns about shortwave radio and listening topics for other radio publications as well. In addition, each year he shares the hosting duties with Richard Cuff for the NASWA sponsored annual Winter Shortwave Listeners Festival.

The Guide's excellent Table of Contents (page 3) provides an essential roadmap for getting around the publication. There are five main sections that would be utilized on a day-to-day basis so those will be the primary focus of my comments. The five main sections are (1) *The Evolution of Radio and Its Status Today* (pages 6-38), (2) *The Big Six* (pages 39-55), (3) *Consolidated Program Listing* (pages 59-116), (4) *Classified Program Lists* (pages 117-145) and (5) *Program Name & Description* (pages 146-156).

The first main section, *The Evolution of Radio and Its Status Today*, is a discussion of various platforms being used today. These include AM medium wave radio including shortwave radio, FM radio, Digital Platforms, SiriusXM Satellite Radio, and Internet radio.

The next main section is an interesting discussion of *The Big Six* which includes BBC Radio (United Kingdom), ABC Radio (Australia), CBC Radio (Canada), RTE Radio (Ireland), RNZ Radio (New Zealand) and NPR Radio (United States). In the author's opinion - and I heartily agree with him - the Big Six are the best English language radio networks in the world representing the finest the medium has to offer in terms of organization, scope of service and craft of programs.

The next section is the *Consolidated Program Listing*. This section would be considered by many radio listeners to be the principal highlight of the Guide with a twenty-four-hour listing of stations, in the various formats, being presented. It contains some 4,000 individual broadcasts that you can receive on your AM, FM, shortwave analog, digital, Sirius/XM, internet, WiFi or smartphone radio.

The next section is the *Classified Program Lists* which classify programs into popular topic areas to provide you with a handy cross-reference to the information in the *Consolidated Program Listing*. Within each classification, the programs are arranged alphabetically by program title. Then each listing shows the day of week and time of day in UTC that they are broadcast, and finally shows the Station/Network that carries the program. The classified program listings make it easy to find programs by topic or subject area, such as: Arts, Culture & History; Current Affairs, Everyday Domestic Life, News and Documentary; Science & Technology; Music; Sports, and much, much more.

The final major section is *Program Name & Description Lists* which is an alphabetical listing of the programs appearing in the Guide accompanied by a brief description of each. In addition to being broadcast or streamed at the times and on the stations listed elsewhere in this Guide, nearly every one of these programs is made available for on-demand and podcast listening.

The Guide also features editorial contributions from Rob de Santos with a Guest Essay beginning on page 37 at the end of *The Evolution of Radio and Its Status Today* entitled "Who Will Control the Path Programs Take from Producer to Listener?" and Richard Cuff with an epilogue entitled "How Important Are Live Radio Schedules

Anyway?" that begins on page 158. Alan Roe returns with his excellent online "Music on Shortwave" inventory that has been incorporated into the *Consolidated Program Listing* section.

Published by Master Publishing, Inc., **The Worldwide Listening Guide - 11<sup>th</sup> Edition** is 168 pages of very useful information in a wire-bound format that enables the Guide to be opened flat in an easy-to-use manner. The new edition of the Guide continues to be

available at your favorite places to buy radio related books. The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of **The Worldwide Listening Guide** can be purchased through Universal Radio for only \$27.95 plus shipping costs (Order #0211) or Amazon for \$29.95. (Amazon Prime customers don't need to pay additional shipping costs).

The Guide is a very useful reference book that you will find yourself utilizing on a regular basis.

# The Robinson Report

Daniel Robinson • 11700 Charen Lane • Potomac, MD 20854 • [dxace1@gmail.com](mailto:dxace1@gmail.com)

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## USAGM/VOA: Can't Make This Stuff Up

As much as I want to get back to radio-related topics, a genuine flood of events begs to be reported to you, the reader of the NASWA journal, stories and details you are likely to see nowhere else.

### Congress Takes an Interest in Six Figure Salary VOA/USAGM Officials Staying Away from HQ

Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) has been investigating federal agencies whose taxpayer-funded buildings in DC (or a lot of space in them) went unoccupied even after the COVID-19 pandemic ended. Well, leave it to the scandal-plagued U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) to notch a headline, and not a good one, in this story.

Washington Business Journal coverage of the final report of the Public Buildings Reform Board, reported that from January to September of 2023, USAGM's HQ at 330

Independence Ave. SW (quite a few of you have likely visited) was 2% full. You're not seeing things: the 700,000+ square-foot space **"has a capacity of 3,431 workers but saw, on average, just 72 people actually using it each day."**

There's more. In 2023, **sources at USAGM revealed that some of the highest paid senior officials there were maximizing time spent physically away from HQ.** Salaries at USAGM/VOA are among the highest in federal government. Many top officials draw near, at and over \$200k per year. According to OpenPayrolls.com, the average employee salary in 2022 at USAGM was \$96,049 -- "this is 38.5 percent higher than the national average for government employees and 32.5 percent higher than other federal agencies."

One source reported that: "[one top agency official] **spent NO time in the office** and

rarely if ever comes in now." [The official] "rarely if ever came into the office . . ." the source reported, adding that at one point "the [senior management] corridor [at the agency] was locked tight." The source reported that another top official "also does not like to come in to the Cohen Building." Yet another official was reported by sources to be checking in online from "a **primary residence in the western U.S.**"

And it's not only top officials who try to remain away from the physical USAGM/VOA HQ – almost every internal Town Hall meeting features employee questions about how they can continue and expand remote and telework. It's great work, if you can get it!

### **USAGM/VOA Taking Steps to Trump-Proof Ahead of November Presidential Election**

As the National Review reported [see: <https://www.nationalreview.com/2024/04/biden-administration-moves-to-protect-voice-of-america-boss-before-election/>] in early April, Biden administration managers at USAGM/VOA are quietly taking steps to ensure that the VOA director, as well as other agency network heads, can't be removed during a potential second Trump term.

The details are complex, so please read the full National Review piece if you can. I'm quoted as a "longtime advocate for reform of VOA and other U.S.-funded outlets" and note that the move connects directly to the intense political fights that occurred when USAGM was under the Trump administration.

In short, the change turns the VOA directorship into a SES (Senior Executive Service) career position and would make it more difficult for Donald Trump or any future president to further overhaul the agency. I am not personally persuaded that this is a good thing.

VOA's official mandate, the National Review states, "is to produce objective news that represents a comprehensive cross-section of American thought, [but] the outlet has been dogged by a series of controversies over the years, as critics across the political spectrum have accused it of making journalistic and management missteps."

Project 2025, a policy playbook for a second Trump term, sharply criticizes USAGM and the agency and VOA faced more criticism from Republicans in Congress after it was revealed that VOA's leaders initially directed staff not to refer directly to Hamas members as "terrorists." Congress cut USAGM's FY2024 budget by \$16 million, and it's thought this was connected to the Hamas controversy.

Meanwhile, how does the agency propose to accomplish Trump-Proofing? By allying with at least two Washington-based groups that represent federal and private sector whistle blowers. I'll have more on this in future columns, but a key part of the effort involves a proposal to turn the "firewall," which is supposed to protect USAGM outlets from "political interference" in their reporting, into actual law.

One problem with this – the agency is already using the firewall to shield itself from congressional inquiries into various journalistic and personnel practices. And lawmakers who were called "silly" by VOA's acting director were not pleased when they heard a representative of one of the groups describe lawmakers as "royalty [living] in their own world."

### **New VOA Director Comes Out Swinging**

VOA, which has not had a director in more than an acting capacity since 2020, moved quickly against the background of these Trump-Proofing efforts to choose Michael Abramowitz, president of Freedom House, as

the new director. This places him in an interesting situation since in the event of a Biden defeat in November, Trump would certainly attempt to remove him, along with USAGM CEO Amanda Bennett (both have backgrounds with The Washington Post).

As we noted above, VOA faces heightened scrutiny from Congress over management and journalistic issues. Bennett headed VOA from 2016 to mid-2020 and was widely expected to tap a former journalistic colleague for the VOA directorship. One outside observer predicted two years ago that with Bennett as CEO, "the Washington Post editorial board would end up wielding a lot of power at USAGM."

Recent controversies include the Hamas issue, two VOA employees found with anti-Israel images on their Facebook pages, and an agency official placed on leave after allegedly posting racist remarks. And Michael McCaul (R-TX) has been conducting a two-year investigation of VOA and was expected to issue that report soon [see: <https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/press-release/icymi-mccaul-in-national-review-on-problems-inside-usagm/>]


It's notable what Abramowitz said in a video statement: "We're in an information war! And we're going to win it!" he declared. A separate edited version softened this. "We're in an information war. . ." he said in this version. "VOA and the other broadcasting agencies of the U.S. government are one important way the U.S. can push back against that kind of propaganda and disinformation."

What's striking about this mouthful of an incoming declaration is that USAGM (formerly called the BBG) and VOA have spent much of the past few decades stressing their independence from the U.S. government and national security/foreign policy apparatus. At one point, a former VOA director was referring to the agency as a "media company." Yeah, right.

I have been writing for years now that it is far past time that the agency stop this charade and acknowledge once and for all that it is, in fact, part of the national security structure (the agency may be independent but it's also part of the Executive branch of government. It wouldn't exist were it not for taxpayer dollars (its FY budget is now well on the way to \$1 billion).

As for "winning" the information war – that's quite a power serve, but it's a long-running tennis match. It's not hard to imagine the reactions to it in Moscow and Beijing. USAGM and its CEO are fond of issuing strong statements condemning this or that violation of press freedom abroad, and the imprisonment of journalists (one RFE/RL reporter remains jailed in Russia). But are these adversaries afraid of the mighty USAGM and VOA. I think not.

In my next column, I look at USAGM creating a brand new "entity" out of thin air – with your tax dollars! Did the USAGM CEO actually obtain congressional approval for it? Read about it next month. We'll also look at how VOA plans to cover the 2024 presidential election and it's quite an eye-opener!

**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](mailto:journal@naswa.net). Thanks! 

# Listener's Notebook

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Times are UTC and frequencies in kHz.

## **ALASKA** KNLS International (Rlg) Summer Schedule 2024

Chinese 0800-1000 daily on 11875nls

1000-1100 daily on 9685nls

1300-1400 daily on 9740nls

1400-1500 daily on 7395nls

1500-1600 daily on 9760nls

1600-1800 daily on 11760nls

English 0800-0900 daily on 9695nls

1000-1100 daily on 9580nls

1200-1300 daily on 7355nls, 9795nls

1400-1500 daily on 9580nls

Korean 1100-1200 daily on 9730nls

1300-1400 daily on 7395nls

Russian 0900-1000 daily on 9695nls

1100-1200 daily on 9580nls

1500-1600 daily on 9800nls

1600-1800 daily on 9580nls (WRTH Update)

## **ALGERIA** Radio Ifrikiya FM (Pub) Summer Schedule 2024

0300-0600 daily on 9470bec (t)

0600-0900 daily on 15110bec (t)

0900-1100 daily on 17600bec (t)

0900-1200 daily on 17560org (t)

1100-1800 daily on 21550bec (t)

1200-1500 daily on 21455org (t)

1500-1800 daily on 17560org (t)

1800-2000 daily on 15160org (t)

1800-2100 daily on 17600bec (t)

2000-0900 daily on 13790org (t)

2100-0300 daily on 13590bec (t) (WRTH Update)

**ANTARCTICA** Argentine Antarctica Contact information for RAE, according to information obtained by Horacio Nigro of Uruguay from Adrian Korol of RAE

Argentina, the address for receiving reports and letters to LRA36 Radio Nacional Arcangel San Gabriel is: <https://www.radionacional.com.ar/contacto/>. (WWDXC/NZDXTimes) 15476, LRA36 Base Esperanza, eQSL received in 7 days for report in Spanish sent to: [lra36nacional@gmail.com](mailto:lra36nacional@gmail.com). (Christian Ghibaudo-France/British DX Club)

**AUSTRALIA** 11905, e-QSL Reach Beyond Australia. HCJB Japanese language broadcast. E-mail: [hcjbjapan.office2@gmail.com](mailto:hcjbjapan.office2@gmail.com). (Anatoly Klepov-Russia, RUSdx #1282 via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews March 24)

15460, Reach Beyond Australia, Kununurra, 1315, 05-04, English, religious, program "Back to the Bible". 35433. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**BELGIUM** Radio Onda Summer Schedule 2024 in English/French/Portuguese 0600-2200Fri/Sat/Sun on 6140bor (t, alt. fq 9530, reactivated in June) (WRTH Update) 6140, Radio Onda, eQSL received in 1 day for report sent to: [info@radioonda.be](mailto:info@radioonda.be). (Jouke van der Galien-Netherlands/British DX Club)

**BOLIVIA** 3310, Radio Mosoj Chaski, Cotapachi, 0003-0008, 23-04, unreadable comments, extremely weak today. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**BOTSWANA** Voice of America A24 schedule registered on HFCC includes 4930 Botswana: 0300-0400 Daily in English 0400-0500 Mon-Sat in Shona 0400-0500 SaSu in English 0500-0600 Daily in English 1400-1700 Daily in English

1700-1800 Daily in Shona  
1800-1900 Daily in English  
1900-2000 Daily in English (British DX Club)

**BRAZIL** The following Brazilians are heard on SW regularly:

4885 Radio Clube do Para, Belem  
4985 Radio Brasil Central, Goiania  
5940 Voz Missionaria, Camboriu  
6010 Radio Inconfidencia, Belo Horizonte  
6150 Radio Saturno, Belo Horizonte (unlicensed?)  
6180 Radio Nacional da Amazonia, Brasilia  
9665 Voz Missionaria, Camboriu  
9819 Radio 9 de Julho, Sao Paulo  
11750 Voz Missionaria, Camboriu  
11780 Radio Nacional da Amazonia, Brasilia  
11815 Radio Brasil Central, Goiania  
15190 Radio Inconfidencia, Belo Horizonte  
15415 Rádio Clube de Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo

The following Brazilian stations may also be active irregularly:

2470 Radio Cacique de Sorocaba  
3365 Hot Mix FM/Radio Cultura Araraquara – for local sports coverage  
4905 Radio Relogio, Sao Goncalo  
5035 Radio Educacao Rural de Coari (Mauno Ritola/British DX Club)

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-RUS, RUSdx #1280 via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews March 10)

**BULGARIA** Bible Voice Broadcasting - Schedule Summer for Sofia. Please send your reports to [mail@bvbroadcasting.org](mailto:mail@bvbroadcasting.org) or mail

to BVB, PO Box 95561, Newmarket, ON L3Y 8J8, Canada:

5900 at 1930-1945 Arabic Daily  
5900 at 1945-2000 Arabic Daily  
9400 at 1945-2000 Arabic Daily  
9490 at 1730-1745 Arabic Daily  
9490 at 1710-1730 Arabic Mon and Wed  
11600 at 1545-1600 Arabic Daily

**CANADA** 7850, CHU, F/D QSL Card in 22 days. E-mail: [radio.chu@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca](mailto:radio.chu@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca). (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

**CHINA** "Qinghai Station" currently uses a total of 12 frequencies including MW, SW, and FM. It broadcasts for 68 hours and 20 minutes a day. The combination of MW, SW and FM broadcasts can basically cover the entire province. (via Ron Howard-CA/New Zealand Radio DX League)

China Radio International announced that they added new frequency 9880 to existing 11895 for Chinese Service of "Voice of the South China Sea" in A24 season. 0900-1000 on 9880 11895 to Southeast Asia and South China Sea area. Both frequencies are from Nanning transmitter site. (TopNews)

**CHINA (Tibet)** 6110 & 15570, Holy Tibet Radio reception report confirmed with two separate full data QSL cards sent after 15 months, email address: [holytibetprogram@163.com](mailto:holytibetprogram@163.com). (Anand Mohan Bain-India/Asian DX Review)

**CLANDESTINE** Radio Afghanistan International Summer Schedule 2024  
Dari/Pashto 0200-1600 daily on 7600tac  
1600-0200 daily on 7600erv (WRTH Update)

Radio Republica Summer Schedule 2024 in Spanish:

0100-0200 on 9490iss Daily  
0200-0300 on 9490iss Mon, Fri, Sat, Sun (WRTH Update)

ERISAT Radio Summer Schedule 2024 in Tigrinya:  
1800-1830 daily on 11680mdc (WRTH Update)

Radio Erena Summer Schedule 2024:  
1730-1800 on 9585sof Arabic Mon/Wed/Fri  
1700-1730 on 9585sof Tigrinya Daily  
1730-1800 on 9585sof Tigrinya  
Tu/Thu/Sat/Sun (WRTH Update)

SBO Sagalee Bilisummaa Oromoo, Voice of Oromo Liberation. Berlin A-24:  
15420 at 1700-1730 Mon, Wed, Fri Nauen Mul. Please send your inquiries and reception reports to: E-Mail: [QSL-Shortwave@media-broadcast.com](mailto:QSL-Shortwave@media-broadcast.com). (Worldwide DX Club)

**COLOMBIA** 5910, Alcaraván Radio, e-QSL and picture of the antenna tower in 5 days. Report in Spanish w/ audio clips to: [rafaelcoldx@yahoo.com](mailto:rafaelcoldx@yahoo.com) v/s Rafael Rodríguez R., QSL Manager. (Rafael Martinez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**CONGO (Dem Rep)** Radio Kahuzi is now 32 years old airing our first broadcast on December 24, 1992. Our ministry in Bukavu, continues daily with improved FM and SW reaching the local population with local news, and Christian programming. Our future plan is to stream Radio Kahuzi directly from Bukavu. Amazingly, Richard is doing great after the implant of nine stents and six weeks of rehab ending on April 12th. He has regained about 40 lbs. Growing up, we always said he was like a cat with nine lives having had so many near death experiences. Passports are in hand, but we are waiting for radios from Galcom and possibly a newly designed shortwave antenna from Mike Axman at SonSet Solutions. This antenna will provide a smaller footprint so that we do not interfere with TV in the surrounding homes and businesses with our powerful shortwave signal. (Radio Kahuzi Newsletter)

**DENMARK** 15700, World Music Radio, Randers, 1403-1456, 22-04, Latin American songs, songs in English, ID "World Music Radio". 45444. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**ESWATINI** For A24 season, TWR Manzini 4760 is listed on HFCC 1620-1635 in Tsonga on Sundays only, but the new DBS-26 shows 4760 hasn't been logged anywhere since March 2023. (Alan Pennington-UK/British DX Club)

11660, Trans World Radio Eswatini, F/D e-QSL in 1 day. E-mail: [lstavrop@twr.org](mailto:lstavrop@twr.org) V/S: Lorraine Stavropoulos. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

**FINLAND** A new SW station, Realmix Radio 6185. New "licensed" station RealMix Radio, in Raasepori, Finland. Recently granted an official broadcasting license, with 15 watts of power but could be increased to 250w in the future. Rpt to: [realmix.sw@gmail.com](mailto:realmix.sw@gmail.com). Reported in Europe around 0900 on 24/03/24. (Via Editor/New Zealand DX League) The new low power (15 watts) licensed shortwave station RealMix Radio on 6185 from Raasepori, south-west Finland, is broadcasting regularly on Saturdays and Sundays from about 0500-1500. I've not been able to hear it but it can be received on Kiwi SDRs in Scandinavia; reports are requested to [realmix.sw@gmail.com](mailto:realmix.sw@gmail.com). The station has a temporary three-month licence. (Dave Kenny-UK/British DX Club)

**GERMANY** Bible Voice Broadcasting - Schedule Summer for Nauen. Please send your reports to [mail@bvbroadcasting.org](mailto:mail@bvbroadcasting.org) or mail to BVB, PO Box 95561, Newmarket, ON L3Y 8J8, Canada  
7540 at 1800-1830 Russian Saturday  
9720 at 1800-1830 Russian Saturday  
9635 at 1815-1930 English Sun  
9720 at 1830-1900 Spanish Sun  
9810 at 1730-1830 English Sat

9810 at 1730-1915 English Sun  
9810 at 1700-1730 English Thurs  
9810 at 1700-1715 English Fri  
11655 at 0600-0615 Arabic Daily  
11855 at 1830-1900 Farsi Sun and Tu  
11855 at 1800-1900 Farsi Thurs  
11855 at 1800-1830 Farsi Fri  
13730 at 0500-0515 Arabic Fri  
15300 at 1430-1500 Nuer Daily  
15310 at 1600-1630 Oromo Sun, Mon, Tu  
15310 at 1600-1630 Tigrinya Thurs and Fri  
15310 at 1630-1700 Somali Sun and Sat  
15310 at 1700-1730 Tigrinya Sun Sat  
15310 at 1700-1730 Amharic Tu, Wed, Thurs  
17650 at 1430-1500 Dari Sun  
17650 at 1430-1500 English Sat  
17650 at 1400-1430 English 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of each month (Station Direct)

DW Shortwave Frequencies for A24 period of 31.03.24 - 26.10.24 (DW will cut its SW output to a historic minimum ... in irrelevance ...):

1600 - 1700 on 15275 17800 Amharic Issoudun daily  
1215 - 1300 on 15275 17800 Arabic Issoudun Wednesday  
1830 - 1915 on 15275 17840 Arabic Nauen Wednesday (TopNews)

**GUAM** 9870, KTWR TWR Asia, e-QSL in 37 days. Report in English sent to: [asiafeedback@twr.org](mailto:asiafeedback@twr.org). (Christian Ghibaudo-France/DX Fanzine)

**INDIA** A24 Schedule of All India Radio (31 March-27 October):

Bangalore

7215 at 0100-0130 Sin  
15260 at 0130-0230 Ind  
15410 at 0145-0315 Nep  
15410 at 0315-0415 Myn  
15280 at 0400-0530 Fas  
15185 at 0430-0600 Pus  
15410 at 0430-0600 Prs  
15280 at 0530-0630 Ara  
15400 at 0900-1030 Nep  
15400 at 1030-1200 Zho

15410 at 1215-1315 Swa  
11810 at 1230-1400 Pus  
9875 at 1330-1500 Prs  
9620 at 1600-1730 Fas  
9620 at 1730-1930 Ara  
9620 at 1930-2030 Fra  
15280 at 2345-0115 Zho  
Delhi

11735 at 0100-0230 Bod  
11805 at 0300-0430 Bal  
9795 at 0430-0600 Prs  
11805 at 0430-0600 Pus  
9795 at 0900-1030 Nep  
11805 at 0900-1030 Nep  
9765 at 1045-1215 Bod  
11865 at 1045-1215 Bod  
9875 at 1230-1330 Bal

Leh

4760 at 0130-0410 Mul  
6000 at 0700-1000 Mul  
4760 at 1030-1700 Mul  
4760 at 1200-1630 Mul (Jose Jacob-India/DX India)

**INDONESIA** 3325, Voice of Indonesia again well heard. Voice of Indonesia from Palangkaraya, on April 22. Wonderful to have VOINS with readable audio. (Ron Howard-CA via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews April 22)

7289.93, RRI Nabire Pro 1, tuned in at 0757 till tuned out at 0920, April 21. Back on the air again after a brief absence after Ramadan; this is my first post-Ramadan reception, and they are back to a pre-Ramadan format of mostly non-stop songs. (Ron Howard-CA via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews April 21)

**IRAN** VIRI Arabic Service observed on new frequency. VIRI / IRIB Arabic Service was observed at 1025 on new 15240. Since the start of A24 haven't found the Arabic Service on any of the SW frequencies used last season (11820/15260/15460/15480). (David Kernick-UK, Interval Signals Online, April 2/TopNews)

Tentative A24 schedule for IRIB Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English:  
1520-1620 on 11640-sir (11645alt)  
1920-2020 on 9835-sir (9830alt)  
(HFCC/British DX Club)

**JAPAN** NHK World-Japan Frequency Schedule (A-24) select languages and locations:

Chinese 0400-0430 11825 Yamata

1130-1200 9690 Yamata

1230-1300 6190 Yamata

1330-1400 6190 Yamata

1430-1500 6190 Yamata

2230-2250 9560 Yamata

English 0500-0525 (Mon.-Fri.)

0500-0530 (Sat.& Sun.) 13710 Issoudun

1400-1425 (Mon.-Fri.)

1400-1430 (Sat.& Sun.) 11815 Yamata

French 0530-0550 11730 Issoudun

0530-0550 13600 Issoudun

2030-2050 7425 Issoudun

Hindi 1530-1550 11655 Yamata

Indonesian 0000-0020 13600 Yamata

Persian 1430-1450 13650 Issoudun

Russian 0330-0350 17560 Yamata

0430-0450 6165 Nauen

0530-0550 17530 Yamata

1030-1050 17690 Yamata

Thai 2300-2320 13650 Yamata

Urdu 1600-1620 9440 Yamata (TopNews)

**KOREA (North)** 9435 Voice of Korea at 1306, Apr. 1, English, marching band mx, "You are listening to V-O-K, Voice of Korea, News Now." and into DPRK news. Excellent, //11710 also excellent. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer)

15245, Voice of Korea, Kujang, 1335- , 05-04, music, English, comments, Korean songs. //13760. 34433. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**KOREA (South)** With the beginning of A24 season at 0100, March 31, 2024, KBS WORLD Radio English Service will broadcast at 1400-1600 on 9785 - instead of 9630. Target Area

India, South Asia. We hope the new frequency and the adjustments will better serve our listeners in the target area this season. Please send your listener feedback to English Service via email, snail mail and social media as always. Thank you! (KBS Seoul via BrDXC-UK iogr)

15575, KBS World Radio, Kimjae, 1341, 05-04, Engl, comments, mx. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**KUWAIT** Radio Kuwait (Gov) Summer Schedule 2024:

Arabic 0300-0630 daily on 5960kdb

0500-0900 daily on 15515kdb

0945-1330 daily on 15110kdb (D)

1100-1330 daily on 9750kdb

1400-1600 daily on 11630kdb (Quran prgr, t)

English 0500-0800 daily on 15530kdb

0500-0800 daily on 11970kdb (D, i)

1800-2100 daily on 15540kdb (D, t)

Filipino 1000-1200 daily on 17760kdb

Persian 0800-1000 daily on 7250kdb

Urdu 1600-1800 daily on 15540kdb (i)

(WRTH Update)

11630 tentative Radio Kuwait at 1455, Apr. 1, in Arabic, stringed instrument music, 1500 male announcer followed by woman and musical bridges, pop style music followed. Fair. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer)

**LIBERIA** 6050, ELWA Radio, Monrovia, 0556-0619, 23-04, English, religious songs and comments. Also heard \*0555-0612, 24-04, interval signal, at 0557 English, ID "ELWA Radio...". (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**MALAYSIA** 11665, Wai FM-Malaysia, F/D e-QLS in 3 days. V/S: Mohd Fauzi Bin Ali Hassan, Chief Assistant Director. E-mail address: [pnk\\_rtmkajang@rtm.gov.my](mailto:pnk_rtmkajang@rtm.gov.my). (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain /DX Fanzine) 11665, Wai FM, 1230-1315, April 19. Surprised to hear such a good reception. (Ron Howard-CA)

**MALI** CRI Africa relay site at Bamako #2 tx center in A-24 season:

11640 at 1800-1830 Hausa  
11640 at 1830-1930 Arabic  
11640 at 1930-2000 Portuguese  
11640 at 2000-2100 English  
11640 at 2100-2130 English  
11975 at 2130-2230 French  
13630 at 1930-2000 Portuguese  
13630 at 2000-2100 English  
13630 at 2100-2130 English  
13630 at 2130-2230 French  
13645 at 1700-1800 Swahili  
13645 at 1800-1830 Hausa  
13685 at 1300-1400 French  
13685 at 1430-1500 English  
13685 at 1500-1600 English  
13685 at 1830-1930 Arabic  
15125 at 1600-1700 Arabic  
15125 at 1700-1800 Swahili  
17630 at 1430-1500 English  
17630 at 1500-1600 English  
17880 at 1300-1400 French  
17880 at 1600-1700 Arabic (wb df5sx, wwdxc BC-DX TopNews April 8)

5995, Radio Mali, Bamako, 2142-2150, 11-04, African songs, ID. In French "Radio Mali...". 45444. Also heard \*0600-0618, 12-04, open with African songs, Vernacular, comments. 45444. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**MEXICO** 6185, Radio Educacion, F/D e-QSL in about 1 month and half. The report was sent to this E mail: [contactore@cultura.gob.mx](mailto:contactore@cultura.gob.mx) but reply came from: [pcruz@cultura.gob.mx](mailto:pcruz@cultura.gob.mx). (Massimo Rossi-Italy via Facebook Group DX Fanzine/DX Fanzine) 6185, Radio Educación, Ciudad de México, 0614-0731, 07-014, songs, music, Spanish, comments. 15421. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**MONGOLIA** 12085, Voice of Mongolia (Japanese Section), F/D e-QSL in 4 hours. E-mail address: [mnb\\_vom@yahoo.com](mailto:mnb_vom@yahoo.com). (Carlos Alberto Erdmann-Brazil via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

**MYANMAR** It seems Thazin Radio shortwave transmitter Pyin Oo Lwin is having a bit of trouble since April 7. Thazin Radio is part of the Myawaddy Communication Center and is owned by the military. It's financed by Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, which is owned by the military. (Sarath Weerakoon 4S5SL-Sri Lanka via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews April 9) Thazin Radio is back on SW from Pyin Oo Lwin. They've been broadcasting on various frequencies throughout the day: noted this morning on 6165. The morning transmission was observed on 6165 at 0130, in a vernacular language. During the afternoon, Thazin Radio can be heard on 9590. In the evening on 7345 at 1145. Steady signals. (Sarath Weerakoon 4S5SL-Sri Lanka via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews 13 April 2024)

**NETHERLANDS** The following changes are planned for Radio Delta from March 2024-October 2024: 6110 will not be used every Sunday during this period. The 6110 will be active again in the winter. During the day and evening, you can tune in to new frequencies of 9525 and 9530. We are currently testing but expect to broadcast on these frequencies every Sunday. On Saturdays, you can listen to us on the 25-meter band, on the familiar frequencies: 12030 and 12065. (Manuel Méndez-Spain)

Radio Casanova. In a email from Ludwig Caareis he mentions Transmitter Power is today 450 Watts Carrier power. The Antenna a InvertedV a 12mtr high, and location is Winterswijk in the Netherland. Can be heard occasionally in NZ on 6060 around 0700 onwards. Email reports to [radiocasanova@hotmail.com](mailto:radiocasanova@hotmail.com). (Editor/NZDXTimes)

**NEW ZEALAND** RNZ Pacific A24 schedule.  
0000-0558 on 17675 Daily  
0559-0858 on 13690 Daily  
0859-1258 on 11725 Mon-Fri  
0859-1258 on 11725 Sat

1259-1650 on 7440 Daily  
1651-1758 on 9655 DRM Sun-Fri  
1651-1758 on 9700 AM Sat  
1759-1858 on 11690 DRM Sun-Fri  
1759-1958 on 11725 Sat  
1859-2058 on 13840 DRM Sun-Fri  
1959-2358 on 15720 Sat  
2059-2358 on 15720 Sun-Fri (TopNews)

**NORWAY** 5895, Radio Northern Star, Bergen, 2006-2234, 22-04, songs and comments in English, at 2030 ID "Radio Northern Star". Also heard 0517-0534, 24-05, songs in English. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**PALAU** Hope Radio (Rlg) Summer Schedule 2024 in English:

0110-0230 on 15680hbn Sat  
0110-0330 on 15680hbn Sun  
0805-0850 on 9965hbn Mon-Fri  
0810-1150 on 9965hbn Sun  
0840-1005 on 9965hbn Sat (WRTH Update)

9930, Hope Radio, F/D e-QSL in 1 day. V/S: Deb Anderson, Administrative Assistant. Report sent via webform at: <https://www.hoperadio.net/reception>. (Atsuhiko Takezawa-Japan via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

**PERU** According to Dr. Hansjoerg Biener of Germany, Rafael Rodriguez of Colombia announced on February 1, 2024, the Peruvian shortwave stations that can currently be heard on 60mb are summarized below.

4775 Radio Tarma  
4810 Radio Logos  
4820 Radio Senda Cristiana  
4955 Radio Cultural Amauta

In addition to 4930 Radio Pitumarca (located in Sicuani), it was received for several months in 2023. This station borrowed the transmitter from Radio Surandina. Rodriguez asked the agency about the current situation in December 2023, but has not received a response. (Via WWDXC TP 1570)

4775, Radio Tarma, Tarma, 0002-0011, 23-04, Spanish, comments. 15422. Also heard 2328-2336, 24-04, Spanish, comments. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**PHILIPPINES** A24 schedule for PBS Radio Pilipinas:

0200-0330 in English on 12010-pht 15640-pht 17820-pht  
1730-1930 in Tagalog on 9960-pht 12120-pht 15190-pht (HFCC/British DX Club)

15190, Radio Pilipinas, in Filipino/English, QSL plus programme schedule, received in 232 days for report to: Radio Pilipinas, 1128 Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines. (Rumen Pankov-Bulgaria/British DX Club)

**ROMANIA** A24 schedule for Radio Romania International in English:

0000-0100 on 11620-tig  
0300-0400 on 9740-gal 15330-tig (DRM)  
0530-0600 on 11960-gal 21550-tig  
1100-1200 on 17630-tig 17670-gal  
1700-1800 on 13750-tig (DRM)  
2030-2100 on 13650-tig 9740-gal  
2200-2300 on 11800-gal 9790-tig (Alan Roe-UK)

**RUSSIA** 9996, WM Moscow, F/D e-QSL in 16 hours; a photocopy of the paper QSL they mentioned they would send by postal mail. E-mail address [gsvch@vniiftri.ru](mailto:gsvch@vniiftri.ru). (Bill Harms-NY via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

**SAO TOME** Voice of America A24 schedule registered on HFCC includes 4960\* Sao Tome: 0400-0500 Daily in English

0500-0530 Daily in Hausa  
0700-0730 Daily in Hausa  
2030-2100 Daily in Hausa (British DX Club)

\*4960 Sao Tome has not been logged for a year (since April 2023). I also queried whether 4960 Sao Tome was on air back in December 2022. (Alan Pennington-UK/British DX Club)

**SPAIN** Radio Exterior de España A-24 schedule shows frequency usage as follows:  
15390 (1500-2300 Mon-Fri, 1400-2300 Sat/Sun)  
15520 (1500-2300 Mon-Fri, 1400-2300 Sat/Sun),  
17715 (1800-0200 Mon-Fri, 1400-2300 Sat/Sun) and  
17855 (1800-0200 Mon-Fri, 1400-2300 Sat/Sun) (REE web site via Alan Roe-UK) English is scheduled at 2200-2230 on Mon/Wed/Fri. (British DX Club)

**TAIWAN** 7325, National Unity Radio via Tamsui, F/D e-QSL in 1 week. V/S: Kim Min-su. E-mail: [umgenGLISH@uni-media.net](mailto:umgenGLISH@uni-media.net) and [umg.info@unimedia.net](mailto:umg.info@unimedia.net). (Bill Harms-NY via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

9410, Fuhsin Broadcasting Station, QSL Card via registerted mail in 3 weeks. The report was sent to [fhbs594@gmail.com](mailto:fhbs594@gmail.com) and [fhbstp@fhbs.com.tw](mailto:fhbstp@fhbs.com.tw). (Artur Fernández Llorella-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**THAILAND** Radio Thailand World Service (Gov) Summer Schedule 2024  
Chinese 1230-1245 daily on 9385udo  
English 0000-0030 daily on 15590udo  
0200-0230 daily on 15590udo  
0500-0530 daily on 17640udo  
1200-1230 daily on 9385udo  
1300-1315 daily on 9385udo  
1800-1900 daily on 7475udo  
Malay 1245-1300 daily on 9385udo (WRTH Update)

**TURKEY** A24 schedule for Voice of Turkey in English:  
0300-0400 on 6165 7275  
1230-1330 on 17620  
1630-1730 on 11660  
1830-1930 on 9750  
2030-2130 on 9875  
2200-2300 on 11785 (HFCC/British DX Club)  
TRT Ankara via Emirler in A24 season:  
5960 at 1830-2100 Turkish  
6040 at 0400-0600 Turkish

6165 at 0300-0400 English  
7210 at 1100-1130 Bulgarian  
7260 at 0100-0200 Spanish  
7275 0300 0400 6E,7-11,27,28W EMR 500 325  
0 219 Eng TUR TRT  
7360 0000 0200 42 EMR 500 72 0 211 Tur TUR TRT  
7360 1730 1830 38,47,48,52,53 EMR 500 210  
30 216 Fra TUR TRT  
9460 1600 2100 27,28 EMR 500 310 0 215 Tur TUR TRT  
9465 0200 0300 42 EMR 500 72 0 211 Uig TUR TRT  
9540 at 1400-1500 Arabic  
9655 at 0800-0830 Kat  
9750 at 1830-1930 English  
9765 1500 1600 40,39NE EMR 250 105 0 205 Fas TUR TRT  
9770 0400 0600 18S,27,28 EMR 500 310 0 215 Tur TUR TRT  
9840 1730 1830 28W,27E EMR 250 310 0 205 Deu TUR TRT  
9870 0100 0200 12,13-15,16,37 EMR 500 252  
0 219 Spa TUR TRT  
9875 2030 2130 41,49,51-60 EMR 500 105 7  
219 Eng TUR TRT  
9880 at 1930-2030 French  
11660 at 1630-1730 English  
11750 at 0900-1000 Arabic  
11765 at 1500-1630 PtPu  
11785 2200 2300 4,7-9,11,27,28 EMR 500 325  
0 219 Eng TUR TRT  
11965 1300 1400 19,20,29,30N EMR 500 20  
20 205 Rus TUR TRT  
13635 0600 1300 27,28 EMR 500 310 0 215 Tur TUR TRT  
13655 0830 0900 28SW EMR 250 290 10 210 Ita TUR TRT  
13685 0700 0800 29,39,40,30 EMR 250 72 0  
205 Aze TUR TRT  
13725 1630 1730 27S,37N EMR 250 290 10  
210 Spa TUR TRT  
15270 1030 1100 30S,40N EMR 500 72 0 211 Uzb TUR TRT  
15320 0500 0600 47,48,53,52 EMR 500 180 0  
216 Swa TUR TRT  
15320 0600 0700 38,46E,47 EMR 500 220 0  
211 Hau TUR TRT NEW

15350 1130 1230 28,27SE EMR 250 310 0 211  
 Deu TUR TRT  
 15720 0830 1000 39NE,40 EMR 250 105 0 205  
 Fas TUR TRT  
 17580 1200 1300 40,41N EMR 250 95 -10 215  
 Urd TUR TRT  
 17615 1000 1030 30W,29E EMR 250 32 -10  
 215 Tat TUR TRT  
 17620 1100 1200 42-44 EMR 500 72 -10 217  
 Zho TUR TRT  
 17620 1230 1330 18S,27,28 EMR 500 310 0  
 211 Eng TUR TRT  
 17690 1330 1400 30,31S EMR 500 62 -10 211  
 Kaz TUR TRT  
 17720 0400 0500 54N,49 EMR 500 105 7 219  
 Mly TUR TRT  
 17730 at 0800-0830 Turkish  
 17740 at 1000-1100 French  
 17770 at 1400-1500 Arabic  
 17815 at 1300-1600 Turkish (TRT March  
 26/Worldwide DX Club)

**UNITED KINGDOM** A24 schedule for BBC  
 World Service in English. HFCC registrations  
 shows a significant reduction in BBCWS  
 shortwave usage with fewer frequencies and  
 reduced hours to Africa:  
 BBC WS to Africa  
 0400-0500 Daily 12095-mdc  
 0500-0600 Daily 9410-asc 15490-wof 21560-  
 dha  
 0600-0700 Daily 9410-asc 9915-asc  
 1500-1700 Mo-Fr 12095-sla  
 1700-1800 Mo-Fr 17780-asc 17830-asc  
 1700-1900 Mo-Fr 15400-asc 17830-asc  
 BBCWS to Africa weekends only  
 (Sportsworld)  
 1400-1600 Sat 15310-sla 17640-asc 21470-  
 dha  
 1530-1730 Sun 12095-sla 17640-asc 21470-  
 smg  
 BBCWS English to South Asia  
 0000-0200 Daily 9510-tac 11955-sla  
 1200-1300 Daily 15295-sla 17790-sla  
 1300-1400 Daily 11870-sla 15295-sla  
 BBCWS DRM to Europe  
 0500-0600 Daily 5875-wof (drm)  
 BBCWS English to SE Asia

1000-1200 Daily 9410-pht  
 2200-2300 Daily 9440-pht  
 2300-0000 Daily 11825-pht  
 BBCWS DRM to South Asia  
 0800-0900 Daily 15185-tac/21660-sla (drm)  
 (British DX Club)

**USA** A24 schedule for Voice of America in  
 English to Africa on SW:  
 0300-0400 4930-bot 5925-bot 6080-sao  
 0400-0500 4930-bot (SaSu) 4960-sao 5925-  
 bot 6080-sao 7375-wof  
 0500-0600 4930-bot 6080-bot 15580-bot  
 0600-0700 6080-sao 15580-bot  
 1400-1500 4930-bot 5940-bot 15580-bot  
 1500-1600 4930-bot 5940-bot 15580-bot  
 17530-bot  
 1600-1630 4930-bot 5940-bot 15580-bot  
 1630-1700 5940-sao 15580-bot (SaSu only)  
 1700-1730 5940-sao 15140-wof 15580-bot  
 (SaSu)-grv  
 1730-1800 5940-sao 15140-wof 15580-bot  
 17530-grv  
 1800-1900 4930-bot (SaSu) 6080-bot 15580-  
 bot 17530-grv#  
 1900-2000 4930-bot 6080-bot 15580-bot  
 2000-2100 4930-bot 6195-bot 15580-bot  
 2100-2200 6195-bot 15580-bot  
 (HFCC/British DX Club)

**UZBEKISTAN** Bible Voice Broadcasting -  
 Schedule Summer for Tashkent. Please send  
 your reports to [mail@bvbroadcasting.org](mailto:mail@bvbroadcasting.org) or  
 mail to BVB, PO Box 95561, Newmarket, ON  
 L3Y 8J8, Canada  
 7540 at 1800-1830 Russian Sat  
 9345 at 1300-1330 Korean Sun Sat  
 9345 at 1300-1330 English Mon, Tu, Wed  
 9345 at 1300-1315 English Fri  
 9345 at 1315-1330 Korean Fri  
 17670 at 1200-1230 English Saturday  
 17670 at 1230-1245 Bahasa Sunday (Station  
 Direct)

**VANUATU** 7260, Apr 12, 0630, Radio  
 Vanuatu; service messages given totally in  
 French (a language not often used at this

time); distinctive intro and exit with indigenous drums. (Ron Howard-CA/Shortwave Bulletin)

**VATICAN** Tentative A24 schedule for Vatican Radio in English:

0700-0930 irreg on 17540-smg (occasional special events)

1130-1200 Fri on 15595-smg 17790-smg (Mass)

1615-1630 Daily on 15595-smg (news)

1630-1700 Daily on 13830-mdc 15565-smg

2000-2030 Daily on 9705-smg 11870-smg (HFCC/British DX Club)

**VENEZUELA or COLOMBIA** 4940, Estación 4940, 0436-0521, 24-04, Spanish, religious


comments, and songs. 25432. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

**ZAMBIA** Voice of Hope Africa (Rlg) Summer Schedule 2024:

English 1400-1600 daily on 6065luv

1600-2100 daily on 4965luv (WRTH Update)

Schedules, news and other information about shortwave broadcasting activity can be send to Richard A D'Angelo, 13210 Petrel St. #3407, Clarksburg, MD 20871 or via e-mail to [rdangelo3@aol.com](mailto:rdangelo3@aol.com) (please indicate in the subject that your contribution is for Listeners Notebook). Thanks! 73, Rich

**NASWA Facebook Page:** Join moderator Richard Murphy < [rm271828@gmail.com](mailto: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. 

# Pirate Radio Report

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Welcome everyone to the Pirate Radio Report!

The anticipation and excitement continue to build ahead of the 37th Annual (!) "Winter" SWL Fest being held in Fort Washington, PA on May 10<sup>th</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup>! The annual gathering of radio enthusiasts from throughout the world continues with its first in-person gathering in four years! Pirate radio fans are hoping Pancho and Cisco will make the trip to the fest as well, for their infamous midnight ride Saturday night and don't forget, Larry Will is headlining the pirate radio forum on Friday! Looking forward to meeting fellow radio listeners in attendance this weekend.

NAPRS entertained us with a relay of Radio Titanic International and Musical Soundtrack Radio continues to broadcast popular movie and Broadway play music soundtracks.

Popular pirate radio broadcaster Brain Brothers Shortwave Pirate Radio Network, has branched out and can now be heard on both WWCR and WBCQ. Check out their website for the current broadcast schedule. <https://brainbrothersradio.com/>

The following is an incomplete list of stations folks heard last month; WTF Radio Worldwide, 77LJS, Ballsmacker Radio, Outhouse Radio, WDOG, Cloudsplitter Radio, Pee Wee, Radio Free Whatever, Stern Radio, Pescadores Radio, Captain Morgan Shortwave, ION Radio, An ID Radio, Damn Skippy, Texas Radio Shortwave, Back In Black Radio, Thunder Chicken Radio, Boat

Anchor Radio, The Sun Spot, Nuttin on Shortwave, Wolverine Radio, WANK, B-Side Radio, WWBR, Robin Hood Radio, Sycko Radio, Cousin Mosquito Radio, The Sunspot, Bad Dog Radio, WJAN, Boat Anchor Radio, WHIZ, Radio Illuminati, Available Time Slot Radio, Musical Soundtrack Radio, Radio Titanic International, Brain Brothers Radio, Radio 48, Mix Radio International, Wild Mountain Radio, Yeah Man Radio, WART, Boombox Radio, along with the usual and unusual list of unidentified stations. Unique programming for every taste can be heard on pirate radio bands!

Sincere thanks to this month's contributors: Eric Bueneman, Rich D'Angelo, Glenn Hauser, Greg Majewski, Bill Montney, Tony Pavick, Ralph Perry, Gianni Serra and Mark Taylor.



5185-AM, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO ILLUMINATI.** 0010-0100, 04-14-24, a nice show of old rock tunes by the likes of Stealers Wheels and Blue Oyster Cult. Fair Signal (Majewski-CT)

5880-AM, PIRATE-EUROPE. **RADIO ROCK REVOLUTION.** 2325-2346, 04-13-24, psychedelic music and then one rock music

track and rock songs, hoarsely ID by same man DJ at 2335 and at 2342 (Radio-Rock-Revolution). (Serra-Cincinnati-Anzio, Italy)

6290.02-USB, PIRATE-EUROPE. **CONTIKENZO**. 1940-2012, 04-16-24, in Dutch, playing lively and slow rock and pop songs, disco medley etc., man DJ. (Same DJ of Zender Akenzo and Akenzo/Contikenzo) good/fair/almost fair (Serra-Italy)

6875-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO 48 via MRI**. 2200, 04-06-24, contemp. dance music, ID - "We are Mix Radio International", 'Training Session' - Dua Lipa, interrupted song at 2213 for ID sequence; OM "Radio 48", YL "Broadcasting to America. This is Radio 48 on Mix Radio International Worldwide." (Taylor-WI)

6876-USB, PIRATE-NA. **TEXAS RADIO SW via MRI**. 0122, 04-14-24, Forq w/ "The hard Way," Anncr sez: send us a QSL to... Mx back: Hot X w/"Wild Palms," Tom Braxton w/"Tuesday Morning," OM and YL w/ID and comments about Texas Radio/and e-mail address. (Montney-MI)

6880-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO 48 via MRI**. 2146-2207, 03-23-24, plenty of vocals with station IDs seemingly between each music selection ("You are listening to Radio 48 via Mix Radio International"). Poor to fair. (D'Angelo-PA)

6880-AM, PIRATE-NA. **ION RADIO**. 0032, 04-06-24, poor-fair/fades. The Who w/"Guitar and Pen," The Doors follow w/"Gloria," "Hello I Love You," "L. A. Woman," 0:52 ID. Steve Miller Band. (Montney-MI)

6880-AM, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO FREE WHATEVER**. 0102, 04-21-24, S9+20 pirate music. Many logs on HFU as R Free Whatever until 0106 but in USB (Hauser-OK)

6905-USB, PIRATE-NA. **BRAIN BROTHERS SW PIRATE RADIO NETWORK**. 0005, 04-13-24, 'Walk on by', Brain Bros. ID into Prof. Plumb talking about the program's "history", Prof. Plumb adoring Miss Scarlett starts "'Soul Man' - Sam & Dave, "Brain Bros, SW Network on 6905 kHz.", Very good signal. This is one of the cleverest, well produced and funny stations on pirate radio right now. (Taylor-WI)

6920-USB, PIRATE-NA. **AN ID RADIO**. 0128, 04-07-24, pirate rock music, S9+10. 0130 wolf? howl or is it a bird. 0137 owl hoots? and ``un-I-D Radio``? as ID. 0153 synth voice reading reception report, unID or not? (Hauser-OK)

6925-AM, PIRATE-NA. **CAPTAIN MORGAN SHORTWAVE**. 0137, 04-01-24, JBA pirate music. HFU says an unID turned into Captain Morgan Shortwave. (Hauser-OK)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **NUTTIN ON SW**. 0012-0040, 04-03-24, Rock tunes like AC/DC Back in Black. Good signal. (Majewski-CT)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WJAN**. 0303, 04-07-24, Indistinct music, "This is WJAN Radio", off. 0308 WJAN back on w/ ID, broadcasting live, into 'Joy to the World' - Three Dog Night, DJ announces that song and talks about how 3 Dog Night got their name, 'Mama Told Me Not To Come'. (Taylor-WI)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **YEAH MAN RADIO**. 0035-0048, 04-13-24, heard the songs "Look of Love" and "Classical Gas". Gave a shout out to the posters on the HFU. Fair Signal. (Majewski-CT)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WANK**. 0153, 04-14-24, 'Hamburger Song' - Big Willy Status apparently looped, 'Deep Web Song' - Victor Pizarnik, ID, pause, sfx., 'Hamburger Song' again, 0200 off. Fair - poor with noise. (Taylor-WI)

6925-AM, PIRATE-NA. **WTF RADIO WW.** 0244, 04-15-24, after some tuning up, on with rock music, ID, 'South Side' - Moby ... 0255 on and off w/ no audio, ID and talk, 'Telegraph Road' - Dire Straits. Fair. (Taylor-WI)

6930-AM, PIRATE-NA. **FM88 CABLE RADIO.** 2026, 04-02-24, fair. Dynasty w/ "Adventures In The Land Of Music," Pleasure w/ "Thoughts Of Old Flames," The Gap Band w/ "Yearning For Your Love," Anncr w/ ID and some comments. (Montney-MI)

6930-USB, PIRATE-NA. **BAD DOG RADIO.** 0127, 04-07-24, pirate rock music S9; 0149 SSTV beeper; 0151 nim or birdcalls; 0152 music; 0202 vamping music. More logs on HFU with SSTV and waterfall images, as Bad Dog Radio. (Hauser-OK)

6930-USB, PIRATE-NA. **ROBIN HOOD RADIO.** 0330 - 0400, 04-18-24, Music selections from Spoon, Silver Scooter, Superchunk & others. SSTV of a paraglider with a paramotor on his back. Very noisy w/static but a good signal. S7. (Penney-MA)

6931.02-AM, PIRATE-EUROPE. **INDY RADIO.** 1759-1817, 04-06-24, playing a strange slow psychedelic music, then pop rock songs; very variable frequency. (Serra-Italy)

6931.02-AM, PIRATE-? **UNID.** 0350, 04-19-24, playing nice traditional Chinese ethnic instl mx with flutes, gongs, drums and strings, almost like Firedrake, lots of drumming. Fair signal only. Is an AM signal but best heard in USB. Is there an odd pirate here or is there perhaps a SOH/etc xmsn on this fqy that China is jamming? Abrupt s/off -0404.30\*. (Perry-IL)

6935-AM, PIRATE-NA. **B-SIDE RADIO.** 0230-0301, 03-27-24, Jazz. Ids at 0238 and 0243. Excellent signal as always with light fading. Music by Charles Mingus followed by ID and

greetz to HFU at 0247. Sign off at 0301 with 'ba-dip ba-dip, that's all folks!' SINPO 44444 (Pavick-BC)

6935-AM, PIRATE-NA. **MUSICAL SOUNDTRACK RADIO.** 0318, 04-07-24, Just audible station which occasionally came up to fair for a few minutes at times with Broadway show tunes. Audible ID at 1034; "You are listening to Musical Soundtrack Radio." (Taylor-WI)

6935-AM, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO TITANIC INTL.** (relay). 0042-0110, 04-12-24, I could faintly hear a man announcer talking but not much else as the station was quite weak. Station ID thanks to HFU. (D'Angelo-PA)

6935-AM, PIRATE-NA. **WWBR.** 0005, 04-13-24, hearing someone singing "Let Me In," John Denver w/" Rocky Mountain High," Moody Blues and "The Other Side Of Life," Chrome w/"Lost and Found," ID @0:33. (Montney-MI)

6935-USB, PIRATE-NA. **DAMN SKIPPY.** 0133, 04-08-24, 'What's Real and what's Fake' - BabySuave, waterfall image - "Damn Skippy", 'Hey Kids' (feat. Late Verlaine) - Molina, 'Never' (feat. O\_Super) - Mag Lo, OM short spoken word. Fair. (Taylor-WI)

6935-AM, PIRATE-NA. **BOOMBOX RADIO.** 0238, 04-08-24, music briefly, indistinct talk (ID?) into lively, dance like songs, 0252 DJ talks and ends with clear ID into more dance music, Poor. (Taylor-WI)

6935-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO TITANIC INTL.** 0102, 04-14-24, Synth voice, instrumental (band) music, OM talk w/ sfx. - All too vague to tell what is going on. 0113 OM w/ talk incl "Radio Titanic International, music pieces, "This is Radio Titanic International to North America" Poor. (Taylor-WI)

6938-USB, PIRATE-NA. **COUSIN MOSQUITO RADIO**. 2313, 04-03-24, good. Anncr commenting on crickets and temperature. Jerry Dallman and the Nightcaps w/"The Bug," Short Wave Set w/"Glitches N' Bugs," Dennis Alcapone w/"Mosquito One," Earl Hooker w/"Two Bugs In a Rug," (Montney-MI)

6938-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WILD MOUNTAIN RADIO**. 2324-2330, 04-18-24, this was a relay by Cloudsplitter Radio. Caught the end of a nice mellow music show. Good signal (Majewski-CT)

6944.87-AM, PIRATE-EUROPE. **ZEPPELIN RADIO**. 2113-2140, 04-20-24, playing slow and lively rock, songs (Roberta Flack: Killing Me Softly with His Song, etc.), fair/almost fair at times (Serra-Italy)

6945-AM, PIRATE-EUROPE. **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO**. 2227-2313, 04-07-24, this was a European pirate over a direct path. I found the audio was better using USB detection. Played rock tunes. Fair signal until it faded at 2313. (Majewski-CT)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO FREE WHATEVER**. 0045, 03-25-24, noted with rock music, "CQ, CQ, This is Radio Free Whatever" ID. Good to fair signal. (Bueneman-MO)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **OUTHOUSE RADIO**. 0136, 04-01-24, pirate music S9/+10.HFU says it's Outhouse Radio, with some fuzzy OHR SSTVs (Hauser-OK)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIOPHONIC LABORATORY**. 2304-2330, 03-29-24, Instrumental music into a science fiction story. This was relayed by Cloudsplitter Radio. Ended with the Pink Panther theme. Good Signal (Majewski-CT)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **SYCKO RADIO**. 2341, 04-07-24, fair. Doctor Flake w/ "Voices," Frenic w/ "Luiz Ville Groove," Ours Samplus w/Spell on You," Little People next w/ "Last Fare," ID confirmed via HFU. (Montney-MI)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **77LJS**. 2305-2316, 04-10-24, various musical selections hosted by a man announcer with station ID. Poor to fair signal. (D'Angelo-PA)

6950-AM, PIRATE-NA. **VOICE OF THE SONS OF LIBERTY**. 2256, 04-14-24, conversation on-going about past and present political events, world conflicts, 9/11. Many topics covered in this conversation. (Montney-MI)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO SUNDAY**. 0009 - 0056, 04-15-24, Music selections from The Doors, The Monkees, No Doubt & others. Birds chirping and tweeting throughout the broadcast. Nice signal. S8. (Penney-MA)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **GROK**. 0227, 04-20-24, Electronic music - fluttery, YL w/ story about a robot becoming conscious, 0250 break 0251 restarts w/ same story, 0252 beep and voice fades as 'Past, Now, Future, Death (Experimental Tape)' - Angel and the Sickos comes up. (Taylor-WI)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **THUNDER CHICKEN RADIO**. 2302, 04-21-24, a show of ZZ top songs and similar. Ended with Happy Trails. Sent several SSTV images during the show. Fair Signal (Majewski-CT)

6950.4-AM, PIRATE-NA. **AVAILABLE TIME SLOT RADIO**. 1943 - 1957, 04-08-24, Eclipse-themed music from Soundgarden, Frank Sinatra, Cat Stevens. OM w/ID: "You've been listening to Available Time Slot Radio" Good signal. S8. (Penney-MA)

6950.6-AM, PIRATE-NA. **CAPTAIN MORGAN SHORTWAVE**. 0115-0135, 04-12-24, nice mix of blues type music hosted by a man

announcer with station ID. Poor signal.  
(D'Angelo-PA)

6951.6-AM, PIRATE-NA. **STERN RADIO.**  
0210-0244, 03-26-24, several station IDs  
throughout listening period with  
unidentifiable (to me) music. Poor signal.  
(D'Angelo-PA)

6955-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WOLVERINE RADIO.**  
0034, 04-07-24, 'Last Night I Had a Dream' -  
Randy Newman, ID, 'Home at Last' - Steely  
Dan, 'Suddenly Last Summer' - The Motels,  
'Last Night' - The Travelling Wilburys, into a  
program of "Last" themed songs. SSTV (Little  
boy running toward a school with  
"KINDERGARTEN FINISH LINE" on a banner  
with "Wolverine Radio"). (Taylor-WI)

6955-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO FREE  
WHATEVER.** 2305, 04-07-24, DJDW giving  
shout outs to HFU, ID into 'Cognitive  
Dissonance' - Sophie Holohan, ID, into  
program of "the most recent Indie music"  
with DJDW talking between every few songs.  
Poor- fair, noisy. (Taylor-WI)

6955-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WDOG.** 0049-0100,  
04-13-24, a show of Velvet Underground  
songs. Good Signal. (Majewski-CT)

6955-AM, PIRATE-NA. **WTF RADIO WW.**  
0104, 04-15-24, Jimi Hendrix bends the

strings w/"Jam Back at the House," anncr w/  
ID and comments, mx back: J.H. w/"Castle  
Magic," back w/"Red House." (Montney-MI)

6960-AM, PIRATE-NA. **BALLSMACKER  
RADIO.** 0058, 04-20-24. YL w/ID and mx  
begins: Lynyrd Skynyrd w/"That Smell," The  
Beatles w/"Got To Get You Into of My Life,"  
Boston w/"Smokin," and we get  
"Comfortably Numb." Also heard from these  
artists: Musical Earth, Brewer and Shipley,  
Tom Petty. Closed after Sublime w/"Smoke  
Two Joints." (Montney-MI)

6963-USB, PIRATE-NA. **BACK IN BLACK  
RADIO.** 2333 - 0010, 04-23-24, Music  
selections from Jefferson Starship, Nick  
Drake & Pink Floyd. Multiple Easypal images  
"Back In Black Radio" for ID. Good copy. S6.  
(Penney-MA)

6965-AM, PIRATE-NA. **THE SUNSPOT.** 1900 -  
1915, 04-08-24, repeatedly played "King of  
Pain" by The Police. OM with repeated ID:  
"You've found the spot, the sun spot,  
monitor this band for programming from the  
Sun Spot Broadcasting System. Decent  
reception. S7. (Penney-MA)

6967.64-AM, PIRATE-NA. **STERN RADIO.**  
0356, 03-29-24, music JBA vs high line noise  
level HLNL at S9+25! Per this, it's Stern  
Radio, 6967.666v. (Hauser-OK)

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](mailto:hq@naswa.net). Missing issue emails go to [missing-issues@naswa.net](mailto:missing-issues@naswa.net). Thanks!



# Scoreboard

Gary R. Neal • P.O. Box 1 • Cockeysville, MD 21030-0001 • grneal@earthlink.net

This month we are highlighting our members' totals from Europe. Ranking is based upon European Countries Verified. This is your chance to show everyone how well you are doing. The next deadline is September 15th for the October 2024 issue of the Journal. The spotlight will be on North and Central America.

Name, State	Total		Europe		Best Europe QSL
	C/H	C/V	C/H	C/V	
Edward Kusalik, ALB	251	249	47	47	Petrozavodsk 4780 Karelo-Finnish SSR
Jerry Berg, MA	244	244	47	47	Polish Pathfinders Station (1kw.)
Dan Henderson, MD	253	248	47	46	R. Brest Belarus 6010 kHz
Harold Cones, VA	247	246	46	46	
Rich D'Angelo, PA	234	234	46	46	Karelian Radio, Karelo-Finnish SSR
Tom Williamson, ON	243	230	46	45	Tallin Estonia
Chris Lobdell, MA	229	225	45	45	R. Mi Amigo - England (22 w.)
Kris Field, PA	213	202	45	45	Poland
Sheryl Paszkiewicz, WI	225	219	44	44	Scotland
James W. Young, CA	253	239	46	43	Andorra, 5972 kHz in 1960
Jim Evans, TN	213	203	43	43	RIAS Berlin
George Maroti, NY	208	202	44	43	Valley Wave Int'l, Wales
Donald Hosmer, MI	228	201	45	43	RIAS Berlin
Ross Comeau, MA	193	172	44	43	WMR Scotland
Wendel Craighead, KS	235	223	42	42	RTV Skopje, Ljubljana, Novi Sad, & Titograd
James R. Renfrew, NY	189	161	42	42	RAI Sicily
Stephen Price, PA	198	183	40	40	Sicily Uno
Bill Smith, MA	186	177	39	39	Luxembourg
Dan Robinson, MD	235	211	41	38	R. Andorra
Gary R. Neal, MD	137	127	38	38	R. Europe (500 w.)
Bob Raymond, NH	175	151	41	37	Icelandic National Broadcasting Service
Dan Srebnick, NJ	156	121	38	37	R. Minsk
Jerry Johnston, KY	210	141	41	36	R. Alfa Lima International
Edward G. Stroh, IL	135	104	37	35	R. Romania
Ron Howard, CA	212	200	34	34	RIAS Berlin
Scott R. Barbour, NH	168	115	36	33	TDF CCETT experimental DRM
Richard Bradley, MA	145	130	32	32	R. Denmark
Joe Kremer, OH	153	104	40	30	R. Vilnius
Ken McCartney, OH	125	73	34	26	VOA Rhodes
Richard Murphy, TX	135	88	25	25	
Gary W. Froemming, AZ	184	44	40	14	RID Time Station

Hank Michalenka, RI	200	163
David Turnick, PA	180	159
Larry Colton, FL	154	125
Jerry Ervine, TX	110	60

# Contributors' Page

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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.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Column</b>
<b>Greg MAJEWSKI</b> , Oakdale, CT		P
<b>Mark TAYLOR</b> , Madison, WI		P
<b>Rich D'ANGELO</b> , Wyomissing, PA		L,P
<b>Ed CICHOREK</b> , Somerset, NJ		L
<b>Eric BUENEMAN</b> , Hazelwood, MO		L,P
<b>Glenn HAUSER</b> , Enid, OK		L,P
<b>Bill MONTNEY</b> , Monroe, MI		P
<b>Tony PAVICK</b> , Hope, BC		P
<b>Tim NOONAN</b> , Oak Creek, WI		N
<b>David TURNICK</b> , Sinking Spring, PA		L
<b>Gianni SERRA</b> , Roma, Italy		P
<b>Ralph PERRY</b> , Wheaton, IL		P
<b>Alan ROE</b> , Teddington, UK		LN
<b>David ROSS</b> , Hamilton, ON		L
<b>Pamela PRODAN</b> , Wilton, ME		L

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.

# Loggings

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- 5995 **MALI ORTM**, Apr 16 at 0654, ORTM with music modulation instead of noise blob like last night; vs high storm noise level from nearby – a bit earlier we had a lite hailstorm (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 6050 **ECUADOR HCJB Voice of the Andes** via Pico Pichincha 0401 "Jesucristo Basta" by Un Corazón & Living. 0405 man in Spanish talking about the apostle Paul and the Holy Spirit. Good signal Apr. 13 (Ross-ON)
- 6060 **SÃO TOMÉ Voice of America** relay via Pinheira 0403 man in English with news item on the White House spokesperson did not elaborate on what specific changes would make to its policy toward Israel and Gaza in the coming days. Fair to Good signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 6070 **CANADA CFRX** Toronto (CFRB 1010 AM) 2305-12 long excerpt from Shohei Ohtani press statement about gambling, announcer seemed skeptical; then story about generous retirement packages for retiring MPs; fair 3/25 (Prodan-ME)
- 6080 **BOTSWANA Voice of America** relay via Moepeng Hill 0330 Michael Brown with ID in English and news report from Jackie Quinn about the Baltimore Key Bridge collapse and how it has threatened the livelihood of many business owners. Head of the Small Business Administration, Isabel Guzman came to Baltimore to offer federal services and helping them to resource centers to make sure that financial relief, financial support was available to them. Good signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 6080 **BOTSWANA Voice of America** relay via Moepeng Hill 0330 Michael Brown with ID in English and news report from Jackie Quinn about the Baltimore Key Bridge collapse and how it has threatened the livelihood of many business owners. Head of the Small Business Administration, Isabel Guzman came to Baltimore to offer federal services and helping them to resource centers to make sure that financial relief, financial support was available to them. Good signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 6080 **SÃO TOMÉ Voice of America** relay via Pinheira 0403 man in English with news item on the White House spokesperson did not elaborate on what specific changes would make to its policy toward Israel and Gaza in the coming days. Fair to Good signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 6130 **NETHERLANDS Radio Europe Netherlands** via Alphen aan den Rijn. 0528-0600 featured a string of songs "We Can Make It Baby", "A Love That Can Never Be", "Apache", "Who's Lovin' You", "Farewell My Love", "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore", "Hanky Panky", "Jump", "Yakety-Yak", "Where You Gonna Be Tonight", "Booze Party", "I'm the Sexy Girl" and numerous ID's by man in English, one of which came through clear at Fair signal Apr. 15 (Ross-ON)
- 6155 **AUSTRIA Radio Austria Int.** via Moosbrunn 0510 man & woman in German talking about electronic waste that has doubled worldwide due to cheap production and raw material costs. Very Good signal Apr. 8 (Ross-ON)
- 6160 **UNITED STATES WBCQ** Monticello, ME 2305-48 Radio Timtron Animals - I'm Cryin, Chubby Checker - Black Cloud, more; good 3/23 (Prodan-ME)

- 6165 **GERMANY NHK Radio Japan** via Nauen 0448 man & woman in Russian talking about Japan's railway system which is very developed and covers the entire country with cities connected to each other by express lines, which are very convenient for traveling long distances. Good signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 6180 **BRASIL Radio Nacional da Amazônia** 2200-2300+ music, some talk; both freq good 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 7325 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Intl** Spanish 0034-38 f & m speakers "... mi gusta mucho ..."; good 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 7375 **UNITED KINGDOM. Voice of America** relay via Woofferton 0428 "Daybreak Africa" program man in English with news item of a public hospital in Kenya's capital Nairobi, has laid off 100 doctors who are taking part in a nationwide strike that has been going on for almost a month. 0430 Tommy McNeil with news. A report from Voice of America's White House correspondent, Anita Powell with an update on several new developments in Gaza ceasefire discussions. Good signal Apr. 10 (Ross-ON)
- 7410 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Intl** French 0245-55 frequent mention of Romania, talk about programs, national television, other broadcasts; good 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 7410 **VATICAN CITY BBC** 0039-44+ Dari (listed) dramatization with farm sounds (cow, chicken etc), some musical interludes (//7445 ENGLAND); fair+ 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 7410 **CHINA China Radio Int'l** in JJ to FE. April 2, 2024, 1526 – 1536. SIO 555. POP MX in JJ with YL singers. Broadcast is likely via Jinhua. (Henley, WA)
- 7425 **CHINA China Radio Intl** English 0044-47 m & f discussing economy, confidence & spending, employment "people have to have jobs"; poor+ 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 7435 **UNITED STATES Radio Marti** Greenville, NC Spanish 0047- 2 m speaking; good 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 7445 **UNITED KINGDOM BBC** 0047-0100 Dari (listed) same dramatization as on //7410 but about one second behind; at 0059 BBC Radio ID in Dari; good 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 7445 **OMAN BBC** 0255-59 Dari (listed) m ann mentioned Pakistan & Saudi Arabia before cut off at 0259; fair- 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 7490 **UNITED STATES WBCQ** Monticello, ME 2152-59 Marion's Attic old-time country "I Love You For Sentimental Reasons," "Eight More Miles to Louisville" Grampa Jones 1946; good 3/10 (Prodan-ME)
- 7490 **UNITED STATES WBCQ** Monticello, ME 0013-0100 Cruisin' the Decades incl Coasters "Young Blood" (1957) and Sam Cooke "Bring It On Home To Me" (1962); also Tommy Dorsey, OJs, Run DMC, Betty Hutton; good 3/31 (Prodan-ME)
- 7730 **UNITED STATES WRMI** Okeechobee, FL 0055-59 Radio Slovakia Intl, f ann closing with PO and internet address; fair 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 9330 **UNITED STATES WBCQ** Monticello, ME 2327-30 Portuguese World's Last Chance 2 m in discussion; very good 3/10 (Prodan-ME)
- 9395 **UNITED STATES WRMI** Okeechobee, FL 2300-12 OTH Radio, playing Grammy Award winners, starting with Tony Bennett, I Left My Heart in San Francisco; fair 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 9435 **NORTH KOREA Voice of Korea** in EE to NAM. April 11, 2024, 1540 – 1545. SIO 444. Choral singing with YL chorus. YL announcer. More MX. Via Kujang. (Henley, WA)

- 9440 **FRANCE NHK World Radio Japan** via Issoudun 0457 man in Japanese with weather info of a flood warning for Chiba Prefecture and rain for the Kanto-Koshinetsu, Kanto regions, Northern part of the Izu Islands, Shizuoka Prefecture, Northern Nagano Prefecture & Niigata Prefecture. 0459 ID by woman & schedule info for 15.280 MHz. Pips for 0500 & IS and off. Fair signal Apr. 9 (Ross-ON)
- 9490 **FRANCE Radio Republica**, 0105, 4-2-24. Man speaking in Spanish with several mentions of "Havana, Cuba and demacratico" heard during the talk. Casual ID's by the speaker. Very good. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 9535 **CLANDESTINE Radio Ndarason Int'l** via Woofferton, UK - 3/29 0657 noted with Middle Eastern music and sign-off in French. SIO 323. (Bueneman-MO)
- 9580 **CUBA China Radio Int'l**, 0109, 4-2-24. Discussion between a man and woman in English about pollution of the Yellow river in China and efforts to improve the water quality. Fair with noise. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 9665 **BRASIL Radio Voz Missionria** Portuguese 2300-12 loud, vigorous, breathless exhorting; fair 3/17; 0051- Glory Glory Hallelujah intro to promos & frequencies; fair 3/18 (Prodan-ME)
- 9670 **GERMANY Channel 292** 2224-2245 Pop Shop Radio, many program IDs by DJ Tony, vocal cover by Canadian singer of Santo & Johnny's big 1959 instrumental hit "Sleepwalk"; poor 3/9; (program repeated 3/18 on 5950 WRMI 0100-Sleepwalk at 0127, also a Croatian singer; fair) (Prodan-ME)
- 9700 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Intl** Romanian 0218-59 classical concert, incl major piece by Carl Maria von Weber (ending at 0235), other shorter pieces; very good 3/10 (Prodan-ME)
- 9725 **VATICAN VOICE OF AMERICA** relay via Santa Maria di Galeria 0458 "VOA Editorial" with woman in English with comments by White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby regarding new multilateral sanctions to target Iran's missile. Good signal Apr. 17 (Ross-ON)
- 9760 **ALASKA. KNLS** religious broadcast in CC. April 2, 2024, 1512 - 1520. SIO 555. YL with homily in CC. Target is China. Minor QRN, good signal, easy listening. MX clip then OM continues with sermon / homily. (Henley, WA)
- 9790 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l**, 0000,4-2-24. Sign on by a man with ID repeated twice. Then a woman speaking with presumed news items in Romanian. Very good. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 9790 **CUBA CRI/CGTN Radio** via Havana 0329 "The Bridge" program with man talking about China is experimenting with different kinds of tools for a total trade between different countries and their own currency and is already trading with several nations around the world in their own currencies. Good signal Apr. 10 (Ross-ON)
- 9805 **UNITED STATES. Radio Marti** via Greenville, NC 1221 woman in Spanish with news item from the UNG, based in the United States, indicating in a statement that it documented repressive actions in several provinces in Cuba, based on reports of social networks and independent media with registered arrests, interrogations and threats to Cuban citizens and activists for their publications on social networks after the protests last March. Very Good signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 9830 **FRANCE Deutsche Welle** via Issoudun - 3/21 0653 noted with interview in Hausa. SIO 333. (Bueneman-MO)

- 9880 EAST TURKISTAN *China Radio Int'l*** , Apr 16 at 2220, S8/S9 with flutter hard to read at first seems English intonation, then Esperanto, which is what's listed this hour from CRI via Kashi-Saiba (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 9915 ASCENSION ISLAND *BBC*** relay via English Bay 0619 "Weekend" program with woman and man in English talking about children inside the Gaza strip and the effects of war on them. 0621 time check and ID by woman and interviewing Daniel Susskind describing his new book, "Growth: A Reckoning" focused on GDP numbers that came into use after the second world war. 0630 BBC news read by woman. Good signal Apr. 13 (Ross-ON)
- 11620 ROMANIA *Radio Romania Int'l*** via Tiganesti 0604 man in German with news item of the Energy Ministry is organizing on Monday, in collaboration with several entities, an event dedicated to the first Lower Security Point on Cybersecurity organized in Romania. Fair to Good signal Apr. 16 (Ross-ON)
- 11620 ROMANIA *Radio Romania Int'l*** – Tiganesti, 0020-0036 April 12, English language program with feature about the Romanian economy, Sports report and station ID followed by a program of opera music. Good signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 11620 ROMANIA *Radio Romania Int'l***, 0030, 4-1-24. Heard the end of Romanian language lesson then ID in English by a man. This followed with a Romanian pop vocal by a male singer. Very good. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 11620 CHINA *China Radio Int'l***, 2328, 4-12-24. Woman speaking in listed Vietnamese with short musical breaks in between talk. At 2330 no discernable ID just continued talk. Poor with noise. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 11725 NEW ZEALAND *RNZ Pacific*** via Rangitaiki 1254 man in English talking about climate change affecting the economies of Pacific island countries. 1258 IS & ID by man with sign off announcement telling listeners to tune to 7440 now for the next broadcast. Fair signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 11740 ROMANIA *Radio Romania Int'l*** via Galbeni 0511 man in French talking about Romania helping Ukraine with the export of agricultural products and the importance of the road and rail connection which will ensure the link between the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea Very Good signal Apr. 13 (Ross-ON)
- 11745 SAUDI ARABIA, *Al-Azam Radio***, 2335, 4-12-24. Male singing in Arabic. Best in USB due to CNR-2 splatter. Poor. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 11760 CUBA *Radio Habana Cuba***, 2307, 4-11-24. Musical program of Cuban pop vocals. Comments by a woman in Spanish in between songs. Fair with noise. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 11785 TURKEY *Voice of Turkey*** – Emirler, 2214-2240 April 10, English language program with various features including "Turkey and the Middle East", Turkish music selections. Good signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 11810 UAE Dubai *BBC*** 1900-04 "BBC World Service," news Israel, Ukraine, India; fair-3/8 (Prodan-ME)
- 11815 JAPAN *NHK Radio Japan*** in JJ to SEA via Yamata. April 14, 2024. 1556 – 1600. SIO 444. OM with commentary in JJ. ID and program sign-off at 1559 with YL announcer. Time pips at TOH, then off the air. (Henley, WA)
- 11815 JAPAN. *NHK Radio Japan*** in JJ to SEA. April 2, 2024, 1456 – 1507. SIO 444. Interval signal and theme MX prior to 1455. Via Yamata. Time pips at TOH, OM with ID at 1500. News items, including the Gaza war. Classical MX follows. (Henley, WA)

- 11830 **CHINA CRI/CGTN Radio** via Kashi (Kashgar) 0253 man in Spanish talking about the effects of high temperatures as a consequence of global warming and the desirability of a low-carbon life, despite the melting of glaciers and the rise in sea level. 0255 "She said" by JJ Lin. 0300\* Fair signal Mar. 24 (Ross-ON)
- 11875 **FRANCE Radio France Internationale** via Issoudun – 3/29 0703 noted with news in Mandinka. SIO 323. (Bueneman-MO)
- 11885 **VIETNAM Voice of Vietnam** – Sontay, \*2129-2158\* Mar 19, musical opening followed by a man announcer with station ID and a man and woman with opening announcements for the English program. News followed by features with music selection at 2153. Poor signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 11894 **SAIPAN [and non] RFA** . 11894.945 approx., Apr 16 at 0649, S5/S7 direct, at first unseems Chinese, then it does seem. RFA sked at 0300-0700, surely jammed, but this may have a propagational advantage and more likely to be off-frequency. However, per Aoki, also on 11895 is CRI English via East Turkistan at 05-09. The SSOB except for similar signal on 12065, BBC Hausa via ASCENSION (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 11960 **GERMANY AWR The Voice of Hope** via Nauen 0300 ID by woman in English into announced Tigrinya program. Good signal Apr. 12 (Ross-ON)
- 11960 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l** via Galbeni IS & woman in English with ID & contact info. 0531 man with ID and news item of Romania's population declined 0.5% compared to 2023. 0537 "Radio Newsreel" program with commentary on NATO's 75 Anniversary & the Romanian Foreign Minister, Luminița-Teodora Odobescu welcomed Sweden's succession. Very Good signal Apr. 6 (Ross-ON)
- 12035 **THAILAND Voice of America Deewa Radio** via Udon Thani to Afghanistan. April 14, 2024, 1548 – 1555. SIO 333. Mixed commentators in Pashto. (Henley, WA)
- 12070 **VATICAN CITY Voice of America** relay Santa Maria di Galeria – 3/29 0701 noted with news in Hausa. SIO 323. (Bueneman-MO)
- 12075 **BOTSWANA Voice of America** French 1938-45 "le monde aujourd'hui," discussion of US drone bases in Niger; 1946-48 off air; 1950-53+ discussion of charcoal production (charbonner) & use (cooking, etc) in Nigeria, "VOA Afrique"; poor-fair //11900 SAO TOME fair, clearer //15730 UNITED STATES good 3/17 (Prodan-ME)
- 12080 **PHILIPPINES Voice of America** relay via Tinang 1247 man in Korean talking about the Minister of Foreign Exchange believes that the United States and Japan can jointly develop the essential military and defense forces and repeatedly produce them economically. Good signal Apr. 8 (Ross-ON)
- 12080 **PHILIPPINES. Voice of America** in KK to FE via Tinang. April 2, 2024, 1450 – 1458. SIO 444. OM announcer with ID and contact information. Long monologues. (Henley, WA)
- 13530 **TAIWAN Sound of Hope** Chinese 2312-17 m & f in discussion; poor+ 3/9 (Prodan-ME)
- 13600 **FRANCE NHK World Radio Japan**, Apr 15 at 0531, S6/S9 ``NHK World Radio Japan`` ID in English as required, otherwise in French. I bet it's TDF warped relay transmitter like on 9490.1 for R. República. Yes, ISS listed at 0530-0550 for Africa (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 13670 **MADAGASCAR Madagascar World Voice**, New Life Station via Mahajanga at 0344 "English Hour" program with man in English with a sermon discussing Jonah. 0351 hymn "I Am Crucified With Christ" by Dallas Christian Adult Concert Choir.

- 0355 "Give Your Heart a Break" by Demi Lovato. 0359\* Fair signal Apr. 9 (Ross-ON)
- 13690 NEW ZEALAND RNZ Pacific** via Rangitaiki 0609 woman with David Makovsky from the Washington Institute talking about Qatar. 0602 man & news item of Russian missile attacks that killed at least 17 people and wounded about eighty others in the northern Ukrainian city of Chernihiv on Wednesday. Good signal Apr. 18 (Ross-ON)
- 13740 FRANCE Radio France Internationale** via Issoudun – 3/29 0705 noted with news, mention of Burkina Faso in French. SIO 434. (Bueneman-MO)
- 13750 THAILAND Radio Thailand** - Ban Dung, Udon Thani Prov., 0023-0029\* Mar 20, woman announcer with the English language news program, a man announcer with station ID ("You are listening to Radio Thailand news"), with ad string, promotional announcements until news terminated mid-sentence. Fair signal. (D'Angelo-PA)
- 13760 MADAGASCAR Madagascar World Voice**, New Life Station via Mahajanga 0325 man in English with sermon referencing Mathew 20:26, 1st Timothy 3:1-12 and Titus 1:5-9. 0327 "Atlas" by Coldplay. 0330 woman talking about Doctor Rebecca Vandiver Good signal Apr. 14 (Ross-ON)
- 13860 CHINA China Radio Int'l** in RR to Eastern Europe. April 14, 2024, 1538 – 1545. SIO 444. POP MX with YL singer and YL announcer between songs. Moderate QRN / QSB. (Henley, WA)
- 15105 SWAZILAND TRW**, April 12 at 1532, tinkling TWR IS, surely one of the most distinctive and recognizable, S5/S7. Aoki shows 1535-1920 in Tig language M-F. Surely that's a typo for -1620. Yes, much more precisely, EiBi shows 1532-1621 M-F. Now the question is, why would they schedule a broadcast to start at the odd time of :32 or :35 past an hour? (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 15140 CUBA Radio Habana Cuba**, April 9 at 1530, RHC Spanish S9 but undermodulated and squeezing out spurblobs approx plus/minus 3 kHz, and weaker plus/minus 6. Something's always wrong at RHC (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 15215 GUAM. Adventist World Radio** to South Asia via Agat, Guam. April 14, 2024, 1501 – 1509. SIO 343. OM with ethnic MX, voice and instrumentals. YL with ID and contact information at 1506. OM follows with homily. (Henley, WA)
- 15235 TURKY Voice of Türkiye** via Emirler – 3/29 0646 noted with commentary in Hausa into light Turkish vocal music. SIO 323. (Bueneman-MO)
- 15300 FRANCE Radio France Internationale** via Issoudun – 3/27 0728 noted with commentary in French. SIO 333. (Bueneman-MO)
- 15350 CHINA CRI/CGTN Radio** 0602 woman in English with news item of Dubai International Airport said it's facing very challenging conditions and warns that recovery will take some time. Fair signal Apr. 18 (Ross-ON)
- 15350 TURKY Voice of Türkiye** via Emirler – 3/27 0726 noted with commentary in Turkish. SIO 444. (Bueneman-MO)
- 15410 INDIA AIR Akashvani External Service** 0516 woman in English interviewing a political analyst concerning senior citizen voter turnout. 0518 woman with ID and requested listeners to refer to their mobile app, YouTube and to share feedback through email or WhatsApp. Fair signal Apr. 9 (Ross-ON)
- 15440 MADAGASCAR Trans-World Radio** in Urdu via Talata Volonondry to South Asia. April 14, 2024, 1447 – 1456. SIO 444. Mixed OM / YL speakers in commentary. Religious broadcast. Minor QRN / QSB. Good signal. (Henley, WA)

- 15440 **GUAM KSDA, the Voice of Hope** via Agat 1400 ID by woman in English into program in Mandarin. 1402 song "Meet you in praise" by Clay Music & Amy Sand. Fair to Poor signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 15440 **MADAGASCAR TWR**, Apr 16 at 1458, good signal in unID lang until 1459\*. Aoki shows TWR Asia via Talata in Urdu at 1430-1500 (Glenn Hauser, OK,)
- 15445 **CHINA CRI/CGTN Radio** via Kashi (Kashgar) 0439 "Back in time" by Cold Bowl. 0441 woman in Russian with a journey through China talking about the Eternal Spring and Graceful Spring gardens. 0441 "Forever Young" by Shan Yichun. Fair signal Apr. 11 (Ross-ON)
- 15460 **AUSTRALIA Reach Beyond Australia** via Kununurra, WA 1324 "Back to the Bible" program with Dr. John in English with a sermon concerning Jeremiah, John & King David. 1329 song "Jesu / What a Friend" by Dino. 1330 into Hindi (listed) program. Fair signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 15475 **ANTARCTICA LRA36**. 15475.98 RC USB, Sat Apr 13 at 2145 tune-in early for LRA36, but it's already running, VP into only BsAs remote working, Spanish but no match for S7 noise level. 2149 switch to Brasilia SDR where it's \*much\* better tho only S3/S6 with music, 2155 ID, 2214 & 2216 IDs in passing. Reduced carrier barely perceptible by tuning lower in USB. By 2235 faded down to only S2/S3, barely readable. 2340 next check is gone, just splash from 15480 China. So I wonder what time starting now, and still only on Saturday? (Glenn Hause, OK)
- 15490 **PHILIPPINES Radio Vaticana** in Hindi via Tinang to South Asia. April 14, 2024, 1441 – 1446. SIO 555. Two YLs in Hindi discussion. Excellent signal. OM joins at 1445. (Henley, WA)
- 15490 **UNITED KINGDOM BBC** via Woofferton 0506 journalist Audrey Brown in English with "Weekend" program with news item of scuffles broke out between Israeli police and protesters demanding the return of hostages taken by Hamas 6 months ago today with demonstrators chanting slogans demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Fair signal Apr. 7 (Ross-ON)
- 15560 **AUSTRIA AWR** via Moosbrunn 0601 man in Arabic talking about worship of the sun which was common in Egypt. A Roman Emperor who was so devoted to sun worship that he placed the sun god on the coins he made. Man with a sermon referencing the Ten Commandments and Revelation 14. Fair signal Apr. 13 (Ross-ON)
- 15575 **SOUTH KOREA KBS World Radio** in KK via Kimjae to NAM. April 14, 2024, 1436 – 1441. SIO 555. Excellent signal. Two OMs in conversation or commentary. POP MX follows with OM POP singer. (Henley, WA)
- 15580 **BOTSWANA Voice of America** in EE via Mopeng Hill to East Africa. April 14, 2024, 1510 – 1517. SIO 333. YL announcer joins at 1515. Moderate QRN, shallow QSB. More MX follows. (Henley, WA)
- 15580 **BOTSWANA Voice of America** relay via Moepeng Hill 0600 VOA News with news item of Israel saying on Friday it will reopen a crossing into northern Gaza to allow more humanitarian aid into the hard hit area. Fair signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 15595 **VATICAN CITY Vatican Radio** via Santa Maria di Galeria – 3/27 0724 noted with Catholic teaching in Arabic. SIO 444. (Bueneman-MO)
- 15605 **MADAGASCAR Adventist World Radio** in Mizo / Luschai via Talata Volonondry to south Asia. April 14, 2024, 1518 – 1522. SIO 333. OM announcer with commentary. Religious MX follows with YL singer. (Henley, WA)

- 15640 **KUWAIT Radio Azadi** via Umm al Rimam – 3/27 0729 noted with commentary in Dari, Middle Eastern music interlude into news in Pashto at 0730. SIO 323. Also heard 3/29 0641 with commentary in Dari, SIO 222. (Bueneman-MO)
- 17535 **VATICAN BBC** relay via Santa Maria di Galeria 1213 woman in French with news item of Senegal's election management body having a reputation for independence. Fair signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 17620 **TURKEY TRT** via Emirler 1314 "That's Why" program with woman in English talking about greeting styles which vary from culture to culture and region to region. 1317 song "Cemalım" by Kubat. Fair signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 17630 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l** via Galbeni 1152 "Simply Folk" program song by Tita Barbulescu. 1156 sign off announcement by man for 11630 & 21470 kHz with url & email addresses. IS played twice & off. Fair signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 17675 **NEW ZEALAND RNZ Pacific** via Rangitaiki 0544 man in English with news item of a proposed two state solution to the Gaza conflict. Good signal Apr. 11 (Ross-ON)
- 17680 **UNITED STATES Radio Martí** via Greenville, NC – 3/12 1924 noted with VOA commentary, promo, "Radio Martí" ID into women's issues program in Spanish. SIO 555. (Bueneman-MO)
- 17700 **UNITED STATES Voice of America** Greenville, NC – 3/12 1928 noted with pop music program in French. SIO 555. (Bueneman-MO)
- 17715 **SPAIN Radio Exterior de España** via Noblejas – 3/1 0116 noted w/commentary in Spanish. SIO 434. (Bueneman-MO)
- 17735 **CHINA China Radio Int'l** in Mandarin to Europe. April 14, 2024, 1525 – 1532. SIO 444. Mixed announcers, POP MX with YL vocalist. Good MX, advertisements in CC. (Henley, WA)
- 17780 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Int'l** via Tiganesti 1200 IS & man in Arabic with ID & P.O. Box and email addresses. 1201 man with news item of announcement by the Romanian Foreign Minister, Luminița-Teodora Odobescu regarding a speech she made during the ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Northern Alliance. Fair signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 17790 **VATICAN Vatican Radio** via Santa Maria di Galeria 1143 man & woman in English with a prayer. 1145 "Himmelfahrt" by Mark Allen Shepherd. 1147 prayer by man & woman. Fair signal Apr. 5 (Ross-ON)
- 17790 **MADAGASCAR AWR** via Talata Volonondry 0510 man in Arabic with sermon referencing Acts 13:42, 13:44, 16 and the Book of Revelation. Very Good signal Apr. 11 (Ross-ON)
- 17855 **SPAIN SNR** , Fri Apr 19 at 2200, token English from SNR, VG direct even on the portable unlike TRT; feature after news something about an art exhibition minus any visual element (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 25900 **ENGLAND BBC** 1630-36 "BBC News with Sue Montgomery" incl Philippine university students calling for accountability re sexual assaults, more; poor-fair but faded 3/8 (Prodan-ME)

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