

The **NASA** Journal

VOLUME LXV NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2025



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Weekend
Radio**
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In This Issue

NASA Notes	4
Shortwave Program Spotlight	6
International Broadcasting.....	10
Shortwave Center.....	13
The Robinson Report	25
Listener's Notebook.....	28
Pirate Radio Report	39
Contributors' Page.....	47
Loggings.....	48
NASA SWL Festival	54
Index	56

NASWA Notes

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We are in the midst of another great DX season with many remarkable listening opportunities presenting themselves daily. The upper frequency ranges should be opening up nicely over the coming months as daylight lengthens and the solar cycle advances. Denmark on 25,800 kHz should be on everyone's target list. Let our editors know what you are up to. Loggings to Mark Taylor for the weekly electronic Flashsheet (markokpik@gmail.com), Dave Turnick (david.turnick@gmail.com) for the monthly Log Report that appear in the Journal and Musings about what you are up to Jerry Alice Lineback (jalinebk@gmail.com). Let all of us make 2025 an outstanding shortwave radio year.

If you receive your Journal as a PDF but would prefer to read your copy of the e-Journal on your e-reader, we now have a solution. If your e-reader (Kindle, Nook, Kobo, etc.) has an email address for content delivery and supports PDF format, send this address to journal@naswa.net. More specific instructions are available for the Kindle. On the 1st of each month, the latest issue will appear in your e-reader if it is online.

This month's cover features the private shortwave stations of Finland. Although Radio Finland, the external service of YLE, closed down at the end of 2006, several low-power stations have been operating from Finland. Shown are: Scandinavian Weekend Radio, Virrat; Radio Piko, Asikkala; Radio

Blacksmith Knoll, Pori; RealMix Radio, Raasepori; and Radio Ambience, Lappeenranta. Thanks to John Herkimer for the great station covers.




Aungthu Schlenker of Radio Free Asia ("RFA") sends word that RFA just announced its latest QSL card marking the beginning of the new year, the Year of the Snake. For more than 28 years, RFA has delivered accurate, uncensored, domestic news to people living under authoritarian regimes across Asia and globally. Through its in-depth journalism, RFA brings to light consequential developments in China, North Korea, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, as well as the Pacific region. This is RFA's 87th QSL design and will be used to confirm all valid RFA reception reports from January through April 2025. RFA broadcasts in Burmese, Cantonese, Khmer, Korean to North Korea, Lao, Mandarin Chinese, Vietnamese, Tibetan (including Uke, Amdo,

Unity and Friendship

and Kham dialects), and Uyghur. As a 'surrogate' broadcaster, RFA provides news and commentary specific to each of its target countries, acting as the free press these countries lack. RFA broadcasts only in local languages and dialects, and most of its broadcasts comprise news of specific local interest. RFA encourages listeners to submit reception reports. Reception reports are valuable to RFA as they help them evaluate the signal strength and quality of their transmissions. RFA confirms all accurate reception reports by mailing a QSL card to the listener. RFA welcomes all reception report submissions not only from DX'ers, but also from the general listening audience. Reception reports are accepted by email at qsl@rfa.org and by regular mail to: Reception Reports, Radio Free Asia, 2025 M. Street NW, Suite 300, Washington DC 20036.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Journal will be the formal announcement about the upcoming NASWA SWL Fest (note the new name as the old winter reference has now been dropped, recognizing the future will be a spring event). Despite the "SWL" in the title this event has been an all-wave affair since its inception. Our hosts will once again be Rich Cuff and John Figliozzi. The 2025 Fest dates will be April 25 and 26, 2025 at the Holiday Inn Express & Guest Suites in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. The program schedule will be posted online at www.swlfest.com in early February and in the March and April editions of the Journal. The 2025 NASWA SWL Fest will be the second in-person event since 2020 and the CoVID-19 Pandemic, and it will again be limited to 65 in-person participants due to meeting space considerations. However, we also offer the option of participating via Zoom, as we have had the past three years. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Holiday Inn Express & Guest Suites in Fort Washington.

Bill Tilford's *Shortwave Program Spotlight* opens with an open letter to George Soros about investing in the shortwave spectrum after his commitment to spend \$400 million on medium wave broadcasting in North America. In keeping with news events, Bill discusses programming on KBS World in the wake of the impeachment of Korean President Yoon in the Korea 24 program while North Korea remains silent on its involvement in the Ukraine. Closing out the column are updates about radio Slovakia International and the Voice of Türkiye. John Figliozzi's *Shortwave Center* is filled with some great reading this month. First up this month is "New Shortwave Transmitter Serves RNZ Pacific The Ampegon 100 kW model supports both DRM and analog operation" by James Careless, followed by "ORF has Austria's 500-kilowatt short-wave transmitter blown up. The whole world can be reached with a unique short-wave antenna from Austria. It's slated to be blown up" by Daniel AJ Sokolov. Another feature by James Careless, "SDR: The Next Level of Shortwave Radio Listening Where have these things been all my life?", "Is Live Streaming Replacing the Need for Radio?" by Radio Today Staff. Closing the column is "DX Nostalgia" by Ronny Forslund. Besides an unusually long assortment of pirate loggings, Brian Penney's *Pirate Radio Report* column discusses FCC activity during fiscal year 2024 which included the agency conducting enforcement sweeps in the five markets with the most reported pirate radio activity, followed by six months of monitoring in those areas. The Enforcement Bureau also issued six forfeiture orders and 18 notices of apparent liability for pirate broadcasting violations, resulting in significant fines.

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

Shortwave Program Spotlight

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As always, any editorial opinions in this article are my own and not those of NASWA, the North American Shortwave Association.

To George Soros, A Modest Proposal

Dear Mr. Soros,

Now that you are committed to investing over 400 million USD in mediumwave broadcasting in North America, I would like to bring another part of the broadcast spectrum to your attention – the shortwave bands in North America. Radio Canada International's government entity left the airwaves years ago, and the United States has the Voice of America and a small alphabet soup of specialized stations for other continents plus a collection of private stations that broker time to program producers from other governments to various private persons and entities for usually less – sometimes much less- than \$100 per hour. Mexico has a low-power shortwave broadcaster, Radio Educación, that features mainly music and other cultural programming. This epistle concerns primarily broadcasting from (and to an extent, to) the United States on the private shortwave stations.

In the United States, the private shortwave stations are a financially endangered species and carry what critics usually characterize as a disproportionate amount of extreme right-wing commentary and often-fringe religious programming. Although I think that this criticism is sometimes exaggerated for effect, it is true enough that centrist / left of center

viewpoints and cultural programming other than rock tend to be underrepresented on the dial. A shortwave radio listener who scanned the bands for US stations could get a very distorted impression of the US unless that person also consumed other US media. This impression could be addressed rather effectively with an expenditure of probably less than one million USD per year including airtime and program production support as follows:

1. Most programs (excepting some religious programs) on international broadcasters are only on the airwaves in English a couple of hours a day. Sponsoring a block of commentary and/or cultural programming would involve an airtime lease of 700-750 hours per year at 2 hours per day.
2. Brokered-time stations like WRMI in Florida and WBCQ in Maine lease time at book rates of 50-100 USD per hour before any bulk-time discounts. This would mean an annual outlay of no more than 75,000 USD for the airtime itself before any bulk rate discounts. Considering the geographical reach of these stations, that airtime rate is an almost outrageous bargain compared to a similar buy in a local mediumwave market.
3. What about program content and production costs? Getting a good estimate of that results in a fuzzier sum, but there are plenty of existing programs already in podcast form that could be easily retrofitted for shortwave broadcast with relatively minimal expenditures. I am reasonably certain that this could be done for well less

than a total of 500,000 USD per year if the right options were pursued. Even underwriting an expansion of WRMI's relay of the World Radio Network, a collection of governmental broadcasts in English from other countries, would be worthwhile.

Why not leave this to Uncle Sam's governmental stations? There are three reasons, really:

1. Uncle Sam has pulled back from terrestrial broadcasts in favor of Internet, TV, and local stations overseas. In my studied opinion (with which the PRC apparently agrees as it continues to expand its own presence) is that this is a bad decision, but it is what it is, and we won't change that from here.

2. Although the original concept of the VOA included making a reasonable attempt to present the news objectively, in recent years, ever-increasing politization of the governing body has made VOA and its offsprings increasingly vulnerable to the political winds of the moment with an increasing emphasis on faithfully reflecting the views of the government of the United States. This is a somewhat paradoxical situation since a truly faithful reflection in these polarized times would need to be Voices of America, and this too, will not happen even though something analogous has been done in government broadcasters in other countries.

3. US government stations technically are not supposed to broadcast to US citizens in the United States. With the gradual deconstruction of the terrestrial broadcasting facilities in or near the US, theory is increasingly resembling practice. Private shortwave stations do not suffer that constraint as long as they demonstrate that they still also reach listeners beyond our borders.

Unlike the Audacity investment, there is probably not a road to actual profit here, but let's be honest – is there REALLY one in the mediumwave markets you are already targeting, or is that just a hope? I would like to believe that the real motive is that you believe in radio rather than in the return on investment, and at less than 1 million USD per annum, this could be a foundation activity that would potentially punch above its weight. Ignore the “nobody listens to shortwave anymore” argument. As a producer and host of two popular shortwave programs with audiences in the eastern hemisphere, I can tell you from my regular correspondence that this argument is rather like the “vinyl is dead” argument in the recording industry. The obituaries were premature and often written by people with ulterior motives for their position.

More About the Koreas



Thanks to an evolving story worthy of a historical epic involving the impeachment of the ROK's President Yoon, I have been paying rapt attention to *Korea 24*, KBS' Monday-Friday (local date) segment that runs after the news. As I wrote last month, it still includes in-depth, balanced, ongoing coverage of the saga. At press time, President Yoon was finally detained (on the second try), but interestingly, the latest opinion surveys show his party ahead in the polls anyway. If new elections were held tomorrow, his party would probably win. Another item of drama is that some of his supporters stormed the court (perhaps they watch too much US television?)

After the inauguration of Donald Trump as POTUS, *Korea 24*'s guest commentators were rather snarky about his motivations and understanding of foreign policy issues, although this was happening more or less

alongside a joint US-ROK air exercise. It will be interesting to hear how KBS handles any Trump administration outreach to the DPRK should that take place.



It has remained mostly minimalist about the DPRK's involvement in Ukraine but did mention that the ROK has sent a translator to Ukraine to help with interrogations of DPRK prisoners after Ukraine captured two. Right now, the best terrestrial option for North America in English remains 15575 kHz at 1300-1400 UTC, but in the western US, 9570 kHz may also be worth a try. KBS World radio also has one of the best station websites if you can't get it terrestrially.

Meanwhile, up north in the DPRK, there is still mostly silence about the Ukraine conflict, and it was a couple of days after the Trump inauguration before VOK tersely mentioned Trump at all without any editorial position. To be continued. Although technically aimed at SE Asia, if you are in the Western US, 0400-0500 UTC on 7220 kHz, 9445 kHz or 9730 kHz may be a good catch. For the rest of us in North America, try 1300 or 1500 UTC on 9435 kHz or 11710 kHz. VOK does also have a website, but I can't vouch for its cybersecurity level.

Meanwhile, in Slovakia...



Several months ago, there was a lot of concern in the blogosphere about the implications of the restructuring of Slovakia's broadcasters (including RSI) to a new iteration of STVR. The fear expressed

then was that RSI would become a mere government mouthpiece. I am happy to report after intensive daily listening (to which I am now hooked), RSI is anything but that as of press time. *Slovakia Today* includes a news compilation of various media from across Slovakia's political spectrum and some of the frankest political commentary that you'll hear on any government funded station anywhere including in-depth discussions of the country's various economic challenges. The country itself is experiencing a lot of political drama – Prime Minister Robert Fico recently survived an attempt by the opposition at a no-confidence vote after several actions described as “anti-European” and “anti-Ukraine” including a visit to Moscow and public criticism of the EU including threats to consider withdrawal from the body. The presentation style is often conversational, and there is always a little music during the half hour. This is must-hear radio right now and well-presented, and the press roundup is something that the VOA might want to look at as an effective way to cover more than just the government's official line on a subject. There are three WRMI relays in English to North America of RSI: 0030 UTC on 5850 kHz, 0130 UTC on 5800 kHz and 2200 UTC on 5850 kHz. There is also a relay to Europe at 0030 UTC on 15770 kHz that may be audible in parts of North America.

A Quick Word About Türkiye

A few weeks ago, VOT discontinued original programs in English in favor of relaying the audio of TRT World English, the television service that streams on Youtube. I have been both a long-time listener to VOT and a long-time viewer of TRT World. I'm going to wait another month before covering this in much more depth because there are some rather obvious transitional glitches with the feed approach -sometimes it is clearly edited with proper beginnings and acceptable endings,



sometimes not, which implies a work in progress (the interval signal for the original VOT has been retained, at least for now.) In the short run, this is better than totally scratching the English service. In the longer term, there are opportunities to combine the best of both worlds, but more about that next month. For now, the best North American option would be 5960 kHz at 2300 UTC, second best 6125 kHz at 0400 UTC. The ending time depends upon where the final segment is trimmed.

February 2025 Schedule:



From the Isle of Music and Uncle Bill's Melting Pot

From the Isle of Music will feature music by some participants in Havana's Jazz Plaza 2025, which took place at the end of January, as follows:

Friday, February 7:

3955 kHz at 2200 UTC

Saturday, February 8:

3955 kHz at 1800 UTC simulcasted with 9670 kHz using beam E-F (repeat of February 7 episode).

Uncle Bill's Melting Pot will feature mostly music from the Bahamas plus a few surprises and will air as follows:

Friday, February 14:

3955 kHz at 2200 UTC

Saturday, February 15:

3955 kHz at 1800 UTC simulcasted with 9670 kHz using beam E-F (repeat of February 14 episode).

Both shows recognize reception reports even using web SDRs with eQSLs as long as those cover most or all of the program and specify which web SDR was used to monitor them when applicable (shorter reports will get a shorter note of thanks rather than a full eQSL.) Remember that it might be necessary to use a different SDR away from Twente and away from Germany for some transmissions.

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

73, Bill

International Broadcasting

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USAGM audience will increase to 16 billion

and another dubious prediction: Kari Lake will move VOA to Des Moines

News about the transition of the U.S. Agency for Global Media, and its entities (including VOA) will probably come just after I write this column. But deadlines are deadlines. (NB: Amanda Bennett resigned as USAGM CEO on January 20. President Trump will nominate conservative media watchdog Brent Bozell to be the new USAGM CEO.) It may be months before former Arizona TV anchorperson Kari Lake will be sworn in as VOA director, as Donald Trump promised before his election.

Meanwhile, Kari Lake traveled to Iowa, where she grew up, fueling speculation that she will heed the calls of MAGA Republicans to challenge the more moderate Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) in the 2026 primary. (tinyurl.com/22rc7byg) So here's some political consultation for Lake, which I offer at no charge: Promise the people of Iowa that, as VOA director, she will move VOA to Des Moines. With all those jobs moved to Iowa, and the international recognition the flyover state will reap, she is certain to win that primary.

On January 20, Newsmax, no less, published an interview with Lake, in which she touted the new Trump administration. (tinyurl.com/25qkmqyo) "Peace and prosperity is coming to America, it's coming to the world," she said. I almost dinged her for a subject-verb disagreement, but, benefit

of the doubt, "peace and prosperity" can be a singular idea. So, peace and prosperity are "is," is they not? Trump is now obliged to achieve both, as a set.

Charles Z Wick claimed a billion viewers for Worldnet

In the closing days of the Biden administration, Biden-appointed USAGM CEO Amanda Bennett proclaimed another audience increase, to "a record 427 million weekly." (tinyurl.com/22rj3qc3) I'm sure that Dan Robinson, in his column elsewhere in this Journal, will register skepticism about the yearly increases of the audience for USAGM (i.e., all of its entities combined). But if you think this year's estimate is sketchy, I would not be surprised if reported audience sizes during the next USAGM management will really make our heads spin.

In 1984, Charles Z Wick, then director of the U.S. Information Agency, claimed, on national television, that Worldnet, USIA's first foray into international television, had an audience of *one billion*. That, of course, was a wild exaggeration. The billion probably referred to the number of the people in the footprints of the satellites that carried Worldnet. And few of those people owned receivers that could pick up Worldnet. (It was mostly via big dishes to cable systems and the like.)

The incoming USAGM management, not to be outdone by Wick, and because verifiable facts are for chumps, might come up with an estimate of, say, 16 billion, or twice the population of the world. Numbers like nobody's ever seen. This will not be based on surveys, but on evidence similar in nature to that which supports claims of stolen elections.

What secret sauce increased the audience?

Getting back to the FY2024 427 million, I am mostly skeptical that the number unflinching increases every year, despite downward pressure on traditional media and the expanding number of countries blocking new digital media. Back in the 1980s and 1990s, when I was doing audience research, VOA and BBC had a few down years. It was to be expected.

The USAGM FY 2024 Agency Performance Report (tinyurl.com/297tnyk3) partially explained this year's increase: "Larger measured audiences in Algeria, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ghana, Jordan, and Ukraine. Newly measured Radio Martí (OCB) reach outside of Cuba – in Venezuela, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Mexico; and new survey research in countries that have large communities of Russian- and Mandarin-speaking diasporas. In addition, USAGM was able to field surveys in multiple markets that had not been surveyed, for security or budgetary reasons, in more than five years – yielding new audience measurements for Belarus, Chad, Uzbekistan, and Niger."

Thus, some of the increase comes from expanding surveys to diaspora communities, which have always been an important part of the international broadcasting audience. But why did audiences increase in Algeria, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, etc? What was the secret sauce? New television affiliates? Reduced quality of domestic journalism?

More ownership of mobile devices with internet access?

The report also admitted to some reductions: "Smaller USAGM network audiences were measured in FY 2024 in Ethiopia, Turkey, Malawi, Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Burkina Faso, and South Africa."

BBC is an apple. USAGM is an orange.

USAGM's 427 million audience figure would be more useful if it were compared to something. The most logical comparison would be with BBC World Service, the only other organization with similar global scope and number of languages. Back in the Twentieth Century, BBC and VOA cooperated in audience research, and their methodologies were harmonized. The estimates for the VOA and BBC World Service global audiences were comparable. Now the annual audience number reported by the BBC is an apple, and the USAGM reported audience is an orange.

In those good old days of harmonized methodologies, I would insert questions in surveys asking why the respondent listened more often to BBCWS than to VOA, which was more common than the vice versa. Credibility of the news was the largest response, ahead of signal quality, appeal of the announcers, etc. Thus, credibility may be the most important factor in the success of an international broadcasting organization. Message rather than credibility will be USAGM's priority in the next few years. Audience sizes will consequently decline -- if accurate audience research is still around to measure that reality.

Silly performance measures waste everyone's time

Much of the USAGM Performance Report is devoted to measures required by the


Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA). This is a silly exercise that does little to expand the USAGM audience, but it does devour much time of audience research analysts and of the already overworked chiefs of VOA and other entity language services. The performance measures are written by USAGM, so they tend to be sure bets. For example: "Percentage of weekly audience who consider information to be very or somewhat trustworthy." People would not make the effort to access VOA etc. weekly if they didn't think it was trustworthy. For VOA, it was 86%. The 14% who access VOA weekly and don't think it is at least *somewhat* trustworthy must be students of propaganda, or are otherwise intrigued by VOA's perceived untrustworthiness.

Because of the subjective nature of these performance questions, the results can vary

inexplicably from year to year. Any decreases can affect the future of language services and the careers of service chiefs, even though they are the result of a crapshoot. Also, establishing targets is problematic, especially for audience size. The media environment and political situation can change without warning, affecting such audience numbers. Targets can be missed by a mile depending on how the cookie crumbles and how the ball bounces.

If USAGM and BBC audience numbers could be comparable, there is one annual target with which I would be comfortable: Assuming BBC has a larger audience than USAGM in their shared target countries, get one percent closer to the BBC.

See Kim's projects: <https://kaedotcom.bsky.social> and <https://swradiogram.net>

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

Shortwave Center

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*James Careless is a prominent name in radio technical reporting circles, including shortwave. An award-winning freelance journalist with experience in radio/TV broadcasting as well as A/V equipment, system design and integration, he has written for **Radio World**, **TV Tech**, **Systems Contractor News** and **AV Technology**, among others. Broadcast credits include **CBC Radio**, **NPR** and **NBC News**. He also co-produces/co-hosts the "CDR Radio podcast"*

and is a two-time winner of the PBI Media Award for Excellence.

*This month's SWC features two recent articles by Mr. Careless first published in **Radio World** magazine, including an intro to monitoring via SDR. However, one might also describe this month's first two articles as a sort of shortwave ecstasy and agony.*

SHORTWAVE BROADCASTING

This New Shortwave Transmitter Serves RNZ Pacific

The Ampegon 100 kW model supports both DRM and analog operation

By James Careless

Published: December 17, 2024 · Updated: January 8, 2025

RADIO WORLD Magazine

On Aug. 1, **RNZ Pacific** — the international service of New Zealand's public media organization RNZ — did something rather unusual by current international broadcasting standards.

Rather than take a shortwave transmitter offline to shut down a service, **RNZ Pacific** replaced it with a new 100 kW Ampegon TSW-2100 transmitter. As *Radio World's* Carter Ross reported at the time, "The new transmitter replaces the 33-year-old **RNZ Pacific** 'Transmitter 1' installed in 1989 at Rangitaiki, near Taupō in central North

Island. Part of a project to improve **RNZ Pacific's** capabilities, the new transmitter supports both DRM digital and analog operation." The estimated cost to the government was \$2.4 million (U.S.)

RNZ Pacific broadcasts with a rotating schedule on 17675, 13755, 7390, 11725, and 15720 kHz in analog and on 11690 and 13840 kHz in DRM.

Commissioning of the transmitter was officiated by the country's minister of foreign affairs at RNZ House in Wellington.

Why did RNZ Pacific take this step? We asked RNZ Technology Officer Mark Bullen and Transmission Manager Steve White.

Chartered service



A drone view of the RNZ Pacific shortwave site at Rangitaiki, New Zealand. (Photo courtesy RNZ.)

It may seem an overstatement to characterize **RNZ Pacific's** installation of a new radio transmitter as a life-or-death decision. But for those in the region who rely on its broadcasts during natural disasters — particularly on small islands with weak broadcast resources of their own — **RNZ Pacific** is an information lifeline.

This has been especially true since 2017, when Australia cut the last of its international shortwave services to save money.

Fortunately for **RNZ Pacific's** far-flung audience, this broadcaster's shortwave service appears to be safe for the foreseeable future.

"**RNZ**, under its charter, must 'include an international service to the South Pacific in both English and Pacific languages,'" said Bullen.

As a result, **RNZ** has been delivering shortwave broadcasts into the South Pacific region from the Rangitaiki transmitter site since 1990. "Prior to that the service was transmitted from our Titahi Bay site in Wellington, which opened on Monday Sept. 25, 1948," he said.

To abide by its charter, **RNZ Pacific** works with media partners across the Pacific to support the reception and rebroadcasting of its content in 22 nations.

As well, "as part of our lifeline utility role in New Zealand Aotearoa [the Māori-language name for New Zealand], we take on the role of ensuring that we can broadcast lifesaving information to the Pacific region," said Bullen. "Being able to deliver from outside the region ensures that it can be resilient, regardless of the event impacting the Pacific, whether it be cyclones or other causes resulting in loss of infrastructure. Since the other nearby shortwave service from Australia ended in 2017, this has reinforced our role as a shortwave service provider in the region."

RNZ Pacific's decision to include *Digital Radio Mondiale* capability in its new shortwave transmitter was designed to do more than deliver content to consumer DRM receivers.

"We have media partners that choose to rebroadcast our DRM service within their countries," Bullen said. "Unlike analog SW, DRM delivers high-quality digital audio that is suitable for rebroadcasting. Thankfully, our existing Thales shortwave 100 kW transmitter also can deliver both analog and/DRM services. So, this gives us flexibility and resilience across **RNZ Pacific's** two transmitters to simulcast if required or to perform maintenance on one of our transmitters."

RNZ Pacific chose the Ampegon 100 kW transmitter after a request for proposals process. “There were two key high-level reasons: commercial viability, and ongoing support and maintenance.” Another transmitter that was considered would have required structural changes to the transmission building.

“Working with Ampegon allowed us to leverage our long working history and support along with the ability to share spares and tubes between the new and old transmitters.”

Smooth transition



Steve White with the previous transmitter.

RNZ Pacific's new Ampegon shortwave transmitter provides the same transmission power as the 1989 Thomson 100 kW analog-only transmitter that it replaced. Listeners are not likely to notice much difference, unless, of course, they are tuning in using DRM digital radios.

“The coverage is unchanged, as there have not been any modifications or additions to the antenna system,” said Steve White.

“The gains for **RNZ Pacific** lie in ensuring that the service is reliable going forward and that we now have redundancy for our DRM service,” Bullen said.

Installing and commissioning the transmitter was a relatively smooth process, but some work still had to be done. Specifically, a site control system installed in 2005 was upgraded to interface to the new transmitter and the opportunity was taken to upgrade hardware and software to current versions. The audio distribution system was upgraded to a fully digital system, greatly improving operational flexibility.

Although the Ampegon was essentially a swap-out for the Thomson it replaced, the new transmitter is more efficient. “It also has the AMC analog modulation system, which results in further significant savings on power consumption along with much reduced stress on the transmitter,” said White.

Solid performance



The new Ampegon system in place.

The new transmitter is performing as specified. “Now that we have two fully operational transmitters again, we broadcast in analog mode using the second transmitter during our DRM broadcasts so that all listeners can receive the service,” White said.

The old Thomson transmitter has been dismantled, with useful parts recovered for spares. “Parts of the transmitter were also

sent to our Titahi Bay transmitter site in Wellington, where they will be put on display next to one of the original 1948 shortwave transmitters," said White.

The new transmitter appears to be delivering the kind of international reach that the broadcaster was looking for, based on reception reports that listeners send to RNZ Pacific daily as well as data from its own monitoring receivers in the Pacific region.

"We saw recently that the signal had been picked up by a pocket radio in Plymouth, Minnesota — some 13,000 kilometers [about 8,000 miles] away from the Rangitaiki site," White said.

"This suggests that the new transmitter is operating well."

ORF has Austria's 500-kilowatt short-wave transmitter blown up

The whole world can be reached with a unique short-wave antenna from Austria.
It's slated to be blown up.

Jan 23, 2025
By Daniel AJ Sokolov
Heise Online



The rotating antenna in Moosbrunn in 2007. It is no coincidence that Moosbrunn is the location of this unique shortwave transmitter: the area is marshy and the high ground conductivity is conducive to the antenna's radiation characteristics. (Image: Daniel Csiky)

A true monster of a shortwave antenna has been standing near Moosbrunn south of Vienna since 1983. The curtain antenna weighs 320 tons, produces up to 500

kilowatts and has two towers, each 76 meters high. The system runs on rails so that it can be rotated 180 degrees. This is unique, at least in Europe, and makes it possible to broadcast to the furthest corners of the earth. Nevertheless, owner ORS, a majority subsidiary of **ORF** (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation), would like to demolish the facility.

Perhaps as early as Thursday, or a week later if the weather is unfavorable. This can be seen from a brief communication from the mayor of the municipality of Moosbrunn, according to which "the striking rotating antenna on Prügelweg – will be blown up on January 23 or 30, 2025, depending on the weather. Experts from the blasting company assure the public that no special precautions need to be taken. A loud bang will be heard and traffic on the Prügelweg will be stopped for about five minutes shortly before the blasting."

The rapid death of the industrial monument comes as a surprise. Radio operators are

dismayed. "The demolition is extremely regrettable," said Michael Kastelic, President of the Austrian Experimental Transmitter Association (ÖVSV) and himself a radio amateur (OE1MCU) to *heise online*, "Relying only on digital and the Internet makes us completely dependent on other service providers, providers and political influences. Online transmission can be manipulated or blocked in the target area. In Russia, you can no longer listen to many stations via the Internet, but you can via shortwave. The discussion about net neutrality also has an influence here."

A long history

ORF broadcast international programs from Moosbrunn from 1959 to 2024. During the Cold War, **Radio Österreich International (RÖI)** produced 80 hours of programming daily in three languages, which were broadcast via different frequencies. Later, operations were gradually scaled back until Austria's government under Wolfgang Schüssel (ÖVP) closed **RÖI** in 2003.

Since then, **ORS** has mainly used its facility in Moosbrunn as a relay transmitter for other broadcasters. **ORF** owns 60 percent of **ORS**, while 40 percent is owned by the Austrian Raiffeisen Group, which has had to worry about its subsidiary bank in Russia since Russia's attack on Ukraine. Active operation of Moosbrunn's giant rotating antenna was discontinued in 2022, with the last program coming from **SM-Radio Dessau**. In addition to the rotating antenna, Moosbrunn also has smaller but still impressive antenna systems. With Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, **ORF** even used Moosbrunn for its shortwave broadcasts again. One of the less gigantic, steeper antennas was used to broadcast news to Ukraine three times a day, much to Moscow's annoyance. As the **ORF** radio station **FM4** reported, there were probably a particularly large number of soldiers among

the listeners, as they were equipped with short-wave devices.

However, the operation of the entire Moosbrunn facility was closed at the end of 2024. The largest customer, **Trans World Radio**, has terminated the contract to the current extent. Rumor has it that operation would have continued to cover costs. However, maintenance and spare parts are becoming increasingly expensive as the equipment is rare. When the Jülich shortwave center was demolished, Moosbrunn was still able to stock up on components, but even these do not last forever. And rising energy costs are increasing transmission tariffs, which is dampening demand.

Poorly built electronics and powerline interfere

"At the same time, shortwave reception is limited by the many poorly built electronic components in all kinds of devices," says Kastelic, "Their emissions interfere with the shortwave frequencies. And Powerline is really bad."

Since the closure of Moosbrunn, former employees and radio amateurs have been trying to find a new use for the building, or at least to preserve it as a museum. But the material value of hundreds of tons of steel and considerable quantities of copper cable can only be raised by dismantling.

Former **ORF** editor Erich Moechel believes this is short-sighted: "A communication's monument is being blown up in Moosbrunn, probably the last of its kind in the world," he told *heise online*, "This antenna is a symbol of how the **ORF** General Directorate has bid farewell to the world over the years. In the 90s, programs in six languages were broadcast via this powerful antenna, which were heard from Australia to South

America.” And Moechel already fears the next cut: “Now Austria's only English-language radio station, **ORF FM4**, is up for discussion in coalition negotiations.”

[Ed. Note: *ORF-FM4 can still be heard in North America via Internet radio.* <https://fm4.orf.at>]

SHORTWAVE TECHNOLOGY

SDR: The Next Level of Shortwave Radio Listening

Where have these things been all my life?

By James Careless

Published: August 5, 2024 · Updated: August 26, 2024

RADIO WORLD Magazine



There is a new breed of RF receivers known as software-defined radios, and they are revolutionizing the way in which people listen to shortwave (SW) radio, or indeed any form of radio broadcast.

SDRs combine plug-in radio receiver dongles/boxes with personal computers, with the computer serving as the user interface. What makes this interface so useful is that the listener's screen displays a wide swath of the bandwidth being tuned to, with each station's signal shown as a visual vertical line that moves and grows/shrinks with its signal strength.

In other words, the listener can literally see what is happening across the band in real time, rather than having to turn the dial or

push the Up/Down scanning buttons on a conventional shortwave radio, checking one station at a time.

SDRs come with a range of software tools for viewing, filtering and recording sound. One (or more) of these devices is an absolute must for anyone who likes to tune around the bands. And if you own a computer the only device to be bought is the RF receiver dongle/box, which is often less expensive than a standalone SW receiver of similar quality and performance.

How SDRs work

Jon Hudson is co-founder of **SDRplay**, a maker of wideband SDR receivers. The company sent me two of its box-enclosed SDRs to try out: the model **RSP1A** (\$117) and the new **RSP1B** (\$132.25, covering 1 kHz to 2 GHz; antenna to be supplied by the user).

“Whereas a conventional radio uses electronics hardware to do everything from detecting the signals from an antenna through to creating audio output, an SDR splits the task between hardware and software,” Hudson said.

“Typically, the hardware will provide wideband filtering, choice of spectrum to be monitored, the analog-to-digital conversion and interface circuitry to do two things — to send the digitized signal to, and to receive control information from, the host computer. The computer then performs the user-interface and demodulation functions.”

Carl Laufer is the owner of the **RTL-SDR** blog.

“We blog about SDRs and SDR projects, and we sell **RTL-SDR** dongles, which are low-cost SDRs,” Laufer said. He provided me with an **RTL-SDR Blog V4** SDR dongle (\$39.95, covering 500 kHz to 1.766 GHz), along with a small TV-style collapsible antenna and stand.

“Instead of doing all the ‘math’ required to demodulate and decode RF signals in analog hardware, an SDR uses an analog-to-digital (ADC) converter to sample and digitize RF signals,” he said.

“Once digitized we can do all the math to demodulate and decode signals using digital signal processing techniques that are implemented in software.”

Dan Robinson is a retired White House, congressional and foreign correspondent for Voice of America. He’s a well-known reviewer of HF receivers and has used a variety of SDRs over the past decade. *[Ed. Note: Dan also writes a monthly column for this NASWA Journal about U.S. government international broadcasting.]*

“An SDR can also be described as a radio-on-a-chip, meaning that the functions that a normal traditional radio would perform, such as bandwidth filtering and actual reception, are performed via software with digital solutions instead of analog hardware,” he said.

Laufer commented: “Our **RTL-SDR Blog V4** works great for general shortwave reception, but it is in the low cost under \$30 range without the antenna included, and we do not class it as a high-performance radio designed for DXing, If you happen to have strong interfering signals from nearby shortwave or broadcast AM transmitters, or perhaps jammers, this is where higher-end and higher-priced SDRs come into play, like the **SDRplay** [mentioned above] and **Airspy HF+ Discovery**. These SDRs offer higher ADC bit depths, and additional filter banks, which improve their reception of weak signals in the presence of strong interfering signals. Without those enhancements weak signals can get buried by very strong signals.”

The setup

As someone new to SDRs, I have not attempted to provide fair and intelligent judgment of them as an expert. But as an avid SW listener of 40+ years who started on a 1950s **Nordmende** console radio before going onto serious receivers, I can speak to the differences of tuning and listening to SW and other RF bands — because SDRs also cover AM, FM, the amateur bands, weather radio, air traffic, and so many others — using an SDR and a high-end Sangean ATS-909X2 SW digital receiver.

I tested these units in my second-floor Radio Room here in Ottawa, Canada. The high-end SW receiver was connected to a 100-foot longwire antenna in my attic. The SDRs I tested used a relatively new laptop computer and an **MLA-30+** 100 kHz-30 MHz loop antenna purchased from Amazon for around \$46. I could have used the SDRs with the longwire or indeed any antenna, but chose the **MLA-30+** for its widely recommended low-cost performance and small form factor; it didn’t disappoint and is worth the money.

To identify what stations I might be listening to, I used the **WRTH** App available at <https://shop.radiodatacenter.net/product/wrth-web-app/> produced by the folks who publish the encyclopedic **World Radio & TV Handbook** tuning guide, plus the free tuning guide at www.short-wave.info/. Because stations sometimes change frequencies, I also searched by frequency and time (Universal Coordinated Time) on my second laptop computer.



*The author ran **SDRConnect** software on an Acer laptop using the **SDRPlay RSP1B** SDR unit and Audeze MM-100 planar magnetic driver headphones. The SDR box itself is partially visible at lower left.*

The experience

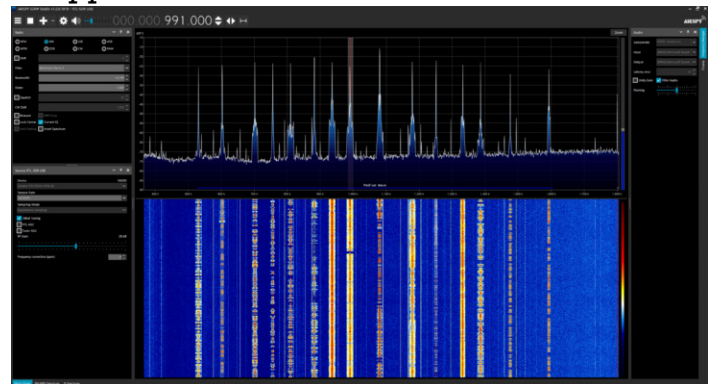
Both the **RSP1A** and **RTL-SDR Blog V4** required software downloads (SDRConnect and Airspy SDRSharp) from their respective websites and some setup time to get them running. The **RSP1B**, which arrived some weeks later, was able to use the same SDRConnect program as the **RSP1A**.

Being able to see the band being tuned to is an absolute gift. At a glance, you can see which bands have lots of possible targets and which do not. Tuning can be done by using the mouse and scroll wheel. The SDRConnect program also offers buttons that go directly to specific bands (AM, FM, SW, Weather and Amateur among others), which makes tuning easy.

Of the three SDRs, the **RSP1B** provided the clearest, most listenable signals and least noise, followed by the **RSP1A**. The **RTL-SDR Blog V4** provided similar sensitivity but was prone to be overloaded by harmonic frequencies from nearby AM transmitters and the Canadian SW time station CHU, about a mile from my house.

In comparison, the **Sangean ATS-909X2** was similarly sensitive in its signal reception, but had more issues filtering out noise, which is an issue in my suburban neighborhood. As a result, all three of the SDRs were generally easier to listen to, but the **Sangean** did not suffer the overload problems experienced by the **RTL-SDR Blog V4**.

One surprise: I initially installed the **RSP1A** on a 12-year-old laptop. It proved to be underpowered for the job, resulting in choppy audio that I remedied somewhat by reducing SDRConnect's sampling rate. When I installed the **RSP1A** and then the RSP1B on a five-year-old laptop with more processing power, the choppiness went away. Worth noting: The **RTL-SDR Blog V4** had no choppiness issues.



The display of the Airspy SDRSharp SDR program, connected to the RTL-SDR Blog V4 dongle. The spikes and the vertical lines below represent specific stations and their signal characteristics.

Now for a second surprise. By coincidence, I had also received a pair of \$399 Audeze MM-100 planar magnetic driver headphones for testing, which I tried out with the **RSP1B**

and laptop combination. The MM-100's full frequency and clarity allowed me to hear more detail from the audio, compared to the standard computer headsets I had been using. If you can afford it, using superior headphones makes a real difference.

Now for the payoff: Unexpected stations. Being able to check the SW bands visually taught me that my Radio Room is actually a great place to hear African SW stations such as the **Voice of America** from Selebi-Phikwe, Botswana on 15580 kHz. I also picked up **Radio Free Asia** on 11830 kHz from Tinian Island (one of the three Northern Mariana Islands) in the Pacific Ocean, and the **BBC World Service** from Ascension Island (in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean below

the Equator) on 12095 and 15400 kHz. Best yet, finding new stations was a breeze thanks to the visual interfaces used by the SDRs. It made RF exploration fun again in a whole new way!

If you have ever enjoyed searching through the radio bands — any bands — an SDR is something you should try out. The **RTL-SDR Blog V4** is a great one to start with. However, the **RSP1B** is so reasonably priced and easy to use — and you can use a plain old wire as its antenna — that I recommend it to newbies too.

Had I understood just how useful and cool these devices are, I would have got them years ago.

SHORTWAVE BROADCASTING

Is Live Streaming Replacing the Need for Radio?

Written By Radio Today Staff
January 8, 2025

In this day and age, it seems a large amount of people have thought about becoming live streamers!

The charm, the video quality, the content offered, the thriving community that gathers around your publications... everyone has their own reasons for believing live streaming is great. But the question is "Is live streaming replacing the need for radio?" The really crazy aspect to consider is that there are some reasons why live streaming could be an improved version of radio, which implies that it could cast a shadow on the traditional and trusty communication technology.

Spoiler: no, live streaming is not going to entirely replace the need for radio. But there are some evident changes going on beneath

the surface, which are starting to come above. If you want to know why, keep reading on!

Why is the industry changing?

It's a matter of fact, the radio industry is changing, but why? Well, let's dive quickly into the past for a moment.

The radio has been an extremely important communication tool since the 1900s. It has been a cornerstone for news, culture, and entertainment. The "funnier" side of the radio has been increasingly demanded and produced since the 1950s, reaching a new format in the 1990s with the "infotainment" type of communication—blending information and entertainment for a new, more exigent audience.

Let's jump to the big change that reshaped the audio content industry: live streaming services. In the 2000s, with the introduction of the Internet, the whole world shifted its perspective and expectations towards a renewed, high-bar type of entertainment that found live service streams and podcasts to be extremely satisfying.

MP3 audio files, YouTube, Facebook, and other important platforms—such as MySpace, Messenger, and others—brought a significant change in people's habits, permanently modifying the way they consume information and exchange opinions. From the 2010s, it was only a matter of time before live streaming services would beckon, this time also tackling the radio (which was only partially impacted by the previous technological changes).

That is when the industry shifted significantly, and the reasons are quite obvious. People could still listen to the topics discussed via audio, but they could also look at the people involved, see what they were doing, their facial expressions, physical reactions, and so on. Communication isn't just the words spoken: it's the tone of voice, inflections, and melody (the radio could still capture those nuances), but it's also proximity, body language, and facial reactions (which the radio couldn't capture).

Live streaming platforms are on the rise

It goes without saying that live streaming platforms are on the rise. Innovation is also an important playground that is being explored by important companies. There are many digital live streaming platforms offering a wide array of entertainment activities, such as Kick.com, one of the newest platforms supported by the online casino review brand, Stake.com.

Platforms such as Kick.com have many advantages that younger, tech-savvy audiences like. Features such as on-demand accessibility allow them to view the live streams they prefer, browse their favorite videogames and follow the streamers they prefer. The algorithm is designed to suggest the type of content a user likes, based on a variety of factors such as likes, time spent, and follows.

The personalisation aspect is crucial and represents a huge advantage compared to the traditional radio schedule. Live streaming platforms can study users' behaviours and offer what people are really looking for in real time. With traditional radios, users must accept the agenda. This doesn't mean that the radio can't adjust and update the content offered, it simply implies that it takes longer to generate the right content for their audience. And given that people now live in a fast-paced society, taking weeks to update the schedule is just going to be a disadvantage—a gap that can't be filled in a competitive market.

Also, let's not forget the interactive features that live streaming platforms offer. Real-time chats, survey polls, giveaways, emotes, and other types of games make it more entertaining for younger users and keep them engaged for long periods of time.

Last, but not least, it's possible for a live streaming service to have a global outreach thanks to the Internet, which is also possible for a radio communication service, but it's more challenging.

Radios are fighting back to keep up the pace

It's easy to assume that radios are about to go "offline", meaning that they could shut down their operations and stop creating content due to the pressure and new

technological demands that live streaming services can satisfy.

However, that's simply not true. The radio is not going to disappear any time soon—it's fighting back.

Digital integration is the battlefield where radio is regaining territory. Enhanced services are part of this effective strategy. Besides, let's not overlook the fact that radio can offer significant benefits to people working on certain activities, such as factory workers who are focused on the machines and can't look at a screen to enjoy content.

For these workers, activities like **BBC's** Live Listen are actually more valuable than live streaming services—it all depends on the

consuming modality that it's possible to activate at a particular moment of the day.

And why not mention live podcasts? In a world of high-dopamine consumption of content, a good audio podcast can provide relaxing, high-quality level information or entertainment. Let's think about the famous international Joe Rogan's live podcast. His ability to attract (and choose) people from all over the world, different industries, backgrounds, and beliefs is highly appreciated by those who are looking for something new and refreshing.

So, let's recap, live streaming services are not going to replace the radio, as long as radio operators are able to keep up the pace and propose high-quality content that can bring in a whole variety of listeners.

SHORTWAVE COMMENTARY

DX Nostalgia

by Ronny Forslund
(Shortwave Bulletin)

The Times They Are A-Changin'.... Once upon a time DXing was about receiving foreign radio signals at your home by means of a radio. We didn't have the Internet way back then. Long-distance reception at our own shack was the basic idea. "D" for distance and "X" for the unknown. I think many of us remember the joy when we succeeded in hearing some rare DX and finally got the confirmation in form of physical QSL cards, letters and much else by 'snail mail'. But what about today?

I have seen that people are reporting loggings they have made over **Kiwi SDR** receivers located in other parts of the world. Sure, that can be useful if you want to check out if a station is on the air and what it

sounds like. But do these people also send reception reports of what they hear? If they do, do they mention that they really didn't hear the station at home but over a Kiwi receiver located elsewhere, maybe close to the transmitter site? In the old days (if we had had the possibilities) this would have been considered as cheating. Do "loggings" like this really belong in the loggings section? Shouldn't they rather be posted as information and not loggings? Nowadays the basic rule seems to be that everything goes. Everybody does as they please. Well then, why bother about Kiwi receivers when you can easily tune in to web radio stations from all over the world? Then you will also get crystal clear reception and may enjoy music and other programming that you would

normally not hear. There are many exciting stations to be discovered here.

Over the years I have been involved in several temporary broadcasts on SW and MW. Naturally we were most interested in hearing how our signal was received in other countries, how far we were reaching out. For each reception report from a distant country, we experienced a feeling of satisfaction. It was proof that our endeavors had paid off. But many also sent reception reports after having listened to a public SDR receiver in Europe, generally the one at the University of Twente in Enschede, Holland. So, while a reception report may arrive from Malaysia or Australia it just proved we could be heard in Holland! Well, we already knew that.... But

as the listener had taken the trouble of writing to us, we QSLed anyway. Obviously, this was a form of collecting QSL cards but I could never understand why. To me, QSL means 'verification of reception' and these people had never actually heard our broadcasts by the receivers at home. But there were also those who did hear us from their radio shacks and could prove it. These "real" reception reports were highly cherished by us broadcasters. This was real DX!

The new year started with severe solar storms affecting radio reception. But let me anyway wish you all a great 2025! It will get better.... Or not!

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



The Robinson Report

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Are We Not Entertained? High Drama at U.S. Global Media Agency in Early Days of Trump 47

by Daniel Robinson

As this is written, high drama is playing out at and around the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), the Voice of America, and its global media networks that direct programming abroad. There have been fast-moving developments and by the time you, the NASWA reader, see this some aspects will have been OTBE.

I'll just remind everyone, because I am often criticized for stances I take: I retired in 2014 after a 34-year career (including as VOA chief White House correspondent) and have since conducted investigative reporting about VOA and its parent agency. My goal has been to better inform taxpayers and members of Congress.

PRESIDENT TRUMP DISMISSES MEMBERS OF IBAB

As things have worked since 2024, a seven-member International Broadcasting Advisory Board (IBAB) approved appointments that the CEO of USAGM (who is Senate-confirmed) made of heads of the agency's networks (VOA, Radio Free Asia, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, MBN (Middle East Broadcasting Networks, and Office of Cuba Broadcasting).

By the way, the board which was stood up in 2024 after years of delay, held all meetings

in secret on assertions of national security. Its seats are non-paying, but certain expenses are paid. Being an IBAB member makes for a good line on a resume. Members could and did use it as a stepping stone to the high-paying President and CEO positions leading USAGM networks.

By law, the secretary of state (now Marco Rubio) holds an ex-officio seat. But we should recall that he was among Senate Republicans who sharply criticized VOA and USAGM after the October 7th Hamas attacks in Israel, and called for firings of two individuals at VOA over its resistance to using the term 'Hamas terrorists' (House Republicans were also enraged). Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) led a two-year investigation of USAGM/VOA, and his report described a "culture of corruption" at the agency.

But **IBAB members have now been dismissed** by the new Trump administration. It remains to be seen what President Trump intends. By current law, members of Congress propose individuals for the board (three Democrats, three Republicans) who are then submitted by the White House to the Senate for confirmation.

But critics of how U.S. global media has been structured and managed (and mismanaged) for years assert that the IBAB ends up

impeding presidential authority and the ability of the Executive (under which USAGM sits) to make needed changes. In the view of some observers, the IBAB should just be eliminated. That may be opposed by some lawmakers who enjoy the additional power of making appointments.

MEANWHILE . . .

The next huge headline was President Trump's announcement of Brent Bozell as his choice to be CEO of USAGM. Nephew of the late conservative figure, William F. Buckley, Bozell was described by a New York Times article as "a Trump loyalist and right-wing firebrand" whose selection had "already raised fears of politicization among journalists there."

This and other articles (including by NBC which is notoriously anti-Trump) noted that Bozell went from being an anti-Trump Republican, to a supporter. Quickly the hit pieces piled up, noting that Bozell's son was convicted in 2023 and sentenced to 45 months in federal prison for his participation in the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol. President Trump pardoned the 1,600 people who were convicted in connection with that event.

BENNETT ERA AT USAGM/VOA ENDS

At USAGM, the Biden-selected CEO since 2022, Amanda Bennett (VOA director from 2016 to mid-2020) resigned January 20th. USAGM's website now has her among former CEOs. Other officials remained, including VOA Director Mike Abramowitz, Bennett's choice who was installed in 2024.

Before news broke about the IBAB dismissals, President Trump also canceled a Biden January 3rd order laying out a succession order for the agency which in theory could have seen Mr. Abramowitz

become acting CEO. But with the dismissal of the IBAB members, things are up in the air – we don't know how long it will take for Bozell to get to a Senate confirmation hearing. Other officials holding high-level positions could and may have by the time you read this, obtain certain approval authorities if an actual acting CEO is still not designated.

At USAGM meanwhile, the atmosphere was "total confusion" as one source put it, as for employees the agency appeared to be adrift and leaderless. Meanwhile, Kari Lake – President Trump's choice to head VOA -- waited in the wings.

VOA DIRECTOR KARI LAKE

Assuming she can occupy the VOA directorship, Kari Lake could surprise people there, perhaps even in VOA central news where anti-Trump sentiment is so strong. In interviews, she comes across as affable, sharp and energized and has not avoided responding to assertions by those anti-Trump staff who have continued to leak to like-minded media that the new administration will undermine VOA's long-claimed "independence".

Meanwhile, the National Review reported previously unknown details of dysfunction at another USAGM media outlet -- MBN (Middle East Broadcasting Network). The "mess" at MBN (located in northern Virginia) has been known for a long time, at least in Washington, DC circles.

Jeffrey Gedmin, the CEO since October also once headed RFE/RL and was on the IBAB (another example of the revolving doors in U.S. international media. Gedmin said he found "a dysfunctional organization with serious deficits in leadership, management, and accountability. " These are criticisms

that have also been made for years about the entire USAGM, VOA in particular.

The same article also detailed the ongoing advisory role of Ryan Crocker, the former ambassador who served on the old Broadcasting Board of Governors (re-branded in 2018 as the USAGM), particularly when it comes to U.S. media directed at the Middle East.

In yet another development, Brian Hook, who served as an Iran policy official during the first Trump administration, was fired by President Trump. Hook penned a well-remembered article criticizing VOA's Persian service. He and former Trump secretary of State Mike Pompeo were under "serious and credible threat" from a foreign power (thought to be Iran) the State Department reported in 2022.

All of this shines a bit more light on the little known world of power-brokering and maneuvering that surrounds U.S.- taxpayer funded global media, where cognoscenti communities of current and former officials and think tanks intersect, and board seats are occupied and traded for executive-level

salaries. Little attention is ever paid to it by media, and the general public is mostly unaware.

Much more could be written. USAGM is an agency that spends \$950 million (FY2025) of taxpayer money. Not much compared to cabinet and other agencies. We'll see how committed the Trump administration is to substantially slimming down the U.S. global media bureaucracy hydra that has grown over the decades.

There's a lot to do for any administration. Changes that this administration would try to make may not be fully achievable by the next mid-term congressional elections, or by 2028 when Americans go to the polls again to elect a new president. If Republicans retain control of the White House, House, and Senate arguably the steps taken now may obtain extended life when a new Republican president occupies the White House in 2029.

Dan Robinson spent 34 years with Voice of America as chief White House, congressional and foreign correspondent and head of its Myanmar Service.

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



Listener's Notebook

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Times are UTC and frequencies in kHz.

ALASKA 6075, KNLS, Anchor Point at 0801, Jan. 10, signing on in English, ID, intros, program lineup. Excellent. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer)

ALGERIA The 2nd RTA outlet channel at Ouargla confirmed on Jan 7th: 13855, Jan 13 at 2130-2140, Ifrikya FM, Ouargla, in French this log. Woman/man announcers present news; 2134 Music; 2135 ID and a conversation between the presenters. Fair reception: 45533. (Jota Ronaldo Xavier-Brazil, hcdx Jan 13/TopNews)

ASCENSION ISLANDS 6135, BBC World Service at 0533 (schedule is 0530-0600), Jan. 10, in Hausa, woman with news. Good, //7305 poor. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer)

6170 Voice of America at 0518 (schedule is 0500-0530), Jan. 10, in Hausa, two men talking, mention of Nigeria. Good. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer)

7285, 0555-, BBCWS Jan 19 Several frequencies available during this hour. 7285 is fair/good, // to another Ascension transmitter, 9410 (good/very good). (Salmaniw-BC/DXplorer)

AUSTRALIA Reach Beyond B24 Shortwave Program Schedule (language sorted):
1230-1245 Bangla on 15320 Thursday
1345-1400 Bangla on 11875 Thursday
1330-1345 Bhojpuri on 11875 Wednesday
1345-1400 Bhojpuri on 11875 Tuesday
1145-1200 Burmese on 11945 Daily
1500-1530 Burmese on 11900 Daily

1330-1345 Chhattisgarhi on 11875 Sun/Sat
1200-1215 Dzongkha on 11875 Tue/Wed/Thurs/Sat
1200-1230 Dzongkha on 11875 Sun/Mon/Fri
0945-1000 English on 9860 Tue/Wed/Thurs
1230-1300 English on 11875 Sunday
1245-1300 English on 15320 Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1345-1400 English on 15320 Daily
1400-1430 English on 11825 Sunday
1230-1245 Gujarati on 15320 Friday
1345-1400 Gujarati on 11875 Sunday
1330-1345 Himachali on 11875 Thursday
1200-1215 Hindi on 15320 Tue/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1200-1230 Hindi on 15320 Sun/Mon/Wed
1215-1230 Hindi on 15320 Tue/Thurs
1245-1300 Hindi on 11875 Monday-Saturday
1300-1315 Hindi on 11875 Tue/Thurs/Sat
1300-1330 Hindi on 11875 Sun/Mon/Wed/Fri
1315-1330 Hindi on 11875 Tue/Thurs/Sat
1330-1345 Hindi on 15320 Daily
1100-1130 Japanese on 11905 Sun/Sat
2230-2300 Japanese on 17650 Daily
1315-1330 Kannada on 15320 Daily
0930-0945 Korean on 9860 Tue/Wed/Thurs
0930-1000 Korean on 9860 Sun/Mon/Fri/Sat
1230-1245 Kurux on 15320 Tuesday
1330-1345 Kurux on 11875 Tuesday
1230-1245 Marathi on 11875 Saturday
1200-1230 Matu on 11945 Daily
1330-1345 Nepali on 11875 Friday
1345-1400 Nepali on 11875 Thursday
1400-1415 Nepali on 11825 Monday-Friday
1230-1245 Oriya on 11875 Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri
1215-1230 Punjabi on 15320 Friday
1330-1345 Punjabi on 11875 Monday
1345-1400 Punjabi on 11875 Wednesday
1415-1430 Punjabi on 11825 Monday

1130-1145 Rohingya on 11945 Sun/Sat
1415-1430 Rohingya on 11825 Wednesday-Saturday
1230-1245 Tamil on 15320 Sun/Sat
1245-1300 Tamil on 15320 Sun Sat
1300-1315 Tamil on 15320 Daily
1215-1230 Telegu on 15320 Saturday
1230-1245 Telegu on 11875 Sun/Tue/Sat
1230-1245 Telegu on 15320 Daily
1415-1430 Tibetan on 11825 Tuesday
1215-1230 Tsangla on 11875
Tue/Wed/Thurs/Sat
1345-1400 Urdu on 11875 Monday and
Saturday (Worldwide DX Club)

11875, Reach Beyond Australia, F/D e-QSL in
2 days. E-mail: radio@reachbeyond.org.au.
(Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via
Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

BRAZIL 4985, Radio Brasil Central, Goiania,
0631-0655, 16-01, Brazilian songs. Strong
teletype QRM. 21421. (Manuel Méndez-
Spain/DX Fanzine)

5939.7, Jan 10, 2243, R. Voz Missionária,
Camboriú SC. Natl. nx magazine A Voz do
Brasil. // 9665.000, 11749.863. (Carlos
Gonçalves-Portugal/Shortwave Bulletin)

6010, Radio Inconfidencia, 2045-2113, 15-
01, Portuguese, comments, Brazilian songs,
ID "Rede Inconfidencia de Radio",
"Inconfidencia". 25422. Heard 0550-0623,
16-01, Brazilian songs. (Manuel Méndez-
Spain/DX Fanzine)

6150, Radio Saturno, Belo Horizonte, 0541-
0631, 16-01, pop songs in English, oldies,
Brazilian songs, ID "Radio Saturno". 25422.
Also 0608-0627, 18-01, Brazilian songs.
15422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

6180, Radio Nacional da Amazonia, Brasilia,
0804-0827, 05-01, Brazilian songs. // 11780.
35433. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

9818.6, Radio 9 de Julho, Sao Paulo, 2012-
2017, 15-01, religious comments and songs.
15422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

11750, Voz Missionaria, Camboriú, 1952-
2015, 17-01, religious comments and songs,
ID at 2001 "...Radio Voz Missonaria, cinco
horas e um ninuto". 35433. Also heard 0723-
0746, 18-01, religious songs, 25422. 5940
and 9665, checked 17 and 18-01, no signal,
seems to be out of the air those days.
(Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

11780, Radio Nacional da Amazonia. Email
report verified with full data eQSL received
in 3 days. Email: ouvidoria@ebc.com.br.
(Pradip Chandra Kundu-India/Asian DX
Review) 11780, Radio Nacional da Amazonia,
Brasilia, 2009-2130, 15-01, Brazilian songs,
Portuguese, comments, ID "Radio Nacional
da Amazonia". 35433. (Manuel Méndez-
Spain/DX Fanzine)

11815, Radio Brasil Central, F/D QSL Card,
Cover Letter and 4 post cards in 7 months.
Report sent by snail mail (Postal address
included in the QSL: Rua SC-01 n° 299, Pq.
Santa Cruz, Goiania GO. CEP 74.860-270,
Brasil. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via
Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

15190, Jan 17, 2025. 0045-0100, Radio
Inconfidencia, Contagem-MG, in Portuguese.
Man announcer presents a musical program
"Flashback Inconfidencia "; 0058 He says
Callsign and Station ID. Belongs to Rede
Inconfidencia de Radio. Poor reception:
25422. Note: Returns on-air after a long
time. (Jota Xavier-Brazil/Hard Core DX)

BULGARIA 5900, KSKO McGrath Alaska via
Kostinbrod, F/D e-QSL in 48 hours. E report
sent to the following E-mail address:
paul@alaskaradionerd.com. (Juan Carlos
Pérez Montero-Spain/DX Fanzine) 5900,
KSKO via Kostinbrod. E-QSL in 5 hours in
reply to report sent to: gm.ksko@gmail.com.
(Hansjoerg Biener-Germany/ Worldwide DX
Club) 5900, Radio Taiwan International via
Kostinbrod. German service. Full data colour
QSL received in 26 days in reply to report
sent to: deutsch@rti.org.tw. (Hansjoerg
Biener-Germany/Worldwide DX Club)

CANADA 6070 CFRX, NewsTalk 10-10 at 0514, Jan. 10, ads, including Gaviscon, Crave, Consolidated Credit Counselling. Poor-fair. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer)

CHINA 4900, Voice of Strait, 1053, Dec 30; fair with some QRN (static); Chinese opera. (Ron Howard-CA)

5050, Beibu Bay Radio, 1513-1516, Jan 3, heard via remote Kiwi SDR at Dimapur, India; the daily English segment; "Let's start it, English Showtime," "One Word, One World" segment about China's independently built multifunctional research vessel Tan Suo San Hao was launched in Dec. (Ron Howard-CA)

CHINA (Tibet) 4905, "Xizang Radio and Television Station," 2259, Jan 3, via Kiwi SDR remote at New Delhi, choral NA; relay of CNR11. // 4920, 6025, 6110, 6130, 6200, 7385 also // CNR11 on 6010 and 7360. (Ron Howard-CA) 4905, Xizang RTV, Lhasa, 1742-1753, 17-01, Tibetan, comments. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine) 7385, Xizang RTV, Lhasa, Tibet, 1604-1625, 17-01, English, comments about Tibet, Tibetan songs. 24422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

CLANDESTINE New schedule for Shiokaze effective 6 January 2025. For anyone who follows the broadcasts from Shiokaze, Hiroshi's blog at <http://hiroshi.mediakat-blog.jp/> mentions a new schedule effective 6 January 2025:

1300-1400 on 5935 and 6085

1405-1435 on 7260 and 7325

1600-1700 on 6165 and 6180

1705-1805 on 7225 and 7320

Shiokaze (Sea Breeze) broadcasts to North Korea and is operated by the independent "Investigation Commission on Missing Japanese Probably Related to North Korea", regarding persons believed to have been abducted by North Korea prior to 1983. All broadcasts are from Yamata in Japan. They

usually have an English programme at 1300-1400 and 1600-1700 on Wednesdays. (Tony Rogers-UK, BrDXC-UK iogr news Jan 7/TopNews)

CUBA 5025, Jan 18, 0550, Radio Rebelde, Bauta, news, weather report, at 0600 program "A Esta Hora", Cuban music and songs, "Habaneras", ID "Radio Rebelde". (Méndez-Spain/Shortwave Bulletin)

DENMARK 5930, World Music Radio, Bramming, it seems that WMR has been out for several days on 5930, checked from 15-01 to 17-01, but strong right now, 1810, 17-01 on 15700. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

5970, Radio 208, Hvidovre, 2001-2027, 15-01, rock songs in English. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

15700, World Music Radio, Randers, 1801- , 17-01, songs in English, Latin American songs, ID "World Music Radio". 35433. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

ECUADOR 6050, HCJB, Pichincha, 0421-0428, 18-01, Spanish, religious comments. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

EGYPT Radio Cairo broadcasts on SW only intermittently but has been heard a few times recently, including English. The current schedule in HFCC is as follows.

1500-1600 9440 Albanian

1700-1900 9900 Turkish

1800-1900 9410 Italian

1900-2000 9410 German

1900-2000 9890 Russian

2000-2115 9410 French

2115-2245 9440 English

2215-2330 9885 Portuguese

2330-0045 9810 Arabic

0045-0200 9900 Spanish (British DX Club)

9890, 1910-, Radio Cairo Jan 18 Supposed to have their Russian service here. Instead, just a strong open carrier without even a hint of modulation! (Salmaniw-BC/DXplorer)

ENGLAND 7300, Jan 18, 2102-2115, Radio Akhbar Mufriha, Woofferton, in Tachelhit. A man annr preaching; 2111 brief mx and two men talk, say ID, website, email and P. O. Box; 2114. 45544. (Jota Xavier-Brazil/Hard Core DX)

ESWATINI 11660, TWR at 1628, Dec. 28, IS began, English ID "This is T-W-R, broadcasting from eSwatini." and IS repeated, at 1630 into Kambaata language with ID and trumpet. Very good. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer)

15105, Trans World Radio Eswatini, F/D e-QSL in 6 days. E-mail: lstavrop@twr.org V/S: Lorraine Stavropoulos. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine) 15105, TWR, e-QSL received in 2 days in reply to report in English sent to: lstavrop@twr.org. (Christian Ghibaud-France/British DX Club)

ETHIOPIA 6030, Radio Oromiya, Addis Ababa, 1751-1824, 15-01, Vernacular, comments, East African songs. 14422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

6090, Voice of Amhara State, Addis Ababa, 1801-1812, 15-01, Vernacular, comments. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

FINLAND The next new Finnish SW station is Radio Ambience from Lappeenranta. The station plans to start on Independence Day 6 December 2024 with 20 watts. The frequency is 6095 (No times or details of next broadcast were listed Editor). Email: tesla18@hotmail.com. (Via Radio Ambience website/New Zealand DX Times) A newly licensed SW station at Lappeenranta in SE Finland, launched on 6 December 2024 with 20 Watts on 6095. (Jari Lehtinen SDXL 5 Dec; Mauno Ritola) Radio Ambience confirmed on 7 December around 1100 on 6095 with ambient music and occasional ID in Finnish, good signal on the Elimaki Kiwi SDR in SE. Also confirmed Radio Blacksmith Knoll on

6120 at the same time with ID in English. (Dave Kenney-UK/British DX Club)

6185, RealMix Radio, Raasepori, 0718-0800, 29-12, pop songs in English, oldies, English, ID 0734 "... RealMix Radio...", reception reports to realmix.sw@..., more pop songs, at 0751 some comments in Finish by male, more pop songs in English, at 0759 English comments, new ID "...RealMix Radio". 25422. For the first time I listen to this station, due to no trace of Radio Educación today at this time. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine) 6185, RealMix Radio Raasepori, received eQSL and news about the station in 12 days. Reception report sent to:

realmix.sw@gmail.com. Here is the station news: A new radio license, regular RealMix radio broadcasts will be heard again in February on Saturdays and Sundays and the entire last week of February on 6185. During the spring, we will get 250W transmission power, which would improve the signal strength, 100W. I post updates and news regarding RealMix Radio broadcasts on Facebook page. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

FRANCE The B24 schedule (27/10/2024 to 29/03/2025) of RFI- Issoudun to Central and West Africa is as follows:

0400-0500 on 9790, 11700 French
0430-0500 on 15215 Swahili
0500-0600 on 7390, 9790, 11700 French
0530-0600 on 15215 Swahili
0600-0700 on 7390, 0790, 11700 and 15300 French
0600-0630 on 9805, 11995 Hausa
0700-0800 on 11700, 13695, 15300 and 21580 French
0700-0730 on 13740, 15325 Hausa
0700-0730 on 11875 Mandingue
0730-0800 on 13710 Fulfulde
0800-0900 on 15300, 17850, 21690 French
0800-0830 on 15455 Mandingue
0830-0900 on 17660 Fulfulde
0900-1000 on 17690, 17850, 21580 and 21690 French

1200-1300 on 17660, 21580 and 21690 French

1200-1230 on 21615 Mandingue

1300-1330 on 21580 Fulfulde

1500-1600 on 21690 Swahili 1600-1700 on 21580 Hausa

1700-1800 on 15300, 17850, 21580 French

1700-1730 on 17620 Mandingue

1730-1800 on 17620 Fulfulde

1800-1900 on 13740, 15300, 17850 and 21580 French

1900-2000 on 11995, 13740, 15300 and 17850 French

2000-2100 on 9790, 11995 French

2000-2030 on 11760 Hausa

2100-2200 on 9790, 11995 French (Radio France International website/Worldwide DX Club)

17810, VORW Radio International via Issoudun, reception report for weekly program verified with full data eQSL issued by John Jurasek in a week. Email: vorwinfo@gmail.com. (Pradip Chandra Kundu-India/Asian DX Review)

GERMANY 3955, Radio Sylvia via Channel 292, 1812-1858, 04-01, pop songs, German, comments, English, ID "Radio Sylvia". 35433. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

3985, Radio Slovakia International via Kall. Colour QSL with partial data (frequency omitted) received in 49 days in reply to report sent to: rsi_german@rtvs.sk. (Hansjoerg Biener-Germany/Worldwide DX Club)

5905, Deutscher Wetterdienst, Pinneberg, 0606-0611, 05-01, German, weather report. // 6180. 45444. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

6150, Radio Europa 24, Datteln, 0732-0758, 05-01, pop songs in English, German, comments, ID "Europa Vierundzwanzig". 35433. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

6085, Radio Mi Amigo, Kall Krekel, 0816-0839, 05-11, songs and comments in English,

ID "Radio Mi Amigo". 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

GUAM 7510, Jan 3, 2025. 1931-1943, Trans World Radio Guam-KTWR, Agana/Merizo, in Korean. Fair reception: 35533. (Jota Xavier-Brazil/Hard Core DX)

GUATEMALA Radio Verdad Internacional. We are still working on bringing the xmitter from Europe. When we go on air on SW, I will let you know on Facebook. (Édgar Madrid, Radio Verdad Internacional via Shortwave Bulletin)

INDONESIA 4755, Voice of Indonesia, Jakarta, 1911-2009, 15-01, Indonesian songs, English, comments, at 2000 French program. 15422. Also heard 2003-2018, 17-01, French, female, news, comments, Indonesian songs. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

IRAN 11880, 1920-, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Jan 18. A good S7 carrier, suddenly on at 1920 but with zero modulation. I guess they're copying Cairo now! Listed to South Africa and confirmed lack of modulation using a South African SDR. Supposed to be in English. (Salmaniw-BC/DXplorer)

ITALY 7399.9, Marconi Radio International, 1550-1730*, 04-01, songs, ID "This is Marconi Radio International", more songs, at 1610 interval signal, ID in Italian and English, email address, comments, ID. At 1658 in English "This is Marconi Radio International", and in Italian, "Marconi Radio International, marconiradiointernational@...", at 1720 rock songs, at 1728 new ID, mx and close at 1730. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

JAPAN 6055, Radio Nikkei 1, Chiba Nagara, 0804-0816, 16-01, Japanese, talks. 15421. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

6115, Radio Nikkei 2, Chiba Nagara, 0741-0806, 16-01, pop songs in Japanese and English, comments, Japanese, female, male, songs in English. 25422. Also heard 0751-0800*, 18-01. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

LIBERIA 6050, ELWA Radio, Monrovia, *0600-0719, 16-01, open with African song, English, religious talk, songs. 25422. Also *0604-0623, 18-01, w/ religious talk in English. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

MADAGASCAR Madagascar World Voice schedule 27 October 2024 - 29 March 2025:
0200-0400 6180* Spanish for South America: La Voz Alegre
0200-0400 13760 English for India: New Life Station
0400-0500 11825 English for Central Africa: African Pathways
0400-0500 17530 Chinese for South China: Light of Life
1800-1900 9885 Russian for Europe: New Life Station
1800-1900 13670 English for Central Africa: African Pathways
1900-2000 9845 Russian for Europe: New Life Station
1900-2000 13670 Arabic for the Middle East: Radio Feda
2000-2100 11965 English for Central Africa: African Pathways
2000-2100 13710 Arabic for the Middle East: Radio Feda
2100-2300 9765 Portuguese for Brazil: Palavra Alegre
2100-2200 11610 Chinese for Europe: Light of Life
2200-2300 11610 Arabic for North Africa: Radio Feda (Dr. Hansjoerg Biener-Germany, Bieners DX_Digest Jan 2025 column Dec 8) * probably replaced by 9755 (Editor/Worldwide DX Club)

13830, Vatican Radio via Talata Volonondry, F/D e-mail including transmitter site in 3

hours, V/S: Sergio Salvatori. E-mail: sergio.salvatori@spc.va. (Francesco Cecconi-Italy via Facebook Group "DX Fanzine"/DX Fanzine)

MALAYSIA 11665, Wai FM-Malaysia, F/D e- QSL in 5 hours. V/S: Mohd Fauzi Bin Ali Hassan, Chief Assistant. E-mail: pnk_rtmkajang@rtm.gov.my. (Miguel Angel Rocha Gamez-Mexico via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

MALI Radio (Nationale du) Mali or occasionally ORTM/Office de Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali is one of the stations that you can still use to bring you into the new year on shortwave. Apparently, the old broadcast schedule is correct. The two frequency changes were confirmed with one frequency going off and the other signing on. On some days there were announcements. On other days the frequency simply signed off in mid-music.
0600-0800: 5995 (morning program 'Au Chant du Coq')
0800-1800: 9635
1800-2400: 5995

When listening more frequently in early January 2025, the reporter could hear almost no French (actually only station announcements). The Spanish shortwave expert Manuel Mendez, who looks for the station, reports that there is an English Magazine on Saturdays at around 1850. (Dr. Hansjoerg Biener-Germany via wwdxc BC-DX TopNews) Radio Mali's daytime frequency 9635 noted back on the air after several months' absence. (Dave Kenney-UK/British DX Club)

5995, Jan 18, *0559-, Radio Mali, Bamako, open with African song, at 0600 French, ID "La Radiofiusion TV du Mali emettan de Bamako", Vernacular, news, comments, African songs. (Méndez-Spain/Shortwave Bulletin)

MEXICO 6185, Radio Educación, Ciudad de México, 0553-0725, 16-01, songs, Spanish, comments, music, ID "La onda corta de Radio Educación...". 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine) 6185, Radio Educación at 0539, Jan. 10, Spanish, film or theatre music. Fair. (Harold Sellers-BC/DXplorer)

MONGOLIA 12015, Voice of Mongolia (Japanese), F/D e-QSL in 1 day. Heard via kiwi SDR Okayama, Japan. E-mail: mnb_vom@yahoo.com. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

12085, Voice of Mongolia, Ulan Baatar, *0900-0914, 18-01, interval signal, English, female, id. "Welcome to the Voice of Mongolia in English", news, comments, Mongolian songs. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

MYANMAR 5985, Myanmar Radio, 0042+, Jan 15, via So Phisal, Thailand Kiwi SDR remote; announcers and indigenous music; this frequency had been silent for about a week; the former 9730 at this time is now absent. Nice to have them on this frequency again, especially for the English segment at 1530. (Ron Howard-CA)

Thanks to Jose Jacob (India) for his observations about 5985 being off the air and 9730 now seemingly on the air continuously? Here are some background observations. In the past, Myanmar Radio on 5985 normally started between 1100 to 1130, while 9730 normally went off the air between 1130 and 1200 and when both overlapped at the same time, they were parallel. Here are my observations today (Jan 9). Myanmar Radio (9730) heard randomly from 1127 till tuned out at 1235, on Jan 9, via Dimapur, India Kiwi SDR remote; fairly strong CRI QRM in English, but Myanmar clearly there. No signal on 5985. On 5915 with fair reception, without CRI QRM today. Both Thazin Radio frequencies were heard

(6165 and 7345), both with fairly strong QRM, but able to ID via the language; both not //. It remains to be determined if the new 5985 absence and extended 9730 schedule will continue. (Ron Howard-CA) 5985 — Myanmar, which usually signs on this frequency at 2300, is again missing tonight (Jan 18). Checked both Dimapur and So Phisai Web SDRs. (Art Delibert-MD)

7345, Thazin Radio, Jan 17, heard from 1045, with Thazin Radio doing very well via Kiwi SDR remote at So Phisal, Thailand; music and announcers; CNR7 QRM didn't start till *1101:45. (Ron Howard-CA)

NETHERLANDS Radio Delta this licensed Dutch SW station between around 0700-1500 transmissions on 12085 around 1500-1700. Look out for regular broadcasts on Sundays on 6170 or 12085. (Brish DX Club)

5940, FRS Holland, QSL received by post in 23 days for report in English sent to: frs@frsholland.nl. (Christian Ghibaudo-France/British DX Club)

5955, Radio Veronica, Westdorpe, 0605-0643, 05-01, pop songs in English, oldies, Dutch, comments. 35433. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

6020, Radio Casanova, 0710-0727, 05-01, songs, Dutch, comments, ID in English "Radio Casanova, promoting love and peace all over Europe", 35433. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine) 6020, Radio Casanova, F/D e-QSL in 3 hours. E-mail: radiocasanova@gmail.com. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine) 6020, Radio Casanova, e-QSL received the same day in reply to report sent to: radiocasanova@hotmail.com. (Jouke van der Galien- Netherlands/British DX Club)

6140, Radio Onda, Bocolo, 0740-0811, 18-01, music, ID "Radio Onda", pop songs in

English, oldies. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine) 6170, Radio Delta International, Elburg, 0722-0756, 18-01, Dutch music, English, comments, songs, ID "From The Netherlands, Radio Deltal...". 35433. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

NEW ZEALAND 13755, Radio New Zealand via Rangitaiki. Full data colour online QSL rec'd in 3 days in reply to report sent to: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/gsl/new>. (Hansjoerg Biener-Germany/Worldwide DX Club)

NORWAY 5895, Radio Northern Star, Bergen, 1754-1922, 17-01, pop songs, at 1800 ID "... Radio Northern Star", comments, songs in English, oldies. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine) 5895 Radio North Star located in Bergen. Rec'd a QSL plus a verie letter within 24 hours after posting my report too: 1000@northernstar.no. V/S sent a whole package of photos of towers and equipment. v/s: Svenn Martinsen. (Edward Kusalik-AB/DXplorer) Sven Martinsen a new 400-Watt transmitter started testing on 23 December and is being reported with improved signal and better audio. On 24 December Svenn reported "Radio Northern Star has received listener reports from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, France and Italy with the new transmitter." The address for reports is 1000@northernstar.no. (Svenn Martinsen on Facebook 24 December via Alan Pennington-UK/British DX Club)

OMAN 12095, 1709-, BBCWS Jan 19 Superb reception with a sports play by play. Sigh! (Salmaniw-BC/DXplorer)

PALAU Hope Radio on 9930 on 2 January 2025 in English from around 1115 to past 1200. Although sign-out announcements were there at 1200, another long program was broadcast then. Listed as Tests on their web site. ID was as Hope Radio, T8WH, Angel

3. Hope Radio, T8WH Angel 3, Palau testing on 9930 at 1055-1200 Mon-Fri. Reports may be submitted in <https://www.hoperadio.net/reception#online>. I got QSL within a few hours! (Jose Jacob-India, VU2JOS, National Institute of Amateur Radio/Shortwave Bulletin)

PERU 4775, Radio Tarma, Tarma, 0110-0125, 29-12, Spanish, comments, Peruvian songs. 15421. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine)

PHILIPPINES 9925, Jan 9, 2025. 1754-1820, Radyo Pilipinas, Tinang, in Filipino/Tagalog. Woman talking; Music and man annr talking; ID; Interview. 35422. // 12120phl and 15190phl, Good. (Jota Xavier-Brazil/Hard Core DX)

12120, Radyo Pilipinas. F/D e-QSL in 1 day. E-mail: dzrp.radyopilipinas@gmail.com. V/S: Jay B. Arevalo, Broadcast Program Traffic Officer. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

ROMANIA According to an email rec'd from R. Romania International by a Mexican DXer, the station will no longer issue printed QSL cards or eQSLs in response to reports. (BDXC "Communication" Nov 2024)

RRI web site reports on 25 December: Radiocom has reported a major malfunction at one of the shortwave transmitters in Țigănești, near Bucharest. The RRI programs have been temporarily moved to a second transmitter, to other frequencies and, partially, to other target areas. (British DX Club)

RUSSIA The Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Network (RTRS) has announced another tender for the demolition of equipment from Radio Center No. 7 in the city of Angarsk in the Irkutsk Region. In Soviet times, it was used to jam Western radio stations in the country. A Telesputnik correspondent found the relevant data in the

government procurement database..." (RusDX 1317 via Wolfgang Büschel-Germany/British DX Club)

SEYCHELLES FEBA originally broadcast from Mahe inspired by FEBC's use of radio to broadcast Christ to the world, in 1959 this group of British supporters took up the task of establishing a station in the Seychelles - a British Protectorate at the time. Initially broadcasting into India, they became the Far East Broadcasting Association. An interesting fact was the antenna system that was built out over a lagoon 1klm offshore. Regular broadcasting began in 1970 and closed in 2003 due to reclamation of land nearby that would bring development and was incompatible with the continuing operation of the station. (John Durham-New Zealand/New Zealand DX Times)

SOLOMON ISLANDS 5020, SIBC, 1726+, Dec 31; in Pijin, wishing everyone Happy New Year and playing pop songs; remote Kiwi SDR at Rotorua, NZ; four hours after midnight there. (Ron Howard-CA)

TAIWAN 15375, Fu-Hsin Broadcasting Station, F/D QSL Card in 98 days. E-mail: fhbstp@fhbs.com.tw. (Juergen Waga-Germany/DX Fanzine)

THAILAND 9395, Radio Thailand, F/D QSL Card in 139 days from US Agency for Global Media. Report to: manager_thailand@tha.ibt.gov. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX fanzine)

9940, Radio Thailand, two separate eQSLs for reception reports of different languages received in 3 days. Email: rthworldservice@gmail.com. (Pradip Chandra Kundu-India/Asian DX Review)
9940, Radio Thailand, F/D QSL Card in 7 days. Report to: rthworldservice@gmail.com. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain/DX Fanzine)

17640, Radio Thailand. Reception report verified with full data eQSL received in 6 days. Email: rthworldservice@gmail.com. (Pradip Chandra Kundu-India/Asian DX Review)

TÜRKIYE We are currently undergoing a reorganization process, and we were told that TRT's all foreign broadcasts (VOT radio, multiple-language websites, and podcasts) will be consolidated under one roof, called TRT Global, which will be launched soon. In this new structure, VOT English shortwave broadcasts will be handled by the TRT World channel in Istanbul. We, as the Voice of Türkiye English Desk, will not be going on the air. We will oversee translating and presenting several podcast series, which will be available through our newly planned online platforms. About the VOT English shortwave transmissions in the new term (no date has been set), we really have no idea what type of programming there will be. TRT VOT Arabic will face the same fate. But all other languages remain on the shortwave, and there might be new ones in the new term. I am personally sad about all this, but I still hope that it will be turned around at some point. We remain contactable at englishdesk@trt.net.tr. (English Desk E-mail to Alan Roe-UK) It is now clear that, since 1 January, the Voice of Turkey English transmission at 1330 is just a relay of the audio from TRT World TV, with the subsequent English transmissions being just repeats of that 1330 transmission. One can only hope that when the new podcasts being developed by the English Desk of TRT come online, that at least we'll get to hear them rather than this rather pointless TRT World relay. (Alan Roe-UK)

When checked on 1 January the 1330 English transmission on 13635 carried a relay of the audio of TRT World television instead of Voice of Turkey. It remains to be seen whether this is just a temporary

arrangement. Further observations are needed. (Dave Kenny-UK/British DX Club) B24 schedule for English – subject to confirmation:

1330-1430 on 13635

1930-2030 on 6050

2300-0000 on 5960

1730-1830 on 9660

2130-2230 on 9610

0400-0500 on 6125 7285 (British DX Club)

The last English broadcast of the Voice of Türkiye was broadcast on 1 January 2025 at 0400. After that, the shortwave broadcast slots were replaced by television sound from TRT World. However, these were not live broadcasts in parallel to <https://www.trtworld.com/live-stream>, but recordings that started somewhat abruptly. (Dr. Hansjoerg Biener-Germany, Jan 5/Worldwide DX Club)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 15215, e-QLS Gaweylon Tibetan Radio, FEBC Manila, E-mail: gaweylon@gmail.com. (Anatoly Klepov-Russia, RUSdx #1322 via wwdxc TopNews) 15215, Gaweylon Tibetan Radio, via Dhabbaya, F/D e-QLS in 2 days. E-mail address: gaweylon@gmail.com. V/S: Anil R. Alfred, Director. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group “QSL”/DX Fanzine)

USA It is being reported on SWDX forums that WWCR has shut down one of its four shortwave transmitters, namely the one that had operated on 3215, 6115 and 15825. Some programming has been shifted to the other three units. No reason is given for the closure. Declining bookings? (Paul Walker-AK)

Radio Free Asia Schedule effective October 27, 2024 to March 29, 2025:

0000-0100 on 9915 Lao

0030-0130 on 7515 15110 15245 Burmese

0100-0200 on 5980 7580 9790 11530 12015 Uyghur

0200-0300 on 15245 Burmese

0600-0700 on 15245 15665 17695 21680 Tibetan

1100-1200 on 13640 Lao

1200-1300 on 11935 12050 13660 15575 Tibetan

1200-1400 on 9900 Korean

1230-1330 on 11795 15120 Burmese

1230-1330 on 11885 12150 15155 Khmer

1300-1330 on 13640 Khmer

1300-1400 on 11730 13660 15245 15725 Tibetan

1500-1600 on 7540 11670 Mandarin

1500-1600 on 11805 Uyghur

1500-1700 on 9990 11510 11560 Korean

1600-1700 on 7620 7635 9560 Uyghur

1700-1900 on 9990 11560 Korean

2100-2200 on 9990 11510 11945 Korean

2100-2200 on 7520 9410 9455 Mandarin

2200-2300 on 7470 9540 12050 Tibetan

2230-2330 on 9390 11850 Khmer

2300-2400 on 5875 7510 7620 9490 Tibetan

E-mail your reception report to gsl@rfa.org, or send it by regular mail to: Reception Reports, Radio Free Asia, 2025 M Street N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036. (Aungthu Schlenker/Radio Free Asia)

VOA French to Africa according to USAGM RMS monitoring the schedule is:

1830-1900 daily on 12075-smg 15730-bot

1900-1930 daily on 12075-smg 15730-bot 17700-grv

1930-2000 daily on 11900-bot 17700-grv

2030-2100 Sundays on 11900-smg 11975-smg (Wolfgang Büschel-Germany/British DX Club)

UZBEKISTAN 6035, 0119-, BBCWS Jan 19 Fair reception via Tashkent, with much better // from Oman on 7410 (250 kW/63 deg) at good to very good level. (Salmaniw-BC/DXplorer)

9950, Voice of Martyrs, via Tashkent, F/D Letter in 20 Days. V/S: Pastor Till Dilmuth. E-mail: address: tdilmuth@vomkorea.com. (Shukhrat Rakhmatullaev-Uzbekistan via Facebook Group “QSL”/DX Fanzine)

VANUATU 9960, Radio Vanuatu, Port Vila, 0610-0658*, 16-01, English, female, comments, Island songs, more talk, ID "Radio Vanuatu", also heard 0616-0658, 18-01, Bislama, English, female, comments. 24422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine) 9960, Radio Vanuatu, 0629 till suddenly off the air at 0658:18*, Jan 4, via Kiwi SDR remote at Hunter Valley, NSW; 0629-0648, interview about gastric health; 0648, C&W songs. (Ron Howard-CA)

Normally Radio Vanuatu at 0658 switches from 9960 to 3945, but not today (Jan 24); from 0720+ was still on 9960, via Wanganui, NZ. (Ron Howard-CA)

VATICAN Vatican Radio now has English at 1715-1730 on 11755. 11755 also scheduled 1630-1700 (Arabic), 1700-1715 (French). This change registered on HFCC from 9 December. (Alan Pennington-UK/British DX Club)

9510, Jan 3, 2025. 0350-0400, Voice of America, Santa Maria di Galeria, in Somali. A man announcer makes an interview with a man; 0357 A Somali song; 0358 Starts RRI moderate interference w/ your IS; 0359 Man says VOA ID. Fair reception before 0358: 35533; Poor reception after 0358: 33522. (Jota Xavier-Brazil/Hard Core DX)

VENEZUELA 4940, Onda Corta 4940, 0551-0634, 16-01, Spanish, religious comments

and songs. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine) 4940 presumed Estación 4940 at 0455, Jan. 10, in Spanish with LA songs, 0458 woman with annmts and talk, often over mx. Still going through to 0728. Very poor. (Harold Sellers-BC)

VIETNAM 9730, Voice of Vietnam, F/D e-QLS in 20 days. E-mail address: vovhanoi.france@gmail.com. V/S: Pho Cam Hoa. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

11885, Voice of Vietnam, F/D QSL Folder in 45 days. E-mail address: vovmundo73@gmail.com. V/S: Pho Cam Hoa. (Juan Carlos Pérez Montero-Spain via Facebook Group "QSL"/DX Fanzine)

ZAMBIA 4965, Voice of Hope Africa, 1820-1907, 17-01, English, religious talk and songs. 25422. (Manuel Méndez-Spain/DX Fanzine) 4965, 09.01.25, 1840, Voice of Hope Africa, talk. (Roberto Pavanello-Italy/D-Express)

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

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



Pirate Radio Report

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

Hello everyone and welcome to the Pirate Radio Report.

Dreaming of a mid-winter escape to Disneyworld, or maybe a Caribbean cruise, but you're concerned about the cost? Then maybe cruising the pirate bands is more of a within your budget.

Think of the fun you'll have tuning your favorite receiver, hoping to listen to another exciting pirate broadcaster, and dreaming the waterfall on your SDR was starting to look like your favorite vacation getaway spot on that exotic Caribbean Island.

To some, it may not be as much fun as lounging in a beach chair at a Margaritaville resort, to others, there's no better way they'd rather spend a cold winters day than surfing the "funny-bands."

The following is the ever so popular incomplete list of what your fellow hobbyists have been listening to last month:

Captain Morgan Shortwave, Dorm Room Radio, Stern Radio, LGB Radio, Radio Diana International, 77LJS, WDJT, Radio Marlene, Voice of the Sons of Liberty, Radio Free Euphonia, Ballsmacker Radio, WTF Radio Worldwide, Outhouse Radio, WDDR, Yeah Man Radio, Liquid Radio, Radio Diana International, Trump Radio International, Stern Radio, Brain Brothers Shortwave, Cloudsplitter Radio, Leeroy, BZT, Thunder Chicken Broadcasting, Sycko Radio, Space Junk Radio, V-Sky Radio, WANK, Radio Time Machine, WDDJ,

Two Dog Radio, Boat Anchor Radio, Hee Haw Radio, Foxy AM, WAPE, Truth Radio International, YHWH, Bong Hits With Bulger, Wolverine Radio, WENO Shortwave, WNEC, Radio Mushroom, Space Junk Radio, Mix Radio International, Radio 48, Radio Voyager, Snowmageddon Radio, Radio Beatles International, and a special shout-out to all those UNID stations out there!

Sincere thanks to our contributors: Glenn Hauser, Greg Majewski, Bill Montney, Tony Pavick, David Ross, Gianni Serra, and Mark Taylor.

"For All You Do. Pirate Radio's for You."



5040-AM, PIRATE-EUROPE. **DELTRACKS (p)**. 1729-1747, 01-16-25, playing various genres of songs (syn pop, disco pop, electro pop, pop, rock) (Billy Idol: Eyes Without a Face, etc.), very poor/poor or no audio at times. (Serra-Italy)

5835-USB, PIRATE-NA. **SYCKO RADIO**. 2353-0033, 01-15-25. "Land of Confusion" by Genesis, "Red Skies" by The Fixx, "(Don't Fear) The Reaper (Live)" by Blue Öyster Cult, "The Envoy" by Warren Zevon, "Pork and Beans" by Weezer. Fair. (Ross-ON)

5836-USB, PIRATE-NA. **THUNDER CHICKEN BROADCASTING**. 2311, 01-06-25. pirate music, with yelling, S9+10 direct. Seems I heard it before anyone on HFU who first reported Thunder Chicken at 2336. (Hauser-OK)

5880.02-AM, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO ROCK REVOLUTION**. 0610-0628, 12-29-24. Playing hard rock songs and rock music, at 0616 presumed woman ID, man DJ hoarsely ID at 0622 (Radio...Rock...Revolution), poor/almost fair at times. (Serra-Italy)

6850-AM, PIRATE-NA. **LIQUID RADIO**. 0029-0300*, 01-09-25. "Blade Original Theme" by The Pump Panel, "Resist" by Front Line Assembly, "Playing With Lightning" by Expansion Union, "Speak to Me" and "Dare to Live" by Rotersand, "Puzzle" by Youth Code. (Ross-ON)

6905-USB, PIRATE-NA. **BRAIN BROTHERS SHORTWAVE**. 2358-0042, 01-01-25, Professor Plum and Miss Scarlett with a special New Year's show. Parody ads and music from Buddy Holly, Johnny Tillotson, Lou Christie and others. Good. (Penney-MA)

6905-USB, PIRATE-NA. **BRAIN BROTHERS SHORTWAVE**. 0033-0045, 01-05-25. A show of fifties and sixties music with comedy ads. Fair signal. (Majewski-CT)

6924-AM, PIRATE-NA. **BIG BOOBS RADIO**. *0217-0308*, 12-30-24. "This is the real thing, Big Boobs Radio", "Vaca y Pollito / La ComadrejaInfantiKids" and ID by OM, "Clone Awake" by Charlie Clouser, "Red Bunny On the Road" by Blazing Noise. Fair to Good. (Ross-ON)

6925-AM, PIRATE-NA. **WTF RADIO WW**. 2201-2217, 12-26-24. Led Zeppelin on track w/ two in a row; "The Rain Song," and "Whole Lotta Love." (Montney-MI)

6925-AM, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO COMEDY CLUB INTL**. 2202-2234*, 12-28-24. "It's a Gas" by Alf Newman, "The Old Sow Song" by Rudy Vallée, "Star Trek" by The Television's Greatest Hits Band, Fair to Good. (Ross-ON)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **NUTTIN' ON SW**. 0113-0133*, 12-29-24 "Shoot to Thrill" by AC/DC, "What Do You Do for Money Honey" by AC/DC, "Givin the Dog a Bone" by AC/DC, "Fart Project 5, the Lawn Mower" by The. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **DIARRHEA RADIO**. 0354-0400*, 12-29-24. "First Crossing" by Al Jewer & Andy Mitran and "The Royal Scam" by Steely Dan. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **K-DST, THE DUST**. 0041-0150*, 12-31-24. "If the police can't stop you, you must be on The Dust" by OM and "Real Rockers wear leather jackets on the vinyl show...you're on The Dust" by OM, Parody Ads for joining the US Military, a fake Dream Makers company and a PSA paid for by the Governor's office of San Andreas. (Ross-ON)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WDJT**. 0000-0033, 01-03-25. A show of music celebrating Trump's election victory. Fair signal. (Majewski-CT)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **YEAH MAN RADIO.** 0054-0118, 01-04-25. It was a "Million Dollar Weekend" show with sixties artists like the Beach Boys and Judy Collins. Gave shout outs to the HFU posters. Good signal. (Majewski-CT)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **BZT(p).** 0219-0224, 01-05-25. 'Sister Christian' - Night Ranger, 'Better Shave That Beaver' - Unsung AI, fast talking, comedian telling 3 little piggies. (Taylor-WI)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **LEEROY.** 0215-0305, 01-05-25. "Sister Christian" by Night Ranger, "Better Shave That Beaver" by Unsung AI, "Coffee & a Joint" by Little Stranger, "Don't Tell Me U Love Me" by Kid Rock, "Gamble of a Broken Man" by Evil Creek. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6925-AM, PIRATE-NA. **FOXY AM.** 0024-0036*, 01-08-25. ID's, songs "Witchcraft" by Buddy Emmons and "Time After Time" by Chet Baker. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **BONG HITS WITH BULGER** 2325-2354, 01-10-25. This was a different show on Marijuana and Dick Bulger. Comedy ads with Alex Jones and his voice talking about conspiracies. A bit strange, but, with an excellent signal. (Majewski-CT)

6925-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WENO SHORTWAVE.** 0018-01-03, 01-16-25. Mysterious/alternative mx (?) Altar Echo (?) commercial short for relief of indigestion, Mx on w/Rodrigo Passannanti - "Orion Silverman. Commercial again for the upset stomach. (Montney-MI)

6930-AM, PIRATE-NA. **WBLR.** 1211-1351*, 12-31-24. "Christmas Without You" by Xscape, "Happy Holidays to You" by The Whispers, "When You've Got Love, It's Christmas All Year Long" by The Stylistics, "Everything For Christmas" by The Temptations. (Ross-ON)

6930-AM, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO DIANA INTL.** *1517-1646**, 01-02-25. Songs "Roll Daddy Roll" by Fat Daddy, "Blitzkrieg" by Blitzkrieg, "Prison Oval Rock" by Barrington Levy, "Dancing in the Street" by The Chipmunks. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6930-AM, PIRATE-NA. **DORM RADIO.** 1850-1923*, 01-02-25. "Like me no one has loved you" by Bon Jovi, "Die for the Devil" by Enforcer, "The Commissioner" by Falco, "Star Spangled Banner" at Woodstock by Jimi Hendrix and "Good Love". Fair (Ross-ON)

6930-AM, PIRATE-NA. **HEE HAW RADIO.** 2012-2110*, 01-08-25. 2007 TV show Hee Haw audio, commercials for 2007 Chevy Silverado 'truck of the year', the US army, 'Solaris' weight loss product, a light beer, Walgreens, Halls lozenges and Febreze. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6930-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WAPE.** 2145-2148, 01-09-25. This was a poor signal with interference from the Russian Buzzer. I did get an eQSL from my post on the HFU. (Majewski-CT)

6930-USB, PIRATE-NA. **OUTHOUSE RADIO.** 0000-0101, 01-11-25. Program of songs by Van Halen: "Under the Sun / Every Day Comes and Goes", "Supernaut", "Tomorrow's Dream", "The Thrill of It All", "N.I.B.", "Sweet Leaf", "Into the Void", "War Pigs". Fair. (Ross-ON)

6930-USB, PIRATE-NA. **77LJS.** 1945-2001*, 01-16-25. "Walk Between Raindrops" by Donald Fagen and "Rikki Don't Lose That Number", "Night By Night", "Any Major Dude Will Tell You" and "Barrytown" by Steely Dan. (Ross-ON)

6933.39-AM, PIRATE-NA. **CAPTAIN MORGAN SHORTWAVE.** 0252-0338*, 01-12-25. "There's Gotta Be a Change", "Second Guessing" and "Matchbox" by Jonny Lang,

"Too Late" by Mandrill, "Chicago" by John Primer, "On My List to Quit". Fair. (Ross-ON)

6934-AM, PIRATE-NA. **FRUITCAKE STATION.** 2232, 12-29-24. The Eraserheads w/ "Fruitcake," Jimmy Buffett next w/ "Fruitcakes." 22:45 Sound like a soundclip from I Love Lucy/ fruitcake. "Nobody Likes A Fruitcake" (song). (Montney-MI)

6935-USB, PIRATE-NA. **SYCKO RADIO.** 0205, 12-23-24. OM w/ indistinct talk, into 'jingle bells' on a xylophone w/ sfx, OM talk, chaotic section including some indistinct talk by an OM, 'We Need a Little Christmas' - New Christy Minstrels, Fair to good signal. (Taylor - WI)

6935-USB, PIRATE-NA. **PARKER SOLAR PROBE.** 0005-0022*, 12-28-24. Robotic voice with IDs, orchestra music, SSTV image and email. Fair (Ross-ON)

6935-AM, PIRATE-SA. **AD149.** 0015-0033*, 12-31-24. "Fuego en el Fuego (Fuoco nel fuoco)" by Eros Ramazzotti, "Entre Caníbales" by Soda Stereo, "Two Days in the Life" by Stick Syrup and "Ojos de Ciudad" by Los Pericos. Weak. (Ross-ON)

6935-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WANK.** 0238-0248, 01-01-25. U2 w/ "Party Girl," more mx. 02:47 Anncr w/ ID and U2 back w/ "Gloria". (Montney-MI)

6935-AM, PIRATE-NA. **B-SIDE RADIO.** 0156, 01-16-25. Bud Bigley talking about music he just played, 'The Little Rasti' - Donald Byrd, Bud talking about Donald Byrd & ID into 'Almost Like Me' - Max Roach. Fair, although noisy signal. (Taylor-WI)

6935-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO MUSHROOM.** 0004-0054, 01-18-25. A show of classic rock (Joe Jackson, Bon Jovi, John Mellencamp) and the DJ talking about using a nuclear reactor to power the station. He was

complaining about the control room getting hot from the reactor. (Majewski-CT)

6935-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO VOYAGER.** 0008-0035, 01-22-25. Music from Melissa Etheridge, John Denver, The Cranberries & others. Synth Voyager probe w/ID. SSTV of the Voyager probe. Good. (Penney-MA)

6938-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO MARLENE.** *2356-0028*, 01-03-25. "Radio Marlene, transmitting somewhere on the Jersey Shore" ID by YL ID and email addy, songs "Call Me" by Blondie, "Dreams" by The Cranberries, "Material Girl" by Madonna. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6938-USB, PIRATE-NA. **MYSTERY SCIENCE RADIO.** 0008-0036, 01-06-25. Cherokee Jack broadcasting from the Yellow Submarine with a wide range of music from Polka to rock covers. This was a relay by Cloudsplitter Radio. Good Signal. (Majewski-CT)

6938-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WNEC.** 0017-0038*, 01-17-25. "Blue Hill" and "Emerald Lake" by Alessandro Alessandroni. "Belladonna" by Andreas Vollenweider. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WTF RADIO WW.** 0219, 01-04-25. Playing Grand Funk Railroad - 'Are You Ready,' 'Paranoid', 'I'm Your Captain (Closer to Home)', "WTF", off. Fair. (Taylor-WI)

6950-AM, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO FREE EUPHONIA.** 0243-0338*, 01-08-25. "The Edge of Forever", "Johnny (New Light)", "In Places On the Run", "This World", "Bound To Be", "Moving On" and "The Love Parade" by The Dream Academy. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6950-AM, PIRATE-NA. **BOAT ANCHOR RADIO.** 0030-0049*, 01-12-25. "Waves", "Melancholy", "Ship (Boris Rizhiy)" and "Merchants" by Molchat Doma. "I'm Starting

My Life Today" by Sex and "Baikonur" by Gunesh. (Ross-ON)

6950-USB, PIRATE-NA. **RADIO 48 via MRI.** 0030-0250, 01-19-25. YL "Radio 48 on Mix Radio International", 'Dirty Water' - The Standells, Radio 48 and MRI IDs, "I had Too Much to Dream" - The Electric Prunes, 'Don't You Know, Baby' - Wanda Jackson. (Taylor-WI)

6955-AM, PIRATE-NA. **PIRATE RADIO BOSTON.** 2101-2143*, 12-29-24. Charlie Loudenboomer with ID, "Christmas Is All Around" by Billy Mack, "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday" by Wizzard Relay by Ion Radio. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6955-USB, PIRATE-NA. **SYCKO RADIO.** 0103, 01-01-25. Various rock/ pop songs with open mike and talking over songs. Lots of swearing and the f-word. SSTV in Scottie DX at. Mostly good to perfect (Pavick-BC)

6955-AM, PIRATE-NA. **LGB RADIO.** 1708-1821*, 01-02-25. Test tones, songs "Roundabout" and "Starship Trooper: A. Life Seeker, B. Disillusion, C. Würm" by Yes, "That Smell" by Lynyrd Skynyrd, "People Like You and Me" by Glenn Miller. Fair. (Ross-ON)

6955-USB, PIRATE-NA. **VOICE OF THE SONS OF LIBERTY.** 2300-2305, 01-04-25. Listened since 2205 to a barely audible signal with words audible, however unable to tell topic. 2300 signal suddenly came up to a woman ending a program, ID into theme-like music. (Taylor-WI)

6959.4- AM, PIRATE-NA. **THE COSMONAUT SYSTEM.** 2305-2359, 12-23-24. Sounds like "Johnny Be Good", Anncr sez: "Good morning, Vietnam," Mx: Lou Rawls w/ "Christmas Is," Anncr sez: "It's December 25 1970, Merry Christmas. (Montney-MI)

6960-AM, PIRATE-NA. **BALLSMACKER RADIO.** 0209, 12-28-24. 'Do They Know It's Christmas' - Band Aid, 'All I want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth' - Spike Jones & His City Slickers, 'This Christmas' - Donny Hathaway. (Taylor-WI)

6960-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WOLVERINE RADIO.** 0121, 01-01-25. Rock/soul music S9+25. 0130 Wolverine Radio ID with echo, into SSTV. ID showed a guy hanging onto a rock on a cliff? As usual had stronger signal than the others. (Hauser-OK)

6960-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WDDJ.** 0137, 01-01-25. Tom Petty w/"Lovers," OM w/ comments and shout-outs to HFC, and something about his wine-bottle(?) and ID given. Back to mx: Danny O'Keefe w/"Good Time Charlies Got The Blues. (Montney-MI)

6960-USB, PIRATE-NA. **SPACE JUNK RADIO.** 0059-0111, 01-17-25. "Return to Sender" and "Can't Help Falling In Love" by Elvis Presley. "Man On the Corner" by Genesis and "Casey Jones" by The Grateful Dead. Fair to weak. (Ross-ON)

6960-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WENO SHORTWAVE.** 0034-0113, 01-18-25. A show of electronic music. The signal was poor with being hard to ID the music played. (Majewski-CT)

6960-AM, PIRATE-NA. **BALLSMACKER RADIO.** 0200-0345, 01-18-25. 'All Right Now' - Free, 'Walk Right Back' - The Everly Brothers, 'You May Be Right' - Billy Joel, 'Walk Right In' - The Rooftop Singers, into program of "right" themed music. (Taylor-WI)

6965-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WOLVERINE RADIO.** 0121-0214, 01-12-25. 'I Only Have Eyes for You' 'Finger Poppin' Time' - Hank & The Midnighters, ID, 'Take Me In Your' - Kim Weston, 'Heart Full of Soul' - The Yardbirds, 'Under My Thumb' - Rolling Stones into a

program of songs with body parts in the title. Armchair signal. (Taylor-WI)

6965.5-AM, PIRATE-NA, **STERN RADIO**, 2038-2105, 01-02-25. "Junior's Eyes" by Black Sabbath, "On and On" by Raven, "Kerosene" by Big Black, "Orgasmatron" by Motörhead and "Deconstruction" by The Devin Townsend Project. (Ross-ON)

6970-USB, PIRATE-NA. **WDDR**. 0415, 01-01-25. True North SWL Radio SSTV - 0419 UT: Car on a Hill by Joni Mitchell - 0444 UT: Wolverine Radio SSTV. Fair and noisy. (Pavick-BC)

6975-USB, PIRATE-NA. **SKY PILOT RADIO**. 2336-0003*, 12-27-24. "We Don't Need Another Hero" by Ghost, "Ordinary World" by Duran Duran, "In The Air Tonight" by Phil Collins, "Love Bites" by Def Leppard and "Two Out of Three Ain't Bad" by Meat Loaf. Fair (Ross-ON)

6975-USB, PIRATE-NA. **V-SKY RADIO**. 0118-0158, 01-18-25. "Feelin' Stronger Every Day" by Chicago, "Swlabr" by Cream, "Goldfinger" movie promo, "What's Up" by 4 Non Blondes, "Clown Show" by Ednaswap, "Hideaway" by CCR. Fair. (Ross-ON)

7475-AM, PIRATE-NA. **YHWH**. 0706, 01-10-25. Station YHWH on late again, the thin voice of Josiah JBA at S8 = local noise level. (Hauser-OK)

7719.99-AM, CLANDESTINE. **ECHO OF HOPE-VoH**. 1727-1750, 01-18-25., in Korean. Man and woman talk in turns, man chatting with a woman, woman talk over slow piano music, slow song, at 1740, man announcements, brief music pause, then playing some slow songs, (Serra-Italy)

9333.43-USB, PIRATE-NA. **CAPTAIN MORGAN SHORTWAVE**. 0258, 01-12-25. 'Too Late' - Mandrill, 'Chicago' - John Primer,

'On My List to Quit' - Altered Five Blues Band, into a program of nice blues with occasional IDs. Fair. (Taylor-WI)

11510-AM, CLANDESTINE. **FREE NORTH KOREA**. 1306-1324, 12-29-24, via Uzbekistan, in Korean. Long speech by man until 1313:45 circa, then long talk by woman, man brief talk over slow music, other man and woman talks in turns, brief chant and woman and man talk, slow music, almost fair/poor. (Serra-Italy)

Pirate Letters Were Sent to 41 Properties Last Year

FCC releases latest PIRATE Act report

RADIO WORLD

BY: NICK LANGAN

PUBLISHED: JANUARY 18, 2025

The FCC has released details regarding the fifth year of its PIRATE Act enforcement.

As mandated by the law's 2020 passage, the commission must submit an annual report to the Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce regarding PIRATE Act outcomes within the last fiscal year.

The act requires the commission to conduct annual enforcement sweeps of pirate radio in the five markets with the most complaints, which typically includes New York City and Boston.

The report said PIRATE Act funding enabled the FCC to acquire monitoring equipment, including six mobile direction-finding vehicles for enforcement activities. These vehicles complement the commission's

existing customized mobile direction-finding fleet.

The PIRATE Act granted the FCC the authority to take action against property owners and managers who continue to allow pirate broadcasts to take place after receiving commission notice. It issued 41 notices in FY2024, including 22 related to pirate sweeps.

That compares to 45 such notices, including 25 related to pirate sweeps, in FY2023.

As of December, the FCC had proposed a total of about \$14.5 million in fines against alleged pirates and imposed \$5.5 million in fines since January 2021. It has not reported whether any of it has been collected.

The commission also filed updates in the following categories:

Operator Fines

Pirate Radio Enforcement Actions by State, since Jan. 2020, from the FCC's Pirate Radio database.

The FCC issued six forfeiture orders and 18 notices of apparent liability for forfeitures regarding pirate broadcasting in FY2024.

Pirate radio station database

The passage of the act requires the commission to build and maintain a database of pirate radio stations.

The database has been updated as of Dec. 31. It originally deployed the site in January 2023.

Staffing

As part of the plan it implemented for the act, the commission has hired additional

staff members, with an emphasis on hiring field agents in or near offices where sweeps occur.

The commission said it hired two full-time employees during the past fiscal year and said it is in the process of hiring additional full-time staff members. In total, the FCC has hired six full-time staff members related to the PIRATE Act.

The passage of the act increased the maximum penalties for pirate radio operators. As of December, these were about \$120,000 per day, with a maximum of just under \$2.4 million.

FCC Raises Maximum Pirate Radio Fines in Report

RADIOINK

BY: Cameron Coats

PUBLISHED: January 20, 2025

The Federal Communications Commission has released its fifth annual report to Congress detailing the implementation and enforcement activities of the PIRATE Act, as the maximum penalty for repeated infractions increases to match inflation in 2025.

The Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act, signed into law in January 2020, grants the FCC increased enforcement tools to deal with and punish unlicensed broadcasters. With the latest report, the maximum monetary penalty has been raised from \$2,391,097 to \$2,453,218, while the per-violation fine is now \$122,661.

During fiscal year 2024, the FCC reports conducting enforcement sweeps in the five markets with the most reported pirate radio activity, followed by six months of

monitoring in those areas. The Enforcement Bureau also issued six forfeiture orders and 18 notices of apparent liability for pirate broadcasting violations, resulting in significant fines. Among the most notable were \$2,316,034 each for César Ayora and Luis Ayora in New York City, and \$2,391,097 for Fabrice Polynice in Miami.


Other fines included penalties ranging from \$40,000 to over \$920,000 for operators in areas such as Boston, Scranton, and Oregon, with total fines exceeding \$8 million in 2024.


The FCC also sent 41 notices to property owners and managers who were found to be knowingly allowing pirate radio broadcasts from their properties, 22 of which were linked to enforcement sweeps. The Commission continues to monitor these locations to ensure compliance and will take further enforcement action if necessary.

In addition to enforcement actions, the FCC updated its public pirate radio database, which was launched in January 2023, to reflect all activity through the end of December 2024.

To support its efforts, the Commission hired two additional full-time employees in 2024 and is in the process of hiring more staff. Six mobile direction-finding vehicles were also deployed to enhance investigative capabilities, and these vehicles are being outfitted with additional equipment to strengthen enforcement activities.

As Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel steps away from the Commission, incoming Chair Brendan Carr has expressed his continued support to monitor illegal broadcasts, hold operators accountable, and expand its enforcement tools to address this ongoing issue effectively.

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

NASWA Facebook Page: Join moderator Richard Murphy < rm271828@gmail.com > at the club's Facebook page which provides members with another way to keep in touch. This group is intended for social interaction between the club members and will not be used to publish loggings, articles, or other materials that would normally appear in The Journal, the NASWA E-group at Groups.io, or the Flashsheet. While the existence of the group is visible to all Facebook users, the online postings are available only to group members and group members must be NASWA members. Comments and suggestions from the membership are welcome. To locate the NASWA Facebook page, log into your Facebook account and then enter "North American Shortwave Association" into the Facebook search box at the top of the page. If you are into social media, give it a try. 


Contributors' Page

The following people made contributions to this issue:

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

Member	Equipment	Column
Greg MAJEWSKI, Oakdale, CT		P
Mark TAYLOR, Madison, WI		P
Pamela PRODAN, Wilton, ME		L
Eric BUENEMAN, Hazelwood, MO		L
Glenn HAUSER, Enid, OK		L,P
Bill MONTNEY, Monroe, MI		P
Tony PAVICK, Hope, BC		P
Vince HENLEY, Anacortes, WA		L
Rick BARTON, Sun City, AZ		P
Dave TURNICK, Sinking Springs, PA		L
Ed CICHOREK, Somerset, NJ		L
David ROSS, Hamilton, ON		P
Alan ROE, Teddington, UK		LN
Paul WALKER, McGrath, AK		LN
Gianni SERRA, Roma, Italy		P

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.

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

Loggings

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

- 3955 GERMANY Channel 29**, Jan 18 at 1800-1900 UT, via Channel 292, enjoyed monthly on third Sat broadcast of `Uncle Bill`s Melting Pot`, this time with Kurdish music, good into UTwente. Long sets and not much talk about it, but that`s OK. Scheduling inconvenient, simul with Met Opera and Talking Machine Show, so I tape delayed this while listening to the others `live`. Next month: mostly music from the Bahamas (Glenn Hauser, OK,)
- 4775 PERU Radio Tarma** OCX4E Tarma, Junín - 12/31 0255 noted with promo and commentary in Spanish. SIO 323. (Bueneman-MO)
- 5000 UNITED STATES. WWV** standard time and frequency broadcast from Fort Collins, CO. January 19, 2025, 0531 - 0541. SIO 555. Target likely domestic NAM. Excellent signal, easy listening. WWVH can be faintly heard in the background. (Henley, WA)
- 5025 CUBA Radio Rebelde** Spanish 0230-35 2 m speaking via telephone; poor 12/19 (Prodan-ME)
- 5025 CUBA R. Rebelde.** 5025, Jan 19 at 0707, R. Rebelde is on with music, S9+25/35 direct. The Other Side: (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 5800 JAPAN [non] NHK World Radio Japan.** 5800, Jan 4 at 0239, WRMI in English with ``Backstory of Japanese Landmarx - Mount Takao`` I can`t imagine any station but NHK emitting such, and in fact, the WRMI sked grid for 5800 on System D, at 0200-0300 UT Saturdays only is ``World Radio Network`` -- and guess what, WRN NAM stream at 0230-0300 Tue-Sat is NHK World Radio Japan! So they are back on air to NAM in English, and probably don`t even care, know it or ask for it, and for only 30 minutes (or less) per week unless there happen to be another NHK spot of WRN fill onto WRMI. At 0200-0230 it`s Deutsche Welle (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 5845 PHILIPPINES. BBC World Service** in KK via Tinang. December 26, 2024, 1540 - 1555. SIO 433. Mixed OM / YL announcers. Moderate QRN / QSB. Target is FE. (Henley, WA)
- 5850 UNITED STATES WRMI** Okeechobee, FL Mighty KBC Dave Mason show 0200-0300 two great Dell Vikings 1950s Doo-Wop songs, Whispering Bells and Come Go With Me; also Buddy Holley, The Crystals, Del Shannon & the Zombies' Tell Her No; fair 12/28 (Prodan-ME)
- 5859 UNITED STATES, Radio Northern Europe Int'l** via WRMI, 0150, 1-9-25. Talk in English then rock vocals. Instrumental version of" We wish you a Merry Christmas" followed by choral singing to end of program. At 0200 formal ID for WRMI followed by sign on for Radio Carpathia. Good with some noise. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 5920 UNITED STATES. WTWW** in EE religious program to NAM. January 19, 2025, 0448 - 0454. SIO 444. OM preacher with convoluted sermon. Via Lebanon, TN. Confused

- sermon and commentary about the “Wailing Wall,” and its original construction and / or its ultimate destruction. (Henley, WA)
- 5935 UNITED STATES. WWCR** 2 religious program in EE via Nashville, TN. January 19, 2025, 0444 – 0448. SIO 333. YL preacher with sermon / homily, target NAM. (Henley, WA)
- 5950 UNITED STATES. WRMI** (WYFR) in EE to ENAM. January 19, 2025, 0439 – 0444. SIO 444. Rock MX or possibly heavy Punk Rock, or something not MX at all. OM announcer with interpretation of the alleged MX. Via WYFR Okeechobee FL. YL announcer takes over at 0442. (Henley, WA)
- 6030 UNITED STATES. Radio Marti** in SS to Cuba. January 19, 2025, 0509 – 0515. SIO 444. OMs in dialogue conversation. Good signal, easy listening. Via Greenville, NC. (Henley, WA)
- 6080 BOTSWANA Voice of America** relay Mopeng Hill – 12/31 0315 noted w/tributes to Jimmy Carter in English. SIO 333. (Bueneman-MO)
- 6125 CHINA. CNR** 1 in CC, target is domestic China. December 26, 2024, 1607 – 1624. SIO 333. Noisy signal, OM with long monologue. Pulse noise on the signal, heavy QRN, steep QSB. (Henley, WA)
- 6150 JAPAN Radio Japan** via Yamata – 12/31 0322 noted w/interview in Japanese. SIO 333. (Bueneman-MO)
- 6180 CUBA China Radio Intl** Chinese 0213-19 m & f in discussion; poor & distortion 12/15 (Prodan-ME)
- 7215 CHINA (Kunming) China Radio Int'l** at 1530. Drums, flutes, singing; interesting ethnic music program, listed as a service to Nepal --- Fair 12/28 (Barton-AZ)
- 7325 ROMANIA, Radio Romania Int'l**, Commentary on the drug problem among Romanian youth and efforts of address the issue. Very Good. (Cichorek-NJ)
- 7390 NEW ZEALAND. RNZ Pacific** in EE to Oceania. December 26, 2024, 1556 – 1605. SIO 333. OM announcer with POP and Folk MX. Moderate QRN / QSB. Pulse noise on the signal. Time pips at TOH and OM with news at TOH. Listenable with difficulty through the pulse noise. (Henley, WA)
- 7435 UNITED STATES. Radio Marti** in SS to Cuba. January 19, 2025, 0430 – 0434. SIO 555. Via Greenville, NC. OMs in animated talk. (Henley, WA)
- 7850 CANADA. CHU** standard time and frequency station in EE and FF. January 19, 2025, 0516 – 0522. SIO 333. Noisy signal, heavy QRN, but listenable. Likely target is domestic Canada. (Henley, WA)
- 9265 UNITED STATES WINB** Red Lion, PA 1532-36+ preacher with Caribbean accent “we are studying healing ... resurrection ... I'm going to make you fishers of men”; poor-fair 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 9330 UNITED STATES WBCQ** Monticello, ME World's Last Chance 1518-20+ preaching about observation of Sabbath, justification by faith, Yahweh; very good 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 9395 UNITED STATES WRMI** Okeechobee, FL 0100-0200 Canadian Content Radio Happy Holiday edition, started with Booker T & the MGs Jingle Bells, but the rest was leftover requests from throughout the year; fair becoming poor 12/27 (Prodan-ME)
- 9395 UNITED STATES WRMI** Okeechobee, FL 0300-0330 Cruisin' the Decades Program #108, incl 1911 Van Epps wax cylinder, 1933 Blanche Calloway & her Joy Boys 鼎 asey Jones, ♦1945 Roy Rogers, 1959 Pink Cadillac, 1966 The Outsiders 典ime Won't

- Let Me [note: replay of program reported on 5950 14 April 24]; fair-poor 12/28 (Prodan-ME)
- 9395 **UNITED STATES, WRMI**, Canadian Content Radio,0042, 12-27-24. Talk by a man about ham radio activities. At 0046, Christmas instrumental of the "Little Drummer Boy". At 2049 more talk followed by a singing ID for WRMI then more holiday music. Good (Cichorek-NJ)
- 9410 **OMAN BBC relay A'Seela** - 12/23 0315 noted with analysis in Pashto. SIO 333. (Bueneman-MO)
- 9435 **NORTH KOREA. Voice of Korea** in FF to NAM. January 5, 2025, 1625 - 1631. SIO 333. YL announcer in FF between MX pieces. Some audio distortion on the signal. Program originates in Kujang. (Henley, WA)
- 9435 **NORTH KOREA. Voice of Korea** in FF to NAM. December 29, 2024, 1641 - 1650. SIO 444. Instrumental MX with YL announcer commentary between MX pieces. More MX follows with mixed chorus. Via Kujang. (Henley, WA)
- 9510 **ROMANIA. Radio Romania Int'l** 9510, Jan 12 at 0423, RRI VG S9+30/40 in English; 0424 `RRI Encyclopedia` about the Revolution of 1848 and slavery of the Roma people [i.e., ``Gypsies``, not Romanians]. Not found on listed //7410 (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 9525 **OMAN. BBC** in Dari via A'Seela to Afghanistan. December 29, 2024, 1602 - 1612. SIO 434. MX clips, mixed OM / YL announcers. Good signal, listenable. (Henley, WA)
- 9560 **TURKEY Voice of Turkey** at 0515, ME music, W presenter in (pres.) Turkish Heard on RS SW-2000629 and 22' random wire with signal fully lighting the green tune light. ID by man at 0600 and what sounded like news items --- Very Good 12/19 (Barton-AZ)
- 9570 **CHINA. China Radio Int'l** in EE to Southern Africa. December 29, 2024, 1651 - 1705. SIO 444. OMs in discussion of the economy and its impact on China. Talk of Trump's focus on tariffs. Discussion of some economic action by Germany that concerns China. (Henley, WA)
- 9580 **PHILIPPINES, BBC**, 2230, 12-22-24. BBC World Service ID by a woman followed by news in English. President elect Trump floating idea of regaining control of the Panama Canal. At 2232, casual ID for BBC World Service. Fair with deep fades. (Cichorek- NJ)
- 9585 **ALASKA. KNLS** religious broadcast in RR to FE. January 19, 2025, 1616 - 1623. SIO 555. Excellent signal, OMs in RR talk. Mixed OM / YL comments then YL continues with homily, followed by POP MX with a jazzy beat. Station ID and contact information given in RR by OM announcer. (Henley, WA)
- 9585 **ALASKA. KNLS** religious broadcaster in RR to FE. December 29, 2024, 1635 - 1640. SIO 444. YL with sermon or homily in RR. Good signal, easy listening. (Henley, WA)
- 9605 **ALASKA. KNLS** religious broadcaster in RR to FE. December 29, 2024, 1706 - 1714. SIO 444. Mixed OM / YL in conversation or a religious message. Good signal, easy listening. (Henley, WA)
- 9660 **TAIWAN Radio Taiwan Int'l** Chinese 1520-25 unaccompanied f singer, m & f in discussion; poor+ 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 9670 **GERMANY Channel 292** 2108-18+ mostly songs from 1960s incl World Without Love, Baby Love; poor 12/22 (Prodan-ME)

- 9685 TAIWAN (Tentative) "Furusato no Kaze"** Clandestine broadcast in JJ to North Korea. clandestine broadcast. January 19, 2025, 1608 – 1615. SIO 444. YL announcer with plea in JJ. Broadcast is likely from Paochung, Taiwan. YL with talk / monologue followed by POP MX in JJ from "The Sound of Music." Soloist and children's chorus singing the "do, re, mi" song in JJ. YL continues monologue after the song. (Henley, WA)
- 9690 SPAIN REE** Spanish 2032-2100+ high intensity soccer play-by-play with commentary; heard "Real Madrid, Valencia"; good 12/14 (Prodan-ME)
- 9720 CHINA. CNR 1** in Mandarin. December 29, 2024, 1613 – 1620. SIO 444. CNR jammer covering Voice of America in Tibetan on the same frequency. Target is FE. VOA is via Udon Thani in Thailand. (Henley, WA)
- 9775 BOTSWANA. Voice of America** in EE to Africa. January 19, 2025, 0418 – 0429. SIO 333. Talk of Biden and the Archivist arguing about the failed "Equal Rights Amendment" to the Constitution. The amendment failed to meet the deadline for ratification, and Biden has attempted to declare it the "law of the land" by executive fiat, which he has no power to do. The only possibility to revive the failed amendment is for Congress to restart the ratification process all over again with a new deadline. Two YLs in debate and conversation. Via Mopeng Hill. Station ID given as Voice of America (Henley, WA)
- 9785 CHINA China Radio Int'l** . 9785, Jan 13 at 1527, discussion of wind and solar, in American English so must be CRI: yes, this hour only from Jinhua 831 site for S Asia, but S5/S6 here (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 9800 CHINA China Radio Int'l** via Kashgar – 12/31 0250 noted w/commentary in Tamil. SIO 323. (Bueneman-MO)
- 9875 CHINA. China Radio Int'l** in EE to SEA. December 29, 2024, 1555 – 1601. SIO 333. OM with selected news clips follows. Noisy signal. (Henley, WA)
- 9900 GUAM TWR** Korean 1507-09 m & f speaking; faint 11/30 (Prodan-ME)
- 11510 PHILIPPINES. Radio Free Asia** in KK via Tinang to FE. January 5, 2025, 1613 – 1623, SIO 444. Mixed OM / YL announcers with talk and news items. Minor QRN, slight flutter on the signal. (Henley, WA)
- 11510 PHILLIPINES Radio Free Asia** Korean 1612-17 m & f in discussion, musical break; fair- 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 11525 TURKEY (Turkish Jamming) TRT** Recep Ergodan (Presumed) at 1530. Heard with Drake SW1, 100' longwire. Loud male chorus, speech by man, yelling (but at just below Mark Levin level), more loud music. --- Fair to Good 12/16 (Barton-AZ)
- 11590 CHINA. CNR1** jammers 11590, Sun Jan 19 at 1550, chanting in Chinese, S9+20/25 // slightly stronger S9+20/30 on 11670. Both CNR1 jammers against RFA in Chinese: per Eibi at 1500-1600 Sat/Sun only on 11590 via Kuwait; while 11670 is via Tinang, Philippines, daily at 1500-1600. Only jammers audible here, not victims (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 11610 ENGLAND Voice of America** Somali 1616-24 m & f discussion; fair-good 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 11630 JAPAN NHK Radio Japan** 2100-07 Japanese m & f speakers; poor-fair //11675 very faint 12/22; 2130-45 f & m ann with occasional music; good 12/26 (Prodan-ME)

- 11670 **PHILLIPINES** *Voice of America* Tibetan 1625-28 m & f in discussion, some songs; poor 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 11780 **BRAZIL** *Rado Nacional da Amazônia* ZYE365 Brasilia, DF – 12/20 0930 noted with ID and pop music in Portuguese. SIO 545. (Bueneman-MO)
- 11780 **BRASIL** *Radio Nacional da Amazônia* Portuguese 2200-2300 regular prog of blues, country, jazz, rock & roll, f ann, tonight featuring Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown – Born in Louisiana, What Am I Living For, Don't Cry Sister & more; fair-good 12/14 (Prodan-ME)
- 11780 **BRASIL** *Radio Nacional da Amazônia* Portuguese 0100-0200 prog “Jazz Livre” 0115 Wayne Shorter “Night Dreamer,” Lee Morgan, more; fair 12/16 (Prodan-ME)
- 11785 **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** *Radio Slovakia Int'l* WRN Vsemirnaya (Всемирная means worldwide) Radioset Russian 1628-59 m speaker, 1647 folk song; heard ID Radio Slovakia Int'l at 1630 and 1659; fair 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 11815 **JAPAN.** *NHK Radio Japan* IN JJ to SEA. January 5, 2025, 1646 – 1657. SIO 333. YL announcer in JJ, joined by OM at 1647. OM continues with pleasant MX, later followed by YL singer with more pleasant MX. Moderate QRN / QSB on the signal, but the MX continues quite listenable. It's always a pleasure to hear NHK Radio Japan. (Henley, WA)
- 11815 **ROMANIA** *Radio Romania Intl* Hebrew 1710-15 2 m in discussion; fair 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 11860 **UNITED STATES** *Radio Marti* Greenville, NC Spanish 1715-18 f speaker; good 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 11885 **CHINA** *PBS Xinjiang* via Urumqi – 12/20 0945 noted w/commentary in Uighur. SIO 333. (Bueneman-MO)
- 11885 **VIETNAM** *Voice of Vietnam* French 2044-49 music with f ann; faint 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 11895 **KUWAIT,** *Radio Free Asia*, 1620, 12-27-24. Man and woman speaking in listed Uyghur. Brief musical segue then more music. Poor (Cichorek-NJ)
- 11945 **FRANCE** *NHK Radio Japan* 1717-26+ Japanese m ann, songs in English incl Joni Mitchell; fair 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 11965 **CHINA.** *CNR 1* jammer, Target is FE. January 5, 2025, 1640 – 1646. SIO 222. CNR probably jamming Radio Free Asia on the same frequency. Mixed OM / YL announcers. Poor, noisy, signal with steep QSB. (Henley, WA)
- 12030 **SPAIN** *REE* Spanish 2342-54 m ann, musical excerpts, 2 f in discussion; good 12/14 (//9690 fair) (Prodan-ME)
- 12040 **JAPAN** *NHK Radio Japan* 2050-58 Japanese f & m in some sort of drama, occas sound effects; poor-fair 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 12050 **ASCENSION** *R. Ndarason Intl.* at 0710 Talk in Kanuri lang. (multiple countries in Lake Chad region) and a lot of interesting ethnic music. Woman presenter. In progress upon post local midnight tune-in. Closed at 0800. The music makes it worth it. (I had a senior moment in a recent post, and incorrectly listed these broadcasts as in Sudanese Arabic at that time Consider this as a hard correction). --- Good 12/21 (Barton AZ)
- 12055 **PHILIPPINES** (Bocause) *FEBC R Manila* 2330, opening in (listed) Palaung (Myanmar, etal. - SW Asia). The Hmong bx up the dial (12095) went off as this was coming on. --- Fair to Good 12/19 (Barton-AZ)

- 12055 **PHILIPPINES (Bocaue) FEBC R Manila** 2330, opening in (listed) Palaung (Myanmar, etal. - SW Asia). The Hmong bx up the dial (12095) went off as this was coming on. --- Fair to Good 12/19 (Barton-AZ)
- 12075 **THAILAND Voice of America** Radio Ashna 1630, px in (listed) Pashto (Afghanistan, Pakistan), fair and fading --- 12/20 (Barton-AZ)
- 12160 **UNITED STATES. WWCR** 2 religious program in EE to NAM. January 5, 2025, 1636 – 1640. SIO 232. OM preacher with fire and brimstone sermon, (we're all going to Hell) from Nashville, TN. Poor noisy signal, but listenable. (Henley, WA)
- 13705 **JAPAN NHK World Radio Japan** at 2300. M and W in (listed) Thai, piano music and female jazz singer. Heard with RS DX-402, window frame antenna - for perspective). This fqy allows them to dodge the Cuban/Chinese music station this hour on 13650. Short repetition of NHK tuning signal at 2320, then off. Transmitter reopen at 2325, repeating until 2330 and switch to Vietnamese, clicking the [X] at 2351 --- Fair 12/15 (Barton-AZ)
- 13830 **MADAGASCAR Vatican Radio.** 13830, Sun Jan 5 at 1612, algo lang S8/S9, the only extracontinental on 22m, between the only intracontinental on 13820 & 13845. With trans-equatorial advantage, it's Vatican Radio in Swahili, 317 degrees so also thisaway far beyond Africa East (Glenn Hauser, OK)
- 15130 **JAPAN, NHK World Radio Japan,** 2026, 12-27-24. Rapid talk between a man and woman in Japanese. Poor (Cichorek-NJ)
- 15150 **UNITED STATES WMLK Assemblies of Yahweh,** Bethel, PA 1434-42 m preaching from Bible; poor-fair 12/16; 1538-42 "love not the world ... the world passes away," James 5:15 "hate the evil and love the good"; good 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 15150 **UNITED STATES. WMLK** religious broadcaster in EE. December 29, 2024, 1528 – 1536. SIO 333. OM preacher with fire and brimstone sermon. Target is Europe. Via Bethel, PA. Talk about sacrificing to Yahweh. (Henley, WA)
- 15195 **JAPAN. NHK Radio Japan** in JJ to SEA. January 19, 2025, 0409 – 0414. SIO 444. Multiple YLs and OMs in animated talk and humor. Minor QRN / QSB. Easy listening. (Henley, WA)
- 15215 **MADAGASCAR RFI .** 15215, Jan 12 at 0431, talk at S9+10 but = noise level so JBA, and is the OSOB! Only signal on band. Trans/eq advantage rules: it's RFI in Swahili at 0430-0500. Now the 13 and 17 MHz bands **are also totally dead (Glenn Hauser, OK)**
- 15275 **FRANCE. R Deutsche Welle** (using Issoudun) 1600 opening to Ethiopia, in Amharic (listed), dialogue with M, W. African music with men singing near the hour. Heard on Zenith TO Royal 7000. --- Fair. 12/15. (Barton-AZ)
- 15370 **ROMANIA Radio Romania Intl** Romanian 1542-53 children's chorus; 1547 lively folk song; 1553+ f speaking; fair+ 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 15390 **ROMANIA. Romania Radio Int'l** in Romanian to Southern Europe. December 29, 2024, 1537 – 1546. SIO 434. Romanian MX with OM singer. Heavy QRN and flutter on the signal. YL announcer followed by more MX. Noisy, but listenable signal. (Henley, WA)
- 15565 **VATICAN Vatican Radio** (to Africa) at 1720, in progress with man in French. Heard with Drake SW1 and long wire --- Fair to Good Dec 16 Barton-AZ
- 15565 **VATICAN Vatican Radio** (to Brazil) at 1800, dialogue with man, woman, in Portuguese. Heard with SW-2000629, indoor wire --- Fair to Good 12/13 (Barton-AZ)

- 15565 VATICAN CITY *Vatican Radio*** 1553-1601 m speaking (Amharic listed), song; 1558 contact info, tones; poor-fair 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 15565 VATICAN STATE. *Radio Vaticana*** in Amharic to East Africa. December 29, 2024, 1546 – 1553. SIO 444. OM announcer, MX. Via Santa Maria di Galeria. OM with long monologue follows. Good signal, easy listening. (Henley, WA)
- 17550 GERMANY *Bible Voice*** unknown language 1441-45 m speaking in deliberate intonations; poor 12/16 (Prodan-ME)
- 17555 MADAGASCAR *Radio Tamazuj*** 1504-09 f & m ann with music; poor 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 17585 ALGERIA *Radio Algerienne*** Arabic 1456-59 music, singing, then tones, m speaking & off; poor+ 11/30 (Prodan-ME)
- 17630 MALI *China Radio Intl*** English 1445-48+ m & f discussing drama, video; varying poor-fair 12/16; 1509-14 f & m discussing foreign investment environment in China & how to make it easier; poor- fair 12/22 (Prodan-ME)
- 17715 SPAIN *REE*** Spanish 1501-05 crowd sounds & 2 m excited play-by-play; heard Aquí Madrid, Barcelona; good 11/30 (Prodan-ME)
- 17790 ROMANIA *Radio Romania Intl*** Romanian 1448-1500 2 f in discussion, references to Romania, song, 1454 announcements; 1500 Station ID, tones, off; fair-good 12/16 (Prodan-ME)

NASWA SWL Festival

2025 • Questions to HQ@naswa.net • Access via Zoom • Register via PayPal


On the next page of this *Journal* issue you'll find a form that you can send in to register for the 2025 NASWA SWL Fest - our 38th year! Dates are Friday & Saturday, April 25th and 26th. This form is only valid if you'll be joining us in person. You can register for the Zoom version of the Fest via the Fest website; we figure that nearly everyone participating in the Zoom version of the Fest has access to the Internet.

If you don't have Internet access sufficient for web browsing (and Zoom video participation), it is possible to participate in an audio-only version via telephone.

Contact us at swlfest@naswa.net or at the NASWA PO Box (see the back cover) and we can get you signed up.

You'll want to check into the Fest website, <http://www.swlfest.com>, as the date draws closer; we'll publish information on forum topics and the schedule as we flesh things out, as we can update the Fest website more quickly than the monthly cadence of the *Journal*. We'll also flag reminders in the NASWA e-group and on our Facebook page.

Hope to see many NASWA members there!

**38th (!) Anniversary
Winter SWL Fest
Sponsored by **

April 25th - April 26th, 2025
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
432 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Washington, PA
19034
And Via Zoom

Plan to attend your favorite forums Friday and Saturday! Enjoy meeting with your friends in the Hospitality Room. Check out your friends' receivers; bring one of your own for others to try!

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

This will be a smaller event than in the pre-pandemic era, with no silent auction and no Saturday night banquet. We'll arrange a group dinner for Saturday night at a nearby restaurant; you'll pay on your own.

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

Checks should be made payable to WINTER SWL FEST. Register directly with the hotel for your rooms by visiting the SWL Fest website – <http://www.swlfest.com> and look for the **Group Hotel Reservations** link. The hotel's direct phone number is + (1) 215-591-9000. For 2025, the rate is **\$126** for the night of Thursday, April 24th, and **\$151** per night for the nights of Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th. Hot buffet breakfast is included in these rates. The hotel has King rooms, double rooms, and King or Double suites available, but quantities are limited. To get this rate you **MUST** tell the hotel staff you're with the group code SWL. **THIS SPECIAL RATE IS ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL APRIL 8, 2025. NEITHER SPACE NOR THIS RATE MAY BE AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE.**

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

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

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

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

CHECK ONE OR MORE / MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "WINTER SWL FEST"
REGISTRATION POSTED BY APRIL 11, 2025

___ Full in-person (no banquet) (\$45)

___ Student with valid current ID (\$10)

Cancellations after April 18, 2025 cannot be refunded.

For more information, schedule, Zoom information, and updates:

<http://www.swlfest.com>

Index

Key: the number in parentheses is the month number of the issue in this year.

- Book
WRTH
(2), 20
- Broadcaster
BBC
(2), 11, 12, 21, 23, 28, 48, 50
CBC
(2), 13
RFA
(2), 4, 51
VOA
(2), 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 25, 26, 27, 37, 38, 51
- Column
Loggings
(2), 4, 47, 59
Musings
(2), 4, 59
- Correspondence
eQSL
(2), 9, 29, 31, 32, 36, 41
QSL
(2), 4, 23, 24, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 59
- Country
ALASKA
(2), 28, 50
ALGERIA
(2), 28, 54
ASCENSION ISLAND
(2), 28
AUSTRALIA
(2), 28
BOTSWANA (Bechuanaland)
(2), 49, 51
BRAZIL
(2), 29, 52
BULGARIA
(2), 29
CANADA
(2), 30, 49
CHINA, PEOPLE'S REP.
(2), 30, 49, 50, 51, 52
- CUBA
(2), 30, 48, 49
DENMARK
(2), 30
ECUADOR
(2), 30
EGYPT
(2), 30
ENGLAND
(2), 31, 51
ESWATINI (Swaziland)
(2), 31
ETHIOPIA
(2), 31
FINLAND
(2), 31
FRANCE
(2), 31, 52, 53
GERMANY, FED. REP.
(2), 32, 48, 50, 54
GUAM
(2), 32, 51
GUATEMALA
(2), 32
IRAN
(2), 32
ITALY
(2), 32
JAPAN
(2), 32, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53
KOREA, DEM. PEOPLE'S REP.
(2), 44, 50
KUWAIT
(2), 52
LIBERIA
(2), 33
MADAGASCAR
(2), 33, 53, 54
MALAYSIA (Malaya)
(2), 33
MALI (French West Africa)

(2), 33, 54
MEXICO
(2), 34
MONGOLIA
(2), 34
MYANMAR (Burma)
(2), 34
NETHERLANDS
(2), 34
NEW ZEALAND
(2), 35, 49
NORWAY
(2), 35
OMAN
(2), 35, 50
PALAU (Belau)
(2), 35
PERU
(2), 35, 48
PHILIPPINES
(2), 35, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53
ROMANIA
(2), 35, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54
RUSSIAN FED. - EUROPEAN (European R.S.F.S.R.)
(2), 35
SEYCHELLES
(2), 36
SOLOMON ISLANDS
(2), 36
SPAIN
(2), 51, 52, 54
TAIWAN (China)
(2), 36, 50, 51
THAILAND
(2), 36, 53
TURKEY
(2), 50, 51
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
(2), 37, 52
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
(2), 37, 48, 49, 50, 53
UZBEKISTAN (Uzbek S.S.R.)
(2), 37
VANUATU (New Hebrides)
(2), 38
VATICAN CITY
(2), 38, 53, 54
VENEZUELA
(2), 38
VIETNAM
(2), 38, 52
ZAMBIA (Northern Rhodesia)
(2), 38
Language

Arabic
(2), 30, 33, 36, 38, 52, 54
Chinese
(2), 4, 30, 33, 49, 50, 51, 53
English
(2), 6, 7, 8, 14, 18, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36,
37, 38, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54
French
(2), 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37, 38, 52, 53
German
(2), 29, 30, 32
Hausa
(2), 28, 31, 32
Hindi
(2), 28
Italian
(2), 30, 32
Japanese
(2), 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53
Korean
(2), 4, 5, 28, 32, 37, 44, 51
Portuguese
(2), 29, 30, 33, 52, 53
Russian
(2), 11, 30, 33, 35, 41, 52
Spanish
(2), 30, 33, 34, 35, 38, 48, 51, 52, 54
Swahili
(2), 31, 32, 53
Turkish
(2), 30, 50, 51
Urdu
(2), 29
Mode
AM
(2), 19, 20, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44
DRM
(2), 5, 13, 14, 15
FM
(2), 19, 20, 28, 33
USB
(2), 40, 41, 42, 43, 44
Organization
HFCC
(2), 30, 38
NASWA
(2), 5, 6, 19, 25, 54, 59
Publication
Flashsheet
(2), 4, 59
Messenger
(2), 22
Receiver
Drake

(2), 51, 53
SDR
(2), 5, 9, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 34,
36, 38, 39
Station
WWV
(2), 48
WWVH

(2), 48
Station type
Clandestine
(2), 51
Pirate
(2), 5, 39, 44, 45, 59
Relay
(2), 43

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