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THE FIRST FIFTY COUNTRIES FROM HAWAII

by Richard E. Wood

Having received precisely fifty countries since my move to Hawaii's Big Island three months ago, to a home in Hawaiian Paradise Park there two months ago, and having built my first beverage a month ago, this is a good time to offer a list of the fifty countries heard, with outstanding stations from most of the countries.

This information might be relevant to DXers in other parts of Hawaii. For example, Peter V. Taylor's recent report from Kauai, while very brief, showed similar reception trends (including non-reception of American Samoa and Midway Island, as also here). On the other hand, he heard Argentina, as I have not yet; but since building it, I have been exclusively using my NNW-55E beverage which is unfavorable to South America. I have heard just two Brazilians on it, compared with the six heard on a 100 ft. random wire, and of those, only the one on 1280, a frequency with nothing loud in Alaska or the Pacific Northwest, the region favored by the beverage, is often heard in the clear.

DXers on the Honolulu side of Oahu have strikingly poor reception from the U.S. mainland and Canada. They are also subject to some of the most horrendous splash, mixing and harmonic situations anywhere on U.S. soil, and in Waikiki, to giant levels of TVI from vast numbers of aging and abused television sets in hotels and condominiums. Nevertheless, on those frequencies that remain clear, a DXer has reported American Samoa (which I am confident I will get in time) and many Down Under stations.

The info should also, in many cases, be of value to listeners in Alaska and the West Coasts of Canada and the U.S. For example, as the listing below for Ecuador shows, I also heard Bruce Portzer's catch in Seattle of an unusual Ecuadorian. And those Europeans and the single African I have heard are among those most likely to be heard on the West Coast too. But my first-heard and generally most frequent European, the Deutsche Welle relay on the island of Malta, midway between Europe and North Africa, on 1557, is, for some reason, seldom reported by U.S. mainland DXers. In fact, it was a double surprise--hearing my first European on 1557 was a surprise, and finding that it was DW Cyclops rather than Nice, France, the European much more commonly reported there by U.S. DXers, was the second surprise.

Speaking of Europe, it is well known that the only part of Europe in which

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of intense auroral conditions, with everything to the north of Hawaii wiped out. I might without powerful U.S., Canadian and Mexican signals on every 10 kHz channel seems unthinkable. Other continents are more variable, e.g. Europe and Africa are heard some evenings, unheard others. South America is variable, and is probably not heard every night. I always check my "beacon" stations. So, following the model of Mark Connelly, "Central America / South America. Best Bets for Northeastern USA DXers" (pages 36 and 37 of this issue. bp), let me offer:

Best Bets for South America from Hawaii (and West Coast of North America?)

ARGENTINA	1070	1190			
BOLIVIA	1200				
BRAZIL	1220	1280	1000	1100	1040
CHILE	1180	1060			
COLOMBIA	810	895			
ECUADOR	890	915			
PARAGUAY	920				
PERU	1010	1160	854	880	
URUGUAY	930	770			
VENEZUELA	1560	1040	890		

Note that many of these are different from Connelly's choices. For example, Mark does not even mention Brazil 1280, which I almost placed first (being the highest in frequency, it has a propagational edge, and interfering U.S. stations there have less power than XCB and CKOA on 1220). Note our different selections for Argentina, Bolivia, totally different selections for Ecuador, etc. I am pleased to report that Peru which he says may have moved to 850, is still on 854, an easy "split."

Although this represents only one month's serious work, at only one season, I think it is representative and that the respective placements of the different countries will be maintained, more or less.

An examination of daylight and darkness patterns suggests that some good deep South American receptions with less interference from North America should be possible during the northern hemisphere summer (winter there). For example, in mid-June, at 1:30 a.m. Hawaiian Time (11:30 UTC), most areas east of the Rocky Mountains and east of Mexico City are in daylight, while the southern halves of Chile and Argentina, and also the Falklands, are still in darkness. This means that prime DX should be possible on such clear channels as 740, 750, 800, 920, 940, 980, 890, 1040, 1180 and 1200, which are generally dominated by powerful stations east of the Rockies, and to a lesser extent on 1130, 1520, etc. Of course, new Western stations being relentlessly assigned to all these erstwhile clear channels will make things more difficult. Easter Island and the Galápagos may also be possible.

Here is a complete list of South American stations identified:

700 HJCX	R. Sutatenza, Cali	1015 HJOY	R. Primavera, Bucaramanga
770 CX12	R. Oriental, Montevideo	1040 HJAI	Caracol en Barranquilla
900 ZYJ457	R. MEC, Rio		YVLR La Voz de Carabobo, Valencia
810 HJCY	R. Sutatenza, Bogotá		ZYK527 R. Capital, São Paulo
820 HJED	Caracol en Cali	1060 CB106	R. Minería, Santiago
840 HJBI	Ondas del Caribe, Santa Marta	1070 HJCG	R. Santa Fé, Bogotá
	ZYK687 R. Bandeirantes, São Paulo		LR1 R. El Mundo, Buenos Aires
850 HJKC	Caracol en Bogotá	1100 HJAT	R. Roloj, Barranquilla
854 OAX4A	R. Nacional, Lima		ZYK694 R. Globo, São Paulo
960 ZYJ459	R. Mundial, Rio	1130 ZYJ460	R. Nacional, Rio
880 OBZ4N	R. Unión, Lima	1140 CB114	Emisora Metropolitana, Santiago
890 YVLU	R. América, Valencia	1160 OAX4C	Once Sesenta, Lima
	HCR56 R. Superior, Machala	1170 HJMW	La Voz de la Heróica, Cartagena
895 HJPM	R. Galeón, Santa Marta	1180 CB118	R. Portales, Santiago
905 HCB02	R. Espectáculo, Guayaquil	1190 LR9	R. América, Buenos Aires
920 HC..	C.R.O., Machala	1200 CP31	R. Oriental, Santa Cruz
	ZPI R. Nacional, Asunción	1220 ZYJ458	R. Globo, Rio
930 HJCS	R. Continental, Bogotá	1250 OAX4L	R. Miraflores, Lima
	OAX4E R. Moderna, Lima	1280 ZHY455	R. Tupi, Rio
	CX20 R. Monte Carlo, Montevideo	1300 OAX4M	R. Atalaya, Lima
960 HJHN	R. Sutatenza, Magangue	1320 OAX4I	R. La Crónica, Lima
980 ZYH707	R. Nacional, Brasilia	1330 YVTV	R. Visión Regional, Cd. Ojeda
1000 ZYK522	R. Record, São Paulo	1350 LS6	R. Buenos Aires
		1390 CB138	R. Colocolo, Santiago (was V)
		1410 CB141	R. Litoral, Valparaíso
		1445V	(-1443.5) R. Calidad, Ríobamba HCCSS
		1560 YV..	R. Mar, Puerto La Cruz

Unidentified: Brazil: 880, 1120, 1440

Colombia: 1435

16 Probable Peru: 1560 Probable Ecuador: 805

Let's compare this list with recent results in New Zealand. The Feb./Mar. 1984 NZ DX Times (vol. 36, no. 6) offers a handy list of "all South American stations reported to the DX Times during 1983." Let's compare the combined results of all actively reporting NZ DXers in 1983 with mine from Hawaii in the month of mid-Feb. to mid-March 1985. Not an equal comparison, but totally balanced data are hard to come by.

	NEW ZEALANDERS	REW
1. Colombia	44 stations	(#1, 13 stations)
2. Peru	13	(#3, 7)
3. Venezuela	9	(#5 tied, 4)
4. Ecuador	6	(#5 tied, 4)
5. Chile	3	(#4, 5)
6. Argentina	2	(#7, 3)
6. Brazil	2	(#2, 11)
9. Surinam	1	(unheard, but 725 kHz stn hrd in NZ is now off air)

unheard in NZ:
Uruguay (REW hrd 2 stns), Paraguay and Bolivia (REW hrd 1 each)

Conclusion: Hawaii and New Zealand Compared

While the New Zealanders' combined totals are still (at this point) greater than mine, their lead can be ascribed overwhelmingly to Colombian stations.

- * Reception in Hawaii of stations south of the equator (i.e. in the hemisphere in which New Zealand is located) is better than in New Zealand.
- * Brazilians are rare in New Zealand, with only the two most regularly heard in Hawaii (1220 and 1290) reported. The others which are often powerhouses in Hawaii are not mentioned.
- * The three rare and desirable smaller deep South American countries, Uruguay and the culturally fascinating Paraguay and Bolivia, are heard in Hawaii but not in New Zealand.
- * In North America and in New Zealand, South American reception is greatly dominated by numerous Colombian stations. North Americans and New Zealanders tend to hear more Colombians than the rest of South America put together. Not so in Hawaii, from which a cross-section of the continent is heard.
- * Over the long run, totals of Brazil heard in Hawaii could even come to exceed Colombians heard there, because of the huge numbers of stations in Brazil.
- * REW has even heard more than the New Zealanders from Chile, the South American country closest to them. Polar paths seem to limit deep South American reception in New Zealand.

A few other points: Note the dominance of certain cities (not always national capitals) which have a reputation for propagating well. Machala, Ecuador, is such a place.

I have heard nothing from northern Brazil (north of Brasilia). Also, my results from Ecuador and (by comparison with what might be expected) Colombia and Venezuela are still limited, especially when compared with the fine initial results from the River Plate countries. Part of this may be due to the two main beverages I use for South American reception. The one which I designate "red" from the color of its lead-in is (as mentioned) at 122° true. I often use it to reduce QRN from the U.S. and find it even useful in logging, e.g. Mexican graveyards. The one I call "black" runs 70° true, to northern Mexico, Florida, Cuba and the northern West Indies. Ecuador and north-central Brazil lie midway between these two beams.

One problem with the "red" beverage is that its back-beam passes directly along the chain of Hawaiian islands and picks up maximum signals from Oahu (Honolulu and Waipahu) and indeed from all the islands. This causes problems on such good frequencies as 760, 830, 870, 900, 990, 1040, 1110, etc. Nevertheless, I still have the best possible horizon blockage towards Oahu (10,000-plus foot mountains) and I have already heard South Americans on many Hawaiian frequencies.

I am considering building a beverage to provide maximum nulling of the U.S. mainland; a point equidistant between San Francisco and Los Angeles would be at 55° true from here and give me nulling on the largest number of undesired signals. A beverage at 90° to that would of course be at 145° true and would hit Tierra del Fuego. Its back beam would hit East Africa (across Asia), the only major inhabited part of the world I have not yet heard.

Finally, a speculation. Would Tahiti be a better MW DX location for South America than Hawaii is? There is only one active MW station there, on limited schedule (though it appears to leave its carrier on all night), so from the QRN perspective it would be near-ideal. Also, its topography is similar to that of most major islands in the Hawaiian chain, so that a southeasterly location with horizon blockage in undesired directions could be obtained. An Australian DXer was recently in Tahiti and, with just a portable, for a few days, he reported "nothing from the Americas south of Mexico." It was the same story as in Hawaii, on Pitcairn etc.--North American stations are dominant. But doubtless with good antennas and careful listening, even better results could be obtained than in Hawaii, and than in New Zealand, since no sub-polar paths are involved.

I would be glad to hear from other specialized Latin American DXers in the Pacific, especially in New Zealand. Aloha.