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tries. Best domestic catch (power vs. mileage) would have to be WKTE 1090 King, North Carolina on a DX TEST with 500 watts, with Baltimore, Little Rock, and Tijuana silent on their regular MM SP1

Got introduced to DX clubs via John Oldfield. In with my verie from CJCA was a contest (pick the top ten for the next week), I won, my address was posted, Oldfield wrote explaining the hobby and joine NRC (pre-IRCA). Was about four months too late for Charter membership in IRCA. Dropped out for a few years and rejoined in '74.

Other DX locations (besides Bay Area) have been southeastern Alaska (Sitka) from '65-'68, where I cleaned up on DU's, well over 100. Then from '68-'69 an Indian village 35 miles north of the Arctic Circle in the Yukon Valley 150 miles north of Fairbanks where everyone had up longwires just to receive Fairbanks, naturally I listened to just a little more than Fairbanks, hi. It was Europe all over the dials daytime, and Asia and/or DU's at night. Several choice veries from there. Back to the Bay Area in '69 for a few months, then '70-'72 in New York City and Philadelphia area. Lived just blocks from Ernie Cooper in Brooklyn. Back to Bay Area in '72, and north to Eureka nearly three years ago.

Thanks all for the fantastic contributions to our 21st anniversary edition. I hope to be hearing from more of you in the near future before the next anniversary edition. Take care and best of DX to all and 73 de Rth. .

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Since this is the anniversary issue I thought I'd throw in a few remarks about recent happenings here.

As a reintro, I think I'm about 33 years old (it doesn't seem like it should be that much but that's what I get when I work out the math). I've been married to Evelyn for a good portion of that time. My radio interests have resulted in my dabbling around on all parts of the spectrum at one time or another, but BCB is my favorite. I'm also a Technician class ham (N7ECJ) with 2 meter and 40 meter capability at the moment, and hopes of getting an advanced class license once I break the 13 wpm barrier. I support my radio habit by working as a communications engineer for a local consulting firm.

My DX shack currently looks like a battlefield due to a massive home improvement program which includes insulating and repaneling the basement DX shack and eventually replumbing the house. Somehow, in all the confusion, my wife commandeered the table my radios were on, so now they're scattered all over the basement floor. As I recall, they include an HQ-180A, Racal RA-17, Yaesu FRG-7, a four foot loop, Sony ICF-2001, Realistic 12-655, plus test equipment, tape recorders, nam gear, and whatever else is underneath the pile of metal boxes.

As I recall, I've heard just over 2000 stations, with QSLs from 600 or so. Countries are about 60/35 (give or take a few), states 45/41, provs 7/7. I have yet to hear ME, VT, RI, DE, & NJ, and yet to verify NC, MD, CT & NH. Best DX includes numerous east coast regionals heard in the late 60's and early 70's, CKRW-610, several Europeans & Africans, DXRS-1196, and three Indonesians. Lately my DXing has been in one of two forms: 1) a Beverage antenna expedition (once every 3-6 months), 2) a DX binge in which I log all the call and frequency changes, new all-nighters, and new clear channel stations which have popped up since my last binge (about once every 1-2 months). Otherwise, I maintain my DXing interest by playing with the equipment and reading/editing DX Monitor.

I've been really thrilled to see the record quantity and quality of contributions to DX Monitor this season, since it shows there's still a lot of life in this hobby. Special thanks go out to the weekly editors, Nick Hall-Patch, Greg Minti, Pete Taylor, and Craig Healy for their excellent columns, Mark Connelly for his many excellent technical articles, and the regular contributors to the columns. Keep up the good work, gang, and we'll remain the best BCB DX club around. 73, bp.

## South American Reception in Hawaii

### First Impressions

by Richard E. Wood

My reception on March 10 of my first Bolivian, on 1200 during CAI's silent and testing period--now identified after three Monday mornings sitting on the frequency--completes my logging of each of the Hispanic countries of South America and, since the Falklands are inactive on MW, leaves me only with the three former Guianas to hear from my favorite DX continent.

Tastes differ, but most international DXers, even those in Japan and Sri Lanka, seem to agree that the most desirable DX catches are from local stations in the Andes of South America, especially small stations in Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru and Ecuador. I know they are my prime targets, and when I selected a DX site here, I ensured that there be no horizon blockage in that direction. Watch for an article on horizon blockage and its apparent effects from this location, now in preparation.

From my home in Hawaiian Paradise Park, twelve miles as the crow flies (but over twenty by road) from Hilo, just northwest of the eastern tip of the Big Island, I have unblocked horizons to the entirety of the Americas, as well as to the U.S.S.R., Europe and (across the Atlantic) Africa. North America is much closer than South America, and, whereas from Oahu (Honolulu) San Francisco is the closest point on the American mainland, from the Big Island, Los Angeles is the closest. Among Latin American countries, Mexico is by far the closest, and this is reflected in the potent signals from XEG, XEAR, XEPAS, XEROK, XEW, XEB and dozens of other Mexicans including many regional and graveyard outlets.

From there, distances increase progressively along the length of Central America. Among South American countries, extreme northwest Colombia is the closest, closely followed by the bulge of coastal Ecuador and northern Peru. Viewed on a great circle map, southern South America curves around, maintaining a fairly equal distance from me all the way to Tierra del Fuego. Brazil is a long country, and the bearing to Fortaleza in northeast Brazil passes over Panama, quite unlike the bearing to São Paulo in the south, passing over northern Chile and Paraguay.

Viewed from here, all areas of South America seem to be propagationally favorable and have an equal chance of reception. Even the closest point in South America is farther from me than New York City. But New York signals (WABC and others) are often powerful here, so it is no surprise to hear South Americans, led by Brazil but also including Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, etc., with potent signals.

In mid-February I erected a beverage, 1500 ft. long with an additional 200 ft. ground in the same direction after a 690 ohm resistor termination, oriented to Buenos Aires (122° true). By mid-March I had heard (identified) the following totals:

|                      |    |               |   |
|----------------------|----|---------------|---|
| Number of countries: | 16 |               |   |
| Number of stations:  | 51 |               |   |
| 1. Colombia          | 13 | 7. Argentina  | 3 |
| 2. Brazil            | 11 | 8. Uruguay    | 2 |
| 3. Peru              | 7  | 9. {Paraguay} | 1 |
| 4. Chile             | 5  | {Bolivia}     |   |
| 5. {Venezuela}       | 4  |               |   |
| {Ecuador}            |    |               |   |

I had actually logged a few of these, including Brazil but not Argentina, earlier as far back as my arrival last September, but had been held back by my lack of a properly directive antenna.

### Reception times and trends

At a tropical latitude such as this, the difference between winter and summer is not great, in terms of fade-in and fade-out times, and, it seems, conditions generally. For example, I heard my first Europeans in November and have been hearing them ever since. They are still heard as I write this in mid-March.

In winter here, the U.S. mainland (and nearby Canada and Mexico) fades in a few minutes after 3 p.m. Hawaiian Time; it fades out a few minutes before 8 a.m. MST. South America fades in somewhat later, and fades out very much earlier. Earliest fade-in times observed so far have been 4:40 p.m. (0220 UTC) from Brazilians, notably 1220 and 1280 in Rio. All other South Americans follow within a few minutes; sunset sky, currently around 5 to 6 p.m., is an excellent time to DX, and there are directional openings focusing on one city or area, e.g. Rio; Machala, Ecuador; Lima; or the Colombian north coast.

I am often asked whether conditions in Hawaii vary from day to day, minute to minute. My answer is yes, but not to the extent observed at more northerly latitudes. We are much farther from the auroral zone. I have never observed a night

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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.