

## COASTAL DXPEDITIONS---THE LOGICAL AND ABSURD NEXT STEP

by Nick Hall-Patch

I spent the summer of 1992 evaluating and modifying a new piece of deep sea instrumentation for the Institute of Ocean Sciences, a federal government research establishment near Victoria, B.C. Quite an interesting job...but the high point was field testing the unit for three weeks in the northeastern Pacific. This meant that I couldn't do what I normally do in September, that is, go on coastal Beverage DXpeditions. So, could I bring a radio on board the ship?

In the event, I brought two receivers: the ICF-2010 with a homebrew RF preselector for MW and LW, and the trusty old homebrew MW receiver. Obviously, a Beverage antenna was out of the question; the C.S.S. John P. Tully is a mere 60 metres long. But I knew the technologist responsible for the ship's antennas, and he guided me to a pair of verticals previously used for Argo, a medium frequency positioning system. The cabin in which the antenna leads came out was only going to be used for storage on this trip, so I had my DX shack all laid out!

A quick test the night before the trip revealed that the 10 metre vertical was shorted to ground somewhere, but the 3 metre vertical (tuned to 1700 kHz) right at the top of the ship's mast showed promise. So started my three week Pacific DXpedition which traversed oceanographic survey lines as far as 145W and 55N.

No pesky locals out there; CFPR-860 and some of the coastal Alaskans came closest to that category. At night, North Americans were very loud (one night many channels were pinning the meter), but at dawn, things were quite different. The first couple of mornings, Australians common on coastal expeditions rolled in, but from then on, Asiatics ruled the airwaves more and more. And what a collection; some mornings it was like being anchored off Japan, even to a couple of hours after sunrise. The hets were coming from the inaudible 10 kHz channels! In general, Japan and Korea were commonplace, even to low power channels, but there weren't many Russians, and it was only towards the end of the month that the Chinese started to appear. The high point was probably hearing the Deutsche Welle relay on 1548 from Sri Lanka. This was noted twice, once over 4QD, and again over an unidentified Chinese station.

I took pity on the international DX editors by typing this out myself. There was just too much. Yet I believe the surface was hardly scratched as far as DX goes. The antenna gave fine performance, but one could hear the receiver noise floor after sunrise. There was also the small matter of doing the job I was out there for, and that occurred at all hours, some of them prime DX hours. And though I can't complain about having a private DX shack, it was high up on a ship which took heavy seas reasonably hard. That cabin moved about pretty furiously at times and I wasn't immune to seasickness. Only the most dedicated DXer will risk returning his breakfast over a DX opportunity; I was that dedicated, but only once! Actually, the trip ended in an unsuccessful attempt to outrun the first major storm of the season, so I missed the good DX which preceded the first major geomagnetic storm of the season. Ask Bruce Portzer about that---he was DXpeditioning when I couldn't face it. Oh well, the aurora borealis was great to watch from shipboard.

So, now coastal DXpeditions seem pretty tame, but at least "receiver stability" on the coast refers only to the local oscillator. On the other hand, to go on a floating DXpedition and get paid as well, it may be worth having to tie the receiver to the table!

Loggings (receiver location in parenthesis, times UTC):

- 153 RUSSIA, Khabarovsk. 1511 Sept 25. RR talk by woman, good strength (50N 144W)  
171 RUSSIA, Yakutsk. 1512 Sept 25. RR talk, very weak, //153. (50 N 144W)

- 180 RUSSIA, Petropavlovsk. 1513 Sept 25. Same woman //153, fair. (50N 144W)  
189 RUSSIA, Blagoveschensk. 1514 Sept 25. //180, good. (50N 144W)  
216 RUSSIA, Birobidzhan. 1516 Sept 25. Aren't parallels wonderful? Man in RR, fair //153. (50N 144W)  
243 RUSSIA, Vladivostok. 1520 Sept 25. RR talk by man, fair, //153, but with echo on it, so perhaps one of the Kazakhstan stations was in also?? (50N 144W)  
529 ALASKA, Nome, "FDV" 1400 Sept 16. Beacon code ID mixing in with dominant "SOM" (50N 144W)  
531 JAPAN, Morioka, JOQG. Fair w/JJ woman talking //567, 1504 Sept 15. (50N 142W)  
540 JAPAN, various NHK1. 1536 Sept 26. Poor strength w/woman talking //594. (51N 139W)  
549 AUSTRALIA, Longreach, 4QL. 1353 Sept 12. Good to excellent w/"Black Day in July", ABC nx on hour, all //612. (49 N 132 W)  
560 ALASKA, Kodiak, KVOK. 0145 Sept 25. Pop mx, fair to good, then KVOK ID. (50N 145W)  
567 UNID. 1539 Sept 17. American EE teletalk, financial advice, fair strength. Guam? (50N 145W)  
570 CANADA, Whitehorse, CFWH. 1700 Sept 19. CBC nx, fair signal but no ID on hour. However, the announcement that "the Whitehorse Correctional Centre has more vegetables than it needs" after the news clinched it. (55N 145W)  
1603 S.KOREA, Namyang, HLSA. Likely the one with KK talk at 1458 Sept 23, fair to good signal, but no //s. (50N 145W)  
620 HAWAII, Hilo, KIPA. 1507 Sept 15. "Around the Big Island, people are talking about Steve Yamashiro" a mayoralty candidate's ad. (50 N 142 W)  
620 ALASKA, Homer, KGTL. 0150 Sept 25. Good to excellent w/laid-back mx and ID "AM-62 KGTL Homer" (50N 145W)  
630 AUSTRALIA, Townsville, 4QN. 1401 Sept 11. Fair w/ABC nx //612, dominating channel (49 N 133 W)  
648 JAPAN, Toyama, JOIG. 1535 Sept 26. Woman talking //666, fair signal o/a couple of unIDs. (51N 139W)  
650 HAWAII, Honolulu, KHNR. 1449 Sept 15. "Hawaii news radio" ID before CNN spots; excellent signal. (50 N 142 W)  
1666 NEW CALEDONIA, Noumea. 1405 Sept 12. FF talk by man and woman, fair, then faded under ABC nx //612, presumed 2CN. (49 N 133 W)  
675 JAPAN, Yamaguchi/Hakodate JOUG/JOVK. Poor to fair w/JJ talk by woman //666. 1522 Sept 18. (52N 145W)  
684 JAPAN, Nagasaki, JOAG. 1443 Sept 15. Talk by man //666, fair to poor. (50 N 142 W)  
690 HAWAII, Honolulu, KQMQ. 1522 Sept 22. KQMQ singing ID between rock songs. Fair to very good signals. (50N 145W)  
702 N.KOREA, Ch'ongjin. 1526 Sept 15. List of words read by woman //6400 (52N 145W)  
711 AUSTRALIA, 4QW, St. George (most likely). 1410 Sept 12. Weather forecast //702. (49 N 133 W)

- 711 S. KOREA, Seoul, HLKA. 1527 Sept 17. Man singing, fair strength //3930 (50N 145W)
- 720 N. KOREA, Wiwon. 1526 Sept 17. Woman talking, sounded like a list of some sort, like a numbers station, //6400. Good strength and followed by oriental mx (50N 145W)
- 729 JAPAN, Nagoya, JOCK. 1525 Sept 17. Good strength w/JJ talk //594, and at least same strength as 730. By 55N 145W, this was on its own with no CKLG QRM. (NHP--50N 145W)
- 738 TAIWAN, Kaohsiung, BELZ. 1524 Sept 17. Flute like mx fair to excellent and //1143. At this point there was hardly even a carrier on 740. (50N 145W)
- 747 S.KOREA, Kwangju, HLKH. 1522 Sept 17. Fair w/woman in KK talk //3930 mixing with EE talk from 4QS which was //738. (50N 145W)
- 1783 RUSSIA, Spassk Dalniy. 1510 Sept 15. No // heard, but huge signal w/RR talk by man; CC talk underneath. (50N 142W)
- 810 NEW ZEALAND, Dunedin, 4YA. 1508 Sept 22. \*8 minutes past 3\* TC by woman points to this one. (50N 145W)
- 820 ALASKA, Fairbanks, KCBF. 1638 Sept 19. ID "on KCBF oldies rock", fair strength. (55N 145W)
- 837 S.KOREA, Seoul, HLKY. 1529 Sept 15. Man in KK talk //3930 and under JOQK. (50 N 142 W)
- 840 ALASKA, Sand Point, KSPT. 2215 Sept 20. \*KSPT would like to thank these local businesses\*, fair to good signal. (55N 145W)
- 855 N.KOREA, Sangwon. 1520 Sept 15. Good strength w/woman reading lists //6400. (50 N 142 W)
- 890 ALASKA, Homer, KBBI. 2211 Sept 20. Excellent signal w/marine forecasts and mentions of clear skies in Homer. (55N 145W)
- 891 S. KOREA, HLKB. 1522 Sept 15. Man and woman talking in KK, fair and //3930. (50 N 142 W)
- 1940 HAWAII, Waipahu, KDEO. 1342 Sept 11. Presumed the one with Hawaiian waters forecast, fair and dominant on channel. (49 N 130 W)
- 945 JAPAN, various NHK1. 1529 Sept 15. Woman talking //837. (50 N 142 W)
- 950 ALASKA, Seward, KSWD. 1621 Sept 19. Ad for Good Time Oldies ad "heard on KSWD", good strength. (55N 145W)
- 1954 JAPAN, Tokyo, JOKR. 1530 Sept 15. Had to be the one w/huge signal and JJ talk by man. (50 N 142 W)
- 1035 JAPAN, various NHK2. 1502 Sept 24. Chimes at good strength o/hum on channel. (50N 145W)
- 1040 HAWAII, Honolulu, KLHT. 1506 Sept 18. Good strength w/ID. (55N 145W)
- 1062 S. KOREA, Ch'ongju; HLKQ. 1533 Sept 15. Man in KK talk, fair, //3930. (50 N 142 W)
- 1071 JAPAN, Hiroshima, JOFK. 1521 Sept 15. JJ talk by woman, fair to good //666. (52N 145W)
- 1080 ALASKA, Anchorage, KKSD. 2200 Sept 15. CNN headline nx for Alaska and ID; good signal. (55N 145W)
- 1089 JAPAN, Sendai, JOHB. 1501 Sept 24. NHK s/off anthem at monstrous strength. (50N 145W)
- 1125 JAPAN, Naha, JOAD. 1504 Sept 19. S/off chimes, good strength. (55N 145W)
- 1134 JAPAN, Tokyo, JOQR. 1535 Sept 15. Monster signal w/JJ talk by man. (50N 142W)
- 1134 S.KOREA, Hwasong. 1512 Sept 15. Man and woman talking in K K //3930, poor to fair, mostly u/JOQR. (52N 145W)
- 1134 UNID. 1503 Sept 20. Hearing Sri Lanka-1548 made me head here for India, and indeed there did seem to be some subcontinental mx in among two or three others, but no possible IDs. Have to take another trip I guess. (53N 145W)
- 1140 ALASKA, Soldotna, KLSA. 1618 Sept 19. Pop mx and "11-40 KSLD" ID (55N 145W)
- 11143 JAPAN, Kyoto, JOBR. 1516 Sept 15. JJ talk poor to fair u/Taiwan Fisheries station. (55N 145W)
- 1147.5 PHILIPPINES, Poro, VoA. 1555 Sept 20. Cantonese talk by man, fair to good and //6030 (55N 145W)
- 1152 JAPAN, Kushiro/Kochi JOPC/JORB. 1504 Sept 19. S/off chimes, good strength. (55N 145W)
- 1170 ALASKA, North Pole, KJNP. 1610 Sept 21. Announcement by woman of KJNP 25th anniversary banquet. Very good signal. (53N 145W)
- 11179 JAPAN, Osaka, JOOR. 1539 Sept 15. Rapid JJ talk by man and woman. (50N 142W)
- 1188 JAPAN, Kitami, JOKP. 1521 Sept 19. JJ talk // 594 o/u unID station w/piano mx. (55N 145W)
- 1224 JAPAN, Kanazawa, JOJK. 1528 Sept 19. Orchestral mx and JJ singing //594, fair signal. (55N 145W)
- 11224 S. KOREA. 1544 Sept 15. KK talk here, poor to fair. (50N 142W)
- 1230 ALASKA, Valdez, KVAK. 1546 Sept 19. Excellent signal, spot for Silver Bay Marine, pop mx, PSA from city of Sitka. (55N 145W)
- 11242 JAPAN, Tokyo, JOLF. 1546 Sept 15. Rapid JJ talk by man and jumpy singing, sounded almost Irish... Good signal. (50 N 142 W)
- 11260 JAPAN, Sendai, JOIR. 1549 Sept 19. Pop mx, JJ talk by man, poor to good. (55N 145W)
- 1269 S.KOREA, two KBS stations. 1550 Sept 19. Man in KK, poor, but //3930, u/JJ stations. (55N 145W)
- 11278 JAPAN, Fukuoka, JOFR. 1554 Sept 19. Fair to good w/JJ talk by man. (55N 145W)
- 11287 JAPAN, Sapporo, JOHR. 1554 Sept 19. Excellent signal w/man talking in JJ. (55N 145W)
- 1305 S.KOREA, Uljin, HLSV. 1557 Sept 19. Good w/KK talk by man //3930. (55N 145W)
- 11314 JAPAN, Osaka, JOUF. 1557 Sept 19. Excellent w/JJ rock mx. (55N 145W)
- 1323 JAPAN, NHK1 synchros. 1558 Sept 19. Fair w/piano mx //594. (55N 145W)
- 11332 JAPAN, Nagoya, JOSF. 1610 Sept 19. JJ talk by man, fair strength (55N 145W)

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1341 JAPAN, various NHK1. 1540 Sept 24. JJ talk by man //594, fair signal.  
(50N 145W)

1359 JAPAN, NHK2 synthros. 1503 Sept 15. S/off chimes, fair (55N 145W)

1377 JAPAN, various NHK2. 1502 Sept 15. S/off chimes, fair. (55N 145W)

1386 JAPAN, various NHK2. 1502 Sept 15. S/off chimes, good strength.  
(50N 145W)

1395 S.KOREA, Ch'olwon, HLCO. 1528 Sept 23. KK talk by man, good strength,  
//3930. (50N 145W)

1404 S.KOREA, Pusan, HLKP. 1456 Sept 19. KK talk u/one of the JJ private  
stations listed here. Only HLKP is listed. (55N 145W)

1413 JAPAN, Fukuoka, JOIF. 1607 Sept 21. JJ talk by man, good strength  
(53N 145W)

1422 JAPAN, Yokohama, JORF. 1539 Sept 15. JJ singing (pop mx), JJ talk,  
excellent signal (52N 145W)

1440 JAPAN, Sapporo, JOWF. 1539 Sept 15. Large signal w/JJ talk by man.  
(52N 145W)

1450 ALASKA, Cordova, KLAM. 1604 Sept 20. Mention of ABC sports on KLAM. Good  
signal. (55N 145W)

1467 S.KOREA, Mokp'o, HLKN. 1510 Sept 18. Woman in KK //3930, fair strength.  
(52N 145W)

1467 JAPAN, NHK2 synthros. 1501 Sept 18. S/off chimes, fair strength.  
(55N 145W)

1476 JAPAN, Iida, JOSD. 1501 Sept 18. S/off chimes, way u/CC talk. (55N 145W)

1494 UNID. 1605 Sept 21. (also 1602 Sept 24 at 50N 145W) Religious EE talk,  
fair to poor o/u JJ talk by man. Didn't seem DU...Yap? (53N 145W)

1500 HAWAII, Honolulu, KUMU. 1545 Sept 20. Time check from "koo-moo", fair to  
good; easy listening mx. (55N 145W)

1512 JAPAN, various NHK2. 1502 Sept 18. S/off chimes, fair strength.  
(55N 145W)

1530 JAPAN, but which one? 1538 Sept 21. JJ talk by man, very good signal and  
dominant o/KFBK (53N 145W)

1539 S. KOREA, Kosan, HLAC. 1537 Sept 21. Woman in KK //3930, fair strength.  
(53N 145W)

1540 HAWAII, Honolulu, KISA. 1601 Sept 20. "From the Kiss-AM studios...Mr.  
Roland Pasqua..." into a program in Tagalog?? (55N 145W)

1548 SRI LANKA, Trincomalee, DW. 1501 Sept 21. Nx in Urdu //6170. Fair to  
good and well over 4QD at this time. A pleasant surprise! Also noted at  
50N 145W at 1520 Sept 24 w/good signals o/CC singing. (53N 145W)

1584 JAPAN, various NHK1. 1530 Sept 16. Good signal w/woman talking in JJ  
//1503. (50N 144 18W)

1584 S.KOREA, various KBS. KK talk by man //3930, weak u/NHK1. 1531 Sept 19  
(55N 145W)

1584 UNID. 1443 Sept 22. Announcements by man in what sounded like an island  
language, fair to good. Palau?? (50N 145W)

1602 RUSSIA, unknown location. 1526 Sept 16. Good signal w/RR talk by man.  
Also noted w/Mayak chimes 1529 Sept 24 at 50N 145W. (50N 144W)

1616.2 UNID. Heard several times at dawn with men and women in unknown  
language which sounded somewhat KK. Never an ID. Bill Harms heard a  
clandestine N. Korean on 1617 in August, but believed it had gone off  
the air since. (various N 145W)

1620 USA, Pebble Beach, CA, WNZA955. 1315 Sept 11. Mentions of Del Monte  
Forest Area, call letters and 10 watts power, read by woman. Good  
strength. (49N 130W)

A vast number of tentatives and unIDs as well. Unknown JJ on 864, 918,  
1098, 1107, 1116, 1197, 1215, 1233, 1368, 1404, 1431, 1449, 1485 and likely  
others. A fair number of DU's also; I just didn't report things regularly  
heard on DXpeditions to the coast. On Sept 24, unID CC turned up on 1116,  
1125 and 1161, and likely elsewhere. Oh yes, anyone know about beacons  
"ICW" on 525 and "IAA" on 519?? Tentative Alaskans on 1020, 980, 930,  
950, 850, 790, 770, 700, 670, 590, 580, 550. And on and on....