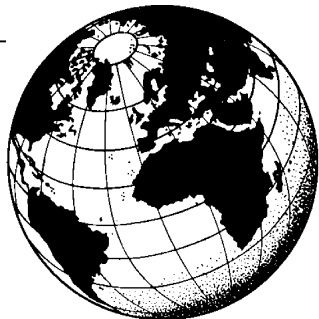


# MEDIUM WAVE NEWS

MEDIUM WAVE CIRCLE



September 2005 Volume 51 No. 4



- ♣ *SAQ broadcast*
- ♣ *Coastal signals*
- ♣ *Seefontein DX-pedition #2*
- ♣ *Pre-amp peregrinations*
- ♣ *Coordinated DX-peditions*
- ♣ *23 pages of news*

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Webmaster	Rémy Friess	webmaster@mwcircle.org

## STOP PRESS:

This month we welcome the following new and re-joining members to the Circle: Douglas Attwood, Newport, Wales; Peter Arkless, Bathgate; Arthur Allan, Kilmarnock; Dave Onley, Victoria, Australia. Welcome one and all!

Stop Press Deadlines:	25th September for October 2005	30th October for November 2005
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Cover illustration: First Day Cover celebrates first broadcast of Radio Monte Carlo 22nd Dec 1951
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# EDITORIAL

with Steve Whitt

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Welcome to the mid-Summer issue of MWN. I hope you are enjoying the summer even though long distance MW signals are rather scarce ("Not so!" shout our members below the Equator!). Summer is reflected in the shorter than usual DX Logging column from Martin Hall and the lack of material for Clive's Verification column. But Mark Connelly shows us that DX is still possible

## BBC Monitoring – Job cuts

BBC Monitoring, the global listening service used by the government in its fight against terrorism, is axing at least 50 jobs. About 10% of the unit's 500 posts will be cut after a Cabinet Office review of its funding. The cuts will fall in the unit's headquarters in Caversham, near Reading, and across its six international bureaus. The BBC will first look for voluntary redundancies but then move on to compulsory cuts to meet a deadline of April 2007.

The move comes after a new funding deal was agreed between its stakeholders, the BBC, the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Cabinet Office. The review, led by Sir Quentin Thomas - formerly head of broadcasting at the Home Office - means the unit will now receive approximately £1.8m a year on top of the £22.1m it already receives.

It is understood the job cuts are part of efficiency savings to secure the increased funding, which has been loaded on to the first few years of the deal. The unit will get £24.6m per year in financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08, falling to £23.4m between then and 2011.

In a statement, the corporation said it welcomed the new deal, understood to have come about after the Foreign Office decided to scale back its funding, but said it meant facing "tough choices".

BBC Monitoring scrutinises 3,000 sources, ranging from official mouthpieces to rebel radio stations, and is often an important source for analysts.

Set up on the eve of the second world war to help Britain track foreign propaganda, BBC Monitoring has been a mine of information during subsequent upheavals, including the cold war, the collapse of communism and more recent crises in the Middle East and the Balkans.

It also played an important role in helping observers to keep track of developments during the disintegration of the Soviet Union. (The Guardian, via Alan Pennington-UK, BrDXC-UK Aug 2)

## Icom R75 Receiver

There have been reports to effect that 'Icom' have decided to continue with production of this model for the time being. It now seems that rumours of it's demise are greatly exaggerated (with apologies to Mr. Clemens...)

According to both the Icom and Universal websites, and it does indeed look like Icom is still making the R75. And Universal has removed the little message saying that it has been discontinued.

<http://www.icomamerica.com/products/receivers/r75/default.asp>

<http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/commrivr/0175.html>

## Hard Core DX is 10

Hard Core DX is one of the pioneering websites dedicated to keen DXers worldwide and it is now celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. Congratulations to Risto Kotalampi and everyone who has helped make it a success. If you've never been there check out [www.hard-core-dx.com](http://www.hard-core-dx.com)

## Radio Day 2005

For more than 25 years, the Dutch Radio Day is a yearly attraction for all (offshore) radio enthusiasts. About 250 people are normally attending the event. Last year's radio day saw the Radio Caroline 1973/74 reunion with many former deejays, technicians and crew members joining in.

Hans Knot, Rob Olthof and Martin van der Ven have been busily planning this year's event which will be held on Saturday October 22nd from 11.00 -5.00 C.E.T. (Dutch local time) in Amsterdam's Hotel Casa 400 near the Amstel railway station. For full details: <http://www.offshore-radio.de/radioday/>



## Ten-Tec Co-Founder Al Kahn, K4FW, SK



Albert R. "Al" Kahn, K4FW, of Cassopolis, Michigan, died June 15. He was 98. An ARRL member, Kahn--with Jack Burchfield, K4JU, co-founded Ten-Tec following his retirement from Electro-Voice, which he'd also founded and served as president. Kahn remained a member of the Ten-Tec Board of Directors until his death. Kahn's daughter, Carol Bieneman, said her father had continued his regular CW schedules with his old friends until just a few days before he died.

"It's a sad day, but few of us will leave the sort of footprints that Al did during his long and productive life," remarked ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Ten-Tec, on its Web site, this week acknowledged Kahn's passing "with the deepest regret."

Kahn's daughter says that from her father's childhood on, radio and sound communication fascinated him. "At age 12 he joined a Boy Scout troop and was sent home with a radio to repair," she recounts. "This was the start of his lifelong passion for radio."

First licensed in 1921 as 9BBI, Kahn--who was born in LaSalle, Illinois, and moved as a child to South Bend, Indiana--later held the call sign W8DUS in Michigan. More here: <http://www.n9vv.com/tentec-history.html>

## DX Holiday

Have you been interested in making a short trip to the north of Denmark? In Fjerritslev there is the big antenna farm known as DX183 set up by Wilhelm Herbst. Here can you work with 21 beverage-antennas in diverse directions, free from interference. The landscape in Northjylland is fantastic for a short trip for holiday and dx ing! Accommodation is available from mid-October until mid-November '05 and around Christmas and New Year.

To find out more (prices, availability, facilities etc) write to: DX 183, Wilhelm Herbst, Husbyvej 183, Gundestrup, DK-9690 Fjerritslev, Denmark; Phone/fax : 00-45-98215191. This German website has quite a bit of detail about the site & accommodation: <http://www.wilhelm-herbst-verlag.de/DX183/DXer/>

## International Reply Coupons

In the latest issue of RadCom (Sept 2005 p45), there is report that says that the New Zealand post office will no longer accept old style IRCs. They will only accept the larger variety with bar code on the reverse. The new IRCs, for the first time, include an expiry date of 31 December 2006. It seems that the Royal Mail here in the UK is taking the view that all IRCs in circulation, including earlier issues will expire at the end of 2006. Apparently there is no news yet from the Universal Postal Union as to when the next series of IRCs will be issued.

## Finally

This month we are missing Eurolog. This unfortunately is the result of a file being corrupted in transit between John Williams & myself and both of us being away on holiday so that there was no chance of fixing it. This month Eurolog was rather slim with John receiving only one contribution. Of course it is holiday seasons and the sun is shining but please do remember share your listening experiences with John so he can produce a wide ranging and interesting Eurolog.

73s, Steve

# MAILBAG

with Herman Boel

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e-mail: mailbag@mwcircle.org ☎ +32-476-524258

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This time we received a letter from **Richard Briers** who'd like to air his annoyance. That's what this mailbag is (among other things) made for. This is what Richard had to say:

"If you will allow me to *air* just one more slight annoyance. I read in the July-August issue under 'World News' and 'Euro log' that Radio London on 1395 kHz goes off the air at 1800 utc to allow Trans World Radio Albania to broadcast their programme.

I have often *remarked* that Virgin 1215 on 1197 kHz did not go off the air at 1800 utc to allow VOA Munich on 1197 to broadcast 'border crossings' for example. I have reported to MWN that I could receive VOA at 44444 and at 1400 utc during the Winter season. I would have thought that Virgin 1215 could have been launched on a different frequency. 1197 is only a low-power relay anyway!

VOA Europe was a new 'service' before the launch of Virgin 1215. It states in 'Ham Radio Today' - "Reception generally in Britain is fair though you may have difficulties hearing this one if you live in or near Bournemouth, Torbay or Cambridge as these are low-power BBC 3 relay stations on the same frequency in these towns." When they opened Trowell, interference was dreadful!"

Well, Richard, if I may make a remark on this myself. VOA Munich has never meant to be received outside Germany as the transmitter is directed to the American troops in Germany. As a matter of fact, the transmissions have now stopped. This means Virgin should now be received a lot better in the (small) areas these transmitters are to serve.

You should also not forget that there is such a thing as an ITU frequency plan which states what countries are allowed to broadcast on what frequencies in what time slots and with what power.

Should anyone else want to comment on this, feel free to write in.

73 - Herman -

# IONOSPHERIC REPORT

from U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, Space Environment Center

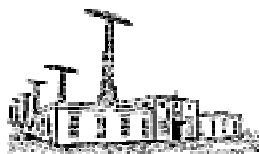
## Daily Geomagnetic Data

Date	Middle Latitude -- Fredericksburg --							High Latitude ---- College ----							Estimated ---- Planetary ----												
	A	K-indices						A	K-indices						Ap	K-indices											
2005 06 26	6	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	11	3	3	1	4	3	2	1	0	8	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
2005 06 27	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	4	1	0	0	1	2	2	2	1
2005 06 28	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
2005 06 29	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	6	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
2005 06 30	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	8	2	2	1	4	2	2	1	1	8	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	3
2005 07 01	12	2	1	1	1	2	3	4	4	12	3	2	2	1	2	4	3	3	16	2	2	2	1	3	4	4	4
2005 07 02	12	4	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	14	4	3	2	3	4	2	2	2	13	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	3
2005 07 03	9	4	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	14	3	3	3	4	4	2	1	1	11	4	3	2	3	3	2	2	2
2005 07 04	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	7	1	3	2	1	2	2	2	2
2005 07 05	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	4	1	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	5	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
2005 07 06	3	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
2005 07 07	6	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	6	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	8	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	3
2005 07 08	5	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	5	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
2005 07 09	13	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	33	2	2	4	4	4	7	3	3	19	3	3	3	3	4	4	3	4
2005 07 10	28	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	67	3	5	5	5	7	7	6	3	47	4	4	5	5	6	5	5	5
2005 07 11	14	3	3	4	2	2	2	4	2	29	3	3	4	4	6	3	5	2	23	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3
2005 07 12	17	3	4	3	4	4	2	2	2	71	4	4	7	7	7	6	2	1	48	5	6	5	6	6	5	3	2
2005 07 13	20	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	47	2	4	5	6	7	5	3	2	30	3	4	5	5	5	4	3	4
2005 07 14	7	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	20	2	4	3	3	5	5	0	0	11	2	4	3	3	2	2	1	1
2005 07 15	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	-1	1	1	1	1	2	1	-1	-1	6	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2
2005 07 16	10	3	2	3	0	2	2	3	3	-1	-1	3	5	1	2	2	2	2	9	2	2	2	1	1	3	3	3
2005 07 17	15	3	2	2	4	3	2	3	4	41	3	2	5	7	5	5	2	3	22	3	2	3	5	3	3	3	5
2005 07 18	19	3	4	5	3	2	1	2	4	49	4	4	8	4	5	3	1	2	34	5	6	6	3	3	2	2	3
2005 07 19	8	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	3	8	2	3	3	1	2	2	1	2	10	3	2	3	1	2	2	2	3
2005 07 20	14	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	33	3	3	3	6	6	4	3	3	20	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	4
2005 07 21	19	5	4	4	3	2	2	2	3	35	5	4	6	6	2	3	3	2	29	5	5	4	5	2	3	2	3
2005 07 22	8	3	2	1	1	2	2	3	2	15	3	3	2	2	4	3	3	3	13	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3
2005 07 23	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
2005 07 24	3	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	1
2005 07 25	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	6	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
2005 07 26	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	6	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2
2005 07 27	15	3	2	2	1	3	2	4	5	14	1	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	17	2	2	3	2	3	3	4	5
2005 07 28	18	3	5	3	2	4	2	2	3	27	3	4	3	4	6	4	2	3	28	3	5	4	4	5	3	3	4
2005 07 29	14	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	29	3	4	3	6	4	5	3	2	19	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	3
2005 07 30	11	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	2	17	3	4	5	4	1	1	2	1	16	4	4	4	3	1	1	2	2
2005 07 31	10	2	2	2	1	3	1	2	4	8	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	9	2	3	2	1	3	2	2	3
2005 08 01	18	4	5	3	3	2	2	2	3	21	3	2	5	4	4	4	2	2	16	4	1	3	4	3	3	3	3
2005 08 02	9	2	3	1	2	2	2	3	2	18	2	3	2	6	4	1	1	1	12	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2
2005 08 03	6	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	7	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	11	2	3	2	1	2	3	3	3
2005 08 04	9	3	2	3	3	2	1	1	2	19	3	3	4	5	4	2	1	2	14	3	3	4	3	2	2	2	3
2005 08 05	6	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	9	1	1	2	1	3	3	3	2	9	2	2	1	1	2	3	3	3
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2005 08 07	12	2	3	3	4	3	1	2	2	24	3	4	4	6	3	3	2	2	18	3	5	4	4	2	2	2	3
2005 08 08	6	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	9	2	2	2	1	4	2	1	2	8	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	3
2005 08 09	8	2	3	2	2	0	3	2	2	9	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	10	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3
2005 08 10	9	2	1	3	3	3	2	1	1	39	3	2	6	6	6	5	1	0	22	3	2	4	5	5	3	2	2
2005 08 11	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	2	2	3	1	0	0	6	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2
2005 08 12	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	6	1	1	2	3	3	0	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3
2005 08 13	14	3	3	2	3	3	1	3	4	11	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	16	3	4	2	3	3	2	3	3
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2005 08 15	6	1	1	0	1	2	2	2	3	5	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	3	8	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	3
2005 08 16	12	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	23	3	4	2	5	5	3	2	3	19	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
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2005 08 18	9	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	17	3	3	4	4	4	2	2	2	16	3	3	4	4	3	2	3	3
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# SAQ ANNUAL BROADCAST

By Lars Kalland/SM6NM

www.alexander.n.se



SAQ the VLF station at Grimeton, Sweden, made special broadcasts on Saturday 2 July 2005 and Sunday 3 July 2005. These short CW messages were sent on 17.2kHz using the famous historic equipment preserved at the World Heritage Site.

We have got 26 reception reports for the Saturday transmission and 90 for the Sunday. The reports are well spread over Europe but we also received quite good reports from the USA this time. One good QSL was from Massachusetts and also another from a very nice location, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, a very special place to radio history. One report was from Illinois and another from Utah in the Mid-USA.

But the really hit was from CALIFORNIA!! A report from Mojave Desert by WA6NIA/Dennis Kidder with a quite visual attached screen capture on 17,2 kHz. Dennis says the site is "electrically very quiet". (Dennis often work radio from the club station onboard Queen Mary/W6RO at Long Beach)

We think Dennis really received the SAQ signal as it obviously was received in Utah and Illinois. It must have been "good conditions" that day. We have never earlier received reports from the West coast of the USA.

At the moment there are no plans for more transmissions this year, but if so, I will let the group know. Hopefully there will be transmission on Alexanderson Day in 2006.

## Saturday's Message

"VARBERG RADIO STATION IN GRIMETON, SWEDEN AND THE UNIQUE 80 YEAR OLD LONG WAVE 200 KW ALTERNATOR WAS INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN JULY 2004. TODAY UNESCO INAUGURATES THE SITE. ASSEMBLED HERE WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THE INVENTOR ERNST F. W. ALEXANDERSON. WE ALSO RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF TELEGRAPHIC AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TO IMPROVE THE INTERCHANGE OF HUMAN VALUES AROUND THE WORLD."

### Reception Reports from:

Czech Republic 1; Denmark 2; Finland 1; Germany 6;  
Italy 1; Netherlands 5; Sweden 5; United Kingdom 3; USA 1

## Sunday's Message

CQ CQ CQ DE SAQ SAQ SAQ = YOU ARE LISTENING TO THE ALEXANDERSON ALTERNATOR AT GRIMETON RADIO/SAQ INAUGURATED BY HIS MAJESTY GUSTAF V, KING OF SWEDEN, 80 YEARS AGO. SINCE JULY LAST YEAR THE STATION IS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE OBJECT = SIGNED: THE ASSOCIATION ALEXANDER - GRIMETON VETERANRADIO VAENNER + FOR AMATEUR RADIO QSO AND QSL INFO PSE READ OUR WEBSITE: WWW.ALEXANDER.N.SE + DE SAQ SAQ SAQ @

### Reception Reports from:

Austria 1; Belgium 2; Czech Republic 1; Denmark 4; Finland 3;  
France 5; Germany 23; Greece 1; Ireland 1; Italy 3;  
Netherlands 9; Norway 1; Spain 1; Sweden 18; Switzerland 3;  
United Kingdom 9 [including two Circle members, Nick Rank & Steve Whitt]; USA 5.

# COASTAL SIGNALS

by Mark Connelly WA1ION

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## WEB SITE FOR U. S. STATION SIGNAL STRENGTHS - A VALUABLE RESOURCE

In a recent IRCA DX Monitor, a Web site [http://www.v-soft.com/ZipSignal/zip\\_answer.asp](http://www.v-soft.com/ZipSignal/zip_answer.asp) was stated to be a way to get a strength listing of all AM & FM groundwave signals over 50 dBu level for a given US postal zip code. This is an excellent research tool, right on par with "dxtuners.com" in saving the DXer a lot of time as well as the cost of gasoline and airline tickets. The site only lists US stations (no Canada, Cuba, Mexico, etc.) The strength listings are of particular interest to DXers who wish to study propagation over seawater versus over land, to see how effective stations' directional patterns are, to evaluate the directivity and efficiency of their various receiving antennas, and to determine the sensitivity of portable and base-station receivers.

Coverage predictions produced by v-soft use the standard FCC method, directional antenna patterns, if used by the stations. AM daytime station coverage and nighttime coverage is predicted using the M3 ground conductivities curves.

Signal levels are given in dBu and mV/m. The lowest level given, 50 dBu or 0.32 mV/m, is still a good strength signal by DXer standards, likely well over S-9 on a Beverage or amplified loop, but not necessarily suitable to an average listener possibly driving through areas with noisy power lines. Signals over 75 dBu or 5.6 mV/m would generally be considered local quality. Anything over 100 dBu or 31.6 mV/m is superlocal, able to penetrate into most steel-frame buildings. At Hull, MA (zip code 02045) the local fire-breathing dragon WBZ-1030 registers a hefty 131.4 dBu or 3735.3 mV/m, probably enough to peel the paint off the boats at the nearby marina.

By obtaining a listing of signal strengths that is reasonably accurate for a given location, the values can be used as a "transfer standard" to calibrate a receiver's S-meter readings with a given antenna. If the antenna is something well suited to field work, such as an active whip, S-meter readings taken on roadtrips can, to a fair degree of accuracy, be converted back to approximate dBu and mV/m values. A good calibration Excel table would be done at a number of frequencies since the efficiency of a receiving antenna can vary across the dial. Active whips are typically somewhat less sensitive at the low end (530 kHz) than at the high end (1700 kHz).

The closest post office here in the Pinehurst section of Billerica, MA is zip code 01866, located 0.6 miles / 1 km from my house. The readings for that zip are, therefore, quite accurate here. Here are the top ten AM's based upon daytime level..

Target station & frequency (kHz)	Day		Night	
	dBu	mV/m	dBu	mV/m
WRKO-680	115.1	569.62;	115.0	564.53
WEEL-850	84.5	16.83;	83.8	15.54
WWZN-1510	83.1	14.27;	73.9	4.97
WEZE-590	80.0	10.01	80.0	10.01
WBZ-1030	78.3	8.24	78.3	8.24
WBIX-1060	77.3	7.33;	58.4	0.83
WTTT-1150	77.0	7.07;	63.7	1.54
WRCA-1330	73.1	4.54	73.1	4.54
WROL-950	72.1	4.01		
WILD-1090	72.0	4.00		



Another station worth mentioning is WCAP-980. At night it turns on the directional-array soup and goes from a 68.4 dBu day value up to 77.1 dBu after dark.

From the above list you can see that WWZN, WBIX, and WTTT take quite a hit going from day to night configurations. Of these, WBIX is the only one which actually reduces power. In the Truro, MA listing WWZN goes up by 3.3 dB at night. It's not surprising that WWZN is one of the strongest stateside signals into North Africa. But go west past Framingham, MA and it's totally useless at night.

There are a couple of other Web sites that I use in conjunction with the signal-strength finder site. <http://www.zipfind.net/deluxe.aspx> finds the distance between any two zip codes.

The US Postal Service <http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/welcome.jsp> page can find a zip code based on city + state, or address + city + state.

### Sea Path versus Land Path

The v-soft web site shows what DXers already know in terms of signals propagating much farther over salt water than land for a given amount of signal strength reduction. Examples below clearly illustrate this. All stations selected are non-directional for fair evaluation purposes.

#### Case 1: WJDA-1300 Quincy, MA (1 kW)

Received at:	Distance	Signal strength
Billerica (Pinehurst), MA 01866	23 miles / 37.0 km (land)	52.7 dBu, 0.43 mV/m
Bar Harbor, ME 04609	203 miles / 326.6 km (water)	52.8 dBu, 0.44 mV/m

About the same signal level at each site, but signal travels 8.8 times farther over salt water

#### Case 2: WMID-1340 Atlantic City, NJ (1 kW)

Received at:	Distance	Signal strength
Port Elizabeth, NJ 08348	29 miles / 46.7 km (land)	50.6 dBu, 0.34 mV/m
Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard, 02535	239 miles / 384.6 km (water)	50.5 dBu, 0.33 mV/m

About the same signal level at each site, but signal travels 8.24 times farther over salt water

#### Case 3: WCBS-880 New York (City Is.), NY (50 kW)

Received at:	Distance	Signal strength
Deer Park, LI, NY 11729	25 miles / 40.2 km (land)	71.2 dBu, 3.64 mV/m
Falmouth, Cape Cod, MA 02540	172 miles / 276.7 km (most water)	74.5 dBu, 5.33 mV/m

Distance ratio 6.88      WCBS is 3.3 dB stronger at the more distant site.

#### Case 4: WLYN-1360 Lynn, MA (1 kW)

Received at:	Distance	Signal strength
Billerica (Pinehurst), MA 01866	14 miles / 22.5 km (land)	58.0 dBu, 0.80 mV/m
Harwich, Cape Cod, MA 02645	70 miles / 112.6 km (part water)	58.7 dBu, 0.87 mV/m

Distance ratio 5.0      WLYN is slightly stronger at the more distant site.

The above cases show dramatic differences in paths over land as compared to over salt water. It must be stressed that the differences can be significantly greater than shown because the web page just gives strengths over the average extent of a postal zip code. These values more often typify the central business district of a given town rather than an optimum beachfront site that would show a much more exaggerated signal enhancement.

Much of what applies to groundwave also relates to low-angle skip such as would be experienced with Transatlantic signals arriving before, during, and up to an hour after local receiving-site sunset. The effect is very obvious when stations such as Morocco-612 can "bulldoze" WGIR-610 NH on an ordinary car radio at sunset at Granite Pier in Rockport, MA. If you add seriously directional receiving antennas such as a Kaz, Flag, Beverage, or phased verticals to an already-directional location, then the DX really gets interesting as many of us know.

## Sea Gain: The Numbers Don't Lie

The previous analysis shows that distance required for a given amount of path loss turns out to be about 5 to 10 times greater over a salt-water route as compared to across flat to slightly hilly land of fairly low conductivity.

Ratios of over 10 are possible, especially if you're dealing with the 1300-1700 kHz range and making the over-water strength measurements right at the shoreline instead of using the average value for a given coastal town (which may include inland areas). On the lower end of the dial, ratios are more like 5 to 7, but are still significant. If a shoreline is backed by mountains (as in the Pacific Northwest) instead of relatively flat land, the over water versus over land ratio could be much more extreme, perhaps something like 20 above 1300 kHz.

The next phase of research was to see what the signal strength difference (in dB) is for two nearly-identical length paths, one over seawater and one over land.

From the formula  $P_{mult} = 10^{(dB/10)}$ , one can compute the amount of power that would be needed to produce the same signal strength on the land route as can be produced with the station's normal power on the sea route. The "Pmult" power multiplier, e.g. 100 for a 20 dB strength difference, times the power, e.g. 1 kW, shows (in this case) that the station would have to run 100 kW to have the same signal strength over land that it has on the same distance over water with just 1 kW. A 30 dB difference gives  $P_{mult}=1000$ , meaning that a megawatt would be required to get the same signal over a given amount of land that a kilowatt gets across the same expanse of sea! This may seem beyond belief, but the tabulations below (from ZipSignal data) show that 20 dB is a rather ordinary difference to find here in the New England area. 30 dB is certainly not out of reach on the upper end of the dial, especially if signal strength data for the coastal site is based on beach, rather than town-center, results. As stated earlier, a West Coast or Hawaiian location involving a mountainous rocky coastline could give even more extreme values. The over-water signal strength of a 1 kW station may not be replicable over the same land distance at ANY power level of which present transmitter technology is capable.

Cases below involve stations having non-directional, or nearly non-directional, daytime antenna patterns.

<u>Case #1</u>	<u>Freq = 730</u>	<u>Call = WJTO</u>	<u>TX QTH = Bath-Brunswick, ME</u>	<u>Power, kW = 1</u>
Approx. TX-RX Distance = 29miles / 46.7km				
Coastal RX site = Cape Elizabeth, ME		Coastal RX level (dBu) = 73.9		
Inland RX site = Augusta, ME		Inland RX level (dBu) = 55.8		
Difference in strength = 18.1dB or power multiplier = 64.57x				

Comment: A 15 to 20 dB delta is common on the lower end of the dial.

<u>Case #2</u>	<u>Freq = 950</u>	<u>Call = WROL</u>	<u>TX QTH = Saugus, MA</u>	<u>Power, kW = 5</u>
Approx TX-RX Distance. = 14miles / 22.5 km				
Coastal RX site = Hull, MA		Coastal RX level (dBu) = 90.4		
Inland RX site = Billerica, MA		Inland RX level (dBu) = 69.9		
Difference in strength = 20.5dB or power multiplier = 112.2				

Comment: 561 kW would be needed to get same strength over land compared to 5 kW over water!

Case #3 Freq = 1230 Call = WESX TX QTH = Marblehead, MA Power, kW = 1  
Approx. TX-RX Distance = 18miles / 29 km  
Coastal RX site = Cohasset, MA Coastal RX level (dBu) = 77.0  
Inland RX site = Billerica (Pinehurst), MA Inland RX level (dBu) = 54.3  
Difference in strength = 22.7dB or power multiplier = 186.21

Case #4 Freq = 1240 Call = WBUR TX QTH = West Yarmouth, MA Power, kW = 1  
Approx. TX-RX Distance = 22miles / 35.4 km  
Coastal RX site = Edgartown, MA Coastal RX level (dBu) = 78.2  
Inland RX site = Pocasset, MA Inland RX level (dBu) = 52.8  
Difference in strength = 25.4dB or power multiplier = 346.74

Comment: A whopping difference! The land route is over exceptionally dry sandy soil (scrub oak / pitch pine forest) that, although flat, eats up signal strength to a greater degree than the "loamier" soil in the Boston area. Over 346 kW would be needed to put the same signal into Pocasset (north of Falmouth) as is produced a bit farther away in Edgartown (Martha's Vineyard) with just 1 kW!

Case #5 Freq = 1300 Call = WJDA TX QTH = Quincy, MA Power, kW = 1  
Approx. TX-RX Distance = 19 miles / 30.6 km  
Coastal RX site = Marblehead, MA Coastal RX level (dBu) = 75.3  
Inland RX site = Bridgewater, MA Inland RX level (dBu) = 52.4  
Difference in strength = 22.9dB or power multiplier = 194.98; Typical for this part of the band.

## Conclusions

The kind of differences seen in these groundwave measurements correlate quite well with differences seen in some kinds of foreign medium wave DX at night. Some of the low-angle skip is as severely reduced by an overland path as groundwave is. Long-term measurements of European, African, Middle Eastern, and South American DX signals taken at Rockport, MA and Rowley, MA on the coast north of Boston show differences of anywhere from 10 to 40 dB better than the same stations heard in inland suburbs when using the same set-up: Drake R8A receiver, active whip on car roof. High-band longer-haul Africans and Brazilians heard during auroral activity, especially at sunset or earlier, show the greatest difference: often S-9 at the shore and usually less than S-3 (if even noticeable at all!) inland. Six S-units is conventionally 36 dB. That's a mind-boggling power multiplier of 3981. This tells me that a 250 watt Brazilian "graveyarder" heard at the shore would have to be packing close to a megawatt to hit the same S-meter reading somewhere inland maybe only an hour's drive away.

Surprising though this might sound to some, I find this entirely believable based on experience. When the signal path is nearly parallel to the shore, you can jump from a lengthy mostly over water route to a mostly over land one in a fairly short distance driving inland at a right angle to the coast. This is the situation where the biggest signal changes occur. One classic example of this is the exceptionally quick drop-off in signal strengths of the Atlantic City, NJ area stations (1020, 1160, 1340, 1400, 1450, 1490) when driving a very short distance up Route 134 in Dennis, Cape Cod, MA from Lower County Road (near southward-facing beaches) northward to Route 6. These signals "drop like a rock", maybe 30 dB, over the course of a 10 minute drive, even though the change in actual geographic distance is infinitesimal.

It is hoped that those in other areas such as Oregon/Washington will try using ZipSignal in conjunction with their own measurements to see how these findings relate to their areas, both in terms of groundwaves and low-angle long-haul foreign DX. (*Pity we don't have a similar website facility for non-US signals!!*)

# COORDINATED DXPEDITIONS

by Steve Whitt

This summer has seen some unprecedented MW DX-pedition activity. Possibly for the first time there has been co-ordinated monitoring at numerous DX sites worldwide. This took place in July, focussed on dates around 20-23<sup>rd</sup>, depending upon individual personal diaries. One interesting facet of this activity was that it stimulated activity in the Northern Hemisphere where usually summer is declared closed season for DX. This article is not intended to be the analysis – that will take some time to prepare and digest – merely a brief introduction to a unique “first”. However, in this issue of MWN we have a detailed report from one site, Seefontein.

## Coordination

There is no doubt that the internet, e-mail and on-line groups have enable almost real-time collaboration round the world. Combined with software on online resources that provide data, great circle mapping, sunrise/sunset mapping and ionospheric data and propagation predictions this gives more power to the DXer than ever before.



## Global Participants

Bruce Conti, Paul Graveline K1YUB, and Mark Connelly WA1ION at Granite Pier, Rockport MA  
John Plimmer, Gary Deacon, and Vince Stevens at Seefontein, 180 km north of Cape Town.

Walt Salmaniw on the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia, Canada

David Onley in Coorong National Park, Parnka Point, Australia

Jan Alvestad at Tjelta, Norway

Martin Hall at Clashmore, Scotland

Jean Burnell in Nova Scotia, Canada

Bert New on Sapelo Island, Georgia

John Bryant at Grayland, Washington

Bryan Clark at Mangawhai, New Zealand

## Commentary

Naturally the southern hemisphere sites were experiencing mid winter conditions and so not surprisingly heard most DX, but even the DXers in the northern hemisphere were surprised by their mid-summer catches – mostly from a southerly direction (the North Pole being in 24 hour daylight). LOOK OUT FOR FULL REPORTS IN FUTURE ISSUES OF MWN

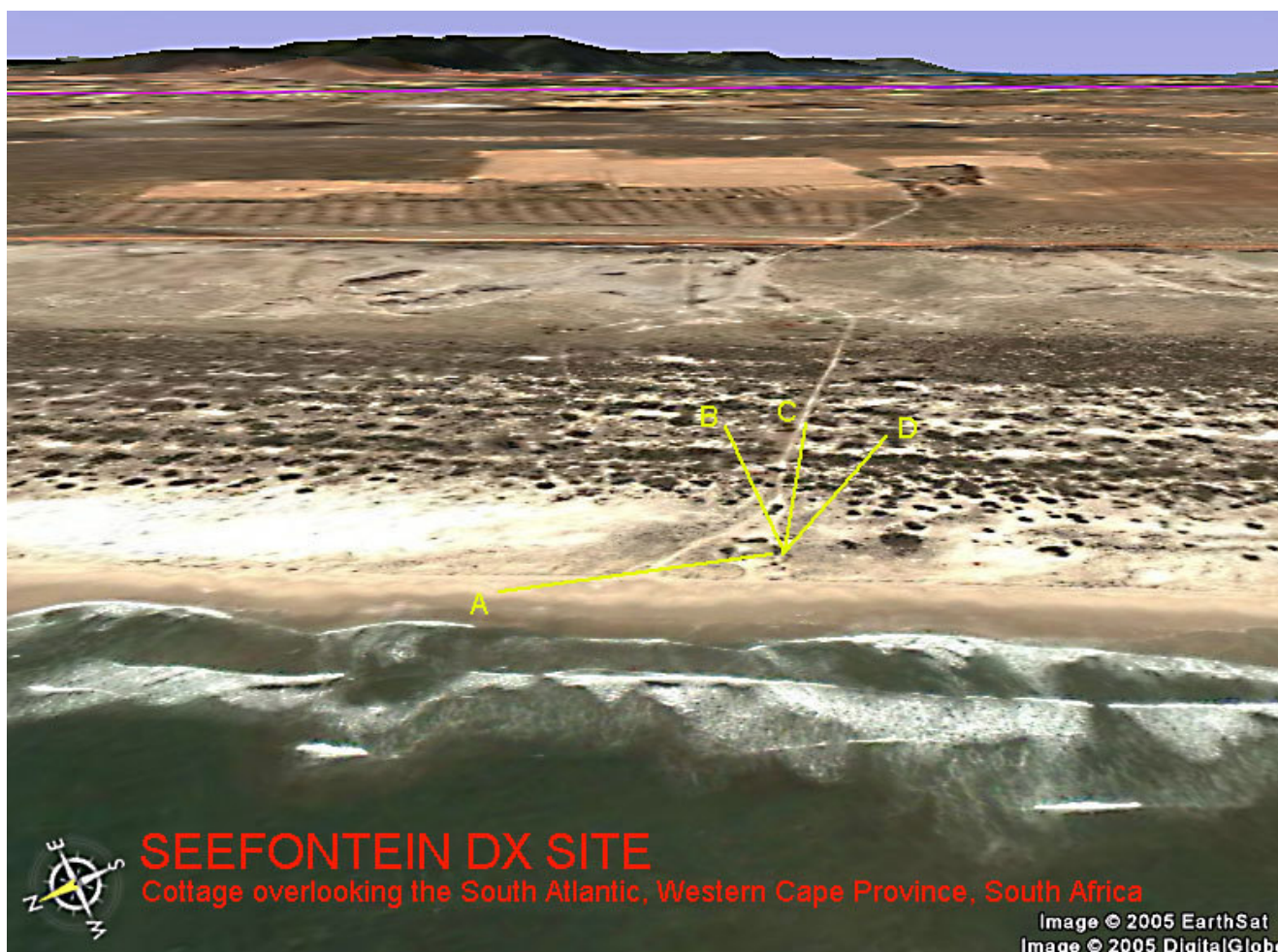
# S. AFRICAN DXPEDITION: SEEFONTEIN 2

Western Cape Province, South Africa July 25-28, 2005

Participating: John Plimmer, Vince Stevens, Gary Deacon

Narrative by Vince Stevens

John Plimmer recently discovered the site Seefontein, 180km north of Cape Town on the West Coast of South Africa. He immediately noted its favourable location, right on the coast, and relatively isolated, which seemed to make it an ideal DXpedition spot. Having already made one trip up there to do some listening, John suggested Seefontein for our 2005 DXpedition. Last year we did the South Coast so for some variation it was decided to try the West Coast as it's more suited for North American & Caribbean MW reception.



A: Northern short wire on beach, 80m long.  
B: Asian & Central American Beverage of 250m

C: John P's North American & Asian beverage of 350m  
D: Aussie and North American beverage of 300m

Seefontein is a private farm, with its own stretch of pristine beach, and loads of space to string up beverage antennas. There is no electricity, and no other houses nearby, so we hoped for minimal interference from electrical appliances, and people alike.

Those in attendance this year were the same as Jongensgat last year, namely John Plimmer, Gary Deacon and myself, Vince Stevens. Until we find some more budding DXers in SA we are likely to be the only ones doing this down in the Western Cape for now. My wife and John's wife, Dawn

declined the role of camp cooks and washers, but Gary's wife Sandy came with their 5-year-old daughter.



Over to John Plimmer: Quote: *“The trip got off to a bad start for me as despite my hectic efforts to get the ThinkPad laptop working off a car battery, the 12 volt to 220 volt inverter loaned to me by a Robertson ham blew up on Sunday, too late for me to do anything about it, so the laptop could not be made to work off the normal car batteries. The hired deep cycle battery I got on Friday, despite assurances, turned out to be under charged, so it had to go on charge for nine hours before it became fully charged up*

*The Toyota Condor was packed up to the hilt on Monday morning with tables, gas lamps and heaters and all kinds of gear, clothing and food and kitchen utensils. I eventually got away at 8.30 a.m. and first stop was Robertson to drop off the PC where I had arranged for the dealer to upgrade it from my Win98 operating system to the newer WinXP and also add some RAM and a DVD read/write player. That done, the route proceeded to Worcester, Wolseley, Gouda, Porterville, Piketberg and Velddrif and then on past Dwarskersbos to the Seefontein cottage. The 290km/180m trip took four hours with a stop for coffee at Piketberg. The coffee reminded me of the bitter W.W.II chicory ersatz stuff they used to dish up - it was awful.*



*I arrived at the farmhouse at 12.30 p.m. and got the keys for the cottage which is two kilometers away on the beach and proceeded there, having found that I had got there before Vince. I unpacked the mountain of gear - the cottage is self catering (without mains power) and you have to take along a lot of your own gear and Vince then pitched up in his Land-Rover, also with a mountain of stuff. I got out a beer and had the sarmies that dear Dawn had prepared and contemplated how I was going to erect my radio apparatus. After lunch I erected*

*the Kiwa in it's position about six foot off the deck and looking through one of the wooden windows and through a gap in the dune that separates the cottage from the beach. Then the small Datong active for the Tropical Bands was erected outside on a pole supporting a water tank and I was now ready to run out the 1000ft/300m beverage wire.” Unquote*

Back to Vince: “As usual I strung up some beverage antennas as soon as I arrived on the Monday. One 300m-antenna pointing at Australia, a bearing of 126 deg, then a second of 250m, at 96 deg, aimed at SE Asia. These ran behind the house into the ‘sandveld’ (Afrikaans for the typical West Coast ecology of the area – sandy soil plus hardy low scrubby bushes – ‘fynbos’). So for our intended DX areas of North America and the Caribbean we would be listening ‘over the shoulder’. The beverages were intentionally unterminated so they would be effective in both directions. According to John I am very meticulous about this and to his amazement even bring a whole bundle of bamboo sticks to keep the antenna's dead straight and five foot above ground!

The last antenna I rigged up was something of an experiment. It ran from the front of the house on a bearing of magnetic north more or less (which is about 336 deg in the Southern Cape) towards the sea, and actually stopped just short of the high water tidal mark – or so I thought!! This antenna was probably only about 100m long. At least that’s what it started out as, until Mother Nature & King Neptune formed an anti-DXer alliance resulting in my aerial being swept down the coast, with 4 or 5 cane poles missing in action. Turns out the tide was low when I set up the antenna, and of course it came in later on and swept all my hard work away.

To make matters worse, the extra 100m that I couldn’t string out was still on the plastic reel so the nasty water promptly unravelled the lot and turned it into a bizarre new form of aquatic creature. The ball of wire resembled a crazy kind of afro-wig, containing shells and bits of seaweed for decoration.



**JOHN, the radio is not ON!**

Fortunately I managed to rescue all the bits and pieces, including the poles, which were washed ashore. The wire was cut at about the 80m-point and moved much higher up the beach, I’d guess at a bearing of true north. (The afro-wig-plankton-catcher-copper-wire-and-seaweed monstrosity was hauled ashore and fortunately it survived its dunking without too many ill effects and has since been rewound on a new reel - I use 0.8mm enamelled copper wire, which is amazingly strong and has been on loads of trips and is still in pristine condition).

While I sheepishly made my way back to the house, John had finished his set-up and was ready for some DXing. He had discovered that the track leading to the cottage was straight and the bearing was pointed at central U.S., so he ran a 350m wire along the track. This was much easier than traipsing through the bush. As he walked back from the end, he hung it on the bushes next to the road to keep it on average about four feet off the ground.

Back to John, Quote: “Ready to fire up now and I switch on with anticipation of problems, as I nearly always discover I have some fault that prevents proper operation. This time everything fires up beautifully first time and all three antenna systems are working fine - hallelujah!!

*Gary and family have not arrived yet, so I discuss with Vince who is going to take what rooms. There are two main rooms in the house and one tiny outside room with a bed and nothing else. I want that, to be away from the crowd, but Vince makes a strong play for it. Only later did I realise that I had given up on that room too easily and that Vince cannily knew all about keeping away from the rest of us. The drill was that we DXed all night and tried to catch up on shuteye during the day.*

*In practice Vince and Gary dosed down immediately after the DX session ended at about 8.30 a.m. I can't sleep in the mornings, so opted to sleep, as is my norm, in the afternoon, but then everyone was wide awake and trampling around on the wooden floor and talking at the top of their voices, so I couldn't sleep a wink in the afternoon and became very weary as the three day session wore on".*  
Unquote.

The grayline effect was very pronounced here at Seefontein and signals from the Far East started coming in already an hour before sunset. This boded well for the DXpedition. Gary and family arrived only at 6.30 p.m. just before darkness had set in. We DXed the night away with a short nap in the wee hours and continued until well after sunrise when the signals finally faded.



**Gary thinks its a good sign!**

and get a newspaper, some paraffin for the lamps, and extra candles. Gary and I started getting a barbecue ('braai') fire ready. John couldn't join us, as he is a diabetic and should not eat later than 1PM. The braai is finished at 3...

An hour later, Gary fires up his FRG-7 and declares various Far East signals booming in. This is quite amazing as sunset is still two hours away and the sun is still high in the sky. We all have a good session of Far East reception. I eventually go to bed at 11PM and Gary sits on 1548, hoping to hear St.Helena for the first time in many a year. Soon he does get some audio from them and listens to adverts for a competition they are running. We last heard this old favourite in the 80's. Throughout the DXpedition we were also trying for Ascension on 1602 but that frequency is quite messy with lots of burbling but nothing definite. Eventually I get an ID from R.Vitoria in Spain, but at no point did we even get a whiff of Ascension.

John's version of the evening's events: Quote: *"By 9PM I am exhausted and can't go on for another minute on the radio, so head for the sack. This time I realise I desperately need my sleep more than I need to DX the radio, so I do not set the alarm and go into a deep and satisfying sleep. I awake naturally at 5AM feeling alive and refreshed. Soon in short order I catch Nashville Tennessee, Orlando Florida and Fort Worth Texas on MW. It's always a thrill to get far distant stations,*



*knowing that years of experience and good technical arrangements like your antenna's and radio are pulling in things to be heard that the normal mortal could not think of achieving. A string of stations follow with exotic far distant names – Bonaire, Anguilla, Buffalo NY, St Kitts in the Caribbean, Pearl Harbour Hawaii where the Armed forces Network is booming in on the higher frequencies. Great fun!" Unquote.*

At sunrise Wednesday, John notices his Kiwa Loop has stopped functioning, even though the power light is on. He finds that the deep cycle battery has run down to only 10V, so guesses this to be the cause of the problem. He takes the battery over to the farm owners, 2km away, for a charge-up. They are not outside the farm and the gate is locked and their vicious dogs are barking. He eventually gives a toot on his car hooter and the farmer's wife comes out. She proceeds to give him a lecture about how she does not like hooting, as she hears her dogs barking, and will come out regardless!! The evening session on the radio is fruitful and we are soon listening to the Maldives, then China and some endearing Indian music from a station in Mauritius. It is quite interesting to note that Australia is far less easy to DX from the West Coast, yet the Far East seems to propagate well, even though the signals from both areas have to travel over the Southern African land mass. Only 2 or 3 Aussie stations were noted. Of course another factor could be that these stations are generally quite low powered compared to some of the Asian powerhouses. The West coast is distinctly different from the South East coast of SA due to the shape of the land and the consequent water/land paths that signals have to take to reach us. On the West coast Brazil makes a very early appearance at around 19h30 UTC (9:30 PM local time) and Europe also fades in much earlier due to their sunset transmitter enhancement at around the same time. Capital Gold from London on 1548 was heard before 10PM; the earliest I've ever noted them.

## COASTAL EFFECT EXPERIMENT

That evening we also do an experiment to try and determine the effects of coastal enhancement – the improvement of MW signals close to the sea. We head down to the beach with John's portable Drake SW8 kitted out with an amplified and tunable ferrite rod antenna. Take some measurements, then drive 1km inland, take some more readings and finally finish 2km inland for a final set of measurements. The area was very flat and the soil sandy and somewhat dry. "S" meter readings were taken and the audibility generally conformed to the "S" meter.

	Beach	1 km	2 km	
1530 VOA Sao Tome	S9+20	S9+20	S9+20	
1575 R. Farda UAE	S9	S9	S9	
1170 Swaziland	S9+10	S9	S9	
846 Komga, E. Cape	S9+20	S9+20	S9+10	
1557 France, Nice	S9	*	S9	*=No reading

taken

Draw your own conclusions...!!??

Here's John's views of events: Quote: *"We could have invested more time and effort into the experiment, but we were tired, the winter's night was cold and blustery and the dirt track was isolated, dark and unfriendly. Believe me, 1557 France Nice and 1575 R. Farda UAE are both very weak far-away stations that I would rank as faint DX (those stations are 8,500 km/5,500 miles away - that's DX!). We couldn't go further inland as the major iron ore rail line and its attendant high voltage power system are there about a mile further on. But we did take the readings carefully and measured out the distances on the car's odometer, so I am satisfied that the results are generally accurate.*

*The "S" meter on the Drake SW8, which is actually an electronic bar graph, was checked back home carefully against the analogue "S" meter of the Icom and was found to be generally accurate. The*

*readings were taken in AM mode at a 6 kHz filter setting. The "S" meter readings are slightly elevated by the amplification circuit of the portable ferrite rod antenna, but I am sure that the overall conclusion we came to by listening to audibility as well, was that there is hardly any difference between the reception on the beach and the reception 2 km's/1.25 miles inland" Unquote*

This is something I'd like to try again, perhaps with the car radio tuned to a weak station. I'm sure the coastal effect will be noticeable on certain stations, at specific locations. It's no coincidence that our best DX has been on the coast. Watch this space...

The last morning is a slight anti-climax as far as conditions go, signals are present but nothing extraordinary pops up. Even the X-band seems a little subdued.

With the water having run out, John goes off to the farmer again. Begrudgingly he finally comes thru later but moans at John about us using so much water. He feels the tankful he left us with should have lasted several days. He explains that this is a dry arid area and is experiencing a drought and that the well has nearly run dry and does not produce much water. We're all naturally unimpressed with this. If they want the cottage to be commercially viable then visitors should have their basic needs catered for.

Then comes the worst bit, packing and taking down antennas!! John leaves around 10:30 as he has a 4-hour trip home. The rest of us clean up. It takes me an hour to sweep all the sand out of the house. I like to leave holiday accommodation cleaner and neater than I found it. Of course when I return the keys to the farmer she moans at me for having left later than I said I would!! You can't win with some people!! (It's only 12:30 PM). I charm a smile out of her and head on my way. Best to stay on good terms with these people if we want to go back again, which we most definitely do. I finally arrive home 2 hours later.

Looking back on the DXpedition I am fairly satisfied but not overwhelmed. I think this goes for all of us. The radio side was good but not record breaking. We have heard most of the stations received before at some time or other. There were one or 2 surprises and some old favourites, but not as many as I'd have hoped. But I will look forward to going back soon though. John and Dawn are going on their own in September over the equinox - who knows what he will catch then?

## **OVERVIEW OF THE DXPEDITION**

courtesy of the third member of our crew: Gary Deacon



The second part of the annual DXpedition/family holiday began with our arrival at dusk with Vince and John already behind their receivers. After a welcome chat and a brief discussion about Vince's new "King Neptune seaweed antenna", I set up the old FRG7 and connected up to the more reliable beverage antenna which Vince had kindly set up.

The various regions/countries appeared in the following order:

### The Far East:

Family Radio, Taiwan on 1503 was usually the first Far East station to fade in at around 4:40 pm local time - at least an hour and a half before sunset! It's always quite surprising to hear how well some of the Far East stations propagate

under favourable conditions during our local evening greyline period. China (1134, 1188, 1323 and 1593), Taiwan (1503), Vietnam (1242) and Philippines (1530) were really strong at times!

#### Africa:

Some relatively low power (1kw) Angolan stations were heard with surprising strength. Maldives on 1449 produced an English discussion - enough for a report so will try for a QSL. Also managed to receive Libya on 1251 with English news.

#### Australia:

The only Australian stations heard on this occasion were 6WF (720), 6GN (828) and 4QD (1548). My guess is that the prevailing ionospheric conditions simply did not favour good reception from this part of the world.

#### Brazil:

Seefontein does favour South America, especially Brazil - Many stations from this part of the globe are received regularly here in the Cape Province - so much so that one tends to ignore them in favour of the Caribbean and the USA! The strength of some of the Brazilians was truly awesome - I set about recording a few strong IDs and managed to log a 250 watt Brazilian in the process! (Radio Jornal, Leopoldina on 1560).

#### St. Helena:

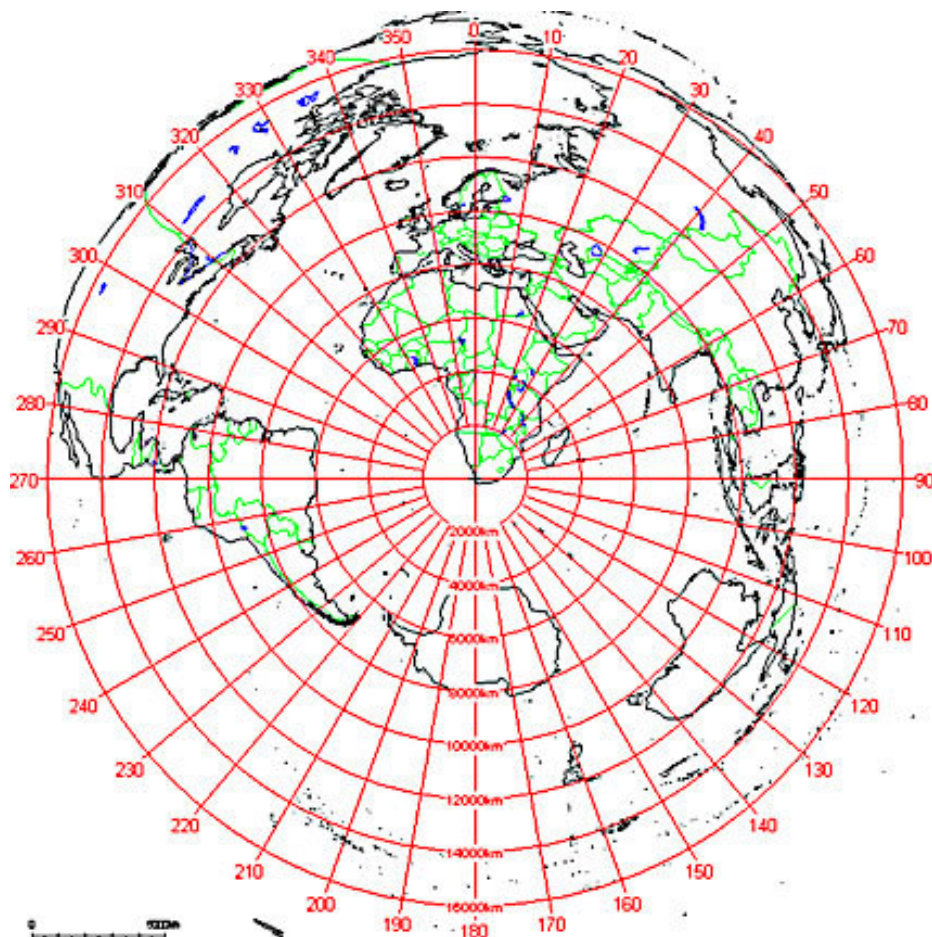
Another highlight for me was the reception of St. Helena on 1548 - To the best of my knowledge, the 100 watt station was last received by yours truly and a few SA DXers, including Vince & John, during the excellent reception conditions of the middle/late 80's. The local announcements brought back some great DX memories! Thanks to the directional beverage, the low power signal managed to appear with, and over Capitol Gold (UK), both on top of a subdued local 10kW Radio Islam which normally dominates on this frequency.

#### Netherlands:

Another surprise was tuning in for the first time to the recently launched 20kW Radio London International, from the Netherlands. The rock music format and cool retro ID jingles provided a refreshing change from most of the music aired today - It was great to hear 70's rock classics from groups such as Santana and Deep Purple!

#### The Caribbean:

WDHP American Virgin Islands on 1620 and ZNS1 Bahamas on 1540 were really strong, especially during the dawn/greyline period. Although both stations are regularly heard here, it was a pleasure just to sit back and listen to the local programme content for a while - some interesting advertisements, discussions and good music! I noted the country music title "There Goes Happiness



And In Comes Loneliness" - This reminded me of the joke: What happens when you play a country song backwards? You get your happiness back, you get your wife back, you get your money back, you get your house back, etc.!

#### The USA:

The opening to the USA was not as good as experienced in the 70's and 80's although there were some stations received here for the first time. As usual, most of the activity was confined to the X-Band. I restricted most of my dawn/greyline DXing to this region and was fortunate to receive quite a few IDs during the peaks - the highlights for me were positive IDs from: WRDW Augusta (1630), KWHN Fort Smith (1650), KCNZ Cedar Falls (1650), WMWR Dry Branch (1670) and WWAA Avondale Estates (1690).

#### Conclusion:

It was a real pleasure to DX from the West Coast again after a long absence from this part of the world. The strength and clarity of the DX received was impressive! Thanks to John for discovering this great site and to Vince for organising the accommodation and antenna logistics! Definitely worthy of a return visit!

### **SEEFONTEIN 2 DX LOGGINGS JULY 25-28, 2005**

- 162 0247 28/07/05 FRANCE France Inter, Allouis. In FF (JP)
- 198 0230 26/07/05 ALGERIA RTA Quargla in AA (JP)
- 530 0517 27/07/05 TURKS & CAICOS. R.Vision Christiana. In SS w gospel, good. (VS)
- 555 0401 27/07/05 ST KITTS ZIZ Basseterre. YL ID & ann in EE and reggae music, very poor with splatter from 567 Cape Talk. Signal later improved but was relaying BBC WS. (all)
- 630 1643 27/07/05 MADAGASCAR. RNM 1, Antananarivo. ID x2 at 1801 in FF, poor. Never heard on this freq before, despite relative close proximity. (VS)
- 640 0533 27/07/05 BRAZIL Radio Globo Natal, Natal in PP w id, very good. (GD)
- 650 0526 26/07/05 COLOMBIA. RCN Ant2, Bogota. SS 'Musica del Mundo'. Briefly poor-fair (VS)
- 666 1640 27/07/05 REUNION RFO St Pierre, in FF w mx, fair (JP)
- 684 1800 27/07/05 UNIDENTIFIED w Book review in EE. Possibly Mauritius or China, p-f (VS)
- 684 2000 27/07/05 SPAIN RNE1, Sevilla ID in SS & nx, fair (VS)
- 720 1640 26/07/05 INDIA AIR Chennai w ragas, fair/good (GD&JP)
- 720 1933 25/07/05 AUSTRALIA ABC Perth. Phone-in prog, poor-fair. (all)
- 720 0459 27/07/05 BRAZIL Radio Tupi in PP w id jingle and romantic music, very good (GD)
- 740 0500 27/07/05 BRAZIL Radio Soc da Bahia Salvador in PP w ann and id, very good (GD)
- 750 0517 26/07/05 USA WSB Atlanta GA in EE w ad for "Chevrolet" poor (GD)
- 760 0540 27/07/05 USA WJR Detroit MI (presumed) in EE w anns, poor - heard briefly (GD)
- 770 0531 27/07/05 BRAZIL Radio Atalaia de Sergipe, Aracaju (presumed) in PP w ann - fair (GD)
- 780 0531 26/07/05 BRAZIL Radio Jornal do Comercio Recife in PP w ann, excellent steady sig (GD)
- 790 0442 27/07/05 BARBADOS Starcom Network Bridgetown. EE relig px "Unshackled" fair (GD)
- 800 0320 28/07/05 NETHERLANDS ANTILLES TWR Bonaire in EE w religious pr "Insight For Living" - also id at 0327 hours as "We're delighted that you found this spot on your radio dial - You're listening to Trans World Radio, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles." - followed by px "Cross Heart" good (all)
- 800 0605 27/07/05 BRAZIL Radio MEC Rio de Janeiro w anns - fair (GD)
- 810 0346 26/07/05 COLOMBIA. Caracol, Bogota. Id's and ad for 'Banco. Fair w QRM (VS)
- 819 1636 27/07/05 MAURITIUS RM2 Malherbes. Lovely Indian music in VV (JP)
- 820 0430 27/07/05 USA WBAP Fort Worth TX in EE w wx and id, fair (GD&JP)
- 828 1640 26/07/05 AUSTRALIA 6GN Geraldton (JP)

840 1930 26/07/05 BRAZIL Unknown station but possible ID for R.Bahia, in PP. poor-fair (VS)

936 1645 26/07/05 INDIA AIR Tiruchirapalli w ragas, fair w QRM (GD)

999 1710 26/07/05 SAUDI ARABIA. BSKSA Tabuk. AA //1512, poor. (VS)

1030 2100 27/07/05 BRAZIL Radio Olinda, Olinda in PP w id, good (GD)

1044 1609 26/07/05 INDIA AIR Mumbai. EE nx, good (VS)

1053 2355 27/07/05 UNITED KINGDOM Talksport. Many txers. In EE w discussion - poor/fair (GD)

1060 0554 27/07/05 USA KYW Philadelphia (presumed) w ann poor - heard briefly (GD)

1062 1549 26/07/05 PHILLIPINES DZEC (presumed) w discussion, fair (GD)

1130 0555 27/07/05 BRAZIL Radio Nacional Rio de Janeiro in PP w anns, fair (GD)

1134 1700 26/07/05 CHINA CNR1 w id and ann, very good (GD&VS)

1140 0514 26/07/05 USA WRVA Richmond VA (presumed) in EE w discussion, poor (GD&VS)

1140 0330 27/07/05 USA WRMQ Orlando, FL w "News radio WRM" nighttime power 245 watts. Tx lobe favours West (JP)

1188 1516 26/07/05 CHINA CRI in EE w news, fair (GD)

1190 0515 26/07/05 USA WOWO Fort Wayne IN (presumed) in EE w phone-in, poor (GD)

1196.7 1712 26/07/05 ANGOLA EP do Malanje in PP (tentative). Move from 1188? - Heard during a brief break in transmission from Family Radio, Lesotho on 1197, good (1kw) (GD&VS)

1197 1520 27/07/05 INDIA AIR Tirunelveli w ann, poor (GD)

1215 0025 28/07/05 UNITED KINGDOM Virgin AM, Moorside Edge in EE w pops incl "Good Vibrations" by the Beach Boys, very poor under QRM (GD)

1242 1512 27/07/05 VIETNAM Voice of Vienam Hanoi in EE w news, fair (GD)

1251 0152 27/07/05 LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA Voice of Africa, Tripoli in EE w news and id, then into FF. fair (GD)

1323 1625 27/07/05 CHINA CRI. EE World nx, good. (all) 100

1359 1540 26/6/05 TAIWAN Family Radio Fanglaio w religious pr - fair peak (GD)

1377 1510 27/07/05 CHINA Huayi BC fading in w anns - poor/fair (GD)

1395 0147 27/07/05 NETHERLANDS Radio London in EE w rock classics presented by female announcer. Also id jingle at 0335: "Music - that's our middle name - Wonderful music B-I-G-L" followed by "Evil Ways" by Santana - fair (GD&VS)

1400 0146 27/07/05 GRENADA The Harbour Light Of The Windwards, St. George's in EE w religious pr, poor but clear (GD)

1440 1805 27/07/05 ANGOLA Radio Nacional, Dundo in PP w ID. fair (GD)

1449 1612 27/07/05 MALDIVES Voice of Maldives, Male in EE w interview about teenage social problems. Back to local Dhivehi language at 1630, good steady signal (all)

1458 1455 27/705 MAYOTTE Radio Mayotte in FF at fade-in - eventually producing a strong consistent signal (all)

1458 2317 25/07/05 UNITED KINGDOM Sunrise Radio London in w ads, poor (GD)

1460 0500 28/07/05 USA WTKT Harrisburg PA. No ID but many slogans of 'The Ticket' which I subsequently checked on the web and it seems to be WTKT. Sport format. Poor (VS)

1467 1532 27/07/05 INDIA AIR Jeypore in EE w news // 1566, poor/fair (GD)

1484.5 1735 25/07/05 ANGOLA EP do Kuanza-Sul in PP w ann, fair peak (1kw) (GD&VS)

1503 1442 27/07/05 TAIWAN Family Radio Fanglaio w religious px at fade in - the first to fade in - eventually producing a very good signal - the best and most consistent from the Far East (GD)

1510 0604 26/07/05 USA WLAC Nashville TN in EE w id, fair (all)

1510 0356 26/07/05 USA WWZN Boston, MA. appeared momentarily under WLAC (JP)

1520 0440 27/07/05 USA WWKB Buffalo, w ID as 'KB Radio'. (JP)

1530 1600 26/07/05 PHILIPPINES DXME Quezon City w id and religious px, very good peak (GD)

1530 1800 27/07/05 SAO TOME E PRINCIPE VOA Relay in PP w id, excellent (GD)

1540 0404 27/07/05 BAHAMAS ZNS1 Nassau in EE w id as " This is AM 15-40 - The National Voice of the Bahamas" followed by discussion px "Immediate Response" - also at 0507 hours w ads including: "Richie Real Estate" and "KFC" good steady signal with excellent peaks (all)

1539 1538 26/07/05 INDIA AIR Panaji w ragas, fair (GD)

1548 1652 26/07/05 AUSTRALIA 4QD Emerald in EE w phone-in, poor under local Radio Islam (GD&VS)

1548 2015 26/07/05 ST. HELENA Radio St. Helena Jamestown in EE w station id by male announcer followed by pop music. Also heard at 2144 hours with local announcements by female presenter including: " ... The radio quiz on Radio St. Helena continues this week and the winner will receive ten pounds ... " Also heard on 28/7 at 0000 hours with BBC news relay, poor with occasional fair peaks sharing with Capitol Gold, London - only slight intermittent QRM from Radio Islam at this time (GD)

1548 0001 28/07/05 UNITED KINGDOM, Capital Gold London in EE w time check and id: " ... From Leicester Square this is 15-48 AM - Capital Gold, London..." fair peak (all)

1557 1455 27/07/05 TAIWAN Family Radio, Fangaio w religious programme at fade in w fair peaks (GD)

1557 1825 27/07/05 FRANCE France Info, Nice. In FF, good (all)

1560 0558 27/07/05 BRAZIL Radio Jornal, Leopoldina in PP w id - poor w fair peaks (250 watts)(GD)

1566 1530 27/07/05 INDIA AIR Nagpur in EE w news incl a report of a major fire on a train platform, fair

1566 1532 27/07/05 KOREA HLAZ, Jeju w religious pr - poor (GD&JP)

1570 0618 28/07/05 MEXICO XERF Ciudad Acuna . in SS w nx - good peak before fade out (GD)

1575 1710 25/07/05 MAURITIUS BBC relay in EE, good (GD)

1575 1533 26/07/05 THAILAND VOA relay Ayutthaya w VOA nx in special English, fair (all)

1575 1810 27/07/05 UAE Radio Farda in AA w id, very good and consistent (all)

1580 0438 28/07/05 USA KMIK Phoenix AZ. (TENT) w Radio Disney slogan. Only one with this format on this freq, poor. (VS)

1593 1605 27/07/05 CHINA CNR1 w anns, very good (all)

1600 0525 27/07/05 USA WWRL Woodside NY in EE w nutritional advice, fair peak (GD)

1600 0256 28/07/05 BRAZIL Radio Nove de Julho, Sao Paulo in PP w id ann, very good (GD)

1602 0336 27/07/05 SPAIN Radio Vitoria, Vitoria-Gasteiz in SS w id jingle - poor w fair peaks (GD&VS)

1610 0255 28/07/05 ANGUILLA Caribbean Beacon in EE w religious px - fair (all)

1620 0208 27/07/05 US VIRGIN ISLANDS WDHP Frederiksted in EE w wx rpt and ads including: " ... The biggest country show and dance ever on St. Croix - John Hogan and Ellen Stone ... " " A sample of the country music to be performed included, "There Goes Happiness And In Comes Loneliness"! Very good (all)

1620 0059 28/07/05 USA WTAW Collage Road TX in EE w ann, very poor under Virgin Islands (GD)

1630 0425 28/07/05 USA WRDW Augusta GA in EE w id as "news talk radio 16-30 WRDW." Also heard on 26/7 at 0200 w ABC news - poor (GD&JP). I also heard 2 stations here, one with Gospel (VS)

1640 0502 26/07/05 USA WTNI Biloxi MS in EE w news, v poor (GD)

1650 0305 27/07/05 USA KWHN Fort Smith AR w id and wx " ... Now - Newstalk 16-50 KWHN Oklahoma weather - Good evening - Your official 'K-WHN' forecast ... " fair peak (GD)

1650 0315 27/07/05 USA KCNZ Cedar Falls IA in EE w id as "16-50 The Fan KCNZ" weak (GD)

1660 0454 26/07/05 USA WWRU NJ. Id in EE at 0200, later in Korean.poor-fair (all)

1660 0405 28/07/05 USA WCNZ Marco Island FL in EE w religious pr, 'Relevant Radio' slogan, poor (GD&VS)

1660 0025 26/07/05 PUERTO RICO WGIT Canóvanas. In SS - 'El Gigante' (all) 1

1670 0229 27/07/05 USA WMWR Dry Branch GA in EE w ann and id: " ... Listen to the 'Radio Factor' with Bill O'Riley - every day from noon 'till two - Talk Radio 16-70 WMWR ... " poor (GD&VS)

1680 0558 26/07/05 USA WDSS Ada MI (tentative) w pops, very poor - (GD)

1690 0259 27/07/05 USA WWAA Avondale Estates in EE w "the 16-90 AM forecast" wx rpt and id, poor (GD&VS)

1700 0402 26/07/05 USA KVNS Brownsville TX in EE w CBS news, fair with good peaks (GD&VS)

6350 0539 27/07/05 HAWAII AFN Pearl Harbour. V Clear - 18,500 KM'S away. (JP)

6532 1609 26/07/05 HAWAII SAN FRANCISCO AIRADIO Honolulu working various aircraft (JP)

"Official" sunrise at Seefontein was 0541UTC and sunset 1605 UTC.

Seefontein position S32 deg 39 min 6.7 sec, E18 deg 15 min 59.7 sec

Propagation average: Solar flux 85, sunspot 23, A index 15, K index 3. (Jan Alvestad's website)

Receivers: Drake R8A (VS) Yaesu FRG-7 (GD) Icom IC-756 PRO III modified for MW (JP)

## **Test: KIWA MW LOOP vs. 1000FT/300M beverage**

By John Plimmer

This time I took much more trouble to compare my Kiwa against the beverage. Most of the time the Kiwa was better to much better than the beverage, which was well set, nice and straight and elevated on average about four foot above ground. The beverage was aligned to Australia and "over the shoulder" to central U.S.A., whilst the Kiwa favoured an alignment pointing to Florida.

Although the Kiwa was overall better, there were some notable exceptions when the beverage was spectacularly better. It was possible with the scope on the Icom 756 to analyse why the Kiwa was better. A notable example analysed was 555 St. Kitts, Virgin Islands. This weak station was badly affected by splatter from a local station, 567 Cape Talk R. Vince's Drake R8A was badly affected by this splatter over the weak St. Kitts, but my Icom was not. Analysis on the Icom spectrum scope showed that the fault was with the 567 TX splatter coming in on the beverage antenna, but when the Kiwa was switched in and the regenerative circuit optimised, then the splatter was greatly reduced and St. Kitts much more readable as a result.

Another experiment was listening to the low power TX from Mauritius relaying BBC on 1575. It was



much clearer on the Kiwa as the scope showed the ability of the Kiwa to reduce the static coming in on the beverage, which was making the signal barely readable. The Kiwa was able to reduce the static and the regenerative circuit was able to enhance the signal to an acceptable readability.

"No!" said Vince and Gary, the Kiwa is able to optimise the direction better than the beverage, so to satisfy them I set the Kiwa on the same bearing as the beverage and the Kiwa was still hands down more readable and better.

# PRE-AMP PEREGRINATIONS

with John H. Bryant and Mark Connelly, WA1ION, July 2005

Adventures with RF Pre-Amps by *Advanced Receiver Research* and *DX Engineering*

## JOHN'S EXPERIENCE

For many years, I have been ambivalent about using RF preamplifiers in my receiving chain.... I have felt that, most of the time, they only amplify both the noise and the signal equally, accomplishing nothing but generating more movement on my S-meter. However, in recent years, my ideas have been changing. I was first introduced to modern pre-amps by Don Nelson, when he used the highly regarded preamps from Advanced Receiver Research (AR2) to more than overcome the inherent losses in our 8-way antenna splitters at the Grayland DXpedition site.

When I began experimenting with relatively small-sized flags and pennant antennas, I found that having some pre-amplification often resulted in a better signal, with more recovered audio. Naturally, I adopted the AR2 unit

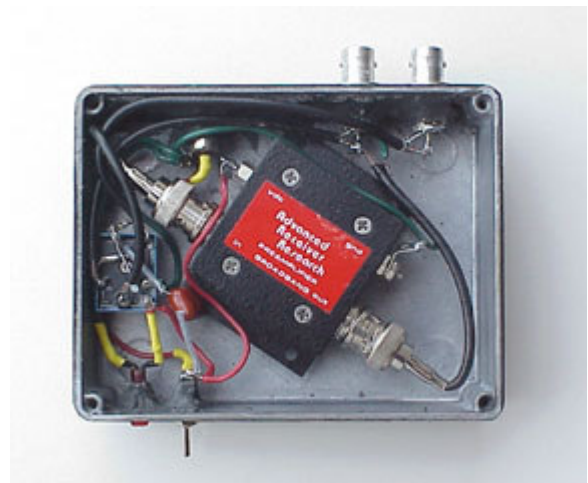
<http://www.advancedreceiver.com/page5.html> .

(Special Frequency Range, \$79.95 USD) Truth be told, I found it cumbersome to insert the AR2 unit in my receiving outfit.... For DC power, this pre-amp required hardwiring rather than the normal coaxial power plug. Further, and more importantly, the AR2 preamp had neither a power switch nor a bypass relay.... It was either in the circuit or it was out...

taking a major operation of lead-in switching just to add or subtract it from incoming signals.



I decided that what I really wanted was a pre-amp of the quality of the AR2 unit that could stay in the receiver chain all the time, but which I could invoke or remove from the actual receiving circuit with the flip of a switch. Truth be known, I would rather DX without a pre-amp, but when the signal is in the mud or fading away at local dawn, I wanted to be able to flip a switch and "kick it in the butt" with 10-20 dB of preamplification. If that kick helped, I'd leave it in the line; if not, it would come right back out. I finally went so far as to put one of the AR2 amps in a larger cast aluminum box along with a bypass relay, LED power indicator, power switch and coaxial power plug. That amounted to about \$30.00 of additional parts and around 6 to 8 hours of bench time, but it worked like a charm!!! I was quickly addicted and found the AR2 pre-amp more useful than I expected. I even found that it would improve signal to noise ratios on my beverage antennas, but only at band fade.



As luck would have it, when I returned to my favorite DXpedition haunts in the Northwest this spring, I was horrified to find that the AR2 pre-amp was deader than the proverbial doornail. I'm not quite sure what happened, but I doubt that it was the fault of the AR2 unit; the ones at Grayland have been performing like Trojans for years, with nary a single failure. Unfortunately, my long-time



spare AR2 preamp is sitting on my work bench at our other home in Oklahoma, 2250 miles to our southeast!

Recently, I noticed that Mark Connelly, well-known designer of homebrew phasers and pre-amps, had favorably mentioned a new commercial unit in several venues: the RPA-1 by DX Engineering. If Mark liked it, I thought that I would give it a look on the web:

<http://www.dxengineering.com/Parts.asp?ID=210&PLID=107&SecID=32&DeptID=12&PartNo=D XE-RPA-1>

I was very impressed! The description of the amp started out:

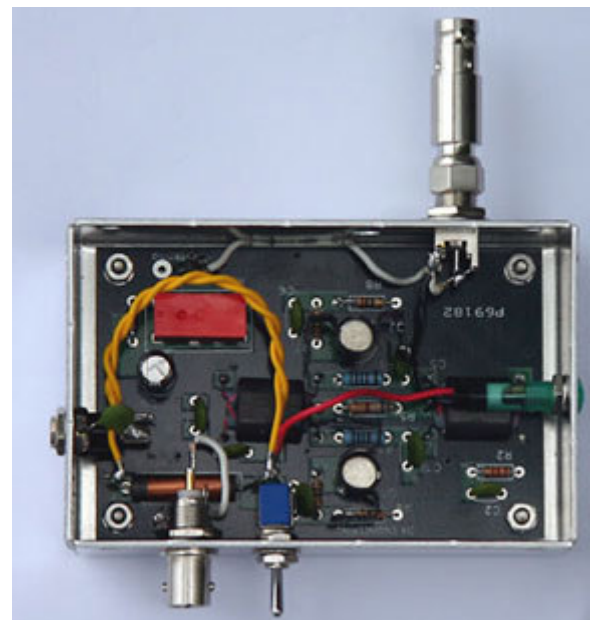
**This is the best HF low-noise amplifier available. The RPA-1 is optimized for 0.3-35 MHz operating range. Its push-pull amplifier design and robust components enable it to with stand high signal levels and operate when you need it most.**

Wow! Making that kind of statement in the small community of radio enthusiasts means one of two things. Either a) the company is totally unscrupulous or b) the gear is really great!

As I read further, I continued to be impressed. Beside the push-pull design and an internal by-pass relay, the amp came with an extensive manual that also outlined several easy modifications which would allow the user to *reduce* the gain in stages, if necessary for a particular application. Unfortunately, since the RPA-1 is designed for mounting either at the operator's position or at the feed point of the antenna, the unit did not come with either a power switch or an LED power indicator. Also, since the unit was apparently intended for those radio amateurs who use 75 ohm feed line, the antenna input and output ports were F-type connectors, supplemented by paralleled RCA jacks (!!!) Like all communications receivers and most listener-DXers, long ago, I committed to 50 ohm feed line and, in my case, BNC-connectors.

Happily, I knew that the hole-sizes required for chassis-mount F and BNC connectors were identical. So too, the hole sizes for the supplied RCA jacks, my mini-toggle switches and many LED holders. So, it looked like I could easily modify the RPA-1 to fit my exact needs. Despite the price of just over \$100 USD, I decided to order two of the RPA-1s. I could modify one and then A/B test the two of them to try to make sure that my modifications hadn't degraded the performance noticeably.

Unfortunately, I learned as I began the modifications that the two heat sinks on the large push-pull transistors and the length of the LED power indicator housing that I had on hand conflicted with each other, so I could not use either of the existing 1/4" holes for the LED. One of the quarter-inch RCA-jack holes was used, as planned, for the mini-toggle switch, and I drilled a new hole in the end of the aluminum housing for the LED power indicator.



The electrical modifications were minor and very easy, though I had to be cautious when waving a hot soldering iron around in such tight quarters. The only real electrical change was remove the lead of the copper-colored RF choke from the incoming +12 VDC on the back side of the power jack; the SPST mini-toggle switch was inserted in the circuit at that point (the twisted pair of yellow wires.) When the switch is open, no power flows to the amp and the relay passes the signal through, unamplified; with the switch closed, the circuit is energized. The LED that I used was a Radio Shack unit that comes with an integral resistor to control the current properly for use in 12 volt circuits. It was connected between the switched terminal of the new power switch and chassis ground.

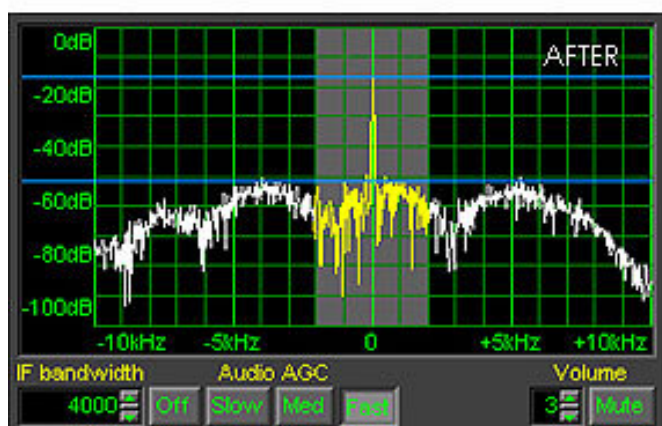
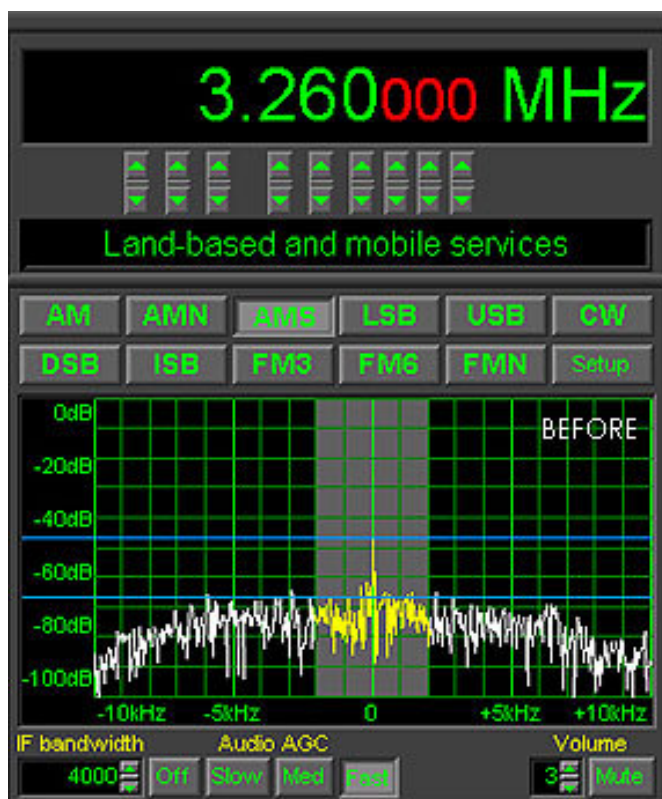
The two accompanying photos of the RPA-1 are actually of my second unit, partly modified, after I had completed the A/B testing of one modified vs. one unmodified RPA-1 (a resounding success.) The Antenna Input port (upper side in both photos) is the factory-supplied F-connector with a Type-F to BNC Adapter attached. On the lower side of both photos, you will note the new BNC connector. Possibly you can see the new power switch and its bright yellow wiring and the green LED (red and black wires.) The red rectangle is the bypass relay and the two bright circles on the right are the push-pull amplifier transistors. You may just be able to discern the black heat sinks on these two transistors, as well.

## IN USE

The only receiver that I have available to me right now is the WinRADIO 303EP “black box” receiver. It has both an excellent S-meter marked in dBm and an active Spectrum Scope which can be read in dB. Those two instruments clearly indicate that the RPA-1, both modified and stock, provides at least the 16 dB boost stated in the manufacturer’s specs. I don’t have the sophisticated instruments needed to test for the noise added to a circuit by pre-amps. However, I have listened carefully to both strong and weak, threshold-level signals while flipping the RPA-1 in and out of the circuit. I can’t hear any added noise.

The two illustrations on the right are parts of screen shots of the WinRADIO 303EP while tuned to Radio Madang in Papua New Guinea one recent dawn. The horizontal blue lines and the words “Before” and “After” were added by me later.

The noise level in the unamplified (BEFORE) example is -67 dB, and it rises to about -51 dB with the amplifier turned on, a 16 dB improvement. The same flip of the switch raised the signal strength from -47 dB to -17 dB. I rush to add that some of the increase in the noise figure was due to a momentary surge in propagation conditions. The improvement in the amount of signal cresting above the noise can also, partly, be attributed to that source. However, I have yet to tune a weak signal on



this antenna system that has not shown a very noticeable improvement in the quality and intelligibility the audio. This is true as I tune either MW or the Tropical Bands.

I look forward to testing the RPA-1 coupled to my 65' x 16' portable KAZ during a future DXpedition to Grayland. I doubt that the arrangement will outperform our much-vaunted Beverages, but it might get close. In the meantime, I'm darn sure glad that I bought two of these beauties!

## MARK'S EXPERIENCE:

Since I often use my RPA-1 at a position closer to the antenna (away from the operating bench), I made a very simple modification that lets me send 12 VDC up the coaxial line when I want the amplifier on, and no DC up the line when I want bypass. DC is fed onto the coaxial line at the other end: the cable's connection at the DXP-6 phasing unit (["http://chowdanet.com/markc/WEB2005A/DXP-6.ZIP"](http://chowdanet.com/markc/WEB2005A/DXP-6.ZIP)).

I took a 1.5 mH inductor and wired it from the "RCVR OUTPUT" F connector to the DC power input connector. The inductor used was Bourns SDR1005-152J, Mouser stock number 652-SDR1005-152J. It's a small surface mount piece resembling a miniature hockey puck. I used short pieces of insulated wire to connect the inductor (choke) between the normal DC-in jack and the "RCVR OUTPUT" F jack. I cut the direct connection between the "RCVR OUTPUT" F jack and the otherwise redundant adjacent RCA jack. I put a 0.1 uF capacitor from the F to RCA jack so that the RCA "RCVR OUTPUT" jack can be a pure RF connection not carrying DC. This would be used when power is being applied at the normal DC jack of the RPA-1.

The inductor allows DC on the cable to power the amplifier even when it is being fed from an operating position possibly hundreds of feet away. I usually use the amplifier with my car-rooftop antennas on beach DXpeditions or with my Flag antenna at home.

I just use BNC to F adaptors at both the ANTENNA INPUT and RCVR OUTPUT jacks. If I power the RPA-1 at its own DC input jack, rather than up the coax, I use a BNC to RCA jack for connecting to the (RCA) RCVR OUTPUT jack that is now capacitively coupled to the (F) RCVR OUTPUT jack.

Chris Black (N1CP) also has an RPA-1 that he keeps near his receiver. I suggested that he go to the hardware store and get one of those inline switches typically used on lamp cords. This switch is now on the cord going from the wall wart to his RPA-1 DC input. No alteration of his RPA-1 was required for the way he uses it in his shack.

I should also note, although the low end stated for the RPA-1 is given as 300 kHz, it can still provide usable gain lower in frequency. With the Flag antenna at Chris Black's QTH in S. Yarmouth, I got about 8 dB of gain at 150 kHz, 10 or 11 dB at 200 kHz, and better than 12 dB at 250 kHz. Usage, therefore, is still possible for the typical frequency range of long wave broadcasters and non-directional beacons.

## A CAUTION

Internal modifications to the RPA-1 like those noted in the first section of the article will likely void whatever warranty that DX Engineering offers with their fine equipment. If you plan to modify an RPA-1, it would likely be very prudent to run the amp under power for 12 or 24 hours first. Most early failures in solid state gear occur in those first few hours. Should one of those rare early failures occur, having the RPA-1 fail before modifying it will let you return the unit to DX Engineering for warranty work.

# NORTH AMERICAN NEWS

✉ 20 Ryehill Park, Kirklington, Carlisle CA6 6BH

with Barry Davies

e-mail: [na-news@mwcircle.org](mailto:na-news@mwcircle.org)

Welcome to another round up of what's been happening on the North America AM dial. Thanks this month to: - NERW, ABDX, IRCA, Ohio Media Watch (welcome to the column), Radio News and Notes, North American Radio Logbook, Upper Midwest Broadcasting and NRC [Also SW-USA = Steve Whitt on New England road Trip July-August].



- 630 CFCY** Charlottetown PE. This country music station has requested a move to 95.1 FM
- 690 WOKV** Jacksonville FL. This "Coast to Coast AM" station has been authorised to lift its night power to 25,000 watts. The beam will be due East. Programme Director Mike Dorwart says the new night power should be on by the end of the year. (ed)
- 720 CHTN** Charlottetown PE. This oldies station has requested a move to 100.3 FM.
- 890 WAMG** Dedham MA. Former SS broadcaster "mega 890" has been sold along with sister station 1400 WLLH. Both stations are now taking the ESPN sports radio format. (Art Folsom IRCA); switched format early August [SW-USA]
- 950 WPEN** Philadelphia PA. This oldies station is now testing its new 21,000 watts night signal. The down side is the beam, which is South East, so not sure if it will make it to the UK with a decent signal?
- 970 CFXE** Edson AB. New calls here replacing CJYR. The new station's slogan is "The Fox playing all kinds of stuff." (Tim Hall ABDX) The old CJYR was a pop station. The new CFXE has applied to move to the FM band! (ed)
- 1020 KAXX** Eagle River AK. This listed sports talk station is currently off air. (Bruce Portzer)
- 1060 CKMX** Calgary AB. All change as the station drops its long running nostalgia format and flips to classic country. Their slogan runs, "Classic Country AM 10-60."
- 1090 WILD** Boston MA; now "Classic Soul all day on 10-90 WILD" [SW-USA]
- 1110 KAGV** Big Lake AK. We reported the sign on of this 10kW religious station last January. The station is currently silent. This follows a flood at the transmitter building which damaged equipment. No restart date has been announced. (Bruce Portzer)
- 1200 CI \* \*** Vancouver BC. The Canadian authorities have authorised a new 25kW station for the city's South Asian communities. The main languages will be Hindustani and Punjabi. No start date announced yet. (Deane McIntyre) The NRC report that the main transmitter lobe will be Northwest to protect WOAI San Antonio TX.
- 1200 WKOX** Framingham MA; has switched to "Progressive Talk" August; change first anticipated in this column in Oct 2004 [SW-USA]
- 1320 CKEC** New Glasgow NS. This pop/country station wants to move to 94.1 FM.
- 1350 WARF** Akron OH. "Radio Free Ohio" has new calls. (ex WTOU) They are also taking the Air America talk network.
- 1350 WSMB** New Orleans LA. The talk network has switched from Coast to Coast AM (which remains on sister station 870 WWL) over to Air America Radio.
- 1430 WXKS** Everett MA; has switched to "Progressive Talk" August; change first anticipated in this column in Oct 2004 [www.am1430wxks.com](http://www.am1430wxks.com) [SW-USA]
- 1470 WLOA** Farrell PA. The station flips format from Catholic talk to playing oldies. Their rather strange slogan is "Wexie 107 goodtime oldies." Strange because WEXC

- 107.1 FM no longer carries goodtime oldies!
- 1470 KWSL** Sioux City IA. This station drops Fox sports radio. New format is SS oldies with slogan "La Presciosa.". Their website still lists Fox sports. www.1470kws.com
- 1490 WMRC** Milford MA; moves from adult Contemporary music to "Music from the 70s 80s and 90s on First Class radio" [SW-USA]
- 1590 WSMN** Nashua NH. "I'm not dead" said Krusty the clown in a recent Simpson's show. May be the same can be said for WSMN? The station closed down in January 2005. The owner of 900 WSNH has bought the 1590 WSMN licence. The new owner plans to have the station back on air by the end of August 2005 // with WSNH's sports format. Later WSMN will have a news/information format.
- 1620 WJRZ** Toms River NJ. The FCC have authorised the station with 10,000/1,000 watts. No sign on date has been announced.
- 1670 WTDY** Madison WI. New slogan is "Madison 16-70. The pulse." (ex Talk radio 16-70.)

In CANADA, the big news is the lockout of about 5,000 CBC employees that's getting underway just as we go to press Sunday night (14/08/05). Expect dramatically curtailed CBC services - a single national morning show, for instance - until this latest labour issue is resolved. (NERW)

## Hollywood, Radio Finally Part Waves

For some Saturday 13th August 2005 was a dark day in Hollywood California! On this date the last radio station left the Columbia Square broadcast centre in Hollywood. The station was 1070 KNX which has been in Hollywood for 85 years. Their new home is on Wilshire Boulevard. In its heyday the Columbia Square broadcast centre was home to 68 radio stations. In today's industry stations are mainly part of big corporate chains. To save money corporate radio consolidates engineering and administrative jobs and puts them in purpose built properties. The Columbia Square broadcast centre was built in 1938 and is not really suitable for modern radio operation. The way radio in the USA operates today would find it hard to justify a large studio able to seat an audience of around 1,000 people! The building itself is likely to be demolished next year. (Kevin Redding ABDX)

FOX News Radio is likely to become the top of the hour newscast you will hear over night! ABC news has already been replaced on many "Clear Channel" company stations. The service started two years ago with one minute newscasts to affiliated stations. Fox News Radio is now offering longer newscasts from their Manhattan NYC headquarters. The Clear Channel company deal will put Fox News Radio on about 500 stations across the USA. Fox News Radio is owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. The Fox News Radio network is also offering the Tony Snow and Alan Colmes talk shows. Sadly a Fox News Radio affiliate stations list is not on the web. From observations and comments in articles about the Fox News Network here are some stations your OM recognises. 1040 WHO Des Moines IA, 1100 WTAM Cleveland OH, 1110 KFAB Omaha NE, 1130 WISN Milwaukee WI, 1180 WHAM Rochester NY, 1280 WVOX Moorhead MN, 1430 WXKS Everett MA and 1700 KVNS Brownsville TX.



Rumours are circulating in the USA that the Radio Disney network may be sold off! The Wall Street Journal puts a price of \$1.5B to \$1.75B for the 71 stations in the network. The rumours started following changes at the top of the Disney Corporation. Also the "for sale" signs would go up at Disney owned ABC stations like WJR, WBAP and WABC. (John Sampson ABDX)

That just about clears my "In Tray" for another month so I'll sign off with best wishes for some good DX all around The Circle.

Barry

# CENTRAL AMERICAN NEWS

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with Tore Larsson

## Bahamas

This seems to be another case where the "official call letters" don't match popular usage. The Z--- prefix was the British Commonwealth allocation, e.g. ZFY-660 British Guiana, ZQI-720 Cross Roads, Jamaica, among others as well. On becoming independent, each of these areas got their own prefix allocation from the ITU, and Bahamas got C6.

I saw recently where this 810 station was listed as having the callsign C6B3, so presumably the 1540 Nassau station is C6B1 and I imagine they still use "ZNS" unofficially for popular usage, imagine the public confusion if they tried to change it now.  
Bob Foxworth, NRC-AM via DXLD

## Cuba

530 R. Rebelde has recently increased its power at times, especially when R. Martí is up and flying.

Reported all along the Florida Gulf coast.

W. Curt Deegan, Boca Raton, FL via DXLD

## México

580 Radio Canal 58 c/o El Periodico El Occidental located at Calzada Independencia Sur 324, Colonia Centro, 44100 GUADALAJARA. Operating at 0600-0100 hours local time (UTC -5)

Dario Monferini visiting station

690 XETRATijuana will be going Spanish soon, dropping their current adult standards and "The Lounge" format.

Gary Larson via IRCA's "soft" DX-Monitor 5.7.2005

1240 XERO R. Recuerdo, Aguascalientes, ex 1260 kHz

Jim Solatie, ARC

1440 XEABCJ (Ex XECCC) Radio ABC 1440 kHz (ex Radio Guadalajara) new address c/o El Periodico El Occidental located at Calzada Independencia Sur 324, Colonia Centro, 44100 GUADALAJARA. operating at 0600-0100 hours local time (UTC -5)

Dario Monferini visiting station

1470 XEHI R. Fórmula, Cd. Miguel Alemán, new name

Jim Solatie, ARC

1700 XEPE Tecate to business talk?

The SD Union reported this weekend that XEPE (or XEKTT?)-1700 in Tecate will stop its alternating simulcasts of XEPRS-1090 and XEBCE-105.7 (mostly XEPRS) and switch to a business talk format in about 2 weeks. XETRA-690 is still "Fabulous 6-90, The Lounge" (the old KLAC-570 format) and showing no signs of switching to Spanish as had been rumored a month ago. Tim Hall via ABDX via DXLD 1.8.2005

## Puerto Rico

960 WCHQ Quebradillas, new format: CHR (= Top 40 Rock)

NRC-AMS V72/26

1020 WOQI Adjuntas - CP for U1 1/0.28 kW is on the air

NRC-AMS V72/27

1240 WALO Humacao applies to move to a new 180' tower at N18-09-17 W65-46-16NRC-AMS V72/26

1560 WRSJ Bayamón, new format: CHR (=Top 40 Rock)

NRC-AMS V72/26

### Radio Isla stations:

990 WPRA Mayagüez

1320 WSKN San Juan

1490 WDEP Ponce

1550 WKFE Yauco

Lars Bygdén, ARC; Manuel Méndez via HCDX

## US Virgin Islands

FCC has revoked the license of WSTX 970, Christiansted for violations including non-functioning EAS equipment, and failures to respond to FCC correspondence.  
NRC-AMS V72/27 13.6.2005

Applications reinstated: 1690, NEW, Charlotte Amalie --- application reinstated for U1 10000/1000 at N18-18-57, W64-53-02, diplexed into the WGOD-1090 tower. Bill Hale, AM Switch, NRC DX News July 11

# SOUTH AMERICAN NEWS

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with Tore B. Vik

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## Argentina

- 630 LU4 R. Patagonia – Web: [www.lu4radiopatagonia.tk](http://www.lu4radiopatagonia.tk) – E-mail: [lu4radiocomodoro@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:lu4radiocomodoro@yahoo.com.ar)  
Amplitudmodulada
- 1010 R. Antártid new unlicensed station from Monte Grande, Cornachioni in ConDig  
1130 R. Tropicana from 1620 DXing.info  
1240 Cadena 1 – new station in Buenos Aires - ☎011 4999 3333 Cornachioni in ConDig  
1240 R. Vida, Monte Grande has moved to 1620 Cornachioni in ConDig  
1620 R. Tropicana moved to 1130 DXing.info  
1620 R. Vida, Monte Grande from 1240 DXing.info  
1620 According to "Directorio de Emisoras de Onda Media de la República Argentina" (GRA),  
the following stations are operating on 1620:  
R. Tropicana (Cadena Vida) - inactive  
R. Vida, Monte Grande, BA – ex 1240  
R. Italia, Villa Martelli, BA
- 1650 RDB "La Radio de la Bendición" – new station - ✉ Carlos Pellegrini, Calle 312 No 3048,  
Quilmes Oeste, Provincia de Buenos Aires – also on 95,3 MHz FM Cornachioni in ConDig

## Bolivia

- 1242.5 R. Bendita Trinidad y Espirito Santo, El Alto, Departamento La Paz Malm via DXLD

## Brazil

- 550 ZYK696 R. Boa Vontade (SP04) – ex R. Globo Cláudio R. Moraes  
580 ZYJ465 Nossa Rádio, Rio de Janeiro (RJ03) – ex R. Relógio Cláudio R. Moraes  
590 ZYJ240 R. Difusora (PR38) – ex 1030 Cláudio R. Moraes  
650 ZYJ202 R. Banda B Norte Pioneiro – new station – 10/0.5 kW - ✉ Rua Otavio Rodrigues Ferreira Filo  
1303, 86390-000 Cambará, PR – Email: [nortepioneiro@radiobandab.com.br](mailto:nortepioneiro@radiobandab.com.br) Beden via Grimm  
660 ZYK656 R. Nossa Voz (SP112) – ex R. Mundial Cláudio R. Moraes  
690 R. Dif. Londrina (PR13) – Web.: [www.radiodifusoradelondrina.com.br](http://www.radiodifusoradelondrina.com.br) – Email:  
[radiodifusora690@aol.com](mailto:radiodifusora690@aol.com) stn  
760 ZYJ343 R. Cacique (PR12) - ✉ Rua Saldanha Marinho 1581, Apto. B – Centro, 85010 290 Guarapuava  
☎42 622 7171 Pedroso in ConDig  
870 R. Globo, Linhares - ex CP Célio Romais  
890 ZYJ755 R. Bandeirantes (SC18) – ex R. Santa Catarina Cláudio R. Moraes  
890 ZYK690 R. Canção Nova (SP62) – 24h ✉ Rua 13 de Maio, Bairro Paraíso, 01327-002 São Paulo stn  
1090 R. AM Banda 1 (PR171) - ex 1450 Cláudio R. Moraes  
1170 ZYJ334 R. Entre Rios (PR90) – ex 1420 Cláudio R. Moraes  
1250 ZYI218 R. Nova Estação - ex R. CBN Célio Romais  
1250 ZYK702 R. Canção Nova (SP133) – ex R. Difusora Cláudio R. Moraes  
1270 ZYH753 R. Brasil Central (GO30) - ✉ Rua SC-1 No. 299, Parque Santa Cruz, 74860-270 Goiânia  
Jerry Berg via RNM via DXLD  
1370 R. Canção Nova (PR80) – ex R. Independência Claudio Moraes  
1470 R. Máis, São José – transmitting only music and no IDs Cláudio R. Moraes  
1510 R. Athenas Paulista, Jaboticabal – ex CP Cláudio R. Moraes  
1570 R. Sociedade do Espigão (RO19) – Email. [radiosociedade@centranet.com.br](mailto:radiosociedade@centranet.com.br) stn  
1600 ZYH464 R. Radiovox, Muritiba (BA45) – ex 1580 Cláudio R. Moraes

## Colombia

- 920 HJJN Ondas del Mayo, Pasto. E-mail: [ondasdelmayo@latinmail.com](mailto:ondasdelmayo@latinmail.com) Yimber Gaviria  
1250 HJFV R. Viva, Pasto, new address: Calle 15 N° 14-24, Pasto. E-mail: [sannicolas@organizacionsolarte.com](mailto:sannicolas@organizacionsolarte.com)  
Yimber Gaviria

1350 HJEN R. Armonía, Cali, ex R. Fabulosa Björn Malm, ARC  
1550 HJLT Emisora Revivir en Cristo 1550, Cali, is the name of this station. Fundación e Iglesia Cristiana  
 Revivir en Cristo, New address: Cra 13 N° 10-62, Cali, Valle. Tel: +57 2 8804660. Yimber Gaviria

## Ecuador

620 HCHA2Ondas Quevedeñas, Quevedo, ex 630 kHz Björn Malm, ARC

## Paraguay

920 R. Nacional – Web: www.rnpy.com – E-mail: info@radionpy.com Adán Mur

## Perú

880 R.Union has a new website – <http://12.dizinc.com/~union/> Tetsuya Hirahara  
900 La Mega, Lima – ex Ke Buena (ref SAND 25.04.05) Arnaldo Slaen  
1240 R.Cumbre – E.mail: radiocumbrefm@hotmail.com stn

## Uruguay

1280 R. Tacuarembó – Web: www.radiotacuarembó.com  
 E-mail: radiotacuarembó@radiotacuarembó.com stn  
1420 R. Felicidad – Web: www.paysandu.com/radiofelicidad/inicial.htm –  
 E-mail: radiofelicidad@adinet.com.uy stn  
1520 R. Acuarela – Web: www.radioacuarela.com – E-mail: correo@radioacuarela.com stn  
1580 R. San Salvador – Web: www.personales.com/uruguay/sanjosedemayoy/radiosansalvador/?stn

## Venezuela

1450 YVKJ Sonera 14-50, Catia La Mar is heard with Radio María programs.  
 Adán González, Catia La Mar via DXLD

## Precision Frequencies

Here are some recent measurements by Bjorn Malm (Ecuador) & Tony Mann (Australia):

1153.51 Ayabaca Radio, Piura, region (Perú)  
 1249.94 HJFV R. Viva,Pasto (Colombia)  
 1310.15 HCGB R. Nacional, Espejo, Quito (Ecuador)  
 1349.90 HJEN Radio Armonia, Cali (Colombia)  
 1469.991 CPN Radio, Lima, Peru  
 1540.206 Radio Sariri, Escoma, Bolivia  
 1542.429 Radio Bendita Trinidad y Espirito Santo,El Alto  
 1559.78 Estéreo Vida, Panamá City, Panama  
 1570.247 Radio Julcán, La Libertad,. Peru  
 1579.829 HCLF1 Ecos de Orellana, Machachi (Ecuador)



# WORLD NEWS

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## Albania

Since in the morning of July 3, 2005 Fllaka MW radiostation is totally off air as follows:

Radio Tirana: 5 hours 15 min /day  
VOA: 2 hours/day  
DW: ½ hour/day  
TWR: 2 hours 53 min/day  
CRI: 10 hours 57 min/day

The above interruptions are due to missing water for transmitter tubes - as reported from Fllaka radiostation. (*Drita Cico, ARTV-Head of Monitoring Center, RADIO TIRANA, 07 July, 2005, via Rudolf Krumm, A-DX, via Wolfgang Bueschel*).

## Algeria / Western Sahara

"1550" kHz (Tindouf, ALG?) and 7470" kHz (Rabuni site) are the wrong fqs. (stubbornly) being announced at the beginning of the 2300-2400 programme in Castilian... again, it remains to be ascertained whether the Arabic section also announces the same mistaken fqs. The actual ones are 700 kHz and 7460 (back from a short-lived move to 7466 kHz) (reported. 55444 [S9+35dB and almost no QRN, so powerhouse-like] as I write this, 1830 UT). On occasions, a silent carrier on 1550.2 kHz is detected evenings: Polisario Front testing? It wouldn't surprise at all as they used to drift around 1550 kHz. (*Carlos Gonçaves, Portugal (31 Jul 2005), via Ydun Ritz's Medium Wave Info <http://mediumwave.info/news.htm>*).

## American Samoa

580 KJAL-AM was off-air for 5 months with cyclone damage, returned to air early June 2005 using reduced power of 2.2kW. Presumably this has also delayed move to 630.

648 WVUV-AM has been on-air during 2004-2005 with very low power. Application for STA in 2004 was lost by FCC, so WVUV has asked for reinstatement of move to 720 and existing call letters.

WVUV-AM [1] NZ DX Times [July 2005 issue] carries article on current WVUV situation and some background on the station as well as station logos. [2] 'This is WVUV' is an article featuring recollections from WVUV DJ and available on-line now at [www.radioheritage.net](http://www.radioheritage.net) in 'more articles' section index. [3] Memorabilia, photos, airchecks etc of WVUV-AM wanted. To help create on-line story of the station [original studios burned down in 1998 with all old records], both WVUV and Radio Heritage Foundation welcome all available materials. Email: [info@radioheritage.net](mailto:info@radioheritage.net) or PO Box 14339, Wellington, New Zealand. (*All articles - Warm regards, David Ricquish, [www.radioheritage.net](http://www.radioheritage.net) via Steve Whitt, 19 July 2005*).

## Armenia

Observations on the new frequency 1377 kHz: 1600-1700 Voice of Russia "Kanal Sodruzhestvo" in Russian; 1700 break. 1720-1825 Trans world Radio with 1725-1730 Caucasian language; 1740-1808 Persian; 1750-1800 simultaneously in English / Persian; 1810-1825 Kurdish. The 1810 Kurdish was parallel 864 kHz (*Rumen Pankov, 10 July 05, via BDXC-UK*).

## Australia

It didn't take 'Billybroadcasting' long to incorporate his new radio property into the 2SM Supernetwork. So as you will hear Port Macquarie / Kempsey (531kHz), Coff's Harbour (639kHz) & Orange (1089 kHz) and are now parallel with the others using 2SM as the hub. I guess the elevator music has been eliminated off of the hard drive. (*Cheers, Chris Martin, Australia via the Australia - NZ - Asia yahoogroup 10 July 2005*).

2PB Canberra operating on 1440 kHz has now vacated the frequency and has moved to FM. 1440 kHz is now clear in Australia. For the time being. (*David Onley via DXING.info 14 July 2005*).

The frequency agile transmitter of Radio Italia, Brisbane has now changed from 1629kHz to in band 1053kHz with 400 watts. (*Cheers Chris Martin via the Australian - NZ - Asia MW group (25 July 2005), via Steve Whitt*).

## Bangladesh

Bangladesh Betar Has started a New MW Station at Bandorban under callsign Bangladesh Betar Bandorban. Though it's started regular programs, still it's waiting for the Govt. official Announcement as you know BB is a Govt. organisation. Here is the details :

Frequency : 1431 kHz.....UTC ; 0600-0800.....Power : 10 KW

(*Ashik Eqbal Tokon, Rajshahi, Bangladesh, via HCDX Digest, Vol 31, #9, 09 Jul 2005*).

## Belarus

Kanal Kultura 0300-2100 1125 kHz (150 kW). (*Sergey Alekseychik, Grodno, Belarus via "open\_dx" via Rus\_DX 17 Jul 2005 via DX Listening Digest 5-117*).

## Belgium

The people who live in the vicinity of the VRT transmitter masts along the Drijpikkelstraat in Wolvertem are disgusted by the uncertainty. For years they have had to put up with all kinds of electrical equipment acting up in the strangest ways and now they have begun to wonder about the health risks. Now that the VRT have applied for an environmental licence for the next twenty years the neighbours are angrily demanding clarity once and for all. "We want a public meeting about the contents of the licence and the health risks".

The VRT uses the transmitter masts for the broadcasts of Radio 1 and Radio Vlaanderen International on Medium Wave. They have been along the Drijpikkelstraat for thirty years. (*Media Magazine, The Netherlands. Translated from the BDXC Bulletin, via Chris Stacey, BDXC-UK*).

On three nights during August VRT kept 927kHz on air all night broadcasting Radio 1. This was to provide coverage whilst FM transmitters in Egem were off air for maintenance. (*Herman Boel*)

## Benin

Trans World Radio staff stand in absolute awe at how Christians around the globe have responded to TWR's drive to build a new medium wave transmitting station in Benin. God has moved people from all walks of life to pray for and give financially to the project. Although the project isn't fully funded yet, the wheels are in motion and things are happening.

Many who follow TWR's ministry in Africa will remember Garth and Fiona Kennedy. The Kennedy's supervised the building of the Côte d'Ivoire national office even amidst civil unrest in during 2003. Now they are in Benin, facing the challenge of building a transmitting site amidst a people and culture with which they are not familiar.

The beginning of June saw the shipping of a tower and small bulldozer and tractor to Benin. When this arrives, the containers will need to clear customs and be transported by road to Parakou and the building site.

While Garth awaits the arrival of the equipment, he, with a team of local workers, has set about clearing the land where the building and tower will be located. They have also begun digging the footings for the building. A well has been dug for water and materials for the construction are being sourced. A fence is also being built around the property. Please continue to pray for this project. (<http://www.twrafrica.org/0060.asp> via Steve Whitt, 20 Jul 2005 - No further update by 20 Aug 2005 - Jeff).

## Finland

"Pirate" Radio 603 AM is currently silent again. License owner Roy Sandgren (Sweden) in the anoraknation forum: "The transmitter of 603 kHz is gone somewhere with [Mike] Spenser. The [m/v] St. Paul is still for sale. [...] I didn't know until 2 days later that the station was off-air. The station went off-air last Sunday and I did get some e-mails about it 2 days later. We are back on air with in 3 months." (Bernd Trutenau-LTU, via Steve Whitt, 12 Aug 2005).

From [www.radio603.info.se](http://www.radio603.info.se): "We are currently off air, since August 1. Planned test transmission with different powers, within the next 3 months". (via Jeff Weston, 20 Aug 2005).

## Georgia - Abkhazia

`Apsua` Radio was spotted at the beginning of its transmission at 02 hours on 1350 kHz, but on the announced frequencies of 9495 and 9535 kHz only carriers were audible until 0220 hours when on both frequencies the program of 1350 kHz started being relayed (*Rumen Pankov, Sofia, Bulgaria, R. Bulgaria DX program Aug 19 via John Norfolk, dxldyg via DXLD*) Previous reporters thought that 9535 was a spur of 9495, both of them somewhat off-frequency. Some items about this have been filed inconsistently under GEORGIA (*gh, DXLD*).

## Germany

A small amendment re Rohrdorf 666: The silent periods of this transmitter are the same as introduced for 828 and 1485 a while ago, i.e. Mon-Fri 2100-0300 (winter 2200-0400), Sat + Sun 2100-0500 (winter 2200-0600). This means that for the first daily transmission hour, still MDR Info will be carried, since SWR cont.ra relays MDR Info Mon-Fri 2100-0400, Sat + Sun 2100-0556 (also herein winter one UT hour later of course).

Noel asked about FM: SWR cont.ra is not on FM, with the small exception of a 300 watts transmitter on the roof of the SWR broadcasting house at Stuttgart (91.5 MHz). Actually SWR was not supposed to produce this sixth program at all, but they rolled it out by declaring it to be a DAB project while putting it on mediumwave (plus satellite for home listening) for a real world audience. So if a listener in southern Baden-Württemberg now wants to listen to the overnight relay of MDR Info and has poor reception on 576 and 1017: Bad luck. And here is a recording of SWR cont.ra wrapping up before 2100, with the described listeners fee lament, an accurate carrier cut and the line generator of one of my neighbours` TV: [http://www.radioeins.de/\\_/meta/sendungen/apparat/050709\\_a1.ram](http://www.radioeins.de/_/meta/sendungen/apparat/050709_a1.ram) (*Kai Ludwig, Germany, July 10, DX Listening Digest 5-113, 10 July 2005*).

New LW Antenna for 500 kW Transmitter Tested with DRM. Deutsche Telekom's Zehlendorf broadcast site north of Berlin has a new LW antenna for transmitting the maximum available power of 500 kW (designed for 1000 kW) of DeutschlandRadio Berlin on 177 kHz. This antenna was designed by TELEFUNKEN SenderSysteme Berlin AG for the upcoming demand of digital

broadcasts, known as DRM for LW, MW and SW.

During the 2003 IFA exhibition in Berlin, broadcasts in DRM have been successfully transmitted from this antenna. At the beginning of the project a grounded mast 357 m high with three guys at five levels existed, which was used to form an antenna with sufficient bandwidth to meet the high requirements of DRM transmission. It was intended that the modifications should have little impact on the static forces. The solution was to arrange a cage of six ropes around the mast with the mast and ropes forming a kind of a folded monopole. The ropes were allowed to sag to a large degree, minimizing the forces on the mast due to wind without producing large variations in the antenna impedance. A minimum number of insulators were needed. Only the additional ropes which held the cage ropes away from the mast were provided with two long rod insulators in parallel (plus a corona ring) bearing a maximum peak voltage of 70 kV for a 1 MW transmitter. All antenna parts were statically grounded. Only short rod insulators were needed for feeding the cage ropes at the bottom near the mast.

The result is an antenna with a convenient impedance ( $29 + j 3$  ohms), a sufficient bandwidth, and negligible sensitivity with respect to wind. TELEFUNKEN SenderSysteme Berlin AG was the first in the world to transmit DRM on Longwave with 500 kW using a transmitter, modulator, and antenna of its own design. The antenna was erected by Radiostroy Moscow/ Berlin. Jochen Huber, Managing Director, will be happy to supply any further information required. We would appreciate receiving a copy of any printed release of this article. (TELEFUNKEN SenderSysteme Berlin AG, Mertensstraße 63, D-13587 Berlin (Spandau), Telefon 030/33978-0, Telefax 030/33978-599, e-Mail [j.huber@tsb-ag.de](mailto:j.huber@tsb-ag.de) [this news is undated on the Telefunken website - none of their Press Releases are dated properly!]) (Steve Whitt, 12 July 2005).

1539 D - Evangeliums Rundfunk, Mainflingen (700\*) - 24h. This has not been 24hrs for a long time according to website: <http://www.erf.de/index.php?node=> (Steve Whitt, 12 July 2005).

On the occasion of the RC World Youth Convention, the regional public broadcaster WDR Cologne will broadcast a special "Weltjugendtags-Radio". The programme will be heard from 15 August 9.00h CEST (7.00 UTC) until 21 August 20.00h CEST (18.00 UTC) on the following frequencies: locally Cologne FM 87,6 MHz, all over Northrhine-Westphalia with an additional coverage of neighbouring states and countries on the mediumwave frequencies Langenberg 720 kHz and Bonn 774 kHz. The special programme is carried 9.00-23.00 Uhr CEST (7.00-21.00 h) while the rest is a relay from WDR 5 and WDR Funkhaus Europa. International QSL-hunters might appreciate the fact, that the special programme will include different languages, including English at the half hour (:30). (Dr. Hj. Biener, via emwg, 04 Aug 2005).

## Guinea

From the logging below it would seem that Guinea has corrected its frequency to be on-channel. For many years it had been on or near 1385.92. 1386.0 RADIO RURALE, LABE, GUI 2329 Full ID just before S/OFF AT 2330 LOCAL LANGUAGE 333 30/6 (Vincent LECLER) (Mark Connelly, WAIION - Billerica, MA, USA, via HCDX Digest, Vol 31, #3, 03 Jul 2005). {I think this is not accurate – Guinea heard on 1386.91kHz since this. – Editor}

## Hungary

Catholic Radio - Lakihegy 810: I understand this to be an additional outlet for Budapest, providing a strong signal to overcome the local noise within the big town. Congestion between the Siófok and Szolnok signals on 1341 could be especially worse in the Budapest area as well. If you don't know the output of the new outlets yet: Lakihegy is 12.3 kW, Siófok 150 kW (Kai Ludwig, via ARC MV-Eko 12 Jul 2005).

## India

All India Radio Siliguri transmitter back on the air after theft. Reports from India say that All India Radio's station at Siliguri, West Bengal, is back on the air after one week of silence following the theft of equipment worth 10 million Rand. The station is heavily guarded, and there are rumours that that members of the police force may have been in league with the criminals, who stole copper components, generator parts and other items. Ten people have been arrested, but their identities have not been disclosed. AIR Siliguri operates on 711 kHz with a 200 kW transmitter, the most powerful in eastern India. (*Radio Netherlands Media Network Weblog, 12 Aug 2005*).

## Indonesia

Indonesia has ordered television and radio broadcasters to sign off for four hours every night as part of a government effort to save energy, according to an official document seen today. Communication and Information Minister Sofyan Jalil, in a decree obtained by the AFP news agency, stipulates that television and radio stations should not broadcast between 0100 and 0500 local time. The decree cited "the rising price of world oil that could lead to a national energy crisis" and called for "a national energy-saving movement by all components of society." The shut-down is effective immediately for a period of six months but will allow broadcasters to start programs at 0300 during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, when the faithful are required to fast from dawn till dusk. A ministry official said the order was issued after a presidential decree on energy saving at state institutions. Indonesia has been wracked by fuel shortages, forcing some public transport operators to halt services. Several regions have experienced power cuts with consumption surpassing generating capacities.

According to the Jakarta Post, the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission (KPI) has criticized the government for issuing the decree, although they say they understand the government's objectives. KPI deputy Sinansari Encip said that such an instruction could be viewed as an effort to meddle in the country's independent broadcasting industry. "We completely understand and support the government's intention to launch programs aimed at conserving energy. But we feel that the government has no authority at all in ordering broadcasting stations to cut transmission times," he was quoted as saying. Encip said the government should be aware that the country's broadcasting industry has made basic changes regarding the government's role and authority since the enactment of Law No. 32/2002 on broadcasting. "In the past, under the information ministry, the government was authorized to give an instruction and intervene in broadcasting stations. Nowadays, no such authority exists," said Encip. (*Radio Netherlands Media Network Weblog, via Steve Whitt, 13 July 2005*).

Indonesian radio, pay-TV to resume 24-hour broadcasts. The Jakarta Post reports that the Indonesian government has revised a controversial decree cutting back the airtime for broadcasters to allow radio and pay-TV stations to resume broadcasting 24 hours a day. Local TV stations, however, are still required to go off the air from 1 am to 5 am. The Ministry of Information and Communications issued Decree No. 11/2005 last month obliging all broadcast stations to go off the air from 1 am to 5 am, in a bid to save energy. Decree No. 12/2005, signed on Friday, allows radio stations to broadcast 24 hours a day, while pay-TV stations are also exempted from the restrictions because customers are paying for 24-hour service. In addition, Decree No. 12/2005, stipulates that local TV stations will be allowed to stay on the air 24 hours a day in the event of emergency situations, such as natural disasters. It also allows them to air live broadcasts from 1 am to 5 am if they signed a contract with a third party before the decree was issued.

The new decree will be effective for five months and is subject to revision based on further developments in the country's energy crisis. However, the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission (KPI) is still not happy and says the decree violates the independence of the media. In the KPI's

view, the decree could be seen as a return of the repressive measures of the New Order regime, when the information ministry was authorized to intervene in the operation of the media. The KPI says the government should have simply called on broadcast stations to minimize energy consumption, while leaving the details up to the stations themselves. (Source: *Jakarta Post*, via *Radio Netherlands Media Network Weblog*, 31 Jul 2005).

## Iran

BBC Monitoring observed radio Voice of the Mojahedin on mediumwave 720 kHz at 1200 gmt on 25 June 2005. The previously-observed parallel 90.1 MHz frequency could not be confirmed on this occasion as it is now blocked in Baghdad by a new local FM station, Today Radio. The service is no longer observed on the Hot Bird satellite at 13 degrees east, and their website and accompanying audio stream at <http://www.radiomojahedin.com> no longer exists. Voice of the Mojahedin uses Iranian facilities to broadcast in Arabic to Iraq.

The station's programming suggests it is affiliated with the Tehran-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, which has an Arabic/English website at <http://www.sciri.org> Source: BBC Monitoring research 25 Jun 05 (via DXLD) WRTH 2005 shows Iran has two powerful transmitters on 720: 750 kW at Mahidasht, and 400 kW at Tayebad, one of which is closer to Baghdad than the other (Glenn Hauser, DXLD).

The first phase of test broadcast of digital radio has started on the AM (DRM) band on the 1350 kHz frequency. The two-hour-long test broadcast is transmitted from a transmitter in Tehran from 1000 to 1200 hours [local time] everyday. The deputy director for project and development [at the Iranian radio-TV organization] told ISNA: This programme could be received on standard digital receivers. He said that the project has reached its objectives. In the next phases of this project, all of the analog transmitters currently in use will be digital-enabled. The Iranian radio-TV organization is to decide on the time for the official launch of digital radio across Iran. (Source: *ISNA web site, Tehran, in Persian 0600 gmt 20 Jul 05 via BBCM via DX Listening Digest 5-119 (21 Jul 2005) via Ydun Ritz's Medium Wave Info* <http://mediumwave.info/news.htm>).

## Italy

According to Radiorama list a new Italian station will broadcast in MW in next months: Miniradio from Castano Primo (Milano) in North Italy will use 1566 with 5 kw. (*Andrea Russo, via Radiorama, via Giampiero Bernardini Milano, Italy. giampiero.bernardini@fastwebnet.it 08 July 2005*). But several Italian Dxers say that it's a Joke. So it can be not a real news... Anyway at <http://www.miniradio.it/> you can find something about Italian MW and not only. (*73 Giampiero 09 July 2005*).

Hi ! on 1566 kHz it has been heard in Milano a very strong open carrier from 2345UTC the 26 April , still on at 0645 UTC on 27 April and still on at 1145 UTC on the same day. No ideas who is testing a so powerful TX, but the signal is 9+40 db, strong as the one of RAI 1 on 900 kHz .... so I guess is coming from RAI .... may be starting soon the DRM tests announced in March but never started .....1566 kHz some years ago used to be from Switzerland. Anyone with more info ? thanks. (*Dario Monferini, <http://www.playdx.com>*).

A new Italian station has conducted test transmissions on 1566 kHz mediumwave. Miniradio says they have tested 1566 kHz in June, and will begin regular broadcasting around November 2005. Currently Miniradio is broadcasting on 102.35 MHz. The station is located in Castano Primo in Milan. Broadcasts should be in AM stereo with transmission equipment purchased from the United States. Transmission power is said to be 5 kW. Miniradio has a staff of seven. The station can be contacted by phone at 199 44 35 33, and there are separate email addresses for the administration

and staff. Andrea Russo was the first DXer to inform about the station on Radiorama mailing list on July 8. (*DXing.info, July 9, 2005*).

According to Radiorama list a new Italian station will broadcast in MW. I think it's a fake. They want to broadcast with Radio Vaticana tx? Very strange (hi), but their tx visible on <http://www.miniradio.it/Impianti.htm> is Radio Vaticana DRM transmitter... <http://www.mediasuk.org/archive/vaticana.html> (*BCLNEWS.IT, via BDXC-UK, 10 July 2005*).

On 24 July at 2129 UT, on the RadioRama mailing list (the e-mail list of the Associazione Italiana Radioascolto), the Italian DXer Angelo Pacorig (from Palmanova, near Udine) reported a new MW private station from Verona, in northern Italy: Radio Verona, on 1584 kHz. "Subject: RADIO VERONA Ascoltato: STAZIONE - RADIO VERONA - Mx Italiana + ID "RADIO VERONA" ripetuto ogni 15 / 20 minuti DATA - 24 / 7 / 2005 ORE - 21:29:24" UTC FREQUENZA - 1584 KHZ SEGNALI - 44333."

After his announcement I checked the frequency and heard the station with non-stop music and IDs as "Radio Verona" on 24 July, at 2200 UT; signal was weak and interfered by co-channel Radio Studio X, but it could be easily identified. Radio Verona is also a weak but readable daytimer here. I'm listening from Forlì, 150 km south of Verona and 150 km east of Studio X location. The station has the web site <http://www.radioverona.it> with streaming live audio available. Address is: Radio Verona, piazza Cittadella 26, 37122 Verona (VR), Italy. tel (+39) 045 8000896 fax (+39) 045 8000481 (*Full credit must be given to Angelo Pacorig on RadioRama mailing list as the first reporter of this station Angelo Pacorig, Italy, in RadioRama ML, via Fabrizio Magrone, Italy, mwdx July 24 via BCDX July 27 via DX Listening Digest 5-124 (27/7-2005) Compare to time in 5-123: that was 15.5 hours earlier (gh) via Ydun Ritz's Medium Wave Info http://mediumwave.info/news.htm*).

Hi! From past Sunday morning 24 July around 0600 UT has been reported the reactivation of Radio Verona on MW on 1584 kHz, reported by PierLuigi Villa in Modena city. The station was active in the earlies '90 and closed down for technical problems with co-channel stations from RAI 2 Vicenza (which has been closed 2 years ago). However on 1584 kHz is active in Italy Radio Studio X from Momigno and the reactivation of Radio Verona is now totally stopping the listening to Radio Studio X in north Italy. Reception in Milano on 26 July Tuesday morning 0630 UT is good with good modulation, with my JRC 525 and 90 cm Loop antenna. Milano is 200 Km from Verona. Now it is possible a "radio war" ??? on 1584 kHz in Italy. Here the details to contact Radio Verona:

<http://www.radioverona.it> Email: [radioverona@sis.it](mailto:radioverona@sis.it)

FM : 103.00 & 103.90 MHz

Director : Mario Puliero

In the WEB no found info about the new MW service.

Radio Verona Srl

Piazza Cittadella 26

37122 Verona

tel (+39)045.8000896 fax (+39)045.8000481

Good listening of Radio Verona if you are crossing the north east area of Italy. (*Dario Monferini, PLAYDX ITALY http://www.playdx.com July 26, DX Listening Digest 5-123 (26/7-2005) via Ydun Ritz's Medium Wave Info http://mediumwave.info/news.htm*).

## Japan

This ad appeared a few days ago, for replacement of the two towers in the antenna system. The feed system was just rebuilt a year or two ago. This is the 50 kW AFRS transmitter Momote on 810 kHz:

SOLTYPE: FedBizOpps Presolicitation. AGENCY: Department of the Air Force. OFFICE: Pacific Air Forces. LOCATION: 374 CONS - Yokota. CLASSCOD: N. OFFADD: Department of the Air Force, Pacific Air Forces, 374 CONS - Yokota, Unit 5228, Yokota AB, APO Japan, ., 96328-5228 SUBJECT: N -- Remove/Replace Two AFN Phase Array Antenna System Towers at Momote, Japan. SOLNBR: FA5209-05-R0018. RESPDATE: 081005. CONTACT: Sumiyo Ohi, Contract Specialist, Phone 81-42-551-6120, Fax 81-42-551-0973, Email [sumiyo.ohi@yokota.af.mil](mailto:sumiyo.ohi@yokota.af.mil) - Geoffrey Diehl, Contracting Officer, Phone 81-42-551-6120, Fax 81-42-551-0973, Email [geoffrey.diehl@yokota.af.mil](mailto:geoffrey.diehl@yokota.af.mil). URL: [www.eps.gov/spg/USAF/PAF/374CONS/FA5209-05-R0018/listing.html](http://www.eps.gov/spg/USAF/PAF/374CONS/FA5209-05-R0018/listing.html) . NAICS: 811213

DESC: Remove/Replace Two (2) Existing American Forces Network (AFN) Phase Array Antenna System Towers at Momote transmitter Site, Japan. 1. This project will be performed in its entirety in the country of Japan. The successful offeror must be licensed and registered to perform work in the country of Japan. 2. Solicitation issuance and closing dates are tentative. It is the offeror's responsibility to check the firm dates at block 6 & 8 of SF 1449, once the solicitation is released, to ensure submission of your offer in a timely manner. If you have any questions about the release date of a solicitation please contact the Contract Administrator or Contracting Officer listed in this announcement. POP Country: Japan POP Zip: 96328-5228 POP Address: 374th Contracting Squadron/LGCAB Unit 5228 APO AP. (*Via Ben Dawson (10 Aug 2005)*).

## Kuwait

As far as I am aware, 1593 via KWT only has Persian at 1600-1900, and this is VOA and not Farda. At other times it is in Arabic, English and Kurdish. (Noel Green-UK, via Wolfgang Büschel, DXLD, via Ydun Ritz's Mediumwave Info). IBB Kuwait 1593 kHz 150 kW 350 degrees (ex-Holzkirchen Germany Continental unit). 0000-0100 VOA En, 0100-0600 RFE Arabic IRQ special. 1300-1400 VOA Kurdish, 1400-1600 RFE Arabic IRQ special. 1600-1900 VOA Persian, 1900-2000 VOA Kurdish, 2000-2200 RFE Arabic IRQ special, 2200-2300 VOA En. 2300-2330 VOA En, 2330-2400 VOA English. (Wolfgang Büschel, wwdxc BC-DX June 25 via DX Listening Digest 5-107 (30 Jul 2005), via Ydun Ritz's Mediumwave Info).

The normally used IBB transmitters are Kuwait A 600 kW on 1548 and Kuwait C 150 kW on 1593 (ex Holzkirchen, Germany). There are indications that Kuwait B is a 50 kW stand-by transmitter (*ARC MV-Eko 12 Jul 2005*).

## Kyrgyzstan

The Kyrgyz government decided to move the standard time in the country to UTC +6h. This corresponds to the current local time during the summer months; there will be no shift back one hour in autumn. Formerly, Kyrgyzstan was in the UTC +5h zone, with DST shift to UTC +6h during the summer. (*Bernd Trutenau-LTU, via mwdx, 17 Aug 2005*).

## Latvia

A relay of Radio Tatra International (<http://www.rti.fm>) on 1350 from Kuldiga with 50kW started today on 20 July. The relay is provided by the Riga-based company Krebs TV. Krebs TV also runs Radio Nord in Riga on 945, and was issued a rebroadcasting license for 1350 by the Latvian Broadcasting Regulatory Authority in early July. The transmitter in Kuldiga is leased from LVRTC, the Latvian state transmitter operator. The antenna facilities at the Kuldiga site were



damaged in a winter storm in late 2004, and have now been repaired. (Bernd Trutenau-LTU, via mwdx, 20 July 2005). R Tatraš International noted on 1350 via Latvia July 20th at 1655 and onwards. Pushing through my local noise on that channel. At 1800 announced also 1350 mediumwave. *(Thanks for a tip, RN Media Network Weblog. Jari Savolainen, Kuusankoski, Finland, via HCDX Digest, Vol 31, #21, 21 Jul 2005).*

Thanks to a tip from Guido Schotmans in Belgium I am now listening to Radio Tatraš International RTI from Latvia on 1350 khz. Strong signal here in The Netherlands. *(Max van Arnhem the Netherlands, 23 July 2005).*

Poprad, Riga, London - 08 August 2005: RADIO TATRAS INTERNATIONAL, RTI, is to commemorate the day in August 1967 when radio in the UK became state controlled again! RTI is a unique pan-European/international radio station in English and Slovak. Listeners from around Europe, and the world via the internet, will be able to hear this special tribute programme on Sunday 14 August starting at 19.00CET (6.00pm UK time).

Eric Wiltsher, Director, RTI UK, commented: "When I speak to people around Europe there is the feeling that radio in western Europe, specifically the UK, was always free. "Furthermore, when I explained the existence and banning of offshore station they are horrified - most asking 'what did you do about it'. "On Sunday 14 August, starting at 19.00 CET, we'll aim to explain that story and the beginning of the fight for commercial radio in the UK - not forgetting the music of the time, we'll be very 1960's just for one night only".

Recently, RTI launched a new promotion inviting it's listeners to send in their top three tracks of all time - in September one of RTI's lucky European listeners will win a trip to the unique AQUACITY resort close to the RTI studios in Poprad, Slovakia. Full details of the promotion will be aired during August. The lucky winners will be announced in September and the collated information will be made available to bona-fide media outlets at the same time. *(Mike Terry, BDXC-UK, 09 Aug 2005).*

## Lithuania

www.radio390.org/ Radio 390 Unit 118 Fifth/Allende Avenue Harlow Essex CM20 2AG. Radio 390 Is Back After 40 Years, We Are Online, And On Test! (1386khz 500kw Watch This Space). Our mission at Radio 390 is to offer entertainment and information to you the listener, and offer a background online radio service. Whether you're at home or at the office, it's music that's designed to be unobtrusive and a pleasant companion to other activities. What you hear on Radio 390 is described as Adult Pop Standards (APS) with light, easy, beautiful...relaxing music. Enjoy instrumentals and vocal music from yesterday and today ! We invite you to relax as we blend the music to create an enjoyable, long time spent listening experience, for this was the music when you were young and your eyes were full of sparkle and your head was full of dreams. When people held each other and danced cheek to cheek. It was a world more gallant, more romantic, and certainly more predictable than the one we live in today. Our music at Radio 390 format is a dazzling Kaleidoscope faceted with the inspirations of great performers and truly great songwriters. Our programmes will be starting in August 2005.

*Steve Groome* on [www.anoraknation.com](http://www.anoraknation.com) spotted this, I checked the online test programmes and when I listened they were a tape of US station WLNG. 1386 would be the Lithuanian transmitter. *(Mike Barraclough, 20 July 2005).*

The relay of RFE/RL in Russian from Siauliai (Bubiai site) on 1386 ended a couple of weeks ago. In regard to the frequency 1386, the anoraknation forum

(<http://www.anoraknation.com/threads/4570.html> ) is currently discussing a statement about an allegedly planned relay of "Radio 390" on 1386 with 500kW from August made on the website <http://www.radio390.org> , pointing at the (500kW) transmitter in Sitkunai, Lithuania. Radio Baltic Waves International is the sole silence owner for this transmitter on 1386, and the company denies that it has been contacted about such a relay.

A relay via the Bolshakovo transmitter on 1386 in the Kaliningrad area appears unlikely, since it is authorized to operate only between 1500-1900 and is carrying Voice of Russia at this time. The scheduled power of this transmitter is 1200kW. (*Bernd Trutenau-LTU, via mwdx, 20 July 2005*)..... I presume "sole silence owner" should actually read "sole licensed owner" :- ) I have put this item (with credit to Bernd and MWC) in the Media Network Weblog. It will be interesting to see if Radio 390 is prepared to reveal more about what they're really up to (if anything, it may just be a publicity stunt). (Andy Sennitt, 20 July 2005).

## Mauritania

Mauritanian army troops, including members of the presidential guard, seized control of the state radio and television in the capital Nouakchott early today. All state media broadcasts were interrupted from 0500 UTC following the army takeover, which came as President Maaouyia Ould Taya was out of the country attending the funeral of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Radio and television remained off the air all morning, but the Mauritanian news agency resumed operation in the afternoon, and reported that President Maaouyia Ould Taya has been ousted, and a military junta will rule in his place. BBC Monitoring observed the TV station back on the air shortly after 1400 UTC, reading the same statement, and the radio service was reported back on the air with Quran recitations. The ousted President was reported to have landed in Niger on his return from Saudi Arabia. (*Radio Netherlands Media Network Weblog, 03 Aug 2005*).

## Moldova

Observed usage of the 1000kW transmitter on 1548 kHz:

0400 - 0800 Voice of Russia "Russkoye Mezhdunarodnoye Radio" programme in Russian.

1200 - 1300 Voice of Russia World Service in Russian.

1300 - 1500 Voice of Russia "Kanal Sodruzhestvo" programme in Russian.

1500 - 1530 Voice of Russia in Albanian.

1700 - 1800 Voice of Russia in Serbian.

1800 - 2000 Trans world Radio in various Balkan languages.

2000 - 2130 Voice of Russia in Serbian (Rumen Pankov, Bulgaria, 10 Jul 2005, via BDXC-UK).

Grigoriopol: CRI in Russian 14:30-16:30 UTC (summer) is now relayed on 1413 instead of 1467. VOR in Bulgarian, Serbian & again in Bulgarian 17:30-20:30 (summer) - 1413 instead of 1503. (*73! Sincerely, Sergej Nikishin, Moscow, Russia, via emwg, 15 Aug 2005*).

## Nepal

From 21 August Radio Nepal will extend its transmission time to 18 hours a day, and will then be on the air continuously from 2315-1715 UTC daily. The new transmission time between 0515 and 0715 daily will contain "a variety of lively, entertaining, informative and educative programmes" especially aimed at young listeners, according to a press release from the station. The Executive Director of Radio Nepal, Tapa Nath Shukla, said he believed Radio Nepal would emerge as popular radio station among the youths after the additional transmission service. Additional news bulletins described as "important news in brief" will be aired at 0415, 0615 and 1015 UTC.

The changes are no doubt intended to compete with the commercial FM stations, which were

recently given the green light by the Supreme Court to continue broadcasting news bulletins despite government attempts to ban them from carrying news. (*Radio Netherlands Media Network Weblog 19 Aug 2005*).

## Netherlands

The transmitter on 1602 is still officially on test and subject to interruption. Official programmes start on 2 July. I guess they're probably installing the 1 kW rig which they hoped to have ready for the official opening. They have been using a low power transmitter to test the antennas. BTW the lightship they bought will NOT be taken into service this summer, as it will take months to convert the ship from its old role as a discotheque to its new one as a radio station and meeting centre. You might also be interested in the following item I posted in the Media Network Weblog today: New pictures of Dutch radio stations on the Web: A large number of photos have been posted on the Internet of the Big L - Radio London mediumwave site at Trintelhaven, and the arrival of Light Vessel No. 8 in Harlingen where it is to be fitted out for use by Radio Waddensee/Radio Seagull. The photos are courtesy of Hans de Swan, Bert M and Peter Timmerman, and may be downloaded and circulated without further permission. The page is at <http://217.121.211.176/overdrive/radiowaddensee/index1.htm> (*Andy Sennitt, 29 Jun 2005*).

Radio Waddensee/Radio Seagull plan full power by mid-September Dutch commercial broadcaster Radio Waddensee/Radio Seagull says that the expected increase of power from the present 120 watts up to the licensed 1000 watts on 1602 kHz is to be expected in the first half of September. During a weekend they will switch off for a few hours and remove the present transmitter and install the new one in a single session. They expect to improve the quality of their coverage in the present footprint as well as increasing the size of the footprint. The 80% quality coverage at the moment is a 50 mile radius. However they have had reception reports from the UK and Scandinavia. The expected 80% coverage with the new power is an 80 mile radius, this means the crucial touch down in places like Amsterdam and Utrecht. They also expect to improve reception in the UK coastal area. (*Radio Netherlands Media Network Weblog, via Steve Whitt, 16 Aug 2005*).

News from the 1602 kHz. radio-station Waddensee (or in the English language "Radio Waddensea"?). Radio Waddensee make programmes for million of tourists, who visit this beautiful area of nature in the north of the Netherlands. Radio Waddensee is every day on air from 07:00 to 19:00 hours (LOCAL "Dutch" TIME) and Radio Seagull is on the same frequency on air from 20:00 to 07:00 hours (local time). Also every day from 19:00 to 20:00 hour (local time) there is a special German rock-program of Radio Marabu on this frequency!!!

The format of Radio Waddensee is "middle of the road" with news and information for the visitors of the Wadden. The format of Radio Seagull is progressive rock-music. The name Radio Seagull is an old name of the pirate offshore-sender Radio Caroline (on the 24th of July 1973). Some people of Radio Waddensee in 2005 got connections with the "old" Caroline and the Ross Revenge, like Sietse Brouwer, Wim van Egmond, Ad Roberts and Alan Beech (mechanic of Caroline). Radio Waddensee was until the 2nd of July on air with test-programmes.

On this date started the official programmes. They are transmitting from a small town, called Finkum. You can find Finkum in the middle of Friesland (not so far away from Leeuwarden). The power is not big, only 120 watts, but the test-transmissions were succesfull!!! Reception-reports came from Sweden, Finland, England, Denmark, Ireland, Belgium and Germany (like Doctor Tim)! When everything goes allright, the power is in the end of July 1 Kilo-Watt!!! Bert M. of Overdrive and myself helped the people of Waddensee/Seagull as volunteers. You can see the photo's of the antenna in Finkum with Hans de Swan on the top of the antenna (27 metres "high"): <http://overdrive.web-log.nl/log/2530866> or <http://213.51.90.18/overdrive/>

A week ago again great news! Radio waddensee/Seagull have plans to transmit from a real ship in the sea!!! So... real SALT water! When they are not transmitting, the ship stays in the harbour of Harlingen (town on the coast; about 20 miles west of Leeuwarden) and the power shall be around the 500 watts! This is the first sea-sender (or offshore-station, you name it) after the Ross Revenge of radio Caroline!!! Not bad at all!!! My good friend Bert M. (big Offshore-fan and owner of Overdrive), Peter Timmerman (Caroline-fan and DJ of a local radio-station called Radio Enkhuizen) and myself (Hans de Swan) were invited to make pictures of this news!!! More about this on: <http://by24fd.bay24.hotmail.msn.com/cgi-bin/getmsg?msg=MSG1120172449.6&start> or visit: <http://217.121.211.176/overdrive/radiowaddensee> or visit: <http://www.beachradio.nl>. Also of course on: <http://www.radioseagull.net/> <http://www.radiowaddensee.nl> and <http://www.offshoreradio.de/> (*Best Regards, Hans de Swan of Intersoundradio, via Martin Schoech - PF 101145 - 99801 Eisenach - Deutschland, E-mail: radio2005[a]schoechi.de Web: www.schoechi.de, via mwdx, 10 July 2005*).

Also of interest, Radio 10 Gold has published on its website photos of some of its DJ's standing inside the mediumwave transmitter on 1008 kHz, which was switched off last Wednesday evening (22 June) to enable one of the tubes to be replaced. I have also been inside a 500 kW mediumwave transmitter, and it's quite an experience! <http://www.radio10gold.nl> (*Andy Sennitt, 29 Jun*).

In a e-mail verification from Jaap van 't Riet on Talparadio, he wrote that Radio 10 Gold on 1008 kHz in Flevoland, Netherlands get a new transmitter at the end of this year. Also this new transmitter can transmit DRM mode. (*Ge Huijbens Rendoux, Belgium, 12 Aug 2005*).

New football radio station planned for the Netherlands. Saturday's edition of the Dutch newspaper Het Financieele Dagblad carried a long article about the plans of Dutch businessman Koos Appelboom to start a new football (soccer) radio station on the currently unused mediumwave frequency of 1332 kHz [misprinted in the newspaper as 1322 kHz]. Appelboom, who has worked for the Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times, has received permission to broadcast from the Dutch Media Authority, and is currently building a studio in Lelystad. The transmitter site in Dronten will have national coverage. The planned launch date is 1 August or 1 September.

The format of the station will be unique in the Netherlands - talk about football. Anyone will be able to buy airtime at 25 euro for 15 minutes. Appelboom says it's always the same few people giving their opinions on the existing networks, and he wants to offer a podium for ordinary supporters. He says he's had plenty of support from hardcore supporters of most Dutch professional clubs, but everyone's afraid that he will sell airtime to hooligans. To prevent problems, the output will be delayed by several seconds and every call monitored - a staff of six will be employed to cover the 24 hour schedule. Appelboom says he has already sold a quarter of the advertising for the first year of operation - a major client is a sex telephone line operation that will advertise in the night hours.

Appelboom expects to make a modest profit of 8000 euro in the first year, rising to up to 4 million euro in the future. He claims that there's a lot of interest amongst the existing commercial stations, which are already making bids of 2 million euro, and says he's interested in someone who will invest as a minority shareholder, with a view to taking over the station in a few years' time. Radio Voetbal (website under construction). (Thanks to Ehard Goddijn for help with this item). (*Radio Netherlands Media Network Weblog, 06 July 2005*).

The new Dutch radio station Radio Voetbal (Radio Football) which is due to begin transmissions on 1332 kHz mediumwave on 1 September has cost about half a million euro to set up, according to its founder Koos Appelboom. Speaking to De Telegraaf, Appelboom said that he has personally

invested about half the money, and the rest is from a group of financiers who wish to remain anonymous. Appelboom says his idea of selling 15 minutes of airtime to football supporters for 25 euro is already a success, judging by the number of applications he has received, which he says has exceeded his wildest expectations. (*Radio Netherlands Media Network Weblog, 16 Aug 2005*).

Mike Read mentioned this morning that RL 1395kHz was running double the usual power with no further explanation why. (*Steve Whitt, 05 July 2005*).

The Dutch radio listening figures for May/June 2005 contained some inaccuracies due to an error at research bureau Intomart GFK. The new figures will bring a smile to the faces at Radio 10 Gold, Slam!FM and RTL FM, which all did better than in the original version of the figures. Here is the revised list in percent of market shares (figures in brackets are for April/May):

Radio 538	(commercial)	12.0	(11.8)
Radio 2	(public)	10.2	(unchanged)
Sky Radio	(commercial)	9.2	(9.3)
Radio 1	(public)	7.6	(8.1)
Radio 3 FM	(public)	7.2	(unchanged)
Radio 10 Gold	(commercial)	5.1	(5.2)
Radio Veronica	(commercial)	5.0	(4.8)
Noordzee FM	(commercial)	5.0	(4.7)
RTL FM	(commercial)	3.2	(2.7)
Yorin FM	(commercial)	2.6	(3.0)
Arrow Classic Rock	(commercial)	1.9	(unchanged)
Classic FM	(commercial)	1.8	(2.0)
Radio 4	(public)	1.5	(1.7)
Slam!FM	(commercial)	1.4	(1.1)
747 AM	(public)	0.9	(unchanged)
Arrow Jazz FM	(commercial)	0.6	(0.7)
BNR Nieuwsradio	(commercial)	0.4	(0.3)
Regional public stations		14.5	(unchanged)
Regional commercial stations		2.8	(2.7)
Other stations		7.0	(7.1)

(*Radio Netherlands Media Network Weblog, 13 Aug 2005*).

## New Zealand

### Changes/Updates to New Zealand AM

657	AM Network	[ST] Wellington	[correction]
873	Radio Trackside	[ST] Tauranga	[new]
	Radio Pacific	[ST] Tauranga	[new]
882	AM Network	[ST] Auckland	[correction]
900	AM Network	[ST] Dunedin	[correction]
909	AM Network	[ST] Napier-Hastings	[correction]
918	National Radio	New Plymouth	[ex-1530, inc power 2.5kW]
963	AM Network	[ST] Christchurch	[correction]
990	Radio Apna	Auckland	[Hindi, exAM990 Chinese]
1026	Newstalk ZB	Kaitiaki	[ex Classic Hits]
1179	Voice of Samoa	Auckland	[ex Mai FM]
1215	Newstalk ZB	Kaikohe	[ex Classic Hits]

1359	Coast	New Plymouth	[new]
1413	Radio Ferrymead 3XP	Christchurch	[extended hours, Fridays 0600-0900 UTC]
1440	Gold Rush Radio	Lawrence	[correction]

ST is Shared Time on frequency. Full updated New Zealand @ a Glance list scheduled to be on-line at [www.radioheritage.net](http://www.radioheritage.net) by August 1. Changes to Pacific-Asian Log [PAL] scheduled shortly. *(Warm regards, David Ricquish, Radio Heritage Foundation, www.radioheritage.net via HCDX Digest, Vol 31, #23, 23 Jul 2005).*

## Pakistan

The PBC has been allocated 27.829m rupees for setting up of 100 kW mediumwave transmitter and Broadcasting House at Turbat. [1 US dollar = 60 rupees]. *(Source: Associated Press of Pakistan news agency, Islamabad, in English 1439 gmt, 06 Jun 05 (excerpt, via BBCM, via DXLD) via ARC MV-Eko 11 Jul 05).*

## Romania

On Sundays Radio Antenna Satelor (RAS) signs on at 0553 UTC on 531, 603, 630 and 1314 kHz. From 0700 UTC on 531, 630 and 1314 (Constanca) there is a service from the Orthodox cathedral and programming in Hungarian *(Rumen Pankov, Bulgaria, 10 Jul 2005, via BDXC-UK).*

## Sao Tome +

The Voice of America's (VOA) Hausa service has launched four new radio programs for its audiences in Nigeria and several other West African nations: Tsaka Mai Wuya (Hausa Political Crossfire), Ra'ayoyin Masu Sauraro (Listener's Mail), Sharhin Jaridun Afrika (Africa in the U.S. Press) and Sharhin Jaridun (Press Review). VOA Director David S. Jackson said he hoped the new shows would attract even more listeners to the Voice of America's wide variety of broadcasts. "Since 1979, our Hausa broadcasters have provided accurate, balanced and timely news to their more than 25 million listeners in Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, Cameroon and Chad," he said. "These new programs will continue Voice of America's high standards and tradition of excellent programming."

VOA Hausa broadcasts 10.5 hours a week to West Africa, where it has earned one of VOA's largest radio audiences around the world. According to Jackson, the service's popularity is due to the quality of its staff. "Our Hausa service brings together the best professional talents from diverse religious, ethnic, cultural, and academic backgrounds," he said. "Like all of our broadcasters, they don't represent any interest groups, either foreign or domestic. But they do represent the best in journalism, and by following the standards of the VOA Charter, which requires all of our broadcasts to be accurate, objective and comprehensive, our Hausa-speaking audiences know they can trust the Voice of America." (VOA's Charter has been a U.S. federal law since 1976.)

VOA Hausa receives thousands of letters and emails each month from listeners across its broadcast area. One listener, Abdul-Hadi Dabo from Kaduna, expressed his appreciation for Tsaka Mai Wuya (Hausa Political Crossfire), and commended VOA Hausa's objectivity: "I am writing this mail to commend you for telling the truth no matter how bitter it is regarding the happenings around the world." Another listener, Mahammad from Katsina, wrote, "We are full of thanks to you each time we hear your voices and the news you provide us because of the strength of the truth contained therein."

Tsaka Mai Wuya airs Tuesdays and Thursdays, with a repeat on Saturdays; Ra' ayoyin Masu Sauraro (Listener's Mail) airs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and Sharhin Jaridun Afrika

(Africa in the U.S. Press) airs on Wednesdays. Sharhin Jaridun (Press Review) airs on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, focusing on Nigerian, Niger and Ghanaian papers, respectively. These Hausa programs can be heard on the following shortwave frequencies, among others: 4940, 9815 and 12080. They also air on medium wave and FM frequencies through affiliates in Nigeria, Niger and Ghana. For more information on programs, frequencies and scheduling for VOA Hausa, please visit us at [www.VOAHausa.com](http://www.VOAHausa.com) (VOA Press Release)

Hausa:

0500-0530 UTC 1530 4960 6035 6095 9885

1800-1830 UTC 1530 4940 9565 11955 17785 (*Steve Whitt, 13 Aug 2005*).

## Tajikistan

VoA services on 972 kHz from the powerful Tajik transmitter:

Radio Ashna (to Afghanistan) 0030-0230, 1430-2020 in Pashto and Dari.

Radio Aap Ki Duniya (to Pakistan) 1400-0200 in Urdu.

(*Rumen Pankov, Bulgaria, 10 Jul 2005, via BDXC-UK*).

Besides the three SW frequencies for the revived Uzbek service of VoA, at 1500-1530, 801 kHz is also on the schedule at [www.voanews.com/english/about/frequenciesAtoZ\\_u.cfm](http://www.voanews.com/english/about/frequenciesAtoZ_u.cfm) That would be the megawatt from Tajikistan (*Glenn Hauser, DXLD, via BDXC-UK*).

## Thailand

Thai TV and radio may go off-air after midnight. All TV channels - including cable TV stations - and community radio stations in Thailand will be asked to stop transmissions after midnight each day from now until August, the Bangkok Post has reported. The directive is a part of energy-saving measures introduced by the country's Energy Policy Committee. Metta Bantherngsuk, Director of the Energy Policy and Planning Office, said the effectiveness of the measures will be evaluated after August. Compulsory measures will be introduced should the temporary ones prove ineffective. (*Source: Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, via Radio Netherlands Media Network Weblog, late June*).

## AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES ON RADIO TRANSMITTING FACILITIES.

Quote from Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.mfa.go.th/web/151.php> :

1. Thai-US Agreement on Megawatt Station.

The Royal Thai Government and the Government of the United States of America concluded the Agreement on the establishment of a radio transmitting facility with a transmitting power of 1,000 Kilowatts on 11 August 1965. This Agreement, which lasted for 15 years from the first day of broadcasting, has been extended twice; once on 28 March 1983 for 15 years (until 27 March 1998), and again on 30 September 1993 for 20 years. Under the Agreement, both parties agreed on the establishment of:

1) Medium wave radio transmitting facility with the transmitting power of 1,000 Kilowatts or "1,000-Kilowatt Station" at Pachee, Phra Nakorn Sri Ayudhaya province, covering the total area of 325 acres to be the Voice of Free Asia radio which on 1 April 1998 has changed its name to "Radio Saranrom";

2) Receiver Station at Ban Klang, Patumthani province, covering the area of 153.5 acres. After the second extension of the Agreement, the facility has been taken over by the Public Relations Department;

3) 100-Kilowatt transmitting facility which belongs to the Public Relations Department at Lumpoon.

## 2. Agreement on the Establishment and Operation of a Shortwave.

On 4 April 1984, the Royal Thai Government and the Government of the United States of America concluded the Agreement on the establishment of a shortwave transmitting facility at Bandung, Udonthani province, which would broadcast the Voice of America (VOA) station. The Agreement, lasted for 25 years, and could be extended twice for the period of 10 years each. According to this Agreement, the Government of the United States of America would arrange for the construction of the transmitting facility in Bandung, Uthathani province, and the installation of 7 units of a 500-watt [sic] shortwave transmitting equipment over the area of 8,500 acres.

The Royal Thai Government by the Public Relations Department has the right to share timeslot of and benefits from the station to broadcast Thai programmes in foreign languages. Moreover, the Royal Thai Government also has the right in sharing timeslot with the United Nations to broadcast its programmes. The Agreement, among others, stipulates that the two parties agree to consult each other on the establishment of a medium-wave transmitting facility to be located on the radio site covered by this agreement. (*Via Bernd Trutenau, Lithuania, DX Listening Digest 5-128 (02 Aug 2005) via Ydun Ritz's Medium Wave Info <http://mediumwave.info/news.htm>*).

## Tonga

STATION PROFILE: Radio Tonga – from the web page Tonga on the Net at: <http://www.tongatapu.net.to/tonga/news/media/a3z.htm>

Radio A3Z, a government agency, is the major radio broadcaster on the islands. A division of the Tonga Broadcasting Commission, the Radio A3Z banner is host to the AM radio channel providing most of the public news and information exchange for the country as well as an FM channel and the Radio Tonga shops in Tongatapu and Vava'u. A3Z Radio 1, AM 1017, is the sole broadcaster of radio programs that covers all of the Tonga Islands. Radio 1 broadcasts a mix of English and Tongan language programs with a very high community development focus.

Broadcast time is available to most community groups and very popular are the church news programs, college programs, as well as the live broadcasts of festivities and sports programs. A3Z Radio 1 broadcasts out of Fasimoe-Afi and retransmits world news programs by Radio Australia, BBC, and Radio New Zealand. The retransmissions are often of very poor quality but open a vast window of exposure for locals to the events beyond their corridor. These international broadcasts are also translated into Tongan for rebroadcast giving the radio listener a very broad range of information.

The only AM broadcaster in the nation, A3Z has excelled in many areas of its responsibility to the community, and has been slow to respond in others. With the only bandwidth capable of broadcasting much of the paid advertising the AM band is in need of modernising its approach to paying and listening customers.

Frequencies: AM 1017 kHz., FM 97.2 MHz.

Hours of operation: 6:00 am - 12:00 midnight [UT +10]

Broadcast Office: Fasi-moe-afi Administration Office: Fasi-moe-Afi

Administration: Tonga Broadcasting Commission Board of Directors

Managing Director - `Ahongalu Fusimalohi

(*August CIDX Messenger via DX Listening Digest 5-130 (04 Aug 2005) via Ydun Ritz's Medium Wave Info <http://mediumwave.info/news.htm>*).



## United Arab Emirates

The parallel transmission of BBG's Radio Farda at the Dhabbaya site on both 1170 and 1575 over the last couple of months have ended. The 800kW transmitter on 1170 has been switched to Radio Sawa. (Bernd Trutenau-LTU, 12 Aug 2005).

## Vanuatu

The New Zealand Government has given funds for 2 new MW transmitters, one for Vila area, the other for Santo area, and both will be installed by September 2005. Each will be DRM capable. In handing over funding, the NZ High Commissioner [Ambassador] said that FM and TV might be 'nice to have', but mediumwave 'is an essential part of a functioning democracy'. MW broadcasts in many parts of the Pacific are in danger of shut down from high power costs [usually diesel generators], lack of technical expertise, weather damage and old equipment.

Currently, Radio Cook Islands 630, SBC Samoa 540 and SIBC Honiara 1035 are all running at half or reduced power because of power costs, Nauru 1323 is off air, KJAL American Samoa 580 is on reduced power after a cyclone, WVUV American Samoa 648 has been operating only at very low power awaiting an FCC frequency and tower change and part of Papua New Guinea's MW network is being rebuilt with Japanese aid.

The comments from the New Zealand government reflect a real concern that neighbour island broadcasters are under severe pressure to survive. Both RNZI and Radio Australia now provide much of the technical and training expertise needed to keep stations on air as far away as the Marshall Islands and as close as Tonga and Niue. This 'aid' is expected to expand in the future. The model emerging is for island stations to get help buying new DRM capable MW transmitters so they can relay RNZI DRM [from later this year] and RA DRM [2006] broadcasts to local repeater FM stations whilst providing a stable MW signal for continued reception on analog radio sets.

Recommended reading: 'Digital Radio Broadcasting' and 'Radio Happy Isles' from the Top 40 Radio Book List now available at The Radio Heritage Store (c) at <http://www.radioheritage.net> (*Warm regards David Ricquish, Radio Heritage Foundation, July 31, DX Listening Digest 5-126 (31 Jul 2005) via Ydun Ritz's Medium Wave Info <http://mediumwave.info/news.htm>*).

## Publication

The latest [July 2005] version of Bruce Portzer's Pacific-Asian-Log (c) is now available only at [www.radioheritage.net](http://www.radioheritage.net). FREE access. 4000+ mediumwave [AM] radio stations \*\* covers Central, South and North Asia \*\* covers India, China and Japan \*\* covers Pacific including Australia and New Zealand \*\* covers Alaska and Hawaii \*\* frequency, call-sign, location, format, power, operating hours and more \*\* updated by global monitoring network \*\* download versions and search tools \*\* FREE \*\* available on-line now. Please send updates, corrections, additions and alterations to [info@radioheritage.net](mailto:info@radioheritage.net). A public service of the Radio Heritage Foundation, a registered non-profit organization, Wellington, New Zealand. Visit [www.radioheritage.net](http://www.radioheritage.net) today. FREE email newsletter. (*HCDX Digest, Vol 31, #14, 14 Jul 2005*).

# THE HOME FRONT

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## Industry News

BBC and commercial radio stations ripped up their schedules yesterday and began broadcasting rolling news as an "old-fashioned" reliance on radio proved the medium's mettle in a crisis.

Speech and music stations ditched planned programmes, dumped advertising and began broadcasting constant news in the hour following the London bombings.

BBC Radio 5 Live reverted to the role it was born for - as the corporation's rolling radio news service - with its broadcasts being simulcast for an unprecedented period of time on both Radio 4 and the digital Asian Network.

Bob Shennan, the controller of 5 Live, told [MediaGuardian.co.uk](http://MediaGuardian.co.uk) how yesterday's events brought radio to the fore: "The entire mobile system went down and it felt like radio was one of the ways people - in the old-fashioned sense - could keep in touch. "Late in the day I was driving up the M1 and the motorway signs were flashing up 'London closed. Turn on radio'. It was a strange moment of recognition that in this kind of momentous occasion radio has never had a more important part to play," he said.

Radio 4 was directly affected by the day of terror when it was forced off air for 15 minutes in the middle of the 6pm news. A suspect package on a bus in Wood Lane sparked an evacuation of the studio, resulting in dead air followed by a musical interlude. Charlotte Green eventually recommenced the bulletin from another studio.

Radio 1 broadcast Newsbeat had updates every 15 minutes and toned down its music while Radio 2 dropped its "topical" news comedy *It's Been a Bad Week*, which was replaced by Mark Radcliffe broadcasting for an extra half an hour until midnight. Radio 3 took the rare step of broadcasting regular news updates as well.

Capital Radio simulcast across its London stations with news-based programming all day, and its website went live with travel information and a service allowing people to send messages to each other.

The Chrysalis Radio head of network news, Jonathan Richard, said London's only dedicated radio news station, LBC News, was simulcast on its speech sister station LBC from 11.30am, with James O'Brien presenting. (<http://www.guardianmedia.co.uk>)

## **Rajar Invites Tenders**

**11 July, 2005**

RAJAR, the UK radio audience measurement organisation, will issue an invitation to tender for its new audience survey this week. The survey specification emphasises the need for measurement of digital radio audiences, along with better representation of young men and ethnic minorities.

RAJAR is encouraging innovations from prospective contractors, and says it will welcome tenders based on a range of methodologies, including audiometers, which RAJAR is currently trialling, as well traditional paper diaries. Unlike previous contracts, companies will be able to pitch for the entire contract or for specific parts. Tenders are due by the end of the year, and the contract will start in 2007.

The new specification, which is designed to 'embrace the changing face of radio', requires contractors to measure audiences for digital (including digital TV and Internet)radio as well as traditional analogue channels. In addition, RAJAR wants companies to secure 'more effective and stable' samples, and to improve demographic quotas for hard-to-reach sectors, especially young men and ethnic minorities. (<http://www.mrweb.com/drno/news4272.htm>)

## Ofcom News

I note that Ofcom in their latest listings of RSL stations due on air (dated 27 July, 2005) do not include details of the frequency or whether stations intend to broadcast on AM or FM. This is a new departure as previous listings have always included this information. I have written to Ofcom to clarify the situation – but to date have received no response.

## BBC

BBC has published (13 July) its latest annual report. <http://www.bbcgovernors.co.uk/annreport/> It is available on-line or in downloadable pdf format (151 pages and 1.4Mb). I'm not sure if it is available in printed form from the BBC.

## Commercial Radio

### **EMAP acquisition of Scottish Radio Holdings**

**27 June, 2005**

Emap's acquisition of Scottish Radio Holdings (SRH) appears to be the logical next step in the consolidation of the radio industry, after the absorption of Kelvin MacKenzie's Wireless Group by Ulster TV and the merger of Capital with GWR. Emap already owned 27% of SRH, and having threatened a hostile bid, the shareholders saw the sense in accepting an enhanced offer. At first glance the two companies fit together neatly, with zero geographical overlap and the combined muscle of about 25% of UK commercial radio.

Emap claims that after initial integration costs, there will be annual savings of £5m, and that merging the radio stations will increase advertising revenue by growing audience. Every merger or acquisition carries with it implementation risk, arising out of cultural differences, difficulty in aligning people behind a common strategy or just nasty surprises when you get the keys. But what are those issues?

In terms of "fit", Emap and SRH were a couple in waiting. There is no necessity to dispose of any stations on competition grounds, unlike GCap which had to sell its East Midlands regional licence (Century FM), albeit for a huge sum. The combined group covers Scotland, all of England's major markets except the East Midlands, plus Ulster and the Republic of Ireland. They have also picked up the Glasgow and Edinburgh AM stations - the operator of DAB multiplexes, a country music station and a regional newspaper division.

Emap and GCap now both offer good national sales coverage, and will benefit to the detriment of smaller groups such as GMG Radio, Chrysalis and Scottish Media Group - Virgin Radio's parent.

The next big decision is what to do with the former SRH AM radio stations? Without exception, Emap's approach hitherto has been to convert AMs to the Magic oldies format eliminating in the process names such as Great North Radio and Piccadilly.

History suggests that Clyde 2, Forth 2 and Downtown Radio will suffer the same fate. The elegance of enhancing the existing national Magic sell to advertising clients by adding cities such as Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast is inescapable, but there is a huge flaw in the logic. Clyde 2 and Downtown, in particular, are stations with exceptionally strong audiences for AM, achieving weekly reaches of 20% and 21% respectively, significantly greater than the AM Magic stations' average of less than 10%.

The SRH AM stations are rather old-fashioned local services, intrinsically woven into the fabric of the communities they serve, with concomitant strong audience delivery. Indeed the move away from localness may well have exacerbated audience decline.

Emap has announced its intention to add SRH's larger FM licences in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Belfast to the portfolio of "big city" network stations in order to increase its audience. On paper, at least, the chance to offer "one-stop shopping" for advertising clients appears attractive, but managerially the challenge is to ensure that the superior ratings performance of the new members of the family is not diluted.

As Emap and SRH get to grips with these integration issues, attention will turn to the remaining radio groups, yet to find a partner. Chrysalis claims it's happy to be single, but would love to get its hands on GMG Radio, whose national advertising it already sells. Meanwhile, SMG has said that Virgin is not for sale. However, with two of the three national stations, Classic FM and TalkSport now part of larger groups, it is inevitable that Virgin Radio will end up in a larger group. So far the consolidation game has been domestic only. When the US groups such as Clear Channel, Infinity or Cox show up, the future ownership of UK radio could be less predictable.  
(www.mediaguardian.co.uk)

### **Commercial Radio book now available**

**30 June, 2005**



The 2005 edition of the Commercial Radio Pocket Book is now available from the CCRCA Their address etc is: Radiocentre, 77 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 5DU t 020 7306 2603 f 020 7470 0062 email : info@crca.co.uk .The CRCA (Commercial Radio Companies Association) is the reference book for Commercial radio in the UK. The booklet contains 142 pages with the following facts:

- commercial radio broadcasts enough news to fill thirteen 24 hour news stations
- stations broadcast an average of 21 weather reports a day
- around half the news on Commercial radio is local news

and a lot more information! A downloadable version is available off the internet from <http://www.crca.co.uk/documents/final2005forweb.pdf> but take care as it's a 6.1MB file. To get a paper copy of the booklet e-mail [lucy@crca.co.uk](mailto:lucy@crca.co.uk) but allow 14 days for delivery.

### **Capital to take Ofcom to Court?**

**4 July, 2005**

Capital Radio owner GCap Media is preparing for the unprecedented step of taking Ofcom to court over the media regulator's plans to license new national digital radio stations.

The company owns the UK's only national digital multiplex - the hubs from which digital radio stations are broadcast. But the Ofcom chairman, Stephen Carter, said last night the regulator was considering launching up to two new national digital multiplexes to boost capacity for digital radio stations that are able to broadcast across the whole of the UK.

The GCap chairman, Ralph Bernard, said today the company had been "seduced" into investing in digital radio, having been assured it would be the sole national multiplex operator in that format.

"I'm sick of fighting regulators... but I'm now about to be pitched into battle with Ofcom," said Mr Bernard, who believes there is "anecdotal evidence" the regulator has already decided to license either one or two more national digital multiplexes. Less than a quarter of the way through [Digital One's] licence period Ofcom is about to flood the market with as many as 20 more national

stations. Ofcom has no legal right to change the basis of the investment that was seduced from my company and neither has it a moral right. 'It's not just unfair, it is legally wrong'

The chairman of GCap - formed out of the merger of GWR and Capital - said Ofcom was being "extremely even-handed in its public statements" but that anecdotal evidence suggested the watchdog had already made up its mind to license two new multiplexes.

"The only thing we can do - as there is no appeal open to us - is to challenge it legally after the decision has been made. A judicial review is open to us and is most likely the option we'll have to take," said Mr Bernard.

"There is the right that a business has to invest on the assumption that it would make a return - we were seduced into making that investment. Frankly, it's not just unfair, it is legally wrong."

He said that Ofcom putting consumer and market choice above industry concerns was a "figleaf" to cover up the fact the regulator wants to find more radio spectrum "whatever the cost to digital radio today".

"We were appointed for what was billed as the only national multiplex and [Ofcom's] statement made clear it was the sole licence - not one of many, or the first of two - and on that basis it looked fair to bid. We committed millions of pounds on the basis of a payback in 12 years." Mr Bernard argued that GWR was the only commercial broadcaster prepared to invest at the time and that its rivals should not be allowed in to the market now that digital radio is commonly regarded as viable.

#### Filling in the gaps in coverage

But Dee Ford, the managing director of Magic and Kiss owner Emap Performance, welcomed the licensing of new national digital multiplexes. "We need the white space filling in the gaps in coverage. There should be another national multiplex, I absolutely believe it's about listener choice," she said, adding that Emap forecasts it will break even on its digital radio investment in two years' time.

Mr Carter told festival delegates last night the regulator will announce its decision in the summer after "carefully digesting" responses to a consultation on the matter.

Digital One, owned by GCap and NTL and founded by GWR, was awarded the sole UK national multiplex licence for DAB digital radio in 1998 and started broadcasting in November 1999 under a renewable 12-year licence from the previous regulator, the Radio Authority. It broadcasts eight national commercial stations across the UK with a mix of its own stations and those of other broadcasters - TalkSport, Virgin Radio, Classic FM, PrimeTime, Life, Oneword, Planet Rock and Core.

Other radio companies own stakes in local digital multiplexes giving them access to pockets of the UK. GWR and NTL had to build the nationwide transmitter network and market digital radio from scratch when it was an unknown technology and encourage manufacturers to make sets to receive the broadcasts. Digital One says its investment in transmitters and marketing activity alone is in excess of £50m..

*(Julia Day - MediaGuardian)*

#### **Ofcom boss warns of future without radio**

**5 July, 2005**

Ofcom chief executive Stephen Carter has warned the radio industry that there is a danger that a whole generation will grow up without radio. Mr Carter said one of the main challenges for radio broadcasters was retaining the youth audience who are more interested in other, newer technologies. "Most of my generation grew up with radio. Memories of that first car, that first cigarette, that first pint of heavy, are for many of us inextricably bound up with particular pieces of music, particular radio programmes or DJs," he told the Edinburgh Radio Festival last night.

He also warned that radio's reliance on mainstream chart music can no longer guarantee audiences. "The gradual decline in mainstream chart radio listening over the past five years has accelerated: from 40% of commercial listening at the start of the decade to 30% and still falling. Some interesting parallels with mainstream, mass audience television; but unlike mass television there are no rising power ratios to sustain the value of radio advertising." ([www.guardianmedia.co.uk](http://www.guardianmedia.co.uk))

### American radio group to buy UK stations?

17 July, 2005

Emmis Communications, one of America's largest radio groups, has put Chrysalis, the owner of LBC News 1152 kHz, at the head of a shopping list of British media assets. Executives from Emmis have visited the UK in the past 10 days to explore acquisition opportunities. Although Chrysalis, which also owns the Galaxy stations, is considered an attractive target, securing a deal may prove difficult. Chris Wright, the Chrysalis Group co-founder and chairman, is reluctant to sell the company, in which he owns a stake of more than 25%.

Chrysalis, along with larger rival GCap Media, which owns Capital 95.8 FM, has been hit by the recent downturn in advertising, warning last month of a 14.5% slump in revenues in its radio business. The group found its own expansion plans thwarted after Guardian Media Group rejected a £120m offer for its radio assets. As well as Chrysalis, Emmis executives are thought to be interested in the Local Radio Company, which operates 27 local stations across the country (all FM), while speculation has linked Emmis with a takeover of GCap.

The US group has already made an unsuccessful bid for a radio licence in Manchester. It plans to fund a big takeover from the proceeds of an auction of its television stations. If it does pursue Chrysalis, Emmis could face competition from Lagardère, the French media group, which is looking at a potential offer. Ulster TV, which recently bought Talksport owner The Wireless Group, is thought to be interested in the idea of bringing together the speech radio station with Chrysalis's LBC. ([www.thetimesonline.co.uk](http://www.thetimesonline.co.uk))

### RSL & LPAM News

The football fixtures for the coming season have been announced and details of the clubs' broadcasting last season are given below. Note that Chelsea and Aston Villa have FM transmitters.

Football Club	Station	Sept fixtures	Oct fixtures
Barnsley	Oakwell 1575 kHz	10 <sup>th</sup> Nottm Forest 24 <sup>th</sup> Doncaster	1 <sup>st</sup> Oldham 15 <sup>th</sup> Blackpool 29 <sup>th</sup> Walsall
Blackburn	Radio Rovers 1404 kHz	18 Newcastle	1 <sup>st</sup> West Brom 22 <sup>nd</sup> Birmingham
Crystal Palace	Palace Radio 1278 kHz	10 <sup>th</sup> Hull City 24 <sup>th</sup> Preston 27 <sup>th</sup> Sheff Wed *	18 <sup>th</sup> Brighton * 22 <sup>nd</sup> Burnley
Manchester Utd	Manchester Utd Radio 1413 kHz	10 <sup>th</sup> Man City 24 <sup>th</sup> Blackburn	22 <sup>nd</sup> Tottenham

\* Evening kick off

**URY 1350:** Summer term at the University of York officially ended 1st July. The last programme from URY 1350 kHz was breakfast at 0900 on Sat 2nd July. It switched of its transmitter around mid-day. Autumn term starts 10th October.

**R Donington:** the providers of the station equipment confirmed that the station would be on air using 1602kHz 22-24 July 2005 for the BetandWin.com British Motorcycle Grand Prix. They could not confirm further dates but were "sure" that they'd be on air. They were less certain whether R Rockingham would be on air. (*Steve Whitt*)

## **Irish News**

### **Weekend Sport back on Longwave.....13 July, 2005**

From this Saturday, 16 July, listeners to RTÉ Radio 1 will be able to hear our weekend sports coverage on both the FM and Longwave 252 frequencies. Following feedback from listeners, it is clear that there are sports fans who cannot receive our FM coverage. We are therefore pleased to restore sports on Saturday and Sunday afternoons on Longwave 252 - a clear signal on a single frequency. Listeners can continue to enjoy the Second Helpings arts and features programming exclusively on the MW frequency. *(Issued by RTÉ Radio via Steve Whitt)*

### **Energy 1386 kHz.....18 July, 2005**

Max van Arnhem received the following reply to an email he sent to Energy Power 1386 kHz, the Irish unlicensed station. "We run our station on weekends from Dublin Ireland using a standard broadcast studio along with a computer music playout system. Our sender system comprises of a 0.3 kW solid state TX using high level modulation of the RF output stage. The modulation is generated using a pulse width modulator driving a single transistor class D switching amplifier. The carrier is generated using a phase locked loop oscillator.

The antenna is a grounded Marconi flat topped T style monopole (1/8 wavelength) with inductive loading just under the flat top or "hat" of the antenna. Loading the antenna at the top of the vertical gives more amps in the air. That' s basically the set-up. The signal strength you are getting is really DX type so it is not a lot of use for enjoyment purposes. The ground wave from the TX is solid for around 25 km sounding good on a cheap receiver. I hope you find the above data of interest. I have not made promo material yet. Thanks again for your report. Best Regards, John Marren. *(email reply received by Max van Arnhem Huissen NL)*

*Note: Energy Power AM heard for the first time by Steve Whitt on 16 July 2210 UTC on 1386kHz. ID as "Energy Power 1386AM" Phone # 087 677 9585 e-mail [energypoweram@hotmail.com](mailto:energypoweram@hotmail.com). Used to be on 1395 before Radio London appeared earlier this year.*

### **BCI to licence further stations.....27 July, 2005**

The Broadcasting Commission of Ireland (BCI) has today announced preliminary decisions regarding the further licensing of commercial radio services, following its recent board meeting. The following broad principles have been agreed. A range of regional youth-driven services will be advertised. The number of these services and the specific make-up of the franchise areas will be given further consideration at the September meeting of the board. Special emphasis will be placed on maximising population coverage in this regard. The Commission has agreed to the advertisement of a quasi-national speech driven service. It has also been agreed that applications will be sought for a national religious service on AM with FM low-power relays.

A range of other services for which expressions of interest have been received require further analysis and will be considered again at the September meeting of the Board. While no definitive decisions have yet been reached regarding the timeframes for advertising licences, the Commission intends to give priority to the development of the regional, quasi-national and national religious services, with further licensing being planned subsequent to this.

A detailed three-year licensing plan will be presented to the Board of the BCI for their approval in September after which time full details will be publicised. *(Mike Barraclough BDXC-UK news)*

# DX LOGGINGS

✉ Glackin, 199 Clashmore, Lochinver, Lairg, Sutherland IV27 4JQ, Scotland  
with Martin Hall e-mail: dxlogs@mwcircle.org ☎ 01571-855360

kHz	Callsign	Station, location; details heard etc	SIO	UTC	Date	Who
530		RVCI, South Caicos; SS IDs, promos	W/F	0415	22/7	mah
560	CHVO	Spaniard's Bay NL; country mx, ID "5-90 VOXM", // 590, 620	F/G	0507	24/7	mah
580	ZYI776	R Boas Novas, Recife; PP jingle, TC, ID "... Rádio Boas Novas AM 580 kHz ... Recife, Pernambuco, Brasil"	W/F	0402	3/7	mah
580	WKAQ	San Juan PR; SS anns, IDs as "WKAQ 5-80"; dominant over others (also W/F 0441 14/7)	W/F	0432	23/7	mah
585		RTT Gafsa, Tunisia; VN, Arabic mx & song programme clearly in background under COPE	W/Fpk	0331	9/8	Rha
590	VOXM	St John's NL; country mx, ID "5-90 VOXM", // 560, 620 kHz	G	0507	24/7	mah
590	LS9	R Continental, Buenos Aires; SS anns, ID "Servicio Informativo Continental"	F/Gpk	0411	22/7	mah
600	ZYK278	R Gaúcha, Porto Alegre (presumed); PP phone talk, several mentions of programme "Brasil na Madrugada"; over presumed Argentinian with classical mx, tangos and SS anns	F/G	0433	23/7	mah
610	CX4	R Rural, Montevideo; SS tlk, mx, ID "En esta CX4 Rural, la radio país 610 AM en internet <a href="http://www.cx4radiorural.com">www.cx4radiorural.com</a> "; xd another LA	W/F	0435	22/7	mah
620	CKCM	Grand Falls NL; ads for Grand Falls - Windsor, "The All Newfoundland and Labrador Radio Network", discussion px	F	0207	22/7	mah
620		ABBS St John's, Antigua (presumed); Caribbean accented cricket talk and commentary; fair to good at first, gradually getting weaker; still there, weak, but no ID, at toth; over CKCM	F/G	0443	23/7	mah
621		Voice of the Arabs, Batrah, Egypt; VN, Arabic-songs/music	S	0150	11/8	Rha
640	CBN	Gander NL; "You are listening to CBC Radio 1" (G at 0502)	W/F	0358	24/7	mah
640		RFO Point-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe; FF nx, France Inter, // 162 kHz Fpk but 2-3 seconds behind; when does this one carry local programmes?	Fpk	0401	24/7	mah
650	CKGA	Gander NL; audible from 0230 to around 0310; "VOXM First News" at 0230 (also vW 0306 17/7)	W	0230	19/7	mah
650	HJKH	RCN, SF de Bogotá; dominant around 0400, with SS "Antena Dos" IDs at 0404	vW	0404	17/7	mah
650	ZP4	R Uno, Asunción; SS anns "Con las 23 ... 12 994 ?2 859 ... por Radio Uno"; xf/xd presumed CX6 with classical mx	Fpk	0423	23/7	mah
650	<b>CX6</b>	<b>SODRE, Montevideo</b> ; classical mx noted from 0330; SS anns OM, then YL "Transmite CX6 en 650 kHz ... emisora de radiodifusión ... SODRE ... república oriental del Uruguay" at 0420 (tnx to Jan Alvestad for picking out the ID); getting weaker and disappearing around 0445; last reported in the UK on the Shetlands DXpedition in 1994	Fpk	0420	19/7	mah
700	LV3	Córdoba; SS ID "Cadena Tres Argentina"; xf another LA	Gpk	0345	22/7	mah
710	LRL202	R Diez, Buenos Aires; SS ID "Radio Diez - siempre noticias"	G	0500	22/7	mah
710	LRL 202	R Diez, Buenos Aires; SS OM tlk, jingles, ID "Radio Diez - La Radio con de locutor exacta"	Wpk	0420	15/8	Rha



kHz	Callsign	Station, location; details heard etc	SIO	UTC	Date	Who
730	HJCU	R Lider, SF de Bogotá; full SS ID	W/F	0558	16/8	mah
730.04	ZP7	R Cardinal, Asunción (presumed); weak SS tlk from about 0345, several mentions of Paraguay	Wpks	0358	16/7	mah
740	ZYH446	R Sociedade da Bahia; Salvador; EE soft pop song + RSDB IDs	W	0158	1/7	BD
740	ZYH446	RS da Bahia, Salvador; PP ID "AM 740 kHz Rádio Sociedade da Bahia"; dominating the channel on the 240 degree beverage	F/G	0401	22/7	mah
750	CBGY	Bonavista Bay NL; // 640 kHz (which was G at this time)	F	0509	24/7	mah
750	ZYH709	R Jovem Pan, Brasília; PP anns, jingle ID	W/Gpk	0424	22/7	mah
760	ZYH788	R Uirapuru, Fortaleza (presumed); PP anns, mentioned Fortaleza; rlgs px	W/F	0305	23/7	mah
770	CX12	R Oriental, Montevideo; tuned in to catch nice SS ID "Transmite CX12 Radio Oriental 770 AM Montevideo Uruguay - La Radio ..." (also F 0425 22/7)	F/G	0419	16/7	mah
780	ZBVI	Tortola, British Virgin Islands (tentative); Caribbean mx/EE songs noted briefly in the mix on channel around 0449, and at 0559 playing GSTQ; who else could it be?	vW	0459	30/7	mah
780	ZYK695	CBN, São Paulo; PP anns, a couple of "CBN" IDs, mentioning São Paulo; on top briefly (also Wpks 0400 15/7)	W	0437	30/7	mah
780	ZYI771	R Jornal do Comércio, Recife; PP tlk, anns, ID "Rádio Jornal do Comércio ...", TC, jingle; on top briefly	W	0446	30/7	mah
870	LRA1	R Nacional, Buenos Aires; SS anns, "Nacional" IDs	Wpks	0437	16/7	mah
890	LV11	<b>Emisora Santiago del Estero</b> ; SS tlk, anns, ID, which I now read as "... supporto técnico desde planta profesora en San Carlos departamento Banda. Operando ... 25 kilowatios de potencia en la radio ..."; thanks to Bjorn Malm in Quito, Ecuador, via the RealDX Group, for listening to my clip and solving the mystery; faded out rapidly around 0534; last reported in the UK on the Shetlands DXpedition in 1994	W/F	0522	22/7	mah
890	LV11	<b>Emisora Santiago del Estero</b> ; SS ID "... LV11 Emisora Santiago del Estero en su frecuencia de 890 kHz ... Santiago del Estero, República Argentina .."; xf Rádio Planalto;	Fpks	0445	12/8	mah
890	ZYH706	R Planalto, Brasília; "Rádio Planalto" jingle heard in the mix; (also Fpks 0102 10/8, Fpk 0413 12/8)	Wpks	0245	8/8	mah
890	YV--	Venezuelan National Anthem in the mix - YVVO or YVLW?	W	0402	8/8	mah
900	YVMD	Mara Ritmo, Maracaibo; SS ID, LA mx	F	0600	16/8	mah
920	ZYH519	<b>R Novo Tempo, Salvador</b> ; light song, PP ID "Rádio Novo Tempo ..."; last reported in the UK on the Shetlands DXpedition in 1993	W/F	0448	16/7	mah
920	YVQX	R Nueva Esparta, Porlamar; Anthem, SS ID "Esta es Radio Nueva Esparta 9-20 transmitiendo en Amplitud Modulada desde Porlamar, Isla de Margarita, estado Nueva Esparta" etc, TC	F/G	0407	23/7	mah
930	CJYQ	St. John's NL; folk music & ID "9-30 AM Radio Newfoundland"	W/F	0100	23/6	BD
930	CJYQ	St John's NL; folk music, "Radio Newfoundland weather"	F	0307	25/7	mah
930	CJYQ	St John's NL; ads, wx, IDs, & news	Fpk	2330	16/8	SW
930	CX20	R Monte Carlo, Montevideo; SS nx, TC, ID "... Monte Carlo para un Uruguay de audiencia"	W/F	0306	25/7	mah
950	LR3	R Belgrano, Buenos Aires; SS anns, website, ID "En AM 970 Radio Belgrano" (also F 0508 23/7)	W	0505	15/7	mah

kHz	Callsign	Station, location; details heard etc	SIO	UTC	Date	Who
950	ZYL212	R Atalaia, Belo Horizonte; PP ID "Rádio Atalaia ...", light song	Fpks	0456	29/7	mah
970	LV2	Córdoba; SS anns, website, ID as "LV2 ... Córdoba ..."	Wpk	0501	25/7	mah
970	<b>CX22</b>	<b>R Universal, Montevideo</b> ; SS pops, several IDs as "Cabrera 4022". Thanks to Barry Davies, Jan-Erik Osterholm and Henrik Klemetz for listening to my clips. Henrik cracked the mystery for us - the slogan was "Cabrera 4022", not "Cadena 40-22" as I originally heard it - when I did a Google search on this slogan as suggested by Henrik, it turns up <a href="http://www.agenciadenoticiasuruguay.com.uy/templo.htm">http://www.agenciadenoticiasuruguay.com.uy/templo.htm</a> first in the list, and going to this site reveals: "Templo Afro Umbandista", located at José A. Cabrera 4022, and refers to "Umbanda Tradicional en CX22 Radio Universal, todos los días de 0:30 a 2:30 horas"; <b>UK FIRST</b> ; (also W/F 0454 25/7, Fpks 0400 26/7, Wpk 0447 28/7)	Fpks	0414	23/7	mah
970	<b>CX22</b>	<b>R Universal, Montevideo</b> ; SS phone-talk, proper station ID noted today "22 Radio Universal ...." and phone numbers, between phone-calls; cross-fading with others	W/Fpk	0443	28/7	mah
980	ZYH707	RN, Brasília; PP anns, "Madrugada Nacional", promos	Gpk	0326	25/7	mah
1020.1	ZP14	R Ñandutí, Asunción; SS phone-in, ID "... para Radio Ñandutí"	W/F	0412	23/7	mah
1020	YVMX	R Continente, Maracaibo; SS ID "En Continente, una ..."	Wpk	0502	15/8	mah
1030	LS10	R del Plata, Buenos Aires; rapid SS ID in anns "mil treinta del Plata"	F/Gpk	0254	25/7	mah
1070	LR1	R El Mundo, Buenos Aires; Anthem, followed by nice full ID on Gpk "Desde Buenos Aires, república Argentina, transmite Radio El Mundo, en frecuencia de 1,070 kHz, en internet <a href="http://www.radioelmundo.co.ar">www.radioelmundo.co.ar</a> " (also F 0416 24/7)	F/G	0304	25/7	mah
1070	YVMA	Mundial Zulia, Maracaibo; SS ID "En Mundial Zulia primer lugar del sintonía 12, 14 minutos" (290 degree bev)	F	0415	24/7	mah
1110	<b>LS1</b>	<b>R de La Ciudad, Buenos Aires</b> ; coming up to mix with YVQT from about 0350, SS ID noted at 0355 "Radio de la Ciudad, transmitiendo ... del Plata ..."; <b>UK FIRST</b>	Wpks	0355	4/7	mah
1110	<b>LS1</b>	<b>R de La Ciudad, Buenos Aires</b> ; generally dominant over YVQT, coming up out of the noise from time to time, clearer SS ID today "Radio de La Ciudad ..."	Wpks	0340	6/7	mah
1110	YVQT	R Carúpano; SS TC, jingle, ID "Desde Carúpano ... Venezuela transmite Radio Carúpano 1,110 kHz"; LA mx; I think this one closed after the Venezuelan NA at 0400 (also Gpks 0308 23/7)	Wpks	0254	4/7	mah
1130	WBBR	New York NY; traffic and WX, "Bloomberg 11 three oh" ID	W/F	0425	14/8	BD
1130	ZYJ460	R Nacional, Rio de Janeiro; PP anns, IDs, mx (+ F/G 0504 16/7)	F/Gpk	0620	12/8	mah
1130	YVRL	R Ideal, Caracas; SS ID noted in the mix	W/Fpks	0420	24/7	mah
1150	LT9	R Brigadier López, Santa Fé (presumed); SS anns, mentioning "Santa Fé" several times	W/F	0308	25/7	mah
1150	UNID	SS TC, ID "... de la mañana ... Argentina tres ... once cincuenta kHz AM"; maybe just LT9 again?	Fpk	0432	25/7	mah
1180	ZYJ463	R Mundial, Rio de Janeiro ( <b>ex R Viva Rio</b> ); PP anns, ID; "Rádio Mundial 1,180 kHz" (also W 0634 12/8)	vWpks	0333	7/8	mah
1180	CB118	R Portales, Santiago; SS anns, mention of "Radio Portales", and again at 0459; characteristic mains-type hum on the signal, xf ZYJ463	vW	0430	7/8	mah

kHz	Callsign	Station, location; details heard etc	SIO	UTC	Date	Who
1190	LR9	R América, Buenos Aires; SS anns, ID "Radio América" (also Fpks 0421 6/7)	W/F	0244	23/7	mah
1190	LR9	R América, Buenos Aires; "la provincia de Buenos Aires" information and national anthem	W	0459	10/8	BD
1250		<b>AM 1250 R Estirpe Nacional, San Justo, Argentina</b> ; classical mx, SS anns/ID "AM 1,250 ... Nacional ... <a href="http://www.estirpenacional.com.ar">www.estirpenacional.com.ar</a> " difficult in splatter; members of the RealDX Group commented on the clip as follows. Rocco Cotroneo: "I think you got it. There is their web address here: <a href="http://www.estirpenacional.com.ar">www.estirpenacional.com.ar</a> then a clear AM 1250 Great catch!" and Jean Burnell: "Absolutely unequivocal. Congratulations!! Tnx to you both for your comments - mah; <b>UK FIRST</b>	W/F	0303	24/7	mah
1270	LS11	R Provincia de Buenos Aires, La Plata; SS anns, ID "... de la provincia AM 12-70 Buenos Aires, La Radio", TC; I think this was the one playing US EZL-style classics (+ F/Gpk 0442 25/7)	F	0439	24/7	mah
1280	WCMN	Areciba PR; SS ID "Esta es WUNO NotiUno 6-30" and list of network stations	W/F	0302	24/7	mah
1290	LRJ212	R Murialdo, Villa Nueva de Guaymallén (presumed); SS talk, song just before 0500, jingle, TS, church bells, faded (on the 240 degree bev); RealDX Group member Arnstein Bue writes: "The jingle on 1290 says "... Radio Católica Nacional". I believe the station running this px on 1290 is Radio Murialdo". Renato Bruni adds "On the 1290 clip I would bet on Radio Católica Mundial"; thanks to you both - mah	Fpks	0441	24/7	mah
1290	<b>LRJ212</b>	<b>R Murialdo, Villa Nueva de Guaymallén</b> ; church bells, SS TC, temperature, clear ID today: "Radio Murialdo, radio familia ... Radio Murialdo 1,290 kHz, radio familia, 90.? MHz ..." , then px from "Radio Católica Mundial"; <b>UK FIRST</b>	Fpks	0502	27/7	mah
1290	YVLF	R Puerto Cabello; LA mx, SS ID "Radio Puerto Cabello, primer lugar del sintonía - 12, 51 minutos" (on the 290 degree bev)	Gpk	0453	24/7	mah
1350	LS6	R Buenos Aires; SS ID	F/G	0446	24/6	mah
1350	ZYH520	R Cristal, Salvador (presumed); PP talk show	W/F	0335	6/7	BD
1380	CB138	R Corporación, Santiago; SS rlg, then promos/ads and IDs	F/G	0643	12/8	mah
1395.92		R Rurale, Labé, Guinea; discussion in local language; massive	Exc	2251	5/7	SW
1400	CBG	Gander NL; "You are listening to CBC Radio 1"	vW	0400	4/8	mah
1400	CBG	Gander NL; "CBC Radio One" ID & CBC News	W	0400	5/8	BD
1400	<b>LRG202</b>	<b>R Cumbre, Nauquén</b> ; SS ID "Transmite Cumbre AM 1,400" and light mx; xf	Wpk	0506	27/7	mah
1400	<b>ZYJ256</b>	<b>R Globo, Londrina</b> ; PP IDs "Rádio Globo"; this is the only Globo station listed for the frequency (in the April 2005 issue of Lista de Emissoras Brasileiras de Ondas Médias), but could it have been another station carrying Globo programming? <b>UK FIRST?</b>	Fpks	0504	27/7	mah
1400	HJ--	RCN (2 possible locations); SS sports commentary, then partially heard "La Radio de Colombia" jingle	vW	0402	4/8	mah

kHz	Call sign	Station, location; details heard etc	SIO	UTC	Date	Who
1409.98	CX44	AM Libre, Montevideo; SS anns, difficult copy, mentioning phone numbers 487 47 46 and 480 01 21, website "punto com punto ??" and "las 24 horas del día", but I couldn't pick out much more; repeated again at 0437 and 0502; see comments for 9/8 below	Wpks	0431	2/8	mah
1409.98	CX44	AM Libre, Montevideo; SS anns, repeated loop with phone numbers; I sent recordings of this and of 2/8 to the RealDX Group for comment, and had the following responses. Jan Alvestad writes "while I couldn't hear any ID there were a couple of interesting contact telephone numbers. One of them, 480-0121, hints at AM Libre, Montevideo. In WRTH 2005 they are listed with 480-2121". Horacio Nigro, who lives in Uruguay, notes "It's AM Libre. I can recognize the announcer pitch of voice". Thanks to you both - mah	Wpk	0500	9/8	mah
1420	YVNZ	R Marabina, Maracaibo(tent); speeches not salsa (for the second morning in a row) closing announcements and two himnos nacionales!	W	0358	30/7	BD
1420	YVNZ	Radio Marabina Maracaibo; salsa mx, "Marabina" ID & TC	W	0435	3/8	BD
1420	YVNZ	R Marabina, Maracaibo; SS ID/TC	F	0531	15/8	mah
1422		RTA Algeria; unusually dominant over Germany; // 252	vG	2307	16/7	SW
1431		R Sawa, Djibouti; ID, website, AA	G	2330	19/7	SW
1431		Radio Sawa, Djibouti; AA news reports	F	2020	21/7	BD
1431		Radio Sawa, Djibouti, Arabic & western pops, gave address – <a href="http://www.radiosawa.com">www.radiosawa.com</a> ; faded under Capital Gold by 2343.	Gpk	2330	5/8	JWe
1469.98	UNID	presumed LT28 Rafaela, SS talk from Argentina under YVSY	W	0338	10/8	Rha
1470	WLAM	Lewiston ME; still with nostalgia & ABC News	W	0158	28/7	BD
1470	LT28	R Rafaela; SS ID "Rafaela Argentina"; briefly on top (and again at 0140)	Fpk	0059	24/7	mah
1470	OAU4B	CPN Radio, Lima, Peru; ID as CPN Radio; several IDs announcing SW frequency "a través de la onda corta, vía los 6 mil ciento cincuenta kilohertz..." thanks mah & Henrik Klemetz	G	0334	16/7	SW
1470	OAU4B	CPN Radio, Lima; phone-in	F/G	0420	8/8	JWe
1470	CX147	R Cristal del Uruguay, Las Piedras; SS MOR songs & OM with W "Radio Cristal" ID	W	0155	13/7	BD
1470	CX147	R Cristal del Uruguay, Las Piedras; SS anns, ID "AM 14-70 Radio Cristal del Uruguay", website; dom for the next 90 mins	Fpks	0101	24/7	mah
1470	YVSY	R Vibración, Carúpano; salsa MX, "Vibración" IDs, TC	W	0205	6/7	BD
1470	YVSY	R Vibración, Carúpano; SS ID "Vibración, 1,470 AM ..."; on its own at this time, mixing with others later (+ Fpks 0454 17/7)	F/Gpk	0001	24/7	mah
1470	YVSY	R Vibración, Carúpano; SS, LA-rhythm música, ID	W/F	0340	9/8	Rha
1470	YVSY	R Vibración, Carúpano; SS ID and time check between music	Fpk	0314	15/8	SW
1470	YVSY	R Vibración, Carúpano; briefly faded up for ID unusually early	W	2303	15/8	JWe
1480	WMDD	Fajardo PR; SS anns, ID "Esta es WMDD ... Puerto Rico"	P	0258	24/7	mah
1500	YVRZ	R Dos Mil, Cumaná; SS ID "En Dos Mil 10, 3 minutos"	W/F	0205	22/7	mah
1500	YVRZ	R Dos Mil, Cumaná; SS MOR pops, "Dos Mil" ID & National Hymn	W	0355	23/7	BD
1500	YVRZ	R.Dos Mil, Cumaná; SS, light LA songs & ID "En Dos Mil ..."	W/Fpks	0337	9/8	Rha
1510	WWZN	Boston MA; sports talk	W	0255	29/6	BD
1510	WWZN	Boston MA; OM "Boston's Sports station 15-10 the Zone" Phone in number 800 777 2907 then ID "WWZN Boston"	F	0300	8/7	JW

kHz	Callsign	Station, location; details heard etc	SIO	UTC	Date	Who
1510	WWZN	Boston MA ; sports talk, golf & basketball on the Zone; on the 345° antenna, which surprised me	vS	0350	15/8	Rha
1510		R Belgrano, Suardi, Argentina; SS ID "Radio Belgrano AM 15- Fpks 10"; mixing from time to time with presumed WWZN and another LA station (also Fpks 0104 25/6, Wpks 0207 20/7)		0300	7/7	mah
1510	UNID	SS station; playing back to back modern MOR songs	W/F	0330	20/7	BD
1510.01	UNID	SS talk / conservaciones de la cultura - R Belgrano Suardi ??? at 0400 blocked by s/on of Flemish Radio	Wpks	0400	10/8	Rha
1512		Call of Islam, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; religious chanting, ID	G	0055	6/7	JWe
1520	HJLI	Vida AM Música, SF de Bogotá; SS ID	W/F	0554	15/8	mah
1570	UNID	EE, light music and further info talk	vW	0335	11/8	Rha
1575		R Farda, UAE; IDs	G	2248	13/7	SW
1590	WARV	Warwick RI; "15-90 AM. This is life changing radio WARV" and USA Radio network news	W/F	0400	9/8	BD
1590	ZYJ823	R Globo, Joinville SC; Globo promo and PP chat/talk; in static	vW	0305	28/6	BD
1590	ZYL369	R.Guaicuí; PP, EE & PP pops with frequent short jingles and publicidades in between; I heard R Guaicuí announced weakly	W	0400	11/8	Rha
1590	OAZ4Z	R Agricultura, Lima; light music & "Radio Agricultura Lima" ID	W	0358	4/8	BD
1590	CX159	R Real, Colonia; songs, SS TC, ID "... música de la noche en Radio Real ... Colonia ..." (also Fpks 0357 6/7)	W/F	0219	22/7	mah
1593		VOA, Kuwait; English programming audible most nights;	vG	2350	18/7	SW
1593		VOA, Kuwait; OM "17 minutes past the hour" VOA report on whether women can vote"	F	2217	19/7	JW
1620	WDHP	Frederiksted, USVI; YL with ID "You are listening to WDHP 1620 AM"	W	0300	6/7	JW
1620	WDHP	Frederiksted, USVI; YL with full ID, time pips & BBC WS nx	vW	0100	13/7	BD
1619.98	WDHP	Frederiksted, USVI (pres.); Caribbean songs; 0404 local nx	F/G	0357	22/7	mah
1620	WDHP	Frederiksted, USVI; soft pops & announcements, WDHP ID	W/Fpks	0355	11/8	Rha
1630	WRDW	Augusta GA; ABC News & "News talk sport 16-30 WRDW Augusta" ID	W	0405	12/8	BD
1630		AM Restauración, Hurlingham; LA songs, SS ID "... sintonía - AM Restauración - una radio ..."	W/F	0226	22/7	mah
1640	HI--	R Juventus Don Bosco, Santo Domingo; SS ID, city & MOR songs	W	0155	18/7	BD
1640	HI--	R Juventus Don Bosco, Santo Domingo; mx, ID "Radio Juventus Don Bosco, en la frecuencia de 1,640 kHz", px from Radio Católica Mundial	W/F	0222	22/7	mah
1660	WCNZ	Marco Island FL; "This is Relevant Radio" - first time I've heard it with the <b>new format</b> ; xf station with SS tlk	Fpks	0228	22/7	mah
1660	WCNZ	Marco Island FL; EE, dominant; "newsradio 16-60" - no WWRU signal	W/F	0343	11/8	Rha
1660	WWRU	Jersey City NJ; KK studio talk	F	0430	10/8	BD
1660	WWRU	Jersey City NJ; local Korean talk	W	0339	13/8	Rha
1660	WGIT	Canóvanas PR; SS pops, anns, network list, then ID "Transmite WGIT 16-60 Canóvanas Carolinas - La Gigante - Cadena Radio Voz Televisión"	F/G	0332	24/7	mah
1660	WGIT	Canóvanas PR; salsa mx, promos, echo effect for WGIT etc ID	W	0255	26/7	BD
1660	WGIT	Canóvanas PR; SS, weak talk	W	0347	9/8	Rha
1680	WTTM	Princeton NJ (presumed); Indian music	W	0300	7/7	JW

kHz	Callsign	Station, location; details heard etc	SIO	UTC	Date	Who
1680	WTTM	Princeton NJ; Indian film music and EE commercials	W	0225	1/8	BD
1680	WTTM	Princeton NJ (presumed); EE, with ethnic/Indian music	W	0346	11/8	Rha
1690	WPTX	Lexington Park MD; CNN rolling nx & "16-90 AM WPTX Lexington Park" ID	W	0400	7/8	BD
1700	WJCC	Miami FL; SS, latino-music programme	W	0351	11/8	Rha

Many thanks to the following reporters:

- BD Barry Davies, Carlisle, Cumbria. AOR AR 7030 , 130m longwire.  
 JW John Williams, Hemel Hempstead. AOR 7030 and 40m long wire.  
 JWe Jack Weber, Hertfordshire, WINRADIO G313i, Wellbrook ALA1530  
 mah Martin Hall, Clashmore, Sutherland. NRD-545, beverages: 513m at 240°, unterminated;  
 506m at 290°, terminated; TotalRecorder, Technics RS-BX404 cassette deck.  
 Rha Ronald Hagensen , Ottersberg , Germany . AOR 7030plus , 28m longwire in direction 280°  
 and the 243m beverage-antenna in direction 345°  
 SW Steve Whitt, High Catton near York. AOR7030+ and HF225 Europa with dual loop K9AY.

**Jack** notes: "A rather pathetic selection I'm afraid, but I've been too busy even for much overnight recording and conditions have been mostly poor Summer DX".

Here in Clashmore I usually take a break from MW DXing in the summer, and focus on my amateur radio interests. This year, however, I decided to get up early and attempt some serious DXing around dawn during a world-wide co-ordinated group of DXpeditions that took place from 22-25 July. Stimulated by results obtained, and by Jan Alvestad's daily reports of exotic DX (on <http://www.dxlc.com/solar/>), I've continued to monitor the band since then on a fairly regular basis, with both overnight recordings and early listening sessions. My conclusion is that there's lots of South American DX to be heard in the summer months, providing you're prepared to get up early enough. The 240 degree beverage has provided excellent performance and is ideally situated - it terminates about 100m from the sea, and there's a good sea-path from here to the south-west. I would recommend that any of our members in the UK on holiday over the summer months visit the west coast, take 500m of wire, some bamboo canes (optional), your receiver, and a recording device, and see what you can hear.

Amateur radio in my guise as GM8IEM hasn't been neglected, with some excellent Es propagation on the 50 MHz band, one of the highlights being a contact with fellow member **Lionel Roithmeir**, 2U0GSY. Unfortunately I missed a passing visit from **Paul Crankshaw** by a few hours, since I was on my way to Orkney for a short break, during which I had an interesting visit to the Orkney Wireless Museum (<http://www.owm.org.uk>). Strange to see the RCA AR88D in a museum - a superb receiver I used for many years for MW and tropical bands DXing (a bit of a give-away on my age!).

By the time this issue of MWN is published I intend to have uploaded the latest Clashmore Summary Log to my website at <http://www.gorrell.supanet.com/index.html> This lists all the stations I've heard in Clashmore since December 1996, on a season-by-season basis (i.e. between 1 Jul and 30 Jun each year), in frequency order. The site also contains details of my DXing and amateur radio set-up. If anyone would like an amateur radio sked on 6m, 2m, 70cm or 23cm, please let me know.

The **deadline** for the October DX Loggings is **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September**. I look forward to receiving your logs by then, preferably electronically/via e-mail using the Word pro-forma, which I can supply on request. Remember that I'd like to receive all logs, including those of the more common stations, since it helps to build up a picture of propagation conditions and what is being heard. Conditions for North America should be improving over the coming month, and logs from everyone are welcome.

73's Martin

# VERIFICATIONS SECTION

✉ 59 Moat Lane, Luton, Bedfordshire LU3 1UU, UK

with Clive Rooms

e-mail: [verifications@mwcircle.org](mailto:verifications@mwcircle.org) ☎ 01582 598989

Station	kHz	A	B	C	who	Station	kHz	A	B	C	who		
<u>Australia</u>						<u>Slovakia</u>							
6 BAY Geraldton	<u>1</u>	1512	lt	ms	15	GB	Bratislava	1098	cd	1	21	HS	
<u>Bulgaria</u>						<u>Slovenia</u>							
R Horizonte Sofia	261	cd	no	38	GB	Ljubljana	918	cd	no	8	HS		
<u>Hungary</u>						<u>Spain</u>							
Magyar Katolikus R	810		1	12	HS	RNE 5 Girona	<u>4</u>	1413	cd		850	GBe	
<u>Iceland</u>						<u>Taiwan</u>							
Rikisutvarpid Guvuskalar	189	cd	no	42	GB	WYFR Fangliao	<u>1</u>	1359	cd	\$2	84	GB	
<u>Ireland</u>						<u>UK</u>							
R Star Country	981	lt	no	125	GB	BBC R Cornwall	657	lt	sae	11	GB		
						BBC Hereford & Worcs	738	lt	sae	18	GB		
<u>Luxembourg</u>						<u>USA</u>							
China R Int	1440	cd	no	43	HS	WOOD Gr. Rapids MI <u>5</u>	1300	lt	\$1	41	LR		
R Freundes-Dienst	1440	cd	no	37	HS	KENN Farmington NM <u>6</u>	1390	e		33	GB		
RTL	1440	cd	no	15	HS	WDSS Ada MI <u>7</u>	1680	lt	rp	66	BD		
<u>Netherlands</u>						<u>WRLB Berwyn IL</u>							
R Wadenzee	<u>2</u>	1602	lt		42	MvA	1690	cd	no	219	VS		
<u>Poland</u>						<u>Vatican</u>							
R Polonia	225	cd	no	31	GB	R Vatikan	585	cd		17	HS		
Polskie R	225	cd	no	46	HS	<u>BEACONS &amp; UTES</u>							
<u>Puerto Rico</u>						<u>UK</u>							
WGIT	<u>3</u>	1660	lt		28	MvA	WPL Welshpool	<u>8</u>	323	lt	sae	45	LR

A= what was received; B= what return postage was sent; C = days to get a reply

## Notes:

- Graham heard these whilst near Simonstown, South Africa.
- Uses 120 watts into a 25 metre high T-antenna.
- PO Box 7, Moca, Puerto Rico 00676. The v/s said in the letter that the station has recently changed to a new administration (new owners?).
- Yes, this one did take 2 years and 4 months to reply to Giampero! No follow-up was sent. Not surprisingly, they apologised for the delay and sent a full data QSL card and a sticker! QTH: Avgda. De Jaume 1 No 60, 17001 Girona. [emisora.girme@rtve.es](mailto:emisora.girme@rtve.es)  
Giampero says it was a nice surprise to finally receive the QSL!
- 77 Monroe Center, Suite 1000, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

- 6 Graham got this verified by e-mail and a phone call! Program Director Eric Miller confirmed that the station only uses 1300 watts at night! This is the first time this station has been heard in the UK!
- 7 Also sent fridge magnets and stickers. QTH (different to NRC log) Radio Disney WDSS, 4417 Broadmoor SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512.
- 8 Lionel's letter was returned and stamped verified by Avionic Ltd. QTH: Mid Wales Airport, Welshpool, Powys SY21 8SG, Wales. This needed a follow-up reception report.

## Verification Signers

WDSS-Wanda Holst, Sales Manager	KENN-Eric Miller, Program Director
6BAY-Jason McCarthy, Acting Station Manager	WGIT-Lynette Matos
R Star Country-Country Girl Clare	BBC R Cornwall-Les Timmins
RNE5 Girona-Alexandre Teixidor, Responsable Emisiones	

## Contributors

This month, it's many thanks to the following:

LR-Lionel Roithmeir, BD-Barry Davies, Vince Stevens in South Africa, GB-Graham Bell, MvA-Max van Arnhem, HS-Harald Suss and GBe-Giampiero Bernardini.

Many thanks to both Harald and Giampiero for first time contributions.

As I have some space left, here are some verie signers from the past twelve months from stations that are reasonably easy to hear here in the UK.

670 WSCR – Greg Davis, Chief Engineer  
 680 CFTR – Ron Combden, Chief Engineer  
 690 CINF – Catherine Lacasse, Executive Assistant  
 850 WEEI – Jason Wolfe, Director of Programming  
 960 CFFX – Larry Cameron, Vice President of Engineering  
 1040 CJMS – Jean-Francois Dubois, Directeur General  
 1090 WBAL – Hank Volpe, Director of Engineering  
 1120 KMOX – Paul J Grundhauser, Manager, Technical Operations  
 1130 KFAN – Jess Meyer, Senior Engineer or Eric Aydt, Assistant Chief Engineer  
 1240 WMMB – Bill Mick, Program Director  
 1280 CFMB – Luigi Valente, Station Manager  
 1340 WMID – Gary Fisher, Owner  
 1360 WKAT – Jay W Hart, Operations Manager  
 1380 CKLC – D'Arcy Magee, Programme Director

That's it for another VS, I'll be back when I have enough contributions for another column. The more people contribute then the sooner there'll be another column. 73s – Clive.