



New Zealand DX Times

Monthly journal of the
New Zealand Radio DX League (est. 1948)
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PRESIDENTS REPORT NEW ZEALAND RADIO DX LEAGUE AGM NOVEMBER 1998

This our 50 th AGM will be notable in the history of DXing , as few DX Clubs have reached 50 years of age. This event was celebrated earlier this year , with the very successful 50 th Anniversary Convention hosted in Oamaru by the North Otago Branch , and more recently in a special joint anniversary broadcast with Radio New Zealand International .

Over the last year ADCOM has taken steps to stabilize the decline in membership and we believe we are now beginning to feel the benefits . The major transition has been the appointment of the new chief editor , Andy Gardiner and the move into the electronic publishing of the DX Times. There has been teething problems as we have moved into the electronic age , but we believe that for the DX Times to succeed in the next century , these changes had to be made .

Our thanks must go to Arthur DeMaine , the retiring chief editor , for the work he has put into the publishing the DX Times over the last 11 years . That is a long stint as chief editor . Our thanks also to the retiring , Jack Searle and John Mainland , both long serving sub editors .

Another project that members may not be aware of , is that the NZART approached the League to contribute a SWL page in their monthly magazine , Break In . Michael Butler , a long time DXer , volunteered to produce the page and I thank him for the excellent job he is doing . Already we have gained several new members from the amateur ranks .

Our treasurer Bryan Clark is stepping down this year after holding the position since ADCOM moved to Auckland . Bryan will continue as a valuable committee member . The position of treasurer will be taken over by Phil Van de Paverd , a well known Auckland Branch member . My thanks to all the ADCOM Committee , all editors and the North Otago branch for the work and support they have given this past year .

ADCOM is well aware of the continuing changes in communications and the impact it is having on our hobby . . We realize that we must adapt to meet these changes Our membership is aging and unless we move to meet the new challengers the hobby will suffer . If we do not move now then we will not be ready to move into the 21 st century . and carry our hobby forward .

Barry Williams, National President

Contribution deadline for Jan Issue is Wednesday Dec 30th - PO Box 3011, Auckland

NZRDXL AGM November 1998 - Chief Editor's Report

As you all know, I took over the reins from Arthur de Maine earlier this year. On behalf of everyone I would like to thank him for sticking at the job for an incredibly long time, even as his workload in other areas increased. Believe me, it is not an easy task, and I applaud him for his hard work over that time.

I would like to thank all of you who responded to the questionnaire that was printed on the subscription renewal forms. The information you gave me has been invaluable in plotting the course for the DX Times in the near future.

As you are all very aware, we live in changing times. Many peoples "discretionary dollars" are less than they used to be, due to the economic climate. This puts pressure on clubs of all sorts to retain members. As the DX Times is the most expensive DX League item to produce, and the main reason most people are members, I feel it is imperative that we deliver the best possible product for the least possible cost. The changes brought about in the last few months are all part of that process.

We are also in a world that is changing rapidly as far as communication is concerned. The changes to the magazine production will allow us in the very near future to offer many members an electronic version of the DX Times instead of a printed copy. Such member could then either retain the copy in electronic form only, or print the pages of interest for themselves. Such electronic delivery side-steps the most expensive items of the DX Times - the printing and the postage. "Electronic" members would be offered a reduced membership fee, and I feel this would attract many more overseas members to the DX League, strengthening its membership at a time when many clubs are feeling the strain of competing against television and the Internet.

The survey results uncovered some interesting statistics. Right now I would like to state that the popularity of any columns is not a reflection in any way on the sub-editors. Certain columns will never be as popular as others, due to the differing interests of the membership, which is what makes life interesting.

The Shortwave Bandwatch column streaked in ahead of the rest as the most popular. I must say that we owe the sub-editors of these columns a debt of gratitude. They are the largest columns, and the most tedious and time-consuming to collate and present. I must also apologise for the erratic nature of the appearance of the SWBW+9 column recently. We are working on the problems.

Seasoned DX Times editors of the past (including myself) would have rated the Shortwave Report as the number 2 column, but here's the shock. It came 4th. Even more interesting, the number 2 and 3 columns hardly ever get to appear. Yes, Receiver Reviews and Technical Articles are what the punters are screaming out for. Members with the ability to produce such items appear to be very scarce. I have decided to approach other DX magazines and Radio Resources in a bid to arrange more article sharing - "reprinted from ...". Let's face it, writing such articles is time-consuming and why re-invent the wheel? Look out for more frequent reviews and tech info in the year to come. Radio station, DX League and general radio history also rated very highly on the list, so I will endeavour to publish more of this as well.

I will write-off the Chief Editor's column coming 5th as a glitch in the statistical data. Like your dentist, I'll endeavour to keep it as short and painless as possible.

Even giving the above results, I am well aware that many columns are of limited appeal, but are important to cater for specialists interest groups. Although not as popular, columns such as TV/FM and SW QSL will continue to appear. With the changes in the method of production, such columns can now supply good data without taking up large amounts of space in the publication.

Some members have expressed concern about the columns appearing in different places in different months. I know that having them in fixed positions each month would be nice but as the size of different columns changes month to month, this makes it very hard to do so. It could be done, but would see the magazine delivered much later in the month. It is my aim to have the magazine out as quickly as possible. I consider this a priority.

Finally, on behalf of all the members, I would like to thank the sub-editors, both past and present, for their patience during the recent magazine changes. It is a process that is nearly complete, and judging from the many positive comments received from members, it has been well worth the effort. The editorial team will continue to work hard to maintain, and improve, the quality of the League's monthly magazine.

Shortwave Report *with Matt Francis in Canberra*

Season's greetings to all readers! Times in UTC, frequencies in kHz.

Australia: Some of Radio Australia's transmissions to SE Asia, the Western Pacific and PNG will be off air between 0000-0900 from Monday 7 December to Friday 11 December to enable work on antennas at the Shepparton transmitter site. Nigel Holmes, RA's transmission manager, told 'Feedback' on RA on 6/12 the work on the 'J' group antennas (J for Japan) was required to try and fix mismatching between transmission lines and the antennas. Among the frequencies affected will be 21725 which has apparently been propagating quite well to North America recently.

Belgium: RVI via Petropavlovsk 1200-1226 has moved to 9810 ex 9865 to avoid QRM from CRI on 9870 (Paul Brems, Belgium, to rec.radio.shortwave 4/11/98)

Bhutan: Bhutan Broadcasting Service, Thimpu 5030 (Mon-Sat) 1000-1245 Dzonkha, 1245-1315 Nepali, 1315-1400 English; Sundays 6035 0400-0830 Dzonkha, 0830-0900 Nepali, 0900-1000 English (SARG 'Media Monitor')

Central African Republic The UN sponsored Radio Minurca is now on the air. The station, with the purpose of covering the legislative elections in the country, has been logged by several listeners in Europe on 9900. Station has already responded with an email QSL to David Sharp, USA. According to info, has been on air since 1600 on Saturday 7 November. Address for reports: Radio Minurca, PO Box 2732, Bangui, Central African Republic. Most programming in Sango and French, with 2 hours 15 minutes of BBC Africa service at 0500 and 1745. Email: radmin@intnet.cf.

Chile: Voz Cristiana schedule for B98: 6070 0900-1200, 2000-0400; 9635 1200-2000; 11690 0100-0800; 11745 2100-0500; 11890 0800-1100; 15375 1000-1300, 2300-0600; 17680 1300-2300; 21500 1100-2100; 21550 1300-0100 (EDXP 102) Both 21500 and 21550 have been heard with good signals here in Canberra around 1300 most nights (Francis)

China: Frequency changes by CRI for English to the South Pacific are reasonably rare,

so the new schedule from 9 November is of note: new 15210 and 17755 for 0900-1100 (replacing 9785, 9890 and 11755). Other times for South Pacific include: 1200-1300 6950, 7385, 9945, 11675; 1300-1400 9945, 11660, 11715. New schedule also lists 'test' frequencies for English: 15180 1200-1400 to SE Asia; 9700 1400-1500 S Asia; 9745 1700-1800 E & S Africa; 9600 1900-2000 and 11840 1900-2000 for W & N Africa (Francis/CRI)

Cuba: Radio Habana Cuba, in English 2030-2130 13720 and 13750 USB (Francis)

Finland: B98 schedule for Radio Finland to Australia and Asia: 0000-0030 6025, 9815 Finnish; 0700-0730 9840, 21670 Finnish; 0730-0800 9840, 21670 English; 0800-0930 15240, 17670 Finnish; 0930-1000 15240, 17670 Russian; 1200-1245 21670 Finnish; 1245-1300 21670 Swedish (EDXP 102)

Germany: IBC via Julich at 0000-0050 Tamil, 0050-0059 English on new 7150 (ex 9490) (SARG 'Media Monitor') Effective Friday 13 November, High Adventure Ministries European broadcasts in English will no longer be transmitted in the evenings (1900-2100 5975 and 2100-2300 6000). Instead, HAM has begun a 4 hour morning block of programming to Europe 0700-1100 on 5975. This transmission is coming from Julich, Germany (100kw T elefunken transmitter). For more details, Peter Darg, HAM UK Administrator, PO Box 109, Hereford, England HR4 9XR (Hauser, SW/DX Report 98-50)

Hungary: I can confirm that R Budapest IS using 25700 at 1100-1300 Mon-Sat. It is audible here in the UK, although the signal is quite weak and variable from day to day (Dave Kenny, England, Review of International Broadcasting/Hauser SW/DX Report 98-50) New frequencies for B98 for English at 2100 - 6025 (formerly used by HS relay), 7230, 11895 (Bob Padula, EDXP 102)

India: New frequencies for AIR from start of November: 17595 Tamil 1115-1215, Telugu 1215-1245 (also on 13700, 15770); 15475 Burmese 1215-1315 (also on 11620, 11710); 11930 Urdu 0100-0430 (ex 11620); 9810 Nepali 0130-0228 (ex 9550); 9620 (new) Sindhi/Baluchi 1230-1600 (SARG 'Media Monitor')

Israel: KOL Israel in English for B98 0500-0515 7465, 9435, 21620; 1130-1135 15640, 17535; 1500-1530 15640, 17535; 1645-1700 9435, 11605, 15650; 2000-2025 7465, 9435, 11605, 15640 (Francis/IBA)

Italy: AWR via Forli: Arabic 0700-0800 7260, French 0630-0700 7260, Arabic 1000-1100 17610, Arabic 1330/1430 11700, English 0930-1000 and 1230-1300 7230, French 1300-1330 11700, German 0900-0930 7230, Italian 0800-0900 and 1100-1200 7230, Turkish 2130-2200 7105 (Francis/AWR)

Malta: Voice of Mediterranean Mon-Sat 9850 0600-0630 Italian, 0630-0700 English, 0700-0730 Arabic; 7440 2000-2200 English/Arabic; Sun: 17570 0500-0600 Japanese; 11830 0700-0800 Italian, 0800-0900 English, 0930-1030 Maltese, 1030-1100 French, 1100-1200 German; 7440 2000-2100 English, 2100-2130 French, 2130-2200 GG. (BCDX via EDXP 102)

Philippines: Radio Pilipinas via Poro/Tinang 11730 1730-1930 English; 11890 1730-1930 English; 13770 0330-0400 Filipino/English; 15120 0230-0330 Filipino/English; 15190 1730-1930 English; 15270 0230-0330 Filipino/English; 15330 0330-0400 Filipino/English; 17730 0330-0400 Filipino/English (Francis/IBB)

Poland: Polish Radio, Warsaw, in EE for B98: 1300-1359 6095, 7270, 9525, 11830; 1800-1859 6095, 7285; 2030-2129 6035, 6095, 7285, 9525. Polish 1130-1159 5995, 7285; 1200-1225 7270, 7285; 1630-1729 6000, 7285; 2200-2259 6035, 6095, 7270 (Francis/Polish Radio)

Seychelles: FEBA Radio, Mahe has the following changes as from 25th October. Hindi at 0030-0100 on 7350, 0100-0115 Marathi (new) on 7350, Bengali (new) 0045-0100 hrs on

9785. English is daily at 1500-1600 hrs on 11600 kHz. Also heard on every Sundays at 1630-1700 hrs on 11665 (SARG 'Media Monitor')

South Africa: Adventist World Radio, via Meyerton: English 0500-0530 5960 6100, 1730-1800 12130, 1800-1830 5960 6100, 2030-2100 9745; French 2000-2030 9745 (Francis/AWR)

Taiwan: Radio Taipei International, new English schedule: 0200-0300 9680w, 5950w, 15345, 11825, 11740; 0300-0400 5950w, 9680w, 15345, 11825, 11740; 0700-0800 5950w; 1200-1300 7130, 9610; 1300-1400 15125; 1400-1500 15125; 2200-2300 5810w, 9985w. 'w' - via WYFR (Francis/RTI). Radio Australia programs in Chinese to be relayed via CBS: Fridays 'Music from Australia' 1130-1200 6085, 6180, 11775, 11840; Sundays 'Report from Australia' 1430-1500 6040, 7250, 9630 (Richard Jar y, ARDXC)

Tajikistan: Via Dushanbe transmitters: Voice of Tibet, in Tibetan 1220-1255 on new frequency 11520 (45554), also on new 7470 (35443). Democratic Voice of Burma, in Burmese, 1245-1345 on new 11580 (45554), plus 15330 via Julich. Voice of Free Iran, in Persian, 1830-1900 on new 5830 (55544) plus 6215 (45554) (Panview, Bulgaria, via BCDX 391)

Thailand: Radio Thailand via Udorn 6040 1130-1145 Lao, 1145-1200 Burmese; 7145 1300-1315 Japanese, 1315-1330 Mandarin, 1330-1400 Thai; 7285 1100-1115 Vietnamese, 1115-1130 Khmer; 9530 1400-1430 English; 9535 1900-2000 English, 2000-2015 German, 2015-2030 French, 2030-2045 English, 2045-2115 Thai; 9680 0000-0030 English; 9810 1230-1300 English; 11805 1200-1215 Malay, 1215-1230 Indonesian; 11855 1800-1900 Thai; 13695 0030-0100 English, 0100-0200 Thai; 15115 0530-0600 English; 15460 0300-0330 English, 0330-0430 Thai (Francis/IBB)

USA: World of Radio on a 4th SW station - WBCQ. We are pleased to announce that Allan H Weiner has invited us onto the WBCQ schedule, 7415, Wednesdays at 2200, probably starting Nov 25 with #966, the Wavescan Bhutan special (Glenn Hauser, SW/DX Report, 98-50)

Uzbekistan: IBRA Radio via Tashkent in Bengali is back again on 15470 at 1330-1400 after a brief stay on 7400 (SARG 'Media Monitor')

Sources: Thanks to Glenn Hauser's Shortwave/DX Report; EDXP - Electronic DX Press; SARG 'Media Monitor' - South Asia Radio Guide (Alok das Gupta); BC-DX: Worldwide DX Club 'Top News'.

Shortwave Mailbag *with Barry Williams in Auckland*

Welcome to the December issue of Shortwave Mailbag. A couple of hiccups in the last Mailbag. I forgot to make a final check of my Email before the final typing, and missed Paul Ormandy's contribution. I also forgot to split the Best of the Month into two, Over 9 mHz and Under 9 mHz. Jack Searle has brought to my attention that only New Zealand members may enter the Best of the Month competition. In the back of my mind I believed this was the case and checked out the BOM rules, which do state that entrants must reside in NZ. Never the less I thought Leigh's verification from CHNX was interesting and worth mentioning. It would be extremely difficult to rate an African station logged in Adekaide against the same station logged in Auckland. Now for the veries;-.

Paul Ormandy, Oamaru, with his October list of QSLs. Telecom, Sweden (tests) 15240 and 17870, R Free Viynyl 6955 (US pirate), Radio San Marino Int. 11410, and Christian Voice Zambia 3300 kHz. *Paul there was some debate as to the station location of San Marino. Was that ever resolved?*

Ross Gibson, Christchurch. with two new countries in Christian Voice Zambia 4950 and R>Botswana 4820. Also back are R>Mar yja, Poland 12010, SRI 5840, R.Roumania Int. 11940 and Radio Mexico Int. 9705. *Congratulations on the two new countries. I have not had one this year. Ross, I believe that ever since the 70s the majority of the League members have been listeners, rather than DXers.*

Ian Cattermole, Blenheim. found these QSLs in his mailbox prior to his trip to Melbourne in late November. CRI 11825, 7270, ADFR 14790, Universal Life, Lithuania 9710, Universal Life, Julich 9490, Deutsche Welle, Novosibirsk 12000, Tricomalee 9815, 9655, 11785, 17560, Wertochal 21680, 9765, 9680, JOIK Sapporo BC Corp 6005, KHBN 15725, RAI 9675, 11755, WBCQ 7415, Cyprus BC 9760, Overcomer WWCR 3960, CRI via Mali 15500, 11795, REE 15125, 15480, R.Yugoslavia 6185, R Habana Cuba 13750, Voice of Christiana Chile 21550. *I trust you had a good holiday in Melbourne.*

Laurie Boyer, Invercargill reports the following verifications back. Radio for Peace International 6975, R.Denmark 15675, R. Ukraine 7410, 13590, Voice of Turkey 7210, Conakry Guinea 7125, R.Japan 21670, RAI 7270, Sunshine Radio 5850 and HCJB 9640. *Nice to see a veries from Conakry. Paul Ormandy is after that one and I have a report ready to go out to them.*

Jack Searle Haumoana says his veries reflect his recent inactivity but after reading the front page of the November DX Times has 11 reports out. veries back are WBCQ 7415, (Back in 15 days) R.Vatican Int. 9940. *Trust you are fully well again. I gather the Pampas Grass was the culprit. Were you poisoned?*

Barry Williams, Auckland. To prove I still have the occasional report still going out, the following verifications are back; La Voice of Christiana 21550 and R.Damascus 12085.

Lindsay Robinson has verifications in from R.Bandeirantes 9645, WYFR 11550, SRI via F.Guiana 9885, Overcomer Ministry via Julich 9500, R.Japan 6008.7, R.Minsk 11670, 7210, Australian Defence Forces 15635, TWR via Albania 9685 and R.Denmark 9570. *Good to see you are still sending them out and getting them back.*

Keith Robinson also of Invercargill but no relation of Lindsay has veries back from Christian Voice Zambia 3330, R.Riga International 5935 and Uganda 5026. *Quality, not quantity, Keith!*

John Durham Tauranga, has three verifications back. RFPI Costa Rica 6980, WBCQ 7415 and Radio Miskut Nicaragua 5770. *The last one is a nice one John. Call in when next in Auckland and we can talk computers then. A godsent for wordprocessing. Email is handy too.*

David McGaughey from Papatoetoe. The postie has been good to David again leaving veries from R.Slovakia 15460, Vatican Radio 13765, R.Portugal 21655, RCI via Austria 11975, R.Ukraine 7410, Radio Simbu 3355 (after 14 months), R.Havana Cuba 13605, FEBC 15095, RAI 7270, R.Prague 9480, R.Austria Int. 21745. *Radio Simba a nice one to get back David. Worth the wait. Your country total must be going up. What's the count?*

Paul Peacock received two QSLs during November; they being, RTE Ireland via Singapore 11740, and Voice of Asia 7445 along with station sticker and postcard.

Arthur de Maine Wellington has a lone QSL from SENTECH South Africa for TWR on 11745. *Ian Cattermole had a similar QSL. Refer below.*

Laurie Boyer, Invercargill, has the following veries back; WCBQ 7415, R.Sweden 9455, 17870, ADFR 14790, Czech Rep. 11600, 6055, 13620? 21745, R.Slovakia 7300, Merlin Network 19560, 9895, R.Austria Int. 21765, 9495, RAI 21520, R.Finland 21670, HCJB 9775, Iceland

15775 with 10 kW. *It looks as if you are more active than some of us Laurie.*

Ian Cattermole, Blenheim, draws our attention to the fact that a report sent to Trans World Radio was verified from SENTECH, South Africa. SENTECH is the company that owns the transmitters of Channel Africa and leases them to other broadcasters such as, Radio France International, Trans World Radio, Adventist World Radio and South African Radio League. If you are aware, and without a transmission schedule, it may be difficult, that the transmission originates from South Africa, reception reports may be sent to SENTECH, Private Bag X06, Honeydew 2040, South Africa., who will verify reception reports. Ian now has TWR Swaziland 9510 via Sentech, South Africa. *I am afraid Ian, this is a growing problem over recent years. So many broadcasters are now leasing transmitter time from other broadcasters, it is becoming difficult to know where the transmission originates from. A decade or two ago it was a lot simpler with a few of the major broadcasters having their own relay stations. I must admit that today I am at a loss as to where many of the transmissions originate from.*

During November, a noise problem I had with my ICOM R71 receiver, finally drove me into action. The symptoms were a severe hash noise across the 1 - 4 MHz portion of the SW band. This noise tends to creep up on one as the problem is a progressive one. I had noticed it for many months, but eventually it became so severe I was driven into action.

I suspected the noise source would be in the digital readout area as when I turned the "dial dimmer" switch on, the noise increased. A visitor to the service viceman quickly identified the problem as faulty capacitors in the power supply for the digital readout. The nominal 12 volts has to be raised to a higher voltage for the display. So a warning. Should you suspect that the internal noise in your receiver is increasing get it checked out. Don't suffer it for months like I did. When checking for internal noise always disconnect the antenna!

Now for the Best of the Month and my choice for the Under 9 MHz goes to John Durham with Radio Miskut, Nicaragua 5770 kHz with a power of 1000 watts. A very rare country with low power. The Over 9 MHz goes to Laurie Boyer with Iceland 15775 kHz. 10 kW. Congratulations to you both.

Thanks to all who supported Shortwave Mailbag this month. Notes can be sent to: barrydx@voyager.co.nz or 4 Kay Drive, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland or NZ DX Times, PO Box 3011, Auckland

Utilities with Evan Murray in Auckland

A letter from John Charlton of Greymouth — "Antarctic monitoring hasn't been all that wonderful. I am having problems from a couple of other stations on the ice frequencies and recently, reception has been dead anyway. A message from the Pole said that HF comms have been wiped out by solar activity. A couple of days ago (18 November), two Hercs departed for the Pole with no HF comms at all and VHF coming in about 100 miles from the Pole. I made a trip to Christchurch and had a good time talking to some of the Navy VXE-6 officers and was given a few things to remember them by. This is their final season. They will no longer exist after early next year. I met some good people at the New York Air National Guard Flight Ops and also had a great time with a U.S. Air Force C-141 Flight Engineer. They had just finished their Ice Flights and were waiting to go back to McChord AFB." 5535 0818 Lima/Tower 850.FL 310 0818. Est Salinas 0911 - EM

5598 0712 Gander/Air Europe 2208. At 3 N 50 W - EM
 5598 0627 Santa Maria/Reach 33P - EM
 5643 1719 'This is Navy warship 67, we are alongside the ketch.' TJ
 5643 1732 'Navy warship 67, this is Brisbane. Canberra asks how may POBs (passengers on board. Ed) on yacht?' TJ
 5643 1020 National Jet departed Norfolk - BJ
 5670 1750 Colombo/Singapore 346 - EM
 5687 0-809 Aussie 657/Air Force Auckland - NJ
 5687 0820 Ops normal. Cancel TTF East Sale — NJ
 6215 0805 All stations, all stations, this is Perth Radio, good afternoon. TJ
 6532 1808 Honolulu/Singapore 5. FL 330 - EM
 6556 1754 Perth/Qantas 76 - EM
 6556 1755 Calcutta/Unident 6574 - EM
 6604 0628 Gander Volmet — BJ
 6655 0733 San Francisco 002 Moscow, your primary is now 5547. TJ
 6712 1745 French Air Force Villacoublay. Short transmission — EM
 8867 0319 NZ182 Auckland, a bomb threat has been received... TJ
 8867 0319 NZ182 Christchurch, threat has been classified as unspecified risk. TJ
 8867 0521 Auckland Radio Airforce 7, go to 10050 for radio checks, over . TJ
 10075 0759 Cedar Rapids/Continental 32 - EM
 10078 0851 Qantas Control/Qantas 19. 50 miles N Darwin. Not in icing conds -EM
 11125 1005 Yokota Air Force Base with wx - BJ
 11175 0923 Anderson AMCC/Reach 7028 - NJ
 11285 1752 Maidan/Unident aircraft 350 - EM
 11285 1756 Chennai/Speedbird 16. Chennai=Madras - EM
 11300 1840 Nairobi/Seychelles re aircraft FL 280 S/C EJBL - EM
 11300 1845 Cairo/Tripoli re LAA 03 F28 S/C HLGK - Sidi Barrani-T ripoli - EM
 11306 0801 Lima/Canadian 100 S/C BQCM ET A Sao Paulo 1105 - EM
 11306 0804 Lima/World 1550 ETA Miami 1405 - EM
 11306 0810 Lima/American 905 FL 290 Fuel 59.2 Wind 200/05 - EM
 11306 At various times up to 20 American Airlines aircraft with Flt Sup Lima - EM
 13206 0835 Air Force Darwin/RAFAir 715
 13339 0822 Hong Kong/Singapore 03 - EM
 13339 0454 San Francisco/North West 87 — EM

Thanks to — BJ Basil Jamieson, NJ Noel Jones, TJ Trevor James, EM Evan Murray.



Bandwatch - under 9Mhz with Ken Baird

Please note that all frequencies should be in Kilohertz, time in UTC (=GMT = UT), initials underlined indicate reception report sent. For reasons of accuracy some positive ID from the station heard would be desirable, otherwise the ID of the station heard should be shown as tentative. Stations heard by contributors during NOVEMBER were as follows,

KHz UTC Country, Station, Programme, & Reception Details

2310 1644 AUSTRALIA, Alice Springs in EE with talk about lawnmowers, good // 2325,

2485 - CC
 2460 0928 BRAZIL, R Alvorada with pops, poor and noisy and faded out by 0938 - DN
 3172.7 0943 PERU, R Municipal fr w/ static preventing firm ID, nx at 1000 w/ Peru mentioned - DN
 3210 1720 MOZAMBIQUE, Nacional Radio Maputo (tent) in Portugese, lots of ads, no firm ID but cant think what else it might be - DN
 3223 1626 INDIA, AIR Shimla fair in EE with technology prgm followed by cricket DN
 3915 1744 SINGAPORE, BBC WS in EE with ID then Sports Session, fair // 9740 stronger and clearer - CC
 3935 0800 JAPAN, R Tampa good in Japanese - JSB
 3976.1 1028 INDONESIA, RRI Pontianak with news and ID, v good - DN
 3985 0645 ITALY, IRRS Milano with syndicated prgm changing ever y 15 minutes, relig prgm in EE with full address, better USB - DN
 4000.17 1026 INDONESIA, RRI Kendari with firm ID and station jingle, good - DN
 4755.2 0754 BRAZIL, R Educacao Rural with weak signal, musical interludes, "rural" heard as tent ID - DN
 4815 0745 BRAZIL, R Diffusora Londrina with ID as "programme dif fusora", good - DN
 4820 0555 UKRAINE? R Ukraine (Tent) w/ apparent ID in RR then into freq info, fair - DN
 4860 1800 INDIA, AIR Delhi in Urdu with clear ID - DN
 1830 INDIA, AIR Delhi in Hindi with typical music, fair with ID at 1900- KAB
 4890 0500 GABON, RFI relay with French pops, full ID in French then news, fair - DN
 0730 STH KOREA, RKI good in Korean - JSB
 4920 0645 ECUADOR, R Quito in Spanish with EE pops, fair - TTS
 4965 1805 ZAMBIA, Christian Voice with gospel pops then into Christian teaching, weak but distinctive - DN
 4980 0900 VENEZUELA, Ecos DelTorbe good in Spanish - JSB
 5009.49 1658 MADAGASCAR, RTV Malagasy weak in FF with ID before news at 1700 - DN
 5040 0950 CHINA, CPBS Fuchou (??) fair in Chinese with pop music and news - KVB
 5825 0441 USA, WEWN in EE with Lord's Prayer, good - CC
 0755 USA, WEWN good with relig prgm in EE - KVB
 5850 1708 GERMANY, Sunrise Radio in EE with UK news and ID at 1723 - CC
 5875 1803 CYPRUS, BBC WS in unid language with news, v good - KAB
 5915 1733 SLOVAKIA, R Slovakia Intl in EE with Slovak news, good // 6055 & 7345 not so clear - CC
 5950 0443 USA, R Tapei Intl via WYFR in Florida in Chinese w/ ilk, rather scratchy, fr - CC
 5965 1900 RUSSIA, V of Russia fair in EE // 9745, 7340, 7310, 9775 all with heavy QRM and poor / fair signal on 5940 - PWO
 5990 0455 FRANCE, RFI in French with YL speaking, good - CC
 6050 0630 NIGERIA, FRCN Ibadan poor / fair although in the clear with prgm on sex education // 4770 - PWO
 6055 0100 SPAIN, REE in EE with Spanish news - JSB
 0500 SPAIN, REE in EE with repeat of 0100 prgm - JSB
 0833 JAPAN, R Tampa fair in Japanese with financial report then pop music - KVB
 1840 SLOVAKIA, R Slovakia Intl with ID at 1840 and local news in EE, good followed by Mailbag - KAB

6060 0825 ARGENTINA, R Nacional v good in Spanish - IC
6065 1830 SWEDEN, R Sweden in EE with 60 Degrees North, fair - KAB
6089.71 0453 ALBANIA, R Tirana with full ID in EE, fair - DN
6095 1010 USA, Herald Broadcasting in Spanish with clear ID - DN
6100 0530 SWAZILAND, TWR in EE with comment on smoking etc, fair - KAB
6110 0540 CANADA, R Japan in EE with comment on telephone hot lines, fair - KAB
06109 ??? Merlin Network One, good - LB
6120 0540 PORTUGAL, DW in EE on Mickey Mouse etc, good - KAB
6125 1800 ??? Merlin Network One, good - LB
6130 0502 CROATIA?? Croatian Radio with news in EE and ID as Croatian Radio then into unknown language. No idea where this is from, could be VOA? - DN
6145 0820 JAPAN, R Japan / NHK good with Russian ser vice - IC
6150 0600 CANADA, RCI fair in EE // 11905, weaker 6090, announced 9740 and 9760 were obliterated - PWO
0601 CANADA, RCI in EE with ID as prgm for peace keepers, fair // 9760 & 11905 as good - CC
6155 0530 AUSTRIA, ORF in EE with weekend edition of Report From Austria, good - KAB
6175 0530 USA, BBC WS in EE with prgm on pianist, fair - KAB
0618 USA, BBC WS in EE with world news, good - CC
6185 1600 ??? Merlin Network One, fair - LB
6235 0535 PIRATE (Europe?) Laser Hot Hits (tent) w/ pop mx prgm, of f at 0554, fair - KAB
0600 CROATIA, Hrvatski R v good in Croatian - PWO
6575 1810 NTH KOREA, R Pyongyang with ID then commentar y on political events, poor modulation - KAB
7105 0642 ROMANIA, R Romania Intl v good in EE // 9625, 9510, 11775 all audible at varying levels - PWO
7115 0330 SWEDEN, R Sweden poor in EE with 60 Degrees North- JSB
7165 1657 ETHIOPIA, R Ethiopia in EE with indig chanting, distorted ID at 1659, fair // 9560 the same - CC
1900 SERBIA, R Yugoslavia s/on in Russian good with QRM // 6100 poor - IC
7170 0729 ??? VOA fair with s/on in EE then into Arabic prgm, ute QRM - KVB
7180 0730 NORWAY, R Denmark good in Danish with ID at 0754 - IC
7225 0600 GERMANY, DW fair in EE // 21695, 11875, 9565, 17820, the last two giving bset reception- PWO
7255 0605 NIGERIA, V of Nigeria fair with news in EE - KAB
0612 NIGERIA, V of Nig. gd in EE w/ indig singing //15120 weaker, w/ QRM - CC
7260 0930 CIS, RN in EE with news and Newsline, v good - JSB
1400 CHINA, CRI fair in EE from news site at Kungming, Y unnan - IC
7315 0617 USA, WHRI in EE with relig prgm, good // 5760 weaker - CC
1810 CZECH REP, R Prague good in EE with local news - KAB
1850 CZECH REP, R Prague good in Czech - LB
7345 0730 CZECH REP, R Prague excellent in German - LB
7365 0955 ALASKA, KLNS with music and ID and address in Russian - DN
7410 1900 INDIA, AIR poor / fair in EE, much stronger on 15200, and also noted on 11620, 9950, 15075 - PWO
7415 0721 USA, WBCQ fair in EE until s/of f at 0800 - KVB

0759 USA, WBCQ with Bro Stair in usual mode - PRP
7535 0715 USA, WSHB good in French to West Africa with phone-in prgm - KVB
2000 BULGARIA, R Bulgaria fair in EE with IS, ID, freq schedule and news - KAB
7560 2030 NORWAY, R Denmark fair in Danish // 7580 - IC
7580 0800 JAPAN, R Japan on unlisted freq in Japanese - JSB
Thanks to all the contributors for the year, without your efforts this column would not exist. I am advised that now that Summer is here in NZ, the tropical band DX season has gone for a while. 73's Ken Baird

CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS MONTH

Initials	Contributor	Receiver/Antenna
CC	Cliff Couch, Paraparamu	ATS 803A, 60m horizontal loop
DN	David Norrie, Auckland	AR 7030, 30m wire with balun
IC	Ian Cattermole, Blenheim	NRD 535, T2FD, Alpha Delta
JSB	Jon Standingbear, CA, USA	DX395, DX350, ATS 818, 30m wire, Vertical
KAB	Ken Baird, Christchurch	R5000, ATS 909: 15m wire, Eavesdropper
KVB	Kevin Brayshaw, Levin	FRG 7, Dipoles and HF loops
LB	Laurie Boyer, Invercargill	
PRP	Paul Peacock, Blenheim	Sony 6800, Supreme SW Listener
PWO	Paul Ormandy, Oamaru	SPR4, Numerous dipoles and long wires
TTS	Tristram Speedy, Auckland	Yaesu 7700, 55m N/S antenna

Contributions to this column may be sent to PO Box 3011, Auckland or K A Baird, 10 SARABANDE Avenue, Christchurch, 5. Ph: +64 3 352 6455 F AX: +64 3 354 1347

SW Bandwatch - above 9MHz with Andy McQueen

Hello from Trentham where the winds are blowing hot then cold all in the same day. Hopefully it will settle down soon and give us some summer weather. Highlights this month include new english pgms from Libya. All times are at UTC

KHZ	TIME	COUNTRY	STATION & PGM DETAILS
9430	1910	CZECH REPUBLIC	R Prague Good in SS ANY
9440	1920	CHINA CRI	Very Strong in English ANY
9560	0220	GT BRITAIN	Mewrlin Network One Good also on // 9895 at 0340 ANY
9690	1900	GT BRITAIN	Merlin Network One Good also on // 11985 good at 2000 and 2155 on 11755 khz ANY
9785	1520	CHINA CRI	V/good in EE with Asia / pacific report AMQ
9820	0609	CUBA	R Habana Cuba Good in EE with World News & Id 14/11 CC
9915	0757	GT BRITAIN	Merlin Network One Strong alo on // 13660 at 0800 strong and 17630 at 0758 good // 21550 at 0820 strong ANY
9930	0800	HAWAII KWHR	relaying Universal Life Radio Good in EE Sundays only IC
9930	1510	USA WHRI	Gd in EE w/ Country gospel Mx Id as "World Harvest Radio"
9940	0730	BELGIUM	R Vlaanderen Int Good with Euro Nx TTS
11092.5	1900	SAINT HELENA	R St Helena weak but audible in EE but not heard after 2000
11530	1720	LEBANON	Voice of Hope Christian Missionar y Stn with Id as "This is the High

Adventure Radio" 17/10 TTS
 11615 1600 FRANCE RFI Good in EE with World news and news about France also on // 12015 weak 15530 fair and 15210 good #AMQ
 11690 1652 JORDAN R Jordan Fair in EE with OM & YL w/ phone in pgm and ID 6/11 CC
 11745 1700 GERMANY Universal Life radio Good in EE IC
 11850 1450 JAPAN NHK/R Japan Fair in EE with travel news AMQ
 11870 1945 PHILIPPINES VOA Relay V/good in EE with VOA News Now HJS
 11990 1800 KUWAIT R Kuwait Good opening in EE AMQ
 12030 1440 FRANCE RFI Good in EE with Asia-Pacific report and News Headlines then FF/EE lesson AMQ
 12080 1740 GERMANY R vlaanderen Strong in EE with" in Belgium T oday" pgm 19/11 CC
 12160 1900 USA WWCR/RTE relay Good in English IC
 2000 Only Fair in EE with half hour pgm # HJS
 13645 1200 GT BRITAIN Merlin Network One Good also // 13680 at 1400 fair ANY
 13675 1634 UAE R Dubai Good in EE YL w/ World Nx & Id // 15395 Noisier 6/11 CC
 13720 0620 GT BRITAIN Merlin Network One Good ANY
 13750 0000 SRI LANKA D/Welle Trincomalee Fair in GG IC
 13750 2100 CUBA R Habana Cuba V/good on USB with News in EE HJS
 13770 2100 USA WSHB Strong in EE with Religious pgm on Sundays HJS
 13780 1835 INDIA AIR Good in EE // 11620 IC
 15110 0515 KUWAIT R Kuwait Fair in EE with b-b countr y mx then b-b love songs #PRP
 15115 1945 ECUADOR HCJB Fr/Gd with EE pgm for Europe HJS
 15160 1642 ALGERIA R Algiers Int Weak in EE Female vocalist with drums & Id // 11715 distorted CC
 15170 1628 PAKISTAN R Pakistan Fair in EE but distorted with Dictation speed news by YL . Frequent references to Pakistan 12/11 CC
 15175 0830 NORWAY R Denmark relay Good in Danish // 13800 IC
 15190 1300 GERMANY Universal Life Radio Poor in EE IC
 15260 0652 IRAN IRIB V/good in French # HJS
 15435 2020 LIBYA V of Africa At V/Gd level in EE Id as " V oice of Africa" in EE section at 2034 Before this in AA Into FF at 2045 // 15415 good # HJS
 15450 0045 PHILIPPINES FEBC Good in EE OM with Id and News Surging signal 16/11 CC
 15470 0700 ???? VORWS Good with news in EE then Science and Engineering #HJS
 15775 1240 ICELAND Ríkisutvarpid Very Weak in Icelandic Home Sce relay . They verified in in 13 days ANY
 15820 0825 ARGENTINA R. La Red roaring in with SS music at this time using LSB mode IC
 17580 0815 RUSSIA VORWS Good in EE Pgm preview AMQ
 17815 SWITZERLAND SRI Good in EE w/ News Name game then Rendevous with Switzerland # PRP
 17870 1815 SOUTH AFRICA Channel Africa Fair in EE Id and YL w/ " Newswatch" 19/11 CC
 17895 1730 MOROCCO VOA Breich Fair in EE with "T alk to America" HJS
 18910 1900 USA WSHB Good in EE to Sth Africa
 21070 0730 FINLAND YLE R Finland S9+ in EE with a nasty echo on the signal HJS
 21460 0122 COSTA RICA RFPI Poor in English # HJS
 21500 0700 TURKEY V of Turkey Gd in Turkish // 21715 even better HJS
 21550 0800 GT BRITAIN Merlin Network One Excelent in EE IC

21550 2345 CHILE Voz Christiana Good in SS Id at 0000 HJS
 21570 1558 SPAIN REE Fair in SS with Male Vocalist and Id // 21700 Strong 12 & 13/11 CC
 21610 0200 JAPAN NHK/R Japan Good in Japanese HJS
 21630 0440 UAE? UAE R Abu Dhabi (Tent)V/good with AA pgm HJS
 21640 0710 GERMANY D/Welle Good in German # HJS
 21670 0100 JAPAN NHK/R Japan Good in EE at this time #HJS
 21695 0622 ?? D/Welle Str in EE with dialogue re Charles and Camilla then Id 14/11 0630 Poor in EE for Africa #HJS
 21725 0810 AUSTRALIA R Australia Excellent in English IC
 21765 0825 AUSTRIA ORF/R Austria Int Good in GG & English #HJS 0830 V/good in EE on this new frequency IC
 21770 0650 IRAN VOIRIB Gd in FF//15260 better of f at 0730 # HJS
 21790 0630 RUSSIA VORWS YL with Id and World Nx 14/11 CC

Many thanks to all contributors this year and to all readers may you enjoy a Merry Christmas and a better 1999. A special thanks to all the loyal contributors who have supported this section. # Marks indicate a reception report was sent to the station.

Just a reminder that at the end of next month January I will be compiling the Continents Listings so over the holiday period would be a good time to update your totals and send them in. The featured continent will be Europe and this will be an open competition.

Your contributions can be sent to direct at: 36a Brentwood St Trentham Upper Hutt or via PO Box 3011 Auckland. I now have an email address mcqueenandy@hotmail.com but will only be able to access it at irregular intervals so the post will be more reliable and quicker. Merry Christmas and 73's, Andy McQueen

SHORTWAVE EXCHANGE

AMQ Andy McQueen Trentham Wellington Sony 6800 Ph 04 5274287
 ANY Anonymous No Name or address
 CC Cliff Couch Paraparaumu Sangean AT803A 60m horizontal long wire loop
 HJS Jack Searle Haumoana HB Icom R71 w/ 100m longwires & 19/60m dipoles
 IC Ian Catermole Blenheim NRD 535 & T2FD Alpha Delta Aerial
 PRP Paul Peacock Blenheim Sony 6800
 TTS Tristram Speedy Manurewa Auckland

Broadcast DX *with Paul Ormandy in Oamaru*

Season's Greetings one and all! I hope the usual wishes for stockings full of receivers and post-boxes crammed with QSLs does happen to somebody — and please let us know! Not a lot in this particular mailbox this time around... however, if you want an excuse for logging a station, then Radio Rhema have a new QSL card which is particularly well designed... to get one, simply send them a reception report... and don't forget to let us know too!

Keith Robinson, Invercargill, has found reception poor indeed with veries from 3UZ Ballarat relay 1314, Radio Sport 549, Waihi Community R 1107 and Southern Star 981. *Haven't spent much time on the dials myself lately... found the aftermath of an aurora not conducive to reception late November...*

Lindsay Robinson, Invercargill, logs are Radio Sport 1350 & 1125, and 2NM 981 with

replies in from Radio Sport 1089, 1062 & 1332, WNML 1670 and Southern Star 576. *Still finding a few to QSL there Lindsay... have you nearly QSL'd all NZers?*

Robin Chambers, Howera, "A very brief note from here as conditions of reception have been very poor. However one verie from CKMW Winkler, Manitoba 1570kHz. They are on the air 24 hours with 10kW from a transmitter located near Morden, MT (135kms SSW of Winnipeg). They operate into a 3 tower array with slightly dif ferent coverage patterns for day & night. CKMW is one of 4 stations making up Radio Southern Manitoba. The others are AM 1250, CFAM 950 & CJRB 1220. Radio Southern Manitoba is owned and operated by Golden West Broadcasting Ltd., with head of fices in Altona, Manitoba. V/s is Sandford Hildebrand, Technician, RSM, Box 1570, Winkler MB R6W 1G3. Hope your endeavours have been more successful than mine since last contact" *Unfortunately, they haven't been!*

Bill Woller, Opunake, "Greetings from Opunake. The only thing to report this month has been power noise and really lousy conditions from the Americas. But have got two back, a full page letter from Michael D Callaghan of KXT A 1150 with an invitation to visit the station if in Los Angeles and details on KXT A and K115 AM, antenna systems etc. And the other one back is WNML 1670, with a ver y bright silver sticker with red lettering, should stand out quite well on the van... If the weather comes right looks like I'll have to get out on a headland somewhere with the loop and well away from the power noise to do any good over the festive season" *Guess Te Araroa may get a visit??? Please send me an e-mail when you're pressing the right buttons.*

Andy Gardner, Riversdale Beach, notices conditions on the improve in the 2nd week of December, with many nice openings to the USA, particularly around the 0900 to 1100 timeslot. Has some interesting catches which appear in this months trail, and finally sends out a report to a station - WPHG 1620.

Paul Ormandy, Oamaru, one trip to Waianakarua and aurorally flattened conditions didn't result in any logs... though thankfully that didn't hinder the postie with QSLs arriving from R Rossii, Petropavlovsk 180, R Rhema 1593 (having replied after losing my report sent to them in Oct '97!) and HJTZ RCN Antena Dos, Bucaramanga 1480. Am looking forward to a week or so with my family at W aianakarua after Xmas though there won't be much chance for any DXing...

Merv Branks Trophy

Laurie Boyer 16, Paul Ormandy 14, Lindsay Robinson 8, Paul Peacock 5, Keith Robinson 4, Robin Chambers 1

Best of the Month

Paul Ormandy with HJTZ RCN Bucaramanga 1480kHz 5kW

Trail Time

BJ - Basil Jamieson, Kakanui. PWO - Paul Ormandy, Waianakarua, AG - Andy Gardner, Riversdale Beach, Wairapa.

760 0740 USA KFMB San Diego CA, "The good ship 7-60 KFMB" then spot for sponsor "Miramar Appliances". PWO

774 0915 FIJI R Fiji, Suva, Hindi svce, over Radio Sport, better on shorter antenna. BJ

870 1718 USA KAIM, Honolulu HI strong during my Leonids meteor storm all-nighter . AG

910 0837 USA KNEW Oakland "More of the 80's and 90's" and "Mix of the 80's and 90's on K-101" BJ.

960 0720 USA KPXQ Phoenix AZ gd w/ads for "Ladies Night Out" on "Q-96", jingles etc. PWO
960 1115 USA UNID Rel. station appears o/ KABL & CF AC for a short time. Maybe WLPR? AG
1010 0944 CA CBR Calgar y AB pres the one here with R. Australia - booming in. AG
1017 0654 A3Z Tonga strong on temp beach aerial erected for KNZZ DX T est. AG
1020 0745 USA KCKN Roswell NM, gd sig w/promo for ABC-TV's "Wide W orld of Sport" then back to ESPN. PWO

1110 0800 USA KRLA Pasadena CA, only fair . BJ

1140 0745 USA KHTK Sacramento CA,

1240 0956 USA UNID weak, w/ "Oh my darling Clementine". AG

1300 0803 USA UNID w/ weak s/of f "This is K_CN?? concluding our broadcasting day ..." then replaced by another UNID at S9 w/ rel. pgm. 1st time I've heard *anything* on 1300. AG

1300 0937 USA UNID w/ Art Bell. AG

1330 0928 USA UNID's. Art Bell station fades u/ SS mx, then after 0930, another talk station takes over. First time I've heard *anything* on 1330. AG.

1350 0954 KSRO Santa Rosa. Pres the one w/ Art Bell giving the NZ'er a run for its money . AG

1460 1721 18/11 USA KULA HI, stronger than KAIM, and past down in NZ! Greyliner? AG

1520 0854 USA KOMA Oklahoma City OK, strong sig, easier to hear now that T auranga has an unmodulated carrier. BJ

1620 0830 USA WPHG Atmore AL, fr w/gospel prog, giving e-mail addr (wphg@usa.net). PWO 0830 5/12 Gd w/ ID "W-P-H-G, Atmos, Alabama" during network break. AG

1640 0828 USA KDIA Vallejo CA, very fair w/Solid Gold Soul, not as regular of late. BJ

1660 0840 USA KXOL Brigham C UT, continues to be the strongest and steadiest X-band USA station. BJ

1700 0834 USA KBJJ Des Moines IA w/ ID before returning to Art Bell. AG

Results of Bryan Clark's mini-DXpedition with Barry Williams at Point Wells last Monday 30 November. Drake SPR4 and car battery used (local power cut until 0830UTC!) with antenna 220 metres to northeast. No trace of the target 1490 T exas, 1100 Colorado or 660 North Dakota DX Tests apart from a possible brief tone test on 1100kHz at 0731 UTC.

1100 0657 USA KFAX San Francisco CA good 0657 with gospel preacher in full flight. (BC)

1580 0605 Unidentified SS fading in at 0605. Possible 'la Primera' slogan 0617. (BC)

1580 0627 USA KCWW Tempe AZ dominant 0627 with Radio Disney format. Ident 0744 as "AM 1580, Radio Disney". (BC)

1640 0653 USA Unid with fier y preacher heard at 0653. Of the 3 stations currently on this frequency, both KKJY Oregon & WKSH Wisconsin have religious format. (BC)

1650 0902 USA KKTR Costa Mesa CA w/ traf fic reports, commercials 0902 past 0945. (BC)

1660 0640 USA KXOL Brigham City UT with oldies, frequent idents consistently the best X-bander by a long shot 0640 past 0930. (BC)

1690 0837 USA KAYK Arvada CO with frequent 'Radio Disney' idents, songs 0837. (BC)

DXING IN A RETIREMENT VILLAGE by Cliff Couch

With our family living in Sydney, my wife and I have moved into a retirement village because of the measure of support and security that the environment of fers in one's sunset years. This is a move which we have in no way regretted, in fact we can heartily recommend it to those of you who are feeling the pinch of anno domini!

However, what is a DXer who has had the choice of 2 types of antenna hoisted high on a 6-metre mast to do in the retirement village situation, where the only antennas in sight are TV aeriads?? Indeed, tall masts and wires in this situation would be rather obtrusive and undoubtedly unacceptable. To compound the problem, the villas stand alone with no trees, fences or the like to incorporate into some sort of unobtrusive antenna system. Paul Ormandy's practical advice has been of much help in working through the difficulty.

My first solution, at least as a temporary expedient, was to run an insulated wire right round our villa under the eaves, with one end connected to my Sangean AT5803A receiver, giving me in effect a 45-metre longwire. Then it occurred to me that I had the makings of a square horizontal loop antenna as described on page 40 of F.P. Hughes' book "Easy Shortwave Antennas", with both ends of the loop fed to the receiver. This worked even better. Being keen to improve MW reception, I followed a tip learnt at the League's 1998 DX Convention, namely to arrange my switching to allow for earthing the receiver (to the gas heater!). Once again, there has been improved reception, especially on MW and sometimes for SW. More recently, thanks to the generosity of our neighbour and with the official sanction of the Village Trust Board, I have extended the horizontal loop across to the adjoining villa. This has increased the loop size to a total length of just over 60 metres, with a NE-SW leg and an East-West leg each of approximately 18 metres.

In a further endeavour to improve reception, especially on medium wave, I have resurrected my 40 inch vertical MW Loop used indoors, and reinstalled my Sony AN-1 active antenna on a trellis support on the north side of our villa. While both SW and MW reception with the horizontal loop have proved to be as good as, if not better, than my longwire and multiband dipole antennas back in the Hutt Valley, neither the MW loop nor the AN-1 active antenna have given any better results than the horizontal loop on MW. It has been good to pick up some Hawaiian stations for the first time but alas, as in the Hutt Valley, I have yet to pull in any MW signals from the Americas!

If any DX Times reader has hit on any better antenna solutions, especially with regard to MW reception, in a similar restricted situation, I would be interested to hear from them at 4 Rotary Place, Sevenoaks, Paraparaumu, or phone 04-298-9504.

Broadcast News *with Bryan Clark in Auckland*

NORTH AMERICAN NEWS via National Radio Club's "DX News" 1998

- 540 KIEZ Carmel Valley CA now relays KNRY Monterey 1240.
- 650 CKOM Saskatoon SK has changed call letters to CINT.
- 670 KBOI Boise ID 'Newstalk 670' granted permission to change antenna system.
- 710 KIRO Seattle WA continues as number 1 in the Seattle Arbitron ratings with its news, talk & Mariners baseball programming. FM stations fill the next 7 ratings slots ahead of KIXI 880 in 9th slot. (Cronin WA)
- 770 KKOB Albuquerque NM verie letter from Chief Engineer Mike Langner in 425 days after 3 follow-ups. (Pote IN)
WABC New York NY v/s Bill Krause CE sent QSL card & map. (Alves MA)
KNWX Seattle WA sent full data QSL card, v/s John W. Price, Eng. Asst. (Alm) This longtime news radio format now is 'The Business Station'. (Kahn WA)
- 780 WBBM Chicago IL verified w/letter, map, txer info, v/s Mark Williams, CE.
- 790 KJRB Spokane WA granted relocation of transmitter 5kw/3.8kw U4.

- 820 WBAP Arlington TX verified w/letter & sticker, v/s Clay Steely, Chief Engineer.
- 830 KPLS Orange CA granted replacement CP for 50kw days, 20kw nights U3.
- 840 KABN Long Island AK granted 8kw day & night U1, replacement CP.
WHAS Louisville KY QSL card signer is Chief Engineer Charles Strickland.
- 850 KICY Nome AK granted 50kw day & night U2. Directional only 11pm-4am local.
- 870 WQBS San Juan PR granted replacement construction permit for 9.6kw/5kw U4.
- 880 WCBS New York NY QSL card signer Chief Engineer Peter Chase. (Alves MA)
- 910 KNEW Oakland CA has reportedly changed from country format to simulcast of adult-contemporary KIOI-FM 101.3. (Karchevski CA)
- 940 XEG Mexico City DF verified after 6 follow-ups with letter, QSL card, stickers, pennant and station info. V/s Ing. Miguel Angel Barrientos V., Technical Director. (Stephens AL)
- 950 KJR Seattle WA still 5kw fulltime with Sports Talk format is 21st in the Seattle audience ratings. Its new transmitter location (50kw Ed) has been ready for 3 years but they have not been able to use it due some technical and political considerations. Because of the delay, KKHO Tacoma on 850 was purchased — this is mostly parallel to 950. (Cronin WA)
- 970 WFLA Tampa FL granted 25kw day, 11kw night U4 & transmitter relocation.
KUPL Portland OR now calls itself "Couple Country Classics 970". (Kahn WA)
- 980 CBV Quebec PQ has moved to FM 106.3. AM frequency now silent.
- 1010 KXEN Festus MO granted relocation of transmitter, 50kw/500 watts U4.
- 1110 WBT Charlotte NC verification signer is Ted Brown, Chief Engineer. (Alves MA)
- 1140 KSOO Yankton SD carries 'America in the Morning' at 4-5am local. (Jones SD)
- 1150 KXTA Los Angeles CA construction permit for 50kw/44kw U4 is on.
KMXN Santa Rosa CA is silent to make way for KXTA power increase. May return to the air with reduced power and modified antenna pattern.
KWKY Des Moines IA construction permit to relocate transmitter is on.
- 1190 KXBT Vallejo CA has changed callsign to KDY A.
- WOWO Fort Wayne IN has requested further extension of CP for 9.8kw nights despite rumours they are still operating with 50kw/50kw U2. Of f-air overnights mid-October, probably to prepare for nighttime power reductions (Diers NY)
- KLUV Dallas TX ex KOOO, format now Oldies from the fifties & early sixties, promos as "Smokin' Oldies". (Hale TX)
- 1200 CJBZ Ottawa ON promo for "the new OSR Sports Radio 1200" (Kennedy P. A)
- 1210 KUBR San Juan TX granted replacement CP for 10kw day, 5kw nights U4.
KPRZ San Marcos CA granted approval to relocate transmitter site.
- 1250 WREN Kansas City KS new location is on with 25kw days, 3.5kw nights U4.
- 1290 KKNW Port Angeles WA callsign change to KIKN.
KPAY Chico CA construction permit to relocate transmitter is on.
KMRZ San Bernardino CA has change of call to KKDD.
- 1300 KKOL Seattle WA verified w/full data letter from Chief Engineer Richard Harris.
CJME Regina SK identifying as "Regina's Talk Station", ex Oldies. (Wilkins CO)
- 1310 KMKY Oakland CA partial data letter V/s General Manager James A. Smith.
- 1340 KOMY Watsonville CA CO for 1kw/850w U1, transmitter relocation, city of licence change to Selva Beach CA is on.
- 1380 KKWK St Louis MO has callsign change to KZJZ.
- 1400 new station granted for Sparks NV with 1kw day & night U1.

- KTHX Visalia CA has change of callsign to KFSO.
 KOWS Texarkana TX has format of, you guessed it, Country & Western! (Hale)
 1410 CKSL London ON has applied for a move to FM 102.3.
 1420 XEWE Irapuato verified with letter, info & CDs via DHL courier in 20 days! Verification signer Ing. Marco Antonio H. Contreras Santoscoy, DG. (Olle Alm)
 1430 KVVN Santa Clara CA granted 1kw/2.5kw U4 and transmission relocation.
 WLTG Panama City FL construction permit to relocate transmitter is on.
 1470 WQSN Kalamazoo MI call changed to WKLZ. Old call will move to 1660.
 1480 KWIZ Santa Ana CA has callsign change to KVNR.
 1510 KNSE Ontario CA has change of callsign to KMSL.
 1520 KOMA Oklahoma City OK QSL card from Director of Engineering Ray Klotz.
 1520 WVOZ San Juan PR has applied for 10kw day, 9.5kw nights, antenna U3.
 1540 KZMP Fort Worth TX granted 35kw days, 890 watts nights U4 and relocation of city of licence to University Park TX (replacement of expired construction permit).
 1550 KYCY San Francisco CA granted 50kw/10kw U4, transmitter relocation. Interference agreement with KXEX enabled 50kw application to proceed.
 1570 CKTA Taber AB verified with ppc & letter from Engineer Tyler Everitt. (Jones SD)
 1580 WMTI Morovis PR has been granted 10kw day, 2.5kw nights U5, with separate transmitter sites for day and night antennas.
 1600 WOKB Wintergarden FL address is now Ocoee, FL 34761. (Don Trelford)

UPCOMING DX TESTS organised by Bill Hale for National Radio Club

WJVA 1620 South Bend, Indiana will broadcast Morse Code IDs during their regularly scheduled programming from 1100 to 1200 UTC on **Monday 4 January 1999**. At this time, they will be broadcasting on 'experimental' power of 10 kw non-directional. They have requested the new calls WHLY, and may be using them by then in a switch of calls with their 1580 facility. Reports may be sent to: Mr. Larry Humphrey, CE WJVA-AM (or WHLY, as the case may be) 2010 South Michigan, South Bend, IN 46613.

KXTA 1150 Los Angeles CA will broadcast Morse Code IDs at 13 words per minute at the top of each hour from 0900 to 1300 UTC on **Monday 4 January 1999**. Because the KXTA studio feeds multiple transmitters, the code will also be heard on KA VL-610 Lancaster, KLYF-850 Thousand Oaks and KCKC-1350 San Bernardino, all California. They have an automation system that triggers their IDs on command from Los Angeles. All stations will air their separate, individual IDs at approximately :55 past the hour. KXTA has a Web Site that shows some photos of the construction of their new 50kw plant. Check it out at <http://www.hotlips.com> Reports may be sent to: Mr. Mike Callaghan, KIIS Radio, 3400 Riverside Dr., # 800, Burbank, CA 91505, USA.

If you send a reception report to one of these stations, please remember to include return postage with your report. Thanks to Bill Hale, the National Radio Club, and to IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash email edition for relaying the news.

NRC AM RADIO LOG — NEW EDITION

The National Radio Club now has the 19th edition of their NRC AM Radio Log for the 1998-1999 DX Season edition. This is an indispensable reference for the serious medium wave DXer. The latest edition contains 324 pages, 8 1/2" x 11" size, 3-hole punched, loose leaf format with over 5,400 A.M. Radio station listings from the United States and Canada. Each station listing consists of its location, frequency, call, format, network affiliation, station address, station slogan, day and night transmitter powers. There are cross references by

city and by call letter

The AM Radio Log is available via airmail delivery to the South Pacific for US\$28.00 payable in US funds. Please mail all orders to: National Radio Club, Publications Center, P.O. Box 164, Mannsville, NY 13661-0164, USA.

PACIFIC NEWS ROUNDUP

NEW ZEALAND Dudley Scantlebury advises that Radio Rhema is planning a Southern Star station for Invercargill on **1026**, due in March/April 1999. Radio Sport, present occupant of the frequency, will move to **1494**. (Keith Robinson) Hawkes Bay's Wireless Station on **1530** closes on 1 December and will be replaced by Classic Gold, playing music of the 50s, 60s and early 70s. (Brian Withers) Well known gospel broadcaster HCJB has some airtime on Auckland station **1593**. Noted 27 November with ident as "1593 AM Radio, supported by HCJB World Radio". Gave telephone number as 625-7411 but no reply when I rang. Of abruptly 0232 UTC when Chinese programming commenced. (Bryan Clark)

HAWAII a new station for Honolulu has been granted 10kw days, 6kw nights on **1130** with U1 antenna. KHNR Honolulu **650** construction permit to relocate transmitter is on. via NRC AM Switch)

AROUND THE WORLD ON THE MW BROADCAST BAND

ALASKA KGTL Homer **620** sent beautiful card (view of Homer in full color) in 16d V/S; Dave Becker, Owner & GM. Address: Post Office Box 109, Homer AK 99603 (Pat Martin OR via Greyline DX email)

AZORES Interesting to note that 693 is audible all day from Cappahayden Newfoundland on Canada's east coast. Several other Trans-Atlantic carriers are also observable at local noon. (Mark Connelly via NRC DX News 10/98)

BOTSWANA The 621 frequency is now exclusively used by Radio Botswana 0300-2300 UTC (previously carried VOA. Ed) There is a new 50kw transmitter at Maun on 531, with the same scheduled hours. (WRTH via BE in ARC 10/98 via NRC's IDXD)

CHINA Beijing **1341** QSL'd in 23 days. Verie card signer: Ying Lian. Address: China Radio International- Beijing, CHINA 100866. China (Pat Martin email)

COLOMBIA The RCN network has a very nice frequency map at its internet site. One clicks on any of 70+ cities to see the RCN stations and frequencies in that city. The URL is <http://www.rcn.com.co/mapa/fmapcol.htm>. (Don Moore via NRC's IDXD)

Antena Dos **1480** Bucaramanga verified with 2 Ω page friendly letter via e-mail as Word document, from Fernando Ardila Plata, Gerente. E-mail address is rcnbga@multinet.com.co and I presume this could also be used to reach the sister-stations RCN Bucaramanga 800 and RCN Santander 1180... the latter was verified by me in 1994 and they made mention of this in their letter... guess they keep records of reception reports received and are thus more interested in most in our solicitations! Fernando also gave their URL as www.rcn.com.co and wrote that live audio is available from this site. He also gave www.digame.com as a site for more info on Bucaramanga. (Paul Ormandy)

FRANCE Radio Notre Dame has been using the old Radio Monte Carlo frequency of **702**. Heard between 1800 and 2000 UTC. (Media Network via BE ARC via NRC IDXD)

GERMANY Following the merger of Sddeutscher Rundfunk (SDR) and Suddwestfunk (SWF) to form new public broadcaster Sudwestrundfunk, the following MW usage is noted — **576** SWR1 Muehlacker, **666** SWR4 Bodenseesender, **711** SWR1 from various sites, **828** SWR4 Freiburg, **1017** SWR1 Wolfsheim, **1485** SWR4 Baden-Baden., (T. Brandenburg via Willi Passman WWDXC in MediDX 39)

ICELAND The only active transmitters are Gufuskalar **189** with 300kw, Eidar **207** with 100kw and Raufarhofn **1485** with 20 watts. (BE in ARC 10/98 via NRC's IDXD)

IRELAND United Christian Broadcasters (part of NZ's Rhema Broadcasting Group) have purchased new transmitters for **594** and **1593** at a cost of UKL1.5 million. 594 will be used for daytime coverage and 1593 after dark. 594 is currently in operation, with a new 4kw transmitter in County Monaghan. (Paul Rusling UK via NRC's IDXD email)

ISLE OF MAN The LW frequency of **279** has been formally assigned to the Isle of Man, marking the end of a 4 year battle by Paul Rusling and the IOM Broadcasting Company. IOMBC is putting the finishing touches to its proposals for an adult radio station from the island, an independent mini-state in the Irish Sea. (MWC via NRC)

NICARAGUA Radio Mil **1000** in Managua inaugurated a new 10kw transmitter on 1 September. This is the former YNFF Radio Fiesta, now owned by a Spanish religious group. Broadcast hours are 6am to 6pm, but gradual expansion to 24 hours is planned. (B.Cronin via NRC IDXD 9/98)

PALESTINE PBC **675** is now 100kw. Station address is Palestinian National Authority, PBC, Gaza, P.O. Box 4025, Al Remal. (WRTH via ARC 10/98 via NRC)

SAUDI ARABIA BSKSA **1521** verified after 2 follow-ups with QSL card, letter & brochures. Verification signer Sulaiman Al-Samnan, Director of Frequency Management. (J.D. Stephens AL via NRC)

EXPANDED BAND REPORT (above 1600kHz)

- 1610 Radio Lanús Argentina is back on this frequency ex 1130. (MAC via ARC 10/98 via NRC's International DX Digest)
- 1620 WPHG Atmore AL has a 2000 foot high antenna and has been experiencing a lot of lightning strikes. They have been operating on reduced power of 7.5kw. They are going to apply for a shortwave frequency! (Bailey NC via NRC)
- 1620 WJVA South Bend IN with 'Radio Hollywood' IDs at 0915 UTC 23/11 playing adult standards format, Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, etc. (Pat Martin email)
- 1620 KSMH Sacramento CA. According to the 17/11 Sacramento Bee's Broadcasting Column by Dan Vierra, "Catholic radio station KSMH (1620AM) is expected to be operating by January 1, according to General Manager Dave Vacheresse. The non-profit station had set November 1 as its launch date, but meeting FCC requirements has taken longer than expected, he said." (Rich Toebe via email)
- 1630 KKWY Cheyenne WY on the air with Adults Standards format, CNN news on the hour and half hour. This, the 19th US expanded band station, commenced broadcasting here on 17/11. Reports go to: KKWY, 110 East 17th Street #205, Cheyenne WY 82001. (Pat Martin email)
- 1630 KCJJ Iowa City IA call in use here in swap with KCJK on 1560kHz. (NRC)
- 1650 KCNZ Cedar Falls IA heard over KKTR with Sports Talk, ID as "KCNZ, Cedar Falls-Waterloo" 22/11. NRC Log lists them as K D N Z and they ID as "K C N Z, 12-50" so apparently relaying their 1250 freq. (Pat Martin OR via email) Carries ABC news, promo as "Full time talk radio. No songs. No part-time programming. Just the best talk in Eastern Iowa from AM KCNZ, the Talk Station." Has excellent web site at <http://www.cedarnet.org/kcnz>. Address is 721 Shirley Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613. (Lazarus LA via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash)
- 1660 KXOL Brigham City UT address for DX reports is 4455 South 5500 West, Hooper UT 84315, marked Attn: Beth Cooper. (Jackson CA)

1680 WJNZ Ada MI idents as "Jamz 1680" & "WJNZ, Ada-Grand Rapids" (Rugg ON)

1680 new station at Winter Garden FL approved with 10kw day, 1kw night U1.

CANADA The application for Canada's first X-band station, 10/1kw U1 from Toronto, has been declined by the CRTC, saying they have no interest in putting any stations on the extended AM band. (via NRC)

PAT MARTIN'S U.S. EXTENDED BAND LIST as at 22 November 1998

1620 KHZ WPHG - AL, Atmore - Gospel. WJVA - IN, South Bend - Nost. KYIZ - WA, Renton-R&B

1630 KCJJ - IA, Iowa City - Adult Contemporary. KKWY - WY, Cheyenne - Nostalgia.

1640 KDIA - CA, Vallejo - Rhythm & Blues. KKJY - OR, Lake Oswego - Religion. WKSH - WI, Sussex - Religion.

1650 KKTR - CA, Costa Mesa - Traffic. KCNZ - IA, Cedar Falls - Talk/Sport.

1660 WQSN - MI, Kalamazoo - Sports. WBAH - NJ, Elizabeth - Spanish. KXOL - UT, Brigham City - Oldies.

1670 WNML - GA, Warner Robins - Sport. WTDY - WI, Madison - Talk.

1680 WJNZ - MI, Ada - Rap/Rhythm & Blues.

1690 KAYK - CO, Arvada - Radio Disney. WMDM - MD Lexington Park - Talk/Sport.

1700 WCMQ - FL, Miami Spanish/Tropical. KBBG - IA, Des Moines - Talk/Business.

NOTE: All listed stations are 24 hours except for WKSH 1640 and KKJY 1640.

TV / FM DX with Brian Withers in Taradale

Welcome to logs and News for December. While on holiday your editor logged the following stations. Southern Star 88.5 Taupo, C M R 95.8 South Auckland, The Edge 99.9 Rotorua, George 100.6 & 88.2 Auckland. All QSLed. At home, On Air Radio 88.6 Napier & Magic FM 88MHz. Both QSLed.

STATION NEWS - Southern Star Taupo 88.5. - George FM on 88.2 Herne Bay (Auckland). - Magic FM Napier 88.6 (On the Taradale Hill) until End of November. Since 3/12/98 now 88.6/100.6 Napier only - On Air Radio now on 88.6 & 88 Mhz Napier.

FM / TV Trail. MG - Martin Greer, Launceston Tasmania, BDC - Bryan Clark, Auckland. BW - Brian Withers, various locations.

2/11 3.10 HS7. 0330 GLV8, 0346 3JJJ 107.5 Melbourne w/ 3ABC 105.9 & 3PBS 106.7. 0351 3ABC Latrobe Valley 105.1 w/ 3GLR on 100.7 & 3JJJ 96.7. Ballarat FM heard at 0413 3CRR 107.9 & 3JJJ 107.1 at 0451. 0459 A TV0 Melbourne. All faded out by 1120UTC. MG

3/11 0315 to 1330 Same areas again as above. Including 3ABC Bairnsdale on 106.3. MG

5/11 1411 Latrobe Valley FM until after 1430UTC. MG

6/11 0246 Latrobe Valley 3JJJ. 1225 3GLR 100.7 MG

9/11 0313 3GLR & 3JJJ 107.5. 0808 Latrobe Valley 3JJJ. 1350 Latrobe Valley & Melbourne including Ballarat FM. MG

10.11 0208 HSV7 including Latrobe Valley & Melbourne. At 1156 unidentified FM on 107.9 ABC station until 1201UTC. 1315 GLV8, 1331 HSV7. MG

11/11 0331 GLV8 with Melbourne FM & Latrobe Valley including ATV10 & HSV7. All gone by 0711. MG

11/11 C M R 95.8 heard fair in Hamilton while 96MHz of f. BW

13.11 1435 HSV7, ATV10, GIV8 including Melbourne & Latrobe Valley with 3GLR. St Mary 7NT 102.1 at 1503 with 7ABC 92.9 with 7JJJ 102.1, ABNT3. MG

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- 14/11 0252 GLV8, HSV7 with Melbourne & 3GLR Labrobe V alley. MG
- 15/11 The Edge 99.9 with other Rotorua FM heard just South of T okoroa on car radio & DR31 (Bought at NZRDXL weekend convention). BW
- 16/11 0657 3JJJ 107.5 interference from Magic 107 Hobart 107.3MHz. MG
- 21/11 1415 3ABC 105.9 Melbourne. MG
- 2/12 3 to 4pm ABDN2. At 8pm ABN2 with Sydney/Gosford FM until 10.40pm. BW
- 4/12 12.45pm ABV & ABAV. BW
- 5/12 4pm ABSQ1. ABDN2 at 9.45pm. BW
- 12/12 1753 2GO 107.7 NSW coming through on tropo opening to my DR28 & discone - BDC
- 12/12 Aussie DXer's report hearing Southland FM stations via SpE & Hamilton/Kaitiia via tropo. Aussie DXer Todd Emslie also hears 20Watt Hawaiian beacon on 50MHz.
- 13/12 <1900 Aussie stations heard on 101.3, 104.9, 105.7, 106.5 & 107.3 - BDC
- MERRY XMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL. LOG'S / NEWS TO P O BOX 3011 AUCKLAND OR P O BOX 7072, TARADALE, NAPIER

MFJ 1025 NOISE CANCELLING SIGNAL ENHANCER

User Review by Steven Greenyer

After reading the review of the above unit in the September 1998 'DX Times', I purchased the unit from MFJ Enterprises in the USA. The total cost of the unit was NZ\$243 including airmail postage costs of US\$24 (varies with exchange rate). After ordering, I noticed the price was US\$10 cheaper in the Universal Radio catalogue. MFJ responded

promptly to my order with a note that the unit would be on back order for a few weeks and asking if I still required them to supply. The unit duly arrived by insured airmail with a full instruction booklet and circuit diagram.

The unit has four knobs, a transmitter delay setting for ham use, main and auxiliary antenna gain knobs and a phase control. Three push buttons, on / off, hi / low frequency and phase invert. The rear has the appropriate antenna connections. It is in a mat black case about 30mm x 150mm x 200mm. Operation of the unit is well explained in the manual. After brief use, I carried out some of the modifications recommended by Mark Connelly.

I use the unit under two operating conditions. At home, two antennas of 100 metres each both terminated and with baluns to coax feeders, one running north and the other east. With this set up, good signal and noise cancelling is possible. Combining of signals from the two antennas does not appear to work as well, and requires more experimentation.

At the Southland Branch's Tiwai Listening Post, there is a choice of several beverage antennas varying from 300 to 600 metres in length. Here results fully came up to expectations in signal cancelling and addition. I carried out many tests and the best results are detailed. On 1530kHz, National Radio New Plymouth and The Wireless Station in Hastings both battle it out. While in some parts of New Zealand these stations may be looped out, down here in Southland they present a fairly similar signal path. With the unit it was possible to perfectly null one or the other simply by pushing the phase invert button. On South American MW signals using two antennas about 330 metres long and 6 degrees apart, it was possible to get very good signal addition. By putting in phase the signals of the two antennas it was possible to get a four "S" point increase in signal strength. This was constant with all Latin American signals down to about 1000kHz where performance dropped off. The interesting point was that once set to 'add', it was not necessarily to alter the unit for changes in frequency. The unit was tried on both unterminated wires and those with a terminating resistor and matching balun to a coax feeder. It appeared to work well with both types, however on the higher frequencies, the balun matching the antenna to a coax feeder and the receiver impedance is worth three "S" points on its own. At lower frequencies eg 790kHz, there was slight addition without the balun.

Conclusions based on my observations. With shorter antennas around 100 metres, good nulling is possible of signals and local interference with varying degrees of signal addition, though this may be due to my antennas rather than the unit. With longer antennas (300+ metres) very good nulls can be obtained along with very noticeable addition of signals above 1000kHz. The drop off below this is, I expect, due more to antenna characteristic than any problem with the unit. I am very pleased with the possibilities the unit offers especially when used with longer antennas. Any one who uses long antennas on mediumwave should seriously consider obtaining one of these units. No substantive tests on SW have been undertaken.

Review of MFJ-1026 Phaser - Paul Ormandy

Following numerous favourable reviews of the above unit, I was very keen to lay my hands on one and when fellow NZ DXer Steven Greenyer purchased one, I rang him to see what his opinion was. Steven was very pleased with the possibilities the unit offered and his recommendation was enough for me... now all I had to do was to save a little (more than a

little actually!) and I figured it would be a late Xmas present to myself. However, Steven rang to tell me there was one available from a deceased ham's estate, and it took me no more than a couple of seconds to make up my mind! Many thanks to Steven for thinking of me (and to Arthur Williams for tracking it down in the first place!).

US DXer Mark Connelly, had used one extensively and suggested several modifications so after some another 'phone call to Steven and some initial fiddling with the componentry, I set it up at home and was pleased with some of the results I could obtain using relatively short wires, i.e. one 25 metre horizontal and a 6.5 metre vertical. I could phase out semi-local 4XO 1206 just 100km away to reveal Fiji and make a significant hole in local Radio Waitaki 1395 allowing clear reception of NZers on 1386 and 1404 — with the phaser off they were both splashed into oblivion! I was very keen to get to my Beverage site at Waianakarua and see how it performed with longer wires and the opportunity came over our Labour Weekend holiday.

When I arrived and set up the gear, I was almost in too much of a hurry to connect up the phaser but quickly realised that I had all the cables etc to hook it up — that turned out to be a great idea! Now, I bought this thing to phase out pests and even after Steven told me it was great for enhancing signals by adding the signals from the two aerials required (in this case two 310 metre Beverages, aimed at Florida, one terminated and one unterminated), I didn't know how good it was for enhancing signals until I tuned in KCJJ 1630 and decided to use the phaser to try and remove the CW from the Ohura aero beacon on the same frequency. As soon as I switched the phaser on, and before I thought about phasing out the beacon, I gained an immediate lift in signal and the fact that both wires were directional towards the USA, meant that I didn't need to phase the beacon as the resultant aerial bearing was in the right direction for the desired station, and about 60 degrees off the pest.

So once KCJJ was firmly in the bag, it was time to experiment! Over and over again I was amazed at how I could deal to a pest and clean up co and side-band channels. I was initially sceptical at how well it would work on skywave signals as past experience with the R-L-C type of phasers had shown they worked well on groundwave but not too hot on the former because of signal variation... to sum up just how well it worked on skywave, not only was I able to get significant nulls on almost every NZer tried, I was able to phase out KCCN 1420 in Hawaii and hear a mainland US station running sports talk!

To sum up, if you're a serious MW DXer, have access to long wires or Beverages and have contemplated buying something to give you an edge (maybe even a new receiver), you have just got to have one of these!

Note: the modifications are necessary though anyone with some experience with a soldering iron would find it relatively easy. Also, there are two models, the MFJ-1025 and 1026, difference being that the 1026 comes with an active whip input which is probably not necessary, my recommendation would be to save yourself a few dollars and get the MFJ-1025. The latter is also easier to modify than the 1026 as it has standard discrete components rather than the surface-mounted variety used in its "big brother".

Lastly, a big "thank you" to Mark Connelly for making the modifications public and encouraging MW DXers to get into this unit. Anyone wanting details of these mods could contact me or check out Mark's data at the www.nordicdx.com web-site.

BRANCH NEWS

SOUTHLAND

The November meeting was held at the residents of Eric McIntosh with nine members present. With the usual business was attended to we moved into General business. Steven inquired if any one had been to Tiwai lately and the possibility of antenna plugs being extended to the lounge area was discussed. Eddie thought a coat of paint would be a good idea for the Tiwai listening post. Brandon brought draught copy's of a new "best of the month" cards as the existing ones are hard to get enough information on. Eddie moved a motion to purchase a small gift for members wives to show our appreciation of their work they do on meeting nights. Competitions, BCE MacAskill with KA YK 1690Khz 1Kw 128 Pts. Over 9 L Boyer RAI Italy 21.520Khz 100Kw 111Pts. Under 9 L Boyer Radio Slovakia 7.300Khz 100Kw 102Pts. The raffle was won by Steven Greenyer. Next meeting being the Christmas meeting is to be at the Greenyer residents on the 12th. Good DX and a merry Christmas, happy new year from the southland branch.

AUCKLAND

Your Auckland scribe has been amiss in reporting news from the Branch, but here goes for October and November. Our new President, Daniel Bloomfield, gave a short eulogy at the funeral of member George Welsby who passed away in September. He was a keen DXer and was deeply involved in community matters. As reported in the DX Times, his funeral was well attended by Branch Members.

League President Barry Williams subsequently visited his home and assisted Shirley, his widow, in making an inventory of his large collection of radio equipment for disposal. This will be listed and priced for subsequent advertising. In November, 20 members gathered at Auckland Airport for a conducted tour of Air New Zealand's maintenance division. This was a most interesting visit having the workings of the division explained in detail. A large amount of the work done was under contract to other airlines, primarily in the engines sub-division, although two aircraft from foreign countries had been stripped down for maintenance. For the majority of our members a visit to the flight deck of a Boeing 747-400 was something new - not a very comfortable workplace on a long haul flight. Our Branch President missed this visit, being absent on a trip to Canada. While there he expected to visit DXers in Toronto and Chicago and we expect a report from him on his January return.

MARKETSQUARE

Kenwood GR-666 Communications Receiver, predecessor of R-1000. Analogue dial, all transistor, all band, USB/AM modes. Manufactured in early seventies. Will consider swap or part swap for digital read-out rx. Offers.... contact Paul Ormandy, 33 Greta Street, Oamaru. Ph. (evenings) 03 434 5931. E-mail paulorm@es.co.nz

Hi-Tec Discone Aerial VHF/UHF, 1m x 1.1m diam (unable to dismantle) \$70. **T2FD aerial** exComcentre \$70. Barry Aston, 18H Hookey Drive, Te Puke Ph.(07)5734700 baston@bopis.co.nz

SANYO ROADMASTER 20 car receiver. MW, FM, SW 2.3-7.7, 8-22MHz. What offers? Call Jack Fox (03) 489 6138 after 6pm.

PHILIPS DR2999 communications receiver, good order ex Cushen estate. \$100 ono. Phone Steven Greenyer (03) 217-8151 or write 92 Moana Street, Invercargill.

PANASONIC RF-B45 compact portable digital FM/LW/MW/SW, 144-30MHz. Passport Guide 1998 review said "A nice little radio... with Panasonic's superior build quality". \$200

Contact Ian McCallum (04) 293-4116.

Drake **R8A** communications receiver, one careful owner, ex cond, boxed, \$1600.
 Ramsey **FM-25 Synthesised Stereo FM Transmitter** 88-108MHz selectable, assembled in aluminium case. \$190. **Sony AC-301** AC power adapter (3v 250mA) \$20. **Service manuals - R8** \$50, **FRG-8800** \$20, **NRD-515** \$30. **AR1000XLT Instruction Manual** - \$4. Prices exclude shipping. contact Andy Gardner, Riversdale Beach PDC, Masterton, 06 3777928 (nights only).

League Ladders *with Peter Grenfell in Oamaru*

Hope you all have a Joyous Christmas and that 1999 will meet all your dreams. Result of the six monthly competitions are. MW . Paul Ormandy, Paul Peacock.SW. Ian Cattermole.

MEDIUM WAVE OPEN (Over 500)	QSLs	INC	CNTS	SHORTWAVE OPEN (Over500)	QSLs	INC	CNTS
Laurie Boyer	3935	17	137	Ian Cattermole	3291	248	192
Keith Robinson	2896	4	157	Jack Searle	2223	17	207
Paul Ormandy	1418	35	135	Paul Ormandy	1590	11	232
George Beardsmore	802		61	Laurie Boyer	1581	45	174
Bryan Clark	673		119	John Campbell	1562		257
Mark Nicholls	643		67	Bryan Clark	1542		237
John Campbell	637		126	Brian Withers	1297		128
Paul Aronsen	529			Lindsay Robinson	1254	15	169
Lindsay Robinson	521	11	56	Mike Smith	1218		133
SENIOR (301-500)				Ross Gibson	1028		155
Peter Grenfell	443		37	Graeme Dixon	916		117
Brian Withers	411		51	Paul Peacock	803	16	120
Stuart Forsyth	391		39	Paul Aronsen	733		
INTERMEDIATE (151-300)				Peter Grenfell	653		133
Jack Searle	294		35	Ian Wells	582	14	133
Andy McQueen	295		21	SENIOR (301-500)			
Robert Krijger	228		13	Bernd Henning	372		90
Mike Smith	194		18	Andy McQueen	368		103
Paul Peacock	193	7	16	Bob Boundy	335		84
JUNIOR (5-150)				Chris Elliot	301		78
Ian Wells	108		15	INTERMEDIATE (151-300)			
Adam Claydon	71		4	Stuart Forsyth	282		87
Arthur de Maine	50		10	Arthur de Maine	228		89
Chris Elliott	15		3	Ashley Gulbransen	193		75
FM-TELEVISION				Keith Robinson	186	4	177
Brian Withers	899		9	JUNIOR (5-150)			
Robert Krijger	678		6	George Beardsmore	129		68
Bryan Clark	148		5	Adam Claydon	123		40
Paul Ormandy	110		5	Mark Nicholls	121		55
Paul Peacock	61		2	Daniel Bloomfield	13		11
Adam Claydon	49		1	Peter Grenfell, 11 Sussex Street, WESTON, OAMARU. PH/FAX (03) 4345907 e-mail petedx@es.co.nz			
Mark Nicholls	42		2				
Mike Smith	33		2				
Andy McQueen	29		2				

News from AdCom *compiled by Bryan Clark in Auckland*

WELCOME TO REJOINING MEMBER: PETER CHAMBERS, P.O. Box 3118, Onekawa, Napier. Peter rejoins after an absence of 2 years. *(Look forward to reading of your DXploits in the magazine Peter — plenty of interesting stations now between 1600 and 1700kHz. Ed. And at last, some competition for PWO! - C.Ed)*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UPDATE Over the coming months we will report via this column on the action from the DX League's 50th Annual General Meeting, held at Little Huia, west of Auckland, on Saturday 14 November.

ELECTION OF DX LEAGUE OFFICERS Patron - **JACK FOX** (Mosgiel); National -President **BARRY WILLIAMS**; Vice President - **BRYAN CLARK**; National Secretary - **EVAN MURRAY**; Treasurer - **PHIL VAN DE PAVERD**; Chief Editor - **ANDY GARDNER** (Wairarapa); Auditor - **BILL PEARSON**. All officials Auckland-based, except where noted. Thanks to retiring V -P **GRAEME DIXON** for his contribution and welcome Phil to the Adcom team.

ANNUAL COMPETITION RESULTS The Whitestone Cup for Best QSL of Year on Medium Wave — **PAUL ORMANDY** (Oamaru) with Radiodifusao Portuguesa, Terceira, Azores, 693kHz 5kw; Charlie Chester Cup for best QSL of the Year on Shortwave — **PAUL ORMANDY** with European Music Radio, the Netherlands, 6275kHz 30 watts; Junior DXer of the Year — **BILL MCLEOD** (Christchurch); Merv Branks Trophy — **PAUL ORMANDY**; Founders Trophy — **PAUL ORMANDY**; Interbranch Competitions — only entry and award to **SOUTHLAND BRANCH**, winning the Hope McGregor SW Cup with 1286 points. A clean sweep to the South Island, and a very clean sweep to Paul. Congratulations!

AGM REMITS There was considerable discussion on two proposals received from members aimed at revitalising the League and Competitions. **DAVID RICQUISH** submitted a detailed draft remit including the formation of regions to replace the branch structure, establishment of a working party to prepare a new constitution and collaboration with other SP ARC clubs to investigate closer cooperation, eg a common magazine, leading to amalgamation. There was no support from branches or from those attending the AGM, particularly in view of past approaches to NZDXRA along these lines being consistently declined. Similar attempts amongst Australian DX clubs had also been unsuccessful. President **BARRY WILLIAMS** summed up that the League's focus was now on the delivery of a fully computerised and more timely magazine. Other active steps were being taken to maintain the DX League as the largest and most active such organisation in the Southern Hemisphere, against declining and ageing membership trends world-wide.

Competitions Secretary **PAUL ORMANDY** also submitted a comprehensive proposal to revitalise the individual competitions that the DX League has run for many years. It was agreed that Utilities be added to the categories for a revamped Ladder column, plus provision for Stations Heard. However proposals for Best Logging of the Month and Best Logging of the Year categories were opposed by Southland Branch. Other concerns were complexity and possible extra work for sub-editors if the proposals were highly successful in generating renewed interest in the competitive side of the DX hobby, which has been a strength of the NZ DX scene for more than 60 years. Recognising the work that Paul has put into his proposal, Adcom is now in dialogue with Paul to work out a compromise trial competition.

NO GAIN WITHOUT PAIN The process of converting the editorial and publication processes behind your monthly issue of the 'NZ DX Times' has not been without some teething troubles.

and changes to editorial staff. But the financial benefits, which were a major driver for change, are already showing through. Apart from the obvious improved legibility, the magazine expenditure for the first 4 issues under new Chief Editor **ANDY GARDNER** reveal a saving of 39 percent in publishing and postage costs over the July-October 1997 costs. Adcom have accordingly approved an increase in magazine page count. It will particularly allow for inclusion of additional feature material, as requested in the recent questionnaire responses. The challenge is now with you - the membership - to increase your contributions!

HOW MANY IRCs IS THAT WORTH? An extract from the 6 November 1948 "DX News" of the US-based National Radio Club, "Ken Mackey of Dunedin NZ reported that, 6 weeks after sending a reception report to WGEM 1440 he received a letter requesting a Kiwi egg and a Gannet egg. 6 months later, he still hadn't received a WGEM verie, nor had he sent them a Kiwi egg!" (Ken was a founding member, now Life Member of the DX League. Ed)

HAPPY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS FROM
THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE. GOOD LISTENING IN 1999!

NEW ZEALAND RADIO DX LEAGUE			
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 31 AUGUST 1998			
Full Year 1996/97		Full Year 1997/98	
INCOME			
\$8,991.82	Member Subscriptions (Note 1)		\$9,117.53
\$367.40	DX Times Advertising (Note 2)		\$494.00
	Bank Interest		
44.74	BNZ Working Account (00)	\$47.20	
1.24	BNZ Autocall Account (25)	\$0.13	
\$533.74	487.76 BNZ Term Investment (81)	\$158.64	\$205.97
	Sundry Income		
515.00	Annual Meeting Fees/Auction	0.00	
284.90	Sale of Donated Radio	0.00	
	Sponsorship (Note 3)	500.00	
\$839.90	40.00 Donations	140.00	\$640.00
\$10,732.86	TOTAL INCOME TO 31 AUGUST 1998		\$10,457.50
EXPENDITURE			
	DX Times Magazine Expenses		
10,264.88	DX Times Printing & Post (Note 4)	8866.00	
139.25	Chief Editors Postage & Stationery	11.20	
321.00	Handbooks for Magazine Section Editors	264.00	
105.00	NZ Post Fees for Box 2956, Wellington	105.00	
	Postage Cost for Monitoring Times	49.15	
	Sub-Editor Expenses - J.Mainland	87.40	
\$10,953.88	123.75 Magazine Mailing Labels	45.50	\$9,428.25
	Administration Committee Expenses		
402.15	Postage, Stationery & Photocopying	215.28	
55.00	NZ Post Half-fee for Box 3011, Auckland	52.50	
30.87	Telephone Toll Calls	7.32	
31.20	Adcom & AGM Expenses	52.95	

	Computer Cable	5.00	
20.00	Donation to Calligrapher	0.00	
\$563.64	24.42 Bank Clearances & Fees	35.50	\$368.55
	Arthur Cushen Invercargill Expenses		
\$25.50	Public Relations Expenses	13.20	\$13.20
	League Archives	381.75	
\$0.00	Subscription - 'Friends of Hocken'	0.00	
\$11,543.02	TOTAL EXPENDITURE TO 31 AUGUST 1998		\$9,810.00
(\$810.16)	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		\$647.50

I have examined the Receipts and Payments of the NZ Radio DX League and certify that they give a true and correct view of transactions.

Dated: 6 November 1998 - Tom Pearson - Auditor

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT BALANCES as at 31 AUGUST 1998			
\$3,365.30	00	BNZ CURRENT (CHEQUE) ACCOUNT	\$3,116.06
\$26.97	25	BNZ AUTOCALL ACCOUNT	\$27.10
\$3,926.84	81	BNZ TERM INVESTMENT	\$4,085.48
\$7,319.11			<i>(Note 5) \$7,228.64</i>

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

1. Includes some \$2400 in advance subscriptions for new financial year commencing September 1998. New domestic rate of NZ\$35 effective from this date. Membership numbers continue to slowly decline.
2. Outstanding advertising charges from previous years remain uncollected. Billing and control of future debts in this area will be managed by the Administration Committee.
3. This is the first instalment in a series of sponsorship contributions by Sony NZ Ltd.
4. The Administration Committee requested limits on magazine size during the year following last years accounts showing expenditure exceeding income. This year's DX Times expenditure covers 12 issues compared with 11 for the 1996/97 costs.
5. This compares with an overall account balance total of \$8515.83 as at 31 August 1995 and \$8,556.92 as at 31 August 1996. These Accumulated Funds include \$680 plus interest, the balance of funds raised to support the League Archives through a Special Appeal in 1993. Term Investment currently earning 4.0%. **Bryan Clark, National Treasurer, 16-Sep-98**

IS IT DARK IN ULAN-BATOR? by Cliff Couch

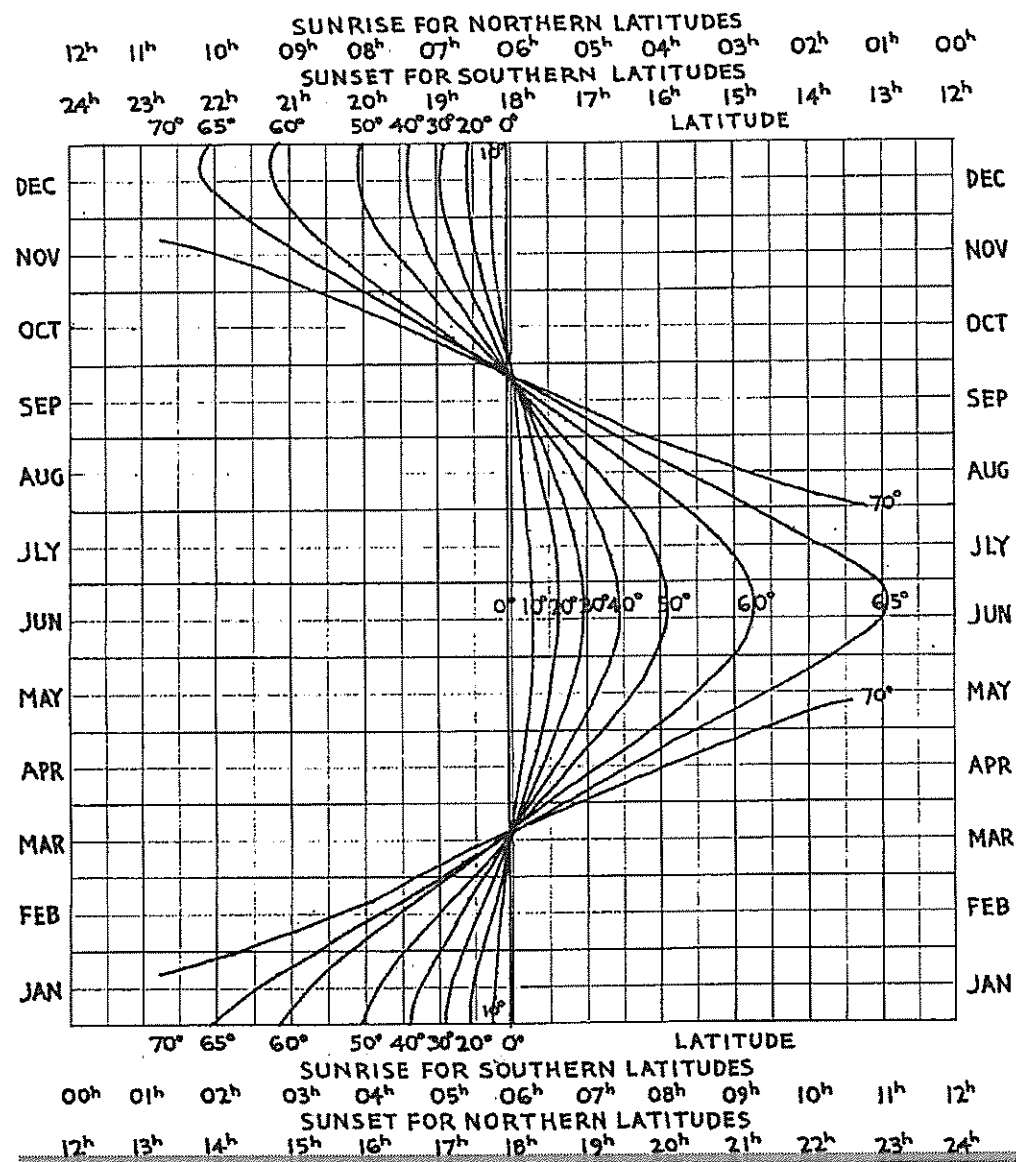
One method of determining whether a signal path is wholly or partly in daylight/darkness at a particular time of day is to check out the times of sunrise or sunset (as appropriate) at each end of the path on that day. For DXers who do not have a DXEdge or ready access to sunrise/sunset tables the accompanying graph offers a convenient alternative. This graph is based on sunrise/sunset tables appearing in Norton's Star Atlas, together with extended tables supplied by the Carter Observatory, Wellington.

A Note on Time

The published tables show that local apparent (sundial) times of sunrise and sunset

are symmetric about noon. However, as apparent time is not constant throughout the year, mean time has to be used for time calculations. The differences involved between apparent and mean times, plus the fact that sunrise and sunset times for the same latitudes north and south of the equator do not, quite correspond make it necessary to average out the times in order, for the sake of convenience, to produce a single graph. In the process some error becomes inherent in the graph itself, but a check against the tables shows that this amounts to 10 minutes for most of the year and peaks at 15-20 minutes in February and October/November. This is not serious for our purposes as DXers. Small errors may also creep in when interpolating times from the graph.

LOCAL MEAN TIME OF SUNRISE AND SUNSET



Using the Graph - The graph gives local mean time (LMT) of sunrise and sunset for latitude between 70° N and 70° S for any day of the year. Times are read off thus:

- For sunrise in N. Hemisphere use 00h -12h, right to left along the top
- For sunset in N. Hemisphere use 12h — 24h, left to right along the bottom
- For sunrise in S. Hemisphere use 0h — 12h, use left to right along the bottom
- For sunset in S. Hemisphere use 12h —24h, right to left along the top

It is to be noted that the discontinuities in the 70° lines on the graph indicate the periods when the sun never rises/sets in the Arctic and Antarctic Circles.

For comparison purposes, each - value at LMT when read of f the graph has to be converted to UTC using the difference in longitude from Greenwich (0°) and the relationship "one degree of longitude is equivalent to four minutes of time". The following table will simplify the calculation if a pocket Calculator is not used.

Deg Long	Min	Deg Long	Min	Deg Long	Hrs	Deg Long	Hrs
1	4	9	36	15	1	105	7
2	8	10	40	30	2	120	8
3	12	11	44	45	3	135	9
4	16	12	48	60	4	150	10
5	20	13	52	75	5	165	11
6	24	14	56	90	6	170	12
7	28	15	60				
8	32						

Worked Example

- Ulan-Bator (Mongolia) to Oamaru (NZ) on 25 January y at 1030 UTC.
 Ulan-Bator: Lat. 47.9°N, Long. 106.9°E
 LMT of sunset at 48°N on 25 January: 16h 30m
 Ulan-Bator is 106.9 x 4 min., i.e. 7h 10m ahead of 0°
 UTC of sunset is (16h 30m — 7h 10m): 0920
 Oamaru: Lat. 45.10°S, Long. 171.0°E
 LMT of sunset at 45 s on 25 January y: 19h 20m
 Oamaru is 171 x 4 min., i.e. ~11h 25m ahead of 0°
 UTC of sunset is (19h 20m — 11h 25m): 0755
 UTC of sunset is (19h 20m — 11h 25m): 07h 55m
 Thus Ulan-Bator and Oamaru are both well within darkness at 1030 UTC on 25 January y.
- Buenos Aires (Argentina) to Auckland (NZ) on 6 November at 0945 UTC.
 Buenos Aires: Lat. 34.70S, Long. 58.4W
 LMT of sunrise at 35°S on November: 5h 15m
 Buenos Aires is 58.4 x 4 min, i.e. 3h 55m behind of 0°.
 UTC of sunrise is (5h 15m + 3h 55m): 0910
 Auckland: Lat. 36.9°S, 174.8°E
 LMT of sunset at 37°S on 6 November: 18h 55m
 Auckland is 174.8 x 4 min. i.e. 11h 40m ahead of 0°
 UTC of sunset is (18h 55m - 11h 40m): 07155

Thus Buenos Aires has been in daylight for about half an hour while Auckland is well within darkness at 0945 UTC on 6 November. As the accuracy of the graph does not justify greater precision, all times have been taken to the nearest 5 minutes.

NEW ZEALAND RADIO DX LEAGUE (Inc.)

The New Zealand Radio DX League (Inc.) is a non-profit organisation founded in 1948 with the main aim of promoting the hobby of Radio DXing. NZRDXL is a founding member of the *South Pacific Association of Radio Clubs (SPARC)*.

The NZRDXL is administered from Auckland by:
NZRDXL AdCom, PO Box 3011, Auckland

Patron - Jack Fox

National President - Barry Williams
barrydx@voyager.co.nz

National Secretary - Evan Murray (Tel. 09 483 9543)

National Vice President - Bryan Clark
clarkb@sparc.org.nz

Treasurer - Phil van de Paverd

Annual Membership:

Within New Zealand - NZ\$35.00.

Australia/Pacific Islands - A\$35.00

Asia/North America - US\$30.00

Rest of World - US\$33.00

All overseas members get airmail delivery of the NZ DX Times magazine.

Club Stationery - Address all orders & enquiries to NZRDXL Stationery, 4 Kay Drive, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland.

Club Magazine:

The NZ DX Times, PO Box 3011, Auckland.

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Chief Editor - Andy Gardner andyg@radio.net.nz

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Commercial rates on request.

Support your magazine by mentioning the DX Times when replying to advertising.



31/12/99

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