



New Zealand DX Times

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Of Baluns and Earthing and Puppy-Dog Tails

by Paul Ormandy

I had always thought that an aerial mast or tower that could either be easily lowered or easily scaled would be great for experimentation... so when the opportunity to buy a second-hand 8.5 metre steel lattice tower arose, I couldn't resist it! A huge lump of concrete, new paint job and five mates later, the object of my dreams was proudly erected! Within minutes I had scaled the tower to add the first of several wires and I have since been up and down over 20 times... but who is counting!

One of the objectives of putting up all sorts of wires was to find something that would lessen the amount of electrical interference and let's face it, in modern households and neighbourhoods there is plenty of that! Firstly I did some reading on the Nordic DX Club's webpage (www.nordicdx.com) and come to the conclusion that it was time I sorted out my earthing and dabbled in baluns!

I was of the opinion that the mains earth connected via the three-pin plug to my receiver was as good a ground as you'd get... WRONG! A simple matter of driving a 2 metre galvanised rod into the garden near the base of my tower (which was also earthed to the rod) and running a heavy 6mm (or larger) cable from the rod to my receiver provided a very large decline in the amount of electrical noise. Most receivers have an earth stud on the back for this purpose, if not then one half of your aerial input will be an earth connection too. Across a wide range of frequencies, time and time again, intrusive noise all but disappeared. If you don't have a separate earth rod, GET ONE! They're available along with the 6mm cable and clamp from any electrical wholesaler. There is a whole raft of well-documented and accurate theory as to why this works, though I'm a practical type and am not writing a book (yet!) so I'll try and keep the technical chat to a minimum and simply tell you what works!

On the subject of leads, using coax at low frequencies is very effective as losses are small, compared that is to the higher SW bands and anything above. If your tower/pole is some way from your receiver then the following tips are well worth consideration. Firstly bury your coax under ground for as far as possible — this stops the coax picking up unwanted noise signals. Secondly, earth the coax in as many points as practicable. Not only at the set but every 5 metres or so and to your main earth stake as well. Plan carefully so your coax cables are routed past your main earth as they run to your tower/pole. Earth your tower/pole as well, and if you want to get really keen, run your coaxes inside an earthed pipe up the tower, or up the inside of the pole itself.

On tower location. Sometimes you have little choice as to where you can site your

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tower though ideally it should be as far from electrical noise sources (i.e. houses etc.) as possible. Your wires should, whatever your tower situation run away from houses too... avoid having them running over rooves etc. or parallel with power pole wires... though running them at right angles may possibly yield low noise if they are sufficiently far away. My tower is only 1.5 metres from my house but with a good earth and a balun, things are working well!

What is a balun. A balun is a matching device that allows for maximum signal transfer between the aerial and coax cable into your receiver. I won't get too technical here, but if you have a centre-fed dipole or a longwire and you intend to listen to a wide range of frequencies then you NEED a balun! And not the 1-to-1 ratio balun as used by the amateur radio fraternity, but rather something like the 9-to-1 balun as described in an article by Nick Hall-Patch and John Bryant. More on baluns later! To illustrate my point about maximum signal transfer, consider this analogy: imagine a 600mm diameter bucket of water held aloft with a 50mm diameter pipe to drain it. Consider that the bucket represents the aerial and the pipe is a coax cable that feeds the receiver, which has a 50mm socket for the pipe. To get maximum flow of water (read: signal) the pipe should be the same diameter as the bucket, and the receiver likewise. This isn't practical as coax cable doesn't come in 600mm and the receiver doesn't have a 600mm socket! Now, one way of maximising the transfer of water (signal!) into the receiver would be to fit a pump below the bucket... and that's where the balun comes in... it, in this analogy would become a pump and would quickly empty all the water into the set! Now, technical types will have realised this already, but when I have said 600mm I was really referring to an impedance of 600 ohms and 50mm is really 50 ohms. A random length wire, or rather a wire used at random frequencies will exhibit a wide range of impedances and with due deference to all the technical types steeped in tradition and most probably spitting the dummy right now, for DXing it is more practical to build an aerial to suit a wide range of frequencies than several or more to cover all bands of interest.

So, with an insight gained into these little devices (they look like a very small, dark grey doughnut with wire wound on them) I did some experimenting. My main aerial was a 25 metre V-beam fed by 50 ohm coax. One side of the V connected to the centre core, the other to the shield. As theory would have it, this aerial worked well at it's resonant points, i.e. 49mb, 25mb & 13mb though as I had no point of comparison, I was unaware of how much the performance would drop off on non-resonant bands, i.e. all the others 90, 60, 41, 31, 19 & 16mb. So I strung a second wire under the main wire and fed it with coax and a balun then conducted a series of tests comparing the two across a wide range of frequencies from MW through to the 11mb. With the exception of the 49, 25 & 13mb, the balun-fed aerial was clearly better, and much quieter exhibiting lower pickup of electrical interference. Also, on the frequencies the coax-fed aerial favoured, the balun-fed aerial was only slightly lower in signal strength but more than made up for that in most cases by the reduction in background electrical interference. An added bonus I hadn't considered was that our local radio station, Radio Waitaki on 1395kHz, on the coax fed aerial splashed all over 1386 and 1404 though with the balun-fed aerial both frequencies were audible! Even at MW frequencies, signals completely obliterated by electrical noise on the coax-fed aerial were audible on the balun-fed aerial! End result, now both of my aeriels are fed with baluns!

My next experiment was to compare the balun-fed aerial with an open-wire feeder. The latter is basically two parallel wires running all the way from the top of the aerial to the set with a matching transformer at the set. This took quite some setting up to run the wires off

the mast, held apart by spreaders, under the house and through the floor to the receiver — so I was keen to make it work! Again the balun-fed aerial proved consistently better over a wide range of frequencies so the unsightly (according to my wife) open-wire feeder was removed. I figure that because the open-wire feeder passed through the house it was more prevalent to picking up nearby noise.

Now that I have optimised signal transfer from the aerial to the set, installed a good ground system and upgraded my coax, there is more experimenting to come. I plan to compare other types of aerial with my dipoles. In the making is a terminated Delta loop, a T2FD (Tilted, Terminated, Folded Dipole), a sloper and a EWE, plus anything else that seems promising so more reviews will follow!

For more information on obtaining baluns & coax, please write to me. Let me know what sort of aeriels you are using, even draw a diagram of your available space, house, showing me where your aeriels run etc. and I'll be able to give you some advice. Contact me at 33 Greta Street, Oamaru 8901. E-mail paulorm@es.co.nz

Editorial *with Andy Gardner in Masterton*

Greetings for our first issue for January. Most of you would (I hope) have noticed that we made a slight change to the format last month, having the columns start immediately after the proceeding column. This negates the need to split columns up, and will get the magazine to you slightly quicker, as I can lay the whole magazine out faster. The publication of the President's Annual Report and the CE's Annual Report allowed me to renege on having an editorial column last month. This was good, as I was pressed for time around the date the magazine was finally put together. One thing that did miss out, however, was the special Christmas message that usually appears in the December DX Times. Sorry folks, but I'm not really much of a Christmas person, not having any children around, and living alone! I ended up going water skiing on the 25th. So a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and I hope every one had a great holiday. I have the feeling that 1999 is going to be a good year for me, I have quite a bit planned. We also have some good stuff planned for the DX Times, and the DX League in general, so sit tight, and wait for the announcements as they come to hand!

David Norrie has asked me to publicly thank Ivor Williams and John West for their excellent assistance that they have provided him in getting his aerial systems sorted. All the way from conception to construction, I might add! Well David, I have to agree with you, we have got some excellent people in our club and that's what makes it what it is. Auckland Branch is indeed lucky to have such expertise in its midst. Now all they need is a decent MW DX location, heh heh heh!

John's Sony antenna review appears in this edition, along with interesting "extra" articles from Paul Ormandy, Barry Williams and Bryan Clark. I am very pleased to see such articles appearing regularly in the DX Times. These extra articles are really the icing on the cake. I haven't received much feedback about the content or appearance of the DX Times recently. This tends to suggest that everyone is happy. It's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease, and all that. Anyone have any comments on the President's or CE's annual reports? It's about time we published a "Talkback Radio" column. I enjoy a good debate. Put pen to paper folks!

The rogue spaces made another appearance in the Decemebr issue, along with a

novel page numbering sequence. I became a victim of "suddenly add 4 pages to the centre of the magazine and forget to re-number" syndrome! I have to do some test prints to try and fix the rogue space problem, so please be patient. See you next month, Andy.

Shortwave Report *with Matt Francis in Canberra*

All times in UTC, frequencies in kiloHertz. Contributions are always welcome. My email for direct correspondence is <mfrancis@dynamite.com.au> Best wishes for the New Year to all readers and good listening!

Belarus: Noted on 6100, Belaruskaje Radyjo, Dec 20 0900-1045 Belarussian announcement and ID, religious service, songs and talks, heard // 6080, 6115, 7140, 7145, 7210 and 11670. (Anker Petersen/EDXP 105)

Belgium: The French network, RTBF, made a return to shortwave during December with test transmissions from Julich, Germany for listeners in central Africa. Heard in Canberra on 21540 between 1100-1200 and 15715 from 0600-0700. Station plans to resume regular broadcasts from February. (Francis)

Cuba: Radio Habana Cuba testing on 11705 in SSB with 30kw transmitter power 0100-0500. Reports will be QSL'd. Email to: arnie@radiohc.org (Arnie Coro, RHC, 20 Dec in EDXP 105)

India: All India Radio regional stations for B98 period: 3223 Shimla 1300-1740; 3240 Lucknow 1430-1740; 3315 Bhopal 1130-1740; 3345 Jaipur 1430-1740; 3365 Delhi 1230-1840; 3390 Gangtok 1130-1600; 4760 1130-1600; 4760 1130-1730; 4775 1030-1740; 4800 Hyderabad 1200-1740; 4820 Calcutta 1230-1840; 4840 Mumbai 1130-1740; 4850 Kohima 1000-1700; 4880 1130-1415; 4895 1130-1740 Kurseong; 4910 Jaipur 1130-1415; 4920 Chennai 1230-1740; 4950 Srinagar 1130-1745; 4960 Ranchi 1130-1740; 4970 Shillong 1030-1630; 4990 1130-1630 Itanagar; 5010 1230-1740 Thiruvananthapuram; 5050 1030-1630 Aizwal; 6000 Leh 0530-1030; 6020 Shimla 1130-1245. (Note this is an incomplete schedule - I have not shown schedules for stations on 60 metres in the 0000-0500 period as these will obviously not propagate to the Pacific). (Media Monitor/SARG) This list does not include AIR Jeypore on 5040 which is heard in Canberra up to sign-off around 1740. (Francis)

Iraq: Republic of Iraq Radio observed on 5935 in 2100-2300 period by DXers in Europe and North America from 20/21 December per tip from Hans Johnson in Cumbre DX. Heard on 3900, NF, probably replacing 4920 and 5935, on Dec 22, 23, and 24 from *1500-2220 with general service in Arabic by Anker Petersen in Denmark, in BCDX 399. I've been hearing a rather a weak signal with AA talks and music on 3900 from 1730 to 1840+ here in Canberra, but with heavy QRM from RRI Merauke on 3905 with extended Ramadan programs (Francis)

Israel: KOL Israel Hebrew HS program relays: 0500-1855 15615; 1900-0455 7495; 0400-0555 9390; 0600-1755 17545; 1800-2300 9390; 1600-1755 11590; 1800-2300 11585. (IBA/Francis)

Mongolia: According to letter received from station Radio Khekh Tangar (Radio Blue Sky) operates 0100-0700, 0900-1500 on 4950 and 100.9FM. The station is second channel of Radio Mongolia. Address is the same as Mongolian Radio and TV. Mainly carries musical and entertaining programs (Miroshnikov, Cumbre DX)

New Zealand: The 'South Pacific DX Report' is now available via HCJB and through RNZI's web page as follows: HCJB during 'DX Partyline' on 4th weekend of the month, Sats:

0710 on 9775, 0910 on 9640 and 21455, 1910 on 15115 and 21455; Suns: 0110 and 0410 on 9745, 12015 and 21455. RNZI during the 'Mailbox' fortnightly on Mons 2135 on 17676, Weds 1735 on 11675, and Fris 1930 on 11675. Also available as a real audio file at <http://www.audionet.co.nz/ranz.html>. On ZLXA on the third Monday of the month at 0700 and 1900 on 1602, 3935 and 7290. (Paul Ormandy, via Anker Petersen, BCDX 399)

Russia: International broadcasters relayed via Russian/CIS sites: Voice of Vietnam 5940 0100-0300 (Armavir), 5905 0300-0400 (Armavir), 9875 0400-0500 (Petropavlovsk), 7440 1800-2000 (Minsk), 7390 2000-2130 (Minsk); Radio Maryja 9905 0700-0900 (Samara), 9905 0600-0800 Mon-Sat (Samara), 7400 1600-2300 (Samara); Vatican Radio 9875 1445-1630 (Alma Ata); Trans World Radio 7430 0000-0030 (Tashkent), 9825 0030-0230 (Irkutsk), 7420 1130-1500 (Irkutsk), 5895 1200-1300 (Petropavlovsk). (Extracted from info in BCDX 399, supplied by Nikolay Rudnev, Russia)

South Africa: Radio Kudirat Nigeria, via Meyerton, left the air on Dec 31 after announcing through late December it would be going off air for 'maintenance' from Jan 1 '99 but vigorously promising to return. Kudirat's cessation of broadcasts probably reflects the changing situation in Nigeria where plans are underway for democratic elections next May. Countries such as South Africa are already providing support in the lead-up to the elections. Hans Johnson in Cumbre DX heard the final broadcast on 31 Dec, which closed with the following message: "All our monitors please move on the usual channel". Not hrd in Canberra at usual sign on time of 1900 on 11540 on Jan 1. (Francis)

Switzerland: SRI introduced new 12010 (ex 9575) for the service to central and south Asia from Singapore relay, 1400-1615. English 1400-1500, German 1500-1530, French 1530-1600, English 1600-1615. Monitoring reports with SINPO assessments are sought, to be sent to Ulrich Wegmuller, HF Broadcasting, Swisscom Ltd, Network operations, NWO-513, Speichergasse 6, CH-3050 Bern, Switzerland. Email: ulrich.wegmueller@swisscom.co (EDXP 105)

Tajikistan: AFP reported that China was jamming the Voice of Tibet on 7465 (via Dushanbe-ed). It was discovered that China was using a Radio Canada International feed to jam the program. RCI complained. China denied it was involved, but the jamming has now stopped. (Kim Elliott, VOA 'Communications World' Dec 26) Voice of Tibet on NF of 7455 ex 7465 with their characteristic IS and IDs starting at 1220. No sign of listed // 11520. Fair signal and no sign of any jamming here (Johnson, Dec 27, Cumbre DX) Tajik Radio, 11620. 0345-0400*, English ID "This is Dushanbe, capital of the Republic of Tajikistan" sign on announcement and schedule. Poor to fair with QRM co-channel India which dominates the channel around 0200 to 0300 (Fisher, Dec 20, Cumbre DX). Can be heard in Canberra sneaking in under AIR's Urdu service 0300-0400 (Francis, Jan 3)

Kim Elliott announced on tonight's (Sat, Jan-09) 'Communications World' on VOA that the half hour version of his program would be heard on a transmitter via Dushanbe from Sun Jan-10, on 15605 at 0930, beamed to South Asia. This is in addition to the rebroadcasts via WWCR and WBCQ (Matt Francis, Canberra)

USA: WWBS, Macon, Georgia now on the air on local Saturdays and Sundays on 11900 between 0000-0200. Address: PO Box 10174, Macon, GA 31209. Email: wwbsradio@aol.com (Various) Radio Free Iraq added an extra couple of hours each day to its schedule at the height of 'Operation Desert Fox' but has since resumed its normal schedule (Francis) The half-hour edition of 'Communications World' can be heard as follows: Sat 2300-2230 5070 (WWCR); Sun 2100-2130 7415 (WBCQ); Mon 0630-0700 3210 (WWCR); Tues

1400-1430 15685 (WWCR) ('CW' website)

Uzbekistan: Radio Netherlands via Tashkent is now using 12070 (replacing 13755) at 1430-1625 in English to South Asia. Other channels are 12090, 15585 (Media Monitor/SARG)

CROATIA: Croatian Radio has moved to 6130 (ex 9925) for programs to North America between 0200-0400. Transmitted via Julich, Germany (see last month's SW Bandwatch under 9mHz)

TINIAN ISLAND Test transmissions have been heard from the new US government transmitting site on Tinian. Tests started on Tuesday 5 January using the following schedule: 0900-0930 6095 and 13710; 0930-1000 7295 and 15115; 1000-1030 9785 and 17665; 1030-1100 11895 and 21760. The transmitters have been relocated from a former IBB site at Gloria in Portugal and will be used by Radio Free Asia. Regular transmissions to commence from April or thereabouts.

Shortwave Mailbag *with Barry Williams in Auckland*

I trust all League members had a Merry Christmas and will have celebrated the New Year in. Perhaps some may have been fortunate enough to have found a new receiver in their Christmas stocking? Contributions appear to be somewhat limited this month, probably due to the Christmas mails and members away on holiday. Never the less, we should see the results of holidays DXing with many QSLs appearing in the months to come.

In last months SW Mailbag I queried the transmitter location of Radio San Marino. Jack Searle has enlightened me with the following.

"During my endeavours to get a QSL, I received two letters from one, Dario Monferini, in Italy, who was acting as a contact for the San Marino pirates. In his last letter he says 'The studios producing the broadcasts are in Italy. The transmitter is mobile from a car and the facilities are in a rural cottage in the north of San Marino'. Thanks Jack.

Lets start this months QSLs with;

Jack Searle, Haumoana with one QSL Radio San Marino 11410 giving him country # 207. Congratulations jack. Once over 200, new countries are very hard to come by.

Ian Catermole, Blenheim with his regular good list of QSLs; Voice of Hope 6015,V of Turkey 17830, 21715, TWR Meyerton 9510, Merlin NWI 21550, R.Tashkent 17775, 9715, R.Vlaanderen 11810, KSDA 13660, R.Slovakia Int. 17550, Universal Life radio via Julich 9930, 15190, 11745, BBC Rampisham 5875, R.Pakistan 15490, R.Taipeh Int. R.Romania Int. 17770, REE 9590, R.Vaticana 15500, SRI via Singapore 9575, SRI 7230, RAI 15250, RTE via WWCR 12160, R.Bulgaria Int. 11720, 13710, 15175, 11825, 17585, ADFR (Special Swimline Broadcast)17515, WYFR 15715, 9705, 15165, R.Austria Int. 21765, RA 21725, DW Germany 9545, 15186, DW Kigali 11895, 15135, DW Trincomalee, R.Dif.Roraima 4875, RTV Mali 4835, PM556 25590. KPM556 25950. Congratulations on the Brazilian and I will comment on KPM556 later.

Barry Williams, Auckland. Only has one back, Radio Yugoslavia via Bosnia 7230 giving country # 240. No loggings for December but 4 out in November so a change of the odd QSL still coming back.

David McGaughey, Papakura has received the following QSL's; China Radio Int. 15210, 17755, VOT 9460, R.Prague 15260, HCJB 9775, Radio Austria Int. 17615, Radio Australia 15240,AFRTS 12689.5, 6458.5, VOA Colombo 15250, VOA Philippines 9525, R Dif. Roraima 4875. Congratulations David on QSL # 1500 with Radio Australia. Quite a milestone after 35 years DXing. I received the WBCQ address OK and many thanks.

Ross Gibson, Christchurch gave the postie a stir up and the following came back in December.R.Tashkent 15295, ORTM Mali 4835 (after 17 months), R.Nacional Colombia 4955 (20 kW), Voice of Charity Lebanon 11715 via Vatican Radio, AFRTS Naval Radio Centre 12689.5 USB, I must admit these days I am completely lost with what broadcasters use what relay stations. Very hard to follow. More comment later on AFRTS.

Paul Peacock, Blenheim complains of the postie leaving more bills than QS's. Never the less amongst the bills were Sunshine radio via Julich 5850 and SRI 17815. You know the solution Paul, more reports out.

Lindsay Robinson, Invercargill has no loggings but QSLs back from R.Televis Eireann via Singapore 11740, WCBQ 7415.

Laurie Boyer, Invercargill has the following back. V of Turkey 17705, R.Japan 21610, R.Nederlands 17860, via Bonaire 9590, SRI 13700 and 11860 via Julich, ADFR 15635, R.Canada Int. 9805, 13690, 15150, 6050 and 6150 via Skelton, R.Slovakia 21705, Czeck Rep. 7345, 9430. 7315, R.Australia 9580, 9500. 17750, 15510, REE 21570, Voice of Russia 21790, 17570, 15525 Thanks for the sad information which I have published below.

Jack Searle, Haumoana with his main bunch of veries. R.Austria Int. 21765, R.Japan 21670, R.Televis Eireann via WWCR 12160, R.Taipei Int. via WYFR 17750, Voz Christiana 21550.

Paul Ormandy, Oamaru; Fortunately I checked my Email just before sending off the Mailbag and found Paul's notes there. Paul had a very welcome but belated Xmas present with a verie from Latvian Radio 5935 for country # 233. His only other QSL was from the US pirate Free Hope Experience 6955 signed by "Major Spook". Yes Latvia would be an extremely welcome Xmas present. Congratulations.

Laurie Boyer informs us that on the Voice of Russia Mailbag program heard on the 17 December it was stated that there was no money left to reply to listeners letters, and staff had not been paid for 2 months. Email was the only means of correspondence they had. Laurie then sent them 3 reception reports by Email and received verification by Email in a few days from, Elena Osipova (Mrs), World Service in English, Voice of Russia. The Email address is letters@vor.ru

I was going to comment on the verifications, KPH556 and Naval Media Centre but time does not permit. There is enough material. for an article so it appear in the immediate future. It is obvious the the higher frequencies are on the improve when one notes the number of QSLs on the 17 and 21 mHz bands. And lastly the BOM for January. Over 9 MHz; Jack Searle with Radio San Marino 11410 kHz and Under 9 MHz ; David McGaughey and Ian Catermole with R.Dif Roraimo, Brazil 4875 kHz. Congratulations.

Utilities *with Evan Murray in Auckland*

By the time this issue "hits the newsstands", there will only be approximately 350 days left before the new millenium. Don't forget to stock up on batteries for your tranny in case there is a power failure! Compliments of the season to all readers and to those who have an interest in Utes but don't contribute - don't be shy. Remember that in loggings, the aircraft, or ground station, which is CALLED becomes the first item in your report, eg Honolulu/NZ 52 etc means that Air NZ 52 is calling Honolulu. Let's hope that 1999 will produce more contributors. The address for contributions is 14 Kia Ora Road, Birkdale, Auckland (09) 483-9543. 3345 0741 Five field stations of the Mountain Radio Service ZKG - NJ

4417 0739 Hello Brave Sea Girl Bluff Fishermens Radio Over - TJ
4417 0429 Pacific Sundance This is Gisborne Harbour Radio - TJ
5535 0758 Speedbird London Roger 4516 We're expecting low cloud Gatwick - TJ
5574 0812 CO 14 answering SC Authorising climb and maintain FL 320 - JCH
5574 0818 San Francisco/United tail No. N 550/UA B757-200 SC BLSM - JCH
5598 0715 Gander/United 939 SC BHCK - BJ
5598 0740 Santa Maria/Reach 711 Posn 44N30W.aerial refuel with Reach 900 at
at 44N22W - BJ
5598 0715 Shanwick working Martinair 605 Martinair Holland - BJ
5643 0758 San Francisco/Qantas 100 SC MSAJ - JCH
5643 0912 San Francisco/NZ 17 Transfer to Tahiti 5658 - JCH
5643 1609 Heli 2/San Francisco Climb to 232 and report reaching - TJ
6503 0751 Tokyo 772 go ahead over - TJ
6507 0905 Sydney Marine Radio Yacht Winston Churchill sinking 37 46S 140 30E. All ves-
sels to keep look out. Man overboard from yacht Sword of Orion 38 14 S 150 24E
Search in progress - BJ
6637 0848 Flight Despatch/Air Caledonie 141 Wx Brisbane and Noumea - NJ
6637 0813 NZ 17/Maint watch Dump vertical track Right hand FMC failure - NJ
6655 1612 San Francisco/Anchorage Request radio check 123.9 (Kennai Remote Commu-
nication Outlet) - TJ
7184.7 0825 Mission Control Houston Prelaunch shuttle checks Boost ignition off 0835 Rocket
separation Followed shuttle at 8 22 100 260 440 and 580 miles reaching 16500 mph
with engines due to cut off - EM
7890 0625 Raoul Island Radio Mail to be in Auckland 28/11 for Orion drop - NJ
8271 0720 This is the Australian Safety frequency Please change to another - TJ
8842 1754 Tokyo/Japanair 724 - EM
8855 0727 Manaus/JHL 4 Posn Jet Heritage UK - EM
8855 0819 Manaus/American 905 FL 330 Call Manaus 124.4 - EM
8855 0822 Manaus/American 963 FL 330 Tirak 0858 Call Manaus 133.9 - EM
8864 1806 Gander/North West 53 - EM
8867 0715 NZ 1705/Honolulu Cleared to FL 350 and report reaching - EM
8867 0057 Brisbane/Kiwi 173 - NJ
8867 0758 Brisbane/Harlequin 7885 Harlequin Air Corp Japan -BJ
8879 1833 Gander/Air France 054 57N 37W SC HLFJ - EM
8879 1843 Sanaa/Egyptair 769 FL 370 Cairo-Aden ETA 2000 - EM
8879 1836 Antanarivo/MKA 225 MK Air Cargo UK - EM
8879 1745 Bombay/Royal Brunei 093 - EM
8879 1746 Gander/Speedbird 209 Call Gander 126.7 Unable higher due opposing traffic -
EM
8879 1750 Bombay/Malay 6146 - EM
8879 1825 Bombay/Cargolux 794 FL 290 Cargolux Luxembourg - EM
8879 1753 Perth/Singapore 405 Lespi 1753 Wind 280/25 - EM
8879 1754 Bombay/Saudia 825 - EM
8879 1820 Bombay/LTU 754 Lufttransportunternehmen GMBH Germany - EM
8879 1820 Singapore 7997/LTU 752 Could you relay us to Bombay FL 370 - EM
8879 1828 AMT 6214/Seychelles Wx 1800 American Transport Air - EM
8879 1732 Bombay/Saudia 827 FL 350 Alama at 1810 - EM
8879 1738 Bombay/Heavylift 454 Heavylift UK possibly Belfast aircraft - EM
8879 1749 Nairobi/Speedbird 7096 - EM
8879 1746 Nairobi/KLM 565 - EM
8879 1742 Perth/Reach 6031 Kaylok 1716 Request FL 330 - EM
8879 1746 Reach 6031/Perth FL 330 now available - EM
8903 0758 NZ 97/Tokyo Go ahead - TJ
8921 0835 Qantas Control/Qantas 19 Confirmed window not heated - EM
8930 0521 Stockholm/Tower 870 at Santiago Tower Air USA - BJ
8930 0621 Stockholm/Britannia 521 I have normal turnaround - BJ
8933 0601 Cedar Rapids/Continental 31 Delayed due NY despatch - BJ
8933 0655 Cedar Rapids/Continental 39 Wx for Santiago - BJ
8974 0817 Air Force Sydney/Aussie 675 Notify Minister arriving 2015 local and book us
Sydney to Brisbane Also request hotel booking for CDF - NJ
8974 0851 Air Force Darwin/Stallion 123 Tanker 16000 litres required - NJ
8974 2246 Air Force Sydney/Trojan 002 SC LPCS C130H - NJ
8974 1057 Air Force Darwin/Rapid 703 with posn — NJ (ICAO lists call sign "Rapid" as
registered to Aero 1 Prop Jet Inc Canada)
9074 0712 Air Force Sydney/Aussie 675 Request you take guard - NJ
8974 0712 Air Force Townsville/Aussie 675 Have contacted Sydney - NJ
8974 0819 Air Force Perth/Envoy 606 Request Wx Perth - NJ (ICAO lists call sign "Envoy" as
registered to Air World Ltd UK)
8974 1047 Stallion 040/Air Force Sydney (C130 ex Richmond?) - NJ
8974 0911 Unident/Wood Chipmunk Wx Gander Aircraft was on FL 300 near Great Lakes -
NJ
8998 2317 Auckland/Skier 91 calling but no reply - BJ
8998 0038 Mac Centre/Skier 91 Mac Centre not readable - BJ
9007 1040 UN Air 3/Trenton Mil Change to 13257 - NJ
10072 2114 Flight Despatch/Unident Wx for Brisbane Melbourne Norfolk - NJ
10075 0842 Cathay 1215 out of Oklahoma City - BJ
10075 0849 Cathay 310 We're abeam El Paso - BJ
11175 0902 Mainsail/Reach 1194 Heavy FL 330 C 41 - NJ
11175 1117 Reach HP 5/Hickham PP Diego Garcia ETA 1410 C 41 - NJ
11175 1009 Herky 100/Croughton Change to 8992 for PP but number busy - NJ
11175 0417 World 31 Reporting 322 pax - BJ
11175 0729 Hickham/Reach6007 PP Yakota Command Post C 17 ETA Yakota 1030 Offloading
15 pallets fire extinguishers PP Yakota Meteo NJ
11300 0445 Khartoum Go ahead - TJ
11306 1835 New York working Air Europe 1151(Spain) Markair (Anchorage) and Speedbird
209 - BJ
11306 0517 Lima/American 2111 Departed Newark 0628 Arrived Lima 0501 - BJ
13342 0941 Stockholm/Unident Request Wx Moscow Wind 360 Vix 3000 - NK
14295 0745 Endeavour shuttle via W3NAN Maryland Wake up call for six astronauts to be
at 0136 Central Time - BJ
17904 2123 San Francisco/Air Mike 862 - BJ
Thanks to contributors : JCH John Chapman New Plymouth Yaesu 8800 + long wire -

BJ Basil Jamieson Oamaru Drake R8 + random wire - NJ Noel Jones Auckland Kenwood R 5000 + T2FD and NRD 535D + 35m long wire and Timewave 559 DSP - TJ Trevor James Fielding R71A+ T2FD - EM Evan Murray Auckland R5000 +T2FD.

Continents Listing *with Andy McQueen in Trentham*

Welcome to the Continents listings for August 1998. This month's featured continent is South America.

BROADCAST	ANZ	PAC	S AM	C AM	N AM	EUR	AFR	ASIA	CNT	TOTAL
Laurie Boyer	550	112	5	58	2654	297	33	203	137	3912
Keith Robinson	1003	123	28	80	1232	119	9	298	157	2892
Paul Ormandy	399	82	210	110	383	58	4	62	133	1308
David Ricquish	412	88	6	19	193	8	0	46	63	772
Barry Williams	201	84	5	20	251	21	8	68	83	658
Bryan Clark	174	74	47	51	222	34	8	45	117	655
Mark Nicholls	293	57	9	27	229	10	0	22	67	647
Harold Looker	319	25	3	10	200	23	0	34	26	614
Paul Aronsen	328	29	2	0	95	13	10	52	?	529
Lindsay Robinson	281	39	18	19	103	7	6	34	56	507
Andy McQueen	219	23	0	1	42	4	2	5	21	296
Jack Searle	171	31	3	7	75	4	0	3	35	294
Paul Peacock	151	14	1	1	15	0	0	2	16	184

SHORTWAVE	ANZ	AN	PAC	S AM	C AM	N AM	EUR	AFR	ASIA	CNT	TOTAL
Barry Williams	86	2	87	126	73	253	739	650	590	238	2606
Jack Searle	184	2	111	114	107	178	935	130	445	205	2206
John Durham	108	2	77	131	100	198	824	212	470	256	2122
Paul Ormandy	80	3	43	109	49	109	562	320	320	231	1527
Bryan Clark	149	2	88	87	42	141	483	299	215	225	1506
Laurie Boyer	150	2	82	93	19	202	635	106	221	170	1510
Lindsay Robinson	86		79	106	40	163	415	96	371	169	1356
Paul Peacock	53		32	25	26	73	353	25	180	120	767
Paul Aronsen	46		2	37	37	85	306	76	146	?	735
Andy McQueen	26		18	18	14	43	142	32	70	101	363
Arthur De Maine	26		6	12	9	28	72	20	39	84	212
Ashley Gulbransen	22		15	15	7	29	56	13	36	72	193
George Beardsmore	4		4	15	3	8	47	19	28	68	128
Mark Nicholls	33		9	7	4	10	23	5	31	55	122

I asked Senior DXers for the best station they have verified in South America and in particular from North of the Equator and here is their response: - Keith Robinson YVMP Barqisemoto Venezuela 1475 khz 3kw - Jack Searle MW Stitching Radio Omroep SRS Surinam 725 khz 1983 and SW YVMO Radio Lara, Venezuela 4800 khz 10kw - Andy McQueen - HJFM 5020 10kw Manizales Colombia & CRI 9730 from Montinserry French Guiana & SRI 9885 from the same site.

A special welcome to Paul Aronsen from Invercargill for sending in your totals. Thanks

to all of you who have updated your totals. The next Continents Listing will be in the February edition of the DX Times when the featured Continent will be Europe so send your list & the best European station you have heard. You can send your contributions or comments to me at any time, direct to me at 36 A Brentwood St. Trentham, Upper Hutt. Andy McQueen



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 DECEMBER were as follows,

KHz	UTC	Country, Station, Programme, & Reception Details
2850	0909	NTH KOREA, KCBS fair in unid language with choir singing // 3960 similar - CC
3965	1712	UK, Merlin N/W 1 in EE with music and ID, good // 21550 weaker - CC
4775	1657	INDONESIA, RRI Jakarta fair with music then news, ID 1700 - KVB
5060	1354	UZBEKISTAN, R Tashkent good in EE with ID & mx // 5975 & 9715 as good - CC
5070	0615	USA, WWCR good with relig prgm - KVB
5085	0617	USA, WGTG good with relig prgm - KVB
5825	0730	USA, WEWN vg in EE with Fr. Mc Bride - HJS
5850	0700	GERMANY, Sunrise Radio w/ EE/Hindi prgm of music & local ads, good - PRP #
	0720	GERMANY, Sunrise Radio S9 signal in EE via Julich - HJS
5915	1738	SLOVAKIA, R Slovakia Intl good in EE with ID and Mailbag prgm - CC
5930	0715	CZECH REP, R Prague good in French with ID at 0718UTC - HJS
	1729	CZECH REP, R Prague good with IS, ID in EE then other languages - CC
5970	1830	SWEDEN, R Sweden in EE with fair with Sundays prgm - KAB
5975	1200	UZBEKISTAN, R Tashkent opens in EE with heavy QRM // 6025 - IC
5995	0626	MOROCCO, VOA fair in EE with prgm about childrens education - KVB
6065	1830	SWEDEN, R Sweden in EE with 60 Degrees North, fair - KAB
6110	0700	UK, R Merlin NW1 v good in EE - IC
6125	1800	??? Merlin NW 1 good in EE with pop music - KAB
6175	0715	USA, BBC WS via Delano fair/good in EE - HJS
	0739	USA, BBC WS good with quizz prgm // 6195 fair - KVB
6195	1800	??? BBC WS in EE with news and commentary - KAB
6975	0601	COSTA RICA, RFPI good in EE with plug for "Friends of RFPI" - CC
7105	0640	ROMANIA, R Romania Intl fair in EE - IC
	0647	ROMANIA, R Romania Intl fair in EE with news // 9510 good - KVB
7115	0330	SWEDEN, R Sweden in EE with 60 Degrees North - JSB
	1939	SPAIN, R Liberty good in Russian w/ nx & coment. ID asv Svoboda 1939 - KVB
2000		IRAN, VOIRI in Russian to Far East after ID at 2000 - KAB
7175	0358	ERITREA, V of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Arabic with news at 0403. Into another language at 0434. Fair/ good until 0500 when obliterated by strong Russian transmission on 7180. Another Eritrean prgm audible on 7100 at the same time - BDC
7205	1930	??? VOA with news, ID, address in unknown language, good - KAB
7220	1920	SPAIN, VOA in Russian with EE comment translated, good - KAB

7240 1915 AUSTRALIA, R Australia in EE with country music, good - KAB
 7255 0600 NIGERIA, V of Nigeria fair in EE with interview, QRM troublesome // 15120 distorted - CC
 7295 0550 MOROCCO, VOA fair with news then reecord charts in EE - KVB
 7315 1830 CZECH REP, R Prague good in EE with literary comment - KAB
 7345 1930 SLOVAKIA, R Slovakia Intl with ID, then news in EE, better LSB - KAB
 7350 1925 RUSSIA, V of Russia in Russian w/ commentary & e-mail address, good - KAB
 1930 CIS, V of Russia with music prgm in Russian, good - KAB
 7365 1345 ALASKA, KLNS fair in EE with ID and Bible reading, distorted - CC
 7400 1920 RUSSIA, V of Russia in French with singing and commentary, fair - KAB
 7415 0925 USA, WBCQ fair in EE with Bro. Stairs usual - CC
 7435 0641 USA, WHRA fair in EE with bible readings. Some QRM and ID at 0700 - KVB
 7500 0626 BULGARIA, R Bulgaria good in German with talk and music, ID 0640 - KVB
 7560 2000 NORWAY, R Norway Intl in Norwegian with news after IS, ID , fair -KAB

Thanks to all the contributors for this month. I hope all members had a good Christmas and will have a good 1999. 73's, Ken Baird.

CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS MONTH

Initials Contributor Receiver/Antenna

BDC Bryan Clark, DXpedition at Point Wells SPR4, 90m wire due East
 CC Cliff Couch, Paraparumu ATS 803A, 60m horizontal loop
 IC Ian Cattermole, Blenheim NRD 535, T2FD, Alpha Delta
 JSB Jon Standingbear, CA, USA DX395, DX350, DX375, ATS818, 30m wire, vertical
 HJS Jack Searle, Haumoana lcom R71, 100m longwires, 19/60m dipoles
 KAB Ken Baird, Christchurch R5000, ATS 909 : 15m wire, Eavesdropper
 KVB Kevin Brayshaw, Levin FRG 7, Dipoles and HF loops
 PRP Paul Peacock, Blenheim Sony 6800, Supreme SW Listener

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 FAX : +64 3 354 1347

SW Bandwatch - above 9MHz *with Andy McQueen*

Hello from Trentham and welcome to 1999. I hope you all enjoyed a Happy Christmas and had a few days off with friends and family. We are a bit down on contributions this month but the quality is still good. All times are at UTC.

KHZ	TIME	COUNTRY	STATION & PGM DETAILS	INITIALS
9420	0349	GREECE	FTH Fair in EE ending News Bulletin // 7445 weaker 8/12	CC
9485	0321	BULGARIA	R Bulgaria Fair in EE with music by Male Vocalist Badly distorted / / 7375 much weaker 18/12	CC
9530	1404	THAILAND	R Thailand Strong in EE with OM talking about new farming policy in Thailand 8/12	CC
9535	1949	THAILAND	R Thailand Fair in EE w/ Asian Games info. w/ mod QRM	KVB
9560	1930	TURKEY	VOT Strong in Turkish to Aus/NZ	HJS
9575	0644	MOROCCO	R Medi Un Good/Fair in FF & AA with Nx and Mx	KVB
9625	0640	ROMANIA	RRI Good in EE // 7105	IC
9680	2000	SPAIN	REE Opens in EE to Europe Fair but noisy	HJS
9775	0727	ECUADOR	HCJB Fair in EE Id then ð Our Planet! pgm. with ðHam Radio Today!	

9780	1755	YEMEN	R Sanaa in clear from this time EE at 1800 Good some days. Freq varies between 9778.8 & 8780.3 BDC	
9820	0428	CUBA	RHC Fair in EE with latin American music & Id 14/12	CC
9850	1930	SOUTH AFRICA	TWR Opening in FF Fair but noisy	IC
9900	1800	EGYPT	R Cairo opens with anthem EE Id then Nx 23/12 Obliterating any chance of hearing Radio Minuroa Central African Republic which is also on this freq BDC	
9915	0835	GT BRITAIN	Merlin Network One V/gd in EE //13720	IC
9950	1900	INDIA	AIR Bangalore Good with EE News and reports	HJS
11550	0811	TAIWAN	R Taipei Int Good in Indonesian with Nx and CC lessons Id @ 0814	KVB
11565	0700	HAWAII	KWHR V/strong in EE religion about alcoholics	HJS
11600	0345	CZECH REPUBLIC	R Prague Fair in EE w/ Id 7 Music Noisy background 8/12	CC
11670	0304	BELARUS	R Minsk Fair in EE about trade in dairy products Ids at 0310 & 0318 Good QSA Fair mod Some QRN/QRM	KVB
11710	0343	ARGENTINA	RAE Good in FF Ex Modulation Id 0347	KVB
11730	0320	SEYCHELES	BBCWS Fair in EE with Sports Nx Id 0329	KVB
11735	0600	SOUTH AFRICA	TWR V/good in EE	IC
11735	1830	GERMANY	Universal Life Radio Good in EE with some QRM	IC
11740	1003	SINGAPORE	RTE Relay Strong in EE with pgm of RTE News Wx for Irish Sea and political comment Slight QRM	KVB
11785	0212	BRAZIL	Guaiba Good mixed over D/Welle with frequent Ids and popular rythems	BDC
11785	0349	RWANDA	D/Welle Good in GG Id and S/off 0355	KVB
11870	1905	PHILIPPINES	VOA Relay V/good in EE w/ nx // 9525 fair & 15180 the same	KVB
11915	1450	CANADA	RCI Strong in EE with report on Quebec refererendum // 11935 & 15325 as good 2/12	CC
11955	0326	THAILAND	BBCWS Relay Fair in EE with Sports Nx Via the long path ?	IC
11975	0230	PAKISTAN	R Pakistan Fair in Urdu// 15485	IC
11990	2045	KUWAIT	R Kuwait Good in EE with pgm International Top 20 Hits followed by brief Nx Bulletin then freq and full Id # AMQ	
12080	0530	BOTSWANA	VOA Relay Fair in EE with VOA News Now but poor from 0535 with co-channel QRM // 7295 Good & 6035 Poor	KVB
12090	1438	MADAGASCAR	R Nederland relay Fair in EE with ðNewline! // 15585 khz as good 3/12	CC
13590	0940	UKRAINE	R Ukraine Int Fair in Ukrainian // 21510	BDC
13625	0035	INDIA	AIR GOS With Commentary on Operation Desert Fox Id at 0040 Good Signal	BDC
13690	1859	SRI LANKA	D/Welle relay Good in EE with News Talking Point & Spectrum pgms #KVB	
13675	0332	UAE	R Dubai Strong in EE with YL reading news of raids on Baghdad // 12005 & 15400 not so clear 13/12	CC
13710	1443	INDIA	AIR Fair in EEw/ Mx by female vocalist // 9545 11620 not so clear 3/12	CC
13720	2030	CUBA	R Habana Opening in EE Good and clear with Id then News Announced //13750 on USB but unadible this day. BDC	
13740	1359	SWEDEN	R Sweden Strong in EE w/ Id & closedown announcements 8/12	CC

13780 1945 INDIA AIR Bangalore V/good closing EE segment HJS
 13790 2030 USA WINB Red Lion Pa with Relig Pgm in EE after easy listening music Full legal Id # HJS
 13820 0708 CROATIA Hrvatska Radio V/good in Croatian HJS (I believe this is a relay via D/Telekom site in Julich Germany - Ed)
 0905 Fair with end of World News in EE 11/12 CC
 15110 0625 KUWAIT R Kuwait V/good in EE at this time IC
 0740 Excellent in EE with Islam religion #HJS
 15115 0940 SPAIN VOA via Plas relay Fair in EE with Talk to America pgm AMQ
 15150 0153 INDONESIA RRI Fair with Id before sudden S/off HJS
 15170 0257 TAHITI RFO Fair in FF with 2 OM talking 18/12 CC
 15215 0520 SOUTH AFRICA Channel Africa Fair in EE into PP at 0530 IC
 15230 1615 FRANCE RFI Fair in EE with excellent world News report then news about France # AMQ
 15260 0800 IRAN VOIRI Poor in EE with with much QRM HJS
 15295 0608 MALAYASIA V of Malayasia Good in EE with Voice of Islam then News and Id 14/12 CC
 15330 0811 GUAMKTWR S9+20 db ending è Electronic DXi pgm then Pacific DX pgm on Thursdays # HJS
 15355 1702 GABON NHK/R Japan Fair in EE with News Id and freqs in use most of which were inaudible # AMQ
 1707 Fair in with Sked & NX Id 1707 KVB
 15360 2200 SINGAPORE BBCWS Good in EE with Sports Roundup Aussies win 4th Test at Sydney AMQ
 15415 2020 LIBYA V of Africa Good in EE with News at 2130 #HJS
 15425 2210 PHILIPPINES VOA relay Fair in EE with long item on the Euro currency. AMQ (Has it got Wall St worried? - Ed)
 15435 2020 LIBYA V of Africa In // 15415 V/good with News in FF at 2140 UTC # HJS
 15700 1200 BULGARIA R Bulgaria Fair in EE //17500 Good IC
 15705 0830 NORWAY R Denmark Strong in Danish IC
 17545 1659 ISRAEL Reshet Bet Fair in Hebrew S/on 1700 Nx & Mx KVB
 17555 1915 USA WYFR Fair but noisy in EE IC
 17630 0842 GT BRITAIN Merlin Network Fair with EE Pops Id's Merlin Network The world's Greatest Shortwave Radio Station AMQ
 1425 Fair in EE with Music // 13680 as good 9915 & 21550 weaker 2/12 CC
 17640 0955 GT BRITAIN BBCWS Fair in EE with Classical Music pgm then Id on the hour as This is London AMQ
 17675 0200 NEW ZEALAND RNZI Good with RNZ News Jack says this transmitter is only about 50 kms from his QTH but usually not much cop at all HJS
 17685 0145 JAPAN NHK/R Japan Good in EE to Oceania HJS
 17715 0200 AUSTRALIA R Australia Shepparton Fair only with test cricket commentary HJS
 17755 0930 CHINA CRI Fair in EE with World Nx Some unknown QRM also on // 15210 which was better AMQ
 17895 1648 MOROCCO VOA Relay Good in Special English KVB
 18910 1900 USA WSHB Cyprus Creek Sth Carolina with Id and start of Christian Science Sunday service V/gd and clear BDC (What is the name of this new Band? - Ed)

21480 1136 ROUMANIA R Roumania Bucharest in FF also // 17790 17745 and 15250 over co channel R Nederland Madagascar relay in Indonesian.BDC
 21500 2000 CHILE Voz Cristiana Fair signal in SS Full Ids // 21550 the same HJS
 21550 0015 CHILE Voz Cristiana booming in with SS pgm IC
 21550 0725 GT BRITAIN Merlin Network Poor in EE with fluttery mixing signal HJS
 21610 0300 JAPAN NHK R/Japan V/good in English KVB
 21610 0933 SPAIN REE Strong in SS with Id announcements and music //21570 as good New Frequency? 11/12 CC
 21630 1805 ASCENSION ISLAND BBC African Sce in FF with News Weak but clear till closing at 1830 BDC
 21670 0733 FINLAND YLE/ R Finland Fair in EE with News of Finland Id at 0378 2/12 CC
 21675 0830 AUSTRIA ORF Fair in EE with Report from Austria but better on // 13730 #AMQ
 21705 0720 SLOVAKIA R Slovakia Int News in EE difficult accent HJS
 21715 0720 TURKEY V of Turkey Good in Turkish with Turkish delight HJS
 21725 0708 AUSTRALIA R Australia Ex with EE News HJS
 21825 0743 GT BRITAIN BBC Arabic sce activated here since latest Iraqi skirmishes Audible past 1000 with Big Ben and i Huana London i Id's on the hour BDC
 25870 1652 USA WFLA Florida with "970 WFLA" Id's Regular morning reception BDC
 25950 1847 USA Relay of Sports Radio 910 Fair at times past 0000. Jack Mitchell w/ 20/20 Sports Slogan or advert "Portland's real Sports Leader" Ads weather & traffic report IC

SHORTWAVE EXCHANGE

AMQ Andy McQueen Trentham Upper Hutt Sony 6800 and 7600G Ph 04 5274287
 BDC Bryan Clark Mission Bay Auckland Icom R70
 CC Cliff Couch Paraparaumu Sangean ATS803A 60m horizontal loop
 HJS Jack Searle Haumoana Hawkes Bay Icom R71 with 100m longwires, 19m & 60m dipoles
 IC Ian Cattermole Blenheim NRD535 with T2FD and Alpha Delta antennas
 KVB Kelvin Brayshaw Levin Sony ICF7600 & 3m wire thru Home-brew tuner plus FRG 7 with dipoles and HF Loops

My thanks to all contributors this month, and yes I did check my email address before finalising this list. I also intend to get fully connected in the next 6 weeks. Anyone got any good tips about an ISP? Items marked with an # indicate a report was sent to the station.

You can send your contributions to me direct at 36A Brentwood Street Trentham Upper Hutt E-mail mcqueenandy@hotmail.com or via P O Box 3011 Auckland. Also, a reminder about the Continents Listings which close at the end of this month. The featured Continent is Europe. I already have two contributions. Will Yours be next? 73is, Andy McQueen.

Broadcast DX with Paul Ormandy in Oamaru

Hi everyone and here's wishing you all 73s for '99. Not a great start to the mailbag this year, even though conditions have been reasonably good over the festive season. Have I told you that the X-band (1610-1700kHz) is HOT and that you SHOULD be tuned in! If you're not periodically checking this band, then you are missing out!

Lindsay Robinson, Invercargill, phoned to ask addresses for a couple of stations he has heard at Tiwai on a visit with Eddie McAskill. They are KCJJ 1630 and KMRR 1330, the latter reactivated. Lindsay also tells me that he will soon be DXing from his sister's farm at

Otautau. It is about the same distance from Invercargill as Tiwai though it's a good road all the way and there are no hassles with security guards and padlocks! Bet the DX isn't as good!

Paul Ormandy, Oamaru, just one log from home, KBGG 1700 however the postie has been kind and left QSLs from ZYK537 R Capital, Sao Paulo 1040, LT3 R Cerealista 680 (thanks to a visit to the station by Italian DXer, Dario Monferini) and 5LN Port Lincoln 1485.

Andy Gardner, Riversdale Beach, is listening on a regular basis, and concentrating on improving his U.S. State total. State # 27 is knocked on the head, with a QSL card from WPHG 1620 Atmore, AL, arriving in the mail in time for Christmas.

Merv Branks Trophy

Laurie Boyer 16, Paul Ormandy 15, Lindsay Robinson 8,
Paul Peacock 5, Keith Robinson 4, Robin Chambers 1

Best of the Month

Paul Ormandy with ZYK237 R Capital, Sao Paulo 1040kHz 100kW

Trail Time

PWO — Paul Ormandy with the Sony ICF-SW55 at Waianakarua. **POW** — Paul Ormandy with the SPR-4 from home. **BJ** — Basil Jamieson, Kakanui.

660 0850 USA KTNN Window Rock AZ id "Voice of the Navajo Nation". BJ

760 0827 USA KFMB San Diego CA, id. BJ

850 0904 USA KOA Denver CO, id "News Radio" poor. BJ

870 0856 HAWAII KAIM Honolulu id "This is KAIM Honolulu" followed by news. BJ

880 0900 USA KRVN Lexington NE id, nx. BJ

940 0829 USA KFRE Fresno CA, gd w/slogan "The talk station" then USA Radio News. PWO

940 0802 USA KFRE w/Mutual News, then freq. ids, wx & Art Bell on "Coast-to-Coast AM". BJ

960 0910 USA KABL San Francisco CA id, difficult copy. BJ

1110 0800 USA KRLA Pasadena CA id, only fair. BJ

1140 0745 USA KHTK Sacramento CA sports-talk, gd on peaks, mixing w/KSFN North Las Vegas at 0832.. BJ

1520 0720 USA KOMA Oklahoma C, OK gd in the clear w/wx from Will Rogers Airport, then pop oldies. PWO

1580 0715 USA KMIK Tempe AZ, fr-gd w/ "R Disney" format; excerpts from "Looney Tunes" in // KADZ (ex-KAYK) 1690. PWO

1610 0854 ANGUILLA Caribbean Beacon, pr-fr though quite readable w/Dr. Gene Scott proselytizing. PWO

1640 0841 USA KDIA Vallejo CA "Solid Gold Soul" prog. Id as "Solid Gold Soul salute KDIA" BJ

1650 0834 USA KCNZ Cedar Rapids IA, pres. the one w/Art Bell mxd others. PWO

1650 0818 USA WHTK Portsmouth VA, tent. the one heard here several times apparently testing w/back-back light orchestrals... I bet they aren't going to be this good when they start id'ing! PWO

1660 0713 USA KXOL Brigham C, UT, earliest and easiest of the X-banders to hear, with 60's & 70's hits, reg. ids as KXOL and KSOS. PWO

1660 0840 USA KXOL "Good time oldies, where the difference is the music" BJ

1670 0759 USA WNML Warner Robins GA pr-fr in the clear w/id then sports nx. PWO

1670 0855 USA WTDY Madison WI, id, wx at 0903 then Art Bell. BJ

1690 0838 USA WMDM Lexington Park MD fr sig w/sports nx, dominant o/KADZ. PWO

1690 0858 USA KADZ Arvada CO, strong w/R Disney prog, o/WMDM. PWO

1700 0816 USA KBGG Des Moines IA, fr w/car show featuring servicing tips and motoring anecdotes, called "On the Road". Reg.- breaks for ids as "The Big 1700..." POW

Broadcast News *with Bryan Clark in Auckland*

NORTH AMERICAN NEWS via IRCA's "DX Monitor" & AM DX NewsFlash.

620 KSTR Grand Junction CO callsign change from KKGJ.

KMKI Plano TX new call letters replacing KAAM.

630 KHIT Reno NV call letters changing from KPTT.

660 WFAN New York NY QSL card from Chief Engineer E.Knapp. Address — 34-12 36th Street, Astoria NY 11106 (Alves MA)

690 KFXN Minneapolis MN call change from KXBR.

710 KDIS Los Angeles CA form letter QSL from Mike Worrall, Asst Chief Engineer.

880 KCMX Phoenix OR callsign changed from KTMT.

890 KDXU St George UT verified after 2 years & 4 follow-ups, from Jeff ward Chief Engineer, at 750 W Ridgeview Drive, St George UT 84770. (Pote IN)

930 KKHJ Los Angeles CA will be changing format from Spanish to Oldies on 25 January 25. (Robert Wien CA via IRCA AM DX NewsFlash 12/98)

940 KFRE Fresno CA has a weekly Silent Period now on local Monday mornings. KCBS-740 still has their usual 3-5am SP on Sunday mornings. (Robert Wien CA via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 12/98)

980 KFVB Los Angeles CA is proceeding with power upgrade to 50kw. (Gibson CA)

1100 WTAM Cleveland OH QSL letter from Program Assistant K.M.Hagan. Address — 1468 West 9th St., #805, Cleveland OH 44113-1220. (Stewart MO)

1150 KXTA Los Angeles CA form letter QSL from Chief Engineer Mike Callaghan. Address — 3400 Riverside Drive #800, Burbank CA 91505. (Martin OR)

1260 WWMK Cleveland OH callsign changing from WMIH.

1380 KKWK St Louis MO now KZJZ w/trad jazz format "Jazz Voice of St Louis" (EB)

1410 CIGO Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia was noted on 28/12 on **1410.5** kHz (i.e. 500 Hz high of its normal 1410 channel assignment). Late '70s / early '80s hits by Van Halen, Styx, and Journey were played and a CIGO ID was clearly heard at 2311 UTC. The CIGO split should make for an easy Nova Scotia log throughout eastern Canada and the US, at least if you've got a selective receiver. (Mark Connelly MA IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 12/98)

1420 KBBX Omaha NE format now SR Music & Spanish, ex Spanish AC.

1450 KPTT Reno NV call change from KHIT (swap with 630).

1470 WTBL Dunedin FL call letters changed from WLWU.

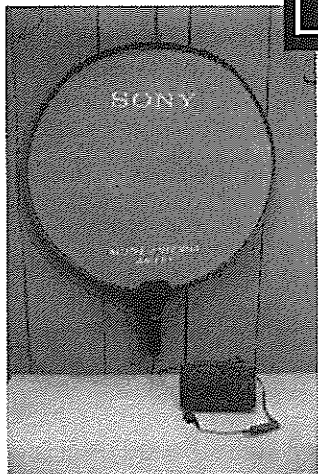
KQPT Sacramento CA callsign changed to KOME in August.

1480 KVNR Santa Ana CA ex KWIZ hrd with Vietnamese s/on at 0600 LT. (Wien CA)

1510 KKHJ San Rafael has changed calls to KJQI per new M Street Journal. Per latest Radio & Records info, changed format to nostalgia 4/12. Format listed as "standards//FM 'Joy'". Note these are old calls for 540 Costa Mesa and 1260 San Fernando, CA.!!! (Robert Wien CA via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 12/98)

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- 1550 KDDZ Arvada CO new callsign replacing KQXI.
- 1560 WQEW New York NY has, according to Internet reports, been leased by Disney and the adult standards format heard and appreciated throughout the US and Canada will disappear and be replaced by Radio Disney! There is a movement afoot to try to stop this, but it may already be too late. A sad day for a classic radio station. (Sheldon Harvey QU via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 12/98)
- 1580 KCWW Tempe AZ callsign now KMIK, though the only ID's heard is a very quick "KMIK, 1580, Tempe-Phoenix" at the top of the hour, and then right back into Disney Programming. (Carl Dabelstein AZ via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 12/98)
- KDZZ Albuquerque NM hrd w/ Radio Disney 1300 UTC 31/12 while looking for KMIK. No sign of latter but may have been // . (Pat Martin CA via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 12/98)
- 1590 KUNX Ventura CA call letters changed from KXFS.

UPCOMING NORTH AMERICAN DX TESTS

Saturday 23 January 1999 KICY 850, Nome, AK will test using Morse code IDs and voice announcements from 0900 TO 0915 UTC. KICY will test using 10000 watts, non-directional. Reception reports may be sent to: Mr. Dave Oseland, General Manager, KICY-AM, P.O. Box 820, Nome, AK 99762, E-mail: kicy@nome.net (Arranged by Ragnar Danneskjold for IRCA)

Monday 25 January 1999 WFIW 1390 Fairfield, Illinois will broadcast a Morse Code ID, along with their regular on-the-hour ID at 0700, 0800, 0900, 1000 and 1100 UTC. WFIW will be utilizing their daytime authorization of 710 watts non-directional. Fairfield is about 20

miles east of Mount Vernon, IL. Reports may be sent to: Mr. Kirk Wallace, WFIW-AM, Box 310, Fairfield, IL 62837-0310, (Arranged by Bill Hale for NRC)

Saturday, January 30, 1999 KSL 1160, Salt Lake City, UT will conduct a DX test from 0700-0900 UTC. The test will consist of Morse Code IDs on the hour and half-hour inserted into regular programming. Their format will be "The Road Gang Show", basically C&W music for truckers. Internet: <http://www.ksl.com/> E-mail: QSL@KSL.com Reception reports may also be sent to: John Dehnel, Chief Engineer, KSL-AM, 55 N. 300 West., Salt Lake City, UT 84180. (Arranged by Ragnar Danneskjold for IRCA)

Saturday 6 February 1999 CHUC 1450 Cobourg, ON will conduct a DX test on from 0500 to 1100 UTC. The test will include march music and Morse code IDs. Reception reports may be sent to: Mr. John Ton — Engineer, CHUC-1450, P.O. Box 520, Cobourg, ON, K9A 2L3 Canada. E-mail: Jton@eagle.ca or chuc@eagle.ca (Arranged by JD Stephens for NRC)

Monday 15 February 1999 KEYZ 660 Williston, North Dakota will test with Morse code IDs and 1000Hz tones at various intervals from 0605 to 0630 UTC and prior to the news at :00 from 0700 to 1100 UTC. Both daytime and nighttime patterns will be used during the period from 0105 to 0130. Nighttime pattern only will be utilized the remainder of the period. Reception reports may be sent to: Mr. Earl R. Gross, KEYZ Radio, PO Box 2048, Williston, ND 58801-2048. Internet: <http://www.keyzcountry.com/> (Arranged by Bill Hale for NRC)

Sunday 21 February 1999 — WILM 1450, Wilmington, DE will test with tones, Morse code IDs, "recognizable music" and test announcements from 1:00-3:00 am ET. WILM will conduct the test using 1000 watts, non-directional. Pre-paid phone calls will be accepted at (302)656-9800; fax # is (302) 655-1450. Reception reports may be sent to: Mr. Allan Loudell, Program Manager, WILM Radio, 1215 French St., Wilmington, DE 19801-3213. (Arranged by Bill Hale for NRC)

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

PACIFIC NEWS ROUNDUP

NEW ZEALAND Ownership of Auckland frequency 1476 has passed from Auckland International Airport Company to the Auckland Radio Trust, and a group sponsorship arranged, allowing a continuation of BBC World Service relays for another year. Thanks to sponsors - British Airways, Telecom, Fintel, Whitcoulls, UK Trade Commission, Hills Flooring, Bell Tea Company, Hesketh Henry, Flight Centre & QANTAS. (Bryan Clark)

AUSTRALIA Details of West Australian stations via Australian member Dave Onley:
702 6KP, De Grey Place, Karratha WA 6714, PO Box 994, Karratha WA 6714. Phone: (091) 441 911, Fax: (091) 441 856. Format: Information/music. Network: ABC. Also carried on 603 Port Hedland, 846 Carnarvon, 567 Pannawonica

720 6WF, 191 Adelaide Terrace, Perth. GPO Box 9994, Perth WA 6848. Phone: (09) 220 2720, Fax: (09) 220 2727, Format: News/talk/MOR. Network: ABC

747 6SE 8 Williams Street, Esperance WA 6450, PO Box 527, Esperance WA 6450. Phone: (090) 712 747, Fax: (090) 711 627. Format: Adult contemporary. Network: Radio West Network.

783 6VA, PO Box 293, Albany WA 6330. Phone: (098) 422 783, Fax: (098) 418 565. Format: Adult contemporary, Network: Radio West Network.

882 6PR, 169 Hay Street, East Perth WA 6004, PO Box 6072, East Perth WA 6892. Phone: (09) 325 3311, Fax: (09) 325 2806. Format: News/talk/sport/music. Network: Southern Cross Broadcasters

864 6AM, 110 Fitzgerald Street, Northam WA 6401, PO Box 256, Northam WA 6401. Phone: (096) 222 777, Fax: (096) 223 469. Format: Adult contemporary. Network: Radio West Network.

900 6BY, PO Box 900, Bridgetown WA 6255. Phone: (097) 619 066, Fax: (097) 619 022. Format: Adult contemporary. Network: Radio West Network.

918 6NA, PO Box 216, Narrogin WA 6312, Phone: (098) 811 320, Fax: (098) 813 166. Format: Adult contemporary, Network: Radio West Network.

963 6TZ, 1 Spencer Street, Bunbury WA 6230, PO Box 148, Bunbury WA 6230. Phone: (097) 912 899, Fax: (097) 912 382. Format: Adult contemporary. Network: Radio West Network

981 6KG, 89 Eagan Street, Kalgoorlie WA 6430, PO Box 10067, Kalgoorlie WA 6430. Phone: (090) 212 666, Fax: (090) 912 209. Format: Adult contemporary, Network: Radio West Network.

1071 6WB, PO Box 646, Kattanning WA 6317. Phone: (098) 211 417, Fax: (098) 214 055. Format: Adult contemporary. Network: Radio West Network.

1080 6IX, 169 Hay Street, East Perth WA 6004, PO Box 6072, East Perth WA 6004. Phone: (09) 325 3311, Fax: (09) 421 1200. Format: Easy listening. Network: Southern Cross Broadcasters.

1098 6MD, PO Box 264, Merredin WA 6415. Phone: (090) 413 333, Fax: (090) 411 922. Format: Adult contemporary. Network: Radio West Network.

1116 6MM, 141 Mandurah Terrace, Mandurah. PO Box 688, Mandurah WA 6210. Phone: (09) 581 2666, Fax: (09) 581 2786. Format: Adult contemporary.

1134 6CI, 1 Spencer Street, Bunbury WA 6230, PO Box 148, Bunbury WA 6230. Phone: (097) 912 899, Fax: (097) 912 382. Format: Adult contemporary. Network: Radio West Network.

1260 6KA/6NW (Northwest Radio), Bond Place, Karratha WA 6714, PO Box 153, Karratha WA 6714. Phone: (091) 444 333, Fax: (091) 442 944. Format: Adult contemporary. Also on 1026 Port Hedland.

HAWAII KULA Honolulu on 1460 has been granted a change of call letters to KGMZ. (via IRCA AM DX NewsFlash 12/98)

EXPANDED BAND REPORT (above 1600kHz)

1630 KKWY Fox Farm-Cheyenne WY appears to have new format, no longer // with KJL. They are C&W and ID as "Thanks for listening to KKWY-Fox Farm-Cheyenne" and slogan "The Spirit of Wyoming". (Patrick Martin OR email) Is only running 500 watts into a poor antenna system. They ID between 45-55 past the hour and are using "KWY" slogan. (Wayne Heinen CO via IRCA's IDXD email 12/98)

1640 KDIA Vallejo CA verified by Program Assistant Clifford Brown Junior. Two different addresses: 7677 Oakport Street #105, Oakland CA 94621 or 3267 Somoma Boulevard, Vallejo CA 94590. (Patrick Martin OR email)

1650 WHKT Portsmouth VA presumed the strong signal over KDNZ testing with continuous "muzak", no announcements late December. (Jim Renfrew NY via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 12/98)

1690 KADZ Arvada CO new call sign ex KAYK observed 31/12. Still Radio Disney for-

mat, ids as "KDDZ Arvada, KADZ Arvada-Denver". (Pat Martin OR email)

MEDIUM WAVE STATION NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CUBA "Those that heard the typical dit dat dit, dit dat dit Morse Code A2 modulation from Radio RelóJ on 640 kHz.... this is Havana's Radio Progreso transmitter when Progreso is off the air and the engineer at the transmitter site is running some tests... He or she (yes there is a very nice lady engineer at the site) will use the Radio RelóJ's audio which is available 24 hours a day, to run the 50 kilowatt for any testing between usually 0600 and 1000 UTC weekdays. During weekends Progreso's schedule changes, it stays on the air later on Saturdays and goes on the air a bit later in the morning Sunday. The distinctive Radio RelóJ Morse Code ID "R R" is set to typically modulate the transmitters to about 85 percent modulation, that's why it is heard so well above the noise floor... old Morse CW, even when using the A2 mode is many dB's better than the human voice!" (Arnie Coro CO2KK, Host of Dxers Unlimited Radio Havana Cuba, via amfmtdx@qth.net via NRC's IDXD Email 12/98)

MEXICO XEBACH, Tijuana BCN 540 sent form letter verification in 11 days from Tom White-CE. Address c/o P.O. Box 250028, 1500 Cotner Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90025. (Pat Martin via eMail) XEKT Tecate BCN has moved from 1380 to 1390. Stronger signal suggests power boost? (Tim Hall CA via IRCA 9/98)

RUSSIA Radio Rossii, Petropavlovsk, 180 QSL'd by PPC for EE follow-up to October 1996 report sent four months ago. Also sent them a self-addressed envelope and US \$1-00. V/s illegible and I can't read/understand a handwritten Russian message on the card. PPC was also stamped with details of the local company in RR. (Paul Ormandy)

TV / FM DX *with Brian Withers in Taradale*

Welcome to logs and news for the YEAR of NINETEEN NINETY NINE.

Byran Clark of Auckland logged the following: R Rhema 90.4, Magic FM 100, Magic FM 96.8 (Whats the location of 96.8 Bryan?)

Your Editor logged the following Rev FM 98.9 Gisborne, 2JJJ Cootamundru, Young 93.9, Voice of Islam Sydney 94.5, 4ABCRN 94.3 Blackwater, 4JJJ 104.7 Rockhampton, Max FM 107.3., FM 104.7 Grafton, Peak FM 88.5 Havelock North. QsIs: Rev FM 98.9, Peak FM 88.5..

STATION NEWS:-

Hauraki to return to Waikato within the next six weeks.

88.5 over xmas holiday period - James Johnston of Peak FM, address 21A Campbell St, Havelock North (06) 877 5570.

On Air Radio now on 88 Mhz only again in Napier. [Now that's an Oxymoron station name if I ever hear done - CE]

More FM in Hamilton on 92.2 soon.

Solid Gold & one others (The Rock or The Edge) as soon as possible in Christchurch. Maybe R Pacific will switched to AM to make room for music stations.

Easy FM 90.3 Hasting has changed format to better music mix & calling itself Cool FM.

88.0 Fielding FM started July 1998 with country format only on weekends from 6am to midnight. (06) 323 3338 Hm. 323 3814 Wk. (ask for Michael).

FM / TV Trial. BC - Bryan Clark, Auckland. BW - Brian Withers, Napier.

12/12 R Rhema 90.4 & Magic FM 100 all day. Sydney/Newcastle/Gosford FM most of the day. Whakatane 90.5 & 92.1. BC
ABSQ1, STQ1, NENO, ABQ, 2.30pm - 6.30pm. Invercargill 89.2 at 2.47pm for one minute. BW
13/12 ABDN2 9.40 - 9.50am. All Gisborne FM heard including Whakatane all day. ABQ & ABSQ1 at 11.38am - 1pm BW
14/12 ABDN2 2.25pm. BW
15/12 Magic FM 96.8 strong & 100 all day. BC
16/12 KVZK2 10.30am - 10.45am. ABN2 & Wollongong FM 12.56. BW
17/12 Wellington & Rotoura FM heard including Gisborne FM with Rev FM 98.9 weak. ABSQ1/ABQ at 2.55pm. BW
18/12 ABN2, Gosford & Sydney, Wollongong & Taree, ABDN2. 11.30am - 2.30pm. BW
19/12 Coffs Harbour FM, Sydney & Central Tablelands at 6.57 to 8pm. BC
ABDN2 at 8.15pm. BW
20/12 Fiji FM 103 & 102.2 on Tropo at 3pm. BC
21/12 Name change for Easy FM 90.3 to Cool FM. BW
23/12 6.10 - 8pm Batesmans Bay, Sydney FM, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Grafton, BC/BW
6.40 - 10pm Gold Coast FM, 2JJJ 90.7 Cootamundra, 93.9 Young, Blackwater 94.3 4BC, Max FM 107.3, 104.7 Grafton, 4JJJ 104.7 Rockhampton, Max FM 107.3, BW
25/12 10.42 - 11.42am ABDN2, ABSQ1. ABN 4.45pm. KVZK2 5.19pm. ABSQ1 5.21pm. ABQ2 5.23pm. BW
26/12 ABSQ1 at 12.05pm. ABQ2 12.39pm. BW
27/12 ABSQ1 5.10pm. BW
31/12 ABDN2 3.15 - 4.30pm. ABDN2/ ABN at 11.26pm with Coffs Harbour, Sydney FM, Southern Queensland FM. BW
LOG'S / NEWS TO P O BOX 3011 AUCKLAND OR P O BOX 7072, TARADALE, NAPIER

BRANCH NEWS

SOUTHLAND

The December meeting was held at the Greenyer residents with 10 members present and their wives. The usual business was attended to and in general Paul Aronson had a phone call from Arthur de Maine and he sends his Christmas wishes to the branch, and Paul had some Internet DX tips. Laurie Boyer reports that Radio Nigeria is coming in well on 15.120Khz at 05.30 utc. No further development with the painting of Tiwai as yet. Competitions, 15 verifications were tabled this month and no BC entry this month, maybe they are getting tougher? Over 9 - L Boyer Radio Iceland 15.775Khz 10Kw 126Pts. Under 9 - P Aronson VOA 6.080Khz 50Kw 112Pts. The raffle was won by Gwen Aronson. The members then enjoyed a chat and some Christmas cheer! Next meeting is at Stan Simons on the 26th.

AUCKLAND

The branch ended its 1998 activities with an excellent visit to Air New Zealand Maintenance Division as reported in the December issue of DX Times. Our President, Daniel Bloomfield, probably the world's youngest DX club President, is visiting Canada and the USA. We hope that he returns with news of our hobby in those countries.

The annual branch auction will be held on Sunday 31 Jan. We are hoping for a con-

tinuation of the good (cricket) weather to bring along as many members as possible. A report on the (hopeful) success in February's mag. Contact: Evan Murray (09) 483-9543.

News from AdCom *compiled by Bryan Clark in Auckland*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UPDATE More from the DX League's 50th AGM :

With accumulated funds totalling \$1900 in the separate Stationery Account and a continuing decline in demand from members for preprinted stationery items, it was agreed to transfer \$1000 of these funds to the League's General Funds.

Members at the AGM were unanimous in their dissatisfaction at the retiming of Radio Netherland's Pacific Service in English, from 0730 to 0930 UTC. President **BARRY WILLIAMS** was directed to write to Radio Netherlands seeking a retiming to no later than 0830 UTC so that loyal NZ listeners would be better able to tune in.

ALASTAIR PERKINS, Executive Director of FEBC Radio International for NZ gave the meeting a stimulating address on his 50+ years interest in radio, the early days of the DX League in Invercargill, his work with FEBC and FEBA. He also spoke of the exciting prospects for shortwave promised by the advent of digital broadcasting. A report on Alastair's address will feature in an upcoming issue of the DX Times.

PRIVACY ACT We occasionally get requests from members for details from the DX League's membership list — this generally consists of requests for addresses, telephone numbers and occasionally E-mail addresses. Member details will not be made public outside of the League membership. But we realise that some members may not wish to have this information made available to other members. Should you require your details kept confidential, please contact our National Secretary **EVAN MURRAY**. If you have an email address — let Chief Editor **ANDY GARDNER** know, so that you can be kept up to date with hot hobby happenings - address details for Evan and Andy on the back page of this magazine.

PETE MYERS Many members who have been active Radio Netherlands and BBC listeners will know Pete Myers. On 15 December, this popular radio personality lost his fight against cancer, aged 59. The following tribute was issued by Radio Netherlands and relayed to us by **VICTOR GOONETILLEKE** in Sri Lanka. "Pete was one of the finest feature producers in the business. He knew how to craft emotion and keep an audience locked in. His scrapbook of newspaper articles is history of international broadcasting itself. He was instrumental in bringing in-depth interviews to popular channels such as BBC Radio One, and for many years was the front man in BBC's African Service. He was a human voice in a world dominated by Cold War politics. His love of film and books made for fascinating stories and, above all, he was very funny. Joining Radio Netherlands in 1976, he was instrumental in re-styling their English language transmissions to Africa. He worked with the team producing Afrosene, and then went on to make a success of Radio Netherlands Asian broadcasts, with live flagship programmes such as Mainstream Asia. In later years he shaped RN's documentary output and created several musical and historical series. His programmes tracing the history of Radio Netherlands to celebrate 50 years on air are some of the finest work the station has broadcast. But perhaps his greatest gift was to share his love of feature production. Many in the English Language Service today regard Pete as their mentor. He inspired people to be creative. He broke through traditional taboos. His spirit lives on through the people he taught. He will be greatly missed, both here in Hilversum, and by - literally -

millions of people around the world."

OVERSEAS HOBBY EVENTS If you're thinking of an overseas holiday in 1999, here are some DX and SWL events you might consider including in your itinerary.: **11-13 March** - Annual Winter SWL Festival, Kulpsville, Pennsylvania, USA. **30 April - 2 May** - AGM and DX Camp of the Danish SW Club International at Vejers, the westernmost point in Denmark, located in Jutland. Members seeking more details of either should drop a line to P.O. Box 3011, Auckland.

DXing and Old Age by Barry Williams

Many of our League members are approaching old age, if not already there. Perhaps it is time to contemplate this time of life. DXers should be aware that there are signs that indicate you are approaching old age, or whether it is too late - you're there !!

The warning signs are when :-

- (1) You still refer to kcs instead of kHz.
- (2) You keep an extra pair of glasses to find the spare ones - and lose them both.
- (3) You start saying "I remember the days you could hear 250 watt Yanks on 1490 kcs".
- (4) You can't see the numbers on the dial of the receiver too well.
- (5) Sitting in front of your radio is your daily exercise.
- (6) You now get the grandson to climb the tree to hang the antenna wire.
- (7) You log the station but never get around to writing the reception report.
- (8) You can remember first hearing of Kennedy's assassination over the VOA.
- (9) You blame the earphones when you can't hear the station ID properly.

It's too late! You're already there when:-

- (1) You don't need an alarm clock to get up to DX - you're awake all night.
- (2) Your wife finds you sitting in front of the receiver - without the set turned on.
- (3) Your wife finds you in front of the set with your head on the table - asleep!
- (4) You don't know any of this month's "Top 40s", but can remember those of the 1940s.
- (5) You can remember the first Empire Broadcast over the BBC.
- (6) The alarm wakes you up at 3 in the morning - and you spend the rest of the morning wondering why you set the alarm.
- (7) Your hearing aid costs more than your communication receiver.
- (8) You know all the answers to DXing in the 30s, but there's no one left to ask the questions.
- (9) A collection of vintage radios is younger than you are.
- (10) You can't remember whether you have heard the station before, even though you logged it yesterday.

BIGGER AND DEFINITELY BETTER !!

It's out! The 1999 World Radio TV Handbook's 640 pages (up from 608 last year and 560 in 1997) makes it the largest, and I think, most indispensable guidebook available to the international radio monitor. It is 1 1/2 inches thick! I certainly couldn't do without it, even in this age of Internet sources providing immediate news of new DX catches.

My first impression of WRTH 1999 is of a neater, brighter package. Side-bars on the pages should make for quicker navigation to the required section. All feature articles are included in the first 64 pages printed on glossy paper with generous use of colour. More new receivers than ever are reviewed, and in a more populist, less technically oriented manner. Gee, its so up to date that current receiver prices are even listed in Euros (as well as USD and UK£ currencies)! A welcome addition is a 6 page article on Antennas by Joseph Carr. The station listings by continent, country and frequency are all there, and a number of other new features which I'll mention further on.

As one who mainly DX's for 'target stations, what makes WRTH so valuable to me is the country by country listing of radio stations on longwave, medium wave, FM and TV, together with sites, frequencies, powers, schedules, languages and addresses. But I must admit I wasn't happy when the International Radio detail by country was first split off from the National or Local country listings in 1997. That approach continues. For example, details of New Zealand medium wave and FM stations are found on pages 239-242, while shortwave details on Radio NZ International are on page 599. We always had the TV listings split — for NZ they are on page 422. Dear old ZLXA, as a non-international directed shortwave service, is wedged between the MW and FM listings. I think WRTH should consolidate all this data, by country in the traditional format.

A little niggle - over half the space on the single Contents page (there were 2-pages last year) lists the page-by-page location of the 14 receiver reviews, so there is no room to detail the contents of the 16-page 'Reference' section at the back. That contains the table of World Time by Country (pity it wasn't adjacent to a useful new colour-coded Time Zone Map on page 56), Abbreviations, detailed International and Religious Broadcasting Organisation listings, DX Club details and so on.

Another change: this year a smaller typeface has been used for the frequency listing 'Shortwave Stations of the World', condensing into 23 pages what took 27 pages in last years edition. On the other hand, all the 'Long and Mediumwave Stations' listings are in the same typeface as 1998 but with better clarity due improved line spacing throughout. There's even a bonus country-by-country MW listing for Europe, Africa, Near and Middle East, making a total of 100 pages, compared with 74 pages in 1998. Even though I have been a frequent user of these pages as an international MW DXer, I will nevertheless be writing to the WRTH Editor suggesting that improving the clarity of the Shortwave frequency listing should satisfy more readers in future.

Talking of the Editor, I must point out that this is the first WRTH under new Editor David Bobbett, and the book is all the more meritorious for that. While there some emails circulating that point out errors in, for example, the Australian MW listings, the fact remains that this is an awesome undertaking, and without peer as an information source for any broadcasting junkie like me. It is incumbent upon DX and SWL enthusiasts like ourselves to feed updates to WRTH so that such minor errors can be rectified next time and thus retain WRTH's claim to be "the world's most comprehensive and up-to-date guide to broadcasting". We all know that radio stations are no longer proactive in responding to DX listeners, so are unlikely to be proactive in notifying WRTH themselves.

And if you're not already convinced at the value of having WRTVH 1999 to aid your hobby, there's the added attraction of being eligible to win the very latest JRC NRD545 semi-professional communications receiver by returning the WRTH 1999 Questionnaire before 30 April 1999. Plus the 5 runner-ups will receive the 2000 edition of WRTH. Burnet Pollard

Books (P.O.Box 149, Otaki) are selling WRTH 1999 for NZ\$49.95 inclusive of postage, or less than an extra dollar a week for your favourite hobby. If you haven't used the WRTH before or not updated your edition for years, this would be a good time to take the plunge. Worth every penny I reckon!
 BRYAN CLARK 1/99

REVIEW: SONY AN-LP1 SHORTWAVE ACTIVE ANTENNA by John West

One usually associates active antennas with images of overloading, cross-modulation, high noise and poor performance compared to a "full size antenna". So it was with some skepticism when I undertook to review the new offering from Sony, the AN-LP1. However after trying it out I was impressed by its good performance ... read on.

All active antennas usually consist of a small portable antenna which is fed into a broadband RF amplifier, which boosts the signal to make up for the very low efficiency of the small antenna. The AN-LP1 consists of 3 modules:

1. A flexible disk-like arrangement about 480 mm in diameter, in which loops of spring-steel and copper wire are stitched into the circumference of a fabric disk. This flexible disk can be folded down into a 3-coil configuration of only 180 mm in diameter, enabling it to be easily packed away for travel.

2. The AN-LP1 Antenna Controller (the main amplifier). This is a grey coloured plastic box 120 x 71 x 26 mm. This has a lead which connects to the antenna. The lead is retractable, and can be unwound to a maximum length of 3 metres. There is a second shorter coaxial lead (only 210 mm long) which connects to the receiver.

3. Noise reduction unit. This is a grey plastic cylindrical device (90 mm long x 27 mm diameter) which can be optionally inserted between the Antenna and the Controller. This unit consists of a ferrite core with several turns of the lead-in cable wound around it, and has the effect of reducing any stray electrical noise picked up by the lead. Tests done with and without the unit confirmed that it did reduce the level of local man-made noise.

SETTING IT UP: The modules described above can be assembled effortlessly. The disk antenna can be stuck to a window by a rubber suction cup, or it can be hung from a curtain rail or other support by way of a plastic clip.

Connection to a receiver is by a 3.5 mm mono phono plug. Supplied with the package is an adapter clip which can permit connection to the whip antenna of any shortwave portable. Using 3rd party adapters it is possible to convert the 3.5 mm plug to the more universal UHF (PL-259) type plug, and the active antenna can then be used on a wide range of receivers.

Power is supplied by two AA batteries in the Antenna Controller Unit. There is no provision for external power, however when used in conjunction with certain Sony receivers (i.e. ICF-SW100T and ICF-7600G) the unit supply is linked to the power supply of the receiver through the interconnecting lead. A red LED indicates when power is on. NOTE: Sony do not recommend using this antenna with the ICF-SW10 nor ICF-SW77 models.

The antenna is designed to work on shortwave only, where it excels. It doesn't perform at all well on MW. Unlike an ordinary loop antenna, the AN-LP1 is omnidirectional (i.e. able to receive equally in all directions). A rotary preselector control on the Antenna Controller Unit enables the listener to select the band of interest (4,5,6,7,10,12,14,16 or 20 MHz).

A quick look inside reveals that Sony have used modern surface-mount technology. PC boards in the Antenna Controller Unit AND the base of the disk antenna abound with chip components. I counted no less than 23 transistors and 1 IC (...there may be more!) The preselector actually switches in different amplifying circuits which have had their band-pass characteristics individually aligned.

SO HOW DOES IT PERFORM? On-air comparisons were made between the AN-LP1 and other antennas (i.e. a Sony random wire antenna on a spool, a 64-foot random wire and the built-in whip antenna of the receiver). In addition, these antennas were used with a variety of receivers (i.e. Icom IC-R71A, Sony's ICF-SW7600G and ICF-6800W (orange)) over a range of frequencies. All these tests were conducted in suburban Auckland on 12 Sept 1998.

CONCLUSIONS: From Table 1, it is clear that when compared to modest random-length antennas in an urban environment, the Sony AN-LP1 performs quite well, and under some circumstances actually better. In general, signal strength was comparable or stronger to that of the other antennas. But its real virtue is in improved signal-to-noise ratio performance, particularly when there is a local presence of man-made electrical noise. All in all, the AN-LP1 would certainly appeal to the traveling shortwave listener.

NOTES: 1. Another review: "New Active Antenna from Sony" in Magne Tests, p93 Monitoring Times, January 1998. - thanks to Bryan Clark for reference to this. 2. Barry Williams provided the Sony 7600G receiver for this test. 3. Sony (NZ) Ltd has donated two AN-LP1s to the League, of which one was the subject of this test. For this I wish to thank Sony.

Freq, Time, Station	Receiver	Sony AN-LP1	Sony rand. wire	64' random wire	Built-in whip (if available)	Results
5745kHz 0915UTC WHRI Hawai'i	R71A	S:4-7 QSB good	S:3-6 QSB fair	S:4-7 QSB fair	n/a	AN-LP1 least noisy on all receivers
	7600G	fair	fair	fair	fair	
	6800W	S:1.5-4 good	S:2-5 fr/good	S:6-8.5 good	S:0.5-2 fair	
17560kHz 0930UTC Radio Deutsch Welle	R71A	S:7-9+10dB moderate noise	S:2-6 noise	S:3-6 noise	n/a	AN-LP1 STRONGER SIGNAL
	7600G	Best on 16MHz	good	good	noisy fair	
	6800W	S:1-8 v.good	S:0.5-4 good	S:0.5-4 good	S:0.5-1.5 fair	
3935kHz 1052UTC ZLXA Levin	R71A	S:9+25dB	S:9+5dB	S:9+25dB	n/a	AN-LP1 LESS STATIC AND LESS FADING
	7600G	v.good	fair	good	fair	
	6800W	S:9 v.good	S:5-6 good	S:9 v.good	S:8-9 good	
5850kHz 1925UTC Sunrise Radio, Germany	R71A	S:5.5-7 fair	S:5-6.5 fair	S:5-6.5 fair	n/a	AN-LP1 STRONGER SIG
	7600G	fair	fair	fair	fair	
	6800W	S:1.5-6 fair	S:0.5-2 poor/	S:2-7 fair	S:0.5-4 fair	

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)*.

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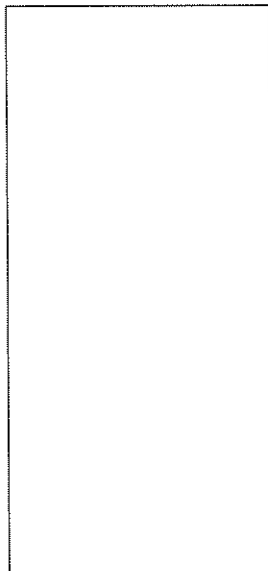
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