



# New Zealand DX Times

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<http://radiodx.com>



## Aerial Tips by Paul Ormandy

*We are pleased to present further Aerial, Coax and Earthing Tips compiled from members contributions by our honorary antenna guru, Paul Ormandy...*

As a result of my earlier article on aerials, baluns and earthing I have had contact with quite a few members. Many have used the material to improve their aerial system and others have given the benefit of their experience in these matters. I thought it worthwhile that these ideas be shared further, so the following anthology of tips comes to life. Credit goes to George Beardsmore of Mosgiel and Jim Searle from Dunedin... these items aren't verbatim though I hope my editing conveys the correct impression. Firstly, the "good oil" from Jim...

· It is interesting to check for receiver internal noise. No matter what you do with antennas and grounds, this level of noise (if any) will always be with you. Checking this is quite simple: disconnect the aerial and turn the volume way up... ideally you should have total silence. Noise remaining in the way of hiss indicates circuit noise... i.e. the noise generated internally by the receiver. Today's digital read-out sets with their synthesisers and fluorescent displays are culprits in this respect. Jim says that on this test his older JRC NRD-515 is totally dead on this test while the more up-to-date NRD-535 has some internal noise. To quote Jim "The latest is not always the greatest or best"

· Earth Rods: Electrical earths (i.e. the house mains earth) and signal earth (i.e. the rod for your receiver/aerial system) should always be separate and the rods should be as far apart as possible. The signal earth rod site should be as close to your receiver as possible. Short, heavy wire is mandatory. The mains earth is not as critical to the length of wire. Jim's signal earth rod is 2 metres from the receiver and mains earth 3 metres from the signal rod, he considers this too close together and plans to move it to the other side of the house shortly. Mine is 4 metres from the receiver and 9 from the mains earth. Jim has plans to run buried wire radials from his mast earth.

· Interference-zone: Jim advocates keeping all of your connections and aerials at least 5 metres away from your house in order to avoid picking up electrical noise from within. In days gone by, it was quite normal to put the mast beside your house and have open wire running down to your receiver... back when all the electrical appliances in your house created as much noise as a bee rubbing his legs together! It also seemed to make sense that you would have your feed-wire as short as possible... uh uh! Read on! Now days we are dealing with all sorts of electronic hash emanating from our abode, Sky TV decoders, washing machines, microwaves, light dimmers, even electronic power-meters and a whole lot more.. So if you're looking at a site for your mast, find the point on your section as far from

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yours and your neighbours house as possible... run your coax from your receiver (underground if possible as this will also prevent pick-up of noise) all the way to your receiver... remembering that at SW frequencies and lower, coax doesn't have anywhere as much loss as VHF and UHF. And while on the coax theme, if it's a particularly long run of 20 metres or more, it might pay to buy the more expensive cable. Right, now we've got our mast at the end of the section... and need somewhere to attach the other end of the aerial... but the only other high point is the house... and you don't want to wander into that 5 metre "interference zone"... easy... just use nylon rope for that last 5 metres... hey, your antenna may be a bit shorter but the improved signal-to-noise ratio will more than make up for that.

· Triple-earth/isolation balun set-up. Jim's idea of the ultimate: an isolation balun as close to the receiver as possible, another on the mast and a third earth connection. Isolation baluns, such a balun (transformer) has two windings completely separate from each other... one winding is connected to the aerial, the other to the receiver. Then an earth is attached to one side of the aerial winding and connected to the signal earth, i.e. an earth rod closest to the receiver. Then coax is run from this point all the way to the top of the mast where it is connected to a second isolation balun, with the aerial connected to one side of the aerial winding and the other side to a third earth rod, the mast earth ... again the distance between the mast earth, the signal earth and mains earth should be as far as possible, and with your mast some distance from the house as in Jim's case, this will not be a problem.. The receiver is now earthed via the mains as would normally be the case. It is important to only earth the coax at one place... preferably at the isolation balun beside the receiver. Never earth the coax at both ends otherwise you will have problems with earth loops and stray interference currents. In my situation I use isolation baluns on two-wire aeralis and instead of earthing one side of the antenna balun, I connect one leg of the dipole on each side of the balun... seems to do the trick here as I can hear Yanks on the X-band even with the computer on... and if I had read Jim's letter first I wouldn't have put my mast right beside the house! Though at 8.5m tall it must be getting far enough away from the interference zone. Still, I'll regret not having it down the end of the section and be forever wondering just how quiet it is down there! [Time to order in another truck-load of concrete? - Andy]

And now, some sage advice from George... · Earths: If you are using a metal pipe always check with a sensitive ohmmeter for good, sound connections and seal the joins to prevent corrosion. A pipe driven straight into the ground is OK but dry conditions do not make for good electrical contact to earth. To assist against this happening, drill small holes into the pipe around the circumference in random fashion before driving. Then place a small funnel into the neck of the pipe and fill with water from time to time to prevent the ground drying out. George also tells us of a commercially available salt compound used by electrical companies who need good earth connections. I can also think of a gel-type solution sold by gardening shops for retaining moisture in pot-plants that may be worth a go as well. And also on the gardening theme, how about one of those variable drip water heads as used in those micro watering systems? My wife uses one to keep the goldfish pond topped up during summer when transpiration is high. Alternatives: You can also use copper wire radials buried as deep as practical - preferably 90 degrees horizontal spacing from each other in circumference. Solder joins and check for near zero resistance between them. If using a metal tower, pole etc, earth it to avoid any spurious noise-making capacity that may carry to the antenna.

· Antennas: One source of copper wire (for ground radials and aeralis) is old electrical

wire from buildings being demolished. This can usually be readily stripped if for use as radials, will solder well and is very strong... George's aeralis have withstood 120-130kmh winds... and can be used unstripped, easily sealed etc... which is especially important if you are in a salt laden atmosphere.

· If you are short of room for two masts and have one pole at the centre, you can drop the ends to say 1 meter from the ground if you can maintain a 45 degree angle to the horizontal. This is an "Inverted Vee". Such an aerial is omnidirectional unlike a dipole which works side-on resonating frequencies and end-on between resonance.

· For more information on the availability of baluns, please contact me: Paul Ormandy, 33 Greta St, Oamaru 8901... paul@radiodx.com

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## editorial@radiodx.com with Andy Gardner, Masterton

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The editorial is short and sweet again this month. If last months issue is anything to go by, I've got the font problem licked. We'll see, I suppose. You will notice that the headings on the regular columns have changed this month. We've made it as easy as possible for contributors to send their notes to the columns. Simply e-mail your stuff to the email address that forms the column title! Please remember that e-mailing your notes to section editors make their (voluntary) jobs much easier, as they don't have to re-type your notes! For those of you without e-mail or Internet capability, most centres now offer free or very cheap "walk-in" capabilities. In Masterton, for instance, the Wairarapa Times-Age (who I work for) has free Internet access from its foyer, and the local library has it for only \$2.50 per hour. You can email an huge number of people in one hour, a great way to save on International postage.

Sorry about the futher delivery delays this month. We're still having problems with the format of the SW bandwatch over 9 column. This month, despite many attempts on different computers, I was unable to recover the file off the diskette. Hoping to get it all cleared up for future issues. Luckily this month we have an excellent trail from Paul Ormandy and Bryan Clark down at Wai-ana-karua, to keep your SW buffs happy! The closing time for the May issue is put back a few days to allow for the late arrival of this issue.

I am now firmly entrenched in the middle of Masterton, with 15kV power lines running along the other side of the street, and neighbours with TV's. Not much chance of MW DX in these conditions! Must be time for the DX League members in the Wairarapa and Wellington to organise a DXpedition! Cheers, for now, Andy.

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## shortwave.report@radiodx.com with Matt Francis, Canberra

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This time of the year is an editor's dream, with an abundance of new schedules and frequencies for the new broadcast season, which commenced on 28 March. I've tried to include updated schedules from the Balkans for those interested in how regional broadcasters are reporting events unfolding in that part of the world (see Albania, Croatia, and Yugoslavia).

**Albania:** Current frequency registrations for Radio Tirana: 5985 1400-1700 Albanian; 6090 2300-0500 Albanian; 6100 0300-2200 Albanian; 6110 1800-1830 Italian, 1830-1845 Greek; 6115 0145-0200 English, 0230-0300 English, 2000-2015 Turkish; 6135 2115-2130 Serbo-Croatian; 6235 1615-1730 Czech/Hungarian/Slovak; 7105 1900-2015 Albanian; 7110 0600-1000 Albanian, 2115-2130 Serbo-Croatian; 7150 0800-1400 Albanian; 7155 2000-2015 Turk-

ish; 7160 0145-0200, 0230-0300, 2130-2200 English; 7180 1915-2000 English/French; 7185 1830-1845 Greek; 7215 1730-1800 German; 7270 1400-1700, 2300-0500 Albanian; 7295 1900-2200 Albanian; 7355 1615-1730 Slovak/Czech/Hungarian; 7385 0515-0530 Polish, 0830-0900 Hungarian/Czech/Slovak, 1030-1100 Slovak, 1500-1530 Polish; 9475 1620-1750 Azeri/Farsi; 9490 0830-0900 Hungarian/Czech/Slovak, 1030-1100 Slovak; 9510 1915-1930 English; 9570 1730-1800 German; 9575 1900-2200 Albanian; 9585 0800-1300 Albanian; 9590 1800-1845 Russian/Belarussian; 9635 1930-2000 French, 2130-2200 English. (HFCC/Francis)

**Antarctica:** LRA36 Radio Nacional Arcangel San Gabriel, 15475. Effective March 13, this station will also be on from 1800-2000 on the weekends. The schedule from Monday to Friday will continue to be 1800-2100. On March 9, the station sent out the first batch of QSLs. (Barrera, Mar 13, Cumbre DX)

**Australia:** Nigel Holmes explained some of RA's frequency changes for A-99: SEAs/WEu 0900-1400 21820 is new, following the test on another 21 MHz frequency a few weeks ago. But is QRP to 70 kW, due to continuing problems at Shepparton, for an indefinite period; not expected to make much difference at a loss of less than 2 dB. CPac/NAM 1100-1400 9580 starts 2 hours later than before, but should still be good in NAM. PNG/SWPac 0800-1200 13605 is resumed; 1200-1700 11650; 2100-0800 on 17580 ex-17715 due to QRM. Japan/PNG Grandstand, weekends 0200-0800 on 21725 ex-15240, and does indeed include AFL from ABC. See <http://www.abc.net.au/ra> for new frequency and program schedules. (RA Feedback March 26 via Hauser in SW/DX Report 99-15)

**Belgium:** New schedule for Radio Vlandereen International in English: 0400 15565 (Bonaire); 0700 9925, 15195; 1130 5985; 1730 5910, 9925, 11840 (Madagascar), 13685 (Julich); 1930 5960 (Julich); 2230 15565 (Bonaire). (RVI/Francis) And for the French network, RTBF, via Julich, Germany: 9490 0257-0459 (M-F), 0427-0459 (Sa/Su); 17580 0500-0712 (M-F), 0500-0959 (Sa), 0500-0806 (Sun); 21540 0957-1206 (M-F), 1000-1117 (Sa), 1057-1117 (Su); 17800 1457-1712 (M-F), 1557-1712 (Sa), 1457-1712 (Su). (RTBF)

**Canada:** RCI in English from 29 March: 0100-0159 5960, 9535, 9755, 11715, 13670 15305; 0200-0229 (Tue-Sat) 9535, 9755, 11715m 13670, 15305; 0200-0259 (Sun & Mon) 9535, 9755, 11715, 13670, 15305; 0400-0429 11835 (Vienna), 11975 (Skelton), 15215 (Wertachtal); 0500-0529 5995, 6145 (Wertachtal), 7295 (Skelton), 9595 (Skelton), 9755, 11710, 11830, 13755, 15330 (Skelton), 15400 (Skelton); 1200-1359 (Mon-Fri) 9640, 13650, 17765, 17820; 1200-1259 (Sat & Sun) 9640, 13650, 17765, 17820; 1200-1229 9660, 15195 (both via Yamata); 1300-1559 (Sun only) 13650, 17800; 1330-1359 9535 (Xian), 11795 (Xian), 11935 (Skelton), 15325 (Singapore); 1630-1657 6140, 7150 (both via Xian); 2000-2059 5995 (Skelton), 11690 (Skelton), 13650, 13670, 15150 (Skelton), 15265, 15325, 17820, 17870; 2100-2129 7235 (Skelton), 11690 (Skelton), 13650, 13670, 15150 (Skelton), 15265, 15325, 17820, 17870; 2200-2229 5960, 9755, 11705 (Yamata), 13670, 15305, 17695; 2230-2259 (Sat & Sun) 5960, 9755, 13670; 2230-2359 (Mon-Fri) 5960, 9755, 13670; 2300-2329 (Mon-Fri) 11895, 15305, 17695. (RCI/Francis)

**Chile:** Frequency registrations for Voz Cristiana, Santiago, for A99: 6070 2000-1200; 9635 1200-2000; 11690 0100-1300; 11745 2100-1100; 15375 0000-1400; 17680 1400-0000; 21500 1100-2100; 21550 1300-0100 (HFCC/Francis)

**Costa Rica:** AWR, Cahuita: Spanish 1000-1300 9725, 1300-1600 (Sa/Su) 9725, 0000-0400 9725, 2200-0000 (Sa/Su) 13750, 2200-0000 (Sa/Su) 15460, 0000-0200 (Sa/Su) 5030; 1000-1200 (Sa/Su) 6150. (AWR/Francis)

**Croatia:** Croatian Radio frequency registrations for A99: via Deanovec, Croatia: 5945 0400-0900, 7365 0400-1800, 9830 0400-1700, 13830 0900-2100, 21475 1300-1800; via Julich,

Germany: 9925 2300-0700, 13810 2000-2100, 13820 0500-0900. (Francis)

**Ecuador:** HCJB has introduced a new frequency for English to the Pacific 0700-1100 on 15115 (100kw, 228o beam). Is this the first time the 19m band has been used for this part of the world from Quito in our evenings? Other English broadcasts: 0000-0400 9745, 0000-1630 21455, 0000-0700 12015, 0400-0700 9745, 0700-0900 11950, 1100-1630 12005, 1100-1630 15115, 1900-2200 17725, 1900-2200 21455. (HCJB/Francis)

**Finland:** Radio Finland schedule from 28 March: all Finnish unless indicated otherwise: 0530-0700, 0900-0950 9560 225o Central & West Europe; 0530-2130 11755 220o Central & Western Europe; 0600-0700 15250 240o Europe/Australia (English 0630-0655); 0600-0900 21670 Australia/South East Asia 75/90o (English 0630-0655); 0700-0900 17820 75o South East Asia; 1230-1255 15400 310o English to South America; 1930-1955 6135 220o English to Europe/West Africa (YLE/ Graeme Dixon)

**Ireland:** RTE in English 1000-1030 11740 (via Singapore), 1730-1800 17885 (via Ascension) (Francis)

**Netherlands:** RN in English to the Pacific and Asia (relay sites in brackets): 0930-1125 9820 (Bonaire), 13710 (Irkutsk) 12065 (Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka). Other target areas: 0430-0525 6165, 9590 (both via Bonaire); 1030-1225 6045 (Julich), 9860 (Wertachtal); 1430-1625 9890, 15590 (both via Madagascar), 12075 (Tashkent); 1730-2025 11655 (Flevo), 6020, 7120 (both via Madagascar); 1830-2025 17605 (Bonaire), 21590 (Bonaire), 9895 (Flevo), 13700 (Flevo); 2330-0125 6165, 9845 (both via Bonaire). (RNW/Francis)

**New Zealand:** RNZI to 1 May: 1650-1750 6145; 1750-1951 11695; 1952-0705 17675' 0706-1015 9700; 1106-1500 6105 and 1500-1650 6145 occ. use for sport and warnings. (RNZI)

**Northern Marianas Islands:** VOA via Tinian: 11765 1300-1400 Korean; 11775 0800-1000 English; 13610 0800-1000 English, 1000-1100 Chinese; 15150 0800-1000 English; 15240 1000-1100 Chinese. An incomplete schedule for RFA via Saipan: Mandarin 0300-0700 17615, Mandarin 1500-1800 9445, Mandarin 1900-2200 9355, Vietnamese 1400-1500 9445, Korean 2200-2300 9445, Burmese 13710 0030-0130, Vietnamese 2330-0030 13720 (Francis/IBB)

**Norway:** New schedule for Radio Norway International/Radio Denmark to Australia, NZ and SE Asia/ Far East: 0000 15735; 0600 15705, 18950; 0700 15705; 0800 18910; 0900 21755; 1200 17535, 21755; 1300 17535, 21755; 1800 13800; 1900 15705; 2000 9985; 2100 12050; 2200 15735; 2300 9935, 15735. (RNI)

**Singapore:** New relay for Radio Canada International from 29 March: Chinese 2300-2329 15360; Arabic 0330-0359 9715; English 1330-1359 15325; French 1400-1459 15325. (Francis/RCI)

**Slovakia:** English schedule for Radio Slovakia International from 28 March: 0100-0130 5930, 7300, 9440; 0700-0730 (to Australia) 9440, 15460, 17550; 1630-1700 5920, 6055, 7345; 1830-1900 5920, 6055, 7345. Address: PO Box 55, 810 05 Bratislava.

**Turkey:** Voice of Turkey in English to Australia: 21715 0300-0400; 17560 1230-1330; 7170 2030-2130. In Turkish to Australia: 9560 1600-2200; 13655 1300-1600; 15325 2200-0100 21715 0100-1300.

**United Kingdom:** New schedule for Merlin Network One: 3985 2200-0500, 6010 0500-0600, 6110 0600-0800, 6175 1600-2000, 7155 1900-2000, 7235 2000-2100, 9850 2200-0000, 9915 0700-1600, 11875 0100-0300, 11985 2200-0100, 13645 1200-1600, 13660 0800-1200, 13690 1900-2200, 13720 0600-0900, 17630 0700-1100, 17650 1100-1400, 17695 2000-2200 (via Sackville, Canada-ed.), 21550 0700-1900 (MNO/Francis)

**USA:** Latest schedule for 'Communications World' on VOA for East Asia: 0936 'B' segment 11775, 13610, 15150 (all via Tinian - see above); 1136 'A' segment 6160, 9645, 9760, 11720, 15160, 15240, 15425; 1336 'B' segment 6160, 9645, 9760, 15160, 15425; 1936 'C' segment 9525, 11870, 15180; 2136 'B' segment 9705, 11870, 15185, 17735; 2336 'C' segment 7215, 9705, 9770, 11760, 15185, 15290, 15305, 17735, 17820 (VOA) VOA has added Albanian 1200-1215 on 9680, 11865 and 17605, and new 2200-2215 in Serbian 7140, 9575, 11820 (VOA). Radio Free Iraq has added an extra two hours per day to its schedule: 0200-0400 6140, 7255, 9730 and 9865, plus 1500-1700 6185, 11805, 12025, 15160. Meanwhile the Persian service to Iran from RFE/RL has also extended its hours: 0430-0630 7155, 9510, 11945, 12015; and 1500-1700 9615, 11785, 13665 (VOA).

**Vanuatu:** Radio Vanuatu observed in Canberra on 3945 in local evenings (0800-1000 period) ex 4960. (Francis)

**Yugoslavia:** Radio Yugoslavia's new schedule for English: Australia 1900-1930 7230; Africa 1830-1900 9720; Europe 1830-1900 6100; 2100-2130 6100, 6185; North America 0100-0130 9580 exc Sun, 0530-0600 9580. (Francis)

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**shortwave.mailbag@radiodx.com** *Laurie Boyer, Invercargill*

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Well DX is still a little quiet with only 11 contributors this month. Now is the time to try for those exotic African and South American signals. I would like to hear from members who have any luck in verifying South Americans. I only get a very small percentage of replies from there and I know of others like me who have virtually given up on DX from there. OK on with the mailbag...

First up **Ross Gibson** of Christchurch. Ross has them in from Voice of Russia 12070, RFI France 15460, Africa No.1 Gabon 9580, Radio Nepal 5005, Radio Ethiopia 7165. A nice selection there Ross.

**Paul Aronsen** Wallacetown. Paul says lots of listening but no loggings and only one back that being Libya on 15415 khz.

**Helen and David Norrie** have two really good ones back CHFX-CHNS Halifax Nova Scotia 6130 and IRRS Milano Italy 3985 khz. You two certainly go for quality!

**Barry Williams** Auckland. Barry also has IRRS Milano Italy 3985 along with AWR/Sentec 12130 khz and VOA Morocco 7285, 9635. Barry has just returned from a weeks holiday in Russell and had really good reception there.

**David McGaughey** Papatoetoe is another one moving house but has a few still trickling in. RAI 11900, Trans World Radio Albania 12070, Radio for Peace International 6975 and 21460.

**Stuart Forsyth** Tunbridge Wells UK has Radio 4 Zimbabwe 4828 for Country No. 88. A nice one there Stuart.

**Jack Searle**, of Haumoana's veries are Radio Vlaanderen 9940, Radio for Peace International 21460.2 USB. High Adventure Ministries via Julich 5975 and Libya 15415. Yes Jack, I am enjoying doing the section and learning as I go.

**Paul Peacock**, Blenheim, is like most of us - not much out and not much in. Back is Swiss Radio International 9540kHz. Time to come out of the Sun and get back to the dial now that autumn is here.

**Bob Boundy**, Christchurch, is now a monitor for NHK. Veries in are ORF 6015, Radio Slovakia 9440, 11990, 15460. Voice of Russia 7125 Kishinev, 15490 Irkutsk, 17495 Dushanbe

plus a certificate for a competition entered in 1997.

**Ian Cattermole**, Blenheim, with a long list. CRI 15219, 17755, Radio Blaanderen 5910, 9925 and 12080 via Julich, Radio Canada International 6090 and 11905, 9670 via Skelton, Libyan Jamahiriya 15235, HCJB 9775, Voice of Turkey 21500, SRI 13700, Radio Mexico International 5985, KSDA 11795, TWR Tirana 12070, Radio Sweden 21810, Radio Denmark 15735, Radio Netherlands Madagascar 15585, 12070, Deutsche Welle, Antigua 12000, Wertachtal 11975, Trincomalee 21640, AWR Julich 12080, 9640, Radio Voz Cristiana 6070, REE 21610, RTBF 17650, Radio Minsk 11670, Universal Life Radio 7215, 7300, 7390, Voice of Russia Samara 9830, Voice of the Mediterranean 7440, Radio Finland 9840. Well that is a very good list Ian!

**Ray Crawford** Brisbane has e-mail veries in from AFRTS Key West 12689.5 and Puerto Rico 6458.5.

**Chris Mackerell** has them in from Voz Cristiana 21550, Lazer Hot Hits 6220 and Radio Blue Star 6910.

**Laurie Boyer**, Invercargill, has been slacking a bit and has them in from RAI 7290 D. Welle Sri Lanka 13650, AWR Julich 12080, Radio Jordan 13630, 15435, Radio Denmark 13800, HCJB 12015, Slovakia 5915, 7300, Voice of Turkey 9525, Vietnam 15110, Radio Voz Cristiana 11690, 11890, Radio Pyongyang 6575, Roumania 9570.

**Best of Month** Under 9MHz CHFX-CHNS Halifax Nova Scotia 6130 kHz 50 Watts Helen and David Norrie. Over 9MHz Radio Netherlands Madagascar 15585 Ian Cattermole.

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**utilities@radiodx.com** *with Evan Murray, Auckland*

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Sorry I missed out on balloon flight news last month but I believe that Satcoms were used. Any way it was a brilliant flight with few mishaps.

Here are some news pieces. The present edition of the Selcal register "High in the Sky", number 6, is the last. A substitute, though not totally, is "Shanwick" about the Eastern Atlantic ATC station of that name. Shanwick is a combination of the locations Shannon and Prestwick - the former contains the transmitters and the operators who receive instructions from the control room at Prestwick. The book costs 10 pounds 95 pence from the Aviation Hobby Shop, Horton Road, West Drayton, Middlesex, England. I don't know whether they accept credit cards. Everyone will have logged USAF GHFS stations at one time or another and might want a copy of the latest frequency list. This is available from 14 Kia Ora Road, Birkdale, Auckland for a stamped self addressed envelope plus 15c stamp for photocopying. Aircraft having a report calls one of the designated frequencies and is answered by the nearest station.

Santa Maria ATC Station, (Azores) is now on the web with the address <http://www.terravista.pt/aguualto/2010> They accept DX reports and reply with QSL's - you'll find a list of QSL's sent, but none from NZ.

In last months DX Times the frequency 8866 should, of course, read 8855. Ref the frequency 17977 Safair Ops, John Charlton has an E-mail stating that Safair C130 had just landed at Patriot Hills and later two Twin Otters will depart, one direct to the Pole via Thiels fuel cache and thence to the Pole to pick up pick up the French. The other will pick up the Dutch. Hopefully we can get more news on flights from South America to the Pole.

Welcome to new contributor Nev McKenty of Napier who is encouraging friends to join the DX hobby. I wonder if there is someone in your neighbourhood interested in radio?

4426 1205 Townsville Radio - Wx messages for 28 ships NM  
5634 1716 Antanarivo give traffic list to Seychelles JC  
5634 1737 Madagascar 210 working Mauritius JC  
5680 0150 Iroquois 14/Totara Base-Grid 281798-If comms not available stay where you are EM  
5680 0704 Lewis Pass 4/LP Base-Camped for night-Can you lengthen whip antenna for night frequency? NJ  
5717 0626 Rescue 456/Navcouver Mil-0600 Wind 000/00 Vis 15 miles NJ  
6676 1830 Sydney Volmet to Australian cities NM  
6792 0957 Khabarovsk Yuzhno in Russian NM  
8122 0822 Bongzon/Darwin Control-RAN shopping list NJ  
8316 2141 Navy Auckland/Mungato-Position 6 miles SE of Kawau NJ  
8855 0950 Manaus/N564MG-Read back-Go to 10096-SC CGAH NM  
8855 0955 Manaus/N564MG-Estimate Brasilia 1019-Goodnight NM  
8855 0710 Delta 105 calls Cayenne Control then works Manaus JC  
8855 0945 American 973/Manaus-FL 370-Call Manaus 125.4 EM  
8855 0710 American 971 position to Belize JC  
8867 1353 Elite 780(Canada) position to San Francisco JC  
8867 0925 Argentina 1880/Auckland EM  
8879 1440 Air Europe 7005(Italy) position to Mumbai(formerly Bombay) JC  
8879 1836 Colombo/Malaysian 201 EM  
8879 1922 Indonesian 981 Riyadh to Jakarta-SC check to Mumbai JC  
8879 2006 Ethiopian 3610 working Mumbai JC  
8918 1930 Bangladesh 0147 position to Bahrain-QSY 2992 JC  
8921 1725 Speedbird London-Geneva and Zurich Wx to Saudia 7177 JC  
8930 1947 Sabena flight P/P to Ops in Brussels-Fiumicino(Italy) airport closed and we go to Napoli will call you there JC  
8942 1100 Hong Kong aeradio NM  
8942 1926 Manila/Singapore 812 EM  
8942 1929 Manila/Malaysian 66 EM  
8974 0610 Auckland/Iroquois 06-Ambulance to be placed on 2 mins standby-Hangarage for heli also EM  
8974 0210 Air Force Auckland/Aussie 104-Terminal forecasts for Nadi Apia Efate and Pago Pago-SC MPDF  
8974 0804 Air Force Townsville/Warship Success-Dial 029 5634100-Out of cellphone range-Request change to 9031 for PP NJ  
8974 0124 Air Force Auckland/Iroquois 03-Closing watch NJ  
10024 0954 Challenge Air Cargo(USA) calls Lima JV  
10024 0954 Qantas 115-Position 545 115W to Santiago  
10024 0954 American 909-Position to Asuncion JC  
11175 0911 Mainsail/Reach 5240-Yokota AMCC-Position 31.20 N 134.10 E FL 291 Wind 256/104 - 27c minus - C141 NJ  
11279 1446 Virgin 019-Position to Iceland JC  
11285 0923 Chennai(Madras)/Speedbirds 16 and 34-Iranair 841-Pakistani 71 EM  
11300 2147 Qantas 314/Sanaa-Call Sanaa 125.3  
11300 1831 Ghana 164/Sanaa-164 do you read me? EM

11300 1843 Sanaa/? 1464-Djibouti airport open EM  
11300 1844 Khartoum/SAZ 252(Swiss Air Zurich) EM  
11300 1929 Asmara/Cairo-Flt MDJ 425 to Asmara(Jaro Intl Roumania) EM  
11300 1943 Khartoum/Lufthansa 588 EM  
11300 1948 Sanaa/Emirates 462-ETA Khartoum 2039 EM  
11300 1951 Sanaa/Emirates 418/FL 270-Alula 2300-Airbus310-You are out of our control-SC CJMQ-Call Mogadishu 120.9 EM  
11300 0911 Sanaa/Air France 3264 EM  
11300 2004 LEA 033B(May be Lead Air Jet Service France)/Paris to Khartoum working Tripoli JC  
11300 2004 Alitalia 854 position to Sanaa JC  
11300 2004 Ethiopian 3613 working Sanaa JC  
12145 1100 984 repeated. 1102 carrier off. Male slow speech Euro accent. 12135 Listed as ZRH South African Air Force Capetown NM  
13098 1740 SBA 54 Nicosia Radio-Cyprus Radio monitoring tape NM  
13282 0630 Vancouver Volmet-WX West coast and Vancouver NM  
15016 0922 Blue 82/Lajes(Azores)-WX 1305 wind 190/15- 17c-Wet runway We are 100 miles SW Boloka cruising 250 NJ  
15016 0759 Hilda West/Reach 1820-Going to WMSA-Tail number 60001-ETA Anderson1000 NJ  
17248 0732 SBA 62 Cyprus-This is Cyprus Radio Tele Maritime Service EM  
17275 0410 UHS Murmansk-Probably Radfone-2 way conversation NM  
17904 0936 Auckland/Argentina 1881-Unable contact Punta Arenas EM  
17904 0951 Auckland/Qantas 116-FL 350-Request 390-SC MRDE-Replied Not in my list of Selcals EM  
21985 0549 San Francisco/Air Mike 916C-Report reaching 330 EM  
21985 0551 San Francisco/Aussie 625 EM  
113.4 Hot air balloons NM  
118.1 Napier Tower after nightly close of Christchurch NM  
121.8 Napier Automatic Terminal Information Service NM  
123.4 Air to Air rescue helicopters NM  
124.8 Napier-Aircraft clear of circuit NM  
129.9 Napier Tower-Also Bridge Pa NM  
130.3 Air NZ-Ops-Refuels-Taxis etc NM  
261.80 2301 Topp ROCC(Norad ROCC Elmendorf AFB)/Sunday Punch-Check your schedule for airborne assets in vicinity our station tomorrow NJ  
261.85 0150 Shark/Eagle 3-Radio check-Shark advises going to shut down at 1200 NJ  
261.85 0228 Tiger Base/Eagle 3-Radio check-IC1 arrived 0900 and departed 0941-Standby Jaguar wants to talk to someone there NJ  
267.84 2334 Classical music-Needed 15dB pre-amp for this one NJ  
Contributors: JC - John Charlton, Greymouth, Kenwood R5000, 30m wire NJ - Noel Jones, Auckland, Kenwood R5000 Inverted V and 30m wire NRD 535D DSP 599zx and T2FD, Icom R100 and Satcom antenna NM - Napier - NRD 545 60' antenna sloper, Icom 70 Shortwave Listener antenna, AOR 2002 Discone D130. EM - Evan Murray, Auckland Kenwood R5000.

Thanks for all the ladders received through the post, the internet, and from HQ. Thanks for your note Ross G. I will reply. Very pleased to receive a very nice photo from Jack Searle of that wonderful 1938 EKCO AW98. My parents had the same model and I started D.X.ing on it in 1951. What a lot of wonderful memories. sorry I missed you Jack. Will write.

MEDIUM WAVE OPEN (Over 500)	QSLs	INC	CNTS	SHORTWAVE OPEN (Over500)	QSLs	INC	CNTS
Laurie Boyer	3940	22	137	Ian Cattermole	3413	122	192
Keith Robinson	2896	4	157	Jack Searle	2242	19	207
Paul Ormandy	1437	19	137	Paul Ormandy	1591	1	233
George Beardsmore	802		61	Laurie Boyer	1661	80	177
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
				Ross Gibson	1055		162
SENIOR (301-500)				Graeme Dixon	916		117
Peter Grenfell	443		37	Paul Peacock	806	3	120
Stuart Forsyth	413		39	Paul Aronsen	733		
Brian Withers	411		51	Peter Grenfell	653		133
				Ian Wells	582	14	133
INTERMEDIATE (151-300)				SENIOR (301-500)			
Jack Searle	294		35	Bernd Henning	372		90
Andy McQueen	295		21	Andy McQueen	368		103
Robert Krijger	228		13	Bob Boundy	400		91
Mike Smith	194		18	Chris Elliot	301		78
Paul Peacock	193		16	INTERMEDIATE (151-300)			
JUNIOR (5-150)				Stuart Forsyth	283		87
Ian Wells	108		15	Arthur de Maine	228		89
Adam Claydon	71		4	Ashley Gulbransen	193		75
Arthur de Maine	50		10	Keith Robinson	186	4	177
Chris Elliott	15		3	JUNIOR (5-150)			
FM-TELEVISION				George Beardsmore	129		68
Brian Withers	899		9	Adam Claydon	123		40
Robert Krijger	678		6	Mark Nicholls	121		55
Bryan Clark	148		5	Daniel Bloomfield	13		11
Paul Ormandy	110		5				
Paul Peacock	61		2	Peter Grenfell			
Adam Claydon	49		1	11 Sussex Street,			
Mark Nicholls	42		2	WESTON, OAMARU			
Mike Smith	33		2	PH/FAX (03) 4345907			
Andy McQueen	29		2				



Please note that all frequencies should be in Kilohertz, time in UTC (=GMT = UT), # indicates 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. Don't forget the frequency changes at the 28 March!! Stations heard by contributors during MARCH were as follows,

KHz	UTC	Country, Station, Programme, & Reception Details
2310	1815	AUSTRALIA, ABC Territory Radio fair with music, ID at 1818 - KVB
3210	0607	USA, WWCR fair in EE with prgm on coin collecting - KVB
3235	0843	PNG, R West New Britain ??? fair in Pidgin with ethnic music - KVB
3245	0800	PNG, R Gulf ??with music, better after 0900 - NMK
	0835	PNG, R Northern ??? fair in EE with Magistrates Court list - KVB
3365	1100	PNG, R Milne Bay?? fair with pidgin news - NMK
3385	0840	PNG, R East New Britain ??? fair in pidgin with music - KVB
	1015	PNG, R East New Britain?? good in pidgin with music - NMK
3905	1020	PNG, R New Ireland ??good in pidgin with music - NMK
4460	1724	CHINA, CPBS Beijing ??? wi/ classical music, anthem 1726, off at 1728, gd - KVB
4770	0600	NIGERIA, R Nigeria fair with EE news - BML
4790	1140	INDIA ??? with light music followed by live performance, poor - NMK
4800	1906	LESOTHO, R Lesotho with 2 minute EE segment with address and reading listeners letters - BML
4835	0828	AUSTRALIA, ABC Alice Springs good in EE off at 0829 - KVB
4915	0659	PERU, R Cora good in Spanish with ID and Latin music - CC 17/3
4940	1115	CHINA??? CRI with pop music followed by piano music - NMK
4950.10900		PERU???, R Madre de Dios poor with pan pipe music - NMK
5012	1802	ZIMBABWE, V of Zimbabwe, Radio 4 fair with EE news - BML
5020	0708	SOLOMON IS, SIBC fair in EE with ID and local news, some QRN - CC 17/3
5030	1316	BHUTAN, Bhutan BC Service with EE news and ID at 1319, poor as heard under stronger station. - BML
5050	1837	TANZANIA ??? possibly R Tanzania fair but muffled mod. Interview with drums inbetween. 1900 time signal and possible news - KVB 27/3
5077	0715	COLOMBIA, R Caracol good in Spanish with sung ID - CC 17/3
5090	1700	CHINA, CPBS Beijing ??? good with music and no IDs - NMK
5145	1040	CHINA, CRI good in Russian, mod only fair - KVB
5500	1830	ETHIOPIA, R Tigray to close at 1900 as per BMI Nov. - NMK
5825	0723	USA, WEWN good in EE with relig prgm - CC 17/3
5858	0730	GERMANY, Sunrise Radio fair in EE with breakfast show - IC
5910	1743	BELGIUM, RVI in EE with news and ID, noisy - CC 9/3
5955	0735	USA, WHRI good in EE // 7315 - IC
6020	1929	MADAGASCAR, RN in EE to Africa with news, Newline after ID and freq. schedule, fair - KAB 23/3
6055	0500	SPAIN, REE with news in EE followed by Listeners Prgm, good - KAB 21/3
	1834	RWANDA, Radio One fair with EE news, clear till 1900 - BML

6065 0905 UK, BBC WS in EE with prgm on EE literature, poor - NMK  
 1830 SWEDEN, R Sweden fair in EE with 60 Degrees North, better USB - KAB 12/3  
 6070 0945 UNID stn in Arabic with music then chanting - NMK  
 6095 1100 USA, WSHBgood with ID then relig prgm - NMK  
 6100 0500 GERMANY, DW fair in EE - IC  
 6105 0800 USA, WYFR opens in Spanish for Sth Am.. good - IC  
 6115 0910 UNID stn with no IDs w/ "Queen" mx till overpowered by CC stn 0941 - NMK  
 6150 1030 SINGAPORE, R Singapore with ID then stockmarket report in EE, fair - NMK  
 1130 SINGAPORE, R Singapore good in EE with news - JSB  
 6195 1500 SINGAPORE, BBC WS with Asia Today in EE - JSB  
 6265 1830 ZAMBIA, ZNBC Radio One fair in vernacular - BML  
 6458.5 0600 PUERTO RICO, AFN fair with EE sports - BML  
 0800 USA, AFN from Florida with news and sport. In ISB mode - EM  
 6575 1800 NTH KOREA, R Pyongyang good in EE with ID at 1800 - NMK  
 6604.11849 SOMALIA, R Mogadishu good in Somali with IDs, off at 1930 - BML  
 6900 1550 TURKEY, Turkish Metro Service weak with music, still there at 1620 - IC  
 7115 1855 UKRAINE, R Ukraine Intl v strong in Ukrainian, off at 1900 - HJS  
 7135 0620 FRANCE, RFI v strong in French news to Africa - HJS  
 7155 0600 MALTA ???( could be via CIS - Ed) V of Med good in EE with news and history of Malta - NMK  
 7160 1500 CHINA, CRI fair in EE - IC  
 7170 1900 SPAIN, REE strong in French - HJS  
 7180 0430 CIS, V of Russia good in EE - NMK  
 7190 2015 ITALY, RAI in Italian followed by ID, IS then s/off at 2020 - KAB 12/3  
 7200 1525 JAPAN, R Japan fair in EE with Hello from Tokyo, some QRM - CC 14/3  
 7215 1930 GERMANY, Universal Life R good in German - IC  
 7220 1900 BOSNIA, R Yugoslavia in Spanish with comment and ID at 1910, good - KAB  
 2020 BOSNIA, R Yugoslavia in SS with world nx, gd, off at 2030 after ID - KAB 12/3  
 7255 0626 NIGERIA, V of Nigeria good in EE with discussion// 15120 weaker - CC 15/3  
 7260 0930 CIS, RN in EE with news and Newline - JSB  
 7260 1030 CIS, RN good in EE - NMK  
 7260.4 1949 IRAN, VOIRI fair in EE // 9022 - BML  
 7270 2030 VIETNAM, V of Vietnam v poor in EE with severe QRM - IC  
 7285 0600 MOROCCO, VOA v good in EE with Daybreak Africa - IC  
 1900 UZBEKISTAN, R Tashkent begins 30 minute prgm in Arabic, well heard here" I IC  
 7300 1945 GERMANY, Universal Life R fair in German - IC  
 7310 1904 CIS, V of Russia fair with EE news - HJS  
 7315 0740 USA, WHRI good in EE - IC  
 0900 USA, WHRI poor with relig prgm - NMK  
 7325 0340 UK, BBC WS fair in Spanish with ID at 0359, off at 0400 - KAB 17/3  
 2020 UK, BBC WS via Skelton in EE to Europe with news, good - KAB 12/3  
 7345 1930 SLOVAKIA, R Slovakia Intl w/ IS, ID tn nx in EE. Sevre QRM, better LSB - KAB 11/3  
 7365 0800 ALASKA, KLNS good with EE ID at 0855 then into Russian at 0900 - NMK  
 7365 1320 ALASKA, KLNS fair in EE with ID and country music, distorted - CC 10/3  
 7400 1910 GERMANY, R Maryja fair in unid language( via Julich??) - HJS  
 2025 RUSSIA, R Maryja in unid language with ID at 2030 good - KAB 12/3

Thanks to all the contributors for this month. Pleased to hear Jack Searle on "Hello From Tokyo" on Sunday 21/3 - Nice choice of music, Jack. 73's Ken Baird

#### CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS MONTH

BML - Bill McLeod, Christchurch, R5000, 60m wire, 12m vertical. CC - Cliff Couch, Paraparaumu, ATS 803A, 60m horizontal loop. EM - Evan Murray, Auckland, R5000, T2FD. HJS - Jack Searle, Haumoana, Icom R71, 100m longwire, 19m & 60m dipoles. IC - Ian Cattermole, Blenheim. NRD 535, T2FD, Alpha Delta. JSB - Jon Standingbear, Beaumont, X 375, ATS 818, 30m wire, Vertical. KAB - Ken Baird, Christchurch, R5000, ATS 909 : 15m wire, Eavesdropper. KVB - Kevin Brayshaw, Levin, FRG7, HF loops and 5 MHz dipole. NMK - Neville Mc Kenty, Napier, R70, NRD 545, Sloper, DXSW Listener.

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### broadcast.dx@radiodx.com with Paul Ormandy, Oamaru

The Equinox has been... and worked some of it's magic! Little did I expect to hear Argentines four nights in a row! A full report of our DXploits and trail follows...

And for next month, I'm inviting readers to write in and say which single station they would most of all like to move to FM... and as the FM band is expanding above 100MHz, there is a faint possibility that some stations may go... though I'm not holding my breath! It may be a local, a station that is ending out images etc, please tell us why you'd want to get rid of it. To give you some idea of what I'm after, I'll start the ball rolling. The station I would like to go FM the most, isn't one of my locals it is 2ZB Wellington 1035kHz... and my reasons are that it is the only station in NZ or Australia on that channel therefore it's blocking a possibly good clear-channel DX freq... if they were gone, hearing Solomon Is would be a doddle. As the Solomons are only on 1900-1130 UTC, then there is the scope to hear stations from Asia in the small wee hours ( fancy my chances of picking up a few Filipinos, Japanese, Chinese and Thailand... then towards sunrise Oman, Iran and possibly Portugal). We have already heard rumours amongst RNZ that the National Program stations are going FM... so it may not all be fantasy-land!

**Chris Martin, Ormeau Queensland & Waianakarua,** "My wife and I had a very enjoyable two weeks in the Shakey Isles (mainland) mid March. We did the walk along the Milford Track then sometime at the Waianakarua 'Precut Hut'. Yes managed to get in some quality DX with Bryan Clark and Paul Ormandy whilst Lynne, my wife, did the haute cuisine on the wood stove! The Dx there has a very good chance of coming thru because of all Paul O's efforts with antenna matching baluns and the absolute magic that an MFJ1026 phaser can achieve. Yes folks we were able to log R. Nac del Paraguay, Asuncion 920 up against 3YT on 918 - very pleasing. Logs from Waianakarua are : WPHG 1620, WRNU 1670, WTDY 1670, WFAN 660, KGIL 1650, R. Universidad de B.A. 1620, R. America 1190, El Mundo 1070, R. Imparcial 1090, R. Nuevo Tiempo 1010, Paraguay 920. R. Mitre 790, R. Bonaerense 740, R.Chilena 660. Here at Ormeau conditions have improved and there is no power line noise. Some Latins are coming thru from Chile 1380, Peru 1470 & 1500 around sunset.

**Martin Greer, Launceston, Tasmania** "Greetings from over here and hope everyone over there is well. Enclosed are a couple of medium-wave logs heard on the Icom ICR-71A. The Icom is playing up in regard to it's volume control. Shall have to order a new part from Icom in Melbourne to fix it. So over the past week the Drake SPR-4 has been in action. The

sensitivity of this machine seems to myself to be very good but the selectivity is not as good as the R-71A. Although there may be some way to tune the SPR-4 for optimum selectivity. If so, what should be done? "Most of the mods made to SPR-4s to improve their selectivity involve disabling the BFO and using the 2.4kHz filter in the AM mode... a simpler way is to tune in SSB rather than AM. And I'm not aware of a digital read-out mod for the Drake... the analogue accuracy isn't too bad... especially if you have a crystal calibrator.

**Paul Ormandy, Oamaru & Waianakarua** "A few surprises at Equinox time led to some new loggings, R Bonaerense, Buenos Aires 740, CX24 R Nuevo Tiempo 1010, 6SE 747, WRNC 1670, WRNU 1700, LRL202 R Diez 710, 2HH 1341, 2ME 1629 & R Italia 1629. Recent QSLs are in from: CFFR Calgary 660, WQSN 1660, JOCB 909, OAX4X R Victoria 780, KXFS 1590, WBAH 1660 & WRNU 1700."

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#### Merv Branks Trophy

Paul Ormandy Paul Ormandy 18, Laurie Boyer 17, Lindsay Robinson 8,  
Paul Peacock 5, Keith Robinson 4, Robin Chambers 1

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#### Best of the Month

Paul Ormandy with WQSN Kalamazoo MI 1660kHz 1kW

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### The 1999 Waianakarua Autumnal DXpedition

Ever since 1982, I have made it a matter of habit to spend around a week DXing at Waianakarua during either the Autumnal (March) or Vernal (September) Equinox, to take advantage of the enhanced and often pleasingly strange conditions that the Equinox can bring. Over the years I have been joined by many DXers, Mark Nicholls, Bryan Clark, Harry Weatherley, and Steven Greenyer to name a few... this year Bryan is back again for more "stress-relief" and a debutante to Waianakarua, though no novice to DXing Chris Martin from Queensland made his debut. Chris was joined by his wife Lyn, who added a touch of class to the whole affair and managed to upstage us all on the cooking and cleaning front... we usually only wash the dishes when we run out of them...

First, a bit of scene-setting. Waianakarua is located just 20km South of Oamaru, 7km from the East Coast and in a depression with cliffs and hillocks all around. At first glance, you'd think that the geographical impediments would also degrade signals... and they do... fortunately it seems that local and semi-local groundwave signals are the only ones affected... which is positively great for DX! Wires run across narrow pieces of open paddock, using native trees and bushes to support the wires with the odd manuka pole here and there to prevent the farmer from lynching himself. Most of these are aimed towards the Americas as that's my main sphere of interest though there are a few wires left intentionally unterminated for back-lobe use.

The accommodation is a 2-bedroom cabin built as a family project in 1982, which has undergone several updates and expansions over the years. There is no mains power which is a minor inconvenience for inhabitants and a bonus for DXing, the only electrical noise experienced are the ticks from nearby (but not too close) electric fences. Electricity for the radios and lighting is provided by 12-volt storage batteries with a solar trickle-charger and petrol-generator set. LPG (liquid petroleum gas) and a wood-burning stove provide for heating and cooking with a refrigerator also running off gas. Water-heating is also solar-powered though due to the inefficiency of the system for showering during the cooler months, it's back to basics with a basin-wash.

The DXpedition commenced on Tuesday the 16th of March; due to work commitments I couldn't be there any sooner and missed my usual 7 or 8 night stint. I did prepare the site by setting up listening tables, gas bottles, batteries and beds etc on the previous Sunday so all we needed to do when we arrived on Tuesday was to plug our receivers in and make ourselves comfortable. Bryan couldn't get a leave pass for Tuesday so we collected him from the local township of Herbert late on Wednesday afternoon. Which worked out well for Bryan because reception had been very mediocre on the Tuesday night and he missed nothing.

On to Wednesday, and a day when all the Beverages were fitted with baluns... prior to this occasion I had been experimenting with a unit designed by North American DXers Shawn Axelrod and John Bryant and had installed them on two wires with pleasing results. That night was the big test... would I be ripping them off in the morning or advocating them to all and sundry? But before this, a bit of aerial maintenance was required. I have two parallel 310 metre wires that point towards Florida and perform very nicely... however, for some months one was producing lower signals than the other. I had checked all the connections near the receiver and found nothing amiss and figured that the problem lay in the last two-thirds of the aerial. I wasn't too keen on tackling this problem because from past experience I knew it was literally going to be a "thorny" problem! The wire ran over and under all sorts of nasty scratching plants like gorse, blackberry, bush lawyer and other unidentified prickly problems. So, gorse knife in one hand, Chris and I surveyed the problem and found that several bushes had over-grown the wire, one collapsing from a bank, and some spaghetti-like plant had entwined itself around the wire as well. The solution was a bit of "weeding", some stubbornness, plenty of scratches and a healthy respect for plants that want to be left alone! Back to the cabin and early tests on NZ stations produced equal signals off both wire... problem solved... though how would they perform in DX conditions?

Bryan arrived at the local township of Herbert, only a 5 minute car-trip away, by shuttle-bus from Dunedin around 4:15 p.m. Bryan's receiver was quickly set up and early listening on SW commenced. MW signals started fading in around 0630 UTC... not too encouraging at first until Argentine R America was identified on 1190. That was very good news as stations from Argentina are only heard when solar activity is very low permitting signals from the "El Cono Sur" countries to travel on their near polar route. Plenty more Argentine, Chilean and Uruguayan signals were heard with R Nacional, Paraguay appearing at 0900 sign-on. Conditions "died" after 1100z so it was off to bed for a shot at the eagerly anticipated European, Asian and ME signals the next morning from 1730z on. However, DXing on MW around that time turned out to be a waste of time for the whole trip and we soon gravitated to SW where Africans were exceptionally strong.

Into the third night, more Argentines and Chileans though little trace of Uruguay or Paraguay, a pattern that was to be repeated on the fourth night. Conditions held up a little longer allowing some of the X-banders to be logged (13 for the trip) including WTDY Madison, Wisconsin 1670 - a new US State for Bryan. On the fourth day, it was time for Lyn, Chris and Bryan to depart... after a last, lingering fling around SW! On the fourth night I was joined by three members of the local NZRDXL Branch, Jim Smyth with a Drake R-8A, Alistair Sutherland using a Sony ICF-SW55 and Basil Jamieson and his Kenwood R-5000. We were greeted by the best conditions for the reception of US signals for the whole time with plenty of "W" calls making the trip, with the ICF-SW55 holding up well against it's "big cousins" and producing some surprisingly good reception. This night Latins were fairly scarce - until 0900 when there was a burst of activity from Argentina. Another last shot at the early morning stuff



from 1630z on produced nothing of consequence.

SW was very good... especially from Africa with the tropical bands performing very well. MW reception overall was not what I would have predicted; at this stage in the sunspot cycle I wouldn't have thought we would hear Argentines four nights in a row! Signals from the US were limited to the odd regular, Caribbeans all but non-existent and local sun-rise DX was similarly disappointing. Even the X-band was not humming until the fourth night when all channels were occupied. Reception on Long-Wave, which has provided some really good DX over recent times was very poor. Still, it is always good to spend some intensive time at the dials... and to renew some acquaintances... the company more than making up for any short-comings in the DX! And no prizes for guessing where I'll be next Equinox!

### EQUINOX TRAIL TIME

YNAK - Paul Ormandy, Bryan Clark & Chris Martin from Waianakarua. MG - Martin Greer, Tasmania.

### SOUTH AMERICA

- 570 0922 CHILE CB57 R Agricultura, Santiago, 2 MA's sharing news items, fair signal with 2YA phased. YNAK
- 580 1003 PERU OAX4S R Maria, Lima, poor-fair on peaks w/relig talk. Seems to be on 24 hours now. YNAK
- 660 0748 CHILE CB66 R Chilena, Santiago, gd sig w/prog on wonderful world of international music. Also heard w/nx items at 0907. YNAK
- 670 0732 ARGENTINA LRI209 R Mar del Plata, Mar d Plata, FA w/ad then ids & promo. YNAK
- 710 0900 ARGENTINA LRL202 R Diez, BA, gd sig w/nx stories and plenty ids etc. Into mx bracket at 0903. YNAK
- 730 0735 PERU OBX4G R Programas, Lima, fr-gd w/usual all-nx format & "RPP" ids. YNAK
- 740 0809 ARGENTINA R Bonaerense, Llavilol, tent. the one here w/mentions of Buenos Aires, reg rooster calls, t/cs, temperature, wind strength and humidity as well as nx stories. YNAK
- 780 0654 PERU OAX4X R Victoria, Lima, gd w/"La Voz de la Liberacion" progs, all SS religious & mostly live/recorded rallies, though this time they were taking ph calls. YNAK
- 820 0738 PERU OAX4O R Libertad, Lima, dominant o/unid w/ph no & promo, then relig prog. YNAK
- 830 0900 ARGENTINA LU14 R Provincia, Rio Gallegos, fr at s/on w/opening bars from "Fanfare for a Common Man" under big s5/6 carrier from unid station... possibly another Argie. YNAK
- 870 0705 ARGENTINA LRA1 R Nacional BA, fair w/tangos despite hvy splash. YNAK
- 910 0912 ARGENTINA LRA23 R Nacional, San Martin, fr-gd w/string of ads incl one for show sponsor "La Nación"... presumably a newspaper. YNAK
- 920 0929 PARAGUAY ZP1 R Nacional, La Asuncion, weak with male announcers. Checked with SW 9737 for confirmation. YNAK
- 930 0737 CHILE CB93 R Nuevo Mundo, Santiago, gd steady signal w/ph callers. YNAK
- 950 0702 ARGENTINALR3 R Libertad BA, fr w/id, ph no and FA host on talk show. YNAK
- 1010 0746 URUGUAY CX24 R Nuevo Tiempo, Montevideo, presume the one w/frequent time-checks and time pips, mostly American 60's rock'n'roll numbers. YNAK
- 1020 0639 COLOMBIA HJFQ RCN Pereira, pr-fr on peaks w/nx stories & net ids. //770. YNAK
- 1030 0657 ARGENTINA LS10 R Del Plata, BA, fr on peak w/id and promo for cinema complex,

o/unid in SS. YNAK

- 1060 0655 COLOMBIA HJFJ RCN Caldas, pr-fr w/id the network nx stories. YNAK
- 1070 0700 ARGENTINA LRI R El Mundo, BA, id "El Mundo mil setenta informa.." then time-check and mx. YNAK
- 1090 0708 URUGUAY CX28 R Imparcial, Montevideo, FA w/ids including call-sign then some nice tangos. YNAK
- 1120 0750 ARGENTINA LU6 R Atlantica, Mar del Plata, poor-fair w/tangos & some tlk, this one never getting as strong as other Argies hrd. Heard w/wx brief & id also at 0840 YNAK
- 1140 0803 VENEZUELA La Margariteña, Porlamar, was looking for Chile and found this one belting in, id, t/c and YV pops. YNAK
- 1190 0640 ARGENTINA LR9 R America, BA, gd w/id "Informo, Radio America..." then news item. YNAK
- 1320 0742 VENEZUELA YVWP R Apolo, Turmero, gd sig w/ t/c and ballads. YNAK

### REST OF THE WORLD

- 177 1820 GERMANY Deutschland R, Oranienburg, first ever reception of this station at Ynak. Weak though talk in GG was discernible. YNAK
- 540 1411 AUSTRALIA 4QL Longreach noted in absence of 7SD Scottsdale, hrd w/weak to fair sig with "Tony Delory's Night-Life" program. Identification not hear till 1505, as "ABC Radio, Queensland" MG
- 648 1838 SAUDI ARABIA BSKSA Jeddah, FA up briefly w/AA talk. YNAK
- 650 0928 HAWAII KHNR Honolulu, fr w/CNN nx & promo, 0930 CNN Headline News. YNAK
- 747 1708 AUSTRALIA 6SE Esperance WA, fair at times under/over 4QS Toowoomba with the latter phased. Running "Radio West" programs. YNAK
- 760 1837 YEMEN Mukallah, poor with talk in Arabic. Faded after 1845, heard on several mornings. YNAK
- 909 1755 CHINA CNR Taiwan 2, pr-fr w/light drama. SW //9170 confirmed station. YNAK
- 1566 1743 AUSTRALIA 4GM Gympie, poor-fair u/3NE w/ABC talk program. Never heard before here but a local "pest" for Chris Martin!. YNAK
- 1580 1435 USA KBLA Santa Monica CA pres the station here in SS briefly, mostly talk. MG
- 1613 1818 KOREA North Frontline Soldier Radio, poor w/KK talk. YNAK
- 1670 0618 USA WRNC Warner-Robins GA, reg ids w/"Real Country" format. Though at times was dominated by WTDY. YNAK
- 1670 0629 USA WTDY Madison WI, poor u/o WRNC w/replays of Art Bell shows, though a few ids and local prog managed to sneak through at crucial times. YNAK

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**broadcast.news@radiodx.com** with Bryan Clark, Auckland

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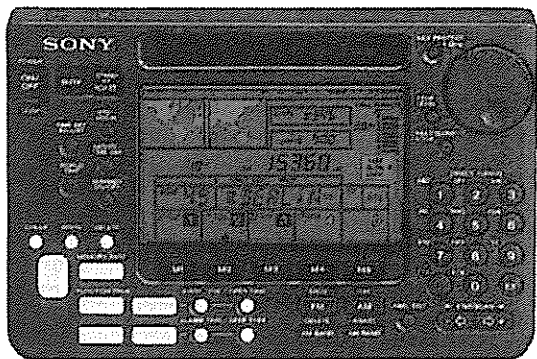
### ASIA PACIFIC BROADCAST NEWS

**NEW ZEALAND** Puketapu Radio at Palmerston in East Otago plans to commence broadcasts on 954 on 3 April at 1800z (April 4th 6 a.m. NZT). A 100 watt transmitter will feed a 35 metre mast antenna located just west of the township. Address: 114 Ronaldsay Street, Palmerston. Station telephone 03-465-1660. Technician is Lawrence McCraw, e-mail address lmccraw@rnzfb.org.nz. His telephone is 03-465-1909. The station is mostly voluntary, a community-access type similar to Radio Ranfurly. "Puketapu" is the name of the dominating high hill located north east of Palmerston. (Paul Ormandy)

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**AUSTRALIA** Stations 2HH 1341 and 2ZW 1314 have been returned to the control of 2KY, so all reception reports must go to 2KY for these stations. QSL requests for all the Radio Italia stations and 2AM on 1620 should be addressed to John Wright, Unit 4, 33 Kerrie Crescent, Peakhurst 2210 NSW, Australia. Return postage is required. (John Wright via Greyline DX) The ABA has invited applicants for the next round of the priced based bidding system to cover open narrowcasting licences in rural Queensland and NSW. Of the 24 centres listed in their public announcement last Thursday, only one is for an AM frequency - Innisfail 873. Since the reactivation of 4T0 on 774 kHz because there were no bidders in Innisfail for that frequency, it seems unlikely there will be much interest in 873kHz. All the focus is on the FM band. (Chris Martin)

**JAPAN** 909kHz JOCB Nagoya, Japan. Usual R Japan FD QSL card, sked etc (station was heard relaying R Japan's English news after a domestic English language-lesson) for follow-up to '98 report. V/s M Yoshioka who I presume also wrote the enclosed letter... and to quote... "Thank you for sending us a precise, accurate reception report. We always appreciate hearing from our listeners, and enjoy sending QSL cards very much. We regret to tell you, however, that you heard one of our domestic broadcasts for which we do not usually send verification cards. Your reception report shows that you have tuned in to our domestic mediumwave broadcast, transmitted from standby/emergency transmitters." "We will verify your report of April 29 1998 exceptionally, but we would like to request you to send a report of our overseas shortwave programs to receive our QSL card next time" Anyone else received one of these when QSLing an NHK MW outlet? (Paul Ormandy)

## EXPANDED BAND REPORT

**AUSTRALIA** 2AM on 1620 still has its own breakfast broadcasts but is not relayed on AM anymore. It has various languages after 12 noon. Reports still to John Wright, Unit 4, 33 Kerrie Crescent, Peakhurst 2210 NSW, Australia. Same for Radio Italia reports on all stations. (John Wright via Greyline email) Australian Dance Music Radio 1620 has ceased operations on that frequency and the facility is up for sale. The phones at their Gold Coast office have been disconnected. It seems that they have simply run out of funds. Also there was some frustration with reception difficulties on the Gold Coast at night due to interference from the Sydney station 2AM also on 1620 (Chris Martin)

**USA** - 1620 KSMH Letter QSL signed by Jerry J. Usher, Director of Programming in 42 days. Address: Immaculate Heart Radio, P.O. Box 70685-Reno, NV 89570 (Pat Martin via Greyline DX email)

1650 KCNZ Cedar Falls IA sent form email QSL letter after f/up in 30 minutes! Signed by Greg Alan, Program Director. Email address: [kcnz@cedarnet.org](mailto:kcnz@cedarnet.org) or [galan@cedarnet.org](mailto:galan@cedarnet.org). (Pat Martin via Greyline DX email)

KGIL/KGXL Torrance/Los Angeles CA is announcing a format change to a Westwood One format that was previously carried on KLAC 570 till dropped late 1998. It's called "AM Only" (adult standards). (Dennis Gibson via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 1/4/99)

1670 WTDY WI, Madison - received partial data VL on WTDY stationery and WTDY window sticker in 8 days for written report, US\$1, and Denver postcard. V/S Roy Simmons III, Engineer, P.O. Box 2058, Madison 53701-2058. (Pat Griffiths)

1670 WRNC Macon GA. Received partial data Verification letter on Taylor Broadcasting stationery in 11 days for written report, US\$1, and Denver postcard. Letter states they use a 92 meter symmetrical folded dipole antenna and programming is // to WRNC-FM (96.5) in Gray, GA. V/S James K. Gay II, Studio Engineer, 7080 Industrial Hwy, Macon 31216. (Patrick Griffith CO via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 3/99)

1670 WRNC Warner Robins GA sent form letter in 16 days for taped report. V/S Richard W. Hamilton Transmitter Engineer & James K. Gay II, Studio Engineer. Address: 7080 Industrial Hwy, Macon GA 31216 (Patrick Martin email)

1690 KDDZ Arvada CO sent form verification in 14 days from Shannon Blakely, Administrative Assistant. Address: 730 W. Hampden Ave #300-Englewood CO 80110, ex KADZ. (Patrick Martin)

KTBK Sherman-Dallas TX new on the air. Relaying KTCK 1310 "The Ticket" in Dallas with Sports Talk. Apparently signed on around 1900 EST 31 March. (Patrick Martin & Ragnar Danneskjold via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 1/4/99)

US VIRGIN ISLANDS WRRR in St. Croix now has a Website at <http://www.wrrr.vi/> At present WRRR is on 1290 MW but the Website says "coming soon - 10,000 watts on 1620kHz". (Andy Sennitt via DSWCI DX Window 3/99)

## BROADCAST NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**CHILE** On 31 March at midnight local time, Radio Minería, Santiago on 1060 closed after 57 years on air. From 1 April, a new Catholic radio station will broadcast on 1060. (Hugo Lopez email via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 1/4/99)

**GERMANY** At the end of March, a new 500kw Telefunken-brand transmitter for Deutschlandradio Berlin on 177 kHz will be inaugurated at the Zehlendorf site north from Berlin (usually listed as Oranienburg, a town some 15km west from the Zehlendorf village). Cur-

rently they still operate the ancient transmitter installation from 1956, a combination of three 250 kW PA stages, each using four SRW-357 tubes. The new commercial "Power-Radio Mecklenburg-Vorpommern" originally intended to start broadcasting at May 4th, but this date was postponed by 6 months, also due to technical difficulties. A first attempt to reactivate the old 20 kW transmitter at Rostock-Stadtweide after years of silence resulted in a complete failure. "Power-Radio" will broadcast from Rostock and Neubrandenburg-Helpterberg on 558 with 20kw each, from Wbbelin (usually listed as Schwerin, although the facilities are situated some 25 km south from these town) on 999 also with 20kw, and from Putbus (R.gen island) on 531 kHz (no longer 729 kHz, as originally announced) with 10kw. (Kai Ludwig via DX Window in Medium Wave Circle e-mail, via NRC's IDXD 3/99)

**GUATEMALA** Some extracts from MW monitoring in Guatemala City 28/12/98 through 1/1/99 by Hideki Watanabe - Japan, showing a lot of stations have shifted from MW to FM. Address details taken from phone book. WRTH frequency listed together with observed operation details.

560 Radio 5-60, \*1200-, 8 calle 1-11, Z-1 ID as "Un pastor, un redil, una voz Radio 5-60, llevando a Uds la palabra ..." Definitely operates on 560kHz.

730 Radio Cultural, 24 hours, 4 Av. 30-09, Z-3 //100.5MHz.

1090 Emisoras Unidas, \*1100-, Address: 4 calle 6-84, Z-13. Website at <http://www.centramerica.com/emisorasunidas/>

1210 Radio Rumbos, 24h, 4 Av. 1-14, Z-1. Sometimes heard slogan "La sabrosa".

1270 Radio Exclusiva, 24 hours, 4 calle 35-76, Z-11, Utatlan 2. ID "En Exclusiva, Exclusiva, ... diferente en radio."

1330 Union Radio \*1100-2330\*, 18 Av. 0-75, Z-15, V.H.2. 1125 ID "Desde Guatemala en centroamerica, transmite Union Radio. 1330kHz amplitud modulada, 105.7MHz frecuencia modulada adven estereo y 5980kHz banda internacional de 49 metros onda corta. Radio Mundial Adventista, La Voz de la Esperanza. Union Radio, exaltando a Jesus Cristo, Senor y Salvador del ... y proclamando su pronto y glorioso al venimiedo."

1570 Radio Voz Evangelica de America, \*1030-0600\* 30 Av. A 7-33, Z-7, Colonia Tikal 1. ID "Programa presentado por La Voz Evangelica de America y alimento listo, una empresa que con siga en el Senor. Escuche ano nuevo, manana a esta misma hora. Buenas noches. Radio Voz Evangelica de America.", sometimes heard "Radio Vea." & iTGVE, Radio Voz Evangelica de America. Transmittiendo en 1570kHz. Deseando a toda su audiencia un feliz y .. anos..I

1600 La Voz de Guatemala, \*1115-, 18 calle 6-70, Z-1. ID "Esta es una capsula informativa de noticias TGW, solo la verdad." and "TGW, La sintonia de Guatemala, mas de 70 anos en el desarrollo del pais. Hoy con nuevo imagen y mejor .. de servicio."

The following stations were not heard, believed inactive on AM: 640 La Voz de Guatemala (1600kHz & 107.3MHz are active), 670 Emisoras Unidas (see 1090kHz), 760 Nueva Radio Super, 790 Radio Festival, 880 Radio Nuevo Mundo (now 96.1MHz only. According to Sra. Malta Arias of Station Secretary, 880kHz has been off the air for about 5 years and only 96.1MHz is being used currently. She also mentioned that they might be going to move to new address as " 9 Av. 13-58, Z-1 " around next year), 970 Radio Continental, 1120 Radio Uno, 1150 Radio Fiesta (103.7MHz is active), 1180 Radio Sonora (1060kHz & 96.9MHz are active), 1450 Radio Epoca. (via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 2/99).

**MEXICO XEROK** Ciudad Delicias on 800 has new slogan "La Ley". (Chris Knight via IRCA's AM DX NewsFlash 1/99)

**NETHERLANDS** The Dutch government has given permission to build two antenna towers 35km off the coast of the Netherlands. The towers will be used by Delta Radio to transmit their programmes to the UK, probably on longwave. Earlier, Delta Radio tried to get permission to build antenna towers in the Netherlands near the town of Apeldoorn. This permission was not given due to many protests of people living in the neighbourhood, but also due to environmental reasons because the antenna towers will be 400 (!!) metres in height. The government has no such possibilities to stop the building of the towers in the North Sea, even the sealife will suffer from the electromagnetic currents and the birds from the towers. (Max van Arnhem via hard-core-dx via NRC's IDXD email 3/99)

**PERU** Radio Victoria 780 (also 6018v and 9720v on shortwave) sent very prompt e-mail QSL for follow-up to 1997 report. Verie Signer Martha Rojas, from IPDA, Iglesia Pentecostal Dios es Amor, producer of the "La Voz de la Liberacion" program. This is also heard on Radio Caravana, Guayaquil 750, Radio Nacional de Chile 1140 and an unid Peruvian on 1480. E-mail address: soermi@mixmail.com (Paul Ormandy)

**POLAND** Polish Radio is to build a new LW operation on 225 near Solec Kujawski in central Poland. Antenna will consist of 2 300 metre masts and will be ready for operation in Spring 1999. (VOA Communications World via ARC via IRCA 11/98)

**TURKEY** AFN Incirlik is on 1593 with local and satellite programming, 24 hours per day. Announces "1590" as the frequency,. Not listed in the 1999 WRTH, but still active. (Gerry Bishop-FL via NRC's IDXD email 3/99)

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[tvfm.dx@radiodx.com](mailto:tvfm.dx@radiodx.com) with *Brian Withers, Taradale*

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Welcome to April & the end of FM DX season! Your Editor has logged the following: Ski FM 89.8, Horse of the Year Radio 88.3 Hastings, Sun FM 96.9 Ohope, 88.5FM Havelock North. Qsld Ski FM 89.8, Horse of the Year Show Radio 88.3, Lite FM 94.5, Sun FM 96.9.

**STATION NEWS:-** Horse of The Year on 88.3 at Hastings Show grounds from 18 to 21 March 1999 - James Johnston. Ski FM on 89.8 Taihape - James Johnston. Sun FM 98FM Whakatane. Relayed on 96.9 testing from 1 April for three months from Mount Edgecumbe using 1Kw hoping to change from 98.4. Phone number 0800 SUN 98 FM - Brian Withers. Tone Test on 96.8 heard in Hamilton end of March - J Johnston. 88.5FM at Havelock Intermediate School from 28 to 4 April 1999 - J Johnston.

#### FM/TV TRAIL.

JJ = James Johnston Havelock North, BW = Brian Withers. Heard in: (P/N) = Palmerston North, (HM) = Hamilton, (ROT) = Rotorua. (Nap) = Napier, (H/N) = Havelock North.

88.0 Coda FM, Rotorua (ROT). JJ. 88.3 Horse of Year, Hastings (Nap). BW. 88.4 ? Open carrier only (P/N). JJ. 88.5 88.5FM (Nap)(H/N) BW. JJ. 88.5 Gospel FM (ROT). JJ. 88.6 Mai FM (HM). JJ. 89.0 UFM (HM). JJ. Concert FM (P/N). JJ. 89.4 Classic Hits Kapiti (P/N). JJ. Newstalk ZB. (HM). JJ. 89.8 ZM (HM)(ROT) JJ. Kia Ora (P/N) JJ. Ski FM (M/N) JJ. BW. 90.2 2XX Kapiti (P/N) JJ. The Rock (HM) JJ & BW. 90.3 Concert FM (ROT) JJ. 90.5 1XX (ROT) JJ. 90.6 ZM (P/N) JJ. Raukawa (HM) JJ. 90.9 97FM (ROT) JJ. ZM (P/N) JJ. 91.0 ZM (HM) JJ. 91.1 Solid Gold (ROT) JJ. 91.4 Concert FM (HM)(ROT) JJ. 91.6 Concert FM Taranaki (P/N) JJ. 91.8 More FM (HM) JJ. 91.9 Pacific (ROT) JJ. 92.2 Nga Iwi (HM) JJ. 2XS (P/N) JJ. 92.5 Concert FM (P/N) JJ. 92.6 Concert FM (HM) JJ. 92.7 The Rock (ROT) JJ. Sports Kapiti (P/N) JJ. 93.0 The Rock (HM) JJ. 93.2 Energy FM (P/N) JJ. 93.4 Solid Gold (HM) JJ. 93.5 Rhema (ROT) JJ. Beach FM Kapiti (P/N) JJ. 93.8 Solid Gold

(HM) JJ. Pacific (P/N) JJ. 94.1 The Breeze (Nap) BW. (P/N) JJ. 94.2 Channel Z (HM) JJ. 94.3 Solid Gold Kapiti (P/N) JJ. (Nap) BW. 94.6 Life FM (HM)(ROT) JJ. (NAP) BW. Solid Gold (P/N) JJ. (Nap) BW. 94.8 Te Korimako (P/N) JJ. Pacific (Nap) BW. 95.1 95FM Horowhenua (P/N) JJ. Relaying Gospel FM (ROT) JJ. 95.4 The Rock (P/N) JJ. Tainui (ROT)(HM) JJ. 95.6 The Rock (P/N) JJ. 95.7 Life FM Masterton. (P/N) JJ. 95.8 2CR (HM) JJ. 95.9 Lakes FM (ROT) JJ. 96.0 Hauraki (HM) JJ. 96.3 Rhema (P/N) JJ. 96.5 Maniapoto FM (HM) JJ. 96.6 Central FM (P/N) JJ. 96.7 Access Kapiti (P/N) JJ. Mai FM (ROT) JJ. 96.9 Sun FM Whakatane poor (Nap) BW. 97.0 Newstalk ZB (HM)(P/N) JJ. R. Woodville (P/N) JJ. 97.3 Rhema Kapiti (P/N) JJ. 97.4 Classic Hits (HM) JJ. 97.5 97FM (ROT) JJ. Pacific (P/N) JJ. 97.8 Classic Hits ZA (P/N) JJ. The Edge (HM) JJ. 98.1 Pacific (P/N) JJ. 98.2 198FM (HM) JJ. 98.3 Concert FM Kapiti (P/N) JJ. ZM (ROT) JJ. 98.6 ZHFM (ROT)(HM) JJ. Magic (P/N) JJ. 99.0 Hauraki (HM) JJ. 99.1 Rhema (P/N) JJ. 99.2 Concert (P/N) JJ. 99.3 Y FM (HM) JJ. 99.4 Massey (P/N) JJ. 99.6 More FM (P/N) JJ (Nap) BW. 99.8 Life FM (HM) JJ. 99.9 The Edge (ROT) JJ. Xtreme (P/N) JJ. 100.0 Pacific (HM) JJ. More FM (P/N) JJ. 100.2 Country MRK (P/N) JJ.

Send notes to PO Box 3011, Auckland or B Withers, PO Box 7072, Tardale Napier.

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**FOR SALE.2** only Yaesu FRG7 communications receivers, \$ 100 each. 1 only NRD525 communications receiver, \$ 1000. Freight extra. For further details, phone Brian Marsh 09 636 7712, Auckland

**For sale - Drake R8A** communications receiver, one careful owner, ex cond, boxed, \$1600 incl. courier. Call Andy Gardner 025 887544 or write C/- DX Times.

**For Sale: "Equinox" baluns**, 9:1 ratio housed in waterproof box; standard PL-259 UHF plug connection; easily converted for two wire or single wire aerials; designed for broad coverage i.e. 150kHz to 30mHz. Price: \$40 shipped anywhere in NZ. Please order from Paul Ormandy, 33 Greta Street, Oamaru 8901, Ph. 03 434 5931. E-mail: paul@radiodx.com

## branch.news@radiodx.com

### NORTH OTAGO

The March meeting was held at Arthur Finch's home with 7 in attendance and 3 apologies. Ray Davey has been appointed Press Officer for the DX Times and local newspapers. Members shared their activities for the month. Ray mentioned the HAARP test broadcasts on 26-27 March. Basil Jamieson spoke about a relay station of the Earth, taken from the Internet. The competition was won by Levin member Kelvin Brayshaw. The raffle was won by Arthur Finch (again!). Next meeting is at Peter Illingworth's home in Walbrook Crescent at 7.30pm on 8 April. Branch contact - Peter Grenfell, telephone 434-5907.

### AUCKLAND

New members Bob Kay and Alex Yuen were welcomed to March meeting. Alex is a Canadian taking Media studies at University. He recently visited Hong Kong and gave a most interesting talk on changes in the former British Colony. Alex had noticed few changes in Hong Kong since it passed into Chinese hands - traffic was still heavy but airline visitors would notice the changes with aircraft not now scraping the roofs of buildings as in Kai Tak days. Barry Williams spoke on his visit to Russell - DX was not so good on Short Wave but

Aussies came in well. He also visited Russell Radio which operated for maritime purposes. Daniel Bloomfield reported on a DXpedition to Waikato Heads - couldn't have been good DX for the team spent quite a time body surfing! The annual donation to Western Suburbs Amateur Radio Club of \$140 was approved. Where would we meet without the "little hut"?

## adcom.news@radiodx.com compiled by Bryan Clark, Auckland

**WELCOME TO NEW & REJOINING MEMBERS** - Mr YONAN CALERMBO, 35 Ostend Road, Waiheke Island 1240, MIKE WATKINS, 106 Wood Street, Palmerston North, PAUL LAYT, 15 Kerrs Road, Avonside, Christchurch, DAVID HOWE, 11 Morrison Avenue, Papanui, Christchurch and WAYNE SEARLE, 41 Everest Street, Burnside, Christchurch 8005. Mike has just rediscovered the DX hobby and the League, thanks to our Internet Website. Paul has also signed up via the Internet, while David and Wayne are rejoining our ranks, thanks to encouragement from MARK NICHOLLS. An impressive Canterbury contingent this month gentlemen - look forward to your contributions to our various columns.

**PUBLICISING YOUR HOBBY** The Administration Committee has colour brochures freely available to members wishing to do the same. Contact National Secretary EVAN MURRAY at P.O. Box 3011, Auckland (telephone 09-483-9543) if you would like a supply. We commend NEVILLE McKENTY of Napier who has taken the initiative to promote the DX hobby with a number of local people.

**SONY RECEIVERS** We have had an enquiry about the Sony SW100E and SW55 receivers and their performance for DXing. If you use one of these receivers, EVAN MURRAY would be pleased to receive your comments about them so we can pass the information on. See contact details above.

**KEEPING 24 HOUR TIME ON A 12 HOUR WATCH** Blenheim member IAN CATTERMOLE writes: "While reading through the latest issue of 'Monitoring Times', I came across an article that I think might interest League members, recalling my own difficulty in obtaining a 24 hour clock. I had decided that a 24 hour clock was the answer to the confusing problem of constantly converting our time to UTC with the difference at 13 hours during the summer. I had to import my 24 hour clock from America at a cost considerably higher than the following idea from Monitoring Times — If your digital watch has a stopwatch function, there's a good chance that it runs out to 24 hours then starts again. For local 24 hour time, simply start the stopwatch at midnight. For keeping Universal Time, start it when the time is 0000 hours UTC at your location. If your watch doesn't have a stopwatch function, one that is suitable for the job isn't too expensive these days." Thanks Ian and MT for this simple idea!

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME** A collection of back issues of the 'NZ DX Times', covering February 1997 to the present day, is offered by DOUG MILLIGAN, 6 Holmburn Street, Welcome Bay, Tauranga. If you're interested, contact Doug without delay!

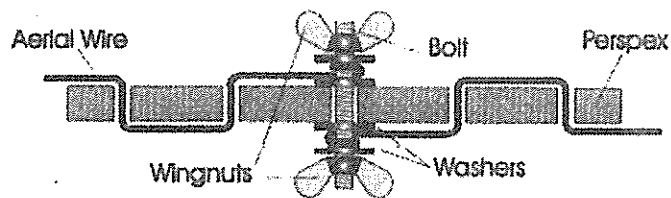
**"PROGRAMMING FOCUS"** This is the title of a new segment on programme listening on the weekly "DXing With Cumbre" feature aired by World Harvest Radio. Commencing 3 April, longtime NASWA "Easy Listening" column editor RICHARD CUFF will provide a monthly assortment of upcoming programme topics, review ongoing programme series, and occasionally profile a major international broadcaster in his 5-minute report. "Over the years, I've found that many dedicated DXers spend a fair amount of time listening to the major broadcasters' English language services," Richard says. "My philosophy is to celebrate the

diversity of programme offerings available on Shortwave, while recognizing those efforts that are particularly high in quality or offer viewpoints not typically available from mainstream domestic media." Best times for reception in the South Pacific are expected to be 0230 Saturday on 17510, 0600 Saturdays and Sundays on 17780, 0800 Saturday on 11565, 1030 Saturday and Sunday on 11565kHz.

**LISTENING IN TO AIRCRAFT RADIO** If this your interest, EVAN MURRAY has a copy of a useful Australian publication to give away. Telephone him at 09-483-9543.

### SIMPLE ANTENNA JOINER

A simple and handy device was published in NZART's Break In last year and it may be of interest to DXers. A good solder joint is best when connecting antenna wires together, but when on a DXpedition or experimenting with antennas, this little device could be very handy for lengthening an antenna. Required are one piece of perspex, a stainless steel, or brass, bolt and wing nut.



Cut the perspex to size and drill the holes as indicated. The size of the holes will depend on the wire gauge and bolt size you decide to use. Thread the antenna wires through the holes and pull tight to avoid kinks. You may wish to thread the bolt at both ends and use two wing nuts. Barry Williams

### Waianakarua Autumnal Equinox Trail

Bryan Clark and Paul Ormandy using their Drake SPR-4 rx's from Waianakarua, with a selection of Beverage aeriels. Overall conditions on SW were very good... esp. from Africa.

- 3200 1819 SWAZILAND TWR, poor in English with syndicated American religion, mixed ute QRM, though later in the week this was noted with much improved signals. Other 90mb Africans noted around this time and past 1900 were Mozambique 3210, Namibia 3270 & 3290, Madagascar 3288, Zimbabwe 3306, Botswana 3356, BBC Meyerton 3255, Sonder Grense 3320, & TWR Swazi 3240. Mar 16-21
- 3385 1028 PAPUA NEW GUINEA R East New Britain, poor-fair with talk in local language, some co-channel from RRI Kupang. Other PNGs noted on 3375, 3365, 3345, 3335, 3325, 3315, 3275, 3235, 3220, 2410 & 3905. Mar 18
- 4005 0606 VATICAN Vatican Radio clear in English // 5880 fair, with details of the Pope's new Sony record. 19/3.
- 4460 2017 CHINA CNR, poor-fair with Chinese inst mx, in // to 5030, 5320 & 7935. Mar 20
- 4525 1019 CHINA Nei Menggu PBS, tentative the one here with poor-fair signal running Chinese opera music. Mar 19
- 4534.1 1014 PERU R Horizonte,, poor-fair though in the clear with ids using echo and fast-speaking DJ. Mar 19
- 4635 2014 TAJIKISTAN Tajik R, tent/ Yangi-Yul here w/Middle Eastern style music, past sked

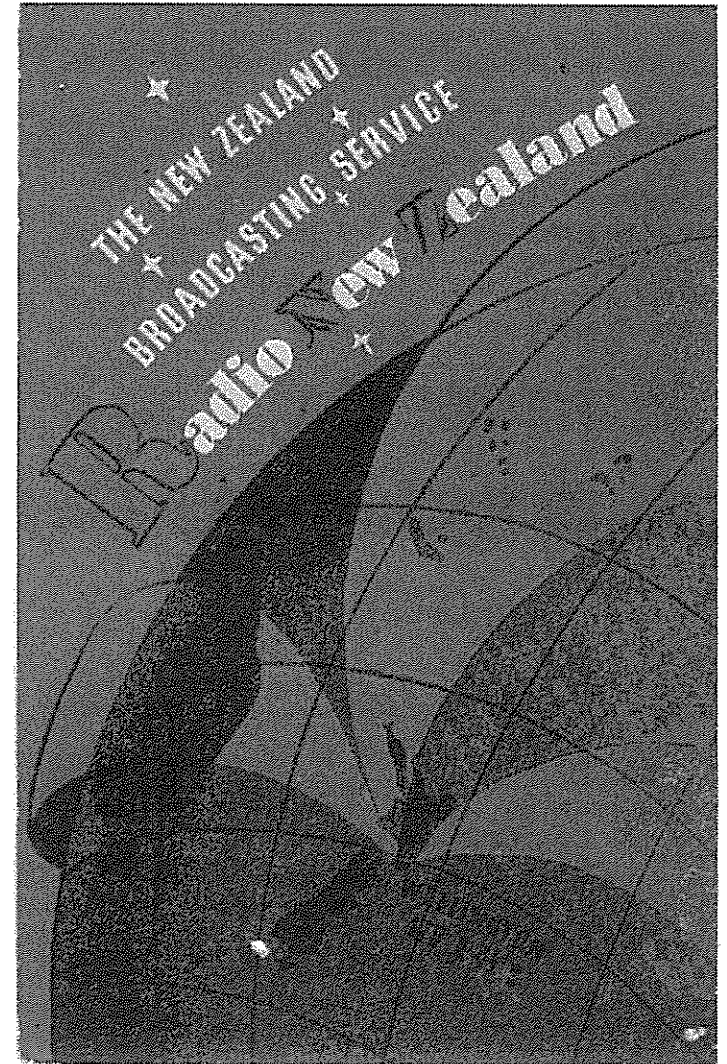
1830 close. Mar 20

- 4789.1 2000 INDONESIA RRI Fak-Fak, , poor-fair at sign-on with id then news. Tuned back at 2012 to English pop/rock. Mar 20
- 4790 1806 PAKISTAN Azad Kashmir Radio heard at closedown with distinctive and catchy "Azad Kashmir" anthem. 18/3
- 4810 1930 ARMENIA V of Armenia, sign-on in Armenian after interval signal. Good signal, into French at 2000. Mar 20
- 4950 1852 SAO TOME VOA, fair in French though some vestige of Angola underneath. Other 60mb Africans heard around this time were Botswana 4820, Nigeria 4770, Lesotho 4800, Mali 4783 & 4835, Christian Voice 4965, Uganda 4976 & 5026, Zimbabwe 5012 & Kenya 4915. Mar 16-21
- 4965 1951 ZAMBIA "Radio Christian Voice" sung identification during programme of gospel songs. Christian programming in English audible past 2020. 18/3
- 5012 1928 ZIMBABWE ZBC Harare with adult education feature in English on the difference in meaning of the words 'rational' and 'rationale'. Concluded 1948 with identification for "ZBC Radio 4". Earlier, at 1804, used slogan "The Voice of Zimbabwe", female announcer with news which concluded with the main points at 1809 then brief announcement in vernacular followed by address on science and mathematics education at a recent conference in Harare.18/3
- 5030 1430 CHINA CPBS, HS 1 program, fair signal with English language lessons, //4460, 5320 & 7935. Ormandy Mar 18
- 5035 2017 UZBEKISTAN Radio Tashkent International strong signal in German with identification as "Hier ist Radio Tashkent International".Parallel freq 5060 only fair sigl. 18/3
- 5050 2010 TANZANIA Radio Tanzania good strength with news inSwahili, however faulty modulation. Ident at 2014:30 as "Radio Tanzania Dar es Salaam". 18/3
- 5985 1430 MYANMAR R Myanmar, straight into English program after vernacular with no great fanfare. Program started with a description of Myanmar followed by a musical interlude then another offering about the importance of rice with reference to "...the evil legacy of the past colonial era and English-speaking classes..." TWICE! I think I'll send my report in Spanish! Mar 18
- 6020 0430 UKRAINE R Ukraine Int, poor-fair in English though some rumble from Radio Victoria. Announced // of 4820 was just audible. Mar 18
- 6205 0507 RUSSIA R Rossii, , fair-good signal in Russian with ads, temperatures in various cities and a couple of ids. Mar 19
- 6255 1910 KAZAKHSTAN Kazakh R, presume the one here with badly over-modulated audio... must be using technicians from R Moldova Int :^)... seemed to be mostly music with the odd announcement in a vernacular. Mar 16
- 6285.8 1949 NETHERLANDS Farmers from Holland, poor but in the clear with Dutch pops, identification and address at 2002. Mar 20
- 6458.5 0629 PUERTO RICO AFRTS relay good in USB with PSA then CNN Radio News, followed by military news. 17/3
- 7155 0629 ITALY V of Malta, very good in English with id, "VOM broadcasting from Malta" time and frequency schedule. Mar 18
- 7175 0620 ITALY R Due, Caltanissetta, fair signal with Home Service program running an interview. Some splatter from VOR Grigoriopol on 7180. Mar 18
- 7735u 1900 ICELAND ISBS Reykjavik, fair signal in Icelandic with news, //11402 was stronger.

Mar 16

- 9165 0314 AZERBAIJAN Baku interval signal, identification and anthem at sign-on. Much clearer reception than when monitored in 1700-1800 period. 18/3
- 9490 0330 ABKHAZIA(breakaway from GEORGIA) Abkhazi Radio tone test, interval signal, anthem, then idents in Azeri and Russian -"Goverit Sukhumi". Fair signal but some splatter from Bulgaria 9485.18/3
- 9670 2000 RWANDA DW, poor-fair at sign-on in Portuguese, //s from Kigali on 7175 (poor-fair) and 11810 (fair). Mar 16
- 9830 1920 JORDAN R Jordan, , poor-fair with news commentary though heavy splash from both sides. Mar 16
- 9895 0445 UNITED KINGDOM Merlin Network One with rock music, station promos & addresses for feedback (though said 'no QSLs at present'). Strong signal beamed to North America. 19/3
- 10330 0230 INDIA AIR, poor-fair though in the clear with Hindi music, went right through the hour (in India!) without any announcement. Mar 18
- 11660 1915 IRAN VoIRI, fair-good in Italian mixed with splatter from both sides. Mar 16
- 11670 0306 BELARUS Radio Minsk with English prgm scheduled 0300-0330 Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat/Sun (though expect this time will change end of March). Full address for listener feedback given at 0328. Very good strength. 19/3
- 11715 2025 ITALY RAI strong in English with news. Frequency also carries Portuguese from 2050 at which time a strong spur also observed on 11737kHz, //9670 was dominant over DW and 7115 was weak though clear. Mar 19
- 11730 1755 PHILIPPINES Radio Pilipinas strong in Tagalog with news headlines. Best on parallel 15190, also on 11890. Smattering of English throughout transmission which closed at 1930. 17/3
- 11734 1754 TANZANIA Radio Tanzania Zanzibar logged with Swahili programme through to 2100 close down. Bad splash at times from 11730 (Philippines) and 11740 (various including VOA, Taipeh and Roumania).Time pips and news at 1900 and 2000. Occasional local idents. 17/3
- 11735 0118 UNIDENTIFIED - URUGUAY? Possibly Radio Oriental on extended schedule with Spanish sports commentaries till obliterated by All India Radio at 0215. Weak signal, frequent mentions of Uruguay and Paraguay by commentators. 18/3
- 11750 1900 CHINA CRI, fair signal in English though rumble on channel. Better on //9440. Mar 17
- 11775 2115 ANGUILLA Caribbean Beacon, poor in English mixed unid in French, running Dr. Gene Scott.
- 11804 2050 BRAZIL Radio Globo fair in Portuguese hetting against 11805. Not audible these days in our local afternoons (ie after 2400) when other 25 metre band Brazilians are at their strongest. 18/3
- 11930 0216 PAKISTAN Radio Pakistan with news and commentary in English. Presumably targeting India as broadcast times given in Indian Standard Time. Station address in Islamabad given and closes with National Anthem at 0228. 18/3
- 11954.8 2055 ANGOLA Radio Nacional da Angola in the clear with popular songs, pips and time check & news 2100 in Portuguese. Ident at 2110. 18/3
- 11965 0402 BRAZIL Radio Record a rare catch here. Fair, clear in PP with newstalk, parallel to 15135 which was weaker & distorted. 11965 was missing at 0428 recheck. 18/3

- 15040 1015 INDIA AIR, poor-fair, bad modulation with program in English, //17387 had a stronger signal though suffered from transmitter hum. Mar 18
- 15135 0410 BRAZIL R Record, first time ever heard, badly modulated talk in Portuguese with talk, noted in // to 11965 which was also weak though better modulated. Both went off at 0427. Mar 18
- 15176.5 0510 PAKISTAN Radio Pakistan strong with identification, frequency info and station address in Urdu at 0514. Parallel 17555 was strong. 18/3
- 15185.4 1943 EQUATORIAL GUINEA R Africa, presume this the owner of a weak signal broadcasting syndicated American religious programming. Mar 17
- 15476 2007 ARGENTINE ANTARCTIC LRA36 R Nacional, caught end of announcement in English asking for reports and offering QSLs! Sounds promising! Then into Spanish with those lovely tangos till abrupt close mid-song at 2121. Mar 20
- 15880 0027 CHINA CNR, fair with talk program in Chinese. Also noted CNR not in // at this time on 15670. Mar 18
- 17815 0100 BRAZIL R Cultura, surprisingly good with id and time-check after 20 minutes of non-stop instrumentals and light vocals. Other Brazilians noted (around 1:00 pm local) Brazil Central 11815, Bandeirantes 9645, Gaucha 11915, Anhanguera 11830 and Gazeta 15325. Mar 17



## 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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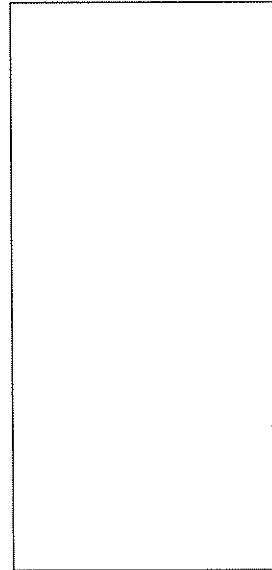
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