

LETTERS

editor@monitoringtimes.com



Rachel Baughn
rachelbaughn@monitoringtimes.com

*This column is open to your considered comments. Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of Monitoring Times. Your letters may be edited or shortened for clarity and length. Please mail to Letters to the Editor, 7540 Hwy 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902 or email editor@monitoringtimes.com
Happy monitoring!
Rachel Baughn, Editor*

MT Welcomes New Writers

Please join us in welcoming Stan Nelson KB5VL and Kent Britain WA5VJB as quarterly columnists in *MT*'s outstanding team of writers.

You'll remember Stan from his enjoyable feature on *Monitoring Meteors* in the January 2011 issue. Stan will be writing a quarterly segment of *Sky Surfing* on radio astronomy and other out of this world reception. Stan is a member of the Roswell Astronomy Club in Roswell, NM.

Kent Britain will be writing the VHF/UHF installment of *Antenna Topics*, sharing the column with Dan Farber who covers HF antennas and theory. Kent's work is well known in the hobby from a variety of publications, and if you visit the Kent Electronics website at www.wa5vjb.com website you'll see he is an experienced designer of antennas to receive VHF/UHF, continuing into gigahertz.

We look forward to both authors taking *MT* readers "to infinity and beyond" as we explore new frontiers!

Thanks, MT!

"MT was instrumental in inspiring me to obtain my ham license (now extra) after I picked up a copy to help me get my new Sony SW7600GR going back in May."

Jim Manley

"I would like congratulate Dan Veeneman on his article 'Dragged into the Digital Age' which appeared in the January issue of *MT*. It was by far the clearest explanation of digital trunking I have ever read! Nice to see some great technical writing!"

Jon Huneault, VE1FTL

Shortwave on Facebook?

Gayle Van Horn announces that "With the tremendous success of the Shortwave Central blog, I am pleased to announce the launch of the Facebook Fan page, listed on the Facebook System as Monitoring Times Shortwave Central.

"Postings complement the Shortwave Central Blog and include additional monitoring observations, MT previews, last minute tips and informal radio related post from our readers. We invite Facebook followers to visit the new Monitoring Times Shortwave Central page and click 'Like' to be a fan.

"For Twitter fans, don't forget QSLRpt-MT for brief radio 'tweets' throughout the day."

Shortwave on Streaming

Audio

"My hobby since 1988 has been Shortwave Radio. Now over 20 years later many International Broadcasters have switched to streaming audio on their web sites. Here are some of the

radio stations you can listen to via your computer. Some of them use Windows Media Player:

Radio France International: www.english.rfi.fr/
Radio Havana Cuba: <http://www.radiohc.cu/>
(Click on C2)

BBC: www.bbc.co.uk/ (Go down to Radio and click on Listen Live)

Deutsche Welle (Germany): www.dw-world.de/ (Choose language and then click on Listen to World Headlines)

VOA (Voice of America): www.voanews.com/english/news/ (Click on Latest Newscast)

Radio Australia: www.abc.net.au/ra/ (Click on Listen Now)

Radio New Zealand: www.radionz.co.nz/ (Click on Play News Bulletin)

NHK Japan: www.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/
China Radio International: <http://english.cri.cn/>

Radio Canada International: www.rcinet.ca/
Radio Taiwan International: <http://english.riti.org.tw/default.aspx>

Voice of Russia: <http://english.ruvr.ru/>

"Another favorite of mine Radio Netherlands Worldwide www.radionetherlands.nl There are many more. This is just an abbreviated list of my favorites. Happy Listening!

"A cautionary note: listening to Internet Radio uses up gigabytes on your monthly usage. We just got hit with \$148 in overcharges due to grandson watching Youtube for 10 hours straight over Thanksgiving."

Laurence D'Alberty

Internet Radios

"Thanks for your review of the C. Crane small internet radio in the January 2011 edition of *Monitoring Times*. The review is spot on and I agree with your conclusions about the set. I should know, as I have owned the same model for about a year. The set is simple to operate and does not take up a lot of room. I use this set as a travel radio. This is very nice, since OTA radio has become less listener friendly. Music is hardly heard on AM any more and the FM band has programming that I don't care for.

"The set works well with any open WiFi connection and has a lot of volume (audio) for its size. The ethernet connection in the back is useful if one does not have a wireless connection handy.

"I have a feeling future internet radios will become more versatile, but more complicated. This small radio should be a reminder to everyone that the latest technology, whatever it is, should be user-friendly and not be a crazy bell-and-whistle device to please just its designer."

Dan Ramos

"The CC Radio looks like a nice radio but with one huge flaw. That is, no aux input jack. I have had a Sangean WFR20 for three years on my nightstand. I also have a Sony AM/FM tuner and an XM radio into the aux jack. With these I

feel I really have the world in my headphones. Nowadays a radio is nothing without an aux jack."

Steve Waldron

"I bought my wife a WiFi radio for Christmas. I tried out two and finally ended up with a more expensive, but better sounding radio. I purchased a Livio NPR radio at Sears for \$129, and see it now on eBay for \$99; the second radio I tried out was a Logitech Squeezebox, at \$159 from Best Buy; and finally ended up with a Logitech Squeezebox Boom, purchased on Amazon for \$250, available on eBay for \$195, but with a 'no return' policy. I ended up with the Boom because it has four speakers, thus the sound carries better in the kitchen where my wife will listen to the radio.

"We live out in the country, where there are only three or four (lousy) local stations; having a WiFi radio has opened up a whole new world of radio listening for us. My wife tends to listen to classic music, while I prefer talk and news shows.

"I attempted to attach the Logitech Squeezebox to the existing multi-speaker system in the kitchen, but it did not put out enough watts to do so – not sure I will be able to connect the Boom to that system either, but it seems to have enough speaker power that it will be heard in all parts of the kitchen and family room with the internal speakers.

"In playing with these radios I discovered that they have very unique coverage possibilities. On the Livio NPR radio, there was a specific icon for weather and aircraft radio. When I pushed that button it gave me an interesting array of online weather, aircraft and even police frequencies! ...

"At the same time, and of interest to your general coverage fans, WiFi Radios are capable of picking up internet transmissions by worldwide broadcast stations normally found on general coverage receivers. For instance, on the basic Squeezebox radio I was able to find several BBC and other international broadcasters with simultaneous programming being broadcast on shortwave radio and at the same time on their Internet broadcasts.

"Although this radio was a present for my wife, when she is out shopping or not in the kitchen, I can see myself out playing with her WiFi radio searching for interesting news, weather and police broadcasts on the Internet. This week, when northeast airports were closing down, it was interesting to be able to push one button on the Livio radio and see a variety of air traffic control stations to listen to in Boston, New York and Washington, D.C."

Dave Kaiser, AL7HG