

Scanning -- Shortwave -- Satellites
Ham Radio -- Computers



Monitoring Times

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Shortwave Listening Beginners' Guide

Welcome to monitoring 2005:

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New Federal and Military Systems
Cutting Edge Radio Reviews
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The WR-G303e is an external software-defined shortwave receiver with USB interface. An optional serial interface is also available. Now there is a portable software-defined HF receiver you can take with you anywhere.



WR-G313i receiver

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The WR-G313i receiver can be controlled remotely via a LAN or WAN (including the Internet) using the WiNRADiO Client/Server Option (CSO). The receiver is connected to the Server computer, while the user can control the receiver via another computer on the network (the Client).



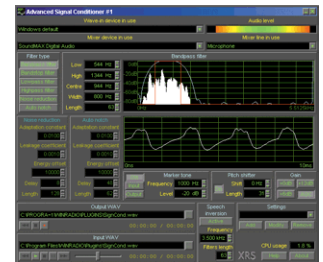
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Amongst our many antennas and accessories, also check out our long wire antenna kit (AX-05E), and an extremely efficient long wire adapter (LWA-0130). Unlike most conventional antenna 'baluns', the WiNRADiO Long Wire Antenna Adapter employs a dual broadband transformer technique which offers an improved performance over single-transformer devices. Add this low cost device to your existing long wire and hear the difference!



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Cover Story

Beginner's Guide to Shortwave Listening

By Ken Reitz KS4ZR

In this day of gee-whiz wireless communications devices that can even whistle *Dixie*, much of the world still relies on the workhorse of shortwave broadcasting to disseminate news, information, and culture. If you're new to this field, how do you get started? What kind of radio do you need and where can you get one? What kind of antenna? Where do you find broadcasters? What can you expect to hear? All your questions are answered in this beginner's guide to shortwave listening. Story starts on page 8.

C O N T E N T S

Scanning the First State 12

By John Mayson

In this first month of the year we take a look at scanning our nation's first state – Delaware. The state has installed a Motorola APCO-25 compliant system on which all state and local agencies will eventually operate. If you find yourself passing through any of Delaware's three counties, program these frequencies and talk-groups into your digital scanner to stay in tune with what's going on around you.

New Modes of Communication 16

By Tom Sundstrom

In this first edition of "Baudwalking" – occasional tips for using the Internet to support your radio hobby – the author demonstrates how instant messaging and IRC "chat" groups can alert you to breaking news or propagation openings. Included are recommended software packages and operating tips.

Reviews:

Software radio seems to be an idea whose time has come. **RFSpace** radio has joined the newcomers and John Catalano compares it to **FlexRadio** and the older **Icom R1000**, putting all three through their paces during an HF blackout (see page 69).

We also try the **DeLorme Earthmate GPS**, coupled to

Street Atlas USA 2005 and Topo USA Version 5.0. "Very impressive and very, very miniature," says our reviewer (page 72).

Clocks are always of interest to radio hobbyists. In *On the Bench* you can check out a variety of clock kits to build your own atomic clock with your personal touch (page 66).



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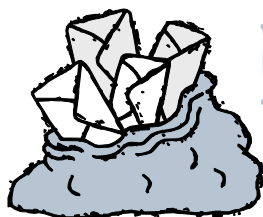
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Change and Growth

"I'm a loyal and continuous subscriber since the old 'Shortwave Guide' back in the fall of 1984. It's amazing how much the magazine has grown since the old days when I was a disc jockey on WRNO Worldwide... and how much change technology has brought to shortwave listening and ham radio."

— Phillip Colwart, AAFJ

The *International Listeners Guide* was Larry Miller's publication which merged with *Monitoring Times* in 1988. The hobby has indeed changed since then and *Monitoring Times* has helped you follow the changes in easy to understand language.

In 1988, the internet wasn't a factor in the hobby. Now, most of our readers are comfortable with the internet, but many of us haven't moved beyond e-mail and visiting our favorite sites. This month, Tom Sundstrom will introduce us to some internet tools that can help in modernizing our online radio-related communications. If you have questions you'd like him to answer in future articles, write him at tomsundstrom@monitoringtimes.com.

Radio Stuff Online

"I'm enjoying reading *MT* ... I have a PCR-1000 radio that I make available on line through a service known as Shortwavelog. You can access their site at <http://www.shortwavelog.com> and for a list of receivers the URL is <http://www.shortwavelog.com/ActiveRadios/>

"Listeners can tune a few active radio receivers including mine there. My web access URL is <http://shortwaveradio.dyndns.org/RCSweb/>

"Please keep in mind not all radios are on 24/7. My radio is usually on weekday and weekend evenings Eastern time. I also have another radio hobby of collecting vintage music radio shows.

"The website is located at <http://www.davesairchecks.com> There you can listen to samples of how AM-FM radio sounded back in the 1960s through the 1980s."

— Dave Freeman

Jacques d'Avignon sent us a link to the report on the annual DXpedition to Miscou, New Brunswick. Check out the pictures, loggings, and the challenges that seem to crop up on any DXpedition, even in the boonies: <http://www.dxing.info/dxpeditions/miscou2004.dx>

Takes a Lickin' and Keeps On...

Remember the impressive antennas and shack photos of Al Stern's shack in Satellite



Beach, Florida, which appeared in the November issue of *MT*? Well, Al has an interesting follow-up story!

"The hurricanes shredded the few antennas that I did not take down from my towers/poles. I have a Pro-2035 hooked up to the shredded Grove Scantenna on the left of this picture. All that is left of the Scantenna is one piece of metal about 20" long... a single piece of tubing sticking up from the boom. I have been getting comms from all over the place in the 225-400 range, as far away as the other side of the state, Tampa Approach.

"I'm in the process of resurrecting my two dozen antennas, but I plan on leaving the shredded Scantenna as is; why fix something that is broken but works so well?"

— Al Stern

Scanning Laws

"I must admit that I haven't read nearly all the State Laws concerning scanners in vehicles. I am a volunteer firefighter in Mississippi, I have two way radios as well as scanners in both of my vehicles. I travel to CT, NY, NJ, DC, MA, RI; all along I-81 to I-66 up I-95. What are the basic laws since I am a volunteer FF and do have radios and scanners in my cars?"

— Jimmy Taylor, Jackson, MS

Jimmy, check out Jorge Rodriguez's final column in the December issue of *MT*, which gave a great summary of federal and state laws as well as excellent general advice to all hobbyists. The article remains on line with the rest of his columns on "Monitoring and the Law" at <http://www.monitoringtimes.com/html/mt-laws.html>

Great reception on Amtrak

"Last fall (10/16), I was traveling home from a business conference in Glens Falls, NY, to Manhattan, on an Amtrak coach. At about 8:30 p.m. (00:30 UTC), I took out my Sony SW7600GR receiver, connected it to Sony active antenna AN-LP1, attached the antenna to the train car's window, using the integral suction cup, connected my AC adaptor and plugged into the car's AC outlet (usually used

for laptop computers), and, finally, connected headphones. Then, I consulted the Shortwave Guide in *Monitoring Times*.

"I tuned to 5890 kHz and immediately attained absolutely solid reception of Radio Thailand. For more than 15 minutes I listened to their 'call in' type talk show. Finally, at a station stop, a hoard of noisy people boarded the train. I disconnected the setup. After moving to a quiet part of the car, feeling too lazy to redeploy the full equipment, I began listening to local broadcast FM – with much noisier reception than Radio Thailand!

"For me, this was an altogether unique experience, as I have never seen anyone shortwave listening on Amtrak. Also, I was not sure if the train crew would raise some objection to the antenna attached to the window – they didn't. Conductors passed me several times, without comment. Now, I have one more reason that I love to travel by train."

— Joe Wagner, Dover, NJ, WPXD 483 (GMRS)

Attribution

On page 17 of the October 2004 issue, we reprinted with permission an attractive chart of the Electromagnetic Spectrum from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Readers should note this chart is courtesy of the Advanced Light Source, which produces the chart for the lab, run by the University of California for the US Department of Energy.

Happy New Year

We here at *Monitoring Times* are grateful for your support and for the great response to our reader survey. We'll report on the results as soon as they are fully analyzed. We put some reader preferences into effect immediately. For example, *The Fed Files* will be appearing bi-monthly instead of only three times per year, alternating with the *American Bandscan* mediumwave column.

Response to the online survey was so successful, we will probably run other surveys there periodically. Check out the *MT* website for new surveys and its new, easier to navigate design.

Wishing you the very best monitoring times in 2005,

Rachel Baughn, KE4OPD, Editor

We welcome your ideas, opinions, corrections, and additions in this column. Please mail to **Letters to the Editor**, 7540 Highway 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902, or email editor@monitoringtimes.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Happy monitoring!

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BROADCASTING

FCC Auctions 288 radio licenses

In the first auction of FM broadcast licenses since 1999, the Federal Communications Commission made 288 licenses available for auction in November. Even more surprising than the number of offerings is the unprecedented number of bidders for the licenses – 465 applicants qualified to bid, ranging from radio conglomerates to individuals.

“I have been in this business a long time, and I was shocked at the number of applications for licenses,” said George Reed, managing director of Media Services Group, a media brokerage firm in Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

The auction was initiated by the FCC in response to a demand for new radio stations by towns and small cities with no home broadcaster. Towns throughout the Midwest, West and South are getting most of the new commercial FM radio stations. There are 28 licenses available for stations in Texas, 20 in Colorado, 18 in Montana and 17 in Wyoming. The signal strength of the stations will vary from 3,000 watts to 100,000 watts.

The lively competition is expected to make the stations more costly. The 1999 auction raised \$57.8 million; this year’s auction had already reached \$185 million in mid-November before the close of the auction.

Student Station Grab

Some networks seem to think they have discovered a way to acquire a station without going through an auction, by petitioning the FCC to impose a seldom-invoked rule which can require educational stations to share airtime unless they broadcast at least 12 hours a day.

Marty Hensley, director of Hoosier Public Radio Corp., submitted petitions to share airtime with seven noncommercial stations in Indiana and Kentucky when their licenses came up for renewal; all but one are high school or college stations. Several of them already broadcast 24 hrs per day thanks to automated programming, but the petitions were filed anyway.

A Texas company by the name of R B Schools petitioned the FCC to share the airwaves of five Michigan high school radio stations, five Illinois high school stations, and three in Ohio. The company’s president, Linda de Romanett, is also head of several companies which operate religious stations. But again, the company didn’t do its homework. Several of these stations also operate 24 hours per day.

ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE

Design Your Own SDR

The Mobile and Portable Radio Research Group (MPRG) at Virginia Tech has developed fundamental software for use in designing software radios and has made the tool available for free download to other wireless communications researchers throughout the world. Originally designed for a software radio research project

sponsored by the Office of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, OSSIE (Open-Source Software Communication Architecture Implementation: Embedded) is an operating environment, or software framework, that is compatible with the Joint Tactical Radio System military hardware and is written in C++.

“Software radio technology is today where personal computer technology was in the 1970s,” said Max Robert, the MPRG post-doctoral Fellow who led development of the new tool. <http://www.mprg.org/research/ossie>.

A Short Solar Cycle?

Even during the lowest ebb of solar activity, you can usually find one or two spots on the sun. But on Jan. 28, 2004, there were none, then again on Oct. 11th and 12th the sun was utterly blank.

“This is a sign,” says Solar physicist David Hathaway Hathaway, “that the solar minimum is coming, and it’s coming sooner than we expected.”

Hathaway points out that solar cycles aren’t not precisely 11 years long, but can vary from 9 to 14 years. What makes a cycle long or short? Researchers aren’t sure. “We won’t even know if the current cycle is long or short – until it’s over,” he says.



But Hathaway and colleague Bob Wilson, both working at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center, believe they’ve found a simple way to predict the date of the next solar minimum. “We examined data from the last 8 solar cycles and discovered that Solar Min follows the first spotless day after Solar Max by 34 months,” explains Hathaway.

The most recent solar maximum was in late 2000. The first spotless day after that was Jan 28, 2004. So, using Hathaway and Wilson’s simple rule, solar minimum should arrive in late 2006. That’s about a year earlier than previously thought.

The next solar maximum might come early, too, says Hathaway. “Solar activity intensifies rapidly after solar minimum. In recent cycles, Solar Max has followed Solar Min by just 4 years.” Do the math: 2006 + 4 years = 2010.

Capricious TV

Last month we reported the story in which the television of Corvallis, Oregon, resident Chris van Rossmann apparently began to malfunction, emitting a signal that was picked up by the Search and Rescue Satellites and relayed to Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, who sent a team of local sheriff’s deputies and Civil Air Patrol volunteers to the door of his apartment.

The Toshiba television in question has now been tested by the company’s tech wizards and by the Federal Communications Commission. Toshiba spokeswoman Maria Repole said the FCC lab results were inconclusive, showing that any 121.5 MHz emissions the TV was putting off were within FCC limits for home electronics. But those who visited van Rossmann’s apartment the

day the TV freaked out, have no doubt about what they heard.

Malfunctioning appliances (even the scoreboard at the Razorback Stadium in Fayetteville, Arkansas) cause false reports often enough that the international search-and-rescue community is planning to move away from the 121.5 frequency. Officials say that by 2009, when search-and-rescue agencies plan to stop monitoring the old frequency, the aim is to have all emergency beacons emit a digital signal on a new frequency of 406 megahertz.

TV-B-Gone

A new key chain gadget that lets people turn off most TVs – anywhere from airports to restaurants – is selling faster than Mitch Altman can make them. Hundreds of orders for Altman’s \$14.99 TV-B-Gone gadget poured in after the tiny remote control was announced in *Wired* magazine and other online media outlets. The key chain fob works like a universal remote control that only turns TVs on or off.

“I didn’t know there were so many people who were into turning TV off,” said the inventor, who hasn’t owned a television in 24 years.

FCC

The Wireless Highway

The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has opened up the 5.9 GHz frequency band allocated for Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) systems along US roads and highways to the private sector.

According to ABI Research, any organization can now buy a non-exclusive license to erect towers in a defined geographical area. The transmitter towers must be registered with the FCC, and in cases of interference, law enforcement and public safety will receive priority. But within these constraints, businesses can make use of the frequency for their own purposes.

Prior to this FCC action, it was assumed that most of the infrastructure for any future DSRC networks would be constructed under the US federal Department of Transportation. Now, however, it appears that private industry will be able to build its own.

New wireless network applications could include real-time traffic updates beamed into vehicle navigation systems, universal automatic toll collection, streaming entertainment, intelligent safety systems, and even interactive commerce.

ABI Research analyst Dan Benjamin said, “Right now there are no vehicles that can actually use the 5.9 GHz signals. Transmitters will, however, be added to vehicles later this decade, and companies should start planning their infrastructure deployment strategy soon.”

Move over, here comes AWS

In order to make room for advanced wireless services (AWS), including so-called “third-generation” (3G) wireless systems, the FCC is shifting several federal users, such as aeronautical test telemetry into the 2360 to 2395 MHz band. In so do-

ing, they will make amateur radio co-primary on the first five 5 megahertz of the 2390-2417 MHz Amateur Radio Service primary allocation.

The ARRL told the FCC it could support Amateur Radio sharing of 2390 to 2395 MHz on a co-primary basis with flight test telemetry operations. But it has insisted that 2395 to 2400 MHz remain an exclusive amateur primary allocation.

Nextel and Verizon Call a Truce

Nextel Communications Inc. and Verizon Wireless are settling all legal disputes between them, removing the primary challenge to the FCC decision to clear up interference between cell phones and emergency response radios in the 800 MHz band by moving Nextel to 1.9 GHz.

In the surprise settlement, Verizon will drop its opposition to the swap and Nextel will drop its claim of trademark and ownership rights for the phrase "Push To Talk" and other uses of the word "push" to describe the popular walkie-talkie service which Verizon and other rivals now offer.

HOBBY NEWS

WUN Celebrates Ten Years

"It's hard to believe ten years have gone by since WUN was formed," says president Ary Boender. "Back in the '80s and early '90s utility station monitoring was mostly a solitary hobby.

However, in the mid '90s, several radio hobby clubs, such as the old Speedx Club, the Benelux DX-Club and others worldwide, began to have regular utility related columns."

With access to the internet growing, and the continued loss of clubs such as Speedx, the idea was hatched that a "paperless" internet club dedicated to HF utility stations in all modes would promote the rapid exchange of information. The Worldwide UTE News Club "WUN" was born in January 1995 and issued its first newsletter in February 1995. Originally WUN also produced a paper edition newsletter.

WUN was the world's first in many cases. WUN was the first "electronic" club. It was also the first club devoted to utility monitoring. It was also the first to set up a list server where members could post logs and questions.

Today, with over 1300 members in 35+ countries and well over 3000 people who are reading the newsletter each month, WUN is very much alive and kicking. Congratulations, WUN!

To join WUN, fill in the form at: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/wun>

AWR Wavescan Shifts

Adventist World Radio's English language service will be converted from a centralized global service to a local regionalized service beginning January 2005.

Wavescan, the English program produced for shortwave radio hobbyists, will be shifted

to a studio location in the Asia/Pacific region, where the largest DX communities are found. The international DX program will continue with the participation of AWR's DX editor, Dr. Adrian Peterson.

The final edition of *Wavescan* produced in England will be aired at all usual times and frequencies on Sunday, December 26, 2004. The first program produced in Asia will be broadcast on Sunday, January 2, 2005, from AWR's station KSDA on the island of Guam.

Wavescan recently broadcast two very interesting programs: one featured a 60 year old broadcast from an American Forces Radio Station in New Zealand, and the other featured what is believed to be the world's first off-air recording. The 90-year-old Morse Code broadcast from July 4, 1910, was recorded by station TG in San Francisco on a cylinder covered with tin foil!

"Communications" is compiled by editor Rachel Baughn KE4OPD from newsclippings submitted by our readers. Thanks to this month's fine reporters: Anonymous, John Hackett, Alan Henney, Norman Hill, Sterling Marcher, Jerry None, Ira Paul, Ken Reitz, Clive Ridpath, Doug Robertson, Brian Rogers, Matthew Stanley, Robert Thomas, Gayle Van Horn, Larry Van Horn, Ed Yeary.

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Beginner's Guide to Shortwave Listening

By Ken Reitz KS4ZR

Today, when on-line broadcasting and satellite radio are getting all the buzz, shortwave (SW) broadcasting is still delivering news and information every day to regions of the world where households may not have access to the Internet or the money for satellite radio.

What makes this broadcast mode popular world wide even today is simple: Small, low cost, battery powered receivers can bring news and entertainment to countries whose media might be entirely government controlled. Even those of us with a plethora of media options turn to the shortwave bands for details of world situations direct from the source, since shortwave radio voice is still a viable broadcast medium across the globe.

Listening to shortwave broadcasts can be a rewarding experience, but if you're new to this part of the radio listening hobby it can be frustrating as well. If you're used to America's crowded AM and FM bands, you'll be surprised to find what seems like wide expanses between SW broadcasters. How can you know what stations to look for and where? And, compared to today's FM sound, shortwave broadcasts lack the full audio range you're used to hearing. Add to that the occasional characteristic signal fading and general atmospheric noise

encountered on the bands, and newcomers can be quickly turned off.

Here's how you can find your way around the shortwave bands using the right receiver and the right antenna, and how to really enjoy this old and venerable monitoring hobby.

So, What's On?

From Albania to the United Kingdom, Australia to Vietnam, there are dozens of countries which operate a full schedule of programs on their shortwave frequencies. Many transmissions are for domestic use within the country, while others are intended for natives living abroad so that they can keep up with current events back home in their own language. Other transmissions are intended for a world audience as an effort to explain foreign policy or to help foreigners understand their culture. Such transmissions are also used to attract tourists to the country. Programming can range from explanations of cultural values, latest hits in their own musical style, and editorials examining key issues of the moment.

But, to get the most out of your shortwave radio you'll need a guide. *Monitoring Times* publishes a complete guide of English language shortwave broadcasts each month

in the center of the magazine which lists the name of each country transmitting, type of service, the times and frequencies. A complete explanation of how to use the guide is found on page 37. This takes some of the guess work out of tuning in and lets you really enjoy the shortwave listening hobby.

Once you become familiar with the various international broadcasters you may want to check out their web sites for more details about their broadcasts. Some broadcasters also have archives of recent programs.

Here's an important thing to know about shortwave broadcasts: All times quoted on-air are in *Coordinated Universal Time* which is abbreviated as (UTC). It's a 24 hour clock which starts its day at the Prime Meridian in Greenwich, England. This way everyone's on the same time and it doesn't matter which time zone you're in.

Choosing a Receiver

Shortwave radios come in a dizzying array from the absurdly cheap discount store \$30 specials to the sophisticated Ten-Tec RX-340 which comes to you at a price tag just shy of \$4,000. Many find that the cheapest radios with their small telescoping antennas give them all they want – the ability to listen to the big international broadcasters whose powerful broadcasts are easily tuned in. Tuning in the smaller voices of the world takes a better receiver and a better antenna.

Before making a purchase, check out some reviews on the receivers in which you're interested. *MT* has published reviews on all manner of receivers, some of which may be found on the *MT* web site: <http://www.monitoringtimes.com>. An index of the last ten years of reviews is online. Copies of most out-of-print reviews are available for \$3; for help email order@grove-ent.com or call 1-800-438-8155.

Another source of useful comments on shortwave receivers is found on the



The venerable Drake R8B all-band, all-mode, high-end shortwave receiver (Courtesy: R. L. Drake Co.)



Ten-Tec RX-340 HF DSP Receiver is the top of the line for SWLers with unlimited budgets. Here's a surprise, it's made in the U.S.A.! (Courtesy: Ten-Tec)

web site e-ham.net. Specific reviews from individuals are found at <http://www.eham.net/reviews/products/8>. Keep in mind that these are personal opinions from individuals which may not represent general opinion. Still, they may be worth reading.

One thing you'll notice is that the cheapest radios have old-fashioned analog tuning. This keeps down production costs but gives these radios a number of drawbacks. It's hard to tell exactly where you are on the bands with this type tuner, the numbers are often hard to read without a magnifying glass, and there's no way to have pre-set memory banks for instant access tuning. The price of a SW radio goes up as options are added. Here are some "must haves" that you should look for in a serious shortwave radio:

- External antenna connection. Allows attachment of an external antenna or other accessory such as a pre-selector or antenna tuner.
- Digital frequency readout with keypad entry and a reasonable amount of memory pre-sets. This display should also include some type of signal strength meter.
- Sideband reception capability. Allows tuning amateur radio transmissions in upper or lower sideband as well as digital modes which also use sideband transmissions.
- Wide/Narrow switch provides better audio for international broadcasters and helps sideband transmission sound better.
- Built-in 24 hour clock. Can be set to UTC so you'll know when to tune into programs you see in the guide.
- External speaker connection allows use of an external speaker to improve audio quality or to be used with an external tape recorder.

Shopping for a Radio

Once you've narrowed the field of receivers you'd like to buy and have read the reviews, it's time to do a little shopping. Radio Shack used to be a good place to check out shortwave radios. They carried a wide range of models and had stores in nearly every town. Now, they are reduced to offering only three shortwave products, all made by Grundig and ranging from the

M100 for \$30 to the Digital Compact for \$80. That leaves the mail order houses as your best bet for price comparisons. Here's a round-up of these vendors, the brands they carry and other shortwave accessories of note. They are arranged in alphabetical order:

Amateur Electronic Supply: 800-558-0411 <http://www.aesham.com> offers AOR, Drake, Sangean, Sony, & Yaesu brands. Has accessories and cable.

C. Crane Co.: 800-522-8863 <http://www.ccrane.com> Offers CCRadio Plus, Icom and Sangean brands. Has portable antenna & longplay recorders.

Grove Enterprises: 800-438-8155 <http://grove-ent.com> Offers AOR, Drake, Grundig, Icom, JRC (Japan Radio Corp.), Sangean, Yaesu and WinRADIO. Sells outdoor and indoor antennas, cables and preselectors, books, and *Monitoring Times* subscriptions.

Universal Radio 800-431-3939 <http://www.universal-radio.com> Offers Drake, Grundig, Icom, JRC, Sangean, and Ten-Tec brands. Also sells many SWL accessories including antennas, preselectors and books.

The Computer-hosted Receiver

There's another type of SW receiver on the market, a "virtual" receiver which uses your computer to display a radio control panel that you would tune as any other receiver. The audio comes through your computer as well. The receiver is a box or a circuit board which interfaces between your antenna and your computer. Advantages of this type of receiver is that it has the features of radios many times the price. The disadvantage, of course, is that it depends on your computer for its existence. If your computer goes down, your radio goes with it. One such computer-based receiver is the Ten-Tec RX-320D which is widely available and sells for \$328.95.

Another such receiver is the WinRA-DiO 1500 series, available through the Grove catalog, which offers a wide tuning range (150 kHz to 1.5 GHz with cell phone frequencies blocked) and also features performance and extras you'd expect from a more expensive "real" radio. Or, the new

Table 1: Shortwave Broadcast Bands

Courtesy Monitoring Times

Freq kHz	Meter Band
2300-2495	120 meters (Note 1)
3200-3400	90 meters (Note 1)
3900-3950	75 meters (Regional band, used for broadcasting in Asia only)
3950-4000	75 meters (Regional band, used for broadcasting in Asia and Europe)
4750-4995	60 meters (Note 1)
5005-5060	60 meters (Note 1)
5730-5900	49 meter NIB (Note 2)
5900-5950	49 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
5950-6200	49 meters
6200-6295	49 meter NIB (Note 2)
6890-6990	41 meter NIB (Note 2)
7100-7300	41 meters (Regional band, not allocated for broadcasting in the western hemisphere)(Note 4)
7300-7350	41 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
7350-7600	41 meter NIB (Note 2)
9250-9400	31 meter NIB (Note 2)
9400-9500	31 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
9500-9900	31 meters
11500-11600	25 meter NIB (Note 2)
11600-11650	25 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
11650-12050	25 meters
12050-12100	25 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
12100-12600	25 meter NIB (Note 2)
13570-13600	22 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
13600-13800	22 meters
13800-13870	22 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
15030-15100	19 meter NIB (Note 2)
15100-15600	19 meters
15600-15800	19 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
17480-17550	17 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
17550-17900	17 meters
18900-19020	15 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
21450-21850	13 meters
25670-26100	11 meters

Notes

Note 1 Tropical bands, 120/90/60 meters are for broadcast use only in designated tropical areas of the world.

Note 2 Broadcasters can use this frequency range on a (NIB) non-interference basis only.

Note 3 WARC-92 bands are allocated officially for use by HF broadcasting stations in 2007. They are only authorized on a non-interference basis until that date.

Note 4 WRC-03 update. After March 29, 2009, the spectrum from 7100-7200 kHz will no longer be available for broadcast purposes and will be turned over to amateur radio operations worldwide



MFJ'S 784B Programmable Digital Signal Processor can take out just about any interference. Helps dig out the weakest signals and improves SWL enjoyment. (Courtesy: MFJ Enterprises)

WR G303 PC-based radio is a sophisticated shortwave-only radio at the same price. Both models are available as an internal card or an external box and are priced around \$500. It's a way for SWLers to get a lot more receiver for their money. Of course, your computer has to be up to supporting this computer-controlled radio.

Extended Range of Your Receiver

While the shortwave bands start at 1.8 MHz and end at 30 MHz, many receivers are capable of tuning in frequencies below or even above those frequencies. Most portable shortwave radios include the AM and FM broadcast bands and many include the longwave (LW) frequencies (50 to 540 kHz) as well. Many desk top (*i.e.*, expensive) shortwave receivers tune from as low as 30 kHz to 30 MHz with some tuning as high as 60 MHz. Most desktop receivers do not include the FM broadcast band.

If your radio is capable of tuning LW, don't be surprised if you don't hear anything. These frequencies are home to low power beacon transmitters which send only two or three letters in Morse code (CW) as identifiers as well as powerful stations for international broadcasters from Europe and Africa which, because of the distances and extremely low frequencies, take extraordinarily long antennas to pick up. Even then, they are mostly heard only at night and during the depths of winter.

If your radio is capable of tuning above 30 MHz, it gets into the low end of the VHF band (home to some local public service agencies such as police and fire departments), and will work best with a ground plane antenna similar to a CB antenna. Since most agencies have long since moved to higher VHF and UHF frequencies, there may be little active radio traffic in your area on these frequencies.

There is one amateur radio band, the six meter band from 50 to 54 MHz, over which you may hear transmissions in CW, as well as single sideband (SSB) AM, and some digital modes. For best reception of this band, you will need a multi-element beam antenna with the elements



A little help for your receiver. MFJ's 956 LW/MW/SW Preselector/Tuner matches your receiver to the antenna to improve reception and minimize intermodulation. (Courtesy: MFJ Enterprises)

horizontally polarized. This band is active year 'round with long distance (DX) openings occurring during the summer months along with TV and FM band DX.

Shortwave Listening Antennas

Unlike portable SW radios, most desk top receivers have no built-in antenna. It's assumed that you will be using an outside antenna. So, what type of antenna is best for shortwave reception? Can you make your own antenna? What can you do if you can't have an outdoor antenna?

Almost any short length of wire will work as a shortwave antenna. That's because you don't need much of an antenna to pick up the powerful international broadcasters. That's why those little whip antennas on the portable radio seem to work so well. They fall short on delivery when you're trying to tune in something more esoteric with a lot less power. However, simply adding a long antenna wire to a poor SW receiver may end up creating more problems, like swamping the receiver with the big broadcasters or introducing spurious signals from nearby out of band transmitters.

For serious shortwave listening you need a serious antenna. There are several on the market including the Grove Skywire, a 66-foot antenna. Another ready-made antenna is the PAR End FedZ, which is a 45-ft long antenna that also comes ready to install (see review in *MT* 9-03, pages 82-83). All you'll need to supply is enough coax to go from your receiver to the antenna. (Grove's coax comes with "F" connectors, so you'll need a PL-259 adaptor for the antenna and possibly one for your receiver.) The advantages of the PAR antenna is that it brings very little extra noise to the receiver, making it even easier to tune in the weak ones.

You can make your own antennas. In fact, Radio Shack has an SWL antenna kit which contains 70-ft of antenna wire, 50-ft of lead-in wire, and insulators for \$10.49. It's at your local RS store as catalog #278-758. There are many other good antenna designs which are not hard to make and can be found in many antenna books. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sells several books on the subject in their free publications catalog (call 888-277-5289). You can also check out the SW antenna primer on the Grove web site at <http://www.monitoringtimes.com/html/mtantennaprimer1.html>.

But, what if you live in an area where outside antennas aren't allowed or there's simply no space? That's where an active indoor antenna might save the day. MFJ En-



DIYer's Special: Radio Shack's external antenna kit has all you need for an external antenna for just \$10.49. (Courtesy Radio Shack)

terprises offers several active tuned indoor antennas: the MFJ-1020C covers .3 to 40 MHz and may be used as an antenna preselector when an external antenna is attached. The MFJ-1024 is a vertically mounted 54-inch active outdoor antenna which could be used on a balcony and tuned from indoors.

Secrets of Better Shortwave Listening

Almost any shortwave receiver will benefit from several available accessories designed to improve reception and audio quality. A *preselector* or *tuner* is intended to boost signals by tuning the antenna to match the receiver. Most tuners are *passive* which means not powered.

There are also powered antennas which use active broadband amplifiers to help increase signals while tuning the antenna to match the receiver. Active antennas work best in places where it's impossible to have an outdoor antenna, but shouldn't be thought of as equal to an external long wire.

Noise filters have long been used to aid in shortwave listening regardless of the type or size of antenna. Many high-end receivers have noise filters built-in, and manipulating them can reduce adjacent channel interference or other noises which make listening less enjoyable. If your receiver doesn't have such a filter, you can add an out-board filter which will be very effective.



ICOM SP-23 Noise Reducing Speaker. Passive external speaker allows you to customize the audio from your shortwave receiver. (Courtesy: Icom)

The best filters use *digital signal processing* (DSP) and are very effective at removing interference and making otherwise unreadable signals listenable. They are particularly good at removing static, ignition, pulse and power line noise. DSP filters are powered and are more expensive



Dawn of the shortwave digital age. This AOR 7030 SW radio has been retrofitted with the necessary hardware to allow it to receive DRM broadcasts. (Courtesy: BBC R&D)

than passive noise filters and preselectors.

There are other products which may also improve audio on your shortwave radio. Most shortwave radios have 2- or 3-inch speakers often aimed away from the listener and producing a restricted range of audio. You can add external speakers to your receiver to customize the audio range of your receiver.

A Digital Future for Shortwave

Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM), French for Digital Radio World Wide, is the name of an international non-profit consortium designing an open platform MPEG4 based digital broadcast mode being heralded by some as the future of SW broadcasting.

If you didn't understand a word in that last sentence, don't worry, you're not alone. DRM is simply a way to turn analog SW

transmissions into digital data streams, which can be transmitted on the HF bands, "read" by a receiver at your home, and turned back into the same audio you're used to hearing. The advantages are that it allows greater audio fidelity, is easily adapted to contemporary transmitters, and radios in use today may be able to receive the signals with certain modifications. It may some day replace analog broadcasting on the HF bands.

However, it's early days in this process and, as with the experiments happening across America with digital AM and FM broadcasts, there is no final decision. We find ourselves in a time of transition from the age-old analog broadcasts to the new all-digital broadcast future. Because the process has to be fully developed and tested and submitted for lengthy trial and acceptance by the international radio community, that transition could last many years despite the optimism of the public relations companies charged with promoting the venture.

There is no need to fear that any radio you purchase today won't be working for the foreseeable future. There is every indication that, when a digital system is finally in place, there will be a retrofit for current SW receivers. For more information on modifications to contemporary receivers for DRM reception see this web site: http://www.drmtx.org/receiver_mods.html

Buying Used Shortwave Radios

Hobbyists are always upgrading their listening posts, and that means there is a large supply of good, used shortwave receivers on the market. Everyone loves a bargain, but to save big bucks you have to know where to look and what to look for. You might find what you're looking for at an on-line auction site, a local junk shop, or at any number of tag sales and swap meets. Remember, anytime you buy from a private seller it's *caveat emptor* (buyer beware). You may not have any recourse if the product is misrepresented or fails to perform as you might have hoped.

Buying used equipment from commercial vendors is a less risky proposition. These vendors value their reputation and are likely to have more liberal returns policies, offer a trial period or limited warranty. They thrive on positive word of mouth from satisfied customers. Below is a list of companies which deal in new shortwave

receivers but have a limited, and constantly changing supply of used receivers. Lists of available gear changes almost daily so check these sources often. Keep in mind that companies may have different policies regarding these products. Ask about a trial period, guarantee, shipping, returns, etc. Find out if the product you are buying has been tested by their technicians to be performing up to specs published for that particular product.

Finally, there's the market for antique shortwave radios. These can be anywhere from 30 to 70 years old and lovingly restored by professionals or hobbyists to near their original condition. These tube fired relics still work and many do an outstanding job of reception. Expect to pay a premium for the best of these radios, but for many, owning a working piece of radio history is well worth the price.

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Scanning the First State

By John Mayson

In the early years of the seventeenth century, Sir Thomas West, Lord de la Warr, led a contingent of 150 men who landed in Jamestown, Virginia. Twenty-one years later, Europeans settled in a Dutch trading post farther north on the North American coast called Zwaanendael. Peter Minuit, a Swede, started a colony in this area and called it "New Sweden." Eventually, the land was granted to William Penn and became the Pennsylvania counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex.

Over 100 years after Lord de la Warr first landed in Virginia, the lower three counties of Pennsylvania formed their own colony and named it after Sir Thomas West by calling it "Delaware." In 1792, Delaware was the first state to adopt the newly written United States Constitution.

Two-hundred and one years after becoming the first state in the union, Delaware purchased a statewide, APCO-25 compliant, Motorola trunked radio system. The system was designed to provide complete, statewide coverage for all state and local agencies.

So, in this first month of a new year, we're going to explore the statewide APCO system of our nation's first state. Northerners heading for sunny Florida cut through part of the state on Route 95. Delaware is a short hop across the Chesapeake from Washington D.C. which is hosting the presidential inauguration this month.

You have no plans to visit Delaware? Believe it or not, you can listen to state police communications online via the State Police website. Point your browser to: <http://www.state.de.us/dsp/> and click on the scanner to activate.

About the System

Delaware's state system is divided into three parts that correspond to Delaware's three counties. Each county has its own dispatch center and the counties are linked via 6 and 10 GHz microwave transmitters. The state has a total of 32 sites.

The system provides very reliable communications anywhere in the state for both state and local users.

Since the system is digital, an appropriate scanner is required. The system uses a 3600 baud control channel, meaning any digital trunk tracking scanner on the market will work.

Frequencies

Each county has its own set of frequencies. In addition to these, there are Intellipeater (IR) sites that provide additional coverage. An asterisk (*) denotes a control channel frequency. Some scanner listeners may wish to enter only the control channels and operate their scanner in control channel only mode. Uniden scanners must be set to "Plan 2" when using this feature.

New Castle County

866.2375
866.4875
866.5625
866.7250
867.0375
867.2375
867.4875
867.7125
867.7375
868.2125*
868.3875
868.7125
868.9375*
868.9625*

Kent County

866.0750
866.1625
866.6500
866.6750
866.7625
867.1250
867.6500
867.6750
867.9500
867.9750
868.6125
868.6500*
868.7500*
868.8625
868.9000*

Sussex County

866.1000
866.3625
867.0875
867.3500
867.6000
867.8375
868.0875
868.1125
868.3500
868.5875*

Hartly IR

866.1625*
866.7625
867.9750
868.6125
868.8625

Winterhur IR

866.3000
866.6500
866.8250
867.1250
867.3000
867.6625
868.3250
868.5000*

Hockessin IR

866.5375
866.7875
867.2625
867.4250
867.7750
868.0875
868.5750*

Agencies

All state agencies and many local ones use the statewide system. Having everyone on a single system makes mutual aid and interoperability much easier. We'll start with the Delaware State Police.

Delaware State Police

As is the case with many states, the Delaware State Police (DSP) had humble beginnings back in the 1920s. The automobile was becoming an increasingly popular mode



of transportation and the state embarked on building new roads. Roving bands of trouble makers speeding at 35 miles per hour were terrorizing the good people of Delaware, so in 1923 the state's General Assembly created the Delaware State Police whose job was to patrol the state's highways.

World War Two caused a shortage of men, and the State Police saw its first women employees. In 1943 seven women began clerical duties. In the same year the agency began using a high-frequency (HF) radio system for two-way communications.

The Delaware State Police has a history of being on the cutting edge of technology. They were amongst the first law enforcement agencies to use a breathalyzer, a polygraph, statewide teletype, radar for speed detection, and a scuba team.

Today the State Police is divided into eight troops.

Troop 1 is headquartered on Philadelphia Pike in Wilmington and is responsible for the area north of Wilmington.

Troop 2 is headquartered in Newark and is the consolidated criminal investigation facility for New Castle County.

Troop 3 is headquartered in the state capital of Dover and is the only troop in Kent County.

Troop 4 is headquartered in Georgetown and patrols central and south Sussex County. This part of the state is mainly rural and the DSP provides first responder law enforcement to the many communities in this part of the county.

Troop 5 is headquartered in Bridgeville and protects drivers during the summer months of seasonal resort travel.

Troop 6 is the largest troop in the state. It's headquar-



tered in Wilmington.

Troop 7 is headquartered in the resort town of Lewes, which is home to the largest outlet mall on the east coast. The mall traffic keeps the DSP busy. Delaware does not have a sales tax, which brings bargain hunters from around the region.

Troop 9 is headquartered in Odessa. The chemical industry is very important to Delaware's economy, and a large number of chemical plants are located in troop 9's patrol area. Troop 9 is also prepared to respond to emergencies at the largest prison in the state, a major US highway, three bridges, and at the nuclear reactor in nearby Salem, New Jersey.

DSP New Castle County Talkgroups

New Castle County is the northernmost county in Delaware and the most populous. It is home to the cities of Wilmington and Newark, two of the state's largest population centers. Troops 1, 2, 6, and 9 are all based in New Castle County.

Talkgroup	Description
1840	Executive Security
2032	Special Operations Response Team 1
3056	Special Operations Response Team 2
2128	Command
2160	Tactical 1
2192	Tactical 2
2224	Tactical 3
2256	Tactical 4
2288	Data
2640	Secure
2672	Troop 1
2704	Troop 2
2832	Troop 6
2896	Troop 9
2928	Supervisor
13904	Detectives
14000	Intelligence
14032	Special Investigation Unit
14416	Homicide
14512	Casinos/Gambling
14608	Intelligence
15952	Command Center
16048	Special Investigative Unit Investigation
16240	Aviation
14512	Casinos/Gambling

DSP Kent County Talkgroups

Kent County is the middle county in Delaware and home to the state capital of Dover. Troop 3 is wholly responsible for this county.

Talkgroup	Description
1872	Executive Security
2064	Special Operations Response Team 1
3088	Special Operations Response Team 2
2320	Command
2352	Tactical 1
2384	Tactical 2

2416	Data
2736	Troop 3
2960	Supervisor
13936	Detectives
14064	Special Investigation Unit
14128	Intelligence
14448	Homicide
14640	Intelligence
15984	Command Center
16080	Special Investigative Unit Investigation
16176	Secure
16272	Aviation
17776	Kent TCU
17840	Kent/Sussex TCU
14544	Casinos / Gambling

DSP Sussex County Talkgroups

Sussex County is the southernmost county in Delaware and home to the state's beaches and resorts.

Talkgroup	Description
1904	Executive Security
2096	Special Operation Response Team-1
3120	Special Operation Response Team-2
2448	Dispatch
2480	Tactical-1
2512	Tactical-2
14864	Tactical-3
14896	Tactical-4
2544	Data
2768	Troop 4 Georgetown
2800	Troop 5 Bridgeville
2864	Troop 7 Lewes
2992	Supervisor
13968	Detectives
14096	Special Investigation Unit
14288	Intelligence
14480	Homicide
14672	Intelligence
16016	Command Center
16112	Intelligence Unit
16208	Secure
16304	Aviation
17808	Sussex TCU
17936	Office of Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs

DSP Statewide Talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
1616	Emergency Net
1648	Detective Net
1680	Conflict Management Team
1712	Aviation Net
1776	Executive Command
1808	Executive Security
1936	National Law Enforcement Emergency Net
1968	Information Support Services
2000	Special Operations Response Team
2576	Headquarters
2608	Bomb Squad
3024	Police Administration
14704	Internal Affairs
14800	Intelligence
14832	Intelligence
16144	Special Investigative Unit Investigation
16336	Aviation Administration

New Castle County talkgroups

The city of Wilmington operates its own



Motorola Type I trunked radio system. The county and most communities within the county operate on the state system.

County talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
6480	New Castle County Criminal Investigation Unit A
6512	New Castle County Criminal Investigation Unit B
6544	New Castle County Criminal Investigation Unit C
6800	New Castle County Emergency Preparedness
3856	New Castle County EMS Dispatch
4144	New Castle County EMS Ops 2
4368	New Castle County EMS Ops 3
3184	New Castle County Fire Dispatch
10576	New Castle County Fire Police
3216	New Castle County Fire TAC 3
3248	New Castle County Fire TAC 4
3280	New Castle County Fire TAC 5
3312	New Castle County Fire TAC 6
3888	New Castle County Fire TAC 7
3920	New Castle County Fire TAC 8
21232	New Castle County Justice of the Peace
6992	New Castle County Mounted Patrol
9328	New Castle County Mutual Aid 1
9360	New Castle County Mutual Aid 2
6448	New Castle County PD Administration
6416	New Castle County PD Data
6224	New Castle County PD Dispatch 1
6256	New Castle County PD Dispatch 2
9520	New Castle County PD Mutual Aid
6608	New Castle County PD Special Operations 1
6640	New Castle County PD Special Operations 2
6704	New Castle County PD Special Wepaons and Tactics
6288	New Castle County PD Tactical 1
6320	New Castle County PD Tactical 2
6352	New Castle County PD Tactical 3
6384	New Castle County PD Tactical 4
8656	New Castle County Sheriff
7056	New Castle County Sheriff
13008	New Castle County PD
17872	Office of Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs

City talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
9808	Aetna FD
9840	Belvedere FD
9872	Brandywine Hundred FD
9904	Christiana FD
9936	Claymont FD
9968	Cranston Heights FD
10000	Delaware City FD
10032	Elsmere FD
12912	Elsmere PD
10064	Five Points FD
10096	Goodwill FD
10128	Hockessen FD
10160	Holloway Terrace FD
10192	Middletown FD
10224	Mill Creek FD
10256	Minquadales FD
10288	Minquas FD
10448	New Castle County Airport FD
19216	Newark PD Dispatch
19248	Newark PD Ops
19280	Newark PD TAC
13136	Newport PD
10320	Odessa FD
10384	Talleyville FD
10416	Townsend FD
19312	University of Delaware PD 1
19344	University of Delaware PD 2
19376	University of Delaware PD 3
3696	Wilmington FD
10640	Wilmington Fire Mutual Aid
10480	Wilmington Manor FD
12944	Wilmington PD
10672	Wilmington PD Mutual Aid

Other talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
4080	A. I. DuPont Hospital Emergency Room
10608	Christiana Care Health System Fire Protection
3952	Christiana Hospital Emergency Room 1
3984	Christiana Hospital Emergency Room 2
4016	Christiana Hospital Emergency Room 3
10352	Port Penn FD
4048	Saint Francis Emergency Room
13808	State Fire Marshal
14192	State Fire Marshal
4112	Wilmington Hospital Emergency Room 1
4656	Wilmington Hospital Emergency Room 2

Kent County Talkgroups

Kent County is home to Delaware's capital and also Dover Air Force Base (DAFB). The base is home to the 436th Airlift Wing. The wing has over 4,000 active-duty and civilian employees. DAFB has the somber distinction of receiving the remains of service personnel killed overseas.

County talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
3344	Kent County Fire Dispatch
3376	Kent County Fire 1
3408	Kent County Fire TAC 4
3440	Kent County Fire TAC 5
3472	Kent County Fire TAC 6
4208	Kent County Fire TAC 7
3920	Kent County Fire TAC 8
4176	Kent County EMS Ops 1
11440	Kent County Fire police
11536	Kent County EMS Dispatch
11568	Kent County EMS Ops 2
11600	Kent County EMS Talk Channel 2
11696	Kent County Paramedics
7408	Kent County Emergency Preparedness
8688	Kent County Sheriff
9392	Kent County Mutual Aid 1
9424	Kent County Mutual Aid 2
9552	Kent County Police Mutual Aid
21264	Kent County Justice of the Peace

City talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
10832	Bowers FD
10864	Camden & Wyoming FD
19760	Camden PD
10896	Cheswold FD
10928	Clayton FD
19600	Clayton PD
10960	Dover FD
4240	Dover FD
11760	Dover FD Dispatch
11408	Dover Fire Marshal
19984	Dover PD Criminal Investigation
19888	Dover PD Data
12880	Dover PD Dispatch 1
19856	Dover PD Dispatch 2
20144	Dover PD Exec Command
20016	Dover PD Hostage Negotiation Team
20112	Dover PD Sort Command
20048	Dover PD Sort-1
20080	Dover PD Sort-2
19920	Dover PD TAC-1
19952	Dover PD TAC-2
10992	Farmington FD
11024	Felton FD
19824	Felton PD
11056	Frederica FD
19792	Frederica PD
11088	Harrington FD
19632	Harrington PD Command
19664	Harrington PD Data
19696	Harrington PD Special Operations
11120	Hartly FD
11152	Houston FD
11184	Leipsic FD
11216	Little Creek FD
11248	Magnolia FD
11280	Marydel FD
11312	Milford FD
20240	Milford PD Admin
19728	Milford PD Dispatch
20176	Milford PD Operations 1
20208	Milford PD Operations 2
11344	Smyrna FD



19408 Smyrna PD #1
 19440 Smyrna PD #2
 19568 Smyrna PD Admin
 19504 Smyrna PD Ops
 19536 Smyrna PD SIU
 19472 Smyrna PD Tac 1
 11376 South Bowers FD
 20592 Wyoming PD

DAFB talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
4272	DAFB Hospital
11792	DAFB Clinic
11824	DAFB Fire Department
11632	DAFB EMS
11472	DAFB Security Police

Other talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
4304	Kent General Hospital ER 1
4336	Kent General Hospital ER 2
11504	American Legion Ambulance
13840	State Fire Marshal
14224	State Fire Marshal
22704	Dover Fire Marshal
13296	Capitol Police

Sussex County talkgroups

Virtually all agencies in Sussex County have abandoned their VHF frequencies for the state's TRS.

Police talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
13456	Bethany Beach PD
13776	Bridgeville PD
13520	Dagsboro PD
13584	Dewey Beach PD
20624	Ellendale PD
13424	Fenwick Island PD
12592	Sussex County Fire Police-1
21072	Sussex County Fire Police-2
21104	Sussex County Fire Police-3
21136	Sussex County Fire Police-4
21168	Sussex County Fire Police-5
13360	Georgetown PD
20272	Greenwood PD
13616	Laurel PD
13712	Millsboro PD
13392	Lewes PD
13744	Milton PD
13168	Ocean View PD
13648	Rehoboth Beach PD
20656	Rehoboth Beach PD-1
20688	Rehoboth Beach PD-2
13552	Seaford PD
20336	Seaford PD
20368	Seaford PD Detectives
20400	Seaford PD Special Ops team
9584	Sussex County Police Mutual Aid
8720	Sussex County Sheriff
20304	Selbyville PD
13680	South Bethany Beach PD

Fire/EMS talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
11856	Bethany Beach FD TAC
11888	Blades FD TAC
11920	Bridgeville FD TAC
11952	Dagsboro FD TAC
11984	Delmar FD TAC
12016	Ellendale FD TAC
12048	Franford FD TAC
12080	Georgetown FD TAC
12112	Greenwood FD TAC
12144	Gumboro FD TAC
12176	Indian River FD TAC
12208	Laurel FD TAC
12240	Lewes FD TAC
12304	Millsboro FD TAC
12336	Millville FD TAC

12368	Milton FD TAC
12560	Ocean City MD Fire Patch
3728	Rehoboth Beach FD/EMS Dispatch
12400	Rehoboth Beach FD TAC
12432	Roxana FD TAC
3760	Seaford FD/EMS Dispatch
12464	Seaford FD TAC
12496	Selbyville FD TAC
12272	Slaughter Beach FD TAC
4432	Sussex County FD/EMS Dispatch
4464	Sussex County EMS-1 Ops
4496	Sussex County EMS-2 Ops
12656	Sussex County EMS-3 Ops
13872	Sussex County Fire Marshal
14256	Sussex County Fire Marshal
3536	Sussex County Fire-1 Ops
3568	Sussex County Fire-2 Ops
3600	Sussex County Fire-3 Ops
3632	Sussex County Fire-4 Ops
3504	Sussex County Fire-5 Ops

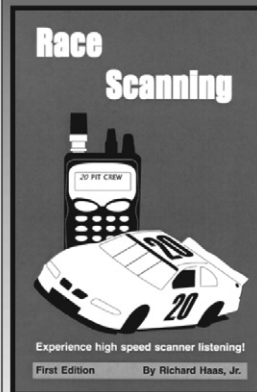
Other talkgroups

Talkgroup	Description
12688	Atlantic General Hospital MD
4528	Beebe Medical Center Lewes ER
4560	Beebe Medical Center Millville ER
7440	Emergency Medical Preparedness
12752	Emergency Operation Center
12784	Georgetown American Legion Ambulance
12624	Mid-Sussex Rescue Squad TAC
4592	Milford Hospital Emergency Room
4624	Nanticoke Memorial Hospital ER
12816	Paramedics Ops-1
12848	Paramedics Ops-2
12720	Suscom Support Personnel
21296	Sussex County Justice of the Peace
9456	Sussex County Mutual Aid-1
9488	Sussex County Mutual Aid-2

Delaware is a beautiful location for a summertime getaway, and even wintertime has its own rugged beauty. Its mid-Atlantic location places it within a day's drive from much of the eastern seaboard. Pack lots of sunscreen and remember that digital scanner.



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Baudwalking

New Modes of Communication

By Tom Sundstrom, W2XQ

Happy New Year and belated Seasons Greetings to the *Monitoring Times* family of readers, subscribers, advertisers and gang behind the desks in North Carolina. *Baudwalking* is a new occasional column that takes a wide look at what's new on the Internet as it pertains to radio, media and communications.

The listening and amateur radio hobbies radically changed beginning with the 1980-era telephone BBS systems and the Internet's growth starting in 1994 or so.¹ But this isn't a history lesson. There are several sources for looking at the past.² Let's get going and communicate.

Electronic mail is probably the largest application of types of services available through the Internet. It is a blessing and it is a curse. Although e-mail is delivered quickly, unwanted, annoying and rude "spam" e-mail clutters the inbox and is an expensive time-waster. What can we do?

Working around E-mail Junk

Alternative communication methodologies include instant messenger (IM) programs, blogs, Internet relay chat (IRC) "channels" or "rooms," and headline news servers. Mention IM, and some persons say "I would rather not be interrupted all the time." The interruptions can be totally controlled. The IRC network of servers around the world enable the creation of public or private chat rooms, and there are software controls to fine tune each room's characteristics. Blogs – writers' web pages of comments on the social or political scene, or on just about anything timely – and newsletters using special Web page coding are relatively new, but have already become mainstream; "bloggers" (people who write the blogs) were even invited to the USA 2004 national political conventions.

This month let us look at the two-way communications: instant messaging and Internet relay chat. The common characteristic: immediate communications, no delay, and no spam.

The significant difference: IM is one-on-one, whereas IRC is a multi-user chat room.

How does all of this tie into the subjects that interest *Monitoring Times* readers? Whereas the printed word in *MT* provides the depth and background to current events, such as features on monitoring in the Middle East, the World Wide Web cannot easily provide the details, depth and analysis found in the *MT* articles. Rather, the 'net is superb when it comes to breaking news.

One example. As this column's deadline was looming, a window into the IRC chat channel #swl came to life. It was late at night, and listeners in Baltimore, New Hampshire, and Ohio typed "the MW band is open... hearing trans-Atlantic signals." I turned on the radio and listened to a very good signal from Croatia on 1134 kHz, peaking at 30 db/s9. It was the best of the signals noted on 1062, 1215 and 1314 in the southern New Jersey area, and I listened for a while continuing to work.

What's the point? Had I depended upon e-mail, I would have only found out about the Europeans the next day when picking e-mail from the server and only if someone thought to write me. Weekly e-mail newsletters would be slower yet.

A second example. Are you a radio amateur but not a contester? You could tune into a server posting callouts of foreign stations in the CQ WorldWide Contest. Data is instant, and includes the exact frequency and time. If you had the right transceiver and software, the data could even tune the transmitter.

A third example. The South Jersey Radio Association – <http://sjra.net> – have a swap net on K2AA-145.29 MHz at 8 p.m. Sunday nights. The net control of the session opens an IM program and other club members participating on the net help with missed calls or questions on equipment. It makes for a more efficient net, and there is less on-air confusion.

In the business of communicating, these technologies are for more than just business and personal use. It can be very useful in the pursuit

of your radio "career." But how, you ask?

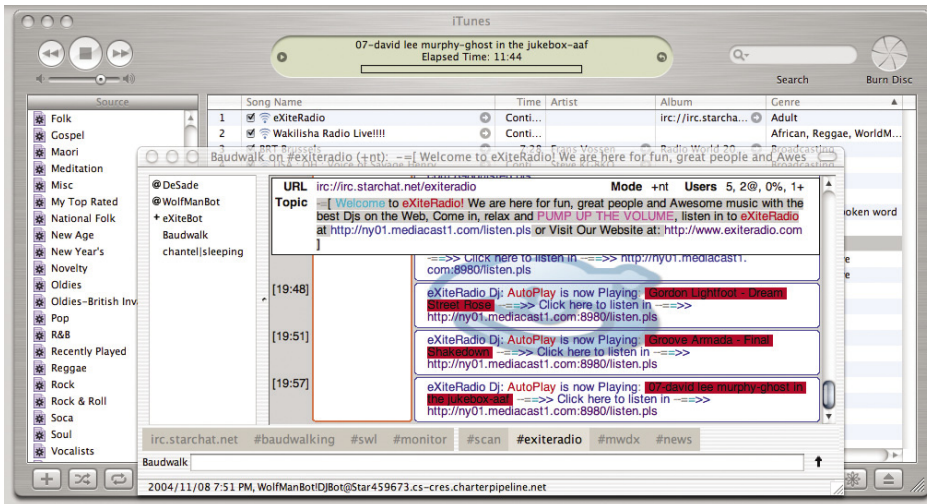
Instant Messaging

These snappy little software programs were originally designed to do just one thing. You could tell when another person signed onto the Internet and could engage in a keyboard "chat" with that person. Feedback is immediate and positive, without the delays of e-mail and frustration of not knowing if the mail recipient had read the latest message sent.

Marketing pressures and software designers have added everything but the kitchen sink to



Trillian, for Windows, offers a Basic and Pro version of their software that connects to multiple instant messaging services in one application. Mac users have a similar product, Fire, available to users of OS X 10.2 or higher. See the text for more details.



A variant on two-way messaging in IRC is to use an automated program such as done here by #exciteradio. Their Starchat chat room, shown in ChatZilla, shows the song being played by Apple's iTunes at the stated time. The Firefox browser, the plugin ChatZilla and iTunes are available for the Windows platform as well.

the current generation IM programs. News and sports headlines, weather, stock quotes, audio and video messaging, conference or chat rooms, links to e-mail applications, advertisements... the features are endless.

IM programs typically do one-on-one short messaging. Are you and a friend elsewhere doing some listening while sharing notes of what's heard on a frequency? Did the six-meter band open with Sporadic-E to a place far away? Is your friend busy working on the computer in another software program and you want to attract his or her attention amongst the pile of windows on their screen? Perhaps you are in the same community, and the scanner has come alive due to some activity? What's the phone number? Are you free for lunch?

Virtually all IM programs can be set to beep, squeak, honk, or play the national anthem (not really, I made up that last option...) when a message arrives on station. For someone who cannot pay close attention to the IM window for the occasional words of wisdom, the user-selected noisemaker can be helpful to turn attention to the computer screen.

The most popular of the IM programs are AOL's AIM and ICQ, Yahoo! Messenger, and Microsoft's Messenger. But there are other IM programs out there that are not so well known, and some of these may be a better choice once you look at your needs. Perhaps there are only a few officials with ham licenses involved in managing a county's Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). For security purposes, perhaps a group may select an IM program that has no file transfer capabilities within it or they may step up to an industrial strength IM program like Bantu.

Look at these alternative software applications:

- Bantu (Win)** - <http://corp.bantu.com/> (corporate product)
- Excite's Private Messenger** - http://www1.excite.com/home/messenger/messenger_overview/
- Jabber (Win)** - <http://www.jabber.com/>

- Odigo (Win)** - <http://www.odigo.org/>
- PeopleLink** - <http://www.peoplelink.com/> - corporate product, for behind firewall.

What do you do when you have friends on different IM networks? The solution is an IM aggregator. Rather than launch up to four or five different programs, taking up display screen real estate and memory resources, a single application "talks" to several networks. Generally, these types of programs do messaging only.

- Fire (Mac)** - <http://epicware.com/> - AOL, ICQ, MSN, Yahoo! and Jabber
- Gaim (Win, Mac, Linux, BSD)** - <http://gaim.sourceforge.net/> - AIM, ICQ, MSN, Yahoo!, IRC, Jabber, Gadu-Gadu, and Zephyr
- Kopete (Linux)** - <http://kopete.kde.org/> - supports AIM, ICQ, MSN, Yahoo, Jabber, IRC, Novell GroupWise Messenger, Lotus Same-Time, and more
- PalTalk (Win)** - <http://www.paltalk.com/> - AOL, Yahoo and MSN
- Pexit (Win, Mac, Linux and Unix)** - <http://www.pexit.com/> - "all the popular networks"
- Trillian (Win)** - <http://www.trillian.cc/> - AIM, ICQ, MSN, Yahoo! and IRC

The programs identified as operating on the Mac do so on OS X 10.2 and higher.

In all probability, in a hobby environment you have friends and acquaintances on most of the popular consumer-oriented IM programs. If

one were to ask, I would probably suggest looking at Trillian (Win) and Fire (Mac) as starting points. An aggregate program focuses on messaging and the extra features that bloat some of the individual programs disappear from view.

A Matter of Control

Some persons you ask to join you on an IM program will decline. Reasons offered include citing a nuisance value, opening the computer to virus attacks, and unwanted "visits" from persons unknown seeking to open a conversation that may quickly dissolve into something tasteless.

I contend that if a computer user perceives a need or want to communicate directly and quickly with a few friends, such as illustrated earlier, there is little or no reason to avoid using the "proper" IM application.

Consider these ideas to eliminate nuisances. Sign up for a Web mail-based e-mail account that can serve as a throwaway address. Use this throwaway address when signing up for an IM account, and keep your home or personal e-mail address close to the vest (family et al).

Internet Relay Chat

IRC stands for Internet Relay Chat. IRC is a multi-user, multichannel chat system that is run on a network of computers that may well be scattered all over the world. People can type messages to each other in real time. Each user has a nickname (nick) and converses with other users in either public channels (chat rooms) or in private message areas.

There are a number of different networks, but the radio-related chat rooms – the focus of this column – seem to settle on less than a handful of providers.

The well-known radio-related chat rooms operate with a minimal set of rules established by the chat room organizers who keep order. Common sense and courtesy are the keys to the chat rooms. You will not find the chaos and mayhem that characterizes the chat areas on the large Internet access providers (e.g., AOL, MSN and others).

IRC Software

Software solutions for IRC are relatively easy to use for Windows and Mac users, and are either low-cost, shareware or free. Mozilla and

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Firefox browser users have an extension plug-in option, Chatzilla, that works quite well, in my opinion. The Windows platform is dominated by a UK program, mIRC, and Pirc is a second; for Mac, Ircle is often-mentioned, but I prefer AkwaIRC. Look at these and select the one you like:

AkwaIRC (Mac) - <http://akwairc.online.fr/>
Chatzilla (browser plug-in) - <http://www.mozilla.org/projects/rt-messaging/chatzilla/>
HydraIRC (Win) - <http://www.hydrairc.com/>
Ircle (Mac) - <http://www.ircle.com/>
mIRC (Win) - <http://www.mirc.co.uk/>
Pirc (Win) - <http://www.pircchat.com/>
Snak (Mac) - <http://www.snak.com/>
Visual IRC (Win) - <http://www.visualirc.net/>
Xchat (Unix) - <http://xchat.org/>

If you are using a third-party computer when traveling, in a library, or on rental, most of the IRC networks also offer a Java-based user interface accessible through the installed browser. The access is immediate and no software installation is required, but system response may be a bit slower and all IRC features may not be available. Nevertheless, you can get to many chat rooms with just a Web browser.

IRC Networks

In the past few years I have found radio- and communication-related chat rooms on five networks. Clearly, there are more networks, and a search in the search engine of your choice will find more networks. As a starting point, you may like to browse these networks and look through the available chat rooms:

Chatnet - <http://www.chatnet.org/>
EFnet - <http://www.efnet.net/>
Slashnet - <http://www.slashnet.org/>
Starchat - <http://www.starchat.net/>
ZiRC - <http://www.zirc.org/>

IRC Chat Rooms

What chat rooms are available? There are quite a few to start with. I may show up in #swl – note the leading pound sign – almost any time outside normal work hours and put in an appearance in #cybershortwave during the live shows of Big Steve Cole (<http://www.dkosmedia.com>) and Dave Kirby, N1DK (<http://www.n1dk.com/>) that air on Live 365 (<http://www.live365.com/>), and usually monitor our own chat room #Baudwalking. If you see Baudwalk in the list of chat room attendees, that's us. Say hello!

Try these chat rooms. If you know of other chat rooms that fall into our circle of interest, please do tell us. Here is a starting grid:

#swl - irc.starchat.net/#swl - One of the oldest chat rooms that I know of, this one dates back to the ANARC SWL Net days of the late 1990s. See N1DK's history on the shortwave listener's net. This room is alive 24/7 although activity and response time slows during the working hours, mostly east coast North America. See a specific help page at http://trsc.com/irc_swl.html for

supplemental directions that should make software installation and configuration easy to understand.

#cybershortwave - irc.starchat.net/#cybershortwave - Originally supporting the ANARC SWL Net, it now comes alive every two weeks when N1DK does a live show on Sunday mornings with a combination of music, radio, and fun. All are welcome. The chat sessions during Big Steve Cole's weekly Saturday night "Different Kind of Oldies" show also takes up occupancy here; if you like Doo Wop and music of the '40s, '50s and '60s, you can't do better than tune to this show. Cole airs repeats of the show during the week, but without the live interaction in the chat room.

#monitor - irc.zirc.org/#monitor - This chat room changed networks in the summer of 2004 due to some technical difficulties, and now has found a home on ZiRC. Whereas #swl tends towards more broadcast listening, it appears to me that #monitor has an active group of utility monitors. I see discussions on military and coded transmissions. The chat room organizers have accompanying chat rooms of #airband, #milcomm and #satcomm, but when I have visited I have not seen any traffic. There is a nice touch here: the #monitor room is also repeated on Starchat (irc.starchat.net/#monitor), which makes it easier for users with IRC software that logs onto only one network at a time.

#cqdx - irc.radiochat.org - As a radio amateur active on the HF bands chasing DX, undoubtedly you have heard of the term "DX cluster." It is an over-the-air packet radio network system that displays "callouts" of stations worked and heard. The "spotting" of the frequency, mode, date and time gives instant information to other hams on the packet radio network. This #cqdx chat room is an Internet reflection of what is seen at a packet terminal. Frankly, it was rather fascinating to watch during the two CQ World-Wide Contests in late fall. Data just flew by the window at a high rate of speed.

In addition to the instant feedback and alerting to special events as described earlier, the roundtable nature of the chat rooms is useful in day to day monitoring. A number of years ago, ye scribe heard a bandsweeping noise in 60 m. It was destroying the otherwise normally very good daily reception of Ghana on 4915 kHz. Asking others in the #swl chat room to listen, within an hour we all knew that the pulsing noise was heard in Brazil, the Netherlands, South Africa, Norway, Canada and around the eastern half of the USA. Internet research showed that the interference was low-powered vertical polarized signals from New Jersey-based transmitters, measuring ocean wave heights at short distances out to sea. (Publicity soon forced some reengineering and reduction in bandwidth of these signals.)

What's the point here? The rapid gathering of data and sharing of notes among all listeners would have just about been impossible by any other means. After circulating the information by other delivery mechanisms, several persons wrote and said (in so many words) "I heard that noise but I didn't know where to find more information." If those listeners had kept an eye on the #swl chat room... You get the picture. Undoubtedly similar stories can be told by users in other chat rooms.

Getting More Help

Does IRC still look like it is too confusing? There are a few Web sites for users just starting out in IRC. Look at these pages for assistance:

#Beginner - <http://www.ircbeginner.com/>
Chatting on the Net - <http://www.newircusers.com/>
IRC Beginner - <http://www.beginner.pro-room.com/>
IRC Help - <http://www.irchelp.org/>

Quickies

Grab your calendar and a red pen. Circle the dates of March 11 and 12, 2005, and make plans to attend the 18th edition of the USA-based Winter SWL Festival. The gathering of the clan is perhaps the largest convention gathering of long-, medium- and shortwave listeners and scanner enthusiasts in the world. It is not too early to plan ahead, and watch for the 2005 registration form to be posted on <http://swlfest.com/> in December or so. You can sign up for a news feed alert as well.

In Closing

The purpose of this edition of *Baudwalking* was to review a few easy-to-use alternative means of communications on the Internet other than e-mail. E-mail continues to be plagued by spurious spam messages from persons and companies clogging bandwidth and wasting our time. Sometimes there may be a better way to communicate.

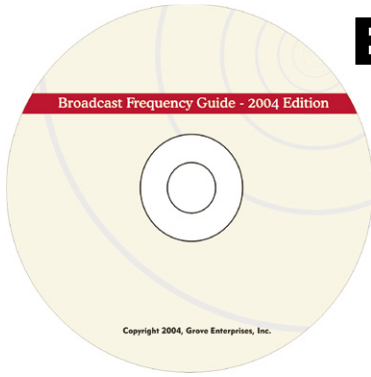
By controlling access to yourself, instant messaging can be a useful tool for the occasional short message to and from a friend. If your contacts use a variety of IM programs, there are all-in-one solutions to communicate with different IM sources at once.

Whereas IM programs are designed for one-on-one messaging, somewhat akin to a radio amateur net, a controlled Internet Relay Chat channel is fun or useful for ongoing conversations 24/7 among a group of like-minded persons. In the IRC program setup, mark yourself "invisible" and the stray broadcast messages from unwanted intruders will not show up on your screen. Set the "logging" on to see what happens when you are away from the computer. There may be a listening tip or something interesting found on the 'net, that scrolled off the screen in your absence.

See you next time. Topics will include blogs and XML/RSS news feeds. These are useful tools for current information. Comments or questions? Is there a topic you would like us to address? Please e-mail tomsundstrom@monitoringtimes.com.

¹ My first computer, a 48k Apple II with 3 drives, an optional 16k memory card and CP/M card, an Epson MX-80 printer, green screen monitor and Hayes 300 bps modem was a powerful beast indeed. Times have changed. A Palm T3 PDA gets a daily workout.

² One source of history is Wikipedia, a multi-language free-content encyclopedia, at <http://en.wikipedia.org/>, with more than 382,000 pages on the server.



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Whether you are just starting to explore the broadcast frequency spectrum or you are a seasoned veteran, the Grove Radio/Television Broadcast Directory should be a part of your radio library.



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How to Beat the Sunspot Cycle Blues

Several hundred years ago astronomers discovered that activity on the surface of the sun, which they could see as sun spots, was cyclical in nature. It shouldn't have been much of a surprise since everything else associated with living in this solar system is cyclical. That cycle lasts roughly 11 years.

The reason this is of interest to radio hobbyists is that the sun spot cycle directly effects how good (or bad) HF band conditions are. It's not really a simple sine wave pattern, because there are highs and lows within the overall 11 year cycle. These smaller ups and downs can last a few days or just a few minutes and are also related to seasonal propagation effects.

It's generally considered that we are at or near the bottom of the current cycle which is known as Cycle 23. It can be a frustrating time to be in the radio hobby unless you have some alternatives. Here are a few for beginners to consider.

1) Move to Another Band

While the low solar cycle is not supporting the HF bands, it leaves the VHF and UHF bands available for exploration. The 2 meter band (144-148 MHz) is known to most as an FM band. It's the realm of repeaters for Handi-Talkies and mobile operation. But, it's also a DX band. With an all-mode transceiver you'll hear operations in single-sideband (SSB), CW (Morse Code) and digital modes. You can monitor Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) contacts (now *that's* DX!), International Space Station contacts, amateur radio satellites and more.

Another less explored band is 6 meters. From 50-54 MHz this band allows CW, SSB, AM, FM and digital modes. There are also re-



MHz Networks downlink facilities in northern Virginia. This is what you need when programming mostly international fare for a DTV station. (Courtesy Normal Hill)



Better than a Bose. This Cambridge SoundWorks Radio 88CD gives you outstanding audio and decent FM reception. Hey, you get the CD player too! (Courtesy: JR.com)

peaters operating on this band. Openings on 6 meters allow substantially longer range coverage and happen at the same time as TV and FM radio DX, because the 6 meter band is very close to the FM band (88-108 MHz) which is between channels 6 and 7 on the VHF-TV band.

Most scanners don't tune these bands in SSB; among the full coverage receivers capable of tuning in these bands are the AOR-8200 MK III-B, the Icom R-8500-02, and the Drake R-8B. If you're a ham, check out the new rigs such as the Icom IC-706 MK II-G, Kenwood TS-2000, and the Yaesu FT897D, which cover these frequencies in all modes and also offer cross-band (transmit on one band and receive on another) operation. Of these, the Icom-706 MKII-G is the least expensive at just under \$800.

2) Get Serious About Those Antenna Projects

Don't wait until conditions improve to start thinking about putting up new antennas. Now's the time to do a little research on the kind of antenna or antennas you need to round out your listening post, order the materials, and put it together.

How about a great all-band antenna for HF? Check out the plans for the antenna in the October 2000 *Getting Started* column in *MT*. This antenna is easy to build, very inexpensive,

Need to improve reception on your scanner? How about an attic mounted omni-directional antenna? (Courtesy Grove Enterprises)

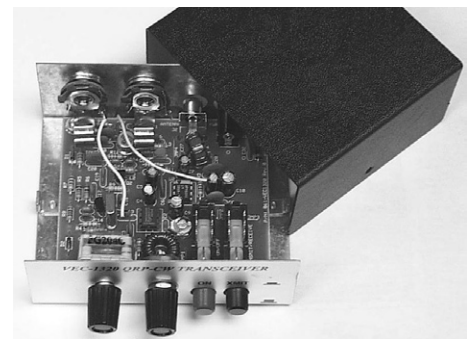


gives outstanding reception on all HF bands, decent reception on AM and is a great transmitting antenna in the event you decide to get your license.

How about a great VHF/UHF omni-directional, multi-band antenna you can put in your attic? Or how about a VHF/UHF beam antenna on a rotator to explore the farthest reaches of your area? Check out the ones offered in the Grove catalog or at your local Radio Shack.

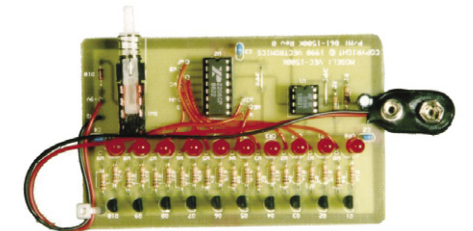
3) Build Something

Part of the fun of the radio hobby is learning new things and becoming familiar with the building blocks of electronics. One way to do that is with any one of the low priced kits available from Vectronics at <http://www.vectronics.com>. They offer a wide array of kits ranging from the Counter Surveillance Monitor Kit for \$19.95 to an FM stereo transmitter kit for \$34.95.



Build this low power (QRP) transceiver and work the world on 20 meters for \$29.95. (Courtesy: Vectronics)

For the real beginner there's a comprehensive soldering course designed to teach the very basics of soldering. The kit sells for \$29.95 and includes instruction on theory as well as a PC



Want to learn the basics of soldering and electronics? Try this soldering course kit for \$29.95. (Courtesy: Vectronics)

board and components for practice.

If you're more experienced you might enjoy building their QRP (low power) transceiver kit for 80, 40, 30 or 20 meters. This one watt rig includes an operating crystal for the band of your choice. They're \$59.95 each.

4) Discover Something Out-of-this-World

Satellites aren't bothered by the solar cycle. Operating in the VHF and UHF bands, they're strictly dependent on line-of-sight. Equipment to actually work another station through the satellites is fairly complicated, but there's no trick to simply monitoring them. All you need is a radio which can tune the VHF and UHF bands (see above) and a modest receiving antenna.

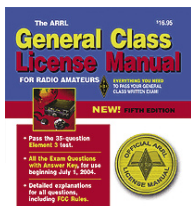
Details are found at <http://www.amsat.org>. Once there, click on the button about getting started in satellites. There are a number of well written articles for the AMSAT beginner here. Print them out for future reading. For a list of all satellites, operational or not, go to <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/status.php>. One of the fun things to do is monitor the International Space Station (ISS). A list of ISS frequencies is found at the end of this column.

Information on these satellites changes all the time, so having the most current information is crucial. You can subscribe to a number of AMSAT e-mail newsletters which deliver this information to you each week for free. The latest updates on operational satellites and their frequencies are found here. To sign up, go to this web site:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/maillist/maillist.php#lists>

5) Take the License Challenge

It's easier than ever to get on the air and operate your own amateur radio station. With inexpensive, used transceivers on the market and the slower speed Morse code requirement, there's no reason you shouldn't try for your ham license. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has everything you need: license study manuals, Morse code study cassettes and CDs. The manuals are under \$20 and the code study course is just \$14.95. Call them at 800-277-5289 or order on-line at <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/>. Exams are given year round in every area of the country on a regular basis. If you've been around the radio hobby any length of time, you might actually already know enough to pass the entry level exam for the Technician class license. To check your own "radio IQ" go to <http://www.qrz.com/testing.html>.



Take advantage of the bad band conditions: get your amateur radio license and be ready for the good times ahead! Choose the entry level no-code Technician license or get it all with the General Class license and code study. (Courtesy ARRL)

❖ MT Readers Write

A number of readers have written me regarding other articles I have written for *MT*. Since they are of interest to all, I'll answer them here.

Looking for Zenith

Steve Flynn read a review I did in the March '99 *MT* comparing the Zenith Z213 table radio with the Bose Wave radio. He asks, "Do you know if the Zenith radio is still being produced and which major electronics outlet may sell them?"

Steve, that model was replaced by the Zenith Z2000 which included a built-in CD player and has itself since been discontinued. I have not seen it available anywhere for several years. However, for the same price as the Z2000, you can get a Cambridge SoundWorks Model 88CD (see photo). It's similar to the Kloss Model 88 which I reviewed in the July '99 *MT* though this model has a CD player built-in. It's a superior radio, totally equal to the Bose Wave (I actually like it better!). You can check it out at <http://www.jr.com> in the category of "Cambridge Clock Radios."

Cambridge SoundWorks sells their Model 730 on their web site <http://www.hifi.com> or call them at 800-367-4434. Check out the specials and the returns departments where these radios are sometimes deeply discounted. I've seen the Model 88CD reduced to \$180 and the 730 (no CD player) for as little as \$150. Both are terrific bargains compared to the Bose Wave radio. If you're "just looking," call and ask for a free catalog.

MHz Networks Independent TV

Norm Hill from Arlington, VA, read the piece I did on digital TV last year in *MT*. I had mentioned MHz Networks which is based in the Washington, D.C. area and is an independent public TV station. He was one of the original founders of the channel and is now retired. He notes that the channel began in 1972 as an educational channel and went through a number of changes before settling on its current international programming format. News broadcasts from England, France, and Germany are broadcast everyday in English and native languages. It operates a second DTV channel which retransmits Russian TV programming most of the day. Two other DTV channels remain on the air with only the MHz

ID card and may be used for future niche international programming. Norm sent along the photo of the MHz Network's dish farm at their studios.

Sloppy Engineering

Doug Griffiths, N2POW, from Schenectady, NY, adds his comments on the CCRadio Plus. He complains that when a long wire antenna is hooked up to the radio it picks up Radio Japan on the AM band. He also believes that one of the problems on the AM band today is that station engineers aren't properly observing their license requirements such as reducing power at night or signing off at all, having the FCC approved antenna pattern and other poor operating procedures such as over driving the audio.

And, finally, a correction. In the October issue I inadvertently garbled Paul Marcum's call sign. It's AC4ZQ. Sorry, Paul!

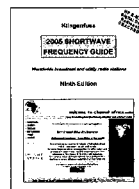
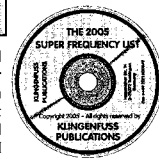
Monitor the International Space Station (ISS)

Voice and Packet Downlink: 145.80 (Worldwide)
Voice Uplink: 144.49 for Regions 2 and 3 (The Americas, and the Pacific)
Voice Uplink: 145.20 for Region 1 (Europe, Central Asia and Africa)
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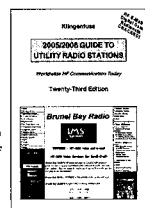


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Q. Without my having to drag an expensive ohmmeter up on the roof, what is another simple instrument I can use to check the continuity of the coax for opens and shorts? (Michael Herman, NY, NY)

A. Sometimes the easiest answer is the most elusive. Remember, you either want the line to have infinite (or extremely high) resistance between the center conductor and the shield, or full continuity (short circuit) from end to end of the center conductor and the shield to indicate that they are not broken between the two ends of the line.

You could simply attach a buzzer in series with a battery; when the circuit is closed by a short, it will sound, and when it's an open, it won't! You can also do this with a series of two AA cells, a 470 ohm resistor and an LED for visual indication.

There are also inexpensive ICs available from Radio Shack that will give an audible tone when connected to a speaker or earphone. Again, you would simply make sure the circuit is oscillating, then substitute the two probe leads for the switch.

Q. A major ham radio manufacturer is about to come out with an HF rig which has an output of 400 watts – four times as powerful as most standard ham transmitters. Will there be much practical advantage to the additional 300 watts? On the receiving end, how much real difference is there between 100 watts, 400 watts and 1000 watts? Is it worth shelling out an extra kilobuck or two for this rig or an linear amplifier? (Ken Cohen, NI3F, Bethesda, MD)

A. These are excellent questions. The fact of the matter is that when you quadruple your power, the receiving station will see his S-meter rise one S unit (6 dB). Going from 100 watts to 1000 watts would make a 10 dB improvement (about 1-1/2 S units). If your signal is right on the threshold of reception, it will make a noticeable difference. If the signal is already in the clear, it will make no difference whatsoever because your receiver will simply automatically reduce its sensitivity to accommodate the increased strength (automatic gain control – AGC).

As a practical matter, once you have 100 watts or so, concentrate on antenna gain, not increasing power. That's why there are so many 100-watt rigs!

Q. I am experiencing "RF in the shack" with my HF transceiver. My earth ground is about 15 feet away. A friend suggested using an "artificial ground"; what is this? (Brent Davenport, N7NBC)

A. Nice call, Brent; I hope you don't work for CBS!

An artificial ground is nothing more than a resonant length of wire attached to the chassis of your transceiver; it acts like a counterpoise element to avoid SWR-related RF in the shack. You would need roughly 1/4 wavelength of insulated wire for each band you operate, and it can be either run in a random fashion around the room, or even coiled loosely.

An artificial antenna shouldn't really be necessary if you have a resonant antenna system, or any antenna system with a properly-adjusted transmatch (tuner).

Another possibility is to run a cable to a good, moist, earth ground. A heavy-gauge wire, or the braid of a length of coax should work fine. A good ground consists of at least one, and preferably two 8-ft. rods separated by about 10 feet, driven into moist earth.

Yet a third possibility, one which I've never tried, is to connect only the center conductor of the grounding coax between the ground rod and the rig grounding terminal, but solder a 0.01 microfarad, 600 volt capacitor between the shield and center conductor at the top, and another at the bottom. I'd be interested in hearing from readers who have tried this.

And finally, at least one manufacturer, MFJ Enterprises, makes a tuner for an artificial ground, allowing a random wire to be resonated on different bands.

But if you are using a properly-tuned transmatch (antenna tuner), such gimmicks shouldn't be necessary.

Q. What do the terms "digital," "WFM" and "NFM" mean in scanners? (Robert Wilkinson, Contentional, OH)

A. In normal scanner parlance, *digital* refers both to computer control of the frequencies (trunking) for spectrum economy, and scrambling speech for security. While it is unlawful

in the U.S. to listen to, or even possess a scanner that will decode encrypted communications, there is one exception: the new APCO Project 25 (P-25) system.

A growing number of civilian and federal agencies are now using P-25, and although they can select an encryption level that no outsider can decode, most of them choose the lowest level of digitization which can be received by the new scanners that have P-25 decode capabilities.

At VHF and UHF, there are two dominant types of modulation (putting sound or data on a signal): frequency modulation (FM) and amplitude modulation (AM). Aircraft communications use AM; terrestrial services use FM (some hams use other modes).

Because music is sonically so complex, its signal takes up a wider chunk of spectrum, typically 150-200 kHz, and so is called *WFM*. Voice comms are much simpler, with less frequency range, and can be narrowed down for spectrum efficiency (*NFM*).

If you try to listen to a narrow FM signal on a WFM receiver (FM broadcasting receiver), the recovered audio will be very weak, and if several adjacent-channel signals come on simultaneously, you would hear them all at once, because the receiver's selectivity is very broad so it can process the wider music bandwidths.

On the other hand, if you try to listen to WFM music or speech on an NFM scanner, it will be distorted, or you may hear nothing at all because the modulation occupies a wider amount of spectrum than the narrow scanner filters can process.

Q. Is it permissible to listen to an AM/FM/shortwave portable radio in a commercial aircraft? And if not, why not? (Zach Braddock, email)

A. It is against Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Rules and Regulations, but not because of signal reception. It's because radiation from the oscillator in your radio may interfere with the aircraft's crucial radionavigation system.

Questions or tips sent to Ask Bob, c/o MT are printed in this column as space permits. If you desire a prompt, personal reply, mail your questions along with a self-addressed stamped envelope (no telephone calls, please) in care of MT, or e-mail to bobgrove@monitoringtimes.com. (Please include your name and address.) The current Ask Bob is now online at our website:
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Gary Webbenhurst

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garywebbenhurst@monitoringtimes.com

1

I know that my readers faithfully read this column first, so here is an idea for December 31st. If you don't go out for New Year's Eve, it is a great night for listening to the scanner.

The closer to midnight, the better the action. I just mute the TV program and listen to a pair of scanners on the fire and police bands. Think of the money you save by staying home! Can you say "new radio"?

2

The recent poll of *MT* readers made a clear statement. The readers want more frequencies! Are you reading every page in every issue? Because *MT* does publish literally hundreds, make that thousands of frequencies.

When you discover some that interest you, make a photocopy of that page, or transfer the information to your computer database of frequencies. The HF frequencies are more universal, and I would hope that SWLers use the center section of the *Shortwave Guide* to their full advantage.

If you subscribe to *MT*, you should also get the digital, online, downloadable edition of *MT Express* for only an additional \$11.95 (\$19.95 to non-subscribers). This electronic format has several advantages. It arrives early, you get the benefits of active web links, and it is in full color! It is very slick! Go to <http://www.grove-ent.com> or call 1-800-438-8155 for details

3

The long anticipated deadline of narrowband technology re-farming has arrived. Government VHF users must be in compliance by January 1, 2005. This means two things.

First, there are hundreds of new 7.5 kHz splinter frequencies now in use. The old, full 15 kHz spacing now exists with a new channel between each of the old allocations.

For example, fire allocations that looked like this: 154.160, 154.175, 154.190, 154.205, etc. will now look like this: 154.1600, 154.1675, 154.1750, 154.1825, 154.1900, 154.1975, 154.2050, etc. Your old radio probably does not have these 7.5 kHz steps. You can program something close and hear the signals, but it may sound unnatural because your radio was not designed for this new narrowband spacing. I have been disappointed listening to the new narrow spectrum using my old scanners. ATTENTION, Uniden, and Radio Shack (GRE): get with the new channel spacing!

So what are the new channel assignments in your area? Read on.

4

OK, so you did not get a new Scout™ Frequency Finder for Christmas. Well, let's start 2005 out right, and make a new sweep of the local bands you wish to monitor. The *Bright Ideas* column does not post lists

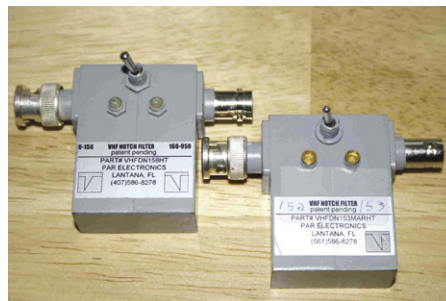
of towns and frequencies. Rather, I intend to make it easier for you to find your own local frequencies. That is the fun part of the hobby!

Keep in mind there are frequencies in use that have never been published anywhere. They may not even be legally authorized by the FCC. (Remember the mess in Nevada?) SWAT frequencies are rarely published for obvious reasons.

To begin a new search, you can do as I have and create a template in your word processor. Start with a new document, and hit the enter key a couple of times. Now go to the Tables feature, and select Insert (or create.) Start with six columns and 25 rows. Columns can be labeled: Receive (RX), PL tone (CTCSS), Transmit (TX), PL tone, and the Agency Name, or use. The sixth column can be left blank for your imagination to fill in later. Using your mouse, you can adjust the width of the columns. The first four can be fairly narrow, just wide enough for the eight spaces of a frequency. The Agency column needs to be much wider. For the first frequency, you can start with the first VHF Low, VHF High, UHF, 700-900 public safety frequency allocation. Figure 1 is a sample of my VHF high table.

Don't forget about the new VHF 7.5 kHz narrowband allocations. For UHF it is 6.25 kHz.

You can go back to the top of the page and give it a title like "Public Safety Frequencies in use in Spokane, Washington."



OK, you spent an hour at the computer, and listed all the possible VHF High frequencies in the RX column up through, say, 162.000 MHz. Anything above this is probably, but not always, a US Government agency assignment. Now set your scanner or fancy receiver to scan or search in that band by sections, such as 150.700 to 155.995. Later you can search 156.000 through 162.000. Be patient. You need to sit on this search for several days at

5

varying times. The best time to catch some activity are usually in the early morning, when people, and vehicles, go into service; again at their lunch hour, "I'll meet you at the steak house"; and 4-7pm when units go off duty or dispatchers make pager tests or announcements. This is particularly true of rural volunteer fire departments.

For me, half the fun of the monitoring hobby is finding these new, sometimes undocumented frequencies. Sometimes I find a new signal from a distant county or city because a new, powerful repeater or tower location has made the signals stronger enough for you to monitor them.

The best scanner for this type of search is the Pro 92 or the Pro 2067. In fact, most of the newer scanners will decode the PL tone or DCS. As you find or confirm the frequencies in use in your area, just begin filling in your database table.

Now that you have a new, accurate list of frequencies, why not send them to the appropriate *MT* column writer, such as *Scanning Report*, *Fed Files*, *MilCom*, or *Boats, Planes and Trains*?

As you search through the bands, you might find birdies which you can lock out. However, there may be some major interference which you need block out entirely. I find these howling intermods a real annoyance. I use PAR 152 and PAR 158 MHz notch filters. These use in line BNC couplings, and are easily installed (or removed) between your radio and your antenna. If your trouble emanates from the 162 MHz NOAA stations, PAR has a filter for that, too. Available at Grove Enterprises 1-800-438-8155.

My annual statement:

Except for Grove Enterprises, I have no business association with any vendor, nor stock in any company. If I discuss, or promote a product, I usually have a photo to verify that I bought one and use it. If it is a turkey, well, I just wasted my dollars, and hopefully saved you from wasting yours.

I work hard to ferret out new websites about radios or related topics. I write the column several weeks in advance before it hits your mailbox. Sometimes the URLs change or even disappear. Use several search engines for complete coverage of topics you are researching. Happy New Year!

Public Safety Frequencies for your town, your state

RX	PL Tone	TX	PL Tone	Agency or use	Comments
150.995	107.2	153.770	unknown	Lincoln County Fire Dist. 2,5,7	Very busy
151.0025	123.0	154.1525	162.2	Cherry County fire main dispatch	Net at 7pm
151.010					
151.0175					

Scanning in 2005

As we start a new year it's worth taking some time to reflect on our hobby and consider the effect of changes that are occurring in radio monitoring. Technology, regulation and security are all having an effect on what we can hear, but as the French say, *plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose* (the more things change the more they stay the same).

❖ A Future for Scanning?

Dan,

About two years ago, I got interested in scanning after a bit of an absence from the hobby. With shortwave radio stations disappearing at an alarming rate, I looked for another aspect of the radio hobby to entertain and inform.

Unfortunately, it now looks like scanning could become a thing of the past. With more and more law-enforcement agencies encrypting their communications, is there hope for life on the action bands? I know there is ham traffic – I got my general-class license last year – air traffic, railroads, etc., but the police bands are fascinating and draw many into this exciting hobby.

Let me know what you think. It's just sad to see so many forms of radio seemingly fading away. Thanks.

– Chris in California

Although this isn't a shortwave column, I would encourage you to take another look at shortwave listening. As with many other hobbies, digital has come to longwave reception. Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) is a new broadcasting standard for signals below 30 MHz and holds out some hope for shortwave listening in the years to come.

Back to scanning – I don't think it will become a thing of the past. Let's take a quick look at some of the previous challenges faced by our hobby:

In the early 1980s we were afraid of being locked out as public safety agencies began to operate in the 800 MHz band. Electronic experimenters responded by designing and building *down-converters* that allowed our VHF scanners to hear 800 MHz signals. Eventually manufacturers began to market scanners capable of tuning 800 MHz directly.

In the mid 1990s we started to become concerned about this new thing called *trunking* that would make it impossible for a scanner

listener to follow an entire conversation. Computer programmers responded by writing custom software that could decode trunking signals and automatically tune a receiver, allowing a listener to follow these new systems. It took a little more work and some additional equipment, but it became possible for nearly everyone to trunk track. Eventually manufacturers began to market scanners capable of automatically monitor trunked systems.

Just a few years ago there was real concern that the new APCO Project 25 digital standards would mean the end of scanning. Today we have a choice of several consumer receivers capable of decoding APCO 25 audio and tracking these fully digital systems.

In each of these cases a solution was found and the hobby continued. Now we are faced with public safety agencies moving to encryption. Because the restriction now is as much legal as technical, the hobby may have to pursue a non-technical solution. We may have to press the case in the court of public opinion that agencies should be open and accountable to their citizens, and that encryption goes against those goals.

Whichever way that effort may go, certainly most agencies will never encrypt their traffic, whether for cost or other reasons. I think there will be quite a bit to hear for quite some time to come.

❖ Bristol, Tennessee

In 2000, Sullivan County in northeastern Tennessee partnered with the cities of Bristol, Kingsport and Bluff City to install an \$11 million Motorola trunk radio system across the county. The system was operated "mixed-mode" with both analog and digital voice traffic.

In November of 2004 the Bristol police department finally switched over to all-digital operation after a delay of several months. Unfortunately for scanner listeners, according to reports all of their transmissions are now encrypted. The police department had gone to the city finance board to press for additional funding for encrypted radios, citing security concerns.

The Bristol Police Department handles about 50,000 calls each year, serving a population of just over

25,000 residents. You may be familiar with the city as the home of the Bristol Motor Speedway, a busy tourist attraction hosting numerous races on their half-mile oval.

The Bristol Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services are still operating unencrypted and in analog, although they may move to digital in the future.

The county-wide system is a Motorola Type II network transmitting on the following frequencies: 855.9875, 856.2625, 856.7375, 857.2625, 857.7375, 858.2625, 858.7375, 859.2625, 859.7375, 860.2625 and 860.7375 MHz. Three repeater sites provide coverage, with one on top of Holston Mountain in Blountville, another on top of Bays Mountain in Kingsport and a third at the Sullivan Justice Center in Blountville.

Decimal	Hex	Description
16400	401	Bristol Police Dispatch
16432	403	Bristol Police Supervisors
16464	405	Bristol Police Patrol
16496	407	Bristol Police Tactical 1
16528	409	Bristol Police Tactical 2
16560	40B	Bristol Police Tactical 3
16592	40D	Bristol Police Detectives
16656	411	Bristol Animal Control
16752	417	Bristol Fire Dispatch
16784	419	Bristol Fire 2
16816	41B	Bristol Fire 3
16848	41D	Bristol Fire Mutual Aid
16880	41F	Bristol Fire Rescue
16912	421	Bristol Fire Inspectors
16944	423	Bristol Fire Training
16976	425	Bristol Fire Command
32432	7EB	Kingsport Police Patrol 1
32464	7ED	Kingsport Police Patrol 2
32496	7EF	Kingsport Police Traffic
32528	7F1	Kingsport Police Detective 1
32560	7F3	Kingsport Police Detective 2
32592	7F5	Kingsport Police Records
32624	7F7	Kingsport Police Special Operations
32784	801	Kingsport Fire East 1
32816	803	Kingsport Fire East 2
32848	805	Kingsport Fire West 1
32880	807	Kingsport Fire West 2
32912	809	Kingsport Fire Central 1
32944	80B	Kingsport Fire Central 2
32976	80D	Kingsport Fire Training
33008	80F	Kingsport Fire Hazardous Materials 1
33040	811	Kingsport Fire Hazardous Materials 2
33072	813	Kingsport Fire Special Operations
48560	BDB	County Rescue (Tactical 1)
48592	BDD	County Rescue (Tactical 2)
48624	BDF	County Rescue (Tactical 3)
48656	BE1	County Rescue Hospital 1
48688	BE3	County Rescue Hospital 2



48720	BE5	County Air Medical
48752	BE7	County Rescue Dispatch 1
48784	BE9	County Rescue Dispatch 2
48816	BEB	County Rescue Dispatch 3
49264	C07	Sheriff Dispatch
49296	C09	Sheriff (Patrol)
49328	C0B	Sheriff Court Services
49360	C0D	Sheriff Detectives
49392	C0F	County Animal Control
49424	C11	Sheriff Administration
49456	C13	Sheriff Major Incident
49520	C17	Bluff City Police 1
49552	C19	Bluff City Police 2
50704	C61	Rural Fire Dispatch (Upper End)
50736	C63	Rural Fire Dispatch (Lower End)

The city of Kingsport itself is also licensed for a five-frequency conventional system fed from a single repeater on Center Street. The frequencies are 856.4875, 857.4875, 858.4875, 859.4875 and 860.4875 MHz. It's not clear from the records whether these frequencies are used as part of the Sullivan County system or are operated separately. Can anyone local to the area verify?

❖ West Chester, Pennsylvania

Just west of Philadelphia lies Chester County and the borough of West Chester. The county shares a border with both Delaware and Maryland and is home to more than 433,000 residents.

The West Chester Police Department recently completed a \$450,000 upgrade to their radio system that brought new antennas, equipment and an updated dispatch center. This update also laid the groundwork to add encryption, which is expected to be phased in over the next few years.

The system has five repeater sites, located in West Chester, East and West Bradford and Pocopson. The department receives about 20,000 calls a year.

West Chester Police have two primary frequencies in a band that may not be a common hunting ground for scanner listeners. Dispatch can be heard on 500.4125 MHz and operations are on 500.5125 MHz. These frequencies are in the normal allocation for UHF television channel 19, which is between 500 MHz and 506 MHz. Because of a shortage of public safety frequencies in the Philadelphia area, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved this "non-standard" use of unused television channel 19.

West Chester Fire can be heard in low band on 45.32 MHz and 45.56 MHz. West Chester University Police are licensed for 155.865 MHz.

❖ Chester County, Pennsylvania

The Chester County Department of Emergency Services (DES) uses a number of conventional frequencies as they handle upwards of 300,000 calls each year. The information I have isn't entirely clear about exactly how things are arranged in the county. There are a number of conventional frequencies, at least one trunk system and a block of licensed frequencies that don't appear to be in use.

These are the most popular conventional frequencies below 800 MHz:

33.86	Chester County Fire (North)
33.88	Chester County Fire (East)
33.96	Chester County Fire (South)
154.740	Chester County Police (East)
154.785	Chester County Police (Central)
155.760	Chester County Police (West)
159.600	Chester County Fire (East/Central)
159.735	Chester County Fire (West)
160.185	Chester County Fire Dispatch

In addition, Chester County operates on a number of 800 MHz frequencies from more than a dozen repeater sites. The following table lists individual conventional frequencies that are assigned for a particular purpose:

856.4625	Fire 1
856.9625	Mutual Aid 1
857.4625	Mutual Aid 2
857.9625	Police 1
858.4625	Fire 2
858.9625	Police 2
859.4625	Police/Fire 1
859.9625	Police 3
860.4625	Mobile Data Terminal
860.9625	Mobile Data Terminal

The following frequencies are operated as a trunk system on an LTR (Logic Trunked Radio) Multi-Net system:

01	866.0625
02	866.2125
03	866.6125
04	866.8625
05	868.1125
06	866.7500
07	867.3250
08	868.2625
09	860.4375
10	866.1250
11	866.3875
12	856.2375
13	857.2375
14	858.2375
15	859.2375
16	860.2375



Talkgroups:

3020	DES Dispatch
3021	DES Local
3030	DES Administration
3033	DES Tactical
3035	County Sheriff Department
3050	Police Dispatch (East)
3051	Police Dispatch (Central)
3052	Police Dispatch (West)
3060	Police Group 1 (East)
3061	Police Group 2 (East)
3062	Police Group 1 (Central)
3063	Police Group 2 (Central)
3064	Police Group 3 (Central)
3065	Police Group 4 (Central)
3066	Police Group 1 (West)
3067	Police Group 2 (West)
3068	Police Group 3 (West)
3069	Police Group 4 (West)
3070	Police Tactical (East)
3071	Police Tactical (Central)
3072	Police Tactical (West)
3074	Police Group 3 (East)
3075	Police Group 4 (East)
3080	Police Tactical 1
3081	Police Tactical 2
3082	Police Tactical 3
3083	Police Tactical 4
3084	Police Tactical 5

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- 3085 Police Tactical 6
- 3090 Police National (Patch)
- 3091 Police Information (East)
- 3092 Police Information (Central)
- 3093 Police Information (West)
- 3150 Ambulance to Chester County Hospital
- 3151 Ambulance to Paoli Memorial Hospital
- 3152 Ambulance to Brandywine Hospital
- 3153 Ambulance to Southern Chester County Medical Center
- 3154 Ambulance to Phoenixville Hospital
- 3155 Ambulance to Bryn Mawr Hospital
- 3031 Hazardous Materials
- 3032 Fire Marshal
- 3100 Dispatch (East District)
- 3101 Dispatch (Central District)
- 3102 Dispatch (West District)
- 3120 Fireground 1 (East)
- 3121 Fireground 2 (East)
- 3122 Fireground 1 (Central)
- 3123 Fireground 2 (Central)
- 3124 Fireground 1 (West)
- 3125 Fireground 2 (West)
- 3130 Fire Tactical (East)
- 3131 Fire Tactical (Central)
- 3132 Fire Tactical (West)
- 3140 Mutual Aid (All)
- 3141 Mutual Aid (East)
- 3142 Mutual Aid (East)
- 3143 Mutual Aid (Central)
- 3144 Mutual Aid (Central)
- 3145 Mutual Aid (West)
- 3146 Mutual Aid (West)
- 3222 System Mutual Aid

The FCC has also licensed the following frequencies on repeater sites in Coventryville, Oxford, Parkesburg, West Grove, Willistown and Valley Forge: 855.7375, 855.9875, 856.2375, 859.2625, 860.2625, 860.4375 and 860.4875 MHz. I don't have any talkgroup assignments to go along with these assignments, so perhaps a southeastern Pennsylvania scanner listener could send in their logs!

❖ Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

One hundred miles to the west of Chester County lies another 800 MHz system in Cumberland County. More than four years ago the county began the process of installing equipment to join the statewide *OpenSky* network and recently completed installation of the last of thirteen repeater sites.

At present only Camp Hill and Middlesex Township are on the new network – the remainder of the county continues to use their old conventional radios. Testing has been underway for quite a while, but problems continue to surface. The most recent episode took place in November when a Middlesex Township officer needed immediate assistance but was unable to get a call through on his new OpenSky radio. The dispatch center called it a “glitch” but was unable to explain exactly what caused the problem or how it might be prevented in the future. Until the problem can be positively identified and corrected, the new system will remain shut down.

❖ Macomb County, Michigan

The Macomb County Office of Emergency Management, based in Mount Clemens, is work-

ing to upgrade their radio system and eventually join the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) as a fully digital APCO Project 25 network.

Macomb County covers Detroit's north-eastern suburbs and has more than 800,000 residents. The Office of Emergency Management is currently in the process of identifying nine sites for the construction of 180-foot repeater towers to provide coverage for the entire county. Once those are in place, radio equipment will be installed and linked to a central dispatch center.

The County Sheriff currently dispatches on 460.400 MHz and uses 460.150, 460.250 and 460.875 MHz. Most county fire departments use 154.130 MHz, but you should also check 154.070 and 154.355 MHz.

The city of Warren, located in the southern part of Macomb County, already operates a Motorola Type II SmartNet from two repeater sites, one at 29900 Civic Center Boulevard and the other at 11899 Twelve Mile Road. Warren was recently awarded a \$5.8 million grant that will be used to join the county radio network. The frequencies on Warren's system are 851.4875, 852.4875, 853.4875, 854.4875, 855.4875, 856.0375 and 856.0875 MHz.

Decimal	HEX	Description
16	001	Warren Police (North Dispatch)
48	003	Warren Police (Primary Dispatch)
80	005	Centerline Police (Dispatch)
112	007	Warren Police (Detectives)
144	009	Warren Police (Traffic)
272	011	Warren Police (Special Events, simulcast on 460.150 MHz)
368	017	Warren Police (Special Ops)
432	01B	Warren Police (Surveillance 1)
464	01D	Warren Police (Surveillance 2)
496	01F	Warren Police (Surveillance 3)
528	021	Warren Police (Surveillance 4)
560	023	Warren Police (Animal Control)
592	025	Centerline Police
624	027	Centerline Police (Tactical)
688	02B	Warren Fire (Dispatch)
720	02D	Warren Fire (Fireground 1)
752	02F	Warren Fire (Fireground 2)
784	031	Warren Fire (Fireground 3)
816	033	Warren Fire (Fireground 4)
880	037	Warren Fire (Fireground 5)
976	03D	Warren Fire (Training)
1136	047	Warren Department of Public Works
1168	049	Warren Department of Public Works
1328	053	WarrenHealth Department
1680	069	Warren Parks and Recreation
1744	06D	Centerline Fire
1776	06F	Centerline Police (SWAT)
11440	2CB	Macomb County Sheriff's Department (Tactical)

❖ Shirley,



Massachusetts

Even as counties and large cities install new radio systems, smaller towns are also working to improve their own services. Sometimes relatively small changes can make a big difference. For instance, the Police Department in Shirley, Massachusetts, is installing new repeater equipment that will help complete coverage for this town of 6,000 people.

The new repeater is set to go on the top of a telephone pole at the end of Garrison Road where it turns from pavement into gravel. This is apparently the highest point in Shirley and will allow handheld radios to get coverage even when they're in low-lying valley areas. The new equipment, supplied by Motorola, will cost about \$30,000.

Existing repeaters providing coverage for the town are installed at the Fire Station on Leominster Road, the Highway Garage on Clark Road, at the Water Department facilities on Patterson Road and Old Ayer Road, and at 158 Great Road.

Some local frequencies:

Police	46.54, 155.535
Fire	33.700, 46.140, 155.475
Mutual Aid	33.600

❖ Scanner Holders

It's not always easy to find a good place to put your handheld scanner. On my desk, certainly, it's often difficult to find a clear place to put it where I can reach it easily yet be sure it's not in the way of work. It's also a challenge to keep it from falling over if you just want to adjust the volume or squelch. One relatively inexpensive way to solve these problems is to use a “brochure holder” from an office supply store. These plastic frames are strong enough to support even the heaviest scanner and usually have a wide support base and a simple mounting



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- Bearcat 248CLT 50 ch. base AM/FM/weather alert scanner.....\$84.95
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New York VOLMET Returns to Air

The automated aviation weather broadcasts from WSY70, New York Radio, suddenly resumed around October 6, 2004. There was no formal announcement or explanation given, just like when the station vanished a year or so before. Services, schedules and frequencies are unchanged, as if nothing had happened.

Presumably, whatever budget issues had put the broadcast on hold have been resolved. The station sounds great. It's being heard worldwide on its traditional frequencies of 3485 (local night), 6604, 10051, and 13270 (local day). These are in kilohertz (kHz), and all upper sideband (USB). Duration is 20 minutes, starting on the hour and half hour, with Gander Radio, Newfoundland, Canada, filling the other ten.

Content is also unchanged. It is the North Atlantic VOLMET ("flying weather," loosely from French). It's intended for pilots on oceanic air routes. This consists of three parts. First is airport weather observations in a slightly modified METAR (Routine Aviation Meteorological) format. Second is Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAF), and the third is Atlantic and Caribbean SIGMETs (SIGNificant METeorological reports).



The lower frequency uses a doublet antenna, and the others use a rhombic, 3000 watts each. Their location is near Barnegat, New Jersey, as fed from the Federal Aviation Administration on Long Island.

It sounds as if the same well-trained announcer is always on-mike, but it's really an unusually natural-sounding "Voice Concatenation System" called StarCaster. Unlike the Coast Guard's "Perfect Paul" and other voice synthesizers, it turns text files into a convincing stream of digitized human speech, from a database of words with various intonations.

Nice to have this great old station back on the air.

❖ Bern Radio Joins Kiel Mail

Last month, we erroneously reported that Bern Radio in Switzerland was owned by Globe Wireless. It is not! Since January 1, 2004, it's been managed by RUAG Aerospace, a Swiss corporation better known for aircraft subassemblies and military drones.

What is true is that all voice and teleprinting services closed on September 27, 2004. The station is being modernized and refitted for digital maritime e-mail and network services using PACTOR-III (Packet Teleprinting Over Radio, version III).

Bern will be networked with Kiel Radio, a German station that has been offering a turnkey mail system for some time. Like a lot of these, it uses a PACTOR modem with proprietary firmware. This is connected to any approved upper-sideband (USB) maritime radio with an antenna tuner, and to a standard Windows computer. Along with an Internet-like e-mail system, it offers a weather server, GPS position reporting, and access to MarineNet in Florida via WKS, Jupiter Radio.

As of early November 2004, active MarineNet WKS channels were 5258.5 and 9158.5 kilohertz (kHz), USB simplex. Kiel Radio, DAO, Germany, is using the ship/shore duplex pairs of 2628.5/2550.0, 4242.5/4164.5, 6434.0/6257.5, 6434.0/6257.5, 8510.4/8328.5, 8637.0/8336.5, 12762.0/12412.5, and 17046.5/16609.5 kHz USB, again all dial/window. All shore transmitters are 150 watts.

A complete list of frequencies used and planned by Kiel Mail is at their web site, <http://www.kielradio.de/>.

❖ Canadian Sub Fire

In October 2004, the recently purchased Canadian submarine *Chicoutimi* left the United Kingdom on its maiden voyage to its new home. Soon afterward, a serious electrical fire left the boat dead in the water 100 miles off Scotland. All circuits were dead, many were damaged, and there was no power. At least nine in the crew of 57 were injured, three seriously.

For the next two days, much of the rescue drama was on shortwave radio. 5680 kHz USB, an international aircraft safety frequency, was primary for Kinloss Rescue, in Scotland, working a number of Royal Navy and Royal Air Force assets enroute to the drifting sub. Secondary was 3023 kHz USB, another safety-of-flight channel.

When a "numbers" station started up on

5680, the net moved to 5699, then to 3945, before finally going back to 5680. At one point, someone said on-air that the "numbers" would be over in five minutes. Did they know something, or was that just the station's normal schedule? Either way, it's extremely interesting.

Meanwhile, 3023's less busy operation moved temporarily to 3939 when a military digital station interfered. While 3945 and 3939 kHz are in the 75-meter amateur band, non-amateur utilities are legal in the Eastern Hemisphere. 6697 kHz USB was also used.

A detailed log of both days, as kept by "a short-wave radio operator," was posted to the web site of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. While I never recommend that anyone in our hobby run to the media without first understanding the laws in their country regarding secrecy of communications, this log is out there, and it's amazing reading, if a bit scary. A text version has been posted to this column's web site.

❖ US Coast Guard ALE

Most US Coast Guard aircraft, and especially helicopters on patrols or anti-smuggling missions, are now using the Automatic Link Establishment network. Some ALE callups lead to clear and secure voice contacts on the same frequencies.

The older safety-of-flight net that we've all come to know and love on 5696, 8983, and 11202 kHz USB, survives for search-and-rescue and certain fixed-wing operations with CAMSLANT Chesapeake and CAMSPAC Point Reyes. These stand for Communication Area Master Station, Atlantic and Pacific respectively. They're on ALE, too, as LNT and PAC.

The ALE net uses an upgrade of the older US Customs Service COTHEN (Customs Over-The-Horizon Enforcement Network). Other known players include joint drug task forces, and ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the Department of Homeland Security).

ALE frequencies for COTHEN, or "Scan" as some Coast Guard operators call it, are 5732, 7527, 8912, 10242, 11494, 13907, 15867, 18594, 20890, 23214, and 25350.0 kHz, all USB. Others may exist.

The old US Coast Guard GANTSEC (Greater Antilles Section) has been merged into a new Sector San Juan, out of Puerto Rico. Similarly, Group Key West is now part of Sector Key West. More such changes are inevitable.

May a good new year be inevitable for you, and enjoy the winter skip.

Hugh Stegman

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS COLUMN

AFB	Air Force Base
ALE	Automatic Link Establishment
AM	Amplitude Modulation
ARINC	Aeronautical Radio, Inc.
ARQ	Automatic Repeat Request teleprinting system
ARQ-E3	French ARQ teleprinting system
AWACS	Airborne Warning And Control System
CAMSLANT	Communication Area Master Station, Atlantic
CW	Morse code telegraphy ("Continuous Wave")
DEA	US Drug Enforcement Administration
DSC	Digital Selective Calling
EAM	Emergency Action Message
FAX	Radiofacsimile
FEC	Forward Error Correction teleprinting system
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
HFDL	High-Frequency Data Link
HF-GCS	High-Frequency Global Communications System
ICE	US Immigration and Customs Enforcement
LDOC	Long-Distance Operational Control
M22	Israeli Navy; CW traffic, weather, and "numbers"
MARS	Military Affiliate Radio System
Meteo	Meteorological
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MFSK16	16-tone Frequency-Shift-Keying teleprinting
MMSI	Maritime Mobile Service Identity
MXI	Russian cluster beacon, probably navigation
MXP	Special Russian "P" marker
MWARA	Major World Air Route Area
NORAD	North American Aerospace Defense Command
PACTOR	Packet Teleprinting Over Radio
RCC	Rescue Coordination Center
RSA	Republic of South Africa
RTTY	Radio Teletype
SHARES	SHARed RESources, US Federal net
SITOR-A	Simplex Teleprinting Over Radio, ARQ mode
SITOR-B	Simplex Teleprinting Over Radio, FEC mode
UK	United Kingdom
Unid	Unidentified
US	United States
VOLMET	Flight Weather (loosely from French)

All transmissions are USB (upper sideband) unless otherwise indicated. All frequencies are in kHz (kilohertz) and all times are UTC (Coordinated Universal Time).

2187.5 304010747-Unlisted MMSI of unknown ship, DSC distress call at 0127. (Day Watson-UK)
 3476.0 Gander-North Atlantic MWARA, working Northwest 54 at 0214. (Allan Stern-FL)
 3485.0 New York-New York VOLMET aviation weather, back on the air, simulcasting on 6604, 10051, and 13270, at 1511. (Ken Maltz-NY)
 3590.0 INV-Unknown Italian military station, RTTY marker for the "Destined Glory 2004" exercise, at 2245. (Watson-UK)
 4137.0 JPQ-Lithuanian Navy vessel *Klaipeda*, calling FRA in ALE, at 0356. (Watson-UK)
 4149.0 WPE-Tugboat net control, Jacksonville, FL, working seagoing tug *Pioneer* (WBN 5040), at 0511. WPE, working tug *Sentry* (WBN 3013), at 2015. WPN, working tug *Defender*, (WBN 3016), at 2332. (Stern-FL)
 4207.5 Unid-Vessel with partially corrupt DSC distress call, abandoning ship at 0357. (Watson-UK)
 4500.0 AFA2GM-US Air Force MARS, FL, net at 0014. (Mark Cleary-SC)
 4739.0 Fighting Tiger 20-US Navy P-3C, working Goldenhawk, Brunswick, ME, at 0151. (Cleary-SC)
 4770.0 TN1-Lithuanian Military, working MT1 in ALE, at 0604. (Watson-UK)
 4795.0 F236AA-US Army Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany, ALE sound at 0333. (Watson-UK)
 4800.0 68-Danish Army, calling DK11 in ALE, at 0555. (Watson-UK)
 4828.0 "P"-Russian Navy CW single-letter channel marker (MXP), Kaliningrad, at 0715. (Watson-UK)
 4841.0 OWI-Danish Air Force, Aalborg, calling OWD, ALE at 0500.

(Watson-UK)
 4924.5 PMTRACS-US National Guard Program Manager for Tactical Radio Communications Systems, calling O050HN (Ohio NG), ALE at 1322. (Ron Perron-MD)
 5042.0 FDG-French Air Force, Bordeaux, CW marker at 1825. (Watson-UK)
 5159.0 4XZ-Israeli Navy, Haifa, CW marker (M22), at 1838. (Watson-UK)
 5211.0 WGY912-FEMA Special Facility, Mount Weather, VA, working NMN, US Coast Guard CAMSLANT, VA, at 2152. (Cleary-SC)
 5320.0 CAMSLANT-US Coast Guard, VA, calling Cutter *Decisive* at 2035. (Cleary-SC)
 5616.0 Gander-North Atlantic MWARA, working US Air Force Reach 977, at 0612 (Stern-FL)
 5649.0 Gander-North Atlantic MWARA, working KLM 754, came from 8846, at 2310. (Stern-FL)
 5690.0 Coast Guard 1706-US Coast Guard, patch via CAMSLANT to Clearwater Air, at 2027. (Cleary-SC)
 5696.0 CAMSLANT, working Falcon Jet Coast Guard 2117, at 2356. (Stern-FL)
 5708.0 Darkstar Quebec-US Air Force AWACS, ALE-initiated patch to Okie Sam, (NORAD, FL), at 2355. (Cleary-SC)
 5711.0 King 16-US Air Force rescue HC-130, working King 22, clear and secure at 0120. (Cleary-SC)
 5717.0 Rescue 311-Canadian Forces, relay to RCC via Halifax Military, at 0101. (Cleary-SC)
 5732.0 Panther-DEA, Bahamas, working search aircraft 18C, at 0141. (Cleary-SC)
 6218.0 JPQ-Lithuanian Navy, *Klaipeda*, calling M1K at 0413, then working FRA, in ALE at 0515. (Watson-UK)
 6529.0 AY2763-Finnair aircraft, sending position in HFDL at 2016. (Patrice Privat-France) 17-ARINC Ground Station, Canary Islands, HFDL squitters at 2145. (Watson-UK)
 6577.0 New York-Caribbean MWARA, working American 586, at 0039. (Stern-FL)
 6604.0 Gander-Canadian VOLMET, flight weather for Winnipeg, Edmonton, etc., also 10051, at 0125. (Stern-FL)
 6640.0 New York-ARINC LDOC, sending unknown aircraft to 3494, at 0105. (Stern-FL)
 6694.0 Halifax Military-Canadian Forces, traffic from Swordfish 21, probable fisheries patrol, at 0002. (Perron-MD)
 6697.0 Irishman-US military, coded broadcast of 5 groups, simulcast on 11244, at 0354. (Jeff Haverlah-TX)
 6721.0 Coast Guard 1502-USCG, ALE-initiated call to Elizabeth City Air, at 2344. (Cleary-SC)
 6754.0 Trenton-Canadian Forces aviation weather at 0240. (Stern-FL)
 7038.7 "D"-Russian Navy CW single-letter cluster beacon (MXI), Odessa, at 2038. (Watson-UK)
 7527.0 Omaha 235K-US Customs Service, working Ping Pong at 0141. (Cleary-SC)
 7600.0 CIP77-Canadian Army, ALE-initiated voice and data contact with CIP36, Halifax, NS, at 0013. (Perron-MD)
 7632.0 AAR4LL-US Army MARS, in SHARES net with AAT3AM at 2356. (Cleary-SC)
 7633.5 STEEL 89-US Air Force tanker, calling any MARS at 0009. (Cleary-SC)
 7635.0 Headcap 45-US Civil Air Patrol, National Chaplains' Net with Hillcap 49 and Red Fox 105, IL, at 2106. (Cleary-SC)
 7915.0 AFA1DA-US Air Force MARS net control, working AFA20J and AFA2QG, in MFSK16, at 2358. (Watson-UK)
 8026.0 Anthology-US military, several data checks with Andrews, at 0132. (Cleary-SC)
 8047.0 I050NN-IN National Guard, calling HQ703N, VA, ALE at 0534. (Perron-MD) R0316-National Guard, calling KBOING, ID National Guard, Boise, ALE at 1311. (Glenn Blum-TX)
 8181.0 CORE7-Venezuelan National Guard, calling MIRA3 (Guard at Presidential Palace), ALE at 2342. (Perron-MD)
 8234.0 M1K-Lithuanian Navy Vessel, working JPQ in ALE, at 1529. (Watson-UK)
 8459.0 NOJ-US Coast Guard, Kodiak, AK, ice chart FAX, also 12412.5, at 2258. (Watson-UK)
 8494.7 "D"-Russian Navy CW single-letter beacon (MXI), Odessa, at 2350. (Maltz-NY)
 8583.3 PWZ33-Brazilian Navy, RTTY navigation warnings at 0439. (Perron-MD)
 8610.0 UCE5-Arkhangelsk Radio, Russia, traffic for unknown ship in

- 3-shift Cyrillic RTTY, at 1450. (Watson-UK)
- 8759.5 Navidata-Periodic identifier in PACTOR-II markers, at 2229. (Watson-UK)
- 8906.0 New York-North Atlantic MWARA, working Cubana 471, at 2346. (Stern-FL)
- 8912.0 D14-ICE P-3A, ALE-initiated clear and secure voice with PRI (Salinas, PR), at 1238. (Perron-MD)
- 8912.5 Unid-Whistling, rag chewing in English and Spanish, at 1731. (Blum-TX) [Not the most inconspicuous place... -Hugh]
- 8918.0 New York-North Atlantic MWARA, working Air Europa 2937, at 0206. (Stern-FL)
- 8948.0 17-ARINC Ground Station, Canary Islands, working many flights in HFDL, at 1829. (Watson-UK)
- 8971.0 Fighting Tiger 23-US Navy P-3C, working "8-Q-T" (Goldenhawk), went to Iridium Satcom at 2210. (Cleary-SC)
- 8980.0 Coast Guard 1705-US Coast Guard, patch via CAMSLANT to Clearwater Air at 1957. (Cleary-SC)
- 8983.0 CAMSLANT-US Coast Guard, VA, working Coast Guard 2131 on a go-fast intercept at 2119. (Cleary-SC) CAMSLANT Chesapeake-US Coast Guard, VA, working Coast Guard Rescue 1706 on medical aid at 2259. (Stern-FL)
- 8992.0 Sled Dog-US military, patch to Tinker AFB via McClellan HF-GCS, CA, at 2359. Legality-same station, new daily callsign, went to 11175 at 0007. (Stern-FL) Victor 55-US military, calling Mainsail (any ground station this net) at 1524 and 1540. Notebook, with a 28-character EAM at 1900. Kilo 05, Patch via Offutt for weather at Kirtland AFB, at 2004. (Haverlah-TX)
- 9007.0 Trenton Military-Canadian Forces, NS, taking traffic from Tiger 905 for RCC, at 1940. (Perron-MD)
- 9023.0 Huntress-NORAD Northeast Air Defense Sector, NY, working Blue Crab (NORAD Southeast), at 2055. (Cleary-SC)
- 9025.0 Coast Guard 1501-US Coast Guard, ALE-initiated patch to Elizabeth City Air, at 1404. (Cleary-SC)
- 9031.0 Ascot 6111-UK Royal Air Force, working Architect for weather, at 1946. (Privat-France)
- 9060.0 CG6ZM-Mexican Army 6th Zone, calling PMZORILLO in ALE at 1157. (Perron-MD)
- 9121.0 M050NN calling I050NN, new National Guard frequency, at 1349. (Perron-MD)
- 10033.0 Miami Radio-LDOC, patching Amerijet 610 to dispatch for clearance through Cuban airspace, at 2143. (Stern-FL)
- 10100.8 DDK9-Hamburg Meteo, RTTY weather codes at 2033. (Watson-UK)
- 10135.0 JAGUAR-Mexican Army, calling LINCE (Lynx), ALE at 0109. (Perron-MD)
- 10780.0 Reach 132-US Air Force, working Cape Radio, FL, at 2357. (Cleary-SC)
- 10993.6 "F-7-V"-US Coast Guard, getting a secure frequency from Sector Key West for Cutter Tampa, at 2102. (Cleary-SC)
- 11175.0 Blue 72-US Air Force, patch via Puerto Rico HF-GCS to Bangor Control, at 0155. (Stern-FL) Teal 60-US Air Force Reserve WC-130 "Hurricane Hunter," all-OK patch via Puerto Rico to National Hurricane Center, who was worried they'd lost the aircraft, at 1116. Executive 1 Foxtrot-Flight with First Family member(s) aboard, patch via Puerto Rico to Andrews Meteo for Columbus, OH, weather, at 1914. (Cleary-SC)
- 11205.0 Smasher-US Joint Task Force, Key West, FL, working "Hurricane Hunter" Teal 34, at 1208. (Cleary-SC)
- 11217.0 Stargate-US Air Force E-8C, clear and secure with AWACS Darkstar Papa, at 1818. (Cleary-SC)
- 11232.0 Trenton-Canadian Forces, working Canforce 3224, went to 13257 at 1645. (Stern-FL)
- 11244.0 Break Ride-US military, broadcasting separate 28-character EAMs at 0226 and 0232, the latter one simulcast on 6697 and then on the HF-GCS by McClellan at 0236. Break Ride, with the hour+10/40 28-character EAM activity at 0240 and 0310. (Haverlah-TX)
- 11253.0 Unid-UK Royal Air Force VOLMET, continuous flight weather at 2025. (Stern-FL)
- 11309.0 New York-North Atlantic MWARA, working American 66 at 0220. (Stern-FL) New York, working Martinair 910 at 1947. (Privat-France)
- 11330.0 New York-North Atlantic MWARA, working American 2051, at 1637. (Stern-FL)
- 11396.0 New York-Caribbean MWARA, working Springbok 212 (South African Airways), at 1640. (Stern-FL)
- 11494.0 Panther-DEA, Bahamas, working an aircraft at 2018. (Perron-MD)
- 11507.0 BR1-Brazilian Army Headquarters, Brasilia, calling RJ1, Rio de Janeiro, also 13490 and 14582, at 0154. (Perron-MD)
- 12223.0 Unid-Ukrainian Military, 3-shift Cyrillic RTTY, then coded message "Kriptograma ZL1T," at 1054. (Watson-UK)
- 12359.0 Southbound II Marine Net-Herb Hilgenberg (VAX 498), control with check-in and weather info for many small vessels, at 2001. (Stern-FL)
- 12948.0 JJF-Japanese Defense Force, Tokyo, CW messages in International and Japanese Morse, at 0811. (Watson-UK)
- 13101.0 ERMRIO-Brazilian Navy, Rio de Janeiro, calling FDEFEN, Frigate Defensora, also on 14780, 19709, and 22168, ALE at 2221. (Perron-MD)
- 13200.0 Shado 42-US Air Force, working Croughton and then Ascension HF-GCS, message for Robins AFB, at 2056. (Cleary-SC)
- 13215.0 Reach 5034-US Air Force tanker, patch via Puerto Rico to Anderson AFB Meteo, at 2136. (Cleary-SC)
- 13303.0 ARINC Ground Station, Canary Islands, working flights in HFDL, at 1337. (Watson-UK)
- 13354.0 New York-North Atlantic MWARA, giving Air Europa 051 a 13306 primary and 11309 secondary, at 1731. (Stern-FL)
- 13510.0 CFH-Canadian Forces Meteo, Halifax, NS, RTTY weather observations at 2050. (Privat-France)
- 13900.0 BMF-Taipei Meteo, weather FAX of depression near Philippines, at 0930. (Watson-UK)
- 13920.0 VMC-Australian Bureau Of Meteorology, Charleville, weather FAX at 1604. (Watson-UK)
- 13927.0 AFA2HF-US Air Force MARS, patch from tanker Cacti 31 to Nellis AFB, at 1210. (Stern-FL)
- 13945.0 STAT5-Tunisian Military, calling STAT154, ALE at 1132. (Watson-UK)
- 13986.7 Unid-French Forces, Paris, ARQ-E3 testing on IGU circuit (to Cayenne), at 1645. (Watson-UK)
- 15016.0 Teal 53-US Air Force Reserve "Hurricane Hunter," patch via Puerto Rico HF-GCS to Keesler AFB, at 1747. (Cleary-SC)
- 15025.0 Shark 80-US military, patch via Skywatch, Honduras, at 0008. (Cleary-SC)
- 15867.0 Hammer-ICE, CA, working aircraft 76T on the border, at 2020. Service Center-US Customs Service, ALE-initiated voice with Coast Guard 1504, at 2037. (Perron-MD)
- 16332.3 "K"-Russian Navy CW single-letter beacon (MXI), Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, at 0000. (Maltz-NY)
- 16829.5 UCE-Arkhangelsk Radio, SITOR-B traffic list in 3-shift Cyrillic, at 0807. (Watson-UK)
- 17916.0 Stockholm Radio-LDOC patching flight 9866 to meteo for Pakistan weather, at 1441. (Perron-MD)
- 17928.0 17-ARINC Ground Station, Canary Islands, working many flights in HFDL, at 1640. (Watson-UK)
- 17937.0 Flight Support-LDOC, Lima Peru, working American 924, at 1345. (Perron-MD)
- 18003.0 NW2-US military Nightwatch net calling NW1, the airborne command post, also on 9025, 11226, 13215, and 15043, ALE at 1954. (Perron-MD)
- 18012.0 Circus Vert-French Air Force, Villacoublay, working COTAM 5111, at 1340. (Perron-MD)
- 18183.4 ACR-Algerian Embassy, Accra, Ghana, working MFA Algiers, at 0835. (Watson-UK)
- 18238.0 ZSJ-South African Navy, Cape Town, weak Antarctic ice chart at 0810. (Watson-UK)
- 18261.0 GYA-British Royal Navy, Northwood, weak Middle East weather FAX at 0830. (Watson-UK)
- 18341.7 Unid-Egyptian MFA, Cairo, working KKVZ (Kampala or Madrid) in Arabic SITOR-A at 1306. (Watson-UK)
- 18378.7 Unid-Egyptian MFA, Cairo, working XBYK (The Hague) in Arabic SITOR-A at 0749. (Watson-UK)
- 19103.5 SKYWAT-US Army Skywatch, Honduras, ALE sound at 2015. (Perron-MD)
- 19216.7 RFLI-French Forces, Fort De France, Martinique, ARQ-E3 testing at 1330. (Watson-UK)
- 20036.7 Unid-Egyptian Embassy, Dakar, Senegal, brief SITOR-A Arabic chatter, then traffic, at 1019. (Watson-UK)
- 20890.0 Panther-DEA, Bahamas, working Coast Guard 2A at 1825. (Perron-MD)
- 21999.0 17-ARINC Ground Station, Canary Islands, HFDL squitters at 1736. (Watson-UK)
- 23214.0 D42-ICE P-3, ALE and clear voice radio checks with unidentified station at 1917. (Perron-MD)

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Israel Gone? Belgium Going

We have headlined the demise of Israel's shortwave broadcasts before, but they always got reprieves. We hope that happens again, but at press time the outlook was dismal. Doni Rosenzweig reports:

I asked around and was told that a notice was sent through Kol Israel, that Israel Radio SW is due to cease as of Dec. 31, as the homepage <http://www.israelradio.org/> says. While Israel Radio is available on the Internet, many Arab countries are blocking access to the IBA Web feeds. This time around, people were told that their program budgets would improve if SW is cut, so there is much wider support for cessation of SW this time. They are now planning to stop all SW transmissions, including Reshet Bet in Hebrew. You can fax or email Member of Knesset (MK) Ehud Olmert, the Minister of Communications. He saved foreign language Kol Israel broadcasts the last time around. MK Ehud Olmert: Fax: +972-2-666-2909 email: eolmert@moital.gov.il (See the schedule below)

R. Vlaanderen Internationaal announced they're scrapping radio services in English, French and German at the end of B04 (27 March 2005). News bulletins in these languages will be available on the Web site. There will also be a drastic reduction in the use of SW for RVI broadcasts in Dutch – most of the non-Belgian transmitter sites will be dropped, says Andy Sennitt, Radio Netherlands, in **DX Listening Digest**.

Frans Vossen of RVI explained in the swprograms group: The RVI Web site will be relaunched with a new look. The name of the station will also be changed, to VRT-Internationaal. "The old and traditional mediumwave, and especially shortwave, output will be reduced," says VRT Radio Director Frans Ieven. These are outmoded delivery methods and "there are other cheaper and more efficient means of reaching people than with gigantic shortwave transmitters." **Brussels Calling** in English, French and German are being scrapped, replaced by translations, on the Web site, of the main points from the Flemish and Belgian news stories. Only SW surviving will be 4 hours per day of programs in Dutch, most of it relays of domestic VRT stations, and only beamed to south Europe.

Kai Ludwig, DXLD, pointed out: RVI program cancellations would save almost no money. Nor does RVI have any financial trouble; this is only a strategic decision.

Comment to: Mr. Leo Cortens, Counselor and Consul, Embassy of Belgium, 3330 Garfield Street NW, Washington, DC 20008; Phone (202) 333-6900, Fax (202) 333-5457; The Belgian ambassador to the USA is Mr. Frans van Daele, phone (202) 333-6900, Fax: (202) 625-7567. E-mail: washington@diplobel.be Web: <http://www.diplobel.us/> Perhaps engaging them in dialogue will help out. Can't hurt, says Richard Cuff, swprograms.

Listeners who wish to protest can also contact the Flemish Media Minister: Mr Geert Bourgeois, Alhambra Building, Avenue Emile Jacquemain 20, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. email: kabinet.bourgeois@vlaanderen.be reports Colin Clapson, VRT, in **SCDX/MediaScan**.

Express your opinion to RVI about its forthcoming SW cutbacks: info@rvi.be or use the form provided on the web site at http://www.rvi.be/html/rvi_web/uk/aboutrvi/contact/contact_form.html says John Figliozzi, swprograms.

Silvain Domen, Belgium, DXLD says you can also post a message on the guestbook at RVI's website. Many well known names in there already! http://www.rvi.be/guestbook_uk/

On **RVI Radio World**, Frans Vossen wrapped it up: As from the end of March, the entire operation abruptly stops, from one day to the other. No more SW, MW, satellite, not even sound on the internet. Nothing, zilch, zero. Nobody will be made redundant: we will all be transferred to the VRT news via the internet service, where we will write updated news items in English, German and French for the news site, <http://vrtnieuws.net> I always thought it was our mission to inform people in foreign countries about all aspects of life in Flanders. I also thought shortwave was an efficient way of achieving this. If the politicians think otherwise, they should explain their view.

More endangered stations and services: see EGYPT, SYRIA below

EIKE BIERWIRTH'S COMPREHENSIVE B-04 SW SCHEDULES

<http://www.susi-und-stroch.de/eibi/bc-b04.txt>

And the complete page at: <http://www.eibi.de.vu/>

HFCC B04 (with a considerable fraction censored out)

<http://www.hfcc.org/data/index.html>

(Steve Lare, MI, DX Listening Digest)

ABKHAZIA R. Republic Abkhazia [formerly varying around 9496] now from 9489.7 to 9491.3, peaking around 1430-1515, in Russian (Wolfgang Büschel, Germany, World DX Club Contact) And also from 0514 until 0524* (Büschel, BC-DX)

AFGHANISTAN [non] Blasting in here 1400-1500 on 17720, Radio Solh (Dari for "Radio Peace"), the name in WRTH 2004 (p82) for the US psyops broadcasts aimed at Afghanistan, originally "Information Radio" (Dave Kenny, BDXC-UK) Mostly Central Asian music, info inserts, about al-Qaeda and the Taleban (Mika Mäkeläinen, Finland, dxing.info) In Pashto it would be: Sola Radyo (Bernd Trutenau, Lithuania, DX Listening Digest) All broadcasts are 500 kW at 80 degrees from Rampisham, UK, in Dari, Pashto, Urdu: 0200-0500 11810, 0700-1200 21620, 1200-1300 17710, 1300-1500 15265, 1500-1630 17710 (Observer, Bulgaria)

ALASKA KNLS was slow to post its November frequency schedule on its own website, and it turned out that FCC registrations were incorrect, too. English at 0800-0900 was actually heard by Noel Green, UK on 9615; and at 1300-1400 also on 9615, by Roger Chambers, NY. Plans were at 0800 to move to 7365 from Dec 26, and to 11765 from Jan 30 (gh)

ARMENIA V. of Armenia English B04: 1925-1945 on 4810 and 9965, now 7 days a week with the Sunday 0800-0930 broadcast on 15270 dropped; also IDs as "Public Radio of Armenia" (Dave Kenny, BDXC-UK, Wolfgang Büschel)

BANGLADESH Bangladesh Betar B-04 English: 1230-1300 S & SEAs; V. of Islam 1745-1815 Eu; 1815-1900 Eu, all on 7185, 9550 Daily (Ashik Eeqbal Tokon, Rajshahi, Bangladesh, GRDXC) Can anyone confirm 7185 and 9550 actually on the air? (gh) 9550 is not at all

on the air. 7185 is still on the air but severe co-channel interference during B04 season (Swapan Chakroborty, Kolkata, India, WRTH Bangladesh editor)

BOLIVIA In late October, a station on 4917 at 0950 mentioned San Miguel, the Bolivian? (Fernando Vilorio, Venezuela, DXLD) Heard around 2300 on 4917.63 with program called La Voz de mi Comunidad and clear ID for Radio San Miguel, Riberalta (Björn Malm, Quito, Ecuador) By mid-November, R. San Miguel was instead on 4902.17, at 0022-0101 with ID on the hour, good signal (Chuck Bolland, FL, DXLD) By 0141 excellent signal on 4902.30 (Gerry Bishop, FL, ibid.) A few hours later at 1000 on 4902.08, and the next day at 0927 on 4902.17, tentatives (Ron Howard, CA, ibid.)

BULGARIA R. Bulgaria, B-04 English:
0730-0800 Au 11600 13600
1230-1300 WEu 11700 15700
1830-1900 WEu 5800 7500
2200-2300 WEu 5800 7500
0000-0100 NAm 7400 9700
0300-0400 NAm 7400 9700

(Bob Thomas, CT, DXLD)

CAMEROON R. Garoua used to be on 5010 and 7240. Two years ago I visited the former transmitter which had not been touched since a transformer burned up about five years earlier. The transmitter building and antenna are still guarded, but a swarm of killer bees are breeding inside the transmitter. It was said that the President of Cameroon does not want the radio station back on the air to avoid an uprising in the region (Jens Christian Seeberg, Denmark, DSWCI DX Window)

*All times UTC; All frequencies kHz; * before hr = sign on, * after hr = sign off; // = parallel programming;
+ = continuing but not monitored; 2 x freq = 2nd harmonic; B-04=winter season; [non] = Broadcast to or for the listed country, but not necessarily originating there; u.o.s. = unless otherwise stated*

CANADA Why did RCI drop its 2300 UT broadcast to the USA of The World at Six and As It Happens? Broadcasting at 1800 ET excluded a large part of the US from this coverage. After all, that was at 1500 PT, 1600 MT and 1700 CT. Rather than spend our minimal resources on an 1800 ET transmission, we decided to concentrate on a time and a coverage plan that provided a broad service to the largest area possible. During the summer, as a transition, we were broadcasting both at 1800 and 2000 ET; now at 0100-0300 UT only (Steve Lemay, RCI scheduling, via Bill Westenhaver, RCI Audience Relations, swprograms)

World at Six and the first half hour of As It Happens are available in DRM on 9800 at 2200. The RCI schedule also showed that Ukrainian, at 1630-1659 via UK on 9555 and 11935 would be cancelled as of Nov. 30 (via Alokes Gupta, Japan Premium) Ukrainian was scheduled for cancellation last spring, but got a reprieve, only until after the Ukrainian elections in November. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress was protesting the upcoming cancellation (RCI Action Committee via Kai Ludwig)

CHINA [non] CRI added some new relay sites for B-04, with some rather strange bedfellows: Spanish at 0000-0100 on 9745 via Bonaire, according to RN's schedule (gh) CRI also notified us of some new broadcasts in Portuguese to Brazil, at 1100 on 17625 and 2100 on 11720 (Jailton C. Amaral, SRDXC, Noticias DX) Not mentioning the site, but we know it is Voz Cristiana, Chile! As in Merlin/VT schedules, with 17625 also at 1200 in Cantonese and 1300 English, monitored by Wolfgang Büschel. I was able to hear the 11720 broadcast, and Andrew Flynn of VC confirmed the deal, saying that CRI programming was innocuous and not considered contrary to VC's religious mission (gh)

B-04 Sackville, Canada relays of CRI, all 250 kW, in all languages: 1100-1200 5960, 1200-1300 9560, 1300-1400 11885, 1300-1500 15230, 1400-1600 13675, 1600-1700 17735, 2200-2300 13700, 2300-2400 11970, 2300-0100 6040, 0000-0100 9790, 0100-0200 6005, 0300-0400 7190 [sic; not really!], 0400-0600 6190 and 9560 (via Wolfgang Büschel) Observations: 11970 replaced 13680 at 2300 in English, which had been colliding with Venezuela-via-Cuba; but 15230 clashed with Cuba which has been on 15230 forever (gh) See the complete CRI B-04 schedule with sites at: <http://www2.starcat.ne.jp/~ndxc/ch/cr1411.htm> (Mike Barraclough, DXLD)

COSTA RICA [non] Regarding the SW broadcast, what is in the works is a station in Illinois on the farm of an engineer friend who has donated land for use as a transmitter site. Tico Times did another story about Radio for Peace International and other groups vs. the Upaz, linking Maurice Strong to fraud, in his taking \$1.6 million of Costa Rican land, selling it and pocketing the \$\$ (James Latham, RFPI, DXLD)

CROATIA [non] HRT broadcasts on 7285 via Germany at 2300-0600 are registered as to the East Atlantic, and Iceland (Bernd Trutenau, Lithuania, DXLD) Sure, that makes them "legal" but we know those transmissions are actually for continental South and North America, where there are more than a handful of Croats, than at sea and in Iceland, if any (gh) 7285 with Spanish at 2330 and 0330, English at 2300 and 0300, at least. Occasional hets from frustrated North American hams, who like to run AM around this part of the band (gh)

CUBA R. Havana heard on new out of band frequency, 13360 to Europe, ex 15120 at 2000 in Portuguese, 2030 in Arabic and 2100-2300 in Spanish for at least three days in early November (Bernie O'Shea, Ottawa, Ontario, World Of Radio) I'll bet 13360 was a mistake. RHC normally plays by the rules as far as staying inside official bands (gh) 13360 was back on the next day from 1955 to 2300 (Bernie and gh) Meanwhile I publicized this on World Of Radio (gh) You were right, they made a mistake. Heard them on the probably intended new frequency of 13660 at 2000 UT, Nov. 11. Problem solved (O'Shea, DXLD)

All the old Brown Boveri and Sniog transmitters have been replaced with six new 100 kW PSM highly energy efficient ones, and we are proceeding with the somewhat longer work of installing several new antennas. A seventh transmitter of 50 kW is now on 5025, with R. Rebelde, using a provisional high vertical incidence radiation angle antenna, until we can install the new tropical band system.

RHC is on new 6060 at 00 until 05 in Spanish, 05 to 07 in English, running new 100 kW Pulse Step Modulated transmitter to old rhombic antenna beaming 020 degrees, soon to be replaced by a beautiful high gain curtain antenna array of about 15 dB gain over a dipole! The new antenna will provide much better coverage of Eastern North America because it will have a wider beam than the present narrow beam rhombic (Your friend in Havana, Arnie Coro, CO2KK, Host of Dxers Unlimited, ODXA)

RHC 6060 booms into central NY, but also nearly kills the signal from Spain 6055, which they have used for years in winter, their only English broadcast well heard here (Roger Chambers, Utica, New York, ibid.)

Stray bubble jammers: at 2121 on 13760 marring North Korea in English; maybe intended against WHR, earlier on same, which once ran Cuban exiles on 9495; Sunday at 1630 on 11670, despite Cuba's relay of Venezuela on same: operator may have misread instructions to jam 17670 Marti! (gh)

EGYPT According to a source working in Radio Cairo, huge budget cuts starting Nov. 1 and several overseas services of radio Cairo will be closed for good - including Portuguese to Brazil and several others. English, French, Spanish will remain; I don't know about German and Russian. That means a lot of SW frequencies used to carry the Voice of Egypt will be in the clear and no more Radio Cairo in Afar, Fulani, etc. Only 11 languages will remain on, out of 40+. The decision will be effective Jan. 1, 2005. Listeners of certain sections should start e-mailing Radio Cairo. Maybe they would think twice (Tarek Zeidan, Cairo, Egypt, DXLD)

Another station has joined the 40m ham band: R. Cairo going from Spanish to English at 0200 on 7260 (Roger Chambers, NY, MYSWLC) R. Cairo English is on 7115 at 2300 (Bob Thomas, CT, DXLD) So Cairo has moved both its English to NAM services into the 40m hamband! 2300-2430 on 7115, 0200-0330 on 7260 (gh) Spanish at 0045-0200 also on 7260, 9415 (R. Cairo)

ETHIOPIA [non] R. Mustaqbal, B-04, via VT Communications, Dhabayya, UAE, 250 kW, 225 degrees to EAF in Somali on Mon/Tue/Thu: 0630-0700 15370; 1130-1200 15385. The latter replaces 1230-1300 on 15370 via Meyerton, South Africa, 250 kW, 032 degrees (Observer, Bulgaria)

FRANCE RFI B-04 in English: target areas Africa and Asia only, so everyone else must try to pick up off-beam broadcasts.

(1) = 31.10.04 to 27.02.05; (2) = 27.02.05 to 27.03.05; otherwise for the entire five months. Asc = Ascension; Ch = China; Mey = Meyerton, South Africa;

Moy = Moyabi, Gabon; otherwise direct from Issoudun, France: 0400-0430 Moy 9805, 9555 (1), 11995 (2); 0500-0530 Moy 11850, 11995 (1), 15155 (2); 0600-0630 Asc 9595, 15155, 17800; 0700-0800 Moy 11700 (1), Moy 11725 (1), Moy 15605; 1200-1230 Asc 15275, 21620; 1400-1500 Ch 7180 (1), Ch 9580 (2), 17620; 1600-1700 Mey 9730, Mey 15160, 17850; 1600-1730 11615, 15605 (from a complete RFI B-04 schedule via Jean-Michel Aubier, DXLD)

21620 at 1200 has a good signal here (Joe Hanlon, NJ, ibid.)
GREECE [and non] V. of Greece was slow as usual to publish a complete B-04 schedule; relays via Delano changed to: 1200-1500 on 11750, 1600(Sat/Sun 1500)-2200 on 15485; via Greenville, still 2000-2200 on 17565 - but the weekly hour in English, Hellenes Around the World was not to be heard at 1700 UT Sat, as timeshifting would expect (gh) Heard instead during the 1500 hour on Saturday (Harold Sellers, ODXA) The musical broadcast in English, It's All Greek to Me is at 1105-1200 Sunday on 9375, 15630, 15650. Good luck if you can pick it up at that time! (John Babbis, Silver Spring, MD, DXLD)

ICELAND B04 relay schedule for RUV newscasts via leased transmitter of Iceland Telecom in Reykjavik:

To Europe (live relays):

1215-1300 13865*

1755-1825 12115*

To North America (recordings):

1410-1440 13865

1835-1905 13865

2300-2335 12115

All in Icelandic, in AM-compatible USB with reduced carrier (via Bernd Trutenau, Lithuania, DXLD)

INDIA AIR English GOS B-04:

1000-1100 Au/NZ 13710B 7510Kh 17895A

1000-1100 As 15020A 15235B 17800B

1000-1100 As 1053T 15260Ki

1330-1500 As 9690B 11620Kh 13710B

1530-1545 As 7255A 9820P 9910Kh 11740P

1745-1945 Af 11935M 15075Kh 17670Kh

1745-1945 Eu 7410Kh 9950Kh 11620A

1745-1945 Af 9445B 13605B 15155A

2045-2230 Au/NZ 9910A 11620B 11715P

2045-2230 Eu 7410Kh 9445B 9950Kh

2245-0045 As 9705P 11620Kh 13605B

2245-0045 As 9950A 11645Kh 13605B

A = Aligarh, B = Bangalore, Kh = Khampur (Delhi), Ki = Kingsway (Delhi), M = Mumbai (Bombay), P = Panaji, T = Tuticorin (Jose Jacob, dxindia, via Mike Barraclough, and Alan Roe)

INDONESIA RPDT Manggarai, 2959.95, from 1317 in mid-October, powerful signal at times, some Western music, long monologues by a man, then a woman with a very penetrating voice, with announcements, likely person to person messages, as they were repeated twice. Often at armchair level! Mentioned Makassar, Bali, Riverside, Manggarai; fade up by 1500 for Love Ambon, off by 1503 (Volodya Salmani, Grayland, WA, DXLD)

IRAN After continuous attempts we could succeed to reestablish SW for your area. We would be very pleased to have your comments and reception reports. Please keep in touch with us. Best Regards, IRIB English Service. 1030-1130 15480, 15460 to India; 1530-1630 9610, 9940 to India; 1930-2030 6110, 7320 to Europe; 9855, 11695 to S&E Africa; 0130-0230 V. of Justice, 6120, 9580 to NAM (via Bruce MacGibbon, OR, DXLD) 9580 blocked by China via Cuba (MacGibbon, to IRIB) Also restored German (ADX via Kai Ludwig, DXLD) And French, Italian (Wolfgang Büschel) V. of Justice also heard until 1329 on 15275 (Roger Chambers, NY, MYSWLC)

[non] B-04 DTK schedule shows a new broadcast on 9495, Sat 1900-1930; more R. Free Syria, as on Fri and Sun? (gh to Jeff White, RMI) This is a transmission by an Iranian women's group starting Nov. 6, WFAFI, Womens Forum Against Fundamentalism in Iran, <http://www.wfafi.org> (Jeff White, Radio Miami International, DXLD) Confirmed on the first date, brokered by RMI, Farsi ID and talks about Iran - all by women in the studio. E-mail: info@wfafi.org (Anker Petersen, Denmark, DXLD) I got the following message and QSL from Radio Voice of Women, radio@wfafi.org - Please visit the section About us and Mission Statement on our website. The goal is to facilitate the voice of Iranian women as they are the victims of Islamic Fundamentalism. Fariba, Production manager of Radio VOW (via Björn Fransson, Sweden, DXLD)

ISRAEL IBA's B-04 English schedule is effective ONLY until Dec 31, to Eu and NAM, u.o.s.:

0430-0445 7545 6280; CAm/Au 17600

1030-1045 15640 17535

1830-1845 9390 11585 11605

2000-2025 9390 6280; SAf 15615

(Moshe Oren, Bezeq) See top

A TREE GROWS IN ISRAEL --- Am very happy to announce that Dottie and I are being honored by Radio Israel. Moshe Oren telephoned me from Tel Aviv to tell me that Israel Radio is planting a tree in Israel for each of us. This came about as a result of my one thousandth weekly monitoring report to Israel Radio (George Poppin, CA, DXLD) Congrats!

KOREA NORTH V. of Korea heard on 10187 at 1745 in Spanish, 1800 into French, a spur? (K6FIB, swl@qth.net) Also heard at 2153 with martial music. I went to #monitor on zirc IRC and 10187 may not be a spur. It is well known North Korean utility frequency, mainly for diplomatic traffic on very badly keyed CW. Why broadcast on this channel is a mystery; it could be a tuning signal for bored embassy staff (Robin VK7RH Harwood, ibid.)

MALDIVES ISLANDS [non] New website to go with Minivan Radio - Minivan News, to provide Maldivians with an independent and objective source of news and analysis. It has developed from the success of Minivan Radio, broadcast to the Maldives each evening and enjoying an increasingly large audience. <http://www.minivanradio.org/> Listen to Minivan Radio <http://www.minivanradio.org/radio.php> (Friends of Maldives via David Hardingham, UK, DXLD)

MEXICO XERTA, 4810, at 0310-0515+ with continuous contemporary Christian music, lite instrumental music; IDs at 0400 & 0515. Must use ECSS-LSB to avoid noise blob on high side. Armenia sign-on at 0358 caused minor co-channel QRM

Shortwave Broadcasting

(Brian Alexander, PA, DXLD)

QSLing XERTA has never been easier. No need to send them a report. Not even to tune in to their frequency. Just go to <http://www.misionradio.com> and click on "Nosotros" where, abracadabra, you will find a QSL ready for downloading. Printing the whole thing out, you will obtain a "certificado de sintonía" with the actual date of submission at the bottom of the page (Henrik Klemetz, DXLD) Devalued verses - I have long suspected that QSLing reception reports must be a nuisance to many a station. At XERTA, they have found the ultimate QSLing system (Klemetz, hard-core-dx)

NEW ZEALAND RNZI changed 15340 to 15720 at 0400-0759 (Wolfgang Büschel, DXLD) To avoid collision with Iran (Observer, Bulgaria)

PAKISTAN PBC B-04 in English: 1600-1615 to ME on 9390*, 11570*; Af 11850, 15725. Urdu to WEu [opens and closes with a few minutes of English news], 0800-1104 on 15100*, 17835*. Assami to SE Asia [has been partly in English], 0045-0115 on 9340, 11565. All transmitters located at Rewat : *250 kW - others 100 kW (via Noel Green, DXLD)

PHILIPPINES PBS, Marulas, Valenzuela, "Radio Ng Byan" heard at 0150-0210, on new 9619.9, ex 9582.2. Strong QRM from 9620, so best in LSB (Roland Schulze, Philippines, DSWCI DX Window)

POLAND R. Polonia, B-04 English: 1300-1359 11850, 9525; 1800-1859 7265, 7220; <http://www.radio.com.pl/polonia> Audio: <http://www.wrn.org/ondemand> (via Jacek Szymik, Katowice, HCXD)

11850 at 1300, SINPO 21111, killed by Family Radio on 11855, about 1 word in 20 intelligible, also a rough buzzing from transmitter; a bit better later in the half hour on 9525 with 1 word in 10 understandable, SINPO 22122; consistently terrible reception, unusable most of the time (Roger Chambers, NY, MVSWLC)

ROMANIA RRI B-04 English:

0630-0700 9565 11710 WEu

1300-1400 15105 17745 WEu

1800-1900 5965 7130 WEu

2130-2200 6055 7145 WEu; 6015 9540 NAM

2300-2400 6135 7105 WEu; 6180 9610 NAM

0100-0200 6140 9690 NAM; 9510 11740 Au

0400-0500 6125 9515 NAM; 11870 15250 India

(RRI via ADDX, Andreas Volk, via Wolfgang Büschel)

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO [non] R. Yugoslavia/RSCB B-04 English, 250 kW via Bijeljina, Bosnia:

0100-0130 NAM 7115 (except Sunday)

0200-0230 NAM/WEu 7130

1330-1400 Au 11835 (exc Sat and Sun)

1930-2000 Eu 6100

2200-2230 Ei 6100

(via Rudolf Krumm, BC-DX)

SLOVAKIA R. Slovakia International in their October 17 Letterbox requested listeners to send in their phone numbers. The station will then call listeners around Christmas time to find out how they spend Christmas. This might be the last time to contact the station if they go ahead and cease SW. Radio Slovakia International, P. O. Box 55, Mytna 1, 810 05 Bratislava, Slovakia (Edwin Southwell, World DX Club Contact)

SOMALIA I am trying to get back to Africa, this time a long stay in Puntland, ex-NE Somalia. I will be staying at Radio Galkayo's complex and helping out with R. Galkayo, the Puntland hams and preparing for the February 2005 Italian ham DXpedition. I have been granted the call-sign 6O0JT, and will be operating 10-80m. Sam Voron, back in Sydney, tells me the ARRL has just given Puntland country status, so she has become big news! R. Galkayo is on the air 0200-0400 and 1000-1800 GMT on 6980. Puntland does not have mail service; reports could be sent via E Mail. See the Radio Galkayo web site: <http://www.radiogalkayo.com>

I asked Sam about other Horn of Africa SW stations: "Most others have disappeared or gone FM"; R. Galkayo remains the only SW station on the air from the former Somalia. I can make sure that all correct reception reports are QSLed. Please be patient with reports and let us know if you can hear Radio Galkayo in your area (Joe Talbot, VA6JW, Home: Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, DXLD)

SOUTH AFRICA SENTECH B-04 including Channel Africa in English with kW:

0300-0355 7390 500 E/CAF

0300-0500 3345 100 SAF

0500-0555 11875 500 Waf

0500-0700 7240 100 SAF

0600-0655 15220 500 Far Waf

0700-0800 11825 100 SAF

1000-1200 11825 100 SAF

1400-1600 11825 100 SAF

1500-1555 17770 500 E/CAF

1700-1755 15285 500 Waf

1900-2200 3345 100 SAF

R. Sonder Grense in Afrikaans:

0500-0700 7185 100 Northern Cape

0700-1700 9650 100 Northern Cape

1700-0500 3320 100 Northern Cape

(Kathy Otto, SENTECH, via Alokesh Gupta, DXLD)

SPAIN [and non] Radio Exterior de España B-04 English:

2000-2059 M-F 9595 Af, 9680 Eu

2200-2259 Sat-Sun 9595 Af, 9680 Eu

0000-0059 6055 Am

Sephardic:

1825-1855 Mon 17770 ME

0115-0145 Tue 11795 SAM

0415-0445 Tue 9690 NAM

(REE via Daniel Sampson, Prime Time Shortwave)

REE is really downplaying their Lenguas Cooficiales. I finally found current schedule on website, for Catalan, Galician and Basque, M-F 1340-1355 to NAM on 21570, 17595, 15170, 5970; and to other areas 21610, 21540, 15585?,

11910 (gh)

SRI LANKA SLBC All Asia Service is one station with great audio. Very pleasant to listen to, 15748.0 at 0040 Early Bird Show with nice instrumental music, breaks for religion at 0100 or 0115, \ 9770 and also announcing 6005, fades around 0130 but sometimes in for hours (Mick Delmage, Alberta, DXLD)

SUDAN [non] The Radio Nile, B-04: 0430-0500 Sat-Tue via Madagascar 325 degrees, 250 kW on 12060 and 15320, is RN's technical schedule - what had been known as Voice of Hope, including some English; about time they came up with a more distinctive name (gh) Yes, it's the same station. They had to change the name due to some dispute between different churches. Because they are still using material prepared before the name change, both the old and new names may be heard. But from 1st Jan 2005, only the new name will be used (Andy Sennitt, Holland) R. Nile better on 12060, times for English vary, talks about humanitarian issues (Brian Alexander, PA, DX Listening Digest)

SYRIA R. Damascus plans to discontinue German, at least on SW. Probably English is endangered as well. Helmut Matt of the German program was asking for listener support to Radio Damaskus, German Language Department, P. O. Box 4702, Damaskus, Syrien or mmhrez@shuf.com (via Kai Ludwig, Germany, DXLD)

THAILAND R. Thailand, B-04 English via 250 kW Udorn u.o.s.: 0000-0030 9680; 0030-0100 5890 Greenville 500 kW, 13695; 0300-0330 5890 Delano 250 kW, 15460; 0530-0600 13780; 1230-1300 9810; 1400-1430 9725; 1900-2000 9840; 2030-2045 9535 (via Wolfgang Büschel) Unclear whether 13695 and 15460 are still running, or backups (gh)

TIBET Xizang PBS, Holy Tibet, 30 minute English at 1630 heard only on 4905, 4920, 5240, 7385; not on other listed channels 6110, 6130, 6200, and 9490 (Jouko Huuskonen, Finland, DXLD)

[non] Voice of Tibet: 1215-1300 around 17525; 1432-1517 around 15690;

1532-1605 around 9395; first half hour is Tibetan language, followed by 15 min in Mandarin; via Mr. Oystein Alme, VOT director (via Eric Zhou, DXLD) Must jump around to avoid jamming; a later version: 1212-1300 17545, 1301-1348 15535, 1430-1605 7520. Chinese dragon-works jammers quickly found them within a few minutes (Victor Goonetilleke, Sri Lanka, BC-DX) seemingly via Tashkent, Uzbekistan (Wolfgang Büschel, ibid.)

TURKEY Heard VOT at 2300 on 7275, and sure enough it's proof that any station broadcasting to North America must avoid the 40-meter band - lots of ham QRM on the low side. I've suggested they move to 5960, in the clear (Joe Hanlon, NJ, DXLD) English to NAM, confirmed at 2300 on 7275; 0400 on 7240, both very good (Bob Thomas, CT, DXLD)

U K Alison Woodhams has been appointed as BBC World Service's Chief Operating Officer and Financial Director. She will be responsible for finances, property and all business development activities. She takes up her post in January 2005 (Media Network blog)

The December 2004 edition of BBC World Service's monthly 'On Air' magazine is the last. They say it is no longer cost-effective (Martin Levene, London, DXLD)

U S A B04 VOA schedule, language by language starting with English: http://www.voanews.com/english/about/frequenciesAtoZ_e.cfm (Dave Kenny, DXLD) At 1605-1655 M-F, when Talk to America is re-scheduled: 17895, 17715, 15255, 15240, 9855, 9760, 9685, 9645, 7125, 6160 (gh)

For at least a month, mid-Oct to mid-Nov, one WEWN transmitter was putting out multiple spurs plus and minus 8.32 kHz, interfering with numerous stations neighboring 5825, 9955, 9975, 13615, as noted by Noel Green, UK, Harold Frogde, MI, gh, and others; and Brian Alexander, PA, who counted 15 extra frequencies around 5825! When you're running 500 kW transmitters (or is it only 350) into high-gain antennas you have even greater responsibility than other stations to keep your signal clean and within legal bandwidth! (Glenn Hauser, OK, DXLD)

The FCC B-04 schedule is at http://www.fcc.gov/ib/sand/neg/hf_web/B04FCC02.TXT but beware of "wooden" listings for silent stations such as WRNO, WWBS, listings which have since changed, and those representing future plans. At least KIMF, Piñon, NM, "the station that never was", no longer shows on 5835 and 11885.

WRMI, Miami, is covered 24 hours for two transmitters instead of the present one: 0000-1600 6870, 1600-2400 9955; 0000-1300 9955, 1300-2400 15725. In practice the times are adjusted as needed for different clients and target areas.

WMLK, Pennsylvania, moved from 9465 to 9265, supposedly with 125 kW, at 0400-0900 and 1600-2100, but 9265 was barely modulated, likely still from the old 50 kW unit. This got WMLK out from under the super WWCR signal on 9475 - except WWCR had replaced that with 9985 (gh)

VENEZUELA [non] On Sunday Nov. 14, the Cuban relays of RNV's Aló, Presidente on 11670, 11875, 13680, 13750, 17750 contained fill programming, and finally closed down early at 1640, Pres. Chávez a no-show (gh) Chávez has suspended his radio and TV program indefinitely until further notice (AP via Hector Garcia Bojorge, Conexión Digital)

Andrés Izarra, Minister of Information and Communication, said "We are revamping the show: the format, the presentation." (El Universal via Henrik Klemetz, Sweden, DXLD)

VIETNAM [and non] VOV B-04, English half-hours, S'on Tay, Vietnam site, 100 kW; except: 7285 Hanoi (Me Tri) 50 kW; 5955 Moscow 100 kW; 6175 250 kW Sackville.

1100 As 7285

1230 As 9840, 12020

1500 As 7285, 9840, 12020

1600 Eu/ME 7220, 7280, 9550, 9730

1800 Eu 5955, Eu/ME 7280, 9730

1900 Eu/ME 7280, 9730

2030 Eu/ME 7220, 7280, 9550, 9730

2330 As 9840, 12020

0100, 0230, 0330 CA 6175

(via Sean Gilbert, WRTH via DXLD)

Until the Next, Best of DX and 73 de Glenn!

0100 UTC on 4780.1

GUATEMALA: Radio Cultural. Spanish identification into "Impacto" program promo. Religious vocals to 0130, followed by *Desencadenado* program presented by the Evangelical Church. (Fernando Garcia, Baltimore, MD)

0116 UTC on 6000

CUBA: Radio Habana. National news to item on terrorists in southern Florida. Station identification amid poor audio and terrible modulation. (Scott Barbour, Intervale, NH) 0530, 11760. (Howard Moser, Lincolnshire, IL)

0222 UTC on 5815

DENMARK: World Music Radio. English ID's to pop music format. (Sheryl Paszkiewicz, WI) Logged 2330-2345 on 5815 with US/Euro pop music format. (Duane Hadley, Bristol, TN)

0232 UTC on 9965

ARMENIA: Voice of. Sign-on with interval signal. Armenian national anthem to station identification into Spanish service to South America as "la voz de Armenia." News 0234-0242 followed by pop, choral and orchestral music to 0305 tune-out. Recheck at 0315 with either carrier off or a reduced power shift. This channel carried **Voice of Russia** Spanish service form 0205-0228. SINPO 55534 gradually fading to S3 or S2 at sign-off. (Bruce Churchill, Fallbrook, CA/Cumbre DX)

0310 UTC on 4919

ECUADOR: Radio Quito. Spanish. Program mix of commercial jingles, Quito ID and local time checks. Pop Lovely Spanish ballads. Better signal than past evenings. (Gayle Van Horn, NC)

0310 UTC on 9575

SPANISH MOROCCO: Radio Medi Un. French talk to US and Arabic pop music. (Paszkiewicz, WI)

0359 on 11530

CLANDESTINE-IRAQ: Voice of Mesopotamia. Presumed Kurdish text between choral music. Very poor copy but audible to 0415. (Brian Bagwell, St. Louis, MO) Station audible 11530 at 1407 with Turkish vocals, ID and news format. (Paszkiewicz, WI)

0900 UTC on 6035.2

COLOMBIA: La Voz del Guaviari. Station ID to noticias (news) program via RCN network, followed by corridos music. (Garcia, MD)

0906 UTC 3291

GUYANA: Voice of. English birthday wishes for several listeners. Ad for "National Hardware in downtown Georgetown" at 0915, followed by local music. Weak but clear. (Barbour, NH)

0910 UTC on 6134.9

BOLIVIA: Radio Santa Cruz. Spanish. Clear identification, found while band scanning. Fair signal quality for regional ads and jingles. (Larry Van Horn, NC) Bolivia's **Radio Pio Doce** 5952.3, 1000 with IDs and Andean music. (Paszkiewicz, WI)

1001 UTC on 3385

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Radio East New Britain. Pidgin. Presumed network newscast on parallel 4890 (NBC) until 1010. Musical bridges with brief talks segments. Choral music at 1023 to chat until signal fade by 1030. Poor/fair signal quality. (Barbour, NH) PNG's **Catholic Radio** 4960, 1120-1300. Fair quality with music and vocals in English. (Dale M. Fisher, Euclid, OH). **NBC** 4890, 1345-1400. (Thomas M. Gibson, Spokane, WA) PNG's **Radio Sandaun** 3205, 1147; **Radio Simbu** 3355, 1150. (Jerry Lineback, KS/NASWA Flash Sheet) **Radio Manus** 3315, 1034-1047; **Radio East Sepik** 3334, 1012-1022.

1007 UTC on 12085

MONGOLIA: Voice of. Fair signal amid lengthy talks and muddled audio. ID over music at 1029 to distinct interval signal followed by ID for Mongolian service. Improved signal by 1055 recheck. (Barbour, NH)

1025 UTC on 4826.24

PERU: Radio Sisuaní. Quechua. Local talks from two males to "Radio Sicuaní" identification. SINPO 33433. (Arnaldo Slaen, Buenos Aires, ARG)

1038 UTC on 7320

RUSSIA: Radio Rossii. Russian continuous talk by two males. Fair and improving on // 5940 under WWCR. (Barbour, NH) **Voice of Russia** 11980 // 7310 at 2020. (Frodge, MI) Russian 9480 at 0640. (Rick Barton, Phoenix, AZ)

1045 UTC on 7210

VIETNAM: Voice of. Asian dialect presumed Vietnamese with regional music and ID. Signal fair to poor with minimal copy. (Hadley, TN)

1110 UTC on 6185

CHINA: China Huayi BC. Mandarin. Lady with talks over musical bits. Interview at 1116 to pop jingle at 1128. Booming signal! **China Radio Int'l** 7115, 2253-2302 with IDs, and CRI website. (Barbour, NH) China's **Xinjiang PBS** 7155, 1110-1125 in Chinese. (Sam Wright, Biloxi, MS) **CPBS-Shijiazhuang** 6125, 2137-2148; 2155-2205 in Mandarin. (Brbour, NH) **China Radio Int'l** 7190, 2115. (Frodge, MI)

1143 UTC on 6130

LAOS: Lao National Radio. Laotian. Continuous sub-continent ballads until seven gongs and station identification at 1200. Brief instrumental music followed by newscast. Fair signal though decreasing by tune-out. (Barbour, NH) *Nice catch, Scott - GVH*

1252 UTC on 15747

SRI LANKA: SLBC. Brief signal window with nice reception of oldies music. Station ID for "SLBC all Asian service" at 1300. Commentary to world news and religious program from the book of Revelations. **Deutsche Welle** relay 9505, 0106. (Barbour, NH)

1345 UTC on 4890

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: NBC. Good reception for time checks after a song from Daru, western province. Western 70's vintage song to local tune. Military rendition of national anthem from 1358. Carrier remained on past 1359. (Walter Salmaniw, Victoria, BC, Canada/HCDX)

1400 UTC on 17780

ITALY: RAI. Italian news report on Iraq // 21520. (Bob Fraser, Belfast, ME) Italian service 11800, 2330 with IDs. (Tom Banks, Dallas, TX)

1408 UTC on 5985.80

MYANMAR: Radio Myanmar. Good reception, best I've heard in some time. Program interspersed with brief segments by male, English commencing at 1434. Somewhat difficult to follow during piece about Dengue fever, best on LSB. (Salmaniw, CAN)

1601 UTC on 11690

JORDAN: Radio. News headlines in lyric rock music program. Closing news summary to ID and regional news check. Fair/good quality. (Rich D'Angelo, PA/NASWA) Audible 11690, 1638-1700. (Frodge, MI)

1835 UTC on 15640

ISRAEL: Kol Israel. Station IDs and world news roundup. (Frank Hillton, Charleston, SC) News on Syria 17535 // 15640 at 1910. (Fraser, ME)

2116 UTC on 17800

NIGERIA: Voice of. Lady's program, *Nigerian Popular Music* to time checks, IDs and interval signal at 2130. 7255, 2241-2300* in vernaculars from a studio audience. (Barbour, NH)

2101 UTC on 11875

CUBA: Radio Nacional de Venezuela relay. Spanish text // 6000. Caribe anuncios of lite music "esta es Venezuelano Caribe." (Frodge, MI) Logged 13680, 2300 with Spanish political commentary. (Barton, AZ)

*Thanks to our contributors - Have you sent in YOUR logs?
Send to Gayle Van Horn, c/o Monitoring Times (or e-mail gaylevanhorn@monitoringtimes.com)
English broadcast unless otherwise noted.*

Here's to New Beginnings

Awelcome aspect of the new year is that it offers a timely opportunity for reflection and renewal. And so it is with *MT*'s efforts to inform you about international broadcasting and the programs carried on it. You will note that we're taking a somewhat new tack beginning this month. It's an approach dictated both by experience and necessity.

The task of assembling program listings from international broadcasters has not changed all that much from what it always has been. An apt analogy would be the often frustrating effort that goes into planning a family's activities around the lives of teenagers. Like teens, most broadcasters – if they are planning ahead much at all – are not letting us in those plans in advance. Certainly, they are not doing so with magazine deadlines in mind. All too often, in the time it takes to put such listings into print, it's either become stale or has even changed completely by the time the magazine gets into your hands.

Frankly, there are better ways of delivering comprehensive program listings today and that way is the internet. With the help of the *Association of North American Radio Clubs (ANARC)* and *North American Shortwave Association (NASWA)*, I maintain a web site that provides, in a convenient, interactive and more timely way, the very program listings that up to now, have been part of *MT*'s *Shortwave Guide*. Go to <http://anarc.org/naswa/swlguide> and try it out.

You see, a monthly magazine format is much more suitable for providing background and perspective on the changes that come faster and faster with each passing day. That's what we are going to be providing more of in this column, which now grows to better meet that objective. We'll also be pointing you toward many other useful sources for information that has a limited "shelf life."

We hope you like our new approach. As always, you can help by letting us know your thoughts and suggestions.

❖ With a New Year Theme

Last month, we gave you some suggestions for listening on New Year's Eve (see page 44) – namely, by using your radio to ring in the new year hour by hour around the world. But you should know that there are some New Year's Day traditions on shortwave that can be expected to continue.

For the past few years, Kim Elliott of the VOA has hosted a Talk to America phone-in fielding greetings, comments and questions from around the world. This actually airs on New Year's Eve, December 31st, after the 1600UT news until 1700, and you can try the frequencies listed in the *MT Shortwave Guide* or listen on the web from <http://voanewsnow.com>. I wonder how many of the questions will deal with

the incredible, shrinking nature of the VOA? As they say, stay tuned.

Deutsche Welle's German Service traditionally offers New Year's Day concerts and musical programs in genres ranging from classical to folk and contemporary. **DW's English Service** has a New Year's concert special as well. Consult *The List* is this month's column and the English frequency listings in the *MT Shortwave Guide* for where to tune; but if the ionosphere won't cooperate, you can always try <http://dw-world.de>.

Radio Canada International and the **CBC** suspend regular schedules to give their listeners a glimpse of how the regions of Canada and Canadians celebrate. **RCI** and **CBC North** will carry this to you on shortwave, but <http://cbc.ca> and <http://rcinet.ca> are at the ready as well.

The **BBC World Service** offers programs that give a retrospective on the past year in news, sports and the arts. Several other stations, such as **Radio Netherlands**, **Radio Japan**, **Radio Sweden**, **China Radio International** and **Radio Prague** also give the New Year a special treatment. **Radio Prague**, for example, takes a humorous approach with specially prepared skits and sometimes including a "blooper" reel.

RNZI does its holiday thing – lots of music and storytelling from its domestic counterpart, **National Radio**. And **Radio Australia**, where summer vacation and the Holiday Season combine to produce "the silly season," lots of special programming airs to replace all the offerings that go on hiatus until the end of the month.

❖ Radio Sweden Anew

Radio Sweden has always been counted among the top echelon of international broadcasters. Mindful perhaps of the fact that it is now the sole remaining international broadcaster hailing from the Nordic region, **Radio Sweden** has undergone a period of soul-searching and emerged with a refreshed line-up. The pace of the presentation has been quickened, retaining old favorites and adding new segments that explore history, geography, sci-tech, sport, personalities and the intricacies of Swedish cooking.

"The daily editions offer a smorgasbord of news and current affairs, science and technology, lifestyle, and culture. We explore, debate, analyse and give insight into the way Swedish society and its people are changing to meet today's challenges and opportunities," claims Radio Sweden's web site <http://sr.se/rs>.

Each weekday has been given a broad theme. **Monday's** focus is "culture." The arts program *Spectrum* airs on the first and third weeks of the month. **Tuesday's** leitmotiv is "knowledge" and that brings

the environmental program *Earthscan*, the medical report *Healthscan* and the all things Swedish *S-Files* on the first, second and third weeks respectively. **Wednesday** is devoted to "real life," which means *Sportscan* the first week, *Money Matters* the second and *Nordic Lights* the third. "Lifestyles" infuse **Thursdays** with *Cooking with Judi and Juan*, a new show devoted to Swedish cuisine, airing the first week and the personality profile *Close Up* presented the second. **Friday's** theme is "Debate." Where regular features don't air, special reports and programs will.

On the weekends, **Radio Sweden** is now part of the *Network Europe* team, whose reports will go to air every **Sunday**. **Saturdays** rotate around *SONO* (otherwise known as the youth lifestyles and music show *Sounds Nordic*, documentaries from *Studio 49*, the listener interactive *In Touch with Stockholm* and the topical magazine *Sweden Today*, week to week every month.

❖ RNMUSIC.NL begins Live! Online

There was a time when classical music concerts from the Amsterdam Concertgebouw were a staple of the **Radio Nederland** shortwave schedule. In what might be termed a "back to the future" move, **Radio Netherlands** has started producing a special program for the exclusively for "new media" Internet listeners that tips its hat to the broadcaster's traditional radio roots.

Each week, the RNMUSIC.NL web site offers a new program featuring highlights from *Live! at the Concertgebouw*, a syndicated program for partner stations produced by Radio Netherlands Music, a division of **Radio Netherlands**, and distributed in North America by WCLV/Seaway Productions. All of the fantastic music, interviews and background information that are part of the main program will be featured in *Live! Online*, but in an abbreviated format. *Live! Online* is hosted by Hans Haffmans, the program's regular presenter.

On-demand availability releases both producer and listener from the "tyranny of the scheduler" so program length has the freedom to vary from week to week depending on the musical selections. Each episode remains online for two weeks, providing both last week's program and the current week's program for listening. *Live! Online* can be heard in Real and Windows Media formats.

It's all available now at http://www2.rnw.nl/mu/catalog/radioprograms/live_online.

❖ Briefly...

Radio Exterior de España broadcasts exten-

sively to North America in Spanish with a generally strong, high quality signal. Each weeknight at 0105UT (Tue.-Sat.), the program *Nuestro Sello* – which translates to “Our Seal” – presents a wide range of the best music carrying the RTVE Musica recording seal, a subsidiary of the national public broadcaster. Check *The List* for frequencies to tune...

IRIB, Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting has introduced a service entitled the **Voice of Justice**, which offers news and commentary from an Iranian perspective – or at least that of the nation’s government. It airs nightly at 0130 for an hour on 6120 and 9580 kHz. Given recent developments in that region of the world, it would appear to be a perspective worth hearing.

THE LIST

This will be a new feature for this column, providing a focused, themed posting of programs on shortwave each month. For January, we fixate on **non-English services that target North America**. With all the recent talk about the demise of shortwave, I thought it might be a good idea to get the new year off on the right foot by demonstrating how much shortwave is *still* utilized to communicate across borders – indeed, to North America alone! There’s a good deal of radio enjoyment on offer here – exotic music for one thing, but also just the romantic rhythm of the language being spoken.

Happy 2005!

Non-English Services to N America

Albanian

0000-0130 R. Tirana 6115

Arabic

0000-0200 UAE R.* 13650, 13675
 0000-0400 Egyptian R. 12050
 0030-0430 R. Cairo 7115
 0200-0340 UAE R.* 12005, 13650, 13675, 15395, 15400
 0200-0530 R. Kuwait 11675
 1200-0000 Egyptian R. 12050
 1300-1605 R. Kuwait* 13620, 11990
 1615-1800 R. Kuwait* 11990
 1745-1815 R. Kuwait* 15505
 1815-2130 R. Kuwait* 9855, 15505
 (*published, but not always heard.)

Bulgarian

0100-0200 R. Bulgaria 7400, 9700

Chinese

0000-0100 China R. Int. 6040, 9790
 0100-0200 CBS Taiwan 11825, 15215
 0200-0300 China R. Int. 9580, 9690
 0300-0400 China R. Int. 9720
 0400-0500 CBS Taiwan 5950, 9680
 1200-1300 China R. Int. 9570
 1500-1600 China R. Int. 9560
 2200-0000 CBS Taiwan 5950, 15440

Cree

1200-0600* CBC North 9625(M-F)
 (*at various times during this period)

Croatian

0000-0600 V. of Croatia 7285

Czech

0030-0100 R. Prague 5930
 0230-0300 R. Prague 7345
 2200-2230 R. Prague 9435

Dutch

0300-0400 R. Nederland 6165, 9590
 0530-0600 RvI 9590
 0600-0700 R. Nederland 6165
 1200-1300 R. Nederland 9890
 2230-2300 RvI 11730

Finnish

1300-1400 YLE 15400, 17840
 1300-1500 YLE 17840
 1600-1700 YLE 13665

French

0000-0200 CBC North 9625(M)
 0115-0130 RAI 11800
 0200-0300 R. Bulgaria 7400, 9700
 0200-0300 CBC North 9625(Tue.-Sun.)
 0200-0230 R.Slovakia Int 5930
 0230-0250 Vatican R. 7305
 0300-0400 RAE 11710
 0445-0500 Kol Israel 6280, 7545
 1100-1115 Kol Israel 15640, 17535
 1100-1200 R. France Int. 15515
 1100-1300 R. Canada Int 9515
 1130-1200 R. France Int. 17610
 1200-1210 CBC North 9625(M-F)
 1300-1400 R. Canada Int. 9515(Sat./Sun.)
 1400-1455 CBC North 9625(M-F)
 1400-1500 V. of Korea 9335, 11710
 1600-1615 CBC North 9625(Sun.)
 1600-1700 R. Canada Int. 17835(M-F)
 1600-1900 Africa No. 1 15475
 1700-2000 R. Canada Int. 17835
 1800-1845 CBC North 9625(M-A)
 1800-1815 Kol Israel 9390, 11585, 11605
 1845-2210 CBC North 9625(Sat.)
 2000-2100 R. Taiwan Int. 15130
 2030-2045 Kol Israel 7520, 9390
 2030-2130 R. Havana 9550, 11760
 2300-0000 R. Canada Int. 15180
 2300-0000 REE, Spain 6055
 2300-0000 R. Prague 5930, 7345

German

0000-0200 DW Germany 6100, 9545
 0000-0005 R. Austria Int. 7325(Sun./Mon.)
 0005-0015 R. Austria Int. 7325(Tue.-Sat.)
 0030-0035 R. Austria Int. 7325(Sun./Mon.)
 0035-0045 R. Austria Int. 7325(Tue.-Sat.)
 0200-0600 DW Germany 6100, 6145, 9640
 1600-1605 R. Austria Int. 13675(Sat./Sun.)
 1600-1610 R. Austria Int. 13675(Mon.-Fri.)
 1625-1640 R. Austria Int. 13675(Mon.-Fri.)
 1630-1635 R. Austria Int. 13675(Sat./Sun.)
 2200-0000 DW Germany 9780

Greek

0000-0600 V. of Greece 5865, 7475, 9420
 1200-1500 V. of Greece 11750
 1500-1600 V. of Greece 15485 (Sat./Sun.)
 1600-2200 V. of Greece 15485

Hebrew

0000-0430 Kol Israel 7545, 9345
 0430-0500 Kol Israel 9345
 -0600 Kol Israel 7545, 15760
 -1030 Kol Israel 15760, 17535
 1030-1115 Kol Israel 15760
 -1455 Kol Israel 15760, 17535
 1455-1700 Kol Israel 15760

-2200

Kol Israel 9345

-0000

Kol Israel 6280, 9345

Hungarian

0100-0200 R. Budapest 9835, 9870
 0230-0330 R. Budapest 9775
 2200-2300 R. Budapest 9825

Inuktitut

1200-0600* CBC North 9625(M-F)
 (*at various times during this period)

Italian

0000-0055 RAI 11800
 0130-0315 RAI 11800
 1350-1730 RAI 21520(Sun.)
 1400-1425 RAI 17780, 21520
 1830-1905 RAI 11800, 15250
 2240-0000 RAI 11800

Japanese

0200-0300 R. Japan 5960
 0300-0500 R. Japan 5960, 17825
 0800-1000 R. Japan 9540
 1300-1500 R. Japan 11705
 1500-1700 R. Japan 9535
 2200-2300 R. Japan 17825

Korean

0100-0200 R. Korea Int. 15575
 1100-1200 R. Korea Int. 9650
 1700-1750 KCBS 9335, 11710

Lithuanian

0000-0030 R. Vilnius 7325
 2300-2330 R. Vilnius 9875

Portuguese

0000-0200 RAE 11710
 0000-0300 RDP Int. 9410, 9715 (T-A)
 1300-1700 RDP Int. 15575(S/A/hol.)
 1700-1900 RDP Int. 17825(S/A/hol.)
 1900-0000 RDP Int. 15540(irr.)

Russian

0000-0500 Russia Int. R. 7125
 0200-0300 V. of Russia 7240, 9765, 12010, 13665
 0300-0400 V. of Russia 6115, 7240, 12010, 13665
 2300-0000 Russia Int. R. 7125

Serbian

0030-0100 Int. R. S/M 7115
 0100-0130 Int. R. S/M 7115(S)
 0130-0200 Int. R. S/M 7115

Slovak

0130-0200 R. Slovakia Int.5930

Spanish

0000-0100 HCJB 15140
 0000-0100 LRA1 11710(Sun.)
 0000-0100 RCI 9755, 11865
 0000-0100 REE Spain 9535
 0000-0100 R. Havana 5965, 6000, 6060, 9820, 11760, 11875
 0000-0230 RAE 6060, 15345 (Sat./Sun.)
 0045-0200 R. Cairo 11780
 0100-0130 R. Canada Int. 9790
 0100-0200 REE Spain 6055, 9535
 0100-0500 R. Havana 5965, 6060, 11760
 0200-0500 REE, Spain 6055, 9535, 11880
 0230-0300 RAE 6060, 15345 (S)
 0300-0330 V. of Vietnam 6175
 0315-0335 RAI 11800
 0400-0430 V. of Vietnam 6175
 0500-0600 REE Spain 6055, 11880
 0600-0700 R. Taiwan Int. 5950*
 0900-1200 LRA1 6060, 15345
 1000-1500 REE Spain 17595 (M-F)
 1100-1200 REE Spain 15170 (M-F)
 1100-1500 R. Havana 11760
 1100-1130 R. Nederland 6165
 1200-1400 RAE 15345(M-F)
 1200-1400 REE Spain 15170(S-F)
 1400-1830 R. Havana 13750(S)
 1500-1600 REE Spain 17850(S)
 1600-2300 REE Spain 17850(S/A)
 1800-0000 LRA1 11710(S)
 1800-2000 RAE 6060, 15345 (S)
 1900-2300 REE Spain 9630
 2000-0000 RAE 6060, 15345 (Sat./Sun.)
 2000-2200 RAE 11710(Sat.)
 2300-0000 HCJB 15140
 2300-0000 RAE 6060, 11710, 15345 (M-F)
 2300-0000 R. Havana 6000, 11875 (M-F)
 2300-0000 REE Spain 9535

Swedish

0200-0230 R. Sweden 6010
 0300-0330 R. Sweden 6010
 1200-1210 SR, P4 15240(M-F)
 1200-1230 R. Sweden 15240(Sat./Sun.)
 1300-1330 R. Sweden 15240
 1400-1430 R. Sweden 15240
 1500-1530 R. Sweden 15240
 1545-1600 SR, P1 15240

Thai

0100-0200 R. Thailand 5890
 0330-0430 R. Thailand 5890

Turkish

0000-0800 V. of Turkey 7300
 2200-0000 V. of Turkey 7300

Ukrainian

0000-0100 R. Ukraine Int 5910
 0200-0400 R. Ukraine Int 5910

Vietnamese

0130-0230 V. of Vietnam 6175
 0430-0530 V. of Vietnam 6175

QSL Scanning 101

Because photo scanners are an extension of the computer, why should it not be an extension of one's QSL collection? If you're still debating storage in binders, cabinets or a shoe box, scanning a collection may be the extra alternative you've been looking for.

Chances are, you're like me. You have cards from stations that have left the air, which means you have vintage cards that cannot be replaced. Scanning your collection preserves it for decades, whether on your hard drive or saved on a floppy or compact disc.

Most DXers, including myself, prefer a flatbed scanner over a sheetfed scanner, because it works well with any size card or letter. Like a photo copier, the scanner's mechanism moves across the original from under the glass plate. The image is then displayed on your computer's monitor. Most flatbed scanners can handle up to an 8-1/2" x 14" page.

Scanners are very affordable and include a software package to assist you in scanning the best digital image. When scanning, your first consideration should be the resolution of the item to scan. Today's scanners have a preset default resolution setting or can be adjusted to your preference from 75 to 1,200 dpi (dots per inch). The higher the resolution, the better the scanned image, but also the larger the file size. Depending on what I'm scanning, I routinely use 300 dpi.

Most flatbed scanners have a preferred corner of the glass on

which to place the card or letter. Though not required, I have found that by using this guide I get a straighter scan, which is important to get the best image. When the Preview prompt is shown on the screen, you have the chance to see if the image is straight and if the scan will be adequate. At this time, you can use a cropping tool to remove excess empty margins, smears or discolorations. The next step is to hit Scan.

Now you're on your way. Hit "Save As," saving your little jewel with the station name or country as a jpeg file. From here you can move it to a disc or retain it on your hard drive in a folder you might title "My QSLs."

You'll find flatbed scanning to be versatile and easy to use. Think beyond the QSL card or letter, and scan business cards, certificates, photos, cut-outs, stickers, postcards, souvenirs and those colorful stamped envelopes. Each can be scanned separately, or if you receive several items from one station, scan them as a one-page collage and save them as one file. If scanning as one page, you may have some empty spaces between the items. Lay a sheet of white paper over them to hold small items in place as well as making a nice white background.

The possibilities of scanning your collection are as endless as your imagination. For now, however, you're set. You can upload QSLs to a personal website, or better yet, send a copy to *QSL Report!* We love graphics. So, get scanning!

AMATEUR RADIO

Isle of Wight (IOTA EU-120) 15/20 meters SSB. Full data card from ARRL bureau. Received in 46 days. (Larry Van Horn N5FPW, NC)

ARGENTINA

RAE, 11710 kHz. Full data QSL and full page letter signed by John Anthony Middleton-Head of RAE English Team, and Marcela G.R. Campos, Director-External Service. Received in 189 days for an English report and two U.S. dollars. Station address: c/o English Service, Casilla Correos 555, Buenos Aires, Argentina. (Joe Squashic W4TTO, Wake Forest, NC)

Radio Baluarte, 6215 kHz. Full data Certificado de Sintonia certificate signed by Hugo Eidinger-Director. Prepared QSL card signed and returned with tourist brochure. Received in two months for mint stamp, one US dollar and a tourist postcard. Station address: Casilla de Correo 45, 3370 Puerto Iguazu, Provincia de Misiones, Argentina. (Frank Hillton, Charleston, SC)

AUSTRALIA

HCJB, 11750 kHz. Full data verification



RADIODIFUSION ARGENTINA AL EXTERIOR
C.C. 555 CORREO CENTRAL - FAX: 325-5742/8433
1000 BUENOS AIRES - REPUBLICA ARGENTINA

SERVICIO
OFICIAL DE
RADIODIFUSION

AGENCIA DE SU INFORME DE RECEPCION
FRECUENCIAS: 8880 - 9000 - 11710 - 15345 kHz

QSL

on station letterhead, unsigned. Received in 32 days for an English report and one IRC (required for reply). Station address: Voice of the Great Southland, GPO Box 691, Melbourne VIC 3001 Australia (or) english@hcjb.org.au (David Stephenson, Bangor, ME)

Radio Australia, 9580 kHz. Full data color Shepparton card signed by Nigel Holmes, plus postcards and brochures. Received in 14 days for a taped report and one US dollar. Station address: GPO Box 428G, Melbourne VIC 3001, Australia. <http://www.abc.net.au/ra/>. (Mark Redfox, Albuquerque, NM)

CANADA

NHK/Radio Japan relay 6110 kHz. Full data color neon world card signed by A. Ishino, plus newsletter, and poster. Received in 37 days for an English report and one US dollar. Station address: NHK World, Nippon Hoso Kyokai, Tokyo 150-800 Japan. (Redfox, NM)

Radio Korea International relay, 9560 kHz. Full data color *Bullet Train* card unsigned. Received in 45 days for a taped report and one US dollar. Station address: KBS, 18 Yoido-dong Youngdeungpo-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea. 150-790. <http://kbs.kbs.co.kr>. (Redfox, NM)

CHILE

Radio Voz Cristiana. Full data logo card unsigned. Received in 61 days for an English report. Station address: Casilla 395, Talagante, Santiago, Chile. Scott Barbour,

Intervale, NH)

DENMARK

World Music Radio, 5815 kHz. No data email reply. Received in ten hour and 25 minutes for report to; [http://wmr@wmr.dk](mailto:wmr@wmr.dk), with mention of future verification. (Harold Frogde, Midland, MI)



HONDURAS

HRPC Radio Luz y Vida, 3250 kHz. Full data logo card unsigned. Received in 602 days for an English report and one US dollar. Station address: Apartado Postal 303, San Pedro Sula, Honduras. (Barbour, NH)

MEDIUM WAVE

KKAD, 1550 kHz AM. Full data card signed by Dave Bishoff-Chief Engineer. Received in 62 days for an AM report. Station address: 888 SW 5th Avenue, Suite # 790, Portland, OR 97204. Veri signer signed KPAM 860 kHz AM card in five days for same address. (Patrick Martin, Seaside, OR)

KTHH, 990 kHz AM. Friendly letter from Bill Lundon-Program Director, plus *The Truth* slogan stickers. Received in four days for an AM report. Station address: 2840 Marion Street SE, Albany, OR 97322. (Martin, OR)



HOW TO USE THE SHORTWAVE GUIDE

0000-0100 twhfa USA, Voice of America 5995am 6130ca 7405am 9455af
 ① ② ⑤ ③ ④ ⑥ ⑦

Convert your time to UTC.

Broadcast time on ① and time off ② are expressed in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) – the time at the 0 meridian near Greenwich, England. To translate your local time into UTC, first convert your local time to 24-hour format, then add (during Standard Time) 5, 6, 7 or 8 hours for Eastern, Central, Mountain or Pacific Times, respectively. Eastern, Central, and Pacific Times are already converted to UTC for you at the top of each hour.

Note that all *dates*, as well as times, are in UTC; for example, a show which might air at 0030 UTC *Sunday* will be heard on *Saturday* evening in America (in other words, 7:30 pm Eastern, 6:30 pm Central, etc.).

Find the station you want to hear.

Look at the page which corresponds to the time you will be listening. On the top half of the page English broadcasts are listed by UTC time on ①, then alphabetically by country ③, followed by the station name ④. (If the station name is the same as the country, we don't repeat it, e.g., "Vanuatu, Radio" [Vanuatu].)

If a broadcast is not *daily*, the days of broadcast ⑤ will appear in the column following the time of broadcast, using the following codes:

Day Codes	
s/S	Sunday
m/M	Monday
t/T	Tuesday
w/W	Wednesday
h/H	Thursday
f/F	Friday
a/A	Saturday
D	Daily
mon/MON	monthly
occ:	occasional
DRM:	Digital Radio Mondiale

In the same column ⑤, irregular broadcasts are indicated "tent" and programming which includes languages besides English are coded "vl" (various languages).

Choose the most promising frequencies for the time, location and conditions.

The frequencies ⑥ follow to the right of the station listing; all frequencies are listed in kilohertz (kHz). Not all listed stations will be heard from your location and virtually none of them will be heard all the time on all frequencies.

Shortwave broadcast stations change some of their frequencies at least twice a year, in April and October, to adapt to seasonal conditions. But they can also change in response to short-term conditions, interference, equipment problems, etc. Our frequency manager coordinates published station schedules with confirmations and reports from her monitoring team and MT readers to make the Shortwave Guide up-to-date as of one week before print deadline.

To help you find the most promising signal for your location, immediately following each frequency we've included information on the target area ⑦ of the broadcast. Signals beamed toward your area will generally be easier to hear than those beamed elsewhere, even though the latter will often still be audible.

Target Areas	
af:	Africa
al:	alternate frequency (occasional use only)
am:	The Americas
as:	Asia
au:	Australia
ca:	Central America
do:	domestic broadcast
eu:	Europe
irr:	irregular (Costa Rica RFPI)
me:	Middle East

Shortwave Broadcast Bands

kHz	Meters
2300-2495	120 meters (Note 1)
3200-3400	90 meters (Note 1)
3900-3950	75 meters (Regional band, used for broadcasting in Asia only)
3950-4000	75 meters (Regional band, used for broadcasting in Asia and Europe)
4750-4995	60 meters (Note 1)
5005-5060	60 meters (Note 1)
5730-5900	49 meter NIB (Note 2)
5900-5950	49 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
5950-6200	49 meters
6200-6295	49 meter NIB (Note 2)
6890-6990	41 meter NIB (Note 2)
7100-7300	41 meters (Regional band, not allocated for broadcasting in the western hemisphere) (Note 4)
7300-7350	41 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
7350-7600	41 meter NIB (Note 2)
9250-9400	31 meter NIB (Note 2)
9400-9500	31 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
9500-9900	31 meters
11500-11600	25 meter NIB (Note 2)
11600-11650	25 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
11650-12050	25 meters
12050-12100	25 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
12100-12600	25 meter NIB (Note 2)
13570-13600	22 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
13600-13800	22 meters
13800-13870	22 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
15030-15100	19 meter NIB (Note 2)
15100-15600	19 meters
15600-15800	19 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
17480-17550	17 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
17550-17900	17 meters
18900-19020	15 meter WARC-92 band (Note 3)
21450-21850	13 meters
25670-26100	11 meters

Notes

- Note 1 Tropical bands, 120/90/60 meters are for broadcast use only in designated tropical areas of the world.
- Note 2 Broadcasters can use this frequency range on a (NIB) non-interference basis only.
- Note 3 WARC-92 bands are allocated officially for use by HF broadcasting stations in 2007. They are only authorized on a non-interference basis until that date.
- Note 4 WRC-03 update. After March 29, 2009, the spectrum from 7100-7200 kHz will no longer be available for broadcast purposes and will be turned over to amateur radio operations worldwide

MT MONITORING TEAM

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Shortwave Guide



0200 UTC - 9PM EST / 8PM CST / 6PM PST

0200	0227	Czech Rep, Radio Prague Intl	6200na	7345na	
0200	0227	Iran, Voice of the Islamic Rep	6120am	9580am	
0200	0228	Hungary, Radio Budapest	9775na		
0200	0230	Australia, HCJB	15560as		
0200	0230	Austria, AWR Europe	6175me		
0200	0230	Belarus, Radio	5970eu	7210eu	
0200	0230	Serbia & Montenegro, Intl Radio	7130va		
0200	0257	China, China Radio Intl	13640as	11770as	
0200	0259	Canada, Radio Canada Intl	6190am	9755am	
		9810am			
0200	0300	Anguilla, Caribbean Beacon	6090am		
0200	0300	Argentina, RAE	11710na		
0200	0300	Australia, ABC NT Alice Springs	2310irr	4835do	
0200	0300	Australia, ABC NT Katherine	5025do		
0200	0300	Australia, ABC NT Tennant Creek	4910do		
0200	0300	Australia, Radio	9660as	13630pa	
		15240pa	15415pa	15515as	17750pa
		21725pa			
0200	0300	Canada, CBC Northern Service	9625do		
0200	0300	Canada, CFRX Toronto ON	6070do		
0200	0300	Canada, CFVP Calgary AB	6030do		
0200	0300	Canada, CKZN St John's NF	6160do		
0200	0300	Canada, CKZU Vancouver BC	6160do		
0200	0300	Costa Rica, University Network	5030va	6150va	
		7375va 9725va			
0200	0300	Cuba, Radio Havana	6000na	9820na	
0200	0300	Egypt, Radio Cairo	7260na		
0200	0300	Guyana, Voice of	3290do		
0200	0300	Malaysia, RTM	7295as		
0200	0300	Myanmar, Radio	7185do		
0200	0300	Namibia, Namibian BC Corp	3270af	3290af6090af	
0200	0300	New Zealand, Radio NZ Intl	17675pa		
0200	0300	North Korea, Voice of 4405as	11845as	15230as	
0200	0300	Philippines, Radio Pilipinas	11885as	15120as	
		15270pa			
0200	0300	Russia, Voice of	7180na	7350na	15425na
		15475na	15595na	17695as	
0200	0300	Sierra Leone, Radio UNAMSIL	6137af		
0200	0300	Singapore, Mediacorp Radio	6150do		
0200	0300	Solomon Islands, SIBC	5020do	9545do	
0200	0300	South Korea, Radio Korea Intl	9560na	11810na	
		15575na			
0200	0300	Sri Lanka, SLBC	6005as	11905as	15745as
0200	0300	Taiwan, Radio Taiwan Intl	5950na	9680na	
		11875as	15465va		
0200	0300	UK, BBC World Service	5975ca	6195as	
		9525ca 9750af	9825ca	11955as	12095ca
		15310as	15360as	17790as	
0200	0300	USA, AFRTS	4319usb	5446usb	5765usb
		6350usb	7507usb	10320usb	12133usb
		13362usb			
0200	0300	USA, KAIJ Dallas TX	5755na		
0200	0300	USA, KJES Vado NM	7555na		
0200	0300	USA, KTBN Salt Lake City UT	7505na		
0200	0300	USA, KWHR Naalehu HI	17510as		
0200	0300	USA, Voice of America	7200va	11820va	
		17740va			
0200	0300	USA, WBCQ Kennebunk ME	5105na	7415na	
		9330na			
0200	0300	USA, WBOH Newport NC	5920am		
0200	0300	USA, WEWN Birmingham AL	5825va	7425va	
		11530va			
0200	0300	USA, WHRA Greenbush ME	7580na		
0200	0300	USA, WHRI Noblesville IN	5835am	7315am	
		7535am			
0200	0300	USA, WINB Red Lion PA	9320am		
0200	0300	USA, WJIE Louisville KY	13595am		
0200	0300	USA, WRMI Miami FL	6870am	9955am	
0200	0300	USA, WTJC Newport NC	9370na		
0200	0300	USA, WWCR Nashville TN	3210na	5070na	
		5935na 7465na			
0200	0300	USA, WWRB Manchester TN	5050na	5085na	
		5745na 6890na			
0200	0300	USA, WYFR Okeechobee FL	5985na	6065na	
		9505na 11855ca			
0200	0300	Zambia, Radio Christian Voice	4965af		
0205	0215	Croatia, Croatian Radio	7285na		
0215	0230	Nepal, Radio	3230as	5005as	6100as
		7165as			
0230	0258	Vietnam, Voice of	6175am		
0230	0300	Belarus, Radio	5970eu	7210eu	
0230	0300	Sweden, Radio	6010na		
0245	0300	Albania, Radio Tirana	6115eu	7160eu	
0245	0300	UK, BBC World Service	11865af		
0250	0300	Vatican City, Vatican Radio	7305am	9605am	
0250	0300	Zambia, Radio	4910do		

0300 UTC - 10PM EST / 9PM CST / 7PM PST

0300	0330	Egypt, Radio Cairo	7260na		
0300	0330	Philippines, Radio Pilipinas	15270pa	11885as	15120as
0300	0330	s Swaziland, TWR	3200af		
0300	0330	a Thailand, Radio	5890na	15460na	
0300	0330	UK, Wales Radio Intl	9795va		
0300	0330	USA, KJES Vado NM	7555na		
0300	0330	Vatican City, Vatican Radio	7360af		
0300	0355	South Africa, Channel Africa	3345af	7390af	
0300	0357	China, China Radio Intl	7190na	9690na	
		11770as	15110as		
0300	0359	New Zealand, Radio NZ Intl	17675pa		
0300	0400	Anguilla, Caribbean Beacon	6090am		
0300	0400	Australia, ABC NT Alice Springs	2310irr	4835do	
0300	0400	Australia, ABC NT Katherine	5025do		
0300	0400	Australia, ABC NT Tennant Creek	4910do		
0300	0400	Australia, Radio	9660as	12080as	13630pa
		15240pa	15415pa	15515as	17750pa
		21725pa			
0300	0400	Bulgaria, Radio	9400na	9700eu	
0300	0400	Canada, CBC Northern Service	6090am	9625do	
0300	0400	Canada, CFRX Toronto ON	6070do		
0300	0400	Canada, CFVP Calgary AB	6030do		
0300	0400	Canada, CKZN St John's NF	6160do		
0300	0400	Canada, CKZU Vancouver BC	6160do		
0300	0400	Costa Rica, University Network	5030va	6150va	
		7375va 9725va			
0300	0400	Cuba, Radio Havana	6000na	9820na	
0300	0400	Guatemala, Radio Cultural	3300sa		
0300	0400	Guyana, Voice of	3290do		
0300	0400	Japan, Radio	21610pa		
0300	0400	Malaysia, RTM	6175as	7295as	9750as
		15295as			
0300	0400	Namibia, Namibian BC Corp	3270af	3290af6090af	
0300	0400	North Korea, Voice of 3560as	7140as	9345as	
		9720as			
0300	0400	Oman, Radio	15355as		
0300	0400	Russia, Voice of	7150na	7180na	7350na
		12010na	15425na	15475na	15595na
		17695as			
0300	0400	Sierra Leone, Radio UNAMSIL	6137af		
0300	0400	Singapore, Mediacorp Radio	6150do		
0300	0400	Solomon Islands, SIBC	5020do	9545do	
0300	0400	Sri Lanka, SLBC	6005as	11905as	15745as
0300	0400	Taiwan, Radio Taiwan Intl	5950va	15125va	
		15320va			
0300	0400	Uganda, Radio	4976do	5026do	7196do
0300	0400	UK, BBC World Service	3255af	6005af7160af	
		9605as 9750af	11760va	11765af	12035af
		15280as	15310as	15360as	15575va
		17760as	17790as	21660as	
				9625va	
0300	0400	UK, Sudan Radio Service	4319usb	5446usb	5765usb
0300	0400	USA, AFRTS	6350usb	7507usb	10320usb
		13362usb			
0300	0400	USA, KAIJ Dallas TX	5755na		
0300	0400	USA, KTBN Salt Lake City UT	7505na		
0300	0400	USA, KWHR Naalehu HI	17510as		
0300	0400	USA, Voice of America	7340af 9885af	6035af	6080af7290af
0300	0400	USA, WBCQ Kennebunk ME	5105na	7415na	
		9330na			
0300	0400	USA, WBOH Newport NC	5920am		
0300	0400	USA, WEWN Birmingham AL	5825va	7425va	
		11530va			
0300	0400	USA, WHRA Greenbush ME	7580na		
0300	0400	USA, WHRI Noblesville IN	5835am	7315am	
		7535am			
0300	0400	USA, WINB Red Lion PA	9320am		
0300	0400	USA, WJIE Louisville KY	13595am		
0300	0400	USA, WRMI Miami FL	6870am	9955am	
0300	0400	USA, WTJC Newport NC	9370na		
0300	0400	USA, WWCR Nashville TN	3210na	5070na	
		5935na 7465na			
0300	0400	USA, WWRB Manchester TN	5050na	5085na	
		5745na 6890na			
0300	0400	USA, WYFR Okeechobee FL	5985na	6065na	
		9505na 11855ca			
0300	0400	Zambia, Radio	4910do		
0300	0400	Zambia, Radio Christian Voice	4965af		
0300	0400	Zimbabwe, ZBC Corp	5975do		
0305	0315	Croatia, Croatian Radio	7285na		
0330	0358	Hungary, Radio Budapest	9775na		
0330	0358	Vietnam, Voice of	6175am		
0330	0400	Albania, Radio Tirana	6115eu	7160eu	
0330	0400	Sweden, Radio	6010na		
0330	0400	UAE, Emirates Radio	12005na	13675na	15400na
0330	0400	UK, BBC World Service	7160af 9750af	11760af	11765af 12035af
		15420af	15575af		

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0530 0600 mtwhf UK, BBC World Service 6005af 6190af/7160af
11765af 11940af 15420af 17640af
17885af

0530 0600 UK, BBC World Service 9605as 11955as
15310as 15360as 15575as 17760as
17790as 21660as

0630 0645 as UK, BBC World Service 9875eu
0630 0656 Romania, Radio Romania Intl 9565eu 11710eu
0630 0700 Georgia, Radio Georgia 11805eu
0630 0700 UK, BBC World Service 6005af 6190af
11765af 11940af 15400af 17640af
178851af
0630 0700 USA, Voice of America 6080af 7295af
11835af
0630 0700 Vatican City, Vatican Radio 9660af 11625af
13765af

0635 0700 as Austria, Radio Austria Intl 17870me
0645 0700 mtwhf Austria, Radio Austria Intl 17870me

0600 UTC - 1AM EST / 12AM CST / 10PM PST

0600 0605 as South Africa, TWR 11640af
0600 0620 Vatican City, Vatican Radio 4005eu 5890eu
7250eu

0600 0630 France, Radio France Intl 9595af 15155af
0600 0630 as UK, BBC World Service 6005af 6190af
11765af 11940af 17640af 17885af
0600 0630 USA, Voice of America 6035af 6080af/6105af
7295af 11835af 13710af

0600 0630 mtwhf USA, Voice of America 11995af
0600 0635 mtwhf South Africa, TWR 11640af
0600 0657 China, China Radio Intl 6115na 11770na
11880na

0600 0659 Germany, Deutsche Welle 6140eu 7225af
11785af 15410af

0600 0700 Anguilla, Caribbean Beacon 6090am
0600 0700 Australia, ABC NT Alice Springs 2310irr 4835do
0600 0700 Australia, ABC NT Katherine 5025do
0600 0700 Australia, ABC NT Tennant Creek 4910do
0600 0700 Australia, Radio 9660as 11880as 12080as
13630pa 15160va 15240as 15415pa
15515va 17750as

0600 0700 Canada, CFRX Toronto ON 6070do
0600 0700 Canada, CFVP Calgary AB 6030do
0600 0700 Canada, CKZN St John's NF 6160do
0600 0700 Canada, CKZU Vancouver BC 6160do
0600 0700 Costa Rica, University Network 5030va 6150va
7375va 9725va 11870va

0600 0700 Cuba, Radio Havana 6000na 6060na 9550na
11760am

0600 0700 DRM Germany, Deutsche Welle 21675af
0600 0700 vl Ghana, Ghana BC Corp 3366do 4915do
0600 0700 Greece, Voice of 5865eu 9420eu 15630eu
0600 0700 Guyana, Voice of 3290do
0600 0700 Japan, Radio 7230va 11715va 11740va
11690va 11760va 13630va 15195va
17870va 21755va

0600 0700 Liberia, ELWA 4760do
0600 0700 Malaysia, RTM 6175as 7295as 9750as
15295as

0600 0700 Namibia, Namibian BC Corp 6060af 6175al
0600 0700 New Zealand, Radio NZ Intl 15720pa
0600 0700 Nigeria, Radio/lbadan6050do
0600 0700 Nigeria, Radio/Kaduna 4770do 6090do
0600 0700 Nigeria, Radio/Lagos 4990do
0600 0700 Nigeria, Voice of 7255al 15120af
0600 0700 Russia, Voice of 17665pa 21790pa
0600 0700 Sierra Leone, Radio UNAMSIL 6137af
0600 0700 Singapore, Mediacorp Radio 6150do
0600 0700 vl Solomon Islands, SIBC 5020do 9545do
0600 0700 South Africa, Channel Africa 7240af 15220af
0600 0700 as Swaziland, TWR 4775af
0600 0700 Swaziland, TWR 6120af 9500af
0600 0700 UK, BBC World Service 9605as 11955as
15310as 15360as 17760as 17790as
21660as

0600 0700 USA, AFRTS 4319usb 5446usb 5765usb
6350usb 7507usb 10320usb 12133usb
13362usb

0600 0700 USA, KAIJ Dallas TX 5755na
0600 0700 USA, KTBN Salt Lake City UT 7505na
0600 0700 USA, KWHR Naalehu HI 9930as 11565as
0600 0700 USA, WBOC Kennebunk ME 5105na 7415na
0600 0700 USA, WBOH Newport NC 5920am
0600 0700 USA, WBNW Birmingham AL 5825va 7425va
7570va

0600 0700 USA, WHRA Greenbush ME 7580na
0600 0700 USA, WHRI Noblesville IN 7315am 7535am
0600 0700 USA, WJIE Louisville KY 1359sam
0600 0700 USA, WMLK Bethel PA 9265eu 9955eu
0600 0700 USA, WRMI Miami FL 6870am 9955am
0600 0700 USA, WTJC Newport NC 9370na
0600 0700 USA, WWCR Nashville TN 3210na 5070na
5770na 5935na

0600 0700 USA, WYFR Okeechobee FL 5850eu 7355eu
9680eu 11530na 11580va

0600 0700 vl Vanuatu, Radio 4960do
0600 0700 Yemen, Rep of Yemen Radio 9780me
0600 0700 Zambia, Radio Christian Voice 6065af
0600 0700 vl Zimbabwe, ZBC Corp 5975do
0605 0615 vl Croatia, Croatian Radio 9480au 12105au
12110au

0605 0630 as Austria, Radio Austria Intl 17870me

0700 UTC - 2AM EST / 1AM CST / 11PM PST

0700 0720 as UK, BBC World Service 6190af 11765af
11940af 15400af 17885af

0700 0730 Slovakia, Slovak Radio 13715au 15460au
0700 0730 a Tibet, Xizang PBS 9490as 9580as
0700 0759 New Zealand, Radio NZ Intl 15720pa

0700 0800 s Albania, TWR 11865eu

0700 0800 Anguilla, Caribbean Beacon 6090am
0700 0800 Australia, ABC NT Alice Springs 2310irr 4835do
0700 0800 Australia, ABC NT Katherine 5025do
0700 0800 Australia, ABC NT Tennant Creek 4910do
0700 0800 Australia, HCJB 11750au
0700 0800 Australia, Radio 9660as 11880as 12080as
13630pa 15160va 15240as 15415pa
17750pa

0700 0800 Canada, CFRX Toronto ON 6070do
0700 0800 Canada, CFVP Calgary AB 6030do
0700 0800 Canada, CKZN St John's NF 6160do
0700 0800 Canada, CKZU Vancouver BC 6160do
0700 0800 China, China Radio Intl 11880as 15350as
15465as 17540as
0700 0800 Costa Rica, University Network 5030va 6150va
7375va 9725va 11870va

0700 0800 Eqt Guinea, Radio Africa 15184af
0700 0800 France, Radio France Intl 11700af 11725af
0700 0800 Germany, Deutsche Welle 6140eu
0700 0800 DRM Germany, Deutsche Welle 21675af
0700 0800 Germany, Overcomer Ministries 6110eu
0700 0800 vl Ghana, Ghana BC Corp 3366do 4915do
0700 0800 vl Greece, Voice of 9420eu 11645eu 15630eu
0700 0800 Guyana, Voice of 3290do 5950do
0700 0800 Liberia, ELWA 4760do
0700 0800 Malaysia, RTM 6175as 7295as 9750as
15295as

0700 0800 Myanmar, Radio 9730do
0700 0800 Nigeria, Radio/lbadan6050do
0700 0800 Nigeria, Radio/Kaduna 4770do 6090do
0700 0800 Nigeria, Radio/Lagos 4990do
0700 0800 Nigeria, Voice of 7255al 15120af
0700 0800 Russia, Voice of 12005pa 12060pa 17665pa
21790pa

0700 0800 DRM Russia, Voice of 15780eu
0700 0800 Sierra Leone, Radio UNAMSIL 6137af
0700 0800 Singapore, Mediacorp Radio 6150do
0700 0800 vl Solomon Islands, SIBC 5020do 9545do
0700 0800 South Africa, Channel Africa 11825af
0700 0800 Swaziland, TWR 6120af
0700 0800 Swaziland, TWR 9500af
0700 0800 Taiwan, Radio Taiwan Intl 5950na
0700 0800 UK, BBC World Service 9605as 11955as
15310as 15360as 17760as 17790as
21660as

0700 0800 USA, AFRTS 4319usb 5446usb 5765usb
6350usb 7507usb 10320usb 12133usb
13362usb

0700 0800 USA, KAIJ Dallas TX 5755na
0700 0800 USA, KTBN Salt Lake City UT 7505na
0700 0800 USA, KWHR Naalehu HI 9930as 11565as
0700 0800 USA, Voice of America 5995af 11655af
0700 0800 USA, WBOC Kennebunk ME 5105na 7415na
0700 0800 USA, WBOH Newport NC 5920am
0700 0800 USA, WBNW Birmingham AL 5825va 7425va
7570va

0700 0800 USA, WHRA Greenbush ME 7580na
0700 0800 USA, WHRI Noblesville IN 7315am 7535am
0700 0800 USA, WMLK Bethel PA 9265eu 9955eu
0700 0800 USA, WRMI Miami FL 6870am 9955am
0700 0800 USA, WTJC Newport NC 9370na
0700 0800 USA, WWCR Nashville TN 3210na 5070na
5770na 5935na

0700 0800 USA, WYFR Okeechobee FL 6855va 5985va
9495va 9715va 9985va

0700 0800 vl Vanuatu, Radio 4960do
0700 0800 Zambia, Radio Christian Voice 9865af
0700 0800 USA, WJIE Louisville KY 1359sam
0705 0715 vl Croatia, Croatian Radio 12105au 12110au
0720 0800 as UK, BBC World Service 6190af 11765me

Shortwave Guide



1600	1700		9704f 11800af France, Radio France Intl 15160af 15605af	9730af	11615af
1600	1700	t	Germany, Bible Voice Broadcasting Jordan, Radio 11690na Malaysia, RTM 7295as North Korea, Voice of 3560me Russia, Voice of 4940va 6005me 6130eu 7415as 9470me	9460me	
1600	1700		South Korea, Radio Korea Intl Taiwan, Radio Taiwan Intl UK, BBC World Service 6195as 7160as 9410eu 15310as 15485eu 17820eu	5975va 11550as 3915as 5975as 11750as 15190ca 15565eu	9870va 11815af 5975as 15190ca 17790as
1600	1700	mtwhf	UK, BBC World Service	17830af	
1600	1700	vl/ mtwhf	UK, Sudan Radio Service	15530va	
1600	1700		USA, AFRTS 4319usb 6350usb 7507usb 13362usb	5446usb 10320usb	5765usb 12133usb
1600	1700		USA, KAJI Dallas TX 13815na USA, KJES Vado NM 11715na USA, KTBN Salt Lake City UT USA, KWHR Naalehu HI USA, Voice of America 9645va 9685me 9760va 15240af 15255me 17715af 17895af	15590na 9930as 11565as 6160va 7125va 9855me 13600va 15445va 17640va	
1600	1700		USA, WBCQ Kennebunk ME 9330na 17495na	5105na	7415na
1600	1700		USA, WBOH Newport NC USA, WEWN Birmingham AL 15695va 15745va	5920am 11530va 17595va	13615va
1600	1700		USA, WHRA Greenbush ME USA, WHRI Noblesville IN USA, WINB Red Lion PA USA, WJIE Louisville KY	17650na 9840am 13570am 7490am	15105am
1600	1700		USA, WMLK Bethel PA 9265eu USA, WRMI Miami FL 9955am USA, WTJC Newport NC USA, WWCN Nashville TN 13845na 15825na	15725am 9370na 9985na	12160na
1600	1700		USA, WWRB Manchester TN USA, WYFR Okeechobee FL 13695va 17690va	9320na 6085va 18980va	12170na 11830va 21455va
1600	1700		Zambia, Radio Christian Voice	9865af	
1605	1630	as	Austria, Radio Austria Intl	13675na	
1610	1625	mtwhf	Austria, Radio Austria Intl	13675na	
1615	1700	as	UK, BBC World Service 21490af	11860af	15420af
1630	1700		Egypt, Radio Cairo 9855af		
1630	1700	s	Germany, Bible Voice Broadcasting Guam, AWR/KSDA 11980as	9460me	
1630	1700		UK, BBC World Service 15400af 15420af 21660af	6190af 17830af	11940af 21470af
1635	1700	as	Austria, Radio Austria Intl Turkmenistan, Turkmen Radio	13675na 4930as	
1640	1650		Austria, Radio Austria Intl	13675na	
1645	1700	mtwhf	Germany, Bible Voice Broadcasting	9460me	
1645	1700	mwhta	Tajikistan, Radio 7245srr		
1651	1700		New Zealand, Radio NZ Intl	9870pa	

1700 UTC - 12PM EST / 11AM CST / 9AM PST

1700	1710	mtwh	Moldova, Radio PMR 5960eu		
1700	1715	mf	Germany, Bible Voice Broadcasting	9460me	
1700	1720	f	Moldova, Radio PMR 5960eu		
1700	1727		Czech Rep, Radio Prague Intl	5930eu	15710af
1700	1730	DRM/ a	Azerbaijan, Voice of 6110me Canada, Voice of NASB France, Radio France Intl Jordan, Radio 11690na	11900sa 11615af	15605af
1700	1730	vl	Libya, Voice of Africa 15660af	11860af	15220af 15615af
1700	1730		UK, BBC World Service 12095eu 15565eu 17820eu	6195eu 17820eu	9410eu
1700	1745	DRM	China, China Radio Intl	12080va	
1700	1745	h	Germany, Bible Voice Broadcasting	9460me	
1700	1745		UK, BBC World Service 9630af 15400af 15420af New Zealand, Radio NZ Intl South Africa, Channel Africa China, China Radio Intl 9570af 11900af	3255af 17830af 9870pa 15285af 6100eu	6005af6190af 21470af 7255eu
1700	1750		Anguilla, Caribbean Beacon	11775am	
1700	1800		Australia, HCJB 15390as Australia, Radio 5995as 9475as 9710as 11880pa	6080as	7240as
1700	1800		Australia, Voice Intl 13685as		

1700	1800		Canada, CBC Northern Service Canada, CFRX Toronto ON Canada, CFVP Calgary AB Canada, CKZN St John's NF Canada, CKZU Vancouver BC China, China Radio Intl Costa Rica, University Network Egypt, Radio Cairo 9855af Eqf Guinea, Radio Africa Germany, Bible Voice Broadcasting Germany, Overcomer Ministries Japan, Radio 9535am Malaysia, RTM 7295as Nigeria, Voice of 7255af Russia, Voice of 5910as 9470me 9830me	9625do 6070do 6030do 6160do 6160do 17510va 11870va	13750va
1700	1800	as	Swaziland, TWR 3200af		
1700	1800	mtwhf	UK, BBC World Service	17830af	
1700	1800	vl/ mtwhf	UK, Sudan Radio Service	11715va	
1700	1800		USA, AFRTS 4319usb 6350usb 7507usb 13362usb	5446usb 10320usb	5765usb 12133usb
1700	1800		USA, KAJI Dallas TX 13815na USA, KTBN Salt Lake City UT USA, KWHR Naalehu HI USA, Voice of America 15455af	15590na 9930as 11565as 6160va 7125va 9855me 13600va 15445va 17640va	
1700	1800		USA, WBCQ Kennebunk ME 9330na 17495na	5105na	7415na
1700	1800		USA, WBOH Newport NC USA, WEWN Birmingham AL 15695va 15745va	5920am 11530va 17595va	13615va
1700	1800		USA, WHRA Greenbush ME USA, WHRI Noblesville IN USA, WINB Red Lion PA USA, WJIE Louisville KY	17650na 9840am 13570am 7490am	15105am
1700	1800		USA, WMLK Bethel PA 9265eu USA, WRMI Miami FL 9955am USA, WTJC Newport NC USA, WYFR Okeechobee FL 18980va 21455va	15725am 9370na 9985na	12170na 17510va
1700	1800		Zambia, Radio Christian Voice China, China Radio Intl	9865af 12080va	
1715	1800	f	Russia, FEBA 9840as		
1730	1745		UK, BBC World Service	3390af	7230af9685af
1730	1745	mtwhf	UK, United Nations Radio 17810af	7170af	9565me
1730	1800		Guam, AWR/KSDA 11560as Liberia, ELWA 4760do Philippines, Radio Pilipinas 17720pa		11720as 15190as
1730	1800		Slovakia, Slovak Radio Swaziland, TWR 9500af	5915eu	6055eu
1730	1800		UK, BBC World Service 6195eu 7190eu 9410eu 17820eu	5875eu 12095eu	6015eu 15565eu
1735	1745	vl/th	Paraguay, Radio Nacional	9739sa	
1745	1800		Bangladesh, Bangla Betar	7185as	9550as
1745	1800		India, All India Radio 7410eu 11620eu 11935af 15155af 17670af	9445af 13605af	9950eu 15075af
1745	1800		UK, BBC World Service 15400af 15420af	3255af 17830af	6190af 21470af
1751	1800		New Zealand, Radio NZ Intl	11980pa	

1800 UTC - 1PM EST / 12PM CST / 10AM PST

1800	1810		Zanzibar, Voice of Tanzania	11734do	
1800	1815	DRM	China, China Radio Intl	12080va	
1800	1815	a	Germany, Bible Voice Broadcasting	7210as	
1800	1827		Czech Rep, Radio Prague Intl	5930va	9415va
1800	1828		Vietnam, Voice of 5955eu	7280eu	11630as
1800	1830		Austria, AWR Europe 9530af Egypt, Radio Cairo 9855af		
1800	1830	s	Germany, Bible Voice Broadcasting	6015va	
1800	1830	s	Germany, Universal Life	11840af	
1800	1830	vl	Libya, Voice of Africa 9485af	11635af	11715af
1800	1830		South Africa, AWR Africa 11925af	3215af	3345af
1800	1830		UK, BBC World Service 15400af 15420af	3255af 17830af	6190af 21470af
1800	1850		New Zealand, Radio NZ Intl	11980pa	
1800	1856		Romania, Radio Romania Intl	5965eu	7130eu
1800	1857		Netherlands, Radio 6020af	9895af	11655af
1800	1859		Canada, Radio Canada Intl 11875af 15140af	5850af	7185af9770af
1800	1859		Poland, Radio Polonia 7265eu	7270eu	
1800	1900		Anguilla, Caribbean Beacon	11775am	
1800	1900	mtwhf	Argentina, RAE 9690eu	15345eu	
1800	1900		Australia, Radio 6080as	7240as	9475as

Denver Area Base Upgrades Radios

Land Mobile Radio communications have greatly improved at Buckley AFB in Colorado, according to an article by Scott Conolley in the U.S. Air Force *Intercom* magazine. *Intercom* is the Journal of the Air Force C4 community. During the spring and summer of 2003 the base transitioned from their old analog simplex two-way radio system to a narrowband wide-area digital trunk encrypted radio network (see Table One below).

According to the *Intercom* article, "When the base Personal Wireless Communications office stood up three years ago, the team knew the Land Mobile Radio system was in need of replacement. Half of the Security Forces' radios were broken beyond repair. Some critical users such as the base fire department and the air traffic control tower were operating with radios more than 15 years old. While waiting for replacement funding, the LMR shop managed to satisfy most requirements with radios other bases were turning in. They supplied the base with enough operational radios for emergency personnel. Additionally, antennas were relocated to improve the poor coverage.

"Since the transition, everything has changed. The new government-owned system is a Motorola Smart Zone system, which allows Buckley to control and manage its own radios using a remote terminal. It encompasses 18 repeaters geographically separated between four sites. Two additional repeaters are used for the over-the-air-rekey feature, which allows encryption keys to be updated without physically having to touch each radio. The fire department and security forces now have the capability to patch radio nets together with the local city emergency response teams. Radio users now enjoy other features such as: private call, encryption and an emergency duress alarm. Buckley has tripled the number of radio nets without tripling the amount of radio frequencies.

"This was all made possible because of the new trunk radio system, which efficiently uses a small number of frequencies to provide service to a large number of radios. The system does this through a control channel at each repeater site that acts like a traffic cop and assigns permission to talk as soon as a repeater becomes available.

"During increased demands, the users may get a busy tone, but within seconds open-air time is allocated and the radio will allow the user to make the calls.

"Currently, four federal agencies share the radio system, with the Department of Homeland Security being the primary manager. Sharing a radio system with other federal agencies is highly recommended by the National Telecommunications Administration, and in doing so saved

Buckley more than US\$2.3 million in equipment costs.

"Handheld radio users can communicate clearly within a 2,200 square mile radius around the Denver area. As other federal agencies attach to the system, the coverage could expand from the Wyoming border to Pueblo, about 40 miles south of Colorado Springs."

If you are in the Denver area and would like to monitor this system, Table One has the particulars we have on this system as of press time. Updates from area monitors would be appreciated.

Table One: Buckley AFB Trunk System

System: Motorola Type II Smartnet (APCO-25 Exclusive)
Motorola System ID: 8d34
Base Frequency: 406.000, Spacing: 12.5 kHz, Offset: 380
Connect Tone: 105.88 Hz
Frequencies:
Site 1 (Primary): 406.5000 406.9750 408.0750 409.4000 410.5500
Site-2: 406.7750 407.1250 407.8125 408.4250 408.7750
Site-3: 406.9875 408.2750 409.0250 409.9250 410.4250
Site-4: 407.0000 408.4500 410.6500
Talkgroups:
4400 Escorts
4416 Unknown user/Conducting Status checks
4448 Training
7584 Base Security Police
7808 Primary Fire channel
7888 Buckley Ground (148.2125)/Base Transit Line Staff
7952 Unknown user/usage
8416 140th Aircraft Maintenance
11744 Unknown user/usage
12080 Unknown user/usage
12176 Unknown user/usage

Thanks to "The Researcher" for passing along the background information on the Buckley trunk system.

❖ Robins AFB TRS has new frequencies

Regular *Milcom* reporter Mac McCormick down Savannah, Georgia, way traveled over to Robins AFB and discovered that the old frequencies for the base trunk system have changed. It would appear, based on Mac's report, that the base has moved to a newer narrowband trunk radio system. Here are the specifics that Mac found during his brief visit to the base:

System: Motorola Type II Smartnet Analog
Motorola System ID: 542e
Base Frequency: 406.000 MHz, Spacing: 25-kHz, Offset: 380
Control Tone: 90-Hz
Frequencies: 406.7625 407.1625 407.3625 407.9625 409.1625 409.5625

Talkgroups

2544	Unknown user/usage
3248	Unknown user/usage
3280	Unknown user/usage
3376	Unknown user/usage
3600	Unknown user/usage
3696	Unknown user/usage
3728	Unknown user/usage
3760	Unknown user/usage
3856	Unknown user/usage
4880	Unknown user/usage
4944	Unknown user/usage
6448	Security Control
6480	Unknown user/usage
8016	116 ACW
8080	116 ACW
8208	116 ACW
8368	116 ACW
8400	116 ACW
8432	116 ACW
8464	116 ACW
8528	116 ACW
8560	116 ACW
8592	116 ACW
8624	116 ACW
8656	116 ACW
8688	116 ACW
8720	116 ACW
8752	116 ACW
8784	116 ACW
8816	116 ACW
8880	116 ACW
11248	Unknown user/usage
11280	Unknown user/usage
13680	Unknown user/usage
14448	Unknown user/usage
16112	Tanker Control
64736	Unknown user/usage

Thanks to Mac for the report, and we will be looking for updates the next time you are in the area.

❖ Bradley Going Digital

A source has told *Milcom* that Bradley Air National Guard base near Windsor Locks, Connecticut, is slowly changing their various radio nets to APCO-25 digital. Most of the base radio nets are in the 140-143/148-150 MHz frequency ranges.

Our source also indicated that the security function is using Motorola XTS 3000 portable with encryption capability, although apparently they aren't using the encryption.

Here is a list of land mobile frequencies for

this base courtesy of the *Grove Military Frequency Directory*, 2nd edition:

- 138.125 Security Department (APCO-25)
- 148.075 POL Trucks Dispatch Net
- 148.175 Commanders Net, Repeater out (in 150.125)
- 148.525 Transportation Net
- 149.225 Command Post
- 149.300 Munitions Net
- 150.125 Commanders Net, Repeater in (out 148.175)
- 150.200 Maintenance
- 150.250 Maintenance
- 150.300 Civil Engineers
- 150.350 Disaster Preparedness
- 163.4875 Security Net
- 173.5875 Fire/Crash Net
- 407.375 Intelligence Net, Repeater in (out 413.125)
- 413.000 Miscellaneous Net
- 413.125 Intelligence Net, Repeater out (in 407.375)
- 413.450 Aircrew Alerting

Updates from the field for this base, especially any APOC-25 changeovers, would be appreciated.

❖ Rhode Island Air National Guard Profile

An anonymous contributor has forwarded the following list of Rhode Island Air National Guard frequencies used at **Quonset State Airport**:

- 138.400 Maintenance <Channel 1>
- 139.375 Supply <Channel 3>
- 139.750 Maintenance Expeditors (AGE) <Channel 2>
- 141.625 POL Trucks Dispatch Net <Channel 4>
- 148.125 Aerial Port Squadron (Base Ops/Terminal Services) <Channel 5>
- 148.225 Base Operations/Ramp Control <Channel 6>
- 148.500 Medical Net <Channel 7>
- 148.550 Commanders Net <Channel 8>
- 149.175 Civil Engineers <Channel 9>
- 149.250 Security Police <Channel 10>
- 149.275 Motor Pool <Channel 11>
- 149.475 Fire/Crash <Channel 12>
- 141.800 Airshow security/Common repeater output (input 143.800) 151.4 Hz PL tone <Channel 13> Note: this is listed as "SPS Repeater"

❖ 104th Fighter Wing Presets

Our regular reporter "The Researcher," mentioned above, has also passed along the presets from an A-10 aircraft frequency card belonging to the 104th Fighter Wing based at Barnes Municipal Airport in Massachusetts. Here is that extensive listing.

VHF FM Channels

- 1 139.900
- 2 141.675
- 3 41.450
- 4 36.350
- 5 36.825
- 6 41.950 "FOL"
- 7 34.550 "OPS"
- 8 38.650

UHF Channels

- 1 303.000 Hawk Ops
- 2 289.400 Barnes Municipal Ground Control

- 3 251.100 Barnes Municipal Tower
- 4 325.800 Bradley Approach Control
- 5 379.100 Boston Center (Cummington RCAG-LVH)
- 6 257.850 Boston Center (Lake George RCAG-LVH)
- 7 307.200 Albany Approach Control
- 8 255.400 FSS
- 9 257.600 Wheeler-Sack Approach Control
- 10 267.800 Range 35 (Wheeler-Sack AAF-LVH)
- 11 290.250 Wheeler-Sack AAF Tower
- 12 338.200 Boston Center (Gardner RCAG-LVH)
- 13 381.400 Boston Center (Gardner/Lebanon RCAG-LVH)
- 14 282.200 Boston Center (Berlin RCAG - AR-204/212 ARCP-LVH)
- 15 343.800 Boston Center (Shelton RCAG-LVH)
- 16 317.700 Boston Center (Shelton RCAG-LVH)
- 17 282.300 New York Center (Matawan RCAG-LVH)
- 18 381.600 Boston Center (Barnstable RCAG-LVH)
- 19 286.200 Warren Grove (Range Control/Flight Safety-LVH)
- 399.800 TOD

VHF-AM Channels

- 1 138.050 Ops/MOCC (Viper Ops-LVH)
- 2 138.250 Inter-Flight
- 3 (open none listed)
- 4 127.100 Barnes Municipal ATIS
- 5 121.700 Barnes Municipal Ground Control
- 6 118.900 Barnes Municipal Tower
- 7 134.350 FOL
- 8 114.000 Westover Air Reserve Base/Metropolitan Airport ATIS
- 9 118.350 Westover Air Reserve Base/Metropolitan Airport Ground Control
- 10 134.850 Westover Air Reserve Base/Metropolitan Airport Tower
- 11 141.900 Bradley International Airport Ops (103FW/118FS Ops-Shark Ops-LVH)
- 12 118.150 Bradley International Airport ATIS
- 13 121.900 Bradley International Airport Ground Control

- 14 120.300 Bradley International Airport Tower
- 15 132.050 Pease International Tradeport Airport ATIS
- 16 120.950 Pease International Tradeport Airport Ground Control
- 17 128.400 Pease International Tradeport Airport Tower

❖ Milcom Frequency Changes

MT Milcom regular Jack NeSmith has survived all the Florida hurricanes from last year and checks in with the following UHF Milair frequency changes:

Beale AFB, CA (KBAB)
256.025 940th Command Post [Callsign Tahoe Control] (ex-351.200)

Biggs AAF (Fort Bliss), TX (KBIF)
342.250 Tower (ex-305.200)

Ellsworth AFB, SD (KRCA)
284.000 RAPCON Arrival (ex-393.000)
289.400 Approach Control (ex-396.000)
375.775 Metro (ex-375.200)

Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, HI (PHNG)
294.700 Clearance Delivery (ex-310.800)

Little Rock AFB, AR (KLRFB)
269.075 Tower (ex-348.400)

New River MCAS, NC (KNCA)
239.025 Clearance Delivery (ex-383.550)
244.775 Metro This is a Milcom column spectrum hole (ex-250.600)
285.325 ATIS: This is a Milcom column spectrum hole (ex-265.200)
323.250 Tower-Secondary (ex-340.200)

North Auxiliary Field, SC (KXNO)
235.775 Tower: This is a Milcom column spectrum hole (ex-341.500)

And that does it for this month. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and that the new year will bring you a room full of Milcom intercepts. 73 and good hunting.

Table Two: Where to Look for Activity

I still get snail and email from readers asking where they need to look for military activity and what mode they need to be in. Here is a quick guide to aid you in finding military communications in the VHF/UHF spectrum.

Military VHF/UHF Spectrum Guide

Frequency	Comm Type	Chan Spacing	Mode
29.90-30.55	Land Mobile	20/25 kHz	NFM mode
32.00-32.99	Land Mobile	20/25 kHz	NFM mode
34.00-34.99	Land Mobile	20/25 kHz	NFM mode
36.00-36.99	Land Mobile	20/25 kHz	NFM mode
38.00-38.99	Land Mobile	20/25 kHz	NFM mode
40.00-41.99	Land Mobile	20/25 kHz	NFM mode
46.60-47.00	Land Mobile	20/25 kHz	NFM mode
49.61-49.99	Land Mobile	20/25 kHz	NFM mode
Note: There are also AM mode channels in the VHF low band (30-50 MHz)			
50.00-87.90	Land Mobile	Various	Digital Modes (shared with other services)
118.0-137.0	Civilian aircraft band (military activity peppered throughout this spectrum)		
		25 kHz	AM Mode
138.0-144.0	Land Mobile	12.5 kHz	NFM mode
	Aeronautical	25.0 kHz	AM Mode
148.0-150.8	Land Mobile	12.5 kHz	NFM mode
	Aeronautical	25.0 kHz	AM Mode
162.0-174.0	Land Mobile	12.5 kHz	NFM mode
225.0-400.0	Mil aircraft band	25.0 kHz	AM Mode
240.0-270.0	Mil satellite subband	Various	NFM/Digital modes
380.0-399.9	Land Mobile	12.5 kHz	NFM mode
406.0-420.0	Land Mobile	12.5 kHz	NFM mode

A New Year For Federal Communications

Happy New Year from all of us at *Monitoring Times* and the *Fed Files*! This begins my second year as the federal frequency guru for *MT* and I would like to thank all of the readers who have responded and contributed to the *Fed Files* columns. Your input to this resource is very important and always welcome. In fact, it seems that quite a few *MT* readers find this column of interest, so the editors have graciously allowed us to get together every other month from now on. Thanks for your support and keep your letters and e-mails coming!

❖ Fed Files Road Trip! Border Patrol Update

In September, we talked about formation of the Department of Homeland Security and how some federal agencies' communications plans are changing.

One agency that has been absorbed into the Customs and Border Security Directorate of the DHS is the US Border Patrol. Formerly part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Justice Department, the Border Patrol now forms the front line of defense of the US borders, along with the Customs Service.

Even before the formation of DHS, the Border Patrol was in the process of upgrading their radio communications systems. These upgrades included moving towards digital radios and consolidating communications centers. The program is called the Encrypted Voice Radio Project, or EVRP. In at least one area of the country these upgrades have taken changes to the extreme.

Listeners in the San Diego, California, area have reported for some time that the "normal" groups of VHF Border Patrol frequencies have been virtually abandoned and replaced with dozens of new digital VHF frequencies. Some reports have claimed to log upwards of over 100 different encrypted frequencies that seem to be part of this new digital network.



Photo by James Tourtellotte

I have been able to make several trips to the San Diego area to check this new network out and recently traveled along I-8 from San Diego to Tucson, Arizona. After loading up my rental car with computers, scanners and a number of antennas on the trunk lid, I started hearing dozens of new digital frequencies. This new radio network seems to be in use along the southern California border area only, with Border Patrol communications in Arizona appearing to revert back to mostly familiar, analog frequencies once you cross the state line.

Here is some of what I was able to log on my travels. Note that all of the frequencies using P-25 digital mode were using encryption, except where noted:

San Diego County, CA

162.8500 MHz
163.7250 MHz
166.6375 MHz
166.9125 MHz
167.1500 MHz
167.3000 MHz – Busy, most traffic unencrypted
167.3750 MHz
167.4500 MHz
167.5250 MHz
167.5750 MHz
167.7250 MHz
167.7750 MHz – Busy
168.5000 MHz – Busy
168.8500 MHz – Busy
170.3750 MHz
170.7625 MHz
170.8375 MHz – Busy
171.5375 MHz – Busy
172.0250 MHz
172.5125 MHz – Busy
172.9875 MHz
173.1625 MHz – Busy
173.4500 MHz
173.6500 MHz – Busy
173.9750 MHz – Busy

Imperial County, CA

162.6125 MHz
162.9250 MHz
165.5875 MHz
167.2625 MHz
167.3000 MHz – Busy, most traffic unencrypted
167.4500 MHz – Busy
167.6500 MHz
167.7250 MHz
167.7750 MHz – Busy
168.9250 MHz – Busy
170.6500 MHz
170.7625 MHz
170.8375 MHz
172.9875 MHz
173.1625 MHz – Busy
173.6500 MHz – Busy
173.9750 MHz

Once I entered Arizona, things settled back down to "normal" frequencies and modes of operations:

163.6250 MHz
163.6750 MHz
163.7000 MHz
163.7250 MHz – Border Patrol LEMMON repeater (Mt. Lemmon, Tucson area)
163.7750 MHz
165.2375 MHz – Customs NET 1
168.8250 MHz
168.8750 MHz
282.4250 MHz (AM) – Custom Air Operations

Border Patrol communications along the Northwestern US border with Canada still continue to be heard on the usual 163 MHz channels, with some digital encryption heard. If you start noticing a large number of new digital frequencies becoming active in your area, you may be hearing part of the EVRP!

❖ Federal Agency Updates Transportation Security Administration

I have received some requests from readers wondering what frequencies the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) uses at airports these days.

The TSA was originally formed as part of the Department of Transportation, but is now under the Department of Homeland Security. When the TSA was first formed in 2002, they were using whatever was handy for radios until their federal contract for communications equipment was fulfilled. In their early days, I monitored the TSA on everything from local airport police frequencies to UHF business and even Family Radio Service channels.

The TSA is now using radios with their own frequencies in the APCO P-25 digital mode. So far I have not encountered any encryption, but the federal contract for the radios calls for encryption capabilities. Here is the nationwide channel plan for the TSA radios:

F1 - 172.1500, S/D S1 - simplex, digital
F2 - 172.1500, S/D S1 - simplex, digital
F3 - 172.1500, S/D S1 - simplex, digital
F4 - 172.1500, S/D S1 - simplex, digital
F5 - 172.9000, S/D S2 - simplex, digital
F6 - 169.3000, S/D S3 - simplex, digital
F7 - 169.3000 TX / 172.9000 RX - repeater, digital
F8 - 169.3000 TX / 172.9000 RX - repeater, digital
F9 - 169.3000 TX / 172.9000 RX - repeater, digital
F10 - 172.9000, S/D S2 - simplex, digital
F11 - 172.9000, S/D S2 - simplex, digital
F12 - 166.4625, 103.5 PL - simplex, analog

(DHS COMMON)

F13 - 166.4625, S/D - simplex, digital (DHS COMMON)

You will notice some channels in the radios have the same frequencies listed. They are set up with the same frequencies, but different NAC's or Network Access Codes. These are the digital equivalent of the CTCSS or DCS codes used in analog radios. This means that radios can only communicate with each other if they are programmed with the same NAC. There are no scanners available yet that can utilize the NAC information, but maybe the next generation of digital scanners will have that feature.

TSA radio traffic can vary from airport to airport, sometimes very interesting and other times almost non-existent. The TSA communications I have monitored at the San Diego airport are very professional, with almost military style radio procedure. Other airports are very informal, with only small amounts of radio traffic.

While the above list represents the standard frequency assignments for the TSA, there have been some listener reports of operations on other frequencies. Even after most airports have switched to the new band plan, there are a few that remain a mystery. One of them is DFW International Airport. I have never heard the TSA using their VHF frequencies at DFW. I spotted a few TSA employees with what appeared to be UHF Motorola VISOR radios, but so far their frequency has eluded me. Have you heard the TSA using something other than is what's listed? If so, drop us a line at the *Fed Files* and let us know.

Speaking of TSA radios, there was a recent story on the KUSA-TV news website about four TSA radios going missing from the Denver International Airport inventory and one even showed up on e-Bay! It turns out that one radio was turned in to the DIA lost and found department, but it remained there until it was sold at a Denver County surplus property auction. If you would like to read more, you can take a look at the KUSA-TV website at <http://www.9news.com> and do a search for TSA.

Federal Protective Service

The Federal Protective Service, once part of the General Services Administration (GSA), is now fully integrated into the Department of Homeland Security as part of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement division (ICE). The FPS is in charge of federal building and facility security in many areas of the US. They are dispatched from at least two regional dispatch centers, one in Denver and the other in Philadelphia. There may be others, but these are the only two I've been able to identify.

The FPS is also in the process of switching to an all-digital P-25 radio network. The FPS frequencies in my area of the Pacific Northwest went to P-25 digital almost a year ago, but many cities I visit in my travels still operate with analog radio equipment. Some have switched to new digital radios, and some are even operating with encryption.

The most popular FPS frequencies seem to be 415.2000 MHz and 417.2000 MHz, but some areas may use others. Here's a list of possible FPS frequencies:

406.4125 MHz 417.2000 MHz

407.1750 MHz 417.2500 MHz
407.2125 MHz 417.4250 MHz
407.3625 MHz 417.6500 MHz
408.5375 MHz 419.1500 MHz
415.1750 MHz 419.1750 MHz
415.2000 MHz 419.6500 MHz
416.0250 MHz 419.8750 MHz

If you browse the Immigration and Customs Enforcement website, <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/fps/index.htm> mentions that the FPS is now involved with security planning and support of large public events, specifically the Kentucky Derby and Presidential Inaugurals. I was at the running of the Kentucky Derby in 2004 and did catch some interesting federal radio traffic:

163.0500 MHz, 023 dpl - Mystery frequency. Clear voice traffic. I never figured out who it was, but definitely at the racetrack.
163.8375 MHz - DES encryption
165.2875 MHz - P25 digital mode, ATF Command Post on site
167.5375 MHz - DES encryption
167.5625 MHz, 167.9 pl - Clear repeater that was tied into the Louisville Police repeater on 453.575 MHz. Used for coordination of federal and local police.
168.6500 MHz - DES encryption

While I couldn't confirm exactly who was using the encrypted radio channels, the signals appeared to be Derby related.

ATF

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) has undergone some changes after the formation of DHS, although the agency did not become part of Homeland Security. The official web site of the ATF, <http://www.atf.gov>, explains that the agency was split into two parts, with the law enforcement functions of the agency now under the Justice Department and the tax and trade functions remaining with the Treasury Department.

How will this affect the ATF communications requirements? We'll have to keep listening and see. For the time being, it looks like the national primary ATF frequency of 165.2875 MHz continues to be used, with some areas now using P-25 digital radios. Here's a gathering of possible BATF radio frequencies:

165.2875 MHz - Nationwide Primary
165.5125 MHz
166.4625 MHz - DHS Common
166.5375 MHz - Input to 165.2875 repeaters
166.8750 MHz
168.0000 MHz
169.5500 MHz
170.1000 MHz
170.2000 MHz
173.8875 MHz
407.1500 MHz
409.1500 MHz
415.2500 MHz
418.2500 MHz
419.0500 MHz
419.2500 MHz

In my area, 165.2875 MHz is busy nearly every morning with units checking in with the office, but most of the units are using P-25 digital with encryption. However, analog communications still show up on the ATF channels. Since the ATF is now part of the Justice Department, it's likely that they will be users of some of the new Justice

Department systems that are starting to come on line - read on!

Justice Trunked System

The Justice Department's regional digital trunked system in Washington State is continuing to take shape. I reported in the last *Fed Files* that I was able to receive some traffic on the P-25 trunked sites near my home base in Oregon. There have been more new repeater sites activated and technicians have been heard working on getting the system operational.

I took a couple of *Fed Files* road trips up through Washington State and I was able to find more active frequencies for this system, but since the system is still being built, finding transmitter sites and frequencies can be slow going. Special thanks go to some of the members of the Northwest Intercepts website at <http://www.northwestradio.com> for helping track the progress of this system. Here is what is active so far:

167.0000 MHz - Bellingham
167.1625 MHz - Tacoma
167.2125 MHz - Tacoma
167.2625 MHz - Baw Faw Peak
167.2875 MHz - Tacoma
167.3125 MHz - Blaine
167.3625 MHz - Unknown location
167.4375 MHz - Bellingham
167.4625 MHz - Blaine and Vancouver
167.6125 MHz - Olympia
167.6375 MHz - Bellingham
167.7375 MHz - Baw Faw Peak
168.8250 MHz - Bellingham and Vancouver
168.8500 MHz - Tacoma
168.8750 MHz - Unknown location
168.8875 MHz - Kalama
169.4125 MHz - Tacoma and Vancouver
170.6750 MHz - Kalama
170.7875 MHz - Unknown location
170.9375 MHz - Unknown location

The Justice Department now has a web site with news updates about the progress of this system. The web site is <http://www.usdoj.gov/jmd/iwn/index.html>. This site gives details of the project and information on contractors. The official information indicates that it will be a 15-site trunked system when completed. This is a pilot project for the Justice Department, with more systems like this planned all over the country. Keep watching the federal VHF band for trunking activity in your area, and let us know what you find!

❖ Back in Two Months!

That's all for this installment of the *Fed Files*, but we will be getting together again in the March issue of *Monitoring Times*. Next time we'll talk about some other radio frequency bands that we need to search for federal activity. See you then!

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Cold Weather, Hot DX

VE3GO, here is November Eight Fitzgerald, N8F. You are 5 and 9 at the Whitefish Point Lighthouse. The handle is Ralph and the home call is KW8G.

The N8F special event station commemorates the tragic loss of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, on Nov. 10, 1975. She suddenly disappeared from radar screens during a hurricane force gale on Lake Superior. She was just 15 miles from the shelter of Whitefish Point. Ralph, KW8G, his daughter Laura, and others operate every year. I hope to be there and operate with them in the future.

I took a picture of this vessel in 1958 when, as a 13 year old passenger, I made a trip on the freighter *Golden Hind*, along with my parents. This was also where I first got to listen to marine radio.

❖ Great Lakes Fall VHF Traffic

I am reminded that this column will be read in January when the cold has set in to my part of the world and the short days (long nights) are more favorable to HF listening. The Seaway will be shut down, the local Coast Guard Search and Rescue base will be closed, the yachts will all be hauled out for the winter, the harbor will be frozen and the VHF traffic will be at a bare minimum.

We have already had our first snowfall here and several gale warnings. The gales of November are famous on the lakes and hurricane force winds are not uncommon. There is a meeting of cold Arctic air and warm air from the Gulf of Mexico that produces cyclonic conditions right over the Great Lakes.

The VHF radio here is very busy with traffic. Channels 11, 12, 13 and 14 are busy with vessel traffic information as the lakers try to get in end of season cargoes and the salt-water vessels scurry to avoid being caught in the lakes by freeze-up. We will soon have daily bulletins giving the water temperature, ice conditions and number of vessels above certain calling-in points. The race for the ocean will soon begin.

In the Sault Ste. Marie area, monitor channels 12 and 16. These should be active along with the ship to ship channels when the icebreakers are needed for the Dec. and Jan passages of the locks. You might want to make a recording of the USCG icebreaker *Makinaw*, as this is her last season to operate. The lockmaster is on channel 14 and water levels are supposed to be broadcast on channel 85 every two minutes.

In the Niagara area (Welland Canal), monitor channels 11 and 14. In the Lake Ontario area, channel 11, 12 and 13 can be monitored. Channel

13 is always a good one, as commercial vessels are required to monitor it. Ship to ship channels 6, 8 and 10 are usually active as well. Channel 16 is always active, and the Canadian channels of 83B and 21B, along with the USCG channel of 21A, are the source of notices, weather etc.

❖ Modern Marine Communications

I just returned from a Simulated Electronic Navigation course at Georgian College in Owen Sound, Ontario. This was necessary for continued proficiency certification of my Master Minor Waters Certificate. Capt. Jim Lowe put eight people from the local tour boats through three days of training and radar simulations. We were in simulators that replicated the bridge of a freighter. We had all the equipment, such as radio, radar, GPS charts, etc., and were placed in a series of navigation situations. This marine college also teaches marine officers and engineers through a cadet program.

They also teach the new Restricted Operator's Certificate - Marine Commercial (ROC-MC), which is the radio license required for Canadian commercial marine officers on the great lakes and coastal



Simulated radio equipment for radio course. Clockwise L to R Dummy EPIRB, Waterproof VHF portable for survival craft, SART, Navtex receiver

areas. We got to use some of this equipment, and I looked at the simulated equipment used for the ROC course.

The course covers the usual VHF/HF radio information and procedures. However, it also covers the new GMDSS (Global Marine Distress and Safety System) material which all officers have to know. This includes DSC (Digital Selective Calling) Protocols and Distress Alerting, Navtex, NBDP (Narrow Band Direct Printing) for weather information, VHF Portable radios for survival craft, EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons) and SART (Search and Rescue Transponders), among other items. I was particularly interested, as I teach

the course for Marine Radio Restricted licenses for pleasure craft.

Vessels going further off shore will also need people trained to use INMARSAT (International Marine Satellite). The EPIRB runs at 406 MHz and is usually triggered automatically in an emergency. The SART responds when it encounters X band (3 cm) radar transmissions at a range of about 8 miles.

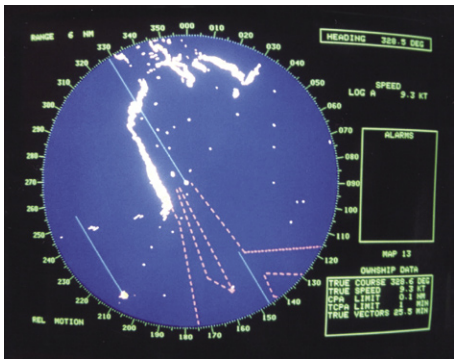
I had an opportunity to witness the above training in real life when I took a very enjoyable cruise to Alaska aboard the *Norwegian Sun* this past summer. Just take a look at her electronic equipment list: She carries two complete HF/VHF radio systems, Navtex, three Comsat Satellite terminals, two satellite telex terminals, two SITOR telex terminals, three satellite facsimile lines, and two complete GMDSS Stations. This, along with many electronic aids such as GPS Navigator, VHF radio Direction Finder, and three ARPA (Automatic Radar Plotting Aid) radars, show how far electronics has come.

Once DSC radios have become installed, the voice watch on channel 16 VHF (156.8 MHz) and 2182 kHz will no longer be mandatory on equipped vessels. However, in the coastal areas and Great Lakes there are many vessels that will not have to have such radios, so these frequencies will be monitored by Canadian Coast Guard radio stations for some time to come. The DCS alert frequencies are channel 70 VHF (156.525 MHz) and 2187.5 kHz. I have begun to see many loggings on this HF frequency in various utility columns. The DSC VHF radios are coming down in price as I have seen several for sale for just over \$200. They also can be connected to your GPS, so when the DSC call is made, geographical data can be sent.

All ships in the St. Lawrence Seaway now have to carry an AIS system (Automatic Identification System) which uses radio signals and GPS data to relay your position and speed to the Seaway Authorities. This has produced some lively communications when ships are caught speeding in traffic control zones.

❖ Information from Readers

I received a request for a source for the VHF channel frequencies from Fred Fichman, WA6YYA. There are several places you can obtain these frequencies. There is usually a list with your marine transceiver and there are some web sites which also list them. A good site is <http://www.marine waypoints.com/learn/VHF.shtml> The list gives the frequencies, channel numbers and the channel use. You can also get this information



ARPA screen for Halifax harbor approach traffic scheme

from the US Coast Guard or Canadian Coast Guard publications. The channel numbers and frequencies are valid world-wide, but the use of some channels varies from country to country. If necessary, a complete list can be added to a future column. A list of US VHF channels is also online at <http://www.monitoringtimes.com/html/mtmarvhf.html> along with other maritime products. I will list any that I use at the end of the column.

William Tompkins, AD5WT, sent me some interesting frequencies he got from his cruising adventures. The ship's crew made use of 450 to 470 MHz handhelds for internal ship communications. I have listed several he sent me and have heard a variety of frequencies used by ships when docking and traversing canals, etc. The deck to bridge com-



Traffic passing Quebec City. Front to back - Levi ferry, Cabot container ship westbound, CSL Laurentien eastbound.

munications is definitely interesting to listen to. He also listed a few wireless microphone frequencies. Your portable scanner is always useful when traveling; however, be very aware of the radio laws of countries you visit. This is particularly true if you are a ham operator and have a hand held, etc. with you. I noted that the Norwegian Line asked people not to operate RF transmitting devices on the ship. I assume other lines have the same policy.

The frequencies will differ with each ship, but a short scan should find some interesting listening on board. Here are some examples (in MHz).

- MV Insignia**
457.525 Bridge
457.55 Secondary Frequency
457.575 Reception desk
- MV Splendor of the Seas** (Royal Caribbean)
467.75 Bridge
467.575 Secondary

❖ KPH Still Active

Another interesting Marine Radio History site has to do with the preservation and operation of

Marine Station KPH and associated amateur radio station K6KPH. The site <http://www.radiomarine.org> gives all the information, pictures, and details of future operations. KPH is regularly returned to the air, on the old frequencies, by this dedicated group of enthusiasts. They are always active on July 12 or the "Night of Nights" as they call it. This was the night of the last commercial marine Morse transmission. K6KPH is also active on Straight Key Night, International Marconi Day, and most Saturdays when the station is open for visitors. Richard Dillman, W6AWO, has given us a lot of interesting information which we will cover in future columns.

By the way, although Morse code marine transmissions have all but ceased, Canadian Marine Officers still have to know Morse by sound and light at 4 words per minute. I had several marine friends ask me to help them learn Morse last winter.

❖ Winter Monitoring

As the winter monitoring season approaches, here are a few frequencies to try (in kHz):

DSC	Voice	NBDP (SITOR B)
2187.5	2182	2174.5
4207.5	4125	4177.5
6312.0	6215	6268.0
8414.5	8291	8376.5
12577.0	12290	12520
16804.5	16420	16695

We have just had a tug sinking off Texada Island, BC, so you never know when monitoring the distress channels will provide some interesting listening. 4125 kHz is still a good channel for the West Coast. Canadian Coast Guard stations on the West Coast can still be heard on 2182, 2054 and 4125 kHz. VAJ Prince Rupert and VAE Tofino are listed for these frequencies. East Coast Canadian Frequencies listed are 2514, 2538, 2582, 4375 and 6513 kHz. 2670 kHz and 6501 are still good for USCG Broadcasts. 5696 and 8983 are very useful for USCG operations. Canadian East Coast weather broadcasts are on 2598 and 2749 kHz. Bermuda Harbor Radio is still on 2582 kHz.

❖ Here at the shack

Please allow me to bring back a bit of history. While working N8F, I also worked KB8TI in Lansing, Michigan, another station in the special event. Rick, the operator on duty, passed along a hello from Shawn who was helping run the station. Shawn held the SWL call of WPE8CPC. Many of us will remember the SWL calls issued by *Popular Electronics* magazine. Over coffee this past week, Mike, VE3PRW, produced a 1963 copy of the magazine. It contained a recognition for logs sent to the shortwave column from VE3PE1BQ, one Ron Walsh. It sure brought back some memories of listening to a Hallicrafters S-38!

A close friend and SWL colleague, George Kennedy, now VE3GHK, wanted a tower for a beam antenna. He was given one by a ham going overseas and has painstakingly refurbished this windmill type tower. However, when we traced the owners of the tower, we found it was originally used at Marine Coast Station VBH, here in Kingston! At least a bit of this old station is still involved in HF transmissions.

As I sit in the shack, I have monitored the local tour boats heading for winter berths. The marine



USCG cutter in Skagway Alaska

weather channel has given a water spout advisory for Lake Ontario and several vessels are waiting for pilots. A conversation about a vessel hitting a lock wall and having to be towed to Montreal was just heard on a ship to ship channel. Port aux Basques and Labrador Coast Guard radio have been heard on HF. The Maritime Mobile Service Net on 14 300 is S-9.

My antennas have been checked, the furnace has come on and the wind is approaching gale force. It looks like the winter monitoring season is here. I wish all my readers good listening and the best of the Holiday season. Please let me know what you heard! I'm off to send some CW on 20 metres.

73's and good DX, Ron VE3GO

VHF Frequencies used in this article (MHz)

Channel	Frequency
	156.3
8	156.4
	156.5
	156.55
	156.6
	156.65
	156.7
	156.8
21A	157.1
21B	161.665
70	156.525
83B	161.775
85	157.275 / 161.875

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Kevin Carey
P.O. Box 56, W. Bloomfield, NY 14585

Catching Up

We covered a lot of ground in 2004, including how to identify beacons, tips on maintaining gear, QSLs, and the pros and cons of various antennas. With only one page each month to cover these topics, space comes at a premium. I simply cannot cover everything that comes my way. This month, I'm devoting a column to catching up on some of the items that have been on hold, including the mailbag.

First, I'd like to say a quick word about correspondence. I always enjoy hearing from readers via e-mail or postal mail. When writing by e-mail, please remember to include some meaningful text in the Subject line of your message, such as "Below 500 kHz" or "Longwave." In this way, I'll know that it is a legitimate e-mail and not one of the many "spam" messages I get each day.

It continues to amaze me how much energy folks put into sending spam. I never open such messages, let alone buy the product or service they are hawked. They could be offering me a dream Hammarlund SP-600VLF receiver, but if it arrives via spam, I will not read it!

Mailbag

Our first letter is from Tom Humes (AZ). Tom uses a Yaesu FRG-100 receiver and a steel whip about 20 feet (6 meters) off the ground. Previously, he tried wire antennas, but found their performance lacking. The whip has provided some new loggings for Tom and he is looking forward to upgrading his log.

He writes: "I am preparing to expand my log information. In a recent issue of MT you spoke of watts-per-mile. I thought that would be a decent gauge as to how far out I was receiving. My next thought is how does one measure the mileage. My first thought was to buy a large map and place a pin at my locale with a string attached. Using the scale I could then find the mileage. All other options I thought of had too many restrictions. What do you suggest?"

The string and pin idea is a good one. It immediately shows what direction the signal is coming from and what terrain it is crossing to reach you. I've used this technique for years. If it's only the distance you want, or if you need a more precise measurement than the string method, then I suggest the following website: www.indo.com/distance/. Here, you enter two locations - yours and the beacon's. The distance is then computed automatically, either in miles or kilometers. What could be easier?

Tom also included the list of loggings shown in Table 1. The bolded items are either first-time catches for him, or of significant distance to be notable. Thanks for writing, Tom. We look forward to hearing from you again.

Table 1. Beacon Loggings from AZ

FREQ	ID	LOCATION
305	RO	Roswell, NM
326	MCY	Mercury, NV
326	DC	Princeton, BC
329	TAD	Trinidad, CO
332	FIS	Key West, FL
338	RYN	Tucson, AZ
344	YC	Calgary, AB
344	FCH	Fresno, CA
350	RG	Oklahoma City, OK
350	NY	Enderby, BC
353	LWT	Lewistown, MT
353	LLD	Lanai, HI
359	BO	Boise, ID
362	6T	Foremost, AB
365	AA	Fargo, ND
368	SIR	Sinclair, WY
371	ITU	Great Falls, MT
382	GRN	Guerrero Negro, MEX
388	OCG	Oconto, WI
388	3Z	Taber, AB
399	SRI	St. George, AK
402	MQ	Miquelon, St. Pierre & Miquelon
404	MOG	Montague, CA
413	OEG	Yuma, AZ

your attention that CNR is not in the country listings and also hope for a confirmation. I have logged this beacon a few times. Other recent additions are Valdez and Nome Alaska, at about 524 kHz. I used to get nothing there, but recently disconnected the ground cap on my ARBE III and it works much better."

Great information, Ward. Yes, CNR does stand for the Canary Islands, so congratulations on a great catch! VR/365 was a late addition to the *Beacon-Finder*, and the ITU chart was not updated before printing. That has now been corrected. A complete chart of ITU Country Codes is available from a link at <http://home.cogeco.ca/~dxinfo/>. Readers may want to print the ITU information and keep it on hand for reference.

Miscou Redux

On my 2003 trip to Miscou, New Brunswick, it was not only the radio conditions that were memorable. During our stay in this French-speaking region, we were joined by local SWL, Roger Roussel, who brought his gear out for some DXing at our chalet. One evening, Roger invited the entire team to his home for dinner. Although I can speak only a handful of words in French, we shared a common bond in radio, and we enjoyed the evening with Roger and his extended family. Jacques d'Avignon, founder of our DXing group, speaks fluent French and served as a translator during our visit. I was thankful for his presence!

A special treat was our visit to Roger's radio room. The walls were covered with QSLs, memorabilia, awards, and letters from shortwave stations all over the world. We soon learned that the items on the walls were just the beginning. Roger had entire file cabinets chock full of QSLs and letters from stations. Roger is not a casual listener. He serves as an official monitor for several of the major shortwave stations who wish to monitor the quality of their signals into Eastern Canada.

Recently, I received an e-mail from Roger announcing his new web site at: <http://www.cartesqsl-cards.com>. This site showcases many of his best QSLs, some of which were received many years ago. This is something worth seeing, especially in an age where some broadcasters have abandoned QSLing. Enjoy your visit.

Once again, we've run out of space, but I do want to slip one more thing in. Alan Gale, G4TMV, has recently updated his *Beacon Hunter's Handbook*. It is now 165 pages long, and contains a wealth of information on chasing beacons on longwave and other bands. Best of all, the book may be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.beaconworld.org.uk>. You will find many other items of interest on this extensive site.

See you next month.

VEP		392	
BEACON		KHZ	
This will verify your		Reception of our beacon.	
Date: <u>March 24, 1996</u>		Verification by: <u>Alan Renner</u>	
Freq: <u>392 KHZ</u>		Title: <u>ARRL DIRECTOR</u>	
Time: <u>0514 UTC</u>		Date: <u>29 APR 96</u>	
Elevation: <u>45 feet</u>		Remarks: <u>Florida</u>	
Power: <u>50 watts</u>	S		
Location: <u>27°40'N 80°25'W</u>	A		
Antenna Type: <u>Sho Kasprow</u>	T		
<u>9570 LOM</u>	A		
<u>Vero Beach</u>	T		
	M		
	O		
	P		
	N		

QSL for VEP/392 kHz. Courtesy of Alan Renner (PA)

Our next letter is from Ward Kremer (TN). We've mentioned Ward's work with antique receiving gear a couple of times before. I use the term "antique" instead of "vintage" because Ward's gear is really old - made in the 1920s! This time, Ward writes with news of his latest intercepts with a WWI-era rig. According to Ward, the radio is the actual set that was used aboard the 1926 South Pole expedition, on the *SS President Madison*, and its history is fully documented.

He writes: "I've recently logged something rather extraordinary on my WW I Robert Dollar/Heinz Kaufmann rig. Station in question is VR, 365 kHz listed in your *BeaconFinder* guide. It's listed as Grand Canaria and the state/prov/ITU column indicates CNR. When I check the page where country codes are listed, I find nothing. I am assuming, given Grand Canaria and CNR, this is the Canary Islands. Do you know if this is correct? I thought I'd call it to

Swiss Leave SW to Pirate

With the Sottens transmitter of **Swiss Radio International** leaving the air in October, DJ Stevie's **Radio 510** pirate program is now the only shortwave international broadcaster left on the air in Switzerland. Their web site at <http://www.radio510.org/> is the source for their latest winter schedule, which was unavailable at press time for *MT*. But, DJ Stevie says that they should be on the air this winter.

Your editor has heard rumors that the old Schwarzenberg transmitter site of **SRI** might be eventually turned into a radio museum. But, *MT* confirms this month that these rumors have not yet resulted in an actual museum. The old **SRI** Schwarzenberg transmitter building is still standing, but currently the site is used for grazing sheep and cows.

❖ Clandestine Address

In *DXplorer*, Jerry Berg reports that he received a partial data QSL from a 15670 kHz broadcast of the **Voice of Ethiopian Salvation**. The address that worked for this particular clandestine was, "PO Box 13875, Silver Spring, MD 20911." It took creative reporting and follow-ups for Jerry's reply, but the address may be useful for other *DXers*.

❖ What We Are Hearing

Monitoring Times readers heard a massive deluge of two dozen different North American shortwave pirate broadcasters this month. Those who thought that shortwave pirate broadcasting was a dying genre have turned out to be very wrong.

Pirate radio stations use sporadic schedules, but shortwave pirate broadcasting increases noticeably on weekends and during major holiday periods. You sometimes have to tune your dial up and down through the pirate radio band to find the stations, but the primary North American pirate frequency of 6925 kHz, plus or minus 30 or 40 kHz, hosts more than 90% of all North American shortwave pirate broadcasters.

Iron Man Radio- Scuffy Swab mixes rock music with comedy that includes old cartoon audio. (Belfast)

James Bond Radio- This new rock music station has been heard several times now with programming featuring the movie character, but we still know very little about the station. (None)

KIPM- Alan Maxwell retains a following among some *DXers* for his elaborate existential dramas, most of which star himself as the major character. But, other *DXers* are puzzled by his complex original compositions. (Elkhorn)

Old Vampire Radio- It is not yet clear if this one is a seasonal novelty station or whether it is a stable pirate operation. (None)

Radio Free Speech- Bill O. Rights normally combines advocacy for individual rights with comedy shows. Lately he often uses an AM transmitter. (Belfast)

Radio Moshiah and Redemption- John Calabro reports hearing this one on 530 kHz, not on their usual frequency near 1710 kHz. Their orthodox Jewish programming is sometimes mistakenly identified as Lubivitcher Radio. Their web site at <http://www.radiomoshiah.org/> still provides additional information. (Brooklyn)

Radio Three- Sal Amoniac's numbered pirate station showed up last month after a long absence from the pirate bands. We have a couple of additional logs of Sal's station this month. (Belfast)

Random Radio- This new pirate has an ironic parody format thus far. (None; asks for reports to the FRN web site)

The Crooked Man- This classic stream of consciousness pirate has returned to the air with its bizarre mix of insane talk by the Crooked Man and rock music. (None)

The Crystal Ship- This classic pirate station from the 1970's has definitely reactivated, and has been heard on multiple weekends. Their programming is primarily rock music. (Belfast or tcsshortwave@yahoo.com e-mail)

Tu Nave Kosmos- This new South American pirate station has been widely heard via North American pirate relays. Station manager Danny Flex's Latin American music is mixed with an announcer who uses a lot of special audio processing to unintentionally disguise the ID's. Most of the programming is in English, surprisingly. (Uses tunavekosmos@hotmail.com e-mail)

Undercover Radio- Dr. Benway still primarily transmits rock music, but warning messages from Martians are often mixed into the shows. (Merlin)

Voice of Bob- Ivan Stang's syndicated "Hour of Slack" program was the main idea behind the classic pirate station "Voice of Bob." Stang's show has showed up with pirate relays again, with his "Praise Bob" mocking of religion. It is not yet clear if this is a reactivation of the Voice of Bob, or just a pirate relay of Stang's syndicated Hour of Slack program. (None)

Voice of Laryngitis- Somebody has been relaying tapes of very old shows from this classic pirate radio station, with its stars Genghis Huxley and Cowboy Stanley Huxley. Many think that this station was the best produced and funniest station to ever appear on shortwave. Ignore the defunct Battle Creek maildrop. (Belfast)

Voice of the Purple Pumpkin- Just about every year this classic pirate station ID resurfaces on the pirate bands. But, the station remains mysterious. (None)

VUDU- Many listeners heard this one make some pirate history, with a one watt QRP low power beacon test during late October. (Uses vuvu11@hotmail.com e-mail)

WDVL- This new one showed up on Halloween with a documentary on the history of pirate radio on Halloween over the years, with a slogan of the Voice of the Prince of Darkness. (Uses wdvls@netscape.net e-mail)

WEAK- Leonard Longwire's Chicago station has returned to the air. He covered both the Halloween holiday and the USA elections during the fall. (Belfast)

WHGW- As we see here this month, this new one has a

very elaborate QSL. They often relay other programs, such as the old "War of the Worlds" radio drama. (Uses whgw6925@myway.com e-mail)

WHYP- The James Brownard memorial station from North East, PA still mixes comedy, rock, pirate advocacy, and Lake Erie weather reports that are several years old. (Providence)

WKIL- Shows from this unusual new pirate have thus far primarily consisted of audio from a machine gun. (None)

WMPR- Their techno rock "dance party" at this mysterious station is easy to spot, since they are the only pirate currently using this format, and they normally put out a good signal. (None)

XB37- This new pirate has mixed rock music with parody ads and other humor. (Uses xb37@netscape.net e-mail)

Y-108- We still are hearing occasional relays of a Hamilton, Ontario FM station on 6925 kHz. The actual broadcast stations are virtually never associated with their shortwave pirate relays. (None)

❖ QSLing Pirates

Reception reports to pirate stations require three first class stamps for USA maildrops or \$2 US to foreign locations. The cash defrays postage for mail forwarding and a souvenir QSL to your mailbox. Letters go to these addresses, identified above in parentheses: PO Box 1, Belfast, NY 14895; PO Box 69, Elkhorn, NE 68022; PO Box 28413, Providence, RI 02908; 383 Kingston Avenue, Suite 94, Brooklyn NY 11213; and PO Box 293, Merlin, Ontario N0P 1W0.

Some pirates prefer e-mail, bulletin logs or internet web site reports instead of snail mail correspondence. The best bulletins for submitting pirate loggings with a hope that pirates might QSL the logs remain *The ACE* (\$2 US for sample copies via the Belfast address above) and the e-mailed Free Radio Weekly newsletter, still free to contributors via niel@ican.net. The Free Radio Network web site, another outstanding source of content about pirate radio, is found at <http://www.frn.net> on the internet, and a few pirates will occasionally QSL a report left on the FRN.

❖ Thanks

Your loggings and news about unlicensed broadcasting stations are always welcome via 7540 Highway 64 W, Brasstown, NC 28902, or via the e-mail address atop the column. We thank this month's valuable contributors: Scott Barbour Jr., Intervale, NH; Jerry Berg, Lexington, MA; Artie Bigley, Columbus, OH; John Brewer, no QTH; John Calabro, Melrose, MA; Ross Comeau, Andover, MA; Harold Frodge, Midland, MI; David Gibson, Monroeville, PA; William T. Hassig, Mt. Prospect, IL; Harry Helms, Wimberly, TX; Leonard Longwire, Chicago, IL; Chris Lobdell, Stoneham, MA; Larry Magne, Penn's Park, PA; Greg Majewski, Oakdale, CT; Pancho Villa, Upstate NY; Fred Roberts, Germany; Lee Reynolds, Lempster, NH; Martin Schoech, Eisenach, Germany; Robert Ross, London, Ontario; Arnaldo Slaen, Argentina; John Sedlacek, Omaha, NE; Matthew Weitendorf, Cleveland, OH; and Niel Wolfish, Toronto, Ontario.



Applying Your Monitoring Skills

Another year has come and gone and there are still a few of you folks who haven't taken up the challenge that Old Uncle Skip makes every year at this time. Once again it is time for the annual tradition of amateur radio resolutions. Don't skip down, because at least one *always* applies.

1. If I do not have an Amateur Radio license I will get licensed this year.
2. If I do have a license I will upgrade it to the next highest license until I am an Extra class.
3. If I am an Extra class I will find somebody who isn't licensed and help them get licensed. (Spend some time trying to track down folks from number 1 above)
4. I will repeat number 3 until I can meet all my friends and family on 2 meters.

And now... This year's special challenge:

5. This year I will apply my radio monitoring skills to my amateur radio practice

A little bit of honesty with one another at this point. While I know you folks hang on my every word and cannot wait for the next issue of *MT* to hit your mailbox to read my latest sage ham radio advice, I suspect most of you may have come to reading this magazine by way of the *listening* aspects of the radio hobby and not the transmitting side of the house. After all, this is *Monitoring Times*, not *Ham Radio Times*. (There used to be a fun magazine geared to amateur radio beginners called *Ham Radio Horizons*, but this isn't a nostalgia column, at least not this month.)

It occurs to me that anyone coming to amateur radio by way of listening to shortwave or scanner monitoring should have an obvious leg up on folks without such experiences.

What got me thinking about this was my participation in last Fall's CQ World Wide DX and ARRL Sweepstakes contests. As I have said in the past, I am not a particularly avid contester but I do like the big shows as a place to fill in blanks on my country lists. This last contest season has been particularly exciting for me because I am only a very few entities away from qualifying for QRP DXCC. Nailing down 100 countries with a full gallon amplifier pumping RF into a mega beam antenna mounted on an airplane-spooking tower can be accomplished in a single contest weekend (and often is by many of the *Big Guns* out there in ham radio land). But nailing down membership in the Century Club running 5 watts into a dipole at 35 feet is a whole different can-o-worms.

As I bring this accomplishment to fruition, I can clearly state for the record that the greatest assets I brought to the table were the skills I mastered as a shortwave broadcast listener. I wouldn't be half the ham I am today, nor would I have many of the awards that hang on my walls if I didn't cut my radio teeth on the monitoring side of the business. And while you may not enjoy the masochism inherent in QRP

operation, you, too, should find that your radio listening skills will help you get ahead when you key the mike to get that *new one on 20*. Everything I'm going to talk about here can probably be applied equally to the pursuit of any of the other radio activities you will find in the pages of *MT*.

❖ Prepare, Prepare, Prepare

It's happened to the best of us from time to time. We go to get on the air and we can't because something has gone wrong. Oh, we tend to blame it all on Captain Edward A. Murphy, but when you stare into the cold hard reality of the radio hobby, the simple truth is that Murphy gets the blame way more often than he deserves. When push comes to shove we make our own luck in this hobby. Good fortune (and good contacts) go to the prepared among us.

Early on in my shortwave listening days, I came to understand a (very) little bit about propagation. I understood that there were times and seasons when I just wasn't going to be able to hear what I wanted to hear. Not enough or too many ions in the sky between me and Radio Freedomia. Those down times became opportunities for me. Opportunities to go over my equipment, check my antennas, and restock necessary supplies.

These preventative maintenance rituals now include performing system checks and data backups on the shack computers. PC's have become nearly essential for modern amateur radio practice. That being said, I keep plenty of pens and paper around anyway.

What you need to be thinking about are all those things that will facilitate success when the DX Spotting Net lets you know that some rare lump of rock in the Antarctic has just been activated for the first time since Marconi was a pup and you only have a 1 hour window to shout your lungs out before the band goes away. That is *not* the time to discover an intermittent broken wire leading to the 9 pin connector on your microphone. This being a "smart" mike with additional features, every time you key down to make a call, your transceiver now changes frequency.



Capt. Edward A. Murphy, the unfortunate founder of Murphy's Law

Or maybe you thought you could get one more season out of that run of coax up to your antenna. You didn't take the time to (safely) climb up for a visual inspection. Had you done that, you might have noticed that little spot behind the mast where a friendly neighborhood squirrel chewed through to the braid. Of course, Mr. Squirrel decided that it would be best to do this on the windward side of the wire to allow the maximum amount of moisture to enter and run down all the way to your base connector.

You see my point? Captain Murphy was nowhere around. A little time spent on preparation always makes for good results.

❖ Listen, Listen, Listen

This is the greatest skill that a radio *monitoring* hobbyist brings to the amateur radio realm. Run through the bands on any contest weekend. You hear lots of folks shouting, but it becomes very clear that most of them are not doing all that much listening. A rather common occurrence is the station that sends his or her call sign for about 15 seconds and then only listens for a second or two before they start sending their call once again. I always wonder how many multipliers that kind of station misses out on because they don't give anybody a chance to key the mike.

Notice, too, what I just reported about that station. I learned that station's rather dubious operating procedure only by taking the time to listen. With a little patience I can pick up that ham's pattern and timing and then get my call out in that brief moment between his or her key downs. In that way I've put the station in my log and did that ham the favor of getting a contact on the books as well, in spite of poor operating technique. Getting a sense of a station's operating pattern is the key to breaking a pile up. The most successful DXers don't just blindly key the mike and shout in hopes of being heard. Even Big Gun stations can be frustrated by this method, not to mention peanut powered operators like Old Uncle Skip.

A good DX hunter will take the time to listen. To notice such things as the DX station listening for a few seconds and then pulling a call out of the tail end of the pile up. You can also learn when it just isn't your time. If you are operating out of 2 Call Land and the DX station is only coming back to 5s and 6s, you may be a victim of a bad propagation path or the operator is working regions in a pattern that makes sense to his or her needs.

How do you figure out which situation applies? You listen. Someone once said we have two ears and one mouth so we should listen twice as often as we talk. On the ham bands that would be the minimum.

❖ Tune, Tune, Tune

Someone once asked Willie Sutton why he robbed banks. His famous comeback was: "Because that's where the money is." Unless you are operating from a rare DX location, you are a big gun with

the biggest signal coming out of your state, or you are operating a particularly unique special event station, you're going to have to go looking for your contacts.

Folks who come to the ham hobby by way of the listening hobbies know a thing or two about systematically running through a band. Combined with the above mentioned listening skills, you can roam the bands with ease, searching for specific signals or trolling for contacts of opportunity. As I mentioned earlier, I use contests as a way of finding new countries. I am not going to want to spend a half hour shouting at a station from a country I already have in the log. Come to think of it, in many multiplier-based contests this would be bad practice if you were going for a score as well.

Likewise, I am not going to climb into a pileup on a station that is only working Europeans at the moment. What I will do, not unlike shortwave broadcast bandscanning, is make note of what stations I am hearing and on what frequencies. Unless folks are getting QRMed or are bandhopping themselves, they tend to stay put for a good while. After I have tuned through the band, I may drop back to some of the known quantities on my bandscan list.

❖ Propagation, Propagation, Propagation

Atmospheric conditions ... you don't have to like them, but you can learn to live with them. The most successful amateur radio operators, high or low power, HF or VHF/UHF, have been folks who take a bit of time to understand propagation. Learning to

put yourself in the path of signals coming from the part of the planet you want to communicate with is the key to success. Even beginning shortwave broadcast listeners have a sense of why you can't hear certain signals at certain times of the day on certain frequencies. Likewise, every scanner enthusiast in the history of the hobby has been both blessed and cursed by tropospheric ducts and E Skip.

Dedicated monitors already know about tuning in to WWV to obtain the A & K indices in order to know where to get the most bang for their listening buck. The last time I took the time to check, I saw more than half a dozen *freeware* programs available for download on the Internet that help a user calculate MUF and LUF to and from any two points on the globe. Such tools have been the hot setup for radio monitors ever since personal computers came into common use. (Come to think of it, I can recall typing in the BASIC program for MINMUF on my Timex Sinclair back around 1980, oops, not a nostalgia column, move along.)

Transferring this knowledge and skill to the amateur radio world is as easy as pie, and you will, more often than not, find yourself in the right place at the right time to do all that listening and tuning I talked about earlier.

❖ What Are You Waiting For?

So there you have it. Even if you have yet to become a ham, by virtue of being an *MT* reader you are probably more than half way to a lot more radio fun. Have fun! I'll be *listening* for you on the bottom end of 40 meters.

UNCLE SKIP'S CONTEST CORNER

ARRL RTTY Roundup

Jan 8 1800 UTC - Jan 9 2400 UTC

North American QSO Party (CW)

Jan 6 1800 UTC - Jan 6 0600 UTC

Hunting Lions in the Air

Jan 15 0000 UTC - Jan 16 2400 UTC

MI QRP January Contest (CW)

Jan 15 1200UTC - Jan 16 2359 UTC

North American QSO Party (SSB)

Jan 15 1800 UTC - Jan 16 0600 UTC

CQ 160-Meter Contest (CW)

Jan 29 2200 UTC - Jan 30 1600 UTC

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

Jan 29 1900 UTC - Jan 31 0400 UTC



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Alternatives to Elevated, Outdoor Antennas

Some folks who would love to get into a radio hobby feel thwarted that they have no place to put up an elevated, outdoor antenna. The good news is that you don't actually have to have an elevated, outdoor antenna to enjoy shortwave listening, broadcast-band DXing, amateur radio, logging low-frequency beacons, or the many other kinds of fascinating radio hobbies that people enjoy. Indoor antennas often can be a good interface between your radio and the multitude of radio signals that are present around us 24 hours every day.

To begin, let's be up front about it and admit that indoor antennas usually don't perform as well as elevated, outdoor antennas. And if the building in which you use them has lots of metal in its construction, that may lead to very poor performance. But, in many locations, indoor antennas do work, and, in some instances, they work quite well.

❖ Some Useful Indoor Antennas

First, let's consider some quick and easy indoor antennas. Sometimes these will surprise you with their performance. For UHF or VHF scanning, almost any length of wire 12 inches (.3 meters) or so will often work quite well. For HF and lower frequencies, a length of wire at least 15 feet (about 4.5 meters) or more in length can be laid out on the floor next to the wall, under a rug, or in the attic or overhead crawl space.

If your receiver has no antenna input connector, it may work okay to connect your antenna to the receiver's whip antenna if it has one. Also,

it sometimes works to wrap several turns of wire around the receiver's case, and connect the wire to your antenna.

In buildings which shield their interior from signals, putting a long whip or metal flag pole out a window or on a balcony as an antenna may bring good results. Just putting a wire out the window and letting it hang down toward the ground can be useful for temporary installations.

Small, tunable, table-top loops and active antennas are especially popular with folks like AM broadcast band DXers and lowfers who listen on the MF band and lower in frequency. Table-top loops are noted for their ability to reduce interference through the use of the deep nulls (directions of low response) in their reception patterns. Active antennas, depending on the model, may cover from LF and lower, and on up to the microwave frequencies. And they often rival long, outdoor antennas in their ability to pull in stations. Their weakness is that they may lose sensitivity, or produce inter-modulation distortion in the presence of very strong signals.

There are larger (a yard or a meter or so in diameter), single-turn, tunable loops available which can be used indoors. MFJ* offers two models, both remotely tunable: model 1786 tunes from 10 to 30 MHz, and model 1788 tunes from 7 to 30 MHz. The Bilal Company** has models for several ham bands. Bilal antennas are tuned at the antenna rather than remotely, and cover mainly the ham bands. I have used Bilal loops and the no-longer-produced AEA tunable loop (of the same general type as the

MFJ models) indoors. Both performed surprisingly well.

These larger loop antennas can be used for transmitting as well as for receiving. If you use these or any other antenna indoors for transmitting, they should be kept well away from other objects, people and pets. I would recommend only low power for any antenna used indoors. Scientists are concerned about the effects of exposing humans and animals to radiation from antennas. You should familiarize yourself with recommendations for safety in this regard if you use any antenna for transmitting at other than low power levels.

❖ Underground Antennas

There's a rather unusual alternative to elevated antennas, and those are antennas placed on the ground, underground, or even under water! Of course, all underground wires and connections must be well insulated and weather proofed.

At one time, when radio communication was concerned primarily with signals in the MF band and lower in frequency, these antennas enjoyed a limited popularity. The lower the frequency the better these antennas perform, and the deeper they can be "planted." They do have a degree of immunity from lightning damage. And they are reported to be less susceptible to received noise than are elevated antennas.

And, yes, they do work, although they certainly don't perform as well as elevated antennas. But they do come in handy for some applications. For instance, they may be used as emergency backup antennas due to the fact that they are resistant to damage from disasters such as tornados, heavy ice snow storms, or terrorist bombing. I have used HF antennas buried an inch or so underground for local communication and received decent signal reports. I suppose the earth I buried them in was "average," and for resonance the antennas were shorter by a third than elevated antennas. So a half wavelength antenna was 312 ft. divided by the frequency (MHz) (or 95m/frequency MHz in meters).

❖ Let's Build an Active Antenna

The active antenna shown in fig. 1 is easy to make, portable, and a good performer on the LF, MF and HF bands.

The antenna is constructed on a snap-on connector board which has been removed from a discarded 9-volt battery. The connector board

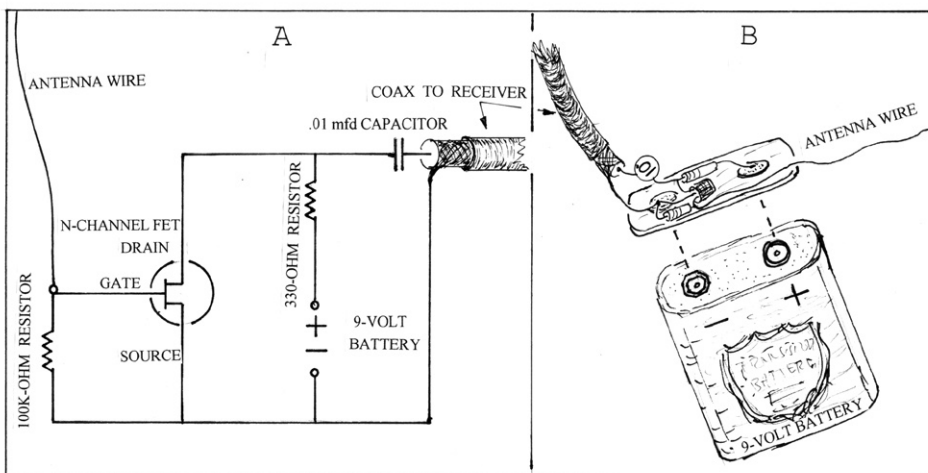


Fig. 1. The wiring diagram for the circuit of a simple active antenna (A), and a pictorial diagram of the antenna circuit showing how it snaps onto its battery (B).

This Month's Interesting Antenna-Related Web site:

This site discusses indoor antennas:
<http://www.hard-core-dx.com/nordicdx/antenna/hidden/indoor.html>

will snap onto the fresh 9-volt battery which is used to power the active antenna. No switch was included in this design: the circuit was simply un-snapped from the battery to turn it off.

The transistor can be an MFP-102 (Radio Shack #276-2062), 2N3819 (Radio Shack #276-2035), or similar N-channel FET. If you substitute a P-channel FET then you must reverse the battery polarity from that shown in the diagram. Your local Radio Shack, Dan's Small Parts and kits, or other radio-parts supply store should have the required parts.

Make sure all the wires and leads you connect together are clean. You can scrape them with a knife edge to clean them if needed. The unit will probably work more reliably if you solder the connections, but just twisting the leads of the parts very tightly together will work if you can't solder. A small soldering iron is less likely to overheat the components.

Carefully connect the parts as shown in fig. 1, and then recheck to see that the circuit is wired properly. The position on the transistor of the leads to the source, gate and drain varies for different transistors, so check this in the data that comes with your transistor.

The connection to the receiver antenna can be via coax as shown in fig. 1, or you can use a pair of wires twisted together to form a short cable.

The wire attached to the capacitor should run to the center conductor of the antenna input terminal, and the wire connected to the battery negative (-) terminal should run to the antenna-connector ground or shell.

Try lengths of from five to twenty feet or more for the antenna wire. If it is too long, you may notice problems with intermodulation distortion or desensitization when strong signals are present at your location. If your building shields the antenna from signals too much for decent reception, try putting a whip antenna in a window to replace the antenna wire, hanging the antenna wire out a window, or attaching the antenna wire to a wire window-screen.

Happy monitoring!

RADIO RIDDLES

Last Month

I said: "Let's say that you are listening on HF, and you receive a very short transmission, perhaps just a dit of Morse Code. Then after only a fraction of a second, say .13 second, you receive that identical transmission again. Is it possible that the short transmission wasn't re-transmitted a second time, but somehow, instead of traveling off into space, it returned to your antenna a second time? Could it even do this a third, or fourth time? Radio waves travel in straight lines don't they? So am I just talking crazy, or could that really happen?"

Well, when propagation is right for it, signals

do actually go around the world in about .13 seconds. And after doing this they sometimes arrive back at your station with sufficient strength to be heard. The antenna pioneer John Kraus has mentioned that he used his famous bi-directional W8JK beam to check for round-the-world band openings by tapping the key, and listening for his signal to return in this fashion.

Engineers for the radio pioneer, Marconi, built a very large beam antenna in Australia for Great Britain's world-wide communication system. When using this "Imperial Beam," radio operators could actually hear several round-the-world passages of transmissions which they sent from that beam: the signals made multiple round-the-world trips and were heard several times before they became too weak to be heard!

This Month

Okay, so we can receive a signal a second time after it goes around the world and comes back past our location again in about .13 second. But what about receiving a transmission of our own voice a few seconds after it was transmitted? Sounds spooky, huh? Can it happen?

You'll find an answer to this month's riddle, another riddle, another antenna-related web site or so, and much more, in next month's issue of *Monitoring Times*. 'Til then, Peace, DX, and 73.

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NC-57 Electronic Restoration Completed

We finished the last NC-57 work session with about half of the capacitors replaced before I ran out of time and almost out of capacitors. There's an unusual amount of bypassing in the various circuits, which is an indication of the excellent quality that was built into this fairly low-priced radio. I think I've already mentioned how impressed I was by the professional construction of this set as compared to the Hallicrafters S-40 (restored earlier in this column) – which had a similar price, but which was built more like a household broadcast receiver.

❖ Mica or Paper?

At any rate, with a fresh supply of capacitors on the bench, I went back to work and completed the job. This took quite a bit of time because of the tight construction of the radio, but the result was very satisfying. I know I've told you in the past about the disappointment some folks feel when they open up a recently-purchased receiver to find that all of the original paper caps have been replaced by modern equivalents. They feel that the radio has been somehow violated and, understandably, wonder if the circuitry has been changed, either deliberately or accidentally.

However, I see a radio chassis with a complete set of meticulously-installed modern capacitors as a thing of beauty. (As long as it's a set of capacitors that I put in!) I know that there's an excellent chance that the radio can be aligned to perform like new. It should also give good service for many years without suffering a sudden and disastrous short circuit that might ruin hard-to-replace components.

As you know, most of the paper capacitors in the NC-57 were Bakelite-cased units that look like mica caps, which hardly ever need to be replaced. However, as discussed last time, the Bakelite cased paper caps are no more to be trusted than the wax-covered tubular units. They all tested leaky on my capacitor checker. So it's important that you find and replace any such units present in your restora-

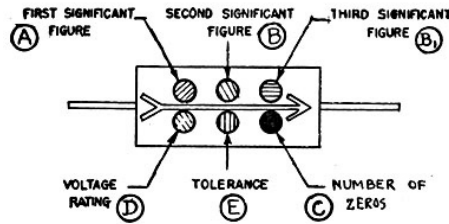


Fig. 1b. Six-dot coding pattern. See text for details.

tion project.

Generally, the Bakelite-cased paper caps look much larger than similarly-cased mica ones – which makes sense because their capacities are much larger. The paper caps, used as they are for bypass and coupling purposes, typically range from .01 to .1 uf. Mica units, often used in r.f. frequency-determining circuits, might run from 10 to 500 pf (uf).

So, if in doubt about whether a capacitor is paper or mica, check its size and function in the circuit. Also check the parts list. The NC-57's list helpfully indicates which caps are which.

❖ Reading Capacitor Color codes

The color codes used to identify Bakelite-cased paper or mica caps can be confounding because so many versions have been used. Eventually the system was somewhat standardized by the RMA (Radio Manufacturer's Association). Following are the more common styles.

If the capacitor is the standard garden variety (500-volt; 20% tolerance) as found in most receivers, including the NC-57, then a simple row of three dots is used (Fig. 1a). Make sure you read along the row from left to right with the manufacturer's name right side up or in the direction of the arrows.

The first dot (A) is the first significant figure of

the rating; the second (B) is the second significant figure; the third (C) tells how many zeros to add following the second figure to give the capacity in pf (uuf). For the specific values to use for the different colors, see the table in Fig. 2. For mica capacitors, the capacity is usually left in uuf. However, the capacities of paper caps are usually so much larger that they are converted to uf. This is simply a matter of moving the decimal point six places to the left.

For example, a very common Bakelite-cased unit found in the NC-57 has a three-dot color code of brown-black-orange. Since it has just a 3-dot code, we know that it is a 500-volt, 20% tolerance unit. The first (black) and second (brown) significant figures are 1 and 0. The number of zeros after the significant figures is three (orange). So the capacity is 10000 (same as 10000.0, of course) pf (uuf) or – moving the decimal point six places to the left – .01 uf.

You might sometimes see a row of five dots (less common and not illustrated). This format is used when voltage (fourth, or "D," dot) and tolerance (fifth, or "E" dot) must be specified. See Fig. 2 for the values associated with various colors of these dots. The fourth and fifth dot might be found, instead, on the rear of the capacitor or above the basic row of three.

Finally, you might come across a capacitor coded with two rows of three dots (Fig. 1b). This might be (but see next paragraph) a unit with a capacity requiring three significant figures to express (let's say 325 uuf, just to make up an example). For this unit, the top-row colors would be Orange-Red-Green. The third color (labeled "B1" in the figure) is read from column "B" in Fig. 2 (or the identical column "A.") The number of zeros to be added (labeled "C" as before) is the last dot in the bottom row. In this case it would be brown. The first two dots in that row represent voltage ("D") and tolerance ("E").

Just a few caveats! If you see a six-dot coding

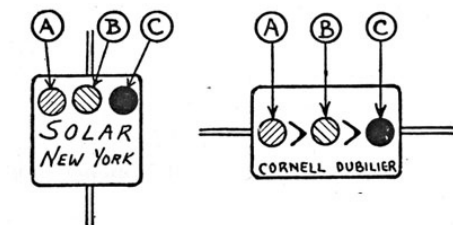
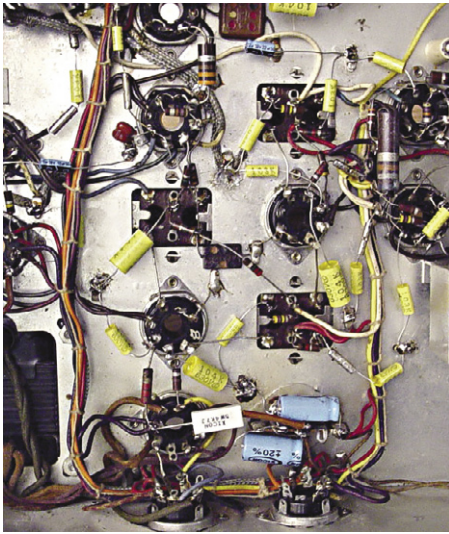


Fig. 1a. Two examples of three-dot coding. If no direction arrows are present, as at left, read the dots from left to right with the manufacturer's name right side up.

(A)		(B)		(C)		(D)		(E)	
First Dot	First Figure	Second Dot	Second Figure	Third Dot	Number of Zeros following Second Figure	Voltage Dot	Voltage Rating (dc)	Tolerance Dot	Tolerance %
Black	0	Black	0	Black	none	Brown	100	Brown	±1
Brown	1	Brown	1	Brown	0	Red	200	Red	±2
Red	2	Red	2	Red	00	Orange	300	Orange	±3
Orange	3	Orange	3	Orange	000	Yellow	400	Yellow	±4
Yellow	4	Yellow	4	Yellow	0,000	Green	500	Green	±5
Green	5	Green	5	Green	00,000	Blue	600	Blue	±6
Blue	6	Blue	6	Blue	000,000	Violet	700	Violet	±7
Violet	7	Violet	7	Violet	0,000,000	Gray	800	Gray	±8
Gray	8	Gray	8	Gray	00,000,000	White	900	White	±9
White	9	White	9	White	000,000,000	Gold	1,000	Gold	±10
						Silver		Silver	±20
						No Color	500	No Color	±20

Fig. 2. Chart shows values corresponding to the various dot positions and colors.



Purists hate to see new capacitors in an vintage set. But there's no doubt that a meticulous recapping will give a fine old radio a new lease on life and ensure that it will operate for many more years doing what it was designed to do.

where the first dot ("A" position) is white, black, or silver, you are looking at an RMA post-1948 revised coding (white) or a unit made to military standards (black represents mica; silver represents paper). In these capacitors, the first and second significant figures are represented in positions "B" and "B1" (using figure 2 as a position reference only) and the number of zeros is shown in position "C". Tolerance will be found at "E". Position "D" is called "characteristic," and I can find no reference to what might be specified here – perhaps voltage would be included. Can a reader help me out on this?

Oh, and if you find a six-dot coding with the bottom center dot blank, you are really looking at another version of the five-dot code, with the outer two bottom dots representing values "D" and "E."

❖ Other Restoration Issues

With the recapping now complete, the electronic restoration of the NC-57 has essentially been accomplished. But there are a few issues connected with it that are worth mentioning. In spot-checking the values of some of the resistors, I came across a 2200 ohm unit that measured over 6000 ohms. I really couldn't believe my eyes or my ohmmeter! It's true that the values of carbon resistors tend to increase with age. But the problem is generally found in resistors in the megohm range and the percentage increase is usually not so extreme.

Quite concerned that the effect might be widespread, I did my best to check every resistor in the set. Of course one can't obtain true readings on many of the resistors without disconnecting one end. That's because they are wired in parallel with other circuit elements – which would reduce the resistance shown on the ohmmeter. Such wholesale disconnection would not only be too time consuming, but could also compromise the integrity of the radio.

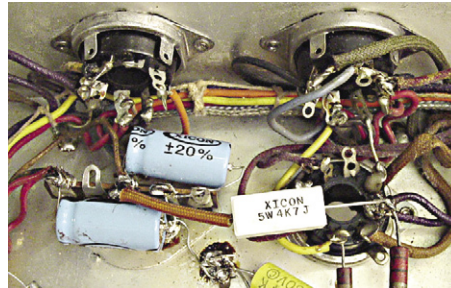
So I decided to adopt a compromise philosophy learned from a friend who has been restoring radios much longer than I have. Here's his technique for a rough check (keeping in mind that resistors may increase, but do not decrease, in value with

age). He puts his ohmmeter across each resistor in turn – leaving it connected in the circuit. If it shows a significant increase over the marked value despite being connected to other circuit elements, he'll replace it.

If it shows significant decrease, the reading is likely to be an artifact caused by circuit interconnections. So he reserves judgment and leaves it alone. Of course some resistors are essentially disconnected at one end because they are connected to tube pins that have no other wiring on them. These can be checked accurately.

I did replace the 2200-ohm resistor of course, but noticed no other outlandish values during the rough check. Later, when the set is powered up and operating, I'll check the voltages at various circuit points against the published readings. Any that are significantly low would be a symptom of an associated resistor that had drifted up to too high a value.

The only other resistor I replaced at this stage was a crudely-wired-in 12,000-ohm, 10-watt wire-wound power resistor that had been installed in place of the dropping resistor for the voltage regulator tube (intended to be 3900 ohm, 2 watt). No sign, so far, of what caused the original to go bad.



The two replacement electrolytic capacitors (left) are mounted on a terminal strip installed under the disconnected capacitor can, left in place for cosmetic reasons. Light-colored rectangular component at right is replacement VR tube dropping resistor (see text).

I also got a chuckle over a shielded cable connected to the wiper arm of the volume control and routed out of the radio through the keyway of the accessory socket. Intended to be a phono input I guess. But in this receiver the volume control is between the first and second audio stages – so there would have been very little gain. Even funnier is that there was a proper factory-wired phono input available at the accessory socket.

After removing the cable, I installed a new line cord to replace the deteriorated one I had cut off early in the game and, electronically speaking, the old girl was ready to go.

❖ How Do You Like Us So Far?

Many of you have no doubt noticed that *Monitoring Times* has recently been taking a hard look at itself in the form of a short survey posted on the Grove Enterprises web site. I know that some readers of this column have responded to it and I appreciate the positive comments that have been made. As it happens, this month marks the beginning of my sixth year of writing "Radio Restorations." So it seems appropriate for me, with your help, to take a personal hard look at the past five years of "Radio Restorations" to see what has

gone over well and what hasn't.

The format of the column, so far, is simple and obvious to all. I simply let the reader look over my shoulder as I restore vintage radio receivers and test equipment. I have been stressing the restoration of communications receivers because I figure that's what *MT* readers would like most. These restorations are not done in advance and edited for publication later. Everything is done in real time – so you share my triumphs and frustrations as they happen. Recently, in response to a reader suggestion, I've begun to look back and develop some columns on general restoration topics synthesized from my experiences with various previously-discussed projects.

So how do you like us so far? What would you have me do differently? Are you happy with the type of gear chosen for restoration? What about the pace of the projects – too drawn out? – too fast? – about right? Would you be interested in my including mention of vintage radio clubs and radio events in different parts of the country? How about the inclusion of an occasional radio history tid bit? Anything else I may not have thought of to ask?

Finally, I'd be curious to know what role this column plays in keeping you as a *Monitoring Times* subscriber or reader. Do you find it a major attraction? – or an interesting sidelight to your work with modern, high-tech receiving equipment? – or would you not find it much of a loss if we went away?

Take a few minutes right now and write me a note! If you don't happen to be e-mail equipped, send snail mail to me at PO Box 1306, Evanston, IL 60204-1306. I'll look forward to hearing from you, whatever your opinions.

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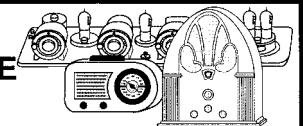
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Build These Timely Additions to Your Listening Post

By Ken Reitz

Anyone who becomes involved with the radio hobby eventually becomes obsessed with three things: radios, antennas, and time. Radios are bought according to budget, antennas are put up according to space, but a clock is often an afterthought.

❖ Obsessive Clock Watchers

International shortwave broadcasters and amateur radio nets are all concerned with time. With two dozen time zones around the world to take into consideration, it's important that everyone's reading from the same clock. That's why hams and international broadcasters use one global time standard.

Global time was originally known as Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) because Greenwich, England, is situated on 0° longitude, site of the Greenwich observatory where the concept of global time gained prominence in the world of the British Empire. Eventually GMT became Coordinated Universal Time which is often abbreviated as UTC or UT. However, to save time and space it's often written as the letter Z and, when announced, is said as the word "Zulu." To beginners it may seem confusing, but if you stay with it long enough it eventually seems natural.

The need for a single universal time is obvious when applied to radio. For logging shortwave radio reception and amateur radio contacts it's essential to have the time correct. Whatever clocks hams and SWLers use, they're set to any of the world's time signal stations such as those of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), formerly known as the National Bureau of Standards, which transmit on specified frequencies throughout the radio spectrum (see chart).

The frequencies themselves are also a standard and can be used to align receivers. Even the tones transmitted are official tone standards. The time signal clocks used by the Bureau are sophisticated clocks with atomic based accuracy.

❖ Clock Options

An assortment of radio related clocks are available through many mail order radio catalogs (see list) and prices range from just a few dollars to several thousand dollars. Thanks to the proliferation of quartz controlled movements and liquid crystal display (LCD) technology, an inexpensive clock can come with all manner of extras: date and time, 12 or 24 hour display, hour, minute and second display, even dial lights are common. All this can be crammed into a tiny, inexpensive, lightweight case which can be stuck onto virtually anything with a piece of double sided tape and

which may run for years on a watch battery.

Some radio hobbyists prefer analog clocks which show the traditional clock face with hour, minute and second hands. These clocks are typically driven by a very small and very accurate quartz movement which is usually powered by a single AAA or AA battery. The advantage of the analog clock is that it's easier to read from across the room and adds an aesthetic appeal to the radio room.

The current rage in radio room clocks is the so-called atomic clock which is a quartz movement governed by an impossibly small radio receiver



Radio controlled "atomic" quartz movement gives you unbeatable accuracy. Buy the movement for just under \$15. Build a fancy case clock or a use a single piece of wood. (Courtesy Klockit)

tuned to the aforementioned NIST time signal station WWVB transmitting at 60 kHz. These clocks are battery operated and self-adjusting. Once set, they will continue to adjust themselves according to changes made at the Master Clock at NIST. These clocks also change time automatically when the switch is made between Daylight Savings and Standard time.

Originally expensive, these clocks are now among the cheapest available. The technology for these clocks has evolved to such an extent that radio controlled wristwatches are now available at reasonable prices. The biggest drawback to these clocks is that they must be able to receive the time signal and may not work well in RF unfriendly environments such as mobile homes or large office buildings with an abundance of steel and concrete.

❖ Do-it-yourself Timepieces

Radio enthusiasts who enjoy home brewing their radio gear might enjoy building their own clocks. It's an opportunity to be creative or customize a time piece tailored to their own needs. There are two sources for the would-be clock builder (see below) who, with a few tools, a little time, and not

much money, can build his or her own radio shack clock.

In this article I'll show you how to build three clocks, each requiring a different order of skill and type of movement. I would encourage you to take the basics of these ideas and use whatever is available to make your own clocks. When you begin, make a sketch with the general dimensions of the finished clock on a piece of paper and refer to this when planning to cut the pieces. If you don't feel particularly creative or lack any of the basic tools, you might enjoy putting together any of the clock kits which are also on the market. You can substitute different clock works in many of the kits.

And, finally, you can customize your clock with special brass plaques etched (available through Klockit) with your call sign or other call sign if you use the clock as a presentation piece with your local radio club.

❖ The Three Piece World Time Clock

Here's a little desk clock which is made of three pieces of wood. The clockworks, a Klockit World Time insert (stock #15046), simply fits through a hole in a piece of wood in a friction fit. A simple top and bottom piece are glued on for a decorative look. You can use any wood for this project. I used some walnut scraps I had in the wood shop, routing the edges of the top and bottom for a more formal touch. This project works well with wood from Lowe's or other home building supply house. Look in their "wood shelving" section for finished oak, pine and poplar in a variety of dimensions.

Using a table saw or simple hand saw, cut the three pieces to the dimensions in your sketch. Using a hole saw or circular cutter in a drill, cut the hole in the upright piece of wood. If you don't have a drill, you can use an inexpensive coping saw and do it by hand. Drill a small starter hole tangential to the inside of the insert circle.

If you have a router, you can rout the three facing edges of the top and bottom pieces for a finished look. If you don't have a router just skip to the next step.

Apply glue to the top and bottom edge of the upright piece and hold them together with two furniture clamps. Small, cheap clamps can be purchased at your local hardware store. Be sparing with the glue, as dripping glue will be hard to clean up and does not allow stain or varnish to penetrate the wood, making an uneven appearance in the finish.

Leave the wood in the clamps overnight to let the glue cure. If you use a particularly nice wood such as walnut, cherry, oak or maple, you may want



The three piece desk clock in furniture clamps. These clamps are overkill, you can use much smaller (and cheaper) clamps for a project this small. Rout a space on the back of the dial board on the 24 hour clock to insert the special quartz 24 hour movement. (Courtesy Author)

to apply only a clear varnish finish. Apply three coats of a satin varnish sanding lightly between coats with 220 or higher grit wood sanding paper. If you want a bolder look, use a spray paint of any color. Apply as directed on the can. Three coats are usually sufficient to cover the grain of the wood. Hint: Poplar doesn't stain as well as oak or maple but it takes paint very nicely.

Once the wood is finished, simply insert the movement, add the appropriate battery and set it according to the time signal from WWV. Because this clock is completely finished, you can even make this a one piece wood clock by simply taking one thick piece of decorative wood – driftwood for example – and simply drill the correct size hole and insert the works. It's the ten minute clock project!

❖ The Analog 24 Hour Radio Clock

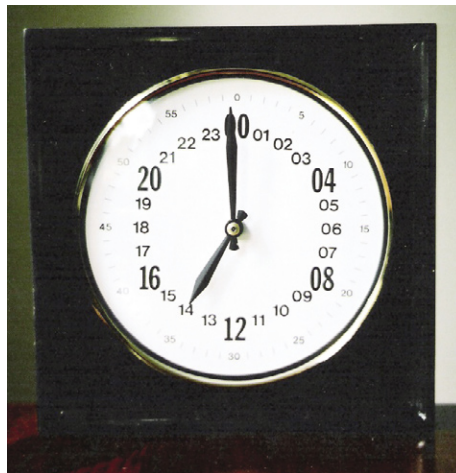
This is a clock with a real "retro" look. It harks back to a time of Hammerlund, Hallicrafters, and Collins radio gear with their analog dials and glowing tubes. I made this clock out of leftover oak scraps from another clock project. It's made of only five pieces of wood, all glued and clamped together. A space on the back is routed out for the clockworks, the dial is glued to the wood and the glass bezel is simply a pressure fit into three small guide holes in the clock dial board. Here's how it's done:

For this clock I used the Klockit 24 hour quartz movement (stock #34089 comes with 6-1/2" dial and hands) I also ordered the #27032 7-1/16" friction fit glass & bezel.

For the dial board I cut a piece of oak 7-3/4" square. I made the trim pieces by routing a design along the edge of a piece of scrap oak. Again, this is just to add a finished look. You can buy this trim in six foot lengths with a variety of decorative designs already formed into the wood.

I cut the four trim pieces with a cheap (\$10) hand miter saw from Sears to form neat mitered corners (a miter joint is where two ends cut at 45° angles are glued together to make a 90° joint). I glued and clamped the four trim pieces to the square dial board and let them cure. Because the wood I used for the dial board was so thick, I had to rout out a hole to insert the movement. However, if you use a half inch piece of plywood with an oak face, you can skip that part by simply making the trim pieces hang over the back of the dial board to allow the movement to be covered.

Once the pieces were set, I spray painted the surface with a black lacquer finish. After inserting the movement and attaching the dial to the dial board, I marked the three holes to be drilled to set the glass and bezel. With the holes drilled I attached the hands and then set the bezel in place. All done!



Special 24 hour quartz movement from Klockit. Order the 6-1/2" version with dial and hands for just under \$10. (Courtesy Klockit)

❖ The Atomic Clock in Traditional Wood Case

This last clock requires only a table saw and a router to build. Made of only 12 pieces of wood, I designed this clock based on a traditional Shaker style. The basic case of the clock is only five pieces: a top, a bottom, two side pieces, and the back. The front is simply a four-piece wooden frame around a piece of glass. The remaining pieces are just trim pieces to finish the look. I made this clock out of native cherry, but you can buy the 1/2" finished oak pieces at Lowe's or other home builder supply.

The last piece is the dial board, to which the decorative dial is affixed. Try to avoid using a metal dial when outfitting your clock with an atomic clockworks as it will act as a shield and inhibit reception. The dial I used is aluminum and I found that it was difficult to find a place in the house where the clock had good reception. A styrene or paper stock dial eliminates that problem. Increased power at the WWVB 60 Hz transmitter has also greatly improved reception in these clocks. Order different models according to the thickness of the dial board you are using. For example, I used the atomic clock movement from Klockit model #10143 which is for 1/4" dial boards.

The size of this clock is determined by the



Case for the Shaker style atomic clock is just 5 pieces glued together. Facing edges of the top and bottom are routed for a traditional look. (Courtesy Author)

face you choose to use. I chose the decorative floral face from Clockparts.com as a change of pace from the traditional Shaker face with Roman numerals which I usually use with this design. That made this clock considerably smaller than similar ones with larger faces.

Again, following the sketch I had made regarding overall dimensions, I first made the case and attached the dial board (made from 1/4" plywood as is the back). Since the wood is cherry, I had only to apply several coats of clear satin varnish to bring out the great cherry color and grain. When I made the door, I painted

Video Piracy

by David Lawson

The volume contains information about current security technology used by cable and satellite providers. This information is not available elsewhere.

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“World Clock Insert” makes clock making a breeze even for beginners. Sells for about \$20. (Courtesy Klockit)

the inside of the bottom half of the door glass with black lacquer spray paint. When I use a pendulum movement (mechanically or quartz driven), I keep the glass clear to show the moving pendulum. Now, with movement in place I had only to attach the hardware to finish the clock.

The most critical thing to using the atomic clock movement is to follow the explicit directions which come with the movement. Aligning the movement and attaching the hands so that the time is correct is essential. There is a locking pin which comes with the unit which is used to keep the movement from moving until the clock is finished. Don't lose the locking pin, as you may need to remove the battery to transport the clock and you'll want the movement to stay right where you left it. Just make sure the locking pin is removed before you insert the battery.

Of course, the original Shaker design included a wooden hanger on the back so that the clock could be hung on a Shaker peg. I dispensed with the wooden hanger and instead drilled a one inch diameter hole dead center in the back so that the clock could hang as a wall clock or sit on a shelf or mantle. Shaker

clock cases were usually painted and the faces had only the hour hand. However, with their penchant for perfection, I think they would have loved the addition of the atomic clock movement.

This movement may be used in any design. You could use it with the one piece, two piece or three piece designs mentioned earlier. You can use it, for example, with an old radio advertisement or other related memorabilia decouped to the surface of a piece of plywood. You're limited only by your own imagination.

Time Signal Stations

Government funded and operated time signal stations around the world provide a constant time standard and serve as propagation beacons to indicate how well (or poorly) the bands are performing at any given moment. These stations transmit in the multi-kilowatt range, 10 kW in the case of WWV, and if you can't hear them there's little chance of hearing the low power beacons or amateur radio operators. An excellent list of time signal stations world wide is found at <http://www.ac6v.com/standard.htm>. Of interest in North America are the following:

Freq (kHz)	Call sign	Location
60	WWVB	Fort Collins, CO
1510	HD2IOA	Guayaquil, Ecuador
2500	WWV	Fort Collins, CO
2500	WWVH	Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii
3330	CHU	Ottawa, Ontario Canada
3810	HD2IOA	Guayaquil, Ecuador
5000	HD2IOA	Guayaquil, Ecuador
5000	WWV	Fort Collins, CO
5000	WWVH	Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii
7335	CHU	Ottawa, Ontario Canada
7600	HD2IOA	Guayaquil, Ecuador

10000	LOL	Buenos Aires, Argentina
10000	WWV	Fort Collins, CO
10000	WWVH	Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii
14670	CHU	Ottawa, Ontario Canada
15000	LOL	Buenos Aires, Argentina
15000	WWV	Fort Collins, CO
15000	WWVH	Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii
20000	WWV	Fort Collins, CO

The National Institute of Standards and Technology has a fact sheet about radio controlled clocks at:

<http://www.boulder.nist.gov/time-freq/stations/radioclocks.htm>

RESOURCES

Mail Order Catalogs carrying radio related clocks. Prices are as advertised; model numbers are in parentheses.

Amateur Electronic Supply 800-558-0411 <http://www.aesham.com>

Carries numerous quartz digital analog and LED, LCD displays including:

Jumbo display LCD 24 hour clock (118): \$24.99

DXer's World Map Clock with LCD world map (112B): \$24.99

MFJ Dual quartz digital LCD display (108B): \$19.99

Grove Enterprises 800-438-8155 <http://www.grove-ent.com>

Carries MFJ 12" 12 hour analog Atomic Wall Clock (CLK01): \$59.95 plus shipping

Universal Radio 800-431-3939 <http://www.universal-radio.com>

Carries wide assortment of quartz analog and digital clocks including:

MFJ analog quartz 12" 24 hour clock with day of week and month dials (MFJ-125): \$27.95

MFJ analog quartz 10" 24 hour clock (MFJ-105C): \$19.95

MFJ digital quartz 24 hour 5/8" numerals ((MFJ-107B): \$9.95

MFJ digital Eternity Atomic Clock solar powered/WWV controlled (MFJ-123): \$74.95

Heartland America 800-229-2901 <http://www.heartlandamerica.com>

Always a wide assortment of quartz movement LCD and analog display clocks with and without WWVB control. 12 hour movements as low as \$19.99

Clock Parts and Movements

Klockit 800-556-2548 <http://www.klockit.com>

Carries everything from grandfather clock kits in cherry for \$2,524.95 to 1 7/16" mini LCD display inserts for \$2.80 each. Issues new free print catalog every month and has special discounted items via web site and 800 number. Also has line of analog/quartz clock inserts and matching weather instruments (barometer, thermometer, hygrometer).

Clockparts.com 800-421-4445 <http://www.clockparts.com>

Offers an extensive free print catalog of quartz movements and parts. Specializes in replacement parts for clock repair. Carries atomic clock movements, a large assortment of weather instruments with matching clock inserts and a few complete clock kits.



WWVB's 60 kHz antenna system cranks out 50 kW (ERP) from its 38 kW transmitter in Boulder, CO. (Courtesy NIST)

Three Software Radios

By John Catalano

In this final part of our Software Definable Radio series, we have a surprise for you: instead of including the Yaesu FRG-100 in our comparison as promised last month, we have another new SDR which has just entered the market, RFSpace's SDR-14. Using the highly unscientific "Mark I eardrum" and lots of antenna switching, we will do some monitoring for real-time comparisons of FlexRadio Systems' SDR-1000, RFSpace's SDR-14, and one of the first computer-controlled receivers, ICOM's IC-PCR1000.

Let's start by introducing RFSpace's SDR-14 SDR and Spectrum Analyzer.

❖ A Small Black Box

RFSpace recently introduced the SDR-14 to the market with these words, "The SDR-14 is a 14-bit software defined radio receiver. It offers a broad range of spectrum analyzer and demodulation capabilities. The hardware samples the whole 0-30 MHz band using a sampling rate of 66.667 MHz. The digital data from the ADC is processed into I and Q format using a direct digital converter (DDC). The I and Q data is then sent to the PC for processing using a USB 1.1 interface. All of the demodulation and spectral functions are done on the PC side."

The block diagram in Figure 1 clearly shows

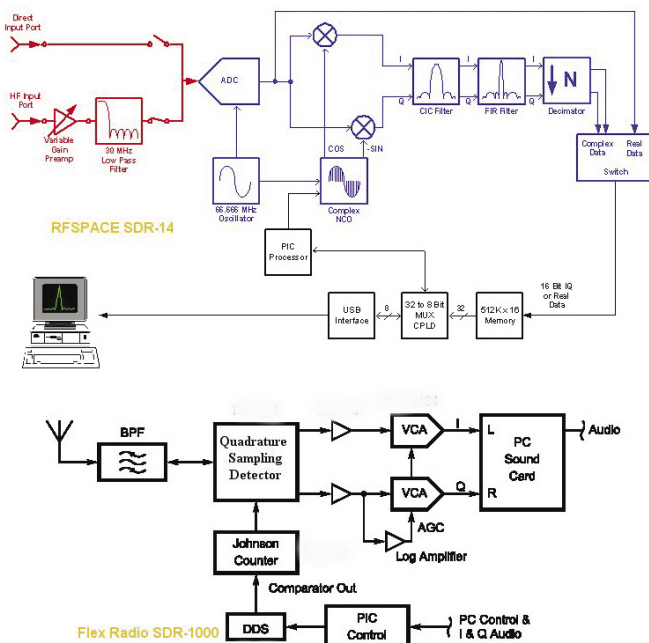


Figure 1 - RFSpace's SDR-14's Block Diagram (Top). Looking a lot like FlexRadio's SDR-1000 (bottom), with digital circuitry connected to the antenna. Notice SDR-14 does not use sound card in processing chain.

that, like FlexRadio's SDR-1000, the SDR-14 is a software defined radio with the amplified RF signal being fed into a fast analog to digital converter (A/D) without a heterodyne IF stage between it and the antenna! This configuration is defined as the **Ideal Software Radio** or ISR, a step up from the basic SDR concept. (See sidebar definitions - ed) Also notice the difference between the two software radios in the use of the PC's sound card by the SDR-1000. This processing is done internally by the SDR-14.

A direct input to the A/D converter is also provided which can be used to sample signals directly up to 200 MHz for use with downconverters. The SDR-14 can be used as a panoramic adapter by connecting this input to a communications receiver with an IF output, such as the ICOM R-71.

The included Windows software provides for demodulation of USB, LSB, AM, FM, WFM, CW, CWr and DSB. DRM is available via the use of third-party software (DREAM). The software also provides continuously adjustable filter bandwidths. Linux drivers are also available. The complete command structure is available so that anyone can write their own applications.

FlexRadio started this trend in early 2003 of providing completely open-source software. This allows any user complete access to all aspects, functions, algorithms and demodulation methods

of the radio system, in contrast to manufacturers who do not provide access to their system source code and just allow users to interface with via "controlled" application modules. The analogy is similar to the difference between Windows and Linux. The Windows product is compiled software. It is an operating system that can be used and customized, but cannot be modified. Linux, on the other hand, allows the user full access to its operational source code/algorithms.

The SDR-14 is supplied with SpectraVue software by Moetronix, Figure 4. This software includes Raw I&Q, 2D, 3D, Continuum (power vs. time) and waterfall displays. Operation is very basic and does not include a frequency/mode database function. On the plus side, all operations are very intuitive



Figure 2 - FlexRadio SDR 1000 Transceiver with RFSpace SDR-14 and ICOM PCR1000 receivers sitting on top.

and do not require any manual reading before you can begin SWling. However, don't expect receiver monitoring features such as memory storage or direct access database. It does not yet exist. I'm sure with the openness of the software we will see many enhanced versions on the Internet.

The SDR-14 is capable of recording up to 150 kHz of spectrum to a hard drive in real-time at a rate of 52 GB/day. The stored file can later be played back and analyzed, using full frequency tunability in 1 Hz steps and changeable demodulation modes, just as if the 150 kHz worth of signals were being received "live."

The SDR-14 is about the size of the ICOM PCR1000. It comes with a small wall 12 volt power adapter, USB cable, 14 page *User Guide* with Circuit Basics and software on CD-ROM. One thing you may need to buy is an SMA to BNC adapter, since the SDR-14 uses all SMA connectors.

The SDR-14 was operated on a number of Pentium III PCs in the 800 MHz range, with 256 MEG RAM and Windows 95SE and XP. It operated without a problem on all systems. The software loaded quickly and is well behaved.

❖ Comparing the Radios

The first thing that you will notice from Figure 2 is the size difference between the Flex Radio Systems SDR-1000 on the bottom, the RFSpace SDR-14 top right and the ICOM IC-PCR1000 top left. Remember, the SDR-1000 is a fully functional transceiver, with a 1 watt transmitter included. Space for a 100 watt power amplifier is provided for in its box.

Looking at the two block diagrams of the SDR-14 and the SDR-1000's receiver section in Figure 1, similar design philosophies are obvious. Less obvious is the method that two companies have chosen for their data link to the PC. The SDR-1000 uses the PC's parallel or printer port and the PC sound card input. The SDR-14 uses the USB port for digital signal transfer. The USB method is capable of processing up to 150 kHz

Summary of "Live" Monitoring Results

Receiver	SDR-1000*	SDR-14	PCR1000
WWV AM - Strong Sig in Clear	1	1	3
NY Aviation Radio USB Strong Sig - QRM	2	1	3
20 Meter Ham USB strong sig - QRM	1	2	3
40 Meter Ham LSB very very weak sig QRM & QRN	2	1	3
Overall			
Max sensitivity	3	2	1
Usable sensitivity	2	1	3
Selectivity	1	2	3
Sound Quality	2	1	3

*=transceiver

Figure 3 - Table of "Parallel" Monitoring Results - Using MK 1 eardrum and forty years experience

of signal bandwidth.

The SDR-14 comes with a power supply. The SDR-1000 does not.

The SDR-1000 uses BNC connectors; the SDR-14 uses SMA.

Top end of the SDR-1000 is 65 MHz. The top end of the receiver input of the SDR-14 is 30 MHz.

The resolution, or accuracy, of the A/D converter is different between the two SDRs. FlexRadio's SDR-1000 utilizes the sound card which typically has a 16 bit resolution, but can be as high as 24 bit, while RFSpace's SDR-14 uses a 14 bit A/D converter. On paper, the high bits should result in a listening difference. However, sound card qualities vary wildly. As we saw in Part 1 (Nov 2004), some sound cards will not work

with the SDR-1000, and some give less than optimum SDR-1000 performance. The SDR-14 removes the sound card issues by performing that processing internally.

❖ Setting Up Listening Tests

Since each radio had a different interface to the PC (USB - SDR-14; Parallel - SDR-1000; and Serial - PCR1000) they were all connected to the same PC simultaneously. Some interference was noted from the SDR-14's USB port. In order to minimize cross interference, only one radio

software was operational at a time. The PC used was an 800 MHz Pentium III, with 256 MEG of RAM running Windows XP Professional.

The antenna used was a coax-fed dipole cut to 7 MHz and connected to the radios via a B&W 5-position sealed antenna switch. Propagation conditions during most of the tests were terrible as a result of a severe solar storm.

The A-B-C testing of these radios were done within seconds of each other, using the same antenna and PC and the MK 1 eardrum. Although test equipment was available for exact measurements, even military contractors use on-air listening by experienced operators as the final test. As a short-wave listener with experience using receivers from many manufacturers over the past forty years, I guess I might qualify.

❖ The Test Performed

The receivers were controlled using the manufacturers' "stock" programs; therefore, the ICOM PCR1000 revision 2.2 software was used, not RadioCom. We will reflect on this choice later.

The radios were used in four different and varied monitoring situations:

1. WWV - Strong and in the clear AM signal.
2. NY Aviation Radio - Utility station, nearby stations QRM, USB signal
3. 20 Meters - Strong Ham station with nearby stations QRM, USB signal
4. 40 Meters - Very weak Ham station with noise QRN and nearby stations QRM, LSB Signal

These four presented varied listening environments while providing a challenging testing procedure.

❖ The Test Results

The test results are seen in Figure 3. As was previously stated, these tests were made while a major solar storm was coming off its peak, with reports of communications black-outs in all shortwave bands around the globe. The numbers in Figure 3 give relative ranking of the three receivers - a "1" grade being the top in producing the most intelligible signal.

In a number of situations, two receivers were so close in performance they should have been awarded ties. However, in order to give a level of performance differentiation, we made an admittedly subjective judgment. We made one exception. If you look at the "WWV" row, you will see that both ISRs performed perfectly equal in all respects and were both given a "1". In fact, the PCR1000 only missed a "1" because of its lack of variable filtering, giving the ISRs the ability to see and decode the signal sidebands.

The "Strong Ham USB signal on 20 Meters" was surrounded by lots of weaker, but still copyable ham stations. Here the SDR-1000 gave the cleanest results with the SDR-14 right on its heels. On both, the DSP filters gave a clean, stable result, but the SDR-1000 seemed to have finer filtering capabilities. The PCR1000 had some problems with the adjacent signals and what may have been front-end overloading, but it still gave acceptable results. In many tests, the PCR1000 indicated the most front-end gain. However, in a number of cases it was too much, allowing strong

WINRADIO SDR Comment

Dear Editor,

In our view, the November, 2004 article, "Software Definable Radio Now Available to the Public" presented incorrect and misleading information to your readers. The statements "the world's first SDR that anyone off the street can buy," and "right now, you cannot get another SDR on the consumer market at any price," are not factual.

As correctly defined by the author, SDR is essentially a technology where a significant portion of the signal processing functions (especially demodulation) is performed in agile software, as opposed to traditional hard-wired circuitry. He refers readers to a good web site to view the professionally-accepted definitions of SDR: http://www.sdrforum.org/tech_comm/definitions.html

The writer also correctly states that a soundcard and PC-based software can be used to perform a SDR task to advantage. This is exactly what the WinRADIO G3 series receivers has been doing for a long time - the first of three such products, the G303i, was released approximately two years before this article was printed (see <http://www.winradio.com/g3>).

The reviewer's impartiality is brought into question when he asks, "Is there a company providing an 'out of the box' software definable radio?," then answers "yes," and selects one recent manufacturer, even though our receiver has been extensively reviewed by MT and other reputable magazines.

The fact that our G303i receiver was the first commercially-available SDR was reported by the highly-respected WRTH (2004 edition), which awarded it a five star rating. Our prices, which have been lower than comparable stand-alone equipment, underscore our claim of the "first commercially available SDR receiver."

WinRADIO appreciates this opportunity to correct the misstatements in the article. In addition, we invite fair competition, and this comment is in no way directed against the manufacturer being mentioned in the article.

Sincerely,

Milan Hudecek, Managing Director
WinRADIO Communications

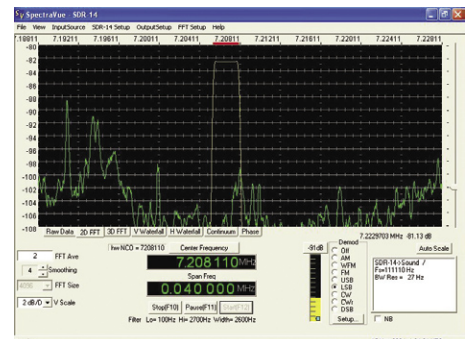


Figure 4 - SDR-14's main operational screen showing a very, very weak signal that is still copyable.

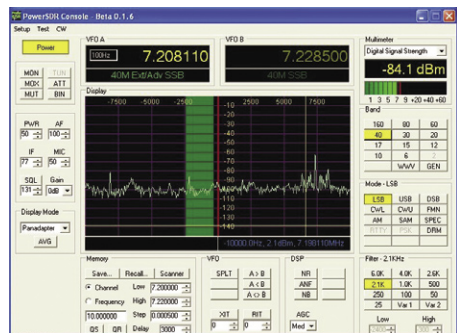


Figure 5 - SDR-1000 pulling the same extremely weak signal from out of the noise.

adjacent signals to enter.

Interestingly enough, the two SDRs switched rankings on the “NY Aviation Radio” medium strength USB signal. Here, there was a strong shortwave broadcast station nearby. All receivers again acquitted themselves with acceptable performance. The PCR1000 had the most problems, again possibly a result of overloading. However, the SDR-14 seemed to give better results on this medium strength signal during conditions of signal fade. This may be indicative of a sensitivity edge over the SDR-1000.

❖ Separating the Crowd

The toughest test was monitoring a very, very weak 40 meter (7 MHz) ham signal in the LSB mode. Weak signals were all around and on top of the target signal. Atmospheric noise was terrible. For all purposes the band should have been considered *dead*. Lots of signal fading was also present. During most of the time the PCR1000 did think the band was dead; words were intelligible about 10% of the time, only on signal peaks.

The surprise came when the antenna was switched to the SDRs. Both gave almost 90% copy, although their displays hardly indicated the presence of a signal (see figures 4 and 5). Notice that both signal meters and displays are indicating -84 and -91 dB, right down in the noise. The SDR-14 again seemed to have the edge. But here the SDR-1000’s filtering methodology made up for some of the sensitivity difference for a very close race.

❖ Overall

Here we have to be very careful. The PCR1000 gave the impression of having the hottest front-end sensitivity. However, in some situations it was too hot, dragging in unwanted signals. It should be noted that the SDR-1000 was operated with its front end preamp in its lowest setting – 0dB versus a possible 24 dB gain setting.

For best “usable” sensitivity, both software radios were great. The SDR-14 receiver seemed to edge out the SDR-1000 transceiver. This small difference may be a result of loss in receiver/transmitter switching circuits.

❖ Be Selective

Selectivity was clearly won by the software radios, especially in high noise conditions. All three receivers have at least one form of noise

Four Tiers of Software Radios

From the SDR Forum website FAQ

http://www.sdrforum.org/tech_comm/definitions.html

The term “Software Radio” and many variants ... have been proposed to reflect various qualities of radio systems whose functionality is partially implemented in software ... A hierarchy of “Tiers” is proposed to describe various degrees of SDR implementation.

Tier 1. Software Controlled Radio

Radios in this category have control functionality implemented in software, but do not have the ability to change attributes, such as modulation and frequency band without changing hardware. This includes models with a switcher and a group of independent multiprocessors in a common case.

Tier 2. Software Defined Radio

The Tier 2 system provides a broad operational range under software control without hardware change. These systems are typically characterized by a separate antenna system followed by some wideband filtering, amplification, and down-conversion prior to receive analog-to-digital conversion ... This front-end equipment represents a constraint on the frequency coverage of the system and its performance. It may be necessary to switch antennas to obtain the entire frequency range.

Except for these constraints, however, the system is fully capable of covering a substantial frequency range and of executing software to provide a variety of modulation techniques, wide-band or narrow-band operation, communications security functions (such as hopping), and meet the waveform performance requirements of relevant legacy systems.

An SDR is also capable of storing a large number of waveforms or air interfaces, and of adding new ones to that storage through either disk or on-line load ... The system software should also be capable of applying new or replacement modules for added functionality or bug fixes without reloading the entire set of software.

Tier 3. Ideal Software Radio

This system has all of the capabilities of the Tier 2 system, but eliminates analog amplification or heterodyne mixing prior to digital-analog conversion. It provides dramatically improved performance by eliminating analog sources of distortion and noise.

Tier 4. Ultimate Software Radio

This system description is intended for comparison purposes rather than implementation. It is a small lightweight component with very small current drain that can easily be incorporated into personal devices. It requires no external antenna, and no restrictions on operating frequency. It has a single connector that delivers the desired information in the desired format, typically digital. The connector also accepts information, uses it to modulate a signal, and radiates that signal in the desired waveform or air interface.

The ultimate software radio also accepts control information through its connector to operate and reconfigure the operating software ... Further, it has a large amount internal processing capacity, so with appropriate software it can perform a wide range of adaptive services for its user.

reduction. The SDR-1000 has three. However, these tests were made without noise filtering. The SDR concept, coupled to the continuously variable DSP filters, make for an unbeatable combination. In selectivity, the SDR-1000 edged out the SDR-14, which may be a result of its high bit A/D converter.

Performing the selectivity test made me reconsider the choice of the PCR1000’s software. If RadioCom, with its DSP filtering, had been used instead of the ICOM software, the selectivity results might have been closer. However, due to the software radios’ open source programming there will no doubt be many third party programs springing up that may improve on their performance as well.

❖ Personal Taste

Sound quality – that intangible, personal preference – is hard to define. The SDR-14 seems to provide a more pleasing sound in most monitoring situations. This may be a result of its use of the PC sound card for an audio-only purpose, or it may be my taste.

❖ Conclusions

Don’t sell the PCR1000 short. It performed

adequately, took almost no computing power and is the least expensive of the lot. The IC-PCR1000 is available from a number of dealers, priced at around \$400 plus shipping.

However, Software Definable Radios are here and rapidly developing. As compared to a computer-controlled receiver, they are the clear performance winners and the future of radio.

The SDR-1000 transceiver and the SDR-1000/RO receiver are available from Flex Radio Systems (<http://www.flex-radio.com>) for \$875 and \$676 respectively, plus shipping. The software is very monitoring friendly since it is designed for the Ham market. See their website for decoding programs which directly interface to it (such as MIXW reviewed in *Computers & Radio* July 2004 column).

The SDR-14 by RFSpace (<http://www.RFSpace.com>) costs \$999 plus shipping. Its software is more in the style of test equipment with provision for screen capture. Currently no receiver frequency/mode storage database is provided. We will look more closely at the SDR-14’s many features and functions in more detail in a future *Computers & Radio* column.

Enjoy being part of the biggest revolution in radio technology in the past 75 years – Software Definable Radios!

DeLorme's Earthmate GPS

Miniaturization. If there is one word to define our 21st Century world, miniaturization may be it. Fifty years ago the Regency TR-1 was launched, heralding the first truly portable consumer electronics product – the AM (medium wave) transistor radio.

The other so-called portable radios used tubes and were never designed specifically for portability; in most cases, their batteries simply substituted for high line voltages. However, with the advent of the TR-1, a radio designed for portability was available to the public. Astoundingly, the TR-1 was so small it could be held in one hand. In fact, it was smaller than the high voltage battery that powered “portable” tube radios of the day!

This month we have the chance to use the very miniature DeLorme Earthmate GPS receiver. The Earthmate is the latest in DeLorme's line of GPS receivers, which were first introduced in this column a decade ago.

❖ In the Beginning

DeLorme's first GPS receiver was about the size of brick – a yellow brick. All of the subsequent versions are also yellow. Unique for the time, it had no display or controls and attached to a computer via the serial port. It was the “first” GPS receiver to be designed for use exclusively with a computer. It stopped me cold in the computer store when I first saw it.

Operating on its own set of batteries (lots of batteries), it only took about 5 minutes to receive and then align itself with the GPS satellites constellation.

DeLorme's main business is map making, and it showed in the feature-rich GPS receiver software that they produced. Although in the initial product, the resulting maps were in only two dimensions, they were the best non-military maps I had seen.

But the DeLorme's first GPS computer receiver also distinguished itself in another manner. It ate batteries. It seemed that the batteries just lasted long enough to get through the initial satellite alignment. (Not really. They actually lasted for about five hours of operation.) Not exactly “portable friendly.” In fact, a battery eliminator which plugged into a vehicle's cigarette lighter was sold as an accessory.

A few years later in this column we tried

DeLorme's next GPS offering. This time the yellow box was smaller, about the size of a pack of cigarettes. The number of batteries required also decreased. But the real news was the 3-D software that DeLorme had produced for use with it. This provided real, three-dimensional presentations that could be rotated and elevated to give 3-D color topographic of your location determined by the GPS receiver. Of course, these mapping programs could be used in a standalone mode without a GPS. But watching the “dot” move along the map as we used the laptop in the car was real high tech. Later software enhancements added operation on a Palm PDA with limited mapping capabilities.

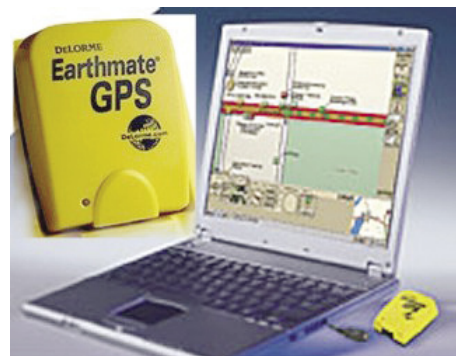


Figure 1 Close-up of DeLorme's Earthmate on the left. The arrow points to Earthmate attached to laptop for relative size comparison ...It's tiny

❖ Less IS More

The latest DeLorme GPS, Earthmate GPS is a mere 1-7/8 by 2-3/32 by 13/16 inches and easily fits in the palm of a hand. Figure 1 is a composite photo. A close-up of the Earthmate is shown on the left. But, its actual tiny size can be seen on the right of the laptop where it is connected to a laptop's USB port. It is really small. But size is not the only thing that DeLorme has improved.

The Earthmate GPS is a 12 Channel receiver that does a lot very quickly. It uses a SiRFstar IIe low-power chipset that takes 175 mW max and allows it to be powered from the USB port. Gone are the batteries. Hooray!

The chip-set boasts high sensitivity, giving Earthmate improved reception. Considering its diminutive size and the fact that it receives signals from over 12,000 miles

away (up), this receiver easily beats my “longest DX per receiver cubic volume” record.

DeLorme's info says that the chip-set also allows for faster constellation lock-on times. We found that the first-turn-on lock-on times dropped from around three minutes in the last version to less than one minute, better than a 300% reduction. For higher positional accuracy Earthmate GPS is WAAS-enabled.

❖ What is WAAS?

WAAS, Wide Area Augmentation System, is a network of satellites and ground stations providing GPS signal corrections. The WAAS system uses twenty-five ground stations scattered around the USA that monitor and compare GPS satellite data. The Master stations, located on the East and West coasts of the USA, correlate the received data from all stations. Differences due to propagation, orbit anomalies, time standard drift and other factors are then computed and an “error correction” signal is transmitted up to a geostationary satellite. This additional “correction” data is then retransmitted to GPS receivers with WAAS capability. The result is positional accuracy of better than 12 feet from a receiver the size of a box of matches!

Okay, enough talk. Let's try Earthmate GPS.

❖ Connecting Earthmate to PC

Using the included six-foot long cable, the Earthmate connects to the PC's USB port. A suction cup, which attaches to the cable, allows positioning of the small yellow box on a windshield. If you are using a Windows 98SE PC, you may have to install a USB Human Interface Device driver from the original Microsoft Win98 disk. My Windows XP Sp2 PC recognized the Earthmate and already had the driver in the system.

The bundled DeLorme mapping software, *Street Atlas 2005 USA*, automatically reads GPS positional data from the Earthmate GPS receiver when it is connected to the USB port. The program can also be used manually without GPS data input. The minimum system requirements are: Windows 98/2000/Me with 64 MB RAM or Windows

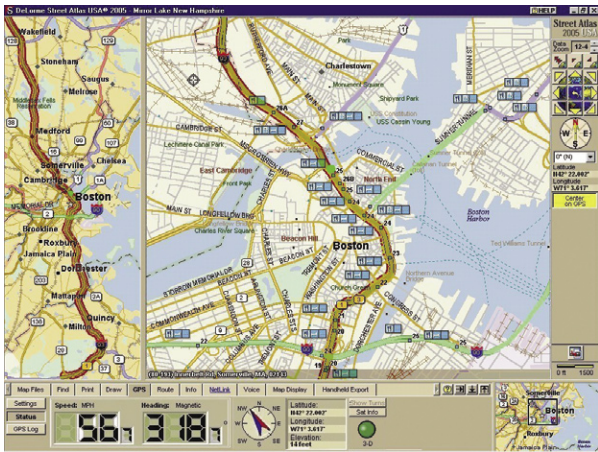


Figure 2 – Navigating through Boston using Earthmate GPS and Street Atlas USA 2005

XP with 128 MG RAM, Pentium 300 MHz, CD ROM drive, 700 MB hard drive space and Internet Explorer 5.01 or later.

Of course, to use the Earthmate GPS the PC must have a USB port. However, you can purchase a cable that connects the Earthmate to a serial port and power via a connection to a vehicle's cigarette lighter.

The Earthmate GPS hardware "display" is simplicity itself. It consists of a tri-colored LED that indicates satellite acquisition modes: red for searching, yellow for two satellites lock, and green for at least three satellites lock.

❖ Using Street Atlas 2005

First, let me start by saying that this program has so many features and screens that it would be impossible to cover them all in one column. We will look at one mode of operation, GPS Trip Routing. We had to make a round trip from Concord, New Hampshire, to Randolph, Massachusetts, which is just south of Boston. On the way back to Concord we turned on the computer and Earthmate GPS.

Using a Pentium II 366 MHz laptop and with the Earthmate GPS sitting on the dashboard of the car, we started our trip back north, which took us through Boston. Figure 2 shows the main screen of Street Atlas 2005, just as we passed Exit 25 on Route 93 in Boston. The main two sections of the screen are the left and right map areas.

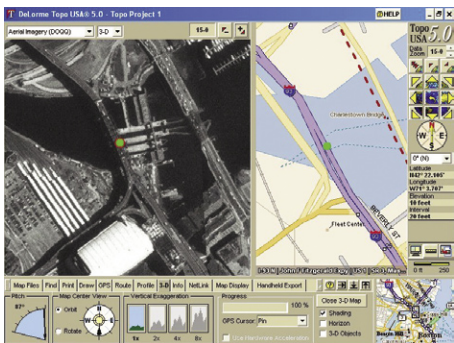


Figure 3 – The Real Deal. Topo USA's main screen. The right display shows an aerial photo of your actual position.

The map on the right has been zoomed in to a magnification of 12-4 as seen in the upper right. Our position, as determined by the Earthmate GPS, is indicated by the dot in the center of the screen next to the "25", marking exit 25. Our exact latitude, longitude and elevation can be seen on the right side of this screen. The dark line, which is actually brown in color, is our planned route. The map is rich in color detail. This map shows major highways, local streets, highway exits and markers for exits with lodging, food and fuel. Points of interest are also detailed, such as the *USS Constitution*, *Old*

Ironsides, which can be seen just across the water to the northeast of our location. The user has the option of selecting what features to display. As we travel, so does the GPS "dot". The color of the dot corresponds to the acquisition mode of the GPS. (See above.)

The map on the right can be configured in a number of modes. Here we have a wider area of view centered on our actual position. There are many more features that can be displayed, including "turns" along the route. The program can also "speak" to you when you are approaching one of these route turns. That's pretty strange the first time it breaks the silence by giving you directions!

Not only does it speak, but it listens, too. The program can be trained to identify a number of voice commands. This is just one of many features we didn't try.

The large section along the bottom of Figure 2 holds many of these features under menus titled Map Files, Find, Print, Draw, GPS, Route, Info, Netlink, Voice, Map and Display. Most are self-explanatory, opening into detailed menus concerning their topics. The Handheld Expert reduces maps so they can be downloaded to PDAs. The NetLink menu becomes really interesting when used with DeLorme's other program, *Topo USA* version 5.0.

❖ A Picture = 1000 Words

Topo USA is another DeLorme program that can be used with the Earthmate GPS receiver. The instructions do not give minimum system requirements. However, it seemed to run slower than Street Atlas on my laptop, which may be indicative of its CPU hunger.

Just look at Figure 3. The right map again shows our GPS position on the now familiar Boston map. We have moved a bit farther north in our journey. But the left side is really something!

❖ Aerial Imagery

You are looking down at a picture of our exact location taken from an aircraft! Now not only can we follow our progress on a drawn map, but we can track our travel over

an actual image of the area. Until recently this technology was reserved for military users. The left image can be zoomed in to a resolution which allows you to see the roof outline of individual houses.

A satellite image is also available, but was far less impressive, reminding me of blurry flight simulator landscapes. Both aerial and satellite images must be downloaded via the NetLink menu from DeLorme at an additional cost per square mile of photo downloaded. A few demo images are included with Topo USA v5.

The Topo USA comes with two other image formats, USGS Quads and Topo USA 5.0 Data Series, which are just as impressive when the terrain is mountainous. Rotatable and variable view angle three-dimension presentations again give 3-D color topographic presentations. But as we can see from the "Elevation" boxes in the figures, 14 and 10 feet, Boston sits near sea level and is graphically uninteresting.

❖ Just the Beginning

Earthmate GPS, coupled to these two programs – Street Atlas USA 2005 and Topo USA Version 5.0, is a winning combination. It was very other so-called portable radios used tubes and difficult to narrow down the twenty-three screen shots I thought were interesting to two, and to leave out many useful and unique features.

Both programs are available separately. The Earthmate GPS receiver bundled with Street Atlas USA 2005 is reasonably priced at \$129.95. Street Atlas alone is priced at \$49.95. Topo USA version 5.0 costs \$99.95. All three items are available from the DeLorme website <http://www.delorme.com> or by phone at 800-561-5105 or fax 207-846-7051.

Above all (sorry for the pun), I was most impressed with the sensitivity of the little Earthmate. This receiver grabbed satellite signals where other GPS receivers have failed. In fact, just laying on a desk inside the house near a window it was able to do its stuff. Very impressive and very, very miniature.

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What's NEW

Tell them you saw it in Monitoring Times

Passport 2005

With hobbyists in the midst of the DX season, it's nice to have a reliable reference companion at your listening post. *Passport to World Band Radio*, entering its twenty-first year of publishing, continues to appeal to the casual program listener and advanced DXer.

The opening features, *Thailand-Radio Active and Laos: Radio Under Fire* will appeal to those interested in their respective radio scenes. I found both features fascinating and of interest even to the casual listener.

For the beginner, *Compleat Idiot's Guide to Getting Started* is an excellent intro. World times, finding stations, best times and frequencies for 2005, and finding the right radio will set you in the right direction. Now you're ready for the *Ten Easy Catches and Ten of the Best Top Shows* or *What's On Tonight* for program listeners

A large section covers *How to Choose a World Band Radio*. Radios covered include shortwave portables, table tops, and antennas in many price ranges. Trust me, you will find a plethora of receivers to add to your "want list."

The *Addresses Plus* sections contains by-county listings of addresses, key contact personnel, website addresses, and verification policies.

Passport's "blue pages," contain listings of stations in by-frequency order, a plus for bandscanning. Because of routine seasonal frequency adjustments, no reference guide can remain a definitive source. To compensate, *Passport* includes frequencies that contributors have previously observed being active. This should assist the listener.

Passport 2005 continues to be an excellent reference to hobbyists for advice, receivers, and seasonal frequencies. *Passport to World Band Radio* is available through Grove Enterprises (7540 Hwy 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902) at <http://www.grove-ent.com> (or) 1-800-438-8155 for \$22.95.

- Gayle Van Horn

The Sports Radio Play by Play Directory

Edited by Charles B. Montgomery

If you are a dyed-in-the-wool sports nut and like to listen to your favorite team on radio, then we have found the book for you. Charles Montgomery and Montgomery Publishing has recently released his first publication - *The Sports Radio Play by Play Directory, 1st Edition*.

This unique directory contains listings for AM-FM radio stations in North America that carry play by play broadcasts for Major and Minor League sports teams in the following sports: Baseball, Basketball, Football, Hockey, Soccer and Lacrosse.

The user will find listings by sport, then by league and team. There are two cross reference listings, (1) sorted by state and city and (2) a by-frequency listing for both the AM and FM broadcast bands. Individual listings in each of the sections include station call sign, operating frequency, city/state of each station and Sport Team broadcast being carried. A random check of the listings found the directory to be accurate and up-to-date.

This comprehensive directory is available in two formats, print and Adobe Acrobat electronic portable document file (or PDF). The printed version is \$19.95 plus \$5 shipping in the United States. The electronic version, which is the same as the printed version, is only \$14.95 and can be emailed at no extra charge. If you want the electronic version on CD-ROM add \$5.

For more information you can contact Montgomery Publishing via email at: orderinfo@montgomerypublishing.com. Order forms are available at: <http://www.montgomerypublishing.com>. You can also reach the company through their mailing address at: 2311 North Millbrook Ave, Fresno, CA 93703.

- Larry Van Horn

2005 Tower Site Calendar

You missed getting for the best radio hobbyist calendar under the tree for Christmas, but you're still in time to order one for yourself for 2005. Now in its fourth year, the calendar features full-color pin-ups of broadcast transmitter sites throughout the US and Canada. The pictures are all distilled from photos taken by Scott Fybush, creator of Tower Site of the Week <http://www.fybush.com/featuredsite.htm> and NorthEast Radio Watch <http://www.fybush.com/nerw.html>



In addition to tower photos, each monthly page includes significant dates in radio and television history, as well as civil and religious holidays and major industry trade shows and events.

To order your copy of the Tower Site 2005 Calendar, send \$16, postpaid (\$17.32 includes sales tax for New York State residents) by check or money order payable to Scott Fybush to 92 Bonnie Brae Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618; or orders can be placed by credit card at <http://www.fybush.com>

Ease the Strain

Thinking about erecting a wire antenna? MFJ has a new line of Ce-



ramic Strain Insulators for Constructing Wire Antennas. The insulators come in three sizes to accommodate different wire diameters from 3/16 to 5/16 inches and can be ordered separately or in packs of three. Prices range from \$1.95 each to \$3.95.

MFJ has lots of other nifty accessories like 12 pairs of Anderson PowerPole connectors for \$10.49 (yes, the kind "Bright Ideas" keeps touting) and the Anderson PowerPole crimping tool for \$9.95, 100 feet of 14 Gauge Copper Strand Antenna Wire for \$11.95, or a 6-pack of the above bone-insulators for \$3.95.

To order, get a free catalog, or for your nearest dealer, call 1-800-647-1800; or write to: MFJ, 300 Industrial Park Road, Starkville, MS 39759; or go online: <http://www.mfjenterprises.com>; or fax to: 1-662-323-6551.

Utility CD to be Released

The World Utility Network club is celebrating its 10th anniversary by releasing a new version of their CDROM. The previous two versions of the CDROM were widely recognized as exceptional products, including all the WUN newsletters and WUN's special topics reports, many info files, sound samples and pictures as well as several radio related computer programs. The last edition was released in 1999. The new edition is expected to be released before the end of 2004 and will reflect 10 years of utility loggings. Check the website at <http://www.wunclub.com> for price and availability. The CD is also available from Grove Enterprises <http://www.grove-ent.com>

Monitoring Times 2004

The anthology of all *Monitoring Times* issues for 2004 is now available in full color, searchable PDF format. If you're a current subscriber, this \$19.95 CD can be yours at the discount price of \$14.95. Take advantage of active links, printable pages, and all the benefits of owning the entire year contained on one CD. Call 1-800-438-8155 or email order@grove-ent.com to order or visit <http://www.grove-ent.com>

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- Equipment reviews, and articles on *Ancillary Equipment, Managing the HF Spectrum, World Music Radio*, and more
- TV by country
- Reference section with Transmitter Site Location Table, Standard Time & Frequency Transmissions, DX clubs, Internet Resources, and much more

Available December 2004

SOME COMMENTS ON WRTH 2004:

Again this year, I can recommend serious DX-ers to buy this "DX-ers Bible"! I have all Editions of the WRTH since 1961 in my collection and I am pleased to say that the 2004 Edition is the best!
Anker Petersen, Danish SW Club International

I just got WRTH for 2004. It is so well done, I can't believe it! As I flip thru, picking various stations and countries - it's all there. I thought last year's WRTH was the end of the line, it could not get any better - this 2004 is superb!
H Ragan, USA

The WRTH 2004 is super!
J Slavik, Czech Republic

WRTH is excellent as usual
L Reeves, USA

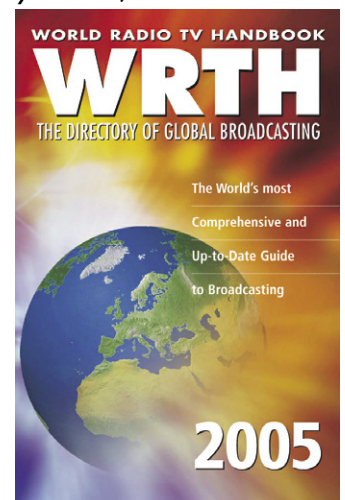
I highly recommend the World Radio TV Handbook as a convenient place to look up addresses - and much else. I often grab my copy and find stuff fast
Glenn Hauser, DX Listening Digest

WRTH 2004 is the first world class radio directory I ever came across
M Nanayakkara, Sri Lanka

The bible for DXers is very, very good
P Bouças, S.Tomé and Principe

A great reference work for all radio hobbyists - the World Radio and TV Handbook 2004
Adrian Peterson, AWR Wavescan

Excellent publication
J Easterly, USA



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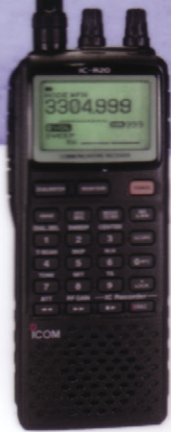
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