



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MT Express Expands Language Coverage!

We are delighted to announce that, beginning with this September issue, the pdf version of *Monitoring Times* (“*Monitoring Times Express*” or *MTX*, for short) will no longer be limited to English Language broadcasts only. Instead, the by-time frequency schedules will include ALL languages! This increases the number of records by two-thirds, since there are nearly twice as many non-English broadcasts as there are English.

Due to the cost of printing and postage, the printed magazine will *not* be picking up these additional schedules. Also, in order not to increase the file download size for our dial-up or overseas subscribers, the comprehensive, all-language guide will be offered as a separate download. In other words, using the September password, *MT Express* subscribers can access three files: a high-resolution version September issue, a lower-resolution issue, and the comprehensive Shortwave Guide pdf file – all for the same low price of \$19.95!

We just recently learned of the current hiatus of *Passport to World Band Radio*. While we hope *PWBR* will return as an indispensable resource for radio listeners, the timing of *MT Express*'s expanded language coverage couldn't be better for SWLs. Every month, updated frequencies and schedules will be available to you at no additional cost!

If you want to get in on this deal, but you're tied in to a print subscription, you can add *MTX* to your subscription for only \$11, or you can call 1-800-438-8155 and ask the Order Desk to convert your print subscription to *MT Express*. Folks, this new feature is a resource you will find *nowhere else*, and it's yours for an entire year for the price of one moderately-priced dinner out!

“Passport to World Band Radio” in Limbo

Following is the press release issued by Larry Magne, and forwarded to us by many readers:

“As with any good recipe, a range of ingredients has to come together if a reference book is to succeed. Solid content is, of course, essential. But in recent months other considerations have had an increased bearing on the future of *Passport to World Band Radio*®.

“So it is that the 26th Edition of *Passport to World Band Radio*® is being held in limbo. Despite this, for now we are continuing to maintain the WorldScan® database and uphold all proprietary material. Among other things,

this should help allow for an orderly return to production, under IBS' aegis or otherwise, should conditions allow.

“For *Passport*® readers and our small team, alike, this is a seminal moment. After all, *Passport to World Band Radio*® goes back a quarter century and has had something like a million readers worldwide. But the future has its own rhythm that confounds prognostication. There may yet be more chapters to this story. Stay tuned.”

*Lawrence Magne, Publisher, Passport to
World Band Radio
International Broadcasting Services, Ltd.
www.passband.com*

We join with fans of *PWBR* around the world in hoping that “other considerations” are soon resolved in a way most beneficial to all. *PWBR*'s “blue pages” and trustworthy equipment reviews are valued by many thousands of radio listeners, and make *PWBR* an irreplaceable resource.

New Features Editor

As *MT*'s long-term Managing Editor, I am pleased to announce that, beginning next month, I will be handing off a large portion of my former duties to our new Features Editor, Ken Reitz, whose writing professionalism has graced the pages of *MT* for many years. If you've had an interest in writing a feature article for *Monitoring Times*, now is the time to send your article pitch to Ken at kenreitz@monitoringtimes.com. For feature article ideas and guidelines, go to www.monitoringtimes.com/html/write_for_mt.html

Technical projects and equipment or software review ideas should be sent to larryvanhorn@monitoringtimes.com or to me at editor@monitoringtimes.com

Farewell to John Catalano

We regret that this will be the final *Computers & Radios* column by John Catalano. As you probably gathered in last month's article on the evolution of netbook computers, John has been working on and writing about computers in *MT* and elsewhere for a very long time – since the October 1991 issue, in fact. Readers can only imagine the endless hours he put into testing radio-related software so you wouldn't have to suffer the same frustrations he did.

John, our hat is off to you: May you enjoy your well-deserved retirement from monthly deadlines and scouring the internet for new and exciting software packages.

MT readers take note: until further notice, finding and sharing software solutions is now

up to you! We invite your suggestions for useful radio-related software as well as the name of anyone you think might be a potential writer in this field.

Thanks for the Reviews

Reviews are much appreciated by fellow hobbyists. Just read the following representative comments:

“I appreciated reading the info about the Internet program ‘ZIP-Signal’ in John Catalano's June column. I am quite fortunate to have a fantastic low-power FM radio station just miles from my home. Ever since WRHX-LP appeared on the airwaves just a few years ago, I have wondered where its transmitting tower was located. After getting the geographic coordinates from ZIP-Signal, I plugged them into my old GPS unit (the type that has no maps in it; it just points you in the actual direction using an arrow). When the enjoyable search concluded, I had found the tower. It was well off the beaten path on a country road I had never noticed before! What a useful website Mr. Catalano taught us about!”

*Judy May W1ORO
Union, Kentucky*

“Thank you so much for your review of the BCD396XT in the June 2009 issue of *MT*. That article alone justified my subscription to *MT*!”

“I have been trying to resolve a problem that I was having with my BCD396XT: Uniden has been of no help, but you had the answer in the 3rd paragraph, rightmost column, page 69 - ‘There is no USAD programming software....’ That was all I needed to know, but Uniden was unable to tell me that the current version would not work with the 396XT and there is no disclaimer to that fact on the Uniden website. I downloaded and installed ‘FreeScan’ and I was able to communicate with the scanner on the first try! Thanks again.”

Paul Spurlock WA4FHY

Preserving Maritime Morse Code

We hope you enjoy this month's focus on the evolution of Morse Code and on its preservation at coast station KSM.

Last February we published a letter from Roger Parmenter, who wrote about the November 1988 story on defunct station WCC. Roger mentioned that when the station was closed, “All he did was to shut off the electricity, lock the door, and leave!” We received the following related letter from Bill Ruck:

“We note with interest Roger Parmenter's story about WCC in *Letters to the Editor, Monitoring Times*, February 2009.

“The last General Manager at KPH (and WCC), Jack Martini, did the same thing at the receiving station in Point Reyes, California (known as ‘RS’). He turned off the lights and locked the doors but left the receivers monitoring the bands as they had done for the past 90 years. Jack is now a member of the Maritime Radio Historical Society.

“We are fortunate that the KPH facilities in Point Reyes and Bolinas (transmitter site) were given intact and operational to the Point Reyes

National Seashore, part of the National Park Service. And we are even more fortunate that the Point Reyes National Seashore allows the Maritime Radio Historical Society to operate that historic station honoring the men and women in the marine radio service.”

Bill then reminds us of the annual “Night of Nights” in July when the MRHS commemorates the end of commercial Morse messages in the maritime service. “In that way we symbolically pick up the thread and carry on with the traditions of marine radiotelegraphy.”

“More information about Night of Nights and the entire KPH project can be found at our website www.radiomarine.org”

Bill Ruck
Maritime Radio Historical Society

See this month’s feature *Meet the QSL Mistress* for more on how to hear and QSL coast station KSM which uses the old KPH facilities.

Exploring Newer Modes

Dear Mike,

“I enjoyed the last part of *Digital Digest* in the July *MT* page 31. I have never used IRC Chat and thought I would give it a try. After getting the IRC Client set up and going to the IRC Channel #wunclub I saw nothing and was the only user there. I guess I was on a bad IRC Server.

“I changed to the starchat server and found plenty of people on the wunclub channel. I have not yet learned how to use the bot but have learned how to get the help file from it.

“This reminds me of when I first got interested in online services. At that time there was no internet. We basically had the choice of CompuServe, The Source, and Delphi at the time. On one of those services they had a chat section for short wave. It met on the last Saturday or Sunday of the week for about a few hours. It was more like a weekly ham net but on the computer. I think it even shut down after a certain time after the last person left, unlike the 24 hour IRC or other chat services today. You would log on and wait for a person to give out a frequency or event happening.

“I have found the IRC to be very interesting and fun so far and will explore it further. It’s a bit of a change from using the regular chat services on the internet.

“Thanks for the info on IRC”

Mike Hoblinski, N6IMF

Hi Loyd,

“I wanted to say thanks for the excellent *GlobaNet* article on monitoring Ireland via Internet Radio (June 2009). Up to this point, I have done very little listening to online radio stations (too clinical and artificial-sounding to me), but with my Irish ancestry and high interest in Irish culture, I simply had to check it out!

“Thus far, I’ve only explored RTE Radio 1,



Where Am I?

Do you recognize this antenna? What is it and where is it? Send your answer to editor@monitoringtimes.com and if your name is selected from the right answer, we’ll give you an additional 3 months of *MT Express*!

Do you have a photo of a recognizable or historic radio-related facility or antenna? Send in your photo for possible use in another *Where am I?* contest!

but from what heard there, I expect to go much further! Thanks again for putting this together – it may lead to more online monitoring for me.”

Kevin “O’Hern” Carey

Airshow Kudos

“I’m an occasional monitor (mostly rail and air) and I just had to say what another great airshow monitoring guide you and *MT* put together for ’09! It’s really been helpful this morning as I cast about looking for Thunderbirds freqs for this weekend’s show here in Helena, Mont. I also appreciate the show sked as well as the equipment list.

“Speaking of which, here’s another Radio Shack PRO series receiver you can add to the ‘discontinued but capable’ list: the PRO-2045. It’s a nice desktop model I bought awhile back. I had no trouble plugging in the needed freqs and switching modes as I assigned channels. For what I require, the 2045 is a nice radio.”

Mike Harbour

On Baseball

Below 500 kHz columnist Kevin Carey recently wrote to Beginners Corner columnist Ken Reitz:

“....one small correction to your excellent June article on tuning in baseball on the radio. The Rochester Red Wings are now a minor league team of the Minnesota Twins rather than the Baltimore Orioles. This is a fairly recent change (last few seasons) after 40+ years with the Orioles. Nonetheless, it was nice to see our local team mentioned in the pages of *MT*.”

Kevin went on to relate this interesting story:

“I’ve spent many nights at the Red Wings ball field, playing ‘taxi’ for my son so he can get autographs from players. Often, he’s there an hour after the game ends, waiting for players to come out. One night, when my wife was there with him, he waited a very long time for an autograph from Trent Oeltjen and another teammate. They gave the autographs, but then looked around and realized their ride had left (the one that would take them to their apartment). My wife offered to assist, and ended up giving the players a 15-minute ride to their apartment complex. My son was star-struck, and it was all he could talk about for days!”

Bob, W8JHD

Get with MT Express!

We conclude with this testimonial for the benefits of *MT Express*, which was posted on the ScanFresno yahoo group. We hope “Fresno Bill” be even more pleased when he sees what else he’s now getting with his *MTX* subscription! (*See opening story.*)

Hello ScanFresnoGroup,

“FWIW I no longer buy the paper copy of *MT* magazine. I spent \$20.00 and signed up for *MT Express* over the internet.

Don’t have to travel to a book store hoping a copy of *MT* mag is still there. Now every month the new mag is waiting in my e-mail. I can get a low or high resolution copy, save, print, cut and paste articles etc.

“I thought I would miss holding a paper copy, I don’t.

“A free sample of *MT Express* is available at their web site

“I really like the article on the museums along with the frequencies. [July cover feature by Bruce Ames.] Think I’ll make a 4Th of July resolution and try and visit them all! Another good job, Bruce.”

Fresno Bill

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