

# Australian DX News

Monthly Publication of the Australian Radio DX Club Inc. - Australia's Premier DXing Organisation since 1965



## **ARDXC Officials and Addresses**

### **Committee**

**Officers:** Tony Magon (President), Robert Fitzgerald (Vice-President), John Wright (Secretary), Geoffrey Wright (Treasurer)

**Ordinary Committee Members:** David Brown, John Sanderson, Dennis Allen, Denis Smithson.

**Correspondence for Committee:** John Wright, 29 Milford Road, Peakhurst, NSW, 2210.

### **Annual Membership Fees (from 1/7/2013):**

All prices quoted in Australian dollars and include GST.

**Australia \$62** (Student under 18yo \$31);

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**Sample copies** of the ADXN are available for **\$5** (or equivalent) from John Wright, 29 Milford Road, Peakhurst, NSW, 2210. Email inquiries can be directed to [dxer1234@gmail.com](mailto:dxer1234@gmail.com)

Club web page: <http://www.ardxc.info>

## **Editorial Deadlines & Addresses**

### **Next deadlines:**

October 2017 (Issue 607): Friday 29 September, 2017

November 2017 (Issue 608): Friday 3 November, 2017

### **SW Trail, On Air and Editorial**

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### **Amateur**

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## **News from Club HQ** (with John Wright)

Plenty inside including another David Foster trip to Timor, Singapore and Indonesia, in the AM/FM section (great stuff!) Note all there are no more MW stations in Timor! All are FM. We also have in the broadcast band section some stations going off MW, so open up some channels!

AGM October in Bathurst. Saturday October 28th starts at 12.30pm, Craig Seager's place 12 Pellion Place, Bathurst. Get lost call Johnno 0416 766 490.

The Agenda is also in this magazine. Proxy voting is also available as well as nomination forms for the committee.

After the AGM we will have a BBQ sponsored by the club as a lunch, and no doubt Craig's vast array of receivers on

display for afternoon entertainment.

As far as accommodation is concerned will have some more details for motel rooms in Octobers magazine.

## **Sydney Branch Meeting**

Saturday 19th August 2017. Those that came along were Peter Theodorakis, John Sanderson, Geoffrey Wright (my brother, NOT), Sam Dellit from Canberra, John Faulkner, John Wright (host), and Tony Magon.

Tony is off to Christchurch NZ as his father has passed away, so our condolences to Tony and to Susie and Margaret, Tony's wife. Then the BBQ swung into action.

Discussed were Sam Dellit's pursuit of achieving QSL's, so I gave him Ian Johnsons collection for scanning. Also, we discussed the AM band finally being freed up with stations going digital, off to the FM band. This may give us the opportunity for overseas DX.

Also discussed was the upcoming AGM in Bathurst, with Geoff Wright, John Wright and Tony Magon definitely going, John Faulkner a possibility and John Sanderson due to an operation he is having on the 23rd of October, a possible only. Those that gave apologies were Dennis Allen, Denis Smithson who has an old footballer's knee, so he has now a plastic one! We sent around a card for him to get well, and all to sign.

## **Brisbane Meeting, 29th July.**

Another successful gathering with great weather and friends.

Attendees, Ray & Raewyn Crawford, John Bastable, Rob & Kathy Shepherd, John Nicholson, Lubos Rendek, Chris Martin, Ron & Hazel Everingham, John & Colleen Smith. Apologies, Martin Hadlow.

Good mix of discussions on radio & satellite Tv. Lubos brought along a Murphy receiver and John Nicholson demonstrated his homemade low power valve am transmitter which he uses to generate a signal for testing antique radios in close proximity. Like to thank everyone for a good day. Next meeting to be advised.



From front left clockwise, Chris Martin, John Smith, Colleen Smith, Hazel Everingham, Ron Everingham, Ray Crawford, Lubos Rendek,

John Nicholson, Rob Shepherd, Kathy Shepherd, Raewyn Crawford, John Bastable.



John Nicholson with homemade transmitter, testing Murphy radio



John Smith's homemade 45kg satellite dish tripod

**Andrews Communications, Greystanes in Sydney's west.** Lee has the new ICOMR8600 SDR receiver for sale at 3395-00. Also. Lee has a vast array of Yaesu communications gear.

As usual the shop was stocked full of boxes with gear! Also, I bought an AD 55, ICOM R75 or a ICOM R8500 power supply, however watch out as ICOM Australia sent up a switch mode power supply calling it the AD55! WRONG! S9 noise all across the bands so Lee exchanged this out with a filtered power supply a PSA123 GME series supply for the same price, and bingo no S9 noise.

Lee even had my bugged AD55 power supply and cut the plug off it and soldered this to the new power supply, as I talked to Cameron! Call him or Cameron on 02 96369060.

#### **AV COMM at Brookvale, Northern beaches in Sydney.**

Gary Cratt at Brookvale. our member for some years now, also sells communications equipment. He offers a big range of the Tescun radio brands, of which are portable. I note it seems about every 4th member has one of the Tescun products. Gary can be contacted on email [cgarry@avcomm.com.au](mailto:cgarry@avcomm.com.au) or ph 99394377. Or visit his web site.

Both Gary and Lee have packing and shipping available. I know that Gary, sold Graham Dawe in Broken Hill a Tescun, and Graham thinks its magic! Also, Gary has loads of satellite gear!

I do note more and more folks are using eBay or gumtree for radio's supposedly at a cheaper price, well what happens when it goes wrong? If you buy from Gary or Lee your supporting a business in Australia along with a valid warranty.

**ARNE NEVBACK** in Alice Springs has sent me a package containing a Drake R8A, a Degen 1121 and FRG 7700 tuner. I am not 100 per cent certain but I think it's a donation.

However, the Degen 1121 is a no-goer at all on batteries or the power supply. The FRG 7700 tuner I will test shortly, and the Drake R8A Peter Theodorakis has taken the Drake for a clean-up and test so will find out more on this set in future editions of the ADXN.

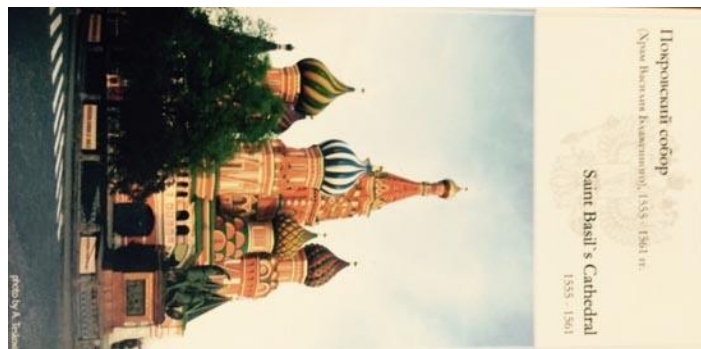
So, will advise, and we do thank Arnie for thinking of us. I also note that Peter and Arnie have talked on the phone before about radio's. so that's a nice touch.

#### **For Sale**

Bill Robertson in Canberra-Giralang has still the ICOMR75 for \$450-00 in good condition, this does not have the power supply but hey for \$100-00 Lee has the PSA123 filtered power supply. All you need is a positive centre fed plug, from Lee. Call Bill 0417 265 586 or email Bill on [billbrtsn@bigpond.com](mailto:billbrtsn@bigpond.com)

*Front Cover: Photo of a stylish timber cathedral set, taken by John Schache at the Herring Museum, Siglufjörður, in the far north of Iceland. This little town has been termed the "Atlantic Klondike", having been the centre of the so-called "silver rush" – which ended in the late 1960s. Another example of over-exploitation of a natural resource.*

#### **QSL Corner**

A QSL Verification Card from the Voice of Russia. The card is yellow and contains the following information: www.ruvr.ru, TOROC POLCWM THE VOICE OF RUSSIA, letters@ruvr.ru. The card is addressed to Mr. Lessel. It verifies the reception of the VoR's broadcast in English on December 31, 2013, at 04:00 UTC, on frequency 21800 kHz. The card includes the text: "We invite you to continue listening. Please feel free to write again with comments or questions about our programs." and "Best wishes from the Voice of Russia". There is a small note at the bottom: "Not for commercial use. Не для коммерческого использования".

Images courtesy of Stewart Lessel (Japan), of now historic Voice of Russia QSL from 2013.

# Shortwave Trail

Our monthly roundup of members' loggings edited by Craig Seager

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Highlights this month include a reactivation in West Africa after many years, and John Adams in QLD is hearing the Brazilians that are eluding us in the southern states.

- 3320 **Radio Sonder Grense – Meyerton**, 0352-0417 2/8, pop vocals followed by announcer talking in Afrikaans language. News at 0400. At 0406 music bridge followed by a man with station ID, more talk and short music bridge and announcements. Fair. (D'Angelo\*)
- 3325 **NBC**. 19/8 at 1146, S7-S9 music, presumed NBC; but recheck 3 minutes later at 1149 has become a JBA carrier --- rather than a quick fadedown, I bet in the interim NBC signed off uncovering RRI Palangkaraya. Perhaps Ron or someone had kept listening and can confirm. Our sunrise now 1153 UT, latening at the rate of 5 or 6 minutes per week. 3325, 20/8 at 1149 music at S8-S6, 1152 drops to S6-S5, tho similar weak music. Wonder if the same transition happened (Hauser\*)
- 3325 **RRI Palangka Raya**. Good mix of contemporary music with news in Malay at 1200z. ID's noted over an extended period of listening from 1000. 7/8 (Brennan). ♦ Armchair level 1215, Jakarta nx, reports etc. No PNG, 5/8 (Seager)
- 3910 **Voice of the People, Kyonggi-do Koyang**. Usual Korean talks at 1005, fair signal through the industrial strength jamming, // 3930 also heard but now quite as strong there, 25/8. (Wagner)
- 3955 **KBS via Woofferton**. Weak in GG 2003, nx px on 5/8 (Seager)
- 4900 **V. of the Strait, Fuzhou**. Good reception at 1304, 10/8, of what appeared to be some kind of meeting. Language listed as Amoy (Allen).
- 4925.2 **Radio Educação Rural - Tefé**, 0210-0251\* 3/8, several men speaking in the Portuguese language with occasional short instrumental music segments and brief announcements. Closing ID and announcements; no anthem. Poor. (D'Angelo\*)
- 5020 **SIBC**. 25/8 at 0629, JBA carrier presumed SIBC starting from 0500 after 9545. 5020 JBAC still audible at 1153 (Hauser\*)
- 5045🔥 **Ozy Radio, Razorback. STOP PRESS!** Reactivated, test transmission from 0600, first heard by John Smith, but also reported by John Wright, Richard Jary and Phil Ireland. Heard with continuous music, relays of Australian Independent Radio News. Full ID 1259, request for reports to [dxer1234@gmail.com](mailto:dxer1234@gmail.com). Strong signal, to abrupt signal level drop or off 1319. 28/8
- 5810 **EWTN (WEWN), Vandiver**. Fair reception of SS px beaming to Cuba. Female anncr. From 0945. 6020
- 5850 **Brother Stair. Okeechobee**. V. poor reception but that voice is unmistakable even in the static. From 1210 8/8 (Brennan).
- 5850 **RAE Argentina, Okeechobee**. JJ px with mix of talk and musical interludes. Fair from 0925. Improved as sunset fell over Florida. Good at 1000 when I checked back. 17/8 (Brennan).
- 5860 **Radio Farda**. In Farsi on 17/8 at 0023 w/song Black Magic Woman by Fleetwood Mac //MW 1575 (Pankov\*).
- 5910 **CRI, Beijing**. Very strong signal with mix of talk and music in PHL. ID's noted at 1157 prior to sign off. 8/8 (Brennan).
- 5910.368 **Alcaraván Radio**. 19/8 at 0601, tropical song, S9-S8, better than usual, 0615 ID as ``Alcaraván Radio`` --- yes that's what they really say, not Radio Alcaraván (Hauser\*)
- 5915 **Myanmar Radio. Napiyidaw**. Bright musical px in Burmese. Fair reception with CRI Hohot heard underneath. From 1220, 8/8 (Brennan).
- 5920 **Voice of Freedom**. In Korean on 5/8 at 1905 slow covered by jamming, without ID but // 6135 here under heavy called "tsunami" jamming (Pankov\*).
- 5940 **Unid**. In VV on 5/8 at 1910 w Horn of Africa type dance mx after in fast tempo reading nx and on 16/08 starting at 0415 on 5940 rumbling w Voz Missionaria Brazil (Pankov\*).
- 5952.4 **Radio Pio Doce, Siglo Veinte**. 0147-2329\* 9/8, vocals followed by Spanish language talk. Closed with "Colonel Bogey March" music with a man announcer with station ID and closedown announcements. Poor to fair. (D'Angelo\*)
- 5965 **Sea Breeze, Yamata**. 24/8 at 1311, S8-S6, very poor with YL talk, seems to be the Sea Breeze gal still here in English as usual Thursdays only, from JAPAN (Hauser\*)
- 5980 **VoA, Moepeng Hill**. English language lessons at 2120 in the 30-min French service to Af. Fair signal until s/off 2130, 11/8. (Wagner)
- 5990🔥 **R.Senado. Brasilia (presumed)**. Just caught this for a few minutes with what sounded like a football match commentary in PP. Eventually overcome by CRI Mongolian station. Poor from 1235, 8/8 (Brennan).
- 5995 **RTV du Mali, Bamako**. Afro instrumental music at 2155, ID in French at 2200, then intro into a new talk program, weak signal on 11/8. (Wagner)
- 6020 **V.O.V. 4, Daclac**. VV domestic px with male and

|      |   |          |   |
|------|---|----------|---|
|      | female talk. Had to tune in USB to dig it out from under nearby DPRK jamming spilling over from 6015. From 1015. 17/8 (Brennan).  |          |   |
| 6090 | <b>University Network, Anguilla.</b> Dr G.Scott px in EE on 17/8 at 0025 // confirmed 5935 WWCR //MW1610 (Pankov*).   | 9420     | <b>CNR 6, Beijing.</b> Surprisingly good reception of a lively song in the Hakka service at 1025 on 14/8 (Allen).   |
| 6185 | <b>China Huayi BC, Chengdu.</b> Tough to hear this one due to heavy QRM from RTI and jamming on adjacent 6180. Mandarin talks at 1035, one of the lower powered 15 kW stations with ND antennas. 25/8. (Wagner)   | 9420     | <b>Greece.</b> 1st Home px in GR only on 17/8 confirmed at 0300-1050* //9935 – no special px were of Voice of Greece (Pankov*).   |
| 6185 | <b>RTI via Woofferton.</b> Very strong in GG 1901 w/nx px, 5/8 (Seager)   | 9440     | <b>CRI, Kunming.</b> Heard at good level with a report in the Chaozou language at 1106 on 10/8 (Allen).   |
| 6250 | <b>R.Malabo, Equat. Guinea (presumed).</b> 28/7 at 1700 w talk in VV under Voice/Echo of Hope & jamming (Pankov*).  | 9490     | <b>VoA, Umm al-Rimam.</b> The weekdays-only French service to WAf with news at 2103, poor on 11/8. (Wagner)   |
| 7140 | <b>Eritrea.</b> 1st Home Sce on 18/8 s/on at 0257 w IS, ID in VV followed by jamming. No trace of Eritrea 2nd prgr, but maybe it is related w/5940 at 0415 (Pankov*).   | 9505     | <b>V. of the Strait, Fuzhou.</b> Here at 1036 on 10/8 with a song after some Hakka anns. Fair level signal with slight noise and fading (Allen).  |
| 7163 | <b>V.O.Hope.</b> Long-time observed Sound of Hope/Falun Gong px in CC in range 7161-7164 w/jamming by "siren" type but on 18/8 from 0330 rumbling here w intermodulating signal of Hargeisa Somalia on fundamental 7120 & heard also on symmetric 7077 (Pankov*). | 9530     | <b>HCJB Radio, Akhbar Mufriha.</b> 2151-2215* 7/8, announcer speaking in listed Hassinya language. Some vocals mixed with other brief talks. At 2213 closedown announcements with station ID and frequencies. Off with light instrumental music until carrier terminated. Fair. (D'Angelo*) |
| 7205 | <b>Sudan Radio, Al Aitahab.</b> 0349-0435 17/8, local vocals until 0400 when announcer began news program. End of news at 0411 followed by apparent news related features. Poor to fair. (D'Angelo*)  | 9545     | <b>SIBC, Honiara.</b> Very good in EE with pop mx on 18/8, 0215 (Adams).  |
| 7255 | <b>V. of Nigeria, Ikorodu.</b> Fair level but noisy. Heard with a Hausa commentary before a bugle fanfare and shouted military commands at 0647 on 2/8 (Allen).   | 9550     | <b>VOIRI, Sirjan.</b> Spanish to CAm at 0214, good on 18/8, despite splash from SIBC on 9545 (Adams).   |
| 7295 | <b>Radio Algerienne, Issoudun.</b> 0432-0458* 6/8, announcer taking in the Arabic language with some Middle Eastern vocals. Off mid-song. Fair signal. (D'Angelo*)  | 9560     | <b>PBS Xinjiang, Urumqi.</b> Heard here with a Uighur talk at 1112, 10/8. Fair level signal with slight noise and fading (Allen).   |
| 7325 | <b>CRI, Jinhua.</b> Good reception of the JJ service here with a song and anns at 1029 on 7/8 (Allen).  | 9570     | <b>KBS World Radio, Kimjae.</b> Weak reception of a KK talk at 1041, 10/8, with CNR 2 in CC in the background (Allen).  |
| 7345 | <b>BBC via Ascension.</b> Weak reception of an EE talk about events in Africa at 0654, 2/8 (Allen).   | 9570     | <b>CRI via Cërrik.</b> Good in CC to ENA on 18/8 at 0218 (Adams).   |
| 7365 | <b>R.Martí, Greenville.</b> Heard at fair level with SS anns and then a song at 0656 on 2/8 (Allen).  | 9590     | <b>CRI, Kashi-Saibagh.</b> Spanish to SAm on 18/8, only fair at 0220 (Adams).   |
| 7425 | <b>RNZI, Rangitaiki.</b> Good reception with discussion in EE on eating seafood. From 0810, 7/8 (Brennan).  | 9600     | <b>Vatican R., Tinang.</b> Vietnamese to SEAs at 2325 with preaching, poor signal on 23/8. (Wagner)   |
| 7750 | <b>Warsan Kenya.</b> In Somali (presumed) on 16/8 confirmed on earlier bc time at 0244 than usually s/on at 0325 (Pankov*).   | 9620     | <b>Radio Romania International.</b> Heard 0530 fair level with clear audio in EE with news 20/8. (Faulkner)   |
| 9390 | <b>R.Thailand, Ban Dung.</b> Pop song at 2110 in the Thai service to Eu. Fair signal, English IDs and gongs chiming at 2113 till s/off 2115, 11/8. (Wagner)   | 9635.85  | <b>V.O.Vietnam.</b> 17/8 at 1258, S4-S6 in Vietnamese, so this VOV remains far off-frequency. David Sharp, NSW had even measured it 40 Hz beyond 9636 on 5/8 (Hauser*). ♦Very good reception here with a spirited VV discussion at 1045 on 10/8 (Allen).                                    |
| 9400 | <b>Bible Voice Broadcasting, Kostinbrod.</b> 0311-0315* 10/8, Arabic language talk and light instrumental music. Brief closedown announcement before carrier terminated. Poor to fair. (D'Angelo*)  | 9655     | <b>KNLS, Anchor Point.</b> Not bad 1647, RR preacher, 5/8 (Seager)  |
| 9405 | <b>FEBC, Bocaue.</b> Mandarin to EAs with preaching   | 9665.989 | <b>R.Voz Missionária.</b> 17/8 at 0554, has almost achieved a full kHz of offness, S7 signal in Brazuguese gospel huxter, much better signal than the others, JBA carriers circa 9674.97, 9725+, 9819 (Hauser*)   |
|      |   | 9680🔥    | <b>Vo Hope Africa, Makeni Ranch.</b> English service to SAf at 0610 with a talk on missionary work in Zambia, poor signal but improved slightly by 0630. Scheduled for weekdays only. 24/8. (Wagner)  |
|      |   | 9720     | <b>Sri Lanka BC, Trincomalee.</b> Fair level reception of a Tamil song heard at 1122 on 10/8 (Allen).   |
|      |   | 9725.4v  | <b>Radio Evangelizar, Curitiba.</b> Tuned in to vocals  |

- followed by announcer with long religious talk in the Portuguese language. Poor to fair. Noted almost // web stream feed (shortwave was delayed) to ID the station, 0400-0429 26/8. (D'Angelo\*)
- 9730 **RRI, Tiganesti.** Spanish to CAm on 18/8, good at 0200 (Adams).
- 9740 **BBC, Kranji.** Wobbly signal during a period of K-index of between 5 and 6 at 2345 in English to SEAs, 23/8. (Wagner)
- 9770 **KBS World Radio, Kimjae.** Clear but weak reception of a VV ann with musical background at 1050, 10/8 (Allen).
- 9790 **RRI, Galbeni.** Good in Romanian to ENA at 0156, 18/8 (Adams).
- 9820 **KNLS, Madagascar.** In RR on 7/8 from 1900 whistling w Nove de Julho Brazil & after cl/d at 1956, NDJ was noted on approx. 9820.1 kHz (Pankov\*).
- 9835 **RTM Sarawak FM, Kajang.** Good in Malaysian at 0210, 18/8 (Adams).
- 9839.8 **VoV, Son Tay.** Indonesian service at 2315 with a good signal, 23/8. (Wagner)
- 9870 **Voice of Turkey, Emirler.** Spanish to SAm at 0149, good on 18/8 (Adams).
- 9875 **R.Free Asia, Dushanbe.** Tibetan service at 2335, fair signal and no jamming, but co-channel QRM Vo Korea (KCBS) with its Korean service to EAs, 23/8. (Wagner)
- 9890 **BBC via Singapore.** Burmese to SEA at 0204, only fair on 18/8 (Adams).
- 9935 **Voice of Greece, Avlis.** Poor in Greek on 18/8 at 0145 (Adams).
- 11540 **R.Free Asia via Tinian.** Weak level signal with noisy periods heard at 1205 on 10/8. Tibetan anns with music breaks and children's voices (Allen).
- 11610 **World Christian Broadcasting, Mahajanga,** 2118-2129 22/8, preaching in the mandarin language. Brief instrumental music at 2118 followed by talking. Fair. (D'Angelo\*)
- 11620 **CNR 5, Beijing.** Poor and fady in CC at 0307 on 18/8 (Adams).
- 11655 **Bible Voice (Dardasha 7), Nauen.** S/on 0600 for 15 min service in Arabic to NAF, fair signal, 24/8. (Wagner)
- 11665 **RTM Wai FM, Kajang.** Good at 0305 with Malaysian news on 18/8 (Adams).
- 11670 **AIR, Bengaluru.** Dari at 0302, good on 18/8 (Adams).
- 11680 **CRI, Nanning.** Heard with a Cambodian discussion at 1214, 10/8, Fair level signal with slight noise and fading (Allen).
- 11680 **KCBS, Kanggye.** The domestic service at 2210, plenty of rhetoric, fair signal and still heard going past 2300....has she paused to take a breath yet? Fair signal on 11/8. (Wagner)
- 11695 **KTWR, Agana.** Weak, but quite clear at times with a talk in the listed Kokborok language at 1216 on 10/8 (Allen).
- 11810 **BBC, Ascension.** 2150-2159\* 8/8, English language features closing with promo announcements before carrier terminated. Fair to good. (D'Angelo\*)
- 11840 **R.Havana, Quivican.** Good in SS on 18/8, 0250 (Adams).
- 11845 **AIR, Delhi.** Good clear reception of a CC talk with a musical background at 1222 on 10/8 (Allen).
- 11860 **Rep. Yemen R. Sana'a, Jeddah.** Music programming with Arabic anncts at 0520, fair signal, 24/8. (Wagner). ♦Good in Arabic at 0312 on 18/8 (Adams).
- 11875 **BBC via Tashkent.** Farsi at 0245, only fair on 18/8 (Adams).
- 11950 **Xizang PBS, Lhasa.** Good in CC at 0316, 18/8 (Adams).
- 11955 **CRI, Kunming.** Quite good here with a song at 1148, 10/8, after Filipino anns. // 12070 via Xian was much better (Allen).
- 11965 **CLANDESTINE Radio Erena, Kostinbrod.** 1756-1801\* 26/8, caught tail end of program with announcer speaking in the Arabic language. Apparently, closedown announcements followed by brief instrumental music until carrier terminated. Poor. (D'Angelo\*)
- 11975 **Radio Romania International, Galbeni,** 1803-1832 22/8, news in the Romanian language. End of news at 1805 followed by station ID and then instrumental music and talk features. Vocal at 1823. Poor to fair signal but very noisy reception conditions. (D'Angelo\*)
- 11995 **Radio France International, Issoudun.** 1913-1926 1/8, French pop vocals followed by a discussion in the French language including nice station ID. Fair to good signal. (D'Angelo\*)
- 12015 **Radio Sultanate of Oman – Thumrait,** 0008-0035 3/8, Arabic language talks followed by recitations. Fair to good. (D'Angelo\*)
- 12030 **RTI, Tanshui.** S/on 1100 for the Russian service to EAs, a weak signal with the news on 13/8. (Wagner)
- 12034.88 **Vo Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar.** Japanese to As at 1045 with pop music and talk. Some distortion on the audio, fair signal and monitored until s/off 1100 on 13/8. (Wagner)
- 12035 **VoA Deewa Radio via Kuwait.** Good in Pashto on 18/8, 0320 (Adams).
- 12095 **BBC via Al Seela.** Poor and fady on 18/8 in EE to ME at 0322 (Adams).
- 13585 **KBS World Radio, Dhabbaya.** 2002-2100\* 9/8, Arabic language news program with mentions of "Washington" (presumably talking about North Korea situation). Station ID in English at 2013 followed by language lesson and other features. Fair to good. (D'Angelo\*)
- 13605 **R.Marti.** 24/8 at 1429, R. Martí is very strong S9+30 and seems jam-free, so I check 13820, the B-only season frequency, and sure enough, wasted pulse jamming there. Back to 13605 now audibilized a bit of jamming. Other Cuban transmitter on 13740 relaying China is VG S9+30 (Hauser\*)
- 13610 **CNR 1, Nanning.** Quite strong and almost noise-

free with CC anns at 0007 on 22/8 (Allen).

13760 **VoK, Kujang.** English service to Eu coming in well with little bother from the low level jamming at 2215. Then into Spanish at 2230, 11/8. (Wagner)

13800 **HCJB via Moosbrunn.** Good signal 1615 t/in w/talks, Russian-sounding language, which turned out to be Chechen, 5/8 (Seager)

13810 **Dandal Kura R., Dhabayya.** To WAF in Kanuri at 0715 with news programming. According to HFCC it's a new site for this service 0700-0800 (ex Woofferton as of Aug 7). Poor signal and seemed to be some technical issues with modulation, 12/8. (Wagner)

14680H **Radio Habana.** 20/8 at 0109, JBA talk, // 7340 as second harmonic of RHC; meanwhile, 14670 CHU is inaudible, even tho it is no longer on 7335. 2 x 7850 = 15700 where one should seek it if propagation ever be excellent. Not surprising, as K index is 4 amid G1 storms. Perhaps Sun will be putting on an unusual show if this keep up at totality (Hauser\*)

15110 **Voice of America, Udon (presumed).** 1306-1325 18/8, noted with discussion in the Mandarin language. Some light instrumental music bridges. Poor and eventually lost in the noise. (D'Angelo\*)

15140 **Radio Sultanate of Oman, Thumrait.** 1652-1725 2/8, pop vocals program with English language talks, IDs ("Radio Sultanate of Oman ... 90.4 ...") and announcements. Poor to fair. (D'Angelo\*)

15190.73 **Rádio Inconfidência.** 16/8 at 2012, JBA carrier, presumed, which JRX in Brasil reported reactivated as of 13/8, not heard since 5/6, on ``15190``, but it's always been off-frequency, now more so than before (Hauser\*)

15215 **KSDA, Agat.** AWR programming in Mandarin to EAs with pop hymn at 2250, fair signal 11/8. (Wagner)

15260 **IBRA R. (Radio Sama), Moosbrunn.** S/on 0800 in Arabic to ME with ID and preaching. This seems to be part of IBRA Media, not FEBA as appears in Eibi listings. It also has its own website: www.radiosama.net. Weak signal and f/out 0815, 12/8. (Wagner)

15420 **CLANDESTINE. Radio Itahuka, Talata Volonondry (presumed).** 1838-1853 12/8, two men talking in presumed Kirundi language. Poor to fair signal but fairly noisy channel making it poor overall. Unfortunately, I couldn't stay with it until sign off. (D'Angelo\*)

15515 **R.Kuwait, Sulaibiyah.** A fair to poor signal at 0735 with long Arabic discussion. A quick ID at 0741 and into Arabic pop song. Beams to EAs at 59°, 12/8. (Wagner)

15515 **R.Kuwait, Sulaibiyah.** Regional music programming and Arabic anncts at 0530, fair to poor signal. Beams to EAs at 59°, 24/8. (Wagner)

15570 **Vatican Radio, Santa Maria de Galeria.** 1605-1630\* 2/8, announcer speaking in the Swahili language with numerous mentions of "Christo". Short vocals selection and more religious talk. IS at closedown. Fair. (D'Angelo\*)

15590 **Radio Thailand, Udon.** 0019-0030\* 8/8, woman and man announcer alternating English news items with ads. Carrier seemingly terminated mid-sentence (antenna beam change). Poor to fair. (D'Angelo\*)

15595 **Vatican R., SM Galeria.** French to ME at 0620 then English at 0630, poor signal. Not on Sundays. 24/8. (Wagner)

15620 **R.Veritas Asia via Sta. Maria di Galeria.** Service in Tagalog – interesting that they send it back to a local audience from Europe! Good 1509. Had birthdays greetings etc., so maybe it is a relay of local mediumwave service, 19/8 (Seager)

15690 **R.Farda, Biblis.** Farsi music program at 0750 beamed to Iran, weak signal, 12/8. (Wagner)

17840 **CLANDESTINE Sagalee Qeerroo Bilisummaa, Issoudun.** 1649-1700\* 10/8, announcer talking in listed Oromo language. Poor to fair signal but white noise digital jamming destroyed reception. (D'Angelo\*)

17860 **Voice of Khmer M'Chas Srok, Dushanbe.** Very weak signal at s/on 1130 with a long talk in the Khmer language. Faded out by 1140 - this is a tough one with winter nights and low sunspots both conspiring to make it through to Mount Evelyn! Schedule is Sun and Tues only. 13/8. (Wagner)

## Contributors

**Rumen Pankov**, Sofia, Bulgaria (Sony ICF2001D, Folded Marconi ant 16 meters long).

**John Adams**, Port Douglas Tropical Queensland (Sangean ATS-909X, 7 Metre Reel Antenna)

**Rich D'Angelo**, Wyomissing, PA U.S.A. (Ten-Tec RX-340, Drake R-8B, Eton E1, Eton E5, Alpha Delta DX Sloper, RF Systems Mini-Windom, Datong FL3, JPS ANC-4)

**Dennis Allen**, Milperra NSW (Icom R75, Realistic DX-160, Longwire)

**Phil Brennan**, VK8VWA, Darwin NT (SDRPlay RSP1, Raspberry Pi 3, Wellbrook ALA1530 LNPro).

**Rob Wagner**, VK3BVW, Mount Evelyn, VIC (Yaesu FTDX 3000, Kenwood TS2000, Yaesu FRG100, Kenwood R5000, Tecsun PL-680, Horizontal Loop antenna, Double Bazooka antennas for 80, 40 and 20 metres, Par EF-SWL End Fed antenna, BHI NEIM1031 Digital Noise Eliminating Module, MFJ-1026 Noise Cancelling Module, ATU).

**John Faulkner**, VK2DVW, Bexley NSW (Receiver Sony ICF-5900 antennae 5m)

**Glenn Hauser**, Enid OK USA (JRC NRD-545 with Wellbrook ALA-330S; Icom R-75, Sangean PL-880, Radio Shack DX-398, Grundig Yacht Boy 400, with random wires; Grundig G8)

**Craig Seager**, VK2HBT, Bathurst NSW (Perseus SDR, IcomIC-R71E, JRC NRD-545, Tecsun PL-880, DX Engineering Preamp, Wellbrook feeder isolator, Icom IC-746, Loop Skywire, Home-made Loop with LZ1AQ amplifier)

\* Denotes listener outside of Australia

📡 Digital mode

🔥 Editor's hot choice

(CS) 🗺️

## The Latest News from the Shortwave Bands

edited by Craig Seager

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### ALGERIA

Two SW sites in RTA Algeria are under construction now. 135 and 210 degrees path to southern Algeria, and border area of Sahel zone.

(Wolfgang Bueschel, *df5sx*, *wwdxc BC-DX TopNews Aug 20*)

### ETHIOPIA

UNID 5940 kHz. Ethiopian Somali Regional State Radio Jijiga. "Radio Deegaanka Soomaalida Itoobiya".

I believe the so-far-unidentified station on 5940 kHz is now identified as the official station of the Ethiopian Somali Regional State (though we are not 100% sure about the ID), thanks to Jari Savolainen's research last night. Here you'll find some pictures of the transmitter and its inauguration:

<<http://degaanka2.rssing.com/browser.php?indx=60570855&item=50532>>

In this file the last four words are likely the ID:

<<http://www.muenster.org/uwz/ms-alt/africalist/5940-fusion.wav>>

Broadcast times are approx. 0400-0510, 1300-1500, 1810-2000 UT - all a bit variable. There seem to be daily newscasts at 1910v UT. The rest of the programme consists mainly of long musical sections and occasional interviews / correspondents reports by phone. It all sounds a bit provisional - no jingles, no IDs at sign-on or sign-off or other regular features.

(Thorsten Hallmann-D, *dxld / A-DX 21/22*)

☞ Jijiga on 26th June 2017. A high-profile event that was held at the local SWDA radio station attended by the top officials of DDSI, the first president of DDSI Mr. Abdi Mohamud Omar, and the Speaker of Parliament SRSG Chairman, Mudane Mohammedrashid Isak, Vice President of the DDSI and Minister for Environmental Agriculture and Natural Resources Saad Ahmed Farah, Vice President and Minister of Construction and Development of cities Mudise Abdikarin Egal, DDSI Officers, some of the Council of Elders, Environment, the different levels of media workers in the group of bandwidth and other guests.

It is the first time that President DDSI President, Abdi Mohamud Omar, has an important milestone in which the president has informed the media about the local media performance and the different media landscape surrounding

the media. He added that different levels of local media have come up in different situations without any radio or television broadcast in the area surrounding the area except for the listening list of complaints and Fahan-based ideology Was listening.

According to the president, this SW station is the first radio station in the area and it will contribute to communication and development as a result of the local community's 85% of the pastoralists who are unable to watch TV, The president said that the local media performance was a model for the ESTV solution, as the peace pact was addressed by local residents, especially the local community. The magazine thanked thanks to the TV channels and websites that supported the development of the environment.

On the other hand, the speaker spoke on behalf of the speaker and the speaker of XDSHSI Mudane Mohammed Ismail Isaq, who first addressed the stride of the SW as a way of life and is involved in the development of the environment.

Afterwards, the DDSI president and the speaker of the parliament have been subjected to the arrest of the Short Wave (SW) radio station at 5940 kHz and listen to the entire camp and hear from the current situation.

DDSI President Abdi Mohamud Omar and Speaker of the Parliament Mohamed A. Ismail paid a prize to the prominent members of the loyalty and loyalty of local media in the first place of the local media director Farhan Mohamud Ahmed, The president has advised the staff to continue their efforts there.

(*cakaaranews.com, June 26; from Jijiga Ethiopian Somali Regional State, via WWDXC Top News*)

☞ SW schedule of "Radio Deegaanka Soomaalida Itoobiya" Jijiga /DDSI/, the official station of the Ethiopian Somali Regional State

0400-0510 5940 unknown tx / unknown to EaAF Ethiopian Somali language.

1300-1500 5940 unknown tx / unknown to EaAF Ethiopian Somali language.

1810-2000 5940 unknown tx / unknown to EaAF Ethiopian Somali language.

(Ivo Ivanov-BUL, *hcdx*)

### KOREA (REP OF)



Voice of Freedom on new frequency of 6045 kHz. Haengboghghan Daehanmingug ("Happy Republic of Korea").

New frequency of 6045 kHz, VoF on Aug 21, noted strong reception (not jammed), with programming that certainly was consistent with VOF; 1001 UT and subsequent monitoring till 1304 UT. Segments with announcers chatting, dramatic monologues, pop songs, dramatizations, etc.

Today VOF, as I noted yesterday, clearly not on 6135, 5920, 5940, nor on 6020 kHz. Thanks to Amano and Hiroyuki Komatsubara for their confirmation of this new frequency.

[later Aug 24] As always, I am extremely grateful to Amano-san for his excellent details regarding my VOF recording. Is wonderful to learn just what the program IDs are in Korean. Aug 24 and the new 6045 kHz frequency is still free from any North Korea jamming; continues to have very good reception.

(Ron Howard-CA-USA, DXplorer)

### **MONGOLIA**

Reactivated 4895 kHz, Mongolian Radio 2 (presumed), at 1246 UT on Aug 10 and again Aug 11, at 1131 UT, through subsequent checking till 1350 UT; heard only an open carrier; unable to detect any modulation/audio at my QTH.

Thanks to feedback from Dave Valko and Hiroyuki Komatsubara, who were also hearing this, but they had faint audio that indicated Mongolia and not India. Mongolia not on their other frequency of 4830 kHz; while 7260 kHz is now being reported with a het from a third station, which might also be Mongolia (plus China & Vanuatu). Needs more monitoring!

Website - <<http://www.mnb.mn/>>

(Ron Howard-CA-USA, dxld Aug 15)

### **USA**

PCJ Radio International Special Transmission 10/11 Sept 2017 {acc frequencies via RMI Okeechobee, FL-USA bcst centre, wb}

On September 10, 2017 PCJ Radio International will present a special Happy Station Show on frequencies outside our normal schedule.

This special edition is our way to say thanks to all those so far who have been assisting us in our continuing work to preserve programs that were produced by Radio Netherlands between 1947 and 1992.

The Happy Station Show distributed to our partner stations on that date will have a 55 minute version of the program.

All dates and times

Europe

0700-0900 UTC - September 10, 2017

Frequencies: 7780 kHz, 11580 kHz

North America

0100-0300 UTC - September 11, 2017

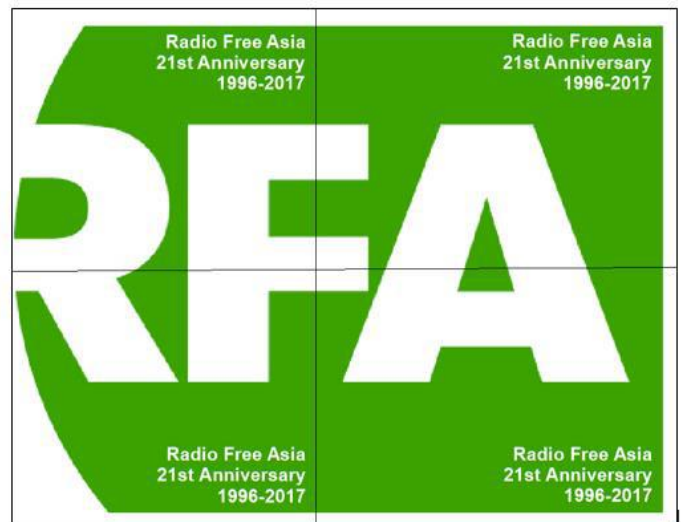
Frequency: 7570 kHz

There will also be a special program inside the program, which will have a lucky draw of two Sangean receivers. But you will need to tune in to find out more.

(Nick Sharpe-UK, BrDXC-UK ng Aug 21 via WWDXC Top News)

### **RADIO FREE ASIA COMMEMORATES 21 YEARS WITH NEW QSL SEPTEMBER 2017**

Radio Free Asia (RFA) announces its 21st anniversary QSL. Bringing free press to closed societies, RFA's first broadcast was in Mandarin on September 29, 1996 at 2100 UTC. This redefines our QSL designs incorporating one graphic into four separate QSL cards and giving listeners options submitting reception reports. You will receive ¼ of the design for one reception report, or get the full sheet when sending us at least four reception reports. This is RFA's 65th QSL design and is used to confirm all valid RFA reception reports from September – December 2017.



Reception reports are also accepted by email at [qsl@rfa.org](mailto:qsl@rfa.org) and by mail to:

Reception Reports

Radio Free Asia

2025 M. Street NW, Suite 300

Washington DC 20036

United States of America.

(via John Wright)

### **ZAMBIA**

Voice of Hope Africa, Lusaka. From 29th July, this station has modified its program schedule from Monday to Friday, according with an e-mail received from the Station;

"This week we have changed the schedule, and now run 1600-1900 UTC M-F on those frequencies. We also added 9680 & 11680 0500-0800 UTC M-F.

Details at:

<[http://voiceofhope.com/schedule/voh-africa\\_program\\_grid.pdf](http://voiceofhope.com/schedule/voh-africa_program_grid.pdf)>

Consulting this website, this is the program schedule:  
Before 29th July:

Monday to Friday  
1630-2200 on 4965 and 6065 kHz

After 29th July:  
Monday to Friday  
0500-0800 on 9680 and 13680 kHz  
1600-1900 on 4965 and 6065 kHz

Saturday and Sunday remains unchanged as before 29th July:  
Saturday 1200-1700 on 9680 and 13680 kHz  
Sunday 1200-1730 on 9680 and 13680 kHz

Actually, Sunday is:  
1200-1700 on 9680 & 13680  
1700-1730 on 9680 only  
(Ray Robinson, KVOH, *ibid.* via DXLD)

### EQUIPMENT NEWS

Some reviews of the new Icom IC-R8600 wideband receiver at the following links:

[https://www.fenu-radio.ch/Icom\\_IC-R8600-en.htm](https://www.fenu-radio.ch/Icom_IC-R8600-en.htm)

<http://webpages.charter.net/n9ewo2/icr8600.html>  
(Peter Wilson, Blackpool UK, ICDX)

### PUBLICATIONS



**2017 WINTER DX SURVEY**



**Afternoon Monitoring Of Shortwave Broadcasters  
Between 4.8 and 10 MHz  
Time Period: 0200 to 0600 UTC**

After more than two months of monitoring research, I've gathered together information for a survey I have been conducting on the lower high frequencies during our winter DX season. Focusing on afternoon reception (between 0200 and 0600 UTC) and involving more than 50 days of listening, I have compiled notes and a list of all stations monitored during that time. The frequency range under consideration was between 4.8 and 10 MHz. Monitoring was made either at my home at Mount Evelyn, VIC or at four locations within 45 minutes travelling distance from home.

The survey is 15 pages long and divided into two parts. The first discusses the observations and the propagation

characteristics involved, and includes YouTube links embedded in the PDF to many of the observations. The second part is a listing of all stations heard during the two-month period: frequency, times of f/in, f/out, s/on and s/off, languages, and additional observations.

The link below will take you to my Box.com cloud account where you can download the 2017 Winter DX Survey. It is in two parts, so there are two files, totalling around 12MB.

<https://app.box.com/s/2s60mtcg2s3qbodidcc3lbd06e90keh5>  
(Rob Wagner)

### NEW HISTORY MATERIAL AT



Update, July 30, 2017 -- You may be old enough to remember S. S. Kresge's, but you probably weren't around when they had a radio department that sold tubes, batteries, parts, speakers, and the Pilot "Super-Wasp" receiver in kit form. For their 1929 radio catalogue, look under "DX History/Equipment & Advertising." -- Under "Specialized Resources/Active Inactive SWBC Countries" we have added a recent calculation of active-inactive countries based on the Swedish DX Federation/EDXC list. This list was prepared by Lennart Weirell of Vasteras, Sweden. -- And under "Specialized Resources/Wavescan," Adrian Peterson fills us in on "The Radio Scene on an Almost Canadian Island in the Caribbean" (Wavescan N439, July 23, 2017).

Update, August 6, 2017 -- Under "DX History/Stations" we have posted several items in a mini-tribute to Radio Universidad de Costa Rica. One looks to be a regular RUCR envelope (note the inclusion of the shortwave channel on the bottom front, but not the back), with two stamps commemorating the writing of the lyrics to the Costa Rican national anthem by Jose Maria Zeledon, and a cancellation commemorating the 55th anniversary of the station. The date of the cancellation appears to be written as "14:22 Julio, 2004," which I believe was the celebratory period, July 14-22. The station came on the air on November 29, 1949. There are some online references to the station's history < <http://radios.ucr.ac.cr/radio-universidad-de-costa-rica-67-anos-de-radio> > and also to the 2004 celebration < <https://semanariouniversidad.com/cultura/radio-universidad-55-aos-de-hacer-historia/> > You will have to rely on your Spanish for the full story, which is contained in "Historia de Radio--Radioemisoras de la Universidad de Costa Rica," published in 2014 < [http://www.ontheshortwaves.com/Universidad/Historia\\_de\\_Radio-2014.pdf](http://www.ontheshortwaves.com/Universidad/Historia_de_Radio-2014.pdf) > Also posted: a recording of their shortwave channel, 6105 kHz., made on June 6, 1998, at 0604 UTC s/off; and a 1978 QSL belonging to the late John D. Tuchscherer. -- Domestic Broadcasting Survey Editor Anker Petersen has been tracking the status of tropical band broadcasting for many years. Under "Specialized Resources/Active-Inactive SWBC Countries" we have

added a file containing his findings on the status of tropical band broadcasting, specifically, the status of tropical band broadcasting in 2017 vs. 1973, 1985, 1997 and 2009, and the status of tropical band broadcasting each year from 2000 to 2017. Thanks, Anker.

Update, August 13, 2017 -- In "DX History/QSLs & Other Station Memorabilia," we remember the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. It should ring a bell with students of the early American broadcast band scene, for it was the first home of Zenith station WJAZ, which had developed out of the famous Chicago Radio Laboratory ("Mathews and Hassel") amateur station 9ZN in 1922. It was for promotional purposes that the hotel offered a home to WJAZ, which operated initially on the common broadcast band channel of 360 meters, moving to 448 meters (670 kc.) in 1923. The station left the hotel after a year, changed its call letters to WGN and sold WJAZ to the hotel, which changed the call letters to WEBH. (WJAZ lived on in other incarnations.) The story is memorialized in two QSLs that we have posted in "The CPRV Gallery." One, from WJAZ, verifies reception reported in a letter to the station dated May 16, 1923 (the day after the move to 670 kc.). Of perhaps greater interest is a brochure about the station, and the hotel, which we have posted with the QSL. It gives the wavelength as 448 meters, so it dates from the same period as the letter. The other QSL is a great-looking folder (with EKKO stamp) from WEBH, together with a nicely-illustrated promotional brochure from the station. WEBH, which called itself the Voice of the Great Lakes, was on the air from the hotel for about four years. Newspapers played a big role in both stations, the Chicago Tribune at WJAZ, the Chicago Evening Post at WEBH. The hotel closed in 1967 and was demolished in 1970-71. -- And under "Specialized Resources/Wavescan," Adrian Peterson tells us about "Artificial Languages on Radio" (Wavescan N440, July 30, 2017), and "The Radio Scene on a Small Island With a Large Volcano-1 [Montserrat]" (Wavescan N441, August 6, 2017).

Update, August 20, 2017 -- Italy's main shortwave broadcaster, RAI, left shortwave in 2007. Its ancestor station, EIAR, was a strong presence in its day, including an "American Hour" in 1935. Under "DX History/Stations" we have posted their published schedule for that December of that year, together with a "season's greeting" postcard that they sent to listeners in 1938. -- Also this time, under "Specialized Resources/Wavescan," Adrian Peterson brings us the second instalment of the story of artificial languages: "Artificial Languages on Radio: Esperanto" (Wavescan N442, August 13, 2017).  
(Jerry Berg)



# Shortwave DX Report

Editor: Bob Emanuel

NEXT DEADLINE: see page 2

Address: Bob Emanuel. 21 Park Ave, Blackheath NSW 2785.

Email [bobemanuel@bigpond.com](mailto:bobemanuel@bigpond.com)

Paul Thwaites, Sunshine Coast QLD

Hi Guys, just to let you know I'm still around. Gear wise I have lost the DX400, a big crack right across the pcb that all the buttons on the front go through, and the Pacstar 300cc the digital tuner failed too bad to save, both went to the landfill in the sky. So we still have the Grundig G3 and the G5 portables, and the good ole Lowe150, hard to beat that one. New on the block is the, wait for it, Alinco DX-R8T/E, performs better than the R75, I had a while back. Some don't like it because the controls on the front are small, but if you got skinny fingers like me, no problem. Very noisy on the bands the last few months here on the sunny coast, SIBS came up last day of July, didn't last too long, seems to have gone away again like me cheers for now.....PT.☺

John Wright, Peakhurst NSW

(ICOM R75 new power supply! EWE 255 degrees)

Reports:-

Radio New Zealand 9630 0530, Radio Romania International 9620 0540, Bro Stair via WRMI 7355 0600. No QSLs. Did something! Yeah !

The ABC board got a pasting in the senate enquiry! Yep and hopefully looking forward to 5055 going to air! Don't forget the AGM in Bathurst on the 28th October!

Hopefully we can get a few specials going! Cheers all John

Dennis Allen, Milperra NSW

Not a lot to report I'm afraid as conditions around here are still a bit "iffy". Some nights are fairly good with plenty of stations audible for a few days, and then they decide to take a few days off! At least we can say that our hobby is not the same old thing night after night.

I also had a bit of a surprise with the old DX-160 the other night too. The lights came on but there was nobody home. Anyway, after a bit of poking and cleaning out inside I discovered that it was the band-switch that needed a bit of TLC and now it's up and running again.

Well folks, that's it for now, back next month with hopefully a bit more to talk about. P.S. No reports or QSL's to mention.

|          |           |          |        |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Ladders: | Countries | Stations | QSL's. |
|          | 134       | 296      | 872    |

## RECEIVER REVIEW

# The New Digitech Audio AR-1780 From Jaycar

- Phil Ireland, VK2GJF

Over the years Jaycar have released a number of shortwave receivers ranging from pocket radios to large format portables with each having limited success, apart from the AR-1946, which to date has proved its worth both as a SW and MW DX'er and a competent DAB+ performer. Their latest release in the "pocket" category is the AR-1780 AM FM AIR SW DSP Receiver.

At first, I was reluctant to consider a purchase based on the history of the radios but after reading an initial favourable review of the receiver, I decided to "jump in". Was my hesitation justified? I can state that since owning the AR-1780, I've been impressed by its overall performance and have been pleased I took the plunge.

DSP portable receivers in the recent past have been plagued by issues of soft muting and I'm pleased to say that the AR-1780 has shown no such problems. In fact, the only criticism I can level at the radio is that the radio will exhibit some degree of muting when tuning. This can make band scanning using the rotary tuning somewhat onerous but other than that, the radio has excellent sensitivity and selectivity on all bands.



Using the radio is straightforward; there is a prominent power switch with sleep timer which can be turned off (useful). On the LHS there's an external antenna connection supposedly for all bands but I suspect only for SW, the volume control and an earphone socket, stereo on FM. The RHS of the radio has the main rotary tuning which, when depressed, changes the tuning speed from off, slow (1kHz) and fast (5kHz). Also depressing the control when in Air band, allows you to set the squelch. There is also a fine-tuning control (1 kHz) that doubles as a very fine tune at 10 Hz in SSB mode. Very useful when tuning a SSB signal. Below is an unusual DC input socket that requires 7 volts for the charging function should NiCad batteries be installed. As a side point, it's recommended that only Alkaline and not Lithium batteries are used when not using rechargeable

batteries.

The rear of the radio has the usual tilt bale for positioning the radio for easy listening on a bench and the battery compartment where 4 AA batteries are needed.

The front of the radio has the mode buttons, bandwidth selector (and there is a wide choice of bandwidths to choose from both in AM and SSB), alarm button, SSB selection button, that you can select either USB or LSB, info button for FM RDS, up/ down slewing tuning, memory page button and the frequency keypad. 9 or 10 kHz MW frequency stepping can be set via a button on the front panel as can turning the beep sound on and off when depressing the buttons (handy). There's also a lock for the radio, a button to turn on or off the LW band, a button to set the FM band depending on the country the radio is used, a time set button and a button used to quickly toggle through the SW bands. The light button can be used to permanently turn the dial light on should that be required. There is also a Display button that allows the user to toggle through, a temperature reading, Alarm time, clock and signal strength.

So how does the radio perform? In a word, superbly! It looks Jaycar have finally got it right with a good performing portable pocket receiver. Audio is crisp despite a small speaker and as mentioned earlier, this radio shows excellent sensitivity and selectivity. I cannot comment on how the radio performs on an external antenna that is yet to be determined. Build quality is good and the buttons exhibit a very good tactile response. It would've been nice to see a selectable Synchronous detector but at the price point of \$129, that may be asking too much. Besides the DSP circuitry with its many bandwidths handles signals very well indeed.

| SPECIFICATIONS  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Radio Bands</b>  |   |
| FM:   | 87.5 - 108MHz                                       |
| AM (MW):  | 522 - 1620kHz (9k Step)<br>520 - 1710kHz (10k step) |
| SW:   | 2300 - 26100kHz                                     |
| LW:   | 153 - 279kHz  |
| AIR:  | 118 - 137MHz  |
| <b>S/N (Signal to Noise) Sensitivity:</b>   |   |
| FM:   | >3uV  |
| MW:   | >0.5mV/m  |
| LW:   | >10mV/m   |
| SW:   | >10uV   |
| AIR:  | >0.5uV  |
| AM Selectivity:   | >80dB   |
| Number of Memories:   | 500   |
| Batteries:  | 4 x AA (Not Included)                               |
| DC In:  | 7V  |
| Built-in Speaker:   | 16ohm 0.5W  |
| Earphone Jack:  | 3.5mm 32ohm   |
| Dimensions:   | 150(W) x 95(H) x 30(D)mm                            |
| Distributed by:<br>TechBrands by Electus Distribution Pty. Ltd.<br>320 Victoria Rd, Rydalmere<br>NSW 2116 Australia<br>Ph: 1300 738 555<br>InT: +61 2 8832 3200<br>Fax: 1300 738 509<br>www.techbrands.com<br>Made in China |   |

This radio is a "keeper" and is definitely recommended. P.S. The SW frequency coverage is greater than shown in the specs, mine tunes to 29999 kHz. →

# Broadcast Band & FM News

Editor: John Wright

E-mail: [dxer1234@gmail.com](mailto:dxer1234@gmail.com)

Welcome to this month's column.

A quick word on the Aussies moving from MW to FM. 1026 6MW, 6KA 1260, 4WK 1359 who also at the moment has an add on air to say there leaving this frequency (*left MW on 22<sup>nd</sup> August -cs*).

David Foster has been to Timor, Indonesia and Singapore. Note there are no more AM stations in Timor.

David Foster, Radio Report from Timor-Leste

I was back in Timor-Leste for the month of July. The radio scene hasn't changed a great deal since the last visit two years ago but it was still fun to check it all out. This report includes monitoring from 3 locations, Dili (D), Liquisa (L) and Venilale (V). There was a grand FM opening to northern Australia on 22 July with nearly a dozen outlets coming through strongly. A lesser opening on 13 July saw half a dozen Indonesian stations make it through.

Mediumwave is a thing of the past in Timor-Leste. 684 R. Timor-Leste in Dili has been gone for several years now. 1404 R. Timor Kmanek also in Dili was last heard, most irregularly, four years ago, and now remains just on FM.

Didn't really bother much with MW and not at all with SW, generally thanks to Third World dodgy electrics and resultant noise, but desultorily noted these ones –

- 693 JOAB, Tokyo. English segment at 1303 13/7 (L)
- 774 JOUB, Akita. Same program as on 693 at 1306 13/7 (L)
- 774 RRI Fak-Fak. Missing in action in July. This used to be a weak daytime signal in Timor-Leste and strong mornings and evenings. Hopefully it will be back soon (L)
- 801 RRI Semarang. Mentions of Semarang at 1307 13/7 (L)
- 918 Phnom Penh. 1259 12/7 car noises/crash/sirens SFX so maybe a PSA to drive carefully then 1300 news (L)
- 999 DYSS, Cebu City. ID'd at 1300 11/7. Craig heard it 4 days later but reported it to ADXN much quicker (L)
- 1053 JOAR, Nagoya. Japanese talk 1920 12/7 (L)
- 1215 RRI Samarinda. Indonesian patter 1249 13/7 (L)
- 1314 JOUF, Osaka. Japanese discussion 1923 12/7 (L)
- 1422 JORF, Yokohama. Chat in Japanese 1925 12/7 (L)

Other RRI stations observed included - 585 Surabaya, 630 Makassar, 720 Ambon, 729 Nabire, 765 Tual, 783 Ende, 810 Merauke, 891 Ternate, 909 Sorong, 954 Kendari, 1008 Gorontalo, 1107 Kupang.

There are Philippines stations absolutely all over the MW dial.

These Dili FM stations are still on air - 88.8 M3 R., 89.5 Voz FM, 90.0 R. Akademika, 91.2 R. Labeh, 91.7 R. Timor-Leste, 94.1 R. Comunidade Comoro, 94.7 R. Metro, 95.8 Liberdade FM, 97.0 STL R., 98.5 R. Timor Kmanek, 99.5 R. Rakambia, 99.9 R. Maubere, 100.5 R. Lorico Lian, 102.0 R. Klibur.

- 88.2 R. Gardamor, Dili. New station. ID at 0715 3/7. RTV Gardamor is a media company with this FM outlet believed to have commenced in March 2017. The address is 2nd Floor, Gardamor Building, Fatuhada – Dili. Email is [rtvgardamor@gmail.com](mailto:rtvgardamor@gmail.com) and Director is Eduardo Belo Soares (his nom de guerre during the resistance was Gattot). Gardamor is part of the larger Baniuaga Group. Gardamor TV is on Channel 21 (D)
- 88.4 Unid Indonesian. Fading up and down 0830 13/7. This DX opening wound up around 0915 with other signals suffering similar fading to this one (L)
- 88.5 R. Na'i Feto, Laleia. Beaut ID 2330 19/7. This station is run from the Catholic church and its meaning is R. Our Lady. Includes religious programming of course. Laleia is a small town between Manatuto and Baucau (V)
- 88.9 Yolngu R., Darwin "This is Yolngu Radio, number one radio station in the nation" at 1040 22/7. It switched to FM by the end of June 2017 and said it would continue on 1530 MW for a few weeks to allow the audience to transition to FM, according to [ards.com.au](http://ards.com.au) (V)
- 90.5 Unid Indonesian. Fading up and down at 0831 13/7 (L)
- 90.6 R. Lian Dame, Dili. Unheard in July, presumed inactive (D)
- 91.5 RRI Atambua (tent.). 1255 6/7. Likely to be them but heard just the once unlike 99.0 which was quite regular (V)
- 92.3 R. Advent Suara Pengharapan, Dili. This Seventh Day Adventist station (The Voice of Hope) was unheard in July so presumed inactive (D)
- 92.3 R. Comunidade Tokodede, Liquisa. On air at 0737 12/7 but has fairly limited hours (L)
- 93.1 Unid Indonesian. Fading up and down at 0833 13/7 (L)
- 93.5 Jojo FM, Dili. Visited the Arte Moris (Living Art) gallery where this youth station's studio is located and it looked permanently and sadly shut (D)
- 93.8 R. Maubere, Manatuto. 1300 6/7 (V)
- 94.5 Larrakia R., Darwin. "Larrakia Radio 94.5" ID 1042 22/7 (V)
- 94.8 Unid Indonesian. Fading up and down at 0834 13/7 (L)
- 94.8 R. Maubere, Viqueque. Active and well heard as at 1205 6/7 (V)
- 95.0 R. Timor-Leste, Manatuto. Overmodulated 1206 6/7 (V)
- 95.3 BBC, Dili. Relay has closed down (D)
- 95.9 Unid Indonesian. Fading up and down around 0835 13/7 (L)
- 96.0 R. Maubere, Baucau. Fine at 1207 6/7 (V)
- 96.1 R. Comunidade Illi Uai, Manatuto. Bit of a battle to separate it from much stronger 96.0 at 1207 6/7 (V)
- 97.6 Generation FM, Dili. This R. Timor-Leste youth

- network appears to have closed down (D)
- 97.7 97.7, Darwin. ID as "Darwin's 97.7" at 1048 22/7 (V)
- 97.9 R. Maubere, Ainaro. Weak but consistent signal as at 1212 7/7. Its txer mast is high on a mountain to cover the towns of Ainaro, Same and Aileu which is why its signal makes its way across the mountains to Venilale (V)
- 97.9 R. Maubere, Liquisa. 1245 11/7. Shares the channel with the more widely heard Ainaro relay (L)
- 97.9 R. Povo, Viqueque. This community station was unheard. Not noticed two years ago either but hopefully it is temporarily inactive rather than defunct (V)
- 98.9 R. Kolejiu Fatumaka, Fatumaka. Located in a village halfway between Baucau and Venilale. ID at 1204 7/7 and putting out spurs on 94.5, 96.7 and 103.3. First and last of those are spurs 4.4 MHz from the fundamental., the other 2.2 MHz. Australian Tony Jurd is a volunteer electronics expert who works at this Salesian technical college for a couple of months each year. Not on air in the second half of July as the novices (trainee priests) who run the studio were on holidays. They're also operating an unlicensed TV station for the benefit of local people who can buy cheaply from the College yagi UHF antennas made from recycled bits and pieces (V)
- 98.9 R. Timor-Leste, Viqueque. Unheard in July so may be having some technical difficulties (V)
- 99.0 RRI Atambua (tent.). Carries ProTiga which is a national network so no local ID's. Reasonably consistent in Venilale with at best a fair signal. Only listed nearby Pro3 RRI is at Atambua in Indonesian West Timor. Call to prayer or similar at 1056 21/7, ID 1059, warta berita 1100. See 91.5 above but other channels of 93.1 and 99.8 unheard. Atambua is at an altitude of 350 metres giving signals a better chance of propagating some distance (V)
- 99.1 R. Timor-Leste, Liquisa. Very strong just as it should be at 1305 11/7 (L)
- 99.9 R. Comunidade Lian Matebian, Baucau. On air inconsistently and seems to be running very low power. Clear ID at 1005 27/7 but then faded out which is odd because it's basically line of sight from Venilale to Baucau (32 km up by winding road to Venilale which is about 700 metres above sea level). When it was off, R. Maubere in Dili was weakly audible also on 99.9 (V)
- 100.1 Hot 100 FM., Darwin. ID as such at 1025 22/7 then ad for a bar in Darwin (V)
- 100.3 Unid Indonesian. Fading up and down at 0836 13/7 (L)
- 100.9 SBS R., Darwin. Vietnamese 1015, unid language 1035 22/7 (V)
- 101.1 R. Nacional, Dili. Recent new station. ID as Nacional FM at 0730 3/7 (D)
- 102.5 ABC News R., Darwin. Carrying BBC World Service. BBC ID 1029 22/7 (V)
- 103.1 RTP Antena 1, Dili (relay from Portugal). Two years ago this and 105.3 were inactive but according to Facebook RTP returned to Dili airwaves on 5 September 2016. Gave Antena 1 ID at 0735 3/7 (D)
- 103.3 JJJ., Darwin. ID 1017 22/7 (V)
- 104.1 Territory R., Darwin. ID at 1034 22/7 as "Darwin's greatest hits ..... FM" but it didn't mention Territory R. (V)
- 104.9 Mix FM, Darwin. Relaying AFL Swans vs Saints match descriptions from ABC 1018 22/7 (V)
- 105.3 RDP Internacional, Dili (relay from Portugal). Nice and loud at 0737 3/7. With R. Australia and the BBC gone, Portugal provides the only foreign relays in Timor-Leste now (D)
- 105.4 R. Timor-Leste, Baucau. Scratchy signal at 1215 7/7 (V)
- 105.7 ABC R. Darwin. Also with Swans vs Saints game //104.9 as at 1019 22/7 (V)
- 106.4 R. Australia, Dili. No surprise that it is no longer on the air. What a short-sighted, penny-pinching and arrogant decision (D)
- 107.3 ABC Classic FM, Darwin. 1020 22/7. This was the only weak Darwin signal, otherwise they were all good to very good during this opening (V)
- 107.9 R. Fini Lorosae, Baucau. Wasting power for days and days with a big fat carrier but finally got its audio on the go on 20/7 with Portuguese programming at 1030. Also ID's as RFTL (V)
- Radio Report from Singapore & Batam Island, Indonesia  
David Foster
- All MW loggings made in Singapore -
- 558 6WA Wagin. Late night chat over other station at 1610 3/8
- 567 Lao National R., Vientiane. 1541 Lao talk, occasionally on top 3/8
- 576 Myanma R., Yangon. English interview 1540 3/8
- 630 DZMM Obando (Manila area). ID at 1558 3/8
- 648 Sor Wor Thor, Khon Kaen. 1453 with possible current affairs //657 4/8
- 657 Jor Sor 1, Bangkok. Thai talk 1544 3/8
- 666 Thor Por Song, Surin. //657 at 1544 3/8
- 684 China R. International, Dongfang. \*1600 Vietnamese, blockbuster signal 3/8
- 693 Bangladesh Betar, Dhaka. English news at 1535 3/8
- 747 RRI Bengkulu. 1300 news 4/8
- 774 Unid Thai. 2 possibilities each listed 5 kW. Quite traditional Thai ballad 1615 3/8
- 783 Voice of Vietnam, Can Tho. 1602 English LL //549 Hung Yen (Hanoi area) 3/8
- 828 Unid Thai. Also 2 x 5 kW candidates. That traditional song at 1618 but not //774 3/8
- 1215 Sor Wor Thor, Surat Thani. Male and female in Thai conversation 1549 3/8
- 1251 RRI Banda Aceh. 1443 4/8 ad for business in Banda Aceh
- 1287 RRI Palembang. 1023 Indopops 4/8, first to fade in
- 1287 Unid Thai. 3 stations of 10 kW listed. 1605 3/8 Thai news, Palembang already off 3/8
- 1341 RRI Tanjung Pinang. Unheard on visits to Singapore in 2015, 2016 and this time so safe to say they have exited MW
- 1350 Phon Neung Ror Or, Bangkok (pres.). Thai song at 1551 3/8
- 1412 RRI Sungailiat. Talkback at 1552 3/8
- FM items heard in Singapore (S) and Batam Island (B) which is just 40 minutes from Singapore by ferry -
- 90.9 RRI Batam. 0800 warta berita olahraga (sports news). Pro Tiga (3) ID at 0934. Definitely active and

- easily heard 2/8 (S) However, on Batam Island it was strangely very weak, as at 0030 6/8 (B) RRI Batam ProSatu (1) and ProDua (2) were well heard at both locations on 105.1 and 105.5 respectively (S & B)
- 93.0 R. O-Nine, Tanjung Pinang (pres.). ID as '93 FM Weekend' which wasn't all that helpful 0740 5/8 (B)
- 96.3 Expat R. XFM, Singapore. Closed down on 30 September 2016 according to Wikipedia. It was a station of Media Corp which is the privatised commercial reincarnation of Radio Singapore. However, it is wholly owned by a government-owned investment arm. There remain 12 Media Corp FM stations in Singapore (S)
- 96.5 Bintan FM, Tanjung Pinang. Mentions of Bintan during chat 0746 5/8 (B) This was the only station on Bintan island I could hear in Singapore, e.g. at 0115 with Indo ballad 7/8 (S)
- 103.2 Juan FM, Batam. Not heard 5/8, possibly inactive (B)
- 104.3 Seila FM, Batam. ID as such 0750 2/8 (S)
- 106.0 Hang FM, Batam. Still on the air in August 2017 despite various ructions in the past. For example in 2013, a group of 300 moderate Muslims, armed with saws, gathered outside the station threatening to cut down its antenna if it did not stop airing extreme religious sermons. The station promised to stop calling the moderates infidels but broke its word, prompting an official warning from the local broadcasting regulatory body as well as close monitoring. In 2016 Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs detained two self-radicalised Singaporeans, claiming the station's extreme preachers had made them susceptible to being radicalised by ISIS propaganda. The head of Indonesia's Religious Affairs Ministry in Batam said, "This is not the brand of Islam that Indonesia represents. We are inclusive and tolerant." (The Straits Times 20 August 2016) Hang FM is not the first Batam station to come under scrutiny. Radio Era Baru was closed down in 2010 and again permanently in 2011 under pressure from China which claimed it was funded by Falun Gong. The station said it was just broadcasting details of human rights violations in China. (S)
- 107.7 R. Alfa Omega, Batam. Sappy Christian ballads at 0015 3/8 (S)
- 107.8 R. RJ (pronounced 'air jee'), Batam. Full name of this Islamic and possibly tertiary institution station not known. Announces this freq. Sunset call to prayer at 1117 though sunset on Batam that day was given as 1115 (S)
- 107.9 R. Komunitas Hang Tuah FM, Batam. Listed but not on air 2-7/8. Its Facebook site has posts only from 2011-13 so probably defunct (S & B)
- 684 music 1300, after Korean talks. More talks 1303. Also heard on //6400, 20/8 (Seager)
- 693 CNR6, Putian. Pop song 1255, coming up over co-channel ABC Kempsey 1255, good signal on 20/8 (Seager)
- 738 JOAB, Tokyo. Amongst a jumble of Aussies 1440, JJ talks, NHK2 pxing, 22/8 (Seager)
- 774 Magic, Christchurch. Classics, Hollies number 1323, when under co-channel 2NR, 21/8 (Seager)
- 837 JOUB, Akita. One of 3 stations here, high-powered outlet, Japanese talks 1330. Pretty good strength, 3LO equal level, 21/8 (Seager)
- 990 CNR5, Quanzhou. Taiwan Service 1, dominant 1503 with news, //5925 etc., 19/8 (Seager)
- 990 APNA, Auckland. Folks looking for the reactivated Fiji here should beware this one, well heard with Hindi announcements 0754 after a duet. A bit of a jumble on frequency! 20/8 (Seager)
- 1359 Trackside Radio, Nelson NZ. The Aussies don't get a guernsey here! Race commentary 0756, under the Auckland station, 20/8 (Seager)
- 1359 CNR1 (multiple sites listed). Choral music 1352, under co-channel 4WK (which incidentally had an announcement about moving to FM – though I missed when and the frequency), //6080 etc, 20/8 (Seager)
- 1359 Coast, Taranaki. The theme from "The Goodbye Girl" by David Gates 0856, then long string of ads, leading into nx 0900. Dominant this night, 25/8 (Seager)
- 1440 Radio Kiribati. Island singing 0825, under co-channel SBS. Reasonably steady, and semi-reliable at this time, 21/8 (Seager)
- 1566 4GM, Gympie. Coming up well over c/c 3NE 0808, sports commentary. A 200 Watter, and 3NE is usually a powerhouse here, 20/8 (Seager)
- 1580 KBLA, Santa Monica. Upbeat Latino pop song 0804, low level on 20/8 (Seager)
- 1593 Radio Samoa, Auckland. Samoan crooner 0818, coming up well, dominant, 20/8 (Seager)
- FM**
- 91.5 2JJJ, Mt Moombil (Coffs Harbour area). Faded up briefly to conveniently give an ID 0441, channel mostly dominated by 2PNN Mt Ulandra, 6/8 (Seager)
- Craig Seager, Bathurst NSW  
*Mediumwave:* JRC NRD-545, Home-made 1m untuned loop with LZ1AQ amplifier.  
*FM:* Sony XDR SDHDiP, FM Yagi with rotator, 18dB Preamp

#### Fiji to launch AM radio services

AQELA SUSU, Wednesday, August 02, 2017

Update: 6:03PM FIJI'S Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama will be launching the AM radio services next week.

He made the announcement during the opening of the Adi Natuicake Festival in Raiwai, Suva earlier today. Mr Bainimarama said this was in their effort to expand Fiji's AM radio network covering 100 per cent of the country.

"That means Radio Fiji One, Radio Fiji Two and Gold stations will be transmitted at all hours of the day on AM frequencies to the Lau Group - bringing regular programs,

#### Logs from Bathurst:

- 610 V.O.Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City. Appearing first as a het against 612, came up a bit w/VV talks 1425, mention of Vietnam 1426. Mx, then more talks 1428, 22/8 (Seager)
- 621 Radio Rhema (Dunedin and Whangarei listed). Soft rock Christian fare 1312, under 3AR, 20/8 (Seager)
- 657 Pyongyang Bangsong, Pyongyang. Rousing choral

information on Government services and initiatives, and critical emergency information in times of crises," he said.

"The big benefit is that AM radio infrastructure is far more resilient to severe weather than the FM system.

"So if - God, forbid - another severe weather system strikes in the Lau Group, we will have a better chance of relaying disaster-related information that can ready your communities and, ultimately, save lives."  
*(Fiji Times)*

☞ Our AM frequency 990 kHz is now accessible from the outer islands and the interior of the larger islands. Let those not able to hear us on our Fm frequency know that they can tune into Gold's Am frequency for all the great classics and news all day now.  
*(Gold FM website)*

### **Fijian Company Launches Third PNG Radio Station** August 11

Communications Fiji Limited announced yesterday that its subsidiary Papua New Guinea FM Limited would be launching its third radio station in Papua New Guinea on September 16. The new station will be called "Legend FM bikpila 101" and will broadcast a similar format to the company's Fiji station of the same name.

(It further develops the strong Fijian presence in Papua New Guinea broadcasting, with Fiji TV owning the main Papua New Guinea TV station EM TV, now run by Tukaha Mua as general manager.)

Managing Director for Communications Fiji, William Parkinson said, on its new station: "We will adopt the sound of the station to the Papua New Guinea market but as it is targeting a similar more mature urban market we thought it would be appropriate to use similar branding for this station." Legend FM joins Nau FM and YUMI FM in the PNG FM network with each station aimed at a specific sector of the market.

"We have had a lot of success with this approach in Fiji and with this new station we believe we have the PNG market covered as well," Mr Parkinson said.

Nau FM, the company's oldest station, was launched in 1994 and broadcast to an under 25 urban youth market. YUMI FM is a Tok Pisin grass roots community station aimed at a much wider audience across Papua New Guinea.

"We have been planning this station for some time and provisioned for it when we moved into our new studio facilities last year, but were waiting for new legislation governing the broadcast and telecommunications industry."

This legislation is now in place and the PNG FM team was presented with their new licenses by Charles Punaha, the director general of the National Information and Communications Authority at the launch yesterday. Estimated cost of the new network will be just under 1 million Kina (\$780,000) which will be funded out of operational cash flow. It is anticipated that the station will contribute almost

immediately to the profitability of PNG FM.

"The economies of scale of adding an additional station are significant and the PNG advertising market is very strong so we expect Legend FM to have an immediate positive impact on our bottom line," Mr Parkinson said.

A more detailed forecast will be presented when the Communications Fiji Limited delivers its half-year results.  
*(Fiji Sun Online)*

**ACMA Renews 148 Community Broadcasting Licences**  
The future of community broadcasting looks bright, with the Australian Communications and Media Authority renewing 148 of 150 community broadcasting licences assessed in the last financial year. Community broadcasting licences must be renewed every five years and the number assessed in the last year represents more than 40 per cent of the total 360 long-term licences in Australia.

'Uniquely among the wide range of broadcasting services available to Australian audiences, community broadcasting services are provided by the communities which enjoy them,' said acting ACMA Chairman, Richard Bean.

To ensure that community licensees operate as intended, they must comply with legislation that requires them to involve members of their licence area community in the operations of the service and in the selection and provision of programs. On rare occasions, licences will not be renewed.

Two of 150 renewal applications received in the last financial year were declined by the ACMA:

**2VTR** in the Windsor area of New South Wales; and  
**4MIG** in Mount Isa, Queensland

'A decision not to renew a licence is not made lightly,' Richard Bean said. 'Where a licensee is struggling to provide the service or to comply with the rules, the ACMA first works to assist the licensee to improve. These are, after all, not-for-profit, volunteer-run services. However, where compliance problems persist over a prolonged period, the ACMA will act to make licences available to others.'

The 2VTR licence, held by Hawkesbury Radio Communications Cooperative Society Ltd, was not renewed following 2VTR's continued non-compliance with the community participation licence condition. The compliance issues went unresolved despite informal and formal enforcement action taken by the ACMA over a lengthy period.

The ACMA also declined to renew the 4MIG licence, held by Mount Isa Christian Broadcasters Association Inc. 4MIG was unable to muster the resources to meet the needs of the community in its licence area.

These licences expire at the end of their current terms: 11 September 2017 in the case of 4MIG and 3 October 2017 for 2VTR. Both licences will then be available for temporary community broadcasting. The ACMA will be advertising these very shortly.  
*(ACMA Media Release)*



# Clippings

Radio Related Stories from the World Press

Edited by Craig Seager

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(ACMA Media Release)

## BBC World Service Launches £289 Million Expansion with Services in New Languages

Last updated: 21 August 2017, 17:01 BST

The BBC World Service will extend its reach across the world as it launches new services in 12 languages such as Amharic, Afaan Oromo and Tigrinya from next month.

The service aims to target areas such as Ethiopia and Eritrea as part of the £289 million expansion, its biggest since the 1940s.

The expansion will continue to roll out further services, including Korean, throughout the year with a view to deliver BBC News in more than 40 languages.

Plans begin on Monday with the launch of a new digital service in Pidgin, a language spoken by more than 75 million people across Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana and Equatorial Guinea.

Describing the wider project as a “new chapter” for the BBC, the broadcaster’s director general, Lord Tony Hall, said: “The BBC World Service is one of the UK’s most important cultural exports.



Lord Tony Hall

“In a world of anxieties about ‘fake news’, where media freedom is being curtailed rather than expanded, the role of an independent, impartial news provider is more important than ever.



“The new services we’re launching will reach some of the most under-served audiences in the world.”

Commenting on the new Pidgin service, which will feature six daily editions of BBC Minute, World Service director Francesca Unsworth said: “For more than 80 years the BBC World Service has brought trusted news to people across the globe.



“I’m delighted that millions in West and then East Africa will be able to access the BBC in the languages they speak.”

She added: “The BBC World Service expansion will also bring benefits to audiences in the UK. Having more journalists on the ground will enrich our international reporting, bringing news from areas which are often under-reported.”

The Pidgin service will grow in November to include two daily news video bulletins and will be followed by two further West Africa services, in Yoruba and Igbo, next year.

The upcoming services in Amharic, Afaan Oromo and Tigrinya will be supplemented later in the year with shortwave radio services made up of 15-minute current affairs programmes followed by five-minute Learning English programmes on weekdays.  
(*BT.com*)

## Senate Slams ABC Cut to Shortwave Radio

August 17, 2017 1:10pm

The ABC has been slammed by all sides of politics over its “foolish” decision to cut the transmission of shortwave radio to remote Australia and the Pacific Islands.

The Senate debated a private bill on Thursday by crossbench senator Nick Xenophon to force the ABC to restore transmission after it was cut earlier this year.

"It seems a terrible decision that's been made by the ABC board," Senator Xenophon told parliament, accusing the public broadcaster of ignoring the bush and Australia's neighbours.

The ABC insists listeners can still tune in via FM and AM frequencies, the viewer access satellite television (VAST) service and online.

But senators say the ABC fails to understand those alternative methods are not available to everyone in the bush and the information people are missing out on can be life threatening, such as weather warnings.

Senator Xenophon said the ABC had miscalculated how many people relied on the service.

"There are some question marks over the methodology used by the ABC in relation to this."

The South Australian senator warned Australia was "foolish" to retreat from the Pacific region by cutting shortwave radio just as other countries like China were expanding shortwave services in the region.

"That footprint is a form of soft diplomacy that is very effective, it wins hearts and minds in the region," he said.

Truck drivers in the outback, remote indigenous communities and those in the Pacific no longer had access to Radio Australia.

"But they'll be able to get Radio China - that is wrong," Senator Xenophon said.

Nationals senator Bridget McKenzie lashed out at the ABC's "short-sighted" decision, insisting it had not provided credible evidence as to why the decision was made.

"The ABC has effectively abandoned huge areas of the Northern Territory."

Labor senator for the Northern Territory Malarndirri McCarthy pleaded with the ABC to reverse its "mistake", insisting it had left Australians in remote communities completely isolated and suffering.

"It is absolutely dire."

The Greens said the bill would interfere with the ABC's independence and blamed the decision on government funding cuts.

*(Australian Associated Press)*

## Using Tech Know-How to Spread the Gospel

Tom King was bored.

It was 1996, and for the first time, the company that King is

president of, Kintronic Labs, had its own display stand at the International Broadcasting convention in Amsterdam. Unfortunately, the stand was in one of the worst spots in the exhibition hall, and traffic was non-existent.

"Lord, bring some folks around," he prayed.

Eventually, two men came by looking for the exit. King glimpsed the familiar ministry name "TWR" on their ID badges, and he introduced himself to Werner Kroemer and Helmut Menzel. He told them that Kintronic wanted to help Christian radio stations, and the two TWR veterans sat down and related their efforts to reach Central Asia with the gospel.

"Not long after that conversation, I travelled with Helmut Menzel to the station [that broadcasts to Central Asia]," King said. "We slept in the same room, where it was so cold that there was still some snow in the corner of the room! It never melted the whole time we were there. They had old Russian heaters."



It was the start of fruitful and continuing relationship between Kintronic, a leader in the design and manufacture of AM broadcast antenna systems, and TWR. In mid-July 2017, King was on Bonaire to oversee the tuning of the antennas as part of the Power Up project, which is more than quadrupling the transmitter's wattage and doubling the station's potential audience across Latin America and the Caribbean.

"The new signal will provide a city-grade signal in to places like Havana, Cuba, which means the signal will be as strong as a local FM station," said King, who holds degrees in electrical engineering. "A lot more people are going to have access to Christian radio as result of this power upgrade. We hope that new churches will be established and that Cuban leaders will hear the good news of Jesus Christ and come to faith in Christ and see the whole country transformed."

King's work for TWR has taken to many parts of the world. In addition to Western Asia and Bonaire, he's been involved in projects in Estonia, West Africa and Sri Lanka. While in Sri Lanka, he travelled north to India, where the significance of Christian broadcasting was deeply impressed upon him by the sight of shelves packed with thousands of letters from TWR listeners.

And who better to have working on your AM facilities than

the man who not only has authored many technical papers on the medium and received a National Association of Broadcasters engineering award but also is an outspoken advocate for the revitalization of AM broadcasting. His late father, Louis, who founded Kintronic, also won the NAB award.

“Think of countries where there is no access to Wi-Fi, where people just do not have the money to subscribe or where the media is controlled,” he said. “Radio is free. Radio is trustworthy. ... Computer programs can be hacked and changed.”

Never mind, he adds, AM has unique characteristics that enable its signals to be bounced off the atmosphere “to distant countries where there is no Christian message available.”

Talk for a few minutes with Tom King, and his twin passions are likely to be revealed: the value of AM radio and its power to be used in reaching the world for Christ.

“Only in heaven will we know how radio has impacted the lives of people,” he said. “We should never forget that there is a spiritual battle against Christian radio stations. Satan is doing everything he can to prevent this work from succeeding. For that reason, it is very important to pray for these projects.”  
(TWR News)

## Silicon Labs Introduces New Components for AM, FM, HD and DAB Receivers

By Doug Irwin, CPBE AMD DRB

AUSTIN, Texas — Silicon Labs' new Global Eagle (Si4795x) and Dual Eagle (Si4796x and Si4797x) families of analogue AM/FM receivers and digital radio tuners “set a new standard for scalability and automotive broadcast reception,” according to a company press release.

The Eagle families extend the field-proven performance of Silicon Labs' tuners and receivers, which are deployed by automotive OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers. Si479xx devices leverage Silicon Labs' patented low-IF digital architecture, delivering “superior RF performance and interference rejection.” In addition, the Si479xx family's firmware algorithms dynamically adjust signal reception in moving cars to ensure optimal reception under the harshest field conditions.

The Digital Falcon (Si469x) family of digital radio coprocessors provides channel demodulation and source decoding of HD Radio and DAB/DAB+ digital signals delivering audio and data. Digital Falcon coprocessors simplify system design and minimize the bill of materials (BOM) by eliminating the need for an external RAM memory module for channel decoding typically required by third-party digital radio processors. The Digital Falcon family enables designs to scale from low- to high-end systems with its seamless blending capabilities for DAB/DAB+, as well as its support for Automatic Level and Time Alignment (ALTA)

for HD systems.



The audio subsystem of both Eagle families provides a complete solution to synchronize, process and distribute digital and audio signals in the automotive head unit. To accelerate time to market, Silicon Labs provides four- and six-channel audio post-processing reference designs supporting cabin equalization, loudness compensation, tone control, chime generation and audio source mixing. This flexible architecture enables integration of customer or third-party algorithms.  
(Radio Mag Online)

## The Mystery of The Buzzer, the Doomsday Radio Station Broadcasting from Deep Within Russian Territory

by Fernando Sanchez

A buzzing sound, similar to white noise, followed by a foghorn-like sonic blast. That's it. Repeating itself over and over, endlessly. For the last thirty years, this sound pattern has been broadcasting through shortwave radio, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, from deep inside what once was the Soviet Union. And nobody quite knows why.

Welcome to the eerie world of The Buzzer.

Shortwave radio is a funny thing. Its signal utilises the shorter wavelengths (usually under 200 mts), between the 1,500 kHz and 30.0 MHz bands. Radio waves in this spectrum can be reflected or refracted on the ionosphere, which means that shortwave radio directed skywards at specific angle can be reflected back well beyond the horizon. This property means that shortwave radio signals can be broadcast over huge distances, making it ideal for long range maritime or airborne transmissions, for example.

There are some less overt uses for shortwave radio. Though never officially confirmed, a number of shady agencies use it for clandestine broadcasts directed at operatives placed all over the world. The so-called Number Stations regularly pop up on the spectrum to broadcast seemingly random stuff, such as blocks of numbers mixed with bursts of music, lines of poetry, and the like.

The concept is hardly new. Prior to the D-Day landings for example, Radio Londres broadcast the first stanza of Paul Verlaine's poem Chanson d'automne to let the resistance know that the invasion was imminent.

Among these peculiar Number Stations is callsign UVB-76, also identified as UZB-76, MDZhB, or S28, but commonly known as The Buzzer.

Broadcasting in the 4625-kHz frequency, the Buzzer has been on air constantly since at least 1973. Up to 1990, it broadcast a two-second loop of two beeping sounds. From that point on, it began emitting a buzzing tone lasting 1.2 seconds, followed by what sounds like a ship's foghorn, repeating itself 21-34 times per minute.

The mystery deepens further, as The Buzzer occasionally transmits voice messages spoken in a Russian accent. These messages are broadcast live, not recorded, and always follow a pre-determined format known in Russian military terminology as monolith messages. These communications are thought to be directed from military HQs to subordinate units, to test their readiness, and for other unidentified purposes.

The Buzzer is believed to have been broadcasting since the early 70s, though other sources say it only started sending its eerie signal in 1982-1983. The early 80s saw (perhaps coincidentally, perhaps not) a heightened state of confrontation between the superpowers, Russia and the United States during the later years of the long, post-war conflict known as the Cold War. Ronald Reagan's intentions of deploying Pershing II cruise missiles to Germany (a mere 5-10 minutes flying time to Russia), the shooting down of Korean Airlines Flight 007 in 1983, and the Able Archer 83 wargames in Europe, which simulated a coordinated NATO nuclear release, brought the conflict to its most volatile moment since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

The spectre of nuclear annihilation was very much in the public mind at the time, and the Russians, already on edge due to Able Archer, had reasons to believe that the US would use the exercise as a way to mask a pre-emptive strike.

The integration of army branches across the Soviet military had traditionally been very poor, due in part to the sheer vastness of the country, Moscow's obsession with centralising decisions within the Kremlin, and significantly, technological shortcomings. Though Russia had a nuclear arsenal of comparable size to their American nemesis, the actual communication system to coordinate a retaliatory strike was poorly implemented.

Attempts had been made as far back as 1967 to fully automate the communication process to ensure that the Soviet missiles would leave their silos, even in the event that key officials with the authority to issue such order had already been wiped out.

This is the basic concept behind the Dead Hand Switch. A pre-determined code automatically sent to launch stations to ensure the missiles are fired away.

While most radio experts agree that the constant noise broadcast is simply a marker that the 4625 kHz is in use, one of the existing theories behind the existence of The Buzzer is that its constant droning means 'peace'. In the event of nuclear annihilation, some believe that the Buzzer

will cease broadcasting and trigger Armageddon.

There are other, more mundane explanations for the purpose of The Buzzer. It may simply scanning changes in the ionosphere, some say.

Whatever the truth may be, the creepy, droning tone of The Buzzer continues on, hour after hour, day after day, year after year.

Listen to it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmezUnQpxME> (Irish Tech News)

## \$15 Million AM Radio Facility Better, Covers Maritime Islands

August 12



Attorney General and Minister for Economy Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (from left), Japanese Ambassador to Fiji Masahiro Omura, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, JICA resident Representatives Hiroyuki Sawada and Fiji Broadcasting Corporation CEO, Riyaz Sayed-Khaiyum during the launching of new medium wave radio transmission facility in Nakasi, Nausori on August 11, 2017. Photo: Ronald Kumar.

Fijians in all maritime islands can now tune in to the recently installed and clearer Amplitude Modulated (AM) Signal that will be broadcasted on two main radio stations.

The new medium wave radio transmission \$15 million facility is managed by Fiji Broadcasting Corporation and funded by the government of Japan will air programmes on both Radio Fiji One and Gold stations.

Officiating at the launch in Naulu, Nakasi on Friday, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said Fijians living in Vanuabalavu, Lakeba or Ovalau could now tune on to the radio and join listeners around the country through a range of AM programming.

Mr Bainimarama said through this upgrade Fiji had now achieved a 100 per cent coverage for all outer islands.

"It means we will now have access to critical flows of information programming on youth development, women's issues, health, agriculture and many other topics," Mr Bainimarama said.

"The right to access information is one of the most important rights my Government has sworn to uphold."

Mr Bainimarama says the massive effort to bring high quality



# KGEI: A Forgotten WWII Radio Story

By Jim Clifford

This two-story building on Radio Road in Redwood Shores has a long and storied past.

Sometimes history is hidden in plain sight or site — as is the case of a blockhouse-shaped building located, appropriately, on Radio Road in the Redwood Shores area of Redwood City.

There is no plaque to remind the few visitors to the area that the two-story building played an important role in World War II: It housed the transmitter for shortwave radio station KGEI, which was the only voice from home for GIs fighting from island to island in the Pacific.



This two-story building on Radio Road in Redwood Shores has a long and storied past

Among other accomplishments, the station broadcast Gen. Douglas MacArthur's "I have returned" speech that fulfilled his promise to return with victorious American troops to the Philippines, occupied by Japanese forces since 1942.

Today, the building of about 7,000 square feet is owned by Silicon Valley Clean Water, the wastewater plant operated jointly by Redwood City, San Carlos and Belmont. The plant is adjacent to the KGEI building, which itself is right next to a much larger transmitter building used by KNBR. Ground was broken in late 1940 for the KGEI structure made of reinforced 3-foot thick concrete walls designed to withstand bombing.

"We are now using it for our construction management activities," said Dan Child, the manager of Silicon Valley Clean Water, which bought the building from the Fully Alive Church. The church remodelled the structure to seat a congregation of up to 70 people. One report said a wooden

plank was used to camouflage the original bas-relief KGEI, the call letters for General Electric International.

In 1942, The New York Times wrote a story headlined "KGEI Tells Them." Nothing, the newspaper reported, stirs the hearts of soldiers and sailors as much as hearing the introduction to the station's programs: "This is the United States of America."

The listening soldiers included Army Capt. Steve Mellnik who was captured in the fall of Corregidor, an island fortress in Manila Bay. He recalled in his book, "Philippine Diary," that he depended on KGEI for war news, learning with "dismay as Japanese forces spread across the Pacific." Mellnik escaped and survived to become a general.

"News of friendly troop movement puzzled us," Mellnik recalled in the book published in 1969. "A commentator boasted that hundreds of ships were en-route to the Far East. We cheered. But almost casually the commentator added that the armada's destination was Australia." The cheers turned to groans.


Australia became MacArthur's rallying point. He eventually made three speeches there in which he vowed to return. The general's famous "I have returned" speech came in October of 1944 when he fulfilled his promise. The words were first broadcast from a Navy ship off the Philippines and later spread by KGEI throughout Asia.

After the war, General Electric sold the station to the Far East Broadcasting Company which then sold it to the church in 2001.

Former Far East Broadcasting Company president Jim Bowman said he often visited Manila and would come across Filipinos "who listened to KGEI to keep their hopes alive during the Japanese occupation."

The building still stands, not far from a section of the Bay Trail used by hikers and bike riders who pass by an almost unknown part of the past. The transmitter, however, is no more. Far East Broadcasting gave the transmitter to a radio ministry in Liberia where it was destroyed by rebel forces in the late 1990s.

(The Daily Journal)

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|---|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
|  |               | Voice of Friendship |               |
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| To  | C S E A L E R |                     |               |
|   |               | Correspondence No.  | 5 1 0 0 3 8 5 |
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| CONFIRMING YOUR REPORT  |               |                     |               |
| DATE:   | JUN 05 1978   | TIME:               | GMT 1 0 3 2   |
|   | Khz: 9 5 8 0  |                     | METERS: 3 1   |
| <hr/>   |               |                     |               |
| FAR EAST BROADCASTING CO., INC.   |               |                     |               |
| RADIO STATION KGEI  |               |                     |               |
| BOX 15, San Francisco, California, U.S.A., 94101                                    |               |                     |               |

## Radiotehnika Salut-001



By Craig Seager. VK2HBT

Some months ago, in these pages, we talked about a slice of Soviet manufacturing history, whereby a Lithuanian electronics factory was relocated to Minsk ahead of the advancing Nazi forces, going on to eventually produce a large range of radios and televisions for domestic use and export, including the well-known Selena Vega series.

Another of the Baltic states also boasted radio manufacturing prowess. Latvia's state-owned VEF (Valsts Electro-Techniska Fabrikas), was famous for receivers produced under its own name, and also the Spidola brand. Interestingly, the same outfit built the Minox subminiature camera from 1937, conceived by Walter Zapp, which became the darling of Cold War spies. Look for it, perhaps, in the next *Le Carré* film adaptation you encounter.

However, it is another Latvian manufacturer entirely that captures our attention this time. "Radiotehnika" (Radio Technics) represented the rebirthing by the Soviets of a facility that had been operating since the early 1930s, founded by Alexandre Apsītis, a former telephone repairman. Subsequent history could have been much different, had it not been for employees filling up packs with rocks and scrap metal when ordered by the Nazis to clear out the factory in 1944. The actual production equipment was surreptitiously buried in the basement, therefore facilitating relatively speedy recommissioning at the end of the war. During the Soviet era, Radiotehnika made various electronic devices, including audio equipment and receivers that had one or more short waves bands. Although the quality rarely matched what was being produced in Western Europe, it was nonetheless generally considered decent.

One such product was the Salut 001, unveiled at the Leipzig Trade Fair of 1977, and in fact developed with input from the then German Democratic Republic. Although marketed as a portable, by today's standards one would only use the term loosely, given the amount of desktop real estate this receiver requires. It does have a carry handle, I guess!

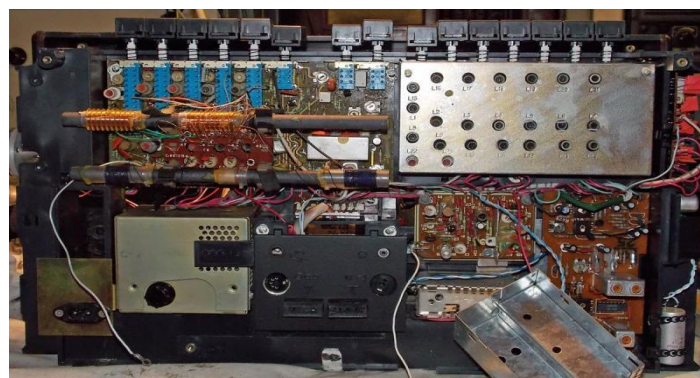
Several variants were produced, and you may see this set variously referred to as the "Salute" (with an "e"), the "Euromatic 001" or the "Conrad DX-101", depending on selling market, and the plastic cabinet can be black or grey. Peak availability seems to have been around 1980.

Frequency coverage includes Longwave, FM, eight shortwave ranges (3.45-21.75 MHz, with gaps), and mediumwave split over two ranges. Typical of other Russian receivers, the frequency dial increases right to left. Exact coverage also varies by selling market and date of manufacture (including the Russian FM band down to 76 MHz, for domestic sets).

The ranges and bands are selected by large push-button switches on the top, as are the two available bandwidths (both fairly broad). There are smaller pushbuttons for battery check, mute, AFC, tape recorder control, sleep and power. Uniquely, some chromed sensor buttons surrounding LEDs operate memory presents, four each for FM and AM. The memories are set using individual scales and tuning knobs. In operation, these are a bit hit and miss, but for the time would have been considered rather innovative.

At the rear, we see external antenna and earth connectors (to supplement the two in-built retractable rods), plus extension speaker, din for record-out, 3.5mm headphone, and 12V DC in.

Inside we have thirteen circuit boards, some rather difficult to get to, and I think a service job on the Salut-001 might be followed by an Aspirin and good lie down!



As earlier indicated, this is a large radio, and unwieldy as a travel portable by today's standards. The upside, however, is that the cabinet accommodates a good-sized speaker, and audio response is quite excellent, particularly on FM.

Today, Radiotehnika is best known for audio equipment, and in particular a rather good range of speakers. The founder, Apsītis, rode the crest of success post-war, but his growing status caused him to fall foul of Stalinist purging, and he spent some time in prison, prior to other less glamorous pursuits.

Thanks to member John Faulkner for acquainting me with this unique radio, not often encountered outside of Europe.

✎

AUSTRALIAN RADIO DX CLUB Inc (Vic) REG A0011728G.

Nomination form 2017-2018 committee.

I am being a financial member of the ARDXC inc. (VIC), wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for a position on the ARDXC committee.

(please nominate position)

NOMINEE \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSER \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDER \_\_\_\_\_

I accept this nomination \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of nominee)

Note: All persons signing this form must be a current financial member or life member. Closing date is last mail Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. Address is ARDXC C/- John Wright, 29 Milford Rd, Peakhurst NSW 2210.

CUT HERE

AUSTRALIAN RADIO DX CLUB INC (VIC) REG A001728G ABN 83 818 568 199

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_

Being a member of that incorporated association, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the general meeting of the association, (annual general meeting), to be held on the 28th October, 2017, and at any adjournment of that meeting. My proxy is authorized to vote in favour OF/OR AGAINST, (delete as appropriate), the resolution/s. (insert the details).

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
I am a financial or life member of the ARDXC inc (Vic).

This \_\_\_\_\_-Day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017.  
Proxy votes by postal mail only to The Secretary, ARDXC inc, C/John Wright, 29 Milford Rd, Peakhurst NSW 2210. BY last mail 20th October, 2017.