

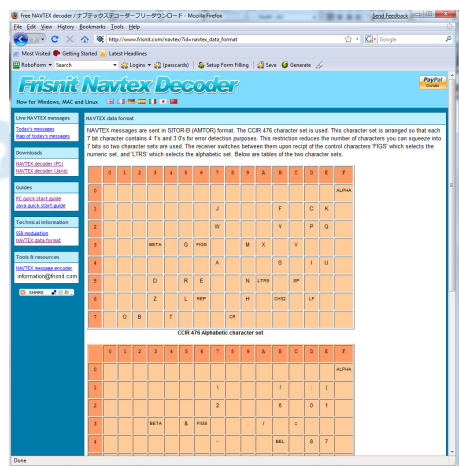
What's NEW

Tell them you saw it in Monitoring Times

Free NAVTEX

If you are interested in monitoring NAVTEX digital message traffic on 425 or 518 kHz and need a decoder, do I have a deal for you!

The Frisnit NAVTEX Decoder is exactly what it says it is – a software decoder for NAVTEX transmissions. All you need is a shortwave radio and a computer to begin decoding signals yourself. The author of this software has the program running continuously and uploading NAVTEX messages to an online database at www.frisnit.com/cgi-bin/navtex/view.cgi. The data is also available via WAP at <http://wap.frisnit.com> so you can view the messages while you are mobile.



This free program is available for the following computer platforms: Windows XP, Sun Java version 1.6.0, MAC OS X (10.4.8), and Apple Java version 1.5.0_06 at the following URL www.frisnit.com/navtex/?id=decoder. You can get more information on the NAVTEX message format at www.frisnit.com/navtex/?id=navtex_data_format. If you need frequency and schedule information on NAVTEX broadcast in the U.S. go to www.weather.gov/om/marine/navtex.htm.

CHU has something new

If you are wondering where the 7335 kHz time signal from CHU went, it moved on January 1, 2009.

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) shortwave radio station CHU shifted their 7 MHz time transmissions to 7850 kHz after 70 years of broadcasting on that frequency. The change went into effect on January 1, 2009, at 00:00 UTC. Time transmissions on 3330 and 14670 kHz were not affected and continue as before. For more



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Time to change your shortwave radio dial

After seventy years of broadcasting Canada's official time, NRC's shortwave station CHU will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change goes into effect on 01 January 2009 at 00:00 UTC.

CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada, broadcasting 24 hours a day from a location approximately 15 km south-west of downtown Ottawa. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, voice to announce the time in French and English, and digital data to set computers.

The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories in Ottawa, at the National Research Council Canada. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time), which is now the reference for official time used by all countries. UTC is the modern implementation of Greenwich Mean Time.

"Coincidentally, this frequency change comes at a time when NRC is investing resources to refurbish the aging transmitters at CHU in order to provide clear, dependable shortwave services as part of NRC's mandate to disseminate time to all Canadians," said Raymond Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility. "The shortwave time service is especially beneficial for those in remote locations where there is limited access to internet and telephone communication. CHU also provides a back up against failure of other services."

In April 2007, the International Telecommunications Union re-allocated the 7300-7350 kHz band from a fixed service to a broadcasting service. Since then, interference on the 7335 kHz frequency has come from many information broadcasters around the world.

CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 kHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference. We have heard from amateur radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers, and navigators who use the tones and voice signals. As well, comments were received from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment.

To give notice to users, CHU will broadcast an announcement in both English and French. More information about CHU can be found at:

http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/shortwave_broadcasts_e.html
Comments about the CHU change can be sent by e-mail to radio.chu@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca.

 National Research Council Canada / Conseil national de recherches Canada



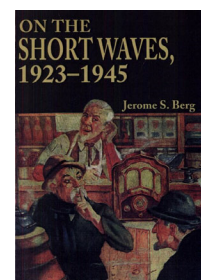
information check out the links below.
http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/common_files/stories/chu/communique_e.pdf
http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/shortwave_broadcasts_e.html
http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/faq_time_e.html#Q2

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New Shortwave Hobby History Books

Many radio enthusiasts are familiar with the name Jerry Berg – an enthusiastic and respected radio hobbyist for half a century, chairman of the Committee to Preserve Radio Verifications, and author of *On the Short Waves, 1923-1945: Listening in the Pioneer Days of Radio*.

Jerry has again combined his talent and



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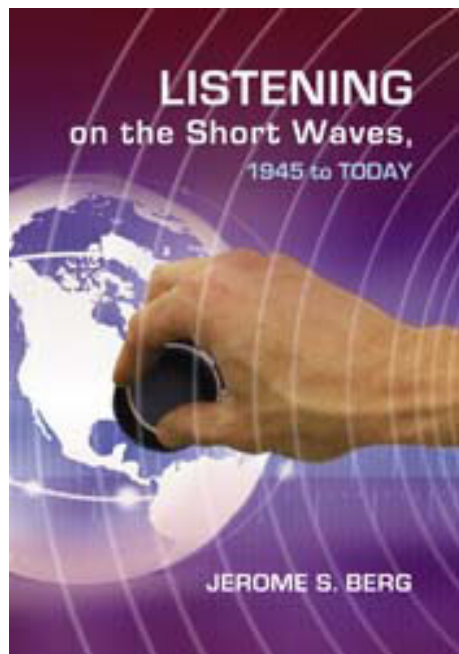
love of radio to author two new books in 2008.

Listening on the Short Waves, 1945 to Today

by Jerome S. Berg

Written from the perspective of the American radio listener, Jerry delves exclusively into the listening side of the hobby to focus on radio publications such as *Monitoring Times*, clubs, and the audience. The opening chapter, "Prelude to 1945," looks at early shortwave radio broadcasting days, followed by "The Shortwave Audience," making the distinction between the program listener and the shortwave DXer.

The chapter on "Clubs" presents in detail a nostalgic look at the histories of the major North American shortwave clubs, followed by a review of the professional and listener-generated shortwave literature of the era and DX programs on shortwave. Receivers are presented as a detailed historical review of the development of shortwave receivers from WW II to present, covering tabletops, portables and more.



The continuing debate whether to remain a listener or a QSL collector continues: however, Chapter 7 – "QSLing" – explains in detail the fascination for many of the ever changing world of collecting verifications cards and letters. Additional coverage is given to the verifiers and non-verifiers, station QSL policies, literature, contesting and awards, including the history of the WPE calls.

The final chapter, "Computers," discusses

the impact of the computer and the internet on the shortwave hobby of today. Hobbyists have witnessed amazing strides from the early days of word processing and bulletin board systems to the instant exchange of radio information with relation to DXing and program listening.

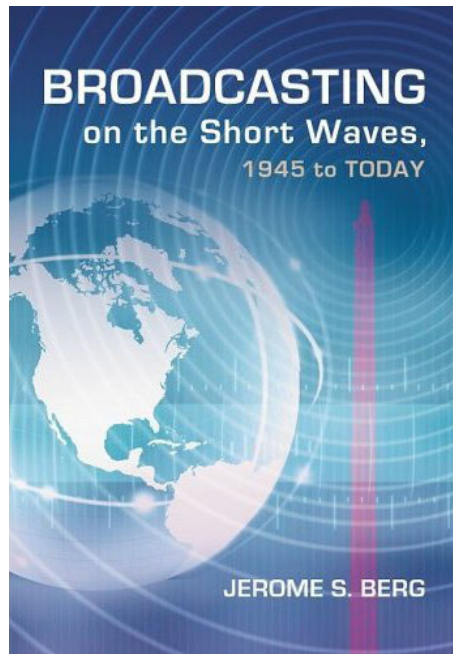
Indexed and fully illustrated, *Listening on the Short Waves, 1945 to Today*, resumes the shortwave story after 1945, and describes in detail the evolution of the hobby in the years since. It is an informative and fully-researched book, covering the early days of experimental radio transmissions to the high speed world of internet radio. I would highly recommend this book to the novice or veteran shortwave enthusiast. This is an excellent book, and for most of us, this history is *our* history!

Broadcasting on the Short Waves, 1945 to Today

by Jerome S. Berg

The companion to the above volume, *Broadcasting on the Short Waves, 1945 to Today*, focuses on the world's shortwave broadcast stations. This final edition completes the trilogy begun in 1999 with publication of *On the Short Waves, 1923-1945: Listening in the Pioneer Days of Radio*.

Written from the standpoint of the casual listener, the purpose of this third edition is to complete the post-1945 story by focusing on the shortwave broadcast stations. The heart of the book is a year-by-year description of the shortwave bands from 1945 and the major shortwave events of each year.



Beginning with "An Overview of Shortwave Broadcasting," Chapter 1 presents an historical overview of international, domestic, clandestine, religious, plus European and North American pirate broadcasting. Frequency allocation and management, power and jamming are included, as well as SSB, DRM and SWBCing.

Chapter 1-8, "Shortwave Year-by-Year," is a detailed examination of stations that were active on the shortwave bands, and gives a picture of what stations North American hobbyists were hearing. These chapters cover the period of 1945-2008 and identify the individual DX targets and the trends of this period. International stations, tropical band and other domestic shortwave broadcasting stations throughout the world are covered.

The last chapter, "The Changing Shortwave Environment," is a summary of the shortwave broadcasting scene since WW II, delving into factors that have impacted broadcasters and audiences before and after the Cold War, and the future of broadcasting.

This book, like its companion, is an informative and fully-researched book, covering the shortwave broadcast stations that many DXers began with early in their listening hobby, as well as those we continue to follow today.

Both books – *Listening on the Short Waves, 1945 to Today* and *Broadcasting on the Short Waves, 1945 to Today* – present an accurate portrayal of the shortwave medium and the shortwave listening experience in the United States. Both are detailed, concise and well researched, and include many observations on the hobby from the author's perspective, based on his years as an active DXer.

Jerry Berg has reminded all of us that, however dire the recurring predictions of its demise, shortwave radio retains its fascination for many of us. Congratulations to Jerry on a superb body of work!

Listening on the Short Waves, 1945 to Today, (ISBN 978-0-7864-3996-6) is a hardcover, 415 page book. *Broadcasting on the Short Waves, 1945 to Today*, (ISBN 978-0-7864-36 74-3) is also a hardcover, 488 page book, and both are available from McFarland Publications for \$65.95 each.

To order either book, go to the company website at www.mcfarlandpub.com or call 1-800-253-2187. Postal address: McFarland & Co., Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640 USA

Reviewed by Gayle Van Horn W4GVH

Books and equipment for announcement or review should be sent to What's New, c/o Monitoring Times, 7540 Highway 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902. Press releases may be faxed to 828-837-2216 or emailed to Larry Van Horn, larryvanhorn@monitoringtimes.com