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CIRCLE 35 ON READER SERVICE COUPON

DX central reporting

A world of SWL info!

BY DON JENSEN

☐ Mention DXing Latin America to many people and a horrified look comes over their faces. "What? Not me! They're tough to hear on shortwave and even tougher to identify. Those stations broadcast all in Spanish or Portuguese!"

Well, that's not really true. With a little effort, and some care and experience, it is possible for almost anyone who wants to try to log and identify Spanish and Portuguese speaking SW stations. But for the moment, and for the less experienced SWL, I should note that there are more stations in Latin America than you might think which do feature, sometime during their schedules, programs in English. And that's a good way to start your Latin listening project.

The Number One, out-and-out easiest station in Latin America to hear and verify is the old familiar HCJB, the *Voice of the Andes* in Quito, Ecuador. HCJB is a Christian religious station that has been broadcasting on shortwave since the 1930s. Today the station programs in a number of languages to listeners around the globe. HCJB signals are easily heard since the station uses powerful transmitters, three 50,000-watt and three 100,000-watt units. In the future the signal may even be better when planned half-million watt transmitters become operational.

If you haven't already tuned HCJB, look for English programming on 6,095, 9,560 or 11,915 kHz every evening from before 0100 until 0700 GMT. Or in the morning from around 1230 until after 1600 GMT on 11,745 and 15,115 kHz.

Heard equally as well as HCJB, but whose programs have an entirely different slant, is *Radio Havana Cuba*, from the island just 90 miles off our southern coast. Most listeners, even the very beginners, have already heard this shortwave voice during the evening, broadcasting in English on 9,685 and 11,725 kHz.

The government SW outlet at Buenos Aires, Argentina is another Latin station that schedules English programming, albeit not too extensively. The station is called RAE, which stands for *Radiodifusion Argentina al Exterior*. The identification in English, however, is simply, "This is RAE (pronounced like "rye") calling."

Look for RAE weekdays at 2300 GMT on 11,710 kHz, and on 9,690 kHz at 0300 and again at 0600 GMT.

Cruising through Latin America alphabetically, the next stop is Brazil, largest

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DX CENTRAL

(Continued from page 32)

nation in South America and probably the most shortwave "radio-active" country in the world. Among its many shortwave voices is the national station, *Radio Nacional Brasilia*. Brazil was rather late in getting involved in international broadcasting, and, even today, lags behind her southern neighbor, Argentina. But there is English scheduled from this station at 2100 GMT on 11,700 kHz.

Also, there is a new Latin entry in the field of English language programming. It is *Radio Clarin* (pronounced, "clair-EEN") in the Dominican Republic. In this instance, the aim is to reach potential tourists who might be lured to vacation in the Dominican Republic, the Spanish-speaking half of the Caribbean island of Hispanola.

Radio Clarin's broadcasts have been a bit irregular. But you can look out for

GLOSSARY

AM—Amplitude modulation, a transmission mode, but sometimes used in a shorthand way to refer to the everyday-540 to 1600 kilohertz-Top 40 and Golden Oldie-radio band.

DX—Listening to distant radio signals.

DXer—Person who listens for DX.

GMT—Greenwich Mean Time, the universal time standard also known, in the military as "Z" or "Zulu" time. It is equivalent to EST+5 hours, CST+6, MST+7, and PST+8.

Hz—Hertz, a unit of measure meaning one cycle per second.

kHz—kiloHertz, a frequency measuring unit; 1,000 cycles per second.

MW—Medium wave, also called by listeners, BCB for broadcast band; the range of frequencies below shortwave, between, roughly 540 and 1600 kHz.

SW—Shortwave

SWL—Shortwave listener

English-speaking Rudy's tourist tips at 2330 GMT on either 4,850, 11,700 kHz, both or either. Sometimes one or the other of these frequencies is silent.

There are two religious stations in Central America that feature nightly English language programs as a break from their normal Spanish fare. They are TGNA, *Radio Cultural* in Guatemala City, and HRVC, *La Voz Evangelica* in Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras. TGNA uses 3,300, 5,955 and 9,505 kHz. Its English programs can be heard between about 0300 and 0430 GMT. HRVC's English programs begin earlier, at 0200 GMT. The station is normally heard with ease on 4,820 kHz.

And while on the subject of missionary broadcasters, I can't forget to mention *Radio 4VEH*, Cape Haitien, Haiti, on the French Creole-speaking part of the island of Hispanola. 4VEH regularly uses three shortwave frequencies, 6,120, 9,770 and 11,835 kHz. Times to tune are 0100 to 0200 GMT and, in the morning, from

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1100 GMT. English programs can be heard during these time slots.

Log Peru with English programming? Maybe you thought that wasn't possible, that there isn't an English-speaking voice in that Andean land. Well, not so. There is *Radio del Pacifico* in Lima. By this time it will probably come as no surprise that this too is a religious station. But to make ends meet, a common practice for such stations in Latin America, its Spanish programs are handled much like any commercial broadcaster. Its English programs are scheduled for 0200 GMT on 4,975 kHz in the 60 meter band.

Then there is the *Voice of Chile* from Santiago, which can be heard with good

signals in the U.S. You can hunt for an English language newscast about 0115 GMT. A frequency to try is 9,565 kHz. And there are a few others that have or have had English programs at times, *Radio Mexico* and *Radio Nacional de Venezuela* to name a couple.

So even if you don't habla the slightest Espanol, you can still get started SWLing the English speaking stations of Latin America.

Learning Lingos. So far I've been talking about how you can hear stations in Central and South America even though you don't know a word of Spanish or Portuguese. But there is no need to shy

(Continued on page 88)

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DX Central Reporting

(Continued from page 37)

away from non-English speaking stations. It is relatively easy to get at least a beginner's knowledge of a number of foreign languages. And various shortwave stations around the world will help you to learn.

Unfortunately, right now, there are no Spanish-English or Portuguese-English lessons on SW, but you can, for instance, learn to speak Afrikaans, an off-shoot of the Dutch language, via shortwave. South Africa's *Radio RSA* has Afrikaans lessons on the air. And Dutch itself can be learned through *Radio Nederland's* own language course.

Yes, you can also learn elementary Chinese. Language lessons in this tough tongue are featured over *Radio Peking*. German lessons are presented on *West Germany's Deutsche Welle*. *Radio Japan* has Japanese language lessons. Russian courses are offered by *Radio Moscow*.

Most of these stations offer free or low-cost study books, records or guides to go along with the broadcast lessons. I suggest you write directly to the stations for more information on when the next series of lessons begin and the availability of printed course material.

Here are the addresses of these stations:
Radio RSA, P.O. Box 4559, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Radio Nederland, P.O. Box 222, Hilversum, Netherlands.

Radio Peking, Peking, People's Republic of China.

Deutsche Welle, P.O. Box 344, Cologne 5, Federal Republic of Germany.

Radio Japan, Jinnan 221, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan.

Radio Moscow, Moscow, USSR.

Time Topics. It has been some time since I talked about time in DX CENTRAL REPORTING, though the mail suggests there are many of you who are finding this aspect of SWling a bit confusing. If this is old hat to some of you, skip the next few paragraphs. But if telling time DX-style has got you stumped, stay tuned in.

First, there are two potentially confusing aspects. The first is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) itself. The second is the use of the 24 hour clock system. GMT is the standard time reference used around the world, calculated for the zero degree meridian that passes through Greenwich, England. It is especially useful when writing reception reports to stations that both you and the station personnel understand just when you listened. When you're both using the same standard, there is less chance for confusion.

GMT is equal to: Eastern Daylight Time plus 4 hours; EST or CDT plus 5 hours; CST or MDT plus six hours; MST or PDT plus seven hours; and PST plus 8 hours. Don't forget that the date has a GMT significance too. It may be 10 p.m. EDT in New York City on July 20, but the GMT equivalent is 2 a.m. (written

PHOTOS WANTED!

Would you like to see your photo in *Elementary Electronics*? Okay, then, send us a nice clear photo of you and your DXing equipment. Any sharp photo will do, but we prefer to see you at your rig. Along with the photo, please tell a little about you and your DXing activities and interests. Also, please identify the make and type of the receiver and other equipment shown in the photograph. Sorry, we can't return photographs.



The equipment used by Lowell Shuttleworth includes a Heath GR-64 and a Drake SSR-1. Lowell, who lives in Greenville, Ohio, is mainly interested in SW folk music and foreign news coverage. As his map indicates, he has logged about 30 countries.

0200) GMT on the next morning, July 21.

The 24-hour clock system is a bit puzzling, but only at first. You'll soon get the hang of using it.

Between midnight and noon there is little that is confusing. One a.m. is 0100, 2 a.m. is 0200 and so on; right up to noon, 1200. For the p.m. hours you keep on counting from 13 o'clock on up. Thus, 1:30 p.m. equals 1330, and 6:45 p.m. is 1845. Ten minutes before midnight is expressed as 2350. At midnight it becomes 0000 and we start over again.

Down the Dial. (Times in GMT, frequencies in kHz): 1205 and 1555 kHz—*Radio Cayman* uses these two split-channels on the AM medium wave band. This is a relatively new broadcasting operation that has Stateside BCBers hunting for the signals from the Gulf of Mexico. . . . 3260 and 3280—Good things come in pairs today, perhaps. If you like the exotic rhythms of the marimba, you'll enjoy looking for a pair of stations from Guatemala where the marimba is king. These stations can often be heard during our evening hours. On 3260 is *La Voz de Nahuala*. *Radio Chortis* can be heard just 20 kHz up the dial, on 3280. Programming is in Spanish, but the music is worth the listening efforts. . . . 7,260—You can hear English programs from East Germany's *Radio Berlin International* at about 2125 GMT, according to listener reports.

(Credits: Marc DeLorenzo, MA; Jim Bryan, CA; Sydney Osterman, Ontario; Guy Dunn, NY; Chester Johnson, IN; Robert Yajko, PA; National Radio Club, Box 127, Boonton, NJ 07005; North American SW Association, P.O. Box 13, Liberty, IN 47353; American SWL Club, 16182 Ballad Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92649)