



# Looking Back

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*Looking Back is a nostalgic reflection on the shortwave scene of yesteryears, written from the personal experience of the author, who has been DXing the shortwave bands for over seven decades.*

## The TIME of Your Life

We progress now to consideration of a type of station that was/is included by some DXers, in the category of “utility stations”, namely the numerous time and standard frequency transmissions. Most of these transmit pulses every second, with variations to allow for the receiving station to adjust time intervals, equipment and scientific equipment. Some just transmit the second pulses, sounding like a telegraph station idling on the frequency.



I suppose the best known is the U.S. National Bureau of Standards operating WWV at Fort Collins and WWVH in Hawaii. The latter, on 10 MHz, is a useful guide to reception conditions in our mornings, especially for KWHR 9930, if you haven't already logged it.

Times change and there seems to have been a cutback in services on the HF channels, with more stations restricted to longwave frequencies, making reception more difficult (e.g. Paris Observatory, JJY Japan), or only on 2.5, 5 and 10 MHz. Several are off the air now, such as OMA, German Hydrographic Institute Hamburg and VNG Australia.

However, there are still some interesting catches such as CHU Ottawa, YVTO Venezuela and HD2IOA Ecuador. CHU and WWV used to send out very detailed booklets about their state-of-the-art Cesium beam transmissions. Maybe they still do. In any event, all these stations have a good record for answering reports with nice QSL cards. Much useful information is to be found in the World Radio TV Handbook.

Good listening. 73, Tom

