

"COMMUNICATION"- MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE TWICKENHAM DX CLUB

Dear Members,

This is the TDC's first newsletter. We have decided to call it "Communication", as this single word seems to us to sum up the whole meaning of the hobby of DXing. We begin this issue with some DX news items;

USSR- We have recently acquired some very disturbing information through the Radio Sweden programme "Sweden Calling DXers" concerning our fellow DXers in the USSR. According to a report, a DXer in the USSR who had his name mentioned in the bulletin of SCDX has been in trouble with the authorities. The report also said that DXing is to be banned and DXers arrested in the Soviet Union. If this is true, we believe it to be a severe blow to the hobby and an infringement of the freedom of Soviet DXers. We therefore suggest that you show your feelings on the subject by writing to those concerned (Soviet radio stations are a possibility). In the meantime we wish all DXers in the Soviet Union the best of luck.

USA - The standard time and frequency station WWV from Fort Collins, Colorado, has been heard regularly in Twickenham with a rather weak signal on 15000kHz. The signal appears to be at its best at around 22.30.GMT. This station is very useful to the DXer in that it enables him to align his receiver and check his watch as well as giving him a good guide to Atlantic Propagation conditions (in Europe). It has the additional advantage of a spoken time ann. every minute and a station identification on the hour and half hour. It can be distinguished from the SFT station WWVH in Hawaii by the fact that it has a male announcer as opposed to a female. You can find its address and more detailed information in the 1974 WRTH.

Well, there are the two main news items for this month. Below please find some DX tips, all originating from members loggings. The entries marked * are regularly received and can be heard on any domestic receiver, which in some cases, will need a BFO. The other tips are for the slightly more experienced DXer as they are rather more difficult.

| STATION | GMT | KhZ | MB. | LANGUAGE | SINPO | ADDITIONAL DETAILS |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----------|-------|-------------------------------|
| V.O.Nigeria | 13.30 | 15120 | 19 | French | 22532 | QRM from hum on frequency |
| Brazzaville | 22.00 | 4765 | 60 | French | 33333 | Irregular reception |
| *Radio RSA | 21.00 | 4875 | 60 | English | 33433 | Fr. No longer used (Ed.) |
| Radio Grenada | 20.45 | 15105 | 19 | English | 23532 | Very weak signal |
| Radio Tashkent | 12.00 | 15460 | 19 | English | 32522 | QRM from heterodyne |
| *Radio Kiev | 19.30 | 7380 | 40 | English | 54544 | Mon., Thurs., Sat only |
| *Radio N.Brasilia | 21.00 | 15245 | 19 | English | 44524 | Very good reception |
| *Radio Kuwait | 20.00 | 15415 | 19 | English | 54544 | Very good reception |
| R.Bangladesh | 19.00 | 15520 | 19 | English | 33443 | Slow speed news |
| *R.Habana Cuba | 20.10 | 15155 | 19 | English | 33533 | QRM severe at first, eases |
| *V.O.Turkey | 22.00 | 11880 | 25 | English | 44444 | Good steady reception |
| *Nauen SFT | 18.30 | 4575 | 70 | - | 33544 | Steady reception (SSB) |
| *Conakry Guinea | 16.30 | 15005 | 20 | Fr.Eng. | 44344 | PTP test in SSB |
| *V.O.Vietnam | 18.30 | 15012 | 20 | English | 44444 | Good reception |
| R.N.Brasilia | 22.00 | 15447 | 19 | Portugese | 35534 | Local service of R.N.Brasilia |
| RAS Argentina | 23.00 | 11710 | 25 | English | 22522 | QRN from severe hum |
| NNV SFT Col. | 22.15 | 15000 | 20 | English | 23323 | Fair to poor reception |

We expect these tips will keep you busy for the next month or so. Please do contribute and send us your reception loggings for publication.

QSL WAITING TIMES - supplied by D.P.Balhatchet.

EUROPEAN STATIONS - AWR 11d, R.Bucharest 56d, RBI 42d, R.Budapest 26d, Deutsche Welle 35d, R.Finland 10d, R.Nederland 13d, Happy Station 5d, ORF 23d, R.Prague 110d, (v.erratic) R.Portugal 23d, R.Peace and Progress 46d, R.Sweden 12d, R.Sofia 127d, SBC 11d, TWR 51d, R.Vatican 25d, Polskie R. 56d,

ASIAN STATIONS - R.Kuwait 59d, NHK Tokyo 23d, R.Peking 28d, R.Pyongyang 51d, V.O.Iran 114d, V.O.Vietnam 69d, V.O.Turkey 23, (continued on page 3).

SEPTEMBER PROPAGATION REPORT.

Towards the end of August the low frequencies will become more crowded at night as the higher frequencies become unusable. You will find that between September and February there will be little or no reception on frequencies below about 14 Mhz after about 19.30 hours GMT. This will continue until early morning. The changing propagation conditions are due to the very low sun-spot cycle we are now experiencing.

The best band for DX in early August was 19 metres (during the late evening). Towards the end of August until mid-September the best band should be 25 metres. In late September, at night, it should be 31 metres. During the daylight hours the higher frequencies will be open. This report applies to the British Isles and West Europe only and was contributed by Dave Kenny (TDC 001 GB).

SPOTLIGHT ON A RADIO STATION - a regular feature. This month we spotlight Radio Australia. (Melbourne 3000, Victoria Australia).

Radio Australia's headquarters are in Melbourne. It transmits daily in English, French, Indonesian, Thai, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Japanese. Radio Australia has four transmitting sites. They are at Brisbane, Darwin, Lyndhurst and Shepparton. The station verifies correct reception reports with official verification cards. At the moment they have a very attractive set depicting Australian wild flowers, with full verification data on the reverse side.

Radio Australia has a listeners club and prints programme guides, transmission schedules and reception report cards. The station also has a DX programme called "DXers Calling" which is broadcast in the transmission to the United Kingdom on Sundays. They have a regular mailbag programme. On the whole their programmes are very interesting and informative. Reception in Europe is best from 07.00 hrs GMT in the 31 metre band (9570 KHz).

PROPAGANDA ON THE SHORTWAVES - A SAD REALITY. By D.P. Balhatchet.

In these days of high power transmitters, propaganda is, in my opinion, far too prominent on the shortwaves. As is well known, the radio waves are open to all those who, for purposes best known to themselves, wish to pollute the F2 layer with their accusations against anybody and everybody - except themselves, of course. Unfortunately the greatest majority of radiostations which are directly controlled by the state broadcast only the state's view on certain matters, thus depriving listeners of balanced and unbiased information. These stations try to force their ideals on others without giving a thought to the strain on international relations and the bitterness between people of different nationalities that their broadcasts can cause.

Some government controlled stations however, are a great source of interesting (though sometimes biased) information about their various countries. Therefore, I do not want to give the impression that all government stations are bad - just a few. A successful propaganda technique used by many radio stations is to give accounts of seemingly normal day-to-day news items yet to twist these items to their best advantage by giving the facts their own interpretations, thereby attempting to further their own ideals. These stations are in many instances even a source of amusement to the sensible listeners who are often tickled pink by the station's hilarious efforts at indoctrination. I am sure readers will know who these offenders are; and I hope that they will bear in mind that those propaganda stations ought to be treated with contempt - and caution.

If you have any articles like the above we would be most grateful if you would send them along for publishing.

DX CONTEST 'ORIENT '74' LITTLELOST DX CLUB/NORDWEST RADIOCLUB:

We have just received news of a DX contest to be held shortly by the Littlelost DX Club/Nordwest Radioclub. They have written to us asking us to pass the following information on to our members:

From November 2nd to November 9th 1974, the Littlelost DX Club/Norwest Radioclub are holding a DX contest called ORIENT '74, which is open to all Dxers. During the above period competitors are asked to log and report on as many...

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English and German language broadcasts from the middle east as possible. The reception reports should then be sent in to the contest manager who will forward them on to the various radio stations after registration. The most successful competitors will receive prizes, such as books, records and souvenirs. The winner will receive a diploma.

If you would like to participate in ORIENT '74, send your application together with 5 IRC's as a handling charge to: Adolf Schwegeler,
P.O.Box 2131,
D-5205 St. Augustin 2,
German Federal Republic.

Upon receipt of the above the club will send you further information plus a transmission schedule of broadcasts from the Middle East to help you with the contest. Applications must arrive not later than October 26th 1974.

Note from the Editor (David Kenny):-

That's all there's room for this month in the way of news. We do hope that it has been useful to you in one way or the other. Obviously, this being the first newsletter there is much room for improvement and enlargement in the future. This, of course will depend on the number of items for publication received from members.

Members are asked to send in DX tips, QSL waiting times and any articles of general interest. In the case of sending in QSL waiting times will members please include details of other material received with the verification and whether an IRC was included. We are also looking for people to compile regular articles for the newsletter such as ?X, VHF, Utility DX etc. If you specialise in any aspect of DX we would like to hear from you. Your comments and suggestions concerning the TDC Newsletter, as well as any questions you may have, are most welcome at our club address.

Subscriptions have been received from the following new club members:-

TDC-003-GB Mr. N. Van Stigt, 37 Popes Grove, Twickenham, TW1 4JZ
TDC-004-GB Mr. John Pill, 32, Kingsholm Road, Westbury-on Trym, Bristol.
TDC-005-GB Mr. Andrew Griggs, Windrush, Green End Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 1RT

Many thanks.

Other people have written but have not yet returned their application forms. The deadline for items in the next newsletter (about October 10th) is September 30th. This will give me enough time to sort through the mail.

Our address, as usual is: The Twickenham DX Club,
37A, Popes Grove,
Strawberry Hill,
TWICKENHAM,
TW1 4JZ

I am looking forward to hearing from you. Until the next edition of "Communication" Best of DX and 73's - David Kenny - Ed.

Twickenham - 10/9/1974

QSL WAITING TIMES CONTINUED

AMERICAN STATIONS - RCI 61d, VOA 65d, WWV 22d, WYFR 20, RNB Brasilia 95d.
OTHERS - R.RSA 11d, R.Australia 76d, R.Peking 28d, R.Cairo 46d.

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