

SKYWAVES

Produced by the British FM & TV Circle

15 Boarhill Grove
Ashfield Park
SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD
Nottinghamshire
NG17 1HF

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DX News, Loggings and
Information for FM & TV
DXers



Another E season about to begin... spring in the air... some excellent logs inside this issue... the latest news... all sounds rather good really, one of the best times of year with all the anticipation of the DX to come. (What waffle to start the mag eh?) Once again, I hope you will all enjoy the content of another edition of Skywaves. Your contributions are always welcome for the various sections, no matter how large or small.

First of all we offer a very warm **WELCOME** to member 058 **FRANK HELMBOLD** in Langwedel, Germany. And on the subject of Germany, the following has been received this month:

RADIO STATIONS IN GERMANY 2000

Also during the last year broadcasting in Germany was a growing matter. Since the last year's edition not only plenty of new radio stations started their programmes, also well known radio stations extended their programmes and frequencies again. The EAWRC special issue No. 21 - radio stations in Germany 2000 - reports them all! Compactly, easily surveyed and well-ordered into regions from north to south. It covers all frequencies from 150 kHz to FM 108 MHz. Apart from frequencies in use by radio stations under public law, commercial broadcasters, and non-commercial private stations, also all foreign radios transmitting programmes via transmitters in Germany are listed in the publication. The new issue is considerably extended (from 52 to 64 pages) and contains:

- addresses of all radio stations
- addresses of the regional studios and correspondent offices
- telephone and fax numbers of the radios and their branch offices
- internet addresses
- addresses, telephone and fax numbers of the Landesmedienanstalten (state offices)
- locations of all transmitting aerials and their power in kilowatt

The special issue No. 21 is obtainable on payment of 12.00 German Mark or 4 Pounds in cash (sorry, as eurocheque only German Mark or 6.20 Euro are accepted). Please send your order to: EAWRC, c/o Adolf Schwegeler, Bahnhofstr. 56, D-50374 Erftstadt

CONDITIONS: I've been wondering if this small paragraph is really necessary each month. Its purpose is to give a quick reference of what you will find inside each issue – for those checking through back issues for a particular logging or event, etc. In the meantime, I can report fairly good tropospheric activity for March and April. Once again the favoured direction was westerly, and there are more new Irish and Welsh transmitters in the FM logbook. It makes a change to report NO Sporadic E activity this time! While on the low-VHF front, it's been rather quiet, but with the odd day where the M.U.F. took a hike to 42 or so MHz.

That's all for this time - see you all next month folks!



*Edited by Paul Logan
18 Castle Lane
LISNASKEA
County Fermanagh
Northern Ireland BT92 0FW*

Standard Deadline – 25th of every month

Greetings one and all, well another interesting time for those of us who get our kicks below Band 2! (Sounds kinky, eh!), as expected F2 Propagation above 30 MHz rose steadily throughout February and March, with some very high sunspot numbers, however for some unknown reason this has not correlated to a lot of TV pictures coming our way. Conversely in the Southern Hemisphere they seem to have been doing much better, with our Antipodean cousins having massive openings up to 6 metres with even the odd picture coming through. I recently joined the VHF Skip list-server at Onelist, on the net, run by Ian Julian ZL1TBM of Hamilton, New Zealand and have found it to be an absolute goldmine of information on what is going on across the globe. For example, Mike Foubister ZL3TIC in Christchurch N.Z. reports early March reception of vision buzz on E2 at around 21:00 at night, with his 6 metre beam pointing into the Caribbean. It seems there is every possibility that these signals were originating in Europe, because at the same time Spanish Amateur EA7KW was receiving ZL vision buzz reportedly at 5/9! Mike suggests that European hams and TV DXers should keep an eye on Channels NZ1 and AU0 between 19 and 22 hours, and I for one would concur, I remember working into N.Z on CB around this time of night at the height of the last Solar cycle. See the N.Z. offsets list kindly forwarded by Roger Bunney, and measured by Anthony Mann in Perth, Australia. If you do get lucky, let me know! Current thinking is that we should hit solar maximum somewhere around the middle of this year, although with a smaller peak than in the last two cycles, so watch out for the possibility of F2 right into the summer!. Of course the first signs of Sporadic-E should be with us by the end of April, so, happy days are here again!. As always in this game expect the unexpected.

For those of you interested in joining the VHF Skip group, go to the onelist homepage at www.onelist.com and register, then search for VHFSKIP and subscribe, if a complete technophobe like me can manage it then it should be a doddle for all you computer

literate people out there in TV land. The group has some 176 members world-wide and there are daily postings of loggings and propagation news, an absolute must for anyone interested in the 26-87.5 MHz slice of the radio spectrum. If you don't have Internet access at home or work, try your local Library, they should fix you up with an E- mail address (usually Hotmail) and then the world of list-servers will be your oyster!

TV LOGBOOK

Chan.	Time	Date	ITU Station, programme details, etc.	Reception - Mode - Rptr	
E2	18:00	07/02	E TVE1 Variety show, short opening	Fair	PL
L3	18:00	07/02	F Canal Plus, ads.	Fair	PL
E2	19:20	07/02	E TVE1, News, some colour peaks	Good	PL
E3	19:20	07/02	E TVE1, News, some colour peaks	Good	PL
E3	19:20	07/02	POR RTP1, News. Fairly good pics good sound on 60.75MHz via scanner.	Fair	PL

TV NEWSDESK

New Zealand TV Transmitters using CH NZ1

Mt. Studholme, Canterbury	45.239526 MHz
Te Aroha, North Island.	45.239975 MHz
Hedgehope, South Island (presumed).	45.249975 MHz
Kaukau, Wellington.	45.249985 MHz
Unidentified.	45.250081 MHz
Mt. Murchison, South Island.	45.260048 MHz
Hikurangi, North Island.	45.260362 MHz
Whakapunake, Gisborne, North Island.	45.260396 MHz

T.V. News from Sweden calling DXers.

The British government's plan to switch off the analogue signal as early as 2006 was in tatters March 28 after regulators admitted that the target date was "completely unrealistic." Speaking at the annual performance review for U.K. commercial TV channels, Peter Rogers, chief executive of commercial TV regulator I.T.C, said the government forecast would not be realised because the incentives to change from analogue to digital were not compelling enough. He said that although half of the United Kingdom's 22 million TV homes could become pay TV subscribers by 2006-2010, the remainder would have no real reason to spend money to trade up to digital television sets. The government will not be able to wind down the analogue signal until 95 percent of the United Kingdom's 22 million TV homes have at least one digital service, either cable, satellite or digital terrestrial, he contended. ("satelitv")

DENMARK--Danish Minister of Culture Elsebeth Gerner Nielsen has proposed that public service broadcaster Danmarks Radio and rival TV2 shall be given an extra \$200,000 over the next four years to strengthen Danish media. The annual licence fee is being increased by 5 percent, and in the future Danes would have to apply to NOT pay the licence fee, as opposed to the usual European practice of having to notify the authorities that you want to pay. All Danish TV stations would be required to maintain a commercial free five minutes before and after all children's programming. ("Public Access Newsletter")

NORWAY--Norwegian TV arch rivals, state-owned NRK and commercially funded TV2, are preparing to launch a jointly operated sport pay-TV channel. The two bitter competitors are joining forces to meet the challenge from foreign challengers, NRK head Einar Førde tells the wire service NTB. Viasat's TV3's digital launch next month has hastened the process, he admits. NRK and TV2 will present their joint strategy to meet foreign digital TV competition to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs shortly. The two companies has also agreed on developing what Førde calls an "electronic product guide" - the opening page which will greet Norwegian digital TV viewers in the future, NTB writes. ("Digital TV News")

ITALY--Italy is preparing to shift from analogue to digital free TV by 2006, a goal that has the government working on a media bill for the introduction of experimental terrestrial digital transmission before next year. Communication Under-secretary Vincenzo Vita said March 28. The Italian government is pushing to force two terrestrial TV channels Mediaset's Rete 4 and pay TV Telepiu's Telepiu Nero, the latter of which airs an analogue signal through decoders -- from analogue to digital satellite transmission in order to free up their frequencies for terrestrial digital transmission tests. ("satelitv")

LOW VHF REPORT:

Well, it's been good, and then it's been very good! This is about how conditions have been since the last Skywaves. Funnily, toward the end of March there was a steady rise in Sunspot numbers, but conditions became a little more quiet. Daily muf's have been in the 40- 45 MHz range, and a look at the following loggings will give a little indication of what it has been possible to hear. These are the tip of the iceberg!, to report all that has been heard would require a re-fitting of this newsletter!, and there have also been many interesting unidentifieds.

Fun with Radio or: In search of the DX Holy Grail!

Two notable highlights of the recent good conditions came on March 4th, leaving me in no doubt as to the nature of my interest in all things radio, i.e. a sheer sense of amazement at the power of the ether. The first came around midday on 41.55 MHz when I heard a weak signal in what at first sounded like Dutch. Instantly intrigued as to the origin of the rapid bursts of speech, I halted my Uniden scanner and sat awaiting the next transmission, only this time the voice was in an African language!. This was quickly followed by a rather worked up man shouting in English to get the car stopped!, and this time the accent was unmistakable, it was South African!. I immediately remembered that a Dutch DXer named Jan Griep had received this one before and was confident that it was the Police in Kwa Zulu Natal. There then followed a broad smile and a long string of expletives!. However, the best was yet to come. March 4th saw U.S. Fire signals arriving here at levels which were just unbelievable, but nothing seemed to be coming in above 40 MHz. I had hoped that the muf might rise to 42 MHz and repeat Decembers reception of U.S. State Police Frequencies, but nothing it seemed was doing. That was until about 18:00 when one solitary Police dispatcher faded up on 42.44 MHz. There were a number of car registration checks, but when one came back on a vehicle "out of San Jose" but with no reference to a state, I definitely got the idea that the cop receiving the message from the dispatcher should be well aware of the way to San Jose!. I was immediately hoping that this was the California Highway Patrol, the reception of which I had read about in copies of Practical Wireless back in the early eighties, when I was starting out in the radio hobby. The notion, at that time, of people in Europe being able to hear the CHP had a lasting effect on me, and in a way had become my "DX- Holy Grail"!!. It was probably

watching "CHIPS" that did it!! So the next bunch of messages on 42.44 blew me away!. There followed a number of checks on cars stopped on Interstate 405, and all the drivers had Hispanic names!, a quick look at my road atlas of America confirmed that there was only one I-405 and that it ran through West LA !! (more expletives!). I made a tape of about five minutes of traffic, and some later postings on the Strong Signals message board on the net drew some very helpful responses, which helped identify not only the origin of the signal but also the meaning of some of the jargon. The dispatcher was in CHP Office 79 in Culver city, near LAX Airport, and he was at times conversing with motorcycle units doing spot checks in West L. A.!! "CHIPS" indeed!! So, March 4th was quite a day for playing Radio!, and it was also the night that ZL TV was heard in EA!. If only I had known about that!, but I guess that would have been asking a little too much!! And anyhow, I had to rest!!

Regular Signals identified.

An Italian member of the VHF Skip list (Whose full name currently eludes me- apologies Roberto!) advises that the Romanian transmissions heard across 32 and 33 MHz are from that countries Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology. He also says that the Portuguese heard between 40.0 and 40.7 MHz in 20khz steps are Fire communications. While over in Beverwijk, Holland, Rinus Nienhuis reported that his Turkish neighbours quickly identified the 34- 35 MHz signals from their old country as being Police traffic. These can also be heard here in NI regularly, at very strong levels.

FREQ	USER/ NOTES	RP			
			33.7000	Fire Dept, Westmoreland Co., PA.	PL
25.9500	KFXX, Portland OR, AM relay, sports show, best		33.7000	KSZ256, Farmington, Kent Co., DE, Fire Dept.	PL
	nightly around 22:00	PL	33.7000	Fire Dept, Bridgeville, Sussex Co., DE.	PL
29.7800	Unid Romanian traffic in USB	TB	33.7000	KQE686, Jefferson Township, Dayton, OH.	
29.8950	Unid RTTY, Russia?.	TB		Fire Dept.	PL
29.9450	Russian comms, civilian?.	TB	33.7000	KDP395, Little Valley, Cattaraugus Co., NY.	
30.0250	Scandanavian MIL traffic in English, Kosovo?.	PL		Fire Dept comms with South Dayton.	PL
30.0500	German MIL traffic, call CH097, Kosovo?.	PL	33.7000	KKC880, Ebensburg, Cambria Co.,	
30.0750	Unid Far Eastern language heard at 13:25	PL		PA. Fire Dept.	PL
30.1250	Cordless Phone base station, Russia.	TB	33.7000	Fire Dept. Indiana Co., PA.	PL
30.1500	Russian Cordless Phone base	TB	33.7400	Fire Dept. Huntingdon Co., PA.	PL
30.2000	Russian Cordless Phone base	TB	33.7800	Fire Dept, Tioga Co., PA. Car crash at Knoxville.	PL
30.2200	BBC Antigua relay, harmonic of 15.110	PL	33.7800	Fire Dept, Ocean Co., NJ.	
30.2250	Cordless Phone base station, Russia.	TB		"Ocean County Radio".	PL
30.3000	Cordless Phone base station, Russia.	TB	33.7800	Fire Dept, Lewis Co., WV. Flood warnings for	
30.4500	Fort Hood, Killeen, TX, U.S. Army base,			Lewis and Gilmer counties.	PL
	"Range control" 7am radio check.	PL	33.7800	Fire Dept. Trumbull Co., OH.	PL
30.4900	Radio Romania harmonic 2x 15245	TB	33.7800	KGD459, Frostburg, Allegany Co., MD. Fire	
30.5500	Cordless Phone base station, Russia.	TB		Dept.	PL
30.6600	UR2 Tashkent Uzbekistan, harmonic, 2x 15330	TB	33.7800	KTG669, Cumberland City, Allegant Co., MD.	
30.6900	Clam Fishermen, USA!	PL		County dispatch. Fire Dept.	PL
30.7300	VOIRI Teheran harmonic, 2x 15365	TB	33.8000	Fire Dept, Lancaster Co., PA.	PL
30.7500	Cordless Phone base station, Russia.	TB	33.8000	WPDA800, Danielson, Windham Co., CT.	
30.7600	Radio Romania, harmonic 2x 15380	TB		Fire Dept.	PL
30.7800	Radio Romania, harmonic 2x 15390	TB	33.8200	Fire Dept, Butler Co., PA. Barn Fire.	PL
30.8750	Scandanavian MIL traffic in English, Kosovo?.	PL	33.8200	KEE675/ WNWE914, Middlesex Co., NJ.	
30.9400	South Florida Water Management Co,			Fire Dept.	PL
	Okeechobee Co., "Okeechobee to 769".	PL	33.8200	KAG253, Fords, NJ. Fire Dept.	PL
30.9600	V.O. Russia harmonic, presumed.	PL	33.8400	KGE734, Clinton Co., PA. Fire Dept.	PL
31.0600	ERA Athens, harmonic of 15.530	PL	33.8600	Fire Dept, Washington Co., MD. Call to Antietam	
31.1000	V.O. Russia, 2nd harmonic.	TB		national battlefield, (prob Sharpsburg KXM967)	PL
31.1500	French forces, Kosovo, om in French with MIL		33.8600	Fire Dept, Lackawanna/ Susquehanna	
	comms then mentions of Mitrovica!!.	PL		Counties, PA. Call to Hop Bottom.	PL
31.2300	Kol Israel, Harmonic of 15.615	PL	33.8600	Fire Dept, Salem Co., NJ.	PL
31.2300	Kol Israel, harmonic, 2x 15615	TB	33.8600	KFO822, Circleville, Pickaway Co., OH.	
31.2600	KSQ344, Forestry Dept, Fayetteville NC.	PL		Fire Dept.	PL
31.2600	Greek Radio, harmonic 2x 15630	TB	33.8600	KNFM581, Mount Sterling, Madison Co., OH.	
31.3400	KA5850, Forestry, WX Forecast for Hyde, Dare,			Tri County Fire Dept.	PL
	Tyrrell, and Washington Counties N. Carolina.	PL	33.8600	KQH904 Licking Co., OH./ KTA875 Newark in	
31.4000	Danish MIL comms, Kosovo presumed.	PL		comms. qsy'd to 33.98 MHz.	PL
31.5400	Forestry Commission, New Bern NC, daily wx		33.9000	Fire Dept, Lancaster Co., PA.	PL
	forecast at 14:00 approx.	PL	33.9000	Fire Dept, Chester Co., MD.	PL
31.5400	Forestry WX Forecast at 21:13 New Bern NC.	PL	33.9000	KQL885, Montville, CT. Fire Dept.	PL
31.6000	U.S. MIL comms, Kosovo pres. "Voodoo 50 this		33.9000	Fire Dept, Hamilton Co., OH.	PL
	is Gambler base". Mornings, before USA.	PL	33.9400	KFO822, Circleville, Pickaway Co.,	
32.6250	Asian comms, sounded like Korean or Japanese	PL		OH. Fire Dept.	PL
32.8700	Military District of Washington DC, Transport		33.9600	Fire Dept, Indiana Co., PA.	PL
	motor pool, pick ups and general comms.	PL	33.9800	Fire Dept, McKean Co., PA.	PL
33.1350	Unid RTTY, Russia?.	TB	33.9800	Fire Dept, Crawford Co., PA.	PL
33.2000	Asian comms, sounded like Japanese, some		33.9800	KXC996, Zanesville, OH. Fire Dept.	PL
	singing over Radio!!.	PL	34.2000	Turkish Police	TB
33.2500	Romanian institute of Meteorology and		34.3375	Turkish Police.	TB
	Hydrology, regular	TB	34.5400	Brazil, Portuguese traffic.	PL
33.4200	Canadian Hospital paging system.	PL	34.7800	Brazil, Portuguese traffic.	PL
33.4400	WYV211, Adams Co., OH. County dispatch,		35.3400	KNKI943, Voicemail Pager, U.S. Virgin Islands.	
	regular as always id's!.	PL		Regular and very strong.	PL
33.6000	Fire Dept, Lancaster Co., PA.	PL	35.3400	KNKI943, U.S. Virgin Isles, pager.	TB
33.6400	Fire Dept, Westmoreland Co., PA.	PL	35.4300	Deutsche Welle, Armavir Russia, Harmonic,	
33.6400	KCI315, Beacon Falls, CT. Regular, always id's.	PL		2x 17715	TB

35.9400	Radio Cairo, harmonic, 3x 11980	TB		Arabic Language.	TB
37.1200	WPJJ709, Huntsville, Arkansas, PD message about assistance for Alabam FD.	PL	41.8300	Cordless Phone, Mid Eastern origin, Arabic Language.	TB
37.2200	Telector Inc Pager, Ontario, Canada.	PL	41.9100	Cordless Phone, Arabic Gulf States presumed.	TB
37.2600	KIH701, Fayetteville, TN. Local Govt frequency.	PL	42.4100	Cordless Phone, Mid Eastern origin, Arabic Language.	TB
37.6800	Greek Radio, Harmonic, 4x 9420	TB		Arabic Language.	TB
38.7800	Brazil, mention of Paulista.	PL	42.4400	KBO570, Culver City, CA. Cal' Highway Patrol, car checks with mobiles "79- 63 MARY".	PL
39.0000	Brazil, Portuguese traffic.	PL		Cordless Phone, Mid Eastern origin, Arabic Language.	TB
39.0400	Brazil, Portuguese traffic.	PL	42.4700	Cordless Phone, Mid Eastern origin, Arabic Language.	TB
39.0600	Brazil, Portuguese traffic.	PL		Cordless Phone, Mid Eastern origin, Arabic Language.	TB
39.3600	VBO230, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Voicemail message from this location.	PL	42.7500	Cordless Phone, Mid Eastern origin, Arabic Language.	TB
40.0000	Israeli Traffic, Hebrew, MIL presumed.	PL	43.3950	Israeli Traffic, Hebrew, MIL Presumed.	PL
40.1500	Israeli Traffic, Hebrew, MIL presumed.	PL	43.6000	Israeli Traffic, Hebrew, MIL presumed.	PL
41.3500	Pager via ???.	TB	44.2300	Cordless Phone, Arabic Gulf States presumed.	PL
41.5500	South African Police with comms in Afrikaans & some English, maybe from Natal. Zulu heard	PL	44.4750	Russian MIL comms, presumed.	PL
41.6500	Cordless Phone, Mid Eastern origin,		46.3600	KED348, Fire Dept, Dutchess Co., NY. Heard 24/11/99 id via FCC database.	PL

Reporters: **Tim Bucknall**, Congleton Cheshire, Icom IC- R75, Band 1 Antenna.
Paul Logan, Lisnaskea, Fermanagh, Uniden 9000XLT, 35 MHz dipole/ band 1 Antenna.

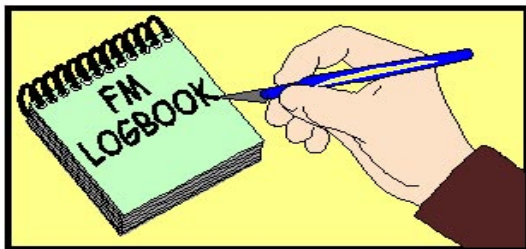
And Finally

Apologies to Roger Bunney for a wording slip up last month which implied that he had received baby alarms from China!. Now that would be F2!. What the piece should of course have said was that the alarms he heard, he believes were *made* in China, something quite different!. Roger notes one of these dreaded alarms on 48.22, and by God I hope they don't turn up near me, as E2 is already something of a struggle here.

Roger also informs me that in the latest 'Six News' there are reports that Ted G4UPS heard 50MHz stations in both VK and JA last November, let's hope for a repeat performance this coming Autumn!.

Well, that's it for now, see you all next time, with more from the land of TV and Low VHF, and remember to watch out for arrival of the first E's!.

Best DX for now de Paul.



Edited by John Faulkner
15 Boarhill Grove
Ashfield Park
SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD
Nottinghamshire
NG17 1HF

E mail: skywaves@iname.com
Standard Deadline – 1st of every month

Tropospheric logbook

<u>FREQ</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ITU</u>	<u>STATION</u>		<u>RDS CODE</u>	<u>SIGNAL</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>RP</u>
87.6	1048	05/02	BEL	RTBF-1, Leglise. Violin plucking // 96.1			weak	T	JF
87.6	1102	05/02	BEL	RTBF-1, Leglise // 621 kHz				T	TB
87.6	1800	31/03	G	Rinse FM, Slough. music, shouts.	8760	RINSE_FM	strong	G	MH
87.7	1500	11/03	G	Kick FM, Birmingham (RSL)				T	TB
87.7	0812	12/03	G	Kick FM, UNID location. Chart countdown.			v weak	?	JF
87.7	1900	31/03	G	Panjab FM, Southall (RSL). Test ann's 3 rd day running	C095	PAJNAB__	strong	G	MH
87.7	1334	02/04	G	Millennium FM, Wulfrun hospital, Wolverhampton				T	TB
87.9	1605	01/02	F	Contact FM, Le Touquet.	F931		brief	T	MH
87.9	0615	05/02	F	Contact FM, Le Touquet. Pop	F931	CONTACT_ __FM__ TOUQUET_ HESDIN__	fair	T	MH
88.0	1019	05/02	D	SR-1, Gottleborner Hohe. Adverts, ID, pop			weak	T	MH
88.0	1049	05/02	D	SR-1, Gottleborner Hohe. OM talking, ID			weak	T	JF
88.2	0156	12/03	IRL	RTE-1, Truskmore. U2 song with female presenter - __ Smith.			fair	T	JF
88.4	0155	12/03	IRL	RTE-1, Knockmoyle (1kW) or Calsa (?kW) both on Atlantic coast. U2 song and female presenter // 88.2			fair	T	JF
88.7	1023	05/02	F	France Musiques, Lille. Classical Music	F203	MUSIQUES	fair	T	MH
88.7	1047	05/02	F	France Musique, Lille. Piano music // 89.2			fair	T	JF
88.8	1130	05/02	G	BBC R Jersey, Les Platons				T	TB
89.2	1023	05/02	F	France Musiques, Reims. Classical Music	F203	MUSIQUES	fair	T	MH
89.2	1046	05/02	F	France Culture, Cherbourg. Presumed. OM in French xd Reims			fair	T	JF
89.2	1046	05/02	F	France Musique, Reims. Piano music.			good	T	JF

89.2	1103	05/02	F	RF-Cluture, Cherbourg					T	TB
89.2	1140	05/02	F	RF-Musique, Reims					T	TB
89.4	1024	05/02	F	France Musiques, Epinal or Boulogne. Classical music	F203	MUSIQUES	fair		T	MH
89.5	1045	05/02	BEL	VRT-3, St Peters Leeuw. Classical music // 90.4			fair		T	JF
89.8	1024	05/02	F	France Musiques, Abbeville. Classical Music	F203	MUSIQUES	fair		T	MH
89.8	0240	10/02	F	France Musiques, Abbeville. Classical music	F203	MUSIQUES	fair		T	MH
90.3	1025	05/02	D	un-id German ... probably WDR-5			weak		T	MH
90.4	1025	05/02	BEL	Radio 3, Egem. Classical music	6303	RADIO_3_	good		T	MH
90.4	0043	10/02	BEL	Radio 3, Egem. Classical music	6303	RADIO_3_	fair		T	MH
90.4	0159	12/03	IRL	RTE-2, Truskmore. Rave music // 91.8			fr/good		T	JF
90.5	1025	05/02	BEL	RTBF-2 Wallonie, Liege. songs	6352	WALLONIE	good		T	MH
90.8	1026	05/02	BEL	Radio 21, Profonville. Talk			weak		T	MH
90.8	1044	05/02	BEL	RTBF-21, Profonville. Pulp song	6354		fair		T	JF
90.8	0050	20/02	G	The Oscillator, London	2334	OSC.90.8	strong		G	MH
91.0	0159	12/03	IRL	RTE-2, Maghera. Rave // 91.8			weak		T	JF
91.4	0814	12/03	IRL	RTE-2, Spur Hill (Cork City) or Holywell Hill. Rock track // 91.8			fair		T	JF
91.6	1119	05/02	F	RF-Musique, Alencon					T	TB
91.6	0200	12/03	IRL	Irish accented OM talking. NOT RTE. News			fair		T	JF
91.7	1043	05/02	BEL	VRT-1, St Peters Leeuw. Dutch OM talk			weak		T	JF
92.0	1156	05/02	F	RF-Musique, Rouen					T	TB
92.3	1043	05/02	BEL	RTBF, Anderlues. French OM, French song // 92.8	6352		fair		T	JF
92.6	1027	05/02	HOL	NOS-2, Lopik. Dutch Talk			fair		T	MH
92.7	0145	15/02	G	The Mac FM, London	59AD	_MAC_FM_	strong		G	MH
92.8	1028	05/02	BEL	RTBF-2 Wallonie, Profonville. Talk	6352	WALLONIE	fair		T	MH
92.8	1042	05/02	BEL	RTBF-2, Profonville. French OM, French song // 92.3	6352		good		T	JF
93.0	1142	05/02	F	R France Bretagne Ouest, Brest. Pop music and OM			fair		T	JF
93.2	1019	12/03	G	BBC R4, Crystal Palace					T	TB
93.6	1204	12/03	G	BBC R Cymru, Probably Pontypool. ID after news. // others			fair		T	JF
93.6	0734	17/03	G	BBC R Cymru, Probably Pontypool. // other Cymru's			fair		T	JF
93.7	2310	22/02	G	BBC R Cymru, Haverfordwest. // 93.5 Wider mod than Holme Moss hence audible either side. Definitely NOT 93.6 - on fade at the time. Heard with Welsh pop music			fr/good		T	JF
93.8	2045	11/03	G	BBC R Ulster, Brougher Mt					T	TB
93.8	1205	12/03	G	BBC R Cymru, Machynlleth. // 93.6			fair		T	JF
93.9	1030	05/02	D	un-id German ... probably WDR-4 Adverts, Weather reports			weak		T	MH
94.0	1255	05/02	?	Unid Classical/Jazz mx (behind Rouen)					T	TB
94.0	1135	05/02	F	RF-Culture, Rouen					T	TB
94.0	1626	11/03	F	RF-Culture, Rouen					T	TB
94.3	1629	11/03	G	BBC R Scotland, Black Hill					T	TB
94.4	1500	11/03	G	Sky, Wolverhampton. (pirate) Garage mx					T	TB
94.5	0650	01/04	G	BBC Ulster, Interview with Paul Logan re: the Internet.					T	TB
94.7	0046	10/02	F	Frequence Nord, Lille. Music	F905	RF_FNORD	fair		T	MH
94.7	1432	12/03	G	BBC H&W, Ridge Hill					T	TB
94.8	1130	05/02	G	BBC R4, Les Platons					T	TB
94.9	2043	11/03	G	BBC R4, Londonderry					T	TB
94.9	1200	27/03	G	BBC London Live. Replacing BBC GLR. Talk/music		BBCLondn	strong		G	MH
95.1	1031	05/02	D	WDR-3, Langenberg. Classical music	D393	_WDR_3_	fair		T	MH
95.6	1034	05/02	BEL	Radio 21, Liege. pop	6354	RADIO_21	good		T	MH
95.6	2051	11/03	G	BBC R4, Brougher Mt					T	TB
96.0	1900	29/03	G	Soul 96 FM, East London. Soul, reggae. Close to Capital 95.8			fair		G	MH
96.1	1035	05/02	BEL	RTBF-1 Premiere, Wavre. Music	6351	PREMIERE	good		T	MH
96.1	1047	05/02	BEL	RTBF-3, Wavre. Violin plucking!			fair		T	JF
96.1	1800	20/02	G	Point Blank FM, Slough. latest change of frequency		PT_BLANK	fair		G	MH
96.3	0742	17/03	G	GWR, Dundry. ID after chat, ad for Telewest			fair		T	JF
96.5	1202	05/02	F	RF-Inter, Rouen					T	TB
96.6	1033	05/02	BEL	RTBF-3, Anderlues. Classical music	6353	MUSIQUE3	good		T	MH
96.6	1045	05/02	BEL	RTBF-3, Anderlues. Classical music			good		T	JF
96.6	1108	05/02	BEL	RTBF-3, Anderlues					T	TB
96.6	2036	11/03	G	Downtown Radio,					T	TB
96.6	1900	27/03	G	Mercury FM, St Albans. Replacing Oasis FM.	C786	MERCURY_	fair		G	MH
96.8	1036	05/02	F	France Inter, Reims. song, OM talk	F201	_INTER_	fair		T	MH
97.1	0334	06/02	F	France Musiques, Mantes-la-Jolie. Classical music	F203	MUSIQUES	weak		T	MH
97.8	1145	05/02	F	France Culture, Brest. YL with film(?) music // 98.0			fair		T	JF
97.9	2200	29/02	G	Bassline FM, London. Music	0FFF	BASSLINE	strong		G	MH
98.0	1038	05/02	F	France Culture, Lille. Talk	F202	_CULTURE	fair		T	MH
98.3	1643	11/03	F	RF-Culture, Rennes					T	TB
98.4	2045	11/03	IRE	Lyric FM, Maghera					T	TB
98.6	1048	05/02	BEL	VRT-2, Egem					T	TB
99.0	2047	11/03	G	BBC R1, Brougher Mt					T	TB

99.1	1039	05/02	BEL	Radio 21, Anderlues. pop	6354	RADIO_21	good	T	MH
99.1	1051	05/02	BEL	RTBF-21, Anderlues. OM in French, pop music	6354	RADIO_21	fair	T	JF
99.1	1224	05/02	BEL	Radio 21, Anderlues. Pop mx				T	TB
99.5	1040	05/02	BEL	RTBF-3, Liege. Classical music	6353	MUSIQUE3	good	T	MH
99.8	1713	11/03	?	Unid lively FF pops/ Hardcore dance mx pres Northern France				T	TB
100.0	1900	11/03	G	Classic FM, North Hessary Tor				T	TB
100.2	1042	05/02	G	Dream 100 FM. ID and pop			weak	T	MH
100.6	1025	12/03	G	Classic FM, Crystal Palace				T	TB
100.6	2049	11/03	IRE	Today FM, Maghera				T	TB
100.8	1145	05/02	?	Unid FF Classical Mx				T	TB
101.1	1043	05/02	BEL	RTBF-2 Wallonie, Wavre. Songs	6352	WALLONIE	fair	T	MH
101.1	2103	11/03	G	Galaxy 101, Mendip				T	TB
101.3	1453	05/02	D	WDR-4, Langenberg. Oompah mx				T	TB
101.4	1044	05/02	BEL	Studio Brussel, Genk. OM Talk (Flemish)			weak	T	MH
101.8	1045	05/02	BEL	RTBF-2 Wallonie, Tournai. Songs.	6352	WALLONIE	fair	T	MH
101.8	1052	05/02	BEL	RTBF-2, Tournai. OM talking with soft pop music			fair	T	JF
101.9	1047	05/02	D	WDR-5, Stolberg. Music.	D395		weak	T	MH
102.1	1052	05/02	BEL	Studio Brussels, Egem				T	TB
102.3	1723	05/02	D	R FFN, Steinkimmen				T	TB
102.6	1056	05/02	BEL	RTBF-3, Tournai. Classical music			weak	T	JF
102.7	1133	05/02		RTBF-1, Profondeville. Presumed. French OM talking			fair	T	JF
103.5	0845	12/03	IRL	BBC R Cymru, Abergavenny. OM in Welsh // 104.3			fair	T	JF
103.7	0051	10/02	F	France Inter, Lille. Talk	F201	__INTER__	fair	T	MH
103.8	reg	reg	F	BBC R Cymru, Llanraedre-ym-Mochnant. 50 watts!			weak	T	JF
103.9	reg	reg	G	BBC R Cornwall, Redruth. Seems to pop up and down on the frequency virtually all the time during better weather conditions. Never thought I'd be able to class this one as a regular! Always very weak and mixing with BBC R Wales, Wenallt			v weak	T	JF
104.0	1145	12/03	G	BBC R4, Long Mountain. OM talk // other R4's			fr/good	T	JF
104.0	1435	12/03	G	BBC H&W, Malvern				T	TB
104.2	1715	05/02	G	BBC R Kent, Dover. Sports				T	TB
104.6	1434	12/03	G	BBC H&W, Kidderminster				T	TB
104.7	1051	05/02	D	un-id German ... probably WDR-1			weak	T	MH
104.8	1148	05/02	G	BBC Southern Counties R, Burton Down				T	TB
104.8	0732	17/03	G	BBC R4, Pontypool likely. OM talking about crops // others			weak	T	JF
105.2	0052	10/02	F	France Info, Lille. Talk	F206	__INFO__	fair	T	MH
105.7	1639	05/02	D	Hit Radio Antenna, Steinkimmen				T	TB
106.0	1049	05/02	BEL	RTBF-1 Premiere, Tounai. OM talk	6351	PREMIERE	fair	T	MH
106.2	1524	01/04	G	Mixology FM, pirate				G	TB
106.5	2251	12/03	G	Lazer UK, Liverpool.	8080	LAZER_UK		T	TB
106.6	1334	02/04	G	Youth FM, Manchester				G	TB
106.7	1258	05/02	D	WDR-1 "Einslive" Langenberg				T	TB
106.8	1046	12/03	G	Ridings FM, Wakefield				T	TB

Meteor logbook

FREQ	TIME	DATE	ITU	STATION		RDS CODE	SIGNAL	M	RP
87.6	0601	20/03	I	RAI-1, Monte Cavo (RM)	5201	RAI_ 1_	brief	M	MH
87.6	0602	20/03	I	RAI-1, Monte Cavo (RM)	5201	MF1_	brief	M	MH
87.6	0619	24/03	I	RAI-1, Monte Cavo (RM)	5201	RAI_MF1_	brief	M	MH
87.7	0106	14/02	F	France Culture, Strasbourg	F202		brief	M	MH
87.7	0059	17/02	F	France Culture, Strasbourg	F202		brief	M	MH
87.7	1119	17/02	F	France Culture, Strasbourg	F202	_CULTURE	fair	M	MH
87.7	0041	18/02	F	France Culture, Strasbourg	F202	ULTURE	short	M	MH
87.7	1412	18/02	F	France Culture, Strasbourg	F202	_CULTURE	good	M	MH
87.7	0843	20/02	F	France Culture, Strasbourg.	F202	_CULTURE	fair	M	MH
87.7	1354	14/02	SVK	FunRadio, Kosice	2311		brief	M	MH
87.7	0213	17/02	SVK	FunRadio, Kosice	2311		brief	M	MH

WHO LOGGED WHAT:

JF =	John Faulkner	Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts	Sony SA3ES tuner (modified), Triax FM8 & Antiference 3 element antennas at 10 feet agl. Fringe 20dB boosters
MH =	Mark Hattam	Hayes, Middx	Sony SA3ES tuner (modified), Triax FM8 antenna at 30ft.
TB =	Tim Bucknall	Congleton, Cheshire	Sony SA3ES tuner (modified), HS Publications antenna & Fringe Electronics 22dB booster

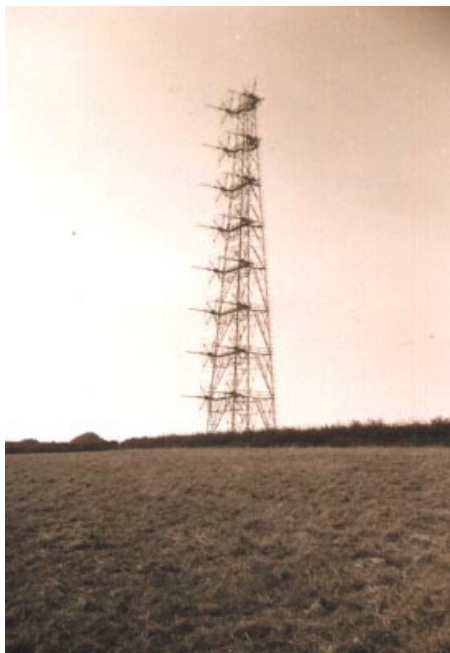
Yet more good tropo conditions – where will it end?

My Sony SA3ES still seems to be in receipt of more regular / semi-regular catches following the filter modification I mentioned last time. A new form of DXing for me involves setting the I.F. to 50 kHz and tuning off centre frequency by 50 kHz either side. The result is that I may hear a station with wider bandwidth than the local station I am used to hearing on the channel! Example: There is a 50 Watt

outlet of R Cymru on 103.8 MHz which is audible either side of my local BBC R Nottingham! Tuning to 103.8 exactly just gives me BBC R Nottingham of course. The BBC tend to be less "wide" and this may open up new DX possibilities on their channels.

Corrections: (*Hold tight!*) BBC R Solent, as logged last issue was sited at Hannington! Ian Kelly was initially concerned that it had moved closer to him in order to block vital DX channels in his area! He telephoned me to say that the location was in fact Rowridge on the Isle of Wight and told me not to worry him like that again! Sorry Ian! Also BBC R4 Pendle Forest was listed on 93.6 when it should have been 92.6. *Want any more? ... uh, alright then ...* 94.5 R Ulster should be from Divis and not Black Hill (I knew this) and on it goes... 99.4 UNID dance mix station - should have been 99.8. 100.3 BBC R1, Rowridge should have been Classic FM (no?), BBC R Cornwall should have been on 103.9 and not 103.0, finally (or maybe not) BBC R3, Sutton Coldfield (referred to in the Sony filter mod article) is on 90.5 and not 90.3. Oh no, another one – I said that my reception of BBC R4 Blaenplwyf on 104.0 was previously blocked by BBC R4 Stanton Moor on 94.2. Either 94.2 is unusually wide or there is something wrong with my tuner (or brain). I can only put the alarmingly high rate of errors down to a particularly traumatic experience I had with a yoghurt. Tim Bucknall tells me that I have used up my quota of errors for the entire year now. *Please remember to check next month for amendments to this month's section!!!*

Last month I asked if any member had any photographs of their receiving set-ups or antennas, etc., and ROGER BUNNEY responded with this piece of nostalgia:



No, it doesn't actually belong to Roger, but it is a photo of a unique and "vintage" antenna system. Roger says "This picture was taken in the early 60's at Ventnor, Isle of Wight and shows one of two forward scatter transmitting masts (perhaps one transmitted while the other received, like the WW2 Chain Home masts). The site is atop the ridge of downs on the south of the island overlooking the sea, perhaps the agl is around 600' and the aerials are aimed due south. They are adjacent to a PO radio station "Niton Radio" which had gear and masts at Niton and St Lawrence though transmitted with the generic "Niton Radio". The aerial system comprises 16 x 6 element aerials each with a 10 element reflector screen, operating around 35 MHz which caused havoc to TV receivers in the village below causing breakthrough at I.F. It is rumoured that the system transmitted into military bases in Malta. Long dismantled with the advent of satellites, fibre optic, etc. This ridge of hills, including St Boniface through to St Catherines Down, is big deal for DXing having sea paths from north-east to west. French TV from Caen (CH F2 (819 lines) used to regularly wipe out Rowridge CH B3 (405 lines). Ventnor having St Boniface at 800' directly to the north needed aerials such as double 3 elements pointing up at angles of 50-60 degrees to clear the down."

Also from Roger: "Ages ago in Television mag I mentioned that the most impressive FM DX now available that I can hear (of sorts) daily "This IS Smile FM 93.9 MHz" and is based in Manila, Philippines, in both English and Philippino. Check out with a scanner at 269.65 MHz in narrow FM (ideally around 30kHz.) On a discone with a pre-amp, it's there in the noise, but a cut-to-frequency dipole or small yagi really brings it up (apparently, I've not tried this). This is transmitted in error by one of the Fleetsatcom birds. It receives the studio transmitted link at around 320 MHz, downconverts it to 269 MHz and retransmits it as an incident signal. The Smile FM

signal is present during the day but seems to go off at night. It's weak on my discone but can fade up and down. This is on my AR2002 (Regency MX8000 clone). It's slightly better than the ICR-7000 in NBFM. AOR upgraded the 2002 to an RF performance like the 3000 model."

Thanks for this Roger. I am always impressed with members scanner loggings. I recently purchased a Fairmate HP2000 (AOR copy?) from Lowes and have messed around with various "professional" and "home brew" antennas but never seem to have any real success with it at low VHF. I managed to hear a couple of American signals around 35 MHz recently but they were barely audible. Scanning Band 2 is a little more productive – I can get in between the gaps of my locals a lot better than with the SA3es, all on the whip. I was hoping to use the scanner to detect TV vision buzz around 48.25 MHz but nowt yet!



This is a view of the FM8 attached to MARK HATTAM's house down in Middlesex. When it's not waving in the wind, it does provide a satisfactory perch for our feathered friends.



So long for another month! See you all in April – best DX until then. John

FM Newsdesk

Edited by Ian Kelly
27 Barton Road
Tilehurst
Reading
Berkshire
RG31 5NJ

Standard Deadline – 1st of every month

ALGERIA

The Website www.algerian-radio.dz currently lists the following transmitters:

RTA Chaine Thematiques:

91.5 R. El Bahdja, Oran (Red.), 10 kW
94.2 R. El Bahdja, Ras Matifou (Red.), 1 kW

Regional stations in the East:

89.7 Radio Zibans, Biskra, 0.1 kW
94.5 Radio El Hibab, Setif, 0.1 kW
97.5 Radio Annaba, Annaba, 0.1 kW
100.3 Radio Tebessa, Tebessa, 0.1 kW
(FMDX Mailing List & J. Moeschler/Reflexion)

101.0 Radio Cirta, Constantine, 0.5 kW

103.8 Radio Aures, Batna, 0.5 kW

Regional stations in South Eastern areas:

88.0 Radio Tassili, Illizi, 0.1 kW

89.7 Radio Souf, El Oued, 0.1 kW

Regional stations based in Central Algeria:

90.9 Radio Soummam, Bejaia, 0.1 kW

GERMANY

The previously satellite, DAB and cable only youth channel "**Das Ding**", from SWR, is now on the following frequencies:

Mtzingen (near Nagold) 90.5 1 kW
Stuttgart-Degerloch (TV-Tower "Fernsehturm") 90.8 2 kW
Bad Marienberg 91.3 0.1 kW
Heidelberg-Königstuhl 91.5 0.05 kW (0.5kW planned)

Koblenz 99.4 0.2 kW
Bad Mergentheim 100.5 0.005 kW
Buchen (Odenwald) 100.6 0.1 kW
Ravensburg 107.2 0.1 kW

All transmit in stereo and with RDS (but I don't know the PS and PI-code...). DAS DING is also broadcasting via ADR on ASTRA, DAB, DVB and on the web. Website: www.dasding.de. Most German public youth-radios don't use the abbreviation. of the mother-station (in this case SWR). Parts of the programme are in common with the "sister-station" UNSER DING in Saarlandon Neunkirchen 105.0 5kW, Perl/Mosel 106.2 5kW, Saarbrcken 94.2 0.5kW. Format: Dance, Trance, Techno, Rap, R&B, Modern Rock and Charts and "youth-related" news and reports. (Peter Schwarz/FM DX WebList)

But there's another new youth-station in South-West-Germany: **Big FM** is transmitting on some of the transmitters formerly used by "**sunshine-live**": Format: CHR. Web: www.bigfm.de

Stuttgart-Frauenkopf (2nd tower nr Fernsehturm) 89.5 10kW
Tübingen 89.7 1kW
Karlsruhe-Badenwerk (near river Rhine) 90.4 1kW

Ulm 99.7 1kW
Gppingen 106.1 1kW
More transmitters planned, in Pforzheim, Heilbronn, Mannheim.

Sunshine live (24h Techno/Trance) can still be heard on its "old" frequencies:- Web: www.sunshine-live.de

Mudau (Odenwald) 102.1 25kW
Hedelberg-K nigstuhl 106.1 1kW
Weinheim 107.7 0.1kW

Wiesloch 107.1 0.1kW
Mosbach 107.9 0.1kW

The replacement of sunshine-live by Big-FM on these transmitters was the answer to thousands of protest-mails/phone-ins, letters and "Anti-BigFm-homepages" in the web. As a kind of funny protest, due to 1st of April, sunshine-live announced to play only German folk-and easy-listening ("Schlager") music instead of the common programme - until 5000 protests were received! That took only about 6 hours! (Peter Schwarz/FM DX WebList)

HUNGARY

The Slovak **Hviezda FM** have paid their debt to the Authorities. So they have began transmitting again after a month's pause. PI=535F AF= 88.8/97.6/98.8/100.3.

The new Slovak commercial network has started with a transmitter from Lucenec on 101.1. PS=EXPRES, RT= Radio v Pohybe; TP=on; PI=5204. (Silvius/FM DX WebList)

ITALY

A recent bandscan from **Rome**:

87.60 RAI Radio 1 (Monte Cavo)	97.25 Kiss Kiss Network
88.60 Radio Radicale	98.10 Radio Spazio Aperto
89.35 Radio Radio	98.40 RAI Radio 3 (Monte Cavo)
89.70 RAI Radio 1 (Monte Mario)	98.70 Italia Network
89.90 Radio Espansione	98.95 Radio Nostalgie
90.30 Radio Deejay	99.30 RAI GR Parlamento (Monte Cavo)
91.20 RAI Radio 2 (Monte Cavo)	99.80 Radio Flash
91.60 Radio Montecarlo	100.00 Emme 100
91.70 RAI Radio 2 (Monte Mario)	100.30 RAI Telephone network "Auditorium" (Monte Mario)
92.00 Lattemiele	101.65 Radio Evangelica
92.40 RTL Roma	102.20 RTL 102.5
93.30 Radio Vatikan (1. European programme)	102.40 Radio Radicale
93.70 RAI Radio 3 (Monte Mario)	103.00 Radio Dimensione Suono
94.80 Radio Maria	103.45 RAI Isoradio (Monte Cavo)
96.30 Radio Vatikan (Jubilee 2. programme)	103.80 Radio Vatikan (Overseas programme)
97.00 Italia Radio	104.20 Radio Italia solo musica italiana

104.50 Radio Radio
105.00 Radio Vatikan (Jubilee 1. programme)

105.30 RDS 2 107.90 Radio 24
(Lugi Cobisi/Reflexion)

MOROCCO

Frequencies of Medi 1 :	99.60	Casablanca	103.70	Tetouan	
94.00	Nador	99.90	Nador	104.60	Agadir
94.60	Essaouira	101.10	Laayoune	105.30	Marrakech
95.60	Tanger	101.40	Fes	105.50	Meknes
97.50	Rabat	102.90	Oujda	(Reflexion)	

NETHERLANDS

On 4 April, two new frequencies on air from the Arnhem (SEP) tower:

101.5 Radio 538 with 1 kW ERP beaming west

102.0 Noordzee FM with 0.1 kW ERP beaming east.

Both transmitters are using a 3 elements Kathrein Yagi, located just below the lowest borders at 75 metres high. (Ruud Brand Netherlands/FM DX WebList)

RUSSIA

Russia has started on a larger scale to open also the lower CCIR FM band for radio broadcasting, as long as these frequencies do not interfere with local TV transmitters which share this band. In St Petersburg, there are projects for the following frequencies in the 88-89 MHz range:

88.0 - R.Varyag (ex 90.1) 88.4 - R.Metro 88.8 - R.Port-FM 89.2 - R.Monroe-FM

(Info via Alexey Osipov, St.Petersburg/Bernd Trutenau, Vilnius, Lithuania/FM DX WebList)

UK

BBC London Live goes live

The BBC have replaced **GLR** with **BBC London Live** on 94.9 in the capital. The new service started on 27 March, and now has its own programmes 24 hours a day. All the output is also available via its website www.bbc.co.uk/londonlive. The new RDS PS name is **BBCLondn** ; the PI code remains the same. (Ian Kelly)

RDS change at BBC Radio 1

For some reason, Radio 1 have changed the PS name for Radio 1 to simply **Radio_1_** . The other national services are still in the format **_BBC_R2_** , etc. (John Faulkner/Tim Bucknell)

Real Radio win the new South Wales regional franchise

Guardian Media Group have been awarded the second regional franchise for this region. Their planned service, **Real Radio**, plans a mix of music and speech, with news, sport and community information. More details can be found at their website, www.realradiofm.co.uk. The station is due to launch on 1 September, from three transmitters between 105 and 106 MHz, located at Kilvey Hill (1kW), St Hilary (5kW) and Christchurch (1kW). The former boss of Century Radio, John Myers, is overseeing the launch, and says the station's nearest rival will be Radio 2. (UK radio website)

Hertbeat win the new Hertford franchise

Hertbeat have been awarded the new franchise for the Hertfordshire town and surrounding area. Their address is: PO Box 299, Hertford SG14 3XN. The station is allowed to broadcast as soon as they are ready. (Radio Authority)

Oasis becomes Mercury FM

The St Albans station has been renamed from Oasis FM to Mercury FM. The RDS has changed to **MERCURY_** .The PI code is C786. (Mark Hattam/Ian Kelly)

Radio Ceredigion 2000 awarded re-advertised Ceredigion licence

The existing licence holder has been re-awarded the franchise for this bilingual service. The station can now broadcast until at least 13 December 2008, when the new licence expires. (Radio Authority)

Century owners receive unwelcome takeover bid

Border Television, which owns the Century group of easy listening regional radio stations, has received an unsolicited bid from Scottish Radio Holdings to take over the company. Border are urging its shareholders to reject the offer from Scottish to buy their shares. In the meantime, Border are understood to be in talks with other media groups regarding a possible merger, and top of the list appear to be **Chrysalis**, who own the Heart and Galaxy group of stations. Capital and Scottish Media Group and Clear Channel are also reported to be interested in Border. (ft.com)

Crash FM relaunch as 107.6 Juice

The small-scale Liverpool station finally crashed out of broadcasting at the end of March, to be re-launched by its owners as **107.6 Juice**. It will carry the best of indie and dance music, to include specialist programmes, and says it will "break new bands". The re-branded station gave away thousands of cartons of orange juice on the streets of Liverpool. More information can be found at the website www.liverpool.com. (UK Radio website) RDS details:- Name: Juice; TP flag: No; CT flag: No; Programme type: Varied; Radiotext: Credible Music for Liverpool A Blend of Dance and Alternative; PI: C098. (Ray Woodward/UK Radio weblist)

Bridge FM due to start testing this month

The new Bridgend station is planning to start tests in mid April, and to start programming on 1 May. They are to use a transmitter site north of the M4 motorway in Bridgend with 500 Watts on 106.3, subject to approval. (UK Radio website via Ray Woodward/BDXC-UK)

Pearson TV to merge with CLT-Ufa and Bertelsmann

The UK media company **Pearson TV** has just announced it is to merge with Germany's **Bertelsmann** and Luxembourg's **CLT-Ufa**, the owners of the RTL TV and radio stations. The merger will create a massive group worth 20 billion euro. (ft.com)

More pirates fined

In **Nottingham**, a man who operated the pirate station **City FM** has been convicted of broadcasting without a licence. He did so from his home in Netherfield. He will have to do 120 hours of community service, and pay a costs of £200, as well as forfeiting the broadcasting equipment.

Meanwhile in **Southampton**, two men were convicted for their involvement with **People's Choice Radio Service (PCRS)**. They were caught operating the station from Millbank House and had to pay fines and had the equipment seized.

Last year, the RIS prosecuted 47 people for involvement with unlicensed broadcasting stations. The average fine was £229, and costs averaged £307. 1414 raids were carried out on 239 stations. 1268 of the raids were on 167 stations in London.

Arrow FM and Sovereign Radio taken over

Conqueror Broadcasting, the owner of Sussex based local stations **Arrow FM** and **Sovereign Radio** have been taken over by Radio Investments Ltd, who have interests in 27 different UK stations. (*UK Radio website*)

North West London's Choice FM to use SBS for their transmitter

SBS has been awarded the transmission contract for the new Choice FM station covering North West London. SBS will provide a 'Total Broadcast Contract' throughout the stations licence period. The transmitter will be located at Alexandra Palace and is expected to be operational in April. (*SBS website via Ray Woodward/UK Radio*)

Discovery FM renamed Waves 102

The Dundee station has now renamed itself, following the legal action by satellite TV station Discovery, which forced it to change its name. (*Alan Glashan/Allan McKellar/UK Radio*)

New radio areas advertised and readvertisements

BURGESS HILL/HAYWARDS HEATH: 4 April was the deadline for applications for this new FM area. Applications were received from Central Sussex Radio (they've done a number of RSL's before) and Dolphin FM. (*Radio Authority*)

DUMBARTON: A small scale FM licence for this town in west central Scotland was advertised in February.

KNOWSLEY: Three applications were received for this new small scale station, for this suburb of Liverpool. In the running are KCR FM (Knowsley Community Radio Ltd), Radio KFM (The Keylink Trust) and Knowsley FM Ltd. The winner should be announced this summer. (*Radio Authority*)

MORECAMBE BAY: Five companies have applied for the franchise, currently held by **The Bay**. Aside from the current licence holder, BFM (Guardian Media Group), Easy 96.9 FM (Hallco 339 Ltd), Mountain FM (Northern Radio Ltd) and Radioworld (Soundeasy Ltd) have thrown their corporate hats into the ring.

Digital Radio (DAB)

BBC MUSIC: 'BBC Music' is a new BBC radio service now on-air via the BBC digital radio multiplex, offering the best of live concert and session recordings from the BBC archives. (*Ray Woodward/UK Radio weblist*)

ONEWORD: the 'Digital 1' service 'OneWORD' now have their name and scrolling text message running on their digital radio channel, in readiness for the imminent launch. (*Ray Woodward/UK Radio weblist*)

PREMIER FOOTBALL TEAMS PLAN TO START DIGITAL RADIO STATIONS

Radio First is entering into partnerships with a number of Premier League football teams to pave the way to clubs owning their own digital radio stations. Aston Villa, Chelsea and Southampton have already signed up, and they will have a 50% stake in their own radio stations. The agreements will last a minimum of 12 years. The stations would broadcast 24/7, with a mix of "today's best music", big prizes, regional news and information and live commentaries, phone-in's, travel and ticket information. There would also be reports from other major fixtures. Radio First are also in discussions to do similar deals with continental European clubs in digitally-advanced countries (*is there such a thing -ed?*). (*ft.com/Mark Hattam*)

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE: The Radio Authority have now advertised the multiplex franchise for this area of North West England. The operator will be obliged to carry BBC Radio Lancashire amongst the other services. The service will use Band III frequency block 12A (centre frequency 223.936 MHz).

CENTRAL SCOTLAND: The Radio Authority will advertise the latest of the new DAB multiplex licenses on 12 April. This will be the first of a tier of regional, rather than local licences. It will offer coverage of both Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the areas in between. The new multiplex will have to reserve capacity for BBC Radio nan Gaidheal. The frequency block 11D (centre-frequency 222.064 MHz) will be used.

EDINBURGH: Score Digital, owned by Scottish Radio Holdings, have been awarded the DAB franchise for Scotland's capital. The services that will be featured are as follows:-

- Contemporary Hit Radio (CHR): Forth FM (programme provider: Radio Forth Ltd.)
- Adult Hit Radio (AHR): Forth AM (programme provider: Radio Forth Ltd.)
- Pop Country: 3C (programme provider: Radio Forth Ltd.)
- Asian: Sunrise (programme provider: Sunrise Radio Ltd.)
- Modern Rock: Xfm (programme provider: Capital Radio plc)
- Male Rock: Programme provider: GWR Digital Ltd.
- 45 Plus: Saga Radio (programme provider: Saga Group Ltd.)
- BBC Radio Scotland

They intend to launch the multiplex in October this year, broadcasting from four sites: Black Hill, Craigmilly, Penicuik and Knock Hill. The multiplex will occupy VHF band III frequency block 12D (centre-frequency 229.072 MHz).

GLASGOW: The "Score" ensemble is up on 11C - Clyde/1/2/Country/QFM/Sunrise, as at 30 March, all carrying programme subject to interruption. (*posting on alt.radio.digital, via Ray Woodward/UK Radio*)

LEEDS: EMAP Digital Radio is the winner of the multiplex franchise. The featured services will be:-

- Contemporary Hit Radio (CHR): 96.3 Aire FM (programme provider: Emap Radio Ltd.)

- Gold: Classic Gold (programme provider: GWR Digital Ltd.)
- Dance: Kiss (programme provider: Emap Radio Ltd.)
- Easy Listening: Magic 828 (programme provider: Emap Radio Ltd.)
- Full service (Wakefield): Ridings FM (programme provider: Lincs FM plc)
- Modern Rock: Xfm (programme provider: Capital Radio plc)
- Adult Contemporary: Programme provider: The Wireless Group
- BBC Radio Leeds

They propose to switch on the multiplex in May 2001, initially from Morley, Beecroft Hill and Norwood Ridge on frequency block 12D (centre-frequency 229.072 MHz).

LIVERPOOL: The RA have confirmed that they can now unconditionally award the new local digital franchise to **EMAP Radio Ltd.** The winners had to modify their proposed transmissions arrangements to give better coverage in the primary transmission area. They will have to add a transmitter at Moel-y-Parc when 31% of Scousers have DAB receivers (*could be a long wait then -ed*). When the multiplex launches, there will be transmitters at Billinge Hill, St John's Beacon and Hope Hill. A list of the services to be carried were listed in January's Newsdesk. (*Radio Authority*)

LONDON: The second multiplex licence has been offered to **Switch Digital**. The shareholders in Switch Digital Ltd are: Wireless Group Ltd. 42.5%; Clear Channel International UK Ltd. 42.5%; Ginger Media Group Ltd. 10.0% and Carphone Warehouse Ltd. 5.0%. The featured services will be:-

- Classic Soul: Provider: Virgin Radio
- Adult Contemporary: Provider: to be confirmed
- Speech/Music: Provider: Wireless Group
- Classic Rock and Sport: Provider: Wireless Group
- Easy Listening: Provider: Clear Channel/Saga Radio
- Chart Hits and Club Dance: Provider: Ministry of Sound/Clear Channel
- Jazz, Soul and Blues: Provider: Jazz FM
- Traffic and Travel News: Provider: ITIS

Switch Digital proposes to commence its services from the Crystal Palace transmitter in June 2000, and from nine other transmitters, at Alexandra Palace, Bluebell Hill, Brookmans Park, Guildford, Hemel Hempstead, Northwood, Otford, Reigate and Zouches Farm, from September 2000. It estimates that the full transmitter network will provide 'outdoor coverage' of 91.6%, and 'indoor coverage' of 83.4%, of the adult population of the Greater London Primary Protected Area. The services will be transmitted on the VHF Band III frequency block 12A (centre-frequency 223.936 MHz).

NORTHERN IRELAND: The Authority have just advertised a DAB franchise which potentially could serve the whole of Northern Ireland. As there is a lack of digital radio spectrum available in Northern Ireland, and Digital One will not have a multiplex in the province, this will be the only opportunity for the current national stations to have a DAB presence, at least for the foreseeable future. However, there is no guaranteed space for the analogue national commercial stations or other digital national services - the only broadcaster guaranteed space is BBC Radio Ulster. The VHF Band III frequency block 12D (centre-frequency 229.072 MHz) will be utilised. (*Radio Authority*)

TEESSIDE: Only one application has been made for this area. It came from **EMAP Digital Radio Ltd.** We'll publish details of the services to be carried if their application succeeds. (*Radio Authority*)

RSL Update

compiled by IAN KELLY. All details are based on information from the Radio Authority, and the sources listed below. A continuously updated list, with e-mail and website addresses can be found at <http://www.cazian.freemove.co.uk/rsl.htm> . Please send any contributions to iankelly@iname.com , or 27 Barton Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 5NJ.

Updated 9 April 2000

Location	Freq Station	Date On	Date off	Telephone	Details (and contributor details)
Aberdeen	107.2 Flame FM	27/05/00	23/06/00	01224 310626	Events during Pentecost
Ashford, Kent	107.5 Scout FM	26/05/00	29/05/00	0850 730008	
Aldershot	107.0 BFN	06/03/00	02/04/00	01494 878701	Trial service for the Forces; RDS: FORCES__ PI: C095
Bedford	106.9 BCFM 106.9	22/05/00	18/06/00	01234 291000	College training and festival coverage
Birmingham	106.6 Radio Punjab	20/03/00	16/04/00	0121 773 0399	Vaisakhi
Birmingham, Castle Vale	105.2 Vale FM	15/05/00	11/06/00	0121 749 1343	Training and broadcasting experience
Blackburn *	FM B106 The Bee	early 2000			Trial (<i>Ray Woodward/BDXC-UK list</i>)
Bournemouth	106.3 Hope FM	28/05/00	24/06/00	01202 780396	Pentecost Millennium nat'l radio project
Bournemouth *	? Youth FM	28/08/00	15/09/00	01635 202 700	youth broadcasting (<i>Youth FM website</i>)
Bradford	107.3 Vaisakhi Radio	01/04/00	28/04/00	01274 669422	Vaisakhi
Buxton	106.2 Radio Buxton	31/05/00	13/06/00	01773 742928	Trial
Cardiff	106.2 Xpress FM	11/03/00	07/04/00	01222 781521	Student broadcast
Carshalton	87.7 Radio St Helier	21/05/00	17/06/00	0181 394 3066	Hospital broadcast
Cheltenham	87.7 Radio National Hunt	13/03/00	17/03/00	01295 262000	National Hunt Festival
Church Bethersden	107.5 Scout FM	26/05/00	29/05/00	0850 730008	Ashford Scouts Millennium Celebration

Costessey, Norwich	107.3 Living Water R	26/04/00	01/05/00	01603 404824 x6614	Living Water Christian event
Coventry	107.5 Phoenix Student Radio	04/03/00	31/03/00	01203 838248	Student broadcast
Crewe	87.7 Witch FM	24/04/00	21/05/00	01270 753444	Trial
Dunfermline	87.7 ASDA DM	10/04/00	10/04/00	0113 246 8266	Drive-in movie
East Dereham	107.3 Wensum FM	19/03/00	15/04/00	01362 698989	Trial for East Dereham
Edinburgh	87.7 ASDA DM	11/04/00	11/04/00	0113 246 8266	Drive-in movie
Edinburgh	107.7 Youth FM	24/05/00	11/06/00	01635 202700	National youth project
Egham	87.7 Insanity	25/02/00	23/03/00	01784 414267	RAG Week/Student Union Elections (<i>James Vertigan</i>)
Farnborough	106.8 Passion 106.8	29/04/00	26/05/00	01252 405555	College Radio
Filongley, Coventry	87.7 Mach FM	09/04/00	14/04/00	0171 402 6671	Machine Tools & Technologies Association Expo
Glasgow	105.4 Bubble Radio	20/03/00	16/04/00	07940 226550	Trial Asian Service
Glasgow	105.4 Radio Awaz	01/05/00	28/05/00	0141 576 5021	Trial Asian service/sports event
Glasgow	106.8 Clan FM in Glasgow	01/05/00	28/05/00	01698 733107	Trial service for the city of Glasgow
Grange-de-Lings	106.2 Lincolnshire Show Radio	19/06/00	22/06/00	01522 549977	Lincolnshire Agricultural Show
Grantham	106.6 Gravity FM	01/05/00	28/05/00	01476 577914	Trial service in Grantham
Gravesend	87.7 Khalsa Radio	03/04/00	30/04/00	01474 350611	Vaisakhi 2000 celebrations
Harrogate	87.7 Great Yorkshire Show	11/07/00	13/07/00	01295 262000	Great Yorkshire Show
Hastings	107.0 Hastings Rock	01/05/00	28/05/00	0797 998 2586	Fundraising
Hickling Pastures, Melton Mowbray	87.7 TWC FM	17/04/00	14/05/00	07971 400947	Trial
Ilkeston	107.7 Cavendish FM	22/05/00	26/05/00	0115 849 2111	To promote courses/enable training for media students
Kidderminster	107.2 Ace 107.2	01/04/00	28/04/00	01562 743877	Trial broadcast for Kidderminster
Leeds	87.7 LSR	13/03/00	09/04/00	0113 234 7594	Student broadcast
Leeds *	? Youth FM	21/06/00	09/07/00	01635 202 700	youth broadcasting (<i>Youth FM website</i>)
Leicester	87.7 Demon FM	06/03/00	02/04/00	0116 257 6306	student broadcast
Leicester	106.6 Vaisakhi R 2000	01/04/00	28/04/00	0116 262 8606	Vaisakhi
Leicester	95.1 Vibe FM	17/04/00	14/05/00	01702 333711	Trial broadcast in Leicester
Leicester	95.1 The Wall	29/05/00	25/06/00	0116 288 8991	Trial service for Leicester
Lisburn	107.2 Emmanuel Live	14/04/00	16/04/00	0289 266 0067	Church project
Livingston	106.9 Real radio	20/05/00	20/05/00		Trial broadcast in Livingston
London S, South Bank	87.9 Fourth Wall FM	03/05/00	30/05/00	020 7580 9977	Exhibition
London S *	87.7 87.7 Radiation	postponed			Alternative music (<i>planned February launch now put back - James Vertigan</i>)
London SE13, Manor Park	101.4 Vaisakhi 2000	01/04/00	28/04/00	0181 553 1846	Vaisakhi celebrations for Sikh community
London SE14, New Cross	101.4 Wired	22/03/00	31/03/00	0171 639 8580	Student broadcast
London SW, Wimbledon	87.7 Radio Wimbledon	20/06/00	10/07/00	01784 740062	Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships (<i>James Vertigan</i>)
London W, Ealing	87.7 TUBE Radio	29/04/00	20/05/00	020 8231 2256	Thames Valley University (<i>James Vertigan</i>)
London W, Acton *	? Justice FM	19/07/00	30/07/00		Youth radio station in association with the Metropolitan Police (<i>James Vertigan - Station DJ</i>)
Loughborough	95.1 LCR	02/03/00	26/03/00	01509 217766	Student broadcast/student elections
Luton	87.9 Luton FM	06/05/00	02/06/00	01582 734111	Educational programme
Manchester	106.6 Youth FM	02/04/00	20/04/00	01635 202700	National youth project
Manchester, Salford Quays	87.9 Radio Lowry	27/04/00	30/04/00	0161 876 2086	Opening event for the Lowry arts centre
Manchester *	? Citylife	June 2000			planned (<i>Neil Clark</i>)
Meopham	103.8 Phoenix Radio	26/05/00	29/05/00	07987 327 9310	Gravesham District Scouts Millennium Camps
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	107.2 Radio Express Newcastle	01/04/00	28/04/00	01482 659800	Trial
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	87.7 ASDA DM	12/04/00	12/04/00	0113 246 8266	Drive-in movie
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	87.7 Tesco Drive-in	15/04/00	17/04/00	0181 749 2201	Drive-in movie
Newcastle-upon-Tyne *	? Youth FM	24/07/00	11/08/00	01635 202 700	youth broadcasting (<i>Youth FM website</i>)
Newry	100.5 Radio Nova	19/02/00	03/03/00	01693 774292	Trial broadcast for Newry
Newton Abbot *	87.7*New Life Radio	29/07/00	11/08/00		trial (<i>Mike Coles</i>)
Nottingham	97.5 URN	25/04/00	22/05/00	0115 935 1122	Student service

Peterborough	87.9 Truckfest FM	26/04/00	01/05/00	01775 768661	Commercial Motor Truckfest 2000
Peterborough	87.9 Oscar Radio	02/05/00	26/05/00	01832 277129	School project
Pontypridd	106.0 Fusion	13/03/00	07/04/00	01443 482543	Student service/training
Poole	87.9 Rally FM	20/02/00	27/02/00	0181 773 3404	Information service for Rally Sunseeker
Pudsey, Leeds	106.2 Pudsey Grangefield FM	28/02/00	10/03/00	0113 229 6000	Student broadcast
Rugby	107.1 Rugby's Fosseway R	08/04/00	05/05/00	01302 341166	Trial service for Rugby
St Albans	87.9 Pilgrim Radio	23/04/00	24/04/00	01707 332321	Easter Monday Youth Pilgrimage
Sheffield	106.6 Sure FM	05/03/00	31/03/00	0114 341166	Student broadcast
Silverstone	87.7 R Silverstone	21/04/00	23/04/00	01295 262000	British Grand Prix
Slough	107.4 Apna Punjab R	02/04/00	29/04/00	0385 386603	Vaisakhi
Southall	87.7 Panjab FM	01/04/00	28/04/00	0171 792 2820	Vaisakhi; RDS: PANJAB__ PI: C095 (<i>Mark Hattam</i>)
Southport	? Active FM	07/04/00	09/04/00		Soul/dance weekender (normally uses 87.7)
Staveley, Chesterfield	87.7 Emerald Radio	27/03/00	14/04/00	01246 473873 x139	School project
Stockton-on-Tees	107.0 Live Stock	25/04/00	01/05/00	01642 666601	Simultaneous internet and FM broadcast
Street	106.6 Frequency FM	04/04/00	06/04/00	01458 844400	Training/educational broadcast
Tile Hill, Coventry	102.6 Synergy	07/04/00	29/04/00	0403 347051	Media training
Torquay	106.2 Palm FM	06/05/00	02/06/00	01803 200437	Trial service in Torquay
Verwood	106.6 Verwood Radio	20/05/00	16/06/00	01202 787740	Trial/Verwood Carnival
Wolverhampton	87.7 KIC	11/03/00	07/04/00	01902 846209	Youth training project
Worthing	106.8 Worthing Radio	15/05/00	11/06/00	01243 773600	Trial service for Worthing
Yeovil	107.7 YDR FM	20/03/00	16/04/00	01460 57772	Trial broadcast
York	87.7 Asda Drive In	03/04/00	03/04/00	0113 246 8266	Drive in movie

Youth FM is planning a number of RSL's in various areas in the UK during 2000. The year kicked off with an RSL from the Millennium Dome in Greenwich, SE London. Details of the current and planned RSL's are listed in the above tables. Their headquarters address is Manor Lane Studios, Oare, Hermitage, Berks RG18 9SE. The station also broadcasts on the internet (RealAudio) and on Sky Digital, channel 935



*Edited by David Small
17 Claygate Road
CANNOCK
WS12 5RN*

Usual Deadline – 1st of every month

Since we "missed" last month there are quite a few items of news to catch up with this time. So let's not delay any longer!

EUROPE

Turksat 1C at 42 Degrees east: Star Spor/Viva tv channel is available in the clear on 11.468 V, MPEG2, SR 22500, FEC 3/4, (V-pid: 1536, A-pid: 1537) - Turkish. (SATCO DX)

ASTRA 2 at 28 Degrees east: --The Money Channel has started unencoded transmissions in MPEG-2 on Astra 2A on 12.070 GHz. The rival Simply Money recently started on the same satellite. (Richard Karlsson in "Aftonbladet" and "LyngSat Updates")

Euronews has started test transmissions on Astra 2, using the gaps between the transmissions from the Welsh Assembly on S4C 2 on 12.129 GHz. (SCDX)

ASTRA 1 at 19 Degrees East: --Sky Box Office, Granada Breeze and dot-TV will be leaving analogue transponders on Astra 1 on April 5, while Film Four closed on March 31 (all will continue as digital channels on Astra 2). Sky Box Office events and the Adult Nightly service will still be shown in analogue. It's unsure what channels will take their place, but the rumour is that most will be German. One of these is said to be SFB 1. (Richard Karlsson in "Aftonbladet" and British Sky Broadcasting) (SCDX)

VIA 1 promo has started in the clear on 12.148 H, MPEG2, SR 27500, FEC 3/4 – German, and on 12.012 V a test from KURSAT has started broadcasting in the clear; SR 27500, FEC 3/4, from 18h-21h in Kurdish. (SATCO DX)

EUTELSAT:

Eutelsat II F1 at 48 Degrees east: SKYDSL is available in the clear on 11.554 H, MPEG2, SR 30000, FEC 5/6, - Sky Info, Internet Service, and on 11.110 H, SICILIA INT. has started broadcasting in the clear; SR 2293, FEC 2/3, (V-pid: 4194, A-pid: 4195) - Italian. (SATCO DX).

W2 at 16 Degrees east: There's a new TV station from Bosnia and Herzegovina, apparently called Intakt, on 11.148 GHz in PAL, at 15:00-16:00 hrs CET. ("satelity")

SERBIA--A new Yugoslav entertainment channel called BK & Music Interleo Show started March 5th. It transmits analogue (FTA) on 11,158 GHz every Sunday from 10:30 to 14:30 hrs (CET). ("satelity")

HOT BIRD at 13 Degrees east: On Hot Bird 4, TV Polonia has started on 10.719 GHz in clear MPEG-2. (LyngSat Updates")

Krisma has moved from 12.539 GHz on Hot Bird 5 to 12.111 GHz V, SR 27500, FEC 3/4 on Hot Bird 3, in clear MPEG2. ("LyngSat Updates")

A CBC promo is available in the clear on 11.131 H, SR 4340, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX)

A test card has been observed broadcasting free to air on 11.977 H, MPEG2, SR 27500, FEC 3/4, while on 12.476 H a BELGACOM test has started in the clear in MPEG2, SR 27500, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX)

Kursat has started broadcasting in analogue PAL, on 10.931 H, from 18h-21h, audio subcarrier 6.50. – Kurdish (SATCO DX)

TV Promo channel is in clear MPEG on 12.169 H, while BN ITALY has started broadcasting in the clear on 12.303 V, both SR 27500, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX)

Italian digital channel Mediolanum is testing in the clear on 12.540 H, SR 27500, FEC 3/4 and on 12.460 V you will find GLOBECAST MIAMI TEST in MPEG, SR 15000, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX)

CFI PECO PRO is available free-to-air on 12.245 H, SR 27500, FEC 3/4. This channel broadcasts from 05.00 to 09.00 am Pakistan time. At other times TV5 EUROPE continues its program. (SATCO DX)

On 12.111 V, SR 27500, FEC 3/4, AIT International has closed. (SATCO DX)

BNV and Sicilsat are transmitting in the clear on 12.303 V MPEG2, (SR 27500, FEC 3/4) (SATCO DX)

Viva, Viva Zwei and TV Polonia have left 12,149 V (MPEG-2), while Kanali Voulis has left 12,188 V (MPEG-2).

TV Polonia has started on 10,719 V, MPEG-2/clear. (Lyngsat Updates)

W3, at 7 Degrees east: SALON PROMO has been observed in clear on 11.658 V, MPEG2, SR 30000, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX)

BRT is available in clear MPEG on 11.492 V, SR 30000, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX)

2F2 at 12.5 Degrees west: City TV Toronto and PBS X are testing on 11.185 GHz in MPEG-2. ("Transponder News" and "LyngSat Updates") (No sign of these here. A dish of at least 1.8m is needed – Ed)

SIRIUS at 5 Degrees east: SVT Europe & TV Chile Info has been observed in clear MPEG at 12.380 H, SR 27500, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX)

TELECOM 2B/2D at 5 Degrees west: On 11.598 H, SR 27500, FEC 3/4 GLOBECAST PROMO is transmitting in MPEG2, clear. (SATCO DX)

NSS K 803 at 21.5 Degrees west: Tv digital free-to-air FEEDS have been observed on: 11.465 V, SR 5632, FEC 3/4: 11.670 V, SR 5000, FEC 3/4: 11.680 V, SR 6111, FEC 3/4 and 11.618 V, SR 20000, FEC 3/4 (SATCO DX)

Reuters London feed is available on 11.568 H, in MPEG2, SR 5632, FEC 3/4. This feed is mostly scrambled. BT Washington has been observed in the clear on 11.558 H, SR 5632, FEC 3/4, while BT WASHINGTON TEST is available in the clear on 11.500 H, in PAL.. (SATCO DX)

AKK feed has been observed in the clear on 11.525 H, MPG2, SR 6111, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX)

ARABSAT at 26 Degrees east: The Palestinian Satellite Channel has started on Arabsat 3A (26 degrees East) on 11.747 GHz in MPEG-2. ("Transponder News" and LyngSat Updates")

NILESAT at 7 Degrees west: Iraq Satellite Channel has replaced Dubai EDTV on Nilesat 101 (7 degrees West) on 11.823 GHz, in MPEG-2. ("LyngSat Updates")

SATELLITE RADIO

ASTRA 28 Degrees east: WRN--The World Radio Network has been heard on Astra 2A in MPEG-2 on 12.110 GHz (SR 27500 FEC 3/4). (Richard Karlsson in "Aftonbladet")

ASTRA 19 Degrees east: LUXEMBOURG--RTL Radio- Die Größen Oldies has closed down on Astra 1C 11.391 GHz (Super RTL), sound 7.38/7.56 MHz. This is to make room for the much delayed return of Radio Luxembourg, which shut down from that same channel on December 31, 1992. (Richard Karlsson in "Aftonbladet")

UCB will cease to broadcast on the old analogue satellite system mid 2000 (the analogue satellite network will be stopped completely in 2001 in favour of the new digital service). UCB will continue to broadcast on the SKY Digital satellite network. Digital broadcasts will begin around June 2000. Source: www.ucb.co.uk on 7th March 2000 via BDXC via Ian Kelly

SR 1 EUROPAWELLE, a free to air digital radio station, has been added to the ARD digital package on 11.837 H, SR 27500, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX)

W2 16 Degrees east: Radio Bosnia & Hercegovina is available free to air on 11.148 V, in analogue PAL, audio subcarrier 7.02 - Bosnian, from 19:00-23:00. (SATCO DX)

HOT BIRD 13 Degrees east: The Voice of America and Worldnet have changed Hot Bird frequencies from 11.422 GHz to 12.2845 GHz (MPEG-2). They've also moved from Hot Bird 1 to Hot Bird 3. ("What Satellite TV")

Radio Hrvatska is available in the clear on 12.520 V, SR 27500, FEC 3/4 - Croatian. (SATCO DX)

Radio McDonalds and Radio Italia are available in the clear on 12.673 V, SR 27500, FEC 3/4 in Italian, while Jazz Radio and Tok FM have started in the clear on 10.892 H, SR 27500, FEC 3/4 in Polish. (SATCO DX)

EPG Audio Service radio has started in the clear on 12.188 V, SR 27500, FEC _ while SUPERFOOT radio can be heard in the clear on 10.834 V, SR 27500, FEC 5/6. (SATCO DX)

UTCTMI radio test is available in the clear on 12.673 V, SR 27500, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX). *This appears to broadcast a continuous and very high pitched tone. A good test for one's hearing and one's speakers! Does anyone know the purpose of this transmission? - Ed*

SIRIUS at 5 Degrees east: Radio station RIX has started in clear on 12.380 H, SR 27500, FEC 3/4, in Swedish.

ON 1 degree west NRK Metro (radio) has a started on 12.322 GHz in MPEG-2. ("Transponder News")

INTELSAT 707 at 1 Degree west: Radio Elmar, Radio Uno, Radio Kuku, and Radio Eva have started broadcasting in the clear on 11.665 V, SR 7380, FEC 3/4. (SATCO DX)

CYBERSPACE

DENMARK--A new TV channel will be starting in Denmark in April, in English, and only over the Internet. Called TVropa, it will carry programs about film, entertainment, technology, and business news. Initially live broadcasts will be between 11:00 and 14:00 hrs daily (presumably local time, and presumably so that potential viewers can watch on their desktop PCs at work). Later the channel plans to add children's programs in Danish. (TT)

LAUNCHES

Eutelsat's Sesat is to be launched with Proton on April 4. It will be positioned at 36 degrees East. ("satelitv")

ARIANE--Eurasiasat 1 (for 42 degrees East) will be launched this summer with Ariane 5. (Arianespace via "satelitv")

ATLAS--The new launch time for Eutelsat W4 via Atlas 3A is April 14 at 23:00 UTC. ("satelitv")

INTELSAT--After NI-Alpha 1, Intelsat HAS ordered a new NI-Alpha satellite from Matra Marconi. NI-Alpha-2, will be positioned at 1 degree West (current location of Intelsat 707), and will served both Americas, Europe and Africa. ("satelitv")

Eutelsat I-F4 is moving to a new position at 33 degrees East. This satellite is inclined by as much as 5.1 degrees. All channels have now left the satellite. (LyngSat Updates")

Eutelsat I-F5 will be placed at 40 degrees East. (Joern Krieger, "satelitv")

BRITAIN

BBC--BBC Choice is to be re-branded as BBC 3 before the start of the Summer with a complete overhaul of its programming. A formal announcement of the new structure is not expected until after the British government has announced its response to the funding review chaired by economist Gavyn Davies. However, BBC Choice is already referred to as BBC 3 by in-house producers and policy makers and the re-brand is at the top of new director-general Greg Dyke's agenda. The first signs of the re-brand could appear as early as April when a new schedule is due to kick off. The digital channel, will now focus on 25-to-44-year-olds with kids TV programs and entertainment. ("satelitv")

All British television viewers will have to pay a higher license fee beginning in April to help fund the BBC's digital conversion program, Culture Minister Chris Smith said on February 21. In making the announcement, the British government rejected calls to create an additional license fee for digital television viewers. Smith said the general license fee will be raised by £3 (4.8 euros) to £104 beginning in April and then will be raised again by 1.5% above the rate of inflation each year until 2006. This will raise an additional £200 million each year. He said that the BBC would have to increase its own cost savings to make up the balance of funds for the modernisation of the public broadcaster. (AFP)

ITN is to join the BBC and Sky by launching a 24-hour news channel later this year, it was announced on Thursday. The group - which provides news for ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5 - is teaming up with NTL, the telecoms and cable company, to launch the digital service. No start date has been made public but the service will be available on three platforms - terrestrial, satellite and cable. Sky News began its 24-hour service in 1989, while BBC News 24 first broadcast in November 1997, originally on cable and now across all three platforms. (Ian Kelly)

And that's the news for this edition. Thanks go to Ian Kelly; Sweden Calling DXers, SATCO DX, Lyngsat Updates, and Stefan Hagedorn Transponder Updates. See you all next month - Dave Small.

Multi Satellite System for sale

We have received an e-mail from a non-member of the Circle who visited the Skywaves website, is looking to sell his multi-satellite system. Of course, it will be a case of buyer beware, especially bearing in mind that the person offering the equipment is a non-member, so if you are interested, you will need to satisfy yourself the equipment works as you would expect it to, and that the goods exist. We have not seen the equipment, and cannot vouch for its reliability. Here are the details supplied by our website visitor, Kev Faulkner (no relation to the General Editor):-

"My wife will be over the moon if I get rid of this system, she hates it in the garage nearly as much as when it was mounted on the front of the house!! OK, here's what I have and all I want is £30 for the lot, sold as seen, not too high a price to see the missus smile again.

1 x Sat System - Discus Eclipse 182 channels covering 3 band widths up to I believe 12.5 GHz. c/w instructions and 58 button remote control I also have a Videocrypt decoder which is separate to the system but included in the price.

1 x Sat dish 1m in size Channel Master, c/w triple band LNB capable of H/Z and also LH and RH circular reception. 18 inch actuator and ground/wall mounting and fittings.

The actuator may need replacing as it was squeaking a little prior to removal. They are about £40 - 50 I think. Apart from that it's all complete and ready to go. It will however, as I am sure you will appreciate, require a van to collect should anyone be interested.

Hope this is all the info you need, and thanks again for helping out. I'd just hate to see it end up the rubbish tip, when I know it will give an enthusiast the same pleasure it did me.

My phone number is 07801 893 995, I live in Northants area. The e-mail address is Kfaul14@aol.com "

Finally a bandscan of what's not otherwise listed for London supplied by Mark Hattam

MHz	RDS	PI	Name	MHz	RDS	PI	Name
87.50	BASHMENT	FFFF	Bashment FM	87.90			Shine 87.9 FM
87.50	RINSE_FM	8760	Rinse FM	88.40	_ICE_FM_	1234	Ice FM

88.60			Divine FM	98.10		??
89.40			London Underground	99.10		??
89.60			Flare FM	99.30		Up Front
89.80	STATION_		Station FM	99.60		Ragga FM
90.00			Mission FM	99.80		Crystal FM
90.20	PURE_MGC	1356	Pure Magic	100.30		Rinse FM
90.40	VOGUE_FM	35AB	Vogue FM	101.20	_UNIQUE_	CABC Unique FM
90.80	OSC_90.8	2334	The Oscillator	101.30	_EROTIC_	3567 Erotic FM
91.60			Genesis	101.50		Flight FM
91.80			Passion FM	101.80	FRECK_FM	79AD Freck FM
92.00			Power Jam FM	101.90		The Beat FM
92.20			Revive	102.40	S.O.L_FM	FC24 Sol FM
92.30			Deja Vu	102.50		Juice FM
92.50	TASTE_FM	DE6B	Taste FM	102.55		Galaxy Radio
92.50	_FRIDGE_	DEC5		102.80		WBLS
92.70	_MAC_FM_	59AD	The Mac	103.00		Delight 103
93.80			Vibes FM	103.20		Dreggs FM
94.00			??	103.60	_FLEX_	35AB Flex FM
94.10			??	104.00	ERUPTION	E1FF Eruption FM
94.20			Stomp FM	104.30		Rude Awakening
94.30			Sound FM	104.65		??
94.40			Street FM	105.15		??
94.60			Kool FM	105.60		??
95.20			Jammin FM	106.40		??
95.40			??	106.50		Pressure FM
95.50			Grooves 95.4 FM	106.80		Tolerance FM
95.50			Kruze FM	106.90		Jive 106.9 FM
96.00			Soul 96 FM	107.00		Shakedown FM
96.10	UK-DANCE	78FF	UK Dance	107.20		Outcast FM
96.40			Abyss FM	107.40	LUSH__FM	68AA Lush FM
97.10			Anon FM	107.60		Desire FM
97.55			Empire Radio	108.00		Afrique FM
97.90	BASSLINE	OFFF	Bassline FM	108.00	PT_BLANK	0753 Point Blank FM

Membership: Skywaves is published ten times a year - once a month, with the exception of March and December. It is now published in two forms: the conventional A4 paper version, sent by post, and the new electronic e-zine version, which can be downloaded by members only on a computer using an Adobe Acrobat reader, via the internet. Subscriptions to the British FM & TV Circle, who publish Skywaves, now run from January to November/December. The charges are as follows (based on ten issues):-
Post: 1st class UK £7.80, 2nd class UK £7.10, Europe £9.50, Outside Europe £16.90/£19.00 (please enquire which rate applies).

E-zine: Worldwide £2.00 or 5 International Reply Coupons (IRC's). There is no extra charge to join the early DX warning system.

Cheques/PO's should be payable to Skywaves. All subscriptions should be sent to 27 Barton Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 5NJ, UK. Membership enquiries should also go to this address, or can be sent via e-mail to: skywavesmembership@iname.com.

Funds from overseas MUST be made out in STERLING, and MUST be drawn on a UK bank, unless a Eurocheque is used. No personal cheques can be accepted from outside the UK. Members who join midway through the year are charged a pro-rata rate from the month of joining to November/December. We plan to have a facility for payment by the new euro, which has now been introduced.

The Deadline for all sections is the 1st of the month, unless otherwise stated. Skywaves is compiled, for the moment, using Microsoft Word for Windows 97. Electronic contributions can be sent in this, or earlier Word formats, or as plain text, or in an e-mail. Written contributions are welcomed, typed if possible. They should be sent to the relevant section editor by post or e-mail, or to the main address on the front page of Skywaves.

BRITISH FM & TV CIRCLE - WHO TO CONTACT

○ General Co-ordinator	John Faulkner	15 Boarhill Grove, Ashfield Park, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 1HF. ☎ 01623 441113. E mail skywaves@iname.com
○ Membership Secretary	Ian Kelly	27 Barton Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire. RG31 5NJ. ☎ 0118 9 614819. E mail iankelly@iname.com
○ Printing / Mailing	Mark Hattam	16 Kilpatrick Way, Yeading, Hayes, Middlesex. UB4 9SX. ☎ 020 8845 8762. E mail mark@drradio.demon.co.uk
○ Publicity	Jeff Kitching	64 Manor Farm Drive, Leeds, LS10 3RN. ☎ 0113 271 4306. E mail jeffrey.kitching@talk21.com

SECTION EDITORS

○ On Screen	Paul Logan	18 Castle Lane, Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh, BT92 0FW. ☎ 01365 721650.
○ FM Logbook	John Faulkner	15 Boarhill Grove, Ashfield Park, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire NG17 1HF. ☎ 01623 454790. E mail skywaves@iname.com
○ FM Newsdesk & Listening Post	Ian Kelly	27 Barton Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire. RG31 5NJ. ☎ 0118 9 614819. E mail iankelly@iname.com
○ FRMSEM Report	John Hickling	c/o 23 Moorgreen, Newthorpe, Nottingham, NG16 2FD.
○ Sat Scan	David Small	17 Claygate Road, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS12 5RN. E mail dave.g7wbh@psilink.co.uk

WORLD WIDE WEB: <http://www.skywaves.freemove.co.uk>