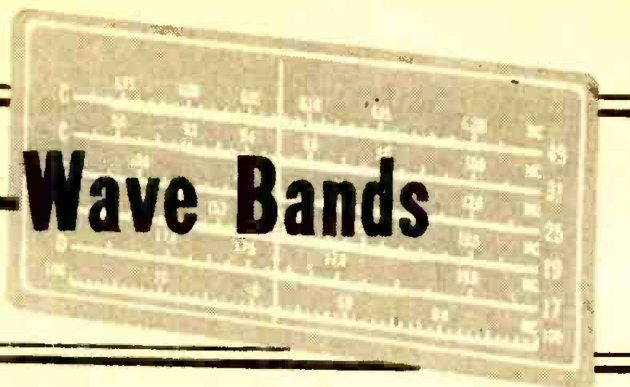


Tuning the Short-Wave Bands

=with Hank Bennett=



IT IS SOMETIMES SAID that December is one of the best months of the year for radio receiving and DX'ing purposes, because of the short days and long nights. For the DX'er on the broadcast band, it is really ideal. The transatlantic stations can be heard as early as middle afternoon by those who possess a good antenna/ground system, and, as a rule, there are no atmospherics (QRN) to mar otherwise perfect reception. Such stations as ZBM1 in Hamilton, Bermuda, on 1235 kc., and WIND, the Air Force station in French Morocco, on 1582 kc., are sometimes heard in the course of a winter evening. ZQI, Kingston, Jamaica, often overrides Chicago's WGN on 720 kc.

Reception on the shorter waves is equally as good. There is even less chance for QRN to be noted, and the possibilities of hearing untold distances are good. Signals of *Radio Moscow*, *Tokio*, *Delhi*, and other stations thousands of miles away can be brought into your shack by careful tuning. At times, some of the larger stations can be picked up at will.

During the early morning hours transpacific stations can frequently be noted, the more commonly reported ones being Wellington, Shepparton, and the Indonesians. Our friends to the south can usually be tuned best during the evening hours; such stations being *Radio Rumbos* in Venezuela; the Brazilians, and HCJB in Quito, Ecuador. Some of the patient DX'ers will pull in the South Africans during late evening hours with setting-up exercises in the Afrikaans language. One easily heard African is *Radio Brazzaville* in French Equatorial Africa. Nearly every country that broadcasts scheduled programs on s.w. has—at one

time or another—programs in English. It may only be a newscast, or a short musical interlude, or an announcement giving the station call, location, or a run-down on future programs.

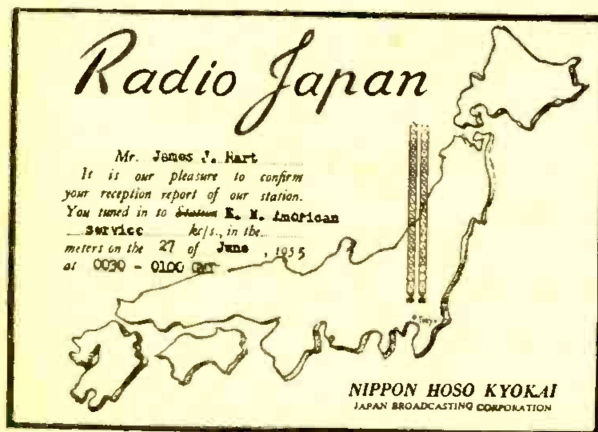
Airline Stations

As we have often mentioned in our correspondence, some countries can be heard only via the airways stations. Countries such as the Gold Coast, Rio de Oro, Curacao, and St. Vincent can best be heard on the airlines channels. Some of these countries also have short-wave outlets, but they may be inoperative at the moment, or of such low power that they serve no purpose other than for strictly local consumption. We hope, in this article, to show you when and how you can log some of these rarer countries, and even how to obtain verifications from them.

Short-wave reception is usually considered to be confined to the commonly known s.w. bands, i.e., the 49, 41, 31, 25, 19, and 16-meter bands. In the course of the past few years, many stations have begun operating in between these standard s.w. bands. Peking, for instance, has a transmitter on 10,300 kc. A few stations can be noted between 8800-9100 kc. Many of the South Americans, especially in Colombia and Venezuela operate in the 60-meter band, roughly at 4800-5100 kc., with others even further down in frequency around 3200-3500 kc. Just recently a pair of Venezuelans opened up in the lower portion of the 2000-kc. band.

But in between these newer s.w. channels are frequencies reserved for telephone stations, ship stations, and airlines. The telephone stations can be easily identified by their running marker tapes which usually transmit a message of this generalized type: "This is a telephone station of the (country or name of company) transmitting for circuit adjustment purposes." Ship stations can be found in the region of 2500-2590 kc. and can be identified by alternate speech and tone signals that resemble a telephone busy signal.

The airlines can be found in a number of places and at nearly any time of day or night. Roy Waite, the Amateur Section Editor for the Newark News Radio Club writes that he has recently logged on a frequency of 8913 kc.: Kindley, Bermuda; Churchill, Manitoba; Frobisher, Baffin Island, Gander, Newfoundland; and Shannon, Ireland. These were heard between 1155 and 1520. On 8820 kc., he has logged Roberts Field, Liberia; Accra, Gold Coast; and Dakar, French West Africa. Many

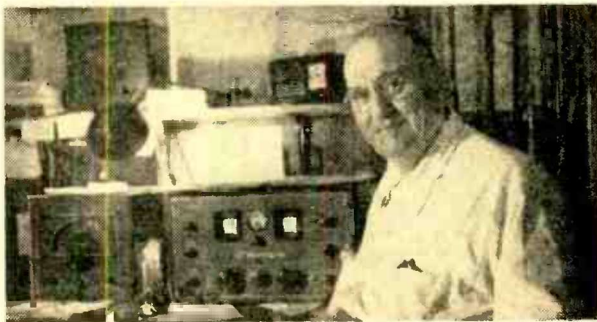


One side of this Radio Japan QSL card gives confirmation data; the reverse side is a reproduction of a water color of Mt. Fujiyama. It was sent to James J. Hart, Irvington, N. J.

were tuned on 5626½ kc. between 1651 and 2008 including Sondestrom, Greenland; Santa Maria, Azores; Goose Bay, Labrador.

Roy also points out that, unlike regular s.w. broadcasting stations, the airline stations do not maintain a regular schedule. It is a case of sticking with a frequency, once it is located. From time to time, various stations will be noted. Their transmissions, for the most part, are brief, as are the identities. Some identify by call letters, others by location. Many of the stations operate only on c.w., especially the most elusive Rio de Oro. The ones given above, however, were all logged on voice.

When writing for verifications, the best idea is to prepare a card, on which you have shown the time heard, whatever you could catch concerning the message, frequency, and—when possible—the station or plane that was on the other end. Prepare the card in such fashion that all the engineer at the station has to do is sign it and return it. Send enough return postage; the best bet is an International Re-



The layout of Harry J. Hibbard, 21 Willard St., New Bedford, Mass., is complete with a Hammarlund HQ-140 receiver and RME DB-22A preselector.

ply Coupon, obtainable at your Post Office. Also mention that you are writing for a verification and, in closing, thank them for it.

A handbook of some sort is recommended, should you plan to do any amount of listening to the airlines. An airline guide would serve the purpose with its listing of flights to and from certain points. An excellent guide is the "ABC World Airways Guide", available from the Thomas Skinner Co., Ltd., 111 Broadway, New York, N. Y. It sells for one dollar and contains information on flights the world over.

Other channels on which overseas stations can be heard are 8871, 8862, 8837, 5619, and 5604 kc. The 5604-kc. channel is a good one for stations in the Middle East, while 8837 and 5619 kc. are good for stations in the West Indies and Central America.

Try some of these channels and let your Editor know of your results. If trouble develops, write to me, or to Roy Waite at 38 Hannum Avenue, Ballston Spa, New York.

In addition to thanking Roy, we wish to thank Walter Betzendal, Moorestown, N. J., and Charles McCormick, Jr., Baltimore, Md., for their assistance in preparing this article.

Station Reports

A few months ago, we discontinued listing contributors because we felt that it took too much space. Well, Ye Olde S.W. Editor

found out the hard way that many readers were disappointed. So, once again, we will endeavor to list the names of contributors and their home towns. You will find them on page 116. Exact addresses can be had by dropping a card to the S.W. Editor.

Now into this month's batch of mail. All times are EST, based on the 24-hour clock.

Argentina—An easy catch for the past few months has been *Radio Del Estado*, LRA, 9690 kc.; heard well at 2000-2200 when they

URANIA
LA, U.S.A.

Box 525
Federic R. Kellogg

SWL W5

RADIO W2PXA
WORK

ON 19
MTR

SIGS WRE RST

RCVR: 8X-62
ANT: 131 Long, folded dipole

See Qsl Tax
Fred Kellogg

W2PXA SWL C.A.I.
QSL FROM BAHAMA, N.Y.

Shown above is the SWL card of Fred Kellogg, Box 525, Urania, Louisiana.

sign off with their Anthem and "Lights Out." The fights can be noted Saturdays around 2130. (DC)

Australia—*Radio Australia*, 9615 kc., Melbourne, is heard in Eastern USA in English at 0655-0845, with news at 0715. For Western USA, it is heard at 0714-0815 and 1850-2015, with news at 0730. On Saturdays at 2000, the "Australian DX'ers Calling" program is heard. (CG)

Brazil—PRA8, 11,865 kc., *Radio Clube de Pernambuco*, Recife, is good at 1745-1830 with music and religious programs, and announces as "Estacoes da Radio Clube de Pernambuco em onda media e curta." (PM)

British Honduras—*Radio Belize*, ZIK2, 3300 kc., can be heard at 2000. Despite the low power and frequency, this station appears to be widely heard. (BW)

Canada—The new English schedule for *Radio Canada* is: to USA at 2015-2045 on CKCX, 15,190 kc., and CKLO, 9630 kc.; to Australia at 0345-0415 on CKLO, 9630 kc., and CKNA, 5970 kc.; to Europe at 1530-1600 on CKCS, 15,320 kc., and CHOL, 11,720 kc. All transmissions are daily. (PJ)

Egypt—Cairo, on 9790 kc., is often heard at 1900-2000 s/off, identifying as *Huna el Kahera*. The program is Oriental music with Arabic announcements. (FK)

Cairo is also noted Saturdays from 1200-1400 on 9475 kc., and evenings on 11,670 kc. They QSL promptly. (MF)

El Salvador—YSS, 9555 kc., can be heard around 2000 in English with what appears to be English lessons. (JR)

England—The General Overseas Service is noted on 15,310 kc. at 1600-1815 and on 11,930 kc. at 1815-2200. Every Tuesday, the request program "Listener's Choice" can be heard at 1715-1745 on 15,310 kc. (JB)

(Continued on page 112)