



The WORLD on SHORT WAVE

Conducted by the N.Z. Shortwave Club

Club Notes

From the Secretary's Pen.

(By A. B. McDonagh, Sec., N.Z. S.W.C.,
4 Queen St., Wellington).

IN this issue I am conducting an imaginary broadcast; our Questions and Answers sessions. The questions are taken at random from letters sent me by listeners.

Q.: What do you mean by metres?

A.: To the regret of us old-timers, the term metres is becoming obsolete. We have now to become accustomed to the terms kilocycles and megacycles, in which the modern receiver is calibrated. Conversion charts from metres, etc., will be found in the "Radio Guide."

Q.: Why cannot we receive all the stations shown in the list?

A.: A big question. Daylight may affect the signals; or skip distance, seasonal and climatic conditions, or aerials specially arranged to broadcast in one direction. Some stations, particularly the South Americans, come and go, and change their wavelengths and calls. Some may not keep to their schedules.

Q. How is it some listeners are always logging new stations?

A. They get to know the wavelengths and schedules of the regular reliable stations; and then it is a simple matter to scout around for strangers.

Q.: How can I work out times in different parts of the world?

A.: By means of a "Radio Times" Time Converter or DX Clock. To convert Eastern Standard time to New Zealand time, first add five hours to make it Greenwich mean time, then add 11½ hours to convert it into N.Z. mean time. (If we are on Daylight Saving, add 12 hours.) Thus, midnight E.S.T. Sunday is 5 a.m. G.M.T. Monday, or 5 p.m. Monday N.Z. Summer Time; that is, we are 17 hours ahead of them.

Q.: How is it that I saw the results of the Grand National in the papers before it was broadcast from Daventry?

A.: You did not; the event was broadcast at the time, but on another transmission. What you heard was a recording taken for broadcasting at times suitable for different parts of the Empire.

Just now I am on a campaign for 200 members, which will enable certain extensions of club work to be undertaken. With the approach of winter, listeners all over New Zealand are commencing to settle down to their receivers again, and we are enrolling quite a few newcomers.

Conditions during the past few months have been good, and are becoming quite like old times again. Of course, with progress, we have many more electrical devices, such as trams, cars, motor-cars and other little trifles to pick up on the receiver these days. Aeroplanes, also, are a source of complaint for some people living near their favourite flying routes. The advent of the modern all-wave receiver has brought many to the fold, but we find that there are still very many people who do not know how, when and where to tune for stations.

Television may not be so far away as some people imagine, for great strides have been made in this direction. However, the B.B.C., with very commendable forethought, have wisely decided that when they commence operations they will present a very reliable service. That is why we have not had an incomplete service rushed on the market. So far as we can foresee, a knowledge of tuning a shortwave receiver is very essential. Also, if static will cause "blotches," what about our army of

"howlers," some of whom remain "howling" on shortwave stations right throughout the programme's? It is now time that owners of sets using reaction sought advice on how to tune without interfering. If the speech or music is very indistinct or blurred, there is evidence of something radically wrong which could be put right for them by an experienced listener.

Shortwave Jottings

(By Ian K. Henderson, member of
N.Z.S.W.C., Wellington.)

MANY owners of all-wave sets experience difficulty in tuning in to overseas shortwave stations, principally through not knowing the best time for reception. Call books certainly give the station's schedule but do not state the time for the most favourable reception.

A further point to consider is that conditions for short-wave reception are constantly changing; for instance, Europeans in winter are very difficult to receive at night, but are comparatively simple in the day-time. In summer it is the reverse. An all-wave set owner must therefore keep in constant touch with the latest short-wave news to get the best results.

Reception lately has, on the whole, been very good, particularly of the Europeans. Below are a few hints when to receive stations to get the best results.

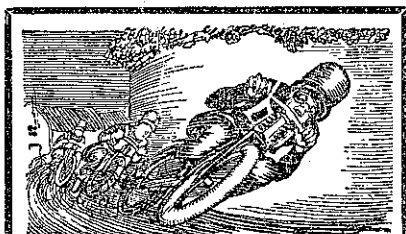
At 7.15 p.m., Daventry is well received on GSB, 31.5 metres (9.51 meg.) and GSD, 25.5 metres (11.75 meg.), the former being the better. At present their session lasts from 7.15 p.m. to 9.15 p.m., but, in April, will be commencing an hour earlier.

VK3LR, 31.32m. (9.58 meg.), relaying 3AR or 3LO, Melbourne, commences at 8.15 p.m. This station is now received very well, but in the winter time is irregular.

Two stations owned and operated by A.W.A. are consistently heard at excellent volume. They are VK2ME, 31.28m. (9.59 meg.), situated in Sydney, and VK3ME, 31.5m. (9.51 meg.). The former is heard at 10 p.m., Sunday, and also late on Sunday afternoon. VK3ME have their sessions at 10 p.m. to midnight each Wednesday and Saturday.

DJN and DJB, the German stations, start at 8.45 p.m., but are not heard with reasonable strength until 11 p.m. News in English is given out at midnight.

London is on the air again at 11 p.m. the call signs being GSE, 25.28m. (11.86 meg.), and GSF, 19.82m. (15.14 meg.). GSE is fairly good, but GSF is rather weak.



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