

Short-wave News

Johannesburg Short-waver.

THE new short-wave station in Johannesburg, South Africa, transmits on a wavelength of 49.4 metres. They are on the air between 5 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. every day, and from midnight most days. (N.Z. Summertime.)

VK2ME, New Schedule.

VK2ME, Sydney, commencing on Sunday, November 29, will transmit their international week-end programmes at the following—N.Z. Summertime: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., and 2.30 a.m. to 4.30 a.m. This schedule will operate till further notice.

Revised Schedules—W2XAD and W2XAF.

THE General Electric Company, Inc., Schenectady, New York, report the following revised schedules for their short-wave stations:—

W2XAF, 31.48 metres—Daily between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

W2XAD, 19.56 metres—Daily between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. (both N.Z. Summertime). Both stations go on the air at other times for special transmissions.

VQ7LO, Nairobi.

THE East African Broadcast Co., Nairobi, Kenya Colony, British East Africa, advise that VQ7LO broadcasts on a wavelength of 49.5 metres, with a power of 2½ k.w., as follows:—Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 3.30 a.m. to 7 a.m.; Wednesday and Friday, 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m., and Fridays, 12.30 a.m. to 1.30 a.m.

B.B.C. Receivers.

AN article of general interest to all radio listeners appeared in a recent issue of "Popular Wireless" (England), describing the receiving apparatus used by the British Broadcasting Corporation. The following is an extract, relating to their short-wave work:—

"The engineers make their own apparatus for outside broadcasts. There are some special occasions, such as the Boat Race, when it is quite impossible to use a land line link between the outside broadcast microphone and the control room. Then the radio link is brought into use, and the B.B.C. uses short-wave receivers to pick up the transmissions, which are afterward passed on by normal land-line to the control room.

"At one time it was usual to have short-wave super-sets, for this radio link work, but now they have been discarded in favour of Reinartz sets.

The specification will interest short-wave enthusiasts. An L.S.5.B. valve is used, as the detector with anode-bend rectification. The tuning condenser is of .0002 capacity and by means of an an iron-cored choke, a .5 mfd. coupling condenser and an ordinary L.F. transformer, the detector is coupled to the following low-frequency stages. With a receiver of this kind the B.B.C. "A" amplifier, a four-valve having resistance-coupled stages and embodying a tone control, is used. The output of this is more than sufficient for the land-lines through to the control room and this gives a latitude should it be necessary to shift the tone to suit the characteristics of the

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THIS page is conducted in the interests of shortwave enthusiasts. A weekly log comprising notes of reception and interesting topical events is contributed by Mr. F. W. Sellens, Northland, Wellington, but all listeners are invited to send in paragraphs of general interest.

line. For instance, if any particular line does not transmit bass well, the tone is shifted in just the same way that a tone control is varied in a radio-gramophone, and the tone is shifted up at one end of the line and down at the other. In this way low-note distortion is prevented.

Power for the amplifiers and the detector stage is provided by means of a bank of accumulators. The B.B.C. still relies on large-capacity accumulators for high tension, low tension, and grid bias, and although these are rather cumbersome, provision is made in the O.B. van (outside broadcast) for accumulator-fed supplies for each circuit.

VK6AG, Perth.

ONE of the "Night Owls" heard VK6AG one morning during the past week on about 41.5 metres, between 3 a.m. and 3.30 a.m., at good volume. Mr. W. E. Coxon, the operator of this station, is the engineer in charge of the "A" class broadcast station at Perth, and fills in his spare time at his own station. The writer used to hear him often about four years ago on 32.9 metres, when records were often heard, before midnight, at good strength.

Log for Week Ending
November 21

RV15, Siberia, 70.1 metres: Still one of the best. On Wednesday as early as 7.30 p.m. they were R8. They appear to have a Chinese session each evening soon after 8 p.m., when Chinese music and talk is often heard.

55.8 Metres (about): Just after midnight on Saturday, music at R8. Static was too bad to get a call, but it was probably one of the stations in Java.

VK3LR, Melbourne, 51.5 metres (about): Tuesday, 11.15 p.m., R8-9 with music; static was very bad; then ZLW commenced on 52 metres, and that settled it. Thursday, 8.50 p.m., they were R9; static again was very bad.

HVJ, Vatican City, 50.26 metres: Do not hear much of this station now; the time is not convenient. Wednesday, R8 with talk at 7 a.m.

RW59, Moscow, 50 metres.—Varies a great deal. Tuesday, no sign till after 7.30 a.m., when they were very gushy at R5. Thursday at 6.30 a.m. signals were R9. Friday, a little weaker at this time, and only R3 on Saturday at 6.45 a.m.

W9XF, Chicago, 49.83 metres.—Till 5 p.m. volume is poor, but rapidly increases to about R9 by 6 p.m., which is the maximum time just now.

ZL2ZX, Wellington, 49.5 metres.—Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings and Saturday afternoon. Excellent at R9.

W8XAL, Cincinnati, 49.5 metres.—Reaches R8-9 by 5.30 p.m. Best at 11.30 p.m., when volume is usually R9.

W8XAL, Boundbrook, 49.18 metres.—Reaches R8 by 5 p.m., but has been noisy lately.

F3ICD, Saigon, 49 metres.—Tuesday, 11.15 p.m., excellent at R9 with records till 11.30 p.m., when, after the call is given, native talk and music is heard. Saturday, R9, with one stage of audio at midnight.

HKC, Columbia, 47.84 metres.—Sunday, 4.45 p.m., R5. Static and gushiness bad.

W8XL, Boundbrook, 46.89 metres.—Sunday, R8 at 4.30 p.m., increasing to R9 by 5.30 p.m.

REN, Moscow, 45.38 metres.—Tuesday, R8 at 6 a.m., decreasing to R3 by 8 a.m. Friday, only R5 at 6.30 a.m. Other mornings very poor.

PLW, Java, 31.86 metres.—Midnight on Saturday, records at R9 till 12.20 a.m., when Amsterdam was called.

VK2ME, Sydney, 31.28 metres.—R9 till 12 p.m. on Saturday.

W2XAF, Schenectady, 31.48 metres.—Weak till after 3 p.m., but usually reaches R8-9 by 4 p.m.

Zeesen, Germany, 31.38 metres.—Heard for a few minutes on Thursday and Friday, when they were R2-3 at 6.45 a.m. This is the best I could get them during the past week.

W1XAZ, Springfield, 31.35 metres.—R3 at their best about 4.30 p.m.

VK2ME, Sydney, 31.28 metres.—Their week-end transmissions were as usual, R9, with severe fading.

G5SW, Chelmsford, 25.53 metres.—Very weak now at 7 a.m., and disappears entirely soon after this time.

12RQ, Rome, 25.4 metres.—Varies each morning, Tuesday at 6.20 a.m. they were R9, decreasing to R3 by 7.45 a.m. Wednesday, at 8.30 a.m., they were R8-9 and weaker earlier. Other mornings reception was very poor all through.

W8XR, Pittsburg, 25.25 metres.—Sunday, R8 from 8.30 p.m. till 4 p.m. Tuesday, 7.45 a.m., R5, but gushy.

FYA, Paris, 25.2 metres.—Best about 6 a.m., when they are about R8, going off to very weak by 8 a.m. They have been troubled by rapid fade lately.

24.7 Metres (about).—A Java station, I expect, as Amsterdam was called on Saturday at midnight, after some music had been well received at R9.

W2XAD, Schenectady, 19.56 metres.—Monday, R4, with slow fades at 8.30 a.m. Tuesday, only just audible at the same time; other days no sign of this station.

Higher Power for Radio
Stations

THE American Radio Commission has made tentative grants of increased power to certain radio stations. The increase is to 25 kilowatts, with an additional 25 kilowatts experimentally. The stations affected are:—WOR, Newark, N. Jersey, 710 kc., now 5 kw.; WCAU, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1170 kc., now 10 kw.; WSM, Nashville, Tennessee, 650 kc., now 5 kw.; WSB, Atlanta, Georgia, now 5 kw.; WCCO, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 810 kc., now 5 kw.; WHO-WOC, Des Moines, Iowa, 1000 kc., now 5 kw.; KOA, Denver, Colorado, 830 kc., now 12½ kw.; KSL, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1130 kc., now 5 kw.; KPO, San Francisco, California, 680 kc., now 5 kw.; WHAM, Rochester, New York, 1150 kc., now 5 kw.; WHAS, Louisville, Kentucky, 820 kc., now 10 kw.; WBT, Charlotte, N. Carolina, 1080 kc., now 5 kw.; WAPI, Birmingham, Alabama, 1140 kc., now 5 kw.; KVOO, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1140 kc., now 5 kw.; KFAB, Lincoln, Nebraska, 770 kc., now 5 kw.

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