

Short-wave Notes

U.S.A. Hams on 80 Metres.

A GROUP of the seventh district "hams" are having a test during the next few weeks with the view of being heard on telephony in New Zealand. Commencing about the first week in February they will be on the air each Tuesday and Friday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., New Zealand summer time, until the end of March.

The stations taking part in this trans-Pacific phone test are as follow:—

W7APD, 3515, 3530 and 3542 k.c., 200 watts.

W7BCI, 3517 k.c., 300 watts.

W7AOO, 3510 k.c., 30 watts.

W7BBH, 350 k.c., 50 watts.

W7AEH, 3502.4 k.c., 30 watts.

Full reports of reception of any of these tests will be welcome and should be addressed to Mr. J. G. McKay, W7APD, Rainier, Oregon, U.S.A. Mr. McKay, who has taken much trouble over inaugurating these tests, will forward reports to the station concerned, and prompt replies are promised. Mr. A. P. Morrison (Wellington) kindly supplied the above information.

G5SW, Chelmsford.

A NEWS and musical session is now broadcast from G5SW on Saturday midday (midnight here).

Hear America via Germany.

SEVERAL German broadcast stations have begun regular relays of the American short-wave transmissions. A different day is chosen each week; the time is usually between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., New Zealand time.

French Colonial Broadcasting.

A LETTER from "Radio Paris" in reply to a report on reception of FYA says:—

"Our emissions are made at the present with an antennae power of about 12 to 14 kilowatts at the following hours (New Zealand summer time): 2.30 to 5.30 a.m. on a wavelength of 19.68 metres with a broadcast more particularly for the colonies in Asia; 6.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. on a wavelength of 25.2 metres for Africa; and from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on a wavelength of 25.63 metres for America and Oceania."

The address for reports is: Director of Radio Diffusion Service, Ministère des Postes, Telegraphes et Telephones, 103 Rue de Grenelle, Paris.

Log for Week Ending Feb. 7.

RV15, Siberia, 70.1 metres: Continues to be quite good each evening. Volume is even better after midnight than earlier.

HVJ, Vatican City, 50.26 metres: R8-9 most mornings at 7 a.m.

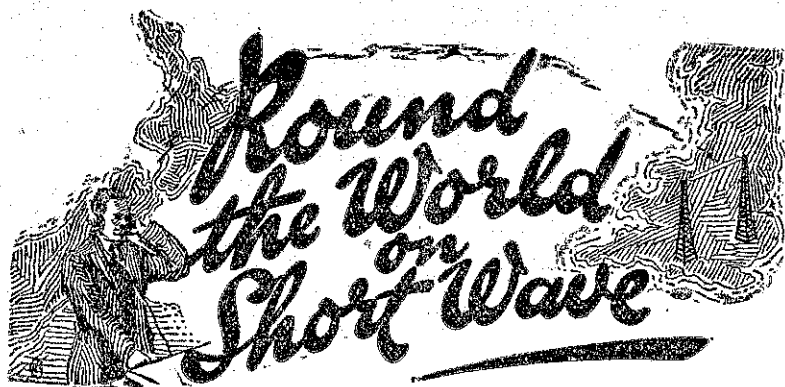
RV59, Moscow, 50 metres: Good volume till after 6 a.m. They close soon

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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.

after 6 a.m., reopening at 7 a.m., when volume is about R6, gradually becoming weaker, seldom audible after 8 a.m. now.

W9XF, Chicago, 49.83 metres: Best at 6 p.m., but seldom better than R8, and always with plenty of background noises.

ZL2ZX, Wellington, 49.5 metres: Although a local station, reception varies in the different suburbs at about equal distances from the transmitter. Here in Northland, 2ZX is quite good, but at Lyall Bay it is reported to be unsteady.

W8XAL, Cincinnati, 49.5 metres: Sunday was a fair sample of this station. 5 p.m., R2, increasing to R7-8 by 5.30 p.m. By 6 p.m. volume had reached R8-9, remaining at this till signing off at 6.30 p.m.

W8XAL, Bonadbrook, 49.18 metres: Very weak till after 5.30 p.m., when volume rapidly increases to about R9 by 6 p.m., when they close.

F31CD, Saigon, 49 metres: One of the best stations for late listeners from 11.45 p.m.

W3XL, Bonadbrook, 46.69 metres: Sunday, 4.30 p.m., R4, increasing to R7, but very gushy all the time.

33.3 metres (about): Friday, at 11.35 p.m., the Dutch National Anthem, at R5. Static was very bad. Dutch talk followed.

33.3 metres (about): At 4.45 p.m. on Sunday, music was heard at R5. Reception was too gushy to get a call.

Radio Maroc, Rabat, 32.25 metres: Monday, 8.15 a.m., orchestral music at R8-9. Reception was quite good, except for medium static and a slight slow fade.

PLV, Java, 31.86 metres: I have always given this station the call letters PLV, but heard them give the call at PLV when calling Sydney one evening during the week. Records can be heard most evenings at good volume, when not in communication with Sydney.

VE3ME, Melbourne, 31.55 metres: Wednesday and Saturday, from 10 p.m., at excellent volume.

W2XAF, Schenectady, 31.48 metres: First audible soon after 3.30 p.m., increasing to about R8 by 4 p.m., when they close. On Saturday night, or rather, Sunday, at 12.25 a.m., they opened with a bugle call and "Good morning, everybody." Physical exercises from then till 1 a.m. were received at R9. Just after 1 a.m. they called "2ME, Australia."

Zeesen, Germany, 31.38 metres: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, starting at about 7 a.m., when volume is the best, but not good yet—R7 at their best.

W1XAZ, Springfield, 31.35 metres: Not much to hear till about 4 p.m., when signals slowly increase to about R8 as a rule.

VK2ME, Sydney, 31.25 metres: Sunday, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and again from 10 p.m. at R9, with very severe fading.

G5SW, Chelmsford, 25.53 metres: Each morning, when audible, reception has been spoiled by their usual rapid fade. On Friday morning, at 12.30 a.m., they were very weak, only just audible, but on Sunday, at the same time, a R8 carrier was there. Nothing else was heard till 12.45 a.m., when Big Ben struck the three-quarters (12.45 p.m.). The news service followed at R8-9, but rapid fade spoiled readability. At 1 a.m. volume was down to R7.

12RO, Rome, 25.4 metres: Monday, 7.40 a.m., lady announcer talking. R4, very gushy. Thursday, same time, R7 (not audible at 7 a.m.). Saturday, 7.50 a.m., R8, very gushy. These were the only mornings I heard 12RO, but it looks as though reception is improving with this station.

W8XK, Pittsburg, 25.25 metres: Sunday, R5 at 3.45 p.m., decreasing to R2 by 4.45 p.m. Saturday, 2.45 p.m., R5 to R8 when signing off at 3 p.m.

FYA, Paris, 25.2 metres: Reception varies. Tuesday, 6 a.m., R8-9, with rapid fade, down to R4 at 6.45 p.m., and then up to R7 by 7 a.m. Soon after this they faded out. Wednesday and Thursday were similar, while on other mornings they were not audible or very weak.

W2XAD, Schenectady, 19.5 metres: At one time this station was received quite well, but it is a long time since this call appeared in these notes. On Friday at 7.50 a.m., they were R3 for a short time, with slow fades.

N.Z. Short-wave Club Notes

MY new location appears to be better from a reception point of view, and it is a relief to be away from the interference from trams, motor-cars, and power-lines. I am indebted to Mr. E. Hackett for assistance in getting up a "string." The one we have is north and south, about 80 feet long, sloping down to the lead-in. For short-wave we will be trying a different aerial.

With the rapid growth of the club, a telephone is now a necessity, and, when it is installed, it will save city and suburban members many a journey.

One member has set himself the task of regularly patrolling a certain beat be-

tween two coils, and thus noting new arrivals and conditions in that locality. With the advent of the telephone and a few members on duty we should be constantly in touch with what is going on. By dividing the city into districts a ring to one man in each would notify all those within call of him when there is anything special on.

A well-known amateur sends me a collection of reports he has received; some are excellent, but some are atrocious, and gave no information whatever. The amateurs spend a great deal of cash on their equipment, and it is not fair to expect them to spend more money in getting cards printed to send to everyone who writes and asks for them. A collection of cards is evidence of prowess in the art, but they should be honestly earned by means of a good report. Don't forget to enclose stamps for reply, do not enclose an envelope unless it is of large size, big enough to hold a card; these chaps have to earn their living as well as we have, and to post fifty cards costs money.

A schoolboy writes in to tell me that he has had a valve given him, can I tell him how to go about rigging up a set.

Generally speaking, reception seems to be quite OK recently, and it looks as though we shall have a good season. Great attention is being paid to some of the overseas stations in view of the possibility of news from the Far East. Judging from overseas papers, we seem to be doing quite all right when it comes to short waves, and, to receive a report from New Zealand means much to most stations.

Our club's activities are attracting attention abroad, and, as time goes on, we hope to be able to justify our existence. We now have members in America, England, Scotland, and Holland, besides at sea.

Membership of the club is open to all, and we have reduced our subscription for the remainder of the year to 3/- for all outside of Wellington, new members to receive a list of times, calls, wavelengths, etc., with their certificate, and I send out a monthly letter to each member consisting of several closely typewritten pages. Fill postal notes in and keep the butt; this protects us both.

Please note my change of address, which is now: A. B. McDonagh, Secretary, New Zealand Short-wave Club, 4 Queen Street, Mount Victoria, Wellington. Yours fraternally,—MAC.

WHEN atmospherics are spoiling short-wave reception they can often be reduced enormously by slackening off the aerial coupling.

TO hide screw holes in cabinets, collect the dust obtained when sandpapering and mix this with seccotine, which makes an excellent filling.

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