

Masset 29 December 2010. First evening.

I arrived in Masset just after 11:00 this morning (the 28th). We were warned in Vancouver that we could be diverted to Sandspit due to snow. There was also going to be a 80 knot wind resulting in a major delay, and possible diversion to Port Hardy for few. Luckily, none of these happened and we arrived to a cold, but mostly sunny Masset (around -4 with a dusting of snow) only a few minutes after our scheduled time. Getting up and running turned out to be a little harder than in the warmer months! One of the fiberglass telescoping poles was frozen closed so had to be removed for thawing. Also, the various ropes, etc were quite stiff. We finally got the NW BOG, ALA 100 (NE/SW) loop, and the Wellbrook array (aimed to Europe) up just around local dusk. Initial findings were not terribly promising. This was understandable when I heard the very disturbed A/K indices. Darn, this wasn't what I had been hoping for. Still, later in the evening around 03:00 or so, the stronger Europeans from UK, Spain, France and Germany were occasionally present with poor to fair audio. Nothing exciting at all, though. I did play for a bit on the shortwaves, as the ALA is a fabulous all around antenna, and again didn't let me down!

Well it's now 00:18 on 30 Dec. The solar indices according to WWV are: SF 83 A- 4 K(0:00) 0, so an improvement from the terrible indices last night. So far today there's been nothing propagating on MW. Here's hoping that the trans-Polar track will open up for a day or two before I leave next Tuesday. Usually, I'll get a couple of really good nights to Europe per week here, but that's about it. A big difference compared to Asia which is guaranteed every morning!

This morning I hit the dials at 5:30 AM local or 13:30 UTC. The usual Asiatics were present. Over the next several hours, I didn't hear anything particularly exciting. Definitely, there were no openings to India. The entire band was open, though to China, Korea and Japan. I noted that the NHK2 stations signed off this morning at 14:45. A welcome return to 1575 was AFN from Japan, which I've not heard for a couple of years. HLAZ on 1566 remained strong for hours. I noted no Russian at 17:30, but instead an English language lesson, which continued past 18:00. This is new for me. 1575 was fascinating, as it had at least 5 carriers: 1575.000, 1575.033, 1574.991, 1574.943, and 1574.928. Also interesting was 1521 where I counted 8 or 9 transmitters between 1520.9 to 1521 at 15:15. Overall, the signals were not really strong, so I had to work at getting at many of the TP channels!

So far, I've erected 3 antennae: My large diameter ALA100 loop oriented NE/SW, the Wellbrook array aimed 37 degrees (the delta loops were enlarged to box shape during the last DXpedition in September to improve the signal strength), and a 220 m BOG aimed to the NW. I haven't decided whether to put up the QDFA, as it's a lot of work, and conditions are not ideal outside (snow, and cold temperatures). I suppose I'll do so if the itch hits! I could also put up another BOG if desired as well.

At 00:34 (4:34 PM local), 1215 is just barely visible on the Perseus. Unless something drastic occurs, I'm not expecting any miracles tonight! Time for some dinner before a return to the dials. This afternoon, I was very tempted to go surfing. Very nice 6' waves offshore. I came close!

After Dinner: from 02:00 UTC 30 December 2010

Back at the dials now at 6:00 pm local, and it's pitch black outside. No stars unlike this morning, and it continues to be rather cold (about -6 deg C tonight). The MW band has not really improved compared to last night so far. 1575 has a hint of audio. Just barely. A number of TAs in audio including 1422 DLF, 1278 France Bleu, 1269 DLF, 1215 Absolute Radio, 1125 presumed Spain (probably the best of the bunch), 1089 Talksport, 1053 Talksport, 873 unid (lot's of splatter), 819 weak unid, 693 ?BBC Radio 5 Live, 657 ?Spain or Russia, and 531 prob Faroe Is. Iceland on 189 heard fairly well last night is absent up to 02:30 tonight. There does seem like there are plenty of carriers....perhaps by tomorrow, these will transform into real stations!

03:00

Wow, 999 Tiraspol carrying, I believe local programming in Russian. At times fairly good, but still suffering from KOMO 1000 splatter. 963, presumably Pori, Finland is also just above threshold.

30 December, 2010: After the TP morning.

All I can say is, what a difference a day makes! Wow, things were really hopping from the moment I hit the dials until I stopped many hours later. Conditions completely turned around last night with audio on 99% of the channels, and understandable at one point or another during the morning. It seems that it was a totally Asian morning, with no hints of Australia, nor exotica like India, Bangladesh, or Sri Lanka that I could ascertain. I began listening at 13:54 UTC (5:54 AM local), and continued past 18:00....a long haul for sure! The cold and snow gave way to above zero temperatures and the snow rapidly melting off the roof and ground. This led to a problem when I noticed after the session that water had leaked down the PVC conduit that feeds the coax under ground and into my shack. This necessitated removing the various runs of coax and then running a rope with a towel wrapped around it back and forth to get all of the water out of the conduit. I then glued a 45 degree conduit in place which is now above ground and will prevent water infiltrating the system again. The coaxes were then carefully reintroduced and attached to the various splitters in the shack. While at it, I also ran an experimental raised mini-Beverage of about 450' aimed NE/SW (40/220 degrees). I'll see how that one will work tonight and tomorrow morning. I've yet to erect the Quad array, and kind of doubt that I will. It's a good 2 or 3 hours to get things up and running, and with the cold, wet weather, and very short days, I'll likely just pass this time. Besides, it's always difficult to take them down on the last morning, as it's a tight schedule to get away from the shack and get to the airport in time for my flight. OK, back to the report:

Immediately, I noticed that the LW band was pretty open with 153, 180, 189, 234 and 279 all providing good to very good copy of Radio Rossii.

531: NHK1, presumably JOQG Morioka boomed in today, although there was a weak cochannel present as well.

540: early the channel is dominated by CBC Saskatoon, but later NHK1 was noted here (numerous 1/5 kW stations listed).

549: Someone strange here. At 17:39, there was a strong OC, which then turned into a female vocal. When this piece ended, no further announcements were made and the transmitter left the air around 17:45. Nothing in PAL would match this sign-off. ?China, ?Russia. Hopefully something on the wav files.

558: music here at 7 level at 14:03. Probably the KBS2 station, HLQH Yeong-il.

567: Very strong 9 level with JOCR at 14:06.

576: 7 level, probably Mayak.

585: 7 level JOPG, Kushiro. // to 594

603: music noted at 9 level signal. Likely KBS2 HLSA in Seoul.

612: JOLK Rukuoka the 17:04 9 level.

621: 7 level music, with several cochannels. No sign of N. Korea here today.

630: local channel

639: IBOC initially ++++. Later faded and heard ?CNR1

648: 9 level Russia with CC relay. Never get to check whether this is VOR or RFA at 14:10 or so.

657: North Korea with a nice clean signal for a change. 9 level, measured at 656.969, and // 3250.

666: 9 level JOBK, Osaka // to 594 at 14:23, with cochannel under.

675: 7 level with 2 cochannels. I think Vietnam and NHK1

684: 8 level with music. Not CNR1, and not Korea.

693: JOAB Tokyo at 9+ level. The NHK2 network signed off again today at 14:43 (same as yesterday). Carrier is usually left on the air. No sign of Bangladesh. Darn!

702: A messy frequency with 5 carriers noted, including North Korea. 87 level.

711: 2 cochannels here at 14:31: HLKA and another. ?Vietnam? 9 level HLKA later.

720: KOTZ with weather forecast under a very strong North Korea at 17:51. 9 level.

729: JOCK Nagoya at 8 level, //594.

738: 7 level initially, not KBS1. ?Taiwan, but definitely HLKG, Gyeongsan //711 at 17:45.

747: 9 level JOIB Sapporo.

756: 7 level CNR1

765: 7 level music at 14:46 unid.

774: 9+ level JOUB Akita plus a weaker cochannel.

783: 7 level unid with weak talk.

792: 7 level unid.

801: 801.180 North Korea plus cochannel.

810: KGO plus cochannel CC at 15:00

819: 9 level KCBS with good clean audio. // to 2850

828: 9 level JOBB Osaka and cochannel(s) with echo. Suspect this is Guangdong Satellite network.

837: 9 level very strong at 15:05. Not CNR1. Also a cochannel there.

846: 7 level unid

855: 8 level. North Korea on 855.047 cochannel with on-channel station.

864: 7 level. Cochannel on 864.920. Don't know who.

873: 9 level KCBS, // to 2850.

882: 8 level later heard later at 17:12. Likely CC. Not // to Sapporo on 1440.

891: JOHK Sendai. 7 level, and // to 666.

900/909: local or splatter +++

918, 927: 7 level unid.

936: 9 level, presumed Anhui RGD at 15:11.

945: CNR1 at 9+ level and cochannel (possible sports).

954: 8 level, ?JOKR Tokyo.

963: 7 level.

972: HLCA at 9 level

981: 9 level CNR1.

990 local

999: EZL music initially. Not NHK1, KCBS, nor CNR1. Listened at 16:00 and 17:00. Both times, time pips were delayed 10 to 15 seconds from the TOH. Chinese station. (Darn, I've previously heard Jakarta here).

1008, 1017: 7 level with talk. Both unid.

1026: 8 level EZL female vocals. Not NHK1. 15:27

1035: 7 level unid.

1044: nothing recorded.

1053: 9 level jammer over North Korea.

1062: nothing recorded.

1071: 8 level later around 17:55. Probably JJ.

1080: local

1089: 8 level classical music and splatter at 15:21. Unid.

1098: music at 8 level.

1107: 8 level ?JOFC MBC Kagoshima

1116: 7 level unid

1125: 6 level unid

1134: JOQR Tokyo (or ?KBS) at 15:35 at 8 level.

1143: 7 level ?JOBK Kyoto with music.

1152: 7 level unid.

1161: 9 level EZL music. Not CNR1 nor NHK1.

1170: Superb KJNP North Pole AK with much weaker cochannels. 17:57 with local weather.

1179: IBOC early. Later 7 level with EZL oriental music. No IBOC then.

1188: 8 level presumed JOKP, Kitami at 18:02.

1197: 8 level music at 18:03.

1206: Yanbian in KK at 15:45 at 9 level.

1215: 7 level unid.

1224: 9 level EZL music and weak cochannel. Not // 594, nor CNR1. CC noted at 15:53, though. Very strong then!

1233: 7 level unid.

1242: 9 level JOLF, Tokyo at 15:57

1251: 9 level EZL music at 15:59

1260: ?JOIR under domestic

1269: 7 level unid.

1278: 8 level unid.

1287: JOHR Sapporo with cochannel CC at 16:25.

1296: 7 level with lots of splatter

1305: splatter +++ with someone weakly underneath at 18:10

1314: 7 level unid.

1323: 8 level. Doesn't sound Russian, and not // to 963. Not sure who this is, then.

1332: JOSF Nagoya. 8 level.

1341: 8 level CC and cochannel music.

1350: 9+ level JOER Hiroshima presumed.

1359: 7 level unid.

1368: IBOC

1377: 9 level CNR1 at 16:12.

1386: several weak cochannels 7 level.

1395: IBOC on lower side, therefore use USB. 9 level CC with lots of announcements.

1404: 9 level Very strong CC and weak cochannel. Not CNR1.

1413: JOIF Fukuoka heard latter. Earlier +++splatter. 7 level.

1422: 9+ level JORF Yokohama

1431: 7 level unid.

1440 9 level JOWF Sapporo.

1449: 9 level JOQM Abashiri

1458: 9+ level CC station at 16:29. Not CNR1.

1467: 2 cochannels at 8 level. An interesting channel.

1475: no sign of Malaysia here yesterday or today.

1476: 8 level EZL music

1485: 7 level unid

1494: 9 level with piano music at 16:34. ?who?

1503: 7 level unid

1512: CC at late time of 18:07 at 8 level.

1521: EZL music and cochannel. 8 level.

1530: ?// to 1521 at 9 level.

1539: 7 level unid.

1548: 8 level with hum and splatter at 15:50 unid.

1557: WYFR at 16:45 at 8 level.

1566: HLAZ exceptionally strong. Chinese continued until 17:00. Mostly EZL Christian music until 17:30, then Yankee Doodle, and intro by Matt and Cats with the English language lesson program called, "New Dynamic English". This continued until 18:30, when the Russian program began. Note, that's an hour later than before. ?seasonal change?

1575: 9 level VOA Thailand throughout the morning. Totally different than yesterday. Bangla at 16:46 check. After 17:00 probably AFN at fair to good level.

1584: 8 level ?CC at 16:47

1593: 9 level CNR1 at 16:48

1602: OC after NHK2 signed off.

X-band: entirely absent today.

With such a superb morning, I collected about an hour of Perseus wav files. Plenty there to play with!

00:50 31 December, 2010.

This brings me up to 00:50, or 4:50 PM. It's getting dark rapidly here. A little earlier, I had a quick look at the MW band, but heard only some very weak hets on 756, 873, 1008, 1116, 1143, and 1449. I'm still hoping for a breakthrough like I had last year at this time with Asia/Europe and Africa open during the afternoon. Perhaps too much to hope for. Instead, I did note the MUF was very high with at least one CBer from the southern US heard this afternoon, and WWV booming in on 20 MHz. There was plenty of ham activity on 14 Megs, and I collected quite a few SSTV signals as well. I'm going to listen to the final broadcast of Radio Slovakia International in a few minutes and then try for TA MW activity again. It was a very busy day!!!

31 December, 2010. 23:00 UTC

3:00 PM local, but the sky is already darkening. As I type this, I'm listening to a very strong pirate radio station called Radio Yellowknife on 6929.9 kHz in AM and the signal is booming in at over S9+10 dB. Big band blues music. The audio is crisp and clear. Wish I had an internet connection here to post to the FRN and let them know that he's so loud and clear! I've heard him several times in Victoria, but usually at fair level, at best. He seems to be located to my NE, which happens to be the direction to Yellowknife. Who knows, he may just be a rare Canadian pirate operator!

Conditions last night were pitiful for TA MW reception. Nothing developed more, and in fact, the weak carriers disappeared soon after I heard them last night.

This morning, conditions to Asia were, perhaps, a little slower on the upswing, but again took off. Korea was especially strong. My notes are not quite as extensive. Let's start with the Russian LW channels:

Lots to hear, and something which is unusual, they weren't all in sync. 153 was parallel to 189, 279 and 810, while 180 had a different feed and was parallel to 234. Different feeds of Radio Rossii? Mayak 576 was parallel to 549 with good strength, and I also noted 720 very strong later at 16:10. By 16:00 all the LW were back in parallel. Mongolia, not often heard by me was coming in on 209, just barely, under the NDB with callsign CYT.

Had some fun finding parallels for Korean broadcasters. 1386, call sign HLAM with 10 kW at Mokpo, was booming in today. Parallels heard included 1350 (under the JJ station), 1287 (also cochannel), 1107, 1017, 774, and 765.

The NHK2 network signed off at 15:00 today.

Here's an interesting logging: KUDO 1080, Anchorage is signing off. They've been playing a loop saying that they'll be gone by Dec 31st, and recommending KOAN on 1020 (where their programs have migrated). Trouble is, they were still there with the loop on January 2nd!

1521 is tough due to a number of carriers off frequency, as well as the 1520 domestic channel. Today, after careful calibration of the Perseus SDR, I counted carriers on: 1521.036, 1521.000, 1520.998, 1520.982 and 1520.901. I've heard Chinese and cochannels here.

A disappointment this year has been the lack of CRI Russian on 963 and 1323. During previous years, they'd always dominate the channels. Not this year! In fact, I've only heard Russian once this time on 1323 (today). Not even sure whether 963 is still in Russian or not.

Another question I had was whether Japan JOGB Kumamoto with 500 kW was off the air, since they weren't being heard. I actually finally heard them at fair level on the morning of the 2nd. What's happened to them? Whereas 693, 747, and especially 774 boom in, 873 is very feeble!

January 1, 2011: TAs at last!

Well the upper half of the band had quite a few, whereas the bottom half was dead, except for Iceland on 189 and Pori, Finland on 963. Listening after 02:58, there were quite a few audios, mostly at poor to fair level:

1089 (Talksport),

1098, 1107, 1116, 1152: all Spain

1161: unid

1206: France Info at 8 level

1215: Absolute Radio at 8 level.

1224: barely there audio at 03:04. ?COPE ?Iran

1251: strong but too much splatter. ?Libya , ?Holland

1269: DLF: 9 level strong!

1278: 9+ level France Bleu at 03:04

1287, 1305, 1341, 1359: all threshold

1422: 9 level DLF at 03:04

1431, 1449: poor level

1458: 7 level at 03:08. ? Sunrise Radio

1467: 6 level

1476: Euskadi at 8 level

1485: 7 level: not sure who this is at 03:03

1548: 7 level Radio Sawa

1557: France Info at 9 level.

1575: Radio Farda. Strong at 03:00

1602: SER/Euskadi at 6 level.

Overall, then, not a great TA evening, but heh, anything is better than nothing! Unfortunately it hasn't approached the armchair copy evening of some nights a few years back!

January 1, 2011: TP report and Happy New Year!

A bit of everything this morning after a slow start. Nothing remarkable, but at least Australia had some signs of life with 1701 peeping through with hints of audio, and Brisbane on 1548 providing good audio at 16:39, although with a lot of variability. Despite nothing remarkable with the solar indices compared to a few days back (SF 91, A4, K(12:00) 2), the bands were highly variable with stations fading up to great levels, only to be replaced by someone else. I knew that something was up! Finally, some of the excitement from last year was coming back! In hindsight, it wasn't anything as huge as some of the openings then, but still, this morning after the TPs faded, they were replaced by the central Asian/Arabian gulf and later Europe. Not all that many, mind you, but still, it's fun to watch one part of the globe fade as another starts! Of course, they overlap quite a bit too. What I ended up doing was recording a 1000 kHz segment (centered on 1200 kHz) until 21:20 UTC, as the opening seemed to be for the upper half of the band only. The summary of the last Perseus wav file is included below:

LW: Once again 153, 171, 189 from Russia, but also 164 and 207 from Mongolia.

601.9: I'm seeing RTTY here. Anyone else noticing them?

Interesting MW: 684: Quite sure I was hearing hints from Port Blair, Andaman Is. SW 4760 was booming in and seemed in //. Can't confirm for sure, though!

680: KBRW came in well. This is fairly rare hear, and indicates a good northern opening. Most of the time, I'm hearing San Francisco, and when they fade, the French CBC station in Edmonton (usually it's them I'm always hearing).

693: After Japan signs off, I heard Chinese at 16:07, but later I'm positive Bangladesh was there at 17:05 cochannel. Not as strong as last year, but the first time reported in a long while!

882: A tough channel due to adjacent splatter, but I could hear some church music, so could be TWR Sri Lanka.

1098: Normally just an open carrier. Instead a 9 level signal that I ID'd as CNR Tibetan Service, as I found a // on SW: 6010. Could also make out another probable CC regional too.

1539: 9 level UAE Radio AapKi Duniyaa. About time!!!

1548: Australia at 8 level at 16:39, but highly variable.

1557: WYFR at 9 level at 16:39. Normally heard daily, but not at such good level.

1575: AFN at 9 level from Japan. Haven't heard them for a while, and they indicate interesting propagation. With a few minutes at 17:08, replaced by Radio Farda

Now here's what I discovered on a single Perseus wav file covering 800 to 1600 kHz for 10 minutes up to 21:20 UTC:

1098: Radio Rossii with a sermon at 7 level.

1134: weak, probably Croatia.

1170: KJNP: at "10" level at 21:20. Boy do they get out!

1314: Armenia with Russian International Radio, cochannel prob. BBC AA via UAE at 7.5 level.

1350: weak time pips at 21:15. ?Armenia

1377: unid at 6 level

1395: TWR Albania with Croatian at 21:12. Off frequency: 1394.855

1422: prob. DLF at 7 level

1431, 1449: 6 level unid

1458: Radio Tirana with Serbian at 21:15 after IS. Cochannel an off frequency: 1457.572 and 1458.007 making it a tough catch. I think Albania is the off channel.

1485: 7 level graveyard channel. Impossible to make out much from the jumble. Take your pick of many low-powered channels.

1503: 8 level either IRIB 1 or North Sinai Radio, Egypt with middle eastern music.

1530: Sao Tome VOA at 21:12 at 7.5 level.

1539: Radio Aap Ki Dunya at 7 level.

1548: Radio Sawa up to 8 level, but pretty variable

1575: Radio Farda at 9 level at 21:12. What more can I say! Nice to have armchair copy!

I still have another 13 or more wav files from the late morning to mid afternoon to monitor. I'm sure I'll find more goodies.

January 2, 2011 TP report: Hoping for a repeat!

Well, to cut to the chase, it didn't! I'd call this an average morning. HLAZ 1566 did hang around though, until quitting time at very strong levels. Still, I did note quite a lot of variability in signals, which sometimes indicates an unsettled ionosphere, and interesting stations to be heard. Here are some of my observations:

648: Keep meaning to listen to them over the TOH. Before 15:00 I was hearing US pop music, making me wonder about AFN Okinawa (wishful thinking?). At 15:00 there was the VORWS IS at 9 level, and then an Radio Free Asia ID in English, announcing the following program in Korean.

738: Heard RFO here today in French at 16:11 at 8 level. First time this visit.

837: One of the strongest Chinese stations heard here with armchair copy. I believe this is the Harbin News Channel in Harbin with 50 kW. Several others weakly heard cochannel.

1377: CNR1 very strong at 9 level+ at 17:03 with an Enya song! Threw me for a moment or two!

1566: HLAZ not that strong today, and with a cochannel at 15:30. Later it's strength picked up.

1575: A mixture of all 3 "normal" stations here. Each jockeying for dominance: Radio Farda, VOA Thailand, and AFN Japan.

1593: CNR1 at 16:35 at 9+ level.

Some signs of life on the X-band with snippets of audio on 1701 at 16:36.

Nothing more developed like yesterday with central Asian fading in. As I type this, it's 02:18 on January 3rd, and the trans-Polar path is open, but highly variable. I've had good to very good copy of Radio Farda, and at the moment was listening to Iran on 1503 with deep fades, but occasionally nice fade-ups with Koranic recitations. Trouble is, they're not very strong, and last only a few seconds before fading down for 30 to 60 seconds before returning.

January 3rd, 2010: TP Heaven!

Results for this morning were nothing short of spectacular! By far the best Asian morning, which also lasted the longest. I was extremely impressed by the power of the stations. Once again, virtually all the 9 kHz channels had very useable audio, and in many cases, armchair copy. The Perseus wav files for this morning are a treasure chest of goodies for the Asian enthusiast. I'm thinking that there's bound to be a hobbyist who'd like to have a copy of the many GB of Perseus files. Just send me a HD and what your interests are, and I'm sure that I can accommodate you. You just need to share your findings with me!!! There doesn't seem to be much point in reviewing each frequency: there's something on every channel! Instead, I'll review some of the interesting findings today:

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LW: The usual Russians were there. I noted that 180 has been absent on many mornings, including today. I also heard (barely) a few other channels not normally present in the morning. ?European?:

162 (a 6 only. Not // to 153. ?Turkey or ?Norilsk?)

209 and 227 both audible from Mongolia, barely.

MW: 531: The NHK1 station has consistently given excellent results every morning at very powerful levels. Still excellent at 17:14 (that's 9:15 AM local).

549: JOAP Okinawa. Not heard very often, but they were there in the clear at 17:18 // 531. Normally a Mayak channel (heard earlier).

576: Normally the Mayak station is here earlier, but again, either JODG or JOHG here at 17:18 //531 at weak level. The Russians seem to fade quite early compared to the JJ and KK stations which pick up later in the morning.

693: The NHK2 stations signed off before my 15:46 recheck today, leaving the frequency clear. Yes, Bangladesh came in a good level at 16:43. They still have to fight the splatter from CBU in Vancouver on 690. It's nice to confirm that they are indeed on the air.

711: KBS1 here every morning at very powerful levels. A very nice full ID including call letters was heard at 17:00. I'm also hearing intermittent jamming. For instance, no jamming at 14:30, but jammed at 15:34. At 16:05 there was another powerful cochannel, which I'm sure is Vietnam.

720: A fun channel, being domestic. I was hearing North Korea and a Chinese station (?CNR2) over KOTZ. Other times, one hears the Russian here.

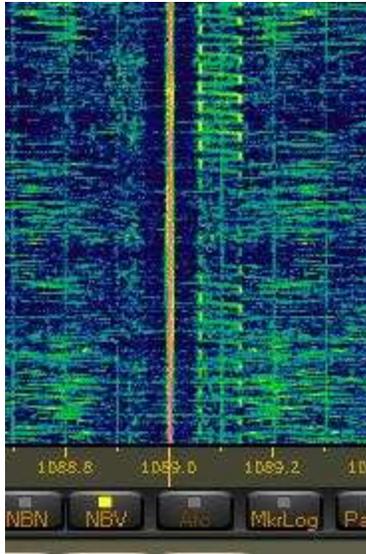
774: After NHK2 leaves the air, I was hearing MBC station at 17:35 // to 1350 here at very good level with a piano piece. I realized how useful piano can be for locating // channels. The piano sure can punch through the QRN!

864: I'm seeing (and hearing) a het from 865 here. Unid.

873: KCBS was here at 9 level at 17:39. After mentioning how anemic the JJ station has been, just to be proven wrong, it came back at very good levels again!

972: Just had to mention HLCA. I rarely consider a station at "10" level, but they were this morning at 17:45, and I have the mp3 to prove it!

1089: A very strange hum on this channel, that looks very interesting on the Perseus waterfall (I took a screen capture):



The Chinese station was a 9 level at 15:01 (my notes state that maybe it was Vietnam, though). Jamming of some sort? Against whom? Any ideas?

Checking the upper channels late in the morning provided a lot of // frequency opportunities since many of the Japanese stations run the same overnight program. Makes it easy to ID for the most part. Most of my loggings for the upper channels were either Japanese or Korean, especially later in the morning.

1323: Finally, a 9 level CRI in Russian at 15:37. I could not hear any Russian on 963. Come to think of it, I'm not convinced I heard Russian on this frequency at all during my trip.

1521: Always a mess in the morning due to multiple transmitters on the channel, and off-frequency. I saw four this morning: 1520.905, 1520.954, 1520.977 and 1521.004.

1539: CNR 1 and a cochannel early, while late was the UAE with Radio Aap Ki Dunnya at 18:42.

1548: Always a tough channel due to domestic splatter. Seems to have been an OC there (forgot to record the time). Noted 2 transmitters on 1547.905 and 1548.004.

1557: FEBC Korea always provided excellent reception. Heard at 9 level at 16:27, and back into English at 19:00 at 7 to 8 level still (a very long intro piece, and finally English at 19:03). That's 11:00 AM local!

1566: Another perfect 10 today, with HLAZ.

1575: VOA Thailand earlier, cochannel with some pop music. At 18:48 it was a powerful AFN Japan, but on recheck at 18:57, it was Farda.

I wrote a few comments. Japan was initially not terribly strong this morning (I started at 14:05 UTC). The Chinese were very strong! Later, however, the Japanese and Korean stations really took off, from the bottom of the band to the top! The NW BOG (an antenna that I *always* put out, was a superb performer, morning after morning. It's easy to erect, and can vary from 600 to 900 feet. I kept it

relatively short this year, not wanting to attract attention from the rare neighbour or beach walker. This antenna begins in the forest about 150' from the DX shack to the east, where I have a permanent termination and post, and then runs along the ground in a general NW direction and more or less runs along the top of the sand dunes for the last 300+ feet. This whole antenna takes only a few minutes to erect, and not much more time taking it in, and, after the large diameter ALA 100 loop (which is also permanent, and is my primary (and only) LW to SW broadband antenna) is the simplest antenna to get up and going.

One good thing about a long opening in the morning, is the vast majority of the domestic stations have faded out, leaving the TPs all to themselves, even though, they are also a bit weaker in strength than an hour or two sooner.

TA activity for 4 January, 2010:

The weather on the 3rd was pretty awful with, at times, heavy rains. I noticed my Wellbrook Array not performing quite as well as I had hoped, and therefore deconstructed it, in order to save time during the mad rush on my final morning. One of the experiments I tried was to run a BOG at 10 degrees into the ocean. My elevated short Beverage (unterminated) approximately in the same direction, was not a very good performer, so I took it down, and moved it to the driveway. I ran this wire from almost the foot of the driveway, along the ground to the sand dunes. At that point, I clipped the wire, and inserted a spare 610 ohm resistor I found, and using a plastic tie to secure the resistor, continued the wire another 150+ feet into the ocean to the low tide point. There, I tied the wire around a rock and buried it under a bit of sand, to hold it in place (worked well!). This antenna, I found, worked a bit better than the Wellbrook for trans-Polar pathways to Europe, and was a pretty easy to put up. I left this one until the last morning. The one advantage of the Wellbrook, was it was my only antenna that I received Hawaiians on, when switched to South.

My observation for that last evening, is that perhaps, this was the best TA evening. Still, having been spoiled by several years of superb propagation, it was difficult to get really excited by poor to fair audios from Europe. What I did hear last night were a few audios at sometimes very good levels, but mostly, the domestic splatter was too great. Just a couple of highlights:

963: Pori, Finland with 9 level CRI in Russian at 04:54.

1062: Denmark at 8 level.

DLF and France Info always provided some audio on multiple channels, even on poorer nights. When conditions were good, however, they would really blast in.

1215: Absolute Radio wasn't always that powerful. Adequate, but that's about it.

1602: Had a nice 8 to 9 level SER from Spain early in the evening.

4 January, 2010: TP exotica

Seems fitting that on my final morning, things were quite interesting. My father-in-law was coming by 10:00 AM for pickup to the airport, so I had to be finished and packed by then. I began monitoring at 13:57. Checked the solar indices from WWV: All week, they've been of little use. Pretty much the same each morning, yet conditions couldn't have been any different! SF: 92, A-3, K(15)- 1much of the same. There's a lot more happening than the numbers indicate!

UAE was a 9 at 14:18 on 1539. Very strong!

1548: Radio Sawa at 14:18 at 7 level.

1557: WYFR all the way

1566: HLAZ not very strong today, at 8 level, with cochannels.

1575: Radio Farda at 14:00, but there was also an English speaker here! Mentioned labour government, and had a sub-continental accent. The only station I could figure it could be was Toroa Radio in Dunedin, NZ which lists BBCWS between 12 and 18 UTC. Strange, for sure, especially since this was only heard using my 10 deg terminated BOG. Presumably I received things off the back end.

A few more highlights this morning:

1080: A language lesson here, probably Chinese. Suffering from a het from 1080.111

999: 5 carriers noted here: 998.988, 998.992, 999.000, 999.010, and 999.018. The last 2 only visible on the N. BOG. The carrier for 998.988 went off at 14:57 (matches Bozhou RGD in Anhui, China).

1152: 8 level on the North BOG at 15:29. Heard Saleim Aleichum, which means this is most likely UAE. Could be Iran as well (Do they use the same Arabic greeting there?) . Faded in and out, but when it was surprisingly strong.

1179: North BOG only . 7 level. ?Iran.

1188: A constantly changing channel! Both wires (NW BOG and the 10 deg N BOG) often provided different stations. Sometimes, they'd both have the same one on. The dominant one, I'm sure was the FEBC station in Korea, with continual singing by a male at 16:03. At 16:10, I also ID'd JOKP, a NHK1 network station. Earlier, I was wondering about Yemen. Lots to listen to here.

1206: Yanbian, of course, on 1205.977. Also carriers on 1205.996, 1206.002 and 1205.017. The latter fits with Israel according to the MW Offsets list.

1422: My favourite for the morning, with an excellent ID at 15:00 for CRI in Urdu. Kashi transmitter. Very exotic sounding!

1449: JORF on the NW BOG, but an AA sounding station on the N BOG. ?Libya or ?Iran.

1467: Some really off-frequency carriers noted: Here, one on 1467.004, and another on 1467.351. MW offsets lists the Iranian as being way-off channel.

1539: UAE very strong at 9 level.

Things died off very rapidly, and by the time I shut down, even the normally very strong stations were down in the mud. A fitting end to my wonderful 7 days of DXing!