



Programming Matters – April-May 2011

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Programming is what we listen to on shortwave and this column presents and discusses programs. The presenters of these programs and the stations they speak from are also topics for coverage. We also delve into many other topics to see how radio impacts our lives.

Quote of the Month

"Never before the advent of radio did advertising have such a golden opportunity to make an ass out of itself. Never before could advertising be so insistent and so unmannerly and so affront its audience." - William J. Cameron, director of PR for Ford Motor Company, 1938.

Welcome to the pre-Rapture edition of Programming Matters (if you believe Harold Camping). I apologize for my recent absence from this spot as I recovered from surgery and then had to look after my mother. Time and circumstance just did not permit me the time to do a column in April. Which kind of bummed me out because somehow I have arrived at 25 complete (more or less) years as column editor. When I started I didn't think I'd last more than a year or two. As John Lennon said, "Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans". But enough about me...on with the show!

Czech Republic

Radio Free Europe 1951–2011

Logo projektu Svobodně! - Foto: Český rozhlas

Sixty years ago, in May of 1951, the first notes of the Radio Free Europe signature tune were broadcast into the air, marking the beginning of Radio Free Europe's Czechoslovak newsroom broadcasting.

Czech Radio, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty and the Faculty of Art of Charles University, Prague would like to symbolically draw attention to this chapter in Czech national history in

which a single free voice of one free radio had enormous significance for the very essence of freedom.

A number of events have been prepared for the occasion of the 60th anniversary of broadcasting by Radio Free Europe; in various ways, they encompass both looking back into the past and the very modern subject of the need for freedom of speech. We are preparing a comprehensive publication on the subject of the history of Radio Free Europe, an international conference will be held in the Senate of the Czech Parliament, an exhibition will be opened in Wallenstein Garden and a gala concert of the Symphony Orchestra of Czech Radio will be held to commemorate this occasion. Czech Radio is devoting considerable attention to the anniversary in its broadcasting and a literary competition will be held amongst secondary school students with emphasis on acquainting the younger generation with this important era in Czech national history.

The events are being held under the auspices of the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Petr Nečas, and the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, Iveta Radičová. The events in the Senate of the Czech Parliament will be held under the auspices of the Deputy Chairman of the Senate, Přemysl Sobotka. We are glad that they have thus confirmed our opinion that, even twenty years after the fall of the dictatorial Communist regime, this commemorative event has an irreplaceable role and is very important.

More at: <http://www.rozhlas.cz/svobodne/english>

Ecuador

After 50 Years, Popular Show for Shortwave Radio Listeners to End on Anniversary Date (May 6, 2011 - by Ralph Kurtenbach) The “dah-di-dit” code tapping that opens the DX Partyline (DXPL) radio program for shortwave hobbyists will fall silent this month, moving the popular program to history’s pages.



The program will end with broadcasts the weekend of May 28-29, exactly 50 years after it first aired on Radio Station HCJB in Quito, Ecuador, on May 28, 1961. Program host Allen Graham’s surprise announcement came near the end of his April 30-May 1 show. He cited as one reason HCJB Global’s change of emphasis regarding direct shortwave broadcasts from Pifo, Ecuador, where HCJB terminated shortwave broadcasting in 2009 after nearly 58 years. Three years earlier the station had ceased English-language broadcasts.

Also contributing to the decision was the “global change in our ministry priorities as a mission and my increased involvement and work responsibilities in areas very different from those I had when I arrived in Quito as a producer in English Language Service in August 1993,” Graham said.



Ken MacHarg

A former host now retired in Carrollton, Ga., Ken MacHarg referred to DXPL as offering a “beginner’s guide to DXing while at the same time maintaining a loyal audience among hobbyists with years of experience.”

Just after DXPL’s Morse code opening, the booming voice of the late Bob Beukema begins teaching basic principles with, “DX . . . a telegraph term meaning ‘distance.’” Former host Rich McVicar of Navarino, N.Y., considers “getting Bob Beukema to intro the program probably the smartest production thing I’ve ever done! What a voice, eh!”

As humble-start-to-wildly successful goes, DXPL’s beginnings started more humbly than most. The program was conceived to fill a calendar anomaly. At the time, the Party Line show kept missionaries in Ecuador in touch with kin back home in a way that former DXPL host Clayton Howard once characterized as “much like the old-fashioned party-line telephones that used to be popular in rural areas.”

Party Line aired on Mondays, and when a fifth Monday periodically occurred, it gave Hardy Hayes an opportunity to fill that slot. “His solution was to start a program for DXers,” continued Howard. “There were not many such programs on the air in 1961.”

Created out of necessity, the show was soon a hit. As programs go, DXPL offered engineering not elegance, facts not flash, and because HCJB Global is an international evangelical mission, DXPL offered the gospel. Along with a calendar of DX events, new developments and listings (called loggings) of station’s exotic programming to which the listeners themselves had tuned in, “Tips for Real Living” was a key component.



John Beck

Asked about the short evangelistic segment’s contribution to DXPL, former host John Beck replied, “It was the program. Everything else was designed to attract the listener to the spiritual component.” Beck now works as an engineer with the Kansas City-based Bott Radio Network.

“This brief message was the only place where they (listeners) might be touched by the gospel and given an opportunity to respond to the saving message of Jesus Christ,” added MacHarg.

With involvement in DXPL for the last several years, Shelly Cochrane wrote that “from my home in Alaska, I’ve counted it a privilege to offer ‘Tips for Real Living’ to point our listeners to God’s promises for our lives.”

Hardy Hayes headed DXPL just briefly, turning the show over to Clayton Howard and his wife, Helen. The Howards (now both deceased) began what was to become a 20-plus-year stint hosting the show. A continent away, Beck, MacHarg and McVicar were mentored by Howard whose career training and radio work was in engineering.

“I know that Clayton . . . helped me with my Christian walk during the years of college,” wrote Beck. “had been an engineer moving towards radio production; I came as a radio producer

moving towards engineering. So I feel that I was able to enhance the production values while depending upon the engineering expertise surrounding us at HCJB.”

Beck fondly recalls a letter from a Puerto Rican television technician who had never understood the subject of impedance (resistance) until it was explained on DXPL. Another letter came from a Jet Propulsion Laboratory scientist who listened frequently. A syndicated overnight network program host, Ray Briem, called into DXPL, according to Beck.

McVicar added that there were “some memorable times on the air. A special thrill and challenge for me was scooping other DX programs when new stations came on the air from Latin America, especially Peru.... I would also do a lot of DXing from Quito and air clips of the stations that I could hear.”

It fell to Graham, however, to steer a course through celebrating shortwave radio’s golden past and a sea change of rapidly growing technologies since the Internet’s advent. And as HCJB Global’s emphasis has shifted to local radio and later the Internet, Graham continued providing a forum where DXers could not only listen but participate. E-mailed reports and audio clips became standard fare on the show.

When he set up his Facebook account, Graham soon topped a thousand friends, including some from DX Partyline. Ever fascinated with science, Graham’s interview on his April 30-May 1 program “pushed the envelope” of telecommunications yet again, as Brent Weeks described an HCJB-designed paper radio for receiving digital shortwave signals.

Hugely popular worldwide among radio aficionados, the DX Partyline is to join the telegraph and its younger cousin, the telephone party line, in the annals of communications history. Its presence on the shortwave bands will end; its fond recollections will last and last.

To listen to the program, tune in to HCJB Global-Australia’s international broadcast facility in Kununurra at the following times and frequencies on Saturday: 0800-0815 UTC on 11750 MHz; 1230 to 1245 UTC on 15400 MHz; and 1515-1530 UTC on 15340 MHz. To view the program schedule, visit http://www.hcjb.org.au/docs/A11_Schedule_HCJB_Australia_20110327-20111029.pdf.

Source: HCJB Global

<http://www.hcjb.org/HCJB-Global-News/>

Gabon

Gabon-based Pan African radio loses signal
News - Africa news

Libreville, Gabon - The Pan African Radio, Africa No. 1, has lost its signal and is no longer being received in Gabon and elsewhere in Africa since Wednesday, PANA learnt from the radio's management in Libreville. According to the daily 'L'Union', the satellite operator Eutelsat might have stopped its services to the station over an estimated 200 million CFA francs in arrears of payment. The station has been experiencing serious financial problems since 2001, especially after Radio France Internationale (RFI) and Japanese Radio NHK stop

shortwave broadcasting. The arrival of Libyan partners had restored hope among the workers, who are now threatened by the ongoing political crisis in Libya.

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/gabon-based-pan-african-radio-loses-signal-2011042910317.html>

Russia

THE VOICE OF RUSSIA WORLD SERVICE

March 27 – October 29, 2011

News – Every hour on the hour

News in Brief – On the half hour

In Focus - Focuses on the most significant events on the home and world scenes

Mon – Fri 12.05, 16.05, 20.05, 23.05

Tue – Sat 02.05, 05.05, 06.05, 09.05, 12.05, 16.05, 20.05, 23.05

Burning Point - In-depth analyses of the most significant and controversial events

Mon 13.05, 15.31, 20.32

Tue - Fri 00.05, 02.32, 05.32, 09.32, 13.05, 15.31, 20.32

Sat 02.32, 05.32, 09.32

In Between - Discussing vital problems of Russia's everyday life

Mon 14.32, 17.32, 18.32

Tue – Fri 00.32, 04.32, 07.32, 14.32, 17.32, 18.32

Sat 04.32, 07.32

Outlook - A roundup of current events and stories as they develop

Mon - Fri 14.05, 17.05, 22.05

Tue - Sat 07.05, 14.05, 17.05, 22.05

One to One - Featuring leading Russian and foreign political scientists, economists and art celebrities

Mon – Fri 12.37, 16.52, 21.32

Tue 01.32, 12.37, 16.52, 21.32

Sat 01.32

Sun 01.23, 12.32

Russia Business Report - Latest news from Russia and the CIS

Mon-Fri 00.05, 08.05, 12.05, 16.32, 19.05, 21.05, 23.32

Tue 06.32, 10.05, 16.32, 19.05, 21.05, 23.32

Sat. 06.32, 10.05, 16.05

Sun.00.05, 04.05, 08.05, 16.05

Inside View - Through in-depth interviews with leading figures explores the most topical news of the day

Mon-Fri 18.37, 23.52

Tue-Fri 08.37, 18.37, 23.52

Sat 08.37

Press Review - Polina Boiko is filling you in on what the Russian papers are writing today

Mon-Fri 16.47, 18.32

Tue – Fri 01.37, 08.32, 16.47, 18.32

Sat 01.37, 08.32

Travel Russia - Tells you about some of the gems of the Russian Federation, takes you for a short look around Russian towns exploring the history and giving you a picture of what's on offer

Mon 05.42, 12.47, 19.20, 21.20,

Tue – Fri - 04.20, 06.47, 10.20, 19.20, 21.20

Sat 04.20, 06.47, 13.42, 21.42,

Sun - 05.42, 13.42, 21.42

.RU - Peter Lekarev fills you in on all things online and beyond

Mon - 18.20

Tue – Fri - 01.20, 08.20, 18.20

Sat - 01.20, 08.20

Russian Sports Daily - Updates on Russian sports, athletes and current sport events

Mon. - 18.44, 22.37

Tue – Fri - 01.42, 08.42, 18.44, 22.37

Sat. - 01.42, 08.42, 18.05,

Sun. - 02.05, 10.05

Out & About - Entertainment, culture events and interesting facts from Moscow

Mon - Sat - 01.05, 08.05

Red Line - A view on current events the way they are seen in Moscow

Sat - 00.05, 15.05

Sun - 07.05, 15.05, 23.05

Mon - 07.05

Russian BookWorld - A weekly look at books from and about Russia and the context in which they are written, produced, translated and marketed

Sat. - 17.32

Sun. - 01.05, 17.32

Mon - 01.05

Home from Home - Sam Gerrans speaks with a different foreigner living in Russia

Sat. - 16.32

Sun. - 00.32, 05.05, 08.32, 16.32

Mon - 00.32, 05.05, 08.32

Military and Space Review - An insight in the latest achievements in space exploration and modern warfare

Mon - 05.32

Wed - 19.20

Thu - 10.20

Sat - 10.20, 13.32, 21.32

Sun. - 05.32, 13.32, 21.32

The Culture Room - is a place where we discuss the important issues that contemporary art and other social activities give rise to

Mon – Fri - 13.42

Sat-Sun - 17.05

From Moscow with Love - A look at the city of Moscow, our lives in the city and how the city has changed over the years

Sat - 19.05

Sun - 03.05, 11.05, 19.05

Mon - 03.05, 11.05

Moscow Heartbeat - A glimpse on life in Russia's hectic capital

Sat - Sun - 12.05, 20.05

Rushing for Success - Introduces you to expats and movers living and building their careers and businesses in Russia

Sat – Sun - 13.05, 21.05,

Climate Change Reporting on issues relating to the environment and sustainability in Russia

Sat. - 14.32, 22.32

Sun. - 06.32, 14.05, 22.05

Mon - 06.05

In Tune with Moscow - Introduces you to a world contemporary Russian rock and pop-music

Sat. - 13.52, 21.52,

Sun. - 13.52, 21.52, 05.52

Moscow Mailbag - A question and answer show based on your letters. For many years the top-rated program from Moscow

Mon, Wed - 18.05

Tue, Thu - 04.05

This is Russia - Addressed to those who want to get to know Russia and the Russians better, visit our cities and regions, hear more about our nature, culture, the arts, religion, and, of course, about Russians

Sat - 13.42

Sun - 05.42

The Voice of Russia Treasure-Store - Includes archival programs on various topics - historical, cultural, etc.

Tue – Fri - 10.32

Sat - 10.32, 18.32

Sun. - 02.32, 10.32, 18.32

Mon - 02.32, 10.32

Kaleidoscope - Information on the latest events in the CIS, economic, social and cultural, and also on the traditions and customs of its peoples

Mon - 12.32

Tue, Fri - 18.05

Wed, Sat - 04.05

Music and Musicians - World-famous performers and composers play for you

Sun - 09.05

Tue-Sat - 03.05, 11.05

Musical Tales - A wealth of eye-opening information, little-known facts, popular music and rare recordings will help you to know more about the past and present of Russian music

Mon - 21.40

Sun - 20.40

Russia – 1000 Years of Music - Leads you, year by year, century by century, through the history of Russian music

Wed - 21.40

Sat - 20.40

Music Calendar - A monthly program about musicians and musical events that have stood the test of time. In each broadcast we'll be remembering the high points of the incoming month

Sun - 21.40

Folk Box - An indispensable program for lovers of folk music

Thu - 21.32

Sat - 12.32

Sun - 01.32

Jazz Show - Welcoming you to the world of jazz

Mon - 03.32

Tue - 21.32

Sun - 07.32, 19.32, 11.32

Songs from Russia - Presents melodies of the past and musical novelties

Sun - 12.32

Mon - 01.40

Russian Hits - Ten songs by Russia's top pop and rock performers

Sat. - 19.32

Sun. - 04.32

Mon - 04.42, 11.32

All times UTC

This program is subject to change without prior notice

http://english.ruvr.ru/radio_broadcast/schedule/

United Kingdom

BBC Statement in response to Foreign Affairs Committee report

Date: 13.04.2011

Category: World Service

The BBC today issued the following statement:

The BBC welcomes the FAC's strong support for the World Service and the value it brings in promoting British values and providing a widely respected and trusted news service. It is of course for the Government and Parliament to decide on the priorities for public spending.

The cuts being made to the World Service are a consequence of last autumn's Spending Review and the BBC regrets the scale and pace of cuts that have been necessary. If, in the light of the FAC report, the Government is prepared to re-open aspects of the Spending Review settlement the BBC will be pleased to engage with them constructively. We look forward to the Government's response to the Committee's recommendations.

The BBC is committed to the long-term future of the World Service and hopes to reinvest when responsibility for funding transfers to the licence fee in 2014.

BBC Press Office

http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2011/04_april/13/fac.shtml

BBC Russian marks end of traditional radio broadcasting after 65 years on air

Date: 23.03.2011

Category: World Service

On Saturday 26 March, the BBC Russian live weekend programme, Pyatyy Etazh (Fifth Floor), broadcasts from the studio in Bush House, London, for the last time. Airing at 18.30 GMT (21.30 Moscow time), the final programme signals the end of the BBC's 65-year history of traditional radio broadcasting in Russian.

In a week of special programming in the run-up to this milestone date, BBC Russian is featuring special multimedia content, looking back at the radio journalism that has made the BBC a household name, from Vilnius to Vladivostok, and also looking at future shape of media.

Head of BBC Russian, Sarah Gibson, says: "This is a sad time for all of us at BBC Russian. We are also proud of the unique heritage our broadcasts have left behind – in the hearts and minds of millions of radio listeners. As we move on, we will continue to serve our audiences through online and mobile services. Our website bbcussian.com will continue to bring global stories to the Russian audience, and put Russian stories in a global context."

The BBC started regular Russian-language broadcasts to the Soviet Union on 24 March 1946. Throughout the years, the BBC radio brought independent news and analysis to Russian-speaking audiences. In its special programming, BBC Russian looks again at the key stories it has covered – reporting the cold war and the perestroika, the attempted putsch of August 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the two Chechen wars and Beslan, the Russia-Georgia conflict and everything else that has mattered to its audiences in the region.

Highlights from the 65 years of broadcasting also include the BBC voices that have been well known to listeners, ground-breaking interactive interviews with Margaret Thatcher and Paul McCartney, both speaking to audiences in the Soviet Union, as well as unique archive material such as Joseph Brodsky's first radio interview, hours after winning the Nobel Prize in

Literature in 1987.

Key Russian media, political and business personalities share their views of the BBC's work over the years – including the businessman and owner of The Independent, Alexander Lebedev, leading Russian journalists such as Yevgeniy Kiselyov, Dmitriy Muratov, Leonid Parfyonov, Vladimir Pozner and Mikhail Rykhlin, human-rights activist Lev Ponomaryov, writer Dmitriy Bykov, and President of the Faculty of Journalism of Moscow State University, Yasen Zassurskiy.

The BBC looks at what its broadcasts to the Soviet Union, and then to Russia and other post-Soviet states, meant for the people in those countries, and its influence. Putting its work in the wider context of foreign broadcasting, BBC Russian also looks at how the Western views of the importance of broadcasting to the USSR and post-Soviet states changed over the years, and what these changes mean for politics and the media in Russia. Another focus looks at how the media in Russia is changing, the role the internet is playing in the current media landscape, and the rapid changes in media consumption.

The BBC is closing three of its Russian-language radio programmes – Ranniy Chas (Dawn), Utro na Bi-bi-si (Morning with the BBC) and Vecher na Bi-bi-si (Evening with the BBC). However, BBC Russian will continue to produce BBSeva, Vam Slovo and Pyatiy Etazh which will be available for listening via the website bbcussian.com as well as for FM partners outside Russia.

BBC World Service is also stopping its short- and medium-wave broadcasts to Russia in English.

World Service Publicity

http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2011/03_march/23/russian.shtml

BBC Radio 2

Sounds of the 20th Century is an audio journey through five decades of triumph, tragedy and trivia in 50 hour-long episodes.

Each programme is dedicated to one year from 1951 to 2000 and features nothing that wasn't heard, seen or read at the time. There's no hindsight, no "I-heart-the-80s"-style reminiscences; just the music, the news, the radio, the TV and the movies as they were first experienced.

This week, Jeremy Vine introduces 1957, a year when Britain gets a new Prime Minister and Russia wins the space race by launching the first Sputnik. On television, the kids are watching Six-Five Special; a schoolboy from Esher makes his TV debut in a skiffle group; and Mum and Dad are baffled by Panorama's April Fool's Day hoax.

Meanwhile, Jack Jackson is spinning the platters that matter on Radio Luxembourg. Elvis is All Shook Up, Tommy Steele is Singing the Blues and there's a Whole Lotta Shakin Goin' On.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01132xg>

United States

David Ensor to Serve as Director of Voice of America

April 18, 2011 | Washington, DC

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) has selected award-winning broadcaster and communications executive David Ensor to serve as the next director of the Voice of America (VOA). VOA reaches an audience of 123 million people with unbiased news and information in 44 languages across multiple media platforms.

“The democracy uprisings of the past two months have shown the critical importance of the free flow of credible information in empowering people around the world. The Voice of America has been pursuing this mission for seventy years by providing great journalism and a clear presentation of America and its policies,” said Walter Isaacson, Chairman of the BBG which oversees all U.S. international broadcasting including the VOA. “David Ensor is uniquely suited to lead VOA in fulfilling this dual mission. We are deeply honored that he would continue to be of service to journalism and to his country by following in the tradition of Edward R. Murrow and John Chancellor.”

Ensor has been Director for Communications and Public Diplomacy of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan since January 2010 and will join VOA in June.

“David Ensor’s unique experiences and skills make him a solid fit for this role,” said Judith A. McHale, the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, who serves as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s representative to the BBG, and who oversaw Ensor’s work in Afghanistan. “The State Department has been very fortunate to have David oversee our public diplomacy effort in Afghanistan, and we wish him well as he prepares to take the lead at VOA.”

Ensor is a winner of a National Headliner Award and an Emmy-nominated broadcast journalist whose 32-year career in television and radio news included extensive reporting on international affairs. Ensor covered the demise of Communism in Russia and Poland, armed conflicts in Bosnia, Chechnya, El Salvador, and Afghanistan, and the U.S. response to the 9/11 attacks. He was CNN’s National Security Correspondent and prior to that, an ABC News correspondent, with assignments in Washington, Moscow, Rome, and Warsaw. Ensor reported from Washington for National Public Radio covering foreign policy and defense issues.

In welcoming David Ensor, the BBG thanked retiring VOA Director Danforth Austin for his outstanding leadership. The Board recognized Austin’s role in improving VOA’s ability to engage with and grow audiences across multiple media platforms, integrating broadcast, online and social media while remaining steadfast to the principles of sound journalism enshrined in the VOA charter. Appointed to the post in October 2006, Austin has been one of the longest serving VOA directors.

Ensor is a member of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations and is fluent in French. He received a B.A. with honors from the University of California, Berkeley. Ensor holds the Knight's Cross awarded by the President of Poland.

http://www.bbg.gov/pressroom/press-releases/David_Ensor_to_serve_as_Director_of_Voice_of_America.html

WYFR

"As a practical matter, I was curious about the network's programming plans after May 21. My tour guide Rosa said that she didn't know and added that they are "just letting the lord stop it."

"There was a posted sign announcing that Friday, May 20 would be a paid holiday; but there was no mention of the work schedule for the following week. I also heard that programming was generally produced several weeks in advance, so if May 22 does come, there should be material to play. Harold Camping was vague about the future as far as programming goes, but he did admit to me that, "We have a lot of staff who don't abide us at all and for their sake there's some programming that's in the can. But we'll probably...we certainly will not use it, but for their sake, they think that they might use it." Despite that, he said that everyone has been helpful and loyal, even if they don't agree with the prediction about the coming Judgment Day. I asked him what the non-believing staff expected to happen at the network after May 21st and Camping said, "I'm not the CEO. God is the CEO. You have to ask him." When I asked Camping what his plans were for May 21, he told me that he'd probably be watching TV and listening to the radio to hear about what was happening around the world."

<http://www.radiosurvivor.com/2011/05/16/family-radio-counts-down-to-judgment-day-on-may-21/>