

SHORTWAVE RADIO IN RUSSIA

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In the past several years since the breakup of the Soviet Union, the radio scene has become very dynamic to say the least. Gone are the days when all broadcasts from Russia were state controlled. Privately produced programs, independent stations and relays of foreign religious broadcasters, unthinkable 4 years ago have now become the norm.

In addition to the increase in radio broadcasting activity, there has also been an increase in the number of active DX'ers who regularly communicate with their counterparts outside of Russia. It is largely a result of their activity and reports that much of the data in this article has been possible.

This article will focus on shortwave radio in Russia only. State broadcasters from the newly independent Republics as well as any private radio there are not included in this report. The highly active medium wave and FM likewise will not be addressed.

TRANSMITTER SITES

Before the breakup of the Soviet Union, little was known about the location of transmitter sites used by Radio Moscow and the other broadcasters from the Soviet Union. Many of the services from the Republics (Vilnius, Tashkent, Alma, Ata etc.) were believed to have originated from the cities where their studios were, but nobody knew for sure.

With Radio Moscow, we were even more in the dark. Except for some Western government agencies and location estimates from services like BBC Monitoring, most of us had to rely on verifications from Radio Moscow to tell us where the transmitters were located. We were truly at their mercy; if they said that the frequency in question was broadcast from Gorki, how were we to know any better?

In recent years, as the country has opened up and travel has become freer, much more has been learned about the true location of these sites. A summary of Russian transmitter sites QSL'd by US DX'ers published in the August 1976 FRENDEX showed 40 different sites in Russia; 21 in the European section and 19 in Asia. A recent survey compiled by Anatoly Klepov of Moscow shows that the current number of high powered Russian transmitter sites is 26, with 15 in Europe (Figure 1- Map showing High Powered site locations). Whether there are really fewer sites in use in the 1990's or whether a number of the sites quoted in the past never existed is not known. Probably a bit of both.

One of the factors which has contributed to the confusion in knowing where transmitter sites are located is that there have been a large number of name changes of Russian cities. Most cities which had been named for leading Soviet and Eastern European Communists have reverted to their pre-Bolshevik Revolution names. Of the cities which currently have transmitters, or those which had broadcast facilities in the past, the following name changes have taken place.

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>
Kalinin	Tver
Kuibyshev	Samara
Leningrad	St. Petersburg
Sverdlovsk	Yekaterinburg
Gorki	Nizhrj Novogorod
Stalingrad	Volgograd

One very interesting transmitter site is the Boishakovo site in the Kaliningrad enclave. This region used to be called Konigsberg and was part of Germany (East Prussia) until the end of World War II. After the war, it was divided, with half going to Poland and the other half going to Russia. It is now a non-contiguous piece of Russian territory separated from the main part of the country by Lithuania. As yet it is not considered a separate radio country, but could be worthy of consideration in the future.

According to Russian DX'er Mikhail Tomofeyev (via the DSWCI *Shortwave News*), the State Broadcast Radio Communication Company 2, in St. Petersburg, informs listeners that programs relayed via their centers in St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad will be verified by a special QSL card. Reception reports should be sent with 2 IRC's to: GPR-2 Verification QSL service, Akademika Pavlova St. 13A, 197376 St. Petersburg. Both sites have an extensive schedule of Radio Moscow, Mayak and Radio Rossiya programs, but the best bets for North American listeners would be : Kalinin-

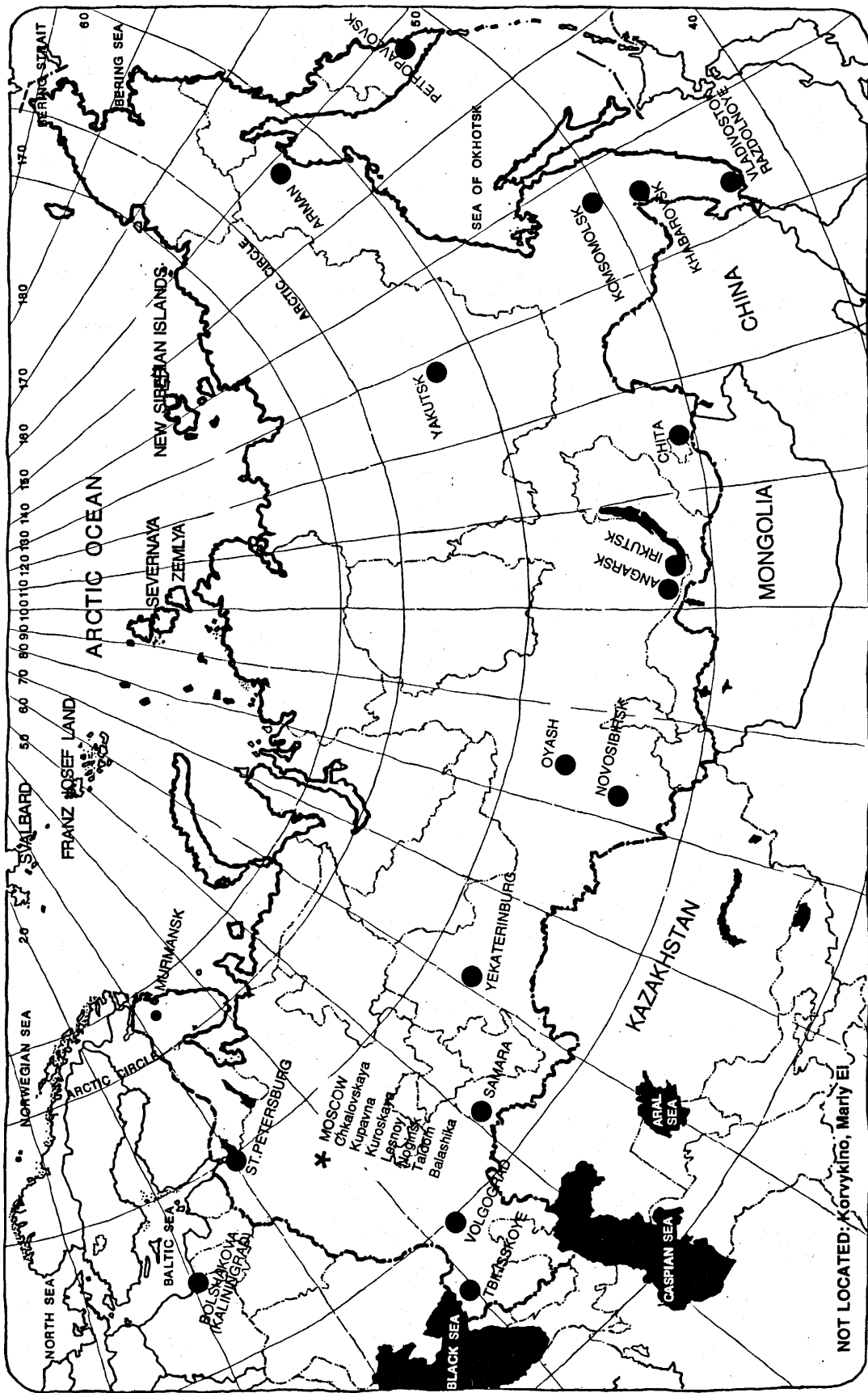


FIGURE 1. HIGH POWERED SHORTWAVE TRANSMITTER SITES

grad 5905 0500-0800, 9680 0830-1100 with Radio Moscow programs and 7225 0200-0530, 15360 0600-1400 with Radio Majak. St. Petersburg is listed on 5950 2130-2300, 7300 2200-2300, 9705 0200-0600, 9890 1300-1900, 12070 0830-1300 all with Radio Moscow programs.

Table 1.

High Powered Russian Transmitters

LOCATION	POWER (kw)	SERVICES
EUROPEAN RUSSIA		
Kurovskaya (Moskovskaya Obl.)	100/150/250	Foreign, Home
Noginsk (Moskovskaya Obl.)	120	Home
Chkalovskaya (Moskovskaya Obl.)	100	Foreign, Home
Kupavna (Moskovskaya Obl.)	100	
Taldom (Moskovskaya Obl.)	100/150/250	Foreign, Home
Lesnoy (Moskovskaya Obl.)	250/500	Foreign, Home
Balashika	20	Republic, Private
Murmansk (Murmanskaya Obl.)	50	Home
Tbilisskoye (Krasnodarsky Kray)	120-1000	Foreign, Home
Volgograd (Volgograd Obl.)	100	Foreign, Home, Private
St. Petersburg (Leningrad Obl.)	200	Foreign, Home, Relays
Samara (Tatarstan Republic)	50-250	Foreign, Home, Relays
Yekaterinburg (Yekaterinburg Obl.)	100	Foreign, Home, Relays
Kovylkino (Mordovia Republic)	80/120	Home
Bolshakovo (Kaliningrad Obl.)	50/100	Foreign, Home
ASIATIC RUSSIA		
Novosibirsk (Novosibirsk Obl.)	60-200	Foreign, Home, Relays
Oyash (Tomskaya Obl.)	500-1000	Foreign, Relays
Angarsk (Irkutskaya Obl.)	250/500/1000	Foreign, Relays
Irkutsk (Irkutskaya Obl.)	50/100	Home
Chita (Chitinskaya Obl.)	500/1000	Foreign, Home, Relays
Khabarovsk (Khabarovski Kray)	50-200	Foreign, Home
Komsomolsk (Khabarovski Kray)	100/200	Foreign, Home
Razdolnoye (Primorski Kray)	120-1000	Foreign, Home
Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky (Kamchat Obl.)	100/250	Foreign, Relays
Arman (Magadanskaya Obl.)	50	Home
Yakutsk (Yakutia ASSR)	15/100	Home

A remnant from the days of the old Soviet Union is the sharing of transmitter sites for different services (Table 1). In addition to carrying Radio Rossiya, regional programs and independently produced programs on the same frequency from the same site, programs from the former republics such as the Ukraine still use Russian transmitters. An example of this which can be heard in North America is the use of 6010 kHz by Radio Ukraine via Balashika in Russia. Until recently, Radio Vilnius was relayed on 7150 kHz from Krasnodar in Russia but financial difficulties in Lithuania have curtailed the use of Russian transmitters. The financial health of radio stations has become a contributing factor to the rapidly changing Russian radio scene as we shall see.

Conversely, Russian services are also broadcast over sites in the Republics. Radio Moscow uses transmitters throughout the Republics to expand its coverage. Kharkov in the Ukraine transmits Radio Moscow programs on 4795 kHz from 2100 to 2300 UTC. The Yangi-Yul site in Tadzhikistan carries the Radio Yunost Home Service program from Moscow on 4740 kHz.

Regional services are carried on a number of lower powered stations which may be from the city or region that they are serving. Most of these services also carry the Radio Rossiya program to the regions and use 50 kw or less. More about these later.

I. GOVERNMENT STATIONS

1. Radio Moscow External Services

For those of us who grew up listening to Radio Moscow during the cold war, the changes which have occurred to this bastion of the airwaves has been astounding. As recently as the late 80's, it was possible to tune into a Radio Moscow English language broadcast at almost any hour of the day on almost every shortwave band. Often their North American service seemed to extend over entire bands, so many channels were used. However, the economic crunch of the past few years have significantly reduced Radio Moscow's output. A check of the 1989 WRTH showed 218 hours/week of programming in 60 languages. By 1994 this had reduced to 151 hours/week in 45 languages including its World Service in Russian called Golos Rossiya.

Radio Moscow uses the transmitter sites indicated in Table 1. A program schedule requested from the station or the WRTH would provide the best listing of their current broadcasts.

Table 2.

RADIO 1 HOME SERVICE			
ORBITA 1 (1800-1600 UTC)			
12070	2245-0700	6200	1800-1600
11815	2145-0600	6175	0730-1600 1800-2115
11740	2230-1500	6090	0730-1600 1800-2115
9780	2145-0700	6035	0730-1230 1800-2215
7160	1800-2000		
6200	1800-1600		
ORBITA 2 (2000-1800)			
15460	0045-1100	7355	1100-1800
12060	0145-1215	7230	1130-1800 2000-0115
11825	2245-1115	6195	1230-1800 2000-0115
11665	0130-1030	6060	2000-1800
9615	1230-1800	5980	2000-0115
9575	0045-0930	5910	1000-1800 2000-0015
ORBITA 3 (2200-2000)			
15225	0330-1115	9450	0030-0830
11750	0230-1200	7400	2200-0200
11700	1130-2000	7110	1230-2000
10855	2200-2000 Mayak)	7100	2200-1100
9820	1200-1300	6195	1530-2000 2200-0100
9605	0130-1500	6135	0900-2000 2200-2400
9555	2300-0300	5935	2200-2000
ORBITA 4 (0000-2200)			
15185	0430-1330	11725	0000-1530
12000	0330-1315	9630	1400-2200
11965	1600-2200	7160	0000-0400

2. Ostankino Home Services

In addition to producing Radio Moscow International programs, the government funded Ostankino company (named for the Moscow district where its studios and TV towers are located) produces a number of programs for broadcast throughout Russia and some of the former Republics. These programs are carried over many External Service transmitters and are some segments are retransmitted between programming blocks on the regional services. Four main services are carried :

Radio 1: A general program carried throughout Russia for 22 hours/day. Five time-shifted editions of this program are carried starting at 1800, 2000, 2200, 0000 and at 0200 UTC. These services cover the vast nation from east to west and are referred to as Orbita 1 through 4 and the European edition, respectively. This program replaced the former All Union Radio service. Table 2 at the left shows their most recent schedule.

Radio Yunost: The youth channel which carries music and programming targeted at the younger generation. The program is carried 24 hours/day.

Radio Mayak: One holdover from the pre-Gorbachev days, this station's name translates to "Lighthouse". It carries all kinds of music, sports and other general programs. News and weather is carried on the hour and half-hour after its distinctive interval signal.

Radio Orfey: A cultural program for Europe which carries drama and classical music from 0300-2100 UTC.

3. Radio Rossiya

Radio Rossiya or Russia's Radio, along with Ostankino's Radio 1, is one of the main domestic services serving all of Russia with 5 time shifted programs. For the regional services, most of its broadcast day tends to be filled with Radio Rossiya relays, with only a small part of the schedule devoted to local programming. Radio Rossiya is also heard on a number of Radio Moscow transmitters including 12175 USB which is often heard during our local daytime, 1400 to 1700 UTC. Programming tends to be dominated by news and current affairs programs.

4. Independently Produced Programs Broadcast Over Radio Moscow

This is where keeping track of the changes in broadcasting gets either interesting or becomes a nightmare, depending on your perspective.

Over the past several years there has been a profusion of programs prepared by a number of political and religious groups for broadcast over Radio Moscow facilities. It appears that to ease its financial crunch, Radio Moscow has been selling air time to groups both inside and outside of Russia. Ads have even been heard on Radio Moscow hawking time slots to whoever would buy them.

The fragmentation of audiences which has been experienced in the West with the proliferation of specialty media services is also happening in Russia. In the West this fragmentation is driven by developments in technology but, in Russia, it is the result of less media control by the State.

Some of the programs broadcast material which is openly critical of other foreign governments such as the anti-Vietnamese program, Radio Hy Vong, and come close to being a clandestine broadcast. But, whatever you call them, these programs are interesting.

While the current schedule of these programs is included in Table 3, you will need to be vigilant to find them as they frequently change schedules and frequencies. The schedules here reflect the winter period and many move one hour earlier during the Russian summer season.

As an example of how fast this area of Russian broadcasting has changed over the past few years, one need only look back to early 1992. At that time I wrote an article for DX Ontario about private radio in Russia and listed 8 stations which either had their own transmitters or had programs broadcast via Radio Moscow. As of January 1994, none of these programs were still on the air. Gone were such early pioneering private programs as Business Radio Rezonans (now Radio Bumerang on MW), Radio Station New Wave (now part of Radio 1) and Echo of Moscow (on MW and FM). Such is the speed at which Russian radio changes.

Radio Slavyanka

On August 6, 1993, the Russian Federation's Ministry of Defense began a joint service with Radio Moscow International for servicemen based in Tadzhikistan stationed on the Afghan border and for ethnic Russians in the area. This service was expanded on November 1, 1993 to include troops still stationed in the Baltic Republics, Kaliningrad Oblast, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Two of the channels used by this service, 4740 and 4975 originate from Yangi-Yul in Tadzhikistan. The station's address is: Ulitsa Mashala Shaposhinkova 14, Moscow K-160.

Voice of the Assyrians

Not much is known about the Moscow Assyrian Community which is behind this service which came on the air in mid '93, broadcasting in Assyrian, Persian, Arabic and Russian. Hans Johnson, an expert in broadcasting from the Middle East sheds a little bit of light on the Assyrians. They are a Christian minority group that now inhabits parts of several Middle Eastern countries including Syria, Iraq and Iran and until early in this century controlled an empire in Southern Iraq. If you should hear them, try the Radio Moscow address of: ul.Pyatniskaya 25, 113326 Moscow.

Radio Rukhi Miras

Rukhi Miras is the program prepared by the Islamic Center of Moscow which broadcasts in Tatar the indigenous language of Tataristan, an Autonomous region, east of Moscow near the Ural mountains. The station's address is : Sheikh Ravil Gainutdin, Islamic Center of Moscow Region, Moscow Jami Mosque, Vipolzov by-str 7, 129090 Moscow.

Radio Stansiya Nodezhda (Radio Station Hope)

This station is reported to be the mouthpiece of the Women's Public Organization in Russia. It was set up by the Russian Womens Union and a charitable fund "The International Foundation For The Protection of the Health of Mother and Child" and has been heard with a 4 hour program broadcast at 0700 to the Far East, 1100 to Russia, 1500 to European Russia and Central Asia and at 2000 with to Europe on a number of shortwave channels, all in the Russian language. For reports try the Radio Moscow address.

Radio Radonezh

This is the station of the Russian Orthodox Church which broadcasts daily for 1 hour from the transmitters at Yekaterinburg. Address is Studio 158, ulitska Pyatnitskaya 25, Moscow 113326.

Radio Galaxy

When it came on the air in 1991, Radio Galaxy probably epitomized the changes which were underway in the old Soviet Union. Never before had we heard a shortwave station from Russia broadcasting commercials (albeit clumsy commercials by western standards). The station's programming consisted of pop music with occasional commercial advertisements for Moscow area businesses (generally looking for Western partners and money) in English. Reception on 11880 or 9880 kHz used to be quite reliable in the late afternoons around 2100 UTC, however it has not been heard recently and is reported inactive. Address is P.O. Box 7, Moscow 117418.

Table 3.

Independently Produced Programs Aired Over Radio Moscow

PROGRAM	TIME/DAY	FREQUENCY
Radio Slavyanka	0100-0300 Tu-Sun	9540, 9490, 9480, 7390, 7310, 7160, 4975, 4940, 4740
	1600-1800 M-Sun	12025, 12015, 9890, 9540, 7310, 4975, 4940, 4740
Voice of the Assyrians	1600-1700 W, Sa	7305, 12075, 17890
Radio Rukhi Miras	1600-1645 F	4055, 12075, 17890
Radio Nadezhda	0400-0700	5915, 5935, 6015, 7140, 9490, 9625, 9730, 11670, 11740, 11805
	0700-1100	5915, 5935, 7140, 9490, 9635, 9725, 9730, 11665, 11670, 15120, 15230, 17560
	1100-1500	5915, 5935, 7420, 9490, 11665, 11705, 15230
	1500-2000	5935, 6015, 7420, 9490, 9590, 9725, 11705, 11855, 11985, 15340, 17675, 11885 11985, 15340
	2200-2400	6015, 11985, 15340
Radio Radonezh	1600-1700	9865
Radio Galaxy (inactive?)	2100-2200	9880, 11880
Radio Alef	1600-1700 Tu, Th, Su	4055, 5905, 12075, 17890
Radio Alpha & Omega	1500-1600	9865
Radio Center	0630-0700	12010
	1630-1700	11735
Voice of Islam	0625-0700 F	7265, 8005 USB, 9595, 9720, 11720, 11780, 11905, 11990
Radio Risalah	0800-0900	15550, 17635, 17710
Radio Aum Shinrikyo	0430-0500	Many
	2130-2200	Many
	1600-2200	7160

Radio Alef

Radio Alef (named for Alef, the Hebrew letter A) is a joint venture between Radio Moscow and the Jewish Childrens Association, Banim Banot. The service is announced as being for Moscow city, Moscow oblast and Israel and carries advertising and occasional announcements in Hebrew. Their address is P.O. Box 72, 123154 Moscow.

Radio Alpha and Omega

Christian Radio Station Alpha and Omega is sponsored by the Protestant Publishing House, Mukomol'nyi pr. 1 korp. 2, Moscow 123290.

Radio Center

This station started broadcasting from Radio Moscow facilities in early 1993. It is unique in that for its signon it has a tape of an announcer repeating the station's name over and over again for a minute or two. There were reports in 1992 that the owners of the now departed Radio Space were opening up a new "station" called Radio Center, so this is likely the result of that work. Address is: ul. Nikolskaya 7, 103012 Moscow.

Voice of Islam

Not much is known about this program which is broadcast for 35 minutes on Fridays on a number of Radio Moscow channels. I have only listed the lower frequencies which might propagate to North America, but be aware that there are a number of other channels where they can be heard.

Radio Risalah

This station goes by several names including Radio Risalah in Arabic, Radio Poslaniye in Russian and Radio Message in English. Their programs consist of material from foreign press agencies, the Russian ITAR-TASS news agency, the Islamic Herald and Radio Moscow. Reports can be sent to "Al-Risalah - The Message", ulitsa Pyatnitskaya 25, 113326 Moscow

Radio Station Pamyat

This station which began operating in late September 1991 is sponsored by an extreme right-wing group in Russia. The name of this station means "memory" and is the voice of the Russian national/patriotic front. This group blames the Jews and the Masons for the situation that Russia is in. During the crisis of early October 1993 where

Yeltsin's forces retook the Russian parliament, this station was closed down by decree of President Yeltsin. It is still shut down because of financial difficulties, but the station has indicated that it plans to return to shortwave. Its address is: Radio Station Pamyat, P.O. Box 23, Moscow 113535.

Radio Aum Shinrikyo

This rather bizarre station is the voice of a Japanese religious sect. Its 30 minute English program, produced in Japan is called "Euagerion Tess Basherisu" which means "The Announcement of the Absolute Gospel of the Holy Heaven of the Propagation of the Absolute Truth of the Holy Heaven" (or words to that effect). They have some unusual readings from the writings of their founder Shoku Ashihara and almost hypnotic chanting music. The broadcast is hard to miss as it makes use of most of Radio Moscow's facilities twice a day at 0430 and 2030. In fact the 1994 WRTH reports them on no less than 48 channels at 0430. If you can stay awake for their entire broadcast, their address is given at the end as 381-1, Hitoana, Fujinoniya, Shizuoka, Japan 418-01.

Radio Hy Vong (Radio Hope / Radio Nadezhda)

In 1992, a group opposed to the current Vietnamese government set up a program called Radio Irina. This program was well heard in North America from 1400 to 1500 UTC on 15580 kHz. However, in July 1993 it was shutdown for "political reasons". In its place, sprouted Radio Hy Vong on July 19, 1993. It broadcasts in Russian on Wednesday and Thursdays and in Vietnamese on other days. It is not known whether the same group that produced Radio Irina is behind Radio Hy Vong as well. If you want to try reporting to them, Radio Irina's old address may be worth a try. It is ul. Novinskiy 18/257, 121069 Moscow.

II. "INDEPENDENT" STATIONS

1. Regional Services

Most of the major cities and regions (oblasts) throughout Russia have their own locally produced and transmitted programs which are aired over medium and short wave transmitters for the local audience (Figure 2). Generally the transmitters for these services are much lower in power than are Radio Moscow's. The Tura site in Siberia operates with only 1.5 kW, while the powerhouses in Vladivostok, Chita and Petropavlovsk use 100 kW. Most, however, use about 50 kW.

These regional services are carried for several hours per day on transmitters which are shared with various national services (primarily Radio Rossiya but also Radio 1, Radio Yunost and Radio Mayak). Most stations are on the air for a total of 20 to 23 hours per day, signing off only for a couple of hours during the middle of their local night. Since the broadcasting schedules of their locally produced programs tend to be fragmented in programming blocks varying from 15 minutes to several hours, only the frequencies of broadcast are listed in Table 4. Time of their local broadcasts can be found in the WRTH.

It is hard to say just how independent these stations are, considering that almost all of them carry at least some Ostankino programs. One indication though that they have some autonomy is that on January 20 the transmitters in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky and Anadyr were switched off until their electricity bills were paid. At the same time some Moscow area transmitting centers, Vladivostok and Chita were given warnings that they could be switched off as well. This threat already seems to be having an impact at Vladivostok as their 5015 kHz frequency is now on the air for only 10 1/2 hours/day compared to its previous 23 hour broadcast day.

2. Independent Stations

After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 there was a real rush of entrepreneurs who scrambled onto the air with their own stations. In many cases these stations broadcast news and pop music which was not available on the government run stations, but also seemed to reflect the egos of the personnel behind the ventures. Both Radio Ala and Radio SNC took their names from the initials of their owners.

The greatest number of these new stations were from the Moscow area. This was especially so on medium wave and FM where there has been a profusion of western styled rock music stations.

Unfortunately the "bloom seems to be off the rose" for these stations, at least on shortwave. Whether the reason is the escalating costs of station operation or bureaucratic red tape, the number of independent shortwave stations has dramatically reduced in the past year. Gone are such stations as Radio Ala, Radio Polis, Radio SNC and Radio New Wave. Those stations that do remain are quite difficult to hear and as such not much is known about many of the currently active stations listed in Table 5.

3. Foreign Broadcasters in Russia

In an effort to bring in foreign cash to Russia, the state has offered the many Radio Moscow transmitters for use of foreign broadcasters. To many broadcasters, this is a great opportunity to reach the huge populations of East and South Asia from the ideally located transmitters in Siberia and Kazakhstan.

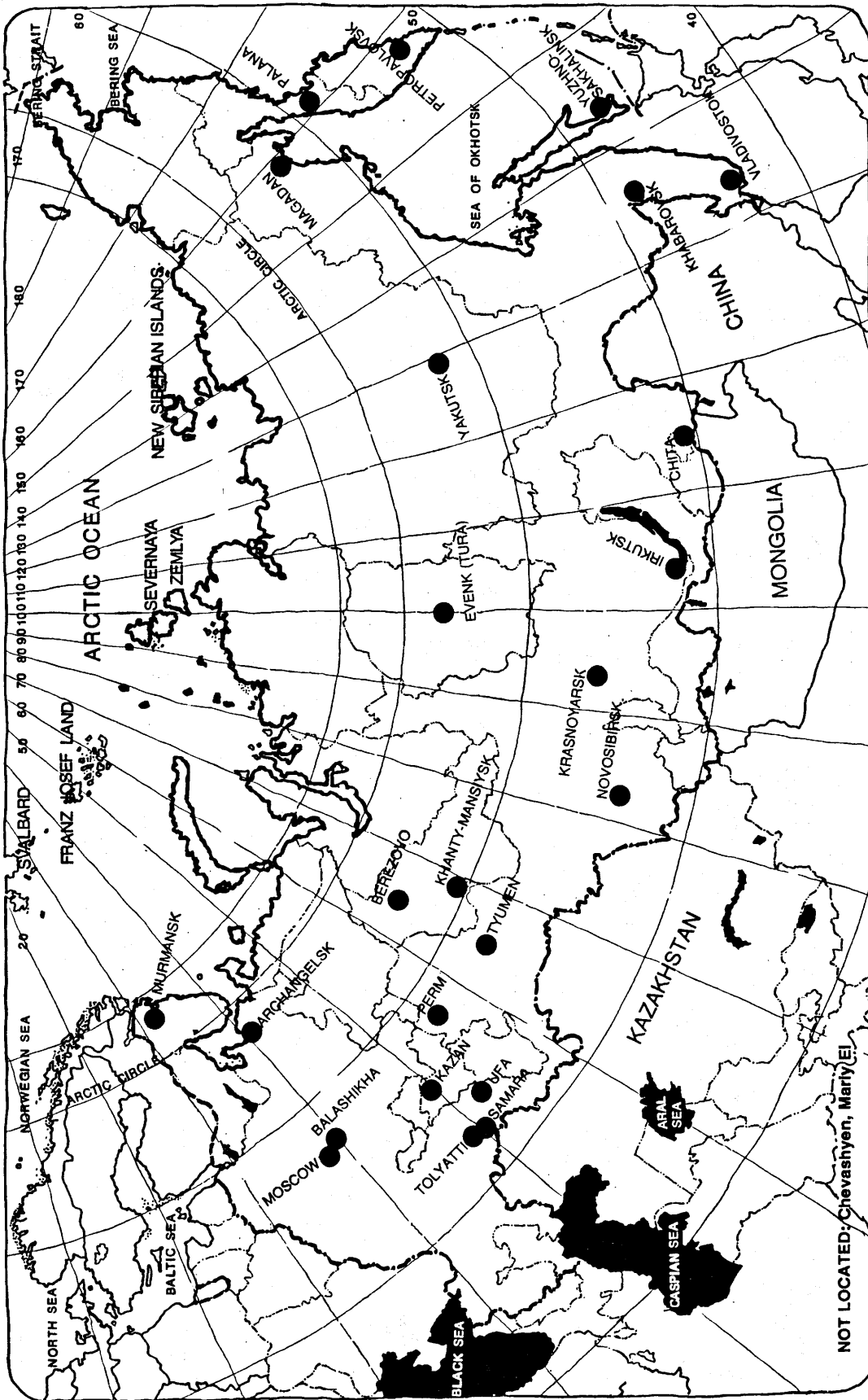


FIGURE 2. RUSSIAN REGIONAL STATIONS

Regional Services

STATION	FREQUENCY	POWER (kW)	HOURS/DAY FOR LOCAL SERVICE	TOTAL BDCST. DAY (UTC)
Novosibirsk (Kazakh R)	3955		23	0000-2300
Evenk	4040	1.5	2	0030-
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk	4050 USB	50	3	1800-1600
Moscow	4055	60	4	0200-2400
Petropavolsk	4485	100	4	1800-1600
Ufa (Bashkir R)	4485	50	5	0000-2200
Khanty-Mansiysk	4520	5	0	0000-2200
Palana (Koryak R)	4520	5	1	2000-0800
Khabarovsk	4610	15	7	2000-1800
Yakutsk	4800	50	3	2000-1800
Yakutsk	4810			2000-1800
Khanty-Mansiysk	4820	50	3	0000-2200
Yakutsk	4825	50 (Winter)	3	2000-1800
Chita	4860	100	5	2000-1800
Tyumen	4895	15	3	0000-2300
Yakutsk	4920	50	3	2000-1800
Yakutsk	4940	50 (Winter)	3	2000-1800
Vladivostok	5015	50	4	2030-0700
Berezovo	5070	1	Sun.	0330-0700
Krasnoyarsk	5290	50	3	2200-2000
Perm (R Rossiya)	5290	20	0	
Murmansk	5930	50	3	0200-2400
Novosibirsk (Radio 1)	5935		0	
Magadan	5940	50	4	1700-1500
Magadan (Anadyr R)	5940	50	3	0200-2400
Khabarovsk	6060		6	
Irkutsk	6090	50	3	
Tolyatti (Tatar R)	6115	5	8	0300-1530
Kazan (Tatar R)	6120	20	8	
Mariy El	6125		3	0330-1800
Arkhangelsk	6160	15	2	0200-0000
Perm (Kudymkar R)	6165	3	2	0000-2200
Yakutsk	7140	50	3	2000-1800
Perm(Tatar R)	7185	3	8	0200-1745
Yakutsk	7200	50	3	2000-1800
Mariy El	7200	3	2	0200-1400
Khabarovsk	7210	50	7	2000-1900
Yakutsk	7265	50	3	2000-1800
Magadan	7320	50	4	1500-1300
Yakutsk	7340	50	4	1700-1500
Magadan (Anadyr R)	9600	50	1	0815-0900
Chita	9720	5		
Chevashyen	9875	4		0315-1900?
Perm (Kudymkar R)	11770	3	1	1400-2200
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk	11840 USB	50	3	1800-1600
Samara (Tatar R)	11905	2		1630-1900
Tolyatti (Tatar R)	11920			
Balashikha (Tatar R)	11945	20		
Perm (Tatar R)	15200		3	1800-2100
Murmansk	15350	3		
Balashikha (Tatar R)	17810	20		

Table 4.

Among the first broadcasters to use Russian transmitting facilities were the religious broadcasters Far East Broadcasting Corporation and Adventist World Radio. In March 1992, FEBC established Russian, Korean and Chinese services on shortwave using the facilities of the former Dalny Vostok Radio in the Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk. Their facilities consist of a 20 kW former jamming transmitter and an office/studio in Khabarovsk. An FM network for Siberia headquartered in Novosibirsk and a nation wide medium wave service centered in Moscow ensure wide coverage in the country.

Independent Stations

STATION	LOCATION	TIME	FREQUENCY
Radio Vostok	Khabarovsk	0600-0730	5010, 7210
Radio Centr	Krasnoyarsk	0300-0330	5290
Radio Diapazon	Perm	0330-0400	5290
U Radio	Moscow	1700-0100	5900
Radio Vedo	Volgograd	0400-0800 (Sat/Sun)	5975, 13710
		1400-1700 (M-F)	5975, 13710
Radio Lena	Yakutsk	0300-1000	5920, 6125
Radio Yakutsk	Yakutsk	0500-1300	5920
Radio Novyya Volna-2	Chelyabinsk	0700-1500	6020
Radio Nika M-4	Murmansk	1000-1200	6030
Radio Dvizhenie	Yekaterinburg	1300-1700	6090
Radio Vesj Irkutsk	Irkutsk	0500-0600	6090
		1100-1200	6090
		2330-0030	6090
Radio N	Yekaterinburg	0500-0600 (Tue-Sat)	6200
		0700-1100 (Tue-Sat)	6200
Radio M	Yekaterinburg	0600-0700 (Tue-Sat)	6200
		1230-1330 (Tue/Wed/Sat)	6200
Radio Channel Uralskiy	Yekaterinburg	1200-1300	6200
	Commercheskiy	1530-1600	6200
Radio 7	Samara	0400-0630 (Mon-Fri)	6130
		1200-1400 (Mon-Fri)	6130
		1000-1500 (Sat)	6130
		1200-1500 (Sun)	6130
		0100-0300 (Mon-Fri)	9550
		0700-0900 (Mon-Fri)	9550
		0500-1000 (Sat)	9550
		0500-0800 (Sun)	9550
Radio Republic of Sakha	Yakutsk	0800-1000	7215
		2000-2200	7215

Table 5.

Later in March 1992, a second religious broadcaster started its shortwave service from Russia. Adventist World Radio Europe now broadcasts from Moscow, Samara and Novosibirsk. Until recently they also used the transmitting complex in Yekaterinburg, however, they have dropped this site due to a steep increase in costs of electricity being charged to relay stations. Hopefully this will not be a sign of things to come.

One of the more unusual broadcasters to take to the Russian airwaves has been the American preacher Dr. Gene Scott. He too set up Russian relays of his programs via Novosibirsk and Samara in 1992 and is now heard at various times of the day on 6070, 6120, 11840, 12040, 15315, 21485 and 21670 kHz, although none of these channels are regularly reported in North America.

Unlike these religious broadcasters, the International shortwave broadcasters which use Radio Moscow's transmitters do not maintain offices and studios in Russia, they simply lease their time on these transmitters. According to Russian DX'er Nikolai Rudnev, as of the end of 1993, ten stations were leasing time on Radio Moscow shortwave facilities in the CIS, mostly in Russia.

Deutsche Welle	130.9 Freq. Hrs./Wk.	<u>Religious Broadcasters</u>	
Radio Nederland	98	University Network	182
BBC	71.8	AWR	73.5
VOA	31.5	TWR	28
China Radio Int'l	31.5	World Christian Corp.	6
Radio France Int'l	14		

VERIFICATIONS

In general, QSL's from the independently produced programs and from Russian stations in general have tended to be few and far between. This is likely due to the poor state of the postal service in Russia. Many letters do not arrive at their destination and replies do not make it out of the country. Letters which I have received from Russia have shown signs of obviously having been opened, so caution and persistence are needed when searching for QSL's.

In a number of cases (especially for Moscow based programs), the Radio Moscow address of ul. Pyatnitskaya 25, 113326 is used and could be considered as an address of last resort if a location for the station is not known.

FUTURE PLANS?

In a country that is undergoing as much political and economic change as Russia, predicting the future of its radio developments is a mugs game where you will almost certainly be wrong. Will the numbers of international broadcasters being relayed on Russian transmitters increase as the state tries to bring in more foreign cash or will escalating energy costs drive them out? Similarly will private broadcasters back away as costs rise, or will the opportunity to broadcast their own particular message be too attractive to pass up?

Will political and ethnic tensions in the oblasts and Russian Republics lead to dissident radio stations to support the local causes? A couple of Republics to watch in this area are oil-rich Tatarstan, which has many shortwave transmitters to draw upon and the Chechen and North Ossetia Republics near Georgia. Treaties have now been signed which make Tatarstan a sovereign republic in voluntary confederation with Russia. As such, Tatarstan can secede whenever it wishes. The mineral rich Yakutsk region has also expressed desires towards independence.

Unlike the oblasts (regions) which send 55% of the revenue that they collect to Moscow, Tatarstan and its neighboring Republic of Bashkarostan send no revenue to Moscow. Because of this type of inequality, the regions are talking of banding together into loose alliances to become Republics which would have more rights than the regions do. In the center, 11 regions are talking about forming the Central Russian Republic. In the industrial belt of the Urals, there is talk of a Ural Republic. In the east, leaders are talking of Siberian and Far East Republics. Where changes in political power and control occur, the media (including radio) often change as well, so activity in these areas is a possibility.

Finally, with the current political situation in Moscow being anything but stable, could radio services supporting views opposed to President Yeltsin start to spring up? Will the recently elected Vladimir Zhirinovskiy establish a radio voice for his right-wing views?

While the future direction of radio in Russia may not be clear, it certainly will be interesting and will bear watching in the months and years to come.

ADDENDUM

Just before this article went to press, it was reported on Radio Nederland's *Media Network* that a large number of the shortwave relays of regional services (see Table 4) went off the air on July 28, 1994, although many of them returned to the air a couple of days later. In addition it appeared that Radio Rossiya and Ostakino services (Majak, Radio 1, Radio Yunost) had dropped their shortwave channels above 6 MHz, although these have not been confirmed.

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