

Sounds from Underground

APRIL 1986

By Scott McClellan

As the warmer weather spreads across North America, pirate are warming up their transmitters to provide shortwave listeners with some top notch entertainment.

The Voice of Laryngitis made a welcome appearance on March 24th from 0043 until 0112 UTC on 7425 kHz. As always, Cowboy Stan and Genghis Huxley presented as very entertaining, well-produced show. Included was another parody of WRNO's "World of Radio" program, a message from "The Old Philosopher," and another show in the continuing series, "Pirate Busters." The show was repeated on 3215 kHz at 0300 UTC but with a weaker signal. This station has always been a quality operation, and promptly sends QSL cards for correct reports in care of P.O. Box 982, Battle Creek, Michigan 49018. Enclose three first class stamps to cover postage costs.

WPBR, Pig Boy Radio was logged by veteran pirate chaser George Zeller on March 16, from 0205 to 0252 UTC on 7438 kHz lower sideband. George reports a good signal, which made listening to the varied program quite pleasurable. The show



was hosted by "The Messenger" and "The Soldier" who were interviewed on the air by "Zelma Whitt." The interview revealed the following information: the station uses a Heathkit transmitter, they've made eight broadcasts thus far, and they claim they have the financial backing of the F.C.C. The last claim is a little far-fetched! George also heard a seven minute report from Blair House, called "Marxism for Beginners." This station uses an interval signal consisting of the first twelve notes of "Old MacDonald" played on the guitar. WPBR uses the Battle Creek address given above and has recently begun to

send out QSL cards to listeners.

WHOT continues to make regular broadcasts on or near 1630 kHz on weekends, usually local Friday nights. I logged them on March 29 at 0430 UTC on 1630 kHz with Hank Haze at the microphone. Hank's style reminds me of a typical, hyper top-40 DJ; a very expressive and animated voice, complete with reverb. WHOT's usual format is rock music, with occasional on-air phone conversations. This station seems to be audible all over the northeastern United States, as far west as Michigan.

Another station that is

occasionally heard just above the AM band is KROK, heard by George Zeller on March 18 from 0505 to 0525 UTC on 1622 kHz. He reports hearing "At the Hop" and other early 1960s music typical of this station. The show was hosted by "The Fox" who announced that this was a test transmission with a frequency in the 41 meter band running in parallel. KROK has a nice QSL card to send for reports to P.O. Box 245, Moorhead, Minnesota 56560.

If you're seriously into DXing the pirates, there is a club that may interest you. It's the Association of Clandestine Radio Enthusiasts (ACE). Ace publishes a monthly bulletin filled with information on pirates, clandestine stations, "spy" numbers stations and other oddities found in the radio spectrum. For more information and a sample bulletin, send \$1.50 to ACE, P.O. Box 46199, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895. Please tell them you read about it in International Radio.

If you've been hearing any pirates, let me know! Send your letters to International Radio magazine, P.O. Box 691, Thorndale, PA 19372. Until the next time, good listening!