

Domestic Broadcasting Survey
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Edited by Anker Petersen
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Reviewed by Richard A. D'Angelo

There are numerous providers of free radio broadcasting information on the Internet today. Although the “free” price is reasonable, these publications tend to be lacking in terms of the quality, consistency and reliability of information particularly in the areas of tropical band and domestic band station listening. The latest Domestic Broadcasting Survey, 16th Edition (“DBS” or “DBS-16”), which was once again edited by Denmark’s world-renowned DX’er Anker Petersen, is one resource that provides an accurate DX reference for the tropical band and domestic band shortwave listening enthusiast each year. Published in April by the Danish Shortwave Club International (“DSWCI”), the DBS continues to be the top annual publication devoted to tropical and domestic band shortwave broadcasting stations. Along with its monthly updated graphical companion, the Tropical Band Monitor (“TBM”), the combination of these two DX references continues to be unbeatable in quality, timeliness and value to the serious shortwave listener. The DSWCI offers the DBS in electronic form (pdf-format), which provides for a substantial reduction in price over the paper version increasing its value and speed of delivery. For traditionalists, the paper version of the DBS is available. Either way you will be receiving and using an important DX resource produced by an international array of top notch DX’ers that will prove its worth to you time after time. The DBS and TBM references are usually the first items I pack on each of the French Creek DXpeditions.



As in past years, a copy of the Press Release can be found on the DSWCI website at www.dswci.org. By clicking on the Domestic Band Survey, you will see the color front page of a two man Calypso steel band in Philipsburg, Sint Maarten, the Caribbean performing on the streets. The photo, which was taken by Editor Petersen during his world travels, and a sample listings from this year's DBS along with reviews from last year's edition all can be found at that location. Anker's annual colorful cover photographs for the DBS continues to provide the local flavor associated with a domestic shortwave listening market.

The DSWCI is now fifty-seven years old. It has a worldwide membership of experienced shortwave listeners scattered in 32 different countries all over the globe. Anker draws upon the knowledge and skills of the DSWCI's international array of top-flight DX'ers to produce this unique and extremely valuable hobby resource. But about 70 domestic shortwave stations frequencies have left the bands, so DBS-16 is thinner than past editions. In order to make the DBS reliable, the club's own monitors around the world checked the 570 station shortwave frequencies – down from 640 stations the previous year - on the air throughout the period April 2013 – March 2014. In addition to the club's extensive monitoring activity, the new survey is also based upon many official sources and DX bulletins with A14 schedules included when available. Over the years, the DSWCI has published some of the best non-commercial hobby references available to the shortwave listener. The electronic and print editions of DBS-16 continue in this grand tradition. It is an essential reference for serious shortwave listeners and DX'ers.

This is the sixteenth year that the DSWCI has incorporated its invaluable tropical band survey into a broader national survey that includes all domestic shortwave broadcasting. The old Tropical Band Survey ("TBS") portion of this publication, which has been tops in the field of shortwave broadcast lists for many years, is in its 42nd year. Because most of the club's members devote the majority of their DX'ing time to domestic broadcasting stations on the tropical and international shortwave bands, many years ago the DSWCI decided to expand the traditional tropical band survey to include stations broadcasting to a domestic audience on the international shortwave bands. Consequently, the DSWCI now publishes a superb, comprehensive reference of domestic shortwave broadcasting throughout the shortwave spectrum. The DBS-16 covers all active stations broadcasting to a domestic audience between the frequencies of 2,300 kHz to 30,000 kHz. Part 1 is the 42nd edition of Tropical Band Survey covering all active broadcasting stations in the 2300 to 5700 kHz range including clandestine stations. Part 2 covers the domestic stations on the international bands above 5700 kHz broadcasting to a domestic radio audience. Part 3 contains deleted frequencies between 2 and 30 MHz, which have not been reported heard during the last five years, but may reappear at some future point in time. Unfortunately, this latter section is growing at a faster rate these days.

As in past years, a valuable, unique feature of the DBS-16 is the right hand column called Last Log. This column features the last month, and year prior to the March 31, 2014 deadline, when a particular station was reported by a DX'er somewhere in the world. This gives the listener a reasonable indication of the audibility of the shortwave broadcasting station. As part of the updating process, most frequencies that have not been heard in the last year have been deleted from the list and moved to a section at the end of the survey, Part 3 as discussed above. This updating procedure keeps the DBS current and very user friendly. My own personal monitoring and checking confirms that the 2014 edition of the Domestic Broadcasting Survey continues the tradition of providing very accurate and extremely useful information for the serious shortwave DX'er. Consequently, the DBS is an extremely valuable addition to any shortwave listener's DX shack where published radio resources are necessary in pursuit of elusive DX station catches. My copy of the Domestic Band Survey sits on my desk in the shack along with its companion, the Tropical Band Monitor, next to my communications receivers at all times.

To assure reliability, each of the 570 station frequencies has been checked by the club's extensive collection of worldwide shortwave monitoring experts since the last publication through the March closing date. Stations confirmed as being active is marked with an "A" (regular), or "B" (irregular), or

“C” (sporadic) in the list. A “D” means the station is likely inactive. This simple coding system provides valuable information when tuning the bands while trying to get a handle on rare, exotic shortwave DX catches. As a result of extensive monitoring, most of the frequencies already have been confirmed as being active in 2014.

The previously mentioned Tropical Bands Monitor feature was added in 2005 as a monthly updater to the DBS. Its introduction provided a readily available electronic update of broadcasting stations below 5700 kHz using a color-coded graphical presentation format. It has been a big success making the DBS/TBM combination an extremely valuable tool for shortwave monitoring activity. This website based feature, which is updated each month, helps to keep the DBS-16 current. All buyers of DBS-16 get a username and password to the monthly updates on the tropical bands published as "Tropical Bands Monitor" on the club's website. At www.dswci.org/tbm you can follow the activity of each station during 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 with their collection of annual Tropical Band Monitors. I download the latest version each month, it is usually available 3 or 4 days after the close of the previous month, and use it as a ready guide to what is being heard around the world on the domestic shortwave frequencies. This service alone is worth more than the price of the DBS itself. I can't over emphasize the value the TBM adds to the DBS. Together they form an indispensable package of DX reference sources that are updated each month. DSWCI members also receive periodic updates issued in the *Shortwave News* bulletin published by the club and through its electronic *DX Window* bi-weekly newsletter (a service similar to our own weekly electronic Flashsheet). These extra services keep the domestic band survey accurate, up-to-date and essential tools in chasing elusive shortwave DX catches. Details about becoming a DSWCI member are available at the club website. The electronic, pdf-format, club membership option substantially reduces the cost of being a member by reducing the printing and postage costs. Because of the club's strong DX culture and its array of international DX'ers, membership in the DSWCI is well worth the annual dues.

The Domestic Broadcasting Survey and Tropical Band Monitor are high quality shortwave broadcast DX resources made available at a very reasonable price. The combination of high quality and low price make the DBS and TBM unbeatable in today's global resource reference marketplace. If you listen to domestic broadcasters, the DBS-16, along with the monthly updates through the TBM, is a “*must have*” addition to the radio shack's hobby literature resource bundle needed while tuning the shortwave bands. As I mentioned before, these are the first resources I pack when attending French Creek DXpeditions. I can't imagine DX'ing the shortwave bands without a copy of the Domestic Band Survey and the latest graphical update of the Tropical Band Monitor at my side. The combination of highly accurate data in an easy to use format makes them extremely valuable hobby resources.

How easy is the Domestic Broadcasting Survey to use? Simple, the DBS-16 is very straightforward and easy to use. The first column provides the reception code, A, B, or C as previously described. The second column lists the frequency. The third column provides the station transmitter output. The fourth column designates the broadcasting country utilizing the International Telecommunications Union (“ITU”) country code abbreviations. For those not familiar with these abbreviations, a complete list of ITU country codes is given on page 3 of the DBS. The fifth column provides the station name and/or call letters and location. The next column provides transmission times and other useful information about the station such as operating schedules during Ramadan for Middle East and Indonesian stations. Other useful features for easy station identification are the parallel frequencies and station ID information. The final column is the Last Log feature previously described. Also, the survey includes a listing of Indonesian provinces and special districts, which is extremely useful for DX'ers with an interest in that part of shortwave broadcasting world. See the sample extracts from the DBS at the end of this review.

The 20-page A-4 size Domestic Broadcasting Survey is available in electronic form in pdf-format of about 350 kB at a reduced price this year. The price reduction reflects decreased activity on the shortwave bands resulting in a smaller survey. The electronic DBS-16 is available via e-mail for just

