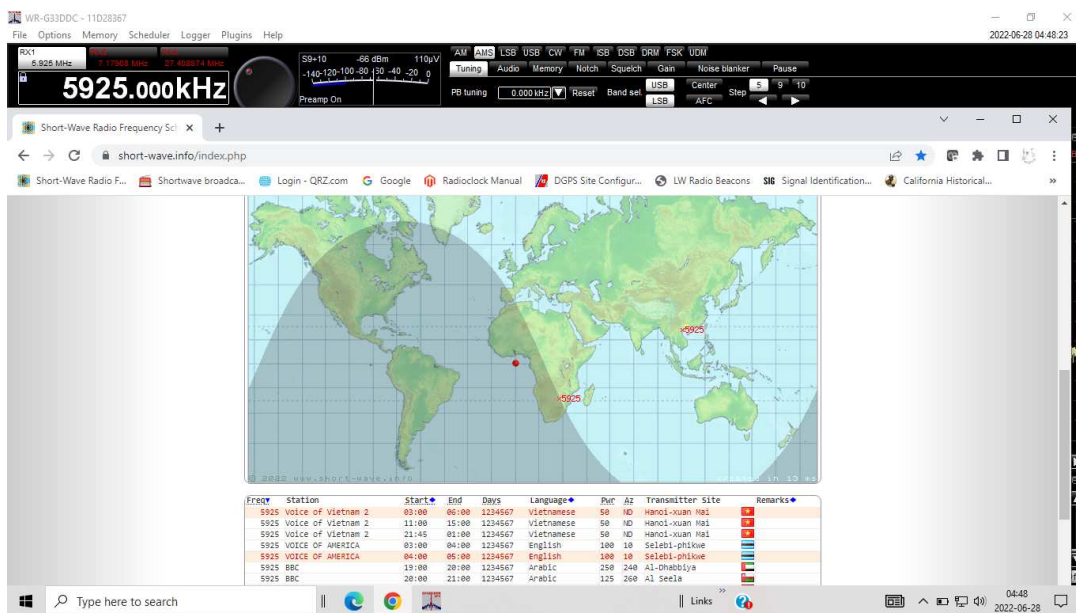


Sunspots and Summer Solstice Shortwave Success

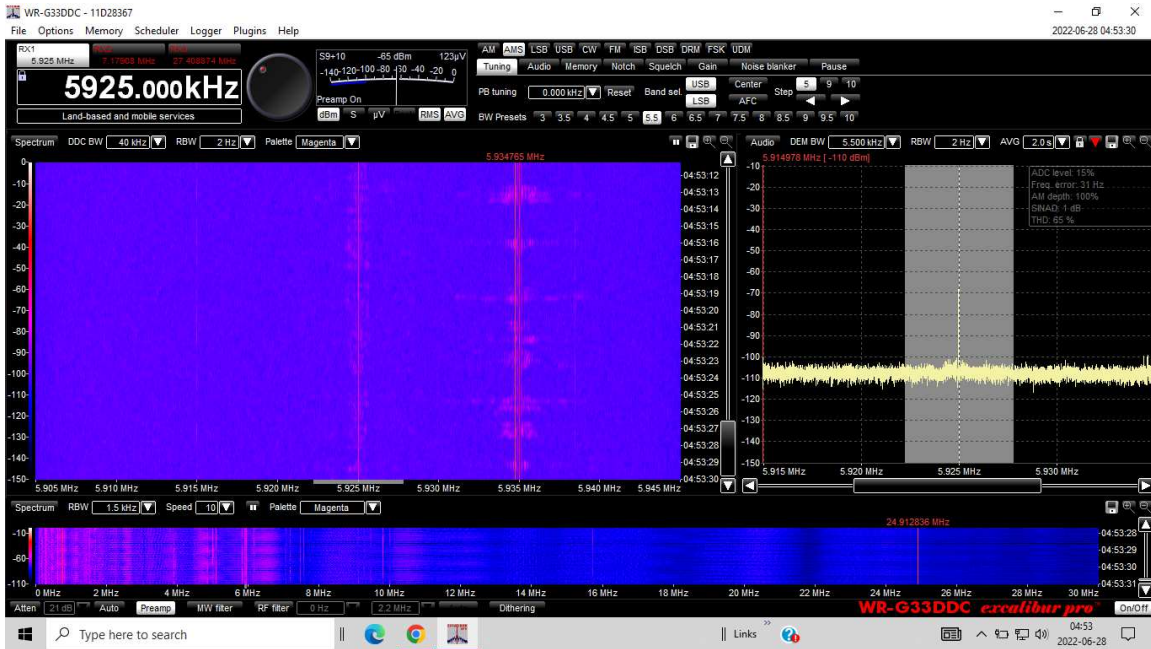
By Bart Lee, K6VK, WPE2DLT

Sunspots come and sunspots go, as it happens on an eleven year cycle (cycle 19, circa 1957, was strongest). For shortwave radio — historic and now legacy international broadcasting — the more sunspots, the better. Now, there are more and more sunspots, at least for a few years. So turn on that old legacy radio with the shortwave band – *at sunset*.

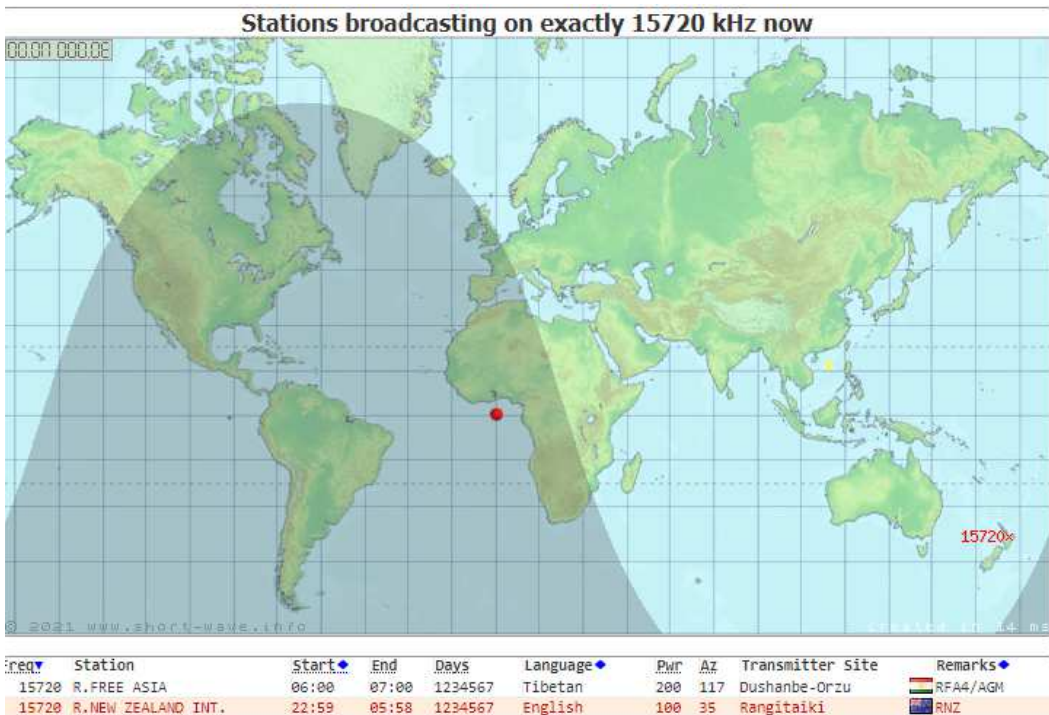
The winter solstice period (late December) is great for shortwave, with long nights. But the summer solstice (late June) has its virtues. The Day and Night great-circle line (the “terminator”) can provide long distance radio propagation and hence reception along this “greyline.” In this graphic, the greyline appears over Botswana, in Africa (it’s morning there, and sunset here). The Voice of America broadcasts from Botswana, for Africans, in English. In this circumstance, we can hear it in San Francisco.



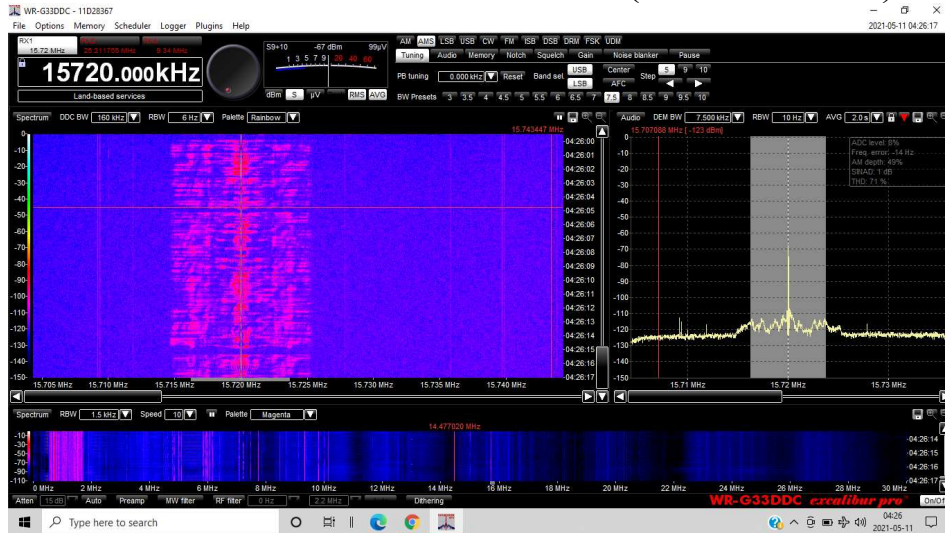
The next image is the VOA transmission on 5925 KHz (49 meter band) as received here at K6VK at sunset:



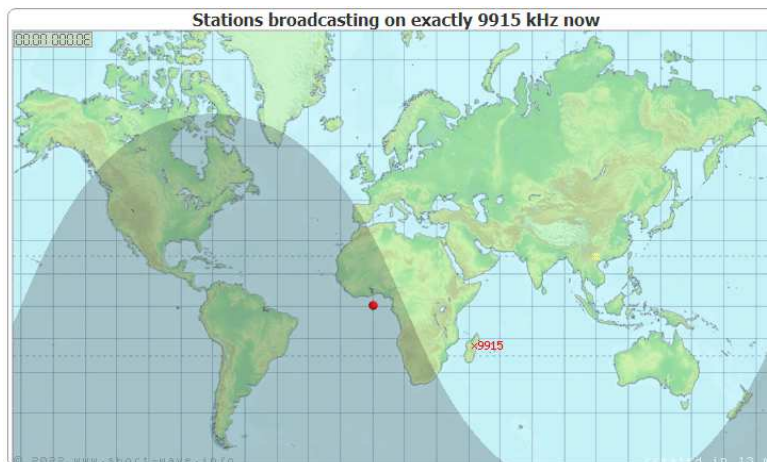
Radio New Zealand (15720 KHz; 19 meter band) is also a sunset reception. At our sunset it's about sunset there too.



Radio New Zealand, also a very strong signal (S9+10 dB), heard well between 8 PM and 9 PM PDT (04:30 +/- UTC):



The UK BBC broadcasts its World Service from Madagascar, off the East Coast of Africa. This graphic shows Madagascar about an hour after its local dawn. At its dawn, the greyline here reception is strong. Note also how at this time, New Zealand is exactly on the greyline, its sunset.



Radio propagation can vary, of course. But these three shortwave stations have been logged and enjoyed at K6VK in the last week. For Asian stations galore, tune in at local dawn. A good antenna helps...

(29 VI '22 de K6VK, WPE2DLT) ##