

NEWS

Radio St Helena celebrates Radio St Helena Day 11th Short Wave broadcast

Radio St Helena celebrated Radio St Helena Day (RHSD), its 11th broadcast on the Short Waves on 11092.5 on Saturday the 15th November 2008 beginning at 20:00hrs and ending at 23:30hrs with God save the Queen, although light music was played afterwards for the benefit for local listeners on the Medium Waves 1548Khz and 194M, the Short Wave transmission was not switched off until ten minutes later.

Many reports flooded the studio by way of email from all over the world.

Telephone messages were also received and broadcast over the air from such places as Southern India from Mohamed Shameem, Woody Smith from Tennessee USA and more. We received lots of emails from Japan, some requesting songs; The Carpenters was the most requested.

The opening text for RSHD was read by Station Manager Gary Walters went thus;

"Hello, I am Gary Walters; it is indeed a privilege for me and my staff, including all of the presenters here this evening to be in your company. We extend a very warm welcome not only to our local listeners here on St Helena, but all the Short Wave DXers around the world that are tuning in this evening to this Radio St Helena day celebration. Not only are we broadcasting locally on 1548 KHz 194 meters on the medium wave band, but also transmitting on 11092.5 KHz in Upper Side Band using 1000 Watts output into a 3-element directional beam antenna. This evening there are lots of short recordings for you to listen to in reference to this wonderful island that is set in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean. St Helena is the most solitary island of the Southern Archipelago. If you have the world map in front of you, see if you can find us in 15° 57' south latitude and 5° 44' west longitude."

Radio St Helena Day was revived on 4th November 2006, bringing back the special annual worldwide transmission on shortwave. Last year's transmission was another success and was held later in the year (15th December) to coincide with Radio St Helena's 40th Anniversary (25th December). Last year was also the 10th RSHD, therefore it was a very special Double Anniversary. It was enjoyed by numerous presenters, who all gave up their time to present and lend a helping hand to make the evening a memorable one. The station has posted many Special

Anniversary QSL cards, designed by Robert Kipp, who initiated the 'Revival of RSHD'. The QSL cards for 2008 have also been designed by Robert Kipp and look very interesting. At 20:00hrs to 21:00hrs listeners in Japan were able to hear Gary. From 21:00hrs to 22:10hrs Cyril Gunnell talked to listeners in Europe. From 22:10hrs the legendary Tony Leo took over and at 22:40hrs until 23:16hrs Ralph Peters and John Moyce beamed out to the good folks in North America ending with Gary, God Save the Queen brought Radio St Helena Day 2008 to a close.

Thanks go out to Chairlady Mrs Jean Gough for doing a wonderful supper, curry and Pilau (Plo). Derek Richards for putting the equipment together, Gilbert Legg for standing by in case anything went awry, Presenters; Tony Leo, Ralph Peters and Cyril Gunnell. Cherry Walters who logged everything that went out on the air and to Jane John for looking after the emails

In an attempt to avoid the well-known and unfortunate problems with the reception reports sent to Radio St. Helena for the Radio St Helena Day shortwave broadcasts in the past years since 1998, an alternate postal route has been sought. With the considerable help of and excellent suggestions by the Postmistress, Mrs Henry, and her assistant, Mrs Benjamin, of the Ascension Island Post Office, an alternate postal address and path has been found.

If you heard the Special Short Wave broadcast, send your report to;

Radio St. Helena
P.O.Box 93
Jamestown
St. Helena Island
STHL 1ZZ

Via AIRMAIL
Via United Kingdom and Ascension

During the special broadcast Radio St Helena received an email from the prestigious Voice of America by Dan Robinson that read;

"I would like to send my enthusiastic best wishes to all of you there at RSH.

Your broadcasts provide a ray of hope and much pleasure for those of us who still tune the shortwave bands after all these years.

I am one of the few remaining shortwave broadcast listeners at the Voice of America in Washington, DC and have been tuning the SW bands since 1969.

Your signal, although impacted by broad fading, has wonderful peaks here enabling me to hear it at my home in Potomac MD on multiple receivers, including a Watkins Johnson 8718A and SONY SW-8.

Again, thanks for your ongoing efforts to keep shortwave alive."

Dan Robinson
House of Representatives Bureau
Voice of America

I present to you the youngest Short Wave DXer!!



During RSD 2007, at the age of just two weeks!! , Noah was not only the youngest Radio St. Helena listener, but this year he will also have achieved the unique feat of having listened to two Radio St. Helena Day broadcasts (2007 and 2008) before reaching the age of one year.

Congratulations, and we hope you all enjoy the photo.

Best wishes to HEATHER and STEVE PRICE and their son NOAH of Pennsylvania USA. It was GREAT!!!

Gary alters