

# 28MHz

## THE LOW-POWER DX BAND

Once the winter season begins the 28MHz band will again open up for long distance radio reception. As the number of sunspots which keep this band alive is now declining, it is time to utilise this band before it reverts to its line of sight or v.h.f. propagation mode only. When this band is "on the boil" so to speak, it is safe to say that it can produce more easily worked DX with low power transmitters and simple antennas than all other bands put together. Indeed anyone who has witnessed the signal strengths received from some stations running 10 watts or so into simple vertical or dipole antennas cannot fail to be impressed.

During the main season, which runs from the beginning of October until the end of March, the main DX is usually around mid-day, but how long the band remains open depends on the sun's relative position over a given signal path. An example of this would be hearing stations in Japan, Australia and New Zealand in the morning, African stations around mid-day, East Coast American and Caribbean stations in the afternoon and the West Coast of America around dusk.

You may now be asking "How do I know when propagation for DX is likely to be good?" Most important is to know when to listen. One way to find out is to consult the propagation columns of the major amateur radio magazines, where information is published on a month-to-month basis so that you can get a very good idea of when this band should be open and to what parts of the world. For those unable to do so, the following charts have been prepared to enable one to see at a glance just what you should be hearing. They have been prepared from observations of sun spot cycles 20 and 21.

This is not a treatise on propagation, but simply a guide to when to listen for that particular choice DX. As you can see it is ostensibly a daylight band only, but can go on long into the night at times. Even during the summer doldrums it can suddenly burst into life when most unexpected.

For those fortunate individuals who are able to read Morse code, there are in the 28MHz band a whole conglomeration of Morse code beacons radiating from various sites all over the world, many as part of the International Beacon Project to study propagation of this band. These unmanned beacons are day and night sending out slow Morse code station identification letters and numbers. The Table shows an up-to-date list of beacons throughout the world with their associated operating frequencies and location.

### 28MHz Beacons

28.125MHz 28.175MHz 28.2025MHz 28.205MHz	VE2TEN VE3TEN 9J2B DLOIGI	Chicoutimi, Canada Ottawa, Canada Reserved Mt. Predightstol, Germany
28.2075MHz	W4ESY	Florida, USA
28.210MHz 28.2125MHz 28.215MHz 28.2175MHz 28.220MHz	3B8MS ZD9GI GB3SX VE2TEN 5B4CY	Mauritius Gough Island Crowborough, England Reserved Cyprus
28.225MHz 28.230MHz	VE8AA ZL2MHF	Lake Contwoyto, Canada Upper Hutt, New Zealand
28.235MHz 28.2375MHz 28.240MHz	VP9BA LA5TEN OA4CK	Bermuda Oslo, Norway Lima
28.2425MHz 28.2425MHz 28.2475MHz 28.2525MHz 28.2575MHz	A9XC ZS1CTB EA2HB VE7TEN DKOTO	Hamala Cape Town San Sebastian, Spain Reserved Konstanz, Germany
28.260MHz 28.265MHz 28.270MHz 28.2725MHz 28.275MHz	VK5WI VK ZS6PW TU2ABJ VE3TEN	Adelaide, Australia Reserved Pretoria, South Africa Abidjan Reserved
28.2775MHz 28.280MHz 28.2825MHz 28.285MHz 28.2975MHz	DF0AAB YV5AYV W9 VP8ADE W8	Luetjenberg, Germany Caracas, Venezuela Reserved Adelaide Island Tuckasegee, USA
28.290MHz 28.295MHz 28.315MHz 28.335MHz 28.888MHz	VS6HK VU2BCN ZS6DN VK2WI W6IRT	Cape D'Aguilar Bangalore Johannesburg Sydney N. Hollywood, USA



February-March	
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
0600	
0700	
0800	
0900	
1000	
1100	
1200	
1300	
1400	
1500	
1600	
1700	
1800	
1900	
2000	

April-May	
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
0600	
0700	
0800	
0900	
1000	
1100	
1200	
1300	
1400	
1500	
1600	
1700	
1800	
1900	
2000	

June-August	
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
0600	
0700	
0800	
0900	
1000	
1100	
1200	
1300	
1400	
1500	
1600	
1700	
1800	
1900	
2000	

September-October	
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
0600	
0700	
0800	
0900	
1000	
1100	
1200	
1300	
1400	
1500	
1600	
1700	
1800	
1900	
2000	

November-January	
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
0600	
0700	
0800	
0900	
1000	
1100	
1200	
1300	
1400	
1500	
1600	
1700	
1800	
1900	
2000	

**Using the Charts**  
 Simply look up the time you wish to listen, and the numbers shown against that time are the areas on the accompanying map which are most likely to be heard.

