

Radio Crawler Archive #1

This is the first installment of the Radio Crawler archive, there's some unusual things worth point out in this transmission. The recording opens with the popular russian UVB-76. The UVB-76, aka "The Buzzer", is a Russian Military shortwave station that transmits a monotonous buzz tone keeping the frequency 4625 kHz frequency occupied. It rarely transmits voice messages of letters and numbers akin to a number station. This time around as you can faintly listen to the recording, somebody is transmitting over "The Buzzer" the song Korobeiniki (tetris theme song). There's been reports of people trying to disrupt the Russian stations by transmitting junk over it. Check this article for more info:

https://hackaday.com/2022/03/04/the-battlefield-thats-5-khz-wide/?fbclid=IwAR1EjyHQ6qVS_Lyi-TKMbBM21rinDP5EkxjY2-mhEaFXQm9pZBcr6tBDHX4

Through the algorithmic mash-up we can also make out a tireless Texan preacher giving his contact info on air, there's some ham activity that is barely discerned through the static and discussions about the war in Ukraine. Lastly, we've picked up a lot of morse-code, continuous waves and tones.

The first installment of the archive coincides with the premiere of the Radio Crawler installation at the Borderline Festival 11 (Athens, 2022). Radio Crawler will be transmitting for 3 days through four micro-FM transmitters to an assortment of old analogue radios. On the next page you can find the accompanied text of the installation.

We're transmitting, who's receiving?

Night time, clear skies, waves skip off the ionosphere carrying sound through the ether. Can you feel the electroclimate of the room? How's the signal? The operator transmits. The planet transmits. Listen.

CQ, calling, CQ, hello
CQ, calling, CQ, seek you
CQ, calling, CQ, sécurité

This is an act of micro-piracy, a minor transgression, a local disturbance of the FM equilibrium. We're receiving the voice of the world over the internet, repeating it as micro-radio, tune in!

Transmitting at 108FM, 107FM, 105.6FM, 98.5FM

Mini-FM transmitters are modulating the hertzian space of the room. The radio propagation penetrates our bodies, we're in a constant state of coupling and decoupling. Step closer to the receiver, become part of the antenna. Mutual interference.

Reflection | Refraction | Polarization | Diffraction | Absorption

A process of continuous conversion in lieu of a continuous signal: radio waves, mechanical vibrations, samples, network packets. Can you discern signal from noise? ...cutting out again. Must be a solar flare, background noise, packet loss, ionospheric absorption, modulation - demodulation mismatch.

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Technologies fall out of favor, media become obsolete, until they aren't. Whenever and wherever disaster, natural or man made, occurs and common communications systems cease to function or collapse under the heavy load, shortwave radio remains. Whenever a state-mandated or otherwise internet shutdown occurs, shortwave radio remains.

News reports, HAMS, NAVTEX, atomic clocks, long-range radio navigation, jammers, washed-up rock 'n' roll, radio drama, number stations, VLF natural radio, ripple control, preachers, UVB-76, weather reports & RFID

Absorb the fleetingly beautiful sounds of the saturated airwaves. Listen to the transmissions shifting in and out of interference, getting louder, merging as one and breaking up again. This is a radio of radios. This is

Romeo Alfa Delta India Oscar Charlie Romeo Alfa Whiskey Lima Echo Romeo