

Best Bets For Trans-Atlantic Receptions on Mediumwave In the Eastern and Midwest United States-

Compiled: March 7, 2020

KHZ	BEST BET	COUNTRY	KW	NOTES	SOURCE
252	*	Algeria	1500 kw day 750 kw night	This station is easily heard and can be a good indicator of current propagation conditions.	JN
531	*	Algeria	600		MD,TT,AW
549	*	Algeria	600		MD,TT,AW
576		Algeria	400		MD
684	*	Spain	200		MD,TT,AW
693		United Kingdom			TT,AW
774		Spain	300		TT
783		Syria			AW
855		Spain	300		MD,TT
864		Egypt			AW
891	*	Algeria	300	24h Arabic	MD,TT,AW
909	*	United Kingdom	400		MD,TT,AW
999		Spain	50		TT
1044		Spain			AW
1089	*	United Kingdom	400		MD,TT,AW
1179		Romania			AW
1215	*	United Kingdom	200		MD,TT,AW
1467		France	1000	Signs off at 22:45 UTC	TT
1521		Saudi Arabia		SBA Radio Riyadh	AW

Sources:

AW Allen Willie, Carbonear, Nova Scotia, Canada
 JN Jim Nall, Louisville, Kentucky
 MD Marc DeLorenzo, South Yarmouth, Massachusetts
 TT Tim Tromp, Muskegon Michigan

From Marc DeLorenzo:

Trans-Atlantics that seem to make it to inland USA:

- The big UK stations like 909, 1089 and 1215.
- The biggies from Spain like 684 and 855 also.
- The Algerians like 531, 549, 576 and 891.

Of course it also depends on your locals.

The best time of year in my honest opinion is definitely Mid October to December

From TimTromp:

Those marked * are the big guns here and are heard with clear audio on most nights during the DX season. The others listed generally deliver strong signals, but this doesn't always equate to an easy copy

due to domestic splatter that any of us in the Midwest will have to deal with. This should be a good target list for people in the Midwest to begin with. 1467 TWR Europe is in France and runs a Megawatt(!) but signs off early. This one is better during December when the darkness path last longer. 1467 can really pack a punch here just before my local sunset. Local sunset is probably the best time to try for these if a DXer is new at it.

Two advantages to sunset:

(1) you benefit from grayline enhancement at your location and
(2) it's still early enough that you're not competing against domestic QRM from stations west of your location (the band is generally quieter).

I often see a TA boost here at local sunset for more difficult second tier stations, like those from the Middle East.

After sunset and those harder to hear TAs are long gone. As mentioned on the phone, many days of a low K Index is generally good. K Index spikes can affect TAs just as much as domestics for those like me in the North.

We see countries like Spain dominating the TA channels more when the band starts to go auroral. Strong geo storms will of course wipe all the TAs out at my location along with northern latitude stations. We haven't had real good auroral conditions in a very long time.

From Jim Nall:

My experience with Trans-Atlantic receptions dates back to the late 1960s. I have heard them since then but I don't have the experience Allen, Marc and Tim possess. I can tell you that the better your receiver and antenna, the better chance of hearing Trans-Atlantics. I've heard them on analog communications receivers as well as modern SDR receivers. I understand that people on the east coast have even heard them on portables and car radios. I have heard them in Kentucky using longwire and indoor loop antennas.

It helps to have a receiver with good gain and selectivity. The best antenna would be something like a beverage or DKAZ loop. Most of us don't have that kind of space; a more modest antenna will work.

My Trans-Atlantic mediumwave loggings have occurred from October through March.

A big thank you to Allen Willie, Marc Delorenzo and Tim Tromp for helping me compile this document! Note that the list at top is not a list of all Trans-Atlantic stations heard in Canada and the United States. If conditions are right, there are many other high powered targets that may be heard. If you have something you would like to add to this document or find an error, please let me know! -

Jim Nall
Louisville, KY
jimnall73@yahoo.com