

Estación 4940 – Venezuela

By Bill McDavitt

(The following information is based on conjecture based on my research, Bill McDavitt)

Estación 4940 Location

Estación 4940 is in south-west Venezuela near the Colombian border: Apure State, Munoz Municipality, Rincon Hondo Parish G.C. 7.20 North, 69.00 West.

Estación 4940: The Beginning

Russell Stendal Christian Missionary Activity in Colombia/Venezuela

Russell has been involved with Missionary work in Colombia and Venezuela for years, educating the rural population with free Bible distribution, single frequency portable radios distributed free to the rural population as well as setting up and supporting radio station transmitters for Christian Gospel broadcasting.

From Russell's 2020 newsletter:

2020 Highlight in Broadcasting: "We were able to help rebuild a burned down village where we made a beautiful radio station. This gives us a total of four transmitters operating on the Venezuela border along with several Christian stations within Venezuela that we support."

Pictured; Russell Stendal with Boxes of Bibles and single frequency portable radios for free distribution in rural areas



The Estación 4940 transmitter was likely obtained from surplus readily available due to the reduction of shortwave broadcasters in the Colombia/Venezuela as well as the political environment in Venezuela. Its indeed odd that Estación 4940 can continue to operate in light of the fact that virtually all non-government / non-approved radio stations in Venezuela have been closed down. Its possible Christian stations in rural areas are given a pass.

WRTH

The following is a copy of the E-mail I sent to WRTH in December 2023:

Greetings, I have been listening to a station on 4940 khz in spanish recently. I believe they are transmitting from Venezuela. Your website shows their location to be the Rincon Hondo parish in Venezuela with a power of 1 kW. Do you have any further information on this station.

Any help would be appreciated. I am a shortwave DX'er from Florida, USA.

Thank-you Bill McDavitt, SWL QSL Museum <http://www.dallasadmail.com/swlqsl/>

The following is a copy of the E-mail reply from WRTH:

Russel Stendal & Co. provided initial location of station for WRTH, but eventually stopped replying to WRTH. Russel is a Christian Evangelist providing Columbia/Venezuela citizens in rural areas infested with violent militants paramilitary types (FARC etc) with Christian radio broadcasts and bibles. He has apparently set up various transmitters and programming to support his cause.

Mr. Mauno Ritola, International Editor, World Radio TV Handbook <https://www.wrth.info>

From Rafael Rodriguez R., Bogota D.C., Colombia, WOR 7 Sep 2022

"Greetings from Colombia, Thanks to the activation of a KiwiSDR in the town of Facatativa, very close to Bogota; I can perform a radiolocation of the signal in 4940 kHz through the TDoA function that these receivers have. I do it through the kiwis located in Bonaire, Boavista and Facatativa. I attach the image with the result. Although this is not conclusive, it reaffirms my theory that the signal originates in Venezuela according to the image from Estado Apure.

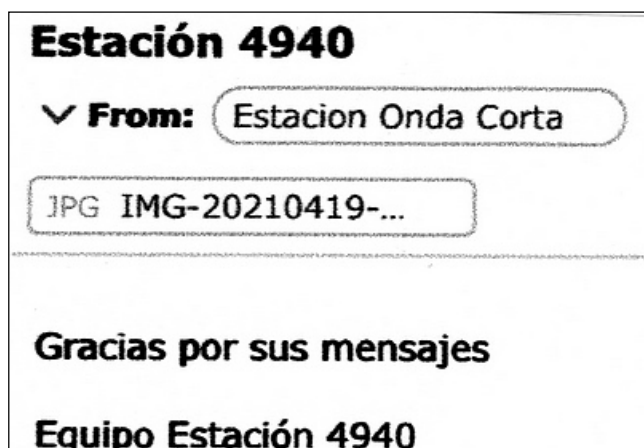
E-Mail From Rafael Rodriguez R., Bogota D.C., Colombia, January 2025:

The signal at 4940 khz has been strong in recent days; The station does not have live programming, only recorded programs, it has a segment in the Piaroa language that they broadcast +- between 2300 to 0000 UTC and sometimes from 0000 to 0100 UTC, from time to time they mention "estacionn 4940"; Previously they gave YV time and the Venezuelan Anthem.

It was nameless for a long time and some DXers identified it as Radio La Montaña; I personally never heard such an identification on the air. An eQSL like Radio La Montaña is circulating on the web but I consider it to be false: through the email they advertise (estacion4940@gmail.com) I also received an image of the transmitter and still without data.

The Fake QSL

Pictured right



Genuine verifications

As far as I am aware there have been no authentic Estacion 4940 QSL cards issued, although they do reply to reception reports by email as follows:

Screenshot of their email reply from the station to my reception report

Email Translation:

Station 4940

From: Short Wave Station

Attached Image: Their transmitter

Text: Thanks for your messages

Station 4940 Team

A recording made in September 2024 can be heard here

<http://www.swlqslmuseum.com/Estacion4940/4940id.mp3>

Listen to the brief Daily Proverb (by Female Announcer) followed by the station ID (By Male Announcer).

Female Announcer:

Spanish: "Ser valiente significa nunca permitir que el temor influya sobre tus acciones"

English Translation: "Being brave means never allowing fear to influence your action."

Male Announcer:

Spanish: "Nuestra señal en banda de 60 metros. Estación 4940 llegando a toda Venezuela"

English Translation: "Our signal on the 60 meter band, Station 4940 reaching all of Venezuela"

(Estacion 4940 is heard well mornings 0800-1130 UTC here in SW Florida. They seem to have extended their sign-off time to 1130 UTC for 2025 and don't seem play the Venezuelan National Anthem anymore at sign-off.)



Left
Estación 4940 transmitter
and technician



If you have any further information on Estación 4940 please contact me at: SWLQSL@mail.com

(Bill McDavitt)

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