



BASEMENT VALKYRIES

David Cotner scopes out 7" records, 3" CDs, cassettes and other odds and ends.

Some introductory words from MediaRights about free103point9: "free103point9 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit media arts organization focused on establishing and cultivating the genre Transmission Arts by promoting artists who explore ideas around transmission as a medium for creative expression. These investigations include practices in AM and FM radio, Citizen's Band, walkie-talkie, generative sound, and other broad and microcasting technologies utilizing the transmission spectrum." So there. The **Radio Ruido** *False Rosetta* double 7" (free103point9: Audio Dispatch 032) is propelled mainly by Tom Mulligan on field recordings, radio and words, which are in turn spoken by Marie Losier, Kee Koo, Lene Berg, Magda Trebert, Jean-Baptiste Cardon, Alex Mendizabal, Tali Hinkis (of Brooklyn multimedia duo LoVid) and Reto Pulfer. The labels are all done up in Morse code. It's a bit like those EVP records except the voices are alive (and shall forevermore remain living because of this release). There's static aplenty as the metal drags itself through dead fields of languages unlearned and misunderstood. It's an intensely lonely and lost series of recordings that seem more and more cavernously remote with each loop of the grooves; slow processions that lead into the eternity of space where all radio waves ultimately go.

Latitude/Longitude's *Solar Filters* 7" (free103point9: Audio Dispatch 031) shimmers along like a Popol Vuh outtake from the "Aguirre" era with vocals from Kraftwerk's "Autobahn" era and the effect is not altogether unpleasant. It, too, has an unmistakable air of remoteness that perhaps lives as a paean to the spectral, sepulchral static of late-night radio, through which any idea or spirit might issue forth into the real world. In this way, the vinyl becomes an extension—with every pit and each crackle—of the radio station and in this way it succeeds in becoming itself. It's a transcendent state of being and is much a worthwhile listen as the sound of blood rushing into your ears when you're alone and you don't have to look proud.