

F62-16F3

# YOUR FIRST 30 COUNTRIES IN ENGLISH

with comments on 20 in the Western Hemisphere  
(also included: a brief look at Pan-American DX possibilities in other languages)

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17 October, 1982

This article is an updated version of a previous article entitled "The First 20 MW Countries in English." This article is primarily intended for the eastern US DXer. For the sake of brevity, the common DX bulletin abbreviation EE, for English-language, will be used.

As one's first 30 countries in EE may contain Transatlantic DX as well as Pan-American stations and because the earlier article concentrated on the western hemisphere only, this article will be divided into 3 sections: (1) a "hit parade" style list, in order of approximate reception ease, of all 30 countries, (2) an alphabetical list of 20 Pan-American countries audible in EE (excluding USA & Canada) with information which may help in logging them. Note that section (2) is in the format of the previous article. Transatlantic DX is discussed in a companion article "Your First 40 Transatlantic Countries (And Then Some)" Section (3) of this article is a brief synopsis of Pan-American countries other than those listed in section (2). Most of the countries in the Section (3) listing are not commonly heard in EE.

Section (1) - Your First 30 MW Countries in English - in approximate order of ease of hearing each country's EE stations, based upon receptions from the Boston & Cape Cod areas. The first frequency listed is considered the easiest one.

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| 1. USA (many)                            | 16. Albania (1395 - see note 1)        |
| 2. Canada (many)                         | 17. Dominica (595)                     |
| 3. Netherlands Antilles (800)            | 18. St. Vincent (705)                  |
| 4. St. Kitts (825,555)                   | 19. Montserrat (885)                   |
| 5. Cayman Islands (1555,1205)            | 20. Jamaica (720,700,770)              |
| 6. Belize (834)                          | 21. Barbados (900,790)                 |
| 7. Antigua (1165,1100,1580)              | 22. Ireland (567,612,1188)             |
| 8. British Virgin Islands (780)          | 23. Mexico (1570)                      |
| 9. Anguilla (1610)                       | 24. W. Germany (873) (1197-see note 1) |
| 10. Cuba (see Section (2) listing)       | 25. Bermuda (960)                      |
| 11. Haiti (1035)                         | 26. Trinidad & Tobago (730,610)        |
| 12. Monaco (1467 - see note 1 to follow) | 27. Luxembourg (1440 - see note 1)     |
| 13. UK (862,909,693,1053,1089,1215)      | 28. Guyana (760)                       |
| 14. Bahamas (1540,810)                   | 29. N. Ireland (1341)                  |
| 15. Grenada (535,990)                    | 30. US Virgin Islands (1000,970)       |

## Notes

- Station listed uses several languages in addition to EE; consult World Radio TV Handbook (WRTVH) for schedule.
- Other possible Trans-atlantic EE targets: Vatican-1530, Sweden-1179, Italy-846, USSR-1143/1386, & several African countries may be received in EE, along with other languages.

Section (2): 20 Pan-American Countries (excluding USA/Canada) audible in English:  
an alphabetical list with reception details. ALL TIMES GMT/UT

ANGUILLA The Caribbean Beacon, with religious programming on 1610, is heard most nights. The signal isn't always strong, but that's not important as it is on a clear channel. Only those with strong 1600 locals will have trouble with this one. Note that it has a listed silent period of 0500-0900. Parallel 690 is seldom heard. Anguilla-1505 is occasionally heard, but the signal tends to be poor.

ANTIGUA Three stations make Antigua easy: ZKX on 1100 with Caribbean & US soul music and locally-accented talk, Caribbean Radio Lighthouse - 1165 with religion (both of the local & US-produced varieties), and the Voice of America station on 1580 (with EE programming similar to that of VOA's shortwave outlets). ZDX is best just after the sunset sign-off (s/off) of WHLI and before WVA and/or HJAT fade-ins; if it's "short-skip auroral" ZKX may dominate throughout the evening to 0504 s/off (0204 Sunday). Caribbean Radio Lighthouse - 1165 is heard from sunset (at transmitter or receiver, whichever is later) until s/off, usually around 0215. Reception is better earlier in the evening before WVA stop gets too heavy; of course if it's auroral, you don't have to worry about WVA (unless you live near Wheeling). The VOA station on 1580 may be heard under CBJ on normal nights; if it's auroral, CBJ is attenuated severely, leaving VOA more or less in the clear with perhaps HJGZ/WCRF/WCLL/XEDM in the background. VOA operates from 0900 to 0400. There's also an Antigua station on 620; it is seldom heard.

BAHAMAS ZNS-1 on 1540 is heard regularly mixed with WPTB from southward-facing coastal areas, especially in WPTB's null (from LI southward). It can be heard best (alone on channel) with WPTB & KXEL attenuated by aurora. Programming is usually light pop music & a lot of local advertising. Religious programs have occasionally been noted. ZNS-3 on 810, featuring Black-oriented pop music, is heard best with CJVA/WZY "aurora'ed out". Short-skip auroral conditions are best in terms of preventing powerhouse HJCY (R. Sutatenza) from totally bulldozing ZNS-3 out of the picture. ZNS-2 is occasionally logged in the northeastern states during aurora with 1240 skip domestics knocked out & 1240 groundwave stations (WOCB et al) off or nulled. All three Bahamas stations operate a 24-hour schedule.

BARBADOS CBC (Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation) on 900 is heard well during aurora from coastal areas just after sunset has occurred at both ends of the path. YVMD (R. Marr) & other South Americans may also be present; hopefully, the aurora has cleaned away normal pests CXTS/CHEL/CJBR. Accented announcements & a variety of generally mellow Caribbean & US/UK pop melodies may be heard. S/off occurs at 0600, s/on at 0300. The new Barbados outlet on 790 presently operates a brief schedule, reported to be 2100 s/on to 0300 s/off. Your best shot at this one would be right after sunset from a coastal location on an auroral night. The ideal site would be at least 50 miles over land from the closest groundwave 790 domestic. The bearing to that 790 groundwaver (be it WCAI, WTAR, CFNW, or someone else) should be at a right angle to the bearing to Barbados, so that looping techniques can be successful. By mid-evening, after 0100, the Cuban on 790 can definitely be a pest. Most reports of Barbados - 790 mention talk as the principal programming.

BELIZE Belize City on 834 is one of the easier late-evening Pan-American splits; programs include local news & advertising and a wide variety of pop music including reggae, soul, mainstream US/UK top 40, and country-western. Some programming is in Spanish. Nominal s/off is at 0500 but all-night programming occurs with a considerable degree of regularity. Best reception time is after 0200.

BERMUDA ZFB on 960 occasionally makes it through tremendous levels of domestic & foreign QRM. A "short-skip auroral" night is best, reducing CHNS/WGRL/WELI/WSEBY et al to groundwaves whilst not producing a situation which would allow HJEN to roll over the channel as it often does. Under such conditions, Bermuda would be noted with pop/soul music & local announcements - possibly mixed with HIFF & domestic groundwaves. ZFB's main problem is that it is using a dreadfully-inefficient 50-foot tower as its antenna. Other Bermuda outlets on 1230 & 1340 are generally logged only by those near southward-facing beaches in areas such as Nantucket or Nova Scotia, far to the east of the heaviest concentrations of US local ('graveyard') stations.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS ZBVI on 780 is good from just after sunset has occurred at both ends of the signal path. It is in the clear from when WAES (VA) goes off to when WEEB and/or Latin Americans (YVCO, HJZG et al) start to become bothersome. There have been some recent managerial problems at ZBVI causing interruptions in programming: one involved a dispute over whether to hire new DJ's to present a US-style adult-contemporary format instead of the well-known reggae & soul programming more appropriate for a Caribbean station. ZBVI packs a potent signal to coastal New Jersey, Long Island, & Cape Cod; inland reception occurs, but with much less regularity than at the shore. S/on time is 1000; s/off time is listed as 0200 (Mon.-Thurs.), 0400 (Fri./Sat.), 0100 (Sun.).

CAYMAN ISLANDS Radio Cayman is most easily heard on 1555 (unless WQXR is in your backyard). Laid-back adult-contemporary snooze-music and low-key announcing styles are featured. For reasons I don't quite fathom, they run a weaker parallel transmitter on 1205 (as if 1555, which booms into the USA, is incapable of covering the Cayman Islands). 1205 is heard fairly often by US DXers, though not as well as 1555. Best 1205 reception is during auroral conditions when WCAU skip sloop & the France-1206 QRM are removed from the "playing field" around 1205. The 2 R. Cayman outlets s/off at 0430 (except 0330 Sunday).

CUBA This country poses a distinct problem to the writer of any DX article: whatever is written will probably be obsolete by the time it goes to print. Cuba is possibly the easiest country to hear aside from Canada & the US; that's based on their numerous Spanish-language outlets (considered pests, rather than DX, by many of us). I'm tentatively ranking Cuba # 10 in terms of English programming (see Section 1); this is based on a 1-year average of different manifestations of EE programming. Some months no EE broadcasts were logged; in other months, several powerhouse channels were noted with EE broadcasts to the USA. Some channels used in recent times include 550, 600, 1040 (very briefly), & 1160. No one expects relations between Cuba & the US to improve to the point that Cuba wouldn't want to broadcast EE propaganda to Americans and generally foul up the band with totally unnecessary superpowered Spanish-language domestic service stations.

**DOMINICA** Roseau on 595 with Caribbean & US/UK pop music and locally-accented announcers is heard most nights before 0230 s/off. As with many Caribbean stations, open carrier is usually left on after programming s/off. Such open carriers may be used by Mers as propagation beacons, even if they are of little other use. A 1210 outlet occasionally heard is more often in French than in EE; 1210 relays St. Lucia - 840. Dominica has a religious station on 1060 which is seldom heard in the USA.

**GUENADA** Two stations, 535 & 990, represent Grenada. The 990 station is good during auroral conditions at coastal sites about an hour after receiving site sunset; under such conditions, a mix with YVTA/HJLB/WHOO can be expected. If conditions aren't auroral, CBY/WZZD/WHOX/WNYR may interfere. Look for Caribbean music (steel drums, calypso, reggae, ska, dub) and lively accented talk. The station on 535 is generally fair to good, although seldom super-strong. Like 990, best reception of 535 is shortly after both ends of the signal path have entered darkness. 535's programming is rather mellow with softer music & talk. In the past, occasional religious programs were broadcast, although that might not continue as the present Grenada government is pro-Castro. 535 has s/off at 0400.

**GUYANA** The Guyana Broadcasting Corporation outlet on 760, formerly known as Radio Denezara, is occasionally loggable just after sunset during auroral conditions - at least from southward-facing coastal areas. If Surinam on 725 is "blowing the house down", then Guyana should have a good chance of being heard. EE programming includes reggae & US/UK pop music as well as long, drawn-out announcements of local matters: one somewhat morbid program noted is what amounts to an obituary column of the airwaves. If listening to death notices isn't your 'thing', tune out for a few minutes & then come back. You may be surprised to hear Hindu or Islamic music - yes, this is still Guyana. Guyana, like Surinam & Trinidad, has a sizeable population of immigrants from India, Indonesia, and other far-flung former colonies of Britain & Holland. Guyana is also supposed to have a 10 kW station on 705. Nobody in the US has definitely logged Guyana - 705; St. Vincent ties down that channel. Action Radio - 560 gets logged about once a year, usually from Long Island. In ME, NH, MA, NE, & the western NE coastal regions, WGAN overwhelms 560, unfortunately. In CT & western MA, WHYH chops things up and in the NJ/Delmarva peninsula/eastern PA areas, WFIL pretty much demolishes Guyana. The 560 outlet is supposed to be parallel to elusive 705. The WRVH lists 0817 s/on & 0200 s/off for 760 and its shortwave parallels on 3265 & 5980 kHz. 560 & 705 have 0755 s/on & 0315 s/off; 5950 kHz. is on the air from 1100 to 0315 with programs parallel to 560 & 705.

**HAITI** 4VEC on 1035 provides religious programming in EE. It is heard well from just after sunset to 2400 (0000) s/off. Several Haitian stations other than 1035 can be heard; these are mostly in French.

**JAMAICA** J. B. C. on 700 & 720 are heard most often. Reggae, calypso, & American soul/disco records are played; DJ's often have thick Caribbean accents. Less-frequently heard Jamaicans are on 550, 560, 580, 620, & 770. 750 is reportedly off. Most stations operate throughout the night. Jamaicans are most reliably heard after 0400, when many co-channel Venezuelan stations s/off for the evening.

**MEXICO** XERF-1570 is the only EE Mexican station heard regularly in the northeastern states. Religious programs and/or country-western are offered, although at present the station is not operating during the early morning (east coast time) hours most conducive to good propagation from Mexico. An all-night C&W show for truckers is in the planning stages; once that comes on, XERF will once again become a common catch in MA, especially on auroral mornings with superpest QLM knocked out. XERF has an interesting history including all sorts of fast-buck-type "doctors" & "preachers" selling everything from snake oil to prayer cloths to plastic religious articles that glowed in the dark. Several other Mexican stations make it to the northeastern US, but these are in Spanish (e. g. 540, 730, 900, & 940). Best reception is from 0500 to east coast dawn. XEC on 1050 has run EE in the past; I'm not sure about the current format as WEN/CHUM usually tie up that channel.

**MONTSERRAT** ZJB Plymouth on 885 runs EE programming, often featuring relays of BBC news on the hour. Music played encompasses Caribbean reggae/calypso & US pop hits, both new & old. A lot of mellow soul is played (e.g. Dionne Warwick, Stylistics). In New England, the signal is best as soon as darkness has commenced on both ends of the signal path. At that time, WCB's sloop is primarily from its groundwave component, which can be easily looped or phased. WLS sloop is not a problem until later in the evening; on auroral nights WLS is never a problem. 885, therefore, may be completely in the clear right up to 0200 s/off on an auroral night. ZJB's signal is seldom in the "juggernaut" strength category, but it's widely heard. Montserrat's Radio Antilles outlets are on 740 (audible in French mixed with YWNG, with CBNM/CBL lost to aurora) & on 930 (mostly in EE & hardly ever heard in the USA).

**NETHERLANDS ANTILLES** PJB Bonaire on 800 (Trans-World Radio) is one of the easiest Caribbean stations to hear - even listeners quite close to Windsor/Detroit's CXLW-800 have gotten it. The format is religious & programming is in several different languages. EE broadcasts are from 0230 to 0600 (except 0500 Monday). "Caribbean Night Call" is a popular mail-bag type program on PJB late in the evening.

**ST. KITTS** Basseterre on 825 (Radio Paradise) is very strong throughout the evening to 0400 s/off. There's no serious QRM to 825 in the east, except within a couple of miles of WYNG-830. Programming is religious, with many syndicated shows of US origin. Mers far to the west may get 825 better between s/on (0900 except 0745 Sunday) and transmitter site down. ZIZ-555 isn't quite as strong as 825, but it's heard fairly often at locations without serious 550 & 560 local pests. Caribbean-accented EE with international pop hits & Caribbean music is the format. As with many other stations on former British territory in the Caribbean, ZIZ often relays BBC news. ZIZ-555 s/off is at 0300 but it usually leaves its transmitter on (running open carrier) to combat the effects of the warm, humid air on equipment. S/on of regular programming is at 1000.

**ST. VINCENT** Kingstown on 705 is a good split channel to check just after the signal path enters darkness. On non-auroral evenings, especially at inland sites where 705 is apt to be weak, WOR & WLW skip sloop will QRM St. Vincent later into the evening as darkness spreads westward. 705's programming features Caribbean-accented EE, mellow Caribbean calypso music & some US/UK pop music. Audio level tends to be low; the DXer should try to loop out as much WOR sloop as possible. 705 has a listed s/off of 0300 followed (usually) by unmodulated (open) carrier until s/on at 1000. St. Vincent also has a seldom-heard station on 1450 which runs French-language programming.

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO** Two stations represent these islands: 610 & 730. Both require auroral conditions to clear domestic pests away from their channels. Unless properly-directed beverages are available, a receiving location within 20 miles/32 km. of the ocean on the bearing towards Trinidad & Tobago is virtually essential. Local announcements (including interesting local advertising, on-the-air lottery drawings, etc.), often in thickly-accented EE, characterize these stations. Programming which serves the East Indian Hindu & Islamic immigrant communities has sometimes been heard on 730. Both stations should be audible from just after sunset to 0400 s/off and then from 0900 to the first appearance of sunrise along the signal path. Chances of hearing Trinidad & Tobago are good if (1) domestics are weakened by aurora (2) Barbados & Grenada are good & (3) Surinam-725 is like a local.

**Section (3)** A brief synopsis of Pan-American DX countries, aside from the US, Canada, & those listed in Section (2)

The 1979 Kazaross-Connelly-DeLorenzo "King Latin America & the Caribbean" article (available as NRC & IRECA reprints) is slightly outdated, but still of general use. Important differences are that Cuba's stations have done numerous shuffles of frequencies, locations, & powers; they are continuing to do so. St. Kitts, formerly on 1265 is now on 825. Anguilla has gotten much easier to hear thanks to the new outlet on 1610. The Costa Rican splits are gone, making that country considerably harder to hear in the northeastern states. There are no easily-heard Puerto Rican EE stations since WHOA-870 went all-Spanish. Brazil is actively expanding its number of stations; continuing power increases & additional facilities may make Brazil an easier catch. Argentina - 870 is being logged more regularly. Turks & Caicos is now being logged, during auroral conditions, on 1460. The Cuban shuffle has made some channels easier for stations from other Latin American countries (Jamaica on 720, Venezuela/Colombia - 780, etc.); other channels (e. g. 790) are now more difficult to DX due to new Cuban QRM. The continuing expansion of no-silent-period broadcasting within the US & Canada and the breakdown of clear channels will, of course, have a negative impact on all types of international DX.

For the sake of brevity, the list to follow only gives countries & frequencies of 'best bet' Pan-American DX stations. The list is in alphabetical order of countries. The US, Canada, & the 20 countries of Section 2 are not listed. For information about slogans, schedules, & best reception times, consult IRECA Foreign Log #9, the World Radio-TV Handbook, recent DX bulletins, the aforementioned "DXing Latin America & the Caribbean" article, lists of Pan-American split channels compiled by Rutton, and lists of Cubans compiled by Schatz. Remember that the slogan, rather than the call, is considered the ID on most Latin American stations. In the following list, the language used by stations listed is Spanish, except those marked PP (Portuguese), FF (French), EE (English), or DD (Dutch).

F62-30F3

Likely to be heard:

Argentina 870, 950, 1030  
 Brazil (FP) 860, 1000, 1100, 1120, 1220  
 Colombia many 700, 730, 760, 810, 820, 890, 960, 1040, 1070, 1100, 1160 among the best channels, but nobody's logged a significant number of them yet.  
 Costa Rica 700 has been logged. The former splits have relocated to 10 kHz.  
 Ecuador 540, 735, 945, 995, other 5-kHz. splits  
 El Salvador 655, 905  
 Dominican Republic 650, 830, 860(?), 1160, 1180  
 French Guiana 1070 (FP)  
 Guadeloupe (FP) 640  
 Guatemala 640  
 Honduras 890, 944, 1365  
 Nicaragua 540, 620, 750  
 Panama 770, 825, 840, 860, 965, 1045  
 Paraguay 645  
 Peru 854, 880  
 Puerto Rico 580, 680, 810, 870, 1560  
 Surinam (DD, other languages) 600, 640, 725, 820, 914  
 St. Lucia (FP) 840; (EE) 660, possibly moving to 625  
 Turks & Caicos (EE) 1460  
 U. S. Virgin Islands (EE) 970, 1000  
 Venezuela many 540, 640, 670, 710, 720, 740, 750, 830, 910, 950, 1000, 1020, 1070, 1110, 1200 are some of the best.



The following are considered very unlikely to be heard:

Bolivia 1020, others  
 Chile 1140, 1180, others  
 Falklands Islands (EE) 536  
 Martinique (FP) 1310 (if back on the air)  
 Uruguay 850, others

Note: Easily-heard St. Pierre & Miquelon - 1375 is not considered as a Pan-American country for this article: DX columns treat it as a TA, much as Alaska is considered a TP. Any article written about Pan-American DX is doomed to quick obsolescence. New high-powered stations, many of them religious outlets with EE programming, are being planned for the Caribbean. When one of these stations takes to the air, a formerly rare country can become commonplace in very short order. The instability of Cuban broadcasting requires daily monitoring from south Florida to keep up to date. Active participation in DX club international columns is the best way to keep abreast of developments.

**Radio Dial**

**AM STATIONS**  
 WAUC (350)—Rock  
 WPCO (570)—Country  
 WCHN (580)—All News  
 WSR (730)—Pop/Rock  
 \*WQX (770)—Pop/Classical  
 WARC (860)—Christian  
 WOST (920)—News  
 WKLS (970)—Album-Rock  
 WQUN (1010)—Religious  
 WJM (1080)—Standards  
 WCKA (1190)—Classical  
 WFGH (1230)—Top 40  
 WLM (1260)—Gospel  
 WCKE (1290)—Country  
 WILL (1310)—Gospel  
 WQGO (1340)—Rock  
 WLAW (1360)—Variety  
 WACK (1380)—Rock  
 WMOE (1400)—Pop/Rock  
 WAVO (1420)—Religious  
 WBYX (1460)—Country

WVZE (1480)—Jazz-Gospel  
 WDFP (1520)—Country  
 WDCI (1530)—Christian  
 WZAI (1540)—Pop/Rock  
 WTKO (1550)—Christian  
 WSSA (1570)—Christian  
 WACA (1620)—Country  
**FM STATIONS**  
 \*WRAS (88.5)—Rock  
 WFO (89.3)—Diversified  
 \*WABE (90.1)—Ed-Classical  
 \*WREX (91.1)—Progressive  
 \*WCKL (91.9)—Jazz-Rock  
 \*WZCZ (92.7)—Top 40  
 \*WQXX (94.1)—Rock  
 \*WPCB (94.9)—Easy-Listening  
 \*WRLS (95.1)—Album-Rock  
 \*WSS (95.3)—Pop-Rock  
 \*WTTA (99.7)—Pop/Rock  
 \*WQXX (101.3)—Country  
 WQGO (102.3)—Country-Only  
 \*WVEE (103.3)—Rock  
 WCKE (103.5)—Country  
 \*—Classical

WHKY (1290 KHz.) 5 a.m. to midnight. Popular and rock music, weather and sports. Local news at 7 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 6:35 p.m. ABC affiliation with Entertainment News on the half hour.  
 WKY-FM (102.9 MHz.) 5 a.m. to midnight. Religious music. News at 15 minutes after the hour and five minutes before the hour.  
 WSPP (1000 KHz.) 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Modern country music, weather. UPI World News at top of the hour. Sports at 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.  
 WTRC (630 KHz.) 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Country music, weather and sports. Local, state, national news at 4:30 a.m., 7 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 7:50 a.m., noon, 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
 WRRC-FM (86.7 MHz.) 24 hours. Contemporary music in stereo, weather and sports. Local, state, national news at 6:55 a.m., 7:55 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 4:55 p.m.  
 WUVY (1590 KHz.) 7:15 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Adult contemporary, CBS news

on the hour, Accu-Weather twice hourly. Unifour news at 6:30 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Stocks at 5:30 p.m.  
 WNNC (1250 KHz.) 5 a.m. to midnight. Adult contemporary music. Mutual Network news at top of the hour followed by local news. Local sports at 6:30 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. Mutual Sports, 2:35 p.m., 5:35 p.m., 7:35 p.m. Weather forecast at 45 minutes past the hour.

LEFT: from Atlanta Journal  
 RIGHT: from Hickory (NC) Daily Record  
 both via Karl Jeter