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standpoint: the listener must keep up with domestic station activity on the 12 channels of interest. Aspects such as calls, formats, & locations of domestics on given channels and their sunset sign-off (s/off) times or their silent periods (e. g. Monday morning) are only of peripheral interest to the split-chaser using tight filters, but these aspects are of crucial concern to the even-channel DXer regardless of the type of receiver being used. In addition to the need for good domestic DX skills & knowledge, the even-channel TA DXer must also have a good handle on international DX propagation & the schedules/languages of the TA stations he or she is attempting to hear. Luckily, the heterodynes of the splits will serve to indicate propagation viability and the combined information of the World Radio-TV Handbook (WRTVH) & recent international DX columns (IDX, DXWW/east, & DXWW-2) will help the DXer appraise TA activity on channels of interest.

#### The Strategy

Without some sort of guidelines, many hours could be wasted sitting on domestic channels waiting for TA DX to emerge from a pile of interfering stations. You can pretty much write off the months of May, June, & July right away. April & August are marginal unless you're on outer Cape Cod (e. g. Orleans, Eastham) or in Nova Scotia or Newfoundland, not much will be heard.

Working on the concept of September through March reception, we can further limit listening times to two periods of the day: (1) from RX-ISS (local sunset at the North American receiving site) to 2 hours later and (2) from 0400 GMT/UT to half an hour after TX-ERS (sunrise at the European, African, or Middle Eastern transmitter site). It should be noted that (1) TA reception up to an hour before RX-ISS is possible if Beverages, large verticals, or high-gain amplified loops are used at eastward-facing beaches & (2) even-channel TA DXing between 0000 and 0400 GMT is generally not productive because domestic interference is heaviest then & because many European stations are silent during that period.

Now that we've narrowed down the working period to about 5 hours a day, for about 210 days of the year, we can further limit DX time through the utilization of propagation analysis. For 540, 630, 720, 810, 900, & 990, we should check for the presence of heterodynes (hets) from TA split stations between 531 & 999 kHz. Similarly, for 1080, 1170, 1260, 1350, 1440, & 1530, we should check for the presence of splits from 1008 to 1602 kHz. On each section of the band, it should be established whether the hets received are likely to be from a wide area of western Europe (including UK & W. Germany) or just from lower latitude stations in Spain, Portugal, or Africa. This will guide the even-channel hunt from a geographical standpoint: if no hets from the Germans on 1422, 1539, & 1593 could be found, I wouldn't waste any time looking for Luxembourg on 1440. Before starting any even-channel TA DX session, write down (or mentally note) frequencies of all hets heard & list their probable sources (based upon your own previous split-chasing or that of others in your area). The presence of a country's stations on the high end of the band (e. g. V. Germany - 1593) is in no way indicative of whether that country could be heard on the low end (e. g. on 549 or 756). Two separate bandscans for TA split hets are essential. The geographical openings indicated by the low-band scan should be considered a completely separate entity from the geographical distribution of TA DX indicated by the high-band het search operation. You may even want to break the above-1300 kHz. segment into a third band section and do 3 scans, each to be evaluated more or less independently of the others (these could be 531-900, 909-1296, & 1305-1611).

#### The Location

We recall that even-channel TA's have been logged from two general areas, the Arctic and the northeastern US/Atlantic Canada. The Arctic region DX data supplied to us by Brian Vernon in Elsa, Yukon Territory represent, largely, skip in the "doughnut hole" of the auroral zone. His location has two important advantages over the eastern USA: (1) during late autumn & winter, darkness persists nearly 24 hours a day; even when the sun is up, it is at a low angle approximating sunrise or sunset at lower latitudes. One can hear TA's & Trans-Pacifics (TP's) regularly during winter at such a location. (2) Absence of local stations: aside from the extreme lack of co-channel & adjacent channel interference that this provides, it also gives the DXer the ability to put as much wire on the receiver as it is possible to string out, without the fear of the type of overloading that causes spurious responses on sections of the band far removed in frequency from that of the spur-causer. (John Allchin did his famous Beverage Expeditions in New Zealand from similar no-local-station sites.) At Brian's Yukon site, there are few local stations, but also a benefit to TA DX because the auroral zone (to the south) stiffly attenuates signals from southern Canada & the USA. Many TA's & TP's, on the other hand, are able to skip just south of the auroral zone, pass below the absorptive region, & finally skip in the reflective "doughnut hole" on their approach to the receiving site. Northern stations such as those from Sweden may only have to make one or two skips, entirely within the "doughnut hole".

Brian has particularly good luck with Greenland, Iceland, Scandinavia, the USSR & west Asia (e. g. Iran, India): regions almost impossible to log in the

## The Odds On The Even TAs (Revisited)

by Mark Connelly - WAILON - 27 OCT 1982

#### Historical Perspective

In the early '70s, Ronald Schatz wrote an article entitled "The Odds on Even TA's". "Even" TA's are defined as Transatlantic (e. g. European, African) medium-wave stations which occur on frequencies also used by US/Canada stations. Ron's article, of course, was written well before the new eastern hemisphere frequency plan went into effect. Under the old plan, Transatlantic (TA) channels which co-incided with 10-kHz.-spacing US channels were 620, 710, 800, 890, 980, 1070, 1160, 1250, 1340, 1430, 1520, & 1570. American & Canadian DXers heard a number of stations on these channels - notably, Canary Islands - 620 (now 521), France - 710 (711), Algeria - 890 (now 891), France - 1070 & 1160 (now 1071 & 1161), and N. Ireland - 1340 (now 1341). Occasionally, Libya - 1250 (now 1251) & Spanish/Czech stations on 1520 (now 1521) made it through.

The stations listed so far have become somewhat easier now that they've moved up 1 kHz. Since the new frequency plan went into effect, the 2-sagawati Saudi Arabian came on 1521. If this station had been on back in the 'old days', it would have sometimes been heard well on 1520, especially at east coast sunset before M30 fades up to full night-time signal strength.

#### The Situation Today

The current TA frequency plan even channels are 540, 630, 720, 810, 900, 990, 1080, 1170, 1260, 1350, 1440, & 1530. Since the new plan went into effect (late Nov. 1978), several TA's have been logged on channels corresponding to those used by American stations. These "even" TA's have been received by DXers in two areas of the western hemisphere: (1) from far northern Canada (Brian Vernon in the Yukon) and (2) from the northeastern USA, primarily MA, NY (LI), RI, & NJ (by several DXers including Cooper, Foxworth, Kazaross, Connelly, Eckman, Straus, & Bailey). Southeastern Canada would also be considered part of the second area. Unfortunately, there hasn't been much "exploitation" of the fertile ground of the Canadian Maritimes recently, though. Dunn & Scarlett were active from up that way in the old-plan days.

The two areas represented are two completely different cases in terms of propagation.

#### Overview - difference between DXing the "even" TA's and DXing TA splits

DXing "even" TA's is a somewhat different discipline from TA split chasing. Even-channel DXing is generally more difficult because of the added dimension of co-channel domestic stations. Paradoxically, though, this more difficult variety of TA DX is less demanding in terms of receiver selectivity and, to a certain degree, sensitivity as well.

#### The Receiver

A receiver which is quite adequate for domestic DX (such as a Superadio, DX150, or TRF), aided by an ER2 or similar loop, is on par with the best receiver made. Car radios also do well for "even" TA's, especially if the car is driven to an advantageous location. Receiver sensitivity is not as critical as it would be for split-chasing because the "even" TA station has to be strong enough to compete with the co-channel domestic stations. In the northeastern US, every even TA channel (except, perhaps, 720 at sunset) has domestics on it sufficiently strong to be above the noise level on the better portable receivers used with an amplified loop or with a properly-tuned long-wire of length greater than 50 meters. I have found that the only advantage to a top-notch communications receiver over the Realistic 12-55 TRF for even channel TA DX is that, on the fancy rig, the ACC can be made slow, thereby smoothing out SAM's (sub-audible heterodynes, or beats) & choppy fading to yield clearer audio. If someone came up with a modification to have switchable fast/slow ACC on a TRF, that renowned portable's usefulness for all kinds of DX would be enhanced immeasurably. Here in MA, the TRF with ER2 combination gives me as much sensitivity & selectivity as I'll ever need for even (10-kHz. multiple) TA DX. The TRF used does have simple modifications such as transfilters, FC1K-177 digital counter, & improved external antenna input (amounting, basically, to more coupling-coil windings on the internal ferrite rod).

#### The DXer

Receiver requirements for even-channel TA DX may be a good deal less stringent than the requirements for split TA chasing, but the DXer's operational skills must be greater. This especially applies to the qualities of patience & dogged determination. The eastern DXer, especially if within a few miles of the ocean, will find many split TA DX stations to be routine catches if a good communications receiver and loop (or phased-wire system) are used. Indeed, domestic DXing often turns out to be more work than chasing the common split TA's. Even-channel TA DX is more akin to domestic DXing from an interference

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operating schedule, and receiving site locations (several considered).  
QRM sources mentioned in the following list are based upon actual  
receptions at several sites from New Jersey to Maine.

Most abbreviations in the frequency list below are familiar to  
international medium-wave DXers; however, for the benefit of others,  
abbreviations are explained in the notes following this list.

540 kHz (555.6 m)

TX-QTH	KW	Schedule
Morocco	600	24h
Hungary	2000	* RX-125 to 2325, 0500 to TX-GRK

Longshot possibilities: Belgium (150 kW), Kuwait (1500 kW)

QRM At RX-125: WLLX (d), WDEV (d), ZBT  
Later at night: ZBT, ZJEB, ZBRP, YKOV, XEMA, HICW, YKOV, H2R2R, H2EA,  
M2TO, W2MA, CBK

Synopsis: ZBT fades in at RX-125 as soon as these TA's do; therefore,  
QRM-free reception just after daytime t/off is unlikely. Your best bet  
is to 'sit on' ZBT & wait for a ZBT fade to yield Arabic programming from  
Morocco. Use Morocco - 610 to assess the viability of propagation on the  
Morocco to RX-QTH path. The northerly route to Hungary is rarely at peak  
effectiveness at RX-125, the time of lowest domestic & LA QRM. For Hungary,  
try the TX-GRK period in winter if lower-band Germans (e. g. 440, 750, 780)  
are loud. Unfortunately, domestic & LA QRM on 540 is apt to be quite heavy  
at the time.

630 kHz (476.2 m)

TX-QTH	KW	Schedule
Dunisia	600	0430-2330

Longshot possibilities: Arabia (100 kW), Romania (400 kW), Norway (100 kW)

QRM: WPKR, W2AT, W2BE, ZPOY, ZJEB, ZJEB, ZJEB, Y2EA, Y2LL, H2JL

Synopsis: Dunisia was logged, principally from the Boston area, when it used to  
be on 630. Unfortunately, most locations will have too much QRM from domestic  
& LA's to permit such TX reception on 630. If the African on 630 is unusually  
(overwhelming) 550 domestic on an unselective radio, look for Dunisia - 630.  
Diers in NY, away from immediate QRM - 630 & ZJEB - 630 (top zones, still have  
a good shot at 630 TA's around RX-125 with QRM phased.

720 kHz (416.7 m)

TX-QTH	KW	Schedule
Portugal	100	24h
Tunisia	200	0500-2330

Longshot possibilities: West Germany (200 kW & 150 kW), East Germany (Janner -  
power unknown), Canary Islands (20 kW), Cyprus (500 kW)

QRM At RX-125: YVOC  
Later at night: YVOC, WCN, H2AN, Jamaica (The Cuban which was formerly  
an obnoxious pest has vacated this channel as of OCT 1992)

Synopsis: Portugal is semi-regular at RX-125 at coastal LI, MI, & MA QTH's  
during autumn & winter. Use 720, 774, & other low-band Spaniards as Iberian  
peninsula propagation indicators. For the Germans on 720, check the strength  
of the Germans on 756 & 783 and see if those two Germans are over-running the  
Portuguese on those channels. Cyprus is very unlikely. Tunisia may be noted  
when Portugal - 720 is strong; listen carefully for Arabic music under Portugal.  
Canary Islands - 720 might be possible if the Canaries outlet on 611 is  
unusually loud. Note, however, that Spanish-language programming on 720  
at RX-125 will be YVOC 95% of the time.

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eastern USA because of auroral-zone absorption and the high levels of domestic  
QRM & atmospheric noise. Not only does he get Luxembourg - 1440 (a station also  
relatively common in the northeastern US) but also Saudi Arabia - 1440 has been  
heard. The chances of this Saudi ever being able to compete with WFTQ & CF60 at  
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heard.

A New York receiving site, for instance, are pitifully small.  
As spectacular as the TA DX heard on both split & even channels from the  
Arctic is, it really demands a separate article (done by Brian Vernon) as this DX  
is so different from what any DXer in the lower 48 states (CONUS) will ever  
experience at home.

The area of concern for this article, therefore, will be the following  
states: NC, VA, DE, MD, DC, PA, NJ, NY, CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, & ME; and the  
following provinces: ON, QU, NB, NS, PEI, & NF. Within this region, the DXer's  
probability of hearing all TA's is governed by the major geographical aspect of  
distance from Europe (NF best; NS/PEI second best; QU, NB, the New England states,  
LI (NY), & coastal NJ third best, etc.). Even-channel TA DX may be possible in the  
midwest, the Rockies, the Pacific Northwest US/southwestern Canada, the south,  
the Caribbean, & South America but there haven't been sufficient DX reports from  
those regions to confirm such receptions.

The somewhat - localised aspect of inherent site directionality is another  
important consideration: what you're shooting for is the strongest possible  
signals from Europe & Africa and the weakest possible signals from stations which  
could interfere with the desired TA DX. Site directionality is determined by  
the physical features about the location, both natural & man-made. A map of  
the area in the vicinity of the receiving site (preferably a topographic map  
including elevations of terrain & locations of major structures) is of great  
use. A daytime groundwave bandscan is also very informative. Suffice it to say  
that the best site would be characterised by at least 10 mi./16 km. of salt water  
(the highest-conductivity naturally-occurring terrestrial surface medium) towards  
stations of interest (bearings 40° to 110°) coincident with blockage towards UE/  
Canadian interference sources (typical bearings 200° to 360° & 0° to 30°).  
Blockage may be in the form of buildings, hills/mountains, or dry sand & sterile  
(podzol) soil as in the pinelands of Cape Cod & New Jersey. Narrow barrier-  
beach sites (ocean on outer side, saltmarsh on inner side) are not considered  
first-class in inherent directionality, as the marsh in the opposite direction  
of the ocean ruins the all-important blockage aspect. At such a site, the  
preferred DX location would be at the inland side of the marsh, placing all of  
the high-conductivity area to the east. Blockage towards unwanted directions  
is not only best from a QRM-reduction standpoint, but there are also reports of  
desired-station enhancement by a "focusing" effect at sharply-defined border zones  
between seawater towards desired DX & poor ground (and/or horizon blockage)  
in the opposite direction.

A small island or a narrow barrier land (e. g. Cape Hatteras) is a fine  
omnidirectional location. A flat, wide-open farmland with no horizon blockage  
& with good-conductivity soil is also a good omnidirectional location. The same  
applies to a mountaintop. For serious TA DXing, however, it is the appropriately  
directional site that really does the job right. Directional sites mentioned  
so far have been coastal; however, inland directional sites do exist. The  
eastern face of a steep mountain could benefit the TA DXer at a receiving site  
located between the bottom and an altitude 100 m. or so below the summit. If  
there's a lake, river, or swamp to the east of the bottom edge of the mountain's  
eastern face, all the better. Site directionality is of greatest concern on  
signals whose arrival angle is lowest, approximating a groundwave. Sunset-period  
TA reception is most subject to enhancement by favourable site directionality.  
European sunrise TA skip often arrives at higher angles; reception, therefore, is  
less site-dependent. DXers more than 100 mi./160 km. inland will find the 0400  
to European dawn period to be most productive, despite the fact that domestic  
skip QRM is worse than at sunset.

Other important location aspects are those of man-made interference,  
both in the categories of electrical noise (TV-generated QRM, power-line arc'ing,  
light dimmers, etc.) and of local broadcast stations, especially those near  
frequencies of DX interest. The best location, in these terms, is obviously  
that which is most electrically quiet and has the fewest strong local AM  
broadcast signals.

#### The Stations - channel by channel

As we assess those TA stations on 10 kHz.-multiple channels deemed likely  
to be heard, we can call in three significant bodies of knowledge: (1) actual  
east-coast US receptions made since the new plan channels went into effect  
(2) Receptions during old-plan days of former splits ending in 9 which have since  
moved to 10 kHz. -multiple channels (useful for stations which merely changed  
frequency, without changing power, location, or pattern) (3) Probability-of-  
propagation analysis - relative to new, as-of-yet unlogged stations. An  
estimation of strength is made based upon a station's power, location, &  
frequency. Possible reception times are assessed in terms of theoretical  
strength, interference factors, the requirement of a darkness path, the station's

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810 kHz (370.4 m)

Most Likely		Schedule
TX-QTH	KW	
Scotland	(2 x) 100	0600 (0630 Sat./Sun.) to 0023
Yugoslavia	1000	0355 to 2305

Longshot possibilities: Spain (20 kW), Uganda (100 kW), USSR (150 kW)

QRM: At RX-LSS: WCY, CJVA  
Later at night: WCY, CJVA, HJCY, WWH, ZNS-3, YVLP

Synopsis: Scotland, Yugoslavia, & Spain were logged from the USA when they used to be on 809. 810, unfortunately, has too much QRM for effective DXing, except at directional sites in NE, NS, & Cape Cod/Cape Ann. Even in those areas, CJVA could be a problem at RX-LSS. Scotland is most likely to be received if B32-693, 882, & 929 are loud. The Yugoslav can be expected under the same conditions, provided that the Yugoslavia to RX-QTH path is in 90% or greater darkness. Spain is also possible: check 774 & 855 strengths as a guide. Uganda & USSR aren't too likely.

200 kHz (223.5 m)

Most Likely		Schedule
TX-QTH	KW	
Italy	500	0500 to 2330
Saudi Arabia	1000	0200 to 0500, 1800 to 2300

QRM: At RX-LSS: MCTW(d), MERA(d), WML(d), JDR, Barbados, ZNS, YVLP, GPR  
Later at night: the above non-daytimers, plus CDEL, XDR, HJCY

Synopsis: This channel won't be too productive unless you're in the Canadian Maritimes. The cariboid pattern of a phased Beverage system would be beneficial. The Italian used to come in well during good conditions when it was on 809. Those at better TA DX RX-QTH's are advised to check 200 between RX-LSS and 2230 in autumn & winter. Theoretically, reception should be possible from 0500 to TX-QTH, but domestic QRM is likely to preclude this. Check 946 for possible parallel operation. If the Italian is coming in around 2230 on/off, watch the channel from 2230 to 2300 for the Saudi Arabian. On exceptional nights, it may even show mixed with Italy prior to 2230.

200 kHz (303.0 m)

Most Likely		Schedule
TX-QTH	KW	
West Germany	200 & others	1635 to 0600

Longshot possibilities: Spain (2 x 10 kW), Gabon (20 kW)

QRM: At RX-LSS: WMLW(d), JPY, WML, YVPA, Grenada  
Later at night: the above non-daytimers, plus WJGX, WYVA, HJCY, WML, GPR

Synopsis: 200 is unlikely to yield DX except at the best coastal sites. DXing should be attempted after 0500 e/off.

1000 kHz (277.5 m)

Most Likely		Schedule
TX-QTH	KW	
Poland	1500	0327 (Sun. 0427) to 2300

Longshot possibility: Kenya (100 kW)

QRM: At RX-LSS: WTIC, YVQJ, WYVA  
Later at night: WTIC, YVQJ, WYVA, KRLD

Synopsis: TA reception on 1080 is unlikely from New England southward, primarily because of WTIC. Those in Maritime Canada may find TA's on 1080 between RX-LSS and sunset at Hartford. Use B3C-1053 & 1089 and W. Germany - 1017 & 1269 to indicate possible Poland to RX-QTH path viability.

1170 kHz (256.4 m)

Most Likely		Schedule
TX-QTH	KW	
Chad	20	0600 to 2000
USSR	1000 & 500	* RX-LSS to 2300, 0100 to TX-SRS

Longshot possibilities: Yugoslavia (200 kW), Nigeria (50 kW)

QRM: At RX-LSS: WKZE(d), WMLW(d), WJGX(d), WCRD(d), WBRW(d)  
Later at night: WYVA, HJNW, WYVA, YVQV

Synopsis: Chad & USSR were heard on 1159 before 1978. Check 5485 shortwave parallel for Chad; Chad is likely to be heard during slight aurora at 2000 e/off from NE & NS. USSR might be noted prior to 2300 if mid-band Germans are strong.

1260 kHz (238.1 m)

Most Likely		Schedule
TX-QTH	KW	
Greece (NOA)	500	1530-2200, 0300-0630
Spain	20, 2 x 10, others	? ?

Longshot possibilities: Cameroon (20 kW & 30 kW), Poland (160 kW)

QRM: WYVA, WYVA, CIHI, WYVA, WYVA, WYVA, Cuba

Synopsis: Only DXers in NE & eastern NE have a reasonable chance of getting a TA on 1260. Even from there, WYVA & CIHI may be at troublesome levels at RX-LSS; a phased-antenna system might be necessary. AU CX could favour Cameroon reception with an "Airo-Beverage" at the eastern NY shore at RX-LSS.

1350 kHz (222.2 m)

Most Likely		Schedule
TX-QTH	KW	
France	2 x 100	0428 to 2100

Longshot possibilities: USSR (150 kW & others)

QRM: At RX-LSS: WMLW(d), WYVA, WYVA, WYVA, GJLM, CMAL, GPR  
Later at night: the above non-daytimers, plus CIAR, WSLR

NOTE: Mauritania, listed in 1982 WYVA as on 1350, is still on 1349 as of the date of this article. It is easily heard, often rolling over 1350 competition at EA coast sites at RX-LSS in autumn & winter; its audio, unfortunately, is rather shallow. The 1349 carrier must be at least 10 dB over the 1350 signals to permit clear reception of audio from Mauritania on a car radio or other non-selective receiver. As this does happen occasionally, chances are that if Mauritania finally moved to 1350, it should sporadically punch readable audio above the domestic rabble, at least at directional RX-QTH's.

Synopsis: France has been logged on LI & on Cape Cod, albeit very rarely. Be careful: French talk could be of Canadian origin. Luckily, France has stations on several split frequencies which operate parallel to 1350 (to verify that French talk on 1350 is indeed from France). Try 1350 just after 0430 if other French (and/or German & British) high-band signals are really loud. You'll have to fight off a lot of domestic QRM. The period before 2100 might be useful in November, December, & January for DXers at eastward-facing New England beaches & by those in the Canadian Maritimes.

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RANDY TOMER, 1969 27th STREET, ARCATA, CA 95521

It seems that Ric has a bit of a sniffle this week, so I did the typing. Thanks to three different IRCams who are real good guys I have been informed that it is KBNB-Long Inland-Big Lake, Alaska that had the CP for 830kHz and not KINY-Anchorage, as I had somehow got the impression. Then, after not hearing them again for a couple of weeks, on the evening of 15 Nov they were back again way o/ KIKI/WCCO at 10:45 PM PST with a Bill Cosby comedy followed by a solid "CabinRadio" ID and spots mentioning Wesilla, a local community. Format at this hour of the night seems mostly 70's soft rock. I got plenty of good QSL material, so a report will be sent. I was enthused enough at the time that I actually dug the tape recorder out of the closet to tape the hourly ID (mainly to make RTH jealous) but the signal faded for good at about 10:50 PM.

Anyone want to hear KJOP-1240, Lemoore? They were putting out a pretty hefty harmonic on 2480kHz last 07 Nov.

Cary, I'm glad you mentioned your dissatisfaction with the clear channel situation on the WC, since most WCers seem to act rather complacently about it so far--of course there's nothing that can be done, so why complain much, I guess. In my opinion, the breakdown is an absolute tragedy to those who, like myself, like to hear genuine long-haul DX, domestic or otherwise. I just wish I would have taped some of my good receptions of WCBS, Guatemala, etc. as it's unlikely they'll be heard again. I'm concentrating on what channels are left, although cx hasn't been that favorable the last two seasons. Sure would like to get a good tape of RJR-700 before 700 is gone, but it requires outstanding cx to make it here on the WC.

I just got a brochure on the new ICOM IC-R-70 general coverage receiver from Ralph Sanserino. It looks great and seems to have all the features of a Drake R-7A at only about half the price. But with one big exception: it has only one AM filter, and it's awful wide, according to the specs (6kHz/18 kHz!). It's notch filter and passband tuning would make up for a lot of the wide filter's drawbacks, but still they blew it.

Of possible amusement to Bay Area DXers, the rotary zone dial on the new Sony ICF-S5W includes KOIA Oakland with all those big 50kW stations. I guess they wanted to make sure that travellers can pick up that part of American culture. Caution dept: if you hear "Bay Area Wx" on 1480 don't think you might have KWUN, Concord, it's KRED Eureka. 73's...RET

The Odds on the even TAs (continued from Page 8)

Times marked with an asterisk (\*) under the schedule headings are suggested working times for the DXer in eastern Canada & the northeastern USA, rather than actual station operating schedules.

#### Concluding statement

"Even"-channel TA IX is a specialized realm within the still somewhat-specialized realm of medium-wave TA IX. It is analogous to the Near South American & the US-Regional-Channel Latin American aspects of Pan-American DXing and also, within the sphere of TA IX, to other such specialties as Deep Africans, European commonwave "graveyard" stations, low-powered British locals, low-powered Iberian peninsula stations, eastern European & TA Asians, etc. All specialties within somewhat wider aspects of international medium-wave DXing have "cult followings"; most specialties can each be identified with particular DXers. (The same aspect of cult specialties pervades many other hobbies such as stereo, cars, ham radio, photography, athletics, and computers.)

You may ask "Why bother with even channel TA IX?". One reason is in the future if all broadcasters, including the USA & Canada, go to the same channel spacing (presumably 9 kHz.), DXing TA's on domestic channels will be the only TA IX "game in town". It is a wise move to familiarize oneself with its possibilities as well as its impossibilities. No one ever expects to hear as many countries as Europeans, Africans, North Americans, & South Americans all share the same channels. By the same token, however, it is ridiculous to assume that TA IX from the northern US will become impossible. More difficult, yes - but, as this article should have proven, not impossible. The main difference will be the lack of splits to use as propagation indicators. Long-haul domestic reception with stations such as KFI, KWA, ZBW, HSL, WCAI, WNC, WCCO, HXEL, & KMOX being heard well on the east coast may serve to indicate propagation viability of TA stations during the European sunrise period. At sunset in North America, some of the bigger TA's should be audible on the less "busy" domestic channels just after the daytimers go off. Listening to WW for the A & K indices may be helpful. International IX column reports from DXers at the better seaside locations would soon define those TA's most likely to be heard at more average sites under such a frequency-reallocation scheme. Although we've been granted a (temporary?) reprieve from 9 kHz spacing in the western hemisphere, there's no guarantee that the present condition will endure into the 21st century.

1440 kHz (208.3 m)

TX-QTH	Most Likely KW	Schedule
Luxembourg	1200	* RX-LSS to 0300, 0500 to 7X-SIS
Saudi Arabia	1500	0300 to 2300

Longshot possibility: Nigeria (50 kW)

QRM: WPC, CPCC, WHER, WRRO, Cuba

Synopsis: Luxembourg - 1440 has been logged in the USA as far south as PA & NJ. An in-depth discussion of Luxembourg reception may be found in the article "Your First 40 Trans-atlantic Countries (and then some)". Briefly, your best reception are RX-LSS to 2 hours later (English service), and from 0500 to 7X-SIS (German service). Expect to hear commercials & pop music. In the US, RX-LSS period receptions are restricted to coastal sites; use of Beverages may permit occasional inland reception at this time. The co-channel Saudi is unlikely; however, if the 1521 Saudi is in at a titanic level, you might note parallel Arabic chanting sneaking in against the pile of stations on 1440. The Nigerian might be heard from KF during AM CX.

1530 kHz (196.1 m)

TX-QTH	Most Likely KW	Schedule
Vatican	450	* Most commonly logged 0500 to 7X-SIS Occasionally heard in the 2230 to 2345 period

Longshot possibility: Madeira Islands (1 kW)

QRM: RX-LSS: WDJZ(d), WRXV(d), WJJE(d), WCBR(d), other daytimers  
Later at night: WCKY, Cuba

Synopsis: Vatican is logged in autumn & winter during both of the periods given above; receptions by DXers in New England, NY, NJ, & PA occur each DX season on better TA IX nights. Eastern Canadian reception, of course, should also occur. If high-band mid-latitude indicators such as Monaco-1467, Albania-1395, France-1557 et al are very strong and if the high-band Germans are at least fair, check 1530. Religious programs with classical, sacred, or very soft instrumental music may be noted mixing with WCKY. Many languages are used, so consult the WRTVH for Vatican's rather complex schedule. Madeira Islands is listed as a longshot possibility even though it's only running 1 kW, because (1) it was heard by Gordon Nelson in Boston when it used to be on 1529 and (2) because the path to the US east coast is considered low-loss (low-latitude, high-frequency, waterpath, relatively short distance). Certainly, DXers at eastward facing coastal sections of NE & NS should have a good chance at Madeira Islands at RX-LSS under slightly auroral conditions if a Beverage or high-gain amplified air-core loop is fed to a good receiver.

#### NOTES

##### Abbreviations used in frequency list

AU CX	auroral conditions
(d)	daytime domestic station
LA	Latin American & Caribbean stations
KW	Kilowatts of transmitter power
LI	Long Island (New York state)
QRM	interference
RX-LSS	local sunset at receiving location in North America
RX-QTH	location of receiving site
s/off	station sign-off
s/on	station sign-on
TA	Trans-atlantic (refers to stations in Europe, Africa, Middle East)
TX-QTH	transmitter location
7X-SIS	sunrise at transmitter location (in Europe, Africa, etc.)
WRTVH	World Radio/TV Handbook
24h	station operating 24 hours a day

Standard abbreviations are used for days of the week. Post office 2-letter abbreviations are used for states & provinces (e. g. NJ, MA, NY, NS).

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