

## CARIBBEAN MW DX GUIDE

(a northeastern USA perspective)

Mark Connelly - WAIION

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The reader is advised to consult the World Radio-TV Handbook and medium-wave DX clubs' international loggings sections for actual program schedule information, as well as actual DXer reception data.

Anguilla Key Freq's: 690, 1505, 1610

Caribbean Beacon, a religious broadcaster, operates parallel programming on 690 & 1610. 1610, because of its clear-channel status, is heard best. Programs are generally in English at times when US reception is likely. Interference to 690 may come from CBF and several Latin Americans. The station on 1505 is a local broadcaster; its weak signal is difficult to hear in the eastern USA because of slop from 1500 (WTOF) and 1510 (WMRE/CJRS/WLAC).

Antigua (& Barbuda) Key Freq's: 620, 1100, 1165, 1580

The Caribbean Radio Lighthouse, offering religious programs on 1165, is an easy catch in the early evening - especially when auroral conditions take some of the "sting" out of WWVA-1170. ZDK-1100 is a "regular" at some coastal sites (e. g. Cape Cod), mixing with (or overriding) WWME and HJAT. ZDK runs a combination of Islands and soul-dominated US hits in a very entertaining format. Inland DXers will have a tougher time with WWME QRM; use of a loop antenna or phased wires is advisable. The VOA outlet on 1580 provides standard VOA program fare, principally in English. Auroral conditions that weaken pest CBU help the cause of VOA-1580 reception greatly. Even more dependent on auroral blanking of the higher latitude stations is the Antiquan on 620: this is a fairly rare catch.

Bahamas Key Freq's: 810, 1540

ZNS-1 on 1540 is heard quite often with popular music and local ads. WPTR and, to a lesser extent, KKEL are QRM obstacles to overcome. ZNS-3 on 810 is heard in the northeast upon occasion, mostly with Black adult-contemporary hits. QRM to ZNS-3 is from WGY, HJCY, & CJVA.

Barbados Key Freq's: 790, 900

C. B. C. on 900 is heard occasionally, usually with mellow US / UK / Caribbean music and locally-accented English. Aurora is usually required to remove interference caused by stations such as CHML, CKTS, and CJBR. Reception is a bit more common in the southeastern US because Canadian QRM isn't as strong there. The 790 outlet is fairly rare: QRM from stations in Cuba, Florida, Virginia, and Rhode Island make this a difficult catch. It can be heard in the early evening (o/WTAR) during auroral conditions from Cape Cod if WEAN is looped or phased.

Cayman Is. Key Freq's: 1205, 1555

The two Caymans stations run parallel programming. Music tends to be adult-contemporary. 1555 has more "clout" in the northeastern US; westerners seem to report 1205 more often. Both stations are fairly easy split channels throughout the US & southern Canada.

Cuba Key Freq's: (many: 590, 600 among best)

The many Spanish-language stations from Castro's country need little introduction. Rather than being DX, many of them can be classified as "pests" which cause severe interference, not only to desired DX stations but to semi-local entertainment stations as well. The 1500-mile-distant Cuban outlet on 590 causes noticeable interference to WEEI-590 (Boston) within 15 miles of the WEEI transmitter. One curious service that many DXers have heard is the Radio Reloj (radio clock) program heard on numerous Cuban frequencies (760 & 940 are best here); this program consists of news in Spanish with an accompanying tick-tock every second and timebeep every minute.

Dominica Key Freq's: 595, 1210

595, with calypso and Caribbean English announcements, is heard frequently at coastal sites in the eastern US; inland reception is much less common. The 1210 station, broadcasting (at times) in French, requires auroral blanking of "pest" WCAU before reception is likely in the US.

Dominican Republic Key Freq's: 650, 830, 860, 1120, 1160, 1180

Radio Clarin on 860 used to be the most consistent D. R. station; they've had numerous technical malfunctions and periods of "down time". 650 used to be common, but the Venezuelan (YVLH) tends to dominate. Currently, 1160 seems to be the best bet. 830 has gotten clogged up with more regional domestics; YVLT doesn't help matters much either. 1180 is audible (usually over VOA, the Cuban jammer, and R. Petrolera (Venezuela)) if aurora clobbers WHAM. 1120 is also a possibility (in a mishmash of several other Latin Americans); log it before WCCC gets on the air.

Grenada Key Freq's: 535

Back on the air (following a period of inactivity associated with the US military action), 535 really boots out a good signal throughout the northeastern US. The programming, consisting largely of Islands music and locally-accented English talk, is quite entertaining.

Guadeloupe Key Freq's: 640

French heard on 640 will most likely be Guadeloupe (although Haiti is an outside possibility). Early evening, a coastal location, and aurora are conditions which increase the likelihood of logging this one. Get it before the FCC piles up too many new eastern USA stations on this channel.

Haiti Key Freq's: 760, 840, 1030

Since 4VEC moved from 1035 to 1030, this country has gotten harder to hear. Still, outside of a 250-mile radius of WBZ Boston, 4VEC's religious broadcasts (largely in English) are your best bet, especially during aurora. French language broadcasters on 760 & 840, although not logged regularly, represent reasonable alternative targets for those unable to get 4VEC.

Jamaica Key Freq's: 580, 700, 720, 770

In the northeastern USA, Jamaicans are generally logged around local midnight or a bit later. Reggae and calypso are the musical styles for which Jamaica is justifiably famous; you'll certainly hear these styles on Jamaica's broadcasters. Also, US soul music (especially "rapping") receives extensive airplay. DJ's tend to be fast-talking, heavily-accented, and in love with '50s-style gimmicks like bells, reverberation, and wolf-howls during records. 720 is probably the most common Jamaican; it has parallels on 550, 580, and 770. 700 is common (mixed with HJCY R. Sutatenza & YVMH R. Popular) when WWN is "aurora'ed out". 700 runs parallel to less-frequently heard outlets on 560, 620, and 790.

Martinique Key Freq's: 1310

The Martinique station on 1310 is a rare catch in the USA: in 15 years I've only seen a handful of tentative reports of this one from DXers in Florida and in coastal New England. Reception in Europe tends to be more common.

F81-2-2

Montserrat Key Freq's: 740, 885, 930

ZJB Plymouth on 885, with soul and adult-contemporary music, is generally the best bet because of its split-channel status. Early evening is the preferred reception time. The signal is not likely to be "massive" unless your running a Beverage at the beach; however, usable reception is possible, even well inland. 740, programming in French, is a more difficult catch; springtime reception at US QTH sunset seems to yield the most productive results. 930 is very difficult in the USA (it's relatively common in Africa & Europe).

Netherlands Antilles Key Freq's: 800

Almost all of us have logged half-megawatt powerhouse PJB on 800 at one time or another. Its huge signal is heard regularly from Europe & Africa to Hawaii & Tahiti and from Brazil & Argentina to Alaska & Canada. Religious programming in English, Spanish, Dutch, and Portuguese is heard throughout the evening; here in eastern Massachusetts, it usually overwhelms CKLW. Many DXers make it a habit to tune in the entertaining "Caribbean Night Call" program.

Puerto Rico Key Freq's: 580, 630, 680, 870

580 WKAQ Radio Reloj (not the Cuban type Reloj) is very common with its all-news programming in Spanish. "Jingle" ID's are frequent. WQBS (Cadena Q-B-S) has festive salsa music on 630. Its signal is very strong and many nights it demolishes WPRO within 70 miles of Providence. WAPA on 680 has been logged on Cape Cod in the main beam of 80-mile-distant WRKO. WHDA-870 is occasionally heard in the early evening (mixed with Venezuela & Colombia) when it's auroral.

St. Kitts (& Nevis) Key Freq's: 555, 825

Radio Paradise has a very commanding split-channel signal on 825. Its religious programming has been logged throughout the mainland US, southern Canada, Hawaii, Europe, and Africa. ZIZ-555 is a bit more difficult (its modulation is weak), but it nonetheless enjoys regular east-coast US reception. ZIZ has entertaining Islands music, on-air lotteries / gameshows, interesting ads, and weather reports that make snowbound DXers green with envy.

St. Lucia Key Freq's: 660, 840

Caribbean music and screaming French talk on 840 in the very early evening is St. Lucia. This is a "regular" on Cape Cod, but it seems to be rare inland. If it's just after sunset and 825 is unusually strong, check 840. The English language station on 660 is rare; usually this channel is swallowed up by YVNA (Venezuela) and WNBC as soon as darkness approaches. The Cuban becomes a distinct problem later into the evening.

St. Vincent Key Freq's: 705

Calypso and Caribbean English talk are heard on 705. Poor modulation and heavy slop from YVMH/HJCK/WLW-700 and WOR/YVKY/Cuba-710 make reception of this split somewhat difficult: often a carrier is heard, but pulling up "armchair copy" audio is a good deal less common.

Trinidad (& Tobago) Key Freq's: 610, 730

730 is occasionally noted from coastal sites early in the evening under auroral conditions. It sometimes "stays up" long enough to pull sufficient reception-report details; often it is in a dogfight with HIZ, YVMT, & HJCU. Programming is multi-cultural; East Indian (Hindi) music heard on 730 would be indicative of Trinidad. 610 may be picked out by hearing thickly-accented English news on the hour.

Turks & Caicos Key Freq's: 1460

The 1460 transmitter at Governor's Beach is received a few times each DX season, primarily by DXers on Long Island (NY). Co-channel QRM can get rough if you wait much more than an hour after the route between you and this station goes into darkness.

Virgin Islands (British) Key Freq's: 780

ZBVI on 780 is strong at some times that the channel is checked and absent on other days at the same time. I'm not sure if it is a technical problem on their end or just erratic propagation. Just after sunset, ZBVI is apt to be heard mixing it up with YVOD (Venezuela). Brazil may also be present. A bit later, R. Sonorama HJZG may join in. If it's not auroral, WBBM gets into the act as well. ZBVI runs typical Caribbean music programming with wild DJ's; also, some US soul hits are played. Scratchy low-fidelity relays of BBC news are common on the hour.

Virgin Islands (US) Key Freq's: 970, 1000

WSTX - 970 and WVWI - 1000 are very difficult to receive in the USA because of substantial co-channel US, Canadian, and South American QRM.

All of the following are NEARLY MANDATORY for reception of these:

- ideal propagation: auroral and "pipelined" to the specific US Virgin Islands areas of interest.
- phased Beverages and/or active balanced high-efficiency loop antenna.
- reception time as close to the time of initial path darkening (approximately at receiver or transmitter sunset, whichever is later).
- coastal receiving site - e. g. southward-facing sides of Long Island & Cape Cod; east coast Georgia / Florida.
- excellent receiver with slow-AGC (SM-smoothing) capability.
- experienced (propagation-wise / Caribbean-station-wise) DXer at the controls.

Any information updating, correcting, or adding to the information in this report should be submitted to the magazine in which this article is printed.

SUMMARY OF UNREPORTED STATIONS

Through Volume 23 #22 dated February 22, 1986

compiled by Don Kaskey, 465 Burnett St., #1, San Francisco CA 94131

The following chart lists the total number of stations in the USA and Canada and the volume they were last reported as being heard in DX MONITOR.

| COUNTRY | V23  | V22 | V21 | V20 | V19 | V18 | V17 | V16 | V15 | V14 | V13 | V12 | Prior | Total |
|---------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| CANADA  | 178  | 74  | 35  | 16  | 20  | 16  | 11  | 13  | 4   | 5   | 0   | 2   | 46    | 420   |
| U.S.A.  | 1714 | 866 | 494 | 409 | 274 | 265 | 133 | 159 | 69  | 47  | 28  | 42  | 291   | 4791  |
| TOTAL   | 1892 | 940 | 529 | 425 | 294 | 281 | 144 | 172 | 73  | 52  | 28  | 44  | 337   | 5211  |

New Stations reported as having taken the air during the period covering V23 #19 through #22:

540-CKCY-ON (x-920) WGFN-1410-NY  
 930-WBYG-IL KATJ-1450-UT  
 1120-WTWZ-MS (x-1150) WWKM-1540-MI  
 1240-WMGJ-AL

NOTE: 3 stations previously reported by club members as new stations are found to NOT be on the air as yet and are deleted from the above totals. They are: KGGN-770-AK, KVLDD-1400-AK, and KGUS-1030-AZ.

Previously unreported stations noted by IRCA reporters in DX MONITOR since the last update (V23 #21)....Covers V23 #19 through #22:

IL---0 WBYG--930 (Jasinski-IL)  
 NC--29 WFNC--640 (Ritchey & Demmitt-PA); WCCXN-1170 (Ritchey-PA)  
 TN--15 WJOR-1040 (Noonan-WI)  
 UT---0 KATJ-1450 (Carpenter-vac UT)  
 ON---6 CFGO-1200 (Wolfish-MB)

OFF THE AIR STATIONS: WTRU-1600-MI

BACK ON THE AIR: WBRB-1430-MI