



As a preface.....I haven't seen a similar article on splits from IRCA and won't claim originality with this one, but I thought a complete reference list was in order for active LA DXers. Much of this information was scattered throughout years of DX bulletins including DXM, so here, in effect, is a LA Split Frequency Yearbook which actually covers 1984 through late 1988. This article is intended to serve not only as a help list for DXers to hear split-LA's, but also as a four year history of known Caribbean, Central and South American splits, former and present.

PART I

Over the last several years I've accumulated from IRCA and numerous other sources quite a bit of information regarding Pan American stations heard and/or reportedly operating on what DXers call the "splits". A split is basically any non-10 kHz frequency recognized as standard in the US/Canada, or those frequencies which occur between the "even" frequencies, such as 531, 532, 533, etc. There are basically two reasons some LA's may be using the split frequencies rather than the standard 10 kHz stepped frequencies recognized in this hemisphere: 1.) To avoid interference (QRM) from other stations in their region. As a comparison, in the US if an interference issue is raised between AM's it is usually settled through application to FCC for a "change in existing facilities" (i.e. a frequency change), and sometimes in more extreme or bitter cases there may be a dispute for rights on a frequency which is settled by a court ruling (i.e. KOB vs. WABC on 770 years ago, or WCCO vs. WNYC for 830). But in some Pan American countries where it seems broadcasting regulations are not strict or aren't rigidly enforced (actually more than likely just taking a back seat to other governmental affairs in some cases) the station will attempt to bypass the red tape by adjusting their assigned frequency by a few kHz. In some cases stations are penalized or closed by the host government for their noncompliance. Also keep in mind that some LA stations may also be suspended or shut down for not conforming to what the government wants broadcast (i.e. R. Catolica HTA720-720 in Managua, Nicaragua has been suspended on occasion for refusing to broadcast a government message or for broadcasting news said to "incite rioting, unrest, and violence"). And in other cases they're closed for operating without permits or for operating with forged or bogus licenses, but that's a whole different story. Some former stations were even known to be caught up in political turmoil, civil war, revolution, etc. and even overrun and seized (the radio stations are the first to be taken in many of these circumstances, for example during the US "police action" in Grenada which later bore Radio Grenada-535 US armed forces "PSYOPS", or psychological operations set up the "Spice Island Radio" station after 990 ceased op's). Another similar case in history is Suriname "De Stem van den Revolutie" in Paramaribo [South America], which was widely reported on 725 until it was blown up by guerrillas during political unrest many years ago. 2.) The second reason some LA's can be found on the split's: poor technical standards, poor maintenance, aging or surplus second-hand transmitters and equipment in poor repair and the like. Stations operating under these circumstances are destined to have technical problems such as drifting and overheating transmitters, etc. But it's easy to understand why - limited numbers of personnel, especially engineers, remote transmitter sites, and of course heavy financial strain, etc. The station is aware of unintentional drifter-splits in most cases, but it sometimes takes awhile to correct the frequency, so there are times when they will be off-freq. ready for the picking (provided propagation is there) for a few days or weeks. And sometimes the problem is left unattended and a new split will be born. Throughout the 80's and into the 90's, presumably at least, better technical standards and developments likely will limit the number of drift LA's which in turn will affect the "DXability" of these stations. However, there have still been numerous occasions of LA's drifting off-frequency, such as 570 YVLX Venezuela (to 575.8 and 578 as I've heard on two occasions), 1500 YVRZ Venezuela (drifted to 1501.5), 690 XETRA Mexico (once down to 675), or 680 Zambrano, Colombia (once -2 or so kHz for a few weeks at a time) plus numerous others over the years which have been reported in the DX columns. The best way to be aware of them is to regularly consult the DX columns as well as first hand DXing - hearing them is usually a treat. Stations known to drift on occasion are commonly listed "vf", or varying/variable frequency in DXM, WRTH etc.

In addition to this, there is actually a third category of off-frequency LA's which at least deserves mention. It is one which has become very popular, primarily among US/Canadian DXer's, but not usually welcomed or looked favorably upon. However, it is accepted as a very interesting and distinct category of DXing the BCB, this of course being the US/Cuban interference issue. QRM to US AM's comes from the Cuban government-owned "domestic service" (some FL DXers argue about which domesticity some Cuban transmitters actually serve!) stations and dates back to at least the 60's when the US Government (read CIA) directed pro-American propaganda to Cuba via commercial US BCB stations. In the long run this backfired on the CIA (and USG in general) when Cuba began retaliating with super-power transmitters, jammers and general QRM to US AM's. For a detailed history see Greg Monti's "Current Developments in AM Broadcasting". Anyway, in the ensuing years scores of Cuban AM's would almost routinely but randomly and temporarily wreak havoc with US stations by the techniques mentioned, including the drifting of some of the higher powered outlets \pm 1 or more kHz generating piercing heterodynes (hets) as well as severe QRM if jamming

(broadband white noise, bubbling or buzzsaw Soviet style have been heard, as well as the famous 60Hz hum jammer still on about 1142.2a) was used. Some of the most recent examples are: 930 Reloj to 931, (possibly in response to VOA's use of 930 in Costa Rica?), the 940 Reloj to 943, 660 Progreso to 661 many times, and the 1180 Reloj to their current 1179.5a which undoubtedly is a subtle response to the 1180 R. Marti. Also, the 1280 Enciclopedia station was heard here on several occasions using 1281, and countless other lower-band National Network stations can be heard from time to time drifting all over the dial. Notice that most of the Cuban drifters are on the National net's (directly out of the Cuban Gov't) - the Cuban Provincial network and Local stations aren't usually heard drifting, but some have been heard off-freq. such as the Cadena Agramonte stations. Also, although not directly related to the splits, note that the newer R. Taino "Travel Radio" stations reported on 1160, 1040, and 830 are on the Local net list, but still are sources of much QRM to some US stations. Again, reasons for any QRM directed to US AM's is mostly due to generally unstable relations between the US and Cuba. By the way, the US still has a somewhat refined method of getting propaganda (news/information etc.) into Cuba, that being Radio Marti-1180 from the VOA facilities at Marathon Key, FL. And the deep Latin het on the frequency, as mentioned, comes from an off-freq. Cuban.

The following listing (PART II) was composed from numerous sources over the last four years. Many of the entries are still current, and many are still widely heard by MW DXers. Since many listings are up to several years old many no longer be on the listed frequency, but for the sake of having the most complete list of LA splits for the last four years the list will also serve as a history of split-LA activity.

Keep in mind that the majority of these, if indeed still in operation, are not likely to be easily-heard at most locations, except maybe for the exotic DX places like Hawaii, New Zealand, etc. Attempting to "try" for many of these will likely result in frustration - wait for a good opening or preferably aurora and do a bandscan, and remember that any will probably tend to be at poor and delicate levels, requiring the best in selective/sensitive receivers. Also, if you are aware of Beverage-style wave antennas and their characteristics (i.e. signal to noise ratio, aiming to appropriate bearings resulting in directionality, etc.) their use is recommended. But for some of the easier-to-hear splits (i.e. 825-St. Kitts, 555-Nicaragua, 1165-Antigua/Barbuda, 1555-Cayman Islands, etc.) one can even be successful with high-gain loops, longwires, etc. and any good DXing rig even if it is of the conventional analogue tuning style. Just waiting for the right night with the right conditions really pays off in this case as I've learned first-hand. You must be at least generally oriented with such terms as "aurora" or "beverage" if you plan to succeed - articles regarding most aspects of DX/DXing are available as reprints from the IRCA Goodie Factory. Use this article/list in addition to the numerous other articles written on LA DXing, such as the Connelly Best Bet articles on Caribbean, Central & South American DX lists, the Kazaross-Connelly-DeLorenzo "DXing Latin America & the Caribbean" (although slightly outdated is still of use), etc. For additional information send an SASE to: IRCA Goodie Factory, P.O. Box 21074, Seattle, WA 98111 [subject to change].

Finally, be sure to keep a table of TVI sweep oscillator harmonic frequencies handy so as not to confuse a TVI harmonic with an actual broadcast carrier. Also, be sure you're not confusing a TA or TP carrier with a LA split - determining conditions and time will assist in deciding which direction the signal is coming from. Although much of the information presented here is based on fact and my personal experience, there may be mistakes and additions to this article. Also there are even some questions raised - if you can help out please report any additional details, corrections, etc. to the DXM or directly to the DXKW-E editor. PART II follows:

PART II

Some of the "easier-to-hear" split-LA's have come and gone, such as Belize-834, now on 830 and still occasionally reported. 895-R. Galeon, Colombia has moved to 890, 725-Surinam has been blown up, and many of the Costa Rican splits are history too. Easily heard St. Kitts-825 used to use 1265, so at least this Caribbean island country is still heard along with the occasionally heard 555 station. The Cuban drifter on 702v from last year (1987) has vacated the frequency, but of course we'll hear from Cuba again soon.

Entries to the list will contain as much information as possible to assist the DXer. By all means this should not be considered complete, and if nothing else at least the frequency and country will be included. Some stations may now be defunct, have moved to another (even) frequency, or recovered to their normal frequency if they were drifters. CREDITS:

The various reporters and contributors to the IRCA DX Monitor, especially DXKW-W, DXKW-E, and DXKWII (Years 1984 through late 1988).

1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 Volumes of The World Radio/TV Handbook.
Federal Communications Commission
NRC and IDXD/Chuck Hutton-Editor
Written for the IRCA by Jim Hall/DX Worldwide-East.

Any details regarding entries on the list can be found by cross-referencing the number in the listing with the comments at the end of the article. If no number appears there was no additional information about the station available. Many entries have at least some sort of comment (nominal frequencies, ID's heard, etc.) which hopefully will be helpful if you hear something on that frequency. Abbreviations are as regularly used throughout DXM, but specifically regarding frequencies, vf: variable frequency, a: approximate, df: nominal freq. Any times mentioned are UTC (Coordinated Universal Time).

529a	COSTA RICA, Cartago 1	955	ECUADOR, Quevedo	1175	ECUADOR, Cuenca 30
535	GRENADA, St. George's	955	ECUADOR, Banos 51	1175.3	COLOMBIA, Neiva
548	PERU, El Porvenir 2	965	ECUADOR, Santo Domingo de los Colorados	1175vf	COSTA RICA, Limon 31
549	URUGUAY, Colonia 3		Dominican Republic, Villa Tapia	1195vf	HAITI, Jeremie
551	URUGUAY, Colonia 3	971	HONDURAS, San Pedro Sula	1195vf	ECUADOR, Sangolqui
555	ST. KITTS/NEVIS, Basseterre	975	PERU, Lima	1195	ECUADOR, Pujili 32
555	NICARAGUA, Chinandega	985	ECUADOR, Guayaquil 13	1205	BOLIVIA, Milluni 33
564	PERU, Lima 4	995	PARAGUAY, Paraguari	1205	PERU, Cajamarca
565	PERU, Lima 4	996			CAYMAN ISLANDS, George Town
575.1	PANAMA, Panama			1205	HAITI, Port-au-Prince
579	CHILE, Santiago	1001	PANAMA, Chitre	1205	ECUADOR, Quevedo
595	DOMINICA, Roseau/Hillsborough	1001	COLOMBIA, Pasto 14	1211	EL SALVADOR, Zacatecolura 34
615	ECUADOR, Quito 5	1011	COLOMBIA, Neiva 15	1215	ECUADOR, (Loja) 35
617	PARAGUAY, Santani (San Estanislao)	1012	COLOMBIA, Monteria 16	1219	COLOMBIA, Iplales
625	ST. LUCIA, ?	1014.9	ECUADOR, Guaranda	1224	ECUADOR, Guayaquil 36
645	PARAGUAY, Coronel Oviedo	1015	ECUADOR, Loja	1225	ECUADOR, Guayaquil 36
652	PARAGUAY, ?	1015	COLOMBIA, Bucaramanga	1225	ECUADOR, Cuenca 51
655	EL SALVADOR, San Salvador	1015	PANAMA, Bocas del Toro	1226	ECUADOR, Ambato
665	PERU, Junin	1025	EL SALVADOR, ?	1226	PARAGUAY, Caaguazu
678v	COLOMBIA, Zambrano	1025	COLOMBIA, Ibague 17	1235	ECUADOR, Saquisilil 37
695	ECUADOR, Guayaquil	1025	ECUADOR, ? 51	1245	ECUADOR, Quito 51
699.8	ECUADOR, Guayaquil	1027	PANAMA, Panama City	1255	HONDURAS, Paraiso
702v	CUBA, ?	1037	ECUADOR, (Guayaquil?) 51	1261.6	COLOMBIA, San Andres
705	GUYANA, Linden	1055	COLOMBIA, Pasto 8	1265	ECUADOR, Cuenca
705	ST. VINCENT, Kingstown	1058	COLOMBIA, Arauca 19	1275	BOLIVIA, Mineros
705	HONDURAS, Olancho	1061	PARAGUAY, Alberdi 20	1285	ECUADOR, Naranjal
715	ECUADOR, Portoviejo	1065	CHILE, Santiago	1285	ECUADOR, Jipijapa
718	HONDURAS, Comayagua 6	1071	ECUADOR, Vilcabamba 51	1295	ECUADOR, Atuntaqui
725	SURINAM, Paramaribo	1075	COLOMBIA, Barranquilla	1295	ECUADOR, Latacunga
735	ECUADOR, Quito	1075	BOLIVIA, Portachuelo 21	1302vf	HONDURAS, San Pedro Sula
737v	PARAGUAY, Asuncion 7	1075	COSTA RICA, (San Jose, Chomes, La Marina, or Liberia)	1303vf	HONDURAS, San Pedro Sula
745	ECUADOR, Chone 8	1079	GUATEMALA, Zacapa 22	1315	PARAGUAY, Asuncion 38
748	HAITI, Les Cayes	1082	BOLIVIA, Cotoca	1325	ECUADOR, Pasaje 39
765	EL SALVADOR, Usulután	1085	BOLIVIA, La Paz	1328	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Bani
767	ECUADOR, Chone 8	1085	ECUADOR, Manta		PERU, Trujillo 40
785	ECUADOR, Quito 51	1095v	BOLIVIA, Montero 23	1331	GUATEMALA, Guatemala City
795	ECUADOR, Portoviejo	1095	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, San Pedro de Macoris	1335	BOLIVIA, Santa Cruz 41
805	HONDURAS, Comayagua		ECUADOR, Pelileo 124	1335	CHILE, Chillan
805	ECUADOR, Quito	1095	ECUADOR, Pelileo 124	1335	CHILE, Victoria
815	ECUADOR, El Milego 10	1105	BOLIVIA, Montero	1335	ECUADOR, Quito 42
825	ST. KITTS/NEVIS/Basseterre	1115	COLOMBIA, Cucuta	1343	COLOMBIA, Tunja 43
825	PANAMA, Macaracas 69	1121	PERU, Lima 25	1345	HONDURAS, San Pedro Sula
834	BELIZE, Belize City	1123	BOLIVIA, Vinto	1351.9	CHILE, Iquique 44
844	PERU, Tacna	1125	ECUADOR, Quito 26	1353	ECUADOR, Ambato
845	BOLIVIA, Mina Catavi	1125	PANAMA, Punta Patino/Darien	1354	PERU, Huanuco 45
845	ECUADOR, Ambato	1125	COSTA RICA, San Jose	1362	PERU, Huanuco 45
854	PERU, Lima		GUATEMALA, Retalhuleu 27	1365	HONDURAS, La Ceiba
855	ECUADOR, El Puyo	1127.2	PERU, Cartavio	1365	MEXICO, Tuxtla Gutierrez
885	MONTSERRAT, Plymouth	1135	BOLIVIA, La Paz	1365	HONDURAS, Danli 46
895	BOLIVIA, Montero	1145	BOLIVIA, Santa Cruz	1372	PERU, Sicuani 50
895	HAITI, Gonaves	1145	ECUADOR, Riobamba	1378	ECUADOR, Pinampiro
895	COLOMBIA, Santa Marta	1145	HONDURAS, Porto Cortes	1379	HONDURAS, Danli 48
895	BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, Tortola	1145	ECUADOR, Guayaquil 28	1383.8	CHILE, Santiago 49
898a	ECUADOR, Chone 11	1145.5	ECUADOR, Guayaquil 28	1384	CHILE, Santiago 49
905	EL SALVADOR, San Salvador	1146	HAITI, Port-au-Prince	1385	HONDURAS, Juticalpa
905	ECUADOR, Guayaquil	1146	EL SALVADOR, Santa Ana	1394	HONDURAS, Juticalpa
914	SURINAM, Nieuwickerie	1151	EL SALVADOR, San Miguel 29	1395	HAITI, Port-au-Prince
915	ECUADOR, Machala	1155vf	ECUADOR, Portoviejo	1395	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, San Cristobal
917	NICARAGUA, Managua	1155	HONDURAS, El Paraiso	1395	PERU, Sicuani 50
918	NICARAGUA, ?	1163	ANTIGUA/BARBUDA, St. John's	1414	ECUADOR, Esmeraldas
919.2	COLOMBIA, Cartagena	1165	ECUADOR, Latacunga	1417	PARAGUAY, San Juan Bautista de las Misiones
925	GUATEMALA, San Pedro Carcha	1175	EL SALVADOR, Sonsonate	1417	PARAGUAY, Campana, Horqueta
944	HONDURAS, Tegucigalpa	1175	PANAMA, Las Remenidos de Veraguas	1418	GUATEMALA, Flores 52
945	ECUADOR, Guayaquil 12				

1425	ECUADOR, Guayaquil	1502	HONDURAS, Choluteca	1595	ECUADOR, Quero
1425	COSTA RICA, (Guapiles?) 53	1505	ANGUILLA, The Valley	1602	PERU, Rioja
1442	CHILE, Arica 54	1505v	ECUADOR, Manta	1607vf	CHILE, Renca 61
1443	ECUADOR, Riobamba	1525	ECUADOR, Manta		
1443.5	ECUADOR, Riobamba	1532	COLOMBIA, San Jose del Cesar		ADDITIONS:
1444	PERU, Lima		ECUADOR, Latacunga	536	FALKLAND IS. Port Stanley
1445	PERU, Trujillo	1535	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, La Romana	865	ECUADOR, Pillaro 47
1445	ECUADOR, Riobamba	1545	PERU, Juanjui 62	965	PANAMA, ? 69
1464	COLOMBIA, Cartagena 55		BOLIVIA, Tarata	1045	PANAMA, ? 69
1465	ECUADOR, Naranjito	1545	ECUADOR, Colta	1475	HAITI, Port-au-Prince 9
1465	BOLIVIA, Sacaba	1545	CHILE, San Fernando		unID's:
1465	PERU, Sullana	1545	CAYMAN ISLANDS, George Town	775	unID, 68
1474	HAITI, Port-au-Prince	1552	PERU, Trujillo 59	785.3	unID, 63
1475	BOLIVIA, Tiraque	1555	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Santo Domingo		
1475.5	ECUADOR, Pasaje (El Oro)	1555	ARGENTINA, Villa Carlos Paz 58	1165	unID, 64
1477	BOLIVIA, Santa Cruz 5	1562	CHILE, Putre 60	1314	unID, 65
1477	ARGENTINA, Villa Carlos Paz 58	1564.8a	BOLIVIA, Punata	1384.2	unID, 66
1483	COLOMBIA, Pacho		URUGUAY, Colonia	1415	unID, 67
1495	ARGENTINA, Conesa	1564.9a			
1495	ECUADOR, Vinces	1585			
1495	ECUADOR, Riobamba	1591			

COMMENTS: Use World Radio/TV Handbook

Much additional information regarding most of these can be found by referencing the listing with the Caribbean, Central & South American sections (both Countries and Frequencies sections since due to the volume of information in WRTH some items are accidentally deleted from one section and found only in the other and vice versa). NOTE: Frequencies here may be listed on their split or drift frequency and WRTH may list the nominal even channel (or the nominal split as in some cases). It may take awhile to locate nominals, etc. on some but most can be easily tracked down. A little referencing/rooting should make this apparent.

Several unID's have been heard as well. The most recent have been included along with information on who has heard them, where, when etc. in hope of getting help IDing them for us.

1. nf 530.
2. R. San Antonio ex-540.
3. R. Colonia was supposed to use 551 days/549-550 nights.
4. OB24L R. Folklore was to be ex-560.
5. Reportedly to 610.
6. HRLK reported here rather than nom. 720 several times over the last several years.
7. R. Guarani announcing 730, 88 WRTH lists 737.
8. R. Libertad from 745/748. Last report on 767.
9. 4VA4 La Voix du Peuple was closed for supporting Duvalier. Back on or is this now the new 156048.
10. Ex-810/800? Carriers still heard here by many.
11. nf 900 but rpted "occ veering down to 898".
12. Probably back on 950 now.
13. Frecuencia Mil prob. on 990 now.
14. To avoid QRH from R. Cd. de Pasto 1010.
15. HJJR CARACOL possibly back on 1010.
16. From 1020.
17. May be on 1020 by early '89.
18. LV de Galeras HJBN may be on 1010 by now.
19. LV del Cinaruco from 1050.
20. ex-1060.
21. CB173 R. Agricultura was ex-1030.
22. TGLU was to be ex-1190.
23. CP83 (890) ex-1060 & rpted on 1095.
24. Reportedly now on 1105 from 1095, ex-1110.
25. OAX4N R. Selecta 2000 ex-1130.
26. On 1130 now?
27. ex-1130.
28. R. Conдор ex-1140.
29. nf. 1150.
30. Radio Via ex-1160.
31. Prob. 1220 by now.
32. May be on 1190.
33. May be on 1200 now.
34. nom. 1210.
35. Was to be ex-1205 (not same as Quevedo there now).
36. Possibly to 1220.
37. Nominal 1220.
38. May be on 1300 now.
39. nf 1310.
40. May have been closed for unauthorized freq.
41. CP24 ex-1340.
42. Nominal 1340.
43. HJEN may have resumed on 1350 by now.
44. CA140 ex-1400 R. Nacional de Chile.
45. ex-1350.
46. Now 1372.
47. Nominal was 870.
48. Ex-1365.
49. Nominal 1380.
50. Now 1365.
51. Were supposed to have "ceased" operation.
52. nf 1420.
53. TI.. R. Guapiles was new-did this ever open?
54. CA144 ex-1440.
55. nf 1480.
57. CP140 ex-1480 (Radio Willy Bendeck).
58. R. Horizonte ex-1460.
59. Nominal was 1560.
60. Is ex-1560, likely still on this split.
61. CB161 R. Tropical ex-1615.
62. Nominally 1520.
63. Stutterhelm-NY most recently got LA mx here-Is HCAA-1 back on this split again?
64. Trotto-FL got an SS stn here with echo-chambered "R. Populare" ID (not Antigua).
65. Seemed to loop CA or Dom. Rep. w/SS ballads. Trotto-FL recently got SS and "R. Habana" ID, obviously another Cuban. Still here?
66. Now getting this here eve's in good LAcx, is off nightly and is almost definitely LA.
67. Most recently Thomas-FL got LA mx and a soft spoken SS man, looping SSW.
68. I've heard this here several times in good LAcx (auroral) w/SS ancrs. Colombian?
69. Presumably have moved.

Logging any of these will certainly be difficult, but many are possible and quite a few are still on the "easily-heard" list. Regular consulting of DXM (especially DXMW's & DXWII) will show which splits are still in operation and which are still heard by DXers. DXing the Latin 19 splits is by far one of the most challenging and rewarding aspects of DXing MW. Good luck DXers!