

F99-3-1

MEX-DX '92

or

How I Unexpectedly Spent My Winter Vacation

by Jef Jaisun

I really should have planned it better. It was tough enough DXing from Puerto Vallarta and Barra De Navidad last January on a friend's Sony AM/FM/Tape player. No accurate frequency read-outs, no IRCA Mexican lists. In fact, I didn't even ID one of last year's catches til this January, when I finally did get the Mexican list. But see, I didn't really plan to do serious DX. I was going to sit on the beach during the day and identify cervezas in the cantinas at night. Ha. That was before the Monsoons of '92.

I flew into Vallarta January 6th, with the intent of being there 18 days. Eleven days into the trip it had rained solidly for nine-and-a-half, so I bagged the rest of it and came home. In the interim, however, I got to spend a number of intimate moments with my Sony Sports Walkman, model WM-AF54. If you think tuning a large rx is tricky, try it on a Walkman sometime...a micro-hair puts you 50 kHz away from where you think you are, and without an ID for a reference point it's really a crap shoot. But hey, what's DX if you can't roll the dice once in awhile?

I started off in a rather unconventional manner, by booking a window seat on the plane. Some of what follows was heard through the window of an MD-80, travelling 400+ mph at 37,000 feet. The more intriguing stuff is the cluster of FM's from the Phoenix/Tucson area, some audible as far south as Cabo San Lucas at the southern tip of Baja California. I'm not big on FM DX (and neither is IRCA, hi), but I'm including these few as indicators of what's up there, E-skip or no. Here are the location codes:

(PV)...from Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco

(ML)...from Melaque, Jalisco (a coastal town 40 miles north of Manzanillo, 130 miles south of PV)

FROM THE PLANE

Note: This section is listed by hour/minute heard, not by frequency, to coincide with the plane's location as it travelled south. All times are GMT.

Time	Freq	Calls
1845	1590	KOGO CA, Ventura "24 hours a day, your official home of good time oldies, K-O-G-O."
1846	1580	UNID Two strong spanish stations, one IDed with what sounded like "R. Dio," suggesting maybe religion. Possibles include Merced, Ca and Hermosillo, Son. Hrd just N of L.A.
1850	640	KFI CA, Los Angeles strong w/Limbaugh over downtown L.A.
1851	930	KKHJ CA, Los Angeles "R. Alegria" kept repeating phone number in commercial 1-800-333-3337. Anybody wanna call it?
1853	1190	KORG CA, Anaheim Man and woman talking in Asian language. My first guess was Korean, and bp says that is their predominant programming. Hrd just S of L.A.

1857	1210	KPRZ CA, San Diego End of relig pgm "The Viola Hour, ID "K-Pray" or "K-Praise, 12-10 AM", spot for "Solid Rock Hour" a.m.'s at 8:30 (PLT), ment of San Diego County.
1900	1240	KSON CA, San Diego simulcast ID, "FM 97.3, KSON...All your country favorites are right here." No mention of AM side.
1903	1300	KROP CA, Brawley out of ABC Net nx with local nx by George Gale. Wx check 65 degrees, ments of Coachella Valley, no freq given. Strong signal hrd at S end of Salton Sea.
1909	1310	XEC? Tijuana, BCN ID sounded like "R. Hijos... ..musical." Slow SS voc music.
1915	1150	XEBCN? Mexicali, BCN w/many ments of Mexicali, lots of rapid-fire spots, instrumental music. Presumed XEBCN.
1948-2000	UNID	Freq on Walkman estimated between 1460 and 1540. SS station carrying pre-game baseball show with ments of Culiacán and Hermosillo. Sounded like it may be flagship for BB broadcasts. Teams involved were Los Cañeros de Los Mochis and El Equipo de Hermosillo. "Take me out to the ballgame" in SS, "Esta escuchando...de la Liga Mexicana de Beisbol de Sonora." No calls hrd at this point. Ancr's name sounded like Francisco Cortez. "Gracias por su atencion" spot with list of sponsors, including Coca-Cola. Then muffled ID "XEA(?)...con cincuenta mil... de potencia." The only 50 KW Mexican on this end of the dial is Hermosillo-1580, although this could have been a feed from someone else (or a feed from 1580, but not likely). NOTE: Plane was closer to Hermosillo when signal first heard strong and distinct; closer to Los Mochis when faded.
2017	650	XETNT SIN, Los Mochis "...y cinco, Los Mochis", promo for Cañeros BB (but no game), music.
2025	750	XECSE SIN, Culiacán w/blasting R. Sensación ID, ments of Culiacán + group pop vocal ballad. Sounded like a top hits countdown show. Plane directly over Culiacán.
2032	830	XEVQ SIN, Navolato popped into middle of a song with "XEV", no Q. Then ID @ 2033 "XEVQ, La Grande de Sinaloa!" Pop mx.
2035	1290	XENX SIN, Mazatlán w/spot for "El Demócrata," spot for unid sponsor using "I'm Gonna Sex You Up" melody line for background music, spot for restaurant, blasting ID "XENX" + pop ballad. See PV notes for more.
2038	1320	XERJ SIN, Mazatlán "Musica Ranchera!" slogan, woman ancra, + "La Super...", musica Norteño...XERJ". Plane just passed o/Mazatlán.
2045	1440	XEHW SIN, Rosario SS rap mx, rock, popular hit by Mexican group that starts with the oldies line "On the island of Jamaica everybody loves banana." (I later saw the video to this...scary, hi.)

2100 1240 XESI NAY, Santiago Ixcuintla First hrd "R. Normal" ment, + "R. Felicidad" ID. Real hyper promos re Nayarit and Jalisco. Music: first tune was slush ballad, next was uptempo SS rock. Started strong, then faded over southern Nayarit.

FM from the Plane

1918 92.1 KTZN AZ, Tucson This is a new station, per call to Marsott's Cable Service, one of the sponsors heard. In fact, Marsott is doing the fine tuning of the antenna system. Pwr is 50 KW. Strong signal with spots for Marsott's, Nippon Motor Service, music "Against the Wind".

1921 93.1 KJOK AZ, Yuma "The heat of FM 93, K-jock." Woman DJ playing rock, "Pinball Wizard." Basically, just a momentary blip.

1926 98.7 KKLK AZ, Phoenix IDed as "K-light, 98.7", with ments of Glendale, Phoenix, spot for fashion show @ ASU in Tempe, Ray Vargas "Pillow Talk" promo, Melissa Manchester mx. (Plane about 1/2 way down Baja.)

1930 99.5 KIIM AZ, Tucson w/C&W mx, "Killin' Time" & ID.

1934 101.3 KGRX AZ, Globe "Just when you thought it was safe...Z-Rock!" Calls & location courtesy of Z-Rock offices in Dallas (1-800-992-7625).

1939 107.9 KMLE AZ, Chandler--great, steady reception. (100 KW) No fading or "splitting" for several minutes. C&W music, spot for legal administrators, promo for "Camel Country 108" contest prizes, ment of Shamrock Broadcasting. Hrd near Los Cabos, which is a long way from Chandler.

On the Ground

540 XEWA St. Luis Potosi 1/7 0700 ID was "XEWUA." Plus "La Una, La Unal" Go figure. (JJ-PV)

560 KSFO CA San Francisco 1/11 0615 call-in talk show, sounded like sports, which fits. (JJ-PV)

580??XETIA? Cihuatlán/Guadalajara? 1/16 0830 hrd dual ID with 8-note(2x4 notes) ascending pattern, calls sounded like XETIAME, R. Alegria slogan, ranchera music, "La Cotorra de tu Radio, Onda Alegria," "Sonora Tropicana," and ment of Guadalajara and Cihuatlán (which is 10 miles S of Melaque, on the Jalisco-Colima border). IRCA list says XEAV-Guadalajara is on 580. I heard XETIA-1310 on 1/8 using "La Cottora de tu Radio." Something going on here. (JJ-ML)

690 KHEY TX, El Paso 1/7 0427 and 0910-1000 w/C&W mx, "K-hay Country," "K-hay, AM-690," "Hiway 690, K-hay" IDs. Spots for Literacy, Texas Dept of Public Safety. ABC Nx @ 1000. Occasionally strong, mixing w/unid SS ranchera stn. (JJ-PV)

740 KCBS CA San Francisco 1/15 0650 weak w/news. (JJ-ML)
XEVA? Puerto Vallarta 1/15 0710 "7-40 La Mexicana" ID plus music. Weak.

KTRH TX Houston 1/15 0710 strong w/Larry King. Note: all three 740's audible simultaneously depending on tilt of the receiver. (JJ-ML)

760 XEZZ Guadalajara 1/8 0215 R. Gallito jingle to the tune of La Cucaracha, rooster crows, hot ranchera mx. (JJ-PV)

XE?? ? Two other SS stations under XEZZ per above, fairly strong in quiet spots, maybe one w/talk, one w/RAN. XEEB, Sonora? (JJ-PV)

770 KKOB NM Albuquerque 1/8 0258 weak, mixing with at least three other stations. (JJ-PV)

XE?? 1/8 0258 sounded like R.Tropical ID. (JJ-PV)

800 XEROK Cd. Juárez 1/8 0528 R. Cañon, mx sort of EZL/MOR vocals. (JJ-PV)

810 KGO CA San Francisco 1/8 0514 from PV w/Lee Rogers show, getting stomped by someone's OC, estimated 100 cps, slop from 800, and unid SS station way under. 1/15 0732 from Melaque, with Krasny show. OC still audible but weaker, loops slightly NE of KGO, but sweeps east by as much as 90 degrees! Noted every night.

XE?C Rio Grande, Zac. 1/13 0319 R. Felicidad ID finally surfaced o/KGO. "Felicidad de Zacatecas!" + ranchera mx. (JJ-PV)

820 WBAP TX Ft Worth 1/13 0231 almost like a local w/ESPN feed. (JJ-PV)

XEBA Guadalajara 1/13 0301 ID "XEBA, La Estrella..." following top-of-the-hour news bulletins. WBAP and unid SS stn (w/ranchera?) mixing. (JJ-PV)

XE?? 1/13 0247 mixing w/above IDed as "La Poderosa." Only possibles are XEBA and XEYX, Mexicali, per IRCA Mexican list. Would be a fifth slogan for XEBA. (JJ-PV)

UNID 1/13 0250 sounded like EE relig fading in briefly. KGNW? That would be some catch. (JJ-PV)

830/840 UNID 1/11 0605 EE w/Warrior-Spurs post game show and call-ins. Has to be either Grass Valley-830 or Las Vegas-840. (JJ-PV)

850 KOA CO Denver 1/16 0823 spot for Sunrise/Sunset in Lakewood, "You can depend on Newsradio 85-KOA." Weak but readable. (JJ-ML)

910 KFYI AZ Phoenix 1/13 0206 w/ESPN sports show, strong signal, ID "The talk station, 910-KFYI." (JJ-PV)

950? XE? 1/7 0440 bouncy pop, "R. Conservador" (?), "Ocho...enta," SS funk/rap, fade-out. Fade in again 0450 w/hyper spots, talk, music, muddy ID. (JJ-PV)

- 970 XEJ Cd. Juárez 1/7 0516 clear "La Jota, R. Mexicana" ID, slow emotional ballad/pop mx. (PV)
- 1030 XEQR Mexico City, 1/ 11 0107 "Oiga R. Centrol" + "Johnny's got a girlfriend" whistle, EZL mx, aother SS stn way under (JJ-PV)
- 1050 XEG Monterrey 1/11 0050 w/ R. Monterrey and R. Ranchera de Monterrey IDs. Ment of NRM, the news net, "Información Internacional." (JJ-PV)
- UNID 1/11 0050-0103 mixing w/XEG. EE jazz vocal way under, SS balad at 0057, at 0059 very slow-paced man ancr talking too low to catch ID, more EZL voc mx. This doesn't sound like Mexicali. (JJ-PV)
- 1070 KNX CA Los Angeles most nights, fair. (JJ-PV)
- 1090 KRLD TX Dallas 1/11 0045 fair w/sportstalk. (JJ-PV)
- 1100 KFAX CA San Francisco 1/16 0559 presumed the one w/Roy Masters pgm. (JJ-ML)
- 1140 XEMR Monterrey 1/16 0600 "Señal 1140, R. Alegria" big ID + salsa/rock. Fair-good. (JJ-ML)
- 1150 XEJP Mexico City 1/16 0609 R. Variedades, strong but very directional, AC mx, ORC net promo. Mixing w/unid. (JJ-ML)
- UNID 1/16 0609-0617 playing folk-type guitar/vocal music, followed with EE "Music from the ---- coast." (JJ-ML)
- XERM Mexicali 1/15 0739 Jingle ID, + wx. (JJ-ML)
- 1170 KSDO CA San Diego 1/11 0030 "San Diego's 11-70," promo for oldies rock show. (JJ-PV)
- 1200 WOAI TX San Antonio 1/11 0029 briefly w/wx. (JJ-PV)
- 1210 XEBCO Colima 1/16 0631 weak and fadey but readable. Big band mx w/a SS flair. (JJ-ML)
- 1220 XEB Mexico City 1/16 0635 Mex pop mx, ballads, etc. Blasting in. (JJ-ML)
- 1240 XEPK ? 1/16 0645-0807 Numerous "Ekis-eh-peh-kah, Radio PEH-kee" IDs, ranchera mx. Supposed to be on 1190, off at 0500 per IRCA list. Obviously not. Good cx to Mexico City suggests stn still in Pachuca, Hidalgo. At 0800 ID gave freq that sounded like 1160 or 1170, perhaps a network ID. Then "XEPK, R. Hits!" Also may be using generic network IDs from satellite feed. See XEFA below. (Thus begins the joy of Mexican graveyard DX, hi...read on.) (JJ-ML)
- XECG Nogales 1/16 0645 woman w/R. Rama ment, weak talk w/man, ranchera song "San Fernando." Muddy ID at 0702, sign/off w/Mex. nat. anthem. (JJ-ML)
- ?XEFA? 1/16 0735 ID sounded like "Ekis-eh-jefe-a, R. Hits!" Similar ID at 0740. Tropical mx, loops NNW/SSE. Format fits XEIZ, Monterrey. Earlier, at 0723 and 0733, hrd ments of Nuevo Leon, 0733 was an ID "XE--, R.---,...Nuevo Leon." XEIZ
- R. Exitos (Hits)per IRCA list. Also may be the one with a network-type promo hrd after several songs: "La emisora mas importante..." and something about "Nacional Grupo." (JJ-ML)
- ?XEXA? 1/16 0810 ID hrd after man talking, call not assigned per IRCA list. (JJ-ML)
- XE?? 1/16 0815 Two slogans: "R. Cinta Internacional" and "R. Ah Cee." The first sounds like a pre-taped show (cinta-tape). The second was kind of a goofy jingle. Did not sound like "R. Cadena Nacional" and/or "R. Acir." (JJ-ML)
- 1260 XESA Culiacán, 1/8 0309 out of spot mentioning Culiacán to ID "Essay-Ah, R. Heets, presenta su favoritos!" Real Top 40-type DJ, + song "Lastima." Fair to weak, but virtually no competition. (JJ-PV)
- 1270 PANAMÁ 1/8 0318-0359 Numerous R. Fiesta IDs, several ments of Panamá, including a tag on an ID-type rap. Also hrd "Mas Moderna" tag after a song. Pop-rock music. "Esta es---" garbled big ID at 0359. 1991 WRTH shows R. Fiesta inactive on 1330, R. Alegre HOJ22 on 1270. Maybe 1330 moved or Alegre stole the inactive's slogan. (JJ-PV)
- 1290 XENX Mazatlán 1/8 0411 SS version of "Unchained Melody," "NX1," conga-rock music, TC "Son las nueve y veinte" by woman sounded pretaped.+ "La Poderosa, NX" ID, then "El Mundo Sonido" + two descending three-note bursts. (JJ-PV)
- 1310 XEC Tijuana 1/8 0432 U.S. oldies, "25 or 6 to 4," "Shake your Groove Thang," Beatles, etc. "La Grand (not grande) Trece-Diez" and "Sonido Superior" slogans. At 0459 IDed with "Escuche XEBC!" Huh? Where'd the 'B' come from? Mixing w/XETIA. (JJ-PV)
- XETIA Guadalajara 1/8 0446 "La Cotorra de tu Radio" and ranchera mx. The real XETIA, as opposed to whatever I logged on 580. (See 580). (JJ-PV)
- 1560 KNZR CA Bakersfield 1/8 0505 "Your window on the world, Newsradio KNZR-1560," + Larry King. Ranchera mx underneath. prob. XRFAT. (JJ-PV)