

mention, Doug, three and four stations share the same towers-RtH.) Yet, a short drive over the Ko'olau to the Windward (east) coast brings about not only a change in climate and environment (wetter and more rural) but DX conditions as well. Over there I've managed WQXR and Saudi Arabia on the car radio. In Honolulu I'm still trying for KAHU. Lately I've taken to attaching a 100 foot wire to the car antenna at my surfside location near Makapu'u Point. The result has been about 30db gain and the likes of WGAR and Calcutta 1134. I recently prevailed upon the good graces of Rick Evans to acquire one of the \$39 Superadio IIs he spotted at his local Goodwill store. It doesn't offer much improvement for HNL (Is that the DX'ers code for High Noise Level or the airline code for Honolulu?-hi-RtH), but the first time I took it to Makapu'u it pulled in WLW easily through KQMQ's slop and 2MC 531 without an antenna so I'm encouraged. (Continued next week. Good to have a Honolulu replacement since Dale Park left. Welcome to WDXF and IRCA, Doug. More on Doug's local scene next time-RtH.)

JOHN C. JOHNSON, 979 NEPTUNE BLVD., BILLINGS, MT 59105-2129

Recent veries include KMIK 810, CIFX 1290 (took six months), KMIX 1390, (very DX'er friendly), KULY 1420, KTIM 1510 (a very nifty catch), (Good going on that one, John-RtH), and KZZI 1510. You may recall KZZI was SS, they are now talk, even the bumper sticker they sent had their new slogan "Talk on 1510 AM."

Shades of "Peggy Sue Got Married": Rick Evans' comments about being over 40 and Jim Hall's question about the little CD (Civil Defense) symbols on an old radio hit home here. Back in the day of getting out of high school early for CD drills, friends parents with fall-out shelters, etc. the old 640-1240 system that Rick commented on was a way of life. As I recall the local CD station (now EBS, and in our area the same stations as back then) had a separate transmitter for the Conelrad system. KWYO Sheridan and KGHL Billings were 1240 stations. In the "emergency" they would switch to 1240. If memory serves me correctly I recall hearing "test broadcasts" on 1240 during drills. This was before I started to DX; it would have been a nifty verification to have. The symbols were placed on the radio dial so one in a panic could find them easily. My friend's parents sold their home and fall-out shelter in the mid '60s, I assume they no longer felt it necessary to have a shelter. It would be interesting for some of the other "older" members to tell of their Conelrad stories. ..back to the future. 73 de John.

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Howdy. I was going to lead off with something entirely different, but after typing up John's forum, I'll add my comments. Eisenhower was president, I was in grade school (sorry 'bout that, John, hi), and every classroom had a radio for the Standard School Broadcast (remember that?) and air raid sirens all over Oakland would be tested on a regular basis. We'd go under our desks and cover the backs of our necks and the teacher would turn the radio on to Conelrad. I believe KNBC would drop down to 640 and I guess KYA took care of 1240. I remember a test while at home and I tuned in both 640 and 1240 and remeber hearing an echo effect on both frequencies. I think this was my first interest in DX. My first verie was from KAGI 930 Grants Pass, Oregon in '59.

Now to my lead-off, hi. This is in the "what's going on here?" section. On both the half hour and top-of-the-hour, ID heard on 104.5 is, "FM 104.5 KIIQ Reno and AM 1590 KICK Sun Valley-Reno." It's done very rapidly and almost "down in the mud." I finally heard 1590 on LSS and their sign off. I heard the dual ID // with their FM on the half hour (1630 PST), but at the sign off (1659) they gave their calls as KIIQ-AM. And they're not the same address as listed in NRC Log. Can someone explain the use of two calls for the same AM station? And how do I log this sucker?-hi. 1590 has got to be directional to protect KLIV; 5kw non-directional from Reno should blast in here. And while tracking KICK (or whatever their calls are), finally bagged a clear ID from KOGO Oxnard. Of all the Bay Area stations, San Jose's are the hardest to null.

Also on sunset skip, got rid of KSAC slop and KTMS long enough to hear a nice ID from KWSU Pullman, Washington. Two other stations were mentioned in their ID, Moscow, Idaho and Tri-Cities as part of Northwest Public Radio.

Doug, I know what you mean about DX'ing from Honolulu. Not only are the AM towers right in town, but so are the TV and FM, in fact right next to the beach. First time I was in Hawaii in '70, Leeward on a car radio nothing but images and harmonics, Windward, clear copy on KFRC while driving to Lanai. Later in '77, heard the 650/690 mix (730) all the way on Molokai. Later in '83 from Kauai, 80 miles from Oahu, staying in the Poipu Beach area, I was taking great pleasure in nulling Honolulu (tee hee).

A shortened deadline one time only. I'll be on vacation the first week of January, so am moving up deadline from 05 to 02 January. And if one of you Seattle types would like to meet me at Sea-Tac, I can hand you the column in person, hi. Gotta run. Best of DX and 73 de RtH. .

THE MYSTIQUE OF THE THREE-LETTER CALLSIGNS: REVISED

by Thomas White

Three-letter calls in the United States are an emotional topic for many people -- the "passing" of one leads to mourning and oratory of the need to protect these historic creatures from extinction. However, some misconceptions exist about these calls. This article is designed as a comprehensive overview of the origin and history of these unique calls.

By today's standards, the continued emphasis in the United States on call letters for radio, an entertainment and information service, is something of an anachronism--most other countries have long since switched to slogans or network IDs for establishing public identity. One can imagine the cries of outrage which would result if a stuffy bureaucrat were to try to force, say, the New York newspapers to deal with the public through their "newspaper signs" of "WNYT" or "WPST". What kind of circulation would magazines entitled "WTME", "KPLA", and "WMS" garner? Still, with nearly 70 years of tradition call letters are fixed upon the American psyche. Besides, they make bookkeeping at the Federal Communications Commission easier.

ORIGINAL REGULATIONS

The use of identifying letters is almost as old as radio itself. As all early radio work was done in telegraphic code, spelling out an operator's name or location was too cumbersome. Abbreviations of two or three letters, usually initials of geographic location or personal or ship names, were naturally more convenient. Operators independently adopted this practice, so that stations "calling" through the ether were able to link up with a minimum of sorting out identities. Unfortunately, during the self-assigned era there were few standards, which resulted in problems when, say, two or more ships chose the same call. Unique identifiers, organized by national origin, were needed in order to find out exactly which vessel was in danger of visiting Davy Jones' locker.

With the adoption of the "Radio Act of 1912" by the United States this practice became formalized under federal authority. Under international agreement initial letters were allotted among the various nations. The 1913 edition of "Radio Stations of the United States" records the contemporary practices for allocating land and sea stations, which at that time were few enough to be accommodated with three-letter calls:

The call letters assigned to the United States are all combinations (676) beginning with the letter N and all (676) beginning with the letter W, and all combinations (598) from KDA to KZZ, inclusive. [NOTE: Germany was assigned the KAA-KCZ allocation] The total number of international calls is thus 1,950, and these are reserved for Government stations and stations open to public and limited commercial service. All combinations beginning with the letter N are reserved for Government stations and in addition the combinations from WUA to WVZ and WXA to WZZ are reserved for the stations of the Army of the United States. The combinations KDA to KZZ, with a few exceptions, are reserved for ship stations on the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico and for land stations on the Pacific coast. The combinations beginning with W (except WUA to WVZ and WXA to WZZ as already indicated) are reserved, with a few exceptions, for ship stations on the Pacific and Great Lakes and for land stations on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and in the Great Lake region.

NOTE: This article is an update of two previous efforts which appeared in the September 29, 1979 and February 8, 1986 issues of the International Radio Club of America's DX MONITOR.

Amateur and experimental stations fell into a separate call sign scheme. In fact, the International Bureau at Berne did not have to be notified of their existence. The U. S. was divided into nine radio inspection districts, and amateurs received calls which began with their district number followed by a pair of letters, such as "8MK". An "X" as the first letter was reserved for experimental stations. Similarly a "Y" designated the station as being operated by a technical or training school, while a "Z" conferred "special amateur status". Run of the mill amateurs made do with the less exotic letters of the alphabet. The 1913 "Radio Stations of the United States" noted that "The three items—a given figure first, followed by two letters of the alphabet—thus may be combined in 598 different calls, which will probably suffice for the amateur sending stations in most districts for some time to come". (More letters and numbers were added to calls as the number of amateurs grew. Also, as the range of amateur stations increased it became necessary to "internationalize" their calls, so in 1928 W and K prefixes were added).

REFINEMENTS

The Bureau of Navigation, a division of the Department of Commerce, understandably was required to refine its allocating schemes occasionally over the years. In the early teens most non-amateur land stations engaged in ship-to-shore communication, and were found clustered along the coasts. As other services were developed stations crept inland, and a dividing line between the western K's and eastern W's was needed. The original division ran along the eastern borders of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. It was only in late January of 1923 that the current boundary of the Mississippi River was established, which meant new call grants in North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and parts of Minnesota and Louisiana became K's instead of W's. However, existing stations were permitted to keep their now non-standard W calls. (The first station to use the new boundary apparently was KFCV Houston, Texas, later deleted 1/5/25.)

World War I also had a disruptive effect. German submarines did much to popularize radio among American ships as wireless, formerly an expensive option, became a life or death necessity for making the Atlantic run. Unfortunately, there just weren't enough three-letter calls to go around. The obvious solution was more letters, and four letter KE-- signs became the predominate issue for the rapidly expanding ship service, generally issued on a first come, first served basis in alphabetical order. The department, apparently noting that oceans are interconnected and ships might show up on either coast, no longer tried to differentiate ships by the waters on which they sailed. The less numerous land stations continued to receive three-letter calls, as turnover insured a modest reserve pool.

Showing partiality to vowels, the next major ship station blocks were KI--, KO--, and KU--. Having exhausted the vowels, the first available consonant, KD--, was drafted beginning June 1920. At this point an anomaly occurred. The Bureau, perhaps caught up in a burst of egalitarianism, began assigning the KD-- signs to virtually all stations, land or sea. The result, on October 27, 1920, was that a new Westinghouse station in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, KDKA, was sandwiched between the ships "Montgomery City" (KDJZ) and "Eastern Sword" (KDKB). However, by May, 1921, when the second Westinghouse broadcast service, WJZ in Newark, New Jersey (now WABC in New York City) was authorized, the Bureau had reinstated the original three-letter call policy. Much speculation has occurred about the unique status which the KDKA call seems to confirm, but actually this uniqueness is a fluke, due to the fact that no other surviving broadcaster was licensed during this short anomaly. Had KDKA been licensed a few months earlier or later it most likely would have gotten a three-letter W call like everyone else.

[NOTES: two other land stations licensed during this anomaly, KDPM Cleveland, Ohio, and KDPT San Diego, California, both non-broadcasting service stations, later transferred to the broadcast service but were eventually deleted. There was also an attempt to "standardize" KDKA. The September 29, 1929 Radio Service Bulletin lists a number of calls to be changed to meet international standards. One listed change, which was never implemented, is the replacement of KDKA with the new call WKA.]

DAWN OF THE FOUR-LETTER CALLS

The flood of broadcasting authorizations which began in earnest in December of 1921 served to overload the recycling three-letter calls. Before the crunch the Bureau was able to assign three-letter call signs to about 180 broadcasters. It was the more saturated East that was the first to feel the pinch. On April 4, 1922 an application from the Times-Picayune of New Orleans broke new ground with the assignment of WAAB (now WJBO, Baton Rouge) as its call. [NOTE: WAAA was skipped as no sign was permitted with the same letter three times in a row] The progression continued in alphabetical order, with "A" fixed as the third letter, i.e. WAAB, WAAC, WAAD... WBAB, WBAC... etc. This explains why so many pioneers such as WBAP Fort Worth, Texas; WCAL Saint Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota; WCAU Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; WEAJ (now WNBC) New York City; WHAS Louisville, Kentucky; WKAR Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan; WMAQ Chicago; and WOAI San Antonio, Texas share this same middle letter. Starting April of 1923 calls centering on "B" were issued, including WBBM Chicago; WFBR Baltimore, Maryland; WIBG (now WZZD) Philadelphia; and WMBD Peoria, Illinois, although by the middle of the decade it became the norm for broadcasters to request distinctive signs.

The West held out until May 8, 1922, when western broadcasters started sharing the four-letter ship blocks. KDYL in Salt Lake City was both the first authorization and last survivor of this group. When it became KCPX December 21, 1959 all thirty-two KD-- authorizations from this switchover had either expired or changed identities. [NOTE: There is currently a KDYL in Salt Lake City, but this station only dates back to 1945 and has been called KDYL only since 1982.]

The KF-- block, begun June 1922, boasts a few more noteworthies, including KFBK Sacramento, California; Doc Brinkley's infamous KFKB; KFNF Shenandoah, Iowa (now KYFR), KFQD Anchorage, Alaska; and KFJR Bismarck, North Dakota. The KG-- group was tapped July 1926: KGCC Sidney, Montana and KGJF Los Angeles, California are two that survive to this day.

[NOTE: Calls were assigned at the time an application, usually a "Form 761", was received in Washington, NOT with the issuance of the first license, which usually took place a number of days after the application was received. Thus, you must list these pioneers by call assignment rather than first license date for the four-letter calls to line up alphabetically. For more information see the Call Assignment Date entries in the station list included in "Broadcast Station Pioneers: Policies and Stations". Also, there is an anomaly in the assignment of W calls which may mean that WAAB was actually the second four-letter W call issued. Purdue University's application for a station in West Lafayette, Indiana was assigned WBAA on the same day, April 4th, that WAAB was assigned. No other WBA- calls were issued until two weeks later, after the WAA- calls had been exhausted. It is possible that the original plan was to start with WBA- calls, but after WBAA was issued the situation was reconsidered and the procession pulled back to start with the WAA-calls.]

All activity in three-letter calls did not cease following the 1922 switchover to four-letter calls, as a majority of today's holders of three-letter calls trace their first assignment to a date later than 1922. In many cases these post-1922 calls were not the first ones the station held, but instead were picked up some years later. Some calls were inherited when a previously authorized broadcaster or other land station expired. And many of the three-letter calls received after 1922 were requested to tie-in with a slogan or licensee name ["World's Largest Store" (Sears); "World's Greatest Harbor" (Norfolk); "World's Greatest Newspaper" (Chicago Tribune); "Woodman Of the World"; "We Shield Millions" (National Life), etc.] The last new three-letter call assignment, excluding reassignments of previously used calls or FM or TV sister stations, was WIS ("Wonderful Iodine State") in Columbia, South Carolina on January 23, 1930.

A spot check of 1933 reveals that 91 of the 650-odd stations held three-letter calls, about 15% of the stations. It was only in the post World War II boom, when AM stations came to be counted in the thousands, that these calls have faded into relative obscurity. However, their absolute numbers have not declined as much. It may

come as a surprise to most people, but new three-letter calls are still being assigned, although not for broadcast services. Their use is currently reserved for a service which dates back to the original 1912 assignments, "Coastal Land Stations". However, even this group has threatened to exhaust the small allotment. Previously "Class 2" coastal stations were allowed to draw on the block. But an impending shortage forced the FCC to restrict these calls to only new stations of the "Class 1 (excluding Alaska)" classification, where the matter stands today.

FM AND TV SISTER STATIONS

FM and TV were developed in the forties and fifties, and obviously the new services needed call signs. After a short period of requiring FM and TV stations to have unique calls, the FCC decided to allow stations in the same market to have the same call as sister AM stations, provided they added an "-FM" or "-TV" suffix. (These suffixed calls were technically five- and six- letters, counting the two letter suffix.) All FM and TV stations trace their three-letter calls back to an original AM station.

Until 1957, whenever you found an FM and TV station with a three-letter call, the original three-letter AM was still around. An exception to this first occurred as a result of ABC's 1953 decision to change the calls of its New York City stations from WJZ (AM, FM, and TV) to WABC. This proved very traumatic to the Westinghouse Corporation, which had founded WJZ thirty-two years earlier in Newark, New Jersey. (In 1923 the station was moved to New York City and transferred to RCA, where it became the flagship for the NBC-Blue -- later ABC -- network.) Although FCC rules prohibited new three-letter calls, they technically didn't restrict new five-letter ones, so, four and one-half years after the disappearance of WJZ the FCC gave Westinghouse permission to rename its Baltimore TV outlet WJZ-TV. With this precedent a new chapter of call sign practice began. This was the first time permission was given to reclaim a previously abandoned three-letter call under the FCC. In addition, this was also the first case of an "independent" three-letter call, i.e. one that did not appear concurrently on any AM station.

A year after the appearance of WJZ-TV the second "independent" appeared when the University of Texas was granted permission for a new Educational FM station in Austin, Texas. The calls KUT-FM were assigned (another five-letter call), in honor of the original KUT, which the college had sold three decades previously, and which became KNOW (now KEYI) in 1932. Since then "independence" has become more common, for in addition to the total of 61 active AM three-letter calls as of September 1, 1987, there are also 13 independents, for a total of 74 different three-letter calls on all bands.

CONCLUSIONS

Some people, seeing the disappearance of three-letter calls from the AM band, have accused owners of not being historically minded. The opposite is true. When AM holdings are disposed, the very historically minded owners often keep the three-letter calls for their FM and TV stations. And the good news about this development is that there has never been a case where a three-letter call, saved as an independent, has subsequently disappeared from the airwaves. So, what does the future hold? Well, if you like your three-letter calls on the original stations, it's bound to be bad. AM radio doesn't have the financial glamour it had sixty -- or even ten -- years ago, and more AMs will be unloaded, with call sign custody often passing to the more prosperous FMs and TVs. Some missing calls might return -- the FCC has had a soft spot at times for "prodigal sons." Below are the occasions when dropped three-letter calls were allowed to be reclaimed:

Call	Lapse	Length	Dropped	Reclaimed	
KUT	26	years	1/26/32	8/21/58	(returned to FM only)
WHN	13 1/2	years	9/15/48	2/28/62	(but became WFAN 7/1/87)
KRE	9	years	4/29/63	6/11/72	(but became KBLX 8/13/88)
WJZ	4 1/2	years	3/1/53	8/5/57	(returned to TV only)
WGH	15	months	9/1/83	12/10/84	
KYA	2	weeks	6/29/60	7/13/60	
KDB	10	days	10/12/69	10/22/69	

MAJOR AM THREE-LETTER CALL ACTIONS: DEC. 1933 - SEPT. 1, 1987

		Total on AM	Not on AM	All on AM bands
12/--/33	status as of this date	91	0	91
06/14/34	WOQ KANSAS CITY, MO. Station deleted.	90	0	90
11/11/34	WOC DAVENPORT, IA. Call split-off from WHO- WOC Des Moines, moved to X-KICK Davenport	90	0	90
12/03/34	KYW CHICAGO, IL stat. moved to Philadelphia	90	0	90
01/21/35	WFI PHILADELPHIA, PA. Station consolidated with WLIT to become WFIL	89	0	89
03/17/35	KSO DES MOINES, IA. Called transferred to x-KWCR, old KSO became KRNT	89	0	89
05/06/35	KTM LOS ANGELES, CA became KEHE (now KABC)	88	0	88
03/27/36	WOS JEFFERSON CITY, MO. Station deleted.	87	0	87
12/15/36	KVL SEATTLE, WA became KEEN (now KING)	86	0	86
01/03/40	WPG ATLANTIC CITY, NJ consolidated with WBIL and WOV as WOV	85	0	85
11/12/41	WOV NEW YORK, NY swapped calls with WNEW	85	0	85
05/06/44	KJR SEATTLE, WA swapped calls with KOMO	85	0	85
06/01/45	WLB MINNEAPOLIS, MN became KUOM	84	0	84
09/10/45	KLS OAKLAND, CA became KWBR (now KDIA)	83	0	83
11/12/47	KPO SAN FRANCISCO, CA became KNBC (now KNBR)	82	0	82
09/15/48	WHN NEW YORK, NY became WMGM (see 2/28/62)	81	0	81
04/03/49	KQW SAN FRANCISCO, CA became KCBS	80	0	80
02/20/50	WOL WASHINGTON, DC swapped calls with WWDC	80	0	80
03/01/53	WJZ NEW YORK CITY, NY became WABC (see 8/5/57)	79	0	79
02/13/56	KYW PHILADELPHIA, PA. Call moved to x-WTAM (now WWWE) Cleveland, OH (see 6/19/65)	79	0	79
08/05/57	WJZ BALTIMORE, MD. Call reactivated for TV station (see 3/1/53)	79	1	80
08/21/58	KUT AUSTIN, TX. Call reactivated for FM	79	2	81
06/07/59	KLX OAKLAND, CA became KEWB (now KNEW)	78	2	80
11/01/59	WOV NEW YORK, NY became WADO	77	2	79
06/29/60	KYA SAN FRANCISCO, CA became KDBQ (next)	76	2	78
07/13/60	KYA SAN FRANCISCO, CA returns from KDBQ	77	2	79
02/28/62	WHN NEW YORK, NY returns from WMGM (see 9/15/48, 7/1/87)	78	2	80
04/29/63	KRE BERKELEY, CA became KPAT (see 6/11/72)	77	2	79
06/19/65	KYW CLEVELAND, OH. Call returned to Philadelphia, PA (see 2/13/56)	77	2	79
10/12/69	KDB SANTA BARBARA, CA became KAPN (FM retains 3-letter call--see next)	76	3	79
10/22/69	KDB SANTA BARBARA, CA returns from KAPN	77	2	79
06/11/72	KRE BERKELEY, CA returns from KPAT (see 4/29/63, 8/13/86)	78	2	80
08/30/75	KTW SEATTLE, WA became KYAC (now KKFY)	77	2	79
09/01/75	KOL SEATTLE, WA became KMPS	76	2	78
04/14/78	WRR DALLAS, TX became KAAM (FM retains call)	75	3	78
03/15/82	KGB SAN DIEGO, CA became KCNN (now KPOP-- FM retains call)	74	4	78
04/18/83	KMO TACOMA, WA became KAMT (now KKMO)	73	4	77

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	Total on AM	Not on AM	All bands
09/01/83 WGH NEWPORT NEWS, VA became WNSY (see 12/10/84)	72	4	76
12/13/83 KYA SAN FRANCISCO, CA became KOIT (FM ret.)	71	5	76
02/27/84 WRC WASHINGTON, DC became WWRC (TV retains)	70	6	76
03/19/84 KSD ST. LOUIS, MO became KUSA (FM retains)	69	7	76
06/01/84 KWK ST. LOUIS, MO became KGLD (FM retains)	68	8	76
12/10/84 WGH NEWPORT NEWS, VA returns from WNSY (see 9/1/83)	69	8	77
01/07/85 KHQ SPOKANE, WA became KLSN (now KAQQ) (TV retains call)	68	9	77
06/11/85 WJW CLEVELAND, OH became WRMR (TV retains)	67	10	77
02/01/86 KHJ LOS ANGELES, CA became KRTH (TV retains)	66	11	77
04/11/86 KXA SEATTLE, WA became KRPM	65	11	76
08/13/86 KRE BERKELEY, CA became KBLX	64	11	75
10/28/86 KOB ALBUQUERQUE, NM became KKOB (TV retains)	63	12	75
12/31/86 WIS COLUMBIA, SC became WVOC (TV retains)	62	13	75
07/01/87 WHN NEW YORK, NY became WFAN	61	13	74

NOTES: "Total on AM" is the number of three-letter calls existing after the listed action took place. "Not on AM" refers to the number of "independent" three-letter calls, i.e. held only by an FM or TV station after being given up by the original AM station. "All bands" is the total number of different three-letter calls on AM, FM and TV, i.e. "Total on AM" plus "Not on AM".

The starting point of this list, December 1933, is an arbitrary one, chosen as a date when the industry had generally stabilized after the chaotic twenties and early thirties.

In summary, as of December, 1933 there were 91 AM three-letter calls. In the period through September 1, 1987, 30 three-letter calls disappeared from the AM band. Eighteen of the 30 completely disappeared from the airwaves: two through station deletions--WOQ and WOS--and the other 16 due to call changes and station consolidations: WFI, KTM, KVL, WPG, WLB, KLS, KPO, KQW, KLX, WOV, KTW, KOL, KMO, KXA, KRE, and WHN. The other 12 "gone from the AM band" calls have homes as FM or TV stations: WJZ (TV), WRR (FM), KGB (FM), KYA (FM), WRC (TV), KSD (FM), KWK (FM), KHQ (TV), WJW (TV), KHJ (TV), KOB (TV), and WIS (TV). In addition, one call in use prior to December, 1933 (KUT) was reassigned to the FM band. Thus, over 54 years the number of different three-letter calls declined from 91 to 61 on the AM band, and from 91 to 74 on all bands.

CURRENT THREE-LETTER CALL SIGNS
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The following list includes all the three-letter calls currently in use, plus information on current and former sister stations. (The latter are listed because they are potential heirs if the three-letter calls are dropped by the current owners.)

Current three-letter calls are listed in capital letters. In addition, the CURRENT sister stations (i.e. having the same owner in the same market as the three-letter call holder) of the three-letter stations are listed in lowercase, while the FORMER sister stations that I was able to trace down (at one time, but no longer, having the same owner) are listed in lowercase and in parentheses.

The first three columns list information on the AM stations, which are the original holders of the three-letter calls. The "AM" column lists the current call of the original station. The "first" column notes the first date that the AM station used the three-letter call. (An "*" marks stations where this three-letter call was NOT the first call the station had.) An entry in the "last" column notes change-over dates in cases where the AM station no longer holds the three-letter call.

The "FM", "TV", and "City" entries list additional information on the current state of other three-letter holders and sister stations.

AM	first	last	FM	TV	CITY
KDB	01/09/29*		KDB-FM	--	Santa Barbara, CA
KEX	12/23/26		kkrz	--	Portland, OR
KFH	12/--/25*		klzs	--	Wichita, KS
KFI	03/31/22		kost	--	Los Angeles, CA
KGA	02/04/27		kdark	--	Spokane, WA
kpop	03/27/28*	03/15/82	KGB-FM	--	San Diego, CA
KGO	01/22/24		(kksf)	KGO-TV	San Francisco, CA
KGU	03/14/22		--	--	Honolulu, HI
KGW	03/21/22		kink	KGW-TV	Portland, OR
KGY	03/30/22		--	--	Olympia, WA
krth	03/18/22	02/01/86	krth-fm	KHJ-TV	Los Angeles, CA
(kaqq)	02/28/22	01/07/85	(kisc)	KHQ-TV	Spokane, WA
KID	02/16/29*		kezf	(kidk)	Idaho Falls, ID
KIT	03/22/29*		kats	--	Yakima, WA
KJR	03/09/22		--	--	Seattle, WA
KLO	04/11/29*		--	--	Ogden, UT
KLZ	03/10/22		kazy	--	Denver, CO
KMA	08/12/25		--	--	Shenandoah, IA
KMJ	03/23/22		knax	--	Fresno, CA
KNX	05/04/22*		KNX-FM	kcbs	Los Angeles, CA
KOA	12/13/24		koaq	(kcnc)	Denver, CO
(kkob)	04/05/22	10/28/86	(kkob-fm)	KOB-TV	Albuquerque, NM
KOH	09/13/28		ksxy	--	Reno, NV
KOY	02/08/29*		KOY-FM	--	Phoenix, AZ
KPQ	05/02/28*		KPQ-FM	--	Wenatchee, WA
KQV	01/09/22		--	--	Pittsburgh, PA
kusa	03/14/22	03/19/84	KSD	(ksdk)	Saint Louis, MO
KSL	03/24/25*		--	KSL-TV	Salt Lake City, UT
KSO	10/09/25		kggo	--	Des Moines, IA
KUJ	12/--/26		knlt	--	Walla Walla, WA
(key1)	10/30/25*	01/26/32	KUT	--	Austin, TX
KVI	11/24/26		kplz	--	Seattle, WA
KWG	12/07/21		--	--	Stockton, CA
kgld	11/25/27*	06/01/84	KWK-FM	--	Saint Louis, MO
KXL	11/27/26		KXL-FM	--	Portland, OR
KXO	11/11/28*		KXO-FM	--	El Centro, CA
(koit)	12/17/26	12/13/83	KYA	--	San Francisco, CA
KYW	11/15/21		--	KYW-TV	Philadelphia, PA
WBT	03/18/22		wbcy	wbtv	Charlotte, NC
WBZ	09/15/21		--	WBZ-TV	Boston, MA
WDZ	04/05/22		wdzq	--	Decatur, IL
WEW	03/23/22		--	--	Saint Louis, MO
WGH	11/20/28*		WGH-FM	--	Newport News, VA
WGL	11/11/28*		--	--	Fort Wayne, IN
WGN	03/28/24		--	WGN-TV	Chicago, IL
WGR	03/14/22		writ	(wgrz)	Buffalo, NY
WGY	02/04/22		wgfm	(wrgb)	Schenectady, NY
WHA	01/13/22		--	WHA-TV	Madison, WI
WHB	05/10/22		--	--	Kansas City, MO
WHK	02/21/22		wmsm	--	Cleveland, OH
WHO	04/15/24		klyf	WHO-TV	Des Moines, IA
WHP	03/16/29*		WHP-FM	WHP-TV	Harrisburg, PA
WIL	01/--/25*		WIL-FM	--	Saint Louis, MO
WIP	03/20/22		wmmr	--	Philadelphia, PA
(wvoc)	01/23/30*	12/31/86	--	WIS-TV	Columbia, SC
WJR	08/20/25		whyt	--	Detroit, MI
(wrmr)	05/09/29*	06/11/85	--	WJW-TV	Cleveland, OH
(wabc)	05/--/21	03/01/53	--	WJZ-TV	Baltimore, MD
WKY	03/16/22		--	--	Oklahoma City, OK
WLS	04/11/24		wytz	WLS-TV	Chicago, IL
WLW	03/02/22		webn	(wlwt)	Cincinnati, OH
WMC	01/19/23		WMC-FM	WMC-TV	Memphis, TN
WMT	11/11/28*		WMT-FM	--	Cedar Rapids, IA
WOC	02/18/22		kiik	(kwqc)	Davenport, IA
WOI	04/28/22		WOI-FM	--	Ames, IA
WOL	11/11/28*		--	--	Washington, DC
WOR	02/20/22		wrks-fm	(wwor)	New York, NY
WOW	12/16/26*		WOW-FM	(wowt)	Omaha, NE
(wwrc)	07/19/23	02/27/84	wkys	WRC-TV	Washington, DC
(kaam)	03/13/22	04/14/78	WRR	--	Dallas, TX
WSB	03/15/22		WSB-FM	WSB-TV	Atlanta, GA
WSM	10/05/25		WSM-FM	(wsmv)	Nashville, TN
WWJ	03/03/22*		wjoi	--	Detroit, MI
WWL	03/30/22		wajy	WWL-TV	New Orleans, LA
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62 AM			21 FM	21 TV	Total three-letter for service