

Special Features

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BEST BETS FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
The stations Southern Californians should most likely be able to hear from each of the 50 states and the provinces of Canada...

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This feature continues a series initiated by former Special Features editor Bill Hardy. The intent of the series is to provide DA-ers in a given region with tips from fellow DA-ers on how best to reach that elusive goal of having heard each and every one of the states and provinces.

Anyone interested in co-ordinating future Best Bets columns should contact the editor at the above address. Now, for Southern California:

D-Difficult state to hear *D*Very difficult
E-Easy to hear M-Moderate difficulty

ALABAMA (D)-The most recently and most often heard seems to be WM00-1550 either on sunrise skip (SRS) or equipment test (ET). WAAAY, also 1550, is a good bet. Also, WSR0-900.

ALASKA *D* Not reported in some time... KN0W-780, KICY-850 best, despite being most distant, due to propagation reasons too complex to explain here. KFQD-750, once considered a good bet, is very rare anywhere far from Alaska. Try KINY-800

ARIZONA (E)-KOY-550, KTAR-620, or, if too much interference (QRM), the following are very good SRS/SSS (sunset) bets: KDJQ-1510, KUAT-1550, KNIA-1580.

ARKANSAS *D* KARN-920 was most frequently suggested. KX0W-1420 likely on ET, perhaps on SRS. Keep an eye out for

COLORADO (E) KOA-850 night KAKA-1110.

CONNECTICUT (D) WTIC-1080, a 50 kw-er, is clearly best, if uncommon. Try if KRLL off, most likely to be heard on SRS.

DELAWARE *D* without being too facetious, there is a 5 kw daytimer on a clear channel. WJWL-900, but a recent DA test was a disappointment. The fulltimers (all five!) are all highly directional although one, WDOV-1410 is non-directional (ND) after sunrise on a fairly clear channel; however, for one reason or another, this an unknown catch! WAMS-1380 is mentioned by some as a possibility.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA *D* This is a subject of numerous jokes among DA-ers. WTOP-1500 is the only one in excess of 5 kw power but is unknown. WRC-980 could be next "best" but is on a bad channel anyway. Fortunately for all of us, you do not need DC to be able to say you've heard all 50 states!

FLORIDA (D)-There are a number of good possibilities here although none could be considered regular. WH00-990 has had an ET on the third Monday (MM) in March two years running now and is also a good bet when KFIS is off (MM), especially on SRS. WGBS-710 ET's frequently on MM around 0400 (after KMPC sign-off), WTAI-1560 considered good (SRS), as are WSUN-620, WKIS-740, and WLCY-1380. Also, the V.O.A., a non-FCC-licensed station on 1180 gets out well.

GEORGIA (M)-WSB-750 can be heard nightly.

HAWAII (M) KIKI-830 with disco format when WCCO isn't too strong. KPOI-1040 good, as is KORL-650 if KFI off or not too troublesome.

IDAHO (E) KBOI-670 any night.

ILLINOIS (M) WLS-890 is the last of the Chicagoans on a truly clear channel but that won't last long as a station is soon to start operation in Utah on 890. WBBM-780 often good over KCRL or after KCRL's nightly sign-off.

INDIANA *D* WRIN-1560 has been heard. If KEZY & KEX both off, WOWO might make it on SRS but hasn't been reported here.

IOWA (E) WHO-1040 nightly.

KANSAS (M) KOAM-860 most common. KBUF-1050 very good on SRS even if XED on. Also WREN-1250 good on MM before Topeka sunrise.

KENTUCKY (E) #HAS-840 almost any night.

LOUISIANA (E) WWL-870 any night.

MAINE *D* Really nothing likely, although nothing is ever totally impossible! If WPNO-1530 ever gets its 10 kw, there might be a dim glimmer of hope.

MARYLAND (D) Might almost be rated an easy SRS state if XEPKS would ever go silent. Nothing else appears likely.

MASSACHUSETTS (M) #BZ-1030 MM's when KTWO is off.

MICHIGAN (M) #JR-760 easy if KPMB off or nulled.

MINNESOTA (E) WCCO-830 almost any night; also KSTP-1500.

MISSISSIPPI (D) WOKJ-1550 clearly the best. Not common but always loud when in. At its loudest on SRS. Soul format.

MISSOURI (M) KMOX-1120 if KPNW nulled or off. Also KQYX-1560 on SRS, KATZ-1600.

MONTANA (E) KPFI-1180 nightly until 0200 ELT. If KZZY-1190 a problem, good bets are KGHL-790 (when KABC off occasional MM's), KEIN-1310, and KXLF-1370.

MONTANA (E) KEIN-1310, and KXLF-1370.

NEBRASKA (E) #RVN-880 nightly until 0100.

NEVADA (E) KDWN-720 nightly. Also KCRL-780, KMJJ-1140.

NEW HAMPSHIRE *D* ...

NEW JERSEY *D* Nobody has offered any tips for either of these states and that should come as no surprise whatsoever! Neither is likely to have been heard in decades --if ever. WKBR-1250, WPAT-930 are remote possibilities for their respective states if everything just right.

NEW MEXICO (E) KOB-770 loud any night.

NEW YORK (M) WCBS-880 is most often heard. Try after KRVN sign-off (0100 ELT nightly). Format is all-news (music there would be Cuba.) WHAM-1180 can also be heard and, on occasion, WNBC-660.

NORTH CAROLINA *D* WPT-1110 is difficult and has not been reported in a long time but would be possible on SRS if KFAB off. (KRLA off MM.) WKEE- or WTOB-1380 might be possible on SRS.

NORTH DAKOTA (M) Much easier than it used to be now that KQWP-1550 is all-night. Much QRM on channel, but KQWP's rock format can sneak through. KTYN-1430, KAXL-1440 have been heard; 1430, however, isn't a very good channel any more.

OHIO (M) #LW-700 most nights; if KMPC/XETRA slop too great, WCKY-1530 may be easier during KFKK's MM SP.

OKLAHOMA (E) KOMA-1520 with top-40 any night or, just as easy (unless you live in Long Beach) is KQYN-1210.

OREGON (E)-KPNW-1120 easy. KXL-750 good after 0900 ELT. KEX-1190 with KEZY.

PENNSYLVANIA (M) WCAU-1210 probably easiest now that KTNQ is apparently NSP. If KTNQ is off, KOKA-1020 is fairly easy.

RHODE ISLAND *D* This is another of those "Good luck!" states. WPRO-930, ND after sunrise, is on a reasonably good frequency so if KFI-640 is off as usual on the first MM of a month when Providence SR is late enough to fall within that silent period (generally after 0700), there might be hope. WJAP-920 another remote possibility. WLKw-990 is 50 kw-D but apparently does not get out well.

SOUTH CAROLINA (D) WCSC-1390 was heard recently and is hailed as a good bet on SRS with KGER silent MM.

SOUTH DAKOTA (M) KKA-1560 best on Saturday and Sunday mornings when it is all-night and KPNC isn't. Also good: KS00-1140 (if KMJJ off) and KXRB-1000 on SRS.

TENNESSEE (M) WLAC-1510 Mon. through KGA or Sun. through KNSE with top-40; if you can get near KFI, WSM-650 is easy with C&W.

TEXAS (E) WEAP-820, WOAI-1200 virtually any nite.

UTAH (E) KSL-1160 any night

VERMONT *D* WSYB-1380 might be possible on SRS but little else can be said.

VIRGINIA (D) If KMJJ hadn't recently gone full-time, this could be rated "M" for WRVA 1140. WRVA, however, is still the best bet. Maybe WZAP-690 could be heard at SR during XETRA's Friday SP.

- WASHINGTON (E) KOMO-1000 loud any night; unfortunately, KMLC has been granted full-time but this shouldn't hurt too much. After all, KGA-1510 comes through KNSI rather well.
- WEST VIRGINIA *D* WHIS-1440 has been heard in the past. WVA-1170 hasn't been heard in some time but should be possible MM on SRS. Most recently heard was WCAW-680 very well but only because KNER was off and a DX test had been scheduled. Maybe again some time... or maybe on SRS on Thurs. morn when KNER uses 5kw.
- WISCONSIN *D* WTMJ-620 and WEAQ-790 have both made it in the past and could again although the QRM on these channels now is hardly encouraging. WTSO-1070 on SRS a possibility when KNA off (2d MM.) WISN-1130 highly unlikely.
- WYOMING (E) KTWO-1030 any night.
- ALBERTA (M) CBR-1010 relatively easy.
- BRITISH COLUMBIA (E) CKWX-1130 (C&W) and CFIG-730 (Top-40) easiest. Also CJVI-900.
- MANITOBA (M) CBW-990 not difficult. Best after MM sign-on.
- NEW BRUNSWICK (D) CDA-1070 after sign-on (0500 LT) when KNA is off (2d MM). Shouldn't be that difficult (one contributor even called it easy) but hasn't been reported recently.
- NEWFOUNDLAND *D* Very funny... Try -- if you must -- for CBT-540 at sign-on (0430). CPGY is a new 10 kw-er on 750. Its night DA would fully protect the U.S. border but it is DA-2 so maybe on SRS??
- NORTHWEST TERRITORIES *D* There are a number of low (very!) power relay (LPRT's) of CBC stations but there is little hope of hearing any of them.
- NOVA SCOTIA *D* Maybe CBH-860 might have a shot on SRS some MM. Of all Nova Scotians, CJCH-920 has the most powerful ND power (25 kw) after SR. Again, only speculation.
- ONTARIO (M) CHUM-1050 was the one most recently reported but since then XED has gone NSP. CFRB-1010 has been heard MM's, presumably on SRS. CBL-740 possible. Best bet would appear to be CJBC-860, a class I-A with less U.S. QRM than the others. It has been heard after XEMO sign-off (0430 or so).
- PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND *D* Probably never heard. Most logical "best" bet is CHTN-1190 on SRS but KEX and KEZY are rarely off together. CPCY-630 has an interesting and encouraging night DA pattern (and is DA-2, so probably even more favorable at SR) but the channel isn't so good.
- QUEBEC *D*-Only one known to have been heard here is CJRS-1510 on SRS. CBF-690, at 50 kw-ND should have a chance during the Fri. SP of XETRA. CBM-940 might be possible.
- SASKATCHEWAN (E) Finally, after all those "D's," an "E"! CBK-540 mixes with XEWA almost any night with CPC programs. When KFWB takes an occasional MM SP CKRM is heard Also CKCK-620.
- YUKON *D* Basically the same story as for the Northwest Territories. Other than the LPRT's there are only two stations, one on 570, the other on 610. Good luck!!

Contributors were: Mark Bixby, Jeff Brasier, John Clements, Cliff Connelly (via Jeff Brasier), Don Erickson, Albert Lobel, Grant Manning, Steve Mittman, and Randy Seaver. Most of the tips were gathered at recent SCADS meetings, a good place to keep up with DX conditions. Recent Spotlight columns on certain states were used as well. The proposed clear channel breakdown will have a significant effect on the above. Some states, e.g. Kentucky and Ohio will be much more difficult as 840 and 700 will each accommodate a number of new stations.