

A recent two-week business trip to El Paso, TX gave me the chance to DX from the western USA for the first time. The receiving set-up used was the Sony ICF-2001 receiver with the Palomar Loop. An MWT-1 tuner was brought: its regeneration capability was used occasionally to improve the ICF-2001's mediocre selectivity. The hotel (the Residence Inn, on Montana Ave.) was surprisingly RF-noise-free and its walls didn't impede signals or "goof up" loop operation.

Only a handful of stations audible at home in Massachusetts could be heard in El Paso; indeed, there's more reception commonality between Ireland and Boston than between El Paso and Boston. An unfamiliar QTH/new DX environment forces one to observe that most fundamental DX commandment: assume nothing until an ID is heard.

My preconceptions of western DXing offering the chance of far greater range due to "uncrowded" channels and that receiver sensitivity would become more important than selectivity and "pest"-nulling ability were completely shot in the foot! The band is nearly as crowded in the Southwest as in the Boston-to-Washington "Northeast Corridor". Regional channels that sound like "graveyards" and "clear" channels that sound like regional channels are all too common. Mexicans, many of which weren't listed in my 1985 World Radio-TV Handbook (WRTVH), were everywhere. As on trips to Cape Cod and to Baltimore (and unlike at home in Billerica, MA), Spanish (hereafter abbreviated SS) was heard at one time or other on most channels. The differences: SS heard on Cape Cod originates mostly in Venezuela & Colombia, SS heard in Baltimore is primarily from Cuba, and that heard in El Paso comes almost exclusively from Mexico.

Specific Comments

Daytime:

The El Paso, TX/Juarez, MEX airwaves are jam-packed with loud local stations. Most of these are in SS. The noted QTH (next to the airport) seemed to be "RF alley": a nearby mountain bristled with AM, FM, and TV towers. On many channels, sloop from one local ran into sloop from another (say, 1 kHz away). Luckily, a good chunk of these "pests" were daytime-only. Bandscans later in this article list these stations.

Evening (Domestic DX):

The clear channels had predictable occupants. KWKH-1130 from Louisiana was massive (stronger than WWL). With their westward signal, KWKH should be a pest in New Zealand! Sunset-skip listening was not all that productive. Really low-angle stuff from the east wasn't earned at sunset in the manner noted at eastward-facing coastal sites (in MA, ME, etc.). Of course, late May is not a particularly good period of the year for robust longhaul DX (that doesn't preclude regular sunset receptions of Africans & Iberians on Cape Cod, however). Regional channels were too jumbled for much useful DXing until short-skip daytimers went off, leaving the usual 3 or 4 nighttimers-per-channel behind to battle it out. I rediscovered a frustrating aspect of domestic DXing: having a beautiful signal during a song - then, by the time that a possible ID would occur, another station came up and clobbered the first one. It was possible to sit on a channel for an hour, hearing 3 or 4 strong stations swapping dominance, and still not get a single ID or even ads with local place-names. This is usually not a problem encountered with foreign (TA) DX: you generally get only one TA dominant per channel at a given time; language alone is often a giveaway to the station's identity. Dogged perseverance, rather than remarkable receiver-antenna-location characteristics, seems the key element to domestic DXing success. Interestingly, in El Paso, the "graveyard" channels were less crowded than in the eastern US; they differed little from the regionals (several distinct signals were usually discernable, rather than an incoherent rumble-jumble).

Midnight to Dawn (Domestic DX):

This was definitely when the action was. Some of the night locals and some of the skip Mexicans went off around local midnight and opened

up mere channels. Also, the skip seemed longer then: both coasts were heard. The East Coast was represented by only one station, WBZ-1030 with its "killer" low-angle antenna set-up (5/8-wave verticals in the coastal salt-marsh at Hull, MA). Getting WBZ wasn't that easy (1030 is a congested channel nowadays); getting any other East Coast stations seemed impossible. Numerous West Coasters were heard - e. g. KFI-640, KNBR-680, KGO-810, KRTH-930, KNX-1070, KFHK-1530, KFMC-1560 (all CA) and KOMO-1000 (WA). OR, BC, and AK went unlogged: interference from closer co-channel stations was the principal factor working against greater-than-1000-mile receptions. Many interesting (to me) domestic DX catches were made; these are listed later in this report. Chances are that many are "old hat" to DXers in this area. I did a bit of research in recent DX magazines and found virtually no DX activity from the El Paso area. So, this report might be a "fir t", at least in the 1980's; a look into a DXing "terra incognita".

Foreign DX:

The only hint of a TA in El Paso was a feeble 1062 het one night at 0300 Z (an hour after sunset). No TP's were definitely logged, not even Hawaii. A het from something on 891 heard in the pre-dawn hours (about 1000 Z) obviously wasn't Algeria: my guess is Fiji. I would have liked to bag some Aussies & Zedders, but I couldn't even find the hets of the stations that are major "pests" for Pat Martin. Mexico should be considered domestic DX for any DXer within 500 miles of the border. Conversely, Canada heard from El Paso is foreign DX, in my opinion. Just one Canadian, CKTA-1570 (AB), was logged (with XERF off, of course). Nothing from below-Mexico Central America or from South America was heard. I tried for Belize-830 repeatedly: a Mexican and KGLR Phoenix were left battling it out when dominant WCCO was looped. The Mexicans were piled so high and deep that Venezuelans, Colombians, or even Costa Ricans didn't have a chance. The Caribbean only fared a bit better: clear channel Anguilla-1610 was heard, but it was weak - about 40 dB below its level in MA when using the same "travelling DXer" set-up. There wasn't even a hint of a het from powerhouse R. Paradise - 825, let alone any of the weaker Caribbean splits. Two Cubans (710 & 1160) were tentatively logged. Local XERF-800 blocked any chance at getting PJB. The two-week countries total, therefore, is 5 (USA, Mexico, Canada, Cuba, & Anguilla). I suspect that a lot more would be logged in December (or with phased Beverages and an R-390A a bit farther from the transmitter sites of the El Paso/Juarez local AMers).

Miscellaneous traveller's impressions

My trip, of course, was primarily business (10-12 hour work days programming and hardware-debugging Hewlett-Packard automatic PC-board testers), but I did see some of the city. The nearby Franklin Mountains (part of the Rockies) are a scenic feature of the area. Because of the high temperatures and minimal rainfall, vegetation is sparse and scrubby (sagebrush, yucca, etc.). The Trans-Mountain Road (Route 375) on the northwest side of town offers unobstructed views to the west and no powerlines: good sites for predawn (battery-powered) TP DXpeditions abound. The local folks (whether white, Hispanic, or black) were friendly to me and got along with each other fairly well. The weather was hot and usually fair. Humidity varied. Enough chitchat - on to the "meat" of the article: stations logged.

Daytime DX Report - El Paso, TX

Reception period of 18 - 30 May had approx. local sunrise at 1300 Z and sunset at about 0200 Z.

FREQ	CALL	QTH	INFORMATION ABOUT RECEPTION (LOG DETAILS)
550	KCRS	TX	C&W, fair - contest ad "write to KCRS, P. O. Box 4607 - Midland, TX"
560	?	MEX?	fair - SS mx. & talk
570	KGRT	NM	good - C&W mx., ID "KGRT Las Cruces"
580	?	MEX?	fair - SS mx. & talk, in 570 & 600 sloop
600	KHOC	TX	local - KROC El Paso ID, "lightweight" oldies format; broadcasts El Paso Diablos minor-league BB games.
620	?	MEX?	poor - SS pgm.; Winnebago ad heard at 0040 Z, 29 May.
630	?	MEX	good - SS talk, R. Mexicana network ID, o/SAH
640	KFI?	CA?	carrier trace
660	unIDs	?	prob. KTNM/Mexican, weak u/TV birdy
690	RHELY	TX	local - C&W mx., "690 K-Hey" ID
32 750	KAMA	TX	local megapest with SS mx. & talk, few IDs

630 KHOW CO 0335 19 Eagles: "One of these Nights", 63-KHOW ID  
 630 ? MEX? 0336 19 2 SS stations noted w/KHOW nulled  
 630 ? MEX? 0437 24 3 SS stations in dogfight  
 630 ? ? 1052 26 US stn. w/ preacher; KHOW nulled  
 640 KFI CA 0240 19 nightly dominant / loudest CA stn.  
 650 ? MEX? 0245 23 SS talk, R. Education ID, fuzzy/ compressed audio, ranchera mx. - alone on channel.  
 650 WSM TN 0548 24 C&W show, Music Country & WSM ID's; u SS stn  
 660 KTNN AZ nightly rock, ID's usually xlnt. o/SS Mexican.  
 670 WMAQ IL 0550 24 C&W mx., Town House appliance store ad, "67-WMAQ" wx. report  
 670 KBOI ID 0554 24 "Nikita" (Elton John), then 67-KBOI ID; poor w/ WMAQ nulled  
 680 KNBR CA 1200 23 poor to fair (KHEY-690 slop nulled) -- ID "Warm, friendly, down-to-earth: this is Talkmaster KNBR in Francisco". NBC news followed.  
 690 KHEY TX nightly C&W local, ID's as "K-hey"  
 700 WLW OH 0450 29 700-WLW ID o/ apparent R. Mexicana outlet; both poor w/ KHEY-690 nulled.  
 710 KGNT TX 0230 23 "KGNT Amarillo" ID, wx., Rangers BE game  
 710 ? CUBA 0602 24 Cuban National Anthem o/ KGNT & Mexican  
 720 WGN IL 0535 24 Steve King talkshow, ad for Cubs BE  
 720 KDWV NV 0536 24 fair (o/SSLA) w. show about local boxing; WGN nulled.  
 730 XEX MEX 0440 29 SS talk, XEX ID, loud & dominant  
 740 KRMG CK 0300 29 KRMG ID o/ Mexican (no KTRH, CBL, or CA stns)  
 750 KAMA TX nightly local (sounds like 100 kW) - SS, KAMA IL  
 760 ? MEX? 0303 29 SS poor o/SAH w KAMA-SS slop nulled; WJP & Reloj Cuban not heard.  
 770 KCB NM nightly always loud w/ talk & sports (much better on night skip than on daytime groundwave) Atop with talkshow  
 780 WBBM IL 0655 24 40s mx., KAZM ID, fair w/ WBBM nulled.  
 780 KAZM AZ 0657 24 "Total Country 790-KFYC Lubbock" ID  
 790 KFYC TX 0700 24 local, SS pgm's  
 800 XEF MEX nightly phone-order ad, "please mention KGO";  
 810 KGO CA 11 0 23 fair w/ XEROK-800 slop nulled.  
 820 WBAP TX nightly good w/ C&W mx. and talk  
 830 WCCO MN 0450 24 horserace results, ID; good o/ KGLR  
 830 KGLR AZ 0500 24 good w/ bigband mx., KGLR Tucson ID, s-off  
 830 ? MEX? 0315 29 SS stn. battling KGLR (growl resulting); WCCO nulled. No Belize-830 or St.Kitts-825  
 840 WIAS KY 0530 24 "Battle of New Orleans" (Johnny Horton), then "WIAS Million Dollar Weekend" promo; fair level / dominating channel.  
 850 KOA CO 1136 23 "KOA News", loud o/ unID  
 850 ? MEX? 0317 29 SS stn. clobbering KOA; no ID heard  
 860 XEZOL MEX nightly local, SS pgm's  
 870 ? ? 1134 23 unID SSLA (Cuba?) - poor o/ growl  
 870 WWL LA 0320 29 loud w/ religious pgm.  
 879a ? ? 0322 29 het (prob. Mexico, Cuba, or Central America)  
 880 KRWN NE 0315 22 contest (win trip to BB game in St. Louis), KRWN ID, Royals-Rangers BB game; xlnt. sig. rock-trivia contest, ID, Supremes oldie; good w/ dominant "Ocho Noventa" nulled.  
 890 WLS IL 0327 22 dominant / loud w/ SS ads, "Ocho Noventa" ID's. Heard most nights alone o/ WLS; wanted KDXU not heard.  
 900 XEW MEX 0328 22 loud / alone on channel w/ SS talkshow  
 910 ? ? 0510 24 SS pgm., in bad KDXU-920 slop  
 920 KDXU TX nightly SS local w/"Doble Equis" (XX) ID slogan  
 930 KRCE WY 1120 23 apparent "KRCE news" mentions, in mess  
 930 XEIH MEX 0501 24 X-E-I-H ID, s/off w/ Mexican Anthem  
 930 KNUS? ? 0503 24 news pgm., possible KNUS ID  
 930 WKY OK 0442 24 lottery contest, "WKY Radio 930" ID  
 930 KRTH CA 0715 24 ID's only as "AM 930, Smokin' Oldies": Great oldies! Lots of surf'n' & hot-rod hits from my "kid" years in the early '60s. apparent KSEI ID.  
 930 KSEA ID 0723 24 oldies, possible KGOA ID (maybe KIOA IA)  
 940 KGOA? ? 1115 23 Amarillo wx., fair / alone on channel  
 940 KIXZ TX 1144 26 wx., 95-KIMN ID, 5:08 TC, promo for  
 950 KIMN CO 1108 23 Randy J. show on "Kim".  
 950 KNFD NM 1203 26 Satellite NewsNetwork news, KNFD ID, C&W mx.; heard w/ KSEL nulled  
 950 KSEL TX 1153 26 950-KSEL ID, sports talk

770 KCB NM poor - talk in 750 slop  
 780 ? MEX? poor - SS in 860 slop  
 800 XEROK MEX local - SS talk, Mex. mx. Local billboards show "Radio Canon" (anyone) as current slogan.  
 820 WBAP TX poor - C&W mx., talk - at noise level  
 830 KGLR AZ poor - KGLR Tucson ID, Music-of-your-(Grandma s)-Life  
 860 XEZOL MEX local - SS talk, romantic SS mx.  
 920 KDXU TX local - SS pgm., "Doble Equis" (XX) ID  
 950 KNFD NM poor - C&W mx., KNFD ID (slopped by 970)  
 970 XEJ MEX local - reverberated R. Mexicana ID's, SS pgm w/ Chevy a  
 1000 XEFV MEX local - SS talk, ranchera mx. (SS C&W with Colombian-style accordions), "La Rancherita" ID.  
 1020 KBCQ NM good - AdCon mx., occasional blocks of religious pgm's  
 1030 ? MEX? poor - SS talk  
 1040 ? MEX? poor - SS talk, sometimes 1 block  
 1060 KFNA TX local - SS talk; varied mx. (40s bio-band, modern SS pops, disco. An apparent "R. Tina" slogan noted.  
 1080 ? MEX? fair - SS o/ SAH  
 1090 unIDs ? one or more stations in noise  
 1110 XEWR MEX local - SS w/ "Juvenil" & "R. Centro" slogans; US rock & disco hits (e. g. "I Can't Wait") - s-off 0230  
 1150 KEZB TX local - Top 40 rock, ID's as B-94 FM even when not to outlet on 93.9 MHz. 1150 a daytime-only stn.  
 1170 unIDs ? poor - C&W (prob. KWOC) o 2 SS stns (Mexicans ID)  
 1190 ? MEX? local - SS pgm., R. Nortena ID  
 1230 KOTS NM poor - C&W mx., KOTS ID, occasional religious pgm's  
 1240 XEWX MEX local - XEWX ID, SS shows  
 1260 XEF MEX good - XEF La Romantica ID's, SS talk & mx. 14.0  
 1270 KINM NM fair - AdCon / Top 40 mx., KINM ID's (to unit SS)  
 1300 XEF MEX local - XEF R. Trece ID, SS pgm's  
 1340 KALY TX local - SS pgm, "Super Kaly (kan-lee)" ID  
 1360 ? ? unID US stn., in noise slop  
 1380 KTSM TX local - Newstalk with Talknet affiliation  
 1420 XEF MEX local - SS, "La Romantica" ID's, slightly weaker 1260  
 1450 KQBE NM poor - KQBE Las Cruces ID, local news in English (EE) with some ads / announcements in SS.  
 1460 XEYC MEX "R. Sensacion" ID, SS talk, dance-rock hits  
 1480 unIDs ? weak mess (several stations)  
 1490 XECUC MEX local - "La Pantera" (Panther) ID, lively SS pgm's  
 1530 ? MEX? poor - SS talk  
 1540 ? MEX? poor - MoR SS mx.  
 1560 XEJFV MEX local - SS talk. Seems to s-off around 0400 & 10PM MEX  
 1590 KELP TX good - reli. bus pgm's, daytime-only.

El Paso, TX Night DX Log (all dates = May 1986, dates times = GMT)

FREQ	CALL	QTH	TIME	DAY	INFORMATION ABOUT RECEPTIONS (LOG DETAILS)
540	XEWA	MEX	0330	22	good, / 900. SS talk, XEW ID; dominant on channel. Audio "mushier" than 900.
550	? MEX?	0336	22		R. Exitos ID, SS talk
560	KOPI	? 0312	19		"56-KOPI" ID, C&W mx., talkshow promo.
560	? ?	0314	19		another C&W noted w/KOPI nulled (KLEZ?)
566	KLW	CO 0339	22		"56-KLW" ID, Denver wx., C&W mx.
570	KRQX	TX 0341	22		good w/ "K-Rocks, KRQX" ID, then "I Fought the Law" by the Bobby Fuller Four from 1966
580	WIBW	KS 0326	19		"Surfin' USA" (Beach Boys, 1963), ad for Topeka Dive Shop (scuba supplies, call 357-6709) & ad for Domino's Pizza.
580	? MEX?	0328	19		SS talk (XEFI?) noted w/ WIBW nulled.
580	XEFI	MEX 0345	22		"Este Mexicana" jingle
590	unIDs	? 0430	24		mess (2 SS talkers + EE talkshow)
590	KLBJ	TX 1045	26		poor w/ wx., KLBJ ID; KR0D-600 slop nulled
600	KROD	TX nightly			local w/ oldies, Diablos BB games
610	KRKE	NM 0415	24		Top 40 mx., Circle Cave nightclub ad, "Who Stole the Lite Beer" contest (entries to KRKE, P. O. Box 737, Albuquerque) Atop channel mess w/KROD-600 nulled.
620	KWFT	TX 0329	19		"Ships that Pass in the Night" (Barry Manilow), then KWFT Wichita Falls, TX ID, wx. report by female ancr. Kelly Thomas "I Want You Back" (Jackson Five, 1969), then SS talk; good w/ KWFT nulled.
620	KTAR	AZ 0432	24		ad for KTAR Phoenix Morning Show, then Dodgers BB game.
34					

Time	Call	State	Time	Notes	Call	State	Time	Notes
960	KMA	IA	1103 22	"KMA time 3 past 6"; barely o mess w XEU-970 slop nullcd.				
970	XL1	MEX	nightly	lexical - R. Mexicana SS pgm.	1200	WOAI	TX	1135 20
970	KMBC	MO	1101 23	car dealer ad, KMBC ID -- just o jumble w/ XEU 970 splatter looped out.	1210	?	MEX?	1015 21
990	KGTM	TX	1100 23	TSN (Texas State Network) news, KGTM ID	1210	?	MEX	0610 24
990	XET	MEX	some nights	- heard w/ SS pgm s	1210	?	MEX?	0355 29
1000	WJFL	FL	1031 26	atop channel w/ talkshow				
1000	KOMO	WA	1040 26	"Take 5" (Dave Brubeck), KOMO ID, temp. in Seattle = 67 F, then "King of the Road" (Roger Miller). Fair, some Mex.-1010 slop	1210a	KGYN	OK	0345 29
1010	?	MEX	1045 23	SS pgm., dominant	1210a	unIDs	?	1017 21
1010	KLRA	AR	1052 23	Little Rock Chevy ad, C&W version of "Delta Dawn".	1217a	?	MEX	0340 29
1020	?	?	0435 29	SS stn. w/ KBCQ (Mexico or KTNQ likely)	1220	XEB	MEX	1134 20
1020	KBCQ	NM	nightly	xlnt. (stronger than in daytime) - ID's as "Class AM, KBCQ".	1230	KOTS	NM	0215 30
1030	KTWO	WY	nightly	dominant w. pop. mx., "K2" ID's	1240	XEWK	MEX	nightly
1030	KBUF	KS	0131 19	talknet pgm., KBUF ID mentioning "in the High Plains"; atop XEUR w/ KTWO nullcd.	1250	KHIL	AZ	0200 30
1030	WBZ	MA	0600 24	The only East Coast station heard! Talkshow, ID, news to good peak (way o/ XEUR w/ KTWO nullcd).	1260	XEF	MEX	0345 19
1030	XEUR	MEX	0815 21	Familiar "Johnny's Got a Girlfriend" whistle, R. Centro ID, SS version of the 1962 Bobby Darin hit "This One".	1260	?	?	1004 21
1030	?	?	0900 21	EE talk, ID sounded like BRC or HRC; signal was poor, maybe garbled 4VEC Haiti	1270	KSSA	TX	1000 21
1040	WKO	IA	1038 23	loud w/ ID, farm news, tractor ad	1280	KBRQ	CO	1130 20
1050	XEG	MEX	0246 22	La Grande ID, good w/ stronger XEG nullcd.	1290	KUCB	AZ	0958 21
1050	XEG	MEX	0248 22	Monterrey SS ads, loud / dominant				
1060	?	MEX	1105 21	Mexican Anthem, AmerIndian mx. (XEEF?)	1300	XEP	MEX	1126 20
1060	?	?	1110 21	maybe New Orleans -- C&W mx., ad about bringing more jobs to Arkansas.	1310	KSTK?	?	0955 21
1060	XEFT	MEX	0502 29	loud w, R. Educacion ID, SS talk, address in Mexico City.	1310	KFKA	CO	0200 22
1060	?	?	0430 29	Talknet station poor w/ Mexico nullcd	1320	KBUG	UT	1125 20
1070	KNX	CA	0350 19	good w/ KNX ID, all-news format	1330	KHNT	AZ	1118 20
1080	KRLD	TX	1058 21	xlnt. w/ news, KRLD ID	1340	KALY	TX	nightly
1090	?	MEX	1057 21	SS pgm.	1350	?	?	0950 21
1100	KDRY	TX	1100 21	piano mx., ID "Reaching out with the Gospel of Christ - KDRY Alamo Heights"	1360	?	TX	1112 20
1100	?	?	1255 23	useless "K-Eleven-Hundred" ID, then faded	1370	KGNO	KS	1108 20
1110	KFAB	NE	1055 21	Omaha ad, ID, Omaha meatmarket report; o/unID	1380	KTSM	TX	1100 20
1110	?	MEX	0327 29	SS phone-in talkshow good w/ KFAB nullcd	1380	KLFF	AZ	0942 21
1120	KMOX	MO	1048 21	KMOX ID, Illinois Farm Bureau report				
1120	?	?	1025 26	weak SS noted w/ KMOX nullcd. (No KPMW)	1390	?	?	1055 20
1127a	?	?	0430 29	het against KWKH-1130	1390	?	MEX	0228 30
1130	KWKH	LA	1049 21	xlnt. w/"Fading In, Fading Out" (Tommy Overstreet), ID, Crawfish Festival promo.	1400	?	?	0229 30
1130	?	?	1027 26	unID C&W (back-to-back songs, no ID's); noted w/ KWKH nullcd.	1410	KCOL	CO	0936 21
1130a	?	?	0200 27	het (about 300 Hz.) against KWKH	1410	?	?	1052 20
1132a	?	?	1127 26	raspy AC-modulated carrier	1420	XEF	MEX	nightly
1140	KSOO	SD	1035 21	news, KSOO ID, Olivia Newton John mx.; fair w/ Mexican nullcd.	1430	KLO	UT	1042 20
1140	XEMR	MEX	0335 29	loud w/"Nueva M-R" ID	1440	WGEM	IL	1049 20
1140	?	MEX?	1038 21	SS pgm., ID sounded like R. Tem	1450	?	MEX?	0234 30
1150	WJBO	LA	1030 21	WJBO Baton Rouge ID, LSU Tigers BB promo.	1460	XEYC	MEX	nightly
1150	KSAL	KS	1032 21	KSAL ID, Salina wx., good o/ unID w/ WJBO nullcd	1470	?	?	1035 20
1150	KDEF	NM	0236 22	tentative ID, "Music of Your Life" format	1480	KLEO	KS	1032 20
1160	KSL	UT	1028 21	talk about news events on this day in history; mixed w/ SS stations	1490	XECJC	MEX	nightly
1160	?	CUBA	1028 21	much favourable SS talk about Cuba; good w/ KSL nullcd	1490	KBST	TX	1025 20
1160	?	MEX	0231 22	reverberated "XEF La Romantica, Chihuahua" ID // local 1260. Rolling o/ KSL.	1500	KSTP	MN	1023 20
1170	KVOO	OK	1052 21	loud w/ Dolly Parton song, Don Fox farm show, wx. (60 F in Tulsa), Willie Nelson hit	1510	KDKO	CO	0940 20
1180	KCFI	ND	1042 21	"Ko-Fee" ID, wx., pop mx., fair o/ 1180				
1180	unIDs	?	0228 22	Latin American rumble & KVOO-1170 slop graveyard-like pile of SS stations	1510	WLAC	TN	0631 24
1180	?	?	0417 29	US religious stn. mixed w/ SS stn's	1510	?	MEX?	0631 24
1190	KLIF	TX	1047 21	"America in the Morning" pgm., ad "get your TalkRadio 1190 KLIF card at Pizza Hut"	1520	KQMA	OK	0945 20
1190	KRDS	AZ	1045 21	Phoenix area ads by female DJ, then AdCon mx.; good w/ KLIF nullcd.	1530	unIDs	?	0947 20

1530 KFBK CA 0330 30 Channel 5B ad; KFBK Sacramento jangle ID  
 1540 XEHOX MEX 0949 20 good w/ SS psm.  
 1540 XEDA TX 0340 30 SS talk w/ mixed in EE; C&W mx.; San Antonio nightclub ads - just o/ mess  
 1540 XEEL IA 0950 20 C&W mx., wx., XEL ID; fair w/ Mexico nulled  
 1540 XEMC MEX 0405 29 "Va Mi Gallo" ID pulled up through two other (stronger) Mexicans.  
 1550 KQWB ND 1006 20 "1550-KQWB" ID, "Tequila Sunrise" (Eagles)  
 1550 ? ? 1007 20 SS audible w/ KQWB nulled  
 1550 KUMT AZ 0150 22 ID "KUMT, Jazz Radio for southern Arizona"  
 1560 XEJVP MEX 0400 28 SS local w/ s'off at 0400; CC off at 0410  
 1560 KPMC CA 0705 24 oldies, CBS news, then s'off w/ ID & National Anthem. Weak SS stn was the only thing noted on channel after KPMC s'off.  
 1570 CKTA AB 1019 20 "Good morning to everybody in McGrath", then CKTA ID & great Canadian C&W mx. having Gordon Lightfoot & traditional Scottish mx. influences. Only Canadian heard; XERF off.  
 1570 XERF MEX 0209 22 loud w/ full SS ID "XERF La Frontera, La Voz del Amistad en Ciudad Acuna"; 40s-style SS vocal w/ big-band backup followed  
 1580 KNIX AZ 0955 20 Oil Pro ad, KNIX wx., C&W mx.  
 1580 XEDM MEX 0212 22 very strong w/ "La Grande de Sonora" ID  
 1580 unIDs ? 0213 22 C&W stn. (KNIX?) mixed w/ Phillip's-Padres BB game stn.; dominant XEDM nulled.  
 1590 KEND TX 0957 20 "Take it to the Limit" (Willie Nelson version), "KEND Country" ID  
 1590 ? MEX? 0959 20 SS psm., probably XEVOZ  
 1600 KXEW AZ 1000 20 slogan "The Sound of Tucson"  
 1610 ANQUILLA 0412 29 preaching weak; bothered at times by teletype-like CRM.

L42-5-4

DX from El Paso, TX -- Part 2  
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Mark Connelly - WAIION Data from trips taken SEP & OCT 1986

Additional trips to El Paso and correspondence with California DXers Tim Hall and Robert Wien have cleared up some unID's and mis-identified stations logged during the May 1986 trip. A number of new stations were heard, especially during the September '86 trip. (In October, I was more involved in watching the Red Sox in the World Series than in DXing.)

First, some corrections to the May 1986 article, as well as some attempts at identifying the unID's in that article:

- 580 XEFI Chihuahua is most likely SS here.
- 620 XEBU Chihuahua is most likely SS here.
- 590 KCSJ (CO) the probable source of Larry King show on this channel
- 710 KGNC, not KGNT, is correct call for Amarillo, TX
- 890 unID Mexican possibly XEQ Fresnillo
- 910 unID Mexican probably XEAO Mexicali
- 930 KIUP Durango, CO could be the source of ID that sounded like KNUS
- 950 KNFT is correct call for Bayard, NM (not KNFD)
- 1180 KERI (CA) likely the unID religious station
- 1190 "Nortena" local is XEPZ, Ciudad Juarez. This station often has "novelas" (radio soap operas in SS).
- 1210 KQTL (AZ) the SS station with "Que tal" (not "Quesal") ID
- 1270 KINN, not KINM, was correct call for NM here. Now changed to KZZX
- 1350 UnID C&W could be KIDN (CO) and unID SS may be KABQ (NM).
- 1360 Texas State Network news either KQIZ or KACT.
- 1360 KLFF (AZ) is actually 1360 not 1380. Typo error on my part.
- 1380 (see 1360 re KLFF)
- 1390 American Indian mx. likely to be KENN (NM)
- 1410 KFMS (NV) is "Continuous Country KFM" (not "KFS")
- 1470 KFQX (TX) probably the Music Country network affiliate heard
- 1550 unID SS could be XEBM, XEBG, or KXEX.

The following is a summary of "DX strategies" employed on the El Paso trip; strategies designed to make productive use of limited time in an unfamiliar area.

1. Complete characterisation of daytime groundwave. This can be broken down further into a quick bandscan followed by a search for ID's directed by the types of programming heard. The high end of the band should be scanned as close to local noon as possible to minimize skip effects.
2. Initial (quick, cursory) bandscan between sunset & midnight to get a rough idea of the night dominants, the "key players" as it were. For each frequency: strength, number of stations per channel, formats, ID's (if heard by chance), and "weirdnesses" (heterodynes, FM'ing, etc.) are noted. This is the prelude to the next step.
3. In-depth evening and pre-dawn searches for ID's. Data on reception patterns, geographic & time-dependent aspects of propagation, parallel-frequencies of broadcasts, and interference scenarios become more evident during this in-depth search. Greater use of looping and phasing techniques to null pest dominant stations is characteristic of the serious quest for ID's. Use of reference materials (World Radio-TV Handbook, NRC Logbook, previous loggings by area DXers, etc.) comes into play to a much greater extent.
4. Once the identities of the skip "regulars" have been fairly well "nailed down", the search for as-yet-unheard target stations begins: a DXer may have specific stations or areas of interest. I wanted to log Californians & other West Coasters while in El Paso. Also, I wanted to see what signal paths were like to the East Coast, to South America, Down Under, Polynesia, the Caribbean, and Trans-Atlantic countries.
5. As loggings accumulate, an investigation of which channels haven't been thoroughly "milked" yet should be done. Keeping loggings in frequency order can be done with a computer or by using a notebook sectioned off into small frequency segments. A periodic check of "unmilked" frequencies can refocus search strategies in a beneficial manner.
6. Recycling of the 5 previous steps (when DXing seems to have reached a "dead end" of diminishing new catches) - a good idea. If travelling alone, it's not too hard to rearrange one's sleep schedule: doing so will result in a sizeable number of catches without being bleary-eyed on the job the next day.

The next list consists of additions / changes to the daytime-DX log made as a result of a "Daytime DXpedition" to a look-out (westward-facing) area near Milepost 7 on the Trans-Mountain Road (Route 375) in northwest El Paso. The DX site is near the highest point on that road: approximate elevation - one mile. All loggings were made on 5 SEP 1986 with the Sony ICF-2010 (Gerry Thomas - modified) receiver, the MWT-2 regenerative tuner, and a 100'/30-m. longwire pointed west. Times = GMT

Freq.	Call	QTH	Time	Details of Reception
550	KOY	AZ	1559	pop mx., ID "KOY 55 AM, 95.5 FM", o/u KCRS
620	KTAR	AZ	1600	ID "KTAR Phoenix"
630	KREA?	?	1608	"To Your Health" health tip, apparent KREA ID, C&W mx.; atop SS Mexican.
640	KFI	CA	1601	fair groundwave: ID, local news & traffic.
660	KTNN	AZ	1610	C&W mx., KTNN ID, talk in Navajo language.
720	KDWN	NV	1619	(tentative) talkshow in 690 / 750 local slop
830	KFLT	AZ	1800	ex-KGLR: religious program, "Family Life Radio" slogan, KFLT Tucson ID - good level.
850	?	MEX?	1621	SS station weak; no KOA
920	KDXX	TX	-	local here sometimes parallels "K-Buena" (KBNA-FM); otherwise "Doble Equis" ID is used
990	KTKT	AZ	1700	good "KTKT Tucson" ID, then Donna Summer mx. dominating over KSVP Artesia, NM.
990	KSVP	NM	1701	ID, C&W mx. "Rockin' to the Rhythm of the Rain" by the Judds, u/ KTKT.
1010	?	MEX?	1635	SS talk, fair o/ SAH
1160	?	MEX?	1638	SS talk, fair
1210	?	MEX?	1639	SS talk, fair
1230	KPSA	NM	1646	(tentative) mixed w/SS Mex. u/dominant KOTS
1250	KHIL	AZ	1705	USA network news, Willcox wx., 10:05 PDT TC, K-Hill ID, good. Longwire favoured AZ stn's.
1260	?	?	1647	prominent SAH against "La Romantica" Mexican.

Hopefully, this report will be of specific usefulness to DXers visiting El Paso. If it's of interest to other DXers, all the better.

El Paso daytime loggings - continued

442-5-5

Freq.	Call	QTH	Time	Details of Reception
1270	KZZX	NM	1652	(ex-KINN) KZZX ID, C&W mx., Otero County Fair promo., Sun City Furniture ad
1320	?	?	1653	weak SS stn. here, in bad XEP-1300 sloop
1340	KALY	TX	-	SS local now uses "R. Caliente" (hot) slogan
1360	KREE	NM	1655	good w/ C&W mx., ID "KREE AM, Ruidoso, NM"
1400	KCHS	NM	1707	fair (during pauses in 1380 & 1420 sloop): KCHS wx., Tiger football promo.
1470	?	?	1710	weak C&W in XEYC-1460 sloop
1500	?	?	1712	weak SS
1510	KNTS	AZ	1714	fair w/ slogan "Arizona's Hottest Country Hits", o/ jumble of other stations
1550	KUAT	AZ	1721	ID, jazz; fair through XEJPV-1560 sloop

Weak jumbles noted on 1520, 1530, 1580.

Low beacons heard during mountain daytime-DXpedition(1631-1802 Z/ 5 SEP): BWR-201, E5E-206, BLI-207, OHE-214, RBJ-220, 1LT-230, VHN-233, EL-242, CYH-247, HV-251, GAZ-255, LCR-299, RO-305, MA-326, FIA-329, RYN-338, ALM-341, LUJ-341, GNC-344, LGX-394, PRZ-407, DAO-410, and ATS-414.

Evening Loggings (0000 to 0600 GMT) - add to those in May report

Freq	Call	QTH	Time(Z)	Date('86)	Details of Reception
890	KDXU	UT	0040	/ 14 OCT:	Top 40 / AdCon mx., ID; good o/ others
891	Algeria		0410	/ 07 SEP:	AA vocal, hetting WLS
1030	WBZ	MA	0525	/ 07 SEP:	loud & dominant (1) w/ talkshow, ID
1035	Portugal		0530	/ 07 SEP:	(tentative) carrier in WBZ/WHO sloop
1044	Morocco		0526	/ 07 SEP:	fair to good w/AA female chant:best TA
1062	Portugal		0527	/ 07 SEP:	poor w/ PP vocal
1130	CKWX	BC	0512	/ 07 SEP:	"Country Music Radio, WX-1130" ID, "Vancouver temp. 23 (C)", old-time C&W
1150	KCKY	AZ	0424	/ 07 SEP:	BB game, ID "KCKY, the Arizona sports station"
1210	WCAU	PA	0430	/ 07 SEP:	talkshow, NJ car dealer ad, u/ Mexican
1260	XEOP	MEX	0200	/ 15 SEP:	s/off w/"X-E-O-P, R. Barraquito" SS ID noted; dominant "XEF/Romantica" nulled
1521	Saudi Arabia		0300	/ 07 SEP:	(tentative) het against KOMA
1555	Cayman Is.		0321	/ 14 OCT:	EE talk, weak
1600	KBBX	UT	0110	/ 17 OCT:	ID, slow C&W / pop song o/ SS stn.

Early Morning Loggings (0600 to 1400 GMT) - add to those in May report

On 08 OCT 1986 around 1200 Z, hets of TP origin were noted on the following channels: 639, 702, 774, 882, 891, 1008, and 1098.

Other early-morning DX from El Paso:

Freq	Call	QTH	Time(Z)	Date('86)	Details of Reception
538.6	?	?	1231	/ 08 OCT:	het
550	KOY	AZ	1006	/ 13 SEP:	"KOY news" ID, talk about AZ politics & Palo Verde nukelant; in jumble
560	KBLU	AZ	1237	/ 08 OCT:	farm report, KBLU ID
570	KLAC	CA	1240	/ 08 OCT:	(tentative) C&W, possible KLAC ID noted w/ pest KGRT Las Cruces nulled
610	?	?	1244	/ 08 OCT:	ID like KYSO, KISO, or KISL
626.6	"SI"	?	1257	/ 08 OCT:	apparent spur from a CW (not MCW) beacon, heard once a minute at 1256+50 sec, 1257+50 sec, etc. Also on 670 Heard w/high-Q tuned loop: not RX spur
630	KSLR?	?	0828	/ 18 OCT:	tentative ID, contemporary Christian mx.; fair w/ KHOW nulled
660	WNBC	NY	0832	/ 18 OCT:	poor to fair w/ wx., ID, Lovin' Spoonful oldie "Daydream"; KTNN off
670	"SI"	?	1257	/ 08 OCT:	CW beacon spur (see 626.6 kHz) Rough note, like an arc rig.

Early Morning Loggings from El Paso, TX - continued

Freq	Call	QTH	Time(Z)	Date('86)	Details of Reception
710	KNUS		0700	/ 06 SEP:	"710 KNUS Denver" ID, newstalk format
760	?	?	0841	/ 18 OCT:	(probably WJR) talk; in KAMA-750 sloop
770	WABC	NY	0842	/ 18 OCT:	talkshow, NYC / NJ mentions; poor, way under tough-to-null KOB
790	?	AZ	1305	/ 08 OCT:	news, Tucson wx., oldies - no ID
910	?	?	1308	/ 13 SEP:	religious stn. in EE, in mess / sloop
950	XE??	MEX	0927	/ 13 SEP:	stop channel, SS talk & mx., no ID given. Audio quite "fuzzy"/distorted
950	XE??	MEX	0900	/ 18 OCT:	Mexican dominant on east-west bearing; SS talk by man & woman, "Amigos de Mayo" mentioned often
1000	KTOK	OK	0906	/ 18 OCT:	"KTOK Radio Ten" ID, Talknet program
1020	KBCQ	NM	1300	/ 18 OCT:	Format=C&W on 13 SEP; back to AdCon when heard in OCT
1020	KTNO	CA	1300	/ 18 OCT:	KTNO ID, SS talk fair w/KBCQ nulled
1053	(unID TP)		1004	/ 08 SEP:	het
1060	WNOE	LA	0957	/ 13 SEP:	good w/ "Hit Country WNOE" ID, C&W mx.
1070	?	?	1246	/ 18 OCT:	two unIDs - SS stn. o/u Texas-accented EE station; both under semi-nulled KNX
1080	?	?	1245	/ 18 OCT:	two unIDs - apparently-syndicated "Moldy Oldies" show mixed w/ SS stn.; normal KRLD fading w/ approaching dawn
1080	XE??	MEX	1318	/ 05 SEP:	SS talk mixed w/ KRLD
1090	KKYN	TX	1305	/ 05 SEP:	"10-90 KKYN" jingle, C&W mx.
1090	XEPRS	MEX	1030	/ 10 SEP:	to good peaks w/ Mex. mx., SS talk, ads for businesses in CA & Baja CA.
1100	KIIO	CO	1300	/ 05 SEP:	ID "K Eleven Hundred is KIIO Grand Junction, CO", then news (XEWR-1110 pest nulled)
1170	XE??	MEX	1325	/ 08 OCT:	SS atop KV00
1180	WHAM	NY	1007	/ 08 SEP:	WHAM ID, news: fair-good w/ others
1200	?	?	0925	/ 18 OCT:	C&W; weak under nulled WOAI
1250	XE??	MEX	0940	/ 18 OCT:	R. Exitos ID, SS mx. o/ unID oldies stn
1250	KBRST	?	0940	/ 18 OCT:	weak (breaking through SS & oldie stations briefly): C&W mx., wx. for northern Plains states, tent. KBRST ID
1330	KFAQ	KS	1000	/ 18 OCT:	good "KFAQ Wichita" ID, news. This was noted a few minutes earlier w/ "Most Music Radio, 13 Country" slogan
1390	KGER	CA	1000	/ 14 SEP:	Black Gospel pgm. ID "KGER Long Beach"
1390	KPRC	OK	0958	/ 18 OCT:	C&W, ID "Chisholm Trail Broadcasting, KPRC"
1557	(unID TP)		1005	/ 08 SEP:	het
1600	XE??	MEX	1016	/ 14 SEP:	SS Mexican dominating at this time

Evening and early morning receptions were primarily made from the Residence Inn, 6791 Montana Avenue, El Paso TX 79925 using the following equipment:

Sony ICF-2010 receiver (with Radio-Plus tight-filter modification)  
Palomar Loop  
WALLON DX Labs MWT-2 Regenerative High-Gain / High-Q Preamp

DX Tests

The National Radio Club reports that they have arranged a couple more DX Tests:

Monday, January 5, 1987

KRMX-690, Pueblo, CO, will test 0300-0330 EST. Details unknown. Send your reception reports to Ace Ball, CE, KRMX, 2829 Lowell Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81003. Arranged by Wayne Heinen & Ron Musco

Monday January 12, 1987

WGHQ-920, Kingston, NY, will test 0000-0030 EST with 5 kw using tones and IDs. Send reception reports to Don Stewart, CE, WGHQ, 82 John St., Kingston NY 12401. Arranged by Laura McCusker