

HEARING 50 STATES IN THE NORTHWEST

L49-1-2

BY PATRICK MARTIN

I can hear what many of you are saying, "That can't be done.... Maybe 20 years ago but not now.....Those days are gone." Well... maybe, maybe not. I don't think it is going to be as easy as it once was and it wasn't easy then.

In the past few years I have been lucky enough to hear several stations from the East I thought I would never hear. A few years back I also felt the days of hearing all 50 states are gone. Now I am not too sure of it, especially if conditions do improve.

Living on the Northern Oregon coast away from strong locals and using a 1500 foot beverage antenna pointed East does help alot, and that may be what it takes to hear 50 states. A good Grounds help doesn't hurt to increase the signal and cut down on noise.

I have found in the past few years when conditions are good several new catches can be heard. Since 1984 I have heard WAKR-1590-Akron, Ohio; WH00-990-Orlando, Florida; WJIK-1580-Jacksonville, North Carolina; WPGC-1580-Morningside, Maryland; and WHEZ-1560-Portage, Michigan just to name a few. That isn't Maine or Rhode Island, but if those stations come in why not others?

The crowding of frequencies in recent years have caused a lot of channels to be useless unless someone is off. Counting the useable frequencies at this location, I came up with quite a few that are fairly clear much of the time. 530 (unless you have a local TIS-CJFT is heard often here), 540- After CBK is off, KNOE and CJSB have been heard. 550 KHZ, I have trouble with Hawaii, as I live near the ocean. 550 KHZ may be clearer inland. 670 KHZ is fairly clear when KBOI is off some MMs, as WHAQ isn't that strong most of the time. 680 is good when KNBR is off, 690 is fairly clear when XETRA is off, 720-MMs when KDWN is off. Then there is 830 and 840 KHZ. WHAS is still a pest and WCCO is still very strong on 830 KHZ at times. 890 KHZ is fairly clear when St. George, Utah is off and the Canadian is weak. Even 900 KHZ isn't too bad at times as CJVI isn't that strong. 990 KHZ, as I heard WH00 a few months back and WNOX also comes in at times along with the Texan. 1030 KHZ is getting tougher, but WBZ still makes it in at times on MMs. About a year ago WTSO came in with KNX one morning. I think WTIC-Conn. still should make it in when KWJJ is off, which is rare. KRLD-Dallas tops 1080/KWJJ alot of the time. 1090 KHZ may be good when XEPRS/KING are off, 1130 has netted KWKH when CKWX isn't too strong. 1150 has brought in KSAL-Kansas when Seattle is off. Then there is 1180 which still isn't too bad on MMs bring in WHAM regularly here, 1190 KHZ when KEX is off, 1210 KHZ brought in WCAU last year one evening over the mess. Most of the frequencies up to about 1360 KHZ are pretty well blocked NSP at this time. 1360 has brought in Green Bay, Wisconsin (WGEE) and KOTA-South Dakota has been heard on 1380 KHZ. 1410 KHZ still is a good frequency here, even with KKUL-Portland on, as I don't hear them at night. WIZM-LaCrosse, Wisconsin has been heard several times in recent months. When KLO-1430-Ogden, Utah is off (Occasionally on MMs) WIRE-Indianapolis is heard along with CJCL. 1440 has brought in Kansas and Texas. 1470 is clear on MMs (after CJVB s/off), 1480 is great after KRED is off every night after Midnight or one. KSTP-1500 is regular on 1500, 1510 is good when KGA is off, KOMA mixes with KSGO on 1520, WCKY is heard when KFBK is off on MMs, KXEL is heard mixing with Bellevue, Wa, nightly, and 1560 is open after Midnight, when KPNC goes off nightly. 1580 is open alot of the time if Arizona isn't too strong, and many catches have been heard on both 1590 and 1600 KHZ. So there you are. There still is good DX if conditions are good.

Following is a list of your most possible stations to hear from all 50 states and the Canadian provinces from the Northwest. Of course this list can and probably will change as frequencies fill up and other stations go off. Good luck. You will need it.

Included with the list is also a A through D- rating I give each State or Province on how easy it is to hear. I would like to thank Bruce Portzer on this idea. He also contributed to the station list.

ALABAMA - A "C" rating..With the beverage here, one station that has been heard often is WXVI-1600-Montgomery. This is a Black Gospel station which pops through quite often after 0300 EST. KEED doesn't give me much trouble most of the time. Other stations to try for are: WLWI-740 when KCBS/CBX are off, WMOB-1360 on MMs, or WSKR-1590 when conditions are good.

ALASKA - A "B-" rating. A would rate this higher if it wasn't for the QRM on the frequencies these days. The signals from KFQD-750 and KYAK-650 do pop through in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. KABN-830 also is heard.

ARIZONA - "A" Rating. Your best bets here are 50,000 watters KTNN-660 and KNIX-1580. KOY-550 also pops through at times.

ARKANSAS - I give this a "D" rating as few stations from this state are heard these days. KAAV-1090 has been heard by Californians in recent years and KLRA-1010 also used to be heard. Good luck on this one.

CALIFORNIA - Another "A" rating here with many stations a regular day or night on the coast. KGO-810, KCBS-740, KNBR-680, KFI-640 just to name a few.

COLORADO - Another "A" rating here with two stations that are strong in the NW, KOA-850 and KVEE-1100. KOA is much stronger than KVEE most of the time, but if you are near KTAC-Tacoma the 1100 frequency might be better for you.

CONNECTICUT - Another "D" rating here as WTIC-1080 is about the only station heard in recent years and you will have to wait for KWJJ to shut down, which they do on MMs occasionally. KRLD-Dallas also causes QRM.

DELAWARE - Bruce Portzer gave this an F, but I'm changing it to a "D-" rating as I feel all 50 states are possible, but this is really one of the toughest, with either WDOV-1410 or WKEN-1600 being possible. This has been one of the hardest states for years. Good luck here also.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - "D-" rating here also, with WTOP-1500 being about the only thing ever heard from D.C. and KSTP blocks the frequency, but some Californian got a tentative of WTOP a couple years back, so who knows.

FLORIDA - "C-" rating. Your chances of hearing this state is much better, as WH00-990, Radio Marti-1180 both have been heard in the past couple of years. WGBS-710 also has been heard during times of the station being non-directional.

GEORGIA - "C-" rating. A state that used to be easy before everyone went AN or NSP on 750 KHZ. WSB might still pop through when conditions are good and also WEDM-1580 might pop through.

HAWAII - "B+" rating. I would give it an "A" rating here on the coast, but the Hawaiian signals are quite abit weaker inland. Still several Hawaiians are heard in the NW, KHVI-550, KORL-650, KUAI-720 (MMs), KCU-760, KIKI-830, and KAIM-870. just to name a few.

IDAHO - "A" rating as KBOI-670 comes in very well. Also others are KFXD-580, KIDO-630, and KCEM-1140 that are heard well.

ILLINOIS - "B" rating. Another state that used to be A rating, but all the QRM the state isn't as strong these days. Several stations from Chicago are still heard often WHAQ-670, WGN-720 (every HH), WDBM-780, and WLS-890. 1000 KHZ is also heard at times when KOMO is off.

INDIANA - "C" rating. This state also isn't as easy to hear these days, but stations do pop through at times. WIRE-1430 when KLO is off, WOWO-1190 (when KEX is off), WSLM-1220, if you can get past CJOC. WIBC might also pop in if KNX was off.

IOWA - "B" rating, another one that has dropped a notch in recent years, but WHO-1040 and KXEL-1540 are heard often.

KANSAS - "B-" rating. The most common station here is KLEO-1480, in quite often. KCGF-690 and KBUF-1030 also can be heard.

KENTUCKY - "B+" rating. With a beverage it is almost a A rating here, as WHAS-840 is almost in every night. WPAD-1560 also is fairly regular.

LOUISIANA - "C" rating. A few years ago this was an A rating but with 870 KHZ filling up the job of hear WWL is harder. It does pop through KORD at times here. KNOE-540 and KWKH-1130 also are heard.

MAINE - Another "D-" state here. The station on 970 used to be heard on HMs, but with KYTE NSP, those days are pretty much gone. WYNZ-970 still would be possible if everyone was off, or maybe WJBQ-1590 or WLAM-1470. You will need a lot of luck on this one.

MARYLAND - A state that always has been hard. I give this just a "D" rating as WPGC-1580 has been heard here recently. WBAL-1090 also was reported a few years back on a MM.

MASSACHUSETTS - "C" rating from a state that used to be an A or B, since 1030 has filled up, about the only time the frequency is clear enough is on a MM. WBZ pops through every once in a while.

MICHIGAN - Another "C" rating. Best bet for Michigan is either WJR-760 or WHEZ-1560. The Canadian on 760 causes quite a bit of QRM these days. WHEZ has been logged around 0600 EST sign on.

MINNESOTA - This is a "B+" state, as WCCO-830 is still in the clear much of the time and KSTP-1500 also can be had without much work.

MISSISSIPPI - Alabama is a C state, but I'll have to give Mississippi a "D" as there isn't much from this state that does get out to the West. WOKJ-1550 used to be common but with all the QRM, that might be tough. Other stations that have been heard are: WMOX-1010, WJNT-1180, and WSJC-810 (When KGO is off).

MISSOURI - I'll give this a "B-" as KMOX-1120 isn't quite as easy to hear with KPNW-Eugene on, but KMOX is heard under KPNW often here. KJLA-1190 is heard at times when KEX is off and WHB-710 pops through when KIRO is off.

MONTANA - This is an easy state from the NW. "A" rating. KOFI-1180 comes in quite strong if you are away from KPUG-1170 or KEX-1190. KGH-790, KBOW-550, KMON-560 are all stations that are heard.

NEBRASKA - "B" rating here. Try KFAB-1110 if you are away from KBND, or wait for KBND to s/off. KRVN-880 also pops through the mess on the frequency at times. KLMS-1480 also is heard after 0300.

NEVADA - "A" rating. A real easy one here with 50 KW powerhouses KROW-780-Reno or KDWN-720-Las Vegas.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - "D-" rating here on another Eastern state that always has been hard. WKBR-1250 was heard in the West years ago. Possibly WHSN-1590 on a great night. You will need an extra good luck here.

NEW JERSEY - "D-" rating here also. If you can get New Hampshire on some night, maybe you will also hear New Jersey. The state has always been very hard to hear especially if you wanted a direct New Jersey station and not a NYC transmitter site. WABC-770-NYC used to be fairly easy, but with all the QRM you might have to wait on this. Direct NJ stations, WERA-1590 or WSRR-1580 on a good night. A very Good Luck on this one.

NEW MEXICO - "B+" rating here, as KKOB-770 and KCKN-1020 do make showings most nights, if you are away from KRPM-770 or KWIQ-1020, you might try these. KUUX-1480 also makes a showing at times.

NEW YORK - "B-" rating here, as WHAM-1180 makes a showing most MMs. WQXR-1560 also has been showing up more often than before after 0300 EST with Classical music.

NORTH CAROLINA - "D" rating here. WJIK-1580 was heard a couple years back, but plan on moving to 830 with a directional antenna and that is going to be hard as little signal goes West. WBT-1110 was also reported a few years back non directional, but that also is rare. Maybe WJRQ-1560 or WFCW-1010. Good luck here.

NORTH DAKOTA - "C+" rating, KFYZ-550 pops in occasionally and KQLX-890 has been heard at 0700 EST s/on. Maybe KEYZ-1360 also.

OHIO - "B-" rating. This state has been reported quite often in recent years on the Westcoast. There is WLW-700, WCKY-1530 (when KFBK is off, many MMs), WWWE-1100 pops through KFAZ often. WAKR-1590, WOHO-1470, and WHBC-1480 also have been reported.

OKLAHOMA - "B+" rating. Try KOMA-1520 under KSGO or KV00-1170, if you are away from KPUG. Both are regular here.

OREGON - "A" rating. Many stations to be heard, KEX-1190, KGW-620, KPNW-1120 just to name a few.

PENNSYLVANIA - "C-" rating. This state is another that used to be easy but no more clear frequencies, so the QRM will have to be delt with. KDKA-1020 and WCAU-1210 both have been heard in the last year here.

RHODE ISLAND - "D-" here as another state that little has ever been reported on the WestCoast. Craig Healy got a DX test from the station on 1110 with 50KW many years back and that was heard on the WC. Maybe another DX test?

SOUTH CAROLINA - "D-" here also as little is reported from this state. WESC-660 has been reported, but years ago.

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SOUTH DAKOTA - "B-" rating, with KKAA-1560 heard often after 0300 EST (KPHC off). Then there is KOTA-1380 and KBHR-1130. KBMR has been heard during the day in the Wintertime here.

TENNESSEE - "C" rating. A state that also used to be higher on the list is a little more rare these days. WSM-650 used to be common but with all the QRM the catch is harder to here now. WLAC-1510 has been heard when KGA is off. WNOX-990 also makes a showing at times.

TEXAS - "B" rating with WOAI-1200, KRLL-1080, and WBAP-820 still showing up fairly regular. KLIF-1190 also is there when KEX is off.

UTAH - "A" rating here with KSL-1160 like a ton of bricks at night. KLO-1430 also is regular along with KDXU-890, just to name a few.

VERMONT - Back with the hard ones again with a "D-" rating. Possible WYKR-1100 might show up or WCFR-1480. This is another one of the states that never has been easy. Good luck here.

VIRGINIA - "D-" rating here also with WRVA-1140 possible, but haven't been reported in years. Also try WPSK-1580, WTVR-1380, and WFTH-1590, if conditions are fantastic. You will need it.

WASHINGTON - "A" rating here, like Oregon many stations to be heard, KOMO-1000, KING-1090, KIRO-710, or KGA-1510.

WEST VIRGINIA - Another "D-" rating here with WCAW-680, but that hasn't been reported in the NW for years. Good luck again.

WISCONSIN - "C" rating. Another tough one but WIZM-1410 makes a showing alot of the time in the early morning. This state has always been one of the tougher Mid-West catches with no clear channel stations that are heard out here often. WTSO-1070 and WCEE-1360 both have been heard in recent years also.

WYOMING - "A" rating here too with KTWO-1030 the winner. They are in about every night.

THE PROVINCES

ALBERTA - An "A" rating here with several to pick from. CBK-1010 is one of the strongest. CBX-740 mixes with KCBS and CFAC-960 or CFCN-1060.

BRITISH COLUMBIA - "A" rating also with CBU-690, CKWX-1130, C3VB-1470, C3OR-800, CKLG-730, and the list goes on.

MANITOBA - "A-" rating, slightly lower than Alberta or BC. CBW-990 is fairly regular here.

NEW BRUNSWICK - A "D-" rating here as nothing from New Brunswick has been reported on the West Coast in years. CBA-1070 used to be reported back in the 50s and 60's on occasion. Good luck here.

NEWFOUNDLAND - Another "D-" here as the same as above, no stations have been reported in many years. If conditions are great maybe CBT-540 might make a showing as the frequency is fairly clear.

NORTH WEST TERRITORIES - This is a tough one mainly because there are no powerhouses in the area. Maybe CHAK-860 might make a showing if you can get around CFPR. CHAK is only 1KW but is regular in Alaska.

NOVA SCOTIA - "D-" rating here too. CBH-860 might be possible if every thing was in your favor including a fairly clear frequency and good conditions.

ONTARIO - "C+" rating or maybe a little better. Several stations from this Province have been reported in recent years. Infact as I type this, CJFT-530 is being heard. CBL-740 isn't as common as it used to be, but when CBX/KCBS are off it pops in at times. Also CHAM-820, CHUR-840, and CJCL-1430 pop through at times.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND - Another "D-" rating here too, but your chances of hearing this little island might be better these days as CHTN has made a move to 720 KHZ of late and it might be possible on MM.

QUEBEC - I'll give this a "C-" rating, as CBJ-150 has been reported in the past few months. CKAC-730 in FF was heard a few years back too.

SASKATCHEWAN - "A" rating here also with CBK-540 the winner by far.

YUKON - "D-" here too as there are really only two stations, CFWH-570 and CKRW-610. Bruce Portzer was lucky enough to get the one on 610 a few years back. Any takers for CFWH-570? Good luck here also.

Well there they are. Now it is time to get to work and see how many you can hear.

Again I would like to thank Bruce Portzer for his help. Remember to report your tips to the Western DX Roundup and DX Worldwide-West.