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DX MONITOR

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE **IRCA** INTERNATIONAL RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO BROADCAST BAND DXING

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EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

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All Times are EST. Deadline: Sat.



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OF SPECIAL INTEREST—RECENT CHANGES

kHz	Call	State	City	Date/Time/Reporter/Notes
550	WDEV	VT	Waterbury	12/12-1433 KZ-NY. In briefly w/spot for four different shopping malls in central Vermont. ID as "Stereo 550 DEV."
640	KFI	CA	Los Angeles	12/15-0120 GH-PA. In good several times w/Larry King & guest Weird Al Yankovick. Then WOI thundered in and KFI could still be heard underneath. WOI getting worse than the Akron pest.
850	KOA	CO	Denver	12/15-0200 GH-PA. In loud w/the usual blab show. ID as KOA Radio 85, Denver's sports station. Rare to hear it this good. Heavy QRM from WRMR
860	WSBS	MA	Great Barrington	12/18-1145 KZ-NY. Signal now way over old dominant WTEL Philadelphia. Must be running the new 2200 watt authorization, ex-250 watts. Light rock, Streisand, Air Supply, etc.
1450	WJBX	CT	Bridgeport	12/20-1103 KZ-NY. Fair w/news, ex-WNAB. O/u WCTC New Brunswick NJ w/AP net news. No sign of WKIP Poughkeepsie.

REGULAR LOGGINGS

kHz	Call	State	QTH	Date/Time/Reporter/Notes
530		NJ	Newark	12/14-1345 KZ-NY. Fair. "Welcome to Newark Int'l Airport" etc., incl. parking info. Short message by OM humanoid, about 80 sec., 10 sec. silence, repeat. New snatch.
570	WKBN	OH	Youngstown	12/18-1700 GH-PA
620	WHEN	NY	Syracuse	12/6-2101 KZ-NY. Very strong w/local news. Very strong, no sign of local WSKQ. [Se Habla Espanol. Ed.]
620	WTMJ	WI	Milwaukee	12/19-0315 GH-PA. Poor w/phone in talk show, song "Georgia" by Ray Charles.
840	WVPO	PA	Stroudsburg	12/12-1140 KZ-NY. Poconos weather, Top-40, in tricky null of over-modulated Spanish dominant WRYM New Britain.
950	WHVW	NY	Hyde Park	12/14-1400 KZ-NY. Stn. break in syndicated nostalgia show. "95 HV Hyde Park-Poughkeepsie."
950	WWJ	MI	Detroit	11/17-2240 GH-PA. Very weak w/Dan Rather commentary, weather command weather, and 1000 other stations. [Well, anyway hundreds. Ed.]
980	WILK	PA	Wilkes-Barre	12/18-1248 KZ-NY. End of Paul Harvey News. Fair.
980	CKGM	PQ	Montreal	11/17-2255 GH-PA. Weak w/ID as the "New CKGM" and song, "It Hurts to Be in Love." [It hurts not to be in love, too. Ed.]
1090	WBAL	MD	Baltimore	12/14-1414 KZ-NY. Odd to hear during the day. WILD Boston w/syndicated Top 40 countdown underneath.
1150	CHSJ	NB	Saint John	12/18-2155 GH-PA. Briefly good w/many ads, then Anne Murray [Canada's Own. Ed.]
1260	WNDR	NY	Syracuse	12/22-0800 GH-PA. Poor going into CBS news, then back on sunrise skip.
1260	WBBG	OH	Cleveland	11/16-1555 GH-PA. Fair w/Music of Your Life
1360	WNNJ	NJ	Newton	12/14-1320 KZ-NY. Weak w/WDRG Hartford. "Solid Gold 1360 WNNJ."
1400	WOND	NJ	Pleasantville	12/20-1039 KZ-NY. Weak/fady in tight null of WSTC Stamford, Conn. Oldies format. New catch

1430 CJCL	ON	Toronto	12/19-0345 GH-PA. Good w/song "Cherish" from the 1960s. +12/6-2115 KZ-NY. Very strong w/ apparent format change from MoYL. Now it's "anything the cat drags in" [and we know what your cat drags in. Ed.] Gino Vannelli segues to Zoot Sims. Weird!
1500 WFIF	CT	Milford	12/12-1250 KZ-NY. New catch. Buried way under WKER Pompton Lakes, NJ "Kerr Radio News," and traces of WTOP. "SMM" (Send More Money) religious format.
1500 WTOP	DC	Washington	12/20-1120 KZ-NY. Mid-day copy in good w/YL reading news. In null of WKER Pompton Lakes NJ
1570 WLDM	MA	Westfield	12/12-1200 w/ABC-E news w/Jon Belmont after ID "1570 WLDM Westfield" by YL. EZL/Beautiful Music format. WBUX Doylestown, Pa., way underneath.
1580 WSRR	NJ	Washington	12/12-1154 KZ-NY. Ex-WCRU w/oldies rock, slogan "Star 1580" under dominant WLIM Patchogue, NY
1600 WWRL	NY	New York	12/19-0400 GH-PA. Poor, fading. ID as "Inspiration Radio." Black teletalk show.

Some Thoughts on Standards of Reportability

by Gardner Smith, EDXR Editor

First of all, DXing the broadcast band first and foremost, should be fun. Having been reading the IRCA forums over the past 3 or 4 months I get the distinct impression that for many of our members it isn't fun at all. Most unfortunately, Richard Wood's resignation, and now Robert Kramer's, has had the effect of polarizing people into two opposing camps. I would suggest that we go back to square one and review some of the basics.

The controversy that has been raging in IRCA essentially has to do with what should appear in the pages of DX Monitor. I don't have any say about what appears in any column but EDXR, so my comments here should not be construed as any kind of directive to the editors of CDXR or WDXR.

Let's consider broadcast band DXing in two separate (but often interrelated) aspects: First, the merits of the signal alone, and second, the merits of the signal content.

The Signal Alone

The merits of the signal alone is usually called "good DX." These are stations rarely heard at your QTH, stations far distant and reportable even if you can say virtually nothing about the signal content, or the programming. The standards for "good DX" of course vary between clear channels, regional channels, and local channels (even those these categories have gotten rather blurry of late). On the local channels, almost anything you hear is good DX, so you should report it. On the regional channels there are still outstanding sunset and sunrise opportunities, and you should report stations you seldom hear. The "clear" channels are now clogged with daytimers and even with nighttimers now, and in some cases the old 50 kw class 1As have moved from the common to the rare class. WJJD-1160 is one example of this phenomenon at my QTH. I'm sure you have some examples of this at yours.

The key criterion of "good DX" is how often you can hear the station. For a station to be reported solely on the basis of the signal alone, it should be fairly rare.

The Signal Content

The problem with the signal alone is that the Broadcast Band is now so clogged with stations that good DX gets rarer and rarer and the pages of EDXR would be a bare cupboard indeed if that was the only criterion, so increasingly we need to be concerned with the signal content, or programming.

You know, this is a unique era we are living through, as AM stations struggle to stay in business against the FM competition, by changing formats and callsign in often futile attempts to capture even tiny portions of their markets.

EDXR is, if it is nothing else, an historical document. If you keep that in mind as you ponder what to report, I think you will not go far astray. We need to document what is happening to the Broadcast Band—the whirlwind callsign and format changes, how individual stations conduct business, and so on. Report every single callsign and frequency change you hear. Report all format and slogan changes.

Your reports should always be informative, interesting, and if nothing else, entertaining. Reporting a station with the comment "played Beatles song" is never reportable unless the report is in the class of "good DX" alone, then you have to go with whatever you can get.

While I'm on the subject of "entertaining," isn't that why (most of us) DX the Broadcast Band?" The Longwave Club of America is full of "pure DXers" who don't give a fig about signal content, because there isn't any. But we MW DXers are also interested in what stations broadcast. From my QTH in Maryland, for instance, I truly enjoy listening to the Arctic weather reports from WCCO and the CBC on the one hand, and the balmy reports from Florida on the other. Local news reports are often interesting and amusing, especially from very small towns, as is locally produced programming, such as the phone-in auto repair clinic that WWL often broadcasts. I'm sure you get the point. Such interesting details are legion on the Broadcast Band. I'm certainly willing to publish them if you are willing to take the time to dig for them.

And that brings up the most hotly-contested point of debate—groundwave stations. Sometimes people can't see the forest for the trees. Your groundwave station is my good DX, and vice versa. If we all lived in Washington, D.C., then we could rule out groundwave stations in most circumstances, but we live in places from Maine to Florida, and Maryland to Ohio. Indeed, you may be in a very good position to tell us about the station everyone else is struggling with.

The bottom line is, please do report your groundwave stations if you have something interesting, informative, or entertaining to say about it—especially how your local stations are coping with the problem of being an AM station in an FM age.



WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

2301 PACIFIC AVE., ABERDEEN WA 98520

To phone in last minute WDXR tips: (206)532-6827 7-9pm(PLT)
 DEADLINES: Tuesdays 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17

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 820/1150 KQIN WA, Burien-Seattle 12/23 0025 discovered trying to get KGO-810 on truck rx. ID'ing as "KGNW & KQIN" at top of hour. Apparently they signed on early 12/22, but not too early, cuz I listened to KGO's morning news til 0900. Running parallel on both freqs with relig. Per call, it will probably be this way thru 12/31. Then KEZX (now FM only) gets 1150. This kind of parallel is possibly unique in modern radio history. (Like who needs a wimpy 5kw in the same town as a 50kw?) Maybe KGO should have bought KQIN, hi. (JJ-WA)
 +KQIN back on, but with KGNW programming // 1150. ID on the hour as KQIN-Burien, but mentioning that KGNW will be on 820 12/31. Very good, apparently the same KQIN transmitter site. Heard first at 1355 on 12/23. (PM-OR)

- *****
- 530 CJFT ON, Ft. Erie re my logging in WDYR Vol. 24 #10. Even though there were mentions of Ottawa, the ad for the Toyota dealer & the station slogan were for Niagara Falls. Sorry for this error, it was still early in the morning, hi. (CK-CO)
 - 540 KVIP CA, Redding 12/17 1920 very good with relig program. OM PSA for toys for needy children, ID. Never this strong before--at first I thought KSHO was on. (TRH-CA)
 - 620 KSTR CO, Grand Junction 12/16 1857-1902 fair-good for a few minutes with song "Bette Davis Eyes," legal ID, "K-Star" slogan, talk about the "5:00 Report" and "Rick Larsen Sports." New. (TRH-CA)
 - 670 *KBOI* ID, Boise 12/22 0330 with TT o/KPUA/WMAQ. (RW-CA)
 - 710 KMPC CA, Los Angeles MM 12/15 0300 noted with "KMPC Forum" program instead of usual SP. Noted off at 0400 though. (TRH-CA)
 - 720 ?KSAH? TX, Universal City MM 12/15 0600 very weak u/WGN with SS tunes, no discernable ID on hour. (TRH-CA)

- 790 *KABC* CA, Los Angeles 12/22 0304 with OC. (GL-CA)
 (KABC) → 12/22 0344 totally off, on later with TT. KGHL very dominant.
 (RW-CA)
- KKON HI, Kealakekua 11/9 1700 now airs Ai news by satellite on the hour. At last, a place to hear ABC news while KHVH-990 is airing something else. Attention DU & Japan DXers: if you hear ABC news on 990, don't assume it's KABC! (5P-HI)
- 830 KFLT AZ, Tucson 12/ 9 1855 loud o/WCCO with end of relig. program, "The Good Life, KFLT," into IMS news. New. (CK-CO)
- 880 KKMC CA, Gonzales hours are as follows: M-F 0800-0300, Sa-Su 0900-0300. (RW-CA)
- 890 KBBI AK, Homer 12/22 0300-0400 various times during this period, good at peaks in WLS null. NPR program of classical music, ID on hour by YL as "This is KBBI, Homer..." nothing noted after that (s/off?) Per call to station moved to 890 kHz from 1250 "2 weeks ago" (approx. 12/10), 10kw ND. New. (RW-CA)
 +12/26 fair u/o KDXU with soft class. music, ID at 0300. This is a regular, since the move to 890. (PM-OR)
 +12/29 0300 poor but alone, classical music show, low-key anncr with brief announcements and ID. In null of strong TT, probably KDXU. Got this the first MM we tried, so thanks for the tip, Pat Martin! (BH&NH-WA)
- 900 KJSK NE, Columbus 12/16 1816 loud & almost alone with promo for "Back To The Bible," into a relig. song. ID "KJSK, Columbus." New. (CK)
- 940 (KPRE) CA, Fresno 12/22 0328 totally off. CJIB dominant, unID SS (XEQ?) strong in null. (RW-CA)
- 950 ?KMTX? MT, Helena 12/21 0201-0207 poss. the one w/s/off song of "Dream" after AP net news. Gave P.O. Box in s/off, which sounded like it may have been them. Anyone know? (PM-OR)
- 980 KFVB CA, Los Angeles Fr 12/19 1345 noted broadcasting in stereo. Per call to station, they began stereo broadcasting this morning! The C.E. said that they are utilizing the "Broadcast Electronics" system. When I asked him what that meant, he explained that essentially they are using Motorola, but all the systems "work together" now, and are know collectively as "Broadcast Electronics." Currently KFVB is broadcasting a synthesized stereo, but they hope to go true stereo in a month or two. (SMM-CA)
- 1000 ?KVSD? CA, Vista 12/22 1101 tent. o/u KRHS in KOMO null with Judy Garland's "Somewhere Over The Rainbow," other MYL-type music. Very difficult to pick thru KKIS/KIQI slop. Will keep trying... (RW-CA)
- 1060 KAHU HI, Hilo Howzit! Da DX Kahuana Chuck Boehnke wen' say in ASWLC that KAHU got started on 10/10. KAHU stay on 1100-0400 everyday with Hawaiian or blahah music, C&W, an' Filipino shows. Evah heah they come before sunrise & come back aftah sunset. Now, they got da kine commercials! Shaka brah! (A slightly demented 5P-HI, hi)
- 1170 KLOK CA, San Jose 12/22 0317 poor- fair with "ABC" by The Jacksons. (GL-CA)
- 1330 KLBS CA, Los Banos 12/12 0900 finally caught the s/on to get an ID from this one. OM anncr ment. 500 watts. New. (TRH-CA)
- 1340 KSGR ID, Nampa-Boise 12/27 0455 audible with definite "1340, KSGR" under KWVR, confirmed by tape playback. Oldies music, another "KSGR" 0458. Earlier had oldies & a "Solid Gold Radio, KWVR" then country music! I think both KSGR & KWVR ID'd at the same time! (BH-WA)
- KWVR OR, Enterprise-Joseph 12/27 0500 nice legal ID caught on tape, thanks for the tip, Phil Bytheway! Much wanted for 15 years! "Harper Valley P.T.A." ended, "KWVR, Enterprise, Joseph, (???)", then Satellite News Network. Atop the mess. (BH&NH-WA)
 +Had tuned in 0405 just in time for "KWVR, Enterprise," & country music, but didn't have the recorder taping, so waited nearly an hour to confirm. ID 0411 after SMN national ads was too weak to count. ID 0423 mixed with KSGR (see above tip). Local ads 0431 included one for a restaurant 80 miles away without mentioning the town! ID's 0433, 0443, and 0453 (see SMN format in Almanac) missed during fade-outs. (BH-WA)
- 1350 WSMB LA, New Orleans 12/22 0422 not heard in a while, good o/KIDN with local talk show, several ment's of New Orleans, 1340 slop. (RW-CA)
- 1380 KOTE CA, Lancaster per call to KOTE, will change calls to KHJJ on 1/1/87. (RW-CA)

- 1400 KTUC AZ, Tucson 12/19 0300 good o/u 2 other stations with ID "K..., Tucson," into ABC News. (CK-CO)
- KIUN TX, Pecos 12/12 0823 just faded up nicely for ID, "KIUN-KPTX Pecos, Texas." New, TX #34. (TRH-CA)
- CKRP BC, Princeton 12/27 0200 fair above mess with ID "From CKRP, Princeton." (PM-OR)
- 1410 KFMS NY, North Las Vegas 12/21 0540 totally dominant with no fading, with "KFM" IDs. Suspect ET on day pattern. Over KCAL/KERN/CFUN. (RW-CA)
- 1430 KCRV NM, Roswell 12/15 2300 s/off at this early time in EE. Regular programming is in SS. O/u XEOX. (CK-CO)
- 1460 KWFN CA, Santa Rosa 12/24 1500 fair o/u KDON with oldies rr music, Elvis Xmas music. Last time heard call was KQTE. (PM-OR)
- 1470 WMBD IL, Peoria 12/26 fair with ID at 0400 & 0500. (PM-OR)
- 1480 KRED CA, Eureka 12/21 1045 an old friend from the 1960's thru 1984, heard for the first time with local KGHO-1490 on. Country music, "Number One K-Red" by DJ, probably on 5kw. KGHO carefully nulled. Last heard KRED during a KGHO power outage last year. Now that KGHO is NSP on 1490 at $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, this has become DX for me! (BH-WA)
- 1490 KJQN VT, Ogden 12/26 0225 good briefly o/mess with Xmas greetings tagged "JQN," lost in mess. (PM-OR)
- 1550 ?KRPN? VT, West Valley City 12/21 1715 good on early sunset skip, no KKHI or KVAN. Oldies music, mentioned "network" of two FM stations and "1550, WKRP, Salt Lake City," making it sound like a legal ID (wrong calls, wrong city!). By 1800 there was too much KKHI to get a proper legal ID. I know this is them, thanks to previous WDXR reports that they ID as "W-KRP-en-West Valley City" (which they learned from KJQN-1490, "15-KJQ-en-Ogden"). But on call changes (this is ex-KRGO) I do not count it as new unless I actually hear the new call sign. (BH-WA)
- KRGO VT, West Valley City 12/30 1813-1900 excellent with oldie music, Salt Lake City traffic reports, ads, and many "WKRP" slogans. I was all prepared to log "KRPN" as a new station until the 1859 $\frac{1}{2}$ legal ID: "The oldies network--92 FM WKRP in Salt Lake City, 1550 AM KRGO West Valley City, 108 FM KRPN Roy, Ogden & Davis County. Translator station K221CS Fort Douglas-South Salt Lake..." signal cut for pattern/power change. "FM America's satellite. The oldies network, WKRP in Salt Lake City." So...KRGO is still KRGO--the FM changed calls to KRPN. I'm sure glad that I waited for a top of the hour legal ID before counting this as KRPN! (NH)
- 1580 *KDAY* CA, Santa Monica 12/22 0510 with TT's, OC. (RW-CA)

UNIDS:

- 1130 12/22 0312 fading with C&W. (GL-CA)
- 1400 12/22 0416 poor in mess with Larry King in KBLX null. Looped ESE. Not KAAP as they're silent. No other logical choices. Ideas? (RW-CA)

The KRGO-1550 tip should have been in the special interest section, but I got it while I was typing the column! It sure was a surprise. ☺

Jail better than paying radio licence fee

Vancouver Sun
Nov. 15, 1934

One woman went to jail for 10 days. 34 more were fined . . . and one will be served with another summons as the result of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police checkup on evaders of radio licence fees when the offenders appeared in Vancouver Police Court today.

Before hearing any of the cases Magistrate Findlay declared:

"These people are getting a good deal of value for \$2, and it is a very small fee to pay. They would have to pay to go to a show, but in this case they can get good entertainment for which they will not pay \$2. That is all it is for the year."



Left: via John Oldfield

Right: via Steve
Mittman

Q: Could you tell me what Wolfman Jack is up to these days? I haven't seen him since "The Midnight Special" was on.

G M. San Pedro

A: He's quite busy these days, with both a rock oldies radio show syndicated nationally on over 200 stations—KRLA (1110 AM) in L.A. from 8 p.m. to midnight on weeknights—and "The Wolfman Jack Show," featuring Jack and a live band performing from time to time in local nightclubs. There's also two as yet unsold television projects in the works, a series of specials based on the rock 'n' roll hall of fame, and "After Midnight," a late-night talk-music series.

NOV. 30, 1986
LOS ANGELES TIMES

DX Worldwide - West



PAT MARTIN

P.O. BOX 843

SEASIDE, OR 97138

Time: UTC phone (503) 861-3185 DEADLINES: 1/13, 1/20
1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17

We only have a short one for you this week. Best of DX throughout 1987!!
Away with a report from Randy Seaver:

PAN-AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

825 ST. KITTS, Basse-Terre, Radio Paradise vy weak 12/21 at 1001 (RS-CA)
1610 ANGUILLA, The Valley-Caribbean Beacon semi-regular evenings w/rel.
hrd 12/21 at 0452 w/ s/off. Signals usually S7+3 to S8+3 best S8+5
at s/off. (RS-CA)

TRANS-PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

657 D.P.R. KOREA, Kangnam-noted 12/21 1040 w/female talk fair S8+0. The
programs seem much more calm than in the past. This is listed as
1500 KW, if so it must be directional away from us! (RS-CA) (I would
guess they probably beam it into South Korea, if directional.PM)

666 UNID, Far East noted 12/21 1103 vy weak. (RS-CA)
738 UNID, Far East, good het on 740 (KCBS off, KTRH there) on 12/21 1123
1155-1200. Female talk in what sounded like KK, best signal S7+4,
faded on hour (as always) (RS-CA)

765 UNID, Far East 12/21 1053 w/KFMB off, weak S6+3 in noise level (RS-CA)
774 JAPAN, Akita-JOUB noted 12/21 1035 good S9+0, KFMB off makes it much
easier. (RS-CA)

819 UNID, Far East 12/21 1055-1100 had KK lang mostly male talking and
faded on the hour, sounded like a Drama at 1130. Def. not //657 North
Korean. Probably South Korea MBC station in Kwangju. Great het on WBAP.
S20, when WBAP was peaked. Clear in WBAP null. (RS-CA)

828 JAPAN, Osaka-JOBB, noted 12/17 1410, only far East station hrd. On
12/21, noted 0930 w/strange mx, inst. tinkly, then some wailing. Vy
clear, readable due to low noise level. S5+1 Average (RS-CA)

837 JAPAN, Niigata-JOOK-MHK 1, noted 12/21 1041, audible, but weak S6+3 (RS
972 REP. OF KOREA, HLCA KBS station good, but 970 slop on 12/21 1132,
S9+2. Female talking usually. (RS-CA)

1044 P.R. CHINA, FS weak 12/21 1134, poor audio S8+0. Lots of slop from
1050 and 1090 here. (RS-CA)

1053 UNID, Far East, jammer vy good at times 12/21, S9+2 at 1007 (RS-CA)
1500 HAWAII, Honolulu-KUMU-hrd 11/20 1358 ID. HST TC in KHTT null. I've
tried for this for years, but never could catch an ID. (RS-CA) (Good
catch, Randy as this is one of the more rare Hawaiians. It only has
been hrd here a few times. The tough one for me was KKOH-790, before
the strong auroral in 1982.PM)

1566 REP. OF KOREA, Cheju, HLAZ fair 12/21 1150 w/Christmas carols S5+0 (RS)

THANKS TO THIS REPORTER:

RS-CA RANDY SEAVAR-1154 VIA TRIESTE-CHULA VISTA, CA. 92011
HQ-190A, Sanserino unamp. loop (box)

A DXer's TECHNICAL GUIDE

Now in its 2nd edition, this 120-page book answers questions on how receivers work, how to make them work better, what audio filters and loop antennas will do for you, how to build a beverage and phasing unit, and much more. Only \$5.50 for members, \$6.50 for nonmembers (\$2.00 extra for overseas airmail). Write IRCA, P.O. Box 21074, Seattle, WA 98111.

EASTERN DX FORUM

RICHARD EVANS
P.O. Box 1294
NORTH WALES, PA 19454

Deadlines: Fridays
This column typed: 12/28/86

Bill Harns, Box 961, Bad Aibling Station, APO New York, New York 09098

Hi from Bavaria. The last couple weeks have been pretty good on the DX front. I have finally started to hear a lot of TA's. My current TA total is 7 countries, about 20 stations. The furthest west catch has been KMOX-1120. Most of my catches have been the 50 kW "clears" from the U.S.. See the DXWEB for details. I would like to get a little serious for a moment. Let's try to put some perspective on what is going on about the recent controversy as to what should belong in the DX Roundup. I would like to make three suggestions. (These are not proposals to the BoD at this point.) 1. As Bruce Portzer has suggested in recent correspondence to me, perhaps we ought to define or maybe re-define just exactly what is ECB DXing. The ECB DX hobby has gone under some drastic changes since this club was formed in the '60's and I also agree with Bruce that the hobby is past the stage of simply trying to log as many stations as possible. (bp, I hope I paraphrased what you said accurately.) 2. In that light, let's do a minor overhaul of the DXM as to what really belongs in the bulletin. I think that most of the columns that are currently in the DXM belong there. Perhaps this might mean more columns in the bulletin and defining the editorial policy in order to reflect the changes in the hobby. This might help to settle the issue of what belongs where, as this seems to be the "biggest bone of contention". If we get things out in the open where everyone knows, that should eliminate most of the conflict! Life is too short for people to fight with each other, so let's try to resolve this as soon as possible. 3. One of the most important things we can do now is to bring more members into the club. We have already taken some steps, like the free membership offer for recruiting more members and re-instituting the position of publicity chairman. However, there are more things that we can do. I hope all this seriousness hasn't made anybody "up tight". If any one of you would like to make any comments on the above, please send in a forum and of course, I would also appreciate any letters written directly to me. Let's make this hobby fun by dealing with these "serious" matters in a mature way and then go on from there. 73's from Bill in Bavaria.

Ernest Cooper, 5 Anthony Street, Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657

617-487-9337. It is a bit late, but I hope everyone had a very happy Christmas and New Year's Eve, and that 1987 will bring you much happiness, both at the dials and in other matters. About reporting local and semi-local stations to DX Roundups, I feel they do not belong, but I do not believe the editors should delete them either. I think the individual member should be his/her own 'policeman' and report only what is DX to him! Aren't we asked to send our DX to the Roundups? Semi-locals are not DX! I also feel that too much information is sometimes give in the Roundups, like sponsors' names and deejay's names. I can see mentioning the type of programming to look for, but names are too much detail - it seems to boil down to the sender of that detail is actually doing the other guy's DXing for him by giving him all those hints! Then all the reader has to do is sit on the selected channel and wait to hear that name and he has the ID of the station without actually ever hearing a station break. ... I'd like to compliment Gardner Smith on the beautiful way he is presenting his Eastern DX Roundup, but I don't dig all those "ham" abbreviations in this alleged "Exclusive ECB Club", nor do I thrill when I see that term "OK" used in that section and in the Western counterpart. I salute Richard Evans for not using it. (You're welcome--but to be honest nobody sends in the term to me other than you, and I used to answer the phone at work with "Old Man Evans" until the boss got after me--rce) That's why I support this section! It too is strictly amateur radio terminology. Some interesting DX here lately has brought me Turks & Caicos Islands catch #2 in the brand new "Atlantic Beacon"-1570, heard several minutes up to its 0100 s/off on Monday, December 6, doing a number on CHL. They said they'd be back at 0500 EST. It is as the station name implies, a religious outlet, apparently all EL. On 1040 on Sunday 12/14, a tremendous signal 1630-1700 from a station mentioning Montreal frequently, all PP announcing, but much BS singing. I believe it is CHMS, ex-1090 - can anyone confirm (or deny) this? Then two nights later, same time, the channel is overwhelmed by brand new WSGH, Lewisville, NC,

another GOS station, with December s/off of 1715. Both these 1040 stations pushed through between WBZ and WHN, which weak signals won't do. TA's have been making sunset DX difficult with their heterodynes on so many frequencies. I'm working on two on 837 kHz; one I believe being in the Azores (in Portuguese) and the other in the Canary Islands (in S5). They'll be two new countries for me if & when they're identified. Forward - March.

Bill Townshend, 4500 Connecticut Ave NW #901, Washington, DC 20008

202-966-8046. Greetings from Iranscramtown, aka Watergate Town. I wonder if any DXer heard the flea-powered xr used on the recent trans-continental great peace march which ended here on 11/15. Does anyone live near any of the nightly campsites and/or know its power and frequency? The power is probably so low that it could be heard well only in the immediate vicinity of the trailer or the campsite and a DXer living quite close could consider it DX because of its low power. A year ago today WLMF-900 changed its call to WILC and its format from AdCon to SS. Bruce Fortzer, this is a good one for your "Domestic Thingamajig Roundup" column you used to run. Once a station changes its call letters, the old call should be retired for at least a year. Now the call letters (WMLD) could be up for grabs. WZYU-1370 Frederick, MD moved to 820 kHz last Monday (12/15). Greg Monti had a WADKA qtg at his QTH in Mid-November with nine attending, including yours truly. WAKB-1520 Buffalo, NY, WRNL-910 Richmond, VA, and WBAK-990 Orlando, FL (hears three times earlier this month on S6S) have gone oldies. I'd be at home most anywhere in the USA or Canada or DU as far as oldies are concerned. Time for s/off.

John Clemmer, 4524 - 7th Street, #2303, East Moline, Illinois 61244

One of the highlights here in 1986 had to have been my new vanity license plates. While not "DXER" they do say "WLS AM 89". I've gotten quite a few comments about them! I really enjoyed the IRCA convention in Florida in August. There is a good chance I will be to host the 1987 convention in Florida or Chicago. Would be great to host another convention. DXing here has been zilch. I've been listening to the clears a lot especially WJR, WLV, WBAF, WOL, & WJOK. The AM easy jazz/RoR/big band show on WJR is especially nice w/host Jay Roberts. I'm glad to see IRCA adding the Clear Channel column. I see where long time LA personality Gary Owens is now on KFI mornings. Best wishes to everybody in 1987.

Karl J. Zuk, 154 Old Post Road North, Croton, New York 10520

Can you bear a few more words on the Roundup controversy? I think we are all taking this problem much too seriously. The single, most important thing necessary in editing any column is to assess your audience. DX Monitor is read by DXers who are beginners and experts and everything in between. We should encourage our newcomers to learn and improve their skills. We should also serve those who are quite proficient with usefull information. We should always maintain a sense of fraternity and understanding for other members of our club. A club that can be usefull, interesting, and fun to be in, is the sign of a thoughtful, solid and successful organization. In the new year, think of how you can help out other members of IRCA and listen to their thoughts as well as your own. Contribute to the columns! Tell everyone what you've achieved or discovered. Write to a Roundup column as you would if you were trying to QSL a station. If you have a problem or suggestion, send it in. Don't just complain! Suggest! or better still - act. If you think the club needs change, sne me, or another board member, a proposal. It's your club, so use it to our best advantage. Happy New Year and Happy Holiday Season to all! KZ. (Karl, shouldn't proposals actually go to the club president?--rce)

Gary Siegel, 2728 - 106th Street, Toledo, Ohio 43611

Alone IRCAans. It's now been a couple of months since being fresh back from the 1986 IRCA convention. It was a most enjoyable time and while for me personally there were some long drives to get to West Palm Beach it was well worth it. All who attended wished that there were more than 10 attendees but all would agree I'm sure that even though small as it was, it was fun and a success. The weather was great too! Ironically seven states were represented in the gathering with Rich Koebe from California coming the longest distance. I drove the furthest, but George Greene from Akron takes the award for the longest trek in getting to a convention me thinks. George ventured to the World's Fair in Vancouver before catching a jet from Seattle to make the convention. Leave it to George not to go directly from Akron to get anywhere, hi! Congrats to Frank Herril on his 20000 mile trip to Alaska. I think his welcoming committee will have their air rifles ready to shoot him for posing us all with this trip. I can speak from own 3000+ mile trip to Fla. & having driven with John Clemmers and Jerry Shultz 3000+ miles to Calif. 3 years ago, in appreciating what 4 months worth of driving must be like. It had to be a trip of a lifetime. As for the convention it included for me a tour of WBAF-850 & 104.1 but

several others went on a few other tours that host Ted Fleischaker arranged. The auction raised over \$60 with Treasurer John Clemmer feeding slightly over half the amount, way to go John! John and I ventured to Key West after the convention and took in some night life and savored the flavor of that city the next day. Almost seems Central American in some ways. I returned to Ohio via Alabama mainly because it was about the only Eastern state that I hadn't really traversed from end to end. I liked what I saw. New on the air there is WDKT-730 and WURL-760, got tape of the latter. It was neat to tape so many stations while on the drive through, helps pass the long miles. On the way back I also stayed with convention host Ted "Wolf J. Flywheel", as always he proudly showed off Louisville--as well he should, thanks Ted. Another feature of the confab was Glen Hauser's slide show of his many travels. Good to see him and Ron Schatz again. Thanks Ron for the info on Jamaica-350. Anyone know the calls of the TIS outlet off I-75 near Bowling Green, O? They are on 1200 kHz! Anyone notice how too crowded the AM dial is at SSS nowadays since the 8/28/86 treaty ratification? Bye bye DX! 73s.

Rick Evans, P. O. Box 1294, North Wales, Pennsylvania 19454

Well, it's the last EDX column I'll be typing during the 1986 calendar year. We had a good trip south the week prior to Christmas. Spotted a sign for a TIS just below Washington, DC on I-95, but wasn't able to pick it up. wound up listening to WQZK-900 while at Barb's mother. It's one of her locals being only 15 miles away. Talked with Karl Jeter on the way back who passed on the word that the other Ozark, Ala. station WAYD is now on 1200. I've got a note here to try for it on SSS some night, but no chance yet. All the other listening on the trip was done on FM with WSPA-98.9 being the most enjoyable. I can remember cussing out their AM many a night when I was living near Chicago. The new NRC Log was waiting for me when I got home, but haven't really looked at it yet. I got the loose leaf format so I've got to dig out a notebook to put it in. At work I deal with a company which builds radio and TV transmitting towers. In checking their freight bills a year or so ago, I noticed they would have up to 20 or 25 loads of steel out a single antenna site. Three or four weeks ago, I was talking with the purchasing agent for the company and he commented that they had a project coming up for a site in South Carolina which would require about that many trucks--it's 750,000 lbs for the tower itself and 250,000 lbs for the guy wires alone! I commented that it must be an antenna farm, and the guy said no, it's only one tower, some 1938 feet high! It's a TV tower, but I don't know who. He said the delivery date would be in March, but the guy in charge of shipping at the fabricating site says it's now been pushed back to April and most likely will move during the summer. 1986 has seemed like a very short year, and I wonder what 1987 will be like. Gotta run. Have you kept all your resolutions for the New Year so far?, hi. PTL.

.....

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bruce Portzer
6546 19th Avenue Northeast
Seattle, WA 98115

RECENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIVITY

Proposal

- 12.2.1 Confirm the appointment of Gardner Smith as EDXR editor.
- 12.2.2 Confirm the appointment of John Johnson as CDXR editor.
- 12.2.3 Create the position of Publicity Director. (Proposal submitted by Bill Harms)
- 12.2.4 Confirm the appointment of Dale Park as Sports Networks editor.

All directors voted in favor of all the above proposals.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

We received several offers to edit the new DX Techniques column. Pending Board approval, the editor will be Phil Bytheway. Thanks to all who volunteered.

The following positions are currently available:

Programs Editor. Prepare a monthly column on programs which can be heard on selected clear and regional channel stations.

Classified Ads Editor. Type up a summary of items members have for sale, would like to buy, etc.

Verifications Signers. Editor Rob Gerardi has resigned. The column is basically a list of information on verifications received by club members.

Continued next page



Western DX Forum

★ ★ ★ ★

IRCA — The #1 Choice of the Broadcast Band DX'er

Editor: Ric Heald • 8539 Bellamy Way • Sacramento, CA 95828 USA • (916) 386-8677

1986 DEADLINES — WEEKLY ON TUESDAY 11 DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION DATE

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BRUCE PORTZER - 6546 19th Avenue N.E. - Seattle, WA 98115

Hi gang. I hope everyone had a good holiday season and a happy new year. Ric called 1/3 and said there would be no column this issue because his mother is ill. Hope everything returns to normal shortly, Ric. In the meantime, I've got a number of comments I've been meaning to mention.

Our 820 local is back on, in the form of religious station KGNW (x-1150). Ironically enough, they call themselves "Good News Radio" (I'm not sure I agree, hi). In an unusual move, they operated 1150 and 820 in parallel for several days (see Jef's report in WDXR) before vacating 1150 for good at 1800 PST on 12/30. Then at 0000 PST on 12/31, KEZX commenced operation on 1150. KEZX is already a well-established station in town, having been FM-only for many years. They are currently running 100% parallel AM-FM right now. Format is hard to define. Basically it's a mix of a few obscure local artists, some light jazz, plenty of folk-oriented pop, and some top-40 oldies. Artists with frequent airplay include Gordon Lightfoot, Moody Blues, Peter Paul & Mary, Neil Young, etc. Artists they never play include Barry Manilow, Neil Diamond, AC/DC, etc. Oh yes, they also have very laid back announcers---it should be a real challenge pulling them out of the QRM, hi.

A few issues back, Albert Lobel asked if it's possible to broadcast in FM on the AM or SW band, and in AM at VHF freqs. The answer is basically yes, but I'm not sure why anyone would want to. FM broadcast stations require a bandwidth of about 100 kHz, which would make it a little impractical at low freqs. However, narrow band FM is currently used by cordless phones up at 1700 kHz, which can be easily detected on AM radios. As for AM broadcasts in the FM mode, it's feasible. The 108-136 MHz aircraft band uses AM for voice communications already. However, conventional FM broadcast receivers are designed to reject AM signals and would never pick up an AM transmitter in that band.

I've noticed warbling on some local channels, similar to what Pete Taylor described in the 12/13 DXM. 1470 and 1220 are the two which come to mind because they're favorite DX frequencies. I also get audio from KMPS-1300 on 1166 and 1434 kHz, and from KJR-950 on 1024 and 876 kHz. My best guess is that both sets of signals are related to AM stereo operation.

That does it for this week. Good DX to everyone in 1987, DX often, and report often to DX Monitor!

Continued from previous page

Publicity Director. Come up with ways to promote the IRCA to prospective members.

Contest Manager. Organize DX contests for the club.

If you would like to contribute time and effort to the club (say 3-4 hours a month), and can type, then by all means volunteer for any of the above positions. If you have any questions on them, let me know and I'll be happy to answer them.

1987 CONVENTION

This year's convention will tentatively be held somewhere in the midwest. See John Clemmer's Forum for additional details.

CLUB ELECTIONS

Don't forget to nominate your choices for President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Board of Directors. The deadline is January 15. See the last 3 DXMs for more details.



ESKAB PLAM OPTION FOR THE ICOM R71

by Don Moman

The option we've all been waiting for! Phase Locked AM (PLAM) detection significantly reduces the distortion caused by selective fading, a situation that occurs most frequently on the shortwave bands, though it does occur on mediumwave also. As a selective fade goes across an AM signal, the carrier is lost momentarily. This causes a conventional AM detector problems, since it needs a carrier for proper demodulation. The result is a highly distorted signal for a second or so, until the carrier fades back in. Since the PLAM system uses only one of the two sidebands to produce audio, and is only dependent on the carrier for the reference locking signal, the overall effect of the fade is greatly reduced, often to the point where you don't notice it. The SONY ICF-2010 was the first hobbyist receiver to incorporate a PLAM circuit. One problem I noticed with the Sony, and several others have told me they had the same experience, was that when the carrier faded, and lock was momentarily lost, the circuit might not lock on properly when the carrier returned. The result would be an annoying low frequency growl, quite audible. The design of the ESKA board is such that I've never noted this or any other undesirable side effect. Circuit time constants are chosen so that the receiver's frequency will be maintained for short periods when the carrier is lost. During longer periods, the set just reverts back to the conventional USB or LSB mode.

PLAM also makes "ECSS" type tuning (or, more properly NSHD--non-synchronous heterodyne detection, when you tune an AM signal using the BFO in either the USB or LSB mode) almost automatic since once you get close to the correct frequency, the phase lock circuit will take over and keep the receiver properly tuned. With the PLAM board, NSHD becomes SHD! Manually tuning the R71 (most other sets are even harder) to exactly zero beat the AM signal is tricky, especially with weak, fading, drifting or heavily interfered with signals. You get close, but since the minimum tuning step is 10 Hz (unless you have done the Shortwave Horizons RIT mod, which gives you infinite resolution) you may be as much as 5 Hz off. Depending on the filter chosen and the position of the pass band control, you may be able to hear the results of being off frequency, even by a few Hertz. With the PLAM board, a lock range of about 70 Hz is maintained throughout the entire tuning range. This still requires rather precise tuning, but it's not hard to accomplish; your ears can easily hear the improvement when the PLAM locks in, and a front panel LED serves as a lock indicator. The lock range on the Sony ICF-2010 is much wider; 300 Hz at least, often more, necessary since the minimum tuning steps on 2010 are 100 Hz, compared with 10 Hz on the R71.

The PLAM board I tested was the final version but still hand made. The board mounts in place of, or on top of, the EX 257 FM option board. The FUNCTION LED on the R71 now also serves as the "lock" LED. Half of the noise blanker width switch is used to turn on the PLAM option. This means that you are restricted in choosing the noise blanker width (in PLAM mode you must be in wide) but really I find this no problem at all. There aren't many (any?) other points that are easily accessible and not essential, so the NB3 width control is the only practical way to do it. There are about 17 wires that must be soldered into various points in the R71. The instructions are complete and very detailed, with numerous diagrams to eliminate any possible errors. The trickiest part is the soldering, as many of the wires are tied onto the leads of existing components. You MUST have a small iron with a fine tip, plus some soldering ability to install this mod. Nothing good comes easy, I guess.

Calibration should be done for optimum performance. The internal REFERENCE and USB/LSB oscillators may need to be adjusted slightly to obtain the desired goal of achieving lock approximately 30 Hz on either side of the exact frequency of the station and to make the display of the R71 indicate that exact frequency. The display of the R71 is not a frequency counter, it merely indicates what the receiver's internal logic thinks it is tuned to. For the two to match, all the internal oscillators must be accurately adjusted. The manual goes through several ways of doing this, both with and without test equipment. An oscilloscope, or at least, a DC voltmeter would be handy to have. I have also described similar calibration procedures in the R71 Performance Manual. If you have done everything correctly, and if the station is exactly on channel (e.g. 15070.00 kHz) you should be able to key in a frequency (this sets the undisplayed 10 Hz logic to zero) and obtain lock for about 30 Hz on either side of the center

frequency. Improper calibration or off frequency transmitters will make it necessary to manually tune for proper lock. The ICOM CR-64 high stability oscillator option is recommended to reduce warmup drift and improve long term stability.

In many cases, especially for weak signal reception, engaging the PLAM option can make a substantial improvement in the amount of recovered audio. The lower frequency audio range in SSB on R71 is very restricted, and the PLAM board contains a capacitor (22 uF connected between R157 and R158) to extend the lower tones. Also the 2.8 filter is selected automatically in the PLAM mode. The overall improvement is impressive, and I find myself using the PLAM mode just about all the time, even on good strong signals. The mods I had done to my R71 including the 6 kHz filter, "true" pass band tuning etc didn't cause any problems and worked even better in conjunction with the PLAM option.

A PLAM option for the R70 should be available soon. A 4 kHz high quality crystal filter is also available from this company, and can be used anywhere the FL-33 6 kHz filter is used. In Canada, the PLAM board will cost Can\$229 and the 4 kHz filter is Can\$79. They are available from Shortwave Horizons, #61-52152 Range Rd. 210, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8G 1A5. In the U.S.A., they are available from Radio West. (ed. note: according to Radio Netherlands Media Network, Radio West has changed hands and is now in Vista, CA 92083, but darned if I could decipher the street address. Phone number is now 619-726-3910.) (originally from CIDX Messenger)

* * * *

NEWS FROM EUROPE

via Ben Peters, except where indicated

One thing for MW DXers to note regarding the JRC NRD-525 is that it uses a series of indicators on the fluorescent display as a signal strength "meter". Ben Peters has found that this indicator does not give a good idea of what your loop antenna is doing. Nulling, peaking and tuning a loop are not easy exercises while using the NRD-525, as nulls and peaks are not defined well by the indicator.

*

Edivis, P.O. Box 32001, S-20064 Malmoe, Sweden, makers of the above R71 PLAM option, is also proposing to sell a modified JRC NRD-525 with improved selectivity, an added PLAM circuit and possibly a converter for 87-137 MHz. These modifications are apparently sufficiently complex that no add-on kits will be sold, just the radios with options already wired in. Radio West will handle these in U.S.A. (R. Netherlands Media Network)

*

The Kenwood R-5000, a new 100 kHz to 30 MHz receiver from this well-known Japanese company--has anyone seen/tried one yet? This radio is apparently the receiver section from the TS-440S transceiver, and seems to be close to the ICOM R-71 in its specifications, that is, fine intermodulation performance and sensitivity (somewhat reduced sensitivity on MW), somewhat less selectivity than desirable without use of optional IF filters, and any number of bells and whistles, such as keyboard and tuning knob frequency selection, 100 memory channels, scanning facilities, clock/timer, switchable AGC and noise blanker, notch filter, "IF shift" plus various options. The price is supposed to be similar to that of the R71 (about Can\$1200 in Canada according to Don Moman; a bit less than the R71). This should be (have been?) available in Europe in the late fall of 1986, so presumably North American availability will be at a similar time.

*

Two devices are available from Surrey Electronics, The Forge, Lucks Green, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7BG, England.

The first is their Advanced Active Aerial. Right off, its price of £500 plus shipping should stop anyone in their tracks, but although it seems similar to other active antennas in appearance (a whip and amplifier placed high up, then coax leading to a control box with attenuators and tuner next to the receiver), it covers 4 kHz to 40 MHz, and has a very high signal handling capability. It is intended to be used near powerful MW and LW transmitters, yet its sensitivity is claimed to be limited by atmospheric noise on the tropical bands and lower.

The second device is a considerably modified Yaesu FRG-8800. Mods include superior IF filtering, improved AGC response, and improved image rejection, improved audio quality and S-meter, as well as buffered IF output. Intermodulation distortion at the RF input is not improved. These modifications appear to be aimed at the commercial monitoring market, rather than at DXers, and the price is £720 plus shipping.

Further details on either item from Surrey Electronics.

ARE Communications, 38 Bridge St., Earlstown, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside WA12 9BA, England is producing a converter which extends coverage of the Yaesu FRG-9600 and other VHF/UHF receivers down to 500 kHz. It seems to be a generally good performer when monitoring SW SSB transmissions, but AM filter bandwidths are unsuitable for the best quality reception of AM transmissions. "MW reception is practically useless, with many images and spurious signals" Be warned. (Sweden Calling DXers, via Paul Swearingen)

*

Two loop antenna plans are available from F.G. Rylands, 39 Parkside Avenue, Millbrook, Southampton SO1 9AF, England. One is a ham band receiving and transmitting loop; plans are £5. The other is a 21" square long and medium wave receiving loop and the plans are £3. (Unfortunately, the latter loop plans are not tremendously clear, and refer you to British suppliers (naturally) for tuning capacitors and the like. Someday I'll have to build one and find out for certain, but I suspect that this loop would not be as sensitive or as good at nulling as some better-known do-it-yourself designs. --ed.)

*

Radio Netherlands Media Network ran a program on MW DXing featuring IRCA's own Ben Peters on November 13, and is now offering their own package on loop antennas and MW DXing. It's free for the asking from them at Box 222, Hilversum, Holland. Mark your envelope "loop information". R. Netherlands is also offering their "Receiver Shopping List" at the same address (mark your envelope with "Receiver Shopping List".) This is a brief analysis of various popular receivers' capabilities, and is also free for the asking. (NHP)

* * * *

Oddments from Elsewhere

Matt Stutterheim sends word that his local Agway store unknowingly sells Beverage antenna supplies--principally #17 electric fence wire ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile for \$9.95) and 4' long fiberglass supports at \$1.19 each. (Check out electric fence wire, though check its resistance if you can, as the brands I've seen are mostly stranded plastic with a few thin wire strands woven in. It may be stronger than #34 wire, but it will still have quite a high loss. J & J Electronics, P.O. Box 1437, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2Z4 has a sale price on hookup wire at Can\$100 for 10,000 feet for the real Beverage enthusiast. This is #20 stranded. --ed.)

*

The "First Steps in Radio" series by Doug DeMaw which ran in QST awhile back has now been gathered together into a book by the ARRL, with the same title as the series. It's priced at US\$5 for U.S. residents, \$5.50 for those outside the U.S., and shipping is \$1 extra. Order from ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. Although aimed at the radio amateur, a large portion of this series is worthwhile for any beginning (and some not so beginning) experimenter in do-it-yourself communication electronics.

*

Radio Plus+, 3635 Chastain Way, Pensacola, FL 32503 has just put out its 1987 catalog. It includes Sony and Panasonic portables, and they hope to sell the Kenwood R-5000. For the experimenter and homebrewer, one mechanical and several ceramic IF filter types are offered at reasonable prices--in fact this seems to be the only U.S. distributor which stocks such items in single lots. Selectivity modification kits for several receivers are also sold, as are a couple of antennas and some books. The Phase One, Superloop and DX Recorder offered in the 1986 catalog have had trouble getting off the ground unfortunately, but if you're interested in one or more of these, write. There is a phone line for orders and technical questions: 904-434-2216 between 6-10 PM Central time Sunday through Thursday. Send a couple of stamps when you ask for the catalog.

*

In the September 1986 issue of Radio-Electronics, there appeared a very worthwhile article for the homebrew circuit builder: "From Brainstorm to Breadboard" by David J. Sweeney. The basic premise of the article is that by pre-planning and committing all such plans to paper, as well as any changes or observations as the project progresses, the builder can avoid complications such as controls that won't fit the space available, and has a "paper trail" to follow when the unit needs to be debugged (as it almost always does...) Such documentation and planning can save time and effort, if only one can get into the habit of doing it. Such an approach is also useful if one must complete a project in fits and starts due to other demands on one's time...I know the feeling!

Larry King: From pauper to media prince

By Ray Richmond
Herald staff writer

Life began a second time for Larry Zeiger in his 43rd year, just after he filed for bankruptcy back in January 1978. The Mutual Broadcasting System took a chance on him despite a tainted past and gave the veteran broadcaster his own national overnight radio talk show on all of 23 stations across the United States.

Now it's 8½ years later, and Zeiger — better known as Larry King — is on the roll of his life. His all-night interview and call-in radio gabfest has won a Peabody Award and airs on a whopping 285 stations, including KFI (640-AM) locally from midnight to 5 a.m. His 60-minute television interview show on Cable News Network, "Larry King Live" (weeknights at 6 on the West Coast), is the top-rated show on CNN after a year on the air and has tripled the audience of interview show predecessor Sandi Freeman.

King has appeared in two recent hit films, "Ghostbusters" and "Lost in America." He continues to write a column each Monday for USA Today and still covers special assignments for NBC Sports. His salary is well up in the mid-six-figure range. And he's a regular overnight guest at Gov. Mario Cuomo's mansion in New York, where the hired help ask him things like, "Would you care for an aperitif before retiring?"

Not too bad for a Jewish street kid from Brooklyn who still extinguishes cigarettes on the soles of his shoes. How does it go — you can take the kid off the street but you can't ... oh, never mind.

That's not to say King isn't in heaven over his newfound riches and celebrity. He arrived in Los Angeles earlier this week to do five radio shows out of both KFI's studios and the Sheraton Premiere Hotel in Universal City (which concluded yesterday) wearing a contented grin that stretches from here to the Washington Monument. At 51, he's at the top of his game and he knows it.

But Larry King isn't the type of guy to forget where he came from — namely, oblivion. His story goes something like this: Neophyte starts behind radio microphone in 1957 at age 23. Lands a talk show three years later and becomes the toast of Miami, a must for every celebrity. It grows into TV and a daily newspaper column as well as all sorts of sports coverage. With fast fame come faster cars and innumerable women. He involves himself with the wrong crowd, gambling too much, living high and becoming one of the city's grand playboy media personalities.

It all comes crashing down in a sea of debt and even a jail sentence in 1971. His name is poison in the broadcast business and he can't find even part-time work. A marriage disintegrates. He borrows money from Peter to pay Paul and by 1976 lists debts of \$350,000. He files for bankruptcy and soon thereafter is offered the radio show with Mutual, ultimately deciding to allow others to handle his finances.

No, Larry King doesn't forget. No way.

"I have it there with me every day," he says, relaxing in a studio at KFI earlier this week. "I remember I came to Los Angeles looking for work in 1973. I dropped off a tape at this very station, in fact, but nothing clicked. A friend of mine had to wire me money to get back to Miami. I think he sent \$150. The plane ticket was \$111. The taxi to get to the airport was \$38 and change. I get off the plane in Florida without a penny and no job.

"Now I come to L.A. and there's a limo waiting to pick me up, a luxury rental car, a producer traveling with me, equipment imprinted with 'The Larry King Show.' It's like, Jesus, can this really be happening?"

King pinches himself a lot these days. And it only gets better. The Guinness Book of World Records is entering King in its next edition as the first broadcaster to work in four major mediums simultaneously: commercial network TV (NBC), network cable (CNN), network radio and national newspaper (USA Today). This is after Guinness had already honored him for spending more total hours on network radio than anyone in history.

So it's kind of difficult to avoid seeing or hearing King somewhere lately, but no one seems to object. All indications are that he deserves every morsel of good fortune to pass his way. King is enormously talented, some say the finest, toughest interview anywhere. He's charming. He's funny, and a marvelous spinner of yarns. Perhaps most impressive of all, there doesn't appear to be a phony bone in King's body. When he gives the impression of being a street tough, it's accurate. Not even a million bucks can change that.

Being a celebrity in his own right is fun, but King maintains he could never go Hollywood. One look at his wardrobe of striped shirts matched with paisley ties is proof of that.

"I never want to lose the street approach to my job," says King. "Usually my questions are one sentence, two sentences tops, with a lot of 'Whys.' It's not unfriendly and it's certainly respectful of the guest. That's the way I've always been. The difference in being well-known, I guess, is that now the guest is as looking forward to meeting me as I am them. If you're good, it doesn't take away any of your edge."

And King is good. Age has mellowed the man (he says things like "Making this kind of money allows me to put something away for my daughter") but hasn't dimmed his curiosity a whole lot. That, he says, is what makes him a solid interviewer.

"I've never been a big believer in heavy preparation," relates King. "All you need to perform a good interview is be aware of what's going on in the world and curious. To me, curiosity means not knowing the answer to the question before you ask it, which takes you completely out of the interview. The person might as well be talking to himself."

Because King has so much time to go in depth with guests, generally an hour, he tries to go into an interview with the idea that things will flow off the top of his head. He doesn't read the books of authors who are on either radio or TV with him "so I'll have a healthy curiosity about the book. That's always made sense to me."

King figures that if you flip on a talk show, the guest should be talking 98 percent of the time or something's wrong. "And," he adds, "there no reason an interviewer should ever use the word 'I,' which is totally self-serving. I won't ask show-offy questions, either, like, 'I don't think I've ever asked you this

before.' Then there's Barbara Walters kind of stuff like 'If you could be a tree, what kind of tree would you be?' or 'What's your definition of love?' That's all crap."

Good questions, like good guests, are both entertaining and informative, believes King. In King's book, a perfect guest embodies four characteristics: an ability to explain what he or she does well, a passion for what he does, a sense of humor and a little bit of a chip on his shoulder. He cites as examples Frank Sinatra, L.A. Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda and certain political figures like Mario Cuomo.

"Most great guests have three of the four," he notes. "Jimmy Hoffa was terrific, but he lacked the ability to laugh at himself."

Does King use a different technique when interviewing for the tube instead of over the anonymous radio airwaves? "Yes, you have to be more brief and rush things more," he finds. "Especially when you take phone calls on TV, you had better be quick because if a question takes more than 20 seconds, you're really in trouble. It's just two blank heads on camera."

"If you're a TV news anchor, your executive producer wants this and your news producer wants that, and it breeds nothing but conflict," points out King. "I'm less affected by management control because the shows are difficult to categorize and they're live. They can't ask me to do a retape."

It's that very free-wheeling tone on the radio show that has transformed an estimated 3 million or 4 million Americans into certifiable nightly Kingoholics. The interviews are only part of it. The nightly two-hour "Open Phone America" segment remains one of broadcasting's more entertaining forums for late-night complaints, meaningless trivia, arguments, political diatribe and random thoughts. King comes off well-schooled in a number of areas, scoring especially well in politics and his first passion, sports.

They call from everywhere — big cities to podunk towns — all of them met by King's trademark guttural vocal greeting. "Tulsa, hello ..." "Detroit, come in ..." Producer Pat Piper says people wait on the line for hours, through 200, 300 and more rings, waiting for a chance to share a midnight chat with King. There's no call screener, merely a six-second delay between words and air.

"We've had people call from pay phones on the highway," says Piper. "And think about it, we're it, we're not talking about afternoon rush hour here. This is midnight of the East Coast. One time a guy driving along the Garden State Parkway in Atlantic City pulled off the road to a call box, called up the show and stood there waiting for more than an hour."

Indeed, Kingaholicism is a disease. The only cure is more Larry. Most listeners around the country get six hours of King each night till dawn, four hours live and a repeat of the first two on tape (KFI runs five hours total). The revamping of his schedule earlier this year changed his on-air hours in the East to 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. from midnight to 5:30 a.m. It helped, because "when you go until 3, you feel like you're up late," King says. "When you go to 5 or 5:30, you've been up all night and



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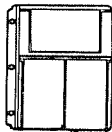
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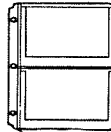
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It feels like it."

Not that it makes his hours any more regular. King is eating dinner at midnight all this week while he does his program at 8 p.m. (for 11 p.m. airing back East). But he loves it.

"I'm tired, but there's something about that light going on -- I can't explain it," says King.

And what of the future? Where

does Larry King expand from here now that he's quickly running out of new mediums to conquer?

"I'm not much for goals," he admits. "I once asked Mario Cuomo if he wanted to be president, and he said, 'You know, Larry, governor of New York ain't bad. What do you want to be, the talk show host of the moon?' I don't know. Maybe other planets are the way to go."

Los Angeles Herald-Examiner

June 7, 1986

via Father Jack Pejza

IRCA SportsCentre

Dale Park, KH6DXST
2355 Kamealii Avenue
Honolulu HI 96815-1545

Happy New Year! (Or as Jackie Vernon would say, "Happy new year.") Anyway, welcome to 1987, in what promises to be another Great Year in Sports, highlighted by the Super Bowl in Pasadena, CA, the America's Cup yachting series in Western Australia, and the Pan-American Games in Indianapolis. And, perhaps an IRCA SportsCentre chock-full of information, if you help. A short column again, with the NBA flagships being featured.

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Sacramento KINGS
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680 KNBR-CA
740 KTRH-TX
710 KMPC-CA
570 KLAC-CA
620 KJAR-AZ
620 KGW--OR
1530 KFBK-CA
1200 WOAI-TX
710 KIRO-CA
570 KLUJ-UT

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New Jersey NETS
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Philadelphia 76ERS
Washington BULLETS

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660 WRKC-MA
670 WMAQ-IL
1100 WWVL-OH
950 WKJ--MI
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620 WTMJ-WI
1130 WNEW-NY
660 WNBC-NY
560 WFIL-PA
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	FM:		95.9 WLVC-CT+	

NOTE: 1. Now reported with night coverage.

TAKE A SKINHEAD BOWLING: For the record, here is a list of college bowl games that had national radio coverage, and the networks that aired them:

CBS—John Hancock-Sun Bowl, El Paso TX, Dec. 25; Cotton Bowl, Dallas, Jan. 1.
MBS—Aloha Bowl, Aiea HI, Dec. 27; Sea World-Holiday Bowl, San Diego, Dec. 30;
Bluebonnet, Houston, Dec. 31; All-American, Birmingham, Dec. 31; USFGG-Sugar Bowl, New Orleans, Jan. 1.
NBC—Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, Dec. 27; Liberty Bowl, Memphis, Dec. 29; Rose Bowl, Pasadena CA, Jan. 1; Orange Bowl, Miami, Jan. 1; AND THE BIG ONE, Sunkist-Fiesta Bowl, Tempe AZ, Jan. 2.

JOCKEY SHORTS: 680 KNBR-CA will have to hire a new broadcast team for its San Francisco GIANTS coverage next season as both Hank Greenwald and Phil Stone are out; one withdrawn candidate is Don Robbs, as he is now back at 990 KHVH-HI and will resume calling Univ. of Hawaii baseball...Hartford WHALERS of the NHL are now on an expanded 10-station network covering 9 cities, led by 1080 WTIC-CT. Either the flagship station is extremely directional at night, has limited coverage in daytime, or its sales staff sold a lot for the affiliation rights, hi...NBC sportscaster Bob Costas now has his own national teletalk sports show, "Costas Coast-to-Coast," airing at 2100-2300 EST Sundays. Guests so far have included John Madden, Dick Enberg, Billy Packer and Al McGuire. Affiliates include 610 WIOD-FL, 670 WMAQ-IL, 850 WHDH-MA, 990 KHVH-HI, 1080 KRLD-TX and 1130 WISN-WI. The show's distributed by Clayton-Webster Corp. of St. Louis, packagers of "The Sporting News Report," "Bob Costas's Sports Flashback," and "The Comedy Show With Dick Cavett."

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK: Richard E. Berg-Andersson, NY; NRC via Harold Frodge, ASWLC.

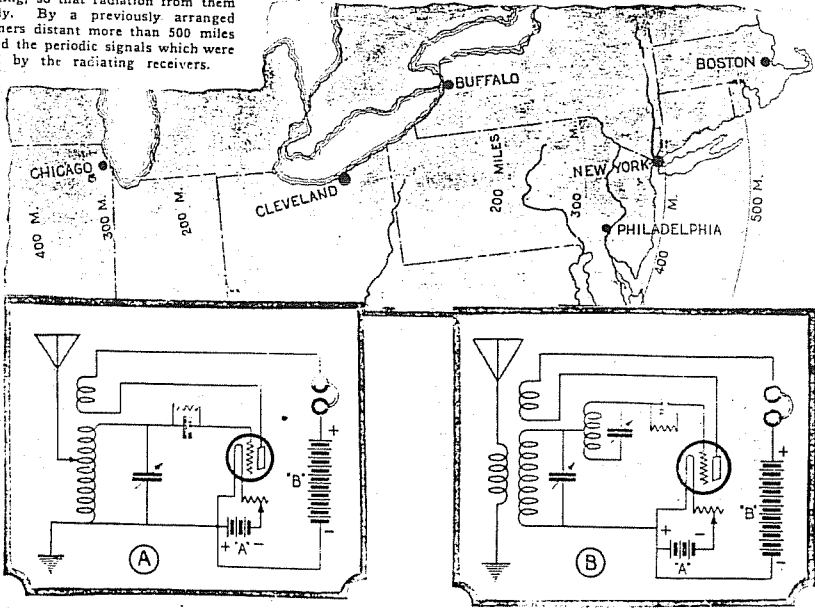
This was typed Dec. 30. That's it; I'm outta here! See you in DXH.

Get-togethers

Here's news of 2 DX Gettogethers on February 21:
Los Angeles: SCADS will meet 10 am to 3 pm at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 1900 E. Carson St., Long Beach. For more details, send SASE to Don Schmidt, 3809 Rose Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807.
Seattle: There will be a get-together at the home of Bruce and Evelyn Portzer, 6546 19th Avenue NE, Seattle from 3 pm until whenever. Bring potluck junk food, plus show and tell items. For more info call 2065222521.

Does Your Set Radiate?

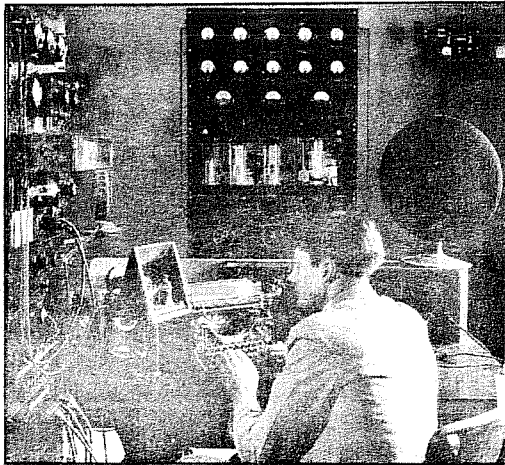
In recent tests conducted at Cleveland, several receiving sets of the single circuit variety were started oscillating, so that radiation from them occurred freely. By a previously arranged schedule, listeners distant more than 500 miles easily discerned the periodic signals which were transmitted by the radiating receivers.



Practically every single-circuit set will radiate. It does so when the tube starts oscillating at radio frequency. When an audible squeal is generated in the phones, it does not necessarily mean that the set is radiating. An audio squeal cannot be transmitted without a radio frequency carrier. Squeals are the product of the difference in radio frequencies of the oscillating circuit and an incoming radio wave of some oscillating circuit. One hears the beat frequency. Fig. A depicts the single circuit regenerative set, while B shows how it may be altered so as to eliminate all possibility of radiation. The resistance of the antenna system, the degree of feed-back coupling and the power input to the tube control the radiating property of a set. B cannot radiate because no energy is fed back into the antenna circuit.

Above: Science and Invention
May 1925
via Rob Gerardi

Right: Seattle Times
December 28, 1986



An operator at KOMO Radio monitored telegraph wires while keeping watchful eyes on big, water-cooled tubes in equipment typical of 1926. KOMO is marking its 60th year on New Year's Eve.

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The IRCA is a non-profit organization devoted to the hobby of hearing distant stations on the AM Broadcast Band (510 - 1630 KHz). "DX Monitor", the official publication of the IRCA, is published 34 times a year, weekly from October to March, twice in September and April, and monthly from May to August. "DX Monitor" contains members' loggings, articles on radio stations, receiver reviews, technical articles, DX tips, and other material of interest to Broadcast Band DX hobbyists. IRCA is a member of ANARC, the Association of North American Radio Clubs.

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