

# DX MONITOR

THE OFFICIAL  
PUBLICATION  
OF THE



INTERNATIONAL  
RADIO CLUB  
OF AMERICA

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO BROADCAST BAND DXING

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## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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Here it is: one more year until the twentyfifth anniversary. This coming year is a big one for us. We're hitting our first quarter century at a time when the hobby is going through some major changes. New AM stations are coming on the air on previously clear channels; there's talk of expanding the AM band to 1700kHz; many stations are going dark, but others are coming on the air as FM clones, satellite feeds, or with ethnic formats; foreign DX has become more difficult due to the added interference and poorer than normal conditions. Nonetheless, we continue to maintain our enthusiasm for the hobby. As a buildup to next year's 25th anniversary, I propose we concentrate on two things to make an already good club better: one is to increase the size of our club, by bringing in more new members than ever before. The other is to start an in-depth look at the hobby, with more features and articles in the pages of DX Monitor. With so many changes taking place these days, it's time we took another look at all aspects of our hobby. We'll have more on both topics in the weeks to come. 73, bp.

## News from Headquarters

This week we have some more excerpts from "Radio Doings". Except this time, they're from 1925 vintage issues and supplied by Jim Hilliker. Jim and Doug must shop at the same antique shows. hi.

This issue is being typed on my PC and newly purchased printer. It's the first time I've tried using a word processor to prepare the front page, so if anything comes out strange you'll know why. Along those lines, there was a typo on page 3 of last week's DX Monitor.

The fifth line from the bottom of the page should say "NRSC Processor" instead of "normal processor". The discussion should now make more sense, hi. Also, the handwritten labelling on the horizontal axis should say "kHz from carrier freq"; the labelling on the vertical axis should say "10 db".

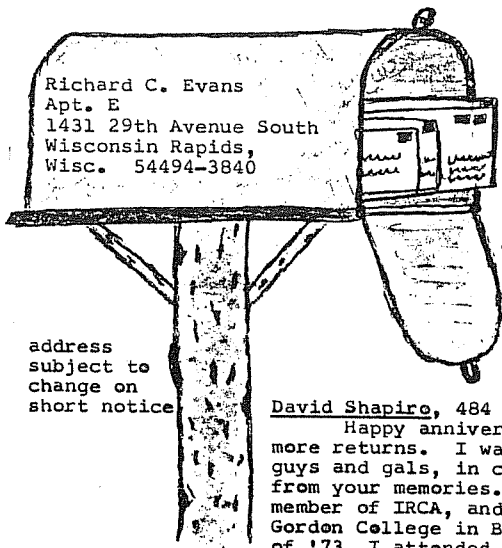
Once again, here are the remaining issues for this volume:

- #28 April Fool (April 2)
- #29 April 9
- #30 April 23
- #31 May 14
- #32 June 11
- #33 July 9
- #34 August 6

Deadlines for receiving material at HQ is one week before the above dates. Editors' deadlines are as listed in their columns.

## FLASH TIPS

Robert Wien has some additions to the silent periods list which appeared in the 3/5 DX Monitor: KDWN-720 is off MMs 0300-0800. CBU-690 is off daily 0405. KDXU-890 now seems to have a nightly SP at 0500. KCBS-740 now seems to go off SMs at 0300. KFBK-1530 off occasional MMs at 0400. KROW-780, KOA-850, KNBR-680, KGO-810, KEX-1190 & too many others are NSP. Bob did, however, note KEX-1190 off 3/14 at 0500. He also says KHIT-970 Spokane is now KTRW..... Meanwhile, Nick Hall-Patch has tentatively heard Taiwan-1521... Rob Harrington says KCMP-1010 is not off the air, but still on with a c/w format.... Finally, Bill Nittler hrd KSPN-610 Aspen CO, ex KRVV, //FM.



# EASTERN DX FORUM

Reports from members living east of the Mississippi River

New Deadlines: 3/18 3/25 4/8  
4/29 5/27 6/24 7/22

This column typed: 3/12/88

address  
subject to  
change on  
short notice

David Shapiro, 484 Hammond Drive, Griffin, GA 30223  
Happy anniversary to our beloved IRCA and many more returns. I want to reintroduce myself to you guys and gals, in case my living legend has slipped from your memories. I am an off and on, mostly on, member of IRCA, and I am now a journalism student at Gordon College in Barnesville, GA. Way back in July of '73, I attended the IRCA Hammond, IN Convention and outbidded all you oldtimers, during an IRCA

Auction. I use a Panasonic, portable Rx, Radio Shack Patrolmen DX Rx, and a portable GE Rx. My best DX catch is Radio Belize on what used to be 835 kHz from my former location of Des Moines, Iowa, the lad of the WCCO Nightly powerhouse. At the present time, I am gathering information about all aspects of Hispanic Radio and am seeking information on any trade periodicals and annual dictionaries on the subject. I like the glorious histories and legends of the X stations on our borders. Their legends are very colorful. Long live the XEs forever! 73s.

Karl Forth, 2714 North LeClaire Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60639  
Happy Anniversary IRCA! I've been a member now for 15 years, and I'm somewhat surprised that I'm still active in medium wave DXing! Here's a re-intro: I'm 32, single, and an associate editor for an aviation trade magazine. My job involves writing feature articles and news stories, research, photography, proofreading and laying out pages. Over the past few years, I've had the chance to travel to many parts of the country to do a number of interesting stories, including a profile of Goodyear's "blimp base" in Houston, a story on the Albuquerque balloon fiesta, and an article on a Piper Cub reunion in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. I've been an active medium wave DXer for 17 years, and have heard 2,471 stations with 1,260 verifications from 49 states and 10 provinces, with 1,500 stations taped. I've also logged stations from 39 countries. My primary BCB receiver is still the good old twelve-tube Hammarlund HQ-160, which performs well considering its age. I use a home-built spiral loop with the HQ-160, and that combination is a good one for the crowded broadcast band. I also have an ICOM IC-R70 that I use mostly for shortwave DXing. In addition to medium wave and shortwave DXing, I also occasionally tune around the FM band and through the TV channels, especially during E-skip openings in the summer. Other interests include travel, maps, Chicago sports, reading, photography, and running. As I mentioned in a Forum a few weeks ago, my big radio-related project for the winter was to go through all of my old radio club bulletins and get rid of a lot of them. That turned out to be an interesting project. By reading the old bulletins, I remembered how much fun it all had been 10 or 15 years ago, and how fascinated many of us were with anything that had to do with radio. Recent events on medium wave have been discouraging, and the future for BCB DXing does not look good. But I haven't given it up yet! 73.

John Clemmer, 4524 7th Street, #2303, East Moline, Illinois 61244  
Happy Anniversary IRCA! It is hard to believe that this is the 12th year I've been in the club. The traditional re-intro, I'm 29, single, and am an auditor for the Illinois State Board of Education. I grew up in Peoria and started DXing in 1976. DXing is just about a thing of the past here but I listen a lot to the clear channel stations -- WLW, WHAS, WBAP, etc. I'm currently serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the club. Other

interests include travel, photography, movies and record collecting. I had a great time hosting the 1987 IRCA convention in Peoria. There were 21 in attendance and everyone seemed to have a nice time. Looks like I'll be in Louisville in October. Good DX and 73.

Dale Park, 1516 Hinman Avenue, #705, Evanston, Illinois 60201

Happy Anniversary IRCA! As is tradition I'm sending in my annual Anniversary forum, albeit to a different address than before. Briefly, I'm 26 years old, and treading water at nearby Northwestern University, where I hope to earn a graduate degree in Radio-TV-Film. That takes up most of my time. The free time I have left is partly spent on medium wave DX'ing and writing the DX Monitor column "IRCA SportsCentre", now entering its second season. If I do have a smidgen of seconds left, I spend it working on the club Almanac, doing the Sports section. I've been an IRCAn for about 4.5 years. Being one has its advantages such as quality and plentiful tips, a fine staff, and a wonderful Board of Directors. Plus an excellent bulletin at a bargain price. I haven't calculated my DX totals yet but I've done better here than back home in Hawai'i, hi. I'm also a member of ASWLC, NASWA, and that other club with an aviary at HQ. Hope to see you at ANARCON 1988 in California. Good luck on your job-hunting, Richard, and say hi to Larry the Legend over at WISN for me. (Thanks, but WISN is 170 miles down the road from me. It's closer to you!--rce)

Tom Laskowski, 223 Hawkins Graduate House, West Lafayette, Indiana 47906

This is the third anniversary forum that I have had the privilege to send in to IRCA. I have been a member since June, 1985 and since that time I have increased my enjoyment of CBB DXing immensely. First of all, a brief re-introduction is in order. I am 27 and single and I am a senior at Purdue University about to earn my B.S. degree in Atmospheric Science. My interest in DXing in general began during the early 70's when I got my hands on a copy of a publication called Rock Guide which listed all the rock stations in the USA and Canada by city. I spent a good amount of time trying to pick off the stations on the list and managed to "log" about 100 or so. I never realized that it was a real hobby and that other people were doing the same thing until I started to become interested in shortwave listening. I have been seriously interested in DXing (i.e., keeping a detailed log) since about 1977 when I began listening to mostly shortwave broadcasts. My MW DXing interest started up again around 1981 and has not waned since. However, I go through seasonal DXing moods with most of my MW DX activity during the late fall and winter. The rest of the time I spend DXing shortwave. I find them equally challenging and feel that it's foolish to debate one's superiority over the other. I spend about 60 percent of my DXing time tuning the medium wave band and as of this time I have logged 805 stations on MW representing 41 states, 8 provinces, and 19 countries. I am currently using a new GE Superadio LI, and I think I'd have to say that it is about the best investment a MW DXer could make. I want to thank all the people who make it possible to be able to receive a quality bulletin every week and I am glad to be able to be a part of IRCA. I hope others feel this way also and would begin to show their appreciation by contributing. It's really unfortunate that a club of this size only receives input from about 50 or so members on a regular basis. The past DX season was quite a good one here at my location with the addition of 2 more DA's, a new state (NH WKOS-930), and several good openings during some excellent SSS conditions. I hope to see a repeat during the next DX season. That's about it for this time around. 73's to all IRCA'ns from TML.

Ernest Cooper, 5 Anthony Street, Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657

617-487-9337. Instead of talking about myself in this anniversary issue, I thought I'd instead, reminisce a little. When I began to DX in the early 30's, ANers were unheard of. The earliest s/on in New York was 0645 when WEAF-660 and WOR-710 opened up. The other two major stations, WJZ-760 and WABC-860, didn't come on till 0730! There were several interesting DX catches available in the early morning, like, for one, KMMJ-740 in Clay Center, NE, which came on at 0630 EST. On 1350, the fore-runner of 1380, before the re-allocation of '41, two signed on at 0600 and fought it out every morning - WAWZ in Zarephath, NJ and WEHC, Emory, VA. An interesting configuration was to be found on 1070-1100-1130 kc/s. 1100 was shared by WPG, Atlantic City, and WLWL, N.Y.C. WLWL had very brief on-air hours, only 1800-2000 M-F, and 1400-1500 on Fridays, and 1515-1630 on Sundays. WAAT, Jersey City, was a 300-watt daytimer on 1070, and WOV, a 1000 watt in N.Y.C. on 1160. When WLWL was on, both these stations had to s/off! So every Friday and Sunday afternoon, they had to stand by while WLWL was on with its 5kw. In those days, the two daytimers operated year-round to 1800 EST (which is 1900 during the DST period), but WAAT and WOV could stay on till 1900 only on Saturdays and Sundays when WLWL wasn't on the air at that time! WMCA and WNYC shared 570; WPCH then operated on

810 as a daytimer. Four New York stations shared 1010: WHN, WRNY, WPAP, and WQAO. There were four time-sharers on 1350 too: WKBQ, WCDA, & WMSG, N.Y.C., and WAWZ, NJ. There were four Brooklyn outlets on 1400 (which eventually became WNJR-1430): WBBC, WLTH, WCGU, and WSGH. Four shared the GY frequency of 1500 (now 1490): Brooklynites WMLL & WMBQ, WLBX Long Island City, and WWRL, Woodside. On 1130, the time-sharers were WFVD, WFAB, WHAP, and WHAZ, Troy, NY which broadcast Monday evenings only, 1800-2400. A fairly easy catch back in those early days in Brooklyn was WSBC-1210 in Chicago. Sunday AMs at 0700 was their s/on after WEDC's s.off, and they had a stronger signal than WEDC, one of the first ANers. You see, WSBC was the first one on 1210, even ahead of all the EST stations. Even around 1946, XEAA-1340 was often heard on the East Coast on Monday mornings between 0300 and 0400! WEXL-1310, Royal Oak, MI, used to be considered a pest 'cuz they stayed on till 0430 with 50 watts! Those were the days, my friend - I thought they'd never end - but they did. Forward - March!

Tim Kridel, Box 147, Middle Island, New York 11953

Greetings to all, and a happy 24th anniversary, IRCA!! Here's to many more. Time for a re-intro...I'm 17 years old, a senior in high school, and will be attending the University of MO at Columbia in the fall to study broadcast journalism. When I'm not in school or under the 'phones, I'm driving a forklift in a local lumber yard. I've been a DXer for about five years, shortwave for the first three, and then BCB for the last two. I've been a member of the IRCA since April of '86. I collect radio (AM as well as FM) bumper stickers, QSL's, and other radio related items. I had an interesting experience the other week. On 8 February, I heard and sent out a report to WARA-1320 in Attleboro, MA. Later that week, I came home to find out that someone from the station had called and requested to do a live interview with me over the air. Later that evening, the talk show host that I had heard called back, where he proceeded to read my letter over the air. He asked about the hobby, my best catches, and all that "gee-whiz" stuff. He seemed quite amazed that I could hear them, but admitted that they had upped their power from 1 kw to 5 kw after building new towers last year. A week later, I received a letter from a MA listener, who said he had heard me on the air, and was interested in BCB DXing. He wanted to know about equipment, antennas, and where could he subscribe to DXM. As a result, we may have a new member joining our ranks. Reports in from WPUT-1510, KNX-1070, WSJP-1130 (Serving the Jackson Purchase), KOA-850, and WARD-1550. Reports going out to WYNS-1160, WNNZ-640, WKOS-930, WNJR-1430, WFAS-1230, and WOBN-1160. WOBN, located in Lakewood, NJ, is announcing that they are testing on 1160 with reduced power, and ask that their listeners bear with them as the testing should be over by the end of March. Their C&W format has a nice mix, and is quite enjoyable. The other morning, I heard an unusual ID on 1170 kHz. At 0726, a man IDed as "WCNN FM 107". This intrigues me, as I have been monitoring this frequency for about five years now. I recall an AMER on 1170 that simulcast their FM, but that was some time ago. Looking ahead, I was wondering about the feasibility of printing pictures of our members, their shacks, or equipment. How well would this print, and does our printer have the capability to do this? I think this would be an interesting concept, and help bridge the distances between us. Besides, I think many of us wonder just what the other guy (or gal) looks like. Gotta run. 73s and best of DX to all.

Rickard Eckman, 8207 Auburn Lane, Hampton, Virginia 23666

804-838-2265. After two years in England, I'm back in the United States and on the east coast for the first time in eight years. To re-introduce myself after a long absence from EDXF: I'm 29, still single, and just beginning as a research scientist at the NASA Langley Research Center doing work on the ozone layer. I've been a member of IRCA since 1973. It's difficult to believe that DX'ing has been a part of my life for over 17 years. My two years in England were relatively inactive ones as far as MW DX was concerned. There was simply too much else to do and the lack of good gear didn't help matters. Now that I am back in the U.S., I hope to get back into TA DX, something that I've only pursued during brief visits to Philadelphia in recent years. Unfortunately, I'm discovering that apartment living is about the worst possible location for DXing. TVI and fluorescent light QRM is severe here but I'll do my best until I can eventually get situated in a house. Finances permitting, I'm hoping to purchase a JRC NRD-525 receiver in the not too distant future. In anticipation of that, I'd like to sell my much modified HQ-180A, BC-221 frequency meter, and Heathkit Q-Multiplier. Details are on the way to the Buy and Sell column. I can remember Marc DeLorenzo's excellent DX from the North Carolina Outer Banks some years back and look forward to trying that out sometime soon. Happy anniversary, IRCA. DX Monitor continues to look excellent and all the best to the Seattle crew and our elected officers

for the outstanding job they're doing. 73.

Rick Evans, 1431-E 29th Avenue South, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisc. 54494

Once again, it's this time of year, to wish the club a happy anniversary. Seems like it rolls around every year just like the robins coming back to the north. I'm 42, married, and a member of IRCA since Feb., 1965, and of NRC since July, 1965. As indicated a few weeks ago, I'm an unemployed rate clerk in the trucking industry. Resumes are out now to companies in Ala., N.C., Mich., Wisc., Minn., and Kansas, with more to go out in the next week. I've kept DX records in four different locations now, starting in Kalamazoo, Mich, going to Gary, Indiana in 1966, out to Philadelphia, Penn. in 1978, and out here in July, 1987. Totals here now are 310/54, states 33/18, provinces 4/2. A big project for me this winter was to set up a combined logbook, showing together what I've heard over the years from the different locations. Counting only once for a station regardless of how many locations I've heard them from (such as WCCO-830 counts as 1 even though they've been heard in 4 places), I've heard 1554 stations and verified 774. I did it by setting up notebook paper with 4 labelled columns, one for each place I've lived in. As I've heard a station, the date gets put into the appropriate column so that I can see at a glance the info for each station. It's set up under the headings date, frequency, and location, and I have different records for heard and verified. I set it up for a total of seven locations, realizing how unstable the trucking industry is. By the way, I still believe that totals should begin again after moving perhaps 25-50 miles (depending on local conditions), but I've been curious for years how my totals would stack up if I combined them. Now I know, and I'm a little disappointed since I thought the numbers would be higher. While typing this column, I decided to listen to the oldies program on WSAU-550 only to find them carrying the Milwaukee Brewers spring training game (as was WKBH-580 and WFHR-1320). Later on, I tuned in the Cubs game on WGN-720, only to find them playing Milwaukee, hi. Gotta run. See you in 7 days. The deadlines at the beginning of this column are corrected ones per the new schedule.

73.

## Some Heavy Duty On the Yawn Patrol

San Francisco Chronicle via Rbt Wien

**T**HE LADY FROM Walla Walla called at 4:30 a.m.

"Let's go to line 2," said the host. "It's Jean, from Walla Walla. Welcome to KGO."

Hello, Jean from Walla Walla. What are you doing calling at 4:30 a.m.? What am I doing sitting in a radio studio at 4:30 a.m.?

The only people who listen to talk shows at 4:30 a.m. are those seeking to fall asleep. Considering the fascinating stuff coming from my

*Hello, Line 2,  
John, you're  
on the air,  
please go  
ahead, hello,  
John?*

Walla Walla is. That's a funnier line than anything I said in a whole hour on the radio.

"It's Walla Walla," said Jean. "The town they loved so much they named it twice."

"Don't give me old material, Jean," I said.

"Thank you for calling, Jean, and please call again," said the host, the charming Enid Goldstein, whose charm was all the more charming coming as it did at 4:30 a.m. Enid wanted to stop me before I bashed her callers any further, because there are not so many 4:30 a.m. callers that you can afford to lose any of them, which goes for 4:30 a.m. listeners, too

**W**E BROKE for a commercial. Late-night radio shows always break for commer-

cials. Actually, the commercials break for the show. Car dealer, finance company and vinyl siding. No money down, no points, no payments until July.

We'll be back to our commercials after a few words from the program.

"On Line 3 is Mary Ann from Brookings, Oregon. Welcome."

At 4:45 a.m., Mary Ann from Brookings, Oregon, wanted to talk about her two dogs. It sounded like a good time to go back to the vinyl siding commercial. This was not possible.

"One dog is a little Chinese pug," said Mary Ann from Brookings, Oregon. "Her name is Betty and the other dog is Rascal."

Mary Ann spoke softly, to avoid waking Betty and Rascal, who were asleep in the bed with her at that moment. The dogs had the right idea.

The calls trickled in. Joe (Line 3) called to say he had bought a losing lottery ticket; Matt (Line 1) called to say what a great place Bakersfield was, and Merla (Line 4) said she liked spareribs.

During the commercials, Enid dashed to the rest room and I worked a crossword puzzle. Then the red light came on again.

"Thirty-seven down is Fred Flintstone's wife," I said. "Five letters. Anybody out there know the answer?"

Suddenly, the switchboard lit up. Practically no one had wanted to discuss the issues of the day with us, but Fred Flintstone's wife got people pumped up.

Bradley in Fremont knew the answer, at 4:48 a.m. It's Wilma Flintstone. Thank you, Bradley.

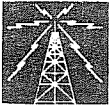
"By the way, Bradley," I said. "What's going on in Fremont at 4:48 a.m.?"

"Not much," said Bradley in Fremont.

**I**T WAS 4:59 a.m. Time for one last call.

"Hello, Line 2. John, you're on KGO. Go ahead. You're on the air. John? Are you there?"

Click. John wasn't there but a dial tone was. John must have nodded off. We had done our duty. Don't tell the vinyl siding man.



# 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

DEADLINES — 04 & 18 APR, 02 & 31 MAY, 27 JUN

## IRCA CELEBRATES 24 YEARS! COUNTDOWN-1 YEAR TO THE SILVER

W. GEORGE ELLIOTT, P.O. BOX 956, PRINCETON, BC VOX 1W0

A Happy 24th Anniversary IRCA! To refresh your memories, I'm 27, single and have been DX'ing seasonally since the mid-'70s. I only DX between October and March, but this year I'm a little behind. It was through DX'ing that I chose broadcasting as a career and have been working in radio since late '78. I've worked at CHIM-FM and CKOV in my hometown of Kelowna, as well as CKOR-FM, CKOK and CIGV-FM all in Penticton. I'm currently the assistant manager at CKRP Princeton.

I've DX'ed virtually every band, spending a year with SW and a number of years on CB talking "skip but always come back to BCB. I also have a small collection of old radios and related gear from stations I've worked at. The history of the business interests me and I have a number of books on the subject as well. I've also written and produced two comedy tapes and just published my first book of poetry.

I'll be on holiday in Reno by the time this is printed but will be in touch with some DX happenings at my place shortly. And as always, I want to thank all those who keep this club together for their time and dedication and it is for this reason that I continue to renew my membership each year. Happy Anniversary IRCA and may we all have many more. 3's de WGE.

ARTHUR W. PETERSON, 851 31st ST., RICHMOND, CA 94806

Greetings, friends! A quick re-Intro for Anniversary time. I'm 43, single and earn my living as a licensed forester. DX-wise, I tune MW and LW mostly with some dabblings in SW, utilities and even ham listening. A recent ham contest netted me needed states VT and RI - impossible these days on MW. NH and DE needed for 50. PEI and YT still needed for Canada; am close to nailing YT on LW, but PEI? Good luck! DX has been a little slow for me this season due to lack of time and poor conditions.

Other interests include personal computers, photography, politics and long-distance bicycle touring. In connection with the last, I'm offering for sale (\$10 postpaid directly from me) the story of my 4,800-mile 1982 tour titled, "Two Wheels Across Canada," a limited edition, numbered and autographed softcover book that includes a whole chapter of practical advice to anyone thinking of doing it themselves. I've received unexpected rave reviews from readers, such as DX'er Sheldon Remington: "As soon as I started the book I couldn't put it down until you reached the Atlantic, eight hours later." Another reader wrote: "I didn't get to bed until 2 AM. I guess you could say I found it captivating." Good reading for yourself and makes a great gift for any serious cyclist or "armchair" adventurer. 73 and good DX in '88.

STEVE MITTMAN, 2248 W. 37th ST., SAN PEDRO, CA 90732-4506 (213) 833-1010

This Anniversary issue happens to be an extra special one for me, I'm now celebrating my 10th anniversary with IRCA! My first DXM as a club member was dated "Vol. 14 - No. 18 - Whole No. 469 - January 21, 1978," (though through a friend I got copies of a years' worth prior to that). Looking back at that issue, I've noticed that we seem to have had many more active members. Here were the number of contributors per column: EDXR 3; CDXR 11; WDXR 9; EDXF 7; WDXF 15; DXWW (single column) 19. However, content-wise, the issues today seem to have as much, if not more, information packed in them. I think the IRCA is a great club and I am happy to say that I've been a continuously active member for these entire ten years. It's hard to believe, but I doubt if I've even gone one week without flipping on the ol' DX rig at least once, for the entire duration of the ten years. Totals ('though not as impressive as you might expect) currently stand at 696 total/138 midday/105 veries from 95 different stations/10 midday veries from 9 stations/34 states; 29 veried/5 provinces; 3 veried/15 Mexico states; 0 veried/

20 countries with 7 verified.

Because the Anniversary issue is traditionally the one time each year when we're permitted to stray from strictly talking about AM, and because this is indirectly "about me," I thought some of you may find this interesting: I live on a peninsula which sticks out in the ocean, and my house is situated behind hills which effectively block local TV and FM reception. However, due to the line-of-sight ocean path, aerial reception here brings in all the TV and FM stations from the San Diego/Tijuana market (up to 110 miles to the south) almost always perfectly. Thus I receive certain San Diego area FM stations rather than closer stations on the same frequency (for example, KKOS Carlsbad rather than closer KEZY-FM Anaheim). Now driving just five miles to the other side of the peninsula, conditions are similar (L.A. is still blocked), except that TV/FM is from the Santa Barbara/Ventura/Oxnard market, and further (up to 140 miles to the north). Thus, by just driving a few miles in different directions, one can receive perfect reception of stations from three distinct markets, with no appreciable QRM from the other two. (Incidentally, AM doesn't seem to be affected by this.) By the way, because residents here can't receive the local stations, our cable company was formed, and is one of the very first in the country! They began way back when just offering channels 2 through 13, and that included two San Diego channels, KJMB-8 and KOGO (now KGTV) 10, just to fill up the dial. They still carry those channels today and due to the grandfather clause, they don't need to pay any fees to the stations, even though they are distant stations.

Personal info: Besides DX, I love media science fiction (I belong to several clubs), snow skiing, playing with my VCRs, and lying out on our warm SoCal beaches in mid-winter, hi. 73 de SMM.

GARY LARSON, 2806 LINCOLN, BURBANK, CA 91504 (818) Citrus 4-1027 or Citrus 2-7176

Hi. I've been a member for some years now. Usually try to DX on MM but also will DX most anytime. I try to send in what I can to the columns. Currently am working a grave shift doing security in San Fernando area.

Keep up the good work Seattle and the same to all of you who work to make the club a great one. 73.

NIEL J. WOLFISH, 867 WICKLOW ST., WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3T 0H9

Happy Anniversary IRCA from the DX capital of Canada! I would have said DX capital of the world, but it seems that Huntsville, Alabama is trying to challenge Winnipeg. Time for the annual re-intro. Here's your big chance to check DX Monitors from days gone by and see if I've changed my life story at all. I'm 25, currently finishing up my last term in my final year of Law at the University of Manitoba. I'll be returning to Toronto in April to do my year of Articling, which means that you won't have to see my name in CDXR or WDX any more. (Yahoo, hi!) I guess returning to Toronto will give me a chance to prove that Shawn Axelrod and I aren't the same person, hi. At any rate, I've been a member since '77 and have at one time been a member of the BoD and also the editor of the Graveyard DX Records column.

The last couple of months haven't been all that great for DX. I've probably DX'ed as much SW as I have MW in '88. I'm currently stuck at 199 countries heard, chasing the elusive 200th on SW. At last count, I had 133 SW countries verified. Only one verie in, courtesy of 1450 KGIW Alamosa, CO; the only MW report I've sent out this year.

What do Turks and Caicos, St. Kitts, Guadeloupe, Fiji, Cayman Islands and Puerto Rico have in common? They're just some of the "countries" that can be heard on MW and not on SW. I don't know of any SW-only DX'ers who began DX'ing in the mid-'70s and have Guadeloupe or Turks and Caicos verified. Actually I enjoy logging Peru, Indiana and New Britain, Connecticut. I enjoy logging Peru, South America and New Britain, New Guinea. Regardless, there's a difference there's a difference in logging all 50 states in 1988 than there was 30 years ago. I just hope that future ANARC conventions pay more attention to all forms of DX than in recent years. 73.

ROY H. MILLAR, 13714 30th AVE NW, MARYSVILLE, WA 98270

Another year? Past winter season has been nearly without foreign DX of any nature; and very little domestic of any distance. Did hear Caribbean Beacon 1610 and #F on 1580 (presumablyt CBJ) one evening in early February, I believe 'twas, but nothing in the way of TA's nor audio from LA splits could be developed. (Fair carrier on 1555; needed Radio Cayman I suppose. VOA 1575 did show up one morning with a readable signal, but so briefly.

Fall veries from KSAH 720 and CKGR 1400 helped round out a 90% return on reports in 1987. Only non-answered was KNAK 540, which I just may have caught with day power too early, so may not have wanted to respond.

Conditions have prompted me to work some of the channels that generally are blocked by local or semi-locals and I've lucked out with six new ctach-

es in February, none too exciting nor further away than Pomona (KMNY 1600).

Think I'll use the HQ 180A for trade-bait, as it isn't too practical for my method of DX'ing as unstable, also an "electricity hog" when necessary to leave on 12 hours just to be on a frequency during a period of time tapping. Appreciate the stability (at least appears to be such) of the ICF 2010, but it's not as elective as I'd like; programability of this Sony is most useful, but can't use SM antenna if more than one frequency is being monitored; AN-1 and longwire do work fairly well, but miss nulling capability. The PRG-7 drifts badly as room temperature drops during the night, but I usually can compensate with fair resulting accuracy, and the SM is an excellent match-up, although not always with good nulls. The relatively new Radio Shack 7 full on/off programmable timer is a nice little package at a moderate price; two are in use here.

Thanks Ric for a job well done with WDXF; ditto with WDXR and Nancy, Pat for DXWW-W, Bruce and J.J. at HQ and all who make IRCA the very best tool for CQB DX'ers; would contribute more often if I heard more of interest. Have been retired four-and-a-half years and have given up wondering when I'll have time for various projects that I've had in mind for years; will do what I can if and when I can! 73.

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

Hey, IRCA, Happy Anniversary! Being one of the Charter Members I can really appreciate the work that goes into the current DX Monitor. Being the editor of CDXR I can even more appreciate that work!

Time for re-intro: I'm into my 16th year as a Master Control Operator at KTVQ, channel 2, here in Billings. I started DX'ing CQB in 1962 from Sheridan, WY while I was in high school. My totals are around 1,160 heard, and being an avid verie collector, some 860 verifications.

Other hobbies include TV scheduling, I have a complete collection of TV Guides starting in June 1958. I'm president of the condo association of which I'm a home owner. Use of a computer at home started out to be a hobby, but now it's a necessity. Along with preparation of the CDXR column on computer, my DX activities are included in a data base station log that's updated just as soon as new information is received. Oh yes, my favorite TV show is ALF.

Billings, despite being thought of as near Alaska, is a nice location to live - and DX. Billings is served with 6 AM, 7 PM and 3 TV stations. 73.

DOUG NYHOLM, 2071 CEDAR ST., SAN CARLOS, CA 94070

I hit the jackpot at an antique show the other day. I picked up a dozen copies of Radio Doings, Red Book of Radio. They're in perfect condition and if you're not familiar with them, as I wasn't, they were published in Los Angeles for Pacific Coast radio listeners. They were dated from the summer of 1929 to January 1930. I've just made copious photocopies of various columns and lists from them and sent them on to HQ in case they want to publish some on them in DXM. The info is 90% WC related. I also found a copy of Stevenson's Radio Bulletin for 1946 which I guess can be best compared to the NRC Log. I'm always on the lookout for such material and if any of you know the whereabouts of any similar information or have some of it for sale, etc., please let me know. I would even be interested in hearing what you have and the possibility being able to photocopy it as I said before I found these items I had never heard of them. The only other such items I know of are Radio Guide from the '30s which I have a few copies of and White's Radio Log. Again, drop me a line if you know of any antique radio logs, etc. And, Happy 24th Anniversary, IRCA. 73.

RANDY SEAVER, 1154 VIA TRIESTE, CHULA VISTA, CA 92011

It's time again to congratulate ourselves for making it through another year on the expressway of life, love and DX! The years seem to fly by, and I know I don't do enough DX'ing. As we enter IRCA's 25th year, I'm 44, born in and never left the San Diego area. Married to Linda since 1970 and we have two daughters - Lori 13 and in 8th grade and Tami, 11 and in 6th grade. I'm Chief of the Aerodynamics group at Rohr Industries, and have been there 20 years. Linda does some substitute teaching and volunteer work. The girls are excellent students - Lori wants to be an astronaut and is into math and science, while Tami wants to be a psychiatrist (I can hear it now - dad, why do you DX? What benefit is your radio work to your mental or physical health, the family or society?) The girls play softball and I coach. I'm a true Padres and Chargers fan, meaning I love the sports, support my teams, don't get too hyper when they win, and constructively criticize when they Lose.



I just realized that I passed my 25th anniversary as a DX'er. I started in late '62, got a Hammarlund HQ-150 in '64 and an HQ-180A in '67, which I still use. My prime DX years were '64 thru '67, which also happened to be years of minimum sunspot activity and great TP and TA DX from California. My bedroom was on the second floor and I had longwire antennas strung 80 feet to the north and east. The local noise level was relatively low and there were only a few AN/NSP stations. I had a clear horizon in all directions and the ocean was about 10 kilometers to the southwest and about 20 kilometers to the northwest. In '64 and '65, many California DX'ers heard Europe occasionally in the evening, from about 9 PM local until European sunrise. My best catch had to be BBC 1214 until almost 0915 GMT on 28 December 1964. Ah, the good old days of DX.

We all have our memories, our achievements, our failures. I'm partly the person I am because of DX. It provided an intellectual and social challenge at a critical time in my life, and it still provides a technical challenge to me as I try to unravel the tangled web that is radió wave propagation. DX'ing is a lot like life - you are successful if you have the will to be successful. Fancy equipment, high intelligence or outright talent will not guarantee success, nor will all the money in the world. You have to set goals, achieve them and move on to higher goals. Success, like life, is a journey, not a destination. I hope all members are successful in their DX and their lives this year - why not send in a forum and tell us about it? 73.

NANCY HARDY, 2301 PACIFIC AVE., ABERDEEN, WA 98520

It's time for another re-intro, hardly seems possible that a year has gone by since the last one. I've been a member of IRCA since 1971 (seventeen years!), have served on the BoD several times, and am currently your editor of WDXR. My DX totals haven't changed a great deal in the past year: 958 stations from 40 states/5 provinces. DX time is limited due to other activities in my life.

I'm married to Bill, have a little DX'er Billy who is nearly two years old, and work fulltime at a discount store. I wouldn't be surprised if Billy follows in Mama and Daddy's footsteps and becomes a DX'er. He enjoys tuning the FRG-7 on and listening to the different stations as he goes up and down on the dial. More than once I've been in another part of the house when suddenly the receiver is turned on by his little hands. Also, he loves to put on the headphones and listen that way.

In addition to family and work, my hobbies include camping, hiking and needlework.

Good DX to everyone and Happy Anniversary IRCA!

BILL HARDY, 2301 PACIFIC AVE., ABERDEEN, WA 98520

I hope this reaches Ric in time for the Anniversary issue. We had to spend a day in Olympia after Nancy's dad had another stroke.

I just turned 41, began DX'ing in '60, joined IRCA in '64. I'm lucky to have kept an active interest in DX all these years, especially domestic DX, and having an active DX'er for a wife has been a big help. Nancy is only 31 stations behind me. At one point it was more like 75, so she is catching up on me, thanks to sunset DX I guess. My totals are 989 heard and it would be nice to make the 1,000 mark this year. They come from 40 states, 5 provinces and 20 countries.

My thanks to all of you who have contributed your local radio info to the upcoming 5th IRCA Almanac. Also thanks to the people behind the scenes who are helping compile the new edition. I hope it'll be the best one yet, and thanks for your patience.

Happy Anniversary, IRCA!

BOB COOMLER, 442 OAK LAKE AVE., SANTA ROSA, CA 95409

If one of the intents of the Anniversary issue is to bring out some of the silent majority, here's another one reporting for greetings. I've been around since the inception of IRCA, but due to the usual litany of education, marriage, etc., DX'ing and membership haven't been a consistent activity.

What I can claim though is being 41, married with three kids and working for Sonoma County as an appraiser. When I get the chance to play radio-guy, my time is divided between BCB, SWBC and ham pursuits (KI60T for the record). Equipment wise, I use a Kenwood TS-930 and a Radio West loop or 100-foot inverted-vee. Going off in several DX'ing directions doesn't make for great totals, but it keeps me from getting fed up with one aspect of the hobby and makes my time in front of the dials and switches that much more enjoyable. Happy Birthday IRCA.

JOHN OLDFIELD, 7135 129A ST., SURREY, BC V3W 6T4

Happy Anniversary! I've been hiding out, helping Johnny Canuck with the harvest on his antenna farm.

Some- BC stuff I haven't reported: CFBV 870 Smithers isn't rare here. First logged 18 October at 2100 // CrLD, but not yet twinning CJCI 620. ID: "Bunkley Valley-Lake District Radio" usually mixing with KORD/CKIR/WWL-KIEV.

The CBC plans to close CrPR 860 Prince Rupert studio after all these years. CBYG-FM Prince George and CBTk-FM Kelowna will feed local stuff to all the interior LPRTs. Otherwise all will relay CBU 690.

Vancouver stuff: CJOR 600 re-runs tapes of the morning talk show from 0000-0400, then comedy to 0500. C-ISLE 650 now less talk gold "Now in stereo at four times the power" also gets the first (I think) dual transmitter in Canada with a 100 watt at White Rock, BC. Semi-local CFVR 850 is 100% on their own (not // CHWK). CHWK, CKGO and CrVR all now carry "WX" on the AN show, dropping CKNW. CHUB/CHPQ 1570/1370 also dropped "NW" for "WX." CKWX 1130 still is country except for the AN show which they host as the "Satellite Radio Network." CKNW 980 dropped Larry King. Ouch! CIOU cancelled the "C2C" Coast to Coast feed when they switched to "Music Power Hits, 10-40 Kicks" (CKXY). Ethnic CJVB 1470 has been AN lately.

Most local AM is now on CATV FM dial in stereo. This about doubles the cable FM dial in Vancouver homes. So if you aren't hearing 14 C-FUN in stereo, they beg you to cable-up at home to FM 100. It gives CKWX a chance to fight their only country foe, JR Country (CJJR-FM). Wonder if they do this in the US? AM on cable FM dials began in smaller cities as stuff like CFMI and CIRK-FM are on the Cancom Satellite and are played on local cable FM. This really took a chunk out of the audiences for the local AMER.

Good DX'ing! What is that anyway?

JIM HILLIKER, P.O. BOX 1499, CARMEL VALLEY, CA 93924-1499

Hello and Happy Anniversary, IRCA! First for my re-intro: I'm 32, married to Laura for the past two-and-a-half years, expecting our first child in May. I've been a member for five-and-a-half years and also DX and listen to SW as well. I've been listening to distant AM stations since 1967 and wish I had known more about the hobby and IRCA back then. I was born in Madison, WI, moved to Santa Maria, CA in 1957, to Anaheim in 1965 and Carmel Valley in 1986. I'm a graduate of Cal State Fullerton with a BA in Telecommunications with emphasis on radio-TV broadcasting. I've worked in radio professionally since 1979 for KNOB-FM, KYMS-FM, KWRM-AM, KWAV-FM and the past 16 months at KTOM AM and FM as a newscaster. Offhand, I can't remember how many stations I've heard from southern California, something like 565 I guess with 170 or so verified, but more on tape, and have heard 37 states and a dozen countries.

Since moving here, I haven't finished counting my catches, but it's not many. I have a bad electrical QRN problem here and also need work on the R-1000 and Radio West loop. DX'ing's not my main priority anymore, but IRCA's a great club and the DX'ers and friends I've made through the club have been wonderful.

Other interests are somewhat related to DX. I've collected a few old radios from the '30s and '40s and collect radio broadcasting and DX-related books, magazines, etc. from the '20s thru the '40s.

Currently, when I have spare time, I'm trying to finish a project on the history of Los Angeles-area AM call letters and one goal is to write a book on the history of Los Angeles-area radio from 1920 to 1935 or '40.

I love getting together with DX'ers and talk radio, etc. I only wish I was closer to other DX'ers sometimes in terms of GTGs. I also like movies and TV and related trivia, US and California history and sports, mainly baseball. That's it for the re-intro. 73 (Next week, local radio news-RtH.)

TIM HALL, 350 G ST., #F-1, CHULA VISTA, CA 92010-4505 (619) 426-3584 NSP

Happy Anniversary IRCA. Quick re-intro: I'm 26, single and a grad student at San Diego State University, where I plan to get my MBA in December. I've been DX'ing MW since 1972, but have been most active from 1984, when I joined IRCA. Current totals are 765 stations heard from 37 states, 5 provinces and 28 countries, Although my workload at school is cutting into my DX time, I hope to hit 800 before years' end. Best catches of the past year include WBAL 1090 MD, KAAAY 1090 AR and WSLM 1220 IN for states 35, 36 and 37 and zNSJ 810 Bahamas for country 28

In a recent verification-signer column I mentioned that I was constructing a large AM database on my AT-type computer. The database has been designed, and I'm now working on the rather overwhelming data entry phase, which will take several months at the current rate! Currently 1, 741 stations (540 to 1010 kHz) have been entered into the database. In addition to addresses, powers, PSAs/PPSAs and the like, I'm also storing network, slogan, talk show, verification signer and sports affiliation information. When it's all done, I'll be able to generate instant up-to-date reports

(network lists, slogan lists, etc. to help with future Almanacs) and query the database for UNID stations (i.e. is there a C&W station on 1230 with CBS news, high school football, and a "J" as the third letter of its call?). It should be a very useful tool, although I can never really hope to have COMPLETE information on every station.

That's about it for now. 73 Ric, and thanks to everyone who has supported the verie-signers column in the past year. Thanks also to Robert Wien and Neil Kazaross for your excellent DX tips, and J.D. Stephens for your help with my QSL follow-ups.

Oh yes, I finally figured out what FCC stands for - Fully Cluttered Clears! 73 de TRH.

SKIP ROBB, 23701 WESTERN #12, TORRANCE, CA 90501

I would like to say hello to all fellow IRCAn's. I recently had Steve Miller of Radio West install a 4 kHz filter in my old reliable FRG-7. Seems to help out on the SW bands as well as MW. I also bought the Radio West ferrite loop. The loop is very easy to assemble and works fantastically. With this radio and antenna combo plus the many great tips in DXM, I've been able to raise my station total to almost 150 heard.

I've had some nice correspondence with some members lately about my looking for a TRF 12-655. I've yet to find one for sale, however. And information for a TRF for sale would be great.

Well, I just wanted to be part of this Anniversary issue and wish everyone a good year of DX'ing. 73.

ROBERT WIEN, 1390 DENTWOOD DR., SAN JOSE, CA 95118

Well, it's the anniversary issue and time for a re-intro. I'm 27, been a member of IRCA since 1976, work at Lockheed Missiles in Sunnyvale as a satellite operations engineer. Happy Birthday, IRCA! My receiver I use include a GE Superadio, a 20-year-old GE TRF and an SM-2 Space Magnet ferrite loop. I've managed to hear about 40 states, 7 provinces and a number of countries from here on AM. DX'ing has gotten tougher in the last few years due to the breakdown of the Clears, stations now granted new low nighttime powers, so it's gotten to the point you can't tell if the station you're listening to is even supposed to be on the air at the time you hear them, such as a daytimer now on at night.

DX of late has been very slow, last MM was terrible and nothing to try for this coming MM. Two MM's back netted three new stations (KJET 1590 Seattle, KJJDJ and KDUN 1030).

If anyone's interested, KCBS 740 is back to their weekly SM SP, but now it's from 0000-0100 PLT.

Hot new tip per JCJ-MT: KCTR 970 Billings, ex-KBIT, ID's as "Cat Country." 73.

WALT BREVILLE, P.O. BOX 13008, ST. LOUIS, MO 63119

Don't know if this will be in time for the Anniversary issue, but I'm overdue for a forum anyway. I first joined IRCA in 1967, dropped out a couple of times but could never stay away from twisting the AM band dials for very long. It's in my blood.

I started in the early '50s on a '40 vintage Philco 9-yube console radio. XERF and other border stations caught my ear in '52, then in '57 noted regionals such as KOIL 1290. I was in high school at this time and thought I'd made a wondrous scientific discovery. About six years later I finally discovered the DX clubs right when NRC was starting to split prior to IRCA's birth. This was confusing to me but the clubs opened a whole new world since I didn't know about MMs, veries, split frequencies, etc. before then. I accumulated about 275 veries from 40 states from the St. Louis area, mostly from '64 to '69, the return rate kept getting worse and worse in the '70s and in '78 got the last one and haven't sent any reports since.

It's still fun to look over the old veries once in awhile, but I'm glad I gave it up as I read in present-day Forums the collectors of veries telling how frustrating it is with the poor returns.

It was fun back in the mid-'60s hearing WC stations like KXLY 920, KAYO 1150, KPWB 980, XGA 1510, all on a 6-tube table radio. For you younger members, tubes looked like inverted medicine bottles containing a tiny radio tower with orange lights. They aped the big transmitting towers thereby causing a magic spell making voices and music come out of the box they were in. At one time I was an electrical engineering student, but I've spent so many years in a non-technical phase of the communications field that electronics is once again sheer magic to me, as it was when I was 9 or 10. 73.

FLOYD PERRY JR., 1945 DEL RIO DR., STOCKTON, CA 95204

Happy 24th Anniversary IRCA! A quick re-intro. I'm 26, work at Shannon's Seafood Restaurant as a baker/food prep. I've been DX'ing since '73. I was a member of NRC from '77 to '79 and IRCA from '79 to '82. I just recently re-joined in May of last year. My farthest catch was WNBC 660 back in '76. My biggest pest was and continues to be KSMJ 1380 Sacramento (hi). They have been since they were KGMS, but it seems even worse now since they went to SMN's Heart and Soul. Their signal currently bleeds over to semi-locals KFIV 1360 Modesto and KMIX 1390 Turlock.

Can anyone help me? I need some information on a paperback book, I believe was titled "I Love Radio" which was published in 1976. It was on Bay Area radio stations. Who was the author? Who was the publisher? If anyone has a copy of the book and is interested in selling it, I'm interested in buying it. 73.

BILL NITTLER, BOX 824, MANCOS, CO 81328

Happy Anniversary! The DX season has been moderately succesful for me with veries from: KISZ 740, KQTL 1210, KSGT 1340, KBYW 1360, KNXK 1050, KRXP 1480, KHTH 1130, CKDA 1200, CISOV 1530, KzBQ 1290, KMIK 810, KBSO 1490, KMTA 1050, KKLQ 600, CISO 1140, KLDD 570, KJMM 580, KXKL 1280, KEZJ 1450, XSRR 1400, KSRR 1400, XRSR 1140, KCIV 1250, KMGR 1230, KKAP 900, KCEM 1340, KTNQ 1020, KMDK 1390, KMFI 1470, KRYN 1490 and last but certainly not least CKBX 840. Verie total now stands at 3,120.

I dropped by KDGO 1240 studio in Durango last week. . . doesn't look like anyone's been in there in a long time with papers scattered everywhere. . . don't know why they left the air but have been off for a couple of months. KISZ 740 was off for most of February, but back on now. KDRW 1450 continues silent, also.

A brief resume of my DX career: Began in 1950 while in high school in high school in Geneva, Nebraska, moved to the Denver area in '57, to McCook, NE in '72, Nucla, CO in '79, Rawlins, WY and Kemmerer, WY both in '82, and on to Meeker, CO in '83 and then here to Mancos in '85. Three years of DX in Mancos finds my heard log at 660.

I'm 53 with 7 children, 3 grandsons. Was one of the original founders of IRCA in Denver 1984 - 01 February of that year to be exact. I published the DX Monitor from my basement for the first couple years.

Am still in the banking field after 35 years but will be starting a new job at the First National Bank of Cortez next week. My wife of 31 years is a teacher at Dolores, CO and has tolerated my DX'ing all these years but still doesn't understand the attraction. Good DX to all.

PAT MARTIN, P.O. BOX 843, SEASIDE, OR 97138

Happy Anniversary IRCA! Here's my yearly re-intro: I'm 39, been DX'ing since 1962 - about 26 years. I've been an avid QSL'er since '65 and have about 1,700, plus or minus, QSLs. Also have another 300 to 400 FM, TV, UTE, SW QSLs. I've been editing DXNW-W for almost eight years and currently an IRCA BoD member. I used to be a really avid TP and DU DX'er, logging 400 to 600 stations in two or three years from Asia and Pacific, but with poor conditions to the west, I've been going after DX to the east.

I use a Hammarlund (circa 1953 - US Navy), SP-600, RBO-2 (E.H. Scott - circa 1953 - also Navy), several portables, loops, boosters, connected to three different antennas. A 1,500-foot east Beverage (non-terminated), a 200-foot northeast/southwest longwire (terminated) and a 600-foot east wire (non-terminated). I also use a ground to three rods (four feet) in salty soil, connected about nine feet apart.

I started DX'ing MW and SW in Seward, Alaska in 1962. In '65 I started collecting QSLs, where I heard and confirmed all 50 states in two years, including D.C. In '62 I moved back to Oregon.

Even with the crowding of frequencies, there still is DX to hear. May IRCA reign long. 73.

ALBERT S. LOBEL, P.O. BOX 26762, SAN DIEGO, CA 92126 (619) 566-0082

Happy Anniversary IRCA! Once again time for the anual re-intro. I'm 40, married to Helene for the past 18 years and own my own business, an appliance repair business. Helene works for AT&T. Have been a member of IRCA since 1970, but began DX'ing four years earlier. My main receiver is a Yaesu FRG-7 plus a DX 150 A and a Radio West Loop. For SW DX I have an 88-foot longwire. In addition to my membership in IRCA, I also belong to NRC, ASWLC, WTFDA and SCADS.

I'm also IRCA's rep to ANARC and invite your comments and suggestions in that area.

Once again, Happy Birthday, IRCA and looking forward to the silver next year. Best of DX and 73 de ASL.

GLEN KIPPEL, 612 WEST AVE., MERCED, CA 95340

Hello again, fellow DX'ers and assorted hangers-on. You may have seen my name in these pages from time to time, so I'll let you know who I am. I'm presently 48 and have been DX'ing off and on since the late '40s. Most of my DX'ing activity was in the late '50s and early '60s, primarily from Colorado and west Texas, and concentrating on foreign DX. Good stuff heard from that area was R. Bermuda 1235, JOKD 1370, 2RE 1580, Lisbon 665, BBC 1214, CX-28 1090 and lots of 1 kw'ers in Central America and Colombia. I guess the best things heard from here have been Senegal 765, Sarawak 873 and 5CL 891.

Because I live with four small children, three cats, two goldfish, one guinea pig and one wife (not necessarily in order of importance, hi), DX has been very sporadic lately. The main receiver is a Hammarlund SP-600-JX17 which I purchased in 1961 and it's still going strong. Others are used from time to time also, mainly an RAX-1 RDR set and a Collins R-388.

When not DX'ing, chasing children, etc., I'm Cheap Engineer and Music Director and morning announcer (0600-0830 PLT) for KAMB, and contract engineer for KSNM, both FM'ers here in Merced.

If any of you are planning on being in Las Vegas for the NAB convention, let me know and maybe we can find each other among the 40,000 others there.

Have to print this and get to work now, so 73, all!

DON KASKEY, 654 35th AVE., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94121

I must live in the only place in western San Francisco where KRAK 1130 bombs in. Drove down the Great Highway to Daly City last night (04 March) and no more than turned the corner and KRAK was getting QRM'ed from at least two stations. Would have liked to ID the varmints but unfortunately my family was with me. My ten-year-old hollered, "WILL YOU TURN THAT AWFUL NOISE OFF" and although Eloise showed tolerance I could tell she was ready to punch the eject button leaving me swimming for Hilo, so I relented. The only time KRAK resumed its normal level was when we pulled up in front of our house. I've pulled KVLII out at SSS lately and am working on KCMJ, but KRSR who as KMJJ used to be a regular visitor to our Burnett pad has been completely missing. I've noted that KRAK seems to be stronger on their night pattern here than their day.

At any rate, I just crawled past 54. Eloise and I have been married almost 12 years and have Michael (10) and Jenny (7) to keep us young (or wear us out - whatever). . . Michael says the only way he'll ever be a DX'er is if the stations all play "La Bamba" all the time. They both have this interesting quality of demanding my attention 15 seconds before ID time. Never at 20 after the hour, only at 59:45!

I've been DX'ing for what seems eons. . . gad Heald, I even remember when YOU were young. Lots of fun along the way. Never have heard VT from anywhere that I can remember. All other states made it. I heard KAVA 1450 Burney for the first time in 20 years last night, one of the tougher CA stations to log. Others on my hit list would include KLOM Lompoc (after them for years), KXEM McFarland, KHTX Truckee, KHSJ Hemet and KTME Lompoc. Outta room. 73 de dkk.

RIC HEALD, 8539 BELLAMY WAY, SACRAMENTO, CA 95828 (916) Evergreen 6-8677  
1900 to 2200 PLT & pdd

Congrats, IRCA! We've made it into the beginning of our 25th year. I'd like to thank all of you who helped WDXF make it over the top from last year. Would like to thank everyone who helps and volunteers copious quantity of their time to make this the BEST BCB club. Kaskey, I'll deal with you later, hi.

For a detailed re-intro, read past Anniversary issues, hi. I'm 41, employed by the Health Department, Jails Division, Sacramento County. I've been DX'ing since '59, more seriously since '63 when by chance, I purchased a console, multi-band Philco, circa 1935 at an antique store (read junk, hi) for (ready for this?) \$18. Have had a Lafayette, assorted Hammarlunds and currently use an FRG-7 with the GE Superadio and TRF as back-ups connected to an SM-1. Also have about 50 feet of wire strung out for SW. Quit counting in the late '70s, but totals then were around 1,200 heard from 42 states, 7 provinces and 33-plus countries - about 50% verified.

I'm a native Californian and grew up in the Bay Area (Oakland/San Leandro) with time-outs for four years Alaska, nearly three years EC and three years 260 miles north of the Bay Area in Eureka. The latter was my only non-elective move, hi. And being a travel agent for most of my working life, I've had the pleasure of exotic travel and DX from exotic places like the Middle East, North Africa and El Paso, hi.

Had to deliver some people down to the Bay last weekend (San Leandro), so that once done, hopped over the bay to The City. My imagination, or is total gridlock a way of life now? Only took 45 minutes to find a free park-

ing spot, 'though not necessarily legal, hi. Caught up with Kaskey in the PM and had a nice visit with Eloise and Don at the hotel. Then Don and I went out for a couple of brewskies. I almost fell off the stool when he actually popped for them, hi. And Don, I remember when YOU had hair, hi. Had a great time talking radio, moaning over current conditions, and remembering colorful characters in our club from days gone by. And by the way, YOU took Great Highway to Daly City? Gee, I always had to turn on to Sloat as Great Highway ended there. What were you driving on?—hi.

As we move into our 25th year, I begin my 14th year as your WDXF editor (can't believe it's been that long). I'm also on the BoD. . .again. Keep the River City in mind for our 25th Convention. Best of DX and 73 de Rth. .

JEF JAISUN, P.O. BOX 92, BOTHELL, WA 98041

Ha ha, Rth! Just when you thought you'd made it through another anniversary issue without a chapter of Jaisun's Journal. Well, think again, forum breath, hi!

Re-intro: 42 on the 24th(what's that do for my numerology?), DXing since diaperhood, over 1000 heard, lots less verified. DXing activities rather restricted the last 3 seasons due to location and an unrelenting buzz from a ceiling fan. Still got the SP-600 and the wedge antenna, although the latter (and probably the former, too, hi) have seen better days. In 1987 did manage to pass state electrician exams in both Cal and Oregon. Now if I can only get Washington(!). Of course, I'm not particularly interested in wiring houses and mini-marts for the rest of my life, but hey--it pays the bills until I figure out how to parlay my Sixties notoriety into an Eighties (or Nineties, gulp) windfall. The way things have been going lately I can probably re-release a few of the old protest ditties. The more things change...etc.

About the only real DX I've heard lately was one morning about 0730 when I woke up, grudgingly, to discover I'd left the stereo on 1180, and Montana sports scores were filling my ears. KOFI, of course. Heavy on the half-n-half, please.

Fourteen years of typing WDXF, huh Ric? Let's see...at a penny a page you oughtta be about due for a free membership year. In actuality, all of us appreciate your diligence and dedication. We all look forward to the typos, hi!

Happy birthday to us. 73/JJ

BRUCE PORTZER - 6546 19th Avenue NE - Seattle, WA 98115

Whew! I think it's almost done! Usually, it only takes a couple of hours to put together a bulletin. But the anniversary issue seems to go on forever. This one was no exception, but it's just about done.

In real life I'm 36, married, and have an 11 month old daughter who already knows how to keep mom and dad on their toes. I work for a consulting firm, where I design communications and security systems for a variety of clients. A lot of our work is in the design of jails and prisons (one of America's big growth industries, hi). It's a real eye-opening experience to help plan and build such places, and an even bigger eye-opener to visit one that's already in use.

I started DXing in late March 1964, a few days after IRCA's first bulletin was published. That must have been a sign of predestiny, because I eventually became DX Worldwide editor (1975-79), President (1977-79 & 1986-87), Convention Host (1974 & 83), and Editor-in-Chief (since 1979). I DX on a Racal RA-17, Hammarlund HQ-180A, and Yaesu FRG-7. Antennas include a Radio West loop, and various longwires. I haven't kept good track of my heard/verified totals lately, but they're somewhere around 2400/600 stations, 45/41 states, 7/7 provs, and 60/35 countries. My favorite DX pasttime is putting up antennas in remote places, and listening for exotic foreign (or domestic) DX. Unfortunately, I only get to do that once or twice a year. The rest of the time I tune around at home. I'm also a ham (Advanced class) as N7ECJ (anyone want to have a QSO?).

As I said on the front page, the time is right for us to concentrate on two major things. One is to boost our membership count. There must be all sorts of DXers floundering around out there without the benefits that come from being in IRCA. It's time they found out about us (or found out more about us). If you know of any prospective members, send us their names and addresses and we'll send them a sample DXM. Or better yet, visit your neighborhood 50kw clear channel station and send us the names from their reception report file. We'll try to make it worth your while. As for bulletin content, a membership survey is in the works to get a better idea of what we like. I think we're about due for another rash of blockbuster articles on the hobby (which would be nice, you'll have to admit). More on that later. 73, bp.



# EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

Editor:

Tim Kridel  
Box 147  
Middle Island, NY 11953

Deadline:

Saturdays

Greetings! We've got a few quick notes to pass along...Gary Heisey of PA checks in to ID one of my earlier UNIDs. He writes

"Your 790 UNID with Broadcast Nx" in the Feb. 27 issue "is possibly CKSO. The Canadians are the only ones I know of that have Broadcast Nx...Please correct my 1110 CKGY" in last week's column "to CKTY. Ex-CKJD, I hope." Many thanks for your support and assistance, Gary.

(TK-NY) Yer editor  
Bearcat DX-1000, Palomar loop, 130' longwires

(JDS-AL) J.D. Stephens; 3605-8 Chasewood; Huntsville, AL; 35805  
Panasonic RF-B300 w/ built-in ferrite

- 
- 640 WHLO OH, Akron 3-12 0344 Fair/poor in mess w/ contemp Christian mx, "WHLO" Jx ID, ment of stereo. (TK-NY)
  - 850 WIVK TN, Knoxville 3-5 0659 Good w/ Internat'l Championship Rodeo promo. "There's only one WIVK-FM, WIVK-AM, Knoxville," into wx, nx. (JDS-AL)
  - 950 UNID 1-22 0127 Good w/ PSA from Southern States Forestry Service. "You want to enjoy what you're doing? Just listen to the enjoyable easy-listening favorite, W----." Call sounded like "WIBZ." (JDS-AL)
  - 980 WKOR MS, Starkville 3-5 0748 Fair o/ WSIX, w/ "Better mx KOR," rock mx. (JDS-AL)
  - 1160 WOBN NJ, Lakewood 2-28 1120 Fair/good w/ QRN, w/ C&W mx, many "1160 star country WOBN" IDs by DJ Janine Wolf. Hourly annmnts that they are presently testing on 1160 w/ reduced power, to be concluded by end of March. S/off @ 1730 w/ no SSB, ment of 24 hr sked, soon. Will carry all NY Mets baseball games. (TK-NY)
  - 1170 WWVA WV, Wheeling 3-12 0315 Noted w/ OC only, also @ 0420. (TK-NY)
  - 1190 WHYY AL, Moulton 2-15 1806 Good w/ wx, spots for BC Powders, Mayes Phillips 66, Alpha Insurance. Many mants of Moulton, C&W mx. (JDS-AL)
  - 1250 WTAE PA, Pittsburgh 3-5 0337 Good w/ Larry King, promo for Pitt Panthers basketball. Mutual nx @ 0400. (TK-NY)
  - 1270 WJJC GA, Commerce 3-5 0800 Fair w/ many spots, frequent ment of Commerce, time check. (JDS-AL)
  - 1280 WIBB GA, Macon 3-5 0729 Good w/ spot for Five Star, frequent ment of Macon, into UC mx. (JDS-AL)
  - 1350 WGAD AL, Gadsden 2-15 1708 Good w/ lite rock, many promos such as "Catch the warm feeling w/ WARM 1350-WGAD" and "The hits of yesterday and today on WARM-1350 WGAD." Not often heard here. (JDS-AL)
  - 1390 WMZQ DC, Washington 3-9 1956 Poor in mess w/ C&W mx, many "WMZQ 98.7 FM and 1390 AM" IDs by male DJ, local ads. (TK-NY)
  - 1420 WHK OH, Cleveland 3-9 1943 Vpoor in mess w/ 60s, 70s mx w/ DJ Brad? "Oldies channel WHK" ID. (TK-NY)
  - 1460 WOKO NY, Albany 3-6 1708 Fair/good w/ oldies mx, local ads, "AM 1460-WOKO" IDs, ment of stereo. (TK-NY)
  - 1580 WVKO OH, Columbus 3-8 1933 Vpoor u/ UNID FP stn, w/ echoy "WVKO" IDs, into pop mx. (TK-NY)

It's 60 degrees and a week 'til the first of Spring, so it looks like we've got Ol' Man Winter beat...Then it's back to the static-filled summertime, hi Best of DX and 73s de TK...









# WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

2301 PACIFIC AVE., ABERDEEN WA 98520

DEADLINES FOR WDYR TIPS: Mon. April 11, Mon. May 2, Sat. May 28, Mon. June 27

**OUR SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE REPORTERS:**

- (TRH) Tim Hall-350 G St. #F-1-Chula Vista, CA 92010  
Sony ICF-2010, Radio West loop
- (BH) Bill Hardy-2301 Pacific Ave.-Aberdeen, WA 98520  
FRG-7, Radio West loop
- (NH) Nancy Hardy-2301 Pacific Ave.-Aberdeen, WA 98520  
FRG-7, Radio West loop
- (Rth) Ric Heald-8539 Bellamy Way-Sacramento, CA 95828  
FRG-7 SM-1
- (DKK) Don Kaskey-654 35th Ave.-San Francisco, CA 94121  
Patrolman SW-60
- (GK) Glen Kippel-612 West Ave.-Merced, CA 95340
- (DL) Doug Lamerson-DX'ing at Makapu'u Pt., O'ahu, HI  
Superadio II & unamp. loop
- (PM) Patrick Martin-P.O. Box 843-Seaside, OR 97138  
SP600, 1500' Beverage/200' NE/SW wire, ground system
- (RHM) Roy H. Millar-Marysville, WA 98270  
HQ180A, Sanserino loop et al
- (SMM) Steve Mittman-2248 West 37th Street-San Pedro, CA 90732  
Realistic TRF, 3' wedge; Kenwood KRC-939 AM stereo car radio
- (RW) Robert Wien-1309 Dentwood Dr.-San Jose, CA 95118  
GE Superadio, GE long-range portable, SM-2
- (JW) Jack Woods-DX'ing at Corvallis, OR  
Hammarlund RBG (Navy, 1941) Heath Q Multiplier, Sony AN-1 active antenna

\*\*\*\*\*  
**OF SPECIAL INTEREST:**

- 660 \*KGDP\* CA, Orcutt-Santa Maria I've been hearing KGDP on for the past few days with OC, obviously proofing their directional array. Heard ID "KGDP Orcutt-Santa Maria" 3/9 at 1600. They should be operating under Program Test Authority very soon. (GK-CA)
- 990 KKSB CA, Santa Barbara even with KKIS in latter's null 3/1 1917 with "KKSB, Santa Barbara's swingin' ?broadcaster?" and KKSB ID then out of sight at power cut. (DKK-CA)  
+Ex-KBLS Tu 2/9 1355 with new big bands format. Legal ID 1359:50 "KKSB, Santa Barbara. KKSB-AM 990." Into Mutual News. Right after news at 1405, jingle: "Good times in the morning!" Fair midday under local KFWB-980 slop. (SMM-CA)
- 1270 KESS TX, Fort Worth SM 2/28 0502 poor-fair with male DJ, "La fabulosa" slogans, ads mentioned 24 hou. operation. Ex-KSSA, which has moved to 1600 kHz. (TRH-CA)
- \*\*\*\*\*
- 540 KVIP CA, Redding 3/7 0300 fair with s/off, ment. of 980w days, 15.75 watts night. (RW-CA)
- KNMX NM, Las Vegas 3/4 2003 fair-good. SIN news with male annncr, then one mariachi tune and into s/off annct. by female annncr. Off by 2008 (7 minutes early). Never heard at sunset before. (TRH-CA)
- 620 KCLQ CA, Hanford 3/3 0101 s/off under KGW/KTAR with full s/off anncts. (DKK-CA)

650 KUUY WY, Orchard Valley 3/9 0833 local news in progress, sponsored by Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power. Spot for same at 0834 followed by weather. 0835 "Next local news at 7:05 or when it happens on KUUY." Cheyenne area school lunch menus followed. 0836 "... Southern Pacific here on KUUY." 0840 Ag. news. (RtH-CA)

CKOM SK, Saskatoon 3/8 0632 fair with C&W music and frequent IDs. No sign of usually dominant CISL. New. (JW-OR)

690 (XETRA) BCN, Tijuana 3/7 0714 totally off. (RW-CA)

720 (KDWN) NY, Las Vegas 3/8 0647 no signal (not MM). No other station readable. (JW-OR)

790 KUTA UT, Blanding 3/4 2030-2031 very weak, just caught part of s/off, including one ID, on tape under KABC/XESU. New, UT #33. (TRH-CA)

820 CHAM ON, Hamilton SM 2/28 0410-0434 poor & fading under WBAP with C&W music, male DJ with promo for CHAM charity drive events. Might send them a taped report. (TRH-CA)

830 KIKI HI, Honolulu 3/8 0556 fair with big band era oldies. ID 0600. First time heard this location. (JW-OR)

850 KMDY CA, Thousand Oaks 2/23 0620 fair, putting a good dent in KOA tonight with usual comedy program. This station has proven that the comedy format DOES work, if you do it well! (TRH-CA)

910 KPOF CO, Denver 3/9 0814 "George Beverly Shea here on KOP Denver at 14 minutes past 6." ID same as previous at 0817 followed by local events calendar, i.e. REL concerts, etc. Replaced by Ensenada by 0824. No sign of usually dominant KALL. (RtH-CA) (I don't think I've heard them use "KOP" before...-NH)

920 KLOC CA, Ceres-Modesto 2/7 0530 contemporary Spanish vocals & SID "Ceres-Modesto" on the 1/2 hour. Briefly then disappeared. Apparently a 24 hour Spanish operation. (DL-HI)

970 KVVM AZ, Show Low 3/4 2017 poor-fair under strong KVIM with long ads by male DJ into pre-recorded "Friday Night Serenade" program of EZL music. (TRH-CA)

990 XECL BCN, Mexicali Th 3/10 1950 very strong midday signal wiping out KKSBI! Usually there isn't even a trace of XECL midday! Was this due just to unusual conditions, or maybe something was wrong with their DA? (SMM-CA)

1010 KZRC OR, Milwaukie 3/4 1157 heavy metal music, 1200 ID "KZRC Milwaukie AM. Z-Rock." (NH-WA)

1030 KJDJ CA, San Luis Obispo 3/1-3/2 2215-0400 with Mutual talk shows, including Larry King starting at 2300. Mutual News 2300, NBC News thereafter on hour. Cut thru KTWO well until KTWO s/off 0300 then atop KKSA easily. Lots of Motel 6 ads. (DKK-CA) +3/8 1000 nice, quick ID under a "nulled" KKSA while latter paused a second between their ID & news. Presumed both on day power/pattern. (RtH-CA)

1080 KSCO CA, Santa Cruz has Portuguese programming on SM. Noted 1013. Don't know exact hours. (RtH-CA)

1090 KNCR CA, Fortuna 3/1 1905 atop with fine signal. (DKK-CA)

1110 KRLA CA, Pasadena has just doubled its nighttime power to 20,000 watts. Also, day & night patterns have been slightly modified so that more signal goes into Orange Co. and out to Riverside/San Bernardino--and less signal to the north (Ventura Co.). Day and night signals are now stronger here in San Pedro. (SMM-CA)

1140 KVLI CA, Lake Isabella 3/1 2045-2100 under KRAK, s/off 2100 with SSB. (DKK-CA)

1150 KEZX WA, Seattle 2/28 0440 atop with KEZX promo. Heavy QRM. (DKK-CA)

1260 KCYX OR, McMinnville 2/7 0630 momentarily above CFRN with ID & Mutual News. Facilitated by KNDI-1270 temporary absence. (DL-HI)

1270 KPLY NV, Sparks-Reno SM 2/28 0441 fair with PSA's and slogans "K-Play, the oldies station, AM 12-70." Rare, local XEAZ was off tonight instead of usual OC. (TRH-CA)

1280 KJOY CA, Stockton has Spanish SM, noted 1050. (RtH-CA)

KDUK OR, Eugene 3/14 2230 good to poor in partial KTOL/KIT null, mix of old recordings, middle-of-the-road, and instrumentals. "KDUK" jingle between songs 2244. Singing legal ID between songs 2259 1/2. Ex-KQAK, also logged here as KYKN/KBDF/KERG. Station #990! (BH-WA)

KDYL UT, Salt Lake City 3/4 1953 poor under KFRN at SSS with ID by female DJ, then into Glen Miller's "St. Louis Blues March" (a favorite!). Rare here. (TRH-CA)

1340 CHNL2 BC, Ashcroft-Cache Creek 3/7 0705 "Radio NL" ID at close of Satellite Radio News. Well atop frequency! (RHM-WA)

- 1370 (KWRM) CA, Corona MM 2/22 0350 totally off. (TRH-CA)  
 KXTL MT, Butte MM 2/22 0350-0400 fair-good dominating channel at times with oldies (not usual Larry King Show), and legal ID: "Since 1927, we've been there when you needed us. KXTL, Butte." Rare here. (TRH-CA)  
 KSOP UT, South Salt Lake City MM 2/22 0350-0400 poor under KXTL/KEEN with C&W music, male DJ giving ID as "KSOP AM & FM." New. (TRH)  
 CFOK AB, Westlock 3/8 0806 ID after BNV news & detailed weather; ID followed by time check. Unverified; rarely heard; report off. (RHM-WA)
- 1380 KTOM CA, Salinas Wed. 3/9 2050 good in local KGER-1390 null at SSS with PSA & local ads. 2052 "K-Tom Weather Forecast," C&W music till 2100, when unID Mexican began QRM'ing. Legal ID, then "Good evening. 6:00 now at KTOM. I'm Jim Vernon with the latest updates from the K-Tom newsroom..." (Jim Vernon is the world-famous newsmen aka "Jim Hilliker") (SMM-CA)
- 1440 KMED OR, Medford 2/7 0312 solid in KUHL null with Valley Chevrolet spot & same (//) satellite music service as KXOA-1470--40s, 50s, 60s MOR hits. (DL-HI)
- 1450 KAVA CA, Burney 3/2 2040-2045 with Shasta Co. Community Calendar in KEST null. ID 2045 then gobbled up by Kings BKB station. (DKK)  
 KGRZ MT, Missoula 3/7 0157 Talknet, 0200 ID into NBC network news. Good over the mess. (NH-WA)
- 1470 KKFO CA, Coalinga 3/2 2030-2035 C&W music atop. "Great KFO Country" slogan at 2035. (DKK-CA)
- 1480 KLEO KS, Wichita 3/8 0600 ID out of jazz tune going into net news. (PM)  
 1490 KDB CA, Santa Barbara 2/7 0615 finally heard through KUMU-1500 slop with classical, for 1st logging on the channel. (DL-HI)  
 KSYC CA, Yreka 2/29 0759 s/on. A rarity these days--a CA "graveyarder"! (RHM-WA)
- 1550 KUAT AZ, Phoenix 3/9 0853 with local & state news in progress. Only ID came from an actuality 0855 "Yvette O'Shea, KUAT news." (Rth)  
 KZQQ UT, West Valley City 3/9 0852 with "--Rock" slogan followed by spot for record store. Faded to KUAT, back up by 0858 with ID at 0859 (heavily produced) "KZQQ West Valley, Utah. Z-Rock." (Rth-CA)
- 1600 WXVI AL, Montgomery 3/8 running a Black program on "Black man's rights" according to the Bible at 0310, spot for "Stop & Shop" at 0315. Fair. "You're listening to Sonshine 16, WXVI." (PM-OR)  
 (KGST) CA, Fresno 2/25 0055-0127 no trace of this pest which usually clobbers KMNY at night. Possibly a xmtr failure? (TRH-CA)  
 KMNY CA, Pomona 3/8 0405 with weather after news, "Money Radio" IDs, financial news. (PM-OR)  
 KRYX CO, Lakewood 2/25 0055-0127 fair-good, first noted on car radio on my way home from school with CHR music & "Denver's best music, Y-108" slogan. Tuned in at home to hear more CHR & a male DJ talking about how well the Denver Nuggets have been doing lately. Lost to KMNY-KXEW mix at 0127. Where was KGST? (TRH-CA)  
 +3/2 0502 ID as "Lakewood-Denver" nicely atop frequency. (RHM-WA)
- ?WOKB? FL, Winter Garden 3/7 soul station here mixing, poss. ID 2358, into R&B tune, lost in jumble. 3/8 0340 "KB" mention. (PM-OR)  
 ?WAAM? MI, Ann Arbor 3/8 poss. the one with "Ann Arbor Weather" 0306. Lost in mess as usual. (PM-OR)  
 ?KXVI? TX, McKinny 3/8 poor in jumble with news (sounded CNN), with spot for business in Dallas. "-XVI" ID at 0331. Lost under WXVI and KRYX. (PM-OR) (My log lists KTNS for this station...-NH)
- 1630 XERCN BCN, Tijuana Tu 2/9 1400-1500+ extremely faint spur here midday. (1470) Brought my TRF outside for maximum gain, and even then, could just barely, barely hear it. Did slow bandscan with second rx, & finally noted that it was // with XERCN-1470! Interesting how XERCN-1470 was being splashed by locals KTYM-1460 & KWIZ-1480, but 1630 (though extremely faint) was in the clear! Tim Hall in Chula Vista says that this is probably a cross-mod. with XEBG-1550 (1470+1630/2=1550). But, can a X-mod. from non-locals be heard at over 100 miles away? Also, I am certain that this was not here prior to a year ago. Maybe there is a cross-mod. and a new spur here? (SMM-CA)

UNIDs

- 810 2/7 0645-0700 EZL instrumentals heard last 2 MMs weakly in KGO null. Language is English, but just too far down there to make out what the guy's saying. Suggestions? (DL-HI)

- 870 3/9 0811 Spanish with ranchera music. (RtH-CA)  
 990 Tu 2/23 0545 unID with TTs. Fair signal. (TRH-CA)  
 1030 KSWB, Seaside, OR? 3/9 0800 heard what sounded like "KS???" Heavy traffic with local KKSA nulled & KTWO. Is Seaside on at this hour? (RtH-CA) (Isn't KSWB on 840???-NH)  
 1210 2/7 0450 1 kHz tester heard through local KZOO, but no ID possible. (DL-HI)  
 1210 3/7 0308 unID TT good over KPRZ, looping ESE. KQTL or KONY? (RW-CA)  
 1270 2/7 1 kHz tester under local KNDI 0355-0400. Again no ID possible. (DL-HI)  
 1470 2/7 0325 tester using intermittent tone of approx. 500 Hz. Nothing heard after 0330. (DL-HI)  
 1600 3/8 0344 "With one great hit after another, this ...." Sounded top 40 or AdCon. Any ideas ECers? (PM-OR)

Happy anniversary IRCA, from WDXR! ♡

## Broadcast Items

Stations WTIC, Hartford, Conn., and WEEI, Boston, have exchanged their wave lengths with the approval of the Department of Commerce. Henceforth WTIC will broadcast on 475.9 meters and WEEI will transmit on 348.6 meters. The transfer was approved as reception of these stations following the exchange seemed improved.

WHT, of Chicago, the Radiophone Broadcasting Station, has increased its power from 2500 to 3500 watts.

WRHF, the Radio Hospital Fund station at Washington, has renewed its license and will again operate on 256.3 meters, with 50 watts power.

WMAL, at Washington, has been authorized to operate with 100 watts on 212.6 meters.

WLS, Sears-Roebuck station in Chicago, has requested an increase of power to 5000 watts.

In a mad effort to meet the rush of orders from a vast area of territory,

### Three Additions to High-Power List

With the addition of WOK, Homewood, Ill., WEAJ, New York, and WHO, Des Moines, Iowa, to the five thousand watt broadcasting list, the total on the air today is ten, not counting KDKA, which is authorized to use up to 10 KW experimentally.

WGY, Schenectady, is using 3000 watts regularly now, but will probably go far higher when the results of its 50-KW tests are made known.

WSTB is the new and significant call of the South Bend Tribune station, formerly WGAZ.

extending into Canada and beyond the Rocky Mountain range, Fred Wilson, inventor an ddeveloper of the static eliminator bearing his name, is working three shifts of eight hours each daily to catch up.

The campaign planned to bring his product before radio set owners in the Eastern and Southern states has been necessarily postponed, the task being a man's size to supply the immediate country and the several Western states.

Inquiries from abroad as to American-made radio sets and parts have been received by the Department of Commerce during the past week from Germany, Lithuania and Australia. Interested exporters may secure details from the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, Washington, D. C.

The Division of Telegraphs and Telephones of the Salvador Government has purchased a 500-watt broadcasting set, which will operate n 400 meters. Its call is AQM.



**KLOK-AM**  
**1170**  
 S A N J O S E

P.O. Box 21248  
 San Jose, CA 95151



P.O. BOX 650  
 PETERSBURG, ALASKA 99833

# DX WORLDWIDE EAST

EDITOR: JIM HALL #240 BYRON ROAD #PITTSBURGH,  
PENNSYLVANIA 15237, U.S.A.

Just a short column this week - a report from Mark Connelly. I had some time at LSS the other day to check for TA's. There were some good hets and carriers, but my best TA Bev. was broken by a falling concrete block (really!) and I haven't had time to repair it. So, I once again have no loggings for this week. Times and dates are UTC:

## TRANS-ATLANTIC DX (Connelly-MA)

- 585 SPAIN, Madrid 2220 2/6 : SS talk & mx, fair through WEFI-590 slop.
- 666 PORTUGAL, Lisboa 2216 2/6 : Good w/excited PP talk, possibly a sports pgm.
- 684 SPAIN, Sevilla 2215 2/6 : XInt w/man & woman in SS.
- 765 SENEGAL, Dakar 2213 2/6 : Good w/accented FF talk. (An AA vern.? ed)
- 774 SPAIN, 2226 2/6 : Man & woman in SS, o/fast SAH. (Readers, a SAH, or sub-audible heterodyne, is a heterodyne with too low a frequency to be audible to the human ear. It is detected by rapid S-meter deflections/beats and is caused by two carriers on slightly different frequencies. Therefore, another TA carrier was being received as well as Mark's Spanish logging, but the other signal's strength was less than that of Spain. ed)
- 891 ALGERIA, Algiers 2148 2/6 : Gd w/AA talk.
  
- 1035 PORTUGAL, Lisboa 2144 2/6 : Strong w/PP talk by man.
- 1107 EGYPT, Batra 0325 2/7 : To strong peaks w/AA female vocal & flutes.
- 1467 MONACO, Monte Carlo 2200 2/6 : Time beep, religious mx; poor in slop.
- 1539 WEST GERMANY, Mainflingen 0454 2/7 : Muzak, good on peaks.
- 1566 TUNISIA, Sfax 2150 2/6 : a-cappella AA chant o/fast SAH.
- 1584 SPAIN, 0452 2/7 : SS talk by man, good.
- 1593 WEST GERMANY, Langenberg 0450 2/7 : Loud w/Alpine GG group vocal mx.
- 1602 SPAIN, 0451 2/7 : SS talk, female vocal mx, fair in slop.

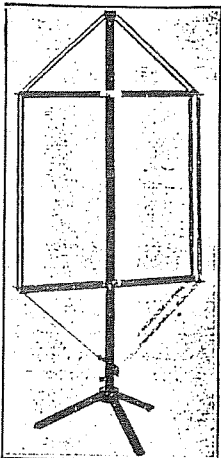
That's all this week. Thanks, Mark, for the fine TA loggings - looking forward to hearing from you again. Although I haven't DXed too much lately, it's comforting to know that I can occasionally hear some of these TA's here in Pittsburgh too.

### CREDITS:

(Connelly-MA)

Mark Connelly, 7 Trowbridge Path, West Yarmouth, MA 02673  
(Sony ICF-2010 w/Gerry Thomas filter mod., two phased 37-m. longwires)

**Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Calgary,  
Cincinnati, Davenport, Jefferson City with**



## THREE TUBES ON A DUNHAM LOOP

Reception by Ted Young, 221 North Ave. 23

The Dunham Collapsible Loop Aerial is the most efficient loop on the market today regardless of price. Competition invited with any loop made. Handy for camping. Folds into box 18 in. x 6 in. x 4 in. Made of most efficient wire ever put on a loop. NON-STRETCHING, NON-KINKABLE WIRE, 103 strands No. 38 wire, laboratory tested. Best reception assured.

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# DX Worldwide - West



**PAT MARTIN**  
**P.O. BOX 843**  
**SEASIDE, OR 97138**

**Time: UTC phone (503) 861-3185 DEADLINES: 3/29, 4/5**

DX this week continues to be slow. Not much at all. If it wasn't for Bruce Portzer sending a few tips in and a phone tip from Tim Hall there wouldn't be anything much. From mDX AUSTRALIA and NZRDXL (Paul Ormandy) comes word of a new Print Handicapped station in New Zealand on 1602 KHZ with 500 watts. Call is 2XA. Radio Ngati is on 1125 KHZ with 900 watts until August. From 1900-1200 daily. If you are lucky to hear them, address: C/O Mr. Bob Kaa-22 Mangaharei Street-Ruatoria, New Zealand. This is from NZRDXL and DX Australia. ICRT-1548 is now off the air, but will return soon on 567 KHZ in Stereo in Taiwan. Now on with tips.

## PAN-AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

- 720 MEXICO, Mazatlan-Radio Alegria, heard from 0420 3/16 with IDs as "La Grande de Mazatlan". This is ex 1350. Quite strong mixing and under KDOWN. New. (TRH-CA) (Thx Tim for the call and the tip.PM)  
 1610 ANQUILLA, Radio Caribbean Beacon in fair at 0430 3/17 with rel. mx. (PM-OR)

## TRANS-PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

- 1476 USSR/CHINA, Buzzsaw jammer fair 1350 3/13. Also one of them good w/ woman in CC 1415. (BP-WA)  
 1494 UNID, faint het/carrier 1422 3/13. (BP-WA)  
 1503 JAPAN, Akita-JOUK-JJ talk surfaced briefly 1346 and 1357 3/13 (BP-WA)  
 1512 UNID, het in briefly 1415 3/13. (BP-WA)

## THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

- TRH-CA TIM HALL- 350 G STREET-F-1-CHULA VISTA, CA. 92010-4505  
 ICF-2010, Radio West Loop  
 BP-WA BRUCE PORTZER-6546 19TH AVENUE-SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98115  
 Racal RA17, Radio West Loop  
 PM-OR YER EDITOR  
 SP-600, 1500' East Beverage, Ground System

## \*\*\*\*\* ELEVEN NEW STATIONS \*\*\*\*\*

Call	Owner	Wave Length Meters	Frequency Kcys.	Power Watts
WMBG	Havens & Martin, Richmond, Va.....	220	1363	10
WMBH	Edwin Dudley Aber, portable, Chicago, Ill..	280	1071	100
WBMH	Braun's Music House, Detroit, Mich.....	352.7	850	100
KGES	Central Radio Elec. Co., Central City, Neb..	205.4	1460	10
WCOT	Jacob Conn, Olneyville, R. I.....	265.3	1130	100
KGER	C. Merwin Dobyms, Long Beach, Calif.....	325.9	920	100
KGEQ	Fred W. Herrmann, Minneapolis, Minn.....	330	908.6	50
KGEN	E. R. Irey & F. M. Bowles, El Centro, Calif..	281	1067	15
WMBJ	Wm. Roy McShaffrey, Monessen, Pa.....	277.6	1080	50
WMBE	Dr. C. S. Stevens, St. Paul, Minn.....	220	1363	5
WSEA	Virginia Beach Broadcasting Co., Va., Beach Va .....	510.9	580	500

## THREE-WAVE CHANGES

- KFKB, J. R. Brinkley, M. D., Milford, Kansas wave-length changed from 431.4 meters, 695 kilocycles, to 434.5 meters, 690 kilocycles.  
 WKBO, Camith Corp., Jersey City, N. J., wave-length changed from 303.9 meters, 986.6 kilocycles, to 220.4 meters, 1360 kilocycles.  
 WAFD, Albert B. Parfet Co., Detroit, Mich., location changed from Port Huron, Mich.; wave-length changed from 275.1 meters, 1090 kilocycles, to 312.3 meters, 960 kilocycles.

The power and wave-lengths given were taken from the applications for licenses. As the department has no jurisdiction in this respect, the power and wave-lengths noted are not necessarily being used by the stations.

# IRCA SportsCentre

DEADLINES: 4/3, 4/17, 5/1, 5/29

Dale Park  
1516 Hinman Av #705  
Evanston IL 60201-4659

How're ya doin' ev'rybody? You've got the heavyweight champion, the gold medallist, the holder of the Series pennant...you've got the IRCA SportsCentre. [Uh oh, a Chet Cop-pock clone in our midst!] We're loaded tonight, in fact more loaded than the Dirty Dozen and The A-Team in a tag-team tussle with Hulk Hogan and Mister T. On deck, direct from our nation's capital, this year's baseball lineup on the radio. Plus a cast of dozens. You'll get your place on the dance card, if you contribute. Grab that info and shoot it over to the QTH. Batter up...

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

750 WSB--GA\$	<u>Atlanta BRAVES</u> (115)	Ernie Johnson, Pete van Wieren, Skip Caray, Billy Sample
720 WGN--IL\$	Chicago CUBS (74) <sup>1</sup>	Dewayne Staats, Steve Stone, Harry Caray, Davey Nelson
700 WLW--OH	<u>Cincinnati REDS</u> (72)	Marty Brennaman, Joe Nuxhall
740 KTRH-TX	<u>Houston ASTROS</u> (40-45) Spanish (?)	Vin Scully, Jerry Doggett, Ross Porter
790 KABC-CA	Los Angeles DODGERS (30)	Dave van Horne, Jim Fanning
1300 KWKW-CA\$	Spanish (?)	Jacques Doucet, Rodger Brulotte
600 CFCE-QU	Montreal EXPOS (9) <sub>3</sub>	
730 CKAC-QU	French (30):	
1050 WFAN-NY	New York METS (108-110) <sup>4</sup>	Harry Kalas, Richie Ashburn, Andy Musser, Chris Wheeler
1210 WCAU-PA	Philadelphia PHILLIES (29)	Lanny Frattare, Jim Rooker, Jack Buck, Mike Shannon
1020 KDKA-PA	<u>Pittsburgh PIRATES</u> (40)	Jerry Coleman
1120 KMOX-MO\$	St. Louis CARDINALS (115) <sup>5</sup>	
760 KFMB-CA\$	<u>San Diego PADRES</u> (12)	
1420 XEXX-BCN	Spanish (20):	
680 KNBR-CA\$	San Francisco GIANTS (10)	Ron Fairly, Wayne Hagin
1010 KIQT-CA\$	Spanish (32):	

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

1090 WBAL-MD	Baltimore ORIOLES (40) <sub>6</sub>	Jon Miller, Joe Angel
1390 WFLM-MA+	Boston RED SOX (81)	Ken Coleman, Joe Castiglione
99.1 WFLM-MA+		
710 KMPC-CA\$	California ANGELS (22)	Allan L. Conin, Ken Brett
1090 XEPRS-BCN	Spanish (?)	
670 WMAQ-IL\$	Chicago WHITE SOX (25)	Lorn Brown, Del Crandall
1300 WTAQ-IL\$	Spanish (?)	
1100 WWVE-OH	Cleveland INDIANS (28)	Herb Score, Paul Olden
760 WJR-MI\$	Detroit TIGERS (37)	Ernie Harwell, Paul Carey
580 WIBW-KS	Kansas City ROYALS (120)	Denny Matthews, Fred White
620 WTMJ-WI	<u>Milwaukee BREWERS</u> (60-67) <sup>7</sup>	Bob Uecker, Pat Hughes
830 WCCO-MN\$	Minnesota TWINS (65)	Herb Carneal, Jim Kaat, John Gordon
770 WABC-NY\$	New York YANKEES (39)	Hank Greenwald
560 KSFO-CA\$	<u>Oakland A'S</u> (16)	Lon Simmons, Bill King, Ray Fosse
1430 KNVA-CA	Spanish (?)	
710 KIRO-WA	Seattle MARINERS (about 30)	
820 WBAP-TX	Texas RANGERS (18)	
1430 CJCL-ON	Toronto BLUE JAYS (65) <sup>3</sup>	Tom Cheek, Jerry Howarth

**HOW TO READ:** The first column lists the flagship station and the non-English flagship if used (Spanish or French). The team is in the second column with the network size. In the third column are the announcers' names, if known. Owner of broadcast rights is underlined with these exceptions: 1. Syndicator is Tribune Radio Network. 2. The English Network owns rights. 3. Telemedia Broadcast Systems own rights. 4. Rights owned in partnership. 5. Syndicator is Bud Sports. 6. Sydicator is Campbell Sports Network. 7. Station owner Midwest Communications own rights.

## NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

LOS ANGELES LAKERS Chick Hearn, Keith Erickson

570 KLAC-CA\$	990 KHVH-HI	1270 KNWZ-CA	1340 KATY-CA	1410 KERN-CA
870 KROL-TV	1240 KNRY-CA\$	1290 KMEN-CA	KIST-CA	1450 KOWA-CA
940 KNST-CA	KSMA-CA	1340 KVOY-CA	1400 KVIS-CA	KVEN-CA

SEATTLE SUPERSONICS Bob Blackburn, Kevin Calabro

730 KULE-WA	1170 KPUG-WA	1320 KXRO-WA	1340 KOTY-WA	1450 KONP-WA
920 KXLY-WA\$	1280 KTOL-WA\$	1340 KTKI-WA	KAPA-WA	1470 KELA-WA
950 KJR--WA\$	KIT--WA\$		KWWW-WA	1490 KVAC-WA



NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

LOS ANGELES KINGS Bob Miller

570 KLAC-CA\$ 1260 KGLI-CA\$<sup>1</sup> 1600 KMNY-CA<sup>1</sup>

1. NOTE: Carries games if conflict on KLAC occurs.

INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

SAGINAW HAWKS Bruce Oech (Blackhawks/Canadiens) 1400 WSAM-MI\$ No Affiliates

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

1150 CFX--MB,	Brandon (MB) WHEAT KINGS	Glen Dufresne, Dean Jago
610 CHNL-BC	Kamloops (BC) BLAZERS	Kelly Moore
1220 CJOC-AB	Lethbridge (AB) HURRICANES	UNAVAILABLE
1270 CHAT-AB	Medicine Hat (AB) TIGERS	Bob Ridley
800 CHAB-SK\$	Moose Jaw (SK) WARRIORS	Brynn Griffiths
NONE	New Westminster (BC) BRUINS	
1290 KVLX-OR	Portland WINTER HAWKS	Dean Vrooman, Ron Ross
900 CKBI-SK	Prince Albert (SK) RAIDERS	Morley Jaeger
980 CKRM-SK	Regina PATS	Kevin Gallant
600 CFQC-SK\$	Saskatoon BLADES	Roger Millions
1360 KKMO-WA	Seattle THUNDERBIRDS	Bob Kaser
590 KAQQ-WA	Spokane CHIEFS	Rich Waltz
570 CKSW-SK+	Swift Current (SK) BRONCOS	John Ens
94.1 CJGL-SK+	Victoria COUGARS	

NOTE: The WHL, like the Ontario & Quebec Major Junior Hockey Leagues, is a Major Junior level amateur league for high school-age players. The National Hockey League annually drafts several players from the WHL. 1. Stations on the NL Network may carry selected games.

MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE

680 WCBM-MD	Baltimore BLAST	Art Sinclair
1080 KRLD-TX	Dallas SIDEKICKS	UNAVAILABLE
1600 KMNY-CA	Los Angeles LAZERS	Joel Meyers, Bill Macdonald
1280 KSNE-MN	Minnesota STRIKERS	Paul Johnson
690 XETRA-BCIN\$	San Diego SOCKERS	Randy Hahn
1420 XEXX-BCN	Spanish:	UNAVAILABLE
1000 KOMO-WA\$	Tacoma STARS	UNAVAILABLE
1240 KNSS-KS	Wichita WINGS	Dave Phillips

AMERICAN INDOOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION

1480 WHBC-OH	Canton (OH) INVADERS	UNAVAILABLE
UNAVAILABLE	Fort Wayne (IN) FLAMES	UNAVAILABLE
NONE	Memphis STORM	
1130 WISN-WI	Milwaukee WAVE	Bob Bach or Tom Winn

SO FULL OF RUNS, HITS AND ERRORS YOU CAN FEEL IT: The CBS Radio Network is in its fourth year of a five-year contract to cover Major League Baseball each week. A pair of games will be aired each of the season's 26 Saturdays, one day and one night beginning 9 April, plus several games crucial to the playoffs near season's end. CBS will also air the All Star Game, league playoffs and the World Series. Announcers include Johnny Bench, Jerry Coleman, Howard David, Gene Elston, Jim Hunter, Brent Musburger, John Rooney, Dick Stockton and Bill White. During the fifth or "home town" inning, the team announcers will sit in. About 265 stations, some not with CBS, will carry some or all of the games.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK: Broadcasting; Standard Rates and Data Service; various teams.

Typed 7 Mar. That wraps up this edition. If you want to join the party, get on the horn to your local team and ask them to send their network affiliate list to your local SportsCentre guy. Top priority: baseball. Watch those deadlines! And now, taking us home, the one and only Sammy Davis doing George Thorogood. See ya in DXM.



REDWOOD BROADCASTING COMPANY  
Radio Center  
6th & E Streets - P.O. Box KEKA  
Eureka, California 95501



5640 South Broadway, Eureka, CA 95501

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## A Few Tube Facts

By actual burning hour tests, stock tubes picked at random have exceeded 1500 hours of life. Figuring on the average set being used four hours per day, and not taking into consideration any misuse of the tubes, this means that such tubes should last a radio enthusiast for over one year. Basing this on the initial cost of the tube, this brings it to less than one cent per day and less than one-quarter cent per hour of use.

The method under which tubes are tested for life is to place them in a circuit equivalent to a radio set, turn on the current and place a set of meters in the filament, grid and plate circuits. Keeping the current constant in all circuits. Readings are taken every hundred hours, and when the filament-plate spoils or emission current falls off appreciably, the life of the tube is falling off. Tubes have been designed which would last for over 3000 hours, but their manufacturing cost proved to be prohibitive.

# The NRD 525 Versus the R5000

by Dave Newkirk

(Reprinted from "Enjoying Radio", circa 10/87 & 2/88)

## EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF THE JAPAN RADIO COMPANY NRD-525 AND KENWOOD R-5000 RECEIVERS -- PART ONE (dpm)

Last summer, I purchased an NRD-525 receiver from Universal Shortwave in Reynoldsburg, Ohio; shortly thereafter, I was able to borrow a Kenwood R-5000 receiver for a couple of months. Here are a few observations on the quality and function of these receivers, and how they compare. First, however, I'll discuss why I decided on the NRD-525 over the R-5000; the choice seems to be a tough one for some people, even though the '525 is considerably more expensive than the '5000.

### Why I Chose What I Chose

"Fred, does adjusting the NRD-525's BFO control change the receiver's frequency display?" In the end, my choice between the NRD-525 and R-5000 hinged entirely on this question. I put it to *Fred Osterman* via UBIX, Universal Shortwave's computer bulletin board. Next time I logged onto the board, I had my answer: "No, adjustment of that control does not change the frequency display." "Sold!" says I. But why should this have been so important to me?

I do quite a bit of listening to radiotelegraph (Morse code, CW, A1 or A1A, depending on what you prefer to call it) signals -- weak shortwave broadcast carriers included -- and I wanted my new receiver to perform *very well* during CW reception. Part of that performance had to include two things: (1) the facility to adjust received-signal pitch to a frequency considerably lower -- say, 400 Hz -- than the earsplitting 800-Hz pitch unfortunately standard in almost all Japanese shortwave receivers and transceivers; and (2) correct display of the signal frequency regardless of the pitch setting. The R-5000 fails both of these tests, as far as I have been able to ascertain from reading its *Service and Owner's Manuals*: Unlike its seeming-sibling TS-440S transceiver (in which cutting a diode lowers the pitch of at-IF-center signals from 800 to 400 Hz), the R-5000 does not afford adjustment of pitch of received signals if you want its frequency display to indicate correctly with the signal properly tuned (at IF center). Inclusion of an RIT (receiver incremental tuning) control on the R-5000 might well have resulted -- after a fashion -- in such pitch-adjustment capability: As long as the RIT control didn't change the receiver's frequency display, adjusting RIT and using the receiver's IF SHIFT control could allow pitch adjustment. Nothing doing, though: No RIT on the R-5000. You can tune in a signal on the R-5000 and move IF SHIFT to center the signal in the passband, but then the frequency display is incorrect. Big deal, huh? Well, it is to me. I don't intend to buy another "latest and greatest" radio for quite a few years, and I wanted to get it right.

The NRD-525's BFO control allows adjustment of the radio's beat-frequency oscillator over quite a range above and below IF center -- only during CW reception. And adjusting this control does not shift the '525's frequency display. As a result, you can tune in a signal of known frequency -- say, WWV -- until the display shows that frequency, and adjust the BFO control for the pitch you want. Because you can adjust the BFO frequency above and below IF center, you can also choose "upper-" or "lower-sideband" CW reception. (You're not really choosing a CW sideband, of course, but you are choosing how the pitch of received signals changes as you tune in a particular direction. I prefer a receiver in which received pitches fall as I tune upward in frequency. Sometimes, however, I can dodge interference more effectively if I can choose which CW "sideband" I'm listening to.) By cracky, here's a receiver in which CW reception is taken *seriously*!

Another reason I chose the NRD-525 over the R-5000 is the '5000's ridiculous non-standard keypad, complete with nearly-invisible numbers. Sure, out of the box, the '5000 emits beeps and Morse-code letters (depending on the keypad mode) when you hit those keys, but I want to know what a key is *before* I press it, not after! The NRD-525 has a standard -- like a calculator, adding-machine or telephone -- keypad. True, the feel of the 525's keypad buttons can best be described as cheesy, but I don't have to relearn the position of its keys every time I enter a frequency as I do with the R-5000.

The third main reason I chose the NRD-525 is that I felt better about buying a product at the low end of a classy product line than I did about buying a product at the high end of a friend-to-all-and-stranger-to-none product line. I've owned five pieces of Kenwood equipment, and all worked quite well. Yet, I wanted something a cut above what I have long accepted as good enough. (*to be continued*)

## EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF THE JAPAN RADIO COMPANY NRD-525 AND KENWOOD R-5000 RECEIVERS -- PART TWO (dpm)

Part One appeared on pp ERO346-0347. Okay, so I bought a Japan Radio Company NRD-525 last summer. I also purchased the optional 0.5- and 1.0-kHz IF filters; these I installed at the 525's NARROW and AUX selectivity positions, respectively.

The Kenwood R-5000 I borrowed came with uninstalled 0.5-kHz (YK-88C) and 6-kHz (YK-88A-1) filters. Despite the admonitions sprinkled through *The R-5000 Owner's and Service Manuals* -- to have this work, and any other work involving intelligence, done only by those fabulous creatures called Qualified Service Personnel -- I easily installed these two filters myself. You're correct if you're assuming that the *Owner's Manual* contains no instructions for filter installation.

The *Service Manual* does contain filter-installation information -- in addition to the admonition that you not use that information yourself! Apparently, the *Service Manual* is marketed merely as a collectible for those who must have "the whole set."

### Comparing the Two

"AM" detection. The '525 does not make use of rectification for "AM" detection. Rather, the receiver's product-detector IC -- an SN75614 -- is left connected to the last IF-amplifier stage, and the BFO -- necessary in product detection -- is turned off. In place of the BFO signal, the incoming AM signal -- at IF -- is amplified, amplitude limited until only the carrier remains, and fed to the BFO port on the SN75614. This is true exalted carrier reception. Larry Magne -- following advertising terminology devised by the R. L. Drake Company -- insists on calling it "synchrophase detection," whatever the hell that is. (Drake used this exalted-carrier technique in its R-7, and I suppose R-4245, receivers. This detection technique is also used in some television receivers for video demodulation; such video detectors are sometimes erroneously termed "synchronous" by equipment reviewers, admen and spec-sheet writers.)

Bottom line on the '525's exalted-carrier AM detector: I don't like how it sounds compared to a properly-implemented diode rectification detector. Under some conditions, the detector distorts during modulation peaks on very strong AM signals. This may be detector overdrive -- and, therefore, poor AGC design -- but it's there nonetheless.

And I don't like how the '525's AM detector sounds compared to the R-5000's AM detector, which uses a bipolar transistor as a rectifier/amplifier. Larry Magne has written that the '5000's AM detector sometimes suffers from "breakup distortion"; I heard this with the R-5000 only when I misadjusted one of the radio's noise blankers during reception of strong AM signals. The R-5000 sounds very smooth during rectification detection of AM signals; the NRD-525 doesn't sound quite so smooth, especially during selective fading. (By the way, I made this comparison using whatever each radio offers for AM WIDE selectivity. No high-quality communications receiver should be expected to provide useful audio with rectification detection of double-sideband AM broadcast signals through an SSB bandwidth! Such techniques seem to have worked reasonably well with older -- and cheaper modern -- receivers, mainly [I reason] because their SSB-bandwidth skirt selectivities were mediocre to terrible, allowing enough carrier leakage to keep distortion tolerable during rectification detection with SSB receiving bandwidths.)

Heterodyne ("product") detection. Good on both receivers for SSB voice. It sounds to me like nonsynchronous heterodyne reception of very strong SWBC signals sometimes results in overdrive to the NRD-525's product detector; I can't duplicate this effect with the R-5000.

The R-5000 is audibly inferior to the NRD-525 for CW reception. I don't know if it's happening the '5000's audio filtering -- there is some -- or audio-power-amplifier IC, but the R-5000 sounds

crummy during product detection of weak CW signals received with the YK-88C (500-Hz) IF filter. The pure pitch of the received signal intermodulates with incoming noise and is harmonically distorted in addition. If I owned one of these receivers, I'd modify this problem out or sell the radio. This distortion probably occurs during CW reception with the SSB filter -- and during SSB reception -- but is masked by the wider-bandwidth noise recovered with the wider filter.

The NRD-525 sounds fine during CW reception through its 500-Hz IF filter. Audio distortion and intermodulation distortion akin to that of the R-5000 do not exist in the '525. I couldn't have known this when I bought the '525; the difference in CW-audio quality in the radios was not so much a pleasant surprise with the '525 as a shock with the '5000. No radio costing circa \$800 should sound like that.

FM reception sounds fine to me with both receivers. If you don't order the optional VHF (R-5000) or VHF/UHF (NRD-525) converter with the receiver you decide on, you won't use its FM capability much. Two possibilities: tune 1600-1800 kHz for cordless phones -- a favorite pastime of mine; such verity beats certain forms of Art all hollow -- and try circa 29.6 MHz for radio amateurs working FM. (The NRD-525 does give you 30-34 MHz reception; there are a few safety and paging services in there; these use FM.)

Audio oddities. The R-5000 handles stereo and monaural headphones well. The headphone jack on the stock NRD-525 is wired incorrectly for proper stereo-headphone operation. The problem is related to making a stereo jack compatible with monaural and stereo headphones. Kenwood solves this problem by using a complicated jack. JRC tries to solve this problem by using a simple jack: The sleeve ("common") of the jack floats above ground; audio connections are made to the tip and ring terminals of the jack. This is just peachy for monaural headphones, but it results in stereo headphones being driven out of phase. (Plugged into the NRD-525, stereo earphones end up in series instead of in parallel; the monaural audio image is indistinct and spread, as opposed to the "straight ahead of you" sound afforded by parallel connection of stereo earphones to a monaural source.) The audible effect of this is distracting. I rewired the '525's headphone jack within a week of the receiver's arrival -- the warranty can go fish.

The NRD-525 does not "power up" gracefully: When you flip its POWER switch on, the set produces a loud thump in the speaker (or headphones, if you're wearing them). As you'd expect from a company that also markets audio equipment, the R-5000 powers up quietly.

The NRD-525's headphone/speaker audio output is plagued by a high-pitched whine -- about 13 kHz, I learned with the help of an audio spectrum analyzer -- that is strongest at turn-on and diminishes as the receiver warms up. It's there regardless of the setting of the AF GAIN control, although it seems to increase with the setting of the control at the high end of the control range. The analyzer also shows that the third harmonic of this signal is present, suggesting that the noise is digital in nature (square waves, according to electronics theory, consist of a

fundamental and odd harmonics). But I don't think the set's logic circuitry is the culprit: I suspect that the whine is coming from the dc-to-dc converter used in conjunction with the '525's fluorescent display. I intend to get rid of the noise, but it'll take some doing, and time I don't have right now. The noise is not present in the '525's line audio output.

The NRD-525's audio LINE OUTPUT is adjustable in level; the R-5000's RECORD OUT level is not adjustable.

What about an audio input? Both the R-5000 and NRD-525s are expected to be used with transmitters; both have MUTING terminals for shutting 'em up during transmit. If you're going to transmit CW when when your receiver is muted, though, you need something called a sidetone so you can hear the code you send. (Many transmitters and electronic keyers generate the necessary audio signal simultaneously with keying.) The NRD-525's rear-panel SIDETONE jack allows injection of a sidetone signal into the receiver audio chain; there's even a trimmer potentiometer for setting the sidetone level! With the R-5000, however, it's a case of "Guess again, banana-nose!" **The R-5000 has no facility for the injection of sidetone!** (Nor does the R-1000 or R-2000. The bilateral nature of the R-1000's REC output circuitry, however, allows injection of sidetone into the '1000 there; in the R-2000 and R-5000, buffer amplifiers render the REC line unilateral. Sorry, Charlie!) If I owned an R-5000, I'd remedy this at once -- right around the same time I solved the '5000's audio-IMD-during-CW-reception problem.

The R-5000's audio NOTCH control works, but its action is of limited usefulness for two reasons: (1) Because the notch circuitry operates at AF, an incoming heterodyne has already acted on the receiver's AGC circuitry by the time it hits the notch, and (2) its tuning range (500-2600 Hz) doesn't allow attenuation of 5-kHz heterodynes during shortwave-broadcast reception.

The NRD-525's NOTCH control works at IF, and is quite effective. Like the R-5000's notch, however, it works only for heterodynes pitched at a couple of kilohertz at most; with 5-kHz heterodynes, you're on your own.

**IF shift/passband tuning.** This facility works well in both receivers. The R-5000's IF shift facility does not work during "AM" detection; the NRD-525's passband shift does work during AM reception. In both radios, passband shift works regardless of the filter selected; in both radios, the shift works only within one sideband (you may be able to sneak across zero beat during CW reception with one or both of these radios, but not very far). For those who belly-ache that this facility does not work during "AM" (rectification) reception: The value of passband tuning is that it allows tuning the passband in situations where tuning the receiver would cause an unwanted shift in the pitch of received signals. Now, ask yourself this: During "AM" detection, does the pitch (that is, pitches in audio) of received AM signals vary when you tune the receiver? No, they don't. This means that tuning the receiver during "AM" reception accomplishes exactly the same thing as shifting the passband during heterodyne reception.

During envelope (rectification) detection, the only difference between tuning the receiver and tuning the passband is that tuning the receiver alters the frequency display -- and the frequency display isn't very accurate during envelope detection (with a filter more than a few hundred hertz wide), anyway.

**Selectivity switching.** The NRD-525 and R-5000 allow independent selection of "mode" and IF selectivity -- it's about time! The R-5000 offers an additional choice: "auto" selection of selectivity with mode (6 kHz for "AM," 2.4 kHz for SSB and so on). This is nice to have. With the NRD-525, you're on your own: If, for instance, you've been listening to CW with the 500-Hz filter, choosing the "AM" mode gives you exalted-carrier reception with a 500-Hz IF bandwidth. So, changing "modes" is often a two-button operation with the '525 -- no big deal to me.

The R-5000's SELECTIVITY selector is a rotary switch; the NRD-525's < and > MODE buttons allow you to step through narrow, intermediate, wide and auxiliary selectivity options bidirectionally.

**AGC and AGC switching.** The R-5000 offers choices of SLOW and FAST. The NRD-525 offers choices of OFF, FAST and SLOW. Pushing the AGC button steps the receiver through these choices in one direction. This I don't much like. If you've got the '525 in "slow" AGC and you want to get to "fast," you've got to pass through "off"! If you're wearing headphones, this procedure tempts disaster: Will an overloaded '525 clip well enough to protect my ears? I don't intend to research this!

For reception of desired signals, AGC attack time seems adequate in both receivers. Each responds differently to noise pulses, however. Strong noise pulses or signal peaks sometimes cause the R-5000's AGC to "hang" until you reset it by cycling the AGC SLOW/FAST button. Conversely, the 525's AGC-detector response time seems to be too slow to respond to such pulses, causing receiver overload for the duration of each pulse. This results in annoying high-pitched-and-distorted pops in recovered audio. I use the '525's noise blanker to minimize this effect. (The R-5000's AGC seems to hang even with its noise blanker[s] in use.) Like the R-5000, the '525's "slow" AGC is far too slow if you're doing a bandscan: The receiver comes back to full gain so slowly after being hit by a strong signal that you'll tend to miss weakies unless you leave the AGC in "fast." The R-5000 manual suggests leaving its AGC set to "fast" during rapid bandscans for the same reason. The difference between "slow" AGC in the two radios is mainly that the '525's "slow" AGC doesn't hang on strong, sharp noise pulses, while the '5000's "slow" AGC does.

If you like the heavy compression of Kenwood AGC, you'll like R-5000's AGC characteristic. The NRD-525's AGC does not seem to compress recovered audio into as narrow an amplitude range as does the R-5000's, and I like this. (JRC specifies the NRD-525's AGC characteristic as "Change of output is 10 dB or less when the antenna input changes by 3 microvolts to 100 millivolts." 10 dB is a pretty wide swing if it's really there -- enough to let you hear signal dynamics. Although I haven't measured it, I'll bet the R-5000's output change is between 1 and 3 dB over a similar



range; that's how Kenwood has designed communications- and ham-receiver AGC for at least 10 years.)

**Memories and VFOs.** The R-5000 is touted as having "dual digital VFOs." As I've written before in *ER*, this isn't really the case; the R-5000's "dual VFOs" are really tunable memories capable of storing frequency, mode and antenna selection (one of two choices). In addition to this information, the R-5000's 100 non-tunable memories remember whether or not a given channel is locked out (passed over) during memory scanning. When the R-5000 is in its VFO mode, its keypad can be used to select antennas, modes and frequencies by direct entry; its tuning dial acts like a frequency tuning dial; and its UP and DOWN buttons move the tuned frequency in 1-MHz hops. In memory mode, the R-5000's keypad selects memory channels; the tuning dial selects memory channels; the UP and DOWN buttons select memory channels. If you want to change anything in a memory channel, you must first transfer the contents of that memory to one of the VFOs.

The NRD-525 has only one "VFO," if that term must be used. That VFO is engaged when the '525's FREQ button is pressed. In this mode, the '525's UP and DOWN buttons tune the receiver in 1- or 10-kHz steps, depending on whether or not the RUN button is pressed first; the tuning dial changes the received frequency in 0.01- or 0.1-kHz steps, again depending on whether or not the RUN button is pressed first; the keypad can be used for direct frequency entry to 0.01 kHz. Pressing CHANNEL puts the NRD-525 into its memory mode. In this mode, the tuning dial stays a tuning dial; the UP and DOWN buttons step up or down through memory channels; the keypad selects memory channels. Each memory stores frequency, selectivity, mode, AGC and input-attenuator setting. Each of the NRD-525's 200 memories is tunable. In fact, all stored data are variable while the NRD-525 is in memory mode. The only thing I really miss on the '525 over the R-5000 in this regard is the '525's lack of a "VFO A/B" switch. Comparing two signals for parallelism is therefore easier on the R-5000 than the NRD-525; in the '525, you have to put the two frequencies in adjacent memory channels and use the receiver's UP and DOWN buttons to jump between them. With the '5000, you merely hit VFO A/B to toggle between the two frequencies. I still maintain that you really need two separate receivers to fully ascertain signal parallelism, but having toggleable "VFOs" is also valuable for keeping close watch on two frequencies as sign-on, -off or ID time approaches.

In practice, I like the NRD-525's memory system better, however. I like being able to tune a memory -- "tuning" including altering mode, selectivity, frequency and AGC -- at will. (The memory contents are not rewritten unless you choose to do so. So, if you want to return to the stored data after having tuned away, changed mode or whatever, hitting ENT/kHz restores everything to the original data.)

**Antenna selection.** The R-5000's ANT 1 and ANT 2 selector buttons are quite an improvement over those little rear-panel slide switches used to do the job on some other receivers. Antenna 1 on the R-5000 must be 50 ohms; Antenna 2 can be 50 or

500 ohms. (The 500-ohm input is the best choice for a random wire antenna unless you know that the wire is closer to 50 ohms at your frequency of interest.) The NRD-525's HI-Z (500-ohm) and LOW-Z (50-ohm) antenna inputs are selected by means of a rear-panel-mounted slide switch. Pretty classy for a \$1500 receiver, no? The R-5000 wins hands down in this category!

**Selectivity.** For the purposes of this NRD-525/R-5000 comparison, I'm out of the endless wearisome discussion of third-party selectivity modifications and filters. So many people buy "better" filters without ever having heard the standard ones that I'll deal myself out this time around. In fact, what I'm about to say will probably sound like a cop-out. As I mentioned earlier, my NRD-525 contains the stock "SSB" and "AM" filters; I've added JRC's 0.5- and 1.0-kHz filters to fill all of the receiver's selectivity slots. The results sound fine to me. Sure, I can hear 5-kHz heterodynes with the '525's "AM" filter, but I did not buy the '525 as a program-listening set, and -- in my opinion -- anyone who expects to do serious SWBC DXing with envelope (rectification) detection and a wide filter isn't going to do any serious SWBC DXing! (In fact, there's only so much DX work possible with envelope detection and any filter.) So, I use the '525's "AM" filter for listening to very strong signals -- BBC, Japan via Sackville, RCI, Radio Netherlands and so on -- and switch to the "SSB" filter and heterodyne reception for SWBC DX reception. SSB reception is fine, of course, as is CW reception, with the '525.

As other commentators -- Larry Magne, for instance -- have mentioned, the NRD-525 suffers filter leakage ("blowby.") This is especially noticeable during CW reception with the 0.5-kHz filter. You know what? I don't care! If Sherwood Engineering -- or me, come to think of it -- can come up with a reasonably effective and hassle-free fix for this, that's fine. If not, I don't mind. I have already built receivers with ultimate selectivity better than even the military tends to buy, and, if I thought it necessary, I could build another such receiver, or modify my '525 to be as good. But the fact is that the '525's performance is good enough for me. I've learned it the hard way, after having listened to everything from crystal sets to Racals: If I want really good selectivity, I'll probably have to build the radio myself!

**Selectivity in the R-5000** is pretty good. I strongly recommend that SWBC listeners who purchase the R-5000 also purchase Kenwood's optional YK-88A-1 AM filter, though. Although it has the same -6 dB selectivity as does the stock filter, its shape factor and stopband attenuation are what you intended to buy if you've already paid so much for a radio.

Generalizations aside, here's what I don't like about the R-5000's method of achieving high filter stopband attenuation. ICOM, Kenwood, Yaesu and JRC have all proven themselves to be incapable of achieving high filter stopband ("ultimate") attenuation without somehow putting two filters in series. ICOM receivers and transceivers, and previous Kenwood receivers and transceivers, have used filters at both of two IFs to do this. (All the Japanese

receivers and transceivers I've heard that don't use such seriesed filters suffer from obvious filter blowby -- the NRD-525, too.) The reason is twofold: cheap filters and cramming everything too closely together on poorly-designed circuit boards.

Kenwood's cheaper ham transceivers suffer such blowby, too. The more-expensive Kenwood transceivers (TS-830, -930 and -940, and now -440), use seriesed ("cascaded," some ads say) filters to do away with the blowby. In all of these, blowby is done away with by using seriesed filters at 8.83 MHz and 455 kHz.

Well, with the R-5000, Kenwood at last brings similar techniques to an SWL receiver. The difference is that all of the "cascading" is done at 8.83 MHz. The system is simple: The narrower the bandwidth you select, the more filters there are in series! Example: Assuming that you have installed the necessary optional filter, selection of 0.5 kHz selectivity actually entails the use of 6-, 2.4- and 0.5-kHz filters in series, in that order. Neat and clever, huh? Clever, yes. Neat? Not necessarily. The filters aren't wired *directly* in series; there are "buffer amplifiers" between them. I anticipate that putting the narrowest filter farthest down the amplifier chain will result in some pretty strange within-the-passband IMD effects under some reception-of-a-weak-signal-right-alongside-a-strong-one conditions. (For instance, during reception with the 0.5-kHz filter, it's possible for signals just outside the passband of the 0.5-kHz filter to get through the 6- and 2.4-kHz filters without attenuation. Such signals could cause generation of third-order IMD products at much lower levels than they'd have to be to produce IMD in the receiver's front end.) Also, I've already noticed with the R-5000 that Kenwood's method of filter cascading results in stopband asymmetry. For instance, I can hear some blowby on one side of the R-5000's 0.5-kHz passband and none on the other. That figures; its passband isn't centered in the passbands of the 6- and 2.4-kHz filters. Bottom line: I hope that this method of filter switching doesn't catch on with other manufacturers. The best method of filter cascading is to use two filters with more or less identical passbands, one at the head of the IF amplifier and the other at the end, after the last IF stage and before the detector. That kind of selectivity has to be heard to be appreciated!

*Tuning feel.* I like the mechanical feel of the 525's tuning over that of the R-5000, even though the '5000's dial-tuning drag is adjustable; the '525's is not. The 525's tuning knob has a finger hole; the '5000's does not -- a silly oversight.

Initially, the NRD-525 did not allow choice of tuning steps. Later, JRC modified the radio's computer program to allow choice of tuning step by means of the receiver's RUN button. The choices are 10 Hz and 100 Hz; the RUN button also switches the steps taken by pressing the 525's UP and DOWN buttons from 1 kHz to 10 kHz. Between these choices and the radio's keypad, you can get to where you're going with reasonable ease.

The R-5000's tuning steps are somewhat tied with receiving mode, and the radio's STEP control modifies this

relationship somewhat. Also, the R-5000's tuning speed varies with how fast you spin the tuning dial; this is not so with the NRD-525. Between these choices and the radio's ridiculous nonstandard and invisibly numbered keypad, you can get to where you're going.

Tuning in 10-Hz steps, the NRD-525's synthesizer clicks every kilohertz on the 0.1 kHz. The 525's synth doesn't move between 10-Hz steps as near-seamlessly as the R-5000; it sounds more raucous. Also, the '525's synthesizer sort of, well, fishtails onto frequency after you stop tuning (you must tune in a carrier in SSB or CW mode to hear this). Does this mean that the design of the NRD-525's synth is inferior to that of the '5000? Quite the contrary. Almost certainly, the NRD-525's synthesizer is considerably phase-noise quieter than that of the R-5000. As a general rule, the faster the synthesizer settling time, the phase-noisier it is. The NRD-525's synth is noticeably clicky during rapid tuning, and it overshoots ("fishtails" -- my term -- because of long setting time) noticeably no matter how fast you tune. These indicate a synthesizer design in which phase-noise performance takes precedence over tuning smoothness. That's fine with me, although I agree with commentators who point out that random-search, weak-signal reception may be hampered by these clicks. By contrast, if you prefer a synth that more nearly approaches an LC-tuned-VFO sound during 10-Hz-step tuning, you'll prefer the R-5000. As for commentators who continue to complain about the audibility of 100-Hz steps in any radio, well...

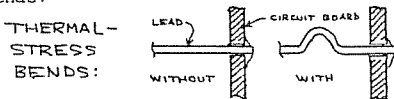
Ah, I should mention that the NRD-525 has a RIT (receiver incremental tuning) mode. Pressing the '525's RIT button switches the tuning dial to tune just  $\pm 5$  kHz from the center frequency indicated on the display before RIT was pushed. The display reads only the offset, from +5.00 to -5.00 kHz. For a while, I used this function only when I used the NRD-525 in conjunction with a transmitter for amateur-radio work. Because the '525 remembers the last-used RIT offset independent of memory channel or tuned frequency, however, I've recently realized that the '525's RIT function is quite useful for playing "Has the carrier dropped yet?" during SWBC DX sessions. (Example: You've tuned in a weak Radio Beijing shortwave outlet as single sideband; the carrier's too weak to register on the '525's S-meter. [It'd have to be darned strong to do so; in tuning the signal as SSB, you've put the carrier almost 20 dB down on the IF-filter slope.] Yet, you'd like to check on the presence and quality of the carrier at intervals. Because the S-meter's of no help, you'll need to listen to the carrier. You could retune the receiver, but then you'll have to retune to zero beat for the demodulated signal audio to sound right. Solution: Keep the NRD-525's RIT set for a few hundred Hz of offset. Tap RIT to listen to the carrier, and tap RIT again to return to zero-beat tuning. Neat! [There's no RIT on the R-5000; but you can do the same thing with adjacent memory channels, or with the '5000's VFO A/B control.] I think that this technique will also work with the ICOM IC-R71A, among other receivers.) A further hint: use negative RIT shift if you're listening in USB; positive shift for LSB.

**Heat.** There's been a bit of controversy over the relative warmth of these two receivers. Let's get it straight: The R-5000 runs warm to hot; the NRD-525 runs only warm. For the first week after I began using the R-5000, Oak Floor House smelled like, well, hot artificial bananas. I attribute this to further curing of the lacquer (or whatever) used to seal the power transformer. The '5000 runs so warm that even its tuning knob is warm to the touch after the radio has been on for more than an hour! Curiously, however, the R-5000 seemed to run cooler after about a month of operation that it did at first -- you figure it out!

Simply put, the R-5000's thermal design is poor. There are louvers on the top and bottom covers of the receiver, but a gander inside the box shows that these communicate poorly, and that no ventilation holes have been provided in the metal divider that cuts the interior of the box into upper and lower sections. What convection occurs has to move along vertically along the sides of this divider, and through a few access holes in the radio's boards and modules. (In particular, good thermal design would've placed a ring of ventilation holes around the power transformer -- but the holes aren't there.)

Further, several of the R-5000's heat-generating components really should be connected to *external heat sinks* -- external, that is, to the R-5000 cabinet. I'm talking about the set's various voltage regulators, and especially about its full-wave rectifier module. The rectifier is bolted to, or very near to, a spot near the bottom of the rear panel of the set. (I can't remember its precise position because I no longer have the set here.) I fully believe that people with uncalloused fingers may be able to achieve a first-degree burn if they hold one of those fingers on that particular rear-panel spot for a minute or so. That's improper heat-sinking, Kenwood!

Further in relation to the R-5000's poor thermal design, I predict heat-cycling failures for R-5000s within, oh, three years. Why? Well, several heat-producing parts in the R-5000 are bolted to heat sinks while having their leads through-holes soldered to circuit boards. Their leads do *not* contain thermal-stress bends:



It was thermal "engineering" like this that led to those mysterious "my frequency display goes crazy" failures in the R-1000. (In the '1000, the leads of three-terminal regulators, through-hole soldered to a circuit board while the devices themselves were bolted to an off-board heat sink, finally broke their solder connections to the board as a result of thermal cycling. The regulator leads had no thermal-stress bends; the stress was absorbed by breakage of the connections. The fix: resolder the leads. The comment: This repair will have to be done periodically because the leads on the R-1000's regulators don't have thermal-stress bends.) Well, the R-

5000 has even more such sleazily-mounted devices, the leads of none of which have thermal-stress bends! Some R-5000 owners will almost certainly experience receiver failures for the same reason some R-1000s -- including one of my two; how's 50% sound to you? -- failed. You heard it here first.

The NRD-525, on the other hand, runs only as warm as I'd expect a modern, adequately-ventilated receiver to run. If I owned an R-5000, I'd at least take steps to cool it better -- steps including moving its power supply, transformer and all, to another, well-ventilated box. Note: The clear-plastic window over the NRD-525's fluorescent display is warm to the touch because of the filaments in the the display. (Filaments? Sure! Every fluorescent display has 'em.)

**Mechanical construction.** The R-5000 is the better of the two; the NRD-525 is little more than a card cage in a flimsy box. The 525's front panel is just plastic sprayed on the inside with a conductive coating. (This is *shielding*? Barely, I'm sure.) Almost every part on the '525's front panel is actually soldered to a circuit board mounted about a half inch or so behind, and parallel to, the front panel. (If you remove the '525's top and bottom covers, and loosen another six or so screws, the *entire* front panel comes off in your hands. Umbilical cables make the electrical connections.) Most of the 525's circuitry is contained in cards mounted vertically in a cage behind that front-panel circuit board; the caged cards plug into a large motherboard, which does away with most of the intermodule wiring you see in other receivers, including the R-5000. The front panel's umbilical cables plug into the motherboard, too. There's another board-based module or two between the rear panel and the back of the card cage; the power supply, including the power transformer, is back there. If this construction technique sounds rather lightweight and flimsy to you, you're darned right! If you ever drop your NRD-525 from desk-top height to the floor, expect that it'll be "totalled."

The R-5000 is not as well made as it is *predictably* made in a thin, steel shell. Sure, its front panel is plastic, but there's a steel subpanel behind this. (Anyone out there hoping for a return to the days of cast-aluminum front panels? Forget it! Think of it: Would such expense add to shielding or mechanical stability in a radio in which no oscillator is mechanically tuned?! Nope. The dollar/yen hassle has these boxes costing enough, thanks.)

**Odd bits.** Another NRD-525 feature that really pays off during amateur-radio work is its monitor feature. The 525's MONI button switches in an auxiliary RF gain control that comes into play when the receiver is muted. This MONITOR LEVEL control is screwdriver-adjustable from the bottom of the receiver. Once you've set MONITOR LEVEL properly, you can monitor your transmitted signal by pressing MONI. *Very* useful!

I find the NRD-525's TONE control quite useful for reducing wideband IF hiss during heterodyne reception with the '525's "inter" and narrower filters. Although the R-5000 doesn't have a TONE control, it doesn't seem to need one.

The R-5000 Service Manual indicates that the '5000 includes "tailored-to-the-mode" audio filtering; maybe this is the reason I don't miss a TONE control with this receiver.

The clock/timer functions of both receivers work adequately. I prefer to be able to leave a radio on during timer cycling, but neither the R-5000 nor the NRD-525 allows this. A note on clocks: Just as the R-5000 does not really have two VFOs, so does neither of these receivers actually have two separate clocks. Rather, the two-clock effect is achieved by having two displays for one clock. I like the R-5000's ability to display time and frequency simultaneously; on the NRD-525, you have to hit the CLOCK/TIMER button to see the time. Not only does this change the frequency display to indicate time, it also locks all frequency/mode/AGC/channel functions of the receiver until you touch FREQ or CHANNEL! Oh, well, that's okay with me. Neither radio's clock displays seconds; when will these manufacturers learn that we want to see the seconds?

The NRD-525's display-dimming circuitry is superior to that of the R-5000 because it adjusts the brightness of every light transmitter on the front panel. The R-5000's DIM switch adjusts the intensity only of the display and S meter. (Think this is unimportant? You sit in a dark room and stare at a dimmed frequency display directly over several undimmed function-indicator LEDs and see how your eyes like it!) The NRD-525's DIMMER button allows you to step through choices of off, dim, medium and bright. The only rub with this system is that receiver doesn't remember your dimmer choice when you turn it off; at "power up," the radio defaults to the BRIGHT setting. Big deal, huh?

I consider scanning an "odd bit" right now -- wait until I get the 525's VHF/UHF converter -- so I'll talk about scanning here. Except for the lack of a scanning-speed control, I consider the R-5000's scanning features to be superior to that of the '525. Two facts swing my decision in favor of the '5000: (1) The R-5000 allows you lock a channel out of memory scan (no such facility in the '525) and (2) the R-5000 can scan between two frequency limits in 10-Hz steps (1-kHz steps in the NRD-525). Each scanner manufacturer has a different idea of what features a scanner must have, of course; to make matters worse, a receiver like the R-5000 and NRD-525 has already devoted so much panel space to basic radio features that "something's got to give" when the time comes to add scanning. The '525's designers neglected to add channel lockout; the R-5000's designers do not allow user control of scanning speed above that achievable with the radio's STEP switch. When scanning between two frequency limits, the '5000 can do it in 10-Hz steps -- a neat facility, since it's just like bandscanning by hand. (I estimate that it would take the R-5000 the better part of a day to scan from 30 kHz to 30 MHz in this mode. Next time I have an R-5000 in my clutches, I'll give this a try!) The NRD-525 can't "frequency scan" in anything less than 1 kHz. During heterodyne reception, this is useless unless the scanning speed is quite slow.

A selling point for both of these

receivers is the fact that they are computer controllable. Trouble is, neither manufacturer goes into detail on this selling point. For instance, which receiver parameters are controllable by computer? You know as much as I do, and I've got service and owner's manuals on both radios! Is any sort of AGC-line-level or S-meter information available in either receiver's data stream? (This is an important point for anyone considering computerized spectrum surveys.) Right now, your guess is as good as mine. I do intend to buy the RS-232-C interface for the '525; I'll let you know. Sometime.

Despite its quantized readout, the NRD-525's S meter is better implemented than the R-5000's for one important reason: The R-5000's meter jumps all over the place during "AM" reception, and that shouldn't happen. Don't you believe the voltage levels printed below the S units on the '5000's meter scale; those numbers do not hold across the R-5000's tuning range!

**Documentation.** The R-5000 Owner's Manual covers operation of the receiver very well, although it needs an index. It also needs one diagram showing the pinout for its ACC jack and another for its REMOTE jack. Technical information? As I said earlier, forget it. You've got to buy (for about \$20), The R-5000 Service Manual if you want to know anything about the receiver's circuitry and how to align it. As Don Homan discovered right away, one of the important things missing from the Owner's Manual is information on how to defeat or turn down the R-5000's keyboard beeper. (You have to adjust VR8 on the IF UNIT board to do this. Hold it! Are you Qualified Service Personnel? Let's see some ID...) The Service Manual is impressive, but it really doesn't tell you how the radio works, circuit by circuit. Judging by what coverage there is of circuit function, Kenwood doesn't prove that it knows, either.

The NRD-525's Instruction Manual does the job, but it's more bookish, and looks much "lower budget," than the R-5000 equivalent. Again, an index would be helpful. Its description of the receiver's circuitry is limited to one page! Oh, well, at least JRC provides us with a block diagram, schematics and installation-of-options information for the '525. Again, you have to buy the Service Manual to get any of these things for the R-5000.

The NRD-525 General Coverage Receiver Service Manual is not nearly as classy a production as the R-5000 equivalent, but it seems to have what's necessary to keep the '525 in tune. In general, the Kenwood literature is far slicker than JRC's. Comparing their manuals, you'd think the R-5000 was the more expensive radio of the two!

**Concluding comments.** In my opinion, most shortwave listeners considering the purchase of one of these two receivers would be better off with the R-5000. Reasons: The NRD-525 costs much more than the R-5000, and most SWLs will not use the NRD-525 in situations where its edge over the R-5000 will be noticeable. The panel appearance and control functions of the R-5000 are more "pop" and less forbidding than those of the NRD-525. The Kenwood manuals are more friendly, also.

The '525 particularly shines for CW

reception; most SWLs do not listen to CW. With a 0.5-kHz filter in line, the R-5000 suffers severe audio IMD during CW reception.

Many SWLs seem to be stuck with doing their SWBC DXing in "the AM mode" at an SSB bandwidth; might as well not pay extra money for the NRD-525 if you insist on staying in the Stone Age. If you're a progressive soul who tunes for SWBC DX in the SSB mode, you'll find that the R-5000's nonsynchronous heterodyne reception is so good that the NRD-525 offers little or no improvement in this regard. Beware, however: If you buy the '5000, you'll miss out on a good IF notch filter.

The R-5000's deceptively smoother-sounding tuning may hide a phase-noisier (than the '525's) synthesizer, but many SWLs may be unable to pinpoint phase noise as a problem even as it screws up reception for them. As receivers become less overloadable, phase noise will be more apparent -- never fear!

The R-5000 is a smaller radio than the NRD-525; this makes the '5000 the better choice for DXpeditionary use. Also, as I hinted earlier, I suspect that the R-5000 will take more physical abuse than the NRD-525. I'd rather not take a \$1500+ radio "on the road," myself -- I'd take the cheaper one!

I don't think that many people will be bothered by the R-5000's sleazy thermal design, for one reason: They'll probably buy another "latest and greatest" receiver before thermal failures occur in the R-5000 they're so excited about now. (For example, a prediction: ICOM will supersede the IC-R71A within a year or two; it'll have more [or different] bells and whistles than the R-5000. Equipment "feeding frenzy" will set in again, and many R-5000s will end up in the classified ads. NRD-525 owners, however, having bought a seemingly more spartan radio than the R-5000 for considerably more money, will be more and more certain of the quality of their purchase with each passing week, and turnover in other manufacturers' cheaper receivers will be of only mild interest to them.)

NRD-525 owners will continue to be annoyed by filter blowby, however, and they'll seek solutions to this problem. (One solution to this may already be available, as I'll mention after this article!) Different filters aren't the solution: the blowby occurs on the filter (and/or mother) board(s), not as a result of poor filter performance.

Make no mistake, the R-5000 and the NRD-525 are excellent receivers. When I took the R-5000 out of its box, installed a pair of optional filters and began to compare the '5000 with the NRD-525, I wondered if I'd discover that I'd bought the more expensive receiver to no avail. I now see the differences between the two receivers clearly. There's much in the R-5000 that I'd consider "musts" to modify out. My original reasons for choosing the NRD-525 over the R-5000 were enough to allow me to decide between the two; by chance, however, additional and unforeseen weaknesses in the R-5000 have strengthened my feeling that my decision was sound.

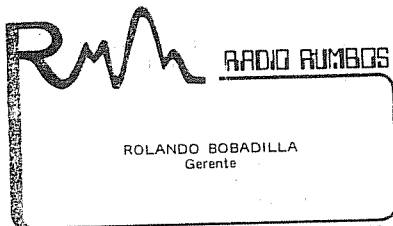
## Closing Notes on the NRD-525

In the R-5000/NRD-525 comparison, I mentioned that a means may soon be available to reduce the filter blowby in the NRD-525. Don Homan has sent me a preliminary fact sheet about four NRD-525 enhancement boards soon to be available from ESKAB, Malmoe, Sweden. The CFLB EV is "an optional IF-board that eliminates the -white noise and cross talk- [byphens by ESKAB] in the IF-stage and improves the overall IF selectivity." The CFLB PV does the same thing, with the addition of optional filters (for "cascading" or "tail ending," I suppose) to "provide high-class IF-selectivity." The remaining two boards, the CFLB EV P L A M and the CFLB PV P L A M, duplicate the first two boards and add phase-locked AM detection. You use one out of the four; whichever you choose, it uses up the space allocated by JRC for installation of the NRD-525's optional VHF/UHF converter. Well, I guess I'll let you know. (My first question: When will ESKAB discover model numbers?)

Finally, an answer to a question from Jay Mathisrud: There seem to be conflicting reports as to which of JRC's optional filters are mechanical and which are crystal-based. The 525's optional 500-Hz filter sounds fine to me; I can't tell from the sound whether it's mechanical or crystal, which means that it doesn't matter. If you like an optional filter's specifications, and the filter you purchase lives up to those specs, the filter mechanism matters little. (I do think that voice-bandwidth mechanical filters may introduce transients under some conditions because of the nearly rectangular shape of their response curves, but this effect would probably be hard to detect with narrower filters used for other than voice and music reception. You may recall that the 400-Hz Collins filter long available from Radio West and others as an add-on to various radios has drawn my fire in the past because of its crummy shape factor -- something like 5 or 7 to 1. The JRC 500-Hz filter is considerably tighter than this.)

No, I don't know if other manufacturers' filters are suitable for the NRD-525. (A good technician can work miracles, of course.) My opinion is that the value of third-party filter options for the '525 will be limited because of the noticeable filter blowby -- an effect caused by board layout, not filter leakage. Perhaps the ESKAB PV boards will solve this problem.

Finally, Jay, yes: An extender board (the CMH-365) is necessary for *in situ* service work on the NRD-525 boards.



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for the 1988 Association of North American Radio Clubs Annual Convention, to be held July 13 -16 at the Holiday Inn, Irvine, California.



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