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News From HQ

Almanac Report

Bill Hardy expects the IRCA Almanac to go to the printer in January. If any of you have last-minute updates to Almanac sections, please send them to Bill by Dec 10 & he will see that they're included. Bill could still use more clippings from your local paper with radio station logs, such as airtimes for countdown shows, college sports, etc. Bill also wants an opinion from Almanac users: Would it be easier for you to use Satellite Music Network and Transtar if there were a separate listing for each format (as was done with SMN in 1985), or if all affiliates were listed together with a code for the format (as was done with Transtar)? Let Bill know your preference by Dec 10. The lists are computerized and can be done either way. Bill's address is 2301 Pacific Avenue, Aberdeen, WA 98520.

NPR List

Jim Hall says WSUI-910 Iowa City, IA and WKAR-870 Lansing, MI should also be on the NPR station list in the 11/5 DX Monitor. The list was compiled by Karl Zuk.

1989 WRTH

The 1989 World Radio TV Handbook will be out soon, and prepublication orders are being taken from various dealers. One offer appeared last week and on page of this week's bulletin. Another is from Gilfer Associates, which has it for \$16.95 +\$2 S/H. They are also offering a 3-color coffee mug with the WRTH logo for \$6.00 (+\$2) and Radio Receiver Chance or Choice for \$6.00 (+\$2). You can order either by sending check, money order, or credit card number (with exp date & signature) to Box 239, Park Ridge NJ 07656, or calling 201-391-7887 for credit card orders (MC Visa Disc AmExp, minimum credit card order \$18.95). NJ residents add 6% sales tax.

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Wanted: Articles

We're always in need of articles on any aspect of our hobby. They can be about DXing, receivers, stations or whatever strikes your fancy. There was an excellent list of suggestions in the results of our recent membership poll. If you'd like to write an article for the bulletin, then by all means go ahead. If possible type it yourself. 8-1/2x14 paper is preferred, but 8-1/2x11 is okay. Leave a 1/2 inch margin at each side and a 3/4 inch margin top and bottom. Also try to leave an extra inch at the top of the first page, unless you make your own heading. It's really pretty easy, so go ahead and start that article you've been thinking about writing.

Newspaper and magazine articles are also fine, and are printed when space is available. We prefer ones that have some bearing on our hobby, for example articles about stations which are widely heard, or about the Fate of AM Broadcasting, or some other timely topic. They should have good contrast, if possible we'd prefer a photocopy rather than an original newspaper story.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

There has been talk of moving some or all of the current AM broadcasters into what has been termed the "FM-2" band of the 220 MHz range, in narrowband FM. Other frequencies have also been suggested. Major cities are beginning to see "stations" pop up on FM subcarriers, much like SCA services. If I recall correctly, there are Korean language "radio stations" on subcarrier in New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. These stations need no formal license, since they piggy back on another licensed broadcaster. This also gets them around the matter of being a citizen of the U.S. to broadcast here. Special radios are marketed to receive these stations, usually fixed frequency sets. "Stations" have also been started on TV stations "SAP" channels. These are the subcarriers set aside for second-language soundtracks of programs or whatever, in the new Zenith/DBX TV stereo system going into use around the country. After hearing a Cuban megawatter on 830 kHz, that could be received on my car radio in midtown Manhattan in NYC, maybe the FCC should think about "nationwide" services on AM. Just think how much space you could save by putting Larry King on one frequency. No one can sell those local avails for ads in his show anyway, right? Food for thought!

The 88 Vote before you yawn again, this one's for you: the IRCA member. Here is how it went for the following proposals: Proposed by KJZ unless noted.

- 13.1.35 Ray Bauernhuber as EDXR editor. Approved unanimously.
- 13.1.36 Floyd Perry as Goody Factory manager. Approved unanimously.
- 13.1.37 Comp. subscription of DXM to Pop Comm Magazine.
Martin, Johnson, Toebe approved. Evans abstained. Portzer, Heald and Cooper disapprove. This is a tie. The idea of sending DXM to Pop Comm was to gain publicity and exposure in return. In the time that passed since this proposal was made, by myself (KJZ), I have been made, for the foreseeable future, the broadcast column editor for Pop Comm, so this issue is, for all intents and purposes, moot. I get DXM, and the main purpose in my acceptance of this job was to promote our club and clubs in general to the Pop Comm audience. To save the club's funds, I will cast the tie-breaking vote to disapprove this proposal. Failed
- 13.1.38 ANARC Computer Billboard Representative for IRCA.
Choose Albert Lobel or Lynn Hollerman.
Martin, and Cooper for Albert. Johnson, Portzer, Toebe, for Lynn. Evans, Heald abstain. Lynn Hollerman is our new ANARC Billboard Rep. Congratulations!
- 13.1.39 Raise dues to Canada. \$22 for bi-weekly, \$30 for weekly.
Proposed by Bruce Portzer. Members may renew their memberships for up to three years at the old rate for sixty days after passage. Approved unanimously.
- 13.1.40 Raise price of Goody Factory reprints as follows:per page
 - 13c IRCA Members US and Mexico
 - 14c IRCA members in Canada
 - 16c non-IRCA US and Mexico
 - 17c non-IRCA Canada
 - 16c IRCA overseas, surface mail
 - 19c non-IRCA overseas, surface mail
 - 25c IRCA overseas, airmail
 - 28c non-IRCA members, overseas, airmailUnanimously Approved Proposed by Bruce Portzer.
- 13.1.41 Drop complimentary subscription of DXM to WRTH.
Evans, Johnson, Portzer, Heald, approve. Martin, Toebe, Cooper. disapprove. Approved We will drop our complimentary sub. to The Worldwide Radio and TV Handbook.
- 13.1.42 Print a pull out ad for IRCA in DXM that members can pin up, or xerox and distribute to publicize the club. Unanimously Approved.

PRESIDENT's REPORT page three

Reconfirmations of staff of IRCA. The following 22 proposals were unanimously approved with a few exceptions noted below:

- 13.2.1 John Johnson CDXR editor
- 13.2.2 Nancy Hardy WDXR editor
- 13.2.3 Jim Hall DXWWE editor
- 13.2.4 Pat Martin DXWWW editor
- 13.2.5 Richard Evans EDXF editor
- 13.2.6 Ric Heald WDXF editor
- 13.2.7 Geov Parrish as broadcasting information editor
- 13.2.8 Nick Hall-Patch as tech. editor
- 13.2.9 Mike Stonebridge as classifieds editor
- 13.2.10 Dale Park as Sports editor
- 13.2.11 Tim Hall as Veri.Signers editor
- 13.2.12 Charles Taylor as country records editor
- 13.2.13 Bruce McFadden as achievement awards editor
- 13.2.14 Gene Martin as registered agent
- 13.2.15 Bruce Portzer as editor-in-chief
- 13.2.16 Rich Segalas as elections chairman
- 13.2.17 Bill Hardy as almanac editor
- 13.2.18 Robert Wien as frequency check list editor
- 13.2.19 Randy Seaver as propagation editor
- 13.2.20 Phil Bytheway as DX Techniques editor
- 13.2.21 Paul Swearingen as DXWWII editor
- 13.2.22 Albert Lobel as ANARC representative.

Exceptions: Johnson: abstain from 13.2.1
Portzer: abstain from 13.2.15
Heald: abstain from 13.2.6

We should all thank these people for their endless devotion and work towards our club. You make it an enjoyable place to call home. Thank you all!

Closed circuit to E. Cooper: Try to find someone with parts to fix your HQ-180, or find another or one like it, like a R-390. I am a real believer in analog tuning tube sets. Solid state stuff is too finicky and susceptible to static hits and other abuse. Everyone should own a 5U4GE and some 6AU6s. I like my Superadio, too, but it's not the same as those "glow in the dark" sets. Best of DX everyone! Please participate in the club by mailing your loggings and comments to the appropriate editors. Any comments about the club, or stuff you'd like to see in Pop Comm (forgive me) are always welcome. Send them to me at 154 Old Post Road North, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520-1932. Thanks to Charles Taylor and Philip Raczka for comments on my Medfer "Dare To Dream" article. I will be setting up DX tests of my flea-powered station in the near future. Happy Trails, and 73s...KZ

HELP IRCA GROW

We all want to see our club grow, and one way to make it happen is to provide an incentive for finding new members. So between now and September 1, 1989, the IRCA will give a year's free membership to any member who is responsible for bringing in four or more new members.

The new members can be persons you talk into joining IRCA or people to whom you give a gift membership. Or you can also send us a list of people you know (or know of) who are interested in BCB DXing. We'll send them a sample DX Monitor and other information on the club; if they join you'll get credit. One good source of names is to look through the reception report file at 50kw clear channel stations - a surprisingly high percentage don't belong to any DX clubs!

If a person joins as a trial member or something less than a full year, it counts as half a new member. If someone joins at your persuasion, be sure to let us know, so we can give you credit. The new member must be someone who hasn't been in the IRCA for at least a year.

Here's your chance to help us become the fastest growing DX club around, and to help others find out about the benefits of IRCA membership.

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

2301 PACIFIC AVE., ABERDEEN WA 98520

WDKR DEADLINES: EACH MONDAY

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (TRH) Tim Hall-350 G St. #F-1-Chula Vista, CA 92010
 ICF-2010, Radio West loop
 (NH) Nancy Hardy-2301 Pacific Ave.-Aberdeen, WA 98520
 FRG-7, Radio West loop
 (RW) Robert Wien-1309 Dentwood Dr.-San Jose, CA 95118
 GE Superadio, GE long-range portable, SM-2

- *****
 530 WNAG556 CA, Coronado 11/1 has been running nothing but OC for several weeks now. (TRH-CA)
 560 (KBLU) AZ, Yuma MM 11/7 0454 totally off, irregular MM SP. Still can't get anything but KSFO & KLZ on this channel! (TRH-CA)
 580 (KMJ) CA, Fresno 11/7 0412 totally off, KCMX/CKXR/WIBW/XEPI mix. (RW)
 650 WSM TN, Nashville MM 11/7 0346 Music Country under CISL in XETNT null. Rare--usually nothing can penetrate XETNT here. (TRH-CA)
 CISL BC, Richmond MM 11/7 0338-0400 fair, best signal ever with oldies, lots of "C-Isle 6-50" slogans, ads, promos, PSAs. Finally enough for a follow-up report. Good northern conditions tonight. (TRH-CA)
 690 KBLI ID, Blackfoot MM 11/7 0430-0500 poor, but readable under KHEY, CBKPI. Should be Transtar NOS, but wasn't //KMPC-710. Maybe Transtar MYL now? Faded up nicely for IDs 0438, 0441 & 0500. Not bad for 40 watts. New, ID #14. (TRH-CA)
 730 KIZN ID, Boise MM 11/7 0507 fair-good, on top of the channel with usual C&W FM simulcast, "KIZN 93 FM" IDs. 84w at night, per station. Station is really friendly on the phone, but I still don't have my verie, hi. (TRH-CA)
 800 CKOK BC, Penticton MM 11/7 0545 weak, under KNKK (which was stomping all over XEROK despite only running 30 watts!). Male DJ took a request for a Three Dog Night song. (TRH-CA)
 840 (KVEG) NV, North Las Vegas MM 11/7 0414 totally off this morning, despite repeated statements by DJs that they're NSP. Left previously-"usual" WHAS & Cuba, neither of which puts a dent in KVEG normally. (TRH-CA)
 850 KTAC WA, Tacoma 11/7 1020 very good with Fleetwood Mac song, ID. Looking for KBBM. Still in at 1040. (RW-CA)
 940 KGRL OR, Bend 11/7 1013 good way over KPFE with weather, ID. Looking for KWBW which may have been in background with C&W. (RW-CA)
 990 CBW ME, Winnipeg 11/1 0705 fair over presumed XEHZ with news for Manitoba. Rare these days; nice to hear them again. (TRH-CA)
 1180 (KERI) CA, Bakersfield 11/10 0620 totally off, leaving KOPI & a new Mexican station (which sounded like XESM or XESN). (TRH-CA)
 1230 KBMN MT, Bozeman 11/2 2159 election returns promo by woman, ID 2200 into ABC-I News. Very good over all. New. (NH-WA)
 KLCB MT, Libby 11/2 1933 detailed weather report for east & west of the continental divide, 1935 faint ID, PSA, 1938 local news, ad, 1951 EBS test "...serving Lincoln County." Fair-poor. New. (NH)
 1400 KQMS CA, Redding 11/7 1017 strong in KELX null with Paul Harvey, ID. Looking for KHTZ. (RW-CA)
 1560 KCJJ IA, Iowa City 11/10 0510 very weak in XEBG-1550 slop. Satellite AdCon with male DJ cutting in for TCS, Johnson County weather. New, IA #4. (TRH-CA)
 WQXR NY, New York 11/10 0540 poor but steady with usual class. music. Rare to hear this with local XEBG-1550 on. (TRH-CA)

1610 WKK790 AZ, Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport MM 11/7 0326 surprisingly good with usual parking info. Great for 8 watts! (TRH-CA)

UNID:

690 MM 11/7 0340 Best of King very weak under KHEY. Suspect WPIX, which I need for a follow-up report. (TRH-CA)

This was nearly an "All California" column. You don't need to live in California to report to WDKR, hi. The column is for members who live (or vacation) in the Pacific & Mountain time zones. If you are near the Mountain-Central border, you report to the column which you feel best encompasses your DX location, WDKR or CDKR. ♡



KANADIAN KORNER

Knews from the Frozen Knorth

JOHN OLDFIELD

**7135 129A Street
Surrey, BC V3W 6T4**

- 560 NF CHVO denied a move here from 850. See 740.
- 580 NS CJFY now carries NHL Montreal hockey via CFCF-600.
- 600 BC CHRX Vancouver ex CJOR. "Classic Rock AM 600" stereo "No Murray & No Manilow". CKWX-1130 now carries the live-phone sports talk show.
- 640 ON CFCM Richmond Hill (Toronto) here ex 1320. XR near Grimsby.
- 740 NB CBWA St. George 1prt is OFF.
- 740 NF CHCM 560 denied this freq. Apparently CBNM is going OFF as they have dual FM, but CEC wants to hold on to 740.
- 800 BC CKST Langley. Calls listed in July in new phone book but only uses "AM 800" ID. Said they may not use calls or "coast" slogan. They are a metro-Van. stn. & cover most of Van. well with the same boring rush traffic stuff.
- 800 ON CBQ Thunder Bay will die 6 months after they move to 88.3 FM.
- 810 AB C Brooks. Missed this one that Geov listed. It can only be a switch for ~~C1BQ-1340~~. They once tried for 770(CHQR).
- 850 AB C Athabasca will have a studio & twin CPOK-1370 Westlock.
- 860 BC CFPR Prince Rupert. The locals screamed & won. Local studio remains. Some BC interior 1prts will relay FM CEC from Kelowna & Prince George.
- 860 BC CBUC Salmon Arm 1prt moves to 96.9 FM
- 860 BC CBERP Princeton 1prt to 93.1 making a local DJ happy.
- 910 PQ CHRL adds Expos EB for 1989 & carries CKAC-730 Mid.-0530 EST.
- 990 NB CBAD Plaster Rock 1prt OFF.
- 1090 ON CHEC Elliot Lake 1prt to 90.3
- 1140 NB CBAN Andover 1prt OFF
- 1240 PQ CKVT moves to 92.1 & will just relay CKVM-710(Relay CKAC AN)
- 1320 NS CKEC to 25kw. & xr move 8.3km. NW.
- 1350 NB CBAB Grand Falls 1prt OFF

Twin list additions: CP 850 AB Athabasca to CPOK-1370 Westlock
BC: 100.3 Port Alice r-CFNI-1240 and 101.1 CP Gold River r-CFWE-1490

Thanks to those who commented re "KK" in the IRCA survey. This has never been an official column. Only done when fill-in needed as Geov (& Greg) do a more timely version, although CFTC tends to miss out info. like saying 850 Athabasca will be a twin of CPOK. Happy 1989!



WORLDWIDE EAST

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

Good to hear from George and Tom this week. Last week I had mentioned George's logging the 1530 Puerto Rican -- I believe that was my error as George reports this week WRAI-1520. The previous tip was by phone and I must've written it down in error (unless you did hear the 1530, George?). This week's Cuban information follows: If it isn't enough that a Radio Reloj spur is showing on 1610 (see last week and 11/5 #6 DXM), I am now able to hear a quite strong (spur, not carrier freq.) one on 1620 from Radio Rebelde at times, too. And as for the newest very high-powered Radio Taino (relay of 1160 - see recent DXM's), through early to mid-November the 830 seems more consistent with programming heard each evening from 0200a to 0500 sign off (1160's s/off is 0500z too). Even in non-Auroral conditions this often takes 830 over WCCO as the channel dominant; and when auroral the signal from Taino there is nothing less than phenomenal at times. Also from Radio Taino, received here this week was a v/1, unsigned (only the standard, "EI Director") but quite interesting for on the same day I received the standard promotional propaganda mail from both Radio MOCUBA (Moscow) and Radio Habana Cuba (the Shortwave entities). Also, the plain brown mailer, similar if not same to the mailer of Radio Habana (but return address typed) had a glaring error in the postmark - post-dated 270CT78. It's the typical Republica de Cuba metered cancellation but doesn't correspond with the usual Havana "Permiso" (permit, or license) number. In a related matter, if you recall seeing the Radio Reloj article in DXM last year we reprinted the envelope, which had actual Marx/Lenin postage stamps affixed. I read somewhere that the US is not supposed to receive this stamped mail from Cuba - can any of our philatelic members add to this? And if any eastern members are DXing 830 in evening auroral conditions don't be fooled by the new Hialeah, Florida WRFM, which has typical SS vocal format to Miami and only EE "WRFM AM 8-30, Erray-Ef-Emmay" 10's at ToH, heard here occasionally mixing with YVLT and/or noise from Belize (see Belize-830 this issue) Times and dates are UTC/GMT, deadlines generally by each Monday or Tuesday, and reporting boundaries are generally east of the Mississippi (unless you feel your reports would better benefit the East if you live in MI, IA, MO, AR or LA (subject to at least Bob approval, I presume). Even if you live elsewhere in the world don't hesitate to drop DXW-E reports or information/help w/unID's - we'll see they reach appropriate columns.

TRANS-ATLANTIC DX (Hakiel-HY) unless noted

- 567 IRELAND, Tullamore 0030 11/1 : Vocal by m, EE talk, poor.
- 585 SPAIN, Madrid 2246 10/31 : SS talk by man, pop tunes //604, fair.
- 666 PORTUGAL, Lisbon 0119 10/28 : Fr w/EZL mx w/male vocalist, PP talk.
- 684 SPAIN, Sevilla 0212 10/6 : Gd w/SS talk, pleasant ballads.
- 693 ENGLAND, Droitwich 0109 10/28 : Fr w/pop tunes, EE talk.
- AZORES, Terceira 2245 10/7 : Fr w/PP talk by man.
- 747 NETHERLANDS, Flevoland 0143 10/24 : Fr w/r/r mx, EE vocals, DD talk.
- 774 SPAIN, synchron. 2343 10/4 : Gd w/long-winded talk by man.
- 846 ITALY, Rome 0010 10/29 : Gd, w in operatic aria, 11 talk.
- 864 EGYPT, Santah 0248 10/31 : Pr/fr w/AA chants/talk. (Nice logging, George. ed)
- 882 ENGLAND, Washford 0047 10/28 : Fr w/light concert mx, EE talk. WCB5 phased.
- 963 FINLAND, Pori 0440 10/3 : Pr w/light mx - man w/Finnish talk. (Another good one, George. ed)
- 1089 ENGLAND, Brookmans Park & others 0025 10/28 : Gd w/r/r mx, EE talk.
- 1098 CZECHOSLOVAKIA, Velke Kostolany 0433 11/2 : Pr/fr w/Czech talk, folk mx, vocals.
- 1107 EGYPT, Datra 2231 10/5 : A.A.T - AA chanting, fair/gd. (I only get Spain later. ed)
- 1134 YUGOSLAVIA, Zadar 0033 10/28 : XInt w/EZL mx, some vocals in EE, //1125.
- 1143 U.S.S.R., Kaliningrad 2337 10/28 : XInt w/talk in EE about USSR, EE pgm. (I have tried here on numerous occasions for him but no luck. ed)
- 1179 SWEDEN, Solvesborg 0511 10/28 : Fr w/long talk by Swedish woman.
- 1188 HUNGARY, Szolnok 0425 11/2 : Pr w/light mx, Hungary talk. (I have gotten a few TA unID's here which must be this Hungarian. Do you get anything else here? ed)
- 1215 ALBANIA, Lushnje 0419 11/2 : Fr w/Slav talk by woman.
- 1314 NORWAY, Kvitsøy 0410 10/25 : Gd w/US pop tunes - EE vocals, Norse talk.
- 1521 SAUDI ARABIA, Duba 2232 11/7 : Gd w/AA chants/talk.
- 1575 PORTUGAL, Porto Canidelo 2202 11/2 : Fr w/PP talk, 1D chimes.

PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 610 CUBA, Trinidad CMGI/CMHV 0220 11/10 : Mixing w/dominant Cuban (R. Rebelde-CMAF) & several domestics w/standard Radio Reloj program, pr/nil. FCC says 1kW so the R. Rebelde here (also quoted as 1kW) must be at least 5kW per own observations. New from PA. (Hall-PIT)

- 700 CUBA, unk. city 0014 10/18 : Hx in SS, "R. Reloj" ID, fr. (George, officially, location is charted roughly as Guantanamo, Cuba. This outlet seems to have shuffled networks on occasion, at one time being heard as R. Enciclopedia, and as a Rebelde relay. However, the FCC's field measurements show an unlikely combination of three Cuban xmters on the freq., at 500, 1000, and 10000 watts. The latter seems unlikely as it would surely be reported more regularly since Cubans are ND omnidirectional. But then again, my latest reference (from FCC F.O.B.) is dated OCT. of 88, so it's hard to pin down the actual outlet. Over the last few years I've only seen the R. Reloj pgm heard here. ed) (Hakiel-NY)
- (830) VENEZUELA, Maracaibo VVHM 0347 10/24 : Gd w/SS vocals, "Popular" ID. (Hakiel-NY)
- BELIZE, Belize City Radio One 2330 11/10 : Belize is obviously having technical problems again (remember that last season or so they had a bad image/spur easily heard on 783) with heavy xmtr whistling/wobbly noise, and when tuned to about 825a on the R71 an overmodulated-sounding audio was present and readable, w/UrbCon mx, EE ancrs and "Belize R. One, the Caribbean beat in the Heart of Central America" ID's. Even under Taino on 830 the Belizian noise can be heard (perhaps Filing betw.?). Has been occ. wiping out otherwise easy copy of St. Kitts-825 at times. (Hall-PA)
- 930 COSTA RICA, Ciudad Quesada TIRCR 0200 11/10 : Again heard poor this time w/Reloj Cuban. SS "VOA" ID's into Washington's news. This was the 50kV xmtr this time - no sign of the one-time-reception of the other Costa Rican relay in San José (see last issue). (Hall-PIT)
- 1000 MEXICO, Mexico D.F. 0530 10/17 : Strong w/SS mx, ID as "Radio HII X-E-0 ? (Y)", noisy during ID but certainly an XE- and almost 100% positive it wsa XE0Y. (Tom Laskowski-IN) (There are four "R. HII" Mexicans on 1000, with Mexico City being the highest - powered outlet as you reported, Tom. There is a Radio HII in Managua, Nicaragua here too, that being 10kV HTA211. ed)
- 1030 HAITI, Port-au-Prince 4VDH 0038 10/31 : Creole-FF talk - call-in talk show, fair. (Hakiel-NY)
- 1520 PUERTO RICO, San Juan WRA1 2333 10/16 : Good w/SS talk, "R. Aeropuerto" ID. (Hakiel-NY) (Good show, George. ed)
- 1540 BAHAMAS, Nassau ZHS-1 2319 10/12 : XInt w/political talk, ID. (Hakiel-NY)
+2326 11/13 : Fair, //v. good 810 w/"Voice of Prophecy" flgs pgm w/Nassau addr. (J. Hall-PIT)
- 1565 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, Sto. Domingo HIAJ 2355 10/13 : Good w/religious fmt, ID as "Radio Amanecer". (Hakiel-NY)
- 1570 TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, South Caicos 0100 10/20 : Finally heard here - flgs pgms, ID as "You've got a friend in the night, shining bright, AM 15-70, the Atlantic Beacon, your Inspiration Station". (Laskowski-IN) (Congratulations, Tom. ed)
- 1580 ANTIGUA, St. John's VOA Relay to Caribbean 0030 11/11 : Yankee Doodle bars to mx at ToH, int'l nx items, VOA Reports. (Hall-PA)

CREDITS:

- (Laskowski-IN) Tom Laskowski, 1334 E. Winer Street, South Bend, Indiana 46617
(Sony ICF-2010 and homebrew loop, longwire)
- (Hakiel-NY) George Hakiel, 739 Van Buren Avenue, West Islip, New York 11795
(Racal 6790 - ICOM R71-A, 1w's loops, phasing unit)
- (Hall-PIT) James Hall, 240 Byron Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237

***** IRCA Foreign DX Reference, Volumes 23-25

You're tuning around and hear a carrier from foreign origin on a frequency (say TA on 891). You want to quickly know which countries have been heard on the frequency and what type of programming was heard. Or, you're DXing and have heard several stations from one foreign area (say Japan) and want to quickly know what other stations have been heard from that area. These are the situations the **IRCA Foreign DX Reference** was created for. No longer will you need to thumb through tens of back issues of "DX Monitor" to find the information you need. With the **IRCA Foreign DX Reference** you can quickly determine which foreign stations might on a particular frequency or where to look for more stations from a particular area.

In honor of IRCA's 25th anniversary (and because it sounded like a good idea), this year's Reference was compiled from the last *three* years of "DX Monitor"!

The **IRCA Foreign DX Reference** is a cross reference listing of all the stations reported to DXWW-W and DXWW-E during volumes 23-25 of "DX Monitor" (9/85-8/88). Three sections are available: Trans-Atlantic, Pan American, and Trans-Pacific. Each section contains a frequency listing (countries reported for each frequency) and a country listing (frequencies reported for each country) including the "DX Monitor" issue in which they were reported (volume and number). The Reference is an indispensable guide to what was reported the last three years, and where to find specific information about the recipients.

Each listing is 6 or 7 pages long. You can order any one of the three (TA, PA or TP) for \$2.00 each, or all three for \$5.00. Order your copy now before the 1988-89 season gets underway. Make checks out to IRCA and send them to: 9705 Mary N.W., Seattle, WA 98117. (phil bytheway)

DX Worldwide - West



PAT MARTIN

P.O. BOX 843

SEASIDE, OR 97138

Time: UTC phone (503) 861-3185

DEADLINE: Tuesdays

I'm going to go on vacation more often. When I got back I had quite a few reports for the column. Nice to hear from Phil Bytheway who still has The DX Reference guide. If you are a Foreign DXer and would like to find what people have been hearing the past 2 or 3 seasons, then the guide is for you. It really makes the info easier to find with the issue numbers right in front of you. I have used mine several times and it is listed under Country and Frequency. For more info you can write Phil at 9705 Mary Northwest-Seattle, Wa. 98117. Well on with reports:

PAN-AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

- 895 ST. KITTS/NEVIS ,VON (ZON?) 11/7 1029-1039 poor but faded up nicely for 1D. "this is VON Radio 8-9-5 AM in Nevis, followed by some hymns. New.St. Kitts/Nevis #2 (TRH-CA)
- 890 ECUADOR, Machala, Radio Superior HCRSG 11/7 1012 poor w/WLS w/man reading Ecuador nx. Used to be regular before KDXU and XEYO ruined the freq. (TRH-CA)
- 1090 CUBA, Pinar Del Rio, CMAW Radio Guama 10/19 0847-1005 poor to fair but on top of channel with local XEPRS off. Male DJ w/SS vocals lots of GMT -5 TCS 1Ds as Radio Guama Onda. New Cuba #18 (TRH-CA)
- 1127 t COSTA RICA, 0505...10/20 carrier here initially, some subdued audio faded up at 0511. Seemed to be in SS with deep voiced male. Then faded out. This carrier seems almost nightly, but this is the first time I have heard any audio, even though I've tracked it for over an hour before when the carrier was strong. Perhaps they are undermodulated. Would be interesting to try a synchronous detector on this one. Some slop from 1130 which was running some sort of sports talk show. (PB-WA)
- 1180 MEXICO, XESM? XESN? new STATION SOMEWHERE IN Sonora 11/10 1110 UTC loud and distorted mixing w/ROF1 (KEE1 was off) Male DJ w/1Ds lots of Radio Sonora 1Ds, slogans. Unsure of last letter in calls. (TRH-CA)

TRANS-PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

- 585 AUSTRALIA, Hobart-72L-1438 10/10 man and woman talking //2FC-576 fair. (NHP-BC*)
U.S.S.R., Svobodnyy-11/1 with FS IS (RM Bells) 1359 with man and woman in unid language in and out from 1400 to 1410. IS again heard at 1459. but weaker. WRTH lists this location as uncertain, find it on Runnan map just North of Blagovescensk, quite a bit inland from Vladivostok and Khabarovsk txs. (RM-WA)
- 693 JAPAN, Tokyo-JOAB weak w/female talk 1210 10/26. (BP)
- 747 JAPAN, Sapporo-JOIB fair with male talk 1446 10/31.(DP)
- 846 AUSTRALIA, Canberra 2CY 1401 10/23 Radio Australia w/ment of MW channels and intro to International Report Fair to good //855 (NHP-BC*)
- 891 UNID , loud het 1443 10/31 (BP-WA)
- 936 t AUSTRALIA, 1200-10/20 Left a tape on this frequency mostly because no DU has been reported in the last three years per DX Ref. At 1200 no pips but man in accented EE with news items. Too subdued for any

- 936(Cont.) kind of word recognition, however it was obvious he was doing the news. Faded out at 1203 or so, and tape ran out at 1205, so no further info. Is this Hobart of new standby tx in Brisbane? Signal was plenty loud here so Pat ought to get an ID out of this one. (PB-WA) (Will check this out, Phil. PM)
- 972 SOUTH KOREA, fair with man in KK 1439 10/31.(BP-
1017 AUSTRALIA, Sydney 2KY 1427 10/16. Monster signal w/numerous IDs and wx. (NHP-BC*)
- 1026 AUSTRALIA, MacKay-4MK 1340 10/23 Fair to good strength with 4MK IDs and pops. (NHP-BC*)
- 1098 t MARSHALL ISLANDS, Majuro WWSO 0621 10/23 Good audio w/man in unid language. No SW // available of Course. (NHP-BC*)
- 1188 UNID, Stating at 0528 10/23 a carrier appeared here but never really delivered audio. Wallis and Futuna. There were carriers and audio on many of the Pacific Channels this night. (NHP-BC*)
- 1251 UNID, 0619 10/23 man talking in unid language here. Fair signal but no way of identifying. Samoa maybe? (NHP-BC*)
- 1332 AUSTRALIA, Bundeberg-4BU 1545 10/23 Radio 13-4BU" ID and into pops. Poor to fair, new for me. (NHP-BC*) (Good catch Nick, as this hasn't been reported in quite sometime.PM)
- 1404 UNID, 0637 10/23 carrier noted here. Is Western Samoa still on this channel? (As far as I know they are still on 1404.PM) (NHP-BC*)
- 1494.75 UNID, Just a carrier away here apparently Asiatic 1346 10/16. Too bad we don't have anybody in Asia to ID these anymore. (NHP-BC*)
- 1518 AUSTRALIA, Emerald 4QD 1632 10/23 Last one on audio, quite poor w/mx at this time, but carrier continued on and off to past 1700!!! LSR was at 1446. In general only channels noted past 1515 or so were stations on the Queensland coast.(NHP- (This soundslike China-1040 years ago was heard at 10 AM or so local time.PM)

QSLs..QSLs..QSLs..QSLs

- 690 HAWAII, Honolulu-KQMQ-rec. nice letter in person from CE Robert N. Palitz-Had this QSL'd from Alan Roycroft, but wanted it direct from KQMQ. Station tower is diplexed with KGU. (PM-OR)
- 1170 HAWAII, Honolulu -KOHO, rec. nice letter in person from Margaret U. Tateishi-Consultant to Radio KOHO. and the only person in the station that spoke EE I might add. No wonder I have had no luck getting a QSL direct. I had to tell her what I wanted as she dis not know what I was talking about. (PM-OR)

1989 World Radio TV Handbook The 1989 WRTH will be published in Jan. 1989 and retail at \$19.95 + shipping. Prepublication orders are being taken, in the USA only, at \$16 each; 2/\$29; 3/\$39 postpaid Book Rate. Add \$2/copy First Class Mail. CA residents, please add 6% sales tax. The deadline for this special price structure is 15 January 1989. Thereafter, until further notice, please add \$2 per book. Orders, with check or money order payable to CENTURY PRINT SHOP, including applicable sales tax, should be mailed as early as possible to: Century Print Shop, Don Erickson, 6059 Essex Street, Riverside, CA 92504-1599. (Please mention your club affiliation or source of info when ordering). Inquiries welcome at (714) 687-5910. Back copies of WRTH, 1981 thru 1988, may be ordered at \$15 ea., 2/\$27, 3/\$38, 4/\$48, mix or match years.



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 — WEEKLY ON TUESDAY 11 DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION DATE

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GENE MARTIN, 3303 E. EVANS AVE., DENVER, CO 80210

It has taken me months to recognize and fully awaken to the fact that something extraordinary and wonderful has happened in this often discouraging hobby of DX'ing the broadcast band. So I have a message for all those Eastern DX'ers who have tried in vain to get CA, OR, WA, ID or AZ. The message is simple: Quit fretting about CA; you can get Australia instead!

There are five 500-watt Aussies on 1620 and 1629 and they transmit signals of unbelievable strength into Denver these November mornings in the area from 0900 to 1400 UTC. They were still in one hour after sunrise on 02 November.

The pair of them on 1629, Sydney and Melbourne, deliver the best signal for me inasmuch as I have a 1600 local that complicates reception of the 1620 Aussies. But I can hear the 1620 stations and their signal seems to be on a par with what I hear on 1629 although it's not in the clear.

As to the 1629 stations, they give me by far the best DU reception I have heard in a lot of years. Nothing else comes even close to them. If I were to hear they were using 50 kw rather than 500 watts, I wouldn't be surprised, for they arrive with enough strength to drive you right out of the house as the old DX saying goes.

You can never forget there are two of them for the beating between them is constant, but you can be certain you're getting Australia for 1629 is a clear channel, along with 1620.

I don't believe for a passing second that anybody in the Eastern US (or Canada) would need a thousand-foot Beverage antenna to hear these midgets so many thousands of miles away. I can locate them on my GE Superadio with its ferrite rod antenna, not as well, of course, as on my HQ-180 with its big loop antenna, but using both of them at the same time show the weaker signal on the GE is duplicating what I'm getting on the Hammarlund. (Continued next week - Rth.)

FLOYD PERRY JR., 6408 MORGAN PL., 218, STOCKTON, CA 95209

Greetings everyone! Rth came by my place and we went to the transmitter sites of KWG and KSTN as well as DX'ing with Rth's radio equipment, as well as '89 convention plans. Even though I've been DX'ing for close to 15 years, listening to Rth's radio made me feel like a newborn seeing the world for the first time, hi. I caught my first Oklahoman (KV00), listened to 1150 for the first time (. . . and first time for me in three years, hi-Rth) and wiped out my pest KSMJ 1380 (I'm gonna have to get better DX equipment, hi). By the way, I'm interested in purchasing an SM-2 or any good loop antenna. After listening to Rth's radio, I know that I really need one. I would really appreciate it. One thing that shocked me was the KWG transmitter. Apparently they replaced their 50-year-old longwire with a new tower. Oh well. (You especially enjoyed my rig after you learned to use Preselect with the antenna, hi-Rth.)

On to the convention and the proposed site of Sacramento. I would like everyone to support it. Rth and I are planning to have one of IRCA's greatest conventions of all time (especially because it'll be the 25th anniversary). Not only are we trying to make sure all California members attend but throughout the west and rest of the continent. Here's your chance for a great California vacation.

Best of DX and 73 de FPJ and Sacramento in '89!

NICK HALL-PATCH, 1538 AMPHION ST., VICTORIA, BC V8R 4Z6

Harold's Beverage birthday, 14 October, dawned cloudy in Victoria. Don Womán had arrived the night before and we were preparing for a two-day Beverage antenna extravaganza to mark Mr. Beverage's 95th. By noon it was raining buckets, and we were heading to DX on the west coast of Vancouver Island, where it really rains. By the time we arrived at the site 1,600 feet above Jordan River, the rain had diminished to showers, but cloud obscured much of the area. It's difficult to lay out a straight wire when you can't see where you're going, but we managed eventually to put out 1,000 feet towards New South Wales, 2,000 feet towards Japan and 3,000 feet towards

southern Europe. The shortest wire was laid over logging slash, but the other two were raised on eight-foot poles. By the time everything was laid out, it was dark and the heavens had opened once again, as we DX'ed damply in Don's van. The European wire showed no Europeans even on longwave, but at 0620 UTC it started to show carriers and sudio (?RtH) traces on Pacific island frequencies and at better levels than the 1,000-foot wire. Directional effects were quite pronounced between the 2,000-foot and 3,000-foot wires, e.g. 670 yielded only KPUA on the 3,000-foot, while KBOI ruled the 2,000-foot wire. The directionality of the wires gave us a good idea next morning whether we were hearing carriers from Asia or Oceania - unfortunately, most signals were only carriers, and very little sunrise enhancement was noted on DU signals. Dull!

By now the rain had subsided but we could still not see more than a few hundred feet. After breakfast I set up another 1,000 feet of wire paralleling the 3,000-foot wire from its far end, and got caught in yet another cloudburst without my raingear on. This cloudburst lasted over 12 hours and damped any hope of experimenting with the wires, measuring velocity, loss and exact termination. The afternoon was spent hunting for the Northwest Territories and Yukon; fat chance with all the Vancouver locals as they were splattering badly due to the wire pointing right at them. The tropical West Africans were fine that afternoon, but darned if we could find any evidence of them on MW that night. Europeans were zilch, and the Pacific islands were poorer than the previous evening. We did however, hear a raft of NWT beacons on longwave. At this point, a raft began to look necessary, as the rivulet that the van was parked beside was becoming a torrent, and threatened to wash away our antenna matching transformers. (Continued next week-RtH)

SHAWN AXLEROD, 30 BEACONTREE BAY, WINNIPEG, MB R2N 2X9

Greetings from the barely Great White North. We have had some snow but some warm air from the south and west has melted most of it. Must be all of the election speeches. Having a Canadian and US election on at the same time can kill.

Well, I should get to the point of this forum and that is to say "thank-you" to all of you who have helped me out over the last year or so. Way back in '85 I met Neil Wolfish who got me turned on to the fine art of BCB DX. We set a goal of hearing 1,000 stations from this location and at 1930 local time on 02 November I achieved that goal, when, thanks to a tip from Wayne McRae, I caught KVEG 840 N. Las Vegas 840. It was quite a moment in my brief DX'ing career. I had been a loyal ham radio listener since '71, but with countries becoming harder and harder to find I was looking for a new side of DX'ing to try out. Niel got me hooked on BCB and we were off on a merry chase to 1,000 stations heard. Unfortunately Niel had to return to the east after school and before getting to the magic number. So it seems that the student has surpassed the teacher. It was however, not only Niel and Wayne who helped me reach my goal.

I would like to thank all of those who helped me out with unID's, those of you who edit columns such as WDXF and EDXF, and of course John Johnson's CDXR and its contributors. Also Rich Toebe with the slogans list and Broadcasting Info updating call changes and new stations on the air. Without the info I got from all of these sources I would never have made it to 1,000. It's a good feeling to be part of a club that cares about its members and a club where the members help each other out.

Well, I should get back to the radio and start off towards number 2,000. Boy am I going to need help for that one! Thanks again to all of you. 73.

DOUG PIFER, 25530 BUCKLEY DR., MURRIETA, CA 92362

Hi gang. Our house was finally finished, so we're moved in now. (Note new address.) I can't believe we lived in such a small trailer for sooooo long, but the rent was cheap, hi.

DX activity was nil, but will pick up once my gear is set up. I've been doing all my listening in my car. (I hope you didn't run down your battery like I did in my car, hi-RtH.)

On another note, I'll be setting up my screen printing stuff and will see about printing up IRCA t-shirts. For interested people, sorry about the delay. I've been in contact with Karl Zuk and Bruce Portzer in an effort to arrange all aspects of this project. (Doug, you'd be a great asset selling t-shirts at the convention next year-RtH.)

As I've mentioned to them, I'm not in the business of printing shirts, etc., but I'm in it for the fun sideline. Soon, hopefully, there'll be information in the bulletin concerning details on the shirts and ordering.

As an avid supporter of BCB and IRCA I think this is a good way to support our club and advertise too. I have other ideas, such as IRCA decals or stickers. Any comments. (How about bumper stickers, doug? - RtH.)

Gary Larson, I hiked up to those six KROQ towers you mentioned in issue 829. A good view up there including a KBLA sign. Now on three. . . Sacramento in '89! 73.

RIC HEALD, 8539 BELLAMY WAY, SACRAMENTO, CA 95828 Tele-Forum: (916)
Evergreen 6-8677 1000 to 1300 PST & ppd

Howdy, howdy! Just when I was wondering where the rest of WDXF-land was hiding under, here came the contributions for this column. Nick, you can send all the excess rain this way - we won't complain this year. By the way, (Phil, sit down, hi), I hope you had an adequate supply of your homemade brew on your DX'pedition, hi.

Shawn made me stop and think. I too have gotten tons of info from all the columns. I used to enjoy Broadcasting Info, but in the last couple of years, it's nearly caused me to break out in a cold sweat, hi. Too many changes. And thanks to Michael Stonebridge, my unID on 890 is indeed CJDC. I'm well aware of the Grand Prairie/Dawson Creek connection; CJDC was a regular on 1350 when I lived in Alaska.

Convention news. Tentative dates for July 4th "weekend." I put that in quotes as the 4th is a Tuesday, but a lot of folks will be calling in sick on the third, hi. This is before the valley heats up, weather should be pleasantly warm in the evening and guaranteed dry. In the last 100 years it's rained three times in July, hi. And Sacramento is just two hours from all the attractions at Tahoe, Reno, Sierras, Coast and Bay Area. Within 45 minutes of the historic Gold Rush country, plus many local attractions. So makes your plans now for that "always-wanted-to-go" California vacation in '89 and help IRCA celebrate its Silver Anniversary.

I'd like to see a sawp and sell booth and new products at the convention. Also, Doug, if you can make it, we'd like to see your T-shirts. Good money raiser at the convention. Also, the traditional auction, so look around your shack and see what you can part with and bring or send to the convention.

Re-reading a pull-out section of San Luis Obispo's local rag, at the bottom of a page in 6 point type was a radio log. 1400 is KKCB not V. I keep meaning to blow it up so it can be 6 point type in DXM, hi.

Not much on the DX scene. Sacramento has to be the last city in the US to get CATV, finally got hooked up and they've been showing all the movie channels free for a week, so I've been busy with a new toy, hi.

That's it this week. Thanks for all your contributions, gang - keep 'em coming. Best of DX and Sacramento in '89 de Rth . .

Bandscans

Daytime bandscan by Curtis McMenamin at Graeagle, CA, about 70 miles NW of Reno. NV. DXing was done 9/9/88 at about noon on a Sony 2010 with Radio West loop.

540 KVIP Redding vy good
550 KUZZ Bakersfield inaudible
560 KSFO good
570 KCNO Alturas xint
580 KMJ Fresno fair
590 KTHO S Lake Tahoe good
600 KHTE Redding fair
610 KFRC San Francisco good
620 Unid (Prob KWSD Mt Shasta bp)
630 KOH Reno xint "Newstalk 63"
640 KFI vy poor at 420 miles
670 KBOI Boise poor at 300 miles
680 KNBR San Fran good
690 XETRA Tijuana vy poor
710 KFIA Carmichael fair
720 KDWN Las Vegas poor
740 KCBS San Francisco quite good
770 KPLA Riverbank poor "77 West"
780 KROW Reno xint
790 KXTC Clovis vy poor-inaudible
810 KGO San Francisco good
830 KNCO Grass Valley good
860 KTRB Modesto fair
880 KKMC Gonzales inaudible
890 KDXU St George UT inaudible
900 Unid (Fresno? bp)
910 KNEW Oakland good
920 KQLO Reno xint
940 KFRE Fresno fair
950 KAHJ good
960 KABL Oakland poor
980 KVLV Fallon NV good
990 KKIS Pittsburg very good

1010 KIQI Hayward poor-very poor
1030 KKSA Orl air
1060 KPAY Chico fair
1080 KSCO Santa Cruz. inaudible
1090 XEPRS Rosarito/Tijuana fair
1100 KFAK San Francisco very good
1110 KRCC Roseville very good
1130 KRDU Dinuba inaudible
1140 KRAC Sacramento very strong
1150 Unid
1160 KSL SLC. UT vy poor-inaudible
1170 KLOK San Jose very poor
1180 Unid (probably KERI bp)
1190 KNBA Vallejo poor
1210 KEBR Rocklin good
1230 KCBN Reno very poor
1240 KSUE Susanville very poor
1260 KOIT San Francisco fair
1270 KPLY Sparks-Reno xint
1290 KHSL Chico poor
1300 KPTL Carson City very poor
1310 KDIA very poor
1320 KGNR Sacramento good
1330 KRDG Redding good
1340 KRCV Reno poor-fair
1370 KPCC Quincy excellent 35 miles
1380 KSMJ Sacramento poor
1400 KBLX very poor-inaudible
1410 KRFD Marysville fair
1420 KSTN Stockton vy poor-inaudible
1450 KONE Reno very poor
1470 KXOA Sacramento poor
1490 KBLF Red Bluff very good-fair
1500 KHHT San Jose inaudible
1510 KCAF San Rafael fair
1530 KFBK Sacramento fair
1550 KKHI San Francisco inaudible
1560 KIQS Willows poor
1570 KCVR Lodi very good
1590 KICK Reno area very good
1600 KUBA Yuba City poor

via Tom Jasinski

AM Radio Plays Hard to Be Heard Again as Audience Dwindles

SUMMARY: In 16 years, AM's share of radio listenership has dropped from 75 to 26 percent. Partly a victim of demographic changes, AM also labors under technological and regulatory burdens. Its immediate play to stay competitive centers on programming, with a good measure of better marketing.

There used to be a joke in the radio industry. "What do the letters FM in FM radio stand for?" The answer: "Find Me."

That was in 1972, when FM radio collected a paltry 25 percent of the listening audience, while AM radio staked out a hefty 75 percent. Today, just 16 years later, those numbers have done an about-face; AM radio's listenership has withered to just

but competing with FM is tough. It's not a pretty picture."

In fact, the picture is rather bleak. FM radio captures 75 to 80 percent of radio's yearly revenues of \$7 billion, according to Duncan's Radio Market Guide, an industry bible. In this decade, the number of AM commercial stations grew a sluggish 6.8 percent, to 4,902, in markets still considered viable, while FM commercial stations grew an impressive 23.1 percent, to 4,041, says the Radio Advertising Bureau, which tracks the industry.

In 1986, the most recent year for which figures are available, half the AM stations in the country lost money. "It's generally been the worst [for AM] in the urban markets," says David E. Parnigoni, senior vice president for radio at the National Association of Broadcasters, an industry trade group. Median earnings for AM stations showed an \$8,000 loss, compared with an \$18,500 profit for FM stations, according to an association report.

"Prices for AM stations are not collapsing," says Smulyan, "but they certainly are not like FM. Four years ago our company bought an FM radio station in Los Angeles for \$10 million. Today it's worth between \$60 and \$80 million." In New York City, which has the nation's largest radio market, WNBC-AM Radio, once a giant in the radio industry, was negotiated for sale this February for an estimated \$20 million, a price considered average for AM radio.

For years, the revival of AM radio had been a declared goal of the National Association of Broadcasters, the 6,000-member trade group of the radio and television industry. Edward Cohen, a researcher at the association who reports to its AM Radio Improvement Committee, says the goal has given way to seemingly insurmountable problems.

"Technologically, AM radio is not what it used to be," Cohen says. "The stations all crowd each other on the dial, interfering with each other's broadcast signal."

It is rare that a major industry crumbles as AM radio has crumbled, especially in such a short time. And despite efforts to rebuild itself, the industry faces fundamental obstacles. For instance, the older audiences upon which it relies for its present listenership are gradually dying off, while the middle-aged baby boomers who replace



The AM-FM battle has moved to the broadcast booth. AM leans on news and sports; FM plays more music.

them are the very ones who turned FM into a commercial success.

Their children, with the money to buy records and jeans, listen almost exclusively to FM. "FM has snob appeal," says Norman S. Schruft, who runs seven radio stations for Capital Cities/ABC Inc. "Young people say, 'I don't listen to AM anymore. I'm driving my BMW.'"

While the technological difficulties that have plagued AM may someday be resolved, industry analysts fear these high-tech fixes will be too little, too late. Nor is the regulatory environment turning in AM radio's favor.

The Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the airwaves, is considering a rule change that would allow owners of radio stations to acquire a preponderance of FM outlets, rather than the currently mandated 50-50. AM-FM split. That means owners would begin buying the more lucrative FM stations at a time when FM's financial outlook is not just healthy but is downright appealing to investors.

"Radio is an attractive advertising medium during sluggish economic periods," says Edward Hatch, a radio analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. "We're looking at cash flow gains on the average of 14 to 18 percent through 1989." AM is missing out on boom times.

Sound quality is at the heart of why FM continues to gain and AM continues to lose. FM offers greater sound fidelity in the form of stereo. As a result of its limitations, AM radio surrendered the big-money pop music formats to FM after 1972, when the Federal Communications Commission told owners that if they had both AM and FM stations, their formats must be different. FM took the music, and AM, for the most part, got what was left — sports and news. "Talk is the future on AM," says Smulyan.

So the boundaries between the two have



Webster: AM lost a chance on stereo.

26 percent of the radio audience. Another decade like that and the tabletop AM clock radio will become a museum piece.

"People who own AM stations are worried," says Jeff Smulyan, the president and chairman of Emmis Broadcasting Corp. of Indianapolis, the largest privately owned radio group in the United States. "I don't know if AM radio will fall off the chart.

**RADIO
WCNN
ALL NEWS 680 AM**

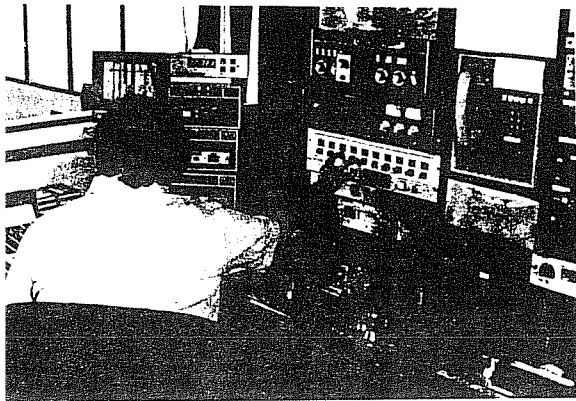


PHOTO COURTESY OF BROADCASTERS

been clearly drawn: AM talks and informs; FM sings and plays. For a nation hooked on entertainment, FM is the clear winner.

Maurie Webster, president of the New York Market Radio Broadcasters Association, one of the oldest and largest radio marketing associations in the country, blames the industry and the FCC for missing the chance to improve AM radio's sound quality. "The industry and the commission should be totally ashamed of themselves," he says. "They let the opportunity to turn AM radio into stereo drift. They said, 'Let the marketplace take care of stereo on AM.' So instead of creating a standard AM stereo system, we wound up with a whole bunch of different stereo broadcast systems on the market." Although the AM stereo broadcast field has narrowed to two systems, only 15 percent of AM radio stations now broadcast in stereo.

But even had stereo succeeded on AM, there are those in the industry who say that its sound quality could not measure up. James H. Duncan Jr., editor and publisher of American Radio, which produces Duncan's Radio Market Guide, says AM's problems are inherent in its signal. "AM stereo is subject to weather interference and to interference from neon lights," he says. "It won't penetrate into steel buildings. It's not going to be totally competitive with FM, and even if it were, you still have two generations of listeners who have been raised on FM."

If there is an area in which AM radio can be competitive, it is in programming. "People will listen to AM if there is a reason," says Schrott. "If you have the right purpose, if you have the right programming, you'll get people to listen to AM."

But listeners have proved elusive to its programming efforts. Following on the success of all-news radio, there have been efforts at all-business radio, game show radio and inspiration radio. Emissis Broadcasting is engaged in an experiment in New York with WFAN-AM, the nation's only

24-hour all-sports station. "The verdict is still out on WFAN," Smulyan reports on the 9-month-old project, "although the trends so far have not been encouraging."

Bert Gould, director of promotions at WCBS-AM Radio in New York and vice president of Broadcast Promotion and Marketing Executives, thinks AM is the victim of its own marketing failures. "I think AM let FM take away their market," he says. "AM assumed it would always be strong. I think it's true that people gravitate to better sound, but that's not all of it. I'm a firm believer that radio is radio, and we're all competing for the same listeners. This is no longer an age where programming alone is going to get you your listeners. The station that outmarkets the competition is the station that is going to win. The same applies to AM radio."

Audience is everything on the airwaves. According to Merrill Lynch's Hatch, a gain of one single share point in a market such as Los Angeles (a share point is equal to 1 percent of all the radio listeners at a given time in a given market) equals a gain of \$3 million in revenues. In radio, he says, it is

not uncommon for major-market stations to generate cash flow margins of 50 percent or more — which in Los Angeles could easily represent \$1.5 million in earnings.

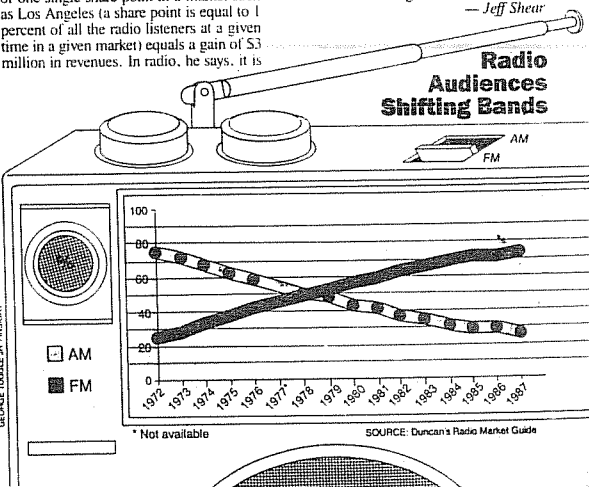
The reverse is also true: A one-point share drop in a major urban market can severely hamper a station's cash flow, and this is a prospect AM radio must consider.

Parmigoni of the National Association of Broadcasters thinks technology can play an important role in bringing back AM radio's audience. "The NAB," he says, "is involved in developing a new radio with continuous AM/FM tuning." He hopes the all-stereo radio will end the either-or choice of having to switch between spectra. A listener would be more inclined to select a station because of its programming and not because he was tuned to one radio band or the other. "We'll be presenting the radio at our convention in September," he says, "and we expect it to go into production by 1989." He sets the cost at \$50 for the table model but declines to name a manufacturer.

Despite various efforts to make AM more competitive, Parmigoni admits that the problems are complex and momentum is not running in its favor. "The tremendous erosion of listenership is a major concern of broadcasters," he says. "The AM stations have not been able to attract younger listeners. The problem isn't just one thing. It's a complicated issue. But we believe that if you give the people what they want and make it easy for them to get it, they'll come back. There's no stigma to AM radio."

— Jeff Shear

Radio Audiences Shifting Bands



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president's report

Karl J. Zuk, 154 Old Post Road North,
Croton-on-Hudson, New York 10520-1932

The autumn in Croton-on-Hudson is really beautiful this year. As I am typing this I see thousands of leaves waiting for my rake. This becomes a necessary obsession this time of year. With the falling of the leaves, we begin a new DX season, and here it has been pretty good. I hope that your Thanksgiving was wonderful, and my best wishes for your Christmases, Chanukahs, and Happy New Year! RNI The story of Radio Newyork International continues to be very interesting. This is turning out to be a lot more than just an offshore broadcaster. Their case is currently in federal court in Boston. They are being represented by the ACLU and they feel that they have been denied their First Amendment rights. Simply put, we all have the right to talk on a street corner, hold a meeting, or print a newspaper. If the airwaves are truly in the public trust, then shouldn't we have the right to broadcast as well? This has put the government in quite a predicament. If the courts rule in favor of The FCC, and say that you can't broadcast without a license, and must abide by the current regulations, are our rights being denied? Why don't newspapers have an FCC? They are also, technically, outside the span of the FCC's area of jurisdiction, since they are broadcasting from a ship, registered to another country, outside the three mile limit of the United States' territorial waters. They are broadcasting in the United States as much as the BBC is. Both can be heard in the U.S., but come from outside the U.S. If the courts rule in RNI's favor, the entire system of broadcasting and regulation would be changed. The RNI folks suggest an amateur broadcasting service, maybe in the 1610-1700 kHz range, that would require minimal registration requirements, and would be limited to low power and being on a particular frequency. It would be very similar to cable TV's public access channels. This matter could have a profound effect on our hobby, and our rights in general. If you have comments, questions, or QSL requests, you can write to:

Radio Newyork International
P.O. Box 1659
Gracie Station
New York, New York 10028

If you would like a QSL for reception of the station during this past October, you must send a self addressed stamped envelope, and a prepared card. RNI is very shakey monetarily, due to the costs of getting and keeping the ship in place, and the high cost of litigation. Your QSL requests must also include a reception report, of course! It will be quite interesting to watch this drama unfold. Convention 89 News So far, I have received one bid from Paul Swearingen for a convention in Topeka, Kansas, during Labor Day 1989. This would be a joint convention with The National Radio Club. It would be held at The Ramada Inn on September 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1989. A flat room rate is offered at \$38 per person. Ric Heald has also been working on a bid for Sacramento, CA, on July 4th or Labor Day. This would be fairly inexpensive, as well, and I await the details.

25th Anniversary Next year IRCA will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. It seems that, at very least, we will publish a special commemorative double issue of DX Monitor. Please start thinking about what you would like to see published in this issue. If you have been with the club a long time, why not write down your memories of DX past and pass them off to Bruce Portzer in Seattle. Any archeology you might have, such as old QSL cards or other DXing mementos, would also be nice to print. The Future Of The Band This is an endless topic, especially in the broadcast trade publications. There is a lot of speculation that the AM band is obsolete, and as its market share gets slowly eaten away by FM, and the amount of people that know what the AM button on the radio is for slowly dies out, like a old religious sect, we can only wonder about its fate. The AM Stereo fiasco did the band a disservice, presenting another cloudy and unworkable image for the general public to swallow. The current trend, to my chagrin, is the adoption of the inferior (in my opinion) C-QUAM Motorola stereo system, and the slow adoption of bandwidth limiting filters for transmitters, to try to eliminate co-channel slop. Remember "Theme From Shaft?" Hi, hi.

THE INTERNATIONAL RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA (IRCA)

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



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