



DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO BROADCAST BAND DXING

JANUARY 4, 1992 - VOLUME 29 - NUMBER 16 - EDITION 941 - ISSN 0899 - 9732

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ALMANAC UPDATER 5.3: Please write to Bill Hardy if you ordered updater 5.3 by Dec 15th, and let him know whether or not you received your copy in satisfactory condition. One damaged copy was returned by the post office with no address label, so we do not know whose it was. Bill Hardy 2301 Aberdeen WA 98520.

KPLS: On air starting at 5 AM December 30th with a Spanish talk + entertainment format. Phone number (714) 2828300. This item from Gary Larson. Gary feels they will verify. My comment is we really need another AM station in Southern California. Maybe they will be a daytimer, Hi!! I am bad.....

## IRCA DX TEST BULLETIN

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 1991** — KUAJ-720, ELEELE, KAUAI, HI WILL AIR A SPECIAL DX TEST FROM 5:00 TO 9:00 AM EST. THE TEST WILL INCLUDE POLKA MUSIC AND ROCK MUSIC BY LED ZEPPELIN. THERE WILL ALSO BE MORSE CODE ID'S. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH IRCA, WGN-720, CHICAGO, IL WILL BE OFF THE AIR FROM 5:00 TO 6:00 AM EST. RECEPTION REPORTS MAY BE SENT TO: MR. MICHAEL FRIEDLANDER - CHIEF OPERATOR, KUAJ-AM, BOX 720, ELEELE, KAUAI, HI 96705. THANK YOU'S FOR THE WGN SILENT PERIOD MAY BE SENT TO: MR. JAMES CAROLLO - CHIEF ENGINEER, WGN-AM, 435 N. MICHIGAN, CHICAGO, IL 60611.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1992** — KXOL - 1320, CLINTON, OK WILL REPEAT ITS DX TEST WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY BROADCAST ON NOVEMBER 25TH FROM 1:30 TO 2:00 AM EST. THE TEST WILL INCLUDE TONES AND MORSE CODE ID'S. SEND REPORTS TO: DENNIS BURTON, KXOL-AM RADIO, 1730 NEPTUNE DRIVE, CLINTON, OK 73601.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1992** — WMXY-720, LA GRANGE, GA WILL CONDUCT A DX TEST FROM 2:30 TO 2:30 AM EST. THE TEST WILL INCLUDE MORSE CODE ID'S. RECEPTION REPORTS MAY BE SENT TO: MR. TED RONNEBURGUR - CHIEF ENGINEER, WMXY-AM, P.O. BOX 1114, LA GRANGE, GA 30241.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1992** — WJJC-1270, COMMERCE, GA WILL AIR A SPECIAL DX TEST BETWEEN 3:30 & 4:00 AM EST AND WILL INCLUDE MUSIC, VOICE ID'S & MORSE CODE ID'S. RECEPTION REPORTS GO TO: MR. WILLIAM CARSON - CHIEF ENGINEER, WJJC-AM, P.O. BOX 379, COMMERCE, GA 30529.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1992** — WLDS-1180, JACKSONVILLE, IL WILL CONDUCT A DX TEST FROM 2:00 TO 2:30 AM EST. THE TEST WILL INCLUDE POLKAS, MORSE CODE ID'S AND VOICE ID'S. RECEPTION REPORTS GO TO: MR. KEVIN POTTER - CHIEF ENGINEER (KC9ZK), WLDS-AM, P.O. BOX 1180, JACKSONVILLE, IL 62651.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992** — WVVW-630, ST. MARYS, WV WILL RUN A DX TEST FROM 12:00 TO 12:30 AM EST. THE TEST WILL INCLUDE VOICE ID'S, TONES & "EASILY IDENTIFIABLE MUSIC". PREPAID PHONE CALLS WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING THE TEST AT (304) 684-3400. RECEPTION REPORTS MAY BE SENT TO: MR. BOB EDDY - PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER/CHIEF ENGINEER, WVVW-AM, P.O. BOX 374, ST. MARYS, WV 26170.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992** — WZZZ-1300, FULTON, NY WILL RUN A DX TEST BETWEEN 1:15 & 2:00 AM EST. THE TEST WILL INCLUDE VOICE & MORSE CODE ID'S AND AN UNSPECIFIED SELECTION OF MUSIC. RECEPTION REPORTS MAY BE SENT TO: MR. PETER HUNN - OWNER, WZZZ-AM, 1300 RADIO PARK, LAKESHORE ROAD, FULTON, NY 13069. MR. HUNN REQUESTS AN SASE BE INCLUDED WITH ALL REPORTS.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1992 — WAAM-1600, ANN ARBOR, MI WILL AIR A SPECIAL DX TEST BETWEEN 3:00 & 3:30 AM EST. THE TEST WILL INCLUDE VOICE & MORSE CODE ID'S. RECEPTION REPORTS GO TO: MR. RANDY CARR - CE (N8DBQ), WAAM-AM, 4230 PACKARD ROAD, ANN ARBOR, MI 48108.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1992 — WILD-1090, LYNN, MA WILL RUN A SPECIAL DX TEST FROM 2:00 TO 3:00 AM EST. THE TEST WILL INCLUDE TONES, VOICE & MORSE CODE ID'S. THANKS TO MR. MICHAEL J. KLEIN (NV1L) OF DX ENTERPRISES, P.O. BOX 2181, LYNN, MA 01903-2181 FOR CONDUCTING THE TEST. RECEPTION REPORTS GO TO: WILD DX TEST, C/O PERSONAL DATABASE APPLICATIONS, 2616 MEADOW RIDGE RD., DULUTH, GA 30136-6037.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1992 — WDAY-970, FARGO, ND WILL RUN DX TEST PROGRAMMING BETWEEN 3:00 & 4:00 AM EST. THE TEST WILL INCLUDE MORSE CODE ID'S, INSERTED DURING STATION BREAKS. RECEPTION REPORTS MAY BE SENT TO: MR. MARTY BERLINGER - CHIEF ENGINEER, WDAY-AM, 301 8TH STREET SOUTH, FARGO, ND 58103.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1992 — WTMA-1250, CHARLESTON, SC WILL CONDUCT A SPECIAL DX TEST FROM 3:00 TO 3:30 AM EST. THE TEST WILL INCLUDE MORSE CODE ID'S. RECEPTION REPORTS GO TO: MR. BRUCE ROBERTS - CHIEF ENGINEER, WTMA-AM, P.O. BOX 30909, CHARLESTON, SC 29417.

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TESTS ARRANGED BY J.D. STEPHENS FOR IRCA.

## IRCA CPC UPDATE

*The IRCA Courtesy Program Committee Treasury needs stamps! We have recently received several donations, but they were quickly used to mail out letters to stations. If you would like to see more DX tests such as we have been arranging, your postage donations would be most welcome. Also, there are some IRCA members out there who have said that they would send stamps. If you still intend to do so, now is the time. There is only a few weeks left before we close the books on the '91-'92 DX season. Thank you for your support & good DX. Postage donations may be sent to:*

J.D. STEPHENS P.O. BOX 605 HUNTSVILLE, AL 35804-0605



THE EYE OF THE ROCKIES

**KRKA**  
TEAM

Estes Park, Colorado

WQTW-1570, BOX 208, Latrobe, PA 15650 will conduct a DX Test on Saturday Morning January 18, 1992 from 0001 to 0030 EST. Program will consist of tones, voice and Morse Code ID's. Our thanks to Mr Joey Kaye CE for this test.

WCAT-700, 660 East Main Street, Orange, MA 01364 will conduct a DX Test on Sunday Morning January 19, 1992 from 0530 to 0600 EST. Program will consist of music programming voice and Morse Code ID's. Our thanks to Mr Rich Green PD for this test.

WJIC-1510, P.O. BOX 132, Salem, NJ 08079 will be conducting their annual Proof of Performance test on Monday Morning January 20, 1992 from 0000 to 0030 AM EST. This test will consist of various audio tones and voice ID's. Our thanks to Mr. Ben Ferguson (N2GK) VP for this test.

WWII-720, 8 West Main Street, Shiremanstown, PA 17011 will conduct a DX Test on Sunday Morning January 26, 1992 from 0400 to 0430 EST. Program will consist of Polkas Big Band music, Voice and Code ID's. Our thanks to Mr. Dean Lebo General Manager for this test. Arranged by the Courtesy Program Committee of the National Radio Club.

KADA-1230, BOX 609, Ada, OK 74820 will conduct a DX Test on Saturday Morning February 15, 1992 from 0100 to 0130 EST. Programming will consist of March music, Voice and Code ID's. Our thanks to Mr. Roger R. Harris General Manager for this test. Arranged by the Courtesy Program Committee of the National Radio Club.

KGFV-1340, BOX 666, Kearney, NE 68847 will conduct a DX test from 0200 to 0230 AM EST on Monday morning February 17, 1992. This test will contain Morse Code ID's. Our thanks to Mr. Dirk Christensen Operations Manager for this test. Arranged by the Courtesy Program Committee of the National Radio Club.

KUSD-690, Telecommunications Center, Cherry & Dakota Streets, P.O. BOX 5000 Vermillion, SD 57069-5000 will conduct a DX Test on Monday Morning February 17, 1992 from 0300 to 0330 EST. Program will consist of test signals and programming. Our thanks to Mr. Larry Rohrer of South Dakota Public Radio for this test. Arranged by the Courtesy Program Committee of the National Radio Club.

KCRV-1370, P.O. BOX 909, Caruthersville MO 63830 will conduct a rescheduled DX test on February 17, 1992 from 0615 to 0645 EST. This test will consist of tones, voice and Morse code ID's. NRC CPC caused a mix up on the time and Mr Cleat Stanfill GM has graciously consented to the second test.

KBBS-1450, Buffalo, WY will conduct a DX test from 0200 to 0400 AM EST on Sunday morning March 1, 1992. This test will contain music, voice and Morse Code ID's. Our thanks to Mr. Glenn Swiderski. Please direct your reports directly to Glenn at P.O. BOX 153, Buffalo, WY 82834. Arranged by the Courtesy Program Committee of the National Radio Club.

### \*\*\* A DXers TECHNICAL GUIDE \*\*\*

Now in its 2nd edition, this 120 page book answers questions on how receivers work, how to make them work better, what audio filters and loop antennas will do for you, how to build a beverage and phasing unit, and much more. Only \$5.50 for IRCA members, \$6.50 for non-members (add \$2.50 for overseas airmail). Write: Phil Bytheway, 9705 Mary N.W., Seattle, WA 98117.



# WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

Nancy Hardy  
2301 Pacific Ave.  
Aberdeen, WA 98520

DEADLINE FOR WDXR TIPS IS MONDAY. PLEASE USE EASTERN TIME.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (PM) Patrick Martin-P.O. Box 843-Seaside, OR 97138  
SP-600-JX26, 1500' E. Beverage, 2200' NNW Beverage, 200'  
terminated NE/SE wire
- (RS) Ralph Sanserino-11300 Magnolia #43-Riverside, CA 92505  
15" box loop, ICF-2010 with ferrite bar loop
- (RW) Robert Wien-1309 Dentwood Dr.-San Jose, CA 95118  
GE Superadio, GE long-range portable, SM-2

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OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- 960 KZXY CA, Apple Valley 12/16 0906-0911 & 0950 good both these  
times in KABL null, over mess. Numerous "Y-102" IDs, one  
"KZXY AM & FM" ID at 0950, several PSA's and Tom Petty  
song. Call change, ex-KQKL. (RW-CA)
- 1450 KOZZ NY, Reno 12/16 1010 call change, ex-KONE. With usual good  
signal in KEST null over mess with local spots, ID "105.7  
FM and 1450 AM, KOZZ." Classic rock. (RW-CA)
- \*\*\*\*\*
- 530 ?CIAO? ON, Brampton 12/16 0330 weak with European language program  
through buzz on freq. According to Popular Communications  
they're running only 250 watts on 530! (PM-OR)
- 700 WLW OH, Cincinnati 12/16 fair in jumble at 0400, ID into news  
about house fire in Dayton. (PM-OR)
- 720 WGN IL, Chicago 12/16 good mixing with KUAI, Chicago weather at  
0406. (PM-OR)
- 740 CBL ON, Toronto 12/16 0620 fair with jazz program. (PM-OR)
- 760 WJR MI, Detroit 12/16 0404 weak in jumble with sports scores,  
Wall Street info at 0408. (PM-OR)
- 780 KAZM AZ, Sedona 12/15 0900 ID "This is KAZM in Sedona," KROW  
phased. (RS-CA)
- WBBM IL, Chicago 12/16 0411 under KROW with blip ID "WBBM News-  
radio." (PM-OR)
- 820 WBAP TX, Ft. Worth 12/16 0415 u/o KGNW with C&W music, WBAP  
mention. (PM-OR)
- 830 WCCO MN, Minneapolis 12/16 0420 very good with pops & weather.  
Some KIKI during fades. (PM-OR)
- 840 WHAS KY, Louisville 12/16 0350 good over unIDs with weather,  
several WHAS IDs, spots. Haven't heard this in a while.  
(PM-OR)
- 850 KMDY CA, Thousand Oaks 12/16 0800 still using these calls, not  
RCTQ yet. ID "92.7 the home of grown-up rock," ID on hour  
"This is KMDY, Thousand Oaks, and KNJO 92.7 FM." (RW-CA)
- 870 WWL LA, New Orleans 12/16 0354 over mess with Lynn Anderson  
song and WWL ID. (PM-OR)
- 890 ?WLS? IL, Chicago 12/16 0412 with Chicago mention in news story--  
lots of CJDC QRM. (PM-OR)
- 1040 WHO IA, Des Moines 12/16 0435 good with talk--little Vancouver  
QRM. (PM-OR)
- 1080 KRLD TX, Dallas 12/16 0444 fair under KWJJ with news, "KRLD" ID.  
(PM-OR)
- 1120 ?KMOX? MO, St. Louis 12/16 0419 with Perry Como song mixing with  
unID under KPNW. (PM-OR)
- 1170 KVOO OK, Tulsa 12/16 0422 good with C&W music mixing at times  
with unID station. (PM-OR)
- CKGY AB, Red Deer 12/16 0423 "Thunder Country 11-70--CKGY" ID.  
Was unID C&W mixing with KVOO. (PM-OR)
- 1200 WOAI TX, San Antonio 12/16 0425 good over CKDA with talk. (PM)



- 1500 KSTP MN, St. Paul 12/16 0429 fair in RGA-1510 splat with talk. (PM-OR)  
 1520 KOMA OK, Oklahoma City 12/16 0447 good with oldies over KFXX. (PM-OR)  
 1540 KXEL IA, Waterloo 12/16 god with C&W music 0345. (PM-OR)  
 1560 ?WQXR? NY, New York 12/16 0432 prob. the one way under KNZR with classical music. (PM-OR)

**DX TEST**

- 1410 (WDOV) DE, Dover 12/16 0405-0430 tried, not heard. Only KFMS, KERN, and CFUN mix, despite good conditions to east. (RW)

**UNID**

- 1060 12/16 0523 unID under CFRN with BRN network news, faded before ID. (RW-CA)

Happy New Year everyone!

# Central DX Roundup

EDITOR  
 John C. Johnson  
 979 Neptune Boulevard  
 Billings, Montana 59105-2129

 **PRODIGY**  
 MPNN49A

**FOR THE RECORD**

Report all times as Eastern. Computer reports accepted. Deadline is every Saturday.

**RIDING GAIN**

- [TML-IN] = Tom Laskowski, 1334 East Miner Street, South Bend, Indiana 46617  
 Icom IC-R71A, loop.  
 [RS-MO] = Randy Stewart, 4225 West La Casa, Springfield, Missouri 65802-5615  
 Realistic TRF 12-656, 4' spiral loop.

**DOWN THE DIAL**

- 530 CIAO ON, Brampton. 12/6 fair to poor. 2054 with country music or similar on "Radio Atlantic" program. Frequent "Chow-5-30" mentions. 2100 full ID by woman into Chinese (?) program. Finally got a positive ID. New for me. [RS-MO]  
 570 WWNC NC, Asheville. 12/8 fair to good. 2100 with "Gospel Music Sunday Night" program. ID "WWNC Asheville, Hendersonville. Giving you country music and more." ABC News. New for me. [RS-MO]  
 580 CKAP ON, Kapuskasing. 12/7. 0250 with "Music Radio" slogans, long spot cluster, took phone call from a prison inmate! "Northern Ontario's Music Station, AM 58." This one does not ID. Not needed, but rare here. [TML-IN]  
 710 WOR NY, New York City. 12/6 good. 2200 coming out of talk program with SID "W-W-W-W-somebody stop me-O-R." Then announcer with "WOR New York remembers Pearl Harbor, a day that will live in infamy." Into news with Sam Hall. Rare here on night pattern. [RS-MO]  
 740 WVLN IL, Olney. 12/10 weak but clear. 0339 with oldies music, IDing as "WVLN, WSCI." [TML-IN]  
 990 CKIS PQ, Montreal. TENTATIVE. 0654 with spot for Ford dealer in Farmington Hills. AdCon music. Spot for Molson Brador. IDing as "Oldies 990." Montreal weather, no call. (I'm puzzled by the Farmington Hills spot? MI?) [TML-IN]  
 1050 KLOH MN, Pipestone. 12/9 fair with noise from XEG, WSMT, and others. 2000 coming out of country song with ID "Do your friends know about...(?)...Stereo Country on 10-5-0 KLOH Pipestone?" New for me. [RS-MO]  
 1090 WCRA IL, Effingham. 12/9 fair with horrible low grumbly het looping E-W. 1715 with ID "WCRA, WBRC (??) in Effingham." Then "This is Bob Shields reporting today's News Roundup." New. [RS-MO]

- 1270 WKZT KY, Fulton. 12/9 good. 1732 with spot for Sassy Scissors Salon in South Fulton. ID "WKZT Radio AM 1270, Fulton, Kentucky, South Fulton, Tennessee." Into country music. New station logging for me. Station #600 logged here. [RS-MO]
- 1280 WNAM WI, Neenah. 12/9. 0106 with quick ID "WNAM" when I tuned in. Into oldies, Christmas music. Faded shortly. Format is close to WWOK's. New here. [TML-IN]
- 1300 KVOR CO, Colorado Springs. 12/9 good. 0030 with promo "News-talk 13-00, KVOR. The only station you need. When it happens in Colorado Springs, El Paso county, across the country or around the world, you'll here it first on newsradio 1300 KVOR." Into CNN Headline News. New for me. [RS-MO]
- 1400 KFRU MO, Columbia. 12/4 briefly on top. 0359 out of Larry King with ID "NewsTalk 14 KFRU." News. New for me. [TML-IN]
- 1430 KCOH TX, Houston. TENTATIVE. 12/9 fair. 1920 with black-oriented call-in show with numerous mentions of Houston. Faded before ID. [RS-MO]
- 1470 WHUT IN, Anderson. 12/8 poor. 1705 coming out of Ai News with a promo for "14-70 WHUT Wish Book" giveaway. Listeners were invited to stop by various sponsor locations or to stop by WHUT studios at 2000 West ?? Street in Anderson. New for me. [RS-MO]

#### TESTS

- 960 KNEB NE, Scottsbluff. TENTATIVE. 12/9 weak. 0205 with 1kHz tone. Ended 0211+. Frequency check scheduled for this time. Did anyone else hear this? [TML-IN]
- 1000 WKYB SC, Hemingway. 12/9 very strong. 0200 with test. Voice ID with test announcement. Mentioned 10,000 watts. Played slow music. Not needed. [TML-IN]
- 1410 WDOV DE, Dover. TENTATIVE. 12/16 weak. 0200+ with 1kHz tones (0203-0204, 0303-0304, 0403-0404). Possible code ID at 0305. Would be DE#2 if them! [TML-IN]

#### 25 YEARS AGO



January 7, 1967 issue of DX Monitor...Thomas Jasinski, SA on the USS Brumby was looking forward to Latin American DX as his ship headed south....Steven Russel of Bethesda, MD returned from Miami where he attended a taping of "The Jackie Gleason Show."

#### OPEN MIKE

There exists no field as barren as he who leads a busy life. Congrats to Randy on logging station #600. Randy said he has the feeling the next 600 are going to be a lot harder. Yep. I hope all of you had a very Merry Christmas and that 1992 will bring you great DX! 73, John.

EASTERN  
DX FORUM

RICHARD C. EVANS  
PO BOX 21883  
MILWAUKEE WI 53221

Deadlines: Saturdays

Tony Fitzherbert, 356 Jackman Avenue, Fairfield, Connecticut 06432

I have not surfaced with a Forum for a while, so I thought I should do so. I would guess that a reintroduction is in order. I have been in IRCA for about 3 years, and DX'ing, time permitting, since 1980. I am 49 years old, happily married to Ann, who cannot understand our fascination with the dial, or a five mile detour to look at a studio building or two towers, and have two teenaged sons. I am Senior Training Specialist for the Metro North Commuter Railroad (and am a railroad enthusiast so my work and hobby have a way of overlapping, just as some IRCA members who are employed in the broadcasting business). I also do a bit of "consulting" on the side, teaching for several adult education programs. I am also Vice President for

the Connecticut State PTA, which means going to lots of PTA meetings all over the state. My main hobby, riding and photographing commuter railroads and rapid tranist lines, gets me around, and in two years, I hope to get to the West Coast, to see all of the rail operations from San Diego on up to Vancouver, and to visit some of the more interesting radio stations in the area. If this trip should come about, I would be delighted to meet some of you - between trips on BART, the LA - Long Beach Light Rail Line, the Seattle commuter ferries (good place to DX, in the middle of Puget Sound on the way to Bremerton??), or the MAX Line in Portland, OR. DX - yes, have actually enjoyed some time at the dials, and have had great luck. I have done away with the reception form which I have used for years, replaced with individually prepared word processed versions. We will see if that increases the returns from stations. DX has indeed been bountiful. Reports in the next two weeks to WVNE-760, WWMO-830, WACM-1490, WMVI-1160, WRIE-1260, WNSS-1200, CPDR-780, CIA)-530, WQAM-560, CJKL-560, WSUN-620, with v/1's back from WWMO and WVNE. I will try to appear here more frequently, family, work, and PTA obligations not withstanding. And very best wishes to all for a very happy, healthy 1992!!! 73's.

Karl V. Jeter, 2115 Scarbrough Road, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30088

Holiday greetings to all! Since this won't make print until after the first of the New Year, I hope everyone had a wonderful and DX-filled holiday! I can't say that Dec. so far has been exactly DX-filled, because being self-employed, I have to work when there's work to be done, hi! Congrats are in order for the great effort J.N. Stephens over across the state line from here is doing in arranging TESTS. I only wish I could hear more of them...so far, I have heard the WGEE-1360 Green Bay, WI and WDOV-1410 Dover, DE programs. Oh yes, had a tentative on the KKID-1560 Sallisaw, OK test, but I accidentally recorded over that tape, so that'll have to be, in fishin' jargon", "the one that got away". The WDOV hearing represents the first DE since my 1970 logging of WDEL-1150 (which, through their verie, found out about the existence of DX clubs!) The verie count has edged to 1459, with verie letters in from WNTT-1250, WOKD-1480, WECC-1190, WWLX-590 and a full-page personal letter (in SS) from XESFT-780, received in an amazing 13 days! Of course, I have no idea what the letter says, so will have to run it over to my friend, Vernon Shearer, who is a local ham and ex-IRCA member some years back, for translation. Oh yes, also got a letter from KUII-1190, and the v/signer says, "...KUII used to be the legendary KLIF at 1190 kHz..." I recall reading that KLIF moved to the 570 spot and KUII was actually a NEW station? I normally do not count call changes, but do count frequency changes, so I am not sure how to handle this one, hi, since I now have both KLIF-1190 and KUII-1190 verified. One interesting aside is I noticed that both KUII-1190 and KSSA-1600 are both at 3500 Maple Ave, Dallas, only in different suites (suites 1470 & 1310, respectively). I have been reading with fascination that great Newfoundland Expedition; the stuff dreams are made of. None of my little Expeditions have been anything on that scale, but I can only agree that DXing with a beverage antenna is something all DXers should experience. My efforts have not been anything like those of Mark, Neil and Jean, but then again, it was on a beverage antenna that I logged Australia on 774 kHz in eastern Alabama! I still would like to find a site a little closer to home, but things haven't worked out so far. Time to close for now...maybe I'll even have a little time to DX! 73.

Leonard L. Hyde, 1805 Whipple Drive, #26, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

Well, it's back to apartment life of me. Just can't make it living here and having to work an hour away on my salary, to say nothing of the time involved. Anyone planning to move to WV? Bring your own bank with you - even the coal miners are out of work. It's desparate in some places. New address is above. Anyone having correspondence for me can use either address for the time being, though I will get it faster at the Blacksburg QTH. Plan to keep this place (if I can) to come to on weekends, have a garden, clear DX and regain sanity! Here's the tale of a fanatical DXer. The guy wanted to hear New England, the Maritimes and hopefully TA DX, but just could not have a NE wire. One night, he got a brainstorm. He would run a SW wire, terminate it at the NE, and DX from the SW end of the wire,

which was 300' from his house in the middle of a field. It wasn't TOO cold, in the 40's, and it shouldn't take long to hear some new stations from the target areas. He ran the wire, terminated it at the house end, and trudged through the stubble in the darkness with his DX-440, his logbook, tuner, and flashlight. He hooked up the wire, and started DX'ing. What did he hear? The usuals - NY, Philly, Montreal, Toronto, Boston, etc., all at \$-9 copy. What about the regional and graveyard channels? Cuba practically everywhere off the SW end of the apparently improperly terminated wire. Not a single new station except Jamaica on 580. If you can imagine a nut sitting on the ground in a pitch black hayfield in the wee hours of the morning, freezing to death after the first half hour, trying to hear new stations above the rustling of grass stubble in the wind and barking of dogs in all directions, you have a mental picture of a fanatical DXer. "Who is he? I'll never tell! (Cough, hack!) 73 for now de LLH.

Rick Evans, 4841 South 26th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53221

By the time you see this, we'll be a few days into 1992, and I hope everyone has learned how to write "1992" instead of "1991", hi. I already know which office I'll be in year doing tax returns and while it isn't the best or splankest part of town, it is just three blocks south of the mayor of Milwaukee's house. To give a suggestion on Karl Jeter's problem with two separate 1190 stations in Dallas, I guess that in the past, I've tended to count cities and frequencies, not stations. If a station changes frequencies, I count it as two, but if two stations switch frequencies, nothing's new to me, or if one goes off the air and another changes from its old frequency to the one which went silent. The big problem is when a station moves to the suburbs, such as WMVP-1290 which moved from Milwaukee to Greenfield. But, if a station in Dallas or Houston, for example, did the same thing, I would have trouble knowing it didn't move half way across the state, especially if the second time I heard it was six years and a call change later. You just have to do what you think is best. 73.



## Western DX Forum

★★★★

REID WHEELER 5910 BOULEVARD LOOP SE OLYMPIA WA 98501

Deadline: Each Saturday

Gary Larson, 2806 Lincoln, Burbank, CA 91504

(818) 972-2500/846-5540 or 800-300-5540

Greeting from Los Angeles where I'm volunteering on phones for local fm KUSC's fund drive on 6 Dec. 10-2 pm. I see that Duncan Shaw is at USC - interesting - give me a call sometime. I read with interest Jim Hilliker's narration of the '91 Convention. I would have liked to be there but my job is mostly on weekends so no way to do it. Someone should hold a GTG in SoCal area; this I could probably make. I've been delinquent on attending the ScADS meetings. It will be interesting to hear new KPLS-830 format of news, basically for all of SoCal and not only Orange Co as did 1190-KNWS years ago. After my call to KPSL-1010 and being told of 5 towers, it appears to me the old two towers on Radio Road used for KCMJ (when they were on 1010) have been removed. I was of the opinion that 880 is a CP for Desert Center with call KUTE and applicant was owner of KOLA-99.9 San Bernadino. Anything on 890 Rosamond, CA? Wasn't it to be owned by KAVC 105.5 Rosamond? Hope the New Year goes well. Calls welcome. 73

Reid Wheeler, 5910 Boulevard Lp SE, Olympia, WA 98501

(206) 786-1375

As I have mentioned before, my job requires fairly frequent auto travel throughout the state. On the occasions when I am traveling alone, I can do a little 'car radio DXing' and sometimes drop in on a station office to shoot the bull. Recently traveled through north-central Washington and was able to update the status of many of the small locals such as KXLE-1240, Ellensburg (which I never hear in Olympia because of 24-NSP KGY); KKRT-900 and KWWW-1340, Wenatchee; KOZI-1230, Chelan; KOMW-680, Omak; KTPI-810 and KULE-730, Ephrata; KRSC-1400, Othello; KBSN-1470,



Moses Lake; KWNC-1370, Quincy and KZTA-930, Yakima. Of interest was a stop at the facilities of KEYT-1490 in Grand Coulee. The typical small-station 'waiting room' was filled with some of the owner's 30's and 40's vintage radios. On a technical note, they do some // on 98.5 and the tower is on top of a nearby hill giving the station a pretty good range. Was led to believe that a new tower is planned in the next few months. For DXers, primary programming is Satellite Music Net with Satellite News. Local ads cover a wide geographical area with spots for businesses in nearby Elmira, Coulee City, Wilbur, Brewster, Odessa and even Moses Lake. ID's are infrequent and irregular; listen for "This is Key Country, serving northeast Washington". Visiting out of the way places and stations can be great fun. Another recommendation if you happen to be traveling in the area is the 'History of Electricity' exhibit at Rocky Reach Dam just north of Wenatchee. A huge amount of electrical, telegraphic, telephonic and radio memorabilia has been assembled in a free exhibit - well worth the trip! 73, Reid.

**Realistic DX-440 vs. Sony ICF-2010**  
**(A Medium-Wave DX Evaluation)**  
Mark Connelly - WA1ION - 17 DEC 1991

Two of the most popular portable receivers currently in production are the Sony ICF-2010 (a. k. a. ICF-2001D) and the Realistic DX-440 (a. k. a. Sangean ATS-803A). The intention of this article is to provide a performance comparison, from a medium-wave DX perspective, of these two receivers in not-overly-technical terms.

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1. **Price:** The DX-440 wins here. US Radio Shack stores normally sell this for about \$200, but sale prices of about \$150 occur fairly often. The ICF-2010 costs about twice as much.
2. **"Stand-alone" sensitivity (using built-in antenna):** The Sony receiver is superior in this regard. Neither receiver comes close to such older models as the GE Superadio, the Realistic 12-655 "TRF", or the Sony ICF-S5W when it comes to AM BCB reception with the built-in antenna. A loop, tuned active whip, tuned longwire system, or a passive booster (e. g. Radio West "Shotgun", Intensitronics "Select-a-Tenna") is mandatory to obtain sufficient sensitivity for real-life DXing with either receiver - but especially for the DX-440.
3. **Sensitivity with external antenna:** This is an important consideration for the reasons given above. The Realistic DX-440 gives far more gain than the Sony '2010 when a tuned external antenna (Radio West, Palomar, or Space Magnet loop, for instance) is used. Note that the concept of an untuned random wire is not addressed: neither receiver can reliably utilize such an antenna without the distinct possibility of in-band and out-of-band spurious signals. The use of an external antenna naturally leads to the next topic ....
4. **Dynamic Range (Strong Signal Handling):** The DX-440 wins in this category as well. Its RF gain pot. is more effective in reducing overload / "spurs" than the RF gain control on the Sony when an external antenna is used.
5. **Frequency Readout Accuracy:** Both sets feature digital readout, of course, but digital readout is not necessarily an ironclad guarantee of accuracy. Some DX-440's are off by about 1 or 2 kHz; all ICF-2010's checked have been within 1 kHz. There may be a "tweak" procedure to correct DX-440 readout error, but I haven't read it yet. Check "your" DX-440 in the store on some local AM stations before you buy it. Use the narrow filter position.
6. **Selectivity:** On unmodified ("stock") receivers, there's not much difference between the Sony's wide filter position and

the wide filter on the DX-440. Similarly, there isn't much difference between the narrow filters on the two receivers. The narrow filter is, of course, that of greatest interest to DXers. Splits of 4 to 5 kHz from an interfering station aren't usually hard to hear if within 20 dB of the interfering station. Obviously, this is all that's needed for casual shortwave-broadcast listening. And it suffices for much domestic and "easy" foreign MW DXing, as well. "Easy" test frequencies here include Senegal-765, St. Kitts-825, and Antigua-1165. Neither receiver does well with 1 or 2 kHz splits unless they are nearly equal to (or better than) the strength of the adjacent undesired station. In early evening, 890 (WHNC/WLS/LA's) often cannot be sliced from stronger Algeria- 891; by mid-evening - with 890 and 891 comparable in strength-audio can be heard on both frequencies; and later at night - with WLS considerably stronger - 891 just registers a "het". On a "serious" receiver, audio on both 890 and 891 would have been easily obtained at all three listening times. An ICF-2010 I've used a lot has Gerry Thomas's narrow filter modification installed for improved selectivity. It slices splits better than both the stock ICF-2010 and DX-440. I'd suppose that the DX-440 could be similarly modified; perhaps an article about this would be a good idea.

7. **Tuning Ease:** Both receivers can be tuned by keypad frequency entry. There's little difference in difficulty in that procedure between the two. Both receivers can also be tuned continuously with a knob, simulating the feel of older analog receivers. The Sony ICF-2010 does knob-tuning better: it is less likely to skip over groups of stations / chunks of frequencies when tuned at a moderate rate of speed. You've got to tune the DX-440 knob quite slowly to avoid such "lurching".
8. **Features:** The Sony ICF-2010 has its famous synchronous detector circuit. Use of this can really smooth out rough auroral flutter and cut down the audio garbling typically resulting from the beating ("subaudible heterodyning") caused when there are 3 or more channel occupants of comparable strength. But the sync-detector often reduces the audio-to-background noise ratio, so it's a very application-specific benefit. I would attribute only a fairly small number of (otherwise-unattainable) MW DX loggings to my use of the sync-detector. More often, it raises the entertainment-listening quality of a station already perfectly-readable by DXer standards.
9. **Miscellaneous:** On at least some DX-440's, a whining noise can be present if the LOCK OUT/IN switch is not set to the IN position. Setting the switch to IN locks out the receiver's controls; doing so must shut off some digital pulse train that gives rise to the whine. This whine varies considerably from one receiver to the next: on some it's barely noticeable, on others it's quite annoying. The effect is noticed mostly on very weak signals near the noise floor. Garbling / inter-modulation of the audio is the result. Of course, switching to LOCK IN during low-signal work can be done, but this slows down operation, because you eventually have to go to LOCK OUT if you want to change frequency. I would not rate this problem disastrous, however. As in the case of frequency-accuracy unit-to-unit variation, testing a receiver in the store prior to purchase is advisable - provided that the background noise from lighting, computers, etc. is not severe enough to mask the problem.

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**Overall value:** The Realistic DX-440, especially if available for the \$150 sale price, is a better overall value for the DXer whose main interest is medium-wave. The minor drawbacks mentioned previously should be kept in mind. Balanced against these are the several advantages, most notably, better sensitivity with an external antenna and lower price. For either receiver to be up to the tasks of serious MW DX, a high-Q-tuned, good gain, external antenna is required and a tighter "narrow" filter is highly recommended.

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**"Show time":**

I've used my Sony ICF-2010 on many trips: it's been to Newfoundland, California, (El Paso) Texas, and on innumerable "quickie" beach DXpeditions in the Boston and Cape Cod areas. I'm thoroughly familiar with its strengths and weaknesses. I felt that a reasonable check-out of the DX-440 would have to include a real-life DX session at the beach similar to what I've done with the '2010 so many times.

On 14 DEC 1991, I took the DX-440 out on one of my "mini-DXpeditions" in place of the usual ICF-2010. Just before sunset, I parked at the waterfront in Scituate, MA in view of the old Hatherly Road WRUL/WNYW/WYFR shortwave transmitter site. (At this now-silent site, only a few tall wooden masts and the old brick transmitter building remain.) My DXpedition antenna set-up this time was the homebrew RTL-1 (varactor-tuned) loop placed on the car roof and controlled by the MWT-2 Option 5 regenerative tuner-preamp-controller. (See my previous articles on these units.) Band conditions were in a continuing state of mediocrity with a lot of short-skip, but the DX-440 did fine in pulling out TA's on 693, 711, 765, 774, 836, 891, 981, 999, 1044, 1053, 1062, 1098, 1107, 1179, 1197, 1349, 1367, and 1566. Many of these had perfectly readable audio. I feel that only in a few cases would the ICF-2010 have done better - and that's only because of the Gerry Thomas filter modification that was done to it. I don't think that a stock ICF-2010, even with its synchronous detector activated, would have resulted in any more loggings. Nothing short of the upper echelon receivers (such as the R390A, HQ-180A, NRD-525, R71A) would have garnered appreciably more readable DX stations.

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**Final note:**

A new Realistic model (DX-390) and a new Sony model (ICF-SW77) have been released in addition to the still-available DX-440 and ICF-2010. It is not known if the newer models will eventually replace the older ones or if they are just intended to be additionally-available units. Reviews of these newer models from a medium-wave DX perspective (complete with comparisons to their predecessors) could be of great value. The best analyses would come from a blend of laboratory testing of key parameters such as third-order intercept and of actual DXing under demanding conditions.

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## TRUE CONFESSIONS OF A 'BARGAIN BASEMENT' DXER

As a music loving teenager growing up in the 1960's in North Carolina, I became an avid listener of BCB radio. After reading an article on BCB DXing, I decided to try my hand at it. I quickly discovered that our table model radio, which was fine for listening to locals and strong Easterners at night, was woefully inadequate for any kind of serious DXing activity. As the article suggested, I tried loosely coupling a longwire antenna to the radio's built in loop. This only made it whistle and warble, and pick up things like the BBC, and ships at sea.

Obviously, a better receiver was needed. A real communications receiver was out of the question for our poor family, particularly since the rest liked TV better anyway and found the table radio perfectly adequate. I looked around for something we could afford, but to no avail.

One day while doing my paper route, I came upon a pile of junk that been put out for the trash man. There, right on top--an old, rusty car radio! Could this be the answer? I snatched it up and ran home.

The radio was a Delco, one of the old upright types with the speaker inside the case. I think it was a '52 Chevy. I popped it open, and to my delight, saw that all the tubes were there. The speaker also looked OK. Dare I hope that the radio still worked?

I hooked up my dad's old army surplus 6 volt battery charger, and a short piece of wire for an antenna. I held my breath as the set warmed up. I could hardly believe my ears! The radio worked!

As I tuned across the dial, I was ecstatic. With only three feet of wire for an antenna, I was easily hearing stations that were just audible on my old AC-DC set. It seemed I had the answer to my DXing problems at last!

However, I quickly learned that auto receivers have limitations. Though very sensitive, selectivity is rather poor. Old auto radios were designed with IF bandwidth to burn, for good sound reproduction. Therefore, 'slop' was inevitable when listening adjacent to strong stations. The term 'vibrator hash' became a regular part of my vocabulary. That is, until the vibrator fried, a victim of the ragged pulsating DC current the old battery charger put out. Several weeks and three vibrators later, I learned how to eliminate the vibrator entirely by shunting across two of it's terminals, thus feeding the pulsating DC directly to the low voltage winding of the set's power transformer.

I had eliminated the vibrator, and with it, the vibrator hash. Now I could enjoy previously undreamed of clear reception. The next thing to be eliminated was the battery charger itself, which went up in clouds of putrid smoke one early AM. It's old fashioned selenium rectifiers were unable to stand the higher current flow caused by shunting across the vibrator. Not only did this put an end to my DXing for a time, but caused a major panic in the household, as you no doubt can imagine.

Undaunted, I looked around, and soon found an old TV chassis. The six volt filament winding of it's power transformer powered the radio far better than the battery charger ever had.

Now I had real 60 cycle AC feeding my radio's power transformer, far more efficient than the pulsating DC delivered by the battery charger. With the higher B+ voltage being generated, my radio performed better. I now began doing a land office business in 0Z4 gas filled rectifier tubes. The higher B+ voltage was more than they could take.

By now, I had accumulated several old car radios, most defunct and good for parts only. I had acquired several good 0Z4 tubes. In a couple of months they were all burned out.

The 0Z4 problem was solved when I found an old Philco-Ford car radio, and noted with great interest it's filament type 6X5 rectifier tube. It didn't take long for a budding genius like myself to figure out how to shift some wires on the 0Z4 socket, and hook up heater voltage.

My search for more and better radios became a fixation, which still persists. To this day, I hate to throw away or pass up a radio of any sort.



Back then in my less principled days, I frequently visited most of our town's unfenced, unguarded junkyards to carry away as many car radios as I could. I took careful note of any old autos sitting in fields, backyards, etc. These, too, were relieved of their unused supercargo. I traveled on the railroad tracks, and picked dark, rainy nights for my forays. In about 2 years, I probably lifted 50 car radios from various places. Soon, all the junkyards began to invest in fences and guard dogs - a trend that I felt partly responsible for!

I still DXed, of course. The original Chevy radio was long gone, having been replaced by a succession of different sets. It always overloaded on strong signals, and was a victim of spurious responses. I was always trying to find one a little better than the one I had at the time. I had loads of Buicks, Chevies, Pontiacs, etc. I was partial to Delco radios. They always seemed a notch or two better than the Ford and Chrysler products I had tried.

Of the Delcos, the Buicks and Oldsmobiles seemed the best. Surprisingly, the only Cadillac radio I had was the poorest performer of all, and required pure DC for the elaborate phasing and filtering circuits related to the 'station seeking' feature, which didn't even work!

My favorite car radio of all time is a 1956 Olds. It's beautiful. (I still have it.) It's long and narrow, with a gaudy chrome front panel. The B+ supply was on a separate chassis, along with the speaker. This part was missing, so the budding young experimenter built his first high voltage power supply.

There is a difference in this radio, a slight change in the front end circuitry. This was the first car radio I had encountered that could handle a directly coupled longwire antenna without overloading. It was on this set that I made my first transcontinental logging, KFI-640, Los Angeles, on a cold, rainy night in January 1969, after the Cuban pest CMQ had left the air.

Things change, of course. I grew up, moved to California, got married. My involvement in DXing became sporadic. For many years I DXed only as the whim hit me. I kept no log, did not verie. Then, one day in 1985, I was browsing through a second-hand store, and came upon a Heath SB-310 in like new condition at an unbelievable price. I bought it on the spot.

After a month of intense shortwave listening, I realized two things: I still loved DXing, and my heart was still in the broadcast band. I dug out my '56 Olds, built a power supply and a two foot loop, and started DXing.

One fall evening, I was struggling to hear a Minnesota North Stars hockey game on WCCO. I just could not get the signal up to a listenable level. A mid - '70's Ford car radio was lying on the bench. I had given it little thought, since my prior experience was that Delco radios were superior. In sheer desperation, I hooked it up, and plugged in my loop antenna. I tuned the radio to 830 kHz. I could not believe my ears! WCCO, the station that was hard to hear on my venerable Olds radio, was blasting in!

I was shaken to the very core of my being. A Ford radio blowing my Olds out of the water? This could not be! My Olds was suffering from years of disuse, and needed an alignment job, maybe a tube or two. I did these things, and yes, they did help. But nothing I could do made my old battle ax Olds perform as well as the Ford did.

My prior experience with Fords had been with mid '50's models. They were OK, but Delcos were better. I had owned two 1962 Ford cars, equipped with the first transistor radios Ford had made. They hadn't been as good as the older ones. Obviously, in the years since, Ford had greatly improved their car radios.

Just to be fair, I tried a few 70's Delco models. They weren't as good as my Olds. It was apparent that Ford radios were the way to go, if you were going to DX with car radios.

Well, that's the life story of a bargain basement DXer. I am still happily DXing with my 70's and 80's Ford AM car radios, of which I have dozens! (I get them legally now, of course!) My logbook is bursting at the seams, and I couldn't be more pleased. Oh, I have tried a few 'real' communications receivers, and they performed very well. Yet, my Ford radio is just as sensitive. I have since learned to chain up the IF sections of several radios in cascade, making the

selectivity so good that I can tune 'dead air' between the 10 KHZ channels on the AM band. This is a trick I will share as soon as I can get the article written.

It WOULD be nice to have digital readout. Interestingly, I recently tried a Chrysler digital car radio which seemed as good as my Ford. However, the synthesizer generated RF interference that I just could not filter out. Also, it is impossible to 'split channels' with these sets. They tune in 10 KHZ increments only.

To sum it all up, I guess the most satisfying thing about 'bargain basement' DXing is this: Many of you report exotic stations logged on equipment which set you back hundreds of dollars. That is fine. But, what a feeling to turn on my Ford car radio, which cost me NOTHING (a friend who installed a cassette deck in his Escort gave it to me) and tune my loop antenna, (which I built from spare parts), and hear the SAME STATIONS! Name another hobby in this day and age in which a person can get started nearly free, and enjoy similar results as the ones who spent a mint!

73.

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