



DX MONITOR



THE OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION
OF THE

INTERNATIONAL
RADIO CLUB
OF AMERICA



DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO BROADCAST BAND DXING

JANUARY 2, 1993 - VOLUME 30 - NUMBER 16 - EDITION 974 - ISSN 0899 - 9732

NEW MEMBER: Martin Egan. **RENEWALS:** Pete Taylor, Robert Lazar, John Cairns, Robert Fischer, John French.....Welcome Martin and thank you all.....

IN THIS ISSUE: Front cover IRCA Zip Code, Get-Together, Old time radio, TVA award and the rest of the good stuff: DX Worldwide II, DX Worldwide West, Western DX Roundup, Contest Standings, Central DX Roundup, Eastern DX Roundup, Western DX Forum, Eastern DX Forum, last page of the Ribbon Cable Loop, Superadio III brief review, page 1 BUF-A Buffer Amplifier Card (this article has 4 or 5 pages), Back page Club addresses and Officers.

IRCA ZIP CODE: The zip code for the IRCA PO Box is 92513-0223 not 92503-0223. The 92503 zip code is for the post office and the 92513 zip code is for the PO Boxes inside the post office. I have no answer for this but I do have some thoughts. The odd part is that the postal service did not do this all over the USA. Smile and grit your teeth and try not to swear....

DX GET-TOGETHER: February 13, 1993 at the home of Bruce and Evelyn Portzer. All DXers and radio listeners are invited. Be sure to bring snack food, radios, QSLs, etc. It will begin at 1 PM and last till late in the evening. We will pass the hat around at dinner time for pizza. Address is 6546 19th Ave NE in Seattle. For more info call 206-522-2521. See you....

OLD TIME RADIO: Received a catalog for old time radio tapes from BRC Productions PO Box 2645 Livonia MI 48151. Lots of old programs.....

TED VASILOPOULOS AWARD: If you know of someone deserving of the TVA, please send their name and a brief reason why they are deserving of IRCA's highest honor to Bill Hardy, 2301 Pacific Ave., Aberdeen, WA 98520-4527 by January 31. (Richard Evans, Karl Zuk, Ernest R. Cooper, Bill Hardy, and Ralph Sanserino, 1988-92 TVA winners, are ineligible.)

IRCA AM-FM ALMANAC UPDATERS:

TALK UPDATER 5.6, SPORTS UPDATER 5.7 COMING SOON!

Publication of Almanac Updaters 5.6 and 5.7, originally planned for October, has been delayed, but both updaters will be sent as soon as they are ready. They will include the latest information, such as Larry King's move to afternoons, and we'll announce in DXM when they are finally sent. Our apologies for the delays.

Updater 5.6 will feature "Talk Networks 1993," a complete guide to radio talk, with station listings, schedules, formats, title index, and host index.

Updater 5.7 will include 1992-93 pro and college sports, such as football, basketball, and hockey.

Still available: Updater 5.1 - Almanac index, AM slogans. Updater 5.2 - Satellite Music Network, Unistar/Transtar. Updater 5.3 - Rush Limbaugh, TIS/Highway Radio update, NHL hockey, 1991 football. Updater 5.4 - ESPN, SEN, Canada nighttime music, and basketball. Updater 5.5 - 1992 baseball, Spanish networks, Interstate Radio Network, and AM slogan updates.

20 pages each, \$2 U.S. and Canada, \$3 elsewhere, payable to IRCA, from Bill Hardy, 2301 Pacific Ave., Aberdeen, WA 98520. Thank you!

DX WORLDWIDE II

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

TRANS PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA: 4TO-774, 4SS-828, 4RR-891, 3BO-945, 7HT-1080, and 3SR-1260 all have plans to move to FM, most of them some time in 1993. In other news:

756 Due to unreliable supplies of spare tubes for the xr, 4QA decided to move to FM earlier this year. After the old AM xr was shut off, it was discovered that some outlying areas could not pick up the FM signal, so after one day the AM was switched back on & is now // FM-101.1. However, according to the engineer at 4QA the AM xr is "on a life support system" and "could fail any time". The ABC is introducing FM translators to improve the coverage, and they expect to close 4QA down permanently by June 1993. Also see 1548.

855 3CR has a new address: PO Box 1277 Collingwood 3066

783 2KA is now on FM and will switch off the AM xr in 3 months. The translator on 1476 will remain on the air for another year. The station now IDs as "One FM"

1413 2KO is now on FM and was due to switch off the AM xr 11/8.

1422 4AM-558 now has a repeater in Port Douglas w/1kw directional N/S, which should be on the air by the end of the year.

1548 4QD plans to move to 756 and change to Radio Regional by June 1993. Power will be 10kw. This change may occur before the 4QA xr is turned off.

[All the above from DXA]

INDONESIA: R Republik Indonesia has ordered 44 new xrs from Nippon Electric Co (NEC). 30 are MW, 10 FM, and 3 SW [N ZDXL]

NEW ZEALAND: Dunedin Radio 4XD celebrated its 70th birthday 10/4. The station was the outcome of previous experiments by Dr. Jack a year earlier, which was followed by a meeting of interested citizens and formation of the Otago Radio Association. 4XD was the first station to commence broadcasting outside North America, and continued as a voluntary organization until deregulation of NZ radio. The station is now full time commercial, operating 24 hours with the slogan Dunedin Radio. [A. Cushen, DXA] Goldfields Radio Lawrence-756 100 watts began BCing 10/1 & operates 1700-0500. The stn is staffed by volunteers & after 0500 relays the RNZ pgm from Dunedin. [A. Cushen, DXA]

TRANS ATLANTIC

BULGARIA: Financial difficulties have delayed the 2x500kw project Kalyakra Cape 1125kHz [Arctic]

CYPRUS: CBC-603 is now 100kw. Program 3 [Arctic]

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Effective 1/1/93 the country split into separate Czech and Slovak republics, thus creating a new country or two (depending on how you look at it). At this point, I have no idea which MW outlets will be in which country. If you find out let me know. [Portzer]

ESTONIA: BBC World Service is aired on 1512 0430-0500 & 1000-1030 [Arctic]

ITALY: RAI carries some regional pgms not fully covered in WRTH. The only segment which might be hrd in N America is aired 0620-0630 (onehour earlier during summer) at which time it might be possible to hear IDs for regional stns. The pgms are aired on the Radio Uno network. The regional stns likely to carry local pgms include: 567 Emilia Romagna (Bologna) 657 Piemonte (Turin), Trentino Alto Adige (Bozen), Veneto (Venice), Toscana (Firenze), Campania (Naples) 819 Friuli Venezia Giulia (Trieste) 900 Lombardia (Milan) 1062 Sardegna (Palermo), Veneto (Verona) 1332 Puglia (Bari), Sicilia (Palermo) 1575 Liguria (Genoa) For example on 900 you might hear an ID as "Giornale Radio della Lombardia" from Milan. [MWC]

KUWAIT: R Kuwait plans to boost pwr on 1341 from 10 to 200kw, add new outlets on 963/1269 w/50kw, and raise pwr on 540/1134 to 1600kw [Arctic]

LATVIA: Riga-945 150kw is now used by VOA Europe 0400-1545, sounds approx 1 sec later than 1197 [Arctic]

MAYOTTE: The new 100kw xr at Pamandzi is now on the air, 24 hrs w/relay of France inter 1930-0300(0400SaSu). [Arctic]

POLAND: Paszyn-225 started 10/24 w/1000kw w/1000kw (apparently replaces old xr whose tower fell a year ago), 225 is now pgm 4, MW is now pgm 1 [Arctic]

SOUTH AFRICA: Radio Xhosa-846 is now using this freq w/100kw at Komga 0200- 2200. 729 864 & 990 are now off the air. [Arctic]

UNITED KINGDOM: The following BBC local stations are now carrying the BBC World Service after midnight local time (as a sustaining service) overnight: Radio Stoke-on-Trent 1503/94 6; Radio Shropshire 1584 95 0/96 0FM; Radio Bristol 1548 1323 104 8/94 9/95 5FM; BBC Wiltshire Sound 1332 1368 103.6/104.3/103 5FM; BBC Greater London Radio has been carrying the World Service overnight for some time now (1458 94.9FM); Radio Scotland's main MW outlet (810) also carries World Service transmissions after the end of Radio Scotland programming. [Ray Woodward, SW Echo]
BBC R Shropshire 756/1584 are off as of 10/31. [BDXC via Arctic]

YEMEN: a 600kw xr at Sana'a is BCing the S-pgm on 1008. The 30kw xr on 1012 at Taiz airs the S-pgm [Arctic]

ZIMBABWE: has ceased all MW/SW broadcasts, now FM only. [Arctic]

LATIN AMERICA

COLOMBIA: HJSB-870 has s/off anmt in EE & SS, "Radio Mar Caribe International, the Champion" slogan used in EE portion, no time given. [NZDXL]

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" ran a feature on Radio Enriqueillo in mid-November. The station, operated by Catholic Missionaries, is located in the town of Tamayo and covers much of Haiti. Following last year's coup, they aired 2 hours of Creole pgms per day. After 5 months the Dominican government, at the request of the Haitian government, ordered them to stop airing Haitian news. Not to be squelched, they started airing political songs in French (one example was a song about the exiled Haitian leader, sung to the tune of "Love is Blue"). After a while, the Dominican telecommunications minister, accompanied by a few armed soldiers, paid them a visit and told them henceforth they could only broadcast Spanish language music. The station is now carrying in "Frenchified Spanish", which can best be described as Spanish with enough French words for Haitians to get the drift of what they're saying. [Portzer]

PUERTO RICO: WIDA-1400 slogan R Vida, WCPR-1450 R Coamo, WZBS-1490 R Señorial, WUPR-1530 Exitos 1530 [Arctic]

URUGUAY: On 4/27 CX30 1130 became Radio Nacional, 24 hrs. [NZDXL]

CLOSER TO HOME....

[Editor's note: the following article recently appeared in "The Messenger", a listener's guide published by Radio Beijing.]

American listener in Northern California can now listen to Radio Beijing on the AM dial every weekday, as they drive home from work. We are customizing a 30-minute program for KPLA Radio in the San Francisco Bay area. KPLA broadcasts 50,000 watts in stereo at 770 AM. The signal can be heard practically everywhere from the Sierra to the Pacific, and throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys.

Radio Beijing is renting broadcast time Monday to Friday from 17:00-17:30 local time. The half hour English language program includes five minutes of news from China, in-depth reports of top China stories, and wide selection of features. Our goal is to reach those listeners who don't listen to shortwave on a regular basis. Our research indicates many Americans are eager to learn more about China and that AM radio is a very popular media, especially during afternoon driving time. We have been in constant contact with KPLA since our first meeting in the US last year. And we are proud to be associated with the station.

If you're in the Northern California area, we certainly hope you tune in. We also welcome any comments you might have about this type of programming. We want to do all we can to provide you with informative, entertaining shows. One more note: since we're getting ready to change our worldwide name to China Radio International, we have decided to use this name from the start on KPLA. So look for us China Radio International, every weekday at 5 PM.

PUBLICATION: The new European edition of the "AM Radio Log 1993" is available. It's unclear if this 300 page A4 book lists North American radio stations monitored by Europeans (which is very likely) or European stations. More details from: DX-Service, SF-10780 Vantaa, Finland. [SCDX]

SOURCES: Sweden Calling DXers [SCDX]: Arctic DX Club, Medium Wave Circle (MWC), Sweden Calling DXers (SCDX), DX Australia (DXA), Shortwave Echo, New Zealand Radio DX League (NZDXL), others as noted.

I didn't have a whole lot to report this time but I figured I should try to keep the column up to date. Have a happy holiday season. 73, bp.



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

DX Worldwide - West

Time: UTC phone (503) 861-3185

DEADLINE: MONDAYS

Just a short one this week. CX seem to have dropped off for a while. Western Samoa has showed up again on 540. It sounds like there might have been a solar flare this week. Also a report from Larry Godwin. On with reports.

PAN-AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

- 1685 COLOMBIA, Mercaderes beacon strongest ever around 0400-0430 on 12/13. Morse code ID is either "EMER" or "MERE" can a code expert settle this? (LG-MT)
- 1700 BRAZIL, Carajas beacon extremely weak, finally heard 12/13, thx to tip from Shawn Axelrod. At 0406 Morse ID "CRJ" sounded like much lower pitch than 1,000 cps, but at 0410 did sound like 1,000 cps. This station is apparently located approx. 400 miles SSW of Belem at 5.58S, 51.45W. Aero/Marine Guide lists power as 100 watts, not in IRCA AM-FM Almanac. Approx. 5,256 miles. (LG-MT) (Good catch, Larry.PM)

TRANS-PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

- 540 WESTERN SAMOA, Apia-good over everything on freq. with man in Samoan at 0810 on 12/21. (PM-OR)
- 891 FIJI, Lautoka-Radio Fiji 2 with man in Hindi at 0910 on 12/20. Best hrd in a while. (PM-OR)
- 927 FIJI, Sigatoka-Radio Fiji 1-man in Fijian 0915 12/20 (PM-OR)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

- LG-MT LARRY GODWIN-2390 CLYDES DALE LANE-MISSOULA, MT 59801
Hammarlund HQ-150, Sanserino air-core Box Loop
- PM-OR YOUR EDITOR
Drake R8, Hammarlund SP-600-JX17, Term. 200' SW wire, Ground System.

CONTINUOUS HIT COUNTRY

KUPL[®]

98.5 FM 1330 AM



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:

- (NH) Nancy Hardy-2301 Pacific Ave.-Aberdeen, WA 98520
FRG-7, Radio West loop
- (GJ) Gary Jackson-7735 Center Park Way-Sacramento, CA 95823
FRG-8800, Dymek antenna
- (GK) Guy Kudlemyer-5669 D Street-Springfield, OR 97478
- (PM) Patrick Martin-P.O. Box 843-Seaside, OR 97138
Drake R8, SP-600-JX17, 1500' E. Beverage, term., 1600' NNW
Beverage, term., 200' SW/NE term. ground system
- (RJO) Rod O'Connor-P.O. Box 3488-Kodiak, Ak 99615
- *****
- 550 KFYZ ND, Bismarck 12/15 0443 weak with Bee Gees song, "K-Fire"
ID. Haven't heard this for a while. (PM-OR)
- 640 KFI CA, Los Angeles 12/12 1433 talk show with host talking to
11 year-old girl about politics. In with 95%
intelligibility. Not bad for a full-sunlight mid-day
reception at 750+ miles! One of many groundwave signals
in from all over the west today which included KSL, KDWN,
and CFFR at high noon! (GK-OR)
- 650 KMTI UT, Manti 12/14 1843 fair in jumble with weather & spots,
ment. "KMTI in Manti." (PM-OR)
- 700 WLW OH, Cincinnati 12/13 0130 good on top with C&W music, "The
Big 700 - WLW" ID. (PM-OR)
- KGRV OR, Winston 12/13 0919 in briefly for a few minutes with
"Music in the Morning Show." (GJ-CA)
- 720 WGN IL, Chicago 12/13 0137 fair under KDWN with old time radio
talk show. (PM-OR)
- 730 KURL MT, Billings 12/14 1211 fair above KULE, during fade, with
Christmas music, "KURL Radio," and time check. (PM-OR)
- KULE WA, Ephrata 12/14 1209 good with KULE sports promo. (PM-OR)
- 750 KERR MT, Polson 12/11 1759 "...50,000 watt KERR, Polson..." into
network news while in a weak KXL null. No other info, just
ID; a Reverse-Murphy! (GK-OR)
- 780 WBBM IL, Chicago 12/13 1910 fair with news under KROW. (PM-OR)
- 790 KJRB WA, Spokane 12/14 1835 fair in jumble with net talk. (PM)
- CFCW AB, Camrose 12/14 1836 fair with jingle into C&W tune. (PM)
- 830 WCCO MN, Minneapolis 12/13 0141 fair under CKKY with sports
talk. (PM-OR)
- CKKY AB, Wainwright 12/14 1840 good with C&W music & "Key 83"
ID. (PM-OR)
- 840 WHAS KY, Louisville 12/12 2330 good with Kentucky college
basketball game. (PM-OR)
- 890 WLS IL, Chicago 12/13 0150 fair on top with talk show. (PM-OR)
- CJDC BC, Dawson Creek 12/13 good all day, noted with pop music
at 1609. (PM-OR)
- 920 KQLO NV, Reno 12/4 1839 weather for area & ID. (GK-OR)
- 970 KTRW WA, Spokane 12/14 0425 with "Kiss an Angel Good Morning,"
"True Country" ID. (PM-OR)
- 980 KUPI ID, Ammon 12/4 1833 "Real Country, KUPI, Ammon" ID's, into
"Ravishing Ruby" by Tom T. Hall. Fighting KUTI, Yakima,
which made ID'ing a real chore! Been trying for this one
for a long time! New. (GK-OR)
- 1030 KDUN OR, Reedsport 12/13 0800 ID, then news & country music.
(GJ-CA)
- 1040 WHO IA, Des Moines 12/13 0148 fair u/o Canadian with talk.
(PM-OR)
- 1050 KEYF WA, Dishman 12/14 good with oldies, ID at 1845. (PM-OR)

1080 KRLD TX, Dallas 12/14 0420 fair u/o KWJJ with talk. (PM-OR)
1120 KMOX MO, St. Louis 12/13 0145 good over all with Frank Sinatra MOR music. (PM-OR)
1150 KQQQ WA, Pullman 12/14 1830 good with Christmas spots. (PM-OR)
1170 KVOO OK, Tulsa 12/14 0416 good with KVOO music promo on C&W music, CKGY QRM during fades. (PM-OR)
CKGY AB, Red Deer 12/14 0415 "CKGY" call ID during KVOO fade. (PM-OR)
1180 KLAY WA, Lakewood 12/12 1404 net news, into ID, then local ad, promo for the "KLAY Morning Show" with Boris Karloff sound-alikes doing the vocals. New. (GK-OR)
1200 WOAI TX, San Antonio 12/14 good with sports news at 0413. (PM)
1240 KTXI OR, Pendleton 12/14 1805 good with "Stereo 12-40 KTXI" ID, out of network news. (PM-OR)
KCVL WA, Colville 12/14 1207 opening of new studio in Colville, KCVL remote promo. (PM-OR)
CKGO BC, Hope 12/14 Frazer Valley Radio ID at 0259:30 into net news. (PM-OR)
?CJOR? BC, Osyoos 12/14 0259:50 presume the station with "OR Radio" ID. (PM-OR)
CJAV BC, Port Alberni 12/14 0257 fair on top briefly with "Right here on CJAV." (PM-OR)
1300 KLER ID, Orofino 12/4 1855 Idaho Vandals pre-game basketball show. Playing some AR team in Little Rock. Mentioned having played Simon Fraser in Canada last week. Into Orofino True Value Hardware ad at 1856, then ads for Orofino Building Supply and Barnett-Thompson Chevrolet. New. (GK-OR)
1310 KARY WA, Prosser 12/4 1750 "Carry AM & FM" ID's while looking for CHLW-AB. (GK-OR)
1330 KMBI WA, Spokane 12/4 1859 full s/off announcement out of religion, then power cut. New. (GK-OR)
1340 KANR ID, Nampa 12/14 0247 with "weather for the valley," KANR CNN news. (PM-OR)
KWVR OR, Enterprise 12/14 1113 good with Christmas lights promo, shop in Joseph late Monday night, into C&W tune. (PM-OR)
KTCR WA, Kennewick 12/14 1821 with promo "right here on KTCR." (PM-OR)
CHNL BC, Ashcroft fair on top of northern wire with sports promo on "CHNL." (PM-OR)
1390 KBBO WA, Yakima 12/4 1853 end of "Gateway to Joy" religious program, into quick ID and instrumental music. Against KSLM Salem's oldies. New. (GK-OR)
CJCY AB, Medicine Hat 12/14 0243 fair with "The Alberta Connection CJCY" into Fleetwood Mac's "Gypsy." (PM-OR)
1400 KRPL ID, Moscow 12/14 0241 good on top with Paul Harvey news on "Your Oldies Channel, 1400, KRPL." (PM-OR)
KJDY OR, John Day 12/14 1118 fair above jumble with local high school sports scores. (PM-OR)
1440 KVON CA, Napa 12/4 1452 tons of commercials for Napa businesses and ads for Napa wineries. Hoping for CJOI, Wetaskiwin, AB at the time. (GK-OR)
1450 KBFI ID, Bonners Ferry 12/14 1120 fair with Paul Harvey brought to you by "Bonners Ferry Glass." (PM-OR)
KLBM OR, La Grande 12/14 1123 spot for "Power House" tagged "in La Grande." (PM-OR)
KKXO OR, Eugene 12/17 1955 MOR, 2000 ID "The station that brings back great songs and wonderful memories. Memories 14-50, KKXO, Eugene," good over jumble with local KAYO off. (NH)
KONP WA, Port Angeles 12/17 1058 ID through the jumble with local KAYO off the air. (NH-WA)
1480 KRXR ID, Gooding 12/13 0400 fair with non-stop C&W music, ID. Listed as 93 watts at night. (PM-OR)
1490 KBKR OR, Baker 12/14 0235 weather, IDs for both KLBM-1450 La Grande and Baker City. (PM-OR)
KEYG WA, Grand Coulee 11/28 1800 "You're tuned to KEYG, Grand Coulee..." into FM translator info. Followed by network news. Faint mentions of Yreka underneath. New. (GK-OR)

- 1520 ROMA OK, Oklahoma City 12/14 0411 good with some KGA-1510 slop on top of KFXK, with rock oldies. (PM-OR)
 1530 WCKY OH, Cincinnati 12/13 good over KFBK with relig. talk show, ID at 1859:50 "WCKY Cincinnati" into net news. (PM-OR)
 1540 KXEL IA, Waterloo 12/14 very good with C&W music at 0355, Interstate Radio net. KBLV underneath. (PM-OR)
 1550 KSVY WA, Opportunity 12/11 1833 C&W song "Boot Scootin' Boogie" into femme announcer, into ad cluster and ID. Fighting heavy KKHI classical music QRM. New. (GK-OR)
 1560 WPAD KY, Paducah 12/13 0407 fair u/o others with Unistar "AM Only" // KKSX-910. (PM-OR)
 1590 KLLL TX, Lubbock 12/14 0359:50 fair with ID after Larry King Show pause. (PM-OR)
 1600 KSSA TX, Cockrell Hill 12/14 fair with ID in Spanish at 0401, then in English "This is KSSA, Cockrell Hill." (PM-OR)

DX TESTS

- 960 (KNEB) NE, Scottsbluff 12/14 0200-0230 tried but not heard at all. Only heard regular KABL, two C&W's underneath. Possible "K-Lad" ID at 0228. Also another C&W probably CPAC. (RJO)
 +Heard tones several times, but no code, so couldn't be sure just what I was hearing! (GJ-CA)
 1100 (KNZZ) CO, Grand Junction 12/14 0500-0600 nothing heard, local station in San Francisco & splash from Mexican on 1090. (GJ-CA)
 1280 (WABK) ME, Gardiner 12/14 nothing heard, too many locals. (GJ-CA)
 1370 (WDEA) ME, Ellsworth 12/14 0200-0230 nothing heard, too many locals! (GJ-CA)

UNIDS

- 880 12/14 1215 station running Rush Limbaugh, looping east, KIXI QRM. Who? (PM-OR) (Maybe KJJR-MT.--NH)
 1380 12/14 0345 with Larry King Show looping east. (PM-OR)

There appears to be some interesting DX being done 9-10am local time. That's a new idea I'll have to try sometime. Happy New Year!!!

IRCA CONTEST STANDINGS

as of Nov. 30, 1992

Nancy Hardy, 2301 Pacific Ave., Aberdeen, WA 98520

	Grand Total	State/ Province	Letterama	Nov. Mini Contest	Previous Mini Contest
Mike Sanburn, CA	373	234	25	77	37
Steve Sprague, KS	283	283	0	0	0
John Johnson, MT	81	57	16	5	3

Remember, mail your December 1-31 contest loggings to me by January 10. See the Sept. 5 and Oct. 24 DX Monitors for all the rules. Mike Sanburn wins his second mini-contest and gets another free Almanac Updater! December's mini-contest is to log as many sign-ons and sign-offs as possible. January's contest is to hear as many tests - DX tests, frequency checks, and equipment tests - as possible.

For FEBRUARY's contest, remember to mail by January 31st a list of ten "target" stations you will try for during February. Each must be a station you have not heard before, under any set of call letters (frequency changes are okay, though). Each will count one point, and in case of a tie the time and date of the final logging will break the tie. This is the only contest this season requiring advance sign-up. For states/provinces, Letterama, and the other monthly mini-contests, you can start anytime, and with only three contestants you can come from nowhere and win an updater or the grand prize of an Almanac!



Central DX Roundup



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

 **PRODIGY**
MPNN49A

FOR THE RECORD

REPORT ALL TIMES AS EASTERN.

DEADLINES: MAIL: SATURDAYS. PRODIGY: SUNDAYS.

FAX REPORTS ACCEPTED. 406-259-9210. CONTACT EDITOR FOR TIME TO SEND.

RIDING GAIN

- [SA-MB] = Shawn Axelrod, 30 Becontree Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2N 2X9
Icom IC-R70 with PLAM board and 4kHz filter, 4-foot box loop, 100' wire.
- [TMJ-IL] = Tom Jasinski, 419 North Raven, Shorewood, Illinois 60435-9640
FRG-7, Quantum loop, 2½ foot loop.
- [PAL-MN] = Paul A. LaFreniere, P.O. Box 606, Grand Marais, MN 55604
Zenith Transoceanic, McKay-Dymek DA-5.
- [WMc-MB] = Wayne McRae, 103 Donegal Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2K 2B5
Icom IC-R70 with PLAM board and 4kHz filter, 3 foot loop.
- [RS-MO] = Randy Stewart, 4225 West La Casa, Springfield, Missouri 65802-5615
Realistic TRF 12-656, 4' spiral loop.
- [JcJ-MT] = Your editor using an Icom IC-R71A with a "Radio West" loop.

SPECIAL INTEREST

- 980 CKRU ON, Peterborough. EX-CHEX. 11/30 good. 0415 with "9-80 Cruise" ID and oldies music. Slogan "Ontario's Star Station." New for me. [SA-MB]
- 1450 KVCK MT, Wolf Point. EX-KTYZ. 12/4 good. 0756 with SSB and sign on info for KVCK and all it's relays in MT. New call, new sign on time everyday at 0756. [SA-MB]
(Note: station was KVCK prior to change to KTYZ. John.)

DOWN THE DIAL

- 550 CHLN PQ, Trois-Rivieres. 12/7 fair. 0304 with man in FF talking about Somalia. [PAL-MN]
- 670 WWFE FL, Miami. 12/8 poor. 1859 heard weak SS u/strong Cuban Rebelde outlet, but very clear "WWFE" call in EE poled through just before 1900. New log for me. Looking for KBOI on SSS, but conditions were going the other direction. [RS-MO]
- 680 KNBR CA, San Francisco. 12/7 good. 0324 with talk show. 12/13 good. 0433 with spot for a Daly City shopping center. [PAL-MN]
- 900 WATK WI, Antigo. 12/4 fair u/CKBI. 0740 fade up with local weather report for northern Wisconsin. C&W music. New for me. [SA-MB]
- 910 KJJQ SD, Volga. 12/14 fair. 0330 with promo, local spot, mention of Brookings area then Bruce Williams' program. [PAL-MN]
- 950 KJJO MN, St. Louis Park. 12/7 good. 0342 with C&W music \FMer. Numerous "Thunder 104" IDs. [PAL-MN]
- 960 CFAC AB, Calgary. 12/14 fair. 0345 noted with female announcer and mention of CFAC into C&W music. [PAL-MN]
- 1000 KOMO WA, Seattle. 12/7 fair, no sign of WLUP. 0347 with "AM 1000 KOMO" IDs and AC music. 12/14 excellent, 2nd MM in a row no sign of WLUP. 0400 with ID "AM 1000 KOMO Seattle." out of a Police song. [PAL-MN]
- 1020 CKVH AB, High Prairie. TENTATIVE. 12/14 weak w/KTNQ & KWIQ. 0300 with Broadcast News followed by C&W. Mentions of "All Hit Country." Not enough for a report of this needed station. [JcJ-MT]
- KCKN NM, Roswell. 12/14 excellent w/KTNQ, KWIQ, CKVH nulled.. 0258 with sign off. I thought this would improve chances to hear CKVH better, but no. [JcJ-MT]

CDXR Continues....

- 1030 **KTWO** WY, Casper. 12/1 & 12/2, good w/WBZ. 2200-2300 both days. 12/1 heard basketball score for Wyoming team, on 12/2 heard C&W with female DJ. [TMJ-IL]
- 1090 **WAQE** WI, Rice Lake. 12/7 excellent. 1730 w/"We're AM 10-90 WAQE Crew Country." C&W format and not rock oldies. [WMC-MB]
- 1140 **CFXL** AB, Calgary. 12/16 good o/KZMQ. KGEM nulled. 1100 with "XL Radio 1140 News" which contained Calgary weather items and news stories. Lite rock format. Needed for call change. EX-CKXL>CISS>CFXX. [JcJ-MT]
- KGEM** ID, Boise. 12/16 good in CFXL null. KZMQ faded out. 1015 with satellite fed rock oldies. 1022 with "KGEM News." Not needed. [JcJ-MT]
- KLUC** NV, North Las Vegas. 11/27 good in KSOO null. 0005 with "KLUC 98.5" ID. Rock format. Finally after years of trying! [WMC-MB]
- 1150 **KCUV** CO, Englewood. 12/16 poor w/KIMM, KSEN. 1000 w/SS ID "KCUV 1150, 5000 watts, Denver, Colorado. Que Sauve." SS music and talk. No EE IDs. Needed for call change. EX-KGMC>KWVZ>KRZN>KFRR. [JcJ-MT]
- 1200 **KFNW** ND, West Fargo. 12/13 fair. 0805 w/weather and local church schedules. [PAL-MN]
- 1220 **WFVL** TN, Camden. 12/1 good, briefly o/WAXO (?). 2144 w/Mastercard spot, ID "1220 WFVL, where the country never sounded better." Into C&W music. [RS-MO]
- 1230 **KKUL** MT, Hardin. 12/19 and 12/20 while in area. Noted station on air both days while driving through Hardin area. Airing satellite fed rock oldies. [JcJ-MT]
- KTRF** MN, Thief River Falls. 12/13 poor to fair. 0330 with local news then into Sports Network. [PAL-MN]
- 1240 **CJCS** ON, Stratford. 12/4 very good. 1905 with Standard Broadcast News. "Oldies and more, CJCS." My first new logging using my new Quantum loop. [WMC-MB]
- 1320 **KOZY** MN, Grand Rapids. 12/12 good. 1834 with high school basketball game. [PAL-MN]
- 1330 **KNOW** MN, Minneapolis. 12/12 poor to fair. 1828 with NPR programming and promos with tag "The news and information service of Minnesota Public Radio." Never a good signal from KNOW here. [PAL-MN]
- WTRE** IN, Greensburg. 12/4. 0659 with complete sign on into news and weather. Spot for local 1st Federal Savings and Loan. Quickly faded, but heard weak at 0800 with mention of Indiana Agri-Net. [TMJ-IL]
- 1390 **KLNT** IA, Clinton. 12/5 poor. 0819 with mentions of Iowa. Religious programming and Bible sales spot. New for me. [SA-MB]
- KNCK** KS, Concordia. 12/2 good. 0803 with "This is the morning radio KNCK. Your information station." into local weather and spots. [SA-MB]
- 1420 **KESY** NE, Omaha. 12/3 fair. 1830 with lots of talk about Omaha, weather. EZL music. New for me. [SA-MB]
- 1430 **WCKN** IN, Indianapolis. 11/30 good. 1830 with "The Real Country Christmas Cash give-away station that gives you hot new country and great songs from the past and now free money. WCKN AM 14-30." [WMC-MB]
- 1500 **KABR** NM, Alamo Community. 12/2 poor to fair, on top. No sign of KSTP. 0840 with native drum music and talk in Navejo by woman. Man in EE with ID "K-Bear, your Indian radio station on Alamo." New for me. [SA-MB]
- KDFN** MO, Doniphan. 12/2 fair w/WGEN. No sign of KSTP. 0825 fade up with local weather into music. [SA-MB]
- KJIM** TX, Sherman. 12/2 fair. No sign of KSTP after 0820 this morning. 0855 with soft spoken religious program. ID on hour. [SA-MB]
- WGEN** IL, Geneseo. 12/2 good. No sign of KSTP. 0832 with "WGEN" ID into Elvis Christmas song. [SA-MB]
- WOLY** MI, Battle Creek. 12/12 good. 1700 with sign off. Invitation to join them tomorrow for Christian music and ministry. I haven't heard this one for years. [PAL-MN]
- WTOP** DC, Washington. 12/3 fair w/KSTP. 2308 with TC, "WTOP" ID, news, and talk about Virginia area. [SA-MB]

CDXR Continues....

- 1520 **KMAV** ND, Mayville. 11/28 very good. 1800 with "The Nashville Record Review" and ID "You're listening to KMAV Mayville. We're KMAV pending ratification of KKCY from the FCC." Most IDs as KKCY, but KMAV ID on the hour. C&W format. Not needed. [WMC-MB]
- 1530 **KXTD** OK, Wagoner. 12/3 excellent w/o WKCY. 2050-2100 with sports talk. Has the same long winded ID as WWLS-640. (ID mentions WWLS, KXOL, and KXTD.) No sign of this one on 12/2 or 12/4. [TMJ-IL]
- WMBE** WJ, Chilton. 12/5 good. 0750 with weather for Chilton. Local spot for snow blower dealer. On before LSR, might be on a new schedule. [SA-MB]
- 1540 **KNGL** KS, McPherson. 12/3 good. 1810 with Kansas Information Network, local spots for McPherson then "15-40 KNGL" sign off at 1815. New for me. [SA-MB]
- 1580 **KESK** MO, El Dorado Springs. 11/27 poor, very brief. 2010 with "We're southwest Missouri's best 15-80 AM." Too brief to determine format. [WMC-MB]
- WKKD** L, Aurora. 12/6 very good. 1730 with woman in SS. Gave "WKKD" ID into SS music. [WMC-MB]

DX TESTS

- 570 **WMAM** WI, Marinette. 12/7 Lots of slop from local CKY-580, but very poor when CKY not playing music. 0210 with brief amount of code. No full ID so I am not sure if this was WMAM, but I assume they did run the test. [WMC-MB].
- +12/7 DX Test not heard here. Checked frequency 0200-0400. Too much WAAX and WIND-560 slop. [TMJ-IL]
- 950 **KJR** WA, Seattle. 12/7 good during a brief period when semi-local CFAM stopped playing music. 0403 with code ID. [WMC-MB]
- +12/7 DX Test not heard here. Just usual KYGO, KPRC mix. Just two questions. I didn't tune in until about 0421. Was there DX material (code, TT) still being transmitted this late in half hour? Were they on night or day pattern? Their night pattern's null is centered right on my house, hi. [RS-MO]
- +12/7 DX Test not heard here. Listened during this time (0400-0430), but nothing heard. WJPC partially nulled. KYGO w/music, and ??WWJ with sports talk. The only thing heard was a steady telephone busy signal from 0408-0410. Immediately after the test time period a band scan revealed KFI, CKWX, and CFAC all in with good signals. So conditions were about as good as could be expected. [TMJ-IL]
- +12/7 DX Test not heard here. Tried, but too much KJJO and other. [PAL-MN]
- 960 **KNEB** NE, Scottsbluff. 12/14 DX Test. 0208 heard TT and code under mess of about 5 stations. Couldn't pick out any voice IDs. Not needed. [PAL-MN]
- +12/14 DX Test not heard here, too much KCTR-970 splatter. KNEB not needed, have 1962 verification. [JcJ-MT]
- 1020 **WRIX** SC, Homeland Park. 12/7 good w/KDKA and unID SS. 0205 with code IDs and march music. SC#2 thanks to CPC and J.D. Stephens. [WMC-MB]
- +12/7 surprisingly good w/KDKA. 0237 with code, music, phone number. Mentions of cities people called from. Good steady signal with little or no fading. Listened until 0300 and Silent Night. First SC for me and state #46! [PAL-MN]
- 1150 **WIMA** OH, Lima. 11/27 fair. 0050 with code IDs and march music. [WMC-MB]
- 1280(WABK) ME, Gardiner. 12/14 DX Test not heard here. 0230 had too much CJMS and WWTC. [PAL-MN]
- 1370(WDEA) ME, Ellsworth. 12/14 DX Test not heard here. 0200 had nothing but FF station and KDTH along with others. [PAL-MN]

FREQUENCY CHECKS

- 1030(KBUF) KS, Holcomb. 2nd Thursday F/C not heard. [TMJ-IL]
- 1330(WMOR) KY, Morehead. 1st Friday F/C not heard. [TMJ-IL]
- 1430(KTYN) ND, Minot. 2nd Tuesday F/C not heard. [TMJ-IL]
- 1530(KQNK) KS, Norton. 1st Thursday F/C not heard. [TMJ-IL]

CDXR Continues...

25 YEARS AGO

January 6, 1968 issue of IRCA's DX Monitor....Richard J. Nall of Louisville, KY logged 4VEC after a WLS sign off...Marc DeLorenzo of Hyannis, MA logged KORL-650...Bob Astmann of Kenmore, NY logged his most wanted, KENO-1460.... Donald K. Kaskey of West Sacramento, CA received his 2nd Alaskan verie, KSRN.

OPEN MIKE

When you are in it up to your ears, keep your mouth shut. Shawn was sure lucky to find KSTP off on 12/2, those rare moments help make this hobbie enjoyable. Wayne Heinen of Aurora, CO offered some help on a few questions lately. KVSF-1260 had been silent for a few years. A new application was then required to put the old facility back on the air. K555-740 has been \FM KVUU 99.9 for the last few years. Slogan is "K-View." And on the "KSIR" confusion, KKGZ-1010 now has oldies format \KSIR FM. From what he can figure out KRDZ-1470 in Wray, CO is \KSIR-FM weekends only. The legal IDs indicate no one has changed calls. Thanks Wayne! 1993 is herel Start making your plans to be in Billings June 25, 26, 27 for the IRCA Convention. More details soon. If you wish to be sent Montana travel information, please write or mention in a forum report. Happy New Year! 73, John.

~~~~~  
EDXR eastern DX roundup EDXR  
leonard hyde - 1805 whipple dr #26 - blacksburg va 24060-2436  
~~~~~

* THE REPORTERS *

(MH) Mike Hardester-3118 Gateway Ct-Jacksonville NC 28546-6973
(ABK) Albert B. Kaiser-713 Marlowe Road-Cherry Hill NJ 08003-1551
(ed) The editor at home with modified Philco-Ford car radio,
DX-440, 2' box loop, Autek QF-1

* OF SPECIAL INTEREST *

560 WISH PA, Philadelphia now using these calls. Ex WEAZ. (ABK)

* THE REPORT *

1370 WCOA FL, Pensacola 12/14 0200-0230 gd w/Talknet. New. (ed)

* unIDs *

1480 unID 12/14 0220 very poor occ with AC mx. DJ male w/deep voice.
Slogan "Coast to Coast" says Canadian, but who? CHRD is FF,
CKAN listed silent. (ed)

* DX TESTS *

1100 KNZZ CO, Grand Junction 12/14 0500-0600 occ v weak code IDs
w/WWWE nulled. CD #2 for me. (ed)
1280 (WABK) ME, Gardiner 12/14 0230-0300 not heard, just tons & tons
of WADD. Wish I could have been at the Bev site. (ed)
1370 (WDEA) ME, Ellsworth 12/14 0200-0230 no sign. Just WCOA w/Bruce
Williams, and unID SS stn, prob Cuba. (ed)

* OTHER STUFF *

From MIKE HARDESTER: "NC DOT has TIS transmitters at some of it's rest areas. They also have some portable "Solar Max" units that can operate on any AM frequency. These can be accessed remotely by cellular phone. Jeff Multer of Charlotte, NC reports that there's one near him that's been running a test tape on 1210 kHz for a couple of months. Another in-band operation adds to the list of challenging DX targets!"

IN MEMORIUM: KEN GARLAND, 65, late of WPEN-950 in Philadelphia. Long-time WIP personality, Ken came to Philadelphia radio in 1965. He died on December 11 from a head injury. (ABK) (Our condolences -ed)

11

* EDITOR'S DESK *

Thanks to MIKE, and a big welcome to ALBERT KAISER.

* DX RECORDS *

REPORTER: Phil Bytheway

Phil is currently the IRCA President. He has been DXing since 1968. He counts call changes, and is interested in DXing foreign stations.

TOTAL BCB STATIONS HEARD/VERIFIED: 1,874/474
 DOMESTIC STATIONS HEARD/VERIFIED: 1,286/400
 FOREIGN STATIONS HEARD/VERIFIED: 588/74
 NUMBER STATES HEARD/VERIFIED: 45/41
 NUMBER PROVINCES HEARD/VERIFIED: 7/7
 NUMBER COUNTRIES HEARD/VERIFIED: 47/6
 BEAUREGARD DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: no (but did you EVER get close! -ed)

BEST CATCHES:

DOMESTIC HEARD: WPGC-1580 MD, Morningside
 DOMESTIC VERIFIED: KMAN-1350 KS, Manhattan
 CANADIAN HEARD/VERIFIED: CKRW-610 YT, Whitehorse
 FOREIGN HEARD/VERIFIED: 470-780 Australia, Townsville

TOTAL BY HEARD/VERIFIED: 233/66

1230: 35/7	1240: 35/14	1340: 46/11
1400: 41/6	1450: 43/17	1490: 33/11



Western DX Forum ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Reid Wheeler 5910 Boulevard Loop SE Olympia, WA 98501

Deadline: Saturday 2 weeks before publication.

Your WDXF Editor takes this small space to wish each and everyone of you the best this holiday season!

Patrick Martin, P.O.Box 843, Seaside, OR 97138-0843

[12/8] Hi Everybody: I just received (12/8), one of my best QSLs ever. After years of trying, I finally logged and QSL'd INDIA on Medium Wave. The All India Radio Service from Shillong in NE India on 864 KHZ with 100 KW. It was logged back on October 4, 1992. I never sent a report out until late October, as I was trying to get more information on the log. After playing the tape of Indian music and a woman with a subcontinental language for several DXers, including Chuck Boehnke-Hawaii, who has heard India many times in the past several years. He IDed the programming as India. Then Guy Atkins listened to the tape. He also thought it was India. His comment, "If that isn't India, I should go back to DXing 101!" I then had John Bryant from Oklahoma listen to the tape. He also said it sounded like India. Being an Instructor at a University in Oklahoma, he has access to many students from many countries. There are several from different parts of India. After several students listened to the tape, they also said the programming sounded like "Indian" and the music was familiar. Some students from NE India also listened to the tape and mentioned the language was not Hindi, but a minority language like Bamar. That language is spoken in Myanmar (Burma) and probably in that part of India, as Shillong is close to the Myanmar border. After that, I thought it must be India, so off I sent two registered reception reports to Shillong and direct to New Delhi. About 5 weeks later, a nice complete detailed QSL card was received, giving time, date, frequency, and location of station. I must give credit to my new Drake R8 receiver and antenna/ground system. The morning I heard Shillong, India, I also tried to hear the station on my Hammarlund SP-600, but there was too much QRM in the AM mode. With the HC-10 unit, I can get sideband with the Hammarlund, but it still doesn't work that well. The receiver does much better in the AM mode. The Drake R8 is excellent in upper or lower sideband, and signal was fairly good at times. I never would have gotten a decent enough signal using the SP-600 to get a tape of India. With all the comments on the Drake R8, all I can say is "What a great receiver!" Good DX to all and the best in 93. Patrick [... and who says perseverance doesn't pay?? - rcw]

12

John C. Johnson, 979 Neptune Blvd, Billings, MT 59105-2129

(406) 259-9210 [Voice & FAX]

Let's all let out a sigh of relief. Then let's all thank Ralph for offering to publish DX Monitor for at least another year. We should still think of reducing the number of issues to say 20 a year. With this change we could keep dues where they are through the next postage increase. Only one new verie to report. That from KGRE-1450. Is it just me, or are others noticing about 90% of veries lately are notes written on our reports and returned? If you were wondering about my FAX abilities, let me explain. I have a FAX modem in my computer so I can only receive FAX's when the computer is running. The ability to FAX directly from the word processor is nifty. I suppose all of you are now aware of Mutual Broadcasting's plan to move *The Larry King Show* to afternoon drive effectively Feb. 1st 1500-1800 EST. Jim Bohannon will take over the 2300-0200 EST slot. Larry King commented he will be able to normalize his life for the first time in 15 years. I hope many of you will be able to come to Billings June 25, 26, 27 for the 1993 IRCA Convention. If you would like Montana travel information please write. 73, John.

Larry Godwin, 2390 Clydes Dale Ln., Missoula, MT 59801

(406) 721-5131

[12/13] Greetings! Pat Martin just phoned to tell me the good news about Ralph's agreeing to stay on as Publisher! His decision delays our need to find an alternate until a time when volunteers may be ready to make the commitment. We will have something extra special to celebrate in Billings at our June convention! Just heard Shawn Axelrod's beacon CJR-1700-Brazil last night; see DXWW for details. That brings to four the beacons I've heard in the 1600-1750 range. This is a gold mine part of the band at the moment, before it becomes inundated with U.S. stations. Re nominations for IRCA officers: I believe Phil's statement that "An IRCA member is only allowed one nomination for each office" refers to running for only one post. Apparently a member may nominate seven members for the Board. I'm enjoying Mark Connelly's computer-DX comments in Leonard's fine column. Merry Christmas, friends, and onward to new and exotic catches in the New Year! 73.

EASTERN

DX

FORUM

Richard C. Evans

P.O. Box 21883

Milwaukee, WI 53221-0883

Deadlines: Saturdays Phone: 414-ATlantic 2-9035

Mike Brooker, 99 Wychcrest Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6G 3X8

Namaste. IRCA-NRC merger? NOT!!!!!! If there's no one willing (or crazy enough) to take over as DX Monitor publisher, I would rather see IRCA suspend operations until a new publisher is found than publish a combined DX News/DX Monitor. I don't see how it would be remotely possible for IRCA to have any autonomy as an independent club if its publication is merged into DX News. It would be the death of IRCA, as we have known it for almost 30 years, and it would be ironic if IRCA is re-absorbed by the very same club it split apart from in the early 60's. I am a member of both NRC and IRCA, and enjoy getting two bulletins a week during the DX season. I didn't join NRC until after I had been an IRCA member for 14 years. CJCL-1430 (a.k.a., The Fan) put in some impressive numbers in the latest BBM book. They've picked up more than 230,000 listeners since last fall, though they're still well behind the perennial #1 Toronto station CFRB-1010. In the Fan's prime demographic, males aged 24-54 (which includes me, ratings are up as much as 103%! The numbers don't include Blue Jays World Series fever, as the rating period began on Sept. 4, just after the format debuted and ended before the American League Championship Series began. The Fan also has the highest share (5.4%) of any all-sports station in North America. Jays in '93! If they don't repeat as World Series champions next year, fans will say "Wait till last year"! (Mike, the Blue Jays are getting a class guy in Paul Molitor from the Brewers--rce)

13

Ing. Carl Huffaker, Domicilio Conocido, Hasca de Ocampo, Hidalgo, Mexico C.P.43500 / The XERI harmonic disappeared from 1620 kHz during the last days of October. It was a lot of signal and could have only been the result of tuning the transmitter to the harmonic instead of the fundamental. Those things do happen in Mexico. XEPV in Papantla, Veracruz finally has its new rig on the air. They're on 840 kHz with 2.5 kw power. The Grupo ACIR late-nite satellite feed serves over 100 Mexican stations plus some in the US and in Guatemala. At times, they run all night without local ID's, and at other times they play ID tapes of stations along the line every five minutes or so. The other night, I heard eleven different formal IDs in less than two hours -- and not one was the station I was tuned to. Leonard wondered about the "Ing." in front of my name. It stands for Engineer. The Latin-Americans use professional titles so consistently that not to use the title would probably considered evasive. So don't forget to use "Ing." instead of "Sr." when you address an Engineer of any Latin-American station. Last week I listened to Nicaragua's Radio Sandino celebrating its "Quince Anos" (15th anniversary). The 15th anniversary is important, it's a coming of age when a station ceases being a new station and becomes an established station. Throughout Latin-America, girls come of age at 15. It's a big celebration, not a collective one like the debutante balls of the North, but each girl's own fiesta. Families impoverish themselves for years to make each Quince Anos the biggest ever. Stations have "birthdays". I remember the ALER calendar listed the birthdays of its member stations. So it's not far out to adopt the concept of coming of age at 15. With Latin-America's geometric population growth, both the station and the community would have reason to re-evaluate themselves after 15 years. It's a big party, and if you hear it on the air, send a birthday card, or at least a report, to the station. The old stations are currently celebrating their 50th or 60th anniversary. They're special broadcasts, and well done, but somehow they lack the exuberance of a Quince Anos. 73.

R.C.Watts, 4109 Graf Drive, Louisville, Kentucky 40220-3016

Have to agree with the comments regarding DXM. No point to IRCA without it. Also agree with publisher that weekly may be too much. According to "The Messenger" of Nov-Dec, just received, China Radio International is on KPLA-770, Mon-Fri 1700-1730 PST in English. New name for R. Beijing. CRI would probably like to have some reports on this program. WKXF-1600, Eminence, KY calls itself WKX and Kicks 1-6. WBEE-1580 (x-WAXU, etc.), Georgetown, KY calls itself Stardust AM 1580. Sometimes sounds like WVBE. 940 in Shelbyville, Ky calls itself Thunder 101. I listened to it quite a lot and never heard the legal ID. I've really enjoyed DXM this year and got some really good info from it. Really! Happy holidays to all you really good people who make it possible.

Ernest Cooper, 5 Anthony Street, Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657

In my last report, I mentioned trying for WKZW-1020-CT. My typo - I meant WKZE - and no reply; the same result three times now! New veries since that Forum are in from WMVI-1160-NY (f/up); WRCA-1330-MA (PP/c); WWII-720-PA, and WOGL-1210-PA, on a second report, to bring the total to 4414. I guess my goal is to get 4444 veries - 4500 will be nice, but I doubt I'll live long enough for that far-distant horizon, hi. Let me take this opportunity to wish each of you the merriest of Christmases, and a Happy and Profitable New Year, both at the dials, and at the pay window. To Frank Merrill: Who is the KBSN you mention on 810 kHz? I can't find any listing for it! Another call I can't come up with is one I heard on a talk show announcement: WTNH in New Haven. I don't find this one in either the AM or FM logs. Anybody recognize them? I've managed to hear and report to two of the special tests: WQIN-1290-PA, which I understand went belly-up shortly after that test, and WRIX-1020-SC, who did a good job of poking thru KDKA, whose talk show helped. I want to compliment J.D. Stephens on that WRIX test - plenty of Morse Code IDs, and plenty of voice IDs, and information about the station, a very interesting test - thank you, J.D.! Reports have gone out to some twilight catches, like WGAM--1520-MA, WWWW-1130-MI, WMYT-1060-NC, WWAX-750-PA, WOEW-1560-NY (ex-WQXR). While I always cherish new loggings, I didn't enjoy this last one much, as it meant the demise of New York City's ONLY superior station, WQXR. I can remember when they were an

experimental station, back when the BCB ended at 1500 kc/s. They were first on the air for one hour a day - 1700-1800 on 1550 kHz, to provide background music for experimental TV station W2XBS on 1650 kHz, I think the calls were. The TV signal sounded like a wavery whistle. W2XR played music like Strauss waltzes, and soon gathered a sizable following of folks tuning in to hear their fine music. When the TV experimental station ceased operations, W2XR went for a commercial license and became WQXR, which was a great classical music station, and still is on 06.3 FM. WNEW was supposed to change calls at the time when WQXR went to 30's 40's oldies, but as of 12/7/92 WNEW is still WNEW, on 1130 kHz. Watch for French Canadians and Venezuelians in particular on the morning of Christmas, with Midnight Mass, followed by festive music. Hope for an aurora - it'd help! Forward - March!

Leonard Hyde, 1805 Whipple Drive, #26, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060-2436

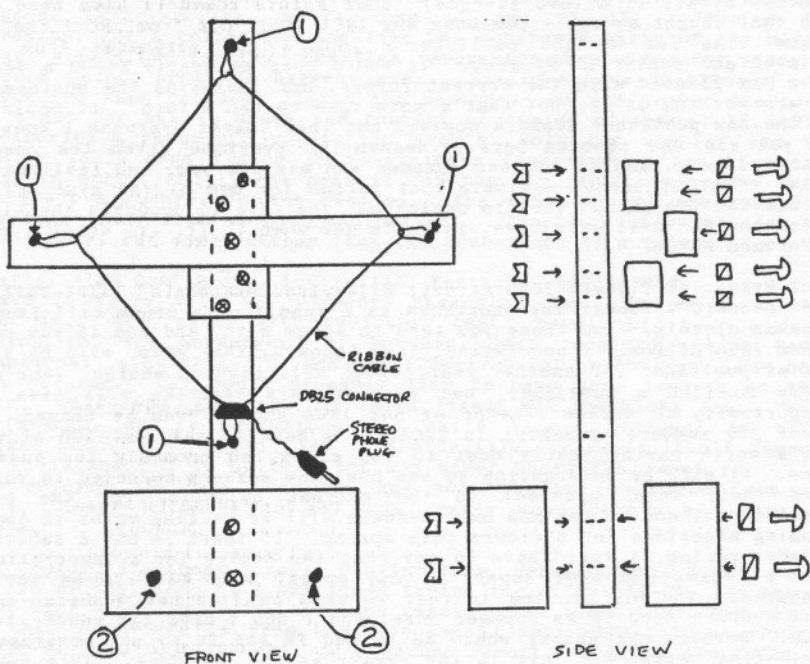
I am starting to see some comment from members regarding the proposal from Paul Swearingen. Good - ideally, EVERY member would comment, and Rick would have to spend all week typing the column. (Sorry, Rick.) (I'd love it--rce) Some astute comments have been made. One that caught my eye - remember why IRCA split off from NRC in the first place!...As far as the publisher's job, I got estimates from every printer and copier in my area. It would cost me nearly \$4000 a year to have DXM printed with the current format, not including the postage. So we are working on it, but that's more than we can afford. It would help if the new publisher owned a copier, but that leaves everyone I know out, so you see the problem here...Meanwhile, everyone watch the comments that are made, and if you see someone who mirrors your own feelings, and makes a lot of sense, nominate that person for one of the club offices! No one can run unless they're nominated, and this is probably the biggest election IRCA will ever have, so let's get down to it. To steal a phrase - Forward March!

Rick Evans, 4841 South 26th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53221-2937

Leonard's report was shortened as a result of a phone call from him. Forums closely, find those you tend to agree with, and see if you can put them into office. I understand, from Leonard, that Ralph will be staying on as publisher for another year, which will give us another year's lead time to find a publisher, but perhaps this election will give us an opportunity to decide whether or not IRCA should even be around. With just 200 members (roughly) in IRCA, it's hard to say, but 100 of us say it's worth paying yearly dues to two clubs, so probably the answer is yes. It will be interesting to see how many members bothered to vote (or had their votes counted) in the current balloting for the by-laws amendments, and to see how many members will be casting votes in the upcoming elections for officers this spring. If there is not a substantial number voting, I would have to say that the desire for a democratic club isn't there, and that aspect of our appeal will have to be seriously debated. The big problem is that we need to find new members--and the new members need to be younger ones, and I don't have the answer to that one. Perhaps one answer would be to add FM and TV to our coverage on a full-time basis, not just in the summer as the NRC does. This would be in realization of the fact that BCB seems to run opposite FM/TV, but that one still needs some coverage of the band during the off-season to keep the fires kindled. I'd like to see what comes out of the elections. I mentioned to my wife Saturday evening about checking into printing here, and her reaction was what I expected - not just a flat no but also a request (yet again) that I give up EDXF. That I don't want to do and don't plan on doing. On the personal side, this has to be the busiest December I can remember in my life. I've done a little bit of DXing in the past couple of weeks. In my last Forum, I said I was hoping to hear WHEZ-1560 under semi-local WGLB. I never did find out who that station was, but that Saturday I did get a clear ID from WHEZ, then it was gone. Since then, I've managed to pull a faint ID from WTOP-1500 for the first DC station heard from Milwaukee. While typing this column, I pulled an ID from WNWI-1080 for a much-wanted former local. I did hear the WRIX-1020 test and an hour-long report was sent to them. They mentioned getting a phone call from Grand Marais, Minn, up in the arrowhead district north of Duluth, so they really got out well. WRIX said they may test again in the spring or summer. It was a good test, as Ernie

mentioned, because the announce really seemed to enjoy doing it, even thou he mentioned oversleeping. Now up to 251 heard here, which puts Philadelphia as my location having the least logged, only 246 hrd over a nine year span. That was partly due to the fact that I couldn't stand the music I heard on AM out there. Next goal is to beat the 286 I heard in Kalamazoo. Merry Christmas to all of you and a hope that the new year will bring you all of your dreams (and none of your nightmares) in the DXing hobby. 73.

FIGURE 4: LOOP SUPPORT FRAME
NUMBERS WITH ARROWS REFER TO NOTES.



NOTES

MATERIAL: WOOD OR OTHER STURDY NON-CONDUCTIVE SUBSTANCE

DRAWING IS SKETCH ONLY. DIMENSIONS ARE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE END USER.

- ∩ = WING NUT
- ⊠ = SPLIT LOCKWASHER
- ⇒ = SCREW

- ① HOLES FOR WIRE SUPPORT — PLASTIC TRASHBAG TIES MAY BE USED TO ESTABLISH PROPER TENSION.
- ② HOLES TO BE USED TO MOUNT SUPPORT FRAME ONTO AMPLIFIER BASE UNIT.

The SUPERADIO III

A Brief Review

Gerry Thomas

Being a long-time fan of the General Electric Superadio, I was eagerly anticipating the arrival of the new Superadio III. This was especially true because the "III" was touted as having dual selectivities and I had tried several years ago to install a narrow ceramic filter in my old "A" model without success (that is, without excessive insertion loss or leakage). Because I couldn't find a "III" in Pensacola and because my wife was planning a visit to Tucson, AZ, I asked her to look out for a Superadio III and buy a couple (one for me and one for my local DXing buddy, Charlie Barfield) if she came across any. She called to say she had found them priced at \$39.95 at a discount store. This was well below list price and I was ecstatic—"How lucky could I get? The upgraded "III" model with dual selectivity and at a lower cost than my old Superadio II! Hot Dang!" Well, to make a long story (i.e., "review") short, the Superadio III is a bummer (in my humble opinion, and based on an examination of only two samples).

Packaging Impressions

The first tip-off to my impending gloom was the description of the dual selectivity feature printed on the outside of the box. Instead of saying the usual "Wide" and "Narrow" for the two selectivity positions, the description talked about WIDE and NORMAL; (What? That's a strange way of labeling selectivities, I thought). And this dual selectivity feature was called "AM Accent"—not a radio electronics engineering term I had ever heard of before. Oh well, all the other heart-string-strumming words were there—*Tuned RF on AM, Large 7-7/8" Ferrite Rod, Long Range Reception*, and so on. So, I opened the box and found a very handsome, black with chrome trim radio about the same size as the older Supers.

Turning It On

The first thing I noticed upon applying power to the "III" was what seemed to be an uncharacteristically high level of "hiss" to all but the strongest of local signals. As I tuned down the dial, I noticed that the dial read-out seemed to be pretty consistently 30-40 kHz off from the actual frequency but my real shock came as I started to notice "birdies" at several places across the band, apparently the result of my strongest local WRNE-980 (a moderate strength 10 kWer). The old Superadio II never had trouble with any of my locals. Hmm. What's going on here? There was no apparent answer so I decided to try the dual selectivity feature and, as it turns out, the label on the controls is accurate—the selectivity is WIDE and NORMAL (not NORMAL and NARROW as I would have preferred). The only difference between the WIDE and NORMAL positions is an increase in the hiss level in the WIDE position; any improvement in fidelity was minimal (I guess because the NORMAL position pretty well passes most of the AM audio band already). I had to find out what in the world was going on here so...

Off With The Back

I noticed as I was removing the screws on the back of the radio that, whereas earlier models of the Superadio were made in Japan, Taiwan, or Malaysia, this fellow was made in China! Removing the back revealed even more surprises. The first was that there was only one circuit board (earlier Supers had isolated the RF/Oscillator sections on a board separate from the IF/AF sections). The second BIG surprise was THERE WAS NO VARIABLE CAPACITOR!!! THEY WERE USING VARACTOR DIODES TO TUNE THE THING! Now, it is definitely possible to design a perfectly adequate radio using varactor diodes but the engineers who put the Superadio III together obviously flunked the course. Things were becoming clearer—this radio was not designed for performance, it was designed for profit margin. A tear almost came to my eye as I recalled the beautiful metal, multi-ganged, relatively expensive, air-gap variable capacitor that tuned the old Superadios;

here I was looking at a single, cheap potentiometer controlling at least five varactor diodes. As far as the dual selectivity feature goes, there's no sign of an AM ceramic filter; I think (though I'm not sure; I don't have a schematic) in the WIDE position a Q-spoiling resistor is simply switched in. It is really a shame that such a venerable nameplate as the Superadio has been reduced to this.

Attempts At Improvement

I spent a couple of hours the next day trying to align the various sections of the beast with only minimal success—it's just a poor design.

Performance—HA!

In the daytime, I get nine stations; none farther than 50 kW WWL-870 in New Orleans. At night, things pick up so that almost every channel has a station detectable (but my \$9.95 clock radio does too).

FM? Audio was great, AFC worked fine, DXability? I don't do much FM DXing so I don't feel qualified to comment.

At this point, my disgust was just too overwhelming to continue. Charlie Barfield reports similar non-results so my findings apparently aren't a fluke. And given the engineering/manufacturing short-cuts I saw inside the radio, it's unlikely, in my opinion, that dramatically different findings would occur with different samples.

Conclusions

The Superadio III is a major disappointment. If you want to experience a really super radio, run to your electronics stores and try to find some remaining Superadio IIs. Pay extra, if you have to, but think twice about purchasing the Superadio III; that would only encourage General Electric's Consumer Electronics Division to continue offering low-performance/high profit margin products.



My previous article "One-Chip Active Whips" mentioned the use of commercially-available buffer amplifier IC's that could be used instead of discrete-FET circuits in active whips. I have purchased some of these devices and tested them in real-life DXing situations as well as in laboratory tests for such characteristics as gain, noise, and strong-signal handling.

All buffer chips are not created equal. Most have no trouble handling big signal inputs up to 5 volts p-p (Vpp) with low distortion. It is in the weak signal end of things that these devices vary considerably. Those in DIP packages, especially those listed as being "monolithic" rather than "hybrid" in design and those designed to operate at relatively low maximum power supply rails (e. g. +/- 7 VDC), tend to be rather noisy. The VA033PJ (made by VTC) and the AD9630AN (made by Analog Devices) fall into this category. These amplifiers, therefore, are not recommended for use with short whips (less than 1 m. / 3.3 ft.) or with small ferrite loops. They could be used with larger whips and larger loops. Experimentation here has shown that the 12-pin round metal can (TO-8) devices, listed as "hybrid" and having wide power supply rail limits, are very quiet - indeed as good as, or better than, numerous discrete-FET designs that have served DXers well in the past.

The National Semiconductor LH0033CG and the Elantec ELH0033G performed admirably in quiet-site daytime field tests. Signal-to-noise results were comparable to discrete-FET amplifiers of several designs including Lankford, Connelly, Thomas, Sanserino, Hagan, and MFJ. Both loop and whip tests were performed deep in a pitch-pine woodland near the Shawsheen River in Billerica, MA suitably far from buildings and noisy power lines. Such field tests are necessary because the line-noise level at the house is too high for such stringent sensitivity evaluations. It is likely that other "0033" chips - e. g. Teledyne TP0033 - would perform similarly. Of the two 0033's tested, the National device is the cheaper: still, it costs a relatively high \$ 15 (approximately). I got my LH0033CG from Gerber Electronics. Address and telephone information is shown in the parts list to follow. They will take personal checks and COD, but they have no credit card operation.

The LH0033CG-based buffer card (which I've designated BUF-A) clearly outperforms the vast majority of discrete-FET front-ends I've built when it comes to strong-signal handling (immunity to harmonic and intermodulation distortion). Now I've finally reached the point at which varactors used in remotely-tuned applications are the weaker link than the front-end card. (The varactors can still take a lot of "heat" before yielding any spurs.) Very weak WRKO-680 X 2 can be heard with WLYN-1360 nulled on a remotely-tuned loop with the BUF-A. With the BUF-A in a conventional tuning-capacitor (non-remote) loop, there is no evidence of a WRKO harmonic with WLYN nulled - only WDRG-1360 (Hartford, CT) is noted. Some discrete-FET amplifiers could not pass this daytime test, whether tuned by variable capacitors or by varactors.

When operated at B+ = 12.6 VDC (typical car cigarette-lighter jack output), a clean output of 6 Vpp is achievable. Scope tests show that higher supply voltage (up to 40 VDC) can yield even greater low-distortion output levels. Heat-sinking is advisable at high supply voltages. For continuous high signal level operation (urban sites), the National LH0063CK (at about twice the price of the LH0033CG) may offer slightly improved IMD performance for the perfectionist. The LH0063CK package is different, so card layout would have to be altered if that IC is to be used.

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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