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IN THIS ISSUE: Broadcasting Information, FCC, Western DX Roundup, Central DX Roundup, Eastern DX Roundup, DX World Wide - East, Western DX Forum, Eastern DX Forum, Palstar R30 Receiver Review, Geomagnetic Indices.

NEXT SDXM ISSUE IN FOUR (4) WEEKS!!! (pb)

2000 IRCA Billings, Montana Convention Information

The 2000 IRCA convention will be held August 25,26, and 27 in Billings, MT. The convention will be hosted by John and Nancy Johnson.

IRCA's 2000 Convention has a web site for complete information.

http://pages.prodigy.net/john_johnson/irca2000.htm

2000 National Radio Club Convention, Lima OH

This year's NRC convention will be held in Lima OH on Labor Day weekend (9/1-9/4/00). Host is Fred Vobbe, 706 Mackenzie Dr, Lima OH 45805-1835. Complete details are available at the following Web site: [//www.nrcdxas.org/convention](http://www.nrcdxas.org/convention)

TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT THE '00-'01 SEASON CPC... read on
CPC Chairperson (IRCA) - Lynn Hollerman - gmhollerman@mindspring.com

Right now Lynn is looking for target station lists and stamps or money to help get the lists worked on. Thank you Lynn... pb

CPC Chairperson (NRC) - Blaine Thompson - phredd@well.com

Send both requests for stations to try and/or stamps and \$ for postage and envelopes/paper (respectively).

Correction of KAVL transmitter site address

In verie column last issue, 1197, KAVL is 348 E Av K-4, Lancaster. XR is 2501 W Av 1 Lancaster.

A slight correction: The transmitter site street name is Avenue I (the letter "I"), not Avenue 1.

If you're ever in that part of the world, drop by their transmitter site. It's quite impressive.

NRC LOG IS BEING UPDATED NOW!! (20th Edition SOLD OUT!!)

NRC Log editor Wayne Heinen (Nrclog@aol.com) is looking for the updated information in the following areas: "The changes that are needed are Addresses, Phone Numbers, formats, network affiliations and Hours of Operation. These are the keys to logging and verifying they also are the most changed and hard to track. I need all update to me NO LATER THAN August 1st because we are going back to a Labor Day availability date."

RIC: A little late due to working off site Mon-Wed.

THE M STREET BOOK IS OUT!!!!

Those ordering pre-publication price through me at the IRCA Bookstore should have their copies by now (or very soon). Please let me know if you haven't received your copy yet. pb

BROADCASTING INFORMATION

Editor: Robert Wien - 1309 Dentwood Dr - San Jose CA 95118

E-mail: rjwmail@webtv.net

FORMAT CHANGES:

AL Alexander City	WRFS-1050	was ABC soft AC, now ABC oldies
AL Monroeville	WMFC-1360	was JRN country//FM now JRN oldies// FM
AR Bentonville	KREB-1190	was KESE, AS, now ESPN sports
AR Rogers	KZAR-1390	was KREB, sports//FM, now JRN reg. Mexican
CA Auburn	KAHI- 950	was oldies/talk/sports,now oldies/talk
CA San Francisco	KSFO- 560	was talk, adds Dr. Laura (moves from KGO-810 on 7/3/00)
CO Loveland	KHPN-1570	was JRN classic C&W, now JRN country
GA Fort Valley	WXKO-1150	was black gospel//WQMJ, now black gospel "Heaven"
GA Gordon	WXJO-1120	was WBNM, R&B oldies, now black gospel//WXKO
HI Hilo	KIPA- 620	was AS, now ABC 45+ soft AC (continues local stds/Hawaiian mix during drive)
HI Kealahou	KKON- 790	was stds//KIPA, now ABC soft AC//KIPA
LA Natchitoches	KNOC-1450	was talk, JRN oldies, now talk, JRN stds.
MD Lexington Park	WPTX-1690	was WMDM, talk/sports, to be AS (early May)
MI Petoskey	WMBN-1340	was AS, adds JRN stds.
MO Doniphan	KDFN-1500	was country, now ABC 45+ soft AC
NV Sun Valley	KQLO-1590	was reg. Mexican, now SS hits
NH Conway	WBNC-1050	was ABC country//FM, now ABC oldies//FM
NM Alamogordo	KRSY-1230	was classic C&W, talk, now ESPN sports, talk
OR Eugene	KZTU- 660	was cont. Xtian//KPAM-860, now cont .Xtian
TN La Follette	WLAF-1450	was s. gospel, C&W, now SOGs. gospel (Southern Gospel Music Network)
TN Lenoir City	WBLC-1360	was silent, now religion
TX Bellville	KNUZ-1090	was soft AC, now SS religion
TX Tulia	KTUE-1260	was country//KLGD, now s. gospel, SS religion
WA Aberdeen	KBKW-1450	was talk, spors, now talk, ABC stds.
WA Colfax	KCLX-1450	was country//KZZL-FM, now ABC real

		country (will continue to sim. KZZL-FM mornings)
WA Olympia	KGHO- 920	was silent, now oldies
WV Huntington	WRVC- 930	was talk, sports, adds CNN Headline nx
WI Berlin	WISS-1090	was Radio One C&W//WBJZ, now Radio One C&W

CALL LETTER CHANGES:

AR Bentonville	KESE-1190	requests KREB
AR Rogers	KREB-1390	becomes KZAR
CA Costa Mesa	KNOB- 540	becomes KKGO
CA Los Angeles	KCTD-1540	becomes KMPC
CA Pomona	KWPA-1220	becomes KWKU
KS Kansas City	KBJC-1660	(CP) becomes KWSJ "Wichita Smooth Jazz"
MD Lexington Park	WMDM-1690	becomes WPTX
SD Vermillion	KOSZ-1570	becomes KUTK
TX Abilene	KMPC-1560	becomes KZQQ "The Zoo"

FORMAT CHANGES:

AR Greenwood	KPBI-1510	was country, now ESPN sports//KFDF
CA Arcata	KATA-1340	was oldies//KKHB, now ESPN sports
CA Barstow	KIQQ-1310	was silent, now regional Mexican
FL Altamonte Spgs	WORL- 660	is new, AP nx (will add talk pgming in Next few weeks)
IL Sandwich	WAUR- 930	was CRN Catholic talk, now talk
KY Vanceburg	WKKS-1570	was JRN country//FM, now JRN classic country
MI Flint	WFNT-1470	was talk,, now ABC AS
MT Deer Lodge	KDRG-1400	was talk, now 1 on 1 sports
NY Elmira	WELM-1410	was sports, adds Imus
NY Trumansburg	WPIE-1160	was sports, adds Imus
NC Greenville	WNCT-1070	was reg. Mexican, adds JRN reg. Mexican
OR Bend	KKUX- 940	was AS, now ESPN sports (adds Jim Rome 9 AM-noon)
PA York	WQXA-1250	was oldies, now ABC Real country
SD Mitchell	KORN-1490	was oldies, now talk
TN Rockwood	WOFE- 580	was talk, now cont. Xtian (continues talk pgming midnight-6AM)
TN Sparta	WTZK- 860	was country//WSMT-FM, now oldies
VT Burlington	WKDR-1390	was talk, adds nx 6-9 AM

NEW STATION APPLICATION:

NV Hawthorne 1090 8000 w.

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT ACTIVITY:

NS Port Hawkesbury CIGO-1410 moves to 101.5 FM

CALL LETTER CHANGE:

GA Gordon WBNM-1120 becomes WKJO

Dennis Gibson of Goleta, CA. passes on the following information:

\$30 Million for 1650AM (April 18, 2000) Mt. Wilson FM Broadcasters have sold KGXL/1650AM to Chagal Communications for \$30 million. KGXL currently simulcasts the jazz format on KGIL/1260 AM. Saul Levine said he couldn't say what the new format would be. Once the sale is complete, speculation is that the station will join the Korea Times

Network that is currently on 93.5FM. Chagal President Jack Siegal was not immediately available for comment. Unrelated to the KGXL sale but under the For Sale sign, is Radio Unica attempting to buy KPLS-830?

Pat Martin of Seaside, OR. passes along the following from Eric Bueneman of St. Louis, MO.:

KBGG-1700 Des Moines, IA has dumped BNN Business Talk and switched to CNN Headline News, IDing as "CNN Headline News on The New AM 1700". This was noted at 0320 EDT on April 15, 2000 with CNN Headline sports, local spots, entertainment news, promos mentioning the new format, and a PSA for the Mark McGwire Foundation for Children.

Pat also sends along the following tip:

My recent mystery about hearing KIVA with nostalgia music on 1600 has been solved. A verie card received today from Max Gabaldon, Satellite Operator (haven't heard that one before) for KIVA states : "We changed over from 1580 AM to 1600 AM in early February due to signal problems in Albuquerque".

Pat also sends along the following tip from Shawn Axelrod of Winnipeg, MB:

1690-MD has changed calls... (from WMDM to WPTX- ye ed.)

1690 WPTX MD Lexington - 04/21 0440 - Poor signals under KDDZ with talk programming. Now using these call signs. NEW!! (SA-MB)

Dale Park of Honolulu, HI. Passes along the following information:

Changes. The major one is KGU-760 dropping its three-year run as all-sports "The Ball" and going back to the talk format it had during 1982-1997. The major difference is that KGU's sister station KHNR-650, and former Billy Graham stations KAIM-870 & 95.5 were all bought by Salem Media. So the format KGU is now running is talk, just not flaming-limozeen-liberal talk but "values-oriented talk," though it doesn't explain the presence of WOR's Joey Reynolds. Ironically, morning host Mike Buck merely switched gears and went back to the regular talk show he had before he and ex-49er Russ Francis (now running for Congress!) did morning sports talk in 1996. That's right, KGU was among the first non-all-sports stations to have morning-drive sports-talk, followed later by KCCN-1420.

HI Hilo--KHLO 850--Is satellite oldies (Hawaiian music morning drive); adds AP Network News

HI Hilo--KIPA 620--Was adult standards/Hawaiian; is now adult standards-oldies blend/Hawaiian per Chuck Boehnke on Internet; ABC Direction news

HI Hilo--KPUA 670--Is news-talk; drops Jim Bohannon; adds "Coast To Coast AM with Art Bell (and Friends)," ESPN's "The Morning Show with Mike Golic"

HI Honolulu--KGU 760--Was all sports; is now values-oriented talk from 4/03; drops all sports (One-On-One, all play-by-play [may change when NFL season rolls around]); adds Joy Browne, Oliver North, Mike Reagan, KABC's Dennis Praeger, Joey Reynolds, WOR's Bob Grant

HI Honolulu--KHVH 830--Is talk; drops Mike Reagan 2/2000; adds KSFO's Michael Savage; still airs "Dreamland with Whitley Strieber" (rescheduled to Sunday nights)

HI Lihue--KQNG 570--Is talk; adds The Dolans every day of the week 3/2000 (station dropped its local CW show Sats.)

OR Portland--KEWS 620--Is news-talk; adds KFI's Phil Hendrie, and Lionel 4/03 per Premiere Radio news release

Pat Martin sends along the following from Sheldon Harvey (Canada, city unknown):

Yesterday, Friday, the 600 and 850 kHz. frequencies, which had been simulcasting 940 News and Info 690 here in Montreal, began running a tape loop saying that the 600 and 850 frequencies would be going silent "soon".

Today, Saturday, Bill Westenhaver noticed that the tape loops had been changed, now saying that 600 and 850 frequencies will be going silent tomorrow (Sunday) evening at Midnight Eastern (0400 UTC Monday).

No word on whether or not any special announcements will be made at that time.

If you are out of range of the Montreal area and would like to hear recordings of the tape loops currently running, tune in Sunday morning to the International Radio Report on CKUT-FM 90.3 in Montreal, Radio McGill. The programme is available in RealAudio, live streaming only through the CKUT website at 10:30 AM Eastern, 1430 UTC Sunday morning. <http://www.ckut.ca>

That's about it. Heading into the latter spring months now, time to put the radio away and enjoy the outdoors! 73's.

FORMAT CHANGES:

AK Fairbanks	KCBF- 820	was oldies, now JRN classic country
GA Atlanta	WGKA-1190	was fine arts, now Reach s. gospel
ID Caldwell	KCID-1490	was country, now AC//KCID-FM "Star"
IA Independence	KQMG-1220	was hot AC//FM, now WW1 soft AC//FM
MI Dearborn	WYUR-1310	was variety, now AC//WNIC (format temporary)
OK Okmulgee	KOKL-1240	was country, cont. Xtian, now ABC oldies
OR Salem	KSLM-1390	was sports//KFXK, adds ESPN//KFXK
OR Troutdale	KPAM- 860	was cont. Xtian, now nx/talk (see addt'l info later-ye ed.)
PA Carbondale	WKJN-1440	was talk//WARM, now JRN stds//WEMR
PA Pittston	WKQV-1550	was stds//WEMR, rptd. silent
WA Vancouver	KFXK- 910	was sports, adds ESPN sports

NEW STATION GRANT:

NV Sparks 880 5000/400 DA-2 (2-site operation)

FACILITY & PARAMETER GRANT:

PA Honesdale WPSN-1590 inc. to 220-N, DA-2 vice ND

CALL LETTER CHANGES:

CO Colorado Spgs	KTWK- 740	becomes KVOR
CO Colorado Spgs	KVOR-1300	becomes KTWK
HI Honolulu	KOHO-1170	becomes KBUG
NM Albuquerque	KHTL- 920	becomes KSVA "Shepherd's Voice"
NM Albuquerque	KSVA- 610	becomes KHTL
NY Spring Valley	WLIR-1300	becomes WRCR "Rockland County Radio"
NC Wanchese	WOBR-1530	becomes WOEX

FORMAT CHANGES:

AL Bay Minette WBCA-1110 was classic C&W//WYDH, now country//WYDH

AL Monroeville	WYNI- 930	was classic C&W//WYDH, rptd. silent
AZ South Tucson	KJLL-1330	was talk, adds Don & Mike
AR Cabot	KBBL-1350	was CHR//KHTE, now ESPN sports "The Ball"
CA Fowler	KQEQ-1210	was reg. Mexican//KXEX, now Norteno "R. Canon"
CA Merced	KTFN-1580	was sports now JRN SS hits (watch for new call letters soon)
CA San Diego	KSDO-1130	was business/talk, now all-talk
CA Soquel	KOQI-1200	is new, on air testing
DE Wilimington	WDEL-1150	was nx/talk, adds sports nights, Rush Limbaugh noon-3PM
IN Elkhart	WTRC-1340	was AS, now ABC 45+ soft AC (retains First Light 5-6 AM and adds The Dolans 1-3 PM)
KY Fort Campbell	WABD-1370	was urban, adds ABC's Tom Joyner
MS Carthage	WSSI-1080	was silent, now talk "Power 1080"
OK Duncan	KXCD-1350	was sports, now talk "Hot Talk"
OK Lawton	KXCA-1380	was sports//KXCD, now talk//KXCD (splits form sim. Sundays to air religion)
TN Clarksville	WDXN- 540	was sports, now WW1 rhythmic oldies

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT ACTIVITY:

CA Grass Valley	KNCO- 830	inc. to 5000-N, DA-N
NY Warsaw	WCJW-1140	inc. to 2500-D, DA-D
NM Albuquerque	KIVA-1600	moves here from 1580 khz., 10000/ND

Pat Martin of Seaside, OR. passes on the following concerning CJVI-900 Victoria, BC's move to FM:

We have an application in to the CRTC and hoping for approval by July/Aug for launch in the Fall. Please keep enjoying the 'oldies' for now... and I'm sure we'll come up with something you like if we 'flip' to FM Mary Jo. Molzan-Gibbons, Promotions Manager, AM900

Additional information sent along by Pat from Doug Smith of Nashville, TN. concerning the above subject:

Late in 1999, the CRTC approved two Victoria-area AM stations (CKXM-1200 and CKAY-1500) to move to FM 91.3 and 89.7 respectively. They also granted CBC French station CBUF-FM Vancouver a relay transmitter in Victoria. However, the CBC had also requested 89.7. The CRTC will require the CBC to request a different frequency, and strongly encouraged them to accept an AM channel. Both CKXM and CJVI had offered their old AM facilities to the CBC for \$1/year if they were granted FM. Since CJVI's (first) FM application failed, presumably that swap is dead. I haven't seen anything official on CBUF taking over 1200KHz but I do expect to see it happen, and relatively soon.

In the meantime, CJVI-900 decided to try again. This time, they applied to swap frequencies with non-commercial CKMO-103.1; CKMO would move to 900 AM while CJVI would go to 103.1 FM. The application was to be heard in Vancouver on April 25; I haven't heard whether it succeeded. The public notice says the power (on AM) would remain 10,000 watts; it says nothing about antenna arrangements but it sounds like there would be no technical change to the station.

Pat also sends along information from Gary Jackson of Sacramento, CA. concerning KAXW-1660 Merced, CA.:

A man at the station (KTFN-1580 Merced, KAXW's sister station-ye ed.) said that KAXW did not get on by 5/1 and wont be on for a while.

Pat sends along the following from Lenny Goldberg of Portland, OR. concerning KPAM-860:

Today's Oregonian (05/04/00-ye ed.) had this full-page ad for the new format on 860. I've posted this to the FM boards as well because it could just as easily be an ad for a new LPFM station! Have these guys been watching our posts?

"Once upon a time radio used to be alive with ideas. It was where people went to share their thinking, their opinions, their dreams. But then television came, and radio slowly turned into background noise. Oh sure, there was still sports and the occasional news headline, but for the most part it became musical wallpaper. And when the FCC deregulated radio and allowed large corporations to buy up hundreds of stations, radio really lost its soul. To differentiate themselves some stations tried to shock, others tried to incite and for the most part the airwaves became filled with faceless, moronic babble and slickly packaged music formats. Haven't you ever punched the seek button over and over, hoping against hope you might find something that didn't make you feel more stupid? Well don't put up with it any longer. Take back your radio from the forces of mediocrity, from its corporate masters. What kind of chumps do they take us for anyway? Tune in AM 860 and see what happens when people who think and care and dream take over a radio station. Listen to these folks. To Pete Schulberg and Bill Gallagher and Pat Boyle and Dwight Jaynes and Heidi Tauber and Sheila Hamilton and Ralph Steadman and all the others. Discuss. Consider. Learn. Challenge. Laugh. Wonder. Free your radio and your mind will follow. Radio Free Oregon 860." I don't know who any of those people are; but to put it in 60's vernacular, it sounds like we've been 'co-opted'!

Pat also sends along additional info on KPAM-860:

KPAM-860 is now News-Talk, ex Rel AC as of 5/1/00. They call themselves "Radio Free Oregon" for a slogan.

Pat sends along additional info, plus info on KODL-1440 OR.:

With KPAM running news stories frm the past. They just ran the one on John Lennons death, they may be going All News instead of Talk. KZTU 660 can be heard at night with their Christian Rock and you are right they have not been // to KPAM-860. KPAM will probably go to their new format next Monday (05/01/00-ye ed.) I would guess.

KODL-1440 is still off the air. Not a peep.

And additional info from Pat on KODL-1440:

Since we got back I have not heard a peep from KODL-1440. Nothing! They are OK here on the coast off the eastern beverage days and heard at night mixing. KACI-1300 mixes with KKOL days and I can hear them in there.

And additional info on KODL-1440 from Pat:...

After several weeks of being off the air. I noted KODL on tonight (05/03/00-ye ed.) w/usual CW format.

Pat sends along information on CFCP-1440 BC.:

I've got my northern antenna back in place and I notice no CFCP-BC. Apparently they have gone to FM along with Red Deer-700 (CKRD-ye ed.) and CKTA-1570 (Taber, AB.-ye ed.).

Pat sends along the following information on CFAX-1070 BC.:

C-FAX is staying on the AM band, but we are launching a new modern rock station on FM shortly ... 107.3. If you're a rock fan you can hear it on the Internet at <http://www.extremel073.com>.

Pat sends along the following from Eric Flohden (location unknown) concerning CKKM-1200 BC.:

Yes we must shut down our AM transmitter and surrender that license back to the CRTC as part of the decision to grant us an FM license. We expect to turn off the transmitter around the middle of this month (May 2000 - ye ed.). You're right about FM coverage. Since it is primarily line of sight, the long distance reception is generally not as good as AM. However, as you are no doubt aware, we are a local Victoria station and it just isn't possible to generate an effective audience size programming music on AM in this kind of urban market.

Ye editor passes along the following:

Per call to station, 1340 Oroville, CA. is now KEWE, ex-KJAZ. changed call letters in April. Format now nostalgia, ex-Spanish. Address is: P.O. Box 1340 Oroville, CA. 95915. Note FCC DB still shows station as KJAZ as of 5/5/00!!! 1260 San Fernando, CA. is now KJAZ. FCC is slow in updating their DB!!!

Gary Larson of Burbank, CA. passes along the following info:

Per friend in Hollister, MO., KOMC-1220 changed to s. gospel on April 1. This is from local story. KOMC will be an affiliate of the Reach Network Nashville and plans to put up new tower north of Branson, MO, Ops Mgr Greg Pyron reports. Also, GM is Rod Orr, Turtle Broadcasting Company.

Pat sends along the following from Nick Hall-Patch of Victoria, BC.:

Tonight I heard 1200 (CKKM Victoria, BC.-ed.) announce that they will be leaving the air "in May 2000". The programming otherwise seems to be just "X-91".

Looks like it will be soon, then. Haven't heard anything more about CBC French taking over the channel.

Pat sends along the following from Eric Floden of Vancouver, BC.:

According to a story in local paper (Vancouver Sun), CKST-1040 could be in the process of changing ownership. If it does so, it would become sports 24/7. They are supposedly in the process of trying to negotiate for local pro team broadcast rights. The article said that the BC Lions are locked in elsewhere (CKNW-980) for next season, but that the rights for the Grizzlies (NBA), 86ers (soccer) and Canadians* are up for grabs now.

Presently, CKST is AC/NOS 1800 to 0835 local time (& with classical Sunday), with talk/sportstalk at other times

Well, we're in the middle of May, DX is slowing down. I may be taking another new job, stay tuned for further details...

FORMAT CHANGES:

AL Dadeville	WDLK-1450	was talk, rptd. silent (expects to return this summer)
FL Pine Castle	WIXL-1190	was WAJL, black gospel, now business
HI Honolulu	KRTR-1460	was KGMZ, oldies//KGMZ-FM, now AC// KRTR-FM
MT Kalispell	KGEZ- 600	was oldies, now modern rock "The Edge" (has local talk show morning drive)

NV Laughlin	KLSQ- 870	was SS hits, now SS AS
NY Rochester	WEZO- 950	was stds/SS, adds business mornings (retains tropical evening drive show)
PA Pittston	WKQV-1550	was silent, now oldies//WICK
PA Scranton	WARM- 590	was talk, adds 1 on 1 sports nights (replaces Imus with local talk Ams)
PR Sabana	WJIT-1250	is new, tropical "Radio Hit"
VA Harrisonburg	WHBG-1360	was nx/talk/sports, adds Imus

CALL LETTER CHANGES:

FL Pine Castle	WAJL-1190	requests WIXL "Excell"
HI Honolulu	KGMZ-1460	requests KRTR "Crater"

FORMAT CHANGES:

AL Bridgeport	WKEA-1480	was country//FM, now talk
AL Butler	WPRN-1330	was silent, now ABC Real C&W//FM
AS Leone	WVUV- 648	was silent, to be hot AC//KKHJ (June)
CA Merced	KAXW-1660	is new, JRN SS AC//KTFN (haven't heard on air yet as of 5/23-ye ed.)
CO Estes Park	KEZZ-1470	was oldies, soft AC, now soft AC
FL DeLand	WNDA-1490	was talk, now talk//WNDB
IN Washington	WAMW-1580	was soft AC//WYER, now JRN classic country
IA Iowa City	KCJK-1560	was silent, now ABC hot AC, talk//KCJJ
KS Kansas City	KCKN-1340	was KFEZ, AS, now cont. Xtian
MI Cassopolis	WGTO- 910	was oldies, stds., now ABC oldies
MO Caruthersville	KCRV-1370	was country, talk, now JRN classic country
NC Beaufort	WBTB-1400	was silent, now oldies, beach//WNBR
NC Lewisville	WSGH-1040	was rel/SS/gospel, now SS, s. gospel
OH Cincinnati	WUBE-1230	was sports, drops Imus (sim. WBOB's '2 Angry Guys' morning drive)
PA Shippensburg	WEEO-1480	was WSHP, talk/soft AC, now WWI oldies
TN Blountville	WGOC- 640	was classic country, now ABC Real country
VA Abingdon	WABN-1230	was hot AC, rptd. silent
VA Roanoke	WSLC- 610	was country, now country//WPVR

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT ACTIVITY:

BC Victoria	CKQM-1200	moves to 91.3 FM
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FACILITY & PARAMETER GRANT:

PQ Matane	CHRM-1290	move to 105.3 FM
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CALL LETTER CHANGES:

AR Bentonville	KESE-1190	becomes KREB
FL Largo	WZTM- 820	becomes WMGG "La Mega"
GA Blackshear	WGIA-1350	becomes WXR8
KS Kansas City	KFEZ-1340	requests KCKN "Kansas City"
MS Tupelo	WNRX-1060	becomes WKMQ
MO Alamogordo	KRSY-1230	becomes KREZ
OH Cincinnati	WUBE-1230	requests WDBZ
OR Bend	KKUX- 940	becomes KMGX "Magic 100.7"
OR Bend	KMGX- 940	becomes KICE (guess they were KMGX briefly then KICE just 9 days later on 5/4-ye ed!)

PA Everett	WSKE-1040	becomes WZSK	"SK Country"
PA Shippensburg	WSHP-1480	becomes WEBO	
TN Kingsport	WKCV-1090	becomes WHGG	"We Herald God's Grace"
TX College Station	WTAW-1150	becomes KZNE	"The Zone"
TX College Station	KZNE-1620	becomes WTAW	
WI Sheboygan	WCNZ- 950	becomes WCLB	

Pat Martin of Seaside, OR. passes on the following:

1200 CKXM - BC, VICTORIA, no sign of CKXM all day or tonight 5/11, so they must have turned their AMer off. Only thing on the channel (WOAI-East Beverage and KOQI-CA on EWE antenna, and a weak SSer way underneath.

Pat also sends along the following:

Since I arrived back from So Cal, I have not heard KODL (1440 The Dalles, OR. -ye ed) during the day here on the Oregon coast at about 140 air miles to the SE. I have always heard them fair during the day. Today I kicked on the ECSS (BFO) and I can barely detect a carrier. I phoned KODL and they had some trouble with their old tower up on a hill, so they had to move to a temp. system in town. They are using a longwire antenna with maybe 1 KW (I doubt that even as I would hear them with 1 KW). This system will be in use for quite sometime while they are building a new TX site with 5/1 KW U2. I have heard KODL weakly at night of late with the poor cx, but little skip from the East has been in at the time.

Rick Lewis (location unknown) sends along further information on this subject via Pat:

"Trouble" might be putting it mildly. The owner actually had to get temporary authorization to run KODL from his house, because he lost access to the use of his transmitting facility. So the transmitter on a high hill overlooking The Dalles, OR is history. I've heard more about how this came to be, but probably shouldn't go into detail. But the property housing the transmitter site was purchased and the unavailability of the site was, as I understand it, immediate.

Pat also sends along the following:

I just got an E Mail from a DX friend in Overland Park, KS about some changes. He told me that

- 1) KFEZ-1340-changed from AS to Contemp. Christian this week.
- 2) KBUF-1030- is now KCWJ and in Contemp. Christian also. I didn't have either change.

Also I heard on the air this morning (5/18/00-ye ed.) that KDUN-1030-Reedsport is putting up a bigger tower for better coverage. They will be off for a day of two, then on with low power for a few weeks before the change. Their coverage has been fine, so I wonder about the new tower, unless the salt air has eaten the tower away. They still might be using the old KRAF-1470 tower from years ago.

KODL-1440 is indeed operating with a longwire antenna, but hope to have a new TXsite in the near future. The DJ claimed they were about 1KW, but is sure sounds a lot weak than that. Longwire antennas are very bad for commercial AM stations, as they loose so much signal. They probably are lucky to get a couple hundred watts out.

Mike Hardester of Jacksonville, NC. passes on the following:

Just noted the following from a local station and it appears to be a format change. Will follow for a couple of days and see if there is anything else to report.

910 WSTK NC, Jacksonville noted with gospel mx today (5/16 @ 1350-1400) with ID at the top of the hour by M: "WSTK AM 910,

Jacksonville: The Best Gospel in the Carolinas." Checked other locals, but no change there. I haven't been listening much of late, so no idea when this change transpired.

Dennis Gibson of Santa Barbara, CA. passes on the following:

KGXL-1650 (Costa Mesa, CA.- ye ad.) has changed to Korean, as rumored. I'm not sure when it happened. I found it when I was checking the 12-655 to see how much of the expanded band it would cover. Like my other Realistic TRF (the far inferior 12-656A), it goes up to 1650.

Additional information from Dennis Gibson, via Pat Martin:

KGXL-1650, recently sold for \$30 million, has changed its format to Korean, as was rumored. It is //KFOX-93.5 and KREA-93.5, both of which are in the LA/Riverside area, but are Class A's and consequently don't get out that well.

Well, I may be switching jobs again, will keep everyone abreast. 6 days till Memorial Day, please remember everyone who fought to make our country what it is today. 73's.

FCC

Lee J Freshwater 414 SE 3rd St, Ocala, FL 34474
FAX 352-732-7223 E-mail ENGWTRS@aol.com

PREPARED ON 5/20/00 1600

Call Signs reserved for Pending Sales Applicants **

NEW	CITY AND STATE	FREQUENCY	FORMER
CALL			CALL
WDBZ	SINCINNATI, OH	1230	WUBE

** Commission grant and consummation does not automatically grant call sign application. The new licensee must provide written notice to the call sign desk upon consummation of the transaction and await authority from the Commission to use the new call sign.

CALL SIGN CHANGES

NEW	CITY AND STATE	FREQUENCY	FORMER
CALL		*	CALL
WCLB	SHEBOYGAN, WI	950	WCNZ
WZSK	EVERETT, PA	1040	WSKE
WKMQ	TUPELO, MS	1060	WNRX
KREB	BENTONVILLE-BELLA, AR	1190	KESE
WEEO	SHIPPENSBURG, PA	1480	WSHP

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

Nancy Johnson - 265 Waterton Way - Billings MT 59102-7755
Electronic Mail: Internet: nancyjohnson@uswestmail.net
WDXR DEADLINES: Fridays: May 19, June 16, July 21. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

(LG) Larry Godwin-2390 Clydes Dale Lane-Missoula, MT 59804

lbg@selway.umd.edu
 Hammarlund HQ-150, Sanserino air-core box loop & KIWA loop
 (GJ) Gary Jackson-7735 Center Parkway-Sacramento, CA 95823
 FRG 880 & KIWA loop
 (PM) Patrick Martin-P.O. Box 843-Seaside, OR 97138-0843
 Drake R8, 1500' E Beverage (term.), 400' northern mini
 Beverage (term.)
 (CM) Curtis McMenamini-153 Calle Tepic-Vacaville, CA 95687
 Sony ICF-2010, Radio West loop
 (BP) Bob Pietsch-230 Winchester Court-Foster City, CA 94404-3543
 marbob@ix.netcom.com
 Sangean 803-A
 (MS) Mike Sanburn-P.O. Box 1256-Bellflower, CA 90707
 GE Superadio II, car rx, Sony M40W
 (RT) Rich Toebe-2103 Sargent Ct.-Davis, CA 95616
 richtoebe@jps.net
 (RW) Robert Wien-1309 Dentwood Dr.-San Jose, CA 95118
 rjwmail@webtv.net
 GE Superadio, Select-A-Tenna, HQ-180A, Radio West loop

 OF SPECIAL INTEREST

1260 KJAZ CA, Beverly Hills 4/23 2030 ex-KGIL with new jazz
 format. Still same as KGXL-1650 Torrance. Weren't the
 KJAZ call letters given to 1340 Oroville, CA??? (MS-CA)
 ?KJAZ? +5/15 0844 tentative fading up in KOIT null // to KGXL-
 1650, mentioned a Dexter Gordon jazz set was coming up
 at 5:45am (0845), then faded rapidly under KOIT.
 Tentative, ex-KGIL. Not enough for a report. (RW-CA)
 1340 KEWE CA, Oroville 5/1 0920 fair over mess with ad to send
 items for an auction to KEWE, then phonetic ID as
 "Kiwi," NOS music. Called station to confirm call
 change, said they changed over in April (then KJAZ
 calls were dropped, and 1260 San Fernando picked them
 up). FCC database still shows KJAZ for 1340! 1260 San
 Fernando is now KJAZ. Call change, ex-KJAZ for me.
 (RW-CA)
 KIST CA, Santa Barbara 5/8 0934-1000 amazing signal over/
 under KGLW, no trace of KOMY. Ad for Miml's Restaurant
 in Goleta, ID "Rockin' Oldies 1340, the greatest hits
 of all time" at 0940, ad for jewelry store in Oxnard,
 news item about Campus Point at UC-Santa Barbara, faded
 out by 1000. FCC database still shows K00T, but DG-CA
 mentioned they are now KIST. Will send tentative
 report. Ex-K00T. (RW-CA)

530 TIS/HAR CA, Fresno 5/13 1330 new CalTrans TIS/HAR testing in
 Fresno, at 998 Cedar, in both Spanish and English.
 Will be on the air soon with weather & traffic. Be
 sure to listen. (GJ-CA)
 540 ?WQAM? FL, Pine Hills 4/23 0300 thought I heard WQTM ID, but
 too poorly heard. (CM-CA)
 KNAK UT, Delta 4/23 0300 with KNAK ID coming in poor, have
 not heard for a while. (CM-CA)
 560 CKNL BC, Ft. St. John 5/10 0434 good on top with C&W music
 and "CKNL" ID. (PM-OR)
 610 CKYL AB, Peace River 5/10 good on top with C&W music and "Y-I
 Country" ID's at 0115. Checking out my new 400'
 northern mini Beverage. (PM-OR)
 700 KGRV OR, Winston 5/4 ID'd with call and slogan "The Praise

Station," very strong at 0755. No more competition from silent CKRD. (LG-MT)

730 CKDM MB, Dauphin 5/10 good with C&W music and ID at 0100 "CKDM, the greatest country hits of all time." (PM-OR)

840 WPB813 CA, Belmont (?) 5/12 heard at 1713 with advisory message regarding road work on Highway 92 near the Half Moon Bay area. Transmitter at Belmont is assumed since it is the closest of the 4 transmitter's with this call (others are in Brisbane, Redwood city and Hillsborough). Strong signal. (BP-CA)

WPCS305 CA, Fremont 5/12 2007 with test message from CalTrans transmitter at Highway 84 and Dumbarton Bridge. Great signal and in the clear. (BP-CA)

930 KTKN AK, Ketchikan 5/10 fair on top with AdCon at 0445, KTKN ID's. (PM-OR)

KHJ CA, Los Angeles 4/23 1800 legal ID in English, La Ranchera slogans, spot for Mahatma Rice and Von's Club Card. Great to hear classic 3-letter calls back on air. (MS-CA)

960 KKJX OR, Klamath Falls 4/19 heard well over KABL with ESPN Sports with ID at 0459:50, ex-KLAD. (PM-OR)

970 KTRW WA, Spokane apparently a format change to relig, with ID at 0500 5/5 mentioning KGDN, KTBI, etc. Now part of the relig. net in Eastern Washington. (PM-OR)

1040 KLVP OR, Tigard ID'd as "K-Love" during a local commercial at 2259 5/3. It was pretty weak but completely in the clear. I rarely hear this one. (LG-MT)

1110 KWBD WA, Oak Harbor 4/20 fair with oldies mostly with "KWBD AM 1110" Island weather, etc 1757-1820. They seem to have a better signal than in the past. (PM-OR)

1200 (CKKM) BC, Victoria no sign of CKKM all day or tonight 5/11, so they must have turned their AM'er off. Only thing on the channel (WOAI-East Beverage and KOQI-CA on EWE antenna) and a weak SS'er way underneath. (PM-OR)

1250 ?KKGM? KS, Kansas City 5/10 0330 probably the one with One On One sports talk, even with KKDZ, but soon lost when conditions got poor. Real unstable conditions tonight. One minute excellent conditions, the next minute KSL is weak. WREN used to be pretty regular. (PM-OR)

1300 KLER ID, Orofino 5/2 had s/on (no anthem) at 0759:30. Strong signal. (LG-MT)

1330 ?KJLL? AZ, Tucson 4/24 0800 tentative looping SE under KWKW with NBC news (KJLL on MSNBC network per Internet), faded out. Is KGAK NBC??? (RW-CA)

WMNN MN, Minneapolis 4/24 heard on top with "All news all the time, 13-30 WMNN" ID at 0312. (PM-OR)

1340 KGLW CA, San Luis Obispo 5/8 0952 completely dominant with ad for Rush Limbaugh "... on AM 1340, K-Glow. When you're ready to rock but don't want to roll, listen to AM 1340, K-Glow, the #1 talk station in San Luis Obispo County." KIST underneath. (RW-CA)

CINL BC, Ashcroft 5/10 good on top with "N-L" ID's at 2315. (PM-OR)

1400 KLBB MN, St. Paul 5/10 unbelievable conditions for a while with NOS station fading in & out, with ID at 0350, "KLBB," into NOS music. ID on tape, going to send a report. I haven't heard this distance on a GY frequency for many years. My best is WNUF-FL, also on 1400 back in about 1970. Weird conditions tonight. (PM-OR)

KJDY OR, John Day 5/11 had simple s/on (no SSB) at 0900.
(LG-MT)

1450 KHIT NV, Reno 5/8 heard with ESPN sports with ID at 0159:45.
(PM-OR)

1460 KTXK CA, Salinas 4/22 fair at best with others phased at
0259:50, One On One sports, "The Dude" slogan. This
one is sure a lot tougher than it was when KDON with
5kw. KLTC-ND is easier than KTXK! (PM-OR)

KLTC ND, Dickinson 4/21 good on top with C&W music and "1460
KLTC" ID at 0333. (PM-OR)

1490 KDBM MT, Dillon has a new slogan "The friendly voice of
southwest Montana." Heard dominant with C&W at 0800
5/13. (LG-MT)

KWOK WA, Hoquiam 4/16 good as usual with One On One Sports
and ID at 1459:50, ex-KGHO. (PM-OR)

1540 KMPC CA, Los Angeles 4/19 2154 ID "LA's new KMPC" at end of
Angels and Blue Jay's game. Spots for Dodge Durango,
McDonald's, and angels.com. Ex-KCTD, KXMG, KXED, KSKQ,
KZLA, KPOL... (MS-CA)
+5/7 One On One sports, with ID at 0259:45. Mentioned
the only 24/7 sports station in Los Angeles. (PM-OR)

1560 KIQS CA, Willows (not heard) May sked is 0900-2300 per call
to station. I've been trying for several months with
no success. (LG-MT)

WQEW NY, New York 5/10 good on top briefly with Disney at
0440. Soon lost to KNZR, as conditions got poor again.
(PM-OR)

KKAA SD, Aberdeen 4/24 0619 poor in KNZR null with ID "1560
KK Double A," C&W, not heard in a long time! (RW-CA)

1570 KHFN CO, Loveland 5/3 gave call ID during local weathercast
with Don Day at 2305. Very strong signal! Also in at
0800 5/12 with legal ID after "The Voice of Prophecy"
ended. (LG-MT)

WGSR FL, Fernandina Beach 4/24 heard on top of mess with ID
at 0559:50 as "...newstalk 15-70 WGSR, Fernandina
Beach... Jacksonville," into ABC news. New for me. Glad
CKTA has gone to FM! Heard again 5/1 with weather
forecast and "WGSR" ID at 0506. Lots of QRM. (PM-OR)

WFRL IL, Freeport 5/1 0529 with NOS format, promo for their
weather. Under/over WGSR and unID sports talk station.
(PM-OR)

WGLL IN, Auburn 5/5 fair at times above QRM with sports talk
and "WGL" ID's //1250-WGL. Furniture store spot in Ft.
Wayne at 0529. QRM at times from CKMW. New. (PM-OR)

CKRG BC, Nanaimo gave legal ID at 0753 4/28 during hard rock
oldies program. No CKTA! QRM from another Canadian at
0758 surely CKMW-MB. (LG-MT)

CKMW MB, Winkler 4/22 fair on top with C&W music & promo for
news with "CKMW 157" ID at 0345. With CKTA gone, off
Eastern Beverage it is a jumble mess. Lots of
interesting stuff to log. New for me. (PM-OR)

1590 KMBD OR, Tillamook 5/15 s/on (no anthem) at 0859 with a
strong signal. (LG-MT)

1620 WTAW TX, College Station 4/17 good on top with Art Bell
program, ID at 0559:50, into news, later with Bloomberg
News, over KSMH & KYIZ. WTAW is stronger in CA. (PM-OR)

?WTAW? +4/17 0644 tentative with ESPN Sportsradio program good
in KSMH null, no ID, faded out. (RW-CA)
+4/23 tentative WTAW ID very weak at 0150 through KSMH
fade. Sounded like Art Bell Show. Just a tentative
report sent. Only time have heard anything. (GJ-CA)

- KYIZ WA, Renton 4/23 0700 with KYIZ/KRIZ ID, coming in poor under KSMH. (CM-CA)
- 1650 KBDJ CO, Denver 4/18 0501 good on top here with ID and slogan "The Beat." (PM-OR)
- WHKT VA, Portsmouth 5/8 0510 fair mixing with KCNZ with weather for VA and NC areas, time checks, etc. (PM-OR)
- 1660 KXOL UT, Brigham City 4/17 0549 ID "The first decade of rock n'roll, KXOL," oldie tune "The Three Bells." (MS-CA)
- 1690 WPTX MD, Lexington Park 5/8 good on top at 0359:50 "Newstalk 1690, WPTX Lexington Park" into net news. (PM-OR)
- ?WPTX? +4/24 0600 fair over KDDZ with ad to improve vocabulary, unreadable ID, then ABC news at 0600, went into C&W music at 0635 recheck. I think they simulcast FM after 0600??? (RW-CA)
- 1700 ---- CA, Hollywood 4/16 1320 the low power station that used to broadcast on 1610 kHz for Atlantic Records and X-Files TV show is now at 1700 kHz with ad for new movie "Frequency" (appropriate). Large billboard on Sunset Blvd. Good signal in West Hollywood and Beverly Hills. (MS-CA)

HELP WITH UNIDS

- 1270 Glen Hansen reports an unID on 1270 ID'ing as "Radio Max." According to the new 2000 edition Slogans List, available from the IRCA Bookstore (hint, hint), that station was logged in Feb. '99 as CHWK Chilliwack, BC, which relays 850 Abbotsford, BC, and uses "Radio Max" and "The Max" as their slogans. (RT-CA)

UNIDS

- 750 4/23 0530 newstalk station under KXL & KOAL, coming in poor. (CM-CA)
- 1000 4/23 0650 heard with Morse code ID's, coming in poor. Any ideas? (CM-CA)
- 1000 4/23 0600 heard either KMVP or WMVP, not sure. With One On One sports, coming in poor. (CM-CA)
- 1260 5/15 0530 Radio Disney format here / 1250-Seattle, WA. (PM-OR)
- 1280 5/3 0800 announcer seemed to say '64 WS." It seemed to be at the end of a sports program. Could this be a slogan of some kind? (LG-MT)
- 1570 5/1 unID station with oldies mixing with WGSR at 0508. Heard call as "W???" but couldn't ID it. 1570 is an excellent channel! (PM-OR)

Gary Jackson sends along a note that he recently phoned KAXW-1660 Merced, CA and was told they were not coming on the air 5/1. The man who answered the phone said he couldn't talk about it and hung up the phone. Interesting, Gary.

IRCA "Scrabble" DX Contest

Standings as of May 15, 2000

1. Tom Jasinski	1684	6. Nancy Johnson*	876
2. David Braun	1181	7. John C. Johnson	359
3. Nigel Pimblett	1066	8. Mike Sanburn	297
4. John Tudenham	1064	9. Lynn Hollerman	118
5. Pete Taylor	1045	10. Dale Park	65

*Nancy Johnson, Contest Manager, is not eligible to win the contest.

Next month we will have the final standings. Will anyone catch up to Tom?

CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP

Editor: John C. Johnson 265 Waterton Way - Billings MT 59102-7755

E-Mail: John_Johnson@prodigy.net

CDXR reports ONLY: cdxr@prodigy.net

RIDING GAIN

- [LH-LA] Lynn Hollerman, Lafayette, LA gmhollerman@mindspring.com
Yacht Boy 400 with internal antenna
- [NJ-MT] Nancy Johnson, Billings, MT nancyjohnson@uswestmail.net
Yaesu FRG-7, "Radio West" loop. Or the '95 Mustang radio
- [TN-WI] Tim Noonan, Madison, WI DXing@webtv.net
Kenwood R-1000, "Radio West" Loop.
- [JJR-WI] John J. Rieger, South Milwaukee, WI johnjrieger@webtv.net
Icom IC-R70, FRG 100, Kiwa Loop, MFJ-959B, DSP599zx, and
Radio Shack DX-398 stock..

DOWN THE DIAL

- 600 WREC TN, Memphis. 4-25 stronger than usual. 22:20-22:24 with spots, mentions of "ABC-24" and a PSA. "When you hear Paul Harvey you're listening to news radio 600 WREC."
[LH-LA]
- 620 WJDX MS, Jackson. 4-25 good signal. 22:26 with sports talk, "You're listening to the MSU baseball network" into Chevron spot. [LH-LA]
- 650 WSM TN, Nashville. 4-25. 22:28 with country music. Odd to hear WSM, usually the TX with country is heard here.
[LH-LA]
- 860 KOSE AR, Wilson. 5-16 fair in fade up. 05:38 with Gospel. Only 21 Watts! [JJR-WI]
- WGUL FL, Denedin. 5-16 poor. 05:36 with AM, FM & AM 930 IDs. MOYL format. [JJR-WI]
- 1070 CHOK ON, Sarnia. 5-14 fair in WT90 null. 03:30 with jingle, Oldies format. [JJR-WI]
- 1090 WMUS MI, Muskegon. 5-14 poor to strong. 03:25 with "After Midnight Weekend," spots, "107 MUS" jingle. [JJR-WI]
- 1110 WBCA AL, Bay Minette. 4-30 fair, alone. 22:08 with "Eagle Country Radio" slogans and country music. [JJR-WI]
- 1240 WATT MI, Cadillac. 5-4 fair in fade up. 00:30 with "Since 1945, news talk 12-40 WATT" and then faded out. [JJR-WI]
- WOBT WI, Rhinelander. 5-14 poor, but very clear ID heard. 06:00 with "WOBT" ID. Super-rare here. [JJR-WI]
- WSDR IL, Sterling. 5-2 fair. 00:30 with obits. Faded out into mess. [JJR-WI]
- 1440 KDIZ MN, Golden Valley. 4-18 good. 07:02 with spot, legal ID by child, and "Radio Disney" programming. Finally the elusive ID from this often heard station. [TN-WI]
- 1450 KGRE CO, Greeley. 4-26 strong. 22:00 with ID in SS. [NJ-MT]
- 1490 KKAN KS, Phillipsburg. 4-28 good over others. 22:00 with "This is your regional information center, KKAN, KQMA Phillipsburg" into CNN News. [NJ-MT]
- 1530 WSAI OH, Cincinnati. 4-26 strong over nulled KFEK. 22:40 with ID out of Ann Murray song. [NJ-MT]

25 YEARS AGO

During 1975 two issues were printed in May. First we look at the May

10, 1975 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... Donald Erickson of Riverside, CA said he would not be at the Columbus convention. He had attended the past 11 conventions ... Jon F. Orren of Seattle, WA said he had logged three new states this past season, AL, AR, and FL. Now the May 24, 1975 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... New members included Frank Aden, Jr. of Bend, OR ... Father Jack Pejza announced that effective July 6th he would resign as Executive Editor as he was appointed principal of Central Catholic High School in Modesto, CA.

OPEN MIKE

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart. Only 3 months until the convention. Have you made your reservations yet? Larry Godwin of Missoula, MT was in Billings on Sunday, May 7th. He had a book signing at Barnes & Nobel for his new book, "Surviving Our Parents' Mistakes." Nancy and I had a nice visit with Larry that afternoon. This column was completed 05/20/00 13:00. 73, John

2000 IRCA CONVENTION NEWS

The 2000 IRCA Convention will be held in Billings, Montana on August 25, 26, and 27th. Now is the time to make your reservations and to send in your registration! Log onto the convention web site at http://pages.prodigy.net/john_johnson/irca2000.htm for complete details.

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

Lee Freshwater - 414 SE 3rd St - Ocala FL 34471

E-mail: ENGWTRS@aol.com FAX: 352-732-7223

UPCOMING SUMMER DEADLINES: 6/18 & 7/23

STARS OF THE WEEK

(MH-NC) Mike Hardester 3118 Gateway Ct, Jacksonville, NC 28546-6973
R-70 w/22" Radio West Loop VIA E-MAIL
(WM-MD) William McGuire 2412 59th PL Cheverly MD 20785-2918
DX-398 VIA U.S.P.S.

LOGGINGS

610 CKTB ON St. Catharines, 4/19 2130 Maple Leafs Vs Senators
NHL Hockey game (WM-MD)
790 CIGM ON Sudbury, 4/20 2210 Sea Wolves Minor league Hockey
game Pizza Ad, ID and mention of Ontario. (WM-MD)
920 WKVat PA Lewiston, 4/20 2110 Presumed with oldies MX,
weather. Assume Radio Disney, singing non ID "the best
Oldies" hrd again with "oldies 920 ID at 2140 (WM-MD)
(William, Probably NOT Radio Disney, just an oldies stn.
R.Disney uses "Disney" in every ID.-ED) (WM-MD)
1050 WEVD NY New York 4/20 2245, promo for Wrestling event at
Madison Square garden, News talk 1050 ID (WM-MD)
1330 WETZ WV New Martin, 4/19 2045 PSA; "the areas best source
for news, weather and information" "news, talk 1330";
ID (WM-MD)
1350 WGPL VA Portsmouth, 4/20 1955-2000 Promo for Easter Egg
Hunt, area ads heard, Promo for gospel event, ID, Black

Gspl mx, very good signal (WM-MD)
 1360 WNJC NJ Washington, 4/19 2055-2100 Blk Gspl MX, ID (WM-MD)
 1410 WDOV DE Dover, 4/20 2030 2030 ID, then car ad, then KQV
 popped in with time check. (WM-MD)
 1420 WHK OH Cleveland 4/20 2155 "The Word", ID (WM-MD)
 WCED PA Dubois 4/20 2200, Oldies, Promo for Paul Harvey,
 "Community Radio" ID, then ABC News (WM-MD)
 1660 WQSN MI Kalamazoo, 4/19 2305 Red Sox/Tigers BB (WM-MD)
 1700 WAFN FL Miami Springs 4/20 0600 "You're listening to WAFM,
 Miami Springs-Ft. Lauderdale", One on One sports. (WM-MD)

SPECIAL INTEREST

910 WSTK NC Jacksonville noted with gospel mx today (5/16 @
 1350-1400) with ID at the top of the hour by M: "WSTK
 AM 910, Jacksonville: The Best Gospel in the
 Carolinas." (MH-NC)

T.I.S./H.A.R.

1680 WFPD925 NC "Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitor Radio
 Network" noted 5/17 @ 1615 while in Fayetteville. M & W
 alternating on tape loop w/info on local attractions,
 which exits to take (off I-95), directions to the
 Visitor Center (complete with street address), ID by M.
 Didn't copy all of it, but complete ID that would be
 nice on tape. Hrd to about 8-10 miles past I-95 exit
 off Hwy 24 East. FCC Database lists 4 xmtrs along I-95
 at Exits: 41, 49, 55 and 61.

Mailing address:

Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitor Center
 245 Person Street
 Fayetteville, NC. 28301-5733

Logged in Toyota Camry w/fender antenna (MH-NC)

That's a wrap for the month. Nice to have William with us again this
 time. Hope you all have a great summer and we see you in
 Billings.....73's and all the best...fresh 5/20/00 1630

DX WORLDWIDE EAST

Mark Connelly - 30 William Rd - Billerica MA 01821-6079
 E-mail: WALION@ix.netcom.com

Homepage = <http://members.aol.com/MarkWALION/weblink.htm>
 NF DXpedition Page = <http://members.xoom.com/MarkWALION/nfdxpage.htm>
 RF circuit page: <http://www.qsl.net/walion/index.html>

[Connelly*D-MA] = Duxbury, MA (GC= 70.651 W / 42.047 N)
 (west end of Powder Point Bridge, at King Caesar Road)

[Connelly*R-MA] = Rockport, MA (GC= 70.622 W / 42.667 N)
 (Granite Pier)

Receiver: Drake R8A

Antenna systems: 30-m wire, APW-1 active whip, BBL-1 broadband loop,
 Superphaser-1 phasing unit

*** TRANS-ATLANTIC DX ***

- 153 ALGERIA ENRS, Bechar, MAY 10 0013 - woman in Arabic; over other. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 162 FRANCE Allouis, MAY 10 0013 - French talk by man; fair to good. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 171 MOROCCO R. Mediterranee Inter., Nador, MAY 10 0012 - male Arabic vocal & drumming; good. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 198 UNITED KINGDOM BBC WS synchros, MAY 10 0003 - BBC World Service news // 5975 mentioned a gambling scandal involving a former Louisiana governor; fair signal. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 207 MOROCCO RTM, Azilal, MAY 10 0014 - man & woman in Arabic; in beacon interference. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 234 LUXEMBOURG RTL, Junglinster, MAY 10 0006 - rock music (sounded like Smiths/Morrissey) poor to fair. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 252 IRELAND Atlantic 252, Clarkestown, MAY 10 0010 - dance-club rhythms; over Arabic-sounding second station.
+ MAY 10 0037 - "Atlantic 2-5-2" ID by woman; good. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 549 ALGERIA Les Trembles, MAY 10 0043 - Arabic talk seemed to be // 153. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 567 IRELAND RTE, Tullamore, MAY 10 0044 - mellow pop vocal; to fair peaks (but bad WGAN-560 slop and storm static at times). [Connelly*R-MA]
- 639 SPAIN RNE1, La Coruna, MAY 10 0047 - woman with Spanish talk; sometimes getting by CBN. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 693.7 AZORES RDP, Santa Barbara APR 30 0026 - bits of music and het against 693.0 stations. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 711.04 WESTERN SAHARA Laayoune, MAY 10 0048 - Arabic-style strings; poor with WOR phased. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 765 SWITZERLAND RSR, Sottens, MAY 10 0050 - mellow soul vocal; fair. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 774 SPAIN RNE1 synchros, MAY 10 0052 - Spanish talk; poor. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 836 AZORES RDP, Pico da Barrosa, APR 29 2342 - Eagles "New Kid in Town" and other old pops; poor to fair. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 855 SPAIN RNE1, Murcia et al., APR 29 2343 - fast Spanish talk by man; good. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 864 EGYPT Santah, APR 30 0018 - Koranic male vocal; very good. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 882 CANARY ISLANDS // SPAIN COPE synchros, APR 30 0017 - Spanish talk evenly mixed with UK. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 882 UNITED KINGDOM BBC Wales, Washford, APR 30 0017 - English newstalk; mixed with Canaries-Spain; over slop from WCBS/YVYM-880. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 891 ALGERIA Algiers, APR 29 2348 - shrill vocal, strings, and drumming; good, overwhelming WBPS. [Connelly*D-MA]
+ MAY 9 2240 - pre-sunset fade-up. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 981 ALGERIA Radiodif. Algerienne, Algiers, APR 29 2357 - Koranic type male vocal; loud. [Connelly*D-MA]
+ MAY 9 2252 - bits of Arabic talk; increasing in strength. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 999 SPAIN COPE, Madrid, APR 29 2358 - compressed Spanish talk; through tough slop (CKBW playing Goo Goo Dolls song). [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1017 GERMANY Rheinsender, APR 29 2353 - German talk by man, then a music-hall style performance by woman (part talk, part singing with piano accompaniment); good. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1044 MOROCCO Sebaa-Aioun, APR 29 2312 - excited Arabic talk by man, possibly a political speech. This was followed by a calm-voiced woman doing a documentary. Signal was over Spain.

- [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1044 SPAIN SER synchros, APR 29 2355 - fast Spanish talk by two men; now dominant and loud. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1053 MOROCCO Tanger, APR 29 2315 - Arabic music; in WEVD slop. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1053 UNITED KINGDOM Talk Sport synchros, APR 30 0012 - boxing coverage // 1089 mentioning Harrison, uppercuts; fair with WEVD phased. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1071 SPAIN EI, Bilbao, APR 29 2356 - Spanish talk getting around strong CBA. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1089 UNITED KINGDOM Talk Sport synchros, APR 30 0011 - play-by-play coverage of boxing match; good. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1098 SLOVAKIA Slovensky Rozhlas, Nitra, APR 30 0010 - woman in Slovak; good, covering Spain. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1107 SPAIN RNE5 synchros, APR 30 0009 - // 855 with rock music; through YVQT slop. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1116 SPAIN SER synchros, APR 30 0009 - fast talk and teletalk mixed with an unID music station (possibly Angola). [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1125 SPAIN RNE5 synchros, APR 30 0008 - // 855 with rock music; to fair peak. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1134 CROATIA HR, Zadar, APR 30 0007 - Balkan (almost Greek sounding) male group vocal with mandolin or bouzouki accompaniment; excellent. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1179 CANARY ISLANDS // SPAIN SER synchros, APR 29 2319 - Spanish news by woman; fair. [Connelly*D-MA]
+ MAY 9 2359 - teletalk; poor to fair. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 1197 SPAIN EI, Vitoria, APR 30 0004 - news in Spanish by man & woman; excellent. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1251 LIBYA Tripoli, APR 29 2301 - Arabic news; getting by strong CBGA. [Connelly*D-MA]
+ MAY 9 2352 - Arabic chant; in CBGA/WKER slop. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 1296 SPAIN COPE, Valencia, APR 29 2303 - Spanish newstalk by man & woman; fading up. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1305 SPAIN RNE5 synchros, MAY 9 2346 - fast Spanish talk; choppy signal. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 1359 SPAIN Arganda, MAY 9 2345 - Spanish talk by man; getting by WLYN/CKBC/WDRG-1360 slop. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 1521 SAUDI ARABIA BSKSA, Duba, APR 29 2235 - serious-sounding male Arabic talk very good on pre-sunset reception. [Connelly*D-MA]
+ MAY 9 2248 - Arabic talk by man, then instrumental music; fair to good. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 1548 KUWAIT VOA, Kuwait City, APR 29 2309 - VOA news mentioned a political event of 20 years ago. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1550 ALGERIA RASD Clandestine, Tindouf, APR 29 2333 - fast Spanish talk with Polisario and Radio Nacional Saharawi slogans / ID's, followed by Whitney Houston's 1985 dance hit "How Will I Know"; blasting over the domestics. There's much less co-channel competition on 1550 than on the former 1540 channel. [Connelly*D-MA]
+ MAY 9 2340 - flutes, shrill vocal; mixed with domestics. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 1557 FRANCE R. Bleue, Nice, APR 29 2330 - light pop vocal, then woman in French; to good peak over residual slop from nulled WQEW. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1575 SPAIN SER synchros, APR 30 0032 - // 1044 with Spanish news; over jamming or other odd-sounding signal. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1583.6 CEUTA RadiOle, MAY 9 2336 - Spanish music; poor. 1584 was just a het at the time. [Connelly*R-MA]
- 1584 SPAIN SER synchros, APR 30 0031 - // 1044 with Spanish talk.

[Connelly*D-MA]

1602 SPAIN EI, Vitoria, APR 30 0031 - non-SER Spanish talk; good.
[Connelly*D-MA] + MAY 9 2338 - Spanish ballad; through WUNR
slop. [Connelly*R-MA]

*** PAN-AMERICAN DX ***

- 720 VENEZUELA R. Oriente, YVQE, Porlamar, APR 30 0021 - Oriente
ID, high-energy dance music; over/under CHTN. [Connelly*O-MA]
- 760 BRAZIL R. Record, ZYH888, Fortaleza, APR 29 2338 - Portuguese
religious talk; fair with presumed WCHP nulled after WVNE
sign-off. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1020 VENEZUELA Mundial Margarita, YVRS, La Asuncion, APR 29 2352 -
old-fashioned male group Spanish folk vocal; huge.
[Connelly*D-MA]
- 1090 VENEZUELA Union R., YVSZ, Caracas, APR 30 0011 - Venezuelan
sportstalk; through nulled WBAL and strong UK-1089 het.
[Connelly*D-MA]
- 1140 VENEZUELA La Voz del Caribe, Porlamar, APR 30 0005 - boxy
telephone-type audio with Margarita and Porlamar local
mentions, then a La Voz del Caribe" ID; atop CBI.
[Connelly*D-MA]
- 1160 BERMUDA VSB3, Hamilton, APR 29 2249 - // 5975 with woman
talking about establishing better education in Africa; over
domestics on early fade-up. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1280 BERMUDA VSB2, Hamilton, APR 29 2300 - end of religious
program with a Canadian mailing address; initially good, then
it faded into the jumble. [Connelly*D-MA]
- 1375.02 ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON RFO, MAY 9 2344 - French
discussion; good. [Connelly*R-MA]

WESTERN DX FORUM

Reid Wheeler - 5910 Boulevard Loop SE - Olympia WA 98501-8408
E-mail : reid@olywa.net Phone 360-786-6756 Fax 360-753-3824

Gary Larson, 2806 Lincoln, Burbank CA 91504 818-846-1222

[4/23] Seems Orange County Register radio column reports today
that 1650 KGXL will be sold by Mt. Wilson FM to Chagal Comm. (Jack
Siegel) and most likely air Korean Times Net currently on 93.5
Redondo Beach/Ontario. Chagal has sold 93.5 probably to a Spanish
programmer. Story says Mt. Wilson president Saul Levine will
subsidize KMZT 105.1. Have an address for 900 W Covina on Brooks St,
Baldwin Pk - may go by sometime to see what's there. Believe 1530
Moreno Valley currently silent - to appear on 1670 in future. I
still never knew where 1530 tower site was. Heard that KXTA ex-site
on Montecito Dr may be day site for 1190 Anaheim, and night one,
current on 57 Fwy near Brea. Anyone know if 1240 Pasadena will
return to air? Is there an app? Also 1050 Big Bear Lake was to move
to Loma Linda. 1500 here still searching for XR site. Sure would be
good to see more forums in DXM. 73.

[4/30] Wanted to mention the passing of long time radio
personality-newscaster Mark Denis, last with KFI. He died at a S Cal
hospital Apr 29. I recall him on 1190 KEZY way back when I was
young. He'd been on S Cal stations over 35 years, and is the voice
of KFI on Ids. I know he's in a better place. Thanks for all the
years as a professional. Am at work listening to Hooked on Trivia on
KFMB. 73

[5/2] On the morning of May 2, I took an early ride to the
Antelope Valley to check on station locations/towers and formats. On
the way, I passed 27565 Sierra Hwy, Canyon County KIIS 1220. A sign
in window says "for lease" so guess the transmitter is fed from

KKTA/KIIS FM. Format on 1220 is simulcast of 102.7; as is 97.7 Mojave. Passed by Hi Desert Br. Av Q-9 + 6th St E., Palmdale, where 1470, 1380 and 2 FMs are. 1470 still SS, 1380 is Nostalgia "1380 KHJ". I then went to 348 E Ark-4, Lancaster to see if KAVL was there. Yes - its there w/Clear Channel on bldg. Plus vehicles in lot. Still simulcast 1150 KKTA. Then a quick bit of food at Deltaco on Av 1 (and to dx). Lots of FMs in on car rx; Bakersfield, Ridgecrest, Barstow, Riverside areas plus IA. And on AM XBACH 540 audible, KWLW 700 w/good country, central CA stations (1430, 940, etc.) and usual powerhouse ones. Drove past 610 towers by Jet Hawks stadium. No sign of any cars. Also saw 1380 towers behind 610's. Went past Elm + Milling where 1380/106.3 once was - now its Christian Outreach. 1340 has on religious talk program. All in all, a nice drive. 73

[5/17] I heard from someone at Mt Wilson FM Br. about 540 KKG0 and that its on air 8 hrs (sunrise to 8 hrs past) daily but is to go dark "soon". On 5-15 around 1230 AM my time, I was out driving and going east through San Gabriel Valley, Diamond Bar and finally out 71 Fwy So. I decided since I've never seen Corona 1370 site, to find it. As I was going so, I saw what looked like 3 lit towers east toward Norco. Could this be US Naval Weapons Center? Did see 1370 4 tower site off Radio Rd, 91/15 Fwys. They were Spanish but I've also heard what I think is Chinese or Cantonese daytime. Decided to go into Riverside. Went by 1570 site, 4 towers I recall. Heard they plan 2.5 KW nights. Also heard usual religious pgm and on 1440, was usual Spanish. Headed W on 60 Fwy and back home. That former number for 1540 here was 818 525-1875 forwards to Santa Monica. 73

[5/18] I've heard rumors from someone at an LA station group who says call KMET may return to LA dial. And something about Fox Sports on 570. Also something about 690 & 1150. Possibly a return of 1350 San Bernardino returning to English programs. Am wondering if any station here airs standards if/when 570 changes. That's it. 73

EASTERN DX FORUM

Richard C. Evans 7416 Hearthstone Way Indianapolis IN 46227-7923
E-mail: REvans5435@aol.com

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

We just returned from a trip to the mountains of southeastern Kentucky. While there, I was able to visit and photograph a couple stations. First was WEZC-1480, located in the home of Rev. Frank Holbrook at 1268 Bill Moore Branch Road, Whitesburg, KY 41858. Near to but not in the place known as Kona. Transmitter (Harris) is about three miles away. Had a productive conversation about the station and broadcasting in general. Next was WKVG-1000 in basement of Jenkins post office. Address in Kentucky is P. O. Box 1474, Jenkins 41537. Owned and operated by Rev. Jerry Martin who lives in Pound, VA. One room is the studio and the other is set up for the church services they broadcast live. Radio stations aside, I also toured the 2.5 megawatt FAA Radar Station atop Black Mountain near Lynch, KY. The radar data is sent to Atlanta center and Indianapolis center. Besides the radar is a rack of remotely controlled 50 watt transceivers on the aero channels. Not heard anything and no responses from what heard previously. Maybe something when I pick up the hold mail tomorrow (5/22) as I drop this in the box. Have a good summer -- Col. Dx. (Col., thanks for the WHAS-840 magnet, which is now plastered on my refrigerator. Your mention of the church service broadcast live reminded me of the station in Hattiesburg, Miss. where they had an organ in the studio. The person used to play it live during their frequency checks.--roe)

The Palstar R30 General Coverage Receiver

A Review from a MW DXer's Viewpoint

Gerry Thomas (radioplus@pcola.gulf.net)

When I first caught a glimpse of the new Palstar R30, I was intrigued. Here was a very small (for a desktop rx), \$500 radio with none of the bells and whistles that usually adorn serious and wannabe serious receivers in the \$500-\$1000 price range. There was no keypad, no synchronous AM detection, no passband tuning, no notch; not even a tone control. All of this was fine with me because while the aforementioned (missing) features could make life easier for the DXer, they were by no means absolutely necessary for hearing tough DX. Maybe this manufacturer, Palstar, had put its money into the more important stuff---good sensitivity and selectivity, an above average front end, and solid stability (for good exalted carrier selectable sideband (ECSS) performance).

When Palstar sent me a block diagram of the R30, I was impressed... someone knew what they were doing... seven-pole filters in the front-end filter bank, a doubly balanced very low noise JFET mixer, discrete MOSFET IF amps, even a nice roofing filter (8 kHz bandwidth) at the 45 Mhz first IF. The audio amp also seemed impressive---3-4 watts with very low distortion. The only potential trouble spot I saw was the single-loop frequency synthesis system. Poorly executed single loops often are plagued by excessive phase noise which leads to reciprocal mixing problems which result in lousy ultimate IF selectivity. Only a hands-on run-through would tell though.

General Description

The R30 covers 100kHz-30MHz and is the first receiver offering from Bramco Palstar (of Piqua, OH), a company previously limited to manufacturing, among other things, amateur radio accessories (e.g., tuners, filters). (Bramco Palstar also makes the Lowe HF-350, which is the R30 for the European market; the only difference is a 4kHz wide IF filter instead of the 6kHz American standard.)

Right out of the box I was struck by the R30's clean lines and small size (three or four R30's could fit in a Drake R-8 cabinet). The cabinet is heavy sheet metal (black crinkle top, gray bottom) and measures 8.26" x 2.56" x 7.68"; weight without batteries is 2.2 lbs. A very heavy duty chromed tilt bail allows upward tilting of the front of the radio and the front panel knob count is, uh, two: A 1-3/8" tuning knob with speed dimple and an on/off/volume knob. Seven BB-sized push buttons control memory (there are 100), mode (AM, LSB, USB), attenuator (10 dB), bandwidth (wide/narrow), AGC (fast/slow) and, to the right of the main tuning knob, up/down jump tuning. Even though the push buttons are small, they are well spaced so there is little chance of a "double push." Small red LEDs above the non-tuning buttons indicate button status. The LCD digital display has one-inch numerals and the frequency is displayed to 100 Hz; a switch on the back of the radio turns on the display light. An analog S-meter and 1/4" headphone jack round out the front panel.

The rear panel is pretty conventional with the standard 50 Ohm (SO239) and high impedance compression terminals. Audio outputs include a 1/4" external speaker jack and an RCA "line" jack for recording as well as another RCA "mute" jack (for use with transmitters). Besides the aforementioned display light on/off switch, and a DC input jack, another jack is a DC output jack which is used for powering Palstar's optional outboard antenna tuner/preselector (Model AA30).

Operating the R30

Operating the R30 is pretty straightforward, although the multi-talented tuning knob requires a little bit of practice to become comfortable with. The tuning knob has two tuning rate ranges. In the "slow" mode, rotating the knob slowly tunes the radio in 20 Hz steps (adequate for SSB reception); rotating the knob more quickly shifts the tuning up to 100 Hz steps (one full knob rotation therefore changes from 2 kHz per rotation to about 8 kHz per rotation). A similar variable tuning rate scheme occurs with the "fast" tuning mode: 100 Hz per step changing to 500 Hz tuning steps. This works out to about 10 kHz/full knob rotation up to 20 kHz/a full rotation. Changing between the two speed modes occurs when the tuning knob is pushed in and released (there's tactile feedback but no indicator light). In addition to tuning, this knob walks through the memory channels (after the MEM button is pressed). Holding the knob in for 2 secs disengages the tuning if you want to lock on a frequency. Tuning in larger jumps is accomplished by pressing the up/down buttons to the right of the tuning knob. These buttons nominally jump in 1 Mhz steps but see R30 Sample #2 below. The 100 non-volatile memories are selected by either the tuning knob or the up/down buttons. The rest of the controls on the front panel are intuitive.

The Circuit

The R30 is a double conversion superhet with a 45 Mhz first IF and a 455 kHz second IF. A seven-pole filter bank with six ranges (.1-1, 1-2, 2-4, 4-8, 8-16, 16-30 Mhz) provides front-end selectivity. After a selectable 10 dB attenuator and 30 Mhz low-pass filter, RF and VCO frequencies (UHF/8) are mixed in a low-noise, doubly balanced JFET mixer to provide the 45 Mhz first IF which is passed through a four-pole 45 Mhz (8 kHz BW) roofing filter before MOSFET amplification. The second mixer (MOSFET) provides the 455 kHz signal to one of the two selected IF filters (muRata ceramics or Collins mechanicals; 6 kHz and 2.5 kHz; the muRatas are the higher grade CFR series (9-pole, I think) and the Collins filters are the new, compact torsional designs). AGC occurs after the second IF and rectification/product detection follows. Audio amplification is a fairly hefty 3-4 watts with very low (reported $<1\%$) total distortion. Audio output is into a 3-inch top-mounted speaker (unfortunately rated at 800 mW).

Circuit layout is generally good with robust shielding and construction techniques. The majority of supporting components are those surface mount beasties (that make for compact radios but drive tinkers nuts).

Sensitivity on the latest models is reported to be 0.5 uV throughout the tuning range on AM, and .3 uV on SSB. The shape factor on the Collins filters is reported to be (and seems to be) quite good (i.e., $<2:1$).

All in all, the R30 seems to be a well-designed, ruggedly built receiver.

A Tale of Two Samples

R30 #1

The first R30 I received showed very commendable overall performance but was plagued by a couple of problems. First of all, 60 Hz harmonics wreaked havoc on the LW and MW bands (much less so on SW) making serious DX impossible. Switching the power source from the supplied outboard adapter to a 12 VDC battery or a filtered Radio Shack adapter cured the problem. A call to Palstar revealed that, indeed, the supplied adapter was unfiltered. Palstar called

back with the fix (.01 uF caps across the rectifier diodes) and now supplies filtered adapters with the R30. The second significant problem turned out to be a manufacturing flaw. I noticed that the ultimate selectivity of both Collins filters was not what it should have been. That is, sideband splatter from strong adjacent stations was more prevalent than I thought it ought to be given the circuit layout and the Collins ultimate rejection specs. I expected ultimate rejection in the 70-90 dB range but was hearing rejection in an estimated 50-60 dB realm. Was this the reciprocal mixing that I had feared might be present due to the single-loop frequency synthesis scheme? Palstar maintained that the phase noise (the cause of reciprocal mixing) in the R30 was very low and that something else must be causing the problem. Another problem that I encountered was the anomalous, image-like appearance of strong locals exactly 8 kHz, 16 kHz, 24 kHz, etc. above and below the station's carrier frequency. That is, for example, local WBSR-1450 was audible on 1458, 1466, 1442, etc. Clearly, something was wrong with this sample and Palstar asked that I send it back for a check-out.

What I was able to conclude from my limited testing of R30 #1 was that it was more sensitive than either the Drake R-8 or the Japan Radio NRD-535D on all bands and that its audio was a joy to listen to. Drawbacks were limited to wishing that a smaller step than 1 MHz was available with the up/down buttons (going from 1000 kHz to 1500 kHz took a lot of knob spinning (which I remedied by setting MEM locations 5-17 to 540, 600... 1700 kHz)) and better ultimate selectivity. I also wished that the signal level on very weak ECSS-received signals was a little higher.

R30 #2 What a difference!

When Palstar returned the R30 (the same one I originally had), the ultimate selectivity/anomalous image problem was gone. Paul at Palstar told me that the problem was that a blob of the alloy used for mounting the surface mount components had apparently splattered during assembly and had caused the problem. Now, a quick listen showed very good ultimate selectivity and no images. As a bonus, THE UP/DOWN BUTTONS NOW JUMPED IN 500 KHZ STEPS INSTEAD OF 1 MHZ... Infinitely better! Finally, the supplied AC/DC adapter had been fitted with filter caps and was now noise-free... time to run some comparison tests.

When Palstar first agreed to supply an evaluation unit, I had hoped to compare it to both the new Grundig 800 Millennium and the Yaesu FRG-100B, two radios in the same price range as the R30. Unfortunately, the Grundig still hadn't been released and the Yaesu had been recently discontinued. After a quick evaluation of the first sample R30, I came to the conclusion that it would be appropriate to compare it to some higher-end rigs. Therefore, I used my usual Drake R-8 and Japan Radio NRD-535D for performance comparisons.

Performance

Test Set-up

Although I have the equipment to perform laboratory measurements of receivers, I have usually found careful "real world" listening tests to be more useful in determining a rig's DX-ability. Therefore, the three receivers were tested using either a 150' inverted-L wire antenna or a Quantum Loop MW ferrite rod antenna. An MFJ antenna switch box allowed quick A-B-C comparisons. Most MW comparisons were conducted during mid-day (when sensitivity differences could more easily be determined) and the cursory LW and SW sessions occurred during both daylight and nighttime hours.

The Radios

Palstar R30 This was sample #2 and was fitted with the two Collins IF filters. It was also production "Revision H" (plus the circuit changes that were made during the course of my review).

Drake R-8 This is the first version of the respected R-8 series and has five IF filters (up to four useful for voice signals), synchronous AM detection ("synchro"), passband tuning (PBT), notch filter, noise blanker... all the bells and whistles. This is one of my two preferred desktop rigs for serious MW DX and is rated 5-stars by almost everyone. The pre-amp, however, is not operative on MW on this model. Original price of this radio was about \$800; current models are just under \$1200.

NRD-535D This was Japan Radio's top-of-the-line semi-professional receiver until very recently. Besides having the same bells and whistles as the Drake, this "D" model also came with a 2 kHz narrow filter and a 4 kHz wide filter. It also had a variable bandwidth control ("BWC") that could further narrow some of the resident IF filters. This is 5-star receiver with an original price of \$1799.

Sensitivity

It is one thing to measure sensitivity in a laboratory setting with spectrally pure signals under carefully controlled conditions and quite another to hook up a broadband antenna feeding thousands of signals to the front-end. This is particularly true in the MW band where RF pollution is rampant. For these comparisons I intentionally chose very difficult-to-hear stations that were not being bothered by interference from nearby stations.

For the record, on MW, the R30 specs report a .5uV sensitivity on AM; .3uV on SSB. By comparison, the 535D's specs read 6.3uV on AM and 2uV on SSB; and the Drake states <3.0 uV, AM and <1.0 uV, SSB. (It should be noted that ionospheric/atmospheric noise levels on MW rarely get below 3uV so values below that are, theoretically, of limited value.) Sensitivity specs for SW were much more comparable although the R30 still held a slight edge, for the most part.

Rating Scale

- 5---Local-like (all background noise "quieted")
- 4---Easily readable but not local-like
- 3---Readable with effort
- 2---Intermittently readable
- 1---Present but not readable
- 0---Not detectable

Target Stations

- 540 WQTM Pine Hills, FL This is a 50 kWer about 350 miles to the southeast.
- 720 WRZN Hernando, FL A 10kWer about 300 miles to the southeast.
- 950 R. Reloj Sancti Spiritus, Cuba Reported to be 1-5 kW at 750 miles.
- 1680 WFIR Winter Park, FL A 10 kW station about 350 miles to the southeast.

"Long-Wire" Results

	R30	R8	535D
540 kHz	1.5	1.0	1.0
720 kHz	.5	0	0
950 kHz	2.0	2.0	2.0

1680 kHz 2.5 2.5 2.5

The differences between the three radios were so small as to be virtually insignificant. With these extremely tough signals (which were necessary to show any difference at all), the R30 exhibited marginally better sensitivity on the low end. Perhaps the most telling was WRZN-720 where some audio was detectable (but not readable) on the R30 but not on the other two. Let me rush to state, though, that the preceding ratings were gathered on one atmospherically fairly quiet spring day that happened to occur in the middle of my testing. I have pages of comparisons on less quiet days where there were no rateable differences between the three radios at all, which caused me to scratch my head a little. I remembered that my brief testing of R30 #1 showed a more pronounced superiority in sensitivity and wondered if, perhaps, Palstar had knocked down the R30 #2's sensitivity a bit. I even hooked up all three radios to an antenna tuning unit thinking that maybe input impedance mismatches were causing the virtually identical ratings... there was no change in the relative performances. Then I realized that my original tests of R30 #1 had taken place weeks earlier during an unusual period of low ionospheric/atmospheric noise. Maybe the higher noise now was acting as the great equalizer. After all, a man with 20/20 vision has no real advantage over a lower-vision man if both are trying to see into a fog bank. With this thought in mind, I decided to re-run the sensitivity tests using a tuned loop antenna. A tuned loop is inherently quieter because of its narrower bandwidth and its response to only the magnetic portion of the RF wave. The loop I chose, of course, was the Quantum Loop.

Loop Results

	R30	R8	535D
540 kHz	3.5	2.5	2.0
720 kHz	3.5	2.5	2.0
950 kHz	1.5	1.0	1.0
1680 kHz	3.0	2.5	2.0

Aha! This was more like I remembered the R30#1 performing and the results are a little startling. Across the band, the R30 gave stronger, more readable signals. This is due not only to, I suppose, somewhat better raw sensitivity but also to better audio. The R30's signals always sounded fuller, stronger, cleaner and easier to read than the others. Note that the 535D had a slight disadvantage with the loop because its fluorescent display gave off a slight hash that degraded the signal somewhat no matter how much I tried to re-position the loop (I turned off the 535D when testing the R30 and R8).

Selectivity

This is usually where the men and boys part company. Many an otherwise fine receiver falls short on this important variable and requires the installation of aftermarket, higher quality filters. The R30 comes with high quality filters (either the Collins mechanicals or the upper level muRata ceramics), so that's a good start. But compared to the R8's 6/4/2.3/1.8 kHz IF filters and the 535D's 12/4/2/1 kHz filter array, filter choices are sparse. In addition, the Drake and Japan Radio offerings had passband tuning (PBT), synchronous AM detection ("synchro"), and notch controls, all potentially useful in producing a readable signal in tight quarters. In addition, the 535D was fitted with a "bandwidth control" (BWC)

feature that allowed the 4/2/1 filters to be narrowed even further (but deep skirt selectivity was not good enough to reduce sideband splatter). However, having been a DXer since way before the advent of PBT and synchro, I knew that there were ways to come close to the performance of these modern technologies by less sophisticated means. For example, Passband Tuning--In the AM mode, you can effect about the same result simply by tuning a kHz or two away from the carrier frequency in a direction opposite the interference. (Ceramic filters are usually better for this than mechanicals because their generally less steep skirts permit tuning a little farther away before losing the carrier.) In the SSB mode (e.g., when using ECSS), when you can't tune away from the carrier without losing intelligibility, PBT can be a big plus though. "Synchro"--Synchronous AM detection can be a real boon... sometimes, especially if you can select a sideband. With very weak signals (i.e., DX), however, oftentimes the signal is too weak to result in a lock. Other times, even with stronger signals, the results are less than spectacular. Occasionally, the gods will be smiling, and pressing the synchro button will result in a dramatically improved signal (the offering to the gods that leads to this happy occurrence remains a mystery to this DXer, though). Results very similar to synchro can be obtained (especially with the R30) via ECSS and a slow AGC... sometimes this method on SW showed an even greater reduction in "pumping"/distortion than the synchro mode in the other radios. Notch--Tuning away from the heterodyning signal in the AM mode or switching to a narrower filter will often eliminate a het. Switching to a sideband away from the problem signal will do the same. Low frequency hets require a notch filter, however.

The point of the preceding is to say that some of the R30's potential selectivity shortcomings can be overcome, to varying degrees, by using careful tuning techniques.

In the selectivity comparisons that follow, I pulled out all the stops for each radio to produce the best possible signal, using whatever trick, technique, or control available.

Rating Scale

- 5---Clear
- 4---Minor sideband splash
- 3---Heavy sideband splash
- 2---Intermittent readability due to splash
- 1---Target never readable under splash
- 0---Target not detectable under splash

Target Stations

Even though several stations were used to evaluate the selectivity measure, I'm going to cite just three that are representative of the testing. The antenna used for this test was the Quantum Loop but nulling was not possible in any of the situations.

- 590/591 WDIZ Panama City, FL/Santa Clara, Cuba. The Cuban was off frequency again affording an opportunity to check close-in selectivity. WDIZ puts an S-9+10 signal into Pensacola while the Cuban is much weaker (reported power at 10 kW). A 1 kHz het was audible.
- 1000 WDXE Robertsedale, AL. This 1kW'er about 50 miles W is usually severely bothered by local splasher WRNE-980.
- 1440 WRBE Lucedale, MS. Next to local WBSR-1450, this one is tough to hear clearly.

Selectivity Results

	R30	R8	535D
590 kHz	4.5 (het) [AM/6] 5.0 [LSB/2.5] 5.0*	5.0 [AM/6/notch] 5.0 [LSB/2.3]	5.0 [AM/4/notch] 5.0 [LSB/2.0]
591 kHz	3.0 [USB/2.5]	3.5 [USB/2.3/PBT]	3.5 [USB/2.0/PBT]
1000 kHz	3.0 [AM/6] 3.5 [USB/2.5]	3.2 [AM/4] 4.0 [USB/2.3/PBT]	3.2 [AM/4] 4.0 [USB/2.0/PBT]
1440 kHz	1.0 [AM/6] 3.5 [LSB/2.5]	1.0 [AM/4] 3.5 [LSB/2.3/PBT]	1.0 [AM/4] 4.0 [LSB/2.0/PBT/BWC]

[] = Mode/Filter width/Other controls used

* AM mode tuned to 587.3 kHz

The het on 590 kHz was eliminated by using either the notch filter on the R8 or 535D or by switching to LSB on any of the radios. Tuning to 587.3 kHz in the AM mode also eliminated the het. Trying to hear the Cuban on 591 kHz was valuable in that it provided information for those of us who DX the foreign split frequencies. I was amazed to get any readable audio at all but all three radios produced a readable signal using ECSS, the PBT aiding clarity somewhat. PBT in the ECSS mode proved of use again on WDXE providing a very slightly cleaner signal than the R30. WRBE-1440 illustrates the slight contribution of the BWC on the 535D. Using just about the whole array of available tools, the BWC allowed the 535D to nudge ahead of the others by cleaning up the signal just a little bit more.

With regard to selectivity, then, the R30 with its quality Collins filters showed that it belonged in the same league as the R8 and 535D. It was never better than either radio but when it was worse, it wasn't worse by much. And I never encountered a case where the R30 failed to produce intelligible audio when the others were producing a readable signal. Also, even though the filters on the R30 are selectable independent of mode, I always found that using ECSS produced a better signal than the narrow Collins in the AM mode. It is also clear from the preceding results that having PBT available for use in the ECSS mode is of value and that it is largely responsible for the R8's and 535D's slight superiority in some situations.

Dynamic Variables

Frequency stability on the R30 is rock solid. Drift is virtually nil after a very brief warm-up; ECSS signals stayed dead-on for hours. Dynamic range is reported to be >90 dB (but at 50 kHz) and the third-order intercept point is specified as +15 dBm (at the standard 20 kHz spacing). I experienced no overloading problems at my location while using the 150' antenna but would be anxious to see how well the R30 does with a mile-long Beverage antenna. (I wouldn't be surprised if the R30 did quite well with a Beverage given its lack of an RF amplifier, JFET first mixer, and reported third-order intercept point.) Spurs/images have been reported to be present but I encountered none that interfered with my listening. Speaking of images, while checking out the R30 on the tropical band, I tuned past 2480 kHz and heard American oldies music... "My first image!" I thought. Wrong. It was a harmonic of KDGO-1240 Durango, CO (and was audible on all three radios).

Performance on the Other Bands

I didn't spend a lot of time on LW but when I did venture down

there, I noted a hefty supply of beacons. Given the fact that Palstar didn't reduce the sensitivity in this range, I would expect the R30 to be pretty hot on LW. On the tropical bands, the R30 always seemed to provide signals with a greater "presence"--stronger, cleaner than the other radios... WWV-2500 kHz seemed like it was in the room with me instead of locked in the radio... (I'm sorry, but that's the best way I can explain it, hi). Program listening on SW was very good with the 6kHz filter but I found that I preferred the 2.5 kHz Collins in the ECSS mode with a slow AGC setting... audio was smooth with a minimum of fading and distortion. I particularly liked the R30 on the HF utilities. Audio, again, was cleaner and the R30 seemed to have a sensitivity advantage (even though specs were much closer than on MW). For example, while listening to transatlantic flights working ground stations, several times I was able to hear the transmissions of really distant planes on the R30 but not on the other two radios. The R30 became my favorite radio for long-term channel monitoring.

Audio Quality

This is one of the R30's strong points and is mainly responsible for my preferring it for extended listening sessions. Even with the little 3" speaker, the audio sounds inexplicably full and clean. Unfortunately, as noted earlier, the 3-4 watt audio amp is feeding its signal into a speaker with a maximum power rating of 800 mW so distortion can occur if you crank up the volume control. An external speaker, however, can fill the room. The only radio that sounded better was the 535D when it was in its 12 kHz IF position and using its external speaker. The highs were sparkling and the sound was full. With a 12 kHz bandwidth though, this combination can only be used on stations in the clear.

Battery Life

The R30 runs on 12 VDC (via adapter) or on 10 AA penlight batteries mounted internally. I measured its current drain at about 300 mA with the display light off and about 500 mA with the light on (at normal listening levels). With the 10 fresh alkalines yielding 15+ volts, the question was, "What was the minimum operating voltage of the R30?" After seven hours of continuous play, a barely discernable audio distortion occurred; this at 10.2 V. After 8-1/2 hours, the voltage had dropped to 9.14 V, and within minutes the R30 went silent. Performance was virtually unchanged until seconds before it died. So, the operating voltage range of the R30 is about 9-15 VDC and a fresh set of alkalines should last about 8-9 hours; enough for one, long DX session. The new, high capacity NiMH penlights offer a viable, and cheaper in the long run, alternative to the alkalines since the R30 runs great all the way down to about 10 V.

Concluding Statements

So there you have it... whew! This is undoubtedly one of the most difficult reviews I've ever undertaken. The radios were so close in DX performance, for the most part, that hours and hours were spent searching for situations that could differentiate among them. In the end, though, I think I can conclude that the Palstar R30 (in its most recent version) has great potential for digging out that tough DX, especially on those ultra-quiet winter nights that we covet so much.

As I see it, the R30 will appeal to two opposite ends of the radio hobbyist spectrum. Serious DXers and DXpeditioners will appreciate the R30's tough signal performance and small size.

Novices and those intimidated by knob and button arrays will select the R30 for its simplicity. I think that both groups will be satisfied with their choice. But if you want the latest and greatest gizmos and doodads in your radio... look elsewhere. Palstar put its money where it counts, in performance; and I put my money where my mouth is... after completing this review, I bought an R30.

The Palstar R30 is presently available in three configurations:

1. R30 with murata 6khz and 2.5 khz IF filters---\$499.95
2. R30 with murata 6khz and Collins 2.5 khz IF filters---\$549.95
3. R30 with Collins 6 khz and 2.5 khz filters---\$599.95

Palstar, Inc, 9676 Icooney Rd, Placqua, OR 45356
 (937) 773-6255, email: palstar@earthnet.com

Note: If you decide to purchase an R30, try to get one manufactured after March, 2000. This will ensure that you will get the 500 khz up/down tuning and the latest circuit changes. Also, beware of reviews of R30's manufactured before March, 2000.

GEOMAGNETIC INDICES

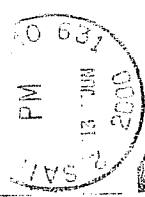
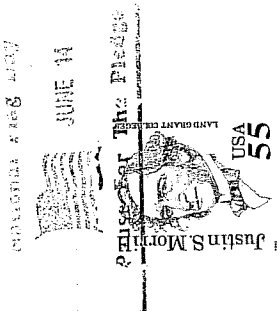
geomagnetic summary April 25 2000 through May 24 2000
 phil bythway - Seattle WA - fokker_db@yahoo.com
 Tabulated from email status daily

4/25	203	5	2	low-mod	quiet-unsettled
26	190	4	2	low-mod	quiet-unsettled
27	184	12	2	low	quiet-unsettled
28	183	14	3	low	quiet-unsettled
29	175	10	3	low	quiet-unsettled
4/30	170	10	2	low	quiet-unsettled
5/1	158	15	4	low	quiet-active
2	153	15	2	low-mod	unsettled-quiet
3	137	17	4	low	quiet-active
4	135	11	2	low	quiet-unsettled
5	130	15	2	low	quiet-unsettled
6	127	11	1	low	quiet-unsettled
7	131	7	2	v low-low	quiet
8	137	5	1	low	quiet-unsettled
9	150	11	2	low-mod	quiet-unsettled
10	179	3	1	low-mod	quiet-unsettled
11	178	5	1	low-mod	quiet-active
12	190	15	2	low-mod	quiet-active
13	217	14	3	low-mod	quiet-active
14	233	16	2	moderate	quiet-unsettled
15	244	13	2	high	quiet-active
16	259	15	2	moderate	quiet-active
17	262	21	2	moderate	quiet-active
18	253	9	0	moderate	quiet-unsettled
19	254	11	2	moderate	quiet-active
20	246	7	2	low-mod	quiet-unsettled
21	232	8	1	low-mod	quiet-unsettled
22	215	10	2	low-mod	quiet-active
23	204	14	4	low-mod	unsettled-mts
5/24	189	52	5	low-mod	active-mts

The new statistic on the right is "Aurora Level".

 If you note any AM changes (call, format, slogan, etc), please send them to the NRC Log coordinator (Wayne Heinen) @ nrclog@aol.com

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LEE FRESHWATER
414 SE 3rd ST
OCALA FL
34471

**THE INTERNATIONAL RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA (IRCA)
PO Box 1831 Perris CA 92572-1831**

The IRCA is a non-profit organization devoted to the hobby of hearing distant stations on the AM Broadcast Band (510 - 1720 kHz). **DX Monitor**, the official publication of the IRCA, is published in "soft" form 35 times a year, weekly from October to March, twice in September and April, and monthly from May to August and in printed form 21 times a year (every other week September to April, 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.

CLUB ADDRESSES AND OFFICERS

President: Lee Freshwater, 414 SE 3rd St, Ocala FL 34471. E-mail: LFreshwate@aol.com or LEEFRESH@Broadcast.net FAX: 352-732-7223 (proposals/gripes)
Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph Sanserino. (dues/address changes), email: sanser@gte.net
Board of Directors: Nick Hall-Patch (chairman), Lynn Hollerman, John C Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Patrick Martin, Pete Taylor and Robert Wien.
Editor-in-Chief/SDXM Publisher: Phil Bytheway, 9705 Mary NW, Seattle WA 98117-2334 (all material for publication goes here)
DXM Publisher: Eric Bueneman (N0UIH), 631 Coachway Ln, Hazelwood, MO 63042-1347

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