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Publisher's Note

Congratulations to Nigel Pimblett and his bride, Tobi Fode, of Medicine Hat, Alberta. They married October 1 at Waterton Park, Alberta, and honeymooned on Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands. Nigel said that DXing took a back seat on this trip, but he did take a Sony ICF-2002 along.

2002 IRCA Convention Bids

Anyone interested in hosting the 2002 IRCA convention, please contact IRCA President Lee Freshwater, 414 SE 3rd St, Ocala FL 34471. E-mail: ENGWTRS@aol.com.

Editors Needed

The following columns need editors. If you would like to participate in YOUR club, contact Lee Freshwater at engwtrs@aol.com
DX Worldwide – EAST Sports Information

DX Tests

Please remember, what's listed as being on, say, Monday *may* be what you think of as Sunday night! Even if you don't hear a test, be sure and drop a card, letter, or e-mail to the station personnel, thanking them for going to the trouble to run a test!

Sunday, December 2, 2001 - WPRI268 – 1620 am, Leominster, MA will conduct a DX test from Midnight - 1:00am Eastern Time. From its transmitting facilities in Lancaster, MA, you will hear test tones of varying frequency intermingled with Morse code ID's and an occasional Voice ID. QSL requests can be sent to WPRI268@aol.com or by USPS to:

WPRI268
25 Blodgett Street
Orange, MA 01364

P.S. QSL Cards for WPRI268's response need to be sent to that address, please!
(Arranged by Blaine Thompson for the NRC.)

Also, if you hear a test, PLEASE, PLEASE let me know, via either e-mail or in rec.radio.shortwave! And if you send a reception report to a station, please remember to include return postage with your report...—Lynn Hollerman

Web Sites for AM DX Stuff

El Dorado for LA DXers is a web page that is devoted to Latin American DX. Acting as a repository of information from various sources about Central and South American stations, the site contains lists of stations and verification signers and also has useful information about national holidays. Click on: <http://members.chello.se/mwm/eldorado/index.htm>

I stumbled across the website for the Republic of Panama's version of the FCC. You can find it at <http://www.enteregulador.gob.pa/RadioTV/Concesiones/concesiones.htm>. It shows the frequency assignments for AM, FM and TV stations. You can do queries on the site too.

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BROADCASTING INFORMATION

Editor: Lee J. Freshwater - 414 SE 3rd St. - Ocala, FL 34471

E-mail: ENGWTRS@aol.com

CALL CHANGES

	OLD CALL	NEW
1200	KOQI- SOQUEL, CA	KYAA
1240	WIBU-POYNETTE, WI	WHFA
1430	WMYS- INDIANAPOLIS, IN	WXNT
1490	KVLL- WOODVILLE, TX	KWUD
1590	KROY-VICTORVILLE, CA	KATJ

FORMAT CHANGES

FREQ.	CALL - CITY	NEW INFO
800	WDEH- SWEETWATER, TN	S. GSPL DROPS //
1190	KMYL- TOLLESON, AZ	ADDS TALK
1230	WSSO- STARKVILLE, MS	NEWS/ CNN
1240	KCLV- CLOVIS, NM	SPORTS - ESPN
1260	KTTF- SPRINGFIELD, MO	ADDS AM NEWS BLK
1340	KSEK- PITTSBURG, KS	SPORTS - ESPN
1400	WJWF- COLUMBUS, MS	NEWS/CNN // WSSO
1460	WNVI- NORTH VERNON, IN	AD. STNDS- ABC
1520	WCHE- WEST CHESTER, PA	TLK/AD. STNDS
1640	KDIA- VALLEJO, CA	BUS. NWS AND TLK

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT ACTIVITY

1060 KKDS- SOUTH SALT LAKE, UT DECREASES TO 149 WATTS NIGHTS
NDA FROM DA-N CHANGES SITE TO
40-32-08 112-04-38

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

Editor: Nancy Johnson - 265 Waterton Way- Billings, MT 59102-7755

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WDXR DEADLINES: Each Friday. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

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(RT) Rich Toebe-2103 Sargent Ct.-Davis, CA 95616 richtoebe@jps.net
Sony ICF-2010

(JW) John Wilkins-Wheat Ridge, CO peakbagger3@juno.com
Drake R-8, 4' box loop

720 ?KFIR? OR, Sweet Home 10/15 0920 noted under KDWN, country music, looped north so not likely KUAL. No ID or slogan. Needed. (RT-CA)

920 KWYS MT, West Yellowstone 10/24 0825 man with KWYS ID, into talk about livestock, local ad...maybe two. Poor/fair. New. (AB-CA)

730 KBSU ID, Boise 10/24 1058 strangely alone on channel, good solid signal, jazz music then "Idaho's Jazz Stations, KBSU Boise Jazz 730 and KEZJ Twin Falls Jazz 1450." Not needed but not common. (RT-CA)

- 790 KSPD ID, Boise 10/24 1030 on top of frequency with end of REL program "Family Inspiration Radio KSPD" ID. Usually KOOR/KABC dominant. (RT-CA)
- 830 KFLT AZ, Tucson 10/16 0930 strong in KNCO null with talk about becoming a faith partner; promo for Insight For Living program, numerous KFLT mentions. (RT-CA)
- 970 KZTK CA, Bakersfield 10/23 2335 KESP strangely muted this evening; jumble on channel. Faded up with local ads, "Newstalk 970 KZTK" by same announcer that does KFBK ID's, into "Online Tonight" with David Lawrence. New from Davis. (RT-CA)
- KNUU NV, Las Vegas 10/24 0030 faded up with ad for a station account executive wanted; gave station address on Tropicana Avenue, Las Vegas. No calls heard, just "AM 970" ID. (RT-CA)
- 1060 KBGN ID, Caldwell 10/24 1033 the pipeline to Boise continues with this one, "Where ever you are in southwestern Idaho or Eastern Oregon, KBGN, Your Companion For Grace," into REL program. Alone & strong on channel, usually CKMX is there early mornings. (RT-CA)
- 1120 ?KJSA? TX Mineral Wells 10/23 0827 with NOS music, then local weather at 0800, sponsored by local bookstore. In & out (mostly out) over next half hour. Improved at 0900, barely enough to hear "It's 8:00 and time for the JX (?) report, broadcast live from the studios at 151 Fox Road in Weatherford..." Would be TX #158 - tentative report sent. (JW-CO)
- 1290 KKDD CA, San Bernardino 10/26 0850 "AM 12-90 Radio Disney" slogan, mostly over KAZA. (AB-CA)
- 1300 KPTL NV, Carson City 10/26 0855 song "Blue Moon," "AM 1300 KPTL" ID, "You Talk Too Much" sung by Joe Jones, CNN Special Report at 0859. Good with deep fades. (AB-CA)
- 1329.7 KGAK NM, Gallup 10/23 0931 noted here putting a loud het onto 1330. Community announcements in Navajo, then nice drum/chant number at 0934. Had been right on 1330 until this date; off frequency next day, too. (JW-CO)
- 1400 KRPL ID, Moscow 10/26 0914 man with KRPL ID, second ID at 0921 sounded like "The Pearl." New. (AB-CA)

UNID

- 1240 10/25 0914-0933 fade/out, "Fox Sports" with talk about the world series. KSQR partly nulled. Could be KEJO? (AB-CA)

Thanks to our WDXR reporters this week!

Nancy 10/26/01 2100

CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP

Editor: John C. Johnson

E-mail: John_Johnson@prodigy.net CDXR reports ONLY: cdxr@prodigy.net

RIDING GAIN

[TMJ-IL] Tom Jasinski, Shorewood, IL
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Drake R8A

[JJR-WI] John J. Rieger, South Milwaukee, WI
JohnJRieger@webtv.net
<http://DX-midAMerica.com>

Icom IC-R75, Kiwa loop, GE Superadio III, Terk AM 1000 loop.

DOWN THE DIAL

- 700 KSEV TX, Tomball. 10-21 poor in WLW null. 08:00 with gardening show, spots, Ids. NEW! 700#7, TX#40. [JJR-WI]

- 710 WFNR VA, Blacksburg. 10-21 fair. 06:00 with station promo and Sporting News. [JJR-WI]
- 940 WMAC GA, Macon. 10-20 fair, steady. 20:34 with many Macon spots. Seldom heard at night here. [JJR-WI]
- 1010 WPGW NC, Black Mountain. 10-21 poor with 2-3 others. 07:32 with dedication and Southern Gospel music. [JJR-WI]
- 1030 WQSE TN, White Bluff. 10-21 fair, no WBZ. 06:38 with "Christian Radio Waverly, White Bluff." [JJR-WI]
- 1050 WTKA MI, Ann Arbor. 10-21 fair in WLIP null. 06:00 with sports format, ID. [JJR-WI]
- 1090 KXMA CO, Aurora. 10-21 fair, no KAAY. 05:18 with SS jingle "KXMA." [JJR-WI]
- 1210 KGYN OK, Guymon. 10-21 good, no WPHT. 05:45 with country, ID. [JJR-WI]
- 1260 KWYR SD, Winner. 10-21 fair, slight fades. 06:38 with weather, spots, PSA for SD, "Country 12-60 AM" slogan. [JJR-WI]
- 1480 WCIN OH, Cincinnati. 10-21 very good. 05:34 with oldies R&B with live local announcer. "14-80 WCIN" ID. [JJR-WI]

UNIDs

- 1320 unID 10-21 unID station in poor. 07:18 with "AM 13-20 Your Hometown Radio Station." Live local announcer with country. Faded out. [JJR-WI]
- 1549.65 unID 10/21. Suspect unID station is off frequency causing a het against WCSJ 1550, Morris, IL. I had a suspicion that it might have been WCSJ itself being off frequency because no one else has reported this as yet. So, to rule out WCSJ I drove out 15 miles near Morris with the R8A, using 12V car power. I measured WCSJ's frequency from about two miles from the tower where WCSJ's signal blocked out the het. The zero beat in CW mode was right on 1550 (tone disappears at 1550.08 coming down or 1549.92 while going up). This tells me WCSJ is very close to 1550 and not the source of the problem. The off frequency station shows up at 1549.75 or so. Yesterday had auroral conditions which pretty much knocked out skip, but the het was still there. This tells me that the hit is coming from a nearby station on 1550 somewhere in the midwest. Then on 10-24 at 22:30 with strong signal making already weak WCSJ a mess. [TMJ-IL]

25 YEARS AGO

November 6, 1976 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... Karl Forth of Villa Park, IL told about new WFMT-1450 Cicero ... John Zondlo of Hammond, IN logged two new provinces with CBT and CBNM from NF and CHTN from PEI ... Gary Larson of Burbank, CA told about his call to KROQ ... HM2 Mike Hardester stationed in San Diego received a verie from San Diego State station KCR 550 ... Ric Heald told about reception while on vacation in London.

OPEN MIKE

Wonder if all radio stations are tossing mail from unknown people? This could lead to e-mail only reception reports. This column was typed 10-27-01. 73, John

JUST PUBLISHED!!! The IRCA MEXICAN LOG lists all AM stations in Mexico by frequency, including call letters, state, city, day/night power, slogans, schedule in UTC/GMT, formats, networks and notes. The call letter index gives call, frequency, city and state. The city index (listed by state, then city) includes frequency, call and day/night power. The log has been completely updated from the 2000 edition and carefully cross-checked by several IRCA members. This is an indispensable reference for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11" and three hole punched for easy binding. Prices: IRCA/NRC members - \$9.00 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$10.00 (rest of the Americas airmail), \$10.50 (Europe/Asia airmail), \$11.00 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). Non-members: add \$2.50 to the above prices. To order the IRCA Mexican Log from the IRCA Bookstore, send the correct amount (in US funds payable to Phil Bytheway) to: IRCA BOOKSTORE, 9705 MARY NW, SEATTLE WA 98117-2334

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

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E-mail: ENGWTRS@aol.com

Deadlines are : 8 AM SUNDAYS

STARS OF THE WEEK

- (WM-MD) William McGuire 2412 59th Place, Cheverly MD
DX-398
(MH-NC) Michael Hardester 3118 Gateway Dr, Jacksonville, NC
2001 Toyota 4 Runner w/fender ant.

LOGGINGS

- 640 TN WGOE Blountsville 10/19 0040 After C&W song; ID (WM-MD)
680 KY WCIT Corbin 10/20 1855 NOS MX hrd "Great 68" (WM-MD)
TN WJCE Memphis 10/19 0017 After Bette Midler, "Easy 68"; ID (WM-MD)
WV WCAW Charleston 10/20 1938 PSA; "68-CHS"; NOS Music (WM-MD)
690 AL WJOX Birmingham 10/20 1910 "Sports Radio 690"; ID (WM-MD)
730 TN WLIL Lenoir City 10/18 2355 C&W MX hrd; ID; Ad mentioning
Lenoir City also hrd. (WM-MD)
810 MO WHB Kansas City 10/17 1945 Promo for H.S. FB; "Sports Radio
810"; ID (WM-MD)
820 OH WOSU Columbus 10/18 2055 ID hrd thru classical mx (WM-MD)
830 MO KOTC Kennett 10/20 2220 C&W mx hrd; "Real Country" (WM-MD)
920 RI WHJJ Providence 10/18 2223 Call in show; ID "The Big Talker (WM-MD)
1070 SC WCSZ Greenville 10/17 2005 Promo for East TN State FB; "The Sports
Zone"; ID (WM-MD)
1080 PA WWNL Pittsburgh 10/20 1855 ID, then sign off u/WTIC (WM-MD)
1150 TN WDTM Selmer 10/19 1835 ID, then talk show (WM-MD)
1330 SC WYRD Greenville 10/17 2200 End of Minor League Hockey; IS given as
"WORD" (WM-MD)
1470 NC WWBG Greensboro 10/20 2200 "Newstalk 1470"; ID (WM-MD)
1480 NE KLMS Lincoln 10/20 2005 ABC Hourly News; ID; Sporting News
Network; Oldies music (WM-MD)

HAR-TIS

- 530 HAR NC, Camp Lejeune HAR on this frequency is no longer operating here, but
appears to have switched to 1640 kHz. First noted absent on 10/21 (MH-NC)
1610 HAR NC, Camp Lejeune w/male announcer 10/21 @ 1440 with description of
what THREATCON Charlie means ("definition," if you will). Moderate to severe
het against 1620 kHz -- which I "presume" is the NC DoT HAR in Swansboro, NC,
(MH-NC)
1640 HAR NC, Camp Lejeune w/male announcer 10/21 @ 1445 w/information on ID
checks, gates open, which lane specific traffic goes into, etc.(MH-NC)

Both 1610 and 1640 kHz HARs are putting out a much stronger signal than previously
noted. A power increase?

Thats a wrap for this week. Thanks to William and Mike. ... Lets hear from the rest of you
!!!!!! 73s and all the best....G.B.A.fresh 10/28/00....0900.....

A DXers TECHNICAL GUIDE

Now in its 3rd edition (published early 1998), this 155 page book answers questions on
receiver and antenna theory (how to improve their performance), how audio filters and
loop antennas can improve DX (and hints on their construction), how to build a
Beverage and phasing unit, and much more. Only \$10.00 for IRCA members, \$12.00
for non-members (overseas airmail add \$2.50).

IRCA BOOKSTORE, 9705 MARY NW, SEATTLE WA 98117-2334

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

Editor: Patrick Martin – P.O. Box 843 – Seaside OR 97138

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We have a nice report this time from Rich Toebe who had some good AU cx.

PAN-AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

- 760 MEXICO? 10/22 0504 under KFMB, but not easy to make out, pipeline to Mexico City on 730, 900, 1220 suggests it could be XEABC or XENIC as Larry Godwin logged it. (RT-CA)
- 830 MEXICO? 10/16 1235 SS talk u/KNCO rooster crows, Nortena mx. Guessing XEVQ Navolato Sinaloa? (RT-CA)
- 970 MEXICO Cd. Juarez, Chih. XEJ on top of 970 jumble with mentions of Juarez, Chih, "Musica Mexicana" mentions. (RT-CA)
- 1000 MEXICO? 10/22 0452-0501 on top of channel in KOMO null, semi AU cx keeping KOMO weak, XE NA played, then SS talk, mentioned "La Bonita" hrd 6 note musical signature twice on the hour. No clue who this is. (RT-CA)
- 1000 MEXICO, Mexico City XEOY? 10/23 0500 Different sounding from the previous evening, AC type mx, man & woman talking in SS, very smooth and professional, calm steady tones in their speech. Hrd "Radio Mil" ID on the hour, 4 note musical signature, no calls hrd. KOMO also subdued this evening as well, but shortly faded up thereafter. Fits Larry Godwin's tip from last column, but he says they have XENON calls, not XEOY. (RT-CA)
- 1060 MEXICO? 10/23 0510-0515 noted u/KDUS with male & female alternating in SS, no ID, but Mexico City strong on 730,900, 1220. Maybe Radio Educacion? (RT-CA)
- 1200 MEXICO? 10/16 1320 SS alone on channel, US pop mx, Fair signal, suspect XEWT. (RT-CA)
- 1200 MEXICO? 10/22 0527 another attempt to ID this one but although alone on channel, signal was muddy, AC type mx like hrd on Radio Mil 1000 ,but not // (RT-CA)
- 1220 MEXICO, Mexico City XEB 10/22 0507 strong and alone on channel. XEB calls hrd with guitar mx. Good pipeline into Mexico tonight with solar activity. 730, 900 completely dominant. (RT-CA)

TRANS-PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

- 540 WESTERN SAMOA, Apia 2AP good on top of domestics at 0725 10/25 with man in Samoan. (PM-OR)
- 650 HAWAII, Honolulu, KHNR, good on top with woman with weather from the Islands at 0455 UTC 10/23. KHNR call mention. (PM-OR)
- 760 HAWAII, Honolulu, KGU good on top of KFMB with spot, mentioning donations and KGO at 0606 10/25. (PM-OR)
- 900 HAWAII, Kahalui, KNUI good on top with Hawaiian pops and "KNUI AM 900" IDs at 0630 10/25 (PM-OR)
- 1060 HAWAII, Hilo KAHU fair and alone on channel at 0630 10/25, man ancr mention "Ka Hoo", Hawaiian mx. (PM-OR)

VERIFICATIONS

- 639 P.R.CHINA, CNR, rec. QSL cd in 30d for taped report and \$1 return postage. No v/s. Address: PO Box 4501, Dept. Audience, China National Radio, Beijing China (PM-OR)
- 945 P.R. CHINA, CNR, rec. QSL cd in 30d for taped report and \$1 return postage. No v/s. Address: PO Box 4501, Dept. Audience, China National Radio, Beijing China. China MW QSL #33. (PM-OR)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

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DXing with Sony ICF-2010

PM-OR PATRICK MARTIN, P.O. Box 843, Seaside OR 97138-0843

<mwdxer@webtv.net>

DXing with Drake R8, EWE antenna

DX WORLDWIDE – EAST

Editor: Phil Bytheway – 9705 Mary NW – Seattle, WA 98117-2334

E-mail: phil@radiodx.com

Deadlines are Mondays. ALL TIMES IN UTC. Welcome Rick, David and Keith.

TRANS ATLANTIC

- 783 MAURETANIA(p) Nouakchott OCT 28 2325-2332 - fair with male Arab singing. Lost it at 2332, maybe because of signoff. I couldn't find a shortwave parallel after I lost the signal on 783, so I couldn't confirm this completely. I'm presuming this based on others' loggings. Also, WRTH 2001 doesn't list this on 783 but on 739, so I assume that the WRTH listing is wrong. [DH-NJ]
- 1206 FRANCE, Radio Bleue, 10/16 0130 Lite Pop // to 1377 & 864 Heard "Inside Out" by Dianna Ross. 1377 was 10 over S9 while the others were around S8. [KMcG-MA]
- 1215 ENGLAND, Virgin Radio, 10/16 0230 male announcer talking about Men in Motion. [KMcG-MA]
- 1375 ST PIERRE & MIQUELON, RFO, 10/16 0002 Male announcer in FF with the news. 5 over S9. [KMcG-MA]

PAN AMERICAN

- 550 CUBA(t), R. Rebelde, OCT 26 0400-0415 - excellent with lively music. [DH-NJ]
- 550 VENEZUELA(t), Mundial, YVKE, Caracas, OCT 26 0400-0415 - fair. Under presumed Cuba with male announcer. I'll spend more time on this channel tonight to get a positive ID of the presumed Cuban and Venezuelan if conditions hold up. [DH-NJ]
- 555 ST. KITTS & NEVIS (very tent), R. ZIZ, Basseterre, OCT 26 0350-0400 - poor. Faint audio of male announcer in what sounded like accented English. I'm regarding this as tentative because of heavy adjacent channel interference from the Cuban on 550. [DH-NJ]
- 570 UNID, 10/27 0420 Radio Reloj (location ???) heard time ticks then woman in SS then brief CW bursts. I've had them before but forget where they are located. [KMcG-MA]
- 620 NICARAGUA, YNN, Radio Nicaragua, 10/27 0430 with multiple mentions of Nicaragua and Managua. [KMcG-MA]
- 630 PUERTO RICO, WUNO, San Juan, OCT 25 0330-0505 & OCT 26 0255-0310 - excellent; dominant at times. On Oct. 25 call-in show hosted by male announcer, also with musical programming. At 0430 on Oct. 25: back-to-back Spanish then English versions of "These Eyes" by Guess Who. News at tops of hour. On Oct. 26 call-in show with same male announcer. Callers and announcer all said "hello" when answering phone and frequent mentions of Puerto Rico. [DH-NJ]
- 630 UNID, 10/24/2501, 2330-0105ET. Poor. Spanish under WUNO and hard to isolate from it. Possibly Venezuela? [DH-NJ]
- 630 VENEZUELA, Caracas, OCT 26 0255-0310 - good. ID'd at top of hour as "Radio Nacional, Venezuela" and "Caracas." Male announcer speaking rapid Spanish with very pronounced "r" rolling. Heard also Oct. 25 without a firm ID. [DH-NJ]
- 630p PUERTO RICO, WUNO, San Juan, 10/24-24/01, 2330-0105ET. Good, at times dominant. Call-in show hosted by male announcer, also with musical programming.

- Something interesting at 0030: back-to-back Spanish then English versions of "These Eyes" by Guess Who. News at tops of hour. Several mentions of Puerto Rico in newscasts, but no firm ID heard. [DH-NJ]
- 700 JAMAICA, RJR, Montego Bay, OCT 26 0410-0420 - fair to good under WLW. Hard to get a sync. det. lock because of slop from co-channel WOR. Call-in show with male announcer in accented English. [DH-NJ]
- 710t COLOMBIA/CUBA, 10/27 0255 Presumed Colombia and Cuba with big signals mixing. [KMcG-MA]
- 720 JAMAICA, RJR, Kingston, OCT 25 0300-0500 - poor to fair. Accented English, female announcer, sounded like call-in show. No ID but programming similar to confirmed logging in March 2001. Not heard on Oct. 26; Venezuela dominated. [DH-NJ]
- 720 UNID, 10-23-24/01, 2300-0100ET. Poor to fair. Two Spanish stations but difficult to separate out. One with male announcer, other with music. Time buzzes, three short followed by one long, at 2300 and 0000. [DH-NJ]
- 720 VENEZUELA, R. Oriente, Porlamar, OCT 26 0310-0335 - excellent; armchair copy. Some slop from WOR on 710. Two excited male announcers broadcasting a soccer game, possibly Venezuela vs. Nicaragua, with crowd noise. "Gooooool!" at 0320; ID'd as "Radio Nacional ... Venezuela" at 0330. [DH-NJ]
- 720p JAMAICA, RJR, Kingston, 10/23-24/01, 2300-0100ET. Poor to fair. Accented English, female announcer, sounded like call-in show. No ID but programming similar to confirmed logging in March 2001. Definitely not CHTN or WGN, the only two stations I get on this channel in normal conditions. [DH-NJ]
- 760 COLOMBIA, HJAJ RCN, Barranquilla, OCT 25 0145-0215 - excellent, very strong with good audio. Dominant at times. A relog. // 1000. (Thanks to Bruce Conti for pointing out that 760 and 1000 are parallel RCN outlets.) [DH-NJ]
- 760 COLOMBIA, RCN, Barranquilla, 10/24/01, 2145-2215ET. Excellent, very strong with good audio. Dominant at times. A relog. // 1000. (Thanks to Bruce Conti for pointing out that 760 and 1000 are parallel RCN outlets.) [DH-NJ]
- + 10/27 0250 with multiple mentions of Radio Colombia. [KMcG-MA]
- 780 VENEZUELA, Radio Coro, Coro, 10/27 0400 with a huge 30 over S9 signal ID heard. [KMcG-MA]
- 850 VENEZUELA, R. Fe y Alegria, Maracaibo, OCT 3 0700 - Totally in clear w/ments of Maracaibo, then incredibly clear ID by woman, time check, then back to the music. - New [Kenneally-CT]
- 870 CUBA, R. Reloj, , OCT 17 0428 - Way under WHCU-NY and WWL-LA w/time pips and scraps of audio. Easier to hear w/880 WCBS off. - New [Kenneally-CT]
- 880 VENEZUELA, R. Paraguana, Punto Fijo, OCT 17 0502 - WCBS off, Cuba dominant. Heard this one rise up for typical LA big-voiced man w/"R. Paraguana. Una en Punto". Chuck Hutton explained that "Una en Punto" means "1:00 on the dot". Massive storm static. - New [Kenneally-CT]
- 910 VENEZUELA, YVRQ 'RQ', Caracas, OCT 7 0200 - Rising out mush w/clear "RQ-910" ID by man, then into song that w/a leadin that sounded lie a calliope. XEW in strong on 900 at same time. - New [Kenneally-CT]
- 1000 COLOMBIA, HJAJ RCN, Cartagena, OCT 25 0145-0215 - good. Under WMVP and had to fight slop from nearby WINS. // 760. [DH-NJ]
- 1000 COLOMBIA, RCN, Cartagena, 10/24/01, 2145-2215ET. Good. Under WMVP and had to fight slop from nearby WINS. // 760. I had previously logged this as Colombian but unsure of outlet. [DH-NJ]
- 1100 CUBA, Habana, OCT 26 0325-0410 - good. Light ballads. ID'd at top of hour as "radio..., Habana." [DH-NJ]
- 1540 UNID, 10/23/01, ca. 2230ET. Poor. Accented English under WPTR and KXEL. Maybe Bahamas. I've heard this before during auroral conditions, but it could also be Toronto. [Hochfelder-NJ]
- 1540 UNID, OCT 25 0230 - poor. Accented English under WPTR and KXEL. Maybe Bahamas. I've heard this before, but only during auroral conditions. Could also be Toronto? [DH-NJ]

CONTRIBUTORS

David Hochfelder - hochfeld@rci.rutgers.edu - New Brunswick NJ - Sony ICF2010 with Kiwa Pocket Loop:
Rick Kenneally - Wilton, CT - 2 Sony 2010, 300' long-wire, Quantum QX Loop, Quantum phaser, SM-2 Loop.
Keith McGinnis - Winthrop MA - Drake R8A; 40 ft Sloper; Kiwa Loop

VERIFICATION SIGNERS

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My deadline is the last Tuesday of the month.

CONTRIBUTORS

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PM Patrick Martin, P O Box 843, Seaside OR 97138-0843; mwdxer@webtv.net

FREQ CALL NAME, TITLE; ADDRESS; WHAT; WHEN; WHO

639		[None]; China National Radio, P O Box 4501, Dept Audience, Beijing, China; Q; 30; PM
870	KRLA	Bill Sheets, CE [KF6SC]; 701 N Brand Blvd, #550, Glendale CA 91202; Q; 155; PM
945		[None]; China National Radio, P O Box 4501, Dept Audience, Beijing, China; Q; 30; PM
1010	KNWZ*	Jay White, CE; Desert Radio Group, 1321 N Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs CA 92262; F+++; 27ff; PM
1010	KCMJ*	Jay White, CE; Desert Radio Group, 1321 N Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs CA 92262; F+++; 27f; PM
1010	KXPS*	Jay White, CE; Desert Radio Group, 1321 N Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs CA 92262; F+++; 27; PM
1160	WAMB	W C Baird Jr, VP; 1617 Lebanon Rd, Nashville TN 37210; LB; 48; PM
1180	WJNT	Stan Carter, CE; P O Box 1248, Jackson MS 39215-1248; LB; 12; PG
1610	KALT**	Lawrence Lancaster (?); 4530 Summerhill Rd, Texarkana TX 75503; P; 365; GJV

WHAT was received: L = Letter with personalized statement; F = Form letter; Q = QSL card, commercially printed; C = Postcard or similar card supplied by station; P = Prepared card supplied by DXer; R = DXer's report returned with statement; cf = Certificate; E = Verification by e-mail; fx = Verification by FAX; M = Coverage map; B = Bumper or other sticker; bc = Business card; + = Extra goodies

WHEN the reply came: Number of days elapsed; f = Follow-up, by mail, FAX, e-mail, or visit; n = Return postage not used; r = Return postage returned

NOTES: * [For this column] = See comment below; ** [For this column] = Last name of signer uncertain

Welcome to the column, Patrick Griffith! Nice to have your tip. Report often. Patrick Martin notes that KNWZ/KCMJ/KXPS has a new CE, Jay White, and that he sent a KCMJ coffee mug, several KXPS plastic glasses, KNWZ key chains, and various refrigerator magnets, along with the form letter veries for the three callsigns. All of this was sent in a box costing the station \$5.40 to mail, well worth the effort of Patrick's repeated followup reports. This column completes my 9th year of editing the Verification Signers column! It's been a pleasure and I would like to thank all of the contributors who make this column possible. Patrick Martin and Gary deserve special mention as two who have supported this column month-in and month-out. This column was prepared on 10/30/01. 73, SSH.

WESTERN DX FORUM

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Mike Sanburn, PO Box 1256, Bellflower, CA 90707-1256 – mikesanburn@hotmail.com
Greetings, it's been a sad month with the events in New York and D.C. A Bellflower resident named John Hofer was on Flight #11. Despite all of the tragedy, I try to maintain life as usual. I'm also sorry to hear about Rush Limbaugh's ailment. I've been listening to his radio show off and on for over 10 years now. Wish him well. On the DX scene, I tried for the WJNT-1180 test but only had a strong KERI and Havana, Cuba. I read that it did not appear as scheduled. Hope they re-test late this season with plenty of advanced notice. The only Mississippi station I have logged from SoCal to date is the old WOKJ-1550 Jackson. I tried to get a verie out of my semi-local KMXN-1510, no response yet. I did get a batch of window stickers from WFIL-560 in Philadelphia. I'll stick those in a box for the next convention that I host. I'm currently compiling a photo album with convention pictures from Billings 2000 and St. Louis 2001. IRCA St. Louis, NRC Pittsburg and several upper mid-west sites are all on the video cassette that I received from Ernie Wesolowski. If there was any doubt, XEBACH-540 is back with classical format. At least X-BACH is their slogan. On 10-12 at 0800 their legal ID was still XEJAZZ (in espanol of course.) Nice enough signal here. Hope the fall GTG in Springfield, MO went well. It would be nice to see more of those around the country. I see KJAA-1240 has dropped its country music format. As many reports as I sent them, they never sent me a verie. Always enjoy reading that '25 years ago' section at the end of CDXR. Good DX, 73.

EASTERN DX FORUM

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DEADLINES: Sundays

Richard Evans, 7416 Hearthstone Way, Indianapolis, Indiana 47226

Two pieces of bad news here. First, I didn't have a computer crash, but I did have a monitor crash. It took a couple of weeks to figure out what was happening (it was my first time) and then replace the monitor but I am up and running again. Second piece of news is worse, though. Local WMYS-1430, which was running oldies/standards/Music of Your Life type format, is gone. It was replaced Oct. 22nd or 23rd with the calls WXNT and is now running talk and sports talk. I had caught a mention of the new calls the week before during the top of the hour IDs in the middle of the night (like 0200 or 0300) when they ran their usual WMYS ID, followed by a quick "now WXNT". It tipped me off something was happening but I didn't know what until Tuesday 10/23 when I tuned in for a traffic report before going to work and found myself listening to a talk show instead of the usual DJ running music. So, now I look for a new station to listen to when WNTS-1590 is off or not running music. I know WSAI-1530 is still MYOL because I caught them Tuesday night (well, actually Wed. morning) and set my car radio to them. By the way, the old www.WMYS.com was still active, as of 10/24, but talks about the new programming and gives their new talk schedule. They also had a link to e-mail where I could send them my comments. So, I did and it bounced back, unknown host. Perhaps, it's just as well, since I did use some not so-flattering words, hi. I mentioned, at work, a couple nights later what happened (since I listened to WMYS at work) and one of my trainees said the same thing happened to her while she was listening to a song. It must have been a rock song, and, she said, during the song, the station switched to an all-Spanish format. Talk about a shock, hi. Turned out one of my other trainees (I have four right now) knew about the switch because he listens, at times, to the new SS format. That's a FM station here in Indy. Gotta go. How about some reports? 73.

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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Radio Shack's Current DX Portables *Performance from a BCB DX Perspective*

Gerry Thomas

The recent spate of sales on Radio Shack's shortwave portables was too much for this DXer to walk away from. Yeah, I know that from a BCB DXer's viewpoint, Radio Shack's/Sangean's offerings in recent years haven't set the DX world aflame. Other than the DX-440/803A, the Radio Shack/Sangean portables have generally been decent for MW DX but nothing special (a notable exception being the Sangean-made CCRadio). So, it was with no high expectations that I bought one of each of the current multi-band portables offered by Radio Shack and put them through a MW DX shakedown. (While I was purchasing the radios, the first shipment of the new Radio Shack "Superadio" clone (12-903) arrived, so I bought one of those too...a quick look follows this review.)

The Line-Up

Radio Shack presently offers three digital read-out portables that appear to be relatively serious attempts at multi-band coverage (there are several other portables offered that cover SW and such but they are either analog read-out or appear to be less vigorous efforts) . The three radios purchased were the DX-398, the DX-402, and the DX-396. I won't go into a lot of detail on the general specs of each; those details are available in Radio Shack's catalogs and from other review sources (e.g., *Passport to World Band Radio*, etc.). Rather, I'll highlight the features that I believe are of interest to BCB DXers and run some side-by-side tests among the radios and include some comparisons with some of the current best offerings from other manufacturers.

DX-398 --- Also sold by other suppliers under the Sangean nameplate and the ATS-909 designation. This is the top of the line portable by both Radio Shack and Sangean and offers a raft of features of limited interest to BCB DXers but of potentially greater importance to listeners of other bands. List price of the radio is \$249 but it is often on sale at Radio Shack for \$149.

Of principal interest to this DXer was the presence of "true" SSB operation; that is, LSB and USB were provided instead of the usual BFO approach. Could these be effective in ECSS applications? The DX-398 also comes with two IF bandwidths, a highly desirable feature that, in theory, allows good fidelity as well as the option of tightening the passband to cut down on adjacent channel interference. Also, 1 kHz knob or slew tuning, a not-too-bad signal strength meter, battery strength indicator, and an RF gain control (knob)...all of these features I view as being desirable in a MW DX portable. The scan, RDS (for FM), memory pages, etc. are of little interest to this BCB DXer.

DX-402 --- This is also known as the Sangean ATS-505 and sells, at Radio Shack, for \$149 (on sale sometimes for \$99) but better deals are often available from other SW equipment dealers. Unlike the usual graphite-gray cabinets of traditional multi-band portables, the DX-402 has joined the new SW portable "revolution" by going with the current champagne-colored cabinet...pretty, but as far as I can tell, doesn't help with DX at all. Much less feature-laden than the DX-398, the DX-402, nonetheless, still offers a couple of useful BCB DX features, namely 1 kHz knob or slew-button tuning, a BFO for potential ECSS use (I thought), three-position tone control, etc. Of course, it also has memory and scan features, a front-end DX/Local switch, a clock, etc.

DX-396 --- This unit replaces the DX-375 as the entry-level digital radio for the budding DXer/SWler. Spartan in features, the DX-396's tuning is limited to slew buttons (in 10 kHz steps), it has DX/Local and tone switches, and that's about it. There's no provision for connecting an external antenna...after conducting the following tests, it became apparent why this feature was omitted. It does, however, use C-cell batteries (vice AA's) and, contrary to Radio Shack catalog implications, *continuously* covers the SW spectrum up to 21.5 MHz. The DX-396 retails for \$99 but can be had on sale for \$69.

In order to see how the Radio Shack portables measured up against some of the currently best portable competition, I also included the following portables in the tests:

Sony ICF-2010 --- Generally acknowledged as the best of the currently available portables for BCB (and other) DX. Price: \$349.

CCRadio --- Usually a close second to the 2010 in MW performance. Made by Sangean in conjunction with the C. Crane Co. Price: \$159.

Sony ICF-7600G --- One of my favorite "pocket book-sized" portables for its performance on all bands and better than average performance on MW. Price: \$179

The Performance Tests

Although I have the equipment to perform laboratory tests on receivers, I've found that it is usually more useful, especially with portables in this price range, to simply submit them to some tough DX listening conditions. In addition, I've limited the testing to judgments of sensitivity and selectivity, two of the more important DX criteria, with notes on the audio quality/readability of the signals and the utility of such features as ECSS effectiveness, etc.

All of the following tests were conducted around the hours of local noon on atmospherically quiet mid-October days. All tests were run on two consecutive days with the averages for the two days providing the final results.

Note also that the presented results for the Radio Shack portables are based on a sample size of one, with later, less formal verification with a second set of samples. Given the variability of low- to medium-cost portables, a sample you try may vary somewhat from the following results.

Sensitivity

First and foremost, a radio has to be sensitive enough to pull in DX. At night, when signals levels are high on the domestic channels, it is easy to hear distant stations on even your bedside clock radio. But the really good DX comes when your local pest has a silent period or when you are trying for a DX test from a "most wanted" state and you are trying to dig out that weak signal barely above the background noise. That's when sensitivity becomes important. Equally important is the "readability" of the signal. That is, not only must the radio be receiving the signal, it also has to be presenting it to your ears free of excessive distortions and gross audio imperfections. Thus, this "sensitivity" evaluation is really a combination of pure sensitivity and readability.

I've found that the best time to conduct these types of tests is during the mid-day hours of an atmospherically quiet day. This despite the fact that an overly sensitive radio can sometimes have its sensitivity sabotaged by distortion products created by the high signal levels at night.

About a dozen stations were evaluated in the sensitivity tests and were chosen primarily on the basis of their relatively weak strength and their freedom from interference

from local stations. I'll present the results for a low-end, mid-band, and high-end station for each of the radios and include a late afternoon logging of Radio Vision Christiana, Turks and Caicos Islands as an ultimate measure of low-end sensitivity.

Target stations

WVMI-570 A 5 kWer located in Biloxi, MS, about 75 miles west of Pensacola and always surprisingly weak for its listed power.

WJBO-1150 A 5 kWer in Baton Rouge, LA, about 200 miles west of Pensacola.

KLEB-1600 Also 5 kW in Golden Meadows, LA, about 170 miles west of Pensacola.

Great zydeco music if that's your thing.

Radio Vision Christiana-530 Listed as 100kW in Turks and Caicos Islands, 1200 miles east of Pensacola; noted late afternoon (2.5 hours before local sunset).

Ratings

5	Local-like (all background noise "quieted")
4	Arm chair copy but not local-like
3	Readable with effort
2	Intermittently readable
1	Present but not readable
0	Nil/undetectable signal

Results

	<u>DX-398</u>	<u>DX-402</u>	<u>DX-396</u>	<u>CCR</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>7600G</u>
WVMI-570	3.0	2.5	3.0	4.0	4.5	3.2
WJBO-1150	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	1.5
KLEB-1600	3.0	1.0	0*	3.8	4.2	3.5
RVC-530	0**	0	0	1.0	1.5	0**

*Masked by "birdie"

**Rated 1.5 with Q-Stick booster

Note: No ECSS or synchro was used to derive these ratings.

As in previous tests, the Sony 2010 led the way in the sensitivity tests with the CCRadio not far behind. The DX-398 and Sony 7600G were in the same class together with the DX-398 having perhaps a hair more raw sensitivity but it was hampered by its less readable, somewhat muffled audio. The DX-396's sensitivity was good on the low-end and on the middle of the band but got progressively worse as the frequency increased. Its principal drawback, however, was the presence of several "birdies" on the MW band. The DX-402 lagged behind the others even though its audio was more readable than the DX-398.

Note again that these target stations were chosen because of their generally low signal levels. The somewhat muddy audio on the DX-398 (all tests were in the IF Wide position) became more listenable as the strength of stations's signals increased but even on locals, the audio of the DX-398 sounded "darker" than the others. This "muddiness" can be remedied to some extent by off-tuning a kHz or two but on the very weak stations that constitute DX and were the targets of this evaluation, if you off-tune too much, you lose the signal. An external communications speaker was tried with the DX-398 and some minor improvement was noted but was still judged to be less crisp than the others. Apparently this is the fault of the audio stage circuitry and not the internal speaker.

In terms of using the ECSS technique to improve readability, invoking the LSB or USB modes in the DX-398 generally resulted in a 1-2 point *reduction* in readability; not only was it not a help at all, it actually lowered signal levels to, in some instances, unreadability. The BFO on the DX-402, it turns out, doesn't even work on MW, only on SW (where it was, in opinion, substandard, especially when compared to the 7600G's excellent SSB performance

on SW). Both Sangeans need to increase the level of their carrier injection voltages (or maybe my samples were just lemons...check before you buy). Conversely, utilizing either manual ECSS (SSB) or automated ECSS (synchro) on the two Sony's almost always improved readability. The ECSS and synchro capability of the 7600G would therefore give it a pretty hefty nod over the DX-398 in terms of producing a readable weak signal. The CCRadio and the DX-396, of course, do not have SSB capabilities.

Selectivity

The ability to log a station next to or near a stronger station is an important quality in a DXer's radio. Of the radios tested, only two, the 2010 and the DX-398, offered a choice of IF bandwidths. Because my modified 2010 has the original narrow filter in the wide position, I used only this "wide" filter in the following tests. With the DX-398, evaluations were made in both the wide and narrow modes. Both the CCRadio and the 7600G have "compromise" IF filters in that they are midway between the usual wide and narrow filters and they generally do a commendable job. Little was known about the IF filtration in the DX-402 and the DX-396.

Target stations

All of the target stations were chosen so that they were adjacent to a local pest and were in-line (i.e., un-nullable) with the local.

- WVOG-600 This 1 kWer is located in New Orleans, about 180 miles west of Pensacola. It is bothered mercilessly by local WVTJ-610.
- CMKO-1100 This is a weak Cuban of unknown power. It is next to very sloppy WNVY-1090 located to the north of my location.
- WZEP-1460 Located in DeFuniak Springs, FL to the east of me; bothered by local WBSR-1450 to the west.

Ratings

- 5 Clear
- 4 Minor sideband splash
- 3 Significant splash but target still readable
- 2 Major splash; target sometimes readable
- 1 Target never readable; splash intelligible
- 0 Target not detectable under splash

Results

	<u>DX-398</u>		<u>DX-402</u>	<u>DX-396</u>	<u>CCR</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>7600G</u>
	W	N					
WVOG-600	3.0	4.2	3.0	3.5	4.2	4.5	4.0
CMKO-1100	.5	1.5	0	.5	1.0	2.0	.5
WZEP-1460	3.0	4.0	1.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	3.5

Note: No ECSS or synchro was used to derive these ratings and all stations were tuned to the stations' center frequencies.

Again, the Sony 2010 proved best in these tests, although the 7600G, the CCR, and the DX-398 (in the narrow position) were close behind. In fact, the DX-398 was a bit better than the CCRadio when it was in its narrow mode and very close to the 2010. If the filter quality of the DX-398 had been a bit better (i.e., better deep skirt and ultimate selectivity), it probably would have won the selectivity competition. In many instances, however, the two Sony's with their sideband selectable synchro as well as their true SSB (i.e., LSB/USB)

capabilities enabled about a .5-1.0 improvement in the preceding ratings. The DX-396 fared surprisingly well while the DX-402 brought up the rear. The bottom line, however, is that the two Sony's generally were more effective in the selectivity department...their ECSS capabilities making the difference. Improvement in all of the radios (that had 1 kHz tuning capabilities), however, could be had by tuning away from the interfering station a few kHz (assuming that the target station was strong enough to allow off-tuning without disappearing).

Random Notes

DX-398

- Connecting an external antenna to the DX-398's external antenna jack disconnects the internal antenna(s).
- The SSB function fine tunes in 40 Hz steps; good enough if the circuit was decent.
- Eats batteries; the AA batteries last about a dozen hours (according to the owner's manual).
- Made in Taiwan.

DX-402

- Connecting an external antenna does not disconnect internal antenna(s).
- BFO inoperative on MW band; mediocre on SW.
- Signal strength LED (single) only lights on locals.
- Also eats batteries; the AA batteries last about 12 hours (according to the manual).
- Made in China.

DX-396

- No external antenna connector (which is probably good; overloading a potential problem).
- Uses C-cells; 60+ hours per set.
- Birdies a real problem especially on SW (five "new" stations were present between 2.5 MHz and 3.0 MHz...images from MW).
- Made in China.

Conclusions

Of the three current Radio Shack offerings as potential BCB DX machines, the only one that is worth considering is the DX-398. It's principal shortcoming (in my mind) is the shape of its audio passband. While its somewhat dark audio sounds pretty good on FM and on medium to strong AM stations, this turns into a sense of "muffled murkiness" on weak AM stations, making voice IDs a challenge. Again, this is most problematical when trying to dig out an ID on tough DX; under less challenging conditions, the audio would probably be okay, even though not ideal, for most people. This "muddiness" really becomes apparent when compared side-by-side with a radio like the CCRadio (whose audio is shaped for voice communications). If you can live with the audio, the DX-398 fared pretty well in the sensitivity tests and very well in the selectivity measures, making it one of the better MW DX radios currently available. Of course, there's always the short battery life to deal with....

The DX-402 and DX-396 are okay for night time DXing of not-too-difficult domestics but fall short for DX that is a little more challenging. Either should suffice for local/clear channel listening or for listening to the easier SW broadcasters.

It's good that Radio Shack has a 30-day return policy. You can decide for yourself whether any of the current offerings meet your needs.

The Latest Radio Shack 'Superadio' Clone

Every time that Radio Shack comes out with another Superadio imitation, I get suckered into buying one...I just can't seem to resist the "extended AM range" and the "even pickup up distant AM stations" in the ad copy. And every time I buy a new model, I swear I'll never fall for the hype again (I feel like Charlie Brown, and Radio Shack is Lucy holding the football urging me to try just one more time). So, alas, when the salesman walked in from the backroom holding one of the new models (the 12-903; replacing the horrid 12-603), I whipped out my credit card, swearing under my breath at my weakness.

I was comforted not at all by the salesman's assurances that this was a brand new, improved model, much better than the older one....Sigh, I guess I'm just a radio junkie.

So, how did it perform? Arrrrrrgh! They did it to me again! The new model failed to show any sign at all of the stations used in the sensitivity tests above. Between my local stations, there was mostly silence, only the strongest out-of-town stations making a whispery appearance. I didn't even bother with the selectivity tests. Within 10 minutes, the new 12-903 was in its box and on its way back to Radio Shack. Please Radio Shack, fire whichever engineer is responsible for this series of abysmal radios and give Bob Crane and his staff a call....

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THE INTERNATIONAL RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA (IRCA) P.O. Box 60241, Lafayette LA 70596

The IRCA is a non-profit organization devoted to the hobby of hearing distant stations on the Broadcast Band (510-1720 kHz). DX Monitor, the official publication of the IRCA, is published in "soft" form 40 times a year (weekly from September to April, twice monthly from May to August) and in printed form 35 times a year (weekly September to April, monthly 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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