

February 8, 2003 - Volume 40, Number 21 - Edition 1278 - ISSN 899-9733

### Publishers Notes

An old friend is back with us as a DXM columnist! Please welcome back **Robert Wien** as he resumes editing the *Broadcasting Information* column by supporting him with all the hot station news you can send him! Thanks to **Lee Freshwater** for managing the column over the past several months.

While we're on the subject of support, I note that the columns have gotten very little support lately, and we're in prime DX season! Membership is steady, but people aren't contributing very much. DX Monitor is the primary instrument that links all of the membership together.

**If you're not contributing something to this publication, why not?** Someone sent me an e-mail saying that he was not renewing his membership because DXM didn't have "enough interesting articles, just boring old lists of DX" that weren't relevant to him. I note that he never sent in a word, not a tip about a format change, or a radio he likes to use, or even a "hi, I'm a member" as a Forum. Compared to the pre-internet days, contributing is SO EASY now, and practically cost free. (I'm sure the USPS laments the rise of e-mail.)

This is not *Popular Communications* or *Monitoring Times*. This is a place where we DXers share information among ourselves and the wider DX community. I don't expect people to send something in every week. I sure don't. But I would think a couple of times a year is appropriate. If you're new, ask questions—we'd love to help you get more out of the hobby.

Perhaps it's time to reevaluate what we're doing with *DX Monitor*. Let me know what you like or don't like, what you think the bulletin lacks. But take action. Do not depend on the "other guy" or "gal" to write the articles and contribute DX tips.

And do not forget to nominate people for the club offices. This is important, they set the tone for the future of the club.

To those of you who contribute regularly, **thank you**—this publication wouldn't exist without your efforts. -RT

### Elections are Coming

From now thru March 1, 2003 nominations are open for President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the seven members of the Board of Directors.

Only one nomination each for President, Secretary-Treasurer, and only seven nominations for the Board shall be allowed each IRCA member. An eligible member may nominate him/herself. All nominations must be submitted in written form (letter, fax or email) to the Election Committee Chairman, **Reid Wheeler**, by March 1, 2003. His address is 5910 Boulevard Loop SE, Olympia, WA 98501-8408. Telephone 360-786-6756, fax 360-753-3824 and e-mail [wma001@attbi.com](mailto:wma001@attbi.com).

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### Seattle DXers Gathering

**Bruce and Evelyn Portzer's** annual all-band DX gathering will take place at their home, 6546 19th Avenue N.E., Seattle WA, Saturday, February 15, beginning at 2 pm. Bring radios, logbooks, and munchies. For more information, call Bruce at 206-522-2521.

### DX Tests

**PLEASE NOTE:** Even if you don't hear a test, be sure to contact the station, and thank them for going to the trouble to run a test! Please remember, what's listed as being on, say, Monday morning "may" be what you think of as Sunday night! (Test times are in the station's LOCAL time.)

**Sunday, February 16, 2003** - WRCR-1300, Spring Valley, NY will conduct an equipment test from 12:00-01:00 am ELT. The station will broadcast Morse code IDs, station promos, and AC music. Power will be 500 watts, mostly NW, protecting WAVZ - New Haven, CT. Reception reports may be sent to:

Alex Medakovic, Owner  
WRCR-AM  
Nanuet Mall, Suite 2126  
75 West Route 59  
Nanuet, NY 10954  
(Arranged by the NRC CPC)



**Sunday, February 23, 2003** - WFNY-1440 Gloversville, NY will conduct an equipment test from 12:00am-1:00am ELT. The test include Morse code IDs, station IDs, and AC Hit music. Reception reports may be sent to:

Michael A. Sleezer, Owner  
Radio Station WFNY  
P.O. Box 746  
Gloversville, NY 12078

(Arranged by Ron Musco for the NRC CPC.)

If you try for (or hear) any of these tests, PLEASE post a message letting me know, and please, drop the station personnel a note, via e-mail or snail mail, thanking them for running the test!

**Lynn** ([ircamember@ircaonline.org](mailto:ircamember@ircaonline.org))

### Web Sites for AM DX Stuff

While looking for the logo for WFNY, (nothing found), I came across this regional radio/TV site, focusing on upstate New York. Called "**The Capital Gold Dial Guide**", it covers stations in the area around Albany. Along with lists of stations and accompanying links, there is information on towers and transmitters, radio and TV memorabilia, and more. There's even a section called "DX Monitor". Find this site at <http://www.capitalgold.org>.

### Convention Update

**Mike Sanburn** is planning a great convention in Portland, Maine this June... and now we are getting specially discounted fares with **USAirways**. The airline is offering 10% off the lowest fare with 60 day advance purchase, 5% thereafter. Mention contract number 44642695 and call the special phone number: 1-877-874-7687 for details or reservations. This offer is good on travel June 24 through July 2.

### Remaining Publication Schedule

For the weeklies, which continues until early April, my deadline for materials is 2200 ET Monday evenings. After April 7, deadlines are 4/21, 5/5, 5/19, 6/2, 6/16, 7/7, 7/21, 8/4 and 8/18. These are the same deadlines the various column editors use to get their material to me, so look to their deadlines to ensure your tips don't get pushed back an issue.

**BROADCASTING INFORMATION**

Robert Wien – 801 E. Alosta Ave. Apt. G-100 – Azusa, CA 91702-2744  
 Email: wienbob@aol.com phone: 626-812-4389 Ham calls: KG6OXP

	CALL CHANGES	
OLD CALL		NEW
650	WJLT – Ashland, MA	WSRO
840	KABN – Long Island, AK	KCKC
960	WAAK – Dallas, NC	WZRH
1170	WZUR – Ponce, PR	WLEO
1350	WTZK – Black Mountain, NC	WWRN
1450	WHOH – Huntsville, AL	WTKI
1470	WSRO – Marlborough, MA	WAZN
1480	KCKC – Concord, CA	KABN
1490	WLEO – Ponce, PR	WZUR

FREQ.	CALL – CITY	NEW INFO
910	WAVL – Apollo, PA	CONTEMP. XTIAN
960	WZRH – Dallas, NC	TALK
960	WEAV – Plattsburgh, NY	ADDS FOX SPORTS
1000	WJBW – Jupiter, FL	BUS/NX/SPORTS//WDJA
1060	WKRE – Monroe, NC	REGIONAL MEXICAN
1070	WKMB – Stirling, NJ	GOSPEL
1340	WRWA – Reading, PA	WW1 OLDIES
1400	WEPP – Virginia, MN	SILENT
1420	WPBI – Delray Beach, FL	BUS/NX/SPORTS//WDJA
1470	WAZN – Marlborough, MA	BROKERED ETHNIC
1490	WRMT – Rocky Mount, NC	ADDS ESPN SPORTS
1490	WAIF – Decatur, AL	RELIGION
1520	WLGC – Greenup, KY	CONTEMP. XTIAN
1550	WUPR – Braddock, PA	TALK (WAS SILENT)
1590	WKHZ – Ocean City, MD	NEWS
1600	WNGA – Nashville, GA	SILENT
1600	WMQM – Milan, TN	RELIGION (WAS SILENT)
1670	KHPY – Moreno Valley, CA	NEW, VARIETY

## ADDITIONAL NOTES:

**David Gleason** of the NRC passes on the following (courtesy of Pat Martin):

*XEPRS 1090 operated through last week with a US sales agreement granted to an LA group that programmed La Gigante Tropical. The licensee, in Monterrey, has yanked the rights from the US group as of last Monday. The old programming remains, but the staff was notified that they are now part-time only. A new format, rumored to be Sports in English, is coming. If it is sports, it makes sense. XEPRS does not cover LA, but is a big San Diego signal. Clear Channel recently combined 1150 in LA with 690 in San Diego with one format; there is little local sports in SD.*

**Dave Gordon** passes on the following:

*I hear that CNET radio is ending broadcasts at the end of January. That means a format flip for KNEW. I hope it will be oldies like WSAI in Cincinnati though it will probably be some sort of talk format or a simulcast. Dave also passes on the following: I hear WWKB, Buffalo is going to flip to oldies!*

**Pat Martin** passes along the following (courtesy of the NRC):

*01/21/03 - Application by Pamplin Broadcasting for a construction permit to build a new AM station on 730 kHz in Hoquiam has been accepted for filing by the FCC. The station will operate at 1 kW day and night from two towers at 46-57-24 123-48-29.*

**Rich Toebe** sends word by e-mail that KNEW-910 Oakland CA was noted stunting Feb. 1 at 0900 ET; the Shuttle tragedy occurred shortly thereafter, and KNEW switched to CNN news feed, noted in the afternoon 1600 ET; back to stunting in the evening. Loop had “God Bless America” sung, then message “The talk begins Monday at 6 am”, then sounds of construction (jackhammers, pile drivers). “Talk 910” started Monday, mostly syndicated.

Well, this is my first column back as BI editor, glad to be back! I was out of work for 6 months and couldn't find any work in the Bay Area, so I interviewed in August, accepted a job in October, and moved down to Azusa, CA in late November where I'm now working as a satellite engineer at Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems (formerly Aerojet) in Azusa. Azusa is about 15 miles east of Pasadena and about 25 miles west of Ontario in the East San Gabriel Valley (Northeast Los Angeles). Area is very nice, except for the dust storms we get when ash blows off Mt. Baldy due to last summer's fires up there! I work very close to where the Raiders would've built their future stadium in Los Angeles at one time, near Irwindale (and the way they played this last weekend in the Super Bowl, they belong in a quarry pit, hi)...

My family is moving down here in April 2003, selling our place in San Jose after having lived in San Jose for 36 years, and buying down in this area to live permanently. Hence, the Azusa address listed above will only be until that time when I have a fully permanent address. Until then, keep those tips coming hot and heavy. When I have a permanent address, I will note it on the column header.

I also passed my ham license exam (Technician Element 2) Saturday 1/25/03! I just received my official call letters from the FCC, KG6OXP, which are included in the column header.

**Please note: I will only accept tips sent to the AOL e-mail address, tips mailed to me at the address above if you don't have email, or phoned to me at my no. listed above.** 73s.

**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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Hammarlund HQ-150, Sanserino air-core box loop & Kiwa loop
- (GH) Glen Hansen-1925 Tualatin St.--St. Helens, OR 97051  
DX'ing form Seal Rock, OR with Drake R8B & 80' E-W longwire
- (DP) Doug Pifer-3410 Marion St. SE-Albany, OR 97321 [oregon4wd@attbi.com](mailto:oregon4wd@attbi.com)  
Drake R8B, Kiwa loop

\*\*\*\*\*  
570 KLAC CA, Los Angeles 1/20 1058 Herb Alpert tune into news and back down into the jumble. Very weak but readable. (GH-OR)  
660 CFFR AB, Calgary 1/20 0210 man said "Thanks for listening to Calgary's oldie station 660 CFFR" into song "Suspicion" by Terry Stafford. Soon overtaken by KGA Truckin Network. (GH-OR)  
980 KINS CA, Eureka 1/30 0800 in with two call ID's in heave traffic. (LG-MT)  
1050 KTCT CA, San Mateo 1/23 was surprisingly strong & dominant at 0800. ESPN program ended, then ID as "The Ticket 1050, KTCT," then Fox Sports Update. (LG-MT)  
1360 KRKK WY, Rock Springs 1/27 0500 deep fades, but came back on strong a few times over KKMO's Spanish, "More good time rock and roll." Several ID's. (DP-OR)  
1390 KLGJ UT, Logan 1/21 0015 "Great songs and great memories," NOS format. (GH-OR)  
1410 KRML CA, Carmel 1/31 0915 on top of the frequency with early morning jazz, very strong at times. (AB-CA)  
1470 KELA WA, Centralia 1/20 0230 barely heard ID and ad for TV show then lost in the static. Very weak. (GH-OR)  
1490 KOWL CA, South Lake Tahoe 1/31 0905 local weather from the NWS, fair/good mixing with KTOB. (AB-CA)  
1560 KIQS CA, Willows 1/27 0119 fair, totally under KNZR with "KIQS, Willows, this is your hometown radio station," also "Unforgettable favorites," into Billy Joel song. (DP-OR)  
1570 KVTK SD, Vermillion my logging 1/4 at 0800 should have read "on top of CKMW." Sorry. (LG-MT)  
1590 KMBD OR, Tillamook 1/29 1900 came up in mess with ad for Sunriver Resort near Bend. (FA-ID)  
UNIDS  
980 1/17 1000 ID seemed to be "Talkradio 980, KNBA." Didn't sound like KNTR. (LG-MT)  
1130 1/22 sports station quite strong at 2100, had Fox Sports promo then theme music only (no ID). Possibly KWKH. (LG-MT)  
1660 Thought I heard ID as "The Ticket" and mention of San Jose Sharks hockey team. Very weak signal barely audible. (GH-OR) (1/21?—NJ)

Thanks to our five reporters. Hope to hear from more of you next week. Nancy 1/31 2100

#### CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP

Editor: John C. Johnson

E-mail: John\_Johnson@prodigy.net CDXR reports ONLY: cdxr@prodigy.net

#### RIDING GAIN

[NJ-MT] **Nancy Johnson**, Billings, MT  
NancyJohnson@prodigy.net  
Drake R8B, Kiwa loop.

[JJR-WI] **John J. Rieger**, South Milwaukee, WI  
JohnJRieger@webtv.net  
http://DX-midAmerica.com  
http://DXMW.com

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

DOWN THE DIAL

800 KQCV OK, Oklahoma City. 1-26 poor, no CKLW. 07:33 with promo, ID. [JJR-WI]  
1400 KBCK MT, Deer Lodge. 1-28 through others. 23:00 ID "K-buck 14-hundred, KBCK Deer Lodge, Anaconda." [NJ-MT]  
1490 W DAN IL, Danville. 1-24 fair in fade up. 23:18 ID, college basketball. [JJR-WI]  
WZOE IL, Princeton. 1-24 poor. 19:00 clear ID into CBS News. [JJR-WI]

25 YEARS AGO

February 4, 1978 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... New members included **Mike Stonebridge** of Fox Creek, AB ... **Ken Burgess** of Swift Current, SK told about CKSW's move from 1400 to 570 ... **Bob LaFore** of Princeton, FL said he was 18 and a senior at South Dale High ... **Paul Mount** of Morningside Heights, NY told about the Teaneck get-together on January 15th.

OPEN MIKE

Midwinter DX slump? This column was typed 2-1-03. 73, John

#### EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

E-mail: ENGWTRS@aol.com

Deadlines are : Sunday 8 AM

		STARS OF THE WEEK
(HN-GA)	Herb Newberry	405 JH Whittaker Rd, Newborn, GA 30056-3033
(WM-MD)	William McGuire	Kenwood R-5000, Quan Loop , 1000' "L" shaped l.w. 2412 59th Place, Cheverly MD DX-398

#### LOGGINGS

540	FL	WFLF	Pine Hills 1/21 2100 ID given as WFLA, new (WM-MD) (alot of the Clear Channel AM strns in Florida ID as "WFLA"-ed)
660	OH	WXIC	Waverly 1/17 0800 TOH ID "Gospel Music..660 WXIC Waverly.." Poor on loop. New (HN-GA)
690	VA	WZAP	Bristol 1/14 1730 hrd "WZAP must cut power at this time, Tune in tomorrow for the best in S. GSPL and Christain music (WM-MD)
710	FL	WAQI	Miami 1/17 0811 withr WOR gone and WUFF absent, hrd "Radio Miami LA Grande", &news. Moderate with waver on loop(HN-GA)
730	NC	WOHS	Shelby 1/20 1935 "WHOS" between oldies. Poor. Heavy slop on loop. (HN-GA)
780	AL	WZZX	Lineville 1/26 2012 Dominant o/WBBM "Real Country WZZX" mixing with WBBM on loop, dominant on wire (HN-GA)
810	GA	WBIC	Royston 1/24 1319 S GSPL in WNSI null. Rare daytime reception 230 watts D1 (HN-GA)
840	SC	WCEO	Columbia 1/15 1730 Sign off, ID (WM-MD)
850	OH	WKNR	Cleveland 1/10 2250 Hockey game, ID (WM-MD)
		OH	WKNR Cleveland 1/24 1701 SSS catch. New Over WDJC on wire. Ex on Loop (HN-GA)
910	SC	WSPA	Spartenburg JAN 4 2138 Local ads (WM-MD)
		AB	CKDQ Drumheller 1/22 0033 "Q91" Classic C&W (WM-MD)
930	MS	WSLI	Jackson 1/20 1952 Ole Miss Pgm. Excellent. New power is 3800/3100 U2 (HN-GA)

940 FL WRFX Miami 1/26 2036 Super Bowl. Local ads. New (HN-GA)  
 1180 GA WZQZ Trion 1/20 2048 on after hours ? WW-1 Music of your Life.  
 New format ?? Mix w/ VOA (HN-GA)  
 1290 GA WTKS Savannah 1/26 2108 "The Laura Ingram show on WTKS"  
 In the slop, slightly better on the loop. New (HN-GA)  
 1480 NC WYRN Louisburg 1/18 1937 C&W mx, ID (WM-MD)  
 1600 NY WWRL New York 12/27 0045 ID heard (WM-MD)

THANKS to Herb & William, who are back after being absent for two weeks. Nice to have them back. Herb and I are both enjoying the new Oldies format on WSAI - Cincinnati. Wish I had more time to listen. See you all next week. Fresh 2/2/03 1300

**DX WORLDWIDE - WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX**

Editor: Patrick Martin - P.O. Box 843 - Seaside OR 97138  
 E-mail: mwdxer@webtv.net all times UTC

Some TP/DU DX of late for a change. Not too exciting, but at least a showing, and a report from **Doug Pifer**.

**PAN-AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP**

1630 **MEXICO**, Tijuana, BCN, XEUT, 1/27 0602 UTC. Good. About equal with KKWY. Radio Universidad slogans and call letters heard several times. Transmitter power and addresses were also given. Comments were slow by both man and woman with violin and orchestra mx in between. Interesting. (DP-OR)

**TRANS-PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP**

531 **AUSTRALIA**, West Kempsey, 2PM fair on top with song "I Hear a Symphony" at 1509 UTC 1/30. "2PM, more variety...." (PM-OR)  
 531 **JAPAN**, Morioka JOQG at 1521 1/31 woman with JJ talk o/u 2PM. (PM-OR)  
 531 **NEW ZEALAND**, Auckland, 1XPL, Pacific Islands Radio, island mx u/2PM at 1508 1/30. (PM-OR)  
 550 **HAWAII**, Wailuku, KMVI fair o/u KOAC with Sports talk at 1522 1/31. (PM-OR)  
 558 **JAPAN**, Kobe JOCR 1510 1/19, YL in JJ Pop mx. (PM-OR)  
 567 **JAPAN**, Sapporo, JOIK man in JJ talk at 1536 1/19. (PM-OR)  
 576 **JAPAN**, Kagoshima JOHG, //531 1537 1/19, JJ Talk (PM-OR)  
 585 **JAPAN**, Kushiro JOPG //576 JJ Talk at 1533 1/19 (PM-OR)  
 594 **JAPAN**, Tokyo JOAK at 1530 1/19 and 1523 1/31. JJ Talk (PM-OR)  
 693 **JAPAN**, Tokyo JOAB JJ Talk at 1524 1/31 (PM-OR)  
 729 **JAPAN**, Nagoya JOCK JJ Talk //531 with YL at 1535 1/31 (PM-OR)  
 738 **TAHITI**, FF Talk by woman at 1540 1/31. (PM-OR)  
 760 **HAWAII**, Honolulu KGU about the best signal of any Hawaiian most mornings now. KPUA is better at night, but once KFMB fades out, KGU is strong and alone on channel with soft Christian mx. Noted 1514 1/30. (PM-OR)  
 792 **AUSTRALIA**, Brisbane 4RN, poor with woman talking about pending Mid East War at 1515 1/31. (PM-OR)  
 873 **RUSSIA**, first time hrd this is quite some time. Fair with man in Russian 1538 1/31. (PM-OR)  
 890 **ALASKA**, Homer KBBI, presumed KBBI with NPR program mixing with KLFF, at 1540 1/31. (PM-OR)  
 918 **JAPAN**, UNID JJ commercial station with JJ Pop mx. 1539 1/19 poor to fair. (PM-OR)

945 **PHILIPPINES**, Roxas City DYRO? Woman in Filipino at 1555 1/19. Several Filipinos are listed but the Roxas City area can be common when cx are good. (PM-OR)  
 1611 **AUSTRALIA**, X Band station here in Italian I think at 1526 1/30. Prob. 1RF, Griffith, 1610 QRM. (PM-OR)  
 1629 **AUSTRALIA**, UNID X Bander here with weak mx at 1525 1/30. (PM-OR)  
 1701 **AUSTRALIA**, Brisbane, Radio 1701, good with Indian mx at 1523 1/30. This one gets out for 400w. I heard them almost as well when they were 100w early on. They must have a great tx site!

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

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**DX WORLDWIDE - EAST**

Editor: Brandon Jordan - 4920 Park Ave. - Memphis, TN 38117  
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**\*\*\* TRANSPACIFIC DX \*\*\***

1575 **THAILAND** VOA, JAN 17 1146 - 1202 Man speaking at threshold level, "Voice of America" made it through the noise at 1159:30. Audio picked up after 1200 with new program, soft voice woman with musical interludes - carrier doesn't get stronger after 1200 but audio seems to have more "punch." [Moore-FL]

**\*\*\* CONTRIBUTORS \*\*\***

[**Moore-FL**] = Ray Moore, N. Ft Myers, FL - Homebrew receiver, R8, R1000, 23" spiral MW loop and Comdel preamp, 23" passive SW loop

Thanks for nice logging, Ray! That's all for this issue. 73, Brandon.

**WESTERN DX FORUM**

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Gary Larson, 2806 Lincoln, Burbank CA 91504  
 [1/24] I just took a ride on nite off to Antelope Valley area to get away from LA for a bit, and to dx + listen to some FM's. Tried to find a place to pick up a phone book for area but no luck. Heard all locals plus some fm's. Passed 348 E Av K4 (Clear Channel) and looked like employee cars were in lot. All this going on about 2 AM. NRC Log has 352 E K4 for 1340 Mojave (KTPI) and I called today to inquire if that is true. Was told yes, so now there are these at the K-4 bldg - 610 KAVL, 1240 KTPI, plus 97.7 KVVS Mojave (// 102.7 in LA), 103.1 Tahachapi KTPI (country) and KOSS Rosamond 105.5. I passed by 190 Sierra Ct, Palmdale where 3 stns once were - 1340, 103.1 + 105.5, and now that part of bldg has another business so that's purpose of checking K4 loc., and calling to ask today. After leaving Av K-4, I went north on Sierra Hwy to Rosamond Bl then east to main gate of Edwards AFB, turned around and headed home. Going no. on Sierra plus east gets one higher in elevation and a good view too. Wind blowing pretty good no. of Lancaster. A tall



tower east of Sierra + S. of Rosamond Bl is for FMs but the height of it would probably work for an AM. 1050 KTCT was in good on car rx. Tried some graveyard freqs but mostly a jumble. I did ask at local clear channel ofc here about if 1340 is // to 850 KACD + KTDD 1350 and was told it's a separate format of country classics; was good to hear. On way out + back, passed 1220 Cyn Country XR but nothing different there - they were // 102.7 in LA. Called GM of 670 KIRN to inquire about whether a site was found for 35 KW upgrade but he wasn't in, so left a message. 73 for now.

[1/27] In today's mail I got the 1-25 DXM and read it over noting DKK's hearing 1670 KHPY. I'd expect more dxers to be hearing them at night as we go along. The 9 Kw will help in some directions. Earlier today my mother + friend were to go to Hesperia to visit some people and I wasn't really included but decided to go separately so I left after they did intending to surprise them, which I did. Another reason was to dx and towerspot. Listened to 1510 + 1350 on way along 210 fwy through area of Claremont, Upland + Rancho Cucamonga. 1530 open now. Forgot to try 1050 Loma Linda. Tried for 910 KRAK going from 210 to 215 fwys but not much heard. 960 was on well. Got off at Oak Hill Rd but detour caused me to go longer route. Wanted to find exact site of 910, north of Ranchero Rd, east of the 15 fwy. Saw 910 4-tower site but paid visit to residence in Hesperia first. Wasn't able to really find access street to towers since I didn't have lots of time. Needed to return home to rest for job shift. Stardust 910 sounds good to me and I heard SS on 1550 Apple Valley plus talk on 1590 and 960. 540 dark from Lucerne Valley site, as we know, but heard XESURF steady and fair. As to 910 XR, streets/roads in that area are dirt so maybe in future may find it. 73

[4/29] In OC Register radio column 1-27, I read that 1090 XEPRS is to be sold, likely to a co. that will air sports. Teddy Fregoso, GM-Pres. has no other stn interests currently. I spoke to him on phone, mentioned IRCA and that I recalled he operated KROQ 1500 when it was SS in 85-86 prior to going silent. Was told they currently are on 3<sup>rd</sup> fl. of bldg KWKW + Lotus Comm. Moved to on Vine St., and they'll remain there but in March, Lotus will go to Barham Bl area of LA not far from Burbank. Spoke to ass't of Jim Kalmernson of Lotus who told me this. Am hoping to inquire of progress on 670 AM power increase/XR move from 670's GM. So now, looks like Clear Channel will continually moved their 8 stns into Olive Av, Burbank bldg; Lotus moves to Barham Bl. area; HBC-LA is on Central, Glendale; Salem is on Brand, and CBS Infinity is at various locations, plus Mt. Wilson FM is W LA and Astor Br Group still is Carlsbad, but has 1510 KSPA close to LA. Also ABC Disney has their stns on LaCienega. Entravision owns some FMs that were once part of Big City Radio, at 107.1, so many changes are going on here. Left out Multicultural R. Br., Pasadena with their numerous stns. 1540 here is Sports. News so it's a 1 stn entity in market. Obtained a number I last had in 9-02 that became active 1-30-03 - 845-5800. Good learn that Robt Wien will do Br. Info again. Hope the Maine convention goes really well. 73

#### DX WORLDWIDE - II

Editor: Bruce Portzer - 6546 19th Ave. NE - Seattle, WA 98115

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#### LATIN AMERICA

A new Latin MWDX e-group on Yahoo features DX tips, loggings, solar weather alerts, propagation, etc. They plan to assemble a database of the audio Ds of as many Latin American stations as possible, so fellow DXers can use them to help with IDing what they hear on the radio. The address is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LatinMWDX> (Matt L, Moderator, Latin American MW DX Club)

**ARGENTINA:** 1630 R Restauración ex 1650 Nicolás Eramo 1650 R Conurbana, Gregorio de Laferrere, Partido de Matanza is new. (MAC via Arctic)

**BRAZIL:** Some additional information to the info given about the Brazilian Summer Time supplied by Marcelo F. Rosa: - 2 hours: Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Paraná, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Goiás, Tocantins, Bahia, Distrito Federal, Fernando de Noronha, Ilha de Trindade e Martin Vaz. - 3 hours: Sergipe, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceará, Piauí, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Amapá, eastern part of Pará. - 4 hours: Rondônia, Roraima, western part of Pará, eastern part of Amazonas. - 5 hours: Acre, western part of Amazonas. (Marcelo F. Rosa in radioescutas via DXLD)

**CHILE:** Chile has Summer Time from October 13, 2002 till the second Saturday in March, 2003. (Hugo López, via Arctic)

**COSTA RICA:** 530 TLX R Sinfonola, Cartago, ex R Rumbo. They relay FM 90.3. According to a telephone interview, they replaced all programming of R Rumbo with R Sinfonola from mid April and they operate 1000-0600. 1120 TL. R Reloj, San José, // 730. 1280 TIHT R Alajuela, Alajuela has been sold to two two pastors; Rodolfo Arias Ramos and William Magaña, who will move the station to San José. New station name will be Estéreo Visión (La Nación via Tetsuya Hirahara, RNM via Arctic) 1360 TL. R Dos, San José, belongs to Grupo Columbia (QTH: Ap. 708, 1000 San José). R Monumental-group, 24h: 670 R Monumental; 890 R Fabulosa; 980 R Favorita.

(Tetsuya Hirahara, RNM, who visited San José 12-15 October 2002, via Arctic)

**CUBA:** A helpful list of Cuban AM outlets:

<http://www.amfmdx.net/amdx/cubanradio.html#networks> (John WB9UAI, HCDX)

**MÉXICO:** President Vicente Fox reduced the amount of time television and radio stations must dedicate to the government. In a decision announced October 10, Fox's government said television and radio stations no longer have to donate at least three hours a day to the government so that it can present "material recorded by the executive branch". The amount of time was reduced to 18 minutes for television and 35 minutes for radio but must be aired between the peak hours of 6 a.m. and midnight. Before the longer hours of government air time were broadcast during late-night hours when few viewers or listeners tuned in, a Fox spokesman said.

Radio and television stations also agreed to dedicate another 30 minutes each day during peak hours to other government entities, he said. The resolution also states that the government will not have to pay for the 18 minutes of daily television time or 35 minutes of daily radio time but that it will be charged full price for any additional air time, the spokesman said.

Senators from Fox's National Action Party criticized the president's decision, with Javier Corral saying it was contrary to national interest. Fox said the decision was part of his campaign for a more democratic, open Mexico. He lobbied for passage of Mexico's new freedom of information law, and has made the government funded news agency Notimex more independent. (AP via SCDX MediaScan 16.10 via DXLD)

XEW-900 La Voz de la América Latina is currently running a comedy show on Monday nights at 10 PM CT entitled, "XHDRBZ". Those letters on the promos look like actual call letters. If the signal is strong and stable, you will likely realize that the calls are fake because the "R" is backwards. Otherwise, these promos can easily be mistaken for actual calls. Jeff Kruszka did some research and learned that "DRBZ" stands for the name of the program's star. (Danny Oglethorpe, Shreveport, LA, WTFDA via DXLD)



**PANAMÁ:** 1450 R. Melodía, ex R. 1450 AM, Panamá. 5 kW"La Típica de Moda". 1560 R Adventista de Panamá. Sched: 1000-0200. Web: [www.tagnet.org/radioadvpma](http://www.tagnet.org/radioadvpma) (Arctic)

## TRANS PACIFIC

**CHINA:** CNR-5 0055-0615, 0955-0005 549, 765; CNR-6 2055-0105, 0355-1805 (Wed 0605-0955 no broadcast) [maintenance] 684, 909, 927, 1089; V. of the Strait 2225-1700 (Wed 2230-1000 no broadcast): News channel 666, 1269, Amoy channel 873; China Huayi Bc. Co. (Wed 2225-1000 no broadcast) 2225-1700 783; Voice of Jinling 1125-1400 846. (Miller Liu-TWN, DXLD Nov 15)

**KOREA, SOUTH:** 675 KBS Kunsan now KBS-3 ex. KBS-2. 936 KBS Changwon now KBS3 ex. KBS-2 (both items: T. Yamashita in ABI Nov issue via Y. Kato)

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** Morobe's rural people to get more of Radio Morobe RURAL residents of the Morobe province may soon have access to the vital services of the National Broadcasting Corporation's (NBC's) Radio Morobe through the medium wave following a visit by three officials from the Japanese International Corporation Agency (JICA) early this week. Provincial station manager, Kikalem Meruk, told The Independent that Radio Morobe was one of eight provincial stations owned by NBC that was to be visited by this JICA team. Mr Meruk said the purpose of the team's visit to the radio station was to see first hand the available facilities, the staff and the services that were being rendered to the people of Morobe. In addition to this, they were also to hold talks on possible assistance to the station to boost its services. Mr Meruk said discussions which were held with the officials included the possible installation of another transmitter for the local station to broadcast its Kundu service on the medium wave band. However, this would be subject to the team's findings, proposal and eventual approval by the Japanese government for funding assistance. The station manager explained that of the eight stations visited, the Japanese government would be assisting three to five of them. He said the talks with the team had proven quite positive and he was confident that

Radio Morobe would receive this boost. He said the team also paid a courtesy visit to the provincial administration where they met with deputy governor, Gigo Zaliang and provincial advisor, Malalu Angu, who both briefed the JICA team of the funding assistance rendered by the provincial government to the radio station. During this occasion the Japanese officials were told of the vital role that the station was playing in getting vital information through to the people especially in the rural areas. He said the Japanese officials appeared quite impressed with the kind of support and commitment demonstrated by the provincial government and had indicated that they would be looking at assisting with another transmitter. Mr Meruk said R Morobe, which had fallen victims to vandals in the city, had been fortunate to have had the provincial government and AusAID come good with substantial funding to help get the station back on air. He said the station was broadcasting on SW and MW bands, however the service was not all that effective. He said the installation of another transmitter would ensure a strong and clear reception for many more listeners throughout the province. (The Independent, via Don Nelson)

**RUSSIA:** The private Radio Vostok Rossii is using the following transmitters in Khabarovskiy kray: Khabarovsk 711, Bikin 765 and Komsomolsk-na-Amure 1269. Source: <http://www.guzei.com> (Bernd Trutenau-LTU 16.11.2002)

**TUVALU:** Bob Girdo sent me this link to his website following a visit to the island & repairs at Radio Tuvalu: <http://www.girdo.com/tuvalu/tuvalu17radio.htm> Note, the 621 outlet is out of service and it could be some time before it's back on air. (Paul Ormandy, HCDX)

**(Trans-Atlantic information will appear next week.)**

## Emerging Techniques of High-Tech Dxpeditioning

Part 4, conclusion

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January 2003

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*Possibly better graphic reproduction as well as sound files may be found at those sites)*

### DX RADAR

DXers have probably dreamed about some form of what we have come to call "DX Radar" just about as long as there have been DXers. The wide spectrum graphic spectrum analyzers of the tube era were one attempt at a method of representing the signals present on a given band. Unfortunately, sweep speeds were slow and resolution poor, so little hobby application was found for these early efforts. Its almost certain, of course, that the various electronic intelligence agencies of the major powers developed such gear to a relatively high level of sophistication. To our knowledge, though, little if any of this gear has made it to the hobby world.

In the late 1980s, several sophisticated receivers did appear on the civilian market that offered spectrum scanning capabilities. We have had experience with only one of these rigs, the McKay-Dymek DR-333. In addition to its graphic and text-oriented operating programs, it offered operators a spectrum scanning function. This module allowed the operator to define the upper and lower limits of the spectrum to be scanned; the receiver then divided that spectrum into an arbitrary number of steps and checked for signal strength at each of those steps. Since the DR-333 was a black-box receiver, it output the results graphically, to the computer screen. This approach was similar to that found on several other high-end receivers and worked moderately well when monitoring a sparsely populated band such as 90 meters. However, its usefulness was much reduced on more populated shortwave bands and it proved useless to monitor for unusual signals on the crowded medium wave band.

Nick Hall-Patch has specialized in DXing trans-Pacific signals from near his home in Victoria, BC for many years. About seven years ago, he set out to develop a DX Radar designed to give a graphic representation of signals present on the international MW channels. (In case you are not aware of it, MW signals outside the Western Hemisphere are organized with one channel per 9 kHz of bandwidth, rather than the 10 kHz.) Thus, the international channels (for us in the Western Hemisphere) are 531, 540, 549, 558, 567, 576, 585 kHz., etc. This pattern of frequency assignments for trans-Pacific (and trans-Atlantic) stations presents both opportunities and real difficulties when designing a spectrum monitoring program

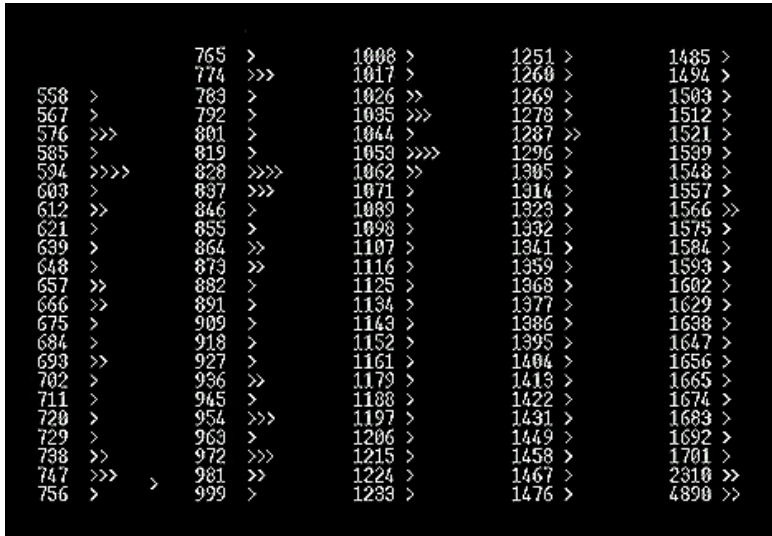
"DX Radar" is a DOS-based receiver control program, implemented presently for the Dymek DR-333, Ten-Tec RX-320 and for a highly modified JRC NRD-525. Every 100 milliseconds (250 ms in the case of the RX-320), the program tunes the receiver to a different preset frequency and records in memory the signal strength found there. After averaging a few of these signal strengths for each channel, the resulting signal strength is displayed on the PC screen for each channel after using a simple algorithm described below to (partially) remove the effects of the domestic sideband splatter usually found on MW DX channels.

These preset frequencies are usually 9 kHz-spaced overseas MW channels, plus a frequency 1 kHz away from each 9 kHz channel. The latter signal is far enough away from the desired

frequency so that any DX signal is out of the filter passband, but near enough to have quite similar splatter characteristics. The noise signal level is subtracted from the DX channel's signal level, and the resultant value gives a rough idea of DX activity on the desired channel.

Unfortunately, it takes 20 seconds to do one scan of the MW band using this method, and averaging of a number of scans is desirable to get better signal strength accuracy, so the update rate is usually set at about 2 minutes. A DX signal can fade away in that period of time, but until a PC-controllable receiver is found with a fast enough AGC decay to be scanned more quickly than every 100 milliseconds, it's a problem we'll have to live with.

Figure 13 represents a fairly typical opening to East Asia from the Grayland site as seen on the Hall-Patch DX Radar. The chevrons (>) represent the signal strength that was present on that particular channel as the Radar swept past it. A single chevron represents the default signal strength of very little to no signal on the frequency. Experience has shown us that two chevrons (>>) indicate a het of medium strength or maybe "threshold" audio is present. Channels which show signal strength of three chevrons (>>>) almost certainly have "listenable" audio present, while four chevrons usually indicate "arm chair copy."



**Figure 13. A fairly typical "low band" opening to East Asia from Grayland at dawn as seen on DX Radar.**

How one responds to a DX Radar display like the one above is largely dependent on the level of personal experience with Trans-Pacific signals from the Pacific Northwest. A neophyte would certainly first choose to log the armchair level signals indicated on 594, 828 and 1053 kHz. He will discover that 594 is JOAK, NHK's First Program from Tokyo; 828 almost certainly will be JOBB, NHK's Second Program from Osaka and he will discover to his chagrin that 1053 is a South Korean "bubble" jammer covering a North Korean propaganda station.

A DXer who is more experienced at TP work (and knowing that it is an East Asian Opening) will recognize those signals from the Radar Screen and will also note the presence of the

other usual strong NHK-2 stations on 747, 774 and probably 873. Further, the experienced DXer will assume that 954 is JOKR, Tokyo, that 972 is HLCA, the KBS outlet from Dangjin, South Korea and that it is likely that the two high band stations, 1287 and 1566 are JOHR, Sapporo and HLAZ, the giant missionary station on Cheju Island, South Korea, respectively. These stations are the most reliable performers, year-in and year-out from East Asia to the Pacific Northwest. With those channels eliminated from consideration, the experienced TP DXer will likely focus first on the other three frequencies that are showing three chevron strength and are almost certainly in audio. The possibilities for 576 include Russia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and (heart-a-fluttering) India, as well as smaller scale stations in Japan and throughout East Asia. The 837 chevrons indicates a signal that is "probably" South Korea, but might be India or maybe one of the smaller scale Japanese NHK 1 outlets. Finally, the 1035 signal is most likely China National Radio's First Program from near Beijing. Most of us would try to check all three signals, but we would likely start with 576 kHz.

As far as international medium wave DXing is concerned, it must be said that DX Radar is an imperfect tool. It seems to be more useful some mornings than others and, at times, will indicate "false positives" despite Nick's nifty routine to minimize splatter from adjacent channels. At the worst, DX Radar can give us an indication of the part of the band that is the most active and thus make our manual scanning much more effective.

Since the DX Radar has not become well known in SWBC DXing circles, no one hastened it on the shortwave bands. Those of us with experience on those bands think that it would be quite effective on 60 and 90 meters where most signals of interest are relatively QRM free and their presence is only limited by propagation and time of day. For instance, DXing the SWBC stations in Papua New Guinea at dawn would be made immeasurably easier using a version of DX Radar with each of the PNG channels in the scanning file. With only 20 or so relatively QRM free signals to monitor, the DX Radar would update itself much more quickly and ought to be a near-perfect predictor of a stations presence and signal strength.

Finally, it must be stressed that we have found that DX Radar will not run well in a "DOS Window." A computer Running Windows 98SE or earlier can be rebooted into DOS from the "Restart in DOS" selection on the Shut Down menu. The rather small DOS program for DX Radar may then be executed from the command line. We have found it easiest to simply dedicate an obsolete computer to the DX Radar function. Nick, himself, uses an old 386 tablet "Grid" computer and John uses a mini-notebook 486 machine called a Compaq Aero Contura that currently sells on the web for well under \$100. With newer computers, establishing a partition of DOS-only programming and making the machine "dual bootable" is probably a good strategy.

Copies of the DX Radar program (including source code if requested) are available gratis from Nick Hall-Patch ([nhp@ieec.org](mailto:nhp@ieec.org))

## RECOMMENDED COMPUTERS

If you have yet to acquire a laptop for DXpeditioning use, we should state again that most of the machines that we use at Grayland are quite obsolete (and therefore very affordable.) Most of the software that we use could actually run on a 486 machine, but in truth, more than half of our machines are in the 250 MHz. Pentium class of computers or better. These are currently available on ebay and elsewhere for well under \$300. We would recommend buying a laptop that has at least 4 GB of storage space and which supports USB or at least PCMCIA connected devices. These latter allow rapid sharing of software and files between machines – an attribute that we find handy when loading our machines at home and when sharing among ourselves here.

Collectively, we are in disagreement as to just what level of machine to recommend. John is quite happy with one of the now-\$300 machines mentioned above. You should know,



however, that he does not intend to use ERGO or one of the other resource-intensive receiver tuning programs. However, he does regularly use Geoclock, a couple of Adobe PDF references, B-log and Total Recorder and a simple receiver control program for the Ten Tec RX-320, all simultaneously. Nick, on the other hand, points out that, if you run all of the above PLUS a sophisticated receiver control program and maybe another resource hog or two, it is possible to saturate even a much better machine than John's. He puts more emphasis on the fact that the current whiz-bang units which are going for \$1.5k+ today will be garage sale specials in a couple of years, and will do a nice job at the DXpedition site.

Guy has done fine with his 266 MHz machine running Geoclock, ERGO, B-Log and some open ASCII text references, but loading the PAL with Acrobat 5 caused a marked speed decrease. He had to drop back to Acrobat 4 like Nick suggested. Guy says that he has been surprised, actually, at how well this modest notebook works for him. Perhaps the 92MB ram helps, but its likely that Windows resources is a key item. "Any day now" Guy's dropping in a new CPU card (MMC-1) that he got through Ebay, but it's only a minor bump to 300 MHz. Guy also muttered "Maybe I can convince Rochelle we can do a notebook upgrade along with the new furniture." Fat chance.

Any laptop that you are considering for DXpeditioning use should have a serial port, especially as the USB to serial converters aren't always very effective. A serial port is absolutely required in all current receiver control applications and even if you don't intend to go that route at all, a new inexpensive digital receiver like the Ten Tec RX-320 may come along and change your mind. If you are to do any kind of audio work with your DXcapable laptop, and a Line-In or Mike-In audio jack (in stereo, if possible) is absolutely essential. Stereo input capability is recommended because many of us have found that we would like to record from two receivers simultaneously. This is possible with Total Recorder and similar software, but only if your audio-input capability is in stereo. Unfortunately, many "modern" laptops come without either Serial ports or provisions for inputting audio signals.

If one is already intending to purchase a new laptop for general use anyway, one might as well get one that will also serve as a high-tech DXing machine. On the other hand, if your only reason for purchasing a laptop is for DXpeditioning use, the best route might be to try out one of those \$300 Ebay specials for a year or so and then you'll have a good idea as to just what level of machine you need long term for DXpeditions.

## CONCLUSION

The reason that this article is titled "Emerging Techniques..." is that this is, at best, an interim report of what one group of DXers is doing with several very rapidly changing technologies. As such, this article is practically obsolete before it is published. We do hope that some elements of our recent efforts will prove useful to many readers. We also hope that this article will stimulate others who are applying new tools of technology to DXing to write similar articles for the hobby press.

## IRCA Foreign Logs

**IRCA Foreign Log #11** is NOW available! This edition contains ALL the SDXM DXWWW-E and DXWWW-W tips from the 2001-2002 DX season. It is available through IRCA's website at [www.ircaonline.org](http://www.ircaonline.org). Click on "IRCA Bookstore", and you will find a link to PDFs after the Foreign Log 11 listing. There are three compiles: one for DX Worldwide West, for DX Worldwide-East, and for DX Worldwide II. All tips reported to the columns are included in the compiles, and is sorted by TA, TP, and LA's, by frequency (or country for DXWWW-II). For the first time, this can be downloaded. For a hard copy, prices are: IRCA members - \$10.00 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$11.00 (rest of the Americas airmail), \$11.50 (Europe/Asia airmail), \$12.00 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). Non-members: add \$2.00 to the above prices.

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This tri-folded brochure is ideal for explaining the Broadcast Band DXing hobby and the IRCA. It can be included with reception reports and given to other interested folks. Sub topics include: What is DXing?, Broadcasting's early years, The first DXers, Clubs helped listeners share, Our hobby today and DX clubs still unite listeners. It is two color printed on heavy stock. Price is \$0.35/brochure (US and Canada), \$1.00 (rest of the world). Minimum order is 10. To order, send the correct amount (in US funds payable to **Phil Bytheway**) to:

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