

February 12, 2005 - Volume 42, Number 21 - Edition 1343 - ISSN 899-9733

EIC Notes

IRCA welcomes **Danny L. Kolhage** from Key West, FL.

DX Flash Card Alert

For those IRCA Members without access to the Internet, you can still be alerted to unscheduled DX tests, transmitter maintenance, and other late breaking news. Simply send a few self-addressed, stamped postcards to: Les Rayburn, N1LF, C/O High Noon Film, 100 Centerview Drive Suite 111, Birmingham, AL 35216.

Whenever possible, Les will mail you notification of upcoming DX tests that are not announced in our newsletter in advance. It's the next best thing to a computer.

Bruce Portzer writes: It's time for my **annual DX Get-together**. This year it will be on Saturday, February 26, beginning at 2 p.m. Here's a chance to meet other radio listeners and talk about hobby stuff - medium wave, SWBC, utility, TV/FM, or whatever flavor of listening you like to do.

Feel free to bring stuff like receivers, QSL cards, antennas, and other paraphernalia to show off or demonstrate. Please bring a potluck snack or something to drink. At dinner time, we'll pass the hat around and order some pizzas.

My address is 6546 19th Avenue N.E., Seattle WA 98115. It's not hard to find, since the streets are numbered and parallel around here. But if you need directions, let me know.

If you have questions or want to RSVP, my phone number is 206-522-2521. See you there. 73, Bruce

The **2005 IRCA/DecalcoMania** convention will be held on Thu. Aug. 25 through Sat. Aug 27, 2005 at the Days Inn, 1111 S. Harbor Blvd. Anaheim CA 92805 (1 block North of Disneyland) www.the.daysinn.com/anaheim04986. Phone number for reservations is 714-533-8830 (request the special \$49 room rate.) Registration fee (not including banquet) is \$25 payable to Mike Sanburn, PO Box 1256, Bellflower CA 90707-1256 - mikesanburn@hotmail.com. Activities will include station tours, business meeting, auction, and banquet - view menu at www.jagerhaus.net. Should have lots of stickers and airchecks. Looking forward to seeing everybody.

Nominations Are Open for the TVA and RHA Awards for 2004-2005.

Ted Vasilopoulos Award (TVA)

Ted Vasilopolous was a founding charter member of IRCA who died in 1965. This award in his honor is presented to the IRCA member who has contributed the most to IRCA and the DX hobby during the past several years. The following persons have won the TVA in the last five years and are ineligible this year: Phil Bytheway, Rich Toebe, Nancy Johnson, Ralph Sanserino, and Lee Freshwater.

Ric Heald Award (RHA)

The Ric Heald Award (RHA) was created in 1995 to recognize the IRCA member who most benefited the club in a particularly noteworthy way during the previous year. The following persons have won the RHA in the last three years and are ineligible this year: Pat Martin, Phil Bytheway, and Rich Toebe.

All nominations, including a brief statement supporting the nomination, shall be sent to the respective winners of last year's awards:

TVA Nominations: **Phil Bytheway**, 9705 Mary Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98117-2334 - phil_tekno@yahoo.com.

RHA Nominations: **Pat Martin**, P.O. Box 843, Seaside, OR 97138 - mwdxer@webtv.net.

All Nominations must be received by the above no later than February 21, 2005.

In This Issue:	
EiC notes...	1
Portzer Get-Together...	1
Convention Info...	1
TVA/RHA Info...	1
DX Test...	2
Western DX Roundup...	2
Central DX Roudup...	3
Eastern DX Roundup...	4
DXWW-West...	5
DXWW-East...	6
Website Wanderings...	7
Grundig Ocean Boy 70...	7

DX Test – Les Rayburn – les@highnoonfilm.com

12/15/04+ 0915-1445 1620 WB3XNN Milford PA (Schmidt)

WB3XNN 1620khz Milford, PA TEST. Date(s): About December 15th thru end of January. Time: Non-Critical Hours 09:15AM EST until 14:45PM EST. Modes of Operation: 1KW Daytime Non-Directional. Programming: Un-Modulated Carrier with ID's at TOH.

Test is being conducted by Digital Radio Engineering for field intensity experiments concerning area ground conductivity. A full DX Test will be conducted (hopefully at night) before the competition of measurements in January.

Below is the full text received from Dave Schmidt:

WB3XNN - 1620 kilohertz should be on the air about December 15th. This station licensed to Milford, PA is being operated for field intensity measurements of the ground conductivity in the area. This will be operating during non critical hours (approx. 0915 til 1445) with an unmodulated carrier, ID's given on the hour. Power will be 1000 watts into a 50 foot top loaded single tower. (For those in to tower currents, that adds up to 8.8 amps at 14 ohms!) Tests should continue through the end of January.

Reports can be sent to Dave Schmidt c/o: Digital Radio Engineering, 2927 US Route 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973

As of 12/30/04, I have not received any reports of this station being on the air. If you receive this test, please e-mail me directly at: les@highnoonfilm.com.

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP
Nancy Johnson – 265 Waterton Wy – Billings, MT 59102-7755
 E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

WDXR DEADLINES: Feb. 11, Feb. 25, March 11 (anniversary issue). Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (BB) **Bill Block**-7716 E. Thelma Dr.-Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 billwblock@msn.com
R-390A, HQ-140-XA, FRG-7, 150, 100 and 55 foot long wires
- (MF) **Martin Foltz**-25102 Pradera Drive-Mission Viejo, CA martin.foltz@qlogic.com
HQ-180A & Collins 51J-2 with 1 foot air core loop
- (GH) **Glen Hansen**-1925 Tualatin St.-St. Helens, OR 97051 skinner@columbia-center.org
Hammarlund SP-600, Drake R8B, Collins R-390A, various wires, amplified Sanserino & Radio Shack loops
- (CM) **Curtis McMenamin**-153 Calle Tepic-Vacaville, CA 95687-6530
Sony ICF-2010, Kiwa loop
- (DP) **Doug Pifer**-3410 Marion St. SE-Albany, OR 97322 oregon4wd@comcast.net
Drake R8B, Kiwa loop, 100' long wire
- (RW) **Robert Wien**-7190 Abigail Pl.-Fontana, CA 92336-5752 wienbob@aol.com
GE Superadio, Select-A-Tenna

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- 1150 KTLK CA, Los Angeles 2/4 0515 giving rules of winning contest on "KTLK, Talk AM 1150."
Third time I've logged these calls! Call change, ex-KXTA. (RW-CA)
- 540 XESRF BCN, Tijuana 1/27 0405 good with oldies music and "Southern California 1260 and 540 AM." (CM-CA)
- 570 KLAC CA, Los Angeles 2/4 0518 noted now with sports format, ex-NOS, carrying ESPN programming at this time. (RW-CA)
- KNRS UT, Salt Lake City 1/27 0330 in poor due to static with KNRS ID. (CM-CA)
- KVI WA, Seattle 1/27 0335 in poor due to static with KVI ID. (CM-CA)
- 590 KQNT WA, Spokane 1/15 0030 news, ID and Art Bell show with very good signal. Last heard 1/03. No KUGN as usual. SP-600 on N-S wire. (GH-OR)
- 630 CKOV BC, Kelowna 2/1 0650 fair with self promo and mention of "OV 63." Later "Kelowna's CKOV 63" and "...most comprehensive sport's report." (DP-OR)
- 690 XETRA BCN, Tijuana 2/4 0520 noted now with NOS format, ex-sports, playing Frank Sinatra at this time. 690 and 570 swapped formats. (RW-CA)
- 750 KXL OR, Portland 1/27 0400 fair with ID "KXL Portland." (CM-CA)
- KOAL UT, Price 1/27 0405 fair with ID "Eastern Utah is KOAL." (CM-CA)
- 760 KFMB CA, San Diego 1/27 040 good with KFMB ID. (CM-CA)
- 820 WBAP TX, Fort Worth 1/27 0555 poor with WBAP ID, Midnight Trucking Network also heard. Nice to hear them again, don't hear them very much. (CM-CA)

- 1020 KTNQ CA, Los Angeles 1/27 0700 good with a "KTNQ Los Angeles" ID, then into Spanish music. (CM-CA)
 KINF NM, Roswell 1/31 0030 playing 50's & 60's oldies with very poor & choppy signal. Surprisingly not heard often. Drake & Sanserino loop. (GH-OR)
- 1130 ?KRDU? CA, Dinuba 2/3 0955 Hope for Today religious program beneath Radio Nueva Vida KSDO faded at top of the hour. Matches the station's schedule on their website. (MF-CA)
- 1060 KDYL UT, Salt Lake City 1/27 0635 poor with "AM Stereo KDYL" ID. New. (CM-CA)
 CKMX AB, Calgary 1/27 0805 fair with "Calgary Station CKMX." (CM-CA)
- 1150 KNRC CO, Englewood 1/30 2134 on top with "Radio Against the Machine Indie Five-Oh" and then into album rock. (BB-AZ)
- 1210 KUNF UT, Washington 1/30 0734 with ads for St. George, "Unforgettable 1210" and then into a Beatles song. (BB-AZ)
- 1230 KAAA AZ, Kingman 2/2 1934 with "All talk from A to Z" and then into talk, on top of KOY/KINO. (BB-AZ)
 KPRL CA, Paso Robles 1/26 0056 ad for a Café in Paso Robles, ABC news at the top of the hour, SID by woman after news and into Michael Savage program, in & out mixing with others. New. (MF-CA)
- 1240 KELK NV, Elko 1/26 0100 faint but discernable ID in a 3-way jumble. An ESPN in there also. Very weak with Hammarlund on E-W wire. (GH-OR)
- 1250 KKDZ WA, Seattle 2/3 0558 good, after hours of monitoring, full ID "AM 1250, KKDZ Seattle." (DP-OR)
- 1270 KJUG CA, Tulare 2/1 0111 country music, "Classic Hit Country AM 12-70" in strong for 2 hours over Tijuana and KBZZ. (MF-CA)
- 1310 KLIX ID, Twin Falls 1/14 0030 ID in & out of the slop with poor and garbled signal, ad for C. Crane Co. Barely intelligible with SP-600 on E-W wire. (GH-OR)
 KEIN MT, Great Falls 2/3 fair, rising up from nothing with "Here on KEIN" into Sam Cook song. (DP-OR)
 KZXR WA, Prosser 2/3 0607 poor, ID, talk about the Seattle Mariners and "Cat Country Posse" slogan. Later, ad from ARRL and how to become a ham plus details. Hmmm. (DP-OR)
- CHLW AB, St. Paul 2/3 0631 fair, "Boot Scootin Boogie," and two ID's in mess. (DP-OR)
- 1410 KWYO WY, Sheridan 2/3 0939 fair, straight on ID with man with a low voice, followed by an ad by a lady, later mention of Cheyenne. (DP-OR)
- 1420 KUJ WA, Walla Walla 1/29 0005 ESPN programming and ad for Colin Cowherd show. Fair to poor sputtering in the static. Long time, no hear. (GH-OR)
- 1440 CKJR AB, Wetaskiwin 2/3 0728 fair, assorted modern country songs and mention of Calgary, slogan "KJR." (DP-OR)
- 1500 WPDY857 CA, Anaheim 1/23 1300 ID at tune in, HAR tape loop by a man with info on Disneyland, Arrowhead Pond, Anaheim Convention Center; poor. (MF-CA)
- UNID**
 1150 UNID 1/31 0130 man said "This is your home for oldies in the morning with Dean Markley, oldies 1150." No formal ID. Is this CKOC Hamilton, ON? (GH-OR)

WDXR deadlines are no longer weekly, so be sure to check the dates at the beginning of the column. Nancy 2/4 2100

CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP

John C. Johnson – 265 Waterton Wy – Billings, MT 59102-7755

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.
- [PAL-MN] **Paul A. LaFreniere**, Grand Marais, MN Plafren@peoplepc.com
 McKay Dymek DR-22, DA-100, Superadio III
- [JJR-WI] **John J. Rieger**, South Milwaukee, WI JohnJRieger@WebTV.net
 Drake R8, Icom IC-R75, Icom IC-T70, Kenwood R1000, Yaesu FRG100, Kiwa loop, 100' longwire, Terk AM 1000 Loop, MF J959B, GE Superadio III.

DOWN THE DIAL

- 690 KOAQ NE, Terrytown. 2/3 poor. 23:06 with mention of "Your hometown radio station" and "KOAQ" call letters. [NJ-MT]
- 770 CHQR AB, Calgary. 1-30. 08:23 with talk program with mentions of Calgary and Alberts. New logging for me. [PAL-MN]

- 1040 WJTB OH, North Ridgeville. 1-28 faded up during WHO fade out. 17:33 with "WJTB North Ridgeville, Cleveland" ID. New logging for me. [PAL-MN]
- 1070 KATQ MT, Plentywood. 1-25. 08:05 with "Montana News Update" and spots for a winter fair and a car dealer. New logging for me. [PAL-MN]
- 1090 KBOZ MT, Bozeman. 1-30. 08:16 with CNN Headline News and a spot for an irrigation firm in Townsend. New logging for me. [PAL-MN]
- 1310 CHLW AB, Saint Paul. 1-24. 08:20 with "Cat Country 13-10" slogans, spots for a funeral home and a carpet store. [PAL-MN]
 KEIN MT, Great Falls. 1-25. 08:20 with Montana cattle market report. New. [PAL-MN]
- 1360 KSCJ IA, Sioux City. 1-30 poor in fade up. 06:46 with ID, spots. Rare here. [JJR-WI]
- 1370 CFOK AB, Westlock. 1-24. 08:23 with local spots and a PSA for Environment Canada. "13-70 CFOK" ID. New logging for me. [PAL-MN]
- 1420 WCOJ PA, Coatesville. 1-24. 20:15 with Chester County High School basketball. Numerous spots for a local propane company. New logging for me. [PAL-MN]
- 1550 WLOR AL, Huntsville. 1-30 poor over others. 06:36 with gospel programming, ID. [JJR-WI]

25 YEARS AGO

February 9, 1980 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **Sidney E. Marshall** of Millington, TN said he was 48 and used an RF-2200 with an SM-2 ... **John Clemmer** of Peoria, IL told about visiting **Gary Siegel** and **Frank Merrill** ... **Bill Wurtzel** of New York, NY mentioned his five hour visit with **Walt Sharp** at WRDI-1580 ... **Robert Wien** of San Jose, CA logged KYSS-930 and KNCO-1250.

OPEN MIKE

Alberta seemed popular with both John and Paul this week. Paul managed to log 3 new AB stations. John reported a relog of CKOM-650 which he had just heard a couple weeks ago. This column was typed 2-5-05. 73, John

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

Lee J. Freshwater – 414 SE 3rd St. – Ocala, FL 34471

E-mail: lfreshwater@cox.net

Deadlines: Every Saturday @ 0800

STARS OF THE WEEK

- (IEN-GA) **Ira Elbert New** Watkinsville, GA
 A1WA CSD-FD89
- (WJH-MD) **Bill Harms** 6009 Bauman Dr Elkridge, MD 21075-5501
wharms@comcast.net Drake R-8b, Homebrew K9AY
- (MH-NC) **Mike Hardester** Jacksonville, NC DX4EVR@Earthlink.Net
 Toyota Camry w/windshield antenna
- (MH-NC) I-40 East near Keanensville, NC)
- (WM-MD) **William McGuire** 2412 59th Place, Cheverly MD
 DX-398

LOGGINGS

- 620 NC WDNC Durham 2/01 1755 Ment. of 919 Area Code. ID, Trade show. (WM-MD)
- 930 PA WHLM Bloomsburg 2/3 0625 Popped in with two IDs as "News Radio WHLM." Mixing with WFMD, WBEN etc. Heard 22 years ago on 560. (WJH-MD)
- 1010 GA WGUN Atlanta 1/29 1240 HealthLine with Dr. Bob Marshall. Good signal. "WGUN, 1010 AM". (IEN-GA)
- 1060 GA WKNG Tallapoosa 1/29 1245 Local Obituaries and Ads for businesses in W. GA and E. AL. Good, steady signal. "We're King Country, WKNG". (IEN-GA)
- 1130 GA WLBA Gainesville 2/5 1200 Music with a Spanish flavor. S9 with slight static. "...WLBA, Gainesville" and "La Favorita, Spanish Radio Network". (IEN-GA)
- 1170 MA WFPB Orleans 2/1 1558 ID at 1558 as WUMB-FM. TOH ID at 1601. I hrd ID for WUMB and for WFPB 11-70. The announcements were in between Blue Grass musical selections. Over nulled WWVA which was trying to fade in. (WJH-MD)
- 1280 KY WCPM Cumberland 2/2 1813 Weather forecast. ID as "at this time WCPM... end of broadcasting..." into a barber shop quartet rendition of SSB Mixing with a station with a preacher and WADO. (WJH-MD)
- 1370 NY WXXI Rochester 1/26 2002 NPR News heard. (WM-MD)
- 1380 DE WTMC Wilmington 1/24 2244 ID hrd in mix. (WM-MD)
- 1400 GA WSGC Elberton Oldies. Good, steady signal. "The Voice of Elberton 1400 WSGC". (IEN-GA)

1420 NY WACK Newark 1/24 2116 "Right here on hometown radio"; ID. (WM-MD)
 WV WTCR Kenova 1/31 2105 Religious Mx hrd; "Joy AM." (WM-MD)
 1430 VA WHAN Ashland 2/1 2005 Popped in with an ID as AM 14-30 WHAN into a MOYL
 song. O/all for a few moments. (WJH-MD)
 ON CHKT Toronto 2/1 2100 ID as "AM 14-30 CHKT Fairchild Radio" This was Afghan
 Program. (WJH-MD)
 1460 KY WBPA Elkhorn City 2/5 0100 ID as "WBTH Williamson, WPRT Prestonburg, WPKE
 Pikeville, WBPA Elkhorn City" and into CNN news. Fair in the mix. (WJH-MD)
 MI WPON Walled Lake 2/5 0203 TOH ID "You are listening to WPON Walled Lake.
 (Michigan)" into Oldie. Popped in over the mix for a couple of minutes.
 (WJH-MD)
 ON CJOY Guelph 2/5 0302 Singing ID as "Good Time Oldies CJOY" into Oldies
 selection. Olver all. (WJH-MD)
 1470 MD WTTR Westminster 1/24 1800 Promo for H.S. BB; ID. (WM-MD)
 1520 PA WCHE West Chester 2/3 1200 ID as "You are listening to WCHE West Chester."
 This was followed by an ID/TC as "WCHE time is 12 o'clock" Mixing with
 WWKB. WTRI off the air. Oldies. NEW. (WJH-MD)
 1700 AL WEUV Huntsville 2/3 0702-0735+ Morning obits, local ad, church anmts. several
 mentions of W E U P, and slogan as "The People's Station." Gspl mx; Fair lv
 with QRM from UNID French-language station, as well as Spanish language
 station. (MH-NC)

UN - IDEN

1230 ?? ???? 1/27 2145 "The New 1230" Fox Sports Radio hrd. (WM-MD)
 1590 ?? ???? 2/3 1225 Station ending religious talk program. Mention of "now on the FBN
 Network..." garbled talk" and into presumed pgm Poor lv. Probably a NC
 station, but several to choose from. (MH-NC)
 1700 ?? ???? 2/3 0702-0735+ UNID French language station with talk. Occasional
 mentions of "Radio Nacional," but aside from that, non-specific chatter about
 even with, occasionally over, WEUV. Also, occasionally a Spanish-language
 station with talk would briefly surface. Poor. Mainly interested in who the
 French-language station might be. I checked the CRTC website, but no listing
 for any station on 1700. May have been mentioned in a previous bulletin, but
 if so, nothing is clicking upstairs. (MH-NC)
 (Barry Davies emailed Mike that it may be WJCC Miami Springs with Haitian
 programming - ed)

 We are on our way to the BEST EDXR Season in many years.... Thanks to you all.... The reprint
 service is looking for the following issues of DXM: VOL 28 #1&2 / VOL 30 # 34 / VOL 31 # 26 and
 VOL 33 # 22. If you have these issues please let me know. I can scan them and return or accept your
 scans via e-mail. 2/06 0930

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

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

E-mail: mwdxer@webtv.net all times UTC

Some Latins and a TP. In reporting tips, please put the times in UTC and order of frequency. It makes it easier. Thanks.

PAN-AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

1100 **CUBA**, La Habana Radio Cadena Habana. Tuned in at 0356 UTC 2/6, hrd lively Cubano style mx. Male ancr at 0357 but anmt had echo effect, so even with tape playback, it was pretty much in a jumble. At 0358, male singer with acoustic guitar (last stanza of song was yodeling... strange.) At 0401, I hrd my first ID "Transmite Radio Cadena Habana, la Prensa Oficial... Noticias." At 0402 signal faded under and a rel. station in EE, but they came back at 0403 with end of song and another ID "Radio Candena Habana" and tc as "En todos territorio... los cuatro minutos." Last ID was heard at 0405 "Radio Candena Habana." (SP-TX)
 1140t **MEXICO**, Monterrey, NL XEMR 2/6, 0416 with Sunday morning Rel. pgm (KR-AZ)

TRANS-PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

1575 **THAILAND**, Ban Phachi, Ayutthaya District had a fine signal 2/2. At 1400 a woman spoke in UNID language and there were several tones (perhaps played on an organ) at TOH. There didn't seem to be an ID. At 1500 a man spoke, then there was theme music and several seconds of dead air. A man said "...the Voice Of America from Washington D.C." I am very happy to finally log this one. Art Peterson's Great Circle Distance program says it's 7,694 miles from Missoula. (LG-MT) (Great catch Larry. PM)

TROPICAL BAND DX

4760 **SWAZILAND**, 1609-1615, TWR, Mpangela Ranch Feb 1 Presumed, with male in unid. African language (listed as Tshwa in WRTH). The pace and tone of the talk sounded like a sermon; hymn or religious song at 1615. Best on SW antenna during near-grayline condition. Fair-good level, and strengthening slowly. Slight co-channel interference from presumed AIR Port Blair. (Atkins-WA)
 4840 **INDIA**, 1547-1550, AIR Mumbai Jan 27 Good level in Hindi, with two male announcers in a discussion, and brief sub-continental music interludes. Considerably better signal than 4910 and the other AIR outlets in parallel. (Atkins-WA)
 4910 **INDIA**, 1533-1546, AIR Jaipur Jan 27 AIR network program with male and female announcers in English, discussing elections and political issues. Promos and ads noted at 1545. Fair level, but competing with ZNBC Zambia by 1542 (at my local sunrise). Other outlets noted in parallel to Jaipur 4910 included: 4760, 4775, 4820, and 5010. (Atkins-WA)
 4910 **ZAMBIA**, 1558-1605, ZNBC Radio 1 Feb 1 Best reception so far this winter of Zambia on longpath. Nice fish eagle IS at 1558, drums at 1600, and announcer with "ZNBC" and mentions of Zambia in unid. language. Into a tribal chant or similar by male, followed by a choral hymn, and into possible news items 1605. Fair to good signal at tune-in, and still fair at 1635 recheck-- 1 hour past local SR and 1/4 hour past Lusaka SS. Best on Southwest Beverage. (Atkins-WA)
 4925 **INDONESIA**, 1552-1554*, RRI Jambi Jan 27 Soft lagu romantik tune at tune-in; Love Ambon tune 1553 with female announcer and ID, and a quick sign-off at 1554* before the end of Love Ambon. Good signal. (Atkins-WA)
 4930 **BOTSWANA**, 1615-1622, VOA Feb 1 Interview with a NASA official discussing the upcoming space shuttle flight, and the issues with the heat shield tiles and integrity of the insulation on the booster fuel tanks; questions from phone callers in Kuwait and elsewhere. VOA ID at 1630 and into news. Good signal at one hour past local sunrise. (Atkins-WA)
 4971 **INDIA**, 1603-1630*, AIR Shillong Jan 27 Presumed. Continuous pop music tunes to woman in Hindi with announcements and sign-off at 1630* (per WRTH sked). Deteriorating signal past local sunrise, and poor by 1630. Thanks to Ron Howard for tip on off-frequency Shillong. (Atkins-WA)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

Atkins-WA - **GUY ATKINS**, Puyallup WA
 Mod. ICOM IC-756Pro & mod. ICOM R-75, Kiwa MAP / ERGO / DSP-59+, 450 & 700 ft.
 Beverage Antennas
 LG-MT - **LARRY GODWIN**, 2390 Clydes Dale Lane, Missoula MT 59804 lbg@mtwi.net
 DXing with Hammarlund HQ-150, Sanserino air-core box loop and Kiwa loop
 SP-TX - **STEVE PONDER** N5WBI, Houston TX n5wbi@clearsail.net
 DXing with Sony ICF-SW55, DXing SE of Houston TX
 KR-AZ - **KEVIN REDDING**, Mesa AZ amfmdx@fastq.com
 DXing with Sony 2010

DX WORLDWIDE - EAST

Brandon Jordan – 4920 Park Ave. – Memphis, TN 38117

E-mail: bjordan@bcdx.org all times UTC

Many thanks again to Bill Harms for the contributing some great loggings for this issue!

***** TRANS-ATLANTIC DX *****

1359 **SPAIN** (p) Arganda del Rey (Madrid), Radio Nacional 1, 0114 - 0124 2/2 Assumed the one with man talking, also heard with music at 0128 & woman talking at 0130. [WJH-MD]
 1431 **DJIBOUTI** (p) Radio Sawa, 0204 2/2 Presumed the one here with a huge carrier and bits and pieces of audio. [WJH-MD]

***** PAN-AMERICAN DX *****

820 **CUBA**, Radio Ciudad de la Habana, 0359 2/2 Loud with an ID and then into an anthem. [WJH-MD]
 1640 **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**, Santo Domingo, Radio Juventus Don Bosco, 0304 2/4 Sounding of trumpets, ID by male announcer as "Radio Juventus Don Bosco... 1640 kHz... una voz para la civilización del amor." This was followed by music. Also heard preaching at other times. The signal was fair to good with WKSH nulled and was mixing with WTNi. Thanks to Alf Aardal in Norway who first heard this one and informed the gang in #mwdx. [WJH-MD]

*** CONTRIBUTOR ***

Bill Harms - wharms @ comcast.net
[WJH-MD] = Elkridge, MD. Antenna system: homebrew K9AY; Receiver: Drake R8B.
That's all for this week. 73, Brandon.

WEBSITE WANDERINGS

Raymond Bauernhuber – 151-64 18th Ave – Whitestone NY 11357-3102
E-mail: DXRADIO@Webtv.net

Hi everyone, welcome to another edition of "Website Wanderings." If anyone comes across a radio related website please forward it to me at: DXRADIO@webtv.net. I will be most grateful.

Please remember to access and enjoy IRCA's own website at: <http://www.ircaonline.org/irca1.htm>

This week I have an interesting link from Doug Pifer that profiles radio personalities in L.A. Lot's of West Coasters in IRCA so you'll probably find at least one old DJ you loved to listen to. Find it at: <http://www.laradio.com/>

Another interesting site contains a 'portal' search engine for mediumwave, shortwave, amateur radio, antennas, in fact just about anything. I did search for example Radio Netherlands in the shortwave category and found a ton of receiver reviews done by the broadcaster. Try it and see if you can find something that interests you. It's found at: <http://www.radio-portal.org/>

I hope you enjoy this week's selections and with that I will bid you good health until the next issue of the 'Monitor' and say: "73 de DX de NY" ~ Ray

SPECIAL FEATURE

Grundig Ocean Boy 70 A Multiband Receiver with Style Review by Rich Toebe

This past summer, my wife and I traveled to Europe for three weeks. I took along my trusty Grundig Yacht Boy 305, which, for a low cost compact AM/FM/SW unit, has been very good at inhaling signals while taking up very little space. Although it only tunes standard AM frequencies, it has a 9/10 kHz switch which makes it possible to listen to MW outside the Western Hemisphere.

It has two glaring weaknesses, however. One is that the telescoping antenna is fairly rickety and the connection finally gave out, leaving me essentially with a one band receiver. Only very strong FM or SW signals could be heard now, but the MW band was still a strong performer. The other weakness is that the "other" AM band, LW, is not provided on this unit.

So, I resolved to pick up a radio while we were in Germany. I did some research on the web and found that the offerings by Grundig were different than what we were getting. Two radios in particular caught my attention. Both were labeled "Ocean Boy"; one, the 510, had LW, MW and FM/RDS reception; the other, the 70, a newer model, lacked RDS but had SW as well as LW, MW and FM. I decided to look for these models.

First superstore I walked into, Saturn (www.saturn.de), which is the equivalent of Best Buy, had a good selection of radios, but at inflated prices by our standards. They asked 259 Euros (€) for the Sony 7600 GR, including 16% VAT, or about US \$345 at present rate of exchange... way more expensive than US prices. But no Grundigs. It was common to see AM-FM radios with no LW or SW capability, no doubt the result of Far Eastern models driving home-grown companies out of business just like in the US. Some "consumer" table models did have LW, but the Golden Age of multiband radios for average European consumers is over. Besides, MP3 is hot now. (If DAB radios were sold there, I didn't see them.)

I soon figured out that Grundigs were generally being carried by smaller stores, higher end shops, and not all models were necessarily being carried.

I did not find the 510 in any shops I walked into. Apparently it is no longer being produced, but it's still available from some retailers on the web, and on the German eBay.

Shortly after we arrived in Germany, we took the train to Vienna. I found the Ocean Boy 70 RP 5300 PLL at Europafunk (www.europafunk.at) across the street from the "Westbahnhof" passenger train station where we arrived in Vienna. Their price was €63.50, including 20% Austrian VAT (!!!) or about \$79 US at the time. This price compares with what the YB-305 was retailing for in the US. I was able to use this receiver for most of the time we were in Europe, and to compare reception quality with the YB-305 on MW. I have since used it at home as well.

The Ocean Boy 70 is a compact unit, but is slightly bigger than the YB-305. The owners manual (135 pages long and written in 11 languages) states that the dimensions are 210 mm (8 1/4") wide, 115 mm (4 1/2") high and 63 mm (2 1/2") deep; it weighs 550 grams (1 lb. 3 oz.). The 3 1/2" diameter speaker sits behind 3 round mini-grilles. Output is rated as 10% total harmonic distortion at 400 mW. It runs on



6V DC, by 4 AA batteries, and the memories and settings are preserved by 2 AAA cells. There is a jack for a 6V 200 mA DC adapter, which is not supplied with the unit.



The Grundig Ocean Boy 70, with a copy of DX Monitor and US 25 cent and 1 Euro coins for size comparison

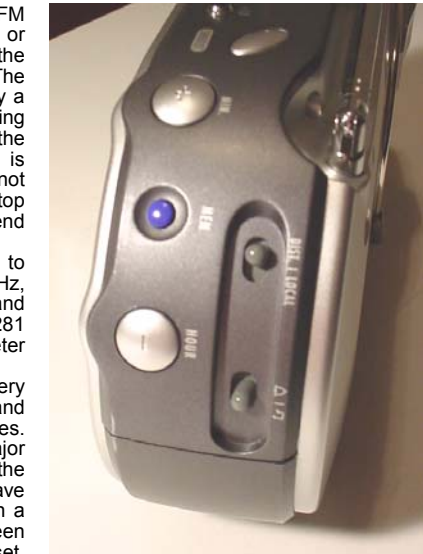
Tuning is achieved either by pressing the "band" button, which cycles through the FM, MW, LW and SW bands, and then by using the up and down slewing buttons, or by selecting one of the 20 memories by pressing one or two of the chrome preset buttons. To keep the clutter to a minimum, the top of the radio has 5 preset buttons, plus a "10" button. Hit the "1" button, and preset 1 is tuned in. Hit the "1" button twice, and preset 6 comes up. Hit the "10" button and the "1", and preset 11 appears. Hit the "10", and the "1" button twice, and you get preset 16. The "2" button also calls up preset 7, and 12 and 17 are recalled using the 10 button. The "3" brings up 3, 8, 13 and 18... and you get the idea. An M and the preset number appear in the lower left of the display. Slewing can be done by pressing

and releasing, which jumps by one step. For FM stations, tuning is in 50 kHz steps; for MW, it is in 9 or 10 kHz steps; for LW, it's in 1 kHz steps (because of the splits still used on LW), and SW is in 5 kHz steps. The 50 kHz FM and the 5 kHz SW readout are shown by a dot or period rather than a "5" on the readout. Holding the slewing button down for one second activates the "seek" function, and scans until a strong signal is detected. Holding the slewing button down—and not letting go—allows for fast scanning which does not stop until the button is released. When reaching the top end of the band, the tuner reverts to the bottom end.

The tuning ranges of this radio are geared to European needs. FM tunes from 87.5 to 108.0 MHz, MW from 522 to 1620 kHz when in 9 kHz mode, and 520 to 1620 when in 10 kHz mode; LW from 144 to 281 kHz, and SW from 5.950 to 15.600 MHz (49 to 19 meter bands).

When the Ocean Boy 70 is powered up for the very first time, it begins an automatic FM station search and captures the first 20 strong signals it receives. (Suddenly I was able to listen to most of the major Viennese FM signals!) However, manually setting the memory for each preset is simple. Assuming you have already tuned in the desired frequency, to store it in a given preset you press the blue "MEM" button between the 2 silver slewing buttons. Then you pick a preset, pressing it once or twice or pressing 10 and then the preset once or twice. An "M" flashes in the round display. Press the blue "MEM" button again, and the frequency is stored. Any preset can be used for any frequency that this radio can receive. There are no presets reserved for LW, MW, FM or SW.

The radio also sports an alarm clock. The "Mode" button under the round display allows one to choose between clock, alarm setting, or frequency display. The "Alarm" button turns the alarm function on or off (and a bell or musical note is shown in the clock display when it is active). The "sleep" button allows for 90 to 10 minute settings, adjustable in 10 minute increments. When it is activated, a bed appears in the display. The "Light" button turns on the light, bathing the black LCD display in an amber glow. When setting the display to "Clock" or "Alarm", the + and — slewing buttons become the hour and minute buttons for setting the time. Display is in the European 24 hour standard, so you'll see 20:33 instead of 8:33 pm.



Volume and tone are adjusted by the two gray rubberized thumbwheels on the left side of the radio. A headphone jack is positioned between the thumbwheels, but output is mono. Two switches on the right end of the radio are used for "DX" and "local" sensitivity on FM and SW only, and for alarm sound or radio reception when the wakeup function is used. An oval "snooze" button interrupts the alarm for 5 minutes.



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9 kHz spacing on MW



10 kHz spacing on MW



1 kHz spacing on LW

Finally, there is a slider on the bottom of the radio, which disables or enables all of the buttons.

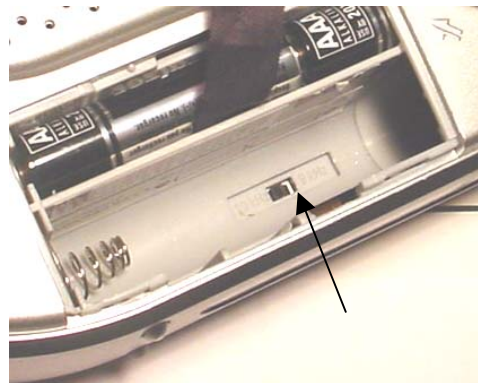
Attached to the rear of the radio is a 3 inch diameter metal "loop" (reminiscent of old UHF loops) with a plastic encapsulation at the bottom, which blends in with the styling. It can be rotated out at an angle to act as a support, so that the radio can stand at an angle, or rotated all the way out so it can act as a handle for carrying. The telescoping antenna sits in a cutout. It can be extended to about 20 inches, and can be swiveled horizontally or vertically.



Selectivity is pretty reasonable, but on MW and LW it seems that the filtering is skewed to favor one sideband. For example, two LW stations are on German soil, yet only 6 kHz apart—Deutschlandradio on 177 and Europe 1 on 183; both are splits—each offset 3 kHz from the nominal 180 kHz channel. DLR was free of splatter on 177, but Europe 1 needed to be off tuned to 185 kHz to make splatter disappear. The Russian on 171 did not splatter onto 177. Iceland on 189 was not splattered by Europe 1 on 183. DLF 207 was a semi local at our location near Regensburg; it caused no splatter on 198 even during the day when Poland was audible, but did affect RMC-216.

The manual does not specify the dimensions of the internal ferrite antenna, and I have not opened the unit (yet). But it nulls very deeply for a portable. I was able to listen to signals underneath super power stations, such as RTL on 234 LW and 1440 MW, when nulled.

Sensitivity seemed to be on a par with the YB-305 based on subjective listening in Europe, but until I got more time to DX here during the fall and winter in quieter surroundings, I reserved judgment. In three weeks of DXing in Europe, I was able to log stations from 50 "countries" on LW and MW (counting Canary Islands and Kaliningrad, the chunk of Russia just north of Poland and west of Lithuania as countries just as we count Alaska as one). Not all are high powered receptions; 2 local stations from Britain on 1566, one listed at 630w and the other at 750w, were quite strong as the sun was rising. I also heard Djibouti on 1431 with Radio Sawa, // Cyprus on 990.



9/10 kHz switch

Turkmenistan was heard under Belarus on 279. Many Spanish 5 and 10 kW stations would show up regularly.



Here in California, I have had more time to compare receptions with the YB-305. I shunted the 9/10 kHz switch underneath the AA batteries. All memories were lost. When I turned the unit on, with the whip antenna collapsed, it searched for strong FM signals and found only 5. Interestingly, the settings 6-10 were set to MW defaults of 520, 600, 1000, 1400 and 1620, 11 through 15 were set to LW



Low Battery indicator, top right

Disney. The Ocean Boy 70 nulls more deeply, although some of that may be due to the higher noise floor.

Although Grundig as a company has seen better days (it's now owned by Sampo of Taiwan and the automotive radio division was sold to GM's Delphi), it still tries to live up to its past image. First thing that strikes you is the styling. It's quite unlike most Asian-engineered boxes, and according to Grundig's web site, the Ocean Boy 70 won a design award.



90 minute sleep setting (illuminated)



European style 24 Hour Time display

Secondly, although it is a multiband receiver, it is designed for the average listener. The styling dictates the user friendliness, which means that it's meant for people who have their favorite stations programmed into the 20 presets. The up/down slewing is fine on LW, MW and FM, but is not practical for regular SW "channel surfing". The fast scanning mode took 15 seconds to go from 522 to 1620 kHz by 9 kHz jumps, 23 seconds to go from 87.5 to 108.0 MHz in .1 MHz jumps, and 15 seconds to go from 144 to 281 kHz in 1 kHz jumps. It just takes too long to run through all of the SW band! I timed approximately 23 seconds to go 1 MHz, or 3 minutes 38 seconds to run from 5.950 to 15.600 MHz. Presets could be used as jumping on places, however.

This is a great radio to have on your nightstand, as it has a very legible illuminated display with the frequency and time in numerals approximately one half an inch tall. The alarm function is practical as well. Wake to a buzzer or your favorite station, and the adjustable sleep function is great for falling asleep to your favorite station. The snooze button has a unique shape and is easy to find without looking. While it has good sensitivity and selectivity for a radio of its' size and price range (less so on SW), it is not designed to be used the way a DXer would. It does pass the spouse test—my wife uses it every morning!

In summary, the plusses and minuses:

(+)

- 4 Wavebands (FM/LW/MW/SW 49-19m)
- Clean, award-winning design with minimal clutter
- Illuminated display, timed to save battery power
- Good sensitivity/selectivity; good sound quality from internal speaker
- 9/10 kHz tuning options on MW

frequencies 144, 162, 198, 252 and 281, and SW frequencies 5.95, 7.1, 11.0, 14.5 and 15.6 MHz. The clock needed to be reset as well, although the AAA batteries were not removed.

In general, I have found the Ocean Boy 70 sensitivity to be similar to the YB-305, but it has a higher noise floor. In one early morning pre-dawn DX, for example, the YB-305 had KMON under KSFO on 560; on the Ocean Boy, KSFO was alone. However, selectivity is superior to the YB-305. CKOK-800 Penticton, BC was in loud and clear with no KGO-810 splatter on the Ocean Boy; the YB-305 was nothing but splatter on 800. Other noteworthy receptions with the Ocean Boy on that morning include a loud and clear KSIR-1010 Brush CO well over CBC-1010 Calgary, a monster KTWO-1030 and KOA-850, and KDIS-1110 all alone, with no semi local KLIB-1110 (nulled). On the YB-305, the Roseville station was about at par with LA's Radio

- 20 independent memories usable on any band
- Deep nulls with internal ferrite bar antenna
- Battery backup for station memories and clock functions
- Standard 6V power jack

(-)

- MW only to 1620 kHz
- No MW splits tuning (or 1 kHz as allowed on LW)
- No direct frequency entry
- One SW dial with a long slewing time
- No stereo with headphones or RDS on FM
- Higher noise floor than competing receivers
- No signal strength indicator
- No external antenna or ground connections
- No tropical bands or 16-11m receptions on SW



Unlike the Ocean Boy 510, which only tunes in 9 kHz steps on MW, the Ocean Boy 70 is adaptable to North America. It appears now that Grundig models by Lextronics, now Éton, are becoming a thing of the past. Perhaps Grundig will resume marketing in North America with the help of Sampo. If so, this would be a great item for Sharper Image, but it really is designed with the average European listener in mind.

RT- 1/22/2005

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 35 times a year (weekly from November through March, twice monthly from April to November) and in printed form 30 times a year (weekly November through March, monthly April to November). **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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