

April 28, 2007 - Volume 44, Number 27s - Edition 1409s - ISSN 899-9733

This is a SDXM-only issue... next issue (printed) in 2 weeks - pb

Herewith:

"Voting in the elections has been going well, but the deadline for ballots to be received is June 1st, so if you haven't voted yet, please take a moment to do so. E-mail ballots to nhp@ieee.org while regular postal ballots should go to Nick Hall-Patch, 1538 Amphion St., Victoria, BC, Canada V8R 4Z6.

I have tried to confirm by return mail every e-mail ballot that has been received. Unfortunately, spam filters sometimes eat mail, so, if you voted by e-mail, and did not receive a confirmation, please try re-sending your ballot (mark it as a re-send if you could), and cc it to nhallpatch@netzero.net to guarantee arrival. Thanks."

New DX Monitor Publisher Required!

IRCA is looking for a new publisher for **DX Monitor**, preferably by September 2007. Doug Pifer has been serving the club in this capacity for the last three years, but has been finding that other commitments, which require him to be out of town for periods of time, make it difficult for him to continue in this position.

Doug, and Rich Toebe before him, have done a fine job of defining the job of **DX Monitor** publisher, so it's not a job that needs to be invented. For the most part, one just needs to follow a set of procedures that have already been set up, and that for about three hours a week during the DX season. The full set of instructions can be obtained by contacting me at one of the above addresses.

Please consider taking over this position, particularly if you are a "hard copy" only **DX Monitor** subscriber, and would like to see the hard copy continue. – **Nick Hall-Patch**

It's about time for a new edition of the IRCA TIS/HAR List and as always, your help is needed. As with past editions, almost anything is fair game, operating between 500 to 1710 kHz: TIS, HAR, NDB, MEDFERs, etc. The only thing which is of doubtful value is the "Talking House." High School, College/University stations operating with low power are also welcome. If a place of worship has a transmitter going during services, let's include it. As always, information on federal TIS/HAR stations (military bases, National Parks, National Forests, National Seashores, and the list goes on) is especially needed. Regularly operating "pirate" station information is welcome. At present, there is no deadline. You can e-mail me at DX4EVR@Earthlink.Net, or via snail mail to 3118 Gaitway Court, Jacksonville, NC 28546-6973. I am looking forward to receiving your input. Very 73 and Best of DX de Mike Hardester.

The 2007 **IRCA/DecalcoMania** convention will be held in Salt Lake City UT on August 24-26, 2007 at the Airport Days Inn, 1900 West North Temple, SLC UT 84116. Telephone (801) 539-8538. Request the IRCA convention discount rate of \$50 per night. Registration fee is \$25 (not including Saturday banquet) and is payable to: **Mike Sanburn**, PO Box 1256, Bellflower CA 90707-1256, USA. Hotel website is: www.the.daysinn.com/saltlakecity06838. Trip rewards site: www.triprewards.com. Tourism site: www.utah.travel. Delta airlines web: www.delta.com.

The 2007 Convention of the **National Radio Club** and the **Worldwide TV-FM DX'ers Association** will be held in Boise ID at the Rodeway Inn, 1115 North Curtis Road, Boise, ID 83706. The host is Frank Aden. Dates: Friday, August 31, 2007 through Sunday, September 2, 2007. Cutoff date for registering with the club(s) is August 15, 2007; with the hotel, August 20, 2007. More as we know more.



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BROADCAST TEST COORDINATOR – DX TESTS

Les Rayburn: les@highnoonfilm.com (times are Eastern) <http://www.dxtests.info>

Sat+ 7/1-15/07 0300-0700 1550 KXTO Reno NV (Walker)

Date: July 1st, 2007 till July 15th, 2007. Time: 12:00AM until 4:00AM PACIFIC Time. Modes of Operation: Varied, see notes. Programming: Morse Code ID's & Sweep Tones. <http://www.radio-locator.com/cgi-bin/finder?call=KXTO&sr=Y&s=C>.

Notes: The test will run at low power 12mid to 4am Pacific each morning July 1st to the 13th at low power, 96 Watts Non Directionally.

On the morning of July 14th and 15th, the test will once again run from 12am to 4am but instead at KXTO's licensed non directional daytime power of 2500 Watts. Test material will air twice an hour and consist solely of Morse Code ID's and sweeptones near the top and bottom of the hour. The station runs a Spanish Christian format as "La Voz Cristiana 1550"

Please do not call or email the station during the test, as this is being done automatically via Remote Control and Computer Automation.

QSL Information: Reception reports are desired via e-mail (first choice) and snail mail (only if e-mail is not available) Station would prefer to received recordings of the test. Submit reports to: les@highnoonfilm.com and please put "KXTO DX Test" in the subject line.

Preferred audio formats on the computer are MP3's due to the fact a wav file of the same size is nearly 10x bigger. If you need help converting wav files, just ask. If you absolutely need to mail a cassette, PLEASE cue the tape up to the spot where the best reception is. If you mail a CD, only include the pertinent parts.

All standard mail reports should go to: Les Rayburn, High Noon Film, 100 Centerview Drive Suite 111, Birmingham, AL 35216. Please include an SASE for reply. (Station Management and Consultants have authorized Mr. Rayburn to issue QSL's on their behalf!)

Thanks to First Broadcasting Of Nevada, Inc/KXTO 1550 General Manager Jose Pacheco for helping out all us DX'ers in the IRCA, NRC and everywhere else... he was extremely helpful and willing to do this for us, AGAIN!! This will be a good chance for some of us to nab Nevada in our log books.

*****Paul Walker's Personal Message*****
(Said somewhat tongue in cheek)

Normally this is where Les thanks people when he sends out the email, but since I'm typing it up. I theoretically can't thank myself.

If some of you log this, a 6 pack of Mike's Cranberry Lemonade is acceptable payment... email me privately for my shipping address.

BROADCASTING INFORMATION

Robert Wien – 7190 Abigail Pl – Fontana, CA 92336-5752

Email: wienbob@aol.com phone: 909-350-4898 Ham calls: KG6RJW

CALL LETTER CHANGES

FREQ	OLD CALL	CITY	NEW CALL
960	WGLH	La Follette, TN	WQLA
980	KUPI	Ammon, ID	KSPZ
1010	KSZN	Milwaukie, OR	KMUZ
1010	WIOJ	Jacksonville Beach, FL	WJXL
1150	KUHD	Port Neches, TX	KBPO
1230	KMUZ	Gresham, OR	KSZN
1300	KFNI	Pleasanton, TX	KAJG
1380	KAJG	Pleasanton, TX	KWMF
1450	WFFX	Meridian, MS	WYHL
1470	WYHM	Allentown, PA	WSAN
1570	WSSS	Morrow, GA	WIGO
1660	WQSN	Kalamazoo, MI	WQLR

FORMAT CHANGES

FREQ	CALL	CITY	OLD INFO	NEW INFO
630	KLEA	Lovington, NM	soft AC	country
640	WNNZ	Westfield, MA	sports	news/talk
730	CKAC	Montreal, PQ	French news/talk	sports
740	KATK	Carlsbad, NM	adult standards	classic hits
770	WAIS	Buchtel, OH	traditional country	talk

790	KFPT	Clovis, CA	talk	sports //KFIG-1430
830	KMUL	Farwell, TX	Spanish	regional Mexican
860	KTRB	San Francisco, CA	oldies	talk
910	KIYU	Galena, AK	variety	silent
940	KTON	Belton, TX	classic country	silent
990	KTMS	Santa Barbara, CA	talk	format not available
990	WALE	Greenville, RI	smooth jazz	silent
1010	KIND	Independence, KS	soft AC	country
1010	WIOJ	Jacksonville Beach, FL	WJXL, talk	sports
1040	WZNA	Moca, PR	format not available	romantica
1080	WOAP	Owosso, MI	silent	religious teaching //WCAR
1140	KTMR	Edna, TX	tejano	ethnic //KJOJ-880
1160	WVNJ	Oakland, NJ	adult standards	talk
1170	WFDL	Waupun, WI	news/talk	adult standards
1230	WANO	Pineville, KY	oldies	silent
1230	WODI	Brookneal, VA	black gospel	oldies
1230	WXLI	Dublin, GA	country	classic country
1250	WIPS	Ticonderoga, NY	oldies	adult standards
1260	KFFF	Boone, IA	southern gospel	talk
1260	WEKZ	Monroe, WI	country	classic country
1270	WHGS	Hampton, SC	silent	adult contemporary
1280	WFBS	Berwick, PA	silent	sports //WICK-1400
1290	WNIL	Niles, MI	adult standards	talk
1290	WRRR	Frederiksted, VI	gospel music	variety //WDHP-1620
1310	WADB	Asbury Park, NJ	country	Spanish
1320	WILS	Lansing, MI	adult standards	talk
1340	KIJV	Huron, SD	soft AC	oldies
1340	WHAP	Hopewell, VA	silent	format not available
1350	WARF	Akron, OH	talk	sports
1350	WHWH	Princeton, NJ	silent	ethnic
1380	KDXE	North Little Rock, AR	talk	sports
1380	KSRV	Ontario, OR	oldies	country
1400	KENT	Parowan, UT	easy listening	adult standards
1400	WEST	Easton, PA	soft AC	format not available
1430	WPNI	Amherst, MA	news/talk	folk
1450	KIOV	Notus, ID	silent	sports
1450	WYHL	Meridian, MS	WFFX, sports	black gospel
1460	WZNY	Jacksonville, FL	sports	religious teaching
1470	KGND	Vinita, OK	oldies	sports
1470	WSAN	Allentown, PA	WYHM, cont. Xtian	sports
1480	WHBC	Canton, OH	soft AC	talk
1480	WKGC	Panama City Beach, FL	news/talk	Spanish
1490	KBKO	Santa Barbara, CA	regional Mexican	talk
1490	WCSS	Amsterdam, NY	silent	adult standards
1490	WJOC	Chattanooga, TN	gospel music	religious teaching
1500	WKIZ	Key West, FL	talk	Spanish religious
1540	WTXY	Whiteville, NC	new	Christian CHR/rock
1560	WMRO	Gallatin, TN	oldies	rhythmic AC
1590	KRSX	Victorville, CA	rancho	Spanish religious
1590	WRXB	St. Petersburg, FL	gospel music	urban AC
1600	KOHI	St. Helens, OR	country	talk
1660	KXOL	Brigham City, UT	romantica	Spanish
1690	KFSG	Roseville, CA	Spanish religious	ethnic

FACILITY AND PARAMETER APPLICATIONS

1050	KJPG	Frazier Park, CA	10000/7 DA-D to 10000/55 DA-2
1050	WEPN	New York City, NY	50000/50000 DA-1 to 50000/50000 DA-2
1090	WNVY	Cantonment, FL	10000 DA-D to 15000/28 ND
1110	KEOR	Atoka, OK	5000 DA-D to 2000 DA-2
1110	WGNZ	Fairborn, OH	2500 DA-D to 5000 DA-2
1110	WOMN	Franklinton, LA	1000 ND-D to 50000/250 DA-2
1120	KJSA	Mineral Wells, TX	250 ND-D to 30000 DA-2
1190	WNNWC	Sun Prairie, WI	4800 DA-D to 4800/21 DA-3
1220	KZEE	Weatherford, TX	490/8 ND to 1600/200 DA-2
1220	WDYT	Kings Mountain, NC	1000/100 ND to 25000/106 DA-D
1230	WESX	Salem, MA	1000/1000 ND to 450/450 ND
1260	WIYD	Palatka, FL	1000/500 DA-N to 400/135 ND
1270	KRVT	Claremore, OK	1000/1000 DA-N to 5000/1000 DA-2
1300	KSET	Silsbee, TX	500 ND-D to 1500/320 DA-2
1370	KGEN	Tulare, CA	710/72 ND to 3800/111 DA-D
1380	WFNW	Naugatuck, CT	5000/500 DA-2 to 3500/350 DA-2
1380	WGYV	Greenville, AL	1000/89 ND to 500 DA-2

1430	KLO	Ogden, UT	10000/5000 DA-2 to 16000/5000 DA-2
1430	WHAN	Ashland, VA	1000/31 ND to 50000 DA-D
1440	WCDS	Glasgow, KY	425/30 ND to 1000/1000 ND
1460	KBRZ	Freeport, TX	500/214 ND to 800/125 DA-D
1460	WJTI	Racine, WI	500/62 ND to 350/49 ND
1460	WRRE	Juncos, PR	500/500 DA-2 to 500/270 ND
1480	KRAE	Cheyenne, WY	1000/65 ND to 1000/72 ND
1550	WURP	Reserve Township, PA	2000/12 DA-2 to 4000/12 DA-2
1570	KMUR	Pryor, OK	1000/13 ND to 1000 ND-D

FACILITY AND PARAMETER GRANTS

730	WMTC	Vanclave, KY	5000/50 DA-D to 13000/50 DA-2
1040	WCHR	Flemington, NJ	4700/1000 DA-2 to 15000/1500 DA-3
1070	KATQ	Plentywood, MT	5000 ND-D to 5000/49 ND
1080	WOAP	Owosso, MI	1000 ND-D to 50000 DA-D
1140	KCLE	Cleburne, TX	850/710 DA-2 to 5000/71 DA-3
1160	WKTT	Saraland, AL	15000/250 DA-N to 15000/430 DA-N
1180	WFYL	King Of Prussia, PA	420 ND-D to 1000 ND-D
1390	WEGP	Presque Isle, ME	5000/5000 DA-N to 25000/10000 DA-N
1460	WHIC	Rochester, NY	5000/5000 DA-N to 3700/5000 DA-N
1520	WDCY	Douglasville, GA	2500 ND-D to 2500 ND
1520	WEXY	Wilton Manors, FL	3500/250 DA-N to 5000/800 DA-N
1530	KZNX	Creedmore, TX	10000/12 DA-3 to 10000/220 DA-3
1560	WRSJ	Bayamon, PR	5000/750 ND to 10000/5000 DA-2
1590	WHGT	Chambersburg, PA	5000/1000 DA-N to 15000/15 DA-2
1600	WKZK	North Augusta, SC	500 ND-D to 4000/27 ND

PUBLIC LISTINGS COURTESY OF THERADIOJOURNAL.COM AND 100000WATTS.COM:

- 640: WNNZ Westfield/Springfield MA flips from Fox sports "The Zone" to NPR news-talk, picking up programming formerly heard on WPNI 1430 Amherst MA.
- 790: KFPT Clovis/Fresno CA flips from progressive talk to ESPN sports.
- 820/1500: WXGG 104.1 Waldorf MD changes hands from Bonneville to Radio One, which flips it from adult hits "George" to black gospel "Praise 104.1." The "George" format moves to the HD2 of Bonneville's WTOP-FM 103.5 Washington DC, which will move its Frederick MD simulcast from WTOP 820 Frederick to WGYS 103.9 Braddock Heights MD, which had been simulcasting "George." The 820 signal will become part of the "Washington Post Radio" network, simulcasting WTWP 1500 Washington DC, in June.
- 860: KTRB San Francisco CA ends its "San Francisco Sound" stunt and launches a talk format.
- 1010: WIOJ Jacksonville Beach FL flips from talk "The Answer" to sports "1010XL."
- 1080: WOAP Owosso/Flint MI returns to the air with EWTN religion.
- 1130: KTMR Edna TX flips from Tejano "La Grande" to ethnic (Indian) "Humtung City Radio."
- 1160: WVNJ 1160 Oakland NJ drops its remaining music programming and goes all-talk as "The Voice."
- 1170: WIGL 93.9 St. Matthews/Columbia SC drops classic hits "Bad Dog 93.9" to simulcast Spanish "Ritmo 1170" WQVA 1170 Lexington SC.
- 1230: WANO Pineville KY is off the air after arson destroyed its transmitter building.
- 1310: WADB Asbury Park NJ flips from country to ESPN Deportes Spanish sports.
- 1350: WARF Akron OH flips from progressive talk "Radio Free Ohio" to Sporting News Radio sports.
- 1350: WHWH Princeton NJ returns to the air with ethnic, a year after it was silenced under the "five-year rule" for stations that add expanded-band outlets (WTTM 1680 Lindenwold NJ, in this case).
- 1380: KDXE North Little Rock AR flips from Air America talk to ESPN sports.
- 1380: KSRV-FM 96.1 Ontario OR/Boise ID flips from country "96.1 the Bull" to adult hits "Bob FM"; KSRV 1380 Ontario OR drops oldies and flips to country as "the Bull."
- 1430: WPNI Amherst MA flips from public radio news-talk (now heard on WNNZ 640 Westfield MA) to a temporary simulcast of folk WUMB-FM 91.9 Boston MA.
- 1450: KIOV Notus ID returns to the air with Sporting News sports.
- 1470: WYHM Allentown PA changes calls to WSAN and drops "Hymn 1470" contemporary Christian for Fox sports.
- 1490: KBKO Santa Barbara CA drops regional Mexican "Radio Bronco" (now heard on KIST-FM 107.7 Santa Barbara) and picks up the news/talk format from KTMS 990 Santa Barbara, which is being transferred to new owners.
- 1640: KBJA Sandy/Salt Lake City UT drops Radio Unica for romantica as "Super Radio."
- 1660: KXOL Brigham City/Salt Lake City UT flips from Spanish romantica to Spanish sports as "Radio Unica".
- 1660: WQSN Kalamazoo MI changes calls to WQLR, flipping from adult hits to AC; sister station WQLR 106.5 Kalamazoo changes calls to WVFM.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AND CONTRIBUTOR LISTINGS:

Dale Park sends along the following from USA Today dated 3/18/07:
 With plans to hold onto roughly 700 radio stations, most in the largest media markets, Clear Channel remains a radio behemoth.
 By Michelle Roberts, Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Clear Channel Communications Inc.'s meteoric rise from small-time radio station owner to colossal media company has often been tempestuous, with consumer and antitrust advocates hounding the giant. But these days, the loudest cries are coming from stockholders. Investors were offered \$37.60 in cash per share, or \$18.7 billion, and the assumption of \$8 billion in debt by a private equity group in November. The buyout offer, led by Bain Capital Partners LLC and Thomas H. Lee Partners LP, is the fifth largest in U.S. history and a 10.2% premium over the closing stock price the day before the offer was announced. But some shareholders of the nation's largest radio station operator are signaling it isn't enough, given the strong performance of its billboard and outdoor advertising segment. Clear Channel's largest shareholder indicated weeks ago it would vote against the deal and efforts to block it are gaining momentum. The uncertain fate of the deal led the board last week to postpone its shareholder meeting, initially scheduled for Wednesday, until April 19. The change will make more recent shareholders eligible to vote, an apparent bid to increase the odds of approval. "There's no doubt the delay in the vote stems from management's concern that they haven't gathered enough support to push through the deal," said Stanford Financial Group analyst Fred Moran. "They must have gotten indications there was enough dissension that they wouldn't get it approved." To win approval, two-thirds of shareholders must support the deal. Shareholders who don't vote will be counted against the buyout. Fidelity Management and Research, which has been selling shares but still owns nearly 10% of Clear Channel's outstanding stock, plans to vote against the offer, and others are likely to join Fidelity, analysts say. Institutional investor adviser Glass Lewis & Co. recommended shareholders oppose the deal. "The deck is starting to look like it's really stacked against" the buyers and the supporting Clear Channel board, said RBC Capital Markets analyst David Bank. The buyers have signaled they do not intend to raise their offer. And company officials have repeatedly said they shopped for the best deal, and the cash offer by the equity group was substantially better than the average stock price before the company announced it would look at options like the buyout. "We firmly believe there is not another competitive bidder for Clear Channel, and that \$37.60 per share in cash maximizes value and certainty," the board said in its letter to shareholders. Bank said the delayed vote may give Clear Channel's management team time to figure out whether the deal can be sweetened enough to win approval or whether — if recent market volatility continues — unnerved shareholders might be won over. "If you see weakness in the market, people might not want to take on the risk," he said, noting that the advertising market could worsen and encourage shareholders to take the cash while they can. He puts the odds of the deal closing at 50-50. Clear Channel management's current disagreement with some shareholders has been in contrast to its usual critics: consumer groups and antitrust regulators. The San Antonio-based company, started by L. Lowry Mays and B.J. "Red" McCombs in 1972, remained a relatively modest venture until media ownership rules and regulations relaxed in the late 1990s — just as the dot-com boom was fueling enormous demand for advertising. Clear Channel quickly grew to include 1,300 radio stations along with a television group, outdoor advertising and event-staging, a business line that has since been spun-off and renamed Live Nation Inc. Consumer groups charged Clear Channel was homogenizing programming and harming listeners, and investigations into payola allegations were launched. "Clear Channel, several years ago, became synonymous with everything that was wrong with radio," said Michael Bracy of the Future of Music Coalition, an advocacy group that has argued that regulatory laxness with the public bandwidth has hurt listeners. "All of the energy goes into cutting costs and streamlining, which doesn't translate into the best radio." As pressure from other music formats like the Internet and satellite radio has increased, the company has divested some of its radio holdings. It announced in November, at the time of the buyout offer, it would sell its television group and nearly 450 radio stations in smaller markets. Still, with plans to hold onto roughly 700 radio stations, most in the largest media markets, Clear Channel remains a radio behemoth. If successful, the new owners may be required by the Federal Communications Commission to sell some stations, but it's not clear that smaller independent owners could afford them anymore, Bracy said. "We don't know enough about how this would play out because this is uncharted territory," he said. (DP-HI)

Mike Hardester sends along the following from the SF Chronicle's Radio Waves dated 3/25/07:

San Francisco Chronicle - Sunday, March 25, 2007, RADIO WAVES, by Ben Fong-Torres
For those interested in the radio format happenings of the San Francisco Bay Area, this story covers not simply the activities of AM and FM radio, but semi-interviews of and comments by the DJs that are making things happen. In this article, Gene Nelson tells why he's back and where he has been; "The San Francisco Sound," on KTRB, continues, but on an abbreviated scale; and a few other interesting items. And, no, I'm not connected with any of the above or below, aside from growing up listening to KTRB in my home town of Modesto, California. (MH-NC)

Art Blair passes along the following from the Pittsburgh, PA Post-Gazette dated 3/25/07:

New owner revamps WURP
Talk station WURP-AM (1550) will be changing programming and ownership: **Businesstalkradio.net**, Inc., based in Greenwich, Conn., has an agreement with current owner Inner City Broadcasting to purchase the station for \$225,000. The deal is still subject to FCC approval. **Businesstalkradio.net** will take over WURP under a local marketing agreement on April 15 and will operate it that way until a sale is finalized. **Businesstalkradio.net** owns two radio networks -- the Business Talk Radio Network and Lifestyle Talk Radio Network -- that provide 24/7 talk programming. The Pittsburgh affiliate will be a mix of both, said company president and CEO Michael Metter, and include syndicated hosts Don Imus, Bruce Williams, Michael Dresser, and "ChickChat," with hosts Heidi Hanzel and Lara Dyan. Metter said the new station will also incorporate local programming, such as news, community affairs and high school sports. "Imus in the Morning" had previously aired on WURP but was dropped last year. WURP currently carries a lineup of syndicated programs, including Gordon Liddy, The Young Turks, Don and Mike and Tom Leykis. "Pittsburgh is a great market that has turned around dramatically in recent years and holds great promise for the future," said Metter. (AB-CA)

Pat Martin sends along the following from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin dated 4/3/07:

HD radio broadcasting hits Hawaii with Star 101.9
CLEAR Channel Hawaii's KUCC-FM 101.9 has won the race to become the first Hawaii station to start high-definition, digital radio broadcasting. "We started ... on April Fool's Day," said Chuck Cotton, general manager of the seven Oahu stations owned by Texas-based Clear Channel Communications Inc. He wasn't joking. He was listening to the stations on an HD radio in his office. Star 101.9's programming is at 101.9-1. Its HD sister is playing test-music on 101.9-2, but a harder rock format will likely begin by the end of the week. KSSK-FM 92.3 will go HD "within the next month," and the other two Clear Channel FM stations' HD broadcasts will begin before year's end, he said. The stations' regular programming will air on the -1 channel, because "you don't blow up what you already have," he said. The -2 stations' formats will be different. For instance, Perry, Price and colleagues will air on 92.3-1, while 92.3-2 will play smooth jazz. KIKI-FM 93.9 will groove old-school R&B on its secondary channel and mainstream country music will kick and twang on the HD sister-station of KDNN-FM 98.5. Clear Channel's Hawaii AM stations won't go HD, as their mainland counterparts have. "We have so many transmitters multiplexed here, meaning three AM transmitters in the same location... they would all trip over each other," he said. The -2 stations will run commercial-free for 18 months, which means no revenue stream from whence to pay increased electricity costs or on-air talent. Clear Channel corporate has not announced plans to staff the stations. Cross-town competitor Cox Radio Hawaii is also preparing for HD, with two digital transmitters on-site, said Mike Kelly, general manager. Atlanta-based Cox Radio Inc. will bring HD to Hawaii by the fourth quarter, he said. Tabletop HD radios cost about \$300, or less after a mail-in rebate offered by one retailer -- but as broadcasters are fond of pointing out, there are no subscription fees as there are with satellite radio. HD tabletop radios are available locally from RadioShack and online from Circuit City. HD receivers for automotive installation are available online from Circuit City and Best Buy. <http://starbulletin.com/2007/04/03/business/engle.html>. (PM-OR)

Dale Park sends along the following via lradio.blogspot.com:

790 KFPT Fresno CA flips from liberal talk to stunting with music 3/31, planning to go all sports (lradio.blogspot.com via 5P-HI)
1350 WARF Akron OH flips from liberal talk to Sporting News Radio sports "Sportsradio 1350" 3/30 (lradio.blogspot.com via 5P-HI) (DP-HI)

Pat Martin sends along the following from Mike Brooker of Toronto, ON:

The former Pearson Airport TIS CFYZ-1280 now re-launched as CFBN all-business news format using slogans "Biz 1280" and "The sound of money". <http://www.cfbnnews.com/>
Will this format succeed? They couldn't do worse than some of the other abortions on the local dial such as the former MOJO-640. But they are still a high-powered TIS, covering mainly the area near YYZ and northwest Toronto and Mississauga. Their signal could be nearly useless for most of their target audience in Toronto's Bay Street financial district. In downtown Toronto on a car radio they would get hammered by WHTK-Rochester. And they wouldn't be able to penetrate the concrete and steel of an office building. (PM-OR)

Pat Martin also sends along the following from Deane McIntyre of Calgary, AB.:

CHHA-1610 Toronto ON has applied to the CRTC to increase its daytime power to 10kW: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archive/ENG/Notices/2007/pb2007-38.htm#2>.
Toronto, Ontario, Application No. 2007-0401-6
Application by San Lorenzo Latin American Community Centre relating to the licence of the Type B ethnic community AM radio programming undertaking CHHA Toronto, Ontario. The licensee proposes to change the authorized contours by increasing the daytime transmitter power from 1,000 watts to 10,000 watts. In Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2007-30, 25 January 2007, the Commission approved an application to change the authorized contours of CHHA by relocating the transmitter. The licensee had indicated that the relocation of the transmitter had been requested by Industry Canada to correct interference problems. The licensee indicates that the proposed increase in power would restore its radio signal to areas which lost coverage following the above-noted relocation of the transmitter. (PM-OR)

Pat Martin also sends along the following from Mike Brooker of Toronto, ON:

A radio behemoth rises, TAVIA GRANT, Globe and Mail Update
Astral Media Inc. clinched a long-awaited deal Thursday to buy Standard Radio Inc. for \$1.08-billion, creating the largest radio broadcaster in Canada. The Montreal-based broadcaster signed a letter of intent to buy Standard in February. Astral's purchase of 52 privately held AM and FM stations that make up the Toronto-based Standard empire will create a radio empire with 81 stations. Full article: <http://tinyurl.com/34tv5c>. Standard's Toronto flagship is CFRB-1010. (PM-OR)

Dan Riordan of Sherwood, OR passes along the following from the Evangelical Covenant Church website (www.covchurch.org) dated 4/12/07:

KICY-AM Radio License Renewed
ANCHORAGE, AK (April 12, 2007) – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has renewed KICY-AM 850's license through the year 2014, despite a series of problems that have plagued the station in recent years. The licensure also enables the station to operate at 50,000 watts - a far greater power than previously – and without worry of being hampered by the signals of other stations. A fire that destroyed a transmitter building and the precarious footing of two towers in line to be replaced had placed the full licensure in doubt. General Manager Dennis Weidler says he is pleased by the FCC decision. "This granting of the license for 50,000 watts for 24 hours a day is a major blessing, and it can only be through God's intervention," Weidler says. "Government bureaucracy doesn't normally function this way. We petitioned the FCC for this license three years ago when the station at 840 kHz in Anchorage went off the air," Weidler says. "Our previous license was for 50,000 watts daytime, 10,000 nighttime (to protect 840 kHz) and 50,000 directional from 11

PM to 4 AM for our Russian broadcasts." The station currently operates on a Special Temporary Authority granted by the FCC following the fire, Weidler says. "This has allowed us to remain on at half power - 25,000 kilowatts - in a non-directional mode since August of 2005." With the FCC ruling, the station will not have to reduce power at sunset and will not have to worry about interference by other stations. "Everyone on 850 khz between Nome and Denver must protect us from interference," Weidler says. "Specifically, they must either go off the air at sunset, reduce power at sunset or go to a directional pattern at sunset. "The Covenant Church now has a Clear-Channel, 50,000-watt radio station like WABC, WLS or KOA, and no AM radio station in America has more power or greater protection," Weidler says. Crews will work through the summer to replace two towers that had to be taken down because they were in danger of falling. "We will begin driving pilings to bedrock this week," Weidler says. "The towers will be painted by a work team from Tucson on June 10. A team from Towers for Jesus, a ministry that helps Christian broadcasters, will begin erecting the freshly painted towers on June 15. A new tuning house also will be constructed. "We have work teams of varying sizes arriving in Nome as early as May 24 to begin building the new 16-by-32-foot tuning house," Weidler says. "Two teams from Kalamazoo are coming up to install the tuning cabinets at the base of each of the three towers and repair the ground radial system." Other teams are coming from Alaska, Florida, Kansas, and California. Weidler says he hopes construction and testing of the signal will enable the station to operate at full capacity sometime after September. (DR-OR)

Ye editor passes along the following from Yahoo's website dated 4/13/07:

Defiant station to air 'Best of Imus' next week, KCAA radio chairman says without show 'we're pretty much toast'

Updated: 9:21 a.m. PT April 13, 2007, SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. - A small radio station intends to run the "Best of Imus" next week in defiance of Don Imus' firing.

Fred Lundgren, chairman of 1,400-watt KCAA (1050 AM), said the station would start the series Monday with the program that wound up getting Imus cashiered. "I'm not going to let networks dictate to me who I run on my station," said Lundgren. The station, which has broadcast the shock jock's morning show since 2003, also plans to air mostly supportive listener mail and e-mail reacting to the controversy. The station can be heard in communities east and south of Los Angeles. The Imus material also will be available on the station's Web site at www.kcaaradio.com Monday. Calls late Thursday to Westwood One Inc., which syndicated Imus' morning program, were not immediately returned. Lundgren said the motive for broadcasting the Imus reruns is in part financial. "I hate to say it, but without Imus, we're pretty much toast," said Lundgren, adding: "What Imus did was deplorable, inexcusable, but it shouldn't end the career of a man who has done so much good. This is an overreaction beyond anything I've ever seen in radio." (RW-CA (Ye editor))

COLUMN CREDITS. Much of the information in the column courtesy of and used with permission of **Theradiojournal.com**, and **100000watts.com**: 'CALL LETTER CHANGES', 'FORMAT CHANGES', 'CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITY PERMIT ACTIVITY', AND 'PUBLIC LISTINGS'. Additional information may also be included in these sections through the FCC Database listings &/or contributions by other individuals. Listings in the "CONTRIBUTOR LISTING" section are strictly individual contributions. Thank you.

Contributors:

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- Pat Martin**, Seaside, OR (PM-OR)
- Dale Park**, Honolulu, HI (DP-HI)
- Dan Riordan**, Sherwood, OR (DR-OR)
- Robert Wien**, Fontana, CA (RW-CA) (Ye editor)

DATE OF COLUMN: 04/15/07. Well, Happy IRS day! Hope your taxes weren't too taxing, but your DX is maxing! Going to be on a lot of travel to CO. this month for business, should be exciting! 73's.

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP
Nancy Johnson – 265 Waterton Wy – Billings, MT 59102-7755
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WDXR DEADLINES: May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, June 29. Please use Eastern Time.

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ICOM R75, 1800' E Beverage, 850' Beverage to ENE, LW 250' to WNW, LW 400' to NE, LW 300' to S, LW 300' to ESE.
- *****
- 560 KSFO **CA**, San Francisco 3/25 0010 ID and Art Bell show. Good signal with slight flutter from time to time on Ampex 502 with Sanserino loop. Barley a whisper of unID under. (GH-OR)
- 590 KTHO **CA**, South Lake Tahoe 3/30 1600 fair with "KTHO South Lake Tahoe" ID. (CM-CA)
- 630 CHED **AB**, Edmonton 4/16 good on top with "630 CHED News" at 0204. (PM-OR)
- 660 KTNN **AZ**, Window Rock 3/24 0605 good while sitting on frequency, "This is KTNN Window Rock." (CM-CA)
- KGDP **CA**, Orcutt 3/23 0500 good with KGDP ID. (CM-CA)
- CFFR **AB**, Calgary 3/24 0615 fair with 660 News, and mention of Calgary. (CM-CA)
- 700 KMBX **CA**, Soledad 4/3 0129 Spanish popular music, 0130 ID "KMBX Soledad," PSA. Good over/under KHSE-TX. Nice for 700 watts, new. (REW-HI)
- KALL **UT**, North Salt Lake City 3/20 0800 poor with ID "KALL North Salt Lake." (CM-CA)
- 720 WGN **IL**, Chicago 3/30 0200 poor with "The voice of Chicago WGN." (CM-CA)
- 740 KRMG **OK**, Tulsa 4/10 0603 with traffic & weather, and "KRMG." (BB-AZ)
- 780 KNOM **AK**, Nome 4/17 still here even this late in the season with a Simon & Garfunkel song (The Boxer) at 0315, over/under KKOH. (PM-OR)
- 790 KGMI **WA**, Bellingham 4/3 2335 ID and Coast to Coast. Really weak and fighting it out with unID, probably KFCW. Unusually poor conditions tonight. (GH-OR)
- CFCW **AB**, Camrose 4/16 good with C&W music and spots, CFCW ID at 0210. (PM-OR)
- 800 CKOR **BC**, Pentiction 3/29 2315 many "Easy Rock" ID's in strong and clear on SP-600 with E-W wire, obviously on day power. AC format, ad for Last Call Liquor Mart. (GH-OR)
- 820 WBAP **TX**, Fort Worth 3/20 0400 fair with WBAP ID Fort Worth-Dallas Midnight Radio Network. (CM-CA)
- 830 KLAA **CA**, Orange 3/29 0100 good with KLAA ID. (CM-CA)
- 840 CKBX **BC**, 100 Mile House 4/16 good with KSWB phased out with CKBX at S9+25DB with Sunday night religious program at 0200. Later heard with C&W as usual. (PM-OR)
- 850 KICY **KA**, Nome 4/17 on top of mess with man in Russian at 0330. Not as good as a month ago, but surprised to be hearing this in mid April. (PM-OR)
- 860 KMVP **AZ**, Phoenix 3/26 0540 fair with KTRB off the air tonight, with ESPN Radio, also many KTAR ID's, Sports 620 KTAR, and talk about Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team. (CM-CA)
- KTRB **CA**, San Francisco 3/26 2200 good with "Truth Radio for the Bay" slogan then KTRB ID. Station format is newstalk. Noted 0130 off the air with open carrier. (CM-CA)
- 870 WWL **LA**, New Orleans 3/20 0500 good with "WWL New Orleans" ID. (CM-CA)
- KFLD **WA**, Pasco 4/3 2300 faint ID and news way out in the static. At least one other in there as well, on Ampex 502 with Select-A-Tenna. Heard only occasionally. (GH-OR)
- 880 KRVN **NE**, Lexington 3/30 0655 "KRVN Lexington" ID in very strong. (CM-CA)
- 900 CKBI **SK**, Prince Albert 3/30 2305 ad for Don Mitchell Show and ID. Fair signal with some local 910 splash on R-390A with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
- 910 CKDQ **AB**, Drumheller 4/16 good over KTRO with C&W music and Q-91 ID at 0215. (PM-OR)
- 940 CKGX **SK**, Yorkton 4/16 good & dominant with C&W music and "GX 94" at 0239. (PM-OR)
- 1040 WHO **IA**, Des Moines 3/31 in good tonight with WHO ID at 0305. (CM-CA)
- 1120 KPNW **OR**, Eugene 4/9 with "News Radio 1120 KPNW." (BB-AZ) (Time?-NJ)
- 1150 CKFR **BC**, Kelowna 4/16 good at S9+40DB with "Oldies 1150" ID's at 0224. (PM-OR)
- 1170 KCBQ **CA**, San Diego 3/30 0305 KCBQ ID in poor. (CM-CA)
- KPUG **WA**, Bellingham 4/2 0015 ID, ad for Geico auto insurance, female gave community calendar announcements. Fair signal with one unID far under, on Drake with Select-A-Tenna. (GH-OR)
- 1190 KXXM **CA**, Anaheim 4/3 0155 Vietnamese talk by woman, 0200 abruptly into English news. Good over/under KEX. Often heard on day power, but this is first time heard at night with 1300 watts. (REW-HI)
- 1200 WOAI **TX**, San Antonio 3/30 0100 poor with "WOAI San Antonio" ID. (CM-CA)
- 1220 KNTS **CA**, Palo Alto 4/4 1000 ID "KNTS Palo Alto, San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose." Good signal coming out of Mike Gallagher show and into news. (MS-CA)
- 1230 KCUP **OR**, Toledo 4/10 good with KKEE off this morning. KCUP with talk about taxes, ID 1459:50 "1230 AM, KCUP Toledo-Newport," into Fox news. 1505 "Lifestyles of the Oregon Coast" with soft musical theme, 1506 "Lifestyles of the Oregon Coast on 1230 AM, KCUP Toledo-Newport" then KKEE popped carrier back on. I can hear this often with KKEE phased, but normally not this strong. (PM-OR)

- 1240 KTX OR, Pendleton 4/5 0000 news & ad for sports talk program. Mixing with others and very weak. Seldom heard. (GH-OR)
- 1270 CBRU BC, Squamish 4/16 // 690 with R&B program. Not bad for 200 watts at 0218. Dominant a lot of the time. (PM-OR)
- 1330 CJYM SK, Rosetown 4/16 good & dominant over Portland with oldies ID's as "1330 & 1210." (PM-OR)
- 1440 KMED OR, Medford 4/3 0910 ID "On newstalk 1440 KMED... Here's Bill Meyer." Good signal this morning, KINF Santa Maria is usually dominant. KAZG noted also. (MS-CA)
- 1460 KCKX OR, Stayton 3/30 0450 fair with "Cowboy Country KCKX Stayton-Salem." (CM-CA)
KUTI WA, Yakima 3/30 0445 fair with "Legendary Country KUTI Yakima." (CM-CA)
- 1470 KELA WA, Centralia 4/3 1000 ID by man "AM 14-70 KELA," woman with "Right here on AM 14-70 Centralia-Chehalis" into network news. Good. (REW-HI)
- 1490 KEYG WA, Grand Coulee 4/6 circa 1300 C&W music, ads for Omak & the Okanogan, as well as Moses Lake. Uses "KEY" in their station ID (from KEYG call). (RS-ID)
- KYNR WA, Toppenish 4/6 circa 1300 the Yakima Nation Station briefly peaked presumably with unusual (to me) chanting, never heard here before, didn't ID but I don't know who else it could be. Suddenly gone and not heard again in subsequent hour or so. (RS-ID)
- 1500 KSTP MN, St. Paul 3/31 0350 in good with Coast to Coast program with George Noory, and KSTP ID. (CM-CA)
- 1520 KVTA CA, Port Hueneme 3/31 0240 fair with Coast to Coast program and KVTA ID. (GM-CA)
KOKC OK, Oklahoma City 3/31 in good at 0300 with KOKC Oklahoma City ID, also Midnight Trucking Network announcement. Faded in & out at times. (CM-CA)
- 1610 Talking House CA, Bellflower 4/1 1230 recorded message describing house at 9225 Laurel. (MS-CA)
- 1630 KCJJ IA, Iowa City 3/26 0420 fair with KCJJ ID, not heard for awhile. (CM-CA)
KKGM TX, Fort Worth 4/9 0821 with "KKGM" ID. (BB-AZ)

Thanks to our reporters this week. Nancy 4/20 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

- [EB-MO] **Eric Bueneman**, Hazelwood, MO NOUIHEric@aol.com
National NC-60 Special with inverted V indoor antenna, GE Superadio III, Grundig S350, Radio Shack TM-152 tuner with Worcester Space Magnet 2.
- [NJ-MT] **Nancy Johnson**, Billings, MT NancyJohnson@Prodigy.net
Drake R8B, Kiwa loop.

DOWN THE DIAL

- 1410 WIHM IL, Taylorville. 4-14 fair to poor mixing with WING and WIZM. 01:38 with EWTN Love. First time heard on night power, this is a daytime regular. [EB-MO]
- 1490 KBSR MT, Laurel. 4-14 noted back on the air after being off for over a month. [NJ-MT]
- 1580 WTTN WI, Watertown. 4-15 fair to poor mixing with others. 22:02 with CNN News, local spots. "The all new 15-80 The Goose" slogan. Oldies format. Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletics Association PSA heard at one point. [EB-MO]

25 YEARS AGO

April 17, 1982 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **Tom Jasinski** called WJJD and they confirmed they would go 24 hours in two weeks ... **Bruce Portzer** of Seattle, WA said he was studying for the state professional engineering exam ... **Karl Zuk** of Queens Village, NY offered help to **Harry Hayes** on his cassette recorder head alignment problem.

OPEN MIKE

The season is just about over. Have you made plans to attend the IRCA Convention in Salt Lake City? This column was typed 4-14-07. 73, John



DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

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

E-mail: mwdxer@webtv.net

all times UTC

TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

- 153 **RUSSIA**, Radio Rossii 1157 4/14, fair with mx and talk. (DV-WA)
- 180 **RUSSIA**, Radio Rossii 1207 4/11 Poor. (DV-WA)
- 189 **RUSSIA**, Radio Rossii poor at 1209 4/11. (DV-WA)
- 234 **RUSSIA**, Radio Rossii just above the noise level at 1212 4/11. (DV-WA)
- 279 **RUSSIA**, Radio Rossii weak at 1251 4/12. (DV-WA)
- 594 **JAPAN**, Tokyo JOAK 1239 weak with woman singing 4/12. (DV-WA)
- 774 **JAPAN**, Akita JOUB 1202 4/12 weak with splash. (DV-WA)
- 828 **JAPAN**, Osaka JOBB 1241 4/12 brief audio. (DV-WA)
- 1053 **KOREAS**, 1249 4/14 open carrier underneath. (DV-WA)
- 1206 **CHINA**, F/S 1235 weak Audio for a few seconds 4/14. (DV-WA)
- 1287 **JAPAN**, Sapporo JOHR 1251 4/14 M&F in JJ. (DV-WA)
- 1566 **REP. KOREA**, Cheju HLAZ 1249 4/14 fair w/Asian lang. (DV-WA)
- 1575 **THAILAND**, VOA weak 4/14 in and out signal, Asian lang. (DV-WA)

THANKS TO THIS REPORTER

DV-WA **DENNIS VROOM**, Vancouver WA vroomski@comcast.net
DXing with JRC 545 and Drake R8B, NW EW and H-800 probe

Grayland logs from Bruce Portzer (R8A, R75) and Chuck Hutton (R8B, 7030) with a 1500' 320 degree Beverage.

We had fair conditions with the most noteworthy parts being: an hour or two of the best Russians in a while; see 549-676-621-648-666-720-810-1008-1377. a few interesting unid Chinese stations on 909, 972, 999, 1008, 1062, 1089 and 1098. It's very tough to get past the Korean superpower on 972 so the Chinese on 972 caught our interest. The 1 kw Taiwan station on 1593, even though its big brothers on 738 and 1143 were not at their best levels.

- 189 **RUSSIA** Belogorsk, Radio Rossii 1307 3/18 fair w/Radio Rossii ID. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 234 **RUSSIA** Arman, Radio Rossii 1111 3/18 fair //279. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 279 **RUSSIA** Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 1110 3/18 monster signal, Radio Rossii ID. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 518 **CHINA** Shanghai, 1042 3/18, weather forecast for Bohai Sea and other places. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 518 **HAWAII** Honolulu, 1302 3/18, NAVTEX transmission, list of safety notices till in effect. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 518 **RUSSIA** Kholmok 1210, weather forecasts for Kurile Islands, Okhotsk Sea, etc. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 518 **RUSSIA** Petropavlovsk, 1219-22 3/18 COASTAL WARNING PETROPAVLOVSK ID, various navigational warnings, 1225 weather forecast for Petropavlovsk region. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 518 **RUSSIA** Vladivostok, 1204 3/18, Vladivostok Radio Weather Bulletin, 1207 message about missile & gunnery exercises. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 529 **ALASKA** Level Island, 0442 3/18 good /o TIS stations w/message that transcribe weather would resume at 1400z, SQM cw marker in background. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 530 **ALASKA** Adak, 1105 3/17 ADK beacon fair among TIS audio & hets. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 531 **UNID** 1215 3/18 classical music u/Japan. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
+ **UNID** with classical music 1312 Mar. 18. Don't know who this could be. (CH-WA 2007)
- 549 **RUSSIA** R. Mayak, Vladivostok (assumed) poor, parallel to 666 1246 Mar. 18. (CH-WA 2007)
- 567 **NEW ZEALAND** Wellington, RNZ National, 1244 3/17 fair w/talk //675. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 576 **RUSSIA** R. Mayak, Petropavlovsk (assumed) poor with Russian //666. (CH-WA 2007)
- 580 **ALASKA** Petersburg, 0358 3/18 dominant w/Christian rock show and "The Right Choice every time, KRSA, Petersburg-Wrangell-Sitka" ID. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 620 **ALASKA** Homer, 0512 3/18 0512 3/18 atop KPOJ w/standards Great listening KGTL AM 620. ID. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 621 **RUSSIA** (?) seeming RR very poor 1305 Mar. 18. Not listed as a Rossii station, but it seemed to be parallel to 279 Rossii. (CH-WA 2007)
- 648 **AUSTRALIA** Tamworth, 2NU 1240 3/17 fair w/female vocal //684/702. Man interviewing the recording artist 1243. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 648 **RUSSIA** 1218 3/18 VOR Korean service fair. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 650 **ALASKA** Anchorage, 0534 3/18 650 KENI ID at end of weather by woman o/u KSTE/CISL. (bp-WA Mar 2007)

- 657 **NORTH KOREA** P'yongyang, 1315 3/17 woman in Korean //3320 good. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 666 **RUSSIA** Komsomolsk 1145 3/18 male monologue in Russian fair o/NHK station. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- + Fair and taking turns on top of Japan 1244 Mar. 18. (CH-WA 2007)
- 702 **AUSTRALIA** Sydney, 1149 3/17 loud w/interview. Good w/news 1205, then promo anmt & 702 ABC Sydney ID. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 702 **JAPAN** 1319 3/17 fair-good w/weather in Japanese, couldn't catch local ID (if any) 1320. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 711 **SOUTH KOREA** 1428 3/17 KBS1 good w/male talk in Korean, some KIRO splatter, no sign of listed //3930. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 720 **NORTH KOREA** 1420 3/18 female operatic //2850 loud, w/buzzsaw het in background. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 720 **RUSSIA** Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk 1221 3/18 good o/u KDWN, VOR in Japanese w/Russian accent, Midnight in Moscow theme tune, possible ID w/mention of Moskva. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- + 1308 Mar. 18 on top of KDWN at times! (CH-WA 2007)
- 729 **JAPAN** Nagoya, 1147 3/18 JOCK fair //594, woman talking & laughing. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 750 **ALASKA** Anchorage, 0455 3/18 KFQD ending sports coverage, list of local sponsors, promo w/call letters, fair u/KXL. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 770 **ALASKA** Valdez, KCHU, 0500 3/18 eclectic mix of blues, latin & country songs, legal ID for KCHU + 2 FM stations, loud w/KTTN way underneath. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 774 **JAPAN** Akita, 1418 3/17 good w/English program, interview w/American woman about shopping malls. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 780 **ALASKA** Nome, 0520 3/18 KNOM presumed, woman leading a group reciting the rosary, fair u/KKOH. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 792 **CHINA** unknown, 1532 3/17 Chinese talk fair in splatter, Shanghai? (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 810 **RUSSIA** Razdol'noe 1212 3/18 //279 Radio Rossii, man & woman in Russian w/music in background battling KGO. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- + Up and on top of a defeated KGO with R. Rossii ID 1312 Mar. 18. (CH-WA 2007)
- 828 **JAPAN** Sapporo, 1210 3/17 JOBB, good w/EE lessons, short skit about someone getting cut off on the freeway. Still good w/music box IS after signoff 1643 3/17 //weaker 747/774. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 828 **UNIDS** behind Japan 1424 Mar. 17: one with Oriental talk and the other with mx. Also a het on the channel of 237 Hz. (CH-WA 2007)
- 846 **JAPAN** 1350 3/17 pleasant female vocal weak-fair //837/594. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 850 **ALASKA** Nome, 0524-0532 3/18, KICY presumed, loud & dominant w/heavy CFPR splatter, nonstop hymns w/no announcements. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 855 **NORTH KOREA** 1413 3/17 good //3320 w/woman in Korean, then march music. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 864 **JAPAN** (3 stations listed) taking turns with South Korea and another unid station, parallel to 1287 1325 March 17. (Hutton-WA 2007)
- 873 **JAPAN** Kumamoto, 1217 3/17 JOGB fair w/EE lessons We've gone global, we're now part of (something) International. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 873 **NORTH KOREA** 1140 3/18 male martial chorus fade up o/JOGB, buzzsaw het. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 882 **JAPAN** JOPK Shizuoka poor-fair 1413 Mar. 18 with NHK1 programming //594. (CH-WA 007)
- 882 **UNIDS** Mar. 17 1417, neither // NHK and at least 1 was Chinese with the other sounding non-Chinese and non-Korean. Poor-fair. Interesting, as there's a fair chance one was the long-desired Mongolia. (CH-WA Mar 2007)
- 891 **THAILAND** fair with flute mx in gamelan style, on tpop of a weaker jumble 1413 Mar. 17. (CH-WA 2007)
- 909 **UNIDS** 1350 3/17 jumble of audio from 3-4 stations, one Chinese, another Japanese, but nothing IDable. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 930 **ALASKA** Ketchikan, 0339 3/18, KTKN loud w/Saturday 70s Show (satellite oldies) & ktkn.com ID. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 945 **CHINA** 1530 3/17, CNR1 good w/ads, Zhongyang Renmin Guangbo Diantai ID & gongs. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 963 **CHINA** 1347 3/17 CRI Russian service loud w/pop vocal tune. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 963 **CHINA** unid site, good with Radio Pekin and Govorit Pekin IDs 1334 Mar. 17. (Hutton-WA 2007)
- 972 **SOUTH KOREA / CHINA**, 1342 3/18 KBS mixing w/unid Chinese station. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 972 **UNID** even with Korea 1421 to 1445 Mar. 18 with talk, seemed Chinese. (CH-WA 2007)
- 981 **CHINA** 1411 3/17 CNR1 strong //4460, man & woman w/music in background, possibly advertisement. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 990 **CHINA** 1406 3/17 Chinese talk good w/no domestic QRM, not //CNR1, CNR2 listed but didn't check for //. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- + Unid 1505 Mar. 17 fair with woman in CC not // to CNR2 and Bruce says not // to CNR1. (CH-WA 2007)
- 999 **CHINA** 1518 3/17, 2 stations mixing, CNR1 talk //4460, plus a second Chinese station, fair, separable from KOMO-1000. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- + Unid with ID at 1500 Mar. 17 as "Shentai Diantai" or similar. Nothing listed that is even close. No sign of the usual CNR station and only North Korea offering competition. (CH-WA 2007)
- 999 **NORTH KOREA** 1518-1529 3/17 operatic female mixing w/Chinese stations //2850. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1008 **CHINA** (2) 1512 Mar. 17 one with Chinese classical mx, other with woman talking. Neither // to CNR1. (CH-WA 2007)
- 1008 **JAPAN** JONR Osaka fair and alone except for a terrible growl 1426 Mar. 18. (CH-WA 2008)
- 1008 **RUSSIA** Khabarovsk, 1156 3/18 lively woman DJ in Russian, pop music, dominant. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- + R. Yunost, fair 1537 Mar. 18. (CH-WA 2007)
- 1017 **JAPAN** JOLB Fukuoka 1430 Mar. 18 fair-poor with NHK2 //774. (CH-WA 2007)
- 1035 **SOUTH KOREA** 1637 3/17 Korean talk on late skip //1044 briefly good. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1044 **CHINA** 1348 3/18 CRI Japanese service fair. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1053 **JAPAN** 1237 3/18 good w/what sounded like live concert (woman singing, applause, same woman spoke, etc), then faded w/SK jammer. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1062 **CHINA** unknown, 1131-1140 3/18 woman in Chinese fair-good. Mixing w/Korea 1159:30, one of them had chimes, then ...- TS from Korea, ...- TS from China possibly from primary station & delayed audio from 2 on-channel repeaters. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1080 **ALASKA** Anchorage, 0503 3/18 dominant w/several promos & ads, 2 or 3 call IDs. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1089 **CHINA** unknown, 1650 3/17 still producing audio, woman singing, man talking in Chinese, etc. Have heard Chinese here many times in the past but not IDed yet, possibly Liaoning. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- + Unknown, 1047 3/18 Chinese talk fair in splatter, music at 1059 recheck, no pips at ToH. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1098 **CHINA** unknown 1359:30 3/17, jumble of audios noted, Chinese 4+1 time signal at TOH but little else heard. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1098 **MARSHALL ISLANDS** Majuro, 1054 3/17 good w/male talk & island music. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1125 **JAPAN** various, 1457 3/18 music //774/828, NHK pips & anthem 1500, too weak to hear local ID, if any. Weak Chinese talk in background. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1134 **SOUTH KOREA** 1659:40 3/17, usual tone burst, woman w/presumed ID in Korea, then 3+1 time signal fair //972, then music. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1143 **TAIWAN** BEL3 Yuye Guangbo Diantai 1426 Mar. 17 poor to fair with Chinese talk parallel to 738 which is always stronger in spite of both being listed at 100 kw and 1143 being a pretty open channel. (Hutton-WA 2007)
- 1152 **JAPAN** various, 1501 3/18 poor w/anthem & music box IS //774. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1161 **UNID** 1341 3/18 Britney Spears sound-alike in unknown Asian language, not //CNR1 or NHK1, fair & separable from KSL. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1170 **KOREA** 1053 3/18, foreign service in Japanese briefly dominant. Loud w/Liberty program //972/1134 1405. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1179 **JAPAN** Osaka, 1253 3/18 JOOR good & easily separable from 1180, 2 men in Japanese, Radio + Hosono mentioned, jingle or ad by young girl, 1254 man talking w/several mentions of Hokkaido. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1206 **CHINA** Yanbian 1319 3/18 loud w/phone conversation in Korean. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1359 **CHINA** 1510 3/17 fair in domestic splatter //4460, man in Chinese & orchestral music. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1368 **JAPAN** handful of NHK1 stations poor but parallel to 594 1401 Mar. 17. (Hutton-WA 2007)
- 1377 **CHINA** 1506 3/18 still good w/string of ads. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1377 **RUSSIA** R. Yunost, Vladivostok sometimes on top of the powerful Chinese with Russian 1301 Mar. 18. (CH-WA 2007)
- 1386 **NEW ZEALAND** Auckland, 1153 3/17 good w/Hindi talk & music, then faded u/unID. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1440 **JAPAN** Sapporo, JOWF, 1416 2/18 Japanese woman mixing w/domestics (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1475 **MALAYSIA** Sandakan, 1415 3/18 pop music hetting 1476. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1503 **JAPAN** Akita, 1232 3/18 JOUK good w/chimes, man & woman in Japanese //594. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1512 **CHINA** unknown, 1115 3/18, subdued Chinese talk good w/KGA running OC, still there but much rougher copy when KGA audio came back 1123. Good at 1402 recheck w/fast talking woman in Chinese. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1512 **JAPAN** NHK2 various, fair 1521 Mar. 18 parallel to 774. (Hutton-WA)
- 1557 **TAIWAN** 1450 3/17 WYFR fair w/EE religion. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1566 **SOUTH KOREA** Cheju 1718 3/17 HLAZ still producing bits of audio 3+ hours after sunrise. (bp-WA Mar 2007)
- 1593 **TAIWAN** 1334 3/17 fisheries station good w/Chinese talk //738. (bp-WA Mar 2007)

1593 **TAIWAN** Yuye Guangbo Diantai 1426 Mar. 17: found China and Japan not too strong here and the main stations (738 and 1143) both in. Headed to 1593 to check the 1 kw outlet and lo and behold it was there and parallel to the others. (Hutton-WA 2007)

DX FORUM

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E-mail: REvans5435@yahoo.com DEADLINES: Sundays

Deadlines: 5/5, 6/2, 6/30, 7/28 and 8/25.

Gary Siegel, 2955 - 115th Street, Toledo, Ohio 43611

I'm overdue for a Forum entry so much so that I even missed the anniversary edition. So here's to another great year, IRCA! I celebrated the club's birthday by logging the KMTI-650 Manti, Utah test on 3/19. I was stunned with how easily this one got thru WSM. The code IDs and sweep tones blended in very nicely alongside the classic country, hi! I was at work and took my Grundig S-350 with me. This handy portable has to rival some of the best smaller portables ever on the market. I opened one of our office windows and leaned the radio outside into the open air away from the electronics and voila, within seconds I'm hearing the KMTI code ID. This was at 0206. I had numerous episodes from that time till 0230 along with sweep tones. This test had to be widely heard if I got it so easily in spite of the means I had to use to try for it. Will this be the final season that the DXer can rely on the dial being clean enough to allow this to happen? The FCC did the unthinkable on 3/22 by allowing HD-AM broadcasters to run this ill-advised technology after dark. This could be a dark day for the hobbyist as any unless significant improvements are made to the HD delivery system. I can't believe the FCC approved IBOC in the first place. I am sending along to the club an article I found on the Internet, courtesy of Bob Savage of WYSL-1040 Avon, NY that decries HD-AM and explains its many flaws far better than I could every express. It may be too late but I intend to send this article to all the FCC commissioners and to key members of Congress. IBOC makes a farce out of sky wave protection and adjacent channel protections. The lid will be off for every station to literally blast each other and make distant AM reception a thing of the past as we've come to know it. This would be true if all stations install and run IBOC. As with any technology, not all stations will, but the threat is severe, nonetheless. 73's. P.S.- WSPD-1370 has added IBOC as of 3/8/07. Aargh!

Richard Evans, 7416 Hearthstone Way, Indianapolis, Indiana 46227-7923

Hard to believe that the next issue will be the start of the monthly DXM's. Some good news, though -- it's only five issues until Labor Day and the beginning of the next DX season. As it stands right now, it will be the first time in four years that I won't be spending my evenings in class, and I will be limited on how many days I can work which will be even nicer. Now if I can just convince the wife not to cook dinner in the middle of sunset skip, hi. I haven't had the radio on yet since tax season ended on April 17th but I am looking forward to checking out the band. I've been using the radio to hold papers and letters so they have to find a spot to land first. We've been looking for an apartment to move to, so I should be busy the next few months trying to drastically downsize a three bedroom house and crowded two car garage, hi. We did find one apt. about a half mile (by the crow) from here. I've tuned the car radio to WMRI-860 as we drive around the complexes to get a feel for the noise level. As I type this, I am remembering a basement apartment I had in Gary back in early 1968 where my landlady had her TV set directly above where I had my radio and she would always fall asleep while watching the 1800 news. I don't know why but this computer monitor doesn't affect my radio all that much. It's only a few frequencies (such as 580, 970 and a couple others) that get covered up by the buzz. However, the apartment we figure we will be getting is set up such that my radio will probably on the back side of the wall from where the TV will go. We are limited to what we can choose for an apartment because of my wife's health and, also, the cat which we won't get rid of. 73.

DX WORLDWIDE - II

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NEW CALEDONIA: 729 The station on this frequency is now listed by the ITU as Touho-Popome (16E13/20S48) with 10 kW days, 7 kW nights. (GE75/115 via OA, Arctic)

NEW ZEALAND: New stations 576 The WORD - Bible Radio 24/7 Hamilton, 1026 The WORD - Bible Radio 24/7 Invercargill, both ex Southern Star. Format is 'professionally produced readings from various translations of the Bible'. Time to check those spare Rhema owned channels, like 855 Christchurch! Nearest religious equivalent would be BSK Saudi Arabia with 24/7 readings from the Koran. (David Ricquish)

729 Ranfurly now known as 'Burn 729am' ex Classic Gold Radio (David Ricquish, 27 Jan)

Dudley Scantlebury of Rhema Broadcasting Group advises that Southern Star commenced broadcasts from Hamilton 1494 on 1 December (ex 576), Tauranga 657 on 21 December and will be on air from Invercargill 1314 on 29 January. (Gordon Mathieson, NZ DX Times Jan 07)

702 Ashburton is a new allocation, licensed to The Radio Network. Maximum power is 3.162kW. Possible formats for this frequency include Radio Sport, Hauraki or Coast. 747 NewstalkZB Rotorua is now on 747 ex 702, with 400 watts. (David Ricquish, NZ DX Times Jan 07)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: The NBC's HF National Service at Port Moresby, formerly on 9675 (day) and 4890 (night), is no longer on the air. It is not known when, or if, transmissions will resume.

7120, Wantok R Light, Port Moresby, has come under criticism for continuing to operate on this frequency in the shared 40 mb Amateur Radio Service Band for Region 3 (Australia, Asia, Pacific). This has forced the Wireless Institute of Australia to move one of its net channels from 7117 to 7140, due to severe interference from the Port Moresby station. To avoid this interference, Wantok R Light plans to adjust its 41 mb service to a frequency in the range 7300 to 7400, outside of the 40 mb amateur band. (Bob Padula, DSWCI, via NZ DX Times Jan 07)

RUSSIA: The inhabitants of Khabarovsk can now hear the freshest anecdotes, funny jokes, sketches, and monologues of popular satirists, comic radio-series and other humorous stuff on the frequency of 1134 kHz from the radio station "Radio City". The General Director of the station is Mikhail Stolyarchuk. (Victor Rutkovskiy via open_dx) On 1st of February radio station "Humor FM" began broadcasting in the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka. Broadcasting takes place on Medium Wave on the frequency of 1233 kHz. The partner radio station is Radio Troika. The General director of the station is Edward Lobachev. (Victor Rutkovskiy via open_dx) (via mwc)

The private commercial station Studiya O'key on 1476 in Vladivostok is transmitting the programs of Humor FM after March 1st. (S. Hasegawa, NDXC, via DXLD via Ydun's [mediumwave.info](http://www.mediumwave.info))

TAIWAN: MR has located what seems to be the Voice of Han/Kuanghua's Hsinfeng site. It has two arrays, each with three in-line towers. A lower frequency array (would be 711) is directed at appr 340° and a higher frequency array (would be 981) is directed at appr 280°. The coordinates are 24 45 42 N/120 59 43 E. (Google Earth research by Mauno Ritola, Arctic)

VIETNAM: Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has urged the staff of Radio The Voice of Vietnam (VOV) to expand broadcasting programs and renew technology in order to raise the radio's prestige in the region and the world. Meeting with the VOV staff on March 6, the PM praised their efforts in disseminating the Party and the State's policies to all parts of the country, thus contributing to the general achievements of Vietnam.

The VOV everyday broadcasts programs in 12 languages totaling nearly 200 hours on six channels on AM, FM and short wave bands, through satellites and on the Internet. The total airtime reached over 380,000 hours per year throughout Vietnam and other countries. In addition to current affairs, it brings economic information, art and music programs to listeners. It also delivers news via the VOV weekly and an on-line website, covering both domestic and overseas major events and meeting people's demands of information. (http://www.nhandan.com.vn/english/news/070307/domestic_r.htm via Zacharias Liangas HCDX)

DAYLIGHT SHIFTING TIME

DAYLIGHT SHIFTING STARTS:

11 MARCH: Cuba, Canada [6 zones], USA [6 zones including Alaska]

25 MARCH: all of Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Turkey, Europe [almost all?], Azores,

Greenland

29 MARCH: Jordan

31 MARCH: Israel

1 APRIL: Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Haiti, Mexico [3 zones but not all?]

27 APRIL: Egypt

6 MAY: Honduras

DAYLIGHT SHIFTING ENDS:

11 MARCH: Chile, Easter Island, Paraguay, Uruguay

17 MARCH: New Zealand, Chatham Islands

24 MARCH: Australia except NT, Qsld [3 zones + Lord Howe Island changing ½ hour]

1 APRIL: Namibia

15 APRIL: Falkland Islands

(Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)



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IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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The Sony ICF-EX5 Portable Receiver on Medium Wave

by Gary DeBock, N7EKK

As most medium-wave DXers know, after Sony discontinued the highly sensitive ICF-S5W in 1981, it has never returned to the North American market with a medium-wave DX specialty portable. But a little known fact is that the Japanese market has had a phenomenally successful medium-wave DX receiver sold continuously since 1985... the Sony ICF-EX5. Since this radio was strictly designed for the Japanese market, to my knowledge, it has never been offered for sale here. In addition, since almost all of the documentation on the web is in Japanese, the existence and competitive suitability of this portable unit are generally unknown in North America. Intrigued with the Japanese reports of outstanding sensitivity and selectivity, I placed a couple of orders for the radios, eager to test them out against contemporary portables.



In my opinion, the ICF-EX5 project was Sony's attempt to improve the ICF-S5 design, by incorporation of double conversion circuitry, synchronous detection, and a more automated design. The ICF-S5 (and S5W, the North American model) was highly sensitive and selective, but suffered from mediocre image frequency rejection. Despite this notable shortcoming, the ICF-S5 radio was very popular in Japan, and the rarer S5W models are still highly sought after in North America, with decent units bringing \$250 or more on online auctions (or five times their original price).

Like the S5 design, the EX5 radio covers medium wave (530-1640 kHz), the Japanese FM band, and has crystal-controlled coverage of the 6 Japanese NSB shortwave stations (NSB 1 and NSB 2, on 3, 6, and 9 MHz, but the crystals do not allow any deviation from the NSB shortwave frequencies). Unlike the S5, the EX5 also includes the North American FM Band (total coverage of 76-108 MHz). The EX5 has an analog design like the S5, but extensive efforts were made to automate and compact the circuitry, with the result that the EX5 is lighter than the S5, despite having one more "C" battery. The S5 and S5W are easily aligned for peak sensitivity and can be quickly adjusted to cover 530-1700 kHz, but the internal adjustments for the EX5 are sparse, and full coverage of the X band seems unlikely without component changes (assuming one has a Japanese-language service manual!). AGC performance on this portable is commendable, as it can tune quickly from a strong local (KIRO-710) to a fringe station (CHMJ-730) without any delay in AGC response. The EX5 has an AM sensitivity switch, and plug-in sockets for an earphone, and 6 VDC adapter (not included). The rear panel has connections for an external antenna and ground. However, since the internal ferrite bar antenna is not disconnected by this terminal, the bar antenna can compromise the performance of a strongly directional external antenna. While connection of such an antenna generally improves reception greatly (especially on the higher frequencies), it also increases image-frequency susceptibility on the lower frequencies, and increases the risk of spurious signal generation adjacent to strong locals.

Also like the S5 design, the EX5 maintains an analog tuning dial, with the rather unique "linear scale" tuning system. In function, this means that frequency spacing is identical throughout the band, and that the tuning dial does not compress the higher frequencies into narrower segments. Although still an analog design requiring the user to "track" frequencies, this feature somewhat aids frequency determination, especially at the top of the band. As aligned by Sony, both review units had accurate dial calibration.

Physically, the EX5 very much resembles an ICF-2010, reduced in size by about 20%. Whereas the 2010 has a keypad in the center right area, the EX5 has a list of Japanese stations arranged by frequency and locale. Obviously, this feature would be of little use in North America, except perhaps to TP DXers dreaming of targets. Even when filled with 4 "C" batteries, the radio is remarkably lightweight (1 kg). Disassembly reveals circuit components very similar to the 2010, and the top edge

even has the 2010's shiny metal strip. The radio measures 10.25 x 5.5 x 2.25 inches, or 260 x 145 x 58 mm. As opposed to the S5's green and red LED tuning display, the EX5 has a single red LED to indicate station tuning. The LED generally lights at the same signal level as the S5's red LED.

Competitive Testing: The EX5 model was tested against three other Sony portable radio designs, for daytime ground wave weak-signal sensitivity, selectivity, image rejection, synch detector operation, and audio quality. To the maximum extent, all units were checked for normal operation, prior to the tests. The other units were all stock examples of the ICF-S5W, ICF-2010, and ICF-SW7600GR models. All the testing was done using live signals in side by side tests, without resorting to instruments. Three relatively weak signals were tested, one at the lower end of the band (KONA-610), one in the middle (CFAX-1070), and one at the high end (KDZR-1640). Selectivity was tested by checking fringe KPQ-560 in the shadow of local KVI-570 (perpendicular), and by checking fringe CHMJ-730 adjacent to local KIRO-710 (both from the north). Image frequencies were checked from very strong local KSUH-1450 (on 540 KHz), and spurious products were also checked, adjacent to this local pest. As this was strictly a competition between stock units, no attempt was made to connect an external antenna to any of the radios, so that the test data would be entirely based upon the internal circuitry. Neither was any attempt made to test the radios in an optimal DX location—they were all compared in a typical suburban environment, the Puyallup River valley, 40 miles south of Seattle, Washington.

EX5 vs. S5W: These two sibling designs have very much in common, since the EX5 is the Japanese-market replacement for the S5. Weak-signal sensitivity reception was absolutely equal on KONA-610 and CFAX-1070, with the EX5 showing a very slight sensitivity advantage on KDZR-1640. However, for all practical purposes, there was no clear "winner" in this comparison, and any difference one may note is more likely due to individual alignment and/or component differences, rather than any circuit superiority.

Selectivity of the two designs is also remarkably similar, with both radios able to solidly receive KPQ-560 in the null of KVI-570, and CHMJ-730 adjacent to KIRO-710. However, in this comparison, the EX5's synch detector was effective in reducing remaining splatter from the locals, giving it a significant advantage in listening quality (the S5W has no synch detector).

Image frequency reception was the primary criticism directed against the S5W, so I was curious to see how the EX5's double-conversion circuitry would address the problem. The S5W has a strong image on 540 from KSUH-1450 (enough to light the red LED in the tuning display). The EX5 has the same image on 540, but its strength is reduced by about half, so that it no longer sounds like a "local." Further investigating the image matter, the S5W has a moderate image on 650 from KZIZ-1560 (in the null of CISL), but the image is almost inaudible on the EX5. In summary, there is a significant reduction of the problem on the EX5, but not a total solution.

The S5W has excellent audio for a portable, easily the best of any of these receivers. It has a relatively powerful speaker with good bass reproduction, and a continuously variable tone control. In this respect, the EX5, with its single-switch tone control and less robust speaker, comes up short by comparison. Its audio quality is fully adequate for DXing and pleasant listening, but not in the same league as the S5W.

EX5 vs. 2010: Obviously, the 2010 is an outstanding receiver, and has a wide range of functions that the analog EX5 cannot hope to emulate. But in a simple test of weak-signal sensitivity, the EX5 was more than a match for the 2010. In reception of the 3 weak signal stations, the EX5 (and its sibling, the S5W) consistently had a moderate but definite advantage in audio strength and quality over the 2010. KONA-610 and KDZR-1640 typically fade in and out here in the daytime, but the EX5 was always first to make the signals readable, and last to lose them to fades. CFAX-1070, by comparison, has a steady weak signal, but the EX5 usually makes the audio perfectly readable, in comparison to the 2010's problematic reception.

In selectivity tests, however, the 2010's stock narrow filter was a significant advantage in reducing local splatter. The reception of KPQ-560 was basically equal, with the synch detectors operating in a similar fashion (the sideband is manually switched on the EX5, however, and there is no LED to indicate lock). The EX5's synch detector, when locked, was quite effective, although it requires somewhat more careful tuning than does the 2010's circuit. CHMJ-730 has unavoidable splatter from KIRO-710, but the 2010's narrow filter, in conjunction with the synch detector, made the splatter a little more tolerable than on the EX5. With the exception of the 2010's narrow filter, however, basic selectivity of the two radios is very similar.

As mentioned earlier, since the EX5 has a minor image frequency issue, I was curious to compare this aspect with the 2010. The 2010 has absolutely no image of KSUH-1450 on 540 (or any other images), but it does suffer from spurious products on 1425 and 1475 (moderate strength), and on 600 (weak strength), none of which show up on the EX5. So, in judging the units' ability to reject image and spurious products, one could conclude that they are roughly similar.

Audio quality is another quite similar comparison. Neither of these radios will ever win audio rewards, but the 2010's larger speaker and more powerful audio circuitry give it a slight edge. Both are fully functional for pleasant DX and local reception, however.

EX5 vs. SW7600GR: Again, the SW7600GR is a great value as a shortwave portable, and has many digital functions that the analog EX5 cannot match. But since both of these units retail for about \$160, this comparison should be particularly interesting to medium-wave enthusiasts searching for an inexpensive first receiver.

Sensitivity tests on the three weak-signal stations revealed the EX5 as having a definite advantage, to a slightly greater degree than with the 2010. Before the fade-prone signals of KONA-610 and KDZR-1640 were audible on the SW7600GR, they were already easily readable on the EX5. CFAX-1070 was always perfectly readable on the EX5, but was close to the SW7600GR's noise level. The SW7600GR's unique synch detector circuit was switched on to assist in reception quality, and it did make a noticeable difference in readability, although not enough to bring it close to the EX5's reception level.

In the selectivity tests, the SW7600GR had problematic reception of KPQ-560 in KVI-570's null, but this was probably due to a sensitivity limitation, in my opinion. The CHMJ-730 test was much more competitive, with both the SW7600GR and EX5 limiting KIRO's splatter to a similar degree. With the two synch detectors switched on, the SW7600GR and EX5 can both eliminate most of the splatter, but as with the 2010, the EX5's synch circuit requires more careful tuning than does that of the SW7600GR. Overall, however, selectivity of the two designs is very similar, since neither has a narrow filter.

The EX5's image frequency rejection has already been thoroughly reported, but tests revealed that the SW7600GR also had a strong KSUH-1450 image on 540, a moderate KZIZ-1560 image on 650, as well as a moderate KSUH spurious signal on 600, which the EX5 did not have. In this respect, it must be said that the EX5 has a slight edge in image and spurious signal rejection.

As with the 2010, the audio of neither of these receivers will come close to high fidelity, but since the EX5's speaker and audio are slightly more powerful, it must be given the edge in this aspect.

Verdict: The ICF-EX5 was never designed to compete with the multi-function digital shortwave receivers. For 22 years, it has excelled in the tough Japanese market for one simple reason: it delivers excellent value as a highly sensitive and selective medium-wave portable. Because of its lightweight portability and relatively low price, it is the receiver of choice for many Japanese medium-wave enthusiasts (which, incidentally, comprise a larger market share in Japan than they do in North America). All of the tested receivers are common in Japan, and the Japanese themselves have run similar comparison tests (posted on the web), generally confirming my own results.

Despite this, the analog ICF-EX5 is obviously not suitable for everybody. Lacking digital readout, a BFO, and memories, it is certainly not a logical choice for transoceanic DX. Despite complete disassembly of the radio, I have yet to find adjustments that would extend frequency coverage to 1700 (the stock circuit will go up to 1640). And if you dislike the idea of analog tuning, or cannot live without memories, you will probably dislike the ICF-EX5.

However, for medium-wave DXers primarily interested in domestic (or Western Hemisphere) DX, at a price of \$173 delivered, the radio certainly provides tremendous value for those interested in high sensitivity, selectivity, and portability. At 1 kg (2.2 pounds), it is a logical choice for a high-performance travel portable. And for those who have always wanted an ICF-S5W, but don't wish to pay \$250 or more for a rare decent unit on eBay, this is a chance to obtain a new sibling unit with significant improvements, all at a lower price.

Supply Sources: To assist those interested in purchasing an ICF-EX5, I have investigated three possible sources, and have placed orders with two of them.

Audio Cubes (<http://www.audiocubes.com>) has the radios in stock, and offers them at a price of \$173.00 US delivered (\$159.00 plus \$14.00 for EMS shipping). I placed an order with this company, and they have my highest recommendation. My radio arrived within 2 weeks, well-packed, and with good communication throughout the entire process. Audio Cubes, in Osaka, Japan, allows you to pay with PayPal, credit cards, money orders, wire transfers, or even personal checks. The Audio Cubes website also has extensive information, in English, about the ICF-EX5, including a nice photograph.

Nichiei Musen Company (<http://www.nichiei-musen.co.jp>) can special order the radio for you, and quoted a price of \$184.00 US delivered (\$159.00 plus \$25.00 for EMS shipping). Despite their website claims, however, the only form of payment they would accept was a bank wire transfer, which typically entails a \$25.00 fee here in the U.S. Because of this, and because of an unclear warranty policy for service and repair, I did not place an order with them.

Japan Direct Company (<http://www.japan-direct.com>) can also special order the units for you, and offers extremely fast shipping (within 1 week). Unfortunately, this comes at a high price: \$265.00 US delivered (\$222.00 plus \$43.00 for shipping, handling and insurance). Thinking that some readers might wish to go this route, I placed an order with them. It was not a wise decision. My radio did indeed arrive within a week, but inside a shopping bag (apparently as a customs dodge), and had alignment problems (probably due to the rough transoceanic trip). My experiences with Japan Direct could fill an entire page, but I will spare you the unpleasant details, and simply say that after payment of an additional \$70 for postage both ways, I had a replacement radio equal in performance to the one from Audio Cubes. Readers are free to draw their own conclusions.

Disclaimers: Although this review of the ICF-EX5 was done with the utmost effort for accuracy, it is not possible to please everyone, when radios are directly compared. I am fully aware that proponents of other portables may not readily accept the results... that is understandable. There has always been a controversy about which portable is best for medium-wave DX, and my own subjective opinion is that all of the tested units have a claim for the title—in their own way. For the skeptics, I can only recommend that they withhold judgment until they actually test an ICF-EX5 next to their favorite portable, and then make a reasonable conclusion. After all, at a price of \$173.00 delivered, it is within financial reach of most of us. Finally, I should state that I have no financial connection to Sony, Audio Cubes, or any other company mentioned in this review, and that if my review has disturbed preconceived notions of receiver superiority, I offer my sincere apology. On the other hand, if you agree with my conclusions and find this review useful, I am more than willing to assume all the credit ☺.

(My sincere appreciation is given to Nick Hall-Patch, for his extensive encouragement and help in preparation of this review).

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SPECIAL FEATURE

INTERNATIONAL MW DXING - THE ALBERTA PERSPECTIVE

Alberta is the second most westerly of Canada's provinces, and is approximately the same size as the state of Texas. As would be expected, reception of international MW signals varies considerably within an area of that size. As a general rule of thumb it can be said that reception of TA (Trans-Atlantic or Trans-Arctic) signals is better in the northern part of the province than in the south, while DU (i.e Down Under – Australia, New Zealand, etc.) reception appears to be better further south. The jury is still out on how the TP reception varies by location, although this season some comparisons revealed very similar reception between central and southern Alberta. The map below shows the location of sites where international MW DXing has taken place in recent years within Alberta. My own beverage farm is in southeastern Alberta, IRCA member Mike Stonebridge resides in St. Isidore in northwestern Alberta, and Don Moman listens from NE of Edmonton. The fourth indicated site, Cardinal Divide, is on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, southeast of Jasper. In the 1980's a number of Alberta DXers conducted DXpeditions to various sites along the eastern slopes of the Rockies, of which Cardinal Divide was the favourite site. Unfortunately, due to damage to environmentally sensitive areas by ATVs, most of the suitable sites have been closed for vehicular access. During those DXpeditions good TA and/or TP signals were received on pretty well every trip. This was in spite of the fact that we were using hastily erected beverages, not usually very straight, and without matching transformers. It would be interesting to know whether reception is still that much superior on the eastern slopes of the Rockies when compared to locations further east, or have reception conditions changed that much over the past years.



Receiving locations in Alberta

For most international MW DXing in Alberta, the beverage has been the antenna of choice. In my own case, living on the prairie, antenna supports of any height are hard to come by, so I have used beverages extensively, and with good success. Prior to having the land to run beverages I had to improvise with temporary antennas, and logged a number of DU stations by connecting my receiver to an east/west barbed wire fence with a couple of insulators cut into it. Another year I ran a short (400') beverage across a dugout, and it received Japan quite well, in spite of the fact that temperature fluctuations resulted in it becoming a BFI antenna (Beverage Frozen in Ice – how's that for a new acronym!) for the last half of the winter. In recent years I have also used a K9AY with some success, though the nulling capability in this part of Alberta is rather variable. The K9AY is dependent on a good ground, and the soil around here is sandy, and usually dry. We have used the same K9AY at Don Moman's location NE of Edmonton, where the ground is better, and the antenna performance seemed to be superior there, often pretty much equaling the beverages. I intend to do some experimentation with a ground-independent antenna, such as the flag, but haven't done so yet. Mike Stonebridge has used a EWE with good success in St. Isidore, though I suspect it wouldn't be as successful in my area due to the inferior ground.

As mentioned earlier, my own listening site is located in southeastern Alberta, about 70 miles north of the border with Montana, and about 40 miles west of the border with Saskatchewan. As the crow flies, it is about 1000 km (or a little over 600 miles) from the Pacific coast. As expected, I don't hear the quantity or quality of DU/TP signals heard by DXers on the coast, but with a good antenna it is still possible to hear a good number of stations when propagation allows. I currently have 7 beverage antennas in various directions, including one at 315 degrees for TP reception, one at 40 degrees for TA reception, and others at 240 and 270 which work well for DU reception. They all have lengths in the range of 1000' to 1200'. They're about 8 feet off the ground, which is bit higher than would be ideal, but any lower and they fall victim to the area wildlife.



Alaskan beverage at Pimblett antenna farm

Reception is typically seasonal, with the DU signals beginning to appear in mid August, and peaking in late September. In my experience, the TP signals generally start to appear later, in early October, peaking around the end of the month. Both TP and DU signals drop off as we move closer to the winter solstice. There is a second peak for DU signals in the spring, but I have never known it to be even close to the fall peak. Reception of TAs has been much more random. Other than needing a darkness path, reception seems to be less seasonal, being much more strongly linked to quiet geomagnetic conditions than to the calendar. From Alberta, European signals are really Trans-Arctic as opposed to the Trans-Atlantic path experienced by those on the east coast, so quiet geomagnetic conditions are a must. By themselves, they are not a guarantee of TA reception however. Several times we have seen very low A and K indices for lengthy periods without getting any TA reception. We have also seen times when DXers in northern Europe are receiving stations from western North America, yet we are getting virtually nothing from Europe.

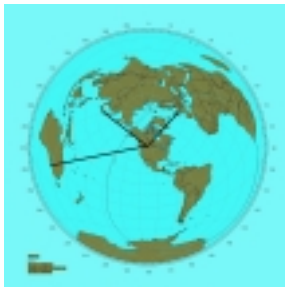


Figure 2 – Principal paths of interest from Alberta

The autumn of 2006 was among the best, if not the very best I've ever experienced for TP reception. In most years the strong Japanese stations (594,693,747,774) are generally heard with audio on several occasions, but audio from the weaker Japanese stations is much rarer. This season, other than brief periods related to bursts of solar activity, the aforementioned Japanese stations produced audio nearly every morning from September through November. The second tier of Japanese stations including 558, 729, 1134, 1242, and 1287 produced audio on numerous occasions and China was heard with audio for the first time, on several frequencies. South Korea, which had only previously been heard on 972 khz, was also logged on several frequencies. The Vladivostok transmitter carrying the VOA in Korean was another station that was logged for the first time. From Alberta good Alaskan conditions are synonymous with good TP conditions, and this was certainly the best fall ever for Alaskans, which have proved very difficult to hear from Alberta. My first 30 years of DXing had netted me three Alaskans, and the fall of 2006 added four more to that total.

One significant difference from reception on the coast is that reception of DU/TP signals is pretty much restricted to the period of two hours prior to sunrise. The reception of such DX during the middle of the night, as occurs on the coast, does not seem to happen here. However, interestingly, it was observed during our DXpeditions to the eastern slopes of the Rockies, pointing out again that reception patterns there may well be different than further east.

As I mentioned, the 2006-2007 DX season has been unlike any other, which has made putting together this article a bit more challenging, as I've been forced me to reassess some of my assumptions about reception from Alberta. The TP signals arrived about a month earlier than normal, with September providing some excellent reception. On the other hand the DU signals never really amounted to much this past fall. January is normally devoid of any TP/DU reception, with often not even the big guns making it, yet this year I logged another Japanese station for the first time, on 639 khz. Presumably this period of good TP reception is due to being on the low end of the solar cycle. My listening facilities have been upgraded considerably since the last solar minimum, so perhaps the DX was there then as well, but I just couldn't hear it. On the other hand, the bottom of this solar cycle has not provided the same boost to TA reception, which was most definitely better in years past. That's why we keep listening I suppose, as despite our theories on what we should be hearing, one never knows with certainty what any given day is going to bring.

I'd be remiss if I finished without mentioning reception from countries to the south. Of course with the vast number of U.S. stations between us and more distant countries it's a real challenge to get much beyond Mexico and Cuba. Those two countries are readily heard, particularly during auroral conditions. Colombia and Argentina are the only two countries heard from mainland South America, with several Colombians heard during auroral conditions. Two stations from Argentina were heard on the X-band before it filled up with American stations, showing what is possible with a clear frequency. One country I feel should be possible, yet remains unlogged, is Venezuela. It is heard with great regularity in eastern parts of North America, yet we've had no luck here thus far.

I'll conclude the article with a list of countries that have been heard in Alberta on the MW and LW bands. I cannot claim it is 100% comprehensive, however it does give a good indication of what has been heard from Alberta over the past 25 years or so. This article is based on a presentation I did at the 2006 IRCA convention in Seaside, Oregon. Those of you who were there, and have sharp eyes will notice that the country list has been expanded somewhat. The main reason for that is that Mike Stonebridge was able to add several countries to the list, and also China and Taiwan have been added this season.

Countries Heard From Alberta on the MW and LW bands

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| EUROPE: | 20. Russia | 9. Turkey | 6. Belize |
| 1. Albania | 21. Spain | 10. United Arab Emirates | 7. Canada |
| 2. Austria | 22. Sweden | | 8. Colombia |
| 3. Belarus | 23. Switzerland | OCEANIA: | 9. Cuba |
| 4. Bulgaria | 24. United Kingdom | 1. Australia | 10. El Salvador |
| 5. Czechoslovakia | | 2. Fiji | 11. Grenada |
| 6. Croatia | AFRICA: | 3. French Polynesia | 12. Guadeloupe |
| 7. Denmark | 1. Algeria | 4. Marshall Islands | 13. Hawaii |
| 8. Estonia | 2. Egypt | 5. New Caledonia | 14. Mexico |
| 9. France | 3. Libya | 6. New Zealand | 15. Netherlands Antilles |
| 10. Germany | 4. Morocco | 7. Solomon Islands | 16. Nicaragua |
| 11. Hungary | ASIA: | 8. Tonga | 17. St.Kitts |
| 12. Iceland | 1. China | AMERICAS: | 18. Turks & Caicos |
| 13. Ireland | 2. Iran | 1. Alaska | 19. USA |
| 14. Italy | 3. Japan | 2. Anguilla | 20. US Virgin Islands |
| 15. Netherlands | 4. Korea, S. | 3. Antigua | |
| 16. Norway | 5. Kuwait | 4. Argentina | Total: 66 countries |
| 17. Poland | 6. Saudi Arabia | 5. Bahamas | |
| 18. Portugal | 7. Taiwan | | |
| 19. Romania | 8. Thailand | | |

2006-2007 IRCA Lucky 7 DX CONTEST

Manager: Nancy Johnson – 265 Waterton Wy – Billings, MT 59102-7755

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

Standings as of April 15, 2007

1. Willis Monk	1955	9. Tim Noonan	301
2. Art Blair	1024	10. Darrell Neft	265
3. Michael Hawkins	864	11. Nancy Johnson*	262
4. Bill Nittler	447	12. John Tudenham	230
5. Greg Hall	439	13. Richard E. Wood	203
6. Phil Bytheway	356	14. Martin Foltz	91
7. Nigel Pimblett	356	15. Dale Park	47
8. Doug Pifer	317	16. John Johnson	10

* - Contest manager is not eligible to win.

The contest runs until May 31, 2007, so there is not too much time left to DX for your contest entry.

VERIFICATION SIGNERS

Stephen S. Howe – 9 Warner Drive – St. Albans, VT 05478-1575

E-mail: showe@csc.albany.edu

My deadline is the last Monday of the month at 1500 ELT.

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PT **Pete Taylor**, Tacoma WA; ptdx@comcast.net
REW **Richard E Wood**, HCR 3 Box 11087, Keaau HI 96749-9221
IRCA **IRCA ListServ**

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

550 KTZN Mark Murphy, PD; markmurphy@clearchannel.com; E; 11; PM
650 KGAB Craig E Cochran, VP/MarketMgr; Orchard Valley/Cheyenne WY; L; 7f; IRCA
680 WRKO* John Kennedy, CE; 20 Guest St, 3rd Fl, Brighton MA 02135-2040; R; 100f; PM
680 CFTR Ron Combden, CE; 777 Jarvis St, Toronto ON M4Y 3B7; Q; 90; PM
710 KSPN Mike Worrall, Asst CE; 3321 S La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90016; LB+;; 14; PT
1150 KRMS Ken Kuenzie [KA0PGO], Co-owner/P and Dennis Klautzer [KA0RFO], Co-owner/VP; P O Box 225, Osage Beach MO 65065; LB+; 27; JP
1220 KNTS** Mike Russell, Engineering; Salem Communications, 39138 Fremont Blvd, 3rd Floor, Fremont CA 94538; LC; 130; REW
1260 KSGF David Rahmoeller, DirEng; 2330 West Grand St, Springfield MO 65802-4900; L; 17; JP
1260 KSML J P Heath, PD; 121 Cotton Square, Lufkin TX 75901; R; 15; JP
1290 KDMS Billy J Smith, PD/DJ; 1904 W Hillboro, El Dorado AR 71730; L; 31; JP
1290 WTKS Marty Foglia, Jr, CE; Savannah GA; L; 6; IRCA
1290 WHKY Jeff Long, StnMgr; P O Box 1059, Hickory NC 28603-1059; L; 27; JP
1330 WEBY Mike Bates, StnMgr; Pace FL; LMB; 6; IRCA
1360 KMNY Ed Moyer, ExecProd; 2651 N Harwood St, Suite 500, Dallas TX 75201; L; 22; JP
1370 WMGO Jerry Lousteau; 360 N Liberty St, Canton MS 39046; L; 18; JP
1400 WJLD Bob Friedman, OpsMgr; 1449 Spaulding Ishkooda Rd, Birmingham AL 35211; L; 30; JP
1560 KVAN*** Jim Bock, GM; Alexandra Communications, 1600 Gray Lyn Dr, Walla Walla WA 99362; E; PT [E-mail address: bock@bmi.net]

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 or form 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] = Address and signer also good for KFAX-1100; *** [For this column] = See comment below

Patrick Martin and I thank Scott Fybush for supplying some additional information on the signer for WRKO-680. Patrick also verified KVAN-1560 via e-mail, with the same e-mail address for the signer as in Pete Taylor's tip, but with the signer's title as General Sales Mgr. Also thanks to Richard Wood for the kind words in his letters. This column was prepared on 3/26/07. 73, SSH.



WTCM

NewsTalk 580

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