



May 26, 2007 - Volume 44, Number 28s - Edition 1410s - ISSN 899-9733

Steve Howe has extended the Verification Signer's column deadline to Friday, June 1st, at 1500 ELT.

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@ieeee.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."

In This Issue:	
President's Report...	1
DX Tests...	2
Western DX Roundup...	3
Eastern DX Roundup...	4
DX World-Wide-West...	5
IRCA Technical Column...	6
Airport Security for DXers...	7
IRCA Contest Update...	9
Trading Post...	9

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.

Visit Salt Lake brought to you by the Salt Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau
 To view this message, please click or paste the following link into your browser:
<http://www.uptilt.com/ct.html?rtr=on&s=2px,rsg1,5c6,3fkh,8669,8sxx,98cg>.

In this issue: Start Planning Your Salt Lake Summer Vacation!

- Fabulous Salt Lake Music Festivals
- Featured Hotels
- Mikado Japanese
- The Depot Night Club & Concert Venue
- Red Butte Garden Concert Series

www.visitsaltlake.com

Visit Salt Lake is sent monthly by the Salt Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau to individuals who have expressed an interest in receiving information about Salt Lake. All text ©2007 Salt Lake CVB.

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.

IRCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Nick Hall-Patch – 1538 Amphion St – Victoria, BC, Canada V8R 4Z6
 E-mail: nhp@ieeee.org

May 21, 2007

Some recent Board business:

the bylaws say "The Contest Manager and the Broadcast Test Coordinator, however, are to be reconfirmed in May of each odd-numbered year"....

Proposal 22.2.10 is to re-confirm Nancy Johnson as Contest Manager.

PB MH JJ PM DP MS RW
 Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

Proposal 22.2.11 is to re-confirm Les Rayburn as Broadcast Test Coordinator

PB MH JJ PM DP MS RW
 Y Y Y Y Y Y Y

PB- PHIL BYTHEWAY, MH- MIKE HARDESTER, JJ- JOHN JOHNSON, PM -PATRICK MARTIN, DP- DOUG PIFER, MS- MIKE SANBURN, RW- ROBERT WIEN

Y= YES N= NO A= ABSTAIN

In other news, you've all heard of the recent passing of IRCA's Sports Editor, Bob Pietsch. A card of condolence has been sent to Maria Pietsch on behalf of the Board and the club.

There will be a celebration of Bob's life on Saturday July 21, 2007 from 12-3 PDT in Rocklin CA. Check with Don Kaskey (kaskeyfamily@yahoo.com) or Maria Pietsch (maria@pietschs.net) for details.

Bob was an enthusiastic and dedicated compiler of this information for IRCA, and will be hard to replace, but I'm sure that someone will be up to the task. I've been told that Bob left behind meticulously organized records, so our next volunteer should be off to a running start. Please consider becoming IRCA's new Sports Editor.

Ray Bauernhuber, our election committee chair, and editor of "Hearing It Through the Grapevine" and "Website Wanderings" has not been well for the last several months, and has decided that he cannot continue in these positions for the foreseeable future. I have been acting as ECC for the present election, and am happy to take over the job from Ray, as I will not be holding any elected position after the end of the present term. However, if someone else would like to volunteer for the job, please step forward now.

Also, we will be looking for new editors for Ray's two columns, as mentioned above.

Please let me know at one the above addresses as soon as possible, if you are interested in any of these positions.

best wishes, Nick

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.radiolocator.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 sweep tones 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 receive 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.



WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

WDXR DEADLINES: June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (GH) **Glen Hansen**-1925 Tualatin St.-St. Helens, OR 97051 skinner@columbia-center.org
Hammarlund SP-600, R-390A, R-388, Drake R8B, various longwires, amplified
Sanserino air core loop, Radio Shack loop
- (PM) **Patrick Martin**-P.O. Box 843-Seaside, OR 97138-0843 mwdxer@webtv.net
Drake R8, WNW EWE, SW EWE, phasing unit
- (CM) **Curtis McMenamin**-153 Calle Tepic-Vacaville, CA 95687-6530 funkiecurtis@juno.com
Sony ICF-2010, Kiwa loop
- (MS) **Mike Sanburn**-P.O. Box 1256-Bellflower, CA 90707-1256 mikesanburn@hotmail.com
Sony M40W
- (RW) **Robert Wien**-7190 Abigail Pl.-Fontana, CA 92336-5752 rjwmail@webtv.net
GE Superadio, Select-A-Tenna, car radio

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- 1210 KEVT AZ, Sahuarita 5/9 0800 good signal in KPRZ null with ID "La Preciosa, Kah-eh-veh-the (KEVT), Sahuarita." Usual Mexican-style music. Call change, ex-KQTL. (RW-CA)
- 540 KVIP CA, Redding 4/11 1730 good with "KVIP Redding" ID. (CM-CA)
- 560 KPQ WA, Spokane 5/5 0030 ID and news, ad for Field & Stream program. Fair to poor then suddenly gone on R-388 with N-S wire. Long time no hear. (GH-OR)
- 620 KIGS CA, Hanford 4/15 1600 poor with "This is KIGS Hanford." (CM-CA)
- 680 KNBR CA, Bakersfield 5/9 0100 Giants baseball replay, Giants and Mets station ID pause. Weak and scratchy all alone, on R-388 with E-W wire. (GH-OR)
- 740 (KBRT) CA, Avalon 5/11 noted totally off the air due to evacuations by the Catalina Island fire. Also confirmed to me via phone call from Dennis Gibson in Santa Barbara later in the afternoon on 5/11. KCBS extremely, extremely weak here on 740 (I think that's what it was). Wonder if the Catalina ham radio repeater also off? (RW-CA)
- 760 CFLD BC, Burns Lake 4/27 very strong and dominant with song "Take Me On" by a-ha, ID "Brighter than the Northern Lights, this is BV-LD" at 0335. (PM-OR)
- 770 CHQR AB, Calgary 4/27 0340 "Newsradio QR 770" ID. (PM-OR)
- 790 CFCW AB, Camrose 5/2 good with C&W music, "CFCW" ID at 0345. (PM-OR)
- 850 KOA CO, Denver 4/14 0430 good with "Newsradio 850 KOA." (CM-CA)
- 880 KRVN NE, Lexington 4/11 0500 fair with Nebraska weather forecast and "KRVN Lexington Nebraska" ID. I don't hear them that much. (CM-CA)
- 890 KDJQ ID, Meridian 5/7 2230 noted now back to Spanish rancho. (PM-OR)
- 930 KTKN AK, Ketchikan 4/27 with song "You've got a Friend" by James Taylor, tagged "KTKN AM 930." QRM from CJCA. (PM-OR)
- 1010 CBR AB, Calgary 4/11 2400 good with weather forecast for Calgary area, "CBC Radio 1" slogan. (CM-CA)
- 1110 KLIB CA, Roseville 4/15 1400 good, back on the air with "KLIB Roseville" simulcasting KFSG 1690. (CM-CA)
- 1210 KGYN OK, Guyton 4/27 0600 very good over/under KPRZ with country song, numerous ID's and High Plains forecast at 0604. (MS-CA)
- 1230 KOY AZ, Phoenix 4/27 0606 fading up in KYPA null, talking about Broadway show "Guys and Dolls." (MS-CA)
- 1240 KQEN OR, Roseburg 4/25 0100 ID into ABC news. Really weak in a noisy jumble with unIDs on Drake with RS loop. Heard only occasionally. (GH-OR)
- 1310 KLIX ID, Twin Falls 4/28 2230 ID and news, trading places with station playing hip hop. Weak on R-390A with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
- 1340 KTPI CA, Mojave 4/27 1017 good but fadey with promo for prize giveaway in Tehachapi, then for concert in Palmdale. May have been the station playing a song by Lobo earlier. I used to hear them often as KVOY. (MS-CA)
- KLKI WA, Anacortes 4/29 2300 heard ID and news in a noisy mess with Mexican unID and other, on Hammarlund with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
- 1360 KOHU OR, Hermiston 5/8 0020 ID and C&W music. Very weak and choppy but otherwise alone with no KUIK on SP-600 with N-S wire. Strange. (GH-OR)
- KRKK WY, Rock Springs 4/30 0600-0640 listened for 40 minutes this morning. Dominant with oldies by Beatles, Elvis, and Commander Cody. (MS-CA)

- 1400 CIOR BC, Princeton 4/27 good on top with "The South Okanogan Easy Rock" at 0348. (PM-OR)
- 1450 CHOR BC, Summerland 4/27 0355 good with "Just You and Me" by Chicago, several "Oldies 14-50" ID's. (PM-OR)
- 1460 KUTI WA, Yakima 4/14 0540 good with country music, KUTI ID. (CM-CA)
- 1500 KSTP MN, St. Paul 4/11 0510 very good with "The Talk Station KSTP." (CM-CA)
- 1520 KMPG CA, Hollister 4/15 1500 poor with KMPG ID. (CM-CA)
- 1580 KGAL OR, Lebanon 4/19 2350 "Smart Talk 1580" ID, old time radio show Aldrich Family. Deep slow fades, alone, on SP-600 with E-W wire. (GH-OR)
- 1620 KOZN NE, Bellevue 4/11 0600 poor under KSMH with "ESPN Radio, The Zone." New. (CM-CA)
- KYIZ WA, Renton 4/11 0600 good with "1620 KYIZ Renton-Seattle" then into R&B music. (CM-CA)

It was with sadness that I read about the passing of **Bob Pietsch**. Bob was an outstanding reporter to WDXR and I will miss receiving his detailed and informative reports. Nancy 5/18 2100

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

E-mail: lfreshwater@cox.net

Deadlines 8 AM!! 6-2, 6-16, 6-30, 7-14, 7-28, 8-25

STARS OF THE WEEK

(CAT-NC) **Charles Taylor** WD4INP Greenville, NC

LOGGINGS

- 680 WV WCAZ Charleston, @ 2100 5/12. Oldies back to back w/ "Sixty Eight K-A-Z" between. Good in WPTF null. (wandering due to ground & skywave conflux). Question: were they really 220 watts? Probably. Channel cleared for WPTF, so not too much co-channel QRM. 220 watts can do it. Logged in Indianapolis as WCAW in 1962. (CAT-NC)
- 790 NC WBLO Thomasville, Alexander Co. 5/7 @ 1300. Noted unusual carrier beneath WNIS Norfolk. Nulled to find SPT type format. Phone number in local PSA, then TOH ID "W B L O, Thomasville." Poor, but expected to log this with time. (CAT-NC)
- VA WFIR Roanoke 5/7 @ 2005. Local WRNS off air again. But radiating some power from exciter for low level OC. WFIR comes out of ABC News feed, then into promo for Rush Limbaugh show. Then: "On News/talk Radio, 9-60, W F I R." Another one I expected with time. (CAT-NC)
- 800 VA WDSC Dillon 5/14 @ 1000. ID for "W D S C, Dillon," along with three others (I think) running //. Poor with dominant WSVS Crewe, VA. nulled. Have to try to ID other stations on this small network. BLK GSPL type of format. Finally ID'ed. Logged also during 1986-2001 period. (CAT-NC)
- 840 VA WKTR Earylsville: FINALLY an ID @ 1759 5/15. Two "WKTRs" and some spots, too weak to copy. Into news at TOH from UniDed network. Usually only an SAH against WCEO, S. Carolina. Groundwave to the west of here enhanced today. (CAT-NC)
- 960 CT WELI New Haven @ 1955 5/5. PSA for some volunteer organization, then two quick "W E L I" programs, one with "The Rooster" Mixed in with WRFC & WTGM. Local WRNS 960 off air. (CAT-NC)
- 1050 NC WWGP Sanford, Lee County: 5/6 @ 1650. String of spots and PSAs. "America loves our country... W W G P." Finally! Usually under WVXX, Norfolk and too weak to ID when WVXX is looped. Wx front was strengthening stations to the west today. (CAT-NC)
- 1330 VA WESR Onley-Onancock: 5/6 @ 0910. Heard with promos for programs later today (or so it sounded) and then "On Thirteen-Thirty, W E S R." Poor with QRM from WBTM Va and others. Semi-local WANG, Havelock back off again. Used to hear WESR often 1986-2001. Now it's unusual. (CAT-NC)
- 1520 MD WCRI Brunswick @ 0810 5/5. Way atop 1520. ID/Promo: "If you're hearing (a series of short NOS excerpts) you're only hearing repeat Your Favorite Radio, A-M Fifteen-Twenty, W C R I." (more-or-less as I could copy it.) (CAT-NC)
- 1610 NC WQVB479 Rocky Mount, Edgecombe Co. 5/18 @ 1330. Heard constant relay of NWS station Rocky Mount, without any TIS ID. FCC lists this as Edgecombe County Emergency Management. Rocky Mount straddles Edgecombe & Nash Counties. 60% intelligible. S-3 w/QRM from OC and other (apparent) TISs. (CAT-NC)

 Thanks to Charles this time around. Looks like AM DX season is pretty much over. I have been gearing up for TV DX. Got back this afternoon from a week in the mid-west visiting customers and going to the Dayton Ham-vention. Got a great tour of the Emmis complex in Indianapolis (WIBC 1070) and stopped to see NRC member Fred Vobbe at WLIO-TV in Lima, OH. A great time in Dayton. Unfortunately no room on the plane for a lot of the bargains I saw. Best to all.... fresh 5-20 1400

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

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

E-mail: mwdxer@webtv.net

all times UTC

Greetings everyone,

It looks like the MW Summer conditions have kicked in. Not a lot to report. Only the few weak signals from the Pacific with Tahiti-738 & Tonga-1017 here. But Richard Wood is still reporting good DX so away we go.

PAN AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

- 540 **MEXICO**, Tijuana BCN XESURF 3/17 0510, Steve Warner C&W song. Excellent. 1260 is no longer//and is now KMZT-K Mozart w/Clas. (REW-HI)
- 560 **MEXICO**, Cihuatlan, Jal. XEMZA, La Buena Onda del Pacifico 3/26 0535. (REW-HI)
- 660 **MEXICO**, Tampico, Tams XEAR, La Mexicana 4/6 0510-0530. (REW-HI)
- 730 **MEXICO**, Ensenada, BCN XEEBC 3/19 0700, ID by man. (REW-HI)
- 750 **MEXICO**, Tempoal, Ver. XETI 3/9 0517 ID jingle by female group. (REW-HI)
- 770 **MEXICO**, Los Mochis, Sin. XEJJR La Ke Grapa 4/23 0505 ID by man. (REW-HI)
- 870 **ARGENTINA**, Capital Federal, Radio Nacional, LRA1 5/3 1010. (REW-HI)
- 870 **MEXICO**, Mazatlan, Sin. Radio Formula XEFIL 4/6 0459, ID by man. (REW-HI)
- 880 **MEXICO**, Los Mochis, Sin. XEPNK Canal 880, 4/9 0415. (REW-HI)
- 890 **CUBA**, Chambas, Radio Progreso, CMD2 4/12 0800. (REW-HI)
- 960 **CUBA**, Guantanamo, 4/5 0520 with usual RR CW, news, second clock ticks, Good o/u KQKE //870. (REW-HI)
- 1090 **MEXICO**, Rosarito, BCN XEPRS 4/25 0615. Surprise. All in SS with Mexican mx. (REW-HI)
- 1100 **MEXICO**, Bahia Asuncion BCS XEBAC 3/24 0500, ballads, 0501 ID by man. (REW-HI)
- 1200 **MEXICO**, Punta Abreojos, BCS XEPAS 3/10 0530 (The name misspelled in the WRTH 2007, means "eye opener.") (REW-HI)
- 1220 **BRAZIL**, Rio de Janeiro, ZYJ458, Radio Globo 3/18 0425. (REW-HI)
- 1230 **ARGENTINA**, Rosario, LT2 Radio Dos 5/3 0910. (REW-HI)
- 1230 **MEXICO**, Culiacan, Sin XEEX, Radio Formula 3/21 0558 ID by man. (REW-HI)
- 1250 **MEXICO**, Saltillo, Coah XESJ 5/7 0602 ID by man. (REW-HI)
- 1280 **BERMUDA**, Hamilton, VSB2 Bible BC Network 4/30 0504, Amazing Grace and other standards and 0600 ID by man "This is the Bible Broadcasting Network, 1280 Hamilton, Bermuda" Good to very good, atop KXTK and occ. Tupi. Last heard here in the 80s.(REW-HI)
- 1290 **MEXICO**, Mexico DF, XEDA, 4/2 0604. (REW-HI)
- 1320 **MEXICO**, Mexico DF XENET Radio Monitor 3/22 0600 NA with military band & choir, ID by man. (REW-HI)
- 1350 **ARGENTINA**, Capital Federal, Radio Buenos Aires, LS6 5/3 0948 mx, discussion. (REW-HI)
- 1350 **MEXICO**, Torreon, Coah XETB Radio Laguna 5/7 0500. (REW-HI)
- 1440 **MEXICO**, Mexico DF XEEST. (REW-HI)
- 1440 **NICARAGUA**, Radio Masanatha YNRM Managua, 4/8 0502. (REW-HI)
- 1450 **MEXICO**, Los Mochis, Sin. XECU La Rancherta 4/6 0537. (REW-HI)
- 1480 **MEXICO**, Guadalajara, Jal. La Voz de Guadalajara, XEZJ 3/10 0555. (REW-HI)
- 1620 **U.S. VIRGIN IS**, Charlotte Amalie, WDHP 3/18 0400, ID by woman. (REW-HI)

THANKS TO THIS REPORTER

REW-HI **RICHARD E. WOOD**, HCR3 Box 11087, Keaau HI 96749.
 DXing with Icom R75, 1800' Eastern beverage, 300' LW to NE.



IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

Nick Hall-Patch – 1538 Amphion St – Victoria, BC, Canada V8R 4Z6

E-mail: nhp@ieee.org

The Kaito KA1103 as a MW portable

The Kaito KA1103 is compact little radio with surprising capabilities. It's only 6 1/2 x 4 x 1 inch thick, with a solid, but not heavy, feel to its case, and looks like a mini portable radio of 25 years ago with an LCD screen showing a simulated analog dial with FM, AM and 10 shortwave broadcast bands. Once switched on, it actually has a digital readout good to 1 kHz, controllable either by a knob or by a 10 digit row of keys under the screen, and, in spite of the 10 shortwave bands shown, it does tune from 100 to 29999 kHz.

It comes with a wall transformer power supply, and its own rechargeable batteries, that can be charged while in the radio. Features of particular interest to the DXer are dual conversion, two IF filter bandwidths, SSB capability, an external antenna input, DX/local switch, and both stereo headphone and line out jacks.

Other reviewers have described the radio (see <http://www.radiointel.com/review-degende1103.htm> for an example), so I'll not dwell too much on its shortwave capabilities, or on the detailed use of alarms, scanning, memories etc. If you want to examine the radio's specifications and modes of operation in detail, the operator's manual can presently be found at <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B0006OCEFY> (be warned, 6MB; way bigger than one would expect for the amount of information).

I'll compare this radio with the Sony ICF-2010, and without use of any external antenna, beyond adjacent tuned loop antennas, as it quickly became apparent that the KA1103's external antenna connector is only functional above 1710 kHz.

Something that will strike you quite early on after switching on the radio, is that there appears not to be a volume control. In fact, it shares a single knob (the "jog dial") with the tuning function, something that some have found objectionable. I surprised myself by finding this out without recourse to the manual, and given that the radio's AGC action seems effective over quite a range, I rarely adjusted the volume anyway.

Tuning is by direct entry of the frequency using the keys, or via the jog dial knob; there is no "chuffing" sound as one advances kHz by kHz using the knob, but a slight click is still audible under quiet conditions. The analog dial bands are not just decorative, as you can get "trapped" in any of the bands if you try to tune outside the range of a band once you're in it (you have to enter a frequency beyond 1710 if you're in the MW band and want to tune beyond it, for example). If one doesn't want to tune 1 kHz at a time, or by entering a new frequency on the keypad, the memories (up to 268, they claim) could be used to hold 9 or 10 kHz MW frequencies, which could then be selected by turning the knob.



OK, how does it work? You might expect a radio this inexpensive (under US \$100) to have problems with sensitivity or with signal handling, but in fact, performance is quite respectable.

Signal Handling: I have just two local stations, but both put very good signals into my antennas from a few kilometers away across salt water; it's pretty easy to predict where their mixing products will show up. Indeed, there are a couple that show up on this radio in the daytime, 170, 730 and 1240 kHz, but they also show up on the ICF2010. The 1103's DX/local switch put to "local" kills the 1240 spur, leaving 1kw KGY from 150 km away, weak but clear. The spur also disappeared from the 2010 when its attenuator was used, but KGY was not always audible. The 730 spur disappeared on both

radios when attenuation is used, but 170 kHz remains at a lower level on both. No other spurs or images were noted on the MW band with the 1103. However there was bleed through from a couple of semi locals on 210 and 230kHz on the 1103's longwave band.

Sensitivity: This radio is definitely pretty sensitive. As always, when I test a radio, conditions collapse, but both R. Vision Cristiana-530 (>5000 km away), and JOUB-774 (>7000 km away) were audible on the barefoot ICF-2010 for brief periods. The barefoot KA1103 was never far behind in reception of these two signals. The sound quality was somewhat less fuzzy on the 2010 however, and as the signals were sometimes strong enough, the 2010's selectable sideband synchronous detector was able to deliver a definitely more readable signal than the 1103 could, by avoiding the worst of the sideband splatter. Similar observations were made with daytime signals on 530 and 750, but 1640 kHz delivered slightly more readable, though still weak, signals on the 1103 compared with the 2010. Given that the 2010 was pretty much the most sensitive MW portable for many years, this is a pretty fine performance from a radio a fraction of the 2010's price.

Both the 2010 and 1103 gained signal readability and strength on weak signals by being placed inside a 1 meter square tuned loop, though one has to be careful not to mistune the loop to the local stations, as overload can occur. As noted, unlike the 2010, the 1103 doesn't have the advantage of a usable external antenna terminal which limits the easy use of outdoor antennas with this radio. Wrapping a couple of turns of wire around the radio and hooking up a random wire can introduce overload in this location; a tuner would be a good idea.

Selectivity: Even in its wide IF filter setting, this radio is reasonably capable of separating out the 10 kHz domestic channels, but the narrow filter does a better job at night, even to the point of getting stations within 10 kHz of my locals. As noted above, 774 kHz wasn't a problem, though, unless a split is strong, I suspect much closer to the domestic channels might be more difficult. But I was able to receive audio from 4QR-612 by tuning to 614kHz, so closer is possible. (This was putting the 1103 inside the tuned box loop, not barefoot! But with 50kw at >11500km, this was a fine catch.) My locals had readable signals from +/- 6kHz of their assigned channels using the wide IF filter. The narrow filter showed the locals readable at +/- 3kHz, but by +/- 4kHz were mostly splatter. The 2010 by comparison shows readable signal from 897.0 to 903.2kHz (note that the 2010 is capable of tuning in 0.1kHz steps).

S-meter: Yes, this radio has a 9 position indicator for signal strength on the LCD, and shows some useful dynamic range. However, it is actually a "0-2-4-6-9 bar" indication, so there are effectively only 5 signal levels indicated. Still, it's helpful when looking for a station null when using the radio barefoot, or for a peak when boosting the signal with an external tuned loop.

AGC: As already noted, the radio's AGC is effective over a reasonably large range of input signals. Any signal that indicated on the signal strength display changed very little in audio output when the signal was peaked up with the tuned loop, even as the S-display maxed out. There was no concern about AGC recovery when tuning from a strong signal to a weak one 10kHz away, and strong subaudible heterodynes didn't "pump" the audio output as badly as the 2010 did when tuned to the same channel.

Audio quality: Given the small speaker, audio quality was acceptable, and was more so using headphones. The 2010 did have a somewhat crisper sound when using the narrow filter than the 1103 did, however, which aided readability of marginal signals. The line output seemed a little more bassy when fed to headphones through a PC soundcard or stereo amplifier, than when feeding the headphones directly from the radio. But, that is a small complaint, given that there is a line output at all (it's stereo by the way, so you can tap off stereo FM if you so choose).

SSB: Although the KA-1103 has SSB capability, it is really only useful for carrier detection on MW. The continuously variable SSB fine tuning control does allow reasonable demodulation of true SSB signals on other bands however.

Conclusion: If you're looking for a good starter radio for MW DXing or a light and compact DX capable portable radio for traveling, the Kaito KA-1102 is probably the best bet there is today. It is inexpensive, and has sensitivity, selectivity and signal handling capability easily comparable to considerably more expensive portable radios. It would be nice to have a working external antenna jack for MW use, and selectable sideband synchronous detection for digging out the splits, but at this low a price, these are quibbles.

(thanks to Walter Salmaniw for the loan of his KA-1103)

SPECIAL FEATURE

AIRPORT SECURITY AND AIRLINE-BASED DXPEDITIONING: Lessons Learned

John H. Bryant

While it is still fresh in my mind, I thought that I might share a few lessons learned from my recent DXpedition to Easter Island. In Spring 2007, I actually planned two DXpeditions, almost back-to-back, so that the first, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, might serve as a test bed for the second, the main trip to Easter Island. I was particularly concerned about moving a lot of bits and pieces of radio gear

through airport security. For each trip, I used two large pieces of luggage which were checked for the flight and a medium-sized backpack which I carried on the aircraft with me. Even though specially miniaturized for these journeys, my radio gear alone weighed about 50 pounds and was made up of many small, suspicious-looking objects. Given my history of lost luggage, I was also very concerned about arriving at my destination without some vital piece of radio equipment. Thus, I decided to keep my main DXing gear with me in my carry-on backpack: my main receiver, the Eton E1-XM, one matching transformer, my main audio recorder, the Edirol R-09 by Roland, a few spare batteries, ear bud headphones and 500 feet of 28 gage teflon-coated antenna wire. When viewed through an airport X-ray machine, I cannot imagine more suspicious looking carry-on luggage than that backpack. I also planned to be at the airport at least two hours early for flights to allow for security problems. I planned similar long lay-overs at way-points for luggage security or customs problems.

Counting both trips from my home in Oklahoma, the carry-on backpack went through the security X-ray machine an even dozen times in the US, Santiago, Chile and Easter Island. It made it through X-ray 10 out of 12 times with no questions asked, a fact that I find both shocking and frightening. The two times that the backpack was inspected were each also interesting: one inspection was a rather cursory physical search, with the security agent being easily satisfied with my explanation of the wire as a radio antenna and with an offer by me to turn on the portable radio to demonstrate it. During the second instance of carry-on inspection, the agent used a hand-held piece of equipment that was a black box with a long rigid tube attached; the security agent pushed the tube down into various pockets and crevices in the backpack, apparently using the device to "sniff" for explosive residue. That inspection was very quick and I passed, of course. I did also carry in the backpack a club bulletin and a commercial magazine with radio articles by me in them: aids to help me prove that I was a "radio enthusiast," if questioned in depth at security checkpoints. Those documents were never needed, but their presence was certainly reassuring.

My experiences with the checked baggage were considerably more thought-provoking. I encountered absolutely no Security problems during the trips between Oklahoma and Norfolk, VA on the Cape Hatteras trip, so I began to think that my concerns and planning in this area were way over-blown. Not so. As was standard procedure, leaving for Easter Island, I arrived at Oklahoma City's Will Rogers World Airport with well over two hours to spare. I checked in, got my boarding pass and had to carry that darn backpack the full length of the airport to the most remote departure gate. I had just collapsed into a comfortable seat at my gate when the all-gates paging system squawked "Will American Airlines passenger Mr. John Bryant please report to the nearest American Airlines Agent." Frankly, that sounded kinda scary; it got worse! I reported to the gate agent and was told that I needed to return the full length of the airport to the Baggage Claim area because the security people "could not unlock your checked luggage to inspect it." I told the agent in no uncertain terms that my luggage was NOT locked and there had to be a mistake... they then informed me that they couldn't solve the problem at the gate and I would need to make the half-mile hike, with my backpack, to Baggage Claim "if you want to travel with us today, sir." So....

When I got to the Information Desk at Baggage Claim, I was confronted by an armed female Oklahoma City police officer who stayed at least 6 feet from me and maintained her hand on her holstered pistol, as she dealt with me. I haven't felt that threatened, personally, since my government-paid trip to Viet Nam in the late 1960s. She informed me that both Federal and Oklahoma City security agents had serious concerns about some of the contents of my luggage and that I'd need to "accompany" her to be interviewed by these agents. She would not walk with or ahead of me, but maintained the 6-foot space behind me and directed me, in a very loud voice, "Down that hall, sir!" "Through that door, sir!" "Walk to the left, sir!" I was later discouraged from describing the security apparatus that I viewed in the baggage-handling bowels of the airport on this little journey with the lady cop, but it was very impressive. Eventually, the lady policeman, her pistol and I all made it to a table where they had my most equipment-laden suitcase opened out and were examining it like they were doing an autopsy on a particularly interesting but disgusting corpse.

I got interviewed by Oklahoma City police officers and by David W. Culver, Assistant Federal Security Director-Law Enforcement, who was not easily satisfied. It turned out that what had concerned them, what had tripped the alarm, was the PVC pipe enclosure on a Ramsey Active Ferrite Bar receiving antenna that I'd only brought along to use in the heavily noise-ridden environment of my downtown hotel room in Santiago. Mr. Culver told me that the L-shaped piece of 1.5 inch PVC pipe "looked just like a pipe bomb." I told him that I thought that was kind of odd, since all of the pipe bombs that I'd ever seen in articles were from iron or steel pipe to produce shrapnel during the explosion. He didn't want to discuss that further, but informed me that ANYTIME that I carry any PVC product, I need to treat it just "like you do when you check in luggage containing a loaded pistol." That finally made me mad. I told him that I was very conscious of security matters and that I had NEVER seen an advisory cautioning against PVC and that I had no idea how to check luggage containing a loaded pistol; I hadn't owned one since I'd laid down my trusty six-shooter, when I turned 9-years old. He explained that, carrying PVC, one should check your luggage at the airline counter and tell them of the PVC. They would then inspect the luggage at the counter and determine whether you could proceed... if so, they specially mark your bag. Well, after another 15 minutes of discussion, we all parted friends and they rushed me through more of the bowels of the airport, even taking me on a short-cut across the tarmac, and both I and my suspect bag did make the flight. They were

appreciative of a large-scale typed note that I'd left atop the stuff in each bag, written to the security agents, thanking them for inspecting the bag, explaining that I was a radio hobbyist and volunteering to explain or demonstrate any of the equipment, if they had security concern. They were also very appreciative of the fact that I had checked in for my flight over two hours early. So was I, since I was just flying to Dallas to then catch a ten-hour overnight flight to Santiago.

Thinking things over later, I think that there is a good chance that Agent Culver wasn't telling me the exact truth. I'll bet you that the PVC pipe, which was almost brand new, was out-gassing and that their sniffer-sensors can't distinguish between PVC pipe and some forms of plastic explosives, hence the very-understandable red flag. At least, that explanation makes more sense to me. In any case, I will NEVER knowingly carry PVC in my luggage, again. As a matter of fact, I disassembled that Ramsey antenna while I was on Easter Island and left the PVC pipe behind.

So, after this experience, here are my current working rules for airline-based DXpeditions:

1. Be at the airport and through the Security checkpoint at least two hours before flight time. The radio items in your luggage may well trip some sensor and the resulting close inspection/explanations with the Security personnel can be time consuming.
2. Having a note to Security in each checked bag about the contents seems like a smart thing to do. It helped in my case.
3. Beside having plenty of photo-ID, having a club bulletin or radio magazine that contains identifying material in it that shows you, personally to be a bona fide radio enthusiast is quite helpful.
4. Don't try to take PVC through any Security checkpoint. If you absolutely must do so, have the airline inspect that bag at the airline counter.
5. Getting mad or feeling unfairly singled out does NOT help. Keeping your cool, thanking them for doing their jobs and being sympathetic to the difficult choices that your gear might force on them also seems to work very well.

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 May 15, 2007

1. Willis Monk	1979	9. Tim Noonan	301
2. Art Blair	1026	10. Darrell Neft	265
3. Michael Hawkins	864	11. Nancy Johnson*	262
4. Bill Nittler	447	12. John Tudenham	233
5. Greg Hall	439	13. Richard E. Wood	203
6. Phil Bytheway	356	14. Martin Foltz	91
Nigel Pimblett	356	15. Dale Park	55
8. Doug Pifer	317	16. John Johnson	10

* Contest manager is not eligible to win.

The contest ends on May 31, so please send your final contest reports before June 5. Final standings will be compiled on June 15.

TRADING POST

Compiled by: Phil Bytheway

E-mail: phil_tekno@yahoo.com

A good share of the stuff from my last message is already gone. I also forgot to include my e-mail address which is wma001@comcast.net.

What remains is:

Steward Warner R-390A, modified (solid state power supply, ballast tube alternative – 12BH7A with jumpers ala Hollow State Newsletter #10, no antenna relay) - \$175

Replacement new-in-box 3TF7 regulator tubes (1 available) - \$15

Heath SB-620 Scanalyzer – set up for 455 kHz IF - \$50

Heath GC-125 Q-Multiplier (1 available) - \$20 each

Heath QF-1 Q-Multiplier (1 available) - \$10 each

Autek QF-1A Audio Filter - \$35

Marantz SuperScope C-104 cassette tape recorder/player (includes a free parts unit) - \$30

All items include user manual and instructions.

I will provide digital photos and answer any questions for any serious buyer via e-mail.

I will not ship item 1 but will arrange personal pickup or delivery (for the price of gas) within Washington state or Western Oregon; personal pickup anywhere else one might be willing to come from to get 'em. Will mail items 2 through 7.

Reid Wheeler, 360-786-0753, cell 360-481-1123.



The IRCA is a non-profit organization devoted to the hobby of hearing distant stations on the Broadcast Band (510-1720 kHz). **DX Monitor**, the official publication of the IRCA, is published in "soft" form 35 times a year (weekly from November through March, twice monthly from April to November) and in printed form 30 times a year (weekly November through March, monthly April to November). **DX Monitor** contains members' loggings, articles on radio stations, receiver reviews, technical articles, DX tips, and other material of interest to Broadcast Band DX hobbyists.



CLUB OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

President: Nick Hall-Patch – 1538 Amphion St., Victoria, BC V8R4Z6 CANADA
e-mail: nhp@ieee.org - (proposals/gripes)

Secretary-Treasurer: Lynn Hollerman, PO Box 60241, Lafayette LA 70596
e-mail: lynnhollerman@yahoo.com - (dues, address changes, IRCA mailing list sign-ups)

Board of Directors: Phil Bytheway (chairman) – phil_tekno@yahoo.com, Mike Hardester - DX4EVR@Earthlink.Net, John C. Johnson – John_Johnson@prodigy.net, Patrick Martin – mwdxr@webtv.net, Doug Pifer - oregon4wd@comcast.net, Mike Sanburn – mikesanburn@hotmail.com and Robert Wien – wienbob@aol.com

Editor-in-Chief: Phil Bytheway, 9705 Mary Ave NW, Seattle WA 98117-2334
e-mail: phil_tekno@yahoo.com – (all material for publication goes here)

MEMBERSHIP DUES (DXM=printed DX Monitor, SDXM=soft e-mailed version)

Destination	SDXM	DXM	DXM+SDXM
USA	\$10	\$30	\$35
Canada & Mexico (group 2)	\$10	\$36	\$41
Western Europe (group 3)	\$10	\$50	\$55
Australia/NZ/Japan (group 4)	\$10	\$51	\$56
Rest of world (group 5)	\$10	\$48	\$53

TRIAL MEMBERSHIP (10 issues) TO USA-CANADA-MEXICO only: \$10 DXM, \$12 DXM / SDXM Installment Rate: 2 payments a year of one-half dues plus \$1.

Make checks and Money Orders in US funds payable to IRCA.

All dues and address changes go to: **IRCA, PO Box 60241, Lafayette LA 70596**

Pay electronically with PayPal—add \$1 to all prices above. Go to www.paypal.com, then send your dues to ircamember@ircaonline.org—contact Lynn Hollerman for more information.

Sample copies of DX Monitor are available. Along with your request, please include first class postage of: **39c** for USA addresses, **63c** for Canada and Mexico or **2-International Reply Coupons** each, for other countries. Send to: **IRCA— 3410 Marion St. SE, Albany, OR 97322-3871.** (Maximum two samples per year.)

For information on **subscribing to the IRCA mailing list** at Hard-Core-DX, a group e-mail service, contact the moderator, Lynn Hollerman at lynnhollerman@yahoo.com.

Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to publish, broadcast, or otherwise reproduce non-copyrighted material appearing in **DX Monitor** provided credit is given to the IRCA and permission is obtained from the original contributor. Opinions in **DX Monitor** are those of the original contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the IRCA, its publishing staff, editors or officers.

©2007 International Radio Club of America

THE INTERNATIONAL RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA
P.O. Box 60241, Lafayette LA 70596
<http://www.ircaonline.org>