



October 13, 2007 - Volume 45, Number 5 - Edition 1417 - ISSN 899-9733
 This issue, IRCA welcomes James Kenny from Bainbridge Island, WA and James Marmack - San Marcos, CA. DX and report often... pb

Notes from IRCA's President - Doug Pifer

DX Monitor editorships of "Hearing It Through the Grapevine", "Website Wanderings" and "IRCA Sports Editor" are open. Please contact IRCA's President, Doug Pifer at: 3410 Marion St SE, Albany OR 97322-3871, or e-mail to dxe@desert4wd.com if you're interested.

!!!NEW IRCA Mexican Log, 12th Edition (Winter 2007) NEW!!!

The IRCA MEXICAN LOG lists all AM stations in Mexico by frequency, including call letters, state, city, day/night power, slogans, schedule in UTC/GMT, formats, networks and notes. The call letter index gives call, frequency, city and state. The city index (listed by state, then city) includes frequency, call and day/night power. The transmitter site index (listed by state, then city) tabulates the latitude and longitude of transmitter sites. This is an indispensable reference for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11".

Prices: IRCA members - \$9.50 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$12.00 (rest of the Americas/Europe airmail), \$12.50 (Australia/Japan/New Zealand airmail). Non-IRCA members - add \$2.00.

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IRCA Slogans List (Winter 2007)

This completely revised Slogans List which includes radio slogans from the US, Canada and Mexico (over 4000) is now available from the IRCA Bookstore.

Prices: IRCA/NRC members - \$6.00 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$8.00 (rest of the Americas/Europe airmail) \$8.50 (Australia/Japan/New Zealand airmail). Non-IRCA/NRC members - add \$1.00. To order send the correct amount (in US funds payable to Phil Bytheway) to: IRCA BOOKSTORE, 9705 MARY NW, SEATTLE WA 98117-2334 (email: phil_tekno@yahoo.com).

MIDWEST FALL DX GTG

NOV 9-11 2007. Location: Route 66 Historic Inn, 1710 W Elm, Lebanon MO 65536

Near exit 127, I-44 Old Highway 66, Phone 417 532 6843. Low Rates (\$33/night), cable TV, close to many eating places. Lebanon is located on 1-44 50 miles NE of Springfield, 55 miles SW of Rolla, and about 155 miles SW of St Louis. A good DX location, local radio stations include KBNN 750 KLTW 1230, KJEL 103.7 and KCLQ 107.9, plus non-commercial KTTK 90.7, plus several FM translators. Local boy Talk Show Host Jim Bohannon got his start on KLTW 1230 as a teenager. Also part 15 station KLEB, Oldies 107.1 may be on the air in Motel (if I can get it going).

This is the same weekend as the ARRL Midwest Amateur Radio Convention at Cowan Convention Center about 2 miles East on E Elm Street Old Highway 66. This is a convention of the ARRL Midwest Division which includes the states of MO, KS, NE and IA.

Other attractions are the Route 66 Museum and Bennett Springs State Park Located 11 miles NW. A possible tour of AM KBNN, FM KJEL if I can arrange it but Manager Mike Edwards may be busy with ARRL Convention. Other features include a DX Logging contest and DX quiz

For more information contact John Tudenham, 2824 Missouri, Joplin MO 64804, HOME Phone 417 524 8058, Cell phone 417 438 4749; E mail - wjrp@earthlink.net

DX TESTS - BROADCAST TEST COORDINATOR

Jim Pogue, PO Box 3777, Memphis TN 38173-0777

Email: KH2AR@comcast.net (times are Eastern) <http://www.dxtests.info>

Sun 10/21/07	0300-0500	1290	WIRL	Peoria IL	(Miller)
Sat 10/27/07	0400-0430	1220	WLPO	La Salle IL	(Vogler)
Mon 10/29/07	0400-0500	780	WCXH	Monticello ME	(Weiner)
Sun 11/ 4/07	0500-0530	1420	WIGG	Wiggins MS	(Turner)
Sun 12/16/07	0300-0400	1400	KQMS	Redding CA	(Myers/Mena)

WIRL 1290 kHz Peoria, IL DX Test.

Date: Sunday morning (late Saturday night), Oct. 21 2007. Time: 2 - 4 am Central Time. 5,000 watts using their normal daytime pattern. Programming will consist of voice IDs, Morse code, 1,000 Hz tones and regular format Classic Country music. Reception reports may be sent to Wayne R. Miller, Chief Engineer, WIRL Radio, 331 Fulton Suite 1200, Peoria IL 61602. The station will accept recordings by e-mail or on disk (.mp3 or .wav OK but no cassettes please). Address for e-mail reports is wrrm@jmrpradio.com. NOTE: All requests for verifications must be accompanied by return postage in order to receive a reply. No eQSL service is being offered for this test. Our sincere thanks to Chief Engineer Wayne Miller for agreeing to conduct this test.

WLPO 1220 kHz La Salle, IL DX Test.

Date: Saturday morning (late Friday night), Oct. 27, 2007. Time: 3:00 - 3:30. a.m. Central Time. 1,000 watts using their normal daytime pattern. Programming will consist of phonetic voice IDs, Morse code, sweep tones and unique music. Reception reports may be sent to Steve Vogler, Chief Engineer, WLPO Radio, 1 Broadcast Lane, Oglesby IL 61348. The station will accept recordings by e-mail or on disk (.mp3 or .wav OK but no cassettes please). Address for e-mail reports is steve@wipo.net. NOTE: All requests for verifications must be accompanied by return postage in order to receive a reply. Our sincere thanks to Chief Engineer Steve Vogler for agreeing to conduct this test.

WCXH 780 kHz Monticello, ME DX Test.

Date: Monday morning (late Sunday night), Oct. 29, 2007. Time: 4 - 5 a.m. Eastern Time, 0800 - 0900 UTC. 5,000 watts using non-directional antenna pattern. Programming will consist of special voice announcements, march and other special music, Morse code and sweep tones. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. Allan H. Weiner: WCXH Radio, 274 Britton Rd, Monticello ME 04760-3110. No eQSL service is being offered for this test. Recordings on disk in .mp3 or .wav format will be accepted as proof of reception. NOTE: All requests for verifications must be accompanied by return postage in order to receive a reply. Our sincere thanks to the legendary Allan Weiner for agreeing to conduct this test.

WIGG 1420 kHz Wiggins, MS DX Test.

Date: Sunday morning (late Saturday night), Nov. 4, 2007. Time: 4:00 - 4:30 a.m. Central Standard Time. 1000 - 1030 UTC (please note, this will be the morning we change from DST to standard time in most of North America). 5,000 watts using non-directional antenna pattern. Programming will consist of special voice announcements, Morse code, tones and classic country music. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. Paul A. Turner, WB5TJH, WIGG Radio, 959 N. Magnolia Dr, Wiggins MS 39577. No eQSL service is being offered for this test. Recordings on disk in .mp3 or .wav format will be accepted as proof of reception. NOTE: All requests for verifications must be accompanied by return postage in order to receive a reply. Our sincere thanks to Ms. Myers and to Chief Engineer Steven Mena for agreeing to conduct this test.

KQMS 1400 kHz Redding, CA DX Test

Date: Sunday morning (late Saturday night), Dec. 16, 2007. Time: Midnight - 1 a.m. Pacific Time, 0800 - 0900 UTC. 1,000 watts using non-directional antenna pattern. Programming will consist of special voice announcements, Morse code and/or 1,000 Hz tones. Reception reports may be sent to Ms. Erin Myers, News Director, KQMS Radio, 3360 Alta Mesa Dr, Redding CA 96002. No eQSL service is being offered for this test. Recordings on disk in .mp3 or .wav format will be accepted as proof of reception. NOTE: All requests for verifications must be accompanied by return postage in order to receive a reply. Our sincere thanks to Ms. Myers and to Chief Engineer Steven Mena for agreeing to conduct this test.

Jim Pogue - KH2AR@comcast.net, www.dxtests.info

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

WDXR DEADLINES: Each Friday. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

(BB) **Bill Block-7716 E. Thelma Drive-Prescott Valley, AZ 86314** billwblock@msn.com

(MIF) **Drake R8, EWE (20x50x20)**

(MIF) **Martin Foltz-Mission Viejo, CA** martin.foltz.qlogic.com

(DV) **Dennis Vroom-Vancouver, WA** vroomski@comcast.net

(RW) **Robert Wien-DX'ing in Fontana, CA** Wienbob@aol.com

GE Superadio, Select-A-Tenna

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

960

KKGN CA, Oakland 9/30 0900 good on top of KIXM/Phoenix/Provo with ID on hour "KKGN Oakland-San Leandro?-.San Francisco." Call change for me, ex-KQKE. (RW-CA)

630 KPLY NV, Reno 10/3 0859 ID "ESPN Radio 630 Reno." (BB-AZ)
 880 KJR MT Whitefish 9/30 1122 fair with Dudge Report" over unID station with Monday Night Football. (DV-WA)
 890 KLFF CA, Arroyo Grande 10/1 0929 with "KLFF" way under KDXU. (BB-AZ)
 960 CFAC AB, Calgary 10/1 1112 fair with Monday Night Football. (DV-WA)
 990 KTMS CA, Santa Barbara 10/2 0906 with "KTMS news time 6:06" ID. (BB-AZ)
 1130 KSDO CA, San Diego 10/1 2315 with "KSDO" ID. (BB-AZ)
 1220 KHTS CA, Canyon Country 10/2 0917 with traffic report and "KHTS" ID. (BB-AZ)
 1340 KTSN NV, Elko 9/21 0200 ID faded up "The home for talk, sports, news, 13-40 AM, KTSN Elko." (MF-CA)
 1450 KTIP CA, Porterville 10/1 0135 Coast to Coast with George Noory heard in & out, weak "KTIP AM 14-50" ID at 0200 followed by Fox News Radio news. (MF-CA)
 KEST CA, San Francisco 10/5 0153 tuned in to a mix of Spanish and what sounded like Vietnamese in the jumble, 0200 "KEST, San Francisco, 14-50 AM" followed by "ESPN Deportes Radio." I'm not sure if the ESPN went with the KEST ID. New, GY #46. (MF-CA)
 1490 KRKC CA, King City 9/30 0123 the most dominant on the frequency with country music in & out, 0200 ID "Your full service country music station KRKC King City, Greenfield, Soledad," then into CBS news. New. (MF-CA)

Thanks to our reporters this week. Nancy 10/5 2100

CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP

John C. Johnson – 265 Waterton Wy – Billings, MT 59102-7755
E-mail: John_Johnson@prodigy.net CDXR reports ONLY: cdxr@prodigy.net

RIDING GAIN

[NJ-MT] Nancy Johnson, Billings, MT NancyJohnson@Prodigy.net
 Drake R8B, Kiwa Loop.
 [TN-WI] Tim Noonan, Oak Creek, WI DXing2@aol.com
 Kenwood R-1000, Radio West Loop

DOWN THE DIAL

870 WINU IN, Shelbyville, 9-24 fair, splash from WNOV, 20:00 with legal ID in multi-station "Here's Help Radio Network" ID. [TN-WI]
 1090 WGRA IL, Effingham, 9-17 fair, 22:57 with legal ID. [TN-WI]
 1150 KSEN MT, Shelby, 9-30 fair, daytime reception, 18:15 with local spots, weather report, ID going to "Back To the '70s" program. [NJ-MT]
 1300 KOLY SD, Mobridge, 9-30, 20:05 out of ABC News with ID into local spots. Another ID going into NOS music. [NJ-MT]
 1380 WHEW TN, Franklin, 9-13 fair, 21:01 with calls in both SS and EE. First time heard under this call. [TN-WI]
 1450 KBFI ID, Bonners Ferry, 10-5 through KBBS, 20:00 with "KBFI Bonners Ferry" ID. [NJ-MT]
 1570 CKMW MB, Winkler, 9-9 fair, 23:02 woman with weather. Calls, mention of Winkler. [TN-WI]

25 YEARS AGO

October 9, 1982 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **David Reitz** of Fern Creek, KY said he was 20 and had been DXing for 6 years having heard 537 stations ... **Patrick Martin** of Seaside, OR mentioned the strangest DX session ever hearing Hawaiians like locals ... **Art Peterson** of Richmond, CA told about his 4,623 mile bicycling across the continent trek ... **Frank Aden, Jr.** of Portland, OR noted most of the local drive-in theaters using low power AM transmitters for the movie sound tracks.

OPEN MIKE

Have you joined this years DX Contest? You could end up in first place without knowing it until the end of the contest. This column was typed 10-6-07. 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

Greetings,

More good TP DX this week to report. It has really been a great Fall. Also a jewel of a catch on the Tropical Bands from Art Hernandez as Radio Cacique, Brazil on 2370 with 250 watts! What a catch Art! Great going. So away we go.

TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

153 RUSSIA, 1100 UTC 10/6 fair with pips TOH and musical program. (DV-WA)
 180 RUSSIA, at 1129 10/6 very weak. (DV-WA)

189 RUSSIA, at 1134 10/6 weak with mx. (DV-WA)
 531 JAPAN, Morioka JOQG good with JJ talk at 1400 10/4. (PM-OR)
 540 AUSTRALIA, Longreach 4QL //4QN 630 with ABC News at 1400 10/6. (PM-OR)
 558 JAPAN, Kobe JOCR 1137 10/6 music & JJ talk. In early this morning. (DV-WA)
 594 JAPAN, Tokyo JOAK 10/3 1225 UTC woman singing in JJ, then man talking with guitar background mx. Excellent signal on 300 degree EWE. S9, not audible on Marconi T antenna. (AF-NV)
 603 REP KOREA, good with man in KK at 1420 10/6. (PM-OR)
 612 AUSTRALIA, Brisbane 4QR, very good on top of JJ at 1412 10/6. (PM-OR)
 648 RUSSIA, Asian language at 1311 with weak signal 10/6. (DV-WA)
 657 DR KOREA, Asian talk by woman 1316 10/6 fair signal and domestic splatter. (DV-WA)
 666 JAPAN, Osaka JOBK man in JJ talk 1414 10/6. (DV-WA)
 675 CHINA, 1407 10/6 Asian mx fair at times. Heard once back in 2005 Man in Asian language at 1411. (DV-WA)
 693 JAPAN, Tokyo JOAB 1148 10/6 weak, Good at 1319 with domestic splatter. (DV-WA)
 729 UNID, at 1210 9/30 UK pop mx, finally a woman talking 1215 in the bottom of fade giving out times of programs? Events? into anim. Very poor to poor, loud het on 730. (5P-HI)
 765 PHILIPPINES, Unid chasing another Filipino at 1410 10/4 with man in maybe "Filipino", rather than the Tagalog talk, heard no EE or SS. (PM-OR)
 801 GUAM, Agana KTGW, TOH ID at 1400 10/6 "KTWG AM 801", finally with a solid ID. (SR-OR) (Great catch Steve. I don't think this one has ever been reported off the coast. PW)
 810 CHINA, heard u/KGO with woman in CC talk (Mardarin) at 1408 10/6. (PM-OR)
 918 CHINA, CNR1 good with excited man in Mardarin CC at 1410 10/6 //981. (PM-OR)
 1053 UNID CHINA or TAIWAN? At 1415 10/6, I heard an interesting station in CC not Mandarin, Cantonese or Amoy. It came in quite strong for a time with a man with exited talk, but either some strong foreign accent or a different dialect. The Taiwanese I have heard in closer to Cantonese or Amoy, so this did not match either. I did get a nice recording. I do have a head cold, so maybe my hearing might be off, but I don't have a clue. There is a 100 KW Taiwanese on this channel too. After a while JOAR took over the channel. (PM-OR)
 1260t REP KOREA, presume the source of the KK talk poor in the jumble of domestics while looking for JOIR at 1413 10/6. (PM-OR)
 1350t JAPAN, Hiroshima, JOER at 1411 10/6 with bits of a woman in JJ u/o domestics, but hard to hear. (PM-OR)

TROPICAL BAND ROUNDUP

2370 BRAZIL, Sorocaba, Radio Cacique 10/1 1210 UTC, 250w, SS language with woman singing. Fair signal, audio was equal or slightly above carrier. This is their back up channel, as their main one is 2470. Back in the 50s & 60s it was called The Voice of Rio. (AH-NV) (Great catch, Art, PM)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

AH-NV **ART HERNADEZ**, Reno NV **ppisteuo123@yahoo.com**
 5P-HI **DALE PARK**, PO Box 10640, Honolulu HI 96816-0640 **DXFoot@aol.com**
 SR-OR DXing with Sangean AT5-818CS, Terk AM1000 loop
STEVE RATZLAFF, Elgin OR **steveratz@aoni.com**
 R75, 1600' EW longwires
 DV-WA **DENNIS VROOM**, Vancouver WA **vroomski@comcast.net**
 JRC 545 + Drake R8B + Collins R390A, Loop West+EWE NW + H-800
 PM-OR **PATRICK MARTIN**, PO Box 843, Seaside OR 97138-0843 **mwdxer@webtv.net**
 DXing with Drake R8, Drake SPR4, SW & WNW EWE antennas

Below are some of my loggings from my recent Thanksgiving weekend in Tofino, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. We stayed at Crystal Cove Resort where I was able to erect a sizeable ALA 100 loop, and about 300' of wire oriented about 260 degrees in the horrendously thick bush (took me at least an hour to bushwhack through!). The latter provided the best signal although the ALA wasn't half bad either, and during the first evening and morning, it was my only antenna. TA activity was totally non-existent. DU was the order of the day by far with many Aussie stations logged. I snuck in a new 1 kW SW station from Micronesia too which was well heard, especially this morning! Enjoy! Wait Salmانيw, now safely home in Victoria.

621 AUSTRALIA 3RN Melbourne, Oct 5 1400 - ABC fanfare into news at fair level. (Salmانيw, Tofino, BC)
 670 HAWAII KPJA Hilo, Oct 6 1400 - Heard "All the news from the Big Island". Mostly under KBOI Boise. Otherwise decent reception. (Salmانيw, Tofino, BC)
 800 ALASKA KINY Juneau, Oct 5 1330 - Initially dominated by CKOR, Pentiction ("Easy Rock AM"), but by 13:25 began to be dominated by another station with oldies music. ID'd at BOH as "5:30 in the capital" - corresponds with Alaska at good level. My SDR-IQ file ends at that moment, but I'll pick it up with the next file. (Salmانيw, Tofino, BC)
 800 ALASKA KINY Juneau, Oct 5 1402 - Strong reception initially with ABC news, over cochannel CKOR Pentiction. Over next few minutes, KINY faded but still easily audible under CKOR. Continued with Alaska news. Juneau photo exhibit at 14:11. Then furniture store ad.

DX FORUM
Richard C. Evans – 3908 Grand Oak Ave Apt 4 – Indianapolis IN 46237-4694
E-mail: REvans5435@yahoo.com DEADLINES: Sundays

Deadlines: 10/15, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/13, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 and 12/22

Eric Bueneman (N0UJH), 631 Coachway Lane, Hazelwood, Missouri 63042-1347
 Nighttime digital operations has so far been a disaster for AM radio... my local KMOX 1120 is running the spectrally inefficient "HD Radio" (alias IBOC-DAB) 24 hours a day. The result: I can no longer hear any DX on 1110 and 1130; WTAM 1100 and WRVA 1140 suffer moderate to severe interference. I have also noted the digital sidebands of WHO 1040 severely interfering with WBZ 1030; the interference to XEG 1050 is moderate. WQAI 1200 severely interferes with stations on 1190 (where there isn't a clear dominant) and 1210 (where WPHT dominates). I'm also getting interference to WABC 770 after local WEW signs off at night; the culprit is either WJR 760 or WBBM 780. Even WLW 700 is interfering with adjacent channels at night; they put their hush on 710 (where WOR and KCMO usually mix); it sometimes interferes with KSTL 690. Even KMOX is using the calls "KMOX-HD" in their legal ID; that's clearly illegal. There are no good things about "HD Radio"... only bad things. The technology, as I have said before, is a waste of valuable spectrum space, has very poor sound quality compared to superior analog technology, and the public just isn't buying "HD Radio" receivers. The FCC and the NAB should have sought input from consumers and considered the views of folks who opposed this inferior technology before actually implementing it. The AM broadcasters should have stuck with the proven and technologically superior C-QUAM AM Stereo system; it produces better audio quality than "HD Radio" in only 10 kHz of spectrum space; analog FM Stereo produces a sound quality that rivals CDs in only 200 kHz of spectrum space. By contrast, "HD Radio" requires up to 100 kHz of AM spectrum and 600 kHz of FM spectrum space. The broadcasters who wasted money with "HD Radio" should have used that money to hire new air talent instead. I've always seen the problem of perception in the AM vs. FM row as the receivers, not the transmitters. America really needs a third, digital-only terrestrial radio broadcasting band in which corporate interests can move to, and leave AM and FM analog-only and reserved only for non-commercial and independent broadcasters. On the local front, KRFT 1190 has applied to increase its nighttime power from 22 watts to 6.5 kW; there is one bit of information missing in the reports in Broadcasting Information in DXM 45-3. The power increase also includes a change to the city of license from De Soto to University City, MO. The proposed city of license has a population of 42,000, and has no AM or FM radio stations licensed to it. Two AM (KFUO 850 and KSVI 1320) and two FM stations (KWUR 90.3 and KFUO-FM 99.1) are licensed to nearby Clayton, St. Louis is on University City's eastern boundary, and is home to Washington University and the Delmar Loop restaurant and entertainment district. The studios for KRFT are in nearby Websters Groves. An era ended in St. Louis radio in July when the market's only R&B Oldies station, WESL 1490, flipped to Fox Sports Radio as WFEX. The old WESL had served the African-American community since it signed on in 1972. It is owned by Simmons Communications, which also owns ESPN affiliate KSLG 1380. KFNS 590/100.7 has picked up Sporting News Radio. St. Louis can't possibly support four all-sports radio stations; that's what Big League Broadcasting learned with KRFT. I've been busy transferring most of my AM Stereo airchecks from cassettes to CDs; all of the AM Stereo airchecks I taped were from Atlanta and St. Louis, except for WLS 890 Chicago (which I taped from my old Lamplight Lane QTH using a longwire antenna back in 1987) and one tape I obtained in a trade. CHNS 960 (now 89.9) Halifax, NS, I also found the tape of the IRCA DX Test from KSD 550 (now KTRS) that aired on December 5, 1993. While the test was recorded in mono, I recorded it using the Realistic TM-152 C-QUAM tuner, leaving the Stereo light on. One of my acquaintances in a local Amateur Radio club is collecting airchecks for a local radio historian; I have already contributed a rare aircheck of KBDY 89.9 St. Louis (which operated from the Central West End), recorded in the mid-1980s. I've also copied local AM Stereo stations for addition to the historic archives. I'm going into the DX season with 1,042 stations heard; due to the "HD Radio" mess and poor conditions, I didn't reach 1,000 stations heard on FM, wrapping up the summer season with 988 stations in the book. I spent most of the E-skip openings making contacts on the 50 MHz Amateur Radio band. I have yet to commence HF operations on the Amateur Radio bands, despite the fact that I upgraded from Technician to General Class this past June. 73 and good DX from Eric (N0UJH).

Richard Evans, 3908 Grand Oak Avenue, Apt. 4, Indianapolis, Indiana 46237-4694
 It was a shock to read in last week's DXM about the passing of Richard Wood. I had noticed that I hadn't received much from him recently but it is not unusual for reports to slow down from time to time from members. It's happened with me as well. I met Dr. Wood once about 30 years ago at one of the conventions. I think it was one of the Toledo conventions back in the 70's. I do remember getting reports from him when he was teaching in Saudi Arabia quite a few years ago. He was an interesting person, and I don't think I will ever forget the envelopes with eight to ten stamps on them where he seemed to use up all his old stamps from many years back each week. Even my wife would comment on it. It seems strange but while packing stuff recently for my move, I ran across the obits in DXM for both Ernie Cooper and Don Erickson and I have been thinking recently of C. M. Stanbury. I hope the next loss will be years down the road. An article in a recent issue of the Southern Star, published at Ozark, Alabama said WOZK-900 will no longer carry any news since the person doing the news has

- 819 KINY newstime 13 past 6. I went back and checked the TOH... no ID, but directly into ABC news. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 820 **NORTH KOREA** KCBS Pyongyang, Oct 5 1407 - Very good reception for a few minutes around this time despite adjacent splatter with operatic singing. Found during review of my SDR-IQ files. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 828 **USA** KORC Walport OR, Oct 5 1410 - A difficult channel owing to the very strong signal from KGNW. Local ID and jingle clearly heard after a few minutes following an ad for a local seafood restaurant serving razor clams, etc. Gradually building it seems, during the 15 minute SDR IQ clip. Not sure whether they were on their night time 15 watts or daytime 1000. (It was 7:10 am local). (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 830 **AUSTRALIA** ABC Gippsland Victoria, Oct 5 1500 - Nice ID for ABC Victoria just before the TOH at fair to good level, soon to be replaced by JOBB with English lesson. KHVH 830 heard at the same time at same level. Heard same as well an hour earlier at 14:00. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 840 **HAWAII** KHVH Honolulu, Oct 5 1400 - While checking my SDR-IQ files, I came across the ID at the TOH for KHVH Honolulu into network news. Good reception in USB to avoid het from 828 3G and JOBB both audible at fair to good strength. Nice ID at 14:05 announcing 50 years of service and briefly the history of the station. Frequency to itself at this time. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 846 **USA** KSWB Seaside OR, Oct 5 1414 - Great reception of Patrick's own local station, with lots of '840 Gold' IDs and mentions of Seaside. Earlier co-channel interference from CKBX 100 Mile House BC, and KMPH Modesto CA gone. Full legal ID was heard at the TOH. Nice to hear local programming for a change instead of strictly network stuff. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 846 **AUSTRALIA** 2RN Canberra, Oct 5 1404 - English news with mentions of Australia, followed by ID as ABC National and further ID at 14:05:30. Fair level. Briefly faded up to good strength. Then down into the mud a minute later. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 873 **AUSTRALIA** 2RN Canberra, Oct 5 1500 - A presumed logging with barely audible ABC fanfare at 15:00. Audio was otherwise weak to discern on the SDR-IQ file. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 873 **AUSTRALIA** 22GB Sydney, Oct 5 1401 - Difficult to know which station this is, with DU English talk. For a few moments, there were 2 different EE speakers, with one being a devotional sounding program (so ? Vision Radio Network, Initialf with only 20w), but this one quickly faded leaving the other. JOGB faded in at 14:10. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 890 **ALASKA** KBBI Homer, Oct 5 1459 - Sudden fade in over CJDC Dawson Creek with marine weather to good levels. Nothing at the TOH. Not unusual for Alaska, esp NPR stations. 40 knot winds and seas to 16 feet for Baron Island. I'll check the next IQ file as this one ends at 15:02. Into NPR news an hour earlier at 14:00 without a local ID. 14:09 local mention of the Homer Electrical Cooperative and mentions of the Kenai Peninsula. Well over CJDC. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 918 **CHINA** unid, Oct 5 1400 - I'd like some help on this one. The station played some EZL music up to the TOH then began the time pips (seemingly 10 seconds late) and something said by 'YL', then by an OM. Didn't recognize any 'diantai'. Chinese speakers please! I'm hearing 'Xiantao', so I'm wondering if this is the Xiantao News Station listed in Hubei Province? (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 930 **ALASKA** KTKN Ketchikan, Oct 5 1500 - Good reception with ID and into ABC news, well over several cochannels. Multiple PSAs followed by ID and 'Here comes the Sun' at 13:53. Excellent reception continues at recheck at 14:07. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 936 **AUSTRALIA** 4PB Brisbane, Oct 5 1414 - A presumed logging with English news and BBCWS ID at 14:14. A weak 7, but definitely there! (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 940 **HAWAII** KKNE Waipahu, Oct 5 1359 - Sudden appearance of Hawaiian music over KWRU Radio Vida at fair level, but without any announcement at the TOH. Became quite strong at 14:00:30. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- + Oct 5 1403 - An interesting mix with Mexican music from KWBY over Hawaiian, KKNE. They both ceased the music to ID one after the other! Both are nice catches for me, as KWBY Woodburn OR is listed at only 250 day/200night and the Hawaiian is 10 kw. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 954 **JAPAN** JOKR Tokyo, Oct 5 1413 - A very difficult channel owing to the immense amount of splatter. Definitely Japanese which would make this JOKR in Tokyo. Not quite a DX target, but satisfying to be able to make something out of the IQ file! (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 990 **HAWAII** KHBZ Honolulu, Oct 5 1406 - Tentative logging due to the huge amount of splatter. What I heard is: 'Thanks for having us on at work. This is 990 KH (splatter)'. Zee', so I'm pretty sure it's KHBZ. Will warrant more monitoring to be sure. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)
- 4755.26 **MICRONESIA** Pacific Military Aviation, The Cross, Oct 8 1357 - Good reception finally this morning with excellent modulation. No announcement except very briefly at 14:00 by same YL. Really difficult to make out what she said despite the good reception, though. Otherwise fairly non-descript EZL music throughout. I'll have to send a clip to the station for verification. Very clear ID at 15:00 as 'You are listening to the Cross, 88.1 (?) FM.' In fact stronger modulation than the music that preceded or followed. (Salmaniw, Tofino, BC)



left the station. The person started working for WOZK 32 years ago when he was a 15 year old high school student. The station has been fully automated for the past couple of years. According to the article, the station will still run emergency broadcasts but the owner says he does not have the voice to do the news and he is well aware of that fact. I noticed the sale of CHWO-740 and was worried for a little bit that the station would change its format, but then I realized that I have been listening to it recently and nothing had changed. As they recommend in their promos, I have the first button on my car radio set for them. The second one is set for WMRI-860 up in Marion, Indiana. That's a sad commentary on the state of the radio dial here in Indy, hi. I tried my hand at listening here at the new place but no luck. I hope it was just a bad night, as we are still flirting with record highs here in the Indy area, even in October. I said last spring that I was done with doing taxes but I started a tax class last week and will start another class this Wednesday. Talk to you in seven days. 73.

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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

E-mail: nhp@ieee.org

The Eton E1 as a medium wave receiver

The Eton E1 has been hailed as a successor to the Sony ICF2010, and although it is larger and heavier than the 2010, it is still reasonably portable. It is a very capable receiver, and indeed has a few features that invite comparison with communications receivers as well as with the venerable 2010. In this review, it will be compared with a relatively late model stock ICF2010, and occasionally with a Drake R8. A better table-top receiver comparison might have been the very respectable ICOM R75, as its price is closer to the E1's, and it is still available new.

What are the E1 features that would make a serious DXer consider this receiver? Unlike the 2010, the E1's manual actually gives some hard specifications of interest to DXers, similar to the way communications receivers are characterized. Sensitivity, signal handling, IF filter skirts, and image rejection specifications are very respectable for a portable. The following details should be noted, especially as the first two are not available on the ICF2010, and the following three offer more features than the 2010 did:

- switchable fast/slow AGC
- passband tuning (PBT)
- 3 filter bandwidths (2.3, 4.0, 7.0 kHz)
- AM/AM synchronous detection (LSB, USB, DSB) as well as LSB/USB
- Digital signal strength meter, calibrated in S-units
- Choice of internal whip antenna or 50/75 ohm impedance external antenna
- "DX" mode for greater sensitivity from either antenna (this switches in a preamplifier rather than switching out an attenuator)
- line out for external recording



Sensitivity

Generally speaking, the E1 and the 2010 seemed to have similar sensitivity when using their respective internal antennas. The 2010 was a bit better on the low MW band; the E1 was slightly more sensitive on the higher band. I tried to use similar modes and IF bandwidth on both radios for tests, though the E1 has the advantage of a 2.3 kHz IF filter that often helped improve signal to noise ratio on received signal. The E1's internal MW/LW antenna is the same whip that is used for shortwave and FM, so does not allow nulling interfering signals the way that the 2010's internal loop antenna does. The whip must be extended fully for maximum sensitivity, which limits portability a little further.

Some examples of "barefoot" DX heard during quite good conditions early April 2007, in Victoria, BC:

- beacon "SQM" 529 from Level Island, Alaska was heard in LSB on 2010 but was not there at all on the E1 until an external antenna was applied
- RVC-530 from Turks and Caicos, could be heard on both radios, but was marginally more readable on the 2010

- JOUB-774's signal from Japan was comparable (meaning only occasionally strong enough to be audible) on both radios, but when fading, disappeared first on the E1, and returned slightly later than on the 2010.
- HLAZ-1566 from South Korea was also comparable, but there were moments of clarity of audio on the E1 when the 2010 wasn't really delivering. Both the radios used AM SYNC for this reception.

- In the daytime, KXL-750, over 300 km away, was slightly better on the 2010, but KPBC-1640, at a similar distance, delivered a signal that was closer to equal on both radios, with maybe a slight edge to the E1. (both used the 4.0kHz filter, and both used AM SYNC best setting)

How about sensitivity when using an external antenna? Like most communications receivers, the E1 has a low impedance external antenna input; the 2010, however, has a higher impedance antenna input, fine for direct connection to a random wire, but which can degrade the radio's apparent sensitivity somewhat when driven by a low impedance antenna. The usual antenna for these tests was a 1m square ALA100 loop antenna, which has a low impedance output. These tests took place when conditions were poorer, and Asiatics were not audible using the internal antennas of the portable receivers; the Drake R8 was included in the comparisons. In addition, some daytime tests were done on weak domestic stations. All radios were driven from a single antenna through a Mini-Circuits four-way splitter

It was quickly discovered that the E1 with its preamp "off" (non-DX mode) was roughly equivalent in sensitivity to the 2010 in DX mode, when external antennas were used. At this location, using the E1's DX mode was not a good idea, even with the relatively low output ALA100 (remember that Wellbrook recommends a considerably larger loop than 1 meter for the ALA100), as scratchy unidentifiable audio often interfered with the desired station, indicating overload. Although the 2010's sensitivity could be improved markedly by the old trick of partially pulling out the external antenna plug, this was not used in the tests, as it too often caused overload, and the comparison was to be between "stock" radios.

JOBB-828 was weakly audible on the R8 during these tests, but was only a carrier on the E1 and 2010. A similar observation was made with KSWB-840 in the daytime (1 kw at 300km), and on KKPZ-1330 (5kw at 300km), though in that case, there might have been a hint of music heard on the two portables, through playing with the AM SYNC. The R8 dug out the signal in AM mode alone, however. In spite of these observations, there were definitely situations where a difference was noted in external antenna sensitivity between the E1 and 2010, always in favor of the E1.

- 1280 is fairly clear from splatter in the daytime here, and was showing a mix of two stations, mostly KIT. These came in fine on R8, were barely audible on 2010 in DX mode, but were quite readable on the E1 without DX mode, though not at R8 level.
- 960 in the daytime, likely KALE, had barely readable audio on the R8; could just tell on E1, with the preamp disabled, that a woman was talking, but there was very little audio at all on the 2010.
- JOUB-774 generally had a pretty poor signal the morning of the comparison, using a northerly facing flag antenna rather than the ALA100; the flag also has a low impedance output. The 4.0 kHz selectivity ("narrow" on the 2010) and the best AM SYNC setting was used on both receivers. Unlike the earlier test using internal antennas, the E1 signal recovery was slightly better than on the 2010, and the E1 really shone compared with the 2010 when the 2.3 rather than the 4.0 kHz filter was used. This seemed to have more to do with improved signal to splatter ratio, rather than any improved raw sensitivity, but the narrow filter is an important tool for the DXer that is lacking on the stock 2010. However, the R8 with the same antenna and using ECSS (enhanced carrier selectable sidebar) delivered clearer and more readable audio than the E1 did with this station. A later test with the ALA100 and the two radios seemed to indicate that the sensitivity gap between the two sets could be narrowed almost completely using a 1:6 matching transformer in the antenna line between the ALA100 and the 2010, with the caveat that the E1 had its unusable (at this location) DX setting disabled. In an area with no strong locals, where the DX setting could be used, the E1 would likely continue to have the sensitivity advantage when using an external antenna.
- Note that the R8's AM SYNC is not in the same class as the synchronous detector on the two portables, so excited carrier selectable sidebar (ECSS) techniques were used on the R8 for comparison if AM SYNC was used on the portables. However, at this point, it's difficult to tell if we're testing raw sensitivity or other characteristics of the radios. The readability of a signal used for these sensitivity tests, especially at night, was affected by such things as IF filter bandwidth and overall audio quality delivered by the radios on weaker signals.
- At this location, the internal antenna in each radio was more than capable of delivering signals on all domestic channels at night; in the daytime, a number of channels could benefit from an external antenna, and reception of foreign stations generally required an external antenna.

Selectivity

Selectivity of the E1 was pretty much as advertised; it was tested by tuning past CKWX-1130 (a strong semi-local) and CKMO-900 kHz (a local), noting at what frequency the demodulated signal started to become sidebar splatter.

filter	CKWX readable signal	CKMO readable signal
2.3 kHz	1128.5 to 1131.6 kHz	898.4 to 901.6 kHz
4.0 kHz	1127.1 to 1133.6 kHz	897.0 to 903.7 kHz
7.0 kHz	audible to 1135.0 when 1140 took over and 1125.0 when 1120 took over	894.8 to 904.6 kHz

The E1's 2.3kHz setting uses a nice sharp filter, which could split off the beacon on 529 from the TIS's and RVC on 530, in AM mode, by detuning below 529, though 529 had to have a reasonable strength signal to do this, i.e. an external antenna was needed. Detuning alone wouldn't do that with the 2010's narrow filter, though the LSB SYNC worked fine on that radio to get the same effect. Note that the 2010's narrow filter is considered "about 4 kHz", though it is not actually specified in the manual. In fact, using the above test, I found that the 2010 delivered audio on CKMO-900 from 897.6 to 902.6 kHz, so it seemed to be somewhat narrower than the E1's 4.0 kHz filter.

In domestic DXing, signal handling and demodulation capabilities came into play at least as much as selectivity, because all the IF filters in either receiver seemed capable of handling the domestic channel separation of 10 kHz, even next to my locals.

When using the E1, KKSX-910 was readable at night, next to my local on 900, especially using AM SYNC USB, but that station was also heard on the 2010 and with crisper sound quality. I could just hear CJDC-890 when using LSB AM SYNC on either radio, but the 2010's audio was not so readable, even with its crisper sound. Oddly, however, the 2010 could hear 890 in the AM setting with the narrow filter, while the E1 could not, even with its 2.3 kHz filter; there was too much splatter.

Next to my other local on 1070, the E1 was able to hear CKWX-1060 using AM only, and reception got better with AM SYNC; the 2010 in contrast had more problem with 1070 splatter, but improved markedly when the DX/local switch was set to local. But the E1 produced quite a good signal whether its preamp was on or off. Again, oddly, given the preceding observation, KWJL-1080 on the other side of my local was only audible using the 2.3 kHz IF filter on the E1, even though the 2010 was delivering a signal using its narrow filter. Using its 4.0 kHz filter, the E1 couldn't match the 2010, and couldn't even find the AM sync lock until the 2.3 kHz filter was used, and then, not always reliably. When the lock was found, wider filters could then be switched in while continuing to use AM SYNC mode. Incidentally, using either radio, AM (no sync) demodulated better as one detuned above 1080, but again, I suspect this had less to do with the IF filter than with the fact that less splatter was heard as one tuned away from 1070.

Especially when trying to find split channels, it seemed best to tune around on the E1 using the 2.3 kHz filter for first indication of signal, then switch to the 4kHz filter when the signal faded up. Having said that, most of the extra audio frequencies heard when using the 4 kHz filter seemed to be from splatter rather than adding to the overall readability of the DX.

Strong signal handling

At this location, I have a couple of test channels for intermodulation products produced by my locals. For example, the combined sound of the two locals can turn up on 170 kHz; this was heard on both the 2010 and the E1 (170 kHz is a second order product from 900 and 1070). Some of this spur may be produced externally, as it's hard to detect it completely with either attenuation or with antenna tuners. Another second order product is on 1970 kHz, but that was noted only on the E1. 1240 kHz can show a third order product (2*1070-900) at this location. It was audible on the 2010, but could be killed by using the "local" switch (antenna attenuation), leaving KGY alone on the channel. Switching off the RF preamplifier on the E1 didn't kill that spur unfortunately, but then, as noted, that mode on the E1 is equivalent in sensitivity to the 2010 "DX" setting. These overload products were noted using internal antennas. Unless an antenna tuner is used, an external antenna could increase the likelihood of spurious signals on either receiver depending on one's location.

A situation that may have indicated a problem with signal handling was the following: KPNW-1120, nearly 500km away, is a good test for daytime sensitivity here. It was heard on the 2010 with readable audio though the splatter from semi-locals on 1110 and 1130 was a problem; SYNC was little help here. But, no matter what I did, there was just splatter on E1, and even an external antenna didn't show any signal on 1120, just splatter. It seemed that strong splatter from both sides of the desired signal defeated the E1 in this situation, though whether it is a signal handling or demodulation problem, I'm not sure.

There were no obvious internal spurs on the E1 when tuning across MW band with the antenna fully collapsed.

Demodulation

The E1 sound quality was always full and bassy when using the speaker, even with the 7kHz IF bandwidth; on good headphones, the sound was not quite so bassy, but still "full" without the crispness of the 2010's audio. When using the 2.3 kHz filter, the sound was bassy as expected, but, as noted above, switching in the 4.0 kHz filter often just added splatter highs, with no further clarity to the signal. The E1 has bass and treble controls, but I always ran the radio at full treble when DXing, sometimes with minimum on the bass control as well, so these controls were not much help in hearing a signal better. For DXing, I almost always preferred the brighter sound from the 2010, but for program listening, the E1 was very good.

When signals were at low level, even with AM SYNC switched in, the sound got bassier yet, and a bit "furry" sounding. This is often a problem when trying to hear weak signals on any receiver, but it seemed a bit more pronounced on the E1. For example, when testing an external antenna in the

daytime, the TIS on 530 from Hurricane Ridge, WA was slightly weaker on the 2010 than on the E1, using the AM mode, yet its signal was crisper and more readable. In general, the AM only mode on the 2010 seemed to deliver a more readable signal than the E1 did in that mode, unless the signal was reasonably strong.

AM SYNC Observations

Synchronous AM detection is a major selling point of both the E1 and 2010, as it allows one to tune to the opposite sideband from an interfering signal, and reduce heterodynes and sideband splatter to a large degree. The E1 has USB and LSB AM SYNC like the 2010 does, but the E1 also includes double sideband AM SYNC; however, I didn't find the latter much use for DXing.

The AM SYNC on the E1 has been regarded as superior to the 2010's by other reviewers. Certainly, it is quite fast to lock, and appears to lock on weaker signals than the 2010 does. In addition, it has a wide lock range, for example tuning to 910kHz using the 7kHz IF filter, and detuning to get away from the local splatter from 900, I found I could lock to 910, even when tuning out to 915 kHz, where stations on 920 then took over locking the detector. This wide locking range caused difficulties using the E1 when trying to zero in on a presumed Fiji on 639 using AM SYNC LSB and the 2.3kHz IF filter; it locked onto the stronger station on 640 instead. It was necessary to tune further below 639 until the stronger 640 kHz signal dropped off the filter passband skirts. This is mentioned in the manual, so is something that the user should be aware of. No such problem existed with the 2010's +/- 0.7 kHz locking range for AM SYNC; it would lock on 639 as soon as one tuned more than 0.7 kHz below 640 kHz.

Signal recovery in "AM SYNC" was superior to "AM" for DXing in almost all cases on the E1, especially if selecting the least QRM'd sideband. A couple of examples:

- HLAZ-1566: there was a better chance of listenable audio from this station using AM SYNC rather than simple AM, especially when the signal was just on edge of audibility. It had a "punchier" sound with more clarity compared with a more diffuse sound in AM. Splatter avoidance using USB/LSB sync of course was also helpful, though splatter on this channel is not too big a problem at this location.
- JOUB-774: AM SYNC was almost always viable with the E1 if there was any audible signal at all in the AM setting, and as with HLAZ, improved the clarity, especially in USB AM SYNC, rejecting splatter from my semi-local on 770. The 2010 would not indicate any lock on the LED on such a weak signal. However, it was found that the 2010 SYNC often locked before the LED indicator lit, so was actually more sensitive than first thought, though still not as sensitive as the E1. Although audio quality on the E1 was improved by using AM SYNC, I found that the 2010, for the most part, had a "crisper" sound if it was successful locking on to weak signals. Although clarity of weak signals improves in AM SYNC using the E1, the process can actually add a low frequency hiss to the recovered audio in some cases.

Other features

- It's wonderful to have PBT on a portable receiver, but it's really only useful on SSB on the E1; it is just a frequency shift in the AM modes, and the manual is quite clear on this.
- Carrier spotting, using SSB modes, was easier with the E1 than with the 2010. This may be partly due to the 10Hz tuning steps of the E1. Surprisingly, however, in spite of the relatively small tuning steps, ECSS did not seem very successful on the E1. It was hardly any better than the 2010 with its 100 Hz tuning steps, and quite inferior to the R8, which also has 10 Hz steps.
- The S-meter has reasonable resolution (20 divisions up to S9+60 dB). A quick test with a signal generator at the low end of the MW band showed S2 to be indicated with a -103dBm input signal and -90 dBm indicating S7. "60dB per S-unit" doesn't seem to apply below S7, but above this point, the signal strength readings are relatively accurate. Although the S-meter is quite responsive it is not as swift on nulls and tuning peaks as the analog meter of the R8.
- On domestic channels at night, "pumping" was noticed with fast AGC due to multiple stations on the channel being separated by only a few Hertz. Selectable AGC was quite useful here, and the "auto" setting would smooth out the sound in most cases, as would manual selection of slow AGC.

Conclusion

The E1 is a worthy successor to the Sony ICF2010, with added features useful for the MW DXer, the most noteworthy of which are the 2.3 kHz IF filter, a capable AM synchronous detector, and somewhat better sensitivity when using an external antenna, especially in areas where strong signal overload is not a problem. However, it is not as portable as the 2010, especially when the internal antenna is used, and its overall demodulation, especially in AM mode, produced an audio that was somewhat bassier than this DXer's ears would like.

The E1 is not a substitute for a communications receiver, though the synchronous AM detector is better than that found on many more expensive receivers. If (relative) portability is not desired, then better DXing capability will likely still be found in table-top receivers, though usually at a premium price.

(the above is part of a more extensive review of the Eton E1 found at Colin Newell's website <http://www.dxr.ca>)



SPECIAL FEATURE

THE IRCA COUNTRIES LIST Compiled by Bruce Portzer, Countries List Chairman

Here is the latest version of the IRCA Countries List. This list was originally developed in the 1960's as a guide for club members in their quest for foreign medium wave targets. It has been updated periodically since then. The list is organized into three sections: active, inactive, and deleted countries. For each country, I've listed its continent in brackets, and noted any former or alternative names. Any date restrictions are also noted (such as when the country was formed or ceased to exist). There are also a few instances where I've added comments clarifying a country's status. A place qualifies for inclusion on the list if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Nations or International Telecommunications Union (ITU), or has diplomatic relations with multiple countries.
- It has a high degree of internal autonomy. This characteristic can be for historical reasons, such as the various parts of the UK, or established through formal agreement, such as Hong Kong or Macao. A portion of a country may also qualify based on de facto autonomy, even if the parent country does not recognize it as such. Taiwan, for example. This qualification is largely a judgment call based on the amount of self-rule and political stability.
- It is separated from the rest of the country by at least 200 km of open water (no other islands between it and the mainland), or 100 km of land. For example, Alaska.
- These places will only be listed if they currently have a MW radio station, have had one or more stations in the past, or have sufficient residents (permanent or temporary) to justify broadcast facilities. As a result, this list doesn't include most of the small, mostly uninhabited territories that appear, for example, on the ARRL list.
- It is under international or other special administrative control, such as Antarctica or the Serbian province of Kosovo.
- It has historically been considered a separate DX "country", even though it doesn't seem to meet any of the above criteria ("We do it that way because that's the way it's always been done").

Country list junkies are welcome to examine the following four lists. Each has its own set of criteria, resulting in some interesting differences and similarities.

- The **ARRL Country List**: This list is used mainly for issuing DX Century Club awards. The criteria are well-thought out, but hotly debated in the ham community. It includes many obscure uninhabited specks of land that would otherwise go unnoticed.
- The **NASWA Radio Country List**: This is a list of countries with active shortwave broadcasters, past and present.
- The **Travelers' Century Club List**: This organization gives certificates to those who have visited at least 100 countries. The most recent list has 350 places listed.
- **How many countries are there?** This list analyzes several sources, including the ARRL/DXCC and TCC lists, and concludes that there could be anywhere from 191 to 493 countries, depending on what you count.

Any comments or questions on the list can be addressed to bportzer@comcast.net.

ACTIVE COUNTRIES

The following countries currently have or are believed to have active medium wave broadcast stations.

Afghanistan [AS]
Alaska [NA]
Albania [EU]
Algeria [AF]
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (part of India) [AS]
Angola [AF]
Anguilla [NA]
Antigua & Barbuda [NA]
Argentina [SA]
Armenia [AS]
Aruba [SA] – receptions before 1-1-86 count as Netherlands Antilles
Ascension Island [AF]
Australia [OC]
Austria [EU]
Azerbaijan [AS]
Azores [EU]
Bahamas [NA]
Bahrain [AS]
Balearic Islands (part of Spain) [EU] – includes Majorca
Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) [AS]
Barbados [NA]
Belarus (formerly Byelorussia) [EU]
Belgium [EU]
Benin (formerly Dahomey) [AF] – after 8-1-60
Bermuda [NA]
Bolivia [SA]
Bosnia-Herzegovina [EU] – receptions before 10-15-91 count as Yugoslavia
Botswana (formerly Bechuanaland) [AF]
Brazil [SA]
British Indian Ocean Territory (aka Chagos Islands, includes Diego Garcia) [AF]
Brunei Darussalam [AS]
Bulgaria [EU]
Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta) [AF] – after 8-5-60
Cambodia (formerly Kampuchea) [AS]
Canada [NA]
Canary Islands [AF]
Central African Republic [AF] – after 8-13-60

Ceuta (part of Spain, located in Morocco) [AF]
Chad [AF]
Chile [SA]
China [AS]
Christmas Island (located in Indian Ocean) [OC]
Colombia [SA]
Congo, Republic of [AF] – after 8-15-60
Cook Islands [OC] – The North Cook Islands are far enough from South Cooks to qualify as a separate country, but there are no known stations there
Corsica [EU]
Costa Rica [NA]
Crete (part of Greece) [EU]
Croatia [EU] – after 6-26-91
Cuba [NA]
Cyprus [AS]
Cyprus, Turkish Federated State [AS] – a portion of northern Cyprus
Czech Republic [EU] – after 1-1-93, earlier loggings count as Czechoslovakia
Denmark [EU]
Djibouti (formerly French Somaliland, Afar & Issas) [AF]
Dodecanese Islands (part of Greece, includes Rhodes) [EU]
Dominica [NA]
Dominican Republic [NA]
Ecuador [SA]
Egypt [AF]
El Salvador [NA]
England [EU]
Eritrea [AF] – became part of Ethiopia 11-14-62, then gained independence 9-15-93
Estonia [EU]
Ethiopia [AF]
Faeroe Islands (aka Islas Malvinas) [SA]
Faroe Islands [EU]
Fiji [OC]
Finland [EU]
France [EU]
French Guiana [SA]
French Polynesia (aka Society Islands, includes Tahiti) [OC]
Gabon [AF] – after 8-17-60
Galapagos Islands (part of Ecuador) [SA] – Possibly inactive
Gambia, The [AF]
Georgia [AS]
Germany [EU] – formerly German Federal Republic (West Germany)
Gibraltar [EU]
Greece [EU]
Greenland (aka Kalaallit Nunaata) [NA]
Grenada [NA]
Guadeloupe [NA]
Guam [OC]
Guantanamo Bay Naval Base [NA]
Guatemala [NA]
Guernsey (part of UK) [EU]
Guinea [AF]
Guyana (formerly British Guiana) [SA]
Haiti [NA]
Hawaii [OC]
Honduras [NA]
Hong Kong [AS] – Special Administrative Region of China with a high degree of autonomy
Hungary [EU]
Iceland [EU]
India [AS]
Indonesia [AS]
Iran [AS]
Iraq [AS]
Ireland [EU]
Isle of Man (part of UK) [EU]
Israel [AS]
Italy [EU]
Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) [AF] – after 8-7-60
Jamaica [NA]
Japan [AS]
Jersey (Part of UK) [EU]
Jordan [AS]
Kaliningrad (noncontiguous part of Russia) [EU]
Kazakhstan [AS]
Kenya [AF]
Kiribati (formerly Gilbert Islands) [OC]
Korea, North (Democratic People's Republic of Korea, DPRK) [AS]
Korea, South (Republic of Korea) [AS]
Kosovo [EU] – Serbian province, under UN-supervised administration since 1999
Kuwait [AS]
Kyrgyzstan (formerly Kirghiz SSR, Kirgizia) [AS]
Laos [AS]
Latvia [EU]
Lebanon [AS]
Lesotho (formerly Basutoland) [AF]
Libya [AF]
Lithuania [EU]
Luxembourg [EU]
Macao [AS] – Special Administrative Region of China with a high degree of autonomy
Macedonia [EU] – after 9-8-91, earlier loggings count as Yugoslavia
Madagascar (aka Malagasy Republic) [AF]
Madeira [AF]
Malawi [AF]
Malaysia, East [AS] – after 9-16-63, consists of Sabah & Sarawak
Malaysia, West [AS] – after 9-16-63, consists of peninsular Malaysia
Maldives [AS]
Mali [AF] – after 6-20-60
Mali [EU]
Marshall Islands [OC]
Martinique [NA] – Possibly inactive
Mauritania [AF] – after 6-20-60
Mauritius [AF]
Mayotte (aka Mahore) [AF]
Melilla (part of Spain, located in Morocco) [AF] – See Morocco listing in WRTH
Mexico [NA]
Micronesia, Federated States of (formerly Eastern Caroline Islands) [OC]
Moldova (formerly Moldavia) [EU]
Mongolia [AS]
Montenegro [EU] – after 6-3-06. Earlier loggings count as Yugoslavia.
Morocco [AF]
Mozambique [AF]
Myanmar (formerly Burma) [AS]
Namibia (formerly SW Africa) [AF]
Nepal [AS]
Netherlands Antilles [SA] – Bonaire & Curacao will become separate "countries" in late 2008
Netherlands [EU]
New Caledonia [OC]
New Zealand [OC]
Nicaragua [NA]
Niger [AF] – after 8-3-60
Nigeria [AF]
Norfolk Island [OC]

Northern Ireland (part of UK) [EU] – now
Northern Mariana Islands [OC]
Norway [EU]
Oman [AS] – includes Masirah Island and
Musandam Peninsula
Pakistan (formerly West Pakistan) [AS]
Palau (aka Belau, formerly Western Caroline
Islands) [OC]
Palestine [AS] – after Feb 1, 1999. Formerly part
of Israel. Includes West Bank and Gaza.
Panama [NA]
Papua New Guinea [OC]
Paraguay [SA]
Peru [SA]
Philippines [AS]
Poland [EU]
Portugal [EU]
Pridnestrovia (aka Transnistria, Trans-Dniester)
[EU] – A self-governing independent region of
Moldova. Considers itself an independent
country though not recognized as such by the
Moldovan government or most international
organizations
Puerto Rico [NA]
Qatar [AS]
Réunion [AF]
Rodrigues Island [AF] – Part of Mauritius,
separated by 500+ km of ocean
Romania [EU]
Russia, Asiatic [AS]
Russia, European [EU] – the Ural Mountains are
the dividing line between Asia and Europe
Samoa, American [OC]
Samoa [OC] – formerly Western Samoa
San Andres & Providencia (part of Colombia)
[NA]
Sao Tome & Principe [AF]
Sardinia (part of Italy) [EU]
Saudi Arabia [AS]
Scotland [EU]
Serbia [EU] – Montenegro declared
independence from Serbia/Yugoslavia 6-3-06.
Earlier loggings of Serb stations count as
Yugoslavia
Seychelles [AF]
Sierra Leone [AF]
Slovakia (aka Slovak Republic) [EU] – after 1-1-
93, earlier loggings count as Czechoslovakia
Slovenia [EU] – after 6-26-91, earlier loggings
count as Yugoslavia
Solomon Islands [OC]
South Africa [AF] – includes the homeland
republics (former Bantustans)
Spain [EU]
Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) [AS]
St. Helena [AF]
St. Kitts & Nevis [NA]
St. Vincent & the Grenadines [NA] – MW station
currently inactive with plans to return to the air
Sint Maarten, Saba, & St Eustatius [NA] – will
become separate "countries" in late 2008
Sudan [AF]
Suriname (formerly Dutch Guiana) [SA] –
possibly inactive
Svaibard (Spitzbergen) [EU]
Swaziland [AF]
Sweden [EU]
Switzerland [EU]
Syria [AS]
Taiwan (Republic of China) [AS] – includes
Quemoy & Matsu

Tajikistan [AS]
Tanzania (formerly Tanganyika) [AF]
Thailand [AS]
Timor Leste (aka East Timor) [AS] – Originally
called Portuguese Timor, annexed by
Indonesia 12-31-61. Became independent 3-
1-00.
Togo [AF]
Tonga [OC]
Trinidad & Tobago [SA]
Tunisia [AF]
Turkey [AS]
Turkmenistan (formerly Turkmen SSR) [AS]
Turks & Caicos Islands [NA]
Uganda [AF]
Ukraine [EU]
United Arab Emirates [AS] – Includes Abu
Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, et al
United States of America [NA]
Uruguay [SA]
Uzbekistan (formerly Uzbek SSR) [AS]
Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides) [OC]
Vatican City [EU] – Vatican Radio's transmitter
site is an extraterritorial part of The Vatican
Venezuela [SA]
Vietnam [EU] – includes pre-unification
receptions of North Vietnam
Virgin Islands (US) [NA]
Wales [EU]
Wallis & Futuna [OC]
Yemen [AS] – after 6-22-90, formed when
Yemen Arab Republic merged with People's
Democratic Republic of Yemen
Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia) [AF]

INACTIVE COUNTRIES
The following countries currently do not have
medium wave stations, based on information
in the World Radio-TV Handbook (WRTB),
Euro-African Medium Wave Guide (EMWG),
and/or Pacific Asian Log (PAL). Some have
had MW stations which are no longer on the
air. A few, to the best of my knowledge, have
never had a MW station but are listed
because they have sufficient population to
justify a radio station or relay transmitter. The
list does not include places with very small
populations that have never had a MW
broadcast station (for example, Pitcairn
Island).
Aland Islands [EU] – An autonomous region of
Finland. A MW station has been planned for
many years but is not yet on the air.
Andorra [EU] – Two high powered MW stations
operated here until early 1980s
Antarctica (and nearby island groups) [OC] –
SW/FM only, has had MW stations in the past
Belize (formerly Br Honduras) [NA] – FM only,
VOA transmitter site now apparently silent
Bhutan [AS] – currently SW/FM only
Burundi [AF] – FM/SW only
Cameron [AF] – now FM only
Cape Verde [AF] – now FM only
Cayman Islands [NA] – now FM only
Chatham Islands [OC] – FM only
Cocos-Keeling Islands [OC] – now FM only
Comoros [AF] – now FM only
Congo, Democratic Republic of the (formerly
Zaire, Belgian Congo) [AF] – FM/SW only

Cyprus, British Sovereign Bases on [EU] – now
FM only, includes Akrotiri & Dhekelia
Easter Island (aka Isla de Pascua, Rapa Nui)
[OC] – FM only as of 2006
Equatorial Guinea (Rio Muni) [AF] – SW/FM only
Fernando de Noronha [SA] – Island group in
Atlantic, part of Brazil, FM only
Ghana (formerly Gold Coast) [AF] – SW/FM only
Guinea-Bissau (ex-Portuguese Guinea) [AF]
International Waters [OC] – Several stations
have operated aboard ships near Western
Europe (many), Israel (Voice of Peace, 1973-
1993), New Zealand (Radio Hauraki, late
1960's) and the Northeastern US (Radio
NewYork International, late 1980's). Currently
there are no known regular operations from
International Waters. However, the US
government has the ability to broadcast from
aircraft over international waters.
Johnston Island [OC] – inactive after 1977
Lakshadweep (aka Laccadive Islands) (part of
India) [AS] – no known MW stations
Liberia [AF] – SW/FM only
Lord Howe Island [OC] – now FM only
Liechtenstein [EU] – FM only
Midway Island [OC] – FM only, MW has been
inactive for many years
Monaco [EU] – MW transmitters are actually in
France
Montserrat [NA] – FM Only. All MW transmitters
were destroyed by volcanic activity in the
1990s.
Nauru [OC] – FM only since late (?) 1990's
Niue [OC] – FM only since mid 1990's
Ogasawara (aka Bonin & Volcano Is, includes
Iwo Jima) [AS] – no known MW outlets
Phoenix Islands (part of Kiribati) [OC] – WXL E
operated on Canton Island in 1970s
Rwanda [AF] – SW/FM only
Saint Barthelémy [NA] – French island near
Guadeloupe, FM only
Saint Martin (French, next to Sint Maarten) [NA]
– FM only
Saharan Arab Republic (aka Western Sahara)
(formerly Spanish Sahara, Rio de Oro) [AF] –
all known MW transmitters are located in
Algeria
St. Lucia [NA] – now FM only
St. Pierre & Miquelon [NA] – now FM only, MW
was eliminated a few years ago
San Marino [EU] – FM only
Senegal [AF] – after 6-20-60, now FM/SW only
Singapore [AS] – eliminated all MW services in
mid-1990's
Somalia [AF] – SW/FM only
Tristan da Cunha [AF] – FM only
Tuvalu (formerly Ellice Islands) [OC] – after 1-1-
76, now FM only
United Nations HQ [NA] – universally recognized
as "neutral" territory, but has no MW activity
Wake Island [OC] – AFRTS station closed down
several years ago
Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) [AF] – FM/SW
only

DELETED COUNTRIES
The following countries no longer exist, but had
or may have had medium wave stations.
Some are places that merged with a

neighboring country. Others were split into
two or more separate countries. The listed
dates are when the country ceased to be a
separate DX country. Some countries existed
between two dates.
Biafra [AF] – 5-30-67 to 1-15-70, otherwise part
of Nigeria
British North Borneo [OC] – 9-15-63 (now part of
Malaysia)
Canal Zone [NA] – 9-30-79 (now part of
Panama)
Czechoslovakia [EU] – 12-31-92 (now Czech &
Slovak Republics)
Danzig [EU] – 9-1-39
French Equatorial Africa [AF] – 8-16-60 (now
Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon,
Congo)
French Indo-China [AS] – 12-20-50 (now Laos,
Vietnam, Cambodia)
French West Africa [AF] – 8-6-60 (now Niger,
Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Benin, Mauritania,
Mali, Senegal, Guinea)
German Democratic Republic [EU] – 10-3-90
(now part of Germany)
Goa (Portuguese India) [AS] – 12-19-61 (now
part of India)
Guangdong Peninsula [AS] – 8-14-45
Jammu and Kashmir [AS] – Northern provinces
of India, subject to a border dispute with
Pakistan
Karelo-Finnish SSR [EU] – 7-15-56 (now part of
Russia)
Leeward Islands [NA] – 2-27-67 (now various
island nations)
Malaya [AS] – 9-15-63 (now part of Malaysia)
Manchuria (Manchuguo) [AS] – 9-16-63 (now
part of China)
Newfoundland & Labrador [NA] – 3-31-49 (now
part of Canada)
Okinawa (Ryukyu Islands) [AS] – 5-14-72 (now
part of Japan)
Peoples Dem Rep of Yemen (Aden) [AS] – 5-21-
90 (now part of Yemen)
Ruanda-Urundi [AF] – 7-60 to 6-30-62
Saar [EU] – 1-3-48 to 12-31-56 (now part of
Germany)
Sarawak [OC] – 9-15-63 (now part of Malaysia)
Sikkim [OC] – became part of India 5-16-75
Swan Island [NA] – 8-31-72 (now part of
Honduras, home of Radio Americas in mid-
1960s)
Tangier [AF] – 6-30-60 (now part of Morocco)
Tibet [AS] – 5-30-74 (now part of China)
Trieste [EU] – 2-10-47 to 5-19-54 (now part of
Slovenia)
Vietnam, Republic of (aka South Vietnam) [AS]
– 7-1-76 (now part of Vietnam)
Walvis Bay [AF] – 9-1-94 (former part of South
Africa, now part of Namibia)
West Berlin [EU] – 10-3-90 (now part of
Germany)
Windward Islands [NA] – 6-1-67 (now various
island nations)
Yemen Arab Republic [AS] – 5-21-90 (now part
of Yemen)
Yugoslavia [EU] – Former Yugoslav republics
became independent 1991-2006 (see country
listings for dates).
Zanzibar [AF] – 6-30-64 (now part of Tanzania)

2007 IRCA Convention Report
Mike Sanburn

The 2007 IRCA Convention is now part of DX history. The weather in Salt Lake City was nice that weekend (nice and hot!). We opened the meeting room early Friday morning and set out the usual bumper stickers, etc.

The first item on our agenda was a tour of the KSL studio downtown at 2 PM. We had a lengthy question and answer session with the Chief Engineer in the foyer. We proceeded to tour the immense complex that houses KSL AM, FM and TV Channel 5 (NBC Network) studios, offices, equipment rooms... we toured it all. The entire staff was incredibly friendly and accommodating to our group. They handed us some nice souvenirs and we said our goodbyes. We then travelled from one of the nicest corporate owned stations in America to one of the nicest family owned (for 4 decades) stations, KSOP AM and FM. This country music broadcaster was like taking a step back in time. A charming brick building with huge call letters right in front and two towers right in back (visible further in the background was the single stick which AM-860 and AM-1640 diplex from). We all got up close and personal with the live DJ (FM) who showed us how the equipment worked, and performed his show simultaneously without skipping a beat. Photographs were taken, stickers, magnets and pencils were passed around, then we took a much needed dinner break.



Goodie Table



KSL entrance



KSL Lobby



KSOP lobby

Friday evening, we gave a quiz (created by Bob Wlen) containing Utah state and DX trivia (congratulations to Scott Fybush for winning that one – prize was an IRCA travel mug). Thanks to John Johnson and Bob Wlen for putting on an incredible slide show Friday depicting many various radio and TV stations past and present.

Saturday, the first part of the day was left open for folks to shop, sightsee or eat. The business meeting commenced at 4 PM and President Nick Hall-Patch conducted the meeting in a very professional manner. We all gave a round of applause to our new incoming Publisher Dan Riordan who was in attendance.

As 6 PM approached, we made our way 2 blocks up the street to the legendary local restaurant Diamond Lil's. We dined in the Jail Room where patrons chose between steak, prime rib and trout. Beer and desserts were available as well. I announced this year's TVA winner, Mr. Nick Hall-Patch, as well as this year's RHA winner, Mrs. Lynn Hollerlan. Congratulations to both for the fine work they do!

The final official item on the agenda was the annual IRCA auction. Phil and I conducted this DX-oriented Tupperware party. Once of the highlights was when Nancy Johnson and Mr and Mrs Gordon donated their dinner salad and garlic bread from the banquet for auction. It quickly found a new home. Bargains were found on books, DVDs, Radios, T-Shirts, Hats, Coffee Mugs, etc.... Bill Block had the high bid on a CCRadio generously donated by Mr Hall-Patch.



Banquet



IRCA Auction

Special thanks to Bob Wlen for creating many of the convention commemoratives, Mike Riordan for his help scouting out the local attractions, Universal Radio for their donations, John Johnson for sharing his classic photographs with us, all the radio stations that provided promo items, and everybody that attended or helped out in any way. We may already have a couple bidders for next year's event: I was happy to bring the IRCA convention to the great state of Utah.

- Attendees:
- John Adams OR
 - Bill Block AZ
 - Phil Bytheway WA
 - Scott Fybush NY
 - Dennis Gibson CA
 - Dave Gordon CA
 - Shelly Gordon CA
 - John Johnson MT

- Nancy Johnson MT
- Mike Lantz FL
- Pat Martin OR
- Frank Merrill IL
- Curtis McMenamin CA
- Nick Hall-Patch BC
- Susan Hall-Patch BC
- Dan Riordan OR

- Mike Riordan UT
- Mike Sanburn CA – host
- Ernie Wesolowski NE
- Robert Wlen CA
- Dave Whatmough ON
- Dave Williams OR
- Garrett Wollman MA

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:** Doug Pifer – 3410 Marion St SE, Albany OR 97322-3871
e-mail: - dker@desert4wd.com (proposals/gripes)
- Secretary-Treasurer:** Lynn Hollerlan, PO Box 60241, Lafayette LA, 70596
e-mail: lynnhollerlan@yahoo.com - (dues, address changes, IRCA mailing list sign-ups)
- Board of Directors:** Phil Bytheway – phil_tekno@yahoo.com, Lee Freshwater – lfreshwater@cox.net, John C. Johnson – John.Johnson@prodigy.net, Patrick Martin – mwdwzr@webtv.net, Jim Pogue – KH2AR@comcast.net, Mike Sanburn – mikesanburn@hotmail.com and Robert Wlen – 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)

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

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

