

December 8, 2007 - Volume 45, Number 13 - Edition 1425 - ISSN 899-9733

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: 7148 Marley Ln S, Salem OR 97306, or e-mail to dxe@desert4wd.com if you're interested.

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>

Sat 12/15/07	0400-0500	830	KLAA	Anaheim CA	(Clark)
Sun 12/16/07	0300-0400	1400	KQMS	Redding CA	(Myers/Mena)
Sat 1/15/08	0200-0230	1150	WIMA	Lima OH	(Gierhart/Vobbe)
Sun 1/13/08	0300-0315	1360	KKMO	Tacoma WA	(Passmore)

KLAA 830 kHz Anaheim, CA DX Test

Date: Saturday morning (late Friday night), Dec. 15, 2007. Time: 1 - 2 a.m. Pacific Time, 0900 - 1000 UTC. 20,000 watts using nighttime directional antenna pattern. Morse code IDs inserted into regular programming. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. Brian Clark, Director of Engineering, KLAA Radio, 2000 Gene Autry Way, Anaheim, CA 92806. No eQSL service is being offered for this test. Recordings on disk or via e-mail in .mp3 or .wav format will be accepted as proof of reception. Address for e-mails is bclark@am830klaa.com. NOTE: All requests for postal verifications must be accompanied by return postage in order to receive a reply. Brian says he would love to run the test using KLAAs daytime antenna pattern which would better favor the east but cannot because he must protect other stations on 830 kHz. Our sincere thanks to him for agreeing to conduct this test. It should be a good one for the folks to the west, and who knows how far east they may get if conditions are good?

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.

WIMA 1150 kHz Lima, Ohio DX Test

Date: Saturday morning (late Friday night), Jan. 5, 2008. Time: 2 - 2:30 a.m. Eastern Time, 0700 - 0730 UTC. 1,000 watts using non-directional antenna pattern. Programming will consist of special voice announcements by our own Fred Vobbe of NRC's DX Audio Service, music by the Ohio State Marching Band, Morse code and 1,000 Hz tones. Reception reports may be sent to WIMA Radio, Attn: Lima Engineering, 667 West Market St., Lima, OH 45801. E-mail reception reports may also be submitted to limaengineering@clearchannel.com. No eQSL service is being offered for this test. Recordings on disk in .mp3 or .wav format will be accepted as proof of reception. More information is available at www.667westmarket.com/engineering/wima/test/dxtest.html. This great and historic station has long been DX'er friendly, having previously tested in 1992 and 2005. NOTE: All requests for verifications must be accompanied by return postage in order to receive a reply. Many thanks to WIMA Director of Engineering Mark Gierhart for agreeing to conduct this test, and to Fred Vobbe for his help in putting the test program together.

KKMO 1360 kHz Tacoma, Washington DX Test

Date: Sunday morning (late Saturday night), Jan. 13, 2008. Time: 12 - 12:15 a.m. Pacific Time, 0800 - 0815 UTC. 5,000 watts using non-directional antenna pattern. From 12:00-12:10 a.m. PST, programming will consist of 1,000 Hz tone at 0 db. From 12:11-12:15 a.m. PST, programming will consist of college football marching songs. No Morse code or sweep tones are scheduled at this time, but if this changes we will notify listeners ASAP. Reception reports may be sent to KKMO Radio, Attn: Mr. Monte Passmore, CE, 2201 6th Ave., Suite 1500, Seattle, WA 98121. E-mail reception reports may also be submitted to montep@kgwn.com. 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. Many thanks to KKMO Chief Engineer Monte Passmore for agreeing to conduct this test.

Jim Pogue - KH2AR@comcast.net, www.dxtests.info, IRCA/NRC Joint BTC Coordinator

CANADIAN RADIO NEWS

Dan Sys - dsysca@yahoo.ca

For November 2007 (December 1 2007) (next update January 1 2008)

FORMAT CHANGES

From Full Service to All News during AMD & PMD and Talk the remainder of the day.

OFF THE AIR

CKOV Simulcast time for FM conversion expires
CFXE Simulcast time for FM conversion expires.
CHUC Simulcast time for FM conversion expires.

AM TO FM CONVERSIONS GRANTED

CJCH Move to 101.3 with 100,000 watts.

TECHNICAL CHANGES GRANTED

CBDB Increase power from 40 watts (fulltime) to 400 watts (days)/165 watts (nights).

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. Theilma Drive-Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 billwblock@msn.com
Drake R8, EWE (20x50x20)
- (GH) **Glen Hansen**-1925 Tualatin St.-St. Helens, OR skinner@columbia-center.org
Drake R8B, R-388, R-390A, Hammarlund SP-600, TMC-GPR-90, various wires, Radio Shack and Sanserino loops
- (PM) **Patrick Martin**-P.O. Box 843-Seaside, OR 97138-0843 mwdxer@webtv.net
Drake R8, 1500' Eastern Beverage term., 45' vertical, Quantum Phaser
- (5P) **Dale Park**-P.O. Box 10640-Honolulu, HI 96816 dxfool@aol.com
Sangean ATS-818CS, Tek AM1000 loop
(5P-H11) DX'ing at Koko Marina Shopping Center with Honda car radio

- 630 ?CHED? AB, Edmonton tentative 11/22 0011 with ad mentioning "Journal," ad for Safeway supermarkets, back to sports talk. Poor, over/under KIDD-CA and Spanish station. (5P-H11)
- 660 ?CFFR? AB, Calgary tentative 9/30 0357 woman with news show with sound bites from male guest, ad for Blaze Central and The Wildfire Grill; ID missed, woman saying "K-Far" (?), CNN Radio news. Using Google, I found a Calgary Herald article about the opening of Flames Central and the Wildfire Grill, a sports and entertainment center in Calgary partly owned by the NHL team. Very poor, over/under station with classical rock then news. (5P-H1)
- 740 CHWO ON, Toronto 11/28 0115 fair with KCBS phased out with jazz and "Prime Time Radio" ID's. (PM-OR)
- 810 WGY NY, Schenectady 11/28 fair under KGO, partly phased with "News Radio WGY" ID at 0130. Probably now the easiest NY station to hear for me. It used to be WQEW, but with the WA station there, WQEW is not as common. (PM-OR)
- 940 CJGX SK, Yorkton 11/27 0832 with weather for the Yorkton area. (BB-AZ)

950 KAH1 CA, Auburn 11/27 1927 with "K-High," (BB-AZ)
 1060 KRCN CO Longmont 11/28 0851 with "Radio Colorado Network," (BB-AZ)
 1090 KKVV NV Las Vegas 11/28 0901 with "You're listening to ??? Radio KKVV," (BB-AZ)
 1140 KMXA CO Aurora 11/27 1856 with "KMXA," (BB-AZ)
 CHR8 AB High River 11/21 2357 Charles Morse plugging DVDs & CDs from "Haven Today" Bible show, mentioning phone number 1-800-543-2836, man with show times (e.g. 9:35am after "Radio"); slogan "Southern Alberta's Community Radio Station, AM 11-40" (missed call sign), "Every Brothers' "Dream," into PSA. Poor to fair, over/under KHTK-CA and mess. (5P-H11)
 1180 KOF1 MI Kalamazoo 11/11 2300 ID into Curtis Lee oldie. Fair to poor but totally alone on R-388 with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
 1190 KEX OR Portland 11/27 1930 with traffic and weather. (BB-AZ)
 1230 KOZI WA Chelan 11/26 0000 man said "Your information station K-O-Z-I," weak in a whirling jumble on Drake with Sanserino loop. (GH-OR)
 1240 KQEN OR Roseburg 11/17 0015 faint ID in the mix, sports talk. Only one discernable. Very weak on R-388 with E-W wire. (GH-OR)
 1290 KOUU ID, Pocatello 11/28 1450 great signal at 59+ off Eastern Beverage. Slogan "The Country Cow" and "AM Stereo 12-90, The Country Cow," modern C&W, ID 1500 "KOUU Pocatello-Blackfoot-Idaho Falls" into ABC news. Hardly a sign of presumed KUMA. (PM-OR)
 1310 KGVO MI, Missoula 11/23 2020 many ads for Missoula businesses, talk program, mixing it up with KUMA on R-388 with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
 KZXR WA, Prosser 11/19 0020 weather report and ID spattering in the static. A regular very weak on R-388 with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
 CHLW AB, St. Paul 11/21 2351 promo "ANW and 13-10 CHLW" for Employee of the Day contest, ad, promo for sx pbb "All season long, live on 13-10 CHLW," slogan "Your Country Music Leader, CHLW," woman with country song. My most northerly Canadian heard. Poor to fair, over/under KMKY-CA. (5P-H11)
 1350 KTIK ID, Nampa 11/19 0035 ID and local ad up strong over KRLC for a few minutes. Very weak & seldom heard, on R-388 with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
 1430 KLO UT, Ogden 11/21 0030 local ad and ID. Finally up & over KYKN on Drake with RS loop. One other REL in there as well. (GH-OR)
 1440 KVON CA, Napa 11/29 0905 with "1440 KVON" then time and traffic report. (BB-AZ)

Apologies go to Dale Park on the CFFR tip which it will be included in this column. Nancy 11/30 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 and Kiwa Loop, 2006 Chevy TrailBlazer.

DOWN THE DIAL

560 KUZZ CA, Bakersfield. 11-29 good with KFYZ nulled. 23:01 with a quick "KUZZ" between country songs. [NJ-MT]
 650 KMTI UT, Manti. 11-27 good. 19:58 with country music, "Central Utah's connection for information and entertainment. KMTI Manti" into ABC news. [NJ-MT]
 880 KJUR MT, Whitefish, 11-25. 08:53 with local spot and PSA. 08:55 "News talk 8-80 KJUR" into Montana Outdoor radio show. Heard on the TrailBlazer radio. [NJ-MT]

25 YEARS AGO

December 4, 1982 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **Richard E. Wood** of Abha, Saudi Arabia told about DX in Abha ... **Pat Martin** of Seaside, OR received a verie from DXRS 1206 Surigao City, Philippines ... **Bill Nittler** of Kemmerer, WY was surprised that Salt Lake City stations were very weak ... **Frank Aden** Jr of Portland, OR mentioned he uses a MWV-Preselector from plans in a recent IRCA Technical Column.

OPEN MIKE

Have you asked Santa for some cool new gadgets yet? This column was typed 12-1-07. 73, John



EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

Lee J. Freshwater – 414 SE 3rd St. – Ocala, FL 34471
E-mail: lfreshwater@cox.net

Deadlines: Saturdays 8 AM!:

STARS OF THE WEEK

(JC-DE) **John Cereghin** Smyrna, DE FRG7, 200' longwire
 (WM-MD) **William McGuire** 2412 59th Place, Cheverly, MD DX-398
 (WM-TN) **Willis Monk** Old Fort, TN Drake R-4C, 149' LW

LOGGINGS

610 FL WIOD Miami 11/13 0300 "WIOD News Radio 610". (WM-TN)
 850 CO KOA Denver 11/21 2005 "News Radio 850". ID. (WM-MD)
 IL WCPT Crystal Lake 22/18 0600 ID only at 0600 given, "Progressive talk, WCPT." (WM-TN)
 910 VA WWWR USA radio news at 0600 on top of channel for about 3 minutes. (WM-MD)
 920 WV WMMN Roanoke 11/23 1808 S. Gspl Mx hrd: "3-W-R". (WM-MD)
 1270 SC WHGS Faimont 11/23 1800 Promo for WV sports; ID; Fox Sports Radio. (WM-MD)
 Hampton 11/24 1720 ID, into maybe a college football pregame show, ad for Dunkin Donuts, "with locations all across the Upstate". Clemson and South Carolina are playing a game tonight, so maybe relaying Clemson football pregame show? (JC-DE)
 1280 VA WYVE Wytheville 11/27 0705 ID, wx. (JC-DE)
 1310 SC WDKD Kingstree 22/13 0130 "THE STAR 93.7" Then QSBEd. (I looked this up on Barry's list and it told me that "The Star" WSIM is /with WDKD). Nice signal for about 2 minutes. Had full ID of both stations at 0200. (WM-TN)
 (Cheap Plug time... try www.amlogbook.com - eo)
 1360 NJ WNNJ Newton 11/23 2250 Xmas mx, jingle ID, my 30th NJ station. (JC-DE)
 1440 GA WGM1 Bremen 11/26 0820 "Got to www.wgmi and listen all day." Lots of QSB. (WM-TN)

***** Thanks to all this week. Hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. Willis had a few loggings that I could not use due to the 30 day rule BUT, this was FUNNY, so I am putting it below the line.
 WEIS AL CENTRE 1705 20/10/07 Reading obits. "To have your obit read on WEIS, write to WEIS two weeks in advance." (WM-TN). Lee. How could I write and have my obit read on this station two weeks in advance. IF, I had died????? I just report, you decide. HI! ... That made my week, Thanks Willis! see you all next week...
 Fresh 12/01 0830

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

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

Greetings everyone,
 Some more nice QSLs from Bruce Portzer and John Bryant this time around. The A&K are back down so DX should be a bit better than last week.

TROPICAL-BAND DX ROUNDUP

531 JAPAN, Morioka JOQG hrd 1409 UTC 11/19 with JJ talk, very poor. (BB-AZ)
 594 JAPAN, Tokyo JOAK hrd 1347 11/19 with JJ talk, poor. (BB-AZ)
 648 UNID, Hrd station with EE words "Mike and Sugar", 1353 UTC 11/19. Who is this? (BB-AZ) (Maybe EE language lessons on NHK station? PM)
 657 DR KOREA, 1402 11/19 with man talking and some mx 1412 11/19. (BB-AZ)
 666 JAPAN, Osaka JOBK 1335 11/19 with JJ talk, very poor. (BB-AZ)
 693 JAPAN, Tokyo JOAB 1342 11/19 with JJ talk, fair. (BB-AZ)
 729 JAPAN, Nagoya 1404 11/19, very poor, first time hrd. (BB-AZ)
 747 JAPAN, Sapporo JOIB 1338 UTC 11/19 with JJ talk, good. (BB-AZ)
 774 JAPAN, Akita JOUB 1337 11/19, JJ talk, very good. (BB-AZ)
 828 JAPAN, Osaka JOBB 1335 11/19, JJ talk, very good. (BB-AZ)
 11341 JAPAN, Tokyo JOQR? 1513 12/1 brief music, then faded, Splatter. (DV-WA)
 1269 JAPAN, weak with mn in JJ at 0915 11/30. (PM-OR)

1566 **REP KOREA**, Cheju HLAZ 1423 12/1 weak with man in Asian language. (DV-WA)
1575 **THAILAND**, VOA 1428 12/1 weak with man in Asian language, VOA EE ID at 1429. (DV-WA)
1593 **CHINA**, at 1504 12/1 weak with man in CC. (DV-WA)

QSLS

1053 **GREAT BRITAIN**, Talksport sent stickers and certificate signed by Neil Sedley, Technology Mgr in 27d. (BP-WA)
1062 **PHILIPPINES**, Quezon City, DZEC, from follow up going back to 2001, rec. a beautiful envelope from Eagle Broadcasting Company in Quezon City. V/S: Mr. Benildo C. Santiago, EBC Network Manager. (JB-WA)
1071 **JAPAN**, Hiroshima JOFK; NHK 1, sent reports 4 or 5 times over the years and sent 7/ups with no avail. This time I enclosed mint stamps and almost by accident a blank photo postcard of the San Juan Islands, to give them a picture of where I live. But what I received was my own postcard back with a handwritten message. (JB-WA) (Great going John. I never got one direct, so I got a freq. only one from NHK HQ, PM)
1260 **JAPAN**, Sendai JOIR, No V/S Very nice card. (JB-WA)
1386 **JAPAN**, Kanazawa JOJB sent unsigned full detail card in 12 days (BP-WA) (Another good one. PM)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

BB-AZ **BILL BLOCK**, Prescott Valley AZ billwblock@msn.com
DXing with Drake R8; EWE and KAZ antennas
JB-WA **JOHN BRYANT**, Stillwater OK bjohncas@rockisland.com
BP-WA **BRUCE PORTZER**, Seattle WA bportzer@comcast.net
DV-WA **DENNIS VROOM**, Vancouver WA vroomski@comcast.net
DXing with JRC 545 NW EWE
PM-OR **PATRICK MARTIN**, PO Box 843, Seaside OR 97138-0843 mwdxr@webtv.net
DXing from Drake R8, SPR4, WNW & SW EWE antennas.

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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

E-mail: nhp@ieee.org

The SONY SRF-59 Walkman... A Supreme MW-DX Overachiever

by Gary DeBock

An AM-FM Stereo portable with included headphones, having an AM section so sensitive and selective that it is capable of TP reception... all for a price of about \$16.00? Is this possible in today's inflated marketplace, where many manufacturers seem to have forgotten the concept of superior AM performance? The answer is a resounding, "Yes!"



Introduction. The Sony SRF-59 is a very small portable that could easily be mistaken for a child's disposable toy. Having no speaker, and with the included FM stereo circuitry and headphones, one could easily get the impression that Sony's design effort was concentrated on the FM side, to the detriment of AM. Even if not, how much performance can medium-wave DXers expect from such a small and inexpensive analog portable? An incredible amount, actually. Sony has packed an amazingly sensitive and selective design into the tiny SRF-59, which not only tunes the entire (530-1700 kHz) AM band with pleasing audio and AGC action, but does so with remarkable freedom from

image and spurious signals (the bane of most inexpensive portables). Regardless of the added benefits of portability and price, such a rare combination deserves praise, in the reviewer's opinion.

Construction. Physically, at 65 x 93 x 26.5 mm (about 3 x 4 x 1 inches) the SRF-59 will easily fit into a shirt pocket, and partly due to the lack of a speaker, weight is a miniscule 84 g (3 ounces). It comes in an attractive silver and gray-colored plastic case with a blue analog dial, very similar to the transistor portables most of us grew up with in the pre-digital age (except perhaps for the "17" at the right of the AM dial). Controls are very basic, with only two thumbwheel controls for tuning and volume (AM) and a sensitivity switch (FM only). Except for the on-off and AM-FM switches, that's it! Having no speaker, the SRF-59 has a stereo headphone mini-jack at the top of its case, and includes a basic set of stereo headphones (acceptable for MW DXing, but not recommended for FM stereo enthusiasts). Although this review will focus on the AM performance, the set's stereo FM performance is also commendable, with the headphone wire serving as an external antenna. The FM reception is adequate (as long as the headphone wire is oriented properly), but would not satisfy a demanding FM DXer. The set runs on a single AA battery (not included), which is covered by a hinged door at the lower part of the rear case. User reports (on Amazon) indicate that this battery has excellent run time, no doubt due to the lack of a speaker. Finally, a plastic belt clip is included, which attaches to the rear of the case.

Circuitry. Disassembly of the compact SRF-59 is not recommended, but for the purpose of this review, it was absolutely necessary. After removal of the two screws and careful separation of the front and back, it was discovered that such separation will disconnect the geared plastic linkage between the tuner and the orange tuning dial needle, leaving the dial needle linkage loose, in the front case slot. This is not a fatal problem, but it should be enough to deter all but the most curious hobbyists (like the reviewer) from attempting such disassembly. The circuit board assembly, attached to the rear case, has a 1.75 inch ferrite bar antenna, an IF band pass filter (assumed, as it's marked "BPF", and for AM, because of proximity to the ferrite bar), and other discrete components (not surface-mount construction, a big surprise). Sony's famous proprietary IC chip (presumably the reason for the amazing AM performance) is hidden on the bottom of the circuit board, forcing the radio hobbyist to wrestle the glued circuit board upward from the back plastic case and peek underneath, before this important discovery can be made. There are actually two IC's on the bottom of the circuit board - the second is presumed to be a small AF amplifier chip. Finally, for those like the reviewer who must reassemble the unit, the trick is to engage the tuner's gear wheel with the dial needle's plastic geared linkage... definitely easier said than done, because of the radio's tight fit, and the need to exactly match the dial and tuner frequencies.

Performance. Any doubts that the SRF-59 is a serious AM performer will be quickly dispelled, once fringe reception is attempted. Daytime MW-DX performance of the SRF-59 is nothing short of astonishing, with not only the usual weak-signal stations having solid audio, but even the toughest portable catches being possible. In the reviewer's typical suburban environment of Puyallup, Washington (having numerous Seattle semi-locals but only three strong locals within 5 miles), the unit not only easily receives the typical fringe test stations of KONA-610 (160 miles), CFAX-1070 (110 miles) and KDRZ-1640 (120 miles) at high noon, but in the somewhat enhanced November conditions occasionally prevailing, has received nighttime audio fading in and out from KNRO-1670 (440 miles) and mumbled 1:00PM audio from KFBK-1530 (580 miles).

Competitive Testing. Although the SRF-59 will be one of four "Mighty Mite" radios competitively tested in an upcoming "shootout", for the purpose of this stand-alone review, it will be compared to the reviewer's ICF-2010, ICF-SW7600GR, and ICF-S5W units. This is not to imply that the tiny Walkman is a suitable substitute for any of these fine receivers; indeed, the SRF-59 has its own unique issues, as detailed in "Wish List" below. But as a simple yardstick of the Walkman's sensitivity, selectivity, and rejection of unwanted images and birdies, it is hoped that such direct comparison will assist the reader in accurately judging the performance capabilities of this tiny portable.

In extensive daytime sensitivity tests performed for the Sony ICF-EX5 review (appearing originally in the IRCA Technical Column for May 12, 2007, and kindly republished by Colin Newell on his excellent dxer.ca web site), it was determined that the ICF-S5W has a moderate sensitivity edge over the ICF-2010, which in turn has a moderate sensitivity edge over the ICF-SW7600GR (inclusive of sync detector function). These three highly respected receivers (all aligned and checked for proper operation) were used to measure the SRF-59's relative performance at local noon on November 26, 2007, a day with somewhat below-average reception conditions.

KONA-610: The SRF-59's signal quality was clearly superior to that of the SW7600GR (with sync detector on). The Walkman had weak, mumbled audio, whereas the SW7600GR had only a carrier (on SSB), with no audio. When the SRF-59 was compared to the 2010, the 2010 and the tiny Walkman had roughly similar signal quality when the 2010's sync detector was off (weak, mumbled audio), but the 2010 was clearly superior to the SRF-59 when the sync circuit was on (having steady weak audio). As expected, the S5W was again the most sensitive, with steady moderate audio.

CFAX-1070: This station provided only weak, mumbled audio on the SW7600GR (sync on), but the SRF-59 again showed its superior sensitivity by receiving steady weak audio. The Walkman and the

synch-off 2010 again were almost identical with steady weak audio, the 2010 again needing the synch circuit to provide weak to moderate audio. The S5W had steady moderate audio.

KD2R-1640: This station's signal produced only a weak SSB carrier on the SW7600GR. The SRF-59 and the synch-less 2010 again deadlocked with weak mumbling audio, with the 2010 providing steady weak audio in the synch mode (identical to the S5W).

So to summarize the sensitivity tests, the SRF-59 was clearly more sensitive than the SW7600GR on all frequencies. Its sensitivity was roughly equivalent to the 2010's as long as the synch detector was off, but was clearly inferior to the 2010's with synch on. Since the reviewer was somewhat astonished at these results, a different 2010 was substituted during the competition with the Walkman, but the same results were obtained.

In the selectivity tests, the SRF-59 again proved it was competitive with the other receivers. The bandpass filter (described above) does a superlative job, proving every bit as effective as the S5W's ceramic filter. Fringe CHMJ-730 can be heard with very little KIRO-710 splatter, and KPQ-560 can easily be received in the null of KVI-570. Only the 2010's combination of the narrow filter and synch detector was slightly more effective than the Walkman's bandpass filter, in rejecting adjacent splatter.

The biggest surprise for the reviewer was the SRF-59's almost total freedom from image and spurious signal reception. Very careful investigation from 530 to 1700 produced only a hint of a spurious whistle on 730 kHz, although it was so weak as to be negligible (this was in my moderate-RF suburban environment). By comparison, the SW7600GR has both image and spurious issues, and the S5W has a serious image issue. Even the 2010 has minor spurious problems (as documented in the EX5 review, which also details the image and spurious issues of the S5W and 7600GR), but Sony has apparently solved both kinds of problems, in this SRF-59. To tune from 530 to 1700 in a small portable and have almost total freedom from images and birdies is astonishing, regardless of price.

As mentioned previously, the Walkman's audio comes only from headphones, so superb AGC performance is required to prevent sudden loud audio from irritating the searching DXer. Rest assured that Sony has accomplished this very well, with the combination of great AGC action, and pleasant audio. An upgrade in headphone quality will provide the user with even more pleasing audio and comfort, if desired.

TP-DXing with the SRF-59. The Walkman's excellent sensitivity and selectivity make barefoot transoceanic reception quite possible, as the reviewer has discovered with loggings of JOAK-594, JOIB-747 and HLCA-972. However, these contacts are much more challenging (and exciting) than routine TP contacts. Success depends primarily on the operator's attitude, his familiarity of "powerhouse" TP stations, and knowledge of propagation. Sheer luck also helps, as does a salt water location (the reviewer is 4 miles from salt-water Puget Sound). The analog SRF-59 has no digital frequency readout, SSB capability to check carriers, memories, or selectable filters. It has only a tuning control, and a volume control... and that's it! In this medium-wave equivalent of ham radio's QRP operation, the operator's skill and determination must compensate for his extremely limited equipment. "Routine" TP contacts are no longer routine, and you must work hard for them! Sound interesting? For the reviewer, it has been a fascinating challenge.

For best results, my recommendation is to have a fully TP-capable receiver like the 2010. E1, R8 (or equivalent) to first "spot" powerhouse TP stations in the clear, during propagation peaks. When the audio of the TP station becomes sufficiently strong and QRM-free, the SRF-59 has a fighting chance to log it. Every experienced TP-DXer knows which "powerhouse" stations are likely to be strongest at his location - here, it is JOAK-594, and JOIB-774. I followed the above procedures to make these first two TP loggings, which were a great thrill on such a tiny radio! The logging of HLCA-972, however, was due more to sheer luck. I had never logged this station before on any receiver, and during a propagation peak during the Asian sunset, the station suddenly faded in to a tremendous level on my 2010. At the peak of this fade-in, I urgently grabbed the SRF-59, hurriedly tuned to the right of KJR-950, and caught a trace of Korean, right before HLCA again faded away completely! The feeling of excitement and accomplishment was amazing, and it is the reviewer's sincere hope that other TP-DXers (most of whom are far more experienced) will accept the challenge (and enjoy the satisfaction) of TP-DXing with this amazing portable.

Wish List. As you may have guessed, the tiny SRF-59 is not quite perfect. Probably the biggest user complaint will be the somewhat touchy thumbwheel tuning control, which requires a very steady thumb for best results (especially at the top of the band). Aside from this, some users may dislike the lack of a speaker, and the analog design. For these DXers, Sony and other manufacturers have designed alternative digital radios similar to the SRF-59 (soon to be compared in a separate review). Indeed, for the Walkman's basic DX performance, this reviewer cannot find any serious issues to criticize.

Verdict. The SRF-59 Walkman provides an incredible value for the medium-wave DXer. Not only highly sensitive and selective, it also tunes the entire band with pleasing audio, great AGC, and almost total freedom from images and birdies. Such an accomplishment would be commendable in any portable, but when the price of \$16.08 (Amazon) is considered, the value is astonishing. The SRF-59's portability and versatility make it an obvious choice for casual DXers, as well as for serious DXers looking for new challenges. The reviewer has found the radio quite capable of barefoot TP

reception, providing even the most experienced DXers with a new way to test their skill, patience, and knowledge of propagation. In summary, the SRF-59 is a quick ticket to fun, and an unbeatable value!

Best Wishes to Ali, Gary DeBock (N7EKK), PO Box 1313, Puyallup WA 98371 (d1028gary@aol.com) (This review first appeared on Collin Newell's website <http://www.dxer.com>)

SPORTCHANNELS IRCA

Compiled by: Dale Park

E-mail: dxfool@aol.com

Aloha and Hauoli Makahiki Hou (happy holidays). This column is dedicated to the University of Hawaii Warriors football team, who completed its regular season as the only undefeated major college team in the country and is headed to the Sugar Bowl, by beating Washington. (Sorry, Bytheway and Portzer.) Here's what I have laying around as of 12/02/07—

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Baltimore RAVENS
570 WTNT-MD 1470 WTRR-MD 106.3 WCEM-MD r
910 WSBA-PA 1490 WARK-MD 107.1 WCBC-WV
930 WFMD-MD FM: (continued next issue)
1090 WBAL-MD r 92.5 WXMD-MD
1240 WCEM-MD 97.7 WRKZ-MD
1360 WHBG-VA 97.9 WIYY-MD
1400 WINC-VA 101.1 WQMR-MD

Gerry Sandusky, Rob Burnett, Stan White, Steve Davis-ST

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.

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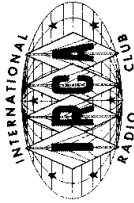
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