



January 19, 2008 - Volume 45, Number 18 - Edition 1430 - ISSN 899-9733

Nominations Are Open for the TVA and RHA Awards for 2007-2008

Ted Vasilopoulos Award (TVA)

Ted Vasilopoulos was a charter member of IRCA who died in 1965, and was known for his high DX standards and contributions to the club. This award in his honor is presented to the IRCA member who has contributed the most to IRCA and the DX hobby during the past several years. The following persons have won the TVA in the last five years and are ineligible this year: Nick Hall-Patch, Lee Freshwater, Doug Pifer, Phil Bytheway, and Rich Toebe.

Ric Heald Award (RHA)

Ric Heald was an enthusiastic IRCA volunteer and contributor. In 1995, after his passing, the RHA was created to recognize the IRCA member who most benefited the club in a particularly noteworthy way during the previous year. The following persons have won the RHA in the last three years and are ineligible this year: Lynn Hollerman, Les Rayburn, and Art Blair.

All nominations, including a brief statement supporting the nomination, shall be sent to the folks listed below.

TVA Nominations:

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

RHA Nominations:

Lynn Hollerman, P.O. Box 60241, Lafayette, LA 70506 USA. E-mail: ircamember@ircanline.org

All nominations must be received by the above no later than February 1, 2008.

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 dxer@desert4wd.com if you're interested.

IRCA Convention 2008 News

The 2008 IRCA Convention will be held at the Days Inn in Flagstaff, Arizona on Route 66 September 12-14. The room rates are \$65 for Single, Double, Triple or Quad. We will have station tours, auction and banquet. Flagstaff is in Northern Arizona at 7,000 feet so it should not be hot with a average high of 75. Start making your plans now for Flagstaff 2008!

Bill Block, 7716 E. Thelma Drive, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 billwblock@msn.com

DX TESTS – BROADCAST TEST COORDINATOR

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

E-mail: KH2AR@comcast.net (times are Eastern)

<http://www.dxtests.info>

BTC 2007-2008 Mid-Season Report - Jan. 13, 2008

We are currently at approximately the mid-point of the 2007-2008 medium wave DX season, and it seems like a good time to give you an interim report on the work of your Broadcast Test Committee.

As you can probably guess, many hours of work goes into contacting stations, scheduling and arranging tests, and making sure all the loose ends get tied up after the test actually runs.

So far this season, the committee has contacted roughly 188 different stations in the United States and Canada with requests for DX tests. The majority of these stations were approached by sending a request package to a specific individual there, and included a detailed letter, a brochure about our hobby, a couple of maps showing the coverage success of some previous tests, copies of the two

stories that ran in the local press about the WLPO test and an SASE. The list of stations, compiled by committee member J.D. Stephens, was taken primarily from club bulletins reporting individuals who were good verifiers or who had otherwise demonstrated a friendly attitude toward DXers.

From these nearly 200 stations contacted, we received positive responses from 11 stations. Admittedly, not a particularly great return rate, but as most of us know, we are up against a lot of challenges in trying to get stations to test in the current broadcasting environment. In any case, we are very thankful to those stations who have agreed to test for us.

One of the goals I set when I took over the position as BTC Coordinator was to use current technology as much as possible to improve the delivery of information to DXers. Committee member Brandon Jordan already had the highly successful and useful DXTests.info Web site up and running, and we have continued to use it to deliver timely and accurate information on tests.

Another of our committee members and a decorated veteran of the CPC/IBTC arena, J.D. Stephens, has broken new ground with the BTC Podcast. J.D. has done seven of these very informative presentations so far, all in an extremely professional and entertaining manner.

Looking ahead to the rest of the season, I am preparing request packages for about another 40 stations. Additionally, a couple of our committee members are working on direct contacts with stations in hopes of scheduling tests by them in the near future. And we are still trying to nail down dates and times with a few other stations who have agreed in principle to test. We'll announce details on all these just as soon as we are able to firm them up.

This brings me to a couple of requests I'd like to make of you in the DX community. First, "cold call" requests for DX tests is just one part of this process. Although we have "official" members of our committee, I like to think of everyone who listens for the tests as potential ex officio members.

So, if you work at a station, if you have a friend or acquaintance who works at a station in your area, or would just like an excuse to meet your local chief engineer or station manager, why not approach them about the possibility of a test? Since station engineering personnel are often hams, if you are also a ham, this may be an area of common interest where your paths cross.

If you make an initial contact with a station and they seem interested, please pass the info along to me. I'll be happy to make an official contact with the station and send them a request package.

Second, as you can probably imagine, mailing out requests to stations is a somewhat costly enterprise. Each package requires about \$1 in postage plus the cost of the stamp for the SASE. In addition to this is the cost of the envelopes used, and paper for printing letters and other items.

Contributions of stamps or cash to aid in this work would be very helpful. I'll be happy to send a receipt to anyone who needs one, and will make a full accounting of all contributions and expenditures in my end of the season report. Thanks in advance for any such financial assistance you can provide.

The DX test season is now roughly half over. Although we currently only have one additional test on the calendar, please rest assured that your committee is still hard at work. But with numbers comes strength. If you can help get the ball rolling on a test from a station in your area, we gratefully welcome your help.

In conclusion, I send my sincere thanks to fellow committee members: J.D. Stephens, Brandon Jordan, Joe Miller, Paul Walker and our newest member Saul Chemos. They each bring special talents and capabilities to our efforts, and I am very honored to work with all of them.

Please consider doing your part to open the doors for a test from a station in your area. Working together, I believe we can get many more tests on the calendar, stations in our logbooks and QSLs in our collections.

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

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:

(AB) **Art Blair**-730 SW 3rd St.-Fruitland, ID 83619

NRD-515, Kiwa loop

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

Drake R8, EWE (20x50x20)

(MF) **Martin Foltz**-Mission Viejo, CA martinfoltz@cox.net

HQ-180A, 1 foot air core loop

(PM) **Patrick Martin**-P.O. Box 843-Seaside, OR 97138-0843 mwdxer@webtv.net

Drake R8, SW EWE, 1500' Eastern Beverage term., Quantum Phaser

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

Sony SRF-59 barefoot

590 KUGN OR, Eugene 1/3 2238 college basketball, Arizona State vs Oregon. Fair with rapid fading. (AB-ID)

630 CHED AB, Edmonton 1/1 0200 with good signal and CHED ID. (DV-WA)

660 CFFR AB, Calgary 1/2 0917 fair with information on Calgary property tax. (DV-WA)

740 KVOX ND, Fargo 1/8 while listening to CHWO, this Fox Sports station faded up just before 0300 with ID as "740 KVOX Fargo," into more Fox sports. New. Listed as 940 watts at night, then lost under CHWO/KTRH. (PM-OR)

780 KRMG OK, Tulsa 1/7 0849 with "KRMG" way on top of KCBS. (BB-AZ)

790 WBBM IL, Chicago 1/6 0358 weak with WBBM ID in KKOH null. (DV-WA)

KGHL MI, Billings 1/3 2306 "Mighty 790 KGHL" ID/slogan into C&W music. Fair. (AB-ID) (Art, you will have to try for them again, as of 1/7 they are using their new tower with 30% more coverage. -NU)

KFYO TX, Lubbock 12/28-1833 with ID "KFYO" then back into talk. (BB-AZ)

830 KLAZ CA, Orange 1/6 underover KNCO with So Cal weather and spots at 1944. (PM-OR)

880 KJJR MI, Kalamazoo 1/3 0900 good signal with KJJR ID. (DV-WA)

1100 KWWN NV, Las Vegas 1/1 2151 tune in to local NV ads. ESPN programming, relaying ESPN 9-20, top of their ID for KBAD and KVVN. Strong signal with some fades. New! (MF-CA)

1170 KPUG WA, Bellingham 1/2 2315 fair with "Fiesta Bowl" ESPN sports. (DV-WA)

1230 KAAA AZ, Kingman 12/30 1932 with "All talk A to Z KAAA Kingman." (BB-AZ)

KATO AZ, Safford 12/30 1958 with "KATO Safford." (BB-AZ)

1290 KGVO MI, Missoula 1/4 2158 "Newstalk KGVO" ID/slogan. (AB-ID)

1300 KCMY NV, Carson City 1/2 1847 fair for a few minutes with KCMY ID. (DV-WA)

1330 KKPZ OR, Portland 1/2 0900 "Your God and Country Station, KKPZ" ID/slogan, into brief weather and KKPZ ID. (AB-ID)

1380 KHEY TX, El Paso 12/29 0833 with "1380 ESPN Radio for El Paso." (BB-AZ)

1390 KLGK UT, Logan 12/29 1706 with "Memories 1390 KLGK." (BB-AZ)

1410 KERN CA, Bakersfield 1/4 1931 with "KERN Newstime 4:31," into traffic report. (BB-AZ)

1500 KSTP MN, St. Paul 1/2 0920 fair with KSTP ID. (DV-WA)

1550 KYCY CA, San Francisco 1/11 2123 fair with KYCY ID, in local KKAD null. (DV-WA)

1630 KCJJ IA, Iowa City 1/7 0145 good with pop music, KCJJ ID's and local spots S9+ over unID religious sounding station. No sign of WY. (PM-OR)

+ 1/11 1138 fair with KCJJ ID then faded seconds later. No sign of KKWY. (DV-WA)

1640 KDIA CA, Vallejo 1/7 2230 fair with KDIA ID and religious programming. Local KDZR null. (DV-WA)

Thanks to our five reporters, from five different states this week! Nancy 1/11 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 radio.

DOWN THE DIAL
 1070 KATQ MT, Plentywood. 1-10 over and under a nulled KNX. 21:01 with girl's basketball game, "...here on KATQ." [NJ-MT]
 1290 CFRW MB, Winnipeg. 1-10 good on the TrailBlazer radio. 20:02 with "CFRW a Chum Radio Station" into oldies music. [NJ-MT]
 1300 KGLO IA, Mason City. 1-10 weak through others on the TrailBlazer radio. 19:59 with "KGLO" ID. [NJ-MT]
 KKOL WA, Seattle. 1-11 loud. 20:00 with legal ID. [NJ-MT]

25 YEARS AGO
 January 15, 1983 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **Richard E. Wood** of Abha, Saudi Arabia commented on different mail delivery delays ... **Ernest R. Cooper** of Provincetown, MA said he had a buyer for his R-390-AJURR and was trying to decide on a replacement ... **Ric Heald** of Eureka, CA mentioned **Randy Torner** and **John Arthur** helped him install a couple of new antennas.

OPEN MIKE
 Nancy tuned away from XM to log a couple of stations in the TrailBlazer this week. This column was typed 1-12-08. 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,
 I hope everyone had a great Christmas/New Year's season and we are on to a new year. Reports recently show the beginning of a new solar cycle with the peak round 2012. It looks like an interesting year. Also I got a tentative log on one of my most wants with DW Sri Lanka 1548 with programming in EE/IGG. Some nice QSLs to report from Nigel Pimblett also. So away we go.

TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

675 UNID, woman in Asian language at 1338 UTC 1/9, weak with much splatter. (DV-WA) (Vietnam? Heard a lot more often and stronger than years ago. Now running 700 KW. PM)

693 JAPAN, Tokyo JOAB noted with audio from 1420-1427 UTC 1/8. (BB-AZ)

774 JAPAN, Akita weak with splatter at 1328 1/9 with man in JJ. (DV-WA)

828 JAPAN, Osaka JOBB 1347 1/9 weak with woman in JJ. (DV-WA)

1098 MARSHALL IS, Majuro V7AD 1/8 1120 UTC. Island contemporary mx with reggae beat, traditional island mx at 1126, male with talk the faded out and back in (ID missed) at 1128, NA followed by dead air. Fair to very poor, QRM KAOI 1110. (5P-H)

1503 PHILIPPINES, Davao City DYAB very good at times with apparent news at 1616 UTC with man in Tagalog, several mentions of "ABS-CBN". Peaking at S7+. Not new, but surprised to hear so well in January. (PM-OR)

1548t SRI LANKA, DW, presumed the man with German accented EE at 1620 1/2. At first I was going by without stopping thinking it was the usual 4QD, until I caught the accent. I noticed that is not an Aussie accent. So I continued to listen in the off and on with 1550 splatter with deep fades, and the more I listened the more I could catch occasional words in German also. Then after 1630, the program sounded all German. Not bad at times with peak at S8, but still a fair amount of 1550 splatter. I sent a tentative CD to DW in Germany as I did get a fair amount of programming off and on. I tried for SW //, but no dice, as propagation was not good on SW. That is not uncommon when MW CX are good, SW often is not. I am sure tickled with this one, at least a tentative new country for 2008. Heard on SW & WNW phased giving me a NW lobe. Was only audible in that position. I'm keeping my fingers crossed. (PM-OR)

1566 REP KOREA, Cheju HLAZ 1344 1/9 weak with woman in Asian language. (PM-OR)

VERIFICATIONS

639 JAPAN, Shizuoka JOPB QSL card and letter in 32 days. (NP-AB)

666 JAPAN, Osaka JOBB full data verie letter (although it gave my receiving location as Finland!) from v/s Hiroataka Matsui in 35d. (NP-AB)

720 RUSSIA, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Voice of Russia Japanese service, sent QSL card with picture of the Kremlin and a New Year's card signed by Elena Osipova in two months. Envelope was postmarked Dec 14 but not received until Jan 7 for some reason. Ms. Osipova had sent me an e-mail in mid December saying the report was correct and a card was on its way. I was starting to wonder what happened to it. (BP-WA)

855 DEM REP. KOREA, Radio Pyongyang PBS QSL card, letter, pennant. Voice of Korea pin, and copy of Korea Today magazine in 70 days. (NP-AB) (Great QSL, as the NK QSLs are not easy to get. PM)

909 JAPAN, Nagoya JOCB QSL card in 21 days. (NP-AB)

1044 CHINA, Changzhou CRI "China's Endangered Animals" QSL card and calendar in 39 days. (NP-AB)

1215 GREAT BRITAIN, Virgin Radio sent large QSL card with picture of U2 (the rock band) in 11 weeks for CD report. V/s Mark Bodenham - Technology Operations Manager. (BP-WA)

1395 ALBANIA, Flirake TWR QSL card and TWR Europe sked from v/s Beth Chick in 18d. (NP-AB) (Another good one. PM)

1521 CHINA, Urumqi CRI qsl card, NY card and brief note in 73 days. (NP-AB) (Urumqi is a long haul from Alberta. Great. I don't hear it all that often here. PM)

1557 TAIWAN, Kouhu, Family Radio QSL card and Family Radio literature in 53 days. (NP-AB)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

BB-AZ **BILL BLOCK**, Prescott Valley AZ billwblock@msn.com
 DXing with Drake R8, KAZ and West EWE

5P-HI **DALE PARK**, Honolulu HI dxfool@aol.com
 DXing with Sangean AT5-818CS, Terk AM1000 loop

NP-AB **NIGEL PIMBLETT**, Alberta njp@shockware.com
 BP-WA **BRUCE PORTZER**, Seattle WA bportzer@cmcast.net
 DXing with SDR-IQ and K9AY antenna

DV-WA DENNIS VROOM, Vancouver WA vroomski@comcast.net
DXing with JRC545, NW EWE
PM-OR PATRICK MARTIN, PO Box 843, Seaside OR 97138-0843 mwdxer@webtv.net
DXing with Drake R8, WNW EWE, SW EWE, Quantum Phasing unit

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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

E-mail: nhp@ieee.org

SRF-59 vs DT-210V

by Bruce Bacon, N7BWB

Background

Bear with me ULR fans, this is going to take awhile! I bought my Sangean DT-210V a year or so ago to accompany me on my motorcycle tours, and to replace a withering Sangean DT300W which had seen too much unprotected life in my tank bag. The 300 was pretty beat up and had an intermittent earphone jack. I'd never been terribly impressed with the 300 for DXing, but it was a good pal for listening on the road. But everything changed with the DT210V... sensitivity, selectivity, nulling ability, and overall quality of feel was miles ahead of the 300. It worked. Fast forward about a year...

The revolution started. Gary DeBock and others discovered the incredible virtues of the SRF-59 and we are where we are now. Viva la revolution!

Except... after I mentioned the DT-210V on the IRCA mail list, Gary bought one... and his spewed turkey feathers everywhere! It was a dud. Images, poor sensitivity and certainly NOT the DT-210V that I had grown to love and cherish. We considered that perhaps the newer versions of this radio had somehow been re-(or de) engineered. Gary sent me his 210V for comparison to my unit. No contest. It was nowhere near as good as my unit. OK, maybe the newer versions were re-engineered and they are all duds after all. I had to find out, and gambled \$50 bucks with Amazon. The new unit came in, and is in fact NOT a turkey. It is actually a tad more sensitive than my first 210V on the higher end of the band, and a little less sensitive on the lower end of the band. I smell a quality control problem.

During this time I acquired not one but two SRF-59's, primarily for audio phrasing per Kevin's Schanilec's excellent article (IRCA Technical Column 12 Jan 2008). But I noticed that both Sangean's were significantly more sensitive than the SRF-59's! What? Gary, bless his ULR-loving heart, sent me a completely aligned SRF-59 as a standard for comparison. Yeah, Gary!

Some observations after a couple of evenings of listening...
My two SRF-59's are down in sensitivity across the band compared to Gary-Certified SRF-59 and my DT-210V's. On a scale from one to five, I'd say they are 2-2.5 below in terms of sensitivity. If it wobbles like a turkey and gobbles like a turkey, well... you know the rest... feathers fly!

The comparison, however, between to GC-SRF-59 and the DT-210V is very interesting, each having their strong points.

<Begin mini-shootout>

Selectivity

The '59 is no doubt more selective than the 210V. I had both in Boise (for a stronger signal, we're 12 miles ENE of our capitol city) during the evening and found that with proper nulling, both KTNN (660) and KNBR (680) were relatively splatter free from KBOI (670). On the other hand, the '210V suffered from a fair amount of splatter. Both KTNN and KNBR were listenable, certainly, but not without some degree of pain. Score one for the Fearless Fifty-Nine.

Selectivity: SRF-59:A DT-210V:B

Sensitivity

Sensitivity, especially combined with audio quality is something else entirely. The '210V is easily as sensitive as the '59, but with the addition of a superior audio section, the '210 for me just seems to eke out the weak ones better, and with a more listenable signal. The '210 has more "punch" than the '59 and with that, produces a more listenable signal.

A few days ago, I recorded WCCO (1100 miles) on both radios: in the following link you will find the recording of this session. The first thirty seconds are from the SRF-59, the second from the DT-210V. They alternate from there: http://www.mobile-designs.com/WCCO_SRF-59_DT-210V.WMA.
Score one for the Trembling Two-Ten Victor.

Sensitivity: SRF-59:A DT-210V:A

Audio Punch: SRF-59:B- DT-210V:A

Nulling Ability

It is well-documented that the '59 has a simply amazing capacity to null offending stations, local and otherwise. My best test here is Boise's KFXD and Denver's KHOW on 630kHz. At thirty-eight and a half miles from our QTH, KFXD isn't exactly a local, but it does put a pretty strong signal here.

Twist and turn the fifty-nine to put the exact null on KFXD and KHOW is all alone. Astounding. The DT-210V is absolutely no slouch in this department, the nulls are excellent. But, ULR fans, the '210 cannot eliminate KFXD without a little help from its friend... the companion DT-210V assisting in audio

phasing the dickens outta KFXD. Then, and only then, does KHOW stand alone on the DT-210V. Score another for the Frightening Fifty-Nine. (See the accompanying photo for a little Lexan mount (fastened with Velcro) I made with a \$5.00 tripod I bought at Fred Meyers. It comes in very handy for audio phasing or side-by-side comparison. The black box houses two pots that were used as volume controls. Unfortunately, I bought the 0-10k pots from RS and one is intermittent. The audio phase-cross is hard-wired now and works a charm.)

Nullability: SRF-59: A DT-210V:B



Ease-of-use

In this category, there will be some controversy. How can we compare ease-of-use between two radios that are at such a cost differential? I mean, really, the '59 is less than twenty bucks, the '210V is two and a half times as much... currently around \$50 US on Amazon. Well, for these 55 year-old fingers and eyes, it is a cost versus value issue. I value 10 (or 9!) khz button pushes! On the other hand, it is really tough for me to smoothly tune the '59. I'll find a signpost frequency, then count up or down in 10khz increments as I tune, and invariably my finger will slip and I'll get lost. Frustrating Fifty-Nine; Tune-Tune-Tuning Two-Ten.

Ease-of-use: SRF-59:C DT-210V:A

Value

The next category is a no-brainer: value for your DX dollar. OK, kind of. If superior audio quality and digital tuning (and memories) aren't that big a deal to you... if all you are looking for is the absolute cheapest way to get a terrifically sensitive and selective radio with supreme nulling capacity, then the SRF-59 is your machine. If, on the other hand, you don't mind spending more for a radio that sounds smooth as silk, has memories, digital readout, is very sensitive, and won't leave you curled up in a corner in the fetal position sucking your thumb calling out for yo momma in frustration, then the two-ten is an extremely good value. The feel of the radio in your hand reeks of quality. It is solid. The nail is hammered into the board when you hear the smooth audio, and the nail goes clear through the board when you push the DBB (bass boost) button. Wow.

Absolute Value: SRF-59:A DT-210V:B
Value/Convenience/Features: SRF-59:C DT-210V:A

I'd like to note an additional "undocumented feature" of the DT-210V. I noticed that while audio phasing the two rigs, that if I pushed the DBB (base boost) button on the radio holding the null on the local, the DX station's audio would just jump out of the air, sometimes making the difference between IDing a station or not. I doubt that the engineers had this in mind when they designed this radio!

<End mini-shootout>

I'd like to add a big fat caveat here. It has become DXceedingly clear that, due to the extreme variation in quality control from these manufacturers, your mileage may vary with either of these two radios. Tremendously. This is a real problem and there appears to be no cure other than ex-Navy radio technicians willing to take on the alignment job. There's gotta be a dollar or two in that :-)

Ok, here you have it... the impressions from a ULR fan. It is a disease, my friends, and more ULR's is the cure. A self-fulfilling DX prophesy if I've ever experienced one. Thanks, all, for understanding my dementia.

(editor's note: A service manual for the DT-210V can be obtained (careful... it's 11MB in size) at: <http://www.thicom.de/ftp/sangean/dt210/dt210-servicemanual.pdf>. However, after trying the alignment procedure on his own previously designated "Turkey" DT-210V, he found that it "refused to shed its feathers despite the full alignment, stubbornly refusing to boost its abysmal low-band sensitivity despite a very definite 603 kHz peaking of the coil along the ferrite bar. As such, it obviously has a bad component immune to alignment efforts, gaining it the status of the first truly defective Ultralight radio I have seen since the entire craze started in November.")

SPECIAL FEATURE

Ultralight Radios on the March
John Bryant, January 14, 2008

As many of you know, the IRCA internet discussion group has been the nexus for the rather explosive development of the new "Ultralight Radio" niche in the MW DXing hobby. A lot has happened in the few weeks since Gary DeBock first discovered the wonderful DXing qualities of the Sony SRF-59 and then wrote the excellent review of it for IRCA.

In the past several weeks, we have established a Technical Committee to assist the rest of us Ultralight DXers with the innards of these little wonders and also a Definitions Committee to review all small shirt-pocket portable sets and determine just which of these would qualify as "Ultralight Radios" for inclusion in any records or awards programs that might be established. This latter activity was necessary because there are some VERY expensive, very sophisticated communications receivers on the market that can fit in a shirt pocket. That is not the concept behind the new Ultralight MW Radio DXing effort; rather, the intent is to utilize *modestly-priced*, simple shirt-pocket portables commonly used as entertainment radios by the general public. In other words, we are artificially limiting the sophistication of the receivers used, much like radio amateurs have limited transmitter power in the QRP niche of the amateur radio hobby. Never the less, those DXers not yet aware of Ultralight DXing will be shocked at the DX achievements that are possible with these little "pocket rockets."

The current receivers that have been recognized by the Definitions Committee for inclusion in the Ultralight Firsts and Records list are:

Sony: SRF-T615-JE, SRF-59, SRF-M37V, SRF-M85V
Sangean: DT-120, DT-180V, DT-200VX, DT-210V, DT-220V, DT-300VW
Eton e100/**Tecsun** PL-200
CCrane SWP/Redsun RP-300

The most expensive one of these receivers is the SRF-T615-JE (at about \$105 USD, imported directly from Japan.) The least expensive is the currently most popular SRF-59, at around \$15 USD. If you own a shirt-pocket portable that you would like to utilize in Ultralight DXing, one that is not yet recognized by the Committee, you should contact Gary DeBock (D10286gary@aol.com) and ask for a review of that radio model by the Definitions Committee.

In this first month, we have also established an official website within Colin Newell's dxer.ca website for files of interest in Ultralight DXing and we have founded an official List of Firsts and Records under the aegis of John Bryant (bjohnorcas@rockisland.com). Until the Definitions Committee recognized other "Ultralight" radios just a few days ago, the List was limited to catches made with the SRF-59 radio. Now that the Committee has acted, we are slowly collecting and recognizing, retroactively, the Firsts and Records that have been established with other recognized receivers. One of the first of these retroactive loggings to make the list was BSKSA-1521 in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, heard by Allen Willie of St. John's Newfoundland, using an SRF-M37V. His distance record of over 5,400 miles supplanted the previous overall distance record held by our Ultralight founder, Gary DeBock. We anticipate that Allen's record and many of the others listed will not stand long in this rapidly growing segment of

our hobby. Similarly, John Callarman, also using a M37V, doubled the 250 watt world record to over 950 miles!

If any of this intrigues you even a little bit, sign up for the IRCA internet group (you don't even need to be a club member) and check into dxer.ca.

Ultralight MW Radio DXing FIRSTS Receptions from North America

Firsts

First Transoceanic Reception from North America:

Gary DeBock, Seattle, WA JOIB-747 Sapporo, Japan, 11/20/2007 (SRF-59)

First TP from North America:

Gary DeBock, Seattle, WA JOIB-747 Sapporo, Japan, 11/20/2007 (SRF-59)

First TA from North America:

Allen Willie, St. John's, NF BSKSA-1521, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, 1/4/2008 (SRF-37V)

First TA from the West Coast:

First TP from the East Coast:

First Trans-Continental NAM (West to East)

Colin Newell, Victoria BC, RVC-530 South Turk Isl, 11/28/2007 (SRF-59)

** Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, RVC-530, 12/10/2007 (SRF-59)

First Trans-Continental NAM (East to West)

First Western Canada/US Station from the East Coast:

Brett Saylor, State College, PA, KRHW-1520, Sikeston MO (700 miles), 12/30/2007 (SRF-59)

First Eastern Canada/US Station from the West Coast

Dennis Vroom, Vancouver, WA, WBBM-780, Chicago IL (1756 miles) 1/6/2008 (SRF-59)

Continents

First Asian

Gary DeBock, Seattle, WA JOIB-747 Sapporo, Japan, 11/20/2007 (SRF-59)

First South American:

Gil Stacy, Savannah, GA PJB3-800, 12/14/2007 (SRF-59)

First European:

First African:

First DownUnder:

Countries

ASIA

First Station in Japan

Gary DeBock, Seattle, WA JOIB-747 Sapporo, Japan, 11/20/2007 (SRF-59)

First Station in South Korea

Gary DeBock, Seattle, WA HLCA-972 Dangjin, S Korea 11/22/2007 (SRF-59)

First Station in Saudi Arabia

Allen Willie, St. John's, NF BSKSA-1521, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, 1/4/2008 (SRF-37V)

EUROPE

First Station in Britain

First Station in France

NORTH AMERICA

First Station in the Bahamas:

Brett Saylor, State College, PA, NDB ZLS-526, 12/30/2007 (SRF-59)

First Station in the Turks and Caicos

Colin Newell, Victoria BC, RVC-530 South Turk Isl, 11/28/2007

** Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, RVC-530, 12/10/2007

First Station in St. Kitts and Nevis

Gil Stacy, Savannah, GA, ZIZ-555, 12/30/2007 (SRF-59)

First Station in Cuba

Niel Wolfish, Toronto, ON R. Cadena Agramonte-910 12/28/2007 (SRF-59)

First Station in Mexico

Rob Ross, London, ON, XEW-900 1/2/2008 (SRF-59)

First Station in The American Virgin Islands

Gil Stacy, Savannah, GA, WDHP-1620 Frederiksted, US VI. 1/5/2008 (SRF-59)

SOUTH AMERICA

First Station in Netherlands Antilles

Gil Stacy, Savannah, GA PJB3-800, 12/14/2007 (SRF-59)

First Station in Venezuela

Rob Ross, London, ON, RCR-750, Caracas 1/08/2008 (SRF-59)

** Indicates a record in the Super-Modified Category

Ultralight MW Radio DXing RECORDS

Worldwide Reception

Longest Distance Reception

- 5201 miles Gary DeBock, Puyallup, WA HLCA, Dangjin, South Korea (Seoul) 11/22/2007 (SRF-59)
- 5424 miles Allen Willie, St. John's, NF BSKSA-1521, Duba, Saudi Arabia, 1/4/2008 (SRF-37V)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 50 kW.**
- 3403 miles Colin Newell, Victoria BC, RVC-530 South Turk Isl, 11/28/2007 (SRF-59)
- **3333 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, RVC-530, 12/10/2007 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 10 kW.**
- 936 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, CJGX-940, Yorkton, K, 1/6/2008 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 5 kW.**
- 597 Miles Rob Ross, London, ON, WEBC-560, Duluth, MN 1/03/2008 (SRF-59)
- 674 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, KBUL-970, Billings, MT, 1/6/2008 (SRF-59)
- 831 miles Dennis Vroom, Salmon Creek, WA, KABC-790 Los Angeles, CA 1/1/2008 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 1 kW.**
- 2016 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, KVNS-1700 Brownsville TX, 1/1/2008 (SRF-59)
- **2016 miles Kevin Schanilec, B'ridge Is. WA, KVNS-1700 Brownsville TX, 1/1/2008 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 500 W.**
- 107 miles Rob Ross, London, ON, WWGB-1370 Corry, PA 1/03/2008 (SRF-59)
- 313 miles Rob Ross, London, ON, WWWB Frederick, MD 1/03/2008 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 250 W.**
- 458 miles Pete Taylor, Tacoma, WA, KWSW-790 Eureka, CA (110 w) 12/18/07 (SRF-59)
- 957 miles John Callarman, Krum, TX, XEUACH, Chapingo, TE, Mexico 1/6/2008 (SRF-37V)

Western Hemisphere Reception from North America

Longest Distance Reception-Western Hemisphere

- 3403 miles Colin Newell, Victoria BC, RVC-530 South Turk Isl, 11/28/2007 (SRF-59)
- **3333 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, RVC-530, 12/10/2007 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Domestic Reception within Canada and the USA***
- 1277 miles Joe Miller, Troy MI, KOA-850 Denver CO, 12/13/2007 (SRF-59)
- 2016 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, KVNS-1700 Brownsville TX, 1/1/2008 (SRF-59)
- **2016 miles Kevin Schanilec, B'ridge Is. WA, KVNS-1700 Brownsville TX, 1/1/2008 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 50 kW. -Western Hemisphere**
- 3403 miles Colin Newell, Victoria BC, RVC-530 South Turk Isl, 11/28/2007 (SRF-59)
- **3333 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, RVC-530, 12/10/2007 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 10 kW. -Western Hemisphere**
- 936 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, CJGX-940, Yorkton, K, 1/6/2008 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 5 kW. -Western Hemisphere**
- 597 Miles Rob Ross, London, ON, WEBC-560 Duluth, MN 1/03/2008 (SRF-59)
- 674 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, KBUL-970, Billings, MT, 1/6/2008 (SRF-59)
- 831 miles Dennis Vroom, Salmon Creek, WA, KABC-790 Los Angeles, CA 1/1/2008 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 1 kW. -Western Hemisphere**
- 2016 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, KVNS-1700 Brownsville TX, 1/1/2008 (SRF-59)
- **2016 miles Kevin Schanilec, B'ridge Is. WA, KVNS-1700 Brownsville TX, 1/1/2008 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 500 W. -Western Hemisphere**
- 107 miles Rob Ross, London, ON, WWGB-1370 Corry, PA 1/03/2008 (SRF-59)
- 313 miles Rob Ross, London, ON, WWWB Frederick, MD 1/03/2008 (SRF-59)
- Longest Distance Reception @ 250 W. -Western Hemisphere**
- 458 miles Pete Taylor, Tacoma, WA, KWSW-790 Eureka, CA (110 w) 12/18/07 (SRF-59)
- 957 miles John Callarman, Krum, TX, XEUACH, Chapingo, TE, Mexico 1/6/2008 (SRF-37)

Each distance category is defined as addressing receptions from stations broadcasting at the listed power or less to a lower limit of the next smaller power category. Broadcasting stations with transmitting powers of 500 watts down to 251 watts are considered to fall in the 500 watt category. Thus Rob Ross' reception of WXTR held the 500 watt class record, despite operating at night with just under 400 W.

*This special category is limited to reception within the continental limits of Canada and the USA. This structure eliminates DXers and stations in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, among others.

Each Record Class contains two categories: Barefoot and Super Modified

** Indicates a record in the Super-Modified Category

Receptions considered for Super Modified Category Firsts and Records are made with Ultralight Radios that have been modified in any way. This would include the addition of external antennas, whether coupled to the radio inductively or by physical connection.

At the time for the present, previous holders of a particular record will be maintained on the list to indicate the history and development of that record. *The current record logging is listed last.*

If the interest is there in the next few months, we may add:

A "Domestic DX" Class for DXers' receptions within Canada and the USA

A "Graveyard DX" Class for receptions on 1230, 1240, 1340, 1400, 1450 and 1490 "local" channels

The shirt pocket radios that have currently been approved by the Ultralight Radio DX Definitions Committee are:

- Sony: SRF-T615-JE, SRF-59, SRF-M37V, SRF-M85V
- Sangean: DT-120, DT-180V, DT-200VX, DT-210V, DT-220V, DT-300VW
- Eton e100/Tecsun PL-200
- CCrane SWP/Redsun RP300

SPORTCHANNELS IRCA

Compiled by: Dale Park

E-mail: dxfool@aol.com

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Buffalo BILLS	590	CJCL-ON	1260	WRIE-PA	1590	WAUB-NY	101.1	WBRR-NY
	610	CKTB-ON	1290	WNBF-NY			101.9	WZKZ-NY
	920	WYBY-NY	1330	WSPQ-NY	FM:		103.3	WEDG-NY
	1160	WPIE-NY	1380	WABH-NY	93.5	WORK-NY	103.5	WQBR-NY
	1240	WGYA-NY	1410	WELM-NY	95.7	WPIG-NY	103.9	WQBJ-NY
	1240	WJTN-NY	1420	WACK-NY	96.5	WCMF-NY		
	1260	WNSS-NY	1570	WFLR-NY	96.9	WGRF-NY		
					99.3	WWSE-NY		

John Murphy, Mark Kelso, Paul Peck-s, Rich Gaenzler-ST

Cincinnati BENGALS

600	WKYH-KY	970	WATH-OH
610	WTVN-OH	990	WTTG-OH
630	WLAP-KY	1010	WIOI-OH
700	WLW-OH p	1150	WIMA-OH
790	WKRD-KY	1230	WIRO-OH r
800	WYHU-WV	1240	WHIZ-OH
930	WHON-IN	1250	WCHO-OH

Brad Johansen, Dave Lapham

Denver BRONCOS

550	KRAI-CO	1240	KGAB-WY
550	KFYR-ND	1240	KASL-WY y
580	KUBC-CO	1240	KRAL-WY y
600	KCOL-CO	1240	KTHE-WY y
610	KCSR-NE	1260	KPOW-WY y
730	KLOE-KS	1270	KSCB-KS
790	KGHL-MT y	1270	KIML-WY y
850	KOA-CO	1290	KOWB-WY
930	KRKY-CO	1300	KVOR-CO
950	KMER-WY y	1310	KFKA-CO
960	KNEB-NE	1330	KOVE-WY
990	KSPV-NM	1340	KVRH-CO
1010	KSIR-CO	1340	KPOK-ND y
1030	KTWO-WY	1340	KWCN-WY y
1180	KOFI-MT y	1340	KWOR-WY y
1230	KBCR-CO	1350	KGHF-CO
1230	KXLO-MT y	1350	KABQ-NM

Dave Logan, David Diaz-Infante

Listing also mentions 106.1 KOAL-MT for which there is no information. y-Broadcasts the feed from the Northern Sports Network.



GEOMAGNETIC INDICES
Compiled by: Phil Bytheway
E-mail: phil_tekno@yahoo.com

Geomagnetic Summary November 22 2007 through January 15 2008
 Tabulated from email status daily.

Date	Flux	A	K	Space Wx
11/22	69	12	1	no storms
23	70	8	3	no storms
24	70	12	1	no storms
25	71	9	3	no storms
26	71	12	2	no storms
27	72	10	1	no storms
28	71	5	0	no storms
29	71	3	2	no storms
11/30	71	3	1	no storms
12/ 1	72	2	0	no storms
2	72	2	x	
3	72	1	1	no storms
4	73	1	0	no storms
5	74	1	0	no storms
6	75	2	0	no storms
7	78	2	1	no storms
8	82	1	0	no storms
9	87	0	0	no storms
10	89	1	1	no storms
11	87	6	2	no storms
12	93	13	3	no storms
13	94	10	2	no storms
14	94	5	2	no storms
15	92	4	1	no storms
16	89	3	1	no storms
17	82	1	1	no storms
18	80	24	3	no storms
12/19	77	17	2	no storms
12/20	75	12	2	no storms
21	73	14	3	no storms
22	71	11	2	no storms
23	72	9	2	no storms
24	71	7	0	no storms
25	71	3	0	no storms
26	72	1	0	no storms
27	73	1	1	no storms
28	72	6	2	no storms
29	72	4	0	no storms
30	73	1	0	no storms
12/31	75	2	0	no storms
1/ 1	77	1	2	no storms
2	79	4	1	no storms
3	80	1	1	no storms
4	79	1	1	no storms
5	79	1	1	no storms
6	80	16	2	no storms
7	79	14	3	no storms
8	78	17	2	no storms
9	76	12	3	no storms
10	77	8	1	no storms
11	76	4	1	no storms
12	76	2	0	no storms
13	76	6	2	no storms
14	75	15	3	no storms
15	76	14	3	no storms
1/15	76	14	3	no storms

NRC-AM Radio Log

The NRC AM Radio Log, 28th Edition, including cross-referenced listings from 530-1700 kHz, is compiled from both listeners' reports and official sources, making it the most accurate listing of U.S. and Canadian AM stations available. Unbound, three-hole punched for standard binders. \$19.95 to US IRCA/NRC members; \$25.95 to US non-members; to Canadian members, \$23.00 (\$27.95 to non-members). Airmail to all outside of the US and Canada \$31.45.

Now available ... The NRC-AM Antenna Pattern Book

The all-new Pattern Book now includes daytime and "Graveyard" frequency patterns for the first time. For those stations which operate with 50 kW (and higher in Mexico) non-directional (designated U1 in the AM Log), the day "pattern" is shown to approximately the predicted 0.5 m V 1M coverage limits, while the night pattern is illustrated approximately 1.5 times larger. Stations in Alaska and Hawaii are listed on separate pages at the end of the book. The basic list of U.S. and Canadian stations comes from the 28th Edition of the National Radio Club's AM Radio Log. Mexican stations in the states bordering the United States plus those stations elsewhere which are easily heard in the U.S. and Canada are also included. All data is up-to-date as of November 1, 2005. Prices: \$16.95 to USA/Canada IRCA/NRC members, \$22.95 USA non-members, \$25.95, Canada non-members/all overseas orders.

Antenna Reference Manual, Volume 1
8th Printing, Digitally Enhanced and Updated

This completely-revised book features the plans for the original NRC 4' FET Altazimuth loop antenna. Completely revamped with digitally enhanced drawings and updated material sources, it also contains other articles on the subject of antennas for medium wave DX'ers, most originally published between 1969 and 1974 in DX News. It includes articles on air-core and ferrite core loops, antenna tuners for longwire antennas, and antenna couplers. This is the original book which has been available for over 20 years. \$8.95 to IRCA/NRC members (\$11.95, non-members). 8 1/2" X 11" bound book format.

Antenna Reference Manual, Volume 2
8th Printing Digitally Enhanced and Updated

This book is a compilation of numerous articles on the subject of antennas for medium wave DX'ers, originally published between 1974 and 1981 in DX News. Some articles were formerly available as reprints. Includes articles on air-core and ferrite core loops, antenna tuners for longwire and Beverage antennas, and phasing units for use with Beverage antennas and longwires. 8 1/2" X 11" bound book format. Price: \$8.95 to IRCA/NRC members; \$11.95 to non-members.

Antenna Reference Manual, Volume 3

A compilation of 17 articles on antennas, phasing, impedance matching, and RF amplification for medium wave DX'ers, some of the articles were published in DX News between 1999 and 2004. 8 1/2" X 11" bound book format. IRCA/NRC member price: \$11.95; non-member price \$16.95; overseas customers, please contact us for exact price.

The County Cross Reference

What a time-saver! A complete list of counties, parishes, and similar political divisions in the U.S. and Canada. Two lists are included: alpha by county, and by state. Compiled by Bill Hale and designed and produced by Wayne and Joan Heinen. \$8.95 for IRCA/NRC members, \$11.95, non-members; overseas customers, please contact us for exact price.

The Challenging Crystal Set

For hobbyists demanding the ultimate DX challenge. Ray Cole's publication detailing step-by-step procedures in building a crystal set is for you! Only \$4.00 for IRCA/NRC members; non-members, \$5.00.

For all the above NRC Publications... order from: NRC Publications - Box 473251 - Aurora CO 80047-3251 (CO residents, please add sales tax). You must state your IRCA membership affiliation when you order to qualify for the member discount.

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 - 7148 Marley Ln S, Salem OR 97306
 e-mail: dxe1t4@desert4wd.com (proposals/gripes)

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

Board of Directors: Phil Bytheway - phil_tekno@yahoo.com, Lee Freshwater - lfreshwater@cox.net, John C. Johnson - John_Johnson@prodigy.net, Patrick Martin - mwxdwr@webtv.net, Jim Pogue - KH2AR@comcast.net, Mike Sanburn - mikesanburn@hotmail.com and Robert Wien - wienrob@aol.com

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

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

USA	\$10	\$31	\$36
Canada & Mexico (group 2)	\$10	\$40	\$45
Western Europe (group 3)	\$10	\$52	\$57
Australia/NZ/Japan (group 4)	\$10	\$52	\$57
Rest of world (group 5)	\$10	\$52	\$57

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

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

All dues and address changes go to: **IRCA, PO Box 60241, Lafayette LA 70596**
 Pay electronically with **PayPal**—add \$1 to all prices above. Go to www.paypal.com, then send your dues to ircamember@ircaonline.org --contact Lynn Hollerman for more information.

Sample copies of DX Monitor are available. Along with your request, please include first class postage of: 41c for USA addresses, 69c for Canada and Mexico or 2-International Reply Coupons each, for other countries. Send to: **IRCA, PO Box 3547, Tualatin OR 97062.** (Maximum two samples per year.)

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

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

©2008 International Radio Club of America

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

