



January 26, 2008 - Volume 45, Number 19 - Edition 1431 - ISSN 899-9733

This issue... IRCA welcomes Dan Ferguson in Little River, SC... DX and report often... pb

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

Ted Vasiliopoulos Award (TVA)

Ted Vasiliopoulos 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@ieeee.org

RHA Nominations:

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

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

**Pacific Asian Log Radio Guide
New 2008 Mediumwave Edition**

The first update for 2008 of this free guide is now online at www.radioheritage.net and includes complete revisions for a number of countries.

The radio guide lists thousands of operating AM radio stations across the entire region from Afghanistan to Alaska, China, Japan, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands and Hawaii.

Easy to use, with online search and downloadable versions. Stations can be found by country or frequency for example. Data includes hours of operation, program formats, transmitter power and much more.

According to the Radio Heritage Foundation [www.radioheritage.net], the largest number of currently listed AM transmitters are located in China, Japan, Indonesia, Australia and the Philippines.

Endangered AM Radio Watchlist

Meanwhile, a growing number of countries are now on the Radio Heritage Foundation's Endangered AM Radio Watchlist, having just one mediumwave station known to be on air.

These countries are American Samoa, Diego Garcia [British Indian Ocean Territory], Christmas Island [Indian Ocean], Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Macau, Malaysia [West], Maldives, Myanmar, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau and Tonga.

In the last year or so, the following countries across the region have ceased broadcasting on mediumwave: Easter Island, Cocos [Keeling] Islands, Lord Howe Island, Nauru, Tuvalu and Wallis et Futuna.

All of these countries now broadcast only on FM. As a result of this major shift to FM radio across the region, the first in a new series of Asia and Pacific FM Radio Guides will be launched at www.radioheritage.net in the coming weeks. We suggest you regularly check the site for these and other new content.

Portzer Get-Together 2008

It's time once again for my annual Seattle area DX get-together. This year it will be held on Saturday, February 16 starting at 2 p.m.

Here's your chance to meet fellow AM/shortwave DXers face-to-face and talk about radio stuff with one another. Feel free to bring things for show and tell: QSL's, recordings, pictures, radios, etc., whether they be ultra light, moderately dark, sort of heavy, or something in between. Also, please bring potluck snacks (liquid or solid) to share with the rest of the gang.

The venue (like always) will be at my house: 6546 19th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Mapquest or Google can help with directions, if you haven't been here before. The phone number here is 206-522-2521, if you have questions.

I hope to see lots of you here that afternoon! Bruce

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. Theima 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>

Mon	2/11/08	0000-0030	1240	WKDK	Newberry SC	(Way)
Sun	2/24/08	0000-0200	1060	WBIX	Natick MA	(Moates)

WKDK 1240 kHz Newberry, SC DX Test.

Date: Monday morning (late Sunday night), February 11, 2008. **Time:** Midnight - 12:30 a.m. Eastern Time (0500-0530 UTC). 1,000 watts non-directional pattern. The test, hosted by our own Powell E. Way III - W4OPW, will consist of phonetic voice IDs, Morse code, sweep tones and unique music. Powell will also take pre-paid telephone calls at (803) 276-2957. Reception reports may be sent to Powell E. Way III, WKDK Radio, PO Box 753, Newberry, SC 29108. The station will accept audio recordings on disk (.mp3 or .wav files), or cued up cassettes. E-mail reports to **W4OPW** [[at](mailto:at@yahoo.com)] **yahoo.com** are OK but NO AUDIO FILES via e-mail due to bandwidth restrictions. NOTE: All requests for verifications must be accompanied by return postage in order to receive a reply. Our sincere thanks to Powell and the management at WKDK for agreeing to conduct this test.

WBIX 1060 kHz Natick (Boston) Massachusetts DX Test

Date: Sunday morning (late Saturday night), Feb. 24, 2008. **Time:** Midnight - 2:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, 0500 - 0700 UTC. The station will conduct the test at 40,000 watts power using their two-tower daytime antenna pattern. Programming will include a one-hour CD of Todd Rundgren Music with Morse code, sweep tones and announcements every 10 minutes or so. The Broadcast Test Committee will be handling all reception reports and verifications for this test. Both eQSL service and traditional paper QSLs will be offered. Recordings on disk in .mp3 or .wav format, audio files via e-mail or cassette recordings will be accepted as proof of reception. Send reception reports and recordings to: IRCA/NRC.Joint.BTC, Attn: WBIX DX Test, PO Box 3777, Memphis, TN 38173-0777 USA. E-mail reports and audio files may be sent to: KH2AR@comcast.net. The station is particularly interested in knowing the receiving equipment and antennas listeners use to hear the test. NOTE: All requests for paper verifications must be accompanied by return postage in order to receive a reply. Our sincere thanks to WBIX Chief Engineer Grady Moates for agreeing to conduct this test, and to BTC member Paul B. Walker Jr. for his persistent efforts to arrange it.

KKMO DX Test Final Report

Perhaps Barry McLarnon in Ottawa summed it up best in an e-mail: "I think we easterners got done in by mediocre conditions, not to mention the zillions of other stations on 1360." Still, quite a few folks on the west coast and as far east as the Rockies heard the test quite well. Here's the roll call of lucky listeners who put KKMO in their logs:

- Frank Aden - Boise, ID
- Bruce Bacon - Boise County, ID
- Martin Foltz - Mission Viejo, CA
- Mike Hawkins - Campbell, CA
- Wayne Heinen - Aurora, CO
- Patrick Martin - Seaside, OR
- Nick Hall-Patch - Victoria, BC, Canada
- Art Peterson - Richmond, CA

Nigel Pimblett - Lamont, AB, Canada
 Bruce Portzer - Seattle, WA
 Steve Ratzlaff - NE Oregon
 Dan Riordan - Sherwood, OR

Special congratulations to Bjarne Mjelde in Berlevag, Norway, on hearing the test. Although a relog for him, I was delighted to see this international participation from outside North America in our test efforts. Thanks Bjarne.

Thanks also to all the "east of the Rockies" bunch who tried their best to hear the test, including Willis Monk-TN, Steve Francis-TN, Curtis Sadowski-IL, Doug Smith-TN, Paul LaFreniere-MN, Bill Dvorak-WI, Saul Chernos-ON, Bruce Winkelman-OK, Marc DeLorenzo-MA, J.D. Stephens in AL and yours truly also in TN.

And although Barry McLarnon didn't manage to log KKMO, he says he did catch another "KK" station - namely KKBJ in Bemidji, MN - a new one for him.

Remember to keep checking the **DXTESTS.INFO** Web site frequently and listen to the BTC Podcasts for news and late-breaking developments.

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

BROADCASTING INFORMATION

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

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

Ham calls: KG6RJW

CALL LETTER CHANGES

FREQ OLD CALL CITY NEW CALL

740 WRWB Harrgate, TN WCXZ
 860 WFFF Fairhope, AL WXGWB
 930 KLCY East Missoula, MT KMPT
 1070 WIBC Indianapolis, IN WFNI
 1170 KUGT Jackson, MO KJXX
 1490 WFKY Frankfort, KY WKYW
 1570 KMUR Pryor, OK KZLI
 1600 KXTA Centerville, UT KTUB

FORMAT CHANGES

FREQ	CALL	CITY	OLD INFO	NEW INFO
600	WVAE	Richwood, WV	oldies	silent
700	WJOE	Orange-Athol, MA	oldies	ESPN sports
710	KAPZ	Bald Knob, AR	talk	silent
740	WGTM	Orlando, FL	sports	Spanish adult hits
800	KVOM	Morrilton, AR	news-talk	sports
870	KEJZ	Ft. Worth, TX	Spanish hits	Spanish contemporary Christian
890	KDUJQ	Meridian, ID	silent	variety
920	WPHY	Trenton, NJ	sports	religious teaching
930	KMPT	East Missoula, MT	KLCY, adult standards	progressive talk
1020	WJEP	Ochlocknee, GA	southern gospel	silent
1060	KDYL	South Salt Lake, UT	adult standards	oldies
1060	WGGQ	Newport, TN	country	southern gospel
1070	WFNI	Indianapolis, IN	WIBC, talk	sports
1070	WNCT	Greenville, NC	talk	contemporary Christian
1080	WKGX	Lenoir, NC	sports	bluegrass
1100	KWWN	Las Vegas, NV	new	Spanish sports
1110	WKDZ	Cadiz, KY	talk	oldies
1130	WECC	Newland, NC	country	southern gospel
1160	WCCS	Homer City, PA	adult contemporary	talk
1170	WKFL	Bushnell, FL	talk	silent
1190	KRFT	De Soto, MO	talk	ESPN sports
1230	KFPW	Ft. Smith, AR	adult standards	talk
1270	WMPM	Smithfield, NC	silent	country, southern gospel
1310	WADB	Asbury Park, NJ	Spanish sports	sports
1310	WBFD	Philadelphia, PA	oldies	talk
1320	WAGF	Dothan, AL	black gospel	talk
1350	WHWH	Princeton, NJ	business news	format not available
1370	WGHN	Grand Haven, MI	soft AC	ESPN sports
1380	KSLG	St. Louis, MO	ESPN sports	Fox sports
1390	WLUA	Belton, SC	format not available	adult standards
1400	KGVL	Greenville, TX	classic country	talk
1400	KNND	Cottage Grove, OR	country	oldies

1400 WZHR Zephyrillus, FL contemporary Xian
 1430 WOOQ Durand, WI classic country
 1450 KNET Palestine, TX talk
 1460 WZNZ Jacksonville, FL religious teaching
 1490 WSYL Sylva, GA country
 1510 WBSS Lajas, PR Spanish news-talk
 1570 WRCL Oneonta, AL silent
 1580 KHGG Van Buren, AR Spanish sports
 1580 WVVZ Columbia, PA silent
 1600 WMHG Muskogean, MI adult standards

FACILITY AND PARAMETER APPLICATIONS

10000/143 ND to 25000/19 ND
 5000/500 DA-N to 4000/840 DA-2
 10000/5000 DA-2 to 8000/2000 DA-N
 50000/50000 DA-N to 50000/50000 DAN
 3000/760 DA-2 to 19000/490 DA-2 (new CP)
 10000 ND-D to 10000 ND
 5500/500 DA-2 to 4500/550 DA-2
 250 ND-D to 1000 ND
 10000 DA-D to 45000 DA-D
 10000/500 DA-N to 25000/500 DA-N
 10000/700 DA-N to 13000
 1000/1000 ND to 450/450 ND
 1000/68 ND to 900/37 ND
 5000/1000 ND to 10000 ND-D
 1000 DA-D to 5000 DA-D

FACILITY AND PARAMETER GRANTS

650 KGAB Orchard Valley, WY 8600/500 DA-N to 8500/500 DA-N
 1170 WPLX Germantown, TN 1000 ND-D to 5000/26 DA-3
 1450 WOL Washington, DC 1000/1000 ND to 370/370 ND
 1600 WCGW Chicago Heights, IL 1000/23 DA-2 to 10000 DA-D
 1600 WMCW Aurora, IL 250/250 DA-2 to 1400/1000 DA-2

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

740: WQTM 740 Orlando FL flips from sports "The Team" to Spanish adult hits "La Preciosa."
 800: KVOM 800 Morrilton AR flips from news-talk to sports "ESPN 800."
 870: KEJZ 870 Fort Worth TX flips from Spanish AC "La Pantera" to Spanish Christian "Radio Ayo."
 890: KDUJQ 890 Meridian/Boise ID returns to the air, briefly, with Christmas music.
 930: KLCY 930 Missoula MT flips from standards "Classy 930" to progressive talk under new calls KMPT ("Missoula's Progressive Talk").
 1100: KWWN 1100 Las Vegas NV signs on with ESPN Deportes Spanish sports talk.
 1160: WACB 1160 Homer City/Indiana PA flips from AC to news/talk/sports "News Talk 1160."
 1310: WADB 1310 Asbury Park NJ flips from "ESPN Deportes" Spanish sports to Fox sports.
 1380: KSLG 1380 St. Louis MO flips from ESPN sports to Fox sports as "Team 1380."
 1490: WFKY 1490 Frankfort KY and WKYW 104.9 Frankfort KY swap calls.

(continued next time - pb)

Contributors:

Martin Foltz, Mission Viejo, CA (MF-CA)
 John Johnson, Billings, MT (JJ-MT)
 Pat Martin, Seaside, OR (PM-OR)
 Dale Park, Honolulu, HI (DP-HI)
 Mike Sanburn, Bellflower, CA (MS-CA)
 Ye editor, Fontana, CA (RW-CA)

DATE OF COLUMN: 1/15/08. Still on the job prowl, had an interview for a job in Las Cruces, NM 2 days ago and still following job leads in Maryland and Virginia and one in Los Angeles. Will keep you posted, 73's.

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
 (GH) **Glen Hansen**-1925 Tualatin St.-St. Helens, OR skinner@columbia-center.org
 Drake R8B, R-388, R-390A, Hammarlund SP-600, various wires, Radio Shack and Sanserino loops
 (5P) **Dale Park**-P.O. Box 10640-Honolulu, HI 96816 dxfool@aol.com
 Sangean ATS-818CS, Terk AM1000 loop
 (RW) **Robert Wien**-7190 Abigail Pl.-Fontana, CA 92336-5752 rjmail@webtv.net
 GE Superadio 2, Select-A-Tenna

 590 KUGN **OR**, Eugene 1/10 2130 college basketball, California @ U. of Oregon, Oregon Sports Network mentioned. (AB-ID)
 610 CKYL **AB**, Peace River 1/11 0946 C&W music, man with "YL Country" slogan at 0948, back to music. Brief weather at 0951. (AB-ID)
 650 KGAB **WY**, Orchard Valley 1/6 2216 man with KGAB ID followed by Geico ad. Fair. (AB-ID)
 750 KHGW **NV**, Fallon 1/14 0919 with "Welcome to K-Hog #1 in country music." (BB-AZ)
 850 KHHO **WA**, Tacoma 12/25 2200 news and ID in strong several times during the past hour. New, Week KOA far under. Strange. (GH-OR)
 920 KVEC **CA**, San Luis Obispo 1/14 0931 with "KVEC news time." (BB-AZ)
 960 KIXW **CA**, Apple Valley 1/15 1945 with "Newstalk 960." then ads. (BB-AZ)
 1080 KSCO **CA**, Santa Cruz 1/6 1859 woman with "AM 1080 KSCO" ID, 1901 brief weather. Poor. (AB-ID)

1100 ?KWWN? **NV**, Las Vegas 1/13 0945 tentative with talk show over KFAX (KFAX with show about homes in Phoenix area), in KFAX null (KFAX with Gospel music program), could possibly have been KNNZ, also my usual SS in the background (KAF??.) Will keep checking, listed at 20kw days, 2kw nights. (RW-CA)
 1110 KBND **OR**, Bend 12/19 0005 suddenly up strong with ad for Lars Larson Show and George Noory. Like a local on R-388 with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
 1150 KTLK **CA**, Los Angeles 1/4 0658 ad for funding company, ID "K-Talk AM 11-50... KTLK Los Angeles..." news brief, local ad. Poor to fair, QRM unID co-channel. (5P-HI)
 1210 KHAT **WY**, Laramie 1/11 1000 KHAT ID, into sports scores with ESPN mentions. (AB-ID)
 1220 KHTS **CA**, Canyon Country 1/14 0922 with "KHTS Your Hometown Station." (BB-AZ)
 1240 KQEN **OR**, Roseburg 1/9 0015 only one intelligible in the noise with news, talk "Sports KQEN" ID, on Drake with RS loop. (GH-OR)
 1270 KAJO **OR**, Grants Pass 1/11 1943 woman with KAJO ID, ads, second ID at 1945. Fair. (AB-ID)

KBAM **WA**, Longview 12/10 0000 although only 40 miles away, this 83 watt weakie seldom makes it my way. On Hammarlund with E-W wire. (GH-OR)
 1280 KAQQ **WA**, Spokane 1/7 1847 Rachael Maddow program, "AM 1280 KAQQ" ID at 1852. Good. (AB-ID)
 1290 KPAY **CA**, Chico 1/11 1951 man with "News Talk 1290 KPAY" ID/slogan. Poor. (AB-ID)
 1320 KOWB **WY**, Laramie 1/8 0950 Sean Hannity spot followed by KOWB ID. Good. (AB-ID)
 KGDC **WA**, Walla Walla 12/22 0010 weak ID with talk show. Also unID far under with "The Score" ID and sports talk, on R-388 with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
 1360 KKMO **WA**, Tacoma 1/5 0000 Spanish vocal music, fair to poor but alone, ID in English, on Drake with Sanserino loop. (??-??)
 1420 KIGO **IS**, St. Anthony 1/12 2101 with "Radio Fiesta." (BB-AZ)
 1510 KLLB **UT**, West Jordan 1/10 1842 woman with brief road conditions followed by KLLB ID. Fair under relig. talk. (AB-ID)
 1620 KYIZ **WA**, Renton 1/12 0848 man with KYIZ ID. (AB-ID)

DX TEST
 1360 KKMO **WA**, Tacoma 1/13 0301-0311 fading up over KLSD and one other station underneath, with various regular steady tones, sweep tones during DX test, sweep tones came though better. Unneeded, heard occasionally down here in southern CA, but good DX test! (RW-CA)

UNID
 1200 UNID 12/19 2350 foreign jibberish (not Spanish) odd dialect, vocal music and talk. Deep in the static but totally alone on SP-600 with E-W wire. (GH-OR)
 Thanks to our five WDXR reporters this week. Nancy 1/18 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

[LH-LA] Lynn Hollerman, Lafayette, LA lynnhollerman@yahoo.com
 SRF-59
 [LH-IN] SRF-59 on the road in Rensselaer, IN
 [NJ-MT] Nancy Johnson, Billings, MT NancyJohnson@Prodigy.net
 Drake R8B and Kiwa Loop
 [JP-TN] Jim Pogue, Memphis, TN KH2AR@comcast.net
 NRD-535, Wellbrook LA5030 loop, 155' long wire

DOWN THE DIAL

550 KTRS MO, St. Louis, 1-10 fading signal, 23:51 with "The Big 5-50 KTRS" and mentions of Cardinals, spots. I remember them as KSD or KUSA. [LH-IN]
 740 KKAG ND, Fargo, 1-18 poor with a Canadian station (with CBC News), 23:00 ID. [NJ-MT]
 750 WJR MI, Detroit, Tentative, 1-15 with interference from a strong local on 770, 18:24 with many mentions of Michigan and the Detroit area. No ID heard. [LH-LA]
 WSB GA, Atlanta, 1-15 with decent signal, some interference. 18:26-18:29 with PSA, spot, mentions of WSB, "WSB Skywave" traffic report into Sean Hannity program. "News talk 7-50 WSB" ID. [LH-LA]
 780 WBBM IL, Chicago, 1-15 excellent strong signal, 18:19-18:23 with "WBBM news radio traffic and weather together" with weather, mentions of "WBBM 7-80" and wbwm780.com into health news. [LH-LA]
 870 WWL LA, New Orleans, 1-14 good, 21:04 local news and two mentions of WWL. [NJ-MT]
 900 KREH TX, Houston (Pecan Grove), 1-13 very good, 18:30 with Vietnamese programming. Sign off announcements with "Radio Saigon Houston" mentioned. SSB. [JP-TN]
 930 WKY OK, Oklahoma City, 1-14 loud, 20:00 with "The Sports Animal... WKY Oklahoma City" during break in a game. [NJ-MT]
 1310 KZXR WA, Prosser, 1-17 strong, 21:06 with local weather, "Lars Larson Show." [NJ-MT]
 1520 KRHW MO, Sikeston, 1-10 heard with lots of interference, 00:08-00:24 with many "KRHW 15-20" IDs. "Classic Country" and "Your Brand of Country" slogans. [LH-IN]
 1630 KCJJ IA, Iowa City, 1-10, 00:03 with weather forecast for Iowa City, "16-30 KCJJ" jingle ID into pop music. [LH-IN]
 1650 WHKT VA, Portsmouth, Tentative logging, 1-10 in heavy interference. 23:57 to 00:01 with numerous "Radio Disney" jingles. [LH-IN]

unID

1610 unID 1-14 unID at 20:13 with tape loop "There's always something new on the Cody trails website. Go codytrails.com" - I tried to find this website for answers, but it wasn't there. Ideas? [NJ-MT]

25 YEARS AGO

January 22, 1983 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **Niel Wolfish** of Toronto, ON said he finally went over the 900 heard mark ... **Karl J. Zuk** of Croton-on-Hudson, NY put up a 300 foot longwire and can now hear WLS next to WCBS ... **Pat Martin** of Seaside, OR recalled the best catches of 1982 which included Cook Islands, KUAM and KGUM from Guam, DXRS Philippines, VL2VU Kensington, and a few others ... **Robert Wien** of San Jose, CA was listening to the last minutes of KFAT.

OPEN MIKE

Lynn has been enjoying her new SRF-59 logging some difficult stations for her area. This column was typed 1-19-08, 73, John

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

Deadlines: Saturdays 8 AM!!

(JC-DE) **John Cereghin** Smyrna, DE
 FRG7, 200' L.W., SRF 59
 (DH-NY) **David Hochfelder** Albany, NY
 Sony SRF-59 Barefoot
 (IN-GA) **Ira Elbert New** Watkinsville, GA
 DRAKE R-8B, 135' N/S L.W., SANGEAN ATS 909, SONY SRF-59, SONY SRF-M37

STARS OF THE WEEK

(WM-MD) **William McGuire** 2412 59th Place, Cheverly, MD
DX-398

LOGGINGS

570 NY WMCA New York. 1/8 2300. Fair to good under dominant R. Reloj. Show about gold as a hedge against recession. (DH-NY)

770 VA WYRV Cedar Bluff. 01/06 1749. Contemporary Gospel Music and an Announcer thanking the listeners for all that they do. Decent signal mixed with WVNN in Athens, AL and WLWL in Rockingham, NC. "WYRV" and "We're AM 770, WYRV". (IEN-GA)

790 NC WBLO Thomasville. 12/31 1658. "Sports Radio 790, The Ball". (WM-MD)

800 WV WVHU Huntington. 12/31 1707. Traffic Rpt. "News Talk 800". ID. (WM-MD)

820 IL WCPT Chicago. 01/06 1804. CNN News, Randi Rhodes Show promo, and mentions of Progressive Talk Radio. Decent signal in the mix. "WCPT, 820 AM". (IEN-GA)

OH WOSU Columbus. 12/31 1723 Station Promo. ID. (WM-MD)

TX WBAP Fort Worth. 12/31 1955 "News Talk 820". ID. (WM-MD)

850 GA WPTB Statesboro. 12/26 0100. ESPN Radio Game Night, TOH ID, and more ESPN Radio. Decent signal with fades. "WPTB, Statesboro". (IEN-GA)

VA WTAR Norfolk. 12/22 2245. 1/4-Hour Drop and The Dr. Laura Show. Weak signal in the mix of stations on the frequency. "WTAR". (IEN-GA)

920 NS CJCH Halifax. 12/31 1850. Oldies music heard. ID. (WM-MD)

940 IL WMIX Mount Vernon. 12/31 2000. NOS Music heard. ID. (WM-MD)

980 SC WAZS Summerville. 12/27 0026. Oldies and mentions of Charleston. Good signal only to fade to just above the mix. "The New Rocket 980". (IEN-GA)

1010 FL WJXL Jacksonville. 12/31 2341. Sports news and scores. Good signal trading places with CFRB in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. "Jacksonville's Sports Radio, 1010 XL". (IEN-GA)

1030 TN WQSE White Bluff. 12/23 0600. Southern Gospel, TOH ID, and more Southern Gospel. Weak, but steady signal mixed with WBZ in Boston, MA. "This is WQSE, 1030 AM, White Bluff". (IEN-GA)

1200 TN WAMB Nashville. 01/06 1838. Big Band music. Good signal in the null of WOAI in San Antonio, TX. "This is 1200, WAMB". (IEN-GA)

1220 NC WDYT Kings Mountain. 12/25 0806. FOX Sports Radio program. Good signal. "Think Radio 1220, WDYT". (IEN-GA)

1310 MI WDTW Dearborn. 1/11 0845. Detroit traffic report, "Motor City weather", quick fade out in sunrise. (JC-DE)

PA WTZN Troy. 1/11 2200. ESPN Radio, short tentative "ESPN Radio, WTZN" ID. Weak but presumed the one here. (JC-DE)

1370 NC WGV Pineville. 12/21 1801. Gospel Music, TOH ID, and the "Girlfriend! Get A Life!" show. Good signal only to fade away as the show started. "WGV, Charlotte". (IEN-GA)

1420 CT WLIS Old Saybrook. 2155 1/7. ID for both WLIS and WMRD-1150 in the hash, then fade-out, on the SRF-59. (JC-DE)

1450 VA WVAX Charlottesville. 2205 1/7. "Charlottesville's Progressive 1150 in the hash, then fade-out, on the SRF-59. (JC-DE)

Best laid plans... go on Cruise, dock in Tampa Sunday early AM... home by noon... do EDXR... However we woke up Sunday morning and found ourselves still in the Gulf of Mexico. Stuck in fog and unable to get into Tampa... Finally made it home Sunday night. Thus no EDXR last week. But we had FUN... Key West, Belize, Guatemala and Cousame!, Mexico. Fun cruise, but glad to be back. Thanks to all this week... Best to all... fresh 1-19 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.

We have a DXpedition to report on this week from Dennis Vroom on his trip out to Grayland and also I received a new country QSL'd, Sri Lanka. So away we go.

PAN AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

530 CUBA, Radio Rebelde, good on top of RVC with Cuban music and a man "Rebelde" at 0730 UTC 1/18. (PM-OR)

TURKS AND CAICOS, RVC 0927 1/18 rel broadcast in EE. (DV-WA*)

TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

153 RUSSIA, 1420 1/17 fair with RR music. (DV-WA*)

180 RUSSIA, 1354 1/18 fair with RR music. (DV-WA*)

279 RUSSIA, 1301 1/17 good with woman in RR. (DV-WA*)

531 JAPAN Morioka JOQG 1307 1/1 good with woman in JJ. (DV-WA*)

558 JAPAN, Kobe JOCR 1309 1/17 fair with man in JJ. (DV-WA*)

JAPAN, Sapporo JOIK 1311 1/17 fair with man/woman in JJ. (DV-WA*)

594 JAPAN, Tokyo JOAK 1313 1/18 fair with man in JJ. (DV-WA*)

639 JAPAN, Shizuoka JOPB 1425 1/18 weak with man in JJ and a lot of splatter from KFI. (DV-WA*)

666 JAPAN, Osaka JOBK 1442 1/18 weak with woman in JJ. Much splatter. (DV-WA*)

693 JAPAN, Tokyo JOAB 1316 1/18 fair with man in JJ and splatter. (DV-WA*)

702 JAPAN, JO?? synchros 1444 1/18 weak with one of the two listed NHK 2 stations, EE lessons. (DV-WA*) (More likely Kitami as it is in Northern Japan, but there is the possibility of both being heard at the same time. PM)

711 REP KOREA, Seoul HLKA 1316 1/17 fair with man in Asian lang. (Likely Korean. PM), KIRO GRM. (DV-WA*)

729 JAPAN, Nanoyo JOCK 1327 1/17, fair with woman in JJ //594. (DV-WA*)

738 TAHITI, Mahina 0515 1/16 weak with male/female in FF. (DV-WA*)

747 JAPAN, Sappoo JOIB 1332 1/17, fair woman/man in JJ. (DV-WA*)

774 JAPAN, Akita JOUB 1250 1/17 good with male/female in JJ on SRF59. (DV-WA*)

828 JAPAN, Osaka JOBB 1336 1/17 good with EE lessons. (DV-WA*)

864 DR KOREA? 1449 1/18 weak maybe the station with Asian lang. (DV-WA*) (HLKR I hear often mixing with JJs. PM)

873 JAPAN, Kumomoto JOGB 1342 1/17 fair in JJ. Unid station under JOGB. (DV-WA*) China has been reported on 873 also. PM)

936 UNID 1451 1/18 weak with Asian language. (DV-WA*) (Maybe Anhui China? PM)

972 REP KOREA, Dangun HLCA 1345 1/17 fair with man singing in Asian language. (DV-WA*)

981 CHINA, 1456 1/17 fair with Asian mx //6030. (DV-WA*)

1044 CHINA, 1503 1/18 fair with woman in JJ. (DV-WA*)

1053 DR KOREA, 1329 1/15 fair with Rep Korea jammer on top of channel. (DV-WA*)

1107 JAPAN, Kagoshima JOCR 1316 1/18 fair with man in JJ. (V-WA*)

1134 JAPAN, Tokyo JOOR 1423 1/17 fair with man in JJ. (DV-WA*)

1206 CHINA 1424 1/18 fair with man in Asian lang. (DV-WA*) (Likely in Korean. PM)

1278 JAPAN, Fukuoka 1314 1/18 weak with man in JJ. (DV-WA*)

1323 CHINA, 1310 1/18 weak assuming China in Asian language. (DV-WA*) (Likely in Russian. PM)

1566 REP KOREA, Cheju, HLAZ 1356 1/17 fair with man in Asian lang. (DV-WA)

1575 THAILAND, VOA 1355 1/17 fair with man in Asian lang. (DV-WA*)

1593 CHINA, CNR1 1302 1/18 man in CC fair //6030. (DV-WA*)

VERIFICATIONS

1548 SRI LANKA, Trincomalee, Deutsche Welle, rec QSL card with prog sked, stickers, and my \$2 returned in 13d for CD tentative report. New country. I am really pleased with this one too. No V/S. Address: Deutsche Welle, 53110 Bonn. MW QSL #2979. (PM-OR)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

DV-WA* DENNIS VROOM, Vancouver WA vroomski@comcast.net
DXpedition at Grayland WA with JRC 545, Sony SRF 59, 300 foot bog NW, 800 foot bog West.

PM-OR PATRICK MARTIN, PO Box 843, Seaside OR 97138-0843 mwdxr@webtv.net
DXing with Drake R8, 1500 foot Eastern beverage, terminated.

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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The Sony SRF-59
by Kevin Schanlic

The Sony SRF-59, a small and inexpensive pocket radio, has started what can only be called revolution within the MW-DX community. Starting with Gary DeBock's review in late 2007, which appeared in the IRCA Technical Column of December 8, 2007, and can be found on the dxer.ca Web site, use of this and other so-called "UltraLight" radios has caught on like wildfire, spreading through North America and now making its way to other corners of the globe.

In the first three weeks of it being used by handful of DXers, multiple transatlantic and transpacific stations were heard, and many have now logged well over 100 stations (one in just a three day weekend!). At last count, at least 40-50 long-time DXers have purchased this little gem and are actively using it as one of their main receivers. Contests are now underway for distance records and the first to hear a station in a particular category. All this capability, and all this excitement, for under \$20.00!

To help those who may be interested in an Ultralight Radio like the SRF-59, or for those who want to get tips on how to use theirs to get more DX, what follows is a summary of what is known about the SRF-39 and to describe the various ways in which this fine little receiver can be used as a true DX receiver.

Lineage of the SRF-59

The SRF-59 is but the latest variation on a theme that Sony started in approximately 1992 with the SRF-39, which also came in a clear plastic version for prison users. The SRF-49 debuted in 1997, followed by the stylish PSY-03 in 1999 (apparently available in various colors, such as purple), and finally the SRF-59 in 2001. All of these models are very similar, having the same circuit board with only volume, tuning, FM sensitivity and on/off controls. Each sells (or sold) for less than \$20.00.



The SRF-39 1992

The SRF-49 1997

The PSY-03 1999

The SRF-59 2001

Changes along the way include:

- The form factor of the earlier models was more square, while the lines of the SRF-59 are more curved.
- The SRF-39 had a useful 0-10 log strip, whereas the later versions have unlabeled log strip.
- The recessed area for the tuning thumbwheel was more generous on the earlier models, whereas on the SRF-59 the thumbwheel sticks out less, making it more difficult to make fine adjustments.
- The SRF-39 came with a guard chain, similar to the chain on trucker wallets: no mention of this is made for any other version.
- Finally, the belt clip on the earlier models required that it be flexed and slid to the side to remove it, whereas it pops off much easier on the SRF-59, and it appears this change will prolong its life.

The SRF-59 is widely available in retail stores and online, whereas finding the other three models may present a challenge. A few clear plastic versions of the SRF-39, the FP version, were recently found on eBay. The SRF-49 is available through Hotbuyselectronics.com. While the PSY-03 was apparently manufactured for import to the US, I have never been able to locate one.

What Makes It Tick

The heart of the SRF-59 family is Sony's proprietary CXA1129N integrated circuit. As can be seen in the manual for the PSY-03, this 30 pin nerve center includes all of the circuitry needed for a complete AM/FM Stereo receiver. Lacking only the final audio amplification stage, it forms the foundation of a remarkably sensitive and selective receiver. Perhaps not surprisingly, Sony keeps the secrets of the CXA1129N under wraps, and does not sell the chip to other manufacturers for OEM applications.

The reference for the CXA1129N is a 1992 paper, published at about the same time as the introduction of the SRF-39, entitled "Advanced Low Voltage Single Chip Radio IC". Among the highlights, excellent selectivity was made possible through the use of a low intermediate frequency on AM (55 khz), and the use of quadrature mixing with a phase shift network provides an extremely effective image canceling circuit. The IC operates at voltages as low as 0.95 volts, enabling it to run for extended periods of time on a single AA battery.

Using the SRF-59

There have been numerous testimonials from once-skeptical DXers that proclaim with amazement the capabilities of this tiny marvel. In addition to Gary DeBock's pioneering review mentioned above, various other reviews and comparisons have further clarified the capabilities and limitations of the SRF-59. Below I attempt to summarize how it performs in the various categories important to DXers.

1. Sensitivity – with its 1-3/4" ferrite bar loop antenna, the SRF-59 is able to pull in a remarkable amount of DX. In the Ultralight Radio category, it is second only to the Sony SRF-T615 (which uses the CXA1111N IC) in this category. A comparison with some of its larger brothers, such as

the ICF-SW7600GR and ICF-2010, shows that one can only expect so much from a smaller antenna. However, a properly aligned SRF-59 can hold its own against most any other Ultralight Radio.

2. Selectivity – here is where the SRF-59 really shines. It is simply unmatched by any other Ultralight Radio! According to the 1992 technical document, the integrated IF filtering provides a nominal bandwidth of approximately 5 khz at six decibels down; however, its shape factor is so tight as one would find in a communications receiver, and so it sounds more like a 6 or 7 khz filter. In any event, it provides a degree of selectivity superior to any other Ultralight Radio tested to date.

3. Nulling – again, the SRF-59 is "Best In Class" when it comes to nulling. Owing to the placement of the ferrite loop antenna at the very top of the casing, away from other components, the nulls on this receiver are phenomenal. Strong local stations which had previously thought to be immune to nulling can be made to simply disappear. Note that the null may exist only when the receiver's antenna is nearly vertical, which may hinder the reception of weak DX targets. The Sony SRF-T615 is the only other Ultralight Radio to match the SRF-59's capabilities in this category. Owing to its small size, the null is easy to maintain as well, especially if you are sitting in the comfort of your favorite chair!

4. Because of the IC design, there are simply no images on this receiver. Period!

5. Tuning and accuracy: this is the one area in which other Ultralight Radios have an advantage. Unless one lives in an urban setting or other area with several "signpost" stations scattered throughout the dial which let you know where you are, the small analog tuning scale can make finding a station difficult at times, especially at the upper end of the dial. As discussed above, the three earliest models are easier to tune given their increased access to the thumbwheel. If there was a PLL version of the SRF-59, it would be Ultralight Radio heaven! Note that two other Sony models, the SRF-83 and SRF-84, use(d) the CXA1129N IC; while they were very tiny, they were also analog machines.

6. Circuit noise – there is some noise generated within the receiver, although it is typically not audible without using ear "buds" or sitting in a very quiet room. I found the circuit noise to be nearly the same as that generated within the Sony ICF-2010. At any rate, at normal listening volume, the noise fades into the background, and I find it to be a non-issue.

7. Spurs/birdies – Gary DeBock noticed a spur near 730 khz during one of his tests, although I have not noticed this on my receivers, nor any other such noise anywhere else on the dial. I'm sure a detailed examination could uncover some here and there, but I simply don't notice them during normal strolling up and down the band.

8. Overloading – even when coupled with a large outdoor loop antenna, strong locals don't cause much distortion. Living in a strong RF urban setting, I find this particularly valuable!

9. AGC – the automatic gain control is excellent on the SRF-59, allowing a very constant level of audio as one tunes up and down the band.

10. Audio fidelity – in listening to music and voice, most have found the level of fidelity to be quite remarkable. Its filtering allows a bit less high-frequency than the Wide filter on the Sony ICF-2101, but it is still a major step above what one often gets in an AM radio. There are no tone controls, and so units like the Sangean DT-210V, which have a "bass boost" feature, can sound more full-bodied. Still, the SRF-59 really sounds very good! I located a review which compared the FM audio on the SRF-59 and the Sangean DT-200V (essentially the same as the DT-210V), and the reviewer concluded that the DT-200V was much better on the FM band.

11. Stability – I have not noticed any drift during my listening sessions.

12. Quality control – most SRF-59's seem to perform well right out of the box. While an alignment performed by a capable technician can no doubt perk up any receiver, such an alignment is generally not needed. There have been some badly aligned units, and remarkably, all three were purchased in the same state, at different branches of the same retailer! One other consideration is that the variable capacitor used for tuning the SRF-59 has been reported to have occasionally failed, apparently due to the breakdown of the sheet material used in its construction; the result is a scratching sound and a tuning wheel that is more difficult to turn.

As a result of these features and capabilities, DXers who have been in this hobby for many years have been stunned at what they are able to hear on the SRF-59. Whether the targets are domestic and foreign, this little gem can hear just about anything. Here are some of the current longest distance records:

- Open category: HLCA-972 khz (5201 miles) from Puyallup, WA
- 50 KW: RVC-530 (3403 miles) from Victoria, BC
- 10 KW: CJGX-940 (936 miles) from Bainbridge Island, WA
- 5 KW: KABC-970 (831 miles) Salmon Creek, WA
- 1 KW: KVNS-1700 (2016 miles) from Bainbridge Island, WA.
- 500 W: WWWW-820 (313 miles) from London, ON
- 250 W: KWSW-790 (458 miles) from Tacoma, WA

Augmenting The SRF-59

Though it is a capable receiver out of the box, with a little imagination, the limitations of the SRF-59 can be largely overcome, and its strengths can be further exploited.

To increase sensitivity, a passively coupled onboard loop antenna is an outstanding accessory. Whether homebrew or commercial, most any design will work with the SRF-59. I have a 28-by-42 inch box loop, which really makes the SRF-59 come alive. For air core loops, maximum signal transfer is generally found when the SRF-59 is inside the loop at the exact center; however, placing the SRF-59 outside a certain distance away allows for increased selectivity. Gil Stacy has published a design for a very compact homebrew ferrite rod antenna on the [dxr.ca](http://www.dxr.ca) Ultralight Radio download page, which can be referred to if you are inclined to build your own, and he has since adapted it to act as a coupling device between his SRF-59 and a EWE antenna. Finally, simply placing two SRF-59's side-by-side and tuning them both to the same frequency allows one unit to passively couple with the other: the signal boost isn't as great as with a Terk loop or similar, but it is still appreciable.

If one has a Quantum Loop or similar, the SRF-59 can be affixed to the loop head, allowing for full 360 degree orientation for nulling (note: the influence of the loop head seems to detract from the depth of the null). With the loop powered down, the passive tuning network is still active, and you can substantially boost the signal on the SRF-59. Finally, with a Quantum Loop, by turning it on and engaging the Q Multiplier, you can REALLY narrow the IF bandwidth, since the output from the Quantum Loop head overpowers the SRF-59's ferrite loop and dictates the IF bandwidth.

Speaking of orienting for nulls, I have found that placing the SRF-59 on a small plastic tripod, typically sold for camera usage, allows one to precisely orient the unit in order to find and hold a deep null. Care must be taken to ensure that the influence of one's hands and body don't spoil the null once you take your hands away: try affixing the SRF-59 to a piece of thin plywood, which can then be mounted to the tripod, and adjust the null by gripping the plywood. Gary DeBock has also had success with simply placing shims under the receiver to orient to the receiver for nulls. Many have also found that one's hands and body also help boost the signal, and apparently also affect nulling. In fact, I have found that, while holding a null (and the SRF-59) in one hand, waving my other hand around the ferrite loop antenna portion of the receiver can help fine-tune the null.

As for dial calibration and tuning ease and accuracy, in his homebrew ferrite loop antenna article, Gil Stacy also describes how a simple plastic disc attached to the SRF-59's tuning thumbwheel can be used to make a much more detailed tuning scale. You have to have the unit's case open, but if you're comfortable doing this, it allows for easier tuning.

For audio reproduction, most DXers have likely been using their own favorite headphones rather than the plastic headset supplied with the SRF-59, although there are likely already some purists who insist on using the factory equipment! The audio output is sufficient to drive any headphones that I have tried. I also use an Olympus WS3xxM-series audio recorder, which allows me to archive all the files in WMA format, and it has a headphone jack so you can monitor what is being recorded: very compact and handy! For those that want to modify the SRF-59's audio circuit, Xin Feng's Web site discusses the changes he recommends to selected capacitors and resistors which can extend the bass and treble response of these receivers.

As with all receivers with a ferrite loop antenna, passive phasing with a box loop or another ferrite loop antenna is quite straightforward, and the native sensitivity of the SRF-59 allows for some excellent results. With the advent of the Ultralight Age, Audio Phasing has also become a potent weapon against co-channel pests: check out the [dxr.ca](http://www.dxr.ca) Web site for more details.

Maintaining Your SRF-59

Generally, other than replacing the battery every 100 hours or so, there simply isn't much to do! However, if an alignment is needed, a full description of maintenance procedures is described in the PSY-03 service manual. Gary DeBock has performed many such operations, and has published a more detailed guide to alignments, again on the [dxr.ca](http://www.dxr.ca) Web site. Given the small size of the SRF-59, this is not necessarily for the inexperienced technician! Getting your hands on an SRF-39FP might be helpful, since you will be able to look inside the case and see what you're about to try before actually cracking the case open.

Conclusion

Why has the SRF-59 captured the hearts and imaginations of so many DXers? There are probably many reasons for its allure:

- the amount of DX that can come from such a small and inexpensive unit
- the lack of any sophisticated controls, pitting one directly against the AM band
- the size and convenience, making DXing available anywhere one might be
- the excellent audio reproduction
- the energy and enthusiasm engendered by a new and different way of pursuing the DX hobby

Take a tip from me – buy an SRF-59 or two and discover the reasons for yourself!

Resources

Gary DeBock's pioneering review, as well as other reviews of the SRF-59 and comparisons to various receivers may be found in the Downloads/UL Radio Files section of the [dxr.ca](http://www.dxr.ca) Web site. A detailed manual on Audio Phasing may also be found there (which also appeared in the Technical Column of 12 January 2008).

The review which compared the FM fidelity of the SRF-59 and the Sangean DT-200V can be found at <http://www.head-fi.org/forums/f15/side-side-comparison-sangean-dt-200v-sony-srf-59-a-182003>.

Manuals for most models are freely available on-line:

- SRF-49 Owner's Manual - www.sony-asia.com/support/manual/product/srf-49
- PSY-03 Service Manual - www.electronicarts.ro/service_manuals/sony/radio/srf-psy03/
- SRF-59 Owner's Manual - <http://pdf.cse.com/manuals/3232334121.pdf>

A full description of the theory and construction of the CXA1129N IC can be found in "Advanced Low Voltage Single Chip Radio IC" by Okanobu, Tomiyama, and Arimoto, IEEE Transactions on Consumer Electronics, Vol. 38, No. 3, August 1992, pp. 465-475. The full article may be purchased at the ieeexplore.ieee.org Web site, while Robert Culter's summary of the article is reprinted at the [dxr.ca](http://www.dxr.ca) Web site in the Ultralight Radio Downloads section.

Xin Feng's discussion of audio modifications to the SRF-49, applicable to any of these models, may be found at www.fixup.net/tips/srf49/srf49.htm.

2007-2008 IRCA Unlucky 13 DX CONTEST

Manager: Nancy Johnson – 265 Waterton Wy – Billings, MT 59102-7755
E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

January 15, 2008 update

Phil Bytheway	61	Nancy Johnson*	77	Dale Park	27
Greg Hall	277	Gary Kinsman	121	Dan Riordan	61
John C. Johnson	7	Tim Noonan	216		

* Contest manager is not eligible to win.

You can join the contest at any time, so if you haven't joined already there is still plenty of time to do so. The contest rules can be found online at the IRCA website, and also in the August 4, 2007 issue of DXM. Send me a note if you have any questions. Please, report to the appropriate editor any special loggings you hear while DX'ing for the contest! The contest runs until May 31, 2008.

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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