

February 9, 2008 - Volume 45, Number 21 - Edition 1433 - ISSN 899-9733

The 2008 Cabin Fever Ultralight MW DX Sprint

Stuck in the Winter Doldrums? Seeking relief? The 2008 Cabin Fever Ultralight MW DX Sprint will take place between 30 minutes before local sunset on February 29, 2008, through 30 minutes after local sunrise on March 3, 2008. Participants may choose to enter using either of 2 classes of recognized Ultralight radios in any or all of three scoring categories: total number of stations heard, top 5 DX stations heard in the Americas, and top 5 DX stations heard worldwide. Participants choose a total of four hours listening time between the above dates. The primary purposes of this event are not to establish winning scores, but to foster camaraderie among participants, and to demonstrate that enjoyment can be had in our chosen hobby with minimalist equipment, at very low cost, requiring only a willingness to sit at the dials. There are no prizes in this competition. Each participant will receive a certificate and high scores will be recognized. Rules, entry requirements, FAQs, and contact information are located in the Ultralight Files Area at www.dxeur.ca. Questions may be sent to ultralightradio@yahoo.com.
 Gil Stacy and John Bryant, Co-chair

In This Issue:	
DX Tests...	2
Canadian Radio News...	2
Western DX Roundup...	3
Central DX Roundup...	4
Eastern DX Roundup...	5
DX World-Wide-West...	6
DX World-Wide-East...	6
Verification Signers...	8
IRCA Technical Column...	9

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 dxeur@desert4wd.com if you're interested.

IRCA Convention 2008 News

The 2008 IRCA Convention will be held in Flagstaff, Arizona on September 12-14 at The Days Inn, 1000 West Route 66, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001. The phone number for the Days Inn is 928-774-5221 and tell them that you are with the IRCA. I have a block of 20 rooms which they will hold until August 12 but after that date the rooms will be gone very fast. So if you don't make your reservations by August 12 you will not get a room at the Days Inn. The room rates are \$65 for single, double, triple or quad. The registration fee for the convention is \$25 per person and you can pay at the door or sent it to me at the address below. The banquet will be held on Saturday night at Black Barts Steak House in Flagstaff. There are many things to do in Northern Arizona and a few of them are: The Grand Canyon, Lowell Observatory, Wupatki National Monument, Meteor Crater and Sedona. So start now and make your plans for the 2008 IRCA Convention in Flagstaff.
 Bill Block, 7716 E. Thelma Drive, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314. billwblock@msn.com

NRC Convention 2008 News

John Malicky will host it in Pittsburgh PA over the Labor Day weekend.

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)
Sat 2/23/08	0000-0100	990	WNTP	Philadelphia PA	(Tetro)
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 \[at\] yahoo.com](mailto:W4OPW[at]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.

WNTP 990 kHz Philadelphia, PA DX Test

Date: Saturday morning (late Friday night), Feb. 23, 2008. Time: Midnight - 1 a.m. Eastern Time, 0500 - 0600 UTC. From midnight until 12:30 a.m. the station will test with their new daytime pattern and 50 KW power. From 12:30 until 1 a.m. they will test with their non-directional pattern and 12.5 KW power. Previous non-directional tests have been conducted at 5 KW, and this higher power should give more listeners a chance to hear this station. "We'll especially be running a lot of sweep tones since they seem to get the best results. Morse IDs, steady 2 kHz tones, and some odd ball music - which I have yet to pick," says Chief Engineer and DXer René Tetro. Reception reports may be sent to René at WNTP_117_Ridge_Pike_Lafayette_Hill_PA_19444. E-mail reception reports may also be submitted to rtetro@pobox.com. "If sending an audio recording, I prefer CD or mp3 (MP3s can be an attachment to an e-mail, provided the size doesn't exceed 3-4 mb)." René adds. No eQSL service is being offered for this test. This is the fourth year in a row that René will conduct a test over WNTP, but this higher transmitter power opens up lots of new possibilities. NOTE: All requests for verifications must be accompanied by return postage in order to receive a reply. Many thanks to René for his great support over the years to DXers and our hobby, and in particular for conducting 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.

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

CANADIAN RADIO NEWS

Dan Sys-dsysca@yahoo.ca

For January 2008 (February 1 2008 - next update March 1 2008)

FORMAT CHANGES

1450 BC Summerland CHOR From Oldies (Oldies 1450) to AC during AMD/PMD & News-Talk the remainder of the day (AM 1450)

AM TO FM CONVERSIONS ON THE AIR

103.9 NF Carbonear CHVO Moved from 560 (remains Country) (Kixx Country)
 106.1 NB Moncton CBAM Moved from 1070 (as CBA) (CBC Radio One)

BRANDINGS

1410 BC Vancouver CFUN Will become The Buzz (remains News-Talk)

1410 KBPN OR, 1/22 1044 KBPN ID under powerhouse CFUN. (AB-ID)
 1440 KMED OR, Medford 1/27 0406 good signal with "News Talk AM 1440, KMED." (DR-OR)
 1560 KNZR CA, Bakersfield 1/23 0001 news & ID, scratching, unusually weak with some local 1550 splash on the Drake with RS loop. (GH-OR)
 1600 KEPN CO, Lakewood 1/26 good a lot of the time, especially late in the morning with usual ESPN promos. Best ID at 0859:50 "This is the New ESPN Radio 16 hundred, KEPN Lakewood-Denver." 1/30 0659 fair in jumble with ESPN Sports and "ESPN 1600 is KEPN Lakewood-Denver." (PM-OR)
 KGYM IA, Cedar Rapids 1/26 briefly above the jumble with an ESPN ID and "Follow... on KGYM..." at 0659. 1/30 good at 0459 with "ESPN Radio 16 hundred," promo for Eastern Iowa Sports. (PM-OR)
 KATZ MO, St. Louis 1/26 good briefly at 0559 with Black Gospel and "Hallelujah 1600" ID. 1/30 0258 on top and loud with "Your Gospel station KATZ." (PM-OR)
 ?KRKE? NM, Albuquerque with 50s rock in jumble. Possible ID at 0459:50 as "KRKE Albuquerque," but mostly buried in jumble. Heard before with 10kw, but this sounded like they were on with the listed 12 watts. (PM-OR)
 KOHI OR, St. Helens 1/28 0300 unusual to catch KOHI at s/off with 11 watts, gave info and SSB, in the jumble. Then, caught s/on at 0900 on top of the channel too. (PM-OR)
 ARO31235 OR, Umatilla 1/28 0400 with repeated message on Emergency operations with phone numbers to report a problem. Thanks to help from Bruce, Kevin and Dennis on ID'ing New. (PM-OR)
 KRVA TX, Cockrell Hill 1/26 coming from the jumble briefly at 0601 "This is 16 hundred AM, KRIV Cockrell Hill," then lost in jumble. (PM-OR)
 KXTA UT, Centerville 1/26 trading places with KEPN at times at 0759:50 with mentions of "Gue Buena" in Spanish and KXTA call. (PM-OR)
 1670 KNRO CA, Redding 1/23 0100 ESPN sports talk. Fair with slow shallow fades. Everyone seems a little weaker tonight! (GH-OR)

UNIDS

1600 UNID 1/26 station with adult standards format at 0250, popping up briefly. (PM-OR)
 UNID 1/26 station at 0558 with slogan "Country 16 hundred," but lost in jumble. (PM-OR)
 Last week Glen's 1270 tip from Sparks, NV should have read KBZZ. I'm not sure how the call letters got missed. Nancy 2/1 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.
 [RW-NM] Robert Wien, Las Cruces, NM Wienbob@aol.com
 DX'ing at the Encanto Hotel with the alarm clock radio

DOWN THE DIAL

1180 KERI CA, Wasco 1-30 loud over weak SS, 20:00 with "AM 11-80 KERI Greenacres, Wasco, Bakersfield. Your Christian Station. [NJ-MT]
 1210 KRVS WY, Afton. 1-30 poor through nulled CFYM. 19:01 with weather. [NJ-MT]
 1320 KWHN AR, Fort Smith. 1-28 fair on top of frequency until fade out. 06:15 with "...from the KWHN weather center...." Totally unexpected to hear this all the way in SW NM on a hotel room clock radio. [RW-NM]
 1410 KBNP OR, Portland. 2-1 through CFUN. 20:05 with KBNP call. Logged on the Chevy TrailBlazer radio. [NJ-MT]
 1580 KGAL OR, Lebanon. 1-30 strong. 23:05 with "Smart talk 15-80" slogan. Promo for Radio Factor weekday mornings and ID into Jim Bonannan Show. [NJ-MT]

25 YEARS AGO

February 5, 1983 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... John Clemmer of East Moline, IL reflected on hosting the convention last August ... Dennis Kibbe of Tempe, AZ logged the KWSO DX test ... Robert Wien of San Jose, CA finally heard KQTE 1460 after 4 years of trying ... Also included with this issue was the 1983 Frequency Check List.

OPEN MIKE

Robert Wien was in Las Cruces, NM for an interview and checked out the reception finding KNBR just above KWKA, KCBS mixing with KRMG, and KGO dominating 810. This column was typed 2-2-08. 73, John

960 ON Kingston CFFX Simulcast time expires for FM conversion
 1280 ON Toronto CFBN Plug pulled on Canada's first All Business station apparently due to financial issues
 1380 ON Kingston CKLC Was shut down in December without ever simulcasting the new CKLC 98.9 (The Drive) despite authorization to do so for 3 months

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

WDXR DEADLINES: Feb. 8, Feb. 22, March 7, March 21, April 4, April 18. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

(AB) Art Blair-730 SW 3rd St.-Fruitland, ID 83619
 (BB) Bill Block-7716 E. Thelma Drive-Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 billwblock@msn.com
 (GH) Glen Hansen-1925 Tualatin St.-St. Helens, OR skinner@columbia-center.org
 Drake R8B, R-388, R-390A, Hammarlund SP-600, various wires, amplified Sanserino and Radio Shack loops
 (PM) Patrick Martin-P.O. Box 843-Seaside, OR 97138-0843 mwdxer@webtv.net
 (5P) Dale Park-P.O. Box 10640-Honolulu, HI 96816 dxfool@aol.com
 Sangean ATS-818CS, Terk AM1000 loop
 (DR) Dan Riordan-23858 SW Warbler Place-Sherwood, OR dxmw@earthlink.net
 Drake R8, Sony SW35, Palomar loop
 (MJS) Mike Stonebridge-St. Isidore, AB
 AOR 7030+ Quantum Phaser, EWE's of 110' & 125', a 1000' E/W Beverage and a 1000' BUS at 300 degrees, both un-terminated

780 KNOM AK, Nome 1/30 0500 a few minutes before the top of hour I heard music, which is unusual on this frequency as I usually hear the talk formats of WBBM or KKOH. Then at the top of hour I heard "KNOM in Nome. It's one o'clock," then into ABC news. I heard the exact same ID at 0800 and again at 1000. This is the sixth new Alaskan station heard this season. (MJS-AB) (Congratulations, Mike!—NJ)
 880 KJJR MT, Whitefish 1/21 2300 ad for Hilltop Collision Repair and ID. In strong like a local for 15 minutes then lost to KWIP pest. Just started hearing them recently. (GH-OR)
 940 CJGX SK, Yorkton 1/27 0430 "GX 94" slogan ID into weather for Regina and Saskatoon. Good signal under local KWBY open carrier. (DR-OR)
 1010 KXPS CA, Thousand Palms 1/30 1959 with "KXPS." (BB-AZ)
 1030 KDUN OR, Reedsport 1/31 1600 apparently silent once again. I have not heard them for the last several days at least. KMAS alone on channel. (PM-OR)
 1160 KMAS WA, Shelton 1/26 0453 good signal with "The Oldies Station, KMAS." (DR-OR)
 KSL UT, Salt Lake City 1/28 0655 live coverage of death of Latter Day Saints Church president Gordon Hinkley with airing of old speech, ID missed, time check "KSL news time 5 o'clock," morning show anchored by man & woman with reporters ending their reports with "KSL Newsradio 1-oh-2-point 7 FM and 11-60 AM." Very poor to poor. (5P-HI)
 1240 KEJO OR, Corvallis 1/20 2345 dominating the pack momentarily with talk of some sort and ID. Weak on R-390A with E-W wire. (GH-OR)
 1250 KNWH CA, Twentynine Palms 1/28 1958 with "KNWH." (BB-AZ)
 KNEU UT, Roosevelt heard 1/28 with weather. (BB-AZ) (Time?—NJ)
 1260 KLYC OR, McMinnville 1/20 0035 oldies over/under CFRN which usually dominates, on Drake with RS loop. Only 70 miles away, but seldom heard. (GH-OR)
 1300 KLER ID, Orofino 1/24 0943 C&W music, KLER ID at 0948. Fair. (AB-ID)
 1310 KLIX ID, Twin Falls 1/25 2330 ID, news, George Noory. A weak KMKY far under on R-388 with N-S wire. No CHLW or KEIN, very odd. (GH-OR)
 1330 ?KJPR? CA, Shasta Lake City 1/26 0400 heard top of hour ID with mention of Southern Oregon University and Jefferson Public Radio. Tentative since KJPR call not heard. Very weak. (DR-OR)
 1340 KWLO IA, Waterloo 1/31 weak on top of jumble with a "13-30 KWLO" ID at 0359. (PM-OR)
 KBBR OR, North Bend 1/27 0030 talk program in the mix. Faint ID then back into the whirl on R-390A with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
 1360 KFIV CA, Modesto 1/24 2000 spot for unID program and KFIV ID, poor. (AB-ID)

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

E-mail: lfreshwater@cox.net

Deadlines: Saturdays 8 AM!!

(WM-TN) Willis Monk

(WM-MD) William McGuire

STARS OF THE WEEK

Old Fort TN
Drake R-4C, 149' LW
2412 59th Place, Cheverly MD
DX-398

LOGGINGS

730 NC WOHS Shelby 2332 01/12. Came up out of the mud. ". . .WOHS weather for tonight will be possible rain. . . ." Then QSBed. Nice signal for only 168 watts! (WM-TN)
880 OH WRFD Columbus/Worthington. 1730 1/28. ID: S/off: "The Word". (WM-MD)
940 GA WMAC Macon. 1728 1/28. Sean Hannity. (WM-MD)
1040 FL WWBA Pinellas Park. 0017 01/06. On day power ?? ID-"News talk 1040, WWBA."
Then back into the Jerry Doyal show?? I heard the words Doyal show, so not sure if it's Jerry or not. On top of WHO. Lots of QSB. (WM-TN)
1110 IL WMBI Chicago. 1735 1/23. ID: "New! (WM-MD)
1130 GA WLBA Gainesville. 1737 1/23. Presumed with SS talk. (WM-MD)
1160 IL WJJD Chicago. 1754 1/23. Heard local promo for Chicago. (WM-MD)
VA WODY Fieldale. 1800 1/23. End of NC Pregame: "ESPN 1160"; ID. (WM-MD)
1210 LA WSKR Denham Springs. 1800 01/21. NFL football - Pats Vs. Chargers. Weak but readable, under WPHT. (WM-MD)
1320 NC WAGY Forest City. 0045 01/08. "Real country, WAGY" Then into song by Diamond Rio. (WM-TN)
Nice signal for only 500 watts. QRM from WJAS. (WM-TN)
1360 CT WDRG Hartford. 2300 1/19. Promo for "The talk of Connecticut"; ID. (WM-MD)
1390 OH WMPO Middleport. 1700 01/26. "ESPN 1390, WMBO." Heavy QRM, QSB. (WM-TN)
TN WTJS Jackson. 1706 01/26. Rose out of the QRM, "WTJS, AM 1390, Jackson" then QSB. (WM-TN)
1430 GA WDAL Dalton. 1430 01/27. SS sports talk, about football in Latin America. (WM-TN)
1450 TN WLMR Chattanooga. 1528 01/27. Program for Messianic Bible study. At 1530 an ID. (WM-TN)
"AM 1450, WLMR, Chattanooga."
1470 SC WLMC Georgetown. 2220 01/25. Weather report for the 'low country', 40% rain for tonight. ID: "You're listening to Gospel 1470, WLMC." Heard white monitoring the frequency, they rose up out of the noise and then QSBed. Nice signal. While it lasted, for only 147 watts. (WM-TN)
TN WVOL Nashville. 1850 01/27. "WVOL, Nashville's oldies station." (WM-TN)
WV WEMM Huntington. 1820 01/27. "1470, Huntington's own WEMM, the best in southern gospel." (WM-TN)
1480 AL WABB Mobile. 1738 01/27. Only heard the ID, as it rose up out of the mud. (WM-TN)
GA WYZE Atlanta. 1730 01/27. "WISE (WYZE) Radio, AM 1480" playing black gospel singh. (WM-TN)
GA WGUS Augusta. 1815 01/27. "Serving Augusta with your favorite southern gospel music, this WGUS, AM 1480." (WM-TN)
PA WCNS Latrobe. 2005 1/2. Girls H.S. BB, local ads; ID. (WM-MD)
1490 GA WJOC Rossville. 1526 01/27. Program with some preacher saying that the KJV version of the Bible is THE ONLY True word of God. (WM-TN)
1520 MO KRHW Sikeston. 1750 1/21. Promo for St. Louis Blues Hockey; ID. (WM-MD)
1530 FL WYWM Jacksonville. 1630 01/18. ". . .every Sunday morning, right here on Jacksonville's mighty 1530. . ." On top of WLAC for a moment, then QSBed. (WM-TN)
1550 ON CBE Windsor. 1820 1/21. CBC News heard. (WM-MD)
1590 MS WZRZ Jackson. 0140 01/08. CNN world headlines news, around the clock, this is WZRZ. 1590 Jackson." Back into CNN news. (WM-TN)
1600 AL WXVI Montgomery. 0150 01/08. ". . .WXVI Sixteen hundred, Montgomery" then into black gospel. Audio sounded mushy and signal was weak. (WM-TN)
NY WWRL New York. 1800 1/21. ID hrd in the mix. (WM-MD)
PA WPDG Elizabethtown. 1758 1/21. Local ads. (WM-MD)
1620 IN WWLV South Bend. 1920 1/18. "Love Songs 1620." (WM-MD)
1680 MI WDSS Ada. 1820 1/23. Radio Disney. (WM-MD)
1690 GA WMLB Avondale Estates. 2300 1/23. ID. (WM-MD)

That's a wrap for this week. Thanks to the WM's Willis and William. . . . Best to all. . . fresh 2-02 0900

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

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

E-mail: mwdxer@webtv.net

TRANS ATLANTIC DX ROUNDUP

162 FRANCE, poor to weak at 0334 UTC 1/29. (SR-OR)
183 GERMANY, poor at 0326 UTC 1/29. (SR-OR)
198 UNITED KINGDOM, poor at 0210 UTC 1/29. (SR-OR)
783 UNID, weak het with no audio at 0210 UTC 1/29. (SR-OR)
1215 UNID, very weak het also that never produced audio 1/29. (SR-OR)

PAN AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

950 MEXICO, Tijuana XEKAM 0107 1/30 Radio Formula ID. Good signal, talk show with mentions of US Presidential candidates. KJR heard underneath XEKAM signal. (DV-WA)

TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

153 RUSSIA, Radio Rossii 1241 1/29 with talk and music. Fair signal. (DV-WA)
234 RUSSIA, Radio Rossii weak with woman in RR at 1258. Surprised to hear this channel and not 180, 189, or 279 1/29. (DV-WA)
693 JAPAN, Tokyo JOAB weak 1253 1/29 and battered in splatter. (DV-WA)
774 JAPAN, Akita JOUB good signal 1250 1/29 with man in JJ. (DV-WA)
780 ALASKA, Nome KNOM 1000 UTC 1/30 At TOH "KNOM in Nome. It's one O'clock" Then it went into ABC news. (MS-AB)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

SR-OR STEVE RATZLAFF, Elgin OR steveratz@soni.com

MS-AB MIKE STONEBRIDGE, St. Isidore, AB stonbrdg@abnorth.com

DV-WA DENNIS VROOM, Salmom Creek, WA vroomski@comcast.net
DXing with R-390A and H-800 active whip+ SRF-59 FP barefoot

DX WORLDWIDE - EAST

Brandon Jordan – 4920 Park Ave. – Memphis, TN 38117

E-mail: dxww-e@bcddx.org

Cappahayden, Newfoundland 2007 DXpedition 19

Participants, Receivers, Antennas, Location

Jean Burnell, Drake R-8A, Icom R-71A (OCT 13-21)

Jim Rentfrew, Drake R8B (OCT 22-29)

Saul Chernos, Drake R8 (OCT 22-29)

Antennas: "North Wire", "South Wire" (actually a little further east than we would like)

Location: Round Cove B&B, Cappahayden, Newfoundland, Canada (on the Avalon Peninsula, facing the Atlantic Ocean)

Notes: This is not a detailed bandscan. Attention was directed primarily at new or unusual signals. Since Saul was a first-timer he noted many signals that Jim passed over as previously heard. Jean's report will be added later. He also mentions that he is still compiling the report of NL DXpedition #18 from August.



Loggings – Eastern Hemisphere

153 ALGERIA Alger Chaîne 1, Béchar, – OCT 26 0045 – Man talking French, solid signal with second station underneath. //549, 891, [SC]

153 GERMANY Deutschlandfunk Donebach – OCT 28 2245 – Very weak with man and woman talking German. //549, 756, 6190, [SC]

162 **FRANCE** France Inter, Allouis – OCT 26 0053 – French. [SC]
 171 **MOROCCO** Radio Méditerranée Internationale, Nador–OCT 26 0054 – Chanting. [SC]
 177 **GERMANY** Deutschlandradio Kultur Zehlendorf – OCT 27 2048 – German, very weak with hydro buzz. [SC]
 183 **GERMANY** Europe 1, Saarflouis – OCT 27 2045 – Man talking German in news or interview. [SC]
 189 **ICELAND** Ríkissíðun Rás 1+2, Gufuskálar– OCT 25 1605 – Very weak talk by woman, next day with Scandinavian tongue with accordion and eclectic music. [SC]
 198 **GREAT BRITAIN** BBC R4 (Synchro, Droitwich likely) – OCT 23 2231 – British news. [SC]
 207 **GERMANY** Deutschlandfunk, Altholming – OCT 26 2135 – Music //549, 756, possibly 6190. [SC]
 207 **MOROCCO** RTM-A, Azilal – OCT 23 2233 – Arabic instrumental music. [SC]
 216 **FRANCE** Radio Monte Carlo, Roumoules – OCT 26 2125 – French talk with Arabic accent. [SC]
 225 **POLAND** Polskie Radio 1, Solec Kujawski – OCT 25 0030 – Jazz pop-folk. Best on north wire. Following day Polish talk. [SC]
 234 **LUXEMBOURG** RTL, Beidweiler – OCT 23 2234 – Big Hot Sky, other western pop. [SC]
 252 **ALGERIA** Radio Alger International, Tipaza – OCT 23 2237 – French talk. [SC]
 252 **IRELAND** RTE Radio 1, Clarkstown – OCT 23 0055 – Irish or Celtic music, //567, later interview. [SC]
 270 **CZECH REPUBLIC** Ceský Rozhlas 1, Topolná – OCT 27 2035 – Man speaking Czech, poppy polka music. [SC]
 279 **BELARUS** Belaruskaye Radio 1, Sasnowy – OCT 25 0032 – Jazz, Russian talk. [SC]
 531 **FAERO ISLANDS** KFU, Torshavn – OCT 23 2225 – most likely this with German version of folk song, but no IDs usually heard during the music program. [SC]
 531 **SPAIN** RNE5 (two synchros) – OCT 28 1946 – Man and woman talking Spanish. Later two Radio Nacional stations echoing with Radio Cinco ID and Spanish talk. [SC]
 540 **HUNGARY** Kossuth Radio, Solit, OCT 28 1958 – under CBT but good signal. Man talking, woman singing. //1116, 1188, 1251, 6025. [SC]
 + OCT 28 2110 – old recording of a live speech, then comment, name of the speaker might have been Pavlov Petrovic, //1116, 1188 and 6025. [JR]
 549 **ALGERIA** Alger Chaîne 1, Les Trembles – OCT 26 0046 – Man talking French, solid atop channel, //153, 891. [SC]
 549 **GERMANY** Deutschlandfunk (synchro), OCT 26 2136 – Two stations echoing with music //207, 756, possibly 6190. [SC]
 558 **SPAIN** RNE5 (synchro), OCT 28 2300 – Radio Cinco ID, Spanish. [SC]
 567 **IRELAND** Tuillamore, RTE1 – OCT 23 0055 – Irish or Celtic music. //252. [SC]
 576 **CANARY ISLANDS** RNE1, Las Palmas, OCT 25 0025 – RNE1 program //639. This is the Canary Islands by process of elimination: the other RNEs on 576 are RNE5, Radio Cinco. [JR]
 + OCT 25 0057 – ID, Spanish talk, mixing with Germany. //639. [SC]
 576 **GERMANY** SWR Cont. Ra, Baden-Württemberg, Mühlacker–OCT 25 0050 – German talk, mixing with Canary Islands. [SC]
 576 **SPAIN** RNE5, Barcelona – OCT 27 1945 – Radio Cinco ID, Spanish. [SC]
 585 **SPAIN** RNE1, Madrid – OCT 23 0354 – Spanish. [SC]
 594 **GERMANY** HR-Info (synchro), OCT 25 0010 – Man and woman speak German, probably runs NDR at night. //1017. [SC]
 603 **FRANCE** France Info, Lyon, France Info, OCT 24 0223 – Weak dominant signal with French talk & pop. //711, 792, 837, 945, 1206, 1377, 1404, 1494, 1557. [SC]
 603 **ROMANIA** România Cultural, Bucuresti – OCT 28 2315 – “Romania Cultural,” lively pop. [SC]
 603 **SPAIN** RNE5 (synchro), OCT 28 2316 – Two stations echoing with woman speaking Spanish. [SC]
 612t **MOROCCO** Sebaâ-Atoun, OCT 25 0100 – Tentative, with possible ID, Arabic talk and Middle Eastern music. [SC]
 612 **SPAIN** RNE1 synchros, OCT 23 0141 – RNE1 program //639. [JR]
 621 **BELGIUM** RTBF1, Wavre-Overijse, OCT 26 1848 – Language somewhat like French, sports (live, commentary or recap, can hear crowd in background), Full ID then music. //9970. [SC]
 630 **NORWAY** NRK Møre og Romsdal, Vigra, OCT 24 2357 – Clash (Should I Stay or Should I Go), Scandinavian dialect. [SC]
 630t **TUNISIA** RTT, Tunis-Djedeida, OCT 25 2210 – Tentative, with Arabic chanting, solid atop channel with moderate signal. Heard again OCT 29 0430 with Arabic pop and talk. [SC]
 639 **SPAIN** RNE1 (synchro), OCT 25 0058 – Radio Nacional ID, Spanish talk, //576. [SC]
 657 **SPAIN** RNE5, Madrid, OCT 29 0205 – Spanish, Radio Cinco ID. [SC]
 666 **GREAT BRITAIN** Gold 666, Exeter, OCT 24 2045 – Hendrix guitar, Steeley Dan, Beatles, other rock. British announcer, Gold ID. //1251, 1260, 1305, 1332, 1359, 1458 and 1485. [SC & JR]
 675 **NETHERLANDS** Arrow Rock Radio, Lopik, OCT 23 0048, Arrow ID, 70s pop. [SC]
 684 **SPAIN** RNE1, Sevilla, OCT 24 2350 – Spanish talk, possibly regarding Kosovo. [SC]
 693 **GREAT BRITAIN** BBC R5 Live (synchro), OCT 23 0045 – Five Live story about environment. //1341, 1413. [SC]

711 **FRANCE** France Info, Rennes – OCT 24 0224 – Weak steady signal with French talk & pop. //603, 792, 837, 945, 1206, 1377, 1404, 1494, 1557. [SC]
 729 **IRELAND** RTE 1, Cork – OCT 24 0523 – ID includes LW and AM frequencies. Weak signal. //567 where it's strong. [SC]
 747 **BULGARIA** Radio Bulgaria (synchro), OCT 27 1924 – children's choir and woman announcer. //1224 and 7400. [JR]
 + OCT 27 1928 – Weak and fading in and out //1224 and 7400, with Eastern European flute-like music and Radio Bulgaria ID several times. [SC]
 747 **SPAIN/CANARY ISLANDS** RNE5 two synchros, OCT 26 0112 – Radio Cinco ID, two stations echoing (other is Spain). [SC]
 756 **GERMANY** Deutschlandfunk, Braunschweig-Cremlingen, OCT 26 2137 – Music, echoing with second station and //207, 549, possibly 6190. [SC]
 756 **ROMANIA** România Actualităţi, Lugoj-Boldur, OCT 23 1910 – Live sports event. Weak behind classical piano. //855, 945, 1152, 1179, 1530. [SC]
 765 **SWITZERLAND** Radio Suisse Romande Option Musique, Sottens – OCT 24 0603 – French music, talk. [SC]
 774 **EGYPT** Middle East Radio, Abis, OCT 26 0125 – Islamic music and prayers. [SC]
 783 **MAURITANIA** Radio Maurétanie Nouakchott, OCT 24 2235 – Man speaking French with Arabic accent, possibly both languages, Stable and fair //4845. [SC]
 792 **FRANCE** France Info, Limoges, OCT 24 0222 – Weak signal with French talk & pop. //603, 711, 837, 945, 1206, 1377, 1404, 1494, 1557. [SC]
 810 **SCOTLAND** BBC Radio Scotland, OCT 24 0600 – “Full coverage here on BBC Radio Scotland,” and football promo. [SC]
 819 **EGYPT** General Programme, Baitrah, OCT 24 2218 – Two men talking Arabic. //12050. [SC]
 837 **FRANCE** France Info, Nancy, OCT 24 0225 – Weak to moderate signal with French talk & pop. //603, 711, 792, 945, 1206, 1377, 1404, 1494, 1557. [SC]
 846 **IRELAND** Redcastle, (pirate – Radio North/AWR/Gospel 846), OCT 23 2135 – Pirate. British-type accented English. [SC]
 846 + OCT 24 2116 – RA! presumed, with news/talk in Italian. A weak version of the former powerhouse it once was. Interference from Irish station. [JR]
 855 **ROMANIA** România Actualităta, Tancabesti, OCT 23 0147 – Oboe and vocals //909. [SC]
 855 **SPAIN** RNE1 (two synchros), OCT 23 0257 – Spanish //1314. On OCT 25 0201, two stations echoing with man and woman talking Spanish. [SC]
 864 **FRANCE** France Bleu, Paris, OCT 24 0245 – Moderate dominant signal with Springsteen and other pop, later French news. //1278, 1494. [SC]
 864 **SPAIN** RNE1 Socuellamos (5 kW), OCT 26 0104 – program parallel to 855. [JR]
 873 **NORTHERN IRELAND** BBC Ulster Enniskillen, OCT 24 2140 – music program, Beatles //1341. [JR & SC]

(to be continued – pb)

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My deadline is the last Monday of the month at 1500 ELT.

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 JP **Jim Pogue**; Memphis TN; KHZAR@comcast.net
 IRCA **IRCA ListServ**

FREQ	CALL	NAME, TITLE; ADDRESS; WHAT; WHEN; WHO
590	KXSP	Kurt Owens, PD; kowens@journalbroadcastgroup.com ; E: 41; IRCA [Station in Omaha NE]
830	KLAA	Brian Clark, DirEng; 2000 Gene Autry Way, Anaheim CA 92806; L+; 7; PM [Similar verification from same signer received by MF in 10 days]
960	WDLM	Glenn Rogerson, CE; PO Box 149, East Moline IL 61244; LQ; 10; JP
960	CFFX	Roger Cole, CE; roger.cole@corusent.com ; E(cf); 17 minutes; SSH [Station in Kingston ON; reception of DX Test]
1100	KWWN*	Bill Croghan, CE; 8755 W Flamingo, Las Vegas NV 89147; Lbbc; 10; MF
1150	WIMA	Mark Gierhart, DirEng; WIMA Radio, 667 West Market St, Lima OH 45801; QcfB; 11; SSH [Reception of DX Test]
1134		Zlarko Kuretic, Dir; Hrvatska Radio, Prisavlje 3, HR 10000, Zagreb, Croatia; Q; 92; PM
1210	KEVT	Jim Pogue, BTC Coord; KHZAR@comcast.net ; E(cf); 21; MF [Station in Sahuarta AZ; reception of DX Test]

1215 Mark Bodenham, Technology Ops Mgr: Virgin Radio, Great Britain; Q: 3650ff+;
IRCA
1450 KFSD [illegible]; Astor Broadcast Group, 1045 S East St, Anaheim CA 92805; P: 6; MF
[Report mailed to Jeff Gehringer, BusMgr]
1548 [None]; Deutsche Welle, 53110 Bonn, Germany; QB+: 13r; PM [Station in
Trincomalee, Sri Lanka]

WHAT was received: L = Letter with personalized statement; F = Form letter; Q = QSL card, commercially printed; C = Postcard or similar card supplied by station; P = Prepared card or form supplied by DXer; R = DXer's report returned with statement; cf = Certificate; E = Verification by e-mail; fx = Verification by FAX; M = Coverage map; B = Bumper or other sticker; bc = Business card; + = Extra goodies
WHEN the reply came: Number of days elapsed; f = Follow-up, by mail, FAX, e-mail, or visit; n = Return postage not used; r = Return postage returned
NOTES: * [For this column] = First reception report received by this new station
Congratulations to Patrick for verifying Croatia and Sri Lanka! Even your Editor received two varies this month. This column was prepared on 1/28/08. 73, SSH.

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

2008 Ultralight Radio AM-DX Shootout
by Gary DeBock

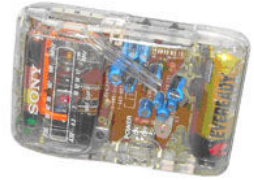
Introduction: It seems incredible that only two months ago, serious DX with pocket radios was considered impossible, Ultralight was a term referring primarily to aircraft or cigarettes, and this reviewer was searching for a suitable portable to introduce my eight-year old son to the joys of AM-DX.
Lurking at the local Fred Meyer store, however, was an absolutely loaded deck... an innocent looking Sony AM-FM stereo radio containing a phenomenal IC chip, a scientific marvel which had somehow flown under the radar of the AM-DX community for over 15 years! The secret was about to be exposed, and the resulting thunderous boom in pocket radio interest was about to be unleashed... with the overwhelming force of a Runaway DX Train.

The original SRF-59 review finally brought to light the amazing technical innovation and sophistication of recent pocket radio designs, and the market combination of extreme performance and extreme value has created a veritable stampede in orders for the top-rated models, no doubt inducing bewilderment in the hallowed halls of Sony and Sangean, the primary contestants in the white-hot pocket radio competition.
Despite this, the reviewer is fully aware that with such a bewildering variety of pocket radios currently on the market, the typical fence-sitting DXer is in desperate need of a definitive, accurate and completely reliable judgment on the relative capabilities of ALL the currently popular Ultralight Radio models... and that is the single objective of this 2008 Shootout article.

The Contestants: The 2007 Shootout article (currently posted on dxe.ca, having also appeared in the 29 December 2007 DX Monitor) thoroughly covered the relative merits of the Sony SRF-M37V and Sangean DT-200VX digital models, and the SRF-59 analog model was covered extensively in its original review (also on dxe.ca and in the 8 December 2007 DX Monitor). For conservation of space, full descriptions of these units will not appear in this article, but the relative performance of these units will be extensively covered in the 2008 Live-Signal Competitive Shootout (along with that of the five new contestants), and all nine competitors will be very critically assessed in this ultimate judicial extravaganza.

For the 2008 Shootout, five new gallant contestants will be entered in the courageous competition for Ultralight Radio glory: the Sony SRF-39FP analog model (a.k.a. Prison Radio), and the Sony SRF-T615, Sangean DT-180V, Sangean DT-210V and C.Crane SWP digital models. When these five contestants have their nighttime live-signal shootout, the surviving models from the 2007 event (SRF-59, SRF-M37V and DT-200VX) will join in the free-for-all, giving you, the prospective purchaser, the most detailed pocket radio purchasing data ever assembled on planet earth.

Sony SRF-39FP: This transparent analog ancestor of the SRF-59 has already developed somewhat of a cult following, due to its unique appearance, great performance, and dubious end-user reputation. Designed to prevent prisoners from hiding contraband, the SRF-39FP is simply a highly-visible circuit board with two clear plastic covers. At 3.6 x 2.4 x .8 inches (95 x 63 x 23 mm) and weighing about 3 ounces (84 g), the Prison Radio has a more rectangular appearance than its SRF-59 sibling, and also has three significant performance differences: slightly superior audio quality, slightly superior sensitivity, and most importantly, a greatly superior tuning thumbwheel which results in easier analog tuning, especially at the high end of the band. The



SRF-39FP's tuning slot is a full 0.8 inches (18mm), whereas the SRF-59's is a mere 0.55 inches (13mm). In addition, the SRF-39FP's thumbwheel is of a greater diameter, making the whole tuning experience more pleasant. Otherwise, except for a much easier process of disassembly than the SRF-59, the SRF-39FP is generally identical in circuitry and capabilities, with a single AA battery providing phenomenal run time (up to 150 hours), an FM stereo section with decent audio and acceptable sensitivity, and Koss ear bud headphones, as opposed to the SRF-59's Sony fixed headset. The SRF-39FP is no longer in production, but it does regularly show up on eBay from a cagey Florida seller, who always seems to put out new stock after insisting that his supply is gone. The price is generally \$19.95 plus shipping, and represents a true bargain for DX enthusiasts wanting the best performing analog showpiece in the Ultralight radio stable.



Sony SRF-T615: This incredible AM-FM stereo digital "flagship" of Sony's top engineers has already had a booming reception among Ultralight radio DXers, simply by providing class-leading sensitivity along with great digital tuning convenience. Although it is unavailable in North America and must be special ordered from Japan, this has not discouraged multitudes of Americans and Canadians from creating a stampede in orders from Audio Cubes 2, resulting in somewhat of an ultra-meltdown. At 3.65 x 2.25 x .55 inches (91 x 55 x 13 mm), the silver-colored SRF-T615 is extremely compact, weighing a mere 2.5 ounces (68g), even with two AAA batteries. Along with the DT-180V, it forms a new lighter-sized class, or "Ultralighter" model, which is significantly smaller than other pocket radios. Despite this, Sony has packed mean DX performance into this tiny wonder, with 9 or 10 kHz step capability, 7 AM memories, a clock, speaker or headphone operation, adjustable sleep timer (30/60/90/120 minutes), full (76-108MHz) FM-stereo coverage, an innovative "noise cut" function which works very well on AM), a jog lever for easy tuning and band changes, and included stereo ear bud headphones and vinyl carrying case. Every DXer fortunate enough to obtain this unit has had superlative praise of Sony's design effort, primarily because of the edge in sensitivity over all other Ultralight radios. The Made-in-Japan SRF-T615 is only available from Japan, and there are only two current sources for obtaining this ultimate achievement in Sony engineering excellence: Audio Cubes 2 (<http://www.audiocubes2.com>), at a price of \$89 plus \$15 for EMS express shipping, or the eBay vendor "joynetcafe" at a price of \$89 plus \$20 for EMS express shipping.



Sangean DT-180V: The major current competition for the SRF-T615 in the "Ultralighter" class, the AM-FM stereo-TV audio DT-180V certainly is extremely compact at 3.5 x 1.8 x .75 inches (92 x 50 x 15 mm), and weighs a mere 3 ounces (84 g). Unfortunately, in Sangean's mission to miniaturize the DT-180V, it apparently neglected RF design improvements to compensate for the smaller AM loop stick, etc. As such, for the AM DXer, it falls significantly short of the SRF-T615 in performance. With 5 AM memories, auto-search, DBB (deep bass boost), 90-minute auto shutoff, function lock, low battery indicator and other features, the headphone-only DT-180V certainly has its high points, but this reviewer gets the distinct impression that this tiny radio is primarily designed for the FM-stereo enthusiast who wants decent music from an extremely small package. Although it will tune the 9 kHz decimeter, the chances of it actually logging TP's or TA's seems remote, and rather than becoming frustrated by the unit's mediocre AM sensitivity, DXers are advised to step up to the SRF-T615 or other top models. Retailing for \$46.64 from Amazon (with free shipping), it is available in white or black options, and includes stereo ear bud phones. It requires a single AAA battery.



Sangean DT-210V: This silver-colored AM-FM stereo-TV audio unit has the design potential to be an excellent AM-DX performer, with very good sensitivity, digital-class leading selectivity, and a generally well-behaved receiver with very good audio and AGC. Unfortunately, the challenge comes in getting the maximum performance that the Sangean engineers intended (the quality control record of the Chinese factories making the unit is spotty, to say the least). At 4.2 x 2.5 x .8 inches (105 x 60 x 18 mm) and weighing 3.7 ounces (100 grams), the DT-210V has 25 memory presets (10 on AM) with auto-scan, a 90-minute sleep timer, DBB (deep bass boost) for great audio quality, extended run time with two AAA batteries, low-battery indicator, a stereo-mono switch for FM DXers (with very good FM sensitivity for its size), and included ear-bud phones and trailing antenna. Its performance compares well with every other digital Ultralight radio model except the SRF-T615, and the DT-200VX sibling (which has superior urban RF performance). It retails for \$51.25 from Amazon, with free shipping. In the interest of full disclosure, however, the reviewer's test unit proved to be defective level after a full service-manual alignment, and an earlier DT-210V test unit proved to be defective and unrepairable. The alignment procedure is simple and instructions will be provided upon request.

but unless you enjoy this kind of tinkering, you may wish to look elsewhere for your dauntless digital DX wonder.



C.Crane SWP: The shipping box of the SWP loudly proclaims "Best AM reception of any radio this size," and the C.Crane web site also pours on the hype, "exceptional AM reception and audio quality for its small size," and "sensitive enough to outperform all comparable radios in its class." Well, after thorough testing, aligning and reviewing this wildly overrated model, I am absolutely perplexed how C.Crane can make such claims with a straight face.

This AM-FM-stereo-SW (2300-7500 kHz, and 9200-22000 kHz) portable measures 5 x 3 x 1.2 inches (125 x 75 x 30 mm), and weighs a whopping 6.5 ounces (more than twice an SRF-59), and features 200 memories with a "memory scan" function, an alarm clock, and knob tuning, a sleep timer, a display light, and "sensitive enough to outperform all reputed to run 70 hours on 2 AA batteries, and does have relatively attractive styling. It retails for \$49.95, plus shipping, from C.Crane.

In the interest of full disclosure, however, this model arrived in a very poor state of low sensitivity, and required an emergency RF alignment to be barely acceptable for this Shootout. The loop stick coil was not too far off the 600 kHz peak point, but its extreme touchiness made even a slight alignment error unacceptable. Alignment was marginally successful in making the SWP somewhat competitive with the other contestants, but this radio design has other rough edges that preclude any possibility of being a top contender in this extremely competitive class.

Shootout Day Arrives: The 2008 live signal competition was held at high noon on January 21, 2008, a day with the typical (dreary) January Puget Sound weather. In keeping with the tradition of previous shootouts, the AM conditions took a dive on the day of this ultimate Ultralight extravaganza, forcing the contestants to dig deep for any possible advantage.

Attracted by the commotion, the three gallant surviving competitors from the 2007 event (the SRF-59, DT-200VX and SRF-M37V) also showed up, were given a shot at ultimate Ultralight glory along with these five new courageous competitors. With the field thus expanded to eight, the reviewer proceeded to thoroughly test each gallant unit for sensitivity, selectivity, nulling ability, images/spurs and major selectivity defects. AGC, audio quality, and digital tuning noise. It is the reviewer's sincere hope that prospective purchasers will find the data most useful.

2008 Ultralight AM-DX Shootout – Live Signal Competition (January 21, 2008)

SENSITIVITY: (worst is 1, best is 5; final grade for model is listed after model)

Radio	KONA-610	CFAX-1070	KVRI-1600
SRF-39FP (B)	steady weak audio (3)	steady weak audio (3)	weak mumbling (2)
SRF-59 (B)	steady weak audio (3)	steady weak audio (3)	weak mumbling (2)
SRF-T615 (A)	moderate audio (4)	moderate audio (4)	1450/1580 spur
DT-180V (C)	weak mumbling (2)	weak mumbling (2)	1450 slop
DT-210V (B)	steady weak audio (3)	steady weak audio (3)	weak mumbling (2)
DT-200VX (B)	steady weak audio (3)	steady weak audio (3)	weak mumbling (2)
SRF-M37V (B)	steady weak audio (3)	steady weak audio (3)	1450 slop
C.Crane SWP (C)	weak mumbling (2)	weak mumbling (2)	carrier (1)

SENSITIVITY SUMMARY: The top performer in raw sensitivity is the SRF-T615, although this unit's spurious tendencies on the upper band limit the effectiveness of this advantage. The SRF-39FP and SRF-59 both have good sensitivity combined with resistance to spurs, as do the DT-210V and DT-200VX. The DT-180V and the C.Crane SWP models have reduced sensitivity compared to the other contestants, while the SRF-M37V's legendary selectivity issue compromises its good sensitivity.

SELECTIVITY: (worst is 1, best is 5; final grade for model is listed after model)

Radio	KPQ-560	CHMJ-730	KARR-1460
SRF-39FP (A)	very slight KVI slop (4)	slight KIRO slop (3)	almost all KSUH slop (2)
SRF-59 (A)	very slight KVI slop (4)	slight KIRO slop (3)	almost all KSUH slop (2)
SRF-T615 (B)	slight KVI slop (3)	slight KIRO slop (3)	all KSUH slop (1)
DT-180V (C-)	all KVI slop (1)	almost all KIRO (2)	all KSUH slop (1)
DT-210V (B+)	slight KVI slop (3)	slight KIRO slop (3)	all KSUH slop (1)
DT-200VX (B)	all KVI slop (1)	slight KIRO slop (3)	all KSUH slop (1)
SRF-M37V (F)	all KVI slop (1)	almost all KIRO (2)	all KSUH slop (1)
C.Crane SWP (B)	all KVI slop (1)	slight KIRO slop (3)	all KSUH slop (1)

SELECTIVITY SUMMARY: The SRF-39FP and the SRF-59 analog siblings are clearly the best in selectivity. The DT-210V has the best digital model selectivity, while the SRF-T615, DT-200VX and C.Crane SWP are average in the digital category. The DT-180V has a major selectivity issue, while the SRF-M37V's problem is nothing short of catastrophic.

NULLING ABILITY: (final grade and comment)

SRF-39FP (A) Excellent: near legendary performance
 SRF-59 (A) Excellent: near legendary performance
 SRF-T615 (A) Excellent, unique among digital models
 DT-180V (B) Good for size, but lack of sensitivity limits use
 DT-200VX (B) Good, and decent sensitivity increases practical use
 SRF-M37V (B) Good, but horrible selectivity limits practical use
 C.Crane SWP (B) Good, but lack of sensitivity limits practical use

IMAGES, SPURS, and MAJOR SELECTIVITY DEFECTS: (final grade after model number)

SRF-39FP (A) Insignificant spurious whistle on 730
 SRF-59 (A) Insignificant spurious whistle on 730
 SRF-T615 (C) KSUH-1450 image on 550 (moderate); Puyallup TIS-1580 spur on 1600 (moderate); KZIZ-1560 spur on 1420; KSUH-1450 received from 1430-1510 KHHO-850 spur on 1700 (moderate); KSUH-1450 received from 1410-1700 KSUH-1450 spur on 550 (weak); insignificant spurious whistle on 750
 DT-180V (C) Insignificant spurious whistle on 750
 DT-210V (B) KSUH-1450 image on 550 (strong); spurious mix of KSUH-1450 and KZIZ-1560 on 1610 (strong); KKOL-1300 received from 1280-1340; KSUH-1450 received from 1410-1640
 DT-200VX (A) KSUH-1450 image on 540 (strong); KZIZ-1560 image on 650 (weak); KHHO-850 spur on 790 (moderate); spurious mix of KHHO-850 and KSUH-1450 on 1390 (moderate); KHHO-850 spur on 1700 (weak)
 SRF-M37V (F) Full employment for ENT doctors

AGC: (final grade and comment)

SRF-39FP (B) Will not irritate the ears of searching DXers
 SRF-59 (B) Will not irritate the ears of searching DXers
 SRF-T615 (A) Absolutely the best in AGC performance among these contestants
 DT-180V (B-) Generally OK, but locals may blast sensitive eardrums
 DT-210V (B) Will not irritate the ears of searching DXers
 DT-200VX (A-) Only a tiny bit less impressive than class-leading SRF-T615
 SRF-M37V (B) Will not irritate the ears of searching DXers
 C.Crane SWP (D) Full employment for ENT doctors

AUDIO QUALITY: (final grade and comment)

SRF-39FP (A-) Mellow audio with balanced highs and lows
 SRF-59 (B) Pleasing audio with emphasis on high frequencies
 SRF-T615 (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity
 DT-180V (B-) Acceptable but not remarkable
 DT-210V (A) Excellent audio when DBB is engaged
 DT-200VX (A) Excellent audio when DBB is engaged
 SRF-M37V (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity
 C.Crane SWP (C) Dropout on American Idol

DIGITAL TUNING NOISE: (final grade and comment)

SRF-T615 (A-) Function beep, half-second response delay
 DT-180V (A-) No noise, half-second delay
 DT-210V (B) No noise, one second delay
 DT-200VX (A) No noise, no delay; best in this class
 SRF-M37V (A-) Function beep, no delay
 C.Crane SWP (C) PLL chirp, intermittent heterodyne, no delay

QUALITY CONTROL RECORD: (final grade and comment)

SRF-39FP (A) Based on investigation of five units, all had great initial performance
 SRF-59 (B) Based on investigation of 25 units, 18 gained significant improvement in sensitivity with RF alignment; 7 gained minor improvement
 SRF-T615 (A) Based on reports of three units, all had great initial performance
 DT-180V (A) Based on own unit, was acceptable initially
 DT-210V (B-) Own unit required RF alignment for optimum performance; first received unit was defective and not repairable; reports of other QC issues
 DT-200VX (A) Based on reports of three units, all had great initial performance
 SRF-M37V (A) Based on reports of six units, all had great initial performance (with congenital selectivity defect)
 C.Crane SWP (D) Own unit required RF alignment even to be remotely competitive

Shootout Final Summary: When all DXing factors are considered and weighed in relative importance, the SRF-T615 is the overall digital winner. Its moderate urban RF issues are more than outweighed by its superior sensitivity, nulling ability, AGC and audio quality. The 2007 Shootout digital winner, the DT-200VX, is tough competition however, with superior memory capacity, superior immunity to urban RF issues, and very competitive AGC and audio. The choice of these two would

basically depend on whether urban RF issues are likely to be a major problem. The DT-210V is also extremely competitive, assuming that the DXer can secure a decent unit in the QC roulette. It has many excellent qualities, despite its dicey factory alignment reputation. The SRF-M37V is a generally excellent unit, with fine sensitivity, AGC, audio and QC record... but in its stock form, is greatly degraded by horrendous selectivity. The DT-180V apparently pays the price for Sangeans' mistake in neglecting RF performance in the rush to miniaturize, a gaffe that Sony has completely avoided in the SRF-T615 (the other "UltraLighter" model). The DT-180V just isn't competitive for serious DX. But even with all its mediocrity, the tiny DT-180V would still be the choice over the C.Crane SWP, an amazing combination of sloppy engineering and slipshod quality control.

The two analog contenders (the SRF-39FP and SRF-59) are electrically similar, but the Prison Radio's superior thumbwheel makes a significant difference in DX ability, making it the convenience winner. In comparison to the digital units, the two analog brothers can easily humble all the digital field in selectivity, and knock off all except the SRF-T615 in nulling ability... but it's really like comparing apples and oranges. Analog DXing requires a commitment to tracking the frequencies, working out your thumb "like a brain surgeon" (from Colin Newell), and memorizing the dial positions of known stations. It is literally a different form of DXing, and each individual must decide for himself whether analog tuning is preferred, acceptably, barely tolerable, or a deal-breaker. If a DXer loves analog tuning and is motivated to be successful with his SRF-39FP or SRF-59, he can be extremely competitive against any radio in this Shootout, including the SRF-T615. However, if a DXer finds analog tuning tedious or frustrating, the analog brothers would best be overlooked. The recent Sony and Sangean digital offerings are more than capable of making even the most hard-core traditional DXer fully addicted to Ultralight radio excitement.

TURKEY FARM: The following pocket radios were considered unacceptable for competition in the 2008 Shootout, for the reasons described:

- Sangean DT-220V Poor sensitivity after RF alignment
- Sony SRF-M85V Poor sensitivity after RF alignment
- Radio Shack 12-467 Poor sensitivity, poor selectivity, multiple images and birdies
- Sony ICF-S10Mk2 Poor sensitivity, poor selectivity, multiple images and birdies

SUMMARY: Now that you have access to the most accurate, definitive Ultralight radio purchasing data on planet earth, it is the reviewer's sincere hope that you will join in the contagious pocket radio DXing excitement without delay, and join our booming ranks with your own shockingly effective little DX wonder! Find out personally why Ultralight DXing has already brought overwhelming new optimism and enthusiasm into the AM-DX community, and has provided thrilling new transoceanic challenges for even the most experienced DXer. With such a ridiculously low price of admission, why not come join us in the already legendary fun?

73 and Best Wishes to All,

Gary DeBock
[The reviewer wishes to express the deepest gratitude to Colin Newell and Nick Hall-Patch, whose support and encouragement made the SRF-59 (and Ultralight Radio) Boom a reality.]

(This review first appeared on Colin Newell's website at www.dxer.ca)

Ultralight DXing... more FUN than we have had in....
John Bryant, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Rob Ross, London, Ontario
INTRODUCTION: John Bryant
For many of us, the DXing hobbies have been in the doldrums for the past decade. In the SWBC DXing hobby, so many of our favorite stations have left shortwave that tuning 60 meters takes on more the character of a wake than a fun DX experience. On MW, in North America at least, the doldrums have been quite thick, what with thousands more all night stations, many Canadians leaving for FM and, worst of all, the long-feared IBOC hiss finally arrived. It's sometimes a very depressing scene. In ODXA's sterling publication, Listening In, columnist Joe Robinson published a very thoughtful piece in January concerning the hobby doldrums that so many of us have experienced. He concluded with:

"We need to take advantage of what radio has to offer now; we cannot bring back the past... Maybe we also need to branch out in our radio/TV interests in our multi-faceted hobby..."

As those of you who take part in the IRCA e-male group already know, help has arrived! A DX tonic, maybe the Fountain of Youth, has been discovered in the past two months and its spreading like wildfire through the Listening/DXing hobbies: ULTRALIGHT DXing! The two of us and at least a hundred more North American listener/DXers have been DXing up a storm these past 60 days, with a lot of the activity centered right on the IRCA list.

Where did all of this come from? In late November 2007, MW DXer Gary DeBock of suburban Seattle went out and bought a small Sony SRF-59 for the sum total of \$14.95. It was planned as a gift for his son. Little did he know that there was a family of cheap analog Sony's based on the CXA1129N proprietary IC chip ("radio on a single chip") which has been found to be unusually selective and sensitive. Although Gary's son was not interested, Dad soon discovered what a superb DXing machine this little pocket wonder was... within days, he had heard lots of North American stations and THEN he caught JOIB-747 Sapporo, Japan. The Japanese Big Guns are usually easy to hear from

the coast, but they are darn rare in suburban Seattle, even with sophisticated antennas and VERY expensive DX receivers. Gary heard JOIB well on a radio that he was holding in his hand, using the tiny internal ferrite bar antenna!!

Wow quickly got out over internet; there was a run on SRF-59s at various retail and internet stores and Ultralight DXing was born, based on shirt pocket radios and, initially, woven together by the power of the internet. Soon, some of us wanted to move away from analog to digital dials and we began to explore what digitally-dialed shirt pocket radios might offer as DX machines. We were pleased to find that some almost measure up to the awesome SRF-59 family. What really fueled our activities in December was the fact that we were having so much FUN DXing again. That has continued to be the case.

In the past several weeks, we have established a Technical Committee to assist the rest of us UltraDXers 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
- Eaton:** e100/Tecsun PL-200
- CCrane:** SWP/Redsun RP300

The least expensive recognized Ultralight radio is also the currently most popular: the 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 (D1028Gary@aol.com) and ask for a review of that radio model by the Definitions Committee.



The Ultralight crowd has also established an official website within Colin Newell's (www.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 (bjohnrocas@rockisland.com). The Firsts and Records would have been totally unbelievable to most of us just two months ago. North American Ultralighters, primarily Allen Willie in St. Johns, NF, have heard stations in over a dozen European countries; several Ultralighters have contributed to our 6 Asian countries, dozen North American countries and four in South America; all with radios that you can hold in the palm of your hand.

One of the most celebrated Ultralight events so far was Rob Ross' adventure in the month of January, where he logged over 300 stations on his trusty Ultralight radios. Rob's description of that experience is a historical document, but more importantly, it really addresses the fun of Ultralighting better than anything else written so far:

HEAVY DUTY DX... On an Ultralight Radio: Rob Ross

On Dec/31/2007, I received a package in the mail. Little did I know, that the contents of that package would change the way I viewed and participated in AM BCB DXing forever! That little package sent to me by Gary DeBock of Puyallup, Washington, contained a (somewhat unknown at the time) little Pocket Radio made by SONY... the SRF-59 Walkman. This radio was sent to me as a gift... but the real gift received that day was not the radio... but rather a renewed interest in AM BCB DXing!

I have been an AM BCB DXer since 1976, and have logged over 1,000 stations throughout the past 30 plus years on a myriad of cheap and high-end radios. Thousands of hours have been spent during that time, listening to static crashes, buzzes, whistles and other assorted squawks... trying to pull out that elusive ID from a station far away. However, over the past 5 or more years, I have been discouraged by the proliferation of stations leaving the AM Band, the clutter on many of the Old "Clear Frequencies" and the frustration of the newly invented brainchild called IBOC!! It just wasn't the same, it seemed. I was not sure if anything was going to bring back the "Glory Days" of AM DXing.

Well my friends, I am here to tell you that in spite of all the challenges facing the modern day AM DXer, it is still possible to hear the stations we listened to back when we first got into the hobby. They are still out there buried under all of the static crashes, buzzes, whistles, and other assorted squawks... all we needed was something that could dig 'em out, and now we have it!

Enter the contents of that package... the SONY SRF-59 Walkman. When Gary first offered these radios to anyone who wanted one, I have to admit, I didn't even know what they were. I had never seen one, and most likely wouldn't have bought one, even if I saw one in the store. I remember

opening the package to reveal a "tiny" plastic radio, with an analog dial, no speaker, (headphones only), a volume control and an on/off switch. I sorta chuckled and thought to myself, "OK... what the heck am I gonna hear with this aside from my 3 Local Stations?"

Well... the answer to that question is... "what can't I hear on this little radio?" After everyone else had gone to bed on New Years Eve of 2008, I decided to turn the SRF-59 on, and see what it could do. Flipping that switch has changed my DXing hobby into a passion again and here's why.

When I first started logging stations, I thought to myself, "wouldn't it be neat to log 100 stations on a little radio like this? As the stations heard started to pile up in my logbook after a few days of listening, I thought, "Just how many stations could be logged in one month?" I thought if I got the 100, I would be happy, but I soon realized that 100 would be a very easy feat, so after a week of DXing with this mighty mite, I set a goal of 300 stations in 30 days.

Along the way I listened at various times of the day and night. I listened in the morning at sunrise, I listened in the evening at sunset, I listened during the daylight hours and listened late into the evening. Something strange was happening... I was hearing stations that I hadn't heard in years. I was also hearing lots of "NEW STATIONS" stations I had never heard in 30 Years, even on my high-end DRAKES, and COLLINS Receivers. What the heck... how could this be? How could a single AA Battery pull in this kind of DX? Why did it take so long for anyone to realize that the future of AM DXing was right there in front of us... in a little plastic case, smaller than a deck of cards.

So, my mission was outlined; now to see what I could hear! Early on I discovered that this tiny marvel had "Excellent Sensitivity," "Excellent Selectivity", and could null out pretty much anything to an amazing degree. I began hearing stations parked right beside my strong local stations. I was able to hear stations "under" other strong stations, and I was able to dig out 2 or 3 stations on the same frequency at the same time!! Wow!! This can't be so!!

During that first week of DXing, I logged 3 countries... Canada, USA and Cuba. Then one evening I logged PJB on 800 kHz from Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles, and then Turks and Caicos on 530 KHz. Then came Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Jamaica. This was starting to be fun again!! Along the way, the States Heard started to climb, 5, then 10, then 25, and today stands at 32 States heard in 30 days. Also heard are 5 Provinces.

One thing that stands out with SRF-59, is it's ability to dig out "Low Powered" stations, especially during Daylight Hours. I am amazed by the number of "Daytime Only" stations I have heard, using powers ranging from 5 Watts to 1 KW. Stations that are relatively close to me, but had never been heard before; they were suddenly there!

What is more important than what I was actually hearing, is that I was actually having fun again on the BCB Band. I was feeling like a teen back in the 60's & 70's... listening to stations like CKLW so I could hear the latest # 1 hit record! Long before Cable TV, VCR's, Computers and the Internet, listening to those stations had brought me many hours of memorable receptions. Something strange was happening. I was being taken back to those days again, thanks to the champion of AM Pocket Radios... the SONY SRF-59.

As the days and weeks went by...my logbook grew, I was past 100 stations in no time. Then 200 came and went. Things started to get a little harder to log after 200 stations were heard... but I continued on in my quest for 300 stations in 30 days! I have to admit, I spent a lot of hours DXing over the past 30 days, but all of them were enjoyable, even though I was a little tired a few days after Marathon sessions at the dials, I pressed on to see if 300 was possible.

Today is the 30th day of my DX Challenge, and I am happy to report that last night I logged # 300 after exactly 30 days of DXing. The Prize Station was "730 WLIL LENOIR CITY, TENNESSEE". The question was finally answered... can 300 stations be logged in 30 days on a single AA battery??? Most certainly it can! As I sit here typing, I now have 304 Stations logged, and I ask myself... "is 500 possible?..." "How about 1,000?..." "How many Countries can I hear on this radio?? How far away will the most distant station be??? DXers have already proven that 4,000 Mile Plus receptions are possible... so I guess that pretty much opens up the world to Ultralight DXers.

I have to wonder: just how many stations I would have logged by now, if only I had known about these little radios 5 years ago? It scares me to think what I may have already missed by not having an Ultralight Pocket Radiol! But what thrills me is the fact that I don't know just what else I am going to hear in the future!!

I now have 3 of these "Ultralight" radios: 2 SONY SRF-59's and a digital readout Model by SONY, called the SRF-1615. Both are amazing little DX Machines. I am anxiously awaiting my next DX Wonder to try out, the SONY SRF-39FP, clear plastic cased model more commonly known as the "Prison Radio" due to its clear case was designed for Prisoners of DX!!

I know there are still a lot of DXers out there who may not have tried one of these little sets, and maybe a few who have but haven't given them a chance. My advice is... TRY ONE OUT!! Give it some time and you too will see what many of us have already discovered.... These Radios are for real. It looks crazy... it seems crazy... and heck... it is crazy, but these are "Real DX Machines". Does it sound like I am having fun???? You bet!! Where it will all end, and where it will take us is anybody's guess. I for one am very happy to be in on the Ground Floor of this amazing new sub

culture of BCB DX called Ultralight DXing. If you are interested in getting involved with Ultralight MW DXing, you ought to refer to the very helpful files in the Ultralight section of dxer.ca. There are excellent receiver reviews and other helpful files. Then get you one of these little beauties and get started. You won't be sorry. You might also think about taking part in the simultaneous Ultralight DXing event at the end of February. The **2008 Cabin Fever Ultralight MW DX Sprint** has just been announced and details are available at dxer.ca in the Ultralight Area.

SELECTED ULTRALIGHT DISTANCE RECORDS February 1, 2008

We are keeping a permanent list of "Firsts" of the most notable receptions from North America, as well as various distance records for stations and DXers located in North America. However, in anticipation of Ultra Insanity spreading abroad soon, we are also keeping World-wide Records for DXing Achievement with an Ultralight radio. Those are presented here:

World-wide Reception

Longest Distance Reception

9251 km/5748 miles Allen Willie, St. John's, NF, R. Farida-1575, Al Dabiya 1/21/2008 (SRF-37V)

Longest Distance Reception @ 50 kW.

5477 km/3403 miles Colin Newell, Victoria BC, RVC-530 South Turk Isl. 11/28/2007 (SRF-59)

Longest Distance Reception @ 10 kW.

3669 km/2280 miles Rob Ross, London, ON, YVMN-780 Coro, Venezuela 1/28/2008 (SRF-1615)

Longest Distance Reception @ 5 kW.

2385 km/1482 miles Allen Willie, St. John's, NF, WJMO-1300 Cleveland OH, 1/28/2008 (SRF-37V)

Longest Distance Reception @ 1 kW.

3244 km/2016 miles Kevin Schanilec, B'bridge Is. WA, KVNS-1700 B'nsville TX, 1/1/2008 (SRF-59)

Longest Distance Reception @ 500 W.

1437 km/893 miles Kevin Schanilec, Bainbridge Is. WA, KLSQ, Whitney, NV 1/23/2008 (SRF-39FP)

Longest Distance Reception @ 250 W.

1540 km/957 miles John Callaman, Krum, TX, XEUACH, Chapingo, TE, Mexico 1/6/2008 (SRF-37V)

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

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