



September 13, 2008 - Volume 46, Number 2 - Edition 1444 - ISSN 899-9733
 Some of you will be reading this as the 2008 convention is happening in Flagstaff AZ. Let's all DX!!!!

IRCA Convention 2009

It is time once again for those interested to submit your bid to host next year's annual convention. It may seem a bit early, but we're approaching the DX season quickly and we need to get the ball rolling. Please draw up your bids and submit them to me by October 15th 2008, just a few months away. (Article VIII, Sec.3 of the Bylaws) Thank you and good luck. Doug Pfler - 7148 Marley Ln S, Salem, OR 97306 or email me at: dxer@desert4wd.com.

IRCA TIS/HAR List Editor Needed

Due to medical reasons, **Mike Hardester** has resigned as IRCA TIS/HAR list editor. Anyone interested in taking over this position and editing the log for this fall's DX season, please contact Phil Bytheway at the IRCA Bookstore (phil_tekno@yahoo.com). We're praying for Mike to get better quickly. pb

In This Issue:

1	Canadian Radio News...
1	Western DX Roundup...
2	Central DX Roundup...
3	Eastern DX Roundup...
5	DX World-Wide-West...
8	DX Forum...
9	IRCA Technical Column...
15	SportChannels IRCA...

CANADIAN RADIO NEWS

Dan Sys- dsysca@yahoo.ca

For August 2008 (September 1 2008 - next update October 1 2008)

820	ON	Hamilton	CHAM	From Classic Country to Talk (Talk 820)
1410	BC	Vancouver	CFUN	From THE BUZZ to TALK 1410
780	NS	Dartmouth	CFDR	PROPOSED AM TO FM CONVERSIONS Move to 92.9 with 63,000 watts (100,000 watts E.R.P.) (subject to pending ownership change to Rogers)
790	ON	Sudbury	CIGM	Move to 93.5 with 100,000 watts (subject to pending ownership change to Newcap)
850	AB	Athabasca	CKBA	Move to 94.1 with 9,000 watts
1460	ON	Guelph	CJOY	Move to 95.7 with 11,000 watts (30,000 watts E.R.P.)
1410	BC	Vancouver	CFUN	PROPOSED TECHNICAL CHANGE Relocate transmitter

I attempt to be as accurate as possible with this information. I visit many websites and message boards on a daily basis seeking the latest in Canadian radio news to report in this column. I trust this information to be worthy; however I can't be in all these places to confirm everything. If inaccurate information is reported I do apologize, but don't blame me... I'm only the messenger.

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
- (BB) Bill Block-7716 E. Theima Drive-Preseott Valley AZ 86314 billwblock@msn.com
- (PM) Patrick Martin-PO Box 843-Seaside OR 97138-0843 mwdxer@webtv.net
 Drake R8, SW EWE, Quantum Phaser, 1500' Eastern Beverage, 45' vertical for phasing

(5P) Dale Park-PO Box 10640-Honolulu HI 96816 dxfool@aol.com
 Sangean ATS-818CS, Tek AM1000 loop
 (RW) Robert Wien-Las Cruces NM rjmail@webtv.net
 GE Superadio

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

1570 (KUAU) HI, Ha'iku 8/29 I finally got around to visiting the local branch of King's Cathedral, which owns KUAU; the branch is a mile down the street. According to Pastor Ron, who used to work at the main church in Kahului, Maui, the stn has relocated to a new tower (sharing with KNUJ-900) and will return to the air when there's money for a new diplexer, probably later this year. (5P-HI)

- 740 KVOX ND, Fargo 8/26 0130 good at times on top with Fox Sports Radio. (PM-OR)
- CFZM ON, Toronto 8/26 fair at times 0115-0315 with adult standards and many "AM 740" ID's, jingles. Mention of **AM740.ca** where you can listen worldwide. First time I'ded, but lots of QRM from both CBX and KVOX Fargo, ND. (PM-OR)
- 870 WWL LA, New Orleans 9/1 0537 booming in much stronger than normal, obviously on 50kw daytime emergency power pattern with the "WWL Hurricane Gustav Emergency Network," reports from the New Orleans Emergency Operations Center, talk that Gustav will hit New Orleans between about 7-8am CLT, mention that downtown New Orleans "is a complete ghost town." Checked KWKH-1130 and they are at normal signal strength so not broadcasting on day power (at least yet). (RW-NM)
- 1030 KDUN OR, Reedsport 8/23 ID at 1730 "This is your Coastal Connection, KDUN AM 10-30," back to oldies. (PM-OR)
- 1070 KATQ MI, Plentywood 8/26 0806 KATQ ID under not-so-powerful KINX. Lady at KATQ told me the station is on the air from 0600-1800 Mountain Time. (AB-ID)
- 1150 KTLK CA, Los Angeles 8/27 0723 "K-Talk Traffic" report, ad, liner, back to Bill Press in Denver at the Democratic Party convention with Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire // KPTK-1090. Fair to poor. (5P-HI)
- 1180 KORL HI, Honolulu 8/23 noted for first time being relayed by an FM translator, K268BE, on 101.5 MHz, with usual ethnic fare. FM callsign was mentioned during legal ID (though usually after the top of the hour). Strong in most of Honolulu but mixing in East Honolulu and Waimanalo with KAOY-FM Kealahou, Big Island. Stn website also mentions the translator. (5P-HI)
- 1340 KACH ID, Preston 8/27 0059 KACH ID then into ABC news. Poor/fair. (AB-ID)
- 1620 KOJ752 AZ, Walnut Canyon 9/5 0901 with "AM 1620 ?? KOJ-752" and then lost. Walnut Canyon is a few miles east of Flagstaff. (BB-AZ)

Five reporters from five different states represented in WDXR this time. The weekly Friday deadlines begin on September 19, so be sure to report your DX. Nancy 9/5 2100

CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP

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

RIDING GAIN

- [TMJ-IL] Tom Jasinski, Shorewood, IL amdxe@core.com
 Drake R8A and Quantum Loop; 2007 Hyundai Accent car radio
- [NJ-MT] Nancy Johnson, Billings, MT NancyJohnson@Prodigy.net
 Drake R8B and Kiwa Loop

DOWN THE DIAL

- 529 LYQ TN, Manchester. 8-28. Beacon heard 06:30-06:45 with Morse code "LYQ" every 8 seconds. Format change from earlier this summer when they were airing long voice announcements with weather info for the local airport. Same code signal heard on three previous days at SRS and in the evening around 21:00. Signal is also clearly heard on car radio tuned to 5:30 along with traces of Canadian with music and several semi local TIS stations. Signal is heard at night with the Drake R8A at home almost buried by RVC, the Cuban and Canadian. [TMJ-IL]
- 940 KVSH NE, Valentine. 9-4 strong over unID, Canadian null'd. 23:04 out of ABC News with "Classic hits and the ones that are going to be, week nights on KVSH." [NJ-MT]
- 1320 KOLT NE, Scottsbluff. 9-5 quite strong covering KFNZ. 22:00 with ID. [NJ-MT]

25 YEARS AGO

September 10, 1983 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **Steve Kennedy** of Immokalee, FL said he uses a Hammarlund HQ-180. HQ-145A, R-1000, RF-2000, and a Collins 75A2 ... **Gerry Thomas** wrote an article on Jamaican DX'ing ... We were told a new version of White's Radio Log came out.

OPEN MIKE

Nancy and I are all ready to head for the 2008 IRCA Flagstaff Convention this week. See you all there! This column was typed 9-6-08. 73, John

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

Lee J Freshwater – 414 SE 3rd St – Ocala FL 34471
E-mail: EDXR at AMLGBOOK dot COM

Deadlines: Saturdays 8 AM!! 9-22, then weekly

(KK-VA) **Kraig Krist**

STARS OF THE WEEK
Manassas, VA
NRD 545, 134' LW NW to SE, 43' Eavesdropper antenna
running E to W.
Watkinsville, GA

(IEN-GA) **Ira Elbert New**

DRAKE R-8B, 135' N/S L.W., SANGEAN ATS 909
WDX3IAO Smyrna, DE

(JC-DE) **John Cereghin**

FRG-7, SRF-59
Vacationing in Erie, PA

(EB-PA) **Eric Bueneman**

Grundig S350 w/built in antenna

*******LOGGINGS*******

540 ON CBEF

Windsor. 8/19 1150. Noted with talk in French, mention of Washington, DC. Fair signal with light splash from WGR 550.

550 NY WGR

Buffalo. 8/19 1151. Noted with ESPN Sports Radio. local and national ads. "WGR Sports Radio 550" mention in a "Whiner Line" promo. Very good signal.

590 ON CJCL

Toronto. 8/12 2210. Blue Jays baseball, "The Fan".

+ 8/19 1814. Noted with talk on Canadian soccer. Fair signal.

610 ON CKTB

St. Catharines. 8/19 1149. Noted with "News/Talk 610 CKTB" slogan, legal ID and local ads. Good signal.

620 WV WWRN

Beckley/ 8/21 0620. ABC News, into local news.

630 ON CFCO

Chatham. 8/19 1154. Noted with mention of the Beijing Olympics, PSA, back-to-school contest promo, "Country 92-9" slogan and promo for a 1200 ELT newscast. Good signal.

680 GA WCNN

Atlanta. 8/17 2115. "The Fan", Sunday night baseball.

710 ON CJRN

Fort Erie. 8/20 1945. Noted with community calendar, mention of "The River FM" "Tourist Information Radio. AM 710 CJRN" slogan, Fair of WOR.

740 ON CFZM

Toronto. 8/19 1812. Noted with "AM 740" ID and soft Oldies. Very good signal.

770 NC WLWL

Rockingham. 8/21 0625. Oldies, call ID, ad for IGA supermarkets, under WABC.

790 VA WSVG

Mt Jackson. 8/21 0625. Local news & ads, morning info-type pgm. (JC-DE)

800 ON CKLW

Windsor. 8/19 1145. Noted with talk on celebrity gossip, "AM 800" ID, Noon Report promo Detroit and Windsor mentions. Good signal.

850 OH WKNR

Cleveland. 8/19 2054. Noted with promo for their sister station on 1540, "ESPN 850" slogan, into sports talk. Fair signal, mixing with WKGE.

PA WKGE

Johnstown. 8/19 2100. Noted with legal ID, /WWGE 1490 Loretto, PA. Fair to poor signal mixing with WKNR.

910 CT WLAT

New Britain. 8/22. Spanish, discussion of Latin American and US news, New England ads.

930 NY WBEN

Buffalo. 8/19 1201. Noted with local news, Web site mention, stock market report, "WBEN news time 12:05," into weather forecast. Good signal.

940 VA WKGGM

Smithfield. 8/21 0630. "The Ministry Station", end of Joyce Meyers' program at 0630.

950 MI WWJ

Detroit. 8/19 1312. Noted with "WWJ news time 1:12," into local news. Fair to poor signal.

1000 IL WMVP

Chicago. 9/5 0155-0305. "Your official home for major league baseball is ESPN radio". "All night with Jason Smith". 0200 "The most complete baseball coverage is here on ESPN one thousand WMVP Chicago. You know us - we know sports." into "ESPN Radio Sports Center".

1010 NY WINS

New York City. 9/4 0155-0305. Mixing w/CFRB. 0159 "News, talk ten ten CFRB Toronto". Time pip. 0200 "CFRB News". "CFRB news time 2 on 3".

ON CFRB

Toronto. 9/4 0155-0305. Mixing w/WINS. 0220 "...ten ten WINS... good morning it's 72 degrees here in New York..."

1020 PA KDKA

Pittsburgh. 9/3 0155-0305. KDKA mixing w/Radio Reloj Cuba "News radio ten twenty KDKA". 0200 "The Voice of Pittsburgh KDKA ten twenty... Pittsburgh" into "CBS News". 0210 "Dennis Miller" call in show.

1030 GA WEBS

signal mixing with WBZ. "You're listening to the Seve Lavelli (sp?) broadcast. Boston. 9/2 0155-0305. "WBZ news radio ten thirty".

MA WBZ

0200 "WBZ WBZ-HD Boston" into "CBS News".

1040 IA WHO

Des Moines. 8/31 0155-0305. "Coast to Coast AM". 0158 "This is lowa. This is WHO" and "News radio ten forty WHO" into news.

1050 NY WEPN

New York City. 8/30 0155-0305. Mixing w/WLON. WEPN with ESPN programming. 0300 "This is your home for New York baseball tonight. WEPN New York, WLIR Hampton Bay, WNJD Flemington. Ten fifty ESPN New York" into "ESPN Sports Center".

NC WLON

Lincolnton. 8/30 0155-0305. Mixing w/WEPN. WLON with oldies. 0243 "Magic oldies ten fifty AM WLON".

1070 NC WNCT

Greenville. 8/27 0155-0305. WNCT with religious programming mixing with WFNI and CHOK. 2:15 AM OM "New Christian Radio ten seventy WNCT dot com..."

ON CHOK

Sarina. 8/27 0155-0305. CHOK with C&W music mixing with WFNI and WNCT. 0200 "From the Canadian Press, I'm Bill Marshall" "Country... CHOK".

1080 CT WTIC

Hartford. 8/25 1959. WTIC news talk eleven eighty into "News Now".

1090 MD WBAL

Baltimore. 8/25 0155-0305. Talk mixing w/IBOC hiss and songs. 0200 "CBS News". 0200 "This is Ann..." on WBAL. WBAL weather forecast".

1100 OH WTAM

Cleveland. 8/24 0155-0305. Talk about sea pirates on "Coast to Coast AM". 0158 "News radio WTAM eleven hundred". 0200 "Cleveland's home for Fox News Radio on air and on demand. This is the big one. WTAM eleven hundred Cleveland" into Fox News Radio.

1120 MO KMOX

St. Louis. 8/21 0155-0305. Call in talk show "KMOX Reality Check". 0200 "Your choice for news. News, talk eleven twenty KMOX..." into CBS News. 0206 "Mid America's most trusted source for news is news, talk eleven twenty KMOX. The Voice of St. Louis"

1130 NY WBBR

New York City. 8/18 0155-0305. Talk show about financial items on Bloomberg radio. 0259 "This is WBBR New York".

1150 ON CKOC

Hamilton. 8/14 0155-0305. CKOC with oldies. 0210 "Oldies eleven fifty CKOC". 2:27 AM OM "When you get to work in the morning remember to turn your radio to oldies eleven fifty CKOC". Nice selection of oldies played. Wish I had a station near my QTH like CKOC.

TN WCRK

Morristown. 8/17 2215. Call ID, local ads.

1160 IL WYLL

Chicago. 8/11 0155-0305. Religious programming mixing with oldies. WYLL with religious programming. 0159 "Eleven sixty WYLL... continue to broadcast the Gospel on WYLL..."

NJ WOBN

Lakewood. 8/14 2155. Lakewood Blue Claws vs Savannah Sand Nets minor league baseball. "11-60 WOBN AM Blue Claws Post Game Show."

NY WABY

Mechanicville. 8/12 0155-0305. Oldies mixing with Religious programming on WYLL. WABY with oldies. 0219 "Eleven sixty WABY AM". Mixing with oldies. WYLL with religious programming. 0159 "Eleven sixty WYLL... continue to broadcast the Gospel on WYLL..."

PA WBYN

Lehighton. 8/10 0720. "Life Changing Radio" and local.

NY WJTN

Jamestown. 8/19 1430. Noted with local promo, ads. "News/Talk 1240" slogan in legal ID Fair to poor with minor splash from WRIE 1260.

ON CJBK

London. 8/19 1433. Noted with local ads, business report promo, "News/Talk 1290 CJBK". Fair to poor with minor splash from WRIE 1260.

VA WESR

Onley-Onancock. 8/20 0625. "Eastern Shore 1330" and "AM 1330 WESR" oldies.

PA WWGB

Corry. 8/19 1318. Noted with Oldies, "AM 1370 WWGB" slogan. Good signal.

ON CKPC

Brantford. 8/19 1324. Noted with Oldies, "AM 1380 CKPC" slogan. Fair with minor splash from WJET 1400.

NY WTHE

Mineola. 8/22 2001+. Gospel, "1520 WTHE", under WWKB, bad net, probably from Saudi Arabia.

FL WNZF

Bunnell. 08/20 2259. Tropical Storm Fay updates and information. Decent signal fading in and out of a mix of stations. "When severe weather threatens Flagler County, count on WNZF..."

FL WNZF

Bunnell. 8/20 2130. On day power with emergency info for Tropical Storm Fay Flagler County weather ("up to 18 inches of rain"), government closings, remotes from a local gas station.

1550 ON CBE Windsor. 8/19 1809. Noted with "The World at Six". Good to fair over two (EB-PA) unidentified stations.
 VA WKBA Roanoke. 8/21 0730. Christian, "Thru the Bible" with J. Vernon McGee at 0730, (JC-DE) ID at 0800.
 1580 OH WKVO Columbus. 8/19 2015. Columbus Clippers baseball game. (JC-DE)
 1590 PA WPWA Chester. 8/20 0800. Spanish, EE TOH ID announcing "WWGB Indian Head- (JC-DE) Washington and WBTK-Richmond", but no mention of WPWA.

 Nice turnout this time.... Yahoo decided to make some changes in my email accounts and moved some of my emails, so we missed some of these last time. That problem has been fixed. Nice to hear from Eric with some vacation DX.... That's about all for now.... Best to all... fresh 9-6 1030

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

Patrick Martin – PO Box 843 – Seaside OR 97138

E-mail: mwdxer@webtv.net

Walter Salmantiw DXing from Masset, BC, Queen Charlotte Islands

First of all, let's start with TAs from last night (8/31). Things started very early with hets appearing by 04:15 UTC... around the time the sky starts to darken up here (9:15pm local), so I was hoping for some big developments. The first hour pointed this way, but unfortunately, things did fizzle later. Still, I had a fair number of good audios as noted below. No comment indicates hets of varying strengths. About 1/3 would rate 3 or under, another 1/3 a 4, and the rest 5s. As for audio, I did hear other countries and not just Iberia as previous evenings:

- 189 a 7 at 04:45 Iceland. 1044 ditto
- 531 Late audio at 6 after 05:07. 1053, 1071, 1089.
- 603 (late). 621, 639, 657 (late), 666. 1098 6 level.
- 684.04 Who's off frequency here? 1107 ditto.
- 693 (late), 702. 1116, 1125, 1134, 1143
- 711.05 Western Sudan presumed, with 6 level 1152 6 level at 05:20.
- briefly at 05:13. 1161, 1179, 1197
- 729, 738, 747 1206 7 level for France Info.
- 774 6 level at 04:18 Likely Spain. 1215 great channel. Virgin Radio at 04:50 at 8 level. Spanish when rechecked at 05:06. 6 level.
- 763, 801 1224
- 819 (late at 6 level after 05:07). 1251
- 837 7 level at 05:15, but marred by IBOC. 1251
- 873, 882, 891, 909, 918, 927 (late), 936. 1269 6 level.
- 945 6.5 level with France Info. 1287
- 954 8 level at 04:33 Spain. 1296 6 level.
- 963 6.5 to 7 level. Portugal. 1305 ditto.
- 972 1314 6.5 level.
- 981 6 level, presumed Portugal. 1341, 1359, 1368, 1404, 1413, 1422, 1458,
- 999 COPE Madrid. At 7.5 level early and as 1485, 1503, 1512, 1521, 1539, 1548 late as 05:18.
- 1008 7.5 level for SER Spain. 1566 Already a 7 to 7.5 at 04:31. Didn't get any stronger.
- 1017 1575, 1584, 1602.
- 1026 a 6 at 05:19.

Plenty of action, but was sure hoping for things to get stronger, but they never did. What WAS obvious was that there was an excellent Alaskan opening with frequency after frequency having an Alaskan present. I really was impressed with the Wellbrook Array which completely eliminated stations to the south at a flip of the switch. What I witnessed was like 2 totally different stations depending on the direction of the array! Most useful.

I did notice that 1020 in Alaska has changed call signs. It had been KAXX, which I've heard earlier this year. Now they announce KA?A (with the ? being either a B, C, D, or V, I suppose) at 06:05. Conditions were so good that I recorded TOH segments throughout the night using the Wellbrook Array.

Now onto the morning. I monitored from 12:36 until about 14:13. Conditions were excellent, although the LW Russians were definitely down compared to other mornings.

531 On 3/4 antennae I have it was NHK1 all the way, but with my new ALA 100 about 70 foot loop oriented 210 degrees which is towards NZ, I only heard an Australian station. After news, they went into C&W music at 13:06.

610 was noted at 12:55 at very good levels with the following ID: "The Rock 96.1, Whitehorse", so looks like they'll be moving soon to FM as well.

North Koreans were aplenty on 657, 719.9, 801.2, 882. The latter had a het from about 882.35, although this sounded more like a jammer on that channel than KCBS itself which was on frequency.

810 was an interesting channel with Russian dominating for most of the later morning around 13:28, although I'm sure I could also hear AFN Tokyo.

The major NHK2 stations were exceptionally strong, and there were plenty of 2nd and 3rd tier stations as well.

963 had CRI in Russian, and another Chinese speaker at 14:25, not CNR 1.

1152 Another highlight for me as NHK2 was cochannel with Radio Fiji 1 at 13:40.

1494 Inspirational music and cochannel JJ made me wonder about V6A1.

1530 JJ and DZME at 13:30 with the latter mentioning "Worldwide ministries".

1539 CNR1 with echo at 13:27.

1548 Deutsche Welle in German from Sri Lanka! First time this season, and a very welcome coup last September here in Masset! Strong level briefly at 13:21! Another favourite for the morning! HL-AZ, of course, with their usual Gregorian chants around 13:23. The cochannel CC station was fairly well heard, and I can confirm that it's not // to CNR 1.

1575 VOA very loud early. Later AFN became dominant.

On the X-band, there was audio early on 1701.0, 1683, 1665, 1629, 1620, and 1611. None at more than a 7 level, though. I also noted a presumed JJ fishing net on 1738.5 in USB at 12:40.

That's it for a fine morning. Excellent conditions across the board. Sri Lanka is back, making India a possibility. Of course, no sign of them so far. IBOC is a real problem, at least earlier on until the lower 48 fade out. The effect from IBOC stations in Alaska remains to be seen. Towards the end of dawn enhancement, IBOC really ceases to be of any concern.

TP report from Masset, BC for 1 September 2008

Good morning! A very strong North Korean presence today! Plus some interesting others. First to TA from last night... a disappointment. Not a trace from TWR 1566 Benin. Just a few audios, including 189 Iceland at a 7 level at 05:10, 774 at 7 level at 05:12, 1215 with Spanish at 7.5 level. Another 4 or 5 stronger hets. That was it, and what was present appeared late.

Now onto this morning's TP activity. Monitored between 12:35 and about 14:20. Russian LW were in well on 153, 171, 180, 189, 234 and 279. Also had smatterings of audio on 209 from Mongolia. When I checked 531 I was surprised and pleased to hear two Australians. One was playing "Ma Cherie" (3GGG), while the other was talk. Funny, but I didn't hear any ID at the TOH, just into news. I did hear an ad with a NSW theme, so presumably 2PM. Also, I thought instead of a call sign, I heard "93.5". Any thoughts of someone on 531 moving to FM?

North Koreans were "almost everywhere" on 702 (cochannel NHK2 at 13:44) KCBS //2850, 720, 819, and 873... all in // and all strong. I did not hear 855, though.

711 had a Chinese station cochannel to KBS1.

747 had the usual NHK2 along with cochannel KBS1 with the Korean sometimes dominating.

756 CNR1 with echo.

801 KTWG at 13:42 with English preaching, but didn't hear any IDs... had faded away by 14:00. Also net from 801.2.

810 Mostly a Chinese speaker, although did briefly hear Russian.

1494 I'm sure that I'm hearing V6A1 with non-stop EZL music along with cochannel stations. CC earlier, and JJ at 14:00. There was never any ID nor talk, and they seemed to continue past 14:05. Continues to be a tentative logging only.

1548 No Sri Lanka this morning, but did hear some Russian and also mostly 4QD at 13:34 discussing Japanese pressure on Tonga to resume whaling in their waters, plus the off frequency Filipino.

A good X-band opening with Radio Brisvaani on 1701.07 plus a weak cochannel, 1683.2, 1665 with Greek music, 1656, 1647 (het only), 1638 quite strong with Radio Lebanon plus another cochannel, and 1629 with EZL music plus one other station. Overall, conditions were down from yesterday, but still interesting!

An antenna note. I continue to be very happy with my 2nd ALA 100 loop oriented 30/210 degrees... gives a great DU performance. Also today for the first time, the NW BOG has performed quite well with clearly a dichotomy of Asian and DU signals, compared to pure Asia with my North mini-Beverage and almost to the same extent my Asian ALA array. Good DX to all!.... Walt

TP report from Masset for 2Sep08: Asia

Good morning from Masset, where I've just completed another morning of TP DXing. Conditions were a bit down from yesterday, and virtually no signs of DU activity. First some comments about last night's TA... some very good audio noted, especially on 1215!

I first noted some faint hets from 03:15... quite early. First the audios noted (6 unless otherwise noted):

- 189 Iceland up to 8 level by 05:30. 855 6.5 prob SS.
- 531 late appearance but only 6 level by 05:28. 909 6.5 prob SS at 04:10.
- 819 981 Portugal at 8 level.
- 999 COPE at 8+ and still present at 05:15.

1008 SER 8+.
1035 7 to 8 at 04:07 Portugal.
1044 6.5 with SS.
1053 Talksport EE at 04:40 at 7.5.
1071 1224 COPE at 8+ at 04:38.
1089 ditto for Talksport. 1251 6+ in PP.
1116 SER at 7.5 at 05:24. 1269 COPE 6 to 7 at 04:37.
1125, 1161 1341 SS at 04:35 at 6 to 7.
1206 France Info at 6 to 7. 1377 France Info at 04:18 7 level.
1215 A great channel tonight! Up to 9 level at 1566 6 to 7 level at 04:47 and again at 05:17
04:30 with Virgin Radio and nice ID at TWR Benin.
04:32. Programming, perhaps, is a bit 1575 6 level late at 05:17.

Hets only: 639, 666, 738, 954, 1179, 1197, 1242, 1278, 1287, 1296, 1314, 1332, 1404, 1413, 1421, 1458, 1485, 1494, 1548, 1557, 1583.
Overall not a bad evening with the strongest audios so far this season. Also first appearance of UK stations.

Now to the TP report for the morning. Monitored between 12:28 and 14:40

Russians were there on LW as usual at strong levels on 153, 171, 180, 189, 234, and 279. A welcome addition was Mongolia on 164 but only at threshold levels.
On MW, no signs of yesterday's DU activity on 531. Solidly NHK1.
KBS2 was on 558 and 603. 612 was NHK1 cochannel CNR1 at 13:00.
621 sounded North Korean-"ish", but not definite.
630 is an Alaskan channel with normally KJNO from Juneau dominating the channel. At 13:07, KIAM clearly was over the former. Also cochannel KBS1 at 7 to 8 level.
IBOC is a real problem especially early on. 639, 657, 675, 684, 882 and 900 are all affected in a major way.... Yuck!

702 again was cochannel NHK2 and KCBS.
711 is owned by KBS1. I recall Nick H-P hearing NHK1 here, but so far no luck.
774 Of course, NHK2. Just to note, they were still a 9 at 14:55!
801 KTWG not as strong as yesterday. I heard a "Through the Bible" ID at 13:27
810 Both the Russian and an oriental station. Very strong.
819 KBS again here very strong 9 level, and // to 2850.
837 2 cochannel, with one being HLKY presumed, with prayer at 13:40.
855.05 Despite other N. Koreans booming in, this channel this season they are not propagating well at all. No audio heard today, just the off channel carrier.
882 Chuck Hutton pointed out that North Korea has not been heard for a long time here. I'm quite certain that I heard them yesterday during an excellent N. Korean opening. Nothing for sure today except STV //1440 at 14:05 and a carrier on 882.35.
918 Most likely Shandong, in CC, with echo at 13:50.
945 CNR1 stronger than another cochannel at 9 level.
963 Perhaps the strongest of the morning.... I'm giving them a 10, with //1323 at 8 level for CRI in Russian.
972 The KK station seems to have better modulation now than before. Also noted a cochannel CC station at 13:57.

998,92 KCBS //2850 at 9 level.
1017 Filipino program with Christian broadcast at 14:12.
1044 CRI in JJ at 9 level.
1071 JJ, but not NHK1, but rather STV //1440 at 8 level.
1152 NHK2 noted at 9 level around 14:20.
1170 prob. Philippines VOA cochannel CBC.
1206 Yanbian in KK at very strong levels around 14:23
Most of the upper band had JJ stations when I tuned to them late, well after LSR. The only X-bander with audio was 1701.07.

TP Report for 7Sep08 from Masset: ANEMIC!

I did sleep in this morning, so perhaps I was just catching the tail end of things, or that I was spoiled yesterday morning at Rose Spit. In any case, I monitored from 13:19 until 14:30 and basically was underwhelmed by the lack of very much interesting. All the usual stations were there but at reduced levels compared to the normal state here. I mostly concentrated at the top half of the band, and heard a little of everything including DU stations. From last night, I just briefly checked 1215 to find a weakfish carrier, and that was about it, so I went to bed, early!
The X-band was so-so, with Radio Brisvaani providing 7 level audio, and the only other audio heard was on 1638, but barely. Oh, also 1611 with 7 signal.
Lots of NHK2 activity up there on 1602, 1593 (over the CC station), 1539, etc.

1206 Yanbian in KK was particularly strong today.
1395 a bit of a mystery to me. They had a call-in show in English without an ID at 14:00.
1422 had JJ with a rather loud off-freq carrier on 1422.84.
1475 No signs of 1475 today.
1512 was playing oldies, from, I think 2RN with a phone-in request program.
1530 was interesting with a slow English Japanese tale at 12:39.
1548 was Australia.
1575 mostly had AFN over VOA Thailand.

Mostly a JJ morning for me, but it was as if all stations were attenuated a fair bit. Nothing from the A/K indices would suggest much... SF 66, A, 9, K (at 12:00) 0.

Oh well, there's always tomorrow! Good DX to everyone..... Walt.

TP Report from Masset 8Sep08: Asia all the way!

Good morning. Quick comment on TA last night.... zilch.
This morning, monitored from 12:46 to 15:00 and it was an exclusively Asian morning, and a very good one at that with Japan, China, and Russia all very strong... often at armchair levels. Today, I concentrated on the lower half of the band.

LW Russians were very strong on 153, 164, 180, 189, 234 (a 9 today... unusual), and 279 all with Radio Rossi programming. This is important as, apparently, all Russian MW transmitters carrying R Rossi have switched over to a new network called Vesti FM (ie News FM). I can confirm this on 810 at least when I heard clear IDs for the switch at 14:15. Mayak remains, which I had at armchair levels on 576 especially, but also // on 666.

NHK1 continued its dominance of the lower half of the band with numerous frequencies being used. CNR2 heard at very good levels before 14:00 with English lessons on 630, with //720
720 was battling it out with VOR in RR with "Kainka moyá" around the same time, with one dominant for 10 to 30 sec when the other started to dominate again. Great fun!
Of the NHK2 stations, 747 was the strongest with an honest "10".... Even with this exceptional signal (which was also easily audible bareback on my Eton E100 portable), I could also make out KBS1 cochannel quite easily.

Once again, 810 was carrying the new feed Vesti FM when tuned in at 14:15. For whatever reason, this Russian is always late appearing, perhaps waiting for domestics to disappear.

Nice ID and IS for VOR in JJ before 14:00, with a CC cochannel on 720. VOR signed off at 14:00 playing the Russian NA (which is the same as the old USSR anthem) at very good level but cut off at 14:01 before the anthem completed to be replaced by a Chinese speaker plus North Korea (also strong on 719.85).

963 continues to be an anemic frequency for CRI in Russian. It just is not delivering the punch of last season, with other stations dominating the channel. It was overwhelmed by either the KK or JJ station this morning when checked.

Did hear a smattering of two of Filipinos on 999, 1062 and 1530 this morning.
Propagationally, I did hear a rapid drop-off in signal strength around 14:45. Until then, signals remained pretty strong. A comment on antenna use: When things are humming, it seems like just about anything works. A times, all 4 of my antennae were delivering very good reception: The N permanent mini-Beverage, the 1000' NW BOG, the Wellbrook phased array and the ALA 100 loop. In fact, the ALA at times gave better S/N ratios than did the others. The WB performed admirably right up to late dawn, when it began to die off, leaving the Beverages at best levels. The Hokkaido stations are the last to fade out here, as one would expect.

Overall, a very satisfying morning. This may be my last morning, depending on ferry conditions tomorrow when we depart for home. If I'm lucky, I just might be able to do a brief session tomorrow using only my permanent Beverage. Have a great day!

DX FORUM

Richard C Evans – 7416 Hearthstone Wy – Indianapolis IN 46227-7923
E-mail: REvans5435@yahoo.com DEADLINES: Sundays

Deadlines: 9/20, 9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, 11/29 and 12/6

Tim Noonan, 801 East Park Boulevard, Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154-3929

The Madison-Milwaukee radio get-together returned to the Milwaukee area on Saturday, August 16, as my family and I hosted the event at our new home in Oak Creek, a southern suburb. It turned out to be a beautiful day, and many of the conversations among the 32 hobbyists present took place outdoors. Some DXers brought and set up equipment, and we distributed sample bulletins from some of the radio clubs. Thanks to the IRCA for generously supplying copies for us. This is an all-band event, and there were people present who were interested in shortwave, FM-TV, as well as BCB DXing, including IRCA members Frank Merrill and myself. We enjoyed a nice dinner out and then returned to the house for more DX fellowship into the night. Universal Radio very kindly donated a generous batch of goodies, which were awarded as door prizes after dinner. The tradition continues next year as the event moves back to the Madison area, and we will of course get the details in the **DX Monitor** as they become finalized. See you there next year! 73, Tim

Gary Siegel, 2955 – 115th Street, Toledo, Ohio 43611-2839

I was surprised to learn of the call sign change as CHWO-740 since I am so often tuned in, but then it doesn't help when they, AM740, virtually never use the new CFZM call sign. I am yet to hear them actually use it. I don't plan to commit to another signature campaign, but I am concerned about the chink in the armor of the Toronto 740. Mid-day talk is still talk and breaks up the format and could open the door to other changes along a similar line. It's happened before. How safe are the standards on AM740 since they've been sold and given what has happened nearly everywhere else on the dial? Speaking of the AM dial, is anyone hearing anything of any real worth these days?? Trying to get around the HD digital hash is like having a TV set on and holding the radio next to it and still hoping to hear DX. The dial sounds more like fluorescent light dimmer interference all over it. What a sad commentary. Speaking of sad, Toledo had some sad news recently. On August 2nd, long time radio legend Bob Martz passed away at 76. Mr. Martz was an icon in Toledo radio having been on the air for 50 years. He worked at WSPD-1370, WTOD-1560, WOHO-1470 and WCWA-1230. Most recently, he was host to a 3 hour Saturday morning show on WCWA which featured Big Bands and standards which Bob hosted in his unique folksy manner. (The show is going to continue under the watchful eye of local Dixieland pianist and good friend Ragtime Rick Grafing I'm happy to report.) Mr. Martz was perhaps even more noted for his whimsical radio ads as much for his on air prowess. His ads aired all over the nation. Many of you probably heard his ads without realizing who the person was; many were two-person comical skits that could evoke a good laugh but still sell the product. His most famous in Toledo was for Broer-Freeman Jeweler and their Keepsake line of Diamonds. His most memorable was for the Lucas County Fair in which in promoting a WTOD remote appearance would include also coming to the fair to see the "big piggies and the woolly little lambsies". These ads are still talked about today as part of Toledo radio lore. Bob Martz was GM of radio stations; most successfully at WTOD where he probably assembled some of the best radio talent ever at a local station. Among some of his staff hires were John Garry (Lindemulder), later of WTAE Pittsburgh, famous locally for his jingle of "old John Garry don't ya try to scare me, don't point that bow and arrow at me", Emperor Larry O'Brien, knobby knees Lee Fowler, later of WGH Newport News, long time WKKO-99.9 mid-day man at C&W K-100 Bill Manders and WRQN 93.5 morning man Bob Kelly, who in his younger day was known as the "tall skinny kid". He also later hired now highly successful morning man Mike Morin of WZID 95.7 Manchester, NH into the Toledo market back in the 70's. Bob Martz was a key player for me in getting into radio as well. He afforded me two internships, at WTOD and WCWA, while I was studying at the University of Toledo. He later hired me at WCWA shortly after I left WTUU. I've always been grateful for those opportunities. His early career guidance was very instrumental in achieving my current success. As a wonderful mentor he further fueled my passion for radio. He was an innovator. He brought Top 40 to Toledo radio at WTOD, later the countypolitan R&B format, which would later morph into K-100, now Toledo's #1 station, and also Toledo's first C&W formatted station at WKLR 99.9 'Kooler 99' in which one of his early hires was Charlie 'Chuck' Welch who is now owner of Toledo R&B station WJUC 107.3 'The Juice'. Mr. Martz's tentacles were far reaching. The petition campaign I undertook was partly on his behalf. He is greatly missed by me and many others. 73s Bob!

Richard Evans, 3908 Oak Avenue, Apt. 4, Indianapolis, Indiana 46237-4694

At the moment, I am not too worried about CFZM-740 drifting too far away from its traditional format of oldies music, though it might not be so much big band as before. It's owned by MZ Media (thus the ZM in the calls. . .) which is owned by Moses Znaimer, who is also the executive director of CARP, the Canadian counterpart to the US AARP. He also coined the term Zoomers and Zoomer Radio to refer to Baby Boomers with a Zip. I'm not sure yet if I like the term but, since I'm not a Boomer, I probably shouldn't have any say in what the group refers to itself as, anyway. I had the radio on over the Labor Day weekend but the only decent thing was a fantastic signal from CBW-990 at sunrise. The first week in September was probably the hottest week we had all summer, which didn't help. It's cooling down now, about 20 degrees cooler. I skipped listening this evening to watch the first Colts football game of the season. I should have skipped the game and turned on the radio. hi, I only work two days this week, so I should be having the radio on again. No bulletin this coming week, then it's weekly until February. Instead of a New Year's resolution this time, how about a New Season's resolution to report to this column and the others. . . . See you in 14 days. 73

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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

E-mail: nhp@ieee.org

2008 Ultralight AM Radio Summertime Shootout

by Gary DeBock

Introduction: Beginning with some startling TP receptions on a humble SRF-59 last autumn, the sudden fascination in pocket radio DXing has swept through the AM-DX community in a major way, providing an exciting new niche hobby that is now firmly established and organized. Emphasizing DXer skill and knowledge over equipment innovation, the Ultralight radio phenomena has provided new excitement and challenges for both domestic and split-frequency DXers, and has even been credited with providing a serious boost to an AM-DX community in need of some positive trends.

To satisfy the booming interest in Ultralight radios last winter, several equipment reviews were urgently written and posted, in the hope of providing accurate purchasing recommendations for the top models. The purely accidental collaboration with Colin Newell (and his offer of resources on dxcr.ca) was essential in disseminating the early information on these innovative receivers, and the combination of dxcr.ca's worldwide exposure and the glowing user reports on the Internet succeeded in spreading the Ultralight DXing phenomena far and wide. Finally, John Bryant's superb organizational talent provided essential direction and focus for a wildly enthusiastic but notoriously diverse group of pocket radio fanatics, ensuring the solid foundation that Ultralight Radio DXing now enjoys.

In contrast to those urgent winter equipment reports, however, knowledge and experience with Ultralight radios is now far more extensive. Detailed information on alignments, quality control and even modifications is now available. The marketplace has also changed significantly, with the top-rated analog portable (the Sony SRF-39FP) no longer routinely available, and the top-rated digital portable (the Japanese-market Sony SRF-T615) having huge price increases, presumably because of a stampede in orders from North America.

The Contestants: Five Ultralight models (four digital and one analog) will be thoroughly evaluated in this Shootout, all of which are currently available for new (or routine NOS, "new old stock") purchase by enthusiasts. These are the extremely compact Sony SRF-S84 and SRF-M97 models; the superbly capable Eton E100, and finally the recently introduced Sony SRF-M37W and Sangean DT-400W units. Potential purchasers will not only be given extensive information on the relative performance capabilities of these Summertime Shootout contenders, but will also receive an exhaustive guide on how they compare against the top-rated Ultralight portables from previous Shootouts (the SRF-59, SRF-39FP, SRF-T615, SRF-M37V, DT-210V, and DT-200VX units). As always, it is the reviewer's sincere hope that this definitive guide to Ultralight Radio capabilities will motivate even more AM-DXers to accept the challenge (and share the rewards) of thrilling Ultralight Radio DXing.

Sony SRF-S84: Those analog DXers despondent over the recent unavailability of the SRF-39FP may wish to investigate the merits of the finest member of Sony's overachieving CXA1129N-based team,

the silver-colored SRF-S84. At 3" x 1.4" x 7" (78 x 38 x 20 mm) and weighing 1.4 ounces (40 g), the SRF-S84 is roughly half the size of its analog siblings, but certainly doesn't skimp on performance. Typically coming out from China in a state of somewhat reduced AM sensitivity, once aligned, it becomes a fairly decent DX chaser with ability approaching that of the SRF-59 (even with only a 1.19" x .25" loopstick). As a bonus, its wideband (76-108 MHz) FM sensitivity and audio quality are superior to that of the SRF-59, with a "Mega-Bass" function that performs quite well. All is not perfect, however – the analog design lacks memories, digital readout, and a speaker, and the tiny tuning knob makes even the SRF-59 look good. For an extremely compact FM stereo companion or casual AM-DX chaser, however, this model has a lot to offer. It's an absolute blast to use this tiny overachiever with external accessories like the Quantum Loop or Q-Stick, boosting AM performance up to a very competitive level. Using a single AAA battery reputed to last 52 hours (alkaline type) on AM, the model includes a pocket clip, stereo ear bud phones and a "trial" AAA battery (not alkaline). The smart way to purchase the SRF-S84 is from the Hong Kong exporters on eBay (hkequipment and eBay shop), which will only cost around \$31.45 plus \$5 shipping (the review model came this way within two weeks). Contrast this with the Amazon.com price of \$99.00 plus shipping, via Wall Street Photo.



Sony SRF-M97: Another extremely compact (and relatively unknown) silver-colored model but with a much higher price, the digital SRF-M97 has attracted the interest of many enthusiasts eager for high AM performance similar to that of the SRF-T615. Very similar to the SRF-S84 in size and shape (3.25" x 1.4" x 7", or 85 x 37 x 17 mm) as well as weight (1.3 ounces, or 47 grams), this digital model has not only the "Mega-Bass" function, but has a unique "inverse LCD digital display" featuring silver-colored digits on a black background, 15 FM and 5 AM presets, auto shut-off selections of 30-60-90-120 minutes, a jog dial to switch between AM and FM, a digital clock, a Hold function, an FM sensitivity switch, and selectable 9 or 10 kHz AM tuning steps. Unfortunately, the user quickly discovers that this headphone-only model is hardly another SRF-T615 – AM coverage stops at 1610 kHz, and the unit apparently lacks the T615's innovative AM RF circuitry. The digital features notwithstanding, neither the AM or FM performance is especially remarkable, leaving the user to conclude that Sony's design objective was simply to create a cool-looking, ultra-compact portable for consumers primarily interested in local AM and FM reception. At \$63.49 plus \$5 shipping (from eBay vendor hkequipment), the price may seem a little steep for such modest performance, at least until you compare it to Amazon's outrageous \$158.33 plus shipping (via Wall Street Photo). It includes a

pocket clip, stereo ear bud phones and a "trial" AAA battery (the alkaline type is reputed to last 65 hours on AM). Serious Ultralight AM-DXers are unlikely to be thrilled with this model, and may wish to check out the next unit, a true classic.

Eton E100: Just missing the January 2008 Shootout because of questions about its Ultralight definition status as a "consumer radio," the Eton E100 was ultimately approved as an official model, no doubt the most DX-capable pocket radio ever to be so honored. A heavyweight in both size (7.4 ounces, or 180 grams) and performance, this gray-colored model with a "modern rubberized finish" seems uniquely designed for DXers, who have found it to be ideal as a modified Unlimited Class performer. At 4.9" x 3" x 1.2" (120 x 78 x 25 mm), the stock model features AM coverage from 520-1710 kHz, with selectable 9 or 10 kHz steps (and 1 kHz tuning ability), as well as SW coverage from 1,711-29,995 kHz. The 87-108 MHz FM section is also quite competitive for DXing, using the whip antenna for surprising fringe reception. AM-DXers can choose manual, direct entry or auto-scan tuning, with no fewer than 200 memories available for AM (or FM and SW, if desired). There is a digital display alongside the frequency readout (unique among Ultralights, and useful for DXers). A five-step bar display shows relative signal strength, which although not calibrated, is better than nothing. The LCD display lights up with any user-inputted changes and the light can be continually used if desired (to the detriment of the batteries). A programmable sleep timer (10-90 minutes) is included, along with a thick owner's manual, a wrist strap, stereo earphones, two AA batteries and a protective pouch. Although recently discontinued by Eton, the E100 is still routinely available for NOS purchase from many sources, the least expensive being a current Durham Radio/dxer.ca promotion at \$44.97 plus \$12.95 shipping (to the U.S.). Interested hobbyists are advised to secure their new E100 model without delay!

E100 Quirks: So how does the stock E100 perform in the real DX world? Well, there are several quirks that the user should be aware of, before expecting maximum performance. The AM sensitivity can be markedly improved simply by placing the whip antenna in a vertical position, away from the loopstick. Many E100's have a tuning quirk, making them receive 1 kHz above the displayed frequency (dial in 529 if you wish to receive 530 kHz). The E100's stock (3.4" x .25" x .16") loopstick skimps on ferrite, making the low-band sensitivity disappointing compared to high-band (even after alignment). Having actually used a modified E100 on a dark ocean beach, the reviewer has found the memory selection system to be ergonomically awkward, with the need to press two extremely small buttons to access any memory. A *thoroughly redesigned "new model" E100 has also been identified by enthusiasts, with serial numbers of E10-0709xxxxxx. These units have inferior AM performance, and should be avoided if possible.*

E100 Modifications: The E100's 455 kHz IF, simple two-lead loopstick and 1 kHz tuning ability have proven to be a boon for DXers seeking greatly improved sensitivity and selectivity. These efforts involve either adding an extra loop on the stock loopstick to inductively couple an external antenna, or replacing the stock loopstick entirely with a far more sensitive sliding-coil model. Replacing the IF filter with a premium Murata ceramic type also provides a huge selectivity boost. The cumulative effect is to transform the modest E100 into an astonishingly effective 9 kHz-split DX chaser, or domestic DX machine and IBOC dodger.

Sony SRF-M37W: This familiar-looking unit is the first of two new models dropping coverage of soon-to-be-obsolete analog TV audio signals. Unfortunately, in the case of this model, the only "new" addition seems to be a "W" after the SRF-M37 designation, replacing the "V." In contrast to Sangean's dramatic RF improvements to the AM section of the DT-400W, Sony apparently has nothing new to offer in this "new" SRF-M37W. Specifications and performance are identical to the SRF-M37V, minus the TV audio coverage. The notoriously awful IF filter is retained, allowing locals to spread out as much as 100 kHz either way from their frequency. This is really unfortunate, because other than this major issue, the model has fairly good DX potential—and has been used in Newfoundland to log more DX countries than any other Ultralight radio.



This digital Weather/AM/FM-Stereo headphone-only model comes in an attractive black case with silver dial trim, and measures 3.4" x 2.5" x 1.3" (83 x 63 x 22 mm). Weight is 3.3 ounces (94 g). The controls are rubber-coated, and ergonomically sensible. It has a clock, 20 memory presets (5 for the AM band), 530-1710 kHz coverage tunable in 9 or 10 kHz steps, 87.5-108 MHz FM coverage with average sensitivity, selectivity and audio quality, and the ability to tune weather channels 1-7. It includes stereo headphones and a belt clip, and uses a single AAA battery (not included) reputed to run 54 hours on AM. Retailing for \$29.99 plus shipping from Amazon via Ace Photo Digital, urban and suburban DXers are unlikely to be enthused with this model.

Sangean DT-400W: The most pleasant surprise of this Summertime Shootout is the complete redesign of this new model's AM RF circuitry, creating an AM design with exceptional wide-band sensitivity. Improving significantly upon the DT-200VX, and its reputation for having good AM sensitivity only on either high or low band frequencies, this new model can equal the performance of the SRF-T615 on low band, and the E100 on high band – making it the most sensitive Ultralight radio currently available. In addition, this outstanding AM sensitivity appears to be typical for factory alignments, based on the performance of three test units ordered by this skeptical reviewer. As a bonus, FM performance is also excellent, with superb sensitivity and audio quality (equivalent to that of the DT-200VX).

The DT-400W's yellow cabinet measures 4.1" x 2.4" x .8" (105 x 63 x 22 mm) and weight is 3.8 oz (108 g). Dropping the analog TV audio coverage of the DT-200VX, the model is a Weather/AM/FM-stereo unit with a built-in speaker, a digital LCD display with a battery indicator, 90 minute auto shut-off function, 19 programmable memories (all usable on AM, if desired), 9 kHz or 10 kHz AM tuning steps, a scanning function, a built-in clock, a Deep Bass Boost audio option, FM stereo/mono/speaker selection, a "Weather Alert" function, and a Lock control. AM coverage (520-1710) is exceptionally free from urban RF issues—along with the E100, being one of the two most crunch-resistant Ultralight models ever tested. FM coverage (87.5-108 MHz) offers casual FM DXers lots of chances to make surprising catches when conditions allow, and Weather Band coverage (channels 1-7) is also commendable, clearly superior to that of the "new" SRF-M37W. Currently offered at \$55.98 with free shipping (Amazon.com), the unit includes stereo headphones, a trailing antenna, and a belt clip. Two AA batteries are reputed to last over 40 hours, a claimed improvement over the DT-200VX run time.

Like the E100, the DT-400W has a little "quirk" which affects AM sensitivity and nulling ability. Like the DT-200VX, the 2.16" x .3" loopstick is buried at the bottom of the cabinet, usually surrounded by the user's fingers. This was Sangean's attempt to place the antenna as far as possible away from the noisy digital circuitry, and they were quite successful in that objective. However, a user can usually obtain slightly better AM sensitivity and nulling ability simply by inverting the radio, and grasping the top of the cabinet instead of the bottom.

Preparation For Live-Signal Shootout: All five review units had AM alignments attempted, and in the cases of the SRF-S84, SRF-M37W, and E100, the alignments were successful in peaking both low and high band sensitivity. The DT-400W, a subject of intense interest here, was peaked only on low band, due to the inaccessibility of the 1400 kHz trimmer in the operating configuration. However, factory alignment was excellent on low band, and apparently also on high band, judging from the outstanding sensitivity in all three review units. The compact SRF-M97 obviously has a unique protocol for disassembly, and lacking the necessary Sony service manual, alignment was not attempted by the reviewer. The unit therefore was tested in its inadequate factory-aligned state.

Shootout Day Arrives: The five newly reviewed contestants assembled on a hot, oppressive day at 12:00 Noon on August 16, 2008, optimistic despite the degraded Puget Sound conditions typical of summer. They not only would fight it out between themselves, but also face the "surviving" models from previous Shootouts (the SRF-59, SRF-39FP, SRF-T615, DT-210V, and DT-200VX). The SRF-M37W, discovered to be an identical twin of the SRF-M37V, will be referred to as the "SRF-M37V/W" in all competitive grading. Note also that in the case of the E100, all testing was performed with the whip antenna in a vertical position, and in the case of the DT-200VX and DT-400W, all testing was performed by grasping the upper cabinet, away from the loopstick.



2008 Ultralight AM Radio Summertime Shootout – Live Signal Competition – August 16, 2008

SENSITIVITY: (worst is 0, best is 5; final grade for model is listed after model)

Radio

KPOL-620

SRF-S84 (B) weak mumbering (2)
 SRF-M97 (D) no reception (0)
 E100 (A-) weak mumbering (2)
 SRF-M37VW (B) weak mumbering (2)
 DT-400W (A) steady weak audio (3)
 SRF-59 (B) weak mumbering (2)
 SRF-39FP (B+) weak mumbering (2)
 SRF-T615 (A-) steady weak audio (3)
 DT-210V (B) weak mumbering (2)
 DT-200VX (B) weak mumbering (2)

KWDB-1110

weak mumbering (2)
 carrier, 1090 slop (1)
 steady weak audio (3)
 carrier, 1090 slop (1)
 steady weak audio (3)
 weak mumbering (2)
 steady weak audio (3)
 steady weak audio (3)
 steady weak audio (3)
 weak mumbering (2)
 weak mumbering (2)
 weak mumbering (2)

KDZR-1640

weak mumbering (2)
 (cannot tune)
 steady weak audio (3)
 1450 slop (0)
 steady weak audio (3)
 weak mumbering (2)
 weak mumbering (2)
 weak mumbering (2)
 weak mumbering (2)

SENSITIVITY SUMMARY: The top performer is the new DT-400W, with unparallelled wide-band sensitivity. The E100 can match it on the top band, and the SRF-T615 can match it on the low band, but neither can match the DT-400W across the entire band. The SRF-39FP has a slight advantage over the remaining units across the band, due to a lower noise level. The other units generally have average sensitivity, with the SRF-S84 showing exceptional performance for its size. The SRF-M97 is hopelessly outclassed, and absurdly overpriced in view of its poor AM reception.

SELECTIVITY: (worst is 0, best is 5; final grade for model is listed after model)

Radio

CHMJ-730

SRF-S84 (A-) slight KIRO slop (3)
 SRF-M97 (C-) all KIRO slop (0)
 E100 (A) slight KIRO slop (3)
 SRF-M37VW (F) all KIRO slop (0)
 DT-400W (B) slight KIRO slop (3)
 SRF-59 (A-) slight KIRO slop (3)
 SRF-39FP (A-) slight KIRO slop (3)
 SRF-T615 (B) slight KIRO slop (3)
 DT-210V (B+) slight KIRO slop (3)
 DT-200VX (B) slight KIRO slop (3)

KELA-1470

almost no KPTK slop (4)
 almost all KSUH slop (4)
 heavy KPTK slop (2)
 almost all KSUH slop (1)
 no KPTK slop (5)
 all KSUH slop (0)
 all KSUH slop (0)
 slight KPTK slop (3)
 almost no KSUH slop (4)
 almost no KPTK slop (4)
 almost no KSUH slop (4)
 almost no KPTK slop (4)
 slight KPTK slop (3)
 slight KSUH slop (3)
 almost no KPTK slop (4)
 almost no KSUH slop (4)
 almost no KPTK slop (3)
 almost no KSUH slop (4)

SELECTIVITY SUMMARY: The E100 clearly has superior selectivity to all other units. The Sony analog units (including the tiny SRF-S84) provide superior selectivity to the remaining contestants, while the DT-210V has a slight edge over the other Sangean units. The SRF-M97 has a major selectivity issue, while the SRF-M37VW's problem continues to be an absolute catastrophe.

NULLING ABILITY: (final grade and comment)

SRF-S84 (A) Excellent, near legendary performance
 SRF-M97 (A-) Irrelevant strong point of a mediocre model lacking in sensitivity and selectivity
 E100 (B) Good, and outstanding selectivity increases practical use
 SRF-M37VW (B) Good, but terrible selectivity limits practical use
 DT-400W (B) Good, and excellent sensitivity increases practical use
 SRF-59 (A) Excellent, near legendary performance
 SRF-39FP (A) Excellent, near legendary performance
 SRF-T615 (A) Excellent, unique among digital models
 DT-210V (B) Good, and decent sensitivity increases practical use
 DT-200VX (B) Good, and decent sensitivity increases practical use

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

SRF-S84 (A-) Insignificant spurious whistle on 730
 SRF-M97 (B) KSUH-1450 image on 550 (weak); KSUH-1450 received from 1420-1480
 Eton E100 (A) KSUH-1450 image on 540 (moderate)
 SRF-M37VW (F) KSUH-1450 image on 550 (strong); spurious mix of KSUH-1450 and KZLZ-1560 on 1610 (strong); KKOL-1300 received from 1280-1340; KSUH-1450 received from 1410-1640
 DT-400W (A) Insignificant KSUH-1450 image on 550 (extremely weak)
 SRF-59 (A-) Insignificant spurious whistle on 730
 SRF-39FP (A-) Insignificant spurious whistle on 730
 SRF-T615 (C) KSUH-1450 image on 550 (moderate); Puyallup TIS-1580 spur on 1600 (moderate); KZLZ-1560 spur on 1420; KSUH-1450 received from 1430-1510
 DT-210V (B) KSUH-1450 image on 550 (weak); insignificant spurious whistle on 750
 DT-200VX (A-) Insignificant spurious whistle on 750

AGC: (final grade and comment)

SRF-S84 (B) Will not irritate the ears of searching DXers
 SRF-M97 (A-) Excellent AGC, but poor reception limits value
 E100 (B+) Very good performance, but minor issues with IBOC hiss and local slop
 SRF-M37VW (B+) Very good performance, except for IBOC hiss
 DT-400W (A-) Excellent AGC except for minor IBOC hiss issue
 SRF-59 (B) Will not irritate the ears of searching DXers
 SRF-39FP (B) Will not irritate the ears of searching DXers
 SRF-T615 (A) The best in AGC performance among these contestants
 DT-210V (B) Will not irritate the ears of searching DXers
 DT-200VX (A-) Excellent AGC except for minor IBOC hiss issue

AUDIO QUALITY: (final grade and comment)

SRF-S84 (A) Best of the analog models with Mega-Bass function
 SRF-M97 (B) Mega-Bass function cannot overcome emphasis on high frequencies
 E100 (B) Emphasis on high frequencies OK for DXers, but not for FM stereo music fans
 SRF-M37VW (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity
 DT-400W (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity; DBB function augments range
 SRF-59 (B+) Pleasing audio with emphasis on high frequencies
 SRF-39FP (A-) Mellow audio with balanced highs and lows
 SRF-T615 (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity
 DT-210V (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity; DBB function augments range
 DT-200VX (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity; DBB function augments range

DIGITAL TUNING NOISE: (final grade and comment)

SRF-M97 (B) Function beep, one second delay
 E100 (A-) No tuning noise or delay, but two second delay and PLL chirp when turned on
 SRF-M37VW (A-) Function beep, no delay
 DT-400W (A) No noise, no delay
 SRF-T615 (A) No noise, no delay
 DT-210V (B) No noise, one second delay
 DT-200VX (A) No noise, no delay

QUALITY CONTROL RECORD: (final grade and comment)

SRF-S84 (B) Own unit gained significant improvement in sensitivity with AM alignment
 SRF-M97 (B) Factory alignment provided unacceptable AM sensitivity (congenital defect?)
 E100 (B) Based on alignment of five units, all had significant low-band sensitivity gain
 SRF-M37VW (A) Based on reports of ten units, all had great initial performance (with congenital selectivity defect)
 DT-400W (A) Based on three review units, all had great initial performance and sensitivity
 SRF-59 (B) Based on alignment of 55 units, 39 gained major improvement in sensitivity with AM alignment, 13 gained minor improvement
 SRF-39FP (A-) Based on alignment of 17 units, 3 gained major improvement in sensitivity; 7 gained minor improvement
 SRF-T615 (A) Based on reports of 7 units, all had great initial performance
 DT-210V (B-) Own unit required AM alignment for optimum performance; first received unit was defective and not repairable; reports of other QC issues
 DT200VX (A-) Based on reports of 12 units, all had great initial performance, but AM alignment typically improves sensitivity on high or low band (not both)

Summertime Summary: The new DT-400W model's superior wide-band AM sensitivity gives it a slight edge over the SRF-T615 and E100 models in general AM DXing, although the E100's supreme selectivity and 1 kHz tuning ability would be preferable for split-frequency DXers and, domestically, to dodge IBOC hash. The DT-400W is a real breakthrough in value, providing wide-band sensitivity superior to that of the SRF-T615 at half the price. But the E100 is also a supreme value, providing far superior capability for modification as an Unlimited Class performer. The choice of these two units would primarily depend upon the objectives of the DXer-- stock or modified. Either model provides outstanding capability for general DXing, although in stock form, the DT-400W would have a decided sensitivity edge on the lower frequencies. The E100's future availability is uncertain, making it imperative that interested enthusiasts secure their NOS unit without delay, and be careful to buy the older "real E100's" with serial numbers below E10-07090xxxx.

The SRF-T615 is no longer the top-rated digital model in sensitivity, although it continues to provide outstanding performance for its compact size. Its moderate urban RF issues are completely absent in both the E100 and DT-400W units, however, making these units far preferable for urban DXers (at half the cost). The DT-400W, especially, has greatly reduced the allure of the SRF-T615.

The DT-200VX remains a competitive unit for urban DXers, although it lacks the newly designed RF board of the DT-400W, which provides improved wide-band sensitivity. As a result, the DT-200VX usually drops off in sensitivity on either high or low band, despite full alignment. It is also uncertain whether Sangean will continue to offer this model after the new DT-400W introduction.

The DT-210V is generally an excellent model, but has serious QC issues. DXers fortunate enough to secure a "good" model can enjoy some very competitive performance, although the top-rated digital models (E100 and DT-400W) provide both superior performance and quality control.

The "new" SRF-M37W (and its SRF-M37V predecessor) have many desirable qualities, with fine sensitivity, AGC, audio and QC record...but in their stock form, suffer greatly from horrendous selectivity. They also have serious urban RF issues absent in other competing Ultralight models. As for the final new digital contestant, the greatly overpriced SRF-M97, its unique "inverse LCD" digital display is useless without effective RF circuitry. Serious AM-DXers will deeply regret purchasing this Gobbler from the Far East, with its 1610 kHz upper limit and equally poor AM and FM performance. If you only wish to receive your locals, fine... otherwise save your \$158.33 (Amazon).

The Sony analog models have always offered a different form of exciting Ultralight DXing, and the very tiny SRF-S84 provides the ultimate in performance for its size. When aligned by a caring technician (like the reviewer), this extremely compact overachiever can humble most digital models in selectivity and nulling ability, and provide DX performance approaching that of the SRF-59 (with superior FM sensitivity and audio quality). The SRF-S84 has been a very pleasant surprise during this Shootout, and this analog-loving reviewer can't wait to chase TP's with it.

Of course, analog DXing requires a special commitment, and isn't for everybody. The SRF-39FP remains the model of choice for serious analog DXers, although it is no longer routinely available for NOS purchase. The SRF-59, by comparison, has ergonomic limitations and QC issues, but as the model that started the entire Ultralight DXing boom, perhaps has compensating historical value. :-)

Conclusion: The Summertime Shootout provides you with an accurate, definitive purchasing guide for all the top-rated Ultralight radio models, giving the latest information on new and existing units. A new fall season is approaching, and exciting new DX opportunities await us all! If you have never experienced the unique thrill of receiving rare DX on a pocket radio, it is the reviewer's sincere wish that you will "take the plunge" by purchasing one of these inexpensive little wonders, and join our fast-growing group in the legendary excitement and satisfaction of Ultralight Radio DXing.

(The reviewer wishes to express sincere gratitude to John Bryant for his assistance in preparing this report, and to Colin Newell for his constant and generous support of the Ultralight Radio DX group.)

(this review first appeared at www.dxer.ca and is used with the author's permission)

SPORTCHANNELS IRCA
Compiled by: Dale Park – PO Box 10640 – Honolulu HI 96816
E-mail: dxtfoot@aol.com

Aloha. It's Labor Day, so you know what that means: it's the start of Canadian junior hockey league preseason! Oh, and college football kicks off. I'll get to the amateurs next time while we look at the pro football info I have lying around as of 8/24/08—

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Arizona CARDINALS	560	KBLU-AZ	1130	KQNA-AZ	1340	KIKO-AZ	Dave Pasch, Ron Wolfley, Paul Calvisi-
	600	KVNA-AZ	1150	KDEF-NM	1400	KRVZ-AZ	92.3 KTAR-AZ
	620	KTAR-AZ p	1230	KTAN-AZ	1420	KTAN-AZ	94.3 KDDL-AZ
	780	KAZM-AZ	1250	KBSZ-AZ			
	980	KNTR-AZ	1290	KCUB-AZ	92.1	KZUA-AZ	—FM—
Atlanta FALCONS	540	WDAK-GA	1050	WBRG-VA	1450	WMVG-GA	Wes Dunham, Dave Archer, Jeff Van Note-ST
	550	WDUN-GA	1240	WGGG-GA b1	1470	WRGA-GA	95.3 WSRM-GA r
	630	WNEG-GA	1250	WSRA-GA	1490	WANA-AL w	98.1 WMGP-GA
	720	WVCC-GA	1270	WSHE-GA b2	1590	WRJS-GA b3	98.3 WQXZ-GA w
	790	WFSN-GA	1310	WDOD-TN t	1590	WTGA-GA	101.1 WTGA-GA
	800	WJAT-GA	1350	WFNS-GA r	1630	WTDW-GA	101.7 WYUM-GA t
	850	WPTB-GA	1370	WLOP-GA			—FM—
	900	WJLG-GA w	1420	WACT-AL	88.9	WKEU-GA w	103.7 WPLP-GA w
	960	WFRG-GA	1420	WPEH-GA	92.1	WPEH-GA	105.3 WSTI-GA w
	970	WVOP-GA	1450	WKEU-GA			105.5 WIFN-GA

NOTE: t – Listed by team but not WZGC-FM. w – Listed by WZGC-FM but not by team. b1 – Backup for 550 WDUN. b2 – Backup for 540 WDAK. b3 – Backup for 800 WJAT.

Baltimore RAVENS

550	WSVA-VA	1240	WCEM-MD
910	WSBA-PA	1470	WTRR-MD
930	WFMD-MD	1490	WARK-MD
1090	WBAL-MD		

Carolina PANTHERS

570	WMNC-NC	1160	WODY-VA	1450	WHSC-SC r	100.9	WIFM-NC
590	WCAB-NC	1200	WXIT-NC	1460	WDOG-SC	101.1	WZTK-NC
730	WOHS-NC	1230	WNNC-NC	1490	WRMT-NC	102.7	WECR-NC
730	WLTT-SC x	1240	WJNC-NC r	1520	WSIC-VA	102.3	WPUB-NC
810	WPIN-VA	1250	WKDX-NC		—FM—	103.1	WEOM-NC
840	WTRV-VA	1260	WKXR-NC	93.1	WKJX-NC	103.3	WKVS-NC
850	WRBZ-NC	1280	WSAT-NC	93.7	WXYJ-SC r	103.7	WBNE-NC
920	WYMB-SC	1380	WYNF-SC	93.9	W230AS-SC r	104.9	WCCP-SC
960	WRNS-NC	1400	WSIC-NC	93.9	WJXY-SC	105.3	WBNN-VA
1010	WSPC-NC	1400	WSPG-SC	94.3	WTIB-NC	107.1	WTKF-NC
1050	WLOM-NC	1410	WPEC-SC	94.3	WSSC-SC	107.1	WRHM-SC
1050	WIOB-SC r	1430	WKEX-VA	94.3	W232AX-SC r	107.3	WVSY-SC r
1050	WBRG-VA	1450	WGNC-NC	96.7	WKJX-NC		
1050	WAMN-WV	1450	WISZ-NC	99.3	WBT-SC r		
1110	WBTV-NC	1450	WHKP-NC	100.1	WWFN-SC		

Jacksonville JAGUARS

690	WOKV-FL	1080	WHOO-FL	—FM—	105.5	WIFO-GA
850	WRUF-FL	1240	WFOY-FL	94.3	WNFB-FL	106.1
850	WUCG-GA	1380	WELE-FL	103.3	WWSN-GA	106.5
1060	WIXC-FL	1590	WPSL-FL	105.3	WSTI-GA	107.7

Brian Sexton, Jeff Lagemen

The IRCA is a non-profit organization devoted to the hobby of hearing distant stations on the Broadcast Band (510-1720 kHz). **DX Monitor**, the official publication of the IRCA, is published in "soft" form 35 times a year (weekly from November through March, twice monthly from April to November) and in printed form 30 times a year (weekly November through March, monthly April to November). **DX Monitor** contains members' loggings, articles on radio stations, receiver reviews, technical articles, DX tips, and other material of interest to Broadcast Band DX hobbyists.

CLUB OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

President: Doug Pifer – 7148 Marley Ln S, Salem OR 97306
e-mail: dxer@desert4wd.com (proposals/gripes)
Secretary-Treasurer: Lynn Hollerman, PO Box 60241, Lafayette LA 70596
e-mail: lynnhollerman@yahoo.com – (dues, address changes, IRCA mailing list sign-ups)

Board of Directors: Phil Bytheway – phil_tekno@yahoo.com, Lee Freshwater – lfreshwater@cox.net, John C. Johnson – John_Johnson@prodigy.net, Patrick Martin – mwdxer@webtv.net, Jim Pogue – KHZAR@comcast.net, Mike Sanburn – mikesanburn@hotmail.com and Robert Wren – wienbob@aol.com
Editor-in-Chief: Phil Bytheway, 9705 Mary Ave NW, Seattle WA 98117-2334
e-mail: phil_tekno@yahoo.com – (all material for publication goes here)

MEMBERSHIP DUES (DXM=printed DX Monitor, SDXM=soft e-mailed version)
Destination **SDXM** **DXM** **DXM+SDXM**
 USA \$10 \$31 \$46
 Canada & Mexico (group 2) \$10 \$40 \$55
 Western Europe (group 3) \$10 \$52 \$67
 Australia/NZ/Japan (group 4) \$10 \$52 \$67
 Rest of world (group 5) \$10 \$52 \$67

TRIAL MEMBERSHIP (10 issues) TO USA-CANADA-MEXICO only: \$10 DXM, \$12 DXM / SDXM Installment Rate: 2 payments a year of one-half dues plus \$1.
Make checks and Money Orders in US funds payable to IRCA.

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

Sample copies of DX Monitor are available. Along with your request, please include first class postage of: 42c for USA addresses, 69c for Canada and Mexico or 2-International Reply Coupons each, for other countries. Send to: **IRCA, PO Box 3547, Tualatin OR 97062.** (Maximum two samples per year.)

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

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



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