



October 18, 2008 - Volume 46, Number 6 - Edition 1448 - ISSN 899-9733

This issue, IRCA welcomes **Dorrell Schank** DXing in Springfield, MO. Interesting DX this time!!

DXM on DVD

NOW AVAILABLE from the IRCA Reprint Service. IRCA DX Monitors Volume 1 thru 45 on 2 DVD's. Cost is just \$15.00 for the complete set. Re-live the days gone by and re-introduce yourself to the former members who helped make the IRCA great!! Please make checks payable to **Lee Freshwater** and send to the IRCA Reprint Service, 414 SE 3rd Street, Ocala, FL 34471.... PLEASE NOTE: You will NEED a DVD reader to open the Adobe files. These files were TOO LARGE to use regular CD's.

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**, less than a month away. (Article VIII, Sec.3 of the Bylaws) Thank you and good luck. Doug Pifer - 7148 Marley Ln S, Salem, OR 97306 or email me at: dker@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).

BROADCASTING INFORMATION

Robert Wien - 501 N Roadrunner Pkwy Apt. 2103 - Las Cruces NM 88011-2025
Email: wienbob@aol.com phone: 575-532-5005
Ham calls: KG6RJW

(Continued from previous DXMs - pb)

Dale Park sends along the following from the Fresno, CA Bee dated 8/13/08:
 KYNO-1300 to go conservative, KYNO will change to talk format. By Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee. Published 08/13/2008 16:22:00
 John Ostlund has purchased KYNO, AM 1300. Ostlund, who owns and operates KJWL, FM 99.2, plans to drop the Spanish-language Catholic format and go to a talk/news format on Sept. 2. He bought the station for \$1.6 million, according to the filing with the Federal Communications Commission. "When I moved here in 1974, I had the chance to go to work for KYNO. I never would have imagined owning it. I feel like the luckiest guy in town," Ostlund says. The decision to change formats makes sense. As Ostlund puts it, the station ranks 32nd out of 32 radio stations in the Fresno market. "The only way to go is up," Ostlund says. The KYNO talk lineup will include the talk shows hosted by Dennis Miller, Don Imus, Dr. Laura Schlessinger, Bill O'Reilly and Larry King. Ostlund will schedule these nationally syndicated talk shows to air live locally. He wants listeners here to be able to call in to the programs to share their opinions. There also is a plan to have a local talk show as part of the new KYNO schedule. But Ostlund will not reveal until Sept. 1 who the host will be. This is not the first radio station to try to crack the news/talk format that KMJ has dominated for so many years. Some of you might remember the failed Air America experiment. But to me, this feels different. Air America had internal problems. Ostlund is his own boss. He is going to be willing to stick with the format a lot longer. And even if you hate Miller or O'Reilly, they at least will be another voice for the central San Joaquin Valley radio market. Yes, these are still conservative voices. But any additional viewpoints are a victory for radio listeners. (DP-HI)

Dale Park sends along the following from **Washingtonpost.com** (DC) dated 8/14/08 (original article dated 8/13/08):

WTOP and WFED Are Beefing Up as WWWT Signs Off
 Bonneville International Corp. will end its slate of talk shows on radio station WWWT, and will expand all-news WTOP and government-news station WFED to new frequencies. WWWT, which replaced Washington Post Radio last year, carried syndicated political talk shows hosted by Bill O'Reilly and Stephanie Miller,

among others; it was home to Tony Kornheiser's morning radio program. The format, however, fared poorly in local ratings: WWWT finished in a tie for No. 22 among all stations, with an average audience share of just 0.6 percent during the spring quarter. Bonneville declined to renew Kornheiser's contract after his program's ratings declined substantially this spring. The former Post sports columnist is preparing for another season as an analyst on ESPN's "Monday Night Football" and had been expected to resume his radio program on the station in January. WWWT's morning program, headed by David Burd and Jessica Doyle, also will disband. Bonneville said Doyle will become a fill-in anchor at WTOP and Burd will be a reporter on the same station. Bonneville said it has moved WTOP onto WWWT's former FM frequency (107.7), giving WTOP three signals. WTOP's two other dial positions are 103.5 and 103.9 FM. WFED, which broadcasts news about the federal bureaucracy for managers, contractors and government employees, will get an even bigger boost. It moves to WWWT's old 820 AM signal and its powerful 1500 AM frequency, which can be heard all along the East Coast at night (Bonneville probably will sell the station's current frequency, 1050 AM). The station is getting the upgrade in anticipation of a change in administrations, said Bonneville executive Joel Oxley. In addition to airing a new daily three-hour government program, WFED will carry syndicated shows hosted by Jim Bohannon and Phil Hendrie. (DP-HI)

Pat Martin sends along the following from Eric Floden of Northwest Broadcasters dated 8/14/08:
 CTV Limited has applied to the CRTIC to move the CFUN AM 1410 Vancouver transmitter from its current location at 49-07-41 123-01-41 to a point approximately eight kilometers southeast. The application states that the existing transmitter has deteriorated to the point that the station is unable to prove its antenna pattern. (PM-OR)

Dale Park sends along the following from **Cincinnati.com** (OH) Enquirer dated 9/8/08:

New Gospel Station On The AM Dial
 There's a new gospel station on the AM dial, and it's not WDBZ-AM (1230, The Buzz). Covington's WCVG-AM (1320) dropped Spanish-language broadcasting after two years this morning and reverted to urban gospel, its long-time format, and some Christian inspirational talk show. Tracie Hunter is back as GM, as she was 1995-2006. Avery Corbin is back as operations director. Corbin tomorrow resumes his "Morning Glory" show 6-10 am. Hunter will resume her "Tracie Live" noon-2 pm tomorrow. During their 2-year hiatus from WCVG-AM, they have been doing their shows on the web. That website will become the new internet site for the station. Hunter, a local attorney, says TMH Media Group, a mix of local and national investors are petitioning to purchase the station from Davidson Media Group, which had 28 Latino stations. The deal came together pretty quickly after she was approached about taking over the station again. And she's not worried about possible competition from The Buzz or anyone else: "If another station comes along, that means more souls for the Kingdom of Christ. We can dwell in unity." (DP-HI)

Dale Park sends along the following from same website above dated 9/8/08:

Buzz Going Gospel Wednesday
 It's official: WDBZ (1230 Buzz) is going gospel - except for Lincoln Ware's 10 am-2 pm show, and Saturday morning talk shows - on Wednesday. Now we'll have two AM gospel music stations, with Covington's tiny WCVG-AM (1320) dropping Spanish-language shows after two years today and going back to Gospel. The Buzz - the radio voice for African-Americans here for eight years - will be no more on Wednesday. The station will be rebranded as "The New 1230 WDBZ, Your Community and Inspiration Station." What changes: Simulcast of Tom Joyner 6-10 am ends with sister WMOJ-FM (100.3 MOJO), with Joyner only on MOJO. Joyner will be replaced by syndicated show hosted by contemporary gospel singer Yolanda Adams. Ware will be followed by Donnie McClurkin's syndicated show (2-3 pm) and "The First Lady," a gospel and talk show hosted by an Indianapolis Radio One personality (3-7 pm). Gone are syndicated shows by Al Sharpton and Warren Ballentine. Afternoon host Jeri Toliver remains WDBZ-AM program director, plus will do community relations, marketing and promotions for all three Radio One sticks (MOJO, WIZ, WDBZ). Her co-host Emanuel Livingston will continue producing Ware's show and running the board. Afternoon sports hosts Wayne "Box" Miller was laid off two weeks ago, when his show was canceled. What stays the same: Lincoln Ware "will still be the star," says Lisa Thal, GM. Also not changing: Saturday morning local talk shows, weekend and overnight gospel music and the station's involvement in the African-American community. Why: Thal says the mix of gospel with a signature local talk host has worked for Radio One in Detroit, Indianapolis and Raleigh-Durham NC. Obviously Radio One execs think gospel could generate more revenue than talk, which never was a ratings hit here - despite a very loyal and small core audience. The Buzz was No. 19 in spring with a 1% audience share. But it was No. 2 in "time spent listening per week, with the audience averaging 8 hours and 45 minutes a week (second to WKRC-AM's 9:31). Bottom line: I'm glad Ware remains on the air - he's happy too - but I'll miss the Buzz. I'd dial it up to hear a different take anything and everything. It was a valuable window for all of us. Where will those voices be heard - in anywhere - in the future? (DP-HI)

Dale Park sends along the following from the Pittsburgh, PA Tribune-Review dated 9/9/08:

Money radio debuts Sept. 1
 Radio station WPTT-AM 1360 will switch to a financial news format Sept. 1 and change its call letters to WMNY, for money. Renda Broadcasting Corp. of Green Tree has run WPTT as a news talk station for 10 1/2 years, but found it tough to compete with KDKA-AM and WPGF-FM, or 104.7, said Alan Serena, vice president of operations/market manager. "Everybody's interested in money, in every shape and form," he said. The new format will have Bloomberg and Business Radio Network syndicated shows, "American Entrepreneur" host Ron Morris will be on from 3 to 6 pm weekdays, in addition to Saturday mornings. Favorites such as George Almasi's "Polka Review" will remain. (DP-HI)

Dale Park sends along the following from the Glendale, CA News-Press dated 9/9/08:

KRLA sued over content, Man alleges that the radio station's shows serve the Republican Party, not the public.

A Los Angeles man has filed a lawsuit against a conservative talk radio station; which broadcasts from the city, claiming the station and its media company misrepresented their federal license agreement by serving the interest of the Republican Party rather than the public. David Birke and his attorney Johnny Birke filed a complaint Aug. 27 against seven talk show hosts of KRLA-AM (870), Salem Communications Corporation

and its owner Edward Aisinger III, alleging that they use the public airwaves to push Republican beliefs. David and Johnny Birke would not say whether they were related, citing attorney-client privilege. (DP-HI)

Dale Park sends along the following from the Trenton, NJ Times dated 9/10/08:

Radio station finds religion, Catholic broadcast to replace sports, Thunder games
The future for Thunder broadcasts was not immediately clear, a team spokesman could not be reached for comment yesterday. For Sinatra host Jack Pinto, who also used to oversee a dinner-time show, the changeover will mark the end of an era. He will make his final Sinatra show this Sunday a live broadcast. "I'm sorry to see it go," said Pinto, 79, a Trenton native whose career in radio goes back 61 years to a job at a station near Wilkes-Barre, Pa. "I'm not bitter. I knew the company wasn't making a lot of money on WJUD. I can't blame them. Business is business." However, he said fans of Sinatra will miss the weekly date with their favorite singer. "There is a great audience for Sinatra," he said. "I've had people call me who said they have a group get together on Saturday evening to go to church so you can listen to the show on Sundays. It's going to be missed. God willing something else will come up." Echoing Pinto's comments, Millennium program director Eric Johnson said that they made the switch to all-sports talk in April in the belief there would be a growing audience for a mix of national sports programming from Fox Sports as well as local sports talk programming. "We made the change in format," Johnson said, "but during that time there was this opportunity that came up, a buyer had come along, and a great deal was made." Millennium Radio, which has offices in Trenton, owns 12 stations in New Jersey, including classic rock station 105.7 The Hawk and 101.5 FM. The new format is scheduled to begin on Monday, but the sale may not be final for a few more weeks. "We will own it until the FCC blesses the final sale," said Johnson, referring to the Federal Communications Commission. "That may take until November." Jim Manfredonia said there is a slight chance the programming shift may occur on Sunday rather than Monday. (DP-HI)

Ye editor sends along the following from the Las Cruces, NM Sun-News dated 9/11/08:

Errant squirrel takes radio stations off the air. By Ashley Meeks/Sun-News reporter
LAS CRUCES — A naughty squirrel knocked out power to almost 400 customers in central Las Cruces for three hours Wednesday. "A squirrel got into some of our equipment and blew two fuses," said Teresa Souza a spokeswoman with El Paso Electric Co., who said feral cats have historically caused similar problems at substations. "I'm assuming they found a cadaver, but I'm not sure." Alan Riehl, a host at KSNM, which has studios on California Avenue, said the power at all four Radio of Las Cruces stations went out at 11:45 am. "A squirrel, huh? Isn't that nuts," Riehl quipped. He said after a similar incident several years ago, when a bird flew into a Las Cruces power line and knocked out power for five or six hours, he wasn't too surprised. It's almost like a "nature strikes back" kind of thing," he said. Souza said the outage was resolved at 2:40 pm after the fuses were replaced. In addition to the radio station, around 390 customers on Lees Drive, Del Monte Street, Mimbres Court, Brook Circle, Delta Drive and Arizona Avenue were affected. (RW-NM)

Dale Park sends along the following from the South Florida Sun-Sentinel dated 9/15/08:

Two liberal talkers are off the air, By JOHN THOMASON | Forum Publishing Group
Liberalism's voice in South Florida just got a couple of notches softer. Nicole Sandler and Jim DeFede, two of the area's strongest progressive voices, recently disappeared from the talk radio airwaves brought out the each other. DeFede quit the largely conservative WFTL-AM (850) Aug. 21 after the station bought out the remaining 14 months of his contract. Sandler was let go from the liberal WINZ-AM (970) Aug. 22. The absence of Sandler and DeFede leaves the area with only one major local political voice — centrist Joyce Kaufman at WFTL (unless you count WQAM's Neil Rogers). Both talkers covered the national news of the day as well as topics of interest to South Floridians, from the housing crisis, Indian casinos and hurricanes to local elections and breaking crime stories. Listeners won't get the local angle from Sandler's replacement in the 6 to 9 am time slot, notorious shock jock Don Imus. It's a transition her loyal audience has not welcomed. "Nicole was always well-prepared and researched whatever topics she and her audience were discussing," said Diane Lawrence, president and co-founder of the South Florida Impeachment Coalition. "Not only did she talk about this ridiculously endless presidential campaign, but she discussed the problems of our underfunded schools and various state and local officials." Talk radio all over this country is dominated by right-wing conservatives," she added. "Why would WINZ want to kill the only local progressive voice we have here? I'm sure it's all about money, but if they bother to research the number of people listening to their station between 6 and 9 am, they will find that Imus' audience is extremely small." Barbara Walters, fundraising director for the Miami-Dade activist group Democracy for America, said she stopped listening to WINZ when she learned of Sandler's dismissal. "Once I found out that the change had taken place, I immediately changed the dial on the radio and will not tune in again," she said. "I told [programming coordinator] Ken Charles in an e-mail that as far as I'm concerned, WINZ no longer exists." Charles, who programs the conservative talk station WIOD-AM (610) as well as the liberal WINZ, defended the choice of Imus but said he understood the concerns of angry listeners. "We've gotten e-mails and phone calls from both sides — more negative e-mails than positive ones, which is not a surprise," he said. "Change is hard in everything. And this is worse, because people become attached to personalities, whether it's Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Stephanie Miller or Ed Schultz. You hope that you made a change for the positive. There may be four hours you don't like a lot on the station, but we hope that you listen to the 20 hours of radio that you do like." But why Imus, who has a history of racist and sexist comments and hardly embodies the progressive movement? "There are few options for progressive programming," Charles said. "Air America is the best option, but in the morning they do a repeat of Ron Kuby from the night before. We wanted something live, and even though Imus is not a Schultz or a Thom Hartmann, he's also not a Limbaugh or a Hannity. He's an equal-opportunity offender. I've heard him say things about both sides of the aisle, and he still gets great guests." Charles wanted to assure his audience of liberals that Imus will not start the station down a slippery slope toward more centrist broadcasting. "This is not a change of the radio station," he said. "Thom Hartmann, Stephanie Miller, Lionel, Alan Colmes — these guys aren't going anywhere." Sandler aims to remain a force in South Florida, even if she has to take her commentary to the Internet. A radio veteran of nearly 30 years, she had started a Web site to broadcast the hundreds of interviews she'd done with celebrities such as Dave Matthews, Ray Davies and Jackson Browne. Three days after being fired by WINZ, she re-launched the site, titled Radio or Not (radioornot.blogspot.com), as a podcast, commenting on the Democratic and Republican conventions. Although she believes Internet radio is the future, she would prefer

to be on terrestrial radio again, even if it means waking up at 4 am every weekday. "The fact that we lost our voice on the eve of the Democratic Convention is a travesty, and it's further proof that we need the Fairness Doctrine back," Sandler said. "Corporations are controlling the public airwaves." DeFede, meanwhile, who used to occupy Sandler's former WINZ time slot, left WFTL's afternoon drive-time show abruptly and of his own volition. "I had been frustrated with the station for months and finally had my agent contact the station a month before I left, telling them I wanted out of my contract," said DeFede, a former Miami Herald writer who now works as a reporter and commentator for CBS-4. "Once we reached a deal for them to buy me out, there was no reason for me to stay on the air any longer. I was willing to finish out the week, but they decided we should just break immediately." WFTL programming coordinator George Johns said he wasn't surprised by DeFede's resignation. "I think Jim couldn't handle the fact that a whole bunch of the other shows seemed to be conservative and he's fairly liberal," Johns said. "The other hosts didn't have a problem, but he was uncomfortable from the very beginning. I thought Jim was a hell of a talent — his style and his passion and all that. But he always seemed to lock horns with general management. It's too bad; he was entertaining." WFTL's audience leans to the right, and its response to DeFede's departure was not as heated as the one that greeted the change at WINZ. Johns said listeners may prefer the new lineup. "Because most of the station is conservative, they wanted us all to be conservative," he said. "Now we've gone to a news block [from 5 to 6 pm], which was a no-brainer for an hour. We had had cut back Bill O'Reilly, and that caused more flak than anything. So we gave him back his other hour and moved [Michael] Savage up." Johns said he has no political ideology and would welcome a new local voice on his station, even if it were a progressive voice. "If another local talent comes along, I'd give it serious consideration," he said. "This hasn't ended the quest for what we're trying to do, which is go local as much as we can." For full schedules and station information, visit www.supertalk940.com and www.850wftl.com. (DP-HI)

(To be continued — pb)

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

Nancy Johnson — 265 Waterton Wy — Billings MT 59102-7755

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

WDXR DEADLINES: Each Friday. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

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

Drake R8

(GH) **Glen Hansen-1925 Tualatin St.-St. Helens, OR** skinner@columbia-center.org
(GH-OR2) DX'ing from Seal Rock, OR with Grundig Satellit 800 & various longwires

Drake R8B, R-388, R-390A, Hammarlund SP-600, various wires, Radio Shack and Sanserino loops

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

Drake R8, 1500' Eastern Beverage, SW EWE, NW EWE, Quantum phaser

(MS) **Mike Sanburn-P.O. Box 1256-Bellflower, CA** mikesanburn@hotmail.com

Sony M40W

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

1220 **KDOW CA, Palo Alto 10/7 0913 ID** "The new Business Radio, KDOW," (MS-CA)

560 **GHTK BC, Prince Rupert 10/7 0420** good on top of KPQ with rock and "The Mix" slogan. (PM-OR)

620 **KGTL AK, Homer 10/7** good on top of CKRM with NOS "Taste of Honey," ID at 0425 "In the car, at home, it's KGTL. Great songs, great memories." (PM-OR)

890 **KLFF CA, Arroyo Grande 10/10 0759** with "KLFF" way under KDXU. (BB-AZ)

920 **KPSI CA, Palm Springs 10/9 0759** with "KPSI Newstalk 920." (BB-AZ)

1000 **KMVP IL, Chicago 10/7** fair-poor with ESPN, slogan at 0459 "ESPN Radio 1000," jumble of XE's, etc. KOMO totally off. (PM-OR)

1230 **KYVA NM, Gallup 10/7 2348** with "KYVA." (BB-AZ)

1270 **KIML WY, Gillette 10/8** with "Hi, you're on KIML." (BB-AZ) (Time?—NJ)

1450 **KVML CA, Sonora 9/24 0710** briefly dominating with clear ID. (MS-CA)

1470 **KELA WA, Centralia 9/26 2230** news pertaining to the presidential debate. Choppy and poor with unID's. (GH-OR2)

1490 **KBKO CA, Santa Barbara 10/3 1030 ID** "AM 1490 KBKO Santa Barbara," good in mess.

Also mentions of KIST. (MS-CA)

1590 **KLIV CA, San Jose 9/25 2330** news and ID into talk. Fair to poor and impossible to hear from home due to local 1600. Long time no hear. (GH-OR2)

Thanks to our four WDXR reporters. For a while I thought CDXR might be a longer column than WDXR this week. Nancy 10/10 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 amdxer@core.com
Drake R8A and Quantum Loop
[NJ-MT] Nancy Johnson, Billings, MT NancyJohnson@Prodigy.net
Drake R8B and Kiwa Loop

DOWN THE DIAL

910 WAVL PA, Apollo. 10-4 good signal, dominant most of the time. Suspect using their daytime pattern at night. 20:00 with ID "AM 9-10 WAVL Apollo, Pittsburgh" and using the slogans "Praise 910" and "Christian Hits." Also heard the next two evenings and around 5 to 6 in the mornings. Thanks to the tip on the IRCA DX Website. [TMJ-IL]
1190 KVSV KS, Beloit. 10-9 strong. 22:00 complete sign off. [NJ-MT]
1390 KJAM SD, Madison. 10-10 poor with KLGX null. 20:00 with ID. New for me. [NJ-MT]
1490 (KBSR) MT, Laurel. 10-9 noted off the air at 23:00, back on the air next day. [NJ-MT]
KCID ID, Caldwell. 10-9 good with local KBSR off the air. 23:05 with local spots, promo "...on 14-90 KCID." [NJ-MT]
KGOS WY, Torrington. 10-9 local KBSR off the air. 23:35 with ID "...right here on KGOS, KERX" into country song. [NJ-MT]

25 YEARS AGO

October 22, 1983 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **John T. Arthur** of Pahoa, HI told about his recent move to Hawaii and his first DX experiences. ... **Jef Jaisun** of Kirkland, WA commented on the Vancouver, WA AM station that was being sold ... **Ric Heald** of Eureka, CA mentioned KNBR airing L.A. Raiders football games.

OPEN MIKE

Winter has hit the Big Sky Country with three days of steady snow. What happened to fall? This column was typed 10-11-08. 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!!

(KK-VA) **Kraig Krist**
NRD-545 rx with homemade 134 foot multiband antenna running NW to SE
(WM-MD) **William McGuire**
2412 59th Place, Cheverly, MD
DX-398

LOGGINGS

740 KY WNOP Newport. 9/18 2158. Sacred Heart Radio hrd, mention of Cincinnati. (WM-MD)
ON CFZM Toronto. 10/9 0155-0305. "You're listening to the best of the best. AM seven forty Toronto and worldwide on the web at AM740 dot ca" into song. 0201
"Selecting AM seven forty. The best of the best is loaded up and ready to play. Welcome to the 'All Night Jukebox... AM seven forty" 0207 "You're plugged into the 'All Night Jukebox' on Toronto's AM seven forty. (KK-VA)
760 MI WJR Detroit. 10/7 0155-0305. Ad mixing w/SS talk. PSA 0157 "Right now, back to the 'Midnight Radio Network' on news, talk seven sixty WJR" discussing Tuesday night presidential debate. 0158 Ad 0200 "From the golden tower of the Fisher Building. This is the great voice of the great lakes. News, talk seven sixty" jingle "WJR Detroit" into "ABC News". 0206 "It's 2 oh 6 and now back to the 'Midnight Radio Network' on the great voice of the great lakes. News, talk seven sixty WJR". (KK-VA)
770 NY WABC New York City. 10/6 0155-0305. Talk "Coast to Coast AM" 0200 "This is the official radio station of the 2008 presidential campaign. WABC New York City. It's 2 o'clock" into "ABC News". 0206 Jingle "Seventy seven WABC". 0208 back to "Coast to Coast AM". (KK-VA)
780 IL WBBM Chicago. 10/5 0155-0305. "CBS Weekend Roundup" mixing w/station playing music 0158 "You were listening to the 'WBBM Weekend Roundup' produced in

the Washington bureau by CBS News. This is the CBS Radio Network." "WBBM news time twelve fifty eight. Time for traffic and weather together on the eights." 0159 News radio seven eighty WBBM" into "CBS News". 0205 jingle "News radio seven eighty WBBM". (KK-VA)

790 VA WNIS Norfolk. 10/4 0155-0305. Mixing w/R. Reloj time pips. WNIS with "Coast to Coast AM". 0157 "WNIS". 0200 "Hampton Roads news information station AM seven ninety WNIS, Norfolk" into "Fox News Radio". 0205 "WNIS news time is 2 oh 5. Here's the forecast from the National Weather Service". Then back to "Coast to Coast AM". (KK-VA)
830 PA WEEU Reading. 9/23 1858. Local News, WX. (WM-VA)
870 NY WHCU Ithaca. 9/23 1853. Station Promo. (WM-MD)
890 VA WKNV Fairlawn. 9/23 1850. "Joy AM". "Today's Southern Gospel Ministry." (WM-MD)
1210 OK KGYN Gumon. 9/3 2228. C&W mx u/WPHHT. (WM-MD)
1410 PA KGV Pitsburgh. 9/22 5000. ID: "Westwood One NFL. (WM-MD)
1440 OH WHKZ Warren. 9/22 2200. ID: "The Word". // (WM-MD)

Best to all... fresh 10-11 0800

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

Patrick Martin – PO Box 843 – Seaside OR 97138

E-mail: mwdxer@webtv.net all times UTC

Greetings,

I really nice long report this week from Nigel in Alberta with all sorts of TAs too. So away we go.

TRANS ATLANTIC ROUNDUP

585 SPAIN, Madrid, RNE 1, Sept 27, 2008 at 0228. Coverage of US election debate with translation of voice clips. (NP-AB)
684 SPAIN, Seville, RNE 1 Sept 27 at 0258. Traces of SS talk by woman audible, but too weak to make out much. (NP-AB)
711 FRANCE, Rennes, France Info, Sept 27 at 0300. Fairfare, into apparent news in FF by woman. (NP-AB)
738 SPAIN, Barcelona RNE 1 Sept 30 at 0358 Main speaking SS. (NP-AB)
756 GERMANY, synchros Deutschlandfunk on Sept 30 10320. Bits and pieces on conversation in GG by ma and man. Noted again with man in GG at 0416. (NP-AB)
774 SPAIN, synchros RNE 1 Sept 27 at 0228. Conversation between 2 men about US politics. (NP-AB)
819 EGYPT, Barrah on Sept 30 at 0153. Koran recitations. Also noted at 0322 with man in AA. (NP-AB)
837 FRANCE, Nancy France info Sept 30 at 0421 Man talking in FF. (NP-AB)
855 SPAIN, Synchros RNE 1 Sept 30 at 0424 Man speaking in SS. (NP-AB)
999 MOLDOVA, Grigoriopol Septe 26 at 0301 News in RR with man and woman alternating items. (NP-AB)
999 SPAIN, Madrid COPE, Sept 27 at 0217 Man and woman conversing in SS. Another station in background. (NP-AB)
1017 TURKEY, Mudanya TRT Sept 30 at 0335 Man talking definitely not GG, so Turkey is likely, faded out by 0340. (NP-AB)
1035 UNID? Septe 27 at 0221 traces of audio. Portugal seems the most likely. (NP-AB)
1044 UNID? Sept 27 at 0223 Traces of what seemed like conversation in SS. (NP-AB)
1089 UNITED KINGDOM, synchros Talksport Sept 30 at 0407 Man taking a phone call saying "Morning. You're on talksport..." (NP-AB)
1116 SPAIN, synchros SER Sept 27 at 0410 Man and woman presenting alternate news items. (NP-AB)
1125 UNID? Sept 26 at 0349 traces of audio with woman speaking, then music. (NP-AB)
1179 SWEDEN, Solvesborg, Sveriges Radio, Sept 30 at 0410. Man talking with clips in EE by man translated into Swedish. (NP-AB)
1377 FRANCE, Lille, France Bleu Sept 23 at 0414. Man speaking in FF. (NP-AB)
1422 GERMANY, Heusweiler, Deutschlandfunk, Sept 30 at 0501 Came up after ToH fade with woman giving apparent news. (NP-AB)

TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

594 AUSTRALIA, Victoria, Horsham 3WV Oct 2 at 0331. Weak with interview by Aussie-accented man. (NP-AB)
639 FIJI, Lautoka Radio Fiji Oct 7 at 1328 Australia had dominated this frequency earlier, but Fiji totally ruled by 1328 going into Island mx after talk by man. (NP-AB)

702 **JAPAN**, Kitami/Hiroshima JOKD/JOFB Sept 21 at 1310 Language lesson (not EE) was even better than parallel 693. (NP-AB)

738 **AUSTRALIA**, NSW, Grafton 2NR Oct 8 at 1332. Man hosting phone-in program, and asking callers trivia type questions. (NP-AB)

801t **GUAM**, Agana KTWG Oct 7, at 1336. Tentatively the one with rel talk in EE by man. (NP-AB) (That is one great catch from Alberta, Nigel! PM)

828 **JAPAN**, Osaka JOBB Oct 7 1337. EE lesson with American-accented man speaking about computer systems, much weaker 837, 873. (NP-AB)

846 **AUSTRALIA**, Canberra, ACT 2RN Oct 2, 1325 vocal by woman. (NP-AB)

855 **AUSTRALIA**, QLD, Pinalba 4QB Oct 2, 1314 Man talking // 738 kHz. (NP-AB)

891 **AUSTRALIA**, Adelaide 5AN Oct 2 at 1301 "891 ABC Adelaide" ID, then into phone-in talk program. (NP-AB)

891 **AUSTRALIA**, Townsville, 4TAB Oct 8 at 1340. Announcer said "You're listening to highlights of this morning's race day programme." (NP-AB)

972 **REP KOREA**, Danjin HILCA Sept 27 at 1319. Talk by woman and man in KK. Signal nearly as strong as 970 domestics at times. (NP-AB)

999 **UNID?** Sept 27 at 1259. Instrmx through the hour. Then talk by woman as the station faded. Sounded CC, but no certain. (NP-AB)

1044 **CHINA**, Changzhou, CRI Sept 27 at 1313. Woman speaking in JJ. (NP-AB)

1089t **JAPAN**, Sendai JOHB Oct 7 at 1315 tentatively the one with man in JJ. Sounded like lesson of some sort. (NP-AB)

1107 **UNID?** October 7 at 1316 Man talking over musical background sounded CC but not certain May well have been 2 stations. (NP-AB)

1110 **ALASKA**, Big Lake, KAGV Sept 27 at 1300, ID as "KAGV, Big Lake" Then into IRN news. (NP-AB)

1116 **AUSTRALIA**, Brisbane 4BC Oct 8 1306. End of wx report, then ID as "Brisbane's News Leader, 1116 4BC" (NP-AB)

1116 **UNID?** Sept 23 at 1307 Woman singing a song in (I think) Chinese. (NP-AB)

1134 **JAPAN**, Tokyo JOQR Sept 23, 1301. Woman in JJ apparently introducing a program. Another station in background, something I have never observed before. (NP-AB) (Your second station was likely Korea, often QRMs JOQR here. PM)

1170 **PHILIPPINES**, Poro VOA Sept 23 at 1255. Program in unknown language, then at the hour a man said "Welcome to the VA in Cantonese" Which then followed. After 1305 mixing with presumed Korea. (NP-AB) (Another great catch Nigel. I don't think I have ever had anyone report the Philippines, that far inland. PM)

1179 **JAPAN**, Osaka JOOR Oct 7, at 1318. Children's song. Then man & woman conversing in JJ. (NP-AB)

1206 **CHINA**, Yanji October 7 at 1301 After being down in the mud, rose to good level just after the hour with woman and man speaking in KK. (NP-AB)

1215 **UNID?** Sept 23 at 1300 Song by woman, then CC style time pips at the hour. (NP-AB)

1224 **UNID??** Sept 27 at 1300. Time pips into apparent news. (NP-AB)

THANKS TO THIS REPORTER

NP-AB **NIGEL PIMBLETT**, Box 168, Dunmore, Alberta, Canada T0J 1A0
 njp@shockware.com
 DXing with Kenwood R-5000, beverages, and K9AY antennas

Bruce Portzer at Grayland

Grayland Report 10/7/08

Chuck Hutton, Tom Rothlisberger, and I spent this past weekend (October 1-2) at Grayland. We only had the northwest Beverage, so no DU logs.
 Conditions were slightly below average by Grayland standards on Saturday morning and slightly above average today. We'll have more detailed report(s) later, but here's my quick summary. Chuck may want to add more later.
 Friday night – No TA's, Alaskans started to make promising appearances. KJNO-630 pretty much owned the channel, KGTL-620 and KDLG-670 were doing numbers on KPOJ & KBOI, etc. Then all of a sudden they disappeared as though someone had flipped a switch somewhere. Coincidentally, the K index went from 3 to 5 during that period, and then dropped back to the 2-3 range for the next measurement periods.
 Saturday morning – mostly low band stuff, some of it at unusually good levels. The high end of the dial was mostly subpar but some stations had brief periods of good reception. For the first time I can remember, the NHK1 stations (567 594 612 666 729 etc) were more abundant and stronger than NHK2 (693 747 774 828 etc). Going from memory, the highlights included Russia-567, Shandong-981 with actual IDs (a first for me), China 684 //098 (Liaoning?), KBS stations unusually good on 558 603 711 738 747, Filipinos on 1062 and 1314, even channel logs of China-630 and JO stations on 1350 and 1440. 657 was the only North Korean coming in, and was often at "bite down on a piece of wire

and you'll hear it on your tooth fillings" level, but at other times was thrashing it out with an Unid Chinese station. Chinese stations (?) were also poking through the 594 774 and 828 powerhouses.

Sunday – Signals were noted up and down the dial. A few highlights, going from memory: Heilongjiang RGD-1341 //621, Liaoning-963 mixing with CRI and //1098, NHK1-1161, Unid Chinese 1395, unid 1584, CNR1 540, JOQG-531, KBS-1062, Russia 1008, unid Chinese 1512, Sabah 1475, China 909 (Tianjin?), N Korea 855, and many of the usual suspects like 1566 1575 1377 1593 1170 1134 972 981 1044 738 648 etc. Like the previous night, the big NHK stations seemed unimpressive and even the powerhouses were being almost constantly buzzed by stuff from other countries. The upper band commercial JO's (1287 1422 1332 1242 etc) were in & out – strong at times, and gone at other times. Yanbian RGD on 1206 was quite good both mornings. CKMO-900 seemed to be having problems – a strong carrier but no programming (maybe Colin hacked their computer <g>), leaving a jumble of audio including a weak woman in Chinese fading in and out (I wish I could have IDed that one).

On both mornings, the DX started to die out around 1445. Some of the NHK stations were still around at their 1500 signoffs, and a few stragglers gradually dies out around 1515-1530 or so.

Overall, both mornings were worthwhile. Looking back, conditions were kind of strange – in some ways consistent with what others have reported lately and in other ways the exact opposite. Definitely not the dullsville that Walt experienced.

John Bryant at Grayland

Tuesday, Oct 7

Thanks to a long rainy drive and some in-route errands, I didn't make it to the Grayland Motel until after 4:00PM. Thankfully, the impending REAL storm held off long enough for me to get the NW Wellbrook up while it was still light and in only a windblown drizzle.

My goals on this trip were to add a few non-QSLed Asian stations to the log and get my Ultralight log up to 20 Countries (now 18) and 100 TP stations (now at 90.) I was pretty sure that I could add two countries by catching two out of the three "easy" ones left to me: Mexico, Viet Nam and Alaska. I was quite unsure about making 100 TP stations this season: In June, I'd gotten quite a few Pacific Island and DU stations and that season was long gone. In mid-August, at the beginning of the East Asian season, I'd had a great run and picked off most of the easy East Asian stations. On this trip, I was hoping to take advantage of the now-mature Asian season and squeeze out just enough more to get over the 100 station barrier.

Although the hotrod Ultralights overload so badly as to be useless in my home location, I am able to DX the Asian band every morning from home with my main radio, so I was able to make up a Hit List of twenty possible "new" TPs to try to snag with the Ultralights here at Grayland. Happily, the hotrodged E100s are totally unconcerned with overload in this rustic/rural and isolated area.

I started DXing at 1140UTC, about 3 1/2 hours before total band fade at 1510 (8:10AM local). Happily, I caught a morning that was quite good over all, but favored Japan more than I had expected, given that the Asian season is well along (the later in the Fall season, the more that Mainland Asian stations seem to dominate.) I was able to catch a number of second and third-tier Japanese stations that were just not available in August and knock off a few of my mainland targets, too.

I ended the first morning (of four) with 22 new Ultralight loggings! Furthermore, I've still got 11 stations on my hit list.... If you do the math, it's obvious that I managed to catch a number of unexpected TAs, as well as knock the Hit List in half.

The Ultralight logged stations:

531 JOQG-NHK1 Morioka (late, there was something behind that was NOT DU, India???)
 540 CNR1 Synchros (only there late and poorly)
 558 JOCR, Kobe (there all morning)
 576 R. Mayak Synchros
 585 JOPG, NHK1 Kushiro (there all morning)
 612 JOLK, NHK1 Fukuoka
 639 CNR1 Synchros
 666 JOBK, NHK1 Osaka
 675 V of Vietnam, My Van (late only, but good level)
 702 NHK2 Synchros late
 711 HLKA KBS Sorae (all morning)
 729 JOCK, NHK1 Nagoya (Late, presumed Jiangxi RGD, Nanchang was mixing in, too)
 756 CNR1 Synchros
 846 NHK1 Synchros
 1026 Beijing Econ BS
 1071 JOFK, NHK1, Hiroshima
 1161 BCC Synchros Taiwan Country Network in Taiwanese dialect
 1170 HLSR, Gimje KBS Japanese Service
 1251 V of Russia in CC
 1260 JOIR Sendai
 1368 NHK1 Synchros (late)
 1602 NHK2 Synchros

morning, I heard all but one station that I could hear on the 313e on the hotrod E100. That single instance would also likely have been possible, had the E100 been equipped with SSB. The new Murata filter was worth all the sweat and tears (along with ruining one radio) because it works wonders, even on 9 kHz, splits that are only one kHz off a NAM channel... I just tune to 892 rather than 891 and there the TP sits waiting to be picked off. Just amazing!

In comparison, the T615 is rather frustrating, of course.... I don't really mind the loss of sensitivity (a 1.5" bar vs. the Wellbrook Array!) but the lack of selectivity is sometimes maddening. Even with nulling, it is very common to hear one of the adjacent NAM channels quite well... even on 4, 5 or 6-ended TP split channels, 585, or 594 or 666 or 675, etc.... Gee, I hope that we discover a digitally dated Ultralight with even better selectivity than the T615! Who, me? SPOILED???

Well, it was a VERY interesting morning. I think that I'll look toward Alaska next and hope that the bias shifts a bit westward toward the China coast for tomorrow.... yes, GREEDY, too :-)

October 9th
Well, sure enough, the propagation changed, and it DID move more solidly to China and away from Japan. Frequencies like 837 and 1386 that had offered Japanese stations for the past two mornings were solidly held by Chinese this morning. Unfortunately, overall signals were down some, too, so the morning was not really as productive as I'd hoped.

I spent a lot of time on several channels that seemed to promise wonderful things, but eventually collapsed into mutters, gurgles and burps. For instance at 1345 and again at 1430 (just after max down) I had a CC station doing very well on 990. It was doing so well that I had it on all three radios (W/radio 313e, mod-E100 and T615). I think that it was probably the Shanghai News Station that I'd love to log.... but it collapsed before any sort of ID happened. So, too, 810. KGO seemed to be suppressed in the later part of the morning and the Wellbrook was slamming it into the noise. There were two stations fighting it out, neither were the KCBS flamethrower. One was Chinese and I think that it was probably Zhejiang News from coastal Hangzhou. I'm "almost certain" that the other was a Radio Rossii outlet // the long wave signals... I'd love to add either or both to the log... but not this morning!

I'm rather pleased, though, with the few that I did manage to log. I added some nice ones to the Unlimited Class log, a few to the Barefoot log... and I FINALLY nailed 549 NHK1, Naha, Okinawa... a new station overall.

Unlimited Class Loggings (mod. E100 + Wellbrook Phased Array)
549 JOAP NHK1, Naha, Okinawa with typical discussion and interviews //594 at 1435
750 KFQD Anchorage, Alaska excellent with local ads and announcements, carrying college hockey, vs. South Carolina (!) Really hard to believe that this was wiping out nearby KXL, 50 kW in Portland, but it was at 0330, even on the T615
1188 HLKX FEBC Incheon, S. Korea at 1146 with EE Christian program
Barefoot Class Loggings (Sony SRF-T615)

693 JOAB NHK2, Tokyo //774 with EE lessons very late at 1446
750 KFQD Anchorage, Alaska excellent with local ads and announcements, carrying college hockey, vs. South Carolina (!) Really hard to believe that this was wiping out nearby KXL, 50 kW in Portland, but it was at 0330, even on the T615
890 CJDC Dawson Creek, BC with their typical country music show, topping probable KBBI, Homer, AK 0400
1206 Yambian RGD Yanji, Jilin, Chinese KK Service at 1149 excellent level
1377 CNR1 Synchros //945 at 1157 on through TOH
1700 XEPE, Tecate, BCN with typical syndicated EE talk programming... IDs as "San Diego's 1700"

I'm really happy with JOAP 594 Naha. I've wanted to get a really good log on them for years. They are so much more difficult to hear than most JJs since Okinawa is so far to the south of the Japanese Home Islands. It's nice to get that burden behind me... now for the QSL!

I also probably finally got the Tianjin station on 1386. A Chinese station was topping 1386 near band fade at 1500 that sure "sounded right." The co-channel NHK2 stations came up enough for me to hear their music box theme as they signed off, but I think that I got enough of the Chinese to compare to a recording that Chuck was nice to provide to me and maybe I can get some translation help, too. I've always wanted to hear a Tianjin station... that is the big port city on the Yellow Sea, 45 miles from Beijing. I spent a month there as a Visiting Professor in the late 1970s. That was right before I got back into radio... and all that I had with me was an AM radio. I listened to quite a few hours of late Maoist harangues and AWFUL classical Chinese opera. Now for a QSL :-)
Well, so much for the third morning... I'll DX until band fade tomorrow and then quickly pack and head north for the ferry. I'll try to have the fourth report on Saturday.

After two very nice sunny days down here in the coast, today dawned with showers. However, there is sun to the west!!

October 10th
Yesterday, I was still having trouble believing that I'd heard KFQD in Anchorage on the barefooted T615, right over the top of 50 kW KXL-750 in nearby Portland, OR. While I was at the local Library

There were also some tantalizing "almost IDs" that are on the Hit List for tomorrow:
549 JOHP, NHK1 Naha, Okinawa
720 V of Russia... I had just a bit of JJ mixing with KDOWN prior to 1400 and then after 1400, an unID CC. The Chinese could have been VOR, tho' the WIRTH schedule does not show it, and there is a big CNR2 in Beijing on 720, sooooo

810 just for a bit, between KGO fading down at dawn and the darn semi-local Christian station fading up. I had UNID CC on 810, most probably Zhejiang RGD from coastal Hangzhou
900 Somebody was running BBC World News at 1500... I fear that was a rapidly fading Victoria, BC... but I'm darn sure gonna check it out

Like Bruce and Chuck reported, I enjoyed hearing all of the NHK2 stations sign off with the Music Box tuning signal at 1502. However, since that is almost 45 minutes after dawn, there was nothing listenable when they finally pulled the plug. That will be different in another 2 or three weeks.

So, I'm already well past 100 TP stations and my new goal will be 150... that will likely take all of next season, the DU summer and the Asian fall, both.
This evening, I'll log XEPE, Tecate, BCN which beams north to San Diego (and up here, too.) That, coupled with Vietnam will make 20 Ultralight Countries, 17 of them TP/DUs. I doubt that any of us up here will ever be able to get 25. I guess that my new goal ought to be 20 countries DU/TP... though I'm not positive that is possible....

In any case, it was a really fine morning... much thanks to both Bruce and Chuck for the tips from their visit to the Grayland Motel last weekend.

Wednesday Oct. 8

This morning seemed almost as good as yesterday morning, with audio on most every channel for the last two hours before dawn. Some of the channels were at murmur-level or one notch up at language recognition level, only. However, even a number of these latter yielded to slight up-ticks which allowed identification through the use of parallels.

The bias continued toward Japan and away from China. At two hours before dawn, almost all of the good audio was from Japan and while China and Korea eventually joined the chorus, the bias toward Japan was very evident. For instance, one of my missions this trip was to try to get a good TOH recording on 837... All season, it's been either the regular Chinese from Heilongjiang in Manchuria or a large new station broadcasting from Fujian Province to Taiwan. This morning, it was all NHK 1 Synchros, 603 is usually a 200 kW KBS2 out of South Korea. This morning it was either a 1 or a 10 kW NHK1 Synchro until 40 minutes past dawn when KBS2 was all by itself with a KBS ID at 1500. I'm certainly not complaining... the unusual bias is helping me add to my Unlimited Ultralight totals quite nicely... eleven new ones in the log this morning, mostly in Japan:

549 Mayak Synchros at 12:18. Actually noted here all morning, with probable NHK1 Okinawa "almost there" several times
603 NHK1 Synchros 1142 (likely JOOG, Obihiro, Hokkaido)
603 HLSA KBS2, Namchang very prominent here the last 15 minutes before band fade
837 NHK1 Synchros at 1409 with mush most of the morning
855 Pyongyang Bangsong, Sangwon N. Korea 1412 rose above the usual mess on 855
927 NHK1 Synchros 1443. I was expecting the usual multi-tx Shandong station here
1107 JOMR Kanazawa1200 with several mentions of Kanazawa
1143 JOBR Kyoto doing very well near band fade 1455
1152 NHK2 Synchros 1416 at good level
1368 JOTS Wakkanaï, Hokkaido //1287 at exactly dawn 1422. I'm really proud of this one, since its only 1 kW. I suspect that will be a new 1 kW Ultralight distance record, though I've got that info on my home computer, only

1593 NHK2 1215 with EE lessons, briefly topping the usual CNR1 from Manchuria
Yesterday afternoon, I realized that I had been so busy logging new stations with the hotrod E100 that I'd completely neglected Barefoot Class DX. This morning, after a couple of runs up the dial with the E100, I switched for a while to my beautiful little T615 and was rewarded with quite a few nice loggings:

594 JOAK NHK1 Tokyo at 1124
774 JOUB NHK2 Akita at 1128
828 JOBB NHK2 Osaka at 1129
972 HLCA KBS Dangiin at 1135
1170 HLSR, RKI JJ Service at 1200 and several other times... booming in!
1440 JOWF, Sapporo with typical JJ pop music program at max dawn 1420
1566 HLAZ Cheju Island at 1325
1575 VOA Ayuthaya, Thailand at 1330. I still don't believe this, but I actually heard an ID and then caught them again at 1430

I continue to be amazed with the hotrod E100. I'm using both a Slider version and a unit with its stock antenna, but each connected to the Wellbrook Array. They are indistinguishable in use. This

and firmly hooked to the internet, I checked to see if the University of South Carolina even HAD a hockey team (I'd heard them skating against somebody on what I was certain was KFQD, hearing local Anchorage commercials, etc.). According to the South Carolina web-site, they DO have an ice hockey team, but their season does not start until 24 October. There was no indication of any earlier hockey games on their schedule. I then checked the KFQD schedule on their website... an all newstalk format and I looked at the U of Alaska, Anchorage for their hockey season. KFQD showed the Beck show on at the time that I thought I'd heard hockey from Anchorage and the University hockey team also had not started their season. After mulling things over, I decided to take the KFQD logging outta my list for both the Unlimited and the Barefoot Classes... I had not recorded it and there was just NO evidence... I must have imagined it.

So, Thursday evening I made up a thorough hit list for Alaska and went to work at 9:15PM local time. The Wellbrook Array, being able to swap directions, made things fairly easy. I soon had evidence of a number of Alaskans on frequencies shared with stations in the Pacific Northwest. As I clicked through 750, THERE WAS A HOCKEY GAME, coming in quite loudly. I tested it with the array... Sure enough I could hear KXL to my Southeast and the hockey seemed to be coming from the Northwest! I listened a few minutes and darned if one of the teams wasn't that crazy buncha Southerners, the South Carolina Gamecocks!!! Later, there were plenty of local Anchorage commercials, a name of the Anchorage municipal area where the Pre-Season Tournament was taking place, etc. The boys from South Carolina were well ahead, too.

I'm counting that one for sure... I got several other Alaskans on the E100 and then hit the sack, looking forward to my last dawn for a while at Grayland.

Since I'd been so fortunate the previous three mornings that I decided not to approach this last morning with any kind of strategy other than a target list for Unlimited Class and a list of my current Barefoot loggings.

The early burst around 1200 netted me a new Mayak Unlimited logging on 549 (Okinawa was nowhere to be found) and an excellent 720 Russian JJ Service logging, first on the E100 and then BAREFOOT on the T615... KDOWN in Las Vegas was just clobbered! After that, things slowed down, so with 45 minutes before dawn enhancement, I had breakfast and packed up all of my non-essentials. (I needed to leave as early as possible to drive four hours and then catch an over-crowded ferry back to my home QTH on weekend tourist-magnet, Orcas Island.

I was back in the hunt at 1345 (LSR around 1420). I soon noticed the North Korean on 657... as noted by others, they musta worked on that thing, 'cause it's a LOT louder! Well, it was coming in so well that I decided to try for a new Barefoot Country. Sure enough, the T615 snagged it easily... it was just booming in. So, I started going up the dial with the WinRadio, looking for really loud ones and then jumping up, changing headphones and running around the room with the T615 trying to escape the computer QRM, the refrigerator buzz, etc, and snag another Barefoot catch. I was really getting my exercise, jumping up and down like a demented Jack in the Box!!!

Fairly soon, I just abandoned using a spotting receiver, things were really coming in on the T615. I found the Sweat Spot in the room (equi-distant between the computer and the refrigerator) and just DXed down with the T615 by itself... I ended up with nine new Barefoot TP loggings and a VERY wide smile.

I closed out the morning with a strange logging on 944.99, running with the normal CNR1 on 945.00... REALLY weird music, etc... I'll have more to say about that logging after I've analyzed the recording.

So... here are my Unlimited and Barefoot Class Loggings for October 10.

UNLIMITED CLASS LOGGINGS OCTOBER 10: E100+ Wellbrook Phased Array

- 549 Radio Mayak //576 Synchros. Probably from Magadan RR Discussion and some popular music 12:15 UTC
- 640 KYUK Bethel, Alaska, NPR News at 1435
- 670 KDLG Dillingham, Alaska, NPR News at 1434
- 890 KBB1 Homer, Alaska, NPR News at 1436
- 720 V of Russia JJ Service, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (heard also Barefoot) 1230 UTC

BAREFOOT CLASS LOGGINGS OCTOBER 10: T615 Barefoot

- 567 JOIK NHK1 Sapporo 1409
- 648 VoR, Ussuriysk, Russia in RR 1411
- 657 Pyongyang Bangkok, Kangnam, North Korea 1351
- 720 V of Russia JJ Service, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk 1230 UTC
- 738 Taiwan Fisheries, Penghu 1413
- 747 JOIB, NHK2 Sapporo 1415
- 963 CRI Russian Service Loc. Unknown 1400 UTC
- 981 CNR1 Synchros 1417
- 1134 JOQR, Tokyo 1420
- 1260 JOIR, Sendai 1422
- 1287 JOHR Sapporo at 1425

Well... It is great to see Wait and Guy with major new Conti Loops... and Guy with decently DXable TP signals at home for the first time in many a moon.... This stuff is just too much fun not to have everyone in on it.

Also really nice to see Mark C. discovering the joy of hearing DX on these little marvels....

I swear that hearing almost a dozen TPs in one morning on a T615 Barefoot is the most fun I've ever had with my clothes on... well, except for Easter Island, anyway.... Hey, I could have been nude there and only the horses would have known!!! Talk about Barefoot Class....

John B., WinRadio 313e + Hot Rodded E100 Ultralights, Wellbrook Phased Array NW, Grayland, WA

DX WORLDWIDE – EAST

Brandon Jordan – 5912 Macleod Dr – Memphis TN 38119

E-mail: dxww-e@bcdx.org

Mark Connelly Ultralight DX

On the evening of 8 OCT 2008, I did an after-work sunset period DX outing to the Granite Pier site (GC= 42.667 N/70.621 W) in Rockport, MA. This is generally considered the best MW DXing location in the metro-Boston area.

Besides the usual Drake R8A live tuning and SDR-IQ spectrum-capturing (results to be published later), I took along an Eton E100 "ultralight" portable receiver.

I was quite surprised at the number of "barefoot" loggings I could manage on this tiny radio since, at home, results have been unspectacular. As in real estate, it's "location, location, location" with DXing too.

The following concise list of "barefoot" E100 logs made from 2331 to 0048 UTC (7:31 to 8:48 pm EDT) will be augmented by a greater-detail list later on.

*** TRANS-ATLANTIC ***

- 549 Algeria – poor
- 603 France over Spain – good
- 612 Morocco – fair peak
- 684 Spain – occasionally through WRKO slop
- 747 Netherlands – fair peak past CDBGY slop
- 756 Germany – fair
- 783 Mauritania – sometimes popping through CFDR slop
- 855 Spain – occasionally through WEEI-850 & C.JBC-860 slop
- 864 France – fair
- 873 Spain – poor
- 882 UK – sometimes through WCBS slop
- 909 UK – tangling with similar strength WABI-910: audios taking turns, plus screamer het. Tight filter would have helped
- 954 Spain – fair peak
- 1116 Spain – poor
- 1134 Croatia – fair
- 1170 UAE – over WVVVA after WFPB went off
- 1206 France – fair
- 1215 UK – good
- 1314 Spain – poor
- 1377 France – fair, WMYF-1380 (north) nulled
- 1422 Germany over Algeria – fair
- 1575 UAE – fair

*** PAN-AMERICAN besides common US, Canada, Cuba, Venezuela ***

- 555 St. Kitts & Nevis – fair peak
- 630 Puerto Rico – noted with radio pointed SE to null WPRO to the SW

I also tried coupling the car rooftop antenna (2 m by 2 m Micro-SuperLoop) to the E100 with the Radio Shack model 15-1853 passive loop. The coaxial cable from the SuperLoop's eastern lower corner 16:1 transformer was fed to the Radio Shack loop's external input jack and the loop was tuned to the frequency of interest while placed in close proximity to the E100. The other corner of the SuperLoop was connected to a pot adjusted to reduce signals from the west and southwest. This arrangement worked splendidly!

Many more TA stations could be heard this way since the cardioid pattern of the rooftop SuperLoop drastically reduced domestic GRM from NYC etc. that came in at full clout on the "barefoot" E100 since Europe is in the opposite direction of many domestic pests. I thought I would have to insert an RPA-1 amp in the line from the SuperLoop to the Radio Shack loop but, no, that was not necessary as the completely passive set-up coupled plenty of signal to the Eton. Of course the Radio shack loop

had minimal self pick-up since it was being used inside the car. Had it been outdoors, I probably would have needed the RPA-1 to make sure the SuperLoop pick-up swamped out anything the Radio Shack loop might be getting itself.

Among stations noted with the "unlimited ultralight" set-up of SuperLoop via Radio Shack loop air-coupled to the E100 was Djibouti-1431 for the longest haul of the night.

The pre-sunset period (approx. 2200 UTC / 6 p.m. local) was totally crazy as I was first getting set up. Monster TA's all over the place. Mid-band (1000-1250) was unbelievable, almost "Newfie-sounding". I should have left work earlier I guess.

The live Drake R8A listening uncovered the Nigerian (?) on 917 hitting Spain-918 and pushing audio once in a while. Also noted was 595 which I think I hit in Morocco ex-594. I have a number of SDR-IQ captures to wade through over the next week or two. It will be interesting to compare with what's going on at DXpeditions in PEI Canada and Graveland, WA.

The ultralight Eton E100 was just brought along as a sort of lark but it added extra "zing" to the mini-DXpedition that I would not have imagined.

Mark Connelly, WA1ION – Billerica, MA USA

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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

E-mail: nhp@ieee.org

Transforming the E100

Three Easy Steps to Hitting Ultralight Home Ruins
by Gary DeBock, Guy Atkins and John Bryant

(The following is the first in a four-part series detailing easy steps to "hotrod" the radio that is rapidly becoming a favorite among Ultralight MW DXers)

Introduction

Since the beginning of the Ultralight radio boom among AM DX enthusiasts late last year, the relatively low cost and simplicity of pocket radios have spurred a related experimental boom in modifications. Hobbyists that were reluctant to tinker with their expensive communications receivers have had no hesitation with their \$20-\$50 Ultralights.

Although trans-oceanic MW DXers developed the modifications outlined here, these modifications apply equally to domestic Ultralight DXers seeking ever more elusive DX catches as well. From the beginning of the Ultralight movement, many DXers have longed for a modified Ultralight that would give them an "extra edge" against capricious propagation and QRM. Early efforts were made to modify the Sony SRF-M37V and Sangean DT-200VX units with narrow IF filters, but in the absence of sensitivity improvements, serious DX progress was elusive. Gary DeBock, Gil Stacy and several others attempted--somewhat successfully--to address the sensitivity challenge with monster loopsticks being transplanted or coupled inductively into the SRF-39FP and DT-200VX units. In the absence of sensitivity improvements (extremely difficult in the case of the SRF-39FP), again the overall improvement in "DXability" was quite limited. Finally in the early spring, serious tinkering began on an Ultralight radio that was destined to provide the breakthrough that DXers had been waiting for.

The stock E100 is undoubtedly the most DX-capable Ultralight pocket radio and was one of the top two performers in the recent Ultralight Radio Summertime Shootout (posted in the Ultralight Files area at <http://www.dxer.ca>).

The modest low-band sensitivity of the E100 allowed the new DT-400W to edge it out for top overall honors, although in stock form the E100 would still be the preferred choice for 9 kHz split DXers and domestic IBOC dodgers. Urban DXers with many locals would also find the superior selectivity and crunch-resistant front end essential for productive DXing sessions. As one of the two top performers in the Shootout, the E100's desirability is unsurpassed for these groups, and it was very competitive even for the general Ultralight domestic DXing group. The stock loopstick's low-band sensitivity limitation is an unfortunate aberration in an otherwise superbly capable stock E100 design, and was one of the top priorities for immediate replacement by our modification group.



The E100's 1 kHz tuning steps, 200 memories, and fairly decent stock selectivity provided an immediate advantage over all other Ultralights in split frequency DXing on the coasts. Its general DXing attributes also made it very attractive for domestic DXers throughout North America. The three of us, Gary DeBock, John Bryant, and Guy Atkins are all experienced tinkers and we were eager to make the E100 much more effective. We had the advantage of living near each other in Washington State, and also the advantage of complementary experience in multiple IF filter modifications (Guy) and multiple loopstick modifications (Gary and John). After some discussions online, we decided to try to maximize the E100's basic signal gathering capabilities through a variety of antenna modifications, using various ferrite bar substitutes and providing for the use of a normal outside antenna, if possible. We also hoped that Guy could lead us in developing a substitute for the stock IF filter to significantly improve selectivity. Although we were focused on these developments primarily for use in Trans-Pacific DXing, each is equally useful in domestic DXing in this IBOC-challenged era.

Since Gary had extensive experience "transplanting" larger loopsticks into smaller radios, he led our efforts there, with John assisting. One of the earliest innovations that both of us tried was using a 7.5" x .5" Amidon loopstick and a new coil of Litz wire, together, as a complete replacement for the E100's stock small bar and coil. Just this very easy substitution made major improvements in signal gathering. The real innovation, though, was allowing DXers to slide this coil back and forth along the bar as they DXed to absolutely peak the E100 for the desired signal. The "Slider" was born and is likely headed for the DX Portable Hall of Fame. It really works and is unbelievably easy to create and install. Building an E100 Slider is the subject of the second article in our series. After the first 7.5" sliders, all three of us went on to create Monster Sliders up to 27" long and 1" in diameter. Information on these behemoths will soon be available in the Ultralight Files area of [dxer.ca](http://www.dxer.ca).

Razor sharp selectivity is essential in a front-rank DX receiver, whether for slicing off weak trans-oceanic signals from close-by North Americans or sliding off to one side of a domestic DX target to avoid the accursed IBOC Buzz or local splatter on the other side. After John and Gary both had success in refining the "Slider" loopstick, we approached Guy for his help developing a suitable 455 kHz IF filter upgrade. Guy has years of experience in receiving filter upgrades. After a good bit of research, Guy suggested an E100 filter modification based on a premium Murata ceramic filter (2.3 kHz nominal, 2.9 kHz typical bandwidth). It is the same premium narrow filter that is used in the vaunted Eton E1 portables, and has a somewhat premium price reflecting its high performance (around \$50). Guy then developed a fairly simple installation procedure that puts this larger filter neatly inside the crowded E100 cabinet! We have all three now used this filter mod in both domestic and trans-oceanic venues and think that it is an *absolute wonder*, increasing both selectivity and signal to noise ratios! Performing the Murata filter mod is the subject of the third in our series of articles. Stand by, it's a winner!

Although most DXers use Ultralights as portable radios as they were intended, John has been interested in testing the limits of this simple single-conversion circuit as a table-top, mainline DX receiver, hooked to serious outside antennas from a normal computer-laden DX shack. John was successful in developing two simple techniques for doing just that and he has been happily DXing away ever since with his E100 hooked to Beverages, large loops, and a Wellbrook Phased Array. His very simple mods for attaching outside antennas directly to E100s and similar radios are the subject of the fourth and last of our series of articles.

So, that's our plan for the next three articles: take each of you through two fairly simple steps and one (the IF filter) a bit more complex that will turn an under \$50 quite nice stock Ultralight into a DX-hungry wildcat. *One caution: all of our modifications can only be accomplished on E100s with serial numbers prior to E10-07090xxxx (the vast majority.) E100s were changed radically at about that serial number and are not amenable to modification.*

Building the E100 Slider Loopstick

A Revolution in Broadband Portable Sensitivity

by Gary DeBock, Guy Atkins and John Bryant

(The following is the second in a four-part series detailing easy steps to "hotrod" the radio that is rapidly becoming a favorite among Ultralight MW DXers. Gary DeBock led our effort in developing this modification.)

Although the stock E100 is an excellent AM DXing portable, it has one unfortunate weakness that seriously compromises its ability to receive weak low-band DX signals: a mediocre small loopstick antenna. Fortunately the E100's stock loopstick is not only easily removed, but has the simplest possible two-lead coil design, making its complete replacement one of the easiest ways for an E100 owner to radically improve the sensitivity of this otherwise impressive radio.

Like most digital Ultralight radios, the E100's front end also suffers from a tendency to drop off in sensitivity on either high or low band, even when an effective loopstick is transplanted directly into its circuitry and peaked at the standard 600 kHz alignment point. In the case of the E100, the 600 kHz peak alignment caused the new Amidon 7.5" loopstick's sensitivity to drop off rapidly on the high-band, while on the X-band it was little better than the tiny stock loopstick. While puzzling over this problem, an inspiration finally came: instead of securing the loopstick coil at the 600 kHz peak point

(i.e. the standard alignment procedure), why not slide the coil to peak incoming DX signals from 530-1700 kHz during actual operating conditions? A few quick tests were run on the X-band using a movable coil, sliding directly on the ferrite bar, and a huge difference in the E100's sensitivity was observed! The "Slider" was born and has become the tool to boost the E100's sensitivity past that of any stock portable.

Because of its reasonably good stock selectivity and other superb features, the E100 benefits tremendously by replacement of its tiny stock loopstick with an innovative Slider model. By itself, such a change will open up a new world of weak-signal DX possibilities for the E100 owner, newly empowered by amazing sensitivity. However, when the Slider loopstick is added in addition to Guy's IF filter modification (article #3 in our series), the cumulative effect is to transform the E100 into an incredibly effective trans-oceanic and domestic DX chaser, superbly equipped for the toughest of missions.

John Bryant and I both constructed our Sliders simultaneously. His is mounted on a thin plywood mounting board (used here for illustration) and uses 5/8" O.D. vinyl tubing for the coil form. I used my normal T-shaped mounting system that is more amenable to hand-held DXing and I used a coil form of weatherproof tape. Electrically, the two units are identical.



This project's simplicity should encourage even the most reluctant hobbyists: it is simply the winding of a single coil on a movable form, which will slide along a ferrite bar to peak DX signals as they are received. The coil is then soldered into the E100's back circuit board at two very accessible points, replacing the mediocre stock loopstick. After mounting the new loopstick on a custom support of his own design, the DXer can then enjoy a new world of E100 sensitivity for a modest cost of under \$40.

Using the selected movable coil form for 1/2" diameter bars, wrap 50 to 63 turns of 40/44 Litz wire to form a coil of approximately 1" to 1-3/8" (this will roughly equal the stock coil's 298 microhenry inductance when peaked on a 600 kHz signal). The number of turns is not critical since the coil's inductance changes as the coil slides along the bar. A longer coil will peak more nearly at the end of the bar, a shorter more toward the middle. As long as at least 50 turns of 40/44 Litz are wound, this Slider should be able to peak all signals from 530-1700 kHz.

Hobbyists using black vinyl tubing as a movable form will need to apply adhesive to the coil turns to keep them in place (Superglue works well); this is unnecessary for the sticky waterproof tape. On the other hand, users of waterproof tape will need to have a temporary cardboard form under the tape (with a very slippery surface facing the ferrite bar) that will be pulled out and discarded after the coil is wound. This ensures that a small space will exist between the waterproof tape form and the ferrite bar, to allow an easy sliding motion (the author has found that a 2" x 1.5" cut-out portion of the SRF-39FP slippery packing box works well for this purpose). Coil ends should be secured with wax or tape, to avoid unraveling the coil after winding.

To install the new Slider, open the E100's back panel and carefully note the position of the two loopstick connection leads. Using a small (30w or less) soldering iron, remove the stock loopstick wires. The tiny stock loopstick can be easily removed by scoring its glued borders with a small knife, and lifting it out into a well-deserved oblivion. Providing adequate slack for the chosen mounting method, solder the two Slider loopstick leads into the E100's back circuit board at the same locations observed previously, and cut a small slot in the back panel to accommodate these wires. Attach the Slider loopstick to a cabinet-mounted frame or mounting board, ensuring adequate shock-resistant rubber (or similar) insulating

material to protect the fragile ferrite bar.

For maximum sensitivity in the new Slider loopstick, it is important to use frequency-optimized Litz wire and ferrite bars, both of which are readily available. Litz wire of the optimum 40/44 type may be obtained from Dave Schmarler at thefiercerabbit@1n34a.com, who will sell small amounts. For one slider you need 12 feet of 40/44 wire. Dave prefers an email at the above address stating the type of wire and quantity desired, after which he will quote the material and shipping cost. Large frequency-optimized ferrite bars are available from the Amidon Corporation (<https://www.amidoncorp.com/items/10>), the best of which is the type 61, 7.5" x .5" bar (part # R61-050-750) at \$20 plus shipping. Even larger ferrite bars are available from the Stormwise Company, which sells 1" diameter plastic-coated ferrite rods from 4.5" long all the way up to 27" long. Both Guy and John have constructed Slider loopsticks with these monster bars, and their work will be soon be documented in a dxer.ca article.

Black thin-walled vinyl tubing of 5/8" inner diameter makes an excellent sliding coil form for 1/2" diameter ferrite bars, and it is available at many hardware stores. Alternatively, a hobbyist may use several wraps of tough waterproof tape as a coil form, with the adhesive side out to hold the coil turns in place (the author's method). Note: An LCR meter is NOT required for this project.

The Slider in Action

Tune in any DX signal from 530-1700 kHz, and simply slide the coil to peak the signal—simplicity itself! The Slider loopstick's function is similar to a pre-selector, providing a huge frequency-optimized boost in sensitivity wherever the coil is peaked. The E100 with its standard low-band sensitivity is suddenly transformed into an ultra-sensitive DXing tiger, with wideband AM weak-signal performance at legendary levels!

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 Pfler – 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 Wien – 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)

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PO Box 60241, Lafayette LA 70596
<http://www.ircaonline.org>

