



November 29, 2008 - Volume 46, Number 12 - Edition 1454 - ISSN 899-9733

IRCA Convention 2009!!!

The **2009 IRCA convention** will be held Thu Sept 17, Fri Sept 18 and Sat Sept 19 at the Days Inn, 2120 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque NM 87107 (Near I-40 and Hwy 25) www.midtowndaysinn.com. Guest room rates \$44.95 1 person, \$54.95 2 persons. Free shuttle within 5 mile radius (includes airport and train station.) Phone number for reservations is 505-884-0250 (events manager is Danita) Registration fee is \$25 (not including banquet) payable to **Mike Sanburn**, PO Box 1256, Bellflower CA 90707-1256. mikesanburn@hotmail.com 73

IRCA Slogans List (Winter 2008)

This season's update of the **IRCA Slogans List** is ready!! This revised Slogans List includes radio stations from the US, Canada and Mexico (over 4000).
Prices: IRCA/NRC members - \$6.00 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$8.00 (rest of the Americas/Europe airmail), \$8.50 (Australia/Japan/New Zealand airmail). Non-IRCA/NRC members - add \$1.00.
 To order the **Slogan's List** from the **IRCA Bookstore**, send the correct amount to: **IRCA BOOKSTORE, 9705 MARY NW, SEATTLE WA 98117-2334** (checks payable to **Phil Bytheway** - PayPal [add \$0.50] email: phil_tekno@yahoo.com). Please state club affiliation when ordering.

IRCA Mexican Log, 13th Edition (Winter 2008)

The **IRCA MEXICAN LOG** lists all AM stations in Mexico by frequency, including call letters, state, city, day/night power, slogans, schedule in UTC/GMT, formats, networks and notes. The call letter index gives call, frequency, city and state. The city index (listed by state, then city) includes frequency, call and day/night power. The transmitter site index (listed by state, then city) tabulates the latitude and longitude of transmitter sites. This is an indispensable reference for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11".
Prices: IRCA/NRC members - \$9.50 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$12.00 (rest of the Americas/Europe airmail), \$12.50 (Australia/Japan/New Zealand airmail). Non-IRCA/NRC members - add \$2.00.

To order the **Mexican Log** from the **IRCA Bookstore**, send the correct amount to: **IRCA BOOKSTORE, 9705 MARY NW, SEATTLE WA 98117-2334** (checks payable to **Phil Bytheway** - PayPal [add \$1.00] email: phil_tekno@yahoo.com). Please state club affiliation when ordering.

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 last DXM - pb)

Dennis Gibson sends along the following dated 11/12/08:

The K1ST call letters became available when California Lutheran University took over 1340 and changed the call letters to KCLU, which I expected. Their ID is now "KCLU-FM and HD Thousand Oaks KCLU Santa Barbara." Not surprisingly 1490 is now K1ST. (DG1-CA)

Pat Martin sends along the following from Deane McIntyre of Calgary, AB dated 11/13/08:

Applications have been submitted to the CRTCC for two new AM stations in the Toronto area. Both would program in various ethnic (i.e. neither English nor French) languages. The first is an application to use 1350 (the old CKLB/CKAR/CKDO Oshawa ON frequency) at 1kW days/87 watts night in Scarborough ON (the east part of Toronto): <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#25>

Scarborough, Ontario, Application No. 2008-1161-3

Application by Subansari Vathilingam, on behalf of a corporation to be incorporated, for a licence to operate an AM commercial ethnic radio programming undertaking in Scarborough. The new station would

operate on frequency 1 350 kHz with a transmitter power of 1,000 watts day-time and 87 watts night-time. The applicant proposes to direct ethnic programming to a minimum of 5 groups in a minimum of 6 languages. The second is to use 960 at 1kW days/175 watts night in Markham ON (a community just north of Toronto): <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#27>

Markham, Ontario, Application No. 2008-1264-5

Application by Kumar Nadarajah, on behalf of a corporation to be incorporated, for a licence to operate an AM commercial ethnic radio programming undertaking in Markham. The new station would operate on frequency 960 kHz with a transmitter power of 1,000 watts day-time and 175 watts night-time. The applicant proposes to direct ethnic programming to a minimum of 22 groups in a minimum of 16 languages. (PM-OR)

Pat Martin sends along the following from Deane McIntyre of Calgary, AB dated 11/13/08:

CBE-1550 Windsor ON has applied to the CRTCC to move to FM (97.5 MHz, 3.2 kW, 130.1 meters) with a second transmitter at Leamington ON 991.5 MHz, 6.1 kW, 58.7 meters). This will replace the never implemented nested FM relay on 102.3 MHz. CBE will go silent after the usual three month simulcast period. Excluding a few 40 watt low power relay transmitters this is the last (assuming that CBI will also actually move) English language CBC station on AM between Manitoba and Newfoundland.

<http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#31>

Windsor and Leamington, Ontario, Application No. 2008-1352-8

Application by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to convert radio station CBE Windsor from the AM band to the FM band. The applicant is also proposing to establish a new FM transmitter at Leamington. The new station would operate on frequency 97.5 MHz (channel 248B) with an average effective radiated power of 3,200 watts (maximum effective radiated power of 19,000 watts with an effective height of antenna above average terrain of 130.1 metres). The Leamington transmitter would operate on frequency 91.5 MHz (channel 218B1) with an average effective radiated power of 6,100 watts (maximum effective radiated power of 10,400 watts with an effective height of antenna above average terrain of 58.7 metres). The applicant is requesting, pursuant to sections 9(1)(e) and 24(2) of the Broadcasting Act, the revocation of the licence of CBE effective at the end of the simulcast period. The applicant has indicated that it will apply, within 30 days of the implementation of the proposed FM transmitter at Windsor, for the revocation of the authority granted in Broadcasting Decision CRTCC 2008-101 for a nested FM transmitter on the 102.3 MHz frequency in Windsor. The applicant has indicated that it will launch both the Windsor and Leamington transmitters within one year of the approval where, at which time, it will operate in simulcast mode for three months. Following this period, the applicant is also requesting, pursuant to sections 9(1)(e) and 24(1) of the Broadcasting Act, the revocation of the licence of CBE Windsor. (PM-OR)

Pat Martin sends along the following from Deane McIntyre of Calgary, AB dated 11/13/08:

An application has been filed for a new AM station in Calgary AB on 700 using 50 kW days, 20 kW nights (the old CKRD Red Deer AB frequency). I think that this is basically a reapplication for a station on the same frequency that was denied by the CRTCC a few years ago. Just what I need - another 50 kW pest!

<http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#32>

Calgary, Alberta, Application No. 2008-1064-9

Application by Touch Canada Broadcasting (2006) Inc. (the general partner), and 1188011 Alberta Ltd. and Touch Canada Broadcasting Inc. (the limited partners), carrying on business as Touch Canada Broadcasting Limited Partnership for a licence to operate an English-language AM commercial radio programming undertaking in Calgary. The new station would operate on frequency 700 kHz with a transmitter power of 50,000 watts day-time and 20,000 watts night-time. The applicant proposes a Gospel music format. (PM-OR)

Pat Martin and Mike Sanburn send along the following from Deane McIntyre of Calgary, AB dated 11/13/08:

CHLW-1310 St. Paul AB has applied to the CRTCC to move to FM (97.7 MHz, 16 kW, 122.6 metres). This station can be heard here in Calgary weakly on groundwave. <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#33>

St. Paul, Alberta, Application No. 2008-1073-0

Application by 3937844 Canada Inc., a subsidiary of Newcap Inc., to convert radio station CHLW St. Paul from the AM band to the FM band. The new station would operate on frequency 97.7 MHz (channel 249B) with an average effective radiated power of 16,000 watts (maximum effective radiated power of 36,000 watts with an effective height of antenna above average terrain of 122.6 metres). The applicant proposes a Country music format.

CKVH-1020 High Prairie AB has also applied to the CRTCC to move to FM (93.5 MHz, 25 kW, 65.9 metres):

<http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#34>

High Prairie, Alberta, Application No. 2008-1075-6

Application by 3937844 Canada Inc., a subsidiary of Newcap Inc., to convert radio station CKVH High Prairie from the AM band to the FM band. The new station would operate on frequency 93.5 MHz (channel 228B1) with an effective radiated power of 25,000 watts (non-directional antenna with an effective height of antenna above average terrain of 65.9 metres). The applicant proposes a Classic Hits music format.

Together with other recent applications by Alberta stations to move to FM, once these stations leave AM the only Alberta AM station left outside the Edmonton and Calgary markets will be CKYL-610 in Peace River (plus a few 40 watt CBC low power relays). (PM-OR)

Pat Martin sends along the following from Niel Wolfish of Toronto, ON dated 11/14/08:

Subject: Oldies 1090 Is On The Move, Special Announcement for Oldies 1090 Listeners

Great Fun! Great Oldies! Oldies 1090 is getting ready to move all the Artists you love from the AM Band to the FM Band! In radio lingo it's called "A Flip" and the music you love will never sound the same again. We are moving to 99.5 FM and we are making the move SOON. Click here to hear all about it. We hope you'll make the move with us and we are making the move SOON. Jay Nijhuis, Oldies 1090, Fun and Games Department. (PM-OR)

Pat Martin and Mike Sanburn send along the following from Deane McIntyre of Calgary, AB dated 11/14/08:

The move of CFCW-790 Camrose AB to 840 has been approved by the CRTCC: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Decisions/2008/d2008-310.htm>

CFCW Camrose - Technical change

- The Commission approves the application by Newcap Inc. (Newcap) to amend the broadcasting licence for the English-language AM radio programming undertaking CFCW Camrose by changing the frequency from 790 kHz to 840 kHz. The implementation of the new technical parameters is subject to the notification by the Department of Industry (the Department) discussed in paragraph 4 below.
- Newcap indicated that the proposed change in frequency would restore night time coverage to listeners in north-central Alberta, which has been reduced by noise and interference over time. (PM-OR)

Pat Martin sends along the following from Dan Sys of Vancouver, BC dated 11/15/08:
I've been away for a couple days, but while catching up with the CRTS releases tonight there are a few items that I'm sure you'll be interested in.
Looks like CFCW 790 Camrose will be moving to 840: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Decisions/2008/db2008-310.htm>. You're probably aware that CKKY 830 Wainwright & CKBA 850 Athabasca are both moving to FM to facilitate this frequency change for CFCW.

On top of losing 830 & 850 we'll likely be losing CHLW 1310 St. Paul & CKVH 1020 High Prairie: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#33>, <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#34>
The AM band is becoming pretty dead in Alberta, however a new Gospel Music station is being planned for Calgary on 700: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#32>. I'm pretty sure these are the guys who applied for the same thing a few years ago and it was rejected by the CRTS. We'll see what happens this time.

Interesting FM flip proposed for CJNL 1230 in Merritt: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#35>. Instead of totally shutting 1230 down it will become a repeater for CHNL 610 in Kamloops. The new Merritt FM will air local programming 24 hours a day (currently 1230 is local 12 hours & a CHNL simulcast during the other 12) <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archives/ENG/Hearings/2008/n2008-14.htm#36>. (PM-OR)

Dale Park sends along the following from the Seattle, WA Post-Intelligencer dated 11/15/08:
KIRO-AM/710 to go all-sports. By BILL VIRGIN, P-I REPORTER
Bonneville International Corp. confirmed Thursday that KIRO-AM/710 will convert to an all-sports format next spring, ending a long legacy as a leading news-talk station and setting up head-to-head competition with an established sports station. Many of the details of the new 710 ESPN Seattle remain to be worked out. Carl Gardner, Bonneville vice president and Seattle market manager, said the station plans to have local talk hosts but didn't name any at Thursday's news conference. A specific launch date for the new format also hasn't been announced. What the new format on the AM station (which will retain the KIRO call letters) will have is affiliation with the Mariners and Seahawks, as flagship stations for their game broadcasts, and affiliation with ESPN, which Gardner called "the most powerful brand probably on Earth when it comes to sports." Dave Pridemore, named general manager for KIRO-AM, said the new station will have Seattle-market exclusive rights to ESPN, KJR-AM/950, the established sports talk station in Seattle, currently carries some ESPN programming in addition to its local-heavy sports-talk lineup, as does KRKO-AM/1380 in Everett. KJR-AM also does considerable amounts of programming involving both the Mariners and Seahawks, including play and coach interviews. Both Mariners President Chuck Armstrong and Seahawks Chief Executive Todd Leiweke said that relationship won't change even with the new format for KIRO, with which both teams have a business arrangement. "We think the more sports coverage there is, the better," Armstrong said. "We've been pleased we've been covered as extensively as we have by KJR." Bonneville earlier dumped a music format on KBSG-FM/97.3, renamed it KIRO-FM and began a simulcast of the AM station's news and talk programs such as Dave Ross and Dori Monson. Once the AM side switches to all the news and talk content will be exclusively on KIRO-FM. Bonneville, whose local radio properties also include KTTX-AM/770, has 96 employees in Seattle. P-I reporter Bill Virgin can be reached at 206-448-8319 or billvirgin@seattlepi.com. (DP-H)

Contributors:

- Frank Aden, Boise, ID (FA-ID)
- Dennis Gibson, Santa Barbara, CA (DG1-CA)
- Dave Gordon, San Jose, CA (DG2-CA)
- Pat Martin, Seaside, OR (PM-OR)
- Mike Sanburn, Honolulu, HI (DP-HI)
- John Wallace, Charleston, WV (JW-WV)

DATE OF COLUMN: 11/16/08. Passed my General Ham License exam late last month, so can talk on HF now. Bad fires in southern California, hope all our S CA members are OK. I'll be back down there 11/26-12/1/08. My job situation has become unstable again so looking for work again, have an interview for an Albuquerque job on 11/18, wish me luck, also following job leads in Colorado, Maryland and even Germany! I'll keep you abreast. Hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving, 73's.

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodiq.net

WDXR DEADLINES: Each Friday. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (AB) Art Blair-730 SW 3rd St.-Fruitland, ID 83619
- NRD-515, Kiwa loop

(GH) **Glen Hansen**-1925 Tualatin St.-St. Helens, OR skinner@columbia-center.org
Drake R8B, R-388, R-390A, TMC GPR-90, Hammatlund SP-600, various wires, Terk and Sanserino loops

(PM) **Patrick Martin**-PO Box 843-Seaside, OR 97138-0843 mwdker@webtv.net
Drake R8, NW EWE

OF SPECIAL INTEREST
600 CKPK BC, Vancouver 11/14 with new AAA rock format and // with 100.5 "The Peak," ex-CKBD. Good as usual (S9+) at 1400 with rock and IDs "100.5 The Peak, lock us into your presets." "Hungry for great music, we'll satisfy your appetite on 100.5 The Peak, Vancouver." Lots of classic rock music. Apparently will run this for a couple or three months // to 100.5, until they sign the AM off. I'm very sorry to see this. 600 Vancouver I have listened to since the early 60's as CJOR, later as CKRX, and then the great standards format on CKBD. They will be missed. (PM-OR)

610 KOJM MI, Havre 11/13 1932 KOJIM ID. QRM from KONA & KRTA. (AB-ID)
830 KNCO CA, Grass Valley 11/16 2300 ABC news in strong like a local. One unID (CKKY?) far under on Hammatlund with E-W wire. Seldom this strong. (GH-OR)
850 CKBA AB, Athabaska 11/9 0855 music, "The Fox" slogan at 0857, again at 0858. Slight KOA QRM. (AB-ID)
870 WWL LA, New Orleans 11/7 2300 CBS news and ID spluttering way for out in the static on TMC with N-S wire. Weak with ESPN sportstalker in there too. (GH-OR)

930 KROE WY, Sheridan 11/14 1836 KROE ID and local weather. (AB-ID)
1070 CFAX BC, Victoria 11/13 0938 NHL & NBA scores, "C-Fax 1070" slogan at 0940. (AB-ID)
1210 CFYM SK, Kindsley 11/9 0044 "Classic Hits Radio, 12-10 CFYM" slogan/ID. Good for a moment then covered by an unID Spanish language station. (AB-ID)
1240 KQEN OR, Roseburg 11/16 0000 many ID's and ABC news. Up strong for a few seconds then back down in the mush on Drake with Terk loop. (GH-OR)

1340 KCVL WA, Colville 11/9 2126 back-to-back unID vocals, KCVL ID's 2130 and 2136. (AB-ID)
1340 KTCR WA, Kennewick 11/15 0100 weak ID and CBS(?) news. Several out there, but only one readable on Drake with Terk loop. (GH-OR)

1350 KTIK ID, Nampa 11/8 1930 ID and NFL sports talk in a whirl with KRCL & others. Up strong a few times on TMC with N-S wire. (GH-OR)
1390 KJOX WA, Yakima 11/8 1940 dominating the pack with ESPN sports talk, one unID far under, weak on TMC with N-S wire. (GH-OR)

1480 KPHX AZ, Phoenix 11/8 0659 KPHX ID, second ID at 0703. (AB-ID)
1580 KKKK CO, Colorado Springs 11/9 12935 NASCAR racing form Phoenix, AZ. Poor with KMJK QRM. (AB-ID)

1640 KDIA CA, Vallejo 11/17 0000 Gospel talk programming. KDZR way far under. Fair to good signal on Drake with Sanserino loop. (GH-OR)

Thanks to Art, Glen and Patrick for their WDXR reports this week. Nancy 11/21 2100

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

E-mail: EDXR@AMLOGBOOK.dot.COM

Deadlines: Saturdays 8 AM!

(KK-VA) **Kraig Krist** Manassas, VA
NRD-545 rx with homemade 134 foot multiband antenna running NW to SE
Jacksonville, NC
Toyota Highland Embedded windshield antenna
2412 59th Place, Cheverly, MD
DX-398

STARS OF THE WEEK

LOGGINGS
560 ON CFRA Ottawa, 11/11 1805, Weather "News Talk 580"; ID. (WM-MD)
620 TN WRJZ Knoxville, 11/11 1858, End of Rel. pgm; Promo for H.S. FB "JOY 62." (WM-MD)
910 CT WLAT New Britain, 11/17 1900, SS mx heard "La Mega"; ID. (WM-MD)
960 NY WEAV Plattsburgh, 11/11 1705, Ads: "The Zone"; ID; NEW. (WM-MD)
1150 ON CKOC Hamilton, 11/10/1820, ID; "Oldies 1150." (WM-MD)
1160 IL WYLL Chicago, 11/10 2200, Religious Programming hrd; ID. (WM-MD)
1360 CT WDRS Hartford, 11/17 2000, "The Talk of Connecticut"; ID. (WM-MD)

1490 FL WECM Milton, 11/19 1645-1805, WECM mixing w/ talk station, Gospel station and sports station. 1730 "WECM AM fourteen ninety Gold" into Rod Stewart (KK-VA) "Tonight's The Night" song.
 1500 DC WFED Washington, 11/18 1645-1805, WFED mixing w/another talk station, a station playing songs and Gospel. 1652 "...Federal News Radio..." 1705 ad for "WTOP radio on one seven point seven FM..." 1717 "...this is the 'Daily Brief' on Federal News Radio on fifteen hundred AM..." (KK-VA)
 1510 OH WLKR Norwalk, 11/17 1655-1805, WLKR mixing w/WLAC, a Gospel station and a Spanish station. 1657 "ESPN fifteen ten. Another 'Sports Center' update in 15 minutes on ESPN fifteen ten 'WLKR'" into talk about the Dallas Cowboys football team. (KK-VA)
 1520 NY WWKB Buffalo, 11/16 1655-1805, WWKB mixing w/Spanish station. 1700 "CNN news is on AM fifteen twenty. Brought to you by... WWKB Buffalo..." After news WWKB with political talk. 1719 "Truth to power never sounded so good. This is the Renee Roads Show" (political call in show). 1728 "A new voice, a new choice and fifty thousand watts to back it up. The voice of the new majority AM fifteen twenty WWKB Buffalo" into ad for gold investing. (KK-VA)
 1530 OH WCKY Cincinnati, 11/14 1655-1805, WCKY mixing w/singing and Spanish station. 1700 "WCKY Cincinnati fifteen thirty 'Homer'" into sports. 1704 "...on the home of the Bengals. Fifteen thirty 'Homer' the sports animal." Lance McCallister discussing the Cincinnati Bengals. (KK-VA)
 1640 MS WTNL Biloxi, 11/19 1701, faded up nicely to a fair level, with "Talk Radio 16-40 WTNL" and into news. Sounded locally produced (i.e., not national network) and gradually into mush. (MH-NC)
 1690 IL WVON Beryyn TENTATIVELY the one at poor to fair level, 11/19 @ 1715, with a string of spots, national and local, with one "local" spot giving an area code and number as (773) 7... About as TENT as you can get, hi! Area code and first digit cross checked on <http://www.fonefinder.net/>. (MH-NC)

 Thanks to our 3 reporters this week. Nice to hear from Mike. Taking my usual week of Thanksgiving off again this year. Hope to get some things done around the house. Happy turkey day to all...
 fresh 11-22 0800

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX
Patrick Martin – PO Box 843 – Seaside OR 97138
E-mail: mwdxer@webtv.net
all times UTC

Greetings everyone,
 It has been a red letter week for me, as I finally reached MW QSL #3000, after I started QSLing back nearly 44 years ago in Feb 1965. The QSL is a jewel too, with my 60th Alaskan QSL, KF8X 970 Fairbanks. One I had forgotten about of nearly a year. More under QSLs at the end of the column. Also another QSL to report from Bruce Portzer-Seattle, JORF Japan. Some nice tips this week from Dennis Vroom also. So away we go.
TRANS ATLANTIC DX ROUNDUP
 945 **FRANCE**, Toulouse-Muret, France info. 0651 22 Nov. FF talk by man faded up briefly to poor to fair strength, then gone again. (NHP-BC)
 1215 **UNITED KINGDOM**, various sites, Absolute Radio. 0519 19 Nov. Beatles "Let It Be" recognizable in the splat and murk, leading the web stream (which is still labeled Virgin Radio on delcast). Poor at best, but darn good carrier. Also 0622 22 Nov, pop mx and EE talk, poor to fair. (NHP-BC)
 1323 **GERMANY**, Wachenbrunn, Voice of Russia. 0614 22 Nov. Man talking nil to poor in splatter, seemed to be EE by inflection, then moved on to woman talking, apparently news per webstream. By 0625, quite good signal w/EE talk by man followed by slow organ mx. (NHP-BC)
 1377 **FRANCE**, Lille, France info. 0624 22 Nov. FF talk by man poor to fair in splatter. (NHP-BC)
 1575 **UAE**, Al Dhabya, Radio Farda. 0110 22 Nov. Lively mx, poor at best followed by man talking... parallel to and delayed from R. Farda webstream. Strength increased somewhat by 0120. (NHP-BC)
TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP
 153 **RUSSIA**, Komosomolsk, R. Rossii. 1451 19 Nov. Light vocal pop mx, fair to good, //279 which was quite a bit poorer at this time. (NHP-BC)
 +11/21 1252 good with woman & man in RR. (DV-WA)
 180 **RUSSIA**, 11/21 also at 1252 fair signal //153. (DV-WA)
 189 **RUSSIA**, 1253 11/21 just above 4 carrier. (DV-WA)

234 **RUSSIA**, Arman, R. Rossii. 0643 20 Nov. Man and woman talking, fair strength; the only Russian LWBC at this time. (NHP-BC)
 +11/21 1254 weak but steady signal. (DV-WA)
 279 **RUSSIA**, also at 1254 11/21 good signal, best of the bunch. (DV-WA)
 558 **JAPAN**, Kobe, JOCR. 1319 11/21, weak with woman in JJ. (DV-WA)
 567 **JAPAN**, Sapporo, JOIK. 1517 15 Nov. Man talking, poor to nil //594. Heard at better strength on many of the following days. A bit of a regular with 594. (NHP-BC)
 +Bits and pieces of audio, splatter at 1319 11/21. Fair. (DV-WA)
 585 **JAPAN**, Kushiho, JOPG. 1517 19 Nov. Man talking, poor at best, //567. Also 1359 22 Nov, man in JJ briefly fair, //567. (NHP-BC)
 594 **JAPAN**, Tokyo, JOAK. NHK 1 good signal with man in JJ 11/21. (DV-WA)
 603 **REP KOREA**, HLSA. 1322 11/21 fair with woman in KK. (DV-WA)
 639 **CHINA**, various locations, CNR1. 1440 20 Nov. Man talking in CC, fair to poor and back again with little interference //5030. (NHP-BC)
 +1411 11/21 weak with woman in CC //4460. (DV-WA)
 648 **RUSSIA**, 1415-1418 11/21 weak signal with KK talk. (DV-WA)
 657 **DEM KOREA**, 1405 11/21 weak with man in KK and splatter. (DV-WA)
 666 **JAPAN**, Osaka, JOBK. 11/21 1258 fair with man in JJ. (DV-WA)
 693 **JAPAN**, Tokyo, JOAB. 1428 11/21 fair at times, ECSS mode with a lot of splatter. (DV-WA)
 738 **JAPAN**, JO???. 1326 11/22 one JJ station over others. (DV-WA) (Good going Dennis. These lower powered commercial stations aren't reported inland very often PM)
 774 **JAPAN**, Akita, JOUB. 1245 11/21 "Radio English Conversation", excellent signal. (DV-WA)
 828 **JAPAN**, Osaka, JOBB. 1249 11/21 good and above with NHK 2 program. (DV-WA)
 873 **JAPAN**, Kumamoto, JOBG. 1300 11/22 fair with man in JJ. (DV-WA)
 891 **JAPAN**, Sendai, JOHK. 1514 19 Nov. Deep voiced man //JOIK-567. Mostly under a station w/light mx, possibly KBS1 but no parallels. CKMO-900 off with OC at this time. (NHP-BC)
 945 **CHINA**, Jiaohu, CNR1. 1501 19 Nov. Although this was too poor to get ID across the hour, man talking was definitely //5030. (NHP-BC)
 +1259 weak with brief CC, then back to splatter 11/21. (DV-WA)
 972 **SOUTH KOREA**, Dangjin, KBS Hamjinok Bangsong, HLCA. This of course has been very common around sunrise the last little while, somewhat undermodulated, but 1731UT on 23 Nov it was still delivering muffled audio (man talking) on a good strength carrier. (NHP-BC)
 981 **CHINA**, various locations, CNR1. 1459 19 Nov. Briefly fair w/man talking CC //5030. (NHP-BC)
 +1354 11/21 fair at times in ECSS mode, splatter. Two women in CC //4460. New station here. (DV-WA)
 1017 **JAPAN**, Fukuoka, JOLB. 1303 11/21 weak to fair with man/woman in JJ. (DV-WA)
 1053 **JAPAN**, Nagoya, JOAR. 1327 11/21 weak with JJ, jammer in background. (DV-WA)
 1098 **TAIWAN**, Kounu, 1510 22 Nov. Seemed to be //7185; woman talking, but also a man there with snatches of mx. Never better than poor at best, but not much interference at the time. On northerly Flag, so little chance of NZ; by 1529, fair but murky signal, CC inflection to talk. (NHP-BC)
 1134 **JAPAN**, Tokyo, JOQR. 1349 11/21 fair at times in ECSS mode, on top of faint China? (DV-WA)
 1134 **SOUTH KOREA**, KBS Hamjinok Bangsong, 1457 19 Nov. Gentle singing by woman with virtually inaudible accompaniment, briefly fair and //972. (NHP-BC)
 1278 **JAPAN**, Fukuoka, JOFR. 1304 11/22 weak with man in JJ. (DV-WA)
 1269 **JAPAN**, Esashi/Obihiro, JOFM/JOHW. 1528 19 Nov. Man talking, poor to fair, //1287 which was poorer. (NHP-BC)
 1323 **CHINA**, Shuangyashan, CRI. 1505 15 Nov. Woman talking RR //963, both at poor level, though fairly consistent. Also noted 1529 w/quiet vocal mx: earlier talk had been murky, but had snagged a parallel with one of the stations on 5990. (NHP-BC)
 +1436 11/21 weak with RR? Seemed //7245. (DV-WA)
 1377 **CHINA**, Zhengzhou, CNR1. 1454 19 Nov. Man talking //5030 poor strength, then building to quite a good signal with CC vocal mx by woman. (NHP-BC)
 +1335 11/21 fair at times with splatter, man in CC. (DV-WA)
 1395 **unID**, 1537 22 Nov. Slow vocal pop mx, fair to poor, but by the time woman started to talk, too weak to ID language. (NHP-BC)
 1422 **JAPAN**, Yokohama, JORF. 1309 11/21 weak with music. Noticed this season signal not as strong as in past years. (DV-WA)
 1503 **JAPAN**, Akita, JOUK. 1520 19 Nov. Man talking JJ //567, fair strength (or at least S/N ratio; not much splash). (NHP-BC)
 1539 **JAPAN**, various, NHK2 synchros. 1534 23 Nov. Man talking slowly in JJ 1534UT //828. A bit of an echo on this as well; nothing listed over 100w, so guess maybe one or two may not be entirely locked together. Possibly my catch of the season. (NHP-BC)
 1557 **TAIWAN**, Kounu, Family Radio. 1517 22 Nov. Slow speaking deep voiced man, poor in splatter, but distinctive WYFR announcer. (NHP-BC)

1566 **REP KOREA**, Cheju, HLAZ. 1311 excellent signal, low audio 11/21. (DV-WA)
1575 **CHINA**, VOA 1312 11/21 good with woman in Asian language. (DV-WA)
1593 **THAIAN**, Changzhou, CNRT. 1537 19 Nov. Woman talking over slow stringed mx, poor to fair //5030. (NHP-BC)
+1312 11/21 weak with man in CC. (DV-WA)

QSLs

970 **ALASKA**, Fairbanks, KFBX, rec in 360d from tentative report with CD. Nice verie letter of KFBX letterhead and a great looking QSL card too. Very friendly letter from CE. Scott Diseth, mentioned they rarely get a report from the Lower 48. Sent SASE (not used). Address: KFBX, Clear Channel Radio, 946 9th Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701. I am really thrilled with this being #3,000 MW QSL and #60 from Alaska. (PM-OR)
1422 **JAPAN**, Yokohama, rec full data QSL card in 1 year. Station also sent unsigned letter apologizing for the delay. Two stickers and a note pad. The latter two items apparently promote the station's 50th Anniversary on Dec 24th, according to a comment in the letter as well as my son's somewhat limited translation skills. I'd pretty much forgotten about the report, so I was quite thrilled to receive it. (BP-WA) (Good going Bruce. Glad they are still QSLing. PM)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

NHP-BC **NICK HALL-PATCH**, 1538 Amphion St, Victoria, BC V8R 4Z6 nhp@ieee.org
Drake R8, Dymek DR333; north and west Flag antennas, ALA 100 loop, 1m indoor box loop, 14m sloper, DXF-3 phasing unit
BP-WA **BRUCE PORTZER**, Seattle WA bportzer@comcast.net
DV-WA **DENNIS VROOM**, Salmon Creek, WA vroomski@comcast.net
DXing with JRC NRD 545, & Eton E100, NW EWE
PM-OR **PATRICK MARTIN**, PO Box 843, Seaside, OR 97138-0843 mwdxer@webtv.net
mwdxer@msn.com (computer)

DX WORLDWIDE - EAST

Brandon Jordan – 5912 Macleod Dr – Memphis TN 38119
E-mail: dxww-e@bcdx.org

Hi folks. This week finds Mark Connelly reporting in with a batch of loggings made from the QTH of Chris Black, N1CP. Mark also mentions that this is a parallel effort to the Newfoundland DXpedition.

*** TRANS-ATLANTIC DX ***

585 **SPAIN** RNE R.1, Madrid, NOV 15 2138 – //639 man in Spanish; loud. [Connelly*Y-MA]
639 **SPAIN** RNE R.1, La Coruña et al, NOV 15 2138 – talk //585; fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
684 **SPAIN** RNE R.1, Sevilla, NOV 15 2132 – //774 with fast talk; over WRKO slop. [Connelly*Y-MA]
693 **UNITED KINGDOM** BBC R. 5, Droitwich et al, NOV 15 2133 – weather report, strong winds along the coast; fair over IBOC hash from WOR. [Connelly*Y-MA]
729 **SPAIN** RNE R.1 synchros, NOV 16 0002 – talk //774; poor. [Connelly*Y-MA]
747 **NETHERLANDS** R. 5, Zeewolde-Flevoland, NOV 15 2135 – classical music; to fair peak. [Connelly*Y-MA]
756 **GERMANY** Deutschlandfunk, Braunschweig & Ravensburg, NOV 15 2134 – man in German; to fair peak. [Connelly*Y-MA]
765 **SWITZERLAND** RSR Option Musique, Sottens, NOV 15 2132 – Musique jingle, romantic French vocal; fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
774 **EGYPT** Middle East R., Abis, NOV 15 2136 – Arabic vocal; about equal to Spain. [Connelly*Y-MA]
774 **SPAIN** RNE R.1 synchros, NOV 15 2133 – very echoey Spanish talk. [Connelly*Y-MA]
792 **FRANCE** France Info, Limoges, NOV 15 2135 – //837 with man & woman in French; fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
837 **FRANCE** France Info, Nancy, NOV 15 2135 – //792 with man & woman in French; fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
855 **SPAIN** RNE R.1 synchros, NOV 16 0002 – //774 with woman in Spanish; poor. [Connelly*Y-MA]
864 **FRANCE** France Bleu, Villebon-sur-Yvette, NOV 15 2128 – female French showtune-style vocal, then man & woman in French; fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
882 **CANARY ISLANDS** //SPAIN COPE synchros, NOV 15 2130 – fast Spanish talk; a bit over UK. [Connelly*Y-MA]
882 **UNITED KINGDOM** BBC R. Wales, Washford, NOV 15 2126 – blues vocal, then man in English; mixed with COPE. [Connelly*Y-MA]

909 **UNITED KINGDOM** BBC R.5 Live synchros, NOV 15 2129 – discussion about a message put in a bottle, dropped in the sea, and retrieved much later on a small island off Holland; fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
918 **SYRIA** (t) ORT Syrienne, Al-Hassake, NOV 15 2123 – Arabic female vocal and strings. [Connelly*Y-MA]
963 **TUNISIA** RTT, Tunis, NOV 15 2122 – Arabic female vocal; dominant. [Connelly*Y-MA]
999 **SPAIN** COPE, Madrid, NOV 15 2129 – Spanish sports shouting. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1053 **UNITED KINGDOM** TalkSport synchros, NOV 15 2103 – //1089 with ID "1089 and 1053 AM, TalkSport"; poor to fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1071 **SPAIN** Euskadi Irratia, Bilbao, NOV 15 2100 – pips. Spanish news; fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1089 **UNITED KINGDOM** TalkSport synchros, NOV 15 2103 – //1053 with ID "1089 and 1053 AM, TalkSport"; good. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1125 **BELGIUM** RTBF VivaCité, Houdeng, NOV 15 2100 – pips, woman in French; poor. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1134 **CROATIA** Glas Hrvatske, Zadar, NOV 15 2100 – three pips (last one longer), Hrvatski mention, news; good. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1179 **SWEDEN** R. Sweden International, Solvesborg, NOV 15 2104 – Swedish news mentioning several countries; to good peak. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1206 **FRANCE** France Info, Bordeaux, NOV 15 2105 – French newstalk by woman; fair to good. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1215 **RUSSIA (KALININGRAD)** V. of Russia, Bolshakovo, NOV 15 2101 – monotone voice Russian news by man; briefly over UK. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1215 **UNITED KINGDOM** Absolute R. synchros, NOV 15 2100 – Absolute Radio ID/promo, segment of "Rapture" by Blondie, URL given as "www.absoluteradio.uk"; good, over Kaliningrad. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1269 **GERMANY** Deutschlandfunk, Neumünster, NOV 15 2159 – //1422 with German talk; poor in CJB/WTSN slop. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1296 **SPAIN** COPE, Valencia, NOV 15 2200 – Spanish shouting; poor. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1305 **SPAIN** RNE R.5 synchros, NOV 15 2200 – pips, fanfare. "Radio Nacional de España, Informativo" announcement, then news including an item about the G20 summit in Washington; fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1323 **GERMANY** Voice of Russia Relay, Wachenbrunn, NOV 15 2200 – bells ringing, Slavic news by man with mention of Slovakia; poor. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1332 **ROMANIA** România Actualitati, Galati, NOV 15 2201 – Romanian talk (sounds like blend of French and Italian), interview with man on the phone; poor. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1341 **NORTHERN IRELAND** BBC R. Ulster, Lisnagarvey, NOV 15 2109 – man in English, then Irish folk female vocal; fair.
+ NOV 15 2200 – BBC news with first item "... leaders at the economic summit in Washington have agreed to work together for global growth." To good peak. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1394.63 **ALBANIA** Filakë, NOV 15 2111 – jazz; to fair peak. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1413 **SPAIN** RNE R.5 synchros, NOV 15 2200 – //1305 with Spanish news by woman; poor. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1422 **GERMANY** Deutschlandfunk, Heusweiler, NOV 15 2159 – //1269 with German talk; fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1440 **LUXEMBOURG** RTL Radio, Mamach, NOV 15 2200 – RTL and China Radio International slogans during English-language CRI relay; slightly over jumble. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1449 **LIBYA** V. of Greater Arab Homeland, Misurata, NOV 15 2202 – Arabic news by man; briefly to fair peak. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1457.6 **ALBANIA** R. Tirana/CRI Relay, Filakë, NOV 15 2202 – singing; poor. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1458 **UNITED KINGDOM** unID city, NOV 15 2200 – BBC news //1341; in slop. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1521 **SAUDI ARABIA** BSKSA, Duba, NOV 15 2204 – short piece of emphasis music, then woman in Arabic; good. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1530 **VATICAN** R. Vaticana, Vatican City, NOV 15 2119 – Vatican chimes interval signal; good/dominant. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1548 **KUWAIT** R. Sawa, Kabd-Kuwait City, NOV 15 2204 – male Arabic vocal with high-energy dance-club style instrumentation; through WGEW IBOC. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1557 **FRANCE** France Info, Fontbonne, NOV 15 2204 – man in French; fair. [Connelly*Y-MA]
1575 **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** R. Farda, Al Dhabya, NOV 15 2204 – slow Mideast vocal, then US pop style song; over Spain. [Connelly*Y-MA]
***** PAN-AMERICAN DX *****
670 **CUBA** CMQ, R. Rebelde, Arroyo Arenas, NOV 16 0001 – //710 with Spanish pop-rock vocal; dominant. [Connelly*Y-MA]
700 **VENEZUELA** YVMH, R. Popular, Maracaibo, NOV 16 0003 – Radio Popular ID; in mess. [Connelly*Y-MA]
710 **CUBA** R. Rebelde synchros, NOV 16 0001 – //670 with Spanish rock vocal; mixed with WOR. [Connelly*Y-MA]

- 720 **VENEZUELA** YVQE, R. Oriente, Porlamar, NOV 16 0003 – "beisbol de Caracas" mention; over other Latin Americans. [Connelly*Y-MA]
- 740 **BRAZIL** ZYH446, R. Sociedade da Bahia, Salvador, NOV 16 0001 – usual interval music (from "Close Encounters"), then Portuguese shouting including Salvador and Brasil mentions; briefly over CHCM/CFZM. [Connelly*Y-MA]
- 760 **COLOMBIA** HJAJ, RCN, Barranquilla, NOV 16 0001 – //770 with Spanish news; mixed with WJR, others. [Connelly*Y-MA]
- 770 **COLOMBIA** HJUX, RCN, Bogotá, NOV 16 0001 – //760 with Spanish news; under Rebelde with WABC a very poor third. [Connelly*Y-MA]
- 770 **CUBA** R. Rebelde, NOV 16 0002 – //670 with pop-rock Spanish male vocal; over HJUX and WABC. [Connelly*Y-MA]
- 790 **CUBA** R. Reloj, Pinar del Río, NOV 16 0003 – Reloj beeps and news; over CIGM, WPRV, and unID second Spanish talker. [Connelly*Y-MA]
- 820 **ST. KITTS & NEVIS** Trinity Broadcast Network/R. Paradise, Charlestown, NOV 16 0001 – southern US preacher; over 820.2 growl. [Connelly*Y-MA]
- 820.2 unID NOV 16 0002 – mellow tropical Spanish vocal, then Spanish announcer (but no ID material). [Connelly*Y-MA]
- 860 **BRAZIL** possibly ZYH592, R. Cidade, Maracanaú, NOV 16 0002 – Portuguese backwoods-sounding screaming preacher, over modulated signal, not likely to be the Rio station. Briefly over Cuba/CJBC. [Connelly*Y-MA]
- 860 **CUBA** CMBL, R. Reloj, Arroyo Arenas, NOV 16 0003 – Reloj "RR" beeps; mixed with CJBC and Brazil. [Connelly*Y-MA]

*** CONTRIBUTOR ***

Mark Connolly MarkWA1ION@aol.com

[Connelly*Y-MA] = South Yarmouth, Cape Cod, MA, USA (GC= 41.683 N / 70.169 W) (QTH of Chris Black)

Receivers: RFSpace SDR-IQ. Antenna: SuperLoop (= cardioid pattern nulling towards New York City)

Everyone have a great Thanksgiving! 73, Brandon.

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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E100 Four Variant Shootout

by Gary DeBock

Curious how a stock E100 stacks up against a Murata IF filter model, or a Slider loopstick model? Or is the DX performance of a fully modified (filter plus Slider loopstick) model worth the cost? Here is your chance to find out!

Introduction: The Eton E100 has truly captured the imagination of the Ultralight radio enthusiast group by providing many superlative features in a very small package. With 1 kHz tuning steps, 200 memories, scanning features, 9 or 10 kHz selectable tuning and decodable tuning, and many other refinements, it has become the digital Ultralight radio of choice for transoceanic DXers, as well as for domestic DXers requiring fairly decent stock selectivity and relative freedom from urban RF issues.

The E100 in stock form is capable of very competitive domestic DX performance, especially on the higher AM frequencies. Its stock IF filter provides it with the best selectivity in the Ultralight radio class, in combination with unsurpassed sensitivity

on the X band, and other upper band frequencies. In the recent Summertime Shootout equipment review posted on dxer.ca, it was one of the top two performers, being narrowly edged out by the new Sangean DT-400W only because of its typically modest low-band sensitivity.

Despite this, the E100 is unique in the Ultralight genre as the perfect platform for DX performance modifications. With its 455 kHz IF, the simplest possible two-lead loopstick and very accessible circuitry, the stock E100 can potentially be modified into a state of astonishing DX effectiveness, and has been done so repeatedly by a group of fanatical experimenters here in Washington state. The stock IF filter can be replaced by a premium Murata ceramic type, the CFJ455K5. The tiny flat loopstick can be removed in favor of a much larger, innovative Slider model. Unfortunately, in these days of tight money, such performance modifications come with a price tag that can easily exceed the cost of the stock unit. As such, many E100 DXers have wondered whether these selectivity and sensitivity improvements are really cost effective, and how the different modifications would "snake out" in an actual competitive "shootout." All these questions, and others, will be answered in this comprehensive article – from perhaps the ultimate E100 performance enthusiast.

Stock E100

Although it was discontinued by Eton recently, the stock unit can currently still be obtained from various sources as an "NOS" (new old stock) unit, with the lowest price being a current Durham Radio/DXer.Ca special at \$44.97 (plus \$12.95 shipping to the U.S.). The stock unit can provide competitive domestic and transoceanic performance in comparison to other Ultralights, particularly on the higher frequencies. It is typically at a disadvantage to the Sangean DT-400W and Sony SRF-T615 (and others) on the lower frequencies because of a sensitivity limitation, which is entirely due to a mediocre stock loopstick. When aligned, however, the stock E100 is capable of thrilling its owner with some impressive DX and currently holds the stock Ultralight DX distance record for a 3LO-774 (Melbourne, Australia) reception by Kevin Schanilec from Alaska's Kenai Peninsula (7,684 miles, or 12,372 km).



Murata IF filter-modified E100

The stock IF filter in the E100 already places it at the top of the Ultralight selectivity class, but it will hardly impress serious transoceanic DXers. Razor-sharp selectivity is essential to split off the relatively weak 9 kHz overseas DX from domestic pests, and DXpedition enthusiasts have been the primary group demanding such a super-selective E100. During experimentation in the summer of this year, fellow Puyallup, Washington resident Guy Atkins was asked to suggest a suitable E100 upgrade IF filter, which would transform the model's fairly good selectivity into a razor-sharp state, suitable for any domestic or 9 kHz transcontinental DXing mission. Because of the 455 kHz IF of the model and the related availability of many premium upgrade filters, Guy was able to choose the perfect replacement for the E100: the Murata CFJ455K5 ceramic filter, nominally 2.3 kHz at -6 dB.

Truly a premium filter (at a premium price of around \$53 from Icom), the CFJ455K5 will fit inside the E100 cabinet after removal of some plastic, and careful installation by an experienced technician [a service currently only offered by Steve Ratzlaff (stevevratz@wildblue.net), a highly experienced ex-Navy technician, for a labor charge of \$50]. The installation requires preparation of miniature coaxial cables and very detailed circuit board soldering, and is not recommended for beginners. However, for those able to perform or arrange an installation, the filter's performance is truly impressive. It is the same narrow filter as that used in the Eton E1, and provides equivalent superlative selectivity.

The filter-modified E100 is capable of receiving many domestic DX stations only 10 kHz away from extremely strong locals, and on the ocean coasts, is also capable of receiving fairly strong 9 kHz-split transoceanic DX right next to domestic pests. Since the new Murata filter is always in the E100's IF circuit (i.e. not switched in), the on-frequency audio will typically have a slightly "muffled" quality, and intelligibility can often be improved by tuning 1 kHz up or down from the DX station's frequency. This



practice also improves the audio quality of mp3 recordings on a filter-modified E100. Since the stock loopstick is still being used, however, sensitivity is not improved over the stock unit, and weak-signal performance (especially on low-band DX signals) still leaves much to be desired. Those DXers looking for greatly improved sensitivity will probably choose either to have an external antenna connector modification (to use their EWE's, K9AY's, beverages, etc.; see [DX Monitor](#), 1 November 2008 for details) or a Slider loopstick modification (to greatly enhance sensitivity as a stand-alone DXing portable), or both.

Slider loopstick-modified E100

The "Slider" is an innovative type of antenna using a movable coil to allow the peaking of each DX signal on the loopstick itself, before it enters the E100's front end. Developed during summer experimentation to greatly boost the E100's wide-band sensitivity, the Slider functions like a built-in preselector, providing a measure of selectivity in addition to its huge sensitivity boost. This enables it to avoid the fallings of other transplanted loopsticks (such as those in the SRF-39FP) which boosted sensitivity at the expense of selectivity. The 7.5" Slider loopstick-equipped E100's have astonishing sensitivity for their size, and have been tested and found fully competitive with RF-2200's, ICF-S5W's and other top AM portables in weak signal capability. Because of the E100's digital tuning convenience and memory capability, however, a Slider-equipped E100 can often exceed these analog portables in overall DXing performance.



The experimental models constructed by John Bryant and myself consist of a movable coil of 40/44 Litz wire which slides along an Amidon 7.5" x .5" Type 61 ferrite bar, sensitivity from 520 to 1710 kHz, far exceeding the stock loopstick's performance, and that of every other stock or hot-rodged Ultralight portable. The Slider loopstick modification is also unusually easy for beginners to perform, with only two highly-accessible soldering connections to make on the E100's back circuit board, followed by the construction of a custom frame (plastic or wood) to hold the antenna.

By itself, the Slider antenna opens up a new world of weak-signal DX possibilities for the E100 owner, and is especially effective in rural or isolated locations, where its superior sensitivity can really shine. It is also moderately competitive in 9 kHz split DXing along the ocean coasts, especially on the frequencies 4 or 5 kHz away from domestic locals. Since the E100's stock IF filter is reasonably selective (for the basic Ultralight class), and since the Slider coil's peaking function provides a slight measure of selectivity, the Slider-only E100 can usually receive most of the TP's available on a "fully modified" (Murata IF filter + Slider loopstick) model, although with much more domestic splatter. The Slider coil's peaking function has also been found effective in reducing the E100's reception of image, spurious signals and general overloading from an external antenna such as a long wire, EWE or other high-gain design. The peaking of the coil on the DX station's frequency helps to filter out these unwanted nuisance signals, and make it possible for suburban DXers to use their E100's with reduced overloading. Further information on this Slider advantage will be found in a companion article to this one, to be published soon by John Bryant.



An ideal hobbyist project, the Slider loopstick (and frame) can be constructed with parts costing about \$35, and give the DXer a great sense of satisfaction in boosting the sensitivity of his E100 up to a tremendous level. Full information and instructions are posted in a 7-page article on [dxe.ca](#), and are suitable for any beginner. It's the Ultralight equivalent of last century's simple but thrilling Heathkits, making even novices feel like they've hit an amazing home run in electronics.

The Fully Modified E100

(Murata IF filter + Slider loopstick)
Occasionally in electronic experimentation,

discoveries combine to produce an astonishingly effective result. By fortunate coincidence, the development of the E100 Slider loopstick was followed very closely by Guy Atkins' recommendation of the premium Murata CFJ455K5 IF filter as the optimum selectivity upgrade for the E100. All three transoceanic DXers working on this project (John, Guy and I) rushed to combine the modifications in our own personal E100's, and were astounded at the result! The resulting "fully modified" E100 was a compact DXing wildcat, with transoceanic performance far out of proportion to its size. In the very tough mission of South Pacific (DU) DXing during the summer in Washington, the fully modified E100's not only made reception of the relatively weak DU's routine, but did so in the face of strong in-line domestic QRM that could not be nulled. Transoceanic DXers had finally succeeded in combining extreme sensitivity with extreme selectivity in a modified Ultralight – with thrilling results.

Such great performance comes with a premium price, however. A Murata filter purchase and installation can cost about \$110, and the Slider parts will require an additional \$35. Custom add-ons (like an external antenna connector) will also raise the price. The humble \$50 E100 can easily become a \$200 portable, assuming that the DXer can indeed secure the Murata filter (currently facing a two-week shipping delay). So, is the DXing performance of the fully modified E100 worth such a costly outlay, especially in these days of financial stress?

For dedicated transoceanic DXers looking for outstanding performance in a very tiny package (either as a stand-alone portable or as a receiver connected to effective external antennas), the answer is probably yes. Either with or without external antennas, the premium Murata IF filter is highly effective in separating the 9 kHz split DX from domestic QRM, and the Slider loopstick has the sensitivity to really dig out the weak stations. Even with external antennas, the Slider coil can act as a preselector, allowing the DXer to filter out images and other urban nuisance signals during hometown DXing sessions.

Domestic DXers can use the superb IF filter and sharp nulling ability of the Slider loopstick to chase DX only 10 kHz away from extremely strong locals (and dodge IBOC hiss), but whether this will justify the fully modified E100's premium price is an open question. Each DXer must decide for himself, and hopefully the following live shootout information will be helpful in that decision.

Competitive Testing – Daytime DX

The four E100 variants were thoroughly tested in daytime DX conditions at 12:30 PM, November 8, 2008 in the typical suburban environment of Puyallup, Washington (35 miles south of Seattle). Seven relatively weak fringe stations were used to check sensitivity, and seven weak adjacent-channel stations (normally covered with local splatter) were used to test selectivity.

SENSITIVITY

STATION	Slider+Filter E100	Slider-Only E100	Filter-Only E100	Stock Model
530-TIS stations	3 stations* (strong)	3 stations* (strong)	Tacoma TIS (weak)	Tacoma TIS (wk)
550-KAR/KOAC	both stations (weak)	both stations (weak)		nil
790-KGMI	weak	weak	nil	nil
1040-CKST	strong	strong	trace	trace
1510-KGA	weak	weak	nil	nil
1600-KVRI	strong	strong	weak	weak
1640-KDZR	weak	weak	nil	nil

*Tacoma TIS, Highway 410 TIS, Sea-Tac Airport TIS

Sensitivity Summary: Both Slider models have an equally supreme advantage in sensitivity across the band. The stock loopstick models perform better on the high frequencies, but cannot come close to the Slider models' sensitivity. By way of comparison, a stock ICF-2010's sensitivity is also inferior to that of the Slider E100's across the band, but superior to that of the stock E100 across the band.

SELECTIVITY

STATION	Slider+Filter E100	Slider-Only E100	Filter-Only E100	Stock Model
700-KXLX	weak, little KIRO slop	all KIRO slop	all KIRO slop	all KIRO slop
810-KTBI	mod, no KGNW slop	mod-mod, KGNW	all KGNW slop	all KGNW slop
860-KPAM	weak-mod, KHHO slop	all KHHO slop	all KHHO slop	all KHHO slop
960-KALE	mod, no KJR slop	all KJR slop	all KJR slop	all KJR slop
1080-KFXX	mod, no KPTK slop	mod-hvy, KPTK slop	trace, no slop	all KPTK slop
1370-KAST	weak-mod, KKMO slop	all KKMO slop	all KKMO slop	all KKMO slop
1460-KARR	mod, no KSUH slop*	mod-mod, KSUH slop	trace, no slop	all KSUH slop

*KUTI also was weakly received in the null of KSUH-1450, only on this model

Selectivity Summary: The Slider + Filter model has a decided advantage across the band in total reception of weak adjacent-channel stations. The Slider-Only model can occasionally use its great sensitivity and nulling ability to receive these stations, but with much more local splatter. The Filter-Only model has great selectivity, but cannot receive many weak adjacent-channel stations due to inadequate sensitivity. The Stock Model is completely outclassed in this competition. By way of comparison, of the classic AM DXing portables (the stock ICF-2010, E1 and ICF-S5W), none of these

could receive any of the Daytime DX selectivity catches made by the Slider + Filter E100 except for the ICF-S5W, which weakly received KTBI-810 in the null of KGNW-820.

Competitive Testing – Transoceanic DX

The four E100 variants were thoroughly evaluated during a one night DXpedition to Grayland, Washington from November 1-2, 2008. Exceptional conditions prevailed throughout the night, providing multiple opportunities to judge the relative performance of each variant in actual TP-DXing ability.

Grayland is an isolated ocean beach location with relative freedom from local splatter and spurious products, allowing the stock and Slider-only E100 models to receive DX without these typical urban afflictions. As a result, during the Alaskan sunset skip period around 0300 UTC, both the stock and the Slider-only E100's were fully competitive with the filter-equipped models in receiving KBBI-890 in Homer, and KFQD-750 in Anchorage (which was mixing with KXL in Portland, OR). Without local splatter or spurious products, the Slider-only model was especially enjoyable to use in this domestic DXing simulation, combining outstanding sensitivity with excellent audio fidelity.

During the later 9 kHz split DXing session, however, the Slider + Filter E100 was exceptional in splitting very weak Asian DX signals away from domestic stations, providing reception of 11 adjacent-channel TP's completely inaudible on the other models. The Slider-only E100 was competitive in receiving TP's on relatively open frequencies, or those in which its great nulling ability could be used to advantage. The Filter-only E100 generally did not have the sensitivity to compete with the Slider models in reception of weak TP's, although its selectivity did allow clearer reception of split-channel Asians than did the stock model. Details of the relative TP-DXing performance of the four variants is given below:

Slider + Filter E100: Reception of 702-NHK synchros (unique), 846-NHK1 (unique), 855-Pyongyang (unique), 927-China (unique), 945-China (unique), 954-JOKR (unique), 981-CNR1 (unique), 1008-JONR (unique), JOLF-1242 (unique), 1278-JOFR (unique), 1332-JOSF (unique), 531-JOQG, 558-JOCR, 567-JOIK, 576-R.Mayak, 585-JOPG, 594-JOAK, 603-HL SA, 639-CNR1, 648-VOR, 657-Pyongyang, 666-JOBK, 675-VOV, 693-JOAB, 738-BEL2, 747-JOIB, 756-KBS, 774-JOUB, 828-JOAB, 837-China, 864-HLKR, 873-JOGB, 891-JOJK, 918-China, 936-China, 963-CRI, 972-HLCA, 1044-China, 1053-JOAR + Jammer, 1062-China, 1098-R.Marshalls, 1134-JOQR, 1206-China, 1422-JORF, 1467-HLKN, 1566-HLAZ, 1575-VOA, 1593-CNR (Total of 49 TP's)

Slider-Only E100: Reception of 531-JOQG, 558-JOCR, 567-JOIK, 576-R.Mayak, 585-JOPG, 594-JOAK, 603-HL SA, 639-CNR1, 648-VOR, 657-Pyongyang, 666-JOBK, 675-VOV, 693-JOAB, 738-BEL2, 747-JOIB, 756-KBS, 774-JOUB, 828-JOBB, 837-China, 864-HLKR, 873-JOGB, 891-JOJK, 918-China, 936-China, 963-CRI, 972-HLCA, 1044-China, 1053-JOAR + Jammer, 1062-China, 1098-R.Marshalls, 1134-JOQR, 1206-China, 1422-JORF, 1467-HLKN, 1566-HLAZ, 1575-VOA, 1593-CNR (Total of 38 TP's, some with serious domestic splatter)

Filter-Only E100: Reception of 594-JOAK, 648-VOR, 657-Pyongyang, 666-JOBK, 693-JOAB, 747-JOIB, 774-JOUB, 828-JOBB, 864-HLKR, 873-JOGB, 972-HLCA, 1053-Jammer, 1098-R.Marshalls, 1206-China, 1422-JORF, 1467-HLKN, 1566-HLAZ, 1575-VOA (Total of 18 TP's)

Stock Model: Reception of 594-JOAK, 648-VOR, 657-Pyongyang, 666-JOBK, 693-JOAB, 747-JOIB, 774-JOUB, 828-JOBB, 972-HLCA, 1053-Jammer, 1566-HLAZ, 1575-VOA (Total of 12 TP's)

Stock Model Verdict

The basic E100 model, currently offered at \$44.97 from Durham Radio (mention **dxer.ca**), provides Ultralight class-leading selectivity and operating convenience. Domestic DXers can truly enjoy its performance on the higher frequencies, and when properly aligned, its mid-band performance is also competitive with any other Ultralight radio model. Transoceanic DXers will find it capable of the best split-frequency performance in the stock Ultralight radio class, primarily because of its above-average IF filter. For DXers longing for more sensitivity or selectivity, however, the E100 is the perfect platform for modification. It can be completely transformed into an astonishingly effective DX machine, capable of legendary performance.

Filter-Only E100 Verdict

As a stand-alone portable, the filter-only E100 is similar to a high-performance race car with an underpowered engine. The outstanding capability of the Murata CFJ455K5 IF filter can be used only when the DX station's signal has sufficient strength to energize the mediocre stock loopstick, a handicap that significantly compromises the filter's ability to improve overall DXing performance. The superb Murata filter certainly does an outstanding job in splitting off the adjacent-channel DX stations, and performance is indeed improved over the stock unit – so long as the tiny stock loopstick can receive a fairly strong DX signal. Unfortunately, the stock loopstick has nowhere near the sensitivity or nulling ability of a 7.5" Slider loopstick, making the reception of weak domestic or transoceanic signals marginal at best. For a DXer investing significant resources to improve selectivity with this premium filter, the filter-only E100 ultimately provides an unwanted lesson on the importance of improving upon stock sensitivity.

The filter-only E100 is very sensible as an Ultralight connected to an effective external antenna, however – especially in quiet, isolated locations where overloading is unlikely to be an issue. It has been used with phenomenal success by John Bryant at Grayland, and DXers in isolated rural environments should have similar success with their long wires, beverages and other effective antennas. In these locations, the massive gain of the external antennas should not come with the typical urban side effects of spurious signals and images, and the Murata filter can perform superbly in separating the many DX signals provided by the high-gain external antenna systems. For those DXers living in suburban and urban locations who still wish to use effective external antennas with their E100's, the filter-only E100's tendency to overload will probably be a disappointment. A more practical solution is to use a Slider loopstick's coil as a preselector, to tune out a major portion of the urban nuisance signals. Even if never used as a stand-alone antenna, the Slider can make a major difference in the ability to use the E100 with effective external antennas in high-RF urban areas.

Slider-Only E100 Verdict

The addition of a 7.5" Slider loopstick to an E100 truly opens up a new world of weak-signal DX possibilities, and provides its owner with the ticket to thrilling domestic or transoceanic DX. A very cost-effective solution to the stock loopstick's relatively feeble sensitivity, the performance of the Slider-only model increases dramatically in more isolated rural locations, where its full sensitivity potential can be enjoyed.

For domestic DXers in such rural locations, the Slider-only E100 may be the ideal Ultralight, capable of extreme sensitivity and razor-sharp nulling ability. In the absence of serious local splatter or spurious products, it should be fully competitive in providing DXing excitement from 530-1700 kHz.

For transoceanic DXers, or for those living in RF-intense areas, the Slider-only E100 is still a cost-effective radio capable of providing a lot of weak-signal DXing excitement, but it will be somewhat of a mixed bag due to modest selectivity. The superior nulling ability must be used repeatedly in avoiding splatter, IBOC hiss and co-channel CRM. Although the Slider-only E100 will never be capable of matching the Slider + filter model in total DXing performance, its owner can certainly have a thrilling time with superior sensitivity on the open frequencies, and occasionally make a nice adjacent-channel catch because of an ideal nulling position. The 38 TP's received by this model in one night at Grayland provide solid evidence that the Slider, by itself, can provide a lot of transoceanic DX – although the hobbyist will have to work hard to avoid, null or otherwise deal with pervasive domestic splatter. For those willing to accept the challenge, however, this \$35 modification certainly provides a lot of transoceanic bang for the buck.

Slider + Filter E100 Verdict

This very rare combination of extreme sensitivity, selectivity and nulling ability has truly unleashed a new portable DXing sensation, with the potential to outperform any stock portable on the planet. Obviously superior to the other three E100 variants in overall DX capability, the relative performance of the Slider + filter E100 can most accurately be judged in comparison to the other classic AM-DXing portables, the Sony ICF-2010, the Eton E1, and the Sony ICF-S5W (all of which are owned by the author). In each of these comparisons, the Slider + filter E100 has one or more advantages, giving it the edge in overall DXing capability.

In comparison with the stock ICF-2010, this hot-rodDED E100 has superior sensitivity on all AM frequencies, plus a superior narrow IF filter. Its loopstick is also larger and more isolated than that of the ICF-2010, providing greater nulling ability. Overall DXing capability is in favor of the modified E100, despite its lack of SSB capability.

In comparison with the stock E1, both models share the same outstanding Murata IF filter. Selectivity is thereby equivalent, although whereas the E1 deploys a non-directional whip antenna, the hot-rodDED E100 has an extremely effective, isolated loopstick capable of producing sharp nulls on offending stations. In addition, the modified E100's Slider loopstick provides a sensitivity advantage over the stock E1, allowing superior weak-signal reception.

In comparison with the legendary ICF-S5W, the superior narrow filter of the modified E100 gives it a decided advantage in selectivity. Sensitivity is slightly superior in the hot-rodDED E100, although the stock ICF-S5W comes closer in this comparison than either the ICF-2010 or E1. The modified E100 also has a larger and more isolated loopstick, giving it the edge in nulling ability.

Finally, the Slider + filter E100 has one more huge advantage over all these classic portables: smaller size and weight. It is compact enough to retain the essence of the Ultralight class: outstanding DX performance in a very tiny package. It is the ultimate overachiever, and the perfect example of Ultralight radio's potential to bring new innovation and excitement to our cherished hobby.

(The author wishes to express sincere gratitude to John Bryant for his extensive assistance in the preparation of this article, and to Guy Atkins for his assistance in the E100 Modification project.)

(editor's note: this article first appeared at www.dxer.ca, and is used with permission of the author. Articles describing the above modifications appeared in **DX Monitor** for 18 and 25 October 2008, as well as 1 November 2008, and can be viewed at dxer.ca)

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

Geomagnetic Summary July 17 2008 through November 25 2008
 Tabulated from email status daily.

Date	Flux	A	K	Space	Wx
7/17	66	10	2	no storms	
18	65	9	2	no storms	
19	65	7	2	no storms	
20	65	6	2	no storms	
21	66	2	1	no storms	
22	66	3	2	no storms	
23	66	9	3	no storms	
24	66	13	3	no storms	
25	66	19	2	no storms	
26	65	13	2	no storms	
27	66	6	1	no storms	
28	66	4	2	no storms	
29	66	7	2	no storms	
30	x	x	x	x	
7/31	x	x	x	x	
8/ 1	x	x	x	x	
2	66	4	2	no storms	
3	66	4	1	no storms	
4	66	2	2	no storms	
5	66	6	1	no storms	
6	66	3	1	no storms	
7	66	3	1	no storms	
8	67	6	2	no storms	
9	66	4	2	no storms	
10	66	4	4	no storms	
11	66	19	2	minor	
12	66	13	2	no storms	
13	66	9	2	no storms	
14	65	6	1	no storms	
15	65	4	1	no storms	
16	66	5	1	no storms	
17	65	3	1	no storms	
18	66	5	2	no storms	
19	67	9	5	minor	
20	66	27	3	no storms	
21	67	12	2	no storms	
22	66	5	2	no storms	
23	67	6	0	no storms	
24	68	3	1	no storms	
25	68	3	1	no storms	
26	67	3	0	no storms	
27	67	2	2	no storms	
28	67	3	0	no storms	
29	67	2	0	no storms	
30	66	3	0	no storms	
8/31	67	3	0	no storms	
9/ 1	67	3	0	no storms	
2	67	2	0	no storms	
3	66	3	0	no storms	
4	66	2	3	no storms	
5	66	7	3	moderate	
6	66	29	1	no storms	
7	65	6	3	no storms	
8	66	9	2	no storms	
9	67	6	3	no storms	
10	67	12	1	no storms	
11	x	x	x	x	
9/12	67	x	x	x	

11/10	68	14	3	no storms	11/18	68	1	0	no storms
11	69	3	1	no storms	19	70	0	0	no storms
12	71	2	1	no storms	20	69	0	0	no storms
13	71	2	1	no storms	21	70	1	1	no storms
14	69	3	1	no storms	22	69	0	0	no storms
15	68	2	1	no storms	23	69	1	0	no storms
16	68	3	2	no storms	24	69	3	0	no storms
11/17	68	10	1	no storms	11/25	68	1	3	no storms

2008-2009 IRCA Super Alphabet Soup DX CONTEST
Manager: Nancy Johnson – 265 Waterton Wy – Billings MT 59102-7755
E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

November 15, 2008 update

- 1. Greg Hall 206 4. Willis Monk 57 7. Phil Bytheway 7
- 2. Tim Noonan 141 5. Nancy Johnson* 53 8. Dale Park 5
- 3. Bill Nittler 120 6. Mike Sanburn 30 9. John C. Johnson 2

* Contest manager is not eligible to win.

You can join the contest at any time, so if you haven't joined already there is still plenty of time to do so. The contest rules can be found online at the IRCA website, and also in the August 29, 2008 issue of DXM. Send me a note if you have any questions. Please, report to the appropriate editor any special loggings you hear while DX'ing for the contest! The contest runs until May 31, 2009.

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

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