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This issue, IRCA welcomes back Vincent Ferme from Ottawa, ON Canada. DX and report often!

IRCA Slogan's and IRCA TIS/HAR List Editors Needed

Anyone interested in taking over either of these positions and preparing a new edition for this fall's DX season, please contact **Phil Bythway** at the **IRCA Bookstore** (phil_tekno@yahoo.com).

FALL MIDWEST GTG

The annual Midwest DXers for GTG will be held at Springfield MO. **DATES:** October 30-31 and November 1 Friday-Sunday. **LOCATION:** Budget Inn 2455 N Glenstone. Phone 417 866 7460. This is same motel we had a GTG in the past, on business route 65 about 1/2 mile south of I-44 Exit 80 on west side of the street. Since this is an informal event we will meet in motel rooms. A tour of Meyer communications a local owner of several Springfield stations is planned for Saturday. Meyer owns KTXR FM, KWTO AM/FM and KBFL AM/FM. KTXR morning DJ Jamie Turner will show us around. Also will try to see if DX'er Randy Stewart can give us a tour of the PBS station where he works. As Branson MO is only 35 miles south some of you may want to take in a few shows while there.

For more information contact: John Tudenham, 417 624 8058. Cell phone: 417 438 4749. E-mail: jotud@yahoo.com.

CANADIAN RADIO NEWS

Dan Sys--dsysca@yahoo.ca

For August/September 2009 (October 1 2009 - next update November 1 2009)

1230 BC Merritt CJNL **FORMAT CHANGES**
From AC (days)/News-Talk (nights) to all News-Talk (re-broadcaster for CHNL 610 Kamloops after 3 month simulcast of CKMQ 101.1 expires)

1270 QC Alma **AM TO FM CONVERSIONS GRANTED**
CFGT Move to 97.7 with 50,000 watts (exemption from common ownership policy also approved)

1010 ON Toronto CFRB **BRANDINGS**
From CFRB to NEWS TALK 1010 (drops use of CFRB calls altogether)

790 ON Sudbury CIGM **OFF THE AIR**
Pulled the plug a month early on authorized simulcast time for FM conversion

980 ON Peterborough CKRU **NEW STATIONS GRANTED**
Simulcast time for FM conversion expires
1359 QC Gatineau new **NEW STATIONS GRANTED**
1,000 watts (days)/160 watts (nights) (Christian) (French) (will simulcast CIRA 91.3 Montreal)

1380 ON Brantford CKPC **OWNERSHIP CHANGES GRANTED**
From Telephone City Broadcasters to Evanan

1240 BC Tahsis CBXP **PROPOSED AM TO FM CONVERSIONS**
Move to 90.5 with 46.5 watts (CBC Radio One)

NOTES
Andy in Peterborough informs me that neither CHNC 610 in New Carlisle QC or CHGM 1150 in Gaspe QC have left the air as was reported in the last column. Turns out they received an extension to December 1 2009 to resolve signal issues with their new flipped FM's.
While on that topic CBI 1140 in Sydney has also received an extension until July 10 2010 to flip to 97.1 and the new Space Musique station at 105.7 in Timmins has until June 29 2010 to get on the air.
The CRTC was supposed to have released their decisions for Halifax this past week. Acadia Broadcasting and HFX Broadcasting both proposed Triple A stations on 105.1 while Frank Torres proposed a Blues station on 99.1. Those decisions appear to have been delayed for some unknown reason.

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

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

WDXR DEADLINES: Each Friday. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

(GH) **Glen Hansen**-1925 Tualatin St-St Helens OR gbhansen2@q.com
Drake R8B, R-388, R-390A, TMC GPR90, Hammarlund SP-600, various wires, Terk Advantage and amplified Sanserino loops

(PM) **Patrick Martin**-PO Box 843-Seaside OR 97138-0843 mwdxer@webtv.net
Drake R8, NW EWE, NE EWE, Quantum Phaser, 1500' Eastern Beverage

680 KBRW AK, Barrow 9/30 with such good signals to the North tonight. I thought I would try for KBRW again. No ID heard, but a woman announcer at 0150 mixing with phased KNBR & CHFA giving news mentioning "Alaska Hydro...." Unneeded, but still a thrill to catch anything Dable from this rare one. (PM-OR)

CHFA AB, Edmonton 9/30 0150 fair mixing with KNBR & KBRW, with man in French, KNBR mostly phased. (PM-OR)

800 CKOR BC, Penticton 9/27 0115 oldies with many "EZ Rock" ID's. Fair at times but mostly poor and overshadowed by semi-local KPDO, on R-388 with Sanserino loop.(GH-OR)

920 KXLY WA, Spokane 9/27 0130 ad for "Simple Solutions." Up strong for a few minutes then overtaken by UNID C&W, on R-388 with Sanserino loop. (GH-OR)

1030 KDUN OR, Redspot 9/27 2355 ID and oldies, playing some seldom heard stuff. Fair and just above a partially nulled KTWO on R-390A and Sanserino loop. (GH-OR)

1170 KPUG WA, Bellingham 9/22 0115 ad for Mariners baseball, ESPN sportstalk. Up strong for nearly 5 minutes, then very choppy, alone on TMC. (GH-OR)

1270 KTFI ID, Twin Falls 9/29 0110 weak & fighting it out with KBZZ, another UNID C&W in there too (probably KBAM). (GH-OR)

1470 KELA WA, Centralia-Chehalis 9/27 1000 DXed kind of by chance on Panasonic portable while trying to find ball game on 1490 KLOG who was temporarily off. Not heard for a while. (GH-OR)

1560 KNZR CA, Bakersfield 9/26 0100 news, incredibly weak and lost in semi-local 1550 splatter at times, on TMC with Terk loop. Usually booms in strong. (GH-OR)

1590 KVGB KS, Great Bend 9/28 fair on top with net news, followed by weather with a high of 75, "That's your weather on KVGB" at 0306. (PM-OR)

CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP

John C Johnson - 265 Waterton Wy - Billings MT 59102-7755

E-mail: John_Johnson@prodigy.net CDXR reports ONLY: cdxr@ircaonline.org

RIDING GAIN

[EB-MO] **Eric Bueneman**, Hazelwood MO N0UIHEric@aol.com
GE Superadio III, Grundig S350, Worcester Space Magnet II.
[NJ-MT] **Nancy Johnson**, Billings MT NancyJohnson@Prodigy.net
Drake R8B and Kiwa Loop

DOWN THE DIAL

570 KACP UT, Salt Lake City, 9-29 loud. 23:00 with ID "KACP Salt Lake City, KJMY HD-2 Bountiful, K26AE Provo. Freedom 5-70, Utah's Voice of Freedom" into CNN News.
EX-KNRS: Note the HD-2 on KJMY 99.5 and FM translator K26AE 99.1. [NJ-MT] IN, Fort Wayne, 9-26 good to fair, mixing with WSSP, 02:05 with CBS News, spots, "102.9 The River" jingle. Adult Standards format. [EB-MO] WSSP WI, Milwaukee, 9-26 dominant, mixing with WGL, 02:44 with local spots, promos, "Sports Radio 12-50 WSSP" slogan into Fox Sports Radio. [EB-MO] 1260 KWNX TX, Taylor, 9-24 good to poor through WPNW in WSDZ null, 02:53 with ESPN sports talk, promo for "Mike and Mike in the Morning," local spots. PSAs, legal ID. Plus a few "ESPN 12-60" slogans. [EB-MO] 1410 KKLO KS, Leavenworth, 9-29 fair to poor, mixing with WIZM, 19:55 with Contemporary Christian music, promo, legal IDs for all stations on the Here's The Help Network into SRN News. [EB-MO]

1420 KBTN MO, Neosho, 9-30 fair to poor through KTOE in WOC null. 02:04 with country music and call letters. [EB-MO]
 KJCK KS, Junction City, 9-30 fair to poor through KBTN and KTOE in WOC null. 01:52 with calls heard when passing. [EB-MO]
 KTOE MN, Mankato, 9-30 fair to poor through KBTN in WOC null. 01:59 with calls during promo. [EB-MO]
 1480 WYZE GA, Atlanta, 9-29 fair to poor briefly over WLMV. 20:10 with calls. Urban Gospel music format. [EB-MO]

25 YEARS AGO

October 6, 1984 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **Robert Wien** of San Jose became the new frequency check list editor ... **Patrick Martin** of Seaside, OR finally received a verite from 3AR 621 after five years of trying ... **Neil Kazaross** of Ogunquit, ME said he had 16 months to go in school ... **Richard C Evans** of North Wales, PA logged three new stations on SRS: CKAC-730, WELI-960, and WWHN-930.

OPEN MIKE

Eric Bueneman logged two of his most wanted stations, WGL and WYZE. This column was typed 10-3-09, 7:3, 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!!

STARS OF THE WEEK

(KK-VA) **Kraig Krist** Manassas VA
 (WM-MD) **William McGuire** NRD-545 rx w/134' multiband antenna NW to SE.
 2412 59th Place, Cheverly MD
 DX-388

LOGGINGS

580 PA WHP Harrisburg, 9/4 2105. ID heard in the mix. (WM-MD)
 590 PA WMBS Uniontown, 9/19 1925. Navy/Pittsburgh football. (WM-MD)
 690 VA WZAP Bristol, 9/14 1926. Southern Gospel Music; ID. (WM-MD)
 740 NC WPAQ Mountain Airy, 9/25 2015. High School Football; local mentions. (WM-MD)
 790 VA WNTS Norfolk, 9/2 2000. "NewsRadio 790", ID, Fox News Radio. (WM-MD)
 900 ON CHML Hamilton, 9/3 2100. Local News; ID. (WM-MD)
 1420 OH WHK Cleveland, 9/4 2000. Ad; "Newstalk 1420"; ID. (WM-MD)
 1170 WV WVVVA Wheeling, 10/1 2055-2135. Colorado vs WV football game, 2100 "This is MSN Mountainers sports network..."; "...in the morning and the Mountaineers WVVVA". (KK-VA)
 1190 NY WLIB New York City, 9/29 2055-2135. Mixing with talk. Gospel singing and talk. 2110 "...your place... WLIB..." into song. 2129 "Eleven ninety WLIB" into Gospel song. (KK-VA)
 1200 TX WOAI San Antonio, 9/28 2055-2135. Mixing with Spanish singing. Dallas Cowboys football game. "...station identification on the Dallas Cowboys radio network". (KK-VA)
 1210 PA WPHT Philadelphia, 9/27 2055-2135. Station twelve hundred WOA! "News, weather and traffic. Station twelve hundred WOA!". (KK-VA)
 1220 OH WHKW "Talker" twelve ten", 2200 "CBS News". "The 'Crime Guy' on the 'Big Bowling Green Fallon football presented on 'The Word' twelve twenty and AM fourteen forty". (KK-VA)
 1240 MD WJEJ Hagerstown, 10/2 1006. "Right now it's 72 degrees WJEJ" into 1940's type song "Jeepers Peepers". (KK-VA)
 1380 KY WMJR Nicholasville, 9/18 2012. "Your Catholic Station"; "Real Life Radio" Back into High School football. (KK-VA)
 1400 VA WINC Winchester, 10/2 1010. Laura Ingram show. "News, talk fourteen hundred WINC". (KK-VA)
 1470 MD WJDY Salisbury, 9/14 2000. Break in Orioles/Jays BB. (WM-MD)
 1550 ON CBE Windsor, 9/5 2000. ID: "Radio One." (WM-MD)
 1420 ?? ??? 9/18 2000 Toronto Blue Jays/Baseball heard. (WM-MD)

That's a wrap for this week.... A big "Congratulations" to Nancy on winning the TVA this year. It was well deserved.... Thanks to Kraig this week, and it's nice to have William reporting again. Gators taking this week-end off, maybe I can DX!!!
 fresh 10-03 0830

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

Patrick Martin – PO Box 843 – Seaside OR 97138

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

Greetings everyone.

TP DX has sure been good this week. Different groups out at Grayland, plus a lot of great DX from others at home this week too. So away we go.

TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

153 **RUSSIA**, Radio Rossi good at 1350 UTC 10/4. Man in RR. (PM-OR)
 164 **MONGOLIA**, weak and threshold with man in presumed Mongolian at 1345 10/3. (PM-OR)
 171 **RUSSIA**, Radio Rossi 10/4 1313 weak to very weak /279. (DV-WA)
 180t **RUSSIA**, presumed the open carrier at S9 at 1325 10/4, no audio heard. (PM-OR)
 189 **RUSSIA**, Radio Rossi very good //153 at 1351 10/4. (PM-OR)
 209 **MONGOLIA**, weaker than //164 at 1346 10/3, but there with man in Mongolian, also some chip type transmission QRMing them. (PM-OR)
 279 **RUSSIA**, the best of the lot with Radio Rossi 1355 10/4 at S9+10. (PM-OR)
 531 **AUSTRALIA**, Innisfail, 4KZ good on top with teletalk with "4-K-ZED" mention at 1410 10/2, over 2PM with pop music. (PM-OR)
 540 **AUSTRALIA**, 4QL fair on top of LPRT with ABC News at 1404 10/2 and //4QN-630, which was stronger. (PM-OR)
 549 **CHINA**, mixing with synchros JJ with man in CC, CNR1 at 1325 10/3. (PM-OR)
 550t **JAPAN**, NHK1 synchros mixing with 4QL at 1359 10/2, man in JJ. (PM-OR)
 550t **RUSSIA** good with man in RR at 1350 10/4, with JJ underneath. (PM-OR)
 550t **ALASKA**, Anchorage KTZN, presume the Sports station underneath with "The Zone" slogan at 1335 10/3 (PM-OR)
 558 **JAPAN**, Kobe JOCR, good with man in JJ at 1320 10/2. (PM-OR)
 567 **REP KOREA**, KK talk mixing with JOCR at 1342 10/3. (PM-OR)
 576 **JAPAN**, Sapporo JOIK, good on top of KK talk at 1337 10/3. (PM-OR)
 576 **RUSSIA**, fair with man in RR at 1339 10/3. (PM-OR)
 585 **JAPAN**, Kushiro, JOPG, good with man in JJ at 1310 10/3. (PM-OR)
 594 **JAPAN**, Tokyo JOAK, local like at S9+20 //585 at 1310 10/3. (PM-OR)
 603 **REP KOREA**/Chinese mix here at 1331 10/4. May have been Taiwan too, also heard and QSL'd in the past. (PM-OR)
 612 **AUSTRALIA**, Brisbane 4QR, good with man discussion at 1423 10/4. (PM-OR)
 621 **CHINA**, very good with woman in Mandarin at 1350 10/4. (PM-OR)
 630 **AUSTRALIA**, Townsville, 4QN very good at 1402 10/2 with ABC News //540. (PM-OR)
 639 **CHINA** good at 1345 10/4, man in CC. (PM-OR)
 640 **ALASKA**, Bethel good with rock music at 0700 10/4. Native American guy gave ID "You're listening to KYUK in Bethel Alaska". Semi regular this time of year, on top of KFI. (PM-OR)
 648 **JAPAN/CHINA** mix here at 1342 10/4. (PM-OR)
 650 **ALASKA**, Anchorage KENI good on top briefly at 0645 10/4 with man mentioning KENI in program promo in passing. (PM-OR)
 657 **DR KOREA**, Pyongyang 10/1 at 1321 weak with man in KK //3250. (DV-WA)
 666 **CHINA**, man in CC ou JOBK at 1337 10/4. (PM-OR)
 670t **ALASKA**, Dillingham KDLG, presume the Jazz program u/o KBOI at 0546 10/4 off NW EWE. (PM-OR)
 675 **CHINA**, Hohhot, on top with man in Mandarin at 1352 10/4 o/Vietnam. (PM-OR)
 684 **CHINA**, man in CC at 1325 10/4. (PM-OR)
 693 **JAPAN**, Tokyo JOAB at S9+20, nearly the same strength at 594, except for 690 CBU splash 10/3 1311 with language lessons, NHK2. (PM-OR)
 700 **ALASKA**, Anchorage KBYR with "From Wasilla to Homer, this is KBYR" at 0606 10/3, on top. (PM-OR)
 702 **CHINA/JAPAN**, mix at 1333 10/4. (PM-OR)
 711 **REP KOREA**, KK talk strong next to powerhouse KIRO, holding its own easily with woman in KK at 1343 10/4. (PM-OR)
 720 **RUSSIA**, good on top at 1357 10/3 with female in JJ. (PM-OR)
 729 **CHINA**, good and alone on channel at 1327 10/4. (PM-OR)
 738 **TAIWAN**, good with female in CC o/presumed mainland CC. Taiwan dialect sounded softer, more like Cantonese or Amoy at 1329 10/4 (PM-OR)
 747 **JAPAN/KOREA**, mix here at 136 10/4. (PM-OR)
 750 **ALASKA**, Anchorage KFQD, good on top with "KFQD, AM 750" at 0706 10/4. (PM-OR)
 756 **CHINA**, man in CC in passing at 1407 10/4. (PM-OR)
 765 **JAPAN**, Kofu, Yamanashi Hosu, JOJF good on top for a time with woman in JJ, mentioning "Yamanashi" at 1403 10/2, QRM via unid playing "I Can't Stop Loving You" by Ray Charles at 1405, presume to be a Filipino. (PM-OR)

765 **THAILAND?** After the UNID faded down around 1410 10/2 (see above), leaving a woman in what sounded like Thai, a quick check of 891 found Radio Thailand coming in well, but not //, one 20 KWR signs off at 1400 per the PAL, but another 5 KWR runs 24 hours, a military station. I may try a tentative CD report to the station, but I do not do well with the smaller Thai stations with QSLs. I presume the language barrier. (PM-OR)

770 **ALASKA**, Valdez KCHU, good on top briefly with Blues pgm at 0655 10/2, ID a 0700 "You are tuned to KCHU Valdez", then buried w/Seattle. (PM-OR)

774 **JAPAN**, Akita J0UB NHK2 10/1 1257 good with Radio English Conversation program, including Sam Cooke song "Wonderful World" 3 pips, 1 tone at 1300. (DV-WA)

780 **ALASKA**, Nome KNOM, good on top of KKOH at 0800 with female anc "This is KNOM Name" 10/4. (PM-OR)

783 **CHINA/UNID**, with man in Chinese over woman in what may have been Vietnamese at 1340 10/2. (PM-OR)

792 **AUSTRALIA**, Brisbane 4RN good with discussion at 1420 10/2. (PM-OR)

801 **CHINA** or **TAIWAN**, strong CC talk by woman at 1354 10/3. (PM-OR)

810 **CHINA**, CC talk w/o KGO at 1430 10/4. (PM-OR)

819 **DR KOREA**, Presume the orch mx and man in KK at 1356 10/4. (PM-OR)

828 **JAPAN/CHINA**, mix at 1340 10/3. (PM-OR)

837 **CHINA**, CC talk by man with KSWB phased at 1356 10/3. (PM-OR)

846 **CHINA**, CC talk by man with KSWB at 1356 10/3, some JJ QRM. (PM-OR)

850 **ALASKA**, Nome KICY, good with program in Russian at 0710 10/4, way over everything else. (PM-OR)

855 **CHINA**, Mandarin CC talk by man at 1407 10/4. (PM-OR)

864 **JAPAN**, presume one or more of the HBC stations at 0741 10/4. (PM-OR)

870 **ALASKA**, McGrath, KSKO good for a time with Blue Grass banjo mx program ended at 0600 with ID "This is KSKO McGrath. Stay tuned for 'round Midnight", 10/3. (PM-OR)

873 **JAPAN/CHINA**, mix here at 1404 10/4. (PM-OR)

882 **CHINA/UNID**, CC talk with Unid underneath around 1400 10/4. (PM-OR)

891 **REP KOREA**, Pusan, HLBK presume the source of the KK talk o/Japan at 1333 10/4. (PM-OR)

THAILAND, Good at 1400 10/1 with chimes at TOH and woman in Thai. Also noted 10/2. (PM-OR)

900 **UNID**, tone and time pips u/CKMO at 1400 10/3. China? (PM-OR)

909 **JAPAN**, Nagoya, JOCB, Language lessons at 1355 10/2. (PM-OR)

918 **CHINA**, woman in CC in passing at 1354 10/4. (PM-OR)

927 **CHINA**, man in CC in passing at 1352 10/4. (PM-OR)

936 **CHINA**, Anhui, good with alternating M & F at 1330 10/3 in Mandarin. (PM-OR)

945 **CHINA**, woman in CC at 1339 10/3. (PM-OR)

954 **JAPAN**, Tokyo JOKR good with man in JJ at 1315 10/2. KJR splatter at times. (PM-OR)

963 **CHINA**, CRI with program in Russian at 1430 10/4. (PM-OR)

972 **CHINA/KOREA**, mix here at 1420 10/4. (PM-OR)

981 **CHINA** or **TAIWAN**, with woman in CC in passing at 1354 10/4. (PM-OR)

1008 **JAPAN**, Osaka JONR? 10/1 1326-1329 poor signal, guessing JONR. (DV-WA)

1017 **JAPAN**, Fukuoka, JOLB with language lessons at 1421 9/29. (PM-OR)

PHILIPPINES, presume the Tagalog speaker, DXRR as I have heard in the past several times u/JOLB at 1420 9/29. (PM-OR)

1026 **CHINA**, Mandarin talk at 1330 10/1. (PM-OR)

1035 **CHINA**, Mandarin talk by female at 1335 10/3. (PM-OR)

1044 **CHINA**, CRI good at 1250 10/2 with program in JJ. (PM-OR)

1053 **DR KOREA**, 10/1 1329 Haeju "Voice of National salvation" weak u/o jammer. (DV-WA)

1062 **CHINA/KOREA**, mix here in passing at 1314 10/4. (PM-OR)

1071 **JAPAN/CHINA**, mix here at 1315 10/4. (PM-OR)

1107 **JAPAN**, Kanazawa, JOMR, good on top with woman in JJ giving www address at 1415 9/29. (PM-OR)

1116 **AUSTRALIA**, Brisbane 4BC, good with teletalk and man with ID "4BC", at 1420 9/28. (PM-OR)

1125 **JAPAN**, Matsuyama, JOAF may have been the woman in JJ at 1416 9/29. (PM-OR)

1134 **PHILIPPINES**, man in Tagalog at 1407 10/1. (PM-OR)

1143 **JAPAN**, Tokyo JOQR 10/1 1334 fair with 2 men and woman in JJ. (DV-WA)

TAIWAN, Kyoto JOBR 10/1 1419 steady weak signal with woman in JJ. (DV-WA)

TAIWAN, YuYe Guangbo Diantai BEL2 Fishery 10/4 1407 seemed like weak CC but could not get //738 with any audio until 1408. Just enough to match programs. New station here on 738 & 1143. 1143 rose fair at times and 738 remained weak at best. (DV-WA) (Dennis, that is interesting that you got 1143 better than 738. Here is it the opposite, 738 is always better than 1143. PM)

1152 **JAPAN**, Language lessons in splatter at 1358 10/3. (PM-OR)

1161 **TAIWAN**, BCC Country station with woman in CC. Iian, presume the source. This is quite regular in the winter noted in CC at 1340 10/4. (PM-OR)

1170 **REP KOREA**, Fair u/o KPUG with KK music and time pips at 1400 10/4. Going to have to send a report out to this one as I have missed it in the past. I have VOA Philippines QSL'd, but not this Korean. (PM-OR)

1179 **JAPAN**, Osaka JOOR, good in KEX BOC with woman in JJ at 1410 10/4. (PM-OR)

1188 **REP KOREA**, HLKX Incheon, fair to poor in KEX splash, man in KK with hymn music in background at 1412 10/3. This one I heard the first time in 1965 in Seward AK. They were then running 50 KW on 1060 and I QSL'd them the first time. Their 1060 freq was a powerhouse in Seward in the winter. (PM-OR)

1206 **CHINA**, CRI with man in KK at 1342 10/4. (PM-OR)

1215 **CHINA**, weak man in CC at 1413 10/4. (PM-OR)

1242 **JAPAN**, Tokyo JOLF good with man in JJ at 1320 10/1. (PM-OR)

1251 **UNID**, weak in splatter, but presume Russia at 1250 10/2. (PM-OR)

1278 **JAPAN**, Fukuoka, JOFR fair with man in JJ at 1245 10/1. (PM-OR)

1287 **JAPAN**, Sapporo JOHR 10/1 1337 weak with woman in JJ. (DV-WA)

1314 **JAPAN**, Osaka JOUF good with woman in JJ at 1410 10/3. (PM-OR)

1323 **CHINA**, Huadian CRI 10/1 1346 woman in KK? fair to weak. (DV-WA)

1377 **CHINA**, CNR1 10/1 1338 weak to fair and covered in splatter at times //5030. (DV-WA)

1386 **JAPAN**, JO. NHK2 10/1 1339 //774 weak signal with American woman talking politics in EE. (DV-WA)

1458 **UNID**, 10/1 141 weak with woman in Asian lang. (DV-WA) (John Bryant reported Hohhot China here. You might have had them. PM)

1512 **CHINA?** 10/1 1357-1400 not NHK2, weak with man in CC Also heard at Grayland last week. (DV-WA)

1566 **REP KOREA**, Jeju, HLAZ 10/1 1310 fair with woman giving out www website address. (DV-WA)

1575 **THAILAND**, VOA Ban Phachi 10/1 1311-1315 weak to fair with Vietnamese. (DV-WA)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

DV-WA **DENNIS VROOM**, Salmon Creek, WA vroomski@comcast.net
DXing with JRC NRC545, Drake R8B, NW EWE

PM-OR **PATRICK MARTIN**, PO Box 843, Seaside OR 97138-0843 mwdxr@webtv.net
DXing with Drake R8, Drake SPR4, NW & SE EWE

Grayland DXpedition 2009.09
John Bryant September 29-October 1 2009

Receivers: WinRadio G313e and mod. Eton E100, Antenna: Two Delta Loop Wellbrook Array at 305 degrees

531 **JAPAN** JOQG, NHK1 Morioka, Sep 29 1221 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

540 **JAPAN** NHK1 Synchros, Sep 29 1301 – Rarely heard //594, Fair level. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

540 **CHINA** CNR1 Synchros, Oct 1 1325 – Heard with CNR nationwide simulcast of the celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. Fair level, with echo. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

549 **VIETNAM** V of V2, My Van, Sep 29 1400 – Heard here at good level, for TOH routine. 548.98. Rate for me. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

558 **JAPAN** JOCR, Kobe, Sep 29 1222 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

558 **SOUTH KOREA** HLQH, KBS2 Yong-il, Sep 29 1445 – Presume this the KK heard in the clear with good signal, 45 minutes after dawn. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

567 **JAPAN** JOIK, NHK1, Sapporo, Sep 29 1223 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

576 **RUSSIAN FAR EAST** Radio Mayak Synchros, Sep 29 1302 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

576 **JAPAN** NHK1 Synchros, Oct 1 1420 – Rarely heard NHK1 synchros dominating the usual R Mayak Russian on this channel. Had four adjacent NHK1s simultaneously from 567 through 594. 567 was the weakest at a fair to poor level. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

594 **JAPAN** JOAK, NHK1, Tokyo, Sep 29 1224 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

603 **SOUTH KOREA** HLSA, KBS 2, Seoul, Sep 29 1225 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

648 **JAPAN** JOIG, NHK1 Toyama, Sep 29 1408 – //594 at fair level. A fairly rare logging for me. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

657 **NORTH KOREA** KCBS, Pyongyang, Sep 29 1303 – 656.9 //2850. Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

666 **JAPAN** JOBK, NHK1 Osaka, Sep 29 1227 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

684 **CHINA** Unknown, Sep 29 1412 – Arghhhh! I did not have the recorder on and heard a "...Renmin Guangbo Diantai" and MISSED the ID of this rare CC station. How much is that Perseus??? (Bryant-G'land, WA)

684 **NORTH KOREA** Pyongyang Bangsong, Samgo, Oct 1 1330 – Noted here in passing with usual martial chorus music //3250. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

693 **JAPAN** JOAB, NHK2 Tokyo, Sep 29 1228 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

702 **NORTH KOREA** KCBS, Pyongyang Bangsong, Sep 29 1414 – Regular on 702.03 with distorted signal. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

729 **JAPAN** JOCK, NHK1 Nagoya, Sep 29 1305 – Heard at fair to good level almost totally over usual North Korean. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

- 1332 **JAPAN** JOSF, Nagoya, Sep 29 1256 – Fair with commercial programming. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1332 **CHINA** CNR Russian Service, Jilin, Sep 30 1317 – Presume this the RR noted in passing at moderate level. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1350 **JAPAN** JOER, Hiroshima, Sep 30 1434 – Heard well in post dawn this AM, though not present on the 'Japanese morning' of the 29th. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1359 **CHINA** CNR1 Synchronos, Oct 1 1405 – Noted here at fair level //1593 and 5030. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1386 **JAPAN** NHK2 Synchronos, Sep 29 1259 – Probably Morioka on northern Honshu. Somewhat regular. Fair level. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1413 **JAPAN** JOIF Fukuoka, Sep 30 1434 – Heard well more than half an hour after dawn with bubble gum pop music show. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1422 **JAPAN** JOFE, Yokohama, Sep 29 1358 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1440 **JAPAN** JOWF, Sapporo, Sep 29 1230 – Dominating nAm stations for most of dawn, as usual. Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1458 **CHINA** Nei Menggu RGD Synchronos, Oct 1 1304 – Main station in Hohhot plus repeaters noted //7270 (SW was beneath a JJ language broadcast.) With a program of Mongolian traditional men's choral music. Initially at good level then dropping off slowly over the next 20 minutes. Very pleased with this brand new station for me. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1557 **TAIWAN** WYFR, Kouchu, Sep 30 1335 – Heard hear with CC Christian prgm. Noted also at 1437 in EE. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1593 **CHINA** CNR1, Changzhou +?, Sep 29 1257 – Regular noted //5030 with fair signal. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1593 **CHINA** CNR1, Changzhou, Oct 1 1330 – Heard with simulcast of CNR1 and 2 celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. Good level. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1602 **JAPAN** NHK2 Synchronos, Oct 1 1328 – Heard // to 774. Close to 20 NHK2 transmitters here, nationwide, with most being 100 w. A few transmitters are a kilowatt. Fair level. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

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2009 Ultralight Radio AM-DX Shootout
by Gary DeBock



Introduction: What started in November of 2007 as a TP-DXing craze on the humble analog Sony SRF-59 has managed to spread worldwide in a little over a year, providing not only a rejuvenating force for dozens of medium-wave DXers, but for the general hobby itself. Based on the concept that a skilled, determined DXer can use superior knowledge and skill to make outstanding loggings on basic equipment, the thrilling challenge of Ultralight Radio DXing has proven irresistible for many, and provided a major force for innovation, experimentation and optimism among both new and experienced hobbyists.

From the beginning, one of the major attractions of "the Ultralight Boom" has been the chance to enjoy the latest in innovative pocket radios from the Far East, all offered at reasonable prices. The stiff competition between Chinese manufacturers has provided AM-DXers with amazingly capable and compact receivers, which continue to improve at an extremely rapid pace. Despite the current global economic issues, the Ultralight Radio DXer in 2009 is offered an unprecedented variety of exciting new radios, many of which incorporate breakthrough design improvements.

- 738 **TAIWAN** Taiwan Fisheries BS, Sep 29 1228 – Presumed. Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 747 **JAPAN** JOIB, NHK2 Sapporo, Sep 29 1230 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 774 **JAPAN** JOUB, NHK2 Akita, Sep 29 1229 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 792 **CHINA** Unknown, Sep 29 1326 – Possible Shanghai Dongfang at good level. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 819 **NORTH KOREA** JJ Bangsong, Pyongyang, Sep 29 1231 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 828 **JAPAN** JOBB, NHK2 Osaka, Sep 29 1233 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 837 **JAPAN** JOGK, NHK1 Niigata, Sep 29 1420 – //594 with fair signal, post dawn. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 846 **JAPAN** NHK1 Synchronos, Sep 29 1330 – Heard at poor level, but clearly //594. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 864 **SOUTH KOREA** HLKR, KBS1 Gangneung, Sep 29 1335 – Heard at good level with usual KBS1 talk. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 909 **JAPAN** JOCB, NHK2 Nagoya, Sep 29 1228 – Heard here mixing with presumed Tianjin. Fair. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 918 **CHINA** Shangdung RGD News Channel, Sep 29 1236 – Regular, with heavy echo from repeaters. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 936 **JAPAN** JONF, Miyazaki, Sep 29 1422 – JJ commercial station with repeater echo over Anhui for a while, post dawn. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 936 **CHINA** Anhui RGD, Hefei, Sep 29 1425 – Heard here with CC business news and EE business-related PSAs. Fair to good, mixing with JJ. Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 945 **CHINA** Unknown, Sep 29 1237 – Noted here with multiple echo, but not CNR1 (not //5030) Probable Heilongjiang with four transmitters. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 972 **SOUTH KOREA** HLCA, KBS Dangjin, Sep 29 1239 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 981 **CHINA** CNR1 Synchronos, Sep 29 1430 – Heard at excellent level 30 minutes after local dawn here at Grayland. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1008 **JAPAN** JONR, Osaka, Sep 29 1336 – Sounded like All Night Nippon at good level. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1017 **JAPAN** JOIB, NHK2 Fukuoka, Sep 29 1336 – Parallel to 774, dominating usual leader, CRI KK Service. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1026 **CHINA** Beijing Economic BS, Sep 29 1340 – Presume this in Beijing dialect, faire to good level. Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1053 **JAPAN** JOAR, Nagoya, Sep 29 1432 – HUGE signal 30 minutes after dawn with ANN program. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1062 **SOUTH KOREA** HLKQ, Cheongju, Sep 30 1446 – Was looking for the Philippines but heard KK programming at good level 45 minutes after dawn. Presume this. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1134 **SOUTH KOREA** KBS Hamjinok Bangsong, Seoul, Sep 29 1340 – Clearly KK at very strong level most of morning, completely dominating usual JOQR. Surprising since this was a JJ morning for me. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1161 **TAIWAN** BCC-Country Synchronos, Sep 30 1345 – Probably the Ilan transmitter. In Taiwanese. This is often heard when WYFR-1557 is in well, as was the case on the 30th. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1170 **SOUTH KOREA** Radio Korea Int'l, Sep 29 1241 – Heard in JJ. This presumed rather than VOA, since JJ matches Korea's schedule. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1179 **JAPAN** JOOR, Osaka, Sep 29 1349 – Sounded like All Night Nippon at a fair level. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1188 **SOUTH KOREA** HLKX, FEBC Seoul, Sep 29 1243 – Heard at good level with both EE and KK hymns. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1197 **JAPAN** JOWL, Ashikawa, Sep 29 1351 – This repeater station has, in the past, usually been stronger than its key station, JOWF on 1440. Unheard this year until this logging at fair to poor level. Transmitter trouble??? (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1206 **CHINA** Yangbian RGD, Yangi, Sep 29 1245 – Actually about 1205.98, in full-time KK. Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1260 **JAPAN** JOIR Sendai, Sep 30 1357 – Noted dominating the frequency at max dawn and after. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1269 **JAPAN** Unknown, Sep 29 1354 – Not the HBC repeaters //1287 as is usual here. Likely the very rare JOJR on Shikoku island. Really sorry that I did not stay to try to ID this!!! (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1269 **JAPAN** HBC Synchronos, Hokkaido, Oct 1 1255 – Heard at moderate level here and clearly parallel to the HBC Sapporo main station on 1287 kHz. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1278 **CHINA** Hebei RGD, Shijiazhuang, Sep 29 1248 – Co-channel with JOFR, Hebei with slight echo from repeaters. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1278 **JAPAN** JOFR, Fukuoka, Sep 29 1251 – Commercial pop music show, mixing with Hebei. Fair only. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1287 **JAPAN** JOHR, Sapporo, Sep 29 1229 – Regular. (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1314 **UNKNOWN** Unknown, Sep 29 1252 – Very Russian-sounding classical music noted here. Unlikely Japan. Maybe Philippines nor maybe the f.pl Russian??? (Bryant-G'land, WA)
- 1314 **JAPAN** JOUF, Osaka, Sep 30 1312 – Heard poorly with JJ talk. Too weak to take a report for a fourth try to this seemingly non-QSLer. (Bryant-G'land, WA)

Fueled by the excitement offered by these innovative pocket radios, the collective enthusiasm and optimism of the Ultralight Radio enthusiast group has quickly spread to all continents of the world, flying completely in the face of pessimism over the future of the medium-wave DXing hobby. With the booming UltralightDX Yahoo group now boasting over 350 members, the future of our cherished hobby has been firmly reestablished—although perhaps in a direction that few of us could have envisioned.

The Ultralight Revolution Meets the DSP Revolution: Prior to this year, digital signal processing had been refined in table receivers to provide superb selectivity, offering hobbyists unprecedented freedom to chase weak-signal DX adjacent to strong local stations. Most DXers probably assumed that this superb technology would remain limited to relatively expensive communication receivers – until the first DSP-enhanced pocket radios appeared in the Chinese domestic market early this year.

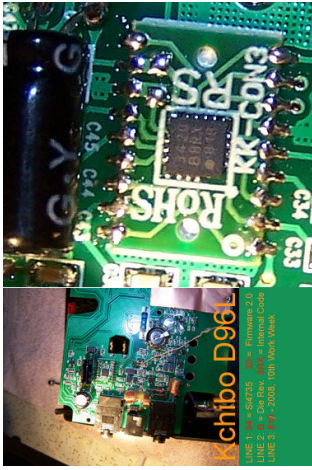
Suddenly the performance gap between Ultralight and table receivers was greatly narrowed. Major Chinese manufacturers invested heavily in new DSP-enhanced pocket radios, and the competition between them (and the Chinese sellers on eBay) kept prices relatively low for North American purchasers. The combination of excellent DSP-based performance and reasonable prices has led to an ordering boom for these breakthrough Ultralight radios, and intense interest in their relative DXing capabilities.

The Contestants: The seven Ultralight models chosen for the 2009 Shootout contain some innovative features that would have been unthinkable only a few years back. One radio combines DSP capabilities with a built-in MP3 recorder, and two of the models have five DSP selectivity choices. One radio has already proven to be a phenomenal performer as a fully modified DXpedition receiver, surpassing even the E100 equivalent in weak-signal capability. This combination of affordability and innovation is fairly unique in the radio hobby, and makes 2009 an ideal time to join in the fun of Ultralight radio DXing.

The seven pocket radios competing for top honors in this Shootout are two analog models – the Kaito WRX911 (aka Tecsun R9012) and the Tecsun R9012, and five digital models: the CCrane SWP (aka Redsun RP300), the Degen DE1123, the Tecsun PL-300WT (aka Grundig G8), the Kchibo D92L and the Kchibo D96L. Informed readers will note that all of these models are products of the Chinese domestic market, a recent center of innovation and competition that has come to dominate the worldwide radio production system. Despite the negative global economic trends, the large Chinese manufacturers have invested heavily in research and development, especially in the practical application of the American-designed DSP chips. The huge Chinese domestic market is their primary target, made obvious by the fact that several of these models have only Chinese labeling for the radio controls, and Chinese owner's manuals. For those of us willing to accept these challenges, however, tremendous bargains are offered—as well as a possible DXing bonanza, due to breakthrough DSP-enhanced selectivity in several of the new digital models covered in this Shootout review.

As is customary, after thorough descriptions of each model, these contenders will be matched against all other top Ultralight radio models from previous Shootouts in relative judgments of sensitivity, selectivity, nulling ability, images/spurs, AGC, audio quality, digital tuning noise and quality control record. As always, it is the author's sincere hope that this definitive purchasing guide will motivate even more hobbyists to join our booming niche group, and personally experience the legendary DXing fun that these innovative pocket radios have to offer.

Tecsun R911 (a.k.a. Kaito WRX911): This is first of two highly capable analog pocket radios, refined to excel in the highly competitive Chinese domestic market. Despite the rock-bottom price of \$19.99 shipped (from eBay seller "Anon-co"), both the R911 and its Kaito WRX911 clone are high quality, well-built radios with an astonishing range of features: AM, FM (76-108 MHz) and 9 shortwave bands (covering the major international broadcast bands from 4.7 to 21.95 MHz), an LED tuning indicator, a built-in 150 mw speaker with decent audio quality, very long run time on two AA batteries, and even a carrying pouch (R911 only). This 4.75" x 3" x 1" (117 x 75 x 24 mm) radio weighs 3.7 ounces (88g) and is available in two colors: cobalt blue (both WRX911 and R911) and black (R911 only). The WRX911 variant (available from Amazon for \$23.02 shipped) has been aligned to cover the 530-1700 kHz AM frequency range, while the R911 requires a simple



alignment to extend its AM coverage to 1700 kHz. For AM DXers willing to tolerate the analog thumb wheel tuning, this model provides exceptional nulling ability, along with competitive sensitivity (but only when the FM/SW whip antenna is raised away from the loopstick at the top of the cabinet – a quirk in both this model and the R9012). The R911 is available from multiple Chinese eBay sources, generally for around \$20.00 including shipping to North America.

Tecsun R9012: Analog DXers unimpressed with thumb wheel tuning can have an actual round tuning knob on this model, along with one more shortwave band than the R911 (3.7-4.1 MHz)—all for generally the same price. The sensitivity specs are the same as the R911, as well as the high quality and generous features. As with the similar single-conversion R911, this generally acceptable shortwave receiver avoids image problems by covering only narrow segments of the international broadcast bands. The Chinese-market only R9012 model is slightly larger than the R911 at 5" x 3.25" x 1.25" (130 x 77 x 25 mm) and weighs slightly more (4 ounces, or 95g), but the main attraction is the comfortable round knob tuning, especially at the high end of the band. Three different colors are available: white, black and yellow, so make sure that your Chinese eBay seller knows which one you prefer. Also be advised that the R9012 shares the R911 quirk of requiring that the FM/SW whip antenna be raised away from the top of the cabinet for best AM sensitivity, and make sure that your eBay seller knows that you want a model manufactured after April of 2007 (R9012 models made prior to that date have an inferior loopstick design, and cannot be aligned for good AM sensitivity. The preferred newer models have "2007.5 VER.2" on the shipping box flap). Like the R911, the factory R9012 will only cover up to about 1650 kHz, but can easily be adjusted up to 1700 kHz by a simple alignment. The current lowest eBay "buy it now" price is \$19.99, including shipping from China (from sellers "Anon-co" and "Llypnn"). These models come with a cloth carrying case and Chinese instruction manual, among other Chinese documents. For an outstanding analog DXing value, the R9012 is very tough to beat.

CCrane SWP (aka Redsun RP300): This digital AM-FM-SW model was initially reviewed in the 2008 Spring Shootout, but unknown at the time, the early production run model had a defective part on the RF board, which was not detected during alignment. The low sensitivity was therefore deemed to be a congenital problem typical of the model, and a harsh verdict was issued. A second model was ordered during the winter for 455 kHz IF model hot-rodding experimentation, and the typical stock performance was discovered to be far superior to that of the original defective model—and deserving of a fresh new review. The Redsun RP300 Chinese market model was inspired heavily by Tecsun's innovative PL-200 (a.k.a. Eton E100) introduced years ago, and has very similar size (5" x 3" x 1.2", or 127 x 75 x 28 mm), weight (6.5 ounces, or 150g) and features. Wideband FM (70-108 MHz) is offered with stereo capability through headphones, along with SW coverage from 2.3–7.5 MHz (SW1) and 9.2–22 MHz (SW2). AM coverage using 9 kHz tuning steps is from 522-1620 kHz, and is 520-1710 kHz with 10 kHz steps. 1 kHz AM tuning is also possible using the tuning knob, or direct frequency input. Auto-scan and memory-scan tuning options are offered, along with 200 memories. Two AA batteries supply power. The CCrane SWP is available from CCrane for \$49.95 plus \$6.95 shipping (\$56.90 total), and comes with stereo earphones. A vinyl carrying case, English owner's manual, and registration card. The RP300 is available from the Chinese eBay seller "Tqchina" for \$34.99 plus \$14.00 shipping (\$48.99 total).

The CCrane SWP (RP300) models have several quirks of which purchasers should be aware. The push-button volume controls have caused consternation because of the wide variation in audio levels between steps on the low end. Unlike the E100 (PL200) models, there is no meaningful signal level bar graph, but only a "tune" display when signals reach a certain level. The digital input controls require serious fingertip pressure to operate properly, and such input changes will not cause the LCD display to light up automatically, as on competing models. Despite these quirks, the CCrane SWP (RP300) models have an effective low-noise RF front end, and have proven to be outstanding performers when modified with external 7.5" sliding-coil ("Slider") loopsticks and Murata CFJ45K5 IF filters, surpassing even the E100 equivalents in 9 kHz-split DX chasing capability. Even in competition with the new DSP models, these super-modified Ultralights are tough to beat in transoceanic DXing.

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Degen DE1123: At first glance, this DSP-enhanced model with a built-in MP3 player would seem like a dream receiver, combining excellent selectivity with the ability to directly record DX signals. With an extremely compact size (4.3" x 2.7" x .5", or 110 x 69 x 15 mm) and light weight (3 ounces, or 80 g), this innovative receiver was designed to provide a unique combination of freedom and modern function. The DE1123 combines FM stereo (87-108 MHz) and AM (522-1710 kHz with 9 kHz steps, 520-1710 kHz with 10 kHz steps) with 2.3- 23 MHz SW coverage (5 kHz steps), all with the ability to record DX signals directly on a built-in recorder (WAV format) combined with an MP3 player (1 GB memory capacity). Maximum recording time is 69 hours, with a built-in microphone for recording voice, or any other live audio. Recordings may be uploaded to your computer through a USB 2.0 jack, through which MP3's can also be dragged into the DE1123's memory for playback. The radio has 255 preset memories, but only 25 for the AM band (which unfortunately gives a hint of the AM band performance priority in this radio). The radio operates on three AAA batteries, and has a built-in speaker, very short (7", or 180 mm) whip antenna, a digital clock with 12/24 hour options, and alarm function, 5-90 minute sleep timer, push-button volume and tuning controls, various tuning methods (manual, auto-scan, and auto-tuning storage) and a multi-function LCD display showing time, date, band, frequency, battery condition, volume level, signal strength and memory status. Included in the DE1123 package are a "switching rechargeable adaptor" (110-250v) which supplies 5 VDC through a USB connector output, stereo earphones, 3 AAA rechargeable batteries, USB cable, carrying case and English manual.

Unfortunately, the designers of the "dream receiver" seem to have ignored AM performance, giving the DE1123 one of the worst loopsticks ever seen in a pocket radio—a midget 1.5" (88m) bar buried in the center of the cabinet. The on-board recorder also has a severe quirk, in which the user needs to adjust the radio volume to maximum before recording anything, presumably running down the batteries accordingly (the manual advises to plug in earphones during any recording, even if you aren't using them to listen to the radio signal). There is no in-line recording jack, making the radio incapable of recording any signals from an external source. The radio's 7" whip antenna looks fragile, and the SW reception seems mediocre at best. Only the FM section seems to have been a real priority with the designers—FM sensitivity and selectivity are not bad for the radio's size, but are not quite up to the standards of the newer DSP units. Possibly for this reason, the eBay going rate for the DE1123 has been seriously discounted recently, with the lowest current price being \$49.99 shipped, from the Chinese seller "G8hksshop."

Tecsun PL-300WT (aka Grundig G8):

Tecsun's introduction of the DSP-enhanced PL-300WT model in May caused a sensation among Ultralight radio enthusiasts, who ordered the innovative LW-AM-FM-SW portable in droves from the Chinese eBay sellers. Powered by Silicon Labs' superlatent new 4734 DSP chip, the PL-300WT immediately set a high new standard for FM sensitivity and selectivity among small portables, as well as for AM selectivity. Just when the Chinese sellers of the PL-300WT were enjoying an ordering boom in June, Grundig-Eton introduced their electrically identical G8 "Traveler II" clone through Amazon.com at a shipped price of \$50, substantially undercutting the Chinese PL-300WT sellers on eBay. The G8's introduction was accompanied by a bizarre official denial by Eton's Austin Parker that the model had a DSP chip, along with incorrect size and weight information on Amazon and Universal Radio's web sites, as well as incorrect photos – all of which continue to this day (along with absolutely no mention of DSP capability on Amazon's site).

The real PL300WT (G8) is a true FM-DXing powerhouse, fully capable of astonishing fringe reception using only the built-in 21.5" (55 cm) whip antenna. Unfortunately AM sensitivity is not always at such an optimum level, due to a possible inductance mismatch between the loopstick coil and the DSP chip—an issue which can be corrected by alignment. At 5.25" x 3.5" x 1" (135 x 85 x 27 mm) and weighing 7 ounces (204g), these models are packed with innovative features derived from the 4734 chip. A multi-functional digital display can show frequency, signal strength, S/N ratio, clock and alarm settings, temperature and battery condition. The 24-hour digital clock can be set to display both local and world zone time, according to a selection switch behind a front panel door (which has

developed a reputation for being stubborn and tricky to open, in certain units). The alarm can be set to use either a buzzer or radio signal for wake-up, and the radio has a selectable 1-120 minute sleep timer. 500 total preset memories are available, with 100 memories for the AM band. The models have an innovative fast tuning option which speeds up manual tuning according to the user's input on the tuning thumb wheel, which somewhat compensates for the radio's lack of a direct frequency input keypad. Besides manual tuning, the radio can auto-scan local stations and store them in memory, with memory recall tuning of the auto-scanned stations, or of the user-selected memory stations. Power comes from 3AA batteries, or a 4.5 VDC power adapter.

These models do have several quirks, which have proven to be disappointing to some owners. The AM band has several internally-generated heterodynes, notably around 640, 980, 1400-1430 and 1600-1640 kHz. The 4734 chip "soft mute" function causes a serious drop off in signal strength when tuning 1 kHz up or down from a DX station's frequency, during attempts to escape local QRM. This function also causes "audio pumping" of the AGC action, making it less than effective in smoothing out variations in stations' signal strength. There is no direct entry keypad for wide frequency changes. (G8) models do not offer choices for DSP selectivity filtering, and the fixed option is not at the optimum 1 kHz DSP selectivity potential of the 4734 chip (as can be selected in the Kchibo D92L and D96L models). As mentioned initially, the AM sensitivity of these models has proven to be variable, depending upon inductance matching between the loopstick coil and the DSP chip. The LW and SW performance of these models is mediocre at best, and certainly was not a top priority in the radio's design. As mentioned previously, the front panel access door (to the world time selector switch and other controls) sticks badly on some units, and may require serious force to pry open. Finally, the English owner's manual supplied with the G8 is notoriously brief and incomplete, making it necessary for a purchaser to obtain the PL-300WT English manual (from the Ultralightx Yahoo group file site) to understand even the basic radio functions. A wide variety of PL-300WT English owners' manuals have been received from the Chinese eBay sellers, including the good, bad and ugly. The best is from "Anon-co," who also happens to be the top-rated PL-300WT Chinese eBay seller in buyer satisfaction.

Despite the quirks, these models do offer AM selectivity superior to all previous pocket radios, and because of uniformly high FM sensitivity and selectivity, have quickly become the FM-DXing portables of choice—of any size. The PL-300WT models are available in three different colors – black, silver or gray, and have a standard plastic finish. The G8 models come only in black, and have a "rubberized" finish similar to that of the Eton E100. These models come with an English manual, vinyl carrying case, stereo earphones and registration card (G8 only). The current lowest price for a PL-300WT is \$49.99 (including shipping) from Chinese eBay seller "Trinityovertrading," and the current lowest price for a G8 is \$50.00 (including shipping to the USA) from Amazon.com.



Kchibo D92L: The D92L is one of two innovative receivers offering the full range of selectivity choices available from Silicon Labs' 4734 DSP chip—1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 kHz options. As the first such Ultralight radio available to North American purchasers, this Chinese-market model was the subject of intense local interest in August, after its discovery by fellow Puyallup, WA resident Guy Atkins (following extensive web-based research), China's Kchibo Company made a serious effort to ensure high quality in both the D92L and D96L DSP models, despite a previous reputation for making low-priced radios—

of questionable reliability. The emphasis on quality has paid off, and foreign orders have boomed—despite the fact that all the radios' labels and documentation are in Chinese.

The D92L is the more basic model which tunes only in 9 kHz fixed AM steps (from 522-1710 kHz), although manual tuning steps of 1 kHz are available. It can tune the FM band from 64- 108 MHz (50 or 100 kHz steps), and can tune the SW band from 2.3- 21.85 MHz (1 or 5 kHz steps). 900 total memories are available, including 300 for AM. Five tuning methods are possible—manual, memory scan, direct frequency input, manual tuning shuttle, and auto-search. The digital clock is one of several functions shown in the bright green LCD display, along with battery condition, month, day and week (when power is off), and frequency, band, S/N ratio, signal strength, DSP selectivity choice (1, 2, 3, 4 or 6 kHz), and volume step (when power is on). There is a 10-90 minute sleep timer function, and an alarm which can use either live radio signals or a beeper to awaken the user. FM stereo reception is provided through the phone jack, and FM reception in general is excellent due to the DSP chip's processing (although not quite up to the PL-300WT/G8 standard). The volume can be adjusted in 40 digital steps, with pushbutton up and down controls.

The D92L uses a rechargeable 3.7v lithium-ion battery (type KL-01) for power, two of which are provided with the radio, along with a 220VAC adapter/battery charger. The 220VAC adapter/charger

typically does not provide a full charge for the batteries when used with 110VAC house current, even when connected overnight. A 110 VAC 6 volt or 5 volt DC adapter can provide a full charge, if the user carefully connects the negative lead to the center conductor of the supplied adapter's plug, and the positive lead to the outer conductor of the plug (this is the opposite of the D96L system, by the way). The batteries are reputed to have a life span of 300-500 charging cycles. The D92L has a .25 watt speaker with 100 mw output power, and has a size of 5.25" x 3.25" x .8" (135 x 80 x 20 mm) and weighs 5 ounces (135g). It comes in black plastic cabinet, with all the control labels in Chinese only (and no export model available or currently contemplated).

Unfortunately, the D92L has some severe quirks which limit its usefulness as an AM-DXing receiver. The loopstick receives serious RF hash from nearby digital circuitry, reducing AM sensitivity significantly on all frequencies. The direct frequency input keypad is little more than a joke, being far too small for the average North American user to operate without consternation. The model has a serious digital "chuffing noise" after any control is changed, further reducing AM sensitivity for about 12 seconds. The "soft mute" issue affecting the PL-300WT/G8 models also affects the D92L, with negative effects on AGC, and the ability to tune 1 kHz further away from QRM when chasing weak signals. The model also suffers from the tuning heterodyne issue affecting the PL-300WT/G8 units. The Chinese control labels and Chinese owner's manual may confuse native English speakers (a roughly translated English manual is posted in the Yahoo Ultralightdx file site), and warranty service is still a question mark, with no Kchibo service facilities on this continent. In competition with the slightly more expensive D96L, the D92L really has nothing to offer except for the savings of a few dollars (or yuan). It is available from seller "hygt" on <http://www.ecrater.com> for a price of \$63.60 including shipping to North America, and comes with two 3.7v rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, a 220VAC adapter/charger, stereo earphones, clip-on external wire antenna, cloth/vinyl carrying case, Chinese owner's manual and registration card.



Kchibo D96L: This model is Kchibo's best DSP portable radio, and its combination of high AM sensitivity and variable DSP selectivity certainly makes it a formidable contender. The D96L is essentially a larger D92L with correction of most (but not all) of the AM-related deficiencies. The D96L has a larger loopstick for improved AM sensitivity, and there is no whining digital hash to cover weak signals. The radio will tune in both 10 and 9 kHz steps, and has a larger direct entry keypad for those with normal-sized fingers.

Otherwise, the D96L shares many features with the D92L, since they are both based on Silicon Labs' 4734 DSP chip. AM frequency coverage is from 522-1710 (9 kHz steps) or 520-1710 (10 kHz steps), with 1 kHz steps available on the tuning thumb wheel. Wideband FM coverage is from 64- 108 MHz (50 or 100 kHz steps), and SW coverage is from 2.3- 21.85 MHz (1 or 5 kHz steps). There are 900 total memories, with 300 available for AM. Five tuning methods are possible—manual, memory scan, direct frequency input, manual tuning shuttle, and auto-search. The digital clock is one of several functions shown in the bright green LCD display, along with battery condition, month, day and week (when power is off), and frequency, band, S/N ratio, signal strength, DSP selectivity choice (1, 2, 3, 4, or 6 kHz), and volume step (when power is on). There is a 10-90 minute sleep timer function, and an alarm that can use either live radio signals or a beeper to awaken the user. FM stereo reception is provided through the phone jack, and PL reception in general is excellent due to the DSP chip's processing (although not quite up to the PL-300WT/G8 standard). The volume can be adjusted in 40 digital steps, with pushbutton up and down controls.

The D96L uses a rechargeable 3.7v lithium-ion battery (type KL-1000) for power, two of which are provided with the radio, along with a 220VAC adapter/battery charger. The 220VAC adapter/charger typically does not provide a full charge for the batteries when used with 110VAC house current, even when connected overnight. The supplied USB cable also allows battery charging from a computer, and several owners have obtained fully charged batteries this way. Another option to fully charge the battery is to use a 110VAC 6 volt or 5 volt DC adapter after rewiring the supplied adapter's plug, making sure that the positive lead is connected to the center conductor (the opposite of the D92L polarity system). The batteries are reputed to have a life span of 300-500 charging cycles. The D96L has a .25 watt speaker with 100 mw output power, and has a size of 5.6" x 3.5" x .9" (145 x 90 x 23mm) and weighs 7 ounces (200g). It comes in a black plastic cabinet with a metallic front panel, with all the control labels in Chinese only (and no export model available or currently contemplated).

The D96L has some moderate quirks relating to design issues, which are mostly those that affect all of the Silicon Labs' 4734 DSP chip radios. The tuning heterodyne issue also affects the D96L, and the "soft mute" function affects AGC negatively, causing a large DX signal drop off when tuning 1 kHz

farther away from QRM than the DX station's fundamental frequency. Like the D92L, the model also has digital "chuffing noise" whenever one of the controls is changed (with the LCD lit up), but it only continues for 5 seconds in the D96L (during which reception of weak signals may be compromised). With the exception of the 1 kHz selectivity choice, the DSP filtering selections are displayed incorrectly on the LCD (the actual 2, 3, 4 and 6 kHz settings are displayed as 6, 4, 3 and 2 kHz respectively). The keypad numerals are hard to read. The Chinese labels on the radio controls and the all-Chinese owner manual (and other documentation) may confuse native English speakers (there is a roughly translated English owner's manual posted in the Yahoo Ultralightdx file site), and warranty service is still a big question mark, with Kchibo having no known service facilities in North America.

Despite the quirks, the D96L provides far greater DXing performance than its D92L predecessor. Several DXers have found the D96L to be the first DSP ultralight radio with 1 kHz selectivity competitive for serious 9 kHz-split transoceanic DXing in North America, with performance roughly similar to the premium Murata CF-J45K5 ceramic filters transplanted into the Eton E100 units. As such, it really sets a high standard for relatively inexpensive pocket radios. The Kchibo D96L is currently available only from China, with the seller "hygt" offering the radios on <http://www.ecrater.com> for \$70.46 including shipping to North America, and the same seller ("hygt369") offering the units on eBay for a bid price of \$54.77, plus \$16.80 shipping (\$71.57 total). The D96L is also available from <http://www.trafind.com> for \$52.58 plus \$11.60 shipping (\$64.18 total), the current lowest price for North American purchasers. The radio comes with two rechargeable 3.7v lithium-ion batteries, a dedicated 220VAC adapter- charger, USB cable, stereo earphones, a clip-on external wire antenna, cloth/vinyl carrying case, Chinese owner's manual and registration card.

Shootout Day Preparations: To prepare for the live signal competition, all 7 contenders were given fresh batteries (or recharged batteries, in the Kchibo models), operational checks, and in most cases, AM-band alignments (details on request). Fringe stations were chosen to test each radio's sensitivity and selectivity during mid-day ground wave conditions, and detailed checks were made for spurious signals and images in the author's typical suburban location in Puyallup, Washington (35 miles south of Seattle). Nulling tests were conducted outdoors, away from electrical house wiring and other metallic distractions. Quality control data includes all reports received from owners of each model.

Shootout Day Arrives: The gallant contestants assembled at noon on September 7, 2009 to decide their fate. They were joined by all surviving contestants of previous Ultralight radio Shootouts, who would join in the competition for ultimate Ultralight performance honors. The R911 and R9012 models were tested with the whip antenna in a vertical position. The D92L and D96L models were tested in the 1 kHz selectivity setting. Comments follow the grade in specific categories.

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

| | 530-TIS | 620-KPOJ | 750-KXL | 1040-CKST | 1130-CKWX | 1520-KGDD | 1650-TIS |
|---------------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| R911 (B) | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4* |
| R9012 (B+) | 3* | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4* |
| CC-SWP (B+) | 3* | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4* |
| DE1123 (D) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| G8 (E) | 3* | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| D92L (D) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| D96L (A) | 3* | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4* |
| SRF-59 (B) | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| SRF-39FP (B+) | 3* | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| SRF-T615 (A-) | 3* | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| SRF-M37VW (B) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| DT-400W (A-) | 3* | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4* |
| E100 (B+) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| DT-200VX (B) | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| DT-210V (E) | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

* Two TIS stations were received by these models on the frequency indicated (a superior result).

SENSITIVITY SUMMARY: The new Kchibo D96L has unsurpassed sensitivity on all AM frequencies, with a slight low and mid band advantage over all current contestants. It also has a slight edge over the DT-400W for top ULR sensitivity. The CCrane SWP and R9012 are very competitive in sensitivity overall, with a slight high-band edge over the G8, which tends to perform better on the lower frequencies. The R911 tested here has a shade less sensitivity than its R9012 sibling on the low band, and both the D92L and DE1123 models are hopelessly outclassed in weak-signal performance – primarily because of weakly designed loopsticks.

(to be continued next issue – pb)

DX FORUM

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Eric Bueneman (NOUIH), 631 Coachway Lane, Hazelwood, Missouri 63042-1347
The latest news is that I am no longer associated with WSIE 88.7 Edwardsville IL. On August 21, three days before I was scheduled to return from a 30-day vacation, I was told that my services were no longer needed. WSIE has been having some financial problems over the past few years; not even the money that the station took in from Gateway Grizzlies minor league baseball could pay for a local DJ in the morning and afternoon drive times. The station's former afternoon drive DJ is suing the station's owners over his ouster in April. I'll more than likely never work in radio again, because of the current ownership situation and what I see as a lack of ethics in broadcast hiring. I have only worked for local owners in St Louis and Atlanta; I have never worked for a corporate owner. Now, on to the DX. From August 1 to 5, I was in Erie PA visiting friends once again. On the way to Erie from Chicago on the evening of July 31 aboard Amtrak's Lake Shore Limited, I pulled out my Sony SRF-49 Walkman and tried my hand at ultralight DXing. The train was stopped near New Carlisle IN due to a long Norfolk Southern freight train, so I decided to give it a try. The first station I noted was my hometown 50 kW station, KMOX 1120 with John Carney at 2350 ELT. WMVP 1000 Chicago was noted at 2353 with ESPN sports talk and local ads. I did some daytime DX on August 3; one of the most interesting logs was WNZK 690 Dearborn Heights MI at 1350 with local ads in English and Arabic, and a talk show in Arabic. WKTG 830 Cortland OH was noted around 1403 with USA Radio Network news, local ads and Adult Standards; a good signal into Erie from this Cleveland suburb. I also noted a few more stations next to the locals, including WSCR 670 Chicago next to CFTR 680 with ads, promos and sports talk; very weak signal noted. CJVE 1250 Oakville ON next to WRIE 1260 with Contemporary Christian and ads at 1523. Perhaps the big surprise on 8/3 was pulling in KTRS 550 St Louis MO through WGR at 2149 with their familiar "The Big 550 KTRS" slogan and Mike Shannon talking Cardinals baseball at 2149. KMOX 1120 was also noted at 2246 with John Carney next to usual dominant WDFN 1130. I also pulled in WBMX 1660 Charlotte NC before the change to WBCN; they were carrying the Charlotte Knights post-game show at 2158 on August 3. Just before midnight, I caught WICC 600 Bridgeport CT with PSAs, legal ID into USA Radio Network news. August 4 brought two stations: WHWH 1350 Princeton, NJ with legal ID and Contemporary Jazz at 0016, taking out WAFR. After getting some sleep and breakfast, I pulled in WKXX 1600 Wheeling WV with local ads, PSA and a weather forecast at 1106. The last time I heard this station was in 1984 as WANR, passing through Wheeling on I-70. Since the trip, I noted that KSTL 690 St Louis MO is now back to broadcasting in mono, after 14 years in AM Stereo. The feed on the Web stream is still Stereo, though. I did a little bit of DXing over Labor Day weekend; the first new station of the season was noted on 1230 September 5 at 0021 with "AM 1230 The Talker" ID and talk. Looking on the Radio Locator Web site, it turned out to be KZYM Joplin, MO. This was a dominant on 1230 at night when they were KWAS "K-Was". I finally pulled in a much-wanted station at 0235 with CJCA 930 Edmonton AB with "AM 930 The Light" slogan and Contemporary Christian music. On September 9, I noted my 95th Illinois AM with WRHL 1060 Rochelle with local weather forecast and "News/Talk 1060 WRHL" slogan at 0115. DXM 47-3 has this noted as WRNL, which is, of course, 910 in Richmond VA. CKMW 1570 Winkler MB made it through with Country music and "Country 1570" slogan at 0201. It was tough copy through KVTK; semi-local WBGZ was nulled. More recently, I logged KWNX 1260 Taylor TX on September 24 with ESPN sports talk and legal ID at 0253. Another much-wanted station made it in at 0205 on September 26 when WGL 1250 Fort Wayne IN came in with CBS News, national ads, "102.9 The River" slogan and Adult Standards. WGL-FM 102.9 is licensed to Huntington IN; this used to be the FM side of WOWO 1190. An interesting note is with WHLY 1580 South Bend IN; their slogan is now "Holy Radio" with EWTN Global Catholic Radio. When I had them verified in the late 1990s, the station had an Adult Standards format as "Radio Hollywood". Nothing new on the possible sale of WSDZ 1260; they're still broadcasting a digital signal. Radio Disney hasn't done as well in St Louis as it has in other markets; this is due in part to the station's highly directional signal to the southeast, as well as its fairly high dial position. 1,077 AM stations are in the logbook as of September 28, 2009. 73.

VERIFICATION SIGNERS

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

Unwilling to have another month pass without a Verification Signers column, I decided to change the format of the column this month. Since no one seems to be receiving any verifications of their own lately, I thought I would compile a short list of websites displaying some of the medium wave verifications received by DXers over the years.

Some of you may remember the discussion on the IRCA's ListServ not long ago about the Committee to Preserve Radio Verifications. That organization's collection of over 30,000 verifications is housed at the Library of American Broadcasting at the University of Maryland in College Park. A large number of medium wave verifications from the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's are displayed at <http://p1703.pairitesite.com/cprv-gallery.html>.

I didn't start collecting verifications until the late-1960's, so it was nice to look at a number of medium wave verifications dating from 1960-1962 on Pat Dyer's website at <http://www.qsl.net/wa5iyw/wamlist.htm>. Several of the cards were exactly the same as the ones I received ten years later.

Verifications from the 1970's are displayed on Bill Whitacre's website at <http://monitor.ibb.gov/qsl/mwrus/>. Seeing that small tan QSL from WOBR, 1530 kHz, in Wanchese, North Carolina brought back fond memories of my own reception and verification of that station's much-desired DX test four years earlier.

Many of you are familiar with Martin Schoech's website at <http://www.schoechi.de/djp.html> with its extensive listing of verifications received from stations throughout the world, over 4000 from North America alone. His site also contains a list of links to other DXers' galleries of more recent verifications. Be warned; however, as many of the links are somewhat dated, broken, or otherwise compromised.

Finally, those of us in the east who haven't been able to attend an IRCA convention for awhile and see Patrick Martin's outstanding collection of verifications in person will be rewarded by examples of a few of Patrick's prizes on Craig Healy's website at <http://www.am-dx.com/qsls2.htm>.

I guess it's time I seriously consider scanning my own collection of verifications!

This column was prepared on 9/29/09. 73, SSH.

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 in printed form 30 times a year (weekly November through March, monthly April to November) and (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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