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Please welcome **George Boules** of Griffith, IN (SDXM)!!!

IRCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Lee Freshwater – ircapres@yahoo.com

As a Holiday gift to all IRCA members, and a way to make up for some of the publishing delays this volume, the BOD has voted on proposal 24.1.23. We also have a proposal from Phil Bytheway to appoint Charles Taylor as editor of the TIS & slogans list.

24.1.23 Extend SDXM and HDXM Subscriptions Two Issues (2) for Members in Good Standing as of December 1 2009. (Submitted by Dan Riordan)

All BOD members voted YES.

24.1.24 Appoint **Charles Taylor** Editor of the IRCA Slogan's List and IRCA TIS list. Submitted by Phil Bytheway

All BOD members voted YES, except for Phil who "abstained."

THANK YOU to Charles for answering my call for volunteers. Will you be next??

On another note: Bob Wien has resigned as editor of the Broadcast Information column for personal reasons. I would like to thank Bob for his contributions and wish him well. In the meantime, I will be taking over those duties until a volunteer can be found. Since I do much of the same type of column for my **amlogbook dot com** web site, it won't be a great deal more for me to do. I will however be scaling it down a bit. Please send your info to the **edrx** at **amlogbbok dot com** email address. I would also like your ideas on how the column should look. If you are interested in editing this column, and can work with MS WORD, please let me know.

On a side note, we are working on another fund raising project for the IRCA. For those of you who remember the "Tube Book-ends" we made many years ago, I am working on something similar. More details as soon as I can get the info and pictures to the BOD.

It has been a very BUSY and trying year for us all. I wish for all of you a great 2010!!! with LOTS of DX... all the best -fresh

Nominations Are Open for the TVA and RHA Awards for 2009/2010

Ted Vasilopoulos Award (TVA)

Ted Vasilopoulos was a charter member of IRCA who died in 1965, and was known for his high DX standards and contributions to the club. This award in his honor is presented to the IRCA member who has contributed the most to IRCA and the DX hobby during the past several years. The following persons have won the TVA in the last five years and are ineligible this year: **Nancy Johnson, Patrick Martin, Nick Hall-Patch, Lee Freshwater, and Doug Pifer.**

Ric Heald Award (RHA)

Ric Heald was an enthusiastic IRCA volunteer and contributor. In 1995, after his passing, the RHA was created to recognize the IRCA member who most benefited the club in a particularly noteworthy way during the previous year. The following persons have won the RHA in the last three years and are ineligible this year: **Gary DeBock, Dan Riordan, and Lynn Hollerman.**

All nominations, including a brief statement supporting the nomination, should be sent to the folks listed below:

TVA Nominations: Nancy Johnson, 265 Waterton Way, Billings MT 59102-7755. E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

RHA Nominations: Gary DeBock, P.O. Box 1313, Puyallup, WA 98371. E-mail: d1028gary@aol.com

All nominations must be received by the above no later than **February 1, 2010.**

BROADCASTING INFORMATION

Robert Wien – 1659 Woodpark Drive – Colorado Springs CO 80919-2754
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In This Issue:	
Presidents Report...	1
Broadcasting Information...	2
Western DX Roundup...	9
Eastern DX Roundup...	10
DX Worldwide West...	12
SportsChannels IRCA...	13
Contest Standings...	14
DX Forum...	15
From the E-mail List...	15
Special Features...	17
IRCA Technical Column...	26
Verification Signers...	31
DX Test...	31

CALL LETTER CHANGES

FREQ	OLD CALL	CITY	NEW CALL
540	WPPI	Sauk Rapids, MN	WXYG
730	WOHS	Shelby, NC	WZGV
780	new	Mulberry, FL	WXTO
1090	KULF	Bellville, TX	KULF
1150	WRUN	Utica, NY	WUTI
1190	KRFT	De Soto, MO	KQQZ
1230	WMSH	Sturgis, MI	WBET
1230	WXNI	Westerly, RI	WBLQ
1310	KXAM	Mesa, AZ	KIHP
1410	CFUN	Vancouver, BC	CFTE
1450	WQCD	Milford, PA	WDRE
1490	WDPT	Decatur, AL	WEKI
1510	WXOZ	Highland, IL	WQGW
1580	WILA	Danville, PA	WWDN

FORMAT CHANGES

FREQ	CALL	CITY	OLD INFO	NEW INFO
670	KMZQ	Las Vegas, NV	classic hits	talk
800	KDDD	Dumas, TX	Tejano	regional Mexican
810	WSYW	Indianapolis, IN	Spanish	Spanish oldies "La Joya"
840	WGRU	Mims, FL	talk	smooth jazz "840 the Groove"
850	KXGM	Waterloo, IA	Christian CHR/rock	silent
870	KFJZ	Ft. Worth, TX	Spanish cont. Xtian	ethnic
870	WCTG	Mt. Holly, NC	silent	religious teaching
890	WAMG	Dedham, MA	silent	tropical
910	WBZU	Scranton, PA	news/talk	silent
910	WUBR	Baton Rouge, LA	silent	black gospel
920	WURA	Quantico, VA	new	Christmas programming
960	WQLA	La Follette, TN	classic rock	oldies
1060	WJKY	Jamestown, KY	country	ESPN sports
1090	KBAL	Bellville, TX	soft AC	silent
1110	WSFW	Seneca Falls, NY	news/talk	travel info
1150	WBAG	Burlington, NC	adult standards	talk
1150	WRUN	Utica, NY	news/talk	format not known
1160	KVCE	Highland Park, TX	talk	ethnic
1190	KRFT	De Soto, MO	sports	format not known
1230	WAMM	Woodstock, VA	silent	adult standards
1230	WBLQ	Westerly, RI	news/talk	talk
1240	WKIQ	Eustis, FL	silent	sports
1240	WPBQ	Flowood, MS	silent	talk
1250	WIPS	Ticonderoga, NY	variety	silent
1260	KWEI	Weiser, ID	Spanish talk	Spanish (ESPN Deportes) sports
1270	WXYC	Cartersville, GA	silent	Christmas programming
1280	WDSP	De Funiak Springs, FL	silent	variety
1300	KSET	Lumberton, TX	silent	talk
1310	KIHP	Mesa, AZ	silent	religious teaching (EWTN)

1320	WCVG	Covington, KY	black gospel	silent
1330	KXLJ	Juneau, AK	talk	sports
1340	WKOZ	Kosciusko, MS	news/talk	R&B oldies
1370	KXTL	Butte, MT	oldies	talk
1370	WPAZ	Pottstown, PA	oldies	silent
1400	WOBG	Clarksburg, WV	adult standards	silent
1410	WMYR	Ft. Myers, FL	oldies	jazz
1450	new	Glenwood Springs, CO	new	format not known
1450	WROB	West Point, MS	oldies	silent
1450	WTKI	Huntsville, AL	silent	talk, Fox sports
1460	KCNR	Shasta, CA	adult standards	talk
1490	WEKI	Decatur, AL	silent	talk, Fox sports
1490	WFFX	East St. Louis, IL	sports	classic country
1490	WRCE	Watkins Glen, NY	country	silent (tower collapse 12/14)
1490	WYYZ	Jasper, GA	southern gospel	classic country
1510	WQUL	Woodruff, SC	country	classic hits
1540	WTKM	Hartford, WI	classic country	oldies "Cruisin' 1540"
1550	WJIL	Jacksonville, IL	adult standards	adult contemporary
1570	WVTL	Amsterdam, NY	easy listening	format not known
1660	WCNZ	Marco Island, FL	oldies	jazz

FACILITY AND PARAMETER APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS
 ((A) = application, (G) = grant)

600	WREC	Memphis, TN	5000/5000 DA-N to 5000/5000 DA-2 (A)
740	WDGY	Hudson, WI	2500 DA-D to 5500 DA-D (A)
770	KCBC	Riverbank, CA	50000/1000 DA-2 to 50000/4100 DA-2 (G)
910	WUBR	Baton Rouge, LA	1200/1000 DA-D to 1200 DA-D (A)
920	WGNB	Granite City, IL	450/500 DA-2 to 2000/600 DA-2 (A)
1090	KBAL	Bellville, TX	250 ND-D to 10000 DA-2 (A)
1150	WTMP	Egypt Lake, FL	10000/500 DA-1 to 14000/799 DA-2 (A)
1190	KDYA	Vallejo, CA	1000 ND-D to 3000 DA-D (G)
1200	WAMB	Nashville, TN	50000 ND to 48000/110 DAN (A)
1210	WQLS	Ozark, AL	10000/4 ND-D to 10000/3 ND (G)
1230	WOTS	Kissimmee, FL	1000/110 ND to 2500/210 DA-2 (A)
1250	KBSZ	Wickenburg, AZ	350/100 ND to 800/50 ND (A)
1250	WKDL	Warrenton, VA	5000/32 DA-2 to 7900/125 DA-2 (A)
1260	WISO	Ponce, PR	2500/2500 ND to 2500/2000 ND (G)
1270	WNLS	Tallahassee, FL	5000/5000 DA-N to 5000 ND (A)
1280	KZNS	Salt Lake City, UT	50000/670 DA-2 to 50000/730 DA2 (A)
1300	KSET	Lumberton, TX	1500/320 DA-2 to 2000/270 DA-2 (G)
1380	WMJR	Nicholasville, KY	5000/38 ND to 10000/38 ND (G)
1430	WHAN	Ashland, VA	1000/31 ND to 23000 ND (A)
1460	KCLE	Burleson, TX	5000/700 DA-2 to 12000/700 DA-2 (A)
1490	WOSH	Oshkosh, WI	1000/1000 ND to 1000/1000 (G)
1590	KEAS	Eastland, TX	500 ND-D to 1000 ND-D (A)

PUBLIC LISTINGS COURTESY OF THERADIOJOURNAL.COM AND 100000WATTS.COM:

- 1160: KVCE 1160 Highland Park/Dallas TX flips from business talk "The Voice" (now heard on KFCD 900 Farmersville TX) to "Radio Salaam Namaste" Indian programming, also heard on KFJZ 870 Fort Worth TX.
- 1170: WACV 1170 Montgomery AL flips to oldies as "Goodtime Oldies 1170."
- 1190/1490: KRFT 1190 De Soto/St. Louis MO flips from sports to classic country and talk, simulcasting with WFFX 1490 East St. Louis IL, which flips from sports/black gospel.
- 1230: WXNI 1230 Westerly RI flips from NPR news/talk (simulcast with WRNI 1290 Providence RI/WRNI-FM 102.7 Narragansett Pier RI) to talk/soft AC with new calls WBLQ.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AND CONTRIBUTOR LISTINGS:

Pat Martin sends along the following from Jason Brose (location unknown) dated 11/26/09:
 November 24 2009 – Radio station KORC, an AM broadcast facility on 820 kHz in Waldport, Oregon, has been purchased by KORC Radio, Inc. owned by Leighton M "Linc" Reed-Nickerson and Joan M Reed-Nickerson of Camas, Washington. KORC has been owned by Larry D and Margaret E Profit, a General Partnership since 2003. The sale is subject to Federal Communications Commission approval. "We believe the acquisition of KORC is an extraordinary opportunity," the Reed-Nickersons said. "The Oregon Coast is rich in history and tradition. This radio station is part of the coastal community. Our focus is clear; make the station integral to the daily lives of the citizens of this community; a reliable resource and a good neighbor." Among those opportunities will be application to the Federal Communications Commission to increase the station's day and night time power. "Our area is just exploding with opportunity. The power increase will enable us to provide quality service to this growing marketplace," the Reed-Nickersons said. "It will be a great asset to us and to the community." Employees of KORC who figure strongly in future plans, according to the Reed-Nickersons, include the former owner, Larry Profit and his daughter Beth Riggs. Linc Reed-Nickerson has a long history in radio broadcasting in Newburyport, MA; Beacon, NY; Kingston, NY and Honesdale, PA and television broadcasting in Boston, Detroit and Pittsburgh. Linc retired from Qualcomm, Inc in June where he was a Senior Manager. Linc also serves on the board of directors of the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, CA. Linc has been an amateur radio operator for 50 years (W7HIE), his broadcast career started in 1962. Joan Reed-Nickerson is President and majority owner of Chelathie Locomotive Company which rebuilds and repairs steam locomotives for tourist railroads and private owners. Joan is

currently rebuilding her own steam locomotive she plans to operate in tourist service. Linc & Joan also own Livingston Mountain Locomotive Works which leases fleet of diesel locomotives to short line railroads. KORC-AM 820 has served southern Lincoln County since 1988. Due to financial issues it is currently off the air, KORC Radio, Inc. plans to return to the station to the air in the spring of 2010. (PM-OR)

Eric Bueneman sends along the following from Media Network dated 11/27/09:

US Senator wants to eliminate Radio/TV Martí, By Andy Sennitt.
 US Senator Russ Feingold, a member of the Senate Budget Committee, yesterday announced the launch of his "Spotlight on Spending" series to highlight actions Congress can take to reduce the deficit. The first featured provision is the elimination of Radio and TV Martí. "This relic of the Cold War attempts to broadcast radio and TV signals into Cuba that virtually no one tunes in to," Senator Feingold said. "Government studies show that Radio and TV Martí are riddled with problems, and fall short of journalistic standards. As we progress toward a more modern and constructive relationship with Cuba, Radio and TV Martí no longer have any real diplomatic or fiscal purpose. I plan to bring up this issue when the Senate takes up President Obama's recently announced nominees to the Broadcasting Board of Governors." A January 2009 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that Radio and TV Martí broadcasts face jamming by the Cuban government. According to the GAO, the best available research suggests that the audience for Radio and TV Martí is small, and its effectiveness uncertain. BBG's International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) also found that Radio Martí fails to meet certain journalistic standards, "particularly in the areas of balance and objectivity." During a June 2009 hearing before a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, a GAO official testified that there is "limited information to help assess the relative success on a return of investment for each of the transmission methods." During the same hearing, John Nichols, a Professor of Communications and International Affairs at Penn State University testified that "...even if (Cubans) are opposed to the Castro government... they are going to look for more credible sources of information and entertainment." Senator Feingold argues that the political environment has changed significantly since the inception of Radio and TV Martí, and President Obama's commitment to international diplomacy and dialogue offers a more effective way to engage with the people of Cuba. The Obama administration has already loosened restrictions on Cuban Americans' visits to Cuba, and the White House and Congress are considering easing travel restrictions and other ways to normalize relations. (Source: Press Release by Senator Russ Feingold). (EB-MO)

Dale Park sends along the following from **Statesmanjournal.com** (Willamette Valley, OR) dated 11/26/09:

Stayton radio station is signing off today, FCC orders low-power broadcasts by resident Ken Cartwright to cease; penalties threatened, By Denise Ruttan, Statesman Journal.
 STAYTON – After Stayton High School plays Baker City this afternoon in the Eagles' first playoff game since 1970, the signal of Stayton's community radio station is cutting off. Ken Cartwright, founder, owner and operator of KENC, a low-power AM community radio station serving Stayton and Sublimity, is shutting down the station at 5 pm. After an inspection by the Federal Communications Commission in October, Cartwright was found to be violating FCC code. To comply with the FCC's order, Cartwright said, his broadcast range would be reduced to a one-block radius. Otherwise, his station might be faced with shutting down its three transmitters, a \$10,000 fine and forfeiture of all of his equipment. Cartwright was visited in October by Binh Nguyen, a resident agent with the FCC's enforcement bureau office in Portland. The FCC declined to make Nguyen available for an interview. An order through Nguyen's office was issued Nov. 5 and outlines two issues that Cartwright needs to fix – a transmitter that didn't comply with the code and the station's range. According to the FCC's Web site, anyone can set up an extremely low-powered transmitter to access AM and FM radio broadcast bands. Cartwright said he thought he was following the rules. His station broadcasts at 100 milliwatts, or one-tenth of a watt. Licensed FM stations are required to be at least 250 milliwatts. "The FCC left that rule there for people like me who want to try to develop a community radio station but who don't have the resources or availability of frequencies," Cartwright said. People in Stayton and Sublimity can hear the signal from Santiam River in the south to Triumph Road just outside Sublimity; to the east at Santiam Memorial Hospital and to the west at Wilco Road. "Even with three transmitters, our coverage is really spotty in the community. But it is what it is, and that's why we also stream online," Cartwright said. For the most part, the station is a one-man band. The one-room station is above Cartwright's music-repair shop and residence. Cartwright reports on planning commission and city council meetings in Sublimity and Stayton. He broadcasts news between 6:30 and 9:30 am weekdays, including weather and traffic. He interviews public officials and community members and broadcasts high school sports games live. In October, hundreds worldwide tuned in online to listen to Cartwright and then-fiancee Jan Castillo exchange vows on the radio. Cartwright started operating the station about two years ago. He felt media coverage of Stayton and Sublimity was lacking at the time. "We had no radio station to give us a voice, no cable access," Cartwright said. "I wanted people in the community to be able to hear about civic issues." The news is starting to spread around the community, Cartwright said. Stayton Mayor Gerry Aboud said his first reaction was to contact Cartwright to see what he could do to help. "I don't think it will be a large impact, but a community is made up of many small pieces in a larger puzzle," Aboud said. "When you take away any one of those small pieces, it's one less thing that makes a community more livable." For his next steps, Cartwright is watching the progress of HR 1147, Local Community Radio Act of 2009, which would make low-power FM licenses easier to access. He will continue to broadcast on the Internet. And he may appeal the order. Cartwright is also looking for community support to bring his station, possibly on a low-power FM dial, back to Stayton. In the meantime, people have to go online to get his broadcasts. But if people don't have computer access, Cartwright said, they're out of luck. "The very people I wanted to empower by being able to get quick local news will just not be able to listen," Cartwright said. druktan@saalem.gannett.com. (DP-HI)

Pat Martin sends along the following from Northwest Broadcasters dated 11/28/09:

As recently rumored, CKCL-FM 104.9 <http://www.1049greatesthits.com/>. Vancouver (Chilliwack/Abbotsford) has been assigned the call letters CFUN-FM by Industry Canada. CKCL started identifying as Fun-FM on November 12, but was still using its old call letters last night during its official on-hour IDs. Team CFUN AM 1410 (<http://www.teamradio.ca/>), which changed from talk to sports on November 5, has been assigned the new call CFTE. The historic CFUN calls have been in use by 1410 since February 14, 1955

when it changed from CKMO. The CKMO calls are currently used by Victoria's Camosun College (<http://camosun.ca/>) station Village 900 <http://www.village900.com/>. (PM-OR)

Larry Godwin sends along the following dated 11/30/09:

KBAR-1230-Burley, ID now IDs as "Straight talk and cool classics, KBAR." (LG-MT)

Pat Martin sends along the following from Bruce Portzer of Seattle, WA dated 11/30/09:

The FCC has shut down KENC-1620 in Stayton OR, a low powered unlicensed station that had apparently been operating well beyond the Part 15 power limits. I hadn't known about this station until I came across the newspaper article on-line. <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20091125/COMMUNITIES/911250360/1133/KENC-no-longer-on-air>. KENC even has (had) a website with the owner's version of the story and other information about the station <http://www.kencradio.com/>. I don't understand why he didn't go the LPFM route, which would give him better coverage. (PM-OR)

Dale Park sends along the following from the Honolulu, HI Star-Bulletin dated 12/1/09:

Divided radio company might now find harmony, By Erika Engle.

A lengthy and often acrimonious internal radio company battle appears to be approaching a final conclusion. The 17-station group built under the Visionary Related Entertainment name is going truly splitsville – in a move predicted by industry watchers when the company restructured, giving equal interests and power to the operators and the money guys in January of last year. California-incorporated but Maui-based VRE, has filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission indicating it will keep five stations on Maui (including one licensed to Paauilo, on the Big Island) for a \$500,000, 10-year promissory note – while giving up 12 stations to Jason R. Wolff, president of Frontier Radio Management Inc. and Frontier Radio Investors LLC, the money guys. Neither party could be reached for comment on the record for this column. The Maui faction had filed suit against the Wolff faction in May 2008, and Wolff filed a countersuit which eventually resulted in an Aug. 5 mediated settlement – with sessions presided over by a retired judge. The agreement is submitted as a supporting document with the FCC filing.

Stations involved,

Staying with Visionary

KAOI-AM 1110 Kihei
KAOI-FM 95.1 Wailuku
KDLX-FM 94.3 Makawao
KNUQ-FM 103.7 Paauilo
KHEI-FM 107.5 Kihei

Going to Frontier

KQNG-FM 93.5 Lihue
KQNG-AM 570 Lihue
KUAH-AM 720 Eleale
KSRF-FM 95.9 Poipu
KSHK-FM 103.3 Kekaha
KUMU-AM 1500 Honolulu

KUMU-FM 94.7 Honolulu
KPOI-FM 105.9 Honolulu
KQMF-FM 93.1 Honolulu
KDBB-FM 102.7 Waipahu
KTBH-FM 102.1 Kurtistown
KMKK-FM 102.3 Kaunakakai

Then, however, a dispute arose as to whether the settlement and its terms releasing the Maui faction "from any claims or obligations under the financing (agreement)" was legally binding, according to supporting documents filed with the FCC. On March 24 and May 20 of this year, the Maui Circuit Court and retired Judge E. John McConnell, who had overseen the mediation, issued respective rulings discharging the Maui faction of any liability in the previous financing agreement. Both sides are required by the settlement to file assignment of license applications with the FCC, which the Maui faction did yesterday. The commission lists the assignment-of-license application as "accepted for filing," meaning all the paperwork – and there is a virtual forest of it – is in order. While staffing of VRE's neighbor island stations has remained fairly stable since the failed 50-50 restructuring, numerous personnel, including top-level executives, have been dismissed from or have otherwise left employment at the Oahu stations, with cost-cutting often cited as a reason for separations that were involuntary. At least one dismissal resulted in an out-of-court settlement for breach of contract. Another, involving comedian and radio personality Augie Tulba, was reported on recently in this space. Erika Engle is a reporter with the Star-Bulletin. Reach her by e-mail at erika@starbulletin.com. (DP-HI)

Dale Park sends along the following from Denver, CO News dated 12/3/09:

Denver Radio Talk Show Host Saves Life With AED, Caplis Bought AED To Protect His Little League Team, Deb Stanley, 7NEWS Producer.

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colo. – A Denver radio talk show host helped save a life on Thanksgiving Day with the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). KHOW Radio's Dan Caplis was at a flag football game Thanksgiving Day in Cherry Hills Village when Dr. Chesney Thompson, 48, collapsed. Thompson had no pulse and was not breathing. While Caplis ran to his vehicle for an AED, another doctor at the game, Dr. Scott Bainbridge began CPR. Caplis attached the AED to Thompson and the AED delivered one shock to Thompson. Cherry Hills Village authorities said after the shock, Thompson's heart started beating and he began breathing and regained consciousness. Members of the South Metro Fire and Rescue arrived and transported Thompson to a local hospital. In an e-mail to a 7NEWS reporter, Thompson said "while anticipating a full recovery, I will likely be out for a couple of weeks." "AEDs are more prevalent than ever before and are providing life-saving measures by the public before first responders arrive. AEDs save lives. When seconds count, AEDs can make the difference," said Chief John H. Patterson. Caplis said he bought the AED and kept it in his car to protect his Little League team after a friend lost his 17 year old son when he collapsed from cardiac arrest during football practice. (DP-HI)

Dale Park sends along the following from the Hartford, CT Courant dated 12/3/09:

Quick Takes: Imus In The Hartford Morning, Imus In The Hartford Morning.

Don Imus' radio show, "Imus in the Morning," will be heard locally on WCCC-AM (1290) starting Monday from 6 to 10 am. Imus lost his syndicated morning show on WFAN-AM in New York after making disparaging remarks about the Rutgers women's basketball team in April 2007. MSNBC canceled a simulcast of the show because of the resulting controversy, and he was fired by CBS Radio shortly after. CBS subsequently settled with Imus, and on Dec. 3, 2007, he was back on the air on WABC-AM (770) with a new syndicated show. WCCC is characterized as a classical music radio station, part of the **Beethoven.com** stations, and includes broadcasts of West Hartford high school sports. Donna Larcen dlarcen@courant.com. (DP-HI)

Ye editor sends along the following from the Colorado Springs, CO Gazette dated 12/4/09:

Street Wise: Parkinson's meant leaving broadcasting, not living, ANDREW WINEKE, THE GAZETTE.

"I'm not afraid of what's on the way." This summer, after nearly 30 years as a radio newsmen, Gary Street knew his time was almost up. Compiling a weather report, a simple task that used to take Street, 52, a couple of minutes, sometimes required 45 minutes. His voice was steady, but his hands shook so much, he couldn't read scripts or use a computer mouse. "Gary, he was always plugging through," said Jason Janc, program director at KRXP (103.9 FM). "It was hard to see him walk away because he didn't want to. Mentally, it's all still there. It's just physical." Being on the radio was Street's dream job. He was on the air at 5:30 am every day, volunteered for weekend shifts and never took his vacation time. In July, three years after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, it was time for him to leave the air. "It was hard on him," said Ross Ford, morning host and program director at KRXP's sister station, KIL0 (94.3 FM). "I remember his last newscast. He was, 'I'm not going to stutter! He wanted it to be perfect.' Snapshots of life... "Parkinson's is just a pain in the ass," Street said. Four years ago, Street was having problems typing. He thought it might be carpal tunnel syndrome. He went to a chiropractor, thinking the problem could be a pinched nerve. Finally, his doctor ran some tests and told him it was Parkinson's. "I didn't know all the symptoms," Street said. "If I had, I would have been a little more frightened." Tremors, difficulty moving, problems with balance and a fixed expression are common symptoms of the disease. His entire life, Street said, he slept face-down on his bed, spread-eagle. If he tries that now, he'll be unable to move his legs and be stuck, trapped, until he can throw himself into a different position that cracks the paralysis. The same thing, called bradykinesia, can happen when he's sitting – he'll need to get up and move, or face being rooted in place. "I'll try to rock back and forth and that will make my foot come out enough to break it," Street said. "In most cases that works, but it's growing in intensity." There are pills that help, allowing him to drive or walk or bowl with his Friday night league. But the relief lasts only for short periods and he can take only six pills a day, so he has to ration them. "The one thing I'm worried about is the cat getting hold of one," Street said. "I don't know what that would do to him."

Pursuing a dream. "What you heard on the air was Gary Street," said "Captain" Dan Jackson, the morning DJ at KKL1 (106.3 FM), who gave Street his first job in radio in 1980 at the old KYSN. "His gentle, easy-going nature on the air is the way he is in person." In a business with outsized personalities, Street comes across as shy and reserved. Tall and gangly, Street looks like a goateed scarecrow. His humor is dry and sly and his passions run toward sports (his cat is named Herman, after George Herman "Babe" Ruth, and Street literally wrote the book on Colorado College's football program – "A History of Colorado College Tiger Football"). Street grew up here, graduated from Palmer High School, then did a stint in the Air Force. He was stationed near San Antonio in the mid 1970s, Street recalls, when he first thought of becoming a DJ. "I thought, 'This would be a great job' – make a lot of money, crack jokes on the radio and play great music," Street said. "Of course, none of that turned out to be true." He studied radio at Pikes Peak Community College, then started at KYSN. News came later, when he was at KKCS and KHT in 1982. In 1985, he moved to KIL0. He stayed until 1993, when he got a job at KOA (850 AM) in Denver. KOA was the big time, with an entire staff of reporters and a dog-eat-dog, corporate mentality. Street felt out of place. "I learned a lot, but I found that if that was going to be my job, I wouldn't want to do it," he said. He came back to the Springs and spent five years at KVOR (740 AM), then moved to KRXP (then called "The Eagle") in 1999. On July 8, he hung it up. "I knew I had become a liability," Street said. "The money I was making for the job I was able to do was just not worth it. I didn't think it was fair to be doing that."

Heavy decisions. Were Street a different kind of guy, Ford said, "people wouldn't be lining up to help him out." Street worked as long as he felt he could, but his disease was progressing. "I had some rough newscasts," he said, "the worst I've ever done." Quitting was no simple matter. Parkinson's is a debilitating disease, not a deadly one. Without a job, Street had to figure out if he could make ends meet for the rest of his life. He's not a wealthy man, although his car and his townhouse are paid for. He qualified for disability when he left the radio station, then for Social Security this fall. "If I'm careful, I can make it," Street said. He stays in touch with radio friends and still has a mailbox at the station. He attends support group meetings once a month and helped organize a Parkinson's fundraiser this year. "I find it inspiring," he said. "Some of the people who show up the meetings are far more progressed than I am and they still get up and get things done."

Bowling for smiles. "My daughter thinks Gary's this huge celebrity," said Michelle Quintana, a teammate on his bowling team. "She brags at school that she knows Gary from KIL0." Street's team, the T-Devils, has bowled together for 13 years. His scores, he said, have fallen from 176 to 137. Street doesn't entirely blame Parkinson's – his scores were headed south before he was diagnosed. "At some point it's got to hit bottom," he said. At a recent Friday game, Street froze standing over the ball return and started to fall. His teammates rushed to prop him up. "They jumped in and took me away like there was an ambulance in the parking lot for me," he joked. A couple of weeks later, he bowled a 180.

All about small goals. "It's an interesting disease, I'll give you that," Street said. Actor Michael J. Fox, who has become the face and voice of Parkinson's, once said he wouldn't trade his life now to be cured of the disease. "I know how he feels," Street said. "Since I've been diagnosed, I've rekindled old friendships and made new ones. I find myself stepping outside of my comfort zone. I've shaken more hands in the last three years than I have in the rest of my life." It's not that Street doesn't hope for a cure, but he's not counting on it. He focuses on small goals – tips for coping. A heavier pen helps steady his handwriting. Walking and exercise help offset the disease's symptoms. He worries about the stairs in his home, but figures the worry keeps him focused. He's trying a mustard concoction to alleviate the constant foot cramps. It's not, he said, a bad life. "Everybody's got something," Street said. "Mine's just a little more visible than others." Contact the writer at 636-0275. (Ye-ed (RW-CO))

Bill Block sends along the following dated 12/17/09 (also forwarded by **Pat Martin**):

Catholic Radio Comes to Phoenix, CATHOLIC RADIO COMES TO PHOENIX: AM 1310 KIHP.

(Immaculate Heart [Radio] of Phoenix). Bishop Thomas Olmsted will launch the station on December 17th. Soon after that local programming will begin, including "The Bishop's Hour" which will highlight the great work of the Church and laity in the Diocese of Phoenix, and give Bishop Olmsted an opportunity to use the radio to reach his flock. Immaculate Heart Radio, founded in 1997, currently operates 23 stations. More information is available at www.ihradio.org, or by calling 866-77 HEART. (BB-AZ)

Eric Bueneman sends along the following dated 12/7/09:

Insane Broadcasting Company is expanding again. This time, they've bought KRFT 1190 De Soto, MO from Big League Broadcasting of Atlanta. The sale price was undisclosed. Insane Broadcasting has moved the Classic Country format of WXOZ 1510 Highland, IL to 1190; the calls have been changed to KQUV. Insane also owns Oldies-formatted KQZQ 1430 St Louis, MO. All three stations operate from studios in Belleville, IL. Big League only has KFNS 590 left in their St. Louis portfolio. They sold KFNS-FM 100.7 Troy, MO earlier this year to Kaspar Broadcasting Company; the station flipped to Classic Hits from studios in Moscow Mills, MO. (EB-MO)

Dale Park sends along the following from **Mlive.com** dated 12/7/09:

'Polka Joe' ending his career as Jackson radio personality, By Brad Flory, Jackson Citizen Patriot.
Katie Rausch "Polka Joe" Pancerz jokes with Cindy Collver on air during the "Polka Time" radio show Sunday mornings on WIBM Jackson. Pancerz will be leaving the show on Dec. 27 after 44 years of hosting. The last waltz is coming soon for a Jackson radio institution, Joseph "Polka Joe" Pancerz. Polka Joe's last show will be Dec. 27 on WIBM, 1450 AM, ending 44 years as Sunday-morning host of "Polka Time." "Forty-four years is enough," said Pancerz, 83. "What are you going to do? You get old." Pancerz is enshrined in the Michigan Polka Hall of Fame. He has been recognized by Michigan governors, starting with William G Milliken in 1973. Jackson declared a day in his honor 25 years ago. He has been toasted and roasted and is a fixture at Polish-flavored festivals and events. But those honors just scratch the surface. "I would say it's almost an understatement to call him a Jackson icon," said Marc Daly, program director at WIBM. "People have family memories built around listening to his show when they were growing up. That's priceless." Pancerz was born in Jackson to Polish immigrants and served in the Navy during World War II. After the war, he worked at J.L. Peters Co as a member of the ironworkers union. In 1948, he married Elynor "Lillian" Chomic. Radio broadcasting became a side career in 1965, when his rich Polish accent was first heard over Jackson's airwaves. Lillian soon joined him as host of the radio show, which for three decades was called "Polka Time with Joe and Lil." She died in 1998. Pancerz started in radio playing 78 and 45 rpm records. He ends in the digital era, although technical wizardry is not his claim to fame. Regular listeners know Polka Joe may play two songs at once, or maybe read a commercial without realizing music is still playing. No one cares. Little mistakes are part of the charm of "Polka Time." The show airs from 8:30 to 10 am Sundays with Pancerz and his sidekick of about five years, Cindy Collver. "When we were small, my mom and dad would wake us up for church by playing Polka Joe," Collver said. "From the time I can remember, we listened to Joe every Sunday morning." Each show is meticulously planned and organized, albeit with a system heavy on handwritten slips of paper. Polka Joe lines up sponsors, writes commercials and reads them live on the air. He also reads announcements and greetings to listeners. He has played songs for his radio audience about 48,000 times. "I love the music," Pancerz said. "I was born and raised on it." He is a big promoter of Polish-American culture in general. "He knows everybody and everybody knows him," said Dennis "Jocko" Zaski, president of the Polish Falcons in Jackson. "Whenever anybody in the Polish community has anything going on, he's there." Pancerz speaks some Polish on the air, and is disappointed to see the language disappearing from Jackson homes. "Dziękuję," he said, hoping to teach. "Jen-koo-ye. Do you know what that means? It means 'thank you.'" He wants to keep the words alive. Proud as he is of his heritage, Pancerz bristles at any suggestion his audience is limited to one nationality. "Oh, no," he said. "Irish people, German people — they all listen. All kinds of people." Patrick Ludwig, a UPS driver and brother of former Jackson Mayor Jerry Ludwig, will take over as "Polka Time" host in January. "It's like going on after Johnny Carson," Ludwig said. Polka Joe's radio career cannot be summed up without mentioning the love story. When Lillian died of cancer in 1998, Joe was devastated. She was his bride of 50 years and the mother of his four children. "I was going to give up the show," Pancerz said. "Everyone said, 'Joe, don't do it! The show will get you through.'" And it did. Polka Joe came back to radio after two months off, the only Sundays he missed in 44 years. He played "My Lost Rose" for Lillian for 52 consecutive weeks. "For five years after Lil died, I didn't go anywhere," Pancerz said. "I sat on my porch, went to church and did the show." Time softened the pain, but never the loss. After each "Polka Time" broadcast, Pancerz goes to the cemetery to talk to Lillian. His final show will be on the anniversary of her death. "The best part was meeting all the wonderful people," Pancerz said. "We met all kinds. So many people appreciated our music." Dziękuję, Polka Joe. (DP-HI)

Tim Noonan sends along his monthly list of FCC call changes dated 12/7/09. Thanks, Tim! (TN-WI)

Eric Bueneman sends along the following dated 12/8/09:

The new calls on 1190 are KQZQ, not KQUV as previously reported. KQZQ holds a CP to move to University City, MO with 10 kW days/6,500 watts night. WXOZ 1510 Highland, IL is now simulcasting KQZQ, pending a new format. (EB-MO)

Dale Park sends along the following from the Chico, CA Enterprise-Record dated 12/9/09:

Threatening letter sent to KPAY radio station advertisers, By GREG WELTER – Staff Writer.
CHICO – A letter sent to at least four advertisers on newstalk KPAY radio, 1290 AM, claims they'll reap hate if they continue to run commercials with the station. Police are investigating the case, which so far has identified CafZ Malvina, The Postal Station, Wakefield & Sons Glass and Bird's Touch Hypnosis of Chico as victims, along with KPAY. "It's possible that other businesses got these letters, and just discarded them," said Terry Moore, an investigator with the Chico police. Moore said all four businesses received the letters in their regular mail last week. The letters, which are identically worded, appear computer-generated in lower-case letters, with no punctuation. While they mention no names, they refer to specific acts, including employees getting shot or assaulted, arson against a business, and other property damage. With arson mentioned, there was concern last week that Tres Hombres Restaurant may have received one of the letters, but Moore said it didn't. The letter concludes that radio station advertisers are promoting hate by placing their ads on the air, and "will reap hate" if they "continue to sow hate." The letters are signed with the words "I promise." Deer Creek Broadcasting General Manager Dino Corbin said it's not unusual for radio stations to receive such letters, but a little more concerning that advertisers are getting them. KPAY didn't get a letter, and learned

about the crime when it was notified by glass company co-owner Betty Wakefield. KPAY immediately alerted its advertisers and asked them to turn the letter over, unopened, to Chico police. Bird's Touch Hypnosis owner Rusty Bird recognized the letter in his mail and gave it to investigators, handling it as little as possible. He said police were hoping to get fingerprints from the letter or envelope. Bird learned of the exact contents when Wakefield called and read it to him. He said he was somewhat concerned for the safety of his family, but mostly irritated. "I'm not going to let anybody tell me where I can and can't advertise," Bird said. "I'm more than irritated that somebody thinks they can get away with something like this." If it hadn't been for the call from KPAY, Bird said he likely would have read the letter and thrown it away. Wakefield said she was concerned for her safety and that of her employees, but vowed she wouldn't halt her commercials on KPAY. She said she is taking extra precautions at the business and at home. She believes the letter her company got may have targeted the family name, which has been connected with the business for 73 years. Wakefield commercials run exclusively during morning time slots filled by Rush Limbaugh, but the three other victims have bought time in "run of station" schedules throughout the day. The letter refers to a 12-hour block of KPAY programming, and investigators said a specific Rush Limbaugh connection has been discounted. Moore said he's looking into physical evidence that may supply some leads. He puts some significance in the fact that the letters were all done in lower case, with no emphasis on any word or phrase. Even if the sender has no means to carry out a threat, the letters still constitute a crime. Conviction on making criminal threats, whether through the mail, verbally, or e-mails, is punishable by a one-year term in jail or state prison. "We're taking this seriously and doing everything anyone would expect to investigate the crime," Moore said. It's possible that postal inspectors may also investigate the case. Corbin said he's not aware of any advertisers who want to change their schedules. Moore said KPAY, owned and operated by Deer Creek Broadcasting, has been extremely helpful in the investigation. (DP-HI)

Mike Sanburn passes along the following from Barry McLarnon of Ottawa, ON dated 12/10/09:

CJEU in Gatineau QC (aka "Radio Enfant") has finally made an appearance on 1670 today, testing with continuous music (mostly in French, and mostly sung by kids). No IDs or announcements heard so far. Monster signal here (transmitter is only 11 miles away, sigh) – a new one for the log that I'd rather not have! (MS-CA)

Pat Martin sends along the following dated 12/12/09:

1330 KXLJ AK, Juneau, received a nice handwritten folding card in 63d for CD report. Mentioned that this is their first report from North America, as all other reports are from Finland, Sweden, & Norway. V/S: Jacob Caggians-OM, GM. AK QSL #61, MW QSL #3009. Really pleased with this one as it once again gives me all AK I have heard QSL'd. All three Juneau heard & QSL'd too. One other interesting thing is the QSL was mailed on the 11th and I got it on the 12th! I have not seen that kind of quick mail service in years! (PM-OR)

Pat Martin sends along the following from Bill Block of Prescott Valley, AZ dated 12/13/09:

XEPE in Tecate has changed its format and is now oldies. They are now "San Diego New 105.7 The Walrus". (PM-OR)

Mike Sanburn sends along the following from Scott Fybus of Rochester, NY dated 12/13/09:

Noted while assembling tonight's **10000watts.com** headlines: WURA 920 Quantico VA is reportedly on the air with Christmas music. 7 kW daytime aimed mostly NE (smaller lobe to the SW), 970 watts at night aimed mostly SE (with much smaller lobe to the NW). (MS-CA)

Ye editor sends along the following from the Colorado Springs, CO Gazette dated 12/21/09:

Citadel Broadcasting, the third largest broadcasting company in the country and operator of 6 radio stations in Colorado Springs, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Sunday. Under terms of the bankruptcy reorganization, "the financial restructuring contemplates that Citadel's \$2.1 billion secured credit facility will be converted into a new term loan in the principal amount of \$762.5 million," the company said in a news release. Citadel owns and operates 224 radio stations around the country including these Colorado Springs stations: KATC- Cat Country 95.1, KKPK- Peak 92.9, AM 740 KVOR, Classic Rock- 98.1 KKFM, The Sports Animal- AM 1300 KCSF and KKMG- 98.9 Magic FM. Citadel's WABC radio in New York City, is the flagship station for nationally syndicated talk show hosts Don Imus, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and Joe Scarborough. Citadel increase its' debt load after purchasing ABC Radio from Walt Disney Company in 2007 for \$2.7 billion. The company is seeking bankruptcy protection to ensure that "operations continue without interruption, including authorization to continue paying employee wages and salaries, as well as honoring certain customer obligations and programs," the release said. Posted in: Radio • Uncategorized • Citadel Broadcasting • KATC Cat Country • KKFM • KKMG Magic FM • KKPK Peak 92.9 • KVOR • Sports Animal KCSF. (Ye-ed (RW-CO))

Bill Nittler sends along the following from the Albuquerque, NM Journal dated 12/11/09:

Parent of KKOB Has \$2B in Debt, Journal Staff and Wire.
The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday that radio station owner Citadel Broadcasting is preparing to file a "prearranged" Chapter 11 bankruptcy by year's end in a move to lessen its debt burden. Citing people familiar with the matter, the newspaper said the nation's third-largest radio broadcaster presented a deal to lenders under which it would file a bankruptcy plan that would have the support of many creditors. The company's Albuquerque stations include KKOB-AM 770, KKOB-FM 93.3, KRST Country 92.3, KMGA-FM 99.5, KRDF ED FM 103.3, KNML 610 The Sports Animal and KTBL 1050 AM. General Manager Milt McConnell at the company's Albuquerque offices declined comment to the Albuquerque Journal late Thursday afternoon. The reorganization would be aimed at trimming Citadel's debt to about \$760 million, the Wall Street Journal said. Citadel would turn over majority control of the company to certain lenders in exchange for them erasing a substantial chunk of the \$2 billion of debt they are owed. Current shareholders' investment would be wiped out. Lenders have until Tuesday to accept the deal. Citadel shares currently trade for less than 5 cents each on over-the-counter markets, giving it a market capitalization of just less than \$12 million, the paper said. Five years ago, shares were trading in the \$16 range, giving the business about a

\$2.2 billion market value. Las Vegas, Nev.-based Citadel warned last month that it might have to file for bankruptcy protection because of its heavy debt load, as well as a decline in advertising revenue. Citadel's expected move is a reminder of media company troubles. Overall ad revenue for radio companies is expected to drop 19 percent this year, according to research firm BIA/Kelsey. The company, the paper said, still needs the support of holders of two-thirds of the value of the debt outstanding, as well as a majority of the individual debt holders, to receive final approval of the plan in bankruptcy court. The company still could delay its bankruptcy filing depending on creditor support, a person familiar with the matter said. (BN-NM)

Contributors:

- Bill Block**, Prescott Valley, AZ (BB-AZ)
- Eric Bueneman**, Hazelwood, MO (EB-MO)
- Larry Godwin**, Missoula, MT (LG-MT)
- Pat Martin**, Seaside, OR (PM-OR)
- Bill Nittler**, Belen, NM (BN-NM)
- Tim Noonan**, Oak Creek, WI (TN-WI)
- Dale Park**, Honolulu, HI (DP-HI)
- Mike Sanburn**, Bellflower, CA (MS-CA)
- Ye editor**, Robert Wien, Colorado Springs, CO (RW-CO)

Date of Column: 12/23/09. Well, just 2 days till Xmas and we're going to get socked in here in Colorado Springs with a potentially large snowstorm. And I get to work Xmas eve night and Xmas night, lucky me (not to mention 12-hour days the 22nd and 23rd). At least I'm raking in the money, I guess. Hope everyone has a good Xmas and New Years, hope 2010 brings all the DX and new stations you ever wanted. 73's.

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

Nancy Johnson – 265 Waterton Wy – Billings MT 59102-7755
E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

WDXR DEADLINES: Each Friday. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (AB) **Art Blair**-730 SW 3rd St.-Fruitland, ID 83619 **artblair1937@gmail.com**
NRD-515, Kiwa loop
- (BB) **Bill Block**-7716 E. Thelma Drive-Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 **billwblock@msn.com**
Drake R8
- (LG) **Larry Godwin**-2390 Clydes Dale Lane-Missoula, MT 59804 **lbg@mtwi.net**
Receivers: Hammarlund HQ-180, Kchibo D96L and car radio. Antenna: Sanserino air-core box loop
- (GH) **Glen Hansen**-64985 Olson Rd.-Deer Island, OR 97054 **gbhansen2@q.com**
Drake R8B, 700' "U" shaped antenna 3' above ground terminated through 330 ohms to ground

- *****
- 630 KIDD CA, Monterey 12/19 0918 with "???" 630 KIDD." (BB-AZ)
 - 790 KFGO ND, Fargo 12/14 0902 gent with "7-90 KFGO" ID fair over KSPD. New. (AB-ID)
 - 840 KXNT NV, North Las Vegas 12/12 0130 Coast to Coast show, fair with slow shallow fades. One UniD playing far below, KKNX or KSWB likely. (GH-OR)
 - KSWB OR, Seaside 12/12 0900 ID and ad for Morris Floor Covering. Poor but intelligible. Actually better than I hear them at night. (GH-OR)
 - 880 KWIP OR, Dallas 12/17 1330 woman with "La Campecina" slogan, poor. (AB-ID)
 - 920 KXLY WA, Spokane 12/16 0000 male with ID into ABC news. Suddenly up big & strong out of the mess then gone just as fast. (GH-OR)
 - 960 KLAD OR, Klamath Falls 12/15 0000 ID and news, nothing else intelligible. Weak and really tangled up in the noise, static and unIDs. (GH-OR)
 - 1210 KPRZ CA, San Marcos 12/12 0000 heard very faint ID way out in the static. Extremely weak and fighting with CFYM (I think). New. (GH-OR)
 - 1230 KOBZ MT, Bozeman 12/11 0757 gave promo for affiliate KBOZ, Talk Radio 1490. (LG-MT)
 - 1350 KTIK ID, Nampa 12/12 1520 male gave ID, ad for Commercial Tire Store, ESPN format. Fair to good with some scratch. Incredible signal for daylight hours. (GH-OR)
 - 1400 KLCK WA, Goldendale dominated at 2100 on 12/19. Announcer said "You got it ... variety of the 50s, 60s and 70s... 1400, KLCK." (LG-MT)
 - 1490 KBSR MT, Laurel 12/14 0959:58 gent with KBSR ID, ABC news at 1000. (AB-ID) (KBSR which was one of my locals went off the air 10/28/09 and I've not heard them on at all since. Could it have been KBKR that you heard? (NJ-MT)
 - 1500 KSJX CA, San Jose 12/11 male gave ID in English, mention of multicultural radio, into Asian programming. Fair to poor with moderate 1510 KGA splash. (GH-OR)

Happy New Year to everyone! Nancy 12/25 2100

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

E-mail: EDXR at AMLOGBOOK dot COM

Deadlines: Saturdays 8 AM!!

- (LF-FL) your editor **STARS OF THE WEEK**
Ocala, FL
Drake R-8B, KIWA Loop, Grundig S-800, MFJ Phasor, LF, MFJ 616 audio enhancer, BSI Auto Logging Software, Vox Pro E-2 editing software, 75' L.W.
- (KK-VA) **Kraig Krist**
Manassas, VA
NRD-545 rx w/134' multiband antenna NW to SE.
- (WM-MD) **William McGuire**
2412 59th Place, Cheverly MD
DX-398
- (JJR-WI) **John J Rieger**
L'Anse, MI
Sony ICF SW7600GR stock

LOGGINGS

- 550 ND KFYZ Bismarck 12-13 0807. Poor in w/WSAU. YL w/many ND temps. "Here in Bismarck, light snow and -7" into Christmas song. No calls hrd. (JJR-MI)
- 580 WV WCHS Charleston 12/3 1907. Ads; ID; "The Voice of Charleston. (WM-MD)
- 590 ON CJCL Toronto 12-12 2025. Poor but o/others. "Toronto's Sports Station, the Fan-590." Sports. (JJR-MI)
- 660 AB CFFR Calgary 12-12 0741. Poor after UNID C&W stn faded out. "660 News traffic on the 1's." (JJR-MI)
- 680 CA KNBR San Francisco 12-13 0750. Poor waiting upon hearing sports talk, many, many ESPN, **ESPN.com** promos, more chatter and finally LID at :00, then Sun morn PSA program "Commonwealth Club." Alone. (JJR-MI)
- KS KKOW Pittsburg 12-22 0820. Pr "20/20 wx on KKOW 860 AM" 39 deg. Faded. (JJR-MI)
- MB CJOB Winnipeg 12-21 0826. Poor u/WDBC. Calls, chatter. (JJR-MI)
- NC WPTF Raleigh 12/16 2000. ID into news. (WM-MD)
- 820 TX WBAP Fort Worth 11/28 1903. Break in Baylor/Texas Tech football, "News talk 820"; ID heard. (WM-MD)
- 850 GA WPTB Statesboro 12/10 2000. ESPN Radio "Southeast Georgia's Sports Leader." New. (WM-MD)
- 900 MN KTIS Minneapolis 12-23 0850. Poor – detailed wx, jx"AM 900 KTIS" into mx. (JJR-MI)
- SK CKBI Prince Albert 12-21 0823. Fair – "900 CKBI" w/many web sites, PSA's and morning show chatter. (JJR-MI)
- 910 SC WTMZ Dorchester Terrace 12/12 2100. ESPN Radio heard; ID. (WM-MD)
- 920 NC WPCM Burlington 12/09 2200. ID heard in mess. (WM-MD)
- 930 AB CJCA Edmonton 12-13 0821. Poor but alone. "Merry Christmas from the sales team at the Light-930." NEW! (JJR-MI)
- IL WTAD Quincy 12-23 0708. Poor – OM w/wx, calls said 2x: "WTAD wx", "WTAD temperature" ...into ad, nx. Rare! (JJR-MI)
- MN KKIN Aitkin 12-21 0822. Poor – "at the Aitkin America Legion Post". Alone. (JJR-MI)
- NY WBEN Buffalo 12-23 0714. Poor calls noted in passing. (JJR-MI)
- 940 GA WMAC Macon 12/1 1700. ID heard in the mess. (WM-MD)
- 950 IA KOEL Oelwein 12-21 1718. Poor but way o/WWJ. Calls, promo, ads, wx to fade. OLD C&W. (JJR-MI)
- MB CFAM Altoona 12-13 1731. Poor lost to WWJ. Calls heard. (JJR-MI)
- 1010 AB CBR Calgary 12-12 0830. Poor – "it's 6:28. Hello on... and 91.3FM... at 6:30, CBC radio." (JJR-MI)
- 1070 CA KNX Los Angeles 12-13 0740. Poor clear "KNX news-time is 4:40" into money feature o/anything. Tight null. (JJR-MI)
- 1080 MI WOAP Owosso 12-12 0728. Fair "The Big 1080" w/no usual WNW1. Nice to hear. OLD. (JJR-MI)
- 1090 ND KTGO Tioga 12-21 0816. Very poor – "KT 1090" & Morgan in the Morning off bird into ads. C&W. (JJR-MI)
- 1210 SD KOKK Huron 12-22 0709. Poor – WPHT nulled. Huron, Black Hills mentioned in long newscast from Dakota News Network into ads. (JJR-MI)
- 1230 MN KTRF Thief River Falls 12-12 0917. Poor "AM 1230 KTRF" on tune into fade. (JJR-MI)
- VA WFVA Fredericksburg 12/21 1615. Call in show "News talk twelve thirty Fredericksburg". (KK-VA)

1240 MN WMFG Hibbing 12-21 1727. Poor though steady. "Your home of the Range – 1240 WMFG." (Reference to Iron Range.) NOS. (KK-VA)
 MN WJON St. Cloud 12-23 0830. Very poor – "1240 WJON news...." and lost. (JJR-MI)
 WI WOMT Manitowoc 12-23 0733. Poor – "WOMT radar wx... WOMT Manitowoc temperature...." o/mess and out. (JJR-MI)
 1250 MN KBRF KBRF MN Fergus Falls 12-12 1748 Poor. "Weather eye wx at Good Neighbor Radio – KBRF" into Limbaugh repeat. (JJR-MI)
 1290 IL WIRL Peoria 12-22 0700. Very poor – LID into ABC news o/CFRW, WMCS. (JJR-MI)
 1310 ND KNOX Grand Forks 12-21 0845. Poor-Fair – sports. "2 Wendys in Grand Forks" o/usual WIBA. (JJR-MI)
 1340 MN KDLM Detroit Lakes 12-21 0923. Very poor "morning sports here on KDLM." Mush. (JJR-MI)
 MN KRBT Eveleth 12-21 0806. Very poor but clr "KRBT presents" into mess. (JJR-MI)
 MN KROC Rochester 12-23 0606. Poor – "News Talk 1340 KROC-AM" out of mess. (JJR-MI)
 MN KWLM Willmar 12-22 0827. Very poor – fade w/calls after ad. (JJR-MI)
 NC WPOL Winston Salem 12/6 1800. Up with dual ID with //WKEW 1400 NEW. (LF-FL)
 TN WLDT Winchester 12/04 1600. In with TOH ID Poor but readable NEW. (LF-FL)
 1350 MN KDIO Ortonville 12-12 1738. Very poor o/KRNT. "Best of the new, best of the old KDIO-1350." Rare! (JJR-MI)
 MN WCMP Pine City 12-13 0731. Poor w/calls at end of song o/others. (JJR-MI)
 1370 MN KSUM Fairmont 12-13 1800. Poor w/LID o/others. OLD C&W. (JJR-MI)
 1380 MI WGHM Port Huron 12-12 2102. Poor – singing LID, Red Wings hockey popped up o/others. (JJR-MI)
 1400 AL WJLD Fairfield 12/06 2300. TOH ID, poor but NEW. (LF-FL)
 GA WAJQ Alma 12/08 1700. TOH ID fair then gone. (LF-FL)
 GA WHBS Moultrie 12/08 1700. In with TOH ID, Surprised I have never logged this one before. NEW. (LF-FL)
 WI WBIZ Eau Claire 12-22 0650. Very poor but clear Eau Claire ads and "Sports radio 1400 WBIZ" in mess. (JJR-MI)
 1410 IA KGRN Grinnell 12-23 0815. Very poor – way, way u/WIZM. Calls. (JJR-MI)
 ON CKSL London 12-12 2055. Poor w/LID "London's Oldies 1410" in mess. (JJR-MI)
 1420 IN WIMS Michigan City 12/3 2023. High School Basketball hrd. (WM-MD)
 1430 MN KNXP Staples 12-23 0915. Poor – "92-KWAD-1430 KNXP" after chatter on wx, into ads o/others. (JJR-MI)
 SD KBRK Brookings 12-14 0815. Poor – local ads, "here in Brookings." No calls hrd. Lost to CHKT. (JJR-MI)
 WI WBEV Beaver Dam 12-13 1759. Poor – LID by Packers pbp annr into Packers post game show. (JJR-MI)
 1440 KS KMAJ Topeka 12-22 0731. Very poor "on Hwy 24 here in Topeka" popped up & out. Rare! (JJR-MI)
 MI WMAX Bay City 12-12 0801 Poor – "AveMaria.net... Sat at 7 on Catholic Radio for Michigan" LID not hrd or missed. (JJR-MI)
 NY WJLL Niagara Falls 12-14 0617. Poor to fade u/WNFL. Calls and Oldies. (JJR-MI)
 1450 MN KATE Albert Lea 12-22 0805. Poor – end of ABC news, calls, in mess. (JJR-MI)
 WI WDLB Marshfield 12-12 0839. Poor – "5 mins away from a WDLB sports update." In-out of mess. (JJR-MI)
 1460 MN KKAQ Thief River Falls 12-21 1646. Poor – "North Country Favorites KKDQ (FM)". Kind of loud then gone. Lost to KXNO. (JJR-MI)
 WI WBOG Tomah 12-23 0800. Poor – LID into possible ABC news in w/2-3 others. "Oldies 1460." (JJR-MI)
 1470 IA KWSL Sioux City 12-12 2140. Very poor in w/others. "Super Hits 1470 KWSL" OLD. (JJR-MI)
 1490 IA KRIB Mason City 12-21 0800. Very poor – LID into ABC news in mess. (JJR-MI)
 MN KXRA Alexandria 12-23 0558. Poor to fade w/notes on Christmas programming "on KXRA." Lost. (JJR-MI)
 1490 NY WLOF Poor though steady & clear w/R Disney promos voiced by kids. Only web match. Matched WKSH-WI programming. After all that, relog. Hrd first in 1981. Rare! (JJR-MI)
 1510 CO KCKK Littleton 12-23 0200. Poor – local ads, psa for colleges in Colorado, Mile High mention w/LID into Sporting News in WLAC null. Steady. (JJR-MI)
 SD KMSD Milbank 12-21 0914. Very poor-fades w/SD AAA info, Milbank library psa in/out o/u WRRD. Chasing UNID ESPN for 30+ mins to no avail. Needed KGA? (JJR-MI)
 1540 ON CHIN Toronto 12/17 1800. Chinese programming heard. (WM-MD)
 1560 MN KBEW Blue Earth 12-13 1750. Poor "AM 1560 KBEW" said 2x into promo. Live, not off bird. OLD. (JJR-MI)

1600 NY WWRL New York City 12/21 2355-0035. Mixing w/music and other talk. "Listen while you work. Log onto WWRL sixteen hundred dot com...." (KK-VA)
 1610 ON CHHA Toronto 12/20 2355-0035. Mixing w/talk. Music. English "In the car, at work or where ever you are... CHHA..." into Spanish. (KK-VA)
 1630 GA WRDW Augusta 12/9 1900. "News Talk Sports"; ID. (WM-MD)
 IA KCJJ Iowa City 12/18 2355-0035. Mixing w/KHB36. "You are tuned to sixteen thirty KCJJ Iowa City" during a brief break in the KHB36 audio. (KK-VA)
 1640 WI WKSH Sussex 12/17 2355-0035. Typical Radio Disney programming. "This is WKSH and WKSH HD1 Radio Disney...." (KK-VA)
 WI WKSH Sussex 12/12 1800. Radio Disney Heard. (WM-MD)
 1650 IA KCNZ Cedar Falls 12/16 2355-0035. Mixing w/Indian type singing (probably CINA) and WHKT. Discussing sports. Local Ad. (KK-VA)
 1660 MI WQLR Kalamazoo 12/14 2355-0035. Mixing w/talk and singing. "...sixteen sixty WQLR Kalamazoo sixteen sixty 'The Fan'" into "Fox Sports News". "It's Fox Sports Radio sixteen sixty 'The Fan'". (KK-VA)
 1670 GA WFFX Dry Branch 12/9 1800. Fox Sports Radio; ID. (WM-MD)
 ON CJEU Gatineau/Ottawa 12/16 1900. French Programming /kids voice NEW. (WM-MD)
 (No calls were listed but I found CJEU on line – ed)
 1690 IL WVON Berwyn 12/12 2355-0035. Mixing w/singing on CHTO. Talk. "CNN Radio News". "This is WVON". "Chicago's am sixteen ninety WVON" into Curtis Bay call in show. (KK-VA)
 IL WVON Berwyn 12/9. Promo; ID. NEW. (WM-MD)
 ON CHTO Toronto 12/12 2355-0035. Mixing w/talk on WVON. CHTO with singing. "You're listening to CHTO Toronto. Visit our website www.am1690.ca." (KK-VA)
 1700 AL WEUP Huntsville 12/22 2355-0035. "WEUP AM Huntsville and WEUP AM Molton". "Seventeen hundred WEUP" into preaching. "...WEUP... continuous praise... 'The Peoples Station.'" "Your seventeen hundred WEUP. We're always on, always up, always yours. 'The Peoples Station' There is no shame in our praise" into song. (KK-VA)

T.I.S./H.A.R.

1630 VA KHB36 Manassas 12/18 2355-0035. Mixing w/KCJJ. Weather, winter storm warning. Statement from the National Weather service in a repeating loop. "You are listening to all hazard NOAA radio KHB36 broadcasting continuously on a frequency of one hundred sixty two point five megahertz. It is operated by the National Weather Service forecast office in Sterling Virginia and is broadcast from the towers in Manassas". This is usually Northern Virginia Community College TIS. However, we were having up to 2 feet of snow so the weather warning on instead. (KK-VA)

 Thanks to Kraig, William, and John. Some great DX from John this time. A couple new ones for me on 1340 as I am still reviewing the "Auto DX" audio files. Best to you all as we get ready for the new year... fresh 12-26 0745

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

Greetings everyone,

Merry Christmas and the best of DX in the New Year. 2009 has been a good one. Hopefully 2010 will be even better with the low A&K. No DX this week to report on, but a bunch of nice QSLs.

QSL'S

- 518 **JAPAN**, I sent surface mail reports to four Japan Coast Guard Regions regarding their respective Navtex broadcasts. Yokohama sent an e-mail thanking me for my report and apologizing for the lack of QSLs. Moji sent a short polite non QSL e-mail saying they won't confirm whether the report was correct or not. Naha sent a short e-mail QSL that was specific as to date and freq. I'm still waiting for Otaru. (BP-WA)
- 518 **GREENLAND**, Aasiaat Radio sent QSL in about 2 weeks by surface mail for e-mail Navtex report. QSL was a folded sheet of paper with photo of tx site on one side and QSL message on the other. V/S Bo Mogensen, Frafikchef. No return address on envelope, but report was sent to tele@tele.gl which I found on their website <http://www.tele.gl/dk/Kystradio/GMDSS/index.htm>. The site also lists a surface address, Postboks 1002, 3900 Nuuk. (BP-WA) (Great QSL Bruce. PM)

570 **CANADA**, Whitehorse CFWH sent friendly letter in about a month for surface report and CD. V/S John Boivin, Program Mgr. Also sent medallion and a couple of small stickers. I now have Yukon 100% QSL'd, both stations, not counting the LPRTS. (BP-WA) (Well done, Bruce. PM)

640 **ALASKA**, Bethel KYUK sent friendly e-mail reply in about an hour. V/S Joe Siebert at joe@kyuk.org said this was the first time in about 20 years he's gotten a report from the lower 48. (BP-WA) (It sounds like they haven't gotten any reports since I QSL'd them some 20 years ago. But with KFI going, probably not many hear them, unless in the NW. PM)

729 **JAPAN**, Nagoya sent unsigned QSL card, stickers, and NHK World/Radio Japan schedule in about 3 weeks for a surface report. (BP-WA)

963 **FINLAND**, I now have Europe QSL'd from the Pacific NW. I received a very nice QSL (without location) for 963 Poro for my recent report sent to the CRI address, as opposed to the general Audience Response address for CNR. It came from Ying Lian of the EE section and had a CRI folder, QSL card, note card, sticker, and paper cuts. So it looks like CRI is still QSLing foreign language broadcasts, at least part of the time. Very pleased. (JB-WA) (Very nice, John. PM)

1071 **NEW ZEALAND**, Ashburton. I sent 4 or 5 follow ups in Nov for the summer DU season and I got my first reply today from Graham Stevens-Trackside Media Consultant. He QSL'd their outlet on 1071 Ashburton, South Island. I DXed at Grayland using the first generation Wellbrook Array and my G313e. He sent along a pamphlet on Trackside Radio in Kiwi Country. (JB-WA)

1323 **GERMANY**, VoR relay sent QSL card in about a month for a report+MP3 sent to world@ruvr.ru. Card was specific as to date/time/freq but not site. (BP-WA)

1330 **ALASKA**, Juneau KXLJ received a handwritten card in 63d for CD report. V/S: Jacob Cagsians-Op Mgr. AK QSL #61. (PM-OR)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

JB-WA **JOHN BRYANT**, Eastsound WA bjohnorcas@rockisland.com
 BP-WA **BRUCE PORTZER**, Seattle WA bportzer@comcast.net
 PM-OR **PATRICK MARTIN**, Seaside OR mwdxer@webtv.net
 Sloper, DXP-3 phasing unit

SPORTCHANNELS IRCA

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

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

106.9	WRQK-OH	Akron ZIPS k	Steve French, Frank Stams
1350	WARF-OH	(co-flagship)	
790	WPRV-RI	Brown U BRUINS	Scott Cordischi
1280	KXTK-CA	California Polytechnic SU MUSTANGS	Tom Barket, Eric Burdick
91.3	KCPR-CA	(campus)	
700	WLW-OH	Cincinnati BEARCATS	
		Dan Hoard, Jim Kelly Jr, Tom Gelehrter-s, Mo Egger-ST	
103.1	KURR-UT	Dixie SC RED STORM	UNAVAILABLE
930	KIUP-CO	Fort Lewis College SKYHAWKS	Dave Bray, Mike Riggs
1300	WBOW-IN	Indiana SU SYCAMORES	Brian Fritz, Dave Sabiani
1130	WSDX-IN	(relay)	
100.1	WNIR-OH	Kent SU GOLDEN FLASHES k	Tom Linder, Rob Polinsky, Ty Linder
1100	WGPA-PA	Lafayette College LEOPARDS	Dick Hammer, Mike Joseph
1320	WTKZ-PA	Lehigh U MOUNTAIN HAWKS	Matt Kerr, Marty Horn, Kody Fedorcha,
1230	WEEX-PA	(relay)	Matt Markus-s+ST, Tom Fallon-ST
1420	KPEL-LA	Louisiana (Lafayette) RAGIN' CAJUNS	Jay Walker, Steve Peloquin
1240	KANE-LA	(network)	
107.9	KRKA-LA	(network)	
1050	WLYC-PA	Lycoming College WARRIORS	UNAVAILABLE
104.1	W281AR-PA	(relay)	
96.3	WIVY-KY	Morehead SU EAGLES	
		Chuck Mraz, Jason Blanton, Tom Lewis-s Matt Andrews-p	
90.7	KVNO-ne	Nebraska-Omaha MUSTANGS	David Gustafson, Curt Bohn,
100.3	KZEN-NE	(network)	Matt SantaMaria-s
1100	KWWN-NV	Nevada-Las Vegas REBELS k	Dave McCann, Mike Pritchard
1450	KHIT-NV	(network)	
103.9	KGRT-NM	New Mexico SU AGGIES	Jack Nixon
1150	KDEF-NM	(network)	
94.1	WXEZ-WA	Old Dominion U MONARCHS	Ted Alexander

800	KPDQ-OR	Portland SU VIKINGS	Tom Hewitt, Mike Lund
950	WXGI-VA	Richmond SPIDERS k	Bob Black, Jasmonn Coleman, Matt Smith-s,
93.1	WFLV-VA	(network)	Matt Josephs-ST
105.1	KQBL-MT	Rocky Mountain Coll BATTLIN' BEARS	UNAVAILABLE
100.9	WLUN-MI	Saginaw Valley SU CARDINALS	UNAVAILABLE
100.5	WSGW-MI	(back-up, at least 2 games)	
1230	KWSN-SD	Sioux Falls COUGARS	UNAVAILABLE
920	KKLS-SD	South Dakota Sch of Mines & Tech HARDROCKERS	Tom Rudebusch
97.5	K248BT-SD	(relay)	
105.1	WTZO-TN	Tennessee-Chattanooga MOCCASINS I	
		Jim Reynolds, Todd Agne, Will Poindexter	
1470	WVOL-TN	Tennessee SU TIGERS	Barry Gresham, Albert Dawson
910	WMRB-TN	(network)	
94.7	WOJG-TN	(network)	
103.3	KESP-TX	Texas Christian U HORNED FROGS	
		Brian Estridge, John Denton, Jeff Williams-s, Taylor Durham-ST	
88.7	KTCU-tx	(campus)	
740	KVOR-CO	US Air Force Acad FALCONS	Jim Arthur, Lee Douglas, Jay Ricci-ST,
1510	KCKK-CO	(network)	Bob Ihle-ST
770	WABC-NY	US Military Acad (Army) BLACK KNIGHTS	John Minko, Dean Darling,
1340	WALL-NY	(network)	Rich DeMarco-s, Bob Outer-ST
1390	WEOK-NY	(network)	
700	KALL-UT	Utah UTES m	Mike Lageschulte, Frank Dolce, Sharrieff Shah-s
750	KOAL-UT	(network)	
950	WPEN-PA	Villanova U WILDCATS	Joe Eichorn, Ryan Fannan
580	WBW-KS	Washburn U ICHABODS	Bruce Steinbrock, Mark Elliott, Jan Lunsford-s
1400	WDTK-MI	Wayne SU WARRIORS	Sean Baligian, Joe Gough
1430	KLO-UT	Weber SU WILDCATS	Carl Arky, Ty Sparrow
102.7	WCKS-GA	West Georgia WOLVES	UNAVAILABLE

2009-2010 IRCA Focus on Five DX Contest

Manager: Nancy Johnson – 265 Waterton Wy – Billings MT 59102-7755
 E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

December 15, 2009 update:

1. Larry Godwin	30	5. Nancy Johnson*	21
2. Lee Freshwater	29	6. Bill Nittler	7
3. Chris Knight	28	7. Phil Bytheway	1
Tim Noonan	28		

* Contest manager is not eligible to win.

You can join the contest at any time, so if you haven't joined already there is plenty of time to do so. The contest rules can be found online at the IRCA website, and also in the September 12, 2009 issue of DXM. Send me a note if you have any questions. Please, report to the appropriate editor any special loggings you hear while DXing for the contest! The contest runs until **May 31, 2010**



DX FORUM

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

Deadlines: Saturdays: 1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/20 and 3/6 Anniversary

Gary Siegel, 2955 – 115th Street, Toledo, Ohio 43611*

Season's Greetings to all. Here's hoping some real DX is finding its way into your QTH. Realistically, the AM dial these days is a mess. Let's face it; between the abominable amount of QRM on the local and regional channels and the fierce amount of IBOC hiss being spewed out by stations strong and not, the AM band is now a hashed over mess. Here in my part of the Midwest I'm getting IBOC blasting from many markets. I have a Toledo local hosing me, several area Detroit stations, a couple Cleveland stations, multiple Chicago stations, Indy, Ft. Wayne, Cincinnati, Columbus, Des Moines, Louisville, plus major eastern markets of Pittsburgh, Philly, DC, Boston, Rochester and NYC doing copious amounts of damage up and down the dial. Even Monroe, MI on 560 is adding to the mess! Skywave reception has morphed into only the most dominate stations cutting through and even they get submerged if the IBOC-ing station is strong enough. Even nulling the culprit station doesn't rid you of the adjacent channel hiss. The stations running IBOC are basically legalized jammers thanks to the FCC. What has happened to AM is despicable. Between the trashy talk programming and the listening condition of the dial itself makes for a potpourri of ugliness. I really don't know how else to flavor it. My friends, this situation doesn't just threaten our hobby, it dooms it. Much like the transition to digital has really scaled back TV DX, what has taken place on AM may be even worse. We can no longer kid ourselves into thinking this may go away. I sense we must take action. I've described what the dial is like here in Toledo. I'm curious as to what other members are confronting. Put your experiences into print. I'd like to amass your findings, compile them and forward them to the FCC in a letter of concern that we as listeners have. If we express our concern to the FCC perhaps they will revisit their decision of allowing the broadcasters to run the IBOC all night which clearly is doing the most damage to the dial. Apparently the broadcasters must quietly agree. Why else would they be seeking to operate FM translators in their own city of license? Why would even 50kw 'clear channel' stations be duping their programming onto even lower power FMs in their own markets? Why are the Canadians deserting the AM dial in droves? These are issues I tried to present when I campaigned for a spot on our BoD. I thank those who voted for me by the way. We need to somehow deal with the AM mess as does the broadcaster or AM will become irrelevant before the end of the next decade--if it isn't already. Here in the east there are only 2 AM stations strong enough running music formats that are worth listening to--WSM 650 and CFZM 740, that's it. WSM at times suffers IBOCing from WFAN 660. (WSM's CE was one engineer who fought the IBOC expansion, but not enough CE's backed him.) Ironically, when I spoke with WONW1280 Defiance, OH's CE Bill Rossini about the fact that WXYT 1270 in Detroit was clipping and ruining their daytime coverage into Toledo he told me they were doing nothing illegal and wouldn't deal with it. (He is also CE for WSPD 1370 here in Toledo, which at the time was running IBOC but no longer does, however sister station WCWA 12340 still is, go figure.) Basically, you have one CE diametrically opposed to IBOC, another who doesn't care since the interference caused does not affect the market of licensing. That folks is where we're at. Happy New Year! 73s.

FROM THE IRCA E-MAIL LIST

This is just a brief first impression of the new Wellbrook K9AY antenna that I am in the process of evaluating. I LOVE IT! Since we have returned to Oklahoma 10 days ago, I've managed to erect both the older first generation ALA100-based Phased Array and the all-new K9AY version. Both arrays incorporate twin Delta Loops with the two loops 40 meters apart. I erected the two arrays parallel to each other, pointing due North-South for evaluation they are separated by about 300 feet, so there is little chance of interaction. I've just spent two evenings running the two arrays, but I'm seriously in love. The ALA100 array has been my antenna of choice for the past three seasons and has been a wonder. The K9AY Array is even better, especially for domestic DXers.

Similarities in the two Arrays:

Both have two 40 meter apart small delta antennas, the antennas are amplified at the head unit in each case Both phase their two elements against each other to achieve very deep nulls that are instantly swappable fore and aft at the shack (very important for domestic DXers and sometimes

trans-oceanic ones.) Both units can be easily expanded to operate two separate arrays so that one may cover all four cardinal directions, N, S, E, and West... or any two angles, since the two 2-antenna arrays are NOT interdependent. I'm actually running the two different arrays with one controller in the shack. Both units were/are quite expensive (they are multi-unit phased arrays, after all)

Differences:

The K9AY array has a narrower front lobe (the ALA100 Array is, functionally, a full 180 degrees wide) This should help both in S/N ratio and in giving very different views of the band in each of four directions. The K9AY array has deeper nulls... so deep that they may not be fully measurable here in the winter, even at solar noon. EZNEC predicts about 5 to 10 dB deeper than the already deep 45 dB nulls of the ALA100 array. The K9AY sports somewhat larger loop (base of each Delta is about 30 feet, where the ALA100 unit base is about 20+ feet.) and the amplifier is technically even better and about 10 dB stronger. The K9AY requires good grounding at each antenna element for best performance; the older ALA100 unit required no grounding.

Early Results:

I used my very accurate Winradio for these tests. HOWEVER, I paid no attention to the S-meter after peaking up the null before checking a frequency. One test was at the lower part of the band from 540 through 730. I maximized the null against the dominant southerly or northerly and then reversed the array. I did this for each array, about 15 or 20 seconds apart. There were 20 channels examined in that range (540 through 730.) On 15 of the channels, I marked something like "Much clearer on the K9AY" or "Much better on the K9AY" and, on virtually every channel, there was one station looking north and another looking south, at least on the K9AY. One channel, 600, I marked "ALA100 seems better" and on one... 620 with Dallas and CKRM, the two antennas both performed equally well. The remaining three were inconclusive. A couple of interesting notes: WWLS in Norman on 640 is one of my semi-local pests. It is nearly impossible to completely null it with the ALA100 Array, especially at night. The K9AY Array nailed it. WLS on 700 is off to the ENE and not nullable with this set-up, however, I had a strong Mexican beneath on the K9AY and nothing on the ALA100 Array. I also snuck up to mid-bander 930, my favorite rock and roll station 50 years ago and a local pest that is VERY difficult to null with any antenna. I had CJCA to the North mixing with residual WKY on the ALA 100, but CJCA alone and stronger on the K9AY array. WONDERFUL! On the upper part of the band, I just looked at 1600 to 1500 and the K9AY Array was superior here, too. 1600- had Cedar Rapids and Mexico, with the K9AY superior; 1590 was inconclusive as was 1580. 1570 was my old buddy growing up, XERF. The K9AY was superior, but there was nothing identifiable in the null. 1560 was inconclusive; 1550, 1540, 1530, 1520, 1510 and 1500 each showed the K9AY Array clearly superior! So three channels were inconclusive, due most likely to station locations and seven had the K9AY Array as the star. 1520 is worthy of special mention: that is the old rock and roll 50,000 watts of KOMA, 50 miles due south of me, now a talker as KOCY, I think. It and 50,000 w – 740 KRMG in Tulsa, an equal distance to my east, is my worst nemesis. I have never been able to null KOMA-1520 with any antenna that I have ever used. KOMA is the only station that I had ever received here on 1520... until two nights ago. The K9AY Array put KOMA in the mud about 90% of the time and I heard WHOW, Clinton, Illinois-1520 along with at least one other station with almost no KOMA remaining. I have yet to do any daytime test comparisons of the antennas or more formal evaluations, but I can already tell that the K9AY is a wonderful antenna... the ALA100 was very good... this is EXCELLENT.

In the coming weeks, I'll also be testing/comparing a two antenna Wellbrook Array based on two Conti Super Loops. That is not reversible from the shack, but probably out-performs even the K9AY array as a single-direction antenna. Lastly, I'll be looking at the very modestly priced single Wellbrook FLG100 which appears to be superior for driving single flags, super loops, EWEs, KAZs, etc. The latter looks to be an EXCELLENT antenna for many at-home applications in suburban neighborhoods and even townhouses. So, I've got an interesting winter ahead, here on the Southern Prairie. Since these are all currently available Wellbrook antennas, I'll be able to post findings here in near real time, as well as finalize them in articles.

John Bryant

Stillwater, OK
WinRadio G313e + Ultralights
Wellbrook K9AY Phased Array



SPECIAL FEATURES

Long Beach Island, New Jersey DXpedition Report – November 2009

Submitted By Russ Edmunds

Format: Frequency (kHz), Date, Time (UTC), Calls, Slogan, City, State/Province, Country, Details

153	11/6/2009	0218	Alger Chaîne 1, Bechar, Algeria //531 with talk by man in AA
162	11/8/2009	0323	France Inter, Allouis, France talk by man in FF with music in the background
171	11/6/2009	2200	Radio Rossii, Bolshakovo, Kaliningrad "Russian mixing with Morocco, 6 time pips (all short) and Rossi tune at TOH (thanks to Mauno Ritola for ID)"
171	11/7/2009	0002	Radio Mediterranee Int., Nador, Morocco strong with Arabic music
177	11/7/2009	2222	Deutschlandradio Berlin, Oranienburg, Germany "Man, woman alternating in German"
183	11/7/2009	2007	Europe 1 Felsberg, Germany Talk between two men in FF very good signal ("local like") later in the evenings
189	11/8/2009	0321	Rikistvarpid R 2, Gufusklar, Iceland , Music by Styx, great signal
198	11/8/2009	0059	BBC Radio 4, various, England "on behalf of Radio 4 good night" followed by God Save the Queen good reception
207	11/7/2009	2230	DLF, Aholming, Germany , Man & woman alternating in German // webstream
207	11/8/2009	0200	RTM A, Azilal, Morocco , Arabic singing by man, poor signal
207	11/8/2009	0434	unid, Procol Harum, Whiter Shade of Pale – Iceland ? or DLF ?
216	11/7/2009	2008	Radio Monte Carlo, Roumoules, France , Rapid-fire talk by a man in French, good level for still-daylight
225	11/7/2009	2200	Polskie Radio, Solec Kujawski, Poland , Light music, talk by two men in presumed Polish // webstream
234	11/8/2009	0321	Radio Luxembourg, Junglinster, Luxembourg , Roy Orbison song, talk by female announcer in FF
252	11/7/2009	0400	Alger Chaîne, Tipaza, Algeria , Arabic singing, 5 time pips (last one higher) on TOH and news in FF
252	11/7/2009	0330	RTE Radio 1, Clarkstown, Ireland , "RTE Radio 1 through the night" excellent
261	11/7/2009	2155	R Rossii, Taldom, Russia , // webstream with music, lost in the noise by 2200; hrd presumed on 11/8 at 0200 with 6 time pips at TOH
270	11/7/2009	2200	CR1, Czech Republic , "Radiozurnal" in presumed Czech language – good
279	11/7/2009	2200	Belaruskaye Radio 1, Sasnovy, Belarus , Talk by man in Slavic lang, anthem at 2158, very poor signal
530	11/9/2009	0100	Radio Enciclopedia, Cuba , ID, light music, slight het from 531 stations
530	11/7/2009	2005	unID, USA , TIS type station with female announcer, mention "8am to 6pm"
531	11/7/2009	0423	Alger Chaîne 1, El Ain Beida, Algeria //153
531	11/7/2009	0545	Kringvarp Froya, Akraberg, Faroe Islands , continuous pop music in EE, // webstream
531	11/7/2009	0500	RNE5, Pamplona, Spain , SS music and talk, time pips
531	11/6/2009	2232	unid, soft music
540	11/7/2009	2338	WFLF, FL, USA , ID
549	11/7/2009	0423	Alger Chaîne 1, Les Trembles, Algeria , FF talk by man
555	11/7/2009	2221	ZIZ, ZIZ Radio, Basseterre, St. Kitts & Nevis , Weak but readable
558	11/9/2009	0400	Radio Nacional 5, various, Spain, Mellow tune leading up to TOH, 5 time pips (last one long) into presumed news ("Informative") by man and woman
558.046	11/7/2009	2220	unID, Iran ?, Strong het caused by station on 558.046 with brief bits of Koran type music but very poor signal
570	11/9/2009	0019	CMDC, R. Reloj, Santa Clara, Cuba , SS talk, Radio Reloj 'RR'

576	11/6/2009	2200	RNE5, various, Canary Islands /Spain, Time pips on TOH, weak
580	11/9/2009	0020	CM--, R. Rebelde, Cuba , SS talk, R. Rebelde ID
582.14	11/6/2009	2145	unID, Iran ?, Strong carrier
585	11/9/2009	0342	Radio Nacional, Majadahonda, Spain , Interesting play or recording from the field featuring girls singing in an exotic language (possibly Catalan) //855
594	11/7/2009	0250	R. Sim, Muge, Portugal , pop music, talk in Portuguese.
600	11/9/2009	0121	CMKV, R. Rebelde, Urbano Noris, Cuba , SS talk //580
603	11/7/2009	2220	Radio Nacional 5, various, Spain , Romantic Spanish music //585
603	11/8/2009	0456	unid, Classical music
610	11/9/2009	0121	CMAN, R. Rebelde, Bahia Honda, Cuba , SS talk //580
612	11/8/2009	0200	RTM, Seba-Aioun, Morocco , Arabic singing by man //207, fair signal
620	11/8/2009	0605	WVMT, Burlington, VT, USA , ID
621	11/7/2009	0139	Radio Nacional, various, Canary Islands /Spain, Talk by two M in SP; Parallel 639, 684, 855, 729 and 531
630	11/9/2009	0123	CMQ, R. Rebelde, Havana, Cuba , SS talk //580
630	11/8/2009	0659	unid, Short time pips every second starting at 0659:48 for 9 seconds, a pause for five seconds then a final short time pip at 0700:01.
638	11/8/2009	2200	Nigeria ? Loud 1 kHz het against 639; listed s/off is 2315
639	11/6/2009	2200	Radio Nacional, various, Spain , Folk music leading to TOH, 6 time pips (last one long), typical fanfare
648	11/8/2009	0200	Radio Nacional, Granja Escuela, Spain , Time pips and RN tune at TOH, followed by talk by woman in Spanish.
675	11/7/2009	2222	R.Jamahiriya, Benghazi, Libya (p), Talk between man and a woman in Arabic; over/under Netherlands
675	11/8/2009	0200	R Maria, Radio Maria, Netherlands , presumed with non-stop religious sounding music through TOH
675	11/7/2009	2215	NRK, Norway , Talk by man; language ID'd by several on RealDX as Norwegian
684	11/6/2009	2200	Radio Nacional, Dos Hermanas, Spain , talk by man and 2 women in Spanish, excerpt from song "I Love You a Bushel and a Peck", 6 time pips and fanfare; excellent signal
693	11/8/2009	0700	BBC Radio 5 Live, various (likely Droitwich), England , Talk between two men in EG //909 stronger
710	11/9/2009	0013	R Rebelde, various, Cuba , "What About Love" by Heart, audibly out of sync with 4 carriers seen well above 710.000; //540, 550, 560, 590, 600, 610, 620, 670, 770, 1180 and 1550!
711	11/7/2009	2328	unid, Man speaking momentarily Unknown language in the clear
720	11/7/2009	2342	WRZN, Sunny 720, Hernando, FL, USA , Oldies songs, ID under WGN and IBOC slop
729	11/6/2009	2200	Radio Nacional, various, Spain , //855, 684 time pips.
738	11/6/2009	2200	Radio Nacional, Palau de Plegamans, Spain , // other RN's with excerpt from song "I Love You a Bushel and a Peck", 6 time pips and fanfare; poor signal.
747	11/6/2009	2200	Radio Bulgaria, various, Bulgaria , Folk music leading to TOH, interval signal 2X, 3 time pips then likely ID by M in Slavic lang. Also heard on 11/7 with "Sorcerer's Apprentice" music mixing with Spain/Canaries
747	11/6/2009	2146	RNE5, various, Canary Islands /Spain, Music in SS //684
747	11/7/2009	1135	JOIB NHK2, Sapporo, Japan (t) strong carrier and trace of audio; others in ECNA hearing at the same time
747	11/7/2009	2055	Radio 5, Flevoland, Netherlands , Organ music (sounds like church music) from 2030 to 2045 UTC, with brief talk in presumed Dutch in between. At 2046 a talk program between two women in pres Dutch, several mentions of Netherlands. Two short and one long time pip at TOH. Another unknown station bubbled up a few times."
756	11/7/2009	0356	DLF, Braunschweig, Germany , Choral music //1422, 1269
756	11/7/2009	2220	Radio Euskadi, Bilbao, Spain (p), Song by Credence Clearwater Revival "Have You Ever Seen The Rain?" and other US pops over/under Germany
760	11/9/2009	0100	HJAJ, RCN, Barranquilla, Colombia , Mentions of Bogotá, and RCN Radio ID, mixed with several other LAs
760	11/8/2009	0015	R Progreso, Cuba , Spanish talk by man, and Cuban music //640 and mixing with another station with a man talking in Spanish

765	11/8/2009	0200	RSR Option Musique, Sottens, Switzerland , Option Musique jingle at TOH followed by talk by a woman in prob FF	945	11/8/2009	1115	unID, China?, Large carrier, trace audio
774	11/6/2009	2200	Radio Nacional, various, Spain , // other RN's with excerpt from song "I Love You a Bushel and a Peck", 6 time pips and fanfare; poor signal with 770 WABC splatter	945	11/6/2009	2159	France Info, Toulouse-Muret, France , talk between a man and woman in FF
780	11/7/2009	2106	WTME, EZ-1240, Rumford, ME, USA , local weather, slogan from //1240 WEZR	950	11/7/2009	2100	WROL, Boston, MA, USA , Bill Bailey show, honoring veterans
780	11/9/2009	0100	YVMN, Radio Coro, Coro, Venezuela , Several R Coro IDs and web address, over another Latin	954	11/9/2009	0114	Ceske Rozhlas, various, Czech Republic , 4 time pips at TOH, talk by a man in Czech language incl ID. Not //270 but similar sound and time pips on both
783	11/7/2009	2221	COPE, Barcelona, Spain (p), Spain with rapid-fire sports play by play.	963	11/8/2009	0548	Onda Cero Radio, Spain , Spanish talk by man "sera" mentioned, fair Radio 86, Pori, Finland (p), Classical music with an oriental sound; per web China Radio International relays in Lithuanian at this time.
783	11/7/2009	0320	Radio of Syrian Arab Republic, Tartus, Syria , Two Arabic stations with Koran reading and singing; one ID'd as Syria but other is questionable – Saudi Arabia not usually heard from NAM, but Mauritania was not on // SW at this time	963	11/7/2009	0420	unid , possible FF talk by man
783	11/6/2009	2148	unIDs , 2 mixing	963	11/8/2009	0550	unid , Soft music, pop, Finland?
783	11/9/2009	0215	unid , Romantic ballads, beyond 0230, seems Arabic, 2nd stn. mixing	972	11/8/2009	0200	NDR Info, Hamburg, Germany , Talk by a woman in German
790	11/6/2009	2200	CFNW, Port au Choix, NL, Canada , C&W music, ID as //CFCB 570	972	11/7/2009	2338	Radio Jamahiriya, Sirt, Libya , Middle Eastern music vocal and instrumental //1053; fighting with Germany
800	11/9/2009	0134	TWR, Bonaire, Bonaire , Children's program in Spanish	972	11/6/2009	2302	RNE, Monteforte de Lemos, Spain , Man speaking in SS
800	11/7/2009	2100	WNNW, Lawrence, MA, USA , Spanish music, "Power" slogan	981	11/8/2009	0200	Alger Chaîne 2, Ouled Fayet, Algeria , possible 11-8-09 with AA style singing, talk by Man and Woman at TOH not //252. At 2300 on 11-6-09 heard with 6 time pips (last one high) and tune after ID that matched IntervalSignals.net
800	11/9/2009	0128	unid , Spanish talk, female vocal ballad	981	11/7/2009	2110	jumble of stations, 6 different carriers noted: 980.99 981.000 981.005 981.006 981.012 and 981.017
801	11/6/2009	2300	Radio Nacional, various, Spain , Time pips at TOH w/echo from synchros, //855 etc.	990	11/9/2009	0100	Radio Guama, San Luis, Pinar del Rio, Cuba , "este es Guama" ID
819	11/6/2009	2200	General Programme, Batrah, Egypt (p), Arabic sounding music and possible call to prayer leading up to TOH, then talk by women in possible Arabic	999	11/7/2009	2108	Voice of Russia, Maiac, Moldova , Presumed with clear talk by woman in RR
828	11/6/2009	2200	Radio Christi Bovet, various, Bulgaria , Music up to TOH, 6 time pips (last one long) time check in Bulgarian and national anthem, I'd per Dmitry Mein on Relax list	999	11/7/2009	2339	unID , Saudi Arabia?, Koranic singing similar to but not //207 RTM A Morocco
837	11/8/2009	2220	France Info, Nancy, France , Talk, //1206	999	11/7/2009	2105	COPE, Majadahonda, Spain , Presumed with soccer game play by play and long "goooooaaaaaalllll"
837	11/6/2009	2200	France Info, Nancy-Nominee, France , Presumed with talk by a man in FF //945	1008	11/8/2009	2100	Punto Radio, Las Palmas, Canary Islands/Spain , talk between man and woman in SS, IDs
837	11/6/2009	2300	COPE, Various, Canary Islands/Spain , Weak female vocal // other outlets	1008	11/8/2009	2355	unid , Big het, no audio
840	11/9/2009	0100	CMHW, Double, Santa Clara, Cuba , Several IDs, signature tune, talk by a man with mentions of Havana, under WHAS and another unid station	1020	11/9/2009	0117	CM--, Radio Guama, Bahia Honda, Cuba , Cuban mx, time check "en Guama"
855	11/6/2009	2136	RNE1, Murcia, Spain , Parallel 585, 684 etc.	1026	11/8/2009	0200	IRIB 1, Tabriz, Iran , Morning call to prayers in AA per Tarek Zeidan, RealDX
864	11/8/2009	0323	France Bleu, Paris, France , Music best described as French Glen Campbell	1035	11/7/2009	0010	R. Clube Nacional, Porto Alto, Portugal , Pop music, Talk, Portuguese language
900	11/8/2009	0100	XEW, W-Radio, Mexico City, DF, Mexico , "W-Radio" ID, probably them with soccer game	1053	11/7/2009	0410	Talksport, Droitwich, England , Man talking, UK accent
909	11/8/2009	0136	BBC Radio 5, England (tent), EE talk by two men about heavyweights and boxing – parallel to 693, good	1053	11/7/2009	0005	unid , second audio under TalkSport
909	11/7/2009	0250	RNE5, Palma de Mallorca, Spain , SS //684	1053	11/7/2009	0410	unid , Singing in apparent SS
910	11/8/2009	0100	R Cadenza, Camaguey, Cuba , ID, station slogan song, music	1053.102	11/7/2009	2338	Radio Jamahiriya, Tripoli, Libya , Middle eastern music vocal and instrumental, //972
910	11/7/2009	2100	WLAT (p), New Britain, CT, USA , SS program, mentions of CT locations	1060	11/9/2009	0100	Radio 26, Matanzas, Cuba , Popular music, ID and tune at TOH; ID thanks to Don Moore; over KYW
917	11/7/2009	2233	unID , Nigeria?, Strong carrier on 917 started to provide het against 918 stations at 2111 UTC; trace audio but nothing definite.	1062	11/8/2009	0745	DR P5, Kalundborg, Denmark , Musical interlude, talk by man and woman in Danish
918	11/6/2009	2126	Radio Slovenija 1, Ljubljana-Domzale, Slovenia , clip of Slovenian mx (thanks to Alessandro Groppazzi for ID)	1088	11/7/2009	2336	unID , Angola? Carrier just slightly below 1088; het for about a minute against Talksport with trace audio
920	11/7/2009	2040	WHJJ, Providence, RI, USA , talk about Univ. of Rhode Island football, time check, local commercials, ID at TOH	1089	11/8/2009	0310	Alger Chaîne 1, Adrar, Algeria , Chanting
927	11/6/2009	2200	Radio Vlaanderen Info, Wolveterm, Belgium , Folk-sounding song by male vocalist w/guitar, abrupt interruption with ID at 2200, talk for a few moments then station went off the air	1089	11/7/2009	2030	Talksport, various, England , Sporting talk in EE between two men, sport event commercials (boxing, soccer), PSAs and IDs
930	11/7/2008	2200	WYAC (p), Cabo Rojo, PR, Puerto Rico , presumed with SS talk about nutrition by man and woman announcers	1089	11/7/2009	2055	Russian International Radio, Tbilisskaya, Russia , RIR program per EMWG, talk by woman in RR, quickly overtaken by Talksport at TOH
936	11/8/2009	0200	Radio Nacional, various, Spain , Syncros echo time pips at TOH //855 and other RN outlets; also an AA station not // Morocco with Koranic singing	1098	11/7/2009	2336	Radio Nacional 5, various, Spain , SS talk by 2 women //1107
936	11/8/2009	0520	unid , Het, no readable audio	1107	11/7/2009	2336	Radio Nacional 5, various, Spain , SS talk by 2 women //585
940	11/9/2009	0022	XEQ, Mexico, Mexico SS vocal about 200 Hz low	1116	11/7/2009	2056	SER, various, Spain , presumed with rapid talk in SS //1044
				1125	11/7/2009	2336	Radio Nacional 5, various, Spain , Talk by women in SP //1107
				1125	11/8/2009	0306	unid , soft music probably Spain
				1130	11/8/2009	0242	KWKH, Shreveport, LA, USA , ID
				1134	11/8/2009	0307	Voice of Croatia, Zadar, Croatia , EE talk by man, Croatia can also be heard, good
				1134	11/6/2009	2221	COPE, Salamanca, Spain , SS talk
				1140	11/9/2009	0100	CM--, R. Cadena Habana, Havana, Cuba , Classical music, ID

1140 11/9/2009 0105 XEMR, Monterrey, **Mexico**, Local promos, Spanish talk
1140 11/9/2009 0050 WQBA, Miami, FL, **USA**, Tropical music, local ads
1143 11/7/2009 2053 Russian Int R, Bolshakovo, **Kaliningrad** (p), Brief talk in Russian by woman
1143 11/6/2009 2139 COPE, Jaen, **Spain**, SS talk by man
1152 11/8/2009 0621 RNE5 synchros, **Spain**, At least two with audible network echo.
1179 11/8/2009 2229 Radio Sweden, Solvesborg, **Sweden**, EE talk by man "Radio Sweden broadcasting to Europe on 1179 kHz good
1180 11/9/2009 0040 CM-- R. Rebelde, Villa Maria, **Cuba**, SS talk, Rebelde ID
1200 11/9/2009 0044 WOAI, San Antonio, TX, **USA**, "Sports, ID"
1206 11/7/2009 2336 France Info, Bordeaux, **France**, Talk by Man in FF //1557
1215 11/8/2009 2037 Absolute Radio, various, **England**, Rock music, IDs, // web stream
1215 11/7/2009 2102 Voice of Russia, Bolshakovo, **Kaliningrad**, Russian national anthem and ID, mixing with Absolute R.
1242 11/6/2009 2300 France Info, Marseille, **France**, //1206, weak
1251 11/6/2009 2300 **unID**, Weak, talk, possibly Libya
1260 11/7/2009 2102 CKHJ, 1260 KHJ, Fredericton NB **Canada**, Country music; local weather, slogan and website announced
1269 11/7/2009 0354 DLF, Neumunster, **Germany**, Opera, choral music //1422, 756
1278 11/6/2009 2300 France Bleu, Selestat, **France**, //864 with talk and music
1296 11/8/2009 0614 Sudan National Broadcasting Corporation, Reiba, **Sudan** (t), Arabic singing/Koran
1296 11/8/2009 2218 **unID**, Huge het, no audio
1305 11/6/2009 2300 RNE5, various, **Spain** female singing //747 etc.
1323 11/8/2009 0731 **unID**, "Greensleeves" music – who?
1323 11/6/2009 2225 **unID**, weak talk by man
1332 11/8/2009 2233 **unID**, Czech Republic?, Big het, weak audio with unid talk by deep-voiced man
1341 11/6/2009 0209 Northern Ireland? Solid het, no audio
1359 11/6/2009 0211 Het noted, unable to split
1377 11/7/2009 0245 France Info, Lille, **France**, talk by woman in French, // others
1386.06 11/7/2009 2150 Euskadi Irratia, Bilbao, **Spain**, Talk in pres Basque, folk song, //1476, thx to Jari Savolainen on RealDX for pointer to //
1394.87 11/7/2009 2056 TWR, Filake, **Albania** (p), Music, talk by man and woman in slavice-like language (TWR listed in Bosnian at this time)
1413 11/7/2009 2050 Voice of Russia, Grigoriopol, **Moldova** (p), Talk by man in Slavic lang; VOR Bulgarian listed at this time
1413 11/6/2009 0430 Radio Nacional 5, various, **Spain**, talk by man in SS, time pips
1422 11/6/2009 2246 Radio Koran, Alger, **Algeria**, AA talk mixing with Germany
1422 11/7/2009 0352 DLF, Heuswiler, Saar, **Germany**, Opera and choral music //1269, 756
1431 11/8/2009 2216 Radio Sawa (t), Arta, **Djibouti**, Strong het, no audio
1457.89 11/6/2007 2237 Radio Tirana, Filake, **Albania** (p), Strong het measured here
1467 11/8/2009 2315 Trans World Radio, Roumoules, **France**, EE, start of Hour of Decision program, excellent
1476 11/7/2009 2150 Euskadi Irratia, Bilbao, **Spain**, Folk song, //1386, lower level signal on this channel but still readable
1485 11/6/2009 2200 SER, various, Spain (t), Talk bubbling up briefly, 6 time pips (last one long) at TOH
1512 11/8/2009 2214 2 strong carriers, low het, occasional weak audio, likely Spain
1521 11/8/2009 2212 BSKSA, Duba, **Saudi Arabia**, Huge audio with AA talk by Male
1530 11/7/2009 0300 Voice of America, Pinheira, **Sao Tome**, Yankee Doodle at sign-on w/WCKY phased down
1540 11/8/2009 0006 ZNS-1, Freeport, **Bahamas**, ID
1540 11/8/2009 0727 KXEL, Waterloo, IA, **USA**, ID
1548 11/7/2009 2202 Radio Sawa, Kuwait City, **Kuwait**, Weak audio, AA music
1557 11/8/2009 0200 France Info, Nice, France, Music up to TOH then probably news by woman in FR //1206
1575 11/8/2009 2136 R. Farda, Al Dhabiya, **Saudi Arabia**, "Satisfaction" by Rolling Stones // webstream
1575 11/7/2009 2201 SER synchros, **Spain**, Good over R. Farda with Spanish talk. //1116.
1602 11/6/2009 2321 SER synchros, **Spain**, Fair with SS talk
1620 11/8/2009 2100 WPTU-717, Ocean City, MD, **USA**, Emergency advisory radio station with NOAA weather

1620 11/8/2009 0000 WDHP, Frederikstad, **USVI**, ID
1630 11/8/2009 WQFG-844, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ, **USA**, Emergency advisory radio station with local information and NOAA weather rebroadcast
1650 11/7/2009 2050 WQFG-235, Long Beach Island, NJ, **USA**, Emergency advisory radio station test broadcast from Long Beach Island incl NOAA weather and other local news and traffic
1710 11/8/2009 0200 Radio Top Inter/R Soleil International?, Boston, MA, **USA**, Several pirates heard, likely Boston area. One in French or Creole with talk by a woman on top, the other playing country-like music. Variations in frequencies of these plus others on 1710 causing large het (at least 4 carriers visible)

Observations From DXpedition Attendees

Brett speaks: Every fall, my friends ask me "so, when are you going to the beach for your radio weekend?" Getting ready for the annual LBI DXpedition has become as much a part of my fall ritual as carving the Halloween pumpkins and raking leaves. LBI-8 marked my 7th consecutive year, and from the new DX catches to the camaraderie of the group, LBI keeps getting better every time. As is our usual practice, we tracked the space weather cycles for several months before settling on the 6th-8th of November as the dates to provide most likely optimum conditions. Reception leading up to the weekend was yielding "near-LBI quality" trans-Atlantic reception at our home QTHs so we decided that, if conditions were excellent, we would consider extending the DXpedition to a third night (which we ended up doing). Setting up the beverage antennas went without a hitch, and conditions on the first evening started out great around 4:30pm local time with the usual appearance by Sweden on 1179, followed by UK outlets, Spain, France and Germany. As the evening progressed some of the medium wave frequencies cooled down but long wave provided some excellent signals. On subsequent days, we were able to pick up significant TA signals on both long and medium wave as early as 3:30pm local time. A subset of the attendees decided to stay over Sunday night; conditions changed early that evening as the A-index shot up to 7 and the band went somewhat auroral. While things returned to normal after a few hours, there was a period of dominance by Latin American stations that evening. We had hopes that this year might finally yield some solid trans-Pacific reception. However, despite early morning listening and some tantalizingly strong carriers, we were not able to extract anything more than some wispy audio from the strongest of stations on 747 and 945. Other DXers further north had definite audio on these channels at the same time, but we will have to console ourselves with the fact that New Jersey just isn't an ideal location for TP DXing. Every LBI tends to yield a different mix of stations and this year was no different. Running my Perseus SDR as a "DX vacuum cleaner" for ~18 hours a day, I recorded more than 1 terebyte of wide-band files which have already yielded a number of interesting catches in post-DXpedition analysis. Although we were not able to snag long-sought Greenland (which I had heard from Pennsylvania a few weeks earlier), we were able to positively ID the Faroe Islands on 531 and other new countries Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Russia. I also had digital decoding software running on my TenTex RX-320 and was able to hear Bermuda on 518 NAVTEX as well as a number of other NAVTEX and DGPS beacon stations. This year marked the return of Bobby Galerstein after several years' absence and (finally) the debut of Chuck Rippel who has been trying to attend for the previous two years. Absent was regular attendee Bruce Collier whom we missed, but he was able to send his antenna wire and pre-amps so at least a little bit of him was there. We also had visits from several local radio enthusiasts who were able to stop by for an evening of listening. Another year's LBI is over, but the logs will keep coming thanks to nearly 60 hours of SDR recordings yet to be reviewed. I am already looking forward to next year.

Bob speaks: Everytime I arrive at Long Beach Island and take my Drake R8B out of the box, I feel as if I'm taking a thoroughbred out of the barn and releasing it at Churchill Downs. While I use a Kiwa loop with the Drake at home, this fine radio is maximized with the antenna farm that was assembled for this year's LBI DX'Pedition. I missed the two previous LBI trips due to work commitments, and had to miss the excellent conditions on Friday, also because work beckoned. But Saturday almost did not miss a beat. I arrived early Saturday afternoon, and after greeting everyone and setting up my equipment, someone in the group noticed the first TA's coming in at about 3:30. Time to grab a Sam's Octoberfest and "assume the position" in front of the radio, with a view out the sliding glass doors onto the beach and the ocean. Plus, the temperature was in the upper 50's. It doesn't get much better than this, especially with the signals coming in. While Afghanistan 1296 did not make it to our radios, I was really pleased to be able to use my phaser and null WCKY-1530 enough to get a definite log of VOA Sao Tome later in the evening. This was my first chance to see the Perseus radio in use. Most impressive, but I have to admit, I need a real radio in front of me with an analog meter. Perhaps my

dream AM radio of the near future would be something on the order of the Yaesu FT-2000, which has an analog meter with an optional display. Still, Brett told me, "You'll get used to it," referring to a virtual meter. A big thanks once again to "Saylor Electronics," which supplied a couple cables and connectors beyond what I brought. One thing we missed was the presence of Bruce Collier, who had work commitments and had to miss the weekend. Part of the texture of LBI DXpeditions is "taking a voyage on the good ship Cutty," as prepared by Bruce, for every new country logged. Well, not every country, but it is a DX aid, hi. Bottom line, as usual, for this and every LBI experience – it's an oasis of radio relaxation with a great bunch of guys, away from our hectic work schedules.

Dave speaks: This was our most successful LBI DXpedition to date. From my perspective, the reception conditions were the best of the seven LBI's I've attended. I was only able to stay for Friday and Saturday, so I missed out on the third night. It was great to reconnect with old friends and to meet Chuck Rippel in person. Now that I live in Albany, NY, it's harder to pick up transatlantic DX, so this year's outing was a real treat. Once again, thanks to Brett for bringing every connector and cable known to man and to Russ for compiling all our logs and musings. The only downside was the absence of Bruce Collier due to illness.

Russ speaks: Although this was my eighth LBI DXpedition, this year somehow managed to top all of the others. As always the company is excellent, and the DX was as well. Once again for 2009, we were able to pick a weekend which turned out to feature excellent trans-Atlantic conditions, with several new countries added to our totals. It's always good to get together with the regular groups and also to get a chance to meet new faces as well, this year's being Chuck Rippel, whom we welcomed to the group. We were also joined Saturday night by two new short-time visitors in Steve Wozniak and Nick Langan, both via the WTFDA connection. We had a new antenna added to our complement this year in the form of a corner-fed super loop which, due to the limitations on available real estate was also aligned parallel to the coastline, thus providing us with another option, and allowing us to reorient the 6' broadband loop for other directions. For the first time this year, some of the participants stayed an extra night, however conditions deteriorated somewhat due to a geomagnetic disturbance. This year also featured four SDR's, two Perseus and two SDR-IQ's, and in the immediate aftermath, it's become quite clear that there's a very high value in having at least one SDR on a DXpedition as the ability to go back and check out unids heard by other members, to go back and check for parallel frequencies within the band are invaluable assets. That said however, our logs from the prior year were still being added to as late as August, so one DXpedition can indeed become a year-long event. We also experienced good weather conditions, although Saturday morning was rather cold, daytime temperatures Saturday, Sunday and Monday were warm and the sun dominated all three days. Our various experiments to determine whether we might be able to move from reliance on the two BOG antennas toward the super loop and broadband loops were inconclusive as Friday night most of us got our best receptions on the BOG aimed toward Europe, while Saturday the broadband loop was the star. We reeled in the BOG's Sunday while we had a full crew, so that night's DX was on the two loops, but due to the change in conditions the results were inconclusive. Next year will likely include at least one BOG and perhaps both, although each will be reduced in length to avoid problems involved in both initial deployment and periodic breakage where vehicle entries to the beach must be crossed for the longer lengths.

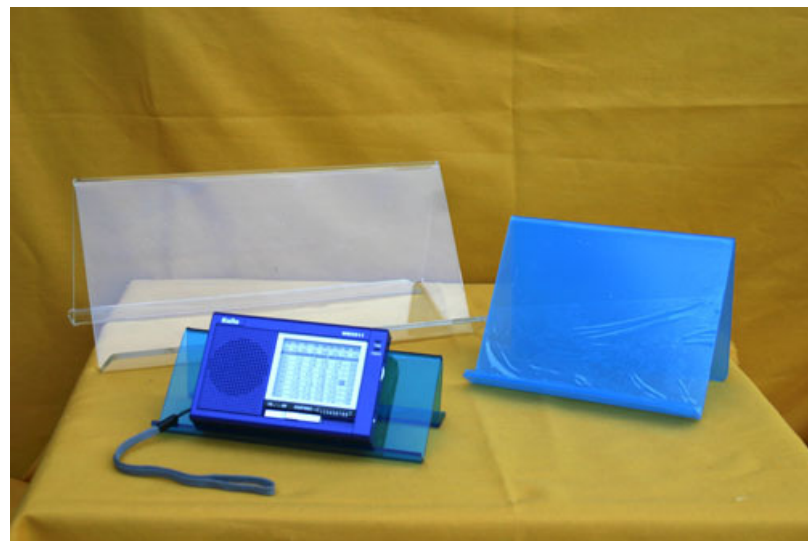
LBI-8 / 2009 Attendees

Dave Hochfelder (N2HTA) – Albany, NY – Drake R8B & Quantum Phaser
Russ Edmunds (WB2BJH) – Blue Bell, PA – Modified Sony ICF 2010, Stock Sony ICF2010
Rob Stonier (WE2Z) – Hawthorne, NJ – Drake R8
Brett Saylor (N3EVB) – State College, PA – Drake R8, Perseus SDR, TenTec RX-320
Bill Harms – Elkridge, MD – RFSpace SDR-IQ
Michael Temme-Soifer (KC2MTM) – Egg Harbor Township, NJ – Sony ICF 2010 (Saturday night only)
Chuck Rippel – Chesapeake, VA – Perseus SDR
Nick Langan – Florence, NJ – Sony ICF 2010 (Saturday night only)
Bob Galerstein (WB2VGD) – Monroe, NY – Drake R8B & Quantum Phaser
Steve Wozniak (K3PHL) – Quakertown, PA (Saturday night only)

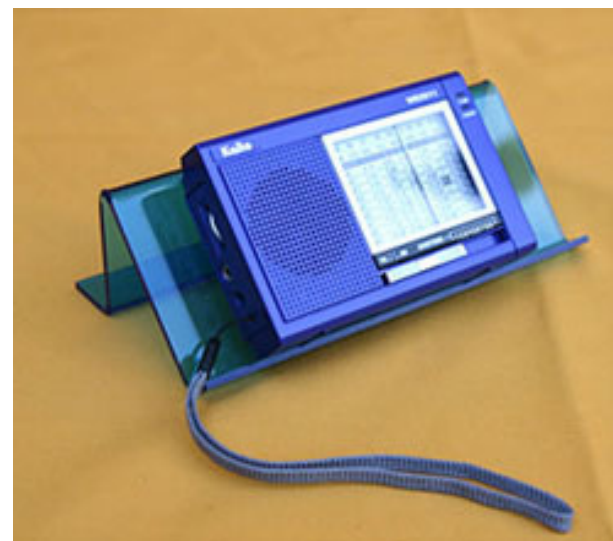
ALL:

North BOG: 700' terminated @ 33 degrees
 South BOG: 850' terminated @ 213 degrees
 Phase wire: 250' // North BOG
 8' pre-amplified Broadband Loop
 6' pre-amplified Broadband Loop
 3' Copper pipe loop, unamplified
 8 x 16' Superloop, pre-amplified
 Wellbrook ALA-1530

Working with Universal's Radio Stands By John Bryant



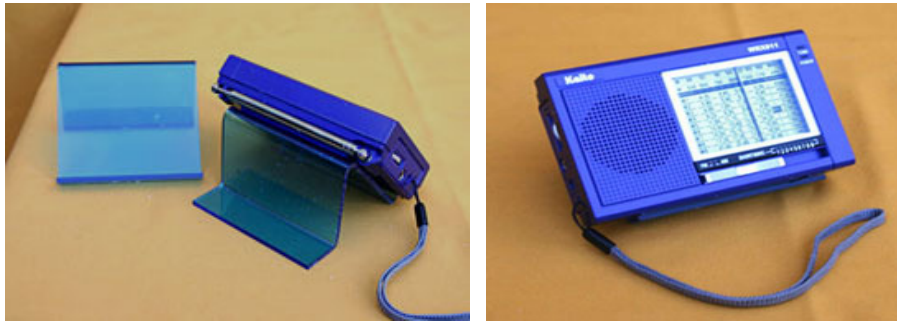
Several suppliers to the radio hobbies sell stands for portable radios that have been fabricated from bent sheet plastic. I have always used the ones provide by Universal Radio of Reynoldsburg, Ohio (<http://www.universal-radio.com/>) because they carry so many different sizes and all are very



consistently and well fabricated. They offer the three sizes pictured here. The largest is from heavy clear Lucite, 12" wide and intended for the E-1 and similar receivers. At \$16.95, it is a financial commitment; however, it like the other stands holds the radio at about a 45 degree angle: perfect for USE. I'm hooked on these babies for desktop use. The middle-size unit, #0022 is almost 7" wide, measures 5.2" on the slant from clear plastic at \$8.95. Like the other stands, it is excellent and worth the money, if you are going to USE a mid-sized portable on a desktop or counter. More on special Ultralight uses of the mid-size unit at the end of this article.

What really caused me to write this article was Universal's relatively new mini-stand, #4270. Mine was a clear blue plastic unit that was 7" wide, but only measured 3" on a slant. It retails for the princely sum of \$6.95 and, as you can see to the left, it fits the "landscape" orientation of most of the popular Ultralight portables. Here you see the Mini-Stand, with a Kaito WRX911 happily aboard. What I should emphasize is that these stands hold the radios at what most of us find the perfect angle to actually use them at a desk or counter top. Having your Ultralight on one of these really extends the utility of the radio, especially if you are going to be DXing for a several hour-long session.

OK, there was one other aspect of the Mini-Stand that intrigued me. I'm sure that you noticed that the Mini-Stand extended rather far beyond each side of the WRX911. ONE Mini-Stand might become TWO!

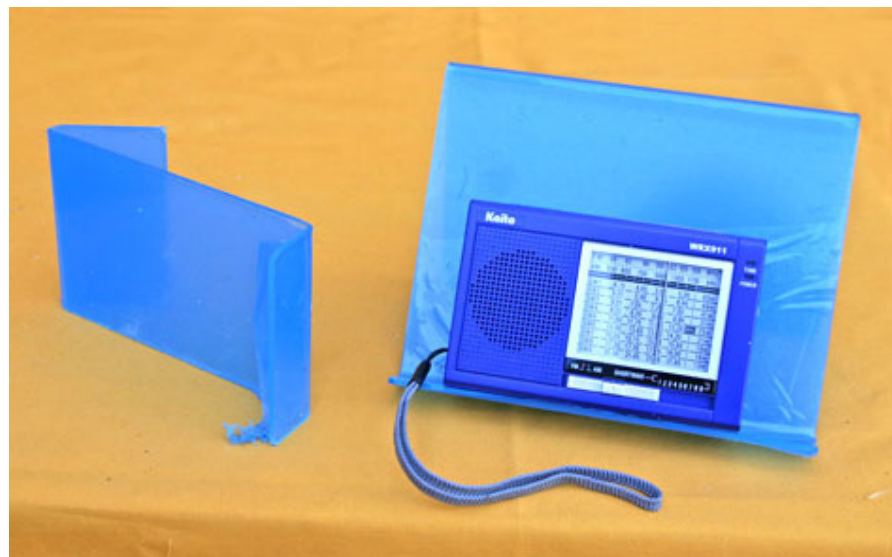


I have cut the Mini-Stand to make two Ultralight stands (at \$3.50 each!) just twice. Both times, have gone well: because I was *ultra-careful* with this somewhat ticklish cut. The first time I made the cut, I used a 10-inch table saw with a sharp carbide-tipped blade; the second time I cut a Mini-Stand, I used my band saw. I should like to emphasize that both approaches are dangerous cuts unless the operator is both cautious and very familiar with the tool used. That being said, the new *micro* Mini-Stands are just GREAT with landscape-oriented Ultralight radios.

Finally, I'd like to recognize Brandon Jordan's creativity as he approached building a ULR Slider radio recently. Gary DeBock and I had each developed very different methods of mounting 8" ferrite bars on Ultralight radios. Gary mounted both the radio and the bar on a piece cut from a plastic builders' level; I mounted both rod and radio on a 10" square plywood board. Brandon took another route and made me particularly jealous: he used the middle-size radio stand from Universal and mounted both the bar and the radio directly to it with the radio in its normal position and the bar mounted a couple of inches above. That is far better than my plywood board for desktop use!

Below is another shot of the micro-Mini-Stand on the left and the mid-sized stand with WRX-911 in place, awaiting the mounting of the ferrite bar. Both stands still have their blue shipping film in place. Actually the mid-sized stand is clear while the small Micro stand is transparent blue.

Have Fun and BE CAREFUL



IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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Tecsun PL-380 DSP Receiver—the Ultimate Ultralight?

Four Band Performance Review of Tecsun's Latest DSP-enhanced Pocket Radio
By Gary DeBock



Introduction: In late spring of this year China's leading radio manufacturer, the Tecsun Company, introduced the first consumer-oriented pocket radio to feature the innovative Silicon Labs' 4734 DSP chip – the PL-300WT AM-FM-SW-LW receiver. This breakthrough model provided outstanding FM sensitivity and selectivity, and unprecedented AM selectivity for a pocket radio – immediately changing the playing field for the compact receiver segment of the electronics market. Whereas the PL-300WT (and its Grundig G8 clone) was a dream come true for FM-DXing enthusiasts, its AM DXing performance was limited in several aspects, causing both the Tecsun and Kchibo companies to quickly develop and market new models that would exceed the PL-300WT's AM sensitivity and selectivity—and overall AM-DXing potential.

The 4734 DSP chip controlling the PL-300WT had been designed to allow multiple DSP filtering options for outstanding AM selectivity, but this superb capability was not used in the PL-300WT, which had its DSP filtering fixed at a setting wider than optimum (for DXing). Unfortunately another 4734 chip capability was included, however—an irritating "soft mute" function, which caused a severe drop off in DX audio when tuning 1 kHz farther away from a pest station. AM-DXers who purchased the PL-300WT (Grundig G8) models began longing for an improved pocket radio which offered all the DSP selectivity choices available with the 4734 IC chip, and which was free of the "soft mute" issue. Fortunately, the Chinese manufacturers got the message, and rushed to comply with our desires.

Multiple DSP Filtering Selections: The Kchibo company took advantage of the PL-300WT's lack of filtering options with the summer introduction of its D92L and D96L models, which were AM-FM-SW units complete with the full range of DSP selectivity choices available from the 4734 IC chip (6, 4, 3, 2 and 1 kHz). Improving upon a reputation for producing low-cost radios of questionable quality, Kchibo made a serious effort to engineer reliability into these new DSP models, and most of the radios worked exactly as designed.

In the case of the D92L, however, the design itself had severe shortcomings, including a digital section generating RF hash to degrade AM sensitivity, and a 15-second digital "chuffing noise" whenever a control was changed. As such, the D92L models never really caught on with AM-DXers.

The D96L model (pictured above) was vastly improved, though, with excellent AM sensitivity and a reduced (5-second) digital "chuffing noise." As the best performing DSP model available at the time of the 2009 Ultralight Radio Shootout (mid-September of 2009), the D96L came away with top honors, unique with its combined superiority in both AM sensitivity and selectivity.



Tecsun PL-310 Model: During the summer Tecsun itself was preparing two new DSP pocket radios to maintain its market dominance, the first of which was the PL-310, an outstanding AM-FM-SW-LW model also featuring the full range of DSP selectivity options (like the D96L).

In comparison to the D96L, the new PL-310 (at right) offered roughly similar performance in AM-DXing, but had superior FM and SW performance, as well as a fairly competitive Longwave band not included in the D96L. Like all Tecsun models, it was free of the digital "chuffing noise" issue in the Kchibo models, and had a more traditional, rectangular design. Fortunately, Tecsun was also developing a DSP pocket radio which had all the advantages of the PL-310, plus complete freedom from the one disadvantage plaguing all the DSP pocket radios produced thus far... the irritating "soft mute" function, a major drawback for weak-signal AM-DXers.



PL-380 Specifications: The new Tecsun PL-380 model (at left) is that highly refined product from China's leading radio manufacturer, which for international purchasers is currently only offered by the top-rated Hong Kong eBay sellers "Anon-co" for \$45.99, plus \$24.00 shipping (by registered air mail to North America), and "elink.shop" (for \$44.99 plus \$24 shipping).

It's an AM-FM-SW-LW model with fairly competitive performance on all four bands, and may be considered Tecsun's "second generation" DSP pocket radio, with many improvements over the original PL-300WT model. Offered in black, gray and silver colors, the PL-380's cabinet (at 133 x 85 x 27 mm, or 5.3 x 3.3 x 1.2") is of equivalent size to the Tecsun PL-310 and PL-300WT models, and may be pictured as a PL-310 with a tuning thumbwheel (instead of a round tuning knob, as on the PL-

310 model). Three AA batteries or a 4.5 VDC adapter supply power for the model (three rechargeable batteries are included with the radio, as well as a USB cable for charging from a computer), and the weight of the PL-380 is 200 grams (7 ounces) when fully loaded.

In comparison to the PL-310 DSP model, the new PL-380 has all the advanced digital features of its predecessor, plus a few new ones. Like the PL-310, it has Si4734 DSP chip-based displays of signal strength, signal-to-noise ratio, temperature (selectable in Celsius or Fahrenheit), battery consumption, current time, and alarm time setting. It has selectable 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 kHz DSP selectivity options available from a front panel control (in a carousel rotation scheme). It has an excellent direct-entry keypad with generous-sized numerical controls (which operates without the typical need to push an "enter" button). The model has 550 preset memories available, with 100 for each of the AM, LW and FM bands, plus 250 for the SW bands. An alarm function can awaken the owner with either a buzzer or a live radio signal, and there is also a selectable key-lock function.

AM coverage on the PL-380 is from 520-1710 kHz when 10 kHz tuning steps are selected, and from 522-1620 when 9 kHz steps are selected. As on the PL-310, the AM tuning rate is adjusted according to the user's rotation of the tuning control, so that rapid rotation of the tuning control shifts the tuning rate from 1 kHz to either 9 or 10 kHz steps (whichever steps are selected by the user for AM operation). When the tuning control rotation is slowed or stopped, the AM tuning rate shifts back to 1 kHz. This tuning system takes some practice to master, and is not universally popular with all DXers. Even if 10 kHz tuning steps are selected, a transoceanic DX chaser can still manually tune in the 9 kHz-split frequencies with the tuning control.

LW coverage on the PL-380 is from 153-513 kHz, with sensitivity somewhat less than that of the PL-310 model (which is greatly superior to that of the PL-300WT models, but inferior to that of the ICF-2010 and other top portables). Outstanding FM reception is available from 64-108 MHz, and FM stereo audio is available from the earphone jack when such stations are received. The FM tuning rate is also adjusted according to the user's rotation of the tuning knob, with the slower 10 kHz steps changing to 100 kHz steps when the tuning knob rotation is faster. The FM-DXing performance of the PL-380 is exceptional (as in the PL-300WT and PL-310 models), with the Si4734 DSP chip providing a breakthrough level of sensitivity and selectivity for weak-signal reception.

SW coverage is generally decent, and is from 2.3- 21.95 MHz, selectable in 13 different band segments from the front panel. In a major improvement of the PL-300WT (G8)'s reception of

numerous AM spurs and mixing products throughout the SW spectrum, the PL-380's SW reception is free of these problems (as is the PL-310's SW section).

Whereas the PL-310 has five tuning modes, the new PL-380 has no fewer than seven: Easy Tuning Mode (ETM), jog dial manual tuning, auto-scan tuning, pre-setting manual scan tuning, memory pre-setting auto scan tuning (ATS), memory pre-setting address direct-entry tuning, and frequency direct-entry tuning. The reviewer was highly impressed with the versatility offered by these various digital tuning methods (explained thoroughly in the 29-page English owner's manual), but since full explanation of each tuning system is beyond the scope of this review, suffice it to say that a PL-380 owner will have no problem tuning in multiple DX stations in every conceivable way.

Included in the PL-380 shipping package are three rechargeable AA batteries, a USB cable to charge the batteries from a computer, a Chinese owner's manual and registration card, a vinyl carrying case, stereo ear bud phones and case, a clip-on wire antenna, and a wrist strap attached to the PL-380 cabinet.



AM-Oriented Technical Summary: For some strange reason, Tecsun has chosen to install a PL-380 loopstick significantly smaller than that of the PL-310 (80 x 8mm or 3 1/8 x 5/16", as opposed to the PL-310's 100 x 8mm or 3 15/16 x 5/16"). This does result in slightly less AM sensitivity on the mid-band frequencies than with the PL-310, as will be detailed in the following live tests. Balanced against this slight detriment is the PL-380's freedom from the soft mute function, allowing reception of weak AM stations without the signal dropping in and out, as is occasionally an issue with the PL-310 (and other soft mute-enabled Si4734-chip radios). For DXers using effective external



antennas, of course, the size of the PL-380's loopstick would be irrelevant, and for those hobbyists wishing to enhance the model's AM-DXing capability as a stand-alone receiver, a far more sensitive 7.5" loopstick transplant has been developed for the PL-380 (further details and a link to the technical article are posted at the conclusion of this review). In general, the PL-380's combination of superb 1 kHz DSP filtering and freedom from the soft mute issue provides outstanding opportunities for both domestic and split-frequency DXers, especially those with serious external antennas.

Four-Band Live Signal Testing: The new PL-380 model was extensively tested against both the PL-310 and the Kchibo D96L (the winner of the 2009 Ultralight AM-DX Shootout) on the AM, FM and SW bands, and against the PL-300WT (a.k.a. G8) model and the PL-310 on the LW band. All testing was performed in the reviewer's typical suburban location of Puyallup, WA, about 35 miles south of Seattle. Operational checks and fresh batteries were provided to all radios prior to the testing, to ensure accurate results. The AM sensitivity checks were performed with all radios in the 2 kHz DSP selectivity setting,

while the AM selectivity checks were performed in the 1 kHz setting.

All AM testing was performed during enhanced winter conditions within 2 hours of local noon, while the LW testing was performed after local midnight. FM and SW testing was performed late in the afternoon, using only the fully extended whip antennas. In the case of the PL-310, the soft mute issue occasionally caused weak AM signals to drop in and out during marginal reception, and the final performance figure is for the best reception during the testing sequence.

AM SENSITIVITY (best is 5; worst is 0)

	530- TIS	620- KPOJ	750- KXL	980- CKNW	1110- KWDB	1390- KJOX	1520- KGDD	1640- KDZR
D96L (A)	3.5	3	2	0	1	0	2	3.5
PL-310 (A)	3	3	3	1	2	1	2	3
PL-380 (B+)	3	3	2	0	1	0	2	3

Sensitivity Summary: The D96L has a slight sensitivity advantage over the Tecsun units on the extreme high and low band, while the PL-310 has a slight advantage over the other two units on the mid-band frequencies. The PL-380's performance matches the PL-310 on the band edges, and the D96L's performance on the mid-band frequencies. The smaller loopstick in the PL-380 apparently accounts for this lack of top-level AM sensitivity.

AM SELECTIVITY (best is 5, worst is 0)

	560-KPQ	1080-KFFX	1460-KARR
D96L (A)	5 (no KVI slop)	4 (slight KPTK slop)	5 (no KSUH slop)
PL-310 (A)	5 (no KVI slop)	4 (slight KPTK slop)	5 (no KSUH slop)
PL-380 (A)	5 (no KVI slop)	4 (slight KPTK slop)	5 (no KSUH slop)

Selectivity Summary: The 1 kHz DSP filtering provided by the Si4734 chip is identical on all three models, providing equally impressive selectivity on all three test stations. DSP models without the 1 kHz filtering option (like the PL-300WT and G8) cannot match this stellar performance.

AM QUIRKS: The PL-380 suffers from internally-generated AM heterodynes as all other Si4734 chip radios, especially from 1410-1440 kHz (although these have apparently been reduced from the serious level of the PL-310 and PL-300WT heterodynes). Like all other such radios, the PL-380 emits a slight click of RF hash whenever the AM tuned frequency is changed (detectable when another radio is alongside the model). The dual tuning rate controlled by the speed of tuning thumbwheel rotation cannot be switched off, and has proven irritating to some users. Although the digital beeping noises can be switched off, most users find them excessively loud. Finally, since all of these PL-380 units have been imported from China, there are no service facilities in North America for warranty repair of these radios, and owners having any issues will need to ship them overseas for repairs.

LW SENSITIVITY (best is 5, worst is 0)

	351-NY	369-ZP	385-WL	405-MOG
PL-300WT (F)	0	0	0	0
PL-310 (A)	3	4	2	1
PL-380 (C)	1	2	Trace	0

LW Sensitivity Summary: The PL-310 has the best LW performance of these three models, with reception of all four beacon test stations. The PL-380's smaller loopstick causes a drop off in LW sensitivity relative to the PL-310, but still greatly outperforms the almost deaf PL-300WT (G8) models on the LW frequencies. By comparison, an ICF-2010 will outperform all three Ultralight models.

FM SENSITIVITY (best is 5, worst is 0)

	KISM-92.9	CIQC-98.5	CKKQ-100.3	CFMI-101.1	KINK-101.9	KKCW-103.3
D96L (B)	2	4	1	0	0	0
PL-310 (A)	3	5	2	2	1	2
PL-380 (A)	3	5	2	2	1	2

FM Sensitivity Summary: The two Tecsun models have equivalent outstanding reception on FM, with the D96L falling somewhat behind (presumably because of an interior whip antenna, since the DSP circuitry is the same). The PL-300WT (a.k.a. G8) models also have the same outstanding FM performance as the PL-310 and PL-380 models.

SW SENSITIVITY (best is 5, worst is 0)

	WWCR-5935	WYFR-5950	Anquilla-6090	WTJB-9370
D96L (B+)	5	4	3	2
PL-310 (A-)	5	4	4	3
PL-380 (B)*	4	4	3	2

SW Sensitivity Summary: Of these three models, the PL-310 has the most sensitive and stable SW reception, especially on the higher frequencies. The D96L's metallic front panel occasionally causes instability on the high SW frequencies when first touched by the user. One of the two PL-380 review units was unstable on the SW frequencies, breaking into oscillation suddenly on occasion. It also displayed the PL-300WT (G8) quirk of rampant AM spurious signals across the SW spectrum, curable by touching the whip antenna. The other PL-380 review unit had normal SW operation. By comparison, the Eton E100 model had slightly superior SW reception to any of these models.

PL-380 Verdict: The newest Tecsun model is an outstanding value at its \$44.95 (plus shipping) price, but whether it will be preferable in value to the PL-310 (and D96L) certainly depends upon the type of DXing favored by the prospective purchaser.

For a domestic DXer looking for the most AM sensitivity from a stock pocket radio, the PL-310's larger loopstick does provide a slight performance edge on the mid-band frequencies, as well as the 1 kHz DSP selectivity necessary to chase DX adjacent to local pests. The D96L can also outperform the PL-380 on the extreme high and low AM band frequencies, with equivalent 1 kHz DSP selectivity. Unfortunately both of these other models are burdened by the "soft mute" issue, which can be an unpredictable irritant causing a weak signal to drop in and out on occasion. The soft mute issue is a drawback for most DXers, but since the PL-310 and D96L do have slight AM sensitivity advantages over the soft mute-free PL-380 on certain frequencies, a DXer using these other receivers (in stock form) to chase domestic DX could conceivably log more stations with them. This assumes that these DXers could learn to tolerate the soft mute issue.

The choice would change dramatically for transoceanic DXers, however. The soft mute-free PL-380 is ideal because of its ability to tune 1 kHz farther away from domestic splatter, and because almost all TA and TP-chasers have effective external antennas, any limitation in PL-380 stock AM sensitivity would be irrelevant. Overall, for DXers (domestic or split-frequency) who are highly irritated by the soft mute function or who use any type of external antenna, the new PL-380 would be the clear choice.

Tecsun's choice of a smaller PL-380 loopstick is unfortunate, and results in reduced LW sensitivity as well. LW enthusiasts would do well to purchase a different model, although FM-DXers will be highly satisfied with the PL-380's outstanding capabilities. SW enthusiasts should not have overly high expectations for the model, although the PL-380 should be suitable for basic tasks like checking the SW parallels of medium wave DX stations. In general, the four-band performance of the new PL-380 provides one more excellent purchasing option for AM-DXing enthusiasts, which depending upon your overall objectives, may be the perfect combination of value and versatility.

Additional Resources

For those DXers looking for greatly improved LW and AM sensitivity from the PL-380, an effective 7.5" loopstick transplant modification has been developed, with the technical article posted on the Ultralightdx Yahoo File Site (under Modifications), on the <http://www.dxer.ca> file site (in the ULR file section, under Modifications), and is also directly linked at the following URL: <http://www.mediafire.com/?gzwukykyho2>. The article also will shortly appear in the IRCA Technical Column. This modification transforms the PL-380 into a very sensitive stand-alone LW and AM receiver, typically outperforming any modified Ultralight radio created so far (see photo below).



Two demonstration MP3's of the PL-380's DSP filtering have also been recorded during actual TP-DXing, and are dramatic in showing the effectiveness of the PL-380's multiple DSP filtering options in overcoming domestic splatter. In both recordings, the PL-380's DSP selectivity is progressively

stepped down from 6 kHz (the widest option) to 1 kHz, reducing adjacent domestic splatter to a negligible level. In the 648-Voice of Russia recording, the PL-380's tuned frequency is also stepped down to 647 kHz during the last 7 seconds (a capability made possible by its unique freedom from the "soft mute" issue), providing an additional reduction in 650-KSTE splatter. This 648-Voice of Russia recording is linked at <http://www.mediafire.com/?tnwem2fizy>, and a recording of 738-BEL2 (Taiwan Fisheries) is available at <http://www.mediafire.com/?mznznomi5zwj>

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 1600 KUBA** Bob Breck, CEO/GM; bob@knco.com; EM; 5; MF

WHAT was received: L = Letter with personalized statement; F = Form letter; Q = QSL card, commercially printed; C = Postcard or similar card supplied by station; P = Prepared card or form supplied by DXer; R = DXer's report returned with statement; cf = Certificate; E = Verification by e-mail; fx = Verification by FAX; M = Coverage map; B = Bumper or other sticker; bc = Business card; + = Extra goodies **WHEN** the reply came: Number of days elapsed; f = Follow-up, by mail, FAX, e-mail, or visit; n = Return postage not used; r = Return postage returned **NOTES:** * [For this column] = See comment below; ** [For this column] = See comment below

For KSUE-1240, these are the details for the second reply received by Martin. The details for the first reply were listed in last month's column. The postal mailing address for KUBA-1600 is 1479 Sanborn Road, Yuba City CA 95993, but the address on the e-mail reply is 1255 E Main Street, Grass Valley CA 95945. Some of you may have seen this posting on the IRCA ListServ recently: "Probably 9 out of 10 QSL requests these days are bogus, and I haven't figured out how to handle it yet. A large number of the audio clips I get are our web stream audio, with static and noise dubbed over. When I find an easy way of verifying the audio source, I will resume replying to QSLs..." Tracy Teagarden, Chief Engineer, CBS Radio, KKJJ/KLUC/KMXB/KSFN/KXNT/KXTE, 6655 W. Sahara Ave., Suite D110, Las Vegas, NV 89146." This column was prepared on 12/28/09. Happy holidays! 73, SSH.

DX TEST

Sat 02/06/10 0000-0200 1150 WGGH Marion IL (Walker)

WGGH 1150 IL MARION. Date: Sunday morning (late Saturday night) February, 6, 2010. Time: 0000-0200 ELT (0500-0700 UTC). **Mode of Operation:** 5000 watts (daytime pattern). **Programming:** Classic Country, oldies music and various sound effects.

The test will consist of classic country and oldies music along with tons of various sound effects. It should be fairly easy to identify the station, as our slogan is somewhat unique, "Monster Radio AM 1150". We also have TM Century jingles, including one used every hour for a legal id (spoken... "Southern Illinois Trusted Voice Since 1949, (sung) AM 1150 WGGH Marion." The time the test actually starts will be largely dependent on

when the last classic country song in the 11pm hour ends. We will remain at low power until the exact moment before our 12am legal id plays. (It has run as late as 12:03am). I plan on being in the studio live and "jocking" the test. We may or may not have a contest with a prize to giveaway but a call-in contest. I need to find a prize of interest to people nationwide, if anyone has anything to donate, please let me know. Our studio number is (618) 993-8102. Do NOT call about anything DX test related until the night of the actual test. I will NOT be in the studio till right before the test. I will handle QSL requests, but you MUST send a self addressed envelope with at least 2 stamps, otherwise you will not get a reply. I do not have the time, energy or money to be buying stamps or envelopes. I *PROMISE* to reply to everyone who sends one in this time!! I will want to know your location, types of radio used, when/what you heard. If you send a CD, do NOT send the entire test, just a few relevant clips. If you send a cassette tape, cue it up to where it needs to be or I won't listen. Our web streaming will be disabled during this test. Also, please be aware our mailbox at the post office is only checked twice a week, so you may not get an immediate reply. Make SURE you address the envelope and letter to my attention or I may not see it right away. Unfortunately, we have no bumper stickers, pens or anything else to give out. You will most likely get just a letter. If we have coverage maps, I might send those. If I have forgotten anything, I will add to it later. **Paul B. Walker, Jr.** WGGH-AM 1150, PO Box 340, Marion, IL 62959.

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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Rest of world (group 5)	\$10	\$52	\$57

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