

January 9, 2010 - Volume 47, Number 17 - Edition 1490 - ISSN 899-9733

HAPPY NEW YEAR...2010!!!.....Best of DX to All!!!

Features In this issue: Haida Gwaii DX report and Supercharging the Tecsun PL 380

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.

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CANADIAN RADIO NEWS

Dan Sys- dsysca@yahoo.ca

For December 2009 (January 1 2010 – next update February 1 2010)

STATION TESTING

1670 QC Gatineau CJEU Children's (French) (Radio Infant)

PROPOSED AM TO FM CONVERSION

1340 AB Brooks CIBQ Move to 105.7 with 6,000 watts (14,000 watts Max. ERP) (format will remain Country)

Thanks to everyone who contributed information to this column in 2009. I'll be looking forward to your continued support in 2010.

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

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WDXR DEADLINES: Each Friday. Please use Eastern Time.

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GE Superadio 2

- 550 KOAC OR, Corvallis 12/27 1128 NPR news, "What's In a Song" program. (AB-ID)
- 560 KMON MT, Great Falls 12/24 1005 weather "It's six degrees in downtown Great Falls." (AB-ID)
- 590 KSUB UT, Cedar City 1/1 good under KTIE with spot for Lifestyle Spas, ID "KSUB 590 Cedar City" into news. (MS-CA)
- 600 KCOL Wellington 12/21 2150 KCOL ID then a talk program hosted by John Jacobs(?). (AB-ID)
- 660 KTNN AZ, Window Rock 12/16 0005 man said "KTNN Window Rock-Crownpoint" into Native chanting. CFFR strangely absent. Long time no hear! (GH-OR)
- 700 KALL UT, North Salt Lake City 12/19 1712 "KALL (Call) 700 Sports," college basketball news. (AB-ID)
- 720 KFIR OR, Sweet Home 12/24 1019 "KFIR 7-20 AM" ID then Christmas music. (AB-ID)
- 730 KEZX OR, Medford 12/26 1027 sports items from FSR. Note: KBSU was off, came on at 1204ELT. (AB-ID)
- 800 KPDQ OR, Portland 12/27 2138 religious program then "800 KPDQ" ID. Poor, mixing with UnID Spanish language station. (AB-ID)
- 840 KXNT NV, North Las Vegas 12/20 1630 ID and traffic report. Fair but scratchy, totally alone with no KSWB or KKNX. (GH-OR)
- 890 KLFF CA, Arroyo Grande 12/29 2300 strong over KDXU and WLS with religious talk and "890 KLFF" ID. (MS-CA)
- CJDC BC, Dawson Creek 12/22 1720 ad for local auto dealer, weather, "CJDC" at 1721. Very good. (AB-ID)
- 910 KGME AZ, Phoenix 12/23 1855 sports items from Fox, KGME ID at 1900. New. (AB-ID)
- 920 KSHO OR, Lebanon 12/27 0040 "Unforgettable 920" ID's and ads for businesses in Lebanon and Corvallis. No KXLY which usually dominates. (GH-OR)
- 980 KSVC UT, Richfield 12/31 1930 with "This is KSVC" then into news and weather. (BB-AZ)
- CKNW BC, New Westminster 12/22 1752 CKNW ID, spot for BC Nurses Union. Very good. (AB-ID)
- 1040 KXPD OR, Tigard 12/26 1220 program of Spanish music, poor. Surprised to hear them this late! (AB-ID) (You got them just in time. They went off the air 12/30!—NJ)
- 1050 CJNB SK, North Battleford 12/20 2333 the Bellamy Brothers song "Let Your Love Flow" followed by CJNB ID. Poor in the jumble. (AB-ID)
- 1190 KXKS NM, Albuquerque 12/23 0859 with "This is KXKS 1190 Albuquerque, radio that can change your life." (BB-AZ)
- 1280 KRVM OR, Eugene 12/21 0030 BBC broadcasting and news. Many Jefferson Public Radio IDs. Fair signal with some scratch but totally alone with no KIT. (GH-OR)
- KZNS UT, Salt Lake City 12/25 1704 "The Zone" slogan, ad block. Last logged 2/2008. (AB-ID)
- 1310 KLIX ID, Twin Falls 12/20 0000 Fox news, ID, Coast to Coast show. Fair with slow fades, a very faint KMKY far below. (GH-OR)
- KNPT OR, Newport 12/26 1858 few ads, KNPT ID at 1859, and knpt.com mention, news at 1900. (AB-ID)
- CHLW AB, St. Paul 12/31 1740 dominant S8 with C&W and "The Lakeland's Country Favorite CHLW." Not new here, but nice to hear. Typical winter day conditions. (PM-OR)
- 1320 KELO SD, Sioux Falls 12/25 1000 gent with "KELO Radio." New. (AB-ID)
- 1340 KBNW OR, Bend 12/18 0000 suddenly up strong with ID and ad for local business. Very strong for about 30 seconds then gone in the mix. New! (GH-OR)
- 1360 KFIV CA, Modesto 12/28 0917 with "KFIV News 1360." (BB-AZ)

- 1360 KMNY TX, Hurst 12/30 0835 with "Rational Radio 1360" then said "that on 1/1/10 Rational Radio would no longer be heard on 1360. So it looks like a new format for KMNY. (BB-AZ)
- 1370 KSOP UT, South Salt Lake City 12/28 0845 with "Gold Country 1370." (BB-AZ)
- 1420 KSTN CA, Stockton 12/21 2127 song "Crystal Blue Persuasion" by Tommy James & The Shondells then "Power Oldies" slogan. (AB-ID)
- 1440 CKJR AB, Wetaskiwin 12/31 1745 good & dominant at S8 with oldies and Firefall song from the 70's, "W-1440" IDs at 1745. Also a regular in the winter during the day. (PM-OR)
- 1660 KXOL UT, Brigham City 12/24 1920 gent with "La Favorita" slogan then Mexipop music. Last logged Dec. 2007. (AB-ID)

UNIDS

- 1210 UNID 12/22 1815 man ID'd only as "Classic Hits 1210" into Jackson Browne tune. Oldies type format, very weak and soon lost. (GH-OR)

Art sent along a note that his 1490 from last issue was KBKR, not KBSR. Thanks to all of our reporters to this first column of 2010. Nancy 1/1 2100

CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP
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RIDING GAIN

- [NJ-MT] Nancy Johnson, Billings, MT NancyJohnson@Prodigy.net
 Drake R8B and Kiwa Loop

DOWN THE DIAL

- 1060 KBGN ID, Coeur D'Alene. 12-22 good with CKMX nulled. 10:33 with ID, local spot into religious program. [NJ-MT]
- 1350 KABQ NM, Albuquerque. 12-31 very poor. 20:00 with "...on 13-50 KABQ." [NJ-MT]
- KRLC ID, Lewiston. 12-23 loud. 10:12 with ID and country music. [NJ-MT]
- 1400 KXGN MT, Glendive. 1-1 fair to poor through jumble. 23:00 out of oldie with "KXGN 14 hundred" ID. [NJ-MT]
- 1410 CFTE BC, Vancouver. 12-30 poor with KWYO nulled. 10:11 with "The Team 14-10" slogan into spots for Vancouver. [NJ-MT]
- 1450 KQDI MT, Great Falls. 12-23 poor. 20:00 with "News talk 14-50 KQDI Great Falls." [NJ-MT]
- 1460 KLTC ND, Dickinson. 12-25 good. 21:00 with "The southwest North Dakota original classic country, KLTC 14-60 Dickinson" into ABC News. [NJ-MT]
- 1490 CJSN SK, Shaunavon. 12-22 good with semi-local KBSR Laurel off the air (almost 3 months off now). 10:09 with funeral announcements, ID, local spot. [NJ-MT]
- 1530 KQNK KS, Norton. 12-30 poor with KFBK nulled. 21:05 with oldies, "KQNK AM and FM" ID. [NJ-MT]
- 1540 KXPA WA, Bellevue. 12-24 poor to good. 10:00 with "KXPA Bellevue, Seattle." [NJ-MT]
- 1550 KVAN WA, Burbank. 12-22 loud. 22:58 in SS, ID in EE "You are listening to KRSC 14 hundred AM Othello, Washington and KVAN 15-50 AM Pasco, Washington." Station must have been on daytime power as this was too strong for 700 Watts. [NJ-MT]
- 1570 CKMW MB, Winkler. 12-25 fair. 21:13 with ID between Christmas songs. "Season's Greetings from your friends at country 15-70, CKMW." [NJ-MT]
- 1580 KGAL OR, Lebanon. 12-18 loud. 22:04 out of CBS News with local spots, ID. [NJ-MT]
- KMIK AZ, Tempe. 12-22 poor. 19:01 with ID, Radio Disney programming. [NJ-MT]
- 1590 KCNN MN, East Grand Forks. 12-22 very poor through strong KVGB. 19:05 with ID. [NJ-MT]
- 1670 KNRO CA, Redding. 12-18. 22:59 with ID. [NJ-MT]
- 1680 KNTS WA, Seattle. 12-17 loud. 20:00 with SS talk, EE ID "KNTS Seattle." [NJ-MT]

25 YEARS AGO

January 5, 1985 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **Bill Harms** of Savage, MD heard **Pat Martin** talking about his DX experiences on Ray Briem's national talk show ... **Don Moore** of Bellefonte, PA mentioned he returned to the United States from Honduras in November.

OPEN MIKE

Twenty-Ten or Two Thousand Ten; it's now 2010. It doesn't seem that it was 10 years ago we were expecting disaster at Y2K. This column was typed 1-2-10. 73, John
 Deadlines: Saturdays 8 AM!!



EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

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STAR OF THE WEEK

(KK-VA) **Kraig Krist** Manassas, VA
 NRD-545 rx w/134' multiband antenna NW to SE.

LOGGINGS

- 1630 GA WRDW Augusta 12/29 2355-0035. Mixing w/NVCC TIS and KCJJ. Talk. "WRDW and WRDW dot com." into news. "...sports talk sixteen thirty WRDW...." (KK-VA)
- IA KCJJ Iowa City 12/29 2355-0035. Mixing with NVCC TIS and WRDW. Songs. Ad mentioning "Iowa City". (KK-VA)
- 1640 MS WTNI Biloxi 12/28 2355-0035. Mixing w/WKSH (Radio Disney). "...join us for live local sports talk tomorrow afternoon. Sixteen forty talk radio WTNI". (KK-VA)
- 1670 GA WFSM Dry Branch 12/24 2355-0035. Mixing w/singing. Talk about NFL football. "...Wednesday on Fox Sports sixteen seventy...." (KK-VA)
- 1680 FL WOKB Winter Garden 12/24/ 2355-0035. Mixing w/WPRR. "Merry Christmas from WOKB. Your enlightenment and empowerment station...." (KK-VA)
- MI WPRR Ada 12/24 2355-0035. Mixing w/WOKB. "WPRR...", "...reality radio... Thursday 4PM WPRR...", "...WPRR public reality radio Grand Rapids...." (KK-VA)

Hope everyone had a happy new year.... For those of you who missed it, I will be taking over the Broadcast info column effective with this issue.... PLEASE send your contributions to **EDXR at amlogbook dot com** Best to all... fresh 1-2 1200

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

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TRANS ATLANTIC DX ROUNDUP

- 675 **NETHERLANDS**, Lopik, R Maria. 0318 Dec 14. Poor in splatter, but w/laid back vocal mx, then woman talking, followed 30 seconds later on webstream. (NHP-BC)

TRANS ATLANTIC DX ROUNDUP

- 657 **NORTH KOREA**, Kangnam, Pyongyang Pangsong. 1409 Jan 2. Man talking w/usual rough sound //3320, poor to fair. (NHP-BC)
- 1512 **PHILIPPINES**, Cebu City, DYAB. Fairly consistent for about 5 minutes, with "DYAB" ID by man at 1609 on Jan 1, a good start for the new year. Lots of energetic talk, some jingles etc. This has been tentatively heard before, but this is the first proper ID at home. (NHP-BC)

THANKS TO THIS REPORTER

- NHP-BC **NICK HALL-PATCH**, 1538 Amphion St, Victoria, BC V8R 4Z6 **nhp@ieee.org**
 Drake R8, Dymek DR333; RFSpace SDR-14 running DX Fishbarrel program when not recording; north and west Flag antennas, west corner fed loop, 1m indoor box loop, 14m sloper, DXP-3 phasing unit.

**Amazing DX from Haida Gwaii
 Walter Salmaniw**

Wow, all I can say is that I've never experienced anything like these past several days here in Masset, on Haida Gwaii (formally the Queen Charlotte Islands, south of Alaska). I've heard stations that I've only dreamed of, and I'm sure that I've just scratched the surface. With several TB of Perseus SDR recordings, I think that I could be happy for the rest of my life just perusing these exotic treasures! As I type this at 19:17 UTC on January 2, 2010, I'm listening to IRIB on 1449 at armchair level with a Koranic recitation. Yesterday I emailed out a first version of some of the great DX that I've experienced. Today I'll update what's been heard.

First, a summary of what I've used. Receiver-wise I have 2 Perseus SDR receivers on 2 separate laptops, and an AOR 7030+, and a JRC NRD 535D to complete the list. A third laptop carries my databases: primarily the PAL from Oct 2009, and an EMWG from Apr 2009, as well as some older databases (DBS, WRTH, and the 2008-2009 NRC AM Radio Log). For antennae, I have a number to choose from: ALA 100, oriented NE/SW, mostly for spotting, and SW (although it's my only LW capable antenna), a permanent N/S mini-Beverage of about 450 feet terminated into the surf of the north Pacific, a 750' Bog to the NW, and finally a spanking new QDFA constructed by my very good

friend Guy Atkins and designed by Dallas Lankford. This new antenna has been my star performer with excellent gain. I've yet to tweak the null, though, as things have been so hot of late. I erected it over several days in a N/S direction, with the null to the south. I had to bushwack and clear the thick salal, and alder to fit the 4 large delta loops, but it was well worth it! I'll likely abandon some of the other antennae in favour of this very high tech antenna in the future!

Normally, I DX from early morning to perhaps 10:00 am local before the Asians start to fade, and then again in the latter afternoon, from about 4:00 pm onwards for the Europeans. The past 48 hours, however, has turned everything on its' head with the same morning start, but continuing right through to the evening as there hasn't been a let up. The Pacific basically fades to Asia, then central Asia and India, and then to Europe. One good thing about the winter here is that there's no need for the 4:00 am rise to get the dawn enhancement with dawn being closer to 9:00 am this time of the year! Instead, I've arisen between 6:00 am and 7:15 am... much more civilized!

My final night in Haida Gwaii involved packing and taking down my now little-used antennae. Since erecting the QDFA, it's been such a good performer that I haven't needed to use anything else. The first to go was my favourite, the 750 or so foot BOG to the NW. The first few mornings it was my main antenna, and always a good performer... until the QDFA. Yahoo! I next disconnected my permanent N/S mini-Beverage as in every case the QDFA vastly outperformed it. Having said that, those who have been at the cottage can attest that it has always been a good performer to Europe, and even Asia, above and beyond its' relative compact size (about 475' outstretched). The evening proceeded fairly slowly. Clearly things were not as spectacular as the previous 2 nights. What it did allow me to do was to sit on a frequency for more extended periods and observe and ID a fair number. Although fewer signals were to be had, they were still very interesting to me, and way above the "average" evening in Masset. I now have about 1.5 TB of really spectacular .wav SDR files to enjoy for, I'm sure, years to come! First thing I'm going to do, though, is to back up these files. Those of you who know me may recall that I had a hard disk failure several years ago during a DXpedition to Masset resulting in some heartache knowing that many spectacular loggings were on that disk! So, here goes the last abbreviated report while I wait for my connecting flight home to Victoria. If there are any of you who would like a copy of the Perseus .wav files that I have, I'd be happy to do it for you, providing you send the HD and pay the postage! On a final note, on this occasion, I also was able to collect quite a number of high quality mp3 files using Total Recorder Pro and a relatively high bit rate. Those will be posted at various sites, but including **Dxer.ca** hosted by my very good friend, Colin Newell. Thanks again to Guy Atkins for building the revolutionary QDFA for me! I now have a Wellbrook phased array that is going to collect a bit of dust. Takers?

Now onto the loggings:

- 531 **JAPAN** NHK 1 JOQG Morioka, Jan 2 1656 – OK, a puzzler with very exotic central Asian sounding music at fair level. I've been fooled before with NHK1 playing this type of music at a local level, and not // to other frequencies. Yep, fooled again. Network programming at 17:00. Darn! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 648 **INDIA** AIR West Indore, Jan 2 1719 – I'm very pleased with this one, which I stumbled upon by accident. There was Indian music in the background. Suffers from domestic splatter. But I was able to 100% ID it to the // on 4760! They were running the same feed and also // to 684. My head is spinning! Listed as 200 kW. 4760 went off the air at 17:30, but 9425 appeared to still be in //. Wow! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 675 **VIETNAM** Voice of Vietnam 1, Dec 30 1600 – Exceptionally strong with mentions of Vietnam and fanfare (much like their External Service) at the TOH. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 684 **ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR IS** (INDIA) AIR Port Blair, Jan 2 1702 – Started listening to a very strong Chinese regional when I noted Indian music underneath. Sure enough, it was // to 4760 making this Port Blair. At times over the CC station. Not as strong today as in past, and weaker than my 648. See below! A few minutes later, though, it came up to good strength, with the CC station barely there. 4760 went off the air at 17:30. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 693 **BANGLADESH** Bangladesh Betar, Dec 31 1714 – Nice ID at 17:14 as 'Bangladesh Betar' and into Indian-type music. Good level, with splatter from CBU 690. Earlier, they were armchair copy. Very clean modulation! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- + Jan 2 1540 – Checked at 15:32 to note English news cochannel. Initially under JOAB, but within a minute totally dominated the channel. Over the next 15 minutes it continued to go back and forth. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 702 **INDIA** AIR Jalandhar, Jan 2 1749 – I'm almost positive that I heard the External Service. My limited sources here have them in Urdu. Clearly audible under the more usual stations (North Korea, for example). Heard them mention Afghanistan. Audible through to about 17:35 when they faded. I'll need confirmation from a language expert on this one! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 720 **NORTH KOREA** KCBS, Dec 31 1504 – A jumble on this frequency. Tuned in at 14:57 to hear a rumble of stations. Then, the well-known Voice of Korea IS began and continued through until the TOH, and then off. The het (from slightly off NK) left, leaving a couple of domestic stations. One played non-stop Christmas carols, plus another domestic. A tough one. I'm suspecting KOTZ was one of the two. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)

- 765 **RUSSIA** (KARELIA) Radio Rossii, Jan 1 2128 – Surprised to hear this one with EZL music, and then into Russian a few moments later. Fair level. 150 kW from Pedaselga in the Karelia region near Finland. The trans-Polar paths are open! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 873 **GERMANY** AFN Power Network, Oberursel-Weisskirchen, Jan 3 0350 – For whatever reason AFN stations are never easy to hear on MW. On 873, with listed 150 kW, it's a tough catch. The audio was quite low and in the mud, but then came up to an identifiably English program (American English, that is) evidently a music program. One would think that 150 kW would put out a lot better, but such is not the case. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 873 **NORTH KOREA** KCBS, Jan 1 1813 – Excellent level with the usual concert fare of a hundred happy voices. Bang on frequency and good modulation. // to SW 3250 (and much stronger). PAL lists them off at 18:00, but they're still going strong. 819's carrier is easily visible but not heard. 882 is not in parallel, but has strident talk by a YL. Also good audio, and on frequency, although there's a het caused by a carrier on 882.42. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 873 **RUSSIA** (KALININGRAD) Radio Rossii, Jan 1 2130 – A tentative logging for the site, as there are several Russian transmitters on this channel. Fair to good level with traditional Russian singing, and Russian talk. I'll check the TOH for any IDs. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- + Jan 3 0355 – Explains some of the difficulty with 873. After the English bit from AFN, I didn't hear anything else for a while identifiable until more talk at 03:54 which was clearly from different sites, and slightly out of sync. This is Radio Rossii with transmitters located in Olginio (75 kW), Lesnoy (250 kW) and Mezhavod (100 kW) according to PAL. Better pull out the maps. Fair at best. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 882 **SRI LANKA** TWR Sri Lanka, Dec 31 1656 – A fascinating channel for sure. Several co-channels with South Asian sounding talk and male vocal. Most definitely TWR Sri Lanka, as they went into English at 17:00 without an IS, but south Asian accented English with greetings. Several transmitters noted, and this one seems to be on 882.02 according to the Perseus spectrum display. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 963 **CHINA**? CRI, Jan 1 1821 – I'm still hearing CRI in Russian at sometimes very good level. Now my question is whether this is still from China direct, or via Europe (Pori?), since PAL only lists CRI RR between 10:00 and 16:00. Fair splatter from domestic 960. Not noted on 1323. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 963 **FINLAND** CRI, Jan 3 0406 – CRI's Russian program at good level with Russian (mostly Chinese) news. Not nearly as strong as a couple of nights ago. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 972 **GERMANY** NDR Info, Hamburg, Dec 30 2202 – Tentative logging on this one. Before the TOH, I was hearing a Slavic language, sometimes at fair level. At the TOH was English, announcing 22:00 Universal Time and into English. Seems to best fit NDR according to the EMWG. Only 2:00 pm local on the west coast. Farda is still audible with occasional peaks to good on 1575. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 999 **MOLDOVA** ? Sodruzhestvo program, Jan 1 1830 – Another fascinating channel. Often excellent level in Russian. Seemed to be one program to 17:30 and then another. At BOH, it faded down, while a Chinese station faded up to dominate briefly, but the Moldovan transmitter came right back into news. Golos Rossii ID at 18:32:30. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1035 **ESTONIA** Tartu Family Radio, Jan 3 0128 – Conditions are down a bit from the last 2 days, but still quite respectable for my last evening in Masset. Religious music (I recognized the work 'sertse' which means 'heart'. Lots of Russian talk after 01:30. Appears to be right on 1035.001 on the Perseus. Another slightly weaker carrier is on 1035.031 which might just be Pakistan according to the MW offset list. Another very weak carrier on 1035.028 as well. No idea who that would be. Fair bit of splatter from 1040 domestic. Generally fairly good. Interesting, the 1035.028 transmitter just went off the air at 01:39. Ideas? The fun just won't let up. Now the Asian station is dominating, and it's clearly from that part of the world. Could it be Iran, with Radio Payam in Yazda listed at 20/50 kW, or Jordan's Amman FM, or RTM Morocco, Rabat with 5 kW, or even Pakistan Brdcstg Corp. with 120 kW in Multan, Punjab. Wow! I've got the audio clip, but now it's back to Tartu at good level at 01:43. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1053 **ROMANIA** Radio Iasi, Jan 1 1946 – Who's on the channel playing all of the symphonic music on this frequency? Heard the same over an hour ago, and it's still going strong. My suspicion is Radio Iasi in Romania. I might have heard an ID at 19:49. Also mixing with Talksport from the UK weakly. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1071 **UNID** unid, Jan 3 0153 – Now this is a BUSY frequency with Middle Eastern stations. There are at least 2 strong ones, and perhaps 2 weak stations. The first measures 1071.008, and the second 1071.002. I also see 2 others at 1070.993 and 1070.998, but these are likely too weak to produce audio. Arabic music and mumbly talk by a male. The other also has a male speaking, but impossible to make out the language (for me anyway). EMWG lists Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and even Sudan as possibilities. Help!! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)

- 1089 **RUSSIA** Radio Rossii, Tbilisskaya, Jan 1 1849 – Under a very loud Chinese station, Russian is clearly heard, making this the interior Russian 1200 kW transmitter at Tbilisskaya. Almost 11:00 am local! Nice Golos Rossii at 18:53. Chinese station dominated until 20:00, but the Russian was totally dominating at 20:06 recheck with Golos Rossii ID. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- + Jan 3 0406 – Suddenly out of the mud leaped Russian at good level with moderate amount of splatter. As I recall there's been some restructuring of Russian Radio, so don't know whether the various programs still exist (Sodruzhestvo, RIR). The latter is listed for this hour. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1098 **IRAN** IRIB, Jan 1 2146 – Suspect this is IRIB with their 1st program at very good levels at times with Middle Eastern music. Could also be Bayrak Radio, though, so will have to keep listening, as the latter signs off at 22:00. Darn! Faded down right at 22:00:30 but came back up again 20 seconds later (that's when there was an announcement, and not at the TOH). Nope, still there very strong at 22:09, so presumably Iran. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1134 **CROATIA** Glas Hrvatske, Jan 1 1903 – Croatian news at good level mixing with a number of other stations, but mostly dominating. By 19:04, either a Chinese or Korean dominated briefly, but by 19:05 Croatia was back clearly in English. Also in the mix was Arabic sounding music. What a wild ionosphere! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1134 **CROATIA** Radio Croatia, Dec 30 0308 – English news, and then sports. At times very good, but with deep fades at times and splatter from 1130 Vancouver. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1134 **GLAS HRVATSKA** Glas Hrvatska, Jan 3 0205 – Excellent reception with religious program, 'Z namy Bog' (God is with us). At the same time, there's a cochannel Arabic station with Arabic music or Koranic chanting. Could be Iran (10 kW at Bojnord), or Kuwait (20 kw Sulabiyah). (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1152 **SPAIN** Radio Nacional 5, Jan 1 1911 – Good reception with male/female announcers into EZL music. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1152 **UAE** Ras as Khaimah Radio, Jan 2 1804 – This is a tentative logging. PAL lists the Malayalam Service with 200 kW. Sure sounds like them. Initially quite good, but then faded by 18:07. Confirmation will be needed. The sheikdom would be a new country for me. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1161 **EGYPT** Mid-Delta Radio, Jan 3 0223 – This is my guess for this Arab station with Arabic chants, a brief sentence or two from the announcer and into more chanting. Pretty sure I heard 'Saleym Alechum' in there too. Good to very good level. 2 carriers on the display at 1161.002 and 1161.007. Other possibilities would be Iran and Tajikistan, and Algeria. I have a good audio clip available to our language experts. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1188 **IRAN** Radio Payam, Tehran, Jan 1 2214 – I'm thinking that this is the station hear with fair to at times very good reception with music typical of that part of the world. Listed as 100 kW in Tehran. Male announcer at 22:17 mentioned 'Iran'. Very good point at this point! Sure sounds Farsi to my untrained ear! Into a CSNY song at 22:20. Powerful at 22:30 and into presumed news. I need to pinch myself to assure myself that this is really happening! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1269 **GERMANY DLF**, Jan 1 1658 – 300 kW from Neumunster puts out quite well, with German talk. One of my first Europeans in our local morning. I'm not surprised after the fun from last night. Simply put, the most amazing propagation I've ever experienced! What a way to celebrate the New Year! At 17:00 on came 'This is Moscow' and into VORWS in English. This is a relay from Yunnan, China. Excellent level. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1269 **INDIA** AIR, Jan 3 0237 – This is a fascinating channel normally occupied by DLF Neumunster, and sure enough it's there with symphony music. Frequently, though, there's what seems very Indian style speech there, so I wonder whether this could be one of the AIR transmitters? I have the mp3 clip! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1278 **EGYPT** Egyptian Radio, Aswan, Jan 3 0251 – I'm really looking forward to IDing this one. Very exotic Asian/middle eastern music with chanting. Very strong too. Just a faint hint of any European activity. Normally France Bleu is here. Darn, there it is at 02:54. Hope the station of interest stays until the TOH! Radio Afghanistan is listed here amongst others. Wouldn't that be phenomenal! Murphy's Law! Way down at 02:58... still 2 minutes to the TOH. It's back, but NOTHING at the TOH. Why? My guess on this one is Egyptian Radio from Aswan with 10 kW, which they say signs on at 03:00. Shortly after 03:00 there was a female announcer, which seems to be more likely Egypt than Iran or Afghanistan? Again, I'll leave it to the experts out there! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1296 **AFGHANISTAN** Radio Ashna, Kabul, Jan 1 1731 – Another coup! Often excellent reception with many mentions of Afghanistan in presumed Pushto/Dari. Deep fades, but then comes in very well. Splatter from 1300 domestic. Has the VOA feel, so highly unlikely the listed Azerbaijani station! Wow, it's still super strong at 20:01 with a very nice 'Radio Ashna' ID and finally into some music (mostly it's been a lot of talking!). (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1323 **GERMANY** Voice of Russia World Service, Dec 31 0613 – English programming at occasionally good/very good level, but mostly fair to good. Generally a better evening than yesterday which was rather mediocre for trans-Arctic DX to Europe. Still, not as good as my first evening (UTC 29Dec) which seemed best. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1394.866 **ALBANIA** TWR, Jan 1 2013 – Excellent reception on the off-channel frequency. PAL lists Bosnian to 20:15 Fridays, and then Croatian, but I didn't not any break at 20:15. Het from another transmitter on frequency. All in the clear at 21:12, but not in the listed Polish, from my most recent PAL, but I suspect it's the time change. The previous PAL I have lists winter times, and this would be Croatian, which sounds more like this. Not certain in any case. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1395 **HOLLAND** The Big L, Jan 1 0027 – Excellent reception with very fast paced modern pop music in English. This station has recently reactivated. A fine signal here in Masset. By far the best night since I've arrived! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1422 **CHINA** CRI, Jan 1 1550 – Many mentions of CRI and Islamabad and Pakistan, so this must be Kashi, China's Urdu service at very good levels. PAL notes an English service 14:00 to 15:00, so I'll have to check that one out! Other weak cochannels noted. Did fade down (to be replaced by another Chinese station or possibly JORF with music, but then came back a minute or two later. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1431 **DJIBOUTI** Radio Sawa, Arta, Jan 2 1839 – I've heard this one a number of times. This morning, it's cochannel with Ukrainian Radio 3rd program (Muz), with Ukraine mostly dominating at very good level! Music program on the latter with some call-ins as well. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- + Jan 2 1854 – When I rechecked at 18:54, Sawa was there giving their Washington address and IDs at fair/good level. No sign of the Ukrainian transmitter at that minute. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- + Jan 3 0315 – Fair to occasional good reception of Arabic with mentions of Washington, etc. Heard better during the day here with a stronger signal and less splatter! Still, I'm not complaining. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1440 **SAUDI ARABIA** General Arabic Programme, Jan 1 2049 – Presumably the Saudi at often very good levels with Arabic music. No sign of any domestic, although at times the Saudi does fade somewhat. I continue to be amazed at this marathon! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- + Jan 2 1902 – Very good reception well over the Japanese (and perhaps domestic) stations. Clear mentions of Arabiyah and Saudi. Nothing specifically heard at 19:00, but had to wait until 19:02 for any kind of ID. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1449 **IRAN** IRIB 1, Jan 2 1904 – Tentative pending positive ID. Very strong and clean modulation. Doesn't sound like Arabic from Libya to me, but I stand corrected if it is! To me it sounds very much like a VOA type broadcast, but nothing's listed in my resources that would match that. It could also be the 800 kW transmitter at Bandar-e-Torkaman which broadcasts both the IRIB 1 program and VOIRI. I did hear many mentions of Iran as I type this. Also one mention of Turkmenistan, which they do have a VOIRI broadcast from listed 15:00 to 17:30. Into regional music at 19:13. Quite certain that it is Iran. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1449 **IRAN** VOIRI, Jan 1 1605 – Often very strong signal in listed Turkmen with central Asian language and many mentions of Iran. Last night's amazing trans-Polar reception continues this morning! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1503 **IRAN** IRIB 1, Jan 3 1634 – Another middle eastern station this morning mixing with JOUK Akita, sometimes well over, sometimes under. Sounds like a report from the field. Should either be North Sinai Radio in Egypt with 75 kW or IRIB 1 in Bushehr with 100 kW. I'm guessing the former. No, don't think so. At 17:00 quite strong with lots of mentions of Iran and Tehran. Iran it must be! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1512 **UNID** unid, Jan 1 2035 – I'm not sure who this might be. The language sounds central Asian to me. The signal and modulation are both very strong. Possibilities are IRIB, Ardabil with 50 kW listed. Does not sound like the Saudi. Radio Herat, Afghanistan another distant maybe. Finally, there's one of the Chinese minority stations such as Chifeng RGD in Nei Menggu. I also see a Pakistani station on the channel, but not on at this time. The audio is a bit muddy. I have a good mp3 for our language experts out there! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- + Jan 3 1625 – OK, yet another head scratcher! Another middle eastern station with lots of mentions of Afghanistan, which I guess doesn't mean a lot. Another cochannel there too. Not much listed in the EMWG on this channel except Saudi Arabia's Holy Quran programme, but this sure doesn't sound like that. Also Iran with IRIB 1 in Ardabil with 50 kW. PAL also lists Radio Herat in Afghanistan with 10 kW. I wish! (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- 1521 **CHINA** CRI, Hutubi, Jan 1 1938 – Looking for BSKSA, instead I'm hearing Russian at very good level discussing music in China. I had thought that it might be Mayak, but with all the talk about Chinese music, I suspect it's from Hutubi, Xinjiang according to PAL which lists them on until 19:57. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)
- + Jan 2 1818 – Fair reception of CRI's Russian service. ID noted. (Walter Salmaniwi, Masset BC)

- 1539 **DJIBOUTI** Radio Djibouti, Jan 2 1933 – I'm quite sure that I can hear French under VOA from Kuwait and Arabic sounding music, so this should be RTV de Djibouti. Kuwait occasionally fades down, allowing for better reception of this cochannel. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- 1539 **KUWAIT** VOA, Jan 2 1937 – Noted VOA news in English at 20:00 (noon local!) at excellent level, with occasional fade revealing possibly Djibouti underneath. Not listed in the PAL (the English program). This continued to 20:05 and went back into Urdu. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- 1539 **UAE** VOA Radio Aap Ki Duniya, Al-Dhabbaya, Dec 30 1624 – Absolutely armchair copy with Indian type music, presumably with their Urdu program. Best ever heard here! Still there at great level at 17:10 recheck, but mixing with CNR1, which should be off at 17:35. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- + Jan 2 1845 – Checking for Djibouti, but of course VOA completely dominates the channel in Urdu at armchair level. There is someone under though, so worth checking at the TOH. Earlier, CNR1 is very strong here before they sign-off at 17:35. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- 1548 **KUWAIT** Radio Sawa, Dec 30 1805 – Very good levels, but now with some deep fades with technopop dance music. After 10:00 am local! (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- + Jan 1 1922 – Armchair copy at very strong level, but there's someone else on the channel, and my guess is Grigoriopol, Moldova which occasionally comes up. PAL lists Bulgarian. Each goes up and down, so it's difficult to know who is dominating! Main transmitter is on 1548.008 while another is on 1547.901 creating a het. Actually, I can see 7 carriers at least, with the strongest to the weaker being: 1548.004, 1547.903, 1548.101, and 1547.981 and several weaker ones too. At 19:30 there was a weak IS for Mayak. No idea from where. Perhaps Moldova? Very fascinating frequency for sure! (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- 1548 **SRI LANKA** Deutsche Welle, Dec 30 1714 – A very interesting channel. Often excellent levels in German, with DW Europa ID at 17:15. Earlier, around 16:20, I was hearing a cochannel which sounded Asian, perhaps Iran? English between 16:00 and 17:00 noted. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- 1566 **BENIN** TWR Benin, Jan 2 0335 – Not quite armchair copy, but very nice reception with ID for TWR in English and an email address. Wasn't sure for sure it was them until the ID as the programming was pretty much continuous music. By far the best I've ever heard them! I've struggled to hear much content, and even last night, they were at or above threshold. As I type this, when they fade up, they're a good '8/10' on my scale of listenability! Interesting, as the rest of the evening is no comparison to last night which was perhaps 'once in a lifetime' as far as I was concerned! They faded for a while and then came back around 03:53 with a preacher in vernacular, briefly at strong level. Went into a hymn shortly before 04:00, but faded down at the TOH. That ionosphere must surely be dancing around! (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- 1566 **SOUTH KOREA** HLAZ, Dec 29 1757 – Very good reception with Russian religious sermon. ID given as Radio Theo at 17:59. Mentioned the South Korean transmitter on 1566. Transmitter cut at 17:59:30. Weaker time pips at 18:00 followed by English, and then CC? translation. Then, Yankee Doodle. English lesson, as they mentioned, 'today we are going to talk about the problem of pollution'. Suddenly improved markedly by 18:02. Not listed in the most recent PAL. I'm assuming that this is still HLAZ, but I'm not 100% sure. Not a religious program at all. More akin to VOA! (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- + Jan 1 1804 – After the Russian program, when I rechecked a few minutes after the TOH, there was an English language lesson at good to very good level, over someone else, but too weak to know. AIR? Chinese interpretations briefly. Not listed in my PAL. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- 1575 **UAE** Radio Farda, Dec 30 1808 – Good to very good level with Persian music. After 10:00 am local. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- 1584 **UNID** unid, Jan 3 1604 – A difficult channel. Seems to be a graveyard channel for Europe and Asia. I've listened for the last 20 minutes to a Middle Eastern station. Sometimes at good level. Both men and women announcers and not much music. Looking at PAL and EMWG, there are a number of possibilities: Russia (Dagestankoye Radio), Kuwait (which EMWG says was testing with 50 kW), Iran with IRIB 1, and Egypt with two transmitters listed at 10 and 1 kW. Then there's Bahrain with 1 kW. Language experts please! Egypt is my guess. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- 1593 **KUWAIT** VOA/Radio Free Iraq, Jan 1 1925 – PAL lists this service from the 150 kW transmitter in Kuwait City. Non-stop Arabic music at fair level makes this a tentative logging. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- + Jan 2 1833 – Not sure how accurate the most recent PAL is, but I'm assuming this is the 150 kW transmitter which mostly dominates the channel with AA programming. I'll need to confirm, though. Often very good level. PAL lists VOA Persian to 18:30 then Radio Free Iraq in Arabic after. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)
- 1611 **VATICAN** Radio Vaticana, Jan 1 1916 – Good level and excellent modulation of Vatican Radio. PAL lists Romanian at this time. As seems characteristic of the Europeans today,

they'll be there at very good level, then fade to oblivion, and then return. (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)

- 1710 **UNID** unid, Jan 3 1540 – Just happened to be tuning through the band and came across 1710 (actually around 1709.985) and heard light elevator type music briefly before they faded down. Any ideas? Is that Russian station near Seattle still on the air? (Walter Salmaniw, Masset BC)

DX FORUM

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E-mail: REvans5435@yahoo.com DEADLINES: Sundays

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

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

Welcome to 2010. Here's hoping your Christmas, Hanukah and New Years' celebration was a fun and joyous one. (I had to work--rce) As we embark into the new decade of the Tens we will be facing more challenges on the AM band. I've specified those and how every DXer is dealing with this in some way. Since I've already given my thoughts I won't go beyond what I've said except to emphasize the urgency that we as both listeners and hobbyists face. If AM DXing means anything we need to get those concerns out there. Looking back over this past decade statistically I have managed to add 284 stations to my total going from 3300 as 2000 started to 3584 heard as 2009 departed. While this may seem like a lot of stations (which it sort of is) that figure is below the number of stations I heard in each of three years in the early 1970s. In 1970 I added 312, 1971 another 289 and 320 in 1972 which stands as my most productive reception year. Of course realistically those numbers can't be matched since I now find myself in a frequency mop up situation based on the total heard I have, but I never expected (and who did when the 2000s started), such a precipitous fall off in the state and condition of the AM band. There was a time and place that I felt 4500 heard might be possible, but now if I just reach 3600 I may have to be satisfied. I've heard 3005 total U.S. stations but some of those are low power utility and TIS stations. I'm at 2971 full power U.S. licensed stations so another goal I have is to reach 3000 of these. Of these 2364 are W's, 607 are K's. The doable goal would be to bring the W's to a nice round 2400. Hopefully these numbers can still be made. In some 45 years of DXing I've heard a total of 2331 towns and cities, 49 states, 10 provinces and 690 countries from 5 continents. Boy, was it fun. Nowadays if you hear 3 or 4 states away it goes as quite an accomplishment. Interestingly, of the 284 stations heard in the 2000s so far, 24 yearly seems to have been an oddly popular number for me. Each of 2000, 2001, 2003, 2008 and 2009 saw 24 new adds. Close to that was 23 in 2002 and 26 in 2005. You have to love that consistency--at least I have. My best year in the 2000s was 48 added in 2006. My best radio catch by year--2000-CJVR 750 Melfort, Sask.; 2001-a tie between WCIS 760 Morgantown, NC and CKHJ 1260 Fredericton, NB; 2002-WCLL 760 Brandon, FL; 2003-WDHP 1620 Fredriksted, VI; 2004-WQMA 1520 Marks, MS; 2005-a tie between WSDO 1400 Sanford, FL and CFCY 930 Charlottetown, PEI; 2006-several possible candidates but the best5 had to be RTE 567 Tullamore, Ireland; 2007-a tie between CHQR 770 Calgary, AB and TRT1 1017 Mundanya, Turkey; 2008-KCLE 1140 Cleburne, TX; 2009-KBTM-1230 Jonesboro, AR. In addition to the 3584 I show as an overall total, I have 45 special case stations (those that have shifted frequencies and have been heard on both old and new dial positions--the newest not included in the overall total that I may still add in before long). If I do this my total would be 3629 and total U.S. is 3033 and full power U.S. at 2999. I am holding off making these adds until and/or unless I reach the goal numbers I earlier specified based on non-duplicated individual receptions. (As an example WNYC 830 and WNYC while both heard may count as 2 but are actually one station that occupied two dial spots.) I hope this is not too confusing but that is how I'm tracking the station total for now. I'd like to at least know which stations gets the 3000th full power honor before making any adjustments. If I were to add the 28 U.S. frequency shift stations that are heard on more than one dial spot, the W's are 2386, the K's are 613. Whew! What is the consensus toward adding frequency shift stations that are heard on more than one dial spot. Do most members count those? Needless to say it was a task determining these anyway. One interesting fact is that I have 234 Canadian stations heard which I'm pretty sure is more than actually still exist or operate currently within our northern neighbor's borders. In the upcoming decade you have to wonder how many U.S. stations may give up AM for FM? Time will tell. For now my time is out, have a great new DX year. 73s.



DX WORLDWIDE – II

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

BRAZIL:

620 ZYJ779 R. Difusora, Rio do Sul (SC05) – ex. R. Alto Vale
720 ZYK718 R. RC Vale, Cruzeiro (SP36) – ex. R. Cruzeiro
810 ZYK324 R. Cinderela, Campo Bom (RS136) – ex. 1470 (Cáudio Moraes)
910 ZYH645 R. Caiçara, Sobral (CE61) – ex. R. Assunção Cearense
920 ZYK348 R. Tramandaí, Tramandaí – inactive (Cáudio Moraes)
960 ZYJ257 R. Esperança Viva, Maringá (PR32) – ex. R. Difusora
1160 ZYH803 R. Voz do Serrado (GO19) – ex. 1410 (Cáudio Moraes)
1310 ZYH501 R. Jaraguá, Jacobina (BA63) – ex. R. Canto da Sereia
1460 ZYJ318 R. Guadalupe, Loanda (PR102) – ex. R. Educadora
(websites via Arctic, except as noted)

ECUADOR: Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa is seeking to take control of the country's radio and television stations in a bid to stave off "irregularities." The president announced his decision on Monday 3.8.2009 due to the "corruption and mediocrity" of "many" Ecuadorian news outlets. However, the leftwing president has not indicated the nature of the "irregularities" within Ecuador's broadcasting community. Correa's decision comes two days after a similar measure was introduced in Venezuela, where the government ordered the closure of 34 radio stations, in the latest bid to rein in the country's media. The Ecuadorian President has twice penalized opposition media since taking office in 2007. (Press TV 4 Sept via Andy Sennitt, Media Network via DXLD)

GREENLAND: Greenland is most likely going to leave Medium Wave in 2010. The decision hasn't been taken yet – but is likely to be taken within the next 3-4 months. (Stig Hartvig Nielsen via MWDX 11.10.2009)

PERU: 600 OBZ4W R. Cora, Lima reactivated from mid October, 700 OBZ4H R. 700, Lima – inactive, 780 R. Miraflores has abandoned this frequency, 1040 OBX4O R. Metropolitana, Lima – ex. R. OBX4O (LI21) www.metropolitanaradioperuana.com, 1220 OAX6X R. Fé (AQ24) – new name – ex. R. Melodía, Arequipa, 1320 OAX4I R. La Crónica, Lima //850 R. Nacional. (Ilfredo Benjamin Cañote Bueno via ConDig via Arctic)

VENEZUELA: Just returned from a 16 days trip to Curacao, Netherlands Antilles.

740 CNB 740, Maracaibo is identifying as "La Zuliana"
820 Radio Guadalupana, Coro is off the air
1020 Radio Calendario, Maracaibo is still using the Radio Calendario ID's, not Radio Continente
1470 Llanerisima 14-70, Valencia is now identifying as CNB 14-70, La Valenciana.
I still have to listen to many recordings, so more to follow (Max van Arnhem, MW Circle 10 Dec)

The Venezuelan government has intensified its policy of imposing controls on the media with a swathe of new broadcasting rules, regulations and requirements to the point that it is now empowered to tell radio stations what to transmit during at least part of every day. Under a resolution published in the Gazeta Oficial, the Information and Communication Ministry now has the sole responsibility of deciding the content of what goes over the airwaves for three and a half hours a day. Nobody is betting that these are going to be the "graveyard" in the wee small hours of the night. (Latin American Herald Tribune via Andy Sennitt, RN Media Network 28.9.2009 via DXLD)

ASIA AND PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA: 1323 2KX 'KIX Canberra'. In response to a question of when they are going on air through their website. Received a reply from Graeme Stevens. The answer is shortly. I sent him a sample copy of ordain and he gave me his address. 2KXCanberra, PO box 913, Belconnen ACT 2617. Graeme was impressed and said that will QSL reports. Reply postage needed. So that's good news. NEWS FLASH. They may be testing on 1323 kHz around 12/13th of December! Reports wanted! (John Wright, ADXN Dec 09)

Almost 70 low power stations are now broadcasting in Australia's expanded AM radio dial 1611-1701 kHz almost two decades after the new channels became available says the Radio Heritage Foundation which has released a contemporary guide to them at www.radioheritage.net. (Radio Heritage Foundation)

BANGLADESH: Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina formally inaugurated newly commissioned 1000 kilowatt medium wave transmitter of Bangladesh Betar set up at a cost of more

than 35 crore taka at Dhamrai today. Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, local law makers and a large number of local people, among others, were present on the occasion.

This new solid-state 1000 kW medium wave (MW) transmitter replaces the 36 year old valve type 1000 kW MW transmitter. The new transmitter is compatible for DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale) broadcasts in future. The new transmitter of super power transmitting station at Dhamrai, Dhaka is the heart of the Bangladesh Betar & is used to broadcast radio programs covering 95% area of the Country. It broadcasts centrally produced radio programs and plays an important role during natural disaster.

Bangladesh Betar Dhaka Station broadcasted the inaugural function live while Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur and Sylhet regional stations of Bangladesh Betar relayed the proceedings simultaneously. The super power transmitter was originally commissioned on an area of 63 acres of land at Dhamrai with the assistance of the then Soviet Union government at the interest and direction of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1972. The broadcasting formally began on 16th may in 1976. (Alokesh Gupta, HCDX, 9 Dec)

NEW ZEALAND: The following updates from David Ricquish. The following new Rhema Broadcasting Group (RBG) stations will be on the air in the very near future:

540 Christchurch The Word/Bible Radio 2.5kw
612 Nelson Southern Star 2.5kw
1368 Whangarei Southern Star 2.5kw
1377 Dunedin The Word/Bible Radio 2.5kw

Updated existing RBG AM transmitter powers:

540 New Plymouth NZ's Rhema 2.5kw
576 Hamilton The Word/Bible Radio 2.5kw
657 Tauranga – Southern Star 10/5kw
801 Nelson NZ's Rhema 1.6kw
1026 Invercargill Word/Bible Radio 2.5kw
1314 Invercargill Southern Star 10/5kw
1404 Invercargill NZ's Rhema 5kw

Radio New Zealand – updated existing AM transmitter powers:

657 Tauranga 10/5kw
1314 Invercargill 10/5kW

Heritage AM in New Zealand: 1368 Tauranga – 1XT Village Radio operates during week days at reduced power of 200w to avoid interference to telephone services in the village complex, and 900w on weekends when offices located there are closed. The two operating transmitters are on the 1st floor of the studio building, in a glassed off partition from the office and studio. There is also a back up 3rd transmitter. The antenna is a short 'long wire' running between two very short poles at the back of the building. As a result, this is always a good DX catch even in NZ. 1413 Christchurch – 3XP Radio Ferrymead is now 1kW up from 300w and operates extended hours to include automated music only programs. It now operates continuously from 3pm Friday-midnight Monday local time and dates. Live programs are 8am-6pm Saturday and Sunday only. Radio Ferrymead often runs extended hours of live programs on holiday weekends, Easter, Christmas/New Year and for local music events. Frequent voice ID's are inserted in the automated music programs along with the 'Nostalgia Nostalgia' music jingle. (NZDXT Nov 09)

EUROPE, AFRICA, AND MIDDLE EAST

ALGERIA: From 11 Dec I discovered that ALG – Alger Chaîne 1 is broadcasting again on 549 kHz. This is parallel to 531 kHz. (Tibor Gaal mediumwave.info 17/12-2009)

ASCENSION ISLAND: I received confirmation this evening from Russel Yon c/o the US Base on Ascension Island that Volcano Radio is not operating on medium wave at present. The station is broadcasting on 98.7 FM but there is uncertainty regarding future MW operation. 1602 and 1638 KHZ frequency has been deleted due to changes in contractual work and antenna usage. (Gary Deacon)

BELGIUM: 1233/1305 Liège/Marche resp – No signal here in Belgium from Pure FM on 1233 & 1305 kHz. Well mention on the web side of RTBF/Pure FM. (via Ydun Ritz medium wave info 14.11.2009)
The stations are still missing on 5 December. –Ole Alm/ (Arctic)

BENIN (and elsewhere): TWR-Africa announces its newly revitalized Web site at www.twrafrica.org the first phase of the site officially went live this morning. Phase two should follow within the next ten days and will include: National partner pages, a link to TWR.org, a flash photo gallery and an archive

of past articles. Visit www.twrafrica.org to find out how God is ministering through radio in Africa. (TWR via Alokesh Gupta HCDX)

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA: 1503 Radio Zavidovici, e-mail: dadozav@zona.ba. Schedule: 0500-1715. At 1700 they relay news from BH Radio 1. (Play-DX via BE)

GERMANY: As of today SR Heusweiler 1179 kHz will be on air around the clock: <http://forum.mysnip.de/read.php?8773,747081%22Member> is an employee of Saarländischer Rundfunk, directly involved in the operation of the Heusweiler site, so this is first-hand info. 1179 is a Transradio TRAM 10 transmitter with 10 kW. It had been put on air in 2005 for Antenne Saar, a new talk program. Antenne Saar also relays RFI in French and DW in English, in order to ensure that nobody tunes in as polemics say. Only after lobbying from listeners they added RFI's German service to the program line-up, too. Cf. <http://www.sr-online.de/antennesaar/2113/>. This transmitter uses the back-up antenna for 1422 kHz. Thus the frequency can not be too far away from 1422, because the back-up function (with a Telefunken, now Transradio, S 4002 transmitter) must still be ensured. If necessary 1179 will be taken off air in favor of 1422 of course. No idea why 1179, which is already at the fringe of the possible range. Probably the authority would have to be asked if no other frequency somewhere above 1179 kHz could be found. Heusweiler is about 100 km away from the 1440 kHz transmitter in Luxembourg. The reference is quite appropriate, since the high power service on 1422 was a retaliation for Radio Luxemburg on 1440. In last year the 2 x 600kW Thomson transmitters from the early seventies had been replaced by anew 400 kW installation, dramatically improving the audio quality. The old facility has been polemically described as sounding like a pressure chamber loudspeaker that has been put into a tin. An allegedly authentic photo shows an audio filter with the high-pass set to 320 Hz. http://www.broadcast-transradio.com/html/heusweiler_launch.html. (Kai Ludwig via dxld 3 Nov)

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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Supercharging the Tecsun PL-380 DSP Portable A 7.5" Loopstick Transplant Optimized for Medium Wave

By Gary DeBock, Puyallup, WA USA December 2009



Introduction: The Tecsun PL-380 AM-LW-FM-SW receiver represents the best effort of China's premier radio manufacturing company to incorporate all the innovative features of Silicon Labs' 4734 DSP chip. As the refined product of several months of manufacturing improvements, the model offers astonishingly effective 1 kHz DSP-enhanced selectivity (as well as 2, 3, 4 and 6 kHz filtering options for other listening situations), plus freedom from the "soft mute" issue that plagued all previous 4734 DSP chip radios (PL-300WT/ G8, D92L, D96L and PL-310). With the razor-sharp AM selectivity offered by the PL-380, serious transoceanic DXing is certainly possible for purchasers of this inexpensive pocket radio (\$45.99 plus \$24 shipping by registered air mail from Hong Kong), especially when it is coupled to effective external antennas.

The PL-380 Stock Loopstick: Although the DSP-enhanced AM selectivity of the PL-380 is impressive indeed, the loopstick of this breakthrough model certainly won't thrill dedicated DXers. Tecsun has chosen to include a relatively small and flat (3 1/8 x 5/16", or 80 x 8mm) ferrite bar with a strange

three-section coil, a combination proven to have slightly lower AM sensitivity than that of the PL-310 model. Even though the stock PL-380 is still capable of receiving some interesting AM band DX with reasonable sensitivity, dedicated transoceanic DXers really need optimum weak-signal reception from the loopstick, and this model's cost-cutting midget bar was simply unacceptable to the TP-chasing author. A decision was made to transplant an effective 7.5" Amidon Type 61 ferrite bar-based loopstick into the PL-380, with the 40/44 Litz wire coil inductance perfectly matched to the 4734 DSP chip for optimum AM sensitivity. This would complement the PL-380's razor-sharp selectivity with an equally effective weak-signal DXing capability, presumably transforming the model into a compact AM-DXing sensation.

Transplant Materials Required: To perform this modification, a hobbyist will need to order one 7.5" Amidon Type 61 ferrite bar (available from <http://www.amidoncorp.com>, part #R61-050-750, \$20.00 plus shipping) and approximately 15 feet of 40/44 Litz wire (available from Dave Schmardeer, who prefers to quote a price after an inquiry by email to thefiercerabbit@1n34a.com). In addition to these loopstick materials, a hobbyist will need to choose a mounting system for the new external loopstick, either a plastic frame glued to the upper front cabinet section (used by the author), or a plywood type mounting frame holding both the radio and loopstick (used by John Bryant and others). Both of these mounting systems are described in the E100 Slider Loopstick article, posted at <http://www.mediafire.com/?nqggfm2jymc>. Standard electronic tools will be used for the procedure.

Loopstick Transplant Theory: Detailed experiments on previous Tecsun 4734 DSP chip models (PL-300WT, G8, etc) have shown that the DSP chip provides optimum AM sensitivity when the loopstick coil inductance is properly matched to 4734 chip's internal varactor. Unlike previous radio models, these DSP radios can provide maximum AM sensitivity across the band with a single optimum inductance value from the loopstick coil. This modification not only will provide a great increase in the size and quality of the ferrite bar used in the PL-380 loopstick, but it will also use a 40/44 Litz wire coil found to have the optimal inductance match (with the 4734 DSP chip varactor) for maximum AM sensitivity. In detailed testing with an 81-turn Slider coil and this 7.5" Amidon ferrite bar (shown in the picture to the left), AM signal strength readings were checked on

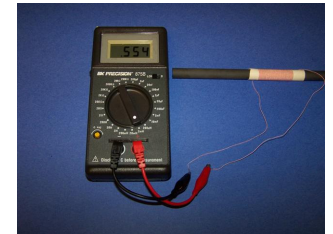


the PL-380's digital display for different coil positions (and different inductances) as the coil was slid across the ferrite bar. The purpose of this testing was to find the optimal loopstick coil inductance for maximum AM sensitivity in the PL-380 with a loopstick of these parameters. Since the signal strength readings on the PL-



380 digital display change from sample to sample, it was necessary to average the readings in each coil position, and search for a point where the average signal readings were clearly much higher than other coil positions across the ferrite bar. After detailed testing, such a coil position was actually found at the 554 uH (microhenry) coil position, where the 81-turn Slider coil was 43 mm (1 11/16") from the end of the ferrite bar. As shown in the photo, this position clearly provided a huge increase in AM signal strength readings relative to the stock PL-380, averaging about 20 dBu across the band. Although this 554 uH inductance was found to be optimal for a loopstick constructed of a 40/44 Litz wire coil on a 7.5" type 61 ferrite bar in the PL-380 model, recent testing indicates that the changing any of the experimental parameters (ferrite bar size or length, ferrite mix, Litz wire type, coil "Q" or DSP radio model) may result in a different optimal inductance value.

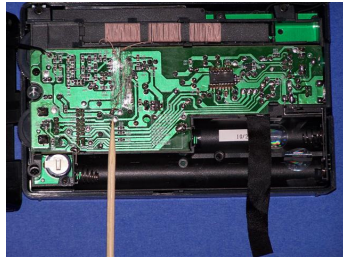
Constructing the New Loopstick: The new coil of 81 turns of 40/44 Litz wire should be wound on a base of adhesive tape (Johnson & Johnson 2" waterproof tape is recommended by the author) around the Amidon ferrite bar, with the sticky side facing up (to hold the coil turns in place). Place about 3" of this adhesive tape on the ferrite bar, with the beginning edge about 1" from the end of the bar. Leaving about 10" of extra Litz wire to be used for connection leads at each end of the coil, start



winding the 81-turn coil of 40/44 Litz wire on the adhesive tape, starting at a position exactly 43 mm (1 11/16") from one end of the ferrite bar, and working toward the center of the bar. When you are finished winding this 81-turn coil, the length of the coil should be approximately 43 mm (1 11/16") long. Secure the coil with thin cut strips of strapping tape (insulating type only—Scotch "Extreme" brand strapping tape is recommended by the author) running horizontally across the coil. Although it is not necessary to use an LCR meter to perform this modification, the coil's inductance may be checked at around 554 uH, if desired. Minor variations in coil inductance will not cause any significant degradation in the new loopstick's DXing performance.

Preparing for Installation: The PL-380 stock loopstick and the wrist strap should be removed from the radio prior to installation of the new loopstick. Although the wrist strap is easy to remove, the stock loopstick typically will not depart without testing the patience of the hobbyist.

Remove the four screws from the back of the cabinet (as shown in the photo at left), one of which is a shorter screw in the battery compartment. Carefully separate the front and back cabinet sections, taking care not to pull on the whip antenna connector wire. Lay the circuit board in a flat position, and note the two loopstick antenna leads soldered to the circuit board (shown in the photo below). Pull the small strip of strapping tape off of these two antenna leads, and desolder the leads from the circuit board. Using a small flat-bladed jeweler's screwdriver, break the glue bonds on all four sides between the loopstick ferrite bar and the plastic mounting slot, and separate the plastic notch pins from both sides of the ferrite bar. Continue working patiently until the ferrite bar will rotate inside the slot, then attempt to pry the ferrite bar out of the cabinet by sliding the jeweler's screwdriver alternatively under each end of the ferrite bar. Since the loopstick is secured with an excessive glob of glue on the bottom side (where the coils meet the plastic slot), it is unlikely to salvage the loopstick intact in one piece, but for purposes of the transplant modification, the empty plastic slot will provide a convenient routing space for the new 40/44 Litz wires, without the stray inductance that would occur if the stock loopstick were left in the cabinet.



After the stock loopstick is removed from the cabinet, remove the wrist strap also (the new Litz wires will be routed through the wrist strap hole in the back cabinet section). At this time, the newly wound 7.5" loopstick should be secured to the mounting system of the hobbyist's choice (either the plastic frame attached to the front top cabinet surface, or a plywood frame holding both the loopstick and the PL-380 cabinet). Route the two 40/44 Litz wire leads through a shrink tubing length if desired (as shown in the photo at left), and direct them into the empty slot left by the removal of the stock loopstick (as shown in the photo). After ensuring that the new Litz wire leads are routed without stress and that the

leads will not short adjacent circuitry, solder the two leads to the circuit board connections previously used by the stock loopstick. Place a small strip of strapping tape (insulating type only) across these newly soldered leads, and carefully mate the front and back cabinet sections together, routing the Litz wires through the empty hole left by removal of the wrist strap. Reinstall the four cabinet screws and the three AA batteries, and check for normal operation.

A New World of AM and LW Sensitivity: The installation of this 7.5" loopstick transplant provides an astonishing increase in the PL-380's weak signal sensitivity on both the medium wave and long wave frequencies, making the model competitive for all types of DXing. On the AM band, the signal boost over the stock unit typically will be around 20 dBu on all frequencies, as shown in the test photo below. During daytime DX testing at local noon, the modified PL-380 was able to receive 15 fringe AM stations completely inaudible on the stock unit. To the author's surprise, the overall AM performance of this fixed-coil loopstick was found to be slightly superior to that of the E100 Slider models, even after the Slider coils were peaked. This provides an obvious advantage of allowing a DXer to chase transoceanic DX during brief band openings, without the need to peak a coil each time a new frequency is selected.

A similar huge boost in LW sensitivity was observed on the modified PL-380, with the transplant unit receiving five beacons (at local noon) completely inaudible on the stock unit: 329-LAC, 344-XX, 348-MNC, 353-RNT, and 361-BF. Although this 7.5" loopstick transplant was designed to optimize AM sensitivity, because the final loopstick coil inductance value of 554 uH is far closer to the optimal LW

inductance than the stock 233 uH value, this AM-oriented loopstick upgrade provides the additional bonus of greatly improved LW sensitivity.

Summary: As modified, this new PL-380 DSP model has the breakthrough AM sensitivity needed to complement its razor-sharp selectivity, providing a very competitive DXing package (in a very small size). For DXpeditioners and traveling DXers, it is a thrilling example of the recent DSP advances in Ultralight radios, and an exciting way to enjoy exotic DXing throughout the new year!



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