

June 5 2010 – Volume 47, Number 28 – Edition 1502 – ISSN 899-9733

EDITOR IN CHIEF (EIC) NEEDED NOW!!!

From the IRCA President: We have four issues left before the IRCA folds its doors. Without someone to edit the issues and send them to Penny and me for publishing, we have no club. With Dan's resignation, Phil agreed to be EIC thru this volume. This volume is almost finished. To date no one has volunteered to be EIC. Without an EIC we won't even have an "electronic club." I do EDXR/Broadcast INFO/Reprints/Awards and PUBLISH the hard copy. If you think I am taking on more duties, think again, NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. In fact, I would like to cut down on some of these duties. Someone needs to step up to the plate.

Contact Phil (phil_tekno@yahoo.com) if you would like to see IRCA continue.

2010 ELECTIONS UPDATE

For those who have not already voted for their choice of the 2009-2010 Ted Vasilopolous Award (TVA) and Ric Heald Award (RHA), the ballot and details were contained in the 27 March 2010 **DX Monitor**. Please take a moment to show your appreciation by voting for one of the candidates who have worked hard for IRCA.

The ballot must be RECEIVED by the Election Committee Chairman no later than 0001 hours Eastern Standard Time, **July 1 2010**, (contact the ECC, Nick Hall-Patch, 1538 Amphion St, Victoria, BC, Canada V8R 4Z6 (or e-mail: nhp@ieee.org) if you do not have a ballot)

(Those subscribing to both the hard copy and electronic versions of the **DX Monitor** may vote by using the hard copy ballot OR by e-mail, whichever is the most convenient to you. PLEASE DO NOT DO BOTH. Thank you.)

2010 IRCA CONVENTION

The 2010 convention will be held in Seaside the weekend of September 24-26, 2010 at the Inn at Seaside at 441 2nd Avenue. (503) 738-9581. (<http://www.innatseaside.com>). \$79 one bed/\$89 two beds and \$25 registration fee. Please register at least a month in advance of the convention. Planned activities include radio station tours (KSWB Seaside, and New NW BCing in Warrenton, KAST & KKEE, and FMs), a possible trip on Sunday to Tillamook. We will also have our usual Banquet (Seaside Pig n' Pancake Restaurant), and the IRCA auction, both on Saturday. Being on the Oregon Coast, there are many things to do, the Seaside beach, the Seaside Factory Stores, Shopping on Broadway, etc. Astoria is only 18 miles north, and was founded by Lewis and Clark in 1805. This is a very historic area. Hope you can come. The 2006 Seaside convention was a blast. Our conventions are always a lot of fun.

73, Patrick Martin Seaside OR

NRC/WTFDA Convention 2010

It's a weekend full of radio fun in upstate New York, Friday, Aug. 27 – Sunday Aug. 29!

WHERE? Rochester and vicinity, an easy drive from just about anywhere in the northeast, Midwest, or mid-Atlantic states, and an easy flight from just about anywhere in the country. Our host hotel, the Brookwood Inn, sits along the historic Erie Canal in the quaint village of Bushnell's Basin, just east of Rochester and a few freeway exits off the New York State Thruway (I-90).

WHEN? Official convention activities start Friday morning, August 27, but early arrivals are welcome to join us for an informal dinner (and maybe a Rochester Red Wings baseball game) on Thursday night, August 26.

WHAT TO DO? On Friday, we'll have a full day of tours of Rochester's AM, FM and TV stations – or hang out and enjoy the companionship in our meeting room at the inn. Friday night, it's a cookout at

the famous DX spread of Jim Renfrew. On Saturday morning, join us in the convention room for several informal presentations about DXing and broadcast history, then more tours (including the Antique Wireless Association museum!) Saturday night, it's the banquet (menu and location TBA), then back to the hotel for the world-famous auction. (Note: please – no children during the business meeting or speaker's presentation; hold all questions until after the speaker has finished.) And on Sunday, we'll meet in the morning for the annual DX Quiz before heading home.

FUN FOR THE FAMILY! There's plenty to do in greater Rochester for spouses and kids, too. Lisa Fybush is coordinating family activities Friday and Saturday; contact her at lisa@fybush.com for details.

DON'T WAIT TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION! Rooms at the Brookwood Inn are just \$65/night (plus tax) for up to four people in a room. Breakfast is included, and parking and the airport shuttle are free. Call the Brookwood Inn at 800-396-1194 or 585-248-9000 and say you are part of the National Radio Club. Then drop Scott a line at scott@fybush.com or 92 Bonnie Brae Ave, Rochester NY 14618 to let us know you're coming – and stay tuned for more registration details coming soon!

Your Rochester-Western New York Convention Committee:

Scott Fybush – Lisa Fybush – Jerry Bond - Greg Coniglio – Rick Lucas – Jim Renfrew

BROADCASTING INFORMATION

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

E-mail: EDXR at AMLOGBOOK dot COM

CALL LETTER CHANGES

FREQ	OLD CALL	CITY	NEW CALL
1000	WNSI	Robertsdale, AL	WBZR
1050	WIQB	Hartsville, SC	WHSC
1340	new	Jackson, CA	KVGC

FORMAT CHANGES

FREQ	CALL	CITY	OLD INFO	NEW INFO
900	CKMO	Victoria, BC	Adult Alternative	Ethnic
910	WNHV	White River Junction, VT	Sports	Reported Silent
980	WYFN	Nashville, TN	Religion	Reported Silent
1000	WNSI	Robertsdale, AL	Sports – SNR	Sports – FOX
1020	KJJJ	Fergus Falls, MN	Oldies	Contemporary Christian
1160	WMET	Gaithersburg, MD	Talk/Standards	Catholic Religion
1200	KYAA	Soquel, CA	Ethnic	Oldies
1240	KRJJ	Sacramento, CA	Black Gospel	Reported Silent
1320	WBOB	Jacksonville, FL	Talk	Religion
1360	WWOW	Conneaut, OH	Talk	Contemporary Christian
1420	WVOT	Wilson, NC	Gospel	Reported Silent
1440	WC DL	Carbondale, PA	Silent	Sports
1450	WTOD	Hartsville, SC	Silent	Sports – ESPN
1480	WWKO	Fair Bluff, NV	Classic Country	Reported Silent
1500	WAKE	Valparaiso, IN	News – CNN	Classic Country
1600	WMNE	Riviera Beach, FL	Silent	Ethnic

SLOGAN – IMAGE CHANGES

FREQ	CALL	CITY	NEW INFO
1000	WNSI	Robertsdale, AL	"The Buzz"

FACILITY AND PARAMETER APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS

((A) = application, (G) = grant)

750	KSEO	Durant, OK	Minor change to 220W NDA DAY at 34-02-12/96-25-37 (A) KSEO AM & FM lost their current site and is applying for this new location.
820	WCPT	Willow Springs, IL	License to cover AUX 3.2K NDA DAY 41-58-53/87-46-20 (G)
	WCPT	Willow Springs, IL	License to cover MAIN 5K/1.5K DA-N 41-58-53/87-46-20 (A)
860	KTRB	San Francisco, CA	License to cover for 50K/50K DA-N 37-37-57/122-07-47 DAY & 37-35-34/121-46-27 Night (A)
890	KTXV	Mabank, TX	Minor change to 20K DAY DA-1 at 32-17-13/95-58-39. Eliminates night time power of 250 watts and change to class D status as daytime only (A)
1140	KLTK	Centerton, AR	License to cover 5K DAY NDA at 36-21-50/94-20-53 (G)

1150	KOLJ	Quanah, TX	CP for 530/77 NDA at 34-18-55/99-44-49 Seeks to modify the license and correct co-ordinate, and replace the tower. The facility was off the air when licensee acquired the station due to a fallen tower. They plan to replace the tower at the existing site. (G)
1210	KUNF	Washington, UT	Minor change to 10K/231 NDA 37-04-06/113-31-04 (A)
1220	WOTS	Kissimmee, FL (Orlando)	CP from 1K/110 to 2.5K/210 DA-2 28-20-01/81-24-22 (G)
1240	WEZR	Lewiston, ME	Minor change to new site 1K/86 NDA at 44-06-55/70-14-55 (G)
	NEW	Green River, UT	CP for 250/250 NDA at 38-59-43/110-11-07 (A)
1260	KBSZ	Wickenburg, AZ	Minor change to 3.5K/50 NDA 33-22-56/111-32-09 (A)
	NEW	Kotzebue, AK	CP for 700/700 NDA at 66-53-00/162-34-34 (A)
1270	WNLS	Tallahassee, FL	CP from 5K/5K DA-N to 5K/110 NDA. Removes Night DA and lowers power. 30-25-38/84-19-46 (G)
1290	KALM	Thayer, MO	License to cover 1K/56 NDA 36-33-23/91-33-05 (A)
1310	WPLV	West Point, GA	License to cover 1K/25 NDA at 32-53-48/85-09-24 (G)
1400	NEW	Middleton, ID	New CP 1K/1K NDA ay 43-42-06/116/36-05 (G)
1410	WNGI	Mobile, AL	Minor change to new site 5K/4.6K DA-N 30-42-25/88-03-45 (G)
1440	WGLD	Manchester TWSP, PA	License to cover 730/53 NDA 39-59-58/76-44-44 (G)
1450	NEW	Craig, CO	CP for 250/250 NDA at 40-32-50/107-33-39 (A)
	WPSE	Erie, PA	Minor change to 1K/826 NDA 42-08-11/80-02-25. Raises night power from 623 watts (A)
1540	WKVQ	Eatonton, GA	License to cover 1K DAY NDA at 33-19-19/83-25-03 (G)

LISTINGS COURTESY OF THERADIOJOURNAL.COM, 10000WATTS.COM, F.C.C. DAILY DIGEST, AMLOGBOOK dot COM

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AND CONTRIBUTOR LISTINGS: Thanks to Dale Park (DP-HI)

730 KQPN WEST MEMPHIS, AR From RBR.COM

Fred Westenberger, whose family brings Christian programming to the radio in four markets, is expanding in one of them, picking up yet another spin-off from Utah-based Simmons Media Group. The station is KQPN-AM West Memphis AR. Westenberger will license it as KQPN-AM. The value of the property is listed as \$400K, which will be paid in cash. According to the contract, \$275K of that is going to tangible personal property, \$25K to real estate and \$100K for FCC licenses and goodwill. An LMA was scheduled 5/1/10. It will pair up with WMQM-AM Lakeland TN and WLRM-AM Millington AR. KQPN operates with a Sports format at the moment. Westenberger also owns standalone stations in Nashville, Knoxville and New Orleans. Two brokerage firms worked on the deal, John Pierce & Company for the buyer and Patrick Communications for the seller.

RADIO MARTI From the Miami Herald

US Senate Democrats, arguing that Radio and TV Martí have failed to make any visible inroads in Cuba, recommended Monday the stations be moved from Miami to Washington and folded into Voice of America. "It's disappointing that after 18 years Radio and TV Martí have failed to make any discernable inroads into Cuban society or to influence the Cuban government," said Sen. John Kerry, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, in releasing a committee majority staff report. "US civil society programs may have noble objectives, but we need to examine whether we're achieving them," added the Massachusetts Democrat, who favors easing US sanctions on Cuba and engaging the island's government. The report, written by the committee's majority staff, recommended that the stations and their parent, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB), be moved from Miami to Washington and their operations be "subordinated" to Voice of America, the worldwide US government broadcaster to "ensure that programming is up to VOA standards." The stations also should focus on "quality programming," it added, to better compete with what it described as recent improvements in Cuban government programming that include shows such as *Grey's Anatomy*, *Friends* and *The Sopranos*. Pedro Roig, director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, could not be reached for a comment on the 15-page report, although the Martí stations' supporters immediately attacked the document. "John Kerry and his staff are out to kill OCB. They have always tried to kill it and they continue to try to kill it. They lack all credibility on this issue," said Republican Rep Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Miami. "As the Cuban regime tightens its hold on the Cuban people, the Congress should be focused on expanding the flow of uncensored information about the dictatorship's brutality and gross human rights abuses," said Rep Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, another Miami Republican. "The focus should be on growing and improving, rather than burying into VOA."

Contributor:

Dale Park, Honolulu HI (DP-HI)

05/09/10 0800. Did this column a week early so we would have something for Phil to use. I leave Tuesday (5/11) for the Dayton Hamfest. We will catch up for the hard copy in a few weeks.... A sign that DX Season is over for 2010. Hope you had a good one. Best to all fresh



WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

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WDXR DEADLINES: June 10, June 25, July 9, July 23. Please use Eastern Time.

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Sangean ATS-818CS, Terk AM1000 loop

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- 670 KPUA HI, Hilo 4/29 0359 ID "67 AM KPUA Hilo," Kelly Preston PSA for Narc-Anon, CBS news. Stn no longer audible in the daytime since it was announced the stn was granted permission by the FCC to halve its power to 5kw. (5P-HI)
- 670 KBOI ID, Boise 5/20 1018 "6-70 KBOI" ID then into "KBOI News." (AB-ID)
- 860 KTRB CA, San Francisco 5/22 0758 PSAs for Smokey the Bear, AnnualCreditReport.com, ID "...Home of the Oakland A's, KTRB San Francisco-Oakland and all the Bay Area, Xtra Sports 8-60," into Sporting News Radio Sportsflash. Fair to poor, probable XEMO-CA in back. (5P-HI)
- 890 WLS IL, Chicago 5/22 0300 ID, into ABC (?) news, ad block at 0302. Poor mixing with KDXU. New. (AB-ID)
- 910 KNEW CA, Oakland 5/6 0702 Geico ad, KNEW ID at 0703. (AB-ID)
- 960 KALE WA, Richland 5/16 0925 ad block, KALE ID at 0927, then the Jonathan Kincaid show on ESPN, fair with KNJY-950 slop. (AB-ID)
- 1150 KAGO OR, Klamath Falls 5/26 1026 sports, ad block, financial news at 1027, "Newstalk 1150" at 1028. Poor. (AB-ID)
- 1160 KSL UT, Salt Lake City 4/23 0758 ad for home show, local traffic & weather (mentioning temps in Salt Lake, Provo, Orem, St. George); long ID announcement ending with "KSL-FM Midvale, KSL Salt Lake City, KSL Newsradio, Utah's FM News Station." Time check "KSL newstime 6 o'clock" into "Utah's Morning News" with OM and YL. Poor to good. (5P-HI)
- 1180 KLAY WA, Lakewood 5/27 2135 ad block, KLAY ID at 2137. Last heard 3/12/08. (AB-ID)
- 1240 KEJO OR, Corvallis 5/5 0900 KEJO ID. Last heard 1/18/09. (AB-ID)
- KCVL WA, Colville, 5/1 gent with KCVL ID, then ABC news. (AB-ID)
- KGY WA, Olympia 5/1 gent with KGY ID. (AB-ID)
- ?KFBC? WY, Cheyenne 5/1 2306 a gent mentioned "Cheyenne" twice, then baseball scores. No call heard. (AB-ID)
- 1290 KOUU ID, Pocatello 5/24 2239 C&W music, "KOUU AM 1290" at 2242. (AB-ID)
- 1330 KNSS KS, Wichita 5/19 2249 talk (possibly news), KNSS ID at 2250. KS numbah one! (AB-ID)
- 1340 KBBR OR, North Bend 5/2 0800 KBBR ID. Last heard 7/5/08. (AB-ID)
- KUOW WA, Tumwater 5/13 0700 gent with KUOW ID. (AB-ID)
- 1400 KQDJ ND, Jamestown 5/4 2300 KQDJ ID then CBS (?) news. New. (AB-ID)
- 1490 KCID ID, Caldwell 5/24 1755 religious programming in Spanish, "Radio Catolica" at 1811. No call sign but "Caldwell" mentioned at 1818. (AB-ID)
- 1550 KUAZ AZ, Tucson 5/16 2214 caught them signing off for the day, said tune to 89.1. (AB-ID)
- KFRC CA, San Francisco 5/10 2342 "KFRC The True Oldies Channel" ID, then song "Crystal Blue Persuasion" by Tommy James & The Shondells. Good. (AB-ID)
- 1580 KGAL OR, Lebanon 5/17 0230 spot for the Michael Medved program, then "Newstalk KGAL" ID. (AB-ID)
- 1590 KLFE WA, Seattle 5/17 0235 "K-Life, KLFE" ID, into religious music. (AB-ID)

UNID HELP

- 1550 WLOR AL, Huntsville Re: Glen Hansen's logging on 4/1, WLOR is listed on the True Oldies Channel website. Per Wikipedia, stn slogan is "Sunny 98" (named for its FM translator on 98.1 MHz which went into effect 5/1/09) and stn also airs talk and sports play-by-play. On the other hand, what was KSFT-MO co-channel is now sports – formatted KESJ (as of Aug. 2009) featuring ESPN Radio. (5P-HI)

Thanks to our reporters Art and Dale. In case you missed it, the next WDXR deadline is Thursday June 10. Nancy 5/28 2100

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

Patrick Martin – PO Box 843 – Seaside OR 97138

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

More Middle East Loggings from Nick Hall-Patch

A recent family visit to the Middle East included the recording of some RF Space SDR-14 receiver files in Doha, Qatar, and Dubai, UAE. Quite a number of 190 kHz wide files were recorded for a couple of minutes around the hour and half hour, not so much for DXing, as to get a flavor of the local band in that area. However, DX was heard as well, and included Taiwan, Korea, France and Sao Tome. The first section of these loggings appeared in the May 8, 2010 DX Monitor, and here are the remainder. Again, thanks to Mauno Ritola in Finland for going through these files so carefully, and providing assistance with many of my loggings.

The files can be found at: <http://www.4shared.com/dir/33283068/89d677f/sharing.html>. They are identified in the filename by "Doha" or "Dubai" depending on the listening location. After the location is the center frequency of the file, followed by time and date of recording. If you don't own an RF Space receiver, you can still listen to these. Download the Spectravue software to play the files from: <http://www.moetronix.com/svdownload.htm> and it will give a taste of listening with a software defined radio if you haven't already experienced it.

- 1107 **IRAN**, Sabzevar, IRIB Regional, 1701 27 Feb, woman talking //1143.
- 1107 **SERBIA**, Orlovat, RTN, relay of Beograd 1. 2300 24 Feb, IS on hour, weak u/hum on channel.
- 1116 **SAUDI ARABIA**, Madinah, BSKSA 2nd program, 2359 19 Feb, distinctive flute mx, only 3 pips, al-Arabiya as-Saudiya mention by man.
- 1125 **IRAN**, Qazvin, RIB Regional. 1958 20 Feb man talking //1197.
- 1134 **IRAN**, Bojnurd, IRIB R Iran. 1530 26 Feb, chimes, R Iran ID and fanfare u/unID, w/AA talk, likely Kuwait.
- 1134 **KUWAIT**, Kabd, R Kuwait Sports/Main program. 1500_28Feb Kuwait mention by woman after distinctive flute IS; fanfare heard on hour instead after 5 and one pips, 1700 27 Feb.
- 1143 **IRAN**, Yasuj, IRIB R Iran. 1500 28 Feb; woman talking //1242.
- 1143 **RUSSIA**, Mekhzavod (Samara), R Mayak. 1630 25 Feb, Mayak chimes just before R Iran chimes. This is closer than Bolshakov, but that may not be the only determinant of which is heard.
- 1152 **UAE**, Ras al-Khaimah, Ras Al-Khaimah BS. No IDs, plenty of Indian pop mx, mentions of UAE, commercials for the area.
- 1161 **IRAN**, Qasr-e-Shirin, VOIRI. 1958 20 Feb man talking //1224.
- 1170 **IRAN**, Abadan, IRIB R Iran. 1959 20 Feb man talking //1125; R Sawa having tx problems, as it was just a strong carrier; but with a blast of pop mx for a few seconds.
- 1170 **UAE**, Al-Dhabbiya, R Sawa. 28 Feb 1100 "Sawa" quickly by woman before pop mx.
- 1179 **IRAN**, Chabahar, IRIB R Iran. 1701 27 Feb, woman talking //1143.
- 1179 **ROMANIA**, Bacau/Resita, R România Actualitati. 2300 24 Feb, R Romania Actualitati ID by man followed by 6 pips all same pitch and length, followed by same rapid ascending notes heard on 1458, mixing w/R Iran.
- 1188 **IRAN**, Tehran, IRIB R Payam. After music, and soft chimes, at 1700 27 Feb, this apparently joined the network; from then on, woman talking //1143; R Payam ID was noted 2300 24 Feb.
- 1188 **YEMEN**, Al-Hiswah, YRTC General program. 2001 20 Feb, horn fanfare (Yemeni interval signal) after AA talk.
- 1197 **IRAN**, Moghan, IRIB Regional. 1701 27 Feb, woman talking //1179, quite far down in the mess after dominating earlier.
- 1206 **IRAN**, Azna, R Iran. 0000 20 Feb man singing //1197.
- 1215 **SAUDI ARABIA**, Madinah, BSKSA General program. 2000 20 Feb mention of al-Arabia as-Saudiya and musical interlude //1260.
- 1215 **IRAN**, Chalus, IRIB Regional. 1701 27 Feb, woman talking //1143, quite far down in the mess.
- 1224 **IRAN**, IRIB R Iran. 1530 26 Feb, chimes, Iran mention, but not R Iran ID, followed by fanfare; 1630 25 Feb slight echo on signal, no second station listed though.
- 1224 **IRAN**, Kerman, VOIRI. 1958 20 Feb man talking //1161.
- 1233t **CYPRUS**, Cape Greco, RMC-MO/TWR. Mention of Monte Carlo by man at 1500 28Feb; AA talk.
- 1233 **IRAN**, Abadeh, IRIB Regional. 0000 20 Feb, man singing //1197.
- 1242 **IRAN**, Zanjan, IRIB R Iran. 1500 28 Feb; woman talking //1143 u/Oman.
- 1242 **OMAN**, Seeb, R Sultanate of Oman. 2000 20 Feb chimes on hour, seemed off channel?
- 1251 **IRAN**, Kiashahr, IRIB R Iran. 2000 20 Feb man talking //1242.

- 1260 **SAUDI ARABIA**, Dammam, BSKSA General program. 2000 20 Feb, mention of al-Arabia as-Saudiya and musical interlude //1215.
- 1269 **UAE**, Ras al-Khaimah, R Asia. 1700 27 Feb; "Radio Asia 1-2-6-9 AM" mention.
- 1278 **FRANCE**, Strasbourg, France Bleu. 2300 24 Feb, several mentions of "France Bleu" across hour by man and woman, and a couple of "France Bleu" jingles; clear and alone on channel.
- 1278 **IRAN**, Kermanshah, IRIB Regional. 1700 27 Feb, woman talking //1287.
- 1287 **IRAN**, Lar, IRIB Regional. 1700 27 Feb. Woman talking //1143.
- 1296 **AFGHANISTAN**, Pol-e-Charkhi, R Ashna/VOA. 0000 20 Feb; Radio Ashna announcement on hour after jazz mx, and "VoA special English" at 2358 from the program just ending.
- 1296 **IRAN**, Qazvin, IRIB Regional. 2301 24 Feb; R Iran ID // w/many others; well u/VoA from Afghanistan.
- 1296 **SUDAN**, Reiba, SRTC General program. 2000 20 Feb 6 echoey pips (last one longer and raised in pitch) and man talking seem to be from Sudan per interval signals website.
- 1305 **IRAN**, Bushehr, IRIB Regional. 2000 27 Feb, off channel //1377.
- 1305 **ISRAEL**, Rosh-Pina, Galei Tzahal. 2359 24 Feb. News sounder on hour as heard also on 1368, but no IDs noticed on either channel at this time.
- 1314 **ARMENIA**, Gavar, VOR relay. 2100 20 Feb. V of Russia's Great Gates of Kiev chimes.
- 1314 **IRAN**, Ardabil, IRIB R Iran. 1630 26 Feb, chimes, R Iran ID, fanfare.
- 1314 **ROMANIA**, Constanta/Craiova, Antena Satelor listed. 2359 24 Feb; R Romania Actualiti ID actually (presumably runs this program later at night?); 6 pips with echo, so both stations being heard?
- 1323 **CYPRUS**, Zyi, BBC World Service. 2100 20 Feb, BBC ID in EE, pips, and BBC World Service News Hour; 2000 27 Feb //1413.
- 1323 **IRAN**, Jolfa, IRIB Regional. 1630 26 Feb, chimes, R Iran ID, fanfare, all well u/BBC.
- 1332t **IRAN**, Tehran, IRIB Tehran City Radio. Often strong in Dubai, no IDs, but seemed like Farsi talk; a brighter sound than many of the regionals.
- 1332 **ROMANIA**, Galati, R România Actualitati. 1631 26 Feb, little wisp of mx //1458, far u/presumed Tehran City R.
- 1341 **HUNGARY**, Balatonsz/Szolnok, Magyar Katolikus Radio. 1730 25 Feb, Magyar Katolikus ID by woman; 0000 25 Feb, classical orchestral mx then organ, Magyar Katolikus ID; strong o/Iran.
- 1341 **IRAN**, Bam/Sirjan, IRIB R Iran. 2100 20 Feb woman talking //1359 u/Kuwait.
- 1341 **KUWAIT**, Magwa, R Kuwait Quran/2nd program. 2100 20 Feb brass band mx, IS for 2nd program per interval signals website; followed by Quranish singing.
- 1350 **ARMENIA**, Gavar, TWR/DW relays. 2000 27 Feb, TWR IS heard.
- 1350 **EGYPT**, Quseir, ERTU General program. 2100 20 Feb, ERTU bells on hour followed by woman in AA.
- 1359 **CHINA**, CNR. 2100 20 Feb, CNR pips on hour; no idea where from.
- 1359 **IRAN**, Darab, IRIB Regional. 2100 20 Feb, woman talking //1467.
- 1368 **IRAN**, Gorgan, IRIB Regional. 1630 26 Feb, chimes, followed by Gorgan mention, and fanfare; no mention of R Iran, so local programming?
- 1368 **ISRAEL**, Shivta, Galei Tzahal. 2100 20 Feb, "Galei Tzahal" repeated over and over before hour; seemed off channel, and listed ~30Hz high in MWoffsets list.
- 1377 **CHINA**, CNR1, Henan province. 2100 20 Feb; seemed to be CC pips o/Iran.
- 1377 **IRAN**, Pavah or Chabahar, IRIB Regional. 1730 25 Feb, man talking, ending in "Radio Iran" //1404. Also 2000 20 Feb woman talking //1467.
- 1395 **ALBANIA**, Filakë, TWR relay. 2100 20 Feb; TWR IS very weak in noise.
- 1395 **IRAN**, Hajiabad, IRIB R Iran. 1630 26 Feb, R Iran ID and fanfare.
- 1404 **IRAN**, Dasht, IRIB Regional. 1730 25 Feb. Man talking, ending in "Radio Iran" mention, but quite different from the usual ID sequence, then went into maybe a radio drama.
- 1413 **IRAN**, Estahban, IRIB Regional. 0000 25 Feb, man talking //1404.
- 1413 **OMAN**, A'Seela, BBC World Service. 2059 20 Feb, woman in EE talking about program on the power of the internet on the BBC; carrier off shortly afterward.
- 1422 **SAUDI ARABIA**, Riyadh, BSKSA Foreign program. 1600 27 Feb. KSA pips, "English broadcasting service of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" ID by young man.
- 1422t **CHINA**, CRI Kashi. 1630 26 Feb, Indian sounding talk by man followed by few CC sentences by woman, could be CNR, listed in Hindi at this time.
- 1422 **ROMANIA**, Rimnicu Valcea, R România Actualitati. 0000 25 Feb, rapid ascending notes in the mess //1314 and 1458, buried by fanfare from suspected China; rather good DX.
- 1431 **DJIBOUTI**, Djibouti (Dorale), R Sawa. 1600 27 Feb, sudden mention of **voa.com** by woman at top of hour; maybe a new program or a s/on?
- 1431 **IRAN**, Habibabad (Isfahan), IRIB R Iran. 1559 27 Feb, man talking //1503; other one Iran, also?
- 1431 **IRAN**, Lamerd/Kerman, IRIB Regional. 1630 26 Feb; two R Iran ID's maybe a second of separation or so, one stronger than other.

- 1440 **SAUDI ARABIA**, Ras al-Zawr, BSKSA General program. 2200 20 Feb, AA announcements and flute mx across hour //1521 and stronger.
- 1449 **IRAN**, Bandar-e-Torkamen, VOIRI. 1830 26 Feb, mention of Iran by man, after woman talking; Turkmen listed at this time; went into martial mx; somewhat distorted and strong; central Asian language and plucked mx 1630 26 Feb could be this also.
- 1458 **BAHRAIN**, R Bahrain. 2200 20 Feb and many other times with distinctive fanfares and mention of Bahrain.
- 1458 **IRAN**, Birjand, IRIB Regional. 2200 20 Feb man talking //1503, but lagging it.
- 1458 **ROMANIA**, Constanta, R România Actualitati. 1831 25Feb, man talking rapidly //1530; 1631 26 Feb, Romania Actualitati ID my man.
- 1467 **SAUDI ARABIA**, Hafar Al-Batin, BSKSA Quran program. 1400 28 Feb, KSA pips and fanfare; 2200 20 Feb //1440 w/talk and haunting mx; likely also 1600 27 Feb, woman in AA?
- 1467 **FRANCE**, Roumoules, Trans World Radio. 2100 20 Feb, TWR IS heard u/Iran, 4 and 1 pips (last was longer, but same pitch) presumed this as is listed as broadcasting to N Africa at this time per TWR schedule.
- 1467 **IRAN**, Qom (Alborz), IRIB Regional. 2200 20 Feb, man talking //1602 etc.
- 1476 **IRAN**, Marivan, IRIB Regional. 2100 20 Feb, woman talking //1467.
- 1485 **IRAN**, Damghan/Jahrom/Abadan, IRIB R Iran. 1830 26 Feb three R Iran stations here, with the strongest one delayed by a second and w/audio cutting out erratically; the other two closer in time to each other.
- 1494 **IRAN**, Maku, IRIB R Iran. 1830 26 Feb, R Iran ID by woman // all the others.
- 1503 **IRAN**, Bushehr, IRIB R Iran. 2200 20 Feb, man talking //1602.
- 1512 **SAUDI ARABIA**, Jeddah Sumaymah, BSKSA Quran program. 2200 20 Feb, 5 and one pips on hour, not //1521, al-Arabiya as-Saudiya mention.
- 1512 **IRAN**, Ardabil, IRIB Regional. 2200 20 Feb man talking //1602.
- 1521 **SAUDI ARABIA**, Duba, BSKSA General program. 2200 20 Feb, AA announcements and flute mx across hour //1440.
- 1530 **IRAN**, Yazd, IRIB R Iran. 1600 27 Feb, man talking //1503.
- 1530 **ROMANIA**, Radauti, R România Actualitati. 1831 25 Feb, man talking rapidly //1458.
- 1530 **SAO TOME**, Pinheira, VOA. 1830 26 Feb; "this program has come to you from the Voice of America."
- 1539 **DJIBOUTI**, Djibouti, RTD. 1601 27 Feb, distinctive IS u/Aap Ki Duniyaa plus woman talking.
- 1539 **IRAN**, Gorgan, IRIB Regional. 1832 25 Feb, man singing //1503 and many others.
- 1539 **UAE**, Al-Dhabbiya, VOA R Aap Ki Duniyaa. 1600 27 Feb, Aap Ki Duniyaa ID over Djibouti.
- 1548 **IRAN**, IRIB R Iran. 2200 20 Feb, man talking //1602, u/presumed Sawa.
- 1548t **KUWAIT**, Umm al-Rimam, R Sawa. Never ID'd, but often a strong signal with different kinds of vocal mx, usually AA flavored.
- 1548 **MOLDOVA**, Grigoriopol, TWR. 1830 26 Feb, TWR IS o/u presumed Sawa; EMWG lists 1800-1830 Bulgarian, 1830-1845 Balkan Romani on this transmitter.
- 1557 **IRAN**, Zabol, IRIB R Iran. 1600 27Feb, man talking //1503.
- 1557t **TAIWAN**, Kouhu, Family R Worldwide. 1831 25Feb, CC talk by man fading in and out w/Iran, likely this one.
- 1566t **INDIA**, AIR National Channel, Nagpur. Heard several times w/Indian accented EE news, but no IDs.
- 1566 **IRAN**, Bandar Abbas, IRIB R Iran. 2159 20 Feb, man talking //1602 o/u suspected India.
- 1566t **S KOREA**, Cheju, FEBC. 1833 25 Feb, CC talk by woman fading up u/Iran, after earlier EE nx by woman assumed to be India; also a jammer of some sort in there which was big at 0230 25 Feb.
- 1575 **UAE**, Al-Dhabbiya, R Farda. Generally very strong with quite a number of R Farda IDs.
- 1584 **IRAN**, Maku, IRIB R Iran. 2200 20 Feb man talking //1602.
- 1593 **KUWAIT**, Kuwait, VOA/R Free Iraq. 2200 20 Feb, mentions of Iraq, e-mail address, chime on hour, almost always a jammer there also.
- 1602 **IRAN**, Semnan/Bafq/Kazerun, IRIB Regional, 2200 20 Feb man talking //1584; echoey, 2 stations? One of these is on 1601.9 as well.

DX WORLDWIDE – II

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

COLOMBIA: 1540 Radio Cóndor is owned and operated by a private university in Manizales, one of six universities in the city. You may send reports in English or Spanish directly to the Director, Ana María Mesa: animesav@gmail.com. The audio stream of the station with news and music, reaching

from classical to modern rock, is available at www.fundeca.org.co with the following search path > emisora > escuchar en vivo, where two alternatives are available – click either on the text line "Radiocóndor en Listen2MyRadio" or on the icon "Escuche Radio Cóndor Online". The audio stream is un-buffered. The director has asked me to spread this information. You can also read about the city of Manizales and among the universities about the Universidad Autónoma de Manizales, the organization in charge of the station, at the English language website of Wikipedia or at: http://www.autonoma.edu.co/web/sitios/cmsimple/english_UAM/index.php. (Henrik Klemetz, ARC)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: 1470 Radio Vibra – La Deportiva, ex. Radio Sur. 1470 Radio Barahona, Provincia Independencia, ex. Emisoras Unidas. Relay Radio Barahona 970. (Dino Bloise and Christer Brunström, WRTH via Arctic)

ASIA AND PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN: Logged VOA Deewa Radio in Pashto on 621 kHz, 2nd May during check at around 1750 UTC, this is via the new MW transmitter site in Afghanistan located in Tani-Khost, a 200 kW Harris transmitter was installed recently. Schedule 0100-0400 & 1300-1900 UTC on 621 kHz in Pashto. Here's an audio file: http://sites.google.com/site/alokeshgupta2/deewa_radio_voa_621_1758-1800utc_2may2010r.mp3?attredirects=0&d=1. (Alokesh Gupta, mwxc, 5 May)

AUSTRALIA: As of 6.00am (EST), 3MP Melbourne Vic AUS (1377 kHz) dropped its easy listening music format and became a talk station. Along with that, it now identifies as "1377 MTR" or "Melbourne Talk Radio". Earlier this morning, it seemed to be playing continuous commercials advertising MTR. (Robert Copeman, mwzc 21 April)

3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network) is on air from Busselton on 1629 with 400w and comes thru here poorly around sunrise and sunset. I have not tried later in the evening. I will be about 200kmcloser to Busselton tomorrow morning and will give it another try then. The original 3ABN signal is downloaded via satellite (Optus D2) but where it originates I don't know.

(Roger Boyd, Denmark, WA, ARDXC)

3GB-1620 Bayswater is now Ygo Radio and broadcasts in Chinese!
(Ian Stanley, ARDXC, May 2010)

INDIA: New website of All India Radio, Allahabad (Still under construction) <http://air.iita.ac.in>. For a complete list of AIR websites visit <http://www.qsl.net/vu2jos/links.htm>. (Alokesh Gupta, DX_India)

EUROPE, AFRICA, AND MIDDLE EAST

AZORES: 837 Antena 1 Azores, Monte das Cruzes, Ilha das Flores, Flores island, has been off due to a tx break down; it is estimated that the repair crew arrived on the island 12 APR, so as to solve the problem and reactivate this 1 kW that serves both this island and that of Corvo This is actually my best AZR channel here despite [often avoidable] QRM de E. (Carlos Goncalves 13 April via mwn)

BULGARIA: Bulgarian National Radio reduced the transmission of Medium wave. From 6 April BNR stopped most of its medium wave transmitters as follows:

1st px "Horizont" HS-1:

Pleven 1 594 PLV 250 kW 0300-2100 HS-1
Pirin 1 963 PIR 040 kW 0000-2400 HS-1 (near Kresna)
Varna 2 1143 VRN 040 kW 0000-2400 HS-1
St Zagora 1 1161 STZ 300 kW 0300-2100 HS-1
Suvorovo 1485 SUV 005 kW 0000-2400 HS-1
Dobrich 1584 DOB 010 kW 0000-2400 HS-1

2nd px "Hristo Botev" HS-2:

Vidin 2 576 VDN 300 kW 0300-2100 HS-2
Pirin 2 702 PIR 040 kW 0000-2400 HS-2 near Kresna
Sofia 2 828 SOF 050 kW 0200-2400 HS-2 near Stolnik
Shumen 1 828 SHM 300 kW 0300-2100 HS-2
Pleven 2 1296 PLV 030 kW 0200-2400 HS-2
Haskovo 1485 HAS 003 kW 0000-2400 HS-2

Regional stations REG:

Plovdiv 1 648 PLD 030 kW 0000-2400 REG Radio Plovdiv+HS-2 (near Stomboliyski)
Varna 1 774 VRN 075 kW 0300-0100 REG Radio Varna
St Zagora 2 873 STZ 060 kW 0200-2400 REG Radio St.Zagora+HS-2
Shumen 2 963 SHM 075 kW 0200-2400 REG Radio Shumen+HS-1
Varna 3 6000 VRN 100 kW 2100-0300 REG Radio Varna "Hello, Sea" Sun-Mon

Will continue to operate the following transmitters in:

Sofia 5 LW 261 SOF 075 kW 0000-2400 HS-1+Parliamentary Channel on Friday (near Vakarel)

Petrich 747 PET 300 kW 0300-2200 HS-1+Radio Bulgaria External Service
Salmanovo 747 SLM 010 kW 0000-2400 HS-1+Radio Bulgaria Turkish Minority
Blagoevgrad 864 BLD 150 kW 0300-2100 REG Radio Blagoevgrad Local service
Samuil 864 SML 010 kW 0000-2400 HS-1+Radio Bulgaria Turkish Minority
Sofia 4 963 SOF 040 kW 0000-2400 HS-1, reactivated from Apr 9, 1300 UTC (near Dragoman)
Kardjali 2 963 KRL 150 kW 0200-2400 HS-1+Radio Bulgaria Turkish Minority
M Tarnovo 963 MTN 005 kW 0000-2400 HS-1
Doulovo 1161 DLV 010 kW 0000-2400 HS-1+Radio Bulgaria Turkish Minority
Targovishte 1161 TRG 010 kW 0000-2400 HS-1+Radio Bulgaria Turkish Minority
Vidin 1 1224 VDN 300 kW 0300-2200 HS-1+Radio Bulgaria External Service
Kardjali 1 1296 KRL 150 kW 0300-2100 HS-2 (Ivo Ivanov, April 12, mwdx)

GERMANY: Now Radio Bremen officially announced the permanent shut down of their 936 kHz tx. After closing a month ago they did not announce anything and waited silently for listener complaints. Only 200 were received. The annual MW operating cost in the higher 5 figure EUR range could be better spent on other fields, considering that it is public station financed by our radio/TV license fee. Interesting their statement that they do not expect a bright future for digital MW, a view probably shared among other ARD stations. (Jurgen Bartels, mwdx 21 April)

ITALY: Official times for foreign language news bulletins on RAI Notturmo Italiano (657, 900 and 1107 kHz): English at 0003, 0105, 0205, 0305, 0405 GMT (Summer one hour earlier), French at 0008, 0110, 0210, 0310, 0410 GMT (Summer one hour earlier), No news in German. (Stefano Valianti, mwcircle)

MADEIRA: RTP "Antena 1 Madeira" – this is current status of their txs: 1332 Senhora do Monte is the only (!) active tx for the moment. 603 Pico do Areeiro (Madeira Island) awaits a new monopole to replace the one that collapsed back in FEB '10, ie if the RTP administration doesn't choose to shut this channel too. I suppose a decision won't be known in many months as the cost of such an antenna may easily surpass that of a 10 kW tx. 1125 Ponta do Pargo broke down, so it awaits replacement of a damaged part.

PEF-Posto Emissor do Funchal, Funchal: They are still active: Funchal 1530, nominal 10 kW, Santana 1017, 1 kW. The planned move to Cho dos Balces (this is not far from RTP's Pico do Areeiro site) has not materialized so far, so 1530 is still at reduced power so as to avoid QRM on neighboring households. Acc to the stn, no new tx will be installed on the new site where a new tower has already been installed; they'll be moving the old valve tx instead.... On a quiet receiving place, both 1530 & 1017 are audible during daytime, particularly the latter despite adj. QRM (de E), but 1530 is putting a terribly weak signal that's clogged by noise albeit audible at night time when it must fight QRM de CVA & STP (VoA). (Carlos Goncalves 13 April, via mwc)

SPAIN: Radio station EAJ25 is no more "Radio Tarrasa" (or Terrassa in Catalan language). Radio Tarrasa-SER Vallés was closed on January 30th and all its workers were fired. The station was owned by José Manuel Salillas who sold it in 2008 (with the FM Radio Club25, the TV station "canal TV20-Localia Vallés and the magazine "Terrassa Societat") to the KISS-FM group. After the Cadena SER decided not to renew the contract of association with the new owner (SER and KISS are direct competitors in the musical FM scene and a condition for membership is that the partner cannot compete directly with the brands of the network and KISS-FM is doing it) KISS-FM. After the last broadcast as "Radio Tarrasa", the MW station (828 kHz) spent several days in an unstable situation... sometimes switched on other off, sometimes relaying the SER satellite fed other the KISS-FM one. At the end, radio station EAJ25 has become a relay of the FM frequency of KISS-FM in Barcelona. So, update your lists! 828 is no more "Radio Tarrasa" but "KISS-FM Barcelona" relay.

CÁCERES. EAK57 (900 MW) is no more "COPE-Cáceres" but "COPE-Alta Extremadura". "COPE-Cáceres" is reserved now for the FM outlet. "COPE-Alta Extremadura" focuses its programming in the North of the province especially in the economically attractive market of Plasencia (where there was a Radio Popular station in the 60's EAK61)... and very suspiciously the 900 kHz signals has suffered a dramatic improvement in Plasencia city. Plasencia is @83 km. North of Cáceres city. The MW signals of RNE and (previously!) COPE were weak. RNE-1 774 the stronger and RNE-5 1107 the weakest. The last time I passed by the streets of Plasencia in the bus heading to Aldea del Cano (where my Perseus is) the scene was totally different: 900 AM with a LOCAL signal and RNE with the signal level expected... so I am suspecting that the Pirate's ship is starting to cruise the Spanish (medium) waves also (in the FM there is little room already!). (Mauricio Molano, mwcircle, 1 May)



DX FORUM

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

Deadlines: 6/12, 6/27, 7/10, 7/25 and 8/21

Gary Siegel, 2955 – 115th Street, Toledo, Ohio 43611-2839

On April 23, 2010 at 1pm EDT an iconic radio station met its AM dial demise. Toledo's second oldest call sign and third oldest radio station WTOD-1560 signed off for the last time. As DXers we are very tuned into changes that occur in the broadcast industry. As listeners most of these are accepted as part of the normal cycle of things, shifting trends and tastes, etc. Sometimes a switch strikes a chord that makes you realize an era has ended. So it is for me with the loss of WTOD. Perhaps even more so than stations I've worked at which have seen call and format changes, ie WMHE-92.5 to WVKs and the many at WTUU-1520 to WANR/WGOR/WVOI/WDMN/WNWT – originally WTTO. What makes WTOD so different is the legacy this station has had in Toledo. While only a daytime the call sign even recognized that uniqueness as Toledo's Only Daytimer, so too was the call letters reference to dial position as Top Of the Dial, as well as the call sign being closely associated to the city of license-Toledo. So considering the heritage of the call sign itself, losing it from the AM dial is tough to take. Even more so for me as my favorite station while I was growing up, WTOD might just as well have stood for fun and entertainment. Whole in this region no one can question the domination of CKLW-800 (The Big 8) or Keener 12 WKNR-1310, but in its heyday WTOD was perhaps the highest rated daytime only station, not in just one format but two! WTOD was Toledo's earliest entry into Top 40 when then GM Bob Martz-a real Toledo legend- switched the station to that format. He paraded a host of on air talent through 1560s door-Bob Kelly aka Norm Plummer (whose program included Soupy Sales dog White Fang as his sidekick & whose Uh=Huh sound effect was featured often & ended his show with "Come get me mother, I'm through"), John Garry (don't you try to scare me-whose theme song Willie Boy by Phil Harvey was instrumental Ecstasy), Lee (knobby knees) Fowler (whose theme song Listen to the Mockingbird was a lively instrumental. Version), Bob Brossia, Bob "Mr. Music" Parkinson, Larry "the Emperor" O'Brien, Swinging Sweeney, Skapura, Bill (wee Willie-shouting) Webb, Michael Drew Shaw, Terry Shaw aka Terry Gottshalk, Bill Hughes, Mike Edwards, "Fat" Dean Clark aka Bernard Riggs (often signing off by wishing listeners "Blue Skies & Green Lights to you & yours") and Mick Hodges – all these in the days of the famed Popometer music survey that included a weekly "Pick to Click". WTOD was noted as much for its bubbly personalities as for its music. (I can say quite unequivocally this station was the reason I sought a radio career-because these were all having so much fun and were so creative!) WTOP featured bawdy ads, iconic jingles-many included those geared to each day of the week, humorous episodes of that wild hero Super Fella and uproarious sound effects. One great sound effect even found its way onto WTOD's world famous sign-off as a giant "BONK" that was designed as a flip off to then WQXR, the radio station of the New York Times who always had a chime on the hour ushering in their station IUD. It was WTOD's way of saying screw you for forcing them off the air nightly. WTOD having to sign off nightly did not enhance any love of NYC for me which needed none since I already had a strong dislike for the NY Yankees. The inability of WTOD to secure night time service likely hastened its ultimate demise which has been in free fall since 1993 anyway. It was then that it became a simulcast satellite of sister station K-100 which ironically whose origins can be traced to WTOD's other highly successful format-country-as "Countrypolitan WTOD". Cumulus was unwilling to channel money to maintain the physical plant or its staffing.

Just when I felt I had recalled a large measure of Toledo heritage daytimer radio station WTOD's history, there was an interesting piece that I somehow overlooked in the epitaph concerning the once dominant 1560 spot on Toledo's radio dial (maybe because at the time it was so traumatic that I've always tried to put it out of my mind, hi). I mentioned the transition from Top 40 to Country that took place in 1969. There was an even more defining event involving WTOD that year. A fire occurred that destroyed the station's Arlington Avenue studios. The blaze which knocked the station off the air for about a week in the spring of 1969 had its origin in an office supply room. In what is still one of the top promotional ideas ever for a station, especially one burned off the air, were ads WTOD ran in the Toledo Blade and Times which featured a fire department hat alongside the WTOD call letters indicating that Toledo's "#1 Fire Station" would soon return to the air. They were helped in that effort by just about every other station in town that loaned them equipment and even a remote studio trailer to help WTOD return to the air. When WTOD finally did return they continued to use the "#1 Fire Station" appellation as a means to promote the fact that their music was so hot that it torched the station and that was a clear reason for listening. While that idea worked beautifully, change was in the offing for WTOD as by September of 1969 "the Sound of the City" would give way to "the sound of the country" as the Countrypolitan format was launched. Whether the fire had anything to do with the format change is one speculation that I never really found out the answer to, but with all of their

records melted in the fire, any decision to change formats was likely expedited by this tragic event. Fortunately, no one was in the building at the time of the fire. Bob Kelly who was the morning man at WTOD at the time called his boss Bob Martz who usually ran late and told him he could sleep in as no show would be aired from the pile of ash that was WTOD. I recall being so concerned for my favorite radio station that I felt compelled to mail a letter to WTOD expressing hope that they would return even better than ever and would not permanently go away. There have been instances where such catastrophes have actually ended some stations existence, thus you could imagine my level of apprehension. Soon those fears were eased and all was well in my radio world back then. Now in 2010 ironically, what the fire was unable to do, in silencing WTOD in Toledo, modern business models and the economy have done. All is not well in today's radio world. Certainly Toledo without a WTOD seems unimaginable but that's what we have now. Radio will never be as it was; that's just a fact of modern life. It doesn't seem right, but that's just the way that it is. 73s. (Gary, did the station just change call letters or did it go completely silent leaving the frequency vacant?--rce)

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

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7.5" Plug-in Loopsticks for the Tecsun PL-360 Model

A Unique Opportunity for Great Stand-Alone AM Sensitivity – With No Radio "Surgery"
 By Gary DeBock

Introduction: The new Tecsun PL-360 AM-LW-FM-SW receiver was probably not intended by its Chinese manufacturer to be one of the more DX-capable receivers in its product line. With a very compact (6" x 1.8" x .7", or 153 x 47 x 17 mm) vertical-form cabinet, relatively short (15.5", or 40 cm) whip antenna and lack of a direct-entry keypad, the emphasis seems to be on portability and simplicity. Although powered by the same Si4734 DSP chip as the PL-310 and PL-380 models, the DSP filtering is fixed at the 3 kHz level, and the model's "soft mute" threshold is set at the same (less-than-optimum) level as in the PL-300WT and PL-310 models. Although the model does have full LW coverage, the user will look in vain for any LW selection key on the front panel. Finally, the 1.5" (37 mm) speaker won't win any audio awards.



In keeping with this Spartan design philosophy, the Tecsun engineers designed a unique plug-in loopstick system for the AM and LW bands, allowing the cabinet to be even more compact. As might be expected, the plug-in loopstick is meager indeed, with a size quite small even by Ultralight radio standards (60 x 10 mm). Despite the wildly optimistic label printed on its plastic enclosure ("High Sensitivity AM Antenna"), this midget loopstick leaves an AM-DXer truly unimpressed, providing AM and LW sensitivity significantly below that of any Tecsun DSP Ultralight radio tested to date.

Although the PL-360 in stock form will never thrill a serious AM-DXer, the plug-in loopstick design does offer a unique opportunity for those hobbyists desiring greatly improved AM sensitivity without the need to perform any radio modification. Assuming that an effective 7.5" loopstick could be designed to plug in to the PL-360 in place of the mediocre stock antenna, non-technical hobbyists could enjoy a very competitive stand-alone DXing portable – without the need to perform any radio "surgery," or even open up the PL-360 cabinet. This potential is unique in the Ultralight radio class, and provided a fascinating challenge to design, refine and construct such 7.5" plug-in AM and LW loopsticks for deserving DXers.

The Design Challenge: Electrically, it is a very simple matter

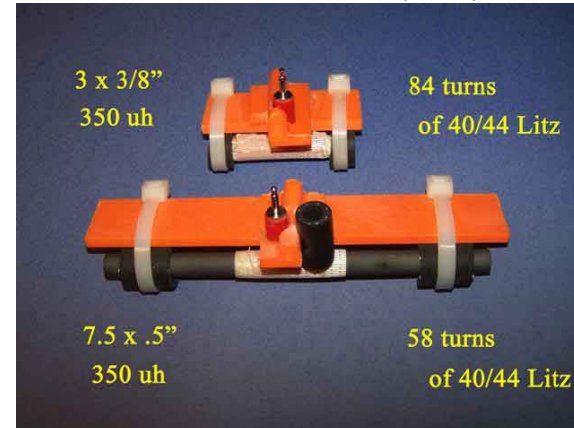
to wind a coil on a long ferrite bar and solder the connections to a plug-in jack. For this project to be successful, however, a shock-resistant, mechanically secure system would be necessary to protect the loopstick, and the long loopstick frame would need a locking mechanism to avoid rotation in the PL-360 plug-in jack. The weight of the 7.5" loopstick and frame would be excessive for the plug-in jack alone, and would need to be divided using at least one other support attachment. Finally, the entire contraption would need to be aesthetically tolerable, despite the fact that it would be longer than the entire PL-360 cabinet! The project seemed like quite a mechanical challenge – but considering the potential benefits to non-technical DXers, worthy of a serious experimental effort.

The Intermediate Design – A 3" x 3/8" Loopstick: To make progress toward the final design objective, a 3" loopstick was constructed and secured on a simple plastic frame, complete with a Radio Shack 1/8" phone plug glued in a perpendicular hole. Although this initial loopstick was primarily a practice project, it did provide a significant improvement in AM sensitivity over the PL-360 stock antenna, and establish some guidelines for coil inductance and orientation in the final 7.5" plug-in loopstick.

A 48" orange carpenter's level (made by Ace Hardware, and sold for \$11) yielded various loopstick frame pieces, including the simple 4" plastic section used for this 3" loopstick. A 350 uH coil composed of 84 turns of 40/44 Litz wire was wound on a 3" x 3/8" type 61 ferrite bar from the Amidon Corporation (<http://www.amidoncorp.com>), on a base of Johnson & Johnson 2" waterproof tape. The coil leads were soldered to a Radio Shack 1/8" phone plug, which was glued inside the perpendicular 10mm hole in the frame. No provision was made to avoid loopstick rotation in this simple design, which was not intended to be a final DXing antenna.

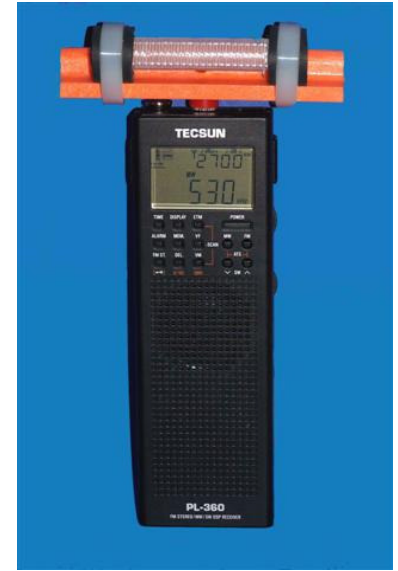
The 350 uH coil inductance was obtained by winding the maximum number of 40/44 Litz wire coil turns on the ferrite bar's limited length, while reserving some space for two rubber shock mounts. Because this 3" loopstick did provide good tracking across the AM frequencies and a significant boost in AM sensitivity over the stock loopstick, the 350 uH coil inductance and center-bar coil orientation were duplicated in the subsequent 7.5" loopstick experimentation. This would avoid the need to re-tune the PL-360 when the plug-in loopsticks were switched during the recording of relative strength MP3's (a quirk of the Si4734 DSP chip, which requires such re-tuning in order to provide the best AM sensitivity whenever there is a significant change in antenna inductance).

Building the 7.5" Loopstick: For those hobbyists desiring to mount their PL-360 7.5" plug-in loopstick on a different frame system, construction procedures are given for the loopstick itself. A 7.5" x .5" type 61 ferrite bar from the Amidon Corporation is used, as well as about 12 feet of 40/44 Litz wire, and 2" wide Johnson & Johnson waterproof tape as a thin coil form.



After cutting a 2" square piece of J & J waterproof tape, wind the tape tightly at the center of the ferrite bar (adhesive side out). When tightly wound, the tape edges will overlap, and stay firmly in place. Leaving about 6" of Litz wire on each end for connections, begin winding the 58 turns of 40/44 Litz wire tightly on the tape base, starting 3.2" (78 mm) from either end of the bar. After winding the coil (which should provide an inductance of about 350 uH), cut 2" long horizontal strips of Scotch brand "Extreme" strapping tape to completely cover the coil turns (this will make the loopstick relatively waterproof). Solder your

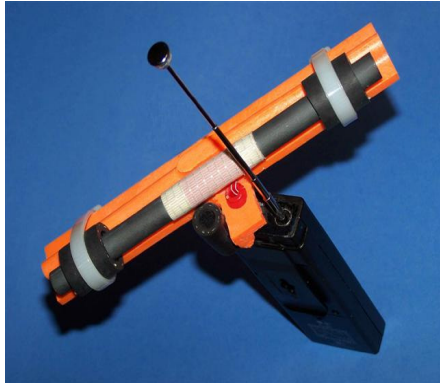
loopstick coil connecting leads to the 1/8" phone plug connecting terminals, and mount the finished 7.5" loopstick on the frame of your choice, ensuring that rubber shock mounts are used to protect the loopstick from bumps, and provide excellent insulating qualities for the best electromagnetic performance. The author uses 1" long sections of 5/8" I.D. rubber air hose for shock mounts, with 1/2" long black vinyl inserts to hold the bar itself. The rubber shock mounts are secured with heavy-duty plastic tie wraps in the author's system. For those who are interested in a fixed frame system for indoor use, John Bryant described various plywood mounting systems for 7.5" loopsticks in our joint E100 Slider article, which is posted at: <http://www.mediafire.com/?nqggfm2jymc>.



7.5" Loopstick Mechanical Challenges: The author's contemplated portable loopstick/frame assembly would not only be longer than the PL-360 cabinet itself, but would have enough weight to rotate freely in the PL-360 antenna jack, similar to a large ham radio antenna on a tower with no brake system. The long ferrite bar would need serious protection from shocks and bumps, and the loopstick frame would also need to provide access for MP3 recordings from the PL-360's headphone jack (located only about 12 mm from the loopstick plug-in jack on the top panel, of course). As if these challenges were not enough, it would also be necessary to provide a system where the 7.5" loopstick could be plugged in and operating while the whip antenna (only 12 mm from the loopstick plug-in jack, on the side opposite the headphone jack) was extended, to receive SW parallels. Initially, the combination of these multiple mechanical challenges made even the viability of the project seem doubtful.



Solving the Mechanical Challenges: The key to avoiding unwanted loopstick rotation was gluing a 3/8"



1.D. rubber hose section to the loopstick frame, strategically placed to fit precisely over the PL-360 whip antenna tip (see photo above). This not only stopped loopstick rotation, but provided a weight-sharing system to reduce stress in the loopstick plug-in jack. A rectangular slot cut in the loopstick frame allowed access to the headphone jack for MP3 recordings, and the same slot could be used for whip antenna extension whenever the loopstick frame was plugged in while facing the back of the radio (see photo at left). Two sections of cut plastic would be used for the frame, one of which was an 8" long section used to secure the 7.5" ferrite bar with two rubber shock mounts, and the other was a short 2" piece used to secure the perpendicular Radio Shack 1/8" phone plug, and the 3/8" rubber hose locking system designed to

fit over the whip antenna tip. The two plastic pieces would be glued together in a frame system that would be parallel with the top of the PL-360 cabinet, hopefully with enough aesthetic appeal to be tolerated by AM-DXers eager for exotic loggings.

Build Your Own 7.5" Plug-in Loopstick for the PL-360: For those DXers with experience in close-order construction (woodworking, etc.), building the entire project (loopstick and author's frame system) is well within your grasp. Good eyesight and experience with power tools is helpful, as well as patience. DXers without such advantages will probably find the project quite demanding – proceed at your own risk.

Using a power miter saw, cut an 8" long section of frame material from a 48" plastic carpenter's level (as shown in the photo at right). Each 48" level will yield at least four of these 8" sections, as well as enough scrap material for all the shorter frame pieces (sufficient to make four complete loopstick frames). After cutting the 8" long frame pieces, using a 3/8" drill with a bubble level indicator, drill 3/8" perpendicular holes in the remaining scrap pieces of the 48" level, with the pilot holes about 9 mm from the right edge of the flat sections. Allow at



least 3" of space between the holes, so that the short frame sections of 1.5" x 2" can eventually be cut with the miter saw (see photo below).



The 3/8" perpendicular holes in the short frame pieces will need slight filing to accommodate the Radio Shack 1/8" phone plug plastic housing sections, which is a good opportunity to ensure that the drill holes are exactly perpendicular. Ensure that the hole is exactly perpendicular by temporarily holding the 8" long plastic frame section on the back of the short frame section, then plugging the Radio Shack plug (inside the hole) into the PL-360 jack. The 8" long loopstick frame section should be exactly parallel with the PL-360's cabinet top. If it is not, repeat the procedure using a different short frame section, with a different (hopefully perpendicular) hole. Ensure that the hole is exactly perpendicular before gluing the plug housing to the plastic frame hole, or your loopstick frame will eternally be tilted at an angle.

Glue the short (1.5" x 2") phone plug plastic piece to the 8" long loopstick frame plastic piece, ensuring that the short piece is exactly centered in the middle of the long piece (see photo below). Using a hacksaw, cut away enough of the short plastic piece to allow MP3 recordings from the PL360's headphone jack

when the loopstick is plugged into the radio, and also cut away a slot to allow mounting of the 3/8" I.D. rubber air hose to fit over the whip antenna tip (as a locking mechanism and shock mount for the loopstick frame assembly). It will be necessary to file away a curved mounting slot prior to gluing the rubber air hose to the plastic frame, and this should be done precisely, so that when the loopstick is plugged into the PL-360 the entire antenna will remain parallel to the PL-360's top surface, and remain secure and "locked," regardless of the angle of usage (even upside down). Use superglue (or an equally strong adhesive) to secure the rubber air hose to the plastic frame.



Referring to the loopstick construction section above, complete the coil winding procedure and secure your loopstick on the completed plastic frame, using the suggested rubber shock mounts to protect the ferrite bar.

Transformation in PL-360 Performance: As might be expected, the replacement of the PL-360's midget stock loopstick with the 7.5" upgrade completely transforms the PL-360's AM-DXing capability, making it a very competitive portable indeed. A DXer can enjoy AM sensitivity equivalent to that of the finest traditional portables, as well as DSP-provided selectivity superior to those classic portables.

Using a spare PL-360, relative performance tests were run using the PL-360 stock antenna and the 7.5" upgrade loopstick, during the recording of five fringe stations around local noon here in Puyallup, WA. In each MP3, the stock antenna receives the fringe station for the first 10 seconds, then the 7.5" loopstick receives the same station for the last 12 seconds:

Station	Stock Loopstick RSSI/S/N	7.5" Loopstick RSSI/S/N	MP3
620-KPOJ (150 miles)	17/00 (weak)	30/05 (moderate)	http://www.mediafire.com/?wjdn1ebzzu
750-KXL (150 miles)	25/00 (inaud)	35/00 (weak-mod)	http://www.mediafire.com/?lyymzlkdzjz
1030-KMAS (30 miles)	27/11 (mod)	46/21 (strong)	http://www.mediafire.com/?tmytmcmngny
1380-KRKO (80 miles)	22/00 (weak)	32/03 (strong)	http://www.mediafire.com/?imjmi3jmkny
1650-TIS (10 miles)	27/00 (weak)	32/03 (strong)	http://www.mediafire.com/?zqnwlelmn2



Project Success! The 7.5" plug-in loopstick was designed for DXers who wished to enjoy the thrilling DX available from a highly sensitive loopstick, but who were reluctant to perform any radio modifications. Based upon the author's experience with the Ultralight Radio enthusiast group, it was known that many active DXers were in this category.

After details of the successful 7.5" plug-in loopstick design were promulgated in the ULR group, the author had the privilege to take orders from 25 different enthusiasts, all eager to try out this highly sensitive loopstick in their own PL-360 models. A mini-factory was assembled to handle the serious demand, and 7.5" LW-optimized models were also constructed. The entire experience has been one of the most enjoyable radio projects ever undertaken by the author, who greatly appreciates the chance to help other DXers in a practical way.

Current efforts are focusing on optimizing the LW-oriented loopsticks, and adapting the Tecsun PL-380 models to accept these same 7.5" plug-in loopsticks. With the superior DSP filtering and less distracting "soft mute" function of the PL-380, these highly sensitive loopsticks should provide thrilling TA and TP-DXing opportunities for those DXers using that model. It looks like a very exciting fall season is shaping up!

73 and Good DX, Gary DeBock (in Puyallup, WA, USA)

2009-2010 IRCA Focus on Five DX CONTEST

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

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

May 15, 2010 update

1. Lee Freshwater	54	4. Chris Knight	31
2. Larry Godwin	49	5. Bill Nittler	31
3. Tim Noonan	36	6. Nancy Johnson *	25
		7. Phil Bytheway	3

* Contest manager is not eligible to win.

Please remember to report any special loggings you hear while DXing for the contest to the appropriate editor! The contest runs until May 31, 2010, and the final contest standings will appear in the late June issue.

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

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1070	WAPI	Frank Giardina, DirEng; frank.giardina@citcomm.com ; Birmingham AL; E; 55; IRCA

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] = None

This column was prepared on 5/24/10, one week earlier than normal due to the Memorial Day holiday. 73, SSH.

THE WORLD OF ULTRALIGHT DXing

Compiled by: Phil Bytheway

E-mail: phil_tekno@yahoo.com

100524 – Ultralight DXing legend **Rob Ross** of London, Ontario has qualified for one of the toughest Awards in our diverse program – 80 Stations Heard on the Graveyard frequencies! Previously awarded only to one other fanatical DXer (Frank Welch of Massachusetts), this award truly requires the utmost in patience and tenacity. As much as I admire Rob and Frank for their amazing Graveyard DXing accomplishments, the idea of sitting on a frequency for hours waiting for something new to come up is definitely not my first choice!

Fellow ULR Awards Committee member Rob has assured me that he has diligently checked his own logs – and having known Rob from the time that John and I started this craziness, I'm inclined to believe him! Congratulations, Rob, and best wishes for very spirited Graveyard DX in the future. **Gary DeBock** (in Puyallup, WA, USA)

An extensive group of awards certificates is available from the Ultralight MW DXing Awards Committee. Each recipient receives a digital file which may be used for electronic display or is suitable for framing when printed at 8 1/2" x 11" on good quality paper. Information on the Awards Program and the simple application procedures are found in the **Downloads>Ultralight Files>General Information** area of dxer.ca and our own file area here at ultralightdx.com. Applications go directly to Rob Ross va3sw@rogers.com.

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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