

May 17, 2014 - Volume 51, Number 30 - Edition 1631 - ISSN 899-9733

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FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Have you begun planning for the 2014 Golden Anniversary IRCA Convention yet? Details on the upcoming Convention, hosted by John and Nancy Johnson, appear below. Billings, MT is the host city for this milestone event. The ballot for the TVA and RHA is on Page 2. We'll be interested to see what happens this year. There's still time to enter the IRCA Golden 50 Contest; the deadline is May 31!

2014 IRCA 50th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION -**BILLINGS. MONTANA**

The 2014 IRCA 50th Anniversary Convention will be held in Billings, Montana on September 19th and 20th. John and Nancy Johnson are your convention hosts. The convention will be held at the Lexington Inn & Suites by Vantage located at 3040 King Avenue West. IRCA members are eligible to

receive a special room rate of \$95.00(US) per night plus 7% Lodging Tax & \$1.00(US) TBID fees. A limited block of rooms have been set aside so you will want to make your reservations early. Please mention "IRCA-International Radio Club of America" when making your reservation for the special IRCA member's rate. You may call them directly at 406-294-9090 or toll-free 1-877-488-4649. You will need to give them a credit card number and check-in and check-out dates. They do offer an airport shuttle. The parking area is quite large.

With this rate you will enjoy the following COMPLIMENTARY top quality amenities to enhance your stav

- A 100% SMOKE-FREE and PET FREE to ensure a healthy environment.
- Guest rooms featuring beautiful furniture, sitting areas, spacious bright bathrooms, pillow-top mattresses, upgraded bed and bath linens and exceptionally guiet rooms.
- New Panasonic flat-screen TVs, iHome radios
- Comfortable and well-lit workspaces with secure high-speed internet desk access,
- Voice mail and free local calls within the (406) area code.
- Free Internet wired and wireless
- Indoor swimming pool with hot tub, changing room and outdoor patio, fitness center
- Hot continental breakfast. Some gluten items available for purchase.

For more information about Lexington Inn & Suites by Vantage go to LexingtonBillings.com Radio station tours will be scheduled for Friday. A tour of Connoisseur Media's stations is almost finalized. Stations include News-talk KYYA-730, ESPN KBLG-910, Sky KRKX-94.1, The Zone KRZN-96.3, MY 105.9 KWMY, and KLPN-106.7 The Planet.

Hungry? You'll discover Billings. Montana is filled with numerous places to eat. There is a Johnny Carino's adjacent to the convention hotel. A few blocks away there is a Pizza Ranch. We're planning on a Friday evening get-together at Pizza Ranch where you'll find pizza and broasted chicken are on the buffet. The Saturday night convention banquet will be held at the Montana Rib and Chop House. Registration for club* members is just \$35.00(US) (Does NOT include the banquet – details of the banquet will be announced later). Non-club member's registration is \$50.00(US) which includes a one vear membership in the IRCA. (Hint: Save money, a one year membership in the IRCA is less than the increased registration fee for non-members. Join the IRCA now.) You may pay in advance by check or PayPal. If paying by PayPal, please add \$1.00(US) to cover the \$1.34(US) additional charges added on by PayPal. Use this PayPal address: john@johninmontana.com and include a message that the money if for the IRCA convention registration. If paying via check, make that out to

John C. Johnson and mail to 265 Waterton Way, Billings, Montana 59102-7755. *Club membership in IRCA, NRC, or WTFDA qualifies for the \$35,00(US) registration fee. Non club members are encouraged to join the IRCA.

More details about the convention will be announced later. Check out the IRCA Facebook site too! If you have any questions please contact John Johnson at john@johninmontana.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT (Phil Bytheway)

We are currently looking for a volunteer for DX TEST (CPC) Chairman. Helps arrange DX tests from stations and communicate with the various radio clubs/eGroups. In addition, we are seeking a volunteer to compile the IRCA Slogans List.

TVA-RHA OFFICIAL BALLOT

Nick Hall-Patch - 1538 Amphion St - Victoria BC Canada V8R 4Z6 E-mail: nhp@ieee.org

Contact me if interested in either position or have concerns about IRCA. pb

2013-2014 Ted Vasilopolous A	Award (TVA) (vote for one):
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Eric Bueneman for his being editor-in-chief of DX Monitor since 2010, editing Eastern DX Roundup and Sportschannels as well as being a regular contributor to DX Monitor over the years. John C Johnson. John is a charter member of IRCA and had been editor of C.D.X.R. for over a quarter of a century. John is co-founder of the IRCA Facebook page and will be the host of our footh anniversary convention in Billings MT. Nick Hall-Patch for his contributions to the IRCA over the years. He has done an excellent both of putting together the IRCA Technical Column as well as Election Committee Chair. Nick has also contributed to DX Worldwide West over the years. (reason) There is a write-in space above to vote for any IRCA member, except for the following members who have won the TVA in the last five years and are ineligible this year: Lee Freshwater, Richard Evans, while Bytheway, Bill Block and Nancy Johnson.) 1013-2014 Ric Heald Award (RHA) (vote for one): Mark Connelly for his contributions to DX Worldwide East. John J. Rieger for his contributions to Eastern DX Roundup this year, giving the membership a glimpse into what DX is heard in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. John has also done an excellent job unning DX midAMerica, a regional DX club. Bob Wien for his work on the Broadcasting Information column over the past year. (reason) There is a write-in space above to vote for any IRCA member, except for the following members who have won the RHA in the last three years and are ineligible this year: Kraig Krist, Mike Sanburn and crice Bueneman.)	
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CANADIAN RADIO NEWS

Dan Sys- sysdan@gmail.com

For April 2014 (May 1 2014 – next update June 1 2014)

PROGRAMMING CHANGES GRANTED

BC Princeton

Will drop locally oriented programming and become a 100% simulcast of CJOR 1240 Osoyoos.

NON-COMPLIANCE DECISIONS

1040	QC	Saint-Constant	CJMS	Due to ongoing occurrences of non-compliance the CRTC states
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that if new owners are not found for the station by July 10, 2014

NEW CALL

the license will likely be rescinded.

PROPOSED TECHNICAL CHANGES

650 BC Richmond CISL Increase day power from 10,000 to 20,000 watts. Decrease night power from 9,000 to 4,000 watts. Relocate transmitter.

BROADCASTING INFORMATION

Robert J. Wien (KG6RJW/3) - 902 Hall Station Drive #104 - Bowie, MD 20721 Temporary Address: c/o Marriott Towneplace Suites, 4100 Kittredge St., Room 327,

Denver, CO 80239 (use until late August 2014)

FRFQ

OLD CALL

E-mail: wienbob@aol.com Column Deadlines: Saturdays

DATE OF COLUMN: May 10, 2014 Column data span: April 26, 2014-May 10, 2014 Data courtesy of Stationintel.com, FCC database and member contributions COLUMN DEADLINES: SATURDAYS

Please send your tips to the Email address above only <u>and no other</u>.

Deadlines for column will be Saturdays. Thank you.

CALL CHANGES

CITY OF LICENSE

FREQ	OLD CAL	L CITY OF I	LICENSE	NEW CALL					
700 1410	WTUB KSMM	Orange-A Lompoc, (WWBZ KTNK					
	FORMAT, SLOGAN AND SILENT STATUS CHANGES								
FREQ	CALL	CITY OF LICENSE	NEW INFORMATION						
580 780 780 790 790 790 790 790 1100 1110 1120 1140 1150 1150	WYHM WTME WTME WAYY WAYY WAYY WMC WMC WWWE WKQA KTXW WSAO WEAQ WTMP	Rockwood, TN Rumford, ME Rumford, ME Eau Claire, WI Eau Claire, WI Memphis, TN Memphis, TN Hapeville, GA Norfolk, VA Manor, TX Senatobia, MS Chippewa Falls, WI Egypt Lake, FL	was CBS Sports, now ES was Sports, now Talk, Bu old slogan: "Ministry Rad is new, Regional Mexican now silent old slogan: "ESPN 1150" was ESPN Radio, now C was Tropical, now Urban	o", new: "Talk For Maine" now Talk and Information" 90" S Sports 790 AM", new: "ESPN 790 AM" SPN Radio network usiness News lio 1110", new: "Freedom 1110" n, adds slogan: "La Z 1120" C, new: "Oldies 1150" Cumulus True Oldies I Adult Contemporary					
1160 1160 1170 1170 1180 1180 1230 1230 1230 1240 1240 1240 1240 1270 1280 1280 1280 1280 1280	KRDY KRDY KRDY KJOC WLDS WLDS WLDS WECK WRJX WEZR WEZR WEZR WEZR WEZR WEYC WFYC WHTK WHTK WUFE WUFE	San Antonio, TX San Antonio, TX Davenport, IA Davenport, IA Jacksonville, IL Jacksonville, IL Sioux Falls, SD Cheektowaga, NY Jackson, AL Lewiston, ME Lewiston, ME Lewiston, ME Belmont, NC Alma, MI Alma, MI Rochester, NY Rochester, NY Baxley, GA Baxley, GA Baxley, GA	was Cumulus True Oldie new: "Your Farm Voice Fold slogan: "Rejoice 1230 was Urban Gospel, now new: "The Pulse of Lewis old slogan: "EZ 1240" was Soft Adult contempo old slogan: "WCGC 1270 old slogan: "ESPN 1280" was ESPN Radio, now Wnew: "Rochester's Sports old slogan: "Fox Sports old slogan: "Big Wolf", new was Oldies, now Adult Co	Contemporary Christian 1170", new: "ESPN 1170" is, now ESPN Radio network For West Central Illinois" (oice" ow WW1 NBC Sports Network ult Standards 0", new: "Bama Country" WW1 Classic Country ston-Auburn" orary, now Adult Contemporary 0 AM", new: "Heaven Radio" ', new: "Sports 1280" WW1 NBC Sports Network is Talk" Radio" ew: "Big Woof Wolf" ontemporary					
1290 1290	KBMO WNIL	Benson, MN Niles, MI	old slogan: "The Fan", ne	ds, now Music of Your Life ew: "ESPN South Bend"					

3

1290 1300 1320 1320 1320 1340 1340 14400 14400 1410 1410 1450 1450 1450	WNIL WQPM KNCB WRNP WRNP KNTF KNTF WJWF WTIX WTIX WTIX WTIX WTIX WRCG WHNK WIZS WKTQ WKTQ KWOK WIGM WIGM WIGM KCTE WNWT	Niles, MI Princeton, MN Vivian, LA Attleboro, MA Attleboro, MA Oroville, CA Oroville, CA Columbus, MS Columbus, MS Concord, NC Concord, NC Concord, NC Columbus, GA Parkersburg, WV Henderson, NC South Paris, ME South Paris, ME Aberdeen, WA Medford, WI Medford, WI Medford, WI Independence, MO Rossford, OH Rossford, OH	was WW1 NBC Sports, now ESPN radio network old slogan: "WQPM-AM", new: "The Big Q" now silent old slogan: "1320 Radio", new: "1320 AM Radio" was Smooth AC, now Talk, Timeless Cool network adds slogan: "Radio Santisimo Sacramento" was Talk, now Spanish Christian adds slogan: "103.1 The Team" was silent, now CBS Sports new: "Heaven Radio" old slogan: "Country Legends 1410" was Classic Country, now Christian Teaching //WHVN 1240 was Classic Rock, now Southern Gospel now silent adds secondary format of Oldies old slogan: "Family Radio", new: "Talk For Maine" was Christian Teaching, now Talk changes city of license from Hoquiam to Aberdeen old slogan: "ESPN Sports 1490 AM" new: "CBS Sports Radio 1490" was ESPN Radio, now CBS Sports was Talk, now Sports/Talk, adds ESPN Radio network old slogan: "K-Love", new: "Urban Family Talk" was K-Love Contemporary Christian, now Urban Family Talk
1520	WNWT		
1520	WNWT	Rossford, OH	
1560 1560 1590 1590	WAHT WAHT WGYA WGYA	Clemson, SC Clemson, SC Guayama, PR Guayama, PR	old slogan: "104.9 FM Talk/Sports" new: "105.5 The Roar" adds slogan: "Cadena WAPA-Radio" //WAPA 680 was silent, now Spanish News/Talk

Well, settled into my hotel now after 2 ½ weeks here in Aurora, job training is going well so far. Seeing some old friends in the area both work and personal as well. Drove down to Castle Rock, CO today (May 10th), hadn't been there in over 2 years, still looks very nice there! We're supposed to get snow/rain mix or possible actual snow in the Denver area Mother's Day and the Monday after, so I'll have to be careful in traffic. Back in Maryland, in the sultry 80's. DX winding down a bit, haven't had a whole lot of time to do a lot of DX'ing here yet but will soon. My 5 dial positions on my car rental are KCEG-780, KOA-850, KRWZ-950, KEZW-1430 and KCKK-1510. Attend the Billings convention in September 2014, Nancy and John are sure to be terrific hosts! 73's. Bob Wien

WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

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

WDXR DEADLINES: May 23, June 6, June 20, July 4. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (RB) Rick Barton-Box 1804-El Mirage, AZ desertmoon_dxshack@inbox.com
 Zenith Transoceanic Royal R-7000, Hammarlund HQ-120X, HQ-180A, Slinky, Grundig
 Sat 750
- (BB) Bill Block-Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 billblock@cableone.net
 Drake R8
- (LG) Larry Godwin-2390 Clydes Dale Lane-Missoula, MT 59804 lbg@mtwi.net
 Hammarlund HQ-180, Sanserino air-core box loop

780 KKOH NV, Reno 5/7 0808 Ross Mitchell (the voice of Tony the Tiger) "Red Eye Radio" booming thru the static with local program. Fair. (RB-AZ)

1110 KFAB NE, Omaha 5/6 2358 spot for Frontier Medical to ID by male and newscast. Very good and all alone on channel. (RB-AZ)

1130 KWKH <u>LA</u>, Shreveport 5/1 0458 with weather and "1130 The Tiger." (BB-AZ)

KQRR OR, Mount Angel blasts in here regularly, about even with CKWX, with Russian Christian programming on day power from about 0900-1000 but doesn't ID in English at ToH. I finally logged it at 0920 on 5/9 by checking its online feed, although the synchronization was off by at least a minute. Remarkable this 25kw powerhouse has been reported in DXR only once, on 4/17/12. It's no longer parallel to Russian-speaker KOOR-1010. (LG-MT)

- 140 KNWQ <u>CA</u>, Palm Springs 4/29 2206 "Ground Zero Radio" opening, steady and dominant at local sunset. (RB-AZ)
- 170 KYET AZ, Golden Valley 4/27 1100 country music to ID at ToH and into "AP Network News." Very good, then suddenly faded down to threshold. (RB-AZ)
- 1210 KPRZ <u>CA</u>, San Marcos-Poway 5/6 0950 religious lecture by man, good, but mixing with CCI from possibly late morning rx of KGYN. (RB-AZ)
 - KGYN OK, Guymon 5/4 0245 "From Harwell to Fowler we're USA Country 12-10 KGYN." (RB-AZ)
- 1350 KABQ NM, Albuquerque 5/6 2320 local spots to talk radio program, fair. (RB-AZ)
- 1620 KSMH <u>CA</u>, Sacramento 5/7 0930 religious lecture and reading by woman, good after local sunrise. (RB-AZ)
- 1650 KFOX <u>CA</u>, Torrance 4/29 2200 ID by male "...Southern California's number one Korean language radio station." (RB-AZ)
- 1670 KNRO CA, Redding 5/6 2345 sports p-b-p, good with some deep fades with CCI KHPY. (RB-AZ)
- 1690 KDDZ <u>CO</u>, Arvada pop vocal music before sunrise here, outstanding rx on HQ-180A and 50' Slinky. (RB-AZ)

UNID

1070 UNID 5/7 0015 Elton John, other pop oldies during rare, complete, fadeout of KNX. (RB-AZ)

Thank you to our three WDXR reporters this issue. The next column deadline will be Friday May 23. Nancy 5/9 2100

CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP

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

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

RIDING GAIN

[EB-MO] Eric Bueneman, Hazelwood, MO NOUIHEric@aol.com GE Superadio III, Yaesu FRG-7, Worcester Space Magnet II.

DOWN THE DIAL

- 660 WLFJ SC, Greenville. 5/3 poor signal over KSKY. 07:30 with promo and calls. [EB-MO]
- 840 KTIC NE, West Point. 5/3 fair to poor signal over WHAS. 07:35 noted with Classic Country format, "KTIC" ID. KFUO 850 not on until 08:00. [EB-MO]
- 850 KJON TX, Carrollton. 5/5 fair signal over KOA. 07:38 noted with Catholic prayer chants in Spanish. Local KFUO not on until 08:00. [EB-MO]
 - KOA CO, Denver. 5/2 good signal over KEYH; ACI from CJBC 860. 22:35 noted with Colorado Rockies baseball PBP. [EB-MO]
- 900 KTIS MN, Minneapolis. 4/26 good to poor signal mixing with KFAL, others. 20:53 noted with "Focus on the Family", talking about high school and college students, promos and a mention of Northwestern College Radio after the program. [EB-MO]
- 1150 WEAQ WI, Chippewa Falls. 4/24 fair signal over WGGH. 07:58 with Oldies format, "WEAQ Chippewa Falls" legal ID at 08:00. Format change from ESPN Radio. [EB-MO]
- 1160 KSL UT, Salt Lake City. 5/7 fair to poor signal, mixing with WYLL. 03:03 noted with ABC News. local spots. "KSL-FM 102-point-7. AM 11-60" ID into Jim Bohannon. [EB-MO]
- 1240 KBIZ IA, Ottumwa. 4/24 fair to poor signal over WTAX, KFMO; digital interference from WSDZ 1260. 08:43 with weather forecast, "12-40 KBIZ" ID into local spots. [EB-MO]
- 1250 KBTC MO, Houston. 4/26 fair to poor signal, mixing with WGL and WSSP. 20:27 noted with local spot mentioning a phone number in Area Code 573. [EB-MO]
- 1300 WOOD MI, Grand Rapids. 4/26 good to fair signal over WNQM. 20:30 noted with Grand Rapids Griffins playoff hockey promo, "News radio Wood, 13-hundred AM and 106-point-9 FM" ID into Fox News Radio. [EB-MO]
- 1560 WQEW NY, New York. 5/2 fair signal over WPAD. 22:02 noted with pop music, promo, "Radio Disney" ID. [EB-MO]
- 1580 WBBA IL, Pittsfield. 5/7 TENTATIVE. Fair to poor signal, mixing with KTGR; ACI from WBGZ 1570. 17:19 noted with Country format, local spots, legal ID into ABC News at 18:00. KATZ 1600 in analog mode at this time. Last noted at Golden Eagle, IL in 2012. Much weaker than it was 15 or 20 years ago. [EB-MO]

50 - 25 YEARS AGO

50 years ago (5/13/1964 'DX Monitor')... **Dallas John** of Denver, CO received a verie from KFQD 730 for his 50th state verified ... **DeWayne Bruce** of Denver, CO logged WKBH 1410 for his first Wisconsin station. 25 years ago (5/13/1989 'DX Monitor')... **Tom Jasinski** received a verie from

CKSL 1410 for a logging over 1,800 days ago ... **Ric Heald** of Sacramento, CA mentioned a visit from **Ted Wendland** of Calgary, AB on the 24th of April.

OPEN MIKE

Have you sent in your registration for the IRCA 50th Anniversary Convention in September? Details are in this issue of 'DX Monitor.' This column was typed 5-10-14. 73. John

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

Eric Bueneman (NØUIH) – 631 Coachway Lane – Hazelwood, MO 63042-1347 E-mail: n0uiheric@aol.com DEADLINES: Thursday 2000 ELT

TUNING THE DIALS THIS ISSUE:

(KK-VA) Kraig Krist (KG4LAC), Manassas, VA
Wingdig G33DDC software defined receiver, Wellbrook ALA

Winradio G33DDC software-defined receiver, Wellbrook ALA1530S+ Imperium loop

ACROSS THE DIAL

- 1300 WNQM TN Nashville 4/26 2001 noted with "You're listening to WNQM AM 1300 Nashville, Tennessee" legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WKCY, WJZ, WXRL and an unidentified Oldies station. (KK-VA)
- 1310 KGMT NE Fairbury 4/26 2104 noted with "...welcome home Nebraska..." mention by a male announcer. The only Nebraska station on 1310 is KGMT; the 1,209th station noted from Manassas. The signal was noted mixing with WDCT, WOCV, and unidentified stations carrying CBS Sports Radio, a baseball game, ESPN Radio and vocal music in Spanish. (KK-VA) (That's quite a haul, Kraig! They must have still been on their 500-watt daytime power-eb)
- 1310 WOCV TN Oneida 4/26 2043 noted with "...local sports coverage...mornings...on 105.5 Oneida". This is the 1,208th station noted from Manassas. The signal was noted mixing with WDCT, KGMT, and unidentified stations carrying CBS Sports Radio, a baseball game. ESPN Radio and vocal music in Spanish. (KK-VA)
- 1320 WLOH OH Lancaster 4/26 2034 noted with "Bob Mayer on Talkradio WLOH" ID by a male announcer. "WLOH...Valley's Talk Station" ID by a male announcer noted at 2108. The signal was noted mixing with WVNZ, WGET, WJAS and an unidentified music station. (KK-VA)
- 1320 WGET

 PA Gettysburg 4/26 1959 noted with "You're tuned to Your Exclusive Source for Sports in the Gettysburg/Hanover area, ESPN 1320 WGET Gettysburg, Hanover" legal ID by a male announcer. This is the 1,210th station noted from Manassas. The signal was noted mixing with WLOH, WVNZ, WJAS and an unidentified music station. (KK-VA)
- 1320 WVNZ VA Richmond 4/26 1933 noted with vocal music in Spanish (the format is Regional Mexican-eb), "Selecta Trece-Veinte (1320)" ID in Spanish by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WGET, WLOH, WJAS and an unidentified music station; lost at 1946 power cut. (KK-VA)
- 1330 WESR VA Onley 4/26 2000 noted with "Your station for Today's Best Talk and Yesterday's Favorites, AM 1330 WESR Onley...Hot Talk and Cool Classics" legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WJSS, WRAA, WBTM, WSPQ, and unidentified stations carrying Fox Sports (KWLO?-eb) and Christian teaching (WVHI?-eb). (KK-VA)
- 1370 WGCL IN Bloomington 5/4 2047 noted with "...Wall Street Journal...local news updates, weather...and Joe Smith Reports. 'Glass in the Morning', weekdays from seven 'til nine on News/Talk FM 95.9 AM 1370 WGCL" ID by a male announcer. This is the 1,211th station noted at Manassas. The signal was noted mixing with WKMC, WSPD, WQLL, WSHV and an unidentified Christian Teaching station. (KK-VA)
- 1380 WHEW TN Franklin 5/4 2055 noted with "WHEW...Bonita" ID in English and Spanish by a male announcer, then a "Bonita" ID by a female announcer. This is the 1,212th station noted at Manassas. The signal was noted mixing with WKJV and unidentified stations with vocal music, talk, ESPN Radio (WKJG?-eb), Oldies and Catholic prayers (WMJR Nicholasville, KY-eb). (KK-VA)
- 1390 WLCM MI Holt 5/4 2031 noted with Christian talk and music, "Victory 1390 WLCM" ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WZHF, WNIO, and unidentified stations carrying vocal music and programming in a South Asian language; sounding like Hindu. (KK-VA)

EDITOR'S NOTES

The reception of KGMT 1310 at Manassas, VA is quite a haul; 500 watts at 1,055 miles! This is one station that hasn't even made it to my logbook, 375 miles from Fairbury. Their FM sister station is KUTT 99.5, a 100 kW blowtorch that has made it to Hazelwood on a few occasions.

73 and good DX from NØUIH

DX WORLDWIDE - WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

Patrick Martin – PO Box 843 – Seaside OR 97138 E-mail: mwdxer@webtv.net all times UTC

Deadline 5/25 noon PLT. All times UTC/GMT.

TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

- 567 JAPAN, JOIK, Sapporo. Female vocal music 1323 3/30, fair strength //594 which was quite a bit weaker at this time. (NHP-BC)
- 666 JAPAN, JOBK, Osaka. Woman in Japanese //594 1304 4/11, fair to poor. (NHP-BC)
- 774 JAPAN, JOUB, Akita. English lesson theme music 1259 4/8, faded across hour, but back w/more English lessons after the hour, quite strong and readable. No more extended weather reports after 1300 I guess? (NHP-BC)
- 873 JAPAN, JOGB, Kumamoto. Poor w/theme music for end of English lesson 1259 3/31, followed by pips on the hour. (NHP-BC)
- 891 JAPAN, JÓHK, Sendai. Man in Japanese, quite insistent, //594 which was weaker, 1323 4/5. (NHP-BC)
- 1053 REP KOREA, jammer. Doing what it does best (jamming), poor to fair strength 1255 4/14. Also 1257 4/16 at similar level. Didn't wait for the "ID on the hour", hi. (NHP-BC)
- 1206 CHINA, Yanji, Yanbian RGD. Man in Korean, measured speech pattern, then another man, and a woman. Fair to poor signal, 1254 4/2. (NHP-BC)
- 1215t PHILIPPINES, DYRF, Cebu City. Likely the one at 1336 3/30, w/woman in Tagalog talking to man on phone, then into quiet music. Fair to poor signal, and best on north Flag. Found a webstream for it, http://www.ustream.tv/channel/dyrf, but after dealing with the ad that starts it off, wasn't sure where I was. The woman talking there sure sounded like the one I'd heard about a minute earlier on 1215. Next time. (NHP-BC)
- CHINA, Shuanghyashan, CRI. Usual CRI stringed music before 1200 4/11, leading into chimes and fanfare, never more than poor strength, but easily recognizable. Various snippets of audio from 1149 4/29, IDed by chimes and fanfare that were heard weakly at 1200, but by 1216, woman in recognizable Russian was heard. This isn't the latest in the spring that this has been heard from home. but close. (NHP-BC)
- INDONESIA, Tolitoli, RRI. Man talking, seemed like Tagalog, faded up quite quickly from poor to fair strength 1326 4/4, peaked 1327-29 with woman talking, a commercial? Snatches of music, then mumbled down after 1330. Seemed to be pretty close to 1377.000 kHz. This turned out to my best catch of the season. I posted a clip to the RealDX Yahoo group, which found its way into the hands of an Indonesian DXer via a Finnish DXer. He reported that the woman said "mari bersama Sulawesi Selatan", and some words "pemilih", "mencoblos." He thought it was an ad to invite people participating in general election on April 9. RRI Tolitoli is the only Indonesian listed, and it is on the island of Sulawesi. A Norwegian DXer who had visited the Philippines reported that RRI-1377 is very strong there. Given that Walt Salmaniw also seems to have heard it from Haida Gwaii this spring, it's probably one to watch for on the west coast at least. (NHP-BC) (Fantastic catch. Nick! PM)
- 1377 UnID. Man and woman talking, not //774, fading up to fair strength 1328 4/2, with a long pop vocal that pretty much blew away all the enhancement possibilities for an ID. Possibly Tolitoli, noted a couple of days later. (NHP-BC)
- NEW ZEALAND, Wellington, Radio Sport. This was never really readable 4/30 at 1234, but man having a good rant was distinctive, and was able to match it up with Radio Sport archive online. It's been awhile since this has been heard. (NHP-BC)
- 1512 PHILIPPINES, DYAB, Cebu City. Poor w/"Moon River" vocal 1345 3/30, was repeated on station's webstream. (NHP-BC)
- 1566 **REP KOREA**, HLAZ, Cheju. Even the Chinese program did well at times on 4/29. Man in Chinese, bits of orchestral music, more man talking 1201, but popped up at various other times as well. Was doing reasonably well when the Chinese program ended at 1229, but the Japanese program came up even better, at full strength at 1230, with standard introductory announcements and full IDs in Japanese. (NHP-BC)
- 1575 THAILAND, Ban Phachi, VoA. Pretty good signal with man in Khmer at 1334 4/1, "This program has come to you from Voice of America, Washington" had been heard at 1330 then

- "Voice of America in Khmer" repeated, so I'll take their word for it, as it faded up to this level. (NHP-BC)
- 1611 UnID. Just the faintest of audio traces at 1129 5/10. (NP-AB)
- 1629.03 **UnID**. Traces of man speaking at 1128 5/10. (NP-AB)
- 1656 UnID. Man talking at 1131 5/10. Too weak to determine language, but it wasn't English. Possibly Greek. (NP-AB)
- 1701.07 AUSTRALIA, Brisbane, Radio Brisvaani. Easily the best of the DU signals, with quite consistent signal from 1125 to 1135 5/10. Mostly Indian vocals, but some talk too. (NP-AB)

PAN AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

- MÉXICO, XEK, Nuevo Laredo, Tams. 0502 4/28, during KGWA Fox-hole of dead air, with its hummy carrier nulled, the dominant inhabitant tonight is XEK, as I immediately hear the 'XEW' chimes that XEK plays as IS, 4 notes downward, probably C-G-E-C, though my pitch is imperfect and don't have the keyboard handy to match them. Then NA in choral version; 0504 full ID as XEK, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, "desde 1937," and then playing "Cielito Lindo," another kind of anthem, while KGWA blasts back on with modulation at 0505 UT. Confirmed here it was founded on 17 May 1937: http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/XEK-AM. (GH-OK)
 - + 0501 5/2 during another KGWA Enid Fox-hole of dead air, with its hummy carrier nulled as much as possible, again the Mexican NA is what's audible, 0502 ID as "XEK, la Estación Grande de Nuevo Laredo, desde 1937, 5 mil watts de potencia" and into other music. No XEW chimes heard this time. (GH-OK)
 - + 0501 5/3, for the third time this week, previously April 28 and May 2, XEK is the inhabitant of KGWA's Fox-hole of dead air: ID mentions it started on "17 de mayo de 1937, en el 960 de su radio, con 5 mil watts;" choral NA but very short, only about a minute without the multiverses, then playing same ID announcement again, 0502 on to music. May we expect something special on May 17, 2014? (GH-OK)
- 1010 CUBA. 0558 5/4, amid QRM I hear the "RR" Morse code ID of Radio Reloj; but WRTH 2014 shows no Cuban on this frequency! Nearest is 1020, 10 kW in Victoria de las Tunas; don't think this was bleed-over to next channel. How about Radio Reloj's own frequency list?

 http://www.radioreloj.cu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=39:cadenas-de-trasmision-de-radio-reloj-por-am&catid=12:programacion-de-la-emisora-radio-reloj&Itemid=138 indeed shows Tunas on 1010, not 1020, with 5 kW (was the town named for a fishing tournament or a musical competition? Ask Ernest.) (GH-OK)
- MÉXICO UnID. 0217 5/3, from SSW, talk about the Familia García, mentions Coahuila and a .7 FM; seems to be religious-tinged advice show, 0219 romantic or devotional song, 0223 fading. Per Cantú there are two in Coahuila, but XEVK fits better: XEKD K De Oro Ciudad Acuña, Coah. 500 250, XEVK Tu Recuerdo + FM 106.7 Torreón, Coah. 5.000 1,000.(GH-OK)
- MÉXICO, XEEP, México, DF. 0503 5/2, XEEP manages to dominate despite night power reduced from 100 kW to 20, and helped by banning of other XEs from this frequency, a 'clear channel' down there if not north of the border as they are mentioning XEPPM, 6185 onda corta, which though unchecked, should be closing down about now after separate programming during the evening. (GH-OK)
- MÉXICO, XECPN, Piedras Negras, Coah, La Poderosa. 0515 4/26, dominant signal roughly from the south is Mexican music; automated IDs between every song, 101.7 FM and something on AM, with a variety of slogans mostly uncopiable by super-hype voice actor (SHVA) except always ending with primary one, "La Poderosa;" 0522 the song is in English, "Stand By Me," 0531 a fuller ID mentions Coahuila, and Piedras Negras. Of course, I figured it would be XECPN, but don't you believe it's on night power of 100 watts, as in IRCA, WRTH and also Cantú: XECPN + FM 101.7 10,000 100. IRCA disagrees on day power, of 20,000 watts. Could be. Can hardly claim the "powerful" slogan without cheating at night! (GH-OK)
- CUBA. 0137 5/9, as my street light ignites after LSS, dominant signal at tune-in is Radio Rebelde FM ID and production credits; 0139 mentioning Día de las Madres, which is apparently coördinated with the Yanqui calendar! Convenient to be in step with the gusanos in Miami. Indeed not //5025, 1180. How much of the time, or is it all the time that this 1620-AM carries the "FM" service? (GH-OK)

TROPICAL BAND DX ROUNDUP (2300-5060)

2749 CANADA-USB. 0151 5/4, marine weather in French by man with heavy English accent; 0153 to woman in French, 0154 man, 0156 stops. Per http://dxinfocentre.com/mb.htm#0%20ATL it's VAR-3 again, for if not from, Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia (we still need to know exactly where it really is), scheduled at 0140 and some other :40 hours; shared with 3 other stations, but none next until 0240 VCS Halifax, both of which are bilingual unlike the other two. When noise level permits on 2 MHz band I also check: 2598-USB for more Canadian CG weather, 2660 for the KGLD TX harmonic, and 2910 for the XEVT Tabasco harmonic; JBA carrier on 2660 is about all now. (GH-OK)

- 3205 PAPUA NEW GUINEA. 1158 5/2, weaker carrier than 3905; anyhow, these two correspond to the (only?) two most recently active PNG stations as reported by Ron Howard; 3205 being Vanimo, 3905 Kavieng. (GH-OK)
- 3320 SOUTH AFRICA. 0135 5/9, poor signal with Afrikaans talk, Radio Sonder Grense. This is commonly heard and I don't bother to log it, but here once for the record; it is at quite a distance for 90 meters, 100 kW westward from Meyerton. Also usually audible somewhat better after 0500 on day frequency 7185. (GH-OK)
- 3905 PAPUA NEW GUINEA. 1155 5/2, AM carrier stronger and steadier than Japan 3925, but no modulation: 1200 trace of talk modulation: continuous QRhaM from 3903-LSB.
- 4765 CUBA. Around 0100 4/29, Radio Progreso is on, but again can't hear the four spurs around it. (GH-OK)
 - + 0155 5/7, Radio Progreso audio breakup and crackle during drummin' & strummin', also undermodulated and with "running water" ute audible underneath. (GH-OK)
- 4775 BRAZIL. 0049 5/2, Brazuguese preacher yelling, LAH from second carrier slightly offset. Usually I only hear the LAH but now some modulation is making it, ie Radio Congonhas, vs Peru's Radio Tarma. The ZY is listed to close at 0100. (GH-OK)
- 4815 BRAZIL. 0050 5/2, similar sound to 4775, but not //, and 4815 is somewhat stronger, ie Radio Difusora Londrina, yet another Brazilian SW station co-opted by gospel hucksters. (GH-OK)
- 4949.78 ANGOLA. 0102 5/6, off-frequency carrier detectable most evenings is a bit stronger, with some talk and a Luso rather than Brazilian accent, as expected from RNA, 0104 music; still more talk at 0131, yet very poor. (GH-OK)
- 5025 CUBA. 0056 4/29, Radio Rebelde is off again. (GH-OK)
 - + Radio Rebelde is still missing at 0545, presumably having to share transmitter/antenna again with the 5040 RHC service, whatever it may be. Maybe 5025 is back on overnight. (GH-OK)
 - April 30 at 0548 4/20, Radio Rebelde is on with music, and so is 5040, RHC English, plus the Cuban Four on 49m. You never know whether 5025 will be running or not, but when not, it's assumed to be because the same transmitter and/or allegedly NVIS antenna is needed for RHC 15 kHz away. (GH-OK)
- 5040 CUBA. Which had been in Énglish during the 05-06 hour, is now in Spanish at 0545 4/29 check, with multi-lingual ID, then news. (GH-OK)
 - + 0153 5/7, surprised to find RHC in English here; normally the English hours on 5040 are only 23-24 and 05-06. Squealing transmitter rather like WEWN; pitch varies except during modulation pauses when the squeal is constant; it's also undermodulated. (GH-OK)

QSL

4125 ALASKA, KWL38, Kodiak. National Weather Service returned my prepared card and my report with a note in 11 days for a follow up report, v/s Rich Courtney NL9H. He said he returned my prepared card for my first report but I never received it. I'm happy with this one! (MF-CA)

MISCELLANEOUS (posted to various eGroups)

Radio Heritage Foundation, www.radioheritage.net

5/3. Top News

- New 3 part group of features about broadcasting in Western Europe in the Retro Radio 1953 series has now gone live. This was the year the infamous Cold War between Russia and the West began, the year Stalin died, Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne in the UK, and the Korean War ended. We call the group Retro Radio Free Europe... take a walk back 50 years to see the massive shortwave armada directed at the Iron Curtain countries, the massive expansion of post war FM across West Germany and Italy, and the signals from famous but long gone AM stations such as Radio Andorra, Radio Luxembourg and Radio Monte Carlo.
- The final in the highly popular Long Lost Australian Radio Stars series is now live, with an in-depth look at 2GB Sydney, a station still going strong and leading the ratings after more than 80 years on the air.
- Work continues on the remaining Retro Radio 1953 features such as South America and Central America, bringing to life many famous radio calls heard around the world from south of the border.
- Work will start again soon on the Hawaii Radio Guide, a contemporary guide to stations on AM and FM across the Pacific state of Hawaii, and useful for visitors to the islands, those who want to listen to Hawaii from home, and anyone who wants to know how so many radio stations can survive in such a small radio market.
- The Silk Road by Shortwave is a new feature currently under research. This will follow the famous Silk Road from Asia, through Central Asia and on to Europe comparing shortwave broadcasters along the route between 1953 and 2003. For those who remember Radio Tashkent for example, this will be a treat.

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

GH-OK GLENN HAUSER, Enid OK

Mostly DX-398 with internal antenna only or Sony SRF-59

MF-CA MARTIN FOLTZ martinfoltz@cox.net

NHP-BC NICK HALL-PATCH, Victoria BC nhp@ieee.org

Drake R8, RFSpace NetSDR; RFSpace SDR-14 running DX Fishbarrel program; north FLG-100 antenna, west FLG-100 antenna, 1m indoor box loop, 14m sloper, DXP-3

phasing unit.

NP-AB NIGEL PIMBLETT, Dunmore AB

DX FORUM

Richard C Evans – 3908 Grand Oak Ave Apt 4 – Indianapolis IN 46237 E-mail: REvans5435@yahoo.com DEADLINES: Saturdays

Deadlines: 5/24 6/7 6/21 7/5 7/19 8/16

Eric Bueneman (NØUIH), 631 Coachway Lane, Hazelwood, Missouri 63042-1347

Even though the time is here for DXing FM and TV (even with TV in digital format these days), there's still plenty of AM broadcast band DX to be heard! The best time during the summer months to DX the AM broadcast band is when there are no thunderstorms nearby. My biggest memory with DXing the AM broadcast band during the summer months came during the heatwave of 1983. Back then, all I had was a Realistic DX-200 and a homebrew longwire antenna; I was able to pull in KJAS 1170 (now KJXX) Jackson, MO with the temperature outside at over 100 degrees. These days, I usually put the FM receiver on when the temperature hits the triple digits. Sunset times are later, though...during June and July, AM stations in my area don't change patterns, cut power or a daytimer signing off until about 2130 ÉLT. Two AM stations in my area stay on past sunset. WEW 770 stays on until sunset at KKOB Albuquerque, while KFUO 850 (and its spectrum-wasting digital signal) stays on until sunset at KOA Denver. WEW signs on at 0700 ELT, while KFUO doesn't sign on until 0800, allowing me to hear other stations on 850 at local sunrise. I've been doing some DXing at sunrise as well as sunset in recent weeks. New stations noted at surrise recently include a pair of much-wanted stations, KSWM 940 Aurora, MO (4/12 at 0830 ELT) and WMOK 920 Metropolis, IL (4/14 at 0816 ELT). Other new stations heard during the sunrise skip hours were KTIC 840 West Point, NE (5/3 at 0735 ELT), KJON 850 Carrollton, TX (5/5 at 0738 ELT), WGVU 1480 Kentwood, MI (4/12 at 0801 ELT) and WCFJ 1470 Chicago Heights, IL (4/12 at 0843 ELT). KATZ 1600 has been broadcasting in analog mode only this past week, allowing me to check out 1580 (which is normally covered up by the digital interference from KATZ). I last noted WBBA 1580 Pittsfield, IL while driving through Golden Eagle, IL in November 2012. Apparently, the country format that had been on their FM at 97.5 was moved to AM when WBBA-FM went to a News/Talk/Sports format, some programming simulcast on WJBM 1480 Jerseyville, IL. The only IL station I haven't heard on 1580 has been WDQN DuQuoin, IL (I have logged the FM on 95.9, however). The most recent NRC Log I have showed WBBA 1580 had been silent since September 2003! A Country station was noted on 1580 on May 7 at 1719 ELT with Country music and apparent local ads and ID from WBBA. KTGR (Columbia, MO) was mixing with the signal, along with ACI from WBGZ 1570 (which is a daytime local in my area; it's dominant with XERF at night). Locally, KFNS 590 has reverted to an all-sports format, although they're still known on the air as "590 The Man". KXFN 1380 has dropped female-oriented talk for sports and extreme talk as "1380 The X". There have reportedly been offers on the table for both stations. How many of us in IRCA have been dealing with interference from a plasma HDTV? My elderly parents bought a 51-inch plasma HDTV a few months ago, and it has been interfering with the AM and shortwave bands in my shack. Depending on the weather outside, I've had to DX the AM broadcast band outdoors using my GE Superadio III. The only time I can DX AM and shortwave in my shack during the daytime is when the HDTV set is off. At night, I can null out the TVI on AM to pull in the DX. Interference from plasma HDTV sets seem to a big problem, as far as AM BCB DX is concerned. As of May 9, 2014, 1,481 stations have made it into my logbook. 73 and good DX.

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

Nick Hall-Patch – 1538 Amphion St – Victoria BC Canada V8R 4Z6 E-mail: nhp@ieee.org

Further thoughts on Software for SDRs

The article published in DX Monitor on 5 April 2014, "Some thoughts on Software for SDRs", was reprinted in Medium Wave News in Europe, and generated several comments from Medium Wave Circle members. I've gotten permission to reproduce them here, so consider this an addendum to the earlier article.

Tracey Gardner:

I've just read Keith McGinnis's article on Software for SDRs and although I enjoyed it, I think that it misses one very important point when comparing the native Perseus and Studio 1 software to Simon Brown's SDR Radio software. This is the ability to extend the GUI over more than one monitor.

The native Perseus software always fell down on this point and the inability to resize its GUI was what prevented me from ever buying one. I bought a copy of the Studio 1 software, believing that it could be extended over more than one monitor, but again I was disillusioned when I discovered that it could only be extended over one and a bit monitors.

Simon's software has no such limit and can be extended over as many monitors as you wish. Similarly my Winradio Excalibur GUI can be stretched over as many monitors as you wish and I currently use three 22 inch monitors for monitoring the NDB band.

I'm going to stick my neck out here and say that using an SDR with a single monitor is in my opinion like looking through a keyhole. Dual output video/graphics cards can be had for well under \$50 new on eBay and when combined with the on-board graphics from a motherboard will provide a triple monitor system at relatively low cost. OK, you've got to add the monitors, but again they are now available at relatively cheap prices, both new and on eBay.

Mauno Ritola:

I am mainly a MW DXer. For seeing carriers, I use Zoom in Perseus. Extending the whole MW band over monitors wouldn't bring the carriers visible with the resolution I want. Besides, with a dozen other applications always open, I have never wanted to extend the GUI over my two monitors and block others. Sometimes I'd like to enlarge the Perseus GUI, but I can live with it as otherwise I like it better than other software due to its simplicity and many good features, like changing the sample rate on the run without switching on and off, and filters can be adjusted from both sides. Perseus network is also the only network, that shows carriers properly also via network connection.

Jack Weber:

Tracey, I do agree with you - up to a point. I prefer having a resizable window, and the ability to use multiple screens is definitely an advantage. I have done that in the past, but currently tend to use a single 27" screen and extend my SDR displays as much as I can within that. However, there are plenty of people who are very happy with the tiny Perseus window, some who even prefer it.

For me, the important point about choosing and using SDRs is that 90% of the decision needs to be based on the User Interface. Not just the window size, but all sorts of other factors such as the recording/playback controls, the use of keyboard versus mouse, the way that different controls are exposed or hidden away, the colour scheme and so on. In the old days of hardware superhets, there were significant differences in sensitivity, selectivity, intermodulation effects, etc and these needed to play the dominant role when selecting a receiver. Among modern SDRs, those differences are very much smaller, but the interface differences are huge. What makes the choice more difficult - or, at least, more personal - is that the choice is now primarily subjective. We could all agree that measurable improvements in, for example, dynamic range were worth having. We don't all agree on whether multiple screens or tabbed control panels are better, worse or immaterial.

Because of these subjective preferences, it's not possible for anyone to produce the perfect SDR software. My ideal would be to have full compatibility of data formats and recordings between all the different applications, so I could use one SDR hardware and listen or play back in whatever application I choose according to the needs or simply my mood. Sadly, that's unlikely ever to happen.

What I find surprising is that many SDR users seem to stick to whatever software came with their radio and never even try any of the alternatives. Whatever final decision is reached, it's going to be better for having seen how wide a range of options is available.

Martin Hall:

Interesting comments. I use dual (soon to be quad) screens on the PC in my ham shack, but don't have a requirement to spread any GUIs over more than one screen -- each is used to display different information (mainly from websites).

In my MW DXing shack I now have a PC which is mainly dedicated to Perseus. I'm happy with the GUI on one screen, and use an old "square" 19 inch Dell Ultrasharp FP1907. However, the GUI/display is too small for my liking on the recommended 1280 x 1024 resolution setting, so I re-set it to 1024 x 768, and the Perseus display now spans the width of the screen. I then re-set the text and loon sizes to the size that suits, and it all looks and works fine. That's much easier on the eye than peering at a small GUI. Unfortunately, this approach doesn't work so well on my 17 inch widescreen Hanns G HW173A monitors (bought used on eBay) that I use with my main home-office and hamshack PCs. If anyone has a similar requirement they could experiment with different screen resolutions (right-click on a blank screen and do the obvious).

This tip won't satisfy your requirements, Tracey, but it might be of use to others who've gone down the Perseus route.

ULTRALIGHT NEWS

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April 2014 "Rockwork 4" Oregon Cliff DXpedition Sacrificing Comfort for Three Days of Wild Hobby Fun By Gary DeBock, Puyallup, WA, USA April 2014



Introduction: Three years of investigating the transoceanic signal boosts provided by sheer ocean side cliffs has resulted in pretty conclusive evidence that such enhanced propagation is an exciting reality, although the parameters and extent of such signal boosts are still relatively unknown. What is known very well, however, is that these sheer cliffs definitely demand a pretty harsh sacrifice of DXing comfort prior to providing their unique transoceanic signal enhancement.

In a continuing effort to investigate the special transoceanic propagation at these sheer ocean side cliffs a relatively short three day DXpedition was scheduled for April 9-11 at the "Rockwork 4" site, located about 10 miles south of Cannon Beach, Oregon (just south of the Tillamook County border). Based on the results of four previous DXpeditions to this site it was clear that its sheer rock cliff (with a fairly unique 400 foot/122 meter straight down plunge to the Pacific) certainly provided enhanced transoceanic propagation, especially in the reception of New Zealand stations during the North American summer months of July and August. What was not so clear was how the cliff would behave in the month of April – and whether or not it's almost freakish preference for Kiwi signals would be in evidence before the local summer season began. With the Asian TP propagation on its last legs after a very long season, it was also unclear how well these stations would show up at the awesome cliff site. On the North American west coast, April is somewhat of a transition month between Asian and South Pacific propagation – so during the three day trip I really wasn't expecting exceptional propagation from either area, but was hopeful of at least a few interesting signals from both areas. As it turned out, the cliff once again exceeded my "DXpectations"... once I had "paid my dues" with an almost total sacrifice of listening comfort.



Winter FSL Antenna

Experimentation: Graham Maynard's introduction of the FSL antenna in February of 2011 was the key to this discovery of this enhanced ocean cliff transoceanic propagation, primarily because of the antenna's breakthrough combination of exceptional performance with exceptional compactness. No matter how narrow or steep an ocean cliff site was, as long as it provided about one square yard (or meter) of flat setup space the new FSL antenna could provide its exceptional sensitivity to investigate transoceanic propagation at the location.

Three years of FSL antenna design improvements had resulted in 12" diameter models which were highly competitive in both South Pacific and Asian TP reception when augmented by ocean cliff propagation boosts, but which seemed to provide higher sensitivity on the low band than the high band (in rough comparisons with Perseus-SDR receivers using broadband antennas). In an effort to make the FSL antennas more competitive on the high band a new dual coil system was incorporated into all FSL test models built during the winter 2014 season, and this new system did result in better high band sensitivity (and tuning ease) relative to the single coil FSL models used previously.



The 2013 DXpedition FSL (a 12" model weighing 22 pounds) was already pretty close to the practical weight limit for an antenna designed for deployment at dark, unfamiliar ocean cliff sites – so a primary objective was to attempt a significant sensitivity boost simply by upgrading the Litz wire type (without increasing the antenna's size, or weight). Fortunately the eBay seller "Mkmak222" had recently begun offering two new types of ultra-high sensitivity Litz wire – 660/38 (660 individual strands of #38 wire), and 1162/46 (1162 individual strands of #46 wire). Both of these new Litz wire types were ordered, and both were used to construct new 12" dual coil FSL test models. It was hoped that one or both of these new 12" models would demonstrate a sensitivity advantage over the 12" single coil model used for the 2013 DXpeditions – thereby boosting the antenna's sensitivity without boosting its already hefty weight. If such a goal could be accomplished, it would be a very useful and easy upgrade.

In detailed A/B testing the new 12" FSL with the 1162/46 Litz wire had a clear sensitivity edge over the new 12" FSL with the 660/38 Litz wire – and very fortunately, an even greater sensitivity advantage over the 2013 DXpedition 12" model. As such, the new 1162/46 Litz wire, dual coil 12" FSL was chosen as the winning antenna for this April 9-11 DXpedition to the "Rockwork 4" ocean cliff site.



Just prior to the DXpedition there was barely enough time to create a new 15" FSL model, based on the discoveries and improvements made in the new 12" model (with the 1162/46 Litz wire). At an

\$803 construction cost, this monster model certainly was a prime example of a "Financial Sinkhole Loop," and drew some fairly harsh stares from a very close family member (from whom it seemed like a good idea to hide the material purchasing receipts © Of course the 22-gallon plastic tote designed to carry this huge new 15" FSL model was not something that could be easily accommodated in our crammed Toyota Corolla during this "family vacation," so I decided not to push my luck by bringing it out of its hiding place (in a closet, accompanied by the scandalous purchasing receipts.) Suffice it to say that my purchase of the 111 Russian surplus 200mm x 10mm ferrite rods should have made a significant contribution to the Ukrainian seller's early retirement program. The new 15" FSLs weak signal DXing performance, however, was proof that not a dime had been wasted – and as long as this 30 pound monster was safely transported and set up, it provided a real "heavyweight" level of transoceanic DX sensitivity.



Modified Ultralight Radio Receivers: In order to successfully receive a good variety of 9 kHz split frequency transoceanic DX at these ocean cliff sites with Ultralight radios it is necessary to have one with razor-sharp selectivity – either one with the new 1 KHz DSP filtering provided by the Silicon Labs' Si4734 DSP chip (such as the 7.5" loopstick Tecsun PL-380 model, at left) or one of the earlier 455 kHz IF Ultralight radios with a transplanted premium IF filter (like the CCrane SWP 7.5" Slider loopstick model with a transplanted Murata CFJ455K5 filter, shown on the next page). Since I had both of these models on hand, and since I frankly suspected that one or both of them would be knocked out by vicious weather at the ocean cliff site, I decided to bring both of them along for this April DXpedition. Both had been used in previous ocean coast trips, and each model had its own advantages.



The 7.5" loopstick Tecsun PL-380 model definitely has better construction to survive heavy rain and nasty bumps, but its 1 kHz DSP filtering tends to clip off some of the higher audio frequencies during MP3 recordings. The CCrane SWP with the transplanted IF filter (an early 2009 concoction) can provide better MP3 recording audio, but any type of rain can disrupt the tuning operation of its razor-sharp Slider loopstick. As such, these two models provided somewhat of an advantage tradeoff, depending on the severity of the ocean cliff weather. My general plan was to use the CCrane SWP Slider model as long as the weather was clear, but shift over to the 7.5" loopstick PL-380 model at the first sign of rain. As it turned out, all three nights at the ocean cliff site featured clear weather — so the CCrane SWP Slider model was used exclusively during the DXpedition. The "clear weather" during the three nights certainly didn't mean comfortable conditions, however... and I was about to discover

that repeatedly adjusting a razor-sharp Slider loopstick is not the best idea when fingers are nearly stiff and frozen.

Murphy's Law Kicks Off the Trip: By coincidence two local Perseus-SDR DXers (Chuck Hutton and hometown buddy Guy Atkins) had scheduled a trip to the same "Rockwork 4" ocean cliff site during the three days prior to my visit, and Guy had reported some unusual RF noise at the site – possibly related to a road construction crew nearby. Because of this strange RF noise Guy's DXing results didn't seem to be up to his expectations, making me wonder exactly how my humble, unshielded Ultralight radios were going to deal with the RF noise that had troubled the Perseus-SDR receivers. Also, during the rushed "family vacation" packing various items were forgotten (as usual), including the Edirol R09 MP3 recorder, making it impossible to post same-day MP3's. Finally, as we approached our Cannon Beach motel the night before the first DXing session very heavy rain was pounding our crammed Toyota Corolla – making it seem like I had chosen the worst possible start date for ocean cliff DXing.



Ocean Cliff DXing – Clear, Cold and Windy: To my surprise the pounding rain had stopped by 0400 local time (1100 UTC) on April 9th, and the highly exposed Rockwork 4 ocean cliff site featured an awesome view of moonlight reflecting off of the smooth ocean 400 feet below. While setting up my 12" FSL on its 5' PVC base I noticed that the wind was kicking up, however – which is not a very comfortable occurrence when the temperature is only 40 degrees F (4 degrees C.)

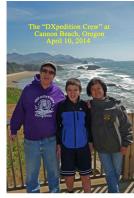
Not having any idea what to expect from this April propagation, I started off by checking the usual South Pacific frequencies, starting with 531 kHz. To my big surprise the 5 kW New Zealand Samoan language station 531-PI was already in with an excellent signal at 1115 UTC, sounding very much like it does during peak summer propagation around sunrise in July or August. Tuning to the Kiwi big gun station 567-RNZ I found that it had a fair signal at 1128 – and it seemed like the South Pacific stations were really going to roll in for me. Wrong! Immediately after that all of the DU stations started to dive into the noise, leaving only ghostly audio or anemic carriers across the band. I figured that sunrise enhancement would really give them a boost like it does in the summer, but to my great surprise it only made most of them even weaker. This bizarre South Pacific propagation in April was the exact opposite of what summer offers at this cliff – which is relatively weak South Pacific signals during the predawn darkness, which become very strong with increasing daylight.

Fortunately several Asian stations were already fairly strong (in the total darkness) by 1145, and these definitely received a potent surrise enhancement boost. Besides the usual Japanese and Korean big guns on 594, 693, 774 and 972 there were strong signals from 603-HLSA and 657-Pyongyang (playing surprisingly good music), as well as some fair audio on the raspy 702 KHz (North Korean KCBS) carrier. Overall the morning's results didn't seem too bad for April, although I was wondering whether the sudden plunge of the DUs around 1140 UTC might have been an aberration, which wouldn't happen again on the next two days.



The second day of DXing also began around 1100 UTC (0400 local time) on the cliff, and once again the weather was clear and cold - but with a much stiffer wind chill than the previous day. To make matters worse it seemed like the South Pacific propagation had also gone into a deep freeze, with only ahostly audio from the Kiwi big oun 567-RNZ. Being stuck on a freezing ocean cliff at 0430 local time without much propagation from either the South Pacific or Asia is a pretty rough experience... and there wasn't any solution to the problem except retreating inside the car to warm up with its heater, and wait for sunrise enhancement about 2 hours later. Periodically during the darkness hours I checked both the South Pacific and Asian big gun frequencies in the freezing wind, but both areas seemed to be stuck in the propagation doldrums - and by 1200 UTC even the ghostly signal from 567-RNZ had disappeared. I was beginning to wonder whether my unbroken string of 19 exciting days of superior ocean cliff transoceanic propagation might be at risk, when I finally received my answer around 1330 UTC (0630 local time.) Suddenly it seemed like the propagation floodgates to Asia were opened, and the Korean big gun 972-HLCA pounded in with the strongest signal it's ever managed during my 8 years of TP-DXing. 1134-JOQR also was unusually strong at 1342, as well as the Korean big gun 1566-HLAZ at 1347. Unfortunately this sudden propagation turnaround happened very late in the morning, and it was fairly short-lived in the increasing daylight. The late rally seemed like small compensation for three freezing hours on the cliff, although I had finally learned my lesson about South Pacific propagation on this Rockwork 4 cliff in April - you can only receive the "main course" by DXing well before 1100 UTC (0400 local time)... trying to track down DU signals around local sunrise will only leave you with the "leftovers."

Consequently, on the third and final night I decided to change my strategy completely, and show up at the cold, windswept cliff at the bizarre hour of 0800 UTC (0100 local time.) The idea of spending almost all night fighting the cliff's freezing wind chill wasn't very appealing, but I was convinced that a far greater variety of South Pacific signals would provide some compensation for my sacrifice. As it turned out I was correct – but the freezing wind would definitely make me pay a serious price for each early morning DU reception.



As soon as the FSL antenna was set up around 0830 UTC I finally noticed that a good variety of New Zealand stations was in evidence across the band, although most of them were at fairly modest levels. After another fair-level reception of 531-PI at 0835 the 2.5 kW Maori-language overachiever 765-Radio Kahungunu was received with good signals at 0843 - the second New Zealand station to be received at full summertime strength. After this the DU chase became a real endurance contest. with 1017-A3Z in Tonga being received in and out of the domestic splatter from 0855-0915, and a presumed 594-NZ. Rhema showing up with a weak DU-English sermon at 0912. The Kiwi big gun 567-RNZ was in and out with fair signals again around 0930, and 738-Radio Polynesie in Tahiti managed good signals around 1000 - almost at full summertime strength. Besides these signals a whole collection of Kiwi stations was showing up at anemic levels, including 603-Radio Waatea, 657-Southern Star, 675-RNZ, 828-Radio Trackside/Live Sport, 1008-Newstalk ZB and 1503-Radio Sport. Around 1030 the South Pacific signals generally began to taper off, though (along with my ability to withstand the cliff's constant, punishing wind chill), and I had no option but to retreat inside the Corolla for about an hour in an attempt to thaw out stiff fingers, toes and other appendages in preparation for a sunrise DXing session. Although the overnight South Pacific results were fairly modest I felt some satisfaction in finally solving the puzzle of April DU propagation - and knowing that I probably did the best that I could in the face of punishing weather and tenuous signals.

After spending about an hour warming up in the Corolla I noticed that the Asian big guns were really booming in around 1230, so I decided to try for some Chinese stations (which had yet to appear at the cliff, during this trip.) To my surprise four of the CRI stations (on 1323, 1017, 1044 and 963) were received at good levels in quick succession, and the Russian language service on 1323-CRI at 1236 was the strongest that I had ever heard it. Weak Chinese was also received from the presumed 756-CNR1 synchros at 1321, and fair Korean pop music at 1337 from the KBS2 regular 558-HLQH

(//603-HLSA.) Sunrise enhancement at the frigid ocean cliff site ended around 1400 – along with any interest on my part to continue forcing near-frozen fingers to operate tiny Ultralight radio controls. After six miserable hours on the cliff I was more than ready to get in the warm Corolla... and wait until a warm July morning before even considering a return visit.

Conclusion: Ocean cliff propagation in April was interesting because of its combination of Asian and South Pacific propagation, although as expected during this transition month there wasn't much exceptional propagation from either area. Receiving a good variety of South Pacific stations in April with Ultralight radios at this site was a labor-intensive effort, requiring a serious commitment in time and effort during inconvenient early morning hours. When the weather also turns adverse the entire experience can be pretty rough. The same South Pacific stations which require so much effort to track down in the early morning hours during tenuous April propagation can usually be received at vibrant levels each morning around sunrise in July or August – with warm weather as a bonus. Despite this I was generally satisfied with the DU-DXing results during this trip, knowing very well that the propagation was far from optimum. Although the overall results were meager in comparison with a summer DXpedition there were several good signals (531-PI, 765-Radio Kahungunu and 738-Radio Polynesie,) and the discovery that the best South Pacific propagation in April occurs during the very early morning (0700-1000 UTC) period may provide some assistance to other west coast DXers in the DXing effort until a fair variety of South Pacific stations were received despite the freezing wind chill.

The Asian propagation during this trip was quite a bit better than expected, however, especially considering the very late season date. The signals from the Japanese and Korean big guns on 594, 693, 774, 972 and 1566 were vibrant indeed (with 972-HLCA especially awesome,) and the signal from 1323-CRI was the strongest that I've ever heard it. Nothing very exotic showed up, but that was probably to be expected in April. Even if the awesome signals were mainly from the Asian big guns, the experience of receiving so many huge TP signals in April provided a nice change of pace from the mediocre signal levels at home, in Puvallup ©

Probably the main benefit from the Rockwork 4 visit was the chance to test out the new 12" dual-coil FSL antenna in relatively tough propagation and weather conditions – and at least in this one aspect, the transoceanic results certainly made the entire experience seem very worthwhile. Curiously, I never heard any trace of the RF noise that had bothered the Perseus-SDR DXers during the three days prior to my visit, although the Highway 101 construction crew was still grinding away at the Rockwork site. Possibly the FSL antenna was able to null out any RF noise because of its setup position, which placed the construction crew (and their blinking road sign) off the ends of the ferrite rods. In any case, the new FSL antenna probably was the major factor in providing fairly decent transoceanic results in the lackluster April propagation – and providing just enough DU-DXing excitement to make a freezing overnight wind chill barely tolerable.

DX Loggings and MP3s: In the list of TP and DU loggings below the transoceanic signals which reached an S9 level (judging by the LED light display on the modified ICF-2010 spotting receiver) are marked with a double asterisk (**). All Ultralight radio loggings were made on a 7.5" loopstick CCrane SWP receiver (with a transplanted CFJ455K5 IF filter) inductively coupled to a new 12" DXpedition FSL antenna. For those who are interested, a helicopter photo of the awesome DXing site is posted at http://www.mediafire.com/view/2itmctq7as7448o/Rockwork-Sites-003.jpg.

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

- **531 NEW ZEALAND, PI, Auckland, 5 kW. This Samoan language station was the strongest DU performer during the trip, with excellent signals at 1115 on 4/9 http://www.mediafire.com/listen/7b96yatyewaob9q/531-PI-1115z040914SWP.MP3. It also showed up at 0838 on 4/11, with somewhat lesser strength http://www.mediafire.com/listen/3iy924gcvacw1yi/531-PI-0836z041114SWP.MP3.
- FEP KOREA, HLQH, Daegu, 250 kW. This KBS2 regular usually made a fair appearance during sunrise enhancement, although at lesser strength than its 603 parallel. Here it is at 1337 on 4/11 http://www.mediafire.com/listen/xv4ce619i8bcej6/558-HLQH-1337z041114SWP.MP3.
- NEW ZEALAND, Wellington, RNZ, 50 kW This Kiwi big gun put in a fair signal at 1128 of 4/9, and generally hung around until sunrise enhancement each morning http://www.mediafire.com/listen/kn3lr46ufujmq0m/567-RNZ-1128z040914SWP.MP3.
- 567 JAPAN, JOIK, Sapporo, 100 kW. Not one of the better Japanese performers during the DXpedition, and troubled by 570-Seattle splatter. Here it is at a fair level at 1307 on 4/10 http://www.mediafire.com/listen/az3cx4k1wxvvoph/567-JOIK-1307z041014SWP.MP3.
- 594p NEW ZEALAND, Timaru/ Wanagnui, NZ Rhema, 5 kW/2 kW. As far as I can tell, this anemic DU-English during all-Kiwi propagation at 0912 on 4/11 is a sermon from the low-powered Christian broadcasting network http://www.mediafire.com/listen/e4ar6vu2mx4x1h3/594-NZ.Rhema-0912z041114SWP.MP3.
- **594 **JAPAN**, JOAK, Tokyo, 300 kW. One of the best Japanese performers during the trip, here it is with excellent-level speech and music at 1322 on 4/9. Unlike the other NHK big guns, it enjoyed a clear frequency http://www.mediafire.com/listen/j4c55btmje0o319/594-JOAK-1322z040914SWP.MP3.

- 603 **REP KOREA**, HLSA, Namyang, 500 kW. Strong Korean pop music at 1245 on 4/9, and the best KBS2 performer during the DXpedition http://www.mediafire.com/listen/dvnuota4t11wr0t/603-HLSA-1316z040914SWP.MP3.
- 603 **NEW ZEALAND**, Auckland, Radio Waatea, 5 kW. Usually this is one of the stronger Kiwi stations, but not this time. The best it reached was a poor level with apparent Maori music during all-Kiwi propagation at 0905 on 4/11.
- 603 UnID-TP. Ghostly Chinese-sounding speech mixing with HLSA's pop music at 1323 on 4/9, possibly the regular Chinese co-channel http://www.mediafire.com/listen/u2tcoakjkbcui21/612-UnID-TP-1235z041014SWP.MP3.
- 612 UnID-TP. This weak voice could have been either an Asian TP or a DU, since either variety could have shown up at 1235 on 4/10. No idea who it is http://www.mediafire.com/listen/u2tcoakikbcui21/612-UnID-TP-1235z041014SWP.MP3.
- **657 **DPR KÓREA**, Radio Pyongyang, 1500 kW. Strong female vocal music at 1145 on 4/9; a little bizarre, but unusually good music for this station http://www.mediafire.com/listen/divaehfxdia160y/657-Pyongyang-1145z040914SWP.MP3.
- 657 NEW ZEALAND, Tauranga, Southern Star, 10 kW. This station barely showed up with very weak Christian hymns during all-Kiwi propagation at 0852 on 4/11.
- JAPAN, JOBK, Ósaka, 100 kW. This was a serious underperformer during the entire trip, with weak signals chopped up badly by domestic splatter.
- 675 NEW ZĚALAND, Christchurch, RNZ, 10 kW. During all-Kiwi propagation around 0858 on 4/11 this ghostly station seemed to be parallel with 567-RNZ, but the freezing wind made it tough to check back and forth between the two anemic stations.
- **693 JAPAN, JOAB, Tokyo, 500 kW. One of the strongest NHK big guns throughout the DXpedition, here with excellent-level English lessons at 1222 on 4/9 http://www.mediafire.com/listen/uch9hxy5w40z4lk/693-JOAB-1221z040914SWP.MP3.
- 702 DPR KOREA, KCBS Chongjin, 50 kW. The infamous raspy carrier on 702 finally managed some fair-level audio at 1217 on 4/9, recycling 657-Pyongyang's tirade woman http://www.mediafire.com/listen/jm6196xo37wgicn/702-KCBS-1217z040914SWP.MP3.
- 738 **TAHITI**, Mahina, Radio Polynesie, 20 kW. Almost up to summertime strength with fair to good French woman speech at 1002 on 4/11 http://www.mediafire.com/listen/qtnyiabs7sihsim/738-R.Polynesie-1002z041114SWP.MP3.
- 747 JAPÁN, JOIB, Sapporo, 500 kW. This NHK2 big gun had the misfortune of being right next to semi-local 750-Portland, although the rock cliff helped reduce the splatter to a reasonable level at 1320 on 4/10 http://www.mediafire.com/listen/2bgbm4xhr3s3efl/747-JOIB-1320z041014SWP.MP3.
- 756**p** CHINA, CNR1 Chinese Synchros. Probably the stations with ghostly Chinese-like speech at 1321 on 4/11. Without the rock cliff 750-Portland splatter would have prevailed http://www.mediafire.com/listen/j52s92npcbvf3ep/756-CNR1-1321z041114SWP.MP3.
- NÉW ZEALAND, Napier-Hastings, Radio Kahungunu, 2.5 kW. Another of the Kiwis with vibrant, summer-like signals playing Maori music at 0843 on 4/11; for its power level this station was a real performer http://www.mediafire.com/listen/ze9co15xenb1c8z/765-R. Kahungunu-0843z041114SWP.MP3.
- **774 JAPAN, JOUB, Akita, 500 kW. Typical booming signal with English lessons at 1303 on 4/9, and one of the strongest TPs during the DXpedition http://www.mediafire.com/listen/dkbyw3cd0gfg4u9/774-JOUB-1303z040914SWP.MP3.
- 828 **JAPAN**, JOBB, Osaka, 300 kW. This NHK2 big gun had decent signals each morning, but not quite up to the strength of its 693 and 774 parallels http://www.mediafire.com/listen/4dn3dfysanane6b/828-JOBB-1327z041114SWP.MP3.
- 828p NEW ZEALAND, Palmerston North, Radio Trackside/LiveSport, 2 kW. Poor level DU English speech during Kiwi-slanted propagation at 0848 on 4/11 was probably this station, but too weak to record.
- 864p REP KOREA, HLKR, Gangneung, 100 kW. Weak level Korean speech was heard on this frequency at 1235 on 4/9, but I figured that it would come up in strength for a better recording later. Of course it bailed for good after that.
- 963 **CHINA**, CRI Huadian, 600 kW. Good level Chinese music during Russian service at 1258 on 4/11; only heard on one out of three days http://www.mediafire.com/listen/vm4uv4kmsbtil61/963-CRI-1258z041114SWP.MP3.
- **972 **REP KOREA**, HLCA, Dangjin, 1500 kW. Awesome level Korean pop music at 1335 on 4/10. This was the strongest signal from the station that I've ever received http://www.mediafire.com/listen/gwvfaray713an3f/972-HLCA-1335z041014SWP.MP3.
- 1008 NÉW ZEALAND, Tauranga, Newstalk ZB, 10 kW. This anemic Kiwi station would stay just above the noise levels for hours on end (except when I grabbed my MP3 recorder, which always caused it to bail on cue.)
- 1017 TONGA, A3Z, Nuku'alofa, 10 kW. Voice of fair-level female foreign language speaker (in domestic splatter) at 0855 on 4/11 matched with those on Tonga MPs recorded by Bill Whitacre (in Yachats) and myself (at Rockwork 4, confirmed by NZs Tony King) last summer.

- Not a vibrant logging, but I'll take it in April (headphones recommended) http://www.mediafire.com/listen/xuh3zsxo1gj1ieo/1017-A3Z-0855z041114SWP.MP3.
- 1017 CHINA, CRI Changchun, 200 kW. Good level Chinese music during Korean service at 1248 on 4/11; heard on only one of three days http://www.mediafire.com/listen/rtdtdv3bmbzhdme/1017-CRI-1248z041114SWP.MP3.
- 1044 CHINA, CRI Changzhou, 600 kW. Fair level Japanese service mangled by domestic splatter at 1240 on 4/11, making it tough to record.
- 1053 REP KOREA, jammer. Nice signal on one out of three days (at 1253 on 4/11), but MIA otherwise http://www.mediafire.com/listen/zcjhi2k1la14449/1053-Jammer-1253z041114SWP.MP3.
- 1134 JAPAN, JOQR, Tokyo, 100 kW. During a huge sunrise enhancement boost favoring Korea at 1354 on 4/10 this station completely took over the frequency with potent signals, leaving no trace of the logical KBS signal http://www.mediafire.com/listen/xktbgb964wnob9v/1134-JOQR-1354z041014SWP.MP3.
- 1323 CHINA, CRI Huadian, 600 kW. Strong male speech during Russian service at 1241 on 4/11; this was the strongest signal it's ever managed for me during a DXpedition http://www.mediafire.com/listen/95p1hdcr4e8su13/1323-CRI-1241z041114SWP.MP3.
- NEW ZEALAND, Wellington, Radio Sport, 5 kW. This was another of the anemic Kiwi stations which would stick around on the frequency for hours on end, but never come up to a decent level for recording. It usually was just above the noise level, right up through sunrise enhancement.
- **1566 REP KOREA, HLAZ, Jeju, 250 kW. Very strong Chinese language religious program at 1347 on 4/10, right after switch from the station's Japanese program http://www.mediafire.com/listen/ta1aiwbae3c8136/1566-HLAZ-1347z041014SWP.MP3.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

April 2014 Rockwork 4 DXpedition video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_faDLUIq1U

SPECIAL FEATURE 1

530 is Severely Restricted

by Jon Pearkins

530 kHz appeared to be the perfect solution to solve the CBC's issue of coverage in the Canadian North. Unplanned additions of new transmitters and increases in existing power are both strong evidence that the CBC's switch from AM to FM is only making matters worse.

Those of us familiar with CBC history, and the importance that CBK-540 played in that history, had been wondering out loud why the CBC didn't exploit the tremendous potential of groundwave coverage on 530 kHz. Any radio built in the last 20 years includes 530 as part of the AM band.

The CBC came into being on November 2, 1936. As both regulator and national broadcaster, they immediately limited private stations to 1,000 watts, but grandfathered CFRB and CFCN at their current 10,000 watts, and CKAC and CKLW at 5,000 watts. In less than three years, they had four 50,000 watt stations of their own on the air. As well as Canada's two largest cities, Toronto with CBL and Montreal with CBF, the CBC completed two very ambitious plans for regional stations: CBA to serve the Maritimes (excluding Newfoundland, which was not yet a part of Canada) and CBK to serve the entire Canadian Prairies: Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The "K" in CBK stands for Henry Kelsey, known as "the first explorer of the Canadian Prairies". According to the Canadian Communications Foundation:

"The two 460 foot radiators for CBK and CBA were the first guyed radiators designed in Canada, made by the Canadian Bridge Co. of Walkerville, Ontario. Both radators were patented and were of triangular cross-section vertical design, having three sets of guy wires extending from the structure to heavy concrete anchors."

Given the huge size of the region that they were attempting to cover, the CBC went a lot further with CBK. Both Sackville and Watrous were selected for their excellent ground conductivity, but CBC Vancouver engineers that I interviewed for a DX Monitor article in 1968 explained that ground conductivity was further enhanced with the addition of underground radials one quarter mile long extending out in multiple directions from the tower.

Then, of course, there was the frequency: 540 kHz. Bottom of the dial gave them the strongest groundwave possible. Coming on the air barely one month before Canada joined World War II, CBK remained the only CBC-owned station in the Canadian Prairies until long after the War ended.





SPECIAL FEATURE 2

Explaining Christian Radio

Eric Bueneman (NØUIH)

My first experience working in Christian radio came at WFTD 1080 in Marietta, GA in the spring of 1989. At that point, I was lured away from WRFG 89.3 in Atlanta with more hours and work as a local engineer for what was then a Skylight Radio Network affiliate. It was through that job that I learned that Christian radio stations, for the most part, operate on a different principle from their secular counterparts. Christian radio stations are more of a ministry outreach than a for-profit business. The Christian radio station I worked for was operated by a not-for-profit foundation connected with Roswell Street Baptist Church, then the largest Southern Baptist church in Cobb County and the third largest in the entire state of Georgia.

The Nielsen ratings service (which took over Arbitron) has it all wrong when it clumps Christian radio stations into the "Religion" category. When a station is listed as "religion", you would assume that such a station would sell air time to Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, or even the Hare Krishna faith. The more accurate name for such stations is Christian. Since such stations sell air time to predominantly Protestant ministries (heavily dominated by fundamentalist denominations, such as the Southern Baptists), then they should not be listed by Nielsen as "religion", but rather, as the more accurate format description of Christian. In this case. "religion" does not truly exist as a radio format.

In this day and age, Christian formats are very fragmented. There are different types of Christian music and spoken word formats on the air these days. Some of them target a wide range of denominations (predominantly Protestant), while others target a single denomination that is not well-served by most Christian radio stations. Some also broadcast Christian programs full-time in languages other than English (the most common being Spanish). Let's explain the various Christian radio formats in more detail.

Contemporary Christian: The industry's abbreviation for this format is CCM. It is Christian radio with a pop and rock feel to it. The first songs in this format came out in the mid-1970s; the first stations to air this format came on the air later on in the decade. Among the first stations to air this format were AM stations such as WWDJ 970 (now WNYM) Hackensack, NJ and WAEC 860 Atlanta, GA, The first musicians performing this style of Christian music were rock musicians from the 1960s who became Born-again Christians, and began writing this music with references to Jesus and various Bible verses. CCM formats generally target younger Christians with a Bible message with a contemporary feel to it. This kind of music has its critics, too; a number of more fundamentalist Christians tend to associate the contemporary beats of CCM with Satan (a position I don't agree with). Todav's CCM playlists tend to lean more toward an Adult Contemporary style. These days, the format is more widely programmed on FM stations than on AM stations. The major network that carries this format is K-Love, one of two networks owned by the Educational Media Foundation. The most commonly logged K-Love affiliate on AM is WNWT 1520 in Rossford, OH (a Toledo suburb). In addition to K-Love, a number of Salem-owned radio stations air this format under the name "The Fish" (most notable being WFSH 104.7 Athens, GA); Salem also offers a satellite-distributed version. Another example is the network of stations owned by New Life Media, operating out of the studios of WBGL 91.7 Champaign, IL and WCIC 91.5 Pekin, IL. The network covers most of Illinois and parts of Missouri and Indiana. Northwestern College, the Minnesota-based Christian college which created Skylight Radio Network, also operates a group of CCM stations; some of them using the "Life" identifier (most notably KNWS-FM 101.9 Waterloo, IA, KJNW 88.5 Kansas City, MO and KNWI 107.1 Osceola, IA). It is often said that CCM is the best way to reach younger Christians with a faith message.

Christian CHR: This format mixes in elements of Christian Rock, Rap and Hip-Hop with Contemporary Christian music. It sounds like the secular CHR format, but the lyrics in these songs are Christian in nature. It is a relatively new format; the most common network carrying this format is EMF's second format, branded as "Air 1". Local versions of this format are starting to appear; the most notable being St. Louis' "Boost 101.9", broadcast on three analog FM transmitters (K270BW 101.9 Bellefontaine, KPVR 94.1 Bowling Green and KHZR 97.7 Potosi, all MO), as well as the second digital channel of KLJY 99.1 Clayton, MO (the main analog and the first digital channels run the previously mentioned CCM format). This format tends to target high school and college age Christians.

<u>Urban Gospel:</u> This format is more commonly called "Black Gospel", targeting primarily African-American audiences, primarily in urban areas. A number of such stations are also available in smaller towns in the South. This format is more widely available on AM radio than on FM. The format features music recorded by small groups, solo artists and large choral groups, with a variety of flavors.

Contemporary and R&B flavors are most common in this format; some Christian rap selections and Hip-Hop flavored selections are also included. Some of the biggest such stations in the country include WCAO 600 Baltimore, MD, KSTL 690 St. Louis, MO and WBBP 1480 Memphis, TN. Salem distributes a satellite-fed version of this format. Among the most notable artists in this format are Kirk Franklin, the New Jersey Mass Choir and the late Mahalia Jackson. A number of pop and R&B artists also got their start in this form of Christian music, most notably Aretha Franklin. Teaching programs and church remotes are also a major part of this format. These days, the term "African-American" is preferred over "Black"; I don't know about you, but I prefer the Urban Gospel name for this format over Black Gospel.

<u>Southern Gospel:</u> This particular form of Christian radio is very common in the Deep South. It is Christian music with elements of Bluegrass, Country and Western styles. A number of Country artists, along with a few Rock artists (most notably Charlie Daniels) have done albums of Christian music in this style. Salem also distributes this format via satellite. This format is also more common on AM stations than on FM. As with Urban Gospel, teaching programs and church remotes are a major part of Southern Gospel radio. One of my closest stations with this format is KHCR 99.5 Bismarck, MO. WIGN 1550 Bristol, TN is among the more frequently logged Southern Gospel stations in the Southeast and Midwest.

Traditional Christian Music: This format does not include a single Contemporary Christian tune; the playlists tend to gravitate toward the Easy Listening genre. Light vocals, traditional instrumental and choral hymns make up the bulk of what is played in this format. Teaching programs are also a significant part of this format. The Bible Broadcasting Network is a major provider of this type of music; BBN originates from WYFQ 930 Charlotte, NC; among the AM stations they own are WYFN 980 Nashville, TN and has added KYFI 630 St. Louis, MO in the past year. This type of music is also featured overnights on the Moody Broadcasting Network, mainly on FM stations. Those who listen to this format believe that drum beats, as frequently found in Contemporary Christian music, are influenced by Satan.

Christian Teaching: The schedule on Christian Teaching stations are filled with programs that focus on teaching from the Bible. This is where you'll find well-known shows as "In Touch", "Through the Bible", "The Alternative" and "The Overcomer", along with locally-produced Bible teaching ministries. This format, while more common on AM radio, is being increasingly programmed on FM. An offshoot of this is Christian Information, which mixes teaching programs with information programming oriented toward the Christian population, such as "Focus on the Family" and inspirational programs like the drama "Unshackled" (produced by the Pacific Garden Mission, based in Chicago). An example of a radio station that focuses all of its programs on Christian teaching is KXEN 1010 Festus/St. Louis, MO. A primary example of a Christian Teaching and Information format is the Bott Radio Network, of which several AM stations are part; among them KCCV 760 Overland Park, KS, KQCV 800 Oklahoma City, OK, WCRT 1160 Donelson, TN and KSIV 1320 Clayton, MO. Moody Bible Network also carries large amounts of Christian teaching and informational programming.

<u>Christian Talk:</u> This is a talk radio format that has a Christian slant, primarily fundamentalist. Some of the talk show hosts in this format are very critical of non-fundamentalist denominations; a number also direct their ire toward the Roman Catholic Church. Several hosts also get very political in nature; their politics is often of an extreme right wing variety. This format is more common on AM than on FM; Crawford Broadcasting-owned stations have programmed this format, which is also referred to as "Talk Radio Hell Hates". Until September 2013, this format was in St. Louis on KJSL 630 (now KYFI).

Catholic Radio: Originally on only a handful of stations, the format has exploded since the mid-1990s, thanks to the establishment of EWTN Global Catholic Radio, an audio version of the Eternal Word Television Network. Until EWTN put on its shortwave outlet, WEWN (located in Vandiver, AL, near Birmingham), Catholic programming was only available through a handful of radio stations, most notably Vatican Radio. The programs on this are varied, from discussion programs, Masses and teaching programs to music (most notably "Catholic Jukebox") and prayers like The Holy Rosary. Christian radio stations largely rejected programming produced by Catholic media outreach ministries, leading many organizations to establish Catholic-oriented radio apostolates (another name for an outreach ministry). Catholic Radio seems to be equally available on AM and FM stations. The most notable organizations dedicated to Catholic radio include Relevant Radio in the upper Midwest, Covenant Network in the Midwest and parts of the Mid-South, Radio Maria on the Gulf Coast and in the Dayton, OH area, and Immaculate Heart Radio on the West Coast. Some notable stations broadcasting Catholic programming full-time include KBVM 88.3 Portland, OR, WLYV 1450 Fort Wavne. IN and KSFB 1260 San Francisco. CA.

<u>Lutheran Radio:</u> This format originated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and is the oldest single-denomination Christian radio format on the air. The teaching and music programming is oriented primarily to the members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the most conservative of

the Lutheran faiths. The music is primarily conservative (a la BBN) in nature; some Classical music with a Christian theme is aired. The first such station signed on the air in 1924, in the form of KFUO Clayton, MO. KFUO, whose calls stand for "Keeping Forward, Upward and Onward", began as a share-time station with KSD (now KTRS) St. Louis, MO before becoming a limited-time station, first on 830 kHz. The LCMS also operates Lutheran Hour Ministries as its radio ministry arm, producing "The Lutheran Hour". While Lutheran Hour productions are on various Christian radio stations, the Lutheran format is exclusive to KFUO 850 Clayton, MO and KNGN 1360 McCook, NE; it is probably the rarest Christian format on the air.

Spanish Christian: Christian music and teaching are not only available in English in the United States. Christian programming is also available in the second most commonly spoken language in the United States: Spanish. In addition to Christian teaching, the Catholic format and Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) have also been translated from English to Spanish. Tejano music, the local popular music of the Rio Grande Valley, has also been adapted for Christian audiences. For Catholic audiences, EWTN also has a Spanish service on their shortwave frequencies; I don't know if EWTN is offering Spanish programming for AM and FM stations. The Guadalupe Radio Network offers a Spanish language service (the most notable station carrying this format is KJON 850 Carrollton, TX, in the Dallas/Fort Worth market). A number of stations also carry Protestant teaching and music in the Spanish language. Protestant-oriented programming in Spanish is also available on a number of AM and FM stations across Latin America; many of the FM frequencies have replaced lower-power shortwave transmitters (mainly in the 3 and 4 MHz tropical bands) in recent years.

Christian programming is also available in other languages, including French, Portuguese, different South American dialects, Asian and African languages and dialects, and numerous eastern European languages (even Russian). Trans World Radio is perhaps one of the largest Christian organizations providing Protestant-oriented programming in various languages; many of us have heard PJB on 800 kHz from Kralendijk, on the island of Bonaire off the northern coast of South America. TWR also owns KTWG on the island of Guam at 801 kHz. TWR also contracts for air time on various AM and shortwave transmitters around the world. The largest organization providing Catholic-oriented programming is Vatican Radio, which has two AM transmitters broadcasting on 585 and 1260 kHz, also contracting for air time on various transmitters around the world, in addition to their own facilities at Santa Maria di Galeria, Italy.

So, when you see a station listed as "religion" in a report in any of the DX bulletins, it really is a Christian format. Describing such stations as "religion" is not only inaccurate, but will make the listener believe that any religion can buy air time for their programs. No all-Buddhist or all-Jewish stations are established at the present time, but we're starting to see a few Hindu stations on the West Coast. We should not use the word "religion" to refer to Christian radio stations; even the ratings services, such as Nielsen, should start using the correct term, Christian, to describe Christian radio stations. The "religious" format, as I've said earlier, does not truly exist as a radio format.

GEOMAGNETIC INDICES

Compiled by: Phil Bytheway E-mail: phil tekno@yahoo.com

Geomagnetic Summary April 1 2014 through April 30 2014 Tabulated from email status daily (K @ 0000 UTC.)

Date	Flux	Α	K	Space Wx					
4/ 1	153	6	1	moderate, R2	4/16	184	5	2	minor, R1
2	155	5	1	no storms	17	179	11	1	no storms
3	153	6	2	no storms	18	172	8	3	moderate, R2, S1
4	157	6	3	no storms	19	169	15	2	minor, S1
5	142	14	2	no storms	20	163	22	4	minor, G1, S1
6	141	5	4	no storms	21	159	18	2	no storms
7	140	11	1	no storms	22	145	5	1	no storms
8	132	5	0	no storms	23	136	7	2	no storms
9	131	5	1	no storms	24	130	10	3	no storms
10	137	3	0	no storms	25	125	9	1	strong, R3
11	138	8	3	no storms	26	121	6	2	no storms
12	136	25	3	minor, G1	27	118	4	2	no storms
13	137	16	2	no storms	28	121	6	1	no storms
14	150	8	3	no storms	29	120	6	4	no storms
4/15	162	6	1	no storms	4/30	124	18	1	no storms

Sx – Solar Radiation Storm Level

Gx - Geomagnetic Storm Level

Rx – Radio Blackouts Level

A DXers Technical Guide, 4th Edition (Spring 2004)

In its nearly 200 pages you will learn about the principles underlying the design of successful receivers, antennas and receiving accessories, find reviews of the best commercially available DXing equipment in different price ranges, as well as detailed instructions for building one's own antennas and other DXing aids. Although it focuses on the technical backdrop to medium wave DXing, it will also be of interest to serious shortwave listeners and low band radio amateurs.

Prices: IRCA members – \$15.00 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea-mail), \$20.50 (rest of the Americas/Europe airmail), \$21.50 (Australia/Japan/New Zealand airmail). Non-IRCA members – add \$2.50.

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The NRC AM Antenna Pattern Book

Prepared by noted DXer Paul Swearingen, it is an all-inclusive book of day and night operation patterns for stations in the United States, Canada and selected foreign countries. The data sources for the information come from the 34th NRC AM Radio log and the comprehensive Mexican station listing put together by noted DXer John Callarman. There are 240 pages in this book; the maps cover each frequency from 530 to 1700 kHz, depicting the U.S. "Lower 48", Canada and Mexico. Hawaii and Alaska are shown on separate maps at the end of the book. The member price is \$22.95 (\$26.80 for shipping via Priority Mail); the non-member price is \$28.95 (\$32.80 for shipping via Priority Mail). The price for shipping to Canada is \$35.00. while the price for overseas shipping is \$39.00. Orders

shipped to Canadian and overseas addresses will be shipped via Global Priority Mail. The NRC AM Pattern Book may also be ordered using PayPal (a service fee will apply) at http://www.nrcdxas.org/ Prices: \$16.95 to USA/Canada IRCA/NRC members, \$22.95 USA non-members, \$25.95, Canada non-members/all overseas orders. Order from: NRC Publications - PO Box 473251 - Aurora CO 80047-3251 (CO residents, please add 3.5% sales tax). Please state your IRCA membership affiliation when you order.

The County Cross Reference

What a time-saver! A complete list of counties, parishes, and similar political divisions in the U. S. and Canada. Two lists are included: alpha by county, and by state. Compiled by Bill Hale and designed and produced by Wayne and Joan Heinen. \$8.95 for IRCA/NRC members, \$11.95, non-members; overseas customers, please contact us for exact price. Order from: NRC Publications - PO Box 473251 - Aurora CO 80047-3251 (CO residents, please add 3.5% sales tax). Please state your IRCA membership affiliation when you order.

IRCA Mexican Log. 18th Edition (Winter 2013)

The IRCA MEXICAN LOG lists all AM stations in Mexico by frequency, including call letters, state, city, day/night power, slogans, schedule in UTC/GMT, formats, networks and notes. The call letter index gives call, frequency, city and state. The city index (listed by state, then city) includes frequency, call and day/night power. The transmitter site index (listed by state, then city) tabulates the latitude and longitude of transmitter sites. This is an indispensable reference for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11".

Prices: IRCA/NRC members - \$9.50 (US), \$10.50 (Canada), \$12.00 (México), \$13.00 (rest of the world). Non-IRCA/NRC members - add \$2.00.

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IRCA TIS/HAR LIST (Winter 2011)

The IRCA TIS/HAR LIST lists all US TIS/HAR stations, by frequency, including call letters, state, city, county, licensee, coordinates, expiration date and dates of DXM/DXN reports. It has been updated with FCC data and DXM/DXN reports through November 15 2011.

Prices: IRCA/NRC members - \$9.50 (US/Canada/sea mail), \$11.50 (México), \$12.50 (rest of the world). Non-IRCA/NRC members - add \$2.00.

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Sunrise/Sunset Maps

12 maps showing 15 minute sunset and sunrise times for the US and 12 maps showing hourly sunset and sunrise times for the World. Explanation includes use of the maps and examples of DX made possible by knowledge of SR/SS times.

Prices: IRCA members - \$2.25 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$3.00 (rest of the Americas/Europe airmail), \$4.00 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). Non-IRCA members - add \$1.00.

An Introduction to Broadcast Band DXing

This tri-folded brochure is ideal for explaining the Broadcast Band DXing hobby and the IRCA. It can be included with reception reports and given to other interested folks. Sub topics include: What is DXing?, Broadcasting's early years, The first DXers, Clubs helped listeners share, Our hobby today and DX clubs still unite listeners. It is two color printed on heavy stock. Price is \$0.35/brochure (UŚ and Canada). \$1.00 (rest of the world). Minimum order is 10.

To order any of the above items from the IRCA Bookstore, send the correct amount (in US funds payable to Phil Bytheway - which will be returned if not made out to Phil Bytheway) to: IRCA BOOKSTORE, 9705 MARY NW. SEATTLE WA 98117-2334 (email: phil tekno@yahoo.com).

IRCA Reprints

The IRCA maintains a large file of articles that have appeared in past issues of DX Monitor. These articles cover a wide variety of topics, including: antenna theory and construction, tips for the foreign BCB DXer, how to improve your DXing skills, history of DXing and broadcasting, lists of stations by subject, construction projects and receiver modification, receiver reviews, medium wave propagation, and more. Copies are available for a nominal charge. Price for the complete list is \$1.00.

New from the IRCA reprint service. "IRCA REPRINTS ON CD"!!! 648 Reprints. The entire set, now on one CD. Only \$10.00 (US/Canadian IRCA members, overseas contact Phil.) Categories include: Antennas, Domestic, Foreign, History, DX Lists, Receivers and Receiver Modifications, and Technical.

For a complete list of reprints, or to purchase the CD send to: IRCA Reprints, c/o Phil Bytheway, 9715 Mary NW, Seattle, WA 98117-2334. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. (Make all checks and money orders out to Phil Bytheway)

25

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ARRL Hamfest Calendar

As you may know (and I can say this from experience-EiC), a Hamfest is a great place to find good deals on new and used receivers, wires and cables for antenna projects, and other hobby-related needs. The American Radio Relay League has a Web page to help you find a Hamfest near your home QTH or while you're traveling to other parts of the country. You can search by Zip Code, select from Hamfests within 25, 50, 100 and 250 miles of your home QTH, as well as city and state. (Searching by ARRL division and section is only for the Ham-savvy, hi.) To find a Hamfest in near your home QTH, visit http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar and plug in your location or Zip Code. You'll be able to find upcoming Hamfests in your local area.

IRCA Facebook Page

The IRCA's Facebook page is now online! This is a new feature of IRCA, featuring photos of transmitter sites (many of which provided by CDXR Editor John C. Johnson), members' shacks (your Editor-in-Chief included) and plenty of information. If you have a Facebook page, enter "International Radio Club of America" into your Facebook search engine, then click the "Like" icon. Many thanks to Mike Sanburn (KG6LJU) and John C. Johnson for setting this page up.

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

CLUB OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Broadcast Band DX hobbyists.

AMERICA

THE INTERNATIONAL PO Box 60241,

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ンド		MEMBERSHIP DUES	
ر ٥	0	Destination	Rate
5 4	5	USA	\$10
<u> </u>	Ž,	Canada & Mexico (group 2)	\$10
<u>5 </u>	e	Western Europe (group 3)	\$10
T #	=	Australia/NZ/Japan (group 4)	\$10
ے ھ	. 5	Rest of world (group 5)	\$10

Make checks and Money Orders in US funds payable to IRCA.

All dues and address changes go to: IRCA, PO Box 60241, Lafavette LA 70596

Pay electronically with PayPal - add \$1 to all prices above. Go to www.paypal.com, then send your dues to ircamember@ircaonline.org - contact Lynn Hollerman for more information.

Sample copies of DX Monitor are unavailable at the present time. Stay tuned to this space for further developments.

For information on subscribing to the IRCA mailing list at Hard-Core-DX, a group e-mail service, contact the moderator. Lynn Hollerman at lynnhollerman@vahoo.com.

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