



DX MONITOR

The official publication of the
International Radio Club of America

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IRCA welcomes **Mark Chinsky** of Miller Place, NY... This is our last weekly issue! Seattle deadline for our **Anniversary Issue** is **Monday 3/9 @ 6 PM PLT.**

Just Published – IRCA Slogans List (Winter 2015)

This completely revised Slogans List includes radio slogans from the US and Canada (over 4400).
Prices: **IRCA/NRC members** – \$7.25 (US), \$8.50 (Canada) \$10.00 (México), \$10.75 (rest of the world). **Non-IRCA members** – add \$1.00.

To order from the IRCA Goodie Factory, send the correct amount (in US funds payable to **IRCA**) to: **IRCA GOODIE FACTORY, 9705 MARY NW, SEATTLE WA 98117-2334.** Or, order through PayPal [add \$1.00] to email: **phil_tekno@yahoo.com** (Phil Bytheway). Please state club affiliation when ordering.

Are you ready for some Fort Wayne?

Save the dates July 10, 11, and 12 for **DX CONVENTION 2015**, this year's joint gathering of **IRCA, NRC, WTFDA** and **DecalcoMania** in Fort Wayne, Indiana!

We're in the final stages of nailing down a hotel contract and thus the cost for registration, and we'll open the registration process in March. But in the meantime, here's what to expect: a hotel cost of \$99 or less a night and a registration fee of \$50 or less.

We'll kick things off on Friday, July 10 with some station tours during the day and a baseball game at night, as we visit Parkview Field in downtown Fort Wayne to see the Fort Wayne TinCaps (single-A Midwest League affiliate of the Padres) play in one of the nation's newest and most impressive minor-league parks.

On Saturday, we'll have educational sessions (and maybe a tour option or two) during the day and a DX banquet in the evening, followed by the Famous Auction and plenty of time for convivial chat in our meeting room/lounge.

Sunday, we'll have the DX Quiz before closing official convention activities. If you're still in town and don't have to rush to catch a flight, how about a visit to the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg auto museum or the Three Rivers Festival, which will be underway when we're in town?

Stay tuned for all the registration details, coming soon - and in the meantime, get your vacation schedules in place and start making your plans to join us in Fort Wayne for a WO-WO-wonderful weekend of DX fun!

Scott Fybush, Your Friendly Host – **scott@fybush.com**

IRCA Convention West

Will be held Thu Sept 10-Sat Sept 12 2015 at Best Western Plus Avita Suites 3531 Torrance Blvd. Torrance CA 90503. Phone number for reservations is 310-540-5051 or email **guestservices@avitasuitestorrance.com**. Request International Radio Club of America group rate before August 9th deadline. Studio with one queen bed \$120. Studio with 2 queen beds \$125. Additional guest \$10 pp/night. 12% tax. Hotel website is **www.avitasuitestorrance.com**. Includes comp all you can eat hot breakfast buffet daily/ comp covered self parking/secured high speed wireless internet/nice view of KNX tower site. Registration fee is \$30 payable to **Mike Sanburn**, PO Box 1256, Bellflower CA 90707 (Does not include banquet). More details TBA. Questions and comments to **mikesanburn@hotmail.com**.

The 28th Annual NASWA Winter SWL Festival

Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania – February 27-28 2015.

The largest annual gathering of radio enthusiasts in north-eastern North America, bringing together shortwave listeners, DXers, AM/FM/TV DXers, scanner enthusiasts, radio broadcasters, Internet broadcasters, amateur radio operators, and others. Exhibits, workshops and lectures on all aspects of radio. 2 days of nothing but radio. If you love radio, you should be here! February 27-28 2015. See **www.swlfest.com** for full details. Follow the event on Facebook at Winter SWL Festival. **Sheldon Harvey**, Greenfield Park, Quebec



WESTERN DX ROUNDUP – Nancy Johnson – 2922 S Olivewood – Mesa AZ 85212-2923
E-mail: **NancyJohnson@prodigy.net**

WDXR DEADLINES: March 6, March 20, April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15, May 29, June 12 and June 26. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (RB) **Rick Barton**-Box 1804-El Mirage AZ 85335 **desertmoon_dxshack@inbox.com**
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Hammarlund SP-600, HQ-180, TMC GPR-90, 100' wire E/W, 800' wire N/S, Kiwa loop
- (JCJ) **John Johnson**-2922 S Olivewood, Mesa AZ 85212 **John_Johnson@prodigy.net**
Icom IC-R75, 75' N-S longwire
- (MS) **Mike Sanburn**-PO Box 1256-Bellflower CA 90707 **mikesanburn@hotmail.com**
GE Superadio 2

- 650 KMTI **UT**, Manti 2/14 1915 local spots "Ephram," college hoops live p-b-p. Very good. (RB-AZ)
- 670 KMZQ **NV**, Las Vegas 2/18 0916 local spots, good signal post sunrise. (RB-AZ)
- 960 KOVO **UT**, Provo 2/18 weak under KKNT, 0055 with ESPN programming, spots, 0100 "KOVO Provo ESPN 960" ID. (JCJ-AZ)
- 990 KRKS **CO**, Denver 2/14 weak 0044 with "KRKS" jingle into religious program, 0100 ID into SRN News. (JCJ-AZ)
- 1000 KCEO **CA**, Vista 2/15 1000 good over KOMO with EWTN Catholic programming and ID "KCEO Vista-San Diego." They run announcements telling people in fringe reception areas to tune to KHJ 930 Los Angeles at night after they reduce power. (MS-CA)
- 1080 KSLI **UT**, Price 2/16 briefly over KRLD 1927 with "KASL Castle Country" slogan. Price weather. (JCJ-AZ)
- 1110 KRPA **WA**, Oak Harbor 2/3 2330 faint ID far out in the mix, possibly sports format, on HQ-180 and E/W wire. (GH-OR)
- 1120 KMOX **MO**, St Louis 2/17 0105 "Here on KMOX," weather forecast with high temp 15 degrees and zero degree wind chill. Alone on channel with moderate signal with loopout of KANN (Utah) with ferrite bar on Grundig Satellit 750. (RB-AZ)
- 1130 CKWX **BC**, Vancouver 2/17 0000 ID "Vancouver's news, traffic and weather station." (MS-CA)

- 1140 KGEM **ID**, Boise 2/16 briefly atop 1140 1959 with "You are listening to Salt and Light Radio 1140 KGEM listener supported Catholic Radio." (JCJ-AZ)
 1220 KDOW **CA**, Palo Alto 1/29 0020 Bay area business talk radio, "1220 KDOW." Long time no hear. Fair on SP-600 with E/W wire. (GH-OR)
 1240 KJAA **AZ**, Globe 2/19 0115 came up dominant for about 20 minutes with oldies and ID "You get a full plate of memories at the Jukebox 1240 Diner," call letters at 0124, mentioned AM stereo. (MS-CA)
 KFBC **WY**, Cheyenne 2/15 2000 with "KFBC 1240 Cheyenne." (BB-AZ)
 1250 KHIL **AZ**, Willcox 2/19 briefly above KNEU with oldies music, 1918 with "You wanted the best. You've got the best. KHIL 1250 AM. All music, all the time." Note, NRC Log says they are a country music station. Might be a format change to oldies. (JCJ-AZ)
 KNEU **UT**, Roosevelt 2/20 0953 good coming out of "I Was Country When Country Wasn't Cool." Slogan "New Country." (MS-CA)
 1330 KOVE **WY**, Lander 2/13 1930 with "If you're looking for country music it's KOVE." (BB-AZ)
 1340 KCQL **NM**, Aztec 2/18 2156 with "KCQL 1340 and 93.9." (BB-AZ)
 1380 KOTA **SD**, Rapid City 2/17 good, no sign of KLPZ. 1855 out of local talk program with Rapid City spots, mention of KOTA. CBS News at 1900, and 1909 "1380 KOTA News Room" local news. (JCJ-AZ)
 1430 KCLK **WA**, Asotin 2/13 0100 sportstalker with ID. Very weak and buried in the static but alone on HQ 180 and E/W wire. New. (GH-OR)
 1440 KUHL **CA**, Santa Maria 2/17 0806 with "KUHL 1440 and KUHL.com" (BB-AZ)
 1510 KCKK **CO**, Littleton 2/14 0300 "The best artists on 93.7 The Rock...93.7 FM and 15-ten AM." Blood Sweat & Tears, The Eagles, etal, over/under local KFNN. (RB-AZ)
 1540 KXEL **IA**, Waterloo 2/2 0105 Red Eye Radio talk show. Clear as a bell with a little chop on TMC GPR-90 with Kiwa loop. Seldom heard. (GH-OR)
 1590 KVGB **KS**, Great Bend 2/15 in heavy splatter from local 1580. 1859 with numerous "KVGB" mentions. (JCJ-AZ)
 1600 KTAP **CA**, Santa Maria 2/20 0049-0116 with Spanish music in/out, mixing with KAHZ Pomona, nice ToH ID at 0102 "KTAP Santa Maria, Guadalupe, Nipomo, Radio Ranchito Mil Seis Ciento AM." New, CA #194 heard. (MF-AZ)
 1690 KFSG **CA**, Roseville 2/17 0800 listening to Radio Disney via Colorado (KDDZ), making sure it was still there, when suddenly, KFSG came up going to day power/pattern, "KFSG Roseville." Very good. (RB-AZ)

The next WDXR deadline is Friday March 6, the Anniversary Issue deadline! – Nancy 2/20 2100



CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP – John C Johnson – 2922 S Olivewood – Mesa AZ 85212-2923
 E-mail: John_Johnson@prodigy.net CDXR reports ONLY: cdxr@ircaonline.org

RIDING GAIN

- [EB-MO] **Eric Bueneman**, Hazelwood MO N0UIHEric@aol.com
 GE Superadio III, Yaesu FRG-7, Worcester Space Magnet II, 150' homebrew dipole
 [FTS-MN] **Todd Skaine**, Woodbury MN toftscytj7707@gmail.com
 Sony ICF 2010, GE Superadio II, Grundig S350, Grundig M400, Toyota car radio
 [JT-MO] **John Tudenham**, Joplin MO jotud@yahoo.com
 Superadio III with built-in loop

DOWN THE DIAL

- 710 KGNC **TX**, Amarillo. 2/13 in KCMO null. 08:55 with local Amarillo news, station ID into ABC News. Nice to hear an Amarillo station again since I lived there 15 years. [JT-MO]
 740 WVLN **IL**, Olney. 2/19 02:41 nice ID over weakened Toronto and back into CBS sports radio. New! Highly doubt it being 7 Watts. [FTS-MN]
 800 CKLW **ON**, Windsor. 2/15. 23:05 with Canadian news. Very rare here in Joplin, MO. Must have been on day pattern due to weather conditions. [JT-MO]
 810 WHB **MO**, Kansas City. 2/17 good to fair over WGY, digital ACI from WCCO 830. 0543 with "WHB" ID into ESPN Sports Center All Night. [EB-MO]
 1080 WRYT **IL**, Edwardsville. 2/17 fair to poor signal in KRLD null, ACI from KAAY 1090. 0536 noted with the Holy Rosary broadcast. 20-watt night CP is now on the air. Simulcast partner KHOJ 1460 much stronger. [EB-MO]
 1240 KTLO **AR**, Mountain Home. 2/17 fair to poor signal, mixing with other stations. 0359 noted with Country format, "KTLO Mountain Home" legal ID into ABC News. [EB-MO]
 1370 WDEF **TN**, Chattanooga. 2/17 fair signal over WLTH. 0530 noted with "Fox Sports 13-70 WDEF" IF, traffic report and local spots. [EB-MO]
 1550 WDLR **OH**, Delaware. 2/14 fair to poor signal, mixing with CBEF; no sign of usual KYAL and WPF. 0222 noted with Classic Hits format, "15-50 WDLR" ID, local spots and weather forecast. No longer simulcasting WQTT 1270. Sounds like they were on 500-watt daytime power. [EB-MO]

25 YEARS AGO

25 years ago in the February 25, 1989 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... **Tom Laskowski** of South Bend, IN mentioned he bought a new electronic typewriter ... **Gary A. Heisey** of Osterburg, PA discovered KFI 640 booming in one morning ... **Shawn Axelrod** of Winnipeg, MB logged FL and MS for two new states ... **Rick Dau** of Oakland, IA said he joined the club last November.

OPEN MIKE

This is the last of the weekly issues. The season is coming to an end. Be sure to send in your tips for the next issue, the Anniversary Issue. This column was typed 2-20-15. 73, John

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP – Eric Bueneman (N0UIH) – 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
 Winradio G33DDC software-defined receiver, Wellbrook ALA1530S+ Imperium loop
 (JJR-MI) **John J Rieger**, L'Anse MI
 Grundig Satellit 750, stock antenna

ACROSS THE DIAL

- 540 WXYG **MN**, Sauk Rapids – 2/10 0858 noted with legal ID into "Something in the Air" by Thunderclap Newman. A poor signal was noted with light fades; CBK mostly gone. (JJR-MI)
 540 WWCS **PA**, Cannonsburg – 2/16 1257 noted with "Welcome to Pittsburgh's new home for Yahoo! Sports Radio, WWCS Cannonsburg/Pittsburgh, Yahoo! Sports Radio" legal ID by a male announcer. With such great ground wave reception, I wish WWCS carried the Pittsburgh Pirates' baseball games! The signal was noted mixing with another talk station. (KK-VA) (Kraig, the Pirates' rights were the longtime property of KDKA 1020. Your unidentified talker could be WGTH Richlands VA, which would match a Christian Teaching program – eb)
 560 KMON **MT**, Great Falls – 2/10 0805 noted with ABC News, weather forecast with mention of "34 at the KMON studios". A poor signal was noted, alone on channel; no sign of CFOS and other stations. (JJR-MI)
 590 WLES **VA**, Bon Air – 2/16 1259 noted with "AM 590 WLES Bon Air and 97.7 W249PI Bellwood; Experience the Truth" legal ID by a male announcer, into SRN News. The signal was noted mixing with another talk station. (KK-VA) (Kraig, your other talk station could be WVLK Lexington KY – eb)
 610 WTEL **PA**, Philadelphia – **Ex-WIP**. 2/16 1259 noted with "The Delaware Valley's 610 WTEL Philadelphia" legal ID by a male announcer. At 1302, "WTEL, All Sports, All the Time, WTEL" was mentioned by a male announcer. First time noted since call letter change. The signal was noted mixing with WXVA. (KK-VA) (WTEL was a longtime resident on 860 in Philly – eb)
 620 WKHB **PA**, Irwin – 2/16 1259 noted with a promo for a Saturday polka show by male and female announcers. "Prime Time Polkas, Saturday at noon on 94.1, 620 KHB" mention. At 1300, this ID by a male announcer came across: "Serving the Tri-State Area, you're listening to 620 KHB". The signal was noted mixing with an unidentified vocal music station. (KK-VA) (Your unidentified music station could be WGCV Cayce SC – eb)
 640 WWJZ **NJ**, Mount Holly – 2/10 0800 noted with "Radio Disney" mentioned twice, legal ID into "Centuries" by Fall Out Boy; kids' voices cut through again! A poor signal was noted, steady and alone on channel. This is the 18th station on 640 and the seventh from New Jersey from L'Anse; a new station in the logbook. (JJR-MI)

670 KLTT **CO**, Commerce City – 2/11 1848 noted with Scripture readings by an announcer named Minnie. A poor signal was noted in a WSCR null. (JJR-MI)

670 WIEZ **PA**, Lewistown – 2/11 0805 noted with ABC News, Accu-Weather forecast, ABC Sports and a WIEZ jingle ID. A poor signal with slight fading was noted in a WSCR null. (JJR-MI)

680 WOGO **WI**, Hallie – 2/12 0849 noted with an ad for Pac Mail of Eau Claire, lottery numbers and Wisconsin news. A poor signal was noted with other stations nulled. (JJR-MI)

720 WHYF **PA**, Shiremanstown – 2/16 1259 noted with "...Catholic family sharing our faith with others. This is Holy Family Radio, AM 720 WHYF Shiremanstown, Harrisburg, Lebanon and at 720 WHYF-dot-com" legal ID by a male announcer. This was the only signal on the channel. (KK-VA) (What, no WGN? – eb)

800 WCHA **PA**, Chambersburg – 2/16 1304 noted with "WCHA Chambersburg, W242BY Chambersburg and WHHB Halfway/Hagerstown; Good Time Oldies on the new FM 96.3" legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with an unidentified vocal music station. (KK-VA) (Your unidentified vocal music station could either be CJBQ Belleville ON or WSVS Crewe VA – eb)

820 WBKK **MN**, Wilton – 2/13 0920 noted with an ad for Quicken, "Weather on AM 820 WBKK" mention. A poor signal was noted, alone on channel. (JJR-MI)

870 WFLO **VA**, Farmville – 2/16 1305 noted with "It's five minutes past the hour; you're listening to WFLO, AM 87 on your radio dial in Farmville, Virginia" time check and legal ID by a male announcer. This is a new station in the logbook; alone on the channel. (KK-VA)

890 WKFJ **PA**, Cashtown – 2/16 1259 noted with this network ID by a male announcer: "You're listening to the Oasis Network; KNYD Broken Arrow/Tulsa, Oklahoma, KDIM Coweta/Tulsa, KMSI Moore/Oklahoma City, WYCS Yorktown/Hampton, Virginia, KOZO Branson/Springfield, Missouri and WOFN Beach City/Canton, Ohio", into "The Road Show". A male announcer was noted with "WKFJ Cashtown" legal ID over "The Road Show" at 1800. The signal was noted mixing with another talk station. (KK-VA) (Your talk station is WLS Chicago – eb)

940 WADV **PA**, Lebanon – 2/16 1304 noted with "Power Gospel Radio for South Central Pennsylvania, WADV Lebanon" legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with another talk station. (KK-VA) (Your talk station could be WKGM Smithfield VA, which runs a Christian Teaching format – eb)

990 WLLI **PA**, Somerset – 2/16 1259 noted with "Your Sports Authority in the Laurel Highlands, AM 990 WLLI Somerset; All Sports, All the Time" legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with another talk station. (KK-VA) (Your unidentified talker could either be WNTP Philadelphia PA or WNOX Knoxville TN – eb)

1000 WIOO **PA**, Carlisle – 2/16 1259 noted with "This is Country Gold FM, WIOO Carlisle and WEEO Shippensburg" legal ID by a male announcer into ABC News. The signal was the only one on the channel. (KK-VA) (This one has a CP to move to 1010 – eb)

1010 KSIR **CO**, Brush – 2/10 0940 noted with a weather forecast mentioning a high of 45 degrees, "I'm (signal too weak to decipher name) for Farm Radio 1010 KSIR" mention. A poor signal; alone on channel. (JJR-MI)

1010 WOLB **MD**, Baltimore – 2/16 1801 noted with "WOLB Baltimore, a Radio One Station, Where Information is Power" legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with an unidentified vocal music station. (KK-VA) (Your possible music stations could either be WUKZ Marion VA or WTZA Atlanta GA – eb)

1080 KNDK **ND**, Langdon – 2/10 0935 noted with local news, mention of My Borderland-dot-com, an ad for a business at 206 Main Street in Cavalier, "Maverick 105 and KNDK 1080" ID and a "Maverick 105" jingle. A fair signal was noted; in unusually well. (JJR-MI)

1090 KSOU **IA**, Sioux Center – 2/12 0901 noted with Radio Iowa News, local PSA and "KSOU" jingle into an Oldies format. A poor signal was noted. (JJR-MI)

1100 WZFG **MN**, Dilworth – 2/13 0900 noted with "WZFG Dilworth/Fargo/West Fargo/Moorhead" legal ID into Fox News Radio. A fair signal was noted; not heard in a while. (JJR-MI)

1140 KCXL **MO**, Liberty – 2/11 1900 noted with legal ID with mention of a translator on 102.9 (K275BQ Kansas City – eb) into NBC Sports Radio. A poor signal was noted with no sign of WRVA. (JJR-MI)

1150 CJSL **SK**, Estevan – 2/10 0925 noted with "Randy... on CJ 1150" ID into a Country selection. A fair signal was noted; second time heard, much better than before. The signal was alone on the frequency. (JJR-MI)

1150 KASM **MN**, Albany – 2/13 0849 noted with commodity report, livestock auction and a mention of a business at 319 Main Street in Cold Spring. A poor signal with no sign of WHBY; CKOC had faded out by this time. (JJR-MI)

1190 WLIB **NY**, New York – TENTATIVE. 2/11 1827 noted with spot for McDonald's Gospel Fest 2015 mentioning Web site information, ad for Auto Zone into Urban Gospel music. A poor signal was noted in a WOWO null. (JJR-MI) (WLIB is the only Urban Gospel station on 1190 east of the Rockies; the only other station with the format on the channel is KDYA Vallejo CA, in the San Francisco Bay area – eb)

1230 WRBS **MD**, Baltimore – 2/16 1259 noted with "Positive Talk, AM 1230 WRBS Baltimore" legal ID by a male announcer; a new station in the logbook. The signal was noted mixing with WFVA. (KK-VA) (The FM at 95.1 has been logged at Hazelwood – eb)

1230 KFSP **MN**, Mankato – 2/11 1735 noted with ad for Taco Bell and Explore Minnesota-dot-com, a weather forecast at 1814, "Fan Sports" ID, no calls! This is the only Fan Sports affiliate on 1230. A poor signal was noted. (JJR-MI) (John, KWNO is the one in Winona MN; I heard the Mankato station as KYSM – eb)

1240 WJEJ **MD**, Hagerstown – 2/16 1259 noted with "...right here on WJEJ Hagerstown, Maryland and WJEJ Radio-dot-com" legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with an unidentified music station. Before the switch to digital TV, I was able to watch WHAG Channel 25 at my QTH. (KK-VA) (Kraig, your unidentified music station could be WCEM Cambridge MD – eb)

1240 KDLR **ND**, Devils Lake – 2/12 1805 noted with CBS News, into local news mentioning "...told KDLR News" and "on KZZY" (103.5 MHz Devils Lake – eb). A poor signal was noted in a tight null. (JJR-MI)

1250 KCUE **MN**, Red Wing – 2/12 0910 noted with "Bluff Country 1250 KCUE" ID, sports report and a Country format. A poor signal was noted in a WSSP null. (JJR-MI)

1280 WGLR **WI**, Lancaster – 2/12 1757 noted with ad for Ford Motorcraft auto parts, legal ID mentioning WPVL 1590 Platteville, into ESPN Sports Center. A poor signal was noted in a tight null of other stations. (JJR-MI)

1320 KHRT **ND**, Minot – 2/10 2119 noted with calls and Southern Gospel format. A poor signal was noted through the mess on the frequency. Nobody dominates 1320 at night in L'Anse. (JJR-MI)

1320 WGET **PA**, Gettysburg – 2/16 1300 noted with "You're listening to The Herd, with the most exclusive local and national sports coverage in the (Gettysburg) Hanover area; ESPN 1320 WGET Gettysburg/Hanover" legal ID by a male announcer, ESPN Sports Center and Colin Cowherd. The signal was noted mixing with an unidentified vocal music station. (KK-VA) (Your unidentified music station could be WVNZ Richmond VA – eb)

1330 WHGM **MD**, Havre de Grace – 2/16 1300 noted with "This is Your Home for America's Best Music, 1330 AM WHGM Havre de Grace, Aberdeen and Bel Air" legal ID by a male announcer. "Here's a look at the WHGM weather for the Tri-State Area" mention by a male announcer. This is the first time heard since the call change from WJSS. The signal was noted mixing with WRAA and an unidentified talk station. (KK-VA) (Could your unidentified talk station be WURD Greenville SC? – eb)

1330 WTRX **MI**, Flint – 2/12 1742 noted with mentions of the Michigan Warriors and WTRX Sports-dot-com. A fair signal was noted; atop the channel until lost at power cut/pattern change. (JJR-MI)

1340 WYCB **DC**, Washington – 2/16 1300 noted with this legal ID: "1340 WYCB Washington, DC and WPRS823 Waldorf/Washington, a Radio One Station; Unity through Music and worldwide at My Spirit DC-dot-com" by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WPEM and an unidentified vocal music station. (KK-VA) (WPRS823 could be a studio-transmitter link. Your unidentified vocal music station could either be WKEY Covington VA or WVCV Orange VA – eb)

1340 KWLM **MN**, Willmar – 2/11 1731 noted with call letters and mention of KWLM-dot-com through early sunset skip propagation. A poor signal was noted. (JJR-MI)

1400 KEYL **MN**, Long Prairie – 2/10 0822 noted with promo reminding listeners to tune to 99.7 FM (licensed to nearby Browerville – eb) and the Internet for a sporting event. A poor signal was noted in a tight WCCY null. (JJR-MI)

1400 WKAV **VA**, Charlottesville – 2/16 1259 noted with "You're listening to the Dan Rhodes Show. Sports Radio 1400 WKAV" ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WINC. (KK-VA)

1410 KGRN **IA**, Grinnell – 2/11 0907 noted with mention of "with Sports on 1410 KGRN" while chasing other stations. A poor signal was noted. (JJR-MI)

1460 KDWA **MN**, Hastings – 2/10 0815 noted with calls and weather forecast, cutting through the interference. A poor signal was noted with one or two other stations and a weak KXNO. (JJR-MI)

1490 KLGR **MN**, Redwood Falls – 2/12 0857 noted with "on KLGR Radio" mention and local birthdays in a brief fade-up. A poor signal was noted. (JJR-MI)

1590 WOKR **NY**, Brockport – 2/12 1840 noted with mentions of "CBS Sports Radio in..." and "105.5 The Team". Weather forecast noted at 1856, another "105.5 The Team" mention at 1858, legal ID at 1900. A poor signal was noted. (JJR-MI)

1590 WFTH **VA**, Richmond – 2/16 1259 noted with "WFTH, Faith Radio 1590 Richmond, Virginia" legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WHGT. (KK-VA)

1600 KDAK **ND**, Carrington – 2/12 1838 noted with temperatures for Valley City and Carrington and mention of News Dakota-dot-com. A poor signal was noted. (JJR-MI)

EDITOR'S NOTES

Kraig Krist noted some excellent daytime DX conditions on February 16. "Mid-day DX (with) some surprises. 640-WWJZ, 660-WFAN, 710-WOR, 1020-KDKA, 1150-WDEL, 1410-WDOV, 1520-WWKB, 1680-WTTM and some new stations for me," he noted in his report. I've experienced similar daytime conditions before; for example, hearing WIZM 1410 La Crosse WI (350 miles from my QTH) over WIHM (Taylorville IL, 70 miles) or WPAD 1560 Paducah KY (155 miles) over KTUI (Sullivan MO, 60 miles away) in my area. Kraig also noted another three-letter call gone from AM; it was replaced with another old-line Philly call. WIP 610 replaced its call with 860's former call (that frequency now houses another old-line Philly call, WWDB, noted as one of the first FM talk stations when it was on 96.5). The WIP calls remain at 94.1 on the FM dial. Some of the former three-letter calls have been preserved on FM, such as WIL (now 92.3, ex-1430) and KSD (now 93.7, ex-550) in St Louis and WRR (now 101.1, ex-1310) in Dallas. 73 and good DX from NØUIH

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

Deadline Monday noon PLT. Next deadline in 2 weeks. All times UTC/GMT.

TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

- 567 **JAPAN**, JOIK, Sapporo, NHK1. Presumed, bits of talk 1442 2/22. (bp-WA)
594 **JAPAN**, JOAK, Tokyo, NHK1. Male talk 1417 2/17. (bp-WA)
+Interval music and Japanese female speech at very good level around 1440 2/17; best signals of the new year so far
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/Optqh5dl4po4fzm/594-JOAK-1440z021715CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Japanese female speech at very brief fair level around 1443 2/19 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/qvs39sb72h7aib4/594-JOAK-1443z021915CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Man in Japanese 1438 2/20. (bp-WA)
+Interval music and Japanese male speech at very good level around 1442 2/20 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/ga5tfo6peaydyp/594-JOAK-1442z022015CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Barely audible man talking, fading in and out between 1304 2/21 and 1308 (LSR at 1311). (RA-OK)
+Time pips 1400 2/21. (bp-WA)
+Japanese male-female conversation at a very good level at 1448 2/22 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/uzey9a8hekbsb10/594-JOAK-1448z022215CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Time pips 1500 2/22. (bp-WA)
- 603 **REP KOREA**, HLSA, Seoul, KBS2. Long-set Korean pop music (hosted by KBS2's deep-voiced male) hitting good peaks in and out at 1456 2/16
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/g51wy0sgn8qc1mt/603-HLSA-1456z021615CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Korean pop music at a good level around 1440 2/20, with Chinese female speech from co-channel chiming in during peaks. Deep-voiced Korean male host mixing with Chinese female at conclusion <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/v2d36ocu2uda45b/603-HLSA-mix-1440z022015CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Korean pop music at a very good level at 1433 2/21; best Asian signal of the session <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/8456kk2ey64xe82/603-HLSA-1433z022115CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Radio drama with Korean female and male speech at very good level at 1446 2/22 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/4oxciyj19c32zdp/603-HLSA-1446z022215CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
- 657 **DPR KOREA**, Pyongyang, Pyongyang BS. High-pitched female vocal music at an eerie level continuing from 1510-1520 2/16
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/8nqs4ynno6z0rh8/657-Pyongyang-1510z021615CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Time pips and talk 1400 2/22. (bp-WA)
+Dreary orchestral music at temporary very good level at 1443 2/22 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/m9113vrz8i0qzed/657-Pyongyang-1443z022215CCSW.MP3>. Spooky-sounding female vocal music at fair to good level around 1441
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/8041ckhqw783i7/657-Pyongyang-1441z022215CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
- 693 **JAPAN**, JOAB, Tokyo, NHK2. Time pips 1400 2/16. (bp-WA)
+English lesson 1424 2/17. (bp-WA)
+Language lesson 1430 2/18. (bp-WA)
+At least 693-JOAB showed up here with reasonably audible signals around 1435 2/18, otherwise the morning would have been a real clunker. Let's hope for better signals tomorrow! <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/r356pyl35iek06/693-JOAB-1437z021815CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+1346 2/19 language lesson amid much CBU splatter. (bp-WA)
+Woman in Japanese 1449 2/20. (bp-WA)
+Bits of female talk in the splatter 1414 2/21. (bp-WA)
+Language lesson 1357 2/22. (bp-WA)
- 702 **JAPAN**, NHK2. 1422 2/17 bits of talk //693 in heavy KIRO splat. (bp-WA)
+Woman //693 1357 2/22. (bp-WA)
- 747 **JAPAN**, JOIB, Sapporo, NHK2. Man and woman 1428 2/16, I easily recognized the voices and delivery style despite the weak signal. (bp-WA)
+1413 2/17 language lesson //774. (bp-WA)
+2/20. Woman talking interspersed with brief traditional music. Serious electrical noise prevented me from saying reception was good. (bp-WA)
+English lessons at a good level at 1428 2/23, but through Portland splatter and mystery electrical noise
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/9vnt5dt755ln4f7/747-JOIK-1428z022315CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+English lesson //774 1444 2/22, good signal but hard to understand due to noise. (bp-WA)
- 774 **JAPAN**, JOUB, Akita, NHK2. Talk //747 but slightly stronger 1429 2/16. (bp-WA)
+English lesson 1425 2/17. (bp-WA)
+Briefly good 1343 2/18 & 1355 with male talk, otherwise fair-nil. (bp-WA)
+Woman talking 1330 2/19 amid much 770 splatter. (bp-WA)
+Mostly fair-poor today but was good during Chinese lessons 1346 2/20. (bp-WA)
+Final two time pips at 1300 2/21. (RA-OK)
+English lesson 1437 2/22. (bp-WA)
- 828 **JAPAN**, JOBB, Osaka, NHK2. Talk //774 1450 2/17. (bp-WA)
+1355 2/18 man //774. (bp-WA)
+Talk //774 1403 2/20. (bp-WA)
- 890t **ALASKA**, KBB1, Homer. "Democracy Now" program 1404 2/20 under CJDC. (bp-WA)
t BBC news u/CJDC 1422 2/22. (bp-WA)
- 972 **REP KOREA**, HLCA, Dangiin. Man in Korean 1448 2/16, nice signal for a couple of minutes. (bp-WA)
+Man and woman with lively discourse 1451 2/17. (bp-WA)
+Korean female and male conversation at a very good level through "Freedom 970" splatter at 1455 2/17; best signals of the new year so far
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/8539g3c7ccf3n65/972-HLCA-1452z021715CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Man in Korean 1404 2/20 & 1425. (bp-WA)
+Lively man and woman 1426 2/22, then female vocal song. (bp-WA)
- 981 **CHINA**, CNR1. Woman in Chinese 1449 2/16. (bp-WA)
+Chinese talk 1447 2/17. (bp-WA)
+Woman in Chinese 1440 2/22. (bp-WA)
- 1053 **REP KOREA**, jammer. 1331 2/20. (bp-WA)
- 1134 **REP KOREA**, HLKC, Kimpo, KBS. Fast talking woman 1442 2/22. (bp-WA)
- 1242 **JAPAN**, JOLF, Tokyo, NBS. Jazz or blues music 1442 2/22, then laid back male talk. (bp-WA)
- 1386 **JAPAN**, NHK2. Man talking //774 1447 2/20. (bp-WA)
+Language lesson 1442 2/22 //774. (bp-WA)
- 1404 **JAPAN**. Excited Japanese woman 1444 2/20. (bp-WA)
+Japanese woman 1442 2/22. (bp-WA)

- 1422 **JAPAN**, JORF, Yokohama, RF Radio Nippon. Man and woman in Japanese 1454 2/19. (bp-WA)
 +Japanese talk 1446 2/20. (bp-WA)
 +Man and woman conversing quite good 1442 2/22, at times stronger than the 1420 domestics. (bp-WA)
- 1476 **JAPAN**, NHK2. Woman //1386 1444 2/20. (bp-WA)
- 1494 **UnID**. Weak talk, Japanese-like inflections 1449 2/22. (bp-WA)
- 1503 **JAPAN**, JOUK, Akita, NHK1. Pips and maybe some talk 1500 2/16. (bp-WA)
 +Japanese male 1448 2/20, classical-sounding music 1452. (bp-WA)
- 1557 **TAIWAN**, Kouhu, 1558 Music Interactive Network. Man in Chinese 1451 2/19, presumed Taiwan. (bp-WA)
 +Chinese talk, likely Taiwan 1444 2/20. (bp-WA)
 +Chinese talk 1447 2/22. (bp-WA)
- 1566 **REP KOREA**, HLAZ, Jeju, FEBC. Several Chinese announcements 1459 2/16. (bp-WA)
 +Woman in Chinese 1508 2/17. (bp-WA)
 +Nice signal with Japanese program 1335 2/18, followed by the usual sign off lady 1344. (bp-WA)
 +Man in Japanese, strong at 1330 2/19 but soon faded. (bp-WA)
 +Mostly just a carrier until 1430 2/20, but rose up to impressive level 1445 with man in Chinese. (bp-WA)
 +Chinese talk 1448 2/22. (bp-WA)
- 1584 **JAPAN**, NHK1? Woman talking in the KLFE-1590 splatter 1443 2/20. I'm about 52% sure it was //1503. (bp-WA)
- 1593 **UnID**. Carrier with weak talk 1430-1445 2/18 while KLFE-1590 had dead air, sounded more like CNR than NHK but not certain. (bp-WA)
 +Talk in KLFE splash 1446 2/20, impressive carrier but too much QRM to ID the language, either NHK or CNR. (bp-WA)
- 1602 **JAPAN**, NHK. Time pips 1500 2/16. (bp-WA)
 +Weak talk 1444 //1385 2/20. (bp-WA)

PAN AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

- 990 **MEXICO**, XECL, Mexicali, BC. 0650 2/17 mix of music with female announcer, new slogan "Nuestra Musica 9-90 AM". Didn't hear their ID but verified by Neil Kazaross who found their website <http://nuestramusica.radioramamexicali.com/> and also verified on the Radiorama website. (MF-CA)

MISCELENEOUS

2/22. www.radioheritage.net. Don't miss out, there's always something new.

This week features WSZO "The 10,000 Watt Voice of the Marshall Islands"; ABC Far North, Cairns, Australia; The Record Roost Gang, XELO; 3DB Melbourne and 3LK Lubeck; CKOK Serving the South Okanagan; Google VP warns of the Digital Dark Ages; SIBS Pop Inn 1969; Cowtown Boys, Long Horns and Hill Billies from KELW Burbank 1930; ZBW Hong Kong 1934; Lolona from Honiara in the Solomon Islands; and WJET Erie 1958.

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

- bp-WA **BRUCE PORTZER**, Seattle WA
 Winradio Excalibur, K9AY antenna0
- GDB-WA **GARY DeBOCK**, Puyallup WA
 7.5" loopstick CCrane Skywave Ultralight, 15" FSL antenna
- MF-CA **MARTIN FOLTZ**, Mission Viejo CA
 Sony SRF-M37W
- RA-OK **RICHARD ALLEN**, near Perry OK
 Tecsun PL-310 modified with 7.5" ferrite loop, plus 8" FSL.

DX WORLDWIDE – EAST – Brandon Jordan – PO Box 338 – Rossville TN 38066
E-mail: bdjorda@gmail.com all times UTC

Deadline – Sunday Midnight Central Time.

PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 700 **MEXICO** XEGD, La Poderosa, Hidalgo del Parral, Chih. FEB 19 1259 – big hum looping NE/SW on open carrier, 1300 Spanish news starts without any ID. Possibly two different stations, but I doubt it: hummer would be XEGD, 5/1 kW per IRCA & Cantú, 5/0.25 kW per WRTH. [Hauser-OK]
- 700 **MEXICO** XEETCH, Etchojoa, Son. FEB 23 1303 – indigenous language, then Spanish mentioning Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CDI), its sponsoring agency; at 1304 call-letter IDs at least twice as XEETCH. Poor signal perhaps about to fade out, but no significant QRM, loops WSW. This is in Etchojoa, Sonora, or Navojoa, 5 kW daytimer per Cantú, La Voz de los Tres Rios, and per IRCA serving three linguistic groups. [Hauser-OK]
- 740 **MEXICO** XEQN, Radio Fórmula, Torreón, Coah. FEB 19 1245 – horrible low audible het to KRMG Tulsa as often the case on the low side, also in the evenings, but this time with SSB tuning to help, and nulling KRMG as much as possible (not a lot), I manage to copy some of the Spanish, mentioning "noticias Torreón", and later Coahuila, so that's it: XEQN, 10/1 kW per IRCA, Cantú and WRTH. [Hauser-OK]
- 870 **MEXICO** XETAR, Guachochi, Chih. FEB 23 1306 – a bit of the Mexican NA is overtaken by XETAR IDs, mentioning Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de Pueblos Indígenas, as I had just heard on sibling station 700 XEETCH. 1307 full ID in Spanish by woman and man alternating, as La Voz de la Sierra Tarahumara, poor signal and soon fading. [Hauser-OK]
- 900 **MEXICO** XEDT, Ciudad Cuauhtémoc, Coah. FEB 19 1302 – Chihuahua anthem concludes, full ID by XEDT 900 and XHDT 98.3 with 25 kW [but 5/1.5 or 1 kW on 900!], street address in Colonia Centro, Ciudad Chihuahua, "una estación de Cadena Hits" and into "el programa número uno de Chihuahua", con música country en inglés. Earlier around 1230 I was hearing Spanish newscast on 900, probably XEOK Monterrey. Forget about XEW and its "250" kW. [Hauser-OK]
- 1370p **MEXICO** XEGNK, Nuevo Laredo, Tama. FEB 17 0155, Mexican NA is in progress, by children's choir, followed by three more verses at 0156, 0157 and 0158, finally stops at 0159 with no announcement but steady carrier which has been dominating frequency stays on a while. As the only 1370 XE listed by IRCA to sign-off at 0200, and the closest one, this is surely XEGNK. IRCA shows as 5/0.5 kW, Fiesta Mexicana, Mariachi Estéreo (but no FM attached). Cantú agrees, no FM, so must we conclude it's AM stereo? [Hauser-OK]

CONTRIBUTOR

- [Hauser-OK] **Glenn Hauser**, Enid OK, USA
 Mostly DX-398 with internal antenna or Sony SRF-59
- 73, Brandon

TROPICAL BAND DX (2300-5060 kHz) – Brandon Jordan – PO Box 338 – Rossville TN 38066
E-mail: bdjorda@gmail.com all times UTC

Deadline – Sunday Midnight Central Time

- 3289.97 **GUYANA** Voice of Guyana. FEB 14 0617 – zero signal, not even a carrier when we can normally detect Voice of Guyana with BBCWS relay; so off again. [Hauser-OK]
 +FEB 22 0320 – fair signal with back to back Caribbean vocals by the same UnID artist till usual TC and ID by male DJ at 0359, time pips into BBCWS News. BBC audio much better modulated than studio audio. [Jordan-TN]
- 4055 **GUATEMALA** Radio Verdad, Chiquimula. FEB 20 0343 – Radio Truth, banjo variations on favorite theme "Workin' on the Railroad", segué some other song, rough modulation somewhat distorted. Feb 25 will be exactly one sesquidecade after Radio Verdad's first transmission. [Hauser-OK]
- 4765 **CUBA** Radio Progreso. FEB 20 0341 – good signal and modulation level but distorted. [Hauser-OK]
- 4775 **SWAZILAND** TWR Africa, Manzini. FEB 20 0340 – TWR music-box IS stands out against the CODAR, even though at poor signal level; 0342 into talk in presumed Lomwe as scheduled daily for 16 more minutes, 50 kW at 3 degrees azimuth. [Hauser-OK]
- 4949.7 **ANGOLA** Radio Nacional, Mulvenos. FEB 22 0450 – EZ pop vocals, time pips and Radio Nacional ID, brief talk by man and woman then more music. Better modulation than usual. [Jordan-TN]

CONTRIBUTORS

[Hauser-OK] **Glenn Hauser**, Enid OK, USA
FRG-7 with 100 foot E-W longwire (always in the mornings, sometimes evenings), DX-398 with 10-meter N-S random wire (in the evenings)
or PL-880 with short reel-out clip-on (in the evenings)

[Jordan-TN] **Brandon Jordan**, Fayette County TN (GC 35° 6' N/89° 30' W)
Receivers: WinRadio G33DDC 'Excalibur', WinRadio G313e, RFSPACE NetSDR [locked to Thunderbolt GPSDO]
Antennas: Array Solutions SAL-30 Shared Apex Loop, DX Engineering NCC-1 Phaser + 2x ARAV3 Active Verticals

73, Brandon



VERIFICATION SIGNERS – Stephen S Howe – 9 Warner Dr – St Albans VT 05478-1575
E-mail: showe@albany.edu

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

CONTRIBUTORS

IRCA **IRCA ListServ**
BP **Bruce Portzer**, Seattle WA; bportzer@comcast.net

FREQ CALL NAME, TITLE; ADDRESS; WHAT; WHEN; WHO

531	JOQG	"Engineering Section"; NHK Morioka Broadcasting Station, 4-1-1, Ueda, Morioka, Iwate, 020-8555, Japan; LQ++; 23; BP
585	JOPG	[None]; NHK Kushiro Broadcasting Station, 3-8, Nusamai-cho, Kushiro-shi, 085-8660, Japan; Q; 26; BP
1008	JONR	[None]; Engineering Department, Radio Station JONR, Asahi Hoso, 1-30, Fukushima 1-chome, Fukushima-ku, Osaka, 553-8503, Japan; Q; 43; BP
1040	WHO*	Van Harden, PD/Morning Show Host; vanharden@iHeartMedia.com ; E; 1; IRCA [Station in Des Moines IA]
1116	CNR5	[None]; Audience Department, China National Radio, P O Box 4501, Beijing 100866, China; Q; 338; BP

WHAT was received: L = Letter with personalized statement; F = Form letter; Q = QSL card, commercially printed; C = Postcard or similar card supplied by station; P = Prepared card or form supplied by DXer; R = DXer's report returned with statement; cf = Certificate; E = Verification by e-mail; fx = Verification by FAX; M = Coverage map; B = Bumper or other sticker; bc = Business card; + = Extra goodies

WHEN the reply came: Number of days elapsed; f = Follow-up, by mail, FAX, e-mail, or visit; n = Return postage not used; r = Return postage returned

NOTES: * [For this column] = E-mail address of signer added by your Editor

This column was prepared on 2/23/15. 73, SSH.

SPORTCHANNELS IRCA – Compiled by: Eric Bueneman (NØUIH)
E-mail: n0uiheric@aol.com

Welcome to another edition of SportChannels! Basketball season is in full swing, and we're now taking a look at NBA network lists. The first division we'll be featuring network lists are from the Eastern Conference. Flagship stations are in **boldface** type. Spanish Language flagships are in **boldface italics**.

EASTERN CONFERENCE – ATLANTIC DIVISION

BOSTON CELTICS Sean Grande, Cedric Maxwell, Web: nba.com/celtics/

98.5 WBZ-FM Boston, MA only

BROOKLYN NETS English: Tim Capstraw, no Spanish play-by-play personnel information available, Web: nba.com/nets/

880 WCBS New York, NY (English)
1280 WADO New York, NY (Spanish)

NEW YORK KNICKS Mike Crispino, Brendan Brown, Web: nba.com/knicks/

98.7 WEPN-FM New York, NY only

PHILADELPHIA 76ers No play-by-play personnel information available, Web: nba.com/sixers/

97.5 WPEN Burlington, NJ only

TORONTO RAPTORS No play-by-play personnel information available, Web: nba.com/raptors/

590 CJCL Toronto, ON only

EASTERN CONFERENCE – CENTRAL DIVISION

CHICAGO BULLS English: Chuck Swirsky, Bill Wennington, Spanish: Oscar Ramos, Matt Moreno, Web: nba.com/bulls/

AM	1280 WBIG Aurora, IL	1580 WBCP Urbana, IL	98.9 W255BN De Kalb, IL**
740 WVLN Olney, IL	1360 WLBK De Kalb, IL	1590 WAIK Galesburg, IL	101.3 WVIL Virginia, IL
1000 WMVP Chicago, IL	1430 WCMY Ottawa, IL	FM	107.1 W296BV Newton, IL***
1050 WDZ Decatur, IL	1440 WGEM Quincy, IL	94.3 WSSQ Sterling, IL	
1060 WRHL Rochelle, IL	1490 WKRO Cairo, IL	97.7 WLQI Rensselaer, IN	
1200 WRTO Chicago, IL*	1490 WZOE Princeton, IL		

* Selected games only, ** Relays WLBK 1360, *** Relays WVLN 740

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS English: John Michael, Jim Chones, Spanish: Rafael Hernandez Brito, Web: nba.com/cavaliers/

AM	1430 WFOB Fostoria, OH	1530 WCKY Cincinnati, OH	95.5 WZOH Lancaster, OH
930 WEOL Elyria, OH	1440 WRGM Ontario, OH	1590 WAKR Akron, OH	96.7 WCSM-FM Celina, OH
930 WRVC Huntington, WV	1450 WJER Dover, OH	FM	97.3 W247BL Mansfield, OH**
970 WFUN Ashtabula, OH	1450 WLEC Sandusky, OH	87.7 WLFM-LP Cleveland, OH	100.7 WMMS Cleveland, OH
1100 WTAM Cleveland, OH	1460 WABQ Painesville, OH	93.1 WWSR Lima, OH	100.9 WJAW McConnellsville, OH
1350 WCSM Celina, OH	1480 WHBC Canton, OH	94.1 W231BS Huntington, WV*	102.5 WZOO-FM Edgewood, OH
1360 WSAI Cincinnati, OH	1490 WMOA Marietta, OH	95.3 WLKR Norwalk, OH	

* Relays WRVC 930, ** Relays WRGM 1440

DETROIT PISTONS Mark Champion, Rick Mahorn, George Blaha, Web: nba.com/pistons/

AM	1310 WCCY Traverse City, MI	FM	105.1 WMGC-FM Detroit, MI
1110 WJML Petoskey, MI	1380 WPHM Port Huron, MI	100.9 WLUN Pinconning, MI	107.3 WBBL Greenville, MI
1230 WGRY Grayling, MI	1400 WCCY Houghton, MI	101.1 WGRY-FM Grayling, MI	

INDIANA PACERS No play-by-play personnel information available, Web: nba.com/pacers/

AM	1460 WJCP North Vernon, IN	95.3 WNDI Sullivan, IN	106.5 WWBL Washington, IN
1070 WFNI Indianapolis, IN	1550 WMDH New Castle, IN	96.7 WORX Madison, IN	106.7 WYFX Mount Vernon, IN
1340 WBIW Bedford, IN	FM	102.9 W275AJ Muncie, IN*	107.5 W298BB Indianapolis, IN**
1340 WXFN Muncie, IN	92.7 WZBD Berne, IN	103.3 WAXL Santa Claus, IN	
1440 WPGW Portland, IN	94.3 WREB Greencastle, IN	104.9 WAXI Rockville, IN	

* Relays WXFN 1340, ** Relays WFNI 1070

MILWAUKEE BUCKS Ted Davis, Web: nba.com/bucks/

620 WTMJ Milwaukee, WI only

EASTERN CONFERENCE – SOUTHEAST DIVISION

ATLANTA HAWKS English: Steve Holman, Spanish: José Manuel Flores, Web: nba.com/hawks/

AM	1350 WFNS Blackshear, GA	1580 WIOL Columbus, GA	103.7 W279BC Brunswick, GA**
790 WFSN Brunswick, GA	1360 WELR Roanoke, AL	FM	103.9 WDDK Greensboro, GA
850 WPTB Statesboro, GA	1400 WCOH Newnan, GA	88.9 WKEU-FM The Rock, GA	104.3 W282AR Savannah, GA***
1240 WGGA Gainesville, GA	1400 WSEG Savannah, GA	92.9 WZGC Atlanta, GA	105.3 WBZY Bowdon, GA#
1240 WLAG La Grange, GA	1450 WMVG Milledgeville, GA	95.7 WIOL-FM Waverly Hall, GA	
1250 WSRA Albany, GA	1470 WCLA Claxton, GA	96.9 W245AW La Grange, GA*	
1320 WHIE Griffin, GA	1490 WSNT Sandersville, GA		

* Relays WLAG 1240, ** Relays WFSN 790, *** Relays WSEG 1400, # Selected games only

CHARLOTTE HORNETS No play-by-play personnel information available, Web: nba.com/hornets/

610 WFNZ Charlotte, NC only

MIAMI HEAT No English or Spanish language play-by-play personnel information available, Web: nba.com/heat/

710 WAQI Miami, FL (Spanish)
104.3 WAXY-FM Miramar, FL (English)

ORLANDO MAGIC No English or Spanish language play-by-play personnel information available, Web: nba.com/magic/

AM	1280 WIPC Lake Wales, FL	1440 WPRD Winter Park, FL	FM
580 WDBO Orlando, FL	1280 WTMY Sarasota, FL	1450 WSTU Stuart, FL	95.9 WSJZ Sebastian, FL
800 WPLK Palatka, FL	1300 WMEL Cocoa Beach, FL	1480 WFLN Arcadia, FL	100.1 W261BA Ocala, FL*
900 WMOP Ocala, FL	1340 WTAN Clearwater, FL	1490 WTJV DeLand, FL	106.3 W292DE Palm Coast, FL**
1230 WGGG Gainesville, FL	1350 WDCF Dade City, FL	1490 WWPR Bradenton, FL	
1230 WSBB New Smyrna Beach, FL	1390 WFHT Avon Park, FL	1550 WNZF Bunnell, FL	
1270 WNLS Tallahassee, FL	1400 WZHR Zephyrhills, FL	1590 WPSL Port Saint Lucie, FL	

* Relays WMOP 900/WGGG 1230, ** Relays WNZF 1550

WASHINGTON WIZARDS Dave Johnson, Glenn Consor, Web: nba.com/wizards/

AM	960 WTGM Salisbury, MD	FM	105.9 W290CB Winterville, NC***
580 WLVA Lynchburg, VA	1050 WBRG Lynchburg, VA	94.1 W231CE Lynchburg, VA*	106.5 W293AM Martinsburg, WV#
740 WRNR Martinsburg, WV	1340 WHAP Hopewell, VA	99.1 WNEW-FM Annapolis, MD	
820 WWFD Frederick, MD	1450 WNOS New Bern, NC	104.5 W283AZ Lynchburg, VA**	
910 WRNL Richmond, VA	1500 WFED Washington, DC		

* Relays WLVA 580, ** Relays WBRG 1050, *** Relays WNOS 1450, the Wizards' list has this on 106.5, # Relays WRNR 740

Here's some trivia on the Eastern Conference teams: 1) The Atlanta Hawks were once in St Louis; the franchise's last NBA championship came in 1958, when the team represented St Louis. The Hawks were on KMOX 1120 during most (if not all) their stay in St Louis. 2) The Charlotte Hornets name returned to the area a few years ago, when the New Orleans team that was the original Hornets (transplanted from Charlotte) became the Pelicans. 3) The Washington Wizards were originally the Baltimore Bullets; they initially kept the Bullets name when the team moved 40 miles southwest. The Wizards name was adopted due in part to Washington's high murder rate during the 1990s. It seems that networks for NBA coverage aren't widespread in the Atlantic Division; it's more common in the Central and Southeast Divisions of the Eastern Conference. In the next edition of SportChannels, we'll look at the network lists from the NBA's Western Conference. The seasons for Major League Soccer and Major League Baseball are near. 73 and play hard!

ULTRALIGHT NEWS – Phil Bytheway – 9705 Mary NW – Seattle WA 98117-2334
E-mail: phil_tekno@yahoo.com

2015 Ultralight Radio Shootout Review
The Most Advanced Pocket Radios Compete for DXing Supremacy
By Gary DeBock, Puyallup WA, USA February 2015



Introduction: What began as a wildly enthusiastic SRF-59 user group back in late 2007 has managed to sustain worldwide growth for over 7 years, becoming one of the major creative and innovative forces in the AM-DXing community. With foundations laid by the late John Bryant, the Ultralight Radio Yahoo group now boasts over 1,500 members on all continents – united in the challenge of chasing exotic DX with highly advanced pocket radios. Responsible for most of the Ferrite Sleeve Loop antenna experimentation and the spin off sport of ocean cliff transoceanic DXing, the Group's creative enthusiasm has helped to provide positive momentum for the future of the AM-DXing hobby.

Fueled by highly innovative DSP chips, today's Ultralight Radios can run circles around the pocket transistors that many of us grew up with as teenagers in the 60's and 70's. Great improvements in both AM band sensitivity and selectivity have made this class one of the most competitive in the industry, and manufacturers have gone all-out to tap this booming market. After Silicon Labs' innovative Si4734 DSP chips were introduced by the Kchibo and Tecsun companies in 2009 the AM band selectivity of pocket radios was dramatically increased, although such models came with congenital quirks such as internally-generated heterodynes. For about 4 years DXers wondered when a manufacturer would solve this problem, and introduce a pocket radio with both excellent DSP selectivity and freedom from bogus heterodynes. That wait is now over – such a radio is now an exciting reality.

One of the unique advantages of Ultralight Radio DXing is the opportunity to sample the latest in innovative technology at a very reasonable cost – and the five pocket radio models chosen for this review include some second generation DSP chip models with astonishing capabilities. Whether your interest is in domestic or split-frequency AM-DXing, FM or Shortwave, the pocket radio manufacturers have designed a breakthrough model for you – and you can try out any (or all) of them at a cost far less than a single table receiver. So get ready for some exciting introductions... and an even more exciting three band DXing competition!

SECTION ONE – MEET THE CONTESTANTS



C. CRANE “CC POCKET”: The CC Pocket radio is a vertical form receiver with styling, ergonomics and functions very similar to those of the popular Sangean DT-400W model (the next radio introduced in this Shootout review). Introduced after the DT-400W, the model also includes a few special features which C.Crane obviously hopes will tip the balance for those who are considering which of the two models to choose.

The radio includes coverage of the AM (520-1710 kHz), FM (76-108 MHz) and 7 Weather Band frequencies (162.400, 162.425, 162.450, 162.475, 162.500, 162.525 and 162.550 MHz). It is powered by two “AA” size batteries, and has a 1.25” speaker capable of 500 mw output. Like most of these vertical form radios the model uses the headphone cable as an FM antenna when the headphones are plugged in, although a plug-in wire antenna is also included to provide FM band reception when the speaker is used. At 2.5” wide x 4.25” high x .9” thick the radio slips easily into almost any pocket, and weighs 3.5 ounces without batteries. A rubber-like trim around the edge of the radio provides a comfortable grip, and a belt clip is attached to the back panel for those who prefer such a mounting system. The radio includes “CC Bud” type earphones, and comes with a one-year warranty. It may be ordered for \$64.95 directly from C.Crane (<http://www.ccrane.com/Pocket-Radios/CC-Pocket-Radio-w-AMFMWX-55-Presets>) or from Amazon (http://www.amazon.com/Crane-Pocket-Weather-Radio-Click/dp/B00BSYCZZ0/ref=sr_1_1?sr=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1424587864&sr=1-1&keywords=c.crane-cc-pocket.)

As mentioned previously, the CC Pocket model comes with many added features designed to entice purchasers away from its obvious competition, the Sangean DT-400W model. Some of these features are selectable 1 kHz step tuning, a choice of 2.5 kHz or 4 kHz AM selectivity filters, a choice of time or frequency display, an alarm function, far more memory presets (50 versus 19), a more powerful speaker (500 mw versus 70 mw), wider FM band coverage (76-108 MHz versus 87.5-108 MHz), a longer warranty (one year versus 90 days), and the rubber-like trim around the edge of the radio for a more comfortable grip. On paper, the choice between the models sounds like an obvious one – but how do these additional features stack up in the competitive world of AM and FM weak signal reception?

CC Pocket – MW-DXing Test Drive: The first step in any radio test is to install the batteries, which is normally a routine operation. Not quite so in the CC Pocket... after trying to slide, pry or coax the battery cover off with my fingers, I finally gave up and grabbed a tool. The CC Pocket’s own instructions say to “Remove the battery cover using your fingernail or small tool.” If you purchase this radio, be prepared to use a tool like a small flat screwdriver whenever you change the two AA batteries. When you turn on the radio and search around for fringe daytime DX stations, the lack of a direct entry keypad means that you must use the up or down frequency buttons to tune in stations (as in the DT-400W), which in the case of the CC Pocket goes a little more slowly than in the DT-400W because of the slower tuning rate. Although the CC Pocket has far more audio power through the speaker than the DT-400W, the radio also seems quite a bit more susceptible to indoor RF pollution than the Sangean. For some reason the DT400W can chase fringe AM-DX stations without any problem adjacent to this computer while I type, while the CC Pocket tends to blank out with computer hash on the same frequencies. Taking the radios outside in the back yard I was curious to test the CC Pocket’s narrow filter function, and see how much it would limit splatter from pest stations. Selecting the 1 kHz tuning steps (which the Sangean does not have) I tuned in the local pest 1450-KSUH, which was spluttering all the way to 1438 kHz in the 4 kHz filter setting. Switching to the 2.5 kHz filter setting (by pressing memory buttons 1 and 3 simultaneously) I was kind of surprised to find that 1450-KSUH was still spluttering all the way to 1438 kHz, even with the narrow filter setting. I did notice that the CC Pocket did provide slightly better reception of weak stations with the 2.5 kHz filter setting, though, so I used it for the CC Pocket’s reception in the MW Sensitivity and MW Selectivity portions of this 2015 Shootout Review.

My impression is that the radio’s narrow filter is more useful for changing the audio tone than it is for limiting serious pest station splatter, which requires an advanced DSP chip. Despite this, even the wide (4 kHz) setting sounds somewhat harsh in comparison to the mellow-sounding DT-400W audio. Like in the DT-400W (and the new C.Crane Skywave), the lack of a selectable display light for continuous illumination in the dark makes DXing at night somewhat inconvenient, although changing any of the controls (except for the volume) will give you about 12 seconds of temporary display lighting. Finally, the CC Pocket has a strange function to disable the display screen “to improve AM radio reception.” After trying out this “feature” in multiple situations, I’m convinced that the only thing it really does is to blank out the display screen. As for the detailed MW-DXing performance of the CC Pocket against the other four radios in this Shootout review, the MW Sensitivity and MW Selectivity portions of the competition will provide all the information that you desire. In general my “test drive” of the CC Pocket was pleasant one, although none of the radio’s added features seemed to give it an edge over the DT-400W in the categories that really count – weak signal MW sensitivity or selectivity. Chasing MW fringe stations with either the CC Pocket or the DT-400W will pretty quickly convince you that these vertical form pocket radios do have some limitations – in order to get the loopsticks away from the digital displays the antennas must be located at the bottom of the cabinets, with their length limited to the width of the cabinet. One of the DXing tricks that sometimes will boost weak MW signals on these radios is to invert the cabinets and hold the bottom sides up, getting the loopsticks up in the air (and away from the grip of your hand).

CC Pocket – FM-DXing Test Drive: Never shy about promoting its products, C.Crane proclaims the CC Pocket “is able to bring in a weak FM station better than perhaps any other pocket radio.” That is a pretty dramatic claim, and to be charitable to C.Crane, I assume that whoever wrote this had not yet tried out the Tecsun Si4734 DSP chip models like the PL-310ET (covered later in this Shootout review) with their astonishing FM-DXing capabilities. My home location in the valley of Puyallup, Washington is one of the worst possible for fringe FM reception—with high hills on the north, east and south and a mountain range not very far to the west. C.Crane’s FM-DXing claims for the CC Pocket were about to get the acid test!

Like the DT-400W the CC Pocket uses the plug-in earphone cable as an FM antenna, although it also includes a plug-in wire antenna for FM reception when the speaker is used. The drawback with this system is that FM reception may be either good, bad or ugly depending upon how the cable is oriented toward the station. During my FM test drive with the radio I had two other competing models along for the ride – the DT-400W and the Tecsun PL-310ET. Plugging in the supplied “CC bud” earphones I starting checking reception of the usual FM fringe stations here in Puyallup, especially the two Victoria (BC) stations on 98.5 and 100.3 MHz. The CC Pocket had average reception of 98.5-CIOC when the earphone cable was ideally oriented, but reception dropped off quickly whenever the cable was moved to another position. By way of reference the DT-400W has the same FM reception issue (and the same general level of reception of 98.5-CIOC), although the Tecsun PL-310ET was able to seriously outperform both of these vertical form receivers when its whip antenna was fully extended and positioned at an ideal angle. Checking the reception of 100.3-CKKQ confirmed that the previous situation was typical for FM fringe stations, and that neither the CC Pocket nor the DT-400W could really compete with the PL-310ET in the reception of weak signals. They could compete with each other, however—with almost equal reception of weak FM stations. Plugging in the supplied wire antennas and switching to speaker use made no difference... the CC Pocket and the DT-400W still deadlocked in FM sensitivity. On audio quality, though, the Sangean was a runaway winner. Even without the DBB (deep bass boost) feature its audio quality was superior to that of the CC Pocket, with relatively balanced high and low frequencies. With the DBB feature the Sangean’s FM stereo audio quality was truly in another league compared to the somewhat harsh-sounding CC Pocket. For those DXers who also enjoy listening to FM stereo music on their Ultralight Radios, the choice between these two models is no contest.

Other Bands: Like the DT-400W the CC Pocket has coverage of the 7 Weather Band Frequencies, and a NOAA Weather Alert function selectable for 4, 8 or 16 hour long periods. The CC Pocket’s reception of Weather Band #2 here in Puyallup is similar that of the DT-400W, although not in the same league as that of another C.Crane product—the new CC Skywave (reviewed later).

SANGEAN DT-400W: This bright yellow pocket radio has been a very popular seller since early 2008, in production continuously because of sensible design, good sensitivity and excellent ergonomics. It was first reviewed in the 2008 Summertime Shootout (posted at <http://www.mediafire.com/view/2t5godzzyaw/> 2008UltralightAMRadioSummertimeShootout.doc) where its MW sensitivity was then judged to be at the top of the Ultralight Radio class. Although dramatic improvements in DSP chips have enabled newer pocket radios to surpass it in this aspect the appeal of the vertical form receiver remains high, and other manufacturers (like C.Crane, with its CC Pocket) have done their best to introduce similar competing models.

The DT-400W includes coverage of the AM (520-1710 kHz), FM (87.5-108 MHz) and 7 Weather Band frequencies. It is powered by two AA batteries, and has a 1 3/8” speaker capable of 70 mw output. The size of the radio is almost exactly the same as the CC Pocket – 2.5” wide x 4.2” high x 1.2” thick, and it weighs 3.8 ounces without batteries. The radio comes with earphones, an FM wire antenna, a belt clip and a 90 day warranty. Like the CC Pocket the DT-400W uses the earphone cable as a plug-in FM antenna, but the supplied wire antenna may be plugged in to provide FM reception whenever the speaker is used. The radio may be purchased from Sears for \$57.67 at the following link: http://www.sears.com/sangean-america-digital-am-fm-weather-alert-pocket-radio/p-05725489000P?sid=IDx20070921x00003h&srccode=cii_5784816&cpncode=45-33692472-2&redirectType=SRDT.



DT-400W – MW-DXing Test Drive: Unlike the CC Pocket installation of the two AA batteries (with fingers) is a breeze in the Sangean, and the battery cover even has a hinge system to keep it attached to the radio (see photo at right). As with the CC Pocket all tuning must be done with the up or down frequency buttons, but this process goes a little more quickly in the Sangean because of a faster tuning rate. Ergonomically the radio is well designed, and although it lacks the CC Pocket's rubber side trim the radio feels very comfortable to hold and operate. Even without the DBB (deep bass boost) engaged the DT-400W has very mellow audio, and although the audio amp and speaker are not especially powerful the high audio quality makes DXing with the radio a very enjoyable activity. The DT-400W was at the top of the Ultralight Radio class in MW sensitivity when it was first introduced in early 2008, and it still has very respectable weak signal reception all across the band in consideration of its vertical form and relatively short loopstick (similar to that of the CC Pocket, but with higher audio quality). The DT-400W lacks the dual selectivity filters and 1 kHz step tuning option of the C.Crane model but definitely holds its own in both MW sensitivity and selectivity – even when the CC Pocket is set in the 2.5 kHz selectivity option. The CC Pocket has a much more powerful audio amp and speaker than this model, but the DT-400W's higher audio quality provides somewhat of a tradeoff in the enjoyment of tracking down weak signals. In the indescribable "fun factor" the bright yellow Sangean seems to have a charm all its own – with popular features and styling that have kept it in steady demand for almost 7 years.



Easy to open, hinged battery compartment door

DT-400W – FM-DXing Test Drive: Using the Sangean for FM reception will pretty quickly demonstrate to you why this radio has been so popular since its introduction in 2008 – when augmented by its DBB (deep bass boost) function, the radio's stereo audio quality is superb – and as good as it gets in the Ultralight class. Although the enjoyment of stereo FM music may not be the highest priority for FM-DXers, it is a very unusual bonus in pocket radios this size.

As detailed in the previous comments about the CC Pocket, the DT-400W's FM sensitivity and selectivity are very comparable to that of the C.Crane model, both with the plug-in earphones and with the supplied plug-in wire antenna (during speaker usage). And as with the CC Pocket, the FM reception on the DT-400W using these plug-in wire antennas will vary from fairly good to nonexistent, depending upon how well the wires are oriented toward the broadcasting station. This type of FM wire antenna is cheap and convenient, but DXers shouldn't expect to chase serious E-Skip or Tropo with such a humble setup. As during the CC Pocket's FM test drive a new Tecsun PL-310ET was along for the ride, and when its whip antenna was fully extended and ideally oriented it had no trouble demonstrating a serious FM sensitivity edge over the Sangean – regardless of which FM fringe station was the target. When a local FM stereo station was received at good strength on both radios, however, the DT-400W turned the tables somewhat by trouncing the PL-310ET in the audio quality of its stereo music reception. Overall the Sangean model is a lot of fun to use on FM, even if its FM sensitivity isn't quite at the top of the Shootout class.

Other Bands: The DT-400W's Weather Band reception and Alert function is identical to that of the CC Pocket, right down to the selectable 4, 8 or 16 hour Alert periods (somebody at C.Crane must have had a sense of humor, in order to copy this function of the DT-400W so closely). The reception of the Weather Bands and Alerts is through the plug-in wire antenna, which must be oriented properly for good reception. And as with the CC Pocket the DT-400W is only capable of receiving Weather Band #2 here in Puyallup, at a signal level identical to its competing model. C.Crane's new Skywave model (reviewed later in this Shootout) provides Weather Band reception far superior to either of these models, however.

TECSUN PL-310ET: At the time of its introduction in September of 2009 the Tecsun PL-310 model was an immediate DXing sensation – providing not only Ultralight Class-leading MW, FM and SW sensitivity but also breakthrough MW selectivity as well. The new PL-310ET model includes coverage the AM (520-1710 kHz), LW (153-513 kHz), FM (64-108 MHz) and SW (2.3-21.95 MHz) bands, with multiple digital search functions, 550 memories, multiple display options and many other features. It is available from multiple Chinese and Hong Kong eBay sellers, as well as from Amazon for \$49.89 plus free shipping (http://www.amazon.com/Tecsun-PL-310-Stereo-World-Receiver/dp/B00D1QRPHG/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1424588058&sr=1&keywords=tecsun+pl-310.)



Back in late 2008, the innovative Si4734 DSP chip in the PL-310 (and in the related PL-380, PL-606 and PL-505 models) provided a new level of DSP filtering, S/N and RSSI displays and many other advanced features – bringing a basic level of transoceanic DXing capability to the Ultralight Class. Although the PL-310 came with several DSP-chip related quirks like internally-generated MW heterodynes, relatively muffled 1 kHz DSP audio and a dubious "soft mute" function to mute weak signals whenever they fell below a certain threshold, DXers were generally willing to tolerate these irritating quirks in order to experience the best MW, FM and SW sensitivity and selectivity that the pocket radio class had to offer. My own 4-Band performance review of the PL-310 at the time (posted at <http://www.mediafire.com/view/yennzd1iu0i/The%20Tecsun%20PL.doc>) was typical of the original glowing praise for the breakthrough model, and like other DXers, I was hopeful that Tecsun and/or Silicon Labs would correct the irritating Si4734 DSP chip quirks in order to make the PL-310 model a true pocket radio DXing legend.

Unfortunately, though, it seems like Tecsun had other priorities for this model. Geared toward the huge Chinese market (with very little DXing tradition or interest), the PL-310 and its related models have already been a big success for Tecsun in the aspect that seems to matter most to them – profit. Instead of working with SiLabs to improve the DSP chip design and address the quirks in the PL-310 and related models, Tecsun seems to have gone in the opposite direction by cutting manufacturing corners in order to increase profits. This has left DXers with even more digital quirks in the newer PL-310 and PL-380 models – and opened up a major new market in Ultralight radios designed to correct these original PL-310 type quirks (like the new C.Crane Skywave and the Eton Traveler III). The new PL-310ET model has all the quirks of the original PL-310 plus a few more... but it also still has very competitive performance (for the price) on FM and SW – and also for MW-DXers who don't mind dodging the heterodynes, living with "soft mute" and tolerating muffled 1 kHz DSP audio.

PL-310ET – MW-DXing Test Drive: While DXing with the PL-310ET on MW you basically have a choice between high sensitivity and relatively muffled audio (1 kHz DSP filtering) or lower sensitivity and higher audio quality (2, 3, 4 or 6 kHz DSP filtering). Unfortunately, you cannot have both. With the PL-310ET you can either enter a frequency into the keypad, turn the rotary tuning knob (with the tuning rate switching between 1 KHz and 10 kHz steps depending upon you speed of rotation) or use one of the multiple digital search modes (Easy Tuning Mode, Auto Tuning Storage, Auto Browse, Direct Key in Memory Address, etc.). There are 100 memories available for MW stations (as well as 100 for both FM and LW, and 250 for SW stations). No other Ultralight radio has such advanced tuning capabilities (except for recent similar Tecsun models).

Unfortunately, though, the PL-310ET has all of the digital quirks of the original PL-310 on MW, plus a few more. As shown in the photo at right, the model is a complete redesign of the 2009 model, and Tecsun's cost-cutting shows up in new MW-related issues. The Si4734 chip-generated tuning heterodynes are still on frequencies like 1420, 1430 and 1440, and there is a new issue of digital hash noise whenever you press one of the front panel buttons (like the frequency numerals). When you grasp the original PL-310 with your palm on the display and your fingers tightly gripping the top of the cabinet you will only have an increase in background static – but if you try this with the new PL-310ET you will get a low-level digital whine. The 1 kHz DSP DX station audio in the PL-310 models (both old and new) sounds somewhat muffled, with the higher audio frequencies clipped off by the Si4734 DSP chip. This has been a long-term issue with transoceanic DXers, who frequently record DX station MP3's during DXpeditions.

Side by side comparisons of the PL-310ET and two new competing models (the C.Crane Skywave and Eton Traveler III) provide convincing proof that all of these issues can be either corrected or improved – with both new models correcting the PL-310's internally generated heterodyne issue, and the C.Crane Skywave providing improved DX station audio in the 1 kHz DSP setting (when the default "Music" tone setting is used). As such, MW DXers in need of 1 kHz DSP selectivity no longer need to tolerate the Tecsun's heterodyne, muffled audio and digital whine quirks any longer. For transoceanic DXers especially, this is a major breakthrough.



Tecsun PL-310 (2009)

Tecsun PL-310ET (2014)

Domestic DXers will quickly discover that the PL-310 does have some good points, with selectable displays of RSSI, S/N, temperature (Fahrenheit or Centigrade), time, an alarm function, a selectable light for the display and many other features. The basic question for interested MW-DXers is whether or not they can tolerate the PL-310ET's internally generated heterodynes, relatively muffled 1 kHz DSP audio, soft mute and moderate digital whine issues. If not, they should direct their attention to one of the new competing models – the C.Crane Skywave (optimized for transoceanic DXers), or the Eton Traveler III (optimized for domestic DXers). How these three models shake out in weak signal MW-DXing will be fully revealed in the Shootout portion of this review.

PL-310ET – FM-DXing Test Drive: Although the MW performance of the PL-310ET is no longer top of the line, the good news is that the FM performance of the PL-310ET is as good as ever. The Si4734 DSP chip has had a very impressive reputation in FM sensitivity and selectivity since it was introduced in 2009, and the PL-310ET continues to dominate the Ultralight radio field in this capability (along with its brother PL-606 model, which has the extended whip antenna). The new models which compete so successfully with the PL-310 in MW-DXing fall flat in FM competition, limited either by their shorter whip antennas, less sensitive DSP chips or both. On any fringe FM test station the PL-310ET easily demonstrates its superiority in FM sensitivity – so long as its whip antenna is ideally directed at the fringe station. This does take a little bit of experimentation, but once the PL-310ET's whip antenna is oriented properly it can almost always humble any of the other competing models in weak signal FM reception. The radio's FM stereo audio quality is acceptable, but for true music lovers it will not come close to the superb audio fidelity of the Deep Bass Boost-enhanced Sangean DT-400W.

PL-310ET – SW-DXing Test Drive: Once again, the Tecsun model demonstrates that it still has a lot to offer. None of the competing models can match the PL-310ET in Shortwave sensitivity, where the radio has a weak signal reception edge all its own. The competing models seem limited (once again) by shorter whip antennas, less sensitive DSP chips or both. One gets the distinct impression that C.Crane and Eton included Shortwave coverage in the Skywave and Traveler III models primarily because it is expected by purchasers, but neither manufacturer seems to have made a serious effort to improve upon the excellent Shortwave performance of the Si4734 DSP chip in the PL-310 models. Their competitive effort seems to have been concentrated (successfully) in Medium Wave performance – leaving the PL-310ET the champion of Ultralight Shortwave reception. The 250 Shortwave memories and multiple digital search functions only add to the radio's appeal in this popular capability.

Other Bands: The PL-310ET does not have Weather or Air Band coverage, but it does offer Longwave coverage from 153-513 kHz. The radio is a real clunker in Longwave reception, however, with a loopstick obviously designed for the MW frequencies. Nobody should purchase this radio (or the new Eton Traveler III) with hopes of receiving serious Longwave DX. As an example, the radio cannot even receive a trace of my local NDB pests on 216 and 328 kHz at any time of the day or night. There is an effective Longwave loopstick designed especially for the Tecsun DSP Ultralight radio models, however (with details posted at <http://www.mediafire.com/view/845snah2h4ek9z9/7.5inLWLS.doc>) that will transform any of the Tecsun Longwave models into serious DXing performers.



C.CRANE SKYWAVE: Although Tecsun has shown no interest in correcting the MW-DXing quirks in the PL-310, PL-380 and related models, the excellent news is that another major manufacturer has definitely been paying attention to DXers' wishes – creating a new model that succeeds in correcting them all. The C.Crane Skywave almost seems custom-designed for serious MW-DXers – solving the internally-generated heterodynes and soft mute issues of the PL-310, and improving upon the muffled 1 kHz DSP audio problem as well. It also offers wide-band FM coverage, outstanding Weather Band sensitivity and bonus Air Band coverage – at a price. The new Skywave model appears to be a custom project of C.Crane, and the \$89.95 price (before shipping) probably reflects the company's high research and development costs in creating such an innovative model.

The C.Crane Skywave's appearance might seem similar to that of the Digitech AR-1733, but interested purchasers should not be misled by this fact. The Skywave is a total redesign of that earlier model – which C.Crane apparently used as a starting point for their custom Skywave project. It has custom circuit boards (designed by C.Crane, and assembled by its Redsun partner, in China), two DSP chips, strong build quality and weather-resistant construction. The model includes coverage of the AM (520-1710 kHz), FM (76-108 MHz), SW (2.3-26.1 MHz), AIR (118-137 MHz) and 7 Weather Band frequencies (with a Weather Alert function, selectable for 4, 8 or 16 hours). The C.Crane Skywave model is available for \$89.95 plus shipping from either from Amazon

(http://www.amazon.com/Skywave-Shortwave-Weather-Airband-Portable/dp/B00QMTI6YK/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1424587969&sr=1-1&keywords=c.crane+cc+skywave or directly from C.Crane (<http://www.ccrane.com/Radios/CC-Skywave-AM-FM-Shortwave-Weather-and-AirBand-Portable-Travel-Radio>.) Although the Skywave includes several digital improvements over the PL-310 and other Tecsun DSP radios C.Crane makes no attempt to match the multiple digital search functions and display options offered by the PL-310 and related units – and the user will quickly discover that simplicity and basic function is the order of the day. There is only one digital search mode (ATS), no selectable display light (although pressing one of the controls will get you about 12 seconds of temporary lighting), no volume level display, only 100 memories (which the owner's manual does not tell you) and a very basic bar graph display of signal strength. Of course, none of these limitations will matter very much to MW-DXers (especially split-frequency DX enthusiasts) who have waited many years for a manufacturer to correct the digital quirks degrading the Tecsun DSP Ultralight models. The Skywave and the competing Eton Traveler III model (reviewed next) set new MW-DXing standards for those hobbyists who want class-leading sensitivity, no "soft mute" signal dropouts and complete freedom from bogus heterodynes.



2014-2015 IRCA NUMBERAMA DX CONTEST – Manager: Nancy Johnson – 2922 S Olivewood – Mesa AZ 85212-2923
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February 15 2015 update

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|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------------|----|
| 1. John C Johnson | 211 | 5. Dennis Vroom | 109 | 9. Mike Sanburn | 10 |
| 2. Greg Hall | 192 | 6. Nigel Pimblett | 85 | 10. Phil Bytheway | 1 |
| 3. Tim Noonan | 180 | 7. Nancy Johnson | 48 | | |
| 4. Eric Bueneman | 170 | 8. John Tudenham | 28 | | |

Welcome all contestants to the new Numberama contest. If you have not joined yet, the contest rules appear in the Sept. 2 2014 SDXM. Numberama will end on May 31 2015 so you have plenty of time to join in the fun! 73 – Nancy

Antenna Reference Manual Volume 3 (ARM3)

New In 2004! This manual is a compilation of numerous articles on the subjects of antennas, phasing, impedance matching and RF amplification for medium wave DXers. Some of the articles have been published in **DX News** between 1999 and 2004. Some articles were formerly available as reprints. 8 1/2" X 11" bound book format.

ARM3 Contents:

- | | |
|--|---|
| All Articles by Mark Connelly WA1ION unless noted | DXP-3 DXpedition Phasing Unit |
| BBL-1 Broadband Loop Antenna (Parts a & b) | Superphaser-2 Phasing Unit |
| Pennant Antenna with Remote Termination Control | FCA-1 Feedline Coupling Adaptor |
| Flag Antenna Construction and Test Results | New Termination Control Method for Flag, Pennant, and similar Antennas |
| Three Loop Antenna Array with Electrically-Rotatable Nulling | Fabricating Impedance Transformers for Receiving Antennas (John Bryant) |
| Phased Spaced Active Whips and Broadband Loops | Broadband Receiving Antenna Matching |
| Medium Frequency Amplifier Circuits Compared | Passive Broadband Phasing |
| TMB-1 Tri-Mode Buffer Amplifier Box | |

Price: **IRCA/NRC Member USA** \$11.95. Other countries write for quote sales@nrcdxas.org.

NRC County Cross Reference (CCR)

Compiled by Bill Hale. This handy reference has a complete list of counties in the USA and Canada. These are listed alphabetically and cross referenced by state.

Price: **IRCA/NRC Member USA** \$8.95. Other countries write for quote sales@nrcdxas.org.

ALL RADIO - Volume III CD (AR3) CLOSE OUT PRICING

Fred Vobbe talks with engineer and author Barry McLarnon about digital radio, IBOC, and show examples of the adjacent channel interference that many DXers have talked about. This informative interview goes in depth with great detail about IBOC from the DXers stand point. (57 minutes)

Price: **IRCA/NRC Member USA** \$4.00. Other countries write for quote sales@nrcdxas.org.

Order from NRC, PO Box 473251, Aurora CO 80047-3251 or www.nrcdxas.org. Colorado residents, please add 3.5% sales tax. Please state club affiliation when ordering.

Medium Wave Circle Offerings

We now have available for purchase a downloadable zip file of Sony ICF2001D/2010 information, via our website shop at <http://www.mwcircle.org/shop.htm>.

We are now in the process of uploading volumes of Medium Wave News older than 3 years, in pdf format, to our archive at http://www.mwcircle.org/member_archive.htm. This information is publicly available at no charge – so far we've archived volumes between 2003 and 2011, although as time permits we hope to upload all the older copies we have on file, right back to 1953. Other freely available information are the UK All Time Lists at http://www.mwcircle.org/member_alltime.htm.

Our Facebook Group which can be reached here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mediumwavecircle/>.

IRCA Mexican Log, 19th Edition (Winter 2014)

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), \$11.00 (Canada) \$12.50 (México), \$14.00 (rest of the world). **Non-IRCA/NRC members** – add \$2.00.

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/NRC members** – \$15.00 (US), \$16.50 (Canada) \$18.00 (México), \$20.00 (rest of the world). **Non-IRCA/NRC members** – add \$2.00.

IRCA TIS/HAR LIST (Summer 2014)

The **IRCA TIS/HAR LIST** lists all US and Canadian TIS/HAR stations, by frequency, including call letters, state (province,) city, county, licensee, address, coordinates, expiration date and dates of DXM/DXN reports/sources. It has been updated with FCC data, DXM, DXN and DXer reports, and on-line listings through August 1 2014.

Prices: **IRCA/NRC members** – \$9.50 (US), \$11.00 (Canada) \$12.50 (México), \$14.00 (rest of the world). **Non-IRCA/NRC members** – add \$2.00.

Sunrise/Sunset Maps

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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.) **DX Monitor** contains members' loggings, articles on radio stations, receiver reviews, technical articles, DX tips, and other material of interest to Broadcast Band DX hobbyists.



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