



DX MONITOR

The official publication of the
International Radio Club of America

March 28 2015 – Volume 52 Number 27 – Edition 1664 – ISSN 899-9733

IRCA welcomes **Jen** (in Delray Beach FL) back. Deadline for our next issue (two weeks) is **Monday 4/6 @ 6 PM PLT.**

IRCA Convention East

In This Issue:

IRCA Elections...	1
Broadcasting Information...	2
Western DX Roundup...	2
Central DX Roundup...	3
Eastern DX Roundup...	3
DX WorldWide West...	4
DX WorldWide East...	8
IRCA Contest Update...	9
Ultralight News...	9

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.

IRCA ELECTIONS – Nick Hall-Patch – 1538 Amphion St – Victoria BC Canada V8R 4Z6

E-mail: nhp@ieee.org

IRCA GENERAL ELECTION / TVA / RHA 2015

Here are the campaign statements for the **IRCA General Election** that were submitted for publication

President – Phil Bytheway

Secretary-Treasurer – Lynn Hollerman

Board of Directors (in alphabetical order):

Dennis Gibson

"I'm a 59 year old retired local government employee. If you don't go to conventions or aren't on the club email list my name may not be familiar to you. I've been DX'ing for about 35 years and a club member for 22 years. I've been a ham since 1969. I enjoy many aspects of broadcasting and DX'ing; including visiting and photographing transmitter sites and studios. DX'ing and IRCA are very important to me. I want to see the club continue to thrive. Not long after being elected I suggested placing an ad in the 2015 World Radio TV Handbook, which is used by DX'ers all over the world. NRC has had one for many years. We did and now have worldwide exposure. What can you do? Let the Roundup and Worldwide columnists know what you're hearing. Write a Forum telling us a little about you, your equipment and your techniques. Participate in the email list. It's a great source of information between issues of DX Monitor, especially off season when it's published less often. Go to a convention. We want to meet you. If reelected I will do my best to keep the club growing. Please vote. It only takes a few minutes. Only 25% of the members voted two years ago. Thank you for considering me for a seat on the Board of Directors. 73 to all"

John Johnson

Patrick Martin

Bruce Portzer

"I'm honored to accept the nomination for the Board of Directors. The club and hobby remain vibrant and energetic, with plenty of DX reports and continued technical innovations. If re-elected, I will continue do all I can to support and encourage the flow of information in DX Monitor and the club e-group. In terms of club experience, I've served several past terms on the BoD as well as two stints as club president, and ten years as editor-in-chief of DX Monitor. I currently edit DX Worldwide II. I'm also the editor of the Pacific Asian Log, which has become the de facto reference for medium wave stations in Asia and the Pacific. On the personal side, I'm 63, married with two adult children, and work as an engineer in the wireless industry. I look forward to serving the club once again and will represent the best interests of everyone involved."

Mike Sanburn

Robert Wien

"I am grateful for being nominated for the Board of Directors. I hope to continue the work that makes IRCA such a great club to be in. My door is always open for you to suggestions on how to make the club even better, though it's hard to improve on a good thing already! I've been in the club nearly 40 years and I'm proud to be a member. Please keep me in mind when you cast your vote for BoD. Thank you."

(>>>**ECC note**: Only six people accepted nominations for the seven positions available on the Board. There are positions in the ballot for up to seven write-in candidates. Please use these if you can suggest a suitable candidate or candidates. Please note that some members were nominated for the Board and declined, so their names are itemized in the ballot and will not be accepted for this election)

The ballot (after the back page) must be **RECEIVED** by the Election Committee Chairman no later than 0001 hours Eastern Standard Time, **May 1 2015**. – pb

Madison-Milwaukee Get-Together

The 22nd annual Madison-Milwaukee Get-Together returns to the Milwaukee area this year, on Saturday, August 15. This is an all-band event, open to anyone with an interest in the radio hobby. Your hosts are Tim and Jill Noonan and their sons Chris and Paul, and you can obtain more information by writing to Tim at DXing2@aol.com or phoning 414 813-7373.



BROADCASTING INFORMATION – Robert J Wien – 14051 Belle Chasse Blvd #415 – Laurel MD 20707

E-mail: wienbob@aol.com Phone: 301-477-3733 Column Deadlines: Saturdays

DATE OF COLUMN: March 14 2015. **Column data span:** February 28-March 14, Data courtesy of Stationintel.com, FCC database and member contributions

CALL CHANGES

FREQ	OLD CALL	CITY OF LICENSE	NEW CALL
1220	KWKU	Pomona, CA	KTMZ
1270	WSHE	Columbus, GA	WZCG

FORMAT, SLOGAN AND SILENT STATUS CHANGES

FREQ	CALL	CITY OF LICENSE	NEW INFORMATION
710	WUFF	Eastman, GA	now silent
750	KHWG	Fallon, NV	now silent
770	WYRV	Cedar Bluff, VA	old slogan: "WYRV 770", new: "YOU Radio 770"
860	WOAY	Oak Hill, WV	was silent, now religious teaching, adds slogan: "WOAY 860 AM"
900	WJWL	Georgetown, DE	was Spanish CHR, now regional Mexican
930	WRVC	Huntington, WV	was talk, now ESPN Sports Network, old slogan: "Supertalk 930", new: "ESPN 94.1"
940	WIDG	St Ignace, MI	old slogan: "Catholic Radio for Northern Michigan", new: "Catholic Light For Northern Michigan"
960	KOVO	Provo, UT	was sports, now new unknown format
960	WHYL	Carlisle, PA	was unknown format, now Westwood One Good Time Oldies, adds slogan: "Good Time Oldies 960"
1000	WXTN	Benton, MS	adds slogan: "Praise 1000"
1070	WKII	Solana, FL	was classic country, now Westwood One NBC Sports Network, old slogan: "KIX 1070 AM Country Classics", new: "1070 NBC Sports"
1210	WDGR	Dahlonega, GA	was silent, now ethnic
1230	WXCO	Wausau, WI	was adult standards, now ESPN Radio Network, old slogan: "Sunny 1230", new: "ESPN Radio 1230"
1250	WYKM	Rupert, WV	was Cumulus Today's Best Country, now Westwood One Mainstream Country
1270	WMLC	Monticello, MS	was sports, now southern gospel
1280	WFYC	Alma, MI	old slogan: "Sports 1280", new: "Sports Radio AM 1280"
1290	WXKL	Sanford, NC	old slogan: "WXKL AM 1290 Your Gospel Source", new: "We Exalt Kingdom Living"
1310	KZXR	Prosser, WA	was silent, now La Maquina Musical regional Mexican, adds slogan: "La Maquina Musical"
1310	WJUS	Marion, AL	deletes unknown secondary format
1310	WXMC	Parsippany, NJ	was Spanish religion, now ethnic, old slogan: "Transformacion Radio", new: "Radio Asia"
1340	WAML	Collins, MS	was sports, now southern gospel
1380	WELE	Ormond Beach, FL	old slogan: "Goliath Radio", new: "1380, The Cat"
1390	WZHF	Arlington, VA	was ethnic, now Spanish
1400	WHGB	Harrisburg, PA	was sports, now country, old slogan: "Sports Radio 96.5", new: "Nash ICON 95.3"
1410	WYIS	McRae, GA	now silent
1420	KDJL	Lubbock, TX	was contemporary hit radio, now modern rock, old slogan: "Smooth Jazz 102.3", new: "Q-102"
1440	KETX	Livingston, TX	was silent, now CBS Sports, adds slogan: "The Score"
1450	WCOX	Camden, AL	now silent
1460	WRRE	Juncos, PR	was silent, now Spanish religion, adds slogan: "Sonido Santidad 1460"
1470	WMGG	Dunedin, FL	was Spanish news-talk, now romantic, old slogan: "Noti America 1470", new: "Mega Romantica 1470"
1470	WTTR	Westminster, MD	was oldies, now classic hits
1490	WFAD	Middlebury, VT	now silent
1490	WOLF	Syracuse, NY	was silent, now classic hits, adds slogan: "The Dinosaur"
1490	WSFB	Quitman, GA	was adult standards, now talk, old slogan: "The Wave", new: "Talk 92.1"
1490	WTJV	Deland, FL	was oldies, now adult standards, old slogan: "The Great Voice of Volusia County", new: "AM 1230 & 1490 The Great Voice"
1510	KWJB	Canton, TX	old slogan: "Texas 1510", new: "The Bee, One Honey Of A Radio Station"
1520	KSIB	Creston, IA	was Fox Sports Radio, now Westwood One NBC Sports Network, old slogan: "Fox Sports Radio 1520", new: "NBC Sports Radio 1520"
1540	KTGG	Spring Arbor, MI	was religious teaching, now contemporary Christian, old slogan: "Inspirational KTGG", new: "The Message"

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Pat Martin of Seaside OR passes along the following dated March 4 2015:

From Northwest Broadcasters website: The FCC has granted a CP for an increase in power for KLFE 1590 Seattle WA from 5 KW to 20 KW. Night power will stay the same at 5KW.

Pat Martin of Seaside OR passes along the following dated March 7 2015 (also forwarded along by **Mike Sanburn** of Lakewood CA):

From the Northwest Broadcasters site and the FCC, the FCC has granted a special temporary authority to Family Stations Inc, for the Seattle Market, KARR AM 1460 Kirkland. It will operate using a vertical wire of approx 20 meters in height from a location of 47.38.39/122.09.25 at 1/4 night time power of 625 watts. This is due to the loss of their lease of the transmitter site.

Just 3 days until St. Patrick's Day, switched to DST last weekend so spring just around corner, DX winding down and the snow is melting here, we hit 65 degrees the other day! Keep reporting those station changes to this column. Just 6 months till the 2015 IRCA convention in California! 73's. **Bob Wien**



WESTERN DX ROUNDUP – Nancy Johnson – 2922 S Olivewood – Mesa AZ 85212-2923

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

WDXR DEADLINES: April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15, May 29, June 12, June 26, July 3 and Aug 14. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (BB) **Bill Block**-Prescott Valley AZ billblock@cableone.net
Drake R8, ICOM IC-R75
- (JCJ) **John Johnson**-2922 S Olivewood, Mesa AZ 85212 John_Johnson@prodigy.net
Icom IC-R75, 75' NS longwire
- (MS) **Mike Sanburn**-PO Box 1256-Bellflower CA 90707 mikesanburn@hotmail.com
GE Superadio 2
- (RW) **Reid Wheeler**-5910 Boulevard Lp SE-Olympia WA 08501 wma001@comcast.net
HQ-180 w/lo-noise 80 ft E-W longwire

560 KPQ **WA**, Wenatchee 3/9 0158 with local ads, ID, good signal. (RW-WA)
580 KIDO **ID**, Nampa 3/8 0100 over KMJ with "580 KIDO" before returning to C2C. (JCJ-AZ)
590 KSUB **UT**, Cedar City heard 3/17 at 0905 with "KSUB." (BB-AZ)
KQNT **WA**, Spokane heard 3/17 at 0907 with weather report and at 0910 "Newsradio 590 KQNT." (BB-AZ)
630 KFXD **ID**, Boise 3/19 0200 mixing with KHOW, with "KFXD Boise" and "Radio 630 The Fan" during Fox Sports programming. (JCJ-AZ)
650 CKOM **SK**, Saskatoon 3/9 0144 with local ads, news, ID, fair signal. (RW-WA)
660 CFFR **AB**, Calgary 3/9 0140 with local news, weather, good signal. (RW-WA)
670 KBOI **ID**, Boise 3/9 0135 with "Red Eye Radio" program, very good signal. (RW-WA)
690 KGGF **KS**, Coffeyville heard 3/18 at 0816 with "KGGF Coffeyville," and at 0819 "The Mighty 690 KGGF." (BB-AZ)
CBU **BC**, Vancouver 3/9 0130 with classical music, mention of "CBC Radio One and Two" into more music. 0200 ID "This is CBC Radio One 88.1 FM and 690 AM in Vancouver" into CBC News. (JCJ-AZ)

770 KATL **MT**, Miles City heard 3/12 at 0936 with weather report for Montana then at 0947 "KATL," way under KKO. (BB-AZ)
780 KCEG **CO**, Fountain heard 3/9 at 0856 with "KCEG" way under KAZM. (BB-AZ)
800 KBFP **CA**, Bakersfield heard 3/17 at 0915 with "Comedy 800." (BB-AZ)
KBRV **ID**, Soda Springs heard 3/18 at 2210 with "KBRV The Bear." (BB-AZ)
810 KLVZ **CO**, Brighton heard 3/17 at 0924 with "You're listening to KLVZ 810 where God lives" on top of KGO. (BB-AZ)
890 KYWN **ID**, Meridian 3/15 under KDXU 1000 with "KYWN en Meridian" ID in Spanish between music selections. (JCJ-AZ)
CJDC **BC**, Dawson Creek 3/9 0010 with C&W music, fair signal. (RW-WA)
920 KXLY **WA**, Spokane 3/9 0004 with ABC news, "When Radio Was" program, weak. (RW-WA)
+3/10 weak, no KVEL, 0130 with promo for Mike Fitzsimmons "...on KXLY 920" in break before returning to Clark Howard Show. (JCJ-AZ)

930 CJCA **AB**, Edmonton 3/9 0001 with religious program, very weak. (RW-WA)
1000 KXRB **SD**, Sioux Falls heard 3/12 at 0848 with "Classic Country 10000 KXRB." (BB-AZ)
1130 CKWX **BC**, Vancouver 3/12 over KWKH, KQNA at 0140 with numerous mentions of "News 1130" during local Vancouver news, weather. (JCJ-AZ)
1140 KNAB **CO**, Burlington heard 3/9 at 0814 with "KNAB The People's Choice." (BB-AZ)
1150 KSAL **KS**, Salina heard 3/9 at 0822 with news then "KSAL," weather report at 0825. (BB-AZ)
1190 CFSL **SK**, Weyburn heard 3/13 at 2213 with "All your country favorites AM 1190." (BB-AZ)
1220 KLDC **CO**, Denver heard 3/9 at 1959 with "Right here on KLDC." (BB-AZ)
1230 KSZL **CA**, Barstow heard 3/10 at 0936 with "KSZL Barstow." (BB-AZ)
KOTS **NM**, Deming heard 3/13 at 2131 with "KOTS 1230." (BB-AZ)
1240 KEZY **CA**, San Bernardino heard 3/10 at 1000 with "KEZY." (BB-AZ)
1290 KGVO **MT**, Missoula heard v3/10 at 2136 with "KGVO." (BB-AZ)
KUMA **OR**, Pendleton 3/17 over unID (KAZA?) briefly, 0200 with "This is 1290 KUMA Pendleton" into ABC News. (JCJ-AZ)
1340 KTOX **CA**, Needles heard 2/14 0925 with "Newstalk KTOX." (BB-AZ)
1410 KWYO **WY**, Sheridan heard 2/19 at 2101 with "KWYO 1410 Sheridan." (BB-AZ)
1420 XEF **CHIH**, Ciudad Juárez 3/11 dominant 0202 with "XEF" and mention of location in Spanish. (JCJ-AZ)
1450 KFSD **CA**, Escondido 3/18 0520 dominating tonight with country tunes "Wild Angels" and "Take Another Piece of My Heart," multiple "1450 Cow AM" slogans (as well as Country Cow). This is a throwback to their former KOWA call sign & format. Possible auroral conditions here. (MS-CA)
CO, Littleton 3/9 0005 dominant with IDs as "93.7 The Rock" and song "I Dig Rock and Roll Music." (MS-CA)

1510 KCKK **WA**, Spokane heard 3/19 at 0923 with "CBS Sports Radio 1510 KGA." (BB-AZ)
KGA
1590 KPRT **KS**, Kansas City 3/7 good signal on top 1590, 0100 out of religious program with "Thanks for tuning in KPRT" jingle. (JCJ-AZ)
KDAV **TX**, Lubbock 3/11 on top 1590, 0130 with "1590 AM KDAV" ID between oldies songs. (JCJ-AZ)
1600 KGST **CA**, Fresno 3/10 good, no KYBC or KXEW, 0859 out of ESPN Deportes with "KGST Fresno" ID in Spanish. (JCJ-AZ)
KTUB **UT**, Centerville 3/14 dominant on 1600, no KYBC or KIVA. 0201 with "KTUB Centerville, Salt Lake City" ID in Spanish between music selections. (JCJ-AZ)

Thank you to our reporters this issue! The next WDXR deadline is Friday April 3. – Nancy 3/20 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

[TS-MN] **Todd Skaine**, Woodbury MN todftscytj7707@gmail.com
Sony ICF 2010, GE Superadio II, Grundig S350, Grundig M400, Toyota car radio

DOWN THE DIAL

700 KHSE **TX**, Wylie. 3/5 23:00 nice tri-city mention and ID into Spanish religious program. Thanks to Kaz for the tip. New station every month since October of 2013. [FTS-MN]
730 KKDA **TX**, Grand Prairie. 3/5 fair signal, on top 730 in aural conditions. 05:21 with Asian talk. Not needed, but normally this is not dominant. [FTS-MN]
1070 KVKK **MN**, Verndale. 3/8 14:49 noted simulcasting 94.7 KSKK Staples, MN with '60s to current day music. Not normally in this well so maybe they fixed their transmitter. [FTS-MN]

50 and 25 YEARS AGO

50 years ago **Harvey Young** logged his first Wisconsin station, WKBH-1410 ... **Ernest Wesolowski** logged his first Delaware station, WDEL-1150 // 25 years ago March 25 1989 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... This was the 25th Anniversary issue nearly 50 members sent in Forum reports ... **Rick Dau** of Oakland IA mentioned he had recently joined ... **Jef Jaisun** of Bothell WA told about nearing high school graduation when the club was formed ... **Patrick Martin** of Seaside OR told about starting DXing in Alaska ... **Neil J Wolfish** of Willowdale ON said he was a student lawyer ... **Tom Laskowski** of South Bend IN said he joined in 1985 ... **Bruce Portzer** of Seattle WA commented that this issue of DX Monitor was the largest he had ever put together.

OPEN MIKE

The season is starting to come to an end for sure. Thanks to Todd we have a column this time. This column was typed 3-20-15. 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
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 – 3/14 0831 noted with "Album Rock 540 WXYG" ID. A poor signal was noted with slight fades; no sign of CBK. (JJR-MI)
560 KMON **MT**, Great Falls – 3/13 0758 noted with "(560) Country KMON" ID, legal ID at 0800 and a Country format. A fair signal was noted on peaks. (JJR-MI)
690 CBKF1 **SK**, Gravelbourg – 3/12 0800 noted with "Ici Radio Canada" ID in French. A poor signal was noted on tune-in; CKGM faded by this time. (JJR-MI)
740 CBX **AB**, Edmonton – 3/11 0807 noted with CBC World Report, "Edmonton AM on CBC One" mention. A fair and loud signal was noted; alone on the channel. (JJR-MI)

- 750 WARD **MI**, Petoskey – 3/11 0654 noted with “101-9 The Bay” ID (WLDR 101.9 Traverse City) between songs by Bruno Mars and The Bengals (not Cincinnati – eb). A poor signal was noted with no sign of WSB. (JJR-MI)
- 780 KCEG **CO**, Fountain – 3/12 0645 noted with ads mentioning Buffalo and Western-style music, “KCEG 780” ID into Country format. A poor signal was noted in a WBBM null. (JJR-MI)
- 790 KGHL **MT**, Billings – 3/12 0744 noted with “KGHL” ID and mention of Ricky Shelton after three songs and no talk. A poor signal was noted. (JJR-MI)
- 820 WBKK **MN**, Wilson – 3/12 0922 noted with weather forecast mentioning sunny skies with temperatures in the 50s, “820 WBKK” ID into Laura Ingraham. A poor signal was noted in a tight null. (JJR-MI)
- 1010 CBR **AB**, Calgary – 3/12 0730 noted with mention of 4 degrees Celsius (38 Fahrenheit – eb) in Calgary and “CBC Radio” ID. A poor signal was noted with other stations null. (JJR-MI)
- 1050 CJNB **SK**, North Battleford – 3/11 0745 noted with “Today’s Best Country, 1050 CJNB” ID. A poor signal was noted in a tight null. (JJR-MI)
- 1070 KNX **CA**, Los Angeles – 3/15 0747 noted with “KNX 1070 Newsradio” ID. A fair to almost loud signal was noted; alone on channel. (JJR-MI)
- 1080 KNDK **ND**, Landgon – 3/14 0934 noted with “KNDK AM 1080” ID and “Building the Baken” talk show. (The Baken refers to an oil region of North Dakota.) A fair signal was noted atop the channel. (JJR-MI)
- 1160 WPIE **NY**, Trumansburg – 3/13 0841 noted with Ithaca area ads, including those mentioning West Seneca and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 214. A poor signal was noted before fading out; no sign of WYLL. (JJR-MI)
- 1230 KGHS **MN**, International Falls – 3/12 0846 noted with list of birthdays, and legal ID with KSDM 104.1 MHz. A fair signal was noted at times. (JJR-MI)
- 1240 KDEC **IA**, Decorah – 3/13 0817 noted with “Eastern Iowa’s Good Time Oldies, 1240 KDEC” ID. A poor signal was noted in the mess. (JJR-MI) (John, one of my former college radio colleagues works at KDEC-FM 100.5 – eb)
- 1300 WQPM **MN**, Princeton – 3/13 0936 noted with a “Big Q” ID into “Just Like Me” by Paul Revere and The Raiders. A poor signal was noted in a tight null of WOOD and KGLO. (JJR-MI)
- 1320 KHRT **ND**, Minot – 3/13 0933 noted with mention of “Homecoming Radio-dot-com”, Christian chatter, Southern Gospel music after calls. A poor signal was noted with no sign of WLS. (JJR-MI)
- 1350 WYPZ **GA**, Warner Robins – 3/4 1850 noted with “Praise 95.5” ID by a male announcer. This legal ID, also by a male announcer, was noted at 1900: “WYPZ AM 1350 Warner Robins, W238CG FM 95.5 Warner Robins, Georgia.” This is the first time I have heard this station since the call letter change from WRWR. The signal was noted mixing with WNTX, WOYK, WARF and unidentified stations carrying Country music and Christian teaching. (Kraig, your Country station could be WTDR Gadsden AL, while the Christian station could be WLLY Wilson NC – eb)
- 1360 WCHL **NC**, Chapel Hill – 3/4 1820 noted with weather forecast for Chapel Hill and Carrboro by a male announcer. At 1832, another male announcer was heard with this ID: “News, Talk and Tar Heels at 97.9 WCHL.” The 97.9 outlet is W250BP. The signal was noted mixing with WWWJ, WOEN, WGBN, WHBG and unidentified stations with Cincinnati Reds preseason baseball and a Country format. (KK-VA) (Kraig, WSAI Cincinnati may be carrying the Reds due to a conflict with other events on sister stations WLW 700 and WCKY 1530. Your Country station may be really playing Southern Gospel; one possibility is WMOB Mobile AL, which has been forgetting to cut to 212 watts night power in recent years – eb)
- 1360 WGBN **PA**, McKeesport – 3/4 1752 noted with “...right here on Gospel Excellence, AM 1360 WGBN... God’s...” ID by a male announcer; a new station in the logbook. The signal was noted mixing with WWWJ, WOEN, WGBN, WCHL, WHBG and unidentified stations with a Country format and Cincinnati Reds preseason baseball. (KK-VA)
- 1360 WWWJ **VA**, Galax – 3/4 1758 noted with ad for Twin County Tire and Automotive in downtown Galax by a female announcer; phone number given as (276) 236-0007. Never did hear an ID, but the ad is enough for me; a new station in the logbook. The signal was noted mixing with WCHL, WOEN, WGBN, WHBG and unidentified stations with a Country format and Cincinnati Reds preseason baseball. (KK-VA)
- 1370 WGCL **IN**, Bloomington – 3/4 1759 noted with “...95.9 FM and AM 1370 WGCL” ID by a male announcer. At 1800, this ID by a female announcer was noted: “News/Talk 96.1 and 1370 WGCL”. Hmm... both 95.9 and 96.1 given in slogan and ID. The signal was noted mixing with WTAB, WKMC, WSPD, WWCB and WSHV. (KK-VA) (The NRC log only lists the 95.9 translator, which is W240AT Bloomington IN – eb)
- 1370 WWCB **PA**, Corry – 3/4 1835 noted with “Thanks for listening, Corry, to WWCB” by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WTAB, WKMC, WSPD, WGCL and WSHV. (KK-VA) (When I was visiting Erie PA, WWCB was a daytime regular on 1370; the city is in southeastern Erie County, and put no splatter on 1380, so I could hear CKPC Brantford ON – eb)
- 1370 WKMC **PA**, Roaring Spring – 3/4 1749 noted with “Good Times, Great Oldies, WKMC” ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WTAB, WWCB, WSPD, WGCL and WSHV. (KK-VA)
- 1380 WPHM **MI**, Port Huron – 3/4 1853 noted with “Listen to the Dennis Miller Show on WPHM, weekdays from 6:00 to 9:00 pm... you’re listening to the Dennis Miller Show on AM 1380 WPHM Port Huron” ID by a male announcer; a new station in the logbook. The signal was noted mixing with WBTK, WKJV, WABH, WHEW and unidentified stations carrying Oldies and Pre-Teen formats, as well as apparent programming in Chinese. (KK-VA) (Your Radio Disney station is WMKI St Petersburg FL; the Chinese programming could be coming from WKDM New York NY. Your Oldies station is more than likely WTOB Winston-Salem NC – eb)
- 1380 WKJV **NC**, Asheville – 3/4 1745 noted with “The evening obituaries on WKJV are sponsored by the Grove Funeral Home” mention by a male announcer. I guess they have morning, afternoon and evening obituaries. This is creepy; it makes me want to avoid Asheville. The signal was noted mixing with WBTK, WPHM, WABH, WHEW, and possible WMKI, WKDM and WTOB. (KK-VA) (Are you THAT superstitious? I went through Asheville in ’84, and had the radio off the whole time. Yet, I survived, hi! – eb)
- 1380 WHEW **TN**, Franklin – 3/4 1849 noted with “La Bonita Trece Ochenta (1380)” ID in Spanish by a female announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WBTK, WPHM, WABH, WKJV and possible WMKI, WKDM and WTOB. (KK-VA) (This has been a sunset regular at my location since KXFN cut its operating schedule to daytime only – eb)
- 1390 KCLN **IA**, Clinton – 3/12 1935 sat through three songs before noting a “1390 KCLN” ID. A poor signal was noted in a null of other stations. (JJR-MI)
- 1390 WFBL **NY**, Syracuse – 3/4 1800 noted with “This is CNY Talk Radio, 1390 WFBL, WUTI (1150)...” ID by a male announcer; the signal was noted mixing with WZHF, WEED, WFBL, WJRM and unidentified stations carrying a basketball game, Oldies format and Comedy program. (KK-VA)
- 1390 WJRM **NC**, Troy – 3/4 1922 noted with “WJRM 1390 AM... positive... Christian Voice” ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WZHF, WEED, WFBL, WSPD and unidentified stations carrying a basketball game, Oldies format and a Comedy program. (KK-VA) (Two possibilities for your Oldies station: WCAT Burlington VT or WYXI Athens TN – eb)
- 1390 WSPO **SC**, Charleston – 3/4 1852 noted with endless tourist information, “1390 WSPO Charleston” legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WZHF, WEED, WFBL, WJRM and unidentified stations carrying a basketball game, Oldies format and Comedy program. (KK-VA)
- 1400 WKBI **PA**, Saint Mary’s – 3/13 1900 noted with “94.5 FM and AM 1400 WKBI Saint Mary’s; news is next, then we’re back with more of America’s Best Music” legal ID by a male announcer; a new station in the logbook. The signal was noted mixing with WINC and unidentified stations carrying Talk, Fox Sports Radio and Gospel music. (KK-VA) (Your Gospel station could be WWIN Baltimore MD; there’s so many talk and sports outlets on 1400 – eb)
- 1410 WNER **NY**, Watertown – 3/13 1859 noted with “Fox Sports Radio 1410 WNER Watertown” legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with KQV, WRTZ, CKSL and another Fox Sports Radio outlet. (KK-VA) (Your other Fox Sports Radio on 1410 could be WPOP Hartford CT – eb)
- 1410 KDKT **ND**, Beulah – 3/12 0949 noted with mention of “in Western North Dakota” into CBS Sports Radio. A poor signal was noted with WIZM faded out; KRWB was gone by this time. (JJR-MI)
- 1410 WRTZ **VA**, Roanoke – 3/13 1921 noted with “Your Greatest Oldies are played on WRTZ” ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with KQV, WNER, CKSL and a possible WPOP. (KK-VA)
- 1420 WCED **PA**, Dubois – 3/13 1902 noted with “News/Talk Radio, WCED Dubois” legal ID by a male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WKCW, WHK and unidentified stations carrying a basketball game, Oldies and an unidentified vocal music format. (KK-VA) (Two possibilities for your unidentified Oldies station: WXGM Gloucester VA or WCRE Cheraw SC – eb)
- 1470 KHND **ND**, Harvey – 3/14 0918 noted with “The Mix, KHND” ID, weather forecast and “Time Warp” syndicated Oldies show. This is a rare reception in L’Anse. A poor signal was noted. (JJR-MI)
- 1490 KOVC **ND**, Valley City – 3/14 0910 noted with “Dakota Country” ID and a weather forecast mentioning a high in the mid 70s! One of 13 QSLed, hi! A poor signal was noted. (JJR-MI)

UNIDENTIFIED

- 710 3/11 0810 noted with chatter from Mike and Mike, long fades through 0824. I couldn’t pull an ID. Is this needed KIRO Seattle WA? (JJR-MI) (Phil, could you help John out? – eb)

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thanks to Kraig and John for their contributions! Wayne Heinen (NØPOH) in Aurora CO (who does a great job on the NRC AM Log) has a correction on the calls and city of license for the translator of KFSP 1230 Mankato MN: "I show this translator as K276EH 103.1 Blue Earth... also listed in the FCC CDBS as such as well." Thanks for the info, Wayne! Blue Earth is south of Mankato on US 169; it's also south of I-90 toward the Iowa-Minnesota state line. I would guess that Mankato has very good ground conductivity for a signal to carry all the way down toward Blue Earth on 1230. With Kraig pulling DX through some of the Washington DC area stations, my guess is that the ground conductivity in northern Virginia isn't as good. We're on every other week now; next deadline is April 2, 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

- 531 **JAPAN**, JOQG, Morioka. Man and woman conversing in Japanese at 1319 3/11. First time heard this season, didn't even make it yesterday. (NP-AB)
531 **UnID**. Suspected Japan when I first noted traces here at 1312 3/15, but came up a bit better with EZL/pop music, so much more likely to be DU, probably Australia. (NP-AB)
+Traces of music at 1258 3/16, 6 time pips at 1300. Traces of music again at 1313 but that was it. (NP-AB)
- 558 **UnID**. Pop music 1333 3/12. (bp-WA)
- 567 **JAPAN**, JOIK, Sapporo, NHK1. Woman //594 1309 3/15. (bp-WA)
- 567 **UnID**. Traces of man talking at 1335 3/15, but too weak to determine if it was DU or TP, though I'm leaning to DU. (NP-AB)
- 576 **UnID**. Instrumental music at 1339 3/15. Host spoke a few minutes later but signal had faded too much to determine language. Had a "DU feel" to it though. (NP-AB)
- 594 **JAPAN**, JOAK, Tokyo, NHK1. Already in audio at 1215 3/10, reached good levels later, easily cutting through the IBOC background. (NP-AB)
+Woman in Japanese then time pips 1300 3/10. (bp-WA)
+Japanese female and male-announced news at very good level at 1358 3/10 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/ah21nfkgqjzc3g3/594-JOAK-1358z031015CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Weak audio at 1317 3/11, nothing like yesterday. (NP-AB)
+Weather report at a good level by animated Japanese male around 1358 3/11; one of the few Asians to sound healthy after 1340 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/0oxcc428pe998ac/594-JOAK-1358z031115CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+1327 3/12 brief piano music and Japanese talk. (bp-WA)
+Japanese male speech at a temporary very good level at 1330 3/13 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/tujk9pu03zgrlfb/594-JOAK-1330z031315CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Japanese men and bits of music 1312 3/14. (bp-WA)
+The first signal to produce audio this morning, with traces at 1303 3/15, and up to good by 1315. Stalled then though, and gradually declined to fade out around 1345 sunrise. (NP-AB)
+Japanese woman 1308 3/15. (bp-WA)
+Barely audible talking at 1121-1127 3/16. (RA-OK)
+Already in audio when I first got to the radio at 1221 3/16. It reached a fair level by 1245, but rather like yesterday pretty much stalled there and gradually faded, with no enhancement near sunrise. (NP-AB)
+Weak Japanese talk 1320 3/16. (bp-WA)
+(presumed) Female speech at a poor to fair level at 1405 3/20, nulling toward Asia <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/ck1n2ne2axcd82e/594-JOAK-1405z032015CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+(presumed) Female speech at a poor to fair level at 1354 3/21, nulling towards Asia <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/q054lw15dk1dwgr/594-JOAK-1354z032115CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
- 603 **CHINA**, Hulun Buir? Weak male speech mixing with HLSA's Korean music at 1348 3/14 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/4jbrzvjw3gkaav/603-HLSA-mix-1348z031415CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Temporarily dominant over HLSA with Chinese female speech at 1318 3/15 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/zye2utbjecay8kb/603-China-1318z031515CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
- 603 **KOREA-SOUTH**, HLSA, Seoul, KBS2. Deep voiced male at an S9 level around 1411 3/12, introducing the Carpenters' "Yesterday Once More" classic pop music, which also built up to very potent strength <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/7vcws0il8vj8te9/603-HLSA-1412z031215CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+"Amazing Grace" (at an amazingly steady level) followed by interval music and the KBS2 deep-voiced Korean male at 1408 3/13; very good peaks after a sharp daylight boost <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/dyzzw7p9hn2h2zvn/603-HLSA-1408z031315CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Weak talk and pips 1300 3/14, not much audio despite it being as strong as JOAK-594 and domestics on 600. (bp-WA)
+American classic pop music at a good level played by the KBS2 deep-voiced male at 1320 3/14 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/7pqe6nmc8186n44/603-HLSA-1320z031415CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+"More Than a Feeling" (that there's Chinese QRM on the frequency?) with very good peaks at 1330 3/15 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/4yrrg2mlbbmcb3i/603-HLSA-1330z031515CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+"The Look of Love" classic pop music at a fair to good level at 1335 3/16 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/iohbu4jbsugvhm/603-HLSA-1335z031615CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
- 612 **AUSTRALIA**, 4QR, Brisbane, ABC. Woman/man conversing during an interview 3/15. (NP-AB)
- 657 **KOREA-NORTH**, Pyongyang, Pyongyang BS. Dreary orchestra finishing up at 1402 3/12 with the tirade woman speaking in Korean at a fair level <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/ldxeqsduy7031zj/657-Pyongyang-1402z031215CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Male tirade 1318 3/14. (bp-WA)
+Intense Korean female speech with good peaks at 1345 3/14 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/cvma91jg0ps011v/657-Pyongyang-1345z031415CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Female vocal music accompanied by the dreary orchestra holding the edge over a weak China at 1348 3/15 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/ejaj944gbm4yftg/657-Pyongyang-1348z031515CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Woman, pips, then chorus singing 1400 3/15. (bp-WA)
- 666 **JAPAN**, JOBK, Osaka, NHK1. Pips and weak Japanese male 1400 3/14 in domestic splash. (bp-WA)
+Very weak talk //594 1403 3/15. (bp-WA)
- 670t **ALASKA**, KDLG, Dillingham. NPR news mixing with KBOI 1404 3/12. (bp-WA)
+Faint mumbling at 1400 3/14 ID time, but strong with NPR news 1404 way atop KBOI. (bp-WA)
+NPR news under KBOI 1400 3/16. (bp-WA)
- 675 **UnID**. NHK or KBS, faint 3+1 pips 1400 3/14. (bp-WA)
- 693 **JAPAN**, JOAB, Tokyo, NHK2. Already in audio at 1215 3/10. Good level by 1258 in spite of louder than normal 690 splatter. (NP-AB)
+English lesson 1309, Chinese lesson 1335 3/10. (bp-WA)
+Barely audible talk in 690 KGGF splash at 1237 3/11. (RA-OK)
+English lesson 1308 3/11, briefly fair, otherwise poor-nil. (bp-WA)
+Talk by man in Japanese at 1322 3/11, fair level. (NP-AB)
+Animated Japanese male conversation at 1320 3/12 with very good strength (typical of the low band NHK big gun stations this morning) <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/3sc8cbf7xejq0ra/693-JOAB-1320z031215CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Chinese lesson 1344 3/12, Korean lesson 1409. (bp-WA)
+Chinese lesson 1335 3/13. (bp-WA)
+Japanese woman 1356 3/14. (bp-WA)
+Man in Japanese at 1313 3/15. Fair signals generally for the next half hour. (NP-AB)
+English lesson 1348 3/15, man talking about the sport polo. (bp-WA)
+Woman in Japanese at 1245 3/16. Fair signal, but seemed to have more splatter from 690 today. (NP-AB)
+Chinese lesson 1346 3/16. (bp-WA)

- 693 **UniID.** (JOAB?) Slight het in KGGF-690 QRM at 1230 3/15. (RA-OK)
- 702 **AUSTRALIA**, 2BL, Sydney, ABC. Barely a carrier at 1300 3/10, but poor-fair with ABC news by 1302. (NP-AB)
 +Poor, with talk by a man at 1337 3/11. (NP-AB)
 +Woman interviewing man at 1341 3/15, poor signal, but confirmed with web stream. (NP-AB)
- 702 **JAPAN**, NHK2. Woman //693 when KIRO splash cooperated 1340 3/14. (bp-WA)
- 702 **NEW ZEALAND**, Auckland, Radio Live. Very weak talk at 1313 3/20, but was able to //web. (NP-AB)
- 702 **UniDs.** 2 weak stations 1355 3/15: NHK talk //693, also music possibly from DPRK. (bp-WA)
- 729 **JAPAN**, JOCK, Nagoya, NHK1. 1402 3/14 very faint talk //594 in 730 splash. (bp-WA)
- 738 **FRENCH POLYNESIA**, Papeete, Radio Premère Polynésie. Talk in French by a man at 1302 3/20. (NP-AB)
 +Disco music at a fair level around 1340 3/20, nulling toward the South Pacific <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/960knrpbg97r8ld/738-R.Polynesie-1340z032015CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
 +African music reaching a very good level after KCBS fadeout at 1356 3/21, but faded down to a weak level at the 1400 TOH with French news <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/t6dvwkyqcuxyzg/738-R.Polynesie-1356z032115CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
- 738 **TAIWAN**, Baisha, BEL2. Taiwan Chinese female and male speech (at usual hyper speed) with disco music at 1404 3/10; mainland Chinese co-channel with female speech at weak level underneath (during peaks) <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/dkqf2j008s8m0fx/738-BEL2-UnIDmix-1404z031015CCSW.MP3>. Chinese female-announced news at good level around 1417 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/vgsal9njb1zlnjb/738-BEL2-1417z031015CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
 +Woman talking, sounded Chinese 1404 3/15. (bp-WA)
- 747 **JAPAN**, JOIB, Sapporo, NHK2. No audio at 1309 3/10, but soon came up with man in Japanese at 1317. (NP-AB)
 +Man and woman with Korean lesson 1412 3/10. (bp-WA)
 +Barely audible talk at 1121 3/11. (RA-OK)
 +English lesson 1314 3/11, tying hard to get through the electrical noise but not quite succeeding. (bp-WA)
 +English lesson 1314 3/12. (bp-WA)
 +Female talk 1414 3/13. (bp-WA)
 +Barely audible talking at 1042-1043 3/14. Heard again in WSB-750 splash at 1120-1121. (RA-OK)
 +3+1 pips and intro music at S9 level at 1200 3/14; typical of the NHK big guns <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/jbg1516le7k2nnu/747-JOIB-1200z031415CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
 +1300 3/14 pips then English lesson. (bp-WA)
 +From 1041 3/15 to 1123, barely audible to poor in WSB-750 splatter, briefly peaking to fair at 1044. (RA-OK)
 +Man and woman 1307 3/15. (bp-WA)
 +Barely audible briefly at 1136 3/16. (RA-OK)
 +Chinese lesson 1338 3/16. (bp-WA)
- 750 **ALASKA**, KFQD, Anchorage. Somewhat dominant w/legal ID and CBS news 1300 3/12, also 1321 atop with news and "KFQD news time 5:21". (bp-WA)
- 756 **JAPAN**, JOGK, Kumamoto, NHK1. Faint NHK pips 1308 3/14. (bp-WA)
- 774 **JAPAN**, JOUB, Akita, NHK2. First up to audio level around 1235 3/10, and good by 1310. (NP-AB)
 +English lesson 1423 3/10 with phrases from a business meeting, like "what are the outstanding issues?" Dropped down to almost nothing 1425. (bp-WA)
 +Barely audible to poor signal in English and Japanese at 1203-1233 3/11. (RA-OK)
 +The strongest of the Japanese today. Mostly fair, but brief spike to good around 1320 3/11. (NP-AB)
 +Korean lesson 1405 3/11. (bp-WA)
 +Heard fading in and out between 1055 3/12 and 1228, peaking at fair at 1138-1139. (RA-OK)
 +English lesson about high school sports 1308 3/12. (bp-WA)
 +Fair-good with English language lesson at 1313 3/13. (NP-AB)
 +Time pips 1400 3/13, weak woman 1406, struggled mightily today. (bp-WA)
 +Barely audible to poor talk fading in and out from 1029 3/14 until 1116. (RA-OK)
 +English lesson 1316 3/14, Japanese woman 1357. (bp-WA)
 +From 0953 3/15 to 1247 (LSR at 1241), poor to fair. (RA-OK)
 +Poor-fair at 1319 3/15 with man and woman conversing. (NP-AB)
 +English lesson about polo 1358 3/15. (bp-WA)
 +Barely audible to poor from 1027 3/16 to 1236, peaking to fair at 1235 before fading away into KSPI-780 splatter. (RA-OK)
 +Poor-fair at 1251 3/16 with man and woman conversing. (NP-AB)
 +English lesson briefly good 1305 3/16, otherwise fair-poor. (bp-WA)
- 792 **UniID.** Very weak talk, no pips 1400 3/12. (bp-WA)
- 819 **KOREA-NORTH**, Pyongyang, KCBS. Time pips and woman in heavy KGNW splat 1400 3/12. (bp-WA)
 +Korean woman and pips 1300 3/14 then lost in KGNW splat, resurfaced with female song 1335. (bp-WA)
- 828 **JAPAN**, JOBB, Osaka, NHK2. Traces of audio first noted at 1236 3/10, up to fair by 1310. (NP-AB)
 +Chinese lesson 1343 3/10. (bp-WA)
 +Faint English lesson 1304 3/11. (bp-WA)
 +Man in Japanese at 1322 3/11. Poor to fair. (NP-AB)
 +Man and woman talking rapidly //774 1326 3/12. (bp-WA)
 +Female monologue 1340 3/14. (bp-WA)
 +Moderate heterodyne under WCCO-830 3/14. (RA-OK)
 +Slight het in WCCO-830 QRM at 1227 3/15. (RA-OK)
 +Very weak, but definitely woman in Japanese at 1315 3/15, //693. (NP-AB)
 +Japanese woman 1417 3/15. (bp-WA)
 +Poor, with man talking in Japanese at 1229 3/16. (NP-AB)
 +Het, no audio, in WCCO-830 QRM at 1236 3/16. (RA-OK)
 +English lesson //774 1320 3/16. (bp-WA)
- 846 **JAPAN**, NHK1. Big carrier, but only definite audio was the NHK pips at 1300 3/10. (NP-AB)
 +3+1 pips 1300 3/14 & 1400, bits of talk and music followed. (bp-WA)
- 873 **JAPAN**, JOGB, Kumamoto, NHK2. Poor, with man and woman conversing in English lesson at 1304 3/10. (NP-AB)
- 890p **ALASKA**, KBBI, Homer. BBC news briefly rising through CJDC 1257 3/10. (bp-WA)
 +Legal ID o/CJDC 1400 3/12, then weather. (bp-WA)
 +1400 3/15 went straight from BBC World Service to NPR Weekend Edition, no ID noted. (bp-WA)
 +BBC news and legal ID atop CJDC 1400 3/16. (bp-WA)
- 891 **JAPAN**, JOHK, Sandai, NHK1. Weak, with talk by woman at 1332 3/10, //594. (NP-AB)
- 918 **UniID.** Fast talking woman 1342 3/14, possibly Japanese. (bp-WA)
- 945 **CHINA**, CNR1. Chinese talk //981 in heavy KJR splash 1404 3/14. (bp-WA)
- 963 **CHINA**, Huaduan, CRI. The usual musical flourishes and ID 1400 3/14, better at 1404 with Russian male. (bp-WA)
 +The usual music and Radio Kitaya ID 1400 3/15, then woman in Russian. (bp-WA)
- 972 **KOREA-SOUTH**, HLCA, Dangjin, KBS. Often good today, best at 1314 3/10 with woman talking, then pop vocal. (bp-WA)
 +Mostly just a strong carrier, but had a few minutes of audio with music and talk by woman around 1323 3/10. (NP-AB)
 +Korean female speech at good level at 1353 3/10 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/ch68pu85pt202td/972-HLCA-1353z031015CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
 +Korean talk 1314 3/11. (bp-WA)
 +Korean male speech, interval music and female speech at an S9 level around 1340 3/12 its best signal of 2015 so far <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/25rjnr3n989f5af/972-HLCA-1340z031215CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
 +Good at various times, best at 1409 3/12 with interview. (bp-WA)
 +Interval music and Korean female speech at very good level at 1402 3/13 winning the battle with 970 splatter after a potent sunrise enhancement boost <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/5hvpz79vyf57nw2/972-HLCA-1402z031315CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
 +Interview 1414 3/13, then pop song possibly sung by a child. (bp-WA)

HLCA +S9+ Korean pop music at 1135 3/14; best TP signal of the morning <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/qlozjc3ccqu99dj/972-HLCA-1135z031415CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+Good most of the time 1259-1430 3/14 with the usual talk shows and pop songs. Still had reasonable audio 1500 (pips, KBS ID & news). (bp-WA)
+Slight het at 1216 3/15. (RA-OK)
+Various times 3/15. (bp-WA)
+Phone interview 1341 3/16. (bp-WA)
+Korean female speech at a good level at 1403 3/16, but needing freedom from "Freedom 970" <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/3g9aa8o87d4ourd/972-HLCA-1403z031615CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)

981 **CHINA**, CNR1. Chinese woman 1347 3/11. (bp-WA)
+1300 3/12 the usual pips, time check, announcements and ID. (bp-WA)
+Woman in Chinese 1356 3/13, but faded before 1400. (bp-WA)
+1401 3/14 standard ID, better 1405 with news stories & ads, slight echo on the audio. (bp-WA)
+2338 female opera singer easily piercing through the splatter. Weaker 1400 3/15 with pips, time check & ID. (bp-WA)
+Weak talk in CKNW splat 1335 3/16. (bp-WA)

1017 **CHINA**, Changchun, CRI. 1300 3/14 the usual ToH musical bits, mostly covered by blasts of KOMO splatter. (bp-WA)
+Faint talk 1404 3/15, probably CRI but it was too weak to hear ID at 1400. (bp-WA)

1053 **KOREA-SOUTH**, jammer. 1344 3/10. (bp-WA)
+1359 3/12. (bp-WA)
+1345 3/13. (bp-WA)
+1335 3/14. (bp-WA)
+Poor in XEG-1050 splash at 1219-1221 3/15. (RA-OK)
+1338 3/15. (bp-WA)
+Jamming the domestic splatter quite effectively around 1348 3/16 <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/x0mpm03hxck04um/1053-Jammer-1348z031615CCSW.MP3>. (GDB-WA)
+1359 3/16. (bp-WA)

1098 **CHINA**, CNR1. String of ads 1358 3/14, news and ads //981 1407, then another station faded up with male talk 1409 that wasn't //981. (bp-WA)

1116 **AUSTRALIA**, 4BC, Brisbane. Male host talking with woman caller on phone-in program at 1329 3/15, //web. (NP-AB)
+Male host talking at 1258 3/16, //web. (NP-AB)

1179 **JAPAN**, JOOR, Osaka. Conversation in Japanese by man and woman at 1253 3/10. (NP-AB)
+Traces of audio around 1315 3/11. (NP-AB)

1188 **UnID**. Weak signal, with woman talking under heavy KEX splatter at 1318 3/15. (NP-AB)

1206 **CHINA**, Yanbian. Weak talk 1302 3/12 on 1205.95. (bp-WA)
+Briefly good 1356 3/13 with Korean man, then woman, then vanished. Distorted audio on the usual 1205.95 kHz. (bp-WA)
+Korean woman 1342 3/14. (bp-WA)

1242 **JAPAN**, JOLF, Tokyo, NBS. Spiked into audio for short periods at 1313 3/11 and 1323 with man in Japanese. Another that didn't reach audio yesterday. (NP-AB)

1269 **UnID**. Weak audio for a minute or so, with traces of woman talking at 1324 3/10. About 30 Hz high. (NP-AB)

1287 **JAPAN**, JOHR, Sapporo, HBC. Male talk 1243 3/10, good signal but severely mashed by electrical noise. (bp-WA)
+Woman speaking in Japanese at 1305 3/10. (NP-AB)

1296 **UnID**. Traces of audio, with music at 1324 3/10. (NP-AB)

1314 **JAPAN**, JOUF, Osaka, OBC. Weak, but definitely Japanese, with woman talking at 1302 3/10. (NP-AB)

1314t **PHILIPPINES**, DXWI, Parañaque. What sounded like a church choir 1409 3/15 then man (sermon?) in Tagalog, then back to the choir 1412. Probably DWXI. Good signal but lots of splatter and electrical noise. (bp-WA)

1332 **JAPAN**, JOSF, Nagoya. Japanese talk 1414 3/10. (bp-WA)

1386 **JAPAN**, NHK2. Faint talk //774 1417 3/10. (bp-WA)
+Faint traces of audio at 1331 3/11. (NP-AB)

1404 **JAPAN**. Japanese male 1418 3/10. (bp-WA)

1422t **AUSTRALIA**, 3XY?, Melbourne. First noted audio traces at 1318 3/16, not English, so was thinking Japan, but when it got a bit louder I realized it wasn't Japanese either. Leaving it as tentative at the moment, until I get someone to confirm language as Greek, but about 90% sure. (NP-AB)

1422 **JAPAN**, JORF, Yokohama, RF Radio Nippon. Japanese woman 1420 3/10. (bp-WA)
+Japanese male 1408 3/12. (bp-WA)

1431 **UnID**. Instrumental (?) music 1423 3/10. (bp-WA)

1449 **UnID**. Weak audio with man talking at 1329 3/10. (NP-AB)

1503 **JAPAN**, JOUK, Akita, NHK1. Weak talk 1403 3/12 //594. (bp-WA)
+Japanese male 1414 3/15. (bp-WA)

1512 **JAPAN**, NHK2. Man and woman //747 1406 3/14, quite poor in KGA/KKXA splash. (bp-WA)

1548 **AUSTRALIA**, 4QD, Emerald. Aussie-accented talk by a man through the 1550 3/10 splatter. (NP-AB)

1557t **TAIWAN**, Kouhu, 1557 Music Interactive Network. Music and pips 1400 3/14, man in Chinese 1411. (bp-WA)

1566 **KOREA-SOUTH**, HLAZ, Jeju, FEBC. Nothing at 1215 3/10, but noted with fair audio by 1300, and good by 1320. (NP-AB)
+Chinese male 1420 3/10. (bp-WA)
+Japanese talk and Gregorian chant type music 1329 3/11. (bp-WA)
+Not quite as good as yesterday, with fair audio, and a rare spike to a good level around 1335 3/11. (NP-AB)
+Choir, organ, and man talking, possibly a church service 1308 3/12. (bp-WA)
+Man in Japanese, then piano music 1335 3/13 and woman with FEBC ID, started to fade after that. Mostly poor-nil otherwise. (bp-WA)
+Man in Japanese 1327 3/14, choir 1333. (bp-WA)
+Had a strong carrier when I first checked at 1245 3/15, but never really developed, with a poor level during talk by a woman at 1339 being the best it could do. (NP-AB)
+Very much sub par today, peaking 1333 3/15 with what sounded like Gregorian chants. (bp-WA)
+Did a bit better than yesterday, with fair audio by 1234 3/16, with short spells of good. (NP-AB)
+A minute or two of marginal Japanese talk 1305 3/16, otherwise quite poor signal today. (bp-WA)

1575 **THAILAND**, Ban Phachi, VOA. First reached audio around 1325 3/10, with the ID only poor at 1330. (NP-AB)
+Talk in UnID language 1353 3/12. (bp-WA)
+Briefly faded up with man in UnID language 1405 3/13. Took a long deep fade, then faded back up with more talk 1408. Listed as Khmer but inflections were similar to Filipino. (bp-WA)
+Man in SEA language 1405 3/14. (bp-WA)
+Traces of man talking at 1332 3/15. (NP-AB)
+Faint talk 1359 3/15, probably VOA. (bp-WA)

1593 **AUSTRALIA**, 3RG, Melbourne, Rete Italia. Fair signal for several minutes around 1325 3/16, with rock song, then pips at the bottom of the hour. Confirmed against web stream. (NP-AB)

1593 **CHINA**, Changzhou, CNR1. Huge carrier 1418 3/10 but clobbered by KLFE splash, a few syllables poking through now and then. (bp-WA)
+Very brief talk in KLFE splat 1347 3/12, probably CNR. (bp-WA)

1602 **JAPAN**, NHK2. 1423 3/10 very poor female talk //774. (bp-WA)
+Pips 1300 3/12, faint talk 1302 same voices as 774. (bp-WA)

1611 **UnID**. Pop music noted at 1329 3/10, with bits of talk in the background, possibly from a second station. (NP-AB)

1628.94 **UnID**. English talk between man and woman 3/10. Seemed to be a Christian station judging by the content of the discussion. Would have been 100% copy at times if not for the 1630 splatter. (NP-AB)

1701.02 **UnID**. No Brisvaani this morning, but this one instead, about 50 Hz lower, with Arabic sounding music at 1315 3/16. (NP-AB)

1701.07 **AUSTRALIA**, Radio Brisvaani. Presumed the one with Indian music at a poor level at 1324 3/15. (NP-AB)

MISCELENEOUS

3/11. www.radioheritage.net

This week features: Radio Aeropuerto, Caracas, Venezuela; Johnny Murray DJ at WDSU-AM New Orleans, LA in the late 1940's; 2RO Prato Smeraldo, Rome; 3UZ Melbourne, Australia hits 90 years; KSL Salt Lake City, UT transmitter building along the Great Salt Lake; Radio Rangitane 89.8 FM; VPD Suva, Fiji confirms WWII reception; short term radio station stations in New Zealand; Jackie from Suva, Fiji.

3/17. www.radioheritage.net

This week features: Radio Vanuatu not prepared for Cyclone Pam; 2ZW Wellington NZ; Radio Vanuatu Tam Tam; Mystery car sticker; Radio Monte Carlo; Chinese Local Radio in the 1930's.

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
NP-AB **NIGEL PIMBLETT**, Dunmore AB
Perseus with a Wellbrook Array
RA-OK **RICHARD ALLEN**, near Perry OK
Tecsun PL-310 modified with 7.5" ferrite loop, plus 8" FSL, Space Magnet SM-2.

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

- 530 **CUBA** Radio Enciclopedia, Havana. MAR 18 0259 – instrumental music, female announcer with "Transmite... Radio Enciclopedia, La Habana, Cuba" ID at ToH followed by more instrumental music. Fair over presumed Rebelde. [Jordan-TN]
539.86 **NICARAGUA** Radio Corporación, Managua. MAR 18 0135 – male speaker in possible sports talk, many mentions of Managua and Nicaragua, Radio Corporación ID just before the top of hour, occasionally dominant over 540 jumble. [Jordan-TN]
550 **CUBA** Radio Rebelde, Pinar del Río. MAR 20 0155 – Live sports commentary going past the ToH, // other frequencies. Over/equal presumed Venezuela. [Jordan-TN]
550p **VENEZUELA** YVKE, Radio Mundial, Caracas. MAR 20 0201 – low key monologue by male announcer with many mentions of Venezuela, briefly equal level to co-channel R Rebelde. [Jordan-TN]
570 **CUBA** Radio Reloj, Santa Clara. MAR 18 0105 – news, ID, times checks, time pips, code. [Jordan-TN]
580 **MÉXICO** XEMU, Piedras Negras, Coah. MAR 18 1000 – "La Rancherita del Aire", buenas días greetings into news. [Jordan-TN]
590 **CUBA** Radio Musical Nacional, La Julia. MAR 18 0031 – "Radio Musical Nacional de la Habana, Cuba" ID by man, dominant. [Jordan-TN]
590 **MÉXICO** XEPH, México, DF. MAR 18 1059 – Tropical music, canned ID mentioning 25 kW and "La Sabrosita Quinientos Noventa, la veinte años". Fair. [Jordan-TN]
600 **CUBA** Radio Rebelde, San Germán. MAR 20 0155 – Live sports commentary going past the ToH, // other frequencies. Dominant. [Jordan-TN]
620 **CUBA** Radio Rebelde, Colón. MAR 20 0155 – Live sports commentary going past the ToH, under WDAE and // other frequencies. [Jordan-TN]
630 **CUBA** Radio Progreso, Camagüey. MAR 20 0155 – Latin ballad, male announcer with saludos, ID, poor under domestics // other freqs. [Jordan-TN]
630 **MÉXICO** XEFB, Monterrey, NL. MAR 18 1100 – pop Latin music past the ToH, lively canned ID at 1102 "X-E-F-B en Monterrey", "La F-B del Fútbol" and back to Latin pop. Fair. [Jordan-TN]
640 **CUBA** Radio Progreso synchronos. MAR 20 0155 – Latin ballad, male announcer with saludos, ID, good. // other frequencies. [Jordan-TN]
650 **MÉXICO** XETNT, Los Mochis, Sin. MAR 20 0445 – Spanish is totally dominant, maybe a trace of WSM if I null it. Auroral conditions are still blocking many but not all of the USA big'uns. Loops NE/SW so suspect usual XETNT. Información segment is historical about Topolobampo (right near Los Mochis) and Don Miguel Ángel Carillo, interviewing woman on phone for a few minutes; 0449 timecheck for "11 para las 10", ie UT-7, and "sigue con nosotros, Guardián de la Noche" (program title?) 0450 PSA for Tribunal Estatal Electoral, de Sinaloa. [Hauser-OK]
660 **CUBA** Radio Progreso Jovellanos. MAR 20 0155 – Latin ballad, male announcer with saludos, ID, fair // other frequencies. [Jordan-TN]
660 **MÉXICO** XEFZ, Monterrey, NL. MAR 21 0209 – on car radio, dominant signal IDs in Spanish as "ABC Radio", plays Queen. Guess its format is classic rock in English. It's still dominant on home radios, March 21 at 0541, "ABC Radio 660 AM", rock in English. [Hauser-OK]
670 **CUBA** Radio Rebelde synchronos. MAR 20 0155 – Live sports commentary going past the ToH, good over WWFE, // other frequencies. [Jordan-TN]
680 **MÉXICO** XEORO, Guasave, Sin. MAR 20 0421 – Spanish from NE/SW with ad for Pancho el mecánico; "arriba Sinaloa... la radio que nunca" slogan, maybe a word missing there, 0422 into polca with thumping tuba in the lead. Surely no other state would promote Sinaloa, so this is XEORO, la Mera Jefe in Guasave, 1000/500 watts per IRCA. [Hauser-OK]
710 **CUBA** Radio Rebelde synchronos. MAR 20 0155 – Live sports commentary going past the ToH, dominant with significant echo, // other freqs. [Jordan-TN]
730 **CUBA** Radio Progreso, La Fe. MAR 20 0155 – Latin ballad, male announcer with saludos, ID, good // other frequencies. [Jordan-TN]
740 **MÉXICO** XEQN, Torreón, Coah. MAR 20 0423 – overcomer KRMG, easily nulled, with that awful low audible heterodyne, women conversing on phone in Spanish; already IDed as from XEQN. [Hauser-OK]
750 **CUBA** Radio Progreso, Palimira. MAR 20 0155 – Latin ballad, male announcer, audible under WSB, // other frequencies. [Jordan-TN]
760 **CUBA** Radio Progreso synchronos. MAR 20 0155 – Latin ballad, male announcer with saludos, ID, good and way over WJR, // other freqs. [Jordan-TN]
760 **MÉXICO** XEABC, México, DF. MAR 20 0451 – seldom-heard "Guadalajara" song looping slightly clockwise from N/S, dominant with a JBA trace of WJR if I null it. There is a tapatia station on 760, XEZZ with 5/1 kW, Radio Gallito, but as expected this is really from the DF, since followed at 0454 by ID as ABC Radio. [Hauser-OK]
790 **CUBA** Radio Reloj synchronos. MAR 18 0035 – news, ID, times checks, time pips, code. Fair over nulled local WMC. [Jordan-TN]
800 **BONAIRE** PJB, Radio Transmundial, Kralendijk. MAR 20 0200 – Spanish programming, ID, religious talk. Amazing signal. [Jordan-TN]
850 **CUBA** Radio Reloj, Nueva Gerona. MAR 20 0155 – news, ID, times checks, time pips, code. Over/under WFTL. [Jordan-TN]
860 **CUBA** Radio Reloj, Jovellanos. MAR 18 0113 – news, ID, times checks, time pips, code. Poor under CJBC. [Jordan-TN]
860 **MÉXICO** XENL, Radio Recuerdo, Monterrey, NL. MAR 18 0559 – live Radio Recuerdo ID followed by National Anthem at the ToH. Full canned ID at 0601 mentioning 5 kW, followed by Spanish cover of 'Under the Boardwalk' by Los Apon. Fair over KKOW. [Jordan-TN]
870 **CUBA** Radio Reloj synchronos. MAR 18 0014 – news, ID, times checks, time pips, code. Weak under WWL. [Jordan-TN]
890 **CUBA** Radio Progreso, Chambas. MAR 20 0155 – Latin ballad, male announcer with saludos, ID, huge signal. [Jordan-TN]
+MAR 20 0427 – once I have nulled KVOZ in the RGV, nothing from aurorally-blocked WLS, but instead Radio Progreso mentioning radioprogreso.cu and onda corta 4765 (which would have signed off at 0400, but unchecked tonight); nothing much on 900 from further Progreso outlet as often audible. [Hauser-OK]
900 **CUBA** Radio Progreso, San Germán. MAR 20 0155 – Latin ballad, male announcer with saludos, ID, huge signal. [Jordan-TN]
900 **MÉXICO** XEDT, Ciudad Cuauhtémoc, Coah. MAR 20 0430 – string of PSAs: Encuentro Social; Instituto Electoral del Estado de Chihuahua, Tránsito trans-fronterizo from SCT; so it's XEDT. Separable from 'W Radio' further east. [Hauser-OK]
900 **MÉXICO** XEW, México, DF. MAR 18 0855 – many X-E-W and "Doble U Radio" ID's, US hip-pop song. Over/under XEOK. [Jordan-TN]
900 **MÉXICO** XEOK, Guadalupe, NL. MAR 18 0600 – Mexican National Anthem followed by canned ID by man and woman at 0602. Slightly dominant over XEW. [Jordan-TN]
+MAR 18 1058 – full canned ID by man and woman, "X-E-O-K... transmitiendo con ? mil watts de potencia... en Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon... Grupo Acir" followed by a ranchera-style religious song and morning devotional talk. Good signal. [Jordan-TN]
930 **CUBA** Radio Reloj synchronos. MAR 20 0155 – news, ID, times checks, time pips, code, poor-fair. [Jordan-TN]
950 **CUBA** Radio Reloj synchronos. MAR 18 0014 – news, ID, times checks, time pips, code. Fair, dominant on channel. [Jordan-TN]
+MAR 20 0155 – news, ID, times checks, time pips, code, excellent. [Jordan-TN]
990 **MÉXICO** XET, Monterrey, NL. MAR 18 1058 – "X-E-T en Monterrey" ID followed by canned "La T Grande" ID, National Anthem at the ToH then full canned ID. Good. [Jordan-TN]

- 1000 **CUBA** Radio Guamá, Pinar del Río. MAR 20 0155 – lively tropical music, announcer asking for phone calls, length musical chat with female caller, song 'Nadie Te Lo Quita' by Laritza Bacallao. Good, //1020. [Jordan-TN]
- 1000 **MÉXICO** XEOY, Radio Mil, México, DF. MAR 18 0700 – lengthy R. Mil canned ID followed by ranchera song 'Cucurrucucu Paloma' by Aida Cuevas. Excellent. [Jordan-TN]
- 1010 **MÉXICO** XEVK, Gómez Palacio, Dur. MAR 20 0414 – romantic music in Spanish from SSW; 0416 "Tu Recuerdo, 106.7", phone numbers, promo for Radiorama publicidad, Que Buena, mentions serving La Laguna y el país; noticiero Radiorama promo, which is at 1 a 2 de la tarde en 106.7 y 101.1; 0418 "Tu Recuerdo, siempre contigo, 106.7". [Hauser-OK]
- 1020 **CUBA** Radio Guamá, Bahía Honda. MAR 20 0155 – lively tropical music, announcer asking for phone calls, length musical chat with female caller, song 'Nadie Te Lo Quita' by Laritza Bacallao. Excellent. [Jordan-TN]
- 1040 **MÉXICO** XEHES, Chihuahua, Chih. March 15 at 0136 with WHO nulled, Spanish news about Papa Francisco, quick hi pip sounders, "nuestras noticias", website in .com; fades for full? ID: 0137 MOR music; 0142 timecheck "son las 6 con 42 minutos" and ID as Radio Sensación, and then "94.1 Stereo Sensación, y 1040-AM", more music. [Hauser-OK]
+MAR 20 0433 – "Estéreo Sensación, Chihuahua, Chihuahua, una señal Radiorama", noticias about World Water Day. [Hauser-OK]
- 1100 **MÉXICO** XETGO, Tlaltenango, Zac. MAR 20 0401 – I start a one-hour exclusively MW session by trying for an ID following the UnID 22 hours earlier. Lots of QRM, but without much WTAM, full ID by woman mentions Zacatecas twice, so now I will conclude it's XETGO, 30000/400 watts per IRCA, Radio Cañón. [Hauser-OK]
- 1110p **MÉXICO** XEWR, Radio Guadalupana, Ciudad Juárez, Chih. MAR 15 0134 – Rosary in Spanish with KFAB nulled, presumed XEWR. [Hauser-OK]
- 1170 **COLOMBIA** Caracol Radio synchros. MAR 20 0200 – Many mentions of Caracol at the ToH, Colombia, poor. [Jordan-TN]
- 1180 **CUBA** Radio Rebelde synchros. MAR 20 0155 – Live sports commentary going past the ToH, good with echo, // other frequencies. [Jordan-TN]
- 1310 **MÉXICO** XEBV, Monterrey, NL. MAR 20 0407 – female song in Spanish, NNE/SSW, "13-10, la frecuencia de la mujer de hoy, Mujer 13-10" ID by man, another upbeat female song. IRCA shows it's XEBV, 5 kW in Monterrey NL. Cantú adds a night power of 250 watts, both with entire station name the single word "Mujer". WRTH puts this all together. [Hauser-OK]

CONTRIBUTORS

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

[Jordan-TN] **Brandon Jordan**, Fayette County TN, USA (GC 35° 6' N/89° 30' W)
Receiver: WinRadio G33DDC 'Excalibur', Antenna: Array Solutions SAL-30 Shared Apex Loop

73, Brandon



2014-2015 IRCA NUMBERAMA DX CONTEST – Manager: Nancy Johnson – 2922 S Olivewood – Mesa AZ 85212-2923
E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

March 15 2015 update

1. John C Johnson	235	5. Dennis Vroom	122	9. Mike Sanburn	10
2. Eric Bueneman	210	6. Nigel Pimblett	105	10. Phil Bytheway	1
3. Greg Hall	192	7. Nancy Johnson	55		
4. Tim Noonan	183	8. John Tudenham	52		

The contest is winding down for this season. Catches through May 31 2015 will count toward your total points. 73 – Nancy

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 March 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 four 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 that of 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

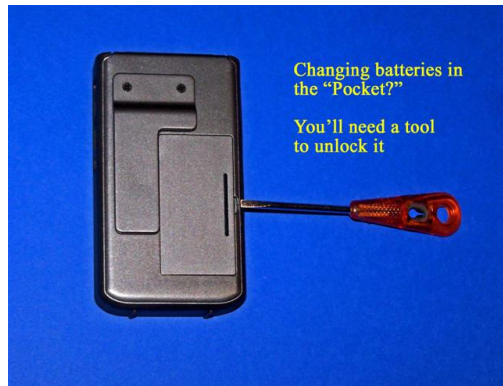


C. CRANE “CC POCKET” The CC Pocket radio is a vertical form receiver with styling, ergonomics and functions very similar to those of the popular Sangean DT-400W model (the next radio introduced in this Shootout review). Introduced after the DT-400W, the model also includes a few special features which 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?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1424587864&sr=1-1&keywords=c.crane+cc+pocket)

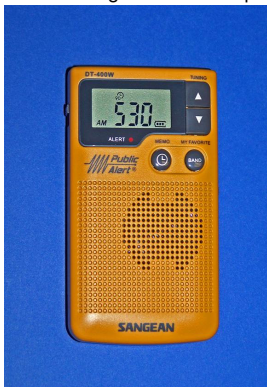
As mentioned previously, the CC Pocket model comes with many added features designed to entice purchasers away from its obvious competition – the Sangean DT-400W model. Some of these features are selectable 1 kHz step tuning, a choice of 2.5 kHz or 4 kHz AM selectivity filters, a choice of time or frequency 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 DT-400W 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 splattering 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 splattering 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 (with slightly better overall 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 FM signals. The CC Pocket could sometimes compete with the DT-400W however – with roughly equal reception of weak FM stations. Plugging in the supplied wire antennas and switching to speaker use made no difference. 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.



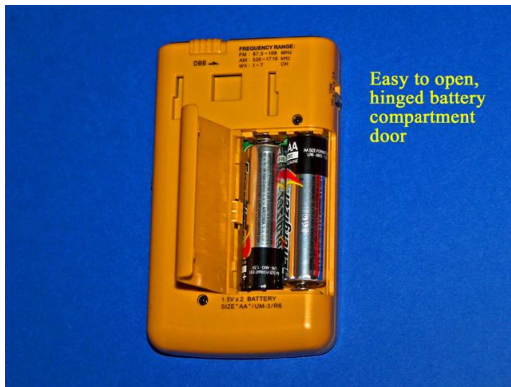
Other Bands: Like the DT-400W the CC Pocket has coverage of the 7 Weather Band Frequencies, and a NOAA Weather Alert function selectable for 4, 8 or 16 hour long periods. The CC Pocket’s reception of Weather Band #2 here in Puyallup is similar that of the DT-400W, although not in the same league as that 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. At the time of its introduction it was the first Ultralight radio to offer superb MW sensitivity across the entire band – something that the competing Eton E100 and Sony SRF-T615 models couldn’t quite seem to manage. The bonus inclusion of a Deep Bass Boost (DBB) function added to the radio’s unique appeal. It was first reviewed in the 2008 Summertime Shootout article (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 roughly 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 of 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. The radio typically comes with a carrying case, owner's manual, earphones, 3 rechargeable AA batteries and a USB cable. It is available from multiple Chinese and Hong Kong eBay sellers, as well as from Amazon for \$49.89 (plus free shipping) at http://www.amazon.com/Tecsun-PL-310-Stereo-World-Receiver/dp/B00D1QRPHG/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1424588058&sr=1-1&keywords=tecsun+pl-310.

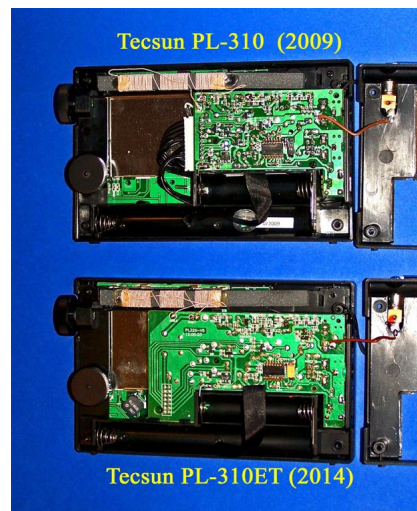
Back in late 2008, the innovative Si4734 DSP chip in the PL-310 (and in the related PL-380, PL-606 and PL-505 models) provided a new level of DSP filtering, S/N and RSSI displays and many other advanced features – bringing a basic level of transoceanic DXing capability to the Ultralight Class. Although 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.



Tecsun PL-310 (2009)

Tecsun PL-310ET (2014)

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 bogus heterodynes, muffled audio and digital whine quirks any longer. For transoceanic DXers especially, this is a major breakthrough.

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 earned 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 Shootout 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 and related 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.



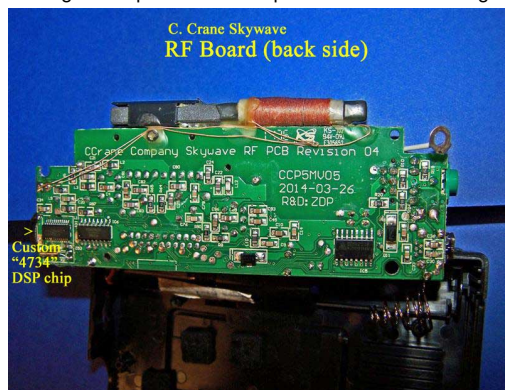
C.CRANE SKYWAVE: Although Tecsun has shown no interest in correcting the MW-DXing digital quirks in the PL-310, PL-380 and related models, the excellent news is that another major manufacturer has definitely been paying attention to DXers' wishes – creating a new model that succeeds in correcting them 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 radio comes with an owner's manual, carrying case, warranty card (one year) and CC Bud earphones. 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.

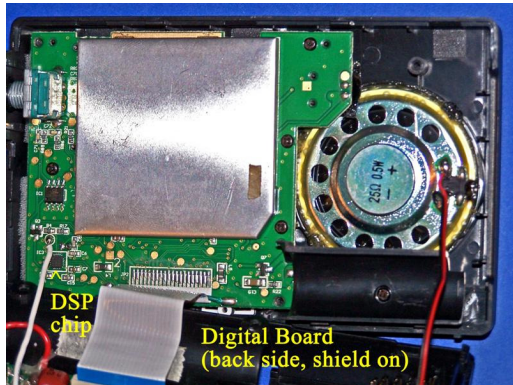
C.CRANE SKYWAVE – MW-DXing Test Drive: C.Crane's target group for this new model includes transoceanic and domestic MW-DXers who love the Tecsun PL-310's (and PL-380's) breakthrough DSP selectivity but hate the model's digital quirks – and if you fall into this category, then you are in for a real treat! The Skywave's excellent MW sensitivity is augmented by its complete freedom from bogus heterodynes and "soft mute," and it provides 1 kHz DSP selectivity every bit as effective as the Tecsun radios – with improved audio clarity as well. Chasing the same MW fringe stations with the Skywave and PL-310ET model side by side immediately reveals a significant gap in overall performance... wide enough to convince most MW-DXers that the PL-310ET has become second rate. When both models are set in the 1 kHz DSP setting (which also provides maximum MW sensitivity on both models) the PL-310ET seems bogged down by its muffled audio, mystery heterodynes and bizarre tendency to silence a fringe station when it becomes too weak (which is a particularly irritating quirk for dedicated DXers). The Skywave excels in correcting all these issues, but as mentioned before, the emphasis is on simplicity – and the model lacks several of the PL-310ET's display functions (RSSI, S/N, temperature in F or C, volume level and a selectable display light), digital search functions and memory capacity. The Skywave's audio amplifier is also slightly underpowered in comparison to the competing models, and does tend to max out on weak stations more readily than that of the PL-310ET or the Eton Traveler III. In combination with the Skywave's lack of any volume level display, this can mean quite a few trips to the upper stops of the analog volume control. Finally, it does need to be emphasized that C.Crane's Skywave is not the only new Ultralight radio designed to correct the Tecsun models' DSP chip quirks – the new Eton Traveler III also corrects them, and does so quite effectively at a price lower than that of the Skywave. For MW-DXers interested in both of these new models, the deciding factor will probably be whether 1 kHz DSP selectivity is a high priority. The Skywave provides it very effectively, while the Traveler III lacks any selectivity choices. In summary, though, for Medium Wave transoceanic DXers eager to push their Ultralight DXing luck for all it is worth, the new CC Skywave is the radio that we have been waiting for – despite its weak points.

C.CRANE SKYWAVE – FM-DXing Test Drive: Although C.Crane's refinements really provide a DXing edge for the Skywave over the PL-310ET on Medium Wave, it seems that superior FM performance was not part of C.Crane's research and development program. The FM sensitivity and selectivity of the Skywave fall somewhat short of the PL-310ET's standard, leaving the model with average performance in fringe station reception. As with the PL-310ET it is necessary to orient the whip antenna in the optimal direction for best reception, but even with the utmost effort in doing so the model's weak signal reception never quite matches that of the Si4734 DSP chip in the PL-310ET. The Tecsun's 100 FM memories matches the entire total for the Skywave model, and the PL-310ET's multiple display



functions make the Skywave look pretty rudimentary. The PL-310ET offers wideband (64-108 MHz) FM coverage, while the Skywave offers only the domestic North American frequencies (87.5-108 MHz). The PL-310ET's superior audio amp also makes a difference when signals get really weak, and its digital search modes are superior. Since the MW band advantages detailed above are irrelevant on FM frequencies, the model really falls short of the PL-310ET's standard in FM-DXing performance. It does compete quite effectively with the other contestants in this competition, however.

C.CRANE SKYWAVE – SW-DXing Test Drive: In competition with the PL-310ET the Skywave's Shortwave sensitivity also falls short of the mark, although the C.Crane model does have some minor advantages on these bands. It offers wider frequency coverage (2.3-26.1 MHz, compared to 2.3-21.95 MHz for the PL-310ET), and its 1 kHz DSP audio sounds superior to the somewhat muffled 1 kHz DSP audio in the PL-310ET. With the sad situation of fewer and fewer Shortwave stations continuing to broadcast, however, the need for superior selectivity on the Shortwave bands isn't so important anymore. Because fewer stations are broadcasting the PL-310ET can almost always be set in the 2 kHz DSP setting for improved DX station audio without facing the drawback of side channel interference. The Skywave's Shortwave sensitivity allows it to receive most of the same stations but at less signal strength than that of the PL-310ET. Similar to the situation on the FM band, the PL-310ET has far more display options, memories (250 on Shortwave alone, versus 100 total in the Skywave) and digital search modes – as well as a more powerful audio amplifier. Dedicated Shortwave DXers will probably find the Skywave to be a little too basic to meet their needs, despite the wider coverage on the higher frequencies. Once again, though, the Skywave's Shortwave performance is in the same ballpark as that of the new Eton Traveler III – the next model up for review in this article. Either one of these new models should have acceptable Shortwave sensitivity for the reception of typically strong SW station parallels of MW mystery stations.



Other Bands: The CC Skywave really excels on two other bands – one of which is unique in the Ultralight radio class. Its Weather Band sensitivity is far superior to that of the CC Pocket and DT-400W models, and it has the same Weather Alert function and selectable time periods (4, 8 or 16 hours) as those vertical-form models. Weather Band reception which is dicey on the smaller models is usually crystal clear on the Skywave – most likely because of the dedicated DSP chip for Weather and Air Band reception in the model. If any reader places an extremely high priority on the stable reception of Weather Band alerts during emergencies, this is definitely the Ultralight radio of choice. Not only is the whip antenna far superior to the makeshift wire antenna system of the vertical-form models, but the DSP chip-provided sensitivity is in an entirely different league.

Finally, one of the obvious attractions of the CC Skywave model is its AIR Band coverage from 118-137 MHz – unique in the Ultralight radio class. According to information from C.Crane, the Si4736 DSP chip on the digital board is used strictly for Weather and AIR Band reception – and it definitely provides excellent sensitivity on both of those bands. To get started in listening to communication between airports and airplanes the owner's manual instructs the user to check the internet for airport frequency listings, specifically mentioning the <http://www.flightradio.com> site. After checking that

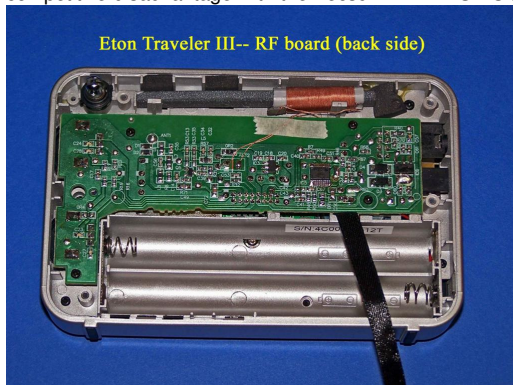
site (and paying a \$10 fee for "lifetime membership") I was able to download a file with airport communication frequencies for the entire USA, which is posted at <http://www.mediafire.com/view/dtoad7nfjodnw5y/FlightRadioBook.pdf>. My home town of Puyallup, WA is along the direct southerly approach route for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport – a pretty busy site with lots of air traffic. The frequency listings mentioned a SeaTac tower frequency of 119.900 MHz, which is used by the tower to receive communication from airplanes approaching the airport and requesting a runway assignment. Depending upon air traffic, the time of day and luck, the CC Skywave can receive either a lot, a little or almost no communication on this tower frequency. Since only communication from airplanes is heard, the signal strengths can vary from a thunderous level (for planes directly overhead) down to a ghostly wisp (for airplanes many miles away). A sample MP3 of the Skywave's reception on this 119.900 MHz SeaTac tower frequency (from three airplanes within two minutes) is posted at <http://www.mediafire.com/listen/byhdj4cs51daa7s/119.9-SeaTacTower-030815CCSW.MP3>.

The CC Skywave has a Squelch function which will mute the background noise on the AIR band frequencies while you await voice traffic – which is engaged by pushing in the tuning control for two seconds, then rotating the control to choose your desired threshold level. This is a nice feature for those who only wish to hear the voice communication, but it does reduce the radio's reception sensitivity somewhat. In general the Skywave's AIR Band coverage is a major plus for those interested in airport communication, although these types of transmissions are almost always brief, businesslike, and to the point. Listeners should not expect any of the emotion and drama typical in airport disaster movies!

ETON TRAVELER III: Another innovative model providing breakthrough MW-DXing performance is the new Traveler III – which in stock form is quite possibly the most capable domestic DXing pocket radio on the planet. Although Eton has also managed to correct the most troublesome digital quirks of the PL-310 and related Tecsun DSP models on Medium Wave (bogus heterodynes and soft mute), unlike the CC Skywave the Traveler III makes no attempt to offer improved DSP selectivity. Instead it takes innovation in a different direction – by concentrating on the best possible MW sensitivity, and by its breakthrough inclusion of an RDS display on the FM Band (an Ultralight radio first). With only a single selectivity choice on the MW band (which is roughly equivalent to the CC Skywave's 2 kHz DSP setting in filtering performance) the Traveler III is unlikely to attract much interest from split-frequency transoceanic DXers. But its breakthrough MW sensitivity makes it a very formidable contender for the attention of all other Medium Wave DXers – especially those who appreciate its unique, stylish appearance. There is only one digital search choice (ATS), and like the CC Skywave, the manual doesn't tell you how many memories the radio provides (apparently 100, like the Skywave). But it does include a selectable display light – with a duration of up to 10 minutes.

The Traveler III includes coverage of the AM (520-1710 kHz), LW (153-513 kHz), FM (87-108 MHz) and SW (2.3-26.1 MHz) Bands. Provided with the radio is an owner's manual (in five different languages) and carrying case. There are no earphones or warranty card provided, although when you check at the manufacturer's web site you are informed that the Traveler III's warranty is for one year. The radio may be purchased for \$59.99 (with free shipping) from Amazon at the following link: http://www.amazon.com/Eton-NGWTIIIIB-Traveler-Radio-Black/dp/B00M288YGC/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1426039985&sr=1-1&keywords=eton+traveler+iii.

In general the Traveler III has an appearance and function quite unique among recently introduced pocket radios, with an attractive aluminum-colored trim around the cabinet edge, and a whip antenna mounting post extending horizontally from the back cabinet. It has a front panel world time selector switch hidden behind a hinged door (opening downwards), and a unique display with orange characters on a dark gray background. The model is the only Ultralight radio to use four AA batteries – surely giving it unparalleled DXing endurance. Perhaps the most unusual point is the lack of any selectivity choice – putting the radio at a competitive disadvantage with the Tecsun 1 kHz DSP Ultralights and the new CC Skywave in this aspect. However the Traveler III does have quite a lot going for it, especially for domestic MW-DXers who don't need to chase split-frequency DX targets. Both the MW sensitivity and tone quality are first rate – and the stylish appearance and reasonable price should attract quite a dedicated audience. Its new Si4735 DSP chip also provides FM-DXers with an Ultralight radio class breakthrough – an RDS display with multiple data choices.



ETON TRAVELER III – MW-DXing Test Drive: The Traveler III's target group includes those MW-DXers who place a high priority on both excellent sensitivity and audio quality. The radio provides an outstanding combination of both – and although there are a few digital quirks that need to be tolerated, in general the Traveler III makes it a real pleasure to track down weak MW signals. First we will cover the quirks. Since there is no direct entry keypad you will need to rotate the tuning knob to choose your frequencies. The knob is capable of covering wide ranges quickly if you rotate it with some speed, and it is also capable of accurately tuning in 9 or 10 kHz steps if you rotate it slowly. The volume control has a digital display level, but each time you adjust the volume control you will get a short burst of soft digital hash noise whenever the volume level changes a step (i.e., don't try to change the volume level during recordings). Finally, changing the frequency will cause the audio to drop out for about one second, then come back in a rush. If you can tolerate these digital quirks, though, you will discover that the radio has a great deal to offer the MW-DXer. Sensitivity is exceptional (the specifications list it as less than or equal to 1mv/m), and although there is no choice

of audio tone, the radio's tone is almost high fidelity as delivered from the factory. Like the PL-310ET the radio has both a pretty powerful audio amp and a volume level display, and in combination with the excellent audio fidelity this feature really helps to dig out the weak stations (although advancing the volume knob up to the maximum will give you those soft digital hash sounds, as mentioned previously). The Traveler III also has exceptional nulling ability for a stock pocket radio – and is the first one ever tested here which is able to null out the semi-local pests on 570 and 710 kHz to pull in weak stations on the same frequency.

So how much does the single selectivity choice limit the Traveler III's ability to go after weak MW stations next to strong locals? For domestic DXers (and for transoceanic DXers lucky enough to live on an isolated ocean beach in Carbonear, Newfoundland) probably not so much. As mentioned before, the single selectivity choice provides filtering roughly equivalent to the 2 KHz DSP setting in the CC Skywave, which in combination with the radio's exceptional nulling ability provides a decent chance to go after almost any domestic station (please refer to the MW Selectivity Shootout MP3's for further details). For most of the transoceanic DXers who routinely push their luck chasing 9 kHz-split targets adjacent to troublesome domestic pests, however, the Traveler III's single selectivity choice will probably be unacceptable. In most parts of North America (and Europe, for that matter) there is simply too much domestic splatter across the band to have much success in chasing weak transoceanic DX without effective 1 kHz DSP filtering – such as is provided by the new CC Skywave or the Tecsun PL-310ET (and PL-380). Even with this 1 kHz filtering, traces of domestic splatter still show up on most of the transoceanic DX MP3's recorded here at this western Washington location. In the very rough mission of pocket radio transoceanic DXing, you need every possible advantage – including the best possible 1 kHz DSP filtering. Continually trying to chase split-frequency DX without it will probably bring you a serious case of grief.

ETON TRAVELER III – FM-DXing Test Drive: First, the good news. As mentioned previously, the Traveler III is the first Ultralight radio to feature an RDS display on FM, provided by its Si4735 DSP chip. When an FM station is transmitting RDS data and is of sufficient strength, the radio is capable of providing a display of either "PS" (program name), "PTY" (program type), "RT" (program text) or "DATA" (time, date, weekly program and call sign). A quick press of the "RDS" button allows you to toggle between these displays – assuming that the FM station is transmitting all the data. In practice, many FM stations either do not transmit all of this data, or may not transmit any RDS data at all. You need to wait for a small "RDS" icon to show up on the display prior to using the system. In any case, solid FM reception is required for the Traveler III to display any RDS data – a factor which limits the system further.

Unlike on the MW band, changing the radio's volume control on the FM band does not result in short bursts of digital hash between the volume level steps. The radio's FM audio quality sounds fairly average through the speaker, with the emphasis on treble response. The whip antenna's mounting post extends horizontally from the back cabinet, and has an unusual double-hinge system which may either be convenient or tricky, depending upon your personal preference (see photo above). My own impression is that this type of antenna may not survive a careless owner.

Finally, at only 16" the whip antenna is unusually short, in comparison to the 19" of the CC Skywave and the 21.5" of the PL-310ET. Along with DSP chip differences this translates into weaker FM sensitivity than that of the PL-310ET, although the Traveler III is pretty competitive with the other review models in this aspect. If a dedicated FM-DXer augmented the radio with an effective external antenna the Traveler III's RDS system might become a major plus, but in stock form the radio's limited FM sensitivity makes this new feature seem rather compromised.



Double hinge whip antenna-- good, bad or bizarre?

ETON TRAVELER III – SW-DXing Test Drive: Like the CC Skywave (and unlike the PL-310ET) the Traveler III provides Shortwave coverage all the way up to 26.1 MHz – although like the Skywave, breakthrough Shortwave sensitivity doesn't seem to be part of the radio's master plan. With the shorter whip antenna and single selectivity choice the Traveler III's Shortwave performance ends up below that of the PL-310ET, but it can compete with the CC Skywave and most other Ultralight radios fairly well on the SW bands. Changing the volume control steps does not generate the short bursts of digital hash like it does on the MW frequencies, and the audio amplifier is powerful enough to check out most of the weak SW stations. Like on the FM band, the short (16") whip antenna is hardly optimum for good Shortwave sensitivity, and any serious SW-DXer would wish to either upgrade the antenna or opt for a different model to begin with (like the PL-310ET, or one of its 1 kHz DSP siblings like the PL-380, PL-505 or PL-606). In general the Traveler III provides acceptable Shortwave sensitivity for checking powerful parallel stations of mystery MW-DX signals, but Shortwave performance is not this model's strong point.

Other Bands: The Traveler III has no Weather Band reception, but it does include Longwave Band coverage from 153-513 kHz. Unfortunately (like the PL-310ET), the loopstick is optimized for the Medium Wave frequencies – resulting in deaf sensitivity across the entire Longwave spectrum. Neither the Traveler III nor the PL-310ET can receive a trace of my local NDB pests on 216 or 328 kHz (or any other Longwave stations) – even around local midnight. Unless you have the technical ability to replace the loopstick or connect an effective Longwave external antenna to the model, you should consider this Longwave "coverage" to be completely useless.

SECTION TWO – THE SHOOTOUT



For the first time in any competitive radio review, multiple test signal MP3's were recorded to give each reader a chance to listen to accurate evidence of the relative performance of each model in important categories. These categories were MW sensitivity, MW selectivity, FM sensitivity, Shortwave sensitivity and Weather Band sensitivity.

MW SENSITIVITY SHOOTOUT

For the MW Sensitivity test MP3's weak daytime DX fringe stations were chosen and recorded during hours close to local noon, emphasizing stable ground wave propagation. The daytime DX stations were chosen because of the challenging nature of their signals, which cannot be received on pocket radios without above average sensitivity. Each radio had an equal chance to demonstrate its sensitivity, with all the test signals being recorded within a 5 minute period (during which a stable test signal was ensured), and all loopsticks were oriented in the same direction. Finally, the radios were switched around to ensure that no position was inferior or superior to any other position. The CC Pocket was placed in its narrow (2.5 kHz) filter setting and the Tecsun PL-310ET and C.Crane Skywave models were placed in their 1 kHz DSP settings (all of which were found to provide the best sensitivity and selectivity for the three models). The Skywave was set in its default "Music" tone selection.

In all the Medium Wave test signal reception MP3's, the CC Pocket is recorded for the first 15 seconds, followed by the Sangean DT-400W for approximately 15 seconds, followed by the Tecsun PL-310ET for approximately 15 seconds, followed by the C.Crane Skywave for approximately 15 seconds, followed by the Eton Traveler III for 15 seconds.

- 620 KPOJ Portland, Oregon (25 kW at 116 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/r1m28jgo3dnmoyd/620-KPOJ-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>
- 650 CISL Vancouver, BC (10 kW at 148 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/luc0wu20t448kso/650-CISL-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.mp3>
- 750 KXTG Tigard, Oregon (50 kW at 123 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/osy29hihuzrkm1t/750-KXTG-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>
- 1070 CFAX Victoria, BC (10 kW at 100 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/ml4wesojkr9c4kd/1070-CFAX-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>
- 1320 CHMB Vancouver, BC (50 kW at 148 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/oe7824bjdbcd2dx/1320-CHMB-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>
- 1470 KELA Centralia, WA (5 kW at 45 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/wjupdefdj0e315w/1470-KELA-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>
- 1650 Vashon TIS Vashon Island, WA (15 watts at 15 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/kx4qi0r19vfa6dr/1650-VashonTIS-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>

COMMENTS: The CC Skywave and the Traveler III tend to break away from the pack receiving the weaker stations, with the edge going to the latter because of its superior audio clarity. The Eton's combination of excellent reception and high audio fidelity makes it the new Sensitivity Champion in the Ultralight radio class, although the CC Skywave is right behind it. The PL-310ET has fairly good sensitivity but is limited by its relatively muffled audio in the 1 kHz DSP setting, while the CC Pocket and DT-400W can't quite keep up with these larger models because of their shorter loopsticks. My own impression was that the DT-400W had a slight edge over the CC Pocket, but neither of these models are paragons of sensitivity in the current Shootout group. The CC Pocket's poor reception of 1070-CFAX was a puzzle – the DT-400W had it at a fairly good level. The Sangean also clearly outperformed the CC Pocket in the 1470-KELA reception. Overall any of these models would be acceptable for routine DXing, but the Eton provides superior weak signal reception at a superior price.

MW SENSITIVITY GRADES:

Eton Traveler III	A
C.Crane Skywave	A-
Tecsun PL-310ET	B+
Sangean DT-400W	B
C.Crane Pocket	B-

MW SELECTIVITY SHOOTOUT

During this competition the five competing models were given the very challenging task of receiving weak daytime DX stations very close in frequency to strong local stations. Because some of these stations were quite weak around local noon the test was run a few hours later in the afternoon, but stable daytime DX test signals were still ensured prior to each runoff. In order to maximize reception of the weak fringe stations, the loopsticks of all the competing models were oriented to null the local pest station as much as possible.

Once again, in each MP3 the first 15 seconds are recorded on the C.Crane Pocket, followed by approximately 15 seconds on the Sangean DT-400W, then approximately 15 seconds on the Tecsun PL-310ET, followed by approximately 15 seconds on the C.Crane Skywave, followed by 15 seconds on the Eton Traveler III.

- 560 KPQ Wenatchee, WA (5 kW at 94 miles) with splatter from 570-KV (5 kW at 15 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/d86y50v3dwz7ytl/560-KPQ-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.mp3>
- 690 CBU Vancouver, WA (50 kW at 148 miles) with splatter from 710-KIRO (50 kW at 30 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/view/2kkwo0utoqfajw6/690-CBU-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.mp3>
- 700 KXLX Airway Heights, WA (10 kW at 222 miles) with splatter from 710-KIRO (50 kW at 30 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/5nrnej5bxyb9b4l/700-KXLX-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>
- 860 KPAM Troutdale, OR (50 kW at 114 miles) with splatter from 850-KHHO (10 kW at 5 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/kid0a8yaec11bvd/860-KPAM-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.mp3>
- 1010 KOOR Milwaukee, OR (4.5 kW at 116 miles) with splatter from 1000-KOMO (50 kW at 30 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/1z80k1mbve7kmlm/1010-KOOR-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.mp3>
- 1550 KKOV Vancouver, WA (50 kW at 108 miles) with splatter from 1560-KZIZ (5 kW at 6 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/b6vx1oqf73bd8f0/1550-KKOV-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.mp3>



COMMENTS: Both the CC Skywave and the Tecsun PL-310ET excelled in the twin tasks of rejecting local splatter and digging out weak audio, but the CC Skywave had the edge in the 1010 and 1550 kHz receptions. The PL-310ET also came up with weak, bogus heterodynes on 690 and 1010 – not exactly helpful. The radios without 1 kHz DSP selectivity were generally outclassed in this competition, although the Traveler III's outstanding nulling capability gave it unexpectedly good performance in the 700, 860 and 1010 receptions. Even without 1 kHz DSP filtering, the Eton can generally survive these rough tests when the pest station is about 90 degrees away from the DX station, and its superior nulling capability can be brought into play. The DT-400W generally had a rough time, although its selectivity was clearly superior to that of the CC Pocket – despite the latter's 2.5 kHz "narrow filter." Curiously, although the C.Crane Skywave is the new MW Selectivity Champion, its CC Pocket sibling brings up the rear.

MW SELECTIVITY GRADES:

C.Crane Skywave	A
Tecsun PL-310ET	A-
Eton Traveler III	B
Sangean DT-400W	C+
C.Crane Pocket	C-

FM SENSITIVITY SHOOTOUT

For this competition weak FM fringe stations were chosen to provide a challenging test for each model's FM sensitivity. The tests were conducted in the open back yard, with each model's FM antenna carefully oriented to provide the best possible reception of each FM fringe station (i.e. the wire antennas for the CC Pocket and DT-400W, and the whip antennas for the PL-310ET, CC Skywave and Traveler III). Although the tests were not conducted at local noon, stable FM conditions were ensured to provide accurate test results for relative FM sensitivity.

As in the Medium Wave test MP3's, the first 15 seconds of each MP3 was recorded on the C.Crane Pocket, followed by approximately 15 seconds on the Sangean DT-400W, then approximately 15 seconds on the Tecsun PL-310ET, followed by approximately 15 seconds on the C.Crane Skywave, then finally 15 seconds on the Eton Traveler III.

95.3 CKZZ Vancouver, BC (148 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/n5ppfzj51jqds5z/95.3-CKZZ-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>

98.5 CIOC Victoria, BC (100 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/acjtgb3dq5n5t9u/98.5-CIOC-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>

100.3 CKKQ Victoria, BC (100 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/j565bpdutj9644r/100.3-CKKQ-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>

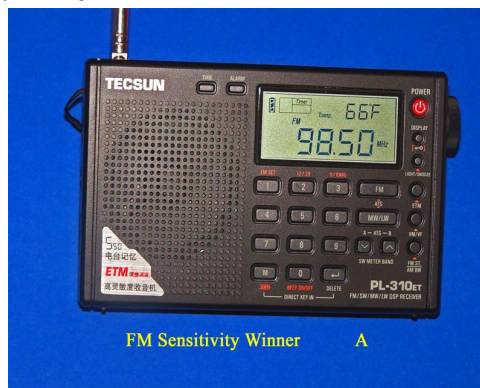
102.1 KPQ Wenatchee, WA (94 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/a1j9j2cfoegedhj/102.1-KPQ-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>

106.5 KWPZ Lynden, WA (122 miles)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/dxshsnmc3da1vbf/106.5-KWPZ-CCPvsDT400WvsPL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>

COMMENTS: Not much of a contest – the PL-310ET trounces the other radios on all five test signals. Whether the FM fringe station is weak, fair or moderate, the Tecsun's Si4734 DSP chip provides unequalled reception. None of the other contenders come close, although the Traveler III does lead the rest of the pack in the 102.1 and 106.5 MHz tests. The DT-400W sounds competitive with the Traveler III in the 98.5 and 100.3 tests, though, and probably deserves third place in this competition. Neither the CC Pocket nor the CC Skywave sound very impressive in receiving any of the test signals, though, and deserve to be judged accordingly. The Tecsun PL-310ET's absolute superiority in FM reception among the Ultralight radio class extends to its sibling Si4734 DSP chip models that were not part of this competition – ie the PL-380, PL-606, PL-505 etc.

FM SENSITIVITY GRADES:

Tecsun PL-310ET	A
Eton Traveler III	B-
Sangean DT-400W	C+
C.Crane Skywave	C
C.Crane Pocket	C



SHORTWAVE SENSITIVITY SHOOTOUT

For this test the three models with Shortwave coverage (PL-310ET, CC Skywave and Traveler III) were tested in the reception of relatively weak Shortwave broadcast stations, chosen over a wide spectrum of the Shortwave spectrum. Whip antennas were fully extended, and placed in the optimal position for best possible reception. The PL-310ET and CC Skywave models were set in the 1 kHz DSP filter position, and the Skywave's tone was set in the default "Music" selection.

For these MP3's the first 15 seconds were recorded on the Tecsun PL-310ET, then approximately 15 seconds on the C.Crane Skywave, followed by 15 seconds on the Eton Traveler III.

5920 WHRI (Furman, SC)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/xyyqg9lmt9y85bb/5.920-WHRI-PL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>

6090 Caribbean Beacon (The Valley, Anguilla)
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/hoamjq16hp6bpm8/6.090-Anguilla-PL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>

9525 UnID
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/l84mo8lwnv68j1/9.525-UnID-PL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>

11750 Cuba
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/gjeg5kvklp4d8i3/11.750-Cuba-PL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>

15120 Spanish UnID
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/6j5y1yb3i9fxy3/15.120-Spanish-PL310vsCCSWvsTravIII.MP3>



COMMENTS: Once again, the PL-310ET trounces the other models in a very convincing fashion – on each of the five Shortwave test signals. Although the CC Skywave and Traveler III both have extended Shortwave band coverage (up to 26.1 MHz) their lack of Shortwave sensitivity competitive with the PL-310ET makes this minor advantage seem irrelevant. The Tecsun's Si4734 DSP chip not only provides better sensitivity but better image rejection across the Shortwave spectrum as well, making it the runaway winner in this category. The engineers designing both the CC Skywave and the Traveler III have introduced breakthrough MW-DXing capabilities with the two new models – but improvements in Shortwave performance obviously weren't part of the design master plan. The Tecsun's mastery in this category also applies to its Si4734 DSP chip siblings – the PL-380, PL-606, PL-505 and related models. Although most of those models have a whip antenna slightly shorter than that of the PL-310ET, the excellent Shortwave performance of their Si4734 chips still makes them formidable competitors against these new models.

SHORTWAVE SENSITIVITY GRADES:

Tecsun PL-310ET	A
C.Crane Skywave	B-
Eton Traveler III	B-

WEATHER BAND SENSITIVITY SHOOTOUT

For this competition the three models with Weather Band coverage (CC Pocket, DT-400W and CC Skywave) were tested in the relative reception of any Weather Band stations. Weather Band frequency 2 was received on all models – but it was the only Weather Band station received at this somewhat poor location for FM reception. For this single test MP3 the wire antennas for the CC Pocket and DT-400W models and the whip antenna for the CC Skywave were oriented for the best possible reception of this Weather Band 2 station.

The first 15 seconds were recorded on the C.Crane Pocket, followed by approximately 15 seconds on the Sangean DT-400W, and finally 15 seconds on the C.Crane Skywave.

Weather Band Frequency 2
<http://www.mediafire.com/listen/32oqwet8lt8298p/WX-Channel2-CCPvsDT400WvsCCSW.MP3>

COMMENT: The CC Skywave's excellent reception of Weather Band 2 is in an entirely different league than that of its two wispy competitors – probably because of the advanced Si4736 DSP chip that C.Crane chose for the Skywave's Air Band and Weather Band reception. The CC Pocket and DT-400W can compete with each other in Weather Band reception, but have no hope of even coming close to the Skywave. For those DXers who consider Weather Band reception and Alerts extremely important in case of emergencies, the CC Skywave is the obvious choice.

WEATHER BAND SENSITIVITY GRADES:

C.Crane Pocket	B-
Sangean DT-400W	B-
C.Crane Skywave	A



SECTION THREE – FINAL VERDICTS

C.CRANE POCKET: This vertical form receiver is a compact and convenient pocket radio suitable for sporting activity, travel and many other functions. C.Crane is to be commended for designing several unusual capabilities into the model in an attempt to improve its market appeal relative to its obvious competition – the Sangean DT-400W. Unfortunately, though, none of those additional capabilities provide it with any type of competitive edge in the rough world of weak-signal DXing. The Sangean more than holds its own in MW, FM and Weather Band sensitivity and in MW selectivity – regardless of which filter is selected in the CC Pocket. To be sure, the 1 kHz step tuning, far more memories, the alarm function, the more powerful speaker, longer warranty and rubber-like trim will appeal to some purchasers, but the Sangean's "fun factor" is an intangible asset which has kept it in steady demand for 7 years. The CC Pocket's performance in this ultra-competitive Shootout has repeatedly been at the back of the pack – which doesn't necessarily mean that it has issues, but more likely that it is not really suitable for an all-out DXer looking for an MW, FM or Weather Band performance edge. For this type of purchaser the \$64.95 price (\$5.00 more than the innovative Traveler III, for example) will seem excessive – especially in light of the CC Pocket's lackluster performance in all four of the Shootout categories.

SANGEAN DT-400W: This bright yellow pocket radio performed about as well as could have been expected from a 2008-design vertical form receiver without an advanced DSP chip. Despite its limited loopstick length and lack of any filter choice it had fairly good Medium Wave sensitivity, and usually displayed a slight edge over its CC Pocket competitor in the other categories as well. To be sure it lacks several of the CC Pocket's versatile features but in competition with that model it excels in the real-world DXing capabilities that really count. DXers who have been captivated by the model's unique charm and unusually pleasant audio will be pleased with its overall performance in this Shootout – even if it is no longer at the top of the pack in MW sensitivity, selectivity or any other category except for audio fidelity. Basically, it provides the best possible MW and FM-DXing performance available in such a small vertical-form receiver – with a lot of fun thrown in as a bonus. One listen of your favorite song on FM stereo (with the Deep Bass Boost engaged) will convince you that the radio is an unusual gem – and that the \$57.67 price is a true bargain. Sangean's 2008-design model has been a classic good seller for 7 years now – so why change a winning combination?

TECSUN PL-310ET: At its introduction in September of 2009 this model led the Ultralight Radio class in almost every category – and in certain capabilities it is still the overwhelming class leader. Its FM and Shortwave sensitivity are in a class of its own, and it is still highly competitive in Medium Wave selectivity. Unfortunately Tecsun has done nothing to correct the MW-DXing quirks of the 2009-design radio – offering manufacturers like C.Crane and Eton an opportunity to introduce new models which correct them very effectively. As such, the Tecsun PL-310ET (and its related models) no longer stand at the top of the Ultralight Radio class in the all-important capability of Medium Wave DXing performance. Breakthrough innovation has allowed the new CC Skywave and Traveler III models to take over the MW selectivity and MW sensitivity honors, respectively.

Despite this fact the PL-310ET still has plenty to offer the all-out DXer – including Medium Wave enthusiasts who don't particularly mind the model's digital quirks. The multiple display functions, powerful audio amp, advanced digital search functions and superior memory capacity are significant advantages for DXers on any band, and hobbyists who have become accustomed to these features may be reluctant to part with them. A related model (the PL-380) has become a favorite for Longwave loopstick upgrades combined with 1 kHz DSP filtering – a capability which no competing model possesses. For FM and Shortwave-DXing enthusiasts the model (and its Tecsun siblings) are really the only serious choices, with weak signal performance in a higher league than any competing model. In summary, despite the fact that its MW performance has finally been upstaged (after over five years), its \$49.89 price is a true bargain for all of the DXing performance that the radio still offers.

C.CRANE SKYWAVE: By correcting all of the Tecsun model MW-DXing digital quirks and introducing breakthrough Air Band and Weather Band capabilities as well, C.Crane has created a dream portable for both Medium Wave split-frequency DXers and worldwide travelers as well. Although it lacks many of the Tecsun's digital search, display and memory capabilities and costs significantly more, its unusual combination of excellent MW sensitivity, very effective 1 kHz DSP filtering and improved DX station audio is enough to motivate most Ultralight class transoceanic DXers to come up with the cash. Concentrating on both Medium Wave performance and the new Air Band capability, C.Crane is to be commended for their innovation in developing such an impressive new pocket radio, having both excellent versatility and outstanding build quality. Although it gets slightly edged out by the new Traveler III in MW sensitivity and nulling ability it has excellent MW sensitivity itself – and leads the Ultralight class in MW selectivity. That superior combination is enough to make it the new transoceanic DXing Ultralight radio of choice – and satisfy the desires of many hobbyists who have waited years for a manufacturer to correct bogus heterodynes, "soft mute" and unbalanced 1 kHz DSP audio. For domestic MW-DXers who would also like relief from these irritants but who feel that the C.Crane's \$89.95 price is "sky high," Eton's new Traveler III is the dream alternative.

ETON TRAVELER III: Domestic MW-DXers will be pleased to know that innovation and creativity are alive and well at the Eton company – which has created the most sensitive (and stylish) MW-DXing pocket radio ever to exist on the planet. Although it lacks the Skywave's breakthrough split-frequency capability it also corrects all of the Tecsun models' MW digital quirks, and introduces an exceptional nulling capability as well. The Traveler III has a few minor digital quirks of its own but these are insignificant in comparison to its outstanding combination of MW sensitivity, audio fidelity and nulling capability – making it a true pleasure to seek out weak MW signals. The new Eton model's innovation does seem to be concentrated on MW performance at the expense of the other bands and its lack of DSP filtering options will probably not satisfy split-frequency DXers in need of the best possible selectivity, but its single filtering option is relatively effective, and in combination with its outstanding nulling capability it can occasionally dig out very weak MW signals adjacent to strong locals. Its \$59.99 price is a true bargain for domestic MW-DXers in search of the best possible sensitivity, audio fidelity and nulling capability – and the stylish cabinet design, display appearance and carrying case may well provide this new radio with an intangible "fun factor" as a major bonus.

SUMMARY: Now that you have the most detailed Ultralight radio purchasing guide on the planet, why not take the plunge, and invest some minor pocket change in one of these new innovative new pocket radios? Whether for serious DXing or for travel reception, these new models provide amazing new capabilities far beyond the humble pocket radios of the last century. If you grew up as a teenager with such a transistor radio introducing you to the thrills of DX, you will discover that the thrills of DX have taken a quantum leap with these astonishing new models.

So go ahead and make your choice – and discover the unique thrills of chasing rare DX with a highly advanced pocket radio! The 1,500+ member Ultralight Radio Yahoo Group waits to welcome you, and provide you with all the assistance you need in providing a major boost in your own hobby satisfaction.

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

NRC Antenna Pattern Book, 7th Edition

The 7th Edition of the **NRC Antenna Pattern Book** is now available. This all new edition prepared by NRC'er Paul Swearingen is an all-inclusive book of patterns for both Day and Night operation of stations in the USA, Canada and selected foreign stations. The data for the book comes from the 34th Edition of the AM Radio Log and NRC'er John Callerman's comprehensive Mexican station listing.

The book comes shrink wrapped in 8½ by 11 three hole punch format for placement in your own three ring binder. There are 240 pages and the book has maps covering 530 through 1700 kHz depicting the lower USA, Canada and Mexico. Hawaii and Alaska are shown on separate maps at the end of the book.

Price: **IRCA/NRC Member USA** \$22.95, \$28.95 for non-members (add \$3.85 for Priority Mail delivery to US addresses only). To Canada \$35.00; airmail outside of US and Canada \$39.00. For those outside the US, use PayPal or a postal money order in US funds only.

35th Edition of the National Radio Club's AM Radio Log

The **NRC's AM Radio Log** is the leading source for information on AM radio stations in the United States and Canada. As always, this edition is in an 8-1/2"x 11", 3-hole punched, US loose leaf format. This publication fits nicely into a one-inch, three-ring binder. Additional references include call letters of FM simulcasts with the AM Stations listing, listings of regional groups of stations in the groups section (a separate section of the Log), a cross reference of those stations that are licensed to use IBOC (In Band On Channel) digital audio, and a comprehensive list of FM translators that are now simulcasting with AM broadcasters.

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This manual is a compilation of numerous articles on the subject of design and theory of the beverage and longwire antennas that have appeared through the years in **DX News**. Some articles are available as reprints. This book gives details information on the theory of operation, construction and maintenance of a beverage antenna. Serves as an enhancement to Antenna Reference Manuals Volume 1 and 2. 8 1/2" X 11" booklet format.

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The Coolum Beach Beverage 1983

Beverage Basic Theory

The Florida Beverage

The Care and Feeding of the Wave Antenna

A Non-Resonant Longwire Remote From Earth Ground

Two-Wire Phased Antennas

Analysis of the Beverage Antenna

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LAM Contents:

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- Loop Antenna Theory and Practice
- Loop Distortion Why get Skewed?
- High Dynamic Range Balun Loop
- The Hot Rod- Ferrite Loop Antenna
- High Precision Direction Finding
- What's Wrong With Present Day Loop Antennas?
- Roll Your Own! (Loop)
- Long Wave Converter Detail
- Pattern Controlled Loops
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- NRC FET Altazimuth Loop
- Thoughts on FET Loop Construction
- Tips on Loop Construction
- Balanced and Unbalanced Loops
- A 'Collapsible' Loop for Travel
- Antenna Tuning Devices for Longwires
- The Hawk Loop
- Balanced FET Amplifier
- NRC Two Foot Loop
- One Transistor Loop amplifier
- Direct Coupled Loops
- BCB DXers Beverage
- 'Bob Flick' Loop Antenna Coupler
- Alternative Methods of Air Core Loop Amplification

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Antenna Reference Manual Volume 2 (ARM2)

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ARM2 Contents:

- A Good Loop is Easy and Cheap to Make
- The "Harley Loop"
- Whip Antenna Coupler for Portable Receivers
- The Wedge Loop
- AC Power Supply for FET Loop Amplifiers
- Antenna Phasing
- FET Loop Amplifier with Coaxial Output
- Practical Phased Beverages
- Phasing Unit Construction and Use
- More on Phased Beverages
- Phasing Unit Design Modifications
- More Thoughts on Beverages
- Floor Stand and Mounting Arrangements for Loops

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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.

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