Inside

9. DDXD-W
11. CPC Report
15. FCC and AM
17. KGQ
18. GYDXA
21. Musings
Crystal Set

2. AM Switch
12. DDXD

3. FCC Rules
CKO goes

4. Station Changes
13. Target DX
23. WCHI

5. DDXD-E
14. UnID to ID

WADN-1120 Concord, MA will conduct a DX TEST on January 8, 1990 from 2:00 pm to 2:30 am EST. Test will be conducted using 5000 watts directional (basically west). Programming will consist of 1 kHz test tones, Morse Code ID's and vocal ID's by both male and female announcers. Correct reports will be verified by Mr. Michael Klein, WADN, 1901 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742. Reports may be sent via QSL. Arranged by Michael Kline with assistance from Peter George and the Colorado CPC Machine for the NRC.

W2DL-1099 Boston, MA will conduct a DX TEST on January 22, 1990 from 2:00 pm to 2:30 am EST. Test will be conducted using 5000 watts non-directional at 1 kHz test tones, Morse Code ID's and vocal ID's by both male and female announcers. Correct reports will be verified by Mr. Michael Klein, W2DL, 3501 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742. Reports may be sent via QSL. Arranged by Michael Kline with assistance from Peter George and the Colorado CPC Machine for the NRC.

WKMT-1220, P.O. BOX 1220, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 will be conducting an annual Proof of Performance tests on Saturday, January 6, 1990 from 0100-0300. The test will run at both 100 watt and 1000 watt non-directional. The program will consist of audio tones between 100 Hz and 10,000 Hz, white noise, music and both voice and Morse code ID's. The test will be completed by 0300, and the station is on automatic operation with interspersed Morse code ID's until 0600 when regular programs will resume with Southern Gospel Music. Direct all reports to Mr. Don Holtzclaw, C.E. Don would appreciate info on signal strengths, band conditions and fading, co-channel and adjacent channel interference, and if you have CATV Stereo whether or not the stereo signal is interlaced. Arranged by Tim Hall and the Colorado CPC Machine for the National Radio Club.

From the Editor...
Wayne Helsen told me that the CPC was going to push me off the front page, and by gismo they just about did! This is what your stamps have done for the NRC ... keep up the good work.


Pub Dates ... Remember, your next deadline for most columns will be Dec. 16 for the Jan. 1, 1991, #12. You will not receive a DXN during the last week of December because we decided several years ago to avoid mail problems during the holiday season.

DX Time Machine
From the pages of DX News
Twenty-five years ago ... from the Dec. 5, 1964 DXN: Gordon F. Nelson, Watertown, MA reported that he was writing an article for the use of direction-finding loops on the RCB which he termed "unique in the history of BC DX" ... Bart Conroe, Eugene, OR checked in with the news that he was Ann. News Director of KUGN ... Hank Wilkinson, N. Hollywood, CA reported receiving his DXN's every Tuesday ... junior high student John Davis, New York, NY checked in with his first Musing and news stations heard: WRKJ-910, KCRB-1460, WHIC-540, CBNS-990, WDC-1220, WQNS-1410, and WQHS-1540.

Ten years ago ... from the Dec. 28, 1979 DXN: The LPC recognized these volunteers at the close of the decade: Ray Arnold, DDXD; John D. Bowker, AM Switch; Wes Boyd, Panter Books; John Calamari, NRC Leg; Ken Chenoweth, Publications; John Clements, QA; Elmer Cooper, Musings; Carl Dabertin, NRC B. of D. Frank Dailey, Publications Officer; Russ Edmonds, DX Change; Don Erickson, DDXA; Joe Feta, Frequency Check; Bill Hale, GYA, Wayne Helsen, Verification; Chuck Hutton, DDXA; Karl Jeter, Reprints; John Kneeka, Contents; More Magazine, DDXA, Awards; Ron Musco, Membership; Dan Myers, Flash Alerts, and Neil Zarak, CPC Chairman.

THE WORLD'S OLDEST AND LARGEST ALL MEDIUM-WAVE DX CLUB
AM Switch

Jerry Starr
c/o WHOT Radio
4040 Simon Road
Youngstown, OH 44512-1320

Status changes in AM stations, supplied by the FCC and NRC members

Call Letter Changes:

None, however, we do have a Call Comment: The FCC may have done it again. As reported here they have assigned KXZC to the new 1550 station in Santa Ys, NM. Our records indicate that call still resides in Laredo, TX or 800 kHz. Bill Hale confirms this call still in use there. What gives, FCC???

Applications for New Stations:

1100 KQO (reapplication)
1120 KBXN (preliminary)

Grants for New Stations:

None.

Applications from Existing Facilities:

540 KZ-2 CA Bakersfield: 1000/1000 kW
710 KEVC-D CA Denver: 1000/500 kW
840 KSDP AK Sand Point: 1000/500 kW
660 KAWC AL Atlanta: 500/500 kW
1190 WAON MD Baltimore: 1000/1000 kW

Grants to Existing Facilities:

770 KBBC TX Garland: 1000/1000 kW
900 KRLY CO Lakewood: 500/500 kW
1150 KEVC CA Santa Rosa: 1000/500 kW
1280 WWAM WA Seattle: 500/500 kW
1340 CFYK NM Yellowknife: 500/500 kW

Other:

640 WWZJ NJ Mount Holly: 500/500 kW
770 KBBC TX Garland: 1000/1000 kW
820 WWNY NY New York: 500/500 kW
1010 WMUL GA Atlanta: 1000/500 kW
1110 CHFR ON Port Hawkesbury: 500/500 kW
1160 WAMX NY Mechanicville: 500/500 kW
1230 WSJR ME Houlton: 1000/500 kW
1320 WERB VA Richmond: 1000/500 kW
1340 WLWC ME Port Kent: 1000/500 kW

FCC Rule Primer

This DX WAM series we are discussing specific FCC Rules of interest to the readers. If you have any specific questions or areas of interest, let the NOS Headquarters know.

VIII. AM Broadcast Definitions

Note: In an earlier column we covered the definitions from the FCC Rules of the AM Broadcast Band, AM Broadcast Channel and FM Broadcast Station. Here are some of the other definitions in that Rule Section:

Blanketing: The interference which is caused by the presence of an AM broadcast station of one wavelength (or larger) or greater strengths in the area adjacent to the location of the receiving station. The closest frequency (in frequency) is referred to as the blanketing contour and the area within this contour is referred to as the blanketing area.

Daytime: The period of time between local sunrise and local sunset. Note: There is a definition for "nighttime".

Experimental Period: The period of time between local sunrise and local sunset.

Interruption Service Area: The area receiving service from the groundwave of a broadcast station but outside the primary service area and subject to some interference and fading.

Left Signal: The electrical output of a microphone or combination of microphones placed on the left of the center of the performing area.

Main Channel: The band of audio frequencies from 50 to 15,000 Hz which amplitude modulates the carrier. Note: This does not mean there can be no transmission of sound below 50 Hz or above 15,000 Hz, although the rules define a certain "null" for audio above 15,000 Hz.

Primary Service Area: The area receiving service from a broadcast station in which the groundwave is subject to objectionable interference or objectionable fading.

Secondary Service Area: The area subject to objectionable interference and in which the signal is subject to intermittent variations in strength.

White Area: The area or population which does not receive interference-free primary service from a broadcast station. Note: This does not mean there can be no transmission of sound below 50 Hz or above 15,000 Hz, although the rules define a certain "null" for audio above 15,000 Hz.

Our next column will highlight the FCC Rules of Classes of AM Broadcast Channels.
FM Station Address Book, 3rd Edition

ONLY $9.95 Canada, $10.45 in the U.S. Foreign orders, please write for price.

*Listed by state/city Includes Canadian stations & 4511 stations, 3-hole punched. *Full-size type.
**Domestic DX Digest - West**

**Wayne Heinen**
4131 S. Andes Way
Aurora, CO 80013
(303) 689-3365 (prepaid only)

**DX Catches in the Western U.S. and Canada, with 24-hr. ELT**

Something that got lost in the computers a few weeks back: My thanks to JEFF TYNAN for backing up the column during my vacation and for his coords4-support in editing it with me!

Just a few reminders. This column lists all other columns in DX News has all dates & times listed in ELT. Contributions over 30 days old will usually be cut. Deadlines are “in my mailbox” by Saturday one week before the Topoka deadline. Real Hints Tips may be phoned in, but you’re taking your chances of getting me or the “machine” on the line. (My FIDO Node is 11/04/108. I usually check my BBS on Sat. or Sun, prior to publication.)

**SPECIAL**

550 KLLV CO Brem 11/22 1889 fair to good a/KOY with Focus on the Family program. (rec-1560) CO #82 (JT-CT)

560 KZK CO Denver 11/20 2200 Today was the day. No more C&W. Now “KLZ-rock”. At least the letter call fit! Heavy Metal Z-Rock Network (WH-CO)

630 KHOW CO Denver 11/20 0516 noted off thru 0530. Nothing Id’able. #56-561 $6 (WH-CO)

1150 KFBR CO Englewood-Denver 11/24 0485a Noted spurs at 1166kHz and 1134 kHz. Stations signal has been of very poor quality. Call to Station indicates they are using the Day Non-DA and 1kw Night DA. They were unaware of spurs but are having severe XMTR problems. Also, Format is NOT SS, SS is (070-140), remainder is UC and T&L with emphasis on Public Service and anti-gang programs)

1340 KEEN DB Denver 11/20 2230 Noted w/ BRN talk show. Has added some BRN features to their normal all Nxx format (WH-CO)

1500 KASH CR Lakewood depot “Money Radio” & evening // KFIV-102.3 format for “The all new NewsTalk AM 13-40” carries TalkNet after 1900. (R7-CA)

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**Midwest to Midday**

550 KCRS TX Midland 11/24 0757 TXs/VXs News to 0800 legal ID and into local news. Mucho slop from KLZ-560 (WH-CO)

580 KMI CA Fresno 11/24 0636 On top with the KMI Ag Report (WH-CO)

790 KFYO TX Amarillo 11/24 0814 C&W mx, local spots, w/2 DJ’s one with heavy W, TX accent atop most of the AM (WH-CO)

890 KVOX TX Laredo 11/24 0815 Local news w/ TSN features... local spots in EE and SS (025 to KVOX Sx, WH-CO)

1110 KTEK TX Alvin 11/24 0745 Tx to Texas Grass Roots Coalition feature... local spots 0753 “Tell a friend about KTEK, Houston’s Christian Radio” (WH-CO)

1340 KUJX TX Tyler 11/24 0941 Tx State Nxx News to legal ID 0900 (WH-CO)

1340 KKWY TX Waxahachie 11/19 0100/000 AM poor / others (NH-HA)

1340 KQVL SD Grand Junction 11/24 1050 Fair // QXM w/ KQXN on XM SP, C&W Mx, Call ID’s. (WH-CO)

1370 KSOP UT Salt Lake City 11/20 0525 Noted w/ C&W Mx, call ID’s KSOP-FM 25 Anniversary promo. Good on peaks (WH-CO)

1390 KGER CA Long Beach 11/21 0125 End of “Morning Chapel Hour”, local Spot, ID, then “Haven of Rest”, Fair best w/KENN. (WH-CO)

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**REPORTERS:**

- M. BAKER//Spring Lake, MI //REALISTIC SCR-15, built-in antenna
- WPT-DC WILLIAM TOWNSEND//WASHINGTON, DC //11/15/2010
- NCS-MURRIS OSANG//Port Carling, ON//150 SM 2 Space Magnet
- CR-ON CHARLES REED//Leomington, ON//6-390A, 5-40A, Sonerino Loop, 40’ phased loop, REALISTIC TR-5000 open reel
- DT-ON DON TRELFO//Scarsboro, ON//DX-440
- NG-ON NIEL WOLFISH//Willowdale, ON//FL71A // LV or ICF-2010
- DB-1A DOUG BEARD//Northville, MI//100 ft Motorola
- SAB-MA SHAWN AXEL/Winnspeg, MB//8-70 // 3 BOX Loop or 100’ LW // Mini-Tun-3
- DG-WI DOUG SMITH//Madison, WI//Superadio II

**SOME ABBREVIATIONS & SPECIAL SYMBOLS used in 200-900**

- TIA 778 tone, Copen carrier, Tolls check, 24Regular schedule, 386Therfence interference, 42Gauding ID CIDcode ID 3xingle music news weather, 52Star Banded Banner 75LS1ocal signal 78Sunrise ship 79Local antenna 55SS uships 68Pre-Sunrise Authority, 77AM40 AM 88FM 99School FB//football Bbbaseball HHHockey BBKbasketball 100 on the hour times 110 no into 120Spanish 13French 14English 16Religion or religious 20Adult contemporary 20BBdbband 30Oldies 40RROCK 51Roll RROBodbohmic hit radio CCH Chrono 64Contemporary Christian CCO country 74Western 84Modern li 94Contemporary USA 96Pubescent contemporary XPunk 100United Press International NBS/Mostal Broadcasting System USNR/United Radio Net NPR National Public Radio MCRMusic Country Radio Net INK/Interactive Radio Net
10

1400 KSLN (AZ, Phoenix)
11/20 0540 Julio Iglesias, other Latin Pops, “Radio Fiesta” slogan’s & Call IDs. All in 88:02 legal ID in EE/SS. Fair on peaks semi-regularly lately. (GW-CO)

1400 KTVC (AZ, Tucson)
11/20 0550 CBS prog “Nightwatch”; legal ID 6559; local Spot; CBS Nn @ 0600 Not often hrd here. (GW-CO)

1400 KIUN (TX, Pecos)
11/24 0830 Roost: Crow and fall data s/ on and into local news (WH-CO)

1470 KUTY (CA, Palm Springs)
11/21 0132 Spot for jewelry buyer (1-800 #) Doni Parrish Song. Alone on the freq, briefly w/ fair signal. (GW-CO)

1490 KQTY (TX, Borger)
11/20 0435 C&W mix, “Stereo 1490 AM KQTY” ID’s (GW-CO)

Midday to Midnight

690 KRCO (OR, Prineville)
11/15 2015 Mentions of OR State Univ., OR Fish & Wildlife, ads, Ws. Stock report, more ads and clear ID. Great Signal o/XTERRA, some CBU fade in, usually XTERRA dominates. (RT-CA)

730 KRCV (OR, Medford)
11/15 2100 Cignal “Christian Radio for the 90’s, V.72” mx w/ID @ 2103. Equal to or over CKLC. (RT-CA)

810 KTBI (WA, Ephrata)
11/17 1930 wd/eleborate s/ off ... KTBI is the most powerful AM radio station in East Washington between Seattle & Spokane.” invited listeners w/in 40 miles to tune to 95.9 KGDN. Good w/KGO nudded. (NH-WA)

880 KMFR (OR, Pendleton)
11/17 2133 Dominant w/ “Country 88” and “Heart of the Country” slogan, promo for Country Countdown prog. Usually KMRC dominates. (RT-CA)

940 KWBY (OR, Woodburn)
11/17 end of C&W mx, 9111 ID, Local ads. Fair o/KFRE then faded (NH-WA)

940 KWBY (OR, Woodburn)
11/17 2114 Clear u/KFRE w/ID, C&W mx, BIC’ing school spot ending w/ “Call us at Cowboy Country 591-9400 for more information” (RT-CA)

1000 K2HWF (AZ, Bullhead City)
11/22 2200 poor w/CW. ad for True Value Hardware in Laughlin. AZ #48. (TT-CO)

1070 KBOZ (MT, Bozeman)
11/18 1857 thought I’d heard “10-90 KBOZ” followed by Eagles song, signal disappeared @ 1900 (likely pattern chg) before any ID was hrd. Poor in KING null. Much wasted for NBC context. (BH-WA)

1130 K9MR (ND, Bismarck)
11/18 1912 ad, 1813 ID & ad, C&W Mk, Excellent w/ CWXR nudled (NH-WA)

1140 KKMZ (SD, Yankton)
11/18 1832 stop, w/wx by man for the region ending w/ Greybull and Basin. 1834 lady thanking listeners for mail. C&W mx maybe SMN. lost to NCS format station probably KGEM (BH-WA)

1220 KIAR (ID, Burley)
11/16 2000 ID slipped thru u/ pause of KZZR. (NH-WA)

1220 K2KZ (WA, Burnes)
11/16 2000 ID by woman then ABC Nn, Excellent o/ the mess (NH-WA)

1240 KNRV (CA, Monterey)
11/19 2010 CBS Nn (TV) promo, “Lakers BKB today on your xx leader for the central coast, KNRY, Monterey”. Very good. (NH-WA)

1240 KFLY (OR, Corvallis)
11/18 2212 ID “It’s 0 o’clock w/ Terry Nelson on 1240 KFLY, Corvallis-Albany” on top. (NH-WA)

1240 CJAV (BC, Port Alberni)
11/18 2100 ID into local Nn, vox. 2106 “CJAV-1240, Cable 104 & Jingle. Good, haven’t hrd then in years. (NH-WA)

1340 KLKI (WA, Anacortes)
11/18 2000 ID then Mutual Nn / the group. (NH-WA)

1340 KLKI (WA, Anacortes)
11/18 2000 o/u KAPA, good at times, OLD format, nice legal ID @ 2300 then MUTUAL Nn. First logging since they were KAGT years back. (BH-WA)

1380 KLZT (AZ, Parker)
11/20 2235-2245 well atop the channel with NOS, to ID at 2245. Rare here (WH-CO)

1390 KCRK (CA, Berkley)
11/22 2325 Noted w/ automated EZL/NOS ID “KCRK 13 90 AM” (WH-CO)

1400 KBFN (CA, Berkeley)
11/17 2000 “Money Radio” slogan then legal ID. (NH-WA)

1400 KNNN (OR, Cottage Grove)
11/15 2005 call ID, into local Nn w/ID’s in reports, o/KBFS (RT-CA)

CONTRIBUTORS:

(BH-WA) Bill “(Das)” Hardy - Aberdeen, WA FRC-7, Radio West Loop
(IT-CO) Jeff Tynan - Parker, CO
Sony-2002 w/JTS-B Loop
(0W-CO) John Wildings - Wheat Creek, CO
R-1000, 2.6 Loop
(NH-WA) Nancy “(Mom)” Hardy - Aberdeen, WA
FRC-7, Radio West Loop
(RT-CO) Rich Tooele - Pleasanton CA
ICEF-2010, Grundig 3400

As we continue to roll through the DX Season, we thought we’d give you an update. First of all thanks to the Colorado CPC Machine supporters! Bob Harrison, Tim Hall, Kurt A. Nelson, Howard B. Miller, Charles C. Warner. Robert Tiara, Bob Holbrook, R. Miller and Ron Musco. By December 1, 1989 over 100 CPC Letters have left the Machine.

Letters have been used from the states of SC, NC, VA, MN, MO, IA, WI, IL, MI, PA, NY, PA, VA, MI, IA, some are by suggestion and some are by choices of things Jeff & I would like to hear!

To date we’ve concentrated on Saturday, Sunday & Monday mornings through mid February. Our next push will be late February through April. These letters will be mailed after the Holiday Rush season so there is plenty of time for you to send your targets and stations to "The Machine".

Two recently scheduled tests, WABN-1120 and WILD-1320 are credited to Michael Klein. Mike is an avid Ham (W1LY) who contacted the Colorado CPC Machine. The Machine wishes to thank NCR’s PETER GEORGE of MBET for passing along the info of how to find the CPC Machine to Mr. Klein! The Credit for the tests belongs to PETER George and Michael Klein. The Machine thanks our thanks to both these fine gentlemen for these tests!

We would like to see stamps for 100 letters or more arrive in time for mid January mailing. We’re ready to donate the labor, time and material. For that curious, material includes gasoline, letterhead, envelopes, printer ribbons and follow up postcard and phone calls. If you’re ready to back us up with the target stations and the stamps! We are really in need of YOUR INPUT as to the targets. Being somewhat selfish, we’ve been picking the stuff that we need to add to our lobbies. When picking targets we try to avoid stations that are listed as MIP in the NCR Log. If you would also let us know your best morning from YOUR location, YOU will have a better chance at hearing the station.

Sincerely,

The Apple IIs, Jeff & Wayne

CPC Report

Wayne Heinen
Jeff Tynan
4131 S. Andes Way
Aurora, CO 80019
News service sign-off increases concerns about competition

TORONTO (CP) — A senior, skeleton staff worked the Newsworld broadcast network yesterday as it prepared to sign off the air, several users said that would seriously impact competition in the broadcast industry.

"It's a lot like watching a movie," quipped John Macleod, a senior editor for the last six years with Newsworld, which has provided audio and written news for about 100 radio stations across the country.

"I got to check it out now that the sun is out," said reporter John Smith, noting that a deck in a nearby newspaper.

The writing was on the wall: literally — for Newsworld and its staff yesterday. Under "On the Front" at least one broadcast news service sign outside a broadcast news service station, someone stuck a note that read: "Well... kind of."
Making the UnID an ID ...
by R.J. Edmunds
Part Three

Turn on your radio, and tune to 1060 kHz. Do you hear an AM station? Possibly you will hear the frequencies of some local stations. What do you hear? Some of you may hear local stations, while others will hear an unID. Depending upon how long you listen, and the location of your listening practices, you may have to choose what frequency, and on some point, you may be certain to have heard a legal ID from that station.

If I turn on my radio, and tune to 1060 kHz, I know that I am hearing KFMB in the first 30 seconds. I am using the same sound. When I was actively X'ing TAs in Northern New Jersey in the late 1960's, and throughout much of the 1970's, I knew that when I heard a certain signal on 1060 kHz, that it was KFMB, West Germany. I was once asked by a well-known veteran DX'er from the 1930's, how I knew that. I explained that it was easy to know when I was listening to WABA when he tuned 770 kHz. (He lived less than ten miles from the transmitter, and had done so for most of his life.) That reply only reply I ever got to that was "...but that's different..." I'm still not sure what is.

What I wish to do here is to make point that to my way of thinking, each DX'er can and should set their own standards for how they DX, what they count, how, and why. All of this should be without regard for what I think (as stated above) and equally without regard for what anyone else (editor, neighbor, friend or whoever) thinks or does either. Whatever it takes, the DX'er needs to know that he or she has heard such-and-such-a station, beyond all reasonable doubt. With that in mind, I can proceed to outline some sample techniques and theories to apply in pursuit of ID'ing your unID's.

I prefer to divide the so-called non-ID's into two groups, generic and specific. A generic non-ID is something like "1340", which tells nothing, because you know you were on 1340, and any number of stations are stereo, and if you had a receiver capable of receiving stereo, you knew that. An example is "1340". You knew after a couple of seconds. Another is "1300", which conceivably cover any station with a Q anywhere in its call, between 1350 and 1990 kHz. (An FM station's non-ID of "FM-100" is equivalent, in that it could be anywhere from 99.5 to 100.5 MHz.) My favorite, though, is something like "1490 Radio". You could do that without ever tuning on the radio.

A specific non-ID is, as you might suspect, specific to a given station's identity, usually first and last letters. For example, the station on 1490 kHz uses examples from the past, but such things as "Wixim" (WEMT - 1510, Boston), "Wystter" (WSLR 1350, Akron), "Wall" (WALL - 1360, Thackerville, NY), "Chim" (CHUM - 1340, Toronto), or "Churn" (CHOW - 1470, Welland, Ont.) are, to me, quite descriptive. Any of these would be sufficient to convince me of what it was, and without further ado. In this way, I differ from those who feel that it is a broadcast in both AM and FM DX circles. Similarly, it's not always necessary for me to have a full legal ID. Often just a part of it suits me, depending on the circumstances.

When it comes to unID's, though, let's face it; you aren't familiar with the station, and the signal may not be of good quality. Therefore, depending on your standards, and on the strength and clarity of the signal, and on the other information you may already have accumulated, you may or may not want to hold out for a full legal ID. That's your choice.

As I indicated earlier, it's risky to consider format to be a stand-alone indicator of what station you're hearing, and that the combination of format and the combination of format and call letters doesn't change that. If these are too little, and a full legal ID is something too much, there are several useful local public service announcements. Local news items may help. Station call letters or locations or contests may yield a station phone number. All of these items, plus others not noted here, can be leads for the DX'er to work with.

WJMI-FM & WOAD-AM

GCC Meeting on AM's Future ...
by Robert Horvitz
(via Pete Kemp)

The FCC held an unusual "captive" meeting on 18 November to hear six panels of experts talk about the current state of AM broadcasting in the United States and ways to improve it. A total of 300 people registered to discuss technical, economic, and management issues, interference, receivers, stereo, and low to best use the expansion band (1605-1705 kHz). If anything emerged from the meeting, it was a clearer understanding of AM's deterioration, and the feeling that even radical changes might not be enough to save it.

Since this meeting was called by the NAB, they staffed the first panel, which tried to set the day's agenda. William R. Sanders, chairman of the NAB's Broadcast Committee and the chairman of the NAB's AM Improvement Committee, said FCC report H.R. 7211, "The Radio Broadcasting Improvement Act of 1989," that would require manufacturers to include AM stereo on all receivers, and limited the use of translators, and allow "boothcasting" in the AM expansion band. David Hicks, the Redstone National chairman, urged the Commission to deal with interference rules, and relax its station cross-ownership rules.

The second panel discussed receivers, and featured two panelists from Delco, Motorola and Panasonic, plus Art Subberville of KANE in Louisville. Chairman of the chairman of the NAB's AM Improvement Committee, said FCC broadcasters were willing to give millions of dollars of free time to promote the virtues of high-quality receivers, if only manufacturers would make them. Newly appointed FCC Commissioner Andrew Barrett asked the manufacturers on the panel if they thought consumers would spend the extra bucks to buy AM receivers of higher quality. "In our experience," he replied, Robert Finger of Panasonic. Finger was the first speaker to state explicitly that technical improvements might not be enough to cure AM's problems.

William Gilbert of Delco felt that reducing interference was more important than promoting stereo. He opposed legislation that would require manufacturers to include stereo on receivers, and instead urged the FCC to use the expansion band to reduce adjacent-channel spillover between 1605 kHz and 1705 kHz. The FCC's Reconcile Panelists throughout the day favored this sort of "thinning out."

Frank Hibbert of Motorola pushed stereo, specifically C-QUAM, arguing that it made stations sound better even on mono receivers. Stations tend to upgrade their entire audio chain when they go stereo, he explained, and the investment boosts staff morale, making the programming feel more upbeat. The lack of an official stereo standard in the US is killing AM; he said: only about 15% of US stations have gone stereo, while in Australia, which has an official stereo standard, the future is more like 50%. He mentioned having been a receiver to a mass-market FM receiver only increases manufacturing costs to about $1.50-$2.50. Since Motorola plans to integrate the audio chain into the receiver, the cost of AM would be even less in the future, he added.

Commissioner Quello seemed to deflate the whole stereo issue when he asked if there were any figures on the profitability of stereo versus mono stations. Subberville replied that no one would tell advertisers were no more willing to buy ads on stereo than on mono stations. Even Hibbert had to admit that he didn't have any evidence that anyone was failing who then became successful going to stereo. NAB president John Abel advocated it was unlikely that the 50% of AM stations which are currently operating at a loss could convert to stereo even if they wanted to. However, Art Subberville said he thought all AM stations should be required to go stereo, and be given a tax credit for doing so.

The third panel focused on use of the expansion band; it was dominated by strong requests for set-top-boxes for spillover from the 1605-1705 kHz range. One of the five panelists represented daytime-only stations: they felt daytime stations had priority in getting full-time use of the expansion band. David Honig of the National Black Media Coalition argued that half of the new band should be reserved for minority broadcasters; he spoke only 2.7% of existing radio stations are minority-owned. Tom Kigin, representing知NOAM and KNJN-FM, public stations in Minnesota, though 20% of the new band should be for noncommercial broadcasting. He also said that nighttime
coverage–as in “clear channel” broadcasting–was an “anachronism” and should not be encouraged in the new spectrum. (For purely physical reasons, the expansion band has strong skywave propagation potential, which could be developed for regional coverage and improved service to remote and rural areas.) Norman Arthur Dukum and Wayne Viessman put in good words for skywave broadcasting in subsequent panels. Viessman represented the Clear Channel Broadcasting Service (CCBS).

After a lunch-break, the panel on technical and assignment issues brought out some important points unrelated to the topics they were supposed to address. Wallace Johnson noted that the US still hasn’t ratified the Final Act of the Regional Advisory Conference on AM which expanded the AM band. He urged the FCC to consider the Senate to ratify the document, which has treaty status. Arlen Blandon of KARU told a bit about his research into “psychological barriers” which stop people from tuning to AM even after they find that the signal quality can be made almost indistinguishable from FM. And PCC Chairman Alfred Sikes raised many an eyebrow when he asked if narrow-band FM (NB-FM) could be allowed in the “AM–extended” “mediumwave” band. Apparently a request for experimental authorization has been received from a station that wants to try it.

The last two panels both looked at “AM Improvement and the Future.” Richard Harris, the chairman of Group X, made a strong presentation backed by his chair’s conspicuous success. He spoke bluntly of AM stations as “endangered species.” It’s got to the point, he said, where “one has to ask: is it worth fixing? My answer: yes, to preserve diversity. A lot of what kills AM, and what will kill it, is processing.” His proposals: require stereo broadcasting; require manufacturers to produce high-quality stereo receivers; encourage local origination of programming and forbid AM to extend what it has; remove all limits on additional stations and ownership, and allow firms to own two or more AM stations in the same market. He cited Los Angeles–Group X as an example–Group X has a station there whose news coverage is city-wide, even though its signal coverage isn’t.

Richard Blackburn, a station broker, for some reason seemed uncomfortable appearing before the Commission, but his insights into the economics of AM made a big impression. He noted that the market value of an AM station, with coverage limited to a small, demographically limited in the same market, is generally about 20% of the FM station’s. There is no interest in the investment community in buying into AM, he said, and no interest in having AM be more competitive with FM.

The one positive suggestion he made was to allow stations that had to put their directional antennas, to protect another station from interference, to buy the other station and combine the coversages. When Commission Quello asked him if he thought “homesteading” in the expansion band by existing daytimers had a reasonable chance of success, he replied succinctly: “No.”

The one encouraging presentation in the final panel was by Paul Smoczek, from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Smoczek said public broadcasters are getting interested in conveying the Commission in the FM noncommercial sub-band. He described some innovative public stations already on the air, such as KRMN in Sarro, Alaska. Since public radio’s strength is news and informational programming, and that’s a known successful AM format, public stations could help “fertilize” the rebirth of AM, he asserted.

Looking back over the whole day, this observer was struck by how many of the ideas put forward by the NAB at the outset were unmentioned, even discredited, in the presentation. In the discussion which followed–particularly emphasis on technical fixes–there was a panacea. It was also clear that the broadcasting industry has abandoned Mark Foehr-type deregulation and fallen in the wisdom of the marketplace. Many panelists called for such extreme extensions of regulation that constitutional questions might be at stake.

One wonders what the Commission will do in 1980, when rules for the expansion band are put forward, and whether the Congress will start to legislate the capabilities of radio receivers. Receiver capabilities, after all, have been almost completely free of regulation since the earliest days of radio.
1230 kc
Prior to Jan 1, 1960

Date of last update: Apr 1, 1959

1230 kHz
Jan 1, 1960 to present

Date of last update: Nov 8, 1989

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The Challenging Crystal Set

By Ray Cole

With so many satellite networks nowadays, many of us feel that was the case... If so, I make things confusing with DXing. The next most distant contact I made this month was 4-W1E, Ohio. There was no sign of W15C then. A week later I tried, and found two wakings on 400, one a football game, the other being offered by 1500. No DX records so far. I am still using 4-W1E as a test, and I have to say it was a good DXing online experience. As I was receiving most of my DX since Sept. '86 and I enjoy listening to DX tapes. I have 175 tapes at the moment, and only about 30 of them are DX tapes, given to me by non-DX friends. (I try to follow their example.) The sample copy I HC New York 1960 and Mc30 dated October 8, 1960. On page 5, D.C. in MD has a mystery 606. I think this may be W3FZ, from Philadelphia. I think the city quiz on page 50 of the Chicago Sun Times has 183 and 215, but they have 1270, so I thought I would also have a 1290. I know W3FZ has a 1760 but I'm really unsure of the rest of the names. I would have liked a 1400. I'm throwing my vote to San Diego. Now that I've written this, I'll pull out my dog-eared Van Jones book. It's almost 10:00; time to fire 'er up! Board CBK0-3107 a little after 600. Good listening!

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Mix-up takes radio station off the air in Chillicothe

CHILICOTHE (AP) — A mix-up in work assignments and weather predictions led to the cancellation of the radio station at 1100 AM.

No one came in to start the broadcast day Wednesday at 6 a.m. The station was silent until 2 p.m. The station, WCM, is owned by Bill Burnett of Chillicothe.

The station started broadcasting about 9:30 a.m. during a weather bulletin.

"It's not clear at this time if we'll still be on the air," said Burnett. "We're still trying to figure out what happened."

The FCC has approved the change, but it's not clear when it will be implemented. The station has been off the air for two hours and 20 minutes.

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