DX NEWS
The magazine of the National Radio Club

Volume 57, No. 21 - March 5, 1990 (ISSN 0733-1658)

CPC Tests Directory

3-4: KWCK-1300 Searcy, AR
3-12: KTHO-590 S. Lake Tahoe, CA
3-12: KLKL-1250 Willits, CA
3-18: WLBE-790 Leesburg, FL
3-18: WQBQ-1410 Leesburg, FL

KXKC-1300 - Drawer 1300 - Searcy, AR 72134 will conduct a Special DX Test on Sunday morning March 4, 1990 from 0300 to 0330 UT. This test will be conducted at 3000 watts and 3000. The test will include Morse code ID’s. Our thanks to Mr. Ken Simmons, Operation Director, for this test. Arranged by the Colorado CPC Machine for the National Radio Club.

KTHO-590 - P.O. BOX AM - South Lake Tahoe, CA 95750 will conduct a DX Test March 12, 1990 from 0400-0430 Eastern Standard Time. This test will include music, music, music, and code ID’s. Our thanks to Mr. H. E. Cadot, Chief Engineer of KTHO for this test. Arranged by the Colorado CPC Machine for the National Radio Club.

KLKL-1250 - P.O. Box 1250 - Willits, CA will conduct a DX Test March 12, 1990 from 0430-0500 UT. This test will include music, music, music, and code ID’s. Our thanks to Mr. H. E. Cadot, Chief Engineer of KTHO for this test. Arranged by the Colorado CPC Machine for the National Radio Club.

WLBE-790 - Drawer 790 - Leesburg, FL 32740 will conduct a DX Test on Sunday, March 18, 1990 from 0330-0400 UT with music, music, music, and code ID’s. Our thanks to R. Dean Sever, Chief Engineer, for this test. Arranged by the Colorado CPC Machine for the National Radio Club.

WQBQ-1410 - 1001-3rd Street - Leesburg, FL 32785 will conduct a DX Test on March 18, 1990 from 0400 to 0430 UT. This test will include music, music, music, and code ID’s. Our thanks to Mr. H. E. Cadot, Chief Engineer of KTHO for this test. Arranged by the Colorado CPC Machine for the National Radio Club.

Wayne set... Save your stamps until August 1 - the CPC season is over... and thanks to all who participated by sending stamps and DX targets.

GET... Rick Dau will host an Omaha/Council Bluffs CTC on Saturday, March 3, 1990, starting at 2 pm. Pop, beer, snacks, and potatoes will be provided, along with radio, QSLs, logbooks, tapes, etc. RSVP call and for location information as soon as possible. Rick (712) 483-2230, 9:30 pm - 11:00 pm Fri-Sat, all day Sun-Mon.

DX Change... The old DXC Monitoring Service is still in operation, as it has been a very popular service, and it is a great way to hear about DX events around the world. The DXC Number is 912-873-2222.

From the Editor... The number of requests to replace the old DXC Monitor is about seven, that is, less than one per month, which is fine. We have been sending the bulletin out from the new DX distribution center, and it has been working well. We have received more than 20 requests, and I think that the DXC Monitor is about to be retire.
MEDIUM WAVE READINGS

- New reporter Chris Johnson of Memphis, Tennessee, has been awarded the broadcast rights to be on national radio. This marks the first time that a station in the region has been covered by a Youkezumi.

- For those of you who have written for clarification on the recent event in Baghdad, I'm sorry to tell you that this has been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances.

- In response to All News' request for DHD Editors to comment on this issue, I'm sending mine to you today.

SPECIAL

992 UNID 77 - 2/7 0745 with beginning of REL pm called Faith For The Day from a church in Washington, VA; does WPZU carry this program? (CR-ON)

1200 UNID 77 - 2/7 0746 with beginning of REL pm called Faith For The Day from a church in Washington, VA; does WPZU carry this program? (CR-ON)

1300 KJME EX DENVER - likely FM-L's unID of 1/15 (Issue 17) with a JCP A Mexican (TR-CA)

1510 WHU 1 MA BOSTON - this is probably this unit of DLH-IN of 1/15 (Issue 17) (TR-CA)

1520 KLAQ EX LITTLETON - could be DLH-IN's unID of 1/15 (Issue 17) as they use Power 105 slogan (TR-CA)

1920 UNID 77 - 2/7 0820 steady carrier evening, 10k modulated (PCC-VA)

2150 CFGV ORILLI - could be ON-1's unID of 1/15 (Issue 18); I've heard them with REL pgs in the evenings (RF-ON)

1200 WHMI 1 TN KNOXVILLE - lost stuff for updates-Address-900 South Central, Knoxville, TN; 6030, 9700Q or PDA Box 9001, Knoxville, TN; 6030, Morgan - Usher; day powers 106K, 96K, 8000, 6400; Morgan - 9600; locally produced BBD format of the 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s; Morgan - The Memory Channel (WBF-DC)

1300 WHSU AL OZARK - 2/7 1711-1715 very good on WSV; forest change to UTC, slogs Energy 101; never had CMS on this one... many Dathan mentions; called Sheriff's Office (NXT-CA)

1400 WIRL IL PEORIA - 1/30 0300-0305 with Jerry King, over-under WHOO with WDCB; tunes to WBSN-1470 while Chicago was there; no idea what CMS heard and they were ABC Talker and Free Press, not WSB (WBF-DC)

1500 WGI 1 IL CHICAGO - per 1/26 Sun-Times now has Larry King 0800-0900, 0900-1000 with WDCB; tunes to WBSN-1470 while Chicago was there; no idea what CMS heard and they were ABC Talker and Free Press, not WSB (WBF-DC)

1600 WCIR SC CHARLESTON - 2/7 1810 fair with another Saturday night by San Francisco followed by call ID drop-in: Cool Gold 1996 WCBZ-1 local break with promos for WCBS Radio Classified Ads available for $10 beginning D/10, address for items same as in Log-call ID; 1996 WCBS and Cool Gold, Charleston's best mix for music, ex-WKRT (CR-ON)

1700 WQCD NY NEW YORK - just been off the air for at least two weeks (as of 2/11/90), don't have any idea for how long or why (BA-CA)

1800 WDRR PA NORTH EAST - 2/6 1800 with Headline Newscast + audio portion of cable TV; 2400 ex-WKRT, think that they switched to 1037-3 (CR-ON)

1900 UNID 77 - 2/7 0820 steady carrier evening, 10k modulated (PCC-VA)

2000 CFGV ORILLI - dropped off frequency 2/8 & 2/9, causing tremendous het to 1570; back to normal 2/10 evening (RF-ON)

UNIDS AND UNIDS ID@

750 KODAL UT PRICE - possibly Frank Merrill's unit of 1/18 (Issue 17); heard this mentioned on Fred Sanders Show some time ago; they may still be carrying this (CR-ON)

1150 WHU 1 MA BOSTON - probably Kari Forth's unit of 1/18 (Issue 17); Log says WBS but is BBSL and rap (CR-ON)

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SPURS & HARMONICS

1640 WNOU TN CHATTANOOGA - 2/7 0730 all alone with clear 10; not heard on 1990 (RT-NO)
MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT

680 WCKY KY BALTIMORE - 2/21 1841-1845 very good with tellall of REL pen; lost at 1615 power drop; not heard since last mention (RJ-TC)

720 WCRW NC MYRTLE BEACH - 1/40 1630-1710 with southern gospel, etc., ad for Park Edwards Toyota-Deep Eagle in Spartanburg, SC, network news, and 1410 (TC) News. 1700 (TC) Dec 30 (RJ-TC)

750 WNOH AL DODGERS - 2/10 1940 with local ID, CW, and WNOH FM 101.1; over-under WAPI on WNOH in Joplin; new (RJ-TC)

780 WRKL on WIRGINIA - 2/10 1740 with CL music and usual recall. Olds being low for this one since moving to Joplin and alone on channel (BA-GA)

800 WDGE AL MINNEAPOLIS - 2/6 1600 with International Broadcasting Net ID with Christian Programming (AHM-PA)

820 WOAY WV NEW RIVER - 2/6 1615 with REL. AM, 88, promo for children's Christian programming on Saturday mornings. Very strong (AHM-PG)

870 WMUL KY LEITCHFIELD - 2/1 1940 with satellite C&W whose D.J. was interrupted for sign-off with this result: get a quote for you from President Bush. WMUL new ends its broadcast day sign-off and they were owned by Robert Miller. Radio station CO-OP of Leitchfield, KY, no SSB; good over WQL and WJAR who has sign-off at 9:15 PM. (CR-GA)

900 WJWS NE LINCOLN - 2/1 1900 with WJWS Weather Watch; quite variable with latest with "A" below 10; over KFJ-C/General (RJ-TC)

950 WPRK FL COCOA - 2/11 1600 with non-ID tour Paul Harvey station-KJER then back to CW ex-ann on (RJ-TC)

990 WVJQ TX LAREDO - 2/11 1915 with 25 telecasts over WQJ, lost at 1900 power out and antenna switch on. (RJ-TC)

1020 WRJJ RI PROVIDENCE - 1/17 2350-0000 with talk show, WRJJ then end. 1:00 AM; NBC; poor; better after midnight, then faded (RJ-TC)

1040 WRRR OH MANCHESTER - 2/11 2040 only second time heard, with ID over-w/10 (RJ-TC)

1050 WZLL IL PARIS - 2/1 1800 with ID; good best others (BA-GA)

1100 WRCB LA COUGHRITA - 2/11 1600 faded too much to be heard (RJ-TC)

1140 WKLH MD BALTIMORE - 2/5 1800 with WONY cluster for Dongor's Furniture in Mason City, Charles City and Fort Dodge and Hal Mason Furniture for long time in Des Moines, and Sports and Pepper's cluster while you work to the Coast FM, 2400 not a pump out of CPPS (CR-GA)

1200 WMLW MI MILWAUKEE - 2/2 1800 with WMLW ID; good with WMLW (CR-GA)

1230 WRZB MA SPRINGFIELD - 2/5 1800 with ID with update of Cape Cod weather; fair with WMLW (CR-GA)

1250 WRAM MA SPRINGFIELD - 2/5 1635 with wx report by female, good with WMLW off intermittently (RJ-TC)

1330 WACX MA HOPEDALE - 1/40 1730-1920 a few miles away with ID for the Young Men of Boys; joining the show right in the USA, House of Prayer, and House of Prayer's Country 2400 new (CR-GA)

1440 WPLJ NY NEW YORK CITY - 2/4 0000 sign-off with OH after announcement (RJ-TC)

1450 WSTL KY LOUISVILLE - 2/4 0000 brief sign-on; Good morning, this is Henderson radio, WSTL-Weatherly, 2400 news net (KVRD-GA)

1500 WQY DC WASHINGTON - 2/3 0140-0140 with WQY, mention of: charlie brunch fair-poor (WPJC)

1520 WJUC NJ NEW JERSEY CITY - 2/4 0000 sign-on with OH after announcement (RJ-TC)

1530 WETR ME WATERVILLE - 2/2 0140-0140 with WETR, 1100 morning, now (CR-GA)

1550 WHUL LA SLEIDELL - 2/1 0000 at end of sporting call-in with ID as Southern Louisiana's Sports Leader (JR-NT)

1600 WHLM NY PATCHOGUE - 2/2 0705 with WHLM (JR-NT)

MIDWAY TO MIDNIGHT

680 WIND IL CHICAGO - 2/1 1700 alone in weird opening with SE ID; weak but steady (BA-GA)

690 WCLI IL CHICAGO - 2/1 1640 with detailed update for bi-airlines; some WRLH 590 -1010 (BA-GA)

695 WVIT IL CHICAGO - 2/1 1640 with ID after some; weak but steady (BA-GA)

700 WITW WI MILWAUKEE - 2/1 1700 with SE ID; weak, but steady (BA-GA)

705 WQUR TN COLLIERSVILLE - 2/1 1800 with ID, mention of Collierville: weak, under local WST (BA-GA)
Radio Roundup ... by Pete Kemp

The Gambling Dynasty continues to evolve. John R. has signed a new contract with WOR-110 to slowly replace his father John A. over the next few months. John A. will still be in the broadcasting areas, investing in other radio stations. The rumor will have him forming a partnership with former Secretary of the Treasury William Simon.

WNYC has finally made the switch from 830 to 820 and has upped their power to 2,500 watts. They hope to be up to 10,000 watts by the first of July.

It is interesting to note the number of radio disk jockeys who are venturing into the spotlight of TV. Besides Shado Stevens add to the list 2.0's Jim Brandwein with NBC and Nick Dees XHST-FM/Syndication with ABC.

Die hard Joe Casinets baseball fans, he will surface on radio to become the host of Baseball Sunday, a new entry from United Syndications Associates. The flagship station will be WORO. The already have 125 stations signed up. Joe signed a three year contract to host the series.
UNID's
890 UNID 2/5 06/34 Poor s/o on "KSSP11... etc... Likely KWSZ (TH-CA) 990 UNID 2/6 00/52 Male say "good morning it's 652 11 PM" & C&W. Poor KLIE but last report they were AC/MOR (TH-CA) 990 UNID 2/6 Sounded like KSSP ID w/ no KRS. Much wanted. Stopped by XEL/I-TH on (TH-CA)

CONTRIBUTORS

The 12-625: Good, but not a 12-655 ... by Paul Swearingen

Ray Cole's discovery of the 12-625 AM/FM portable took us all by surprise. After all, it had been in Radio Shack's catalog since 1965, replacing the Supraadio clone, the 12-655, a pricey ($69.95) chunker whose departure was barely noticed in the 12-655' s final days, a very popular unit in the TRF, and that it "substantially surpassed its in DX capability on the high frequency band," he agreed - conditionally.

I plunked down the plastic at my local Radio Shack and bought one on Ray's recommendation. The local manager volunteered that a decent AM portable to this unit, which is built in Taiwan in a facility they had "heard about from someone." However, fancy that it has stayed in the catalogs for five years indicates that it is of more than passing interest at least for non DX customers.

It represents to be of relatively sturdy plastic and sports a swiveling AFC for FM, a decent speaker which reproduces clear sound but not as "bassy" as a (GE Superadio) via a continuous tone control. The tuning control is a tad spotty, but acceptable, and the other knobs are large enough to accomodate even the stiffest fingers. The antenna slides into the case, and the holding handle is quite strong. As you might expect, it has no external antenna jack. The tuning dial is a jake, and I suspect that most 12-625S, like mine, will be uncalibrated, with 1600 kHz showing up about 100 kHz low on the dial.

For DX capability, I compared it directly to a 12-655, a 12-656, and a Sony ICW SFW (which is slightly smaller in size). I agree with Ray's statement that the top half of the band, say above 930 kHz is fairly hot, but the lower half just did not compare with even the 12-656. The sensitivity above 950 kHz is adequate for most domestic DX situations, but I had to crank the volume almost to the maximum for stations below 750 kHz. The selectivity is behaviorally better than that of the three receivers, resulting in better sound quality than most consumer portables, but compromising DX (I would suspect that you would not want to try DX split frequencies on this radio). Also, my stronger local bands tended to cover more of adjacent frequencies than the radio; for example, KTOP-1480 sounded as much as 15 dB over the 12-150 on the SSW or the 12-655. The 12-625 mulls quite deeply, however, which is a strong point in its favor.

The main problem with this receiver seems to be the Automatic Gain Control (AGC). I was reminded of 30's era receivers which lacked this necessary component when I tuned especially across the lower end of the dial ... the stronger stations blasted in at relatively low volume settings, while in-between frequencies were dead until I turned up the volume in some cases nearly all the way. The SSW's AGC travelled the volume of something approaching even all the way across the board, so that a listener could see the volume just once a comfortable level on any frequency. Perhaps the AGC isn't too much to blame as is the tuning section, however, but I have no way of speculating on the cause of this unpleasant phenomena.

The AM section was pleasantly surprising. The SSW (and many portables) is notorious for overload in the presence of local TV stations, even some cross-band which shows up on the SSW. On the other hand, the SSW is more sensitive, allowing more distant stations to slip in between my local blaster than on the 12-625. I'd rate the 12-625 as at least adequate but not exciting as its FM section.

I did take off the back and swivels both the AM and the FM, the signal strength on both seemed almost at the top, but I had to realign both the FM and the AM bands so to match up more closely with the dial numbers. By the way, the front panel light is an off-the 12-655 (after you remove the five screws in the back and back them front knobs) so that if you wish to create a more accurate dial face and past it over the original, you may easily do so.

My overall feeling about the 12-625 is that the AM section is not quite a worthy successor to the 12-655, but that for only $10 more than the original price of the 12-655 you get a decent FM and very good sound. At $39.95, it is a steal. If you can find one and available at any Radio Shack.

If you need a DX Portable, the 12-625 will perform adequately for you if you cannot find a Supraadio, but if you are looking for a replacement for your TRF, SSW, or most other accepted low-cost DX portables, don't bother. It is definitely worth the price, however, and I suspect that most dyed-in-the-wood DXers will use it as a back yard or garage portable so that they can listen to the more distant stations without having to haul the radio out of the DX shack. On the other hand, those who have both AM and FM receivers will not fit this radio of much use for DXing. The 12-625 is very good... but not great.

Dennis Topp at the same time as Ray's. Perhaps the technicians among us can figure out how to hot-swap one to bring it up to the "great" standard ... there's plenty of room for add-ons inside the case. But that's for you ... I try technical jargon when I break it up!
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WXW in Psguea Island, Maine has pulled the plug after 58 years.

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Two longtime veterans of Philadelphia's radio world, Ed Hurst and Joe Grady will be inducted into the Broadcasting Pioneers on May 7th.

National Public Radio's All Things Considered is being heard by the Soviet Union for airing. In return the U.S. receives Radio Moscow long running shortwave program Moscow Mailbox.

Radio Digest

983 St. Charles Ave., #1
Atlanta, GA 30306
(404) 892-6211, before 2300 EST

Editor: Gayle Yeager
Address: Jerry Starr
e/WHTQ Radio
4000 Simon Road
Youngstown, OH 44512-1320

1503 UNID TA weak sig hitting 1550 2/3 0600-0620, verified w/b/o. No audio thd, thin and other assumed XAs listed below from 2/3 and 2/4 were heard during weird band conditions at Tropic...lorophonic noise, reception to W and NW poor, while Cubans and other JA's were in strong, especially Angola-161, K and NE reception about par. DF on Channel TA's were all roughy

1555 CAYMAN ISLANDS R. Cayman has been in almost every night.

1557 UNID TA weak sig hitting 1550 2/3 and 2/4 0600-0620, verified w/b/o. No audio heard. Same DF and band CX as 1503. (Froho)

1656 TUNISIA Sfax 2/4 2319-2330 good signal in the clear W and X also Zeppelin AA vocal; very low level, probably religious. (Delorenzo)

1666 UNID TA poor but steady sig 2/3 0600-0605 Saidou, but couldn't wake out late. Also 2/4 0600-0610 but weaker and no audio. Same DF and band CX as 1503. (Froho) Sfax? Ch

1859 UNID TA very weak sig, no audio heard 2/3 and 2/4 0600-0605 and band CX as 1503. (Delorenzo)

1959 UNID TA poor sig hitting 1950, no audio discernable due to heavy 1950 slab, 2/3 and 2/4 0600-0610, verified freq w/b/o. Same DF and band CX as 1503. (Froho) Germany CH

Marc Delorenzo - Sandwick, MA
Gl World Monitor, SNL
WXCH
2 x's/sent's per stn!

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Almost every major market has at least one radio station programming exclusively to the area’s black or Hispanic community. In some cities, the AM dial will reveal stations broadcasting exclusively to the Greek, Mexican, or Native American culture. Providence, RI is the location for the USA’s only AM Portuguese radio station, owned by a Portuguese businessman. WRCP-1290 broadcasts to a market of over 255,000 Portuguese Americans in Rhode Island, and the former whaling ports of New Bedford and Fall River, in southeastern Massachusetts. "Radio Clube Portugues" airs music, news, talk, sports, and features to the thousands of appreciative families in which the primary language is Portuguese. Except for Spanish from 9am to 11pm weekdays, and the "legal ID", Portuguese is heard exclusively on WRCP.

WRCP grew from humble beginnings in 1947, broadcasting from studios in the R.I. Auditorium. Lou Pieri, owner of the Rhode Island Reds hockey team (asked for the chicken that was originally bred in the Ocean State), and founder of the little station, applied for the call WICU because of the station’s location - in an ice hockey arena. The station, a low powered daytimer, operated on 1290 kHz, as it does today. The signal was broadcast from a single tower in the Providence River, near WRIH-1220’s tower which today is located on a reef in the same estuary, just north of the I-195 Bridge.

The studio was in the auditorium until 1959, when it moved to larger quarters in the Crown Hotel, and in 1966, the station moved to 138 Dyre Street, sharing the building with the Social Security Administration.

In 1959, WICU applied for 5000 watts days, and 1000 watts at night, and obtained a construction permit for a three tower array at its present site on the shore of a pond. The two end towers were 191 feet high, and the center tower was 100 feet tall - which was later replaced with a third 191 foot high tower.

In 1960, WICU dropped its middle of the road programming and went to the Top 40 format which brought many stations to the top of the ratings in their markets. WICU was no exception. Through the 1960’s, "The Golden Great" made for WRHP was the most popular of the "Golden Great" and WRHP-630 battled to be first in the Providence ratings book. The two stations frequently swapped the #1 and #2 positions through the 1960’s and no other area station came near them.

In 1975, FM had sealed the fate of "The Golden Great", and WICU went to a talk format. Sherr Strickhauser, now a popular local talk host on WRHP, began on WICU in 1975. In 1978, the station was sold, and the studio was moved to the transmitter site at 1110 Douglas Avenue, North Providence. In 1979, WICU went to a country format. In 1980 and 1981, religious programming was mixed with the country music.

In 1981, WICU began with Portuguese programming on weekends, and then added daily Portuguese features - much to the pleasure of the area’s Portuguese residents. The station was again sold in 1982 to Neto Communications, Mr. Neto being a prominent business leader in the Portuguese community.

Today, the studios and transmitter occupy the lower floor of 1110 Douglas Avenue, and WRCP’s offices are upstairs. The building was built over the station’s original transmitter shack. The studio area houses the control room, a record library, the news room, and a production studio. WRCP feeds its signal into its three towers (the middle is out of line) from its Harris WMSA transmitter, and the backup is a Collins 21E.

All programming is live assisted, except for the Sunday Portuguese Mass from St. Francis of Xavier Church, in Providence, and three other religious programs.

The station applied for WRCP - for "Radio Clube Portugues", when WRCP-1290, in Philadelphia dropped the call for WRGK ("Philadelphia Gold Radio").

WRCP programs numerous features for its Portuguese listeners. Between 5pm and 6pm, Tatiana Conceicao hosts a talk show, featuring guests who discuss issues of concern to the Portuguese community. On Sunday evening, a sports talk show airs.

NETO COMMUNICATIONS (401) 737-6800
1110 Douglas Avenue North Providence, R.I. 02904
During the remainder of the time, WRCB broadcasts music by Brazilian and Portuguese artists. Listeners are encouraged to phone their requests to the Requiem Line. The station competes only with WJFD-FM, in New Bedford, a Portuguese station.

From September through June, WRCB carries soccer matches, relayed by satellite, from Portugal and other European countries where Portuguese teams play. The immense popularity of these matches is measured by the volume of telephone calls received by the station when its fails to air a big game—the phone rings off the hook! Local soccer is carried live from April to October.

During morning drive, local news from Rhode Island, Fall River, and New Bedford Portuguese communities is aired every half hour. This news is supplied by AM feed from Portugal (English AM feed is also translated into Portuguese for WRCB's news). Three times each day, the international money exchange rates are announced.

When WRCB increased its night power to 5000 watts, a move to strengthen its signal in New Bedford and Fall River, its signal was radiated off the reflectors on a support cable for a nearby microwave tower, the delight of all of Inverness, Scotland DMR. This installation was executed by Jim Andrews, and reception of WRCB has not since been reported by the residents of this northern Scottish fishing port. The WRCB signal is pushed south toward to connect WKG-1290, Keene, NH, WCCF-1290, Hartford, and WGTI-1290, now silent, in Babylon, NY.

WRCB is a very unusual station—the only AM Portuguese station in the US. Additionally, it is every bit a full service station for its highly specialized audience—every bit as comprehensive as an English full service station. WRCB is an appreciated and integral part of the Portuguese culture in its service area.

The editor would like to thank Jose DePaz, WRCB General Manager, and J. Louie Winer, C.E., for all of their help in preparing this Station Profile. Jim would appreciate reception reports, and will verify correct times. His comment: "What chief engineer would not like to hear how his signal is getting out?"

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**The Answer Man**

R. J. Edmunds

753 Valley Road

Blue Bell, PA 19422-2052

**No Question Is A Dumb Question**

Answers to members' questions, from the basic to the technical

It must be that time again! The NCR Answerman is back! As of this volume, I've cleared out any backlog, so the only questions received as of 2/17/79 which aren't answered are those which have arrived after that date. Hopefully, we'll get to them next time.**

**QUESTION:** A friend of mine just rediscovered an old radio set from his childhood, and is thinking of restoring it. It is a one tube set, which he obtained in the early 1920's, called an RCA Radiola III. He thinks that the tube number was HD-11. Is there anywhere he can obtain a tube and batteries for his set?

**ANSWER:** The radio in question was manufactured in 1924, and your friend's memory is accurate about the tube. This was a single stage amper in one audio stage. I have seen HD-11's advertised for sale (at a fairly significant price) in various radio publications in the past. A good source might be an amateur or radio flea market. There are a few firms which specialize in such things, although I've no names in mind at present. The tube should be available, but the price may be a problem. Original batteries would have long since disintegrated, and to my knowledge, no one has made replacements for restoration. At that point, it would be necessary only to supply a battery of proper voltage and current rating to power the unit. If no one else in the audience can supply further details, I may be able to determine those values, if I can find the manual in my archives.

**QUESTION:** I need to purchase a new set of tubes for my HD-10X -- where can I get these? Where can I obtain a manual for it also?

**ANSWER:** Tubes are still available from some of the national mail-order electronics suppliers, as well as from some (older, long-established) radio-TV sales or service stores. Tubes are also available (although not always in stock condition) at amateur radio flea markets. Since replacing all of the tubes could be an expensive proposition, I'd suggest that you try to find someone at a TV service store to help you. They would normally have replacement tubes on hand. It would be very rare to need to replace them all. As to the manual, my archive contains several copies of owners' manuals for Harmonized receivers, but none for an HD-10X. Perhaps one of our other readers can obtain one — if so, contact the editor.

**QUESTION:** The S-meter on my communications receiver doesn't seem to work properly. It shows no signal correctly, it goes right up to the pin on any signal area, and doesn't come down unless there's hardly any signal at all, and no noise or audio channel left in to the meter. It's a bit dim then, doesn't seem to respond fully with the loop, either. It does come down when power is shut off. What is the problem?

**ANSWER:** If you can cause the meter to drop by lowering the setting on the control marked either as "S Gain" or "Sensitivity," then your problem is one of overload, and it can be corrected by recalibrating the meter. To determine which method to use to do this, start with the receiver tuned to a place where there is little noise and signal. If the meter stays stuck, the meter damping control (or zero adjust control) on the face of the meter should be backed off to the left. After that, turn the meter at a time until the needle comes down. Then tune to a moderate signal, but one that doesn't come down completely, and repeat the process. If this doesn't work, it may be that the receiver is feeding too much voltage into the S-meter circuit. (Many manufacturers specify a standard of 50 mv. maximum for a given sensitivity level.) Your specification, or to your owners' manual. If not, please call or write to a local who has the necessary knowledge and equipment to do it for you. If you know of a local amateur radio operator, he would be a good place to start. You might also try a short-wave antenna test with less than 10 feet in length. If that fails, find the problem, and if you're using an amplified loop, you may need to reduce the gain from the loop amplifier.

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QUESTION: My Space Magnet SM-2 antenna doesn't work. It doesn't seem to matter if the power is on or off, if the tuning knob is turned, or if the antenna is rotated -- it just acts like a piece of wire. What could be wrong? Is there someone who can fix it?

ANSWER: It doesn't sound like a bad battery, which I assume you've already checked anyway. It does sound like it might be a broken wire from the antenna to the receiver, but can be checked as outlined below. Get a small portable battery-powered AM radio, and using string or rubber bands, attach it to the SM-2, so that the internal antenna of the radio is parallel to the SM-2's bar. Tune in a station and rotate the antenna. This should make a difference in the signal, and indicate that the basic antenna is still working. If so, remove the portable, and recheck the SM-2's cover, check the condition of the wires which connect to your receiver. (While you're at it, make sure that you don't have a broken wire at the antenna terminal inside the receiver.) If so, it will need to be replaced, which should be a simple operation. If none of these helps, you'll have to hang on until we get a response from someone else who can fix it or might have the same experience. In the meantime, you may want to try a new antenna.

OTHERWISE: A reader wrote in reference to the call sign allocation question a while ago. It seems that because ships plying the East Coast used "X" prefixes, and those on the West Coast the "W," that it should be revised for land-based broadcast stations.

I just received a catalog from a local outfitter which obtained my name from somewhere (maybe here, I advertised a number of publications. If you're interested in up-to-date radio publications, write for a copy of the catalog from SK Radio Supply, P. O. Box 360, Westport, CT 06881, which should be revised for land-based broadcast stations.

Another reader notes our prior discussion of split frequencies, and frequency measurement. He notes that the European Band Plan is based on a very simple formula, with which you can drive the corresponding next highest frequency by dividing their frequencies by 10. Starting with 500 kHz, the sum of the digits, in this case, ten, and then, if it is over nine or over, which ten, is, subtract from eighteen, yielding eight. The split is therefore 558 kHz.

Another thing to consider is 1200 kHz. The sum is exactly nine, therefore, subtracting from eighteen yields nine, the next split is 1559 kHz.

For a third, 1200 kHz, the sum is three, which, being less than nine is subtracted from nine, yielding six, for 1050 kHz. This also works for longwave, assuming that you start with an even frequency, even despite our lack of longwave here in the Western Hemisphere.

KUBOS: At this point, since it's been a while since I last did so, I'd like to express my thanks, and thanks on behalf of the readers and requestors as well, to those members who have continued to support the column by providing answers and information, in no particular order: Ken Grabill, Jr., Frank Merrick, Burt Herron, and Chris Theobald. Thanks to all, and next time I'll be... 73s.

GROUND WAVE, SKY WAVE

By John D. Bowker

One of the more confusing aspects of trying to learn about radio waves and how they travel out from the station's antenna is picturing the "ground wave" every text book mentions, as being the most of all the waves for reaching most listeners. Does this mean that some of the radio signals travels through the ground? Well, maybe just a little, but at the wave (standard AM broadcast frequencies) they don't in the obvious meaning of "ground wave". Picture all the radio energy going off the radio tower upwards, downwards, and at all angles. Fine, except not too many people live above the radio tower nor out at any great distance, unless the tower is in a valley. The energy going straight out horizontally is the "ground wave"; this is the energy that is obviously aimed at listeners, and that's why it's considered so important. The energy going out at a small upward angle from the tower is the "propogogic wave" and the energy leaving the tower at a steep angle is the "ionospheric wave."
Well, it's another edition! I've just returned from a somewhat disastrous video shoot in Baton Rouge, La. My 22' Ryder truck sank back into the swamp up to the doors...twice! Anyway, those of you in Baton Rouge should check out Channel 46, negative offset when you have a chance.

GEORGE A SANTULLI, 912 Marshall Drive NE, Leesburg, VA 22075
It's been quite some time since I last wrote to you. The usual excuses, work, travel, and of course work! Well, I'm feeling better today and want to share some news from the DX world.

In January the new DXers network, AMOR, was organized with over 1200 members. I joined AMOR after many months of correspondence and finally met some of the members in person at the DX Foundation's convention in February. The network is growing rapidly and is expected to reach 2000 members by the end of the year. AMOR has already organized many DXpeditions and is planning several more for the future.

In addition to DXing, I have been working on a new project that involves developing a new antenna for the amateur bands. I'm very excited about this project and hope to have more details to share in future editions.

BOB PEELLE, WOLDX, 3442 Durkin Circle, Dublin, OH 43017
Greetings, I'm Bob Pelle from the Ohio DX group. We've been Dxing on and off since I returned from my recent trip to the West Coast last month. It's great to be back home in Ohio and DXing again.

I've been taking advantage of the recent activities on 40m and 15m bands, especially on 40m where the conditions have been very good. We've had many contacts with stations from around the world, including Europe, Africa, and Asia. The DX world is such a diverse and exciting place, and I'm grateful to be a part of it.

WILLIAM SNYDER, W2ZV, 6900 S 144th Place, Seattle, WA 98146
Greetings, I'm Will Snyder from Seattle, WA. I've been Dxing on 15m bands, especially during the early mornings, to take advantage of the low sun angles and good DX conditions.

I've been enjoying the recent activities on 15m bands, especially with stations from Europe and Africa. It's been a great way to learn more about DXing and improve my own skills. I'm looking forward to seeing what the summer months bring.

BILL MRAZ, 98 Highland Ave., Milton, MA 02177
Bill Mraz is back from his recent trip to the West Coast and is Dxing on 20m bands, especially during the early morning hours. He's been enjoying the recent conditions and has made many contacts with stations from around the world.

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produce a high level of RFI, radio frequency interference. AM broadcasters fear increased interference will really put the nail in AM's coffin. On a personal note, amateur radio operators have fought long and hard on this front, only to have their efforts heard by deaf ears in Washington. This became most critical a few years ago, when the FCC lowered the standards for Part 15 emitting devices. The electrical devices, coupled with Rabbit TV Transmitters and home computers, in addition to a host of other consumer products, e.g., light dimmers, fish tank heaters, electric blankets, etc., are certain to make our hobby even more difficult in the future. A recent study conducted by the University of Missouri for the Radio-Television News Directors Association, states that less than one-third of all stations have full-time reports.

What a sad commentary on our stations and their commitment to the communities they serve. I wonder what the average was years ago before the "de-regulation" period came along... It looks like the TV industry may be taking a cue from its radio cousins after ABC's Quincy's N' Roses reeled off a number of expletives that clearly would fall into the seven deadly words category. The producers went to quick commercial and the phones began to ring off the hook. The complaints were many, and so were the apologies. Dick Clark Productions, which put the show on, and ABC are considering a seven-second delay in the future. By the way, the show, which was live in the East, was bleeped out during its west coast airing... WAXI in Atlanta has changed format to hits of the 60's 50's, and 40's only. The Twin Cities area, is currently simulcasting its FM sister station KIXX-FM. Station officials are looking at alternative formats and hope to be back on air as a separate entity soon... I was very pleased to learn that the Chicago chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences will be co-sponsoring a benefit for John Dornbusch. Mr. Dornbusch, now retired, was one of the top voice-over artists in the country, and hosted a syndicated music show in the '70s. I can still remember the dulcet tones of the guitars in the background whenever he spoke. He was truly a big voice in the Chicago market for many years, and is currently suffering from Alzheimer's disease... So much for now.

And there I end this edition. For those of you who complain about obscenities on the airwaves. You've never those two little knobs on the radio? The one changes the station and the other turns it off!!! Think about it!!! I just talked with Paul Carli of Continental Video Electronics and they have signed an agreement with KMB La Voz de La America Letting to Boulder one station to 210 kW from 106 kW. The job is in Mexico City and my fath may be involved in the engineering supervision aspect of it. No frequency or details yet, but I'll let ya know. LRA de AJ

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