

DX News

* Serving DX'ers since 1933 *

Volume 64, No. 14 - January 13, 1997 (ISSN 0737-1659)



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CPC Test Calendar

WWCN	FL	770	Jan. 13	0030-0100
WAKK	MS	1140	Jan. 13	0130-0200
WAPF	MS	980	Jan. 13	0200-0230
WWCN	FL	770	Jan. 14	0030-0100
KNOE	LA	540	Jan. 19	0200-0600
WNRK	DE	1260	Jan. 26	0000-0200
WILM	DE	1450	Jan. 26	0100-0300
KATZ	MO	1600	Feb. 3	0200-0230
WHLO	OH	640	Feb. 10	0100-0130
WBOW	IN	640	Feb. 16	0030-0100
WPPI	GA	1330	Feb. 22	00000-0200
KIMM	SD	1150	Feb. 23	0200-0300
WCGW	KY	770	Mar. 2	0515-0545

(Note: WWCN-770 is also testing at the same time on Jan. 15, 16, 20, 21, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30; Feb. 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27; March 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, and 27.)

WWCN-770 - P. O. Box 9600 - Estero, FL 33928 will conduct numerous DX tests at 1,000 watts directional between 12:30 and 1:00 am EST January through March. The tests will include Morse code IDs inserted during their regular programming of old-time radio serials and vintage comedy. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. "Joey C.", Program Director. Arranged by J. D. Stephens for the IRCA CPC.

WNRK-1260 - P. O. Box 8152 - Newark, DE 19714 will conduct a DX test on Sunday morning, January 26, between midnight and 2 am EST. The test will include tones, music, and Morse code ID's at various power levels between 1,000 and 42 watts. You may send reception reports to CE Dave Schmidt; reports which do not contain return postage will not be answered. Arranged by Dave Schmidt for the moribund NRC CPC.

WILM-1450 - 1215 French St. Wilmington, DE 19801 - will conduct a DX test Sunday morning, January 26, between 1 am and 3 am EST. The test will consist of Morse code ID's at various times during regularly scheduled programming. Please send reception reports to Allen Luddell; reports which do not contain return postage will not be answered. Arranged by Dave Schmidt instead of the non-existent NRC CPC.

From the publisher ... AM Switch seems to be MIA (MIUSPS?) this week. That leads us into an

observation from John D. Bowker that AMS listed 218 call sign changes during 1996, not counting the changes that turned out to be wrong listings by the FCC or others. (Okay, John; just don't start counting my typos, okay? -pls.)

John T. Arthur received a full-data hand-written verie letter from KXBT in 32 days; the signer was Ralph Jones, ass't eng, who stated that Alan McCain died of a massive heart attack last August while undergoing triple bypass surgery. That could explain the delay(s) some folks have mentioned regarding QSL time from this station, John says.

And Doug Smith has found a search page for info on air navigation aids:

<<<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/db1/fly/navaid-info.html>>>

He says that you can type in the Morse ID from a NDB, and it will display the location, frequency, power, and coordinates. Canadian NDBs are also listed.

IRCA Convention ... Mike Sanburn is hosting the 1997 IRCA "Mega-Convention" at the Holiday Inn Bristol Plaza, Costa Mesa, CA July 25, 26, and 27. The registration fee is \$35, and room rates are \$60 per night, per room (not per person), and those rooms include a king and sofa bed OR two queen beds. The hotel is located right off the southbound Bristol offramp of the 405 San Diego Freeway (3131 South Bristol - Costa Mesa, CA 92626, 714-557-300, FAX 714-957-8185. For more info you can contact Mike at 310-614-1444 nights, or P. O. Box 1256 - Bellflower, CA 90707.

DX Time Machine

From the pages of *DX News*:

50 years ago ... from the January 18, 1947 DXN: In commenting on the increase in membership dues from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per year, Tom Carberry, Buffalo, NY mused that if anyone doubts why, he will send a copy of the 1940 mimeo-paper bill together with the current one received by the publisher, Ray Edge; the price had almost doubled.

25 years ago ... from the January 15, 1972 DXN: Captain Glotz, a "fictional creation of one of the NRC's most highly talented members," appeared again, in comic-book form.

10 years ago ... from the January 12, 1987 DXN: CHYR-710/730 was reported in AMS as temporarily operating only on 710 until repairs to the 730 night transmitter were made but was slated to return to split-frequency operation until a formal authorization to operate fulltime on 710 was issued. Or something to that effect.

Living the 'Postal Dream'? Not yet; maybe soon?

By Paul Swearingen

NRC members may well wonder why all the concern about postal regs, all of a sudden. Why am I asking for volunteers to track deliveries DXN? Well, as the man said, "It ain't like it used to be ..."

Eight years ago, I paid one person five dollars for about an hour's worth of processing around 640 DXN's for mailing. Now, it takes four people (paid \$30) about an hour-and-a-half to two hours to get the 800 or so bulletins ready each week. Things have become just a wee bit more complicated in the past few years, and they're not getting easier nor simpler.

"The United States Postal Service is determined to become the most efficient communications organization in the world. Classification Reform is a major step toward that goal ... The new system is designed to make it worth your while when you MAXimize your savings by giving us your mail in its most efficient form. It will also make it easier for you to prepare and enter your mail ... Further, consumers will benefit from the reduced cost of mailing that many companies will experience and they will receive more accurate and timely delivery."

So promises Postmaster General Marvin Runyan in a forward to the USPS Classification Reform manual, the guidebook to the new postal reforms. I'm truly sorry, Mr. Runyan, but I really don't feel that NRC members are experiencing "more accurate and timely delivery". Hence, the survey project (announced on the front page of #8) to track deliveries through #15 in mid-January.

Since the first mailings, which cost 22 cents postage per copy, we've had to add the following procedures: tape corners of domestics; place in envelopes those bulletins bound for Canada (we use heat-sealed plastic bags); CASS-certify addresses (done on the computer - match all U. S. addresses against the USPS database, on a CD), 11-digit barcode U. S. addresses (also a computer process, which adds about an extra hour of printing time to the original 20 minutes); place U. S. DXN's in mailing trays in order of ZIP codes; separate local ZIP codes from others; and odds and ends of other procedures which the clerks may randomly decide are necessary each time I deliver DXN to be mailed. ("... Unique situations will arise that call into question how a certain rule applies to a particular set of circumstances ... because the new classification system is simpler than the old, we're confident that interpretations of the rules will be more consistent.")

Yeah, right. Only if I get the same clerk each time. Furthermore, about half the time, their so-called "interpretations" have been dead wrong, and I've been forced to read back to them chapter and verse from the manual that they've supposedly been trained to use in order to get proper treatment. (Don't believe me? Try this experiment: ask any postal clerk to explain the "M" bag system. You'll get blank looks from the majority of them.)

Now, the NRC pays 26.1 cents to mail each eleven-digit barcoded DXN to U. S. addresses, and I've been receiving a significant number of complaints (several a week) of extremely late deliveries or even non-deliveries. Some DXN's come back marked "undeliverable" (or smeared with an unintelligible rubber stamp message) from addresses that have been good for years ... and I know that you are still living there. And a few, thankfully decreasing in occurrence, come back severely mangled.

My point is that mailing DXN has evolved from a pleasant interlude to a weekly challenge, because I've taken it upon myself to try to keep our costs as low as possible through upgrading our processes to stay abreast of USPS requirements. I've accepted the challenge, but I cannot accept the low quality of service that I perceive that we're getting now, and I need your help in turning the situation around. I believe that there are some things that we can do. Keep in mind that as a matter of course, we can expect a few slightly-damaged DXN's to surface from time to time ... small rips, smudges, etc., just as we should normally expect perfect copies to arrive on time. It's the average we're trying to track, not the exception; if you routinely receive DXN every Monday except for a few times during the year, all is well. But if you receive DXN on Wednesdays, when others in your area get it on Monday, something is wrong. Here's what we can do:

1. Track mailings for a period of time, and if they are not up to USPS promises, report them to USPS authorities, demanding an improvement. With data from you, I can keep substantive records which will tell us if there really is a problem or not.
2. Report substandard deliveries (damaged or late) to both originating and end-point post offices. Primarily, if you consistently experience late deliveries or damaged copies, you should file a formal report with your local USPS office every time you have a problem. One report may not have much of an effect, but sooner or later the weight of reports should get someone's attention, and if you feel that it doesn't, we'll follow up with the postal inspector. The USPS

seems to expect occasional damaged pieces of mail: "... An occasional mishap will occur. The Postal Service handles approximately (154) billion pieces of mail each year ... At times a malfunction will occur, the result of which is a damaged piece of mail." (from a USPS "baggie"). So don't expect any action if you file damage reports on one or two damaged DXN's per year. On the other hand, 1 of 800 pieces of damaged mail (roughly the average of damage reported to me) suggests over 200 million total damaged pieces of mail, annually.

Al Merriman, who recently retired from the USPS, and who has experienced substandard delivery problems at his new home in far eastern Virginia, offers the following suggestions: "There are three basic ways to file a complaint with the Postal Service concerning delivery problems. The first is verbally. You can go to the window at any Post Office and tell the clerk that you wish to file a complaint, or it can be done by phone. You don't need to ask for any special person - the clerk you talk to will get the right person for you as there is no specific right person in every office - it depends on office size.

"The second is to use PS Form 4314-C, "U.S. Postal Service Consumer Service Card" which should be available in the lobby of all Post Offices. This form has sections to describe the problem including room for a short narrative. This is the most common way to file a complaint/inquiry, and the Postal Service is supposed to reply with their findings in a reasonable amount of time.

"The third way, if you have a severe and long-standing problem is to write a polite letter giving details of the problems and exactly what you have observed. Before doing this you should make a chart showing the delivery delays, damaged issues, etc. Include as much pertinent information in your chart/letter as possible."

Al suggests the following things be included in your formal complaint:

- Mailing dates
- Expected delivery date (all First Class Mail should be delivered by the third day after mailing)
- The condition the article was received in
- Information telling when others received DXN's if have it
- Any other comments that would help to identify the problems such as something you might have observed about your letter carrier, etc., can also be added.

"The Postal Service should get in touch with you concerning the problem in a

reasonable length of time," Al adds. "The type of response you get will depend on your local/regional people. If after a period of time you do not get a response after repeated requests to your local people, or if the response is not satisfactory, you may need to contact the Postal Service Ombudsman at Postal Service Headquarters (Consumer Affairs - U.S. Postal Service - 475 L'Enfant Plz SW - Washington D C 20260 - 2100) This final step should not be taken until it becomes apparent that there has been no improvement in the delivery situation and it appears that you local postal people are doing little or nothing to trace and correct the problem. Allow several months from the filing of your original complaint to this step. Good luck."

The USPS stresses proper preparation of mail; included in that prep would be labels applied to DXN with no more than a 5% "tilt", tape applied to the two open corners no more than a half-inch from the corner edge, and nothing sticking up (tape or label corner, for example). If you do receive a damaged DXN, you might try to determine whether or not my crew of forty fingers did their job in prepping your DXN; and if not, I'll threaten to take away their root beers until they shape up.

Finally, let me emphasize that I am not seeking "revenge", nor goading you to do so, on the USPS. I still think we have the best postal service in the world (ask César Objfo some time for his opinion on the postal service in the Dominican Republic, for example. Better yet, ask me: my experience is that perhaps 50% of the mail I've sent César ever got through; and some Latin American countries have worse service; ever sent a DX report to a Latin American country with commemorative stamps on the envelope? They usually never make it to their destination ...); I just want to help make it better and to see it live up to the promises that its employees make.

With data from you, perhaps we can now have a positive impact on your DXN delivery. Early indications are that quite a few NRC'ers are going to forward data after the receipt of #15, the January 20 issue. Please make sure that you get the information in the mail, or, better, by e-mail, by February 1, as after this date I'll compile the data. And thanks for your help!



Union Broadcasting Corp

P. O. BOX 160
MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28110

4 Domestic DX Digest

West: Bill Hale billhale@wazoo.com

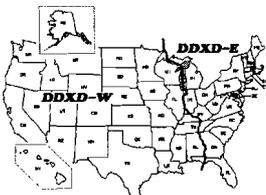
301 Boulder Bluff - San Marcos, TX 78666-8350

East: David Yocis DavidYocis@aol.com

David Yocis - 97 Clinton Ave. - South Nyack, NY 10960

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

(Division line is
between East and
Central time zones)



DDXD-West

REPORTERS

AM-?? Al Merriman ?? <merriman@shore.intercom.net>
DS-TN Doug Smith Pleasant View radio in 1990 Ford Escort, mobile in West Nashville
<72777.3143@compuserve.com>
DS-TN1 as above, with Kenwood TS-940 ham rig and 260' center-fed wire 60' up. (160-meter
dipole)
RS-MO Rocky Stone Hollister Teknika AM-FM Tuner with 300' wire
<71533.657@compuserve.com>
JR-OK John Reed, KA5QEP Ponca City modified Sylvania R1414/URR + noise-reduced
wire + Palomar loop phased with ANC-4; Kiwa MW loop
SP-WI Sheryl Paszkiewicz Manitowoc DX-390 + Select-a-Tenna
JEL-MO J.E. Lewis Kansas City
SA-MB Shawn Axelrod Winnipeg ICOM R-70 w/filter mods and PLAM board + 4' box
loop/Quantum Loop/100' lw <saxelrod@mb.sympatico.ca>
JJR-WI John J. Rieger South Milwaukee Drake SW-8, Kiwa loop, MFJ959B preamp-tuner
<winner98@webtv.net>
GB-FL Gerry Bishop Niceville Drake R8 and random antenna
Ed.-TX Editor San Marcos ICF-2010 barefooted



SPECIAL

680 WJCE TN Nashville - Regarding the Internet item, this refers to their FM station on
101.1 (licensed to Russellville, KY). WJCE-AM 680 is in Memphis and, to my
knowledge (admittedly I haven't been able to check on SSS for a few days) is
still black oldies. (DS-TN)
930 KDET TX Center - 12/27 - Changed to ABC's Real Country. (INet)
950 KDSX TX Denison - Sherman - 12/30 - Back on with satellite oldies and Flashback 950
slogans. (INet)
1280 WGTX FL Defuniak Springs - 12/28 1600 - ON THE AIR with news/talk format.
Returned sometime since 10/5. Suspect automated, as I got no answer at the
station when I called. Wanted to get their broadcast schedule. Had been
silent since June 1993. (GB-FL)

UNIDs and UNID HELP

1070 UNID ?? - 12/23 2320 - Every evening I've been hearing a 1kHz test tone but no
breaks or IDs. Anybody else out there hearing it? WFLI-TN was famous for
that back in the '70's but at least they'd ID. (RS-MO)
1230 UNID ?? - 12/24 0905 - Fair, mixing with KTRF, with Spanish talk, ballad music,
and a lively DJ. Seemed to be best to the West. Utah??? (SA-MB)
1620 ?V35?? ?? - 12/25 0045 - Someone under "WJDI" and the Virginia TISs with
continuous Morse IDs containing these letters in this order. WJDI too strong
to copy full text. (DS-TN)

DX AND EQUIPMENT TESTS

620 WRJZ+ TN Knoxville - 12/29 0300 - CID x3 at the hour, and VID for Joy 62, WRJZ
between normal programming. Four or five other stations on the channel
made for tough copy. (GB-FL)
620 WRJZ- TN Knoxville - 12/29 0255 - Not heard. Did manage to catch CKRC, WTMJ,
KMNS, KAAM, and UNID French station. Did this come off?? (SA-MB) -
12/29 0255-0330 - KTAR-AZ dominant with KOTK and SS station (KIGS ?) in
background. Also heard FF? talk-int'l programming? Who? (BK-CA)

630 KJSL- MO St. Louis - 12/30 0300-0330 - Heard Reno, NV but no VID or CL. Also
KIDD-CA and News talk 6-30, KWRO with daytime power? (BK-CA)
770 WWCN- FL North Fort Myers - 12/29 0300-0340 - No sign of a test here during these 40
minutes. Monster signal from RSN Bogota, and weak WABC. (GB-FL)
910 KIYU- AK Galena - 12/29 0500 - Nothing heard to indicate the test made it here.
Attenuation on stations to the north across the band. (GB-FL) - 12/29
0500-0507 - All local KNEW, no sign of a second station in background. (BK-
CA)

TIS & OTHER STUFF

1610 WNAZ542 MN Anchor Lake - 12/24 0756 - Still being a pest with info on the Iron Trail and
Range and Minnesota snow trivia. (SA-MB)
1620 WEAM604? VA Augusta Co. - 12/22 ~2200 - Fair with tourist info for sites along I-64 exit 235
and Virginia Routes 254 and 608. ID sounded like this and mentioned
Augusta County. Another station whose ID sounded like WCKR406 was
heard with similar programming, and almost sounded like it was promoting
the same sites. (DS-TN1)

PI-RATES

1620 WJDI NY Kingston? - 12/25 0045 - very good with oldies (some with modified parody
lyrics), parody ads, jingles, and very frequent IDs. Claimed 15 kW, but I
doubt that unless a very poor antenna was used. Usually dominant over the
Virginia TISs. Gave e-mail address wjdi1620am@aol.com, plus a mailing
address in Kingston, NY. I suspect a NYC-area location. (DS-TN)
1620 WJDI NY Kingston? - 12/25 0155 - Loud and IDing as Pirate Radio, WJDI giving
address in Kingston, NY for reports - I missed street name. Also E-mail
address as: wjdi1620am@aol.com. Playing folk-type music, still going strong
at 0202. (AM-??)

MIDNIGHT TO 0800 HOURS ELT

600 WREC TN Memphis - 12/27 0700 - Very poor, but happened to be passing by the
channel and heard News Radio 600 WREC, Memphis and into network news
(couldn't tell which one). Neither one of their patterns favors this QTH. Have
passed by their site on I-40 several times, but never DXed them before.
[Ed.-TX]
690 KHEY TX El Paso - 12/21 0630-0710 - Good, dominating channel, with C&W, legal ID
at 0700. First time here. Looking for Jacksonville or Birmingham. (JEL-MO)
1160 WAMB TN Donelson - 12/23 0754 - Call ID, news, NOS music. Heavy QRM, new here.
(JR-OK)
1270 KIML WY Gillette - 12/24 0735 - With C&W music and a clear KIML ID. (SA-MB)
1340 KWLM MN Willmar - 12/24 0745 - Now IDing as Central Minnesota's sports leader KWLM.
(SA-MB)

0800 TO 1600 HOURS ELT

NIL

WILY/WRXX RADIO
302 S. Poplar
P. O. Box 528
Centralia, IL 62801

1600 TO 2400 HOURS ELT

1020 KJJK MN Fergus Falls - 12/29 1831 - With KJ Oldies-AM 1020 non/IDs and satellite
oldies. Fair, in KDKA null. (JJR-WI)
1030 WSFZ TN Memphis - 12/24 1820 - ID with "Your Sports Station . . . For Fans", back to
One On One Sportstalk. (RS-MO)
1070 WTSO WI Madison - 12/23 2320 - Trying to solve the nightly 1 kHz tone mystery and a
talk show surfaced with a full ID - "Madison's Talk Station WTSO". New
one for me. (RS-MO)
1270 WKBF IL Rock Island - 12/26 2142 - Call ID, playing oldies and NOS music. In phase
null of SS station. New here. (JR-OK)
1280 WGBF IN Evansville - 12/23 2023 - Basketball game (Indiana vs Ohio). In loop null of
KSOK-KS. New here. (JR-OK)
WODT LA New Orleans - 12/26 2136 - Call ID & playing UC music (not talk). New
here. (JR-OK)
1290 WHIO OH Dayton - 12/23 2005 - Weather, call ID, then lost it in QRM. New here.
(JR-OK)

- 1300 KVOR CO Colorado Springs - 12/23 2000 - IDing as *News talk 1300*. Talk show and news. (JR-OK)
- WOAD MS Jackson - 12/26 2120 - Weather, call ID, gospel music by phone requests. Heard during fade of KAKC-OK. New here. (JR-OK)
- 1320 KXYZ TX Houston - 12/24 2315 - SS DJ was taking "Felice Navidad" phone calls between SS Christmas tunes. I recognized this semi-regular from my Houston days. (RS-MO)
- 1360 WKYO MI Caro - 12/19 2340 - With weather, holiday greetings, CID. New. (SP-WI)
- 1380 WKBQ MO St. Louis - 12/19 2352 - Ad for Viper Room, ads for Troy, Illinois and Fairview Heights, CID, Spin Doctors music. New. (SP-WI)
- 1480 WABB AL Mobile - 12/25 1954 - Talk on Harley Davidson motorcycles. Call ID. (JR-OK)
- KSDR SD Watertown - 12/25 1950 - Very weak, only caught call ID and possibly oldies music. New here. (JR-OK)
- 1510 KFNN AZ Mesa - 12/25 1942 - Good signal with financial news and call ID. (JR-OK)
- 1570 KYCR MN Golden Valley - 12/24 1955 - Playing Christmas carols with call ID. New here. (JR-OK)
- 1600 WOHz WV Wheeling - 12/20 ~2005 - Good, with Radio Aahs, same satellite feed as WJDM-1660. Definitely more than 33 watts. (but not heard since, so I don't think they're making a habit of it). (DS-TN)

GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

* indicates North American record-holder

1240 kHz:

KLOA	CA	Ridgecrest	Carl Dabelstein	Tucson, AZ	450
KKLA		San Bernardino	Carl Dabelstein	Tucson	389



DDXD-East

Deadlines are Tuesday; we skip January 28.

Welcome to our newest reporter *Gerald M. Conkling, Jr.* (KA3TOJ). Let's keep hearing from you!

STATION NEWS

- 570 WTEM MD Bethesda - SPT format all the time except "Imus in the Morning," has ESPN on weekends and "One on One Sports." (GC-MD)
- 1030 WNTL MD Indian Head - Three tower directional, 50 kW daytime station with transmitter located in Hughesville MD has been silent for almost a year. (GC-MD)
- 1600 WKEN DE Dover - 12/27 0709 - Heard with slogan "The new Q-1600," still oldies format, but also carries Dr. Laura in afternoons, ABC news, still using WKEN calls. (DB-DE)

DX TESTS

- 620 KAAM TX Plano - 12/9 0200-0230 - *Not heard*, only WSUN with new format (OLD) and Cuban Reloj. (DT-JAM)
- 630 KJSL MO St. Louis - 12/30 0300-0330 - *Not heard*, just dominant WMAL and unID with woman talking. (DB-DE)
- 690 KSTL MO St. Louis - 12/14 0300-0330 - *Not heard*, only strong Colombian, CBF, and unID EE. (DT-JAM)
- 1180 WSAF GA Trion - 12/16 0230-0300 - *Heard* very well, 8 groups of code, march music. Even with WHAM and Cuban. (RCP-IN) *Not heard*, only VoA. (DT-JAM)
- 1220 WIMN MN Stillwater - 12/14 0130-0200 - *Heard* fairly strong code towards end of test, possible music, fair-poor under WKNR. (RCP-IN) *Not heard*, only XEB and WKNR. (DT-JAM)

UNID and UNID HELP

- 660 UNID - — - 12/15 1744 - R. Aahs kids program, several R. Aahs IDs heard, very tough in WFAN null. (RCP-IN) [Maybe WHOZ-AL, new calls for Fairhope, seems like the calls of an Aahs station. - DY]
- 670 UNID - — - 12/26 1730 - Religious message under WMAQ to sign-off. (WM-MD)
- 910 UNID - — - 12/7 0338-0403 - UC or soul music under WFVR. Could be WALT-MS

- or WNDC-LA; the former is more likely as no sign of GOS music. ID wiped out by WFVR, poor. (DT-JAM)
- 1480 UNID - — - 12/29 0015-0030 - Deep fades, mention of "Soft Favorites 93.5," the Notre Dame ... Library, and Judithtown. Call letters sounded like WARM-FM. (RWT-MA) [WISL-PA is // 95.3 FM with that format. - DY]
- 1510 UNID - — - 12/15 1713 - Catholic Church service in progress, many recitations of prayers, much fading in WLAC null. (RCP-IN)

LOGGINGS: 0000-0800

- 540 CBK SK Regina - 12/15 0436 - "CBC Overnight" program of news and happenings from around the world, very good with little fading. (RCP-IN)
- 570 WVM MS Biloxi - 12/15 0457 - Talk program, ID. Very poor with much QRM. (RCP-IN)
- WNAX SD Yankton - 12/15 0430 - Weather report for South Dakota, snow warning mentioned, several IDs, eventual fade-out. (RCP-IN)
- 640 KTIB LA Thibadoux - 12/2 0240-0254 - OLD "Natural Woman," ID as "Oldies KTIB," fair, light QRM from several unIDs. (DT-JAM)
- 690 CBF PQ Montreal - 12/3 0139-0210 - Classical music, into jaxx, woman announcer in FF, over/under XECS, good. (DT-JAM)
- 730 WSTT GA Thomasville - 12/4 0605-0626 - UC music, ads for Town Center Mall, fading out, poor, unID QRM. (DT-JAM)
- 910 WFVR GA Valdosta - 12/7 0338-0403 - End of Art Bell show, ID only in promo for show "right here on WFVR," news, poor, QRM from unID above. (DT-JAM)
- 1010 WINS NY New York - 12/11 0410-0510 - News, talk, weather, "WINS weather watch never stops," poor under unID SS. (DT-JAM)
- 1100 KFA CA San Francisco - 12/13 0405-0433 - Christmas carols, man talking REL, QRM from HJAT, fair to poor. (DT-JAM) [Did you hear an ID, Don? Antigua is supposed to be back on in EE here. - DY]
- 1160 KSL UT Salt Lake City - 12/14 0532 - "The Road Gang" show featuring "The Hammer-Down Blue Grass Breakdown" portion of the program. Unusually strong with WJJD not heard. (RCP-IN)
- 1220 WKMT NC Kings Mountain - 12/14 0227 - Very good ID as "WKMT-1220" while taping WIMN test, nothing else heard. (RCP-IN)
- 1250 WGL IN Fort Wayne - 12/24 0659 - Poor under WTAE with ad for Burger (?) Auto north of Canterbury, phone number with exchange 485 mentioned, and ID. Been after this one since coming here, mention of locations from old hometown helped! (DB-DE)
- 1340 WKEY VA Covington - 12/30 0100 - Tentative with what sounded like ID by woman, "Great times, great oldies, hear them all year long on WKEY ...," into CBS news? Not listed as on the air at this time, or as CBS, but call letters very clear on tape. (DY-NY)
- 1480 WCNS PA Latrobe - 12/24 0707 - Heard at fair level with weather and ID, new. (DB-DE)
- 1490 WHBB AL Selma - 11/28 0202-0219 - News, ID at 0205 as "1490 WHBB" into OLD, poor under unID with talk. (DT-JAM)
- 1500 WFIF CT Milford - 1/1 0245-0303 - With WTOP nulled, a good signal with station testing, GOS/REL songs, test tones. Sign-off at 0305, announcer mentioned he liked his last song played. I am less than 5 miles from the WTOP transmitter and they send a Grade A signal here. (GC-MD)
- 1580 WCCF FL Punta Gorda - 11/30 0240-0327 - Talk show, time checks, info on I-75, poor under XEDM, unID Colombian. (DT-JAM)

LOGGINGS: 0800-1600

- 540 WDMVMD Pocomoke City - 12/14 1322 - Song "Gone Country," ID as "WBey 96.9 and AM 540," also slogan "Great Country 96.9." (PT-NJ)
- 570 WTEM MD Bethesda - 12/15 1551 - ID only heard under WKBN. (PT-NJ)
- WKBN OH Youngstown - 12/15 1545 - Talk program with very good signal, ID at 1600. (PT-NJ)
- 730 WBZS VA Arlington - 12/14 1400 - End of talk program and legal ID. (PT-NJ)
- 790 WAXY FL South Miami - 12/14 1445-1500 - Talk show, interview about children, poor under R. Reloj. Very rare for U.S. to break through midday! (DT-JAM)
- 830 WKTX OH Cortland - 12/25 1532 - Long list of seasons' greetings from various businesses in northeastern Ohio and Cortland. New. (DB-DE)

- 890 WFKJ PA **Cashtown** - 12/22 1400 - "Point of View" program with "Marlin Maddox" talking about immoral behavior of Pres. Clinton, "WFKJ in Cashtown" ID into USA Network news. Good signal and alone on frequency. (PT-NJ)
- 940 WADV PA **Lebanon** - 12/22 1344 - REL music, "His Name Was John," followed by "WADV" and back to music. (PT-NJ)
- 1020 WIBG NJ **Ocean City** - 12/14 1423 - REL talk and ID. Good to hear this call again; used to be a REL station in Philadelphia (calls standing for I Believe in God) and then the big Philly rocker in the 60's. Now it's REL again as WZZD-990. (PT-NJ)
- 1070 WKOK PA **Sunbury** - 12/14 1434 - "Crazy Love" by Poco and ID as "WKOK 107.3". (PT-NJ)
- 1440 WNPV PA **Lansdale** - 12/26 1543 - "Music of the 60's, 70's, and 80's on 1440 AM WNPV." (PT-NJ)
- 1470 WKAP PA **Allentown** - 12/26 1445 - NOS records "Georgy Girl," "The One You Love Belongs to Somebody Else," and a listener saying "WKAP, what a great station, I'm glad they're back." (PT-NJ)
- 1490 WLPA PA **Lancaster** - 12/25 1436 - "One on One Sports," on local break heard Coast Guard spot, PSA's, and "WLPA" ID. (PT-NJ)

LOGGINGS: 1600-2400

- 570 WAAX AL **Gadsden** - 12/23 1808 - End of Paul Harvey show into talk program, station promo and ID at 1815. Becoming a semi-regular here. (PT-NJ)
- 580 WCHS WV **Charleston** - 12/30 1837 - Local ads, mentions of Charleston, Morgantown, West Virginia Mountaineers, into sports talk program, strong and atop. New. (DY-NY)
- 590 WBNW MA **Boston** - 12/14 2312 - SID heard in jumble; not heard too often here. (PT-NJ)
- 610 WTVN OH **Columbus** - 12/4 1700 - ABC news, local weather, sports, several IDs, good in WIP null. (PT-NJ)
- 640 WGST GA **Atlanta** - 12/18 1727 - Drivetime traffic report "from the WGST traffic copter," fair with QRM from local WBOW, WCRV. (RCP-IN)
- 680 WCAW WV **Charleston** - 12/5 1721 - NOS songs "Only Love Can Break a Heart," "Friendly Persuasion," and talk about Chicago Ballet coming to Charleston. Disappeared mid-commercial at 1745, power cut? Listenable with lots of QRM. (PT-NJ)
- 730 WOHS NC **Shelby** - 12/17 1744 - Weather, news, happenings of the Gastonia and Cherryville NC area, mention of "Piedmont Super Station" network, then back to C&W music. Fair with much background noise. (RCP-IN)
- 790 CFAN NB **Newcastle** - 12/23 1800 - Good signal behind local WLKW with "7-90 CFAN" ID. Good while WLKW had news on, but wiped out by their music. New. (WW-MA)
- + 12/31 2124 - "7-90 CFAN" ID, Good Time Oldies, good over WLKW, others. Thanks WW for tip. New. (DY-NY)
- 820 WQIX NY **Horseheads** - 12/24 1745 - Real estate ad, mention of Watkins Glen, Christmas music, ID. (WM-MD)
- 830 WFNO LA **Norco** - 12/23 1951 - SS program loud and clear, EE Christmas greetings and SID at 2000. (PT-NJ)
- 860 KOSE AR **Oceola** - 12/5 2152-2315 - OLD music, ID as "Old time radio, right here on KOSE," "My Prayer," etc., poor and gone during the song. (DT-JAM)
- 940 WFAW WI **Fort Atkinson** - 12/16 1841 - Ad for Napa Auto Parts, then into a Righteous Brothers song. Frequent IDs, fair while in. (RCP-IN)
- 960 WELI CT **New Haven** - 12/13 2400 - "WELI Newstalk 960," poor in muck. (PT-NJ)
- 1030 WFTK NC **Wake Forest** - 12/25 1646 - REL pogram audible under the Boston flamethrower, "WFTK" ID, poor. (PT-NJ)
- WSFZ TN **Memphis** - 12/21 2018 - Station promo heard in WBZ. null. Some evenings they boom in here until power cut. (PT-NJ)
- 1060 WAMT FL **Titusville** - 12/11 2059-2107 - Talk, news, ID as "Central Florida's powerhouse, WAMT, 10,000 watts," fair to poor. (DT-JAM)
- 1080 WKJK KY **Louisville** - 12/30 1739 - Good under WTIC with C&W music, ads, "Real Country KJ 1080" IDs. New with any call. (DY-NY)
- 1110 KFAB NE **Omaha** - 12/20 1747 - Drivetime program with mention of KFAB, Nebraska lottery promo, coming in quite well. Usual WBT not heard; KFAB quite rare here. (RCP-IN)

- 1130 WSJP KY **Murray** - 12/19 1702 - Ad for Kraft Furniture in downtown Murray, fair under WBBR, other unIDs. (RCP-IN)
- 1160 WPIE NY **Trumansburg** - 12/20 1811 - Several musical IDs as "WPIE," then into Prime Sports program. Fair in WJJD null. (RCP-IN)
- 1220 WSLM IN **Salem** - 12/23 1917 - REL phone talk show with phone number given for "locally in Salem." No ID heard but suspect this one, eventually overrun by unID FF station. (PT-NJ)
- 1240 WJEJ MD **Hagerstown** - 12/29 2357 - Joint ID for "104.7 FM and 1240 AM, WJEJ ..." popping out of the GY mush. (DY-NY)
- 1250 CHWO ON **Oakville** - 12/21 1930 - NOS style Christmas music, spot for the "Omega Restaurant in Oakville" and ID. (PT-NJ)
- 1300 WSYD NC **Mount Airy** - 12/14 1933 - C&W music, "WSYD Mount Airy" and back to C&W, tough through WJFK. (PT-NJ)
- 1350 WTOU OH **Akron** - 12/31 2325 - ID popped up "1350 on the dial, WTOU, the New Touch, 1350 AM." Good with WOYK, WGPL. (DY-NY)
- WGPL VA **Portsmouth** - 12/31 2341 - REL preaching, 24-hour New Year's service, "GPL Portsmouth" and other cities mentioned. Good, mostly over usual WOYK. (DY-NY)
- 1370 WTAB NC **Tabor City** - 12/8 1712 - "WTAB Tabor City" barely audible in muck. (PT-NJ)
- 1410 WHLN KY **Harlan** - 12/26 1900 - Sign-off, station address, ID. (WM-MD)
- 1440 WHIS WV **Bluefield** - 12/16 2242 - "The WHIS Sports Billboard" only thing heard, poor with QRM and WRRO. (PT-NJ)
- 1470 WMBD IL **Peoria** - 12/31 2101 - "This is the WMBD ... Braves radio network," faded under CHOW. (DY-NY)
- 1510 WNLC CT **New London** - 12/25 1715 - NOS music, ID. (WM-MD)
- 1540 WREJ VA **Richmond** - 12/26 1715 - Call letters only heard. (WM-MD)
- 1570 WXLN IN **New Albany** - 12/25 2100 - ID, mention of Louisville. (WM-MD)
- 1580 WLIM NY **Patchogue** - 12/19 1700 - Just trying to sift through the jumble and heard "WLIM, Long Island's ..." not very good through QRM. (PT-NJ)
- WDAB SC **Travelers Rest** - 12/19 1700 - Same as above with "1580 WDAB" surfacing just for the moment. (PT-NJ)

TIS AND MISCELLANEOUS

- 830 WPIC PA **Philadelphia** - 12/22 1326 - "Penn's Landing Information Station" with travel info and directions to "Penn's Landing," the Liberty Bell, the New Jersey State Aquarium, etc. Tape loop with ID "This is the Penn's Landing Information Station, WPIC, Philadelphia." (PT-NJ)
- 1620 TIS VA **Shenandoah Valley** - 12/31 2003 - Tape loop, man and woman alternating, mentions of various exits I-64, I-81, W...404 ID. Quite readable on peaks. (DY-NY)
- "WJDI" - 12/24 2150-2215 - Strong signal but very fadey, ID "Clear Channel 1620 WJDI at 15,000 watts," "The strongest pirate station in the U.S. Gave address in Kingston NY. Played Oldies like Mr. Blue, So Fine, fake ads. ID at top of hour "WJDI 1620, King of the Pirates," song called "It's Great to Be a Pirate King," abrupt cut-off in middle of song "Popsicles and Icicles," checked a few times after but seemed to be off for good. (WW-MA)
- + 12/24 2330-0215 - Very strong signal at times, at other times weak, with music and self-made up advertisements such as Lazy Bo and Banco Dinero. I have heard this pirate once before a few years back, but with a better signal. Announced 15,000 watts. (GC-MD)



DB-DE Dave Braun
GC-MD Geraldn Conkling
WM-MD William McGuire
RCP-IN Robert C. Pote
PT-NJ Paul Thomas
DT-JAM Don Trelford
RWT-MA Rick Turner
WW-MA William Wyllie
DY-NY David Yocis

REPORTERS

Wyoming DE - R-5000, Quantum loop, 500' LW
Greenbelt MD - Grundig YB-400
Cheverly MD - DX-390
Greenwood IN - R8A, Quantum loop; DX-392, Select-tenna
Salem NJ - R8A, homebrew Harley loop
St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica - R-2000, LWs
North Dartmouth MA - YB-400
Franklin MA - DX-390
South Nyack NY - R71A, Kiwa loop

International Jim Renfrew JimRenfrew@delphi.com

61 Wilcox Street
Rochester, NY 14607-3832

DX Digest

Foreign DX Catches. Times are UTC; for ELT, subtract 5 hrs.

Between Christmas and New Year's I went up to Cranberry Lake in the Adirondacks. I brought the Sony, 210 feet of Radio Shack antenna wire, and a ground rod, hoping that the quiet of an isolated area would result in some TA's. All that I managed to hear was very weak audio on 1089, 1215, and 1314 at 2130-2200 UTC, a real disappointment with A and K index at 1. The place we stayed, I discovered when we arrived, was surrounded on three sides by water. Although quite beautiful, it allowed the antenna to only run in a ESE direction.

On a happier note, I got QSLs in the mail this week, from 693 BBC and 1215 Virgin, country #36 verified, Ireland 567, country #37, and KXBT-1630!

Gilles Michaud sends in logs from a recent CIDX DXpedition. Well done!

Deadlines are Sundays. Please follow the exact format shown below.

Jim

TRANS-ATLANTIC DX

- 153 ALGERIA Bechar, NOV 2 2145 - Good with Arabic talk. [Michaud-QC]
162 FRANCE Allouis, NOV 1 2245 - Poor with FF talk, "France-Inter" ID. [Michaud-QC]
162 FRANCE Allouis, NOV 2 2144 - Very good with news in FF. [Michaud-QC]
171 MOROCCO Nador, NOV 2 2137 - Good with American dance music, Radio Mediteranne International. [Michaud-QC]
183 GERMANY Felsberg, NOV 2 0458 - Strong but noisy with FF talk. Europe #1. [Michaud-QC]
198 UNITED KINGDOM Droitwich, NOV 2 2135 - Good with BBC ID, English talk. [Michaud-QC]
216 FRANCE Roumoules, NOV 2 0459 - Fair with FF news, Radio Monte-Carlo ID. NOV 2 2147 - Very good FF song, "Les infos sur Radio Monte-Carlo". [Michaud-QC]
252 ALGERIA Tipaza, NOV 2 2127 - Very good with electronic music, Timecheck @ 2230 in FF, News headlines. [Michaud-QC]
549 ALGERIA Les Trembles, DEC 11 2314-2331 - Loud and clear with religious Middle Eastern music. DEC 19 2345-2400 - Again very strong with man in AA and both traditional and modern Middle Eastern music. Even heard on GE Superadio with no external antenna pushing aside WDEV-550. [DeLorenzo-MA]
558 SPAIN RNE5 Valencia, NOV 2 0406 - Poor with SS talk, // 657. [Michaud-QC]
603 SPAIN RNE5 Sevilla, NOV 4 0532 - Poor with SS talk. [Michaud-QC]
612 MOROCCO RTM Sebaa-Aioun, DEC 11 2353-2400 - Good with man in AA and Middle Eastern music. On other recent receptions their audio has been very shallow. [DeLorenzo-MA]
657 SPAIN RNE5 Madrid, NOV 2 0400 - Fair with SS news. [Michaud-QC]
666 PORTUGAL RDP Lisboa, NOV 2 0358 - Poor with Classical music, Talk in Portuguese, Time Pips on top of hour. [Michaud-QC]
675 FRANCE Marseille, NOV 3 0050 - Poor with Music, // 1375 St-Pierre & Miquelon. [Michaud-QC]

- 675 NETHERLANDS, JAN 1 2149 - Per phone tip from Jerry Bond (just a few miles away), strong signal with music. He had it loud enough for me to hear over the telephone, I could barely hear anything, sigh. Norway had the best audio during this time. Receptions up in the Adirondacks and now home suggest signals come in well 2130-2200. [JR-NY]
684 SPAIN RNE1 Sevilla, NOV 4 0554 - Fair with SS talk, heavy splash from CBF-690. [Michaud-QC]



- 738 SPAIN RNE1 Barcelona, NOV 2 2319 - Fair with SS phone-in program. [Michaud-QC]
738 SPAIN RNE1 Barcelona, NOV 2 0412 - Fair with SS talk. [Michaud-QC]
765 SWITZERLAND RSR Sottens, NOV 2 0343 - Fair with Classical Music. NOV 4 0558 - Fair-

- Good with FF talk, Radio Suisse Romande. [Michaud-QC]
774 SPAIN RNE1 synchros, NOV 2 0341 - Good with interview in SS. [Michaud-QC]
837 SPAIN COPE synchros, NOV 3 0045 - Fair SS talk. [Michaud-QC]
855 SPAIN RNE1 Murcia, NOV 3 0100 - Poor with SS vocal music. [Michaud-QC]
864 EGYPT Santah, NOV 2 0331 - Fair with Koran readings. [Michaud-QC]
873 SPAIN SER Zaragoza, NOV 3 0101 - Poor with SS talk. [Michaud-QC]
882 SPAIN/CANARY ISLAND COPE, NOV 3 0504 - Fair with SS News. [Michaud-QC]
1026 SPAIN SER synchros, NOV 3 0140 - Poor with SS talk, // 1044. [Michaud-QC]
1044 SPAIN SER San Sebastian, NOV 3 0137 - Poor with SS talk. [Michaud-QC]
1053 UNITED KINGDOM Droitwich, NOV 4 0010 - Fair with Talk Radio UK, British accented talk program. [Michaud-QC]
1089 ENGLAND Talk Radio UK, DEC 27 2140 - woman speaking EE, too weak to hear content, but sounded British. [JR*NY]
1107 SPAIN RNE5 synchros, NOV 4 0017 - Poor with SS vocal song. [Michaud-QC]
1116 SPAIN SER synchros, NOV 4 0018 - Poor with SS talk. [Michaud-QC]
1125 SPAIN RNE5 synchros, NOV 2 2222 - Fair with SS talk. [Michaud-QC]
1134 SPAIN COPE synchros, NOV 2 2224 - Poor with SS talk. [Michaud-QC]
1134 CROATIA Hrvatska Radio, Zadar, NOV 4 0021 - Good with talk by woman in slavic language. [Michaud-QC]
1197 UNITED KINGDOM Virgin Radio synchros, NOV 3 0130 - Poor // 1215. [Michaud-QC]
1206 FRANCE Bordeaux, NOV 3 0609 - Good with FF talk, Music. [Michaud-QC]
1215 UNITED KINGDOM Virgin Radio synchros, NOV 2 0501 - Poor-Fair with British news. NOV 3 0118 Fair with British Pop Music. [Michaud-QC]
1314 NORWAY, DEC 9 0140-0500 - Very strong with deep fades. Norwegian talk and 70's and 80's EE rock with some music of a native variety. At 0200 had news by a woman after news sounder, but other hours programming seemed to go straight through the top of the hour. Herb Alpert's "Tijuana Taxi" heard as a musical flourish between songs. This is the best I've heard any European and easy because I have a quiet 1310 and 1320. Ottawa and Pittsburgh were especially weak this night. [Hayes-PA] DEC 27 2130 - very weak with man speaking in low voice. [JR*NY]
1602 SPAIN SER synchros, NOV 3 0156 - Poor with music, SS talk. [Michaud-QC]

PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 570 CUBA Radio Reloj, Pilon, NOV 4 0442 - Poor with time pips & News items in SS. [Michaud-QC]
600 CUBA CMKV Urbano Noris, NOV 2 0511 - Fair with frequent mentions of Cuba in SS, almost no trace of CIQC. [Michaud-QC]
770 COLOMBIA RCN-Bogotá, NOV 3 0430 - Poor-Fair with time pips @ 0430. [Michaud-QC]
900 MEXICO XEW Mexico City, NOV 3 0511 - Good with Corrida description in SS, ID. [Michaud-QC]
940 MEXICO XEQ Mexico City, NOV 2 0607 - Fair with SS talk, news, "X-E-Q". [Michaud-QC]
960 CUBA R Enciclopedia, Matanzas; DEC 30 1525-1531 - piano version of "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" (thankfully, Madonna-less), SS woman with ID. Good, parallel 1290 at about the same level. [Krueger-FL]
980 CUBA Emisora COCO, Guanabacoa (or Sapo--depending on who you believe), Ciudad Habana; DEC 30 1512-1526 - SS jazz vocal, ID, man and woman with news items, including studio feature on the Catholic priest, archbishop or whatever from the Ayacucho area who's meddling in the Tupac Amaru hostage situation in Lima. Then telco feed on afternoon events in Ciudad de la Habana and COCO tagline closing. Good. [Krueger-FL]
1000 CUBA R Guama, Los Palacios, Pinar del Rio; DEC 30 1525+ - ID, male DJ introduced song by La Banda NG. Parallel 1090. [Krueger-FL]
1080 CUBA R Cadena Habana, Guines, Habana; DEC 30 1530+ - excellent in passing with live recording of Arturo Sandoval; interesting that they'd air the music of a revolutionary traitor. [Krueger-FL]

TRANS-PACIFIC DX

- 153 RUSSIA Komsomolsk Far East, DEC 17 1152 - Fair with RR talk, semi-classical instrumental music; usual periodic interference from GWEN. [Woods-OR]
270 RUSSIA Khabarovsk Far East, DEC 15 1236 - Poor to fair with woman speaking fast RR.



- [Woods-OR]
 594 JAPAN JOAK Tokyo DEC 16 1449 - Instrumental music and JJ talk. [Woods-OR]
 620 HAWAII KIPA Hilo, DEC 21 1316 - Fair to good with NOS over KOTK. [Woods-OR]
 657 NORTH KOREA Kangnam, DEC 16 1522 - Fair with classical music, female vocalist. [Woods-OR]
 693 JAPAN JOAB Tokyo, DEC 16 1501 - Fair with anthem, signing off. NHK2. [Woods-OR]
 850 HAWAII KHLO Hilo, DEC 21 1305 - Fair with OLD and usual frequent ID, under KOA. [Woods-OR]

- 1475 UNID, DEC 17 1236 - Fair with EZL music, man speaking what sounded like Pacific island language. Signal fading by 1300 and no ID heard. Also heard DEC 19, poor with relaxed popular music. [Woods-OR]
 1566 SOUTH KOREA HLAZ Cheju, DEC 17 1232 - Fair to good with organ music, Asian language talk. [Woods-OR]

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

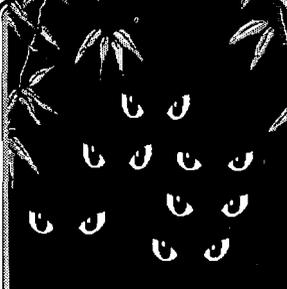
NETHERLANDS/SPAIN: Regarding pips heard on 747, I have noted the following: Netherlands = 2 short pips, 1 long pip (all the same pitch); Canaries // Spain = 4 short pips, 1 long pip (all the same pitch). [Connelly-MA] (John Sgrulletta called by phone wondering if anyone has a good address for this station, as the WRTH list is somewhat confusing - Jim)

CONTRIBUTORS

Jerry Bond, Rochester NY; HQ-140 (I think).
 Marc DeLorenzo, Auburndale MA; JRC NRD-525, Quantum Loop.
 Harry Hayes, Wilkes-Barre PA; Superadio II, internal loop.
 Terry L. Krueger (in TOCOBAGA DX #15), Clearwater FL. [tocobagadx@earthlink.net]
 @Gilles Michaud, DXing from Hemmingford QC (CIDX DXpedition); Sony 2010, beverage antennas: 800' East non-terminated, 1500' East terminated, 300' South, 325' North-East and 350' South-West.
 @Jim Renfrew, DXing from Wanakeena NY; Sony 2010 and 210' ESE wire. [JimRenfrew@Delphi.com]
 @Jack Woods, Waldport OR: Lowe Europa with ALN-1 untuned loop, active whip antenna, NPM-1 phasing unit. [jwoods@orednet.org]



The **NRC AM Radio Log, 17th Edition**, compiled from members' reports and from official sources so that it is the most accurate listing of AM stations on the market. Cross-referenced, 3-hole punched for standard binders. Only \$16.95 to U. S. and Canadian members; \$22.95 to U. S. and Canadian non-NRC members. Airmail to members: to Latin America, \$23.50; Europe, \$24.00; rest of the world: \$28.00. Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax)



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Remote-Controlled Termination Beverage Antenna

By Steve Byan

Oak Ridge Radio - P. O. Box 2092 - Littleton, MA 01460-3092
 oakridge@ultranet.com <<http://www.ultranet.com/~oakridge/>>>
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The RCT Beverage antenna Beverage front-to-back ratio

As discussed in my forth-coming article "Beverage Antenna Termination: Why Bother?", the front to back ratio of the Beverage depends critically on the termination impedance. Figure 1 below shows the variation in front-to-back ratio versus termination resistance for a 279 meter Beverage at 1.0 MHz mounted 2 meters above moderately-poor ground at a wave-angle of 20.7 degrees. In the example, the terminator must be between about 513Ω and 654Ω, or about ±10%, to achieve a front-to-back ratio of 25 dB or more.

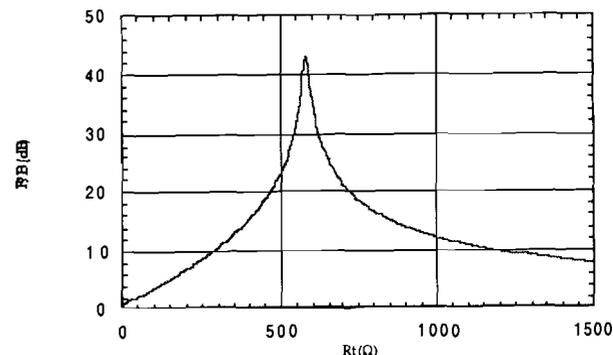


Figure 1. F/B ratio versus termination resistance.

It isn't possible to predict the exact value for the termination resistor that maximizes the front-to-back ratio. The characteristic impedance of the antenna varies with the height above ground, ground conductivity, permeability of the earth, and frequency. The effective height above ground is difficult to determine since RF penetrates the earth to some extent and thus the effective height is greater than the height above the surface of the ground. The ground conductivity depends on the composition of the soil and its moisture content. This varies both seasonally and with the weather. According to measurements reported in Belrose, Litva, Moss, and Stevens (Ref. 1), the characteristic impedance of a Beverage varies approximately ±20% over the frequency range of 2 MHz to 12 MHz.

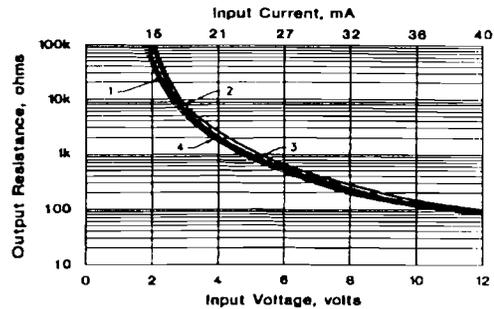
Ideally you should experimentally adjust the termination resistance for the deepest null to the rear. This is easier said than done since the receiver is typically 1000 feet or more from the terminator. One either needs a good pair of running shoes or a partner and a pair of walkie-talkies to adjust a potentiometer at the far end of a Beverage.

The Remote Controlled Termination (RCT) Beverage antenna

I've developed a method to remotely-control a termination resistor located at the far end of the antenna. I use a cadmium sulfide (CdS) photocell as the Beverage termination resistance. The brighter the light on the photocell, the lower its resistance. In my system a 12 volt incandescent lamp illuminates the CdS photocell. I control the resistance of the photocell by adjusting the voltage on the lamp with a potentiometer. I use #22 AWG stranded twisted-pair wire both as the antenna and to feed the control voltage to the lamp. The voltage across the twisted-pair drives the

incandescent lamp at the terminator. Both wires in the twisted-pair are AC-coupled to the photocell, which is connected to the ground system.

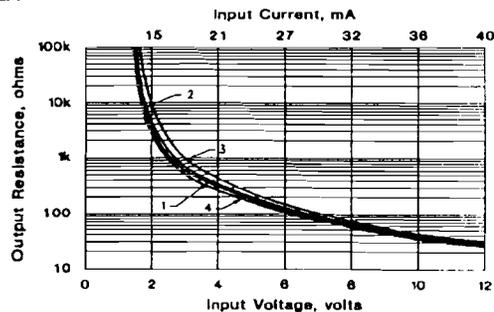
Cadmium sulfide photocells are good RF resistors. They are fairly linear so they do not produce much intermodulation distortion. They have low parasitic capacitance and inductance. For the cell that I use, at 466 ohms DC resistance, I measured the impedance at 10 MHz as 435 - j110 ohms using a General Radio 916A RF bridge. This is equivalent to a 463 ohm resistor in parallel with a 8.7 pF capacitor.



Curve 1: 25°C - 24 hours @ no input
 Curve 2: 25°C - 24 hours @ rated input
 Curve 3: +50°C - 24 hours @ rated input
 Curve 4: -20°C - 24 hours @ rated input

Figure 2. typical resistance vs. voltage curve for VTL3A27.

I use an opto-isolator containing the CdS photocell and incandescent lamp encapsulated in an epoxy package. EG&G Vactec manufactures them and sells them under the trade name "Vactrols". I use the type VTL3A27 "Vactrol" analog opto-isolator. The desirable characteristics for the CdS cell are a low on-resistance, a low light-history memory, a low temperature coefficient, and a shallow resistance versus voltage characteristic curve in the region around 500 ohms and below. The maximum on-resistance needs to be below a few hundred ohms since the resistance of the ground system is in series with the terminator, and the necessary termination resistance is somewhere around 400 to 500 ohms. A low light-history memory and a low temperature coefficient are desirable to minimize drift in the termination resistance setting. The shallow resistance versus voltage characteristic keeps the control setting from being too sensitive. The VTL3A27 meets these requirements best, but is not available through distributors like Allied Electronics. I bought mine in quantity from EG&G Vactec. Figure 2 shows the typical resistance versus voltage characteristic curve for the VTL3A27.



Curve 1: 25°C - 24 hours @ no input
 Curve 2: 25°C - 24 hours @ rated input
 Curve 3: +50°C - 24 hours @ rated input
 Curve 4: -20°C - 24 hours @ rated input

Figure 3. typical resistance vs. voltage curve for VTL3A47.

Allied does stock EG&G/Vactec type VTL3A47. This part has a lower on-resistance, a higher light-history memory and temperature coefficient, and a much steeper characteristic curve around 500 ohms. See figure 3. Mark Connelly has had success with these parts by using a 10 turn potentiometer to keep the control setting from being too "fiddly".

Figure 4 illustrates a simple application of the remote termination scheme. This uses a 9V transistor radio battery or a 12-volt lantern battery and a 1 KΩ series potentiometer connected across the twisted-pair antenna wire to provide the control voltage. The capacitance between the two wires in the twisted-pair couples them together for RF. The lamp in the opto-isolator connects between the two wires in the twisted-pair and the photocell connects from one wire to the ground system. A good ground is needed, preferably at least four symmetrically-arranged 30 meter long (about 100 feet) radials.

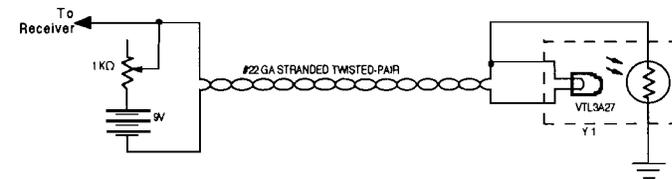


Figure 4. simple remote-termination circuit.

Mark Connelly has adapted the remote-termination concept to other types of antennas. He's experimented with it for the termination of receive-only rhombic antennas and short phased random-wires. See Figure 9 in Mark's DCP-2 dual controller/phaser article for the design of a flexible termination-box that can be configured for Beverages and random-wires or rhombics and terminated loops.

RCT Beverage description

I've developed a design for a remote-controlled termination Beverage that is well-suited for DXpedition use. It is designed for portability since most DXers don't have the space for a permanent Beverage installation.

The design uses rugged "low-tech" circuitry. The antenna has to survive the large voltages induced by nearby lightning strikes so I avoid the use of semiconductors such as FETs or LEDs. The incandescent lamp and CdS photocell in the terminator are quite rugged in this respect. Semiconductors are also likely to produce intermodulation in the presence of strong RF. The CdS photocell is a quite linear resistance; in my experience it does not cause any significant intermodulation products.

The RCT Beverage consists of a controller, an impedance-matching transformer, two 100 foot (30 meter) radials of #24 gauge wire for the ground system at the transformer, 1000 feet (300 meters) of #22 gauge twisted-pair antenna wire, the remote controlled terminator, and four 100 foot (30 meter) radials of #24 gauge wire for the ground system at the terminator. See figure 5.

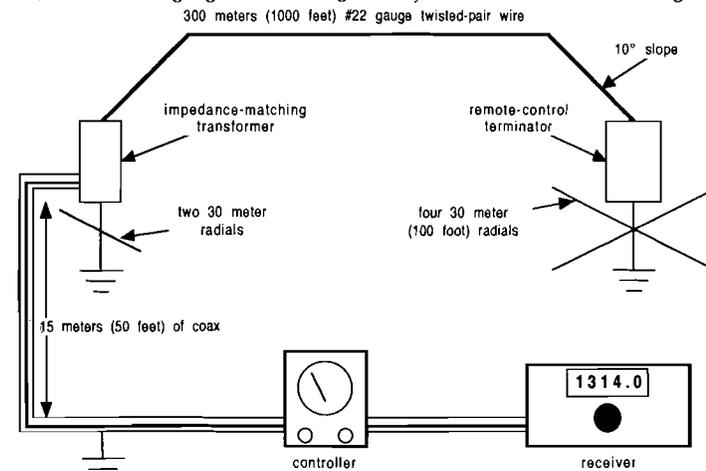
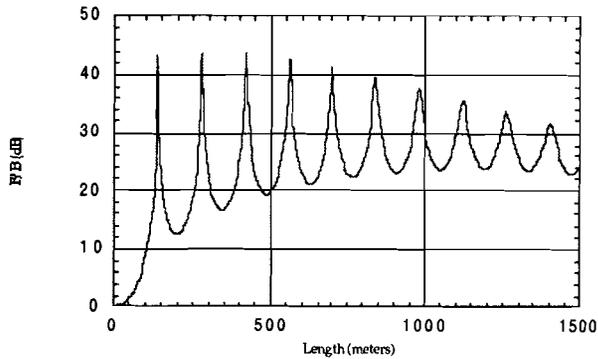


Figure 5. RCT Beverage components.

The antenna wire is spooled on a 14 inch cord-wheel. It connects to the terminator through a pair of banana plugs. A pair of insulation-piercing test clips connect the antenna wire to the matching transformer. The insulation-piercing test clips allow you to reel out the optimum length of wire for your frequency of interest. You simply clip-in to the wire leaving the remainder spooled on the cord-wheel. To ease the task of measuring the antenna length, I've had a special-run made of twisted-pair wire marked at 5 meter intervals.

As discussed in my forth-coming article "Beverage Antenna Termination: Why Bother?", the front-to-back ratio of a Beverage varies considerably with the length of the antenna, reaching a local maxima at intervals of one-half wavelength. If you have a specific frequency for which you wish to optimize the antenna, adjust the length of the antenna to a multiple of one-half wavelength at that frequency, allowing for the velocity factor of the antenna which varies from 70% to 90% depending on the height above ground (Ref. 2 and 3).



1.0 MHz, 2 meters high, moderately-poor soil, 20.7° wave angle

Figure 6. F/B ratio versus antenna length.

Controller

The controller couples a variable DC voltage onto the coax feedline to the matching transformer. Coupling capacitor C6 blocks the DC from the receiver input. RF choke L2 blocks the RF signal from the control circuitry. V5, a Siemens gas-discharge tube, protects the controller and the receiver against transient voltages.

A #1815 incandescent lamp protects the controller against short-circuits. It limits the current to a maximum of 200 mA. The lamp in the opto-isolator takes a maximum of 40 mA so the current-limiting lamp has little effect unless there is a short-circuit. Then the lamp serves as a "short" indicator as well as current limiter.

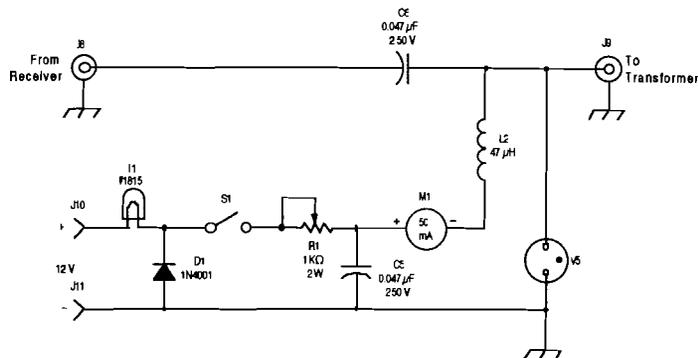


Figure 7. Schematic of RCT Beverage controller.

R1, a 1 KΩ 2-watt linear potentiometer, controls the DC voltage fed to the lamp. At its

maximum resistance 12 mA flows through to the opto-isolator. This gives a termination resistance of greater than 100 KΩ, which is high enough to effectively be an open-circuit.

A 50 milliamper meter serves to detect an open-circuit if the clips don't pierce the insulation on the antenna wire, or if a mouse drags off the antenna. It also allows you to make a rough estimate of the termination resistance. A 1N4001 diode connected in reverse across the DC input provides polarity protection for the meter. If the power source is connected with the wrong polarity, the diode will conduct and the current limit lamp will turn on, limiting the reverse voltage across the circuit to about 0.7 volts. This is small enough to prevent damage to the meter.

Matching transformer

The impedance-matching transformer contains a 9:1 unbalanced-to-unbalanced transmission-line transformer. It transforms the approximate 450 ohm impedance of the Beverage antenna down to 50 ohms to match the coax feedline. Without impedance-matching, there is a loss of 14 dB between a 450 Ω antenna source and the 50Ω input of the receiver. The transformer consists of 5 trifilar tight-wound turns of #30 AWG Kynar wire-wrap wire on an Amidon Associates FT50-75 ferrite toroid core. I use Kynar-insulated wire rather than enameled magnet wire in order to raise the impedance of the trifilar transmission line. Similarly, the wires are tight-wound in parallel rather than twisted together in order to maximize the impedance of the trifilar line. The type-75 core material is high-permeability, so five turns is sufficient to give more than enough inductance to cover the low end of the broadcast band. The measured -3 dB point of the entire controller and matching-transformer system is about 200 kHz at the bottom and well above 10 MHz at the top.

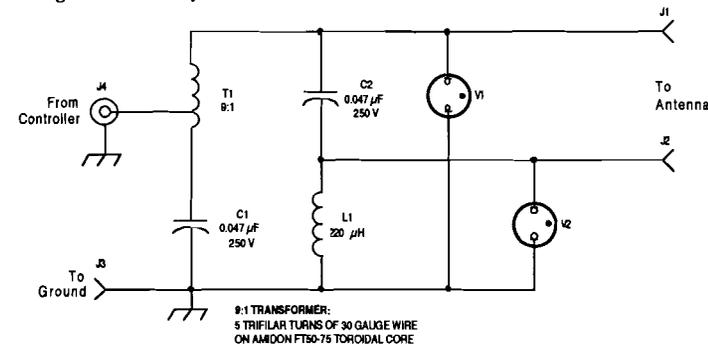


Figure 8. Schematic of RCT Beverage transformer.

Coupling capacitor C1 prevents the primary winding of the transformer from shorting the control voltage to ground. Coupling capacitor C2 couples the twisted pair antenna wires together for RF but blocks the DC control voltage. The transformer couples the DC control voltage on the center conductor of the coax feedline to one of the pair of antenna wires. RF choke L1 provides a DC connection to the coax shield for the remaining wire.

A pair of gas-discharge tubes (V1 and V2) protect the transformer from transient voltages.

Terminator

The incandescent lamp in Y1, the VTL3A27 opto-isolator, connects directly across the pair of antenna wires. Coupling capacitors C3 and C4 block the DC control voltage from the CdS photocell. The photocell in Y1 connects directly to the ground system.

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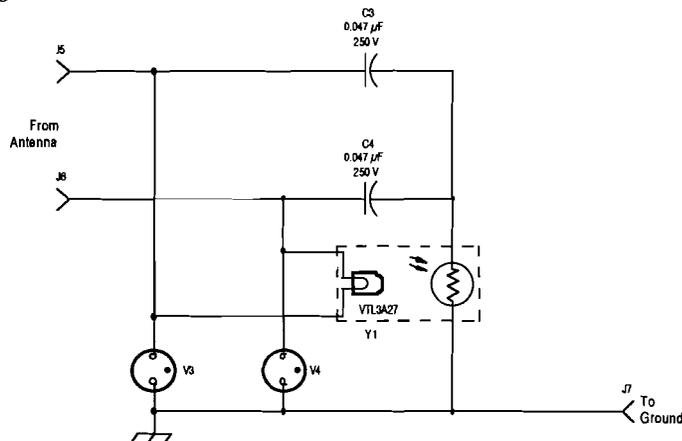


Figure 9. Schematic of RCT Beverage terminator.

Two gas-discharge tubes (V3 and V4) protect the opto-isolator from transient voltages. I used to use NE-2's give up the ghost. The failure mode is interesting in that there is no visible damage. They appear intact but the firing voltage is very high, possibly due to sputtering removing the rare earth coating on the electrodes. I was losing an opto-isolator every week in the summer until I finally discovered the bad NE-2's. The induced transient from the lightning strike would usually take out the incandescent lamp. This shows up immediately on the controller meter as an open circuit.

I occasionally encountered another failure mode where the photocell resistance gradually increases. Presumably the transient vaporizes some of the CdS material and slightly narrows the resistance track, which slightly increases the on-resistance. Over time, the minimum on-resistance goes up enough so that the antenna will no longer null. This can be a real puzzler - I initially suspected problems with the ground system until I finally found the bad photocell and NE-2 lamps. I now use heavy-duty gas-discharge tubes rather than NE-2 neon lamps.

Parts List

Most of the components are readily available from mail-order suppliers such as Digi-Key, Mouser, and Allied. VTL3A47 Vactrols are available from Allied. VTL3A27 Vactrols are available for \$6.00 each plus \$2.00 shipping and handling per order from:

Oak Ridge Radio
P. O. Box 2092
Littleton, MA 01460-3092
oakridge@ultranet.com
http://www.ultranet.com/~oakridge

Assembled RCT Beverage systems are also available from Oak Ridge Radio.

IRCA Mexican Log, 4th Edition

The IRCA is proud to announce the release of the 4th edition of its MEXICAN LOG. The IRCA MEXICAN LOG log lists all AM stations in Mexico by frequency, including call letters, state, city, day/night power, slogans, schedule in UTC/GMT, formats, networks and notes. In addition, stations that have changed frequency since 1990 are cross-referenced on the old frequency. The call letter index gives call, frequency, city and state. The city index (listed by state, then city) includes frequency, call and day/night power. The log has been completely updated from the 1994 edition and carefully cross-checked by IRCA members in Mexico and the U. S. This is an indispensable reference for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11" and three hole punched for easy binding (optional).

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Qty	Designator	Description	Manufacturer	Part No.
6	C1-C6	0.047 µF 250V polyester capacitor	Allied	MDD-22E43KB
1	D1	1N4001 diode - 1 amp 50 PRV	-	1N4001
1	T1	1815 lamp -14.0 volt 200 mA bayonet T3-1/4	Chicago-Minia	1815
1	L1	220 µH RF choke 155 ma	JW Miller	77F221
1	L2	47 µH RF choke 340 ma	JW Miller	77F470
4	J1,J2,J5,J6	banana jacks, rib loc insulated solder terminal, yellow	Johnson	108-2307-801
2	J3,J7	banana jacks, rib loc insulated solder terminal, green	Johnson	108-2304-801
3	J4,J8,J9	50-239 UHF panel receptacle	Amphenol	83-1R
1	J10	binding post, insulated standard, red	Johnson	111-0102-001
1	J11	binding post, insulated standard, black	Johnson	111-0103-001
1	M1	50 mA meter, rectangular, 2-1/2 inch	Simpson	5880
4	P1,P2,P5,P6	banana plugs, insulated solderless tapered handle, yellow	Johnson	108-307-001
2	P3,P7	uninsulated banana plug panel mount threaded stud	Johnson	108-0750-001
1	R1	1 KΩ potentiometer 2 Watt RV-4 type	ClaroStat	RV4N102
1	S1	SPDT miniature toggle switch	Alco	MTA-106D
1	T1	ferrite toroidal core for T1	Amidon	FT50-75
5	V1-V5	surge voltage protector - 90V, 20 K.Amp	Siemens	A81-C90X
1	Y1	incandescent/ CdS analog opto-isolator 12V, 160Ω	EG&G Vactec	VT3A27
2	clips	insulation-piercing test clips	J.S. Popper	JP8783
5	clips	battery clip, 3/4" jaw opening, copper	Mueller	25-C
1		14" diameter cordwheel		
1000'		#22 gauge stranded twisted-pair - antenna wire		
600'		#24 gauge stranded wire - ground radials		

Figure 10. Parts list for RCT Beverage.

Antenna installation

I use four foot ground rods purchased from Radio Shack as mechanical supports for the terminator and matching transformer. A large Mueller battery clip grips the ground rod and the terminator or matching transformer enclosure plugs onto a banana jack attached to the battery clip. The ground radials also clip onto the ground rod using battery clips. I use two radials on the matching transformer and four at the terminator. The two on the matching transformer aren't really necessary. They do increase the received signal strength somewhat. The four radials at the terminator are absolutely necessary to get the ground impedance low enough to successfully terminate the Beverage. More radials are better. Arrange the radials symmetrically about the ground rod and antenna so that any signal pickup will cancel out.

Those hardy souls who DXpedition from a tent or cabin using battery power needn't bother with coax feedlines. For the rest of us, I recommend placing the matching-transformer end of the Beverage at least 50 feet (15 meters) away from any power-lines or structures containing electrical wiring. Most sources of radio-frequency interference are not very good antennas, so most of the noise pickup comes from the near-field. The intensity of the near-field diminishes with the third or fourth power of distance, so moving the antenna a little further away from local noise sources makes a tremendous difference in the received RFI noise level.

To avoid degrading the directivity of the Beverage by pickup in the feedline from the matching transformer to the controller, use only quality coaxial cable with a 95% or better shield braid coverage, such as Belden 8259 (a good RG-58 type cable) or RG-6 CATV cable. In particular avoid Radio Shack RG-58 cable as it has poor shield coverage and consequently is quite leaky.

I find it very helpful to use two grounds on the coax shield, one at the matching transformer and one near where the coax cable enters my shack or DXpedition cabin. The second ground helps prevent RFI from the house from traveling down the outside of the coax and coupling into the inside of the coax at the matching transformer.

For similar reasons, I recommend keeping the coax on the ground (or for permanent installations, buried) rather than suspended off the ground. The lossy earth absorbs RFI traveling on the outside of the coax.

Here in New England the forests contain a lot of brush which makes an excellent support for temporary Beverage wires. For situations where one can't improvise supports, I recommend procuring a bundle of hardwood or bamboo garden stakes.

I try to place the wire up about one-and-a-half to two meters off the ground. Lower is OK, but the increased loss reduces received signal strength and tends to blunt the nulls.

Gently slope the antenna wire down to ground level at the terminator and matching transformer rather than running it vertically. Vertical runs will act as short omnidirectional antennas and will spoil the directivity of the Beverage. Use about a 1:6 slope; i.e. for a wire 2 meters high, slope the wire down over a length of about 12 meters or 40 feet. This results in about a 10° angle.

If you have a specific frequency for which you wish to optimize the antenna, adjust the length of wire to a multiple of one-half wavelength at that frequency, allowing for the velocity factor of the antenna which varies from 70% to 90% depending on the height above ground (Ref. 2 and 3).

Antenna operation

In practice it's difficult to achieve null depths greater than 30 dB or so. The AGC range of most receivers is at least this large, so you won't hear any audible change in signal strength unless you disable the AGC. I find it easiest to adjust the remote termination by switching off the AGC, adjusting the RF or IF gain to avoid overload, and slowly rotating the termination control until I hear the null. I've tried using the S-meter, but the controlled-carrier schemes used by many mediumwave stations causes the S-meter to bounce around with the modulation. This makes it difficult to locate the deepest null.

The local 50 kW clear-channel station WBZ-1030 is located on a bearing almost directly behind my tropical-band Beverage aimed at Papua New Guinea. This Beverage is 175 meters long and about 3 meters off the ground. For these antenna parameters, the theory predicts a ground-wave front-to-back ratio of about 22 dB. When the Beverage is unterminated, I measured WBZ at -29 dBm. When adjusted for maximum rejection of WBZ, the signal strength drops to -52 dBm, for a null-depth in this case of 23 dB. This measurement is in fairly good agreement with the theory.

References

1. Belrose, Litva, Moss, and Stevens, "Beverage Antennas for Amateur Communications", *QST Magazine*, January 1983, pp. 22-27.
2. Beverage, H. H., "The Wave Antenna for 200-Meter Reception", *QST Magazine*, November 1922, pp. 7-15.
3. Beverage, H. H., and DeMaw, Doug, "The Classic Beverage Antenna, Revisited", *QST Magazine*, January 1982, pp. 11-17.

Geomagnetic Summary

Phil Bytheway bytheway@ATK.com
9705 Mary NW
Seattle, WA 98117-2334

High "A" values indicate possible auroral conditions

Geomagnetic Summary December 12 1996 through January 1 1996

GEO - Geomagnetic activity pca - polar cap absorption
maf - major flare SA - Solar Activity
mas - major storm spe - satellite proton event
mis - minor storm ss - severe storm

Date	FLUX	A	K	SA	GEO	OTHER
12/12	81	8	2	very low	quiet-unsettled	-
13	z	z	z	very low	quiet-unsettled	-
14	82	4	2	very low	quiet-unsettled	-
15	85	13	2	very low	quiet-unsettled	-
16	86	11	1	low	quiet-unsettled	-
17	86	8	3	very low	quiet-unsettled	-
18	88	4	0	very low	quiet	-
19	87	0	0	low	quiet	-
20	83	2	0	very low	quiet	-
21	84	4	0	very low	quiet	-
22	82	4	3	very low	quiet-mis	-
23	80	10	1	very low	quiet	-
24	79	2	1	very low	quiet	-
25	77	8	0	very low	quiet-unsettled	swa
26	76	1	1	very low	quiet	swa
27	75	2	0	very low	quiet-unsettled	swa
28	74	4	0	very low	quiet-unsettled	swa
29	74	2	3	very low	quiet-unsettled	swa
30	73	6	1	very low	quiet	swa
12/31	72	3	1	very low	quiet	swa
1/1	72	1	1	very low	quiet	swa

Musings of the Members

Thoughts from NRC members ... the opinions expressed in this column are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, publishers, or the National Radio Club, Inc.

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P. O. Box 11502
Wilmington, DE 19850-1502

Times are local per Muse; submit double-spaced only.

Ben Dangerfield, 202 Governor's Dr.,
Wallingford, Pa. 19086

Having reached the closing days of 1996 I thought I would Muse on some of the year's highlights. In March I drove the short distance to the ANARC get-together in Kulpsville, Pa. where I enjoyed seeing again some of my NRC friends, and this trip was quickly followed up by a visit to Al Merriman's in Chincoteague, VA., along with Dave Schmidt. It was just after that I got the Drake R8A to replace my old HQ-180. I am now delighted with the R8A which is connected to a choice of 3 outside slopers, each grounded to cut down noise, and my DL2 phasing unit. I still have the KIWA loop nearby. The biggest event of the year for me was the trip up to Cappahayden, Newfoundland, in early November. I was a part of the first contingent of this year's DX-pedition, and it really was a pleasure meeting Jean Burnell, Bruce Conti, and Neil Kazaross. They are great guys. I got my first exposure to Beverage antennas, and even help string one of the two pointed at Europe, as Neil and I stumbled over boulders and round rocks along what they call the beach, with a cliff on one side and the pounding surf on the other! With the wind and the rain in our hair! [1941 song] It was such a thrill to turn our radios on at 1:00 PM in the afternoon [we all had R8A's] and to find TAs on early every frequency! How would you like to tune to 1476 kc. in the middle of the afternoon and find Dubai, U.A.E. on top like a local, with Azerbaijan, a low-powered British station, and Syria clearly behind? Or to switch on the Brazil antenna in the evening and find on top of our even frequencies dozens of stations from Brazil and Argentina? We had a ball. Coming back home was a letdown after all that, but I'm still having fun. Early in Oct, I logged Athens on 1386 and Armenia on 864, and heard both of these again up in Newfoundland, only much better! Have added several new countries to my verified list in 1996. São Tome-1530 was # 122. Then I got Croatia-1134, VOA Kuwait-1548, Slovakia-1098, and Laayoune, Western Sahara-711 to bring my verified total up to 126. But it's getting harder and harder! Had some fun with the long wave band last night and logged 3 new ones: Russia-171, Germany-177, and Poland-225.

The regulars like Ireland-252, Monte Carlo-216, England-198, Algiers-153, France-162, Morocco-207, and Luxembourg were all quite good. Right here in Wallingford! Got a KIWA pocket loop to take to Greece with me in Feb. It makes my SW1 sound like a GE Superadio! And I will be at the NRC Convention in 1997 in Delaware

Bill Alisaukas - 7548 Hillside Drive -
Douglasville, GA 30134

Hello again. I wasn't expecting to MUSE so soon again, but a little Atlanta news in regard to AM has prompted the MUSE. As pf 11/18, WKHX-590 dropped the "Pure Country" format for "Radio Disney". I just realized this in the PM on 11/20 while scanning the dial. Saw no notice on it at all, but did see a piece in the 'rag' (*Atlanta Journal/Constitution!*) that WQXI-790 will be next. According to the report, they will drop the brokered talk format for "Radio Aahs". Just what Atlanta needs, two of these things! I've been scanning the dial and logging stations a few of those stations 200-300 miles out, but nothing that spectacular. Also, got a spool of wire and am planning to get that up shortly, running E-W to help knock down the Atlanta stations, time will tell on that! Well, so much for now, good DX to all!

Andy Rugg (VA3TEE/VE2EM) - 375 Ivan
Crescent - Cornwall, ON K6H 7C7

Here is an update since my last MUSING. I logged 3 new ones, all on my car radio. They were call-changes. Returning from the golf course on 9/26, I stumbled across WONZ-1580 atop CBJ at sunset. They were originally verified as WNJH on an NRC TEST 3/64. I haven't spent much time DXing for TA's, due to much shuttling back and forth to the Toronto area. My only TA so far was the Spanish synchro on 855 11/9 at sunset. I got good results from my prepared card campaign of Sept., with 10 veries. They are WGA1-560-TEST, WWTL-700, WMXH-750, WCAP-980, WCFM-990, WTLA-1200-TEST, CKDO-1350, CKOD-1370, WWTM-1440 & WOON-1240-TEST. Veries from this season at WTAM-1100 & WPHT-1210. This winter's BCB DX has suffered from the development of my financial consulting business, following the 'down sizing' a while back. There isn't any business in depressed Cornwall, and

nearby Montreal & Ottawa aren't much better. So I am spending much of my time in the Toronto area, returning here on the weekends. As this is written, I have a foot-in-the-door at a plant E of Toronto and hope something comes of it. Because of the constant commuting, I missed all of the DX TESTS and again could not attend Ray's get-together in Acushnet; sorry, RAY & ARLENE! After 36 years of off/on AM DXing, my totals are 1811 logged and 1727 verified for a 95.4% return. Seasons Greetings, 73 & Good DX!

**Robert Kramer N9MBK Box 59681
Chicago, IL 60659 rkdx@aol.com**

It's been about a year since my last Muse. A lot has happened since then. In May I purchased an almost new NRD-535Db receiver from a dealer at a local hamfest for considerably less than the retail. It was purchased by an elderly ham, who died a week after the purchase. It is a wonderful receiver. The adjacent channel selectivity is a big improvement over the R-5000. The variable bandwidth control is really great also. In August I got one of Gerry Thomas' Quantum Loop 2's, which is a great antenna. I feel it is better than my Kiwa Loop, which is also a fine antenna. Another piece of equipment I recently acquired is the new Timewave DSP-599zx digital signal processor. This one has a setting for AM or SSB signals. It works OK on medium wave, but is phenomenal on longwave where it literally brings code out of nowhere. For longwave DXers I highly recommend it. In addition to playing with all this new equipment, I have also created a web site dedicated to medium wave and longwave DXing. It has loggings, hot news and tips, propagation reports & equipment reviews. You can access my home page at: <http://members.aol.com/rkdx/index.html>. This is linked to all of my pages. Also, feel free to contribute your loggings & news. 73 de RK.

R. J. Edmunds (WB2BJH) Blue Bell, PA

Must be time to check in again! Started my season in mid-Novemebr, and so far have knocked a number of stations off my target list, with details to DDXD. Clearly, this is the result of conditions, but also some extra preparation, which I hope to pull together into a short article after New Year's. Graveyards, however, are still pretty depressing, but then again, since almost all of my DX is in the car, I suppose that I should expect that sort of result. ****I'll try to get into the shack over the holidays to do something other than to clean up basement rainwater seepage, which has been an almost daily task for the past several weeks thanks to the onset of what seems to be a monsoon season here. And that's only one of

the drawbacks of a basement shack-- the others being signal depression from pipes, ducts, etc, and, probably, increased noise as well. One of these years, I'll have to see if a modest longwire will help any. But, I guess it won't be too long before I can consider moving the shack upstairs, as one son is at least temporarily out of the house. ***** I'm also still working on compiling all of my logs into computerized format, from 3x5 cards. Last winter, I succeeded only in getting about one quarter of the way there. It sure is easier to check things that way, and, if and when it's completed, I should be able to actually keep totals that I can have some faith in. **** And, who knows? Could this actually be the year that I make it to the Kulpville gathering? Stay tuned... 73's

**Jim Weber 3118 Briarwood Blvd.
Lancaster PA**

Holiday greetings to all NRC members! It's been a considerable time since this mid-40's bureaucrat sent in a muse. I enjoy reading *DX News* and I think the NRC members are a dedicated group. It's very hard to keep a club like the NRC going these days. It appears as though the saga of WNZT is nearing resolution. The station has been silent since July due to financial pressures. Ted Byrne was able to work out a deal with the Lancaster County Blind Association who will purchase the license and facility for a very nominal fee and debts. They should be back on the air in February 97. This will eliminate the extensive daylight monitoring of 1580 that I have been enjoying these recent months. I even took a drive to Pittsburgh via Route 30, the Lincoln Highway, listening to 1580 all the way in the hope of picking up something different. I was somewhat disappointed that, with one major exception, only the usual stations were available. WPGC was in more or less constantly with occasional WLIM. Rte. 30 is a unique stretch of road as it was one of the earliest cross country highways. As a result, it has numerous "kitschy" attractions, the most impressive of which is The Ship. The Ship was a hotel restaurant shaped like a steamship perched on the steep slope of the Allegheny Front at 2640 feet above sea level. From the front deck, a 70 mile view of PA, MD, and W.Va. was obtainable. Now horribly fallen into disrepair; smokestacks gone, portholes smashed, it sits waiting a buyer. I stopped in the afternoon to see what the DX possibilities were and, after gaining permission from the caretaker, wheeled the Olds over to the edge of the cliff. For the first time ever, I unrolled the AutoBeverage to its fullest extent and threw it over the side. The effect was unbelievable. The Delco was doing flip flops trying to sort through the massive

rush of RF hosing in on the long wire. Unfortunately, I was only able to enjoy it for a few seconds for, just when it sounded like the deep Argentineans were coming in, catastrophe struck. The huge weight of the completely deployed AutoBeverage proved too much for the connector and the whole antenna broke loose and tumbled down the mountainside. A truly unique yet too brief experience. As a result, a different antenna approach will need to be developed and probably some new frequencies will be explored as well. I think I had pretty well exhausted the possibilities of 1580 any way. We shall see. In any case, best of luck and good DXing in the New Year.

**Gerry Thomas - 3635 Chastain Way -
Pensacola, FL 32504**

It's been a real roller coaster ride the past 2 years. From a radio standpoint, the last 9 months have been especially trying. As many of you know, my company, Radio Plus+ Electronics, makes Quantum Loops, Q-Sticks and other things I've found useful as a DXer. Well, sales are good, the radio folks I interact with are fantastic, but the suppliers can be a pain in the heck. We use ferrite rods in almost every product and last year, after finding a 2nd shipment of surplus rods fell short on initial permeability consistency and were of significantly lower Q, we spent almost 6 months re-sourcing a US supplier (we ended up contracting to have custom rods made to our own formula). Then, the only Taiwanese part in the loop starts failing in existing loops (the plastic was molded at the wrong temperature making it brittle). Then, we get a shipment of what I considered to be FET's with an elevated noise floor. Then, last week we get a large shipment of scratchy variable capacitors (also a Taiwanese part). Over 90% of the parts we use in the Quantums are U. S. or Canadian made but that other 10% is causing havoc (U. S. equivalents are not available). Making this radio stuff and interacting with DXers is a lot of fun but dealing with suppliers is a real test of character. All of these events necessarily caused delays in getting out the new catalog, finishing up the Quantum Phaser, developing new products, and filing orders. I really appreciate your patience on these matters. Things have improved after I resigned my position as a government scientist 10/25 ("Momma don't let your children grow up to be scientists"!). I still consult with the Navy and industry 2 days a week on that patent I got a couple of years ago (it's a noise attenuating composite technology currently in use in the automotive industry-buy Ford-it won't make me rich, the Navy gets most of the royalties) so I haven't severed all ties. (Could I

tell some stories about the negatives of the patenting process and aftermath, principally 3 cardiac events in my case, never again!). So now I have much more time to deal with, as it turns out, supply problems, oh well. Back to radio stuff: the Quantum Loop Plus+ (a LW/MW/SW loop) has been discontinued from last year's catalog due to a total lack of suitable rods, and I'm on the verge of offering separate loop heads for each band instead of the LW/MW loop head on the Quantum Loop 2. The reason for this is that 2 maximally sensitive coils on the same rod must be carefully positioned to reduce interaction (especially if their bands overlap) and lead length must be kept as short as possible. In very high RF environments there is a possibility of overloading on some frequencies. This is easily handled by the loop's gain control (much like the RF gain or DX/Local switches on radios) but there is something intuitively bothersome about intentionally lowering RF gain for most DXers. Solutions such as adding a shield (which lowers Q and therefore, gain) or inserting resistance in the signal path (as many radios do) is a compromise that I've tried but generally don't feel comfortable with. The only viable solution (unless I come up with something else) is to optimize separate antennas for each band. This is more expensive and less convenient for the DXer but it may be the way I have to go. So, if you have a Plus+ model or a "2" model, check with me for liberal rebates, upgrades, etc. Finally, the summer wasn't a complete wash out; I did take the family on a cross-country trip to San Diego in the DX-mobile (a VW Westfalia camper van) for 2 1/2 weeks and got to hear a lot of small town radio stations (you know, the ones with real character) and even passed through some hundred-mile stretches of 'white' areas where not a single AM or FM station was audible. It's an eerie experience being on a 2 lane back road (we don't care for interstates) in the middle of W TX desert country, hundreds of miles from anywhere, with the only thing to listen to being strange engine sounds that you never noticed before. That's it for now, 73's

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