

DX News

• Serving DX'ers since 1933 •

Volume 67, No. 16 - January 31, 2000 (ISSN 0737-1659)



Inside ...

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CPC Test Calendar

WMBT	PA	1530	Feb. 5	0000-0200
WMAL	DC	630	Jan. 30	0100-0130
WILM	DE	1450	Jan. 30	0100-0300
WIMA	OH	1150	Feb. 21	0100-0200

WMBT-1530 (P. O. Box 1530- Shenandoah, PA 17976) will conduct a DX test Saturday, February 5, from midnight to 2 am EST. The test will include tones, oldies, voice and code ID's. Calls (prepaid only) will be welcomed at 570-462-2759. The test will be conducted at 2500 watts daytime power and portions at 250 watts critical hours power. Reports with return postage may be sent to Dave Schmidt, CE. Arranged by Dave Schmidt for the NRC CPC.

From Fred Vobbe ... Ken Chatterton has announced that the 2000 NRC Convention will be in Lima OH. Ken is also asking that "serious" bids be submitted for 2001, and sent to Ernie Wesolowski so the next convention can be announced in Lima. Also, please see the NRC Convention page <<<http://www.nrcdxas.org/convention>>> for further information and for a list of past conventions.

From the publisher ... Membership numbers seem to have stabilized for at least a year between 700 and 710; two weeks ago, for the first time in three years, the NRC had more members than the previous year. Recently I've sent several boxes of sample DXN's to members who attend radio gatherings, and I'd be happy to send YOU one or more sample copies to be distributed to anyone in your area who might be interested in joining the NRC. We've been able to gain a significant number of new members through the NRC/DXAS website maintained by Fred Vobbe, with other members learning about the NRC through hobby magazines and books, radio broadcasts, and other sources. But word-of-mouth is probably still the best method of recruitment, and we need YOU to spread the word and make our numbers grow towards the top number of 820 several years ago.

Don't forget - we're still looking for a new DDXD-East editor. Please apply via e-mail to the publisher in Topeka.

Welcome to these new members ... Eric Floden (rejoins), Vancouver, British Columbia; Blake Lawrence, San Francisco, CA; Eric Bruns (rejoins), Elverta, CA; Richard E. Wood, PhD, Kailua-Kona, HI (rejoins); Jeff Kadet, Macomb, IL (rejoins); Rob Brazell, McPherson, KS; Carroll Weyrich, Balti-

more, MD (rejoins); Peter Campbell, Ann Arbor, MI; Daniel Grant, Varennes, Quebec; J. Mark Griffin, Boise, ID (rejoins); Dale Park, Honolulu, HI (rejoins); Mahlon F. Stilwell, Annapolis, MD; Paul Sojka, Jr. KS2S (rejoins), Perth Amboy, NJ; Chris Knight (rejoins), Dacono, CO; Dr. Jerry Redding (rejoins), Fredericksburg, VA; Ronald G. MEssenger, Riverview, New Brunswick; Sherm Heller, Bensalem, PA; C. J. Woodfield, DDS, Gobles, MI; Larry Klinger, Ada, OH; Forest L. Smith, Jr., Portland, ME; Eldon Gelman, Greencastle, PA; Glenn Swiderski (rejoins), Buffalo, WY; Rob de Santos, Vienna, WV; Ralph Nicolosi, Columbus, OH; George Tasson, Elmhurst, IL; Melvin Flannagan, Jr., Charlottesville, VA; William Andres (rejoins), Frackville, PA; Howard Jay Greenwald, PC, East Rochester, NY.

Addresses ... Once again, please double-check your addresses if you've recently moved and sent in an update; are getting DXN with a stamp on it (U. S. only); or are using a "PMB", or private mail box, or if you've experienced problems in receiving DXN on time. The address-correction program can do only so much to keep DXN going out.

I do stop DXN immediately from being mailed if a copy is marked "refused" or something else that would lead me to believe that we'd be wasting our time and your dues money to mail more copies, but in several cases I've re-mailed DXN in spite of "no such address" stamps appearing on returned DXN's, and I've never had them returned again. So if your DXN's suddenly stop coming, contact Ron or me immediately (don't wait for months and months, as has happened) so we can keep you up-to-date with what's going on in the DX world.

DX Time Machine

From the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the Jan. 21, 1950 DXN: The morning of January 14 was unlucky for Frank Wheeler, Erie, PA, because of a power line failure that made his alarm go off late, causing him to miss the DX programs from WKRS and WDEV and lose 13 contest points that he had counted on.

25 years ago ... from the January 20, 1975 DXN: Attendees at the BARF (Bay Area Radio Freaks) Get-together included Charles A. Wolff, Randy Seaver, Bob Karchevski, Al Lehr, Gary Patton, and Rick Heald.

10 years ago ... from the January 22, 1990 DXN: Youngstown's WHOT-AM was to switch from 1330 to 1390 after the purchase of the WFMJ facility.

Domestic DX Digest

West: Bill Hale phantom2@eaze.net

6124 Roaring Springs Drive - North Richland Hills, TX 76180-5552

East: David Yocis DavidYocis@aol.com

532 LaGuardia PL, #462 - New York, NY 10012-1428

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



DDXD-West

MEDIUM WAVE RAMBLINGS

- Ragnar reports: "KFI 640 AM in Los Angeles has turned its C-QUAM exciter for the last time according to its CE. I will miss another AM stereo signal at night. It's a shame to see it go because of government and manufacturers stupidity."
- Some may be confused by our 'new rule', so I'll go over it. I have instituted a new category for Graveyard DX records. It's for those who live, or DXed from, Alaska or Hawaii. Those records will be designated by a # (pound sign) when needed. So, there may be three recognized records in the files: worldwide; Alaska and Hawaii; North America except Alaska. I have gone through all the lists and marked, where necessary, the Alaska and Hawaii records. I may have missed some, but am sure someone will let me know about those :-). Speaking of Graveyard Records... we have the latest updates from Ron Bailey and Tim Hall. And don't forget, the entire GYDXA files are available on-line at: www.angelfire.com/bx2/phantom2/index.html.
- Comments: "Got the DX test after re-listening to my tape. At first I thought I had not heard it then after noticing that I had filters engaged to clip highs I re-re-listened and heard clear Code IDs. Technology can be an asset if used correctly but... Anyway, a good lesson learned." - (SA-MB)

REPORTERS

FA-ID	Frank Aden, N7SOK Boise Modied FRG-7 with 4 ft box loop <n7sok@aol.com>
SA-MB	Shawn Axelrod Winnipeg Icom ICR-70 & Drake R8 + 4 Foot Unamplified Box Loop/Quantum Loop, 145' outdoor wire, 100' indoor wire, MFJ 1026 Phasing Unit <saxelrod@mb.sympatico.ca>
RD-AZ	Ragnar Danneskjold Mesa Delco car radio; GE Superadio I; Kenwood R-1000 and zepp antenna <ldwxdx@juno.com>
BF-IL	Barry Finkel Chicago Yaesu FRG-7700 and McKay Dymek DA-5 antenna <b19141@achilles.ctd.anl.gov>
MH-CA	Mike Hawk Sunnyvale Icom R-70 and Kiwa Loop <hawk@globalcenter.net>
TRH-CA	Tim Hall Chula Vista Delco car radio <halls@inetworld.net>
GJ-CA	Gary Jackson Sacramento FRG-8800 + Kiwa Loop
BL-CA	Blake Lawrence San Francisco Drake R8/Kiwa Loop <blake@deejay.com>
DL-WI	Dan Lester Seymour Superadio 2 (X-band modified) + MFJ1026 + 2-75' long wires/1200' 270 degree, terminated Beverage@ground level <d-lester@execpc.com>
JJR-WI	John J. Rieger South Milwaukee FRG100, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959B tuner/preamp, DSP599zx Audio Noise Reduction Filter <johnrieger@webtv.net>
MS-CA	Mike Sanburn Bellflower GE Superadio II
MS-MB	Morris Sorensen Winnipeg Drake R8 with McKay-Dymek DA-9 ferrite loop or indoor random wire; Hammarlund HQ-150 + SM-2 ferrite loop
DZ-WI	Dan Ziolkowski Cudahy Sony ICF-2010 with Kiwa Filters; Drake R8 + Kiwa Loop <danziozkowski@cs.com>
Ed.-TX	Editor North Richland Hills

NEWSRADIO 91
KBLG

STATION NEWS & NOTES

540	KIEZ	CA	Carmel Valley - 1/16 2100 - Noted with ESPN radio - update your log. (MH-CA)
1200	KOQI	CA	Soquel - 1/15 1500 - Is on, testing. Heard with good daytime signal, playing country music and IDing very infrequently as "KOQI Soquel, with transmitter tests on 1200 kilo Hertz. (BL-CA)
1460	KTXS	CA	Salinas - First noted 1/9 2221 - Rises from the dead as 1460 <i>The Dude</i> , with 1-On-1 sports format. Will be a pest here, I predict. (BL-CA)

1650 KBDJ? CO Denver - 1/16 0425 - Weather, on Colorado's New Power Station. Under KGXL. No call letters heard. Apparently new to air, as log lists as not on yet. (MH-CA)

UNIDs and UNID HELP

760	UNID	??	- 1/17 - UNID station with light easy religious music during WVNE DX test. (SA-MB)
1580	WWSJ	MI	St John - 1/15 2045 - Finally an ID on this station with Gospel music that has been my unID. (SA-MB)
1270	UNID	??	- 1/17 0203 - Classic Country AM 1270 non-ID. KJUG? (BL-CA)
1380	UNID	??	- 1/15 0300 - Good, with Contemporary Christian format. NO ID at 0300. USA News. NO calls at 0305, back to music. To 40/9 at times! WMPS? (JJR-WI) (Or KCNW? -pls.)
1460	UNID	??	- 1/16 1935 - 1-On-1 Sports, under KENO, with multiple IDs simply as <i>The New</i> . No local ads. (MH-CA)
1660	UNID	??	- 1/16 2007 - SS music with KXOL. Looping WNW/ESE. I doubt WWRU, due to loop direction. Are there any other SS stations operating here yet? (MH-CA)

DX AND EQUIPMENT TESTS

760t	WVNE+	MA	Leicester - 1/17 0404-0410 Tune out - With fast EBS-like tones every minute. Under weak WJR. Possible <i>Air Supply</i> & <i>Gloria Estefan</i> songs. Tentative. (JJR-WI)
760	WVNE+	MA	Leicester - 1/17 - Heard Code IDs under WJR and unID station with light easy religious music. NEW!! (SA-MB)
760	WVNE-	MA	Leicester - 1/7 - Not heard. 760 WJR-MI was too strong, and in its null I could hear at least two other stations, but I could not tell what the stations were. I could not even tell what type of music was being broadcast. By the way, the Elliott Broadcasting Services' copy of the FCC database on the web lists this station as LEICESTER, MA, not in Rhode Island. I did not hear any Morse code nor tones. (BF-IL)
760	WVNE-	MA	Worcester - 1/17 0400-0500 - Nothing heard under KTLK that sounded like a test. (FA-ID)
940	UNID	??	- 1/1 0630 - Someone with 1 kHz test tone. KFRE? (MS-CA)
1420	KSTN+	CA	Stockton - 1/1 0300+ - Fair-to-good, on annual DX test. Usual announcements and disco music. (MS-CA)
1500	WFIF-	CT	Milford - 1/9 0030 - Not heard. Just usual strong KSTP. Wasn't expecting it, but with good conditions to the east I thought it was worth a try! (MS-MB)

TIS & OTHER STUFF

620	("KPLR")	CA	Point Loma Nazarene College - 1/17 1820 - No sign of their carrier-current station here or on any other frequency when we drove around the neighborhood. Today is Sunday and school is out, so will have to try again sometime. (TRH-CA)
1610	KOQ547	MN	Deer River - 1/15 2030 - Woman with information on the ranger station and lakes in the area. (SA-MB)
1670	WTNR210	CA	Menlo park - 1/12 0615 - Strong (S-20), giving phone number on what to do with hazardous waste. This is one of the strongest TIS/HARs. Good verifier (phone call from Commander Peloso). Received verie letter, Menlo Park Police patch, and autographed picture in just a few days. (GJ-CA)
1670	House	CA	Point Loma (San Diego) - 1/17 1825 - Discovered a talking house on Catalina St. in an upscale neighborhood in the Point Loma area, a couple of miles North of the Point Loma Lighthouse (Cabrillo National Monument). Got out pretty well. Operated by Starboard Realty. Will try to call to see if they have more than one transmitter. By the way, the house was a mere \$399,000 if anyone's interested (yipe!). (TRH-CA)

1370 AM
COUNTRY
K T M G

MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT ELT

550	KFYR	ND	Bismarck - 1/16 0747 - Very good, with Ad Con music and <i>K-Fire 550</i> slogans into ads. (JJR-WI)
560	WIND	IL	Chicago - 1/14 2104 - Good, with SS talk by two men mentioning Chicago,

Cicero, Aurora, Joliet and other Illinois communities. Also mentioned 560. (MS-MB)

580 CKY MB Winnipeg - 1/16 0744 - Good, with *All Oldies KY58*. (JJR-WI)

580 CKAP ON Kapuskasing - 1/22 0715 - Fair, over others, with *AM 58 CKAP* with C&W. First time heard this winter. (JJR-WI)

600 CKAT ON North Bay - 1/22 0707 - Fair and alone, with road conditions, *CKAT 3-day forecast*, C&W. Last heard as *CFCH*. (JJR-WI)

610 WTVN OH Columbus - 1/15 0001 - Fair, with ID as *News Radio 610, WTVN*. Brief weather report, then into news. (MS-MB)

630 KHOW CO Denver - 1/17 2319 - Talking about sports, then an ad for a car dealer on 63rd and Lincoln. I believe it was *Nissan*. There were three stations on this frequency; two EE and one XE. (RD-AZ)

640 CFYI ON Toronto - 1/14 2107 - Fair, with *Leafs* hockey vs *Edmonton Oilers*. No ID heard. Can anyone confirm these calls? Ex: *CHOG*. (MS-MB)

660 WBHR MN Sauk Rapids - 1/19 1753 - Very good, with Radio Disney. All alone on frequency. Rare that it's this good! (JJR-WI)

670 WMAQ IL Chicago - 1/17 0315 - Fair, all news with *KBOI* missing in action. *KNBR* slop not helpful. (BL-CA) [*KBOI* may be a lost cause for California, except during *LSR/LSS*, now that they are on their new all-to-the-north night pattern - Ed.]

700 WLW OH Cincinnati - 1/17 - Poor behind *KWLW*, both running *Truckin' Bozo* all-night show a fraction of a second apart. They broke apart at 0400; *KWLW* continuing with country music and *WLW* doing news. *Newsradio 700*, *WLW* ID at 0401. (BL-CA)

710 WAQI FL Miami - 1/15 2200 - Spanish talk to English ID, back to Spanish. Strong, in a mix. (DZ-WI)

770 WABC NY New York - 1/8 2300 - Poor, with ID, mixing with *HJJX* and various domestics. Used to be common in Manitoba before frequency became so congested! (MS-MB)

780 WBBM IL Chicago - 1/13 0224 - Fair-to-good, with all news, cutting up pest *KKOH*. (BL-CA)

790 CIGM ON Sudbury - 1/15 2211 - Sudbury Wolves hockey. 2214 Call ID to commercials. Strong, but fadey. (DZ-WI)

800 CHAB SA Moose Jaw - 1/22 0701 - Fair, and alone with weather and *Saskatchewan's Continuous Country*. (JJR-WI)

810 KBHB SD Sturgis - 1/19 1839 - Poor, though clear in *WGY* null, with *OLD C&W*, ID and multi-state forecast. (JJR-WI)

870 WWL LA New Orleans - 1/20 2230 - With a program about salt water fishing. Unusually clear tonight with a strong signal. (RD-AZ)

880 WINU IL Highland - 1/15 2229 - ID popped up in a mix, then gone. In *WCBS* null. (DZ-WI)

880 CKLQ MB Brandon - 1/22 0700 - Fair, with C&W up to news, calls in *WCBS* null. (JJR-WI)

890 WLS IL Chicago - 1/13 0230 - Poor, running *Art Bell* about 10 seconds behind *KDXU*. (BL-CA)

910 WSUI IA Iowa City - 1/17 0645 - Presumed the one, with *NPR* ID. Nice peak, then faded. 0707 weather report, ID (not understood), very poor now, mixing with several others. (DZ-WI)

910 WSUI IA Iowa City - 1/19 1833 - Fair-to-poor, with end of *NPR* news, ID, fade out. (JJR-WI)

920 KSHO OR Lebanon - 1/10 0700 - Good, with nostalgia music and legal ID. (BL-CA)

930 KSEI ID Pocatello - 1/17 2333 - With sports talk about the *Packers*. Was very weak and lots of interference. (RD-AZ)

930 WBEN NY Buffalo - 1/14 2200 - Fair, with *WBEN Forecast*; Buffalo news. (MS-MB)

930 WKY OK Oklahoma City - 1/3 2058 - Good, with ad for *Budweiser* beer, ID as *Talk Radio 930 WKY* during break in minor league hockey broadcast. (MS-MB)

940 CJGX SA Yorkton - 1/22 0650 - Fair, with C&W and *GX94* slogans. Alone on frequency. (JJR-WI)

960 KCTK AZ Phoenix - 1/1 0613 - Good, with jingle and spot for Big Ten. (MS-CA)



970 WVOP GA Vidalia - 1/22 0646 - Fair. Unusually strong, with community calendar and *Oldies 97* jingle. (JJR-WI)

1010 CFRB ON Toronto - 1/14 2313 - Fair, with *Hitachi* ad, *CFRB* ID, with talk show host saying he was sitting in for *Jim Richards*. *CFR* Calgary is more common here, so far. (MS-MB)

1060 KGFY SD Pierre - 1/14 2139 - Fair, despite *CKSB* splatter, with country music, ID by female as 1060 *KGFY*, *your home for real country*. (MS-MB)

1140 KHTK CA Sacramento - 1/19 2343 - Mixing with *CHRB*, with ads for a *Sacramento Kings* platinum *Visa* from *First USA*, then into sports talk. (RD-AZ)

1150 CJRC QC Gatineau - 1/9 2004 - Fair-to-good, mixing with *CKX* and others with news in FF, many Ottawa references (*Gatineau* is part of the greater Ottawa area on the Quebec side), then into pop music including a *Whitney Houston* song. *CFGO-1200* also in well at this time. (MS-MB)

1230 KDIX ND Dickinson - 1/6 2301 - Fair, with *CL* ID, birthday announcements as called in on *The KDIX Morning Show*. ID as 1230 *KDIX*. In briefly, over *KTRF*. (MS-MB)

1250 KNEU UT Roosevelt - 1/13 1930 - With ads for *L&L Motor Co.*, then ID *Your country music leader and still number 1*. *AM 1250*, *Roosevelt*, *KNEU*. (RD-AZ)

1270 KJUGp CA Tulare - 1/19 2338 - Playing *C&W American Honky Tonk Bar Association*. (RD-AZ)

1280 KKOM CA Arroyo Grande - 1/17 0228 - In and out with *Talking Politics* show on Radio America Network. Local spots for Pismo Beach and Grover Beach businesses. (BL-CA)

1280 WWTC MN Minneapolis - 1/19 1828 - Fair at 10/9, then fade out. Catholic programming. Super rare here! (JJR-WI)

1320 KFNZ UT Salt Lake City - 1/17 2205 - With *Houston Aeros* vs All Stars in the IHL All-Star Game. (RD-AZ)

1330 KGAK NM Gallup - 1/17 2200 - With Navajo religious chants after CBS News. Over another station carrying CBS also. This is a rare night time visitor here. (RD-AZ)

1340 KPGE AZ Page - 1/3 0725 - Happy holiday wishes, PSA for Gamblers Anonymous in Globe. *California Girls* by *The Beach Boys*. (MS-CA)

1360 KBUY NM Ruidoso - 1/3 0804 - PSAs regarding driver safety and mentioning New Mexico. ID: *Oldies 1360 KBUY*, then *Monday, Monday* by *Mamas and Papas*. (MS-CA)

1360 KKMO WA Tacoma - 1/16 1000 - ID as *AM 8-20 KGNW*. No mention of the 1360 calls. (MH-CA)

1380 KLPZ AZ Parker - 1/17 2015 - With Jones C&W, playing *Put Your Hand in Mine*, then *Travis Tritt* with *Can I Trust You With My Heart*. Very fadey. I usually hear *KTSM* in El Paso. (RD-AZ)

1380 KCII IA Washington - 1/22 0630 - Poor, under *WONO*. Calls heard twice. NOS, I believe. (JJR-WI)

1400 KBRB NE Ainsworth - 1/6 2250 - Poor, with man mentioning . . . on *KBRB*, then Nebraska weather and fade. A sign-off with *SSB* at 2300 may also have been them. (MS-MB)

1430 CHKT ON Toronto - 1/9 1804 - Fair-to-good, with woman in a Chinese language with talk and ads targeted toward Toronto's Chinese community. 1400 *KBRB* NE Ainsworth - 1/6 2250 - Poor, with man mentioning . . . on *KBRB*, then Nebraska weather and fade. A sign-off with *SSB* at 2300 may also have been them. (MS-MB)

1470 KELA WA Centralia - 1/15 2003 - With *Huskies* basketball and ID. (MH-CA)

1500 KSJX CA San Jose - 1/17 2013 - With unknown Asian language programming. Not commonly heard. (RD-AZ)

1510 KDKO CO Littleton - 1/17 2140 - With a sports story about *Steve McNair* and the *Tennessee Titans*. Then *UC* music. (RD-AZ)

1540 KCTD CA Los Angeles - 1/19 2330 - With 1-On-1 Sports, with talk about *Derek Jeter's* \$118 million dollar contract to play baseball. Over local *KASA*. (RD-AZ) [Makes ya sick, doesn't it? - Ed.]

1560 KZIZ WA Seattle - 1/15 1929 - End of *GOS* show, ID with *KYIL* and one other *K?IL* station. (MH-CA)



- 1570 KTGE CA Salinas - 1/8 0428 - Good, over KHPN, with slogan: *Radio Tigre* with tiger growling. (MS-CA)
- 1600 KYGO CO Lakewood - 1/17 2128 - With Denver Pioneers basketball (assume this is college). Was over and under an XE. (RD-AZ) 1630 KCJJ IA I o w a City - 1/17 - With ID at 2325 and then weather-related closures and weather. Then rock music, *She's So High* by Hal Bachmann, son of Randy Bachman of the 70's group, Bachmann Turner Over- drive. (RD-AZ)
- 1650 KBJD CO Denver - 1/10 0102 - Fairly easy nightly, with KGXL nulled. Never very strong, but readable, with contemporary Christian music. 1650 *The Beat*. (BL-CA)
- 1660 KXOL UT Brigham City - 1/18 1900 - Fair, on top of frequency, with WQSN nulled. ID... from northern Utah KXOL at 1900 followed by oldies from late 50s/early 60s another short ID (just the call letters) at 1906. Faded and gone by 1915. (DL-WI)
- 1680 WTIR FL Winter Garden - 1/12 0630 - Weak, with music and ID. (GJ-CA)
- 1680 WTIR FL Winter Garden - 1/13 0128 - Very weak, with male/female voices doing what sounded like a travelog style rap. ID as 1680 AM WTIR. New station/state. (BL-CA)
- 1680 WJNZ MI Ada - 1/17 0430 - Urban/hip-hop music. Pretty good signal at times, but faded often to nothingness. New station/state. (BL-CA)



GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

* indicates record held by DXer from North America (excluding Alaska)

1230 kHz:

					<u>Miles</u>
KBTM	AR	Jonesboro	Ron Bailey	Shelby, NC	513
KPRL	CA	Paso Robles	Tim Hall	Fillmore, UT	*513

1240 kHz:

KELK	NV	Elko	Tim Hall	Chula Vista, CA	*572
CKMK	BC	Mackenzie	Tim Hall	Chula Vista	*267

1340 kHz:

WKUL	AL	Cullman	Ron Bailey	Shelby, NC	308
KORV	CA	Oroville	Tim Hall	Monterey, CA	*232
KATY	CA	San Luis Obispo	Tim Hall	Chula Vista, CA	*273
KQIL	CO	Grand Junction	Tim Hall	Rancho Bernardo, CA	*633
WCBQ	NC	Oxford	Ron Bailey	Shelby	184
KRAM	NV	Las Vegas	Tim Hall	Chula Vista	*265

1400 kHz:

KUKI	CA	Ukiah	Tim Hall	Chula Vista, CA	*567
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1450 kHz:

KTIP	CA	Porterville	Tim Hall	Chula Vista, CA	*142
WILM	DE	Wilmington	Ron Bailey	Shelby, NC	*454
KONE	NV	Reno	Tim Hall	Chula Vista	*502
WCBQ	NC	Oxford	Ron Bailey	Shelby	184
KBKW	WA	Aberdeen	Tim Hall	Omak, WA	*223

1490 kHz:

KRKC	CA	King City	Tim Hall	Chula Vista, CA	*339
KTOB	CA	Petaluma	Tim Hall	Chula Vista	*497
KLOG	WA	Kelso	Tim Hall	Vancouver, WA	*221

Totals:			1230	1240	1340	1400	1450	1490	Total
Ron Bailey	Shelby, NC		31	33	29	27	24	28	172

DDXD-East

Deadlines are Tuesdays.

STATION NEWS

- 680 WCTT KY Corbin - Now says they are running 50,000 watts (Log says 770 watts daytime power). Barely audible before but now clobbering frequency until sunset. (SF-KY)
- 860 WTEL PA Philadelphia - This is back, ex-WWDB. I am not certain when this occurred exactly, but it was 1/3 or later. The new format is religious/Christian, and calls itself "Eternal Light" for the Delaware Valley. Formerly WWDB-AM. Thus, the former WTEL-1160 in NC must also have changed calls, and thus also, 96.5 is now WWDB instead of WWDB-FM. (RJE-PA)
- 1160 WWON MI Fenton - 1/16 1500-1600 - Very good, with WSCR faint underneath, classic country and bluegrass, female announcer, no spots, one legal ID at 1600. Per reports on "Michiguide," a Michigan radio message board, they returned around Christmas and have been airing rock oldies and classic country since around New Year's Day, and may have changed pattern or transmitter location. Never heard them this strong before. (TS-MI)
- 1520 WKBZ MI Muskegon Heights - 1/17 - Has dropped its local morning show, instead carrying the Doug Stephan syndicated show 0600-0900. Also, station is now going to day power at its authorized LSR once again (0815 in January). (PLB-MI)

DX TESTS

- 760 WVNE MA Leicester - 1/17 0430-0445 - Heard with code, station ID, CE Lincoln Hubbard with ID, station history, transmitter power (25 kW) and location at North Brookfield, phone number (508) 831-9863, date of operation. Later with daily programming schedule, code, and ID above WJR. Heard here in the daytime. (PG-MA) Heard way below WJR with clusters of code ID's, one voice ID, though much of the vocal portions were too weak to make out. (AR-ON)
- 1500 WFIF CT Milford - 1/9 0030-0045 - Heard with tones, code, ID mentioning test, male and female announcers. Primarily under WTOP, but above them at 0035. Periodically received here at sunrise. (PG-MA) Heard with code and squealing tones, no talking heard. Under WTOP, mixing with WLQV and an unID SS station. (SK-PA) [The SS station I usually hear on 1500 is Venezuela, listen for the "Dos Mil" ID. - DY] Tentative with alternating code and oscillating tones, no voice ID, way under WTOP. Ironically, logged and QSL'ed 3 years ago to the day, when one of WFIF's towers was down and they were operating ND, and I was able to null WTOP at about 1 p.m. local time during a snowstorm. (JEK-MD)



UNID AND UNID HELP

- 740 WVCH PA Chester - Re: SK-PA's unID in no. 13, "Lowery Road near Route 352," the only Route 352 I found near a 740 city was this one. (BF-IL)
- 1170 UNID - 1/11 0011-0030 - Two sports stations alternating under WWVA, one with One on One Sports, the other with ESPN. Log suggests WKFL and KJOC. (SK-PA)
- 1450 WOL DC Washington - Re: SK-PA's unID in no. 13, "Southeastern University," this is in Washington, so WOL is a good bet. (BF-IL)

LOGGINGS

- 540 WWCS PA Canonsburg - 1/14 1700 - Top of hour ID, mention of AM stereo into music program "Prime Time Polka." Wonder if they have web site polka dot com? (SF-KY)
- 560 WQAM FL Miami - 1/6 1840 - ID "Sports Talk 560 WQAM," discussion of Dolphins vs. Seahawks NFL wild card game. (LW-NY)
- WFRB MD Frostburg - 1/14 1704 - News with mentions of MD items, ID'ing as 560/1450 WTBO, Cumberland weather at 1706, into song "You Don't Know Me" by Ray Charles and other MoR oldies. (SF-KY)
- WGAI NC Elizabeth City - 1/8 2045 - Presumed with North Carolina vs. North Caro-

- 10
1480 WADR NY Remsen - 1/13 1945 - Presumed with high school basketball game mentioning Rome Day Academy. Loud, must be on day power. (WM-MD)
- 1490 WMRC MA Milford - 1/7 1707 - Fair with local weather, call letters, slow female vocals, QRM (SS) from WHAV. New. (JEK-MD)
- WIKE VT Newport - 1/9 1815 - Good fade up for the call letters, between C&W music. (JEK-MD)
- 1530 WLSP MI Lapeer - 1/11 1742 - ID, "ESPN Network WLSP Lapeer," into brief sports update, sign off at 1747. Fair-good under WSAI. (LW-NY)
- 1580 WOXR AL Oxford - 1/17 1758 - Poor, bubbled up before top of hour with call, location ID, C&W. Alabama #17. (HF-MI)
- WLIK TN Shelbyville - 1/17 1740 - Poor, C&W music, program called "The Old Fashioned Show" (?), call/location ID at 1745 during ad break. (HF-MI)
- 1600 WMCR NY Oneida - 1/17 0742 - Call letters only after Garth Brooks, through lots of competition. (PC-VA)
- 1650 KGXL CA Torrance - 1/9 0118 - Presumed with end of San Jose Sharks hockey, "Sharks Extra coming up next," Sharks Extra over at 0136 and power cut. This is not listed on the Sharks network list that was in DX News. Mostly mixing with, but actually over KDNZ several times. (SK-PA)

TIS AND MISCELLANEOUS

- 1640 WPPD21 FL New Smyrna Beach - The recent unID 1640 Florida logs in both DDXD-East and DDXD-West is this station. (TLK-FL)
- WPLT248 NY Bronx - 1/9 2050 - NOAA computer voice weather, interrupted by call letters and mention of New York State Department of Transportation. Much static today for January. (JEK-MD) [This is the call per the FCC database; station is said to be located at the junction of the Bronx River Parkway and the Cross Bronx Expressway (I-95). - DY]
- 1660 WDCX OH Cincinnati - Re: SK-PA's logging of this station - I verified this station in 1995 from Sacramento CA, with the same address: Xetron Corporation, 460 W. Crescentville Rd., Cincinnati OH 45246, for a reception of 9/21/1994. It's a digital test broadcast station, with the transmitter located at the mailing address site. The digital information is contained under the existing analog AM signal. The QSL signer was Timothy W. Huster (timh@xetron.com). Hope this helps, even if it's more than five years old! (GJ-CA)

ADDRESS UPDATES

- 530 CIAO ON Toronto - The Kennedy Rd. South address is not only defunct, but the city of license has apparently changed from Brampton to Toronto. The new address is: 5302 Dundas Street West, Toronto ON M9B 1B2. Phone is (416) 233-5530, fax is (416) 233-8617. They share this address with CIDC-103.5 (Hits 103.5), which is still licensed to Orangeville, ON. (MB-ON)
- 1570 WNKX TN Centerville - 12 McCune Drive, Franklin TN 37064. (SK-PA)

REPORTERS

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------|---|
| PLB-MI | Phil Boersma | Spring Lake - Local news |
| MB-ON | Mike Brooker | Toronto - Local news |
| MB-IN | Mark Burns | Terre Haute - R8, 80' RW, Kiwa loop |
| PC-VA | Perry Crabill | Winchester - R8, Kiwa Loop, 100' RW |
| RJE-PA | Russ Edmunds | Blue Bell - Station news |
| BF-IL | Barry Finkel | Chicago - unID help |
| SF-KY | Steve Forrest | Somerset - ICF 2010, Radio Shack loop |
| HF-MI | Harold Frogde | Midland - R71A, 85'/170' RW's, 50'/100' broomstick coil |
| PG-MA | Phil Greenspan | Marshfield - Superadio III |
| GJ-CA | Gary Jackson | Sacramento - Help with TIS & Miscellaneous |
| SK-PA | Steve Kennedy | Coal Township - Superadio III |
| JEK-MD | Joe Kureth | Uniontown - SW8, 950' NE LW |
| JEK*MD | | DX'ing with GE Superadio III, Radio Shack loop |
| TLK-FL | Terry Krueger | Clearwater - Help with TIS & Miscellaneous |
| WM-MD | William McGuire | Cheverly - DX-380 |
| AR-ON | Andy Rugg | Cornwall - Sony ICF 6500W |
| TS-MI | Tom Sanders | Lexington - 1948 Zenith console, 150' E-W LW |
| TS*MI | | DX'ing with Sony 2010, barefoot |
| LW-NY | Leslie Woods | East Meadow - Sony 2010 |

International Jim Renfrew renfrew@localnet.com

DX Digest

61 Wilcox Street
Rochester, NY 14607-3832

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

PLEASE NOTE my new e-mail address: <renfrew@localnet.com>. The old address is no longer working. Some of my mail has been going out as <marquez@localnet.com>, which is my wife's non-functioning address, and replies to her address fail to reach either of us. Please use the address shown above only! An early column this week due to travel plans, so a little shorter than usual.

Did you know that there are Celebrities who have DXed? See if you can identify the person referred to in the following quote: "... bored by his musical surroundings, he tuned into a staticky station located somewhere between 1050 and 1100 on the dial, and was blown out by the wildest sounding music he's ever heard. An unmistakably colored voice grunted and growled through the interference. 'Ain't that a shame, my teardrops fall like rain/ Ain't that a shame ...' The voice, sounding like a car exhaust in extremis, kicked into a shotgun rhythm that caught the unsuspecting listener right between the eyes Every night a ten o'clock he'd steal off to his room and fiddle with the radio dial until he managed to tune into the station as clearly as that night's weather permitted. The show was broadcast over KTHS, a fifty-thousand-watt clear station out of Little Rock, Arkansas, which at that time was considered the wellspring of southern communication to the outside world." Guess who? (a) Jerry Garcia (b) Duane Allman (c) Bob Dylan (d) Brian Wilson (e) Jimi Hendrix (see correct answer below)

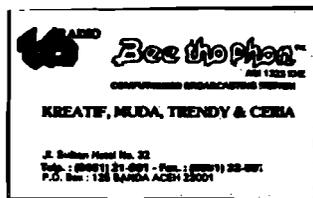
Jim

PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 770 COLOMBIA RCN, Santa Fe de Bogota, JAN 16 0759-0805 - RCN net ID, time sounders at 0800, promo for news sources ("BBC Latin Americana y R Francia Internacional") and into news by man and woman. Very good. [Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50]
- 930 MEXICO XEU La U de Veracruz, JAN 16 0636-0641 - EZL piano music, man and woman canned promo, singing "XEU," "la U," and "La U de Veracruz" slogans, store ads, then back to EZL piano music. Very good. [Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50]
- 1170 MEXICO unID, JAN 16 0508-0601* - mix of norteñas and SS pop, canned ID's after every song. At 0527, man with "R Mil, XE?F" and mentions of "A-M y F-M," followed by ads, then woman "Once y treinta minutos" (so definitely -6 UTC). Also, frequent mentions of "Los Tigres del Norte" which at first I thought was merely a reference to the popular group, but in fact was mentioned often after songs so may be a slogan. (I'm not sure what's so "mil" about 1170, so maybe there are two slogans here for AM and FM?). At 0559, mention again of "R Mil," "Tigres" and "XE?F" then into vocal NA. Though required to air the anthem at midnight local, this actually appeared to be coinciding with sign-off. No trace of this after 0601, only Caracol Colombia, Cartagena dominating. Obviously not XEFEM R Mil, Hermosillo, Sonora, as calls, time zone etc. don't match. Presume northeastern Mexico, but if XEUVA La Rancherita, Aguascalientes, the calls and slogan don't match. [Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50] Maybe I should waffle on the slogan/call ID. Been sporadically listening to 1170 since 0126 tonight, January 18 GMT. Fired up the old HQ-180A coupled to the Scotka loop, and it happens to be blowing away the NRD-535 (even when briefly switching the Scotka loop to the NRD), this despite a croaking bandswitch pot... Anyway, this is NOT northeast Mexico as originally speculated—it roughly DF's between south of Mexico City to the Yucatan. I see an XELP "Radio Pia" (kinda sounds like "Mil") listed in La Piedad, estado Michoacan, but listed 250w till 0300 and can't believe that's the one with this consistency here. The two definites (from previous logs) are mentions of "A-M F-M" (no FM freq noted) and occasional "Los Tigres del Norte" refs. Actually seems to be automated format—at least later in evening -with lots of different male promo drops after each song, though some brief and maybe recorded babble segments. Earlier in the evening, seemingly live, as they ran frequent goofy 'beep-beep' BPX-like incoming phone call SFX followed by male DJ. I definitely need other southeastern ears' assistance on this. Also, I am definitely spending too much time on this trivia. [Krueger-FL]
- 1290 CUBA R Taino, Habana area, JAN 14 0212-0224 - SS pop and tropical vocals, SS man and woman dj's, ID 0214. First night log of Taino on 1290 here, and very strong (normally only heard daytime). Seems to have upped power and/or pattern recently, with the usually-dominating Dobleve or Progreso outlets not cutting through now. [Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50]



- 1300 CUBA R Enciclopedia, Las Tunas, JAN 14 0207-0212 - piano cover of the Carpenters "Close To You," parallel the newer unID 1570 site. Over WQBN-Tampa (Spanish format). [Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50]
- 1560 CUBA R Enciclopedia, Ciego de Avila, Camaguey, JAN 16 0223-0231 - tune-in to EZL piano music, SS woman patter. Fair-poor, mixing with the XE, and parallel poor 1570. [Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50]
- 1560 MEXICO XEFAJ La Consentida, Mexico, DF, JAN 16 0231-0246 - ranchera vocals, man with "la Consentida" slogans often. Mixing with the Cuban and another SS station, possibly WRHC-Coral Gables. [Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50]
- 1569.92 HONDURAS TGRF "RCN," Tegucigalpa, JAN 13 0226-0240 - noted it nice copy again, lots of ads. They actually run a low-level "tick-tick-tick" sound effects (kind of like Cuban R Reloj, only with out the minute sounders) much of the time during the news. [Krueger-FL]
- 1570 CUBA R Enciclopedia, (new) unknown site - reviewing recent files, note that Bob Foxworth, in his recent Jamaica bandscan, had an unID on 1570, parallel to unID 1560. If one is to presume the 1560 log was the old listed Enciclopedia, then that would make 1570 Enciclopedia too. Which would make me the second (not first) to hear this one! [Krueger-FL]
- 1580 BELIZE V of America, Punta Gorda, JAN 14 0244-0400* - EE man and woman news magazine on environmental issues (Moscow pollution, World Bank money to Mexico City, Environmental Defense Fund, etc.). Man "At three hours, 49 minutes, here's the stories we're following on VOA..." Promo and ID 0358, then "Yanqui Doodle" theme, and am pretty sure they pulled the plug at 0400. No trace after 0400. Occasional brief QRM by fading-up WSRF-Ft. Lauderdale, with "Mystic 1580" Caribe EE (and some SS and Kreyol) segments. No trace of VOA-Belize on 1530, though guess they are still there. Anyone know the exact transmitter location? My logs in 1994 were listed as "Orange Point," however my very large Belize map (MapLink) shows no such place. For some reason, I thought this was actually located at San Antonio, which is about 16 miles NW of coastal Punta Gorda. My old 1996 "Mexico & Central American Handbook" (under the "Punta Gorda" entry) states: "The Voice of America has a tall antenna complex on the edge of town." If you want a good laugh, look at the WRTH 2000. They list the geographical coordinates for the site as Belize City (plus list it as "SW"). [Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50]



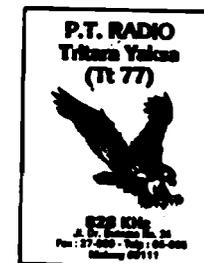
TRANS-PACIFIC & TRANS-POLAR DX

- 750 ALASKA KFQD Anchorage, JAN 11 1610 - News by alternating man and woman. Very good. [Wood-HI]
- 890 ALASKA KBBI Homer, JAN 11 1609 - music, report from Juneau, good. [Wood-HI]
- 1020 ALASKA KAXX Eagle River, JAN 11 1620 - sports talk, baseball, quite good. KTNQ had just faded out at this time, new. [Wood-HI]
- 1278 INDIA AIR, JAN 11 1640 - vocals, Hindi, very good // 1296, new. [Wood-HI]
- 1296 INDIA AIR, JAN 11 1640 - female in Hindi, light vocals // 1278 but not // 1396 or 1566. Had heard this one under England before. [Wood-HI]
- 1296 ENGLAND BBC Euro Service, JAN 11 1600 - FF ID "Içi Londres", news. Quite good. I notice Burnell, Connelly, etc. don't seem to report this one, so it must be directional to E or SE (away from R. XL 1296 Langley Mill as reported by Burnell?). [Wood-HI]
- 1341 PAKISTAN RP, JAN 11 1644 - Urdu ID, "R. Pakistan" by female, again 1645 by man "yeh R. Pakistan" into vocals. Very good, a new country, never heard from Hawaii before and was my most-wanted. [Wood-HI]
- 1350 THAILAND unID, JAN 11 1639 - Thai talk over/under China, good at dawn enhancement. [Wood-HI]
- 1396 INDIA AIR, JAN 11 1628 - Hindi talk, 1630 interview, mentioned "Bharat" (e.g., India), 1632 lively duet, very good. Note that none of the Indian stations heard this morning at 1630 had EE news, often heard this time in the past. Not // 1566 which then had Hindi news. [Wood-HI]
- 1440 SAUDI ARABIA BSKSA, JAN 11 1635 - AA music by man, mention of Yasser Arafat, good. [Wood-HI]
- 1584 INDIA AIR, JAN 11 1632 - Hindi, sweet vocals, very good, new. Not // 1396 or 1566. [Wood-HI]

STATION NEWS

AFGHANISTAN: Kabul noted DEC 29 (and subsequent days) on 1107 during local evening, including regular EN slot at 1500-1515 including talk on Islam and Islamic-style choruses sung in EE by male voices — lyrics such as '(indistinct) AFG, your holy religion is Islam, your constitution is Koran', closing at 1515 with announcement to effect: 'thanks for listening, see you again at same time tomorrow' followed by ID in unknown language including phrase 'Kabul, AFG'. Unfortunately signal always fades under co-channel Indian station when an EE ID should be audible at top of hour, so I'm not sure exactly what they call themselves now. No trace of them on 7200 which is dominated by VOIRI Teheran at that time. [Alan Davies, Agra, IND, Jan 2 via WWDXC in *Medium Wave News* e-mail]

LITHUANIA: I think I just heard the new R Baltic Waves from Vilnius. On 612 Khz at 1728 JAN 15. I heard an IS (a simple, but nice synthesizer-tune) and announcements by a man. I think I heard an ID in Belorussian which sounded like "Radyo Balticske Walle". After the next IS, there was an ID I think in Lithuanian (it sounded indeed like: baltijos bangu radijas). All difficult to read due to heavy co-channel QRM. In Eurolog (<http://geocities.com/Colosseum/Park/3232/Eurolog0100.htm>) I read that they do a relay of R Polonia in Belorussian at this time. The IS was not the same as that of R Polonia's external service as heard on Dave kernick's magnificent site, so I think they use their own IS. Is there anyone in the region who can confirm my monitoring?? A few minutes later I lost the station in the enormous co-channel QRM I had on 612! By the way when searching for Baltic Waves last night JAN 14 I noted that the timepips of R Bosnia Hercegovina on 612 were 3 seconds too late at 2000! [Julius Hermans, Breedenboek, Netherlands in *Medium Wave Circle* e-mail]



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Retransmit or quote only with full credit given to Tocabaga DX and all attributed sources.
Richard E. Wood, Kesau HI; Yaseu FRG-100, longwires 300-1000 feet N/ENE and ESE.

WRTH 2000 REVIEW

"I checked the Barnes & Noble website on Saturday (15th), which (as of then) did not list the current edition (only the 1999 and 1998 issues). However, later that day I was at the local B&N, and two copies were on the shelf. I purchased one—my 26th consecutive copy—despite the extensive critiques out there. And by coincidence, the first page I flipped to (in the store) was one for the Colombia section. The page headers for the entire country category spells this "Columbia." Dooowh! Cuba MW tables remain a disaster. The binding is way too stiff for field use, but at least the MW entries for Central and South America were retained. Apparently, the WRTH staff have acknowledged some of the major flaws (SWBC domestic entries excluded from the by-frequency table due to a SNAFU, etc.) and are beginning to share this data at www.wrth.com in downloadable formats. Maybe there is hope for the 2001 edition, we'll see." [Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50] (Comments from other WRTH 2000 users s are encouraged - Jim)

GUATEMALA NOTES By Chuck Hutton

I was traveling through the mountainous parts of Guatemala in January 2000 and here are some changes with respect to the 1998 WRTH (the latest version that I have). Here's a little information garnered from the wilds of Guatemala at great personal risk to life and limb, but I am glad to offer it to the club.

- 560 TGRV is on 560 and announces 560 but WRTH lists it on 550. (Varies down to 540 and has an image on 570..... Just joking...)
- 590 TGRQ Heard in both Quiche and SS; WRTH lists only "vernacular".
- 640 TGW Noted one night with soccer but off all the other nights. I believe they are on for special events only and in Latin America soccer certainly qualifies a special event.
- 670 TGRT Not on the air during several checks over a 3 week period. This used to be one of the biggest stations in Guatemala.
- 760 TGHB Not on the air.
- 790 TGO Not on the air.
- 850 TGX "Radio Ranchera" slogan not noted - ID's sounded like "Radio Uncion" but that makes no sense.

880	TGJ	Not on the air. This used to be an important station in Guatemala, but the times they are a-changin'.
960	TGRU	Heard with Emisora Sonidas ID only. WRTH lists Radio Utatlan.
970	TGAX	Not on the air.
1000	Unid	Heard in Guatemala City with "Doblove" ID's during coverage of a soccer game.
1010	TGXI	Only broadcasts in Ixil.
1050	TGSL	Uses "Cristal Estereo" ID so is relaying an FM.
1180	TGT	Not on the air! Another biggie bites the dust.
1390	TGYC	Not on the air.
1420	TGRP	Now using the "Radio Verdad" slogan.
1450	TGLG	Not on the air.
1490	TGDS	Not on the air.
1600	TGVVC	Now using the "Radio Maria, La Voz de la Familia" ID.

And now, a little SW stuff. Signals were heard from all other stations listed in the WRTH but not mentioned below. ID's were heard from all except R. Cultural 3300, R. Chortis 3380, R. Cultural Coatan 4780 and LV de Guatemala 6180. R. Mam 4825 was heard only in the Mam llanguage - no SS.

2360	R. Maya	Not heard in spite of hearing the weak signal of R. Maya on 3325.
2390	LV de Atitlan	Not on the air.
4845	R. Kekchi	Not heard although I did not pass close to Fray Bartolome de las Casas.
5955	R. Cultural	Not on the air.
5980	Union Radio	Not on the air.
6180	LV de Guatemala	Not on the air.

Miscellaneous Notes: The influx of evangelical stations since my last visit is absolutely amazing. Over half of the stations in Guatemala City are now evangelical. The rest may be by the time this hits print. It was very surprising to see that some of what were the biggest stations in Guatemala City are off the air. For example, in the past 670, 880 and 1180 were all important stations in Guatemala. They were all heard by DX'ers in the US in times long past. On a sad note, La Voz de Atitlan is no longer broadcasting on 1490 and 2390. Almost 3 years ago they were forced to abandon AM and SW due to the costs of operation in relation to the benefits. Only FM is now used. This station also was caught in the middle of the painful civil war in Guatemala; in the early 80's the Guatemalan army forced it off the air and its director was killed by assumed paramilitary forces. The station survived all of this only to eventually lose its battle to broadcast due to finances. The antennas are taken apart but they and

the transmitters are in storage should funding ever be available; the station is run by a community organization and depends entirely on funding from external organizations. Should any of NRC's widespread audience be aware of funding sources, LV de Atitlan would certainly appreciate being put in touch.

Celebrity Quiz Answer: (c) young Bobby Zimmerman, later known as Bob Dylan, listening to those distant sounds from Hibbing, Minnesota. The quote is from Dylan, A Biography, p. 30-31)

Sunrise-Sunset Maps

Monthly maps (12) showing the average monthly sunrise/sunset times for the U. S.; customize them for your location. \$3.00 for NRC members (\$4.50, non-members). Order from NRC Publications; NY residents, add sales tax.



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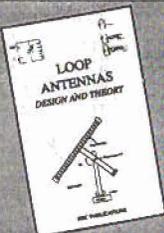
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Target DX

Dave Braun dcbraun@delanet.com

863 Allabands Mill Rd.

Camden Wyoming DE 19934-2132

DX'ing 'smart', with shared tips and requests by NRC members

Richard Miller of Mishawaka, Indiana sends along the following "Non-Technical Report" of the Terk AM Advantage Antenna: I purchased the Terk Am Advantage Antenna several months before the Radio Shack loop antenna became available. I paid \$39.97 + tax at a discount store in Mishawaka. Frequency range is 535 kHz - 1700 kHz. Dimensions for the base are 2-5/16" wide and 7-5/16" long. The loop is 9-1/2" high. The tuning capacitor is located in the middle of the base and is marked like an analog radio dial. The antenna comes with a wire for connection to the external antenna/ground terminals if available on the radio. For wireless operation, place the antenna next to the radio, match the radio/antenna frequencies and the reception on a weak signal is greatly improved. I have not used the antenna outside. Manufacturer states this is an indoor AM antenna. I purchased the antenna on a money back guarantee and I kept the antenna. I am satisfied with the antenna. Location of the tuning capacitor on the Radio Shack loop antenna is better than on the Terk antenna in my opinion. The Radio Shack antenna is \$10 less than the Terk antenna. Which antenna is best? This is a good question. The Terk AM Advantage Antenna is worth my \$40.00.

More from the discussion on how stations operate:

Joseph Dube <kk4tr@webtv.net>: Since deregulation for the FCC and other federal offices during the Reagan presidency, Many of the good requirements for operations of a radio or TV station were relaxed or even eliminated. One example is just about every commercial station had either a technician or engineer out at their transmitter site. They were required to have a specific class of FCC license to work and maintain the equipment they monitor. Today it's the exception rather than the rule to have anyone at the transmitter site. Usually someone is contracted to do the maintenance and they show up at odd intervals during the week or month etc. I'm not too sure if the people in the studio (DJ's, Talk show host, News people etc) are required to have a FCC radio telephone license like they used to.

Don't take me the wrong way, I'm not trying to down play the importance of the "broadcast professionals" that might be reading this. My point is that since it has become more about market share(money) ratings, and the "laissez faire" attitude of the government toward the broadcasting industry in general, lack of proper enforcement of the day/nite power regulations is not surprising. The FCC does their best. They have fewer monitoring sites than in times past. It is necessary to have the cooperation of private citizens like us reporting violations that we know for sure are being committed. Without this very little is done. To blame the receiver is the easy way out most of us

here know how to increase the dynamic range of receiver - just attenuate the signal some way. Six of one half a dozen of the other. It just appears that everybody on both sides could exercise a little restraint. Ultimately however the people on the SWL side end up on the short side of the field. My \$1.02!!!!!!

Ragnar Danneskjold: "If anything, we'll find out if the FCC does anything at all to correct the problem, or if they blow Ragnar off." I gotta quote Frank Zappa here. "In the battle between you and the world, bet on the world." "Ragnar, it will be interesting to know if something is done. Please report back if there are changes." I'll do that if anything ever happens. I don't have real high hopes for improvement.

Doug Smith: "and they show up at odd intervals during the week or month etc. I'm not too sure if the people in the studio(DJ's, Talk show host, News people etc) are required to have a FCC radio telephone license like they used to." No, this is no longer required. The station is responsible for inspecting the logs (such as they are...) periodically but the people keeping them no longer need to be licensed. Really, I'm not convinced that's a problem. Control systems have improved immensely; modern transmission systems are fully capable of keeping themselves within required parameters without much attention. (provided you install them and set them up properly and perform periodical "sanity checks"...)

Paul Smith: "The practice of intentionally overmodulating the signal to make it 'sound louder' or 'sound fuller' was common with rock stations in the 1960's..." Bandwidth did NOT suffer with processors to make radio stations "sound" louder. Fidelity went to hell, not bandwidth. An overmodulated AM station will cause spurious emissions all over the place, and will also be noticeably distorted. This is very rare, even in today's non-engineering world. What you are more likely to find with poor engineering are stations that are NOT using the entire bandwidth for a number of reasons, mainly in the Directional

arrays (Power divider, Phaser, ATU's, poor grounds etc.)

Joseph Dube: Reply to Doug W9WI: What you said is probably true but just seems like that the way things are now there is less accountability for the things that appear to be going on. Back in the "old days" stations wouldn't even consider NOT lowering their power after dark or not changing their antenna pattern if the station license required it. The possibility of hoard FCC field agents and US Marshals coming in and closing down the station and confiscating all the transmitting equipment was a very real threat held over everyone's head. This was regardless of who knew who or who owed the station. It was just too big a chance to take. Plus the fact that the station engineer and his subordinates would be putting their FCC licenses (their entire careers) on the line. It wasn't even a choice for them. They always did the proper thing in accordance with FCC rules. It just isn't followed that closely anymore in these days of deregulation. Nobody really has anything really big to loose anymore. "Apathy" and money are the prime movers. The thinking is if you can push the envelope far enough and long enough you can make more than enough money to pay off any possible fines and still have a lot left over. Not to there will probably not be any loss of operating license. Just another one of those "costs of doing Business". We mustn't loose sight of the fact that broadcasting in this country is very big business. They have a very powerful lobby at all levels of government. If you don't believe it just listen to the radio/TV news and read the newspapers. You got me on the old soap box again Doug! Thanks for the space on the reflector.

Mark Durenberger <durenberger@uswest.net>: You know folks, it's not unreasonable to think about forming some sort of FCC-advisory group to let the Field Offices know about repeated violations. The trick of course would be in verifying the "offenses" but the easy ones (such as no IDs and carriers on after legal sign-off times) would be easier to document. Now I know this idea will start a brouhaha, and I'm only semi-serious about being a "Sheriff of the Airwaves", but the current structure and staffing of FCC Field Offices doesn't allow them the time to do sample monitoring, so they're only going to respond when complaints are filed. And if we felt going to the Field Offices was too drastic, how about crafting an "Informal Advisory Notice" to send to the licensees of some of these flagrant violators? We all know there are a lot of things wrong with this idea, not the least of which is a need for accuracy, so we'd not be accused of crying "wolf"...just stirring up a hornet's nest for Ragnar's benefit...

Russ Edmunds: Mark, to quote a now-infamous one from Yogi Berra, this is deja vu all over again! A similar suggestion was made 20+ years ago although I can't exactly recall what specific situation (s?) prompted it. Several here, myself included, have stated our views on just how much the FCC cares about our complaints, and I'm not sure your idea would change that. And I believe that the same result would come from notifying the offenders. [They know, for the most part, what they're doing, and they're willing to take the wet noodle slap on the wrist that may or may not come.] Now, in line with my earlier comments, if you were talking about notifying stations who might stand to be injured in their coverage by the offenders, and encouraging *them* to file complaints, then I believe there'd be a better shot at a more positive outcome, but only if the FCC would act on *their* complaints, which, due either to staffing or political sensibilities, might still not occur. For instance, at the time I first noticed WYLF-850's apparent antics, WEEU-850 (then) would have been clearly hurt, as I was hearing WYLF within 10 miles of Reading and at least 200 from WYLF.

John R. Tudenham <jotud@juno.com>: We have another problem in AM broadcasting with stations being slightly off frequency. About 6 years ago Ernie Wesolowski and myself noted a strong heterodyne on 1410 which would drop off sharply after sunset. We finally narrowed it down to a station in Cuba (No Castro), MO. It took 3 letters to them before they were convinced they had a problem, finally their engineer that was in another town corrected it. By the way this station KGNN is no longer on the air having moved to FM.

Ragnar Danneskjold: "while it would appear that the situation in Phoenix is extreme, and perhaps results from illegal operation, I would be inclined to dispute the suggestion that what Ragnar is hearing could be a result of propagation effects — these are his locals we're talking about." Russ, It's bad enough that the engineers at KSL and I were talking about it and they say that they hear the KCKY interference at sunset up in Salt Lake City.

Russ Edmunds: "It's bad enough that the engineers at KSL and I were talking about it..." Seems to me as if a complaint from them would do more good!

Ragnar Danneskjold: "Seems to me as if a complaint from them would do more good!" They *DID* complain and to no avail.

Russ Edmunds: Well, then, I submit that my expectation was likely correct, in that the FCC (and, by inference, Congress) does not possess the will to respond to complaints of one station against another, either. By that, I include the lack of staffing - that's just the result of willful cutbacks, so....Guess what, kiddies, as far as most of the stations operating beyond their licenses are concerned, "while the cat's away, the mice will play!!" And it would seem that the cat is in extended hibernation...

kwky
AM radio 1150 Lift Up

Mark Durenberger: Russ, as I recall, the situation 20 years ago was (are you ready for this?) "ILLEGAL STATION BREAKS" There was a big hoo-ha about how legal IDs needed to consist of call letters and city of license, in that order, period...stations (as big as WCCO) were getting nailed for doing it wrong...Talk about the other extreme....At any rate your idea still has merit. A very close friend (Jerry Miller) does the mock FCC Inspections for many of the states West of the Mississippi, and I'm going to bounce this off him. At the very least I know he'd include the issue in his pre-inspection briefings to station management.

Fred Vobbe: Just my humble opinion, but I do agree that "we" as DXers do not have the responsibility of cleaning up the AM band. Until such a time as my paycheck comes from the Compliance branch of the FCC, I don't think it's my business to seek out the offenders. However, as a citizen, I think I have a right to write to the station, or the FCC, if they are engaging in activities which are illegal. I also have a problem with the tact of "let them do it, it adds entries to my log." My first thought on that is if we have to applaud illegally operated stations to gain entries for our log, then why not log stations off the Internet or have someone record them on tape for us so we can write up a report? My point is; if someone forgets and you get a decent catch, that is one issue. But let's not encourage stations to operate in this matter, nor applaud them for their lack of ethics and ability because it "helps our log".

Fred Vobbe: I coined a phrase in a letter a while back called, "the stare of sheep". A sheep is one of the only animals that will stand feet away from a predator eating one of its own and not do anything. The FCC, Congress, and we as citizens are the sheep. Nobody does anything, and a small percentage "assumes" someone else will do something. The solution is to demand to our legislators that they either enforce the rules that are in place... or declare the rules invalid, and as such, nobody has to follow them.

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: Fred: I don't feel that hearing a station that is operating on day power after hours in cheating, as hearing a station on the internet and QSLing them as if you heard them over the air! Those are two different issues. Hearing a station operating on day power is a "legal" DX catch, but the other is cheating. I don't feel we DXers should have to ride herd on stations either. A lot of the time it doesn't do a whole lot of good either.

Robert Foxworth <rfoxwor1@tamabay.rr.com>: "KCKY destroys KWKH, KCMJ KSL and KVOO. It was not like this until they screwed something up for over three months that causes two unmodulated sideband signals at 15 kHz to either sides of the carrier." Ragnar, This could be a TV monitor in the control room/air studio.. The mic picking up the singing from the flyback (horiz. osc.) circuit at 15.734 kHz (more or less). If the station had a sharp roll-off in their audio chain at 10 kHz, this would not be present. Listen to the beat note carefully with the BFO on. What is KCKY, on 1150? Tune to 1135 or 1165. Listen for a very slight periodic change in the beat note. If so, try to match it up with a TV set you're watching when the scene changes. Sorry if someone else answered this before me. I am wading through bunches of messages.

Patrick Martin: Hi all: All this discussion of splatter and over modulation brings to mind DX in the 60s and 70s. How many of you that were MW DXing in that era remember songs like "The Theme From Shaft"? In those days most stations were rock or country and were highly modulated. I remember hearing DXers in Seattle WA complaining about how bad KJR and KOL (1300) were with splatter. When songs like Shaft were played the QRN would cover 30 khz on each side of their frequencies.

Even in Seaside, KSWB, then on 930 khz (1 KW Daytimer), would splatter all over KISN-910-Portland with Top 40 rock. Yes, there is still overmodulated stations, but lucky for us now that most stations are talk. not loud rock music. Ragnar, no I don't know your QRM situation in Mesa, but the QRM is pretty bad in most large metro areas with 50 KW locals all over the dial. I know Portland has its share of QRM too, having an apt there for the past 3 years. We are giving it up as we bought a Winter home in Rancho Mirage CA recently. I have also been in contact with Japanese MW DXers that complain about the 500-1500 KW stations in their area at QRM everything. The QRN noise levels are so bad in Japanese cities, hearing a 50 KW local isn't all that easy. Thank goodness the FCC has not allowed super powers in the US. Mexico has a few, but not many.

Joseph Dube: Guess what Ragnar. We are beginning to peak the top of the sunspot cycle. You think you have problems now just wait until the sunspot cycle hits bottom. You'll probably just have to pack your receiver away until the numbers start going the other way. Something or someone needs to get a handle on this before it really get out of hand!!!!!!

Ragnar Danneskjold: I have two 50 kW stations in the area. They are not the problem. I live 2.1 miles SW from KMIK. I expect them to be a problem. They are somewhat a problem but I understand issues with them I live right under their antenna. KFNX runs 50 kW days and they are not a problem either. The stations in question are 5 kW. One KCKY is over 50 miles SE of me and is the one with sidebands. They can hear the sidebands in Salt Lake City. The other KDUS changes antenna patterns but not power. This is the result of not really having an engineer on call at all times to fix this kind of crap. KDUS got this way in my OPINION because KGME moved to 550 where they have a HUGE

signal. At night KDUS is only allotted 500 W but they don't do that anymore. Pat, I am 20 miles from their antenna and believe me, I can tell the difference between 5 kW and 500 W.

The following is the beginning of another discussion on DX record keeping.

Doug Smith <w9wi@bellsouth.net>: For whoever it was who was asking...The WMAL transmitter site is in the triangle formed by I-270, I-495, and Spur 270, near Montgomery Mall. This is in Maryland - Bethesda, I suppose. That said, most of us DX AM by city of license. Because AM transmitter sites (especially for smaller stations) are not well-tracked and can be difficult to find. (especially today, with tiger.census.gov not working very well...)

Glenn Hauser <ghauser@hotmail.com>: This is a hoary old dispute, and I would not be surprised if we do not want to revisit it, but...Thanks to Doug Smith, who I figured would come up with the answer on WMAL's transmitter site, which he says is outside DC in MD. I do find it baffling that in a technical hobby involving hearing signals from a transmitting antenna to a receiving antenna, which is the physical process involved, so many are eager to count stations as coming from somewhere else than their transmitting antenna, no matter how difficult it may be to locate. If you are going to count by studio or city of license, you may as well consider WMAL as in New York if it is carrying a network program from there, or from its corporate headquarters if that is in some other city. We all know that city of license is a joke in many cases with rimshotters. The only certain thing is that a given signal did emanate into the ether from a mast located in a specific political unit. Hoc dicto, I am not demeaning the arrangement of a DX test on WMAL!

Doug Smith: As I suggested to Bill, the problem with DXing by transmitter location is that it is often difficult to impossible to tell what political unit the transmitter is actually in. IMHO it is not reasonable to assume every DXer has access to the Internet or a mapping CD. If the information cannot be printed in the NRC Log, we cannot assume that people have access to it. Even in the case of my checks with WMAL, it took about 30 minutes (admittedly, most of that due to congestion at the Tiger map server) to get that answer. It might be time for the Log to add the geographical coordinates of stations to the listings. If there was an automatic computerized way to also indicate which political unit the transmitter was in, that would be a good field to have - but I'm not aware of any way of doing that. (I would love to be proven wrong!)

Robert Foxworth: The point I partly tried to make a couple of days ago in the case of stations in a town bordering a river which contains a state or provincial boundary. I recall there was a big station in Fargo ND whose xmtr is in MN. Most AM DXers in the midwest and west have trouble locating NJ. If we use transmitter locations, I understand a lot of 50 KW New York City stations are in NJ.

Russ Edmunds: "It might be time for the Log to add the geographical coordinates of stations to the listings." The coordinates, of course, are in the FCC database. The Radiostation.com database (Elliott Broadcast Services) has a feature which maps for you where the station is, but I can't recall if it locates the city of license or the XR location, nor what it does with stations having multiple sites (and I still wish somebody would list the PSA's and PSSA's in a government database, hi)

Russ Edmunds: "The only certain thing is that a given signal did emanate into the ether from a mast located in a specific political unit." And, sometimes, we don't know that, either, as witness that we didn't know it on WMAL until now. The hobby began under the assumption (which was probably truth at that time and for some indefinite period longer) that the station's signal emanated from the same locality in which it was licensed. That situation, while still true in many cases, is *not* true in an increasing number. To expect people who have been DX'ing for (fill in the blank) years to re-do and investigate the actual XR locations (which change per individual station far more frequently than city of license does) simply isn't practical, whether it is technically correct or not. And, that said, some of us well after the dawn of the hobby have made the hobby as technical as it is. In a specific sense, of course, the technically correct thing to do (or to have done all along) is a Glenn suggests. But, as earlier discussions on this topic here have shown, there are far too many arcane details to try to track them down at this point. So, to paraphrase an old Billy Joel song, I guess this kinda amounts to a "...we didn't start the fire...it's been burning since the world's been turning..." approach, hi.

Russ Edmunds: "BTW, isn't the 1450 station tower inside the District itself?" I'm almost certain that it was some years back...

Perry Crabill <pcrabill@visuallink.com>: Does anyone remember when WCKY-1530 used to announce "WCKY, Covington, Kentucky, one minute from Cincinnati"? It's now WSAI, city of license Cincinnati. I'll bet the towers are still in Kentucky, although I haven't checked. My notion is we're talking about small stuff, and, to quote, "Don't sweat the small stuff!"

Willis <wb5khd@juno.com>: Perry - Not only the towers, but the studio's are there also, at least that is what they are now saying on the air. I enjoy WSAI's music. HOWEVER, I know of few, very few,

AM stations who have their transmitters and towers in the city, any city. Takes up to much room. KLIF, when they were, 1190 kc, had some 12 towers south of Rockwall, TX. There still there, but don't know who has them now. Rockwall, TX isn't even in the same county as the station. KRLD 1080 Dallas, TX was in the deep country until, Garland, TX grew up around it. In fact the city has grown up around the towers so much, that Garland Power and Light had to run their high tension lines less than half a mile from the towers. The lines act a large antennas and some way detuned the KRLD towers. A law suit started but never heard how it came out. I know that if you drove down Jupiter road that runs parallel to the lines and tower you get KRLD all over your car radio for miles in any direction. KRLD runs 50 kw 24 hours a day. A local exception, in Chattanooga is WLMR 150. They are still located in the city limits with their one little 'stick'. Now a-days it is hidden among cell phone towers, almost inconspicuous. I believe in the words of that famous person on the cover of MAD magazine, Alfred E. Newman. "What, me worry." I don't care how any one counts it, or even if anyone counts them at all. I will continue do it my way and worry. Thanks for the soapbox.

John Callarman <jcallarman@register-news.com>: I appreciate Glen Hauser's long-range consistency. We were on opposite sides of the studio/transmitter site issue back in the early '60s when I was doing NRC's international column and had a say-so in the counting question. We adopted a modified "exceptions" principle that applied to specific cases and determined to count, for example, Washford as Wales thought it's actually across the bay; the Radio Monte Carlo medium wave transmitter as Monaco though it was actually in France; and the Vatican Radio medium wave transmitter as Vatican

City thought it was actually in Italy. The assumption is that there is no harm if everyone counts the same way. But Bruce Elving and Russ Edmonds make good arguments for city of license. Now that transmitter coordinates are easily available and, as Bob Foxworth points out, readable with accuracy on the

DeLorme CD, we should be able to evolve a method of counting geographical areas based upon transmitter locations. I have checked my DeLorme coordinates with actual on-the-ground sites and, while earlier editions of the CDs were close but not quite, the current readings appear to be exact. (I spent one weekend looking for isolated FM transmitter sites and found them precisely where DeLorme said they were.) In preparing for my move to Texas upon retirement in June (and a possible restart of both AM and FM logs), I'm tracking FM coordinates to establish mileage targets from my new home base in Krum, and may even get all the stations measured by June! I'm doing the same on AM, using the 1996 NRC coordinates book, noting the transmitter site changes in Jerry Starr's column and checking the FCC data base for the new coordinates added since. Since the FCC data base for AM stations shows, by the numbers, directional antenna patterns, we can assess with some precision how much of the station's signal is directed toward us (assuming it's pattern is actually transmitted as it's licensed, not necessarily a safe assumption these days) (I recall Pete Taylor's consistency, too, on the advice to never assume anything, hi, Pete!)

John Callarman: Another thought or two...I like the UHF-VHF hams' use of grid squares as separate entities for collection and contest purposes, and believe the same system could work for us... though I'd expand it to 1 degree by 1 degree instead of 2 by 2. I've toyed with the idea of establishing seasonal contest based on grid squares, but giving DX'ers on the coast a chance to count a second station from a "mirror grid square" if the square in the opposite direction is in the ocean. Using grid squares would work for domestic stations, but an arbitrary set of rules would have to be established for countries where synchronized transmitters operate on the same frequency and it's impossible to know which one (or more) you have. NRC historically counted call-letter changes but not frequency changes as different stations, but the frequency change proscription dated back to 1941 when the frequencies of all but the lowest of the low band stations changed when the band expanded. The call-letter change recount also is historically out of date because, in the early days, call changes were rare, but today, they change at the drop of a rating point! Overall, each individual can count his logs however he wishes, but if he's submitting a count to a club either the traditional ladder, as the Zedders call it, or a contest, the count should go by the rules. I took a picture of the WOL-1450 transmitter in 1956 and it was inside the District of Columbia boundaries, but I can't guarantee that whatever the call is now is still located at the same site.

Russ Edmunds: Welcome aboard, John! If I understand correctly, you're suggesting that rules be either established or re-established for IDXA, DDXA and GYDXA totals relative to call, frequency, and other changes. I wonder how well that would go over, as it would require those who count differently from the rules to change (likely downward) their totals. Or, of course, they could also ignore it and no one would be any the wiser. Sounds to me like another one of those good ideas which probably still won't clear up the confusion.

Perry Crabill: I believe that in the early days of AM broadcast radio the stations were located in town because stations were low power and had to be located near the main listener population. When I was a kid, growing up in Washington, DC, WMAL was located downtown on 11th Street, NW, with

WJBB  **STEREO**
P. O. BOX 370
HALESVILLE, ALABAMA 36849-0370

its antenna on top of the M. A. Leese Optical Company Building. When they went to higher power they moved to Maryland, outside of Bethesda. WOL was located a few blocks away, with its antenna on the roof of the Annapolis Hotel at 12th and H Streets, NW. WRC was uptown, with its antenna on top of the Riggs Bank Building at 14th and Park Road, NW. When they went to higher power they moved into the Riggs Road area in Prince Georges County, Maryland. When WINX came on the air they were also located downtown, at 8th and I Streets, NW. Although WJSV (later to become WTOP) was considered as a Washington-area station, its first transmitting site was outside of the city. The regularly announced as "WJSV, Mount Vernon Hills, Virginia, and were sited south of Alexandria. They were across the Potomac River from the Naval Research Laboratory, and had to use a directional antenna to keep their 10 kw from disturbing delicate measurements made at NRL. People living in parts of Prince Georges County, Maryland, couldn't pick up WJSV at all if they were in the null. When WJSV moved to Wheaton, Maryland, and went to 50 kw, they began announcing as a Washington station. The change of call to WTOP occurred after the move.

Russ Edmunds: "We adopted a modified "exceptions" principle that applied to specific cases...The assumption is that there is no harm if everyone counts the same way." I think that, given the vast number of NYC clears in NJ, and the DC situation, plus some others, that a similar approach would be worthwhile exploring, and I think that the assumption stated is right on! "Since the FCC data base for AM stations shows, by the numbers, directional antenna patterns, we can assess with some precision how much of the station's signal is directed toward us (assuming it's pattern is actually transmitted as it's licensed, not necessarily a safe assumption these days)." Probably *not* a safe assumption in *many* cases today! The deregulation which started in the 1980's (and not just in broadcasting) was based largely on a desire to cut costs, and without regard for whether it was cutting waste or cutting valid function (not unlike the way most corporations go about it, either), and generally speaking, the waste remained and the valid function got cut, probably as much because of lower-level political considerations. So, absent enforcement, compliance only exists where people responsible are honest and/or where there's nothing to be lost by compliance.

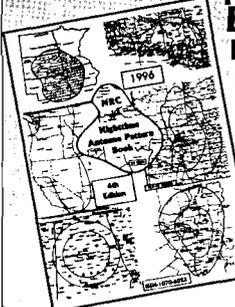
WFRM

Next time we'll continue some of this, and begin a look at how various members began their DXing and NRC careers.

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

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Happy New Year to all in the final year of the century (if you chose to celebrate the millennium a year early; that's your choice). After reading the review of the C C Crane Radio, I eventually learned at a get together at DX Audio Service member MARC MARINO'S home in December that member DON WILKERSON's friend owned one. So, New Years Day evening, I managed to get NRC/IRCA member TOM JASINSKI to drive us to Calumet City and try this new AM machine. Really a nice portable radio, but for \$160, I'll have to wait a while. I did bring my Grundig Yachtboy 305 to Toms' place recently, and he managed to find a broken wire or 2 and got the FM working properly again. I renewed for the 28th year to the NRC, and I'm hoping to get out of debt this year. Even though I'm on disability, I managed to find 2 part-time office jobs. One job laid me off on Thanksgiving indefinitely, the other I work 20 hours a week doing telephone surveys with new car buyers and car repair customers from 5 dealerships in Chicagoland. I DX erratically because there is a lot of interference in this building. I really missed when WIDB-950 dropped One On One Sports. Then I went to WMFN-640 and they dropped it for business news. So I'm stuck with it on an erratic schedule on WJKL-94.3. I really don't like ESPN or the Bulls broadcasts although I follow the team. WSCR-1160 is OK as long as the updates are on time. I do not own a computer, so my wife uses the one at the local library one mile away. I've enjoyed the TARGET DX column of DAVE BRAUN. One thing I'd like to see in DX NEWS is when a station goes on fulltime or changes pattern, could someone print the pattern when available? Since the pattern book came out a couple of years ago, I have not seen one update yet. Any feedback out there? Good DX!

John D. Bowker - 1811 Ft Duquesna Dr.- Sun City Center, FL 33573

I know that you have some terrific stories of odd things that have happened around broadcast stations, Dave. Have you ever opened boxes of high-quality reel-to-reel recording tape, spun all the tape off the 7-inch reels, and dumped them into a waste basket .. right in front of the boss who bought the tape? I did, and got overtime pay for doing it. You see, in 1948 while working one summer part-time at WCAX-620 in Burlington, Vermont, a request came in from the Vermont Symphony to make a tape recording of their concert scheduled for broadcast from the University Auditorium in town. The only problem was, WCAX had a brand new Magnecorder tape machine .. one of the few in Vermont, I'd bet .. and it would only accept up to the 7-inch tapes. So I boldly suggested we take three of those tapes, splice them end to end and let them feed through the machine from one clean wastebasket full of tape to another waste basket. Darned if it didn't work perfectly. Complaints? Yes. When we were done, we had to unsplice the tapes and put them back on 7-inch reels so the Orchestra Director could hear them at home. He complained that we had not planned very well since the end of each tape did NOT come at the end of a symphonic Movement. I was only there one summer, but it was a learning experience for everyone!

Dave, I don't know if you ever ran the board at a station that carried baseball games by taping them so they fit the program schedule. I did for two months in 1976 at KNBR-680. We were the flagship station of the Oakland American League team and, while other stations up and down the coast were broadcasting our feeds live, we would tape a daytime game and then play the tapes after the 7 PM news just before the Ed Bush Talk Show. (I wonder what ever became of Ed Bush and his beautiful dog.) My job was to make the tapes in the afternoon, index them, and wipe clean the tapes from the preceding game. I did it fine. But I found it easier to do all the bulk erasing of the large tapes at one time and, on a Monday, there would be two or three game tapes (three tapes to a game usually) stacked up for me. I would start the tape and at the end do a "cross board fade" during a lull in the announcing so the crowd could be blended well. It really sounded fine every time. It made it tough on our Sports Department (headed by Scotty Sterling the hockey coach later on) because the Oakland A's never played a game before the 7 PM sports report ... if you were to believe Scotty. After all, he couldn't give you the result of today's game .. only to be followed minutes later by the game! Then the Monday game where I had started the second of three tapes and was in the cafeteria with Ed Bush and his dog ... we had the speakers on, of course, just to monitor everything was okay. The conversation around 8:45 went like this: "John, who are we playing?" "We're playing the

waax

White Sox, Ed." "Oh? How come Freddy Patek just hit a double?" (Freddy played for the Kansas City Royals as I recall.) Oooooops. I had gone from today's game, tape one, to yesterday's game tape 2. So I rushed back into the control room, found the right tape two, did a cross board fade .. And do you know? We did not get ONE telephone call about the goof!

I wonder if you have ever worked in a news department where the newscaster comes into the control room about one minute ahead of the news cast, dumps a dozen tape carts on the desk .. each neatly labeled, and then disappears into the newsroom to do the announcing. Those "carts" each contain some "sound bite" to be used in his newscast. It is up to the control operator to stack up the carts and to play them on a cue from the newsman. I did this regularly at WHWH, WBUD and several times at KNBR. I was in San Francisco during the 1976 Municipal Strike that closed down all the municipal services. So our newsman had been over at city hall interviewing people about how awful things were. His carts were labeled "Bus 1" and "Bus 2" among others. He had them backwards, I'm sorry to say.

"Mr. Mayor, we understand the school buses are being stored near the docks and they are full of insects now."

(Tape One) "Well, yes, things are a bit overcrowded but as long as everyone keeps his cool we'll come out of this fine."

As the engineer, I hadn't been paying attention to that stupid response by the mayor; and the newscaster apparently didn't think much about it either.

So we went on: "Mr. Mayor, the school children report the smaller private buses they must ride to school are so crowded they have to stand up in them."

(Tape Two) "That problem is being solved this afternoon with some industrial grade rat poison. I don't think that will be an issue after today."

By then, my newscaster was in tears. The station manager was livid! He grabbed both carts .. noting I had played tape one before tape two .. you can only imagine what was said to and by everyone. "Bowker, you should have stopped the cart!" "I WHAT?!!" ... etc. We all got over it .. the *Chronicle* picked up on that one but all in good humor.

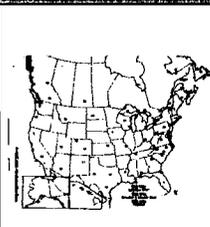
Anyone who has been in live broadcasting will have stories to rock you off your chair .. I remember one of the dumbest things I ever did as control operator at WHWH-1350 in New Jersey. After you've been at a station for awhile, things sorta happen automatically and there was the Saturday at noon when I was busy making sure I'd played all the commercials for the 11 - 12 time period .. checking them off, signing things .. the record playing on turntable two has another 30 seconds or so .. I wanted to get in a 10-second ID with mention of an afternoon program event. John Mathieu, our newscaster (who later worked at WCBS for years) sat down at the news desk right in front of me (in another room through layers of soundproof glass, of course) .. I glanced up, gave him a little wave because he was just starting a shift. The second hand came up to 11:59:45 .. the record ended ..

I gave the legal ID .. told of the game to be heard this afternoon .. brought up the ABC network pot .. time signal, and in came the voice of John Belmont, ABC News. I could then relax for five minutes. Well, not so. I happened to glance up again. There was John Mathieu with his mouth open in stark disbelief! It seems that all I had to do was flip to the next page of the operating log to see that, starting that very day, the noon news would be local and live and done by John Mathieu .. NOT by John Belmont from New York. What could I do. I went on the intercom .. very embarrassed .. and said, I've got to stay with network through the first commercial now .. then it's you, John. I don't know that John Mathieu ever spoke to me again. I guess it worked out — it was annoying that Mr. Belmont ended his first minute of news by saying something like, "train crash kills three in Maryland, that story in a minute." Well, John Mathieu didn't have anything about any train crash anywhere .. but somehow we made out okay. I left the station shortly after that .. the best thing that ever happened to WHWH.

1470 AM/99.3 FM
KWOG
CHRISTIAN RADIO

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Registration verifications can only be made if you supply an email address! Sorry if this is an inconvenience.