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CPC Test Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMST PA</td>
<td>1530</td>
<td>Feb. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMAL DC</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>WILM DE</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIMA OH</td>
<td>1150</td>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

WMBT-1830 (P. O. Box 1530- Shendandoah, PA 17976) will conduct a DX test Saturday, February 5, from midnight to 2 am EST. The test will include the new DXB 1995 contest rules. Secondary DXers, QSLs, and code ID's will be welcomed at 570-462-7759. The test will be broadcast at 2500 watts daytime power and 1000 watts nighttime power. Reports with return postage may be sent to Dan 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 DXers and QSLs 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 for further information and 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 samples 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 toward the top number of 820 several years ago.

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

Welcome to these new members... Eric Foden (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-
Domestic DX Digest

West: Bill Hale phantom2@eaze.net
6124 Boreas Spring Drive - North Richland Hills, TX - 76180-5552

East: David Yocis DavidYocis@eaze.com
532 LaGuardia Pl. #462 - New York, NY 10012-1428

DX Catches in the U. S. and Canada, with 24-br. 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 latest updates from Ron Bailey and Tim Hall. And don't forget, the entire GYDXA files are available on-line at: www.angelfire.com/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 ID's. Technology can be an asset if used correctly but... Anyway, a good lesson learned." - (SA-MB)

REPORTERS

FA-ID Frank Aden, N7SKQ Boise Modified FRG-7 with 4 ft box loop <n7skq@aol.com>
SA-MB Shawn Axelrod, Winnipeg Icon ICR-70 & Drake R8 + 4 Foot Unamplified Box Loop/Quantum Loop, 145' outdoor wire, 100' indoor wire, MFJ 1025 Phasing Unit <saxelrod@m.sympatico.ca>
RD-AZ Ragnar Danskenjolz Mesa Delco car radio; GE Superadio I; Kenwood K-100 and zepp antenna <lwdder@juno.com>
BF-IL Barry Finkel Chicago Yaesu FRG-7700 and McKay Dymek DA-5 antenna <bf19141bachilest.indian.net>
MH-CA Mike Hawk Sunnyvale Icon R-70 and Kiwa Loop <hawk@globalcenter.net>
TRH-CA Tim Hall Chula Vista Delco car radio <halls@networld.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 Superior Radio 2 (X-band modified) + MFJ1026 + 2-75' long wires/1200' 270' terminated, Degraded at ground level <dldexter@execpc.com>
JJR-WI John J. Rieder South Milwaukee FRG100, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959B tuner/preamp, DESF959c Audio Noise Reduction Filter <johnrjieder@webtv.net>
MS-CA Mike Sanburn Bellflower GE Superadio II
MS-MB Morris Sorensen Winnipeg Drake R8 w/McKay-Dyemk DA-9 ferrite loop or indoor random wire; Hammarlund HQ-150 + SM-2 ferrite loop
DZ-WI Dan Ziolkowski Cadahy Sony ICF-2010 with Kiwa filters; Drake R8 + Kiwa Loop <danziolkowski@ca.com>

StATION NEWS & NOTES

540 KIEZ CA Carmel Valley - 1/16 2100 - Noted with ESPN radio - update your log. (MH-CA)
1200 KOQI CA Soquel - 1/5 1500 - Is on, testing. Heard with good daytime signal, playing country music and IDing very infrequently as "KOQI Soquel, with transmitter tests on 1200 k/no Hertz." (BL-CA)
1460 KTTX CA Dallas - First noted 1/9 2221 - Rises from the dead as 1460 The Dude, 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 KGX. No calls letters heard. Apparently new to air, as log lists not as 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 - 1/5 2045 - Finally an ID on this station with Gospel music that has been my UNID. (SA-MB)

1270 UNID ?? - 1/7 0203 - Classic Country AM 1270 non-ID. (BL-CA)

1350 UNID ?? - 1/5 0300 - Good, with Contemporary Christian format. NO ID at 0300. USA News. No calls at 0305, back to music. To 40/9 at times! WMTS? (JFVR-WI) (Or KCNW?) - pls.)

1460 UNID ?? - 1/5 1955 - 1-On-1 Sports, under KENO, with multiple IDs simply as The New. No local ads. (MH-CA)

1660 UNID ?? - 1/6 2007 - SS music with KXOL. Looping WNNE/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 0400-0410 Tone out - With fast EBS-like tones every minute. Under weak WJR. Possible Air Supply & Gloria Estefan 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 was being broadcast. By the way, the Elliott Broadcasting Serv's 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 KTCL that sounded like a test. (FA-ID)

940 UNID ?? - 1/7 0630 - Someone with 1 kHz test tone. KFRE? (MS-CA)

1420 KSTN+ CA Stockton - 1/7 0300+ - Fair-to-good, on annual DX test. Unusual announcements and disco music. (MS-CA)

1500 WFIF+ CT Milford - 1/9 0300 - 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-CA)

TIS & OTHER STUFF

620 (KPLR) CA Point Loma Nazarere 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.

1610 KOQS47 MN Deer River - 1/5 2030 - Woman with information on the ranger station and lakes in the area. (SA-MB)

1670 WTNR210 CA Mendlo park - 1/2 0615 - Strong (S-20), giving phone number on what to do with hazardous waste. This is one of the strongest TIS/1HARs. Good verifier (phone call from Commander Peloso). Received verie letter, Mendlo 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 (yips!). (TRH-CA)

1370 AM COUNTRY KTMG

1370 AM COUNTRY KTMG

MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT ELT

550 KFYR ND Bismarck - 1/6 0747 - Very good, with Ad Con music and K-Fire 550 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.

580 CKY MB Winnipeg - 1/16 0744 - Good, with All Oldies KYS8. (JL-WI)
580 CKAP ON Kapuskasing - 1/22 0715 - Fair, over others, with AM 58 CKAP with C&W. First time heard this winter. (JL-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. (JL-WI)
610 WTVN OH Columbus - 1/15 0001 - Fair, with ID as News Radio 610. WTVN. Brief weather report, then into news. (MS-MB)
640 KHOK 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)
660 WBHR MN Sauk Rapids - 1/19 1753 - Very good, with Radio Disney. All alone on frequency. Rare that it's this good! (JL-WI)
670 WMAQ IL Chicago - 1/17 0315 - Fair, all news with KBQI missing in action. KNBR slop not helpful. (BL-CA) [KBQI may be a lost cause for California, except during LSK/LSS, now that they are on their new all-to-the-north pattern] (Ed.)
700 WLY OH Cincinnati - 1/17 - Poor behind KWLY, both running Truckin’ Bozo all-night show. Fraction of a second apart. They broke apart at 0400, KWLY continuing with country music and WLY doing news. Newsradio 700, WLY ID at 0401. (BL-CA)
710 WAQQ FL Miami - 1/15 2200 - Spanish talk to English ID, back to Spanish. Strong, in a mix. (JL-WI)
770 WABC NY New York - 1/8 2300 - Poor, with ID, mixing with HJX and various domestic stations. Used to be common in Manitoba before frequency became so congested! (RD-AZ)
780 WWBR 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. (DD-WI)
800 CHAB SA Moose Jaw - 1/22 0701 - Fair, and alone with weather and Saskatchewan’s Continuous Country. (JL-WI)
810 KBHD SD Sturgis - 1/19 1839 - Poor, though clear in WGY null, with OLD C&W, ID and multi-state forecast. (JL-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)
890 WINU IL Highland - 1/15 2229 - ID popped up in a mix, then gone. In WCBM null. (DD-WI)
870 CKLQ MB Brandon - 1/22 0700 - Fair, with C&W up to news, calls in WCBN null. (JL-WI)
890 WLS IL Chicago - 1/13 0230 - Poor, running Art Bell about 10 seconds behind KDKU. (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 found), very poor news mix, with several others. (DD-WI)
910 WSUI IA Iowa City - 1/19 1833 - Fair-to-poor, with end of NPR news, ID, fade out. (JL-WI)
920 KSHO OR Lebanon - 1/10 0700 - Fair, 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. (BL-CA)
940 CJGX SA Yorkton - 1/12 0650 - Fair, with C&W and GX94 slogans. Alone on frequency. (JL-WI)
960 KCTK AZ Phoenix - 1/1 0613 - Good, with jingle and spot for big ten. (MS-CA)
GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Callsign</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Identi</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>KBTM</td>
<td>AR Jonesboro</td>
<td>1170</td>
<td>Ron Bailey</td>
<td>Shelby, NC</td>
<td>1170</td>
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<td>KPRL</td>
<td>CA Paso Robles</td>
<td>1170</td>
<td>Tim Hall</td>
<td>Fillmore, UT</td>
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<td>NV Elko</td>
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<td>BC Mackenzie</td>
<td>1170</td>
<td>Tim Hall</td>
<td>Chula Vista, CA</td>
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<td>WKUL</td>
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<td>KORV</td>
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<td>KATY</td>
<td>CA San Luis Obispo</td>
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<td>Chula Vista, CA</td>
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<td>KQGL</td>
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<td>Tim Hall</td>
<td>Rancho Bernardo, CA</td>
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<td>WCBO</td>
<td>NO Oxford</td>
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<td>Ron Bailey</td>
<td>Shelby</td>
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<td>KRAM</td>
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<td>Tim Hall</td>
<td>Chula Vista, CA</td>
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**DX TESTS**

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<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wome</td>
<td>1/17 0430-0445</td>
<td>Heard with code, station ID, CE Lincoln Hubbard with ID, station history, transmitter power (25 kW) and location at Northbrookfield, 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, one voice ID, though much of the vocal portions were too weak to make out. (AR-ON)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wmff</td>
<td>1/9 0030-0045</td>
<td>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 squalling tones, no talking heard. Under WTOP, mixing with WLQV and an unidentified station. (SK-PA) The SS station I usually hear on 1500 is Venezuela, listen for the &quot;Dos Mil&quot; ID. - DY Tentative with alternating code and oscillating tones, no voice ID, way under WTOP. Ironically, logged and QSLed 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)</td>
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**UNID AND UNID HELP**

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<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vwch</td>
<td>1/11 0011-0030</td>
<td>Two sports stations alternating under WWVA, one with One on One Sports, the other with ESPN. Log suggests WKFL and KJOC. (SK-PA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wol</td>
<td>DC Washington</td>
<td>1/14 1700-1720</td>
<td>Two sports stations alternating under WWVA, one with One on One Sports, the other with ESPN. Log suggests WKFL and KJOC. (SK-PA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wwcs</td>
<td>1/14 1700-1720</td>
<td>Two sports stations alternating under WWVA, one with One on One Sports, the other with ESPN. Log suggests WKFL and KJOC. (SK-PA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wqam</td>
<td>FL Miami</td>
<td>1/6 1840-1840</td>
<td>ID &quot;Sports Talk 560 WQAM,&quot; discussion of Dolphins vs. Seahawks NFL wild card game. (LW-NY)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wfrb</td>
<td>MD Frostburg</td>
<td>1/6 1840-1840</td>
<td>News with mentions of MD items, ID'ing as 560/1450 WTBO, Cumberland weather at 1720, into song &quot;You Don't Know Me&quot; by Ray Charles and other Motown oldies. (SF-KY)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Wga1    | NC Elizabeth City | 1/6 2045-2045 | Presumed with North Carolina vs. North Carol-
...
TIS AND MISCELLANEOUS

1640 WPFD221 FL New Smyrna Beach – The recent until 1640 Florida logs in both DDX-East and DDX-West this station. (TLK-FL)

1650 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! (GJCA)

1670 WNXX 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

MI-IN Mark Burns
Terre Haute – R8, 80’ RW, Kiwa loop

PC-VA Ferry Crabbil
Winchester – R8, Kiwa Loop, 100’ RW

RJE-PA Ruse Edmunds
Blue Bell – Station news

BF-IL Barry Finkel
Chicago – UnID help

SF-KY Steve Forrest
Sonerom – ICF 2010, Radio Shack loop

HF-MI Harold Fodge
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 Kurth
Uniontown – SWR, 600’ NE LW

JEKMD X’ing with GE Superadio III, Radio Shack loop

TLK-FL Terry Krueger
Clearwater – Help with TIS & Miscellaneous

WM-MD William McGuire
Chevery – DX-380

AK-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

PAN-AMERICAN DX

770 COLOMBIA RCN, Santa Fe de Bogota, JAN 16 0759-0805 – RCN net ID, time sounder at 0800, promo for news sources (“BBC Latin America” y “R Franka Internacional”) and into news by man and woman. Very good. (Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50)

930 MEXICO XEU La U de Veracruz, JAN 16 0366-0641 – EZL piano music, man and woman named 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)

1750 MEXICO K7ATVFX XEU, San Rafael, JAN 16 0508-0611 – mix of northern US pop, canned ID’s after every song. At 0527, man with “R MIL, XEF” and mentions of “A-M y F-M,” followed by ads, then woman “Once y teinta 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 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 “XEF” 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. Promises mid-eastern Mexico, but if XEUA La Rancheria, 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-180/A coupled to the Scotta loop, and it happens to be blowing away the NRD-335 (even when briefly switching the Scotta loop to the NRD), this despite a croaking bandswit pot... Anyway, this is NOT northeast Mexico as originally speculated – roughly DP’s between south of Mexico City to the Yucatan. I see an XELD “Radio Dia” (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 defintes (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 in later 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” BFX-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 day/night). Seems to have peaked production Dobleve or Progesso outlets not cutting through now. (Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50)
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]

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]

MEXICO XEPAJ La Consentida, Mexico, DF; JAN 16 0231-0246 - ranchera vocals, man with "la Consentida" logo on shirt. Mixing with the Cuban and another SS station, possibly WRHC-Coral Gables. [Krueger-FL/Tocabaga #50]

HONDURAS TGF "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]

CUBA R Enciclopedia, (new) unknown site - reviewing recent files, note that Bob Forworsth, 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]

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. Occasionally brief QRM by fading-up WSRF-Fl. 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 shows no such place. For some reason, I notice "AFGHANISTAN: Kabul noted DEC 29 (and a few recent 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]

STATION NEWS

AFGHANISTAN: Kabul noted DEC 29 (and a few recent 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 synthesis-tone) and announcements by a man. I think I heard an ID in Belorussian which sounded like "Radyo Baltiske Walle." After the next IS, there was an ID I think in Lithuanian (it sounded indeed like: balstij bangu radijas). All difficult to read due to heavy co-channel QRM. In Eurolog (http://geocities.com/Cologne/ParK/3232/Eurolog001.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 kennic'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 Herzegovina 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 TOCOBAGA DX and all contributed 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 "Colombia." Awwoah! 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 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...) 570 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 TGN GAP on the air during several checks over a 3 week period. This used to be one of the biggest stations in Guatemala.
760 TGBH 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.
And now, a little SW stuff.... Signals were heard from all other stations listed in the WRTK but not mentioned below. ID's were heard from all except R. Cultural 3300, R. Choritis 3380, R. Cultural Coaton 4780 and LV de Guatemala 6180. R. Mam 4825 was heard only in the Mam language – no SS.

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 DXers 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 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 wide-spread 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)
from illegal operation, I would be inclined to dispute the suggestion that what a complaint from them would do more good!

of propagation effects - these are his 

better shot at a more positive outcome, but only if the FCC would act on 

within 10 miles of Reading and at least 

would come from 

prompted it. Several here, myself included, have stated our views on just how much the FCC cares 

all know there are a lot of things wrong with this idea, not the least of which is a need for accuracy, so 

crafting an "Informal Advisory Notice" to send to the licensees of some of these flagrant violators? We 

trick of course would be in verifying the "offenses" but the easy ones (such as no 

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 

the station license required it. 

possibility of hoard FCC field agents and US Marshals coming in 

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 where it really has anything really big to loose anymore. “Apathy” and money are the 

primary reasons. The thinking is if you can push the envelope far enough and it's enough you can make 

more than enough money to pay off any possible fines and still have a 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 reflec-

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 

AFP legal sight of the olden days) 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 staff-

ing 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 

fileng 

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 <foxworl@tampabay.rr.com>: "KCKY destroys KWK, KCMJ KSL and KVVO. It 

was not like this until they screwed something up for over three months that caused two unmodulated sideband 

signals at 15 kHz to either sides of the carrier.” Ragnar, This could be a TV monitor or the FCC. I don’t think it’s our 

job as DXers to sort out the FCC issues and illegal DXing. If you got "de-camp" or "several catches" on 

(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 1135? Tune to 1135 or 1165. Listen for a very slight peri-

odic 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. 

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 remem-

ber hearing DXers in Seattle WA complaining about how bad KJR and KOL (1300) were with splatter. 

When someone would say it was okay for the QRM would cover 30 kHz, they would then talk 

about the "offendees" but not the others. They knew, for the most part, what they were doing, and 

were willing to take the heat and live with it. 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 

WYL-F-850’s apparent antics, WEEU-850 (then) would have been clearly hurt, as I was hearing WYL-F 

in just under 10 miles of Reading and at least 200 from WYL-F.

John R. Tudenham <jotud@acom.com>: We have another problem in AM broadcasting with sta-

tions being slightly off frequency. About 6 years ago Ernie Wescoski and myself and 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.

Rus 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 if a complaint from them would do more good!" They "DID" complain and to no avail.

Rus 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...
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 <wright@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-trackd and can be difficult to find. (specifically today, with tight FM gorw not working very well...)

Glen Hauser <hauser@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 a physical process involved, so many are eager to count stations 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 license of city of license is a joke in many cases with rimshotters. The only certain thing is that a given signal did emanate from a mast located in a specific political unit. Hic 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. InMO it is not reasonable to expect 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 am not aware of any way of doing that. (I would love to be proven wrong!)

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 Rockwall, TX and 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 went 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 is WLMR 1480. They are still located in the city on 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 if even anyone counts them at all. I will continue to do it my way and worry. Thanks for the soapbox.

John Callarman <callarman@patriot-net.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 is actually across the bay; the Radio Monte Carlo medium wave transmitter as Monaco though it was actually in Nice, France; and the Vatican Radio 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 (and expense) guidelines; and, yes, even going to the trouble to figure it. 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 actual transmitted as it's licensed, not necessarily a safe assumption these days) (I recall Peter 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. Given the latitude, I've always wondered if the 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 Zennders 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 actually on the same site.

Russ Edmonds: 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 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 know how much it sounds to me like another one of those good ideas which probably still won't clear up the confusion.

Perry Crabb: 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 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 went 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 is WLMR 1480. They are still located in the city on 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 if even anyone counts them at all. I will continue to do it my way and worry. Thanks for the soapbox.
was considered as a Washington-area station, and first antenna on top of the M. A. Leese Optical Company Building. When they went to higher power 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.

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**

Ken Onyschuk – 331 Pine Street #1 - Joliet, IL 60435

Happy New Year to all in the new 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 Year’s Day evening, I managed to get NRC/IRCA member TOM JANSIKIN to drive us to Calumet City and try this new AM machine. Really a nice portable radio... 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 WJJK-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 - 1831 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 a concert scheduled for broadcast from the University Auditorium in town. The only problem was, WCAX had a brand new Magnetoc 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. Damned if it didn’t work perfectly. Complainants? Yes. When we were done, we had to go retrieve 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 tapping 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 speeches? I did play all the bulk erasing of the large tapes at one time and, on a Monday, 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! The Monday came 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
White Sox, Ed. "Oh? How come Freddy Patek just hit a double?" (Freddy played for the Kansas City Royals as I recall.) Oooops. 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 ... and then disappears. The newscaster is sitting in the newsroom doing 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 cue from the newscaster. 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 newscaster 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."

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 time period. I recall.

"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. "Bower, you should have stopped the cart!" "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 got ... 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 done 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 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.