

# DX News

•Serving DX'ers since 1933•

Volume 67, No. 23 - March 20, 2000 (ISSN 0737-1659)



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16 .... Formats (Tony's back!)  
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### CPC Test Calendar

WELC	WV	1150	Mar. 26	0000-0030
WTBQ	NY	1110	April 1	0515-0600

*From the Publisher ...* We're happy to see the return of "Target DX", with Russ Edmunds also returning as editor, and "Formats" under the stewardship of Tony Fitzherbert. But "nothing is so constant as is change", and so we bid farewell to David Yocis, who ably and professionally edited DDXD-E for some four years. Thanks for all the hard work, David. See p. 3 for incoming Michael Shaw's addresses, and if you sent a logging to David, don't panic - he'll continue to forward mis-sent contributions to Michael. And Tony says, "Send those formats changes in!"

Inside, Jim Renfrew and Ron Musco have issued directives which bear echoing: NRC members, remember that we are volunteers running this club and magazine, and unfortunately we just cannot afford to have a single address to which you can send renewals, loggings, and orders for items. (Keep in mind that we haven't had to increase dues now for over 12 years or so.) Please take a little time study each column to which you intend to forward your latest catch to see how that particular editor sets up his listings. Stay away from ALL abbreviations if at all possible; one of the main complaints I get is that new members cannot understand abbreviations and jargon (and some long-time members, too; for example, how would YOU define "barefoot" in a DX context ... and how could you possibly explain "graveyard" to a non-DX'er?). Finally, please be careful with your assumptions as to what you heard (see "DX'er's Notebook" for a discussion of ID's) and please send in loggings of a particular DX catch once and once only per season. Especially of clear-channel stations. Okay?

*Hard-Core DX ...* From our friends at HCDX: "Together with the Nordic Shortwave Center, the Hard-Core-DX list is launching a DX web site.

"By joining forces we are able to offer all DXers better information", said Hard-Core-DX list manager Risto Kotalampi.

"The Hard-Core-DX list started as one of the

earliest hobby lists back in 1995. It soon grew into an fast, informal, and highly informative DX channel.

"At the core of the new joint venture will still be the popular mailing list. 'We are not going to change anything about the mailing list. It belongs to its members,' Kotalampi explained. 'What we hope to achieve is to give everybody a DX'ing community on the web as well.' Thus the material on both the Hard-Core-DX mailing list and the Hard-Core-DX.com web site is offered free to everybody, without any other obligation than proper credit.

"We offer a platform, a community. You bring what you have to share. It will give us all lots of news and lots of knowledge," Kotalampi added.

The new web site will be at <<<http://www.hard-core-dx.com/>>>.

*Skip week ...* Don't look for #24 in your mailbox before the publication date of April 3 ... for now begins non-weekly publication of DXN through September. See below for dates. And don't forget to keep your submissions to editors timely, now that the monthlies are close. 73.

### DXN Publishing Schedule, Volume 67

Iss.	Deadline	Pub. Date	Iss.	Deadline	Pub. Date
24.	Mar. 24	Apr. 3	28.	July 7	July 17
25.	Apr. 7	Apr. 17	29.	Aug. 4	Aug. 14
26.	May 5	May 15	30.	Sept. 8	Sept. 18
27.	June 2	June 12			

### DX Time Machine

#### From the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the March 18, 1950 DXN: Monty Montulet, Elberon, NJ, reported receiving 14 veries in one week, including Falun, Sweden-1086 with a photograph of the transmitter, and Nice-1185 for #7 from France.

25 years ago ... from the March 17, 1975 DXN: John Tull published plans for a simple loop antenna: "A Good Loop Is Easy (and Cheap) to Make" ... this issue featured a four-page pullout questionnaire to be answered by users of WWW/WWWH.

10 years ago ... from the April 2, 1990 DXN: The ninth edition of the Log was sold out ... Jim Renfrew's "Target DX" included tips from Iowan Rick Dau on how to hear stations from the Pacific Northwest and New England.

# AM Switch

**Jerry Starr** w8jv@yahoo.com  
c/o WHOT Radio  
4040 Simon Road  
Youngstown, OH 44512-1320

**Status changes in AM stations, supplied by the FCC and listeners**

## CALL LETTER CHANGES

	<u>Old call</u>		<u>New call</u>
920	KAYO WA	Olympia	KWOK
940	WESA PA	Charleroi	WOGI
990	KTUB TX	Wichita Falls	KXXL
1340	KQIL CO	Grand Junction	KTMM

## APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

1060	PQ	Saint-Nicholas: 10000/10000 U4
1220	ON	Cornwall: 1000/1000 U4

## GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

1400	NV	Sparks: 750/750 U1 (a competing application for this facility is dismissed)
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## APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

None

## GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

760	WCIS	NC Morganton: 3500 D1
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## OTHERNESS

660	WORL	FL	Altamonte Springs: persistent rumors that this new station is on the air are false; your editor was in Altamonte Springs for a day and noted no activity on this frequency
730	WFNC	NC	Goldsboro: silent station is ON THE AIR
750	WWKK	MI	Petoskey: new station plans to debut in "April" with Oldies
1070	KRAM	OR	West Klamath: CP for 1000 D1 is on
1250	KBTC	TX	Houston: silent station is ON THE AIR
1280	WFBS	PA	Berwick: silent station will return to the air by 4/1 and will simulcast WAAT-750
1400	WFOR	MS	Hattiesburg: station is SILENT
1430	KLO	UT	Ogden: CP for 10000/5000 U4 is on
1550	WSER	MD	Elkton: silent station is ON THE AIR
1630	KNAX	CA	Clovis: station heard "testing" here is NOT KNAX and according to CE Rich Weathers there are no plans to put this on the air in the near future. What is being heard is Mexico's lone X-Band station XEUT which occasionally leaves its carrier on for hours after programming is concluded. This carrier is being widely heard in CA, and numerous conclusions that this was KNAX firing up were incorrect.

THANKS: Gary Jackson, Bill Hale, Ed Krejny, Dave Schmidt, Shawn Axelrod, Wayne Heinen, and MSJ

73 and Good DX, Jerry Starr & Buffalo K. Foonman

*Jimmy & BKF*

## PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS?

We can't solve all your woes, but we can solve your DX News problems. Torn, soiled, partially-printed, MIA, or worst of all, delivered in a USPS plastic baggie? No need to return the copy - just end a postcard to NRC - 2840 SE Illinois Ave. - Topeka, KS 66605, and a replacement copy will be mailed free. Missing back issue? Replacement copies from Vol. 56 on, to current NRC members only, are sent for the cost of first-class postage. Quantities will be sent book rate; reimburse by check after you receive the package and verify the postage amount.

**See? No problem!**



# Domestic DX Digest

**West: Bill Hale** phantom2@eaze.net

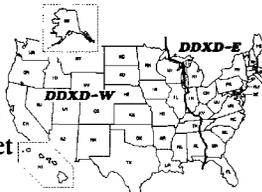
6124 Roaring Springs Drive - North Richland Hills, TX 76180-5552

**East: Michael Shaw** thousandislands@mediaone.net

25 Trask Ct Apt 14 - Beverly MA 01915-5370

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

(Division line is  
between East and  
Central time zones)



## DDXD-West

### MEDIUM WAVE RAMBLINGS

- **John Tudenham**, speaking of his new RS loop says: "Very happy with new loop. Good buy for \$30.00". And after trekking out to the Valhalla DX Site, Shawn utters: "Well, it was quite the trip. We arrived to find not much snow and some large pools of water on the fields. The walk was easy for March when the snow is usually knee deep or better. We had to be careful putting out the wires trying to avoid the large pools of water. Most wires were put out not in anything resembling a straight line, but it was worth it. Wayne got 12 new ones; I got 3 new ones. The real treat was XEUT on 1630. Now I have heard every station in North America on the X-band (not counting TIS's). The phasing units worked wonders on the long wires, helping us null down even local pests like CBW to reveal DX. These little boxes are worth every penny we spent on them. The weather was wonderful; no heavy parkas or boots. The lack of snow lead to a problem on Sunday morning. We awoke to clear skies at 05:00, but by 07:30 there was a thick fog and we could only see 200-300 feet. We went out to wind up the antennas and had to stay close by so we would not lose each other on the fields. Also discovered that the warm air had melted more snow, and we found many sections of the wires in frozen water or melted into the snow. Had to chip some sections out of the snow or break the ice to free up the antennas. That was OK, but this led to a never encountered problem. We have only once before and that was in the fall; NEVER in winter ran out of snow. The snow melted too much Saturday, leaving large areas of stubble. We had to drag the toboggans over the stubble fields to get back to the cars safely parked at the farm. This certainly made it easy to find the muscles in your legs and back that had not been used too much of late. We made two runs each across the field 1200 feet each way to take back the equipment . . . but it was better than waist deep snow where it took 2 of us to pull a toboggan. Drove home slowly in dense fog for 50 miles, but it was worth every second for those new stations. And that is really what is all about it not?? DXpeditions in Manitoba are not for the faint hearted. YOU HAVE TO LOVE THIS HOBBY."
- A couple more 'worldwide' GYDXA records to report. **John Campbell** of Great Britain claims two more . . . see below.
- Can you believe it . . . this is the last weekly issue for the Volume Year! We'll wind up this DX season with YOUR spring and summer loggings and tips. It's easy to figure my deadline. Just subtract three (3) days off the Topeka deadline published often. See you here?

# WVMR

1370 AM

Dunmore, W. Va. 24934

304 799-6004

## REPORTERS

FA-ID	Frank Aden Boise <N7sok@aol.com>
AB-CA	Art Blair Folsom NRD-515 + Kiwa Loop
DAB-MB	Darryl Belanger Swan River Radio Shack DX-160 with Worcester SM-2 loop antenna <fishguy@swanvalley.freenet.mb.ca>
GJ-CA	Gary Jackson Sacramento FRG-8800 + Kiwa Loop
JJR-WI	John J. Rieger South Milwaukee FRG100, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959B tuner/preamp, DSP599zx Audio Noise Reduction Filter <johnjrieger@webtv.net>
JT-MO	John Tudenham Joplin DX-400 + Radio Shack Loop <jotud@juno.com>
PT-WA	Pete Taylor Tacoma Sony ICF 2010, Kiwa air core loop <taytac@worldnet.att.net>
VALDX	Valhalla, Manitoba DXpedition Shawn Axelrod & Wayne McRae 2- ICOM ICR-70 + 2- MFJ 1026 Phasing Unit; 6 wires west/ south/ northeast <saxelrod@mb.sympatico.ca>
JW-CO	John Wilkins Wheat Ridge Drake R-8, 4-foot box loop <peakbagger3@juno.com>
Ed.-TX	Editor North Richland Hills ICF-2010 barefooted

STATION NEWS & NOTES

- 1180 (KLAY) WA Lakewood - 3/10 0928-0930 - On with hum-laden OC. Got an ID out of KOFI but not the other, presumably KERI. Blasted back on 0930. (PT-WA)
- 1110 KWDB WA Oak Harbor - After two days of testing with non-stop ID-less music (even as late as 2130 on 2/24), ID finally given 2/26 1315: *You're listening to KWDB, the voice of Whidbey Island.* Signal about the same as the former KJTT's (splatter from KYCW-1090). No phone listing. (PT-WA)

UNIDs and UNID HELP

- 990 UNID ?? - 3/4 2100 - Very weak, in CBW phased null, with *Newsradio* ID. (VALDX)
- 1160 UNID ?? - 3/5 0805 - Weak, under KSL and WSCR, with Gospel music. (VALDX)
- 1390 UNID ?? - 3/3 1835-1856 - Poor-to-good, with classic C&W music. Female announcer and one jingle heard: ??? *Country*. My guess is Owanotta, Minnesota, which I believe I heard (the word Owantonna), but can't count it as I have to be sure. A stumper. (JJR-WI)

DX AND EQUIPMENT TESTS

- 660 KEYZ+ ND Williston - 3/6 0129-0302 - Monitored frequency for test, but forgot it was scheduled for CST so listened in 1 hour early, then went through scheduled period. Signal overall not that great, but never faded out. Had some great local quality peaks. If a test was on, it didn't sound like one. Country music, sports, weather, PSAs, many mentions of *News Radio, 660 Keys Country*. ABC News on hour, live announcer. No tones, no code IDs heard. Sounded like regular service. Calgary station heard weak a couple of times in background. (DAB-MB)
- 660 KEYZ- ND Williston - 3/3 0129-01:59 - Nothing heard under KTNN with KBOI slop nullled. Nulling direction would have been just about right for them. Was test on? (FA-ID)

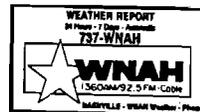
**WBZ RADIO 1030**TIS & OTHER STUFF

- 530 WPLX284 CO Denver - 3/5 0700 - Poor signal, with a loop tape giving call signs and saying it was run by Colorado Department of Transport. NEW! (VALDX)
- 1610 TIS IL - 3/4 2115 - Very poor, with I Dot info. (VALDX)
- 1610 TIS KS - 3/4 1919 - Poor signal, with info from the National Weather Service and travel highway information for the Kansas Turnpike. Many locations not sure which this was. (VAL-DX) (Good chance it was at Topeka - pls.)
- 1610 TIS WI - 3/4 1905 - Fair signal, with a loop tape saying *This is Highway Advisory radio for the Wisconsin Department of Transport*. No info just the ID loop. Which location is this? NEW! (VALDX)

MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT ELT

- 580 KUBC CO Montrose - 3/9 0859 - Canned ID by gal at 0859:55: *Unforgettable 580 KUBC Montrose-Grand Junction-Delta* and into news. Fair. (JW-CO)
- 580 KFXD ID Nampa - 3/7 0912 - *Classic Country AM 580 KFXD. Legendary Country, for folks who are old enough to know better but too young to ??*, and into C&W. Briefly good and atop channel. (JW-CO)
- 650 KGAB WY Cheyenne - 3/6 0133 - Started on 650 before checking for KEYZ test. Up popped a station promo for their accurate and up-to-date weather forecasts. Frequency and call letters mentioned several times. PSA for American Veterinarians Association. Then weather forecast, after which it promptly dropped out of existence, leaving my usual 650 noise. New station. (DAB-MB)
- 660 KTNN AZ Window Rock - 3/6 0300 - Female voice mentioning *KTNN, 50000 watts of power . . . to Salt Lake City, you're tuned to KTNN, 660 in Window Rock, Arizona*. Caught on tape during brief silent spot before KEYZ's ABC News on the hour. Nothing noted before or after this. In the right place at the right time. Poor quality, but I'll take it for a new station. (DAB-MB)
- 690 KECN ID Blackfoot - 3/10 0859 - Poor, with ID at 0859:50 (the same ID heard on KICN-1260 a few days earlier): *The Talk Twins 690 and 1260, KICN Idaho Falls-Rexburg, KECN Blackfoot-Pocatello*. KECN is a tougher catch here than KICN. (JW-CO)

- 690 CBU BC Vancouver - 3/3 0837 - Detailed weather for BC Coastal Area and Interior. Fair. (JW-CO)
- 700 KWLW UT North Salt Lake City - 3/10 0900 - Station ID: . . . *Classic Country, from Hank and Patsy to Waylon and Willie, each day on 700 KWLW North Salt Lake, Classic Country AM 700 and into Charley Pride tune*. More music to 0920, then traffic and news, local spots. Nice 30-minute log, not much fading and no QRM, other than a bit of splatter from local KNUS-710. Last heard as KFAM. (JW-CO)
- 700 CKRD AB Red Deer - 3/8 2310 - With *Red Deer Rebels vs Calgary Hitmen* hockey, some ads and promos and *Kix-105* non-IDs. Excellent level, cutting through KIRO-710. Get it now if you don't have it already before it vacates the channel. Eventually overtaken by KMJY. (PT-WA)
- 740 WMIN WI Hudson - 3/4 1850 - Good signal, with Mexican music program. (VALDX)
- 780 KKOH NV Reno - 3/4 2056 - Fair signal, with talk programming. Under WBBM. (VALDX)
- 790 KGHL MT Billings - 3/8 0145 - On top, with C&W music, three Montana state PSAs (Agriculture, Peace Officers, State Parks) and an ID. Rare, with no CFCW. KABC and others under. On review of the tape, I think CFCW was actually there, on top with only an OC. (PT-WA)
- 860 CKSB1 MB Ste Rose du Lac - 3/4 1813 - Good signal, mixing just out of sync with CKSB2 with French programming // 1050. (VALDX)
- 860 CKSB1 MB St Lazare - 3/4 1813 - Good signal, mixing just out of sync with CKSB1 with French programming // 1050. (VALDX)
- 870 WKAR MI Lansing - 3/4 1824 - Good signals with a mix of English and Spanish talk and Mexican music. Full ID on the hour. (VALDX)
- 880 WRFD OH Columbus-Worthington - 3/3 1557 - Fair, alone, and strong with *AM 880 WRFD*. Not heard in quite a while. No WCBS! (JJR-WI)
- 960 KKJX OR Klamath Falls - 3/8 0200 - With ESPN promo and ID, intertwined with KALE's. Some SS and KABL also in there. New calls logging. (PT-WA)
- 980 KSVC UT Richfield - 2/28 2245 - Local ads, *New Jersey Nets vs Utah Jazz* basketball. Very good. Betcha still on day power. (AB-CA)
- 900 WFRQ OH Freemont - 3/3 1600 - Fair and alone with ID into local news. Another one that used to be more common. (JJR-WI)
- 1010 KXEN MO Festus-St. Louis - 3/11 0718+ - Voluminous signal with CL ID and Christian messages, etc. One talking about "holes in condoms" (no joke), and another (which was 'dated' Friday, March 10) about writing *gentle* letters to abortion clinics. Also a reminder from the station manager, *Dan Allen*, for a prayer breakfast later this morning which was to be broadcast on KXEN. Semi-ID at 0730: *KXEN, St. Louis' Good News Station* by female. Must have caught them just at power/pattern change. Surprisingly, the first-time heard, as their daytime pattern shoots almost 475,000 watts ERP down this way. [Ed.-TX]
- 1050 KORE OR Springfield - 3/10 0059 - Very good, in KBLE null. So they must be using a tower now rather than the wire up the tree. (PT-WA)
- 1080 WNWI IL Oak Lawn - 3/3 0700 - Fair, with SSB, sign-on announcement, then reverly into foreign language programming. (JJR-WI) (Revelry or reville? Either one would wake you up! - pls.)
- 1110 KYKK NM Humble City - 3/9 2000 - ID: *AM 11 KYKK* into ABC News. (JT-MO)
- 1110 WMBI IL Chicago - 3/4 1543 - Poor signal, with Spanish language programming and ID. (VALDX)
- 1150 WLOC KY Munfordville - 3/3 0617 - Fair and loud, with oldies. *AM 1150 WLOC*. (JJR-WI)
- 1150 WIMA OH Lima - 3/3 0654 - Fair, with 1150 WIMA. Weather, sports. Rare here. (JJR-WI)
- 1180 KYET AZ Williams - 2/29 0751 - Legal ID, just over KGOL. (AB-CA)
- 1200 KOQI CA Soquel - 2/29 0804 - C&W music. Good level until KEBR-1210 powers up. Also 3/1 0715 with more C&W music. No ID either date. (AB-CA)
- 1230 KQIK OR Lakeview - 3/5 0200 - *AM & FM*. NRC Log change: as per call, it is 24 hours, but only partial simulcast with FM (like Sat. night 11 PM PST). New. (PT-WA) [I'll bet NRCLOG is taking notes right now - Ed.]
- 1240 KCVL WA Colville - 3/8 2300 - Popped atop the channel with a clean ID. Rare. (PT-WA)



- 1280 KTKP AZ Phoenix - 3/4 1959 - Legal ID at 1959:52 in tight KVID null: *Your new home for ASU women's basketball on the Sun Devils Sports Network, Radio Phoenix . . . KTKP. 2000 network news (not sure which net). New catch, for Arizona #62. (JW-CO)*
- 1280 KDOXt NV Henderson - 3/3 2035 - With Latino music, Las Vegas ads. Occasionally good in partial KVID null. (JW-CO)
- 1290 KOWB WY Laramie - 3/5 0006 - Fair signal, with University of Wyoming basketball and several IDs. In phased CFST null. (VALDX)
- 1350 KTIK ID Nampa - 3/2 1940 - Local sports call-in show with hosts Mike and Bill. Traffic reports, local spots. IDs often as *Sports Radio 1350 KTIK Dot Com.* Fair for a while, but eventually lost to KABQ. (JW-CO)
- 1360 KSCJ IA Sioux City - 3/4 2047 - Play-by-play of Iowa vs Penn State basketball. Fair, in KHNC null. // to WMT-600, also fair. (JW-CO)
- 1400 KSHP NV North Las Vegas - 3/9 2159 - Wafting over QRM with nice ID: *Your home for the Sacramento Kings of the NBA right here on your home for sports in Las Vegas, AM 1400 KSHP North Las Vegas.* CBS News at 2200. (JW-CO)
- 1400 KEDO WA Longview - 3/1 0846 - Song *On the Sunny Side of the Street*, legal ID at 0847, man with chat into Andy Williams tune at 0849. (AB-CA)
- 1410 KWYO WY Sheridan - 3/10 0854 - Out of PSA and into 1410 KWYO - *great songs and great memories and the home of Rush Limbaugh weekdays from 9 AM 'til 1 PM. And now, more original hits from the 40's, 50's and 60's. Be sure and tell a friend about 1410 KWYO and into NOS tune.* Fair, over others. (JW-CO)
- 1450 KVML CA Sonora - 2/27 1129 - *News Talk 1450 KVML, The News Station. Back to God Hour at 1130.* Daylight pest, now with KOBO silent. (AB-CA)
- 1450 KIOV ID Payette - 2/28 0759 - Legal ID into CBS News at 0800, then blown away by KVML. New. (AB-CA)
- 1470 KRAK CA Sacramento - 3/5 0925 - Older C&W tunes. Slightly different versions of *Gold Country* slogans with call ID after each song. Fair with no sign of KEZZ. Finally faded at 0944. (JW-CO)
- 1480 WTDA WI Madison - 3/4 1600 - Good signal, with dual ID for 1670 and 1480. (VALDX)
- 1520 KMAVp ND Mayville - 3/4 1953 - High school basketball game: Dakota Prairie vs Park River Aggies. Mayville ads. Fair in KOMA null. Pretty good signal for zero watts (KMAV listed for s/off at Buffalo sunset). (JW-CO) [Funny things happen to some transmitters when local games are going on down at the football field or round ball court, hi - Ed.]
- 1570 WFRL IL Freeport - 3/4 1840 - Fair signal, under CKMW, with NOS music. (VALDX)
- 1570 WKBH WI Holmen - 3/5 0640 - Fair signal, in phased CKMW null, with ESPN programming. (VALDX)
- 1670 WRNC GA Warner Robbins - 3/4 1746 - Poor signal, with country music. Under WTDY. (VALDX)
- 1690 WMDM MD Lexington Park - 3/4 1740 - Poor, in KDDZ phased null, with NASCAR programming. (VALDX)
- 1690 WMDM MD Lexington Park - 3/9 - In, out and occasionally on top of KDDZ between 0102-0145 with *ABC News and Sports Overnight.* As per Murphy's law, it died during 0109, 0122 and 0137 commercial breaks. This is my 4th reception of this station. I'll be going over the tape using the equalizer this weekend to see what I can ferret out. Dominant at peaks. (PT-WA)



**GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE**

# indicates record held from Alaska or Hawaii

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

1230 kHz:				Miles	
WESX	MA	Salem	John Campbell	Bridestow, England	3195
1490 kHz:					
WOPA	IL	Oak Park	John Campbell	Bridestow, England	3701

**DDXD-East**

Deadlines are Tuesdays: March 21 and April 4 to our incoming editor, Michael Shaw. Anything received here after March 10 has been forwarded to Michael.

Joe Kureth notes: "Just when I thought there isn't anything left to DX from this location, up pop two new ones on the same frequency within a few minutes!" And there's still more DX to be heard over the next few weeks as the season wraps up . . . please send your loggings in to Michael!

Well, this wraps up four years or so, give or take, of Domestic DX Digest (East) columns from your faithful scribe. It's been a lot of fun working on DDXD, most of all because of the wonderful support from so many of our Eastern members. As a column editor, one gets a remarkable sense of the great diversity of DX'ing skills and styles among our members, and after 23 years of DX'ing medium wave I've been able to experience a whole new dimension of the hobby I hadn't known. I plan to contribute to the column myself during my retirement, just as several of our great former DDXD editors have frequently appeared in these pages during my tenure). Thanks to everyone who has expressed their thanks and kind wishes, and especially to our contributors, who make DDXD, and the NRC, the very best in DX clubs! 73. (Happy "retirement" to you, Dave, and don't be a stranger. Thanks from all of us for your years of faithful contributions -pls.)

**STATION NEWS**

- 990 WNTY CT Southington - 3/7 2145 - This station seems to be playing games. At 1800, I heard them as they powered down from 2500 to 80 watts. I tuned back in at 2245 and they were back to running 2500 watts, but then at 2200 they went back down to 80 watts. (KP-CT)
- 1540 CHIN ON Toronto - The logging in no. 20 of this with "AM 1540, FM 101.3" ID is indeed correct, even though CHIN's real FM is on 100.7. The FM on 101.3 is a low-powered simulcast of 1540, while 100.7 is never // 1540, 101.3. CHIN received special permission from the CRTC to operate this low-powered FM twin on 101.3 to serve Toronto's downtown area, where reception of 1540 is poor, and where much of the ethnic community served by CHIN lives. There are no plans to close down 1540 and move to FM full time. I wish they would. (MB-ON)
- 1550 WSER MD Elkton - 3/1 - Returned to the air today, with religious format, Moody Bible Institute satellite service. (DS-PA)
- 1590 WMIM PA Mount Carmel - Still carries One on One Sports daily 1600-2200. (SK-PA)

**DX TESTS**

- 660 KEYZ ND Williston - 3/6 0130-0200 - *Not heard*; WFAN too tough to null. (MB-ON) *Not heard.* (GM-VA)

**UNID AND UNID HELP**

- 1110 UNID — 2/24 2310-0100 - C&W until midnight, then talk, under WBT with some strong peaks only through the music. Again on 2/28 with call-in request show after 0000, maybe called "After Midnight." (SK-PA)
- 1220 UNID — 2/25 1745-1800 - Right after a REL station cut power, someone with WW1 NOS under WKNR, too much mixing after 1800. WABF-AL is the only WW1 NOS listed in the Log. (SK-PA) [Could be them, but the way stations change format these days, you never know. - DY]
- 1230 UNID — 2/28 0105 - End of ABC news, ad for the Charlotte Gazette. (SK-PA)
- 1380 UNID — 2/26 1948 - "Magic 1380 is proud to bring you local college basketball," ad for business on South Queen Street, another in (Hodgen?), back to (Mayflower?) basketball. Tough under WKDM, then lost. The slogan suggests KBWD-TX, and KQXX-1700 was in at the same time. (SK-PA) [But KBWD very unlikely at that power; I seem to remember that WHEW-TN used this slogan before they went SS a couple years ago. - DY]
- 1430 UNID — 3/6 1853 - Ad for weight loss program, "Let's get back to the Team on Sports Radio 1430." (WM-MD)
- 1440 UNID — 2/28 2005 - Very loud low pitch steady tone over WRBP, WJLL. Second night noticed, and then again already 2/29 1710, blowing everything out later. (SK-PA)



## LOGGINGS

540	WWCS	PA	Canonsburg - 3/2 2240 - Good over college basketball game on presumed WQTM, with oldies music and male announcer talking about the merits of having a Thursday night oldies show, instead of "all the other Sunday night oldies shows in Pittsburgh." Caught in the car, 5 miles from home. (MB-NJ)
	WZER	WI	Jackson - 2/28 1746 - "Your station for ... Z.F.R." then talk about the Lord. Mixing with WLUX. (SK-PA)
590	WVLK	KY	Lexington - 2/28 1755 - News promo for local TV station, "Your news, weather, and traffic station ... News Radio 590," ID, TC for 1756. (WM-MD)
610	WTVN	OH	Columbus - 3/5 1745 - Talk program with female host, many station promo's, ID's, ads. Strong and alone. (GM-VA)
670	WWFE	FL	Miami - 3/4 0100 - Good, "This is WWFE 670 AM Miami. Estás es La Poderosa, 670 AM," and "670 Poderosa" jingle followed by "noticias," over R. Rebelde (Cuba). (BC-NH)
690	WJOX	AL	Birmingham - 3/3 1855 - Ad for something on Highway 280 near Talladega, Winston Cup auto racing show. (WM-MD)
720	WGCR	NC	Pisgah Forest - 3/4 1828 - Very good, ID during pledges, mention of Brevard [County], gospel music. (HJH-PA)
740	WPAQ	NC	Mount Airy - 3/4 1815 - Ending obituaries, ID, then into gospel music, fair. This signal doesn't have the punch I would expect from 10 kW. (HJH-PA)
	WMBG	VA	Williamsburg - 3/2 1940 - NOS music, "740 WMBG," good signal. Listed 8 watts; I doubt it. (WM-MD)
750	WAAT	PA	Olyphant - 3/3 1848 - REL or EZL music in WSB null, weather forecast with mention of Scranton. (WM-MD)
780	WCKB	NC	Dunn - 2/29 1800 - Weather forecast, then sign-off, strong and alone, with mention of 1 kW and Highway 421. (HJH-PA)
	WWOL	NC	Forest City - 3/3 1815-1830 - Southern gospel music in WBBM null, TC at 1820, ID, generally fair. (WM-MD)
790	WEPG	TN	South Pittsburg - 3/4 2240 - C&W music, "All your favorites, your kind of country," ID, good signal. (WM-MD)
800	WCCM	MA	Lawrence - 2/29 1810-1840 - Mostly on top with music featuring the Gordon Jenkins Orchestra and (rare) Sinatra songs, seems to be a Tuesday feature, many call ID's, weather at 1830. Some WLAD-CT, CJBQ-ON, and possible WTMR-NJ, no sign of CKLW. New. (JEK-MD)
	CJBQ	ON	Belleville - 2/29 1815 - Good briefly with local ads, station promos, and many call ID's. New, and only #13 on 800. (JEK-MD)
910	WRNL	VA	Richmond - 3/1 1942 - Girls basketball, Spiders vs. Rams, one team was from Richmond. Good signal. (SK-PA)
970	WZAN	ME	Portland - 3/4 2220 - Good signal, with ad for T.G.I. Friday's and Card America, "970 WZAN" ID, promo for Imus in the Morning. WILK-980 silent. (HJH-PA)
980	WYFN	TN	Nashville - 3/4 2300 - Religious music and full ID, tough with a strong WTEM, male announcer between songs, new. WILK off for some unknown reason. (HJH-PA)
1000	KXRB	SD	Sioux Falls - 3/2 1815 - C&W music in WMVP null, sign-off, ID. (WM-MD)
1080	WWNL	PA	Pittsburgh - 3/2 1828 - "Keep your radio right here on your station for inspiration and motivation, New Life Radio," ID. (WM-MD)
1120	WPRX	CT	Bristol - 3/2 1908 - Presumed in KMOX null with SS talk by woman, slogan "Radio Libertad," heard last year in EE with Bristol Rock Cats minor league baseball. (MB-ON) [That and legal ID's are about all you'll hear in EE on this one. - DY]
	WUST	DC	Washington - 2/25 1844 - Caught end of sign-off "New World Radio for the nation's capital, WUST. Please join us again tomorrow." Then SSB. This was on PSSA as they give an announcement saying they are doing so at sunset. But it's my first time hearing them while actually on PSSA. (SK-PA)
1150	WCRK	TN	Morristown - 3/3 2115 - Eagles song, "When you need to know," ID. (WM-MD)
1160	WODY	VA	Fieldale - 3/3 2121 - ID in mess. (WM-MD)
1170	WKFL	FL	Bushnell - 2/28 0000 - Pre-



			sumed with One on One Sports, with WWVA going on a full minute of OC precisely on the hour, then under WWVA. Conditions favoring the south tonight. This one has been running all night for several weeks at least. (SK-PA)
1200	WAGE	VA	Leesburg - 3/5 2305-2332 - Poor, way under the mess (primarily CFGO) with ID at 2305, and ads for a trailer sales business in Harrisonburg at 2322. (MB-NJ)
1230	WHOO	AL	Jackson - 2/23 1958 - ID "On News-Talk 1230, WHOO" rose up in jumble. (SK-PA)
1240	WHIZ	OH	Zanesville - 3/4 1720 - Political ad for upcoming primary, ID, music. Alerted to try for this by earlier reception on 1490, with semi-local WGCV nulled. (GM-VA)
	WTON	VA	Staunton - 2/26 2348 - "Sunday morning at 11 on WTON" shot up in the jumble. (SK-PA)
1250	WTMA	SC	Charleston - 3/1 1815 - "You're listening to the Dave Ramsey Show on News Talk 1250," ID. (WM-MD)
1270	WHEO	VA	Stuart - 3/1 0655 - Local radio "classifieds" program with various items for sale, weather, ID, and news at top of hour. (GM-VA)
1310	CIWW	ON	Ottawa - 3/3 2343-2400 - All alone with OLD, multiple musical ID's like "Oldies 1310, Ottawa" and "Ottawa's favorite oldies," then pretty much vanished. (MB-NJ)
1320	CJMR	ON	Mississauga - 2/29 0105 - Fair, "You're listening to the Golden Horseshoe Radio Network, 1320 CJMR in Mississauga, and 1250 CHWO Oakville," and NOS, over WJAS. (BC-NH)
1350	WOYK	PA	York - 2/29 0100 - Fair, jingle ID "Sports radio 1350, WOYK York-Harrisburg-Lancaster," and ESPN, echoing over an unID ESPN station. (BC-NH)
1360	CKBC	NB	Bathurst - 2/29 0140 - Good, "The Bay's best music, CKBC Bathurst," and AC/C&W music. (BC-NH)
1450	WHKP	NC	Hendersonville - 2/27 1805 - "WHKP time is 6:05," then meteorologist, popping up in jumble. (SK-PA)
1470	WMBD	IL	Peoria - 2/24 2330 - ID heard in mess, talk show which sounded like Bruce Williams. (WM-MD)
	WTKO	NY	Ithaca - 3/6 1830 - After song "Green Onions," "Playing all the classic hits, This is Motown Monday featuring the 50's and 60's," "Oldies Radio 1470" and ID, boomin' in like gangbusters. (WM-MD)
	WWBG	NC	Greensboro - 3/6 1825 - Ads for S&K men's clothing store and McDonald's, promo for CBS shows, mentions of High Point and Winston-Salem, political ad, then gone. (SK-PA)
1480	WZRC	NY	New York - 3/2 1900 - Caught top of hour ID "WZRC New York," then lost under WHBC. Last heard circa 1980 as WJIT. (MB-ON)
	WTOY	VA	Salem - 2/29 0635 - ID in fading signal, C&W. (WM-MD) + 3/4 0750 - Slogan "Power 1480 WTOY," coming up well with black gospel, female preacher on the subject of healing. (HJH-PA)
1490	WJMO	OH	Cleveland Heights - 3/4 1716 - Out of gospel music with FM DJ excitedly with ID, alone and good. (GM-VA)
1510	WAUK	WI	Waukesha - 2/27 0800 - ID as "Wisconsin's sports authority, WAUK Waukesha-Milwaukee," into talk on NASCAR racing, then lost to WLAC. (MB-ON)
	CKOT	ON	Tillsonburg - 2/29 1746 - Giving weather forecast with expected lows below zero (so Celsius), canned ID "When you hear great country songs on the radio, you're listening to Country 1510." Alone and very good, rare and never heard alone before. (SK-PA)
1530	WCTR	MD	Chestertown - 2/26 1740 - Female DJ "We're here till 5:45," promos for "An Evening with Pops," Christian Science program, signoff at 1745. Last heard two years ago, also in February. (SK-PA)
	WJDM	NJ	Elizabeth - 2/26 1745 - In right after WCTR signoff with live announcer in EE, "on 1530 WJDM, checking on sports." Then pushed back by sudden appearance of WSAI, WEYZ. Only 2 NJ's left. Unusual for WSAI not to be in right at WMBT signoff, 1715 today. (SK-PA)



700 WLW  
1111 ST. GREGORY STREET  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

- WRTP NC Chapel Hill – 3/1 1830 – Male announcer with ID “WRTP Chapel Hill, WRTG Raleigh, and WGSB Durham leave the air,” sign-off. (WM-MD)
- WBCW PA Jeannette – 2/26 1730 – Signoff with several mentions of call letters, too far down for the details. Last heard in 1994. Two OLD stations then cut power within seconds of each other, one with black oldies. Probably that one was WASC, and the other WVFC. (SK-PA)
- 1570 WXLN IN New Albany – 3/2 2200 – “You’re listening to WXLN, New Albany, music for today’s Christian,” mention of Louisville, “The best in southern gospel music.” (WM-MD)
- WPGM PA Danville – 3/3 1759 – Weather, ID, 40 degrees, mention of FM. (WM-MD)
- 1580 WLIM NY Patchogue – 3/6 1840 – NOS music, “Coming up on WLIM ...,” over WPGC. (WM-MD)
- WSMO NC Cape Lejeune – 2/24 2035 – Canned ID rose up in the mix, “Your country music mate, WSMO.” (SK-PA)
- WPJK SC Orangeburg – 2/25 2037 – Screaming ad in style of racetrack ads for Mitsubishi dealer in Orangeburg, promo for program, “tune in this Saturday,” then lost to C&W station. WMIM-1590 is finally on night power, but throwing off slop onto 1580. (SK-PA)
- 1590 WETT MD Ocean City – 2/29 1820 – Numerous ads for nightspots in Ocean City, ID’s, promos. Fair at times with others, rare. (HJH-PA)
- 1650 WHKT VA Portsmouth – 3/4 0017-0100 – Strong with Liberty Works Network talk show and various network ads, Liberty Works Network promo mentioning several stations including WHKT, into very quick ID by male announcer at 0100 as “WHKT Portsmouth.” (MB-NJ)
- 1670 WRNC GA Warner Robins – 3/4 2344 – Back and forth with WTDY, // FM with C&W and several ID’s as “WRNC 96.5, middle Georgia’s station for the best country nights,” legal ID at 0001. (MB-NJ)
- WTDY WI Madison – 3/5 0005 – Fighting a losing battle with looped WRNC, with ads for Window Design Center and Madison Civic Center, promo for weeknight show “on 1670 WTDY.” (MB-NJ)
- 1700 KQXX TX Brownsville – 2/26 2015 – Presumed with ballady SS music, in KBGG, WAFN mix. (SK-PA)

## TIS AND MISCELLANEOUS

## OFF THE INTERNET

From Scott Fybush’s “North East Radio Watch” e-mail newsletter, used by permission: WFSW-NY-1110 has been sold and will be switching from satellite C&W to satellite NOS, and probably losing much of its still-significant local flavor in the process. WERI-RI-1230 and WRNI-RI-1290, Rhode Island’s NPR AM stations, are running “Rhode Island Tonight” four times this spring, replacing “Connection” in the 2000-2200 time block, and expect to have a nightly local public affairs program this fall. WTMM-NY-1300 will be the Albany affiliate for Yankees baseball this year, ex-WZMR-104.9.

## ADDRESS UPDATES

## REPORTERS

- MB-NJ Mike Battaglini Chatham – Sony 2010, 100’ homebrew attic loop, Radio Shack loop
- MB-ON Mike Brooker Toronto – Panasonic RF-2200, RFB-45
- BC-NH Bruce Conti Nashua – R8B, DCP-2, 100’ wire, 100’ E-sloper
- HJH-PA Harry Hayes Wilkes-Barre – Zenith TransOceanic, Kiwa pocket loop
- SK-PA Steve Kennedy Coal Township – Superadio III, inside wire
- JEK-MD Joe Kureth Uniontown – SW8, 950’ NE LW
- WM-MD William McGuire Cheverly – DX-398
- GM-VA Greg Myers Richmond – Sony ICF-2010, Kiwa pocket loop with PRM
- KP-CT Kent Plourde Bristol – Sony ICF-SW7600
- DS-PA Dave Schmidt Scranton – Local news



# International Jim Renfrew renfrew@localnet.com

61 Wilcox Street  
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## DX Digest

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

Another Popular Culture DX Quiz: which pop musician refers to Radio Caroline in a song on his LP “The Golden Age of Wireless”? (a) Billy Idol (b) Thomas Dolby (c) Adam Ant (d) Sid Vicious (e) Eric Clapton (f) Edwin Armstrong

A reminder: please submit your report following the format you see below. When you reverse the order of items, or use lots of abbreviations that are not universally understood, it takes a lot of extra time for me to redo your report. Also, please send text files only for the same reason. Thank you!

## TRANS-ATLANTIC DX

- 189 ICELAND Rikisutvarpid Gufuskalar, MAR 5 0140 - Poor signals with music. Only TA heard all Dxpediton. [VAL-MB]
- 549 ALGERIA Alger Chaîne 1, Les Trembles MAR 5 0030 - Good; Arabic vocal // 153. [Conti-MA]
- 585 SPAIN RNE-1 Madrid, FEB 26 0350-0415 - Discussion with two men, followed by modern music Good, then rock, vocals in SS, fair, // 684, 738, 774, 855. [Stromsted-MA]
- 612 MOROCCO Sebaa-Aioun, MAR 5 0011 - AA male chanting, oud accompaniment; to very good peak. Ireland or Spain under. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 675 NETHERLANDS Radio Ten Gold, FEB 26 0205 - Fast American Rock-EE vocal, Dutch Disc Jockey, in and out, fair. [Stromsted-MA]
- 684 SPAIN RNE-1 Sevilla, FEB 26 0350-0415 - // 585, good. [Stromsted-MA] MAR 5 0006 - // 855 with SS talk and interspersed dramatic music for emphasis; good. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 693 ENGLAND BBC R.5 synchros MAR 4 2250 - Fair; telephone talk, het on high side from Azores. [Conti-MA]
- 738 SPAIN RNE1, Barcelona, FEB 12 0605 - SS news by man & woman; fair, sliding by CHCM and momentarily-blank WJIB carrier. [Connelly\*B-MA] FEB 26 0350-0415 - // 585, good. [Stromsted-MA] MAR 4 2358 - // 855 with SS political talk; to good peak over CHCM slop. [Connelly\*O-MA] MAR 5 0055 - Excellent; huge signal straight off the broadband whip antenna without phasing. [Conti-MA]
- 756 GERMANY DeutschlandRadio, Braunschweig/Ravensburg, MAR 4 2356 - man in GG, then a version of “Spanish Harlem” that wasn’t the original 1961 Ben E. King one; to good peak. Bits of // 1422 noted, but 756 was much better. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 765 SWITZERLAND RSR, Sottens, MAR 4 2351 - “Genie in a Bottle” by Christina Aguilera, then a mellow FF vocal; loud. [Connelly\*O-MA] FEB 26 0410 - Presume Swiss? American rock, good. [Stromsted-MA]
- 774 SPAIN RNE-1 synchros, FEB 26 0350-0415 - // 585, good. [Stromsted-MA] MAR 5 0017 - // 855 with SS discussion; fair. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 792 SPAIN SER, Sevilla, MAR 4 2348 - fast SS talk, telephone interview; good. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 801 SPAIN RNE1 synchros, MAR 4 2347 - // 855 with SS talk; poor. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 837 CANARY ISLANDS // SPAIN COPE synchros, MAR 4 2345 - SS teletalk and several announcers in the studio; excellent, well over Azores-836 het. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 846 ITALY Rome, MAR 4 2339 - Italian talk by woman, then piano music; good. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 846 ITALY RAI Rome MAR 3 0420 - Poor; Italian vocal // 6060, heavy interference from WEEI/WRMR 850. [Conti-NH]
- 855 SPAIN RNE-1 synchros, FEB 26 0427 - // 585 with flutes and SS vocal romantic/slowbeat Good. [Stromsted-MA] MAR 4 2335 - SS political and economic talk; huge local-like signal. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 846 ITALY RAI Roma, FEB 26 0232 - female announcer, Italian music, good. [Stromsted-MA]
- 891 ALGERIA Algiers, MAR 4 2245 - AA flute and string music; fair, building in strength; WBPS phased. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 909 UNITED KINGDOM BBC, Moorside Edge et al., MAR 4 2248 - EE sports mentions by two men and a woman; poor to fair. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 954 SPAIN R. España, Madrid, MAR 4 2335 - SS group discussion and teletalk; fair to good. [Connelly\*O-MA]



- 981 ALGERIA Radiodif. Algerienne, Algiers, MAR 4 2250 - AA vocal; fair with WCAP phased. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1008 CANARY ISLANDS Las Palmas, R. Las Palmas / RadioVoz, MAR 4 2334 - non-SER SS talk; good. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1035 PORTUGAL R. Nacional Lisboa, FEB 27 2356 - European Rock, good. [Stromsted-MA] MAR 4 2332 - light PP pops; poor, in WBZ slop. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1044 MOROCCO Sebaa-Aioun, MAR 4 2328 - AA strings, drums, vocal; monster signal. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1044 SPAIN SER synchros MAR 4 2315 - Good; telephone talk in Spanish, well over an unID station that was likely Morocco. [Conti-MA] MAR 4 2253 - // 1575 with SS teletalk; over Morocco. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1053 UNITED KINGDOM Talk Radio synchros, MAR 4 2326 - EE teletalk // 1089; slightly over Spain and a pile-up of others. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1071 SPAIN EI, Bilbao, MAR 4 2325 - SS talk getting by CBA. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1089 ENGLAND Talk Radio, FEB 26 0310 - Call in and quiz show, male quiz master, poor. [Stromsted-MA] MAR 4 2255 - EE advertising; to good peak. [Connelly\*O-MA] MAR 4 2305 - Fair; Standard Broadcast News, "1053 and 1089 AM" ID, // 1053. [Conti-MA]
- 1107 SPAIN RNE synchros MAR 4 2325 - Fair; woman in Spanish, Radio Cinco IDs, and operatic vocal, // 1152. [Conti-MA]
- 1134 CROATIA Zadar, FEB 26 time? - American music/ Slavic Language-presumed Croatian announcer, good. [Stromsted-MA] MAR 4 2330 - Fair; man in Croatian, modern music, seemed // 1125 but couldn't get enough audio from the parallel. [Conti-MA]
- 1134 SPAIN MAR 4 2256 - SS talk fragments; over low growl. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1179 CANARY ISLANDS // SPAIN SER synchros, MAR 4 2322 - SS teletalk; huge. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1206 FRANCE R.Bleue, Bordeaux FEB 29 0615 - Poor; nostalgia through heavy interference from WPHT 1210, still there at 0650. [Conti-NH] MAR 4 2320 - apparent FF talk over low-pitched background het. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1215 SPAIN COPE synchros MAR 4 2345 - Good; telephone talk in Spanish // 1224, well over Virgin Radio-England. [Conti-MA]
- 1215 UNITED KINGDOM Virgin R. synchros, MAR 4 2259 - EE man & woman talked about the Virgin Radio Web site. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1224 SPAIN COPE synchros, MAR 4 2317 - echoey SS teletalk. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1242 ENGLAND Virgin Radio synchros MAR 4 2350 - Fair; Peter Frampton's "Do You Feel Like We Do" // 1215. [Conti-MA]
- 1251 LIBYA Tripoli, MAR 4 2317 - Oud music, shrill AA vocal; loud. [Connelly\*O-MA] MAR 5 0005 - Fair; assumed this with man and woman in Arabic, couldn't find a SW parallel for positive ID (usually // 15415). [Conti-MA]
- 1296 SPAIN COPE, Valencia, FEB 14 0412 - fast excited SS talk by man; fair, fadey. [Connelly\*B-MA] MAR 5 0010 - Fair; man in Spanish // 1215. [Conti-MA]
- 1359 SPAIN RNE Arganda FEB 29 0640 - Poor; brief fade-ins of talk in Spanish, otherwise just a het against CKBC 1360. [Conti-NH] FEB 12 0550 - excellent with SS news magazine type program: loudest Trans-Atlantic at the time. [Connelly\*B-MA] MAR 4 2314 - SS newstalk; to strong peak over CKBC/WLYN/WDRG slop. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1377 FRANCE R.Bleue, Lille FEB 29 0625 - Fair; man in French, easy listening vocal, strong het against RFO St. Pierre 1375. [Conti-NH]
- 1385.92 GUINEA Labe, MAR 4 2312 - fast African-accented FF talk; fair with WPLM phased. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1413 SPAIN RNE5 synchros, FEB 14 0417 - SS pop music and interspersed talk; poor in slop. [Connelly\*B-MA]
- 1467 FRANCE TWR, Roumoules, MAR 4 2309 - EE male preacher spoke about sharing one's life with Christ, then a hymn followed; very good signal. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1512 BELGIUM Wolvertem, MAR 3 2325 - Radio Nederland Int; relay English Service with commentary, strong, 2 kHz beat with 1520 stations. No signal heard after 2330. Presumably beamed toward the UK. Transmitter under swap facilities -or-lease arrangement? [Stromsted-MA] MAR 4 2305 - tentative, sounded like EE talk; too much WNRB slop to be 100% sure. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1521 SAUDI ARABIA BSKSA, Duba, MAR 4 2300 - huge signal at sign-off with a bit of music, then carrier went off. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1521 SPAIN SER, Castellon, FEB 14 0420 - rapid-fire SS newstalk; over



- Saudi Arabia. [Connelly\*B-MA]
- 1557 FRANCE R.Bleue, Nice FEB 29 0620 - Poor; nostalgia // 1206, difficult in interference from WQEW Radio Disney 1560. [Conti-NH]
- 1575 SPAIN SER synchros, FEB 12 0552 - SS teletalk; to fair peak. [Connelly\*B-MA] MAR 4 2254 - SS // 1044; poor to fair. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 1583.65 CEUTA RadiOle, FEB 12 0554 - SS talk by man; poor with het from SER-1584.0. [Connelly\*B-MA]
- 1584 SPAIN SER synchros, MAR 4 2254 - // 1044 with SS teletalk; Ceuta het not noted at this time. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- Erik speaks:* "I lengthened my antenna into a neighboring farm along a stone wall separating pastures and this seems to improve reception for some of the stations. The Long Wave signals are much louder and some are clear most nights with outstanding audio quality in the wide filter position."
- Mark speaks:* "I did a quick listening session from the town landing site near the Route 28 / Tar Kiln Road intersection in South Orleans, MA. I listened from 2245 UTC on 4 MAR through 0030 UTC on 5 MAR. Trans-Atlantics were better at the beginning of the session, Latin Americans towards the end. At no time could I say that it was auroral, except perhaps on the bottom of the dial in a few brief spurts." (Mark DX'ed from Cape Cod in concert with BADXers at Rockport)

## PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 550 CUBA R.Rebelde MAR 4 0510 - Good; carrying R.Habana Cuba, ID with address "...informativa de la mañana, Radio Habana Cuba, apartado postale 6240, la Habana, Cuba," // 5025. [Conti-NH]
- 555 ST. KITTS & NEVIS ZIZ, Basseterre, MAR 5 0014 - disco music; fair to good. [Connelly\*O-MA]
- 570 CUBA R.Rej, Santa Clara MAR 4 0520 - Fair; woman with news items, RR code IDs, syncopated clock, etc. over/under WMCA. [Conti-NH] MAR 4 0221 - man with news items; ID "RR" each minute; Good [Frodge-MI]
- 590 CUBA Radio Musical, MAR 4 0225-0300+ - Chamber music, man with SS ID at 0300; QRM from WKZO & WVLK. [Frodge-MI]
- 600 CUBA Radio Rebelde, MAR 4 0423 - man and woman with discussion and taking phone calls // 5025 kHz, good. [Frodge-MI] MAR 2 0130 - Good; "el programa deportivamente" and "Radio Rebelde, cadena nacional" ID with fanfare. [Conti-NH]
- 620 JAMAICA RJR Mandeville MAR 5 0035 - Fair; urban contemporary music, DJ in Caribbean-accented English. [Conti-MA]
- 640 GUADELOUPE RFO Pointe-a-Pitre MAR 4 0450 - Fair; man and woman in French // France 162, over/under R.Progreso-Cuba. [Conti-NH]
- 660 CUBA R. Progreso, CMHG, Santa Clara, MAR 5 0009 - harmonica music, ID as "R. Progreso, la Onda de la Alegría"; crushing WFAN! [Connelly\*O-MA] MAR 5 0033 - man talking about "Festival Nacional de Cuba"; // 640; good. [Frodge-MI]
- 690 UNID, MAR 5 0332-0400+ - Soccer game call; several "Informativo el mundo" spots; not // Cubans; poor. [Frodge-MI]
- 690 ANGUILLA Caribbean Beacon, The Valley, MAR 5 0004 - EE preacher talked about the Passover feast in the time of Jesus. After every 2 or 3 sentences, an announcer translated the sermon into SS. Huge, over Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela (with no evidence of Montreal). [Connelly\*O-MA] MAR 5 0045 - Excellent; bilingual preaching in English and Spanish. [Conti-MA]
- 700 VENEZUELA R.Sur, Puerto Ordaz MAR 5 0145 - Poor; salsa music, "en Radio Sur setecientos, la señal gigante" ID. [Conti-MA]
- 720 JAMAICA RJR Kingston MAR 4 0440 - Fair; "Marketplace... on RJR 94 FM" and reggae music over WGN. [Conti-NH]
- 750 VENEZUELA RCR Caracas MAR 5 0105 - Excellent; news in Spanish, many RCR mentions, over CBYG-Newfoundland. [Conti-MA]
- 759.92 COLOMBIA RCN Barranquilla, FEB /27 0310 - man and woman in talks, phone call; program note for "Gran Especial de RCN" Sunday at 7:30 AM. Fair on peaks over mostly-nulled local KTLK. [Wilkins-CO1]
- 760 MEXICO XENY Nogales SON, FEB 27 0236 - Banda music; singing jingle "Estás escuchando en Nogales...ranchera Radio Geny," then more music. Generally fair, mixing with RCN and mostly-nulled KTLK. [Wilkins-CO1]
- 760 GUYANA (t) R. Roraima, 8RG, Georgetown, MAR 4 2353 - Caribbean EE talk by woman; momentarily over Brazil/Colombia

1044 AM  
RADIO RAKA  
SARANINYA PAS DAN IGAB

PLUMB UTAMA UNTUK SARAJAH  
TEKNIK  
ELKTRIK  
SARAJAH  
MALAYSIA  
4. TENTARA PELAJAR EL, PHONE 0343 91-44 TERAK  
KAMI TAHU LAYANAN TERBAIK



# Formats

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## Changes in programming status; reported by listeners

It has been a long time since a Formats column has appeared. The sudden deaths of two coworkers from massive heart attacks within six months has caused a lot of extra obligations (and sadness, as I enjoyed working with these fellows for 15 years), but hopefully the work load will change in the near future. Additionally, I am recovering from a hernia operation, and will be home for a week or so, catching up on a lot of hobby material, including the Formats column, which will actually be done in two stages. This column comes from Al Holtz, Frank Katzeles, of St. Croix Falls, WI, Paul Swearingen, and the *M Street Journal*. The next one will be a catchup from MSJ.

A couple of notes. KVCA-670, Simi Valley, CA is not KIRN, and all Iranian Variety. Here - WICC-600 has dumped its talk for full service adult contemporary and sports. Al Holtz notes that WWJZ-640, Mt. Holly has dropped its adult standards for Disney children's stuff - a fate identical to that of WQEW. WINE-940 and WPUT-1510 have replaced Real Country with Music of Your Life. And 1060, Natick is now WMEX, with local talk, operating at full strength - its signal carries into the White Mountains of NH during the day. And here is mega column # 1!!

630	WDGY	MN	Minneapolis	- Sports and talk.
640	WMFN	MI	Zeeland	- Financial talk.
670	WRJR	VA	Claremont	- ABC Black gospel.
690	KQMQ	HI	Honolulu	- Dance music // FM.
710	KXMR	ND	Bismarck	- New station, sports and talk.
720	WGSE	GA	Hogansville	- News and talk, "News radio"
750	KMMJ	NE	Grand Island	- JRN Ranchera.
770	KAAM	TX	Garland	- Adult standards.
790	KKON	HI	Kealahakua	- Standards and Hawaiian // KIPA.
800	WJAT	GA	Swainsboro	- ABC Black Gospel.
870	KLSQ	NV	Laughlin	- Spanish hits "Super Q".
890	WBAJ	SC	Blythewood	- New station, religion.
900	KBIF	CA	Fresno	- Religion, ethnic, BBN Business News.
900	KNVI	HI	Kahulvi	- Hawaiian.
910	WTMZ	SC	Dorchester	- JRN Adult standards.
910	KXEB	TX	Sherman	- Spanish religion.
920	KTHM	NV	Reno	- ETWN (Catholic) Religion.
930	WUGL	FL	Sarasota	- JRN Standards.
930	WISR	NY	Johnstown	- ABC Standards.
940	KWBY	OR	Woodburn	- Regional Mexican.
940	WCSW	WI	Shell Lake	- ABC Standards and talk.
950	WQBE	WV	Charleston	- Country // WQBE-FM.
960	KCTK	AZ	Phoenix	- Conservative talk.
980	WTOT	FL	Marianno	- Talk "The Big One".
980	WAPF	MS	McComb	- Southern Gospel, oldies, talk.
980	WNBI	WI	Park Falls	- Adult standards.
990	WFBA	FL	Miami	- Dumps Spanish standards for Disney children's stuff.
990	KIKI	HI	Honolulu	- Dance CHR // FM.
990	KZZB	TX	Beaumont	- ABC Black gospel.
990	WLEE	VA	Richmond	- Talk and sports.
1040	WJHR	NJ	Flemington	- Now business news // WHWH -1350, just down the road in Princeton. So much for full service radio in Hunterdon County!
1070	WGLY	NY	Plattsburg	- Religion // WCMK.
1080	WNTL	PA	Pittsburgh	- Religion, WPGR call has moved to 1510.
1120	WBNM	GA	Gordon	- R and B oldies.
1140	KJSA	TX	Mineral Wells	- JRN Adult Standards.
1170	WXRK	AL	Hanceville	- Classic rock.
1170	KCBQ	CA	San Diego	- Conservative talk.
1190	WAJL	FL	Pine Castle	- ABC Black gospel.
1200	WINK	FL	Pine Island Creek	- News and talk // WNOG.



1220	KBET	CA	Canyon Country	- CHR // KIIS-FM.
1220	KLVZ	CO	Denver	- Contemporary Christian.
1240	WSDT	TN	Soddy-Daisy	- Black Gospel // WNOO.
1240	KASL	WY	New Castle	- ABC Country Music.
1250	WHNY	MS	McComb	- WW-I Adult contemporary.
1260	WGAY	DC	Washington	- Adult standards.
1270	WMLC	MS	Monticello	- Talk.
1270	KLXX	ND	Mandan	- WW-I Standards.
1290	WDLP	FL	Panama City Beach	- Disney children's.
1310	WTZN	PA	Troy	- ESPN Sports "The Zone".
1310	WDCT	VA	Fairfax	- All Korean.
1320	WKJM	KY	Mayfield	- News and talk // WBWS.
1320	WLOH	OH	Lancaster	- ABC Oldies.
1320	WVNZ	VA	Richmond	- AP News.
1330	WFNN	PA	Erie	- Sports "The Fan".
1340	KIDS	MO	Springfield	- Travel information and sports.
1350	WSMB	LA	New Orleans	- Sports "The game".
1360	KPXQ	AZ	Glendale	- Religion.
1360	WLBK	IL	DeKalb	- Gold based AC.
1370	KCRV	MO	Caruthersville	- JRN Country Music.
1390	WZHF	VA	Arlington	- Motivational talk and life style stuff. (Mmmmm! Middle button on my car radio!!!! - TF).
1430	KFIG	CA	Fresno	- ESPN Sports "Big dawg".
1450	KENA	AR	Mena	- Southern gospel.
1450	WFFX	MS	Meridan	- Talk "Newsradio 1450".
1460	WKAM	IN	Goshen	- WW-I Soft AC.
1460	WVOX	NY	New Rochelle	- Ethnic and standards days, MYL nights.
1460	KCKX	OR	Stayton	- Classic country.
1480	WJBM	IL	Jerseyville	- Oldies.
1480	KUPN	KS	Mission	- JRN Regional Mexican.
1490	WSIR	FL	Winter Haven	- Black gospel.
1490	WBZD	NY	Watkins Glen	- Country music // WPGI.
1490	KVLL	TX	Woodville	- Country, oldies, standards.
1490	KWMC	TX	Del Rio	- ABC Oldies.
1510	KCTE	MO	Independence	- Regional Mexican.
1520	WHOW	IL	Clinton	- Country music.
1530	WVFC	PA	McConnellsburg	- Modern rock // WEEQ.
1550	KYCY	CA	San Francisco	- WW-I talk.
1560	WSQR	IL	Sycamore	- ABC Adult Standards.
1590	WPCC	IN	MT Vernon	- ABC Real Country.
1590	KQLO	NV	Sun Valley	- Regional Mexican.
1590	WAKR	OH	Akron	- Talk and WW-I Standards.
1600	WINX	MD	Rockville	- Spanish news and sports.
1700	WRNU	FL	Miami Springs	- Sports "The Fan".

Well, that is some of the backlog! More to come very soon!

**The NRC AM Radio Log, 20th Edition, is compiled from both members' reports and from official sources so that it is the most accurate listing of U. S. and Canadian AM stations available - and it includes Expanded Band stations. Cross-referenced, 3-hole punched for standard binders. Still only \$16.95 to U. S. and Canadian members; \$22.95 to U. S. and Canadian non-NRC members. Airmail to members: Latin America, \$24.00; Europe, \$25.00; rest of the world: \$28.00. Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax).**



WTMJ, Inc.

# DX'er's Notebook

Shared tips, topics, and Internet info

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Welcome back. We begin this time with a slightly different topic, then return to the regulars...

**John Callarman** <jcallarman@register-news.com>: "Doing this solely for the purpose of a 'DX test' is probably beyond the intent of the rules," Patrick Griffith says of the idea of a daytimer scheduling a program during the midnight-to-six testing period. Veteran NRC'ers will recall that this was one of the issues that caused the schism that resulted in the formation of IRCA. Marv Robbins, extremely active with the NRC CPC in 1959-60, had arranged a large number of DX tests from daytimers. The FCC, which subscribed to *DX News*, one year decided to notify daytimers scheduling tests that they were doing so in violation of FCC rules and could be jeopardizing their licenses. Ray Edge, NRC executive secretary, publisher and a Buffalo, N.Y. police officer, considered the possibility that a station would schedule a DX test, get burned by the FCC, sue the NRC and, as the club was loosely constructed back then, test Edge's personal liability. Edge ruled there would be no more DX tests from daytimers. It wasn't the only issue, but it played a major role in Robbins' motivation to form the new club... and it was only that one year, in my recollection, that the FCC questioned the practice. In 1967, Pete Taylor and I had no qualms about doing a post midnight DX Test from WCAS-740, 250-watts daytime, complete with music and special phonetic IDs, such as "Weselowski-Critchett-Alisaukas-Seaver." I had by then become executive secretary of the club and thus was in double jeopardy!! The most important thing I learned from the '60s was to take neither my hobby nor myself too seriously. Henry Kaiser, industrialist and founder of Kaiser Broadcasting, had a slogan, "Find the need and fill it." My slogan has become "Find the fun and have it."

**Russ Edmunds** <wb2bjh@hotmail.com>: Which is quite similar to a couple of current advertising slogans.

**John D. Bowker** <wa2wen@juno.com>: Russ..The fun you are trying to find is in Florida. I write this as a former New Englander (22 years) and New Jerseyite (38 years). Details on request.

**Bruce Conti** <BACONTI@aol.com>: Hallelujah! I whole-heartedly agree with J. Callarman's statement, "Find the fun and have it!" Some DXers are sucking the fun out of this hobby with their constant whining about radio stations staying on too late, using too much power, scheduling tests at odd hours, etc. Rather than complain, have some fun! For example, let DXers know when your local is operating beyond license parameters so they have an opportunity for a rare catch. Experiment with notch filters to reduce interference from locals. Invest in a high quality communications receiver like a Drake R8B to deal with local interference problems. Try different antenna designs, wire and loop, and report your failures and successes to DX News and the DXAS. Rather than quit because of electrical noise, go on a mini-DXpedition to a quiet location. In other words, instead of getting stressed out, "find the fun!" If you find DXing to be too stressful, then maybe it's time to find another hobby. After all, as many have said before, "It's only a hobby!" Let's get off the station bashing, and into some healthy DX discussions.

**<Rklinger97@aol.com>**: I agree with you whole heartily!

**Fred Vobbe** <fredv@nrcdxas.org>: Very true, John. I remember in the early 80s there were some fellows that agonized on the 25 mile rule from home QTH on counting DX. Roughly, the rule was that you could only go 25 miles from the radius around your house to count DX, else it's not counted. There was heavy debate, anger, and even some resentment on various statements. Personally, if I'm here in Lima and hear 1530-Lapeer MI, that is DX. If I'm visiting my father in Lapeer County MI, and I hear WIMA-1150 Lima, that too is DX. Same goes for airchecking, of which I've had some rather heated discussions over what should be recorded, and even the way to document it. (See <http://nrcdxas.org/articles/ac.html> for a summary of the argument). The hobby is what you make it. A club may establish "guidelines" to follow in order to report to a column or qualify to their contests/lists. However, what you make of your hobby is your own business. Anyone who tries to impose their "standards" upon you outside of a club guideline is only performing a power play.

**John D. Bowker**: Yes...the 25-mile rule you mentioned is typical of a rule that needed clarification. Of course, as you know, my residence is near Tampa, Florida...and from the little boombox radio in my bedroom I made taped of every station in Bangor, Maine, Bellingham, Washington and points in between. So what if my bedroom was in a motorhome. The rule didn't mention that! ;-)

We now return to the continuing saga of station IDs:

**Neil Kazaross** <neilkaz@interaccess.com>: I'll second RJE's opinion and methods here 100% as it's

simply, in today's non ID radio world, silly IMHO not to count a station when you have conclusive evidence that you've heard it. For example, on 960 with great CX to the west I heard a HS SX event with Baker playing a neighboring city and an add for a Body Shop on a street in Baker..thus into my log went KFLN. etc.

**Patrick Martin** <mwdxer@webtv.net>: On IDs, I don't think the call letters at the top of the hour are that important. However, as with Latins and also Canadians, they do use slogans a lot to ID what station you are listening. What happened to the days when the station wanted to ID often so the listener knew what station they were listening to. Stations had pride in what they ran. Why listen to the local station then? I think many stations are really missing the boat.

**Russ Edmunds**: "Does anyone remember the concept of PICAN (Public Interest, Convenience, and Necessity) as taught in almost every college communications course? What ever happened to it?" I remember it, from the same source you mention. Like many other things, it's been redefined. I think the acronym now uses the word "proprietor" instead of "public". Just follow the trail of the money....

**Russ Edmunds**: "What happened to the days when the station wanted to ID often so the listener knew what station they were listening to. Stations had pride in what they ran." It still happens. Many of them are called "slogans" or "station names" or by some in our own community, "non-ID's". For others, as I think I mentioned before, if a station is the only ESPN Radio in the area, people there know who it is and any further identification is, to both broadcaster and listener, probably unnecessary.

**Randy Stewart** <jrs555t@mail.smsu.edu>: Some thoughts on this thread...I'm glad to see that there are other people who don't always feel obligated to hear the standard "legal ID"—call letters and city of license—in order to be sure enough they're hearing a specific station to enter it into the logbook. As long as I hear not just call letters (which can be MISheard pretty easily as we all know) but other clues as to a station's identity—county references, city or town mentions in ads, station slogans—then no, I don't feel I HAVE to hear the magic "call + city of license" formula every time. After all, that's why we all utilize information sources like atlases, county lists and station slogan lists. As John Bowker said, "DXers will adapt." We have to adapt as the nature of the broadcast medium itself changes due to deregulation and market forces. Otherwise, why even turn on the radio and make the effort? Unfortunately, as has been mentioned in the course of this thread, so many commercial AMs run automated or even unattended much of the time, and if nobody's minding the store and the canned breaks don't run... well, it's like a tree falling in an empty forest—does it make a sound if nobody hears it? And it's NOT illegal to run "unattended" anymore, as long as you build in certain safeguards, like automated phone alert of station personnel when something goes wrong, etc....the kind of stuff that's relatively easy to do these days with computers. For what it's worth, we do still insist on hourly legal IDs at my station (KSMU-FM), and full translator IDs 3 times a day (8am, 1pm, 5pm). But since much of what we air these days is off satellite (NPR news programming, the "Classical 24" service, BBC overnight), it's easy to ensure that top-of-the-hour IDs play (if the automation's working properly that is!) But we also do local music programming, like a weekly opera. When, for example, I program an opera like Mozart's "Don Giovanni," where act 1 is an hour and a half and act two an hour and 20 minutes, the student jock running the show better NOT interrupt the music with a TOH ID, or he/she will have ME to answer to!!

**Doug Smith** <w9wi@bellsouth.net>: And you're citing \*EXACTLY\* the reason why the regulation provides the exception for when a TOH ID would interrupt the program continuity. There's a huge difference between airing an ID in the middle of an act of an opera, and airing one in the middle of a batch of commercials!

**Doug Smith**: "without hourly legal IDs. Let's move on to discussing something more positive than bashing non-IDers." Of course, the other side of that is: "the law \*is\* the law". While I agree that the concept of a legal ID is obsolete, one also has to see this failure to ID as yet another example of stations ignoring the rules when they feel like it.

**Doug Smith**: "So let the FCC work with File Numbers.. and do away with the hourly ID requirement. Let the stations operate and identify themselves in the way that maximizes their identity and competition." I realize DXers won't want to hear this, but I think John is absolutely right. Call letters really date back to the days before broadcasting, when virtually all radio was either ham or ship-to-shore. Callsigns were necessary in order to avoid the inefficiency of having to send "Coast Guard Station New York City, this is HMS Titanic calling" in Morse Code over & over again. Chances are, the only reason broadcast stations have call letters today is because the first broadcasters were licensed as "special land stations" which could theoretically talk to ships. The vast majority of the world's broadcast stations get by without call letters; there's no good reason why the USA can't do likewise. Assign a set when the station is first licensed (so the FCC has a "handle" to attach to the station's record), and let them ID however they want.

**Patrick Martin** <mwdxer@webtv.net>: Yes, IDing a station can be done in many ways without a "legal" ID. Now with the internet it easier. Some things have improved!

**Patrick Martin:** IDs can be done in different ways, slogans, etc. I just feel stations should let their listeners know who they are.

**Russ Edmunds:** Absolutely! I have used the internet on occasion to try to firmly ID an advertiser via a search on the name, and I've repeatedly used the map locate functions to try to identify towns and even roadnames or routes. PLUS I've recently discovered the site for the names of the state governors to narrow down state news items. Sometimes even verifying the weather report against the suspected locale can rule something out. I'm sure that there are others I've not used, too.

**Russ Edmunds:** "Assign a set when the station is first licensed (so the FCC has a "handle" to attach to the station's record), and let them ID however they want." Sounds like the discussions a couple of months ago about reconciling calls and slogans and networks and XR's in Cuba, where many stations have two sets of calls and often uses neither. Trying to ID what Cuban you're hearing unless you're in the deep South and are on top of the situation is next to impossible. But here, we have traffic reports, and many commercials to use to ID things - which don't apply in Cuba.

**Jim Wiskow** <jwiskow@win.bright.net>: Hi Bruce: While I will agree with you that the FCC does have other things to do with our money, I can also remember back to the days when I started in the business and my boss said, "no one will keep listening to our station if they don't know exactly who and where we are." You cannot get any idea who or where a station is by some dumb slogan like y97 or q102. When I hear something like that, it means nothing to me. It doesn't tell me who or where the station is and unless I know this, I won't keep listening even if the format might be a good one. Let's cut the cuty slogans and stupid filtered liners and go back to basics. What's wrong with hearing a stations call sign at least every 15 minutes. It doesn't need to be a legal id, but at least we'd have some idea to whom we were listening.

**Russ Edmunds:** Today, they do tell people \*who\*. Most people can remember those more easily than the FCC-assigned call letters. And as to \*where\*, if the signal is strong, and solid, that's all they care about. And similarly, if they like the sound or format, that's also good enough for most folks. This is a different world...

**Bruce Conti:** Jim: I disagree. Ask anyone in the Boston area about "Kiss 108," "Jam'n 94.5," "Mix 98.5," or the new "96.9 FM Talk," and that's how they identify the station. Ask the same people what WXKS, WBMX, or WTKK are, and they'll likely draw a blank. The slogans are better identifiers than call letters. They are easier to remember, often include the frequency, and are a part of each station's distinct personality, and thus carry more meaning to the average listener than a bland set of call letters all starting with W (or K). Slogans on Boston AM radio such as "J-Light 1060," "Amor 890," "Radio Internacional, el corazon de la ciudad," and "La Mega" are also more meaningful to the average listener than identification as WJLT, WBPS, WUNR, and WAMG. That doesn't mean that call letters should be abandoned. Some radio stations do use their call letters, in most cases because of the historical significance that is a part of the station's personality, such as WBZ Newsradio 1030 and News/Talk 1060 WMEX. But it should be left up to the station to decide how they want to identify. If a station doesn't identify period, then that's their problem in terms of lost revenue/sales, not ours.

More on this next time...now more from the antenna discussion to close out this visit to the Notebook...

**Robin G. Plitt** <plitt@juno.com>: Hi Fred, I, for one, would appreciate any articles on antennae. I seem to be constantly searching something that can get me English Language AM radio at night in South Florida. I have tried random-wire antennae, but my results haven't been good. I've also tried, and used, both the Select-a-tenna loop and the Kiwa Pocket Loop with better results, but they don't seem to be consistent (or maybe I am not consistent). BTWS, anyone try the new Select-a-tenna Super (I think that's what CCrane calls it) It is like the original tuned loop in a sealed plastic box, but has some kind of amplifier which runs on a 9-volt battery. Personally, I find that my \*best\* antennas are the folded dipoles.

**Russ Edmunds:** What type of receiver are you using? That could be a part of the problem.

**Ragnar Danneskjold** <ldwaxer@juno.com>: Robin, Sounds like you have the same issues I have here in Arizona. Lots of SS. The only answer is a loop of some kind or you may have to try SWL...Naaaaah.

**Robin G. Plitt:** Hi, The receiver I try to DX with is a GE Super Radio III.

**Ragnar Danneskjold:** Well, looks like that you have a good enough portable to get the job done. The SAT helps with that rig. I have the same setup I use often. Looks like you have too many Cuban stations to deal with and I have too many Mexicans. The only other option is to get a communications receiver and a beverage. I have found long antennas quite directional. The longer the better.

**Fred Vobbe:** Sounds like Robin would benefit from either the loop you got from me, or building the 4-foot box loop. Each have their pros and cons. I have heard that the Radio Shack loop does a pretty fair job, and that might be something to consider.

**Robin G. Plitt:** Actually, I have a Select-A-tenna and it does work well sometimes. Other times, I have so much interference from local power lines that I don't think I could hear a radio station if I had it on hold. ; I've also tried the Kiwa Pocket Loop, which is a printed circuit amplifier and loop combo. I actually think they are about equal. CCrane has a Super Select-a-tenna, which sounds like it has a battery-powered amp in it. Anyone know anything about this one? Thanks.

**Larry Van Horn** (Monitoring Times) <larry@grove-ent.com>: Hello Robin and the group, Word of caution about amplified antennas. If noise is a problem in your existing passive antenna device, then it will still be a better problem in your amplified antenna device. Yes, the stations you receive will be amplified (hopefully not to the point of desensitizing the radio), but noise will also be amplified at the same rate. In your email Robin, you state you already have noise problems. I wouldn't compound those problems by adding an active amplifying device to your setup until the noise problems have been cured at the source.

**Russ Edmunds:** "Other times, I have so much interference from local power lines that I don't think I could hear a radio station if I had it on hold. CCrane has a Super Select-a-tenna, which sounds like it has a battery-powered amp in it. Anyone know anything about this one?" I doubt that more amplification is what you need! The more amplification, particularly when connecting to a high-gain portable such as you are will only increase your problems. It sounds as if you may simply have a location which is too noisy to get around the Cubans. Have you tried using an unamplified loop? Not long ago, I posted some tips on how to indirectly connect one to a portable - if you didn't see or save that, I can forward you a copy if you wish.

That's all for this time, see you in two weeks (the weeklies are over already?).

## Target DX

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

Hello, and welcome to the first appearance of the revised Target DX column. While Paul has already given some idea of what this will be about and how it will work, I'd like to take that another step further. First, questions can be posed on the NRC/DXAS listserv, or via direct email, or via good-old-fashioned US Mail. Generally, questions posed on the listserv will be answered there, by myself and others. Those questions and responses will be edited (hopefully minimally, hi) and reprinted here. At this point, I've not yet decided whether to post questions and answers received directly (without names if requested). I will attempt to group questions where appropriate in terms of subject matter and will also try to be as current as possible. I anticipate that the column will appear every issue throughout the non-weekly period, quantity of material permitting. I will also be periodically creating questions. Answers may be derived from my own knowledge and experience and also from a number of other experts both on the listserv and elsewhere as needed.

Q- *What are auroral conditions, and why should they concern me as a BCB DX'er?*

A- Many of us tend to toss around this term lightly, not realizing that for many DX'ers newer to the hobby, the terms aren't self-explanatory. Many of us can recall learning about the Northern Lights (or *Aurora Borealis*) in grammar school science classes. These displays are caused by energy from the sun coming into contact with the earth's geomagnetic field and combining to form a number of reactions. The same condition also causes highly variable and often very localized effects on radio signals in many bands.

On the BCB, the effect is that during periods of auroral conditions, which often coincide with displays of visible aurora, certain signals on certain paths may seem to disappear. This is because instead of the signals being reflected normally by one of the skywave reflective layers, they are absorbed by other layers induced by the aurora. In the Americas, these effects are the most pronounced in the Northeastern and North Central parts of the continent, although in particularly severe conditions, the effects can be noted throughout most of the US and all of Canada (the US Southwest is generally the least affected).

'Normal' nighttime skywave reception is dependent on ionospheric reflection and distance between transmitter and receiver. This distance determines which paths are viable, and also what elevation angles (if we assume a flat earth — it's much simpler that way, hi — the earth can be thought of as the base of an equilateral triangle, and the signal path from the transmitter to the reflecting point in the ionosphere would be one side, and from the same point down to the receiver would be the other side. The angle created where either side meets the base is the elevation angle) apply to each. Fortunately,

there are a finite number of reflecting layers applicable. In an aurora, a layer of absorption may appear between the reflecting point and either the transmitter, the receiver, or both. This absorption may occur on multiple potential signal paths involving multiple reflective layers, because each path may have to pass through it.

When the auroral absorbs some signals, others, which might normally be either weak or inaudible come to the top. The usual situation has signals coming from stations generally to the North being absorbed first, then, if the aurora is more severe, stations from the East or West may be affected. In the most severe conditions, some stations from the South may even be affected. But remember that only those signals which are propagated by skywave are subject to absorption. Locals or semi-locals may in fact appear stronger than usual as their groundwave signals will dominate.

Thus, many DX'ers refer to auroral conditions as meaning that Latin American and/or Southern US stations might be expected to predominate. By varying degrees, this is true. A key predictor of auroral conditions is the A-index, which measures activity in the earth's geomagnetic field.

Q- *During a recent period where auroral conditions were forecast, I only noted enhanced reception at the lower end of the dial, mostly from Cuba. Northern and Midwestern stations (WBBM, WGN, WLS, WTAM, CBA, CKBW, CKAC, CHNS, etc.) were still coming in with good signals. In addition, WWW hasn't been reporting anything out of the ordinary?*

A- First off, it is not all that unusual for the lower end of the band to exhibit auroral conditions while the upper end does not. This is because auroral absorption (as well as nighttime ionospheric [ skywave ] propagation) is frequency-sensitive. Absorption of frequencies in the BCB occur from low to high as the MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency rises thru the band as a result of geomagnetic activity. Second, however, what you were experiencing wasn't really classic auroral conditions. As you observed, neither the A nor K indices were elevated. Typically, for classic auroral conditions to occur, there either needs to be a day where the A index exceeds 50, or as many as three consecutive days where it exceeds 20, and even these numbers are not firm. What was most likely responsible is a geomagnetic substorm, which selectively and briefly (owing to small size and duration) disrupt normal conditions.

Finally, it should be noted that it is also not uncommon for these types of events (and also classic aurora) to be 'uneven'. It may be helpful to think of an area of auroral absorption as if it were a patch of fog, irregular in shape, size, and location, and all of these are in a state of constant movement. In addition, the frequency-sensitivity noted earlier will also apply. Add the fact that for any given transmitter and receiver location set, there may be multiple nighttime skip paths which are possible, and the absorption, owing to all of the above variables, may not always affect them all.

Depending upon the location of the absorptive material relative to these signal paths, none, some, all-but-one or all of the possible paths may be blocked by areas of absorption. But move either the transmitter location or receiver location as little as 50 miles and everything can change. This is one cause for situations where stations from some cities may be absorbed while other cities in the same region may not be, or only partially be absorbed. The same is true with the passage of time, because as the area of absorption moves relative to a specific stationary receiving site, different geographic groups of stations may be subjected to absorption or not. This is particularly the case with smaller storms and with substorms.

Another cause for such a phenomenon, which is also frequency-sensitive, and appears sometimes in conjunction with larger storms is sporadic e-skip, where particles form, disintegrate and re-form to create highly temporary and selective reflection of signals which would otherwise be absorbed. The name of this phenomenon is derived from the fact that these particles form at about the same altitude as the 'normal' nighttime reflecting layer.

Q- *Can auroral conditions be observed during the daylight hours?*

A- Since auroral absorption affects only signals which would otherwise propagate via skywave, and since the majority of daytime receptions occur via groundwave, auroral absorption observable by day would be extremely rare. In theory, since in midwinter some skywave is possible during the day at BCB frequencies, if the aurora is severe enough and the receiver and transmitter locations are far enough North, it should be possible.

That's it for this issue. Next time we'll discuss external antennas for portable receivers and some important Internet websites for DX'ers!

### Are you expiring?

We hope not! To avoid expiration, mail your remittance to the DX News Membership Center early. Allow at least three weeks after mailing your check or money order for new renewal data to appear on your mailing label.

# Musings

## of the Members

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

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.

Gordon Anderson - 2650 Delavan Drive - Dayton, OH 45459

Hello everyone. It has been a long time since I sent in a muse. As a re-intro, I am 45, married, and have been DXing for over 30 years. I have been a ham for over 21 years and my call sign is N8CCC. I am semi active with the Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club, operate on their repeaters on 224.30 and 442.95 MHz. I presently write a column for their web site at www.hharc.org. I do get on 6 meter SSB from time to time, but not as much as I use to. I work for P&R Communications near downtown Dayton, programming 2 way radios and other equipment. I was previously employed with the R. L. Drake Company for 21 years, the last 15 years in the service department. I had worked on various pieces of amateur equipment including short wave receivers. I have been an NRC member pretty much since 1975, only missing a few years around 1988. I tune around on the AM BCB from time to time, but don't have as much time as I would like to have to DX. I found out about the NRC from the electronics magazines of the mid 70s. I mostly read Popular Electronics and Radio Electronics back then, seeing a few others every now and then. Thinking back on my early years, it seemed to be hard to find information such as station lists and the like. I came across the North American Radio & TV Station Guide by Vane A. Jones published by Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc. Other DXers that I found in the Huber Heights area had come across White's Radio Log. I could go on with this story, but it would be too long for one muse. Wishing I had more time for the things I would like to do, I do look into receiver improvements and ways to develop a better directional receiving antenna. Time prevents me from experimenting as I would like. So much for now. 73.

Ron Musco - Box 118 - Poquonock, Connecticut 06064

Well, people that can't read and right is my soapbox feature this time around (again). People-READ AND UNDERSTAND what is printed on the back page of DX NEWS! Renewals don't go to Topeka! Renewals for U.S. members is \$22 per year (if you feel brave renew for three years...I'll take your money!). Before sending me your check look and see if: a. you signed it b. filled in the correct date c. made it out to The National Radio Club, Inc. Question that I've always had is "If you can't read and write how do you go through life?" Comments on the lousy state of AM Radio: 990 WNTY Southington where nobody speaks English except Lee Steele the Chief Engineer (ex 1440-WBIS Bristol chief from the '60s. To get them to power down at night I called the C.E. at 1360-WDRC who knows Lee and asked them to forward my message before I blow the whistle in a missive to the FCC and my State Senator Chris Dodd. The C.E. at WDRC said if no action from Mr. Steele he will call Mr. Rice at 1400-WILI Wilimantic who is President of the Connecticut broadcasters. Seems like a big task to get one station to comply. The C.E. at WDRC informs me there is a pirate on 1080 during Limbaugh's drivell noon to three ELT. He's located in Waterbury and broadcasts anti-Limbaugh comments...GREAT! don't shut him down! Another pirate is on 88.5 and the Mayor of Waterbury likes him so he won't go off the air. Nice write-up by Mr. Fybush in RADIO WORLD but no mention of the NRC web-site etc. Too bad he missed some free publicity but who would reply...all the computers at radio stations? Nice v/l for taped report to 1440-WMKM Detroit. It took 3 phone calls to the recep-tionist to pry a verie from the Sales Manager and once she was standing next to him. Another tape sent to new address of 1440-WJLL Niagara Falls...the Program Director is a ham and part-time DX'er so fingers crossed. I found out WJLL's status by calling 1270-WHLD whose owner has a thick European accent. While working on the HO-Gauge railroad at night I'm tuned to the graveyarders with no new ones heard and maximum distance heard is Atlantic City so those hearing distant stations on the graveyards must have much better equipment than me! Ken Noffsinger: are you the gentleman in the Daytona/Superbird Auto Club. No foreign cars in my yard! Five Plymouths, one Dodge, one Saturn, one Chevrolet, and two Armadillos (inside joke). luv, Mr. Tact

**The NRC AM Log on a disk.** The NRC is offering this service primarily for sight-impaired members; but NRC members (ONLY) may purchase this PC-formatted, 3.5-inch disk for \$6.00 postpaid. The list contains only Frequency, Call letters, State, City, Antenna, Day Power, Night Power, Additional Powers, Permits, Time Zone, and Stereo Operation and is current with the 20th Edition of the NRC AM Log. Order from the NRC Publications Center - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661. NY orders, please add sales tax.