

DX News

Serving DX'ers since 1933

Volume 68, No. 19 - February 19, 2001 (ISSN 0737-1659)



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CHWO Reception Reports ... Via Larry and Nancy Hall: "Not sure if anyone else noticed this, but CHWO has an arrangement with the Ontario DX Association for CHWO reception reports. The following is from the OXDA site.

"CHWO - AM 740 - Prime Time Radio acknowledges all correct reception reports with a QSL card. Most of these reports come from Canada and the United States; however, we also receive reports from overseas.

"The AM 740 QSL's will be issued by the Ontario DX Association starting January 8, 2001. The QSL manager is Brian Smith. For faster service, reception reports should be sent directly to Ontario DX Association, P.O. Box 161 Station 'A', Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, M2N 5S8.

"Our e-mail address of odxa@compuserve.com (Attn: QSL Manager) is another method by which you can send in your report.

"Sorry, but AM 740 does not have bumper stickers, fridge magnets or other novelty items that we can send out with the QSL card. We do include a history and technical report on AM 740."

(I have to commend CHWO for having the courage to air locally-originated musical programming. Now, perhaps some of you might turn up your noses at nostalgia-type music, but I'd urge anyone to give them a try when not DX'ing ... you'll hear vintage recordings, plus very informed commentary from the DJ, both unique in this day and age of wall-to-wall satellite feeds. I'm sort of on the SW fringes of CHWO's coverage, but in spite of some fading, I think CHWO sounds great. -pls.)

From the Publisher ... Our sincerest sympathy to the family of John Rieger, whose mother passed away recently.

Lots of DX chronicled inside; and quite a number of East Coast DX'ers are reporting various Eu-

ropeans coming in around midnight UTC. Not that I can hear 'em in Topeka, hi! Someday ...

I'm afraid that we're out of tests, and I really don't have a lot to say except DX and report, report, report!

Welcome to these new members ... Dave Twiggs, Bristol, CT; Neil G. Zank, Lincoln, NE (re-joins); Martin J. Waters, Wallingford, CT (re-joins); David Gallant, New Bedford, MA; and George A. Luce, Austin, TX.

DXN Publishing Schedule, Volume 68

| Iss. | Deadline | Pub. Date | Iss. | Deadline | Pub. Date |
|------|----------|-----------|------|----------|-----------|
| 20. | Feb. 16 | Feb. 26 | 26. | May 4 | May 14 |
| 21. | Feb. 23 | Mar. 5 | 27. | June 1 | June 10 |
| 22. | Mar. 2 | Mar. 12 | 28. | July 6 | July 16 |
| 23. | Mar. 16 | Mar. 26 | 29. | Aug. 3 | Aug. 13 |
| 24. | Mar. 30 | Apr. 9 | 30. | Sept. 7 | Sept. 17 |
| 25. | Apr. 6 | Apr. 16 | | | |

DX Time Machine

From the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the February 17, 1951 DXN: Charlie Conley, Lemoyne, PA, reported the receipt of a verie from KULA, his third from Hawaii. Al Bartholomew, Addison, NY, reported that he has heard YVKL-590, YVKB-790, YVKU-880, YVKQ-1160, YVML-1180, and YVMP-1270 sign on between 0524 and 1535.

25 years ago ... from the February 23, 1976 DXN: After a tip from Richard Eckman, Bob Foxworth, Mineola, NY bagged Urunchi, China, 1525, on 2/7 shortly before midnight UTC, complete with a rendition of "The East is Red".

10 years ago ... from the February 18, 1991 DXN: Ernest Cooper, Provincetown, MA reported receiving two more veries, from WFXA-1550 and WEAZ-560, bring his overall AM total to 4,375 veries in his 58 years of DX'ing.

Please preserve these QSL's for future display!
Do not discard these items
For preservation information contact the:

National Radio Club
P.O. Box 118
Poquonock, Connecticut 06064

If you are interested in helping preserve the history of our hobby through preserving your collections, you should consider ordering a supply of these free 3-inch-square stickers to place on your veries, recordings, etc. Specify the number you need, and order from Ron Musco - P. O. Box 118 - Poquonock, CT 06064-0118. Include an SASE. Don't wait until it's too late - order now.

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

| | Old call | | New call |
|------|----------|----|----------------|
| 600 | KNRO | CA | Redding |
| 630 | WVVW | WV | St. Marys |
| 670 | WHRP | VA | Claremont |
| 740 | WWNZ | FL | Orlando |
| 880 | WINU | IL | Highland |
| 970 | KCMJ | CA | Coachella |
| 990 | WHOO | FL | Orlando |
| 1010 | KNWZ | CA | Thousand Palms |
| 1140 | KCLB | CA | Palm Springs |
| 1240 | WHAI | MA | Greenfield |
| 1250 | WIZZ | IL | Streator |
| 1370 | WABD | KY | Fort Campbell |
| 1440 | WRBP | OH | Warren |
| 1510 | WCBW | IL | Highland |
| 1670 | KAZT | CA | Redding |
| | | | WJAW |
| | | | WRJR |
| | | | WQTM |
| | | | WCBW |
| | | | KNWZ |
| | | | WDYZ |
| | | | KCMJ |
| | | | KNWQ |
| | | | WHMQ |
| | | | WSPL |
| | | | WJMR |
| | | | WHKW |
| | | | WINU |
| | | | KNRO |

APPLICATIONS / GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

None

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

| | | | |
|------|------|----|--|
| 1200 | WKOX | MA | Framingham: 50000/50000 U4, city of license to Newton, MA |
| 1240 | CJAN | PQ | Asbestos: to 99.3 FM |
| 1500 | WQCR | AL | Alabaster: modify CP to show 2300/3 U1 (increases night power by ONE watt) |

GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

| | | | |
|------|------|----|-------------------------------|
| 730 | WSCC | SC | Charleston: 5000/103 U4 |
| 1550 | KYCY | CA | San Francisco: 50000/40000 U4 |
| 1590 | WZUM | PA | Carnegie: 4000/60 U4 |

OTHERNESS

| | | | |
|------|------|----|--|
| 770 | WVNN | AL | Athens: CP to relocate transmitter is on |
| 830 | WCRN | MA | Worcester: CP for 50000/5000 U4 is on |
| 840 | CJXX | MB | Grande Prairie: station is DELETED, moved to FM |
| 930 | WSLI | MS | Jackson: CP for 5000/3600 U2 is on |
| 990 | WDYZ | FL | Orlando: CP for 50000/14000 U4 is on |
| 1100 | WMYQ | MS | Newton: silent station is ON THE AIR |
| 1150 | KSEN | MT | Shelby: CP for 10000/5000 U4 is on |
| 1310 | KTCK | TX | Dallas: CP for 9000/5000 U4 is on |
| 1430 | KJAY | CA | Sacramento: silent station is ON THE AIR with an abbreviated schedule (6 AM to 1 PM Mon-Fri and 6 AM to 11 AM Sat-Sun PST) |
| 1450 | KOBO | CA | Yuba City: silent station is ON THE AIR |
| 1450 | WBVA | VA | Bayside: new station is ON THE AIR |
| 1460 | WRKB | NC | Kannapolis: CP for 2000/194 U1 is on |
| 1470 | WXAG | GA | Athens: CP for 1000/176 U1 is on |
| 1520 | WKBZ | MI | Muskegon Heights: silent station is ON THE AIR |

THANKS: Bill Hale, Ed Krejny, Phil Boersma, Richard Toebe, Mike Stonebridge and MSJ

It's that time of year already when we head south for our NASCAR activities. There will be no AM Switch in Issues 21 and 22, but we will return in #23 and catch you up on everything that has transpired.

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

Jerry & BKf

Promote the NRC and DX News and help us grow!

Planning to attend a DX or hobby gathering? Why not include DX News in your plans? Upon request, we'll send you a packet of up to 50 recent DXN's to be given free to attendees. Just send a postcard to NRC - P. O. Box 5711 - Topeka, KS 66605, or e-mail <<plsBCBDXER@aol.com>>. Packets are sent by Special Standard rate, so please allow 10-15 days for delivery. Help keep the NRC on the grow!

FOR NEWS...

K-NEWS
1270 AM

Domestic DX Digest

West: Bill Hale phantom2@eaze.net

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

East: Michael Shaw mshaw002@tampabay.rr.com

455 Alt. 19 S., Apt. 176 - Palm Harbor, FL 34683-5931

(Division line is between East and Central time zones)



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

DDXD-West

MEDIUM WAVE RAMBLINGS

- Members speak: "Have had some productive DX sessions lately, even if not too many new ones have been caught (many more missed than heard-sound familiar?) But the neighbors have been keeping their electronic appliances down to minimum usage (see-some good comes from power outages). So far the rolling blackouts have only been during the daytime so no DX opportunities yet. But, it does make the band a lot easier to cope with when the background isn't covered with hisses & buzzes all the time...On to DX" - DKK; space reserved for you!
- A good turnout with some solid DX this week. Let's hear from some of you 'silent members' for a change, huh?
- See ya next week.

WNQM / WWCR
1300 WWCR Avenue
Nashville, TN 37218
The United States of America

REPORTERS

- SA-MB** Shawn Axelrod Winnipeg Icom ICR-70 & Drake R8 + 4 Foot Unamplified Box Loop/Quantum Loop, 145' outdoor wire, 100' indoor wire, MFJ 1026 Phasing Unit <saxelrod@mb.sympatico.ca>
- AB-CA** Art Blair Folsom NRD-515 & Kiwa loop <blairs@calweb.com>
- RD-IA** Rick Dau Iowa City Sony ICF-2010 +Quantum Loop <rdau36@yahoo.com>
- PG-CO** Patrick Griffith Westminster Drake R-8 and Kiwa loop <AM-DXer@webtv.net>
- GJ-CA** Gary Jackson Sacramento FRG-8800 + Kiwa Loop
- DKK-CA** Don Kaskey San Francisco Drake R8A + KIWA Loop <kaskey@jps.net>
- BM-SD** Bill Moser Fort Pierre using barefoot Superadio II <wcmfort@dakota2k.net>
- CR-IL** Christos Rigas Wood Dale Kenwood R-2000, Kowalski Loop <RigasC@email.msn.com>
- JJR-WI** John J. Rieger South Milwaukee IC-R75 + KIWA Loop or GE Superadio III w/Terk AM1000 loop <johnrieger@webtv.net>
- KR-AZ** Kevin Redding Mesa Optimus 12-604A; Magnavox D8443 barefoot <lwdxer@juno.com>
- DS-WI** Doug Smith Pleasant View Kenwood TS-940, 400' east-west wire <w9wi@w9wi.com>
- Ed-TX** Editor North Richland Hills

STATION NEWS & NOTES

- 1160 WYLL IL Chicago - 2/2 1000 - Heard with WYLL AM Chicago, WYLL FM Des Plaines-Chicago. ID and religious talk. Ex: WXRT-AM. (CR-IL)
- 660 UNID ?? - 2/1 and 2/2 - C&W station (not KTNN) mixing with KZTU 1720-1731. No announcements between songs. KTNN looped out, was in Navajo at the time. Suspect much needed KAPS but nothing but KZTU/KTNN heard since. (DKK-CA)
- 1190 UNID ?? - 1/28 0145-0205 - Asian program, way, way under KEX. Had both talk and music. Sounds suspiciously like KDYA. (DKK-CA)
- 1590 UNID ?? - 1/31 0659 - Fair signal, with Radio Disney programming. Faded before the top-of-the-hour ID, of course. Wish Radio Disney's website would show an updated list of affiliates. (RD-IA)
- 1630 UNID ?? - 2/7 2052 - Female announcer with Spanish talk. Very good at times over usually dominant KCJJ. Possible mention of Mexicali several times. Probably XEUT. (PG-CO)

DX AND EQUIPMENT TESTS

- 1570 WGSR FL Fernandina Beach - 2/3 0003 - Poor, with song by the group Sweet Ballroom Blitz and The New Star 15-70 WGSR ID during a DX Test. (CR-IL)

TIS & OTHER STUFF

- 1200 TIS/HAR CA Foster City - 1/31 and 1/31 0600 - Is testing. Will have their own QSL card. QSL address is: Corp Scott Welch, Foster City PD, 1030 E. Hills Dale Blvd, Foster City, CA 94404, Phone 650-286-3300. (GJ-CA)
- 1610 TIS/HAR CA Eureka - 2/2 0615 - Clear, with location on test tape. Deep fades for 5- 10 minutes. Mentions of State of California, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. (GJ-CA)
- MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT ELT
- 540 CBK SK Regina - 2/6 0257-0305 - Battling XEJAZ. CBK had CBC talk show and XEJAZ with mellow jazz. Both in nicely. (DKK-CA)
- 550 KOAC OR Corvallis - 2/6 2035-45 - With NPR pledge program soliciting donations. All alone in KSFO slop null. (DKK-CA)
- 570 KKFJ CA Alturas - 2/6 2025-2045 - With religious program, atop several others in KSFO splatter. Pattern change at 2045 almost totally destroyed them, heard way under others. (DKK-CA)
- 620 KDBZ OR Portland-2/6 0300 - Ended Fox Sports program, then local promos & ID. Into sports news. Noted another AM-620 The Buzz ID at 0325. Heavy KFRC slop. (DKK-CA)
- 660 KZTU OR Junction City - 2/1 2015-2030 - Mixing with presumed KAPS while in KTNN null. KZTU relaying KPAM-860. Signal in pretty well & heard daily since at sunset. Don't know whether KPAM has inserted an ID for KZTU as yet. (DKK-CA)
- 660 WDLT AL Fairhope - 1/13 1959 - Fair with CNN Headline News and ID: *This is WDL . . .*, then the rest was smothered by splash from WSCR. Was in pretty good from about 1930-2100. (RD-IA)
- 680 WPTF NC Raleigh - 2/4 0631 - Very good, nice clear armchair copy. Legal ID, patriotic music. (JJR-WI)
- 700 WLW OH Cincinnati - 2/6 0246 - With tele-talk show. Nice signal and seemingly all by itself. Just like old times. (DKK-CA)
- 730 CJNW BC Vancouver - 2/6 0240 - With ID NW News. Seemed to be local programming (nice). Amazing that this could cut through KCBS slop so well, for a few minutes anyway. (DKK-CA)
- 820 KORC OR Waldsport - 2/4 2001 - With ID: *You're listening to KORC-Waldsport* then into a NOS instrumental. Somehow managed to top KGO splatter. Soon joined by KGNW with religious music. New here. (DKK-CA)
- 860 KKOW KS Pittsburgh - 2/2 1849 - Fair, with local basketball game. Mention of Pittsburgh and KKOW. (CR-IL)
- 880 WINU IL Highland - 1/31 0838 - Fair, with local ad, then Contemporary Christian music with Rich Mullins' *Awesome God* and DC Talk's *Jesus Freak*. Last heard in April 2000 with same format. (RD-IA)
- 890 CJDC BC Dawson Creek - 2/6 0809-0814 - Hockey news, ID, and Canadian tune. Fair signal, obliterated by KVOZ when they returned to daytime operation. First time heard at this location. An e-mail verification from Susan Soutar was received on the same day as my reception. (BM-SD)
- 910 WJCW TN Johnson City - 2/5 0727 - Fair and alone, with ad and legal ID into *Lutheran Hour*. (JJR-WI)
- 930 WEOL OH Elyria - 2/3 1926 - Poor, but clear, with local ads. Calls twice. No usual WAUR. (JJR-WI)
- 960 WTCH WI Shawano - 1/10 1658 - Good, with WTCH-WOWN heard in local ad. (RD-IA)
- 970 WWIT NC Canton - 2/4 0623 - Poor, but atop frequency, with Cool 97 non-IDs, and oldies. (JJR-WI)
- 980 KMBZ MO Kansas City - 2/2 1820 - Fair, with 9-80 KMBZ ID and sports news. (CR-IL)
- 1010 KXEN MO Festus - 2/4 2326 - . . . on KXEN 1010 AM, your good news station. Looking for CBR. (DS-TN)
- 1040 CKST BC Vancouver - 1/30 2015 - In better than usual, with sports show. Their signal is usually pretty poor here. (DKK-CA)
- 1060 KBGN ID Caldwell - 2/5 2000 - Atop after a religious tele-talk show, into news. Was looking for needed KKDS. (DKK-CA)
- 1060 CKMX AB Calgary - 1/30 2003-2015 - Good signal, with NOS music. ID at 2012. Also 2/5 as early as 1850 in nicely. (DKK-CA)



100.9 FM
1460 AM
WBRN
PO Box 1158 • Englewood, NJ 07637

- 1090 KNCR CA Fortuna - 2/6 2050-2100+ - With C&W music. ID 2100: KNCR Fortuna-Eureka-Ferndale. Had good signal in Mex's null. Supposed to sign-off 2045 but who follows the rules these days? (DKK-CA)
- 1140 WKWM MI Kentwood - 1/17 1824 - Atop, with *Groovin' 1140 KWM* ID and satellite soul oldies from The Stylistics, Prince, and The Spinners. (RD-IA)
- 1140 KSOO SD Sioux Falls - 1/17 1828 - Fair, under WKWM, with Sioux Falls ads, a KSOO ID, then into local call-in program. (RD-IA)
- 1140 CHRAB AB High River - 1/30 1956 - Ending *Family Life* program *Campus Crusade For Christ*. ID at 1958: *Voice of Southern Alberta*. Looped solid, atop KHTK 1955-2005. Into a religious program on the songs of David. I heard this station on 1/1 when I caught KCMJ's ID at ToH at 2000 but didn't ID it. (DKK-CA)
- 1150 WMST KY Mt. Sterling - 2/3 1915 - Poor. Called and oldies popped in. 53 watts! (JJR-WI)
- 1150 WIMA OH Lima - 2/2 0758 - Fair and alone, with ads, news, calls. (JJR-WI)
- 1150 KSRB WA Seattle - 2/5 2010 - With 1150 KSRB ID after *Born To Run* rock oldie. IDed after every song next 10 minutes. Love It. Was battling a talk station featuring Gary Owens. Dunno if this was KKG7 or KXTA. Looking for KQQQ. (DKK-CA)
- 1200 KOQI CA Soquel - 2/1 0100 - I finally gave it up after listening for an ID on numerous tops of hours. Counted it in my logs anyway. In nightly lately, with relatively poor signal. (DKK-CA)
- 1200 CFGO ON Ottawa - 1/30 2110 - Over WOAI, with *Ottawa Senators* hockey vs. Washington. (RD-IA)
- 1210 KGYN OK Guymon - 2/3 0233 - Fair, in WPHT null, with jingle after sitting thru five songs with no chatter or fades. (JJR-WI)
- 1230 KMRS MN Morris - 1/14 2005 - Good, with weather: *From the KMRS Weather Center . . .*, then into forecast with mentions of Morris and Holloway. (RD-IA)
- 1240 KNRY CA Monterey - 2/7 2100 - Atop mess, with ID: *KNRY Monterey and the big one KIEV 540 Carmel Valley*. (DKK-CA)
- 1310 WTLC IN Indianapolis - 1/16 1624 - Good, with 1310 *The Light*, WTLC, Indianapolis ID, then into talk by black DJ. (RD-IA)
- 1330 KFH KS Wichita - 2/3 1900 - Fair, with *Pizza Hut* ad, pre-game and college basketball. (JJR-WI)
- 1340 KIST CA Santa Barbara - 2/1 0205 - Atop, with ID and local news and ads. (DKK-CA)
- 1340 KSMO MO Salem - 1/30 2241 - Atop briefly, with *St. Louis Blues* hockey vs. Boston. (RD-IA)
- 1370 WCCN WI Neillville - 2/2 0833 - Fair, with promo for high school sports on Memories 1370 WCCN. (JJR-WI)
- 1410 KERN CA Bakersfield - 2/7 2030 - With ID after stock market report. Thought sure I had needed KBNP. Continued with stocks after break. Much QRM from Jazz on KRML, Spanish from KCAL and *Kings* basketball on KMYC from 2015-2045. (DKK-CA)
- 1410 CFUN BC Vancouver - 2/6 0205 - Atop, with ID and religious spot + local ads then into tele-talk at 0207. Long time no-hear. (DKK-CA)
- 1420 KMOG AZ Payson - 2/7 2030-2050 - With best ever signal, with syndicated country music show and lots and lots of ads for local merchants. Unusual. (DKK-CA)
- 1420 KMHS OR Coos Bay - 2/8 0822 - Good for a moment, with local ad(s) and call ID. XEXX usually dominant here pre-sunrise; weakish this AM. Station #500! (AB-CA)
- 1490 KFCR SD Custer - 2/3 1905 - Fair signal, with KFCR ID and local ads in a mess. NEW. (SA-MB)
- 1550 KVAN WA Vancouver - 2/5 1928 - On *K-van* dug out from under KYCY. Continued with local news items, cutting thru well at times from 1928-2000. Had many *K-van* slogans and several KVAN IDs. KYCY was carrying Tom Leykis at the time so I paid dearly for this. Also noted 2/6 and 2/7 at sunset. (DKK-CA)
- 1580 KBLA CA Santa Monica - 2/6 2347 - With KMik off the air, I heard them for the first time. Radio Unica SS talk program with female moderator. (KR-AZ)
- 1600 KAKK MN Walker - 2/23 0815 - Poor-to-fair



WARRENTON, MO.

U. S. A.

KWRE

COVERING THE VAST DANIEL BOONE REGION OF MISSOURI

- signal, mixing with KWOM. Local ads and weather then into polka music. NEW. (SA-MB)
- 1670 KNRO CA Redding - 2/7 2055 - Call ID during ESPN-RX [?? - Ed.] break. Had heard this before but didn't realize they had actually changed calls. (DKK-CA)
- 1680 KAVT CA Roseville - 2/5 1937 - Heard call ID for first time. (DKK-CA)
- 1680 KAVT CA Roseville - 2/7 2017 - Mostly on top, fighting with WJNZ. Radio Disney and promo for Disney morning show that airs . . . from 6 to 9 Pacific. (PG-CO)

GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

| 1230 kHz: | | | | | | | | | | Miles |
|----------------|---------------|--------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| WQDY | ME | Calais | Andy Rugg | Cornwall, ON | | | | | | 365 |
| Totals: | | | 1230 | 1240 | 1340 | 1400 | 1450 | 1490 | Total | |
| Rick Dau | Iowa City, IA | | 5 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 38 | |

Tri-County Broadcasting Co. Inc.
 WCED • WOWG
 P.O. Box 1087
 DuBois, Pa. 15801

DDXD-East

What a busy couple of weeks! I've resigned my position as a psychotherapist for my current employer, and Friday, February 9th was my last day. I have tentatively accepted a new job pending reference checks and the obligatory drug screening (in Florida, almost every employer conducts mandatory drug screening) and I will hopefully be able to tell you more about it in the next DDXD-East. I can give you a hint, however: if all goes well, look in STATION NEWS in the next column for more details!

Again, I must ask all reporters to run spell-checker in your word processing programs before you submit an e-mail report. It is often difficult to spot spelling errors without it, and it will save your editors much time. Only three reporters submitted error-free reports for this column.

Finally, another reminder that because of the proliferation of virus and worm attachments, all e-mail reports submitted with an attachment will be immediately deleted. (Hint: turn off your "html" preference switch in your e-mail program; some e-mails which contain html also show up as including attachments on the e-mail screen. Maybe someone who doesn't use AOL and has more experience than I do with other ISP's can add more info -pls.)

STATION NEWS

- 1060 WBIX MA Natick - 02/04 1631 - Fair over/under KYW on east wire with weather report: "It's 28 degrees in Boston on Business 1060, WBIX", then ad for Star Markets. New call and format. Ex-WMEX for me. (JF-ON)
- 1160 WYLL IL Chicago - 02/04 1743-1800 - Excellent with end of religious program with ID: "'Chicago's Word', AM 1160, WYLL, Chicago, WYLL-FM, Des Plaines-Chicago". New call and format. Ex-WJJD, WSCR, and WXRT for me. (JF-ON)
- 1250 CJYE ON Oakville - 02/05 0744 - Started full-time religious programming on 1250 today as "Joy 1250" (no longer simulcasting 740-CHWO). Yawn! (NjW*ON)
- 1320 CJMR ON Mississauga - 02/05 0748 - Now apparently full-time ethnic programming. Appeared to have a Slavic language program (Polish? Ukrainian?) during the 90 seconds I listened this morning during AM Drive. (NjW*ON)
- 1400 WSAM MI Saginaw - 02/03 1611 - Noted in passing with announcement about having just installed a brand new state of the art transmitter and they would like to be notified about their signal quality. Might be a good time to send them a report. (JF-ON)

UNID, UNID HELP, PRESUMED AND CORRECTIONS

- 610 UNID — The REL/GOS station reported by Dave Larrabee (DL/MD) on 01/01 in DXN No.14 is our local WNTW, Winchester, VA. It abandoned its news/talk/weather format about two years ago, and is now Christian Contemporary. (PFC-VA)
- 640 UNID — — 02/03 1702 - Fox Sports under CFYI. Mixing with Radio Disney station (which I assume was WWJZ). (NjW*ON)
- 750 UNID — — 02/03 0707 - ".20: The Countdown Magazine" program with John Rivers. (NjW*ON)
- 1200 UNID — — 01/25 1753 - Slogan heard "The all new Sun Country AM 1200", followed by several country songs played back-to-back. I listened until 1800 when station left the air. I called KYOO in Bolivar, MO thinking it was them,

- 1220 CJUL ON Cornwall - 12/14 2000 - The garbled slogan segment which Steve Kennedy (SK-PA) guessed similar to "Simi? Valley" in the 01/29 issue actually is "Seaway Valley". (AR-ON)
- 1550 WAZXp GA Smyrna - 02/03 0758 - Various Spanish-language spots including one for the Buford Highway Farmers Market. (NjW*ON)
- 1580 UNID — — 02/02 2349 - Spanish liner into "Woman" by John Lennon. (NjW*ON)

DX AND EQUIPMENT TESTS

- 1450 WILM DE Wilmington - 02/04 0000-0200 - Bits of code penetrated graveyard mush at 0059, 0108, 0124 and 0153, including "WILM" in code (- - - - -). No music or voice IDs heard. (MKB-ON)
- + - 02/04 0006-0009 - Upsurged with alternating siren-type tones and lengthy Morse ID. Only heard bits and pieces of the rest of the program, mainly the siren-type tone, through to 0037 when I e-mailed this. I called in at 0017 and was interviewed on the air. (AR-ON)
- + - 02/04 0015 - Tentative on NRC DX Test with sirens sounds heard. Frequency was a mess otherwise (NjW*ON)
- + - 02/04 0000-0200 - Very weak code heard at 0015; nothing else heard. I placed call to station and was put on the air and interviewed as to my location and the equipment I was using. I listened until 0100 but never heard anything else. I last heard WILM in 1999 during that DX Test and received a much better signal. (RCP-IN)
- + - 02/04 0000-0100 - Poor-to-fair with code and siren tones. (SF-TN)
- + - 02/04 0008 - Code ID and siren tones noted for about one minute; listened to 0115 and heard nothing else. (KVJ-GA)
- 1560 WAGL SC Lancaster - 01/20 0100-0200 - Test started promptly. Very good signal with mention of DX Test starting at 0100 followed by brief history of station then 5 minutes of unmodulated carrier followed by legal ID, Morse code and marching music. Very good signal with very little fading during the 30 minutes that I taped the station. (RCP-IN)
- 1570 WGSR FL Fernandina Beach - 02/03 0000-0200 - Not heard in graveyard-like mish-mash. Nothing particularly dominant on 1570 here since the demise of CKLM, CFOR and CHLO. (MKB-ON)
- + - 02/03 0000-0200 - Not heard. WBUG 101.1 Real Country was dominant, along with WISP EWTN programs, all over likely WNST One-On-One Sports and UNID Spanish (XERF?) in tiresome WQEW Radio Disney splash. (BC-NH)
- + - 02/03 0009 - Rose above the CKMW, WXLN and WWCK mess with "The Theme From Swat". No ID was heard, but Ron Gitchier confirms he was playing the song I heard at this time (NjW*ON)

WNT

P.O. BOX 2147
 600 OLD MARION ROAD NE
 CEDAR RAPIDS IOWA 52406

STATION LOGGINGS

- 550 WGR NY Buffalo - 01/30 1903 - "The John Clayton Show on ESPN Radio"; ads for auto dealer, IRS Internet Service, and Village Green. "SportsRadio 55"; ID. (WM-MD)
- 580 CKY MB Winnipeg - 02/04 0320 - Under CKWW with oldies and "KY-58" jingle. (NjW*ON)
- 640 WFNC NC Fayetteville - 01/30 1735 - Local news heard; ad for business in Rockingham; mention of Washington County. Time check at 1732; weather forecast: "NewsTalk 640"; ID, then Dr. Laura. (WM-MD)
- 720 WGCR NC Pisgah Forest - 02/03 0813 - "Power and The Blood Broadcast" with Brother Steve Fanning; ID and time check at 0815 followed by gospel music. (NjW*ON)
- CHTN PEI Charlottetown - 02/03 1621 - On top of WGN with spot for Dawson Funeral Homes, "Good Times-Great Oldies" liner/ID; Jackson 5 oldie. (NjW*ON)
- 730 WLIL TN Lenoir City - 02/03 2036 - Tennessee Volunteers basketball; half-time break with local commercials. (NjW*ON)
- 750 WWKK MI Petoskey - 02/03 1840 - Under WSB with oldies, "Cool 750" ID; local spots. (NjW*ON)

760 WVNE MA Leicester – 02/03 1630 – “Life Changing Radio 760 WVNE” ID into Josh McDowell radio ministry; in WJR null. (NjW*ON)

790 WQXI GA Atlanta – 01/30 1745 – Traffic report; “SportsTalk 790”; “The Zone”. (WM-MD)

810 CJVA NB Caraquet – 02/03 1640 – Way on top of WGY with French pop music; spot for a restaurant in Bathurst. (NjW*ON)

830 WCCO MN Minneapolis – 01/30 1824 – Mention of Second Avenue in Minneapolis; “...right here on 8-3-0 WCCO”. (WM-MD)

840 WCTO SC Columbia – 01/30 1725 – PSA for South Carolina National Guard, ID; sign-off. Thought calls were WCTG. Heard mention of 50,000 watts. (WM-MD)

850 WYDE AL Birmingham – 02/01 1732 – Scott Standish Show said “...temperature was 42 degrees; yesterday it was 60”; ID at 1743 “WYDE Birmingham”, then “SportsRadio 850 The Buzz” showed up for 30 minutes. WYDE returned at 1816 until the signal disappeared at 1829. Signal mostly stayed above the interference. First-time visitor! (MC-NJ3)

WRBZ NC Raleigh – 02/01 1747-1816 – “850 The Buzz” showed up while I was hearing WYDE AL Birmingham. Show host was Duke-North Carolina game. Signal was good-to-fair and stayed above interference. I have heard this station a couple of times previously around sunset; never heard any ID but suspected it was in North Carolina. (MC-NJ3)

880 WINU IL Highland – 02/02 2040 – Break in basketball game with ID “Superstation 880 WINU”. (NjW*ON)

KRVN NE Lexington – 02/02 1912 – C&W; male announcer mentioned they were about to change power. Signal dropped off right before 1914. In WCBS null. (NjW*ON)

910 WWWR VA Roanoke – 02/03 1958 – Country Gospel; ID at 2000 that also mentioned WNRV. (NjW*ON)

940 WKGM VA Smithfield – 02/01 0744 – Ad for Abundance Harvest Church in Virginia Beach, ID as “The Ministry Station, WGKM AM 940”, then lost fight to CINW. (MKB-ON)

1000 WCCD OH Parma – 02/03 1725 – Time check, ID: “Music for the soul of the city, WCCD”. (NjW*ON)

1010 KXEN MO Festus – 02/04 2326 – “...on KXEN 1010 AM, your good news station”. Looking for CBR. Don’t know why I’ve never logged this one at night before. Their night pattern does favor my direction and with 500 watts they should have been logged earlier. (DS-TN)

1030 WGSF TN Memphis – 02/03 1803 – Tejano music, spot mentioning Shelby County Building; ID that sounded like “Esta es Radio Mire”. (NjW*ON)

1070 WFLI TN Lookout Mountain – 02/01 0755 – Over CHOK and WIBC mix with ID after gospel song: “Join us for the Revival Hour, weekdays afternoons at four, right here on 1070 WFLI”, into local weather and more gospel music. (MKB-ON) + – 02/06 1710 – I was very fortunate to hear this one as my local station WIBC left the air for about 30 seconds, allowing me to hear a station promo by WFLI. They mentioned that their advertisers are heard throughout the south on WFLI with the power of 50 thousand watts. Very clear signal until WIBC returned to the air. New station for me. (RCP-IN)

1160 WYLL IL Chicago – 02/02 2130 – “WYLL, Chicago’s Word” ID in 1160 jumble. Formerly WXRT. (NjW*ON)

1170 WWVA WV Wheeling – 01/19 1852 – Sports show discussing name for new football team in Wheeling area. Names suggested were *Hitmen*, *Warlords*, *Vampires* and *Bloodhounds!* Website was <www.smashfootball.com>; signal was good. (MC-NJ2)

1180 WFGN SC Gaffney – 01/25 1745 – Preacher giving a spirited sermon followed by a station slogan “You’re listening to WFGN Gaffney”, then station apparently left the air or powered down at 1745. WHAM and Cuban moved in for the evening. New station for me. (RCP-IN)

1190 WIXO FL Pine Castle – 01/28 1834 – End of ethnic show in unknown language; ID “Central Florida’s business is on WIXO Pine Castle-Sky Lake-Orlando”; into computer show. (KVJ-GA)

WLIB NY New York City – 01/30 1821-1839 – West Indian music, “Traffic Jams” traffic reports, promo for “Global Village” morning show. (KVJ-GA)

1250 WEMP WI Milwaukee – 02/04 0227 – With WEAF and CHWO with Christian music

and ID. (NjW*ON)

WHNZ FL Tampa – 01/31 1830 – Financial Talk Show, ID: “This is BusinessNews Radio, 1250-AM, WHNZ”. New call. (KVJ-GA)

WRKQ TN Madisonville – 01/30 2300 – “Solid Gospel WRKQ Madisonville, TN”. Southern Gospel. (KVJ-GA)

WLCK KY Scottsville – 01/29 0719 – “1250 WLCK”; spot for Stonewall’s Prescription Shop”. (KVJ-GA)

KDEI TX Port Arthur – 01/28 1800 – “Radio Maria (?)” religious program, multiple ID: “This is the Christian voice in your home...” that included KDEI and KJMJ-580 in Alexandria, LA, and an UNID FM station. (KVJ-GA)

WGHB NC Farmville – 01/28 2150 – “Today’s Christian music...your Christian radio station, 1250-WGHB”. (KVJ-GA)

WNXT OH Portsmouth – 02/02 1925 – High school basketball play-by-play between Ironton Tigers and Portsmouth Trojans in progress; ID WNXT and Mix 99.3”. Spot for Andy Glockner Honda/Toyota. (KVJ-GA)

1270 WLBR PA Lebanon – 01/27 0800 – Top of hour ID: “Music, news, weather, talk; full-service radio in the Lebanon Valley, WLBR Lebanon”; into ABC News. (MKB-ON)

1280 WNAM WI Neenah – 02/03 2252 – Same satellite-fed nostalgia music as on 1350-KRNT and 1430-WMYS etc.; spot for a convenience store in Green Bay; man with local weather. (NjW*ON)

1300 WAVZ CT New Haven – 02/04 0220 – Nostalgia music parallel to 1430-WMYS (etc.). ID at 0224. (NjW*ON)

WLXG KY Lexington – 01/22 2325 – Sports talk. “The home of the NFL in Lexington is SportsRadio 1300”. (KVJ-GA)

WISE NC Asheville – 02/03 1926 – Nostalgia. ID “WISE and WTZQ” (1600, Hendersonville, NC). (KVJ-GA)

WGH VA Newport News – 02/03 2000 – “ESPN Radio 1310”; Xavier-George Washington college basketball play-by-play. (KVJ-GA)

1320 WKAN IL Kankakee – 02/02 0400 – Briefly atop with “WKAN, Kankakee” singing ID. (SF-TN)

1350 KRNT IA Des Moines – 02/03 2234 – Way on top with satellite-fed nostalgia music. ID/jingles between each song. No sign of Oshawa’s CKDO. (NjW*ON)

WTAZ IL Peoria – 02/04 0047 – ESPN Radio programming mixing with KRNT. ID as “News talk 1350 WTAZ”. (NjW*ON)

1370 WELV NY Ellenville – 01/29 0756 – Over usual pest WSPD with ID at end of contest promo: “Good luck and thanks for listening to the Music of Your Life on 1370 WELV”. (MKB-ON)

1380 WSYB VT Rutland – 02/03 2203 – ID during Colonels vs. Raiders hockey. (NjW*ON)

1390 WKDR VT Burlington – 02/03 2218 – ID, station promos; news. (NjW*ON)

WGCI IL Chicago – 02/03 2221 – “Gospel Radio 1390”; local spots. (NjW*ON)

1400 WRCC MI Battle Creek – 01/31 1900 – Up briefly with ad for a garage in Kalamazoo and then announcement “Back to ? Basketball here on WRCC”. Ex-WKNR for me. (JF-ON)

WIEL KY Elizabethtown – 01/31 1906 – Faded up with “WIEL” jingle, oldies music. New. (JF-ON)

WBAT IN Marion – 02/02 1921 – On top with weather report, “? Sports Radio, WBAT” slogans, into ESPN Sports. Heard again next evening with same ESPN Sports stuff. New format? (JF-ON)

WEOA IN Evansville – 02/02 2254 – Only got an ID over the jumble. Ex-WROL and WIKY for me. (JF-ON)

1410 WRMN IL Elgin – 02/04 0231 – In mess with spot for Elgin Rehab Center and an ID. (NjW*ON)

WENU NY South Glens Falls – 02/04 0233 – Music by Herb Alpert; liner/ID mentioning “...home of the favourites and CNN news”. (NjW*ON)

1420 WOC IA Davenport – 02/04 0204 – ABC news, station promo; local weather. ID into “Coast To Coast”. No sign of local CKPT-Peterborough. (NjW*ON)

WVJS KY Owensboro – 02/04 0121 – Satellite-fed nostalgia music // 1350-KRNT, 1430-WMYS, etc. Calls heard before an Ann Murray song at 0124. (NjW*ON)

1430 WMYS IN Indianapolis – 02/03 2331 – Carpenters oldie; ID/liner. Same satellite-fed nostalgia music as on 1280-WNAM and 1350-KRNT, etc. (NjW*ON)

- 1440 **WJAE ME Westbrook** – 02/04 1651 – Good at times with ad for Back Bay Sports into Black Bear Hockey on “The Jab”. (JF-ON)
- 1460 **WGVA NY Albany** – 02/04 0217 – Way on top with C&W with “FM 107” IDs and local spots. (NjW*ON)
- 1470 **WMBD IL Peoria** – 02/03 2332 – “Newsradio 1470 WMBD” ID, spots; mixing with WLQR-Toledo “The Ticket”. (NjW*ON)
- 1480 **WGVU WI Kentwood** – 02/03 2257 – Saturday Night Tejano Party program with announcer in Spanish and English. ID mentioned that they were also on 850 AM and 95.3 FM. (NjW*ON)
- 1510 **WRNJ NJ Hackettstown** – 02/04 0309 – Buddy Holly tune; “Good time great oldies, WRNJ” ID. (NjW*ON)
- WLAC TN Nashville** – 01/30 1900 – “...for News Radio fifteen-ten WLAC, Nashville”. (DL/MD)
- 1540 **KXEL IA Waterloo** – 01/29 2300 – “...it’s KXEL Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Iowa...”. (DL/MD)
- WACA MD Wheaton** – 01/30 0900 – SS “This is WACA (Spanish: jingle and ‘Radio America’) Broadcasting from Wheaton, Maryland on fifteen-forty kiloHertz...”. (DL/MD)
- 1570 **WXLN IN New Albany** – 02/03 0000 – Spot for River Falls Car Wash in Clarksville, top of the hour ID; religious music. (NjW*ON)
- CKMW MB Winkler** – 02/03 0018 – Woman reading hockey scores, ID as “Country 15-70 CKMW”; weather forecast and C&W. (NjW*ON)
- 1580 **WLIJ TN Shelbyville** – 02/02 1933 – Probably “forgot” to cut their day power, with high school basketball game. “The starting lineups on WLIJ are brought to you by the People’s Bank of Bedford County”. (MKB-ON)
- WLIM NY Patchogue** – 01/29 2200 – In co-channel: “...of the Federal Communications Commission...WLIM leaves the air until five-thirty tomorrow morning. WLIM is owned and operated by the Long Island Music Broadcasting Corporation, with studios...(fades)”, leaving weak GOS on the frequency. (DL/MD)
- 1590 **WAKR OH Akron** – 01/30 0100 – NOS; “A new friend to start your day. Join Ray Horner and the WAKR morning news, weekdays on fifteen-ninety, WAKR Akron (ABC News)”. (DL/MD)
- WTVB MI Coldwater** – 02/03 2350 – Spot for Wholesale Furniture and Oak Gallery on US 12 in Coldwater; nostalgia music. (NjW*ON)
- 1630 **KCJJ IA Iowa City** – 01/19 1820 – “KCJJ is seeking a Radio Salesperson. Send résumé to P.O. Box 2118, Iowa City, Iowa”; ads for Nickelodeon Restaurant on Coralville Strip, and “___ and Stocker Diamonds” in Iowa City. Signal was low but clear and faded at 1823. (MC-NJ2)
- 1700 **WEUV AL Huntsville** – 02/06 0003 – Fair with Black GOS and ID “24 hours of power, WEUP-WEUV Huntsville. AM 1600, AM 1700, and inside your computer at weupam.com. Yours truly, Marcellus with you as we enter this last hour of Gospel...”. 1700 # 5. (SF-TN)
- 1610 **___ 669 RI Providence** – 02/04 1445-1505+ – Weak, mixing with Woods Hole TIS, barely audible at times with traffic reports and road conditions in and around Providence. Tape loop with male voice mentioning Routes 10, 22, and Interstate 95. Call sounded like WBQB669. (RA-MA)

ADDRESS UPDATES

- 810 **WHB MO Kansas City** – 10841 East 28th St., Independence, MO 64052. (KVJ-GA)
- 1600 **KALT TX Atlanta** – Report [sent to] address in NRC Log was returned; the following address was on the envelope, returned because the forwarding order had expired: P.O. Box 7449, Texarkana, TX 75505-7449. (KVJ-GA)

REPORTERS

- RA-MA Ray Arruda Acushnet – Drake R8A and SW8, dipole; Quantum Loop.
- MKB-ON Mike Brooker Toronto – Panasonic RF-2200; RFB-45.
- MC-NJ2 Mike Clancy Jersey City – SONY ICF-7480W.
- MC-NJ3 Mike Clancy Jersey City – Optimus 12-603A.
- BC-NH Bruce Conti Nashua – Drake R8B, MWDX-5, 100-ft wire; 100-ft east-sloping wire.
- PFC-VA Perry Crabill Winchester – Drake R8; Kiwa loop.

- JF-ON Jeff Falconer Clinton – Drake R8B, pair of 135’ noise-reduced / terminated wires (one pointed east and one pointed west), modified MFJ-1026 phasing box; Timewave DSP-599zx audio filter.
- SF-TN Steve Francis Alcoa – Realistic TRF; Select-a-Tenna.
- KVJ-GA Karl Jeter Lawrenceville – Hammarlund HQ-150, Sangean ATS-803A, Kiwa MW Loop; Quantum Loop.
- DL-MD David Larrabee Columbia – ICOM R8500 and IC706; loop and long wires.
- DL/MD David Larrabee Columbia – Unattended AMRAD LF-modified Ten-Tec RX-320, long wire; running KF50J RX-320 controller gathering timed samples at the top of the hour.
- WM-MD William McGuire Cheverly – Radio Shack DX-398.
- RCP-IN Robert C. Pote Greenwood – Drake R8A Receiver; Kiwa Loop Antenna.
- AR-ON Andy Rugg Cornwall – Hammarlund HQ-180AC and Quantum Loop.
- DS-TN Doug Smith Pleasant View – Kenwood TS-940; 400’ east-west wire.
- NjW*ON Niel Wolfish Listening in Burnt River – SONY ICF-2010, 800’ long wire; Quantum Loop.

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International DX Digest

Jim Renfrew renfrew@localnet.com
6988 Bank Street Rd.
Byron NY 14422-9702

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

Are you the kind of person who likes to color in countries, states, provinces, or counties on maps to show the geographical extent of your receptions? I've been doing it since I started DX'ing way back when. In the interest of finding new ways to color in maps, I recently ordered the World Grid Locator Atlas, published by the American Radio Relay League. The concept of the grid is to divide the world into 324 fields that are 20 degrees in longitude and ten degrees in latitude, and then to keep track of the fields where stations have been heard. There are approximately 20 fields covering North America. Many fields, of course, cover open sea. For obsessive enthusiasts, each of the fields can be further divided into one hundred smaller grid squares, which would result in about two thousand such squares to aim for in North America (32,400 squares throughout the world!). My field, for example is "FN", which covers much of the northeastern USA, and the grid square is "13", which is a portion of upstate New York. I ordered the atlas by way of the ARRL's Web Page.

As for the "Musings" theme of *Memories Behind the Mike*, I was a DJ at my college station, one thousand watt WRCU (FM) at Colgate University, working the Saturday midnight to two shift during the summer, when most students were away. The theory was that we were on the air because we had lots of "townies" listening to the station. My partner Mike and I were dishwashers in a local restaurant, and one of us would quit at 11:45 and run up the hill to the studio, while the other finished up the dishes and arrived a little later. We really had to work our tails off to be able to do this show. One night we had free movie tickets to hand out. "Movie tickets to the fifth caller" we announced, expecting the phone to begin flashing. Nothing. For the next hour, we tried several times to coax a listener to call in. Nothing. A humbling realization that NO ONE was listening!

Only a few reporters this week. Maybe no one is reading this column! (I read it VE-E-ERY carefully, hi! -pls.)

Jim

TRANS-ATLANTIC DX

- 171 MOROCCO R. Medi Un, Nador, FEB 2 0705 - Very strong signal, music. [Renfrew-NY]
- 243t DENMARK DR Kalundborg, FEB 10 0445 - TA noted here for the first time, although suffering from severe NDB interference, with a woman speaking, a man at 0459, and then a woman again (possibly mentioning the word "dansk"), classical music begins at 0505. More talk at 0600, followed by weak music at 0605. Tonight LW signals are quite strong, France 162 is S-9, but no MW TA's! [Renfrew-NY]
- 252t ALGERIA ENRS Tipaza, FEB 2 0710 - certainly this one rising above Ireland, but no ID yet. [Renfrew-NY]
- 567 IRELAND RTE R.1, Tullamore, FEB 5 0413 - man & woman in English talking about Radio One programming; fair. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 621 CANARY ISLANDS // SPAIN RNE R.1 synchros, Santa Cruz de Tenerife et al., FEB 5 0406 - woman in Spanish, followed by soft jazz; fair to good. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 711.05 WESTERN SAHARA RTM, Laayoune, FEB 5 0403 - man in Arabic with news; fair. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 864 FRANCE France Bleu, Paris, FEB 5 0400 - // 1206 with woman in French; poor to fair. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 891 ALGERIA Chaîne 1, Algiers, FEB 4 2353 - Arabic female vocal with strings; fair in WBPS slop. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 945 FRANCE France Bleu, Toulouse, FEB 4 2351 - // 1377 with piano music; poor. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 999 SPAIN COPE, Madrid, FEB 5 0351 - bits of compressed Spanish audio, getting by rock music ("Semi-Charmed Life") slop from CKBW. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 1044 SPAIN SER synchros, FEB 5 0350 - Spanish teletalk, slight echo noticed. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 1053 UNITED KINGDOM Talk Sport synchros, FEB 4 2349 - sports teletalk // 1089; to fair peak. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 1062 DENMARK Danmarks R., Kalundborg, FEB 5 0418 - old-time harmony vocal "Up the Lazy River" (Mills Bros. or similar); fair to good. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 1089 UNITED KINGDOM Talk Sport synchros, FEB 4 2347 - talk about golf; poor to fair. [Connelly*B-MA]

- 1206 FRANCE France Bleu, Bordeaux, FEB 5 0345 - romantic French vocal with some '70s disco influences; good. Much louder than UK on 1215. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 1314 NORWAY NRK, Kvitsoy, JAN 20 0331 - loud with "Dream Weaver" by Gary Wright, then woman in Norwegian followed by a country-style Scandinavian male vocal. FEB 4 2342 - recent light-rock hit with lyric "You Sang for Me", then female announcer in Norwegian; good, over CKEC slop. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 1377 FRANCE France Bleu, Lille, FEB 4 2323 - '80s hit "Take on Me" by A-Ha, then cover version of 1961 Ray Charles oldie "Unchain My Heart"; loud! FEB 4 2337 - excellent with "Chanson d'Amour" (rut-ta-tut-ta-tut) song that's familiar to anyone who ever watched "Are You Being Served?" on TV. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 1467 FRANCE TWR, Roumoules, FEB 4 2326 - fair with talk in English by an American-accented preacher. [Connelly*B-MA]
- 1521 SAUDIARABIA BSKSA, Duba, FEB 5 0439 - interludes of large-orchestra instrumental Middle-east music interrupted periodically by a man in Arabic. Female pop-style Arabic vocal followed. To good peak with WWKB phase-nulled to almost nothing. [Connelly*B-MA]

PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 402 CUBA "C", Camaguey, FEB 6 0337 - NDB, weak in interference. [Renfrew-NY]
- 1375.02 ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON RFO, St. Pierre, FEB 4 2339 - man & woman in French; loud (though slopped a bit by huge France-1377 signal). [Connelly*B-MA]

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

JAPAN: "Dear Radio Friends, Throughout most of my career as a university professor of architecture, I have been fortunate to serve as a conduit between the culture/history/geography of Japan and that of the West. In 1976-77, I served as a Senior Fulbright Research Scholar to Japan, spending a year traveling throughout Japan to study the ancient rural and urban Zen-based architectures of the 13th through 19th Century. Since that time, I have lectured and written extensively on subjects related to Japan. I am also a life-long radio enthusiast, having found unending pleasure in using broadcast radio as a window on the cultures of the world. In recent years, I have specialized in listening to broadcasting from the Pacific and East Asia, especially of course, Japan. While some of these broadcasts are available on shortwave and now, the Internet, my primary means of listening to Japanese radio in the past decade has been listening to long-distance medium wave broadcasts from my summer home located on the Canadian/US border, north of Seattle. In recent years, it has become increasingly clear that the primary professional reference for worldwide radio, the World Radio and TV Handbook, was woefully inadequate and inaccurate in its coverage of Japanese broadcast radio. In January 2000, it appeared to me that the information available on the Internet had matured to the point that a much more accurate list of Japanese medium wave stations might be developed directly from various Japanese sources. The major difficulty in accomplishing this, of course, was the fact that virtually all websites of Japanese radio networks are written exclusively in the Japanese ideography called "kanji." Although I read a limited number of kanji, this year-long project would not have been possible without the extensive assistance of my former student and close friend, Professor Takazi Okuda of Nihon National University. Several Japanese students studying in the United States have also contributed to this effort. Professor Okuda and I are pleased to present this list for the use of broadcast professionals in the West as well as radio enthusiasts around the world. We believe that it is the most complete and accurate list yet published. The list is based on and cross-checked with a number of primary sources. The most important of these are the websites of the various commercial broadcasting networks and a recently web-published official listing of all transmitter sites in Japan. The latter, I might add, did not contain call letter or ownership information but did contain geographic coordinates. Finally, the efforts of a number of Japanese DXers to translate and publish lists of Japanese stations have also been very useful. The listing is currently offered in two forms: The Comprehensive Listing of Japanese Medium Wave Stations in Japan is 34 pages in length and contains three lists: the basic data sorted by frequency, sorted by location and a third listing of the commercial stations sorted by broadcaster. The Abridged Listing of Japanese Medium Wave Stations in Japan is 7 pages in length and contains a by-frequency-only sort of the 300 or so stations in Japan that operate on 300 watts or more. The lowest power (100 watt) repeater stations are noted collectively on the appropriate frequency. This listing is offered without re-

striction for any non-commercial use by the international community of radio enthusiasts. Clubs and individuals are invited to link to the site below, or to place the two pdf document on their own web pages. Currently, these two documents are offered only in 8.5 x 11 inch format. I hope to put up pdf documents in the international size very soon. The two documents may be found on my university web site at <http://bryant.ceat.okstate.edu/RADIO1.HTM>. The files are quite small, since there are no graphics involved. Also, the cover sheet of each document is largely blank, so don't panic when it appears that you have downloaded a blank document. [John Bryant-OK] (A real labor! Thanks for all the work, John! Jim)



CONTRIBUTORS

John Bryant, Stillwater OK. <bjohn@provalue.net>

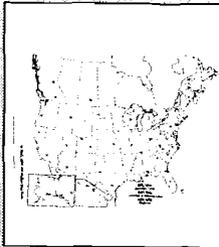
Mark Connelly WA1ION, Billerica MA; Drake R8A, broadband loop phased against 30 m sloper with Superphaser-1 phasing unit. <MarkWA1ION@excite.com>

Jim Renfrew, Byron NY; Drake R8, 1000' E/W wire, 250' SSW/NNE wire, Grove Antenna Tuner. <renfrew@localnet.com>

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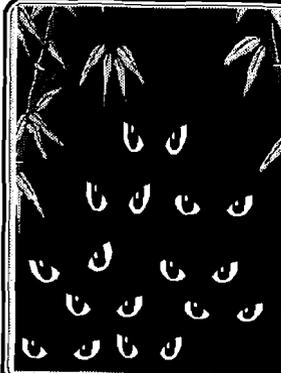
Written by NRC'er Patrick Griffith, this book makes it easy for the non-technical DX'er to understand everything about AM broadcast antennas. Over 35 photos. \$13.95 to NRC members (\$17.95, non-members). Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax).



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DX'er's Notebook

Shared tips, topics, and Internet info

Dave Braun dcbraun@delanet.com

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We'll concentrate this time on some antenna information, and college sports networks are back...

Richard E. Hillman <HillmanR@health.missouri.edu>: My land allows me to put up a much longer antenna if I center feed it rather than end feed it. How effective is a center fed antenna on MW? Would I be better with a single feed or to set it up as a dipole (one end would then effectively be going to radio ground)??

Neil Kazaross <neilkaz@interaccess.com>: If you email me the configuration of your lot, I'll play around with the EZNEC program and see what I can come up with for you. A sloper is a good way to obtain about 10 dB front to back on BCB and you might find phasing a couple of them quite useful.

Mark Durenberger <Mark@durenberger.com>: Hey Kaz: Do you have some reference URLs for sloper-construction info, beyond what the NRC Pubs Center might have?

Neil Kazaross: Off the top of my head, I don't but you might want to try Mark Connelly's site. I know that Mark Connelly and Bruce Conti and also Ben Dangerfield (I think) use slopers. Mark and Bruce have used an east sloper and a west sloper and clearly hear a nice difference in directivity. I've played around on EZNEC some looking at slopers and as it seems people are interested I'll come up with some ideas soon. I'll likely break it down into many segments to take into account the sag of a sloper due to gravity (if that matters much) Anyhow a sloper does not have to have the far end extremely high to be decently directional.

David Hogg <NEMCO99@aol.com>: I am very interested in following the thread about the wire antenna -- and which works best for MW reception - END -or CENTER fed wires?? I will soon try to install a new CENTER fed wire antenna. It will be 40 feet - plus 40 feet. I had planned a simple coax down feed --- this is one of the two configurations I am considering...The #2 configuration would be to use the \$60 balun from RF systems called the "MLB" Magnetic Longwire Balun which has only one connection to the long wire and provides coax output down to receiver. I visualize 2 windings inside with each having common connect to the coax ground shield. I bought this device last year and want to use it on this new antenna if it will allow a "CENTER" fed wire to out perform the 2 legged dipole wire. QUESTION TO ALL and ANYONE who might have an opinion even partially based on experience -- or whatever. -- Which configuration of the above 2 would be more effective on MW. QUESTION #2 - Phasing -- using the updated MFJ-1026 - and this new wire antenna 40 + 40 ft. This new antenna will be installed running perpendicular (90 degrees) with one of the Alpha Delta Sloper antennas. I am understanding that the 2 antennas should be perpendicular to each other in order to get the proper phase results while using the MFJ-1026??? Am I correct on the antenna orientation to each other?? How then do you use a loop antenna in conjunction with the MFJ-1026 for phase control?? Another question -- I think the AGC should be in FAST mode while using the phase system?? Correct?? I tried to work the PHASE system about a year ago and was not successful. Now I am going to install this new antenna and try again.... I would appreciate ANYONE who has any good PHASING experience suggestions to set me straight on some of these basic points. Thanks for any comments -or- observations-

Bruce Conti <BACONTI@aol.com>: I forgot to mention another outstanding source of long wire antenna info: "73 Dipole and Long-Wire Antennas" by Edward M. Noll, published by MFJ Enterprises.

Benjamin Dangerfield <ben-dangerfield@worldnet.att.net>: Sloper was one of yesterday's topics but I just got around to reading that mail so will add my views. I have four of them running from a mast on my chimney 30 some feet above the ground. There is one in each direction, NESW, but none is longer than 75 feet. They run at angles of less than 45 degrees to the lower part of four trees. The lead-in wires run almost vertically down to my R8A. The mast is grounded. Space limitations prevent anything else. I have power lines running behind and in front of my house. I use any combination of two of these wires with a DXP-3A phasing unit which works quite well. It can be connected to an outside ground wire when desired, mainly to reduce noise. Please remember that I am not a technician!

For more on slopers, see an upcoming Target DX column.

ANTENNA TUNERS

Richard E. Hillman <richard@hillman.com>: About a year or so ago there was a thread on antenna tuners which I don't remember well enough. Most of the ones advertised (Grove, Universal, Crane) seem to work more as cut off filters than impedance matching devices. Do they improve reception on MW and if so, which one is recommended??

Bruce Conti: I would recommend building your own antenna tuner for use on MW. Check out some of the front-end tuning LC-tank designs in Mark Connelly's phasing units. They will do a much better job than anything you can buy retail. An antenna tuner will help to prevent overload/intermod problems from strong locals. The tuned RF can then be safely amplified. However, if you don't have any problems with local stations, then an antenna tuner probably isn't necessary. A noise-reduced wire antenna using an RF matching transformer and coax lead-in, such as described in my sloper construction e-mail, will be far more beneficial.

Russ Edmunds <wb2bjh@nrcdxas.org>: I would beg to differ on this last point. For many years in my pre-loop DX'ing I used a pair of tuned circuits in series, each consisting of a ferrite cored BCB loopstick of the kind used in transistor radios of the period, in parallel with a 365 pf. variable capacitor of the type typically used in tube-type radios of the period. (The reason for this was that the larger physical size made for a more spread out tuning range). These were mounted inside of an aluminum minibox, and used with all sorts of random wires with great effect in terms of peaking up the signals on the wires, although they also helped out with pesty locals. This was effective on both outdoor and indoor wires, and even in a college dormitory for tuning an aluminum window screen which was somehow not grounded to anything on the building!

QUANTUM QX PRO

Rick Shaftan <shaftan@ptd.net>: Just ordered the Quantum Loop QX Pro with the 15 inch ferrite stick. Kiwas aren't available for 14 weeks, so the factory tells me. This one, actually looks more impressive...and the LW option is very appealing.

Lee Reynolds <lreynolds@cyberportal.net>: Hm, the LW comment piques my curiosity - anywhere on the 'net where I can read more about this device?

Phil Bytheway <phil-bytheway@teknologic.net>: Yes, the QX Pro works very nice... especially the regen. I've been playing around with mine for about a week now. Will try to document my tests soon.

KIWA POCKET LOOP

David Hochfelder <hochfeld@rci.rutgers.edu>: A note on the Kiwa Pocket Loop and Regeneration Module: So far, I've been pleased with the loop. I've been able to pull in many new stations, especially on the X-band. However, I'm still getting the hang of the Regen Module. If set too high, it has a tendency to pick up strong locals elsewhere on the dial. For instance, my local on 1450 appears from about 1350 to 1550 with the Regen Module set too high. Adjusted just right, the Regen Module does help to bring some signals out of the mud. The only difficulty I've had is getting the antenna shipped. It took about six weeks after placing the order, and it arrived without the cable or coupler to the internal antenna. It took about another week to get the cable and I'm still waiting for the coupler.

MORE ANTENNA QUESTIONS

Bruce Winkelman <bdwink@home.com>: Good evening to all. I have the good fortune of spending this coming weekend "playing radio" at a friend's second home (cabin) approximately 60 miles east of Tulsa in a relatively isolated part of the hills of eastern Oklahoma. This cabin is in a resort-style community with houses and other cabins spaced about 1/4 to 1/2 mile apart. Plenty of room for longwire antennas and hopefully a quiet RF environment away from 50 kW KVOO-1170. I have 2 500-foot spools of wire that I plan on stretching out on Saturday AM when I arrive. I've never DX'ed with an antenna of this size before but from what I've read, 500 feet is too short for beverage-style reception on the BCB. Hope for some interesting listening anyway. Question 1: Can I use an insulator on the far end of the wires or do I need to use some sort of ground rod/system and terminating resistor? If a resistor is needed, any ideas or suggestions on value of the resistor? Question 2: Will antennas of this length show any directional characteristics with either an insulator or ground system at the far end? This will be the first of what I hope to be quite a few mini-dxpeditions to the site in the future so this is really a preliminary "fact-finding" trip, getting familiar with the terrain and reception conditions and doing some day and night band scans. I'll be using my R8 and a Quantum Loop as well as the Quantum Phaser with the long-wires. I'd appreciate any comments and suggestions on how I can maximize my weekend experience from folks that have done mini dxpeditions. I know I need to order the NRC book on the subject for reference but would like to hear

WIMS - 1420

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from the assembled DX experience represented on this list. Many thanks in advance for your comments and suggestions.

Doug Smith, W9WI <w9wi@w9wi.com>: I'm not so sure this (length of beverage - dB) is true. My 400-footer has significant directivity. (wish I could put up another one to grab TA's...). In response to Question 1, In my installation, I terminate the far end with a 470-ohm resistor. (drive a ground rod at the far end, and connect the resistor between the ground rod and the end of the antenna) At the near end, I use a 9:1 balun, then bring 50-ohm coax to the receiver. For Question 2, In my experience, yes if it's terminated. It favors the direction of the termination. I tried it unterminated and it was definitely much less directional - whether it had any directional characteristics at all was hard to tell.

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: One of my antennas I am currently using is a 400 foot NNW wire. It runs about 3-4 feet off the ground and it is quite directional day & night. I have it terminated directly to a series of ground rods in wet soil at the far end and I run a homebrew matching transformer on this end.

LOOP ANTENNA

Michael P Battaglino: I recently purchased an R8B and have been using a CCrane Super Select-antenna with it that I had been using with my Sony 2010. While I readily admit that I am still getting familiar with all the R8B has to offer, I'm concerned that I've got it hooked up to a less-than-optimal antenna for a table top receiver of the level of the R8B. Does anyone have a similar experience or a comment? I'd appreciate the input. As an aside, I gave up on the Kiwa loop (probably the ultimate solution) after waiting nearly 8 months and still only being #10 on Universal radio's back order list!

Phil Bytheway: Mike (et al): I use a KIWA with my R-8... have just received the new Quantum Pro but haven't fired it up yet. I haven't tried a Super Select-A-Tenna... but I can tell you that I am not impressed with the "normal" Select-A-Tenna. But I should point out that for that price, the Select-A-Tenna is not a BAD starter loop. There are other inductively coupled loops for sale as well... RadioPlus+ Q-stick and Ralph Sanserino's Shotgun have the same effect as the Select-A-Tenna, but are Ferrite based, so much smaller... AND you can Velcro 'em to the radio too! Should have ordered your KIWA loop direct from KIWA... I know they're almost ALWAYS backlogged. You also might try the new Quantum Loop from RadioPlus+. I have a copy of their new catalog if anyone is interested.

Marc DeLorenzo <Marc.DeLorenzo@rcp.dph.state.ma.us>: Hi Mike, Assuming that you do not have the space for longwires, I recommend the Quantum Loop from Radio Plus in Pensacola, FL. Many DX'ers, myself included, have been quite pleased with this antenna. A catalog of various radio toys is available from them.

Patrick Griffith <AM-DXer@webtv.net>: I use an older version of the Drake, the R-8. I bought a new townhome just over a year ago and I am not allowed to have any outside antennas. So I have been using a Palomar loop for AM. It works fairly well and I have logged and verified 27 expanded band stations with it. I have wanted to upgrade to a Kiwa loop for a long time but the price and availability have held me back. I have been checking e-Bay for a Kiwa for many months and last week I was surprised to find two of them for sale. I managed to get the winning bid on one that was still new in the box for the bargain price of \$265. I should be receiving it within the next couple of weeks and I can't wait to try it out. I think that one of the best antennas I ever had for AM was a 175 foot heavy copper wire strung north-south at a height of about 30 feet. It wasn't a Beverage antenna but it certainly performed well for me. It was connected directly with no tuner to a Hallicrafters S-120 receiver (I still have it!) that my father bought for me at the local Sears Roebuck store. That was my first listening post back in the mid '60s. Of course receive conditions were far different back then as well. I really enjoy the nulling capability of a loop in today's world. Best wishes and good luck!

Rick Shaftan <shaftan@ptd.net>: So which is "better"? The Quantum Loop or the Kiwa?

Marc DeLorenzo: Rick, From the 2 or 3 "Head to Head" comparisons that I have read, the answer would seem to be the KIWA. But, if the question was "Which is the better value for your Dollar,?" I believe the most DX'ers would say the Quantum.

Rick Shaftan: From Rob Kramer's page...

QUANTUM LOOP 2

The Quantum Loop 2 is one in a series of medium wave and longwave products designed by Gerry Thomas of Pensacola, FL. There are actually several different loops currently available, and more are in the development stages. The Quantum Loop 2 is identical to the Quantum Loop, except that the Quantum Loop 2 tunes both medium wave and longwave, while the Quantum Loop only operates in the medium wave spectrum. Earlier versions of the Quantum Loop 2 tuned the tropical bands, but this range has been eliminated from the current model due to poor performance. The loop is extremely simple to set up and use. It is very compact and will easily fit into a small suitcase for those

WKTY
AM-580

DXpeditions. The loop consists of two parts, the loop head and the control box. The loop head plugs into the control box directly through use of a 1/4" phone plug. Unlike other multi-band loops, the Quantum Loop 2 does not require changing coils when changing bands. This change is facilitated through 3 switches, making band changes quick and simple. The Quantum Loop 2 is fully tiltable and rotatable. From a performance standpoint, the Quantum Loop 2 is the best antenna I have ever used. In side by side comparisons with both the Radio West and Kiwa Loops it came out superior in all measurements. When compared to the Radio West Loop I found the nulls to be far better and the gain at least 20db greater. Against the Kiwa Loop, the Quantum 2 had slightly better nulls and a gain improvement of 7-10db. The only drawback to the Quantum Loop 2 is in the area of body inductance (this is generally a problem with most loops). Because the controls are right next to the antenna head, and because you must hold the antenna head in order to tilt and rotate it, sometimes nulls will be changed when you move your hand away from the antenna. This will only occur when you are attempting to null extremely strong locals stations. The stronger the local the more this effect will be noted. Body inductance should not be a problem on a vast majority of nulling attempts, and has no effect on skywave signals. This is the one area in which the design of the Kiwa Loop outperforms the Quantum 2 (there is little if any body inductance with the Kiwa). For those of you using portable radios, Gerry has made a product that allows you to use the Quantum series of loops with your radio. It is a coupler that works through induction. Just stand it at the back of the radio next to the ferrite rod. It will greatly improve the signal strengths and nulling capabilities of these radios. The cost for the coupler is \$15. The Quantum Loop 2 is \$185 plus shipping. For those who want to purchase the medium wave only Quantum Loop, the price is \$165 plus shipping. Gerry also gives a discount on orders for people who belong to radio clubs. For more information on the Quantum Loop 2, or other products, you can contact Gerry Thomas at: 3635 Chastain Way, Pensacola, FL 32504 or call him at: 904-434-3635. (Note: per a recent e-mail from Gerry, he is backed up on orders because of defective components supplied to him; query him directly for availability of items -pls.)

Bruce Conti: Just be careful when using a loop next to the R8B. The front panel display radiates noise. The loop should be located behind the receiver or at least an arm's length away to prevent noise pick up.

Mark Durenberger: Bruce's point is well taken. Good balanced loops can be very noise-immune but even they require care and feeding. Noise can come from the darndest places. You can even sometimes trace noise to the "wall-wart" plug-in transformers used to power those loops or receivers.

K9AY

Rick Shaftan: I see Wellbrook K9AY units are no longer available. Anyone got a good source for all the necessary parts? I got the 25 foot tree.

Neil Kazaross: I sincerely hope Wellbrook hasn't stopped making K9AY stuff....?

Rick Shaftan: They are "not available at this time."

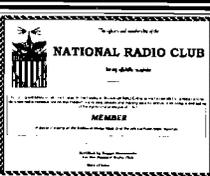
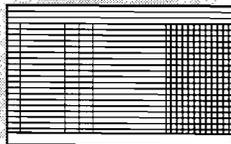
FYI - From: Andy Ikin [mailto:andy@wellbrook.uk.com]

Over the past two years I have tried with considerable difficulty to keep up with the demand for the K9AY. Due to an increase in the demand for other products and other commitments this coming year, I can no longer spare the time to manufacture the K9AY at the current production level. Therefore, the K9AY and the RF amplifier will be only made to special order and subject to available production capacity. Warrantee and support for existing K9AYs will continue for the foreseeable future.

Patrick Martin: After several tries and without much luck in getting my remote termination to work, I need to look at a schematic using a VTL5C4 Vactrol for the K9AY antenna. Does anyone have a diagram?

Logsheets - By Frequency

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College Sports Networks

Network listings for college team sports stations

Dave Braun dcbraun@delanet.com

863 Allabands Mill Rd.

Camden Wyoming DE 19934-2132

The following college hockey nets were forwarded by Barry Finkel from Dale Park - thanks guys. College Hockey via Dale Park, Honolulu, HI (per various newspapers and school websites)

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Arizona Icecats (John Dadante, Brian Baltosiewich) | 98.3 WCZI-NC |
| 1490 KKFN-AZ | 98.4? WSAV-NC |
| | 103.7 WLTT-NC |
| Bowling Green State University Falcons | 107.3 WTKF-NC |
| 96.7 WBVI-OH (partial sked) | |
| 88.1 WBGU-OH (partial sked) | George Mason (Byron Kerr) |
| | 1200 WAGE-VA |
| Ohio State U. Buckeyes (Herb Howenstine, Gord Rivington) | 92.7 WJMS-VA |
| 820 WOSU-OH | |
| | Houston (Russ Small, Andre Ware) |
| | 740 KTRH-TX |
| New Hampshire Wildcats | |
| 1230 WNHV-NH | James Madison (Jim Britt) |
| 1270 WTSN-NH (flagship) | 550 WWSA-VA |
| 1370 WFEA-NH | 1310 WDCT-VA |
| 1400 WLTN-NH | |
| 1450 WKXL-NH | Louisville (Paul Rogers, Doug James) |
| | 840 WHAS-KY |

And the following college basketball nets are from two conference websites:

| | |
|--|--|
| Colonial Athletic Association (www.caasports.com/local/radio) | 790 WMC-TN |
| Conference USA (www.c-usa.org/gen/gen/radiotvaffil). | North Carolina-Wilmington (Sam Gore, Wayne Jackson) |
| | 630 WMFD-NC |
| American U. (Chuck Timanus) www.auhoops.com - no radio | Old Dominion (John Castlebar (men's), Tony Mercurio (women's)) |
| | 1310 WGH-VA |
| Army (John Minko, Dean Darling) | U. of Richmond (Bob Black) |
| 770 WABC-NY | 910 WRNL-VA |
| Cincinnati (Dan Hoard, Jim Kelly) | Southern Mississippi (John Cox, Vic Purvis) "Mississippi Radio Network" |
| 700 WLW-OH | |
| East Carolina (Jeff Charles (men's), Bob Smith (women's)) | Tulane (Ken Berthelot, Steve Barrios) |
| 900 WIAM-NC | 870 WWL-LA |
| 1130 WCLW-NC | |
| 1160 WKRE-NC | Virginia Commonwealth (Terry Sisisky) |
| 1230 WFAI-NC | 1380 WTVR-VA |
| 1280 WSAT-NC | |
| 1290 WJCV-NC | William & Mary (Jay Colley) |
| 1350 WHIP-NC | 1050 WBRG-VA |
| 1380 WTOB-NC | 1420 WXGM-VA |
| 91.3 WZMB-NC | 99.1 WXGM-VA |
| 94.3 WGPM-NC | |



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Target DX

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

Here we are once again with another edition of Target DX! This column will be a mix of items, mostly taken from questions and answers appearing recently on the listserv. The promised column covering WWV broadcasts is being delayed slightly because of difficulties in obtaining information needed online or via email. That column will appear shortly.

Q - I've seen several references to the "sloper" antenna in previous discussions. Can someone provide some more info on them?

A - Installation of a sloping wire for medium wave reception is actually quite simple. In a practical sense, none of the rules for sloper construction that ham radio operators follow will apply. For example, the ideal sloper should be at least one-half wavelength high, mounted on a metal tower. Of course this is impractical for MW/LW wavelengths.

Based on personal non-scientific observations, here's what works on MW. The part of the wire that's sloping should be a minimum of about 100-ft/30-m long. The far end of the wire is supported by a stake or tie-down close to the ground. The wire rises at about 45-degrees to the top of a tree at about 50-ft high. Then the wire goes down the trunk of the tree to the high-impedance winding of a 4:1 RF matching transformer. The other leg of the high-impedance winding is connected to a ground rod or ground radials. The low-impedance windings of the 4:1 RF transformer are connected to 50-ohm coax, which is the lead-in to the receiver's low impedance antenna input. In theory, a 9:1 transformer would be a better match, especially for a wavelength of wire, but I've found that 4:1 provides for the best reception across LW, MW, and SW when using a 'short' wire of 100-ft.

The low, far end of the sloping wire points in the direction of reception. In addition, the vertical section of wire running down the tree trunk enhances higher frequency reception. The design is actually more like an "inverted L" shape. The wire should be located at least 20-ft from any potential noise sources such as buildings and utility lines. I use an east sloping wire of this design, and in general have success with reception of transatlantic signals on almost any given night. However, I'm also only about 40 miles from the Atlantic coast. For a location well inland, a wire length of about 500-ft minimum should net some transoceanic catches. Phasing the sloping wire with another wire or loop will further reduce interference.

Q - How long does a "long wire" have to get before it is directional?

A - All horizontal long wires are directional. The length of the wire will determine direction. In general, the direction of a short wire (less than one-quarter wavelength) will be off the sides. In other words, if the wire is run from north to south, the best reception will be from the east and west. As the wire gets longer, the direction begins to shift to the physical direction of the wire. A wavelength-long wire run north to south for example will provide north-south directional reception. Terminate the end of the wire, and you'll have a south Beverage.

There are several publications with plenty of info on the topic, including "The Beverage Handbook" by Victor A. Miskel, and "Long Wire Antennas" by Frank P. Hughes.

(Thanks to Bruce Conti for providing the preceding two answers - RjE)

Q - What are some of the techniques used to DX? What I mean is, do you sit on a frequency, scan around or what? (for this question, the answers which follow come from different members, each identified at the end of their comments. Additional member comments may be provided in a future column. - RjE)

A - First of all, I DX standing up. Most of the time I run over to the set at about :57 and check a few key frequencies for activity. The obvious reason for this is that so many stations now carry syndicated programming that it's impossible to identify them without an actual ID, and that, with any luck at all, will show up around the top of the hour.

I route the ICF 2010 output through the Marantz tape recorder



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and listen off phones from there. I usually turn the tape on at :59. I also have a mike input and identify what I am going to tape beforehand (freq, date, time). I usually don't fill up one side of a C-90 in a week. Usually each Thursday, I play back the tape through an equalizer and dub edited/shortened IDs onto a master tape. I generally don't send reports any more unless I have a reasonable amount of identifiable material (ads, other local stuff) BUT do not have an actual call letter ID. The equalizer has been a lifesaver: I have heard many IDs through it which I missed while listening/taping.

Generally I first punch up 1700 and start down. While the X-band is indeed filling up fast, it still remains a very good indicator of potential activity. If WJNZ-1680 is booming in - which it frequently does - that usually means there are opportunities out there. From there you scan the band for anything that is different from the norm. Last night, country music was coming in on 1440 over KODL's religion (KMED NOS and KVON talk were nowhere) so it had to be CKJR; as long as AB was good (CFRN-1260 and CHLW-1310 were strong), I checked 580 for needed CKUA. There was some CL music which I presume was CKUA. However, I need a strong KFXD to cut down on KVI-570 slop, and it didn't hold up, so I never got call letters.

If there is nothing exciting going on at 1700 or anywhere on the X band, then I use the other preset and go down to 530 and work up. Once in a while Turks & Caicos overrides all the local TIS/HAR's on 530. That's nice, but so far I haven't been able to link it to any situation resulting in an influx of signals from the SE. So really, on the lower part of the band, it's generally frequency by frequency. An exception did take place last year: WBBM (often heard) was really strong so I tried for other rare Chicago biggies and was rewarded with WGN (through KDOWN and KIRO slop) and WMAQ (through KBOI) IDs (WLS was also in but I didn't have the tape rolling when their ID came up).

I use other presets for the GY frequencies, all the WWV frequencies, KIRO-710 (solely to confirm the status of its image on 830 when I'm DXing that channel) and KKMO-1360 (it's 1 mile away and is liable to show up anywhere from 1270 on up). In critical situations, usually involving slop from first adjacents, I use sideband. I have also been pleasantly surprised when putting the set in Sync mode; it seems to make stations pop out.

For the most part, I listen at the same time I am taping. However, if I hear something interesting at :15 and I don't want to wait around 45 minutes for the ID - and my need for sleep is more pressing than my need for a log addition - I will just tape it. Another time to do this is when a station is a notorious non-IDer (the last time I did it was several years ago with WJNZ). As the signals allow, I will probably do it with KNGS-620 and KGSO-1600, neither of whom has graced the airwaves with call letters at any time that I have been listening. On the other hand, if I find something interesting at :15 which I wish to pursue, rather than just stand there and listening to it for 45 minutes, I will preset it and snoop around elsewhere (if it is a music station, I will come back every couple of minutes to catch talk between songs). If you're near the coast, you should also check for hets. These are from stations in other parts of the world which operate on a 9kHz spacing plan rather than 10.

You should use all available resources. The NRC Log and Pattern Book are indispensable. I maintain a list of target stations. The pattern book shows you which stations are beaming their signal in your direction. I also use the FCC sunrise/sunset tables to great advantage. Really, I don't think there is any great mystique (or technique) involved. You just have to get to know your local band pretty well and go from there. By getting to know what normally comes in, you can discern exceptions, and that's when the fun starts.

(Pete Taylor, Tacoma WA)

A - I'm fairly new at this as well, and have found that AM DXing is different from shortwave listening (which I also enjoy). For starters, the language on AM is usually English and you can count on regular IDs. I use three general methods. The first is simply to go up the band and log what I hear. The point is to get some sort of baseline for what's out there under normal conditions. Then when you find that conditions are good for reception from a certain area, say the midwest, you know where to look for surprises. During auroras, for example, the higher powered Canadians will be much weaker and those frequencies will be clear for other stations. I still have frequencies on the upper end of the band, say 1300-1600, that I haven't gotten to. The second thing I'm trying to do is to log as many states, provinces, and countries I can. My international loggings are not terribly impressive: Cuba, Turks and Caicos, Venezuela, and Mexico; I don't have the equipment for serious transatlantic or Latin American DXing. Right now, I'm trying to log Vermont and Maine (which I'm finding to be difficult even though I'm in New Jersey) as well as states across the Mississippi. To do this I use the NRC domestic log to identify target stations and check those frequencies frequently. Third, it is possible to receive stations underneath strong local stations by nulling them, or orienting your radio so that the local signal is weak. Other stations will then fade in, making it possible to ID them.



As far as whether I scan or sit on a frequency, I guess it depends on how interesting a frequency is. If it seems like there's a lot going on that's worthwhile, and can be readily identified, I'll stay there. However, many network affiliates don't run local content or ads, so it's impossible to get information to help with identifying the station, except at the top of the hour legal ID. In those cases, I'll note the frequency and come back to it about 5-10 minutes before the hour. I'll use the intervening time to scan around for something else interesting on another frequency.

I've found that patience is important. I usually have something else to do (bills, the newspaper, fessing the cats, etc.) I'm doing while I wait to ID a station. The program content is seldom compelling enough, unless it's a baseball game, especially the Cubs or Indians.

(Dave Hochfelder, New Brunswick, NJ)

On SRS and SSS (when I do most of my AM DXing), the first frequency I usually go to is 880 and check the strength of WCBS and what can be heard in WCBS's null: if I can hear WRFD, Worthington OH, it's a sign of "average" SSS/SRS conditions. CKLQ Brandon, MB is an indicator of a western opening. If I can't hear WCBS at all, it's a pretty good bet that conditions will be auroral, or unsettled. I also check 890 to hear how early in the afternoon WLS comes in, or how late after local sunrise WLS can still be heard.

Because of the proliferation of satellite-fed, turnkey automated operations, most of my DX is concentrated at the top of the hour. If I miss a TOH ID, I try again at :05, in case they come through with an ID after the network news. I keep something non-DX related near my radio to read, while waiting for an ID (that usually doesn't come at all, or is buried in QRM).

(Mike Brooker, Toronto)

Years ago, I always tried to make a complete trip up the dial (always up, because it was usually quick getting that part of the dial out of the way owing to the dominance of the clear channel stations). Often I'd reach a point somewhere above 1240 where I'd become intrigued and 'get stuck'. Later on, however, I decided that method wasted too much potential DX'ing time, and I established (based on experience at the particular location) a short list of 'indicator frequencies' which would hopefully alert me to what the band was doing. This is closely parallel to what Pete Taylor talked about doing with the X-Band, and I use the X-Band that way also. Once I have a feeling as to what the band is doing, I generally move on to my targets list, checking out those possibilities on the list which seem consistent with whatever area might be favored by conditions.

Then, if time permits, and if I haven't become bored with finding nothing new - which happens more and more the longer you've been DX'ing from an area or location - I tune around the band listening for anything out of the ordinary. Mostly, though, I concentrate on either target stations or target frequencies, especially at sunrise and sunset. When conditions are going well at either time, you can often get more than one new station on the same frequency in a relatively short space of time, which is ideal for those of us who don't have long segments of time to listen, and it's also very appropriate for sunrise and sunset in general.

Overall, though, once you've gotten to the point where you've logged pretty much everything that 'normal' conditions will permit, your best bet is to spend some time away from the dials, using the Log, Sunrise/Sunset maps and DXN to map out some realistic (and a few not-so-realistic) targets. (RjE)

More next time! Stay tuned! And remember to send any DX questions you may have to me either via regular mail or email at the addresses above.



Sunrise-Sunset Maps

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



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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.

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Just a quick muse on how this DX season has been to me. In a nut shell, pretty darn good. First off I started by getting a new receiver. I purchased a Sangean AT5505 SW/LW/MW rig. I was looking for something with digital readout as well as Long wave. I never really dabbled in Long wave before so I thought my next receiver would have it. Of course I was looking at the price as well. I am married so I am on a budget!! This baby has really pulled in the DX for me. I have since gone over 400 stations heard. I have also heard what some DX'er's consider a Trans-Atlantic station. That station being RFO St Pierre et Miquelon on 1375. In fact I have heard it twice now! I have heard 31 states from here in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Considering that I live about a half mile from the second busiest airport in Harrisburg! Number 31 was KAZP in Bellevue, Nebraska! That has been a station I have been chasing. Oh, and I rejoined the BEST MEDIUM WAVE DX ING CLUB IN THE WORLD after a 12 to 15 year hiatus! Well I guess that's all for now. Good DX to all and I hope this season has been good to all of you as it has been to me!

And our continuing RADIO STORY adventures.....And The Beat Goes On!

John Tudenham, Joplin MO I remember my first night behind the microphone at KIXZ-940 in 1966. An economy move to operate from the transmitter was the only reason I was on, as I was also the engineer. It was called "East of midnight" with "John Roberts", my air name. We had a top-40 format but mixed with oldies on the weekends. I was doing fine until 12:30 am and it was time for news headlines. One of the news stories involved a student boycott. Instead of BOYCOTT I said BOYSCOUT. I realized what I said and just kept on going rather than correct my mistake. I was nervous anyway and hoped no body had caught the mistake. A few of my friends I told to listen kidded me about it. Then there was the case of Payola. A couple of guys that had a rock band came out to the transmitter, 10 miles out in the country, with a brand new record they wanted me to play. I said we had a strict play list and they would have to see the program director. Next they said they were going into town and asked if I wanted a hamburger and fries. I said yes but intended to pay them for it. They came back and would not take any money. They asked me again to play their record even putting it on the turntable. Again I refused, saying they would have to see the PD. Anyway I got a free meal out of it and was not payola. -0- (Now who knows what "-0-" is from? (DS) (I do! -pls.)

Jim Wiskowicz

I have just rejoined these lists and have been rolling with laughter at the stories. My first station was a college radio station, WSUW in Whitewater, WI. It was on the top floor of the oldest building on campus. It was so old that the architect who designed it probably had never heard of a radio station. The main control room was on one end of the building and the bathroom was all the way down at the other end, that is, if you were lucky enough to be a guy. The gals had to go down three flights for those moments of relief. It was going to be my first night on the air doing my own show. The gal who preceded me did an hour of classical music. When I arrived, she said "While you're cueing up your record, please watch mine, I have to run downstairs". I watched it all right. When the gal left, I sat down and took the tone arm off of the record that was on the air and like a dope, for a minute, just sat there thinking "Hmmm, what happened to the music?" I opened the mike; all I would have needed to say was "One Moment Please," or "Please stand by." Instead my first live words on that station were, "What the hell happened to the music on turntable 2?", all of this while I'm sitting there with said turntable's tone arm in my hand. Got chewed out the next day by the PD, who was ready to say I wasn't ready to be on the air, until I gently reminded him that he'd done the first hour of the morning show that day with filaments on and no carrier. We weren't always that bad, but it's fun to remember. 73 and Good DX -0-

Neil Griffin, Bainbridge, GA I did break up on my own one time at KPAN. It involved an agricultural concept I'd never heard of, and I was reading a brand-new piece of copy that had just been handed me, live, on the air. It went: "Farmers! Got green bugs! Then get lady bugs! Farm Supply of Hereford has lady bugs, frozen by the gallon. Warm 'em up, let 'em go, and they'll get those crop-sucking green bugs." It went on and on but by that time, I was gone. I couldn't get through the commercial. I had a similar incident at on a sponsored weather report at KLEE 1480... "Ottumwa Tire and Radiator — It's a great place to take a leak." Fortunately there was a commercial after the teaser so I was able to regain my composure before reading the forecast. -0-
That's it for this week!

DAVE