From the Publisher ... The WMO test scheduled for December 30 was canceled on the day it was to be aired. There’s no indication if or when it will be rescheduled.

Issue #13 was not mailed out until well after the usual Friday date of January 3, as the New Year’s holiday put a crimp in the printer’s schedule, so let’s ease off blaming the USPS for the lateness of delivery of at least THIS issue but then I don’t understand why an October 3 issue was returned around January 4, with a hand stamp indicating that the address, which had been used successfully for some two years, was “inadequate”).

No AM Switch in this issue, and here’s what Jerry Starr has to say about that: “As usually happens this time of the year the FCC folks have been enjoying extended holiday vacations. Since the AM Switch of last week [January 6] they have produced a grand total of ONE item of even slight interest. Therefore there will be NO AM SWITCH THIS WEEK FOR ISSUE #14. If the past is any indication next week will be equally sparse with the New Year Eve/Day holiday in the middle of this week. We will put together whatever we have on hand for Issue #15, but it may be a miniscule one.”

Although the Geomagnetic Indices column that we run periodically carries a summary of ionospheric conditions, those who wish up-to-the-minute information may access <<http://www.nrdxas.org/weather>> now for the very latest in WWV reports.

Is it DX or not? I’ve sort of coined the phrase “vanity DX” for those loggings that are repeated week after week, month after month, and the DX column editors and I have asked contributors to be a little more discriminating in their submissions. Feedback I’ve received from long-time members indicate that they agree that quality loggings, versus quantity, are of more use to them. And yet, the vanity submissions continue. Now, we’re not asking you to go paranoid and keep a long list of what you’ve sent and comb it carefully before sending in new loggings; we’re just asking you to realize that well, after the first or second time, it isn’t DX, it’s more like vanity if the listing doesn’t present something new to the readership. So if you get a polite note from one of the editors, please review your submission habits. We know that you may not remember in March if you sent in a listing of a station in October, and frankly, we don’t care. But kindly refrain from sending in the same station loggings over and over again, okay?

Bottom line: after the first time, it probably isn’t DX. And if you feel differently, submit new information. Make it useful!
It's not too late!!! Our next Challenge deadline is January 5th. Five years ago this issue in DDXD-West, JJR-WI reported CHAD-800 and CJSS-1220 off the air due to a tower collapsing. Also reported were the first receptions of a few of the new expanded-band stations. It seems like only yesterday!

A comment or two: “On Monday January 6, the 770 Seattle station will become KTTH. This is not a simple swap of 770 and 1210 call letters and programming. KTTH will be talk; the current KNWX is now the new KTTH. The current KNWX is a little lower in power. A little Quieter around a loop, which is unusual. This has let me do some daytime logging that I probably wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise.” - JTR-OK.

DDXD-West
MEDIUM WAVE RUMBLINGS

Five years ago this issue in DDXD-West, JJR-WI reported CHAD-800 and CJSS-1220 off the air due to a tower collapsing. Also reported were the first receptions of a few of the new expanded-band stations. It seems like only yesterday!

It’s not too late!!! Our next Challenge deadline is January 17th. The Challenge: 1460 kHz. The next week, January 24th, the Challenge is for you to try harder on 1550 kHz. And for January 31st, the Challenge is ... to do ... 550 kHz. Hopefully, these challenges aren’t toooooo tough for you guys. :-) As always, we need ideas for Challenges! Speaking of which ... thanks to Kevin, Morris, and Patrick for submitting XMAS Challenge loggings!

A comment or two: “On Monday January 6, the 770 Seattle station will become KTTH. This is not a simple swap of 770 and 1210 call letters and programming. KTTH will be talk; the current KNWX is now the new KTTH. The current KNWX is a little lower in power. A little Quieter around a loop, which is unusual. This has let me do some daytime logging that I probably wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise.” - JTR-OK.

CUNT?

REPORTERS

FA-ID
Frank Aden Boise
FRG-7 and Drake R8, 4-foot box loop, 110 N-S long wire

RA-NY
Rene Auvaray Henderson
GE P900A

SA-MB
Shawn M. Axelson Winnipeg
ICOM ICR-70 / Drake R8 / ICOM R-7000 = 4 Foot unamplified box loop / Quantum Loop; 145' outdoor wire / discone / MFJ 1026 phasing unit +<axlere@mb.sympatico.ca>

BD-WI
Bill Deverak Madison
Drake R88 with Quantum Pro Loop antenna +<dxerak@aol.com>

PG-CO
Patrick Griffith Westminster
Drake R8 and Kiwa loop +<AM-DXE8@webtv.net>

JEL-AR
J. E. Lewis (Kansas City, MO)
DXING from Fayetteville

JTR-WI
John J. Rieger South Milwaukee
Icom IC-R75, Kiwa Loop, MFJ-959B tuner-preamp or GE SR11, Tenk AM1000 loop (for GY loggings) +<johnrie@webtv.net>

JTR-OK
John Reed Shawnee
WJ DMS-105R tunable demodulator, modified Kiwa MW loop +<jreed@alum.mit.edu>

KR-AZ
Kevin Redding Mesa
DX-398 barefoot at with Radio Shack loop +<amfmdx@fastq.com>

DS-TN
Doug Smith Pleasant View
+<d9iw9@w9wi.com>, (100000watts.com)

MS-MB
Moore Sorensen Winnipeg
DX-392 barefoot +<mosos@bshaw.ca>

JW-NE
John Wilkins Wheat Ridge
Drake R-8, 4-foot loop +<peakbagger@uno.com>

Ed-TX
Editor North Richland Hills
DX-398 + Radio Shack Loop

STATION NEWS & NOTES

KWTO MO
Springfield - 12/25 0915-1030 - Celebration of 69th birthday with phone-in program. Current and former staff discussed farm, news, live entertainment programs with listeners profiling how this important station added to quality of life. I phoned them to mention first hearing them enroute from Chicago to Tulsa in the early '60's and commended them on local presence, news, and civic spirit of current service. They mentioned people writing in from as far away as California when there were less stations on the channel. Anchor for this program was a female substitute, as the regular host was getting her car out of a ditch as a result of a big snowstorm. [JEL-AR] I love hearing stories like this, and being able to pass them on! - Ed.]

New
850
BC
Abbotsford - 12/20 - According to the CRTC, Aboriginal Voices Radio has applied to the CRTC to amend its proposed new Vancouver FM station by operating it on 92.3 MHz with an ERP of 1200 watts. An additional application has been filed to add an AM transmitter at Abbotsford to operate at 850 kHz with a power of 10,000 watts [The FCC lists this as 'proposed' with U4 10000/10000 as CFSR - Ed.]. [Northwest Broadcasters]

1210
KWHI WY
Laramie - Is now silent. [DXmidAmerica.com]

1400
WEEP MN
Virginia - 12/28 - Had a fire at the transmitter and has been silent for about a month. The owner plans to sell the station, not reactivate it. [Upper Midwest Broadcasting]

1430
KTBI OK
Tulsa - 12/25 to 12/27 - Noted OFF, possibly due to snowstorm, one of only three producing a white Christmas there in past 30 years. Unable to ID any others in their absence. The new 25 kW doesn’t seem to get out much better to north or east. [JEL-AR]

1450
WHOH AL
Huntsville - 12/26 - Returns to the air as WTKJ. [100000watts.com]

1580
WTTN WI
Watertown - 1/3 - 1600 - Heard with a new satellite OLD format, ex: NWS/TLK, using the slogan 1580 The Goosie. This station has been playing continuous Christmas music through the holidays, suggesting a possible format change. [BD-WI]

XMAS CHALLENGE

12/29 0007 - Poor, with promo for AM 1520 - Olds from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. AM 1520 said at least three times in promo. Not KOMA, which uses calls and doesn’t play 80s. [JJR-WI]

XEGIK CH
Monclova - 12/27 0030 - Playing baladas and giving the slogan La Acera. [KR-AZ]

XECS CL
Manzanillo - 12/26 0400-0425 - Playing some primo harmonies in romantic ballads, absolutely beautiful music. Gave slogan once as CFSR - [DXmidAMerica.com]

XEEB SI
Ciudad Obrregon - 12/27 - Playing baladas and using the slogan La Comadre. Over KFMB. Primera Vez. [KR-AZ]

XQLX ND
Lisbon - 12/27 1357 - Had a fire at the transmitter and has been silent for about a week. [JEL-AR]

XREP CH
Ciudad Juarez - 12/27 0200 - Huge, with what I would describe as S&G romantic music. Frequent Radio Trees slogans between songs. Toh ID was Radio Tree, Chihuahua. [PG-CO]

XKOM MT
Great Falls - 12/22 2056 - Fair, with country music, ID as Big Sky Country, KOMN, and weather. [MS-MB]

KMA IA
Shenandoah - 12/23 1902 - Fair, with ABC News, Radio Shack ad, and into KMA news and weather. [MS-MB]

KHMO MO
Hannibal - 12/24 1800 - With announcement about special holiday programming, Missouri and Illinois mentions, and callsign ID. [MS-MB]

KAGOR OR
Klamath Falls - 12/24 0505 - With news and into ad for Dr. Laura with calls given in the ad. Semi-local KCKY was running OC this morning. [KR-AZ]
REGULAR DX LOGGINGS (times in EDT)

540 CBK SK Waukesha - 1/0 0845 - Great SRS opening. Snap, Crackle and Pop program with Paul Grant and Roy Forbes on CBC network. Nostalgic music by Canadian artists. In tight null of local TIS at DIA airport. Completely gone by 0857 (0657 local). (PG-CO)

580 WTCM MI Traverse City - 1/1 1756 - Poor, over WILL, with morning show promo, calls. (JJR-WI)

580 CKY MB Winnipeg - 12/29 0756 - Poor, with legal ID between ads, and into KY85 single and oldies. In with WILL. (JJR-WI)

580 CKPR ON Thunder Bay - 12/28 0534 - Poor, with clear calls and AC/oldies. In with others. (JJR-WI)

640 KFI CA Los Angeles - 12/28 0400 - Best California signal in years. Weird ID too. <sound effect> Southern California’s KFI guy in background shouts Los Angeles! > News on the hour, on the half, and when it breaks. (DS-TN)

640 WGST GA Atlanta - 12/28 0700 - Fair-to-poor, even with WFNC, with WGST, Atlanta’s Station for Talk, then legal ID. (DS-TN)

640 WGST GA Atlanta - 12/30 0735 - Poor, in WMFN null, with calls said often. Rare! (JJR-WI)

640 WFNC NC Fayetteville - 12/28 0700 - Fair-to-poor, even with WGST with News Talk Radio WFNC, then sung call ID, into CBS News. New. (DS-TN)

640 WWLS OK Moore - 12/28 0300 - Poor, mostly under Radio Progress/CBS with two quick call IDs. (DS-TN)

640 WCRV TN Collierville - 12/27 1000 - Poor-to-fair, with WSM splash with legal ID and Memphis. (DS-TN)

640 KGAB WY Orchard Valley - 12/27 1430 - Weak daytime DX, with Rush Limbaugh talk show, call ID and news. (JTR-OK)

640 KTNN AZ Window Rock - 12/27 1435 - Daytime DX in phase null of KSKY. Voice of the Navajo Nation, KTNN then into Navajo music. First time heard during daytime. (JJR-WI)

730 WSCC SC Charleston - 12/30 0658 - Poor, over others, with Dr. Laura promo and stocks. News Radio WSC. NEW! (JJR-WI)

730 WLLL TN Lenoir City - 12/28 0428 - Poor, though clear, with calls and C&W music. 214 Watts! (JJR-WI)

800 CHAB SK Moose Jaw - 12/31 0819 - Fair @ 20/9. Calls, weather, oldies. (JJR-WI)

800 KPLS SK Orange - 12/31 0100 - Usually poor under, but occasionally stronger and sometimes over, WCCO. Mentions of Peppermint Waves and other Southern California teams, two call IDs. (DS-TN)

830 WCCO MN Minneapolis - 12/31 1330 - Weak daytime logging, with call ID and news from Minnesota. (JTR-OK)

900 WFIA KY Louisville - 12/29 1800 - Poor in CHML null, with legal ID. Religious format. (JJR-WI)

900 WSHO LA New Orleans - 1/2 1825 - Poor, but alone, with calls and TC into ads. (JJR-WI)

900 WALT MS Meridian - 12/23 0200 - Poor, with Talk Radio 910 . . . WALT Meridian. (DS-TN)

900 WSTK NC Jacksonville - 12/30 1800 - Poor, though clear, with legal ID. ESPN! NEW! (JJR-WI)

900 WAVL PA Apollo - 1/3 0646 - Poor, with The All New Praise 910 with TC, then faded out. (JJR-WI)

900 WJCV TN Johnson City - 12/17 0800 - Poor, with 1320 WKIN <fade> WJCV Kingsport-Johnson City Radio, into CBS News. New. (DS-TN)

900 WDOR WI Sturgeon Bay - 12/27 1745 - Poor, with sign-off including SSB, in mess. (JJR-WI)

940 WMAC GA Macon - 12/29 0735 - Poor, with others. Promo for bowl games on Real Talk 940 WMAC. (JJR-WI)

940 CJGX SK Yorkton - 1/3 0611 - Fair, over others. GX94 and C&W. Nice visitor! (JJR-WI)

970 WDAY ND Fargo - 12/27 1743 - Poor, with Sean Hannity calls. Alone and weak. (JJR-WI)

970 WBLF PA Bellefonte - 12/27 0607 - Fair, with ID with WRSC 1390. Alone, rare. Talk. (JJR-WI)

1020 KJJK MN Fergus Falls - 12/27 1717 - Poor 'til fade out. Oldies 1020. (JJR-WI)

1020 KINF NM Roswell - 12/25 1050 - With Christmas songs, call ID in between. Fair. (RA-NV)

1070 WDIA TN Memphis - 1/2 1810 - Fair, but faded out while talking about city’s tax woes. Calls noted. No WTSO. (JJR-WI)

1100 WWWE GA Hapeville - 1/1 0717 - Very good in WTCM null. La Feista Mexicana with lively SS. Confirmed at web search. NEW! (JJR-WI)

1110 KSPN CA Los Angeles - 12/25 0945 - Mentioning ESPN switch from 1110 to 710 on January. Orange and Los Angeles County traffic updates. Mike and Mike Show. Good. (RA-NV)

1110 WGNZ OH Fairborn - 1/2 0117 - Fair, in KFAB null, with Good News 1110 WGNZ with GOs. Good news? It’s NEW! (JJR-WI)

1150 WMST KY Mt. Sterling - 1/2 1845 - Poor, with full ID into oldies. Over CKOC. (JJR-WI)

1170 KJJD CO Windsor - 12/28 0820 - Fair signal, with lively Mexican music and ads for the area. Most likely my UNID from last loggings. NEW! (SA-MB)

1200 WFLD WI Waupun - 1/1 0745 - Fair signal, on top briefly, with many local ads for Waupun and surrounding towns. NEW! (SA-MB)

1200 KFNW ND West Fargo - 12/27 1730 - Fair @ 40/9! Local PSAs, and calls. WLXX wiped out! (JJR-WI)

1240 WTAX IL Springfield - 12/31 1825 - Poor, with calls said often in promo. In mess. (JJR-WI)

1240 WSDR IL Sterling - 12/31 1800 - Poor-to-fair, in fade up, with ID and news. (JJR-WI)

1250 KKHK KS Kansas City - 12/27 0145 - SS talk and music program with studio audience sounds. KKHK, 12:50 AM, Kansas City, Kansas in EE at 0207. (PG-CO)

1260 KKYR SD Winner - 12/27 0240 - Country classics format. From Rock Hill to The Sand Hills, this is local radio for South Dakota and Nebraska, Country 12-60. (PG-CO)

1270 KJPS AR Pine Bluff - 12/28 0344 - Poor in WKBF null. Legal ID, urban gospel. 31 Watts! NEW! (JJR-WI)

1320 KELO SD Sioux Falls - 12/27 1829 - Poor, though steady and alone with local news. (JJR-WI)

1320 WGFA IL Watseka - 12/30 0753 - Poor, with WGEE null. Local ads and NOS. (JJR-WI)

1320 WKMI MI Kalamazoo - 12/30 0804 - Poor, with local news by female. Despite being across the lake, it’s rare! (JJR-WI)

1420 KJCK KS Junction City - 12/29 0033 - Weak, with soft C&W oldies and frequent 1420 Country, KJCK IDs. (PG-CO)

1440 KPUR TX Amarillo - 12/26 2230 - With car dealership ad and into Bobby ?? Show on ESPN. Had a terrible 1 kHz hit. (KR-AZ)

1440 WKEI IL Kewanee - 1/1 0700 - Poor, though clear ID into news. In mess. (JJR-WI)

1450 WKLJ MI Ludington - 12/28 0400 - Poor, with legal ID / 1340 WMTE, in mess. (JJR-WI)

1450 KRZY NM Albuquerque - 12/31 0809 - Nice SS sandwiched between accordion selections: KRZY, Albuquerque, Nuevo Mexico, Catorce Cincuenta AM . . . con la nostalgia de mi tierra. Soon faded. No sign of SSer KGRE just up the pike. (JJR-WI)

1450 CHUC ON Cobourg - 12/28 1823 - Poor, but on top of frequency, with calls and soft AC. (JJR-WI)

1460 CJJO ON Guelph - 12/23 1956 - Fair, with oldies, CJJO ID jingle sung out. Not that common here. (MS-MB)

1480 KYOS CA Merced - 12/29 0530 - Coast to Coast w/ Barbara Simpson. News Talk 1480 KYOS ID at both then into a string of promos for various programs during the week. (PG-CO)

1480 KYOS CA Merced - 12/31 0955 - ID as News Talk 1480 KYOS followed by a short Focus on the Family feature. Fair. (JJR-WI)

1480 KQAM KS Wichita - 12/29 2129 - Good signal for a while with typical Radio Disney
January 22-29; 1280 kHz

Dates for the challenge are as follows:

- SC-IN Steve Chappell, Kerrville
- BC-NH Bruce Conti, Nashua
- KXMO TX Merkel - 12/29 0759 - REL programming; EE/DD legal ID at 0800:50 by slow-sounding guy; KXMO AM 1590 on your radio, the Christian Radio, broadcasting the gospel with the power of Jesus Christ from Merkel-Abilene, then SS version of same.

After a short fade, noted with EE REL comments at 0803, then faded out for good. Poor in KSXT null. (JJR-WI)

KVTK SD Vermillion - 12/29 0700 - I had been listening to KVTK station listening with KSXT for almost an hour. Coming out from under the end of the KSXT ID I heard partial ID: ... radio station from Culhane Communications Incorporated. Culhane is listed as the owner of KVTK. -71 watts. (PG-CO)

KKOM TX Amarillo - 12/29 1542 - Poor, but on top, with calls, promos and a live jock! (Not satellite!) NOS. Rare! (JJR-WI)

WFRU NY Buffalo - 12/27 1915 - Poor; Florida Panthers vs. Dallas Stars hockey, local ads including Pt. Lauderdale and South Florida mentions, heard through WFIL and WHYN. (BC-NH)

KTHF KY Middlesboro - 12/28 0830 - "WQAM Miami and WQAM dot com." You're tuned to... (JJR-WI)

WMSI IL Litchfield - 1/1 1743 - Poor, in KXEL null, with sign-off: ... tune to FM D16 ... and no SSB. C&W. Rare! (JJR-WI)

1200 kHz

WBBN FL Fernandina Beach - 12/24 1742 - Poor, with long listing on how to get PAs on WGSR, including address, phone and fax ("no collect calls!") - Rejoice 1570 AM WGSR over others. (JJR-WI)

WPGK GA Savannah - 12/23 1300 - Religious music followed by religious poem. Then You're tuned to 1570 AM, KSXT, Loveland at 101. This is semi-local to me, but first log of this call: (ex: KHPN) by me. On 18 Watt night power fighting it out with ESPN station. (PG-CO)

WAPL WI Sheboygan - 12/24 1745 - Poor, yet clear, with Trading Post program over others. (JJR-WI)

KSBX TX Floresville - 12/22 2100 - In SS, with ID mentioning several cities in the Bay Area and Sacramento, into religious program. Strong most of the time, with some periods of deep fades. (FA-ID)

KDKZ CO Arvada - 12/28 1815 - Poor in WPTX null. Unusual to hear at all. Disney programming. (JJR-WI)

GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

None this week, but remember all thegy DX records are on line at: www.angelfire.com/tx2x/phatom2/index.html and maybe a pattern plot or two :)

DDXD-E

Many thanks to everyone who reported during this holiday season! Our weekly frequency challenge continues, with the results of the 560 kHz challenge reported in this issue. Upcoming challenge dates for the challenge are as follows: 1330 kHz - January 8-15; 1600 kHz - January 15-22; 570 kHz - January 22-29; 1280 kHz - January 29-February 5; 910 kHz - February 5-12. Go get 'em!

REPORTERS

PLB-MI Phil Boersma, Spring Lake - GE Superadio III.
MKB-ON Mike Brooker, Toronto - Panasonic RF-2200; RF-45.
SC-IN Steve Chappell, Cordova - Bearcat DX-1000; 3 terminated loops.
BC-NH Bruce Conti, Nashua - R8B, MWDX-5; 50/75/50-ft east/ west Double-Ewe antenna.
RJE-PA Russ Edmunds, Blue Bell - Hammarsland HQ-150 w/ 4' amplified air core loop.
RJE-PA Russ Edmunds, Blue Bell - Car radio & whip.

DDXD-E Frequency Challenge Deadline = Frequency
January 15 1330 kHz
January 22 1600 kHz
January 29 910 kHz
February 5 1280 kHz
February 12 910 kHz

JF-ON Jeff Falconer, Clinton - AOR AR7(30)+, pair of 130' EWE antennas, MFJ-1026 phase box, etc.
RWK-CT Rick Kenneally, Wilton - Drake R88, Sony 2010, Quantum Phaser & QX Loop, lots of wire.
DL-MD Dave Larrabee, Columbia - Icom 8500 on random wire or loop.
DL-MD Dave Larrabee, Columbia - Ten-Tec SX340 on a long wire operating unattended gathering 4-minute audio samples at the top of the hour.
JRM-PA John R. Malicky, Pittsburgh - Superadio III and 1990 Delco C-Quam car radio.
RR-NC Rick Robinson, Hendersonville - Sony 7600GR, Radio Shack loop and Radio Plus Q-Stick, National NC-183D and 500' E-W long wire.
BT-NB Brent Taylor, Doaktown - Kenwood TS-680S & top fed.NW sloper + G5RV dipole.
DT-JM Don Trelford, Jamaica - Kenwood R-2000, long wire NS-EW.
FV-OH Fred Vobbe, Lima - Car radio.
PWE-SC Powell E. West, Waycross - Hammarsland HQ-180A.
NJW-ON Niel Wolfish, Toronto - Ontario - SONY ICF-1010 and Quantum Loop antenna.

WEEKLY FREQUENCY CHALLENGE -- 560kHz

560 WOOF AL Dothan - 12/25 2344 - Local Dothan ads, mention of Auburn University network "AM 5-60 The Ball WOOF" ID. Format noted as changing to gospel on weekends. (RR-NC)

WQAM FL Miami - 12/24 0847 - Sports talk show mentioning Miami Dolphins on "Sports Radio 5-60 WQAM." (RR-NC)

+ 12/25 0800 - In rush with ESPN break, mentions of Miami/ Ft. Lauderdale and www.wqam.com, then back to Sportcenter. (RWK-CT)

+ 12/27 1915 - Poor; Florida Panthers vs. Dallas Stars hockey, local ads including Pt. Lauderdale and South Florida mentions, heard through WFIL and WHYN. (BC-NH)

+ 12/29 0300 - "WQAM Miami and WQAM dot com." You're listening to Sports Center. Weak, but mostly in the clear, with little co-channel interference. (DL-MD)

WMIK KY Middleboro - 12/27 0718 - Gospel music, male announcer "more great gospel on the WMIK Morning Show." (RR-NC)

WGAN ME Portland - 12/25 0600 - Ad for "Identity Guard", recorded ID "News updates now available on your HD radio." Newsradio 5-60 WGAN, Portland then CBS News. (RWK-CT)

+ 12/26 0400 - Fair; Coast-to-Coast AM, "Breaking news immediately, Newsradio 560 WGAN Portland" into CBS news. (BC-NH)

WFRB MD Frostburg - 12/26 0630 - Fair; nostalgia, WTBO ID, local news, "Frostburg Cumberland weather on WTBO" jingle into the Weather Channel forecast, over WHYN. (BC-NH)

+ 12/28 0830 - "AM five sixty, AM fourteen fifty WTHO" at 0900: "WFBR Frostburg" under a religious station. In watching this station it appears that simulcasting with WOFR is occasional. (DL-MD)

WHYN MA Springfield - 12/26 0534 - Good; Coast-to-Coast AM, at 0400 "WHYN News/ Talk 560" into local news and the Weather Channel forecast, interrupted by EAS digital alerts and a NOAA weather alert for blowing and drifting snow. (BC-NH)

+ 12/29 1600 - Monster signal with Party Warehouse ad, "The station that keeps you informed in your car, WHYN Springfield... A Clear Channel Station", ABC News. Dominant station on frequency. (RWK-CT)

WCKL NY Catskill - 12/24 0800 - End of Beach Boys "Little Saint Nick", WCKL song ID, CNN News. Mixing with someone playing Meinheim Steampolder (assumed CFOS). (FC-CT)

WFIL PA Philadelphia - 12/25 0700 - Mostly buried under WHYN with religious program, ID: "Philadelphia's Christian talk station", time check. (RWK-CT)

+ 12/27 1805 - Poor but improving signal; "50W WFIL" IDs into The Bible Answerman live from California, in a tight WHYN/WGAN null. (BC-NH)

+ 12/28 0930 - As if on cue at a fail in WFRB's louder program. "This is five sixty WFIL, Philadelphia's Christian..." (DL-MD)

WVOC SC Columbia - 12/25 2317 - Call-in talk show discussing myths of the media, "on WVOC". Heard day and night. (RR-NC)

+ 12/27 0616 - alone on frequency with "News radio 560 WVOC", depend on
it” slogan, into sports. QSLed as WIS in 1976. (MKB-ON)

WFIL - AM560
Philadelphia's Christian Talk

WNSR TN Nashville - 12/27 2043 - “The Sporting News on Sports 56 WNSR.” (RR-NC)

CFOS ON Owens Sound - 12/25 0300 - Excellent with holiday music program “A Classic Christmas” featuring a brief history of the Yule log; spot for CFOS classifieds, PSAs, CFOS satellite weather and ID. (RRK-CT)

12/26 0320 - Fair; ESPN SportsCenter, then “News Talk 560 CFOS” local news update, over WHYN, later at 0650 nostalgia, “560 CFOS” and temperature in downtown Owen Sound. 12/30 1645 - Good; promos for the CFOS Music Machine and “560 CFOS, Mix 106, Country 93 Bridal Show”, over WFRB and WHYN. (BC-NH)

STATION NEWS

1410 WNWZ MI Grand Rapids - 12/30 0038 - Announcement aired on co-owned WFRG-FM stated that WNWZ will become all-SS “in January” with slogan “La Machina Musical”. Dropping weekday EE talk shows. Had been SS only on weekends. (PLB-MI)

1420 WCLV OH Cleveland - per President Conrad, will change call to WRMR as of first of the new year. (JRM-PA)

1550 WURP PA Braddock - Currently testing with pop/new music, after 9-month absence. “Listen for the new sound of WURP 1550 Braddock-Pittsburgh.” (JRM-PA)

DX TESTS

1450 WILM DE Wilmington - 12/15 0120 - up through din with code IDs and siren tone. Verified in 1997. (JRM-PA)

1560 WMRO TN Gallatin - 12/30 0110 - Not heard, only assumed Radio Bleu (Nice, France) and UNID 9S (see IXD). (DT-JM)

UNID OR PRESUMED

1200 WAGEp VA Leesburg - 12/30 1930 - Binghamton vs. George Washington University basketball game, fighting it out with usual pests WCHB and CFGO. Proposed on CHU network. (MKB-ON)

1240 UNID - 1/30 0530 - Good; Pat Boone song, followed by Leslie Gore “You Don’t Own Me”, way down in the jumble. Not usual here. (FW-OK)

1380 WLXEp NY New York - 12/27 1851 - good at times mixing with CKPC/CKLC with tropical SS music and ads in SS mentioning NY and NJ. No ID heard, would be ex WBNK/WKDM for me. (JF-ON)

1470 KUOLp TX San Angelo - 12/24 2135 - Religious talk, music in SS. (DT-JM)

1520 KVDP TX Express - 12/18 2109 - Religious talk, music in SS, poor under WWKB. (DT-JM)

1590 WKTPp TN Jonesborough - 12/26 0640 - Segued Christmas Music, as noted also by DBD-E. (RJE*PA)

1640 WKSHp WI Sussex - 1/1 2202 - With “Radio Disney” ID just after the top of the hour, and /1360 & 1650. NONKN’s web page lists only two Disney stations on this frequency, and the other is KBIC in Oregon. (BT-NB)

STATION LOGGINGS

540 CBT NL Grand Falls - 1/1 2127 - CBC Radio One feature interview about opera. // 750 with far better than average signals on both frequencies. (BT-NB)

550 CHLN QC Trois Rivieres - 1/1 2115 - Out of set of traditional Quebec music and into sports and news update read by Philippe Germain from RadioMedia studios in Montreal, promising details at 2145. Then back into “Soiree Quebequoise”. // 750, 1150 and 610. New. (BT-NB)

570 WKBK OH Youngstown - 12/30 0400 - “News Radio five seventy, WKBN…”. in heavy channel noise. (DL*MD)

610 WTXF VA Winchester - 12/21 0559 - “Sports Network… six ten WTXF Winchester.” (DL*MD)

CKTB ON St. Catharines - 12/21 0600 - “…newstalk six-ten CKTB, the Voice of Niagara, for news weather, and traffic, newstalk six ten CKTB” into news on the hour.

650 WSRO MA Ashland - 12/30 1357 - “J-Light Radio 650 Today’s Praise would like to thank you for joining us. J-Light Radio is blessed to continue its ongoing mission of bringing quality Christian programming to the Metrowest and Boston regions. J-Light Radio 650 is a programming service of J-Light Radio Incorporated and includes great praise and worship music, local ministry events… from early morning until 2 p.m. everyday Monday through Friday, and from 1 to 4 on Saturdays. Coming up next on AM 650, local talk programs, an ID. “Today’s Praise is J-Light Radio 650 WSRO Ashland-Boston. WAZN Marlboro, AM 650 WSRO Ashland,” into USA news. Ex-WJLT, thanks to Scott Fybush for the tip. (BC-NH)

CNGA NF Gander - 1/1 2111 - Commercial break followed by “VOCM 20/20 Weather” for all regions of Newfoundland and Labrador, then into Shania Twain song in 2113. Strongest ever heard here. Exceptional signals from the north this evening. Flux/A/K was 115/8.2. (BT-NB)

690 WJOX AL Birmingham - 12/11 1731 – strong with ads and sports talk on “The Fox” and “690 WJOX”. Cut at 1742. (JRM-PA)

WZAP VA Bristol - 12/20 1700 – “WZAP Bristol Virginia” followed by USA News. (DL*MD)

850 WDJC AL Birmingham - 12/29 1650 - Program of preaching, then choral music, sponsorship announcement for the Sandy Hill Church of Auburn, then complete ID. Appears to be my prior UNID. (JRE-PA)

WDJA FL West Palm Beach - 12/31 0630 - ID, into CNN news, then local news, then another ID. (RJE*PA)

KOAA CO Denver - 1/2 0640 - Music by Lemon Pipers (Green Tamb), and announce with many mentions of “KOAA”. Surprised me as KOAA was very strong. (FW-OH)

860 WOAY WV Oak Hill - 12/3 1700 - Temperature and ID atop the mess. (RJE-PA)

WAMO PA Mill Hall - 12/23 1703 - “Borris’s Adult Station, WAMO 860” into music. (RJE-PA)

910 WTSK NC Jacksonville - 12/31 0450 - dominating the frequency with ESPN Radio stuff. Top of the hour ID as “WTSK Camp Lejune-Jacksonville.” (NJW-ON)

WAVL PA Apollo - 1/1 1030 – “Praise 910” on top with inspirational music. Not usually heard past sunset, which leads me to believe they were “cheating” on day power/pattern. Mixing with WSBA. (NJW-ON)

920 WOKY WI Milwaukee - 12/28 1654 - screaming CKXN with promo for am920hockey.com web site, contest to win tickets to see Lord of the Rings. (MKB-ON)

940 WKGW VA Smithfield - 12/28 1630 - alone on east wire with end of “Faith Evangelical Broadcast”, ID “We are the Ministry Station”, AM 940, WKGW” into another REL program. (JF-ON)

960 WERC AL Birmingham - 12/30 0605 – over usual pest CFXF with ABC news, ID as “good morning, it’s 5:05 on news radio 960 WERC” into local news read by woman, lead item was that Christmas retail sales in Alabama were the worst in 30 years. (MKB-ON)


1190 WGKA GA Atlanta - 11/26 1650 - fair with “WGKA bumper stickers.” Gospel music, weather, on “the mighty 1190 solid gospel WGKA.” New! (JRM-PA)

WBSL MS Bay St. Louis - 11/27 1759 – good with blues music, legal ID, talk and local ads. New! (JRM-PA)

1200 WSMC NC Graham - 11/26 1711 - fair with ads and “exclusive WSMS forecast”, reusing WBNK-LP. (RIM-PA)

WQLS AL Ozark - 12/2 1800 – good with QRM. Signing off “join us at 6 AM on America’s favorite gospel station, AM 1200.” New! (JRM-PA)

WXIT NC Blowing Rock - 12/11 1707 – just caught sign off: “…tune to WECR-AM…” good night and God bless.” New! (JRM-PA)

WCMB MI Marquette - 12/16 1744 - “In for the new sound of WCHB.” New! (JRM-PA)

WPNT PA Connellsville – 12/26 1700 – caught top of hour ID through graveyard mash: “…serving the community for 55 years, your information station, WPNT.” (MKB-ON)

1360 WYOS NY Binghamton - 12/27 1649 - faded up over mess with ID “News Radio 1290.
International

DX Digest

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

Transatlantic DX

162 FRANCE France Inter, Allouis DEC 24 2102-2106 - Fair with news in French parallel to 1375 kHz. Reception was several minutes before local sunset. + DEC 28 0354-0402 - Strong with a man in French and French pop vocals parallel to 1375 kHz. Time pips at top of hour. [DeLorenzo-MA]

167 MOROCCO R.Mediterrane International, Nador DEC 24 2102-2116 - Fair with reggae music and male DJ in French. [DeLorenzo-MA]

183 GERMANY Europe Number 1, Felsberg DEC 24 2133 - Good with discussion between two men in French. + DEC 25 0403-0409 - Good with French tele-talk. [DeLorenzo-MA]

193 ICELAND Ríkisráðhúsi, Gulfskálar DEC 24 2136-2139 - Good with Christmas Eve hymn and organ in Icelandic. [DeLorenzo-MA]

216 FRANCE R.Monte Carlo, Rouenoules DEC 08 0142-0147 - Good with French tele-talk. Some interference from aerobase CLB. [DeLorenzo-MA]

234 LUXEMBOURG RTL Beidweiler DEC 28 0418-0427 - Fair with male DJ in French and pop/rock tunes including cover version of Donnie Warwick’s “I Say A Little Prayer.” Very lively format. [DeLorenzo-MA]

945 FRANCE France Info, Toulouse DEC 28 0333-0336 - Fair with a man in French. [DeLorenzo-MA]

1467 FRANCE TransWorld Radio, Roumessines DEC 21 2206-2223 - Fair with Christian program in English translated after each phrase into unknown language (Mandarin?) [DeLorenzo-MA]

1521 SAUDI ARABIA BSKSA Daba DEC 21 2141 - Loud and clear with Middle Eastern music-Arabic vocal with strings - parallel to 9555 and 9870 kHz. [DeLorenzo-MA]

1557 FRANCE France Bleu, Nice DEC 30 0100 - Came blasting in after unID Spanish signed off (see Pan American), mostly old orchestra, instrumental numbers with a woman announcer after most numbers, sounded like French, but muffled (not Haiti or Quebecue French), interference (slight) from an unknown Spanish. Trying for WMRO. [Treford-JMC]

1854 CEUTA RadioC DEC 21 2155-2201 - Tentative; fair with Spanish folk music, at 2200 time shift, brief Spanish guitar music, announcements by man in Spanish, possible jingle. Not quite readable enough for positive ID. [DeLorenzo-MA]

Pan-American DX

560 MEXICO XEGIK Menloparka, Chihuahua DEC 27 0030 - Playing baladas and giving the slogan “La Voz de los Arqueros.” [Redding-AZ]

590 MEXICO XEFD Reynosa, TAMA DEC 28 1247 - Finally ID'd this mystery station I've been hearing lately. Talk show, local 11 1, in progress, CST time checks and temperature checks in F and C. Reynosa and Brownsville spots at 1300, then two minutes of apparent news with a man and woman. At 1305, coll ID, “La Consentida” slogan, then “Informatorio Policico,” which I assume was a police report. Didn’t copy much after that. Fair on pips over KCJ. [Wilkins-CO]

760 MEXICO XEEB Ciudad Obregón, Sinaloa DEC 27 0030 - Playing baladas and using the slogan “La Comadre.” Over KFMB, Primera vez. [Redding-AZ]

860 MEXICO XEZOCol. Juarez, CHIH DEC 28 1337 - Presumed with talk on traffic problems in the area, MST time check and “Ocho Sesenta AM” slogan. [Wilkins-CO]

990 MEXICO XET Monterrey, NL DEC 29 0136 - Noted with “La T Grande” slogan and coll ID in null of local KRKS. Mixing with XER, [Wilkins-CO]

990 MEXICO XEER Cuautitlán, CHIH DEC 29 0514 - Wolff bowels, area ads, “Rádio Lobos” slogans. Think I heard a call ID, as well. Mixing with XFH. [Wilkins-CO]

1000 MEXICO XEMM Mazatlán, Sinaloa DEC 30 0425 - Was listening to KOMO and this came up and over with ID and slogan La Comadre then began playing recodo banda. It seems that banda has been the hot music in Northern Mexico for the year. Primera vez. [Redding-AZ]

1650 MEXICO XED Mexico, BCN DEC 29 1401 - Man commenting on approaching year-end; then a series of music and PSA’s about sexual abuse and agrarian reform. Noted slogans “La Gran D de Mexicali” and “La embajadora musical de Mexico.” Interference-free and nearly fade-free for almost 15 minutes. [Wilkins-CO]

1120 MEXICO XEPOPuerta, PUE DEC 29 0105 - Possible legal ID at 0105, with mentions of “mill watts” and a partially-readable address which agrees with XEPO’s. Then, a tropical
A fine repast was enjoyed by a most eclectic concatenation of electrophiles aboard an elegant ocean liner. Due to security concerns, Mr. Kobayashi sent a Mr. Kint as his personal representative. It was Dec 30 - Sounded like 'Radio Charisma' tropical music under France Bleu, very poor. [Treford-JMC]

Kevin speaks: Conditions have been misery the last few weeks. I am ready to have the sunspots end so I can hear something from Canada and some English on the radio. Until you all come down to the southwest, you have no idea how much Spanish is on the radio.

**More Zephyrs from Zesquino** (Dec 30)

A line repast was enjoyed by a most eclectic concatenation of electrophiles aboard an elegant ocean liner. Due to security concerns, Mr. Kobayashi sent a Mr. Kint as his personal representative. It was discovered that 1572 is the spot on the dial for Cuba's beloved Encyclopédia, bearings fix west of Holguin, possibly Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankfully back on the air on 1270 from Jobabo, Las Tunas. Encyclopédia is thankful...
### BIG TEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Call Letters</th>
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</thead>
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<td>WXXA-KY</td>
<td>94.5 MHz</td>
<td>WRZR-IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WUBO-KY</td>
<td>95.1 MHz</td>
<td>WMAO-OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIBO-NC</td>
<td>95.7 MHz</td>
<td>WBOQ-OH</td>
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<td>WIGL-OH</td>
<td>96.1 MHz</td>
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<tr>
<td>WJOU-IN</td>
<td>97.9 MHz</td>
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<td>100.9 MHz</td>
<td>WQZQ-IN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Coaching Staff

- Dave Braun dcbraun@delanet.com
- Membership: 863 Allabands Mill Rd.

### Network Listings for College Team Sports Stations

- Penn State Nittany Lions - [http://www.gopsusports.com/radiotv/radiotv.cfm](http://www.gopsusports.com/radiotv/radiotv.cfm)
- Purdue Boilermakers - [http://purdueboilermakers.com/genrel/091100aaah.html](http://purdueboilermakers.com/genrel/091100aaah.html)

### Expiring? Time to renew? Not sure when? Need to call or e-mail someone? Check the back page - it's all right there!
BIG EAST

Boston College Eagles 850 WEEH-MA
Notre Dame Fighting Irish 1490 WNDV-IND
Connecticut Huskies 1080 WTIE-CT
Pittsburgh Panthers 79. WTRK-PA
Georgetown Hoyas 980 WTEM-DC
Providence Friars 630 WPRO-RI
Miami Hurricanes 560 WQAM-FL

SOUTHLAND RADIO STATIONS

http://www.southland.org/cgi/index.cgi/content/radio

Lamar Cardinals 560 KLVI-TX
Louisiana-Monroe Indians 1440 KMLB-LA
Jacksonville State 91.9 WJS-LA
Northwestern State Demons 970 KCLC-MA
McNeese State Cowboys 99.5 KHLA-LA
Nicholls State Colonels 105.9 KBZE-LA

Rutgers Scarlet Knights 710 WOE-NY
Villanova Wildcatts 920 WHR-NJ
St. John's Red Storm 1450 WCTC-NJ
Virginia Tech Hokies 105.3 WMBR-VA
Seton Hall Pirates 770 WABC-NY
West Virginia Mountaineers 1440 WAJR-WV
Syracuse Orangemen 1260 WNNS-NY
Stephen F. Austin Jacks 91.5 KYKS-TX
Northwestern State Demons 91.7 KNWD-LA
Texas-San Antonio Roadrunners 105.1 KYKS-TX
Sam Houston State Bearkats 95.7 WAOX-NY
Southeastern Louisiana Lions 90.9 KSLU-LA
Southwest Texas Bobcats 89.9 KTSW-TX
Texas-Arlington Mavericks 1190 KFXR-TX
Stephen F. Austin Jacks 1410 GBM-NY
Nicholls State Colonels 100.5 KMWL-TX

"Magic" audio black boxes
by Tom Bryant

Recently someone sent me a picture depicting two pieces of electronic equipment. The first, labeled MALE, had one control...a simple on/off switch. The other, labeled WOMAN, had about 15 or 20 knobs, buttons, etc., on the same size device. It was to illustrate the complexity of the female of the species. ...as compared to the (alleged) simplicity of the male.

At any rate, it reminded me of a broadcast connection. If you aren't aware of it, I think you'll enjoy the story.

"BLACK BOX" AUDIO PROCESSORS

You might be interested in the origin of a special breed of mysterious 'black box' type electronic devices with lots of knobs, dials, switches, buttons, meters, and flashing lights. These gizmos showed up in radio stations about the time that rock and roll started to capture big audiences.

The story is quite humorous. But first, a little background.

From the time they were introduced, limiters, compressors, and equalizers had always been the domain of engineers. They installed them, calibrated them, and maintained them.

Down the hall, the stodgy programmers and management types didn't really give a hoot about the intricacies of signal processing. ...or how the task was accomplished. As long as their station made a reasonable signal, they were satisfied.

In the late 50s and early 60s, the new crop of younger programming people began to tinker with audio chain settings in a quest to achieve a "sound" that they believed was superior to that of their competitors. Sometimes they knew what they were doing...often, not.

Engineers felt a bit threatened by non-engineering personnel messing with critical adjustments, and were perplexed by these (often clandestine) efforts because in a lot of cases the result of unauthorized tweaking by non-tech types made the station sound worse than it had in the first place.

That's when management would call the engineers on the carpet; and it's important to know that engineers don't like to either look bad or have their station sound bad.

It was a result of sheer frustration and sometimes outright anger that the magic audio boxes came into being.

To sidetrack dial twisters, some clever engineer dug through the junk drawer and found all kinds of goodies that he mounted on a panel in the equipment rack. With great flourish, he introduced the new device to whoever had been screwing around with the audio processing.

The programming dudes loved it because as they tweaked and listened...there was more...lots of changes...really cool stuff!

Funny thing is that what they were doing had absolutely no effect on the broadcast signal. All it did was change the sound of the monitor speaker located by the equipment rack.

Eventually, some of those who were duped caught on. Some never did!

The NRC is growing...and more features and services for all members. You can help your club grow; just send the names and addresses of potential club members to the NRC - P.O. Box 3711 - Topka, KS 66605 and we'll send them a current copy of DX News. You could start with your local AM stations' personnel! Spread the word - the National Radio Club is on the grow!
**New Termination Control Method for Flag, Pennant, and Similar Antennas**

By Mark Connelly, WA1ION

As noted in previous articles (references 1 and 2), the ability to vary the termination resistance value is very useful in getting the most out of the nulling capabilities of Flag, Pennant, Kaz, Delta, Ewe, and similar cardioid-pattern terminated-loop antennas. A Flag antenna, for example, is usually fed at the midpoint of one vertical side through an approximately 1:16 transformer. The termination resistance is connected at the midpoint of the opposite end’s vertical side. The direction of expected nulls is the way you’re facing if standing at the receiver feedline side of the antenna and looking towards the termination. A typical termination value is about 900 ohms. If this termination can be varied, the horizontal and vertical angular positioning of the best null can be “slewed” to some extent. Plus or minus 30 degrees of null bearing variation is often possible.

One method, documented previously, is termination control by varying the direct current through the LED portion of a Vactrol, a sealed component consisting of a light source mated to a photoresistor. This can work well, but is slightly cumbersome to implement. A problem for constructors is that Vactrols are not commonly-stocked parts at the electronics component suppliers in many countries.

Recent testing has shown that a two-feedline Flag antenna (Figures 1 and 2) can be used in conjunction with a 500 ohm potentiometer placed at the “shack” end of the coaxial feedline from a transformer box at the midpoint of the vertical side of the antenna where the termination resistor would normally be installed. Both vertical members of the antenna are fitted with transformers at their midpoints. The ratio used is in the range of 1:15 to 1:20 where the low impedance winding connects to the coaxial feedline and the high impedance winding to the wires of the upper and lower halves of the antenna. A Mini-Circuits type T16-6T-X55 transformer can be used or, alternatively, you can use a homebrew type as mentioned by John Bryant (reference 3), e.g. an Amidon FT114-43 toroidal core with 10 turns (low impedance winding) opposite 45 turns (high impedance winding).

For a simple set-up at the “shack” operating position ends of the two feedlines, the cable from the side to be terminated goes to a 500 ohm potentiometer. The other cable goes to the receiver input or (to an accessory such as a preselector/amplifier or phasing unit ahead of the receiver). Vary the pot setting and look for a “dip” in the strength of interfering signals coming from bearings in the range where nulls can be expected, i.e. in the direction (+/- 30 deg.) that the terminated side is relative to the side whose feedline is going to the receiver.

If the pot is set to 55 ohms and a 1:16 transformer is used, an effective termination of 55 times 16 = 880 ohms will appear at the antenna wires connected to the transformer box of the “pot feedline”. This is close to the ideal termination and it “translates” well through the 50 ohm coaxial feedline. Nulls tend to occur within a range of 320 to 2400 ohms at the antenna leads; this corresponds to pot values of 20 to 150 ohms. Much outside of that range, mismatching, cable capacitance, or transformer limitations prevent the pot’s value from being multiplied in the way you’d expect. Since most of the useful nulls are within a range where the pot resistance can be successfully “translated” through the feedline, nulling value settings aren’t of much concern. At least with feedlines of moderate length (30 m / 100 ft. or less), this amaz-ingly simple termination method works very well. Reliability is better since only the transformers are “out in the weather” instead of having outdoor feedboxes / termination boxes containing more sophisticated (and fragile) circuitry.

Since both feedlines are accessible at the “shack” operating position, either side of the antenna can be selected for pot termination. Whichever side is the opposite one will supply RF to the receiver. With an east-west Flag antenna, you can set things up for westward nulls or eastward ones, as your DX activities dictate.

Enter the “Termination Gizmo” (TG-1)...

The effectiveness of the pot termination scheme can be enhanced by packaging the feedline selection switch and the termination potentiometer in a small plastic box. The shields of the two cables are treated as independent “grounds” that can be kept separate, connected together, and/or connected to receiver chassis (station) ground. Most of the time, varying the ground hook-ups doesn’t make much difference, but occasionally a particular ground connection setup will permit a deeper null in a given direction.

Figure 3 is the “basic” TG-1 schematic. Since Flag, Pennant, and other similar antennas typically have low output levels, a switchable amplifier can be included in the TG-1 box. Figure 4 shows one possible implementation of this idea.

The two Flag (or similar) antenna feedlines are presented to J1 and J2. There was an extra position available on the 4-pole 3-position rotary switch used for S1 (Feedline Selection). This extra position has been routed to J3 and 4 banana jacks that can be used to connect an untransformed (figure-of-eight) broadband loop. In that mode, the R1 termination pot is not connected.

I assembled the TG-1 in a plastic Radio Shack 270-1805 box measuring 6 by 3 by 2 inches (15.2 by 7.6 by 5.1 cm). Placement of components is not too critical. The only exception may be, if the amplifier option is included, to keep amplifier input and output leads short to prevent possible feedback and oscillation.

In use here at Billerica, MA, the nulls provided by the TG-1 controlled Flag antenna are often good enough to remove interference from a desired DX catch. Sometimes the null depth can be enhanced by phasing the TG-1’s output against that of a non-directional active or passive vertical antenna placed far enough from the house to be out of the “noise zone”.

There are also cases where the best results are obtained by taking the two Flag antenna feedlines directly to the two input channels of the phasing unit, rather than going through the TG-1 box at all.

It is hoped that this article encourages others to do their own experimentation and to report their findings.

(Notes: Over time Web URL’s may change. If this occurs, it may still be possible to retrieve the articles by going to known DXer Web sites or to search engines for links. Hard copies are likely to be available from the National Radio Club and International Radio Club of America reprints services.)

1. "Flag Antenna Construction and Test Results" - M. Connelly, JUL 2002
2. "Pennant Antenna with Remote Termination Control" - M. Connelly, JUL 2000
3. "Fabricating Impedance Transformers" - J. Bryant, MAY 2001

References

1. "Flag Antenna Construction and Test Results" - M. Connelly, JUL 2002
2. "Pennant Antenna with Remote Termination Control" - M. Connelly, JUL 2000
3. "Fabricating Impedance Transformers" - J. Bryant, MAY 2001
Calendar features radio station antennas
Story by Rochester, NY Democrat and Chronicle
staff writer Robin L. Flanigan
-via Jim Renfew

The 2003 calendar models for the month of January are tall and much leaner than August's short, squat star attractions.

Guess which ones are more likely to sell calendars? "For visual impact, you want the ones that are wide," says Brighton's Scott Fybush, who photographed the pinups. "They stand out better that way."

Another victory for the plus-sized movement? Nah, just a radio aficionado's partial collection of radio and television broadcast towers, primarily in the Northeast, captured in striking color against lush landscapes.

There's quite a demand for this sort of thing. Fybush sold all but four other 200 calendars he made last year, and despite doubling the number this time around, he's already taken orders for half of them. The $16 calendars include significant dates in radio and television history, industry trade shows and events, and civil and religious holidays.

Fascinated since childhood with broadcast towers — he could see two from his Brighton home — the 30-year-old freelance writer has produced a weekly online column about the radio industry since 1994. He decided in the fall of 2000 to incorporate a "Tower Site of the Week" to keep people interested in his Web page. Although it started as a joke, it soon led to written requests for certain highlighted towers.

Engineers nationwide began inviting him to their stations, hoping to be featured. A calendar was "a lot easier" to put together than his Web site, he says.

"I made it fairly simple," he says. "There's a lot of information in the photographs that you need to keep people interested while on business trips and vacations."

"Another reason I decided to push the calendar ahead of time is because people are looking for three-letter station calls, which seem to be scarce."

For more information, visit: www.fybush.com

Buffalo's WBEN-930 is one of several New York stations whose towers are featured in Scott Fybush's 2003 calendar. Photo by Scott Fybush

Musings of the Members

Perry Crabbil - 225 Milam Drive - Winchester, VA 22602 w3hqx@arrl.net
This is my first Musings for 2003, and I hope to be a more frequent Musuer than I was in 2002. I wonder if any U.S. AM broadcasters are looking for three-letter station calls, which seem to be scarce. It seems to me that a number might have become available recently as a result of consolidation in the Maritime service on shortwave and longwave, which appears to have turned loose a number of these call signs. KPS, KPH, WCC, and WLO are still used for digital service on shortwave, but as far as I know KKL, KLC, WAX, WMH, WNO, WOO, WPA, WPG, WSC, WSL, and WSY, along with others, could now be available. Perhaps some NRC members in the business could shed some light on this.

Here's something to kick around in DXV! Should DXers report to the FCC apparent violations of the rules for AM broadcasting strokes or might it be shooting ourselves in the foot to report daytime operators at night with day power, etc, because we might not otherwise log the miscreants. However, I would think that reporting pirates would be more justifiable, along with stations that splatter and otherwise mess up the band. On another subject, I have serious misgivings about the use of IBOC for AM broadcasting because of its adjacent-channel interference effects. I also wonder about the need and justification for this system, and why the FCC is even considering it.

Look at AM stereo although a number of stations are broadcasting it, does anyone have data on how many AM stereo receivers are in use?

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Hi all, a few issues back I noted where Dave mentioned he lost a MUSE or two; since my last one never appeared I'll guess it was mine. Having shelled out a few other hobby type stations this fall I've actually had time to play with equipment, antennas and DXing. I decided to set up a few 10m loops after reading Mark Connelley's article, and I've been having some very good luck with them. I've got a N/S and E/W loop, along with the combiner box from Mark's article (sans amplifier boards for now). I'm using this with an old torroid coil base phase combiner that I've reactivated; this unit I built years ago, and it's based on Dallas Lankford's L1.1 (Reprint 259). I've actually logged a dozen new stations since July. I'm hoping to get another loop at angles to the first two up, as soon as I find some time and some cheap coax. I've still got my 4' loop, but it is in need of a rebuild. More stuff for winter evenings.

Still verifying my catches but I've found that it is still tough to coax ones out of some. I have received a few email verities within the last few weeks; they're OK but real letterheads look much better. I want to thank everyone who helped with the 23rd edition of the LOG and encourage members to help us get the 24th edition updated. Member Richard Franey is doing a lot of address cleanup and other help with network and format cleanup and updates. I guess I really need to write an article to solicit help with the myriad proofing and clean up that we could use. Anyway that's what's new from Colorful Colorado...73 NØPCH (Thanks for the refered Wayne-DWS)

Baby knocks station off air via Fred Vobbe

A 17-month-old baby boy pulled the plug on a Gold Coast radio station, knocking it off the air for more than an hour.

Nathan Polden of the Gold Coast was having a look around the Sea FM studio while his mother Deborah and grandfather John from Germany were being interviewed today.

The pair had been reunited by the radio station after 37 years apart. But just as their story was being told Nathan crawled behind announcer Paul Gale and found the master power switch.

"Young Nathan has hit this button that has shut the whole desk down and then when we hit it back on it did something to the transmitter site and we were off air," explained Gale.

A backup transmitter failed because it was damaged by overnight storms. Sea FM was unplugged for one hour and four minutes while the power was fixed.

"I'm trying to get the manager to ship the whole family back to Germany," joked Gale.