

# DX News

*Serving DX'ers since 1933*



Volume 70, No. 16 - January 27, 2003 (ISSN 0737-1659)

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### CPC Test Calendar

WBMJ	PR	1190	Feb. 1/2	2300-0100
WIVV	PR	1370	Feb. 1/2	2300-0100
CHWO	ON	740	Feb. 2	0030-0130

**CHWO-740** Toronto (send reports and/or tapes/MP3's, etc., to Brian Smith - QSL Manager AM 740 - Box 161, Willowdale Str A - Toronto, Ontario - Canada M2N 5S8, am740@rogers.com) will conduct a DX test from 12:30-01:30 am ELT Sunday, February 2. At 12:30 am ELT, the station will have a voice and Morse code ID and will repeat same every 15 minutes until 0130 am ELT. The station will have continuous music between each ID. Songs that will be played include:

Colonel Bogey March - Mitch Miller  
 St. Louis Blues March - Glenn Miller  
 Beer Barrel Polka - Andrew Sisters  
 Ricochet Romance - Teresa Brewer  
 Spin, Spin - Gordon Lightfoot  
 Something To Sing About - The Travellers  
 The Battle of New Orleans - Jimmy Driftwood  
 California Here I Come - Al Jolson  
 (via Lynn Hollerman, IRCA CPC).

**From the Publisher ...** You may be receiving this issue and #15 just a few days apart, due to a rather stupid error on the publisher's part. No, I don't want to talk about it, unless you have some smart pill available! But I do apologize for the lateness of #15.

The team of Atkins, Bryant, Hall-Patch, and Nelson have put together what I think is a very exciting article on high-tech methods used during their recent DXpeditions. DXN isn't quite up to including color graphics and sound bites in articles just yet, unfortunately, so if you want more than black-and-white, you can read this article with full color and sound at <<<http://www.dxing.info/articles/hitech.dx>>> and <<<http://www.hard-core-dx.com/nordicdx/dxlab/hitechdx/hitechdx.html>>> (same article, slightly different formatting).

John and his team were very gracious in taking extra care to make sure that the article and its graphics were optimized for publication in DXN. I had mentioned to John that I'd updated our "Sub-

mission Guidelines" (which cover the requirements of both DXN and NRC Publications) and sent him a copy of the Guidelines. Anyone planning to write even a short article for DXN, or a longer book for NRC Publications, should first study the Guidelines, which are available at <<<http://nrcdxas.org/articles/PubGuide/index.html>>>. If you don't have the capability to access this site, let me know and I can send you a printed copy.

**Welcome to these new members ...** Carl Colvard, Redwood City, CA; Carl Hattan, Melbourne, FL; Kurt Decker, Browerville, MN; Tom Howard, Lawrence, MA; Philip Strack, Phoenix, AZ; Teo Veras, Miami, FL (rejoins); Charles Territo, Bridgewater, NJ (rejoins); and Robert W. Strohmeier, Norfolk, VA.

### DXN Publishing Schedule, Volume 70

Iss.	Deadline	Pub. Date	Iss.	Deadline	Pub. Date
17.	Jan. 24	Feb. 3	24.	April 4	April 14
18.	Jan. 31	Feb. 10	25.	April 18	April 28
19.	Feb. 7	Feb. 17	26.	May 9	May 19
20.	Feb. 14	Feb. 24	27.	June 6	June 16
21.	Feb. 21	Mar. 3	28.	July 4	July 14
22.	Feb. 28	Mar. 10	29.	Aug. 1	Aug. 11
23.	Mar. 21	Mar. 31	30.	Sept. 5	Sept. 15

### DX Time Machine

#### From the pages of DX News:

**50 years ago ...** from the January 31, 1953 DXN: Hal Williams, Seymour, CT received a letter from the C. E. of WRAC-1460, Racine, WI, stating that the station was not on the air at the time he reported, although the announcer had even spelled RA-C-I-N-E.

**25 years ago ...** from the January 30, 1978 DXN: Atlanta was chosen as the site for the 1978 NRC convention ... Chuck Hutton's article "Redoing Older Receivers for MW Reception" recounts his rejuvenation program of an HQ-129X that he said outperformed the much more expensive Collins R390A and R388.

**10 years ago ...** from the February 1, 1993 DXN: Ronald J. Hunsicker's solution to too-small Drake R-8 knobs was to use Shepherd's Rubber Tips for furniture, slipping them over the existing knobs; he called the solution useful but "hideous".

# AM Switch

Jerry Starr w8jv@yahoo.com  
161 Fox St.  
Hubbard, OH 44425-2122

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

## CALL LETTER CHANGES

None. Call "changes" shown for 640 and 1040 in Issue #15 were really non-changes, the "new" calls shown were actually the already-existing calls for those stations as you may have noticed when updating your Log. Thanks to the FCC for sending us this spurious information in their Call Action release. Evidently somebody in DC did too much celebrating for the holidays.

## APPLICATIONS / GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

None

## APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

880 WCBS NY New York: 35000/26000 U1 (for auxiliary purposes)  
920 KWAD MN Wadena: 1000/1000 U4  
1150 KKNW WA Seattle: 10000/6000 U2

## GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

620 KTLK OR Portland: 25000/10000 U4  
950 KNFT NM Bayard: 5000/224 U1 (this CP is already on)  
1570 WNSH MA Beverly: modify CP to show 500/38 U5 (reduce night power)

## OTHERNESS

1030 WAUL AL Brantley: request for additional extension of time to build this new station DISMISSED, construction permit (CP) CANCELLED, call DELETED  
1150 WTMP FL Egypt Lake: CP for 10000/500 U4 is on  
1160 WYNS PA Lehighton: SILENT, station is for sale but has no pending buyer  
1400 WEEP MN Virginia: SILENT due to transmitter fire, will not return to the air unless sold to new owner  
1500 WQCR AL Alabaster: CP for 2300/3 (1200 CH) U1 is on  
1570 WNSH MA Beverly: CP for 500/38 U5 is on  
1670 KHPY CA Moreno Valley: CP for 10000/9000 U4 is ON THE AIR

THANKS: Bill Hale, Dave Schmidt, Ed Krejny, Kermit Geary, & Shawn Axelrod  
73 and Good DX, Jerry Starr & Buffalo K. Foonman

*Jerry & BKf*

## The Challenging Crystal Set

For hobbyists demanding the ultimate DX challenge, Ray Cole's publication detailing step-by-step procedures in building a crystal set is for you! Only \$3.50 (\$4.50, non-members) from NRC Publications. (NY residents, add sales tax)

## The NRC AM Radio Log, 23rd Edition,

including cross-referenced listings from 530-1700 khz., is compiled from both listeners' reports and official sources, making it the most accurate listing of U. S. and Canadian AM stations available. Unbound, three-hole punched for standard binders. \$19.95 to U. S. members; \$25.95 to U. S. non-NRC members; to Canadian members, \$23.00 (\$29.00 to non-NRC members). Airmail to members in western Europe (except Italy) and Australia, New Zealand, and Japan: \$29.00. All others contact us for exact prices. Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax).



# Domestic DX Digest

West: Bill Hale w\_r\_hale@sbcglobal.net

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

East: Ginnie Lupi ginnie@nrcdxas.org

PO Box 4014 - Clifton Park, NY 12065-0850

(Division line is between East and Central time zones)



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

## DDXD-West

### MEDIUM WAVE RAMBLINGS

- ❑ Heard with an ultra-sensitive listening device: "I get *M Street Journal* every other week. They had some interesting junk on IBOC! All are quotes: 'iBiquity needs to wow 'em in Las Vegas.' ... 'DAB will be overshadowed by all the other toys. Making 80-year-old radio digital won't be as sexy as introducing a new PlayStation 2.' ... 'FM and daytime AM system ... 'about 100 U.S. stations (in 25 states) have committed to HD Radio at an average of \$75,000 a piece.' '2/3rds are FM ...' Page 5: Canada struggles with its version of digital: 'Nobody is listening!' CBC exec Philip Savage says he'd be surprised if there were more than 500 people tuned into the CBC's four digital stations in Toronto.' ... another reason to be skeptical: online radio. I think we have a hobby for the near future!" - JJR-W1.
- ❑ The DDXD Challenge continues, to a point. This week it's 1460. January 31st is the deadline for 550 kHz. Hurry! I've decided that, beginning in February, the DDXD-West Challenge will align with that of DDXD-East, so we'll just have a DDXD Challenge. Several 'complaints' have said it's hard keeping up with two challenges. But wait. How many columns do you report to?? Anyway, it's easier and less confusing if there is only one Challenge going on. So be it.
- ❑ We welcome John Vervoort to the column. John recently moved from Brooklyn, NY to Kentucky, so his loggings will appear on the 'left side'" now. Extra THANKS go to Herbert Newberry of Newborn, Georgia for some dazzling unID help!!
- ❑ Another great mid-winter turnout. Lotsa superb loggings, including new-state reports. Let's keep at the dials, and don't forget to share.

### REPORTERS



- RA-CA Rene Auvray (Henderson, NV) DXING in Baker, CA 2003 Taurus car radio  
RA-NV Rene Auvray Henderson  
GB-FL Gerry Bishop Niceville Drake R8, 20 meter outdoor antenna. Sony ICF-2010, RS Loop <gerryb4991@cox.net>  
GB-FL\* Gerry Bishop Shalimar Sony ICF-2010  
RD-NE Rick Dau Omaha Sony ICF-2010 + Quantum Loop antenna <rdau1965@yahoo.com>  
WH-CO Wayne Heinen Aurora R-390A and N/S and E/W 10 meter loops phased <AMRadioLog@aol.com>  
GJ-CA Gary Jackson Sacramento FRG-8800 + Kiwa Loop  
DKK-CA Don Kaskey San Francisco Drake R8A + Kiwa Loop <kaskeyfamily@yahoo.com>  
HN-GA Herbert Newberry UNID help  
SHP-TX Stephen Ponder Houston Sangean AT5-803A, Radio West Ferrite Loop, Radio Shack Loop <n5wbi@clearsail.net>  
SHP-TX2 Stephen Ponder Houston Stock radio in 1993 Plymouth Voyager minivan  
DS-TN Doug Smith Pleasant View <http://www.w9wi.com>  
MS-MB Morris Sorensen snowy Winnipeg GE Superadio II, DX-392, and YB-400 all barefoot <mosor@shaw.ca>  
CR-IL Christos Rigas Wood Dale Drake R8, Quantum QX Pro <crigas@birinc.com>  
JJR-WI John J. Rieger South Milwaukee Icom IC-R75, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959B tuner-preamp <johnrieger@webtv.net>  
JTR-OK John Reed Shawnee W-J DMS-105R tunable demodulator, modified KIWA MW loop <jreed@alum.mit.edu>  
KR-AZ Kevin Redding Mesa Kenwood R-1000 and 60' wire; Sony ICF-2010 nekkid, or with two Radio Shack 18-1533 loop antennas <amfmdx@fastq.com>  
TT-IL Tim Tomljanovich Byron Yaseu FT990 K9AY directional loops <k9sb@msn.com>  
JV-KY John Vervoort Murray

**BW-OK** Bruce Winkelman, AA5CO Tulsa R8, Quantum Phaser, 2-130 foot wires; total recorder on-line overnite, recording 0:58-0:07 every hour <bdwink@cox.net>  
**MDW-NM** Mike Westfall Los Alamos Saturn car radio <mwdx@gentoo.net>  
**Ed.-TX** Editor North Richland Hills

### STATION NEWS & NOTES

1130 **WRKY KY** Murray - 1/7 - Noted running OC during the nighttime hours, probably due to their upgrade pending upgrade to U4 2500/1500. (JV-KY)  
 1200 **WXXY IL** Chicago - 1/12 - Now // WXXY 103.1 Highland Park with Spanish AC format. (RadioDX Information from Wisconsin) - <http://www.angelfire.com/wi/dxing/>  
 1290 **CFRW MB** Winnipeg - Has reverted to these calls which they used back in the 70s when they were a rocker. Guess they figured they were more appropriate for their current oldies format than the CFST calls which they used as a nostalgia station and later on the short-lived CHUM sports network. First noted here 1/4 after a phone tip from visiting DXER Mick Delmage of Edmonton. Slogan is still *Oldies-1290*; they still mention that they are a CHUM group station. (MS-MB)  
 1300 **KAKC OK** Tulsa - 1/9 - Now full-time sports with ESPN radio and AM-1300 *The Score* slogan. Not sure when the change occurred but it has been quite recently. Ex: regional Mexican format as *La Z*. The Tulsa metro area now has three full-time sports stations: 1300-KAKC, 1430-KTBZ and 1550-KYAL (simulcasting WWLS-640). (BW-OK)  
 1390 **WRIG WI** Schofield - 1/15 - Goes talk as *Big Rig 1390, the Talk that Rocks*, dropping adult standards. (RadioDX Information from Wisconsin)  
 1670 **KNRO CA** Redding - 1/7 - On the air, but only with IDs on the hour: KNRO 1670 *Redding*. No other audio, just OC. (GJ-CA) UPDATE:  
 1670 **KNRO CA** Redding - 1/8 0300-0400 - Muffled audio, but signal is strong. Seem to be having problems. (GJ-CA) LATER UPDATE:  
 1670 **KHPY CA** Moreno Valley - 1/16 1956 - Noted with Glen Campbell's *Wichita Lineman*, totally alone in KNRO's null. At 1959:30 they gave an ID and made the announcement that this was their first day of broadcasting. Also noted that they would be dropping power at 2000 and to tune back at 7 AM PST for return to full power. Went into an ad for *Penny Saver* and at 2001 a singing ID: *KHPY Moreno Valley 1670*, into an oldies song I didn't know. Easily nulled from KNRO. Cut power at 2002 but signal remained good for a few minutes more before lessening. Still alone in KNRO null at 2008. Thought it would be harder to dig out from KNRO. (DKK-CA)

### UNIDs and UNID HELP

640 **WCRV TN** Collierville - 12/14 1947 - Is definitely MS-MB's unID in Issue 13. They probably did not cut their 50 kW daytime power level. When they do this, it really gives WGST-GA fits! Using the Quantum, I enjoy very good, armchair copy with WGST nulled, even in mid-afternoons. (HN-GA)  
 760 **UNID ??** - 12/25 1840 - SS music station playing salsa. On for a good while. Where from? (RA-NV)  
 1030 **UNID ??** - 12/25 0140 - SS music station on. KTWO back on [??? - Ed.] transiting north on I-15 from Route 127. Logged while stopped. Who? (RA-CA)  
 1130 **WLBA GA** Gainesville - 12/23 1753 - Logged by JJR-WI in Issue13 is probably this. Especially is his loop was oriented SE/NW. Possible tip: Listen from approximately :58 to :03 or so (ToH) for a 'lengthy' ID in EE: WLBA 1130, Gainesville, WADS 1600, Austell, WXEM 1460, Buford. *La Favorita* and/or *La Mexicana*. However if you hear a power cut, you may be hearing WMGA in Moultrie, Georgia which is part of that network of stations. (HN-GA)  
 1180 **WJFF RI** Hope Valley - Logged by JJR-WI in Issue 13 is likely this, as it's the only C&W station on 1180 since KYET-AZ is silent. 45 degrees makes sense, as they are close to water, which moderates the temperature, even in winter. If loop was oriented E/W, this makes for an excellent hunch. Their slogan is *Radio Ranch* and carries CBS News.  
 1290 **UNID ??** - 1/9 0920 - Assuming this is KRGE, Weslaco, TX, with male announcer in Spanish, gave phone number to studio (585-1010), then into Christian music Jesus Esta Mi Salvador and time check at 0923. (SHP-TX2) [An Internet

search for the KRGE phone number shows 956-968-7777, but you heard "studio", which often is different - Ed.]

1440 **WGIG GA** Brunswick - 12/16 0735+ - Is likely Ed.-TX's unID (Issue 13) with *CBS Channel 44*. Being a Monday, seems somebody was sloppy and threw a switch to the network downlink, but no program, only a marker. Small station, small market. Sometimes talent not the very best, hi. (HN-GA) [If it was WGIG . . . finally Georgia #2! - Ed.]

**WSRO 1470**  
 "Great Radio"

42 Curtis Avenue, Marlboro, Massachusetts 01752

### TIS & OTHER STUFF

1610 **WPKW668 GA** Perry - 12/30 1801 - Station carrying NOAA weather for Macon, GA. Heard again 1/3, 1/6, 1/7 in local evenings, with local info, woman's voice and difficult copy. Finally copied mention of "Perry" on 1/7. (GB-FL)  
 1690 **WPVZ483 FL** Milton - 12/23 1730 - Barely audible in Niceville at this time, but heard earlier on 12/23 while on I-10 at Milton. Referred listeners to www.i10-i110.com for construction info. This will be a four year project, ample opportunity to log this one. (GB-FL)

### REGULAR DX LOGGINGS (times in ELT)

580 **KUBC CO** Montrose - 1/13 0223 - With ID and weather. The temperature is 22 and then into oldies music. (KR-AZ)  
 580 **WCHS WV** Charleston - 1/16 0207 - Poor, with ID: WCHS *Talk Radio 58*. (TT-IL)  
 580 **WIBW KS** Topeka - 1/13 0229 - Taking a break in the Fox Sports programming to give an ID. (KR-AZ)  
 590 **KID ID** Idaho Falls - 12/26 1825-1830 - Money Talk with local spots and quick KID 590 ID. New for me. (WH-CO)  
 600 **KROD TX** El Paso - 1/10 0706 - With end of news and ID: *You're listening to El Paso's News Talk, KROD, 600*. Rare. (KR-AZ)  
 610 **KFRC CA** San Francisco - 1/10 0709 - Playing *Abraham, Martin and John*. Weak under KTAR splash. (KR-AZ)  
 610 **WDAF MO** Kansas City - 1/9 0142 - *Sixty-one, Country Home* (?). (JV-KY)  
 640 **CFOB ON** Fort Frances - 1/12 0708 - Poor, with five-second loop on tuning to B93FM at 93.1, as 640 is leaving the air. NEW! (JJR-WI)  
 670 **KBOI ID** Boise - 1/10 1120 - Giving phone numbers of 336-3700 and pound 670 given to call talk show. Steady and stable over KLTT. (KR-AZ)  
 680 **KNBR CA** San Francisco - 1/10 1121 - Ad for *Anderson's Mitsubishi* big screen TVs, a traffic report, and the guys asking the traffic girl what the football shotgun formation was, then getting rather disgusting. (KR-AZ)  
 690 **KTSM TX** El Paso - 12/23 2330-2335 - Long string of local and network spots, *News Radio 690 KTSM* into syndicated talk. Last heard as KHEY. (WH-CO)  
 700 **KWLW UT** Salt Lake City - 1/10 1125 - With ads for the *Desert Steak House* and *Ameri-Debt*. (KR-AZ)  
 710 **WUFF GA** Eastman - 1/12 1802 - Poor, though steady in WOR null. *FM 97 Woof Radio* into ads. C&W. (JJR-WI)  
 720 **KDWN NV** Las Vegas - 1/10 1127 - Running a right-wing talk show complaining about the UN. (KR-AZ)  
 730 **KBSU ID** Boise - 1/10 1118 - Playing jazz under splash from KIDR, but strong daytime signal and very stable. Acoustic piano jazz. (KR-AZ)  
 730 **WLIL TN** Lenoir City - 1/12 2120 - C&W with call ID. Weak over/under SS stations. New here. (JTR-OK)  
 740 **KBRT CA** Costa Mesa - 12/26 1902-1910 - Local talk show discussing shortening of the hosts program due to early sunset and KCBS interference in the Los Angeles area. Dominant. New one for me. (WH-CO)  
 750 **KMMJ NE** Grand Island - 1/7 1820 - Fair, in Spanish, with lively Mexican music and IDs as *Radio Leon*. Sign-off at 1830 with legal ID in English and slogan *The Lion*. No anthem. (MS-MB)  
 750 **CKJH SK** Melfort - 1/12 0706 - Poor in WSB null. Provincial weather/temperatures, hockey scores and *Just the Hits*. CK 750. (JJR-WI)  
 770 **KAAM TX** Dallas - 1/10 0720 - With big band version of *I'm My Own Grandpa*. A singing ID at 0721 into *Shangri-La*. Very rare. NO sign of monster KKO. (KR-AZ)  
 780 **KKOH NV** Reno - 1/10 1127 - With traffic and weather. The male host had a very deep voice. (KR-AZ)

790 KNST AZ Tucson - 12/29 1831-1834 - String of local and net spots. *It's 4:34 and 74 degrees on News Talk 790 KNST and program Money Talk.* Last heard as KCEE. (WH-CO)

800 KSOS UT Brigham City - 1/10 1128 - Running sports talk and talking about the San Antonio Spurs. (KR-AZ)

850 KOA CO Denver - 1/10 1129 - Under loud hissing, presumably IBOC from KXNT, with ads for Team Lending Concepts using Ed McCaffery, CB and Potts Restaurant, and Medved Chevy. Quick ID as 850 KOA, then an ad for Walgreens, and a promo for The Mike Reagan Show, and at last after six solid minutes of ads, the local talk host comes on. (KR-AZ)

880 CKLQ MB Brandon - 1/12 0738 - Poor, in WCBS null, with 880 CKLQ and C&W music. (JJR-WI)

910 WFVRt GA Valdosta - 1/7 0601 - With ... *your radio set on ... AM WTIR.* WFVR is a sister station to WTIR-1680 on the TIRN per the TIRN web site, no calls heard so just a tentative log but have to think it's WFVR. (BW-OK)

910 WABI ME Bangor - 1/16 0645 - Poor in mess, but clear WABI AM 910 ID. State # 46 heard. Finally! Have been trying for a long time to hear this. (CR-IL)

910 WALT MS Meridian - 1/7 0200 - In the jumble, with call letter ID into ABC News. (BW-OK)

920 KPSI CA Palm Springs - 1/15 1945-1958 - With man doing ads and promos and mention of Southern California phone numbers. Noted ... *here on KPSI* ending one of the ad segments at 1958. Station then went into sports talk about upcoming Raiders-Titans NFL game. Signal held in well through KNEW-910 sloop and virtually no KLOC until 1657 and was buried by 1658. First time I've heard this station since January 1982 when it was KDES. (DKK-CA)

920 KPSI CA Palm Springs - 1/16 1932-1956+ - Heard again today with a talk show mixing with KBAD Las Vegas. Their signal was in fine until about 1956. Several KPSI mentions and minor KNEW-910 sloop. (DKK-CA)

930 KRKY CO Granby - 12/19 2359 - Good with C&W song Burn That Bridge When We Get There, then taped legal ID by male: *It's the top of the hour. This is AM 930, KRKY, Granby-Winter Park.* (RD-NE)

920 KBAD NV Las Vegas - 1/16 1932-1945 - With ESPN Sports Radio mixing with KPSI-CA who had a local talk show. Had many ads at 1941 along with mentions of Las Vegas. Lost ay 1945. Last time heard was in June 1984 as KORK. (DKK-CA)

970 WGTK KY Louisville - 1/9 0120 - Michael Medved weekdays at four on WTTK. The Talk of Louisville. (JV-KY)

980 WPGAp GA Macon - 12/22 1721 - With quick fade up and slogan as AM 980 Radio Disney. WPGA was the only 980 I could find on the Disney website. (GB-FL)

1030 KFAY AR Fayetteville - 1/11 1821 - With commercial segment for Fletcher Dodge, Ozark Natural Foods, and Castle Rental at 1822, then Arkansas Basketball on Talk Radio AM 1030 KFAY ID at 1825. (SHP-TX)

1030 WEBS GA Calhoun - 1/12 2225 - Oldies 1030 in with 50s music. (GB-FL)

1070 KHMO MO Hannibal - 1/9 0330 - Fair, with AP News and ID. (TT-IL)

1100 WCGA GA Woodbine - 12/21 1753 - Good, over WTAM, with ads for various southeast Georgia businesses. ... *exclusively on News Talk 1100, WCGA.* Did I miss a CPA? Log shows this as a daytimer, but on well past LSS. (GB-FL) [No doubt ... they're either cheating, or stupid - Ed.]

1180 WZQZ GA Trion - 1/12 2100 - Poor, though clear, with legal ID. NOS. Daytimer on late and still on at next morning's recheck. (JJR-WI)

1190 WBSL MS Bay Saint Louis - 12/21 1810 - ... *listening to WBSL ... with Urban Oldies (70s, in this case).* Good, but gone and presumed signed off at 1835. (GB-FL)

1210 WPHT PA Philadelphia - 1/12 1630 - With Westwood One coverage of the NFL play-offs, in a full hour before sunset here. (GB-FL)

1210 WTCK TN Memphis - 1/9 0910 - With WTCK. We're Talking, Memphis ID at 0910, then into Talk to Me (blues-style music). Faded under unID XE station at 0914. (SHP-TX2)

1290 WCBL KY Benson - 1/10 1735 - Fair, in the mix, with news and ID. (TT-IL)

1330 KWLO IA Waterloo - 1/11 0933 - Good, with Waterloo and Cedar Falls weather (lows of 0 and 5!), Star 1330 slogan and MOR music. New, logged with VHF ham antenna (?) while preparing for ham contest. (DS-TN)

1330 KFH KS Wichita - 1/14 0900 - Clear and alone on channel, with KFH Clearwater - Wichita, Hot Talk KFH 1330 AM, 98 7 FM, into CBS News. Again at 1000, weaker but still clear. (DS-TN) ["Clearwater"? Yup. Their FM is licensed to Clearwater, Kansas. But this hardly seems like a "legal" ID for the AM! - Ed.]

1330 KSWA TX Graham - 1/12 0800 - Only heard KSWA Graham down in the jumble. Thank you to Total Recorder and Amazing Slow Downer. (BW-OK)

1330 KLBO TX Monahans - 1/12 0300 - With Music You Crew Up With, Radio Free Texas AM 1330 KLBO Monahans into CNN Radio news. (BW-OK)

1340 KTSN NV Ely - 1/12 1832 - With NBA Utah Jazz vs Phoenix Suns. At first I was thinking it was someone like KIKO in Globe, Arizona but a check of Suns flagship KTAR showed it was not the Suns broadcast. Then I tried 1320, the Jazz flag and it was a Jazz broadcast. I was on the phone with Don Kaskey who went to the Jazz website and the only station on the network on 1340 is KTSN. If I would have fired up the computer, no more reception. So KTSN it is by default. Yes, it's an evil graveyard. New. (KR-AZ)

1340 WNCO OH Ashland - 1/8 2018 - Faded up from the graveyard noise with NOS, abrupt WNCO ID, along with an FM call that sounded like WNCL, and lost again. Right place, right time, new and welcome here. (GB-FL\*)

1360 KPXQ AZ Phoenix - 12/24 0958-1001 - Phoenix area spot, and ToH ID: Today's Christian Talk 1360 KPXQ Glendale-Phoenix to REL Family Life Today. Dominant in full daylight. Last heard as KGME. (WH-CO)

1380 KCNW KS Fairway - 1/12 0700 - Oldies with call ID. Last heard in 1997. (JTR-OK)

1380 KRCM TX Beaumont - 1/9 0922 - with Fox News 1340 ID at 0924, then into Around the World in 80 Seconds news segment, // KOLE-1340, dual Fox News 1340 and 1380 at 0927, commercial spot for Eat Inferno at 0931. (SHP-TX2)

1420 WIGG MS Wiggins - 1/9 0134 - Fourteen-twenty Country WIGG, the (?). This station shouldn't be on at night, according to the AM Log. (JV-KY) [The FCC database indicates they are 'planning' to have 78 Watts nighttime. Maybe that's a done deal? - Ed.]

1420 KBTN MO Neosho - 1/11 2100 - Faded up suddenly with ads for Neosho, then into a basketball game. (JTR-OK)

**1460 kHz Challenge**

1460 UNID ?? - 1/16 0220 - NOS oldies including Wonderful World by Louie Armstrong. *This is the new home for a variety of America's best music* was heard several times, but no call letters were given. Suspect KKPR. (PG-CO)

1460 UNID ?? - 1/16 ~0800 - A Sporting News Radio outlet, which was probably KENO, but I wouldn't swear to it. (MDW-NM)

1460 UNID TX - 1/16 0800-0804 - With Texas State Network News, strong on top. The TSN web site does not list an affiliate on 1460 but I suspect either KTFW or KCWM. (BW-OK) [KTFW carries TSN on the hour, and is // KTFW-FM 92.1 Glen Rose. Glen Rose's claim to fame is it's the site of a nuclear power facility - Ed.]

1460 KTYM CA Inglewood - 1/15 0726 - With a woman hawking a religious school, Pacific National University, then ID. (KR-AZ)

1460 KKCS CO Colorado Springs - 1/16 0753 - With Springs Talk 1460, News Talk 1460 slogans, and Colorado sports news just before ToH. (MDW-NM)

1460 WZNZ FL Jacksonville - 1/15 2127 - Brief fade-in, with promo for Jacksonville's ESPN radio station and event at AllTel Stadium in Jacksonville. (GB-FL\*)

1460 WIXN IL Dixon - 1/13 0938 - Strong local, with local news and ID. (TT-IL)

1460 KXNO IA Des Moines - 1/10 2120 - Good signal, in loop null of huge splatter from KGFF, located about mile from me. (JTR-OK)

1460 KXNO IA Des Moines - 1/13 0155 - Good, with Barbara Simpson and ID. (TT-IL)

1460 KXNO IA Des Moines - 1/15 2300 - Poor, with program announcements and ID. Generally under KLTC. (MS-MB)

1460 KXNO IA Des Moines - 1/16 0258-0306 - Best with call letter ID into Fox Sports Radio, and local programming promos. Dominant on most recordings overnite. (BW-OK)



- 1460 KXNO IA Des Moines - 1/16 0231 - Promo, with 1460 is on the web at KXNO dot com, then into promo for Iowa high school sports program on Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:00 ... here on KXNO. Although the promos were all for sports, I believe this is the station that was carrying *Coast-to-Coast* with George Noory which was generally dominant on the frequency most of the time. (PG-CO)
- 1460 WXOK LA Baton Rouge - 1/16 0703 - Female with *Heaven 1460* mentions in ad/promo for local celebration of Martin Luther King Day. (BW-OK)
- 1460 WBRN MI Big Rapids - 1/13 0104 - Fair, with weather and ID into news. (TT-IL)
- 1460 WBRN MI Big Rapids - 1/16 2300 - Fair, with mention of Rush Limbaugh and ID as *AM-1460, WBRN Big Rapids*. NEW! (MS-MB)
- 1460 KKAQ MN Thief River Falls - 1/17 1623 - Fair, with country music and local weather. (MS-MB)
- 1460 KKPR NE Kearney - 1/16 0339 - Very briefly above the rest, with: *Hi. Casey Hayes here. Sit back and relax. You've found good music on 1460 AM, KKPR.* I couldn't ID any particular music they were playing as they were back under immediately. Listed as 56 Watts at night and sounded like it. (PG-CO)
- 1460 KENO NV Las Vegas 1/15 0825 - Sports talk about the Atlantic 10 Conference basketball teams and the Richmond Spiders chances in winning ID. (KR-AZ)
- 1460 KLTC ND Dickinson - 1/15 1000 - Big jumble on this channel, but was able to pull in *1460 KLTC, Dickinson, a Clear Channel Station* at ToH. (MDW-NM)
- 1460 KLTC ND Dickinson - 1/15 2215 - Fair-to-good, with PSA for local hospital, clustered local ads, and call sign ID. (MS-MB)
- 1460 KLTC ND Dickinson - 1/16 0206 - Huge signal for a while with C&W classics and The new home of the legends of country, 1460, KLTC. (PG-CO)
- 1460 WBNS OH Columbus - 1/15 2020 - With Ohio State-Michigan basketball, station break IDs for ... 1460, *The Fan*. (GB-FL\*)
- 1460 WJAK TN Jackson - 1/15 2100 - Out of B.B. King's *The Thrill Is Gone* to *AM 1460 WJAK* not altogether legal ID, and into more blues. Long promo/ad string at 2240 for Jackson and vicinity churches and businesses. (GB-FL\*)
- 1460 KTFW TX Waco - 1/16 0059 - With *KTFW 1460 AM Waco Home of the* [mumble, garble] into country music. New one here, for Texas #112. (BW-OK)
- 1460 WBJX WI Racine - 1/14 1219 - Good, in SS, with ad for cigarettes in EE. (TT-IL) [WHAT?? A cigarette ad on the radio. I thought they outlawed those back in the 70s - Ed.]
- That's all (of 1460), folks. Thanks to all who participated!
- 1470 WLCR KY Shepherdsville - 12/18 2159 - Weak and with a distorted signal. Heard a piano interlude during EWTN programming, then a brief taped ID of *WLCR, Shepherdsville-Louisville*. Was nice to get this before the DX test. (RD-NE)
- 1510 KCTE MO Independence - 1/10 1420 - Briefly heard with deep fades. Ads for Kansas City area. (JTR-OK)
- 1540 KXEL IA Waterloo - 1/10 1405 - Weak daytime logging. News, weather and ID *News Talk 1540*, then into Rush Limbaugh talk. (JTR-OK)
- 1550 WLOR AL Huntsville - 1/8 2059 - ToH ID as *WJOR 1550* to UC, no CoL mentioned. (GB-FL\*)
- 1550 WCTZ TN Clarksville - 1/8 2100 - *This is WCTZ Clarksville, Ft Campbell*. Surprise signal, but didn't last, so unsure if they were on 2500 day power or this was a lucky catch at 10 Watts. (GB-FL\*)
- 1570 WPTW OH Piqua - 1/12 2044 - Poor, yet clear, with *1570 WPTW* and old song in mess. (JJR-WI)
- 1600 KANM NM Albuquerque - 12/22 1835-1850 - Oldies format. *The Mix of New Mexico* slogan and local dedications. New for me. (WH-CO)
- 1600 WZZW WV Milton - 1/12 0800 - Poor, with legal ID, with 1420 WTCR into Sunday REL show. (JJR-WI)
- 1620 WTAW TX College Station - 1/10 1742 - *Ten Thousand Watts of information, Sixteen-twenty WTAW*. (JV-KY)
- 1700 KBGG IA Des Moines - 1/9 0130 - ... *Headline News is on the all-new KBGG, Des Moines*. (JV-KY)

## GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

None this week, but remember all the GYDX records are on line at: [www.angelfire.com/tx2/phantom2/index.html](http://www.angelfire.com/tx2/phantom2/index.html)

## DDXD-East

Wow! What a week on 1330 kHz! DDXD-East reporters heard a whopping 19 stations, from Florida to Newfoundland to Iowa! Good work, everyone! Can't wait for the results of the 1600 kHz challenge!

## DDXD-E

## Frequency Challenge

Deadline	Frequency
January 29	570
February 5	1280
February 12	910

## REPORTERS

- PLB-MI Philip Boersma, Spring Lake - GE Superadio III.
- MKB-ON Mike Brooker, Toronto - Panasonics RF-2200; RFB-45.
- SC-IN Steve Chappell, McCordsville - Bearcat DX-1000; 3 terminated loops.
- MC-NJ Mike Clancy, Jersey City - Sony ICF-7480W and Optimus 12-603A.
- BC-NH Bruce Conti, Nashua - R8B, MWDX-5, 50/75/50-ft east/west Double-Ewe antenna.
- PC-VA Perry Crabill, Winchester - Drake R8, Kiwa Loop, 100' wire.
- MD-MA Marc DeLorenzo, Marstons Mills - JRC NRD-525, noise-reduced slopers, Mini DXP-13 phasing unit.
- RJE-PA Russ Edmunds, Blue Bell - Hammarlund HQ-150 with 4' amplified air core loop.
- MH-MA Mic Healey, Swansea - GE Superadio.
- DH-NJ Dave Hochfelder, New Brunswick - Sony ICF-2010 with Quantum QX Pro.
- RWK-CT Rick Kenneally, Wilton - Drake R8B, 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 - TenTec RX340 on a long wire operating unattended gathering 4-minute audio samples at the top of the hour.
- GL-NY Ginnie Lupi, Clifton Park - DX-398 and Select-A-Tenna.
- HN-GA Herbert Newberry, Newborn - Kenwood R-5000, Quantum Loop and 600' longwire.
- RR-NC Rick Robinson, Hendersonville - Sony 7600GR with RS loop and Q-Stick+ antennas.
- DS-NY Dave Schmidt, outside WKRD in Rotterdam Junction - Ford Escort car radio.
- PEW-SC Powell E. Way, outside Columbia - Car radio.
- NJW-ON Niel Wolfish, Burnt River - AOR-7030+ with Saul Chernos' 2 longwire antennas.

## FREQUENCY CHALLENGE - 1330 kHz

- 1330 WJNX FL Fort Pierce - 1/15 1645 - Tentative; ad for tickets to Daytona International Speedway in February, briefly over WRCA and WWRV. (BC-NH)
- WEBY FL Milton - 1/8 1946 - "Here on WEBY Radio ..." (RR-NC)
- WGTJ GA Murrayville - 1/12 0757 - Murrayville church ads, "Gospel WGTJ, Murrayville." (RR-NC)
- + 1/14 1745 - Presumed. Tuned in for the end of a signoff, no SSB and no distinctive wording. Only two possibilities, this and WKDP (Corbin, KY). WGTJ is non-directional and an easier shot here, while WKDP is directional, I believe protecting co-channel WMOR to their North, plus the Appalachians tend to block me on many Eastern KY stations. (RJE-PA)
- WKTA IL Evanston - 1/9 1600 - Surprise of the week, strong and alone with Korean programming and ID: "You are listening to the biggest and best Korean radio station in the Chicago metropolitan area - AM 13-30, WKTA, Evanston/Northbrook/Chicago." New. (RWK-CT)
- 1/9 1700 - dominant with top of hour ID: "you are listening to WKTA, Evanston-Northbrook-Chicago" into talk by woman in Slavic language (Ukrainian or Polish - I couldn't tell which!). (MKB-ON)
- 1/11 1501 - ID, local spot for a German business in 773 area code. (NJW-ON)
- 1/11 1600 - Ending foreign-language program with English promo ending "...here on radio 1330 WTKA, Evanston-Northbrook". So strong that I initially believed it was WWRV. New! (RJE-PA)
- WVHI IN Evansville - 1/10 2025 - "AM 13-30 WVHI Evansville." (RR-NC)
- + 1/14 0102 - battling Erie's "Fan" and losing, with "AM 1330 WVHI" ID into *Back to the Bible* program. (MKB-ON)
- KWLO IA Waterloo - 1/13 0653 - Very weak: "We're Star 1330" into "Love Theme From Romeo and Juliet". (SC-IN)
- WJSS MD Havre de Grace - 1/8 1655 - Ending Chicago-based religious program followed by full ID. My usual daytime dominant. (RJE-PA)
- + 1/9 1826 - Very good on car radio with "Heart of Worship" music program



WJSS 1330 AM

- and "You're listening to inspirational 13-30, WJSS out of Havre de Grace, MD". New. (RWK-CT)
- + 1/9 1830 - Good on strong fade-ins; "You're listening to the Heart of Worship," and contemporary Christian music, at 1932 finally caught call letter ID and slogan, "The station Where Jesus Saves Souls." Reception confirmed by e-mail via website. New. (BC-NH)
- + 1/13 1000 - "This is inspirational thirteen thirty, WJSS." (DL\*MD)
- WRCA MA Waltham** - 1/8 1608 - Excellent; full ID in English with disclaimer, then "Transmite WRCA Trece-Treinta, Waltham-Boston" into Spanish tropical music. (BC-NH)
- + 1/10 1800 - Good over WWRV-NJ with Spanish programming and English ID "All WRCA programs are brought by independent producers.... This is 13-30 WRCA Waltham/Boston." New. (RWK-CT)
- + 1/13 1807 - English discussion of horses and rodeos, two horse-related ads, and an ID well atop channel. (RJE-PA)
- WHAZ NY Albany** - 1/9 0000 - Spot featuring a child talking, then recorded ID "You're listening to WHAZ on the Alive Radio Network" the //ID with WMYX and others. (RWK-CT)
- + 1/15 1559 - Fair; promo for Baptist church service, "...right here on WHAZ," in WRCA null. New. (BC-NH)
- WWRV NY New York** - 1/8 1706 - Spanish language religion; had full English ID 1800. (RJE-PA)
- + 1/9 0200 - Dominant during the day, but weaker than I remember at night with usual "Radio Vision Cristiana" Spanish religion. (RWK-CT)
- + 1/9 1735 - Good; "Esta es Radio Visión" jingle, "NotiVisión" news in Spanish with chimes between items, over WRCA. (BC-NH)
- WEBO NY Owego** - 1/10 1700 - Fair mixing with WWRV-NJ with spot for show "... right here on WEBO", then ad for a restaurant in Owego, then full top-of-hour ID. New. (RWK-CT)
- WSPQ NY Springville** - 1/8 1924 - ESPN program promo, then 2 local ads for Springville, followed by full ID 1928 then Springville HS basketball. This is new for me - no idea why never heard before as good strength all evening. I don't think I even realized this one existed. (RJE-PA)
- + 1/9 0100 - Good with ESPN programs and top-of-hour IDs "Western New York's sports leader". The IDs were always a few seconds late and stepped on the start of the Sportcenter intro. (RWK-CT)
- + 1/12 2100 - "...this is Western New York's Sports Leader, here on thirteen thirty WSPQ Springville" just copyable in heavy co-channel. (DL\*MD)
- + 1/12 2200 - fair to good, carrying ESPN and gave top of hour ID. Relog. (DH-NJ)
- + 1/14 2300 - Sadly, another ESPN jock radio radiant with its only personal programming given at the top of the hour: "You're tuned to Western New York's sports leader, AM 1330 WSPQ Springville". Then back to ESPN Radio's "Sports Center". Yawn. (MH-MA)
- WFIN OH Findlay** - 1/14 0806 - Very weak: "All season your Sports Authority 1330 WFIN." (SC-IN)
- WFNN PA Erie** - 1/10 0800 - ad for Pennsylvania lottery, top of hour ID: "sports radio 1330, The Fan, WFNN Erie". What CIGM is to 790, WFNN is to 1330. A #\$\$%^&\* big pest! (MKB-ON)
- + 1/10 1812 - Up and over WWRV briefly with a promo for a locally-originated sports program, on "Sportsradio 1330 - The Fan ". Last heard as WRIE years back. (RJE-PA)
- WYSN PA Somerset** - 1/9 1600 - Fair; "...on News/Talk 1330 WYSN Somerset" into Paul Harvey's *The Rest of the Story*, with WRCA nulled out. New. (BC-NH)
- + 1/10 0734 - In and out of the mix with WJSS and WSPQ with weather & local sports, 1960's and 70's pop standards, faded a bit, then back with a Sinatra record, a clear ID and a local ad. (RJE-PA)
- + 1/12 1700 - good with Michigan-Penn State basketball game; ad for local bank and ID'd as a Penn State sports affiliate. Relog. (DH-NJ)
- + 1/12 1900 - "... on News Talk thirteen thirty WYSN, Somerset," promos for talk shows. Moderate co-channel interference. (DL\*MD)



- + 1/14 1630 - Low-voiced male announcer in mush with "Paul Harvey weekdays at ??? on AM 13-30, WYSN, Somerset" then into news. (RWK-CT)
- WYRD SC Greenville** - 1/10 2027 - Greenville Grrrowl minor league hockey game "The Grrrowl on WYRD Greenville". (RR-NC)
- + 1/11 0105 - Good. ID'd as WORD and "Talk Radio" following ABC news. New. (DH-NJ)
- + 1/12 1740 - Richmond Renegades vs. Greenville Grrrowl hockey game briefly up and over WWRV. Per team website, WORD 950/1330 carries all their games. Previously heard as WFBC. (RJE-PA)
- + 1/13 0630 - Suddenly surfacing over WWRV, WRCA & others with ID "WFBC Greenville," and then into CNN Radio News. Thanks to Rick Robinson in NC for confirming the ID. (MD-MA)
- + 1/14 0607 - Fair: "Depend on us, News Radio 1330 and 950 WORD." (SC-IN)
- WBTM VA Danville** - 1/8 1724 - weather forecast, "Newsradio WBTM" (RJE-PA)
- WESR VA Onley** - 1/8 1635 - C&W, ID. A regular here at sunset. (RJE-PA)
- + 1/11 1655 - good, playing C&W music. Relog. (DH-NJ)
- + 1/13 0900 "... on AM thirteen thirty, WESR Onley, Onancock" under stronger REL/GOS program. (DL\*MD)
- + 1/13 1645 - buried under WWRV with spot for NASCAR racing show or event airing on Feb 16 "... on 13-30 WESR". Sounded just slightly off frequency relative to my receiver's sync detector. (RWK-CT)
- + 1/14 1600 - News, male announcer, then "...Virginia News Network" followed by weather: "Sunny and breezy for your Wednesday with a high of 58. Whenever you need the weather call the WESR forecast line, 787-WESR", then sung call letters. At 1633, song: "Black Sheep of the Family". (MH-MA)
- + 1/15 1629 - Faded up nice with a weather jingle into the forecast, WESR jingle, ad for a Verizon Wireless agent in an Onley plaza, "John Thomas has your classic country favorites weekday mornings on Hot Talk and Classic Country AM 1330 WESR," and C&W music. New. (BC-NH)
- CHCM NF Marystown** - 1/15 0500 - Amazing signal with C&W music, then "You're listening to the VOCM Radio Services... Newfoundland's own... VOCM - depend on it." Then local news. Big thanks to Brian Smith for tip that CHWO was operating at reduced power. (RWK-CT)



STATION NEWS

- 1260 WPNW MI Holland** - 1/12 - Now using these calls, format has been altered from Christian talk to a more music-focused REL format. Slogan is now "Praise and Worship AM 1260." Ex-WWJQ. (PLB-MI)
- 1340 WBBL MI Grand Rapids** - 1/13 0600 - Now carrying Howard Stern's morning show. Still sports at other times. (PLB-MI)

UNID AND PRESUMED

- 590 WDIZp FL Panama City** - 1/1 2144 - Fox sports news with update on Sugar Bowl. Loop orientation is SW/NE and this is only Fox sports station on frequency. New. WDWD in partial null. (HN-GA)
- 620 UNID** - 1/11 1722 - ethnic program. Ukrainian (?) version of "Silent Night" heard. With WHEN and WZON. (NJW-ON)
- 760 UNID** - 1/11 1716 - religious program under WJR. Heard a 30184 zip code given out. (NJW-ON)
- 850 WYDE(p) AL Birmingham** - 1/12 1715 - Postgame wrap-up of basketball game between Birmingham Southern and Winthrop. Southern lost, 74-67. Signal fair and clear for 10 minutes, then faded slowly with an ESPN station beneath. (MC-NJ)
- 1170 UNID** - 1/12 1321 - under WWVA with Mexican program. Male announcer on the phone with listeners and playing Mexican music. Never caught an ID and faded it out before 1400. WCXN? (NJW-ON)

STATION LOGGINGS

- 580 CKPR ON Thunder Bay** - 1/10 2214 - Weak: "The best music hits today and yesterday - all the hits and new variety CKPR." Over/under CKY. (SC-IN)

- 630 CFCY PE **Charlottetown** - 1/12 1213 - C&W music, spots for Atlantic Lottery, Cornwall Pharmacy and an appliance store on Mount Edward Road. Mixing with CFCO, WPRO and CHLT. (NJW-ON)
- 660 WLFJ SC **Greenville** - 1/11 1604 - ID by woman, gospel music. Under WFAN. (NJW-ON)
- 690 WZAP VA **Bristol** - 1/11 1654 - Religious program and ID. Mixing with WVOK and CINF. (NJW-ON)
- 710 WFNR VA **Blacksburg** - 1/11 1644 - under CJRN with Sporting News Radio stuff and promo for their FM on 100.7. (NJW-ON)
- 720 CHTN PE **Charlottetown** - 1/12 1157 - oldies by B.W. Stevens and (Canadian artist) Shirley Eikhard. Into "American Gold" program at 1200. Even with WBBM. (NJW-ON)
- 730 WJTO ME **Bath** - 1/11 0953 - over top of CKAC with ID: "the music that is serene...730 WJTO", followed by instrumental versions of "Fernando" and "Carefree Highway". (NJW-ON)
- WDOS NY **Oneonta** - 1/14 0630 - on early with C & W, then local weather report and news with News Director Jeff ?, including a report on Otsego/Delaware County United Way campaign success, and mention of Oneonta YMCA. More news and weather, then "...cloudy in Oneonta's east end... WDOS news." Lots of fading and interference. (GL-NY)
- 780 WPTN TN **Cookeville** - 12/23 0755 - Beatles music. Satellite-fed, IDs inserted "Oldies 780" and "WPTN". In WWOL and suspected WZZX null. (HN-GA)
- WZZX AL **Linesville** - 1/1 2223 - in WBBM null on loop, 20 over S9, ID'ing as "real country 95.5." WZZX // 95.5. No AM calls given, automation problem? New for this time of day. (HN-GA)
- WCKB NC **Dunn** - 1/11 1702 - ID by man: "This is WCKB in Dunn", followed by local spots and time check. Into Black Gospel music. Under WBBM with a second station doing Southern Gospel (WWOL?). (NJW-ON)
- CFDR NS **Dartmouth** - 1/12 1145 - Over top of WBBM and WTME with Johnny Cash's "A Boy Named Sue" and other C&W music. (NJW-ON)
- WTME ME **Rumford** - 1/14 1613 - over nulled WBBM with CNN news, ads for Lewiston-Auburn Chamber of Commerce and Community Credit Union at 144 Pine Street in Lewiston. (MKB-ON)
- 790 CFAN NB **Miramichi (Newcastle)** - 1/11 2314 - on top of CIGM and WSKO with pop music by Matchbox 20, U2 and Sheryl Crowe. Various promos for "99.3 The River". (NJW-ON)
- KFGO ND **Fargo** - 1/13 1754 - over CIGM with ID as "KFGO news time is 4:54", into interview with state senator who wants to repeal the corporate income tax in North Dakota. (MKB-ON)
- 830 WCRN MA **Worcester** - 1/14 0645 - "This is Swing 830 WCRN" popped out of Albany-area TIS and other slop. (GL-NY)
- 850 WDJC AL **Birmingham** - 1/8 1716 - Over and under WRBZ-NC, with religious music in Gospel Jubilee program. Frequent mention of AM 8-50, but no ID until 1728, when "Don't miss the Laws of Life ... every Saturday at 1:00 PM right here on WDJC". Logged as WMKI in 1999 and WYDE in 2002. (PC-VA)
- WLYE PA **Johnstown** - 1/11 0805 - "Country hits WLYE" mixing with WREF and WRMR. Ex-WJAC, WSPO, WODZ etc. (NJW-ON)
- WREF CT **Ridgefield** - 1/11 0807 - mixing with WREF and WRMR playing oldies by Ike & Tina Turner, The Beatles, etc. (NJW-ON)
- 890 WKNV VA **Fairlawn** - 1/12 0824 - creaming WLS with slogan "southwestern Virginia's southern gospel connection, this is Joy AM". (MKB-ON)
- 900 WOTW NH **Nashua** - 1/11 0800 - top-of-the-hour ID mentioning "serving New Hampshire and Maine" into USA Network News. Out of news with a "swinging music" jingle and instrumental oldie; fair with CHML. (NJW-ON)
- 910 WRNL VA **Richmond** - 1/9 0744 - over Apollo, PA pest with regional college basketball scores (Old Dominion, Virginia Tech, Georgetown, etc.), slogan "sports radio 910, WRNL" into Fox Sports update. (MKB-ON)
- WFVR GA **Valdosta** - 1/11 2203 - Continuous loop of travel information for Florida, mentioning the Welcome Center on I-75. ID'd as "Florida Travel Information



- WEFG TN **South Pittsburgh** - 1/11 2224 - Daytimer after hours with C&W behind WFVR-GA. "Absolutely, positively, without a doubt, the most country radio station in America, we are AM 9-10 WEPG, The River, South Pittsburgh, Tennessee", then into Jimmy Rogers. (PC-VA)
- 920 WYMB SC **Manning** - 1/11 2245 - Fading in and out with C&W. At 2256, ad for grand opening of My Karaoke Bar; followed by ad for wedding and bridal fashion show at the Civic Center. Then "Today's Country Leader... WHLZ-FM... and WYMB-AM". (PC-VA)
- 930 WFXJ FL **Jacksonville** - 12/23 0730 - "Fox Sports Radio, WFXJ, the Fox." Sports talk program. On top of 20 over S9 slop on loop. (HN-GA)
- CFBC NB **St. John** - 1/11 1141 - Mixing with WBEN with ID as "Oldies 93 CFBC" and Steppenwolf oldie. (NJW-ON)
- WYFQ NC **Charlotte** - 1/12 1645 - Mixing with WFMD-MD and WBEN-NY; dominant at times with religious music. Mention of BBN and Charlotte, North Carolina. At 1700, "WYFQ, Charlotte, and WYFQ-FM, Wadesboro". (PC-VA)
- 940 WCPC MS **Houston** - 1/12 1745 - Gospel music, gradually building up and dominating channel. Selection "Drifting Too Far from the Shore", then "Bluegrass Time here on WCPC, Houston, Mississippi". USA News at 1800, then "WCPC in Houston, Mississippi; 27 degrees at 5 minutes past 5 o'clock". (PC-VA)
- 950 WGOV GA **Valdosta** - 1/12 1834 - Gospel music; "Rap Radio Ministry". Later, "This program is sponsored by WGOV-95. Obviously not using authorized night power of 63 watts". (PC-VA)
- 990 WJEH OH **Gallipolis** - 01/13 2051 - Daytime station after dark with Tijuana Brass and other Oldies; covered most of the time by others. (PC-VA)
- 1010 WMOX MS **Meridian** - 1/9 2300 - Weak: "WMOX Meridian" into news. (SC-IN)
- KSIR CO **Brush** - 1/10 1851 - Fair: Run down of the evening's boys' basketball matchups. "Del Norte vs. Monte Vista, Bennett at Erie, and 2-3 Brush against the Eaton Reds on AM 1010." (SC-IN)
- CFRB ON **Toronto** - 1/13 1330 - Daytime DX reception behind WOLB-MD with news and traffic reports. (PC-VA)
- 1030 WEBS GA **Calhoun** - 1/1 2300 - Legal ID at top of hour, into CNN news. Rare! (HN-GA)
- + 1/11 1854 - Oldies over WBZ with singing jingle "ten-thirteeeee WEBS." On day power of 3000 watts or TX's full 5000! (PEW-SC)
- 1060 WBIX MA **Natick** - 1/11 0815 - ID: "Boston Business Radio, 10-60 WBIX". Good with KYW. (NJW-ON)
- 1070 CHOK ON **Sarnia** - 12/15 1623 - semi-local daytime station WKMB being interfered with strongly by station airing hockey game, which ID'd: "you are listening to Sarnia Sting hockey on 1070 - CHOK." Sting won 4-3. Signal faded in and out and at 1650 became poor, with WIBC-IN fading in at 1700. (MC-NJ)
- 1120 WBNW MA **Concord** - 1/11 0050 - non-stop C&W music in KMOX null, 0100 top of hour ID: "WBNW AM 1120 Concord, WPLM AM 1390 Plymouth" into ABC news. This is likely my UNID on 1120 last month. (MKB-ON)
- 1150 WCRK TN **Morristown** - 1/1 2315 - Legal ID "WCRK" between AC music selections. Up and down in slop New. (HN-GA)
- WRUN NY **Utica** - 1/9 0100 - "This is WRUN Utica. This is the forecast from the National Weather Service." Came up under dominant CKOC briefly right on the top of the hour. (DL\*MD)
- WHUN PA **Huntingdon** - 1/9 1700 - "AM 11-50 WHUN Huntingdon", with moderate co-channel. (DL\*MD)
- WDEL DE **Wilmington** - 1/9 1800 - "...WDEL dot com. Good evening. Right now we have clear skies, it's fifty four degrees at six o'clock, this is WDEL News ..." "WDEL News time is six oh one." (DL\*MD)
- 1160 WYLL IL **Chicago** - 1/1 2328 - Surprise! A new Chicago for the log! ID between religious programs: "WYLL, Chicago." Quite good on loop. New! (HN-GA)
- + 1/12 1325 - ID, promo for FM "106.7 The Fish" and religious talk program. (NJW-ON)
- WOBM NJ **Lakewood Township** 1/10 0300 - "WOBM Lakewood Township..." in very heavy co-channel. At 1800 during

- locally read news: "and this is Millennium Radio New Jersey." (DL\*MD)
- 1490 WABY NY **Mechanicville** - 1/9 1400 - Noted with new calls while sitting at WKRD, Albany, waiting for them to plow out the driveway! (DS-NY)  
+ 1/10 0600 - "AM eleven sixty, this is WABY Machanicville, and AM nine hundred WUAM Saratoga Springs... Media Group" into news in moderate co-channel. (DL\*MD)
- 1490 WAMB TN **Donelson** - 1/10 0800 - "Serving Nashville ... on eleven sixty WAMB AM and WAMB FM Donelson." News followed. (DL\*MD)
- 1260 CKHJ NB **Fredericton** - 1/11 1203 - C&W music, ID as "KHJ continuous country". Over top of WNSS-Syracuse. (NJW-ON)
- 1280 WLCC GA **Macon** - 12/23 0738 - "1280 WLCC, the light." Local news items, sports scores, weather forecast for Macon and central GA. Up and down in slop on loop. (HN-GA)
- 1310 WTLC IN **Indianapolis** - 1/12 0903 - over Ottawa's oldies with black gospel songs, ID as "WTLC Indianapolis, AM 1310, The Light". (MKB-ON)
- 1370 WKMC PA **Roaring Spring** - 1/12 1003 - ID and John Denver song. On top of WXXI. (NJW-ON)
- WVLY WV **Moundville** - 1/12 0948 - station promo for Howard Monroe show, commercial for First National Bank of Powhatan Point. (NJW-ON)
- 1440 WJAE ME **Westbrook** - 1/11 1038 - Sporting News Radio stuff, ID as "Sports Radio WJAB". (NJW-ON)
- 1460 WBRN MI **Big Rapids** - 1/11 09213 - on top of WDDA and CJOY with promo for Ferris State Bulldogs basketball, commercials for Van Drie Home Furnishings in Cadillac and Quality Car & Truck Repair. (NJW-ON)
- 1470 WBKV WI **West Bend** - 1/11 0855 - Charley Pride record, spot for National Exchange Bank & Trust, weather and ID as "Classic Country BKV" into CNN news. (NJW-ON)
- WWBG NC **Greensboro** - 1/12 0858 - Latin American music and 2 IDs at top-of-the-hour. Fair with WBTX. (NJW-ON)
- 1490 WICY NY **Malone** - 1/11 1003 - ID: "Your home for the best oldies, WICY Malone", into America's Master Handyman program. (NJW-ON)
- WTVL ME **Waterville** - 1/12 1151 - dual ID: "WEZW Augusta (1400) and WTVL Waterville" into songs by Roy Oribson and "Scarborough Fair" by Simon and Garfunkel. (NJW-ON)
- 1500 KSTP MN **St. Paul** - 1/12 1124 - all alone on frequency with local phone-in program and commercial for Menards. (NJW-ON)
- WFIF CT **Milford** - 1/11 1029 - Mention of a church in West Haven, ID and Family News In Focus program. (NJW-ON)
- 1550 WNTN MA **Newton** - 1/12 1130 - Greek program. Spots for City of Athens travel Agency and a restaurant in Charlestown. Mentioned that City of Athens Travel also sponsors a program on 1600-WUNR. (NJW-ON)
- 1560 WPAD KY **Paducah** - 12/30 0106 - Out of CNN news, back to oldies on "great memories, WPAD, Paducah." On top of 20 over S9 on loop while trying for WMRO DX test. (HN-GA)
- 1570 WPGM PA **Danville** - 1/11 1730 - ID and "Unshackled" program. (NJW-ON)
- WANR OH **Warren** - 1/11 1759 - On top with oldies by The Beach Boys and others. ID at top-of-the-hour as "Cruising Radio WANR". (NJW-ON)
- 1580 WILA VA **Danville** - 1/11 1753 - woman with program announcements, ID and The Temptation's "Papa Was A Rolling Stone". (NJW-ON)



## Broadcasters' Guides to DX and Reception Report Forms

Four different tri-fold guides for use with reception reports explaining DX'ing, how the NRC was formed, and the importance of QSL's to DX'ers. AM editions in English (EEG), Spanish (SSG), and French (FFG); FM edition in English (FMG). 20 for US\$3.50 (\$4.50 non-members). Reception report forms (NRC members ONLY, please) with NRC logo: in English, 50 for \$6.00 (EERF); in Spanish, .50 each (SSRF); in French, .50 each (FERF). Order from NRC Publications. (NY residents, add sales tax)

# International DX Digest

Bruce Conti nrcidxd@aol.com

46 Ridgefield Drive  
Nashua, NH 03062-1174

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

### Transatlantic DX

- 162 FRANCE *France Inter*, Allouis JAN 2 0607 - Talk in French by male and female, fair. [Beu-TX]
- 189 ICELAND *Ríkissímtali*, Gufuskálar JAN 10 0924-0955 - Fair, presumed with variety of music, some traditional/folk and Nordic-sounding talk by a male. Into hymn-style vocal music interspersed with frequent talk at 0926. Sounded like a Mario Lanza opera-style hymn at 0930. My DX Edge shows a total darkness path holding even at that late hour. Never played much with LW here before. First non-beacon station heard here. Also heard the following day but much weaker. Didn't appreciate the potential from this area until the Miscou trip, where this station was prominent. Occasionally faded up to good on the G5RV, but barely audible on the sloper. [Taylor-NB]
- 999 SPAIN *COPE Madrid* JAN 11 0509 - Man and woman talking in Spanish. Poor to fair signal and parallel to a weaker 837 and 1296. Best TA signal of the evening, which probably wasn't saying much! [Wolfish-ON]
- 1071 SPAIN *Euskadi Irratia*, Bilbao JAN 11 0425 - Presumed the one here with talk by a man in Spanish. Nothing else listed here for Spain. Couldn't hear other Euskadi Irratia stations on 1161, 1197 or 1602. [Wolfish-ON]
- 1575 SPAIN *SER synchros* JAN 11 0430-0455 - Time pips, Spanish talk by a man and instrumental music. Parallel to 1026, 1116 and 1584, all of which were never any stronger than a poor signal. 1575 was probably the best of the bunch. [Wolfish-ON]

### Pan-American DX

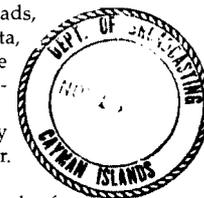
- 650 COLOMBIA *RCN Antenna Dos*, Bogotá DEC 29 0015 - "Antenna Dos" ID, strong. [Beu-TX]
- 895\* ST. KITTS & NEVIS *VON Bath Village* DEC 27 0127 - Melissa Etheridge song, good. Sign off at 0200. [Beu-TX]
- 1010 MEXICO *XEHL San Juan Ocotan*, Jalisco JAN 16 0538 - With ID and slogan "Diez-Diez AM, La Poderosa" and singing slogan *La Poderosa*. Then playing a cumbia and ranchera, then ballads. It was in a sliver of a null of local KXEM. New. [Redding-AZ]
- 1180 CUBA *R.Rebelde*, Villa María JAN 9 0056 - With an ID by a woman with reverb and into news. [Redding-AZ]
- 1220 MEXICO *XEB México*, DF JAN 9 0100 - Playing awesome music, the kind of Mexican music I like the best. Ballads, all easy listening with lots of harmony, absolutely beautiful stuff. [Redding-AZ]
- 1250 MEXICO *XEDL Hermosillo*, Sonora JAN 15 0005 - With the Mexican national anthem, full top-of-hour ID, and running news. Fighting it out with KHIL. [Redding-AZ]
- 1375 ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON *RFO St. Pierre* JAN 11 1655 - With male vocal. Pretty decent signal for a few minutes and then it faded into the 1370/1380 splatter. [Wolfish-ON]

*Niel speaks:* I was on a "DXpedition" with Ken Alexander and Saul Chernos at Saul's cottage in Burnt River, Ontario, which is about two hours northeast of Toronto. Kind of a strange weekend as we were surprised at the lack of Pan-American DX we ended up hearing, considering that Ken and I had YVRQ dominating 910 on his car radio on Friday evening on the way up to Burnt River on Kawartha Lakes Road 121. The daytime DX turned out to be more interesting that the stuff after dark. I don't ever remember hearing St. Pierre so close to our local noon in all the 30 or so times we congregated in Coe Hill, which is about 50 miles farther east than Burnt River.

*From the logbook of David Crawford:* Here on the east coast of Florida I've been receiving a Dominican IDing as "Seis Cientos AM, desde Santo Domingo," no ads, callsigns, or additional ID noted, local nights, mostly merengue and bachata, good signal peaks. WRTH 2002 lists only RTVD El Seybo. (I wonder if it's the same one I heard over the summer carrying Boston Red Sox baseball in Spanish? - Conti) So, this may be a new one. No sign of *Radio Ya* here yet.

Have been sitting for weeks on another unID Dominican on 930.08, mostly merengue, no clear IDs, best around 0400 but difficult through *Reloj* blobmitter. Maybe *Ondas del Yaque*. *R.Puerto Rico* is usually strong co-channel.

The WKQV pirate from south Florida has been active on 1610 the past couple of



16 nights; pulled plug at 0108 tonight, on well past 0400 the previous night though. Dominates the frequency here when it's on.

#### Transpacific DX

1611 AUSTRALIA unID JAN 10 1136-1208 - Presumed; fair carrier peaked briefly at 1202 with man speaking. Too weak to determine language or accent. This is a frequency to watch as it seems to have the strongest signal of the expanded band Aussies and the noise level is comparatively low. [Moore-FL]

#### Contributors

Mike Beu KD5DSQ, Austin TX; Drake R8B, Palomar Amp / homebrew ferrite loop (12 x 1.125-inches). <mbeu@swbell.net>  
David E. Crawford, Titusville, FL. <DavidECrawford@cfl.rr.com>  
Ray Moore, North Fort Myers FL; Homebrew receiver, R8, R1000, Comdel preamp, 23-inch spiral MW loop, 23-inch passive SW loop. <rsmcomm@usa.net>  
Kevin Redding, Mesa AZ; Sony ICF-2010. <amfmdx@fastq.com>  
Brent Taylor, Doaktown NB; Kenwood TS-680S, G5RV dipole, 60-ft Sultronix top-fed ham HF sloper at 50 feet.  
Niel Wolfish, DXing in Burnt River, ON; AOR-7030+ and 975-ft longwire antenna. <niel@ican.net>

#### International News

ARGENTINA: 1129.8 R.Contemporánea is a new station from Buenos Aires slightly off the nominal frequency 1130 kHz. The transmitter is located in the town of Gonzalez Catán. The address to the studios is Calle Rojas 6 piso 2, Oficina 2, Barrio de Caballito, Capital Federal. [Steve Whitt, JAN LA Newsdesk, ARC]  
COLOMBIA: R@dionet has reduced the number of stations from ten 1997 to just four today. They are: 590 Medellín, 700 Cali, 850 Santafé de Bogotá, 1270 Bucaramanga - all transmit 24 hours. [Héctor Arboleda, JAN LA Newsdesk, ARC]  
1613.1 HJ. R.Ideal, Umbita heard here, nominal 1600 kHz. Address: Calle 16A N° 3-58, Umbita, Boyaca. [Rafael Rodriguez, JAN LA Newsdesk, ARC]  
Updated schedule of R.Free Eurpoe/R.Liberty/R.Farda in Persian as of JAN 5: 24 hours on 1539 DHA and 1593 Kuwait, parallel shortwave 9515 0030-0400, 9585 0030-0830, 9795 0030-0600, 12015 0400-0600, 15290 0400-0830, 17675 0600-0830, 6140 1900-2000, 11960 and 11985 1900-2130 UTC. [Ivo and Angel! Observer, Bulgaria, JAN 8 DX Listening Diges]  
73 and Good DX!



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## DX'er's Notebook

Shared tips, topics, and Internet info

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Camden Wyoming DE 19934-2132

As the following discussion about Daytime DX was occurring this past week on the listserv, I caught WLS at 11:00 AM here in Delaware on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January.

#### DAYTIME DX

Saul Chernos <schernos@yahoo.com>: A question for you all: Wayne Plunkett, a Toronto DXer and broadcast consultant, were talking about IBOC and also the Burnt River ON DXpedition last weekend where Niel Wolfish, Ken Alexander and I received strong signals from as far away as St. Pierre et Miquelon (1375), Nova Scotia (780), PEI (630, 720), Chicago 1L (various clears), St. Paul MN (1500) and Louisville KY (840) at high noon.

This was unprecedented for any of us, and Wayne says he's never heard the Canadian Maritimes during the day, either. We are wondering: What is your farthest daytime DX on AM? What was coming in, and when did this occur? Were there any unusual conditions noted in conjunction with this?

Russ Edmunds <wb2bjh@nrccdas.org>: While living in Northern NJ, there were a few times where I heard many of the Chicago clears and also WHO at noon or so. I had a daytime local then on 830 so checking WCCO was out, and I was never able to pull KMOX out from beside then-WNEW.

Chicago was a bit to the upside of 700 miles, and Des Moines was further. No special conditions, simply midwinter (December-January) when the daylight hours are the shortest, and thus, at least in theory, the absorption should also be the least.

David Gleason <david@davidgleason.com>: Farthest and best daytime from Cleveland, OH in early 60's. 1035 4VEC Cap Haitien, Haiti around noon. Deep winter. 1470 from Canadian plains... it's gone now and I think it was Regina during CONELRAD test 11 AM in deep winter. Watrous and Winnipeg CBCs also heard. Heard a number of NW Ontario and Quebec and NS stations in same CONELRAD tests.

Tom Dimeo <amdx@earthlink.net>: In January 2002 I heard WHB Kansas City here in Harrisburg Pennsylvania at around 10:00 A.M. Also coming through was WTMJ 620, CKLW 800, KMOX 1020 and several Chicago stations.

Gerry Bishop <gerryb4991@cox.net>: WLS at high noon, dead of winter, on the TRF barefoot. That was more than 10 years ago, exact year buried in the notes somewhere. Nothing ever equaled that, and it hasn't happened twice. No other Chicago clears were heard, just that one. (Niceville, FL)

Wally Wawro <wwawro@wfaa.com>: While visiting Chicago 2 weeks ago I had KFAQ-1170, Tulsa, on January 2nd, around 9:30 AM with Glen Beck. Signal was outstanding. I don't recall hearing anything really exotic here in Dallas during daylight though.

Tom Dimeo: Back in the early sixties there was an occurrence on the 75 meter amateur band that I never experienced since. I was in Lewistown Pennsylvania and between about 10:00 and 11:00 A.M. I was working stations from all over the east. Stations north to Maine, south to North Carolina and west to Indiana. Most hams were on AM then and signals were all very strong. It didn't seem to matter how much power was being used, all stations sounded about the same strength. It was unbelievable! Tuning up and down the dial, 3800 kHz to 4000 kHz, good clear signals could be heard. The topic of discussion on almost every frequency was the unusual conditions.

I don't think I checked other amateur bands or the AM broadcast band. I don't remember the time of year, but I think it was early fall. There was another ham a few blocks from me who was on the air at the same time and I asked him the next day if it had been a dream. He assured me that it wasn't, and I had my log too.

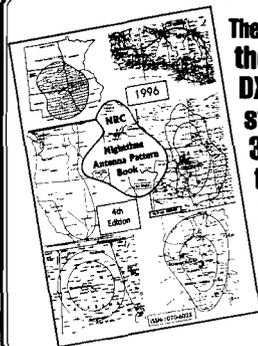
Powell Way <powell@conterra.com>: I have heard WLW in the daytime but it was verry weak. Recently WSAI stayed listenable all day long. That is about it... (SC)

Pat Durkin <pjdurkin@mmm.com>: Here in the Twin Cities, I've heard WTAM-1100 Cleveland (625 miles) at 2 PM several times, as well as many of the Chicago 50 kW stations. One time I heard CJOB-680 Winnipeg, about 450 miles distant, at 12:30 PM, strong enough to overcome the spillover from a local on 690. When I used to live in the Milwaukee area, it wasn't uncommon to hear WLW-700 and WSM-650 in the daytime. Of course the most likely time of year for this to happen was in December-January.

CKAC 73

### What a Time-saver - the County Cross Reference

A complete list of counties, parishes, and similar political divisions in the U. S. and Canada. Two lists are included: alpha by county, and by state. Compiled by Bill Hale and designed and produced by Wayne and Joan Helmen. \$7.50 for members, \$10.95, non-member. Order "CCR" from the NRC Publications center; NY residents, please include sales tax.



The NRC Nighttime Antenna Pattern Book, 5th Edition is the perfect mate to the NRC AM Log, as the NPB provides DX'ers with up-to-date maps of all (except Class IV) stations with nighttime operations. Convenient to use: 3-hole punched for standard binders. Still only \$16.95 to U. S. and Canadian members; \$22.95 to U. S. and Canadian non-NRC members. Airmail to members in Europe (except Italy): \$29.00. All others, please contact us for exact pricing.

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**Frederick R. Vobbe** <fredv@nrcdxas.org>: KTW0 in Casper WY at 4PM in late November when I lived in Temperance MI. Aprox-1982.

**Robert Foxworth** <rfoxwor1@tampabay.rr.com>: Probably WHO would be my best daytime from Long Island, when I was living there. The useless WJHR killed that one. The typical daytime mode would be to appear in early afternoon and then actually fade OUT again by the time it became late afternoon, say by 1500-1600 LT.

**Russ Edmunds**: That was also my observation. It seemed that shorter-distance stuff took over.

**Rick Robinson** <rk4ar@arll.net>: I logged CIAO 530 at 0915 right before Christmas. This is pretty late in the morning for DX here and the first time I've logged them from Hendersonville (NC). Luckily, Radio Vision Cristiana was off the air. RVC rules 530 like a local here during the evening.

Last March, I logged WLW here at 1215. Back to 500KW? I know they are a blowtorch, but this was the latest I'd ever heard them. Usually all DX is gone by 0830 at the latest.

**Paul Swearingen** <PlsBCBDXER@aol.com>: Received in Topeka some time between 10 am-2 pm: CBW-990; WJR-760; WLW-700; WSM-650, WSM and WJR more than once. As I remember, the CBW reception was at high noon with very cold, dry conditions but a bright sun shining. Some of the others were with higher humidity and even some fog.

**Paul LaFreniere** <plafren@boreal.org>: November 2001 while sitting in my pickup parked at the Pincushion Overlook above Lake Superior between 1230 and 1300 CST logged CINT-650 Saskatoon, CBX-740 Edmonton, CKKY-830 Wainwright, CHQT-880 Edmonton, CKSA-1080 Lloydminster.

**Mike Brooker** <aum108@idirect.com>: (In Toronto) I've heard WLS-890, WCBS-880 and the other New York and Chicago clears during the daytime. Usually get them at midday at least once during the winter DX season. While visiting Chicago in June 2001 I heard CFCO-630 Chatham, ON but that was waterpath-assisted (DXing at Grant Park).

**Doug Smith** <w9wi@w9wi.com>: CFCO does nicely to the west. I hear them well after sunrise in Milwaukee - may even have heard them at high noon at my mother's place (10 miles inland from Lake Michigan).

**Mike Pietruk** <pietruk@panix.com>: CFCO was a regular daytimer when I spent my summers vacationing as a child on the Indiana dunes testifying to Doug mentioning their strong signal to the west. Hence, I am not surprised that they'd be picked up on an afternoon on Chicago's lakefront only about 35 or so airmiles away from my old summertime haunt. Water conductivity is wonderful for daytime signals; another example of this was routinely listening to WDCB Escanaba, MI (from the UP) at our summertime Indiana Dunes location even though it was next on the dial to 670 WMAQ's powerhouse signal, and it was not uncommon to pick up the 250 watts from WMAM Marineette, WI even though it was next to WIND on the dial.

**Allan Dunn** <missingmaia@attbi.com>: Here just south of Boston we were hearing WGN and WMAQ this morning in the clear with WLW under a semi-local. All this at 10 AM ELT, three hours after sunrise (1/15/03).

**Eric Conchie** <econchie@reach.net>: (In Tweed, ON) My best daytime DX would actually have been yesterday (1/15/03)—WESR 1330 Onley, VA (very weak, only caught the calls, very little program info), at around 10 AM eastern time. Other than that, it would have been WCBS New York about 2 years ago around noon on a January day.

**Pete Lee** <sunshine@angelfire.com>: My indicator of when DX is coming in daytime (in Wyoming) is the presence of interference to KHOW-630. Wednesday it was there at 12 noon; still haven't gotten ID's 'cause KHOW's groundwave does not fade. Had a medical appointment so couldn't pursue matters further...

**Mark Connelly** <MarkWA110N@aol.com>: Saudi Arabia - 1521 at 1 p.m. EST in December during the mid '90s from East Harwich, Cape Cod, MA (30 m sloper to Drake R8A).

**Charles Hutton** <charlesh3@msn.com>: Hey Mark: This was so interesting that I got out Geoclock to take a look at the path. It's surprisingly close to being a darkness path! You didn't give an exact time so I ran 1:30 EST and found the edge of the gray zone to be about 1550 miles from the end of Cape Cod. If we assume F skip with a maximum of 2400 miles per hop, you're within 400 miles of having the control point in darkness. And then of course there's the possibility we aren't dealing with standard F hops...Anyhow, I'm curious as to whether you think this was pure 100% daytime DX or the very first taste of nighttime propagation. Could be either.

**Mark Connelly**: Hi Chuck. The ionosphere was, of course, involved. Still 1 p.m. EST (1800 UTC) is well within the definition of daytime DX when sunset is at 4:15. I had Algeria-549 just slightly later than this last March at East Harwich: actually a greater time pre-sunset. My latest TA (Ireland-567 at 5:05 a.m. EST/ 1005 UTC) was also from there. Nothing like a QTH near the sea with high enough pine trees to hang serious slopers.

Iceland on 189 is threshold-level groundwave to outer Cape Cod and Cape Ann. It (and the old

Ireland-252) are easy in Newfoundland all day and according to VE1ZZ also good round the clock on his island off the Nova Scotia coast.

MW TA's all day? If one of the lowband Azores stations went high power (>200 kW), we'd get 'em at the coast. RVC-530 Turks & Caicos is audible all day on Cape Cod at about 1400 miles. Another 600 or so miles to Azores would need about double RVC's power and, obviously, an east-facing beach, a low-slop channel, and some serious wire. Skip TA's like Norway-1314 are audible all day at Cappahayden, NL in late autumn/ early winter.

Some of you TP guys out at Grayland have heard some amazing stuff well after sunrise.

**Charles Hutton**: Ah ha, we have a little semantics thing going. Since the control point is very near the grayline, and we are talking about F skip, I think of it as normal DX not daytime DX. That's just me and I bet most others don't think of it that way. As for TP DX from Grayland, I recall hearing HLAZ at approximately 10:30 AM when the local sunrise was about 7:30 AM. There was still fair/poor audio and it was in no danger of disappearing soon when we put a halt to DXing. Even more interesting were the carriers on 1008 and 1575 that I noted several years ago as we finished putting up a Beverage at Grayland. No other carriers were noted across the whole band. These two carriers were most likely from the Russians on the Kamchatka peninsula in the far northwest corner of Russia. I was hearing the carriers at about 5:30 PM local time which would be just after local sunset in the winter, but Far East Russia was of course in daylight about 3000 miles away. Sunset for them would be several hours away, although I'm not exactly sure of how relevant that is at the latitudes of the stations and the path.

**Neil Kazaross** <neilkaz@interaccess.com>: OK...I'll risk raining on a few parades here and await the flames because I'll be gone for several days and unable to defend myself.!! All none of this distant stuff other than groundwave across oceans like RVC 530 is anymore than weak daytime skip. Once one

**WMSX 1410**  
Metrol South Broadcasting  
288 Linwood Street  
Brockton, MA 02401

gets to a quiet QTH and puts up real wire these this stuff is common. Especially when one deals with carriers. Here's one for you all. Even in the summer, from Narragansett RI in the 70's I could almost always detect a weak 1200 carrier looping towards San Antonio at noon in the summer. Groundwave...not a prayer...weak skip traces...I guess so. Spurs...I didn't get any there and it didn't loop towards Providence off the back end.

I could go on and on and on and will mention that TA in Nov at Cappahayden start coming in around darkness around 1 PM local.

**Charles Hutton**: Hey Neil: I read this a few times and couldn't quite understand what you were trying to say...If we are going to flame you, we're going to have to understand it!

**Russ Edmunds**: You're not alone, Chuck. If I were on the west coast, and I heard something from the east coast at 1 pm in winter I'd consider it sunset DX. IMHO 'daytime DX' requires a fully daylight path.

**Robert Foxworth**: Guess my timing is a bit off... perhaps this year it would not really matter... but anyway, this reminder that there exists a good theoretical path for people in Seattle etc. northwards to hear Europeans on MW at local Seattle sunRISE, when the sun is just setting in central Europe, via greyline short-path. I have seen hams reporting good 75-meter skip over such a path. This in the 1500Z time region. At this time of year with the very latest sunrises (here in Tampa it is about 0724 local time, the latest of the whole year) already the local sunset has become a half hour later than mid-December.

Anyone in the Pacific NW hearing such? I think NHP had some possibles a couple years ago.

**Russ Edmunds**: I agree that "All...of this distant stuff other than groundwave across oceans like RVC 530 is...weak daytime skip." "Once one gets to a quiet QTH and puts up real wire these this stuff is common" is also true, but many of these reports aren't in either category. Many are from non-quiet areas using internal or external loops.

I can remember occasions when TA's came in both at my North Jersey location and also at Ron Schiller's Monmouth Beach location as early as 3 pm local, or a good hour before darkness starts setting in.

**Robert Foxworth**: Me too, but this is my take: There exists groundwave reception of stations such as RVC-530 which propagate long distances across oceans. If you discount these conditions, then everything else that is heard is weak daytime skip. When you set up in a quiet location and use large wire antennas, then this weak daytime skip reception becomes common. This is especially true when the threshold of reception is just detecting a carrier, with a signal being too weak to produce audio.

There. Why use 43 words when 74 will do, hi;-)

However - seriously - if it is weak daytime skip then it is a very stable, non-time-varying kind of skip which only changes in days, not in minutes or hours as nighttime skip changes. (huh? he said).

**John Callarman** <JohnCallarman@msn.com>: And I can remember when, on some winter afternoon occasions, I could hear WBZ at 3 p.m. in Corvallis, Oregon.

**Marc DeLorenzo** <MarstonsMarc@aol.com>: Gordon Nelson's definition of Daytime DX was: any station heard between 10:00am and 2:00pm at the receiver site. Why make it any more complex than

**Charles Hutton:** Definitely a lot of people use a rule like Gordon's. I don't know why I have to make it so hard, but my mind automatically wants to separate groundwave DX from ionospheric DX, and further subdivide ionospheric DX into D-layer-was-real-weak DX and control-point-was-in-grayline DX. The mechanisms are so different I have a hard time uniting them with just a time of day rule.

**Russ Edmunds:** Again, I agree with Chuck. I think that the time of day at the reception point is a somewhat artificial thing to use as a focal point. There's a great deal of difference in propagation modes between a reception in PA of CA at local noon (when it's daylight in both places) than a reception in PA at 2 pm of a TA where the transmitter is in darkness and depending on the location, perhaps much of the path is. One is pure daytime reception; the other is, IMHO, sunset or greyline. But as this is still essentially an individual sport, and it doesn't really make any difference of import, since we don't have any columns which quantitatively track statistics that way.

**John Callarman:** Has anyone mentioned how the FCC defines Critical Hours — sunrise to two hours past sunrise and two hours before sunset to sunset. Of course, there's a certain artificiality to that definition, too, because the sunrise and sunset times are based on the closest quarter hour to well, I can't remember if it's the closest average quarter hour or the closest quarter hour to the middle of the month. Krumdudgeons are codgers, aren't we?

**Powell Way:** Sometime after 1 PM I got WSCR and the French 860 that at TOH I heard "Ici Radio Canada"...what are those calls on that. It was weak but readable over WLBG in Laurens SC 75 miles from me.

### Team Effort ...

That's what makes the NRC so great! And all information, contributions, and editing for DX News, DX Audio Service, and all publications is done by unpaid volunteers as part of a team. Perhaps you have a little time to give to your club ... if so, please write to Ken Chatterton - P. O. Box 164 - Mannville, NY 13661-0164, and let him know what talents and time you can offer to the club. Updates to the NRC AM Log are always needed. Why not write to Ken today?!

### New! IRCA Mexican Log, 8th Edition, 2002

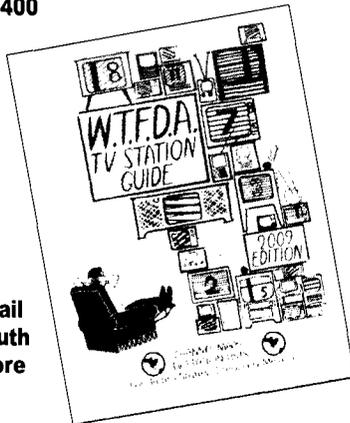
The IRCA MEXICAN LOG log lists all AM stations in Mexico by frequency, including call letters, state, city, day/night power, slogans, schedule in UTC/GMT, formats, networks and notes. In addition, stations that have changed frequency since 2001 are cross-referenced on the old frequency. The call letter index gives call, frequency, city and state. The city index (listed by state, then city) includes frequency, call and day/night power. This is an indispensable reference for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11" and three-hole punched for easy binding. Please state your club affiliation when ordering to receive the club discount rate.

Prices: IRCA/NRC members - \$9.50 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$10.50 (rest of the Americas airmail), \$11.00 (Europe/Asia airmail), \$11.50 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). Non-members: add \$2.50 to the above prices. Order your copy today, in US funds payable to Phil Bytheway, from

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# Emerging Techniques of High-Tech DXpeditioning

By Guy Atkins, John H. Bryant, Nick Hall-Patch, and Don Nelson

In the past several years, the DXing techniques of a number of us who congregate at the well-known Grayland, DXpeditioning sites have undergone a technical metamorphosis. Grayland is located on the beaches of the open Pacific in Washington State, about equi-distant from Portland and Seattle. Those of us who gather there several times a year did not start out to become "high-tech DXers" or really to do anything except to continue to try to maximize our chances to hear rare radio stations from far away places across that huge ocean. However, as we continued to experiment with better ways of doing things and to share new techniques amongst ourselves, we each have slowly changed how we accomplish almost everything we do related to DXing in the field. Further, we have each taken many of the lessons learned at Grayland home with us and applied them to DXing from there.

Let this introduction lead you astray, let us rush to reassure you about several things. First, we each continue to DX with very individual styles of doing things. As our oldest regular member, John Bryant continues to play the role of Old Codger and DXes in the nearest fashion to the "traditional," despite sometimes using two laptops and two radios simultaneously. Don Nelson is probably at the other end of the spectrum, being the most high-tech among us. Don operates multiple sets of receivers, SE-3A's, digital audio processors and mini-disc recorders from a central laptop keyboard and multi-position data switch. Some of us have characterized Don's style as "Drift Net DXing" and wonder whether there will be any signals left over for the rest of us. So, despite now sharing a number of common high-tech techniques, we do each continue to DX quite differently. Secondly, we don't really think that we are doing anything terribly unique. Hobby articles in either the shortwave or medium wave DXing fields have documented many of the techniques that we use. Perhaps our contribution is how we individually combine those techniques to solve the unique problems of DXpeditioning.

The tool that has had the most impact on our techniques, collectively, is the laptop computer. We started lugging these things to Grayland primarily to display a full suite of the marvelous animated Geoclock sunrise-sunset maps while we were DXing. After that initial experience, laptops quickly grew in usefulness to now be an essential tool for any number of DXing tasks. Our high-tech devices are not limited to laptops, however. In recent years, we have adopted hand-held Cybiko units to communicate among ourselves during a DXing session. These wireless PDA-type devices are very inexpensive, are available on the internet auction market and have maximized the group's ability to share hot tips - even between motel rooms - while never having to look up from our own dials or remove our headphones.

We are also fortunate to have several "black-box" communications receivers among us and we often use the Hall-Patch developed software and an obsolete computer to drive these radios as "DX Radars." Nick's software allows us to spot potential DX targets on other frequencies, bringing them to our attention graphically, so that we may have a good idea "where to jump next" in the midst of those rare really excellent openings.

This collective article was prompted by the comments of several prominent DXers from the East Coast and Europe who expressed real surprise at some of the techniques that we have begun to take for granted. The article is not intended as an in-depth text for implementing the techniques discussed. Rather, we plan to introduce readers broadly to most of the techniques that we are using and plan to provide references, where they exist, to more detailed and specific articles elsewhere for those interested in adopting a particular technique or tool.

### PORTABLE COMPUTERS

The tool that has most profoundly affected our DXing techniques is the portable computer. We are quite surprised that many senior DXers continue to believe that portable computers will add unwanted RF interference if used near communications receivers. We have found that there were very few problems of radio frequency noise being induced into receivers, lead-ins or antennas by these devices - be they palm-tops, notebooks, laptops or pen-tablet type machines. This is despite having as many as ten laptops being used simultaneously (by 5 DXers) in one large motel room. We should mention, though, that we always use impedance transformers and coaxial cable for the lead-in from our antennas. The nearest bare antenna wire is about 30 feet from the motel room. We doubt that it would have been possible to use a desk-top loop antenna very well in such an environment.

Toward the end of this article, you will find several recommendations as to what kind of laptop we might suggest for DXpeditioning. At this point, you should know that most of our current Grayland machines are rather obsolete, 233 MHz or so and perform quite well when running most of the following software simultaneously. However, a couple of us have experienced some resource overload problems when running most of these programs (including ERGO) and such resource hogs as Acrobat 5, simultaneously.

What follows is a compilation of overviews of our favorite uses for our laptops at Grayland:

## GEOCLOCK

As previously mentioned, we began bringing laptops to Grayland primarily to view Geoclock automated sunrise/sunset maps (see below.) Geoclock has been the standard of the sunrise/sunset software industry for quite a long time and is well known in many DXing circles. In case you are unfamiliar with this software, Geoclock utilizes multiple maps to illustrate sunrise/sunset and twilight in real time or at any other time that the user cares to specify. If you wish to know more, we suggest that you download a shareware version and then make a paid version your first investment. Available at <http://home.att.net/~geoclock/>

Geoclock maps are clickable. Left clicks "zoom-in" by selecting ever more detailed maps from a large assortment that come with the program. Right clicks "zoom out" in the same fashion. All maps may be modified by the user to contain additional information, station locations, notes about likely frequencies, etc. Boxes showing the local time may also be attached to any location.

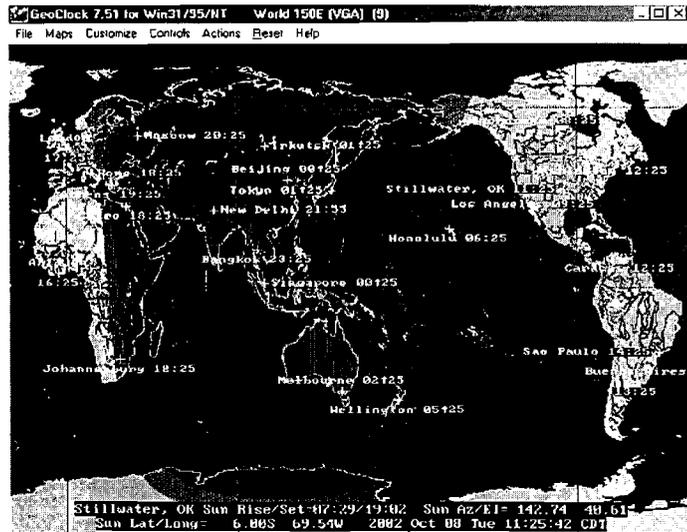


Figure 1. One of several world-wide Geoclock maps in the program.

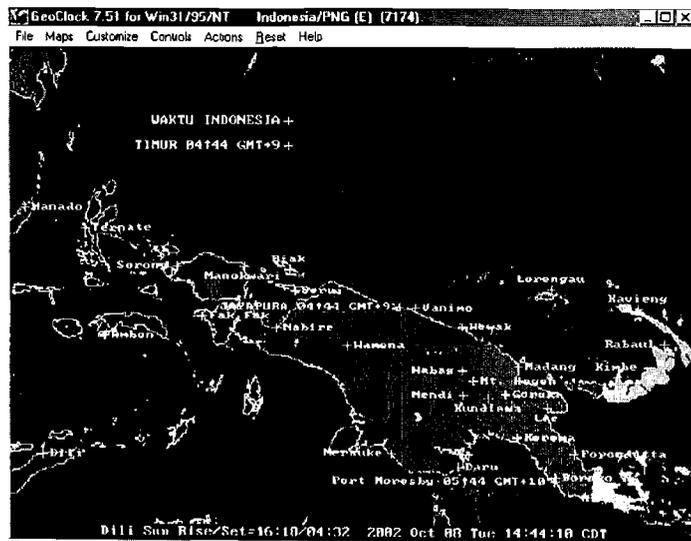


Figure 2. One of the more detailed Geoclock maps that has been modified by SWBC DXers for DXing Papua New Guinea, Timor and eastern Indonesia. Please also note the even more DXer-friendly Geoclock map of PNG that is shown in the Receiver Control section of this article.

## INFORMATION/REFERENCE MANAGEMENT

Once you have a laptop beside your radio, it becomes second nature to use it to bring along all sorts of electronic reference material. We all bring tons of electronic references of various sorts (our current favorites are Bruce Portzer's incomparable Pacific-Asia Log for medium wave, available free at <http://www.qsl.net/n7ecj/> and the DSWCI Domestic Broadcasting Survey available at <http://www.dswci.org/>) While these electronic references have not completely replaced hard-copy documents, they have reduced the number that we must lug around significantly. As anyone who has surfed the 'Net much at all knows that there are a goodly num-

ber of references available at various DX sites as well as in various e-mail groups. Why leave that information at home??? Again, style has a great deal to do with it how one uses these e-references. John Bryant is just not happy unless he has the latest WRTH Pacific-East Asia listing clasped firmly in his left hand while MWDXing at Grayland. Some of the rest of us haven't brought WRTH along in years.

## SEMI-AUTOMATED RECEPTION LOGGING: B-LOG, A Logging program for the rest of us!

There have been automated logging programs available for radio hobbyists almost since the inception of the PC. Although many of us had tried such software over the years, none of the Grayland regulars had permanently adopted logging software until about two years ago, when Guy Atkins introduced us to "B-LOG." This oddly named freeware is one of the simplest and yet most flexible logging software that any of us had seen. Besides being quite easy to use, even for two-fingered typists, B-LOG can output loggings to the Windows Clipboard (and thus to other software) in any number of formats. It comes pre-configured to output Shortwave Broadcast loggings by country and then by frequency while, almost simultaneously, outputting MW loggings in "by frequency" format. You can also design any number of customized output formats of your own. Lastly, B-LOG is searchable and sortable in many different ways. Although virtually all of the Grayland regulars now use B-LOG, again it is used in a wide variety of ways. Several of us have entirely eliminated the spiral notebook and stub pencil that have served us so well for so long. The more conservative of us still keep a rough log (and doodle) while the DX is rolling in but transfer and expand those notes in B-LOG immediately after the close of the DX session. Why? It makes reporting to the clubs and to the 'Net incredibly easy and it creates a VERY searchable long-term record log for future reference.

Probably the biggest factor that led many of us to adopt B-LOG was its ease of use. If you, like several of us, must go months between DX sessions, B-LOG is so intuitive that - once set up - it may be used with very little secondary learning curve. We are collectively proud of this software because Guy Atkins assisted the designer in tweaking it for SWBC and MW DXing.

## Features

- Freeware for Win95/98, WinME, and Win2000 PC's. Should run on WinNT systems. Requires at

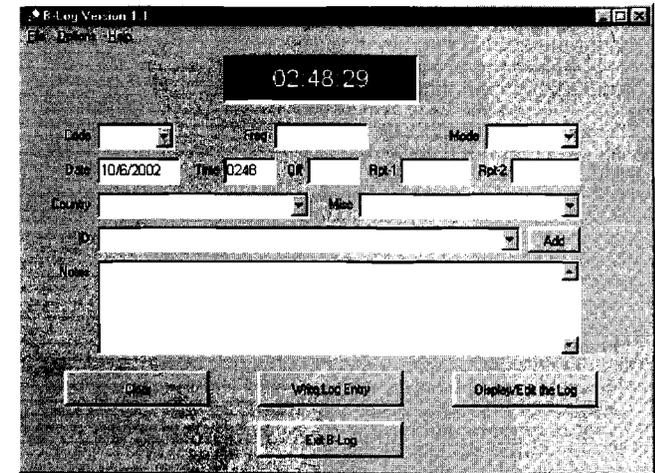


Figure 3. The main window of B-Log is used for station data entry. Some of the more repetitive data may be entered from pull down menus.

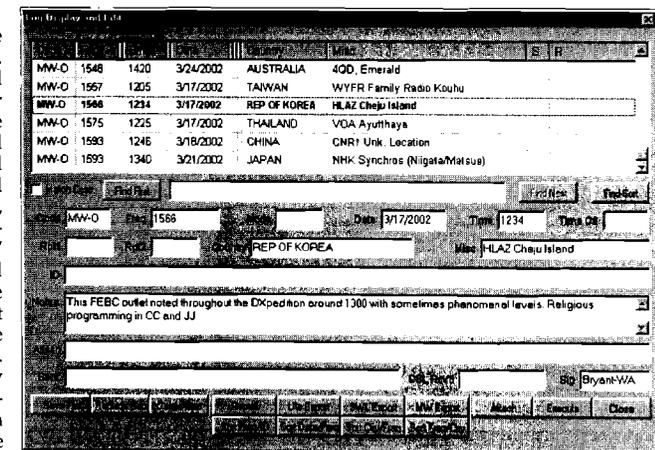


Figure 4. The second B-LOG window is used for editing and output. One can output selected loggings to the Windows Clipboard and thence to other programs (e-mail, etc) in a number of pre-defined formats or in custom formats designed by the individual DXer.

least 800 x 600 pixel monitor resolution.

- UTC clock display, with time obtained from your operating system. There is no need to set your time zone with this program.
- Supports either mm/dd/yyyy or dd/mm/yyyy date formats, and automatically adapts to systems configured to display frequencies as either "14313.5" or "14313,5"
- 14 fields plus a service or activity code field let you tailor B-Log to your every logging need. The design supports multiple styles of logging in the same log file.
- You can attach a file, audio recording, or enter a URL for each log entry. One button click either opens the file or connects you to the URL.
- QSL tracking: fields are provided to record reception reports sent and QSL cards received.
- B-Log remembers all your Code, Mode, and Country entries. When creating a new log entry, you can either enter new data into these fields or pick from a list of your previous entries.
- Configurable display grid. You can adjust column widths and column ordering, tailoring your log summary perfectly to your requirements.
- Powerful search features and enhanced sorting make it a snap to find and organize your log data. You can sort on any column or use the four special-purpose sorts.
- B-Log automatically generates publishable listings in the formats preferred by utility monitors, shortwave broadcast DXers, and mediumwave DXers. The listings are generated to file and to a preview screen. You can copy the formatted listings to the clipboard for effortless transfer into an email, a Usenet posting, or into your word processor.
- A report generator lets you export log information in just about any tabular format you prefer or require. You can save report setups.
- The log file is formatted as a tab-delimited text file for simple, solid export into any spreadsheet or database program.

The export controls are arguably the most useful features of B-Log for the attendees of the Grayland DXpeditions. We find it greatly simplifies the process of sorting and formatting loggings for submission to club bulletins, electronic newsletters, and other publications. The UTE Export, SWL Export and MW Export formats are useful right "out of the box". If a special layout or sequence of loggings information is needed, it is a simple matter to rearrange the data and save the format for reuse in the future.

B-LOG is available as freeware from author Tom Lackamp (callsign AB9B, hence the program name). Tom also is author of *Scan 320*, a versatile PC-control package for the Ten-Tec RX-320.: <http://www.qsl.net/ab9b/freeware/B-Log.html>

#### THE LAPTOP AS A "TAPE RECORDER"

Second only to his primary radio, some form of tape recorder has been the DXers most prized possession throughout the modern era of the hobby. For many of the Graylanders, that began to change about five years ago when Guy Atkins introduced us to the MiniDisc format from Japan. At the time, none of these devices were sold retail in this country and we had to have them imported from Japan. That soon changed and a number of us transitioned to that re-writable digital format in the late 1990s. For the past several years, there have been a wide array of MiniDisc recorders at Grayland... from rack-mounted professional decks to tiny recorders with a footprint that is hardly larger than two commemorative postage stamps. The advantages of MiniDisc over traditional cassettes were numerous... much greater fidelity, much more compact size of both recorders and media, more permanent storage, more flexible editing, etc. Today, about half of the Grayland regulars use MiniDisc recorders.

The MiniDisc format was the state of the art for the all of the Grayland crowd until about 2 years ago. Several of us began independently experimenting with recording directly on our hard drives and eliminating the need for a separate recording device altogether. Looking back on it, it seems that recording directly on hard drives had to await the availability/affordability of two pieces of hardware: relatively high capacity hard drives and on-board CD-R drives for burning CDs. We probably also waited until there was a range of recording software from which to choose.

The advantages of recording directly on your hard drive are numerous, of course. For John Bryant who now travels a lot, eliminating one piece of gear (the tape recorder) to be lugged from place to place was a large motivator, as was the fact that his DXing position at home is quite small. Getting rid of the separate recording device at home gives John much needed desk space. Others of us like the fact that, with the right software, one may edit and enhance a digital DX recording with any one of more than a dozen audio editing programs.

Those of us who send reception reports have, in the past, often sent cassette tapes of the reception along to the station. With our new laptop-based recording techniques, most of the hassle and extra mailing expense of that approach is eliminated by simply burning a CD of the reception and sending that along with the report in an unpadding envelope. We were originally worried that some stations, particularly in the tropical hinterlands, might not yet have CD players. John Bryant's Indonesian students assured him that even the small county stations would at least have home entertainment level CD players. They did suggest, however, that the files be burned on the CD as a "music CD" rather than as mp3 or wav data files. Happily, one of the choices in most CD burning software is "Make a Music CD." If you select that option, the software will convert your sound file to standard music CD format, automatically. Editing sound recordings on your hard drive is so easy that some of us send along two tracks: Track one is a short clip of the most intelligible portion of the reception or the ID or interval

signal, etc. Track two is the full recording of the catch.

There are many other advantages to recording DX directly on the hard drive. Many of us now send short clips of catches to each other afterwards via e-mail or we forward clips of unidentified stations to DXers more familiar with the language or geographical region of the probable stations. Others of us have found that assembling collections of sound clips of various catches or even arranging entire archives of DX catches is immeasurably easier when working digitally rather than with analog tapes.

The one issue about using a laptop as a recorder which is still somewhat in flux is just which recording software is "best." Most of us have owned and used either Music Match Jukebox or Media Jukebox, the two recorders/players/media library managers that are the current state of the art among the on-line digital music crowd. Some of us have used one or the

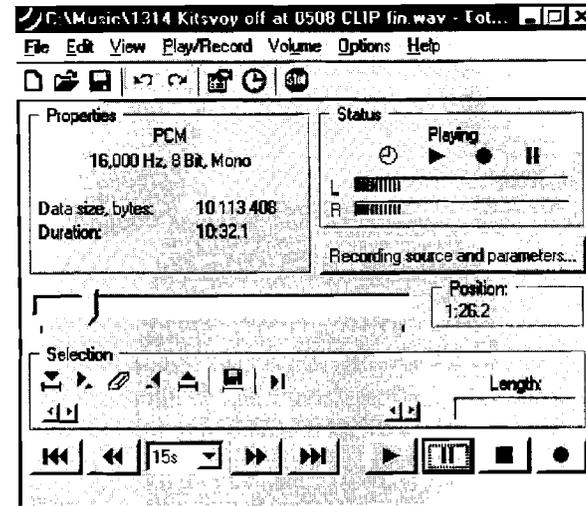


Figure 5. Main window of Total Recorder. One of the nicest features of TR is the fact that, during playback, one can "grab" the slider bar (lower center) and reposition it to any portion of the recording. A second very nice feature is the ease at which smaller clips may be defined during playback and then saved as separate recordings in any audio format desired.

other of these recorders when DXing. Several of the rest of us have found those two programs just too complex and all-powerful for our tastes. Each is a wonderful program, but the learning curve (at least for the codgers among us) is quite steep and one that must be relearned after a DXing hiatus.

The current recording software-of-choice amongst the codgers is Total Recorder. Don Nelson showed us this marvelously simple software about 18 months ago. It was perfect for the Old Codgers among us because it did everything that we, as DXers, needed and little that we did not. The main interface (see below) is arranged to emulate the symbols on a cassette tape deck and operation is quite intuitive. I don't think that anyone of us has yet to read the manual about anything except recording parameters (mp3, wav, etc.) We all started out using various iterations of Version 3 of Total Recorder, however, Version 4 has just been released and the authors have maintained its ease of use.

An added benefit of using your computer as a "tape recorder" is that it greatly simplifies "hands off" DXing. Several of the main recording programs have subroutines that support "Timed" or "Scheduled" recordings: the ability

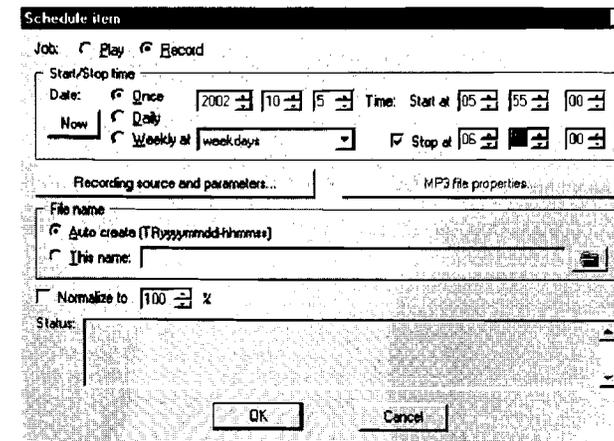


Figure 6. The window which is used to set-up a timed recording operation. Note that very little keyboard input is necessary.

to have the computer turn on the recording program and record whatever is present in the sound card at a specified time and then shut down at a second specified time. None of the Schedule functions that we have used is terribly difficult to program. However, again, programming Total Recorder's scheduling function is incredibly simple. Some North American DXers are using Total Recorder on a regular basis at home to record the 10 minutes at the top of the hour, each hour of the night. They then tune their receiver to a frequency of interest and let the machinery do the work. Total Recorder's design as a

playback device is also particularly well suited to scanning lengthy recordings quickly.

You should note that neither Total Recorder nor any of the other virtual recorders about which we know does continuous time-stamping like several of the MD recorders do. There are running indications (in minutes and seconds) of how far you are into the recording, as well as its total play-back length.

If you allow Total Recorder to save the recording *automatically*, the default title is the time and date of the end of the recording. The lack of absolute date-stamping does not seem to be much of a problem in practice.

It is possible to record two receivers simultaneously using the Left and Right channels on your sound card. Most mp3 compression standards have surprisingly good isolation of the two channels.

Total Recorder Version 4 Standard Edition is available at <http://www.highcriteria.com/> as a downloadable file for under \$12.00 USD. The more capable 4.0 Professional Version is available at the same site for \$24 as an upgrade to the Standard Edition for about \$24 USD or as a totally new purchase for about \$35.00 USD. Please note that either program may be downloaded as a trial version first. If you are unsure of the usefulness of this simple tool, you might want to begin with the very inexpensive yet powerful Standard Version (its what cheapskate Bryant uses - and loves - currently.)

### THE AMAZING SLOW DOWNER

Why do many announcers adopt either a rapid-fire delivery or seem to be eating marshmallows by the mouthful just in time for station identification? Wouldn't it be great if we could reach through the radio and throttle the poor announcer, telling him sternly: *say that one more time... s-l-o-w-l-y and c-l-e-a-r-l-y!*

An easy-to-use PC & Macintosh program out of Sweden gives us this ability, with no harm done to station personnel. Typically called music transcription software, this sort of program is known to musicians as an aid to learning music by listening to, and practicing at a slower pace. Slowing or "time-stretching" music is nothing new, but keeping the pitch from changing at the same time is a feature easily done in our digital age.

The amusingly titled "Amazing Slow Downer" is a very quick to learn program which allows time-stretching (-50 to +400%) and optionally pitch variation (+/- 12 semi-tones) of any WAV or nearly any MP3 file.

Such a wide latitude in time-stretching and pitch change is rarely needed though. The authors found that time-stretch values between 30% and 100% and pitch changes from 0.00 to 0.80 are the most commonly used. Figures in these ranges are normally sufficient to raise a DX recording's intelligibility to a level where an ID or slogan can be comprehended.

The benefit to slowing down an audio clip is easily understood, but the ability to adjust pitch is equally useful. Male announcers with deep voices can be "adjusted" to a higher-pitched, "female" sounding level on an as-needed basis. Likewise, those of us who find a deeper tone more intelligible can tweak a squeaky female voice to replicate the sound of a drunken Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Additionally, the Amazing Slow Downer provides simple controls for marking the beginning and end points of important segments of your recording, and

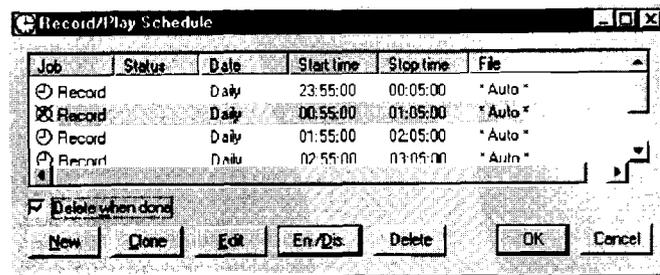


Figure 7. This window is used to manage multiple timed recording operations. No keyboard operations are required to Enable/Disable or Edit various individual timed recording sessions. The Clone function is quite useful when establishing repetitive timed recordings.

the ability to repeatedly loop through that segment. You can even save this marked segment to a new WAV file, complete with the time-stretching and pitch-change effects. (Saving or resaving as a MP3 requires other conversion software.) There is also a built-in 7-band graphic equalizer that's useful for a quick boost or cut of frequencies to aid in voice recognition.

These medium wave DX samples from John Bryant's collection illustrate the effect Amazing Slow Downer can have on DX station IDs and slogans:

[Original clip with Chinese and Russian IDs; modified audio with 50% stretch, +0.80 pitch change, equalizer, and isolated IDs ("Zhongguo guoji Guangbo Diantai" and "Govorit Mezhdunarodnaya Radio Kitaya")]

Original clip with "XEVD" slightly in background, spoken by a male announcer at the 2-second mark, and concluding by 5 seconds into the recording; modified audio with 100% stretch, +1.00 pitch change, isolated ID ("Ek-Kees Ay Bay Day")]

The Amazing Slow Downer is priced at \$39.95 US, and the demo version provides a 30-day trial period with a limitation of only being able to process the first 25% of a WAV or MP3 file. When used with CD audio, the demo version will process just the first two tracks of a CD. More information is given at the author's web site: <http://www.ronimusic.com>, including MP3/WAV limitations, suggestions for use (music-related), and links to other programs including an older version of Amazing Slow Downer which is meant for older, slower computers.

### DIRECT RECEIVER CONTROL WITH A LAPTOP

Controlling a communications receiver with a laptop computer is not new. Our collective experience began over a decade ago with the McKay-Dymek DR-333. Simple DOS programs controlled that first "black-box receiver." With one McKay-Dymek software program, the DXer could control the 333 with interactive graphics, though rather awkwardly; or one could control it entirely in an alpha-numeric environment with the keyboard by using the other operating program provided by M-D. This latter program also included an auto-logging function that would record all receiver parameters and the time automatically with the operator simply inputting station identification and miscellaneous notes. The log could then be accessed at any time (as a database) and used to retune the receiver. Since the DR-333 and these programs were developed just before the advent of the Windows platform, both DR-333 operating programs leave a lot to be desired by modern standards.

In the past decade, receiver-operating programs have matured tremendously and now fall into two distinct categories. First, there are a number of operating programs that are designed for a single receiver model, by the manufacturer or by interested third parties. Secondly, there are a number of "after-market" receiver control programs that have been developed, usually by computer professionals, for sale to the hobby community. These after-market programs can usually be configured to operate any one of several modern receiver models and are often quite sophisticated, offering the operator many options and capabilities.

Receiver control programs dedicated to a single receiver have been developed for all of the modern receivers which are easily controllable. Naturally, these vary widely in capability and availability. Many are available at web sites which are dedicated to that particular receiver. For instance, John Bryant recently purchased a Ten Tec RX-320 "black box receiver" to use as his second set. Although Ten Tec provides quite adequate control software with the receiver, several hobbyists have also developed their own software and made it available throughout the hobby world. After test driving the freeware programs available, John adopted GNRX320 written by German DXer Gerd Niephaus. The GNRX320 software is runs under Windows 95 and above, is very resource friendly, and allows the user to wring the last ounce of DX out of this marvelous little radio. GNRX320 also allows use of the ILG and Klingenfuss databases to auto-tune the receiver or to provide context-sensitive reference material. John is particularly pleased that the Niephaus software allows the receiver to be tuned using the mouse scroll wheel. The GNRX320 program and most of the other control programs for the RX320 are available on a dedicated RX-320 web-page at: (<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/5137/rx320.html>)

There are also quite a number of operating programs that have been developed by computer-literate hobbyists for their own particular receiver and which are not widely available to others. Some of these programs, like the one developed by our own Chuck Hutton for his Drake R-8A, are quite sophisticated.

Lastly, the so-called "commercial" receiver control programs are also well represented at Grayland. In the past several years, both Guy Atkins and Don Nelson have adopted ERGO, developed by radio enthusiast and computer professional John Fallows. Don is the most adept at using ERGO, usually orchestrating 8 top-of-the-line receivers (four different models from two different manufacturers) and numerous databases with ERGO mounted on a single mid-capability laptop. The following are Don Nelson's observations:

### ERGO 3 and ERGO4 as Receiver Controls

All of us have quite a bit of reference material at our fingertips while we DX - WRTH, Passport, ILG database, various inputs from clubs ranging from written material to searchable databases. Who wouldn't want to tune directly to a selected frequency listed in that mass of data and find the station there? How about checking hundreds of such frequencies rapidly? Before the advent of good software receiver control, the frequency entry buttons on my receivers were wearing and the tuning knob got a

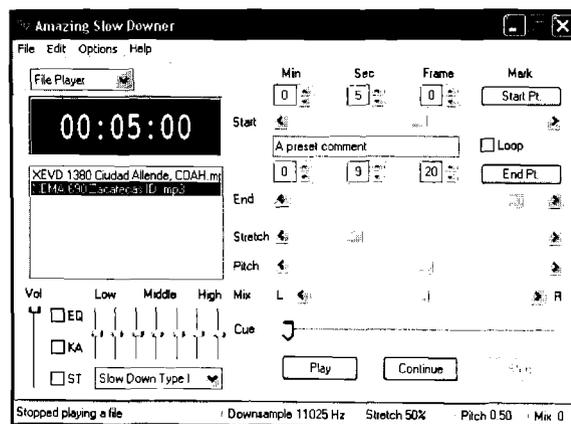


Figure 8. Main Panel of the "Amazing Slow Downer"

good workout. Even with the introduction of receivers with 100 or 1000 memories, the best I could do was insert the frequency but not the hours of expected operation, nor days of the week. And when I twirled the knob—landing on a station's frequency I wasn't familiar with—it took a lot of searching through all the references to find the possibilities.

All of this has changed with the advent of good receiver control programs. If you have a receiver with an RS-232 port (or a CI-V port), you can link your listening with databases for tuning and identification. This section introduces one of the best, reasonably priced receiver programs available—ERGO3 and ERGO4.

Since ERGO3 has been available for several years, it is the program I am most familiar with. Even so, I don't use all the features, and this discussion isn't intended to be a manual, so I'll limit my discussion to the elements of ERGO that are most helpful to me.

Initializing the controls for the very first time is very easy – you'll need to enter a location name and latitude/longitude, time zone, as well as some local antenna information. (I generally ignore this, as I switch frequently between several antenna types, affecting the propagation analysis very little.) You'll need a serial cable to connect your Windows-based computer and your radio. If your computer lacks a serial port, I have found the Belden FSU103 works well as a USB to Serial port converter. Other DXers have reported problems on some other vendors' USB-Serial products. In some cases, you'll need an easily available null modem, or a serial cable configured as a null modem cable. The setup using ERGO4 is similar, except that ERGO4 can control two receivers simultaneously (but you must have two serial ports).

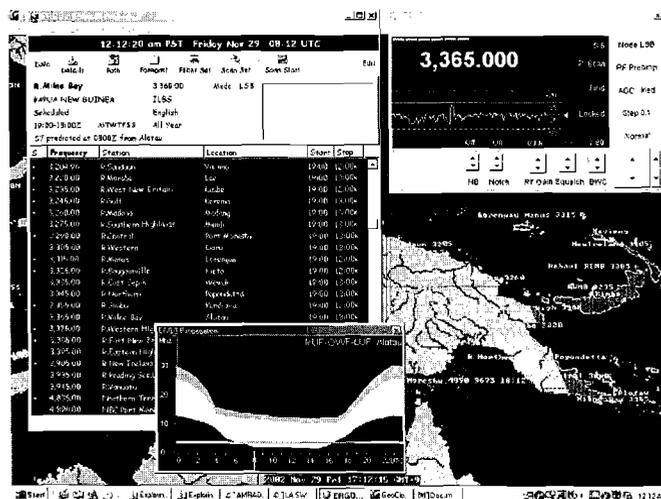
*Hint: There is an excellent radio-oriented on-line review of USB/Serial adapters at: <http://www.a55au.com/usb>*

**Tip: Have multiple receivers of the same type? Use a Belkin data switch between the PC and the receivers. You'll have to remember which one you are using, and may have to refresh the connection via the remote/local switch on ERGO4 or Locked/Unlocked on ERGO3.**

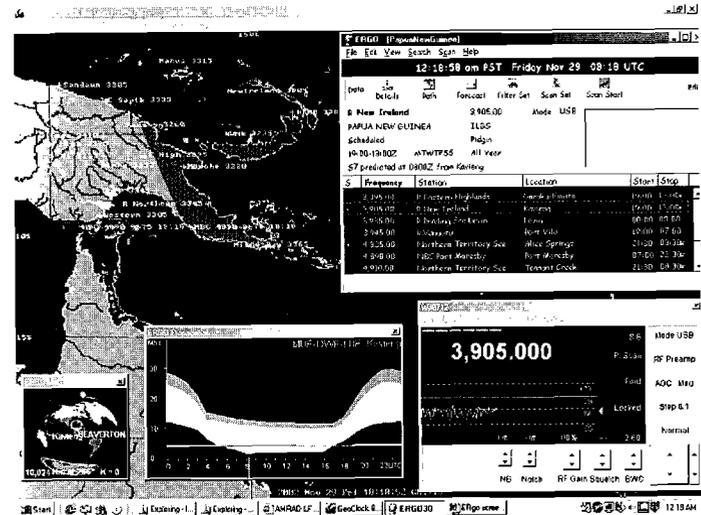
*Tip: At least on the WJ series, ERGO4 provides the capability of locking the receiver so that neither front panel nor ERGO can change the controls (excepting of course to turn this feature off)*

Once you open the ERGO Receiver Window on your computer screen, you'll want to set up the display options (S-Meter as bar, scope or both) as well as selecting a step size for tuning. Setting a few other options allows additional customizing to suit your taste. See Fig 1 in the upper right to see the Receiver Window configured as I like it for the WJ8712P, HF1000A and/or 8711A.

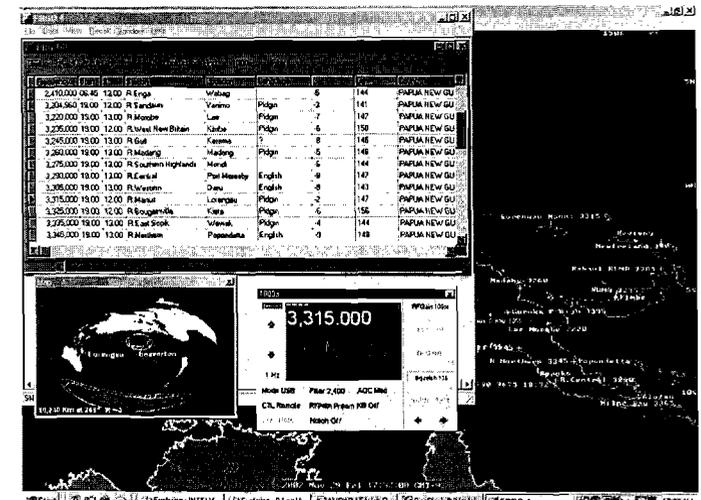
You'll also want to set up the ERGO Map Window (which allows Azimuthal map from your location or Mercator, with short path shown), and the Propagation Window. Both of these are open on the bottom of Fig. 2. Again, changing fre-



**Figure 9. ERGO3: Listening in to Radio Milne Bay at transmitter sunset with a good S6 signal. The upper right-hand window is Receiver Control. It gives all pertinent information on the current status of the receiver and shows (via the moving yellow line) the signal strength being received currently and over the past several minutes. The left window shows a database (ERGO's special DA3 file format) of all of the PNG SWBC stations, with information on the currently tuned station in the gray area at the top of that window. The colorful Propagation Prediction window is in the lower center with a full day shown from left to right (note the 24 UTC hours along the bottom, with the blue line at the current time.) The gray horizontal line indicates the frequency to which the receiver is tuned and the line's thickness relates to scheduled on/off-air hours. The lower edge of the yellow zone is the predicted Lowest Useable Frequency for the path from my location to Milne Bay. As you can see, the propagation prediction shows Milne Bay should be audible. A Geoclock map (separate program, not part of ERGO) of New Guinea is open in the background. Note that it has been modified (easy) to show the locations and frequencies of all SWBC stations in Papua New Guinea. Note also Geoclock indicates (by the darker areas) that the sun has already set at Alotau, Milne Bay, the location of the station currently being received.**



**Figure 10. ERGO3: Listening in to Radio New Ireland on 3905 kHz. Note the addition of the ERGO map window – here in Azimuthal view with transmitter location (Kavieng) and the receiver location (Beaverton, Oregon) listed, and the distance between given. Location of Sun (white dot), current areas of planetary light and darkness and typical aurora belts for the current solar conditions are also shown, along with the red line which indicates the short-path propagation route of this signal.**



**Figure 11. ERGO4: Listening to R Manus just after actual sunset. A database file is open, and the azimuth map is shown (ERGO4 has a strange squashed-appearing map that, currently, cannot be corrected)**

databases. I use ILG downloads, as well as custom databases from data in Mohrman's LADX page for Central and South America (<http://www.sover.net/~hackmohr/sw.htm>) and a number of other more specialized databases from various sources including Cumbre Lite. Whereas ERGO3 permitted me only to have ILG and one other database active in the program at a time, ERGO4 supports opening a number of databases concurrently. Now, once I have located an interesting frequency, I can ask ERGO to FIND the frequency in the database (regrettably this works only to the exact frequency, so if you are

quencies on the receiver automatically resets the propagation forecast and the map. Propagation data (K, A, Solar Flux indices) can be automatically updated via the internet by ERGONET, which allows you to automatically synch the PC time to a number of time-server sites. I've found the propagation software works well – it accurately predicted within 10 minutes the time that R St Helena would fade in locally at this site, but I note that it does not work well below 3 MHz.

Note: ERGO4 setup is similar but allows up to two receivers to be setup.

Note: ERGO4 reportedly uses a more advanced propagation model for predictions down to 1 MHz, but this has not been verified.

Tip: left clicking with the mouse on the database will retune the receiver and update map and propagation, if open. Left clicking on the station name just updates the map and propagation without changing the receiver frequency. This is handy while listening to DX/SWL while looking for what else might be of interest.

#### DATABASES

Databases are key to getting the most out of most modern receiver control programs – you can never have enough

tuned off a bit due to a varying frequency, then this does not work).

TIP: Personalized databases can reflect local geographical areas of interest, say all RRI or PNG stations, or can be used to keep current target lists or even the latest tips from various online sources. You'll have to figure out a way to automate the creation of the databases (those of you skilled in PERL or RUBY will find this a breeze. C++, Visual Basic, etc would also work but take more programming effort). An alternative is manual entry, but this is much more time consuming.

In ERGO3, DSI databases could be created by opening files from ILG, Fineware or by creating a custom file. I found the latter quite difficult to make work well – it's far improved in ERGO4. It is far simpler to create a DA3 file—for example, Fig 1 shows a custom DA3 file created specifically to listen to the PNG stations. An advantage to either the DA3 or the DSI database is that you can click on the frequency and it will tune the receiver (and you can use up/down arrows on the keyboard to move through frequencies).

#### USING ERGO

I try to keep GEOGLOCK open on my desktop with various windows of ERGO open and positioned over GEOGLOCK map areas I'm not interested in. (Unfortunately, GEOGLOCK will not update its terminator display when in the background; it needs to be clicked and made "active" showing correct terminator position.) I'll open databases and either use them to direct-tune the receiver, as well as to tune around and then query the database. Typical ERGO3 desktops are shown in Fig 1,2 and ERGO4 in Fig 3.

#### REMOTE RECEIVER CAPABILITY

One of the most interesting features of ERGO4 is the ability to allow others to both control, and listen to your receiver, over the Internet. There are two great uses—the first allows you to set up a receiver (and antenna) at a remote location better suited for listening than your home shack might be. I've not yet done this, but having a receiver down at the Coast appeals greatly. Running a more stable operating system would be an advantage (I use both Red Hat Linux and Win98/XP on my systems, but ERGO only runs on Windows platforms. In the future, I foresee DXpeditioning from the comfort of ones own home using remote receivers and antennas, shared with friends across the Internet (not supported yet by ERGO). A second good use of ERGO is to allow the software vendor to debug a problem remotely from his home but on your receiver and system – ERGO author John Fallows did this with several of our receivers during the beta testing of ERGO4.

#### OTHER ERGO FEATURES THAT MAY INTEREST YOU:

- 1) Help a fairly comprehensive help capability is provided from the pull down help menu
- 2) ERGO4 offers audio recording, DSP filtering, and built-in logbook feature (similar to B-Log) albeit with a greater learning curve.
- 3) The Scan capabilities of ERGO4 (Beta) have just been augmented:
  - You can select a range of frequencies to Profile
  - You can create Scanlist of specific stations - manually, inserted from the radio or dragged from a database
  - You can Profile or Scan continuously on Radio 2 and tune Radio 1 from the graphs.
  - The Parameters for Scanning are very flexible, including gaze time, dwell time, dead time and signal threshold.
- 4) John Fallows plans to further augment ERGO4 with a capability quite similar to the Hall-Patch "DX Radar" discussed elsewhere in this article.

#### IMPROVING ERGO4

John Fallows takes suggestions for improvements seriously – he's done remarkably well with improvements on the new ERGO4 through the Beta testing process. Yet, according to John, his work on improving future versions of ERGO4 will remain ongoing – there is more to be accomplished.

Don't expect ERGO to look like the front panel of your receiver. With support of so many receivers, it wasn't possible to do this. Also, there are features of some receivers that aren't fully supported – for example on the WJ8712P the noise blanker has more controls than are typically accessible from the 8711A/HF1000A.

Users of ERGO4 will likely miss the prominent display of the current time and date that was highly visible in the ERGO3 Receiver Window. I know I do.

#### CONCLUSION

All in all, I feel that the ERGO software is the most powerful and comprehensive receiver control package currently available to the radio hobby community. Like all powerful software, there is a learning curve to go through as you become familiar with the software. However, the ERGO user is rewarded with an incredibly nimble receiver control and the ability to orchestrate a large amount of reference data and real time information in support of high-tech DXing.

Note: ERGO3 supports AOR7030, NRD535/D, HF1000A/8711A/8712P, RX320, R8A/B. ERGO4 supports all of these plus RX340, R75, RX350, and NRD545. Currently in beta & alpha tests are software drivers for the R8500, RX331, NRD-525, JST-245, TS-570, TS-870, TS2000, RA6790, R8, and HF-2050.

ERGO3/4 is available from Universal Radio (<http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/commrxvr/44743396.html>), or as a 30 day free Demo Version of ERGO4 download at <http://swldx.com/>. Also, a

complete list of features, receivers supported and future developments may be found at <http://swldx.com/ergo42.htm> and <http://swldx.com/ergo4.htm> (Please also note – I have no financial ties with either firm. I'm just a satisfied customer)

Finally, I'd like to thank John Fallows for his continued efforts on this labor of love. The price for this software isn't cheap but revenue does little to compensate for the total cost of the software in terms of the numbers of hours he and the beta testers have put into ERGO3 and ERGO4.

#### OTHER LAPTOP APPLICATIONS

There are a number of other computer applications that we have or could invoke through our laptops while on DXpedition, and most are probably obvious to the reader. Several of us prepare reception reports during the hours that aren't DXable, including both the text report and burning a CD of the reception itself. Very occasionally, we have DXpeditioned with access to the Internet. That capability opens up many possibilities, of course, from background research and communication with other hobbyists to actually matching program content of a reception (while it is occurring) with audio from the 'Net which is being streamed "live" by the station. Four years ago, no one lugged a laptop to Grayland, now some participants bring two or three!

#### CYBIKUS, CYBIKO, CYBIKI: Inter-DXer Communication While DXing

One of the most difficult aspects of DXpeditioning, particularly if the group is larger than two DXers, is finding a means to communicate hot DX tips to each other without either disturbing people in the next motel room or continually having to pull out headphones off in the middle of a catch and say rather grumpily "What did you say???" With seven or eight DXers at a typical Grayland DXpedition, this became a difficult problem, especially if we are scattered in two or more rooms. For years, we tried some version of passing around written notes, but that really never worked. Then we scrawled things in our logs and held them up for other people to read. That worked, sometimes, but rather poorly. It is hard to decipher a hasty pencil scrawl from across the room. We day-dreamed for years about a computer-based LAN network, but the expense was a problem as well as forcing everyone to bring a computer capable of attaching to a LAN. Now, of course, there are possibilities of wireless networking our laptops, but again, expense and compatibility issues abound. We needed to find a mechanism that would be both inexpensive and inclusive of everyone on the DXpedition.

Guy Atkins led our search, but we all pitched in with various ideas. Our next idea was using hand-held "white-board" chalkboards and broad water-based markers. The boards were about 10" x 15" and a brief note written in marker was easily legible from across the room. The boards and markers were under \$7.00 per DXer and hence, very affordable. They worked wonderfully, as long as everyone was in the same room. Unfortunately, the second time that we used them, there were enough DXers present to require two rooms. We found, of course, that it was next to impossible to tear yourself away from a super catch to walk even a few steps to show a note to the troops in the other room. And, also of

course, on the second morning, the DXers in the back room stumbled on to the catch of the DXpedition, a brief opening to coastal New Guinea on MW. The troops in the front room heard about that catch at breakfast... after the band had faded out. Obviously, the white-boards had to go!

Well prior to our next DXpedition, super-shopper Guy Atkins discovered CYBIKO hand-held PDA units from Asia and the problem was solved. Cybiko were developed originally for the East Asian youth market where they were briefly "all the rage." Although these units can perform most of the functions of normal "PDAs, their most attractive aspect was that each Cybiko unit can communicate wirelessly, in text form,



CYBIKO CLASSIC

CYBIKO 'XTREME'

with other Cybiko units. They can communicate with all other units (up to 100) within their 150 foot range or they can address individual units, with no one else receiving the message. At the time that we adopted these units (early 2001) they were selling for about \$20.00 each, new-in-the-box on ebay. Today, there are two different models of Cybiki available: the so-called Cybiki Classic that we adopted and the newer Cybiko XTREME

These two units are excellent as DXpeditioning tools. One of the handiest aspects of the Cybiki are the fact that each unit can be set to vibrate briefly when it receives a message. We usually just leave them sitting on our DXing desks and, when a message arrives, we are able to feel the vibrations through the table. That way, we can pay maximum attention to our own DXing, but never miss a message.

Messages must be typed into original Cybiki Classic with a small pencil-like stylus. We understand that the button placement on the Cybiko Xtreme is such that one can type with a careful finger. Chuck Hutton recently purchased an Xtreme model and has tested the communications between Classics and Xtrems. It works fine! As you might guess, we have all learned to abbreviate our messages.

At the first DXpedition where we had Cybiki running in two separate rooms, the Cybiki paid for themselves in one catch. Nick Hall-Patch (nhp) was in the back room and Guy(guy), Don (don) and John. (bjohn) were in the front room. Nick had spotted something very unusual appearing on his DX Radar. The on-screen Cybiko messages looked about like this over the next 5 minutes:

The Cybiko unit (and DX Radar) was directly responsible for our first-ever reception of Indonesia on MW from Grayland. Not only had Nick been able to alert every one, but Don and Guy, as long-time DXers of Indonesia were able to recognize the language with great confidence. All that was accomplished without any of us having to take our headphones off or even look up, EXCELLENT!

The Cybiko units have many other capabilities. Both models are quite good game playing machines, with many games and other applications being downloadable from [www.cybiko.com](http://www.cybiko.com) The Xtreme model is quite a bit more capable than the Classic as a PDA unit, with many of the functions of much more expensive PDAs. Though only Chuck Hutton has any experience yet with these newer models, manufacturer literature speaks of wireless web surfing in the BlueTooth platform, its use as a scientific calculator, a text editor and note taker, a translator and a number of other functions. There is also an attachment available for the Xtreme model which enables it to act as a mp3 music machine. We have not investigated the DX-applicability of this latest gadget (yet!)

The easiest method of obtaining Cybiko units right now is through the eBay auction site on the internet. Both models are still available in late 2002, with the obsolescent Classic units selling for \$12 to \$15, new in the box and the Xtreme units going for from \$25 to \$40, new in the box.

#### DX RADAR

DXers have probably dreamed about some form of what we have come to call "DX Radar" just about as long as there have been DXers. The wide spectrum graphic spectrum analyzers of the tube era were one attempt at a method of representing the signals present on a given band. Unfortunately, sweep speeds were slow and resolution poor, so little hobby application was found for these early efforts. Its almost certain, of course, that the various electronic intelligence agencies of the major powers developed such gear to a relatively high level of sophistication. To our knowledge, though, little if any of this gear has made it to the hobby world.

In the late 1980s, several sophisticated receivers did appear on the civilian market that offered spectrum scanning capabilities. We have had experience with only one of these rigs, the McKay-Dymek DR-333. In addition to its graphic and text-oriented operating programs, it offered operators a spectrum scanning function. This module allowed the operator to define the upper and lower limits of the spectrum to be scanned; the receiver then divided that spectrum into an arbitrary number of steps and checked for signal strength at each of those steps. Since the DR-333 was a black-box receiver, it output the results graphically, to the computer screen. This approach was similar to that found on several other high-end receivers and worked moderately well when monitoring a sparsely populated band such as 90 meters. However, its usefulness was much reduced on more populated shortwave bands and it proved useless to monitor for unusual signals on the crowded medium wave band.

Nick Hall-Patch has specialized in DXing trans-Pacific signals from near his home in Victoria, BC for many years. About seven years ago, he set out to develop a DX Radar designed to give a graphic representation of signals present on the international MW channels. (In case you are not aware of it, MW signals outside the Western Hemisphere are organized with one channel per 9 kHz of bandwidth, rather than the 10 kHz.) Thus, the international channels (for us in the Western Hemisphere) are 531, 540, 549, 558, 567, 576, 585 kHz., etc. This pattern of frequency assignments for trans-Pacific (and trans-Atlantic) stations presents both opportunities and real difficulties when designing a spectrum monitoring program

```
nhp: strange DX on 909  wha lang?
bjohn: not CC or JJ
      The signal slowly built in strength.
don: indoll!
guy: yes, indoll!
bjohn: tri sorong!
don: ments sorong just now!
```

"DX Radar" is a DOS-based receiver control program, implemented presently for the Dymek DR-333, Ten-Tec RX-320 and for a highly modified JRC NRD-525. Every 100 milliseconds (250 ms in the case of the RX-320), the program tunes the receiver to a different preset frequency and records in memory the signal strength found there. After averaging a few of these signal strengths for each channel, the resulting signal strength is displayed on the PC screen for each channel after using a simple algorithm described below to (partially) remove the effects of the domestic sideband splatter usually found on MW DX channels.

These preset frequencies are usually 9 kHz-spaced overseas MW channels, plus a frequency 1 kHz away from each 9 kHz channel. The latter signal is far enough away from the desired frequency so that any DX signal is out of the filter passband, but near enough to have quite similar splatter characteristics. The noise signal level is subtracted from the DX channel's signal level, and the resultant value gives a rough idea of DX activity on the desired channel.

Unfortunately, it takes 20 seconds to do one scan of the MW band using this method, and averaging of a number of scans is desirable to get better signal strength accuracy, so the update rate is usually set at about 2 minutes. A DX signal can fade away in that period of time, but until a PC-controllable receiver is found with a fast enough AGC decay to be scanned more quickly than every 100 milliseconds, it's a problem we'll have to live with.

	765 >	1008 >	1251 >	1485 >
	774 >>>	1017 >	1260 >	1494 >
558 >	783 >	1026 >>	1269 >	1503 >
567 >	792 >	1035 >>>	1278 >	1512 >
576 >>>	801 >	1044 >	1287 >>	1521 >
585 >	819 >	1053 >>>>	1296 >	1539 >
594 >>>>	828 >>>>	1062 >>	1305 >	1548 >
603 >	837 >>>	1071 >	1314 >	1557 >
612 >>	846 >	1080 >	1323 >	1566 >>
621 >	855 >	1089 >	1332 >	1575 >
639 >	864 >>	1107 >	1341 >	1584 >
648 >	873 >>	1116 >	1359 >	1593 >
657 >>	882 >	1125 >	1368 >	1602 >
666 >>>	891 >	1134 >	1377 >	1629 >
675 >	909 >	1143 >	1386 >	1638 >
684 >	918 >	1152 >	1395 >	1647 >
693 >>	927 >	1161 >	1404 >	1656 >
702 >	936 >>	1179 >	1413 >	1665 >
711 >	945 >	1188 >	1422 >	1674 >
720 >	954 >>>	1197 >	1431 >	1683 >
729 >	963 >	1206 >	1449 >	1692 >
738 >>>	972 >>>	1215 >	1458 >	1701 >
747 >>>>	981 >>	1224 >	1467 >	2310 >>>
756 >	999 >	1233 >	1476 >	4898 >>

Figure 14. A fairly typical "low band" opening to East Asia from Grayland at dawn as seen on DX Radar.

The figure above represents a fairly typical opening to East Asia from the Grayland site as seen on the Hall-Patch DX Radar. The chevrons (>) represent the signal strength that was present on that particular channel as the Radar swept past it. A single chevron represents the default signal strength of very little to no signal on the frequency. Experience has shown us that two chevrons (>>) indicate a het of medium strength or maybe "threshold" audio is present. Channels which show signal strength of three chevrons (>>>) almost certainly have "listenable" audio present, while four chevrons usually indicate "arm chair copy."

How one responds to a DX Radar display like the one above is largely dependant on the level of personal experience with Trans-Pacific signals from the Pacific Northwest. A neophyte would certainly first choose to log the arm-chair level signals indicated on 594, 828 and 1053 kHz. He will discover that 594 is JOAK, NHK's First Program from Tokyo; 828 almost certainly will be JOBB, NHK's Second Program from Osaka and he will discover to his chagrin that 1053 is a South Korean "bubble" jammer covering a North Korean propaganda station.

A DXer who is more experienced at TP work (and knowing that it is an East Asian Opening) will recognize those signals from the Radar Screen and will also note the presence of the other usual strong NHK-2 stations on 747, 774 and probably 873. Further, the experienced DXer will assume that 954 is JOKR, Tokyo, that 972 is HLCA, the KBS outlet from Dangjin, South Korea and that it is likely that the two high band stations, 1287 and 1566 are JOHR, Sapporo and HLAZ, the giant missionary station on Cheju Island, South Korea, respectively. These stations are the most reliable performers, year-in and

year-out from East Asia to the Pacific Northwest. With those channels eliminated from consideration, the experienced TP DXer will likely focus first on the other three frequencies that are showing three chevron strength and are almost certainly in audio. The possibilities for 576 include Russia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and (heart-a-fluttering) India, as well as smaller scale stations in Japan and throughout East Asia. The 837 chevrons indicates a signal that is "probably" South Korea, but might be India or maybe one of the smaller scale Japanese NHK 1 outlets. Finally, the 1035 signal is most likely China National Radio's First Program from near Beijing. Most of us would try to check all three signals, but we would likely start with 576 kHz.

As far as international medium wave DXing is concerned, it must be said that DX Radar is an imperfect tool. It seems to be more useful some mornings than others and, at times, will indicate "false positives" despite Nick's nifty routine to minimize splatter from adjacent channels. At the worst, DX Radar can give us an indication of the part of the band that is the most active and thus make our manual scanning much more effective.

Since the DX Radar has not become well known in SWBC DXing circles, no one has tested it on the shortwave bands. Those of us with experience on those bands think that it would be quite effective on 60 and 90 meters where most signals of interest are relatively QRM free and their presence is only limited by propagation and time of day. For instance, DXing the SWBC stations in Papua New Guinea at dawn would be made immeasurably easier using a version of DX Radar with each of the PNG channels in the scanning file. With only 20 or so relatively QRM free signals to monitor, the DX Radar would update itself much more quickly and ought to be a near-perfect predictor of a stations presence and signal strength.

Finally, it must be stressed that we have found that DX Radar will not run well in a "DOS Window." A computer Running Windows 98SE or earlier can be rebooted into DOS from the "Restart in DOS" selection on the Shut Down menu. The rather small DOS program for DX Radar may then be executed from the command line. We have found it easiest to simply dedicate an obsolete computer to the DX Radar function. Nick, himself, uses an old 386 tablet "Grid" computer and John uses a mini-notebook 486 machine called a Compaq Aero Contura that currently sells on the web for well under \$100. With newer computers, establishing a partition of DOS-only programming and making the machine "dual bootable" is probably a good strategy.

Copies of the DX Radar program are available gratis from Nick Hall-Patch ([nhp@ieee.org](mailto:nhp@ieee.org))

#### RECOMMENDED COMPUTERS

If you have yet to acquire a laptop for DXpeditioning use, we should state again that most of the machines that we use at Grayland are quite obsolete (and therefore very affordable.) Most of the software that we use could actually run on a 486 machine, but in truth, more than half of our machines are in the 250 MHz. Pentium class of computers or better. These are currently available on ebay and elsewhere for well under \$300. We would recommend buying a laptop that has at least 4 GB of storage space and which supports USB or at least PCMCIA connected devices. These latter allow rapid sharing of software and files between machines – an attribute that we find handy when loading our machines at home and when sharing among ourselves here.

Collectively, we are in disagreement as to just what level of machine to recommend. John is quite happy with one of the now-\$300 machines mentioned above. You should know, however, that he does not intend to use ERGO or one of the other resource-intensive receiver tuning programs. However, he does regularly use Geoclock, a couple of Adobe PDF references, B-log and Total Recorder and a simple receiver control program for the Ten Tec RX-320, all simultaneously. Nick, on the other hand, points out that, if you run all of the above PLUS a sophisticated receiver control program and maybe another resource hog or two, it is possible to saturate even a much better machine than John's. He puts more emphasis on the fact that the current whiz-bang units which are going for \$1.5k+ today will be garage sale specials in a couple of years, and will do a nice job at the DXpedition site.

Guy has done fine with his 266 MHz machine running Geoclock, ERGO, B-Log and some open ASCII text references, but loading the PAL with Acrobat 5 caused a marked speed decrease. He had to drop back to Acrobat 4 like Nick suggested. Guy says that he has been surprised, actually, at how well this modest notebook works for him. Perhaps the 92MB ram helps, but its likely that Windows resources is a key item. "Any day now" Guy's dropping in a new CPU card (MMC-1) that he got through Ebay, but it's only a minor bump to 300 MHz. Guy also muttered "Maybe I can convince Rochelle we can do a notebook upgrade along with the new furniture." Fat chance.

Any laptop that you are considering for DXpeditioning use should have a serial port, especially as the USB to serial converters aren't always very effective. A serial port is absolutely required in all current receiver control applications and even if you don't intend to go that route at all, a new inexpensive digital receiver like the Ten Tec RX-320 may come along and change your mind. If you are to do any kind of audio work with your DX-capable laptop, and a Line-In or Mike-In audio jack (in stereo, if possible) is absolutely essential. Stereo input capability is recommended because many of us have found that we would like to record from two receivers simultaneously. This is possible with Total Recorder and similar software, but only if your audio-input capability is in stereo. Unfortunately, many "modern" laptops come without either Serial ports or provisions for inputting audio signals.

If one is already intending to purchase a new laptop for general use anyway, one might as well get one that will also serve as a high-tech DXing machine. On the other hand, if your only reason for

purchasing a laptop is for DXpeditioning use, the best route might be to try out one of those \$300 eBay specials for a year or so and then you'll have a good idea as to just what level of machine you need long term for DXpeditions.

#### CONCLUSION

The reason that this article is titled "Emerging Techniques..." is that this is, at best, an interim report of what one group of DXers is doing with several very rapidly changing technologies. As such, this article is practically obsolete before it is published. We do hope that some elements of our recent efforts will prove useful to many readers. We also hope that this article will stimulate others who are applying new tools of technology to DXing to write similar articles for the hobby press

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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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Has anyone noticed how the term "shortwave radio" is still used referring to the World Broadcast Band? Around the 1910's, the frequencies between 3,000 khz and 30 mhz were the shortest wavelengths known at the time. In truth, the REAL 'shortwaves' are more closer to the EHF band (30,000-300,000mhz). In referring to World Band Radio, the term HF (High Frequency) is more appropriate, the same goes for the amateur and citizen bands or any other agencies that make use out of this spectrum. I've also observed how most multi-band receivers incorporate the frequencies of 1711-300 khz into their "shortwave" function when in reality the above frequencies are the upper section of the Medium Frequency band (MF). Likewise, most receiver manufacturers consider 300-520 khz a part of the Long Wave band in which the term itself should be called the "Low Frequency" band (LF). In order to have uniformity with the upper region of the radio spectrum (HF, VHF, UHF, SHF, EHF), I propose that the "W" suffix be disposed of in favor of the "F" suffix (VLF, LF, MF). In addition, the VHF band should be recognized as TWO distinct bands due to the fact that wavelengths below and above 152mhz behave quite differently. VHF-Low and VHF-High would be more proper than just plain "VHF".

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Guess its time for me to check in. I'm 56, married with 4 children, 3 still at home and have been DXing the AM band for 40+ years. In '01, I went out to disconnect my longwire before the summer storms but evidently someone thought it would be a better idea to recycle that thousand feet of copper than for me having great northeast reception! Miss it, it was fun to hear rare New England and Maratime stations quite often. Many LW stations were regular from Europe and the Near east but I never reported them in IDX because I don't consider them medium wave. Was in Bermuda last August and took the 398 and RS loop. In the daytime, I was able to hear New York City on 570, 660, 710, 770, 820, 880, 1010 and 1050. Also Norfolk on 790 and 850. RVC-530 seemed weaker than in 1977. Thanks to the tip in DX NEWS, I was able to catch an ID on WSAU-550 on 10/16 and on 11/2, I stumbled upon WKZO-590. Never thought I'd get either of them, so there is DX out there. A landmark is gone from owings Mills, MD, along I-795; the 4 towers of WCBM-680 are history. I'm not sure if they're using the WWLG-1370 towers or not but don't believe either station is up on their new powers. WCBM is a very 2nd distant, if at all, to WPTF. On 8/4, WWLG was broadcasting on both 1360 and 1370! Never heard that before (In the days of WEBB-1360, it wasn't uncommon to hear both their day and night signals on at the same time Joe!-DWS) So, WMET is moving from 1150 to 1160, wonder how long it took someone to notice that opening since short lived WPVG-1160 (near hagerstown) has been off for about a decade! I can hear co-channel splatter now! Haven't updated the log for about 3 years so I have plenty ahead, total then was about 2650 heard (call changes not counted). Very sorry to hear the passing of Ernie Cooper and Hank Holbrook. I visited Hank in the late 60's at Herring Bay on the Chesapeake and believe he DX'ed and reported anything with a transmitter! His FM set up was also very impressive. Any correspondence with ERC was always friendly and helpful. I've rambled long enough, Dave's fingers must be tired but I did remember to double space! 73's (Thanks Joe, and it really does help with the quad-focals-DWS)