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CHWO-740 Toronto (send reports and/or tapes/MP3's, etc., to Brian Smith - QSL Manager AM 740 - Box 161, Willowdale Sn A - Toronto, Ontario - Canada M2N 358, 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
- St. Louis Blues March
- Ricochet Romance
- California Here I Come
- Beer Barrel Polka - Andrew Sisters
- Something To Sing About
- The Battle of New Orleans - Jimmy Driftwood
- Spin, Spin

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 pills 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 Stack, Phoenix, AZ; Teo Veras, Miami, FL (rejoins); Charles Territo, Bridgewater, NJ (rejoins); and Robert W. Strohmeyer, Norfolk, VA.

DXN Publishing Schedule, Volume 70

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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 RAC-CNF.

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 Receiv-ers 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. Hummiker's solution to too-small Drake R8 knobs was to use Shepherd's Rubber Tips for furniture, slipping them over the existing knobs; he called the solution useful but "hideous".
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: 1000/7000 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 DL1FTH
1150 WTMP FL Egypt Lake: CP for 10000/5000 U4 is on
1160 WYNS PA Lehighton: SILENT, station is for sale but has no pending buyer
1400 WEEP AL Virginia: SILENT due to transmitter fire, will not return to the air unless sold to new owner
1500 WQCR AL Albertville: 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

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; $23.00 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 contacts us for exact prices. Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax).

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: ‘Licency needs to woc ’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 $75000 a piece.’ . . . ‘Page 5: Canada struggles with its version of digital: Nobody is listening!’ CBC exec Philip Savage says he’ll 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!’ - JWR-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 keeping up with two challenges. But wait. How many columns do you report to?? Anyway, it’s We welcome John Vervoort to the column. John recently moved from Brooklyn, NY to Kentucky, so his new home will appear on the ‘left side’ now. Extra THANKS go to Herbert Newberry of Newborn, Georgia for some dazzling $11 (for auxiliary

DDXD-Catch in the U. S. and Canada, with 24-br. ELT

REPORTERS
RA-CA Rene Auvray (Henderson, NV) DXING in Baker, CA. 2003 Taurus
d rxing in Baker, CA. 2003 Taurus

- Rene Auvray Henderson

- Herb Bishop Niceville: Drake R8, 20 meter outdoor antenna. Sony ICF-2010, RS Loop <gerryb4991@cox.net>

- Greg Bishop Shalimar Sony ICF-2010

- Rick Dau Omaha Sony ICF-2010 + Quantum Loop antenna <rdau1965@yahoo.com>

- Wayne Heinen Aurora R-390A and N/5 and E/W 10 meter loops phased <amradio@logcheck.com>

- Gary Jackson Sacramento FRG-8800 + Kiwa Loop

- Don Kaskey San Francisco Drake R8A + Kiwa Loop <kaskeyfamily@comcast.com>

- Herbert Newberry UNID help

- Stephen Pender Houston Sangam ATS-803A, Radio West Ferrite Loop; Radio Shack Loop <spender@clearspring.net>

- Stephen Pender Houston stock radio in 1993 Plymouth Voyager minivan

- Doug Smith Pleasant View <http://www.99wv.com>

- Morris Sorensen snowly Winnipeg GE Superadio II, DX-392, and YB-400 all barefoot <mosor@shaw.ca>

- Morris Sorensen snowly Winnipeg GE Superadio II, DX-392, and YB-400 all barefoot <mosor@shaw.ca>

- John J. Rieger South Milwaukee Icom IC-R75, Kiowa loop, MFJ-959B tuner-preamp <johnrie@webtv.net>

- John Reed Shawnee W-J DMS-105R tunable demodulator, modified KIWA MW loop <jreed@slum.mit.edu>

- John Reed Shawnee W-J DMS-105R tunable demodulator, modified KIWA MW loop <jreed@slum.mit.edu>

- Tim Tomlinson Byron Yasei FT990 K9AY directional loops <k9sb@msn.com>

- Tim Tomlinson Byron Yasei FT990 K9AY directional loops <k9sb@msn.com>

- John Vervoort Murray

- John Vervoort Murray
**STATION NEWS & NOTES**

1130 WRKY KY Murray - 1/7 - Noted running AC during the nighttime hours, probably due to their upgrade pending upgrade to U4 2500/1500. (J-JV-KY)

1200 WWWY IL Chicago - 1/12 - Now // WWWY 103.1 Highland Park with Spanish AC format. (RadioDX Information from Wisconsin) - http://www.angelfire.com/wi/dx/radio/<br/>

1290 CFRW MB Winnipeg - Has reverted to these calls which they used back in the 70's when they were a rocker. Guess they figured they were more appropriate for their current oldies format than the CSTS 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 Mark 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. ESPN Ranch and format as KZ. The Tulsa metro area now has three full-time sports stations: 1300-KAKC, 1430-KBZ and 1590-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. Seems to be having problems. (GJ-CA) LATER UPDATE:

1670 KHPY CA Moreno Valley - 1/16 1956 - Noted with Glen Campbell's 'Witchita Lineman,' totally alone in KNRO's null. At 1959-39 they gave an ID and made the announcement that this was their first broadcast. 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 Savar 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 - 12/1 1947 - Is definitely MS-MB's unID in Issue 13. They probably did not cut their 50 kW daytimer 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. (HNN-CA)

760 UNID ?? - 12/25 1840 - SS music station playing salsas. 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 1-15 from Route 127. Logged while stopped. Who? (RA-CA)

1130 WLBA GA Gainesville - 12/22 1753 - Logged by Jrr-WJ in Issue 13 is probably this. Especially is his loop was oriented SE/NW. Possible tip: Listen from approximately 58 to 130 or so (ToH) for a 'lengthy' ID in EF: 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-CA)

1180 WJFF RI Hope Valley - Logged by Jrr-WJ in Issue 13 is likely this, as it's the only C&W station on 1180 since KYET-5 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 hull. Their slogan is "The Score"

1290 UNID ?? - 1/9 0920 - Assuming this is KRGE, Weslaco, TX, with male announcer in Spanish, gave phone number to studio (956-1010), then into Christian music Jesus Eta Mi Salvador and time check at 0923. (SHP-TX) [An Internet search for the KRGE phone number shows 956-968-7777, but you heard "studio", which often is different - Ed.]

1440 WGGT GA Brunswick - 12/16 0735 + Is likely Ed.-TX's unID (Issue 13) with CBS Channel 4. 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) [It it was WGGT. Washington - Ed.-TX]

**TIS & OTHER STUFF**

1610 WPFWL48A GA Perry - 12/30 1801 - Station carrying NOAA weather for Macon, GA. Heard again 1/6, 1/7 in local evenings, with local info, woman's voice and difficult to follow. Finally copied mention of "Perry" on 1/7. (GB-FL)

1690 WTVZ48S FL Milton - 12/23 1730 - Barely audible in Niceville at this time, but heard earlier on 12/23 while on 1-10 at Milton. Referenced listeners to www.10i10.com for construction info. This will be a four year project, amplify opportunity to log this one. (GB-FL)

**REGULAR DX LOGGINGS TIMES IN EF**

580 KUCC CO Montrose - 1/13 0223 - With ID and weather. The temperature is 22 and then into oldies music. (KR-AZ)

580 WCHS WV Charleston - 1/6 0507 - 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 0705 - With end of news and ID: You're listening to El Paso Talk, KROD. 600. Rare. (KR-AZ)

610 KFRC CA San Francisco - 1/10 0709 - Playing Abraham, Martin and John. Weak under KTRK splash. (KR-AZ)

640 WFDF MO Kansas City - 1/9 0142 - Sixty-one, Country Home (#). (J-FL-KY)

640 CFBO ON Fort Frances - Their first ID with their 2300 on tuning to 893FM at 9:31, as 640 is leaving the air. NEW! (J-JV-WR)

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 KLIT. (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 KTSN TX El Paso - 12/23 2330-2335 - Long string of local and network spots, News Radio 690 KTSN into syndicated talk. Last heard as KHEY. (WH-CO)

700 KWLU UT Salt Lake City - 1/10 1125 - With ads for the Desert Steak House and Americana. (KR-AZ)

710 WUFF GA Eastman - 1/3 1802 - Poor, though steady in WOR null. FM 97 Way Radio into ads. C&W. (J-JV-WR)

720 KWDN NV Las Vegas - 1/10 1127 - Running a right-wing talk show complaining about the UN. (KR-AZ)

730 KBSU ID Boise - 11/10 1116 - Playing jazz under splash from KIDR, but strong daytime sign and very stable. A cappella piano jazz. (KR-AZ)

730 WILN TN Lenoir City - 1/12 2120 - C&W with call ID. Weak over under 55 stations. New here. (J-JV-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 - 1/10 1820 - Fair, in Spanish, with lively Mexican music and IDs as Radio Leon. Sign off at 1830 with legal ID in English and slogo The Lam. No anthem. (MS-MB)

750 CKHJ SK Melfort - 1/12 0706 - Poor in WSB null. Provincial weather/temperatures, hockey scores and hot the hits. CK 750. (J-JV-WR)

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 KCOB. (KR-AZ)

780 KOKH NV Reno - 1/11 1127 - With traffic and weather. The male host had a very deep voice. (KR-AZ)
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 BOC from KXNT, with ads for Team Lending Concepts using Ed McCaffrey. CB and Pot's Restaurant, and Medved Chees. 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 local talk host comes on. (KR-AZ)
890 Wabil ME Bangor - 1/10 0224 - Poor, in WCHS null, with 881 KLKQ and C&W Music. (JW-RI)
910 WVFVt GA Valdosta - 1/7 0601 - With your radio set on... AM WTJR. WVFV is a sister station to WTRJ-1800 on the TNR in the web site, no calls heard so just a tentative log but have to think it’s WVFV. (BW-OK)
915 WABI ME Bangor - 1/11 0645 - Poor in mess, but clear WABF AM 910 ID. State # 46 heard. Finally! Been trying for a long time to hear this. (CR-LL)
930 WALT ME Bangor - 1/10 0224 - Poor, in WCHS null, with 881 KLKQ and C&W Music. (JW-RI)
900 WPSI CA Palm Springs - 1/15 1945-1958 - With man doing ads and promos and mentions of Southern California phone numbers. Noted... (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 KNEX-910 slop 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 mix with KBAD Las Vegas. Their signal was in fine until about 1956. Several KPSI mentions and minor KNEX-910 slop. (DKK-CA)
930 KRRK CA Grandy - 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, KAY. Grandy-Winter Park. (JW-RI)
930 KBAD NV Las Vegas - 1/16 1952-1945 - 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 WTGK KY Louisville - 1/9 0120 - Michael Medved weekdays at 0400 on WTGK. The Talk of Louisville. (KY-KY)
980 WPGA 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. (SH-P- TX)
1070 WEBS GA Calhoun - 12/22 2225 - Oldies 1030 in with 30s music. (GB-FL)
1100 KHM0 MO Hannibal - 1/9 0330 - Fair, with AP News and ID. (T-L)
1150 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, through clear, with legal ID. NOS. Daytimer on late and still on at next morning’s reci... (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 playoffs. (GB-FL)
1210 WTCK TN Memphis - 1/9 0910 - With WTCK. We’re Talking, Memphis ID at 0910, then into Talk to Me (blue-style music). Faded under unID XE station at 0914. (SH-P-TX)
1230 WCLB KY Benson - 1/10 1735 - Fair, in the mix, with news and ID. (TT-L)
1230 KWLO IA Des Moines - 1/10 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, 97 FM, into CBS News. Again at 1000, weaker but still clear. (DS-TN) ["Clearwater"? Yup. Their FM is licensed to Clearwater, Kansas. But it hardly seems like a "legal ID" for the AM - Ed.]
1350 KSWA TX Graham - 1/12 0200 - Only heard KSWA-Graham down in the jump. Thank you to Total Recorder and Amazing Slow Downer. (BW-OK)
1350 KLBO TX Monahans - 1/12 0300 - With Music You Grow Up With, Radio Free Texas AM 1330 KLBO Monahans into CNN Radio news. (BW-OK)
1400 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 KASK flag FTA 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 graymatter. New. (KR-AZ)
1430 WNGC OH Ashland - 1/8 2018 - Faded up from the grayveil noise with NOS, abrupt WNCI ID, along with an FM call that sounded like WMLN, and lost again. Right place, right time, new and welcome here. (GB-FL)
1460 KPYQ AZ Phoenix - 12/24 0938-1001 - Phoenix area spot, and ToH ID: Today’s Christian Talk 1360 KPYQ Glendale-Phoenix to REL Family Life Today. Dominant in full daylight. Last heard as KCME. (WH-OK)
1430 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 1300 at 0927, commercial spot for Fat Inferno at 0931. (SH-P-TX)
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. (JZ-KY) [The FCC database indicates they are 'planning' to have 78 Watts nighttime. Maybe that’s a done deal? - Ed.]
1420 KBCTN MO Neosho - 1/11 2100 - Faded up suddenly with ads for Neoshoo, 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 KXPR. (PG-OC)
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 1461 but I suspect either KTFW or KCWM. (BW-OK) [KTFW carries TSN on the hour, and is 92.1 Glen Rose. Glen Rose’s claim to fame is it’s the site of a nuclear power facility - Ed.]
1490 KTYM CA Inglewood - 1/15 0726 - With a woman hawking a religious school. Pacific National University. (JTR-KY)
1490 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 - 1/3 0938 - Strong local, with local news and ID. (TT-L)
1490 KXNO IA Des Moines - 1/15 2120 - Good. (KR-AZ)
1460 KXNO IA Des Moines - 1/13 0155 - Good, with Barbara Simpson and ID. (TT-L)
1490 KXNO IA Des Moines - 1/15 2300 - Poor, with program announcements and ID. Generally under KUIC. (MS-MB)
1490 KXNO IA Des Moines - 1/16 0236 - Best with call letter ID into Fox Sports Radio, and local programming promos. Dominant on most recordings overcast (BW-OK)
GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

None this week, but remember all the GX DX records are on line at: www.angelfire.com/tx2/phantom2/index.html
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 thirty, WJSS." (DL*MD)

WRCA MA Waltham - 1/8 1608 - Excellent; full ID in English with disclaimer, then "Transmitte WRCA Trece-Treinta, Waltham-Boston" into Spanish tropical music. (BC-NH)
+ 1/10 1800 - Good over WYRW-NJ with Spanish programming and English ID. "All WRCA programs are brought to you by independent producers..." This is 13-30 WRCA Waltham/Boston." New. (RWK-CT)
+ 1/13 1807 - Excellent 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 WMYY and AIbany 1/10 1800 "Transmite WRCA Trece-Treinta, Waltham-Boston" into Spanish tropical and an ID well atop channel. (RJE-PA)

WSPQ NY Springville - 1/9 0000 - Good on strong fade-ins; "You're listening to the Heart of Wor-... this is Western New York's Sports Leader, here on thirteen thirty, WYSN, Somerset" then into news. (RWK-CT)
+ 1/12 1700 - Fair to good, carrying ESPN and gave top of hour ID. Relog. (DH-NJ)
+ 1/11 1830 - Weather forecast, "Newsradio WBTM" (RJE-PA)

WWEB NY Owego - 1/10 1700 - Fair mixing with WYRW-NJ with spot for show "...right here on WEBY", then ad for a restaurant in Owego, then full top-of-hour ID. New. (RWK-CT)

WSPQ NY Springerle - 1/8 1924 - ESPN program promo, then 2 local ads for Springerle, followed by full ID 1928 then Springerle HS basketball. This is new for me - no idea why never heard before as good strength all evening. I don't think I even realize this one existed. (RJE-PA)
+ 1/9 0910 - 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 WYSQ/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 sport leader, AM 1330 WYSQ/Springville". Then back to ESPN Radio's "Sports Center". Yawn. (MH-MA)
+ 1/15 1559 - Fair, promo for Baptist church service, "...right here on WHAZ," in WYRA null. New. (BC-NH)

WYRS NJ New York - 1/8 1706 - Spanish language religion; had full English ID 1800.
+ 1/9 0200 - Dominant during the day, but weaker while I remember at night with usual "Radio Vision Cristiana" Spanish religion. (RWK-CT)
+ 1/9 1735 - Good; "Esta es Radio Vision" jingle, "NotiVision" news in Spanish with chuckles between items, over WRCA. (BC-NH)

WEBO NY Owego - 1/10 1700 - Fair mixing with WYRW-NJ with spot for show "...right here on WEBY", then ad for a restaurant in Owego, then full top-of-hour ID. New. (RWK-CT)

CHCM NF Marystown - 1/15 0000 - Amazing signal with C&W, ethnic program. Ukrainian

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 SSSS&* big pest! (MKB-ON)
+ 1/10 1812 - Up and over WYRW briefly with a promo for a locally-originated sports program, on "Sportsradio 1330 - The Fan". Last heard as WRAE 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 WYRW nulling out. New. (BC-NH)
+ 1/10 0734 - In and out of the mix with WSS 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 games; ad for local bank and ID as a Penn State sports affiliate. Relog. (DH-NJ)
+ 1/12 1900 - ...on News Talk thirteen thirty WSS, Somerset," promos for talk shows. Moderate co-channel interference. (DL*MD)

WYRD SC Greenville - 1/10 2027 - Greenville Grizzly minor league hockey game "The Grizzly on WYRD Greenville". (RR-NC)
+ 1/11 0105 - Good. ID'd as WORD and "Talk Radio" following ABC news.
+ 1/12 1740 - Richmond Renegades vs. Greenville Grizzly hockey game briefly up and over WYRW. Per team website, WORD 950/1330 carries all their games. Previously heard as WFBC. (RJE-PA)
+ 1/13 0630 - Suddenly surfacing over WYRW, WYRA with others with ID "WRBC Greenville," and then into CNN Radio News. Thanks to Rick Robinson in NC for confirming the ID. (MD-MA)
+ 1/14 0630 - Fair: "Depend on us, News Radio 1330 and 950 WORD." (SC-IN)

WYRB VA Danville - 1/8 1724 - weather forecast, "Newsradio WYRB" (RJE-PA)

WESR VA Onley - 1/8 1635 - C&W, ID. A regular here at sunset. (RJE-PA)
+ 1/11 1935 - good, playing C&W music. Relog. (DH-NJ)
+ 1/13 0900 -... on AM thirteen thirty, WESR Onley, Onancock" under stronger REL/GO program. (DL*MD)
+ 1/13 1645 - buried under WYRW with spot for NASA 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)

WYRA MA Waltham - 1/8 1600 - Great 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 WYSQ/Springville" just copyable in heavy co-channel. (DL*MD)
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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 SSSS&* big pest! (MKB-ON)
+ 1/10 1812 - Up and over WYRW briefly with a promo for a locally-originated sports program, on "Sportsradio 1330 - The Fan". Last heard as WRAE years back. (RJE-PA)

WYNN PA Somerset - 1/9 1600 - Fair; ...on News/Talk 1330 WYSN Somerset" into Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story," with WYRW nulling out. New. (BC-NH)
+ 1/10 0734 - In and out of the mix with WSS 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 games; ad for local bank and ID as a Penn State sports affiliate. Relog. (DH-NJ)
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WOTW

WDOS

WTME

WCKB

WZAP

WZZX

WJTO

CFDR

WD

WLYE

NH Nashua

ME Bath

ME

NC Dunn

NY Oneonta

VA Blacksburg

CFINE

NJW-ON

Virginia Tech, Georgetown, etc.), slogan “sports radio 910, WRNL,” into Fox Sports update. (MKB-ON)
locally read news: “and this is Millennium Radio New Jersey.” (DL*MD)

WABY NY Mechanicville – 1/9 1400 - Noted with new calls while sitting at WKRD, At home, waiting for them to plow out the driveway! (DS-NY)
+ 1/10 0600 - “AM eleven sixty, this is WABY Mechanicville, and AM nine hundred WUAM Saratoga Springs... Media Group” into news in moderate co-channel. (DL*MD)

WAMB TN Donelson – 1/10 0800 - “Serving Nashville... on eleven sixty WAMB AM and WAMB FM Donelson.” News followed. (DL*MD)
1260 CCKJ NB Fredericton – 1/11 1203 – CKC music, ID as “KHJ continental country”. Top of WNSS-Syracuse. (NJW-ON)
1280 WLCG 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 WTLCA 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 WWXI. (NJW-ON)
1440 WVLY WV Moundsville – 1/12 0948 – station promo for Howard Monroe show, commercial for First National Bank of Wheeling. (NJW-ON)
1440 WJAE ME Westbrook – 1/11 0803 – Sporting News Radio stuff, ID as “Sports Radio WJAB”. (NJW-ON)
1460 WBRN MI Big Rapids 1/12 0921 – on top of WWDA and CJQY with promo for Ferris State Bulldogs basketball, commercials for Van Drie Furniture 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 BKY” into CNN News. (NJW-ON)
1490 WWBG NC Greensboro – 1/12 0658 – Latin American music and 2 IDs at top-of-the-hour. Talk with WFFY. (NJW-ON)
1490 WICY NY Malone – 1/11 1003 – ID: “Your home for the best oldies, WICY Malone”, into America’s Master Handymen program. (NJW-ON)
1500 WTTL ME Waterville – 1/12 1151 – dual ID: “WEZW Augusta (1400) and WTVL Waterville” into songs by Roy Orbison 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)
1500 WJFF CT Milford – 1/11 1029 – Mention of a church in West Haven, ID and Family News In Focus program. (NJW-ON)
1550 WNTA 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 program on 1660-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)
1580 WBNR OH Warren – 1/11 1794 – On top with oldies by The Beach Boys and others. ID at top-of-the-hour as “Cruising Radio WBNR”. (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)
Transpecific DX

AUSTRALIA: u/ID 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 KD5OSQ, Austin TX; Drake R8B, Palomar Amp / homebrew ferrite loop (12 x 1.125 inches). <mbceu@swbell.net>

David E. Crawford, Titusville, FL; <davidECrawford@flrr.com>

Ray Moore, North Fort Myers FL; Homebrew receiver, R8, R1000, Comdel preamp, 23-inch spiral NW loop, 23-inch passive SW loop. <rsmmcomm@aol.net>

Kevin Redding, Mesa AZ; Sony ICF-2010. <amfmdx@fastq.com>

Brent Taylor, Doaktown NB; Kenwood TS-680S, G5RV dipole, 60-ft Sutolson top-fed ham HF sloper at 50 feet.

Niel Wolfish, DXing in Burnt River, ON; AOR-7030 and 975-ft longwire antenna. <nield@can.net>

International News

ARGENTINA: 1129.8 R.Contemporneo 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: Rádionet has reduced the number of stations from ten 1997 to just four today. They are: 980 Medellin, 700 Cali, 859 Santafe 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 No 3-58, Umbita, Boyaca. [Rafael Rodríguez, JAN LA Newsdesk, ARC]


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 Helson, $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: 8-hole punched for standard binders. Still only $18.95 to U. S. and Canadian members; $22.95 to U. S. and Canadian non-member members. Airmail to members in Europe (except Italy): $22.00. All others, please contact us for exact pricing.

Order from: NRC Publications, 164th Ave - Manhasset, NY 11030 (NY residents, please add sales tax)

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 16th of January.

DAYTIME DX

Saul Chermos <saulmers@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 DX pedition 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 IL (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 Maritime during the day, either. We are wondering: What is your farthest daytime DX on AM? What was coming in, and did this occur? Where are any unusual conditions noted in conjunction with this?

Russ Edmunds <wb2jj@nrcdxas.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. Wartous and Winnipeg CBC’s 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 WBH Kansas City here in Harrisburg Pennsylvania at around 10:00 AM. Also coming through was WTMJ 620, CKLW 800, KMOX 1020 and several Chicago stations.

Gerry Bishop <gerryb499@cox.net>: WLS at high noon, dead of winter, on the TRP barefoot. That was more than 10 years ago, exactly year buried in the notes somewhere. Nothing ever equaled that, and it hasn’t happened twice. No other Chicago clear was heard, just that one. (Nicoeville, 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 AM 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 4800 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 year of time, 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 verrrry weak. Recently WSA1 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 AM 7 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.
Robert Foxworth <foxworth1@tampabayrr.com> probabilistically would be the best daytime from Long Island, when I was living there. The useless WJHR killed one that. 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. That seemed that shorter-distance stuff took over. Rick Robinson <khr664@att.net> I logged CIAX 500 and 900 at 9:30-10:00 tonight in Christus. This is pretty late for CIAX here and the first time I've logged them from Hendersonville (NC). Luckily, Radio Vision Cristiana was off the air. RVC rules 330 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've heard them. Usually all DX is gone by 0830 at the latest.

Paul Swearingen <PlcbDxer8@aol.com> Received in Topeka some time between 10 am-2 pm: CBX-740 Edmonton, CKKY-830 Michigan.

Mike Brooker <caum1086@direct.com> (In Toronto) I've heard WLS-890, WCB-880 and the other New York and Chicago clear 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 water-path-assisted (DXing at Grant Park).

Doug Smith <dws@wwn.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 daytime when I spent my summers vacating as a child in the Indiana dunes testifying to Doug mentioning their strong signal to the west a few years back. Hence, I was surprised that they'd be picked up on an afternoon on Chicago's lakefront once 35 or so miles 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. 670 WMAQ's power-house signal, and it was uncommon to pick up the 250 watts from WMAM Marquette, MI even though it was next to WIND on the dial.

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

Eric Conchie <ec5e@reach.net>: In (Tweed, ON) My best daytime DX would actually have been December 1 (1/15/03) - WESR 1330 Osley, VA (very weak, only caught the calls, very little program into), at around 10 AM eastern time. Other than that, it would have been WCBS New York about 2 years ago around January on a cloudy day.

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

Mark Connelly <MarkW@1101@aol.com> Saudi Arabia - 1521 at 1 p.m. EST in the evening during the mid 90s from East Harwich, Cape Cod, MA (30 miles sloper to Drake RDX).

Charles Hutton <charlesh3@mson.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 dark 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 1500 miles from the end of Cape Cod. If we were to look in with a maximum of 2400 miles per hop, you're within 400 miles of having the control point in darkness. And then from first time there's the possibility we aren't dealing with standard F hops...Anyway, 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 duration 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-507 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.

Inland on 189 is threshold-level groundwave to outer Cape Cod and Cape Ann. It (and the old Ireland-525) are easy in Newfoundland all day and according to VE1ZZ also good round the clock on his island off the Nova Scotia coast.

WMSX 1410
Metro South Broadcasting
208 Linwood Street
Braintree, MA 02184

My latest TA (1 Ireland-567 at 4PM 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.

Neale Kazaro <cnlkl2z@interaccess.com> OK...I'll risk rainning on a few paradises here and award 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 you get 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 San Antonio at noon.

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

Charles Hutton: Hey Neil: I read this a few times and couldn't quite understand what you were trying to say...If we were 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. nordwards 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 1502Z 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 possibilities a couple years ago.

Robert Foxworth: I agree that "all of this stuff doesn't go away when nighttime propagation kicks in" 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-quality 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-550 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 will persist in days, not in minutes or hours as nighttime skip changes. (hih he said)

John Callarman <john.callarman@msn.com> And I can remember when, on some winter afternoon occasions, I could hear WBJ at 3 p.m. in Coralville, Oregon.

Marc DeLorenzo <MarlonsMar@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 real weak DX and control-point was ionospheric DX. My mechanisms are so different I have a hard time uniting them with just a tune 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 at a WLA that the transmitter is in darkness and depending on the location, perhaps one is pure daytime reception, the other is, IMO, SCC on a certain proportion of the time. 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 and Critical Times? Definitively 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 real weak DX and control-point was ionospheric DX. My mechanisms are so different I have a hard time uniting them with just a tune of day rule. It was weak but readable over WLBG in Laurens, SC 75 miles from me.

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.

The IRCA Mexican 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 that page.

NEW IRCA MEXICAN LOG 8th Edition, 2002

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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/~eeoclock/

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.

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/BZ3ci/ 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 number 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 and how one uses these references. John Bryant is just not happy unless he has the latest WRTH Pacific-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.

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.
least 800 x 600 pixel monitor resolution.

- UTC clock display, electronic 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/mmm/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 logging needs. 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.

The laptop as a "tape recorder"

Second only to his primary radio, some form of tape recorder has been the DXer’s 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. Today, about half of the Grayland regulars use MiniDisc recorders.

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 advantages of recording directly on your hard drive are numerous, of course. For John Bryant, those of us who send reception reports have, in the past, often sent cassette tapes of the reception along with the report. With our new laptop-based recording techniques, this is a simple matter to rearrange the data and save the format for reuse in the future.

There are many other advantages to recording DX directly on the hard drive. Many of us acquire short clips of catches to each other afterwards via e-mail or we forward collections of DXer’s reports to DXers more familiar with the language or geographical region of the probable stations.

For the past several years, there have been a wide array of MiniDisc recorders at or around the station. With our new laptop-based recording techniques, most of the hassle and extra work that occurred years ago is gone. 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.

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 found that DXing, that is, finding DXers more familiar with 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 5 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 interpretically enjoy “scheduled” recordings: the ability 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 again. Programming Total Recorder’s scheduling function is incredibly simple. Since November 1995, the US DXers are using Total Recorder on a regular basis at home to record the 10 minutes of the hour, every hour of the day. They then tune their receiver to a frequency of interest and let the computer do the work. Total Recorder’s design as a
playback device is also particularly well suited for scanning lengthy recordings.

You should note that neither Total Recorder nor any of the other virtual recorders about which we know do 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 - loves - currently).

THE AMAZING SLOW DOWNER

Why do many announcers adopt either a rapid-fire delivery or seem to be eating marshmallows by the mouthy just in time for station identification? Wouldn't it be great if we could reach through the clothes and throttle the poor announcer, telling him sternly: say that one more time... slow down and say it clearly! It's not that hard.

An easy-to-use PC & Macintosh program out of Sweden gives us this ability, with no harm done to the recorded music. Transcriptionally called, 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 of 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 50% and 100% and pitch changes from 0.0 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 easily 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 the ability to repeatedly loop through that segment. You can even save marked segments 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 build-in 7-band graphic equalizer that's useful for a quick boost or cut to 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, equalized IDs | Zongguo guoji Guangbo Diantai and | "Gorodh Mekhanizatsiya Radio Khrupa" |
| 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-Koe 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 25% of a CD. More information is given at the author's web site: http://www.uniqueappliances.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 using the other operating program provided by M-D. This latter program also included an auto-log 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 DXer 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" receivers that can be controlled that have been developed, usually by computer enthusiasts, 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 an adequate control software with the receiver, several hobbyists have also developed their own software and made it available throughout the hobby world. After testing 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 user-friendly, and allows the user to write 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.

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 - WRTX, Logbook, ILLG 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 worn wearing and the tuning knob got a
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 choices to find the possibilities.

All of this has changed with the advent of good receiver control programs. If you have a receiver with a 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 will 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 will need a serial cable to connect your Windows-based computer and your radio. If your computer lacks a USB port, I have found the Belden F5U103 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).

Tip: There is an excellent radio-oriented on-line review of USB/Serial adapters at: http://www.asaau.com/

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 for the upper right to see the Receiver Window configured as I like it for the WJ9712P. HF1000A and/or 8711A.

You'll also want to set up the ERGO Map Window (which switches your location or Mercator, with the path shown), and the Propagation Window. Both of these are open on the bottom of Fig. 2. Again, changing frequencies 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 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 recently uses a more advanced propagation model for predictions down to 1 MHz, but this has not been verified.

Tip: Left clicking on the mouse on the frequency in the database will return the receiver and update the map and propagation for that receiver. Right 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 databases. I use ILG downloads, as well as custom databases from data in Mohrman's LAXD 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...
You'll have to figure out a way to automate the creation of the databases (those of you skilled in PERL stations, or can be used to keep current target lists or even the latest tips from various online sources. 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 ERGO, DSI databases could be opened by opening files from I.G. Fineware or by creating a custom file. I found the latter quite difficult to make work well – it's far improved in ERGO. 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 GEOCLOCK open on my desktop with various windows of ERGO open and position the GEOGLOCK map areas (I'm not interested in). 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 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 your 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 your 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 build-in logbook feature (similar to B-Log) albeit with a greater learning curve.
3) The Scan capabilities of ERGO4 (Beta) have just been augmented:
   a) You can select a range of frequencies to Profile
   b) You can create a Scanlist of specific stations - manually, inserted from the radio or dragged from a database
   c) You can Profile or Scan continuously on Radio 2 and tune Radio 1 from the graphs.
   d) 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 ERGO

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's 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 WP712P the noise blanket has more controls than are typically accessible from the 8711A/HP1000.

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 DXing.

Note: ERGO3 supports AOR7080, NRDr535/D, HP1000A/8711A/8712/RK320, R8A/B. ERGO4 supports all of these plus RX350, RX355, and NRDr545. Currently in beta & alpha tests are software drivers for the RX9000, RX331, NRI-525, J5T-245, TS-570, TS-870, TS2000, RA6790, R6, and HH-2050.

ERGO4/4.1 is available from Universal Radio (http://www.universalradio.com/catalog/commavxr/4743396.html), or as a 30 day free Demo Version of ERGO4 download at http://swlids.com/erger4.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 number 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 DXing, including both the text report and a CD recording 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 DXers 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, CYBIIKU, CYBIIKI: 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 merely grumpily "What did you say??". With seven or eight DXers at a typical Grayland, 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 handheld "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 across the room. The boards and markers were under $8.00 per DXer and were 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-shop per Guy Atkins discovered CYBIKUS hand-held PDA units from Asia and the problem was solved. CYBIKUS 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 CYBIKUS unit can communicate wirelessly, in text form,
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. To-date, there are two different models of Cybiko Classic that we adopted and the newer Cybiko XTREME.

These two units are excellent as DXpeditioning tools. One of the handiest aspects of the Cybiko are the fact that each unit can be set to vibrate briefly when it receives a message. We usually just leave the units on, but 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 Cybiko 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 Classic and Xtremes. It works fine! As you might guess, we have all learned to abbreviate our messages.

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

The Cybiko unit (and DX Radar) did not monitor or responsible for our first-overseas receptions of Indonesia on MW from Grayland. Not only Nick had been able to alert everyone, but Don and Gay, 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 downloadable from www.cvbiko.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 Nick 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 mpeg music machine. We have not investigated the DX capability 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.

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 at 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 or strong signal 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 coast. 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 that his chart of 1053 is a South Korean “bubble” station 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 Danjín, 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 TOP 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 S76 include Russia, Laos, Malaysia and (heart-a-fluttering) India, as well as smaller scale stations in Japan and through-Out 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 maybe one of the smaller scale Japanese NHK 1 outlets. Finally, the 1035 signal is most likely China the experienced TP

we would likely start with 576

would update itself much more quickly and ought to be a near-perfect predictor of a stations presence

at dawn would be made

and

newer computers, establishing a partition of DOS-only programming and making the machine “dual

selection on the Shut Down menu. The rather small

486 machine called a Compaq Aero Contura that currently sells on the web for well under $100. With

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

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resource hog or two, it is possible to saturate even a much better machine than John’s. He puts more

USB to serial converters aren’t always very effective. A serial port is absolutely required in all current

kind of audio work with your DX-capable

Recorder and similar software, but

copies of the DX Radar program are available gratis from Nick Hall-Patch

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

use effectively as a dual class of computers or better. These are in the hands of people

where for well under $100. We would recommend buying a laptop that has at least 4 GB of storage

space and which supports USB or at least PCCMICA 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 sharing among ourselves.

Collectively, we are in disagreement as to just what level of machine to recommend. John is quite

happy with one of the non-$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
receiver control program in 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 286 MHz machine running Geoclock, ERGO, B-Log and some open ASCII software, butloading the PAL with AWR with 5 cautions loading the PAL with AWR hotel caused me 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 res-

soured is an item. Any day now” Guy’s dropping in a new PDF 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 DXpedition use should have a serial port, especially as the

USB port is not always very effective. A serial 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 essential. Stereo input capability is not the same thing. I visited Hank and 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 $35 e-hubs for a special for 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 be useful to many readers. We also hope that this article will help to locate other DXers who are applying new tools of technology to DXing to write similar articles for the hobby press.

John Vervoort Jr. - 217-79 Street - Brooklyn, NY 11209-3607

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 wave-

lengths known at the time. In truth, the REAL ‘shortwaves’ are more closer to the EHF band (30,000-

300MHz). 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 wave-lengths below and above 152m behave

differently. VHF-Low and VHF-High would be more proper than just plain “VHF”.

Joe Kureth - 2900 Uniontown Road- Uniontown, MD 21158-3533

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 longtime before the summer

storms but evidently someone thought it would be a better idea to recycle that thousand feet of copper

Cooper and Hank Holbrook. I visited Hank in the late 60’s at Herring Bay on the Chesa-

peake and believe he

I can hear co-channel splatter now! Haven’t updated the log for about 3 years so I have plenty ahead,

owings Mills, MD, along

to notice that opening since short lived WPVG-1160 (near hagerstown) has been off for about a decade!

total then was about 2650 heard (call changes not counted). Very sorry to hear the passing of Ernie

was

there 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 2250 kHz, it would be relatively easier using a variety of DX radar with each of the PNC

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 table “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)

Musings of the Members

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.