From the Publisher ... The thunderstorms are finally rolling across Topeka in late April, giving us some much-needed rain but also making DX'ing a challenge. It's still out there, though!

Experiment ... Fred Vobbe is conducting an experiment for his forthcoming All Radio Magazine that will deal with the quality and reception of AM station and needs a recording, from your DX location of certain selection. "The song will be "Nobody Does It Better" by Carly Simon, and it will be played on CHWO-740, Wednesday, April 30 between the hours of 9 pm and 10 pm," Fred said. Recordings can be sent in Mini Disc, CD, MP3 160 kbps or better/mono, reel-to-reel at 7.5 or 15 ips, or cassette, only if using a GOOD new tape (direct recording from radio tape; no mikes propped in front of a speaker, please). Sorry, no Real Audio files. "I only need the audio, starting about 1 minute before the start of the song to 1 minute after, so you can edit it down once it's recorded," he added. "I can't use any recordings where your recording starts after the song starts. I need the whole song. Now the hook. If you send in a recording that I can use, I will send you a WLIO "St Jude Children's Telethon" crew T-shirt!" Mail the recordings to Fred at the address on the back of DXN.

Fred added that any broadcaster who would like to repeat this test should contact him.

Radio Free Dixie ... Remember the politically-oriented Radio Free Dixie? It was a program directed to the American south via Radio Progresso, Cuba, on 690 kHz from late 1962 to 1966. Hans Johnson (hans@wavecom.net; 1108 14th St #183 - Cody, WY 82414.) is doing a research paper on it and is trying to determine how well it was heard in its target area. He is looking for logs, news, or summaries of QSL response for Radio Free Dixie. Very few loggings of RFD appeared in DX News ... I found only two and passed them on to Hans ... so he'll appreciate your help.

DX Time Machine
"From the pages of DX News:
50 years ago ... from the May 16, 1953 DXN: Lee Kruse, Dubuque, IA reported that as of May 6, 1953, there were 131 Construction Permits outstanding for new stations. He noted that he had logged every Missouristation with the addition of CF-lO1O on a special Easter broadcast.

25 years ago ... from the May 1, 1978 DXN: Ted Fleischer, Louisville, KY was looking for airchecks of beautiful music stations in AR, MT, W, and SD ... Chuck Hutton noted that the "78 WRTH had not lost its 'penchant for out of date LA news'; they listed Union Radio on 675 "where they have not been for an age or two' and didn't list many stations that had been on splits for years.

10 years ago ... from the May 3, 1993 DXN: The FCC announced a "filing window" for the Expanded AM Band, 1610-1700 kHz, from May 3 to June 30, 1993, with top priority going to AM daytime stations in markets over 100,000 population that have no fulltime AM or FM stations.

DXN Publishing Schedule, Volume 70

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pub. Date</th>
<th>28. July 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>27. July 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>30. Sept. 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LOC0 & NOVI : THE DX CATS by Bruce Conti

THE NRC CONVENTION IS OUT WEST IN TEXAS

THE IRCA CONVENTION IS DOWN EAST MAINE

WELCOME TO BIZARRO WORLD!
AM Switch

Jerry Starr  jerry@nrдерж.org
161 Fox St.  Hubbard, OH 44425-2122

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

CALL LETTER CHANGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old call</th>
<th>New call</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>650</td>
<td>WFLD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1060</td>
<td>KAHA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1220</td>
<td>WLLR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1550</td>
<td>KVAN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

| 840      | CA       | Modestia: 4000/1000 (4000 CH) U1 (modification of existing application) |
| 1100     | NV       | Las Vegas: 2000/600 U4 (competes with existing applications) |
| 1560     | WA       | Burbank: 5000/1400 (15000 CH) U7 |

GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

| 1490     | AL       | Level Plains: 400/400 U1 |

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

| 540      | WDAK     | Columbus: 5000/410 U2 |
| 580      | WTCM     | Traverse City: 3500/1100 U4 |
| 730      | WSCC     | Scarsdale: 5300/103 U5 |
| 1110     | KAOI     | Hilo: 5000/5000 U1 from new site (see 1570 below) |
| 1110     | WFEG     | La: Frankfort: 30000 (30000 CH) D1 |
| 1320     | WAGF     | Albert: modify CP to show 1000/92 U1 |
| 1440     | KBDB     | NV: Sparks: 1000/1000 U1 |
| 1440     | KTNO     | TX: Denton: 5000/350 U1 |
| 1440     | KTFW     | TX: Waco: modify Burleson, TX CP to show 5000/700 U4 |
| 1490     | "New"    | VA: Glen Allen: modify CP to show 6300/1900 U4 |
| 1570     | KJAU     | HI: Hilo: modify CP to show 5000/2000 U1; will share antenna with KAOI-1100 (see 1110 above) |

GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

| 1070     | WCZS     | SCS: 5000/1800 U4 |
| 1220     | KKAR     | NF: Omaha: 5000/5000 U4 |
| 1390     | WNOJ     | OH: Youngstown: modify CP to show 9500/4800 U4 |
| 1430     | KTEM     | TX: Temple: 950/950 U1 |
| 1430     | KCOH     | TX: Houston: 5000/1000 U4 |
| 1550     | WLOL     | AL: Huntsville: 5000/400 U4 |
| 1600     | WHEL     | AL: Huntsville: 5000/11 U1 (has application pending for 5000 D1) |

OTHERNESS

| 540      | KDFT     | TX: Ferris: CP for 1000/249 U4 is on |
| 660      | KNCQ     | NE: Omaha: CP for 1000/54 U1 is on |
| 900      | WOTW     | NH: Nashua: CP for 910/60 U1 is on |
| 920      | KTOC     | LA: Jonesboro: silent station is ON THE AIR |
| 930      | WLLL     | VA: Lynchburg: modified CP for 9000/42 U1 is on |
| 1050     | WRFS     | AL: Alexander City: CP for 1000/48 U1 is on |
| 1080     | WWFRD    | NC: Murfreesboro: CP for 930 D1 is on |
| 1100     | KCLV     | CO: Englewood: set to return to the air by the end of April; will keep this call and simulcast KNRC from 1150 to 1310 |
| 1160     | WYNX     | PA: Lehightown: silent station is ON THE AIR relay station WEXX-1230 |
| 1300     | WTLS     | AL: Tallahassee: CP for 1200/18 U1 is on |
| 1360     | KDJW     | TX: Amarillo: silent station is ON THE AIR |
| 1460     | KCOG     | ID: St. Anthony: SILENT pending granted move to 1420 kHz |
| 1450     | WDXR     | KY: Paducah: SILENT |

FS-2070

1510 WWBC FL  Coco: CP for 750 D1 from new site is on
1560 KEGG TX  Daingerfield: CP for 1500/6 U1 is on
1560 WQLB WI  Port Washington: CP to move here from Elm Grove, WI with 185/250 U4 is on
1610 CJWI PQ  Montreal: new station is ON THE AIR

THANKS: Bill Hale, Ed Krejci, Shawn Axelrod, Kermit Geary, Wayne Heinens, Patrick Griffith, Paul Crane, & Les Johnson

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

Confirmed

Greg Myers  tmyers01@tampabay.rr.com; gmyers@florida-digital.net

DX'er

P. O. Box 20112
St. Petersburg, FL 33742-0112

Your successes in obtaining QSL's and other station items

| 530      |       | Ft. Collins CO, Ft. Collins Office of Enter Management, prepared card in 6 days after a follow-up. V/s Mike Greg, Dire. (Wilkins—CO) |
| 600      | YNLQ  | Managua NICURAGUA, n/d e-mail in 1 day after an e-mail follow-up. No v/s. (Myers—FL) |
| 640      | WFNC  | Fayetteville NC, f/d prepared QSL sheet, report returned in 12 days after a 2nd follow-up. V/s Laura Price, News Dir/Branch Mgr. My 1000th station verified. (Myers—FL) |
| 740      | KDIR  | Phoenix AZ, prepared card in 7 days after a follow-up. V/s illegible. (Wilkins—CO) |
| 780      | ZVBI  | Tortola BRITISH VIRGIN IS, f/d card, letter in 6 wks. V/s Sandra Potter-VanWoman, OM. (Myers—FL) |
| 940      | CGJX  | Yorba Linda CA, f/d "CGX4" card, thank you card in 18 days. Returned enclosed $1.00. V/s Bryan Miera, Eng. (Griffith—CO) |
| 980      | KMJJ  | Grants NS, p/d letter, sticker in 7 days. U1 at this site is ON THE AIR. (Griffith—CO) |
| 1080     | KVMN  | Northfield MN, prepared card in 9 days after a follow-up. V/s PD. (Wilkins—CO) |
| 1130     | CKWX  | VLC, n/d letter, business card, key chains in 41 days. V/s Jacque Donaldson, News Dir. (Griffith—CO) |
| 1260     | KQJS  | Murray UT, confirmation on report in 10 days. V/s Jeff Rock, Dire. (Wilkins—CO) |
| 1270     | KRVW  | Claremore OK, f/d letter in 10 days after a follow-up. V/s Stan Stackner (NSOHM), GM. (Wilkins—CO) |
| 1480     | KQAM  | Wichita KS, letter in 2.5 months. V/s Cathy Bass, Entercom Radio (though station now has new owner/format). (Griffith—CO) |
| 1500     | KJIM  | Denison TX, prepared card in 9 days after a follow-up. V/s Bob Allen, GM. (Wilkins—CO) |
| 1510     | KFNN  | Mesa AZ, p/d letter, stickers, program guide in 9 days. V/s (Griffith—CO) |
| 1540     | KZMP  | Ft. Worth TX, f/d letter, sticker in 7 days after a follow-up. V/s Scott Savage, GM. (Wilkins—CO) |
| 1550     | KZQR  | Amarillo TX, p/d folding card, business card in 106 days. V/s Chris Knight, Marketing Mgr. (Griffith—CO) |
| 1560     | WPTN  | Daleville AL, n/d letter, sticker in 10 days. V/s Joe Adams, Owner. (Myers—FL) |
| 1610     | WAHT  | Clemson SC, f/d letter in 6 days. V/s "Jazzy" Jeff Bright, Station Mgr. (Myers—FL) |
| 1580     | WLIJ  | Lake City FL, p/d letter, stickers, coverage maps, MARINE covers in 6 days. V/s Nadine Hipkins, Owner/Mgr. (Myers—FL) |
| 1610     | WPX8555 | Clearwater FL, City of Clearwater TIS, n/d e-mail in 1 day for e-mail report. V/s Doug Matthews, Public Communications Dir. (Myers—FL) |

Contributors: Patrick Griffith, Westminster, CO; Greg Myers, Clearwater, FL; John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge, CO
DOMESTIC DX DIGEST

West: 4Domestic DX Digest 4
6124 Roaring Springs Drive - North Richland Hills, TX 76180-5552

PO Box 4014 - Clifton Park, NY 12065-0850

East: Ginnie Lupi ginnie@nrcdxas.org

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

DDXD-West

MEDIUM WAVE RAMBLINGS

- A ‘fair’ turnaround for this close to the end of the DX season. But then, some would say “...the season never ends...”

- Heard while stalking under the DDXD-West bleachers: “It felt so good to get back to the radio! I think I've been in a DX funk/stopper for at least a month. No desire to DX. Lousy conditions when I did. It really, honestly felt good to wake up, have three cups of coffee and DX with the band FULL of DX! SS was in on 580 and 660 and there was DX for the grabbing. An UNID on 1350 with a jingle that sounded like ‘CFBC Gold’ whets the DX whistle. Very good conditions. I’ll be at the balls again tonight!” - JJR-WI; “Maybe the 3 inches of unsalted snow has brought the DX back to life. Went out with Wayne McRae to wind up our antennas at the Vahalla DX site. Several were broken but we got all the wire back. Take time over the summer to repair them and get ready for next season.” - SA-MB; your comments fit here nicely. . .

- Results of the “challenges” keep coming in, which are welcome. But don’t push it, hi.

- Heard while stalking under the DDXD-West bleachers: “It felt so good to get back to the radio! I think I've been in a DX funk/stopper for at least a month. No desire to DX. Lousy conditions when I did. It really, honestly felt good to wake up, have three cups of coffee and DX with the band FULL of DX! SS was in on 580 and 660 and there was DX for the grabbing. An UNID on 1350 with a jingle that sounded like ‘CFBC Gold’ whets the DX whistle. Very good conditions. I’ll be at the balls again tonight!” - JJR-WI; “Maybe the 3 inches of unsalted snow has brought the DX back to life. Went out with Wayne McRae to wind up our antennas at the Vahalla DX site. Several were broken but we got all the wire back. Take time over the summer to repair them and get ready for next season.” - SA-MB; your comments fit here nicely. . .

- Results of the “challenges” keep coming in, which are welcome. But don’t push it, hi.

- Upcoming deadlines: Issue 26

- Upcoming deadlines: Issue 26

- Roaring DX Catches in the

- Ginnie Bill -

- Patrick Griffith Westminster Drake R-8 and Kiwa loop

- Don Kaskey San Francisco Drake R-8A - Kiwa Air Loop

- Paul LaFreniere Grand Marais McKay Dyneck DR22 & DA100; DX-398 and RS loop

- CR-IL Chrisigas Wood Dale Drake R-8, Quantum loop

- JRR-WI John J. Rieger South Milwaukee Icon IC-R75; MF-9598 tuner-preamp; GE Superadio III; Terr 1000 loop

- KR-AZ Kevin Reding Mesa KERRY unread <amfmrxd@fast.com>

- Ed-TX Editor North Richland Hills DX-398 barefoot

STATION NEWS & NOTER

KNOE LA Monroe - 4/8 - Now programming news/talk; ex: classic country. (100000 watts)

WFXN IL Moline - Now these calls (ex: WLLR), and Fox Sports Radio 1230; ex: C&W / Davenport's 103.7 FM. (Radio/DX Information from Wisconsin)

WLII IL Lincoln - 4/15 - Is now religious/Mood, simulcasting WLJU 89.7 Springield. (Radio/DX Information from Wisconsin)

KNRC CO - 4/8 - 1 received an email from the head guy at KNRC/1510 today. They said they expect the now-dark 1150 outlet to be back on the air by the end of the month. He said 1150 and 1510 would be simulcasting KNCR’s programming until a buyer is found for 1510. (PG-CO)

WTNI MS Biloxi - 4/10 - Has signed on. Format is talk, with Talkradio 1640 slogan. (various Internet sources) plus a couple of loggings . . .

REREPORTERS

BA-CO Brian Avery Fruita Sangean ATS-404 Receiver, Radio Shack 15-1853 Loop <vmms@msn.com>

RA-NV Rene Auvray Henderson GE P-2900A

SA-MB Shawn Axelrod Winnipeg Icon ICR-70/Dake R8/ICR-7000; 4-foot unamplified box loop/Quantum LS/Discone/145" outdoor wire/100" indoor wire/MFJ 1026 phasing unit <saxelrod@mb.sympatico.ca>

PG-CO Patrick Griffith Westminster Drake R-8 and Kiwa loop <AM-DXer@webtv.net>

DJK-CA Don Kaskey San Francisco Drake R-8A - Kiwa Air Loop <kaskeyfamily@yahoo.com>

PAL-MN Paul LaFreniere Grand Marais McKay Dyneck DR22 & DA100; DX-398 and RS loop <plaren@boreal.org>

CR-IL Chrisigas Wood Dale Drake R-8, Quantum loop <crigas@brr.com>

JRR-WI John J. Rieger South Milwaukee Icon IC-R75; MF-9598 tuner-preamp; GE Superadio III; Terr 1000 loop <johnnjr@webtv.net>

KR-AZ Kevin Reding Mesa CC Radio unread <amfmrxd@fast.com>

DS-TN Pleasant View (Nashville) <http://www.w9wi.com>

Ed-TX Editor North Richland Hills DX-398 barefoot

RUSH IS RIGHT.

The FINAL CC-KK-MM challenge results

KW1W UT North Salt Lake - 4/9 2325 - Fair-to-poor, with C&W. Great country. AM 700 - where the legends live on at 2330. Also promo for New K102. (BA-CO)

WWL LA New Orleans - 4/8 2237 - Poor, with SPT. Much QRM, quickly faded. I know this is a 50 kW powerhouse, but it was the first time I caught it out there. (BA-CO) [Happily accepted, hi - Ed.]

KTCX TX Dallas - 4/6 0800 - Initial fair, but quickly faded. Briefly heard 1D and sports scores. (BA-CO)

KTKZ CA Sacramento - 4/5 2125-2133 - Fair, with news. We're news - every 30 minutes. (BA-CO)


**REGULAR DX LOGGINGS (times in EST)**

**WEL0 MS**

Tupelo - 4/13 0645 - Poor, over an unID SS; with MoYL. Only one with this format on the frequency. (JJ-R-WI)

360 **KFXD ID**

Boise - 4/6 2303-2311 - Call ID - Classic Country. AM 630 KFXD. Announcements between C&W songs. Website announced about weather and traffic. Good, with some QRM. (RA-NY) [Note: this is correct city of KIDO along with its programming (news/talk) went to 580 (which is licensed to Nampa) while KFXD along with its programming (C&W) ended up on 630 (licensed to Boise) - Ed.]

650 **KGB WY**

Ochard Valley - 4/3 0004-0015 - Poor, with The Talk of Cheyenne. Ads for Rush Limbaugh and Paul Harvey. Also, AM 650 - KGB. (BA-CO)

**WJCE TN**

Memphis - 4/3 0640 - Poor, in WSCR slop, with Easy 680 WJCE and NOS. Rare! (JJ-R-WI)

710 **KNUS CO**

Denver - 4/7 0635+ - In and out, battling the KEEL/KCMO/KGNC trieteca, with news. Item about a youth in Colorado Springs being dismissed from a team for making a politically incorrect remark during a game; many K-News slogans and Denver references. New here. Pattern does not favor this location at all. (Ed-TX)

790 **KGHL MT**

Billings - 4/6 2325-2344 - Poor, with C&W. Great country classics - KGHL. Much QRM, eventually lost. (BA-CO)

880 **KHAC NM**

Tse Bonito - 4/6 0850-0902 - Good, with REL. Instrumental music followed by SNR News at 0855. Local weather, then Christian Radio - KHAC at 0900. Frequency is usually dominated by KVNR here, and could hear it underneath. (BA-CO)

930 **WBCK MI**

Battle Creek - 4/6 0725 - Fair - no WAUR. With calls and local news. (JJ-R-WI)

980 **WTSM DC**


980 **KJOX WA**

Yakima - 4/11 0200 - With ID at ToH. Heard only a KUSA ID. At 0358-0400 heard numerous KUSA calls given. Finally on 0400 after the last KUSA ID there was a quick KJOX cal;I given. Isn't KUSA a TV station in Denver? (DKK-CA)

1030 **WFGW NC**

Black Mountain - 4/3 0700 - Poor, with legal ID, and into possibly USA News. In with two or three others. (JJ-R-WI)

1050 **KTCT CA**

San Mateo - 4/6 0305 - With ESPN Sports program, under XEG. Apparently they are // to KNBR. (KR-AZ)

1060 **KFGX SD**

Pierre - 4/6 2215 - Initially fair, with C&W. ABC news and AM 1060, real country. KFGX ID. Faded at 2200. (BA-CO)

1100 **KFGX CA**

San Francisco - 4/7 0000 - Call ID mentioning ... a sale of Salem Communications. Sudden interference. (BA-CO)

1140 **KKNZ CO**

Grand Junction - 4/6 2131 - Fair with WTMN mulled. Local ads and 1D. News Radio AM 1100 KNNZ. New. (PAL-MN)

1140 **KCLE TX**

Cleburne - 4/6 2254 - Poor, with OLD. KELO ID at 2255 and 2300. Faded at 2305. This was caught just after local sunset, and an exciting catch as I'm assuming they still operate at only 715 Watts at night. (BA-CO) [You are correct, sir - Ed.]

1180 **KERI CA**

Wasco-Greenacres - 4/5 2059-2110 - Fair, with GOS. The Gospel Connection, and Because of you, we're making a difference. (BA-CO)

1390 **KEX OR**

Portland - 4/9 2255 - Poor, with news. News Radio AM 1130, KEX - Portland, Virginia. USA News at 2300. Abruptly lost just after that. (BA-CO)

1260 **KSUR CA**

Beverly Hills - 4/10 2220-2228 - Fair, with news. KSUH - home of the great American songbook. Am hearing NOS and now the K-SUR ID on 540. (BA-CO) [Yup. They are /// XEBACH - Ed.]

1260 **KOIT CA**

San Francisco - 4/6 0840 - Good, with NOS. KOIT - 1260 AM, 96.5 FM at (BA-CO)

1290 **KCRU AZ**

Tucson - 4/11 2209 - Fair, with Giants vs Dodgers baseball (7th inning). (BA-CO)

1380 **KSLG MO**

St. Louis - 4/12 0606 - Fair, with Sporting News Radio. No usual WONO. Used to be much more common as 13.8 KWI! I'm dating myself, huh! (JJ-R-WI) [Dating yourself! It's cheaper when you go to the movies that way, huh! - Ed.]

1380 **WLRM TN**

Millington - 4/7 0628 - Poor-to-fair, with two call IDs, one legal and one Love Power 1380, over unID SS which I chased for 17 minutes. (JJ-R-WI)

1430 **KNN CO**

Farmington - 4/11 2205 - Fair, with NWS. Jim Bohannon. Farmington’s News Authority. Lost at 2207. Much QRM by SS station. KJME? (BA-CO)

1430 **KLO UT**

Ogden - 4/6 0831 + - Good, with REL. American Health Radio Show, followed by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and The Spoken Word. KEZW underneath. (BA-CO)

1430 **KRDZ CO**

Wray - 4/6 0809 - Fair, with OLD. Music about time, and KRDZ - Good Time Oldies. (BA-CO)

1440 **WJL NY**

Niagara Falls - 4/3 0602 - Poor, with calls into oldie. Alone over mush. (JJ-R-WI)

1480 **WPFJ NC**

Franklin - 4/7 0709 - Fair, with weather, a local ad, and Raise and Praise Morning Show. REL. Last heard as WLTM. (JJ-R-WI)

1480 **KXLY IA**

Indianola - 4/13 0000 - Poor, with nice fade-up for legal ID. ESPN Radio 1490. Rare. (JJ-R-WI)

1490 **KOSR NE**

Omaha - 4/8 0600 - Faded up in a mess with full ID on the hour. NEW. (SA-MB)

1550 **CFPS ON**

Lonk Elgin - 4/13 0619 - Poor, but nice a CFGS jingle popped up out of nowhere, then back into mud. Nice visitor! (JJ-R-WI)

1590 **KADZ CO**

Arvada - 4/6 0815 - Good, with KID. Radio Disney also promoted on AM 1680, KIDZ. (BA-CO)

1550 **KOAD WA**

Vancouver - 4/7 0619 - Easily thru/over local KYCY from 2220-2245+ with Portland Beavers-Las Vegas baseball game. At 2230 noted for ads for Portland merchants and at 2241 an ID given between innings. This game also noted at same time on KENO-1460. Ex: KVAN. (DKK-CA)

1590 **KWOY CO**

Colorado Springs - 4/2 0930-0940 - Fair, with REL. This is KWOY, 1580, The Witness, and program The Preaching of Charles Stanley. (BA-CO)

1590 **WLJJ TN**

Shelbyville - 4/17 0706 - Fair, with very-accented jock with promo for an upcoming remote... here in Shelbyville, over others. (JJ-R-WI)

1590 **KVGB KS**

Great Bend - 4/10 2250-2310 - Good, with NWS. Jim Bohannon, ABC News (although promo’d some CBS-TV shows). This is AM 1590, KVGB, Great Bend. The toll of the town for over 60 years, and If we got you the news any faster, we'd be making it ourselves. (BA-CO)

1640 **WNTI MS**

Biloxi - 4/14 0606 - Poor, under tightly nulled WSKSH, with ABC News, ad, and weather. NEW! (JJ-R-WI)

1670 **KNRO CA**

Redding - 4/6 2245 - Tremendous signal with typical ESPN fare. All but disappeared at 2245 as power dropped from day to night levels in the middle of a commercial. This corresponds exactly to their prescribed FCC sunset time at 1945 PDT. (PG-CO)

**FRCY - AM 1560**

1714 Buddy Holly Ave.
Lonoke, Texas 72841

GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

Note this week, but remember all the GD DX records are on line at: www.angelfire.com/tk2/phant0m2/index.html

**DDXD-East**

We conclude this season’s DDXD-E Frequency Challenges with this issue. Many thanks to all who participated – watch this space for next season’s schedule!

Please note that Bruce Conti has graciously volunteered to edit the column for issue 7026, while I attend to personal business. Please send submissions to ME the way you always do. The deadline for the next issue is 9:00 Wednesday, May 7. This is a strict deadline ... anything I receive after that will go into the next column.

REPORERS

MKB-ON Mike Brooker, Toronto – Panasonic RF-2200; Grundig YB-400PE.

MC-NJ Mike Clancy, Jersey City – DX-396.

BC-NH Bruce Conti, Nashua – R8B, MDWX-5, 50/75/50-h east/west Double-Flange antenna.

FREQUENCY CHALLENGE – 1370 kHz

1370 WGOH KY Grayson – 4/2 1812 – Classic CW music, George Jones “He Stopped Loving Her Today.” "Go Radio, WGOH 13-70" Fair in WLTC null. (RR-NC)

WDEA ME Ellsworth – 4/4 1945 - Good; Boston Red Sox baseball on the WEI network with local WFEA nulled out. (BC-NC)
+ 4/7 0023 - ID'd as the "Downeast Radio Tradition". Into Kay Stafford, "You Belong to Me." (PG-MA)
+ 4/7 0434 - Loud way atop channel with NOS format and a couple of late 60's/early 70's soft rock tunes. Nice ID at 0438 "Serving the wonderful Downeast Area, a DownEast radio tradition, AM 1370 WDEA." (MD-MA)
+ 4/9 1900 - Good. Running nostalgia music with CNN news at top of hour. Call ID at top of hour. A sunset logging, rare for me. (DH-NJ)

WWLG MD Pikesville – 4/5 1834 – Very good, NOS. Local ads "Miller Motors Buick since 1932 in Baltimore." "Legends 13-70 W WLKG." (RR-NC)

WFEA NH Manchester – 4/3 1923 - Weather, then "The Music of Your Life, 1370 WFEA". (RJE-PA)
+ 4/5 0457 - Excellent; sign-on with open carrier, AP news at the top of the hour, and the Music of Your Life. (BC-NH)

WALK NY East Patchogue – 4/4 1841 - ID and into nostalgia music – "Your Favorites". (RJE-PA)
+ 4/5 0523 - Fair; "Weekends are special on 1370 WALK," and nostalgia/oldies with WFEA nulled out. + 4/5 1843 - "No matter where you are, at home, at work, in the car, the place for timeless classics, 1370 WALK." (BC-NH)

WELV NY Ellenville – 4/2 1723 - Ad for "Hudson Valley Help Wanted" and ID. (RJE-PA)
+ 4/5 1750 - Good; "WELV 1370" jingle, nostalgia, "WELV with the Music of Your Life at 1370," CNN Radio News. (BC-NH)
+ 4/11 0730 - fighting off 800-ft gorilla WSPD with instrumental MoYL song, ID as "the music of your life, WELV" into CNN special report on the war in Iraq. (MKB-ON)

WXXI NY Rochester – 4/2 1830 - NPR Promo and ID. (RJE-PA)
+ 4/9 0659 - over nulled WSPD with "this is NPR, National Public Radio" announcement at end of NPR program, “support for WXXI comes from...” into a long run-down of sponsors. (MKB-ON)
+ 4/7 0800 - Fair; NPR Morning Edition. "This is WXXI AM Rochester and WXXX.org," in WFEA null. + 4/13 0105 - Good; NPR news followed by the BBC World Service, well over WSPD and WDEA with WFEA off. New. (BC-NH)
+ 4/7 2357 - ID. Mention NPR. Promo for National Geographic program beginning at 5AM. Signal fading in and out under WDEA. (PG-MA)

WJCT NC Jacksonville – 4/2 1855 – Gospel music, then "Rejoice Radio 1370 and 1490." (RJE-PA)
+ 4/13 2259 - Over WXXI with ID "New 1370, 1490 and 94.7 FM." Mention of Aiken, SC. (PG-MA)
+ 4/14 0155 - Fair; "Rejoice 1370 and 1490 AM, and the new 94.7 FM, playing the best variety of Christian music for Georgia and the Carolinas, and urban contemporary Christian music, in WXXI null. (BC-NH)

WJKN NC Lillington – 4/5 1757 – presumed with SS announcer mentioning "Aquí en Norte Carolina." Good in fade of WLTC. (RR-NC)

WTAB NC Tabor City – 4/1 1738 – Religious programming, Tabor Church news, Hughes McDaniel Towar Co. ad. "Here at WTAB." Dominant daytime signal at Myrtle Beach on 1370. Power reduction promptly at 1800. (RR-SC)
+ 4/5 0620 - Fair; sign-on with vocal national anthem. "We're AM 1370 WTAB Tabor City-Lords" and C&W music. New. (BC-NC)
+ 4/6 0629 - Sports, followed by "This is the North Carolina News Network...WTAB 1370." Don't know why this one was missing until the last moments of the challenge as it's not that rare here. (RJE-PA)

WSPD OH Toledo – 4/2 1830 - "Newsradio WSPD" ID mixing with WXXI. (RJE-PA)
+ 4/2 2039 - good with ad for John Deere in Maumee during Indians baseball. ID: "From Washington to the war front, get ready for the latest info on 'News Radio 1370', WSPD". (JF-ON)
+ 4/5 1900 – major dominant pest with top of hour ID: "When you need to know, depend on news radio 1370 WSPD Toledo" into news, leading off with suspected local cases of SARS. (MKB-ON)
+ 4/5 0459 - "Newsradio 1370 WSPD" in ad string heard through WFEA open carrier. (BC-NH)
+ 4/8 2129 – Michael Reagan Show, "Million dollar Nokia giveaway on WSPD." Nighttime regular here. (RR-NC)

WWCB PA Corry – 4/5 1140 - fair over WSPD on east wire with oldies, "Power 1370, WWCB" slogans. (JF-ON)

WPZP PA Pottstown – 4/2 1730 - My 20-mile local with program promo and ID. (RJE-PA)
+ 4/5 0700 - "You're listening to one of America's great radio stations, 1370 WPZP Pottstown" in late sunrise skip pileup with WFEA null out. + 4/5 1140 - Philadelphia Phillies baseball under WELV. (BC-NH)

WKMC PA Roaring Spring – 4/4 1200 – another frequent pest with "WKMC Roaring Spring – Martinsburg – Altoona" top of hour into AP news. (MKB-ON)
+ 4/5 1295 - Brief ID during break in Altoona Curve minor league baseball "on the Altoona Curve Radio Network" – which neither I, nor, apparently the team (per its website) knew existed. (RJE-PA)

WDEF TN Chattanooga – 4/5 2212 "Your home for Atlanta Braves baseball, ESPN Radio 13-70 WDEF." Regular night time signal. (RR-NC)

WBTN VT Bennington – 4/11 1705 - Poor; heard "Education at Vermont State Colleges" report in WFEA null, then back in briefly at 1738, "Hello to Williamstown, Hello to North Adams... Thanks for listening," through WELV. New. (BC-NH)

WHEE VA Martinsville – 4/3 1900 - Full signoff announcement followed by slow SSB by a brass ensemble. (RJE-PA)

WVLV WV Moundsville – 4/2 1841 - Ad for West Virginia Tech, ID and talking follow. First time with this call. (RJE-PA)
+ 4/6 1958 – over WVLV with "WVLV Dining Guide...a look at some of our finest eating establishments in the Ohio Valley", plugging Prime Rib Night, every Wednesday at the Esquire Supper Club. (MKB-ON)
+ 4/7 0055 - fair; call ID popped up after top of hour, under a station carrying Radio America network programming. Thanks to Barry McLarnon's DX tip. (DH-NJ)

UNID ___________ 4/5 1900 - Orchestral SSB only heard. Only even remote possibilities were WREGS-TN, WLOV-GA and WHGC-CA. (RJE-PA)

PRESUMED AND UNID

960 UNID ___________ 3/31 1959 – Black gospel heard faintly in CHML null. (MC-NJ)

1410 WPQOp CT Hartford – 3/31 2029 – presumed with NY Yankees game. (MC-NJ)

1700 WJCCp FL Miami Springs – 4/7 2045 - presumed over KTBI at times with lively SSB. Tropical music. Not SSB/REL as per NRC Log. (JF-ON)
+ 4/15 2019 – presumed with SSB pop vocals, though they didn't sound particularly Christian, fading in and out over computer-generated static. (MKB-ON)
STATION LOGGINGS

590 KOMJ NE Omaha - 4/5 2352 - strong with NOS music, "Magic 590" slogan, "CNN Special Report" on war in Iraq. (JF-ON)

600 WMT IA Cedar Rapids - 4/5 2331 - good with several "News Radio 600, WMT" mentions, into "Dow Jones Weekend Money Report". (JF-ON)

900 WMAC GA Macon - 4/3 0130 - News Talk 940 slogan, ABC news. (JR-NY)

1000 WIOO PA Carlisle - 3/31 1848 - good with classic C&W, ID "Country Gold 1000, WIOO plays all of your favorites", Johnny Cash song. (JF-ON)

1070 WINA VA Charleston - 3/16 1827 - station rose out of classical music, with a PSA for animal shelter (phone 434-973-5995), then ID: "you are listening to central Virginia's station for news, weather, sports... 1070, WINA." Then it faded back into the music. (MC-NJ)

1080 WNWI IL Oak Lawn - 4/8 0125 - "Greaseman Show", IDing as WGO! 700 and WNWI 1080. Strong in WTBIC null. Had a DC traffic report, so probably originally aired during the day. (JR-NY)

1110 WJSM PA Martinsburg - 4/6 1920 - AM-FM ID by woman with many others, "WJSM AM-FM Martinsburg". Religious format. (HJH-PA)

1120 WSMO NC Camp Lejeune - 3/28 1801 - poor under WMNY with classic C&W music, quick ID at top of hour. New on this frequency, ex-1580. (JF-ON)

1150 WCRK TN Morristown - 3/30 1850 - fair mixing with CKOC running oldies. ID "The Heartbeat of Hamblen County, Hometown Radio, WCRK". (JF-ON)

1170 WCRI NY Mineola - 4/6 2106 - Very good at times with coverage of Lady Vols vs. Duke Basketball. "Today's Lady Vols basketball brought to you by WCRK and Morristown Utilities Group..." (HJH-PA)

1180 WNLR VA Churchville - 4/6 1945 - Signoff at this time, mentioned that station is owned by Neonlight Ministries and presence of 2500 watts. "Join us tomorrow as we lift up the name of the Lord." (HJH-PA)

1290 CJBK ON London - 3/26 2231 - "News/Talk 1290 CJBK" ID. "Hooked on a Feeling" into "Coast to Coast AM" with George Noorie. Signal fair/poor fading in and out of interference caused by local WADO-1280. (MC-NJ)

1350 WLRM TN Millington - 4/1 1952-2000 - good at times over CKPC with end of REL program giving web address "power1380.com" (which I tried without success), ID at top of hour "It's 7 PM on Power 1380, WLRM, Millington". New! (JF-ON)

1390 WHMA AL Anniston - 4/1 1959 - alone with "WHMA Weather", nice 75-degree temps vs. Milwaukee Brewers baseball game: "the station where the Cardinals all-time favorite.." Nashua.

1400 WRCI MI Battle Creek - 4/4 2303 - poor in jumble with one clear ID heard: "It's 11:03 on WRRC, time for local, state, and national news..." Ex-WKNN for me. (JF-ON)

1450 WCEV IL Cicero - 3/27 2043 - fair with Chicago Area Community Calendar. (JF-ON)

1460 WASK IN Lafayette - 3/27 2048 - faded up with old LD music, ID "Cool Oldies WASK, Number One Oldies Station." Only 2nd time here. (JF-ON)

1545 WMFJ FL Daytona Beach - 4/1 1900 - poor with end of REL program, clear ID: "This is your inspirational station, WMFJ, Daytona Beach". Not a GDYX data, even though it is 997 miles away. New! (JF-ON)

1470 WMBD IL Peoria - 4/15 2059 - in line of bricks with ID during St. Louis Cardinals vs. Milwaukee Brewers baseball game: "the station where the Cardinals always play, news radio 1470 WMBD Peoria." (MKB-ON)

1520 KOLM MN Rochester - 4/12 0100 - fair under very dominant WWKB. Sports talk about Augusta National before 0100, then into "Sports Overnight America" with Matt Johnson. USA Radio Network news at top of hour. Thanks once again to Barry McLarnon for the posting to the DX tip list. My identification of this station rests on web research that KOLM is the only Sports Overnight America affiliate on this channel. Presumably on day power of 10kW. New. (DH-NJ)

1560 WTNY NY Mineola - 4/13 1957 - Signoff after religious service. Was in well but soon overaken by WWKB. (HJH-PA)

1560 WATJ OH Chardon - 4/6 1856 - with Sporting News Network program, call letters, WJQW phased. Now with these calls. (JR-NY)

1580 WCWB IN Connersville - 4/14 0020 - fair in a jumble. ID'd as "100.3 WIFE" then into a local ad, then back into the mush. Also heard two clear ID's from WVKO, a relug but not typically heard. Thanks to Barry McLarnon and Perry Crabill for getting me to listen to this channel. New. (DH-NJ)

1640 WTNJ MS Biloxi - 4/11 0030 - fair to good at occasional peaks. Carrying Jim Bohannon show and ABC news at top of hour. City and call at bottom of hour. Thanks to Barry McLarnon's DX tip; he's apparently the first to log this one. WKSH of or open carrier. (DH-NJ)

1700 KTBK TX Sherman - 4/7 2046 - good with WJCC with PSA for The Medical Center of Plano, ID "You're listening to Bruceie Roughrider's baseball on 'The Ticket', KTBK AM 1700", back to the game. (JF-ON)

1620 WNTK490 NY Mattydale - 4/12 0735 - fair in WDNH phase null with call ID, then traffic info and driving tips given. New! (JF-ON)

1630.1 WMMS NY Riga - 4/14 1020 - "WMMS Radio 1630" tape loop from the Mill Seat Landfill, female announcer with "Safety Awareness Week" promo and 10 mph speed limit reminder. The first "M" in the call letters may refer to Monroe County which operates the landfill. Very poor ten miles away where I live in Byron, but should pin the 5-meter at my church, where the landfill is now a prominent landmark on the near horizon. Someone out there ought to be able to come up with a cogent comment about the uses that AM radio has descended to. How about: "Ilimbaugh produces it, Millseat accepts it?" (JR-NY)

Professional
Barry S. Finkel
bsfinkel@ANL.gov

Sports Networks
10314 S. Oakley
Chicago, IL 60643-2409

Network listings for team sports stations

Texas Rangers (EE) 2003
Eric Nadel, Vince Corotomo
Texas Rangers (SS) 2003

Is this the 2003 list?
1220 KVML-TX 1 1400 KVRP-TX
95.9 KBTX
600 KTBB-TX 1 1230 KSST-TX
1410 KCLU-TX
97.1 KVRP-TX
690 KPET-TX 1 1240 KASO-LA1
1430 KESX-TX
710 KCNC-TX 1
1450 KQFF-OX
98.3 KASZ-TX
740 KCJM-TX 1
1490 KRUI-NX
KCBX-TX
760 KTRK-TX 1
1260 KSSA-TX
1450 KJBC-TX
99.9 KOOG-TX
930 KDET-TX 1
1270 KESS-TX 9.5
1540 KGBC-TX
100.5 KDET-TX
950 KJTV-TX 1
1290 KWFS-TX
1550 KCOM-TX
1009 KICX-TX
1000 KTKO-OX 1
1300 KFLO-TX
1560 KQZQ-TX
1019 KACQ-TX
1080 KRLD-TX 1 1320 KVVM-CX
1590 KAGS-TX
1043 KAGS-TX
1090 KKKX-TX 1
1330 KSWA-TX
1600 KOGT-TX
1051 KWMN-TX
1140 KCLE-TX 1
1370 KICE-TX
92.3 KCLU-TX
1063 KAUJ-TX
1060 KZNE-TX 1
1380 KBWTD-TX
94.3 KSEY-TX

Tiger Blue Jays (EE) 2003
Tom Cheek, Jerry Howarth, Mike Wilner

As of March 10, 2003

560 CFOS-ON
900 CHML-OX 1070 CHOK-OX
1310 CIWW-TX
570 CKGL-ON 960 CFAB-CB
1190 CSLF-SK
1190 CYJL-SK
590 CJUN-ON 990 CFPL-ON
1210 CFYL-SK
1490 CFPS-ON
600 CKAT-ON 1240 CKRU-OX
1570 CKMW-MB
690 CKNZ-CN 1040 CKST-BG
cjrf@ANL.gov

Need more information about AM DXing?
Mail a First-Class stamp to NRC Publications - P. O. Box 164-Mannsville, NY 13661-0164 and ask for the NRC Publications Catalog.
**International DX Digest**  
Bruce Conti  
arcidax@aol.com  
46 Ridgefield Drive  
Nashua, NH 03062-1174

**Transatlantic DX**  

**ALGERIA**  
Tipaza APR 13 0515 - Fair despite a killer buzz with Mid East type music and female vocals. I guess the Irish station was not yet back on the air as no sign of it. [Dangerfield-PA] See International News.

**ITALY**  
Rome APR 12 0508 - RA1 Uni fair with a man in Italian. [Dangerfield-PA]

Ben: Speaks: I am reporting primarily to stay in touch because there has been almost nothing of interest here in recent days. The few openings have been to the high end of the band with such as 1521, 1557 and 1575. Below that very little and at the low end a terrible buzz noise that comes on promptly at 1645 each day and ruins the LW band and the MW band to some extent into the middle 800’s. I am again trying to contact my friend at PECO electric in hopes of tracing it or maybe pinning it to the electric company. Now while I tend to agree with you that the DX season never ends I still maintain that the TA season always slows down to almost nothing come the end of April and doesn’t pick up until the end of August or early September. In fact I would say that from last September to the middle of April there have been less than a half dozen decent openings and I could say the same for LA’s. But I’m going to try and be optimistic.

**Pan-American DX**  

**TURKS AND CAICOS**  
R.Vision Cristiana APR 14 0247 - Usual man’s passionate voice in preaching noted in passing at a decent strength, but through heavy computer interference. [Chiochiu-QC]

**COLOMBIA**  
HIJA R.CN Barranquilla APR 14 0247 - News report about drugs. A fadng, but listenable signal. [Chiochiu-QC]

**CUBA**  
CMKV R.Rebido, Urbano Noris APR 13 0326 - Man in Spanish with “Deportivamente” sports comments. Very good with a usual trace of CKAT. [Chiochiu-QC]

**CUBA**  
R.Progreso APR 13 0324 - Radio Progreso ID in mess with a poor WNNZ. No sign of Guadeloupe, the usual dominant Caribbean station on this channel. [Chiochiu-QC]

**CUBA**  
R.Progreso, Chambas APR 13 0330 - “La onda del alegría” and “Ritmos” mentions, then music. Strong and initially very clear with WLS easily nulled, but two minutes later huge splatter from local-like W CES on 880. There was no nearly to all at using the Sandy receiver, but the Phillips is more sensitive in the 800-1000 kHz range and is the radio I used the most while DXing this station. [Chiochiu-QC]

**HAITI**  
Port-au-Prince APR 8 0040-0153 - Tentatively this, based on the known off-channel frequency, the religious program, and what sounded like French talk. Jean Burnell and I heard this in Newfoundland in November, and Barry McLaron has heard traces of it in Ottawa. 1029-93 may not be the exact frequency, but it’s the best place that I was able to hear the signal in LSB through WBZ. There was one instrumental hymn that I know as “Alegria, Sing to Jesus.” Radio Guinen has a website, but it seems dedicated to e-sales (nothing to do with Hait). The list of Haitian stations on the official government web page shows this one as being on 1050, similar to the WRT4T. Thanks to Barry for reporting this one. Too bad that I don’t have a wire aimed south at this time. [Renfrew-NY]

**MEXICO**  
XESO Cdm. Obrégon, SON APR 12 1203 - Instrumental national anthem, then ID at 1205 “…en la música banda, XESO La Coqueta presenta…” A program of banda music followed, with canned slogans after each song. No ads noted during 1203-1220 monitoring period, and possibly no live announcements either; just music and slogans. Generally fair, mixing with KSAL and KDEF. First time heard, XE #191 and Sonora #32. Got enough for a good taped report. [Wilkins-CO]

Bogdan speaks: Conditions were very poor toward Cuba and no Venezuelans were heard at all. Also 750 kHz only very weak traces of WSB. Still, I heard something for that late in the mediumwave DX season.

Conti responds: Solar activity has been dropping significantly over the past few weeks, which would explain the reduction in Latin American signals received in Montreal and elsewhere. Correspondingly transatlantic reception seems to be picking up in intensity especially from the Middle East. 1521 Saudi Arabia has been huge before 2305 sign off, well before local east coast US sunset.

**Contributors**

Bogdan Chiochiu, Montreal QC; barefoot Sanyo MCD-5850 and Phillips portable. <acq@videotron.ca>

Ben Dangerfield, Wailingford PA; R8A, four slopers, DXP-3A phaser. Kiwa loop backup. <ben-dangerfield@worldnet.att.net>

Jim Renfrew, Byron NY; Drake 88, Quantum Phaser, longwires. <renfrew@localnet.com>

John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge CO; Drake R-8, 4-tube box. <peakbagger3@juno.com>

**International News**

**ALGERIA**  
1485 noted silent, all other Algeria transmitters heard well in the daytime. [Tim Bucknall, APR 10 via WMC E-Mail News]

**IRELAND**  
1705 Norwegian Time I note that currently RTE Radio One is blasting through with a strong signal on the Drake SFR-4 at 252 kHz with a +9dB above 0 signal in parallel to Tallatmore 567 kHz. Algeria Chaine Trois notable below. Good to hear 252 again. Wish RTE welcome on LW and all success to them. [Svenn Martinsen, Western Norway, APR 14 via arn@nrcdxas.org]

**ITALY**  
RA1 is back on 846 kHz. Heard on 7 APR at 1700 UTC. [Karel Honzik, Czech Republic, via MWC E-Mail News] It’s again on the air today 10 APR at 1145 UTC. The transmitter is testing at 75 kW to allow for RF level measurements. [Fabrizio Magrone, Italy, via MWC E-Mail News] 846 was taken off the air due to electromagnetic pollution health concerns. Italy has been a leader in the investigation of health effects of long term exposure to high RF levels. Similar concerns resulted in reduced power and operating schedules for R.Vaticanas medium and shortwave outlets.

**MADEIRA**  
915 Porto Santo is silent. 1485 Fuchal is silent, and so is its FM relay on 96.0 MHz. 603, 1017, 1332, and 1530 kHz are operating normally. [Tim Bucknall, APR 10 via WMC E-Mail News]

**Musings of the Members**

Dave Schmidt  
P. O. Box 3111  
Scranton, PA 18505-0111

Sian Mons - Lakeshore Road - Boxford, MA 01921

I guess I’m 62/79, an NRC member since 1941 and have all DX NEWS in two trunks marked for delivery to KON MUSCO in the future. Am rather inactive, listening every now and then but not reporting. 4000+ stations verified; best 3 or 4 varieties are WIN-1584 Morocco, Radio Saba, China-1521 and WGBY-1450 Guantánamo. Am still farming full time as I have done when I joined and have to keep at it another year or two, get tired out easier and no more 16 hour days but still at it 7 days a week.

Dave Schmidt - P O Box 3111 - Scranton, PA 18505-0111

Here’s an idea to keep Musings going through the spring/summer months, send in a report and give us a recap for your DX doings for the past season. Heard something unusual? Receiver problems? Antenna work that you’ve done that has improved reception conditions? Let us know! I was recently called with a problem with a station in Albany and when returning the call, I ended up on the air with JR at WKRD, and naturally went into working in radio stories with him. JR and myself worked at a number of stations around the Philadelphia/Wilmington area before he left the area and put his time in all over the country, where I opted for staying around the same place (until moving up here 5 years ago). My first job at WVCH-Chester, PA were at the studios right in front of the Scott Paper factory, where a huge water tank was painted up as a display of the product they were famous for. Maybe someone was trying to tell me what I was in for in 1967 when I started! And figuring it out (as Stan did above), I’m 59/52 with the NRC. Thanks all for your support for 80 years and please keep sending your reports in! We’ll have a good one from HERBERT NEWBERRY, JR. next issue! 
WKBZ
By Phil Boersma

Muskegon, Michigan is a small city on the shores of Lake Michigan. Located almost directly across the lake from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Muskegon began in the 19th century as a lumber town; when that economy faded, Muskegon became a manufacturing and chemical center. After World War II, the city slowly faded as many "Rust Belt" cities did. During the last decade, Muskegon has begun to reinvent itself as a tourist and recreation-oriented location.

WKBZ was Muskegon's first radio station. It was put on the air in Ludington, Michigan in 1926 by Karl Ashbacker and his son, Grant. It operated on 1500 kc, with 1500 watts (later increased to 2500). The economic ravages of the Great Depression made operation in Ludington impossible by 1934. In that year, the Ashbackers moved WKBZ 50 miles south to the larger city of Muskegon, which had no local radio station. WKBZ began broadcasting from Muskegon's Occidental Hotel in the fall of 1934, still on 1500 kc, with 100 watts. In 1941, the frequency shifted to 1490.

In 1946, WKBZ began broadcasting from Muskegon's Occidental Hotel in the fall of 1934, still on 1500 kc, with 100 watts. In 1941, the frequency shifted to 1490. In 1947, WKBZ received permission to move to 850 kc, with 1000 watts directional day and night from a new transmitter site about 3 miles south of Muskegon, on Pontiacs Road. WKBZ utilized a four-tower "dogleg" pattern with a sharp null to the west to protect KOA. Main power lobes went north and south, with a small lobe to the southeast.

WKBZ established itself in the post-war years as Muskegon's premier "adult" radio station, playing what was then known as "good music" (later called "middle of the road"). While teens listened to Top 40 on WTVR-1600 (which began in 1955), their parents almost all listened to WKBZ. WKBZ also boasted the biggest, most active news department in the market, giving it the reputation as "Muskegon's local radio station.

WKBZ updated its music in the late 1970's, becoming "adult contemporary", but its news department retained the station's dominance in that field into the early 1980's. That decade revealed the first signs of trouble for the station.

WKBZ acquired an FM around 1980. Actually licensed to Whitehall, a small city 15 miles north of Muskegon, WKBZ-FM was also a Class A, and its 3,000 watts was too small to allow the FM any sort of market dominance. Between 1985 and 1994 WKBZ went through three sets of owners, with profits continually shrinking due to increasing competition. Tinkering with the format also began, and by 1993 WKBZ-AM was all talk, carrying syndicated fare such as Rush Limbaugh.

In late 1994, the station's then-current owners decided they had enough, and donated WKBZ AM and FM to Grand Valley State University for a hefty tax write-off.

Grand Valley State (GVSU) already owned noncommercial NPR affiliates WGVU AM (1480) and FM (88.9) in the Grand Rapids market. GVSU's original plan in 1995 was to convert WKBZ AM and FM into relays of WGVU's noncommercial programming. Congressional funding cuts for public radio torpedoed that idea. Instead, GVSU decided to keep the commercial formats of WKBZ AM and FM and use the station's profits to fund WGVU's noncommercial programming and television, which were experiencing growing pains.

GVSU intentionally bled the WKBZ stations, cutting its news department from three people to one. Much of the "local news" began to be items simply rewritten out of the previous night's newspaper. Other staff cuts also were instituted, but GVSU could never get WKBZ to be very profitable. In 1996, GVSU gave up and sold the stations.

The buyer was a local company, WLC Broadcasting. WLC (the initials of the company's principal investors) also bought another station in the market, WQWQ-1520. The company had big plans for the three stations.

WKBZ-AM retained its talk format, while WKBZ-FM shifted from soft rock to urban contemporary, and WQWQ was changed from nostalgia to gospel.

Within a year, WLC Broadcasting began showing signs of financial difficulty. WKBZ-AM lost the broadcasts of the Detroit Tigers because WLC was unable to pay the fee demanded by the baseball team and its flagship station, WJR.

By the end of 1997, WLC saw its local high school sports broadcast team defect to a competing station. And in 1998, the station lost Rush Limbaugh, the centerpiece of its talk format, because it could no longer afford the fees his syndicator demanded. Rush was replaced by another talk show featuring an unknown host but which was provided free to the station.

In the summer of 1998, WLC Broadcasting declared bankruptcy. Under Chapter 11, the company would be allowed to keep its three stations, reorganize, and receive debt relief. A new general manager was appointed, and hopes were raised that the company might make it.

WLC was supposed to file a new business plan under the bankruptcy, but it never did. After the 120-day deadline expired, the court stepped in.

WLC was forced to give WKBZ AM and FM to its principal creditor, Grand Valley State University. WLC was allowed to keep WQWQ.

This time, with more federal funding available, GVSU did what it had wanted to do three years previous: WKBZ AM and FM were changed into relays of WGVU AM and FM. Shortly thereafter, GVSU jettisoned the historic WKBZ call letters, and 850 AM and the FM became WGVU-AM and WGVU-FM.

WLC had moved the commercial talk format to WQWQ-1520. When the WKBZ call letters became available, they were snatched up for the 1520 station. In effect, WKBZ had been moved to 1520 AM, which was an inferior facility, particularly at night. Originally built as WJKR in 1969, the 1520 facility utilized a three-tower directional pattern with 10,000 watts during the day. But at night, the station had to cut its power to 100 watts and use a highly restrictive, nine-tower directional pattern which did not adequately cover the market.

By mid-1999, WLC thought it had found a buyer for WKBZ-1520. The station was sold to Harbor Pointe Entertainment, a local real estate/entertainment company owned by two Muskegon-area brothers. The brothers also at about the same time inked an agreement to buy WCXT-FM, a powerful 100,000 watt FM based in Holland, Michigan but which covered Muskegon with a "city-grade" signal. Harbor Pointe poured money into both stations, building new studios and upgrading equipment. WKBZ even got Rush Limbaugh back. For a while, it looked like WKBZ's troubles were over.

But then the roof fell in again, after only a few months. Harbor Pointe turned out to be a financial shell game (one of the two brothers was later convicted of several crimes in relation with the operation of Harbor Pointe). The company defaulted on payments, forcing WCXT's original owner to take back the station in the fall of 1999. By the end of the year, WKBZ's employees found their checks bouncing, and the station's utilities were shut off several times due to non-payment. WKBZ was off the air for two days at a time in December, 1999 and January, 2000.

Bankruptcy court stepped in. With court supervision, WLC Broadcasting (then in Chapter 7 bankruptcy, meaning its assets were being sold off) was allowed to keep the station. WLC operated WKBZ with a skeleton crew and a few short-term loans for the rest of the year 2000. WLC was supposed to sell the station as soon as possible, but for a year no buyer stepped forward.

By January, 2001, WLC thought it had found a way out: the station was to be leased to Disney Corporation. A deal to air "Radio Disney" 24 hours a day on WKBZ was signed in mid-January, and on the 17th of that month, all WKBZ employees were fired, and WKBZ was turned over to "Radio Disney", who would pay a fee to WLC Broadcasting for use of the station.

Still more problems emerged, however. WKBZ's 1520 facility had two aging transmitters, a 10,000 watt one for days and a 1,000 watt one for nights. Both were at least 30 years old in 2001 and had suffered from engineering neglect for much of the previous decade. The 1,000-watt transmitter died early in 2001, forcing WKBZ to operate (illegally) on its 10,000 watt daytime pattern 24-hours-a-day by the time the "Radio Disney" deal was inked.

But after a few weeks of airing "Radio Disney" around the clock, the also neglected 10,000-watt transmitter failed as well. It was catastrophic failure, not able to be fixed. Disney gave up and cancelled the lease deal, and WKBZ remained off the air after March, 2001.

Time had run out. WLC Broadcasting dissolved, no one wanted WKBZ, and the transmitters were beyond repair. The bankruptcy court stepped in. WKBZ was to be sold to the first person or company which offered any reasonable money for the property.

In early 2002, the WKBZ property was sold to a developer. The area around the station was being rapidly developed, and the developer wanted the land for a condominium project. The WKBZ property was sold to the developer, who received approval from the local government for the condos. Construction began in late 2002, at which time the WKBZ studio/transmitter buildings were razed, along with the nine towers. By the end of the year, the FCC had cancelled WKBZ's license under the "use it or lose it" provision for being off for more than a year. WKBZ officially died, after 76 years of existence.