

DX News

Serving DX'ers since 1933



Volume 71, No. 8 - November 24, 2003 (ISSN 0737-1659)

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CPC Test Calendar
WILM DE 1450 Dec. 14 0105-0300

From the Publisher ... Don't miss Andy Ooms' article (serialized in this and following issues) on '50's Radio ... if you enjoy taking a trip down memory lane. And even though you might have missed entering the NRC Contest in October, you still have plenty of time to join right in, as the point spread isn't all that daunting.

This is the week that I warn you that, next week being interrupted by Thanksgiving, #9 might be late if our hard-working printer is not able to deliver DXN to me by Wednesday evening. So don't panic if your DXN doesn't show up on time as it usually does (we hope).

Welcome to this new NRC member ... Nick Cucco: Columbia Station, OH.

DXN Publishing Schedule, Volume 71

Iss.	Deadline	Pub. Date	Iss.	Deadline	Pub. Date
9.	Nov 21	Dec. 1	20.	Feb. 13	Feb. 23
10.	Nov. 28	Dec. 8	21.	Feb. 20	Mar. 1
11.	Dec. 5	Dec. 15	22.	Feb. 27	Mar. 8
12.	Dec. 12	Dec. 22	23.	Mar. 12	Mar. 19
13.	Dec. 26	Jan. 5	24.	April 2	April 12
14.	Jan. 2	Jan. 12	25.	April 16	April 26
15.	Jan 9	Jan. 19	26.	May 7	May 17
16.	Jan. 16	Jan. 26	27.	June 4	June 14
17.	Jan. 23	Feb. 2	28.	July 2	July 12
18.	Jan. 30	Feb. 9	29.	Aug. 6	Aug. 16
19.	Feb. 6	Feb. 16	30.	Sept. 10	Sept. 20

DX Time Machine

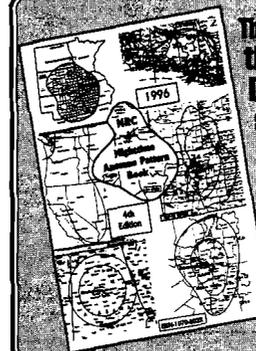
From the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the November 21, 1953 DXN: On the morning of Nov. 8, Relfe Luton, Elizabeth City, NC reported hearing 2KO-1420 and the same program on 4BK-1290, but 3 minutes behind, evidently tape-recorded.

25 years ago ... from the November 27, 1978 DXN: Both Myron Grey, in Atlantic Beach, NY, and Mike Sapp, Woodbridge, VA, were offering Hammarlund HQ-180's at \$350 each; Mike was also offering a Collins R-390A/URR and a Drake SPR-4, each for \$425.

10 years ago ... from the November 22, 1993 DXN: Offered for sale in this issue of DXN were John Hanz' Drake R8 for \$760, shipping from Old Bridge, NJ included; and Hugh Montgomery's KIWA loop, to be delivered from Bethel, OH for \$260.

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



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

Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13881 (NY residents, please add sales tax)

AM Switch

Bill Hale w_r_hale@sbcglobal.net
6124 Roaring Springs Drive
North Richland Hills, TX 76180-5552

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

CALL LETTER CHANGES

	<u>Old call</u>		<u>New call</u>
770	WZCM	GA Young Harris	WYHG
1150	WBPS	MA Boston	WTTT
1160	WYRU	NC Red Springs	WTEL
1290	WJBR	DE Wilmington	WWTX
1320	WRJS	AL Birmingham	WZZK
1480	WRDW	GA Augusta	WGUS [Correction from Issue 3]

NEW STATIONS ON THE AIR

1640	KMMZ	OK Enid	New station on with U4 10000/1000. Pattern is a slim figure 8 with lobes aimed at 160 and 340 degrees. Format reported was Music of Your Life-type, but overnight talk was heard here.
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GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

540	WDAK	GA Columbus	The grant covers a reduction in night power, a different night pattern from two towers (ex: three), and a move of the transmitter site. When built, they will be U2 5000/410 at N32-25-49 W85-03-58.
1430	KROO	TX Breckenridge	This action reduces day power and moves to new site with 315' tower. Will be U1 640/17 at N32-47-32 W98-56-24.
1500	KDFN	MO Doniphan	They will take down one of their two towers and reduce the daytime power to 1000 Watts (from 2500), to become D1 1000/0 CH 1000.

CPs ON THE AIR

1430	KTbz	OK Tulsa	Increase day power to become U4 25000/5000. Also, an adjustment of their coordinates to N36-14-12 W95-57-19.
1560	KOCY	OK Del City	Move transmitter site about 26 miles northeast to a site on the west side of I-35 south of Oklahoma City and west of Del City at N35-26-27 W97-29-24. Remains U2 1000/250. Their former transmitter site was on the outskirts of Chickasha.

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

1560	KZIZ	WA Sumner	Back in Issue 2 an item reported this as applying for U12 5000/2400. Well, add CH 3300 to that. My error.
1570	WGSR	FL Fernandina Beach	Licensed for U1 10000/30, they have an application pending to change to U4 50000/7000 at a new site, plus change the city of license to Orange Park. This amendment changes the application to read U4 50000/3300 at yet another new site, again with Orange Park as CoL. Also, this station had requested a call change to WNNR, but the 90-day implementation period has passed so the change has been set aside.
1620	WBUB	AL Atmore	Has a CP to move to Gulf Breeze, Florida. This application asks to change the transmitter site and lower the tower height from 250' to 180'.

ENGINEERING AMENDMENTS TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS SUBMITTED

850	WFTL	FL West Palm Beach	Has a CP for U4 50000/24000 at a new site. This application adds a 50000 Watt CH operation, which would make them U13 50000/24000 CH 50000 at N26-32-30 W80-44-30.
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APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL ACCEPTED

1130	WACQ	AL Carrville
1370	WBYE	AL Calera
1450	WDLK	AL Dadeville
1470	WCLA	GA Claxton
1500	WKIZ	FL Key West

1580 WILA VA Danville

KGGF THE VOICE OF THE
MADIO CIRCLE

COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS - 67337

ODDS AND ENDS

- ❑ As reported last Issue, WHOW-1520 in Clinton, Illinois is back on the air, although the latest word is they are 'testing' only. An article in the Bloomington, Illinois Pantagraph says they are temporarily operating with 3000 Watts and are working to get back up to their licensed 5 kW. If you hear old Armed Forces Radio Network feeds of the Grand Ol' Opry featuring Minnie Pearl, Little Jimmy Dickens, etc. on 1520, chances are it's WHOW.
- ❑ CKCQ-920 Quesnel, British Columbia has asked the CRTC for permission to leave the AM band for FM. Their proposed new station would be on 100.3 MHz with 1800 Watts at 64 meters, or metres if you prefer, hi. CKCQ-920 would be simulcast the FM programming for a period of three months from the date of implementation.
- ❑ **Tim Hall** sends a question concerning the recent call letter change of the 1590 in Victorville, California to KRSX. Tim says these calls were those used on very low power 'pirate' station in the Victor Valley on 660 kHz and asks if the 1590 facility is now a 'legal' version of the 660 station. Any readers from the "High Desert" care to comment???
- ❑ WPHC-1060 Waverly, Tennessee's tower was taken down (actually dropped rather than disassembled) November 4th and a truck was seen in the parking lot most likely loading up the equipment. The land has evidently been sold to build a new Super Wal-Mart and the station will most likely not return. It had evidently been relaying WQSE-1030 White Bluff over a very bad phone line and the studio building was virtually abandoned the last few years.
- ❑ A tip of the old AM Switch Stetson this week goes to: **Shawn Axelrod, Steve Branch, Wayne Heinen, and Jerry Starr.**

NRC Contest

Eric Conchie

P. O. Box 695 /nrccontests@hotmail.com

Tweed, ON K0K 3J0 Canada

An annual DX contest which encourages DX'ing and offers prizes

As you can see from the header above, we have a new NRC Contest manager in Eric Conchie, who's primed and ready to go to work sifting through the onslaught of mail bearing contest entries (yes, I just announced on the DX Audio Service that DXAS members are eligible for the NRC contest, so be ready for anything, Eric!). And how about some Canadian and other non-USA members joining in the fun? Frankly, if I were in it only for the prizes, I'd move to Andorra and start doubling up in points on all my catches!

Here are the standings so far:

*Wayne Heinen	.....	Aurora, CO	.....	141
Garret Wollman	.....	Framingham, MA	.....	44
Nancy Johnson	.....	Billings, MT	.....	25
Mike Clancy	.....	Jersey City, NJ	.....	12
David B. Jones	.....	Springfield, TN	.....	10

*Indicates NRC Board of Directors member who is contesting just for the fun of it and declared himself to be ineligible to win a prize (how sporting of you, Wayne!)

I somehow get the feeling that all of the above contesters are just getting started, so this contest is still wide-open for anyone to join in.

Remember, the next deadline for entries is December 5, and your letter's postmark will determine whether or not you've met the deadline. You should be sending in only catches after October 31. You can enter at any time, so get those entries in to Eric for the next phase of the NRC Contest -Paul Swearingen, temporary NRC Contest manager, thanks to Eric.



**For NRC members only ...
Membership certificate, \$1.00**

Suitable for framing; red and blue print on white stock. Suitable for framing. Order "CERT" from the NRC Publications Center - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661. NY orders, please add sales tax.

Domestic DX Digest

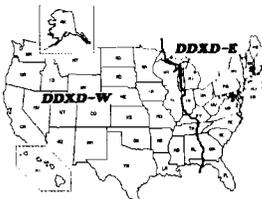
West: Harry Helms ak6c@earthlink.net

1901 Rio Canyon Ct. #205 - Las Vegas, NV 89128-2708

East: Ginnie Lupi ginnie@nrcdxas.org

PO Box 4014 - Clifton Park, NY 12065-0850

(Division line is
between East and
Central time zones)



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

DDXD-West

RANDOM STUFF

- Muy zowie, campers!! All sorts of stuff this week! New stations testing, including a new X-bander! KNX has a silent period and prepares to turn on IBOC! Details below!
- Ready for more frequency challenge action? Let me have your loggings for 780 kHz by November 25 and for 820 kHz by December 3!
- Do you have a copy of the 24th edition of the NRC AM Log yet? If you're an active DXer, you **must** have one! In recent weeks, I've received some contributions with the wrong calls, etc., that are clearly based upon using an older version of the Log or a less reliable source (like the WRTH). Station calls, cities of license, and other items change with great rapidity these days, and that's why the latest edition of the log is an essential DXing reference. Hey, the holiday season is coming up, and the 24th edition of the Log makes an ideal gift. . . . even if only to yourself!
- Your loggings will look good here! Please follow the format you see below, including *all* pertinent information—frequency, call (see rant above!), state, city, date and time of reception, and details of your catch. All times are in ELT, no matter what your local time zone.

REPORTERS

- BD-WI Bob Dvorak, Madison. Drake R8B, Quantum QX Pro loop.
 BK-CA Bob Karchevski, Sunnyvale. Drake R8A, two longwires, MFJ-1026 phaser.
 DS-TN Doug Smith, Pleasant View (Nashville). Receiver, antenna.
 GH-OK Glenn Hauser, Enid. Some type of radio. (Visit www.worldofradio.com!)
- KR-AZ Kevin Redding, Mesa. Kenwood R-1000, 60-foot wire, Grundig S350 "Volksradio."
 PG-CO Patrick Griffith, Westminster. Drake R8, Kiwa loop.
 PL-MN Paul LaFreniere, Grand Marais. Realistic 12-656A.
 SB-IL Steve Branch, Champaign. Radio Shack DX398, GE SuperRadio III, Radio Shack loop.
 WH-CO Wayne Heinen, Aurora. Drake R8B, N/S flag and a E/W flag, SuperPhaser II, and a few random wires.
- Ed.-NV Ye Editor, The Fertile Valleys. Drake R8B, Sony ICF-2010 w/Kiwa filters, Q-loop/phaser, etc.

FREQUENCY CHALLENGE RESULTS—720 kHz

- 720 KDWN NV Las Vegas. 11/11 1929-2031. Michael Savage call-in talk show (CITS). At 1930, a KDWN voice ID. Then signal strength dropped suddenly—pattern change? I phase-nulled KDWN but only hear white noise. (Local sunset 2000) (BK-CA) 11/9 0046 with Pete the part time guy giving a phone number of 283-8255 for call in. Usually dominant here or fighting with XEVU from Mazatlan, Sinaloa. (KR-AZ)
- 720 WGCR NC Pisgah Forest. 11/8 0700. Good w/sign-on about 20 seconds late. (DS-TN)
- 720 WRZN FL Hernando. 11/9 0700. Very good with ID "WRZN Hernando, Ocala, and Lady Lake," into CNN news. NEW. (DS-TN)

STATIONS TESTING!!

- 840 ???? ?? ?????? 11/12 1245-1325. Signal consisted of two pairs of tone pips repeated endlessly. One pair I'll call A/B with B being slightly higher in frequency (pitch) than A and the other pair A/C with C being slightly lower in pitch than A. The time from A to B or A to C is about 0.1 seconds (100ms). The time from B to C is about 3.3 seconds and the time from C to B is about 4.5 seconds. Would this be the new station destined for Modesto? (BK-CA)
- 1520 WHOW IL Clinton. 11/1 1522. Formerly silent local (36 mi.) noted testing with "All Night

Long" by The Eagles and "Don't Let Him Go" by REO Speedwagon. Initially, power seemed to be 5 KW, appeared to switch to 1KW CH (critical hours) power at sunset. They continued to run overnight and into Sunday 11/2 with old Armed Forces Radio Network feeds of the Grand Ol' Opry; Minnie Pearl, Little Jimmy Dickens, etc. At mid-morning on 11/2, still appear to be running 1KW CH antenna mode. No IDs noted. If they keep this up, could be a good DX catch! (SB-IL)

- 1640 KMKZ? OK Enid. 11/14 1039. Per Glenn Hauser's DX Listening Digest, this new X-bander is now testing with a satellite-fed "Unforgettable Favorites" format (Johnny Mathis, Carly Simon, etc.) including some network feed commercials but no local IDs and pauses/dead air of up to two minutes. As Glenn notes, this is directional NNW/SSE and may test at night with 10 KW. (GH-OK) Go get 'em! And be sure to visit Glenn's site at www.worldofradio.com and support the site via Paypal! (Ed.-NV)

STATION NEWS, NOTES, CHANGES, ETC.

- 1060 KRCN CO Longmont. 11/10 1558-1600. Off the Wall Street Network programs to Radio Colorado Network; ID now using these new calls for 1060 and ABC News. (WH-CO) 11/9 2000. ex-KLMO. TOH ID "This is KRCN Denver, Boulder, Longmont, flagship of the Radio Colorado Network. KKYD Colorado Springs, Pueblo; KSKE Vail; KDMN Buena Vista, Salida." ABC News and the Debra Ray program. (PG-CO) Hate to see the KLMO call retired; this station was my best SSS catch (under KYW) when I lived in SC. (Ed.-NV)
- 1070 KNX CA Los Angeles. Per several posts to the American Broadcast DXers e-mail list (moderated by NRC's own Kevin Redding; amfmdx@fastq.com), KNX is now installing equipment for IBOC and should be on the air shortly. While KNX's IBOC will be daytime only, listeners to the east may be able to hear the IBOC "digi-hiss" on 1060 and 1080 at sunrise (SRS) and sunset skip (SSS). (Ed.-NV)

UNID/HELP REQUESTED

- 1640 UNID ?? ???? 11/11 0358. Coast to Coast AM talk show under KBJA most of the time but occasionally on top. Does anyone carry this on 1640? I'm suspicious that this may have been an artifact from nearby KHOW. (PG-CO)

REGULAR DX LOGGINGS (times in ELT)

- 810 KXOI TX Crane. 11/6 2202. Call sign ID in SS and SS:REL programming. Nice Au Cx. (WH-CO)
- 830 KPLS CA Orange. 11/6 2151. Sports program promos, call sign, and "Hot Talk 830" slogans, no sign of WCCO in Au Cx. (WH-CO)
- 960 KGKL TX San Angelo. 11/5 2345. "You're listening to KGKL, San Angelo's home for Classic Country." New and over KKNT a local. (KR-AZ)
- 980 KFWB CA Los Angeles. 11/6/ 2139. Fighting with KRTX, no sign of usually KMBZ in Au Cx. (WH-CO)
- 1070 KNX CA Los Angeles. 11/9 0300. I laid down in bed and put the headphones on and KNX had turned the carrier off, then heard XEOBS for a little while. Had the carrier on/off then nothing for a while. I fell asleep to awaken to Arrow 93.1. It was pretty cool to hear music on KNX. I can't say if they were on in AM stereo because I was using the S350. Thanks to David Gleason for the announcement. (KR-AZ) 11/9 0311. Noted off for system maintenance. At 0326 carrier returned and someone was heard tapping on an open mic followed by "KNX, KNX Los Angeles testing". Carrier was on and off several times throughout the next 2 hours. During several periods the programming was a simulcast of Arrow 93.1 (KCBS) with a classic rock format. ID at 0343 was "Arrow 93.1, the best classic rock" followed by the song "Cocaine." (I hope someone reported them to the FCC for playing that song! Ed.-NV) A few seconds into the song the audio faded down for a "KNX Los Angeles" ID. Thanks to David Gleason for the tip on this maintenance period. (PG-CO)
- 1090 KVOP TX Plainview. 11/3 0659-0700. SNR sports talk; legal ID "KVOP Plainview, the Mighty 1090" into ABC news. Fair signal. New. (BD-WI)
- 1160 KRDY TX San Antonio. 11/2 1857-1858. Radio Disney Programming, quick legal ID by a child "KRDY AM 1160 San Antonio." Fair signal. First time heard with these

- calls, ex-KENS. **(BD-WI)**
- 1190 **WHIY AL Moulton. 11/3 1756-1801.** UC Gospel music, slogan "Huntsville's Heritage Station," joint legal ID with WEUP 1600, locally produced news "The 5:00 Report." Poor. New. **(BD-WI)**
- 1220 **KJAN IA Atlantic. 11/8 0700.** Poor with promo by Lance Armstrong for program "at 5:25 on 1220 KJAN Atlantic." New. **(PL-MN)**
- 1240 **KDGO CO Durango. 11/11 0700.** Presumed; out of the mess came "You're listening to Colorado's News Talk, K...." and dropped out like a rock. There is no other station in CO on 1240 I know of running this format. **(KR-AZ)** Since I'm a big fan of "list logging," Kevin, I'd just go ahead and count it. **(Ed.-NV)** And for those who need such clarification, the preceding comment was a "joke." **(Ed.-NV)**
- 1320 **KRLW AR Walnut Ridge. 11/9 2200.** End of OLD song and full ID messing with KOLT. First time for me and the old cassette player lunched and I didn't get the tape! **(WH-CO)**
- 1320 **KOLT NE Scottsbluff. 11/9 2200.** ESPN SPT to full ID. **(WH-CO)**
- 1420 **WJUB WI Plymouth. 11/11 0700.** Top of hour (TOH) ID by sultry voiced female with "1420 AM The Breeze" slogans. WI news. New. **(PL-MN)**
- 1510 **KAGY LA Port Sulphur. 11/8 1851-1859.** Ads for businesses in Morgan City, Lockport and Raceland. ID by a man: "Now more of that swamp pop music on the Louisiana Swamp Pop Network, KAGY 1510," followed by some unique music. Poor but alone on frequency with no sign of usually dominant WLAC. New. **(BD-WI)**
- 1540 **KGBC TX Galveston. 10/29 1857-1900.** EWTN programming. Legal ID, including station schedule: EE "Global Catholic Radio" 5AM-9PM CST, SS "Radio San Juan Diego" 9PM-5AM. Contributions solicited through a League City TX address, followed by program "Catholic Practice." Poor but readable in null of much weakened KXEL and during auroral conditions. New. **(BD-WI)**
- 1560 **WGLB WI Elm Grove. 10/29 2052-2103.** UC Gospel programming, legal ID "Your home for Incredible Gospel music, AM 1560 Elm Grove-Milwaukee." This station, at a distance of 66 miles, is very difficult to hear in the daytime due to WTUX 1550 splatter and at night due to WQEW and WPAD interference. Tonight with strong auroral conditions, it was fair and all alone on frequency. First time heard with this city of license (COL), ex-Port Washington WI. **(BD-WI)**
- 1580 **KRZI TX Waco. 11/4 2050.** Sports programming and break with call sign ID. Haven't heard this in ages. **(WH-CO)**
- 1660 **KQWB ND West Fargo. 11/11 0329.** Strong at times. Heard ad for fargojobs.com. **(PG-CO)** "Fargo Jobs" sounds like a character in a David Lynch movie! **(Ed.-NV)**

DDXD-East

Saul Chernos (Ontario, Canada) writes: "I talked with Monte Passmore, the engineer at KTFH 1680 (WA), regarding my reception of Mexican Ranchero-style music reported as an UNID in Issue 7107. Passmore confirmed that KTFH has a Ranchero format, so I am convinced I heard the station, given the various peculiarities of reception that morning." Wow, Saul, great catch!

As conditions continue to improve (we hope), here are a few reminders for reporters and would-be reporters: (1) Please try to follow the reporting format you see here. Your volunteer editors aren't professional typists, so the less editing we have to do, the better. Email me if you need help with the format. (2) Always try to ID a station by its call sign, not a slogan. Please make sure your NRC AM Radio Log is current and that you update it with information from the DXN "AM Switch" column, so your call signs are up to date. (3) Please do not duplicate your loggings - report a station once per season, regardless of how many times you hear it. Thanks to all for your attention to these things!

Our "Clear Channel" DX Challenge continues with the following schedule into 2004:

- 780 kHz - Listen November 19 - 25, due November 26
 820 kHz - Listen November 26 - December 2, due December 3
 830 kHz, Listen December 3 - 9, due December 10
 840 kHz, Listen December 10 - 23, due December 24
 880 kHz, Listen December 24 - December 30, due December 31
 890 kHz, Listen December 31 - January 6, due December 7



REPORTERS

- WB-FL** **Walt Breville, Lake Wales** - Grundig 700 and Radio Shack Loop.
MKB-ON **Mike Brooker, Toronto** - Grundig YB-400PE, Panasonic RF-2200.
MC-NJ **Mike Clancy, Jersey City** - DX-396.
BC-NH **Bruce Conti, Nashua** - R8B, MWDX-5, 50/75/50-ft east/west and south Ewe antennas.
PC-VA **Perry Crabill, Winchester** - Drake R8, Kiwa Loop, 100' wire.
MD-MA **Marc DeLorenzo, Marstons Mills** - JRC NRD-525, Noise-reduced slopers, Mini DXP3 phasing unit, Quantum Loop.
HJH-PA **Harry Hayes, Wilkes-Barre** - Trans Oceanic, Kiwa Pocket Loop.
BDM-ON **Barry McLarnon, Ottawa** - NRD-525, 1 m air-core loop, 40 m inverted-vee, MFJ-1026.
WM-TN **Willis Monk, Old Fort** - Sony STR-3800.
AO-FL **Al Ogrizovich, Jacksonville** - Crane Radio Plus and Justice loop.
DY-DC **David Yocis, Washington** - R8B, Kiwa loop.

CLEAR CHANNEL CHALLENGE - 720 kHz

- 720 **WRZN FL Hernando** - 11/11 0608 - ID "Like a warm summer breeze, WRZN," followed by a Dean Martin song "You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You." WRZN is about 90 air miles from me, with a weak to fair daytime signal. No sign of WGN which makes it here weakly on widely scattered occasions. **(WB-FL)**
- WGN IL Chicago** - 11/7 1813 - Good; "Radio 720 WGN," the WGN Weather Channel forecast, traffic, and talk. **(BC-NH)**
- + 11/8 2100 - VERY weak during a lunar eclipse. Could hear a Cuban on top of WGN. Was hoping for Jamaica, but no luck. **(WM-TN)**
 - + 11/9 0100 - in about as well as can be expected given brutal conditions (i.e. fair-to-poor), with slogan "Chicagoland's news and talk radio, 720 WGN" into "WGN weather channel forecast" and local news. **(MKB-ON)**
 - + 11/11 1858 - "This is Chicago's News and Talk, Radio 7-20, WGN, Chicago. We're the Tribune's Broadcasting Station; that tone means it's 6 o'clock." **(PC-VA)**
- WWII PA Shiremanstown** - 11/6 1150 - Religious program with pastor discussing the Prophet Isaiah. "The Rock, 7-20 on your AM dial ... AM 7-20, the Rock, WWII, Shiremanstown-Harrisburg." **(PC-VA)**
- + 11/8 1730 - Good; promos for religious programs with "AM 720, The Rock" mentions, then sign-off with ID, "This is WWII Shiremanstown-Harrisburg, a Hensley Broadcasting station," leaving WGN in clear with CHTN nulled out. **(BC-NH)**
 - + 11/12 0600 - Apparent sign-on with sudden appearance of "AM 720 The Rock, WWII Shiremanstown-Harrisburg", into SRN news, good over WGN. **(BDM-ON)**
- CHTN PE Charlottetown** - 11/7 1607 - Good; local information update, "Rocket Radio 720 CHTN" ID in reference to sports coverage, "Hello Canadians, this is Paul Harvey. You know what the news is. In a minute you're going to hear the rest of the story," and Good Time Oldies. **(BC-NH)**

PRESUMED

- 1430 **WXKSp MA Amherst** - 11/9 0800 - With Studio 360. PRI Radio mention and also WRNX 100.9. Good but with fades. This seems to be all NPR now. I thought at first that it was WPLN-TN, which is still needed here. **(HJH-PA)**

STATION LOGGINGS

- 540 **WWCS PA Canonsburg** - 10/17 2155 - Three promos: October prize of the month; code word of the day; and story of the day. Followed by ID by child: "AM 540 WWCS, Canonsburg/Pittsburgh." Signal fair, then disappeared soon after ID. **(MC-NJ)**
- 580 **WTAG MA Worcester** - 10/17 2031 - Ad for Webster Five Bank followed by promo for Glenn Beck Show on "Newstalk 580-WTAG." Signal fair to poor. New. **(MC-NJ)**
- 690 **WTIX LA New Orleans** - 11/8 1730 - Ads, promo for Tulane football, ID, into Tulane football show, good signal. **(DY-DC)**
- 730 **WLIL TN Lenior City** - 11/3 2030 - C&W, "Serving east Tennessee for 8 years, WLIL 730 Lenior City." **(WM-TN)**

- 750 WSB GA Atlanta - 11/3 2040 - promo for "BIG DOG" contest, ad for Ed Horn Honda, Georgia lotto numbers, ID as "News Talk seven fifty WSB Atlanta". Back to Hawks game at 2044. (WM-TN)
- 770 WABC NY New York - 11/3 2104 - ABC news followed by promo for Shawn Hennessy Holiday Party, for details see www.WABC.com. ID given as "Newstalk radio 770, WABC, New York." (WM-TN)
- WTOR NY Youngstown - 11/10 0135 - on all night with open carrier, effectively blocking WABC. Not the first time they "forgot" to cut their carrier after sign-off. (MKB-ON)
- 780 WBBM IL Chicago - 11/3 2100 - ID as "WBBM new radio 780, Chicago". Then into CBS news. (WM-TN)
- 800 WLAD CT Danbury - 10/27 2039 - With KCLW reportedly on reduced power for antenna system work, this one rising briefly above the jumble with ad for Connecticut bank, call ID, into NFL pre-game show. (DY-DC)
- 810 WEDO PA McKeesport - 11/11 1620 - Ad for Ponzio International Travel in Pittsburgh, then back to Radio Italia show, good over null'd WGY. (BDM-ON)
- 910 WABI ME Bangor - 10/28 2230 - In auroral conditions, surprised to find this atop with NOS, "9-10 WABI" ID, into CNN news on the half-hour. The CNN news mentioned the strong aurora then in progress! (DY-DC)
- WNHV VT White River Junction - 11/11 2200 - ESPN radio, several IDs as "ESPN The Score 910 and 1230," call ID on the hour for WNHV and WTSV-1230, fair but consistent in the mix. (DY-DC)
- 960 WHYL PA Carlisle - 10/17 2043 - "Frankie and Johnny" followed by ID: "All-request Friday lunch hour... on 960-WHYL." Signal fair to poor with interference from another music station. (MC-NJ)
- 1160 WYLL IL Chicago - 10/31 2029 - Sermon, invitation to the preacher's church in Chicago, jingle with call letters, promos with many "11-60 WYLL" IDs, good and atop. (DY-DC)
- 1180 WJNT MS Pearl - 11/1 0110 - Heard CW ID repeated several times at 0110 EST. WJNT call letters repeated several times and sent at about 5 words per minutes. Again at 0150 EST I heard CW ID, also sent at 5 wpm. The call WJNT was sent 10 times. (WM-TN)
+ 11/1 0104 - DX test, "WJNT" in code, and Bruce Williams talk. Fair to good signal. (AO-FL)
- 1200 WOAI TX San Antonio - 11/7 0300 - Coast to Coast till 0330 then promo for FM station Soft rock 101.9. ID as "San Antonio's news talk and weather station, WOAI, AM twelve hundred." (WM-TN)
- 1240 WPAX GA Thomasville - 11/7 0430 - "... the music of your life, WPAX, Thomasville." Then fade into QRM on 1240. (WM-TN)
- WWWC NC Wilkesboro - 11/7 2240 - USA Radio news, promo "Celebrating 9 years as your favorite station," ID, mention of web site, "3WC," southern gospel music, good and atop. (DY-DC)
- WGVA NY Geneva - 11/11 1747 - dominant (possibly forgetting to cut day power) with promos for www.fingerlakes1.com web site, the Finger Lakes News Network (of which WGVA is a member), and the Geneva Wegman's great turkey giveaway. (MKB-ON)
- 1250 WHNZ FL Tampa - 11/5 2200 - "Radio 1250 WHNZ and WDAE (?) 1430, Tampa's sports radio." CBS news followed by Tampa area weather then ad for Yahoo.com. (WM-TN)
- 1260 WNXT OH Portsmouth - 11/5 2220 - "Tune in every Saturday morning for...(faded). Right here on WNXT Portsmouth", then C&W song. (WM-TN)
- WTJH GA East Point - 11/7 0110 - Black gospel music with ID, "WTJH AM 1260 East Point-Atlanta." Back into gospel music. (WM-TN)
- 1290 WTKS GA Savannah - 11/7 0000 - Coast to Coast till 0000, then ID, "Savannah's newstalk WTKS 1290" and into ABC news till 0005. (WM-TN)
- 1300 WNQM TN Nashville - 11/7 0600 - End of John Hagee program and ID as "WNQM Nashville Quality Ministries." (WM-TN)
- 1340 WTRN PA Tyrone - 11/10 2000 - Rising slightly over the jumble with "on 1340 WTRN Tyrone-?", into AP news. New. (BDM-ON)
- 1420 WRCG GA Columbus - 11/4 2300 - ID "Columbus' news talk station WRCG 1420." Then into ABC news. (WM-TN)

- 1430 WGFS GA Covington - 11/4 2230 - Promo for a home repair show on Saturday morning then ID, "WGFS-Covington." (WM-TN)
- 1450 WCTC NJ New Brunswick - 11/1 2230 - Mostly alone with "Home Improvement Radio" with talk about patio doors. Promo for show with Gov. McGreevy. (HJH-PA)
- 1480 WJFC TN Jefferson City - 11/4 2210 - Bluegrass music, ID given as "Your home town radio station WJFC, Jefferson City." Followed by big band music, Glenn Miller at 2212. New. (WM-TN)
- 1520 KOMA OK Oklahoma City - 11/7 0528 - fair to good with AP News and "KOMA-1520" liners. (AO-FL)
- 1530 WENG FL Englewood - 11/7 0600 - Good TOH ID, ABC News and plenty of spots for local sponsors, then into USA Network Daybreak show. (AO-FL)
- 1570 WNTF FL Bithol - 10/28 1922 - fair old school urban contemporary music. IDs at "WNTF Bithlo/Orlando". (AO-FL)
- WNST MD Towson - 10/31 2305 - Weak w/interference from WCLE. Sporting News Radio programming. Slogan, "Baltimore's Sports Talk". (HJH-PA)
- WCRL AL Oneonta - 11/3 0250 - oldies rock 'n roll, "WCRL Oldies 1570 Oneonta." ID at 0300. WCLE Cleveland (for once) on their night power. (WM-TN)
- 1450 WXRS GA Swainsboro - 11/1 1926 - Full ID. Weak to fair w/others. Ad for GA Bulldogs paraphernalia (HJH-PA)
- 1640 WTNI MS Biloxi - 11/6 2240 - Fair atop channel with news features, ads, and frequent IDs as "Talk Radio 1640 WTNI." No trace of usual dominant WKSH in auroral conditions. (MD-MA)

Professional

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Sports Networks

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Network listings for team sports stations

Here is some NBA information. All of the pages on the www.nba.com web site have "DO NOT REPRODUCE", so I cannot compile any network lists. If you find any lists not on that web site, please let me know. Here are pointers to two lists for this season and one for last season.

Portland Trail Blazers (via Patrick Roberson)

http://www.nba.com/blazers/news/Radio_Broadcast_Listing010816.html
1150 KKG-TWA broadcasts the games in SS.

Utah Jazz (via Art Blair)

<http://www.nba.com/jazz/broadcasting/broadcasting.html>

Charlotte Hornets (via Art Blair)

http://netscape.nba.com/hornets/news/radio_buzz_2002.html

This is the 2002/2003 season list; I could not find a current list on this web site.

The NRC AM Radio Log, 24th Edition,
including cross-referenced listings from 530-1700 khz., is compiled from both listeners' reports and official sources, making it the most accurate listing of U. S. and Canadian AM stations available. Unbound, three-hole punched for standard binders. \$19.95 to U. S. members; \$25.95 to U. S. non-NRC members; to Canadian members, \$23.00 (\$29.00 to non-NRC members). Airmail to members in western Europe (except Italy) and Australia, New Zealand, and Japan: \$29.00. All others contact us for exact prices. Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax).



International DX Digest

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

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Next Frequency of the Week Challenge deadlines: 760 kHz - Nov 20, and 780 kHz - Nov 27, and 820 kHz - Dec 4. Let's get some reports in while we can, before the domestic DXers go to the regional or graveyard channels with the weekly challenges.

Frequency of the Week: 720 kHz

- 720 **JAMAICA** RJR Innswood NOV 12 0020 - Poor; Caribbean-accented English parallel an equally poor 700 kHz signal, under WGN with CHTN nulled out, auroral conditions no more. [Conti-NH]
- 720 **VENEZUELA** R.Oriente, Porlamar NOV 11 2210 - Briefly over WWII with sunset enhancement; sports talk in Spanish. By the time WWII signed off, WGN was already becoming strong, the total opposite of last week's record-breaking solar activity when Venezuela was dominant by far. [Conti-NH]

Transatlantic DX

- 1521 **SAUDI ARABIA** BSKSA Duba NOV 11 0145 - Good; man in Arabic, interspersed with chanting and lots of dead air. Ramadan extended hours for sure, about an hour before local Saudi sunrise. Hammering WWKB on my mini van's stock radio and whip. Nice to see conditions returning after the party on the Sun. [Taylor-NB]

Brent speaks: I was returning from a meeting on Monday night and, as usual, tried a few of the regular splits that I can hear with my locked, detented to 10 kHz, car radio. The Saudi signal was about even with WWKB at 0130, but in the following 15 minutes rose to almost kill the het from 1520; it was that loud. Other hets were noted in the top of the band. Internal electrical noise prevents the radio from hearing well below 1000 kHz so I'm not sure if the low stuff was in.

Great circle bearing from Saudi Arabia to me is 58 degrees, which is an east-northeast path. The Saudi signal was very "bouncy" with deep fades and huge peaks at two or three second intervals. The signal would clobber WWKB; a few seconds later even the het would be almost gone; then the station would come back just as strong as before. I don't think I was driving through enough "wavelength distance" in a given time to be moving in and out of phase with the signal.

Pan-American DX

- 540 **NICARAGUA** YNOW R.Corporación, Managua NOV 14 0417- Tentative. Is this generally thought to be the slightly off-frequency station here, producing about a 200Hz het? I notice Barry McLarnon had a very tentative on this one in October. Had I been upstairs on the Yaesu I could possibly have gotten cleaner audio recovery of this; with the little Sony in USB mode I was hearing much the same thing Barry reported last month: apparent news/information program in Spanish and one very clear mention of "Nicaragua" but no ID heard. Pretty weak tonight, and audio often faded down into the sludge. Looped southeast, but XEWA (which loops southwest from here) was somewhat difficult to null. Haven't had this one positively in quite some time. [Stewart-MO]
- 580 **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** HICN R.Montecristi, Montecristi NOV 1 0810 - Lively Latin American music and R.Montecristi IDs. Over dull-sounding Spanish male (likely Puerto Rico). New. [Chernos-ON]
- 770 **MEXICO** XEACH R.Fórmula 7-70, Monterrey NL NOV 13 0101 - For the past few nights, a R.Fórmula station has been dominating this frequency with the usual talk programming. I found out why when I heard full ID from this one: "Escuchan XEACH, Radio Fórmula 7-70, 25 mil wats en Monterrey, Nuevo León." Sounds like a power increase to me! First time I've heard a clear legal ID from an RF station on 770. [Callarman-TX]
- 820 **MEXICO** XEMVS Mexicali BC NOV 2 0412 - Twisted Sister's "We're Not Gonna Take It" followed by a Spanish speaking man, mentioning call letters and numbers in Spanish, then into a 1950s song. [Auvray-NV]
- 830 **MEXICO** XELN La Super Llegadora, Linares NL NOV 12 0504-0507 - Fast-paced male DJ gives time, temperature, several dedications, breaks for production ID: "Super Llegadora,

- 95.3 FM 830-AM" and continues with more dedications, including cumpleaños (birthday) and dedication to "las trajadores aquí en Linares," before putting on a slow ranchera song by female vocalist. First time heard in Krum, with, basically, same programming as I heard in the valley 13 months ago. [Callarman-TX]
- 850 **MEXICO** XEM R.Exitos, Chihuahua CHIH NOV 11 0614 - Strong signal, after listed sign-off time, with romantic music, Trio Los Panchos style. At 0614:45, when music ended, a strident-voiced female announcer began with "cuatro y diez cero seis veinte dos, escreta su buen gusto musical," then "Rock-a-bye Baby" on chimes or celeste as background sound for slogan by softer voiced lady. I had heard this format after midnight Chihuahua time before, but thought it was a different station. [Callarman-TX]
- 860 **MEXICO** XEUN R.Universidad, México DF NOV 11 0511-0516 - Trying to identify station with ranchera, KKOW subdued by aurora, when short announcement and full ID with call letters and frequency for AM, FM and shortwave relay XEYU faded up. Announced continuation of classical music program with symphonic work. I'd heard this one 30+ years ago in the Panhandle, but it's the first time heard in Krum. [Callarman-TX]
- 870 **MEXICO** XEAMO Amor 870, Irapuato GTO NOV 11 0526:45 - Found wide null on WWL and full production ID by woman announcer: "Marcando.. XEAMO Amor ochocientos setente desde Irapuato, Guanajuato, con mil wats de potencia. Amor 870 en perfecta sintonía de la amor." Continued with romantic music. This one heard often here, but this is first time I've been able to get clear tape for call letter ID. Female announcer placed emphasis on first syllable of "amor" with station slogan but on second syllable at the end of the ID. [Callarman-TX]
- 900 **MEXICO** XEWB Veracruz NOV 1 0330 - Echo with parallel XEW Mexico City in Spanish (sounded like comedy). New. [Chernos-ON]
- 940 **MEXICO** XEYJ R.Uno, Nueva Rosita COAH NOV 11 0603 - Very strong national anthem almost alone atop the channel, then followed with list of stations, slogans, frequencies, and locations for all of the stations in the *Radiofónica del Norte* chain. Appeared to use "Radio Un" or "Radio Uno" slogan for XEYJ. Faded, unfortunately, when it got to the station on 1050 (I'd like clarification of XEVUC's current slogan) but came back up with musical program. [Callarman-TX]
- 1020 **MEXICO** XEKH R.Centro, Querétaro, Quer NOV 11 0258-0408 - Newscast ("Noti-Centro") in progress here at tune-in with several mentions of Querétaro, musical stingers between each item, and different voice gives one- or two-word lead-in to story, e.g. "Querétaro Antiguo" at 0258, "Deportes" about 0301 and fade. Production ID faint but unreadable. Slow piano and orchestral theme began at 0302:45 to lead into what appeared to be an inspirational program about family life; announcement over the theme included, "aprendemos escuchar la voz de corazón," which may have been purpose of the program rather than its name. After the theme, "las nueve y cinco minutos aquí en Radio Centro." For most of the next hour, a soft-voiced man spoke for most of the hour. One break at 0326 included a version of the "Radio Centro" stinger XEQR used on 1030 for many years; a soft, orchestral mood music piece at 0341, "en Radio Centro" and another "You're a dirty robber" Radio Centro stinger; woman joining the man at 0350 for brief dialog; closing theme starts at 0358; goes through TOH, then fades, but comes back up 0403:30 with Fleetwoods "Come Softly to Me" briefly, then up for almost solid copy on long, full ID: "Diez cuatro. XEKH, Diez Veinte kilohertz amplitud modulado, Radio Centro, al (tesincho?) de Querétaro, desde la (sumas ?) mas . ificio desde Querétaro Nuevo. Capital Numero 28 (I transcribed "Capital" but address actually is Carrizal Numero 28), Santiago de Querétaro. Comentación(?) Mas de RF, Resquite(?) Radiofónica excelencia en radiodifusión ." (gave three program promos, two of which mentioned Alberto Guillardo, or similar, "Escucharan Radio Centro diez-veinte AM en su radio lunes a viernes 6:30 de la tarde." Had brief theme, then continued with "De La Novena... espectáculo... teatro... cultura," and followed with more traditional music program, with variations of the R.Centro stinger between musical selections. New, unexpected estado for me, and this one was up surprisingly long. Now I need to identify the station playing tropical music under XEKH. Querétaro was heard again NOV 12 during same time frame, but not quite so strong. [Callarman-TX]
- 1160 **MEXICO** XEVW R.Sensación, Acambaro GTO NOV 12 0259 - Tuned in during sign-off announcement with heavy electronic music, including telephone number 1-72-32-64 and 1-72-02-54... la frecuencia es uno uno seis cero... en esta momento Radio Sensación completa una día... de la música... para mañana... preparada una programación," and more, then strings out electronic music for a while before three-minute version national anthem began at 0300:30. Open carrier only after anthem ended. [Callarman-TX]

- 1180 **MEXICO** XEDCH *Romántica 1180*, Ciudad Delicias CHIH NOV 11 0624 - Tentative; may be the station I'm chasing in *R.Rebelde* null with northern stations subdued by aurora. Segues romantic music with short production slogan, maybe, between selections. At 0627 four-word slogan began with "Romántica... señal," but that's my only clue to the identity of this one. Not in my log yet. [Callarman-TX]
- 1660 **PUERTO RICO** WGIT Canóvanas NOV 1 0428 - Latin American music under *R.Unica* New Jersey. New. [Chernos-ON]

Transpacific DX

- 180 **RUSSIA** *R.Rossii*, Petropavlovsk NOV 8 1350 - Only long wave station audible. Fair only with Russian talk and commercials, sounding more and more like a western commercial station. 5+1 pips at top of the hour and *R.Rossii* ID into presumed news. [Bryant-WA]
- 576 **AUSTRALIA** 2RN Sydney NOV 7 1419 - Heard at threshold level only, parallel 9580 with *ABC News*. [Bryant-WA]
- 594 **JAPAN** JOAK *NHK-1* Tokyo NOV 7 1422 - In at fair level with man speaking in rather slow Japanese. Also noted at max dawn on NOV 8 and 9. [Bryant-WA]
- 612 **AUSTRALIA** 4QR Brisbane NOV 7 1425 - Heard at poor level parallel other *ABC MS* stations (891, etc.). Also noted NOV 9. [Bryant-WA]
- 666 **JAPAN** JOBK *NHK-1* Osaka NOV 7 1444 - Usual *NHK-1* Japanese talk program parallel 594 Tokyo. Poor level. [Bryant-WA]
- 693 **JAPAN** JOAB *NHK-2* Tokyo NOV 7 1445 - Noted in passing at fair level with language lessons parallel 774 and other *NHK-2s*. [Bryant-WA]
- 702 **AUSTRALIA** 2BL Sydney NOV 7 1333 - Noted in passing at threshold level parallel 891 Adelaide Metro Svc. Also noted NOV 9. [Bryant-WA]
- 738 **AUSTRALIA** 2NR Lawrence NOV 9 1453 - Heard at fair to good level. Several mentions of Australia, discussion of various social concerns by two males. Mixing with presumed Taiwan Fisheries. [Bryant-WA]
- 738 **TAHITI** RFO Papeete NOV 7 0510 - Noted here in French with island music at fair level. Also noted at good level at 0520 on NOV 9. [Bryant-WA]
- 747 **JAPAN** JOIB *NHK-2* Sapporo NOV 7 1446 - Noted at fair level at max dawn parallel other *NHK-2s*. Also noted NOV 9. [Bryant-WA]
- 774 **AUSTRALIA** 3LO Melbourne NOV 8 1335 - Two men discussing aspects of pop music history. Good level. [Bryant-WA]
- 774 **JAPAN** JOUB *NHK-2* Akita NOV 7 1426 - Heard at good level with usual *NHK-2* language lessons. Also noted NOV 9. [Bryant-WA]
- 792 **AUSTRALIA** 4RN Brisbane NOV 8 1010 - Heard at good level with pop music show hosted by male. Several *Radio National* ID's. Not parallel 9580. [Bryant-WA]
- 828 **JAPAN** JOBB *NHK-2* Osaka NOV 7 1433 - Noted at fair to good levels during dawn with language lessons parallel 774, etc. Also noted NOV 8 and 9. [Bryant-WA]
- 830 **HAWAII** KHVH Honolulu NOV 7 0515 - Heard here, unusually, at arm-chair level, alone on channel, with local island news and commercials. Unfortunately, it was not a harbinger of things to come. [Bryant-WA]
- 873 **JAPAN** JOGB *NHK-2* Kumamoto NOV 7 1448 - Noted at fair level at max dawn parallel other *NHK-2s*. Also noted NOV 9. [Bryant-WA]
- 891 **AUSTRALIA** 5AN Adelaide NOV 7 1314 - Heard at fair level with usual Metro Svc mix of news/commentary. Parallel poorer 774. Also noted NOV 9. [Bryant-WA]
- 972 **SOUTH KOREA** HLCA Dangjin NOV 7 1432 - This *KBS* powerhouse noted at fair to poor level only during max dawn on NOV 7. [Bryant-WA]
- 1017 **TONGA** A3Z *R.Tonga*, Nukua'lofa NOV 8 1020 - Presume this at fair level in a Polynesian language with a telephone interview. [Bryant-WA]
- 1035 **SOLOMON ISLANDS** SIBC Honiara NOV 9 1010 - Locally produced news first in standard English and then in local language by male. Fair to good at times parallel 5019.9. Heard also at 1510 simulcasting BBC WS news on both channels. 1035 was just above threshold at band fade. [Bryant-WA]
- 1098 **MARSHALL ISLANDS** V7AD *R.Majuro*, Majuro NOV 8 1023 - Presumed this one noted in passing with talk by male in Island language. Fair level. [Bryant-WA]
- 1116 **AUSTRALIA** 4BC Brisbane NOV 7 1010 - First noted at 1010 with Internet commercial and mentions of Brisbane. Noted throughout DXpedition as the most reliable DU audio. [Bryant-WA]
- 1134 **JAPAN** JOQR Tokyo NOV 9 1448 - Heard at poor level with Japanese talk by two females. [Bryant-WA]

- 1179 **JAPAN** JOOR Osaka NOV 9 1454 - Presume this with Japanese talk by males at band fade. [Bryant-WA]
- 1548 **AUSTRALIA** 4QD Emerald NOV 9 1317 - Noted each morning as a het, but this only threshold audio with Aussie talk by male. [Bryant-WA]
- 1566 **SOUTH KOREA** HLAZ Cheju Island NOV 9 1320 - Noted in passing with scheduled Japanese religious programming. Good level. Noted each morning with usually threshold audio. This logging was by far the best showing. [Bryant-WA]
- 1584 **PALAU** T8AA Koror - This is the unID station from our October 4-5 DXpedition to Grayland. Several Palauans (via the Internet, thanks Al G.) were nice enough to listen to the recordings of myself and Mika Makelainen and they verified the language was Palauan and could understand the announcements. I'm very pleased with this definite log of the rarely heard 5 kW *Voice of Palau* at over 6000 miles. Palau is just east of the Philippines. [Hutton-WA]

Bryant speaks: I just got back from a singleton DXpedition to Grayland... quite poor conditions, unfortunately: Oh what a difference a few flares make! With only five days remaining on our stay in the Northwest, I decided to make one last trip to our Grayland DX haunts. I really had no expectation of finding conditions the equal of the October 2003 Invitational. That DXpedition afforded the finest transpacific conditions that I've experienced since 1990. With the continuing disturbances on the sun over the past two weeks, I knew that conditions would be "different" and that I was taking a real chance on a total blackout of DX signals. I had hopes, though of at least "average" conditions with maybe a few pleasant surprises. I'm sorry to say that my hopes were not realized. While I did not experience a total blackout of transpacific signals, conditions were the poorest that I can remember. With the exception of SIBC Honiara on 1035, and 1098 Majuro, the only signals present, even at max. dawn, were from the largest, most reliable Aussie, Korean and Japanese transmitters. Further, very few of even these big guns were available at anything but threshold level. It was a very disappointing trip!

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73 and Good DX!

GRAYLAND DXPEDITION - OCTOBER 2003

Compiled by Chuck Hutton; edited by Bruce Conti

Part Three - Continued from last issue and concluded in this one

The Location

Grayland Beach, Washington, overlooking the open Pacific Ocean. Pictures at dxing.info.

The Antennas

Three Beverages ~700 ft to the southwest, west and northwest.

The DXers and Their Equipment

Guy Atkins, Puyallup WA; R75, AR7030, Kiwa MAP.
John Bryant, Orcas Island WA; Ten Tec 340, Palstar P30, dual DSP-599zx Timewave audio filters.
Phil Bytheway, Seattle WA; Drake R-7, Compaq Presario recorder.
Nick Hall-Patch, Victoria BC; R8, NRD525 configured as DX Radar, ICF-2010, ALA100 75-ft loop antenna.
Chuck Hutton, Seattle WA; R8B, R71.
Mika Makelainen, Finland.
Bruce Portzer, Seattle WA; Drake R8A.
Walter (Volodya) Salmaniw, Victoria BC.

KOMO NEWS TALK 1000
News • Traffic • Weather

- 1573 **JAPAN** JOURNALS Akita OCT 3 1218 - Beatles "Something" fair parallel weaker 594, then blasted by splatter. [Hall-Patch] OCT 3 1306 - Noted here throughout the DXpedition, usually at fair level. Parallel 594. [Bryant] OCT 4 1206 - Quite nice. This has been strong recently and is often my choice for an NHK1 station to parallel against the weakies. [Hutton] OCT 4 1556 - Really loud man/woman talking in Japanese, moderate slop. [Bytheway]
- 1512 **PHILIPPINES** DYAB Cebu City OCT 4 1442 - Vocal anthem ending sign-off; Walt S. heard ID moments earlier, fair. [Hall-Patch] OCT 4 1442 - Fair; tail end of signoff, "DYAB (something) is now signing off," then national anthem. [Portzer] OCT 4 1442 - Nice ID in English "standing down transmission." Caught in on MD recording! Fair/good. [Salmaniw]
- 1512 unIDs OCT 4 1445 - Two signals mixing at fair-at-best levels. One was likely NHK2 Japan but the other would have been interesting; the candidates are China (no power listed) and Taiwan at 5 kW. [Hutton]
- 1530 **JAPAN** OCT 4 1425 - Tentative; Japanese singing over KFBK, fair. [Hall-Patch]
- 1530 unIDs OCT 4 1417 - Clearly Oriental talk in KFBK fades from 1417 to 1426. I believe there were two stations; the one on top most was Japanese and seemed parallel 864 although it would not stay up long enough to be 100% sure. The other seemed Chinese and is a mystery. Are there any high power Chinese stations on 1530? [Hutton] Tantalizing bits of stuff under KFBK both nights: OCT 4 1450 - Rock music. + OCT 5 1111 - Classical music, then at 1434 several songs by The Police briefly over KFBK but mostly underneath, AFKN runs country music at this time, so not them. Bits of talk at various other times. [Portzer]
- 1539 **JAPAN** NHK2 synchros OCT 4 1434 - American English talk; NHK2 parallel 774, fair; more 100 watt stations. [Hall-Patch]
- 1539 **TAIWAN** BED78 Fisheries Station, Tainan OCT 4 1229 - Ringing het on 1540 but only poor audio in slop. John had them better the previous morning. + OCT 5 1211 - This day they were much better, rising on top of the splatter at times. [Hutton] OCT 5 1225 - Tentative; Chinese talk by woman, only BCC listed. [Hall-Patch]
- 1548 **AUSTRALIA** 4QD Emerald OCT 4 1432 - Monster signal; man in English with SAH; wonder who was the second station? [Hall-Patch] OCT 4 1441 - Interview program good. Quite loud with Aussie folk tune 1510, but much weaker by 1513. + OCT 5 0955 - Aussie talk, good. [Portzer]
- 1557 **TAIWAN** WYFR Family Radio, Kouhu OCT 4 1042 - Good; Chinese religious program music, announcement by woman and into another program. At 1159, woman in Chinese spelling out "f-a-m-i-l-y-r-a-d-i-o" (possibly giving mailing address). + OCT 5 1042 - Very strong (equal to 1566) with light instrumental music 1042. At 1431, English announcement, mention of www.familyradio.com, into religious program in English. [Portzer] OCT 4 1149 - Man in Chinese with hymn in Chinese, modest slop. [Bytheway] OCT 4 1434 Tele-talk religion in English at good level. [Hutton] OCT 4 1100 - Likely this; woman in Chinese, good strength, followed by musical interlude. [Hall-Patch]
- 1557 unID OCT 4 1434 - By waiting for fades and doing a little phasing, I could sometimes get someone else even with WYFR in an oriental language. I really have no idea who that was, since Japan has only a handful of 100 watt'ers, there are no Koreans, and the Chinese station has no power listed in the *Pacific Asian Log*. [Hutton]
- 1566 **SOUTH KOREA** HLAZ FEBC Cheju OCT 3 1150 - Present throughout the DXpedition, usually at good to excellent level. [Bryant] OCT 3 1228 - Chinese talk by woman, fair strength, good readability, then off at 1229, then back on with FEBC and HLAZ ID in Japanese; followed by hymns, and Japanese talk by woman. + OCT 4 1345 - HLAZ ID in Chinese. [Hall-Patch] OCT 3 1259 - FEBC with S9+5 signal in Japanese. Very much like a local! [Salmaniw] OCT 4 1145 - Man/woman in Korean, very loud. [Bytheway] OCT 4 1047 - Monster signal in Korean, loud in Korean 1201. Loud in Japanese 1245 with unID way in background. + OCT 5 0957 - Huge signal again, about 10 dB weaker than KFBK, still there in Chinese 1529. [Portzer] OCT 4 1432 - Excellent in 6 kHz bandwidth (widest I have) and sounding close to a local. I'd bet it could have been heard on normal department store radios. It's stronger than anything on 1560 and 1570 here, and its only competition for strongest signal would be the Seattle / Portland / northern California powerhouses. [Hutton]
- 1566 unID OCT 5 1525 - Bits of music under HLAZ. Lost after local electrical noise came on. Was hoping for India. [Portzer] OCT 5 1521 - Doing the India check thing also. HLAZ had come down some, and there was something under at sunrise. [Hutton]
- 1575 **THAILAND** VOA Ban Pachi OCT 3 1154 - Present throughout the DXpedition, usually at good level. [Bryant] OCT 4 1201 - VOA News Now strong in English. Also strong at several rechecks. [Portzer]
- 1575 unIDs OCT 4 1235-1243 - Interesting over (!) and under VOA to the point I was confused

which was which. Taped a man was talking in an Oriental language, but I could not quite catch it. Since it wasn't one of the Japanese AFN stations, it is either Philippines (10 kW) or China (unlisted power, have no idea). At 1015, snatches of pop music. + OCT 5 1115 - Another one with rock / pop under VOA but the language does not sound English. [Hutton] OCT 5 1109 - Rock music mixing with VOA, then faded. Possibly one of the FEN stations. [Portzer]

- 1584 **JAPAN** NHK synchros OCT 3 1350 - Parallel 594 at this time with instrumental interlude and man talking, poor to fair. [Hall-Patch] OCT 4 1100 - Time signal and woman in Japanese parallel 594 and 1503, weak, everything here is 100 watts. Also heard at 1300. [Portzer]
- 1584 unIDs OCT 4 1257 - Chinese music, briefly pop but gone at top of the hour when NHK took over. [Portzer] OCT 4 1400 - Nonstop pop and soft rock music quite good after 1400. No announcements heard. Palau? [Portzer] OCT 4 1459 - American pop music over hum on channel; Palau? [Hall-Patch]
- 1593 **CHINA** CRI Int'l Chinese Service, Heilongjiang OCT 4 1242 - CNR1 good over others with Chinese music parallel 5030. [Portzer] OCT 4 1300 - Heard here at excellent level with classical Chinese opera. Was mixing with NHK2 synchros and was parallel 6065 and 1377, which was also incredibly strong. [Bryant] OCT 4 1305 - Mixing with Japanese, fair, Chinese music opera? [Hall-Patch] OCT 4 1435 - CRI way on top at times, but sometimes came down so that Japan could be heard. Long Chinese opera made this unmistakable. A clear signal due to the lack of splatter and decent signal strength. [Hutton]
- 1593 **JAPAN** JOQB Niigata OCT 5 1320 - "JOQB, NHK Niigata...hoso" ID, good strength; no sign of JOTB ID. [Hall-Patch]
- 1593 **JAPAN** NHK2 synchros OCT 4 1053 - Fair parallel 774. [Portzer] OCT 4 1446 - Easily parallel 774. There are two stations with 10 kW each, so these are in when Japan is decent. [Hutton]
- 1602 **JAPAN** NHK2 synchros OCT 4 1053 - Fair parallel 774. Also parallel 774 at 1158 with slight echo as though I was hearing two transmitters. [Portzer] OCT 4 1150 - Chinese lessons parallel 774 and 828; poor fair in splash; 1593 also noted. [Hall-Patch] OCT 5 1013 - Fair and all alone (what did you expect on this channel?) parallel the NHK2 crowd like 774. [Hutton]
- 1701.14 **AUSTRALIA** R.Brisvaani, Brisbane OCT 5 1225 - Presumed; female talk in Hindi, with subcontinental music; low level signal before fading. Reportedly 100 watts power. Thanks to Mika Makelainen for tip. [Atkins]
- 2485 **AUSTRALIA** ABC Katherine OCT 3 1437 - Heard with fair strength and ABC programming, parallel to MW 639! Thanks to John Bryant for the tip! [Salmaniw]

Inside Digital Radio

By D. Prabakaran, in *Byte Magazine*, October, 2003
via Gerald Conkling, Jr.

Radio is the oldest of the broadcast media: FM radio was invented in the 1940s, AM in the 1920s. Efforts to bring radio into the digital age began in the mid 1970s, when BBC Research engineers investigated the possibility of providing a digital radio service based on a NICAM stereo signal. They set up a small transmitter and a reception vehicle which could receive and decode the signals using both a directional antenna on a tall pole, and a standard whip aerial. They found that the reception on the directional antenna was generally very good, but that the vehicle's rooftop antenna was not satisfactory over a significant proportion of the service area. The problem was generally caused by multipath reception—the reception of two or more signals from different directions due to reflections—which resulted in considerable interference to the digital signal.

In 1992, the World Administrative Radio Conference reserved the frequency band 1452-1492 MHz (the L band) for the Eureka 147 project, a European consortium of industry and governmental interests which went on to develop the DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) standard. While the L band spectrum is ideal for DAB, other frequencies, including VHF and UHF frequencies, can also be used. In the Eureka 147 system, each carrier occupies 1.5 MHz of radio spectrum and provides between 1.2 and 1.5 Mb/s of error-corrected data. By using MPEG Audio Layer 2 or 3 compression, with each stereo stream requiring 192 to 256 Kb/s, between five and eight such programs can be conveyed per carrier. Such bit rates are often claimed to offer "CD quality," though while the results may be indistinguishable to most listeners, the algorithms certainly do degrade the sound measurably—and perceptibly in good listening conditions.

So what's so great about digital radio? Well, there's the matter of perfect reception. DAB "blankets"

wide geographical areas with an even, uninterrupted signal. Once full services are up and running, a driver will be able to cross an entire country while staying tuned to the same station, with no signal fade, and without altering frequency. And DAB has the potential to be very cheap, since broadcasters can provide a wide range of material simultaneously on the same frequency.

DAB technology also brings new possibilities for program-associated data. Digital radios might display text information such as program background facts, a menu of future broadcasts, or complementary advertising information. Receivers attached to a small screen could display visual information as diverse as weather maps and CD cover images. Services from sources other than the broadcasting station can be included within the same channel for the user to access at will. These include news headlines, detailed weather information or even the latest stock prices. And because digital technology allows a massive amount of different information, specific user groups can be targeted with great accuracy because each receiver can be addressable. Beyond this, there are other, more futuristic possibilities for digital radio: for instance, personal receivers that could correlate GPS signals in order to provide location-based services.

DAB trials have been conducted in many countries. Transmissions began in Belgium in 1997 using VHF frequencies. Six stations in Singapore now broadcast programs using DAB technology, while DAB trials are in progress in places like Australia, India, China, Malaysia and Taiwan.

In Japan, a decision has been made to pursue a different technology: ISDB-T, which broadcasts both digital radio and television at both narrow and wide bandwidths. It utilizes COFDM signal coding technology, the same system that was developed for DAB. ISDB-T services are expected to be available in Japan in a few years' time.

In the United States, there is continuing opposition to Eureka 147 from established broadcasters and manufacturers. Ostensibly the subject of debate concerns available frequencies, but it's widely thought that the current industry is simply opposed to new competitors with low cost structures. This has led U.S. broadcasters to continue with the technically flawed in-band system using the existing frequencies of the incumbents, and to develop a different technology: MMBS (Multimedia Broadcasting System), which would operate in the UHF band, using principles similar to Eureka, but remaining incompatible with it.

Transmission of a DAB Signal

The modulating and demodulating signals of the digital radio are digital pulses rather than analog waveforms. DAB uses a modulation technique called COFDM in order to overcome the problems associated with traditional FM/AM transmissions, namely interference. COFDM stands for Coded Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplex. This system uses a mathematical relationship to split the radio signal across 1,536 different carrier frequencies as well as across a time lag. This ensures that, even if some of the signals are affected by interference or the signal is lost for a short period, the receiver is still capable of recovering the original source and reconstructing it perfectly. A single block of frequencies known as a "multiplex" is used to carry not just one service but between 6 to 8.

Each multiplex can carry a mixture of stereo/mono broadcasts and data services. The fewer the number of services carried, the higher the audio quality that can be allocated to each service. The DAB multiplex is made up of 2,300,000 "bits" which are used for carrying audio, data and an in-built protection system against transmission errors. Of these, about 1,200,000 bits are used for the audio and data services.

The sound that DAB produces is provided by a sound compression method known as MUSICAM (Masking-Pattern Universal Sub-band Integrated Coding And Multiplexing). It is the algorithm used in MPEG encoding that removes audio data imperceptible to the human ear, while retaining the high quality audio. The MUSICAM system allows broadcasters to vary the bit-rate transmitted on sound sources: A lower bit-rate can be used for talk shows, and a higher bit-rate for a symphony concert. The system is similar to the way sound files can be sampled at different quality specifications on a computer.

The number of channels in a DAB ensemble can vary. For instance, on Saturday afternoon a stereo channel could be divided into a special sports channel and a further mono channel. The overall data rate available in DAB can be flexibly distributed over various program channels, and the number of program channels per DAB ensemble is flexible.

On the receiver side, the DAB ensemble (multiplex) is selected in the analog tuner. The digitized output is fed to the OFDM demodulator and channel decoder to eliminate transmission errors. The information contained in the fast information channel (FIC) is passed to the user interface for service selection, and is used to set up the receiver appropriately. The main service channel (MSC) data is further processed in an audio decoder to produce left and right audio signals, or in a data decoder.

DAB was developed with the aim of improving radio reception. But DAB, as a digital transmission system, can transmit other data as well as audio. In principle any type of information can be transmitted by DAB, provided simply that it is available in digital form and does not exceed the maximum

available DAB data rate (approx. 1.7 Mbit/s). Examples of such additional services would be images or animations, stock listings, or even software updates. In contrast to multimedia applications via TV or cable, DAB's additional services can also be received in-car and with portable equipment.

DAB Receivers

The future DAB receiver will consist of a tuner, speakers, a graphics screen, a processor, and a large amount of memory. There will be all types of receivers, from home and car receivers, to walkman-like portable receivers with optional displays. One of the first available consumer-oriented digital radio tuners is Arcam's Alpha 10.

Thanks to the ISO-frequency programs, the receiver needs to be preset only once. Because of the associated program metadata, it's possible to select your program according to subject—e.g. news, sports, classical music, soft rock—or by the name of the station, rather than by a difficult-to-remember frequency. The name appears on the digital display of the DAB receiver and one can push simple "up" and "down" buttons to scan through all the programs that are on the air. More sophisticated sets will have large LCD screens to provide more of a graphical user interface.

Digital radio can be received with a telescopic or disk antenna on a car, and with a whip or throw-out antenna on a portable radio. The antennas can be smaller than the ones we're used to now, as DAB uses a shorter wavelength than VHF-FM.

A home computer could potentially become a DAB receiver, if equipped with a card capable of receiving the L-Band DAB signal. Modular Technology has launched a DAB PCI radio card; it goes inside your PC like any other PCI expansion card. The DAB card has an external aerial that looks like the type of mobile phone aerial you would mount on the roof of a car, connected via a thin cable to the CPU. It uses your PC's sound system, and you can record radio programs directly to your hard drive. The user interface not only displays full program information and the genre of each radio station, but it also can schedule recordings ahead of time from electronic program guides. Recordings can be stored as MPEG-2 files or in MP3 format for direct downloads to MP3 players.

Modular's card is based around the TI DRE200 chip, and Radioscape's software. There are no Linux drivers available and Modular won't be releasing any, but the company won't comment on whether it will release enough information for third parties to write some.

Pson produces a device called the Wavefinder, which is another gadget that is able to receive and decode digital radio transmissions using the power of PC. The digital antenna unit connects directly to a spare USB port on your PC, giving access both to DAB digital radio stations and new multimedia data services.

Why You're Not Listening to DAB

Despite all its advantages, DAB has seen relatively slow uptake, in part because of the high cost of receivers. A digital radio runs \$300 and upwards, as compared to \$50 for a reasonable quality analog radio tuner. An FM car radio might cost between \$300 and \$800, but a DAB car radio is priced between \$1,500 and \$2,000. And so a sort of "chicken and egg" situation has developed: DAB radio sets are pricey because only small numbers of them are produced. High prices in turn discourage radio stations from investing in DAB broadcast. Since there's little compelling content, few consumers invest in digital radio sets; and so manufacturers don't produce the sets in bulk.

Digital radio holds great promise for the future, but even though broadcasts on the Eureka system are available in many parts of the world, penetration of digital radio tuners into the home market has been minimal. It will be interesting to see how the introduction of the In-Band On-Channel system in the U.S. fares, and whether the two digital radio formats will continue to co-exist. Either way, even if digital radio becomes a success, it will probably take five to ten years—possibly even longer—before conventional analog radio broadcasts are suspended, if ever.

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New! IRCA Mexican Log, 9th Edition, 2003-'04

The 9th Edition of 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. The call letter index gives call, frequency, city and state. The city index (listed by state, then city) includes frequency, call and day/night power. The log has been completely updated from the 2002 edition and carefully cross-checked by several IRCA members. This is an indispensable reference for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11" and three hole punched for easy binding. Prices: NRC/IRCA members - \$9.50 (US/Canada/Mexico/seamail), \$10.50 (rest of the Americas airmail), \$11.00 (Europe/Asia airmail), \$11.50 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). Non-members: add \$2.50 to the above prices.

To order the IRCA Mexican Log from the IRCA Bookstore, send the correct amount in U. S. funds payable to Phil Bytheway to:

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KCUV talks up its mix of music

By Paul Johnson and Demetria Gallegos, 9News, in the Denver Post - via Wayne Heinen
Earlier this month, the far right-hand side of the AM radio dial underwent a change.

The 1510-AM frequency switched from filler satellite broadcasts and simulcast talk radio to a format not heard before on Denver commercial radio.

The "Americana" format featured on station KCUV - which bills itself as "Colorado's Underground Voice" - is a mix of folk, blues, bluegrass, rock, gospel and country.

The station plays such familiar artists as Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson but offers many of their relatively unfamiliar cuts. It also features artists such as Lucinda Williams and Townes Van Zandt - who are heard much more rarely on the radio - plus a variety of more obscure performers.

KCUV aims to be the antidote to the highly formatted playlists featured by most stations owned by big broadcast companies. And the station's owner, NRC Broadcasting, says it is willing to take some risks in the process.

"This is about bringing radio back to its roots," said Tim Brown, chief executive of NRC Broadcasting.

Brown is the son-in-law of Phil Anschutz, NRC's majority stakeholder. Brown said NRC's corporate backing allows KCUV to offer the format, despite expectations that it will draw a relatively small listener audience.

KCUV's first advertisers begin airing their spots next week.

The frequency was up for sale until recently, when a potential deal fell through.

"When that fell apart, we sat down and said, 'Let's do something really fun, something we really believe in,'" Brown said.

Although NRC didn't have any Denver market research on the format, Brown said the company had a "strong gut feeling" that corporate-driven playlists were leaving many listeners cold.

Brown acknowledged most radio listeners want to hear hits and saluted radio giants Clear Channel and Jefferson Pilot for running profitable stations. But he estimated the stations owned by those companies use playlists of 200 or 400 songs. In an average week, Brown said, KCUV will play 1,200 different songs.

"I think it's great," said Michael O'Connor, regional vice president of programming for Clear Channel, which owns eight Denver stations.

According to Brown, Americana is closest to "Triple A," or Adult Album Alternative. Triple A skews toward rock, while Americana leans toward country.

Brown said Denver is the only Top 25 market with an Americana station. Successful stations using the format include KGSR in Austin, Texas, which is owned by Emmis Communications, and KPIG, a Mapleton Communications station serving Santa Cruz, Calif.

The new station has several strikes against it.

"Young people don't listen to AM," said Lakewood radio market researcher Roger Wimmer. "Anybody under 35, maybe 30, wouldn't listen to AM unless it's a sports event."

Brown also acknowledged that most music stations have migrated to the cleaner sound and higher fidelity on the FM band and said an AM station has two-thirds less accumulated audience potential than FM stations. But he hopes KCUV's music will draw listeners on purpose, rather than by accident.

Wimmer has conducted thousands of listener surveys over the past 30 years and contends that radio formats exist for a reason.

"People say they don't like to hear the same songs over and over again, but they also say they like to hear their favorite songs. It's a fine line that programmers have to walk," he said. "People don't listen for hours and hours. They want to make sure that when a person tunes in, they hear their favorite song."

Mike Wirth, director of the University of Denver's School of Communication, is more skeptical.

"Even if you have the backing of rich individuals, if they don't show up in the rating book, what do they have to sell?" he said.

NRC Broadcasting is acquiring nine mountain radio stations, including stations in Steamboat Springs and Aspen, using the Triple A format. They'll keep that format but add some of the diversity of Americana.

After completing those purchases in December, NRC will own 11 radio stations in Colorado.

Right now, KCUV is off the market for the foreseeable future, Brown said.

He said he hoped to draw an average weekly audience of 50,000 to 60,000 listeners within the next 12 to 18 months. He estimated that KYGO, Denver's top-rated radio station, has 350,000.

"We're not answering to Wall Street," Brown said. "Because we're independently owned and have the financial backing we do, we're able to take risks that large groups cannot when it comes to unproven formats."

Fifties Radio: From Golden Age to Rock n' Roll

By Andy Ooms

Here we go again with another memoir type article by this radio hobbyist, or obsessionist if you prefer. My spellchecker tells me that obsessionist has not previously been a word, but it works for me, and if you are reading this magazine, you know what I mean by it.

This will definitely be a niche piece, covering that which appears to be a small niche: AM radio as heard in Grand Rapids, Michigan from 1956 until 1958 and 1960 until 1962. Those happen to be my years at Calvin College as interrupted by U. S. Army service.

Who could possibly be interested in this subject? Well, not too many normal people, I guess, but persons intrigued by the science and magic of radio might enjoy it. Although Grand Rapids is the subject of my comments, the changes I noted there were being duplicated by similar changes in every city and region of the country. So this is as much a report about the revolution of the radio broadcasting industry in the '50's, as it is about the programming in a particular region.

I have a lot of interest in many, but not all, of the various parts of the radio hobby. My particular interests include historic and current broadcast programming on any band, antique radios, DX'ing on medium (AM band) wave, and shortwave listening. Most of you readers probably have a greater knowledge in many of these areas than I do. I am an expert in none of these areas, but I enjoy what I do know about them. My enjoyment is as much in thinking and reading about old radios, old radio programs, shortwave and DX reports as it is in actually collecting tapes of old programs, or making lists of stations heard, or repairing antique electronic sets. My technical knowledge is shallow; my listening interest deep.

To describe what kind of listener I am, let me give you some examples. I enjoy long drives across the United States to visit relatives, to see tourist attractions, or to go camping and fishing. On these trips, I like listening to AM radio, picking up on the number of stations carrying national talk show hosts, listening to farm reports, discussions of local issues such as the history and utilization of the Missouri River, nostalgia music, classic country, and live sports broadcasts. When at home in Arizona or sitting around a campfire in the U. S. or Canada, I also enjoy listening to shortwave: music in any language or anyone speaking English, with the exception of crackpots expounding their questionable economic, political, or religious theories. My shortwave listening includes international broadcasters, hams, aviation and marine weather, military stations, aircraft communications, unidentified persons on boats, and clandestine voices repeating numerical or alphabetical spy codes.

This listening interest on my part has been around since 1943 when as a four-year-old I became interested in the music, voices, and laughter emanating from our family Zenith console in the town of Corsica, South Dakota.

Some of you have read my previous articles in *Arizona Antique Radio Club News*, *DX News*, or *Nostalgia Digest*. One was mostly about South Dakota radio listening in the '40's and '50's; the other was primarily about my high school radio business. Well, here's another one.

One more disclaimer before I take off on this third piece in the series: I am writing from what I think I remember. Some of you may remember some things differently. In most cases, if you remember something differently you are probably more accurate. I did not take notes over the years, and as a part-time retiree, I am not too interested in extensive researching.

I moved from South Dakota to Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1956. Naturally this was a major change in my life. I moved from a town of 450, where everyone literally knew everyone else, to a city of 200,000. Instead of working in the family business in South Dakota, I had the freedom and the necessity of getting employment from any source I could find because the family business no longer existed. And of most immediate importance, instead of taking it easy academically in a rural high school, I had to fight ferociously for passing grades in a college (with 5 times the population of my home town) whose majority of students came from more academically-challenging high schools than mine.

As it turns out, longer-term radical transitions in the radio programming field were well underway by 1956, and this article, being basically about AM programming, will be about those changes. Some changes in the nature of my listening were because of my geographical move; many were due to the huge shifts in the broadcasting industry. And some changes I noticed were because of my previously-limited exposure to what had already been happening in larger cities and more eastern locations before those changes hit the upper Midwest hinterlands.

Two major changes in radio programming were occurring in 1956. One was the expanding penetration of television into America's leisure time; therefore, the "golden" age of radio was rapidly coming to an end. The other major change was the reflection in radio broadcasting of the changes in the music industry; crooners, standards, music of Broadway and Hollywood, swing, big time bands, tin pan alley, jazz ... all overlapping together to influence pop music ... were being replaced by rock-and-roll.

Subsequently rock-and-roll was replaced by its younger, tougher, harder sibling, rock; however, that evolution during the 1960's and later was less specifically defined than the radio revolution from what is now known as Music of your Life or nostalgia music to the rock n' roll era, from Tin Pan alley to R&B influences.

A minor change in radio programming was to be a result of the upcoming growth in the number of sports teams and the westward movement of existing teams.

Transistorization (another new word, according to my spellchecker) undoubtedly had an effect on radio programming as well and has likely been the most significant technological change since tube receivers replaced crystal receivers. However, I don't have much to say about its specific impact on programming. Obviously the ability to produce smaller portables with good sound and low power usage led to more music being carried everywhere and to sportscasts going wherever the fans went. On the other hand, it would seem that it would have helped the soap opera format, as it became easier than ever for a devoted fan to carry the story around from place to place. Didn't happen; radio soap opera died absolutely when Ma Perkins wrapped on the day after Thanksgiving in 1960.

The listening experiences I refer to in this article were mostly on table sets with "all American 5" tube combinations, or on whatever sets came with the cheap used cars I relied on in my college years - '48 Chevy, '51 Studebaker, '54 Chevy, '57 Ford. The introduction of transistors didn't affect me much until the '60's. Although I had a small radio business in my basement during high school, when I finally got serious about my education and went to college, I left all my old tubes and sets and parts in South Dakota, where they were subsequently thrown out or given away when my parents left the town of my childhood. During college, my radio involvement was almost only as a listener. I had a few spare parts, and rigged some switches and speakers so I could listen to baseball on the outside porch. Being on a tight budget, I bought a 78-rpm turntable for 50 cents or so and let one of the rotating parts near the motor run against a file for about a week full-time so that I could reduce the speed in order to play long-play records which I could borrow free from the library. The amplifier was a set of wires running to the pins of an amplifier tube in a table model Admiral. Only problem was that by the time the spindle was reduced to the point that the speed got down to about 33 rpm, the phono motor burned out. End of experiment (although I liked the science of it) and I decided that I was more interested in radio than in records.

My radio instinct, though, continued as demonstrated in my habit of taking whichever table model I used out of its cabinet, so I could see the tubes glowing and the variable condenser plates meshing. The terms "boat anchors" and "firebottles" for antique radios and vacuum tubes weren't in use yet, but I enjoy the terms. Listening in the dark by the glow of the tubes was one of the least expensive and most enjoyable pleasures that I had in those days. And sound quality of a properly-engineered AM station as heard on a good, medium-priced tube-model, table or console, with a good 6-inch or larger speaker could be surprisingly mellow.

About ten years ago in California I occasionally heard the Kadiddlehoppers, a West coast ham network named after a Red Skelton character. On Saturday afternoons, they had 30 minutes dedicated to buying and selling old radios and other old electronic equipment. The segment was introduced with dramatic and oratorical tones as "Radios That Glow in the Dark." So I know that I was not alone in enjoying the simple pleasure of seeing the tubes at work. In fact I still remember my excitement at about the age of 12 when I found out that radios worked outside their cabinets, which is not true of every invention.

Advanced electronics achievements led to the growth of the audiophile field. Hi-fi became a frequently used phrase in the late 40's and audiophile magazines emerged. Long play records and the evolution of FM broadcasting, both beginning in the 40's, contributed to the growth of the hi-fi culture. Stereo records and equipment came along later. The opinions that solid state sounds are not as warm or as full or as mellow as sounds produced by hollow state (tube) equipment are intriguing, but I have no personal opinion on that. I like the possibility of that being true, but then my usual leaning toward the "newer is not always better" position has been known to get in the way of good science. I have an abstract curiosity about audio fidelity, but I am more personally interested in program content than in sound quality. To be otherwise would not be a shortwave listener or an AM listener and DXer.

This piece about Grand Rapids will include data unique to Grand Rapids, but broadcasting changes were sweeping the entire country. Minor differences in programming have always existed from region to region (not many hourly oats, wheat, corn, and cattle market reports outside of the Midwest farm country or the Southwest ranch country), but the biggest music, news talk, sports talk, network versus local content, advertising, and format trends hit the nation at about the same time, starting from the coasts and in the cities, and moving across the country and into the heartland. The changes were caused by network and music industry strategy decisions, as affected by the huge influence of television, changing demographics, and the growth of teenager income and spending levels.

During my last two years in high school in South Dakota, changes were occurring in the radio

world but I did not notice them then. I recognized them later in hindsight. At the time, my interests were broadening and my personal listening habits were changing, from after-school adventure serials and evening detective shows and comedies toward more music, days and evenings. If I thought about it at the time, I would have presumed that my interests were changing because of my age. I didn't particularly notice that the availability and variety of programming choices were also changing, and I had yet to realize that radio of the future would be drastically different from radio of the Golden Age of 1930 to 1950, and that radio programming as I had known it all my life was on the way out.

So what listening conditions did I leave? My listening had been done in a state with no television stations, only 15 radio stations, and no FM stations. Only one of those SD stations had an evening signal covering my town. Many of the rest were daytime only or, at 250 watts on graveyard frequencies, too far to reach us at night without the clutter of many other signals. In fact the station in our capital city of Pierre was only 200 watts (the only 200 wattier listed in a late '40's edition of White's Radio Log of all American, Canadian, and Mexican stations), but too far away from us to have been heard at any power less than 10,000 watts. However, our nighttime listening was enhanced by the huge unobstructed flat spaces of the prairies allowing us to listen to 50,000-watt stations from Chicago to Salt Lake City, from Minneapolis to Mexico.

Day and night we had a strong CBS signal. ABC was strong, but days only, basically unavailable at night, overall with little prominence in our listening lives. NBC had a moderate signal during the day, was usually catchable at night, although we might need to switch from Chicago to Dallas to Denver to Albuquerque to New Orleans to Salt Lake City mid-program due to signal fadeout. Our nearest station, 250 watts, 40 miles away but considered our local, had a strong signal all day with a lot of Mutual Broadcasting System programming and requested music, but it was impossible to receive after sunset.

A select synopsis of network programming in the early fifties: weekdays ABC had a variety of music and homemaker programs during the day, including the famous Don McNeil and The Breakfast Club. CBS and NBC were mostly soap operas all day plus Arthur Godfrey 90 minutes every day on CBS. Mutual carried a lot of after school kid shows like Wild Bill Hickok and Straight Arrow plus various music shows, Queen for a Day, Bob and Ray, and the Game of the Day every afternoon during the baseball season. Nights: all networks had variety, music, drama, quiz shows, or comedians during prime time, which was an unknown phrase back then, and they carried live dance bands from a variety of hotels and nightclubs from around 10:30 until midnight. News or commentary was about three times a day for 15 or 30 minutes per session. Not much of the five minutes of news every hour concept existed yet. CBS had Edward R. Murrow, Eric Sevareid, Bob Trout, and Lowell Thomas for news. Mutual had Fulton Lewis, Jr. and Gabriel Heatter for news or commentary. Those are the ones I heard regularly; I didn't hear the ABC and NBC newscasts often. News or gossip, Walter Winchell and Drew Pearson were both on ABC Sundays. Paul Harvey had graduated from Chicago radio to ABC, where he still is, amazingly.

Sunday mornings tended toward religious programming all morning, drama or classical music in the afternoons. Saturday afternoon was the Metropolitan Opera on ABC. Weekend evenings on the networks were very similar to weekday evenings.

Local programming was a lot of grain and cattle prices and weather reports. The remainder was mostly records or public service shows like the Singing Sergeants. Instead of tight formats, most stations had a variety of music. Country, pop, and polkas were often heard on the same station; many played a military march once a day at breakfast time. One South Dakota station, WNAX Yankton, had its own live band or two, playing daily on the radio and doing community dances off air. Their most famous group was the WNAX Bohemian Band. That station also carried Saturday night and Sunday afternoon versions of the Missouri Valley Barn Dance. Lawrence Welk was a South Dakota lad who got his start on WNAX and the Missouri Valley Barn Dance.

What did I move to in 1956? Grand Rapids radio listening was a whole new world compared to rural and small town South Dakota naturally. GR had 6 AM stations, and we could also hear at least 6 Chicago stations, 2 Milwaukee stations, and a Detroit station or two. I heard occasionally, but have little memory of, the small-city Michigan stations broadcasting from Holland, Grand Haven, Muskegon, and Lansing. I do remember WJBL Holland having been told that the call letters came from the names Jerome, Bud, and Louie, sons of the station owner. GR may have had an FM station or two but I knew no one who listened to FM or even had an FM receiver until 1960.

Not sure about renewing?

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The 6 AM stations were, from left to right across your radio dial, WJEF, WOOD, WLAV, WGRD, WMAX, and WFUR. Some of us referred to them as Jeff, Wood, Laugh, Max, and Fur. We didn't have a nickname for WGRD; their call letters didn't lend themselves to a pronounceable abbreviation we thought, but decades later I realized that they were based on the "grand" in Grand Rapids, of course.

What I will relate on the programming of these stations is based on what I remember of what I heard. My schedule was erratic as I usually worked, often up to 40 hours weekly, usually at more than one job, while attending college fulltime. Therefore I could be sleeping or working or studying at any time of the day or night. My classes were mostly scattered around weekday working hours, but I took some evening courses occasionally. But a radio was on when I was studying or driving to work or in our 5- or 6-hour sessions in the drafting room of our Engineering Drawing course, station and volume controlled by pre-engineering student democratic rules. Depending on the job, I frequently was able to listen while working. During school vacation periods, I worked more hours, but also had more free time, which was spent fishing, on a beach, reading, or sleeping. But when I was awake my free time was accompanied by radio, and back then, never by television.

WJEF, relatively low power, at 1260, was CBS. Fetzer, a well-known name in Michigan communications and business circles, owned it. Fetzer also had a very good signal into Grand Rapids from WKZO 590 Kalamazoo. I remember WJEF mainly for carrying Detroit Tigers baseball. I believe that they also carried Detroit Lions football. In general, they broadcast Godfrey and soaps all day during the week, and the last of the CBS old time radio type shows at night—Yours Truly Johnny Dollar, Gunsmoke, Gene Autry, Our Miss Brooks, Amos 'n Andy, Life with Luigi, and every weekday night, the creative, entertaining, and almost forgotten by now, Robert Q. Lewis. The last of their network dramas, variety shows, and soaps expired in 1960, along with the similar offerings on the other networks. And on Saturday, WJEF played the Top 40 songs of the week for a time beginning in 1956.

(To be continued in the next issue of DX News)

2003 NRC Financial Statement

By Dick Truax, NRC Treasurer

INCOME STATEMENT

Member Dues	\$16521.00
AM Log	13338.45
Antenna Book	280.20
Pattern Book	1655.30
Reprints	792.23
Beverage Book	359.30
Loop Book	266.80
Audio Service	1772.00
Convention	2974.91
New Member Book	27.00
FM Atlas	367.90
Map Book	560.15
Miscellaneous	77.33
Total Income	\$38992.57

EXPENSE STATEMENT

Printing	
Bulletin	\$11325.05
AM Log	5485.00
Map Book	762.90
Beverage Book	304.43
Loop Book	387.72
Reprints	130.83
Administrative	72.53
Total	\$18468.46

Postage

Bulletin	\$7860.80
Sales	2228.20
Administrative	638.77
Total	\$1727.77

Administrative

Telephone	\$136.85
Info purchase	462.25
Supplies	936.32
Miscellaneous	1244.58
Convention	2928.65
Total	\$5708.66

Total Expenses \$34904.89

STATEMENT OF INCOME

Income all sources \$38992.57

Bulletin/Publication Costs

Beginning inventory	\$6878.69
Printing	18468.46
Postage	10727.77
Less ending inventory	-6465.15
Net costs	\$29609.77
Profit or loss	9382.80
Administrative Expense	-5708.66
Net Profit	\$3674.14

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Inventory	\$6465.15
Cash	8716.59
.....	\$15181.74

Liabilities

Deferred Dues	-8978.25
Net worth:	\$6203.49

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.

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Times are local per Muse; submit double-spaced only.

Here's the NRC column that asks the musical question, what's the official NRC Anthem? If YOU know, let US know! We also welcome reports and intros from our many new members and reintroductions from our many long time members; we'd even welcome a report from JOHN BOWKER! And here we go:

Perry Crabill - 225 Milam Drive - Winchester, VA, 22602 w3hqx@arrl.net

The article in DXN No. 5 about George W. Armstrong and the Top-40 format reminded me that at one time there was a different attitude about repeated playing of a popular tune. I believe it was in the 1930's that the networks set up an informal clearinghouse to list songs which should be played less frequently so listeners wouldn't get tired of hearing them. I have no documentation to back up my statement, but some of the other old-timers might remember this. Coming back to the present, I seem unable to get back into the DXing habit this season. I didn't do any listening during the summer and have been unable to regain the momentum I lost as a result. The few times I have turned the receiver on some household gadget is making enough electronic racket that I can't hear any of the weaker signals. Also, my central heating system is a source of interference in an odd way. It seems to be associated with the operation of the fan, but only after the burner shuts off, while the fan continues to operate to cool down the furnace. I don't see how it could be the fan motor, because the racket doesn't occur during the first part of the fan cycle, or while it is running in the air conditioning or fan-only mode. Semi-local WSVG-790 in Mount Jackson, VA, came back on the air this summer with a big band format using the slogan "Retro Radio". WSVG operates in parallel with WAMM-1230, Woodstock, VA via a DSL link that causes its audio to be slightly delayed because of the processing time of the terminal equipment. WSVG has wider coverage than WAMM because of better propagation at its lower frequency.

Brett Saylor- N3EVB - 375 High Point Cove - State College, PA 16801

This is my first musing to the club, I believe, since I joined in 1997. I have been DXing for about 30 years and joined NRC after I got the BCB DX bug in late 1996. Before that, I had been a shortwave DXer since the 70's. I chased QSL's in my earlier days but, like many others, have mostly given up sending reports due to the cost and low reply rates. However, I do like to collect vintage QSL's that I occasionally find at flea markets and antique shops. Most recently, I came across part of the collection of a DXer from the 1930's and 1940's named G. E. Jacques from Hornell, New York. They include cards and letters from stations in the US, Canadian and even a few Latin American countries. It's great fun going through them and reading the responses from the stations, and some of the letterhead and logo artwork is classic period stuff. I have started to scan them and FRED VOBBE has offered to post them on the NRC web site on the Historic QSL Cards and Letters page. What caught my eye in the collection was an envelope from the National Radio Club, postmarked from York PA in 1936, so it's likely Mr. Jacques was a member. I was wondering if anyone might remember Mr. Jacques or know something about him? It would be neat to have a story to go along with the verifications. Moving back to the present, the past few weeks of listening have been both exciting and frustrating; days of nothing but noise and static, followed by new countries rolling in from Central and South America! Hope everyone has a great DX season! 73

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

Remember, the month of December is hi-lighting members from the SOUTHEASTERN US, so send your reports in; we'll feature them during December. One project that I thought was an interesting one was the Night Pattern Book that the NRC published in the 70's, and maybe a few times after that. You would look at the actual signal pattern the station was suppose to have; sometimes you would wonder just how you heard the station with the signal going in the other direction! One station I visited a few years ago in WV shared a very funny story with me, being that they could never get the directional pattern to work properly. So in order to get the readings to agree with the license, instead of adjusting the power going to each individual tower, they just added on some more cable to the lines which came back to the station so the readings would be right! Since these days, the stations have gone to better-engineered systems with better cable and better transmitting standards. Recently noted that the 5-tower system used by CKLW-800 is being rebuilt, replacing towers that are 60+ years old. They are presently operating with 10000 watts non-directional while the system is being overhauled. The days of "The Big 8" are very clearly remembered, and the Monday mornings you wished they would sign off (I think I caught them off a few times in the 70's!). Let's hear from you!