From the Publisher ... Issue #20 will be the one where we include “Address Service Requested” on the back cover of DXN (and in the future, all #10, 20, and #30 DXN’s). If you have moved and have not sent us an address update (and you KNOW who you are, because you are receiving DXN’s with those yellow forwarding stickers affixed by the USPS), get that update to the publisher in Topeka before Wednesday, February 16, to avoid costing your club seventy cents, which is what the USPS charges us per address update. And the USPS WILL charge us seventy cents for each forwarded copy of #20. If you move after that issue and forget to send an update, after a month you’ll no longer receive DXN, as the USPS will stop forwarding DXN to your new address and will send it back ... and we’ll assume that you are no longer with us and cancel your subscription (unless you should come to life and complain that you aren’t receiving DXN, of course).

David Jones - 1713 Martindale Drive - Springfield, TN 37172-3821, 384-1190 (area code?) is interested in forming a local Kentucky and Tennessee group of AM band listeners.

WHGT/WCBG-1590 ... NRC members Dave Norment and Gerry Conkling recently visited the transmitter site of WHGT/WCBG-1590, Chambersburg, PA. They found no lights on the four towers, the doors removed from their hinges from two of the tower tuning houses, and the site generally deserted, with the station apparently permanently off the air. Seems that workers trying to build a water tower literally a few feet from one of the towers were receiving RF burns; the city of Chambersburg wanted to shut the radio station down, but the station went to court over the matter. Dave said that the beginnings of a huge water tower were visible, but that no construction activity was evident.

From the Publisher ... Issue #20 will be the one where we include “Address Service Requested” on the back cover of DXN (and in the future, all #10, 20, and #30 DXN’s). If you have moved and have not sent us an address update (and you KNOW who you are, because you are receiving DXN’s with those yellow forwarding stickers affixed by the USPS), get that update to the publisher in Topeka before Wednesday, February 16, to avoid costing your club seventy cents, which is what the USPS charges us per address update. And the USPS WILL charge us seventy cents for each forwarded copy of #20. If you move after that issue and forget to send an update, after a month you’ll no longer receive DXN, as the USPS will stop forwarding DXN to your new address and will send it back ... and we’ll assume that you are no longer with us and cancel your subscription (unless you should come to life and complain that you aren’t receiving DXN, of course).

David Jones - 1713 Martindale Drive - Springfield, TN 37172-3821, 384-1190 (area code?) is interested in forming a local Kentucky and Tennessee group of AM band listeners.

WHGT/WCBG-1590 ... NRC members Dave Norment and Gerry Conkling recently visited the transmitter site of WHGT/WCBG-1590, Chambersburg, PA. They found no lights on the four towers, the doors removed from their hinges from two of the tower tuning houses, and the site generally deserted, with the station apparently permanently off the air. Seems that workers trying to build a water tower literally a few feet from one of the towers were receiving RF burns; the city of Chambersburg wanted to shut the radio station down, but the station went to court over the matter. Dave said that the beginnings of a huge water tower were visible, but that no construction activity was evident.

DX Time Machine

From the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the February 12, 1955 DXN: Roy H. Millar, Issaquah, WA reported easy logging of the DX broadcast from CKXN-1240 on 1/31, 0321-0420, with QRM from KWJH and noted VOA-1140, Northern Luzon, Philippines, “rolling in” at local sunrise.

25 years ago ... from the February 11, 1980 DXN: Chuck Hutton, Atlanta, GA purchased all available Radio Shack TRF’s (12-655) in the SE USA and offered to sell them at the standard price of $29.95, with profits going to the NRC. He also offered to install two ceramic filters in the IF stage for $7 and to align the RF and IF for $5.

10 years ago ... from the February 13, 1995 DXN: John Bryant and Harold Cones published The Zenith Trans-Oceanic, The Royalty of Radios ... Bill Hale reported that three AM stations were ranked first in their respective markets: KPAB-1530, Sacramento; WTMJ-620, Milwaukee; and WNCG-720, Chicago.
AM Switch

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OLD CALL</th>
<th>New Call</th>
<th>Old Call</th>
<th>New Call</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WJCE</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td>WQTV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUPL</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>KCMD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KFQG</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>KFFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGH</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>Newport News</td>
<td>WCMS [another 3-letter call lost]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

WGGT FL Golden Gate - CP granted to change their city-of-license (Col) to West Palm Beach with U5 500/250 plus a relocation of their transmitter site to N26°47’59” W80°04’33”.

WLUA SC Belton - Licensed for D1 1000/0. WLUA was granted nighttime authorization as U1 1000/17 at a new tower site. But then they folded, and now have been granted the same UI 1000/17, but at another new tower site. This one is at N34°35’19” W82°32’17”. By the way, the FCC lists WLUA as ‘silent’.

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

WCMK KY Ashland - Applies to increase power to become U1 1000/1000.

KRVA TX Cockrell Hill - Applies to increase daytime power to become U4 2500/930.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS SUBMITTED

WFDP MI Flint - Licensed for U4 5000/1000, WFDF has a CP for U4 50000/1000. They also have a pending amendment asking for U4 50000/2500 with a CoL change to Farmington Hills, Michigan. This last amendment requests U4 50000/10000 from Farmington Hills.

WOWZ VA Appomattox - Licensed for D1 1000/0, WOWZ has a CP for U1 5000/50. After that, they asked for U1 6000/17 along with a Col change to Roanoke, Virginia, and... a frequency switch to 1290 kHz. This latest amendment requests U1 10000/17 from Roanoke on 1290.

WOKB FL Winterarden - Licensed for U4 5000/5000, WOKB has a CP for U1 2200/35. This amendment requests to become D3 4000/0 licensed to Ocoee, Florida.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applications for reconsideration are due. Anyone may file an application for reconsideration of any action taken by the FCC. Complete applications must be filed no later than 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Applications filed after that date will not be considered.

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

Applications for new stations are due. Anyone may file an application for the assignment of a new radio frequency for a new station. Complete applications must be filed no later than 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Applications filed after that date will not be considered.

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES DISMISSED

Applications from existing facilities are due. Anyone may file an application for the assignment of a new radio frequency for an existing station. Complete applications must be filed no later than 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Applications filed after that date will not be considered.
Station remains U1 250/20.

1190 WSDE NY Cobblekills - Application to add night service has been dropped. Station remains D1 1000/0.

1190 WNWC WI Sun Prairie - Licensed for D3 1000/0, WNWC has a CP to increase their power to become D3 4800/0. A later application for D3 4700/0 has been dismissed.

1200 WGDL PR Lares - Their application to add nighttime service with U1 1000/1000 has been dropped. WGDL remains D1 250/0.

1240 KSOX TX Raymondville - Application to raise daytime power has been dropped. KSOX remains U1 520/80.

1350 WCBU MS Corinth - WCBU applied for U1 1000/44 and later for U1 900/44. The application for U1 1000/44 has been dismissed.

**LICENSE RENEWALS GRANTED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KET0</td>
<td>1190</td>
<td>KPHN KS Kansas City</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>610 KSCP</td>
<td>1220</td>
<td>KOMC KS Mo Branson</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>630 KFAN</td>
<td>1240</td>
<td>KGIR KS Cape Girardeau</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>680 KEQF</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>KWS KS Joplin</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>690 KSTL</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>KLT KS Lebanon</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>710 KCNO</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>KWIT KS Mobern</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750 KBNN</td>
<td>1240</td>
<td>KLIK KS Jefferson City</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>770 KEWW</td>
<td>1240</td>
<td>KNEM KS Nevada</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800 KREI</td>
<td>1240</td>
<td>KFMO KS Park Hills</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>830 KOTC</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>KBCT KS Houston</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>850 KFRO</td>
<td>1260</td>
<td>KSGF KS Springfield</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>870 KAAH</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>KGSM KS St Joseph</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900 KFAL</td>
<td>1270</td>
<td>KQZ KS Wayneville</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>930 KWOC</td>
<td>1280</td>
<td>KDDK KS Clinton</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>960 KZIM</td>
<td>1290</td>
<td>KALM KS Cape Girardeau</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>980 KMBZ</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>KMOM KS Marshall</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>990 KOIS</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>KMOS KS Mobern</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1010 KCHI</td>
<td>1320</td>
<td>KSTY KS Clayton</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1010 KXEN</td>
<td>1340</td>
<td>KXE0 KS Mexico</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1090 KQWX</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>KQX0 KS Mobern</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1090 KSIS</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>KSMO KS Salem</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1070 KQMO</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>KQDS KS Springfield</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1070 KQMS</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>KQWM KS Washington</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1070 KLKR</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>KMRK KS Cameron</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100 KQMO</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>KELF KS Mountain Grove</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1190 KFRT</td>
<td>1390</td>
<td>KJPW KS Wayneville</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NORTH OF THE 49TH PARALLEL**

- The CRTC has approved the application of CJKC-880 Nelson, BC to move to 106.9 MHz with 90 Watts.

**HEAR AND THAR**

- Reported to be off the air: KXQL-1490 Indianapolis, IN; WURI-1520 Brunswick, Maryland; and WSMN-1580 Nashua, New Hampshire.
- Thanks to Shawn Axelrod, Perry Crabbill, Deane McIntyre, Wayne Heinen.

**GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE**

- Indicates report held by DXer from North America (excluding Alaska)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMLR</td>
<td>2130</td>
<td>Hohenwald</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KJIO</td>
<td>2130</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAZF</td>
<td>2130</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPRY</td>
<td>2130</td>
<td>Perry</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WLABA</td>
<td>2130</td>
<td>Alpha</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1450 kHz**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KVSF</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>Show Low</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WLEC</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>Sandusky</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KSPQ</td>
<td>1450</td>
<td>Pierre</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1490 kHz**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WANA</td>
<td>1490</td>
<td>Anniston</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRDL</td>
<td>1490</td>
<td>West Point</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWFF</td>
<td>1490</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WTUP</td>
<td>1490</td>
<td>Tupelo</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WTCW</td>
<td>1490</td>
<td>Fairmont</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSGB</td>
<td>1490</td>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTALES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WECX</td>
<td>1490</td>
<td>Chateau</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCGO</td>
<td>1490</td>
<td>Gothenburg</td>
<td>Renewed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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, schedules 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 guide for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11" and three hole punched for easy binding. Prices: IRC/M塁 members - $9.50 (US/Canada/Mexico/seamail), $10.50 (rest of the Americas airmail), $11.50 (Europe/Africa airmail). $15.50 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). Non-members: add $2.50 to the above prices.

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

IRCA Bookstore - 9705 Mary Ave. NW - Seattle, WA 98117-2334

**The NRC Nighttime Antenna Pattern Book, 5th 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-IRC members; $22.00 (free post to IRC members and $22.00 to non-IRC members). Airmail to members in western Europe (except Italy) and Australia, New Zealand, and Japan: $29.00. All others, please contact us for exact pricing. Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mansville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax).**

**The NRC AM Radio Log, 25th 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-IRC members; $22.00 (free post to IRC members and $22.00 to non-IRC members). Airmail to members in western Europe (except Italy) and Australia, New Zealand, and Japan: $29.00. All others, please contact us for exact pricing. Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mansville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax).**
Domestic DX Digest

West: Bill Dvorak westlogs@aol.com
PO Box 4404 • Clifton Park, New York 12065-0853

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

DDXD-West

From the Vast Westland

• Happy Valentine’s Day to all! Valentine’s Day is one holiday that all DXers faithfully observe. It is the day we spend much time and money trying to convince our spouse or significant other that we love her/him more than we love our radio!

• Rick Turner continues his journey through the band from his new location in Bemidji MN. This week he reports on 700-850 kHz. In one logging, 820CHAM, Rick reported a pending format change which has come to be—see “Station News” below.

• This from John Rieger: “Very nice two days of DXing with two new ones. The less than good conditions have been replaced by a full band of possibilities!” So, despite solar flares, longer day-time hours and slowly eroding late winter conditions, there are still plenty of opportunities for great DX. If you are hearing good DX, please report it to your DDXD or IIXD editor.

• Thanks to all contributors for your continued support! 73 Bill

Reporters


DP-HI* Dale Park DXing in East Honolulu with Honda car radio.

GH-KS Gary Houdek, Mundelein.


JY-KY John F. Vervoort, Madisonville. Grundig Yacht Boy 400FE.


WH-CO Wayne Heinen, Aurora <amradio logicbook@aol.com>. Drake R8B, N/S flag and a E/W flag (Between the Honey Locust & Aspen trees) SuperPhaser ii and a few random wires & QuickRecorder on the PC.

Ed.-WI

Your editor, Madison. Drake R8B, Quantum QX Pro loop.

Station News

680 WWTQ TN Memphis. Per Memphis Business Journal, station is dropping its format and the WJCE (“The Juice”) callsign 1/28 and switching to liberal talk WWJQ, using the slogan “Progressive Talk 6-80.” The station will feature the Air America Radio Network. (DP-HI)

820 CHAM ON Hamilton. 1/30 0118. C&W music, then “820 Cham is under construction, tune in tomorrow to see the final result.” Sounded like a joke promo. Strong signal, with WBAP nulled. (RT-MN) (The next day 1/31 at 0820, the station switched to classic Country with the slogan “820 Cham the Legend,” confirmed by listening to their internet stream. The promos leading up to this switch were mildly humorous, featuring a “radio DJ” doing a mock newscast voice and宣称 “Minnesota’s Country Legend, AM 800 WVAL Sauk Rapids.”)

1320 KXYZ TX Houston. According to a posting on the NRC list, station changed formats on 2/1 to business news and talk, “BizRadio 1320,” to air seven days a week 0700-1900 ELT. The posting went on to say: “The purpose of this e-mail to let you know that BizRadio 1320 will be a DXer friendly station and will verify all correct reception reports received.” and is very interested in both local and distant reports. Reception reports from Houston high-rises are of special interest. The following address was given: BizRadio 1320, 3050 Post Oak Blvd Suite 1680, Houston TX 77056 attn QSL Dept. This address was only for reception reports covering BizRadio programming (0700-1900 ELT), and DXers should not send reports to the KXYZ’s owners, Multicultural Radio Broad-
WCCO MN Minneapolis. 1/31 0100. "Imagination Theater" then "The most listened to WHAS KY Louisville.

CKLW ON

WMUU SC Greenville. 1/25 1748. "You are tuned to WMUU AM 12-60." Poor signal.

WWVA WV

WWJC MN Duluth.

CKKY AB Wainwright. 1/14 0200. Taped a rare

WHB MO Kansas City. 1/29 0200. "Sports Overnight America" and promo for "the KGYN

KPHN MO Kansas City. 1/25 1802. Radio Disney mention. KPHN is the only Radio Disney

WPBS GA Conyers. 1/21

WLTP OH Marietta. 1/29

CKJS MB Winnipeg. 1/29 1405. Female reading possibly the news in an unknown lan-

WWVA WV

WWJC MN Duluth.

CKKY AB Wainwright. 1/14 0200. Taped a rare call sign ID "Cay Country is CKKY AM

CKO CO Denver. 2/2 0100. "Fifty thousand watt voice of the west, Newsradio 850 KOA

WWJC MN Duluth. 2/13 1300. "Through The Bible Radio" followed by "Information with a

WCLW ON Windsor. 1/25 2100. "Talk Radio AM 800 WCLW" into the Larry King Show.

WGY NY Schenectady. 1/29 0105. "Newstalk Radio 810 WGY" into ABC news. Good

WHB MO Kansas City. 1/29 0200. "Sports Overnight America" and promo for "the Superbowl only on Sportsradio 810 WHB." Good signal with WGY nulled.

CKJS MB Winnipeg. 1/29 1405. Female reading possibly the news in an unknown lan-
guage followed by jingle-like ID in English, "CKJS." Someone broadcasting

WBAP TX Fort Worth. 1/30 0100. Numerous local news reports, ending with the phrase

This is ______, WBAP news." Good, with CHAM nulled. (RT-MN)

CKKY AB Wainwright. 1/14 0200. Taped a rare call sign ID "Cay Country is CKKY AM

WCCO MN Minneapolis. 1/31 0100. "Imagination Theater" then "The most listened to

WHAS KY Louisville. 2/1 2000. "Talk Radio AM 800 CKLW into the Larry King Show.

KXJZ TX Amarillo. 1/25 1834. "Glenn Beck weekdays 9 to 11 on Newsradio 9-40

KKIT NE West Point.

KFAQ OK Tulsa. 1/31 0200. Poor, no WOWO. Weather, calls, ads, local news. (JJR-WI)

WSDQ TN Dunlap. 1/25 0736. Fair, no WOWO. Weather, calls, ads, local news. (JJR-WI)

KPHN MO Kansas City. 1/25 1802. Radio Disney mention. KPHN is the only Radio Disney

KGYN OK Guymon. 1/25 0736. Poor, no WPHT. Cais, Oklahoma Network News. (JJR-WI)

KCCR SD Pierre. 1/29 0921. Program note for "KCCR Outdoor Show," sponsored by

CJW CO Waunee. 1/25 1700. "Voice of the People." No signal from WCOG.

CFRN AB Edmonton. 1/16 2300. Surfaced with "... on Edmonton's Sports Radio, Team

WMMU SC Greenville. 1/25 1748. "You are tuned to WMMU AM 12-60." Poor signal.

NEW (JJR-WI)
WQAM FL Miami
WSNR TN Brentwood
WGOC TN
WSNR NJ Jersey City
Pirate MA
WDSC SC
WGSE GA Hogansville
WAQI FL Miami
WKBC NC North Wilkesboro
WFSC NC Franklin

1710 UNID  - 1/21 2220 - Vocal hymns and religious music. No sign of Lubavitcher pirate or carrier during Jewish Sabbath. No talk. Suspect same as 1/22 logging but not sure. (SC-ON)
Pirate MA - 1/22 1837 - Man speaking French in excited tone. At 1904 a woman takes phone calls in a highly mellown tone, with "Allo, Bonjour" and a phone number beginning with 617-265 and ending in something close to 2005 (my calls do not go through). Lots of hang-ups for some reason. Alone, as if Lubavitcher pirate's carrier absent. Usually it leaves carrier on during the Jewish Sabbath. First six digits of phone call to Dorchester, where a lot of the Haitian pirates are located. Others heard on the X-band at same time but all are relogs and I focused on 1710. Conditions strongly auroral block out west and south, leaving east very strong and clear. New. (SC-ON)
Pirate MA - 1/28 1900 - Possibly Radio Nouveaute. Poor fair through an open carrier. The programming consisted of announcers in French and music. Listened for about 1.5 hours and did not hear an ID. Several carriers noted, some of the stronger ones on 1709.975, 1709.982, 1709.994, 1710.010 and 1720.020. (The strongest, the open carrier, was on 1709.975.) (NOTE: measured frequencies are +/- 0.05, subject to re-calibration and they drifted somewhat.) (WJH-MD)

STATION LOGGINGS

520 WGOP MD Poconoke City - 1/17 1654 - Oldies music, ABC News. Commercial for Armstrong Electric Company of Poconoke. Fair, mixing with WLLE. Heard years ago as WDMV. (LW-NY)
560 WQAM FL Miami - 1/5 1840 - "Sports radio 560 WQAM" ID. Talk, discussion about NFL playoffs, Dolphins past year and new head coach. (LW-NY)
560 WSNR TN Brentwood - 1/27 0568 - Ad for the Daily News Journal. Heard ID as follows - male announcer "Sporting News...Nashville..." singing jingle as "Sporting News Radio 5-6 WSNR". Fair in the channel mix. (WJH-MD)
580 WTAG MA Worcester - 1/6 2034 - Dr. Laura show, under and over Cuban. "News talk 980 WTAG" IDs. (LW-NY)
620 WKHB PA Irwin - 1/23 1247 - Male announcer with Polka Marathon Program, requesting sponsors, and ID as "KHIB" in between polka selections. Good on the NW leg of the K9AY with presumed WSNR nullled. (WJH-MD)
580 WSNR NJ Jersey City - 1/23 1700 - Song "You Can Drive My Car," chimes, ID slogan by female, chorus singing theme song which included slogan, ID by male announcer as "WSNR" and slogan, and news by female announcer at 1701. All was in Russian. The signal was fair to good, but rough because the skywave was trying to poke through but couldn't quite stay. (WJH-MD)
640 WCRV TN Collierville - 1/26 2029 - Popped in for a few seconds with a quick WCRV ID, nothing else heard! (WJH-MD)
650 WGOC TN Blountville - 2/1 1805 - Bluegrass music, then liner "you're listening to bluegrass with Tim White (which matches website), so turn up your radio and take the knobs off", into another song, announcer out (presumably Mr White) dedicating song to Parson Blanton, into Alison Krause "Baby Now That I've Found You", then into liner "we listen to Tim White's bluegrass at ??? lawnmower shop - we turn it up REAL loud 'cause we got the mowers runnin', then female "Shut up, ??, the bluegrass show's on" - back to male "that was the little lady". "Entertaining stuff anyway!" Faded into mess at 1815. Best on N/S wire alone. New! (BC-PA)

1100 WAQL FL Miami - 1/20 2100 - Lottery numbers in Spanish, but TOH ID in English. "WAQI Miami, Fort Lauderdale" and "Radio Mambi La Grande". (IEN-GA)
720 WGSE GA Hogansville - 1/20 1760 - Heard with formal sign off mentioning they were a division of Clear Channel. (JLB-NY)
800 WDSCSC Dillon - 1/26 1828 - ID by a male as "The message is in the music on your favorite station WDSC-AM, WPFM-AM, WGSS-AM" into a gospel song. Over all. (WJH-MD)
800 WKBC NC North Wilkesboro - 1/27 0804 - CBS News, local weather, ID by man as "WBBC News," followed by local news. Over WCHA and others. (WJH-MD)
820 WXJC AL Birmingham - 1/26 1738 - Gospel music, male announcer with "WXJC Caravan Show," doesoe rose give-away, scriptures about love. Over the mix. (WJH-MD)
880 WRRZ NC Charlotte - 1/25 1700 - ID by man in English "This is WRRZ 8-80" into a singin ID for "WRZK." Talk by a male in Spanish. He mentioned Musica and Mexicana. Fair to good with some interference from a nulled WCB5. Heard a short sign off in English at 1729. (WJH-MD)
820 WPEK NC Fairview - 1/25 1745 - Al Schultz Show. Spot for programs tomorrow morning. Did not mention call letters. Gave slogan as "8-80 AM the revolution, Asheville's progressive talk station". (WJH-MD)
820 WBKZ GA Jefferson - 1/25 1745 - Gospel music, annual women fellowship program at a local Baptist church, birthday for Isaac, bible study this weekend, studio commercials linked. New. (WJH-MD)
900 KGHT AR Sheridan - 1/25 1800 - ID by a male announcer as "Let your works glorify your Heavenly Father. The Kingdom Gospel for today. KGHT AM 8-80 Sheridan" into SRN News. Over WBKZ and WCBS. (WJH-MD)
900 CHML ON Hamilton - 1/20 1869 - Fair over jumble. With a local furniture store commercial Mexico something... "CHML AM 900 your news talk leader." (FWS-SC)
910 WPFB OH Middletown - 1/25 1822 - Under-grayeay-longf-jumble with local weather, slogan "the voice of the Mid-Miami Valley, 910 WPFB". Listed at only 100 watts. Night, assuming they're not cheating! (MKB-ON)
920 WHJJ RI Providence - 2/1 1720 - Ad for Empire Diamonds in the Empire State Building, then liner "Talkradio 920 WHJJ" into program with female host, which matches their website. New! (BC-PA)
940 WTAD IL Quincy - 1/29 0715 - Alone with weather / road report for the Tri-cities on "Talk Radio 930, WTAD" into local news until WLJB took over frequency. Seldom heard here. (JF-ON)
950 WCPC MS Houston - 2/1 1930 - Heard beginning of Mississippi State Bulldogs Basketball game. WCPC is matched on the website. In and out w/ WMAC, CINW, which was phased. New! (BC-PA)
950 WMAC GA Macon - 2/1 1933 - Calls in and out of Accuweather forecast "On newstalk 940, WMAC", mixing with CINW and WCPC. CINW phased. New! (BC-PA)
950 WGOV GA Valdosta - 1/19 1901 - Preaching the usual suspects (WWJ, WBBX, WROC) with top of hour ID. "AM 95 WGOV Valdosta" amid non-stop hip-hop/urban songs. (MKB-ON)
970 WDAY ND Fargo - 1/30 0121 - alone on frequency with NOS music, format change? (JF-ON)
1000 WNSI AL Robertsdale - 1/23 1842 - Sporting News Radio program. During a break heard a male announcer with a hard freeze warning - lows in the 20's highs in the 30's and ID as WNSI AM and FM. Poded through WYBT and the mix. (WJH-MD)
1000 WBUT FL Blountstown - 1/23 1856 - Talk by a female announcer in between oldies selections as "You are listening to WYBT. My name is Allison. Blountstown-Bristol with the best in golden oldies." Generally topping the channel. Over WNSI and a Latin (presumed Colombia). (WJH-MD)
1050 WFSC NC Franklin - 1/22 1835 - Oldies. Good signal that would fade from time-to-time. "We're Franklin's first voice, 1050 WSCF". (IEN-GA)
Problems, Problems?

We can't solve all your woes, but we can solve your DX News problems. Torn, soiled, partially-printed, Mia, or worst of all, delivered in a USPS plastic baggie? No need to return the copy; just send a postcard to NRC-2840SE Illinois Ave., Chicago, IL 60616. Or worst of all, delivered in a USPS plastic baggie? No need to return the copy; just send a postcard to NRC-2840SE Illinois Ave., Chicago, IL 60616.
Rolling Your Own: building antenna splitters that perform better than most commercial units
By John Bryant and Bill Bowers

About nine months ago, Bill Bowers and I began what became a rather thorough study of signal splitters. From the beginning, we had hoped to develop a splitter design for homebrewing that would perform as well or better than the rather expensive units currently available on the commercial market. Our first steps were to purchase the three two-port splitters currently available in North America and for Bill to take them through a sophisticated series of tests. The three units tested were:

1) Model MC-102, Stridsberg Engineering (www.stridsberg.com). The 2004 retail price was $65 plus S&H.
2) Model SP-1, RF Systems, available from several hobby sources around the world. Our test unit was purchased from Universal Radio (http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/preamps.html). The retail price in 2004 was $89.95 plus S&H.
3) Model ZSC-2-2 Mini-Circuits. Our unit was purchased directly from the Mini-Circuit sales office in Missouri (phone: 718-934-4500) for $52.95 plus S&H in 2004.

Those initial tests were widely published in May 2004 as “An Evaluation of Commercially Available Signal Splitters.” In brief, the findings were that all three units were quite adequate signal splitters and that – for all but the most demanding applications – the Mini-Circuit units were based on price and availability. We also noted that the Mini-Circuit Model ZSC-2-2 out-performed the other two units, at least slightly, in every single test. It was also the least expensive, at $52.95 for the two-port version.

The data developed during those tests established the current state-of-the-art for the next design cycle. Those same results are presented in this article along with the test results for the new design that we suggest for DXers who wish to “roll their own” and save a good bit of “radio money” in the process.

Why Do I Need a Signal Splitter, Anyway?

In recent years, increasing numbers of radio hobbyists have wished to attach multiple receivers to the same antenna. This need may stem from a group wishing to share a single antenna on a DXpedition, or it may be from a single hobbyist wishing to operate two or more receivers simultaneously from the same antenna. In any case, many of us have found that simply using a stub of wire to hook the antenna ports of several receivers to the same antenna is an invitation to all sorts of problems. One of the funnier problems can occur if one of several receivers hooked together presents significantly lower impedance to the antenna than do the others. Years ago, when Mitch Sams, Kirk Allen and John Bryant first “shared” a beer, Kirk and John eventually realized that Mitch’s old receiver was literally sucking all of their DX! A second common occurrence when hooking multiple receivers together is the fact that spurious radiations/local oscillator signals from one receiver can use the common antenna lead as a pathway to enter the other receivers; this can cause serious but difficult to recognize interference, strange “signals,” etc. For all of these reasons and more, if you wish to operate two or more receivers simultaneously from one antenna, you will need to use a device called variously, an antenna splitter, a signal splitter or a power splitter: when referring to a receiving antenna device, most people use these three terms interchangeably.

What the Heck Are They?

The first antenna splitters that many of us saw were rather expensive and complex devices built with vacuum tube technology. These devices were usually purchased as used-surplus from government surplus property outlets and often support 8 or 16 receivers simultaneously and contained sophisticated RF amplifiers. As we noted earlier, recent times, smaller-scale splitters have become available commer-
cially, intended for both the professional and serious hobbyist markets. The most commonly available splitters are 2-port, unamplified units. However, 4-port units, either with or without solid state amplifiers, are also available and two of the three splitter manufacturers produce a bewildering array of splitters suited for many professional communications uses. Military and intelligence agencies are known to have contracted with manufacturers to produce modern units with at least as many as 32 ports. These have recently appeared on the used-surplus market, as well.

Most signal splitters are based on a fundamental building block which is a transformer-like device that accepts a single signal stream and splits it into two identical parts that are each (by the laws of physics) diminished in strength by about 3 dB, minimum. Usually, these transformer-like devices consist of a ferrite core with windings of fine wire; this building block may be diagrammed as an upside-down capital letter "Y." Antenna splitters that offer four output ports contain three "building blocks" arranged in a cascade fashion, where the first unit splits the signal into two halves, which are then fed into a second rank of two splitters; those second rank splitters divide the half signals into halves again, creating four identical signals of further diminished strength. Since each transformation/splitting incurs about 3 dB of loss, it is easy to see why most splitters of four output ports or more include RF amplification.

The "DH-P" Homebrew Splitter

The so-called DH-P homebrew splitter first surfaced in an article the early 1980s by Down Under DX enthusiast Sam Dellitt. The article was first published in DX Australia and later reprinted in Canada's CIDX Messenger; a version of it was also featured in an article in the Proceedings of Fine Tuning (Proc. 1989, article F-12, p.5) by Nick Hall-Patch. The original core used by Sam has not been available for years and, in the Proceedings article, Nick suggested using the "binocular" core, BLN-73-202 by Amidon. This latter core is the one used in the tests shown later in this article. The wire is #30 or #32 varnished magnet wire which requires a bit of a delicate touch; unfortunately, larger wire sizes won't fit through the holes enough times to create the proper turns count for this design.

The New "BB" Homebrew Splitter

As you will note in the test results presented later, John Bryant's twenty year-old DH-P splitter, a veteran of numerous DXpeditions, performed surprisingly well. In fact, it out-performed both the RF Systems and Stridsberg units at most frequencies! The performance of the DH-P splitter formed the base line for Bill's design development and testing cycles. He hoped to be able to out-do the older homebrew and approach the outstanding performance of the Mini-Circuits splitter.

Both Bill and I tend to favor winding cores that are about 1" in diameter or more. The ease of winding these larger cores more than offsets the small additional cost. However, after several series of design/testing, Bill was rather surprised to find that, for this application, smaller cores are more superior! From that point, Bill focused on designing a splitter based on Amidon's FT-50J, a toroidal core of about Ø 1" x 1" inside diameters.

Several additional design/testing cycles led Bill to a winding pattern and turns count quite similar to the DH-P homebrew splitter. The winding design that Bill suggests is a 21 turn "primary" from the antenna side of things. That winding is to be laid on the core first in an evenly distributed pattern around the circumference of the toroid. The secondary coil is 14 bi-filar turns, also distributed evenly around the toroid (imagine a twisted pair of one red and one blue wire.) From the two ends, one red and the opposite blue are tied together and ground through a 27 Ohm resistor. You have just created a 28-turn secondary with a center tap to ground through the resistor. The remaining red and blue wire...
Signal attenuation. The test data from our previous article on commercial splitters are included for antenna impedance match, receiver impedance match, signal isolation, impedance isolation and safe to extrapolate the results up to 15 or 20 MHz to cover most of the bands of interest to our readers.

The frequency ranges, 150 kHz to 13 MHz, to 13 MHz, so our 11 test points fell within that range. We believe that it is safe to extrapolate the results up to 15 or 20 MHz to cover most of the bands of interest to our readers.

The following characteristics were measured over a range of frequencies from 150 kHz to 13 MHz:
- Antenna impedance match
- Receiver impedance match
- Signal isolation
- Impedance isolation
- Signal attenuation

The test data from our previous article on commercial splitters are included for comparison purposes. The two "proof of design" splitters that were bench tested here are the two shown previously in this article.

Antenna Impedance Match: This is the impedance that will terminate the coax lead-in cable from the antenna. The RG-58 has a characteristic impedance of approximately 50 Ohms and if the antenna port of the splitter has an impedance other than 50 Ohms, the greater the signal loss will be. The amount of signal loss is complex and the total loss also depends on the length and attenuation of the coax. This signal loss was measured at the antenna port with all receiver ports terminated in 50 Ohms, resistive. The Ideal splitter would present 50 Ohms at the antenna port.

Signal Isolation: The local oscillator of a receiver radiates back out the antenna connection and into the splitter. To prevent one receiver's oscillator from interfering with the signal going into the other receiver connected to the splitter, it is desirable to have much signal isolation as possible. The larger the signal isolation, the better. For this test, the attenuation, from a 50 Ohm source connected to a receiver port, was measured at another receiver port. All receiver ports and the antenna port were terminated in 50 Ohms, resistive.

Impedance Isolation: The antenna input impedance of a receiver with a "coax connection" is nominally 50 Ohms when it is tuned to the incoming signal. Some receivers show an impedance as low as 10 Ohms at frequencies other than the one to which the receiver is tuned. This 10 Ohm load at one receiver port of the splitter can upset the impedance seen at the other port. Here again the ideal splitter should continue to present 50 Ohms impedance even when the other port is loaded with 10 Ohms. This measurement was made at one receiver port as the impedance at one of the other receiver ports was reduced from 50 to 10 Ohms, resistive.

It may not be perfect...
SIGNAL ATTENUATION: This tabulates the attenuation of a signal, from a 50 Ohm source, as it passes from the antenna port of the splitter out through one of the receiver ports. The other receiver port(s) are terminated in 50 Ohms, resistive. The attenuation of a signal when it is split 2 ways, by an ideal splitter, would be 3db, when split 4 ways is 6 db, etc. Refer to Appendix for a description of the methods of measuring these important values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MC-102</th>
<th>SP-1</th>
<th>ZSC-2-2</th>
<th>DHP-2</th>
<th>BB-2</th>
<th>ZSC-4-3B</th>
<th>BB-4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHz</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>3.52</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>3.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>3.16</td>
<td>3.16</td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>3.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>3.49</td>
<td>3.49</td>
<td>3.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>3.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>3.85</td>
<td>3.85</td>
<td>3.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISCUSSION

We were gratified with the test results. First, considering Impedance Matching to both the antenna and the receiver, below 5 MHz, the BB-2, the BB-4 and the DHP-2 performed considerably better than the Stridsberg and RF Systems units. The new BB homebrew design was somewhat better than the older DHP unit and even out-performed the Mini-Circuits units at some frequencies. The same general results were obtained when testing for Isolation: both homebrew designs substantially out-performed the Stridsberg and RF Systems splitters and the new BB designs actually outperformed the really excellent Mini-Circuits design, in a number of instances. Finally, in the important Signal Attenuation test, the homebrew units proved superior to the commercial units in many instances.

Although all three commercial units out-performed the homebrew units as the test frequency climbed above 5 MHz, the differences in both Isolation and Signal Attenuation, at even 13 MHz, amounted to a worst-case 2.3 dB, for the DHP design, 13 dB, for the BB-2 and less than a full dB for the BB-4.

Almost certainly, the performance of these units could be improved in several ways. It is possible that both Isolation and Attenuation could be improved by using slightly larger boxes. This is particularly true in the case of the BB-4. The VHF splitters used very small cores and thus the boxes that John obtained so cheaply were less than .75 inch deep. These small tolerances between the larger FT-50 cores and the larger aluminum enclosures and to arrange them in an arrangement that generates the least interaction between them: at 90 degrees (O - 90 as viewed from above.) They also maintained the shortest possible leads from component-to-component by placing all ports on a single surface of the enclosure. Stacked performance of the Mini-Circuits splitters. Each of these design decisions could contribute to the outstanding and relatively broadband performance of the Mini-Circuits splitters.

END NOTES

1. Although the enclosure for the two-port unit was aluminum and magnetically neutral, there is still some possibility of capacitive coupling between the windings and the enclosure at higher frequencies, so an insulating block/mounting pedestal is a reasonable idea. The enclosures for the four-port units that John built were heavy-gage sheet steel and, therefore, even more likely to cause some degradation of performance were the cores not separated from the enclosure with an insulating block. It is interesting to note that Mini-Circuits is very careful to isolate the cores from their aluminum enclosures and to arrange them in an arrangement that generates the least interaction between them at 90 degrees (O - 90 as viewed from above.)

2. The measured values of Z were actually complex, not purely resistive. The impedance phase angles were, however, very small in most cases, and we feel that including those angles would have been more confusing than helpful. For instance, the largest impedance phase angle for the Mini-Circuit ZSC-2-2 was less than 2 degrees over the entire frequency range. For all practical purposes, the tabulated values of Z can be considered resistive.

Welcome to another edition of Target DX! This time, the focus is on Pre-Sunrise Authority (PSRA) and Post-Sunset Authority (PSSA). Both of which have been topics of recent discussion on the listserve. Remember to send your questions or your suggestions for future topic-oriented columns to me either via the NRCDXAS listserve, by off-line email or by regular mail.

Back in the 1950's and early 1960's, there were essentially four basic types of operations permitted - full (or unlimited) time, daytime, limited time and shared time. The first two being somewhat obvious, I'll start with the third. Limited time operations were granted to ends of the co-channel stations which were authorized to operate on schedules which were less than full time but more than daytime. Most of these were on designated Clear Channels, where a second station, usually at a large distance from the first, was permitted to operate during the day, but were required to sign off at a specified time each month, usually determined by the time of local sunset at the first station, rather than at their own local sunset. Conversely, the Limited Time stations were often required to sign on at times other than their local sunset, depending upon the location of the co-channel station they were required to protect.

The fourth type of operation covered situations where two or more stations within a close geographical area were licensed to the same frequency and permitted to share hours of operation. Sometimes these stations utilized the same technical facilities, while other times, they did not.

Another group of stations, by virtue of their proximity to stations on the Canadian border and by operation of treaty, were required to either reduce power and/or change antenna pattern prior to local sunset in
order to provide protection from interference to those Canadian stations. These were designated as 'Canadian-Restricted' operations. Similarly, there was also another group of stations which provided similar protection to specified Canadian stations. These were designated as 'Critical Hours' operations.

The original idea behind the PSRA was to permit daytime stations, whose local sunrise in midwinter could be as early as 0600 AM local time or later, to sign on as early as 0600 AM with reduced power until their actual local sunrise time so as to be able to better serve their communities. The rationale behind the PSRA, which came a few years later, was similar, in that local sunset in some parts of the country in midwinter could be as early as 0400 PM. The PSRA permits operations for a period of up to two hours after local sunset. In the interest of objectivity, it must be mentioned that morning and evening drive-time are the two most lucrative times of the day for most stations. As with many general rules, there are several exceptions as dictated either by international treaty, or by specific requirements protecting co-channel fulltime stations on the clear channels. In addition, protected stations were permitted to contest PSRA or PSSA authorizations, which frequently led to formal hearings and additional engineering studies.

PSRA's and PSSA's were often assigned not just to daytime-only stations, but to a number of fulltime stations as well. If a fulltimer had an authorized nighttime power of less than the 500 watt maximum for PSRA and PSSA, or if it were directional at night in such a way as its coverage under a nondirectional 250 or 500 watt PSRA or PSSA would cover a greater area than the directional nighttime pattern would at greater power, then they would opt to use these programs. Similarly, when the FCC granted nighttime operations to the majority of daytimers a number of years ago, the majority of these stations retained the use of their former PSRA and PSSA authorizations.

In both cases, powers for these additional hours of operation are calculated by the FCC based on a number of interference factors, and in some cases, there are also limitations on hours beyond those stated above. The absolute maximum permissible power under either program is 500 watts. Today, stations need not to apply for either PSRA or PSSA, nor are they required to use them when they are issued. In the early days of these programs, however, stations were required to apply for their authorizations, providing engineering data proving that they could accomplish it without causing interference. All stations choosing to use these extended authorizations are required to notify the FCC of their intended use, and, in all cases where the authorized power is less than the smallest of their normal daytime, Critical Hours or Canadian-Restricted authorized power, to document how they intended to achieve the reduced power level.

This last follows some of the recent discussion on the listserv as to the problems which caused some stations to choose not to use their PSRA or PSSA, or else to use higher powers than authorized. With many stations authorized for PSRA or PSSA powers of less than 10 watts, this wasn’t the only problem, because even if a station could reasonably obtain the correct power, its coverage often was so marginal that using it didn’t pay to use it. Today, a similar situation exists with regard to many of the nighttime powers authorized for former daytime stations.

A major problem for DXers is that the FCC has not produced any public records of the authorized powers and/or stations for PSRA and PSSA operation in many years. This is further complicated by several factors: 1) as additional new stations or station changes become operational, a number of PSRA and/or PSSA powers for other stations must be recalculated; 2) not all stations have chosen to use these authorizations; 3) the FCC has not always provided a complete list of stations that have not been made concerning PSRA’s and PSSA’s for those former daytime stations that have nighttime powers; and 4) many station owners and operators do not understand nor even know the requirements of these authorizations, and therefore do not properly comply with them. The result is that many DXers report stations as operating outside of normal daytime hours with day power when a number of these stations in fact are legally operating with a PSRA or PSSA.

Given the considerations noted above, it will usually not be possible to determine what conditions actually apply in many cases.

One result is a change in the way DXers must approach sunrise and sunset DX. The main consequence is that in many cases neither a sign-on or sign-off announcement nor anthem will be heard from many stations at their local sunrise or sunset times. On the other hand, however, there may be more of these available at 0600 AM local time and at two hours past local sunset. Of course, with the addition of low power nighttime operations for many stations, there are a lot fewer sign-ons and sign-offs in general. It is also undeniable that all of these situations contribute greatly to increasing the number of stations to wade through at any given time to find those we’re seeking for, but such is the nature of DX today. It has become somewhat more difficult to plan one’s DX sessions than it used to be, and more of a case of being fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time, which is, after all, one of the basics of the hobby which has always been a factor.

As can be seen from the foregoing discussion, it is often nearly impossible to say with certainty that a given station is operating illegally with daytime facilities unless the reception is either prior to 0600 AM at the station or more than 2 hours past its local sunset. Further, like many aspects of the hobby, these situations can provide DX for some and more pests for others, as can also be said of the confusion on the part of station personnel which sometimes result in illegal operation.

T’d like to thank Jerry Starr and Wayne Heinen for providing me with some of the details of how the programs worked initially and also as to how these programs were affected by subsequent authorizations.

Musings of the Members

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

Here is the NRC column which is almost as exciting Big Ben’s Birch Beer (avilable in 5 colors, which include Red, White, and Blue). We’ll have some of that at the convention, on which we will have an announcement on it VERY SOON! When sending your items along, please make sure that they’re called DXing and related. That, and sending them to us, are all we ask. Here we go:

Hi everyone. The month of January resulted in a pretty good start to my DX logbook here. Totals for the month are 53 stations heard in 3 countries, 16 states and 3 provinces...I was saddened to hear of the death of longtime DXer DON TRELFORD (my sympathies and condolences go out to his family...). Congratulations and good luck to DAVE SCHMIDT, who took over the Broadcast Technology column in Popular Communications, replacing BRUCE CONTI who deserves a big thank you for an job well done...Noticed in DXN 74-14 that there is a pending application for a new radio station here in Bemidji on 1300. Great, what I need is, a third station that will effectively wipe out five more frequencies. Oh well, such is life...Hope that the DX gods smile on all you. 73s.

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

If you still use regular mail to send along reports to us, we sometimes ‘hold them over’ for an issue, depending on the content. If it’s anything that is more ‘generic’ then we try to save it for when we don’t have any others already scheduled for that date. Unfortunately, we can’t sub a column to the month we receive it, but we will if it’s something that we can’t turn down. We also do the same for Email. We still think back on the days when Ernie Cooper would TYPE on stencils page after page of Musings! I don’t know if anyone is into recording their DX these days but has anyone tried the mini disc for their DX storage? Since tape has pretty much gone by the wayside at most stations, I’ve noticed many are using the Sony Mini Disc units for production and even some, playing commercials! The one I’ve had the best luck with is a Sony JE440 (now the JE470, goes for about $150). A pack of 5 discs, that hold about 4 hours of audio per disc, go for less than $10 a pack at most of the bigger stores. They also offer many small pocket-size units, which I’ve found on Ebay for under $50 (they generally go for $150+ new). I’m still working on getting some skywires up here; weather plus work really gets in the way sometimes but we’ll get there. WBXSN made a brief return during the first month of February for some touch up measurements; the temporary license for it runs out all, one of to those who got it, congrats! We had a problem with the signal setting off house alarms in the immediate area of the tower so that sort of shut down our chance for a early morning DX test. We need to hear from you....yess, YOU!

Flash Alert Postcard System

Can’t access the Internet to find out about last-minute DX tests? Join Les Rayburn’s Flash Alert System to receive notice about late-notice tests and special events. Just send Les 10 or more self-addressed postcards, and he’ll be sure to keep you up-to-date and even notify you when you’re down to five cards. Send your cards to Les Rayburn - 100 Centerview Drive, Suite 11 - Birmingham, AL 35216-3748.

It’s almost as good as being wired!