

# DXN News

• Serving DX'ers since 1933 •

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*From the publisher ...* We regret to announce that former NRC member Paul LaFreniere, 69, of Grand Marais, MN, died September 11 after a short battle with cancer, according to information passed to us by Dave Palmer W0PRW. Our sincerest sympathies go out to his family.

Thanks as always to John Malicky for a rollicking report of the NRC/WTFDA convention in Allentown, PA; see it on page 24.

*DX GTB ...* From host John Tudenham: "The annual Midwest DXers GTG will be held at Springfield MO October 30-November 1 at the Budget Inn - 2455 N Glenstone (417- 866-7460), Business Route 65 about 1/2 mile south of I 44, Exit 80, on the west side of the street. Since this is an informal event we will meet in motel rooms. A tour of Meyer communications, a local owner of several Springfield stations is planned for Saturday. Meyer owns KTXR FM, KWTO AM FM, and KBFL AM FM. KTXR morning DJ Jamie Turner will show us around." John is also hoping to finalize arrangements for a tour through the PBS FM station in town. For more information contact John at 417-624 8058, or cell 417-438 4749; <jotud@yahoo.com>.

*New experimental station ...* Doug Smith passed along a public FCC notice posted October 1 for a new experimental station to be located at El Centro, CA: WD2XUM "New experimental to operate on 530, 890 and 1680 kHz under Space and Naval Warfare (SPAWAR) Systems Center contract to modernize and transform psychological operation equipment." I have absolutely no idea what THAT means!

*We welcome these new members ...* Benson Forrester, Commerce, GA; Sheldon Kane, Boynton Beach, FL; Edward MacDonald, Kansas City, MO (rejoins); Bruce Nixon, Kensington, MD; Joseph Perry, Woburn, MA; Dorrel Schank, Springfield; MO; Bob Zimprich, Aurora, CO.

*Unfilled positions ...* We're in need of volunteers for the following positions: an Internet web guru, to manage and update [www.nrcdxas.org](http://www.nrcdxas.org); , a DXN publisher, and one or more persons to edit future NRC publications developed by contributors or the club.

## DXN Publishing Schedule, Volume 77

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Publ</i>	<i>Date</i>			
	16.	Jan. 15	Jan. 25		
2.	Oct. 2	Oct. 12	17.	Jan. 22	Feb. 1
3.	Oct. 9	Oct. 19	18.	Jan. 29	Feb. 8
4.	Oct. 16	Oct. 26	19.	Feb. 5	Feb. 15
5.	Oct. 23	Nov. 2	20.	Feb. 12	Feb. 22
6.	Oct. 30	Nov. 9	21.	Feb. 19	Mar. 1
7.	Nov. 6	Nov. 16	22.	Feb. 26	Mar. 8
8.	Nov. 13	Nov. 23	23.	Mar. 5	Mar. 15
9.	Nov. 20	Nov. 30	24.	Mar. 19	Mar. 29
10.	Nov. 27	Dec. 7	25.	Apr. 9	Apr. 19
11.	Dec. 4	Dec. 14	26.	May 7	May 17
12.	Dec. 11	Dec. 21	27.	June 4	June 14
13.	Dec. 26	Jan. 4	28.	July 9	July 19
14.	Jan. 2	Jan. 11	29.	Aug. 6	Aug. 16
15.	Jan. 8	Jan. 18	30.	Sept. 17	Sept. 27

## DX Time Machine

*From the pages of DX News*

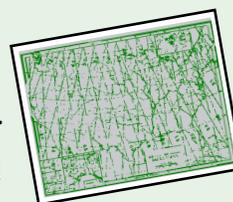
50 years ago ... from the "lost" listings: from the November 29, 1958 issue of *DX News*: Clarence Freeman, Clearlake Highlands, CA reported hearing WRCA-660 on one antenna and KVAR-660 on another (a loop), both in the clear with nothing under; also, CKRD-850 was logged on the same night of 11/15. He had just received his best Oceania verie from KMTN-900 Midway Island and his best Asian verie from JOPK-880.

25 years ago ... from the October 15, 1984 DXN: John Rose, Warren, MI described scoring a URR/392 for \$20, although it "popped" fuses.

10 years ago ... from the October 11, 1999 DXN: R. J. Edmunds reported that he was starting his 36th year in the NRC.

## Sunrise-Sunset Maps

Monthly maps (12) showing the average monthly sunrise/sunset times for the U. S.; customize them for your location. \$3.25 for NRC members (\$4.50, non-members). Order from NRC Publications - P.O. Box 473251, Aurora CO - 80047-3251. (CO residents, please add 3.5% 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, CRTC, and listeners

## CALL LETTER CHANGES

	<u>Old Call</u>			<u>New Call</u>
660	KGDP	CA	Oildale	KWVE
1450	NEW	WY	Jackson	KJCV
1510	WDRF	SC	Woodruff	WQUL



## CPs ON THE AIR

840	KXNT	NV	North Las Vegas - Licensed for U4 50000/25000, KXNT has been granted a CP to build a new transmitter site. Since the computer modeling of the new nighttime pattern is inconsistent with licensed tolerances due to the placement of nearby electric distribution towers, an STA of U4 50000/16000 has been authorized.
980	WYFN	TN	Nashville - After operating under an STA with U2 4260/4420 for less than two weeks due to transmitter problems, <b>they have returned full power (U2 5000/5000).</b>
1400	KHCB	TX	League City - <b>Station has relocated here</b> from Galveston. After building two new towers at 29-25-35/95-08-00, <b>they are now U4 1000/1000.</b> The day and night patterns are identical: kidney-shaped favoring the north-northwest and south-southeast with a major null to the southwest.
1450	KJCV	WY	Jackson - CP for U1 1000/1000 is on the air at 43-27-45/110-47-37.
1450	KIKR	TX	Beaumont - CP for U1 1000/1000 (no change) from a new tower at 30-03-51/94-07-11 is now on the air.
1550	WCVL	IN	Crawfordsville - CP for U1 250/5 is on, reducing nighttime power from 250 Watts and eliminating the night pattern.

## GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

1350	NEW	QC	Gatineau - CP granted for U1 1000/180. Station will be a relay for CIRA-FM 91.3 MHz.
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## ACTIONS

540	WFLF	FL	Pine Hills - CP granted for U4 50000/46000. Along with this 8% reduction in nighttime power, WFLF is adjusting the day pattern. Instead of throwing 90% of the signal out over the Atlantic Ocean, the new signal will direct about 88 kW ERP toward the Tampa Bay area.
980	WYFN	TN	Nashville - STA granted for U2 4260/4420 due to transmitter module failure. Replacement parts are on order and a return to full power (U2 5000/5000) is expected shortly.
980	KRTX	TX	Rosenburg-Richmond - CP granted for U4 5000/4000, consolidating their daytime facilities to the original nighttime four-tower site at 29- 40-19/95-52-58. The new day pattern throws the majority of the signal to the southeast, with smaller lobes to the southwest, northeast and northeast.
990	WABO	MS	Waynesboro - Coordinate adjustment to 31-40-40/88-40-13.
1120	WEAF	SC	St. Stephen - CP granted to move here from Camden on 1130 with D3 350/0 at 33-27-03/79-58-58. Station had a previous CP to move to Springdale with U1 1000/9 CH 1000 on 1120, but that has been deleted with this grant.
1210	KTBK	WA	Auburn-Federal Way - Licensed for U4 27500/10000 from two transmitter sites, KTBK has been granted U4 27500/227 if and when the Green River should overflow its banks. [See all the details in Issue 7701].
1270	CFGT	QC	Alma - Granted to move to 97.7 MHz with 50 kW at 77.6 metres. [corrected material from Issue 1]
1430	WEFF	IL	Deerfield - CP granted to move here from Highland Park with U4 1600/750. They will be adding two towers to their current four at 42-08-23/87-53-09 in order to produce two new patterns. The new day pattern will shoot a slender lobe due east toward Chicago, while the new night pattern will produce a large lobe to the northeast with a smaller lobe headed due west.

1570 WTLK NC Taylorsville - CP granted for U1 900/198, moving to the WACB-860 tower at 35-55-57/81-10-19. The power reduction from U1 1000/244 is necessitated because WACB's 250' tower is 75' taller than the old WTLK tower.

#### APPLICATIONS

980 KRTX TX Rosenburg-Richmond - Applies for U2 5000/500  
 1030 WNVR IL Vernon Hills - Applies for U7 27000/210 CH 8000  
 1210 WQLS AL Ozark - Applies for U1 10000/3 CH 5000 moving to Pike Road. If you look for Pike Road, Alabama . . . well . . . there is a Pike Road, located about 15 miles ESE of Montgomery, or about 60 miles north of Ozark  
 1240 CBXP BC Tahsis - The CBC has applied to move CBXP (a 40 LPRT repeater of CBCV-FM Victoria) to 90.5 MHz with 46.5 Watts at -209 metres. Tahsis is a village of (about) 360 people on the west coast of Vancouver Island.  
 1440 WFNY NY Gloversville - Applies for U2 5000/500

#### AMENDMENTS TO APPLICATIONS

1450 NEW CO Glenwood Springs - Initial application was for U1 180/180. This amendment requests U1 300/300.  
 1520 NEW WA Snohomish - Initial application was for U2 50000/1000. This amendment requests U4 20000/50000 CH 50000. This sounds like somebody mixed up some numbers, so we'll keep an eye on it.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

1290 NEW UT Santa Clara - Applies for U4 2000/250.  
 1340 NEW AL Holt - Applies for U1 1000/1000.  
 1340 NEW NH Conway - Applies for U1 620/620.  
 1450 NEW NM Flora Vista - Applies for U1 250/250.  
 1490 NEW AL Fayette - Applies for U1 1000/1000.  
 1490 NEW PA Lemont - Applies for U1 1000/1000.



#### AM on FM and FM on AM

850 KXGM IA Waterloo - Is heard on K217FT-91.3 Waterloo, KXGM-FM-89.1 Hiawatha, K227BL-93.3 Anamosa, K261DH-100.1 Iowa City, K292FR-106.3 Dyersville, and K292FZ-106.3 Mount Vernon.  
 940 WIDG MI St. Ignace - Can be heard on W237CF-95.3  
 980 KRTX TX Rosenburg-Richmond - Is now // KFTG-88.1  
 1150 KIMM SD Rapid City - Is now heard on K294BT-106.7

#### DISMISSALS

610 WVBE VA Roanoke - CP for U4 10000/2500 is dismissed, leaving an application for U4 7000/2500.  
 950 WCTN MD Potomoc-Cabin John - Application for U5 2500/27.  
 990 KAML TX Kenedy-Karnes City - Application for U7 500/500 CH 500 with a change in City-of-License to Mathis.  
 1180 NEW NV Reno - Application for a new station.  
 1310 WTLC IN Indianapolis - Application for U1 5000/250.  
 1450 WCOX AL Camden - Renewal of License.  
 1460 KBSF LA Springhill - Application for U1 5000/220 while moving to Nash, Texas.

#### WE NOW LEAVE THE AIR

790 CIGM ON Sudbury - Signed off at 1700 (local) on September 30. Their new FM is on 93.5 MHz.  
 980 CKRU ON Peterborough - Signed off at 1600 (local) on September 28. The new FM is on 100.5 MHz.

#### HEAR AND THAR

☞ Returning to the airwaves:

◆ Reported as Silent: WDWD-590 Atlanta, Georgia (due to a flooded transmitter site); KGEZ-600 Kalispell, Montana (station is in bankruptcy); WIEL-1400 Elizabethtown, Kentucky; and WBHN-1590 Bryson City, North Carolina.

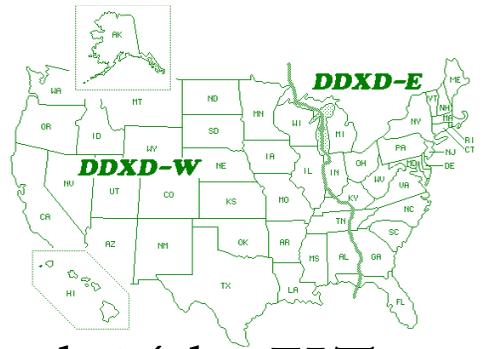
◆ Thanks to Shawn Axelrod, John Bowker, Wayne Heinen, Deane McIntyre, Stan Morss, Dave Schmidt and Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve.

# Domestic DX Digest

**West: Jim Tedford** Radio\_Enthusiast@hotmail.com  
20310 Bothell-Everett Highway B4 - Bothell, WA 98012-8133

**East: Mike Brooker** aum108@idirect.com  
99 Wychcrest Ave - Toronto, Ontario M6G 3X8 CANADA

(Division line  
is between East  
and Central time  
zones)



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

Hello from the Pacific Northwest. A very nice turnout for this week's column. Summer must really be over, hi. I want to thank everyone for their kind notes of thanks and encouragement for taking over the column. I'm having a great time meeting everyone and being immersed in some great AM loggings. You guys are positively inspiring.

### Reporters

- DP-HI** Dale Park, Honolulu HI Sangean ATS-818CS, Terk AM 1000 loop  
**DP-HI1** Dale Park walking around the neighborhood Sony SRF-59 Walkman barefoot  
**DP-HI2** Dale Park DXing at Sea Life Park, Makapu'u Point Honda car radio  
**DP-HI3** Dale Park DXing in East Honolulu \* Honda car radio  
**FO-OK** Forest Osborn, Hooker, OK Icom IC-R70, Hammarlund HQ-150, 4' homemade box loop and 200' LW  
**JDT-WA** Jim Tedford Bothell WA Grundig Sat-800, Eton E-1, Kaito KA-2100, 150 foot longwire, Degen loop  
**JS-MN** John Sampson Grand Rapids, MN Collins UR 388, Kiwa Loop  
**JW-CO** John Wilkins Wheat Ridge, CO Drake R-8, 4-foot loop  
**WH-CO** Wayne Heinen Aurora, WA Kiwa Loop Drake R8B, E/W Flag, N/S Flag, Dual TG-1 Termination Gizmo w/DX Engineering RPA-1 preamp and Mini DXP5.

### Station News

- 620 KJOL CO Grand Junction** 09/27 2059 "Local Christian Radio for the Western Slope KJOL Grand Junction 620 AM and 99.5 FM and KDTA Delta - Montrose 1400 AM" to Contemporary Christian Music Apparently K258BP-99.5 translator is now // KJOL. **(WH-CO)**
- 1060 KIPA HI Hilo** 9/05 0257 Noted back on the air for first time since winter with eclectic "Music For A Change" prgm with Beatles album cut, Steely Dan album cut, The Doors' "Break On Through." No ID heard for ten minutes. Last heard as KHBC; presumably the AM is now relaying FM instead of the other way around. GOOD to FAIR **(DP-HI3)**
- 1240 KRDO CO Colorado Springs** 09/26 1000 KRDO NewsRadio 105.5 and AM 1240" "KRDO NewsRadio is KRDO FM Security, Colorado Springs Pueblo" to ABC News. Now using NewsRadio as a slogan instead of "NewsChannel 105.5". **(WH-CO)**
- 1370 KGNO KS Dodge City** 09/17 0000 out of a talk show "AM 1370 KGNO Dodge City Your Information Station" into Fox News. This is a change from their Gold Oldies. **(WH-CO)**

### Tentative/Unidentified

- 1530 KGBT TX Harlingen** 8/24 0025 (tent) Woman w/SS pop mx. KGBT has been logged in this state by other DXers. POOR; KFBK-CA underneath. **(DP-HI2)**
- 1620 UNID** 8/30 0340 Techno version of Elton John classic "Don't Go Breaking My Heart," then song in SS. FAIR to POOR **(DP-HI3)**

### DX Logs (Times ELT)

- 580 KMJ CA Fresno** 8/24 0020 "Sunday Night With Bill Cunningham" from WLW-700 in progress (he's the radio host obsessed with the President's middle name), promo for half-off gift certificates available from stn website KMJ580.com. FAIR; QRM KSSK-590. **(DP-HI2)**
- 610 KCSP MO Kansas City** 9/25 12:54 Weak in KDAL null w/local ads and programming info, have been trying for this one since their call change several years ago but KDAL has been too strong. **(JS-MN)**

- 620 KPOJ OR **Portland** 8/24 0108 Air America Radio's "Best of Nicole Sandler"; confirmed by checking stn webstream via Clear Channel's iheartradio.com app on my smartphone. POOR; ripply fading, very weak KHNU-HI underneath. **(DP-HI3)**
- 640 KFI CA **Los Angeles** 9/27 0203 News, ads and into Coast to Coast; unusual here with slight QRM from WMFN and WWLS; WOI, who is usually dominant wasn't around. **(JS-MN)**
- 680 KNBR CA **San Francisco** 9/27 0130 Local ads and quick fade; heavy QRM from CJOB and CFTR and several others; WSCR digihash off. **(JS-MN)**
- 740 KVOX ND **Fargo** 9/27 0759. Legal ID at 0759:50 by male voice: "The biggest ticket in sports, AM 740 KVOX Fargo." followed by Fox Sports programming. Fair in QRM. **(JW-CO)**
- 790 KJRB WA **Spokane** 9/30 2213 Jerry Doyle program, ID as "News and Talk 7-90". Unusual for here, as KGMI Bellingham usually dominates. **(JDT-WA)**
- 890 KTXV TX **Mabank** 9/19 0758. Vietnamese vocal music; 0801:30 dual KREH-900/KTXV-890 legal ID, followed by a bit of music and then dual ID in Vietnamese and the Vietnamese national anthem; Viet chat and music ensued. Fair/good atop others. **(JW-CO)**
- 930 CJCA AB **Edmonton** 9/20 0155 Local ads, announcement as "AM 930, the Light" with full, legal announcement, including call letters at 0200, heavy QRM from several but conveniently on top at times. **(JS-MN)**
- 960 CFAC AB **Calgary** 9/25 0115 In null of KMA and WSBT; strong to inaudible, had same ESPN program as KMA did with frequent announcements "The Fan, 960, Calgary's number one source for sports." **(JS-MN)**
- 970 KQAQ MN **Austin** 9/20 0205 On top w/ C&W mx and sporadic "Classic Country Legends, KQAQ, 970" ids; QRM from WDAY. **(JS-MN)**
- 1030 KFAY AR **Farmington** 9/22 2052 ELT. Excellent ID as "Newstalk 10-30 KFAY". Heard occasionally at sunset. **(FO-OK)**
- 1070 KNX CA **Los Angeles** 9/25 0016 Noted in passing with wildfire update. **(DP-HI1)**
- 1110 KAOI HI **Kihei** 9/01 0035 Noted off the air all night; back on the next day. Usual co-channel KDIS-CA not heard; perhaps affected by the Los Angeles wildfire? **(DP-HI)**
- 1120 KPNW OR **Eugene** 9/25 0007 Noted in passing with start of "Lars Larson Show" criticizing Pres. Obama's speech at the United Nations. KFAX-1100 and tentative KTLK-1150, KSL-1160 and KEX-1190 also noted. Used street light pole as antenna amplifier (best without traffic lights). **(DP-HI1)** Green lights are better than red lights, though, right? **(JDT-WA)**
- 1230 KFUN NM **Las Vegas** 9/27 0820. Local car and bank ads; "Look both ways before crossing" PSA, then ID and C&W music. Fair in the group. **(JW-CO)**
- 1260 KDUZ MN **Hutchinson** 9/19 0830 Briefly on top with local ads, heavy QRM from several, a welcome addition; we lived in Hutch in the early 1960s and I've been trying for KDUZ since we moved to Grand Rapids in 1998. **(JS-MN)**
- 1260 KFFF IA **Boone** 09/27 0800 Powered up "KFFF Boone - Ames - Des Moines" and into SRN news. **(WH-CO)**
- 1260 KWSH OK **Wewoka** 9/27 2039. Country music and clear call letter ID @ 2040. **(FO-OK)**
- 1260 WSDZ IL **Bellevue** 9/19 0800 On top of 1260 with R. Disney. **(JS-MN)**
- 1270 KIML WY **Gillette** 09/25 0000 up briefly with "KIML Gillette..." **(WH-CO)**
- 1270 KRVT OK **Claremore** 09/23 2300 "Tulsa's 1270 KRVT Claremore - Tulsa" to what sounded like CNN News. **(WH-CO)**
- 1280 KCNI NE **Broken Bow** 09/24 2059 ending a spot and promo "...right here on central Nebraska's news leader KCNI Broken Bow" mentioned sign off and tune in to sister FM. All with local KBNO phase nulled. **(WH-CO)**
- 1280 KZNS UT **Salt Lake City** 9/22 2144. Announced "more sports than any other station in Utah". **(FO-OK)**
- 1290 CFRW MB **Winnipeg** 09/21 0501 song "One Man Woman" to ID "Your listening to CFRW, a CHUM Radio Station" and Beatles tune. **(WH-CO)**
- 1290 KIVY TX **Crockett** 09/20 2200 out of NOS music "1290 AM KIVY Crockett Texas..." and ABC News. Fair. **(WH-CO)**
- 1290 KKAR NE **Omaha** 09/21 0000 "TalkRadio 1290 KKAR Omaha" and into ABC News. **(WH-CO)**
- 1290 KMMM KS **Pratt** 09/21 0901 out of song Classical Gas "News Weather Sports Information and the greatest hits of the 60's and 70's AM 1290 KMMM Pratt" to Fox News. **(WH-CO)**

1290	KWFS	TX	Wichita Falls	9/22 2150. Ad for Willie's Burgers in Wichita Falls. <b>(FO-OK)</b> If you can DX Wichita, can you DX Wichita Falls? <b>(JDT-WA)</b>
1300	KAPL	OR	Phoenix	9/28 2046. Gospel mx, hymns, mentions of Applegate Ministries. I've been hearing them for weeks under local KKOL, but couldn't make out who it was until a fortunate (for me) spell of dead air on KKOL. <b>(JDT-WA)</b>
1300	KBRL	NE	McCook	9/13 2051. Ad for Nebraska traffic safety program. <b>(FO-OK)</b>
1300	KROP	CA	Brawley	09/20 0200 AM 1300 KROP Brawley "Real Country" and C&W music. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1320	KOLT	NE	Scottsbluff	09/19 0900 "The News of the Bluff is on AM 1320 KOLT Scottsbluff" to ESPN Sports. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1320	KWHN	AR	Fort Smith	09/19 0005 "... the KWHN weather forecast..." faded up briefly. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1330	CJYM	SK	Rosetown	9/20 0253 Weak in WLOL null w/mx and "Classic Gold Hits" ids. <b>(JS-MN)</b>
1350	KCAR	TX	Clarksville	09/18 0100 out of C&W AM 1350 KCAR Clarksville. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1350	KDZA	CO	Pueblo	09/18 0900 "Homer 1350 KDZA Pueblo" to FSR programming poor with 1340's IBOC. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1430	KEZW	CO	Aurora	9/27 2050. On top of channel with "Studio 1430" ID. <b>(FO-OK)</b>
1450	KRZY	NM	Albuquerque	09/16/2009 0001 "out of lively Mexican music ""KRZY 1450 AM Albuquerque" heavily reverbed ID well atop the mess". <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1450	KVSL	AZ	Show Low	09/16/2009 0100 "Star 1450 AM KVSL Show Low" up under KRZY with ABC news <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1460	KCLE	TX	Burleson	09/14 2300 out of C&W "Your listening to Big Country Radio KCLE 1460 AM Burleson - Wylie - Arlington" and straight to music. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1460	KLTC	ND	Dickinson	09/15 0200 out of C&W "Classic Country KLTC 1460 Dickinson" to ABC News. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1470	KELA	WA	Centralia-Chehalis	9/23 1817. Dr. Laura lecturing somebody about some transgression or other. Promo for their October Radio Auction. Noisy, but readable signal. <b>(JDT-WA)</b>
1470	KKTY	WY	Douglas	09/12 0900 "Your listening to the station where the Rock never stops" to Jingle "KKTY Douglas" and CNN News. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1470	KYYW	TX	Abilene	09/12 0802 out of traditional C&W "Country 1470 KYYW Abilene Texas" and back to music. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1480	KNIT	TX	Dallas	09/14 0100 out of SS ESPN "Sports Radio KZMP 1540 Sports Radio 1480 KNIT Dallas" in EE then back to Desportes ESPN programming mixed w/ Radio Disney. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1490	KCFC	CO	Boulder	09/11 0900 Out of NPR "This is KCFR AM and FM in Denver and KCFC in Boulder." <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1490	KGOS	WY	Torrington	09/11 0500 out of C&W "Your station for hot new country and all time favorites KGOS AM and KERM FM Torrington" to ABC News. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1490	KQTY	TX	Borger	09/11 0200 "KQTY Borger" faded up briefly to unknown network news. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1520	KOKC	OK	Oklahoma City	8/24 0027 Clark Howard briefly dominant then weaker, promo for Talk Radio Network's "America's Morning News" "exclusively on Newstalk 15-20 KOKC"; string of PSAs. FAIR to POOR; C&W mx over/under. <b>(DP-HI2)</b>
1530	KFBK	CA	Sacramento	09/12 2202 out of Fox News "For top news weather and traffic on the hour, on the half and when news breaks it's coverage you can count on from NewsTalk 1530 KFBK Sacramento" to local news. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1530	KQNK	KS	Norton	09/13 0900 "KQNK 106.7 FM and 1530 AM Norton, Your Hometown Radio Station" to AP radio news. Not often noted here. Taped and added to the collection. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1530	KXTD	OK	Wagoner	09/13 0802 out of SS Music heavy reverb "KXTD Wagoner La Qué Buena" mixing with KZNX. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1530	KZNX	TX	Creedmoor	09/13 0000 out of ESPN programming "KZNX Creedmoor - Austin ... 1530 ESPN Austin" to ESPN Sports Center fair over KFBK. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1530	WCKY	OH	Cincinnati	09/13 0700 "WCKY Homer 1530 The Sports Animal" to Fox Sports mixed with KZNX. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1550	KAPE	MO	Cape Girardeau	09/03 0705 Out of weather "Cape Radio 1550 Cape Girardeau" fair over the mess. <b>(WH-CO)</b>
1550	KIVA	NM	Albuquerque	09/03 0900 mentions of "Keva 1550 talk and program notes "1550 KIVA Albuquerque" jingle to CBS News ex KQNM. <b>(WH-CO)</b>

1550	KUAZ	AZ	Tucson	09/03 0900	"KUAZ Tucson AM 1550 and FM 89.1 a service of the University of Arizona" to NPR news under KIVA. (WH-CO)
1560	KABI	KS	Abilene	09/05 0300	out of NOS "KABI Abilene" just above the crowd. (WH-CO)
1560	KLTI	MO	Macon	09/05 0700	"... This is AM 1550 KLTI Macon..." up briefly covered by KTUI sign on. (WH-CO)
1560	KOCY	OK	Del City	9/13 1922.	Radio Disney and then ad for Oklahoma Service Magic. (FO-OK)
1560	KTUI	MO	Sullivan	09/05 0700	"... KTUI begins another broadcast day...". (WH-CO)
1570	CKMW	MB	Winkler	09/06 0600	out of C&W "Proudly serving Winkler and the communities of the Heartland County 1570 CJMW" and more C&W mixed with XERF and Bott. (WH-CO)
1570	KVTK	SD	Vermillion	09/05 2200	out of ESPN programming "1570 the Ticket KVTK AM Vermillion - Yankton the Tri-States ESPN Radio" Into ESPN Sports Center. (WH-CO)
1580	KAMI	NE	Cozad	09/07 1539	"KCVN FM Cozad-Kearny-North Platte KAMI Cozad A Service of the Bott Radio Network" mixing w/KKKK, Finally a tape of this for the collection. (WH-CO)
1580	KBLA	CA	Santa Monica	8/24 0023	Booming in with man w/SS religious talk, guitar in background. GOOD; tent KMIK-AZ way underneath. (DP-HI2)
1580	KCHA	IA	Charles City	09/07 0000	out of NOS "AM 1580 KCHA Lake Charles" to ABC News. (WH-CO)
1580	KMIK	AZ	Tempe	09/08 2100	out of usual Radio Disney "This is KMIK and KMIK-HD Tempe - Phoenix" by little kid fair. (WH-CO)
1580	KOKB	OK	Blackwell	09/07 0700	"KOKB Blackwell - Oklahoma City" and Triple Play Sports network ID's fair. (WH-CO)
1680	WPRR	MI	Ada	9/23 1957	All alone w/talk, totally disappeared at 2000 (probably, their power change). (JS-MN)

#### Weirdness

1590	"WWVH	HI	Kekaha	9/28 0011	Usual "prgm" of beeps, ticks, TC "At the tone 4 hours, 12 minutes Coordinated Universal Time," more ticks, long beep, followed by short beeps. This is an image caused by the IF of the Walkman (2500 - (2 x 455)). (DP-HI1) At least you always know what time it is. (JDT-WA)
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Fascinating to see the multiple-stations-on-the-same-frequency-loggings by several folks. Just shows that there's always something new and interesting to find on the analog AM radio dial. See you all next time. (JDT-WA).

## DDXD-East

### REPORTERS

RB-NC	Ron Bailey, Marion	- Sony SRF-39FP
SC-IN	Steve Chappell, McCordsville	- Chrysler car radio, K9AY Loop antenna
KK-VA	Kraig Krist, Manassas	- NRD-545, homemade 134 foot multiband antenna running NW to SE.
GS-ON	Greg Shoom, Toronto	- Grundig G8 Traveler II
MKB-ON	Mike Brooker, Toronto	- Grundig G5, Grundig YB-400PE, Sony SRF-39FP, Panasonic RF-2200 (receiver emeritus)

### LOGGINGS

580	WTAG	MA	Worcester	- 9/23 2320	- poor with talk show, news on half hour, promo for "Coast to Coast AM" with ID "on News Talk 580 WTAG". (GS-ON)
590	WMBS	PA	Uniontown	- 9/28 0529	- Very weak, heard "WMBS" only. (SC-IN)
670	KWXI	AR	Glenwood	- 9/27 2033	- Poor over/under WSCR, "KWXI AM & FM, Southwest Arkansas' Sports Leader." NEW! (SC-IN)
850	WKGE	PA	Johnstown	- 9/28 2245	- Monday Night Football. Under WKNR Cleveland and carrying same programming as it - audible as an echo under WKNR. Heard callsign ID slightly after WKNR callsign ID. (GS-ON)
990	WXCT	CT	Southington	- 9/27 2357	- in SS with religious talk. ID on hour: "WXCT Southington" in EE. Battling with CKGM Montreal. New to overall log. Listed as 80W at night but sounded much too strong for that. (GS-ON)
	WNTW	PA	Somerset	- 9/29 0640	- Sunrise logging before WDCX Rochester asserted daytime dominance of the frequency. Sports scores, ads and "NTJ Morning

Magazine" show. WNTW is // WNTJ 1490 and both are on the "NTJ Network". (GS-ON)

- 1040 WNJE NJ **Flemington** - 9/23 1858 - over usual WYSL with promo for "Mike and Mike in the morning" ESPN program, ID for // WEPN-1050, "your radio home for Jets football is 1050 ESPN New York". (MKB-ON)
- 1170 WWVA WV **Wheeling** - 10/1 2055 - Colorado v. West Virginia football game. 2100 ID "This is MSN Mountaineers sports network... in the morning and the Mountaineers WWVA". (KK-VA)
- 1180 KYES MN **Rockville** - 9/22 2100 - Gaining strength into the evening with Catholic talk, news. "Relevant Radio KYES AM 1180." NEW! (SC-IN)
- 1190 WLIB NY **New York** - 9/29 2110 - in WOWO mix with gospel programs, "...your place... WLIB..." by female announcer into song. 2129 "Eleven ninety WLIB" ID into gospel song. (KK-VA)
- 1200 WOAI TX **San Antonio** - 9/28 2055 - over SS station with Dallas Cowboys football, ID as "... station identification on the Dallas Cowboys radio network...News, weather and traffic station twelve hundred WOAI". (KK-VA)
- 1220 WDYT NC **Kings Mountain** - 9/20 0900 - listed as silent since Jan. 2009 in most recent NRC AM Log, noted on air with SS Mexican format and SS songs. Thought I read or heard somewhere that they were moving to Gastonia. Used to be C&W format. (RB-NC)
- WHKW OH **Cleveland** - 9/26 2116 - Boise State v. Bowling Green football, "Bowling Green Fallon football presented on 'The Word' twelve twenty and AM fourteen forty". (KK-VA)
- 1230 WABN VA **Abingdon** - 9/20 1900 - "1230 WABN" ID in between oldies songs. Noted as silent in most recent NRC AM Log. (RB-NC)
- 1240 WHIZ OH **Zanesville** - 9/24 2159 - in mix with song "Don't Dream It's Over" by Crowded House ending, then ToH ID "Twelve forty WHIZ Zanesville" into ABC news. (KK-VA)
- WJEJ MD **Hagerstown** - 10/2 1006 - "Right how it's 72 degrees at WJEJ" into 1940's type song "Jeepers Peepers". (KK-VA)
- 1250 WEAE PA **Pittsburgh** - 9/23 2125 - in mix with UNID gospel station, typical ESPN Radio programming. However, a few times heard "Welcome guests from foreign lands to Pittsburgh..." (the G-20 Summit is in Pittsburgh). (KK-VA)
- 1260 WCHV VA **Charlottesville** - 9/22 2131 - in mix with station promo "Campaign... issues facing our state... reporting anytime at WCHV dot com...". (KK-VA)  
 +++ - 9/18 0600 - Very weak, "This is WCHV AM 1260" into presumed CNN news. NEW! (SC-IN)
- WDKN TN **Dickson** - 9/18 0659 - Fair, "You're listening to 1260 WDKN Dickson, TN" followed by various wildlife and other weird sounds. (SC-IN)
- WNOO TN **Chattanooga** - 9/30 0656 - Poor in mix, slogan "right here on Joy 1260 WNOO." NEW! (SC-IN)
- 1270 WMKT MI **Charlevoix** - 9/24 0810 - Fair, "on 1270 AM WMKT...the Talk Station." (SC-IN)
- 1280 WADO NY **New York** - 9/20 2125 - SS programming in mix with baseball game. "Esta es... New York" noted. (KK-VA) *The Mets heavily pitch to the New York City area's Latino fans. WADO is the Mets SS flagship. Mike.*
- WFAU ME **Gardiner** - 10/1 1901 - over usual WADO/WHTK mix with ad for Kennebec Eye Care mentioning kenneye.com web site, US Department of Justice/ Ad Council PSA for crime prevention into Red Sox v. Indians game on WEEL Red Sox network. (MKB-ON)
- 1290 WNBF NY **Binghamton** - 9/19 2159 - Mixing with talk and singing. ToH ID "News radio twelve ninety WNBF..." (KK-VA)
- 1320 WJAS PA **Pittsburgh** - 9/16 2205 - "...everyday thirteen twenty WJAS" ID and songs in mix with unidentified talk station. (KK-VA)
- 1330 WSPQ NY **Springville** - 9/15 2125 - in mix with WETZ, playing Billy Joel's "Piano Man", "Thirteen thirty WSPQ" ID at 2140. (KK-VA)
- WETZ WV **New Martinsville** - 9/15 2140 - presumed in mix with WSPQ, heard local ad mention "... for a special... call 304 455 8007...". Area code 304 is West Virginia. (KK-VA)
- 1370 WXXI NY **Rochester** - 9/11 2200 - ToH ID "... find out what's going on around the world right here on WXXI Rochester..." into NPR news from Washington. (KK-VA)
- 1400 WINC VA **Winchester** - 10/2 1010 - Laura Ingram show, ID as "News, talk fourteen

hundred WINC". (KK-VA)

- 1630 WRDW GA Augusta – 9/22 2206 – up out of a deep fade with “News talk 1630 WRDW Augusta” ID. (RB-NC)  
 KCJJ IA Iowa City – 9/22 2155 – dominant for a minute or so in WRDW fade with ads for local pizza place and mentions of Iowa City, then back into talk with (presumably) Jim Hannity. (RB-NC)
- 1640 WTNI MS Biloxi – 9/22 2150 – in with what sounded like a local NOA weather station re-broadcast warning of flooding in the area. (RB-NC)

## Confirmed DX'er

**Phil Bytheway** phil\_tekno@yahoo.com  
 9705 Mary NW  
 Seattle, WA 98117-2334

Your successes in obtaining QSL's and other station items

Welcome once again to NRC's exciting QSL column ... send your verification details to me!!

- 555 ZIZ St Kitts & Nevis, full data QSL-card signed by “Chief Engineer” (name not readable) in 4 months. (MM-Spain)
- 740 CBX AB, Edmonton. F/D letter 52 days after f/up. V/S Marie Lepine, for Jack Tyler, Regional OpsMgr. (JW-CO)
- 810 KLVZ CO, Brighton. PPC 4 days after f/up. V/S Amanda Alexander, CE. (JW-CO)
- 1020 KMMQ NE, Plattsburgh. PPC in 8 days for f/up. V/S ??, CE. (JW-CO)
- 1100 WZFG MN, Dilworth. PPC in 15 days for f/up. V/S James Offerdahl, C.E. Also rec'd a letter 4 weeks later from Jill Helm, OpsMgr. (JW-CO)
- 1220 KLDC CO, Denver. PPC in 15 months, no f/up. V/S Amanda Alexander, CE. (JW-CO)
- 1300 KCSF CO, Colorado Springs. PPC in 13 days for f/up. V/S Michael Knar, GM. (JW-CO)
- 1480 WSAR MA, Fall River, One week after receiving an e-mail QSL from WSAR (for March 22, 2009 DX test), received a verie letter and window stickers from Jay Rogers, WSAR Production/board operator, N1WVQ, WQBI410. On peel-off side of window sticker is a coupon from Spindle City Auto Glass in Fall River, good for \$5 off on Aquapel windshield treatment or installation of wipers. (MB-ON)
- 1590 WONX IL, Chicago, full data letter signed by Robert G. Richards (General Manager) in 20 d. (MM-Spain)

A big thanks to the following contributors: **Mike Brooker**, Toronto, Ontario (MB-ON); **Mauricio Molano**, Salamanca, Spain (MM-Spain); **John Wilkins**, Wheat Ridge, Colorado (JW-CO)

## Musings of the Members

**Dave Schmidt** NRCMusings@aol.com  
 P. O. Box 126  
 New Freedom, PA 17349-0126

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

Thoughts from NRC members ... the opinions expressed in this column are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, publishers, or the National Radio Club, Inc.

**John R. Malicky - 995 Shadycrest Rd - Pittsburgh, PA 15216**

Hello again and hoped you enjoyed the Allentown 2009 report. Briefly, before Allentown, I made my greatest journey to visit stations in Maryland from Oakland to Baltimore, Annapolis, and Westminster (sorry I didn't say hello to Joe Kureth), plus one stop at WCST-1010 WV and a hello to NRC member, GM Cary Simpson of WTRN-1340 Tyrone, PA licensed January 12, 1955. In all, 31 stops and 21 interviews that's all dubbed as “The Amazing Maryland Adventure” that I'll write the story of the trip soon. Also, as listed in DXN V 77 # 1, and in my Allentown report, longtime Urban AC station WAMO 860/106.7 plus religious WPGR-1510, all Sheridan stations have been sold to St. Joseph Missions, but they have not returned to the air, thus silence! So far on 860 AM only CJBC-Toronto and on 850, WTAR-VA and WKGE-PA. Also, Froggy 98.3 is now WPKV & “K-Love”. Thanks to everyone and Bob Smolarek for hosting Allentown 2009. 73s.

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

# *International DX Digest*

**Bruce Conti** nrcidxd@aol.com  
46 Ridgefield Drive  
Nashua, NH 03062-1174

**Foreign DX Catches. All times are UTC**

The barn door is wide open to northern latitudinal paths, evidenced by the numerous reports of Armenia, Faroe Islands, Finland, Romania, and Russia that follow. Many new logs too!

## Transatlantic DX

- 261 unID SEP 18 2350 - Russia should be off so don't know what's going on. Possibly on late or Bulgaria. In for around 3 1/2 hours. Now leaning toward Bulgaria as audio improved around 0331 for maybe dawn enhancement conditions. Will tape next time heard. [Barstow-MA]  
SEP 20 0228 - Poor with title cut from Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band followed by man and woman in Eastern European language. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 531 **ALGERIA** *Chaîne 1*, El Ain Beida (35°49'N 7°19'E) SEP 19 2305-2313 - Good and alone on channel with religious Middle Eastern male a capella vocal in Arabic. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 531 **FAROE ISLANDS** *Kringvarp Føroya Útvarpid*, Akraberg (62°01'N 6°46'W) SEP 20 2303 - Presumed this (based on format) with Bonnie Tyler's 1983 hit "Total Eclipse of the Heart." [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 531 **SPAIN** *RNE5* synchros SEP 8 2318-2322 - Fair with news by man and woman in Spanish parallel to weaker 585 kHz. [DeLorenzo-MA] SEP 22 0000 - Fair; time marker and fanfare into news parallel 585, 603, etc. [Conti-NH]
- 549 **GERMANY** *Deutschlandfunk* synchros SEP 21 2359 - Good; music with "Deutschlandfunk" voice-over and time marker into news. [Conti-NH]
- 549 **KALINIGRAD** *R.Mayak*, Kaliningrad SEP 20 0200 - Sign-on with Mayak interval signal, time pips and woman and man in Russian. Algeria, normally dominant apparently off per EMWG. Fair; recorded. [Black-MA] SEP 20 0230-0235 - Fair with interval signal, time pips, apparent news in Russian. Thanks to Sylvain Naud for help with this via MWDX Internet list. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 549 **SAUDI ARABIA** *BSKSA* Qurayyat SEP 26 0243 - Fair; pre sign-on test tone continued until 0258, then at 0300 program parallel 594 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 585 **SPAIN** *RNE1* Madrid (40°28'N 3°52'W) SEP 6 0342-0346 - Fair with Spanish teletalk parallel to 621 kHz. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 594 **SAUDI ARABIA** *BSKSA* Duba SEP 20 0240 - Presumed this with pre sign-on test tone as reported by others. [DeLorenzo-MA] SEP 26 0240 - Excellent; pre sign-on test tone, 0245 talk. [Conti-NH]
- 603 **SPAIN** *RNE5* synchros SEP 22 0000 - Good; time marker and fanfare into news, parallel 585 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 621 **CANARY ISLANDS // SPAIN** *RNE1* synchros, Santa Cruz de Tenerife et al. SEP 6 0341 - Fair with Spanish teletalk parallel to 585 kHz. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 648 **SPAIN** *RNE1* Badajoz (38°53'N 6°58'W) SEP 21 2336 - Fair; talk parallel 639 and 657 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 711 **FRANCE** *France Info*, Rennes (47°51'N 1°30'W) SEP 22 0000 - Fair over growl from presumed W.Sahara; fanfare into news. [Conti-NH]
- 720 **PORTUGAL** *RDP* synchros SEP 22 0000 - Distinctive time pips parallel 666 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 783 **SPAIN** *Rock y Gol Radio Miramar*, Ctra. Consería SEP 20 0300 - Woman in Spanish with top of the hour time check into COPE relay. "Cadena COPE" mention. Recorded; fair over/under Mauritania. Thanks to Sylvain Naud via RealDX for verification. [Black-MA]
- 864 **ARMENIA** *Hayastani Azgain Radio*, Gavar (40°25'N 45°11'E) SEP 19 0200 - Presumed over *France Bleu*; pipe organ instrumental music, man in Eastern European language. SEP 26 0200 - Topping the frequency; "VOA Washington DC" and "www.voanews.com" mentions in an unID language, *R.Liberty* Turkmen program per EMWG and WRTH. A new country for the logbook! [Conti-NH] SEP 27 0212 - Man in Turkmen with Turkmenistan mention. Recorded; good. Verified via Dmitry Mezin via RealDX. [Black-MA]
- 864 **EGYPT** *ERTU* Santah (30°45'N 31°08'E) SEP 26 0035 - Good; presumed with Koranic recitations. [Conti-NH]
- 909 **UNITED KINGDOM** *BBC Radio 5 Live* synchros SEP 19 0200 - Good with synchro echo; "On digital and online, this is BBC Radio Five Live" into news. [Conti-NH] SEP 20 0330-0340

- Fair with news; noticeable echo effect from various synchronous transmitters. [DeLorenzo-MA]

- 963 **FINLAND** *Radio 86*, Pori (61°28'N 21°35'E) SEP 26 0400 - Fair; end of Russian program, "Daley vy uslyshite... na estonskom yazyke." Translation: "Next you'll hear... in Estonian language," thanks to Dmitry Mezin of RealDX. Another new country for the logbook! [Conti-NH] SEP 29 0227-0325 - Excellent; relaying *China Radio International*, European Service. Woman with news/commentary in Russian. At 0247, a man and woman with what sounded like the format of a language lesson; short passages in Chinese followed by what might have been a translation or grammatical explanation in Russian. IDs were frequent as "Radio Kitaya" and "Govorit Mezhdunarodoye Radio Kitaya." Translation: "This is China Radio International." Signal got steadily stronger later on. Sign-on is at 0200 and the station is audible here some nights till 0400. OCT 1 0200 - Sign-on at 0200, signal was s9 and settled down to about s5-7 with occasional dips to s3-5. For more information, try a Google search for "China Radio International relay stations" and check out item 3. [Osborne-NL]
- 963 **PORTUGAL** *R.Sim*, Seixal (38°38'N 9°05'W) SEP 18 0333 - Fair to good with presumed news. [Barstow-MA]
- 972 **LIBYA** *Libyan Jamahiriya*, Sirte SEP 18 2345 - Chanting; fair. Seemed to sign-off 2355 but carrier still on. [Barstow-MA]
- 999 **MOLDOVA** *Voice of Russia*, Grigoriopol, Maiac (47°14'N 29°24'E) SEP 26 0500 - Poor; bells of "Great Gate of Kiev" interval signal under COPE Spain and 1010 WINS-HD interference. [Conti-NH]
- 1053 **ROMANIA** *R.Iasi*, Iasi (47°10'N 27°37'E) SEP 27 0259 - Fair; sign-on with choral national anthem. [Conti-NH]
- 1062 **DENMARK** *Danmarks Radio*, Kalundborg (55°40'N 11°04'E) SEP 26 0347 - Excellent; weather data, then Black Eyed Peas "Let's Get It Started" and Toto "Rosanna" leading up to the hour and news, 0403 open carrier, 0413 off leaving weak *Rai Radiouno* Italy synchros alone on the frequency. [Conti-NH] SEP 28 0340-0415 - Five minutes of interval signal and sign-on announcements by woman in Danish, then man and music program including Paul Simon "Kodachrome" and Shakira, "Illegal - You don't even know the meaning of the words I'm sorry." Recorded; excellent. [Black-MA]
- 1062 **ITALY** *Rai Radiouno* synchros SEP 21 0442 - Powerful signal and all alone on the channel, parallel 1575 kHz. [Barstow-MA]
- 1089 **RUSSIA** *R.Rossii/VOR/RIR*, Tbilisskaya (45°22'N 40°10'E) SEP 20 0158 - A series of unID six second tones, then 0200 Morse code "V," announcement and woman in Russian under UK TalkSport. Re-check at 0300 also had the same "V" and woman in Russian. A 1088 carrier was visible from presumed Angola, but no audio. Fair; recorded. [Black-MA] ("V" possibly splatter from 1080 WTIC? - Conti) SEP 27 0158 - Over *TalkSport*; test tones, then 0200 sign-on with time pips and "Golos Rossii..." ID. [Conti-NH]
- 1116 **ITALY** *Rai Radiouno* synchros SEP 21 0444 - In good to strong at times, parallel 1575 and 1062 kHz. [Barstow-MA]
- 1134 **CROATIA** *Glas Hrvatske*, Zadar (44°06'N 15°15'E) SEP 26 0025 - Excellent; news/talk parallel 7375 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 1143 **KALININGRAD** *R.Mayak*, Bolshakovo (54°54'N 21°42'E) SEP 27 0200 - Fair but well over Spain; two cycles of *R.Mayak* interval signal chimes, time marker, and a woman in Russian. New log. [Conti-NH] SEP 28 0200 - Good with Spain weak under them; top of the hour 4 pips, a pause and another pip or time marker. Presumed news by a woman in Russian. New log. [Barstow-MA]
- 1152 **ROMANIA** *România Actualități*, Cluj (46°42'N 23°34'E) SEP 27 0200 - Fair, alone on the frequency; music with "România Actualități..." voice-over ID, ethnic music. New log. [Conti-NH]
- 1215 **UNITED KINGDOM** *Absolute Radio* synchros SEP 27 0301 - Good; "Absolute Radio, we're one year old!" into ad string. [Conti-NH]
- 1269 **GERMANY** *Deutschlandfunk*, Neumünster (54°03'N 9°51'E) SEP 26 0027 - Good; English folk/rock vocals, announcement in German, parallel 549 and 756 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 1422 **ALGERIA** *R.Algérienne*, Algiers (36°40'N 3°09'E) SEP 18 0417 - In good with a little Germany under them, later Germany way on top. [Barstow-MA]
- 1431 **GERMANY** *VOR Wilsdruff* SEP 18 0447 - This station can pack a good punch some nights, and this night was one of them with just a little slop. [Barstow-MA]
- 1449 **ITALY** *Rai Radiouno* synchros SEP 21 0446 - Weak to fair at times, parallel 1575, 1062, and 1116 kHz. New log. [Barstow-MA]



- 1521 **SAUDI ARABIA** BSKSA Duba (27°20'N 35°45'E) SEP 8 2259-2314 - Loud and clear in peaks with radio drama in Arabic. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 1539 **GERMANY** *Evangeliums Rundfunk*, Mainflingen (50°00'N 8°55'E) SEP 18 0454 - Strong with not much slop. Religious song with man and woman announcer. Over and under adjacent 1540 kHz. [Barstow-MA]
- 1575 **ITALY** *Rai Radiouno* synchros SEP 21 0440 - In strong with a fast talking woman in Italian having a discussion. Call in show. [Barstow-MA]
- 1575 **SPAIN** *SER* synchros SEP 18 0410 - Talk but weak. [Barstow-MA]
- 1611 **ITALY** *R.Vaticana*, Santa Maria di Galeria (41°54'N 12°27'E) SEP 21 0439 - Equal and over 1610 kHz in strong. Quickly went to check 1575 kHz... [Barstow-MA]

*“Old Roy” Barstow from Old Cape Cod adds:* Now along with AM radio, TV DXing has been great with DTV down to VA and NC. DTV total now at 214. So with good DTV signals downcoast and Italy the best ever on the AM band, I feel like I’m walking 10 feet above the fields (or maybe I need some sleep, or at least a nap).

*Jerry Osborne expounds:* Lately, the two Greenland stations I logged last year on 570 and 720 have started to be audible again. I received a full-data e-mail confirming my e-mail reception report of these stations, same day I sent it. (My DX site, Elliott’s Cove, NL is in eastern Newfoundland, on Random Island, across the bay from Clarendville.)

*Marc DeLorenzo concludes:* Getting 549 Kaliningard and a probable 531 Faroe Islands definitely gets the 2009-2010 DX Season off to a good start!

### Pan-American DX

- 555 **ST. KITTS & NEVIS** ZIZ Basseterre (17°19'N 62°44'W) SEP 26 0300 - Good; soca music. [Conti-NH]
- 860 **MEXICO** XEMO Tijuana AUG 30 0735 - Noted in passing with romantica music atop KTRB. Fair to poor. [Park-HI]
- 1020 **CUBA** *R.Reloj*, Jorobo SEP 30 0400 - Series of chime tones then single beep and more chimes, then man with “Radio Reloj doce” and woman “Transmite Radio Reloj desde La Habana, Cuba.” Recorded; poor/fair. Verified by Mauricio Sánchez via Real DX. [Black-MA]

### Contributors

Roy Barstow, Teaticket MA; RFSpace SDR IQ, SuperLoop at 63°.

Chris Black N1CP, South Yarmouth MA; Microtelecom Perseus, 35 x 90-ft Flag.

Bruce Conti, Nashua NH; SDR IQ, variable termination SuperLoop antennas 13 x 20-m east and 15 x 23-m south.

Marc DeLorenzo, South Dennis MA; JRC NRD-525, 35 x 40-ft east/west dual feedline SuperLoop with remote variable termination, 350-ft north/south longwire, 35-ft vertical, Mini DXP-3 phasing unit.

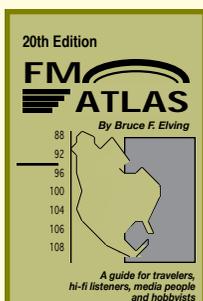
Jerry Osborne VO1GO, Elliott’s Cove NL; Kenwood TS570D xcvr with an 80-m dipole looking north and south.

Dale Park, Kawaikui Beach Park, East Honolulu HI; Honda car radio.

### International News

**VENEZUELA:** The following radio stations are reported to be closed down by the government: 600 YVQB *R.Sucre*, 730 YVOO *R.Frontera*, 970 *Mundial*, 1130 YVPY *R.Amazonas*, 1140 *R.Porlamar*, 1170 YVQV *R.Acarigua*, 1230 YVNT *R.Barlovento*, 1270 YVTR *R.Tucupita*, 1300 YVNS *R.Amistad*, 1330 YVTU *R.Regional*, 1520 YVIC *R.Bonita*, and 1550 YVMW *R.Metropolitana*. [Associated Press, Yahoo News, via Henrik Klemetz, ARC]

73 and Good DX!



## Bruce Elving's FM Atlas ... 20th Edition

The world-famous guide which has served FM DX'ers for over 20 years is available from NRC Publications at the special price of \$20.00 for NRC USA/Canada members, \$24.00 USA/Canada non-members, \$25.00 for all others. Canadian orders: PayPal or postal M. O. only. Order from NRC Publications - P.O. Box 473251, Aurora CO - 80047-3251. (CO residents, please add 3.5% sales tax.)

# College Sports Networks

**John Cereghin** mwdx@pilgrimway.org  
38 S. Carters Rd  
Smyrna, DE 19977-1203

## Network listings for college sports stations

This time around, we continue our journey through the Alphabet Soup of College Football networks by looking at the "B" schools. Next time we will kill two letters with one column by hitting the "C" and "D" schools. As always, your updates and corrections are always welcomed to mwdx@pilgrimway.org or jcereghin@gmail.com. Flagships are in bold.

### **Ball State Cardinals**, Muncie IN, Mid-America Conference

950	WXLW-IN	1340	WXFN-IN	96.7	WHTI-IN	104.1	WLBC-IN
1240	WHBU-IN			101.7	WURK-IN	104.9	WERK-IN
1380	WKJG-IN	93.5	WHTY-IN				

### **Baylor Bears**, Waco TX, Big 12

630	KSLR-TX	1260	KWNX-TX			98.5	KCUB-TX
820	WBAP-TX	1530	KZNX-TX	92.5	KULL-TX	100.7	KKHT-TX
940	KIXZ-TX	<b>1660</b>	<b>KRZI-TX</b>	92.7	KJAK-TX	101.1	KYBI-TX

### **Benedict Tigers**, Columbia SC, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

620 WGCV-SC (2007 info- needs an update)

### **Bethane-Cookman Wildcats**, Daytona Beach FL, Mid-East Athletic Conference

1380 WELE-FL

### **Bloomsburg Huskies**, Bloomsburg PA, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference

930 WHLM-PA 104.3 WHLM-PA

### **Boise State Broncos**, Boise ID, Western Athletic Conference

580	KIDO-ID			104.3	KAWO-ID	107.9	KXLT-ID
630	KFXD-ID	103.3	KSAS-ID	105.9	KCIX-ID		

### **Boston College Eagles**, Boston MA, Atlantic Coast Conference

620	WVMT-VT	<b>850</b>	<b>WEEI-MA</b>	1440	WJAE-ME	95.5	WJJB-ME
<b>680</b>	<b>WRKO-MA</b>	900	WGHM-NH	1440	WVEI-MA	103.7	WEEI-RI
(airs games that conflict with WEEI program- ming)	1250	WGAM-NH	1450	WTSA-VT	104.9	WBOQ-MA	
	1320	WARL-MA	1490	WMRC-MA	105.5	WVEI-MA	
	1410	WPOP-CT			107.7	WTPL-NH	
830	WCRN-MA						

### **Bowling Green Falcons**, Bowling Green OH, Mid-America Conference

1220	WHKW-OH	1280	WONW-OH			107.5	WBUK-OH
1230	WCWA-OH	1350	WCSM-OH	96.7	WCSM-OH	107.7	WPFX-OH
1230	WTPG-OH	1420	WHK-OH	105.7	WZOM-OH		

### **Brigham Young Cougars**, Provo UT, Mountain West Conference

<b>1160</b>	<b>KSL-UT</b>	1280	KUNF-UT	95.9	KMGR-UT	105.5	KTHK-ID
1260	KBLY-ID	1400	KART-ID	105.1	KAUU-UT	1620	KBLI-ID
1280	KDOX-NV						

### **Brown Bears**, Providence RI, Ivy League

790 WPRV-RI

### **Brevard Tornados**, Brevard NC, South Atlantic Conference

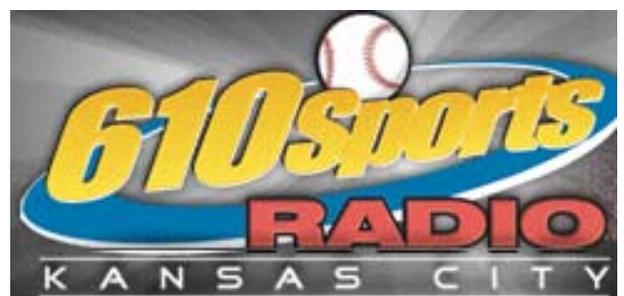
1240 WSQL-NC

### **Bucknell Bison**, Lewisburg PA, Patriot League

107.3 WEGH-PA

### **Buffalo Bulls**, Buffalo NY, Mid-America Conference

1230 WECK-NY 1340 WLVL-NY



Two URL's you need: <http://e-dxn.com>; <http://www.nrcdxas.org>

# 2009 Ultralight Radio AM-DX Shootout

by Gary DeBock, Puyallup, WA USA September 2009

## Introduction:

What started in November of 2007 as a TP-DXing craze on the humble analog Sony SRF-59 has managed to spread worldwide in a little over a year, providing not only a rejuvenating force for dozens of medium-wave DXers, but for the general hobby itself. Based on the concept that a skilled, determined DXer can use superior knowledge and skill to make outstanding loggings on basic equipment, the thrilling challenge of Ultralight Radio DXing has proven irresistible for many, and provided a major force for innovation, experimentation and optimism among both new and experienced hobbyists.

From the beginning, one of the major attractions of “the Ultralight Boom” has been the chance to enjoy the latest in innovative pocket radios from the Far East, all offered at reasonable prices. The

stiff competition between Chinese manufacturers has provided AM-DXers with amazingly capable and compact receivers, which continue to improve at an extremely rapid pace. Despite the current global economic issues, the Ultralight Radio DXer in 2009 is offered an unprecedented variety of exciting new radios, many of which incorporate breakthrough design improvements.

Fueled by the excitement offered by these innovative pocket radios, the collective enthusiasm and optimism of the Ultralight Radio enthusiast group has quickly spread to all continents of the world, flying completely in the face of pessimism over the future of the medium-wave DXing hobby. With the booming Ultralightdx Yahoo group now boasting over 350 members, the future of our cherished hobby has been firmly reestablished—although perhaps in a direction that few of us could have envisioned.

The Ultralight Revolution Meets the DSP Revolution Prior to this year, digital signal processing had been refined in table receivers to provide superb selectivity, offering hobbyists unprecedented freedom to chase weak-signal DX adjacent to strong local stations. Most DXers probably assumed that this superb technology would remain limited to relatively expensive communication receivers—until the first DSP-enhanced pocket radios appeared in the Chinese domestic market early this year.

Suddenly the performance gap between Ultralight and table receivers was greatly narrowed. Major Chinese manufacturers invested heavily in new DSP-enhanced pocket radios, and the competition between them (and the Chinese sellers on eBay) kept prices relatively low for North American purchasers. The combination of excellent DSP-based performance and reasonable prices has led to an ordering boom for these breakthrough Ultralight radios, and intense interest in their relative DXing capabilities.

The Contestants: The seven Ultralight models chosen for the 2009 Shootout contain some innovative features that would have been unthinkable only a few years back. One radio combines DSP



capabilities with a built-in MP3 recorder, and two of the models have five DSP selectivity choices. One radio has already proven to be a phenomenal performer as a fully modified DXpedition receiver, surpassing even the E100 equivalent in weak-signal capability. This combination of affordability and innovation is fairly unique in the radio hobby, and makes 2009 an ideal time to join in the fun of Ultralight radio DXing.

The seven pocket radios competing for top honors in this Shootout are two analog models-- the Kaito WRX911 (a.k.a. Tecsun R911) and the Tecsun R9012, and five digital models: the C.Crane SWP (a.k.a. Redsun RP300), the Degen DE1123, the Tecsun PL-300WT (a.k.a. Grundig G8), the Kchibo D92L and the Kchibo D96L. Informed readers will note that all of these models are products of the Chinese domestic market, a recent center of innovation and competition which has come to dominate the worldwide radio production system. Despite the negative global economic trends, the large Chinese manufacturers have invested heavily in research and development, especially in the practical application of the American-designed DSP chips. The huge Chinese domestic market is their primary target, made obvious by the fact that several of these models have only Chinese labeling for the radio controls, and Chinese owner's manuals. For those of us willing to accept these challenges, however, tremendous bargains are offered—as well as a possible DXing bonanza, due to breakthrough DSP-enhanced selectivity in several of the new digital models covered in this Shootout review.

As is customary, after thorough descriptions of each model, these contenders will be matched against all other top Ultralight radio models from previous Shootouts in relative judgments of sensitivity, selectivity, nulling ability, images/spurs, AGC, audio quality, digital tuning noise and quality control record.. As always, it is the author's sincere hope that this definitive purchasing guide will motivate even more hobbyists to join our booming niche group, and personally experience the legendary DXing fun that these innovative pocket radios have to offer.

#### Tecsun R911 (a.k.a. Kaito WRX911)

This is first of two highly capable analog pocket radios, refined to excel in the highly competitive Chinese domestic market. Despite the rock-bottom price of \$19.99 shipped (from eBay seller "Anonco"), both the R911 and its Kaito WRX911 clone are high quality, well-built radios with an astonishing range of features: AM, FM (76-108 MHz) and 9 shortwave bands (covering the major international broadcast bands from 4.7 to 21.95 MHz), an LED tuning indicator, a built-in 150 mw speaker with decent audio quality, very long run time on two AA batteries, and even a carrying pouch (R911 only). This 4.75" x 3" x 1" (117 x 75 x 24 mm) radio weighs 3.7 ounces (88g) and is available in two colors: cobalt blue (both WRX911 and R911) and black (R911 only). The WRX911 variant (available from Amazon for \$23.02 shipped) has been aligned to cover the 530-1700 kHz AM frequency range, while the R911 requires a simple alignment to extend its AM coverage to 1700 kHz. For AM DXers willing to tolerate the analog thumb wheel tuning, this model provides exceptional nulling ability, along with competitive sensitivity (but only when the FM/SW whip antenna is raised away from the loopstick at the top of the cabinet—a quirk in both this model and the R9012). The R911 is available from multiple Chinese eBay sources, generally for around \$20.00 including shipping to North America.



#### Tecsun R9012

Analog DXers unimpressed with thumb wheel tuning can have an actual round tuning knob on this model, along with one more shortwave band than the R911 (3.7-4.1 MHz)—all for generally the same price. The sensitivity specs are the same as the R911, as well as the high quality and generous features. As with the similar single-conversion R911, this generally acceptable shortwave receiver avoids image problems by covering only narrow segments of the international broadcast bands. The Chinese-market only R9012 model is slightly larger than the R911 at 5" x 3.25" x 1.25" (130 x 77 x 25 mm) and weighs slightly more (4 ounces, or 95g), but the main attraction is the comfortable round knob tuning, especially at the high end of the band. Three different colors are available: white, black and yellow, so make sure that your Chinese eBay seller knows which one you prefer. Also be advised that the R9012 shares the R911 quirk of requiring that the FM/SW whip antenna be raised away from the top of the cabinet for best AM sensitivity, and make sure that your eBay seller knows that you want a model manufactured after April of 2007 (R9012 models made prior to that date have an inferior loopstick design, and cannot be aligned for good AM sensitivity. The preferred newer models have "2007.5 VER.2" on the shipping box flap). Like the R911, the factory R9012 will only



cover up to about 1650 kHz, but can easily be adjusted up to 1700 kHz by a simple alignment. The current lowest eBay “buy it now” price is \$19.99, including shipping from China (from sellers “Anon-co” and “Liyprn”). These models come with a cloth carrying case and Chinese instruction manual, among other Chinese documents. For an outstanding analog DXing value, the R9012 is very tough to beat.

### C.Crane SWP (a.k.a. Redsun RP300)

This digital AM-FM-SW model was initially reviewed in the 2008 Spring Shootout, but unknown at the time, the early production run model had a defective part on the RF board, which was not detected during alignment. The low sensitivity was therefore deemed to be a congenital problem typical of the model, and a harsh verdict was issued. A second model was ordered during the winter for 455 kHz IF model hot-rodding experimentation, and the typical stock performance was discovered to be far superior to that of the original defective model—and deserving of a fresh new review. The Redsun RP300 Chinese market model was inspired heavily by Tecsun’s innovative PL-200 (a.k.a. Eton E100) introduced years ago, and has very similar size (5” x 3” x 1.2”, or 127 x 75 x 28 mm), weight (6.5 ounces, or 150g) and features. Wideband FM (70-108 MHz) is offered with stereo capability through headphones, along with SW coverage from 2.3–7.5 MHz (SW1) and 9.2–22 MHz (SW2). AM coverage using 9 kHz tuning steps is from 522-1620 kHz, and is 520-1710 kHz with 10 kHz steps. 1 kHz AM tuning is also possible using the tuning knob, or direct frequency input. Auto-scan and memory-scan tuning options are offered, along with 200 memories. Two AA batteries supply power. The C.Crane SWP is available from C.Crane for \$49.95 plus \$6.95 shipping (\$56.90 total), and comes with stereo earphones, a vinyl carrying case, English owner’s manual, and registration card. The RP300 is available from the Chinese eBay seller “Tquchina” for \$34.99 plus \$14.00 shipping (\$48.99 total).



The C.Crane SWP (RP300) models have several quirks of which purchasers should be aware. The push-button volume controls have caused consternation because of the wide variation in audio levels between steps on the low end. Unlike the E100 (PL200) models, there is no meaningful signal level bar graph, but only a “tune” display when signals reach a certain level. The digital input controls require serious fingertip pressure to operate properly, and such input changes will not cause the LCD display to light up automatically, as on competing models. Despite these quirks, the C.Crane SWP (RP300) models have an effective low-noise RF front end, and have proven to be outstanding performers when modified with external 7.5” sliding-coil (“Slider”) loopsticks and Murata CFJ455K5 IF filters, surpassing even the E100 equivalents in 9 kHz-split DX chasing capability. Even in competition with the new DSP models, these super-modified Ultralights are tough to beat in transoceanic DXing.

### Degen DE1123

At first glance, this DSP-enhanced model with a built-in MP3 player would seem like a dream receiver, combining excellent selectivity with the ability to directly record DX signals. With an extremely compact size (4.3” x 2.7” x .5”, or 110 x 69 x 15 mm) and light weight (3 ounces, or 80 g), this innovative receiver was designed to provide a unique combination of freedom and modern function. The DE1123 combines FM stereo (87-108 MHz) and AM (522-1710 kHz with 9kHz steps, 520-1710 kHz with 10 kHz steps) with 2.3- 23 MHz SW coverage (5kHz steps), all with the ability to record DX signals directly on a built-in recorder (WAV format) combined with an MP3 player (1 GB memory capacity). Maximum recording time is 69 hours, with a built-in microphone for recording voice, or any other live audio. Recordings may be uploaded to your computer through a USB 2.0 jack, through which MP3’s can also be dragged into the DE1123’s memory for playback. The radio has 255 preset memories, but only 25 for the AM band (which unfortunately gives a hint of the AM band performance priority in this radio). The radio operates on three AAA batteries, and has a built-in speaker, very short (7”, or 180 mm) whip antenna, a digital clock with 12/24 hour options and alarm function, 5-90 minute sleep timer, push-button volume and tuning controls, various tuning methods (manual, auto-scan, and auto-tuning storage) and a multi-function LCD display showing time, date, band, frequency, battery condition, volume level, signal strength and memory status. Included in the DE1123 package are a “switching rechargeable adaptor” (110-250v) which supplies 5 VDC through a USB connector output, stereo earphones, 3 AAA rechargeable batteries, USB cable, carrying case and English manual.



Unfortunately, the designers of the “dream receiver” seem to have ignored AM performance, giving the DE1123 one of the worst loopsticks ever seen in a pocket radio—a midget 1.5” (88m) bar buried in the center of the cabinet. The on-board recorder also has a severe quirk, in which the user

needs to adjust the radio volume to maximum before recording anything, presumably running down the batteries accordingly (the manual advises to plug in earphones during any recording, even if you aren't using them to listen to the radio signal). There is no in-line recording jack, making the radio incapable of recording any signals from an external source. The radio's 7" whip antenna looks fragile, and the SW reception seems mediocre at best. Only the FM section seems to have been a real priority with the designers—FM sensitivity and selectivity are not bad for the radio's size, but are not quite up to the standards of the newer DSP units. Possibly for this reason, the eBay going rate for the DE1123 has been seriously discounted recently, with the lowest current price being \$49.99 shipped, from the Chinese seller "G8hkshop."

#### Tecsun PL-300WT (a.k.a. Grundig G8)

Tecsun's introduction of the DSP-enhanced PL-300WT model in May caused a sensation among Ultralight radio enthusiasts, who ordered the innovative LW-AM-FM-SW portable in droves from the Chinese eBay sellers. Powered by Silicon Labs' superlative new 4734 DSP chip, the PL-300WT immediately set a high new standard for FM sensitivity and selectivity among small portables, as well as for AM selectivity. Just when the Chinese sellers of the PL-300WT were enjoying an ordering boom in June, Grundig-Eton introduced their electrically identical G8 "Traveler II" clone through Amazon.com at a shipped price of \$50, substantially undercutting the Chinese PL-300WT sellers on eBay. The G8's introduction was accompanied by a bizarre official denial by Eton's Austin Parker that the model had a DSP chip, along with incorrect size and weight information on Amazon and Universal Radio's web sites, as well as incorrect photos.—all of which continue to this day (along with absolutely no mention of DSP capability on Amazon's site).



The real PL300WT (G8) is a true FM-DXing powerhouse, fully capable of astonishing fringe reception using only the built-in 21.5" (55 cm) whip antenna. Unfortunately AM sensitivity is not always at such an optimum level, due to a possible inductance mismatch between the loopstick coil and the DSP chip—an issue which can be corrected by alignment. At 5.25" x 3.5" x 1" (135 x 85 x 27 mm) and weighing 7 ounces (204g), these models are packed with innovative features derived from the 4734 chip. A multi-functional digital display can show frequency, signal strength, S/N ratio, clock and alarm settings, temperature and battery condition. The 24-hour digital clock

can be set to display both local and world zone time, according to a selection switch behind a front panel door (which has developed a reputation for being stubborn and tricky to open, in certain units). The alarm can be set to use either a buzzer or radio signal for wake-up, and the radio has a selectable 1-120 minute sleep timer. 500 total preset memories are available, with 100 memories for the AM band. The models have an innovative fast tuning option which speeds up manual tuning according to the user's input on the tuning thumb wheel, which somewhat compensates for the radio's lack of a direct frequency input keypad. Besides manual tuning, the radio can auto-scan local stations and store them in memory, with memory recall tuning of the auto-scanned stations, or of the user-selected memory stations. Power comes from 3AA batteries, or a 4.5 VDC power adapter.

These models do have several quirks, which have proven to be disappointing to some owners. The AM band has several internally-generated heterodynes, notably around 640, 980, 1400-1430 and 1600-1640 kHz. The 4734 chip "soft mute" function causes a serious drop off in signal strength when tuning 1 kHz up or down from a DX station's frequency, during attempts to escape local QRM. This function also causes "audio pumping" of the AGC action, making it less than effective in smoothing out variations in stations' signal strength. There is no direct entry keypad for wide frequency changes, forcing the user to use the tuning thumb wheel if the desired station is not in memory. The PL-300WT (G8) models do not offer choices for DSP selectivity filtering, and the fixed option is not at the optimum 1 kHz DSP selectivity potential of the 4734 chip (as can be selected in the Kchibo D92L and D96L models). As mentioned initially, the AM sensitivity of these models has proven to be variable, depending upon inductance matching between the loopstick coil and the DSP chip. The LW and SW performance of these models is mediocre at best, and certainly was not a top priority in the radio's design. As mentioned previously, the front panel access door (to the world time selector switch and other controls) sticks badly on some units, and may require serious force to pry open. Finally, the English owner's manual supplied with the G8 is notoriously brief and incomplete, making it necessary for a purchaser to obtain the PL-300WT English manual (from the Ultralightdx Yahoo group file site) to understand even the basic radio functions. A wide variety of PL-300WT English owner's manuals has been received from the Chinese eBay sellers, including the good, bad and ugly. The best is from "Anon-co," who also happens to be the top-rated PL-300WT Chinese eBay seller in buyer satisfaction.

Despite the quirks, these models do offer AM selectivity superior to all previous pocket radios, and because of uniformly high FM sensitivity and selectivity, have quickly become the FM-DXing portables

of choice—of any size. The PL-300WT models are available in three different colors—black, silver or gray, and have a standard plastic finish. The G8 models come only in black, and have a “rubberized” finish similar to that of the Eton E100. These models come with an English manual, vinyl carrying case, stereo earphones and registration card (G8 only). The current lowest price for a PL-300WT is \$49.99 (including shipping) from Chinese eBay seller “Trinityforevertrading,” and the current lowest price for a G8 is \$50.00 (including shipping to the USA) from Amazon.com.

### Kchibo D92L

The D92L is one of two innovative receivers offering the full range of selectivity choices available from Silicon Labs’ 4734 DSP chip—1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 kHz options. As the first such Ultralight radio available to North American purchasers, this Chinese-market model was the subject of intense local interest in August, after its discovery by fellow Puyallup, WA resident Guy Atkins (following extensive web-based research). China’s Kchibo company made a serious effort to ensure high quality in both the D92L and D96L DSP models, despite a previous reputation for making low-priced radios of questionable reliability. The emphasis on quality has paid off, and foreign orders have boomed—despite the fact that all the radios’ labels and documentation are in Chinese.

The D92L is the more basic model which tunes only in 9 kHz fixed AM steps (from 522-1710 kHz), although manual tuning steps of 1 kHz are available. It can tune the FM band from 64- 108 MHz (50 or 100 kHz steps), and can tune the SW band from 2.3- 21.85 MHz (1 or 5 kHz steps). 900 total memories are available, including 300 for AM. Five tuning methods are possible—manual, memory scan, direct frequency input, manual tuning shuttle, and auto-search. The digital clock is one of several functions shown in the bright green LCD display, along with battery condition, month, day and week (when power is off), and frequency, band, S/N ratio, signal strength, DSP selectivity choice (1, 2, 3, 4 or 6 kHz), and volume step (when power is on). There is a 10-90 minute sleep timer function, and an alarm which can use either live radio signals or a beeper to awaken the user. FM stereo reception is provided through the phone jack, and FM reception in general is excellent due to the DSP chip’s processing (although not quite up to the PL-300WT/ G8 standard). The volume can be adjusted in 40 digital steps, with pushbutton up and down controls.



The D92L uses a rechargeable 3.7v lithium-ion battery (type KL-01) for power, two of which are provided with the radio, along with a 220VAC adapter/ battery charger. The 220VAC adapter/ charger typically does not provide a full charge for the batteries when used with 110VAC house current, even when connected overnight. A 110 VAC 6 volt or 5 volt DC adapter can provide a full charge, if the user carefully connects the negative lead to the center conductor of the supplied adapter’s plug, and the positive lead to the outer conductor of the plug (this is the opposite of the D96L system, by the way).

The batteries are reputed to have a life span of 300-500 charging cycles. The D92L has a .25 watt speaker with 100 mw output power, and has a size of 5.25” x 3.25” x .8” (135 x 80 x 20 mm) and weighs 5 ounces (135g). It comes in black plastic cabinet, with all the control labels in Chinese only (and no export model available, or currently contemplated).

Unfortunately, the D92L has some severe quirks which limit its usefulness as an AM-DXing receiver. The loopstick receives serious RF hash from nearby digital circuitry, reducing AM sensitivity significantly on all frequencies. The direct frequency input keypad is little more than a joke, being far too small for the average North American user to operate without consternation. The model has a serious digital “chuffing noise” after any control is changed, further reducing AM sensitivity for about 12 seconds. The “soft mute” issue affecting the PL-300WT/ G8 models also affects the D92L, with negative effects on AGC, and the ability to tune 1 khz further away from QRM when chasing weak signals. The model also suffers from the tuning heterodyne issue affecting the PL-300WT/ G8 units. The Chinese control labels and Chinese owner’s manual may confuse native English speakers (a roughly translated English manual is posted in the Yahoo Ultralightdx file site), and warranty service is still a question mark, with no Kchibo service facilities on this continent. In competition with the slightly more expensive D96L, the D92L really has nothing to offer except for the savings of a few dollars (or yuan). It is available from seller “hygt” on <http://www.ecrater.com> for a price of \$63.60 including shipping to North America, and comes with two 3.7v rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, a 220VAC adapter/ charger, stereo earphones, clip-on external wire antenna, cloth/ vinyl carrying case, Chinese owner’s manual and registration card.

### Kchibo D96L

This model is Kchibo’s best DSP portable radio, and its combination of high AM sensitivity and variable DSP selectivity certainly makes it a formidable contender. The D96L is essentially a larger D92L with correction of most (but not all) of the AM-related deficiencies. The D96L has a larger loopstick

for improved AM sensitivity, and there is no whining digital hash to cover weak signals. The radio will tune in both 10 and 9 kHz steps, and has a larger direct entry keypad for those with normal-sized fingers.

Otherwise, the D96L shares many features with the D92L, since they are both based on Silicon Labs' 4734 DSP chip. AM frequency coverage is from 522-1710 (9 kHz steps) or 520-1710 (10 kHz steps), with 1 kHz steps available on the tuning thumb wheel. Wideband FM coverage is from 64- 108 MHz (50 or 100 kHz steps), and SW coverage is from 2.3- 21.85 MHz (1 or 5 kHz steps). There are 900 total memories, with 300 available for AM. Five tuning methods are possible—manual, memory scan, direct frequency input, manual tuning shuttle, and auto-search. The digital clock is one of several functions shown in the bright green LCD display, along with battery condition, month, day and week (when power is off), and frequency, band, S/N ratio, signal strength, DSP selectivity choice (1,2, 3, 4, or 6 kHz), and volume step (when power is on). There is a 10-90 minute sleep timer function, and an alarm which can use either live radio signals or a beeper to awaken the user. FM stereo reception is provided through the phone jack, and FM reception in general is excellent due to the DSP chip's processing (although not quite up to the PL-300WT/ G8 standard). The volume can be adjusted in 40 digital steps, with pushbutton up and down controls.



The D96L uses a rechargeable 3.7v lithium-ion battery (type KL-1000) for power, two of which are provided with the radio, along with a 220VAC adapter/ battery charger. The 220VAC adapter/ charger typically does not provide a full charge for the batteries when used with 110VAC house current, even when connected overnight. The supplied USB cable also allows battery charging from a computer, and several owners have obtained fully charged batteries this way. Another option to fully charge the battery is to use a 110VAC 6 volt or 5 volt DC adapter after rewiring the supplied adapter's plug, making sure that the positive lead is connected to the center conductor (the opposite of the D92L polarity system). The batteries

are reputed to have a life span of 300-500 charging cycles. The D96L has a .25 watt speaker with 100 mw output power, and has a size of 5.6" x 3.5" x .9" (145 x 90 x 23mm) and weighs 7 ounces (200g). It comes in a black plastic cabinet with a metallic front panel, with all the control labels in Chinese only (and no export model available, or currently contemplated).

The D96L has some moderate quirks relating to design issues, which are mostly those that affect all of the Silicon Labs' 4734 DSP chip radios. The tuning heterodyne issue also affects the D96L, and the "soft mute" function affects AGC negatively, causing a large DX signal drop off when tuning 1 kHz farther away from QRM than the DX station's fundamental frequency. Like the D92L, the model also has digital "chuffing noise" whenever one of the controls is changed (with the LCD lit up), but it only continues for 5 seconds in the D96L (during which reception of weak signals may be compromised). With the exception of the 1 kHz selectivity choice, the DSP filtering selections are displayed incorrectly on the LCD (the actual 2, 3, 4 and 6 kHz settings are displayed as 6, 4, 3 and 2 kHz respectively). The keypad numerals are hard to read. The Chinese labels on the radio controls and the all-Chinese owner manual (and other documentation) may confuse native English speakers (there is a roughly translated English owner's manual posted in the Yahoo Ultralightdx file site), and warranty service is still a big question mark, with Kchibo having no known service facilities in North America.

Despite the quirks, the D96L provides far greater DXing performance than its D92L predecessor. Several DXers have found the D96L to be the first DSP ultralight radio with 1 kHz selectivity competitive for serious 9 kHz-split transoceanic DXing in North America, with performance roughly similar to the premium Murata CFJ455K5 ceramic filters transplanted into the Eton E100 units. As such, it really sets a high standard for relatively inexpensive pocket radios. The Kchibo D96L is currently available only from China, with the seller "hygt" offering the radios on <http://www.ecrater.com> for \$70.46 including shipping to North America, and the same seller ("hygt369") offering the units on eBay for a bid price of \$54.77, plus \$16.80 shipping (\$71.57 total). The D96L is also available from <http://www.trafind.com> for \$52.58 plus \$11.60 shipping (\$64.18 total), the current lowest price for North American purchasers. The radio comes with two rechargeable 3.7v lithium-ion batteries, a dedicated 220VAC adapter- charger, USB cable, stereo earphones, a clip-on external wire antenna, cloth/ vinyl carrying case, Chinese owner's manual and registration card.

Shootout Day Preparations To prepare for the live signal competition, all 7 contenders were given fresh batteries (or recharged batteries, in the Kchibo models), operational checks, and in most cases, AM-band alignments (details on request). Fringe stations were chosen to test each radio's sensitivity and selectivity during mid-day ground wave conditions, and detailed checks were made for spurious signals and images in the author's typical suburban location in Puyallup, Washington (35 miles south of Seattle). Nulling tests were conducted outdoors, away from electrical house wiring and other metallic

distractions. Quality control data includes all reports received from owners of each model.

Shootout Day Arrives The gallant contestants assembled at noon on September 7, 2009 to decide their fate. They were joined by all surviving contestants of previous Ultralight radio Shootouts, who would join in the competition for ultimate Ultralight performance honors. The R911 and R9012 models were tested with the whip antenna in a vertical position. The D92L and D96L models were tested in the 1 kHz selectivity setting. Comments follow the grade in specific categories.

SENSITIVITY: (worst is 0, best is 5; final grade for model is listed after model)

530-TIS 620-KPOJ 750-KXL 1040-CKST 1130-CKWX 1520-KGDD 1650-TIS

R911 (B) 3 1 0 0 3 3 4\*

R9012 (B+) 3 2 0 0 3 3 4\*

C.C. SWP (B+) 3\* 2 0 0 3 3 4\*

DE1123 (D) 2 0 0 0 2 1 2

G8 (B) 3\* 2 0 0 3 2 3

D92L (D) 2 1 0 0 2 1 2

D96L (A) 3\* 3 1 1 4 3 4\*

SRF-59 (B) 3 1 0 0 3 3 3

SRF-39FP (B+) 3\* 2 0 0 3 3 4

SRF-T615 (A-) 3\* 2 1 0 3 3 4

SRF-M37V/W (B) 3 2 0 0 3 2 3

DT-400W (A-) 3\* 2 1 1 4 3 4\*

E100 (B+) 2 1 0 1 4 3 4\*

DT-200VX (B) 3 1 0 0 3 3 3

DT-210V (B) 3 1 0 0 3 3 3



\* Two TIS stations were received by these models on the frequency indicated (a superior result).

**SENSITIVITY SUMMARY:** The new Kchibo D96L has unsurpassed sensitivity on all AM frequencies, with a slight low and mid band advantage over all current contestants. It also has a slight edge over the DT-400W for top ULR sensitivity. The C.Crane SWP and R9012 are very competitive in sensitivity overall, with a slight high-band edge over the G8, which tends to perform better on the lower frequencies. The R911 tested here has a shade less sensitivity than its R9012 sibling on the low band, and both the D92L and DE1123 models are hopelessly outclassed in weak-signal performance-- primarily because of weakly designed loopsticks.

SELECTIVITY: (worst is 0, best is 5; final grade for model is listed after model)

560-KPQ 980-CKNW 1080-KFXX 1460-KARR

R911 (B-) all KVI slop (0) slight KOMO slop (4) all KPTK slop (0) heavy KSUH slop (1)

R9012 (B-) all KVI slop (0) slight KOMO slop (4) all KPTK slop (0) heavy KSUH slop (1)

C.C. SWP (C+) all KVI slop (0) slight KOMO slop (4) all KPTK slop (0) all KSUH slop (0)

DE1123 (B+) all KVI slop (0) no KOMO slop (5) all KPTK slop (0) no KSUH slop (5)

G8 (A-) no KVI slop (5) no KOMO slop (5) strong KPTK slop (2) slight KSUH slop (4)

D92L (B+) all KVI slop (0) no KOMO slop (5) all KPTK slop (0) no KSUH slop (5)

D96L (A) no KVI slop (5) no KOMO slop (5) mod. KPTK slop (3) no KSUH slop (5)

560-KPQ 980-CKNW 1080-KFXX 1460-KARR

SRF-59 (B-) all KVI slop (0) slight KOMO slop (4) all KPTK slop (0) heavy KSUH slop (1)

SRF-39FP (B-) all KVI slop (0) slight KOMO slop (4) all KPTK slop (0) heavy KSUH slop (1)

SRF-T615 (C) all KVI slop (0) mod. KOMO slop (3) all KPTK slop (0) all KSUH slop (0)

SRF-M37V/W (F) all KVI slop (0) all KOMO slop (0) all KPTK slop (0) all KSUH slop (0)

DT-400W (C+) all KVI slop (0) slight KOMO slop (4) all KPTK slop (0) heavy KSUH slop (1)

E100 (B+) all KVI slop (0) no KOMO slop (5) strong KPTK slop (2) mod. KSUH slop (3)

DT-200VX (C+) all KVI slop (0) mod. KOMO slop (3) all KPTK slop (0) heavy KSUH slop (1)

DT-210V (B-) all KVI slop (0) mod. KOMO slop (3) all KPTK slop (0) strong KSUH slop (2)

**SELECTIVITY SUMMARY:** Once again, the D96L has superior performance with its 1 kHz DSP selectivity setting, an advantage that has practical DXing applications because of the model's class-leading sensitivity. The G8 is a close second, but lacks the D96L's 1 kHz filter choice option, and lags

in sensitivity to dig out weak adjacent-channel DX. The DE1123 and D92L both have decent DSP selectivity designs, but suffer greatly from relatively deaf loopsticks in practical performance. The two analog models (R911 and R9012) have good selectivity for their price range, and the C.Crane SWP has fairly average selectivity in the general Ultralight category.

NULLING ABILITY: (final grade and comment)

R911 (A) Excellent, near legendary performance (when whip antenna is raised to vertical)  
 R9012 (A) Excellent, near legendary performance (when whip antenna is raised to vertical)  
 C.C. SWP (B) Good, and decent sensitivity increases practical use  
 DE1123 (A) Excellent, but lack of sensitivity limits practical use  
 G8 (B) Good, and typical of the DSP models  
 D92L (B) Good, but lack of sensitivity limits practical use  
 D96L (B) Good, and excellent sensitivity increases ability to chase co-channel DX

SRF-59 (A) Excellent, near legendary performance  
 SRF-39FP (A) Excellent, near legendary performance  
 SRF-T615 (A) Excellent, unique among non-DSP digital models  
 SRF-M37V/W (B) Good, but terrible selectivity limits practical use  
 DT-400W (B) Good, and good sensitivity increases practical use  
 E100 (B) Good, and augments very good selectivity when chasing weak DX next to locals  
 DT-200VX (B) Good, and decent sensitivity increases practical use  
 DT-210V (B) Good, and augments good selectivity when chasing weak DX next to locals

IMAGES, SPURS and MAJOR SELECTIVITY DEFECTS (final grade after model)

R911 (A-) Insignificant spurious whistle on 930  
 R9012 (A-) Insignificant spurious whistle on 930  
 C.C. SWP (B) KSUH-1450 image on 540 (strong); temporary tuning heterodynes on 935, 1041, 1144, 1250 and 1352 (all of which disappear after 2 seconds)  
 DE1123 (C) Heterodyne on 1010 (moderate); spurious whistle on 1390 (strong); heterodynes from 1410-1440 (strong); spurious whistle on 1670 (strong)  
 G8 (C) Heterodynes on 670 (strong), 1020 (moderate), 1130 (strong), 1140 (strong), 1240 (strong), 1410-1440 (strong), 1600-1640 (strong)  
 D92L (B) Spurious open carrier on 730 (strong); heterodynes from 1410-1440 (strong)  
 D96L (B) Heterodynes on 728 (strong), 1020 (moderate), 1410-1440 (strong), 1620 (mod.)  
 SRF-59 (A-) Insignificant spurious whistle on 730  
 SRF-39FP (A-) Insignificant spurious whistle on 730  
 SRF-T615 (C) KSUH-1450 image on 550 (moderate); Puyallup TIS-1580 spur on 1600 (moderate); KZIZ-1560 spur on 1420; KSUH-1450 received from 1430-1510  
 SRF-M37V/W (F) KSUH-1450 image on 550 (strong); spurious mix of KSUH-1450 and KZIZ-1560 on 1610 (strong); KKOL-1300 received from 1280-1340; KSUH-1450 received from 1410-1640  
 DT-400W (A) Insignificant KSUH-1450 image on 550 (extremely weak)  
 E100 (A) KSUH-1450 image on 540 (moderate)  
 DT-200VX (A-) Insignificant spurious whistle on 750  
 DT-210V (B+) KSUH-1450 image on 550 (weak); insignificant spurious whistle on 750

AGC (final grade and comment)

R911 (B) Good; will not irritate the ears of searching DXers  
 R9012 (B) Good; will not irritate the ears of searching DXers  
 C.C. SWP (B) Generally good performance, but IBOC hiss not so pleasant  
 DE1123 (A-) Excellent AGC, but poor sensitivity limits its practical value  
 G8 (B) Generally good, but DSP chip's soft mute causes temporary delay in function  
 D92L (B) Generally good, but DSP chip's soft mute causes temporary delay in function  
 D96L (B) Generally good, but DSP chip's soft mute causes temporary delay in function

SRF-59 (B) Good; will not irritate the ears of searching DXers  
 SRF-39FP (B) Good; will not irritate the ears of searching DXers  
 SRF-T615 (A) Outstanding AGC-- the best in the Ultralight class  
 SRF-M37V/W (B+) Very good performance, except for IBOC hiss issue  
 DT-400W (A-) Excellent AGC except for minor IBOC hiss issue

E100 (B+) Very good performance, but minor issues with IBOC hiss and local slop  
 DT-200VX (A-) Excellent AGC except for minor IBOC hiss issue  
 DT-210V (B) Good; will not irritate the ears of searching DXers

#### AUDIO QUALITY (final grade and comment)

R911 (B) Pleasing audio with emphasis on high frequencies  
 R9012 (B) Pleasing audio with emphasis on high frequencies  
 C.C. SWP (B) Generally good, but limited bass response  
 DE1123 (B-) Very limited bass response; can be harsh at times  
 G8 (A-) Pleasantly balanced audio is enhanced by relatively large speaker  
 D92L (A-) Pleasantly balanced audio response (but can be affected by DSP filter selection)  
 D96L (A-) Pleasantly balanced audio response (but can be affected by DSP filter selection)

SRF-59 (B+) Pleasing audio with emphasis on high frequencies  
 SRF-39FP (A-) Mellow audio with balanced highs and lows  
 SRF-T615 (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity  
 SRF-M37V/W (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity  
 DT-400W (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity; DBB function augments range  
 E100 (B) Emphasis on high frequencies is acceptable for DXers; but not for music fans  
 DT-200VX (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity; DBB function augments range  
 DT-210V (A) Excellent audio with great attention to fidelity; DBB function augments range

#### DIGITAL TUNING NOISE and DELAY (final grade and comment)

C.C. SWP (B-) Moderate click and PLL chirp when using tuning knob on low AM band; no delay  
 DE1123 (A) No noise, no delay  
 G8 (A-) No noise, very short tuning delay; beep and 2-second delay when turned on  
 D92L (B-) 12-second digital "chuffing noise" when tuned; very short tuning delay  
 D96L (B) 5-second digital "chuffing noise" when tuned; very short tuning delay

SRF-T615 (A) No noise, no delay  
 SRF-M37V/W (A-) Function beep, no delay  
 DT-400W (A) No noise, no delay  
 E100 (A-) No tuning noise or delay, but two second delay and PLL chirp when turned on  
 DT-200VX (A) No noise, no delay  
 DT-210V (B) No noise, 1-second delay



#### QUALITY CONTROL RECORD (final grade and comment)

R911 (B) All units have gained a significant improvement in AM sensitivity with alignment  
 R9012 (B) All units have gained a significant improvement in AM sensitivity with alignment  
 C.C. SWP (B) First unit received in 2007 was defective; variations in sensitivity reported  
 DE1123 (A) No reports of defects; no problems in author's model  
 G8 (B) Most models gain significant improvement in AM sensitivity with alignment  
 D92L (B) Out of eight models, one model was received with a cracked loopstick  
 D96L (A) No reports of defects; no problems in author's 2 models

SRF-59 (C) Congenital breakdown of tuning capacitor over a 2-year period; AM alignment provides significant improvement in sensitivity in most models  
 SRF-39FP (A-) Based on alignment of 24 units, 4 gained major improvement in AM sensitivity  
 SRF-T615 (A) No reports of defects; no problem in author's 2 models  
 SRF-M37V/W (A) No reports of defects; no problem in author's 3 models  
 DT-400W (A-) Some reports of low AM sensitivity in isolated cases; author's 3 models are fine  
 E100 (B) All units have gained a significant improvement in AM sensitivity with alignment; reports of other maintenance issues received, but good Q/C record in general  
 DT-200VX (A-) AM alignment typically improves sensitivity on high or low band (but not both)  
 DT-210V (B-) Own unit required AM alignment for optimum performance; first received unit was defective and not repairable; reports of other QC issues have been received

2009 Shootout Verdicts and Summary The new Kchibo D96L model's impressive combination of high AM sensitivity and superb DSP selectivity truly pushes the envelope in Ultralight radio performance, providing a new standard in overall DXing potential. The winners of the previous Shootouts

(SRF-T615, E100 and DT-400W) are all very competent AM receivers, but lacking in DSP-enhanced selectivity, they cannot really compare with the D96L in adjacent-channel DXing capability. The D96L's unsurpassed AM sensitivity is the perfect complement for its 1 kHz DSP selectivity, which together provide a clear AM-DXing advantage over every other Ultralight radio. Although it does have some engineering quirks that make it less than perfect, for overall value, this Chinese market radio is a superb bargain—especially for those 9 kHz-split DXers looking for maximum fun at minimum cost.

The Tecsun PL-300WT (a.k.a. Grundig G8) models benefit greatly from their 4734 DSP chips, which provide class-leading FM sensitivity and selectivity. Unfortunately the Tecsun designers failed to ensure optimum AM sensitivity in their loopstick production process, leading to variable results in DXing performance. With the optimum 1 kHz DSP selectivity potential of the 4734 chip not available, the PL-300WT/ G8 models will never perform at the high level of the D96L, either in AM sensitivity or selectivity. These models will certainly have high appeal for FM-DXers, however, and for urban AM-DXers troubled by multiple local pests. It has high resistance to overload, and can minimize the irritation of mixing products and spurious signals. The G8's overall appeal as an AM-FM DXing radio makes it a good choice as a travel portable, along with its D96L competitor.

The C.Crane SWP model provides decent sensitivity in combination with versatile digital features, and has earned a place of respect in the Ultralight DXing group despite its 2-year old design. It has a low-noise RF front-end and a 455 kHz IF, providing the essential ingredients to quickly become the modified Ultralight radio of choice among the somewhat fanatical ULR transoceanic DXers (of whom the author is a dedicated member). Although its stock capabilities are quite impressive, the radio becomes an overachieving DXing wonder when modified with a 7.5" sliding coil ("Slider") loopstick and a Murata CFJ455K5 IF filter. With capabilities similar to the Eton E100, it has low-band AM sensitivity superior to the E100, and generally provides very capable overall performance, whether in stock or modified form.

The Degen DE1123 model was inspired by some superb design ideas, but for practical application in AM-DXing, the radio's poor loopstick design is really a deal-breaker. The DE1123 is practically deaf to weak-signal DX, making its superior DSP selectivity and included digital signal recorder irrelevant. For an FM-DXer looking for maximum versatility in a compact travel portable the DE1123 would merit attention, and the option to record FM stereo music in an Ultralight radio is unique. For AM enthusiasts, however, the DE1123 is a classic example of how a poor loopstick design can ruin an otherwise innovative radio.

The Kchibo D92L is another classic example of great design objectives being nullified by poor manufacturing execution. The D92L has all the design ingredients for success, but the loopstick receives severe digital hash from adjacent circuitry, degrading the AM sensitivity to an unacceptable level. Apparently Kchibo learned many lessons from the D92L issues, however, in designing the superb new D96L model. The puzzle is why the Chinese market prices for the two models are so similar, with such a drastic difference in AM-DXing performance.

The two analog models, the Tecsun R911 and R9012, both prove an exceptional AM-DXing value for a rock-bottom price. In comparison with their SRF-59 competition, both models have a higher general level of quality and life expectancy, with similar sensitivity, selectivity and nulling ability. They also include an effective speaker, with multi-band SW coverage as a bonus. DXers preferring a round tuning knob should choose the R9012—but make sure that the Chinese seller is going to provide you with a new model (see the warning), and the color of your choice. In the author's opinion, there has never been such a \$9.90 bargain in the history of AM-DXing!

**Conclusion** The new DSP-enhanced Ultralight radios have added even more DXing potential to the pocket radio class, and even more excitement to a niche hobby that was already a major enthusiasm center among the AM-DXing community. It is the author's sincere hope that this exhaustive purchasing guide will introduce you to the amazing new capabilities of these innovative receivers, and motivate you to join our fast-growing group of Ultralight radio enthusiasts. We welcome you to join in the legendary fun, and enjoy the thrilling AM-DXing future along with all of us.

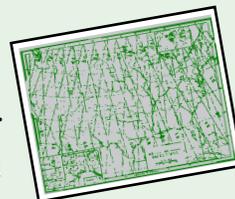
73 and Best Wishes,  
Gary DeBock



(The author wishes to express gratitude for the extensive assistance of John Bryant in the preparation of this article, and for the assistance of Guy Atkins in the introduction of the Kchibo radio models)

## Sunrise-Sunset Maps

Monthly maps (12) showing the average monthly sunrise/sunset times for the U. S.; customize them for your location. \$3.25 for NRC members (\$4.50, non-members). Order from NRC Publications - P.O. Box 473251, Aurora CO - 80047-3251. (CO residents, please add 3.5% sales tax.)



# *National Radio Club/World FM TV DX Association Joint Convention September 4-7, 2009*

Welcome to Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley  
Rodeway Inn Conference Center, Allentown, PA  
by John R. Malicky

In lieu of the fabulous WNRC, this year's convention was transmitted by WJRN with a very low miniscule power of .007 milliwatts on 1640 AM/88.7 FM and for the very first time on digital television DT 60. We begin this stirring account.

"It's Friday, September 4, 2009 and you're receiving WJRN 1640 AM/88.7 FM/ DT channel 60 Allentown, Pennsylvania. The time now is 12 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

"From west to east for a great feast, from city to countryside, by air and train, bus or the ride, we came for the sounds in Allentown!

"Our top story, now in their 76th great year, the National Radio Club convention was moved horizontally in one year, in state, from Pittsburgh 2008 in the west to Allentown 2009 in the east. Here's more about this story. Known as the Lehigh Valley, Allentown is one of the three cities there along with Bethlehem and Easton. Like Boise in 2007, the NRC had a joint (not THAT kind) convention merging with the group Worldwide TV/FM DXers Association, also known as WTFDA or pronounced 'woof-da'. As reported, members met new and old friends on a different kind of high. Held over the Labor Day Weekend from September 4 to 7, this holiday arrived almost one week later as compared to last year's holiday which was on the first. However, many members did arrive on time at a somewhat sprawling Rodeway Inn Conference Center on Bulldog Drive just off state route 309. From several accounts, the drive is named for the former Mack Truck Center, with the trademark bulldog at the edge of the hood, that relocated to North Carolina.

"In related news, not taking a low approach for the activities and events, a congratulatory offer was given to the first time host. Bob Smolarek of High Bridge, New Jersey, who's been an NRC member since 1982, with his first convention attended in 1983, and a WTFDA member since 1984. Even a licensed ham, his call sign is 'N2M1F' as he began that activity in 1989. Along with the NRC, Mr. Smolarek had commented that he wished to thank members Shawn Axelrod, John Bowker, Mike Bugaj (WTFDA), Scott Fybush, Jon German, George Greene, Wayne Heinen, Mark Humphrey, John Malicky, Paul Mount, Harry Schools, Dick Truax, Yosemite Sam, and especially Ernie Wesolowski. There even was entertainment on Friday provided by The Pussy Cat Dolls. Time now, 12:02 PM.

"Tune in this Friday night at 11:05 PM for The Lehigh Valley History Program sponsored by The Whitehall Mall. In depth coverage that begins with Allentown which was founded in 1762 by the colonial leader and State Supreme Court Justice William Alien. Known as Northampton until 1834, Allentown was incorporated as a city in 1867. Listen as while German settlers played a key role in Allentown's development, the city was once a center of textile mills and cement manufacturing, though still home to Muhlenberg College and WMUH-91.7. Solidifying other truths, Allentown's Zion Church once housed and hid the Liberty Bell in 1777 after The Battle of Brandywine when George Washington had no hope of saving Philadelphia from the British. Saving the truth for Bethlehem, in 1741 a group of Moravian missionaries from Europe arrived, established a community, and christened their settlement during the traditional vigils on Christmas Eve. Considered among the finest examples of pre-Revolutionary German architecture in the country, many of the large stone buildings constructed by the Moravians are still in use. Also home to Moravian College that was founded in 1742, one building or buildings now idled and a giant in the industry is Bethlehem Steel. In the third part of our story, we'll look: at Easton which was founded in 1752 by William Parsons. Located at the junctures of the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers and at the state line, Easton was once home to George Taylor, one of the signers of The Declaration of Independence. Built in 1757, the Parsons-Taylor House still stands on South Fourth Street. Once a key center of travel that included the Morris Canal and major railroads, trade, and industry due to its strategic location, Easton is now home to The Crayola Factory, a unique tourist attraction that includes interactive exhibits and history, though it's not a true production facility. Of a different color and founded in 1832 is Lafayette College. We'll even listen to their station, WJRH-104.9, as their Leopards, for the 145th time this November, tackle Bethlehem's Lehigh University Mountain Hawks, formerly the Engineers, in college football's oldest continuous rivalry that Lehigh's WLVR-91.3 will also cover.

"It's 12:03 and our final story, rated by Arbitron as the 69th market and The Radio Book as the 74th and comprising two counties, Lehigh and Northampton, the Lehigh Valley is home to 23 radio stations. With a population around 700,000, the Valley is covered well. With a population of 43 and rated number one, Allentown 2009's coverage is the best and hits a homerun. Weather next.

“You still have time to join the WJRN Allentown ‘09 ‘Put the Hammer Down’ Baseball Caravan Trip, ‘The Dirty Dozen’. At the two year old Coca-Cola Park in Allentown at 5:35 PM, we’ll watch the 2008 World Champion Philadelphia Phillies AAA affiliate farm team Lehigh Valley IronPigs meet in the mud the stampeding Bisons from Buffalo. Formerly the Ottawa Lynx, the two-year-old team’s name honors a facet of the steel industry, pig iron, which is iron cast into pigs, a rough oblong piece of cast metal, in preparation for conversion into steel. Expect the Pigs to double their pleasure and fun to win a doubleheader seven to one and four to one. ‘Laugh. Cheer. Oink! as you can hear the squeal of delight by calling the team’s number 610-841-PIGS. Over the air, all Pigs’ 72 home games are televised ‘Powered by Service Electric Cablevision’ - TV 2 Sports. In addition, coverage continues on Channel 13 Blue Ridge Communications, TV 35 WYLN in Hazleton, and on Saturday all home games on WFMZ-69. On radio, the flagship ESPN 1230-WEEEX Easton and repeater 1320-WTKZ Allentown lead a five station network: 1370-WPAZ, 1410-WLSH, 1440-WNPV, 89.1-WYBF, and 105.5-WMGH. It’s a sweet deal, only nine dollars to pay, get your own meal, so call today.

“Sunny and warm today and tonight with conditions just right. Time now is 12:05 FM and here’s a public service message. At the Inn in the Birch Room, with ongoing admissions, access is granted, with special permission. So WHYL many are off to bed, a few more guests arrive; tomorrow will be most interesting, on the second convention day of September Five. Now back to music and more on AM One Six Four.



**A WAEB-790 tower lies prone after vandals cut a guy wire to it.**



**Charlotte and Kermit Geary have celebrated 68 years of wedded bliss, and Kermit has enjoyed 77 years as an NRC member.**

“Dateline Saturday, now at eleven-forty, here’s the news, for our top and lead story. On another WONDERful day, about 15 of the bunch, departed to see some tower sites, a station visit and lunch. In what was described as ‘the horror’, the first stop was the five tower 350 feet in-line guyed array of WAEB-790 in Whitehall Township located north of US route 22 and near PA route 145. With no eyewitness accounts of the vandalism the day before, the first tower was dropped lying in the field as the guy wires were cut. Licensed to Allentown with 3600 watts days and 1500 watts nights with different patterns, News-Talk 790 went on the air in 1949 but was noticed off now for a brief period of time. With studios also in Whitehall, a couple miles to the south, WAEB is one of four stations in the local Clear Channel group. The others are WSAN-

1470(ex WKAP) sports/oldies, WZZO-95.1 with rock, and contemporary hit ‘B-104’ WAEB-104.1. Reflecting the Valley are 790’s call: W Allentown Easton Bethlehem. So far, no one has been charged with the crime. Now a word from our sponsor. For all your second stop shopping needs, shop the Whitehall Mall where you’ll find three beautiful self-supporting towers of WSAN-1470, the Valley’s oldest station (May 24, 1923) With 5000 watts, you can direct yourself or be directed at night. Above all, avoid the two fenced in towers located in the parking lot. Cash and carry not recommended. In other news, a club member from Pittsburgh was seen leaving the group around noon driving about ten miles north on route 145 to Walnutport, PA to visit the home of the club’s oldest and longest member since 1933, Kermit Geary. Along with wife Charlotte, they celebrated 68 years of marriage on September one. As

it was an honor once again, as their four beautiful cats agreed, to meet the man with over 6,500 QSL radio deeds. We'll be back after a short timeout. A jingle, 'have your cake, with your troupe, make a (third) stop at WENDY's, for your hungry group!' Back to the news. Several radio enthusiasts made a pleasant and surprisingly unexpected visit and tour of WHOL-1600 'Hola Radio' on Colorado Street in Allentown. This reporter met the 'El Presidente' in 2005 before Kulpville, but this is the first time the group met owner Mr. Mathew Bracilli. An Italian-American, Mr. Bracilli commented that after years as a salesman and general manager of sales for the Hispanic group Mega Communications while becoming fluent in Spanish, he was able to leave and soon purchased WHOL which was previously a Spanish talk and religious teaching station. With a 25% Hispanic market, Mr. Bracilli changed WHOL to a more upbeat and now successful 'Tropical' musical format. This success has continued, much to the chagrin of Easton residents, when Mr. B. acquired WEST-1400 about three years ago converting it to a repeater station for WHOL. Four years ago, this reporter and Kermit Geary visited both WHOL and WEST again before Kulpville. As the Valley's second oldest station since 1936, historic WEST's visit, at their original location on Easton's main street of Northampton was made literally at 5 PM and their close of business on Friday. With their Christmas card photo in 2005, WEST had a nostalgic format and was a full service station that included high school, Lafayette College, and other team sports. They were also confirmed in 1981. Signing on September 1948, also at their original location, and once a 500-watt daytimer, WHOL has two towers, one guyed and one self-supporting, adjacent to their studios. Having added 56 watts at night on a same directional pattern, WHOL has WTKZ-1320 diplexed on their towers. With very favorable sales now marketing to a 33% Hispanic city population, WHOL has added more remote vans and is now the highest billing station in the market even over WAEB. In appreciation to the area, HOLA Spanish Radio 1400 and 1600 sponsored the fireworks show after the IronPigs Friday doubleheader. Rated numero uno, we wish Mr. Bracilli and WHOL further success.

"In other news, these same radio fans made their fifth and final stop to see the 1,073 foot tower of the unaffiliated network station WFMZ TV 69 DT 46 on South Mountain above Allentown on East Rock Road. Adjacent to their studios, the tower also has other outlets that include WJCV-89.3, exWFMZ WLEV-100.7, WBPH TV 9, PBS station WLVT TV 39, and the National Weather Service.

Attempting a station visit, the group was told to return home and visit on Monday. Unlike the group, there were two visits made by this reporter four years ago. The last stop, though no tour, and first here was to see WEEX-1230 tower at their studio on Paxinosa Road above Easton. The second in Bethlehem, owned by 'Jolly' Joe Timmer, the studios of (250 watt daytimer) WGPA-1100; now let's go and eat our dinner!

"It's five o'clock and this is WJRN 1640 AM and 88.7 FM Allentown and here's the latest news sponsored by KORS beer. It's sunny, 74 degrees, and clear. Our top story: a group of 31 MMM (Men of Mass Media) gathered outside the Rodeway Inn for group photos while attempting to assemble a beverage antenna. A passing motorist called police, thinking of another kind of thirst, but when the law arrived, the group had gone and dispersed. In other news and again at the Rodeway Inn, there was a delicious buffet dinner of chicken and ribs with barbecue sauce, baked potatoes and cole slaw, and a salad that was tossed. Also of mass quantities, a patron consumed when served, described of Biblical proportions, though no comment for he disappeared. In sports, from today some finals and scores: five to three, four to two, and three to one, and in the fifth inning eight to four. Now to the weather, pleasant and warm tonight, clear in the morning, tomorrow sunny and bright. Johnny Fever reporting.

"It's 6:30 now and from the beautiful Birch Room high atop the Inn at Rodeway in Allentown, we present the All the World is a Stage Speaker Series with your host Bob Smolarek whose opening greetings WARMly welcomed everyone and introduced our guest tonight, radio personality, Mr. Ken Mathews (cue the theme of the 'Mr. Ed TV Show'). 'Hello, I'm Mr. Ken. A Ken is a Ken, a name of men, and no one can talk to any Ken, that is of course unless the friend is the famous Mr. Ken, go right to the source and ask the friend, he'll give you the answer that you'll comprehend, he's always on a steady trend, talk to Mr.



**Convention host Bob Smolarek welcomes speaker Ken Mathews to the NRC Saturday night activities.**

Ken!' With a speech and discussion that was lively, animated, informative, and enjoyable, Mr. Mathews has had a 27-year career in radio, many of them at contemporary hit or hot adult contemporary music FM stations. His longest gig or work at one station was 15 years from both September 6, 1991 to 2006 at Allentown's 'B-104' Morning Show' on WAEB-104.1. Mr. Mathews was even voted as the 'Best Lehigh Valley Morning Radio Show' for 2004-2005 by Allentown's paper, "The Morning Call". A 1985 Wolfpack graduate from North Carolina State University, Ken actually started in radio while still in school for 2 years at the campus station licensed to Raliegh, WKNC-88.1. His career in commercial radio first began in Franklin, NC at the former WRFR, now WNCC-96.7 and sister to WFSC-1050 which was verified by this reporter in February, 1983. Anyway, Mr. Mathews then returned to Raleigh at WRAL-101.5, then went 'movin' on up' to the former WERI, now WEEI-103.7 Westerly-Providence, then visited the wZOU, now 'Jammin' WJMN 94.5' Boston, capitalized a position at Hartford's WTIC-96.5, 'drifted' over to the former WWGT, now 'Coast FM' WMGX-93.1 Portland, Maine, migrated south again to WSSX-95.1 '95 SX' in Charleston, SC, heard the call to 'go west' to WGRR-103.5 Hamilton-Cincinnati, and finally



**Long-time NRC member Cary Simpson still provides local service on his station, 'Where the listening is easy' in Tyrone, PA.**

returned east to B 104. In the summer of 2007, Mr. Mathews also had a three week 'live' audition of talk at WGPA-1100. In addition, Mr. Mathews is a professional speaker and emcee, teaches Public Speaking parttime, consults various clients as a media advisor, spent 7 months in politics, and even worked very briefly as a rodent exterminator at WRFR! Anyway, still looking to be hired again at any radio media position, Mr. Mathews' contact information is [www.KenMathews.com](http://www.KenMathews.com) or call 610-838-KENM (5366).

Why, Ken would even take a temp job at WNRC! Maybe with honor for John Bowker's radio call letter jacket. Ken wore a 'WINS (1010) tie. As for Mr. Mathews' presentation, at times he was both critical or applauded the industry all the while describing his interest and career from a teenager to today. Alluding to a feeling of compassion for other personalities like him. Ken insisted through his agent on a 'no-voice-tracking' clause that would replace anyone in his contract. Mr. Mathews also conveyed that he 'felt great satisfaction being with us this evening..and still has that great feeling about radio like all of (us)do.' Where (some) people in the industry now don't realize the history, texture, and the great abilities in radio who unlike ourselves follow, capture, pursue, and treat it as valuable as we do. It's what we do! Still, Mr. Mathews said that the most important person in radio is the listener. To that we say, 'we're listening!'

"So to begin "The World According to Ken', when most college students took their break and went to Myrtle Beach, SC, Mr. Mathews and a friend would travel north up the east coast to hear and admire the great voices like 'The Grease Man', Howard Stem, and others, this talent that's now missing on radio. Relating an exciting experience about five years into career. Ken recalled meeting "The Man' Wolfman Jack when they worked together on a remote to open a McDonald's in Raleigh. 'How!' Of the little things. Ken said that mentioning the time updates periodically is still important, plus this could tell a listener if the show is local and authentic. Or, in this reporter's view, comparing time to updated scores of any game in sports. Ken honors the words of former FCC Mark Fowler that radio can be more powerful than TV feeling, 'a word is worth a thousand pictures as long as people know how to communicate.' Of talent before and now, as radio has been so much more efficient technologically with computer driven formats saving time and money, nothing has changed regarding the talent that was once there and now been driven away. Also not there, once important and the simplest in a broadcast, was to read or just chat briefly about local and/or national topics. However, Ken did feel there are several large market operations that still provide great forums. He also praised broadcast engineers whose work is an acknowledged 'craft'.

"On national talk, news, satellite and internet, and ownership, Mr. Mathews felt there are great

syndicated talk programs with hosts like Glenn Beck and Michael Savage. He was amazed that, as somewhat a savior of AM radio. Rush Limbaugh can have 22 million listeners a day! When in a large market. Ken usually wants to hear what can be very good and engaging 'live' talk shows as one member pointed out there are two successful FM talk stations for local interest in Mississippi and New Jersey. Noting to have 'the show back and entertain,' Ken wrote a similar article for the Jones Radio Network one year ago. Of news, especially cable and broadcast, what MSNBC, CNN, and Fox News are now doing in television is what radio did 20 years ago, only these outlets are doing this so much more while naturally covering many more stories. Also for AM stations like WAEB, again to save on salaries, they have their news coming from the Harrisburg bureau. So while radio has lost almost 23% of its listenership, this is like almost imagining a whole industry saying if you don't like this, go somewhere else (also mentioned by Lisa Fybush of her local WBER 90.5)! And listeners have to satellite radio that has that perfect, cleaner, and tighter sound that can access hundreds of choices, maybe too many with a service that is maximized and now created a 'niched' Howard Stern. So in a positive note, claiming that terrestrial radio still and always will provide in the car the quick and instant (and free!) choice that it's on with one button. Of another choice with individuals and those who worked in the media industry, they have started and found success with their own internet radio shows creating something better because they have an audience and full control. One example is a friend in Scranton, PA whose successful show is 'Gary On Line' because he even sold advertising on his broadcasts and bought space on billboards. With more choices in 2009, member Jeff Lockwood mentioned the technology in 2 years will provide for portable digital TV. Regarding digital TV DX, Bob Smolarek mentioned that it's good and sometimes better than analog, but if the signal strength isn't strong, the screen will be harder to decode. Finally for ownership. Ken felt the need of smarter owners to move into radio. Member Bruce Collier pointed out someone has like Larry Wilson who sold Citadel Communications for a profit, then acquired new radio properties in Oregon and Washington. Member Scott Fybush mentioned he has seen the station prices for sale have been dropping in the last 15 years while Ken pointed out that 3 giant corporations have lost billions of dollars.

"Other final topics include religious stations, IBOC/HD, a close friend, and other positive contributions. Back to you, Ken. Of religious broadcasters, Mr. Mathews felt their service and the amount of stations has 'just exploded' and was surprised to hear IRN and USA Radio Networks had merged. Of this reporter's note, local WAMO and WPGR have all been sold to St. Joseph Missions which for WAMO represented an end to many years as an urban contemporary, hip hop, and rhythm and blues station. Also, while visiting WRBS-1230/95.1 in Baltimore, this reporter noted that these 2 religious stations provide an impressive choice for talk, teaching, and uplifting contemporary Christian music as 95.1's two Internet streams carry alternative music for younger adults. Other changes locally and just recently has been the country station Froggy 98.3 jumping over to an AC Christian station WPKV 'K-Love.' Again, we return to Ken whose view of IBOC/HD radio was less than satisfying and felt the industry took an established product and fragmented it with too many channels or signals. Determined to work in radio again, Mr. Mathews is pleased his friend and Program Director Brian Check is doing well at 'My-106' WISX-106.1 in Philadelphia. Ken also noted that he appreciates any PD who lets his personalities be themselves. Mr. Mathews other contributions included concern with children's safety issues winning the PA Governor's Highway Safety Award, speaking for 20 years about the dangers of drinking and driving to groups like M.A.D.D. and D.A.R.E., the reward as a volunteer for two years with appreciation for the work on DXAS, at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in Raleigh while at NC State, and most importantly being happily married and father to 2 young sons.

"That we now close, Mr. Mathews felt the dialogue here was most interesting as he feels radio needs to be once again more creative, take risks, entertain, find an exciting new generation of air personalities, and capture the younger and future generation. Capturing us as the 'Voice of Allentown 2009', we thank Ken, wish him less QRM, and 73s! This is your NEC Reporter reporting.

"This is WJRN Allentown 1640 AM and 88.7 FM, it's 8 o'clock and time now for the NRC Business Meeting brought to you by 'Ball & Chain Locks, good for locking anything or anyone into one position.' Now here's our host and DXN Editor for 21 years, Paul Swearingen. From the Board of Directors and Wayne Heinen, the club is doing very well while it has been cutting costs like the internet exchange of bulletins with foreign clubs. Also, the agreement with Benjamin Printing in Watertown, New York has been positive for the printing and mailing the *DX News* bulletin. Regarding membership, this has been good with 665 total members for three services, the DXAS(DX Audio Service) at 75, though there's been some loss of members, e-DXN or the electronic version of *DX News* presently at 100, and the paper bulletin of DXN at 490 with some members registered for more than one service. Also, the 30th *NRC AM Log Book* is out with the cost here at Allentown at \$18.00 and \$19.95 to U.S. members (plus in state Colorado sales tax at 3.5 percent) as this edition is dedicated to outgoing Board of Director John D. Bowker. As written in the Log Book's preface by Wayne Heinen, "Over the years John, with gracious help from his lovely wife Linda, has been the chief organizer of many of the National Radio Club's annual con-



**Publisher Paul Swearingen presents the 2009 award plaque to Ernie Wesolowski in recognition of his many years of service to the club. Ernie has recently been named NRC's Convention Coordinator.**

ventions. His involvement with the Club as our Ombudsman smoothed many a ruffled feather and his contributions as a member of the Board of Directors has helped guide our club well. He has been a cornerstone of DX Audio Service with his always entertaining Travelog feature. This year, as John adds to his personal number of years, John has decided to retire from his club activities. We thank John for his many years of volunteer service and wish him a fruitful and relaxing retirement." On this reporter's personal note, there will always be the utmost respect for two wonderful people, John and Linda Bowker. I always felt honored to see them every year at our conventions almost to the point of seeking John's approval on anything I've done, written, or photographed for the club. Most humble, both were welcome to see for their duties; as registrars, computing and tabulating the auction, and conducting programs, discussions, and forums. Like a similar message of replacing radio personalities, we the NRC now face trying to replace the 'voice of the club' John Bowker. It is only wishing that if John cannot attend any more conventions, then let's bring the convention to him in Tampa! As always, we thank all our editors, especially Paul Swearingen who's now retired from teaching in the Topeka School District and Fred Vobbe for DXAS, plus all Board members. Ken Chatterton, Bill Hale, Wayne Heinen, and Dick Truax. Also, we thank Wayne and Joan Heinen for their invaluable work compiling the ongoing NRC AM Log Book and with club publications and to all our good members. That's 'Viewpoint', now back to the meeting. As Paul did mention, he's still looking to step down as *DX News* Editor and looking for a capable person to understand Adobe InDesign CS2 and CS3 computer formats and volunteers for other duties. Finally, with one acknowledgment to come, new club Convention Planner Ernie Wesolowski (while having recognized our 2009 Host Bob Smolarek was looking for any 2010 hosts having one bid already for Rocheste., New York by Scott Fybush) received a congratulatory 2009 NRC Plaque for years of dedicated service, the responsibility each year for the plaques, and now coordinating conventions. Then Mike Lantz acknowledged members Martin Wishnewitz, Wayne Ryan, Jon German, Ernie Wesolowski, and this reporter for the condolences regarding the recent passing of his beloved guide dog "Lexie". Then with the good news that he's been accepted 'to go to WABC in New York City', but in reality from October 26 to November 20, Mike will go to the Big Apple's Guide Dog Foundation to receive with training a new guide dog and per his request that it be 'shaped like a radio' or walk like an Egyptian!

"It's 8:30 PM and time now for 'Whose Money is It Anyway?!' or the NRC Auction again with your host, Paul Swearingen. With 16 members vying for some fabulous prizes and gifts, our final tally, recorded with a stone tablet, hammer, and chisel or pen and notebook paper, was \$204.00. For the highest bids of \$55, we thank Jon German and all bidders. Two of the quality items this reporter snared was a Radio Shack digital DX-375 AM/FM/shortwave receiver and a Panasonic RX-FT530 dual cassette AM/FM boombox. We would also like to thank members who donated items, presently here or not, like long time member, editor, and NRC technical writer Russ Edmonds whose effort to donate a generator went unbid and Harry Schools for bidding or not, his collection of DX News dating to 1970.

"It's midnight and this is WJRN 1640 AM and 88.7 FM Allentown as we now ask you to tune to 'Nice 960 WHYL Carlisle, Pennsylvania where all the great songs have gone' for a DX test with oldies, jingles, and ID's transmitting on their power of 5000 watts directional daytime (also 22 watts at night). In the meantime, so many have gone off to bed, awaiting tomorrow's. National Radio Club's test. So study well, as you dream, but you'll still lose out, to a fellow named Greene! Returning to regular programming..of that crazy rock singer, arriving via train, he'll soon depart, flying on a Jefferson Airplane.' 'It's 4:45 in the AM and this is Perspectives and I'm your host Lionel Osborne.' It's 5 AM and this is WJRN 1640 AM 88.7 FM DT channel 60 Allentown, Pennsylvania now leaving the air until 2010 as our next guest you'll know, if you haven't already dropped, for the next sound you'll hear, is snap, crackle, & pop!

ventions. His involvement with the Club as our Ombudsman smoothed many a ruffled feather and his contributions as a member of the Board of Directors has helped guide our club well. He has been a cornerstone of DX Audio Service with his always entertaining Travelog feature. This year, as John adds to his personal number of years, John has decided to retire from his club activities. We thank John for his many years of volunteer service and wish him a fruitful and relaxing retirement." On this reporter's personal note, there will always be the utmost respect for two wonderful

Sunday, September 6, Day Three Allentown 2009. "At the tone, 14 hundred hours (10 AM EDT) zero minutes. Coordinated Universal Time..tick, tick, TING, ding, ding, dang nab it, this reporter has lost again." Anyway, even having 20 of 30 correct was not enough as the winner once again, with 27 answers correct, was "The Ace of Akron" George Greene. In second with one less was "Rochester's Radio Reporter" Scott Fybush. Our host. Bob Smolarek, wrote the quiz that was meant for Boise 2007 tweaking it just a bit. A sample of questions included number 5: "Which station is located in Idaho?" "A-KMOX B-KTFI C-KGEZ D-KKGR" The answer was B KTFI-1270 Idaho Falls. A local question, "Which station was known as the Lehigh Valley Giant?" "A-WGPA B-WAEB C-WKAP D-WEEX" The answer was D WEEX-1230 Easton. The final question, 'how would you rate Allentown 2009?' 'A-fair B-okay C-good D-great E-excellent' The answers were D and E! So, that's all for me, and take it from thee, the number one club is the N-R-C! Make it so, if Rochester in twenty ten, now off I go, to visit thirteen forty WTRN! 73s!

### **NRC/WTFDA ALLENTOWN 2009: 43 Members, Guests, and one K-9**

CT Brian May, Laura McCusker; DE: John Cereghin; FL: Warren Greenberg, Mike Lantz, and Jeff Lockwood; IL: Frank Merrill; KS: Paul Swearingen; MD Richard Dark, Bill Harms, and Tom Yingling; MA: Glenn Cooper; NE: Ernie Wesolowski; NJ Bob Antoniuk, Paul Mount, Rick Shaftan, Bob Smolarek, Bob & Patti Stonier & Gracie; NY Jerry Bond, Scott, Lisa, Ariel, and Eli Fybush, Jon German, and Ken Lyon; OH George Greene; ON: Wayne Ryan, Dave Whatmouyh; OR: John Adams; PA Bruce Collier, Russ Edmonds, Dennis Emerick, R.E. Evans, Harry Hayes, John Malicky, Ken Mathews, Ed Mauger, Dave Nieman, Brett Saylor, Dave Schmidt, and Bob Seaman; TN: David Jones.

## *Introducing the Loop Antenna* **Frederick R. Vobbe, W8HDU**

DX'ers have always wanted an edge on listening. Most radios have their own internal antennas; some are better than others. But there are ways to enhance your listening and maybe get the satisfaction of building something. The obvious first choice is the basic Select-A-Tenna, an AM Radio Antenna. This device is about twelve inches across and four inches thick, and has a dial in the center. The design has been around for about thirty years and used by hundreds of thousands of people that either DX or listen to radio casually. The Model 541 produces a signal gain of +30dB when used with most AM radio receivers which have internal ferrite rod antennas. You place it against the back of your radio and then tune the large knob on the front to the frequency you are listening to.

A lot of NRC members will use these along with their mini, Ultralight radios, such as the SRF39 FP Ultralight radio, affectionately known as the "Prison Radio" because you can see right through it. However, it works well with a Sony ICF2010, or a GE SuperRadio III, or just about any radio that has an internal loop antenna.

Another version of this loop is the Select-A-Tenna 541-M. The Select-A-Tenna 541-M is the same as the original 541, but it features a 3.5 mm "mini" jack on the front panel that allows the loop to be connected to the AM radio's antenna input terminal. Note: to connect it to your radio, the radio must have an antenna input. Ultralight radios don't normally have these inputs, but radios like the GE SuperRadio III and Sony ICF-2010 do. Personally, I like the 541-M because I can leave my radio sit in its natural position, and only move the loop around to peak and null stations. A small piece of RG-58 coax is all I need to connect between the radio and loop.

If you want to make your own, they are really not that hard to build. A loop like this is basically several turns of wire on a fixed form, with a tuning capacitor across the coil. I made one for the heck of it out of a Quaker Oats box, which is about five inches around, as far as I can recall, and made of cardboard which is sort of an insulator. The wire was wound around the box, and each end of the coil was attached to a 360 pf tuning cap taken from a dead radio receiver. While listening to 870 WWL, I would get about an S-5 on the radio, but when the coil was placed next to the radio, and tuned to 870, the radio came to life with an S-10+ signal. This allowed me to hear about seventy-five more stations in one year, as well as to be able to hear stations on adjacent frequencies from locals, because I could null the local by positioning the antenna and peaking it on the adjacent frequency.

The Kiwa Pocket Loop is a 12.5 inch air-core loop antenna that collapses to fit in your pocket! The antenna is designed to enhance the MW and SW reception of portable receivers. The tuning range is from 530 kHz to 23 MHz in four bands using a battery-powered low-noise amplifier. This small package and performance does come at a price of \$195.00, but as the old saying goes, you get what you pay for. This small loop comes ready to fly out of the box, and is a must for any DX'er who is looking for something compact that they can take with them on travels or have at home on a desk without taking up a lot of space.

Since I tend to be an experimenter, I've built several loops, and my favorites were the ferrite loop, and the box loop. The ferrite loop consisted of thirty-three turns of Litz wire around a 1.25" coil form, with a ferrite bar inside the coil, and a tuning capacitor in an adjacent box. In the late 1980's I made these for other DXers and sold about 250 of them. As fast as I could make them they would go out the

door. Along with the coil and capacitor was a small FET amplifier, which would provide about 18 dB amplification. The nice thing about this loop was it was compact. The tuning was narrow, allowing for peaks on an AM channel while the adjacent channels were suppressed. The bad thing was they were fragile, and a drop test off the table always resulted in a broken ferrite bar. However the pros outweighed the cons, and the loop held up to the task of ferreting out DX from numerous locations. Most of all, the loop was small and could sit easily on the desk with no problem.

The box loop, on the other hand, was the granddaddy of all the loops. I really prefer it to all loops for numerous reasons. First, it had more ability to null local signals. Here in Lima I have a 1 kilowatt non-directional daytime station at 1150. The station is exactly 5 miles from my location on a vector of 165 degrees. Although this station puts in a pretty hefty signal, I was still able to log Hamilton ON, Cuyahoga Falls OH, Utica NY, and a tentative logging of Salina KS. Tentative means that I never heard the call sign or station slogan mentioned, but ads and mentions of Interstates 70 and 135, among other things, have me pretty confident that it was KSAL. How is this possible? The box loop has the ability to null out a local station's signal well into the noise floor. When you do that, whatever is left can be

heard.

I should mention that loops can be somewhat handy to null semi-local or distant stations, but the shifting skywave and ground wave will always be a fight. Once you null the ground-wave signal, the skywave signal will still come in and fade out, so it's a bit of a struggle. However, with some patience you can get results. I was able to null out 760-WJR in Detroit, which is one-hundred-eight miles away from me, to hear another station on 760 doing a test.

The box loop that I made was based on an article in the National Radio Club's "Antenna Reference Manual" volume one. The specific article was on page 34 and titled "The Bob Flick Loop", after NRC member Bob Flick. And here is where the down side of this loop comes in. The loop measures twenty-four by twenty-four inches, and is about twelve inches thick. It sits on a base that elevates it eight inches above the table; therefore, moving it around it requires some real estate on the table. My loop also incorporated a low noise FET amplifier, a high Q tuning



**Select-A-Tenna, Model M-541**

input, and a buffered distribution amplifier to send the signal to multiple receivers. I ended up selling the loop to another DX'er as I didn't have the space in my small studio for this antenna, but now I really miss it. I'm thinking of building another but placing this one outside and remotely tuning it by servomotors. This would allow the antenna to be up and in the open, which I think will help in some cases.

Loops can be intimidating and challenging, but they can be fun to build. My blind friend Brian built one for next to nothing. Here is how he did it. He purchased a large tuning capacitor from Nebraska Surplus Sales. According to Brian it was their part number CAV-75-37, and it was rather expensive, costing \$50.00. He admits he could have taken apart an old defunct radio and used the twenty to three-hundred pico farad, but he didn't have the heart to take apart any radio. Perhaps if you try this, you can find a friend that has a capacitor they would give you for nothing.

Anyway, he took the capacitor and the cardboard box that his Braille and Speak came in, and duct-taped the capacitor onto the box. Then he installed a large plastic knob on the tuning capacitors shaft so when he touches it, his body doesn't short out the circuit. Then by trial and error he wrapped 22-gauge, solid-core wire around the box. He found that by making ten turns around the box it gave him the right range he needed. Now, when he wants to DX, he places his GE Superadio II next to the box, dials in a frequency, and then tunes the loop with the capacitor. Like the Select-A-Tenna, when he hits resonance on the loop, the signal explodes from the receiver. For example, when he dials his radio onto a frequency it may be below the noise. However, when the loop is peaked, the signal comes up to what can only be described as "local quality".

Again, through trial and error, Brian found that by adding turns to the coil he could get low band stations in the one-hundred-fifty to four-hundred kilohertz region. And by eliminating turns he could get tropical stations in the three to four megahertz range. He has since added a switch to add or subtract turns in the loop and has heard stations from the U.K and even Columbia in South America.

So you see, it's not that hard to do. As Brian comments, "I'm sure it doesn't look pretty, but it sure brings in the stations!"

The down side to all loops is that they will amplify signals, so if you live in an area that had sufficient noise, such as bad power lines, or a neighbor with a plasma TV, in some cases you might amplify the noise. But, having the ability to null means you can also null the noise. That's a bonus.

So if you're looking for something to do this fall in preparation for what could be a very active AM DX season, think about purchasing or building your own loop antenna. And let us all know what you hear on your loop antenna.

## National Radio Club

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P. O. Box 473251

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