



# AM Switch



Info to David Yocis – 1245 13th St. NW #105, Washington DC 20005 – NRCDXNews@gmail.com

As usual, we begin with the latest official changes from the FCC.

## CALL CHANGES

- 890 CP CA **Olivehurst** – CP for new station assigned calls KDPP.  
 1340 CP AR **Bethel Heights** – CP for new station assigned calls KFMD.

## ON THE AIR

- 1190 KDYA CA **Vallejo** – Applies for license to cover and program test authority for CP for D3 3000 from a new site (38-08-03/122-25-32).  
 1260 KBSZ AZ **Apache Junction** – Applies for license to cover CP for U1 4500/50.  
 WI2XSO PR **Mayaguez** – CP for U4 5000/1800 is on the air.  
 1400 KRAM UT **Vernal** – CP for new station granted program test authority; should be testing soon if not on the air already.  
 1620 KYIZ WA **Renton** – CP to adjust coordinates to 47-26-28/122-12-10 is on the air.

## OFF THE AIR

- 940 KTON TX **Belton** – This station has been silent since 12/30/2008; the FCC station's license was cancelled by the FCC on 6/2/2010 for being silent for more than one year, starting on 12/30/2008, but the station was finally deleted from the FCC database on 12/11/2012.  
 1340 WSTV OH **Steubenville** – Station has been silent since 12/4/2011; voluntarily surrendered license by letter to the FCC 11/19/2012.



## CONSTRUCTION PERMITS EXPIRED

- 1380 WMJR KY **Nicholasville** – CP for U1 10000/38 expired 11/27 and is deleted; WMJR remains U1 5000/38.  
 1450 WJOE FL **Lake City** – CP for new station expired on 11/17 and calls are deleted; CP remains in the FCC database as it appears to be subject to a petition for reconsideration.

## APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR FILING

- 870 KPRM MN **Park Rapids** – Has a pending application for U2 40000/1000 (to replace an expired CP for the same); amends that application to U2 50000/1000.  
 1450 KIKR TX **Beaumont** – Applies to construct a new tower at virtually the same site (30-03-51/94-07-11), remaining U1 1000/1000; replaced a CP for the same that expired 12/9.  
 1510 KSPA CA **Ontario** – Withdraws proposed amendment to longstanding application that would have included 50 kW daytime and a change in CoL to Chino CA; application is now (again) for U4 10000/6000 with no change in CoL.  
 1550 KXTO NV **Reno** – Has a pending application for U1 2400/90 from a new site; amends that application to U1 2400/70.

## SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY (STA)

- 1010 KXEN MO **St. Louis** – Granted STA for U1 350/125 if needed; see #80-12 for details.  
 1300 WMTN TN **Morristown** – Granted STA for U1 1600/96; tractor pulling a combine brought down part of the antenna structure on 11/24.  
 1530 WLWB WI **New Holstein** – Granted STA to broadcast from a temporary antenna at its CP site (44-04-26/88-10-47) to prevent license cancellation (station has been silent since 12/20/2011) while CP work continues.

Requests to extend existing STAs were filed by WTIG-990 Massillon OH (U1 62.5/28 after tower collapse); and WHNR-1360 Cypress Gardens FL (U1 1250/625 after tower collapse).

Previously reported requests to extend STAs were granted for WIOD-610 Miami FL; WGES-680 St. Petersburg FL; WFAB-890 Ceiba PR; WIPR-940 San Juan PR; KFAY-1030 Farmington AR; WHBO-1040 Pinellas Park FL; KAAY-1090 Little Rock AR; WSUA-1260 Miami FL; WODT-1280 New Orleans LA; and WEEO-1480 Shippensburg PA.

SILENT STAS

- 620 KHNU HI **Hilo** – Applies for silent STA; silent since 11/19 after delivery truck knocked down part of the antenna. Seems to be an epidemic of this going on!
- 930 WEZZ AL **Monroeville** – Applies for silent STA; went silent again 11/8 after transmitting briefly to maintain its license; says it will return when it completes its CP to move to 920 kHz and change CoL to Brantley AL (but that CP expires 12/24).
- 1230 WXCF VA **Clifton Forge** – Applies to extend current silent STA due to “ongoing needed significant repairs”; silent since 1/18 and will lose license if not back on, even temporarily, by that date next year.
- 1240 WNRA AL **Eufaula** – Resumed operations at full power on 12/11; was silent since 1/1.
- 1480 WTKD AL **Mobile** – Applies for silent STA; silent since 12/12 due to loss of programming source.

Canadian news (via Shawn Axelrod):

- 680 CHFA AB **Edmonton** – Granted CP for an FM repeater for St. Paul AB on 105.5 MHz (but that’s odd, as hasn’t CHFA’s AM license been cancelled?).

And here are NRC AM Log updates from Wayne Heinen:

- 780 WAVA VA Arlington – Slogan: “Life Changing Radio.”
- 790 WQXI GA Atlanta – Networks: ESPN/Ns/PRN (ex-FSR/PRN).
- 830 KUYO WY Evansville – Adds SRN News.
- 870 KFJZ TX Fort Worth – Format: ETH was SS:REL. (GH)
- 970 WATH OH Athens – Adds //W246CE-97.1.
- 1010 KIND KS Independence – Adds Imus (CM). (GH)
- 1050 WBNM AL Alexander City – Format: GOS (ex-C&W); slogan: “Solid Gospel” (ex-“Real Country”); Networks: add SMN.
- 1050 WFSC NC Franklin – Replaces ABC News (A) with CBS (C). (LvH)
- 1170 WSOS FL Saint Augustine Beach – Format: OLD (ex-Silent); Slogan: “Oldies 99.5”; add // W205CD-99.5.
- 1170 WFDL WI Waupun – Format: TLK/OLD (ex-TLK/NOS).
- 1220 KQMG IA Independence – Format: Rock/OLD (ex-C&W); add // KQMG-FM-95.3.
- 1230 WJUL GA Hiawassee – Slogan: “The Voice of Lake Chatuge”; adds // W248BJ-97.5.
- 1230 WTSV NH Claremont – Format: NWS/TLK (ex-SPT); slogan: “Twin State Talk Network” (ex-“The Score”); Networks: Fox/TRN/B (ex-ESPN); add // WTSL-1400.
- 1290 WOMP OH Bellaire – Format: C&W (ex-SPT); Slogan: “Classic Country”; delete ESPN; drop // WSTV-1340.
- 1300 WJZ MD Baltimore – Slogan: “105.7 The Fan.”
- 1310 KZXR WA Prosser – Format: SS:MEX (ex-SS:SPT); slogan: “La Maquina”; drop ESPD; add // KMNA-98.7. (HS)
- 1340 WSTV OH Steubenville – Silent; drops // WOMP-1290.
- 1360 KLYR AR Clarksville – Networks: Ar/DG (ex-Ar).
- 1370 WGCL IN Bloomington – Adds // W240AT-95.9.
- 1400 WTSL NH Hanover – Adds // WTSV-1230.
- 1430 WOWW TN Germantown – Format: C&W (ex-NWS/TLK); Slogan: “Kissin’ Country”; add // W249BN-97.7. (AM)
- 1440 WVEI MA Worcester – Adds Slogan: “SportsRadio 1440.”
- 1490 WTJV FL Deland – Format: OLD (ex-SS:REL); Slogan: “The Great Voice Of Volusia County.”
- 1650 WHKT VA Portsmouth – Slogan: “K-Talk 16-50.”



Groups:

EWTN Michigan – Add WGZR-88.9

From *Radio Insight*:

Don Imus will remain in the morning slot at Cumulus Conservative Talk 770 WABC New York for three more years. The program will continue to be syndicated nationally via Cumulus Media Networks. The 72 year-old, Imus has been heard in mornings in New York consistently since 1979 with the exception of his hiatus in 2007 after getting fired from CBS’ WFAN and before returning to the then Citadel owned WABC.

Wayne’s thanks to Shawn Axelrod and Bill Hale, as well as to (HS) Håkan Sundman, (LvH) Larry Van Horn, and (AM) Adam Myrow.

*Domestic DX*      **Mike Brooker** patria1818@yahoo.com  
*Digest – East*      99 Wychrest Avenue  
 Toronto, ON M6G 3X8 CANADA  
**U.S./Canadian Loggings from Eastern/Atlantic Time Zones. All ELT.**

REPORTERS

- BC-NH**      **Bruce Conti, Nashua** – Excalibur SDR, MWDX-5, variable termination SuperLoop antennas northeast and south.
- HF-MI**      **Harold Frodge, Midland** – R8B, 85 ft. RW & 180 ft. center-fed RW
- HJH-PA**      **Harry Hayes, Wilkes-Barre** – Grundig S350, Tecsun PL-390, Superadio II, Kiwa Pocket Loop
- BH-MA**      **Bib Hill, Littleton** – Sony ICF-2010, Kiwa filters, AOR LA390 active loop.
- KK-VA**      **Kraig Krist, Manassas** – Winradio G3DDC SDR, Eavesdropper 43 foot multiband antenna running E to W.
- JO-NL**      **Jerry Osborne, Random Island** – Kenwood TS570D, vertical or multi-band dipole antenna
- MKB-ON**      **Mike Brooker, Toronto** – Grundig G5, Grundig YB-400PE, Sony SRF-39FP, Panasonic RF-2200 (receiver emeritus)

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UNID

- 780 UNID**    --    - 12/14 0000 – In WBBM null; “Thank you for listening to GCN, great talk radio plus news,” and SRN news. No 780 stations in online GCN affiliate list. **(BC-NH)**
- 960 UNID**    --    - 12/8 0649 – In mix with WELI, UNID C&W and talk station, caught partial ID: “The best of the best good time rock n roll oldies only on KTJ?”. **(KK-VA)**
- 1380 UNID**    --    - 12/9 1757 – Catholic program, mentioned “in Chicago.” I can’t find any Chicago area EWTNs. There’s more on 1380 to be had around sunset. **(HF-MI)**  
*There could be some religious programming on CKPC. Though primarily C&W, CKPC’s programs seem all over the map, like the “full-service” stations of yore. Mike*

LOGGINGS

- 540 CBGA-1 QC**    **Matane** – 12/11 1744 – Presumed in a mix with pest WLIE with CBC Première Chaîne discussion in FF // CJBC-860. Various sources list the transmitter site as Matane QC, New Carlisle QC, or Grande-Anse NB—take your pick. Not listed in the AM Log. **(BH-MA)** *Could quite likely be CBEF-Windsor. They’re still simulcasting on 540, //1550. Mike.*
- 560 WFRB MD**    **Frostburg** – 12/13 1700 – Over WFIL; “Left on the dial, right on the issues, Talk Radio 560 WFRB AM Frostburg.” **(BC-NH)**
- 750 WPDV WV**    **Clarksburg** – 12/13 1700 – Under WSB; C&W music, “...WPDV Clarksburg” into network news. **(BC-NH)**
- 760 WCPS NC**    **Tarboro** – 12/13 1700 – Good; NCN news, “AM 760 WCPS Tarboro-Rocky Mount,” and R&B oldies. New log. **(BC-NH)**
- 900 WCPA PA**    **Clearfield** – 12/8 0730 – In CHML mix with station promo “Clearfield’s favorite... on WCPA,” 0733 man with ID slogan “The music you grew up with. The news and information you need. AM 900 WCPA.” **(KK-VA)**
- 910 WRNL VA**    **Richmond** – 12/8 0751 – In multi-station mix (oldies, talk, SS) with Yahoo Sports, mention of “...on Richmond’s sports station WRNL.” **(KK-VA)**
- 920 CKNX ON**    **Wingham** – 12/8 0740 – In WURA mix with ID by woman: “Serving mid-western Ontario since 1926. This is CKNX AM 9-20. We’ll be right back.” **(KK-VA)**
- 930 WHLM PA**    **Bloomsburg** – 12/8 0729 – in WFMD/WRVC mix with station promo “We’re the Christmas music station...news radio 9-30 WHLM” into “Snoopy’s Christmas” song. **(KK-VA)**
- WRVC WV**    **Huntington** – 12/13 1700 – In WBEN null; “This is Huntington’s news and information station, Super Talk 94.1 FM and AM 930 WRVC Huntington.” **(BC-NH)**

- +++ - 12/8 0730 – In WFMD/WHLM mix with typical ESPN radio programming, station promo mentioning “...weeknights at 7 on 94.1 FM and 9-30...” **(KK-VA)**
- 940 WMIX IL **Mount Vernon** – 12/7 2055 – Fair signal with local basketball coverage. “Now back to the Showcase...WMIX Sports.” **(HJH-PA)**
- +++ - 12/8 0707 – In WMAC/WKYK mix with man mentioning “...call us at 242-0780 or stop by the University of Illinois...” into PSA against drunk driving. 0717 local weather with tagline “That’s RAD weather from WMIX.” **(KK-VA)**
- WIDG MI **St. Ignace** – 12/8 1700 – Sermon about paganism. ID as “The Catholic Light of Northern Michigan.” Call was given but I didn’t hear it clearly. Fair and mostly alone. **(HJH-PA)**
- WCPC MS **Houston** – 12/8 1730 – ID and time check then into “Harvest Report” followed by “The Pentecost Hour with Elder Willey Moore at the Unity Temple,” ID as “WCPC 940 Houston, Tupelo, Columbus.” Good signal. **(HJH-PA)**
- CJGX SK **Yorkton** – 12/13 2200 – Fair, over WMAC; “...serving Saskatchewan and Manitoba, GX94 now presents the news at nine.” **(BC-NH)**
- 950 WAKM TN **Franklin** – 12/8 0700 – In multi-station mix (WBES, UNID talk, Cuban Reloj) with ToH ID: “... years of radio close to home...WAKM Franklin” into news. **(KK-VA)**
- WBES WV **Charleston** – 12/8 0631 – In WAKM and Cuban Radio Reloj mix with promo for “Marshall basketball on Charleston’s 94 5.” 0650 station promo “When sports happen you are there .95 ‘The Sports’.” **(KK-VA)**
- 970 WFUN OH **Ashtabula** – 12/13 1908 – Presumed over growly CFRB-1010/CHUM-1050 mixing spur with Byron Scott show hosted by Cleveland Cavaliers coach, // WTAM-1100. Semi-local pest WNED Buffalo silent for a while, pending reincarnation with new calls and format. **(MKB-ON)**
- +++ 12/11 1700 – Out of ad for Elite Employment Center (“the fastest-growing employment agency on the North Coast”) with “Your AM home of...Browns, Indians, Buckeyes...high school sports...ESPN 970 WFUN Ashtabula.” Poor. **(BH-MA)**
- WJMX SC **Florence** – 12/8 0634 – In WBGG mix with “Ground Zero” program, “WJMX” jingle, station promo “...especially for news talk 970 WJMX is now live and local in the morning...from 8 till 10 with Phil Pickles and ‘In the Pickle Basket’.” **(KK-VA)**
- 990 WDCX NY **Rochester** – 12/8 0746 – In multi-station mix (WEEB, CBW, UNID Yahoo sports and SS) with religious talk, “WDCX Rochester” ID by man. **(KK-VA)**
- CBW MB **Winnipeg** – 12/8 0717 – In multi-station mix (WEEB, WDCX, UNID Yahoo sports and SS) with local program mentioning “if you have a favorite song you want to hear... especially... call in 204-728-3108 or email us at weekend@cbc.ca,” “Name That Movie Soundtrack” show at 0720. **(KK-VA)**
- 1000 WLNL NY **Horseheads** – 12/8 0732 – In WMVP mix with “WLNL AM 1 thousand” ID by woman. **(KK-VA)**
- 1040 WNJE NJ **Flemington** – 12/13 2100 – Good; “This is your station for inspiration, WCHR 920 AM, Trenton,” and IRN/USA news, ex-ESPN *Deportes*. **(BC-NH)**
- WYSL NY **Avon** – 12/8 0740 – In WHO/CJMS mix with ad for “Iron Mike’s” in New York, promo for “‘The Military Exchange’ WYSL 92.1 FM and 10-40 AM.” **(KK-VA)**
- CJMS QC **Saint-Constant** – 12/8 0632 – In WHO/WYSL mix with FF talk and C&W songs. ID by woman “vous écoutez CJMS...,” CJMS jingle. **(KK-VA)**
- 1170 WDEK SC **Lexington** – 12/13 2300 – Under WWVA; R&B/blues oldies, “1170 AM The Deck, WDEK Lexington, a Broomfield...” **(BC-NH)**
- 1190 WSDE NY **Cobleskill** – 12/14 0700 – Under WLIB; “WSDE Cobleskill, Lite 94.3 and AM 1190.” **(BC-NH)**
- 1230 WMML NY **Glens Falls** – 12/10 0700 – Caught ID in the GY jumble; “Your home for the Buffalo Bills, New York Mets, Indy Car Racing, and local high school sports, this is Fox Sports Radio 1230 WMML...” **(BC-NH)**
- WBPZ PA **Lock Haven** – 12/11 2100 – Brief fade in; “You’re listening to AM 1230 WBPZ Lock Haven,” and ABC news. **(BC-NH)**
- 1270 CJCB NS **Sydney** – 12/8 1925 – Ad for a transmission shop then weather and call ID. Weak and mostly alone. **(HJH-PA)**
- 1280 WHTK NY **Rochester** – 12/14 0000 – Over WPKZ; station promo, “Tomorrow morning 6 ‘til 9 on Sports 1280, WHTK Rochester,” and Fox sports. **(BC-NH)**



- 1290 WIRL IL Peoria – 12/7 1708 – Under WHIO with C&W songs, slogan “Classic Country 1290 WIRL.” (HF-MI)
- WHIO OH Dayton – 12/7 1654 – On top more than anyone else with IDs as “AM 12-90 News-Talk Radio WHIO” and “AM 12-90 Talk Radio WHIO,” Sean Hannity show. (HF-MI)
- WFBG PA Altoona – 12/8 0900 – Over usual CJBK groundwave with ToH ID: “big news, big talk...you’re with WFBG 1290 Altoona” into Fox news. (MKB-ON)
- WDZY VA Colonial Heights – 12/13 1700 – Over unID Fox Sports; *Radio Disney* promo, ID, “AM 1290 WDZY Colonial Heights-Richmond.” (BC-NH)
- 1310 WADB NJ Asbury Park – 12/13 2200 – Over WRVP R. *Visión Cristiana*; “Good time oldies, WOBM Lakewood Township, WADB Asbury Park, a Town Square Media station.” (BC-NH)
- 1340 WBNC NH Conway – 12/10 1520 – In WGAW null; mountain hiking info, many Mount Washington and North Conway mentions, ID, “You’re listening to 95.3 FM, Mount Washington Valley Visitor Information Radio.” (BC-NH)
- CKHV NL Happy Valley-Goose Bay – 12/9 1500 – Relaying programs of Okalakatiget Society First Nations radio, from CKOK 610 or FM 99.9 in Nain, Labrador. ID at 1500 in EE for “CBC News,” Inuktitut language 1504-05 into program of easy listening music requests, bilingual announcers in EE and Inuktitut. Strong signal with some fading, and much interference at times from BBC Radio Ulster, 1341 kHz. Heard again at 1758, relaying EE programs of CBC Radio 1 via Iqaluit. ID as “CBC Radio One in Nunavut.” Also relays CBC Radio North. (JO-NL)
- 1360 WOEN NY Olean – 12/11 1800 – Over/under WDRC; “News, talk and weather, we have it all... News/Talk 1360 WOEN Olean,” and CBS news. (BC-NH)
- 1380 WKJG IN Fort Wayne – 12/7 1739 – “ESPN Fort Wayne” slogan, call ID at ToH. One in the mix with no one dominant. (HF-MI)
- KCII IA Washington – 12/10 1604 – In mix, caught a call ID into local calendar of events. Listed as rock/oldies, songs pop in there now and then. (HF-MI)
- WGLM MI Greenville – 12/9 1749 – Slogan “Greenville’s home for Classic Country WGLM,” playing nostalgia music rather than C&W (maybe they go off the board on Sundays). My 124th home state logging, might be my nearest unlogged MI station. (HF-MI)
- WPHM MI Port Huron – 12/9 1749 – In mix with WGLM, station promos “AM 14-50 and AM 13-80 Port Huron’s Christmas station” and “News-Talk around the clock on AM 1380 WPHM.” (HF-MI)
- CKPC ON Brantford – 12/10 1705 – In and out, mainly under WKJG, with slogan “Live Radio AM 13-80 CKPC,” non-traditional religious music, local traffic report at 1758. Apparently a relatively new format for them. (HF-MI)
- 1390 WNIO OH Youngstown – 12/13 1700 – In WEGP null; “...Sports Animal 1390 WNIO Youngstown, an iHeart radio station,” and Fox sports. (BC-NH)
- 1410 WELM NY Elmira – 12/13 2000 – Fair; “ESPN Radio 1410, WELM Elmira-Corning... welm1410.com,” and Thursday Night Football on Dial Global. (BC-NH)
- 1430 CHKT ON Toronto – 12/13 2000 – Fair; promo for program serving Toronto’s Mandarin-speaking community, “...on AM 1430 CHKT, a Fairchild radio station.” (BC-NH)
- 1450 WKTQ ME South Paris – 12/10 1549 – Atop the pile; promo, “...only on Maine’s 10-thousand watt powerhouse, WTME” and Dave Ramsey. (BC-NH)
- WHDL NY Olean – 12/13 2000 – In jumble; “America’s greatest music... 1450 WHDL Olean... a Backyard Broadcasting station,” and Blondie “One Way or Another.” (BC-NH)
- WSNO VT Barre – 12/10 1559 – Fair; Jim Bohannon promo, “...on central Vermont’s talk station, 1450 WSNO.” (BC-NH)
- 1470 WNYN NY Ithaca – 12/14 0000 – Good; “This is Progressive Talk 1470 WNYN Ithaca, and now in HD at 103.7 WQNY HD2 Ithaca,” and ABC news. (BC-NH)
- 1490 WBCB PA Levittown – 12/13 2100 – In the jumble; “You’re listening to Philadelphia Eagles football on 1490 WBCB...” New log. (BC-NH)
- 1590 WASB NY Brockport – 12/11 1900 – Emerged from jumble with legal ID: “1590 AM WASB Brockport-Rochester and 1310 AM WRSB Canandaigua-Rochester, the Sunshine Networks.” Had been regularly on 1589.7 around this time last year. (BH-MA)



# Domestic DX Digest – West

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

U.S./Canadian Loggings from Pacific/Mtn/Central Time Zones. All times ELT.

## Reporters


BD-WI	Bill Dvorak, Madison, WI. Drake R8B, Double Kaz bearing 280 degrees
GH-OK	Glenn Hauser, Enid OK. DX-398 with internal antenna only; Nissan stock car radio as specified. (Loggings originally published in <i>DX Listening Digest</i> )
JJR-WI	John J Rieger, South Milwaukee, WI. Icom IC-R75, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959 tuner, preamp
JW-CO	John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge, CO. Drake R-8, 4-foot box loop
RD-AR	Rick Dau, at the Super 8 Motel in North Little Rock, AR. Sangean ATS-909X, Quantum QX Pro loop
RD-IA	Rick Dau, at the Super 7 Motel in Coralville (Iowa City), IA. Sangean ATS-909X, Quantum QX Pro loop
RD-NE	Rick Dau, South Omaha, NE. 2009 Ford Ranger factory radio
RD-OK	Rick Dau, on I-35 near Orlando, OK. Ernie Wesolowski's car radio

## DX Loggings

- 540 KWMT IA Fort Dodge – 12/2 1649 – Weak in KFRM splatter but still in there with an ad for FortDodgeHelpWanted.com, then ID: “You think you have a big music library? You oughta see ours! True Country AM 540 KWMT;” and into a song by Barbara Mandrell. This was about as far south as I could get this station on our trip-by the time we got into Oklahoma City, KWMT was gone and KDFT was dominant on the channel. (RD-OK)
- 540 KNMX NM Las Vegas – 11/28 1902 – Booming in with regional Mexican music, then EE ID: “This is KNMX....Las Vegas, New Mexico.” No sign of either CBK or KWMT. (RD-NE)
- 550 KRAI CO Craig – 12/8 2352 – In with Christmas mx; 55 Country weather by OM at 3 min past TOH followed by road conditions in area and particularly around Steamboat Springs. Poor and swapping channel dominance back-and-forth with XEPL-CH. (RV-TX)
- 580 WILL IL Urbana – 12/1 1058 – Faint but readable with conclusion of NPR program “Car Talk,” then Champaign-Urbana weather, and mention of “Illinois Public Radio” in legal ID. While WILL is a daytime regular at this QTH, it is nonetheless a toughie as Iowa City is pretty much on the western fringes of its groundwave signal. (RD-IA)
- 600 WMT IA Cedar Rapids – 11/17 2359 – Came up during station promo mentioning wmtradio.com, then right into ID announcement: “This is 600 WMT Radio in Cedar Rapids...,” into Fox news, followed by local weather and the local program *The Weekend*. Poor with local KROD-600 phased. (RV-TX)
- 610 KSLR TX San Antonio – 12/9 0350 – Dominant and VG with *Insights For Living* program, into IS announcement: “The Word in South Texas, AM 630, KSLR.” At 0358, the bottom literally dropped out of the signal and replaced by a mix of KHOW-CO and an unID SS. (RV-TX)
- 720 WGN IL Chicago – 12/4 2020 – Good signal with Northwestern Univ. BKB vs. Baylor, play-by-play by Dave Eanet. (RD-AR)
- 780 KCEG CO Fountain – 11/19 1818 – Good under WBBM with Eddie Rabbitt’s “I Love A Rainy Night,” then ID, during which I heard CLs, but also thought I heard a mention of “Alamosa.” (RD-NE)
- 860 KONO TX San Antonio – 12/6 0102 – ID for “KONO, 101.1, San Antonio’s greatest hits”; easily heard with wrist twisted so as to null dominant KKOW in Pittsburg KS.



I’m trying the unmodified Sony SRF-59 that Kraig Krist gave me since the sensitivity of the DX-398 seems to be falling off; so far, so good. KONO on 860 is only 900 watts at night and NRC Pattern Book 2005 shows a night pattern of east-west with a deep null toward the north (GH-OK). Twisted wrists from station nulling – I know the condition well. Wonder if one can claim worker’s compensation for that? (JDT-WA)

- 870 KFJZ TX **Fort Worth** – 12/8 0835 – Vietnamese scripted talk, bits of piano music, 0840 fading; loops N/S. One thing for sure: it's not Tarahumara, XETAR. By far the most likely US station to be heard here besides WWL is KFJZ, Fort Worth TX, which had been Spanish/Catholic as in NRC AM Log 2012. A bit of searching found this: "Vietnamese American Broadcasting 1270 KFJZ": I wonder when it flipped? The last time I definitely logged KFJZ in Spanish was Oct 31, 2011. Calls KFJZ are heritage, going back to original 1270, and also thence to original TV channel 11, pre-KTVT. **(GH-OK)**
- 1020 WPEO IL **Peoria** – 12/5 0733 – Poor "...WPEO weather, I'm meteorologist" cut to KDKA. **(JJR-WI)**
- 1060 KIJN TX **Farwell** – 12/4 0059 – "el este de Nuevo Méjico --- la palabra de dios..." 10 kW daytimer cheating as always, and also a fast SAH as always off-frequency, much like KLIO, Wichita on 1070 which however is legally on at night. **(GH-OK)**
- 1100 KDRY TX **Alamo Heights** – 12/1 0837 – Ad for carpet cleaner. 11/1 kW, December official FCC sunrise is 0815. See also UNID 1100. **(GH-OK)**
- 1120 KEOR OK **Catoosa** – 1739 – KMOX dominates on car radio, but still Mexican music underneath, SAH of 2.8 Hz this time. **(GH-OK)**
- 1230 KWNO MN **Winona** – 12/10 0059. – Poor but briefly above the graveyard jumble with legal ID. NEW! At only 130 miles, this is was one of my closest unheard graveyarder. **(BD-WI)**
- 1280 KBNO CO **Denver** – 11/17 2001 – Part of the TOH ID came out of the jumble "You're listening to KBNO, 1280, Denver; K253AH, 98.5 Colorado Springs; and KXRE, 1490, Colorado Springs..." Poor in mix with unID SS. **(RV-TX)**
- 1280 KCOB IA **Newton** – 12/7 0659 – Good, suddenly dominating a busy frequency, with a promo for a program Wednesday at 8:40, weather, legal ID into ABC news at ToH. A check of the NRC AM Log shows that this station has a 500-watt PSRA, up from 19 watt night power, and this explains its sudden dominance of this frequency. NEW! **(BD-WI)**
- 
- 1300 WNQM TN **Nashville** – 12/13 0800 – Good @60/9! End of *Focus On The Family*, "WNQM on-time traffic," LID, IRN-USA news. Alone/strong! **(JJR-WI)**
- 1330 KINE TX **Kingsville** – 12/2 2001 – Caught extremely weak ID announcement by OM with all I could understand was "...KINE, Kingsville..."; during a momentary fade of pest-of-the-moment KGAK-NM at juuuuuuust the right time. **(RV-TX)**
- 1340 KVNN TX **Victoria** – 12/2 2113 – Fade in with Fox Sports into local ID announcement: by OM "You're listening to Victoria's News Network, AM 1340, KVNN, Victoria." **(RV-TX)**
- 1350 KCOX TX **Jasper** – 12/9 2059 – In with TOH ID by OM "You're listening to AM 1350, KCOX, Jasper, Texas." then into SRN news. Faded under others by 2102. FCC database lists 37 watts night and its about 730 miles. **(RV-TX)**
- 1360 KD JW TX **Amarillo** – 12/9 2059 – Up with ID announcement by OM at TOH "You're listening to 1360 AM, KD JW, Amarillo, Catholic Radio..."; and back into REL programming, and back in the mud by 2101. **(RV-TX)**
- 1360 KACT TX **Andrews** – 12/2, 1959 – Faded up at end of talk show into ID by OM, "If it's going on now, you'll hear it on newstalk, live sports, AM 1360, KACT, Andrews." into CBS news. Faded into mix before news was over. **(RV-TX)**
- 1380 WKJV NC **Asheville** – 12/13 0821 – Poor with spot and phone # 828-279-57\*\*, contest, contestant on phone, calls. Alone. **(JJR-WI)**
- 1420.04 KMOG AZ **Payson** – 12/12 0905 – ABC news just ending, followed by a casino ad and a couple of other ads; into C&W music at 0908. Generally fair in QRM. On this frequency for the umpteenth year in a row. Lazy engineer, I guess. **(JW-CO)**
- 1420 KTAN AZ **Sierra Vista** – 12/13 0359 – Legal ID mixing with WOC and KTOE: "KTAN Sierra Vista...1420 k-tan"; not sure what followed. **(JW-CO)**
- 1420 KBHS AR **Hot Springs** – 12/11 1759 – Legal ID by man at 1759:50: "You're listening to The Giant(?) AM 1420 KBHS Hot Springs-Malvern-Hot Springs Village," followed by ABC news. Briefly fair but soon faded. Not often heard here. **(JW-CO)**
- 1420 WOC IA **Davenport** – 12/13 0359 – Legal ID at 0359:50, mixing with KTOE and KTAN. Very rough copy. **(JW-CO)**
- 1420 KULY KS **Ulysses** – 12/12 0807 – Gal with local and state news; Funeral Announcements at 0811; Grain Prices at 0815; also mentioned "Bob 106.7" and "Hometown Radio" slogan. Fair/good signal. **(JW-CO)**



- 1420 KTOE MN **Mankato** – 12/13 0258 – Organ donor PSA; cruise ad; mention of ktoe.com; singing legal ID to ToH, then ABC news. Also noted ID's as "Information Radio 1420 KTOE." Generally fair, occasionally good. (JW-CO)
- 1420 KGIM SD **Aberdeen** – 12/12 0759 – ESPN program notes; legal ID by male voice at 0759:50 for KGIM AM 1420, K296FW 107.1 FM. And espnaberdeen.com; back to Mike and Mike at 0800. Fair, just above the QRM for a couple of minutes. (JW-CO)

- 1440 KCHE IA **Cherokee** – 12/12 0758 – Poor and very rough copy on a lively frequency with legal ID: "This is your music and information station, KCHE AM and FM Cherokee, Iowa." Later in the day I called up the station's internet stream and heard the same ID, putting an end to any doubts I had that this was the station I heard. NEW! (BD-WI)



- 1440 WKPR MI **Kalamazoo** – 12/7 0800 – Poor with 4 others (SPO, OLD, KIDS, C&W) with "1440 and FM translator UV6?U, 105.1" into IRN-USA news. They signed on their new 105.1 translator just before Thanksgiving. A former UNID now ID'd. (JJR-WI)

- 1450 KVSI ID **Montpelier** – 12/6 0559 – Legal ID as "KVSI Montpelier, the Voice of Southeastern Idaho"; then ABC news at 0600. Barely punching through the pileup. (JW-CO)

- 1450 KMMS MT **Bozeman** – 12/6 1727 – Dual ID for KMMS-1450 and KPRK-1340. Very poor copy. (JW-CO)

- 1460 KLTC ND **Dickinson** – 11/23 1902 – Good with pregame show for Univ. of North Dakota hockey game (at Notre Dame). (RD-NE)

- 1480 WBBP TN **Memphis** – 12/13 0813 – Poor; "problems for I-40, West" and Rev Geo Kelly: 11:45am "on 1480 WBBP." Alone. (JJR-WI)

- 1550 KIWA IA **Sheldon** – 12/6 1732 – Heard again (logged as tent. Last week) with local ads and Community Calendar; "send items to newstips@kiwa.com"; back to talk show (Sean Hannity) at 1736. Fair at best but suddenly lost at 1739, presume sunset power cut 6 minutes early. 12/12 1659 - local ad and nice legal ID for the collection: "...AM 1550 KIWA Sheldon, giving you more reasons to listen to the radio;" there was also a plug for "The Heart of Rock 105.3 FM;" At 1700, "Ky-wah headline news" was presented. Fair peaks but soon faded under KUAZ, which has been coming in lately 2-1/2 hours before Tucson sunset with a decent signal! IWA is Iowa #50 here and first new station logged here since July. (JW-CO)

- 1580 KGAF TX **Gainesville** – 11/24 2224 – Picked up ID announcement by OM "...your Hometown Radio, 1580, KGAF..." in fade/gap of unID SS station with KMIK-AZ phased. May have popped up one other time but I could not link what I heard to anything definitive. (RV-TX)

- 1640 KFXV OK **Enid** – 12/8 1959 – Poor to good with Southern Gospel music, legal ID including slogan "Faith 1640" into SRN news at ToH. Needed call change dating back to 3/2005, ex-KFNY. This has indeed been a rare one over the years, with my close proximity to WKSH (58 miles). Now, however, the Double Kaz nulls WKSH down to near nothing at night, making hearing this station much easier. (BD-WI)

- 1660 KRZI TX **Waco** – 12/12 1638 – Good with local sports stories, mention of BKB game at the Ferrell Center (on Baylor Univ.'s campus), a brief update regarding the Dallas Cowboys, and an ID of "ESPN Central Texas." (RD-NE)

#### Tentative

- 1010 KIND KS **Independence** – 12/1 0806 – The unique voice of Don Imus, loops NE/SW-surprised to hear him on a Saturday, but nearest affiliate on 1010 is KIND Independence KS, per his website, which makes us click on each state individually rather than searching on a frequency, so there could be others. Supposedly scheduled M-F 5-8 am CST (GH-OK)

#### TIS

- 1620 CBP TX **El Paso** – 11/24 2350 – US Customs and Border Protection TIS at The Bridge of The Americas. Alternating SS and EG using 10w. (RV-TX)

## UNID

- 850 UNID 12/1 0819 – Someone is playing choral “Star Spangled Banner” with nice harmonies, in null of KOA, but fade out before any ID can be heard. There is certainly no US station to the SW, but 0815 is the Dec LSR for KEYH in Houston, while KJON in Carrollton TX must wait until 1330, both directional daytimers. Then there’s non-directional daytimer KFUE in Clayton MO, where December sunrise is also 0815. Playing our national anthem is so rare these days that odds are only one of them does it at sign-on (GH-OK)
- 1100 UNID 12/1 0826 – Sports talk about OU, but no Oklahoma station here; soon losing out to gospel, no doubt KKLL Webb City MO. What could the first one be? If ESPN network, could be 22/2 kW KWWN Las Vegas NV, but more likely just a regular talker, KNZZ Grand Junction CO (GH-OK)

Hope everyone has a merry Christmas, and a prosperous (especially for DX) New Year. See you in 2013. (JDT-WA)

# International DX Digest

**Bruce Conti** contiba@gmail.com  
46 Ridgefield Drive  
Nashua, NH 03062-1174

Several consecutive days of very low solar activity and quiet geomagnetic conditions resulted in better than usual transatlantic reception. This was a pleasant surprise considering that the peak of the current sunspot cycle was originally forecast for December, coinciding with doomsday prognostications. The Solar Cycle 24 maximum is now forecast for May 2013, and it’s expected to be the least active cycle of the past 100 years.

## Trans-Atlantic DX

- 153 unID DEC 9 0200-0430 – Decent audio, talk and music, but too covered by strong buzz to copy anything or even make out what language. Nothing at all on LWBC for weeks, and now this! Buzz eased up a bit the next few days, but nothing there. Buzz back up on the 13th. [Frodge-MI]
- 162 FRANCE *France Inter*, Allouis DEC 9 0220-0225 – Man in French talking over music, no W this time! Poor with strong buzz, LSB helps. [Frodge-MI]
- 171 MOROCCO *R.Mediterranee Internationale*, Nador DEC 9 0430 – Instrumental plucked music. Poor with strong buzz interference, but can tell parallel 9579.1 kHz. [Frodge-MI]
- 183 GERMANY *Europe 1*, Felsberg DEC 9 0411-0420 – Two women discussion to ad/promo at 0414 into pop tune; all in French. Good peaks in USB. [Frodge-MI]
- 189 ICELAND *Ríkisútvarpid*, Gufuskálar DEC 9 0208 – Announcer with variety pop tunes, all in Icelandic. Fair. [Frodge-MI]
- 198 UNITED KINGDOM *BBC Radio 4*, Droitwich et al. DEC 9 0225-0232 – Two women in English regarding women in parliament; BBC World Service ID at 0228 into BBC program promos; BBC news at 0230. Good at s6-7! Best LWBC tonight; audio on several frequencies. [Frodge-MI]
- 252 IRELAND *RTÉ Radio 1*, Clarkestown DEC 9 0420-0430 – In English, sounds like a drama with music and sound effects. Fair peaks. [Frodge-MI]
- 531 ALGERIA *Jil FM*, F’kirina Wilaya d’Oum El Bouaghi DEC 9 2358 – Good; instrumental that sounded like whale calls set to music, then a French folk/rock ballad through the hour, parallel 549 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 549 ALGERIA *Jil FM*, Les Trembles DEC 9 0200 – Good; signature techno music bumper to *Jil FM* ID by a woman, urban contemporary music parallel 531 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 639 SPAIN *RNE1 La Coruña* et al. DEC 10 2147 – Over presumed Czech Republic; talk parallel 774 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 666 PORTUGAL *RDP Antena 1* synthros DEC 9 0300 – Poor; distinct *RDP* time signal. [Conti-NH]
- 675 NETHERLANDS *R.Maria*, Lopik DEC 9 0337 – Fair to good despite 680 WRKO splatter; hymn with pipe organ accompaniment. Canned ID on the hour, “...AM ...Radio Maria.” [Conti-NH]
- 702 unID DEC 10 0035 – Koranic recitations; loud at times. [Conti-NH]

- 711.11 **WESTERN SAHARA** *SNRT Laayoune* DEC 9 0206 – Loud het against 711 *France Info*. Measured 711.111 kHz. Calibration checked against 710.000 WOR and 711.000 *France Info*. [Conti-NH]
- 756 **GERMANY** *Deutschlandfunk, Braunschweig & Ravensburg* DEC 9 0238 – Good; classical music. [Conti-NH]
- 882 **UNITED KINGDOM** *BBC R.Wales, Washford et al.* DEC 9 0300 – Slight synchro echo, good overall but wiped out by burst of 880 WCBS splatter on the hour; BBC World Service promo, time signal. [Conti-NH]
- 936 **IRAN** *IRIB R.Iran, Urumiyeh* DEC 8 2355 – Fair; instrumental music and talk parallel live. *irib.ir R.Iran* stream. [Conti-NH]
- 936 **ITALY** *Rai Radiouno* synchros DEC 8 2100 – Classical flute music, time marker; competing with two other time signals on the hour. [Conti-NH]
- 945 **FRANCE** *France Info, Toulouse* DEC 9 0320 – Good; woman in French, then canned *France Info* ID into orchestra rendition of “Star Wars” theme. [Conti-NH]
- 954 **CZECH REPUBLIC** *Ceský rozhlas* synchros DEC 9 2258 – Fair; news/talk in Czech, orchestral national anthem. [Conti-NH]
- 963 **FINLAND** *Radio 86, Pori* DEC 10 2140 – Good; CRI program with Chinese opera music. [Conti-NH]
- 963 **TUNISIA** *R.Tunisienne Cultural, Tunis* DEC 9 0340 – 1 kHz test tone popped up while listening for a *R.Kitaya* ID from Finland. Test tone continued until 0500 UTC. “In my clip of 0500, I can hear the test tone under CRI and then start of a national anthem, which I believe is from Tunisia,” reported Mauno Ritola on RealDX. [Conti-NH]
- 972 **GERMANY** *NDR Info, Hamburg* DEC 10 0200 – Good; time marker with music, “ARD Info” and woman in German with news. [Conti-NH]
- 1053.1 **LIBYA** *R.Libya, Tripoli* DEC 9 0109 – Loud het against 1052.998 *TalkSport*. Measured 1053.101 kHz. Calibration checked against 1049.998 WEPN which matches mwoffsets data. [Conti-NH]
- 1053 **UNITED KINGDOM** *TalkSport* synchros DEC 9 0116 – Over het from Libya; promo for show weekday afternoons at 4 into ad string, then headlines. [Conti-NH]
- 1062 **IRAN** *IRIB R.Iran, Kerman* DEC 9 0040 – Brief good fade ins; Middle Eastern music parallel 936 and 1503 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 1071 unID DEC 9 0035-0100 – Good on fade ins; talk and Asian/Mideast music with strings and drums. Not parallel 1521 Saudi Arabia, not parallel stream from listed *IRIB R.Maaref* nor *IRIB R.Iran* frequencies. Couldn’t find *AIR* streaming audio for possible India connection. Egypt or Syria also possible. [Conti-NH]
- 1089 **UNITED KINGDOM** *TalkSport* synchros DEC 9 0018 – Over unID; ad string, *TalkSport* ID into update, then talk with football news writer. [Conti-NH]
- 1116 **IRAN** *IRIB R.Iran, Bandar Lengeh* DEC 9 0005 – Over/under Spain; Middle Eastern music and talk parallel 936 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 1134 **CROATIA** *Hrvatske Radio, Zadar* DEC 9 2100 – Good; signature ‘slow’ time marker, fanfare with *Hrvatske Radio* ID into news. DEC 11 2027 – Good; talk parallel 3985 kHz. [Conti-NH] DEC 11 2332 – News in Spanish by man and woman; several mentions of Croatia and “La Voz de Croacia” at 2343; off at 2345. Fair at first, then rapidly faded down. [Hill-MA]
- 1152 **ROMANIA** *România Actualitati, Cluj* DEC 9 0300 – Fair; solemn vocal interrupted for time marker and brief announcement, then vocal continued, parallel 1179 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 1206 **FRANCE** *France Info, Bordeaux* DEC 9 2145 – Good; break during football coverage, *France Info* music and ID. [Conti-NH]
- 1215 **UNITED KINGDOM** *Absolute Radio* synchros DEC 9 0300 – Good; female presenter with live contest promo for a trip to L.A., then introducing Pink Floyd “Comfortably Numb” from the *Absolute Radio* archives. [Conti-NH]
- 1394.85 **ALBANIA** *TWR Fllakë* DEC 8 2110 – Poor; Croatian program, measured 1394.858 kHz with a weak rumbling het against 1395 unID. Signed off promptly at 2130 UTC. [Conti-NH]
- 1413 **SPAIN** *RNE5* synchros DEC 8 1930 – Presumed; weak signal observed on spectrum analyzer. Receiver sunset 2112 UTC. [Conti-NH]
- 1457.63 **ALBANIA** *CRI Fllakë* DEC 8 1930 – Weak signal observed on spectrum analyzer, identified by offset at 1457.636 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 1467 **FRANCE** *TWR Roumoules* DEC 11 2300 – Excellent after antenna pattern change; English program. [Conti-NH]
- 1503 **IRAN** *IRIB R.Iran, Bushehr* DEC 9 0037 – Fair; Middle Eastern vocal parallel 936 kHz. [Conti-NH]

- 1521 **SAUDI ARABIA** BSKSA Duba DEC 8 1920 – Presumed; weak het with 1520 WIZZ nulled by 30 dB. Nearly two hours before 2112 receiver sunset. [Conti-NH]
- 1557 **FRANCE** France Info, Fontbonne DEC 8 1925 – Presumed; weak signal observed on spectrum analyzer, nearly two hours before receiver sunset. [Conti-NH]

*Hauser turns northeast:* Transatlantic carriers, DEC 8 0042-0050: first noticed 1521 tell-tale het upon 1520 KOKC, from northeast/southwest, i.e. Saudi monster, so did a quick downward DX-398 scan of entire band at 9 kHz intervals with offset BFO. Carriers audible, mostly just-barely: 1602, 1539, 1521, 1494, 1485, 1206, 1197, 1179, 1152, 1143, 1053, 1026, 945, 909, 684, 639 kHz.

### Pan-American DX

- 530 **CUBA** R.Rebelde, Guantánamo DEC 13 0131 – Man in Spanish with game call. Guantánamo vs ? with crowd noise. Break for las noticias at 0134. Mixing with presumed CIAO in Slavic language. No RTTY interference on parallel 5025 kHz. [Frodge-MI]
- 640 **MEXICO** XEHHI Hidalgo del Parral, Chih. DEC 10 0642 – “40 Principales, 99.3” and time check for 11:42. Therefore per Cantú XEHHI *Los 40 Principales* + 99.3 FM. I couldn’t help but notice the entry right below it showing XENQ is now 50/25 kW as yet unheard. Must be a recent upgrade; new 2013 WRTH still lists XENQ as only 10 kW *La Superestación*. Why beef this up instead of just completing the migration to FM only? [Hauser-OK]
- 750 **VENEZUELA** YVKS RCR Caracas DEC 14 0400 – Over WSB; promo, “...por RCR, 750 AM” and RCR Deportes. [Conti-NH]
- 780 **MEXICO** unID DEC 8 0109 – Dominant signal is news in Spanish, WBBM completely nulled, and this one peaks slightly west of due south. Ciudad Victoria mentioned several times; 0111 “la primera pausa de la hora” and jingle I could not understand. Pause-announcements include a meeting this week in Toluca about labor law; promo for ‘La Hora Nacional’ Sunday at 10 p.m., “México unido en una sola señal,” i.e. every radio station is obliged to carry this weekly government hour; then a minute or more of just instrumental music. 0114, plugging contacto methods for the show, phone report from Ciudad Victoria. Obviously this is from Tamaulipas, where Victoria is the state capital, but there are two 780 stations in the state: XEMTS in Tampico, *Fórmula NotiGape*; and XESFT in San Fernando, *La Triple T*. Cantú’s links to both lead to group websites, neither of which mentions a station on 780! XESFT is more often heard, but I’m leaning to XEMTS based on the emphasis on news. OTOH, XESFT is very slightly further west than XEMTS which is close to due south from here. Low rumbling audible het growing from something else, as the het with WBBM is subaudible. [Hauser-OK]
- 1030 **MEXICO** XEYC R.*Fórmula*, Cd. Juárez, Chih. DEC 13 0610 – Live talk show mentions “en Chihuahua” matter-of-factly, and so likely but not certainly XEYC. West-southwest direxion is right. [Hauser-OK]
- 1040 **MEXICO** unID DEC 12 0657 – Romantic music in Spanish from SW/NE at first dominating WHO but that soon faded back up making 3.5 Hz SAH. With WHO nulled, at 0659 time check for 12:01, no ID and into choral Mexican national anthem; 0702 some ID but losing out to interference. Then hear the Mexican national anthem again, must be from another station in the same zone. 0704 after that, a full ID with H’s in the calls. From Cantú, there are only two in the UTC-7 zone: XEHES *Romántica* and XEGYS *La Primera*. [Hauser-OK]
- 1620 **CUBA** R.Rebelde DEC 8 0039 – As I tune in, Spanish, sounds like Raúl Castro, for the moment atop the U.S. stations making slow SAH, i.e. R.Rebelde, probably the closest one, in Guanabacoa, 5 kW per 2013 WRTH. [Hauser-OK]

### Contributors

Bruce Conti WPC1CAT, Nashua NH; WiNRADiO Excalibur, MWDX-5 phasing unit, 15 x 23-m variable termination SuperLoop antennas 60° northeast and 180° south.

Harold Frodge, Midland MI; Drake R8B, 125-ft bow-tie, 85-ft random wire, and 180-ft center-fed random wire, Icom R3 and duckie.

Glenn Hauser, Enid OK; DX-398 with internal antenna.

Bob Hill W1ARR, Littleton MA; Sony ICF-2010 with Kiwa filters, AOR LA390 active loop.

73 and Good DX!



# Ferrite Sleeve Loop Antennas – A Beginner's Guide

Perks, quirks and step-by-step instructions for DXing success

By Gary DeBock, Puyallup WA, USA November 2012

**Introduction:** Graham Maynard's introduction of an innovative ferrite sleeve antenna early last year kicked off a torrent of experimentation in the Ultralight radio group, as experimenters quickly discovered the performance potential of the new design. Monster-sized loops (and multiple design controversies) seemed to be the order of the day at first, as curious DXers of modest means and limited technical ability probably wondered whether the FSL antenna breakthrough would ever make any difference to them personally.

The FSL antennas are still expensive and somewhat tricky to construct, but after the design and construction (and donation) of several smaller-sized models, they are no longer extremely rare. Quite a few DXers can now enjoy the breakthrough performance offered by these new antennas – If they can learn a few operating tricks to maximize their performance.

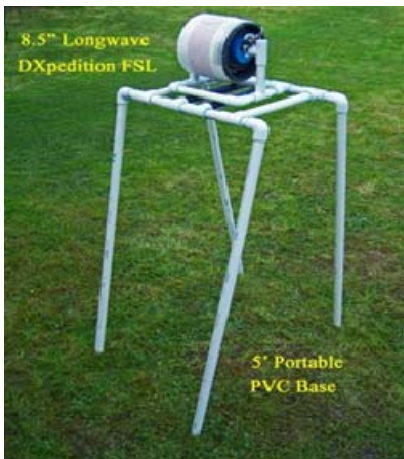
There is a definite learning curve involved in mastering these antennas, and no DXer should expect to become an expert overnight. Although the basic function of the FSL antenna is similar to that of an air core box loop, both the tuning sharpness and the inductive coupling distance (to the radio) are far more important for DXing success. FSL skill requires some serious practice. Attempting to use an FSL antenna like an air core box loop will never provide optimal results – and may even lead a puzzled DXer to wonder if the antenna is working at all (as even I wondered, after building my first FSL antenna model ☺)

**FSL Antenna Advantages—and Disadvantages:** Essentially, the innovative antennas provide DXers with an all-new operating option – very high gain, low-noise reception in an extremely compact package. This new option comes with the side effects of serious cost and weight, however. The overall DXing value of an FSL antenna increases dramatically in extremely tight spaces such as ocean side cliffs, where other high gain antenna options are ruled out because of inadequate setup space. In these special environments the FSL antennas have already demonstrated superior transoceanic performance during both Ultralight radio and Perseus-SDR DXpeditions (in a new Broadband FSL form). The FSL's also excel at providing lower noise reception than much larger air core loops.

But such DXing performance comes with a price – both in component cost and antenna weight. Although several construction articles have been published, FSL antennas are still not commonly available. The cost of construction for competitive models can run well into hundreds of dollars, and although the FSL's will perform very well in back yards, open spaces and public parks, much cheaper air-core loop options are available for such wide open environments. Assuming that adequate real estate is available, obtaining high gain from cheap wire is usually preferable to obtaining it from costly ferrite.

Although indoor shacks are not ideal DXing environments for either FSL or air core loop antennas, the FSL's unique ability to deliver high gain reception from an extremely compact size can make these new antennas an attractive option for those indoor DXers without the space for 4 foot (or larger) box loops. The value tradeoff between the FSL's and air core loops is certainly an interesting one-- and each individual DXer must evaluate whether the FSL's unique advantages justify its higher construction cost.

**Performance Basics:** After four major ocean coast DXpeditions and two Fall DX Seasons, the author has learned a few tricks on squeezing the best possible performance out of these new antennas. There are certain factors which will contribute to your success as an FSL antenna user, regardless of your model's size, shape or design. If at all possible, try to follow these basic ground rules:



- 1) Use the antenna away from any RF noise sources, and if possible, away from indoor house wiring. Best FSL antenna results usually are obtained outdoors, where the antenna's low-noise reception and sharp nulling capabilities can be fully appreciated. The antennas can still provide satisfactory DXing results indoors, but with some reduction in their overall capability related to the degree of RF noise and AC wiring runs existing in these environments.

- 2) Place the FSL antenna in an elevated position (above ground level) on a non-conducting surface like a wooden table, or a stone fence. Ideal results can be obtained by placing the FSL on an



insulating surface (like a custom PVC base) at least four feet high (see photo on previous page). This provides excellent DXpedition performance.

3) The FSL antennas cannot operate in the rain without some type of waterproofing system (a simple sheet of rubber, plastic rain hood or plastic tote enclosure). Without such protection the rain will interfere with the variable cap's operation, making tuning impossible (although rain will not permanently damage the antenna).

4) The variable capacitor in an FSL antenna tunes VERY sharply, especially on the high band frequencies. A vernier-drive variable capacitor helps greatly during this critical tuning process, along with a large-diameter tuning knob. Because of the extremely high-Q tuning system an FSL's tuning adjustment is razor-sharp, providing some attenuation of stations even 1 kHz away from its selected frequency. Although this high-Q tuning system can assist in reducing splatter from off-frequency pest stations, it also makes it more important to tune the antenna carefully for best results.

5) It is possible to tune an FSL antenna simply by listening for a weak station's audio signal boost when the antenna's frequency matches that of an inductively coupled portable radio, but depending on the portable radio model, this process may be tricky. The analog models usually couple up very well in this process, but digital models like the Tecsun DSP Ultralights (which have a delayed audio response as the Si4734 chip processes frequency changes) are among the trickiest. In such a situation, repeated practice is helpful, as well as the use of another portable with LED tuning lights (Sony ICF-2010, etc) for the express purpose of tuning the FSL quickly to the desired frequency. After repeated practice, a skillful operator can tune an FSL simply by listening for the signal boost on a weak station – even on the Tecsun DSP Ultralights.

6) The optimal inductive coupling distance between a portable radio and the FSL's sleeve coil is another razor-sharp adjustment, which should be practiced at first for best results, and also whenever a different portable radio is used with the FSL antenna.

7) FSL antennas can not only provide an inductively coupled boost when the portable radio is placed a few inches in front of the sleeve coil, but can also provide an equal or stronger DXing boost when the radio is placed a few inches to the left or right of the sleeve coil – If the radio's loopstick is directly lined up with one of the ferrite rods (or bars) in the FSL. Both methods should be tried when a DX station is extremely weak, since either method may provide a superior signal boost. The FSL side coupling method usually provides better results with ferrite rod FSL's, as opposed to ferrite bar FSL's.

8) Matched-size plastic totes are extremely useful for carrying an FSL antenna outside the house, and can frequently double as a weatherproof DXing enclosure for the antenna and inductively coupled radio. All of the FSL models designed by the author have a matched-size plastic tote, which is commonly available at major stores. When filled with padding material such as pipe insulation, these totes can protect the FSL during shipping across the country – and can also help it survive an unplanned “drop test” during DXpeditions. With Murphy's Law in mind, remember that plastic totes and padding material are dirt cheap – much cheaper than buying replacement ferrite rods.

9) One of the major advantages of FSL antennas (over air core loops) is lower noise pickup, especially when signals are very weak. If you have an RF noise source, rotating the FSL antenna to null the noise source is usually possible, and can even lead you to the direct source of the noise if you check the null bearings on the FSL at different locations.

10) The quality and depth of a signal null available on an FSL antenna is directly related to the quality of the RF environment in which it is used. For best results all stray conductors (house wiring, metal tables, aluminum gutters, etc.) should be removed far from the FSL antenna operating area. The quality of a signal null is also related to the FSL's design (i.e. the symmetry of its cylindrical ferrite sleeve, and the degree to which the variable cap size and variable cap wiring cause distortions in the symmetrical RF reception pattern). For the best possible pest station nulls, the use of a rotating support structure (i.e. Lazy Susan table) is recommended.

11) The most sensitive FSL models tend to be quite heavy, and require sturdy support structures during both DXpeditions and household usage. Almost all of the FSL's heavy weight comes from the multiple ferrite rods. Although all DXers dream of maximum weak-signal gain, set a reasonable FSL weight limit when planning a DXpedition involving dark ocean beaches, or unfamiliar ocean side cliffs. The weight of the 2012 “DXpedition” model (at left) was purposely limited to 16 pounds (7.3 kg) for antenna and operator survival at these risky venues.



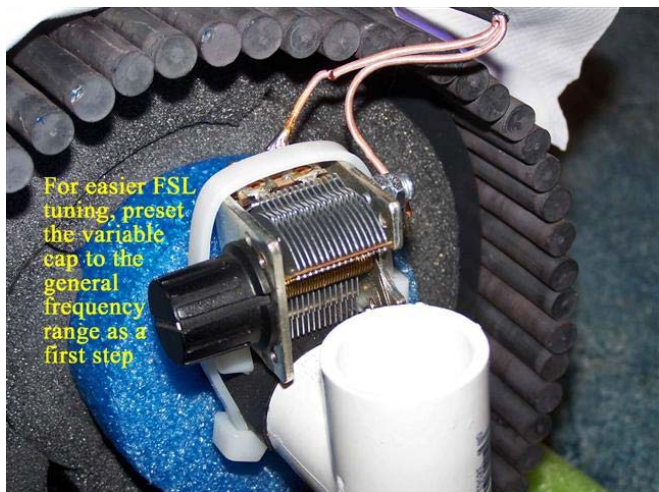
12) FSL antennas are sinister-looking creations which resemble rings of dynamite, submachine gun magazines or Gatling Guns. They tend to raise the curiosity and anxiety level of strangers – particularly airport TSA agents. When planning a major DXpedition serious consideration should be given to shipping these FSL antennas through the mail in advance, directly to the motel near the DXpedition site. On the other hand, the subversive-looking nature of the antennas may work to the owner's advantage in keeping curious onlookers a safe distance away from his DXing site – especially when he is likely to be the only reasonably normal individual on an ocean side cliff around 0300 local time.

**Step-by-Step Operating Instructions:** Before using your FSL antenna for DXing, ensure that the antenna is placed on a non-conducting surface in an elevated position, and as far away as possible from RF noise sources and stray conductors (house wiring, aluminum gutters, etc.). Ensure that the FSL antenna's ferrite rods are broadside to the desired DX direction (i.e. the antenna's null position is when the ferrite rod edges are pointing directly toward a station). If you are DXing outdoors and a possibility of rain exists, make sure that you are prepared with some type of FSL waterproofing system (plastic tote, plastic rain hood or rubber cover).

1) Tune in the desired weak station's frequency on any portable radio with a loopstick (i.e. not the Eton E1, or other such models with no loopstick). Best FSL antenna results are obtained when the DX station is extremely weak, or even inaudible on the portable radio.

2) For a "barefoot" portable radio (without any transplanted loopstick), initially place the portable radio so that the radio's loopstick is about 3" (75 mm) in front of the FSL coil (see photo at right). For radios with a transplanted 7.5" loopstick, initially place the radio about 7" (18 cm) in front of the FSL coil.

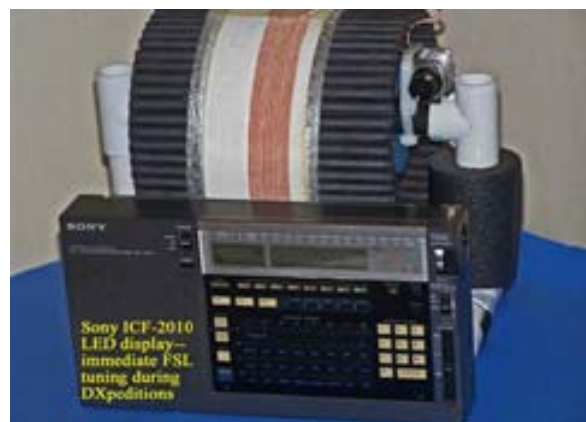
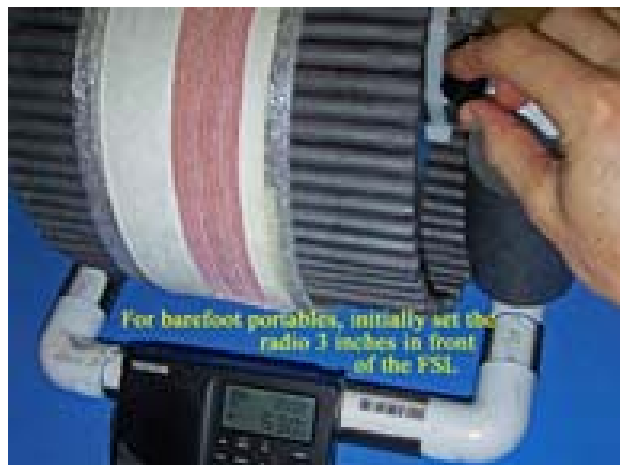
3) Prior to tuning the FSL's variable capacitor to provide an FSL signal boost to the portable radio, check to ensure that the FSL's variable cap is set at a position fairly close to the frequency of the portable radio (see photo at left). The variable cap's tuning plates can be observed to preset this approximate frequency (i.e. fully meshed for a very low band signal, half open for a mid-band signal, and close to fully open for a high-band signal), thereby saving time and effort in the next step.



portables without the Si4734 DSP chip (ie a little trickier on the Tecsun DSP Ultralights,) but can be performed well on all portables with a little practice. If the portable radio is tuned to a frequency without any weak station, the FSL antenna will simply boost the background noise on the frequency (although the antenna will be set up for reception of any weak station that may fade in on the frequency.)

**NOTE:** For DXpeditions and other situations where extremely rapid and accurate FSL tuning is essential, an alternative system of quickly tuning the FSL with an SSB spotting receiver's LED signal display is recommended (see photo at right). This system can accurately tune in any FSL frequency within a couple of seconds. Details are provided in the "4A" step below.

4A) Using an SSB spotting receiver such as the Sony ICF-2010, check the strength of DX station carriers of interest using the receiver's pre-stored memory presets. When a desired DX station's SSB carrier is showing some strength and a gain boost from the FSL antenna is desired, place the SSB spotting receiver about 3" (75 mm) in front of the FSL coil. While observing the receiver's LED signal display, slowly tune the FSL's variable capacitor until the maximum number of signal LED's lights up on the SSB spotting receiver. The FSL antenna is now accurately tuned to provide a gain boost to either the SSB spotting receiver, or to any other portable radio tuned to the DX station's frequency (i.e. Ultralight radio, if desired).



5) Once the FSL antenna's variable cap has been accurately tuned to provide its strongest inductive coupling boost to the radio, SLOWLY vary the portable's distance from the FSL coil to check if an even greater gain boost is available a few inches further from (or closer to) the coil.



Because of the FSL's high-Q system this is another sharp adjustment, which will provide the antenna's best possible DXing gain boost when optimized. This optimal inductive coupling distance may vary with different portable radios and changes in the tuned frequency.

6) An FSL antenna can occasionally provide a superior inductive coupling boost when the radio is held a few inches off to the side of the ferrite sleeve, as opposed to a few inches in front of the sleeve. This option works best on ferrite rod FSL models (as opposed to ferrite bar models). As an optional step, to check if this superior inductive coupling boost is available, hold the radio initially about 3" (75 mm) off to the side of one of the ferrite rods, so that the radio's internal loopstick is lined up with the ferrite rod. Then vary the inductive coupling distance a few inches to the left or right, to maximize the inductive coupling boost. If such a method provides a superior DXing boost, proceed to Step # 7 – otherwise, simply return the radio to the optimal inductive coupling position determined in Step #5 above (in front of the FSL coil).

7) Once the antenna's variable cap and inductive coupling distance have both been optimized as described above, the FSL is prepared to provide its highest gain DXing boost on the frequency of choice. Ensure that these adjustments remain constant during any MP3 recording sessions (if desired).

8) To obtain the best FSL null on a pest station, first remove your portable radio from the FSL's inductive coupling area, and rotate the radio to find an accurate null bearing on the pest. If necessary, detune the pest station a few kHz until an accurate null bearing can be determined. Once this is found, place your portable radio down on a flat surface at this exact bearing (while it is nulling the pest station). Rotate the FSL antenna so that the ferrite rods (or bars) are all parallel to the portable radio's internal loopstick (usually, this direction is also parallel to the portable radio's front cabinet face). A "Lazy Susan" support table is very helpful in this process. Depending upon the various factors described in the "Performance Basics" Step #10 above, this signal null may be either very deep, or very shallow. Best nulling results are obtained in outdoor environments, and when the FSL antenna's design minimizes disruptions to its reception pattern (by having both an extremely symmetrical ferrite sleeve, and the shortest possible wiring detours to a small-sized variable cap).

**Summary:** The new FSL antennas have the potential to completely transform your hobby experience – particularly the thrill of chasing weak-signal DX in extremely narrow sites. The high-Q tuning system is unlike that of any other antenna, but the DXing performance advantage for those who can master it is also unprecedented. Whether your intention is to use the new antenna in a small indoor shack or at an extremely narrow ocean side cliff, the FSL will deliver astonishing weak-signal gain for its size – once you master its operation. The author sincerely hopes that this article will enable you to develop such FSL- DXing mastery – and the unprecedented hobby satisfaction that will result from it!

73 and Good DX, Gary DeBock (in Puyallup, WA, USA)

**Addendum – The New Broadband FSL Antenna:** The Broadband FSL concept was the brainchild of Chuck Hutton, who believed that the antenna's single-optimized frequency design could be modified to allow Perseus-SDR DXers to enjoy the same ocean side cliff DXing that had proven so effective with Ultralight radios (with the additional benefit of spectrum capture). Chuck's interest and involvement was essential to the project, which gained momentum after two successful Ultralight DU-DXpeditions to the Oregon cliffs this summer.

After my August 2012 DXpedition to the "Rockwork 4" cliff south of Cannon Beach, both Chuck and hometown buddy Guy Atkins developed versions of a Broadband FSL by removing the variable capacitor, and adding a high-gain amplifier between the FSL and Perseus-SDR to provide additional performance. Guy's version used the Wellbrook FLG100LN amplifier as an interface between a 7" FSL and his Perseus, and he reported excellent TP-DXing results with this configuration during a DXpedition trip to Oregon's Cape Perpetua in September. Guy's 7"





Broadband FSL configuration was duplicated by Victoria DXer Walt Salmaniw during a DXpedition trip to Oregon's "Rockwork" cliff (south of Cannon Beach) in October, who also reported excellent TP-DXing results with his Perseus.

Guy's own description of his Broadband FSL system is pasted below, along with two photos



showing the antenna's appearance and car roof-top setup arrangement. The supreme attraction of this antenna is that a DXer can simply drive up to one of the cliff-side DXing sites and record spectrum on his Perseus SDR – without the need to set up any PVC poles, wires, or any other antenna components. It's enough to make even an Ultralight radio DXer envious!

**From Guy Atkins (used with permission):** With Gary's encouragement and supply of a regular tuned FSL, and Chuck Hutton's help with electrical formulas and initial impedance measurements, I was able to convert the FSL into a broadband (non-tuned) loop for capturing the entire band with Perseus SDR recordings. The antenna accompanied me to Oregon, secured inside a container strapped to the roof of our family's vacation vehicle. The 7-inch FSL was converted to broadband use by the removal of the tuning capacitor and the addition of a Wellbrook FLG100LN amplified Flag antenna module.



Tests at home showed that the antenna works perfectly well inside the box on the roof of the SUV... there's no need to brave the wind, cold, and possible rain outside on the side of the cliff! I did all my DXing from the comfort of the driver's seat, with the computer and Perseus receiver on the center console. I felt a bit guilty to be enjoying such comfort, knowing that Gary had braved the cold, damp, and darkness at this very same spot! Thanks for blazing the cliff DXing trail, Gary :^)

While still in Puyallup I was able to verify that the broadband FSL picks up TP carriers (738 Tahiti) equally well as a full size Wellbrook K9AY antenna. Based on this result I was fairly sure that the antenna would work well in an actual DXpedition situation.

## November 2012 Oregon Cliff Ultralight DXpedition

**Midly exciting propagation – wildly exciting weather!**

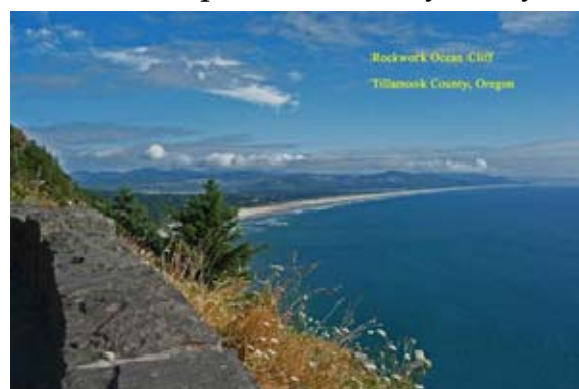
By Gary DeBock, Puyallup WA, USA November 2012

**Introduction:** The introduction of Graham Maynard's ferrite sleeve loop antenna early last year provided DXers with the new opportunity to enjoy high-gain, low-noise reception from an antenna of only one cubic foot of size. During the summer I had the thrilling chance to test out this new FSL antenna at two Oregon coast sheer cliff sites (Cape Perpetua and "Rockwork," south of Cannon Beach) – stumbling across South Pacific DX signals of astonishing strength during both DXpeditions.

Those summer DXpeditions provided a huge boost in my hobby enthusiasm, and also motivated local Perseus-SDR enthusiasts Chuck Hutton and Guy Atkins to create their own highly effective Broadband FSL antennas for ocean cliff DXing trips. Although the peak season for South Pacific DX ended with our local summer, the memory of summer's exciting ocean cliff DXing sessions did not. As our west coast TP-DXing group endured a solar-challenged season of modest Asiatic DX, the idea of returning to the ocean cliffs for FSL antenna DXing never left my mind. Could the ocean cliffs provide the same astonishing signal boost for Asiatic stations that they had provided for the South Pacific (DU) signals, and could the cliffs continue to provide excellent transoceanic propagation every day I attempted FSL antenna DXing at one of the Highway 101 turnoff sites?

Even as the Fall DX season (and local weather) continued to deteriorate, these were fascinating questions that deserved clear answers. Unfortunately, it wasn't until the Veterans Day weekend (November 9-12) that there was a chance to go back to the Oregon coast to try to answer them. By then, though, the coast was well into its notorious storm season – and in order to get such propagation answers on the highly exposed ocean cliff, I would need to deal with some extremely rough DXpedition weather.

**Realistic Expectations:** This DXing trip would be a late-season effort during a lean solar year, so expectations of exotic DX were reasonably low. By consensus the Fall Season had already been



judged to be somewhat mediocre by TP-DXers in comparison to previous years, and in confirmation of this three ocean coast DXpeditions had already been conducted by local enthusiasts seeking Asiatic DX. My own priorities for the three day trip were to investigate the strength and duration of the TP propagation openings on the "Rockwork" cliff south of Cannon Beach, and provide the first detailed MP3 recordings of Asiatic DX from a standard (single-optimized-frequency) FSL antenna at one of the sheer cliff sites that had proven so effective for South Pacific DXing in the summer. With hindsight, it would have been better to schedule such an Asian DXing trip in the middle of the Fall Season during calm weather and optimal propagation (such as that enjoyed by Walt, Chuck, Bruce and Tom during their October 6<sup>th</sup> DXpeditions) – but I would need to make the most of the dubious late-season weekend.

**Day 1 – Deep Freeze:** While approaching Cannon Beach on November 9<sup>th</sup> (the night before the first DXing session) we were astonished to find one inch of hail on the ground at Seaside, with the temperature well below freezing. This was a pretty rude shock after many warm summer trips to the Oregon coast, but as we unloaded at Cannon Beach, it only took about 10 minutes for ice to form on the car windows. The clerk at the motel's desk then casually informed us that a major storm front was due to hit the Pacific Coast a day later, so this freezing night was likely to provide the only clear weather for the entire weekend.

This wasn't exactly what I wanted to hear, since my DXing venue was at the top of a 400' sheer ocean cliff – at one of the most exposed positions along the entire Oregon coast. The effects of stormy wind and rain would be magnified at this cliff-top site, which faced directly into the teeth of any Pacific storm. Faced with the very real possibility that ocean cliff DXing would be impossible after the storm front hit, I decided to make the most of the single clear night – despite the bone-chilling temperature. After unpacking and other matters, I headed straight for the frigid Rockwork cliff at 0200 local time (1000 UTC), set up the 8" FSL next to the sheer cliff edge, and began a marathon 6-hour DXing session lasting until 0800 local time (1600 UTC) – when even the JJ big guns were starting to fade out. The Asian sunset TP propagation (1000-1100 UTC) was nothing to shout about on the early morning of November 10, so I switched to Longwave DXing, and tracked down the five R Rossii stations during the hours of deep darkness. Although the display of star constellations in the cold, clear sky at Rockwork was dazzling the subfreezing temperature made the entire DXing effort pretty miserable – and after about 10 minutes of chasing DX it was always necessary to retreat to the car heater, and thaw out stiff fingers and toes. The frigid cold was enhanced by a clammy mist from the ocean below; making it seem like the all-night cliff session was more about surviving the Deep Freeze than chasing DX.

Finally the first hint of daylight arrived around 1400 UTC, which brought with it a very generous sunrise enhancement boost for the Asiatic TP signals. The appearance of some daylight also brought with it the illusion that the temperature was warming up – so it seemed easier to stay outside and chase the vibrant Asian signals without retreating to the car heater. Almost every 9 kHz-split frequency that I had time to check was producing a decent TP signal during sunrise enhancement, although the JJ stations were certainly over-represented. Finally around 1545 UTC I recorded the NHK2 sign-off chimes on 774-JOUB, and noticed that the bright daylight was finally taking its toll on the Asian signals. After finding only a few big gun JJ still around at 1600 I decided that it was time to finally get off of the cliff – and go warm up.

**Day 2 – Gale Force Winds:** The all-night subfreezing session on November 10<sup>th</sup> ensured that the upcoming Pacific storm would not result in a total DXing shutout, but such a fanatical effort could not be repeated during this family vacation. The beautiful clear weather of Saturday deteriorated rapidly as evening approached, and a Winter Storm warning was broadcast over the local cable TV channel. At 0430 local time (1230 UTC) I checked the weather at our Cannon Beach motel, and although there was some wind kicking up on the beach, it didn't seem too bad at sea level. I made the wildly optimistic decision to head for the Rockwork Cliff – and try TP-DXing during sunrise enhancement.

The Rockwork Cliff greeted me with howling; gale force winds around 1300 UTC on November 11, and the entire idea of DXing in such weather seemed ludicrous. Obviously, a highly exposed location like Rockwork was in a different weather league than the Tolovana Inn at Cannon Beach – but since I was already there at the awesome cliff, it seemed like a good idea to at least check the TP-DX signals on the ICF-2010 SSB spotting receiver before running for cover. The Sony portable showed that the band was really booming with Asian DX at 1300 UTC, though... booming enough to temporarily make me forget about the howling wind! I set up the 8" FSL on its 5' PVC base as



usual, but stayed right beside it at all times... in case the 16-pound, \$400 FSL antenna suddenly caught a wind gust, and threatened to fly away into the ocean, 400 feet below.

The JJ big guns were again very vibrant, along with the KKs on 558 and 603. Asian DX on secondary frequencies like 540, 756, 846, 864, 954, 1017 and 1044 kHz was checked out, most of which managed to produce fair signals. During the entire wild session howling winds made the 16-pound FSL antenna shake like a leaf on its 5' PVC base – but the TP-DX seemed vibrant enough to make the risk of damage acceptable (this was my last DXpedition before winter, when I could repair any antenna damage). Finally, around 1500 UTC the Cliff gave me advance audio warning of a massive blast headed my way, and I grabbed the 8" FSL just as a monster gust slammed into the \$400 antenna with more than enough force to send it flying into the drink. The WRTH and logbook flew away temporarily, but fortunately they were still at the Cliff site. The ICF-2010 and PL-380 had been laid flat on the Toyota Corolla, but even they slid around like toys. The November 11 windstorm had finally convinced me (at 1500 UTC) that it was time to get off of the Cliff and head for cover – but not before 21 TP-DX MP3 recordings had been made during a vibrant sunrise enhancement session.



**Day 3 – Torrential Rain:** As the full force of the Pacific storm hit Cannon Beach on November 11 it seemed amazing that all of the DXpedition equipment had survived the risky sunrise session. Tourists retreated to their motel rooms as the gale force winds howled, and the streets of the tourist town seemed deserted. All day Sunday the storm pounded the area, with the waves crashing with unusual force upon the beach. When we attempted to open our motel room's door, the wind would immediately force it shut unless we used some serious strength.

Of course I was hoping that the storm would somehow let up before sunrise on Monday morning, but the howling winds continued right up until 0400 local time (1200 UTC). At 0430 I optimistically judged that the wind was slacking off, though, and felt brash enough to load up the DXpedition gear to head for the Rockwork cliff. This was the last possible day of DXing and survival of the wild sunrise session 24 hours earlier probably resulted in a serious case of overconfidence.

Amazingly, the vicious wind at the Rockwork cliff was indeed dying down at 1300 UTC – although there were enough stiff gusts left to cause serious concern. The main problem was rain – slow at first, then increasing to a torrent around 1315. Rain mixed with wind is a tough challenge for FSL antennas, since covering up the antennas for rain protection increases their wind resistance, making them subject to tip-overs unless they are tied down. Horizontal wind mixed with rain also can force itself into radios of all types, knocking them out of operation temporarily. At 1315 UTC on November 12<sup>th</sup> I was finally confronted by this “perfect storm”... which was about to wreak havoc on every piece of DXpedition gear on the Cliff. As you might guess, though, the ICF-2010 spotting receiver once again showed booming Asian DX signals right in the middle of the awful weather – making it seem worthwhile to stay on the Cliff, and attempt a risky sunrise enhancement DXing session in the thunderous rain.



Although the 8" FSL had been covered with a rubber sheet, heavy rain (in horizontal wind) first got into the antenna's variable capacitor at 1315, and knocked it out of operation temporarily. The FSL antenna's operation was critical to any DXing success on the Cliff, though, so its function was restored quickly with the “Rob Ross treatment” (blowing hot air from the car heater into the variable cap, drying it out). After a backup rubber cover was placed over the FSL's variable cap, the antenna went back into the torrential rain – where it received the DXpedition's first South Pacific DX with a vibrant signal from 738-Tahiti, and an UnID signal on 603 kHz (probably 603-Waatea, although no parallels could be checked in the heavy rain). The 7.5" loopstick PL-380 was the next to fall victim to the torrential rain, which knocked it out of operation for the duration of the session. A backup C Crane SWP 7.5" Slider model (with transplanted Murata CFJ455K5 IF filter) went out in the rain and tracked down vibrant signals from 639-CNR1 and 648-VOR, and a fair signal from a presumed 675-VOV in Vietnam. About this time the incessant rain took out the ICF-2010's LED display, and it was necessary to tune the FSL by the audio response on the backup C Crane SWP portable. The heavy rain finally knocked even the C Crane backup radio out of operation at 1540 UTC, but by that time it was a moot point since TP signals on the band were already folding in the

increasing daylight. The torrential rain had made DXing awkward on this third day, but never stopped it completely. The thoroughly drenched equipment was all rejuvenated quickly by the car heater during the morning DXing session (except for the 7.5" loopstick PL-380, which was restored later that evening). As I left the storm-hit cliff around 1600 on November 12, three days of wild DXing were concluded – and somehow all of the equipment had managed to survive the Pacific Storm DXpedition.

**Summary:** Despite the multiple weather hassles, the Rockwork cliff had once again delivered vibrant TP-DX on three days out of three during this late-season trip – continuing an unbroken string of 15 excellent transoceanic DXing days on the Rockwork and Cape Perpetua ocean cliffs since August of 2011. Although a different type of vicious weather presented itself on all three mornings, the transoceanic openings to Asia were both vibrant and of long duration, despite the late-season date. As was expected, exotic DX wasn't plentiful during this lean solar year, but it would have been interesting to compare these Rockwork TP results with those of another ocean coast DXpedition at sea level on the same dates. As during previous ocean cliff DXpeditions there wasn't enough live DXing time over these three days to check the entire MW band during wild weather, so the lower band frequencies received most of the attention. Unfortunately, the only decent opening to the South Pacific was on the rain-soaked morning of November 12, during which only a vibrant 738-Tahiti and a possible 603-Radio Waatea managed to show up before heavy rain disrupted the session – temporarily knocking out the radios one by one.

Of course, for most TP-DXers the concept of facing stormy November weather at a highly exposed cliff site is ludicrous – and such a concept is unlikely to catch on. DXing at the top of a 400 foot ocean side cliff during a Pacific storm with no AC power, running water, street lights or weather protection might seem pretty extreme, but enhanced cliff-side transoceanic propagation can motivate DXers to face some fairly rough conditions. Fortunately a much more reasonable cliff-top DXing alternative has been developed by local Perseus-SDR DXers – the Broadband FSL antenna, which allows a DXer to drive up to one of the propagation-boosting ocean cliff sites and record spectrum on the Perseus without the need to set up wires, poles or any other antenna components... or even get out of the car seat. After surviving this recent Pacific Storm DXpedition, I can't think of a better winter project than modifying this new antenna for Ultralight radio DXing. ☺

**DX Loggings:** The following loggings were made on the "Rockwork 4" ocean side cliff south of Cannon Beach, Oregon from November 10-12, 2012 using a 7.5" Longwave loopstick Tecsun PL-380 and 8" Longwave FSL (all Longwave loggings) and a 7.5" Medium Wave loopstick Tecsun PL-380 and 8" Medium Wave FSL (all Medium Wave loggings, except for those noted made with the C Crane SWP 7.5" Slider loopstick backup radio in heavy rain on November 12). MP3 recording links for various loggings follow, and those recordings which pegged the PL-380's S/N display at the 25 maximum are identified with a double asterisk (\*\*). Sincere appreciation is given to fellow TP-DXers Nick Hall-Patch, Walt Salmaniw, Colin Newell, Nigel Pimblett, Bruce Portzer, Dennis Vroom, Richard Allen, Steve Ratzlaff and Bill Block for their very useful TP-DXing reports during this DXpedition, and to Chuck Hutton and Guy Atkins for their work in developing the Broadband FSL antenna. Thanks also to Patrick Martin for his local weather advice and information during this DXing trip, as well as for sharing his DXing expertise during my previous Oregon coast vacations.

- 153 **RUSSIA**, Komsomolsk, R Rossii, 1200 kW. Vibrant signal during most mornings, and usually the second strongest Rossii signal after 189 <http://www.mediafire.com/?oxvmu8684svs78w>.
- 180 **RUSSIA**, Yelizovo, R Rossii, 150 kW. The weakest of the five Rossii signals, and missing during several checks in the early morning <http://www.mediafire.com/?2affh36ners26o3>.
- 189 **RUSSIA**, Konstantinogradovka, R Rossii, 1200 kW. The strongest of the Rossii stations during this trip, unlike all the summer DXpeditions when 279 kHz was strongest. Despite its strength, it never reached the awesome levels of 279 kHz in the summer <http://www.mediafire.com/?bznm5b0l45jioms>.
- 234 **RUSSIA**, Arman, R Rossii, 500 kW. Not especially strong during this trip, and always troubled by splatter from the Alaskan super beacon 233-ALJ <http://www.mediafire.com/?zy7662gs91k62iw>.
- 279 **RUSSIA**, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, R Rossii, 500 kW. Somewhat of an underperformer on this trip, with signals significantly down from summer levels <http://www.mediafire.com/?p16gvpf18h9vbwg>.



- 385 **ALASKA**, OCC, Yakutat, 1 kW. Alaskan NDB weather station with booming signal and frigid weather reports at 1258 on 11/10; its local-like signal and freezing weather report fit right in on the subfreezing Cliff during the all-night session <http://www.mediafire.com/?qg6ftjvmbpp1tf2>.
- 531 **JAPAN**, JOQG, Morioka, 10 kW. One of the big surprises on the Cliff, with vibrant NHK1 signals overpowering weak domestic 530-TIS traces (and leaving no heterodyne behind). This typical recording was made at 1447 on 11/10 <http://www.mediafire.com/?pec2vcx9cnioad3>.
- 540 **UnID-CC**. Weak CC-inflected speech under the SS-language pest on the frequency at 1344 on 11/11 – possibly CNR1? <http://www.mediafire.com/?kua7j9fm6jaincc>.
- 558 **JAPAN**, JOCR, Kobe, 20 kW. Commercial station (CRK) usually audible under HLQH during this trip, and believed to be the signal with fast-talking conversation mixing with the male speech from HLQH during this recording at 1426 on 11/10 <http://www.mediafire.com/?73gy8a458ejb1bx>.
- 558 **REP KOREA**, HLQH, Daegu, 250 kW. Good signal (//603) with American pop music at 1350 on 11/11. Usually dominated over a weaker JOCR (and domestic splatter) during the entire trip <http://www.mediafire.com/?94h07zru5ew542u>.
- 567 **JAPAN**, JOIK, Sapporo, 100 kW. Another very strong NHK1 station each morning on the Cliff, although not usually one of the better performers at west coast DXer home locations <http://www.mediafire.com/?t79mke8ggc5w0xu>.
- 567 **UnID**. Weak female vocal music under JOIK in this recording at 1448 on 11/10; possibly the KBS station HLKF? <http://www.mediafire.com/?8qbuuzd92px0mge>.
- 585 **JAPAN**, JOPG, Kushiro, 10 kW. Fair signal with NHK1 conversational program at 1451 on 11/10. This was not one of the stronger NHK1 signals, but pretty regular considering the power level <http://www.mediafire.com/?e3bq181tqrxejih>.
- \*\*594 **JAPAN**, JOAK, Tokyo, 300 kW. Vibrant JJ NHK1 big gun was especially strong on the Cliff because of its relatively clear frequency-- unlike the other JJ big guns next to Oregon and California pest stations <http://www.mediafire.com/?sz7nnezz2knf39r>.
- 603 **CHINA**, Hulun Buir, 50 kW. Assumed the CC station dominating the frequency at times, after an ID was recorded by Nick in September. It typically was on top of 603 about half the time on the Cliff <http://www.mediafire.com/?34yq734v4odcfi3>. Strong mix of 603-China and the NHK1 Synchros at 1500 on 11/10 – CC YL talking through NHK1's 3 +1 pips <http://www.mediafire.com/?gtaztic1xy3ld4l>.
- 603 **JAPAN**, JOOG/JOKK, NHK1 synchros, 5 kW. These low-powered stations had unusual strength during this trip, with propagation occasionally allowing them to dominate the crowded frequency (as in this fair recording at 1316 on 11/11) <http://www.mediafire.com/?98iyx26lmicno1u>.
- \*\*603 **REP KOREA**, HLSA, Namyang, 500 kW. Amazing signal with American pop music at 1340 UTC on 11/11. This station was one of three TP's which took turns dominating the 603 frequency – the other two being China and the 5 kW NHK1 synchro stations (JOOG/JOKK) <http://www.mediafire.com/?iqd7dsotv kf0fsu>.
- 603 **UnID**. This weak signal came from the DU direction during the single South Pacific opening at 1406 on 11/12. The language and announcer's voice sound similar to that of Maori-language Radio Waatea in NZ, but unfortunately no parallels could be checked during the rain-drenched session (recorded on the backup C Crane SWP Slider Ultralight radio) <http://www.mediafire.com/?wcvbk7sqeeo5k5w>.
- 612 **UnID**. Occasional fair signal on this frequency sounded JJ and was probably the NHK1 station JOLK, but domestic splatter made it impossible to confirm the 594 //.
- 639 **CHINA**, CNR1 synchros. The best CC signal on the Cliff, although troubled by KFI splatter at times. This strong MP3 was recorded on the backup C Crane SWP Slider after thunderous rain took out the PL-380 at 1507 on 11/12 <http://www.mediafire.com/?iotp9x4j5npg3jt>.
- 648 **RUSSIA**, Razdolnoye, VoR, 1000 kW. VOR KK service at a strong level at 1529 UTC on 11/12, recorded on the backup C Crane SWP in heavy rain. This was the only RR MW signal to show up on the Cliff, though 5 RR Longwave TP's were heard <http://www.mediafire.com/?9n9vj9bl02abhnl>.
- \*\*657 **DPR KOREA**, Pyongyang, 1500 kW. The enhanced Cliff-side signal made Pyongyang's typically bad programming seem a little more obnoxious than usual. This ancient music pegged the PL-380's S/N readout temporarily at 1509 on 11/10 <http://www.mediafire.com/?ka3am8poo2earax>.

- 666 **JAPAN, JOBK, Osaka, 100 kW.** Not one of the stronger NHK1 signals on the Cliff, but able to hold down the frequency every morning. This good signal was recorded at 1518 on 11/10 <http://www.mediafire.com/?w0olv5wvjak36nw>.
- 675 **JAPAN, JOVK/JOUG, NHK1 synchros, 5 kW.** These low-powered JJ stations owned the frequency throughout the trip, except for brief competition from a presumed VOV during the rain-soaked 2011-12 session. This fair signal was recorded at 1457 on 11/11 <http://www.mediafire.com/?kosuub9v1eofbuq>.
- 675 **VIETNAM, My Hao, VOV, 500 kW.** Presumed to be the fair-level female-voiced signal mixing with the NHK1 synchros at 1451 during the rain-soaked 11/12 session. This was a regular TP catch at DXers' home locations about three years ago, but has suffered from the recent solar activity. Recorded on the backup C Crane SWP Slider Ultralight <http://www.mediafire.com/?l3lfnygy1haeyi4>.
- 684 **UnID.** Moderately strong carrier with occasional CC-sounding audio struggled in thunderous KNBR splatter on most mornings (the SF pest is a seasonal daytimer on the Cliff)
- \*\*693 **JAPAN, JOAB, Tokyo, 500 kW.** NHK2 big gun had awesome signals on the Cliff – and was the strongest TP overall during the entire DXpedition. This huge signal pegged the PL-380's S/N readout at 1523 on 11/10 <http://www.mediafire.com/?o1r6j7h51576kuz>.
- 702 **DPR KOREA, Chongjin, KCBS, 50 kW.** Infamous raspy carrier and occasional weak audio showed up during most sessions, but domestic splatter usually covered it up.
- 729 **JAPAN, JOCK, Nagoya, 50 kW.** Anemic NHK1 signal struggled to get through domestic splatter during good JJ propagation on 11/10, and was missing in action thereafter.
- 738 **TAHITI, Mahina, R Polynesie, 20 kW.** FF YL and OM speech and music during the rain-drenched 11/12 session almost reached summertime strength (over some KCBS hash) around 1343 <http://www.mediafire.com/?wlp88k84ufs8wcf>. This was the only DU signal to show up at the Cliff with any real strength during the entire DXpedition, and almost pegged the PL-380's S/N display. Another vibrant recording was made on the same soggy morning <http://www.mediafire.com/?dji9sz3ewl792wr>.
- 738 **TAIWAN, Penghu, BEL2, 100 kW.** Presumed to be the CC female-voiced signal received at 1440 on 11/10 at a fair level through KCBS splatter, but the 1143 kHz parallel wasn't available to confirm identity <http://www.mediafire.com/?m0wdy55tn7flo9s>.
- 747 **JAPAN, JOIB, Sapporo, 500 kW.** NHK2 big gun came through with powerful signals every morning, but occasionally suffered from proximity to 750-Portland. This signal at 1308 on 11/11 was at typical strength during the morning enhancement periods <http://www.mediafire.com/?mfcxvx2am7chi2z>.
- 756 **CHINA, CNR1 synchros.** Presumed to be the weak CC YL speech at 1442 on 11/10 <http://www.mediafire.com/?g7lvqm9bd2vannz>. Shared the frequency with a presumed KBS.
- 756 **REP KOREA, Yeosu, KBS, 100 kW.** Presumed to be the KK-sounding YL voice at fair level at 1421 on 11/11. Heard mixing with a presumed CNR1 at times, but neither station was particularly strong <http://www.mediafire.com/?v9c6kadh522p69x>.
- 774 **JAPAN, JOUB, Akita, 500 kW.** NHK2 big gun booming in with JJ weather report at 1306 on 11/11. This would have been the best overall signal except for minor 770-Seattle splatter <http://www.mediafire.com/?mpbvi9u6vobgrvu>. For those who have wondered what the NHK2 music box sign-off chimes sound like on the ocean coast, this recording is from 1545 UTC on 11/10 (the last MP3 recorded in the 6 hour, subfreezing session) <http://www.mediafire.com/?v397wzzpf3zq7t8>.
- 792 **UnID.** The only station showing up on this frequency had KK-sounding speech around 1450 on 11/11, and was believed to be HLSQ. No sign of the usual CC stations.
- 819 **DPR KOREA, Pyongyang, KCBS, 500 kW.** Loud 1 kHz heterodyne every morning occasionally produced some weak audio in heavy domestic splatter (typically, some boring instrumental music.)
- 828 **JAPAN, JOBB, Osaka, 300 kW.** This NHK2 big gun never really performed up to its power level, although it held down the frequency well every morning. A typical signal was this JJ weather report at 1307 on 11/11 <http://www.mediafire.com/?a9t4df4pbtd4hbi>.
- 846 **UnID.** Recorded at 1330 on 11/11, this weak station sounds JJ to me, and may be one of the low-powered NHK1 synchro stations like JOMC. Language clues weren't audible during the howling windstorm, though, so the 594 // was never checked <http://www.mediafire.com/?b536he9hyht1bo2>.
- 864 **REP KOREA, HLKR, Gangneung, 100 kW.** Presumed to be the fair-level KK-sounding YL speech recorded during the 11/11 windstorm at 1327 <http://www.mediafire.com/?cn1r43l270ungml>.

- 873 **JAPAN**, JOGB, Kumamoto, 500 kW. Underperforming NHK2 big gun held down its frequency, but wasn't very vibrant during any session <http://www.mediafire.com/?245ogqb995omb0k>.
- 918 **UnID**. Weak CC was heard through heavy domestic splatter on 11/11, but no identity clues.
- 927 **UnID**. JJ-sounding speech in domestic splatter on 11/11 was probably the low-powered NHK1 synchros, but the frequency (and windstorm audio) was too wild to run a parallel check.
- 936 **CHINA**, Anhui, 200 kW. Presumed to be the weak CC station rising above the noise briefly on all three days. Its signals were a disappointment, in comparison to other CC big gun stations.
- 945 **CHINA**, CNR1 synchros. Poor-level CC speech audible at times during peak sunrise enhancement, but not one of the stronger CC frequencies.
- 954 **JAPAN**, JOKR, Tokyo, 100 kW. JJ commercial station fighting a tough battle with 960 domestic splatter at 1440 on 11/11 <http://www.mediafire.com/?g7xft6cyri3ran1>.
- 972 **REP KOREA**, HLCA, Dangjin, 1500 kW. KK big gun had excellent signals, but never pegged the PL-380's S/N (as it does occasionally at home). This strong KK music recording was made at 1318 on 11/11 <http://www.mediafire.com/?f9j0wfvqdbmzbpk>.
- 1017 **CHINA**, Changchun, CRI, 200 kW. CRI KK service fairly strong at 1354 on 11/11 with apparent CC lessons for the KK listeners <http://www.mediafire.com/?faccuzc55bqzfp2>.
- 1035 **CHINA**, CNR1 synchros. Occasional poor-level CC speech on this frequency several times during the trip, but never up to decent strength.
- 1044 **CHINA**, Jiangsu, CRI, 600 kW. CRI JJ service at a good level at 1359 on 11/11. The male announcer is giving the station's mailing address in JJ <http://www.mediafire.com/?ddl4cm7b3m75yts>.
- 1053 **REP KOREA**, jammer. Fairly strong throughout the DXpedition, although not overpowering (as it occasionally is at home) at 1357 on 11/11 <http://www.mediafire.com/?wbbkkaofj05bkba>.
- 1134 **REP KOREA**, Hwaseong, KBS, 500 kW. KK big gun was dominant over an anemic JOQR during the few times I checked the frequency, but neither station was particularly vibrant.
- 1287 **JAPAN**, JOHR, Sapporo, HBC, 50 kW. Very strong signals every morning, and the only JJ commercial station to have such regularity. This recording was at 1542 on 11/10, during a very long sunrise enhancement boost <http://www.mediafire.com/?2r6m9gp8naxv4mn>.
- 1503 **JAPAN**, JOUK, Akita, 10 kW. Strong NHK1 signals from this high band regular during each morning enhancement session.
- 1566 **REP KOREA**, HLAZ, Jeju, FEBC, 250 kW. Occasionally strong with its Christian programs, but generally at a modest level throughout the trip. This recording was at 1333 during the rain-soaked 11/12 session <http://www.mediafire.com/?za2yxpof50sdoi0>.
- 1575 **THAILAND**, Ban Rassom, VOA, 1000 kW. Occasional good signals during morning enhancement from this high-band big gun, with its typical Asiatic language programs. Not checked frequently, but signals were highly variable, as at home.

## **DX CLUBS ANNOUNCE MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION**

The National Radio Club and the International Radio Club of America, in conjunction with the Minnesota DX Club and the Worldwide TV-FM DX Association, take great pleasure in announcing their joint "DXer" convention will be held in Minneapolis, August 1-4, 2013.

Called LEARNING AND SHARING: 2013, the conference will combine formal tutorials and technical sessions, gab gatherings, a DXpedition and ideas on how to enhance radio listening. Show-and-tell, new antenna designs and DX stories will be combined with information on receiver improvements and propagation.

The highlight of the convention will be one of its venues: The Museum of Broadcasting. There we'll see first-hand more than a century's worth of communications artifacts, operate a live Spark-Gap transmitter, learn about the history behind our hobby and see how broadcasts were made from the Museum's vintage radio studio.

The combined auction is going to be a big one this year; the Museum and others will be auctioning some nice communications gear.

Optional tours during the three-day Convention include area radio stations and the Mall of America.

The hotel selected for the 2013 Convention is the Holiday Inn Bloomington South Airport Mall in Minneapolis. Reservation and Registration information will be published shortly.

SAVE THE DATE...the first weekend next August! Further information will follow. If you have questions please contact Host Mark Durenberger at [www.durenberger.com](http://www.durenberger.com).

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## National Radio Club

P.O. Box 473251

Aurora, CO 80047 – 3251

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DX News is printed by The Coughlin Printing Group -144 Main Ave – Watertown, NY 13601-1925

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**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Watertown, NY**  
**Permit # 65**