



# DX NEWS

*the magazine of the  
National Radio Club*

— SINCE 1933 —

VOLUME 53    ISSUE 23    Monday, March 17, 1986

Log Updaters 1, 2, 3 and now 4 are available for US\$1.00 each. Get yours for your logbook from the NRC Publication Center.

Renewal notice postcards will soon be a thing of the past. Instead your mail label will be your source of notice that your DX NEWS is about to run out. When we will start this procedure, hasn't been determined yet, probably, starting with the May Issue. Just start getting into the habit of looking at your label for info. It's the first line of the label. Canada & Foreign persons, we're still working out the bugs on your system, but it'll be something similar.

April Fools Issue is fast approaching. Get your materials into HQ here right away. Like yesterday! Its only 1 issue away! And remember keep it clean!!!

From John Brandel comes word that the last our out on WWSG's towers, due to rats eating the 110v power cable. Station was noted off the air at 5PM 3/5/86.

From Al Tobia, comes the following, "KOIT-1260, lost their tower back on Feb 14th and are now using a 100' Top Loaded Tower and are back to full power, 5000/1000". And, "KTRN-660, Window Rock, is on the air with 50000/50000".

Clive Rooms of England would like to exchange bumper & window stickers. He has stickers from many European stns as well as many British stns. His address is: 59 Moat Lane, Luton LU3 1UU, England.

The M Street Journal can be obtained for \$25.00 from Pete Nolan (who?, RadioPhiles Magazine), 7210 Staffordshire, #4, Houston, TX 77030.

Radio West has their catalog available for \$1.00, and just received here is an update to their catalog, showing price and product changes. They also have available free for just an SASE, "London Calling", and "Radio West Garage Sale List". Write to: Radio West, 3417 Purer Rd., Escondido, CA 92025

Century Print Shop has available from now until Sept. 1st or until supply run out, the 1986 WRIVH at \$13.00 or 2/\$25. CA had 6% sales tax. Also available is their flyer full of items for...I think a SASE, not sure, Don will straighten me out if I'm wrong. Anyway, write to: CPS, Don Erickon, 6059 Essex St., Riverside, CA 92504-1599.

**CPC TESTS** — Times listed are EASTERN Local Time

You'll get better returns if you include an SASE with your report.

Mar 31 KPCR-1530 Bowling Green, MO 0300 - ???, Voice, Code ID's, and music will be used. Reports to: J. Paul Salois, President, KPCR Radio, Box 1, Bowling Green MO 63334 Arranged by Wayne Heinen and Dan Bartek for the NRC.

Mar 31 KURL-730 Billings, MT 0300 - 0400 This is a retest of the Feb test. Reports to Mr. Clark D. Prim, CE, KURL Radio, Box 31038, Billings, MT 59107 Arranged by Wayne Heinen and Ken Chatterton for the NRC.

Apr 7 WGHQ-920, Kingston, NY 0100-0130 will be running an equipment test. Reports to: Don Stewart, CE, 82 John St., Kingston, NY 12401. Test Info provided to the NRC by Laura M. McCusker, (employee at stn and NRC member!)

Other Magazines using CPC info MUST credit the NRC and the Arranger.

**LOOK INSIDE:**

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*NEXT ISSUE  
APRIL FOOLS  
EDITION*

# AM SWITCH

Jerry Starr, c/o WHOT Radio, 401 N. Blaine Ave., Youngstown, OH 44505

## CALL LETTER CHANGES

Old call:	New call:	Old call:	New call:
550 WEAM NC Statesville	WDRV*	1290 WEYE NC Sanford	WSBL*
770 KCGN AK Valdez	KCHU	1390 KCEY CA Turlock	KYES
790 WEAN RI Providence	WVAZ	1400 KRCQ CA Indio	KCOF
960 WBMC TN McMinnville	WTRZ	1430 WKSD FL Panama City	WLTG
980 WLPQ KY London	WKPJ	1470 KBCM UT Tremonton	KKVU
1000 WIXI FL Jupiter	WKSJ	1550 WMLB CT Bloomfield	WGAB
1030 WWRM MI Sterling Heights	WFXZ*	WYHS GA Augusta	WTHB*
1070 KATQ MT Plentywood	KHPN	1580 WBLO SC Orangeburg	WPJK
1110 KAKA AR Dermott	KXSA		

+NOTES ON CALLS: Over a year ago a very reliable info source (M Street Journal) ran a call change on 550 to WEAM. We now find out, in phoning the station, that they are still WDRV and have never been WEAM. That call is now on 1580 kHz in Columbus, GA. WWRM-1030 first filed for WRMM, then the next day filed for WFXZ. WSBL-1290 never was WEYE, had change set aside according to station.

## APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

- 720 CA Selma: 10000/1000 U4 (second application)
- 890 NM Bernalillo: 5000/1000 U4 (second application)
- 1050 CA Wasco: 500 D1 (second application)

## GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

- 540 TX Ferris: 250 D1
- 1100 GA Woodbine: 10000 D1
- 1160 NY Trumansburg: 1000/500 U4

## APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

- 750 KJEL MO Lebanon: power to 5000
- 1240 WWCW NC Wilkesboro: day power to 1000
- 1270 KIAM AK Nenana: to 630 kHz 5000/5000 U1
- 1350 WRDJ AL Daleville: power to 5000
- 1550 WRHC FL Coral Gables: to 1560 kHz 50000/4400 U4 (reapplication)

## GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

- 750 WRGE PA Olyphant: power to 400 D1
- 810 KTBI WA Ephrata: power to 41000
- 830 WTIW FL Hialeah: changes in antenna system
- WADU LA Norco: powers to 5000/750 U4 (new station not on yet)
- 910 KALL UT Salt Lake City: relocate XR
- 950 KAHI CA Auburn: changes in antenna system
- 1130 KHTH CO Dillon: relocate XR (new station not on yet)
- 1140 WBZY PA New Castle: to 1200 kHz 10000/1000 U2
- 1160 WCCS PA Homer: day power to 5000
- WBQN PR Barceloneta: night power to 2500, antenna to U5
- 1280 KNBY AR Newport: changes in antenna system
- 1330 WSGG AL Scottsboro: add 500 watts night, antenna to U2
- 1340 KYLT MT Missoula: changes in antenna system
- 1360 KLFF AZ Glendale: relocate XR
- 1470 KAPS WA Mount Vernon: to 660 kHz 10000/1000 U1
- 1570 WYTI VA Rocky Mount: power to 2500

## OTHERNESS

- 640 WOI IA Ames: fulltime expected on 3/15
- WMSO TN Collierville: application to move to Germantown, TN DISMISSED
- 660 KTNN AZ Window Rock: new station is on the air
- 800 KLTT CO Brighton: station is silent
- 830 WTIW FL Hialeah: granted extension of CP for new station to 2/28
- 870 WQRX AL Valley Head: new station is on the air
- KROL NV Laughlin: target date is July 1986
- 890 \*App VA Dublin: application for new station returned
- 900 \*App NM Sante Fe: application for new station returned
- 910 KVVQ CA Hesperia: target date is "late summer 1986"
- 930 WBYG IL Sandwich: new station is testing, program date unknown
- 950 KAHI CA Auburn: fulltime CP is on the air
- 990 WEIS AL Centre: application for power increase returned
- 1030 \*App NY Avon: application for new station returned
- 1040 WLUL AL Fort Deposit: requests CP to replace expired permit
- KRAD OK Perry: target date is "the next 90 days"
- 1050 KOFY CA San Mateo: station is silent pending sale

- 1100 KELM MN Madison Lake: granted extension of CP for new station to 2/28
- \*App GA Milan: application for new station DISMISSED
- WYKR VT Wells River: station is operating here ex-1490 kHz
- 1160 \*App GA Sandy Springs: application for new station returned
- 1170 WHZT AL Hanceville: granted extension of CP for new station to 4/30
- WVSC NY Cornwall: last issue we speculated this station might be silent due to their not having any telephone listing. NRCer and AMS Sleuth Laura McCusker confirms they are STILL ON, no explanation known why they have no telephone. Previous number gets a recording that phone is disconnected, no further number available. Information has no listing for a WWSG anywhere in the 914 AC. Ideas anyone?
- WVEE TN Collierville: new station is on the air
- 1190 WKDJ PA Hughsville: new station is on the air
- 1290 WRCP RI Providence: application for power increase returned
- 1310 WJRA AL Priceville: granted extension of CP for new station to 5/30
- 1330 WRIE PA Erie: station is silent
- 1350 WINY CT Putnam: application for power increase returned
- 1360 WBLC TN Lenoir City: application to move to 670 kHz returned
- 1420 KSKM AK Bethel: granted extension of CP for new station to 6/30
- 1440 WCHB MI Inkster: application to move to 1200 kHz dismissed in same action granting WBZY-1140 move to 1200 kHz.
- WRHX VA Herndon: application to move to Arcola, VA DISMISSED
- 1490 KSKJ UT Salina: requests extension of CP for new station
- 1520 WHRF MD Bel Air: mention in the 2/24 DDXD was made of a "CP" for this station to move to 830 kHz. Actually it is still just an application.
- 1550 WARD PA Pittston: a few issues ago we referred to this station as WPTS, it's old calls. This misinformation was copied from the front page of a recent DXN, a bad case of brain fade on our part for not double-checking the call. It's still WARD
- 1570 \*App SC Quinby: application for new station returned

73 and Good DX,

*Jerry & BKF*

Jerry Starr & Buffalo K. Foonman

## ADDRESS CHANGES

- 910 WKCN SC North Charleston: Box 1364 Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 (Malicky)
- 920 KYST TX Texas City: 8181 North Stadium Drive 77054

## Convention '86 Report....

The convention will be held at the Ramada Inn, located at New Castle, DE at the intersections of Interstate 295 & Route 13 this Labor Day weekend.

We've been able to get some nice rates. For those who set up their plans early, know who they want to share a room with, etc. can get in on some good rates. For those who wish to do it prior to August 1st, rates will be \$36 Single/\$42 Double/\$6 per extra with a 50% deposit. After August 1st, reservations must be made directly with the Ramada, with rates: \$48 Single/\$54 Double/\$6 per extra, guaranteed with credit card. For an advance reservation form, info., please direct inquires to Dave Schmidt, P O Box 11502, Wilmington, DE 19850.

If you can figure out who you wish to share a room with, you can make out like a bandit. Make your plans now!

# DOMESTIC DX DIGEST - EAST

Dave Schmidt (302) 323-0338  
42 Chelwynne Road, Castle Hills, New Castle, DE 19720

Here is the NRC column which is almost as exciting as listening to CBJ's all nite show! When sending your items in, please type or neatly write, one side of the paper, EST, skip a line or two between items, and all that stuff. And here we go:

## \*\*SPECIAL\*\*

- 730 WCXR VA ALEXANDRIA - 2/26 1736-1750 good in WNAK's null w/rock oldies, ads, weather, no data s/off w/promo for 105.9 FM. Calls stand for Washingtons Classic Rock, ex-WPKX. (KG-PA)
- 990 WMAA FL ORLANDO - 2/22 1800-1815 o/WZZD w/CBS news, 'Golden Oldies' music w/female anc'r, lost at power/pattern change, slogan is Magic 99, ex-WHOC. (KG-PA)

## \*\*DX TESTS\*\*

- 1000 WIFX KY JENKINS - 2/11 0330 Not heard, may have gotten a late start. May have been cancelled due to snow storm in their area. No WCFL. (DLH-IN)
- 1570 WYVW WV ST MARYS - 2/17 0100-0132 very strong o/XERF w/perfect copy of TT, male & female voice ID's, organ music.(KG) 2/17 0100-0132 very good at times w/extreme CHLO/XERF/CFOR, varying TT, Christmas music, ID's by female anc'r. (JM-PA)

## \*\*MIDDAY - MIDNITE\*\*

- 560 WFIL PA PHILADELPHIA - 2/24 2005 fair/good w/Talknet, news.(KB)
- 810 WSJC MS MAGEE - 2/15 1844 ads, CW music, lost to WGY at power cut. (DLH-IN) Wonder if the ground shakes when they go from 250 to 50 kw? (DS)
- 830 KBOA MO KENNETT - 1/8 1733-1815 local weather, Almanac, soft rock music, s/off stated 10 kw. (CRD-TX)
- 890 WQIS MS LAUREL - 2/8 1838 B/sol music, poor in WLS null. (DLH-IN)
- 950 \*UNID 2/15 2327 TT, no ID, abrupt s/off 0001, looping NNK/SSE. (DLH-IN) Knew you were listening routine. (DS)
- 970 WWDJ NJ HACKENSACK - 2/24 2015 w/religious program, strong.(KB)
- 1120 WMKS GA GORDAN-MACON - 2/26 1815 o/KMOX w/s/off. (ED-NC)
- 1180 WKKE MS JACKSON - 2/14 1905 high school basketball, no ID but many local ads made it ID'able. (DLH-IN)
- 1210 WDGR GA DAHLONAGA - 2/26 1800 atop w/ID, no WCAU, long sought.(ED)
- 1230 WERI RI WESTERLY - 2/17 1804-1807 fair in WEEZ's null w/news, ID, MYL programming. (KG-PA)
- 1290 WKLB KY MANCHESTER - 2/26 1743 fair w/CW music, ads, ID. (ED-NC)
- WVOW WV LOGAN - 2/26 1746 o/u WKLB w/weather, ID. (ED-NC)
- WIRL IL PEORIA - 2/14 2201 good w/high school basketball, ads, promo, ID. (DLH-IN)
- 1300 WFFG FL MARATHON - 2/12 2329 good w/CW music, ID's, weather.(DLH)
- 1310 WDDO TN CHATTANOOGA - 2/10 2204 poor w/WIMA w/ID in null of WMLF. (DLH-IN) Tryin' to confuse us?? (DS)
- 1340 WEPN WV MARTINSBURG - 2/23 1940-2000 atop hash at times w/church service and ID. (KG-PA)
- 1360 WKAT FL MIAMI BEACH - 2/12 2351 fair w/WNK w/ID, MYL type music. (DLH-IN)
- 1380 WRBQ FL ST. PETERSBURG - 2/12 2338 great signal w/simulcast of Q105 FM, clustered ads, promos. (DLH-IN)
- 1420 WTCR WV KENOVA - 2/26 1706 w/ID, Paul Harvey rest of the Story.(ED)
- 1430 WMNC NC MORGANTON - 2/15 2300+ strong o/u CJCL w/CBS news, auto. CW music, weather breaks, many jingle/ID's. (JM-PA)
- 1450 WMMJ VT BRATTLEBORO - 2/17 1803-1824 way o/all at times w/weather, cancellations, MoK music, ads. (KG-PA)
- WJBX CT BRIDGEPORT - 2/18 1744 o/all w/ad, jingle/ID. (KG-PA)

- 1460 WWCN NY ALBANY - 2/16 2307 very good o/noisy din w/ID into tele-talk program. (JM-PA)
- 1560 WKDD KY LIBERTY - 2/26 1830 barely o/WGGM w/s/off, wanted. (ED)
- 1580 WCCF FL PUNTA GORDA - 2/13 1915-1928 fair w/no CBJ w/sports-talk show, ads, no ID but figured out from ad locations, soon faded. (JM-PA) Must've been a new Canadian clear operation, no CP issued for that. (DS)

## \*\*MIDNIGHT \* MIDDAY\*\*

- 540 WGTO FL CYPRESS GARDENS - 2/25 0235 very unusual w/CW music, ID, are they on 5kw or 1 kw? (ED-NC) Likely just a day pattern ET. (DS)
- 570 \*UNID 2/26 0200+ strong TT in WKEN null o/Cuban, no ID's.(JM)
- 620 WSUN FL ST. PETERSBURG - 2/25 0220-0230 very clear w/CW music, ads, ID. Real surprise. (ED-NC)
- 810 \*WGY NY SCHNECTADY - 2/24 0112 noted on/off w/TT. (JS-CH)
- 1140 \*WRVA VA RICHMOND - 2/23 0133 noted off w/nothing but SS noted on freq. (JS-CH) You better kiss 'em, I think they're about one of the last 50kw's to have a silent period! (DS)
- 1210 WRYU LA BATON ROUGE - 2/22 0815 lots of 60's/70's rock music, many ID's. (CRD-TX)
- 1310 WXMC NJ PARSIPPANY - 2/27 0725-0735 strong w/MYL, many ID's into news, sports, weather, Shadow Traffic report and ad on 1/2 hour. (KG-PA)
- 1340 WHPA PA WILLIAMSPORT - 2/24 0655-0705 way o/all w/local news, ads, weather, ID & CBS news on the hour. (KG-PA)
- 1380 WRBQ FL ST PETERSBURG - 2/25 0200-0215 fairly good w/Q105 ID's, ads, Top 40 music. (ED-NC)
- 1540 CHIN ON TORONTO - 2/16 0010 'Chin' slogan o/u KXEL, break in auroral conditions permitted this. (DLH-IN)
- 1600 KATZ MO ST LOUIS - 2/16 0102+ xint way o/WKRL w/B/Sol music, ads, promos, ID, forgot to throw switch? (JM-PA) Years back, this guy used to run day pattern during KS on MM but would switch BACK to nite pattern when the ads were run. That falls in the weird category! (DS)

## \*\*PIRATES\*\*

- 1619 UNID 2/22 2225-2238 rebroadcast of WVCX FM, suddenly off after ID in Saturday Night Solid Gold program, time checks matched up. Can WVCX-FM be heard in NYC? (JS-Oh)
- 1630 RNCI 2/24 0019-0048 weak w/program of odd music, some 30's stuff, UNID rock music, much beacon noise. (JS-Oh).... 2/24 0020 per JS tip, very weak w/some. Looping N/S but hard to DF due to weak, fadey signal. (DS-DE)

## \*\*RAN DUMBS\*\*

Now set for TV F/C's here in the last leg of the F/C business changeover, have about 190+ on line now. A very slow week (for once), but where is this season going to?

## \*\*DX BAND MASTERS\*\*

KG-PA/Kermit Geary, Walnutport, PA/R389, HQ180, S42, Lk  
ED-NC/Ed Mitkus, Zionville, NC/R2600, Lk  
JM-PA/John Malicky, Pittsburgh, PA/Superadio II  
RB-NY/Ray Bauernhuber, Rosedale, NY/R2800, Shotgun Loop  
JS-CH/Jerry Starr, Hubbard, OH/HQ180, Loop, Lk's  
DLH-IN/Dave Hascall, Fortville, IN/Superadio  
CRD-TX/Conrad Durocher, Dickinson, TX/R2000, 500' Cyclone Fence Lk  
DS-DE/Dave 'Yer Editor' Schmidt/same place, same radio!

And, that's it for another EST/CST time zone DDAD column! 73's *JE*

# DOMESTIC DX DIGEST - WEST

Nancy Hardy, 2301 Pacific Avenue, Aberdeen, WA 98520

When reporting to DDWD-West use the same form that you see in the column, use Eastern time, on one side of the sheet of paper. Be sure to put DDWD-W or NRC on the envelope or report. Deadlines are Fridays--March 28, April 18, May 23, June 27. Hope to hear from you if you are in the Mountain or Pacific time zones.

### \*\*SPECIAL\*\*

- 930 KRTH CA LOS ANGELES - 2/3 0300 ex-KHJ, fair w/ID, oldies music, some KFRE-940 sloop. "AM-930" IDs later. Heard call change on 2/1 during trip to Anaheim. (JH-CA) 2/18 2110-1810+ lots of oldies lots of "AM 9-30, standing in the shadows of Smokin' Radio" slogans, but not once did I hear a legal call ID. I'm sure the call change went through; RKO sold the station & the KHJ calls stayed with TV. Fair-poor, o/u KSEI, KAGI & unID. (RT-CA)
- 1050 KOFY CA SAN MATEO - 2/16 1810+ testing, but sounded like a regular broadcast. Oldies music, IDs as "Coffee 10-50," DJ mention they'll be back for first official day on the air 3/3, that morning show will be simulcast on S.F. channel 20! DJ took requests, phone number given. Mentioned 50kw on 3/3. Sounds like format will be oldies, calls came in from all over Bay area. Midday regular here, went silent recently w/Spanish format dropped by new owners. (JH-CA)
- 1410 KRFD CA MARYSVILLE - ex-KMYC, 2/18 0110 CHR music, "K-100" ID (//KRFD-99.9), talk about heavy rainfall in Marysville. Poor reception mucho KSTN-1420 sloop, CFUN/KERN fought it out as well. (RT-CA)

### \*\*DX TEST\*\*

- 730 KURL MT BILLINGS - MM 2/10 0210-0230 DX test heard, fair w/TT's, ID with frequency & power given every few minutes. Poor at times due to KCBS-740 sloop. New here, heard once in S. Calif. (JH)

### \*\*EMERGENCY\*\*

- 1260 KOIT CA SAN FRANCISCO - noted off & on all day and night 2/16-2/17 because of storm related problems. Their transmitter tower went down, apparently. (RT-CA)

### MIDNIGHT TO MIDDAY

- 590 KLSN WA SPOKANE - 2/17 0300 ID as "K-Listen Radio," ad for Q-6 TV, call ID. Over/under KUGN/KFXM. New call change for me (this is tough to hear over this way), ex-KHQ. (RT-CA)
- 600 KSYO CA REDDING - 2/19 1020 tentative, poor-fair in KLZZ null w/ad for Broadway Chevrolet "in the big Cypress Auto Center," and ad for restaurant "in the Shasta Center." Much QRN, faded before I could get a positive ID. (JH-CA)
- 690 CBU BC VANCOUVER - 2/17 0240 way on top of XETRA, never heard it this well w/Extra Gold on at the same time. Great cx to north. (RT)
- 820 KQIN WA BURIEN-SEATTLE - 2/17 0254 noted weakly u/WBAP, KGO-810 sloop w/"Keep it right here on KQIN." New. (RT-CA)
- 850 KTAC WA TACOMA - 2/19 1059 ID as "KTAC where it's always 85." Strong and alone on channel, unusual. (RT-CA)
- 960 KLAD OR KLAMATH FALLS - 2/17 0318 ID as "96 KLAD with more of your songs," in tight KABL null. Good signal. (RT-CA)
- 1060 CJAM AB CALGARY - 2/17 0327 or CPRN, whichever, but definite AM 106 slogan; great signal with KPAY off. (RT-CA)
- 1110 KPAB NE OMAHA - 2/17 0330 "This is AM stereo radio KPAB" u/KRCX, KRLA. Haven't heard this one in years due to KPAX-1100 sloop at old location. (RT-CA)
- 1260 CFRN AB EDMONTON - 2/17 0402 ID, news & weather (-30°C), with ments of contest. KOIT off. (RT-CA)
- 1470 KKFO CA COALINGA-HANFORD-LEMOORE 2/19 1001 ex-KOLI, good in KYOA null, some KLCZ-1460 sloop. Mentioned "KFO Country," legal ID ment. "Coalinga-Hanford-Lemoore." Also a regular midday catch. (JH)
- KXOA CA SACRAMENTO - 2/19 1000 fair w/ID into news. (JH-CA)
- 1550 KVAN WA VANCOUVER - 2/19 1108 u/KKHI in null, with "K-Van Weather Watch." Mentions of Clark County, temps, etc. Fairly strong signal. (RT-CA)

- 1560 KIQS CA WILLOWS - 2/19 1010 good in KPMC null w/Sacramento River flood reports. (JH-CA)
- 1590 KSRN NV SUN VALLEY - 2/19 1014 poor-fair in partial KLIV null. Wx, PSA & "KSRN-FM" ID. New here, never heard in S. Calif. (JH)

### \*\*A "JUST UNDER THE WIRE" SPECIAL\*\*

- 660 KTNN AZ WINDOW ROCK - 3/1 2150-2225 with adult contemporary/hit rock music, NBC News at 2200. Extremely strong, no sign of CFRP at all. Many "66 AM KTNN Window Rock" and jingle "660, Window Rock, K-T-N-N." KTNN apparently stands for The Navajo Nation. Came on the air the previous morning 2/28. (NH-WA)

### REPORTERS

NH-WA/Nancy Hardy, Aberdeen, WA/FRG-7, Radio West loop  
JH-CA/Jim Hilliker, Carmel Valley, CA/R-1000, Radio West loop  
RT-CA/Rich Toebe, Pleasanton, CA/GE Superadio, Radio West loop

## AM Improvement Plans Boosted

Washington DC ... Efforts to improve AM radio were boosted by the NAB's announcement that it plans to start its antenna testing program by March, while the National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC) announced that it hopes to develop a preemphasis proposal by June.

The NAB AM Improvement Committee met in January to discuss the site requirements for an antenna testing program that was announced in December.

It will conduct a two-year study to construct and field test two prototype AM antennas that, through advances in technology, are designed to redirect sky-wave radiation to increase groundwave coverage. NAB Engineer Mike Rau said.

The antenna designs were developed by Richard Biby of Communications Engineering Services, and Ogden Prestholdt of A. D. Ring and Associates.

### Computer design

Using a VAX computer, Biby has developed an antenna that, Rau said, "is flexible enough to alter any of its input

variables to see what happens to field strength as a function of azimuth and elevation angle from the antenna."

Prestholdt has proposed an antenna that would provide separate control over the ground wave and skywave portions of the electromagnetic field, he added.

Three sites near Washington DC are currently under consideration, Rau said. The sites are located in Beltsville and Frederick, Maryland, and in Quantico, Virginia.

The committee, Rau added, is also examining antenna and equipment donations and insurance for the study. By March, Rau said he expects a final site selection to be made and ground to be broken.

NAB said the tests would take place at 1650 kHz, just above the AM broadcast band.

### Preemphasis standard

Discussion of an AM preemphasis/de-emphasis standard dominated an NRSC meeting at the January Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Rau said the NRSC Methods and Procedures Subgroup set a 3 June deadline to develop a preemphasis proposal.

The NRSC discussed continuing efforts to explore the relationship between AM listening trends and signal strength.

The issue, Rau said, is whether most AM listening is centered in urban areas, which feature high signal strengths, or in rural areas, which have generally weak signals.

If most listening takes place in high signal strength areas, without as much of a need to protect adjacent channel interference, than wider audio bandwidth receivers could be incorporated, he said.

Future NRSC meetings have been scheduled for 5 March in Washington DC, 11 April at the NAB Convention in Dallas, and 7 May in Kansas City. At press time, a 4 February meeting in Kansas City was to be held as well.

The NRSC, a joint committee of the NAB and the Electronic Industries Association (EIA), is comprised of receiver manufacturers and broadcasters.

Via J\* & Hutton

**WDAE**  
TOP 40  
RADIO 1250 IN TAMPA  
ORIGINAL W. W. HARRIS  
Tampa - St. Petersburg

**WALT** CHANNEL 110  
TOP 50 SURVEY  
THE STATION WHERE THE MUSIC IS  
FOR WEEK ENDING ABOUT 3/1/87

TITLE	ARTIST
1. SHEET FAT FANNIN	LARRY WILLIAMS
2. THE ONE I LOVE	THE BEATLES
3. TROOP BLISS	ELVIS PRESLEY
4. LOVE LETTERS IN THE SAND	PAT BUCKLEY
5. WINTERING BEARS	THE OJAS
6. MOVING TOGETHER	THE OJAS
7. STAY MOVING	THE OJAS
8. THE GARDEN	THE OJAS
9. BARBERS	THE OJAS
10. JIMMY BROWN	THE OJAS
11. JIMMY BROWN	THE OJAS
12. WONDERFUL WONDERFUL	THE OJAS
13. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
14. LONELY LONELY NIGHTS	THE OJAS
15. OH BABY SOUL	THE OJAS
16. TALK	THE OJAS
17. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
18. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
19. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
20. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
21. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
22. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
23. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
24. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
25. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
26. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
27. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
28. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
29. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
30. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
31. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
32. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
33. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
34. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
35. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
36. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
37. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
38. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
39. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
40. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS

TITLE	ARTIST
41. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
42. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
43. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
44. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
45. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
46. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
47. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
48. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
49. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS
50. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A BAMBINO	THE OJAS



# SUMMARY OF UNREPORTED STATIONS

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Don Kaskey, Hotel Raphael, 386 Geary Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Through Volume 53 # 20 dated February 24, 1986

compiled by Don Kaskey, 465 Burnett St., #1, San Francisco CA 94131

The following chart lists the total number of stations in the USA and CANADA and the volume they were last reported as being heard in DX NEWS.

COUNTRY	V51	V52	V51	V50	V49	V48	V47	V46	V45	V44	V43	V42	Prior	Total
CANADA	199	98	29	36	13	6	8	4	3	1	1	0	22	-- 420
U.S.A.	2140	954	632	365	185	133	83	54	37	20	21	12	155	-- 4791
TOTAL	2339	1052	661	401	198	139	91	58	40	21	22	12	177	-- 5211

New stations reported as having taken the air during the period covering V53 #17 through #20:

540-CKCY-ON (x-920) 1410-WGPN-NY  
 930-WBYG-IL 1450-KATJ-UT  
 1120-WTNZ-MS (x-1150) 1540-WWKM-MI  
 1240-WMGJ-AL

NOTE: 3 stations previously reported by club members as NEW stations are found to NOT be on the air as yet and are deleted from the above totals. They are: KGGN-770-AK, KVLD-1400-AK, and KGUS-1030-AZ.

Previously unreported stations noted by NRC reporters in DX NEWS since the last update (V53 #19)....Covers V53 #17 through #20:

AZ---3 KMOG-1420 (Carpenter-vac UT)  
 AR---6 KCGS--960 (Herman-OK)  
 CA---6 KDHI-1250 (Carpenter-CA)  
 IL---1 WBYG--930 (Windsor-IL)  
 MS---4 WTNZ-1120 (Herman-OK)  
 NY---1 WGN-1410 (Arruda-MA)  
 UT---2 KTKK--630, KLVR-1340 & KATJ-1450 (all by Carpenter-vac UT)  
 ON---2 CKCY--540 (Bartek-NY)

OFF THE AIR STATIONS: WTRU-1600-MI BACK ON THE AIR: WBRB-1430-MI

## Sheriff's sale for WRIE postponed

**Wiel WKMO**

ERIE MORNING NEWS 2/27/86  
 VIA AIRMAIL LITIE

An Erie County sheriff's sale scheduled Friday for radio station WRIE-AM has been postponed because a receiver has been court-appointed to protect the station's assets. Judge Jess Juliane appointed attorney Thomas Agresti as a temporary receiver on Monday. Juliane will confirm Agresti as a permanent receiver Friday, provided radio station officials do not file for bankruptcy in federal court here.

If that happens, Agresti explained, federal court laws would supersede those in state court.

A receiver in state court is similar to a trustee in federal bankruptcy court.

As a temporary receiver, Agresti said this week he has helped secure the station's assets. He has verified that the station property at 10452 Peach was padlocked, and the property is insured, he said.

A permanent receiver, he explained, would liquidate the assets of a financially troubled company and

pay off its debts. But a court order is needed to sell any assets, he said.

Marine Bank, a major creditor of CEB Enterprises, Inc., the corporation which had operated the radio station, sought the appointment of a receiver to protect the interests of shareholders and creditors.

The station went off the air Feb. 19 when the bank acted to protect equipment and other assets for creditors.

The county sheriff's department changed the locks and tumblers on all doors of the station.

The bank, according to court papers filed last week, claims CEB Enterprises owes it \$522,727.52. The bank had loaned the corporation \$490,000 in August 1984, the court papers claim.

The bank wanted to establish a receivership until a sale of the station or other financial arrangements are completed. Several parties have expressed an interest in buying the station, Agresti said.

**KARERADIO**

PO Box G / Atchison, KS 66002

# STATION PROFILE

11

Tony Fitzherbert, 356 Jackman Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06430

STATION PROFILE: WEYZ-1430kHz, Erie, PA.

.....by Guest Editor Marshall Lillie.

Receiving its license three weeks after KDKA, SoPK became the sixteenth licensed radio station in the United States. It began with 50 watts and a coverage area of 350 square miles. In 1921, the call letters were changed to WCAV, and the station moved to Oil City, PA. At that location, the call was changed again, this time to WLEW, and the station returned to Erie until December, 1934, when it was sold. After the sale, the wandering station moved to Dayton. Erie was without a radio station until April 20, 1935, when Leo Omelian operated WLEU on 1490 kHz., from the Commerce Building at 12th and State Streets. In 1932 Omelian lost the station to Philip Hinson in a card game. However, he retained the call letters and the location. WLEU was sold later that year. The most dramatic episode in the WLEU life was participation in a huge parade (probably for the Fourth of July), culminating in the dumping of rock and roll records into Presque Isle Bay. The reason for this sacrifice is lost to history forever.

## WEYZ Radio, Erie





# Two stations are the talk of Dallas

## KLIF and KTNS revive the all-talk format and executives are confident it's back to stay

KTNS newsmen Harold Baker, Richard and Michael Pruitt



By M.I. Blackwell  
Staff Writer of The News

Until last summer, Dallas-Fort Worth was an anomaly in the broadcast industry: It was the largest radio market in the country with no 24-hour all-talk station.

The plug was pulled on WFAA-AM's Newstalk 57 format in 1983, leaving local listeners without a radio station that they could talk to via call-ins about various topics.

But now the area has two "round-the-clock talk stations, with contrasting formats but similar names. KTNS Talkradio (1600) became a talk station last July 1, and Talkradio 1190 (KLIF) switched to the format on Jan. 22.

Both stations feature local news, helicopter traffic reports, call-in shows and guests. And both have lineups that include experienced talk show hosts who discuss national and local politics, personal finances, sports and mental health issues.

The difference is that one has virtually all national talkers and the other mostly locals.

KTNS, on the ABC radio network, offers listeners programs hosted by national personalities such as Michael Jackson (not the rock star), regarded by radio observers as one of the best in the business; Ira Fistell, whose specialties are sports information and American history, and Ray Briem, who concentrates on issue-oriented topics, especially politics. Like WFAA did, KTNS offers news, but only during some drive-time hours. The *Evening News Hour*, from 6 to 7 p.m. during the week, is anchored by former Channel 5 reporter Randy Wyles. Veteran newsmen Harold Baker anchors a morning news show from 6 to 9 a.m.

On the other hand, KLIF has several local broadcast personalities, including generalist Ed Busch, sports commentator Norm Hitzges, psychologist Lynn Weiss and former Miami talker David Gold. Talkradio 1190, an NBC Talknet affiliate, also has Bruce Williams' nationally respected money and financial talk show.

Executives at the two stations say that it should come as no surprise that talk radio has returned to Dallas-Fort Worth.

KLIF program director Dan Bennett says, "The radio station was country for five years and never achieved the audience rating we had hoped for. We looked at the market and found a void, and we wanted to give listeners something they could not find elsewhere." After research showed that about a million people in the area have an interest in talk radio, the station switched to the format last month.

"Our research says there is a substantial percentage of people here that want some form of talk radio and will listen. So why not talk?" says John Price, general manager of KTNS. The small Plano station formerly was KKDI, a Christian contemporary-hits station.

"We can be successful," Price says, "if we are talking with a small s. You can be a financial success with a big S

and not a rating success."

It was both a dearth in the ratings and huge financial losses that derided Newstalk 57.

WFAA became the oldest station KRQX-AM (K-rocks) in 1983, after it had dropped from 11th to 15th among 27 area stations ranked by Arbitron Ratings Co. The 2.6 rating, a percent of the listening audience, and the enormous amount of money lost provoked the switch to "good time rock 'n' roll."

Meanwhile, talk radio was winning the ratings sweepstakes in other cities. Talk stations in New York (WOR-AM), Chicago (WGN-AM) and St. Louis (KMOX-AM) are top-rated in their markets. In San Francisco, KGO-AM switched from a music format to talk in 1965 and slowly climbed to the top. Each station has been on the air with a news/talk or talk format for nearly two decades or more, giving it time to build a loyal audience.

Price, Bennett and radio observers say it would be awfully difficult to duplicate such success here, although the executives are sure that their respective stations can make a dent in the local ratings after a few years.

"There are two or three country music stations, two or three doing oldies and contemporary hits," says Busch, the Dallas talk veteran who formerly was heard on WFAA and KRLD. He has done a weekend call-in program for several years over the AP radio network, but it was not heard here in his home city until the KLIF switch. Busch is also a consultant to Talkradio 1190.

He says that there was no other format left undone in this market. "That right there is a good enough reason to return to the marketplace. If KLIF had not done this, I'm convinced someone else would have."

But the general manager of KRLD-AM, the highly rated all-news station, doesn't share the enthusiasm.

"I don't think there is a very big market for a talk format in Dallas," Ed Wodka says. "There are not too many (all-talk) stations across the country that make it. Those stations that have made it are similar to KRLD — they have a very heavy news emphasis. It has a very limited appeal. That's why we do very little talk radio." KRLD has two talk shows, *Sports Central* and a late-night news call-in.

Martin Greenburg, a vice president at WFAA when talk was dropped in favor of rock, concurs. "It's a very difficult challenge. There has been no indication beyond what KRLD has already done in Dallas that there is enough of an audience to support a talk radio station here," says Greenburg, now president of locally based Duffy Broadcasting.

Talk radio can be a money maker,

but it is costly because it requires a large staff to execute properly. A music format, whether country, easy listening or contemporary, is far less expensive because albums are generally supplied by record labels and the basic staffing required is a disc jockey and an engineer.

Talk also requires commitment from a station.

"It's a slow audience building format," says Brad Woodward, news/talk editor of *Radio & Records*, a industry trade publication. "It generally takes three years before you even start to see some progress. People always say they are in it for the long haul. But I have known stations to last just three months before the plug is pulled on it. You need deep pockets. It's not for the faint of heart to get into this format."

Bennett and Price say that they are aware of the topsy-turvy road ahead and have made a commitment to stick with the talk format for at least three years. They also stressed that they will not duplicate the strategy of WFAA, which bumped heads with KRLD.

"The difference between our radio station and WFAA," says Bennett, "is that WFAA tried to be talk and a big news station. We're doing things a little differently. If you have someone like KRLD in your market, why try and play their game? Why attack their strength and not their weakness, which is they don't have a lot of talk."

Price says that it may have been WFAA's product, not the talk format itself, that was rejected by the public.

A radio executive who has worked at different all-talk stations around the country says that low ratings often have nothing to do with the quality of programs featured.

"Getting listeners to listen to a new station on the AM band is hard," says Dave Graves, general manager of all-news station KPWB-AM in Los Angeles. Until last year he was the head of operations at Chicago's WIND-AM, a talk station for seven years before it was sold and the format changed. "The problem is, you have a great store but in a mall where nobody goes. They are all over on the FM side."

Graves and other radio executives also say that if a talk station is to survive the ratings rigors it must also include a local host. KTNS doesn't have one.

"In a big city like Dallas there is enough going on to merit a local show," says Eric Meyers, assistant executive producer at KGO in San Francisco. "You have a Larry King or Michael Jackson, but you follow that up with a local host discussing local issues."

CONTINUED PAGE 15

By Carv Simpson

please refer back to the coverage map of WNNH on Page 16 of the issue of February 10, 1986 (Vol 53, Issue 18). Some interesting facts for DXers not familiar with how these coverage maps are designed may be beneficial.

The consulting engineer who prepared the map showed four contours, the 0.5 mv/m (half millivolt) or normally interference-free contour, the 2 mv/m contour, which gives sufficient service to cover cities of 2,500 or more, the 5 mv/m contour, which is the required city-grade service, and the 25 mv/m contour, which is required over the business district, or used to be required until the rules were changed. All of these contours are required for each application to the FCC.

At the bottom of the map is a shaded area within the 0.5 mv/m contour. This is an area of interference from another station. Where the 25 microvolt per meter contour of one station crosses the 0.5 mv/m of another, interference is created on a 1:20 basis. How can you deduce the location of the interfering station? Assume its 0.025 mv/m (25 microvolt) contour crosses the half millivolt at the two points where the interference disappears (where the shaded area stops). In the case of WNNH, if you assume this, and draw a perpendicular between the two points, it becomes apparent that the interfering station is to the south. Sure enough, if you look at a station list, WNNH, Providence, RI, is on the same frequency, and interferes with WNNH. WNNH had to protect WNNH when it was built, so it shoots its signal away from WNNH.

If you look closely at the contour lines, you will notice they are jagged, and not uniform curves. The FCC says that if you make field intensity measurements, you can (must) use the results in determining the location of the various contours. Where no measurements are made, the FCC's Chart M-3 is used, which has average soil conductivity for all parts of the USA, on the basis of past field strength measurements in their files.

Where measurements have been made, the FCC allows you to assume that the same conductivity will prevail 5° on each side of the radial you measured. Thus, if you look at the map, you can see that measurement radials were made in several directions, and the conductivity was different; thus the jagged contours. How many different "jags" do you count around the contour? That's how many radials were run by the consultant, measuring the conductivity and the performance of the directional antenna. I counted 13, with no measurements to the northwest. Apparently, no station is located to the northwest that had to be protected, and they had sufficient measurements to prove the directional antenna without any in that direction. So M-3 is used.

Some consulting engineers will "round" the curves, rather than showing the jagged in-and-out lines. It is important to understand that the actual contours do not jut in and out like that, but that it is simply a matter that a 10° wide path was measured out from the station with the conductivity and contour shown, and M-3 must be used in all other directions not measured.

WNNH suffers quite a bit of interference, but not as much as some stations that have been granted. In this case, the fact that they have 5,000 watts, shot away from the site in a direction away from the interfering station results in a larger percentage of interference-free area than if they had tried to use a circular pattern; they'd have lost a lot bigger part of their coverage area to interference, and probably wouldn't have been granted, even if they hadn't interfered with WNNH, which is doubtful. As it is, their signal falls off quickly to the south, southwest and southeast, so they have little service area to be interfered with and lost. And their remaining percentage of interference-free coverage remains high.

Carv Simpson  
601 Fifth Street  
Tyrone, PA 16686

From Page 14

Despite their differing formats, the two local talk stations are doing battle over the same slogan, "talkradio."

"I'm flattered that KLIF chose to copy what we started seven months ago," says KTNS's Price. "It's going to create a real problem when it comes to Arbitron. A person with a diary may say that they listen to talkradio and Arbitron could give the credit to KLIF, thereby increasing their numbers at our expense."

Bennett says the call letters KLIF are not used now in identifying the station because for five years listeners have associated them with country music. The call letters are to be eased into the station's ID.

Arlington-based KLIF is a 50,000-watt station during the day, but its power drops significantly at sunset to 5,000 watts, making it nearly impossible for listeners in extreme North Dallas to pick up the signal. On the other hand KTNS in Plano is a 5,000 watt station in the day and 1,000 at night. That signal is hard to get in the southern part of the Dallas area.

Bennett and Price say there is little they can do because the Federal Communications Commission mandates that the stations decrease power at night so as not to interfere with other stations' signals.

After all this, the two executives say that they don't regard the other's station as a competitor. To Bennett and Price, the competition for listeners is with the 45 other local stations.

"We are kind of, but not kind of, competing for the same audience," KLIF's Bennett says. "I'm glad they are in the market. Talk radio is here to stay."



The opinions expressed in this column are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editors, Publishers, or the National Radio Club, Inc., or its subsidiaries. Times are local per Muse.

~~~~~  
 We have a nice lineup of Musings this time, although none of them admit to being teenagers (this issue's theme). So we'll just dedicate this one to the teenagers at heart... Your next deadline is Mar. 28, for #25, should you care to designate your local which most likely needs to change format, followed by April 18 for your suggestions for snagging summertime DX. And let's dedicate #27 (May 23) to DX'ers living outside of North America. I'd be happy to translate Spanish to English for those who might feel uncomfortable commenting in English, by the way, in an effort to get 100% participation by our non-N. A. members. And now, on with it...

Ernie has an interesting suggestion, and I suggest we give it and my reply some careful thought...

**\*East Needs West - Maybe West Needs East, Too?\***

**Ernest Cooper** - 5 Anthony Street - Provincetown, MA - 02657 (617) 487-9337  
 Welcome to Nancy Hardy and the Western half of DEXD! I had at first wondered if it would be the carbon copy of the IRCA's Western DX Roundup, and was happy to see that it is definitely not - it's individual, or indigenous to the NRC. In the same issue as her debut, I observed a two-page Musings section. I wonder if it might not be a good idea to start an Eastern musings section, for it just might be that the Eastern members don't feel comfortable sending their words to the other side of the continent. The bulk of the active NRC members are in the Eastern and Central time zones, y'know. It might just smoke out some of the silent citizens of the Eastern half of the U. S. A. and Canada! Veries have come from WKAX-1170, WPCR-1540, WQTD-1410 (They're NOT silent, Jerry Starr!), WQEX-1150, and Capital Radio 1548, London, for a total of 4,585. DX: Sat., 2-1: Somebody on about 1235 kHz w/ Larry King at 1:45 am! MM 2-3: Off today were WSYR-570, WBAL-1090, WINS-1010, but nothing new heard. Who owns that AN OC on 870 o/WML? WLDN-830 was logged at 4:42 pm o/u WNYC/CHAM, reported. Wed. 2-5: WNZQ-1390 reported again, "Classic Country", 1:5654 am. Sat. 2-8: Unn WKOW-1420 on ET with music, ID at 1:19. MM 2-10: Looking for WDCY, u/WICH and WSSJ I heard mention of R. Caribe, La Pé, and Cuba, but I didn't ID this bird; no WDCY in heavy Aurora - the first one noted here in 15 months! Of course, no KURL-730 TEST either. Tue. 2-11: AU ex continued and I caught WBJW-950 Orlando An'ing almost in the clear where usually WPCN rules with WIEB and WJW behind. They ID as BJ-105 frequently so they must be simulcasting. Thur. 2-13: CIWW-1310 in nicely for a report, ex-CKOY, with frequent "W-1310" non-ID's. I guess they want to sound like a "Yank," with that "insignial" Fri. 2-14: WRRB-1520 was off today, nothing there. MM 2-14: WVVW-1570 test tentatively heard with TT's and, of all things, a Christmas carol! WINS-1010 was off again this morning. Tue. 2-18: My third new Orlando catch of the season at twilight in WMAA-990 5:59-6:15 antenna switchover, but no report as they were on the CBS News from 6 on. We'll try a little earlier tomorrow! Ops, back to Tue. am 2-18, a TT'er on 990 u/WNMR from 1:45 to 3:06+, say have given a few ID's, but missed here - this could have been the same WMAA by the loop direction. That's it - Happy Mothering Sunday to all (March 9). Forward - March!

**Paul Swearingen** - Canoga Park, CA

Ernie's suggestion is well-made, and I'm all for anything that (1) brings out more participation in this publication and (2) lightens my work load. When I took over this column 3+ years ago from Ernie, participation from the western members was rather light. I haven't taken the time to take an exact count, but I would venture to say that Musings from NRC's living west of the Mississippi, and especially west of the Rockies, have increased a good percentage. Now that we've established that western NRC members will participate in Musings, perhaps members would prefer to have a choice of editors to whom they could send their missives, and we could enjoy more support for this part of DX News. Furthermore, I've added two hobby publication columns plus other related free-lance duties to my weekend activities, and I wouldn't mind seeing my work load reduced a bit! // So ... we invite your comments in this column. Should you be interested in volunteering for any club duties, send them directly to Mike 'n' Sue at HQ, rather than to me. Keep in mind that I'm not trying to step down but to (ahem) share the fun. // Recent DX'ing (between the bouts with QRM) has been interesting, with the eastern clears rolling in the night of 2-27, and even a Cuban, I believe, on 610 kHz or 620; I don't remember exactly, as I dropped off about then ... that's the danger of DX'ing late at night in bed! 73.

**Jerry Starr** - c/o WHOT Radio - 401 N. Blaine - Youngstown, OH 44505

Greetings. I've meant to participate in several of the specialty Muses but never seemed to get around to it, so this will be an all-purpose one. (What, you don't admit to being a teenager?! -pls) First, a few comments on John Herman's Muse in the 12-30-85 DEX. WPCR is NOT west of the Mississippi River; it's in St. Joseph, IN; see QTH in AN Switch V93 #12. But the comment in the WEEZ verie stating that they are one of only two "w" calls west of the Miss. is still way off base. In fact, there are 27 "w" calls in that category. In OK alone there are three: WBBZ, WJLS, WKY. Neighboring TX has five: WACO,

WEAP, WFAA, WOAI, WYVA. Likewise for MO: WDAF, WEW, WFB, WIL, WFBH. In IA we find WDBC, WHO, WMI, WOI. In MN: WCAL, WCCO, WEGY, WWTG (Minneapolis is on the west bank of the river). In KS half the AM's in Topeka have "w" calls: WREN, WTBW. NE has a pair: WJAG, WOV, and in the Dakotas: WDAY, WMAX. The "K" calls in the east are more rare; there are only six: KDKA, KLV, KYW, all in PA, and KDKS, KJBB, KSTP, all in St. Paul which is on the east bank of the mighty river. All recent DX sent to DEXD. Recent v/l include: WCHP, WAGE, WJQC, WARS, WBSW, WBNR, WJCR, WBCB, WALK, WJFJ, WCRN, KNTL, WFEW, WZZZ, WQXY, WFKB, WJES, WFGN, KOBA, and one v/q from WKON. Lately I've noticed that the H2-180 was not performing like it should so I hauled out the test gear and discovered three tubes nearly dead. Two were converters and one was the mixer, no doubt accounting for the increasing lack of performance. Finding tubes isn't as easy as it used to be; ended up making a 20-mile trip to get three 6BE6's. Are these prone to early failure? I completely retubed the rx last time so all tubes are the same age, same operating time. Every 6BE6 was bad; all others tested OK. Tube prices have changed, too! List price was over \$14; luckily I got them for a bit over \$7 each. A complete by-the-book realignment brought performance back to par; what a difference! You don't notice the gradual loss of performance until it gets so bad it doesn't work. I'd almost forgotten what a good rx the 180 is. If you are using a tube rig don't forget to pull out those tubes and check them periodically if you can still find a tube tester anywhere. Fortunately, I have my own. Remember when every drug store and supermarket had one? Next project: the back-up 180. More if it happens. 73 and Good DX. See y'all in DE!!! (My thoughts will be with you, but my boss says my presence is more important at the store during our September inventory. So, no chance for a Labor Day trip for me! -pls) (By the way, does anyone have the story on why the Twin Cities K and W calls seem to have ended up on the "wrong" side of the river? -pls)

**Joe Kureth** - P. O. Box 107 - Uninc. town, MD 21157

In a recent Muse from a well-known and respected, long-time NRC member and volunteer, I would like to submit the following thoughts concerning verie/log counting. Personally I believe a DX'er has the right to keep his or her logbook any way he or she fits. I do not count a call letter change for the following reasons: if WFUN in Miami changes to WMS, but stays on 790, it in no way affects that DX'er's ability to hear that station. Personally I believe a DX'er has the right to keep his or her logbook any way he or she fits. I do not count a call letter change for the following reasons: if WFUN in Miami changes to WMS, but stays on 790, it in no way affects that DX'er's ability to hear that station. If Nancy Smith marries John Jones, she becomes Mrs. Jones, but she is still Nancy, no matter her surname. If WMS, Miami, moves to 780, that sets a new condition. WMS is now competing with WBBM instead of WJAR, R. Rebelde, or whatever. WMS or WFUN on 790 are actually the same station/logging, whereas WMS on 780 is a completely different station. My only exception is that if a station goes off the air (for any reason) and returns after a year, yes, I will count that as a new logging. For example, WPCN-1150 went off and came back with the same call letters. I counted this as a new station. Later WPCN was bought and changed calls to WMTG. WMTG is not a new station. I would like to hear any comments concerning this in Paul's column. 73 and good DX. Paul, I thought it never rained in Southern California? (Sure! Blub, glug!) -pls

**Carl DeWitt** - 501 Glendale - Ponca City, OK 74601

Greetings. Although I'm a member since April, 1984, this is my first Muse (It won't be by last. I promise). (We have witnesses to that, hi! -pls) Since this is my first Muse, an introduction is in order. I'm 34, single, and a native and life-long resident of this city. I am presently employed with K-Mart. (Omigawd! hi! -pls) I have been a DX'er since 1969 when I got started on shortwave DX. I have actively DX'ed BCB since December, 1984. My totals to date: total domestics heard: 299. Total verified: 80. Total states heard and verified: 35. Total countries heard: 13. My best foreign catches are Radio Nacional de Panama-840 and RUDH, Radio Visión-830 Medellin, Colombia. These were heard Feb. 7-8, 1986, when ionospheric disturbances apparently completely wiped out WCCO, and WHAS was greatly weakened. My best domestic DX was also hard during one DX session - Nov. 14, 1985, when KURL-730 Billings, MT and KBOI-670 Boise, ID were heard during post-S&S DX. DX here is mainly with a Sony ICF-6500w and a TRF used as a secondary receiver; a Radio West Shotgun loop is the primary antenna. 737s till next time. (Make it soon, Carl, and often, if you can -pls)

**Vic Melis** - 150 Saylor's Mill Road, R. D. #1 - Spring City, PA 19475

Fantastic! Just bought a Sony XR-A33 multi-system AM stereo car radio and what a unit! One of the first striking impressions is the "AM STEREO" in large type, next to a small "FM" on the front, directly beneath the back-lit LCD display. The XR-A33 was designed to receive the present Kahn/Hazeltine and Motorola C-Quam systems, as well as the now-defunct Harris and Magnavox systems. A second feature, which really sold me on the unit, is a rarely-found AM bandwidth selector. The "wide" bandwidth is a mode I've enjoyed for nearly 10 years on a McKay Dymek AN5 analog tuner which has dispelled many of those myths about AM's "inherent" frequency response limitations. In the narrow bandwidth mode ("mono" or "stereo normal"), the XR-A33 is much more selective than my Concord HPL-130 (former top-of-the-line digital) and Fujitsu-Ten (analog, Toyota stock) car units. Adjacent channel rejection is really impressive, even while driving within 2 miles of KYW, WZZD, and WFIL XR sites. The XR-A33 is the first unit that was able to receive WEEU-850 while in

WTEL-860's primary 10kw signal, accomplished by its "band-eliminate filter". The sensitivity according to the specifications for AM is 35uV and stereo separation is listed at 25dB at 1 kHz. The XR-A33 outperformed the Concord and Fujitsu Radio in sensitivity - WNBC, WABC, WCBS, WNEW, WINS, and WOR all came in stronger. WNBC was quite listenable even in the "STEREO WIDE" mode. Audio frequency response in this mode on both WNBC and WFIL (both using Kahn system) seemed to exceed 6 kHz via the Toyota stock speakers and no equalizer/booster amp. FM specs were also impressive. A 30-inch antenna which I clamped to the top of the hatch door eliminated all alternator whine on AM, without requiring a trimmer adjustment for shortening of length. The added height above the car body also improved FM reception. 18 memory presets (12 FM, 6 AM), scan and seek tuning and a cassette tape player with auto-reverse and Automatic Music Sensor are among the XR-A33's other features. The only shortcomings of the XR-A33 were in the audio section: relatively low 6 watts/channel, no Dolby (but does have Metal/Chrom Eq), and no line (pre-amp) outputs (but does have four speaker outputs with front/rear fader). The clock display is only visible when the radio is off, or a tape is playing. At \$199 (approx. \$229 list) from an area retail chain, I would definitely recommend this unit and rate it as above average for AM/FM selectivity and sensitivity and especially AM fidelity! P. S.: Watch out for a nearly identical Sony XR-33 ... no "A" means no AM Stereo. P. P. S.: Thanks goes to West Coast NRC'er and AM Stereo authority, Al Tobia, who recommended this unit to me during his annual Jersey visit, last month. Been a long time since my last Muse, so a brief re-intro: am 36, married, a technical writer for a telemetry/telecommunications firm, and DX'ing AM, FM, and TV since 1962. Other RX's include 2 TRF's and 3 versions of GE Superadio.

**Bill Townshend** - 4500 Conn. Ave. NW #901 - Washington, DC 20008 (202) 966-8046

On Monday 1-27 at 1305 EST, WPKX played its last country song on the air, then WCKR played "Light My Fire" by the Doors. WCKR (ex-WPKX) has classic rock (ex-country) format. At least seven stations in the DC area had multiple call-letter changes over the last 40 years. WPIK/WWR/WPKX/WCKR-730, WURL/WAVA/WABS-780, WGAY/WQMR/WGAY/WNTR-1050, WEMC/WJCK/WMTG-1150, WPCR/WEEI/WDCI-1310, WINX/WOCK/WFAN/WYCB-1340, and WFFF/WJSV/WTOP-1500. WPIK, the one-time "Sunshine Station for the Nations's Capital", started in 1946 as the DC area's first daytimer, then changed to WWR with MYL format before going "redneck" as WPKX. As for counting new stations in my log, I count a newie only if the station starts from scratch; no call-letter or freq. changes count. I may as well get my fingers in the time zone pie. GMT only in IDXD with DEXD entries in the DX'er's time zone (an Illinois DX'er making a report at 2200 local time could enter 2200. A WC DX'er reporting at 0214 could report 0214. On Saturday 2-8 Ken Mason and Bob Horwitz hosted a WADKA GTG at their midtown DC pad with 14 there including Greg Monti and yours truly. The floods in northern CA should make for interesting DX as some pests may be flooded off the air while daytimers stay on all night. Enough chatter for now. CUN 24 or whenever. 10001/137 (=73) de WPT.

**Roger Winsor** - 302 W. John - Champaign, IL 61820 CST

Many days of severe auroral cx - terrible east-west path. 2-10: KYST-920 TX ruling the roost EE spot, SS DJ 1sc 7:30 pm. 940 just a jumble and hets, not even XEZ, unknown XEHP on 950. Sure wish the NRC Log had at least border stris. They list LPKT 20 watts in the Yukon. 970 R. Mexicana over all. Where? (XELJ, Ciudad Juarez -pls) WIFAK-1000 atop WCFE with Madison County emergency management agency - same as last year, only much stronger this year. They were on at 8:00 pm and on. WPAD-930 hrd, many "Voice of the Champions" non-ID. No calls in 1/2 hour of sports. WRTH-590 IL is now adult std with live sounding announcers. Another Cuban, 1140 and 1080. Niel Wolfish: Your unID 1560 could be KING Council Bluff, IA. Clay Adamson: unID could be WIEE-1480. Speaking of 1480, WABB AL is now oldies rock - ex bbd. 2-14: xint present in WMS-790 S. Miami in o/Cuban - no WMC 6:47-7:00 fade right after ID! My 1st new Miami in 20 years. WVOK in like a ton of bricks, same pm. 7:15-7:40 pm with oldies. Really - 30 watts? 2-15: WIMJ-620 and KXOK-630 both carried the same game, each with different announcers; on 625 you could hear both - odd. Antigua-1165 nrd 2-16 7 pm or so. WEX-770 off again - must be having xr trouble - on 2-18. Is on again RS. KZIM-960 much more potent since new calls changed - they always refer to "the cape" when talking about the town. Is now csw. Total stands at 2942 and static is starting up again. Maybe I'll get WSBI. As they say in Champaign, IL, **Where Ears Find Thrills**. 73's, Rog.

**Curtis D. Engberg** - 80 Concord Road - Wayland, MA 01778

Just a brief Muse to keep from being forgotten again, hi! The new year started off with a TA bang here, as I finished my usual New Year's Eve preparation of 1040 form, drank in the New Year, and then tuned the dials for a while, beginning at 12:20 am. Germany-1593 noted strong, so started tuning down the dial. A jumble on 1584, both unID male talk and music on 1575, Switzerland-1566 had yodeling if you would believe, France-1557 good in FF, England-1546 with fair music, Germany-1539 in GG, 1521 a loud net, but I didn't try to separate audio, Poland-1503 likely the one with classical music. Nothing much further down the dial of good reception like the top end. Very little listening done because of heavy homework loads, but on Feb. 8th I made a late evening trip to Logan Airport to pick up my wife returning from several days in Washington, D. C., and on the way home I thought I noted northern lights in the sky, a rare sight in the brightly lit Greater Boston area. So I tried the radio when I got home, and it was dead as a doornail except for the relatively local stations. Nice clear receptions from southern New Hampshire stations usually having heavy competition from further stations. No evidence of any enhanced signals

from the south, though. A lot of just dead frequencies. Whoops! Note that my log has a major entry on 1-19 when Norway-1314 was in with loud EE music. Being Scandinavian, I have no trouble ID'ing Norway. 2-17: I tried for test arranged by Kermit Geary and easily-heard WWW with its interesting music although at times the interference from CKIM and XEHP made their voice ID's tough. Interesting to see yet another clergy join our rolls. I thought coming from Iowa that Fritz Mellberg might be a Lutheran, but I can't find you on any of our rosters. My wife is off to Chile and Peru next month on a Lutheran World Relief tour, so maybe I'll find a little more listening time. Would really like to be more active than I have been the past couple of years. Good spring DX to everyone.

**Dave Schweikart** - 4501 Village Drive - Fairfax, VA 22030

Our recent DX Test at WDCI-1310 was rather successful, even though we initially had trouble with our seldom-used 30-year-old backup (1 kw) transmitter. Luckily, our engineer had some spare tubes and was able to get it working in time for me to put it on the air at 1:30. I received a total of ten reports, from Massachusetts, Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, as well as a much-appreciated letter reporting a no-show, but thanking us nonetheless for doing the test. /// One of the interesting aspects of doing a DX test was seeing what kind of reception reports people write. Most reports to me were neatly written or typed, politely requesting a verification letter, and enclosed return postage. A couple were less than impressive, though - one, from a non-NRC'er who just happened upon the test, wrote a letter riddled with DX'er jargon (QSL, 73's, verie, etc.), and was written in a tone that suggested that the writer was expecting a QSL, rather than politely requesting a QSL. My advise for report writers is to send neatly written or typed reports (one I received had barely readable handwriting); give as much detail as possible; explain, as several reports to me did, that receiving verifications from stations is an important part of your hobby; politely ask for a verification; and enclose return postage. And don't riddle your report with the jargon of the hobby. Remember that "QSL", "73's", "DX", etc., mean very little to most people. /// The week of the DX test was my last at WDCI. I left to take a job as a Contracts Administrator at an area consulting firm, but plan to do some weekend air work again in the near future. If I end up at another AM station (as I think I will), I certainly will try to arrange a DX test for the NRC. /// That's it for now.

**Conrad Durocher** - Rt. 1, Box 2245 - Dickinson, TX 77539

Howdy from the world of wacky antennas. As the new landlord is not partial to overhead wires (but does think the R-2000 is "pretty"), I decided to go camouflage. Bought a 500-ft. roll of grey-covered 14 GA wire and ran it along the top of a 4-ft. high cyclone fence that surrounds the land. Unless you know it's there, you can't see it. So, y'all check out your fences, get some wire (cyclone grey?), and don't get caught, hi. I still have 200 ft. of fence left so it's back to the store. Anyway, hooked it up direct to rcvr. Not only did I snag a new one, WBYU-1210 Baton Rouge, but it's now a regular with '60's and '70's hits. Can't find it in log so waiting for updates 1, 2, and 3. Also bagged WAMB-1160 TN with big band stuff, battling it out with WJJD at 8:00 am! ... Been sitting on 700 looking for anything besides WLW. One morning I'm hearing a lively drive-time DJ; assume it's WLW, wrong! How about JBC-Jamaica at S9+20! Methinks new lw is ok. In from Kennett, MO came KBOA-830 with soft ROK, now csw as listed. S/off gave power as 10 kw. Well, got to go add 200 more feet, resurrect the 450 feet lying in the water, and maybe end up phasing a couple of wacky antennas. Later.

**\*Meandering Muse from a New Daddy DX'er\***

**Larry Cox** - 1204 Pine Street - Santa Monica, CA 90405-3928

Middle of the night of February 12 ...  
 Him: "She's crying. What time is it, anyway? Maybe we should give her a bottle."  
 Her: "No, it's the middle of the night. She's not even awake, just crying in her sleep."  
 5-10 minutes later ...  
 Him: "Well, now it sounds like she's jumping up and down in her crib and screaming, in her sleep."  
 Her: "Okay, I'll give her the bottle."  
 Him: "Gee, I wonder if that SS unID on 850 will be readable now in the KOA null since it must be after midnight and MEY will have signed off. Yep, rx is still on 850 from last night; let's see ... Nope, don't hear anything but KOA and something else too weak to worry about. What time is it, anyway? The old grandfather clock, the only timepiece which can be seen sans mandatory eyewear says 2:10. Hmmm. How about some gray-line reception from Radio Nacional de Panamá on 840? Won't even have to retweak the darn preselector on the NR0 515 or fool with the oh-so-wonderful (but rather critical to tune) mini-MDX4. Great, that's Latin music on 840, all right, but sounds a little too "ranchera" for Panama. Here comes the ID ... "XEIO" (almost a Guatemalan). Oh, well, at least it's a new Mexican, except for I really don't keep track of new stations, Mexican or otherwise, except in my head (no, I don't have a receiver in the bathroom). Well, the crying seems to have subsided. Maybe it's time to go back to bed. WAIT A MINUTE!!! I'm in the ECSS mode, lower sideband, KOA's is nulled, and my "new Mexican" is getting splashed, BY WHAT? Down to 837, retweak Mark's Miracle Box for maximum interference reduction and VOILA! My normally unreadable DU is saying, "It's four minutes before ten and we've just received a phone call

from New South Wales who wants to hear some Pat Benatar." Into Pat Benatar with a full quieting signal that is as readable as KFI, ID'ed on the hour as 4RK, time pipe and 15 minutes of news from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Check the grandfather clock (which still says 2:10) as 4RK moves into a booming radio drama program. Better move into the kitchen to see what time it really is - about 4:20 - great, I'll check 830 for KIKI and 828 for JOBS, which should be a snap under these conditions, maybe even make the IDXD. No KIKI, and only a weak het on 828. So much for real fame and glory in the DX News."

Back to the bedroom ...

Her: "Where have you been?"

Him: "Just nabbed Australia with a signal you wouldn't believe!"

Her: "Who cares? Go to sleep."

Credits: Alexandra Lee Cox, age 14 months; mini (non-amplified) Cornelly phasing unit and a pair of parallel triangular loops, approximately 200 feet in total length, one loop shorted (to itself) and the other left open (i. e., terminated to an egg insulator). NOTE - once I made the loops "nonidentical" in this fashion the phasing unit really began to do its stuff.

The following night ...

Same signal from my daughter in the adjoining bedroom. Check the clock on the wife's nightstand which indicated 4:05 and curiosity got the better of me. Sneaked into the front room, but it sounded like high noon on 837; even the carrier on that freq was way, way down.

Down to 830 where I was greeted by what sounded to my untrained ear like Kiribatese Islanders doing a Zulu war chant. Any ideas? Changed the pattern on the antennas and there was KIKI loud and clear.

Keep those West Coast Muses coming. Was able to impress my wife with Greg Hardison's Muse - we are both big fans of the Ken and Bob Company and Dennis Prager. 73's. (And I'm impressed by YOUR Muse, Larry; thanks -pls)

### \*Geomagnetic Storm Disrupts Skywave Reception\*

William C. Moser - Box 245 - Wishek, ND 58495

The geomagnetic storm on February 8 (reported on page 23 of Issue #20) had a dramatic effect on AM reception at this location. Virtually all skywave reception of AM stations in the United States was eliminated, leaving only southern border stations and Spanish broadcasters besides my locals. Although I know some Spanish, I didn't have the time or the patience to identify the SS programming on many frequencies, including 1400. But I did get an excellent report for KUWT, 1550, in Tucson. This station had an estimated S/5 signal with only minor interference from the KQWB groundwave. Verification of this reception was received today, my 1483rd verie of of AM stations. Although the night sky was overcast, the aurora was so bright that it could be easily seen through the clouds. If it had been a clear night, it would have been a spectacular sight. There were only 2 other receptions during February worth noting. On February 4, I finally heard KSP0-1050 giving wx and going into E2L music at 7:05 pm CST. On February 16, I was surprised to find a strong signal from CJCL on 1430. At 6:03 pm, CST, there was a BN newscast. This was followed by wx and MYL music. Milder weather is now resulting in deteriorating E2B conditions. The AM DX season is almost over, and soon I'll be concentrating on my second DX love - FM. Thanks to all NRC club members for their help in making this season a good one for me. Have a happy Passover/Easter, and 73's from Dakota Territory!

Wally Wawro - 4641 Elderberry Drive - Garland, TX 75043-2112

Hello from Texas, currently celebrating its 150th anniversary of statehood. The DX season on this end has been practically nonexistent! Unless you call listening to KRVN-880 on the way to work or WIS-890 on the way back real DX, I have been rather inactive this year due to work and free-lance activities. My most interesting assignments of late have been radio-related and I guess are worth mentioning. For the last few years I've written and produced sales presentations for the Satellite Music Network. These are the cassette demo tapes they send prospective clients who are considering the network as a programming source. So if your favorite station suddenly affiliates with the Star Station or Country Coast-to-Coast, I guess I've done my job. And, I just recently finished a similar sales presentation for MOYL ... The Music of Your Life. Both SNN and MOYL have their sales offices in Dallas, and I'm happy to say both are repeat clients. Question, why do the initials MOYL seem to strike fear into the hearts of certain DX'ers (hi)? I'm also working on an ongoing project for KGIO-KRAV, Tulsa, writing and producing contest promotions for KRAV. One of the ideas we used this past fall ... London and Rolex times Two. His and hers Rolex watches, and a trip to London to set 'em to Big Ben. If you have access to the March, 1986 "Audio" magazine, please note the ad on pages 14 and 15 for the CARVER TX-11a AM Stereo/FM stereo tuner, claiming an extremely high quality AM Stereo tuner section. No price is mentioned, and I assume that the AM tuning is in 10 kHz increments, but I'm impressed ... that's the first ad for a tuner I've seen that emphasizes AM performance. Tony Fitzherbert tells me he's about ready to start his profile on KLIF-1190, which recently switched to an all-talk format. They feature sports talk in morning drive, a switch from what a lot of stations do with that type of program, and it makes for enjoyable listening while sitting in Dallas traffic (and more relevant than the hog prices on KGVN). KAAM-1310 is switching to MOYL on March 8 after 3 years as a rock oldies station. They will be one of the few AM stereo MOYL stations. By the way, the AM stereo count in North Texas is as follows: KAAM is the only Kahn station, KRQX-570, KPBC-1040, and KMEZ-1480 are all C-Quan,

as are KGTN-990 in Wichita Falls and KTBB-600 in Tyler. The chief at WBAP tells me they have no plans to go stereo at present, but he would like reports from the North and Northeast, especially if CHAM-820 has become the dominant station in your area. Reports should go to Charles Staples at WBAP Radio, 1 Broadcast Hill, Fort Worth, TX 76103. Finally, the National Association of Broadcasters convention is in Dallas this year, in Mid-April. I would be more than happy to offer tours of the WFAA-TV/KRQX-AM/KZEW-FM complex to interested NRC'ers attending the convention, especially since we're only two blocks from the convention site. If you'll be in town I'd like the opportunity to meet you. Just give me some advance warning since I'll be doing some shopping at the convention, so to speak. Contact me at WFAA-TV, Communications Center, Dallas, TX 75202, (214) 977-6260. I hope the remainder of the DX season is good to you and all the best comes your way in 1986. Thanks!

Radio Club Goes on Tour Via the Atraveses

## Ralston Students Tune In to the World

By John Melingagio

World-Herald Staff Writer

Eight students say they have visited the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Nicaragua, Norway, Canada and other countries without leaving their hometown of Ralston.

The students have been touring the world via the airwaves of the Ralston Radio Club. The club is based at the Ralston Middle School. It includes students from the middle school and Ralston High School.

Like the varying radio frequencies, students join the club for different reasons, said Martin Lesch, a life science instructor at the middle school who is the club's sponsor.

Club members said they became involved with amateur radio to broadcast and listen to other stations or correspond with employees of the stations. The students also build and design radios and antennas.

Lesch said some of his students learned to write in foreign languages to correspond with stations. He said others completed requirements to earn an amateur radio license.

### School Courses

The students said they listen to hundreds of stations.

Lesch said students keep a log of where the broadcast originates, the time of the transmission, the frequency of its broadcast, broadcast highlights and the quality of the transmission.

The students said they enjoyed listening to radio because they follow current events and cultural aspects of other countries. They said it also was interesting to hear how other countries view Americans.

The students said the information also helped them with school courses.

Jeff Lesch, a 15-year-old freshman, said that through a Haitian radio station he monitored the political unrest that led to the departure of Haitian President-for-Life Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

The students said they gained cultural insights through the stations' music, political messages and what the stations say or do not say.

Some of the stations "blanket the media," Lesch said.

"They really hold back on the information or tell you what they want you to know," he said. "Radio Moscow stated that the Soviet Union had zero unemployment."

The students said some of the stations criticized Americans. Lesch said that was evident a few years ago when his students monitored Iranian radio stations during the hostage crisis.

The students said anti-American propaganda was evident on broadcasts from countries such as Libya, Cuba and Nicaragua.

After listening to the stations, some of the students wrote them to collect Q.S.L. cards. Q.S.L. is a universal amateur radio code for verification, Lesch said.

Lesch said the students send information from their logs, along with comments and criticism about programming, to the stations. The stations then return a card or letter verifying the reception of the broadcast.

The students said they sometimes received more than they requested, including stamps or foreign currency. Lesch said he received a pro-Castro Cuban station's Q.S.L. making him a "member in good standing in the revolutionary army's fight for freedom."



Parts of the Ralston Radio Club. The image depicts various radio club members who are involved in the club's activities. From left, Cliff Frick, Dan Sprague, Bill Gammage, Joe Cooper and Paul Peterson.

The students said mail they received from communist countries was always open when they received it.

The students said they also had corresponded with "pirate" and "spy" stations.

### Numerical Codes

Pirate stations operate illegally for profit or political reasons, said Jay Hokanson, an engineer at Nebraska's Federal Communications Commission office in Grand Island.

Hokanson said it was not illegal for the students to correspond with them, only for the station to broadcast. The pirates correspond through mail drops where a middleman accepts the letters and forwards them to the station operator.

Spy stations broadcast in what the students assume are numerical codes, Lesch said.

Lesch said Ralston students have been involved with the club for six years. He said he teaches amateur radio classes and brings some of his equipment to school.

"It happens every year," he said. "A few students see the radios and say 'What's this?' Pretty soon they're hooked on it."

# NOT JUST ANOTHER SMALL-TOWN STATION

On the edge of a crowded market, WZAL has lots going against it. Yet the station is a great success.

As a teenager, Jim DeVan landed a summer job with WKLS radio in Atlanta. To meet Federal Communications Commission regulations, the station dispatched DeVan to its antenna tower and transmitter on a Cobb County hilltop. There it was his duty to monitor the power and fidelity of the station's signal by reading a set of meters. "It was sort of a monastic existence," DeVan recalls. "I'd switch on the station at 6 a.m. and stay out there all day taking readings."



The secret in radio is to specialize, says Jim DeVan, and our specialty is Henry County.

That led DeVan to other part-time radio work in high school and college, until he graduated from Emory University with an MBA in 1972. Then he took a management position with WWNS in Statesboro. "I was the only guy in my class that didn't go to work for a Fortune 500 company," DeVan says. "But once you get hooked by radio, you're hooked for life."

Today, the 37-year-old DeVan is president of McDonough's WZAL, the only station in Henry County. By radio industry standards, WZAL

The Media Establishment appears quarterly in GEORGIA TREND.

Johannes Buerette photographs

would seem a dubious property. Licensed by the FCC as a daytime 2,500-watt AM station, it is not only a midget compared to the 100,000-watt giants that rule the air, but it is on the wrong band — AM has lost 71% of the listening audience to FM, according to recent studies. Just 35 miles south of Atlanta, WZAL is also within one of the country's most "over-radioed" markets.

WZAL was floundering in 1980, when DeVan, his wife, Karen, and a partner, Richard Moore, purchased the station for about \$200,000. "When we came in we were looking

at a nut each month of \$10,000, but the month before the station had taken in just \$1,750," DeVan says. "It was definitely a turnaround situation."

And DeVan has turned it around. (Moore, who retains a minority interest in the station, has been occupied elsewhere during the past four years, as press secretary for U.S. Sen. Mack Mattingly.) He has pushed monthly revenues as high as \$18,400, and the station's value has doubled. Last summer, the Georgia Association of Broadcasters named WZAL the best operation of its size in the state.

One reason for WZAL's success stems from being in the right spot: Henry County, whose population has jumped to 45,000 from 35,000 since 1980. Says DeVan, "The station has grown with the county." DeVan has also transformed what appears to be a liability for WZAL — its position on the fringe of Atlanta's radio market — into an advantage. "The secret in radio is to specialize," he says, "and our specialty is Henry County. Atlanta stations come booming into the county, and we can't compete with their wall-to-wall music. But none of them pay much attention to what's happening here; and that's where we can compete."

Up to 25% of WZAL's programming is coverage of local meetings, police blotter reports, school announcements and so on. "This makes us the station to listen to in Henry County for people with a stake in the community," DeVan says. "We still have a hard time reaching the guy who works in Atlanta and only sleeps here."

WZAL, with its license restrictions, is not a limitless vehicle for growth. DeVan expects annual revenues to "top-out" around \$250,000 by 1990, when he may buy another small station or "trade up" for a bigger one. But for now he's happy at WZAL. "I like small-town radio," DeVan says. "In Atlanta, two bad ratings books and you're fired."

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