

# DX News

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Volume 63, No. 17 - January 29, 1996 (ISSN 0737-1659)



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### CPC Test Calendar

KTRK	MD	1670	Jan. 15+	0000-0000
KGYN	OK	1210	Jan. 29	0300-0400
KYUK	AK	640	Feb. 3	0400-0430
HCJB	ECU	690	Feb. 4	0100-0115
KFQD	AK	750	Feb. 4	0400-0430
KYAK	AK	650	Feb. 4	0400-0500
WPWA	PA	1590	Feb. 5	0000-0030
WOOW	NC	1340	Feb. 5	0100-0130
WABB	AL	1480	Feb. 5	0300-0400
WTCY	PA	1400	Feb. 10	0200-0230
WNNC	NC	1230	Feb. 12	0000-0030
WGAI	NC	560	Feb. 12	0100-0130
KBOZ	MT	1090	Feb. 12	0230-0300
WBSR	FL	1450	Feb. 17	0100-0200
WFNR	VA	710	Feb. 18	0015-0100
WNAK	PA	730	Feb. 18	0330-0400
WIRC	NC	630	Feb. 19	0000-0003
WLWL	NC	770	Feb. 19	0100-0130
CJYQ	NF	930	Feb. 24	0100-0200
KCSR	NE	610	Feb. 24	0200-0230
WTLA	NY	1200	Feb. 24	0200-0230
KVNU	UT	610	Feb. 25	0230-0300
KSIM	MO	1400	Feb. 26	0100-0130
KONA	WA	610	Feb. 26	0400-0430
HCJB	ECU	690	March 3	0100-0115
KBSU	ID	730	March 4	0200-0300
WSBA	PA	910	March 25	0030-0130
HCJB	ECU	690	April 7	0015-0030

**KFQD-750** - 9200 - Lake Otis Parkway - Anchorage, AK 99507 will conduct a DX test on Sunday morning, February 4, between 4 and 4:30 am EST. The test will be operated at 50,000 watts and will include tones and Morse code ID's. Please send reception reports to Mr. Greg Wilkinson. Arranged by the National Radio Club CPC.

**WPWA-1590** - 12 Kent Road - Aston, PA 19014 will conduct a rescheduled DX test between 12:00 and 12:30 am EST on Monday, February 5. The test will include Morse code. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. Lloyd B. Roach (K3QNT) President. Arranged by J. D. Stephens for the IRCA CPC.

**WOOW-1340** - 310 Evans Street - Greenville, NC 27835 will conduct a rescheduled DX test between 1:00 and 1:30 am EST on Monday, February 5. The test will include Morse code IDs, test tones, polkas, and march music. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. Eugene Underwood (KE4JZV) Engineer.

Arranged by J. D. Stephens for the IRCA CPC.

**WGAI-560** - P.O. Box 1408 - Elizabeth City, NC 27909 will conduct a DX test on Monday morning February 12 between 1:00 and 1:30 am EST. The test will include Morse code IDs. Please send reception reports to Mr. Bob Carter. Arranged by the National Radio Club CPC.

**KBOZ-1090** - 5445 Johnson Road - Bozeman, MT 59715 will conduct a rescheduled DX test between 2:30 and 3:00 am EST, Monday, February 12. The test will include country music, Morse code IDs, and voice IDs. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. James A. Bender. Arranged by J. D. Stephens for the IRCA CPC.

**WBSR-1450** - P.O. Box 8057 - Pensacola, FL 32505 will conduct a DX test between 1:00 and 2:00 am EST Saturday, February 17. The test will include Morse code ID's and oldies music. Reception reports may be sent to: Mr. Geoff Elkins, Assistant Program Director. Arranged by J. D. Stephens for the IRCA CPC.

**WFNR-710** - 485 Tower Rd., Christiansburg, VA 24073 will conduct a DX test on Sunday morning, February 18, between 12:15 and 1:00 am EST. The test will be run at 500 watts from 12:15 to 12:45 and at 10,000 watts from 12:45 to past 1:00 am. The test will include rock music and Morse code IDs. Please send reception reports to Mr. Bob Travis. Arranged by the National Radio Club CPC.

**WNAK-730** - 84 S. Prospect St. - Nanticoke, PA 18634 will conduct a DX test on Sunday morning, February 18 between 3:30 and 4:00 am EST. The test will be run at 1000 watts and will include Morse

*(continued on page two)*

### DX Time Machine

From the pages of *DX News*:

50 years ago ... from the February 2, 1946 DXN: HCJB's first DX broadcast ever was scheduled for Feb. 3 from 3 to 6 am on 974 kcs with 1000 watts.

25 years ago ... from the January 30, 1971 DXN: Jim Critchett, San Diego, CA reported veries from KBOI-670, KT WO-1030, KPNW-1120, KZOO-1210, KSWW-1250, KREL-1370, KPUR-1440, KMND-1510, KECK-1530, 4QD-1550, and KVIO-1600.

10 years ago ... from the January 27, 1985 DXN: Malcolm Maxwell reviewed the Sparkomatic SR430 ... Linda Brodsky, Malverne, NY reported a new receiver, a Kenwood R-2000.

(continued from page one)

code IDs, big band, vocals, and some c&w music. Please send reception reports to Mr. Robert W. Neilson/General Manager. Arranged by the National Radio Club CPC.

**WLWL-770** - P.O. Box 1536 - Rockingham, NC 28380 will conduct a DX test on Monday morning February 19 between 1:00 and 1:30 am EST. The test will be conducted at 5,000 watts and will include Morse code IDs and music. Please send reception reports to Mr. Keith Davis. Arranged by the National Radio Club CPC

**CJYQ-930** - P.O. Box 8010 - St. Johns, NF, A1B 3M7 Canada will conduct a DX test between 1:00 and 2:00 am EST, Saturday, February 24. The test will include oldies music, voice IDs, and Morse code IDs. The power will be 50 kW using a nondirectional antenna pattern. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. Andy Newman, Program Director. (Arranged by J. D. Stephens for the IRCA CPC.

**KCSR-610** - 226 Bordeaux St. - Chadron, NE 69337 will conduct a DX test on Saturday morning, February 24, between 2:00 and 2:30 am EST. The test will be run at 136 watts and will include polkas and Morse code IDs. Please send reception reports to Mr. Jeff Wing. Arranged by the National Radio Club CPC.

**WTLA-1200** - P.O. Box 781 - Utica, NY 13503 will conduct a DX test between 2:00 and 2:30 am EST, Saturday, February 24. The test will include test tones, voice IDs, and Morse code IDs at 50 kW using a nondirectional antenna pattern. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. Dave Doughty - Chief Engineer. Arranged by J. D. Stephens for the IRCA CPC.

**KVNU-610** - P.O. Box 267 - Logan, UT 84323 will conduct a DX test on Sunday morning, February 25, between 2:30 and 3:00 am EST. The test will be run at 1000 watts and will include Morse code IDs and something "distinctive". Please send reception reports to F. S. Weller. Arranged by the National Radio Club CPC.

**KSIM-1400** - P.O. Box 1610 - Cape Girardeau, MO 63702 will conduct a DX test between 1:00 and 1:30 am EST. on Monday, February 26. The test will include test tones, voice IDs, Morse code IDs, and an unspecified selection of music. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. Dave Obergonner Director of Engineering. Arranged by J. D. Stephens for the IRCA CPC.

**KONA-610** - P.O. Box 2623 - Tri-Cities, WA 99302 will conduct a DX test on Monday morning, February 26 between 4:00 and 4:30 am EST. The test will include Morse code IDs and talk. Please send

reception reports to Mr. Art Blum, Chief Engineer. Arranged by the National Radio Club CPC.

**KBSU-730** - 1910 University Drive - Boise, ID 83725 will conduct a DX test on March 4 between 2:00 and 3:00 am EST. The test will include march music, voice IDs, test tones, and Morse code IDs. at 15 kW on their daytime antenna pattern. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. Ralph Hogan, Director of Engineering. Arranged by J. D. Stephens for the IRCA CPC.

**WSBA-910** - P.O. Box 910 - York, PA 17405 will conduct a DX test between 12:30 and 1:30 am EST on Monday, March 25. The test will include voice IDs, test tones, and Morse code IDs. Reception reports may be sent to Mr. Steve Johnston, Engineering Manager. Arranged by J. D. Stephens for the IRCA CPC.

*From the publisher ...* Although it took me hours more than usual, I had fun with this issue, as several of the columns must be buried in a snow-bank or floating down a river somewhere. And I have NOTHING on file except old clippings; the cupboard is bare.

Fred Vobbe sends word that the right price for the AA001 tape will be \$5.00 instead of \$10.00. This is the "Ladies On the Air" aircheck tape mentioned on the front page of #14.

Fred will be talking about the National Radio Club and the DX Audio Service on the Al Wisk Show, on WBAP-820 in Fort Worth, Friday evening, February 2. Fred would like any members that can contribute to the show to call and talk about what the hobby is like, the furthest-distance station they have ever heard, and whatever comes up. The numbers for members to call in on: 817-787-1820 or 1-800-288-9227. Earliest start time would be 10:30pm Central (11:30 Eastern)

Finally, a tech tip from Mark Burns: "I've never liked the plastic flip-down legs on my R-8. I've broken two, which necessitated replacement. The R-8A has a metal tilt bail which is much more sturdy. I called Drake, and they said that the metal tilt bail would retrofit onto the R-8. It cost \$30 plus \$8 shipping/handling and arrived in 1.5 weeks. I'm much more satisfied with the tilt bail, and other R-8 owners may be interested."

*Welcome to these new members ...* William Edward Henderson, Jr. K4LEO, Greenville, SC; Noel Burton, Danville, VA; Ellis A. Essig KB2NT, Madison, NJ; Elizabeth Muhleisen, New Orleans, LA; Gregory A. Hart AD4RE, Live Oak, FL; Charles Hasz, Berkeley Heights, NJ; Daniel J. Dodson, Methuen, MA (rejoins); Edward F. Gehringer, Raleigh, NC (rejoins); and George Hakiel, West Islip, NY (rejoins).



The **NRC AM Radio Log, 16th Edition**, compiled from members' reports and from official sources so that it is the most accurate listing of AM stations on the market. Cross-referenced, 3-hole punched for standard binders. Only \$16.95 to U. S. and Canadian members; \$22.95 to U. S. and Canadian non-NRC members. Airmail to members: to Latin America, \$21.00; Europe, \$24.00; rest of the world: \$28.00. Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax)

## Domestic DX Digest

**West: Bill Hale** billhale@micron.net

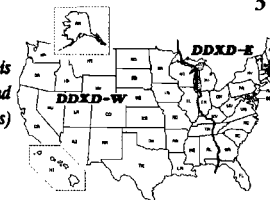
495 Creekview Drive - Meridian, ID 83642-3241

**East: David Yocis** DavidYocis@AOL.com

203 East Avenue - Norwalk, CT 06855-1299

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

(Division line is  
between East and  
Central time zones)



Reports are starting to flow in here ... remember to keep your loggings current. Personally, I find tips most useful when they give information that helps to ID a station, so tell us how you IDed them: call letters, local mentions, etc.

Deadlines are usually Tuesdays: January 30, then two Mondays: February 5 and 12, then Tuesdays again thereafter.

### SPECIAL

**1110 WPMZ RI East Providence** - Powers down late, according to Craig Healy. (RM-CT) [Often dominant here early evenings, inaudible later. - DY]

**1120 WBIS CT Bristol** - Another station that doesn't know how to power down. (RM-CT) [You mean WPRX? - DY]

**1270 WSPR MA Springfield** - Another station that doesn't know how to power down. (RM-CT)

**1480 WKND CT Windsor** - Two towers from WIXY are lying on the ground waiting to be installed. Fooling around with the wetlands stopped progress, as well as a blizzard. Supposedly on 150 watts ND (yeah, right). Usually on to 1800, sometimes carrier left on AN. (RM-CT) [Never hear a peep out of them down here. - DY]

**1550 WKQV PA Pittston** - 1/8 1945-2000 - With One-on-One Sports and ID: "You're listening to the most powerful AM radio station in Northeast Pennsylvania, with 10,000 watts of power, WKQV and WARD in Pittston." Call change, format change? Could be Jim Renfrew's unID in no. 2. (RWT-MA) [Called the station on 1/17; the person answering the phone said that the call letters have indeed changed to WKQV, but they sometimes say "WARD" on the air "to let people know it's still the same station." And they do indeed run One-on-One Sports until 0530. Please also note new phone number: 717/451-1621. - DY]

**1660 WJDM NJ Elizabeth** - Industry reports via Internet suggest that WJDM-1660 will go to R. Aahs programming on or after 2/1, while 1530 will continue its current format. Children's Broadcasting Corp. has filed a letter of intent to purchase both frequencies from John Quinn for \$11.5 million. (Via MH-NC)

### DX TESTS

**1170 CKGY AB Red Deer** - 12/30 0200-0400 - Possible tones noted 0254, 0308, but nothing identifiable. (KVJ-GA)

### UNID and UNID HELP

**850 UNID** 1/2 1752 - SS programming in briefly for about five minutes. Female host speaking in SS, KOA not heard. (RCP-IN) [KEYH, perhaps, or a Mexican? - DY]

**930 WREB MA Holyoke** - Re DY-CT's unID here in no. 9, station was sold at auction a couple of years ago and equipment is gone. (RM-CT)

### LOGGINGS: 0000-0800 ELT

**540 CBK SK Regina** - 1/11 0643 - Poor with relay of Australian Broadcasting Corporation, local IDs at 0645 and 0658, with studio, power, and relay info 0658. SK no. 3. (CS-ON)

**600 WSOM OH Salem** - 12/21 0642 - Fair with "I'll be Home for Christmas" and "Little Drummer Boy." (CS-ON)

**730 WPAL SC Charleston** - 12/24 0114 - Poor with light UC. (CS-ON)  
**CJNR ON Blind River** - 12/21 0650 - Poor with ID as "AM-1340" (relay of CKNR-1340). (CS-ON)

**970 WWIT NC Canton** - 12/26 0640 - Promo, ID, oldies. (RJE-PA)

**1000 WRNJ NJ Hackettstown** - 1/4 0730 - Brief surface exactly at sign-on, under WMVP, CKBW. (BF-MA)

- 1440 WAJR WV Morgantown - 1/13 0013 - Promo for program "at 5:30 on AM 1440, WAJR," fair in mess. (DY-CT)
- 1550 WCVL IN Crawfordville - 1/4 0542 - Weather-related cancellations, much talk about snowy weather. Believe I heard a dual ID, but could not make out the other station. (KVJ-GA)
- KAAY**  
RADIO 1090
- LOGGINGS: 0800-1600 ELT**
- 540 CBK SK Regina - 12/28 0803 - CBC news, weather given for all the Canadian provinces, very good until 0816 fade-out. (RCP-IN)
- 660 WESC SC Greenville - 1/1 0822 - C&W, Johnny Rodriguez song "Riding My Thumb to Mexico." First new station in '96. (RCP-IN)
- 830 WKTX OH Cortland - 12/21 0800 - Poor with Walter Ostanek polka music in WCCO null. (CS-ON)
- 870 WMTL KY Leitchfield - 1/8 1315 - Frequent IDs, song by Randy Travis, barely audible at times. Nice to hear something besides WWL here. (RCP-IN)
- 1070 WZBZ NY Plattsburgh - 12/31 1200-1205 - CBS news, weather for Burlington-Plattsburgh area. Very unusual for midday. (BF-MA)
- 1200 WTLA NY North Syracuse - 1/11 1230 - Weak in WHAM slop with NOS format and WTLA/WTLB calls. Lo and behold, it was // 1310 too! (JR-NY)
- 1290 WQMS SC Sumter - 1/1 0803 - Weak, promo for "Family Forum" program, gospel music. (KVJ-GA) [Log lists this as WQMC. - DY]
- 1330 WZCT AL Scottsboro - 1/6 1100 - Fair with semi-local WKZD nulled, with gospel music. A new daytime catch - rare! (KVJ-GA)
- WKTA IL Evanston - 12/28 0900 - Fair with "WKTA Evanston- Northbrook-Chicago" legal ID on hour; eastern European language programming before and after, in WFLP null. (CS-ON)
- 1390 WEOK NY Poughkeepsie - 1/4 0816 - Poor with weather (they've got Hudson Valley sunshine!), Laurie Bower Singers type of music. (CS-ON)
- WKDR VT Burlington - 1/4 0810 - Poor with weather, DJs talking about all of the prizes they're giving away. VT #1 and state 36! (CS-ON)
- 1440 WHIS WV Bluefield - 1/4 0823 - Very poor with ID as "AM 1440 WHIS." (CS-ON)

**LOGGINGS: 1600-2400 ELT**

- 550 WGR NY Buffalo - 12/31 2145 - Football scores, sports news. (WM-MD)
- 610 WZZK AL Birmingham - 12/30 1748 - ID as "WZZK 104," D.J.'s name John Stevens, song "God Bless Texas," fair under WDAF. (RCP-IN)
- 620 WRJZ TN Knoxville - 1/4 1745 - REL format, song by female singer, ID, fair in mess. (RCP-IN)
- 670 WMAQ IL Chicago - 12/29 1610-1645 - Traffic report and weather. Very unusual to get them while the sun is still shining. (BF-MA)
- 680 WPTF NC Raleigh - 12/29 1605-1615 - On top of WRKO with radio pointed to the southwest. Ad for Saturn of Chapel Hill and Raleigh during the Tom Joiner(?) talk show, also an ad for Winn Dixie grocery store. Can be heard under WRKO but first time ever in this well. (BF-MA)
- 730 WJMT WI Merrill - 1/4 1812 - Local news and obituaries, McDonalds of Merrill ad, poor, much fading. (RCP-IN)
- 780 WWOL NC Forest City - 1/3 1730 - Fair with signoff with "My Country 'Tis of Thee," in WBBM null. (CS-ON)
- 830 WETR NC Eden - 12/28 2045 - "Entertainment Radio," then song "Oh, What a Night." (WM-MD)
- 880 KRVN NE Lexington - 1/2 1742 - C&W format, song "Under This Old Hat," in briefly but with many IDs. First time heard here, usually WCBS. (RCP-IN)
- 890 WHNC NC Henderson - 1/12 2230 - Strong with sign-off announcement, mentions tune to 1340, gave Oxford address. (JR-NY)
- 900 WBGT VA Staunton - 1/1 2350 - C&W music, underneath talk show. (WM-MD) [William, I have this listed as WINF, and the format as NWS. Did you hear an ID? - DY]
- 910 WABI ME Bangor - 12/27 2055 - NOS music, song "In the Mood." (WM-MD)
- WRVH VA Richmond - 12/29 1910 - Briefly heard, ID at top of hour. (RCP-IN)
- CKLY ON Lindsay - 1/2 2010 - High school hockey game, ID. (WM-MD)
- 920 WMMN WV Fairmont - 1/11 2313 - CNN radio. (WM-MD)

- 940 WFAW WI Fort Atkinson - 11/5 2025 - High school basketball, White Water Whippets vs. Waterford Wolverines, fair on peaks. (RCP-IN)
- 950 KXJK AR Forrest City - 12/29 1755 - Paul Harvey's "Rest of the Story," temperature "36 degrees at KXJK," very good signal over local WXLW at times. (RCP-IN)
- WXGI VA Richmond - 1/11 2200 - C&W music, then NBC news, ID. (WM-MD)
- 960 WERC AL Birmingham - 1/3 1800 - Sportstalk, TC, full ID, news. (RJE-PA)
- WRNS NC Kinston - 1/10 1750 - C&W, weather, traffic, promo. (RJE-PA)
- 970 WWYO WV Pineville - 1/11 1745 - C&W, promo, partial ID. (RJE-PA)
- 1000 KTOK OK Oklahoma City - 12/29 1740 - Local ad for Woodcrafters, Lincoln-Mercury ad, then drive time traffic report, good in WMVP null. (RCP-IN)
- 1040 WJTB OH North Ridgeville - 1/12 1615 - Religious show ended, followed by ID "WJTB North Ridgeville ..." then a few seconds later "AM 1040 WJTB," into another religious show. (JR-NJ)
- 1050 WCMS VA Norfolk - 1/1 2110 - C&W music underneath kid show. (WM-MD)
- 1070 WIBC IN Indianapolis - 1/15 1900 - ID, call letters, "Radio Indiana," news on the hour, mention of snow and ice. (WM-MD)
- 1200 WCHB MI Taylor - 1/12 1606 - Broadcast from the North American auto show, with a couple of "AM 1200 WCHB" IDs and mention of the WCHB table at the show. Surprised to find this instead of WRKK, which I thought was on the air. (JR-NJ)
- 1270 CJCB NS Sydney - 1/8 2050 - Hootie and the Blowfish song, adult contemporary music. (WM-MD)
- 1280 WHVR PA Hanover - 12/31 1619-1633 - Rock oldies, NBC news, "Hanover's news, talk, and entertainment station." (KVJ-GA)
- WKST PA New Castle - 1/3 1600 - "This is Newsradio 1280, WKST," female announcer, "1280 WKST" ID. WHVR mixing in/out this day as well. (KVJ-GA)
- 1290 WCBL KY Benton - 12/28 1809 - Live coverage of "Holiday Classic" basketball, "You're listening to WCBL Sports," ads for State Farm Insurance, Country Chevrolet. (KVJ-GA)
- 1300 WOAD MS Jackson - 1/4 2015 - "The All-New Gospel 1300, WOAD, playing gospel hits and oldies all day." (KVJ-GA)
- WKCY VA Harrisonburg - 12/30 1630-1644 - "The News Station," AP net news, numerous PSAs, "K-C-Y AM 1300" ID. (KVJ-GA)
- 1310 WJRA AL Priceville - 12/28 1747 - Sign-off, mentioning sign-on "... at sunrise tomorrow," weak signal, new. (KVJ-GA)
- WTIK NC Durham - 1/8 1713 - In mess with end of 15 minute REL segment, brief ID and mention of "the Triangle" before beginning next segment. (JR-NY)
- 1320 WMSR TN Manchester - 1/4 1958 - Sign-off noted at this odd time, with "Your information station, AM 1320," and mention of 6 a.m. sign-on. (KVJ-GA)
- 1370 WLLN NC Lillington - 1/4 1710 - "AM Christian 1370," Goodyear ad, contest promo, Christian country format. (KVJ-GA)
- 1460 WCMB PA Harrisburg - 1/5 2135 - Tom Leykis show, poor. (WM-MD)
- WEMR PA Tunkhannock - 12/18 1630 - Music, full sign-off. (RJE-PA)
- 1530 WLSP MI Lapeer - 12/22 1700 - With full sign-off. (RJE-PA)
- 1540 KXEL IA Waterloo - 1/12 2250 - Ray Charles song, NOS music. (WM-MD)
- 1570 WIFF IN Auburn - 1/13 1820 - Sports talk show, mention of Green Bay Packers, poor. (WM-MD)
- 1590 WAKR OH Akron - 12/29 2215 - Colorado State vs. Kansas State football in Holiday Bowl. (WM-MD)

**TIS AND MISCELLANEOUS**

- 530 KPD686 NJ NJ Side of NJ/PA Turnpike Connector Bridge - This one includes the usual continuous loop plus a piece detailing where the next transmitter site/frequency can be found going north or south. (RJE-PA)
- 1610 KPD688 NJ NJ Turnpike Exit 7 - Usual continuous loop. (RJE-PA)
- 1639 "PX" MD Berlin - 12/26 2100 - Sending holiday greetings. This is in every night, so to speak, with 100 mw. (Question for NAP-AL: What's that in watts per mile, hi?) V/I and QSL card back in a week. Thanks to Rich Bosse for IDing location. (RM-CT)
- 1689.4 "PC" CT Harwinton - Heard fairly regularly from a site near the WSN6-610 transmitter. Pure groundwave here, 100 mw. QSLed last year, Bosse helped with this one too. (RM-CT)

## REPORTERS

Russ J. Edmunds Blue Bell PA: Nissan auto radio, whip  
 Bill Fortier Worcester MA: GE Superadio III, Delco car radio  
 Mike Hardester Jacksonville NC: Surfing the 'net  
 Karl V. Jeter Lawrenceville GA: Realistic TRF, Quantum loop  
 William McGuire Cheverly MD: Realistic DX-380  
 Ron Musco Poquonock CT: AMELCO R-390A/URR, MWDX-5 phasor, LWs  
 Richard C. Pote Greenwood IN: Drake R-8A, Quantum loop  
 Jim Renfrew Rochester NY: Drake R-8, SM-1 loop  
 Jeff Ross Flemington NJ: Drake R-8, 150' LW, loop  
 Carlo Sgro Waterloo ON: GE Superadio II  
 Rick Turner North Dartmouth MA: STA-300, FM200, Select-a-Tenna loops  
 David Yocis Norwalk CT: Icom R-71A, Kiwa loop

**XESH**Radio Alegria 1400 Khz. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

TEL 2-13-36

SABINAS HIDALGO, N. L. México

y 2-13-00

a 11 de Marzo de 1986.

Sr. Albert J. Muick  
 P.O. Box 266  
 Lawton Ok 73502-0266  
 EUA/USA.

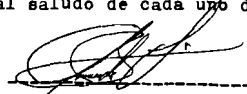
Muy Sr. Nuestro:

Por este medio, me permito saludarlo y a la vez agradecer le su amabilidad en reportar nuestra señal, que se origina en la Ciudad de Sabinas Hidalgo; Nuevo León; efectivamente en los 1,400 Khz, con una potencia de 1,000 Wts en el aire, de día y de noche.

Lo que se nos hace raro y no lo entendemos, es que Usted nos haiga escuchado a tan retirada distancia.

Sus comentarios en la carta que recibimos, son para nosotros una gran satisfacción, pues le diremos que no sabemos exactamente hasta donde estamos llegando con nuestra señal. Como quiera que sea una vez más muchas gracias por haberse tomado la molestia de escribirnos, y nos gustaría que si algún día Usted y su Familia pasan por esta Cd. de Sabinas Hidalgo; Nuevo León, llegarán a visitarnos para atenderlos como se merecen.

Reciba un muy cordial saludo de cada uno de los elementos que trabajamos en esta Empresa.



Gte. Lic. Armando Ríos Leal

Radiodifusora: X. E. S. H.

**XESH**

ESTACION INTEGRANTE DEL GRUPO RADIO ALEGRIA, S.A.

**GRA**

# International Jim Renfrew [JimRenfrew@Delphi.com](mailto:JimRenfrew@Delphi.com)

## DX Digest

61 Wilcox Street  
 Rochester, NY 14607-3832

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

Welcome to George Holland, a fellow NYer! The big news here is that my HCJB QSL arrived! Looks like their QSLs arrive about a month after each test. IDXD deadlines are Sundays. Please follow the format you see below. It adds hours to the job if I have to revise the text of your loggings.

## TRANS-ATLANTIC DX

675 FRANCE Marseille, France-Inter, JAN 5 0114 - man in FF, into music at 0115, fair and // 162. 0133 woman in FF, into music at 0113:30, good and again // 162. Other than a SAH, no sign of Holland. [Merriman-VA]

684 SPAIN RNE Sevilla, JAN 5 0359 - woman in SS, 0359:45 nice "Cinco y Uno" ID, pips to the hour and woman with news. Very loud. [Merriman-VA]

693 AZORES / ENGLAND, JAN 8 0425+ - RDP Santa Barbara with instrumental music // 666 and Droitwich et al with man/woman in discussion program in EE mixing with each other and taking turns on top, both good. [Merriman-VA]



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Tele: 76460 - 71000  
 Managua, Nic.

711 UNID, JAN 2 2342 and again 2347+ - loud, AA male chant, string music during pauses, 2359 man then woman in AA basically alternate speaking to tune out, JAN 3 0004. Not // to anybody I could find. It looks like I'm going to have to modify last weeks WAG already. While I still think this might be Morocco with a new program, since its // to no other stations, I no longer think it has anything to do with Medi Un. Program this evening definitely had a religious sound and I doubt if Medi Un would carry any religious material. , JAN 5 0135 - AA music, male vocal/guitar, good and not // 207, 612, 1251 all of which were good. [Merriman-VA]

756 SPAIN R. Euskadi, Bilbao, JAN 5 0054 - 2 men in SS with teletalk, 0056+ quiet instrumental music with a jazz sound, seemed // 819 but not sure, 0100 pips ending on hour and nice "R. Euskadi" ID by a man. No sign of the German. [Merriman-VA]

819 SPAIN/EGYPT/MOROCCO (?) R. Euskadi, San Sebastian, JAN 4 2154+ - two men in SS, sounded like teletalk, nice signal to fade at 2157, possibly // 756 not readable. 2158 AA music up, peaked nicely at 2159 and not // 207 so likely Batra. 2159:45 SS talk mixing with AA music, pips to 2200, think from Spain, 2201 man in SS to nice peak and // 756! 2203 fade, 2205 a complete zoo, at least 3 stations, 2 men, 1 woman all speaking, woman seemed // a very weak 207 so maybe Rabat. 2207 AA music back on top briefly, brief announcement by woman in ??, confusion; 2211 man in SS back up for about a minute but no 756. 2218 2 men in SS, again sounded like teletalk and good for a couple of minutes, no 756. JAN 5 0056+ - instrumental music, seemed // 756 but poor copy. 0105+ man in SS, 756 had faded. Had a pipeline tonite into Basque Country, see also 756/1161/1197. JAN 5 2141 - already a jumble but man in SS on top and seemed // 756 which was also a real jumble. [Merriman-VA]

837 AZORES RDP Barrosa, JAN 5 0407+ - music, brief announcement by man in PP folo by female vocal, // 666 but stronger, 693 not in. [Merriman-VA]

1053 MOROCCO Tanger A, JAN 2 2345+ - nicely on top with AA music, // 612, noted while searching for possible //s for 711. [Merriman-VA]

1107 UNID, JAN 2 - Pips (6, I think) ending on the half hour at 2230. Caught me by surprise. Does RNE5 ever run pips on half hour? Had been listening for several minutes, man/woman both heard but very weak and no ID on language. 2232 man in SS, good briefly but not sure this was same station. JAN 3 0530 - pips ending on half hour, last one longer, Spain was in but if this was on RNE man talked right over top of them. There

- seemed to be a 2nd station under them with music but hard to tell for sure due to WBT/CKTY slop - I could get rid of one but not both. It would help if the latter would start using their extremely narrow due north pattern. [Merriman-VA]
- 1161 SPAIN R. Euskadi Irratia, San Sebastian, JAN 4 2122 - briefly good with music, male vocal and // 1197, fade at 2123. SAH present, probably France. 2131:30-2132, and again 2134:30-2135 back to nice peaks with quiet instrumental music and both times // 1197. 2145 again with quiet music but 1197 out. Although this was only readable for a total of about 2 minutes the peaks were at nice level. A het here, along with 1071 is heard regularly but this is first audio. Since no announcements heard probably should call this tentative, but only other possibilities for // s on 1161/1197 are low powered Bosnian stations and I think not! [Merriman-VA]
- 1197 SPAIN/MOROCCO (?) R. Euskadi Irratia, Vitoria, JAN 4 2122 - music with male vocalist, // 1161. 2128 AA music on top, male vocal, 2130 man/woman in ??, 2131 instrumental music on top and // 1161, 2133 mixed, 2134 Spain back up with instrumental music and again // 1161, 2nd station behind and rapid SAH. Unlike 1161 this readable for about 3 mins, 2138 and 2139:40 brief announcements by woman in what sounded like FF, Spain with music still generally on top, 2141 man in what sounded like FF and 2144 woman in definite FF and readable for about a minute. Spain here not any stronger than 1161 but more readable due to less QRM. Not sure if FF Morocco or maybe the Spaniard as near French border. Music sounded like music heard here before so guess at least one of my unids cleared up here. [Merriman-VA]
- 1251 LIBYA Tripoli, JAN 5 2125+ - just a monster signal with man in AA, music later and completely over 1250 domestics. [Merriman-VA]
- 1314 NORWAY (t), JAN 12 0257 - Dean Martin's "Everybody Loves Somebody", 0300 male voice (not EE, FF or SS), 0303 fade-out, then 0340 female vocal "Two Sleepy People", 0342 fade-out. [Holland-NY]
- 1395 ALBANIA Filake VOA Relay, JAN 8 0455+ - man in presumed listed Serbian, some instrumental music, 0458:45 in EE "This program has come to you from VOA Washington" and carrier cut 10 seconds later. Good. [Merriman-VA]
- 1485 SPAIN SER / OCR (?), JAN 4 2108+ - one of these, 2 men in SS, fair on peaks to 2110 fade. 2113 man in briefly in excited SS, spot? Next 5 mins man/men in SS briefly audible at noise level several times. None of the // s for either of these nets were in. SS has been heard here before. [Merriman-VA]
- 1521 SAUDI ARABIA - Correct time for tent reception on Nov 28 was 2008+. Typo. [Merriman-VA]

*George speaks:* "I think I've joined the crowd for Norway, tentatively at least. On another subject entirely, can anyone tell me what the repeating crash sound is on 153 kHz?" (Your neighbor forgetting to open the garage door before backing out? Seriously, can anyone give George an answer? - Jim)

#### PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 790 UNIDS/CUBA, JAN 16 0220-0500 - Actually as many as three SS stations on a frequency normally congested with domestics. One of them a very weak R. Reloj, and I'll say no more about it. The steadiest was a "lite" program of accordion and SS vocals with a low-pitched male announcer who spoke at length between selections, once giving a UTC - 6 hrs ID, and possible news at 0303. This one looped to the southwest. The third station looped more to the south and featured an occasional fade-up with zippier music and SS DJ. I'm thinking that these might have been Mexico and Venezuela, perhaps a domestic that I don't know about with SS programs. [Renfrew-NY]
- 1100 COLOMBIA RCN, JAN 16 0338 - Dominant with no sign of WWWE, Caracol IDs. [Renfrew-NY]
- 1200 CUBA, R Ariguanabo, San Antonio de los Banos, Provincia de la Habana, JAN 11 1424-1800+ - in the process of doing a quick daytime partial bandscan, noted a Cuban here and presumed it to be R. Sancti Spiritus and not the listed Revolucion, since in the daytime nothing from the eastern half of Cuba propagates groundwave (waterpath, more accurately) to coastal west Central Florida. Since even Provincia Sancti Spiritus seems pretty far east, I sat on this from 1424-1528 for an ID and lo and behold a nice, clear R Ariguanabo (Ari-gwa-NAH-bo) ID 1528 by man after Richard (Karl?) Marx' "Now & Forever", followed by brief events listing for Provincia de la Habana, then promo atop Perez Prado music bed, another ID. Otherwise, mostly Cuban pop music hosted by a chipper woman DJ. Listed 250 watts. Maybe it's been audible here all along daytime; don't know how I missed it. I'm hoping Arnie Coro could verify this by mail, with an e-

- mail reply in the interim!!! [Krueger-FL] (I send Arnie a copy of this column each week, so perhaps you'll hear from him! - Jim)
- 1220 MEXICO XEB Mexico City, JAN 13 1126 - Excellent with Latino music and X- E-B ID. #2 from Mexico from here. [Mason-HI]
- 1570 MEXICO XERF Ciudad Acuña, JAN 8 0701 - fair with SS programming and X- E-R-F ID. Mexican #1 from Hawai'i. [Mason-HI]

#### TRANS-PACIFIC DX

- 153 RUSSIA Komsomolsk, FE, JAN 14 1021 - good, // 189. [Mason-HI]
- 180 RUSSIA Petropovlovsk, FE, JAN 14 1023 - good, // 189. [Mason-HI]
- 189 RUSSIA Belogorsk, Sib., JAN 14 1017 - excellent with man & woman in RR - echo heard, maybe two stations here. [Mason-HI]
- 234 RUSSIA Arman, FE, JAN 14 1025 - assumed, fair, // 189. [Mason-HI]
- 243 RUSSIA Ussuriysk, FE, JAN 14 1027 - Excellent, // 189. [Mason-HI]
- 261 RUSSIA Kruchina, FE, JAN 14 1018 - fair, // 189. [Mason-HI]
- 270 RUSSIA Khabarovsk, FE, JAN 14 1030. Assumed, this station was not one of the R. Rossi outlets, so I'm pretty confident it is this one. [Mason-HI]
- 279 RUSSIA Selinginsk, Sib. or Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, FE, JAN 14 1019 - Excellent, // 189. Don't know which one, but it was one of these two. [Mason-HI]
- 873 JAPAN JOGB Kumamoto, JAN 14 1049 - poor/fair under UNID station, // 774. [Mason-HI]
- 963 RUSSIA UNID JAN 14 1042 - good with woman in RR, don't know which station. [Mason-HI]
- 972 SOUTH KOREA HLCA Tangjin, JAN 14 0940 - Excellent with Korean music and talk. [Mason-HI]
- 1134 JAPAN JOQR Tokyo, JAN 13 1007 - Excellent with woman in JJ. [Mason-HI]
- 1170 SOUTH KOREA HLSR Kimje (date?) - poor to good with music & talk in KK, over all domestics. [Mason-HI]
- 1323 UNID, JAN 13 1207 - fair to good, sounded Slavic; maybe Kazakhstan, Khrgyzstan? [Mason-HI]
- 1566 SOUTH KOREA assumed, HLAZ Cheju, JAN 8 0730 - Excellent with woman in what sounded like KK, but couldn't verify // 1188. [Mason-HI]
- 1593 JAPAN JOQB or JOTB (Niigata or Matsue), JAN 13 1003 - Excellent with NHK2 programming, // 747. [Mason-HI]
- 1602 JAPAN UNID NHK2 station, JAN 13 1002 - one of ten affiliates on frequency, all 1 kW or less. A surprisingly good signal. [Mason-HI]

*Patrick speaks:* "Good conditions for TPDx from here. Thailand-1575 is a regular here during the early morning hours, and is a possibility around LSR on the West Coast. Russian longwaves made a big showing JAN 13. I will be looking out for the Mongolians. Japan's 747 and 774 outlets are regulars here as well. 972 - South Korea very strong."

#### STATION NEWS

**IRELAND:** The Irish Independent Radio and TV Commission wants to see Atlantic 252 closed down and replaced by an international service for Irish expatriots in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. [IRTC press release via BDXC DEC 95 in *Distance* DEC 19]

**ISLE OF MAN:** Celtic Rose Radio, the Isle of Man longwave project, is still alive and awaiting a UK license. [JBNewsline via BDXC DEC 95 in *Distance* DEC 19]

#### SOFTWARE

I found some great circle computational programs on the net, in the Navigation Archive Directory. Bearing1 has a table of world city coordinates, but seems to not like crossing the date line. Way2Go is an excellent program which gives the best results. I use the first program to get my coordinates and the second to compute. The site is

<http://www.ronin.com/navigation/archives.html>

[Mason-HI]

#### CONTRIBUTORS (@ = e-mail)

I will list your e-mail address if you explicitly ask me to each time you submit loggings.

George Holland, Jr., Latham NY; DX-440 in the cellar.

@Terry Krueger, DX South Florida [DXSFTLK@aol.com]

@Patrick Mason, Mililani HI; Drake R8, AOR Active Loop coupled to homemade 1 ft. loop, 60 foot "short wire" [newlife@pixi.com]

@Alan Merriman, Chincoteague VA; Drake R8A, Timewave Tech DSP-59+ Digital Filter, four 150' Noise Reduced Slopers, DL-2 Phasing Unit, MWT-3 Regen Tuner/Preamp, 2' Lankford Air Core Loop. (Welcome to the world of e-mail!)  
 Jim Renfrew, Rochester NY; Drake R8, Radio West Loop.

**Professional Sports Networks** **Barry S. Finkel** BSFINKEL@ANL.gov  
 10314 S. Oakley  
 Chicago, IL 60643-2409  
 Network listings for team sports stations

Here are some corrections to the NHL lists I have already published (V63 #12); these come from Bob Galerstein.

The corrected New York Islanders list:

- 94.3 WMJC - These two FM stations are co-owned and simulcast 24 hrs./day.
- 103.9 WRCN - They are marketed as "WRCN", with only the "WMJC" ID on the hour.
- 740 WGSM - broadcasts day games only and is the AM sister of WMJC.
- WFAS, WGBB, and WRHD have NOT been on the network in a few years.
- Tampa Bay Lightning simulcasts on co-managed WFNS and WSUN. Delete WLWU-FM.

Here is NBA information from Media Guides (also from Bob Galerstein). There are other NBA teams that have radio networks, but they did not choose to list them. Also, about half of the station lists did NOT list the station frequency, only the call letters (I don't know why), so I had to do some research with the "Log 16", the "FM Atlas 15", and the FCC database (via the World Wide Web). There were some stations I could not identify. Bob sent a Denver Nuggets' list, which agrees with the one I had already published with one addition -- 1370 WRAE-WY. So remember that these lists are subject to change at any time.

**Milwaukee Bucks (NBA) 1995/96** Howard David, Jon McGlocklin

550 WSAU-WI	1150 WHBY-WI	1380 WBEL-WI	1570 WKBH-WI	99.7 WWJS-WI
590 WJMS-MI	1230 WCLO-WI	1400 WATW-WI	1590 WPVL-WI	102.3 WISS-WI
620 WTMJ-WI *	1240 WJMC-WI	WBIZ-WI	1909 WISS-WI	105.3 WRLO-WI
710 WDMS-WI	WOBT-WI	WRDB-WI		106.3 WEVR-WI
960 WTCH-WI	WOMT-WI	1430 WRDN-WI	92.1 WRLS-WI	107.1 KFIZ-WI
980 WPRE-WI	1270 WRJC-WI	1440 WNFL-WI	93.9 WDOR-WI	
1010 WSPO-WI	1330 WHBL-WI	1450 KFIZ-WI	94.3 WPRE-WI	
1070 WTSO-WI	1350 WPDR-WI	WDLB-WI	95.9 WRDN-WI	

**Chicago Bulls (NBA) 1995/96** Neil Funk

670 WMAQ-IL *	1230 WHCO-IL	1400 WDWS-IL	1570 WFRL-IL	105.5 WYKT-IL
880 WINU-IL	1240 WSDR-IL	WGIL-IL		107.1 WSPY-IL
920 WMOK-IL	WTAX-IL	1410 WTIM-IL	96.7 WCOE-IN	___ WHHK-IL g
930 WAUP-IL a	1270 WEIC-IL	1440 WGEM-IL	97.7 WFRX-IL	
940 KIOA-IA	1290 WIRL-IL	1470 WQSN-MI	98.3 WBYS-IL	
1050 WDZ-IL	1320 WKAN-IL	1490 WZOE-IL	___ KSNS-MO f	
1060 WRHL-IL	1360 WLBK-IL	1500 WGEN-IL	104.9 WGEN-IL	

**Vancouver Grizzlies (NBA) 1995/96** (The games will also be carried in BC on the Western Information Network (WIN)).

550 CKPG-BC	880 CKKC-BC	1240 CJOR1-BC	1340 CINL-BC	___ CJAT-BC d
560 CHTK-BC	980 CKNW-BC *	CJAV-BC	1400 CHNL1-BC	101.9 CKKC-BC1
590 CFTK-BC	1150 CKIQ-BC	CJOR-BC	CIOR-BC	107.1 CHNL2-BC
610 CHNL-BC	1230 CJNL-BC	CKMK-BC		___ CKZX-BC e
800 CKOR-BC	CKTK-BC	1340 CFKC-BC	98.1 CKIQ1-BC	___ CKZX-BC e

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Write to NRC Publications - P. O. Box 164 - Mammsville, NY 13661-0164. Enclose check or money order; NY residents, please add state and local taxes. Please allow 3-6 weeks for shipping.

**Charlotte Hornets (NBA) 1995/96**

550 WHYM-NC	900 WAYN-NC	1240 WROV-VA	1400 WSMY-NC	1590 WCSL-NC
590 WCAB-NC	980 WAAV-NC	1250 WBRM-NC	WMMZ-SC	
600 WSJS-NC	1050 WLON-NC	1280 WSAT-NC	1410 WPCC-SC	98.5 WLXC-SC
620 WDNC-NC	1070 WNCT-NC	WYVE-VA	1450 WATA-NC	100.9 WIFM-NC
	WWNR-WV	1110 WBT-NC *	1290 WHKY-NC	WGNC-NC
640 WFNC-NC	1150 WBAG-NC	1310 WGH-VA	1480 WRDW-GA	___ WLNV-VA c
730 WOHS-NC	1230 WSKY-NC	1350 WLMA-SC	1490 WSVM-NC	
740 WBAW-SC	1240 WJNC-NC	1380 WLRV-VA	1590 WCSL-NC	

**Sacramento Kings (NBA) 1995/95** Grant Napear, Bob Gerould

1060 KPAY-CA	1140 KHTK-CA *	1230 KXLR-CA	1360 KFIV-CA
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**Los Angeles Lakers (NBA) 1995/96** Chick Hearn, Stu Lantz

570 KLAC-CA *	1230 WYVA-NM p	1290 KMEN-CA	1460 KENO-NV	1490 KMET-CA
1230 KXO-CA	1240 KSMA-CA	1410 KERN-CA	1480 KWIZ-CA Sh	

**Orlando Magic (NBA) 1995/96** Scott Anez

580 WDBO-FL *	1130 WWBF-FL	1320 WJGR-FL	1450 WSPB-FL	97.7 WRRX-FL
620 WSUN-FL	1150 WNDB-FL	1350 WDCF-FL	WTAL-FL	99.3 WLRQ-FL
730 WWTK-FL	1200 WDCQ-FL	1370 WAXE-FL	WWJB-FL	106.9 WZZS-FL
800 WPLK-FL	1240 WFOY-FL	WOCA-FL	1590 WPSL-FL	
910 WFNS-FL	1250 WQHL-FL	1400 WZHR-FL	1600 WKWF-FL	
960 WGRO-FL	1260 WFTW-FL	1410 WQBQ-FL		
980 WTOT-FL	1320 WAMR-FL	1430 WLKF-FL	95.3 WXCW-FL	

**Dallas Mavericks (NBA) 1995/95** (as of mid-September) Ted Davis

570 KLIF-TX *	1090 KKYN-TX	1340 KAND-TX	1380 KBWD-TX	1590 KGAS-TX
600 KROD-TX	1230 KSEY-TX	KKAM-TX	1400 KGVL-TX	
	KTBB-TX	KSST-TX	KHSP-TX	92.7 KTOD-AR
1010 KTNZ-TX	1240 KKAJ-OK	1370 KFRO-TX	1490 KBST-TX	97.5 KLAK-TX

**Indiana Pacers (NBA) 1995/96** Mark Boyle

860 WGOM-IN	1330 WTRE-IN	1550 WCVL-IN	101.9 WQFE-IN	107.7 WMRS-IN
930 WHON-IN	1340 WBIW-IN	WMDH-IN	102.3 WCBK-IN	___ WREB-IN i
1070 WIBC-IN *	WLBC-IN	1570 WIFF-IN	103.1 WGBF-IN b	
1230 WSAL-IN	1350 WIOU-IN		103.9 WIMC-IN b	
1240 WHBU-IN	1370 WGCL-IN	95.3 WNDI-IN	104.9 WWWY-IN	
1250 WGL-IN	1480 WTHI-IN	95.7 WLRX-IN	106.6 WWBL-IN	

**San Antonio Spurs (NBA) 1995/96** Jay Howard, Chuck Licata, Paul Castro (SS)

630 WWLS-OK	1200 WOAI-TX *	1300 KVET-TX	1440 KEYS-TX
710 KURV-TX	1230 KLKE-TX	1350 KCOR-TX *S	1490 KDOS-TX

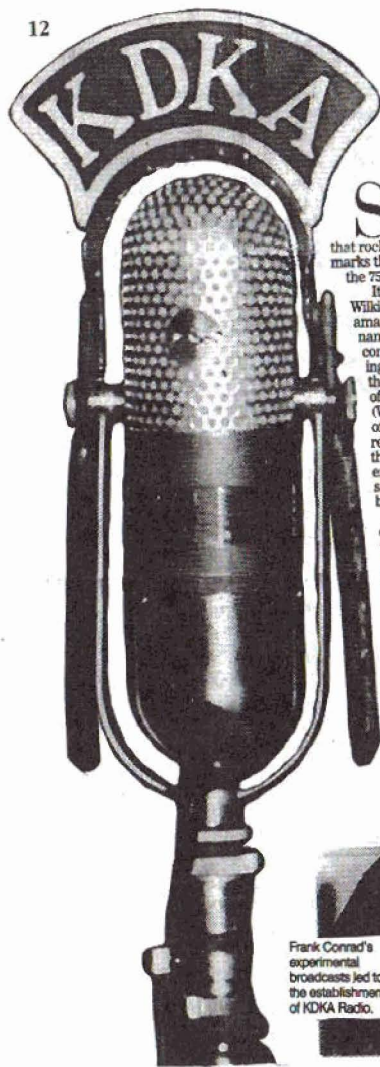
**Minnesota Timberwolves (NBA) 1995/96**

610 KDAL-MN	1230 KTRF-MN	1340 KDLM-MN	1450 KATE-MN	95.5 KCHK-MN
790 KFGO-MN	WSN-MN	KWLM-MN	KBMW-MN	96.5 KJJK-MN
860 KNUJ-MN	1240 WJON-MN	1350 KCHK-MN	KBUN-MN	100.1 KOLV-MN
920 KDHL-MN	1250 KCUE-MN	WCMP-MN	1460 KMDA-MN	106.3 WRJB-MN
950 KWAT-MN	1260 KROX-MN	1390 KRFO-MN		
1130 KFAN-MN *	1270 KWEB-MN	1400 KMHL-MN	92.1 KRUE-MN	
1210 KOKK-MN	1310 KNOX-MN	WHLB-MN	WYRQ-MN	
1230 KMRS-MN	1320 KOZY-MN	1420 KTOE-MN	94.3 KMSR-MN	

**Portland Trail Blazers (NBA) 1995/96** Bill Schonely, Mike Rice

610 KRTA-OR	1240 KTIK-OR	1440 KODL-OR		100.5 KCGR-OR
1110 KBND-OR	1310 KNPT-OR	1450 KFLS-OR	92.7 KGBR-OR	103.1 KRSB-OR
1120 KPNW-OR	1340 KIHR-OR	KBKW-WA	92.9 KAST-OR	104.1 KTIK-OR
	KPNW-OR	1400 KBCH-OR	1460 KCXX-OR	96.5 KTWI-OR
1190 KEX-OR *	KJDY-OR	1490 KLOG-OR	99.3 KQFM-OR	107.3 KACW-OR
1230 KZZR-OR	1430 KYKN-OR	1580 KGAL-OR	100.1 KWRL-OR	KACW-OR





## KDKA celebrates the 75th anniversary of its Harding-Cox broadcast

Seventy-five years ago today, the Harding-Cox presidential election returns were read on the radio and the world was never quite the same. It wasn't the message that rocked the world; it was the medium. Today marks the birth of commercial broadcasting, and the 75th anniversary of KDKA.

It started in a small garage in Wilkensburg, where a talented amateur radio operator named Frank Conrad conducted broadcasting experiments in the second decade of the century. (When he got tired of talking, he played records, making him the first DJ.) Conrad's employer, Westinghouse, saw the potential and set up a broadcast laboratory.

KDKA boasts a number of firsts: first commercial radio station, first religious service broadcast, first play-by-play sports cast, first AM stereo broadcast. Although several others around the country claim the title of first radio station, KDKA made the first documented commercial broadcast and has the first FCC license issued.

The station is celebrating in a big way. They're running audio vignettes of historic moments, music and reminiscences.

Today they'll air excerpts from the famous 1920 Election Day broadcast through-



Frank Conrad's experimental broadcasts led to the establishment of KDKA Radio.



## Broadcasting museum planned

A local group is moving ahead with plans to establish a national broadcasting museum here.

Yesterday, the Wilkensburg Commission Inc. and the Conrad Project announced their intention to establish The National Museum of Broadcasting, devoted to radio and television history, technology, programs and personalities.

The proposed site for the new museum is the Westinghouse Recreation Center in Forest Hills. The building, which belongs to Westinghouse and is up

for sale, was used as an experimental broadcasting laboratory in the 1920s.

The group also wants to move radio pioneer Frank Conrad's Wilkensburg garage/workshop to the proposed site and make it the museum centerpiece. The Wilkensburg Elks, which own the garage, have agreed to donate it to the Conrad Project if the museum becomes a reality.

A feasibility study is under way to identify potential funding sources and will be completed in January 1990.

out the day.

This morning, John Cigna will broadcast the morning show from the Westinghouse Recreation Center in Forest Hills — the site where a local group hopes to establish a broadcasting museum. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., KDKA moves the live broadcasts to Ross Park Mall, where it has set up a display of radio memorabilia. The exhibit will be there through Sunday. For a \$20 donation to Children's Hospital, history buffs can purchase one of 5,000 pieces of the old KDKA tower, which was demolished last year.

KDKA program director Diane Cridland says the station's community support and loyal listeners have kept it a market leader since the beginning. "Without them, there would be no KDKA," she says.

Pittsburgh has a rich radio history. Five local AM stations date back to the early days of radio in the 1920s: KQV, WTAE (then called WCAE), WWSW, WJAS and KDKA.

In this age of info-overload, with all kinds of technological enticements battling for our attention, it's easy to take radio for granted. But when the medium introduced sound into what had been silence, its impact — cultural, political and economic — was enormous.

In the heyday of live music on radio in the 1930s and '40s, KDKA had a full staff orchestra, and numerous performers found full-time employment in radio.

Singer Jeannie Baxter performed regularly throughout the World War II era. She was a staff singer on WCAE before moving to KDKA, and was part of the trio Sophisticated Ladies.

"It was fun to go to work," Baxter says. "It wasn't work." Even at the time, she was aware of KDKA's far reach. "We'd get tons of mail from everywhere — people who wanted to dedicate songs to their son or someone in the service."

Another female singing trio, The Kinder Sisters, also performed regularly on KDKA. That's where Elaine Kinder met her future husband — news anchor Paul Long. She and sisters Shirley and Barbara performed on "Music Please," a show that was picked up for airing on the West Coast and in Canada. "It was sort of like a big happy family," she recalls.

"Party Line" had an incredible 20-year run on KDKA, starting in 1951. Hosted by the husband-wife team of Ed and Wendy King, it was one of the first radio shows to engage its audience in a different way — by making the listener part of the show. Up to that time, everything was scripted. The Kings thought that a looser show would reflect the times they were living in. They read letters and took phone calls, although they never broadcast the calls. Instead, the hosts would repeat or summarize what the caller was saying. "We felt by not having the voice on the air, the listeners could use their imagination," Wendy King says.

Some veteran TV news people got their start in radio — Bill Burns on KQV and Paul Long on KDKA. Best known as a TV news anchor, Long worked at KDKA's radio news department from 1946 to 1963. "In the early days, we didn't do a lot of coverage of local stories," Long says. "We didn't maintain a big news room full of reporters until television came along."

Long gained nationwide notoriety for a network feed he did. In reporting that John L. Lewis had called for a coal strike in early December 1949, Long opened with the line, "John L. Lewis has just shot Santa Claus." "I didn't expect it to kick up a fuss," Long says. "The news wires picked it up. They had a bunch of kids in Chicago carrying banners. 'Don't kill Santa Claus.'" KDKA got plenty of calls.



By Adrian McCoy

Radio's first commercial broadcast took place Nov. 2, 1920, on KDKA with the Harding-Cox presidential election return coverage.

## A trip down 'morning drive'

Another milestone in radio history was the rise of a new prime time — morning drive — as more people drove to work in cars with radios. KDKA has been blessed with three long-running, top-rated morning shows for the past four decades. "That's unheard of," says current KDKA morning host John Cigna.

"Radio changed tremendously in the '50s, when the big shows began dying and went off the air," says Rege Cordic. "Cordic and Company" started on WWSW and moved to KDKA in 1954, where Cordic worked until he left for Los Angeles in 1965. With Sterling Yates, and later Bob Trow and Karl Hardman, Cordic created memorable characters who would drop in, complementing the host's hilarious asides and inspired sound effects.

"That was the tremendous thing about radio that's gone now — the ability to create illusions and situations that were so preposterous," Cordic says. "You could create such wonderful illusions with a \$3 sound effect record."

The audience was wonderful. They responded to the crazy things we did. The feedback from the people was such an important part."

It was an ideal creative situation. "I can't underscore the support I got," Cordic says. "We operated somewhat independently within KDKA. They never censored or told me what to do — except get all the commercials in."

Jack Bogut signed on as morning man in 1968 and worked there until 1983, when he moved on to WTAE and later WSHH. He recalls living in Bozeman, Mont., and reading "about some crazy guy named Rege Cordic who had Old Frothing-slosh, the stale pale ale that was so

light the foam was on the bottom. I thought, 'Wouldn't it be nice to work close enough to Pittsburgh and steal from him.' And all of a sudden here I am doing his old show."

Bogut says he walked into an ideal situation — working with Bob Prince and Ed Schaughency. "The management style then was to hire what they considered to be good people and let them do their thing, as opposed to talking to consultants. This was still big-time radio, before the nippers and the micro-managers got hold of it."

Bogut says the station's power and high profile let its talent do a lot. When war broke out in the Falklands, he was able to secure a live phone interview with a British major through a link with the BBC. During a football strike, he rallied about 35,000 listeners to a giant tailgate party next to the stadium.

"That was the power of the radio station. It was a little heady. But you always realized that what was happening was a little imagination of course, but it was the presence and the power and the magic of the call letters KDKA."

John Cigna had been doing the night show at KDKA for 10 years and signed on as morning host in 1983. He, too, feels the station gives its morning hosts room to grow.

Some of his favorite morning show memories involve April Fool's pranks. In one, he reported that a space ship had landed in North Park and urged listeners to stay away. Coincidentally, a fleet of Army trucks was headed north on McKnight Road that morning. "People going to to work saw those Army trucks and said, 'Holy mackerel, Cigna's right!'"

— By Adrian McCoy

Adrian McCoy is a free-lance writer who covers radio for the Post-Gazette.



# KDKA radio marks 75 years

■ The radio station was started by Frank Conrad, who aired his first broadcast from a shack atop a Westinghouse manufacturing plant Nov. 2, 1920.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — "We shall now broadcast the election returns."

With those words, KDKA radio station began airing the world's first documented commercial broadcast by reporting the Harding-Cox presidential election returns at 6 p.m. Nov. 2, 1920.

The station, owned by Westinghouse Electric Corp., celebrated its 75th birthday Thursday by airing a re-enactment of that first broadcast and actual tapes of other historic moments. For a \$20 donation to Children's Hospital, history buffs could buy one of 5,000 pieces of a 65-year-old KDKA tower that was demolished last year.

"I would say the Berlin wall was more significant, but this is a piece of history, too," said Sister Mary Ann Busovicki, who bought a plastic-encased slice of the tower for her two brothers.

**Memories:** Sister Busovicki reminisced about the tall radio in the corner of her parents' living room as she looked at displays of broadcast memorabilia set up at Ross Park Mall, where the station is broadcasting live through the weekend.

She believes radio has changed for the worse since the late 1940s, when as a child she would press her ear against the speaker and fight with her older brother over which shows to tune in.

"Family values are absent now," she said.

Mel Check, a 54-year-old KDKA engineer who owns most of the radios displayed, said he loved to tune in to early rock 'n' roll when he was in high school.

He predicted radio will continue to be a major medium because



Associated Press

**MARKING ANNIVERSARY:** KDKA engineer Mel Check sets up a display of vintage radio equipment in Ross Park Mall north of Pittsburgh. Thursday was the 75th anniversary of the Pittsburgh station's first radio broadcast.

it provides news and entertainment quickly.

"It's as good as it's ever been," he said.

**Celebration:** The KDKA announcers — wearing small earphones and speaking into sleek microphones — took calls from listeners as they sat at a table in front of large color photos of the station's stars and talk show host Rush Limbaugh.

Celebrities and other officials phoned in their congratulations. Westinghouse Chairman Michael Jordan said the company's broadcasting heritage would be strengthened by its purchase of CBS. Jeannie Baxter and Buzz Aston, who starred in KDKA's World War II-era shows, sang "Side by Side."

Programming director Diane

**FIRSTS**

KDKA said it was the first radio station to broadcast:

- **A CHURCH SERVICE.** On Jan. 2, 1921, at Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh.
- **A SPORTS EVENT,** a boxing match between Johnny Ray and Johnny Dundee on April 11, 1921, from Motor Square Garden.
- **FIRST BASEBALL play-by-play,** announced by Harold Arlin from Forbes Field, where the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Philadelphia Phillies 8-5 on Aug. 5, 1921.

Cridland said many of the early radio pioneers, including Frank Conrad, have died. He was a Westinghouse engineer and ham radio operator whose broadcast experiments in his garage just outside of Pittsburgh led to the founding of KDKA.

**Beginnings:** The first broadcast, from a shack on top of a Westinghouse manufacturing plant in East Pittsburgh, was heard by nearly 1,000 people.

"We'd appreciate it if anyone hearing this broadcast would communicate with us," Conrad said in reporting the election results 75 years ago. "We are very anxious to know how far the broadcast is reaching and how it is being received."

Conrad broadcast records at the request of listeners who wanted to prove to friends that music could be sent "over the air."

His transmissions convinced Westinghouse there was a market for radios.

KDKA had the first Federal Communications Commission license issued.

Some believe regular daily news programs first began in Detroit on Aug. 20, 1920, a little more than two months before KDKA's first election broadcast on Nov. 2.

In Detroit, the radio operation of a sales organization was sponsored by the *Detroit News*.

## Radio Firsts ... via Pete Kemp from Famous First Facts, Fourth Edition (1981) by Joseph Nathan Kane

In the United States, the first...

**RADIO BROADCAST DEMONSTRATION** was made by Nathan B. Stubblefield in 1892. He was the first person to transmit the voice by air without the aid of wires. He gave a public exhibition of his invention on January 1, 1902, and on May 30, 1902, in Fairmont Park, Philadelphia, Pa., his voice was heard a mile away from the transmitter. He obtained patent number 887,357, on May 12, 1908, but because of his idiosyncrasies he did not permit knowledge of his invention to be spread abroad. Inability to obtain a fabulous sum for his invention, as well as fear of imparting his secret before the patent was granted, deprived him of the fame which by right of priority should have been his.

**RADIO PROGRAM BROADCAST** was sent by Professor Reginald Aubrey Fessenden on December 24, 1906, from Brant Rock, Mass. The general call "CQ" was heard, followed by a song, the reading of verse, a violin solo, a speech, and an invitation to report on the kind of reception. A 40 h.p. steam engine driving a 35-kilowatt 125-cycle alternator, with rotary spark at a frequency of 250 per second, was used. The antenna consisted of a single straight tube, 36 inches outside diameter, 429 feet high, in 8-foot sections bolted together. (Gleason Leonard Archer, History of Radio to 1926.)

**SINGER TO BROADCAST** was Eugenia H. Farrar, whose voice was broadcast by Lee De Forest December 16, 1907, from Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N. Y., on the occasion of the departure of Admiral Robley Dunglison Evans ("Fighting Bob Evans") on a cruise with the fleet.

**RADIO LICENSE** issued in the United States was granted George Hill Lewis of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1911.

**EXPERIMENTAL RADIO LICENSE** issued by the Department of Commerce following the International Radio Convention and Radio Act of 1912 (37 stat. 1. 302), August 13, 1912, was serial number 1, granted St. Joseph's College, Philadelphia, Pa. (3XJ, 2 kilowatts).

**COMMERCIAL RADIO STATION** was 8MK licensed August 20, 1920, now WWJ, Detroit, Mich., which instituted daily service on August 20, 1920, with a program "Tonight's Dinner." Local election returns were broadcast August 31, 1920. KDKA, Pittsburgh, Pa., offered a semi-weekly broadcast from November 2, 1920, to December 1, 1920. KDKA was licensed October 27, 1920.

**ELECTION RETURNS BROADCAST** took place on August 31, 1920, when WWJ of Detroit, Mich., broadcast the results of congressional and county primaries. On November 2, 1920, Leo H. Rosenberg of KDKA in Pittsburgh, Pa., broadcast the results of the Harding-Cox presidential election. (An experimental station, the De Forest Radio Laboratory, in the Highbridge section of the Bronx, New York City, broadcast bulletins from the New York American on the results of the Wilson-Hughes election for approximately six hours beginning after dark on November 7, 1916. The broadcasters signed off about 11 p.m., with the announcement that Hughes had been elected.)

**NEWSPAPER TO OPERATE A RADIO STATION** was the News, of Detroit, Mich., which operated station WWJ, Detroit (as 8MK), began operating on August 20, 1920.

**NEWS PROGRAM** was broadcast August 31, 1920, by Station 8MK, owned by the Detroit, Mich., News. The call letters were changed later to WWJ. The station had begun operating on August 20, 1920.

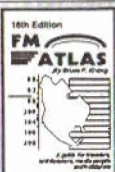
**RADIO STATION LICENSED** was KDKA, Pittsburgh, Pa., licensed October 27, 1920. At that time broadcasting was not recognized as such. When broadcasting stations received licenses, WBZ, of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co., Springfield, Mass., a 1500-watt station operating on 360 meters, was awarded license No. 224 on September 15, 1921, by the Bureau of Navigation, Department of Commerce.

**MUNICIPAL RADIO STATION** was WRR, Dallas, Tex. (50 watts), established in 1920 to broadcast fire alarms. So that owners of radio receivers could check to determine whether they were tuned to the station, phonograph records were played. In 1925 the station began selling time to sponsors.

**COLLEGE RADIO STATION** was WRUC, Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., which went on the air October 14, 1920. It instituted a series of weekly programs on October 15, 1920, consisting of vocal and instrumental phonograph records. The programs were broadcast from 8 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with a three-minute interval. They were initially heard within a 50-mile radius; this increased under favorable weather conditions. A 5 50-watt U-2 transmitter was used. Frederick L. Ganter was President of the Radio Club of Union College; Wendell W. Key, the chief engineer, and Francis J. Candle, the chief operator. The station was owned by the trustees of the college.

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## Bruce Elving's FM Atlas ...16th Edition

The world-famous guide which has served FM DX'ers for over 20 years is available from NRC Publications at the special price of \$18.00. NY orders, please add sales tax.



**EDUCATIONAL RADIO STATION LICENSED** was WOI, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, which received the call letters 9Y1 (375 meters frequency, using 100 watts) on November 21, 1921. On April 28, 1922, the station was granted a license to broadcast on 360 meters (834 kc.) using 1000 watts.

**PRIZE FIGHT BROADCAST** was the Jack Dempsey-Billy Miske fight in Benton Harbor, Mich., broadcast September 6, 1920, by WJWJ, Detroit, Mich. Miske was knocked out in the third round of the scheduled ten-round fight.

**PRIZE FIGHT BROADCAST FROM THE RINGSIDE** was presented December 22, 1920, from Madison Square Garden, New York City. Joe Lynch of New York City defended his bantamweight title against Peter Herman of New Orleans in a 15-round fight.

**FOOTBALL GAME (COLLEGIATE) BROADCAST** was presented November 25, 1920, by WTAW of College Station, Tex. The game was played on Thanksgiving Day between Texas University and the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas at College Station. At that time the station was operating under an experimental license and had the call letters 5XB. A spark transmitter was used and the transmission was in code. This was the first play-by-play broadcast of a football game.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICE BROADCAST** was made January 2, 1921, when the Calvary Episcopal Church at Pittsburgh, Pa., broadcast its services through KDKA. The preacher was the Rev. Edwin Jan Van Etten.

**BASEBALL GAME BROADCAST WITH A PLAY-BY-PLAY DESCRIPTION** was aired August 5, 1921, by KDKA, Pittsburgh, Pa., the field being connected by wire to the broadcasting station. The National League Pittsburgh Corsairs defeated Philadelphia, 8-5, at Pittsburgh, for their third straight victory.

**ADVERTISING OR COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCAST** was sponsored by the Queensboro Realty Corporation, Jackson Heights, New York City, on August 28, 1922, over station WEAJ, the experimental station of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., New York City. The commercial rate was \$100 for 10 minutes. H. M. Blackwell spoke for 10 minutes about Hawthorne Court, a dwelling in Jackson Heights.

**NETWORK SPONSORED BROADCAST** was "The Eveready Hour," broadcast February 12, 1924, from station WEAJ, New York City, to WCAP, Washington, D. C., WJAR, Providence, R. I., under the sponsorship of the National Carbon Company.

**NEWS PROGRAM (DAILY)** was broadcast September 1, 1922, by WBAY, American Telegraph & Telephone Co., New York City, between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. It was known as "The Radio Digest," and was edited by George F. Thompson. Questions and answers concerning radio were also broadcast.

**CHAIN BROADCAST** was accomplished October 7, 1922, when WJZ and WGY transmitted a World Series game from the field. Ordinary telegraph lines from Newark, N. J., and Schenectady, N. Y., were connected with the Polo Grounds, New York City, where a single microphone connected to these lines completed the requirements. It was not possible to transmit highest and lowest frequencies. Graham McNamee was the announcer. On January 4, 1923, WEAJ of New York City and WNAC of Boston, Mass., had repeater points, and amplifiers were provided for faithful reproduction and transmission of both music and speech.

**ELECTION CAMPAIGN USING RADIO** was undertaken by Senator Harry Stewart New, Republican, of Indiana, who waged an unsuccessful campaign for reelection in 1922. He used radio the last five days of the campaign, from October 27 to November 2, 1922, and hired several halls in which loud speakers were placed. He was defeated November 7, 1922, by Samuel Moffett Ralston, the Democratic candidate.

**PRESIDENT TO BROADCAST BY RADIO** was Warren Gamaliel Harding, 29th president (1921-1923). The speech at the dedication of the Francis Scott Key Memorial, at Ft. McHenry, Baltimore, Md., on June 14, 1922, was broadcast by WEAR (now WFBR), Baltimore, Md. His voice was carried over telephone lines to the studio and broadcast from there. His World Court speech on June 21, 1923, at St. Louis, Mo., was transmitted over KSD, St. Louis, and WEAJ, New York City. On November 5, 1921, a message from President Harding had been broadcast from Washington, D. C., to 28 countries. It was sent in code over the 25,000-volt RCA station at Rocky Point (near Port Jefferson), L. I., N. Y.

**PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO BE BROADCAST** was heard on December 6, 1923, when President Calvin Coolidge delivered his message to a joint session of Congress held in the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., was broadcast by KSD, St. Louis, Mo.; WCAP, Washington, D. C.; WDAF, Kansas City, Mo.; WEAJ, New York City; WFAA, Dallas, Tex.; and WJAR, Providence, R. I. His voice was received over telephone wires. On March 4, 1925, he broadcast his inaugural address.

**PRESIDENT TO BROADCAST FROM THE WHITE HOUSE** was Calvin Coolidge, whose address on George Washington's Birthday, transmitted from his study in the White House, Washington, D. C., on February 22, 1924, was heard on 42 stations from coast to coast.

**RADIO STATION OPERATING A 50-KILOWATT TRANSMITTER** was 2XAG, Schenectady, N. Y., using the 379.5 meter wave band, the same length as WGY, Schenectady, N. Y. The station was tested July 25, 1925, and placed in operation July 29, 1925.

**RADIO STATION OPERATING A 100-KILOWATT TRANSMITTER** was 2XAG, Schenectady, N. Y., which was granted a 30-day permit to operate between the hours of 1 and 2 a.m. It went on the air August 4, 1927. Harry Hadenwater was in charge of broadcasting.

**RADIO STATION WITH 500,000-WATT POWER** was KDKA, Pittsburgh, Pa. Authorized to use call letters W8XAR from June 12, 1936, to May 1, 1938, to test high-power equipment (50 kw to 500 kw), from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on an experimental basis.

**INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING LICENSE** issued by the Federal Communications Commission was granted October 15, 1927, to the Experimenter Publishing Co., New York City. The frequency was 9,700 kilocycles and the power 500 watts. The station was taken over in 1929 and subsequently moved to Boston, Mass., where it was operated as WIXAL by the World Wide Broadcasting Corporation.

**FREQUENCY MODULATION (FM) CONSTRUCTION PERMIT** was granted August 18, 1937, to WIXOJ, the Yankee Network, Inc., Paxton, Mass. It went on the air with scheduled programs in May 1939 and subsequently operated with the highest output power (50 kilowatts) granted previous to World War II. Call letters were changed to W43B, and later to WGTR. The programs were fed from the studios in Boston, Mass., by FM circuit.

**MUNICIPAL SCHOOL-OWNED ULTRA-HIGH-FREQUENCY RADIO STATION** to receive a license from the Federal Communications Commission was station WBOE, Cleveland, Ohio, granted license No. 1 November 21, 1938, to operate (500 watts, 41,500 kilocycles). Regular classroom lessons and music were broadcast Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The station became an FM station in February 1941.

**FREQUENCY MODULATION TRANSMITTER TO RECEIVE A COMMERCIAL LICENSE** was W47NV, Nashville, Tenn., which operated on a frequency of 44,700 kilocycles with a power of 20,000 watts, licensed to cover a 16,000-square-mile radius. It began operations March 1, 1941, with full commercial status and presented the commercial of Standard Candy Company, Nashville, Tenn.

**FACSIMILE BROADCAST IN ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCIES** was made December 19, 1933, by station W9XAF, Milwaukee, Wis., on frequencies of 42,000-56,000 kilocycles and 60,000-86,000 kilocycles.

**RADIO FACSIMILE BROADCASTING ON THE REGULAR BROADCAST BAND** was instituted February 4, 1938, by WHO (Central Broadcasting Co.), Des Moines, Iowa. The facsimile was on 1,000 kilocycles from 12:00 midnight to 12:36 a.m.

**RADIO ADVERTISING CONTRACT FOR FREQUENCY MODULATION BROADCASTS** was signed December 8, 1940, by the Longines Watch Company and provided for the broadcasting of Longines time signals by W2XOR, New York, for 26 weeks beginning January 1, 1941. On April 1, 1941, the experimental license was replaced with commercial license W71NY, and the station was operating from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. on a frequency of 47,100 kilocycles.

**ALL-NEWS RADIO STATION** was WINS, New York City, which broadcast news around-the-clock on April 19, 1965, on 1010 AM. Previously, it had broadcast rock 'n' roll.

## **KDKA Radio Celebrates 75 years of Broadcasting** **Own your piece of broadcast history**

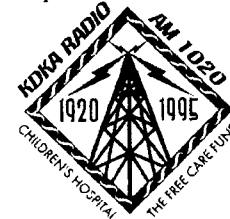
(FAX from KDKA via former NRC member Carl Mann, Omaha)

KDKA Radio's broadcast tower faithfully brought its listeners decades of American history, with news from Pittsburgh, PA and the world. It broadcast the voices of ten presidents, the violence of four wars, and all the sounds of generations emerging and growing up. Now you have a chance to own your personal piece of broadcast history.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of KDKA radio, chunks of the radio tower, built in 1930, which was toppled in June, 1994, are being sold to benefit Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. KDKA's partnership with Children's Hospital has been in existence when it first raised money to help children whose families could not afford health care.

For a gift of \$20.00 to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling, a piece of the KDKA radio tower, encased in lucite, will be delivered to your door. The lucite cube is 2.25" x 1.25" with a half-dollar size slice of the tower enclosed. A graphic is laid on top of the tower to complete this wonderful keepsake.

To order your piece of the radio tower using MasterCard or Visa, call 1-800-437-5419. Or, send a check or money order payable to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh to: KDKA Radio Tower - Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh - 3705 Fifth Avenue - Pittsburgh, PA 15213.



# Who Was First in Radio Still Debated

by Barry Mishkind

**TUCSON, Ariz.** This fall marks the 75th anniversary of the beginning of broadcasting.

Or does it?

Whenever broadcasters get together to discuss the beginning of the industry, it

**Under one definition, broadcasting might have started in the 1880s via telephone, in Budapest.**

*Radio World*  
-via Jerry Starr

soon turns into the famous Abbott and Costello routine. Trying to figure out "Who's on first?" often turns into a frustrating, even maddening attempt to put a label on a moving target.

Was KDKA's appearance in November 1920 that of the first broadcast station? The question really is difficult to answer, even as one tries to define *broadcast*. Was it operation on a regular schedule? A daily schedule? Was it continuous operation from some early date? Designed to be heard by the general public? Licensed by the U.S. government?

### Strong claims

Depending upon the criteria, many stations have strong claims for being first. And like Lou Costello, you may find a straight answer is somewhat elusive. Some of the contenders go way back.

Under one definition, broadcasting might have started in the 1880s, when the Budapest Cable Company began sending out scheduled entertainment programs via telephone lines. They hired people with "specially loud voices" to read out the news. RF was not involved, but it was considered "broadcasting" in the sense of being programming distributed to a variety of locations.

KCBS, originally "San Jose Calling," FN, 6XE, 6FX, SJN, then KQW, was built in 1909 in San Jose, Calif., by Charles David Herrold. Broadcasts of music from Herrold's School of Radio could be heard every Wednesday evening. Lee de Forest proclaimed Herrold's station as "the oldest broadcasting station in the whole world."

KCBS calls itself "the longest continuously broadcasting station in the world," by a factor of at least a decade. There were, however, transmissions of music via radio by the Belgian Post Office beginning in the same time period.

WHA, originally 9XM, Madison, Wis., was constructed by Earle Terry. The University of Wisconsin claims WHA "the Oldest Station in the Nation ... in existence longer than any other." It certainly rivals KCBS.

WWJ, originally 8MK, began operation on Aug. 20, 1920. The next night it broadcast the results of an election. The station was owned and operated by the Detroit News. It promoted itself as "WWJ Radio One, Where it All Began, Aug. 20, 1920."

stations included Experimentals such as DeForest's "High Bridge" station, 2XG in New York City; and the "California Theater" station, 6XC in San Francisco. There was American Radio and Research Corporation's 1XE in Medford Hillside, Mass.; Technical and Training School station 9YY at the University of Nebraska and General Amateur 8MK from the Detroit News.

The term "broadcasting" found its way into government publications in 1921. On Dec. 1, 1921, two wavelengths were formally set aside for a special service category within the "Limited Commercial" class of stations. The regulations read: "Licenses of this class are required for all transmitting stations used for broadcasting news, concerts, lectures, and like matter."

### Less formal matter

Getting a license in those early days was much less formal than it was after 1927 when the Federal Radio Commission was put into place. Basically, anyone filing a request with any of the nine regional Radio Inspectors of the DOC's Bureau of Navigation was given a license, as a matter of registration. In fact, some of these early "grants" were never even built.

In 1927 a familiar phrase was introduced, licensing stations to serve the public "convenience, interest, or necessity," and more concrete requirements were set out for new stations.

"Who's on first?" It doesn't really matter. Broadcasting started. And, as we will see, there is plenty of interesting broadcast history to go around. From one licensed station in 1920 to more than 11,000 today, broadcasting has truly become a major factor in the development of society in this century.

Over the coming months, *Pioneer Profiles'* goal is to shine some light on the trailblazing people and stations that broadcast back before anyone worried about much more than keeping a cranky transmitter on the air.

If you or your station has a written history or any information on the roots of broadcasting, please share them with me. I would appreciate anything that would illuminate the pioneer stations and those who built them. Books, newspaper clippings, old licenses, ratecards, EKKO stamps, radio guides, even photocopies are of benefit. Send them to Barry Mishkind, 2033 S. Augusta Place, Tucson, AZ 85710. The information will be added to the OLD RADIO infobase, and eventually donated to an archive open to all.

□□□

# Station Profile

A special feature about a unique station

Tony Fitzherbert

356 Jackman Avenue

Fairfield, CT 06430-1728

WFUN  
AM 97

Serving the Lake Erie port city of Ashtabula, Ohio since 1937, WFUN-970 airs the strongest AM signal of any radio station in the area - sending 5000 watts power across its market area. WFUN began operation on November 22, 1937 as a 250 watt daytimer, from studios in downtown Ashtabula. The tiny station's call was WICA, for "Industry, Commerce, Agriculture". Its owner was the local daily newspaper, Ashtabula Standard-Beacon.

In the early 1950's, WICA entered the television business, putting WICA-TV, Channel 15 on the air, from a building constructed especially for television broadcasting. WICA - AM's studios were moved to this building, located on rural Jefferson Road, several miles south of Ashtabula. The structure was unique as a television facility, as, unlike most TV stations, it had the transmitter, studios, offices, and antenna all in one place. WICA-TV had no less than five engineers, a studio orchestra, and a huge studio, which now serves as a garage for WFUN's mobile boom box. The only trace of Channel 15 is an old dressing room for performers, adjacent to the garage. WICA - TV never affiliated with a network, but served its viewers with movies and many local programs, before it left the air, challenged by larger network stations in nearby Cleveland and Erie, Pa.

WICA later became WREO, and sister station WREO-FM, at 97.1 was added. The call WREO stood for its new owner, Radio Enterprise of Ohio. The AM call was changed to WFUN in 1978. And, as it had done since it first went on the air, WFUN continued to serve the Ashtabula area with full service news, sports, and information, and adult contemporary music around the clock. WFUN is the only AM station licensed to Ashtabula. Another station, WWOW-1360, a 500 watt daytime country music station in nearby Conneault, offers some competition. Many WFUN staffers have previously worked on WWOW.

In recent years, WFUN changed its format to live assist oldies, broadcast 24 hours a day, with no scheduled silent period. WFUN has a heavy local news commitment, with two full time news staffers, and airs a lot of high school sports. Listeners also enjoy Cleveland Indians baseball, and Cavaliers basketball, as well as the college football game of the week. Local news is supplemented by ABC news on the hour. A total of ten full and part time DJ's tend the board. WFUN broadcasts a lot of special locally oriented programs such as a swap shop and farm reports. The music stops at noon each weekday, to accommodate Rush Limbaugh for three hours. On Sunday mornings, no less than four area churches broadcast services over WFUN.

WFUN is highly visible with its immense, colorful boom box on wheels, from which it broadcasts remotes for sponsors. The "WFUN Giant Roving Radio", very familiar throughout the area, is a 4200 lb trailer from which a personality can broadcast, covered with flashing lights, which can be moved to any sponsors site. It also appears in local parades.

Sister station WREO - 97.1, a 50,000 watt adult contemporary station is totally automated. The Star Station can also be represented by the Giant Roving Radio. Star 97.1's music is augmented by news feed from AP Radio.

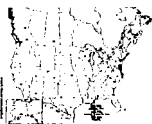
WFUN/WREO's building contains an AM control room, a news room, a studio for interviews and production, a studio for WREO, offices, and a large room for the chief engineer, which contains the station's Collins 820 E transmitter, and a backup RCA model, which is used for WFUN's 500 watt PSA signal. WFUN operates on 970 khz, and reduces its 5000 watt signal to 1000 watts at night. WFUN must protect WWSW-970, Pittsburgh, WEBR-970, Buffalo, and WKHM-970, Jackson, MI. Thus four in line 258 foot high towers push the signal northward. The most northerly tower is topped by WICA-TV's old antenna.

WFUN is an outstanding example of a full service AM radio station which effectively serves its market with a strong local identity. Thus, it has legions of regular local listeners who rely upon the station daily for news, entertainment and information.

The editor would like to thank WFUN-WREO CE John Riccio for his help in the preparation of this station profile. John has the responsibility of overseeing the stations' technical operation. As a boy, John began his radio "career" by cutting the grass outside the studio building.

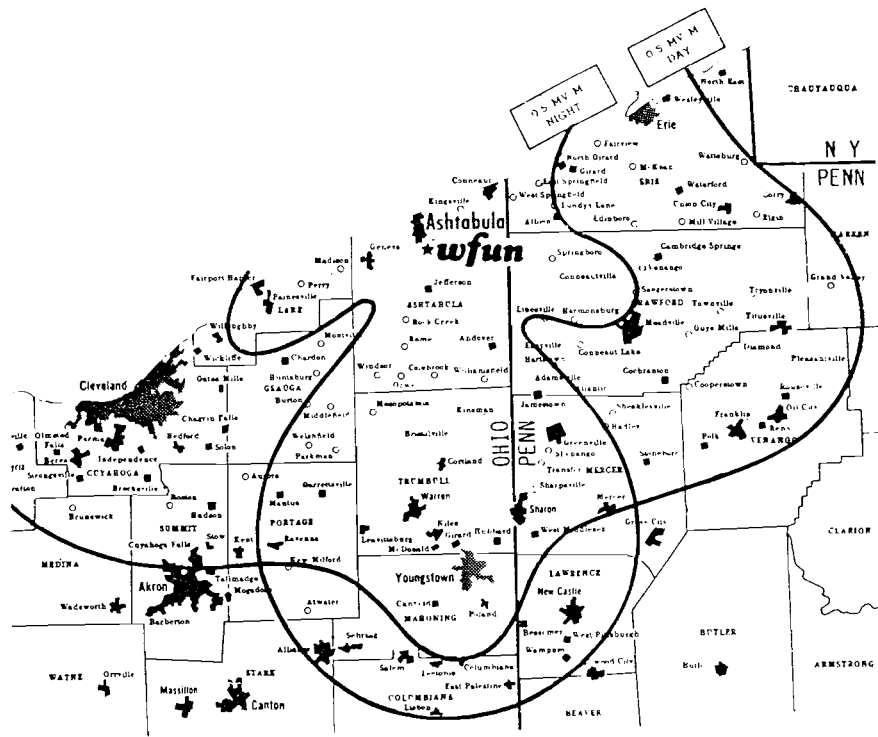
## AM Station Map Book

3rd edition - \$9.50 to members, \$10.50 non-members, postpaid.  
Edited by DDXD editor Bill Hale, this book of station location maps is a must-have companion to the *AM Radio Log*. The 170-page book is three-hole punched for a ring binder. Order from NRC Publications - Box 164 - Matinsville, NY 13661. NY orders, please add sales tax.





OUR AM 97 WFUN IS THE MOST POWERFUL AM STATION IN THE REGION WITH 5000 WATTS. SISTER STATION STAR 97 WREO FM IS THE MOST POWERFUL FM STATION IN THE REGION WITH 50,000 WATTS.



KDKA-FM 67.9 ft. antenna located atop KDKA-TV 679 ft. tower, Pittsburgh, Pa.

KDKA-AM 718 ft. tower located at Allison Park, Pa.

**KDKA RADIO 1020**

WESTINGHOUSE BROADCASTING COMPANY

ONE GATEWAY CENTER PITTSBURGH PENNSYLVANIA 15222

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# Opposing sides speak out on tower-law change

## Proposal would restrict facilities to industrial land

By **TONI GUAGENTI** November 14, 1995  
Times Staff Writer

Residents lined up Monday on both sides of the Carroll County Commissioners' proposal to limit communication towers to land zoned for industrial use only.

One group chastised the commissioners during a public hearing for proposing changes to the county's ordinance governing communication towers because it would prohibit the construction of six AM radio towers on the Harold and Esther Mercer farm in Woodbine. The towers, for Baltimore talk-radio station WCBM-AM, are proposed by Louis Mangione, whose family also owns Turf Valley Country Club.

The other group applauded the proposal because it would address unforeseen problems, like the proposed towers, from occurring.

The county's current tower ordinance, passed last year to bar the construction of a cellular phone tower outside Sykesville, doesn't deal with a "communication tower complex," or a single parcel of land where two or more communication towers are proposed to be built. Towers are currently allowed, on a conditional basis, on land zoned for conservation, industrial and agricultural uses. The amendment was proposed by Commissioner Benjamin Brown.

The Carroll County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a hearing continuance on the towers Thursday and could then grant the Mangiones a conditional use to build the towers.

But if the commissioners vote in 10 days, after the record on Monday's public hearing

closes, to pass the tower amendment, the Mangiones would be barred from constructing the towers. The proposed ordinance says that towers must be in the use and occupancy permit stage, or the final stage of construction, to be legal.

Monday's public hearing on the amendment turned into another fight over the six proposed towers, which would replace WCBM's four towers in Owings Mills.

Those supporting the towers argued the commissioners were unfairly changing county law.

"When we signed this contract in July, we were going by the law," said Harold Mercer. "I just object to changing the horses in the middle of the stream." The towers are proposed for 70 acres of agricultural- and conservation-zoned land on the 390-acre farm, which is currently under contract by the Mangione family.

Those opposed to the towers were concerned about radio waves interfering with appliances and phones, declining property values and disturbing the agricultural and residential characteristics of the neighborhood off Hoods Mill

Road near the Carroll/Howard border. They favored limiting construction of more than two towers to industrially zoned land.

Before the commissioners make a decision to amend the tower ordinance, Esther Mercer urged them to visit her farm.

"I asked them to come and get a feel where these towers will be," she said.

Kurt Harden of Gaither Road said he sees no benefits in building the towers. "Something has to be done to protect us as citizens," he said before presenting the commissioners with photos of other areas with AM-radio towers, including WCBM's Owings Mills site.

"There's no question this legislation is in reaction to the WCBM tower's case," said J. Brooks Leahy, speaking for law partner William B. Dulany, who represents the Mercers.

Passing this amendment would send an anti-business message, Leahy said.

Leahy said the amendments are an attack on private property rights and send a message that the all-Republican commissioner board supports more government regulation.

Carroll County Times  
-via Joe Kureth

# Proposed radio towers clear first hurdle

By **KATIE V. JONES**  
Times Staff Writer

Six AM-radio towers are a step closer to casting their shadows on 55 acres of land in South Carroll.

After three days of testimony spread over two months, Carroll County's Board of Zoning Appeals granted a conditional-use permit Thursday to Louis Mangione, owner of WCBM radio, to construct six 350-foot towers on Hoods Mill Road in Woodbine.

"I can see both sides of the case and it's a tough decision," said Karl Reichlin, chairman of the board. "We are trying to make everyone as happy as we can."

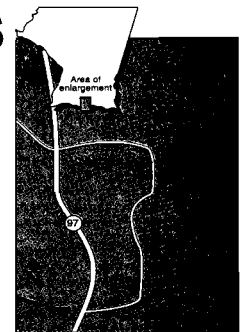
Board member James Shumacker spoke out against the permit, but consented after the board agreed to add several conditions before granting approval.

To prevent flashing strobe lights throughout the day, the board requested that red lights be placed on the tower along with shields to minimize their effect on the neighborhood.

The board also asked that the station be required to correct reported radio interferences in residents' appliances within 30 days of the complaint for two years after the towers' construction. The station is already required by FCC laws to correct reported interferences in the one-mile radius of the tower one year after construction.

## clear first hurdle

Friday, November 17, 1995



Times graphic

**'The fat lady hasn't sung.'**

Harold Paine  
Woodbine resident

"It was a tough case to lose," said David Bowersox, the Westminster attorney representing Jerry Thurber, a resident whose property is less than a 1/3 of a mile from the proposed site. "I believed we had enough evidence to defeat the application."

More than 20 residents attended the hearing. Several spoke before the board about the effect the towers would have on their property values, health and appliances.

"The old boy system is in good shape in Carroll County," said Harold Paine, a Woodbine resident, afterwards. "The fat lady hasn't

sung."  
The towers now go before the Planning and Zoning Commission for approval of a site plan.

Carroll County commissioners are in the process of deciding on a proposed amendment to Carroll County Zoning Ordinance No. 1E -- the tower ordinance. The amendment would confine the building of two or more communication towers to industrial-zoned land as a special use. If passed, the proposed towers for Harold Mercer's farm would be illegal.

Commissioner Donald Dell after learning of the board's decision said "I don't expect any towers to go up anytime soon. I expect to see it in the courts for the next couple of years."

# County tower law amendment wins approval

November 28, 1995

By TONI GUAGENTI  
Times Staff Writer

Complexes of two or more communications towers are allowed only on land zoned for industry, the Carroll County Commissioners decided Monday.

Commissioners Benjamin Brown and Richard Yates endorsed an amendment to the county's tower ordinance limiting communication tower complexes on a single parcel of land. The amendment also limits towers on contiguous parcels if the towers are used for the same purpose. Commissioner Donald Dell dissented.

The amendment was added to a tower ordinance passed last year to ban the construction of a cellular phone tower outside Sykesville. The ordinance didn't deal with tower complexes.

Brown introduced the amendment last month to block the construction on a Woodbine farm of six, 350-foot tall radio towers for WCBM-AM, a talk-radio station owned by the Mangione family.

Last week, the Carroll County Board of Zoning Appeals approved the towers, which were to be built on 70 acres of the Harold and Esther Mercer farm.

The County Planning and Zoning Commission was to consider the issue, but Monday's vote rendered the point moot.

County Attorney George Lahey said the towers' builders could challenge the ordinance in Carroll County Circuit Court.

Yates said he considered the Mercers' position but had to vote for the rights of the people who live in the area at the Carroll/Howard county border.

"I know a vote for this ordinance can be considered anti-business," Yates said. On the other hand, he said, voting against the ordinance would be voting against the rights of those who live in the area.

Dell said the amendment sends a bad message to current and future Carroll businesses.

"This is not the appropriate place to use up our [industrial] land, which is scarce," said Dell about limiting the towers to land zoned for industrial use.

Voting to make the amendment retroactive isn't "a fair way to govern" either, Dell added.

Brown defended his vote, saying the commissioners had to decide whether this type of economic development was appropriate for the area proposed, he said.

The commissioners are sending a message to Carroll countians that the "common interest we all share is not for sale to the highest bidder," Brown said.

## Residents applaud decision

By KATIE V. JONES  
Times Staff Writer

The battle of the tower farms was fought.

And now it may be over.

The Carroll County Commissioners' passage Monday of an amendment to the tower ordinance was hailed by local home owners. Others — specifically, the businessman who had proposed building towers for his radio station in Woodbine, as well as amateur radio operators — expressed disappointment at the decision.

The amendment — No. 1E — will confine the building of two or more communication towers to land zoned for industrial use.

Residents of Hoods Mill Road in South Carroll were thrilled by the decision, which halts the construction of the six proposed radio towers.

"I think it's good because there was a need for that amendment from the start," said Jerry Thurber, whose property would have been within 700 feet of the towers. "Carroll County is growing residentially at a huge rate. Things that have to be addressed are how residential growth will interact with other growth."

Louis Mangione and his family, the owners of Turf Valley Country Club and WCBM-AM, a Baltimore talk-radio station, had planned to

build the six 350-foot towers on 70 acres of Harold and Esther Mercer's farm in Woodbine. Because the land is zoned for agricultural and conventional use, the towers are now illegal.

"It is certainly a disappointment," said Mangione upon learning of the decision. He refused to comment on what the company's next step would be.

William Dulany, the Westminster attorney representing the Mercers and Mangione, said he was surprised by the vote, adding that he wasn't sure what will happen next.

The Mercers had no comment. Larry Solarczyk, president of Carroll County Amateur Radio Club, said he was disappointed.

Most amateur radio operators need more than one tower for their antennas to communicate effectively, Solarczyk said. The amendment will prevent HAM radio operators from having more than one tower on their property.

"It opens up a lot of controversial legal action," Solarczyk said. "It looks like we're going to have to go into another tower ordinance or amendment."

Michael Wheeler, whose property would have faced the tower site, hopes that the amendment will be only the beginning of continuing awareness.

"It was a good move but only step one," said Wheeler, who believes the commissioners should appoint a technical committee to look at the next five years. "Technology will change. The county needs to be informed of what's going on so we won't have to do any side-stepping [at the] last minute. If we don't regulate and take care now, the landscape will be littered" with towers.

Carroll County Times  
-via Joe Kureth

# KBOI(AM) Signal Riding the Rails

by Bob Rusk

**BOISE, Idaho** Can AM radio signals reach farther by hopping a ride on railroad tracks? Bill Frahm, longtime chief engineer at KBOI(AM) on 670 kHz, says "yes." A careful study of his coverage map, showing huge bumps in the pattern, makes it difficult to disagree.

The tracks act as a ground plain, he theorizes, working in much the same way as radials running from a tower. Frahm first noticed this phenomenon in 1981, while taking signal measurements for KBOI.

"The theoretical signal looked almost round, except for some reduction over the mountains to the northeast," he said.

"When we did measurements toward Twin Falls to file against a station that was going to go on 650, we noticed that the signal down there was more than it should have been.

"The two millivolt was supposed to be around 65 miles and it ended up being around 134 miles. South of Twin Falls on another radial, the two millivolt signal was at 95 miles, instead of 72. The shape of the Treasure Valley could have some effect on it. I use the railroad tracks as the only other explanation I can think of."

A 121-degree radial in the direction of Twin Falls parallels the track for some 50 miles, crossing the tracks in some areas. Frahm has noticed that "when you drive along the tracks, the signal goes up and down, then up again. It's like the effect you get when you drive near power lines. The station fades in and out.

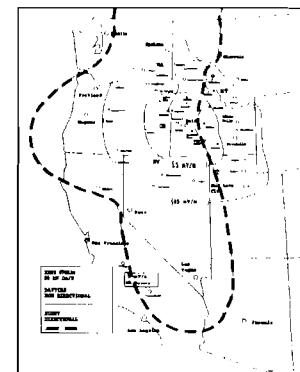
"Close in to the transmitter site, the tracks don't seem to have much of an impact," he continues. "But as you get 10 - 30 miles out, the ground conductivity seems to go way up. Where the line parallels the tracks, the ground conductivity measures around 30 instead of the predicted eight.

"When it leaves the tracks, the conductivity drops to about 15 — but that's still way up there." The signal does not appear to be helped by the nearby Snake River.

KBOI, at 50 kW, has a four-tower nighttime array and uses one stick for its non-directional daytime pattern. The towers are about a mile-and-a-half south of the tracks, in the high desert.

Frahm has discussed his discovery with engineers at a NAB convention and they agreed that the tracks are likely responsible for KBOI's ultra strong signal to the northwest and southeast of Boise.

not guarantee a stronger signal, however. KGHL(AM) on 790 kHz in Billings, Mont., has two towers located about 400 yards from the rail line.



KBOI's coverage area

In the late 1970s, an engineer contacted Frahm after picking up KBOI loud and clear in Ogden, Utah, 250 miles to the southeast.

"He was out taking measurements for a station down there and took some for KBOI and sent them to us," recalls Frahm. "He thought it was quite interesting that we had such a strong signal at that location."

KBOI puts a good signal into much of Utah during the day, but at night it's difficult to hear the station there, because of an 85 degree null to the east that protects WMAQ in Chicago. KBOI also has nulls to the northwest and southwest. "Our null to the northwest is a lot less than we thought it would be," Frahm says. "The null to the southwest is close to the predicted."

The KBOI transmitter site is about 12 miles south/southwest of the downtown studios, on a 40 acre desert site inside the Birds of Prey Wildlife Refuge. Frahm also suspects that underground pipelines running south of the tracks might have an impact on the station's signal.

Being close to tracks apparently does

"I have not seen a reflection of that in any of my pattern measurements," says KGHL chief engineer Charles Dozier, who has been at the station for five years. "Every time we've done a proof, it comes out exactly the way it's supposed to."

"I have records of all the proofs that were done before I came here and none of them point to any benefit from the railroad tracks."

Dozier adds that the KGHL transmitter site is "closer to the Yellowstone River than the tracks and the river provides an excellent ground for us."

But he does agree that the tracks could enhance a station's signal strength.

"If you take a look at it," he explains, "they probably would provide a good ground plain if you were close enough to them. It would probably depend on where the tracks were grounded and whether or not you were part of that ground."

Patrick Martin of the International Radio Club of America (an organization that monitors the strength of AM signals)

first noticed KBOI's powerful signal years ago. From his listening post on the Oregon coast, 400 miles northwest of Boise, Frahm can hear KBOI all day.

"I'm not in their coverage area. KBOI's signal has to come over three mountain ranges to reach me," says Martin. "As an experiment, I installed a 1,500-foot long-wire with a 1,500-foot radial running directly below it. Both are terminated to a series of ground rods in a saltwater swamp.

"With this system, KBOI is the strongest station I hear from Boise," he adds. "It's as strong as some of the stations from Portland, which is about 100 miles southeast of me." Martin hears KBOI on a Drake R8 Communications Receiver. He has been monitoring the AM band for over 30 years and strongly believes railroad tracks can increase a station's coverage area.

"You can lay a portable radio next to tracks and the station in the direction of the tracks will get stronger," says Martin. With KBOI's enhanced coverage area, Frahm now finds himself in an enviable position. Most of the time when stations have questions about signal strength, it's because the pattern is weak.


"It's a supposition on my part that the railroad tracks enhance the signal, but according to the measurements it seems to be following the tracks," Frahm says. "So if you're going to put a radio station next to railroad tracks, you can expect almost anything."

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