

DX News

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Volume 67, No. 18 - February 14, 2000 (ISSN 0737-1659)



Inside ...

2 ... AM Switch
3 ... DDXD
12 ... IDXD

14 ... Confirmed DX'er
16 ... Target DX
22 ... Rbadam's Aracena
23 ... U. S. Three-letter calls

CPC Test Calendar

WIMA OH 1150 Feb. 21 0100-0200

From the publisher ... Anyone willing to take over DDXD-East? Let's talk. And we'll be looking for an editor to take over a column catering more to new members, or those having specific questions or needing some ideas for DX techniques. Both positions would require access to the Internet. But then, doesn't everything, hi?! Well, not everything ... Blaine Thompson still needs more stamps to send out CPC letters via the USPS.

Interference ... From the ARRL, relayed by "The Hudson Loop", and posted on [AmFmTvDX] by Bob Foxworth was the following concerning electrical company equipment interference: "From ARRL Bulletin 93 (ARLB093) December 3: The FCC has contacted a West Coast power company to remind the utility of its obligation to fix equipment problems that cause harmful radio interference. The case involved longstanding complaints by several northern California amateurs to Pacific Gas & Electric Company regarding severe power line noise on the ham bands. On November 22, the FCC's Consumer Center wrote PG & E Senior VP James K Randolph, requesting the company to correct the problem "within a reasonable time." Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said the situation involved "a long history of non- response" by PG & E. He said the hams involved have "shown a lot of patience." The FCC letter points out that the FCC encourages par-

ties to resolve such problems "without FCC intervention" but says the FCC will step in when necessary. The Commission's letter said: "The FCC has the responsibility to require that utility companies rectify such problems within a reasonable time if the interference is caused by faulty power utility equipment." Under FCC Part 15, utilities and others that fall under its provisions are obliged to not cause harmful interference to licensed services and to cease operating a device that's causing harmful interference upon FCC notification. The FCC said its letter was intended as a reminder that the unresolved interference problem "may be a violation of FCC rules and could result in a monetary forfeiture for each occurrence." Hollingsworth and ARRL Lab Supervisor, Ed Hare, W1RFI advise that, before contacting the FCC to intervene as it did with the PG & E situation, affected amateurs first should attempt to work patiently with the utility and should contact the League for assistance. The ARRL Technical Information Service has prepared a Web page, "RFI—Electrical and Power Line," at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfi-elec.html>."

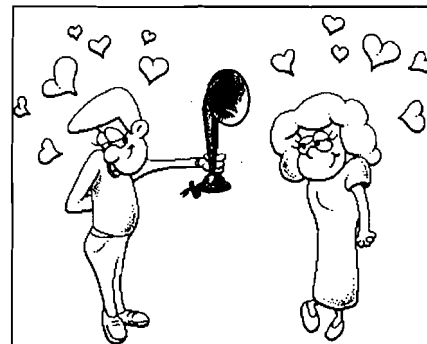
DX Time Machine

From the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the February 4, 1950 DXN: Hank Holbrook, Chevy Chase, MD, having sent reports to 23 TA's and 7 LA's during December and January, and having received 11 verics thus far, remarked: "I am now so spoiled from hearing foreign stations that I get no kick out of listening to U. S. stations, but I imagine that this feeling will be temporary."

25 years ago ... from the February 3, 1975 DXN: R. J. Edmunds reported an unID on 1340, 1-13, as "YL yakking at great and boring length about a church and its parish building fund 0115-1030; on 1-20 again same time period, men yakking about children of Israel, loops west" ... from the February 10 DXN: Richard Clark, La Vega, Rep blica Dominicana, reported that he had been "visiting all stations in La Vega and Puerto Plata and all the DJ's have been very nice in answering all my questions about their stations."

10 years ago ... from the February 5, 1990 DXN: Ray Cole reviewed the Radio Shack 12-625 AM/FM portable, saying that it had a "horribly calibrated dial" but "greatly improved tonal qualities", as compared the the 12-655, the AM-only "TRF" ... from the February 12 DXN: A promotion offering free Andy Williams concert tickets by WROW-590 generated so many phone calls that the 436 exchange was disabled for a time.



AM Switch

Jerry Starr w8jv@yahoo.com
c/o WHOT Radio
4040 Simon Road
Youngstown, OH 44512-1320

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

CALL LETTER CHANGES

	<i>Old call</i>		<i>New call</i>
1130	WASP	PA	Brownsville
			WOGG

APPLICATIONS / GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

None

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

None

GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

950	WWJ	MI	Detroit: 50000/50000 U4, relocate transmitter (12000/50000 shows last issue was an STA for interim operation)
1570	WGSR	FL	Fernandina Beach: 10000/30 U1

OTHERNESS

580	KJMJ	LA	Alexandria: station is SILENT
990	KRKS	CO	Denver: CP for 4200/390 U2 is on 1120 KMOX MO St. Louis: CP to relocate transmitter is on
1230	WLOG	WV	Logan: license CANCELLED, call DELETED
1450	KOBO	CA	Yuba City: station is SILENT
1630	KNAX	CA	Clovis: new station has been testing; regular schedule expected soon
1670	KSUL	CA	Moreno Valley: CP for 10000/9000 U4 has been RESCINDED and returned to pending status

The late January snowstorm that paralyzed DC resulted in the shutdown of FCC offices for several days, so not much work got done as reflected in the small size of this column.

THANKS: Bill Hale, Ed Krejny, Wayne Heinen, Mark Burns and MSJ

73 and Good DX, Jerry Starr & Buffalo K. Foonman

The NRC AM Log on a disk. The NRC is offering this service primarily for sight-impaired members, but NRC members (ONLY) may purchase this PC-formatted, 3.5-inch disk for \$6.00 postpaid. The list contains only Frequency, Call letters, State, City, Antenna, Day Power, Night Power, Additional Powers, Permits, Time Zone, and Stereo Operation and is current with the 20th Edition of the NRC AM Log. Order from the NRC Publications Center - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661. NY orders, please add sales tax.

The NRC AM Radio Log, 20th Edition, is compiled from both members' reports and from official sources so that it is the most accurate listing of U. S. and Canadian AM stations available - and it includes Expanded Band stations. Cross-referenced, 3-hole punched for standard binders. Still only \$16.95 to U. S. and Canadian members; \$22.95 to U. S. and Canadian non-NRC members. Airmail to members: Latin America, \$24.00; Europe, \$25.00; 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 phantom2@eaze.net

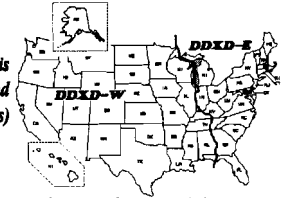
6124 Roaring Springs Drive - North Richland Hills, TX 76180-5552

East: David Yocis DavidYocis@aol.com

532 LaGuardia PL, #462 - New York, NY 10012-1428

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

(Division line is between East and Central time zones)



DDXD-West

MEDIUM WAVE RAMBLINGS

- Sort of a small turnout for this "middle of the DX Season" issue! I saw a lot of new member names printed recently which are in the DDXD-West reporting area. Let's hear from you guys, too!!!
- Apologies to Tim Hall as I erroneously reported his DX location for his record-shattering CKMK-1240 Graveyard record logging in Issue 16. The corrected data lies later in the column.

REPORTERS

SA-MB	Shawn Axelrod	Winnipeg	Icom ICR-70 & Drake R8 + 4 Foot Unamplified Box Loop/Quantum Loop, 145' outdoor wire, 100' indoor wire, MFJ 1026 Phasing Unit <saxelrod@mb.sympatico.ca>
RD-AZ	Ragnar Danneskjold	Mesa	GE Superadio III; Realistic TM-152 AM stereo radio with Vobbe Superloop <ldwxd@juno.com>
TRH-CA	Tim Hall	Chula Vista	ICF-2010, KIWA loop, Delco car radio <halls@inetworld.net>
GJ-CA	Gary Jackson	Sacramento	FRG-8800 + Kiwa Loop
BK-CA	Bob Karchevski	Sunnyvale	R8-A/two long wires/MFJ-1026mw <karchev@worldnet.att.net>
BM-NE	Bob McCoy	Lincoln	<n0sce@alltel.net>
CR-IL	Cristos Rigas	Wood Dale	R-2000, ICF 2010, Kowalski Loop <crigas@birinc.com>
JJR-WI	John J. Rieger	South Milwaukee	FRG100, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959B tuner/preamp, DSP599zx Audio Noise Reduction Filter; RS DX-398 stock <johnrieger@webtv.net>
RR-UT	Rocky Robello, KA7EII	Sandy	Sangean ATS-909 + Select-A-Tenna. <KA7EII@webtv.net>
MS-MB	Morris Sorensen	Winnipeg	Drake R8 + McKay-Dymek DA-0 ferrite loop, or indoor random wire
Ed.-TX	Editor	North Richland Hills	

STATION NEWS & NOTES

1270	WWCA	IN	Gary - 2/3 1356 - Fair, with Mexican music and talk in Spanish-language. ID at 1300 as <i>Esta es WWCA, Radio Centro, 1270 AM</i> . This station has been silent for a while. Don't know when they returned back to the air. I have noticed them with Spanish language format and <i>Radio Centro</i> slogans in the past week or so. (CR-IL)
1370	WLTH	IN	Gary - 2/3 1402 - Fair, with disco song and ID at :03 as <i>This is AM 13-70 WLTH Gary-Merrillville</i> . This station has been silent for a while. Don't know when they returned back to the air. I have been noticing them the past 2 weeks with black-oriented programming. They seem to be running talk show programming with African-American themes in the morning, while in the afternoons I have been hearing them playing disco and urban-contemporary type music. (CR-IL)



UNIDs and UNID HELP

1400	UNID	NE	- Morris Sorensen's unID from Issue #15 was from the Pinnacle Sports Nebraska Cornhuskers Network coverage of the Fiesta Bowl. The problem is that there are 3 affiliates on 1400: KBRB, KCOW, and KLIN (which are all 3 of the Nebraska stations on the frequency). The ads he quoted were network ones, for Millard Lumber and Valentino's restaurants (great pizza!). If he had gotten some of the local stuff, it would have made a difference. (BM-NE)
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DX AND EQUIPMENT TESTS

- 630 WMALt DC Washington - 1/30 0100 - Mostly heard CFCO and CHED, but at 0109 heard a possible *Fibber Magee and Molly* program. Was this them testing? (SA-MB) [From what I have read elsewhere . . . 'twas! - Ed.]
- 1090 KTNS- CA Oakhurst - 1/23 0000 - Not heard; only KAAV. (SA-MB)

TIS & OTHER STUFF

- 1610 TIS/HAR CA Placerville - 1/31 - Giving weather conditions for the summit on Highway 80, saying chains were required. (GJ-CA)
- 1610 House CA San Diego - 2/1 0910 - Another new talking house. This one is located somewhere east of I-805 near the intersection of CA-15 (soon to be I-15). Raspy signal. Someone didn't do their homework; when the Balboa Park TIS comes back on, this guy's signal won't be audible anywhere. New. (TRH-CA)
- 1610 UNID CA - 2/1 0910 - UNID with 3 phone company tones and *If you would like to place a call, please hang up and try again.* Heard with weak signal all over town (evenings and sunrise) underneath my local WNUB568 and the station at San Ysidro (Balboa Park station is still silent). Not sure which direction it's coming from. Any other SoCal DXers hearing this one? (TRH-CA)
- 1670 WFKC502 CA Menlo Park - 1/26 2104-2106 - With repeating tape. ID did not sound like WSKC502. And certainly not WTRN210 as reported in DX News for 1/24/00. Can one station have two or more call signs authorized? (BK-CA)



MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT ELT

- 560 KLZ CO Denver - 2/1 2130 - You're listening to *Legends 56*, KLZ Denver. Then *Glenn Miller's Moonlight Serenade* in the superlative sound of AM stereo. (((RD-AZ))))
- 600 WMT IA Cedar Rapids - 1/17 2203 - Good, in KSJB null, with ABC News, local weather, promo for *Iowa Hawkeyes* basketball on WMT, and for a farm expo in Cedar Rapids sponsored by WMT. (MS-MB)
- 600 CJWW SK Saskatoon - 1/20 2248 - Fair, in KSJB null, with song *The Good Old Hockey Game* by Canadian country and folk music legend *Stompin' Tom Connors*. Weather for Saskatoon and North Battleford mentioned lunar eclipse visible at 11:22 PM. (MS-MB)
- 610 KDAL MN Duluth - 1/15 2327 - Fair, ending *Bulldogs* hockey, KDAL ID, list of sponsors in Duluth. (MS-MB)
- 610 CKTB ON St. Catharines - 1/15 2330 - Poor, under KDAL, with ad for a furniture store in St. Catharines. (MS-MB)
- 640 WWLS OK Moore - 1/22 2200 - Fair, with *Norman Tigers* basketball from Norman Invitational Tournament. WWLS ID during a time-out. (MS-MB)
- 750 KMMJ NE Grand Island - 1/22 1754 - Good, with SS talk and ads, SS ballad. Calls given in SS at 1800 with clear mention of Grand Island. (MS-MB)
- 760 KTLK CO Thornton - 1/18 1600 - Weak, with call letter ID, news; Some fading. Probably daytime skywave.. (MS-MB)
- 830 CKKY AB Wainwright - 1/20 2233 - Good, in WCCO null, with country music, *Key 83* slogan, *Eye on Wainwright* community PSA show sponsored by *Wainwright Eye Care*. (MS-MB)
- 840 KMAX WA Colfax - 1/20 2257 - Good, in WHAS null, with *Dr. Joy Brown*, ad for *Copper Basin's Paradise Ridge* new homes - *Pullman's Best*. ID mentioned . . . *servicing Pullman and Eastern Washington*. (MS-MB)
- 860 KKOW KS Pittsburg - 1/18 1759 - Good, with *Harvest US* agricultural program report ending. Weather: *40 degrees at AM 860 KKOW Pittsburg-??*. Missed second city. (MS-MB)
- 880 KRVN NE Lexington - 1/22 1800 - Fair, in CKLQ null, with ABC News followed by *KRVN Weatherwatch*. (MS-MB)
- 920 KVEL UT Vernal - 2/1 2140 - With ad, then an ID, and into *Jazz* basketball. (RD- AZ)
- 940 KXUX OR Bend - 1/26 2158-2200 - *Pink Panther Theme* and ToH ID: *It's The Best Music From The Past 50 Years*, AM 940 KXUX Bend followed by ABC News. Very Strong - still on daytime power? (RR-UT)
- 940 KXUX OR Bend - 1/30 2300 - With ID: *You're listening to 940 KXUX*, Bend then into ABC News. I had a Vobbe Loop hooked up to it and it made a big difference. I was looking for non-existent AM stereo stations. (RD-AZ)

- 950 KMTX MT Helena - 1/26 2208 - Weak in jumble, with *Unforgettable 95 KMTX* with NOS music. New Montana catch! (RR-UT)
- 980 KKMS MN Richfield - 1/17 2259 - Good, with some CBW splatter. Ad for *Crown College*, *KKMS Christian Talk*, weather report, ID as *Christian Talk*, AM 980 KRMS *Richfield - Minneapolis-St. Paul*. (MS-MB)
- 1020 KLLK MN Fergus Falls - 1/18 1749 - Fair, with oldies music, ads. Used slogan *Oldies 1020, your home for the best oldies, but gave Caller ID at 1753*. (MS-MB)
- 1130 KSDO CA San Diego - 1/30 0646 - With ad for KSDO.COM and Michael Reagan afterwards. This is unusual because KWKH is dominant at night and XEETCH from Etchojoa, Sonora is dominant in the mornings for me. CKWX is heard on occasion here, but KSDO is unusual. Perhaps they were still on the day antenna? (RD-AZ)
- 1310 WIBA WI Madison - 1/23 0000 - Fair, in KNOX null, with ID: *First with the news - WIBA Madison*. (MS-MB)
- 1320 KOZY MN Grand Rapids - 1/15 2200 - Fair, with ad mentioning Bemidji. Local weather, etc.. (MS-MB)
- 1360 KKBI MN Bemidji - 1/17 2350 - Good, with Bemidji ads including *The Glass Doctor* and *Peppercord Restaurant*. Local weather, more Bemidji ads, then *It's 22 degrees in Bemidji*. (MS-MB) [I'll bet that was the "PeppercorN Restaurant" - Ed.]
- 1370 KDTH IA Dubuque - 1/16 0000 - Fair, with ID by man mentioning . . . *here on your weather station, KDTH, Dubuque*, and into CBS News. (MS-MB)
- 1430 KEZW CO Aurora - 1/18 2242 - Fair, on top briefly, with "Hire seniors in the workplace" PSA, CL ID, *John Denver* music. (MS-MB)
- 1450 WKLA MI Ludington - 1/24 2118 - Poor, though clear, with 1340 WMTE and WKLA 1450 ID. NOS format. Rare! (JJR-WI)
- 1450 KNSI MN St. Cloud - 1/17 2345 - Poor, on top briefly, with St. Cloud ad mentioning an employment opportunity. (MS-MB)
- 1460 KTXS CA Salinas - 1/26 2038-2100 - ToH VID: *KTXS Salinas, Santa Cruz, Monterey . . . Sports Radio 14-60 The Dude*. (BK-CA)
- 1460 KRRS CA Santa Rosa - 1/26 2031-2038 - Spanish talk mixing with sports talk (KTXS) and C&W Music (KCKX). (BK-CA)
- 1460 KLTC ND Dickinson - 1/15 2340 - Good, with ID by man as *Real Country, KTLK*. (MS-MB)
- 1550 WBSC SC Bennettsville - 1/29 0700 - Fair and clear, with calls given twice (though no ID heard) into ABC News. (JJR-WI)
- 1580 WKKD IL Aurora - 1/18 2256 - Poor, with CNN entertainment news, mention of CNN headline News, *WKKD Aurora* ID. (MS-MB)
- 1650 KBDJ CO Aurora - 1/31 0932 - ID, then Christian music. Weak, with lots of static. KGIL nulled. (GJ-CA)
- 1680 WTIR FL Winter Garden - 1/24 0646 - ID, then again at 0648 along with *Public Information Radio*. All I get on phone calls is a recording and I have left several messages. No answer on tapes with home-made QSLs, either. Anyone verify this one yet? (GJ-CA)
- 1700 KTBK TX Sherman - 1/28 0400 - With ESPN Radio and *The Ticket* ID. Strong . . . bets I have heard it in over a year. (GJ-CA) [Gary, these are correct calls and city - Ed.]

GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

* indicates record held by DXer from North America (excluding Alaska)

1230 kHz:	1240 kHz:	1400 kHz:			Miles
YVNT VE	CKMK BC	YVZJ VE	Caucauga	Tim Hall	Crane Beach, Barbados 525
	YVLQ VE		Mackenzie	Tim Hall	Jasper, AB *267
			La Victoria	Tim Hall	Crane Beach, Barbados 574
			Barinas	Tim Hall	Crane Beach, Barbados 803



DDXD-East

Deadlines are Tuesdays.

Bill Alisauskas sends in a list of stations in the Atlanta area that were knocked off in the 1/23 ice storm (not to be confused with the 1/29 ice storm which arrived in Atlanta the day Bill's letter made it here!). WCNN-680 was off until around 1700, then back on with reduced power. WAEC-860 was off the entire day. WNIV-970 was off but back at 1300 check. WGUN-1010 was off the entire day. WKNG-1060 was off until 1200, then off again after 1500. WFTD-1080 was off the whole day. WWWE-1100 was off until 1500 check, but back off at 1600. WKGE-1160 off all day. WGKA-1190, off until around 1600. WTJH-1260 off all day. WBTR-1330 off till about 1500. WGMI-1440 ran just OC until around 1600. WDCY-1520 was off all day. WAZX-1550 was off until about 1500, then with low power until about 1600. Bill also was able to use the opportunity to pick up a few new DX stations, which you'll see below.



STATION NEWS

- 680 WNZK MI Dearborn Heights - 1/28 2300 - EE preaching, lots of "Praise the Lord"s, ran over top of hour and did not hear the closing. ID at 0004: "America's ethnic superstation." EE is rare on WNZK, and I've never heard EE religion there before. (TS-MI)
- 1010 WCST WV Berkeley Springs - 1/28 1530 - Very distorted audio for both speech and music, heard while listening to see if afternoon signoff was still 1530. Called station at 1540, and told them about the problem. The person who answered said she knew about the problem, and their engineer did too. I told her the quality was so bad that the station should go off the air. She agreed, and two minutes later a man announced that WCST was signing off, and that people should tune in WHDC, the FM affiliate. How's that for a response? (PC-VA)
- 1060 WMEX MA Natick - 1/30 0040-0145+ - This local noted running equipment test with "The Cooking Couple" program, long periods of OC. Very strong, no doubt testing their new 40 kW daytime transmitter. (MD-MA)
- 1230 WANO KY Pineville - 1/26 0645 - ID as "1490 WFXV," apparently // nearby Middlesboro, at least at this time of the morning. (RB-NC)
- 1250 WQXA PA York - 1/25 1400 - ID "This is real country 1250, WQXA York." Format change; this station seems to cycle from C&W to OLD to NOS. (SK-PA)
- 1520 WKBZ MI Muskegon Heights - 1/25 - OK, I give up! After a couple weeks of Doug Stephens' syndicated morning show and observing the correct power-up time (0815), local guy Jon Hughes is back on this morning doing a local morning show, and putting the 10 kW day transmitter on at 0600. WKBZ also broadcast open carrier much of the last two weekends. What gives here? (PLB-MI)
- 1540 WPTR NY Albany - 1/24 1754 - Snippets of NOS song, then jingle, "WPTR, where the legends live." Now with NOS format. Couldn't tell if it's satellite, as CHIN came up and smothered them. (SK-PA)
- 1600 WCPK VA Chesapeake - This is HF-MI's unID in no. 15; they had Liberty Works Network until 1/24 when it moved to co-owned WHKT-1650. Now WCPK is black gospel. (SK-PA)

DX TESTS

- 630 WMAL DC Washington - 1/30 0055-0110 - Not heard in null of semi-local WPRO, just CFCO with Classic Gold oldies, no trace of frequent visitor CFCY. (MD-MA)
- 760 WVNE MA Leicester - 1/17 0400-0500 - Heard, good over, under WJR with code ID's (an extra dot in the "V" to make it sound like W4NE), and dialogue by CE Lincoln Hubbard. New. (JF-ON)
- 1090 KTNS CA Oakhurst - 1/23 0000-0100 - Not heard. Just CKKW, WCAR mix. (JF-ON) Not heard. WBAL and CKKW hogging channel. (SK-PA) Not heard. Was able to null WBAL, but just CKKW. (JEK*MD)
- 1450 WILM DE Wilmington - 1/30 0112-0125 - Not heard in a jumble of stations, none dominant. (MD-MA)
- 1500 WFIF CT Milford - 1/9 0030-0045 - Heard fair to poor with WTOP, WLQV, with both voice, code ID's. New. (JF-ON)

UNID AND UNID HELP

- 900 UNID - 1/28 1708-1731 - On top for a lengthy period of time with numerous mentions of Colombia, news items from the CARACOL network. Time checks in EST, and I think at least one mention of Philadelphia. Maybe WEMG? The link to WEMG's web site is dead. (NJW*ON)
- 920 UNID - 2/1 1825 - "Your Sports Authority," "Home of Polar Bear(?) Basketball," CNN Entertainment News at 1829. (WM-MD)
- 1000 UNID - 1/24 1900 - With OC (WMVF?) on channel, heard a weak "News when you want it, The News Station." So that's AP slogan, but the only one listed is KCEO-CA. Who is this? (SK-PA)
- 1250 UNID - 1/28 2015 - C&W music, "Country 1250" ID, rising above the jumble. (WM-MD) [WQXA-PA, as above? - DY]
- 1290 UNID - 1/10 1840 - Phil (or Bill?) Mack WBAP Overdrive Music Magazine. Mix of mostly old standard C&W and some new C&W, many truck driver ads, including companies, schools, and Parkland Express. No ID at 1900, program ended at 1915, local weather with no relative indications, into local programming, C&W song, signal lost. (JEK*MD)
- 1300 UNID - 1/29 0015-0030 - With Bloomberg News Radio, traffic on the 5's with Tom Rogers, mentions of NJ towns and roads. In the pile I heard a WERE Cleveland ID, but not sure if it was the Bloomberg station. (TS-MI)
- 1370 UNID - 1/27 2010 - Foot-stomping gospel service, atop much of hour. WLTC is the only GOS on frequency, and in the ice storm area, so perhaps on for emergency broadcast? (RJE-PA)
- 1380 UNID - 1/27 2020 - Continuous CNN Radio News, no local ID at 2030. WSYB and WGUS are only CNN affiliates listed. (RJE-PA)

LOGGINGS

- 560 WFIL PA Philadelphia - 1/28 1631 - Atop CFCO with spot for a "Christian" ISP, Philadelphia traffic report, ID at 1633. (NJW*ON)
- 570 WKYX KY Paducah - 1/28 2154 - Michael Reagan Show, ABC news at top of hour, fair under, over WKBN. (HF*MI)
- WKBN OH Youngstown - 1/28 2151 - ID "News Radio 5-70 WKBN," Canfield vs. Niles Dragons high school basketball, ad for Dean's Milk and Juice, Indians spot. Fair over, under WKYX. (HF*MI)
- 590 WKZO MI Kalamazoo - 1/20 0659 - With semi-local WCAB phased, woman with several WKZO mentions, full ID at the top of the hour, man with traffic and into CBS news, followed by political discussion and "Traffic and weather together here on the 9's." (RB-NC)
- KOMJ NE Omaha - 1/29 0115 - "The New 5-90," and "Magic 5-90" ID's, NOS music, Nebraska weather and ads. Fair. (HF*MI)
- WCAB NC Rutherfordton - 1/20 1744 - Southern gospel music, live DJ, "AM 590 WCAB, your one chance to win," then dropped out to probable power cut. Atop mix. (SK-PA)
- CJCL ON Toronto - 1/28 2044 - "Voice of the Raptors, Sports Radio 5-90," ads for Tim Horton's, Speedy Brakes, Scotia Bank, poor under WKZO. (HF*MI)
- 600 CKAT ON North Bay - 1/28 2039 - Under, over WSNL with "Today's hottest country sounds, AM 600 CKAT, fair. Again 1/29 0045 with "In touch with North Bay, AM 600 CKAT," C&W, fair. (HF*MI)
- 620 WZON ME Bangor - 1/20 0620 - Good with little QRM, mostly 2-man sports show dialogue, variety of game scores, ads for NCAA playoff tickets and Navy enlistment. Slogan "Dave Dove(?) in the Sports Zone," ESPN "Extra Point" report at 0630, legal ID 0632, local news, weather by Tom Tomanski. Often tried for at LSR, new for ME #17, report sent. (JEK-MD)
- 630 KSJL MO St. Louis - 1/24 0205 - Fair with CFCO off for maintenance, Bob Wells talk show and St. Louis mentions. CFCO back at 0221. (TS-MI)
- 640 WGST GA Atlanta - 1/24 0215 - Weak, briefly over two unID's with metro Atlanta school closings for 1/25. (TS-MI)
- WMFN MI Zeeland - 1/29 2301 - CBS News to local weather at 2304, over SS station (R. Progreso, Cuba?). Fair, best in USB to avoid CFCO-630. (HF*MI)
- 660 KCRO NE Omaha - 1/12 0715 - While looking for WORL (not heard), man with sign-on and "It's 6:15 at



- KCRO," into religious programming. (RB-NC)
- 680 WNZK MI Dearborn Heights - 1/26 1853 - Tentative with Indian or Chinese music, atop for a minute then lost. (SK-PA)
- WPTF NC Raleigh - 1/28 2306 - After CBS news, North Carolina Accuweather and ID, "North Carolina's news and information station." Over and under CFTR in WNZK null, rare. (TS-MI)
- 700 WLW OH Cincinnati - 1/23 1230 - Oddly up at this time with sports program. (BA-GA)
- 710 WAQI FL Miami - 1/29 1857 - SS commentary about Elián González, under and over R. Rebelde also with Elián commentary, ID(?) spot mentioning Miami and Florida mentioned "Radio Mundial." Fair. (HF*MI)
- 720 WGCR NC Pisgah Forest - 1/28 1647 - ID and religious music, lost to WGN. (NjW*ON)
- CHTN PI Charlottetown - 1/31 0030 - Over WGN, up and down with some very good peaks and slight splash onto XEX-730, ID 0040 "Proud to be in PEI, the birthplace of Canada, 720 CHTN." Never this good before, and never with an ID. (TS-MI)
- 730 WBBi AL Madison - 1/23 1252 - Local ads, legal ID. Very weak, but readable. New. (BA-GA)
- WFMW KY Madisonville - 1/28 1811 - Woman announcer with local weather report and ID, C&W music, QRM from WLIL. (NjW*ON)
- KWRE MO Warrenton - 1/29 0840 - Atop channel with C&W music, weather advisories, spots for Buy-Rite IGA in Lake St. Louis, and Cuivre River Electric Co-operative. (NjW*ON)
- WLIL TN Lenoir City - 1/28 1815 - Local basketball broadcast, ID and spot for Tru-Value Hardware in Lenoir City. (NjW*ON)
- 740 WPAQ NC Mount Airy - 1/29 0745 - ID, obituary report, fair and alone. (NjW*ON)
- WVCH PA Chester - 1/28 1528 - Announcements about local religious events by woman, ID, poor. (NjW*ON)
- WIRJ TN Humboldt - 1/29 0017 - "Your home for Groovin' Oldies," and "Groovin' with the oldies," call ID 0040, poor. (HF*MI)
- 750 WBMD MD Baltimore - 1/28 1702 - ID into a cheesy-sounding prayer request program, good atop WSB. (NjW*ON)
- 770 WEW MO St. Louis - 1/28 1750 - Van Morrison song, ID. (WM-MD)
- WLWL NC Rockingham - 1/28 1730 - ID in WABC fade. (WM-MD)
- + 1/28 1745 - Good battling WABC with 40's blues music, finally ID'ed at 1806 with detailed sign-off announcement. (MD-MA)
- 790 CIGM ON Sudbury - 1/28 2030 - "Thirty minutes of hot new country, 7-90 CIGM," CIGM Hockey Jocks spot, fair. (HF*MI)
- 830 WFNO LA Norco - 1/29 1810 - EE Latin and SS disco beat tunes, "The Fog" between songs, "WFNO" SID 1837. Fair or better, mainly over WCCO. (HF*MI)
- CFJR ON Brockville - 1/22 1809 - Classic rock, on "Best songs of yesterday and today, classic rock of the 70's and 80's, 830 CFJR." (LW-NY)
- + 1/28 2012 - Oldies over, under WCCO, 70s-90's spot, "As much a part of Brockville as Courthouse Square." (HF*MI)
- 850 WYLF NY Penn Yan - 1/21 1842 - Elvis song, ad for Advil, "Let us be your companion," ID. (WM-MD)
- 880 WINU IL Highland - 1/29 2030 - ID at bottom of hour, possible sporting event, under WCBS. (NjW*ON)
- 900 WLSI KY Pikeville - 1/28 1800 - Atop CHML with gospel music, ID 1801. (NjW*ON)
- 940 WGMY MI South Haven - 1/29 0927-0947 - Fighting an oldies station, and another carrying basketball, with "Radio Shopping Show," ID, and spot for Buckshot Archery in Watervliet and the Waffle House. (NjW*ON)
- 960 WFIR VA Roanoke - 1/29 0053 - G. Gordon Liddy show, call ID before top of hour, fair. (HF*MI)
- 970 WFLA FL Tampa - 1/25 0030 - Fair, mixing with WWSW, "News-Talk 970 WFLA," ID's. Florida #24. (LW-NY)
- WLKY KY Louisville - 1/28 2140 - ID as "News 970 WLKY" during break in Lowell Lock Monsters vs. Louisville Panthers AHL hockey, fair with WNEB. (NjW*ON)
- WWSW PA Pittsburgh - 1/21 2000 - Under WWDJ with OLD, "All request Friday night on 94.5 3WS." (LW-NY)

Country and Gospel Music
WJOR
 P.O. Box 187 /AM 1040
 St. Joseph, Tennessee 38481

- 1010 WPKY AL Dora - 1/23 1300 - Full legal ID, over unID. Fair and steady with WGUN off due to ice storm. (BA-GA)
- WINS NY New York - 1/23 1748 - Amazingly good and alone on frequency, local ads, "WINS News Time." (BA-GA)
- 1040 CJMS PQ Longueil - 1/27 1948 - Presumed with FF music, talk, over, under WHO, WJHR. (RJE-PA)
- 1070 WGLY NY Plattsburgh - 1/15 1540-1600 - REL music, ID at top of hour, fair in CHOK phase null with WKOK. New and long sought after. (JF-ON)
- WFLI TN Lookout Mountain - 1/28 1745 - ID, spot for Esquire Cleaners and gospel music, fair with WIBC, CHOK, and WIWS. (NjW*ON)
- WIWS WV Beckley - 1/28 1747-1800 - Oldies music, spot for Ford dealer, "WIWS Beckley, Hot Oldies" ID at 1800. (NjW*ON)
- 1080 WKAC AL Athens - 1/23 1503 - Local ads mentioning Limestone County, call ID, into Dick Clark's "Rock, Roll and Remember." Weak, mixing with unID. New with WFTD off. (BA-GA)
- WOAP MI Owosso - 1/22 1708 - Live female DJ taking on-air requests, "WOAP 1080 weather for Michigan, including St. John's." Very wavy. At 1717 WTIC came out of nowhere and pushed them way back. (SK-PA)
- KRLD TX Dallas - 1/28 1934 - Brad Barton with traffic, "KRLD Radio 10-80," ad for Park Gate Hotel, fair. (HF*MI)
- 1100 WTWN VT Wells River - 1/15 1610 - Good at times with WTZM phased with REL music. Ex-WKYR for me. (JF-ON)
- 1150 WDEL DE Wilmington - 1/20 1927 - Fair in 1150 mix, with "Snow Watch Alert" on "Sports-Talk 1150." (LW-NY)
- 1170 KJOC IA Davenport - 1/22 1744 - Female "from AM 1170 KJOC," jumped over WMRH, and just as quickly WWVA came out of nowhere and smothered everything. (SK-PA)
- WMRH WI Waupun - 1/22 1733 - "Right here on 1170 WMRH," ad for a sports and recreation show in Fond du Lac, canned ID "For the music of your life, I'm Larry ... on AM 1170 WMRH." They have ABC "Music of Your Life" NOS, not JRN. Fair and alone. (SK-PA)
- 1190 WIXE NC Monroe - 1/27 1952 - ID, song "Carolina Girl," very rural sound, atop WOWO, WLIB. Not heard in over 20 years. Must be on emergency broadcast; this one rarely missed any excuse to go on emergency broadcast back in the 1970's. (RJE-PA)
- 1230 WHIR KY Danville - 1/26 2200 - Message from Association of Broadcasters, "This is the station for information" and "WHIR Danville" jingle, then CBS news. Atop jumble. (SK-PA)
- WJOI VA Norfolk - 1/28 0640 - "Singing the Blues," ID, promo by station manager, mention of Hampton Road. (WM-MD)
- 1240 WJMC WI Rice Lake - 1/22 1833 - With local CJCS phased, faded up with ID, ad for Northwest Honda, then oldies. New. (JF-ON)
- 1260 WNOO TN Chattanooga - 1/23 1300 - Full ID into REL, over unID with NOS-type programming. Fair. (BA-GA)
- 1280 CFMB PQ Montreal - 1/24 2355 - Weak-fair, under WADO, with CFMB, "Oldies Classics." Last heard as CJMS. (LW-NY)
- 1310 WOOX PA Bedford - 1/8 1740 - Surfaced with ID, into OLD music, then gone. Ex-WBFD for me. (JF-ON)
- 1330 WESR VA Onley - 1/24 1749 - "At 103.3, the Shore," ad for Jackson-Hewitt, female announcer, then lost to WWRV. Rarely heard. (SK-PA)
- 1360 WVMC IL Mount Carmel - 1/24 1751 - Canned "WVMC AM 1360," during WNJC fade. (SK-PA)
- WCKY OH Cincinnati - 1/26 1850 - Discussion about the Super Bowl, "Homer" and "AM 1360." (WM-MD)
- 1380 WSYB VT Rutland - 1/27 0905 - News, ID, local talk show, way atop channel. (RJE-PA)
- 1390 WKDR VT Burlington - 1/27 0915 - Local talk show, ID, promo mostly over WLAN, new. Again later in the day 2004, even with WLAN, ID ending news. (RJE-PA)
- 1400 WQXO MI Munising - 1/23 2000 - "If you like the music, tell a friend, we're AM 1400 WQXO Munising." Then CBS news, atop jumble. (SK-PA)



- 1420 WYKC MS Grenada - 1/23 1800 - Partial ID shot up "WYKC," then CBS news. (SK-PA)
- 1420 WHK OH Cleveland - 1/27 2255 - End of religious programming, mention of Coral Ridge Ministries, ID. (WM-MD)
- 1430 WMYS IN Indianapolis - 1/27 2000 - ID in break of Butler University basketball game, last heard as WIRE a number of years ago. (RJE-PA)
- WYKC MA Everett - 1/27 0925 - Ad, weather, ID, atop WNSW. (RJE-PA)
- 1440 WWTM MA Worcester - 1/21 2115 - "WEEI 850" ID's, on Boston Celtics basketball network. (LW-NY)
- WMKM MI Inkster - 1/31 0100-0200 - Up and down with a few good, long peaks, "The World of Jazz Plus" with Lou Farrow(?). New at this location; first time I've heard a non-religious show on WMKM. (TS-MI)
- WAJR WV Morgantown - 2/1 1745 - Local news, mentions of Fairmont State College, West Virginia University, time check, ID, mention of 103.3 FM. (WM-MD)
- 1450 WILM DE Wilmington - 1/24 1815 - Fair in heavy QRM with "Metro Weather Report" on "News-Talk 1450 WILM." (LW-NY)
- WIBM MI Jackson - 1/29 1928 - "Pistons Wrap" post-game show, ads for Best Kosher Products, Oakwood Hospital, Oakhurst Golf & Country Club, McNab Carpet (as low as 22¢ per yard for used carpet from the Detroit Auto Show, but you gotta take it and no returns), Channel 62 TV spot, ID 1950 "Sports Radio 14-50 WIBM Jackson," Detroit area ads and spots from the WWJ-950 Pistons feed, very good. (HF*MI)
- 1460 WMBA PA Ambridge - 2/1 1900 - List of affiliates at end of talk show, ID, World Wide Web Network news. (WM-MD)
- 1470 WMBD IL Peoria - 1/28 0020 - Promo, "News Radio 1470," ID. (WM-MD)
- WBTV VA Broadway - 2/1 1735 - Sports news, weather, ID. (WM-MD)
- 1490 WKNY NY Kingston - 1/21 1900 - Another on my "Most Wanted List," faded up with "1490 AM WKNY Kingston," and into pop oldie. New. (JF-ON)
- WPAK VA Farmville - 1/23 0301 - Popping up atop jumble, "WPAK 1490 in Farmville, full power day and night with information for you." A test, or now on 24 hours? (SK-PA)
- 1600 WCGO IL Chicago Heights - 1/28 2352 - Weak, in and out, heard in break a mention of "... on Indianapolis Boulevard and I-80 in Hammond, Indiana," promo for Joe Lacina's Saturday Dance Party, and ID "AM 1600 WCGO." (TS-MI)
- 1650 KBDJ CO Denver - 1/22 0030-0300 - Presumed with mellow and folkish religious music under KDNZ, too tough to make out the talking. (SK-PA)
- 1670 WRNC GA Warner Robins - 1/27 2300 - C&W music, mixing with WTDY, several "Real Country 96.5" ID's. (LW-NY)
- WTDY WI Madison - 1/27 2000 - News-talk, public service message from Attorney General's office, fair, mixing with WRNC. (LW-NY)

TIS AND MISCELLANEOUS

- 530 KNNS693 NJ New Brunswick - 1/30 0935 - With announcements, schedules, web site, and partial ID. After noting its strength on recent trip, I thought this might be the one in the mud here. (RJE-PA)
- 1630 KNAA585 NY New York - 1/23 0040-0050 - Fair with KCJJ phased, with info on JFK Airport. Ex-1700, new for me on this frequency. (JF-ON)

OFF THE INTERNET

From Scott Fybush's "Northeast Radio Watch" e-mail newsletter, used by permission: WGR-NY-550's news department is closing down, co-owned WBEN-930 will be the news/talk station and WGR will stick with sports. WWKB-NY-1520 is set to become a simulcast of a Buffalo FM (either CHR WKSE-98.5 or hot AC WMJQ-102.5) as early as 1/31. WPTR-NY-1540 finally made its debut 1/9, kicking things off with Doris Day and "Que Será Será."

ADDRESS UPDATES

- 1480 WSHP PA Shippensburg - P. O. Box 247, Tyrone PA 16686. (SK-PA)

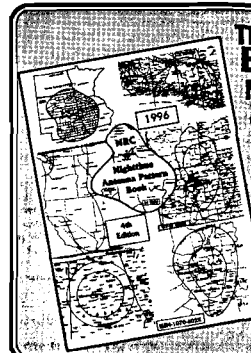
REPORTERS

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BA-GA | Bill Alisuskas | Douglasville - Car radio (1996 Chevy Corsica) |
| RB-NC | Ron Bailey | Shelby - R8A, DL-2 phasing unit, 7x550' Beverages |
| PLB-MI | Phil Boersma | Spring Lake - Local news |
| PC-VA | Perry Crabill | Winchester - R8, Kiwa Loop, 100' RW |
| MD-MA | Marc DeLorenzo | Auburndale - NRD-525, Quantum loop |
| RJE-PA | Russ Edmunds | Blue Bell - Car radio and whip |
| JF-ON | Jeff Falconer | Clinton - R8B, 45' vertical, 2x120' LW's, noise reduced via 9:1 transformers, terminated EWE antenna, modified MFJ-1026, Timewave DSP-599zx |
| HF*MI | Harold Frodge | DX'ing at MARE DX'pedition, Brighton - R71A, 500' RW's, 65' TTFDFV |
| SK-PA | Steve Kennedy | Coal Township - Superadio III |
| JEK-MD | Joe Kureth | Uniontown - SW8, 950' NE LW |
| JEK*MD | | DX'ing from Uniontown - Superadio III, Radio Shack loop |
| WM-MD | William McGuire | Cheverly - DX-380 |
| TS-MI | Tom Sanders | Lexington - Sony 2010 |
| NjW*ON | Niel Wolfish | DX'ing in Minden Township (Haliburton County), R71A, 500' LW to the south, 1000' LW to the southwest |
| LW-NY | Leslie Wood | East Meadow - Sony 2010, Radio Shack loop |

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International Jim Renfrew renfrew@localnet.com

DX Digest

61 Wilcox Street
Rochester, NY 14607-3832

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

Other than Bob Dylan and Jackie Gleason I don't have any other celebrity DX'ers to quiz you on, so how about some DX trivia from television? Here goes: On which TV show did the two main characters regularly communicate over "Channel D"? (a) Get Smart! (b) The Man from U.N.C.L.E. (c) Combat (d) Car 54 (e) Mission: Impossible. For extra credit, name the characters and actors! For extra-extra credit, identify where Channel D is found on the electromagnetic spectrum.

If you have any celebrity DX'er sightings, please pass them along to me. Wouldn't it be great if Joe Montana or Susan Lucci were DX'ers? After all, Montana threw to Rice in the end zone with frequency, and Lucci has been nominated for the Emmy with frequency! (Don't worry, concerned DX'ers, I'm a Bills fan, and I don't watch any soaps)

A short column this week - is everyone busy shoveling snow? I think I sorted out the bugs in my e-mail. So direct e-mail and replies should have no problem in reaching me. Jim

TRANS-ATLANTIC DX

- 1197 GERMANY VOA Munich, JAN 28 0405 - Was surprised to hear this one with the Republican response to the State of the Union speech, but pretty weak. At one time this station was easy here, but not anymore. [Dangerfield-PA]
- 1458 UK London, JAN 25 0441 - Ethnic program, man talking, and another station behind it with singing, possibly Albania. [Dangerfield-PA]
- 1467 MOLDAVA Maiac, JAN 24 0233 - Weak, with woman in RR. [Dangerfield-PA]
- 1557 FRANCE Nice, JAN 20 0351 - Good with Radio Bleue night program of pop FF songs and vocals. As I noted [again] while in Paris, the Radio Bleue net alternates their night stations so you have to try the other frequencies to see who's on each night. 1242 and 1404 often. [Dangerfield-PA]
- 1575 UNID perhaps GERMANY, JAN 25 2217 - Very strong open carrier which may have been the new Burg station testing. [Dangerfield-PA]

Ben speaks: "Spent the earlier part of January in Paris and London with wife and granddaughter. Decent reception in the center of either city is difficult and I heard nothing of interest. What I did find interesting was Richard Wood's reception of BBC-1296 in Hawaii. I looked for this station in both Paris and London but was unable to pick up any sign of it, either in FF or EE. In London, which is not too far from Orfordness, I did hear 648 kc, but not 1296 [which used to come on late in the afternoon and which I used to hear quite well on the continent at night.] So until I read Richard's report I was beginning to think 1296 had left the air. Now I think they have the granddaddy of all directional arrays! In Paris at night I heard only Spain on that frequency with others underneath. Here at home there has been occasional interesting reception since mid-January, such as VOA-1197, Moldava-1467, and a big open carrier on 1575. Am still getting signals from computers in the neighborhood [and our own] which are quite a bit annoying, especially when these tend to move to different frequencies."



PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 540 MEXICO XEWA San Luis Potosí SLP, JAN 4 0255 - fair is SS with talk show with a man and woman chatting, seemed to end at 0258, various announcements and then into what sounded like a radio drama, all parallel to XEW 900. [Sorensen-MB]
- 640 CUBA R. Progreso, JAN 27 0356-0404 - fair, man in SS with many references to Cuba, Cubanos and Habana. Seemed to start a new program at 0400. [Sorensen-MB]
- 770 COLOMBIA RCN HJXX Bogotá, JAN 9 0355 - with talk by excited male speaker mentioning Colombia and something about "picadors" (I think they are the guys who get the bull angry before a bullfight by sticking darts in it). Poor to fair battling several domestics on frequency. [Sorensen-MB] (Using "Ferdinand" by Munro Leaf as my primary reference, "picadores" are just what Morris says they are, but perhaps the announcer he heard was referring to the role of the media in political campaigns? - Jim)

- 780 BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS ZBVI Roadtown, JAN 4 2100-2102 - Sudden break-through of "God Save the Queen". [Trelford-JAM]
- 780 VENEZUELA YVNM Coro, JAN 4 1950-2040 - talk show, several "R. Coro" ID's, fair, battling with YVOD. [Trelford-JAM]
- 780 VENEZUELA YVOD San Cristobal, JAN 4 1958-2140 - pop music, ID in SS and EE, over/under YVNM, fair. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1280 PUERTO RICO WCMN Arecibo, DEC 20 2048-2101 - talk show, ID as "Uste Arecibo" ("ésta es", I suspect - Jim), fair. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1450 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HIAC Solcedo, DEC 28 2130-2200 - pop and romantica music, interference from WSPB, presumed. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1570 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HIAJ Santo Domingo, JAN 1 1835-1942 - older pop music and Christmas religious music, ID as "Radio Amanecer Internacional", fair. [Trelford-JAM]

Jim speaks: "I think Don's loggings need to be converted to UTC."

CONTRIBUTORS (@ = via e-mail)

@Ben Dangerfield, Wallingford, Pa., Drake R8A, 4 slopers, MFJ-1026 phaser. <Ben-Dangerfield@email.msn.com>
Morris Sorensen, Winnipeg MB; Drake R8, McKay-Dymek DA-9 ferrite loop. [Yo, Morris, is that a new receiver? - Jim]
Don Trelford, St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica; Kenwood R2000 and NS-EW long wire.

IN IDXD WE'RE ALWAYS READY FOR "OVER THE TOP"

I received this forwarded message from a friend in Waco. Thought you may be able to help him out. [Bill Hale, NRC DDXD] "Would be very interesting to see what kind of long transatlantic and over the pole stuff would have been reported the last couple of days....A bunch of us hams worked the DXpedition in Burma on 160 meters last night in what almost had to be over-the-pole propagation by the time. The past two nights noise has been very light and from the sound of the Northern Europeans on 80 meters, auroral activity must really be low...just be interesting when your loggings come in to check the past two or three days. [Roland, undated via Bill Hale] (For non-hams, 160 meters is 1800-2000 kHz - Jim)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NEW CALEDONIA: Roadio Nouvelle Caledonie (ex-RFO) is the new name for the service which drops French metropolitan programs and adds local music and programs to reflect greater autonomy of the territory. Check out changes at 666 AM. Similar changes have also taken place at Radio Tahiti (ex-RFO) and Radio Walls et Futuna (ex-RFO). [Islands Business 10/99 via David Riacquish in NZDXT NOV 1999]

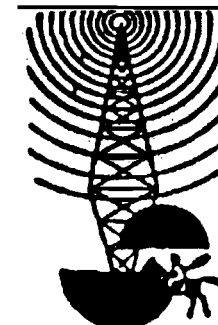
SAMOA: In a QSL from 2AP's Chief Technical Officer, Mr. C. Warren, for 747 kHz, he provides the following information about the MW service. 540 is now the only full-time channel carrying the bilingual (English and Samoan) service from 1700-1000 UTC daily. The former second program channel of 747 is now only used for carrying school broadcasts 1930-2030 and then switched off. This channel is also used for broadcasts of the English version (translated) from Samoa's Parliament when it is in session. 747 uses a DX 10 Harris transmitter fed into a 120 metre mast with omnidirectional pattern. [Paul Ormandy in NZDXT NOV 1999]

DX QUIZ ANSWERS

Napoleon Solo (Robert Vaughn) and Ilya Kuryakin (David McCollum) in "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." Channel D is located precisely between channels C and E! Sorry for possibly misspelling the names. I love doing this column!

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P.O. Box 118
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186 NE 109th St.
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Your successes in obtaining QSL's and other station items

We have a nice turnout this time. Let's here from more of you as the season begins to wind down. — Ken

CANADA

Alberta, CBR, 1010, Calgary, letter in 57 days. V/s Mike Spear. (Jones-SD)
Alberta, CKGY, 1170, Red Deer, p/d letter in 15 days. V/s Clifford Wheeler, Tech Sup. (Rooms-UK)
British Columbia, CKST, 1040, Vancouver, p/d letter in 10 days. V/s Dave Geddes, GM. (Rooms-UK)
British Columbia, CKXM, 1200, Victoria, p/d letter in 12 days. V/s Kimberley Wotherspoon, receptionist. (Rooms-UK)
Manitoba, CFAM, 950, Altona, full detail letter in 21 days for mint stamp (used). V/s is Sanford Hildebrand, Engineer. (Walker—MI)
Newfoundland, CBY, 990, Corner Brook, QSL card in 30 days. V/s R. Haire. (Kennedy-PA)
Ontario, CKPC, 1380, Brantford, f/d letter in 14 days. V/s Steward Bayley, CE. (Rooms-UK)
Saskatchewan, CJYM, 1330, Rosetown, p/d letter in 14 days. V/s Dennis Dyck, GM. (Rooms-UK)
Quebec, CINW, 940, Montreal, e-mail reply for a report left on their website. (Myers—VA)

USA

Arizona, KGME, 550 Phoenix, F/D letter in 22 days. V/S Stephen H. Blodgett, CE. (Wilkins—CO)
Arizona, KMIK, 1580, Tempe, F/D letter in 12 days. V/S John Shadle, C.E. (Wilkins—CO)
Colorado, KDDZ, 1690, Arvada, p/d letter in 12 days. V/s Beth Bonnsetter, AA. (Rooms-UK)
Connecticut, WTIC, 1080, Hartford, personal note written on original report and promotional post card of verie signer with note in 48 days for mint stamp (used). V/s is Bob Steele. (Walker—MI)
Florida, WMIB, 1660, Marco Island, p/d letter in 11 days. V/s Michele Nichols, OM. (Rooms-UK)
Florida, WOKB, 1600, Winter Garden, e-mail reply after an e-mail f/u. V/s Steve January, Operations (Myers—VA)
Georgia, WAFS, 920, Atlanta, f/d letter, schedule, sticker in 8 days. V/s Bob Lipscomb, CE- K4RKP (Myers—VA)
Illinois, WSCR, 1160, Chicago, partial detail letter and drink coasters in 9 days for mint stamp (used). V/s is Harvey Wells, VP/General Manager. (Walker—MI)
Indiana, WHLY, 1620, South Bend, f/d letter in 43 days. V/s Rebecca Dobslaw. (Rooms-UK)
Iowa, KBBG, 1700, Des Moines, "OK" written on original report in 10 days for follow-up report for mint stamp (used). V/s is Eldon L. Schienker, Director of Engineering. (Walker—MI)
Iowa, KCJJ, 1630, Iowa City, ppd/card in 54 days. (Rooms-UK)
Kentucky, WMIK, 560, Middlesboro, e-mail reply for written report. V/s Michael G. Jones, Station Mgr. (Myers—VA)
Maine, WSKW, 1160, Skowhegan, ppd/card in 16 days after 4th f/up. (Rooms-UK)
Maryland, WDKI, 840, Denton, letter in 9 days. V/s Michael McCoy. (Kennedy-PA)
Missouri, KYOO, 1200, Bolivar, ppd/cd in 20 days for f/up. V/S illegible. (Wilkins—CO)
New Jersey, WGYM, 1490, Pleasantville, f/d letter in 16 days. V/s Michael Steele, VP and GM. (Rooms-UK)
New Mexico, KSPA, 610, Albuquerque, N/D letter in 8 days. V/S Marvin Button, GM. (Wilkins—CO)
New York, WRIV, 1390, Riverhead, letter, coverage map, station intro, tentative report denied in 21 days. V/s Bruce Tria, GM. (Kennedy-PA)
New York, WTOR, 770, Youngstown, letter in 12 days. V/s Steve Spicer, OM. (Kennedy-PA)
North Carolina, TIS, 1610, Camp Lejuene, e-mail reply for written report. V/s Capt. Alan Crouch PAO (Myers—VA)
North Carolina, WCLN, 1170, Clinton, confirmation on report. V/s Pat Dixon, GM (Myers—VA)
North Carolina, WEGO, 1410, Concord, f/d letter, sticker in 20 days. V/s Bob Brown, VP/GM (Myers—VA)
North Carolina, WFAI, 1230, Fayetteville, p/d letter in 6 days. V/s Jeffrey M. Andrulonis, Pres/CEO (Myers—VA)



North Dakota, KFNW, 1200, West Fargo, letter, program guide in 12 days. V/s Gery Herr. (Kennedy-PA)
Ohio, WFIN, 1330, Findlay, f/d form letter in 12 days. V/s D. Rund, Engr. (Myers—VA)
Ohio, WHTH, 790, Heath, Confirmation on report. V/s John Franks (Myers—VA)
Ohio, WJMO, 1490, Cleveland Heights, p/d 2-page letter in 12 days. V/s Alan Kazlauckas, CE (Myers—VA)
Ohio, WMVO, 1300, Mount Vernon, letter, business card in 5 days. V/s Arnie Clawson, CE. (Kennedy-PA)
Ohio, WTAM, 1100, Cleveland, letter in 19 days. V/s Ray David, PD. (Jones-SD)
Pennsylvania, WAAT, 750, Scranton, letter, coverage map, program schedule and station profile in 17 days for 50-cent U.S. stamp (used). V/s Kevin M. Fennessy; President, Fennessy Broadcasting Stations Corp. Address: Bank Towers, 3rd Floor, Scranton, PA 18503 Email: HOTWAAT@aol.com <mailto:HOTWAAT@aol.com> (Brooker-ON)
Pennsylvania, WEDO, 810, McKeesport, f/d letter in 5 days. V/s Ron Zoscak, Oper. Engr. (Myers—VA)
Pennsylvania, WEDO, 810, McKeesport, letter program guide in 16 days. V/s Ron Zoscuk, OE. (Kennedy-PA)
Pennsylvania, WMBS, 590, Uniontown, QSL card in 9 days. V/s Larry Campbell, CE. (Kennedy-PA)
Pennsylvania, WTIV, 1230, Titusville, letter in 11 days. V/s Robert H. Sanber. (Kennedy-PA)
South Carolina, WISW, 1320, Columbia, p/d letter in 2 months after a 2nd f/u. V/s Doug Spets, OM (Myers—VA)
South Carolina, WQXL, 1470, Columbia, e-mail reply for a written report. V/s Olin Jenkins (Myers—VA)
Tennessee, WYFN, 980, Madison, p/d letter, sticker in 10 days. V/s David R. Mills, Mgr. (Myers—VA)
Texas, KMKI, 620, Plano, F/D letter in 11 days. V/S Clay Steely, CE. (Wilkins—CO)
Virginia, WJWS, 1370, South Hill, p/d letter in 4 days. V/s Norm Talley, Owner (Myers—VA)
Virginia, WPIN, 810, Dublin, e-mail reply for an e-mail f/u. V/s Jon Ramer, Net, Prg. Dir. (Myers—VA)
Washington, KCCF, 1550, Ferndale, p/d letter in 17 days. V/s Debbie Franks, OM. (Rooms-UK)
Washington, KLFE, 1590, Seattle, f/d letter in 15 days. V/s Richard Harris, CPE. (Rooms-UK)
West Virginia, WTCS, 1490, Fairmont, f/d letter in 12 days. V/s Jacinda Moore, Office Mgr. (Myers—VA)
Wisconsin, WRJN, 1400, Racine, business card, Marquette U schedule, station's basketball schedule. On report, he wrote, "Yes, it's us." V/s Dan Rosen, P.D. (Kennedy-PA)

Elsewhere

Spain, Radiolé 1584, Algeciras, f/d card in 22 days. (Rooms-UK)
Spain, SER, 1080, Huesca, f/d colored certificate in 16 months after f/up. (Rooms-UK)

Other Stuff

Colorado, WPLX284, 530, Denver, PFC in 11 days. V/S Dan Hopkins. (Wilkins—CO)

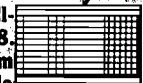
Thanks to this month's participants who include, Mike Brooker, Toronto, Ontario, Terry Jones, Plankinton, South Dakota, Steve Kennedy, Coal Township, Pennsylvania, Greg Myers, Richmond, Virginia, Clive Rooms, Luton, England, Bob Walker, Fenton, Michigan, John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

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DX'ing 'smart', with shared tips and requests by NRC members

We'll start this time with some antenna talk, and we'll get to even more on the CCRadio.

Ragnar Danneskjold <ldwxdx@juno.com>: <http://kfi640.com/youguys/antenna.html>. KFI has this page with a u-build it antenna and they say this is the ultimate. It kind of left me scratching my head....

Randy Stewart <jrs555t@mail.smsu.edu>: If you look carefully at the picture, both crossarms are 17", so I don't know where he gets the 12" figure (misprint?). It's big enough that it might well provide some signal-strength increase over the typical loopstick, despite being untuned. But only 4 turns for the loop coil? You'd probably be better off with a commercial 12" plastic loop like the Radio Shack or the Terk AM Advantage (or even the Select-a-tenna)—at least they come with a tuning capacitor to tune 'em to resonance!

Fred Vobbe <fredv@nrcdxas.org>: True, or just build one of the loops in the AM Loop Book published by the NRC. There is a smaller loop in the book that we built at the TV station and use for picking up WOWO-1190 for EAS at WLIO(TV). It's a real performer, even into the (weak) receiver on the Sage EAS.

Russ Edmunds <wb2bjh@hotmail.com>: Indeed, it is 12 inches per side, 17" diagonal (i. e. the length of each crosspiece) And, with #22 wire, no particular surface area, either. However, it should probably perform as well as the old spiral loops do - I still have one which I made in one of my largely fruitless attempts to interest my sons in DX'ing. I use it on the "monitor receiver" mostly, as it hasn't enough gain or size to detune the big loop only 4-5 feet away.

Werner Funkenhauser <funk@inforamp.net>: I like Klein's Moose Loop a whole lot better. <http://www.txdirect.net/~egaida/klein3.html>. Still, the NRC Loop Handbook is much cheaper, and you get more than just one design, too.

Ragnar Danneskjold: That's because it's a real loop unlike that piece of junk that KFI has on its web page.

Bruce Conti <BACONTI@aol.com>: The so-called "piece of junk" loop antenna design from KFI, without a tuning capacitor, is actually a good design. It's an untuned or broadband loop. While it doesn't have the high Q or gain of a tuned loop, the broadband design is convenient for non-DX broadcast listeners who don't want to have to deal with additional tuning. The broadband design is also nice for phasing. Mark Connelly uses a single-turn broadband loop phased against a whip to achieve a cardioid reception pattern. The K9AY loop is another example of a design that can perform well without tuning, although adjustment of the terminating resistor can peak the loop for specific frequencies. Broadband reception makes it easy to check for parallels across the band without having to retune the antenna, as the cardioid reception pattern is maintained over a wide range of frequencies. The only disadvantage to broadband reception is the need for amplification of the signal (for DX'ing). A tuned loop often doesn't need amplification due to the high Q. Improper amplification or matching will add noise. However, the availability of broadband buffer amplifiers and simple matching techniques make it easy to build extremely low noise amplifiers, thus making broadband antennas more practical for most DX applications.

Chris Knight <cswrad@juno.com>: Hello to everyone on the list! I'm looking for a great performance loop antenna that isn't going to be an eye-sore. The performance needs to be at 4-foot box loop level or comparable. I just found out today that my wife is extremely opposed to a 4-foot box loop (of course this is after I bought the lumber and hardware). When she found out she said "I'm so upset I could cry" (bachelors and would-be grooms take note!). There is no way she wants me to put together anything like that. She would be willing to accept a KIWA. How does this compare with a 4-foot box loop? I currently have a Sanserino Loop and to my great dismay she thinks it is ugly! If there is nothing that compares to the 4 foot box loop, then she'll have to live with it. Oh, does anyone know where I can get a copy of Wife 2.0?...(hi!)

Jim Bo <jbollit@ix.netcom.com>: Chris, The Kiwa MW loop (the full size one) ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY ***CRUSHES*** any home made passive box loop. I have had both small and big and my Kiwa would have to be pulled from my dead hand. They take a long time to get (6-8 weeks) but being 12 inches in diameter, mine sits on the floor of the shack and no comments from the XYL. If you got the "green light" for the \$ go for the Kiwa full size MW antenna!!!

1190 AM
WOWO
103.1 FM

John K7FD-N7SG <cqdx@teleport.com>: I'm interested in this info also...what are the web sites for these loops? PS. Skip Wife 2.0, Wife 3.0 (N7SG) has all the bugs worked out...)

Larry Van Horn <larry@grove-ent.com>: You can order them from us here at Grove. The Kiwa is killer and I really enjoy using it on my Drake R-8.

John K7FD-N7SG: I'll check your site out later today...thanks for the response...I also use an R8...

Werner Funkenhauser: Chris, In my review of the Kiwa for Fine Tuning's Proceedings 1994-95, I wrote, "the Kiwa is simply better, and beats anything I've ever used, hands-down!". I probably wouldn't have changed my view much if I were writing the same today. Others have written much the same, and their collective reviews may be found at: <http://www.wolfenet.com/~kiwa/review.html>. These include Van Horn's, the WRTH and Short Wave Magazine reviews. The only one not there is Phil Bytheway's, which I read in DX News about the time I wrote my piece. Mark Connelly wrote a definitive comparison of the Kiwa and The Moore RSM 105 (a 1 metre passive design), and includes some observations of the Quantum II's performance. This article may be found on the WHAMLOG Pages at: <http://home.inforamp.net/~funk/Kiwa-105.html>

John Sampson <jsampson@uswest.net>: Chris - This brings back memories. Early in our marriage, we had a two bedroom apartment in Hutchinson, Minnesota. The bedrooms were quite small; we had one and our baby daughter had the other. My wife was gracious enough to accept my love for DX'ing and let me put the HQ129X and four foot loop antenna in the living room on a book shelf made of 1x12 boards held up by bricks. Needless to say, the antenna was quite a conversation piece when we had visitors (in fact, I remember one friend wondering if it was some sort of religious object!). We moved a year or so later to New Jersey and a house and the rig was relegated to an available bedroom for several years thereafter, until I mothballed it for a Worcester Space Magnet and later a Sanserino loop. Just received my KIWA loop and it's quite a bit prettier than the four-foot loop and, as others advised, is an excellent antenna. Good luck!

Bruce Conti: Many have already responded regarding the outstanding performance of the Kiwa full-size loop antenna. The superior industrial design should also be emphasized, since the look of the antenna seemed an important criteria. The Kiwa Loop is a work of art! It would look nice in any decor.

Chris Knight: Thanks to all for the comments! It looks like the full size KIWA is the way to go. However, the wife and I struck a compromise: Since I already bought the lumber and hardware she told me to go ahead and build the box loop to see how it looks before spending the \$400.00 on the KIWA. So, I'll make sure to build the antenna in a haphazard fashion and the KIWA will be a cinch! (I still need to buy the adhesive to glue the hula hoops together...hi). Anyhow, back in the single days, I built a 4'x4' box loop using the best features from various loop plans. I liked the look of the Sanserino and patterned the head after it. Then, I saw plans for a hexagonal loop antenna (meant for longwave) and took the plans for the base from it. I forgot who designed the hex loop, but that DX'er lived in British Columbia if memory serves me correctly. Does anyone remember seeing the article

(ca. 1987)? After marriage, I disassembled the loop and gave the base away to a local DX'er who used it for his 2 meter beam. The antenna worked magic! All (3) AN locals could be nulled and Radio New Zealand (1YA) on 756 kHz was in almost every morning. Not bad for a QTH of Pueblo, Colorado! The Sanserino Loop I have is fine, but the 2 FET small signal amp. does a number on the "Q". The difference in having the Q there meant either hearing a loud carrier on a split frequency (Sanserino) or hearing a weak station with all details discernable (4x4). While I could get a carrier from 1YA on the Sanserino, there was clear, discernable audio with the 4x4. The design of the KIWA is smaller than optimal which makes one wonder if the designers couldn't improve the already stellar performance by making it slightly larger (closer to 4 feet).

Chris Knight: John, How would you compare the KIWA to the Sanserino? I, too, have the Sanserino.

Paul Swearingen <PlsBCBDXER@aol.com>: On the other hand, Chris, I knew a guy in LA named Terry Smith who possessed a Sanserino loop... and made it very attractive (or so I thought) by using only brass hardware to cinch it together. Or maybe you could go with black anodized hardware and pastel-painted cross members... with lavender wire... and glitter-painted tongue depressors to tighten up the wire windings... with choice of pastels being along the lines of the "official" colors of the 1984 Olympics in LA? I didn't think so.

Pete Kemp <kempp@bethel.k12.ct.us>: "How would you compare the KIWA to the Sanserino? I, too, have the Sanserino." I can't believe it. I have a Sanserino Loop a Kiwa loop and a Worcester Electronics' Space Magnet. Upon my upcoming early retirement, I just may be able to stay up late again and not just during school vacations:) Now to get them all working near each other for testing.

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: I believe the KIWA is better, but at 3 times the price.

Chris Knight: Paul, Perhaps it will work given that the goal is now to convince the XYL to allow me to drop \$400 for the KIWA. Being a DX'er (and of the male gender), practicality and performance is everything over looks (at least in most things...hi).

WPOP
NEWS/TALK RADIO
1410AM

Chris Knight: Patrick, After reading the many KIWA reviews on the internet, you are definitely correct. However, the KIWA vs. RSM-105 review by Mark Connelly showed that the RSM-105 (1 meter passive loop) was better at weak signal reception than the KIWA when coupled to a MWT-3 regenerative tuner. That may be the winning combo. The parts for the MWT-3 shouldn't cost that much. I'll have to review the article.

Russ Edmunds <wb2bjh@hotmail.com>: "While I could get a carrier from 1YA on the Sanserino, there was clear, discernable audio with the 4x4." Chris, was that 4x4 loop amplified, and if so, with what? The issue here could be other than what you seem to be leaning toward.

Russ Edmunds: I'll offer another thought here - back in the 1970's several antenna comparisons were done, some of which may still be available in NRC Reprints, between various loop antennas, but mostly the following:

- 1) NRC FET 4' loop
- 2) Worcester SM1 & SM2 Space Magnet
- 3) Sanserino Loop

The Space Magnet's best features were its size and consequent portability. And, generally speaking, the NRC 4' outperformed both the others in most tests. Obviously, however, any changes made to the Sanserino loop after the mid- to late-1970's could affect those outcomes if the tests were re-done today. And, with *any* amplified loop, a couple of 'givens':

- a) In a strong signal area, you will have overload and mixing products.
- b) Most loop amps, unless specifically designed to do otherwise, will amplify noise in the same proportion as they will amplify signals.

Absent those conditions, a properly-constructed amplified loop should be preferred to an unamplified one.

Paul Swearingen: For what it's worth, I've been using a Sanserino-Martens loop combo for years. The Sanserino lacked an amp, and the amplified Martens was not much for nulling but displayed a very high Q. Not knowing any better, I simply tied the smaller Martens inside the Sanserino with string... and voila! I still had the high Q with the Sanserino's higher nulling ability. And I very seldom have to use the amp with its regenerative feature, but then ambient QRM is a real problem here, which the amp just multiplies.

Russ Edmunds: I have heard of unusual noise problems with some of the Martens amps in the past, but I have no direct knowledge of them. The GPN FET amp was designed for low-noise, and, again if I recall correctly, the more modern transistors which Steve Bohac was using maybe 10 years ago or less, were better yet. I go by spells of running with the amplifier, and then spells running without it. It's partly local conditions, (read that external mixing products and noise which are affected greatly by both weather and soil conditions) and partly my subjective impressions at the time. I do remember that I ultimately scrapped the dual broadband amps I had used with my 2' loop because they just didn't provide any substantial net improvement over using it barefoot. Once again, though, at this location, I never am sure how much of whatever effect I am seeing is a result of the basement shack....

Paul Swearingen: Some of the noise problems in mine were due simply to low battery voltage (9 volt). And the regen control can be a little tricky. Another problem is that the Martens doesn't tune above 1400 kHz but tunes down to around 480 kHz... but I've never gotten around to finding a capacitor with the right value to insert into the circuit to bring it up to the right range. Nevertheless, the combo has served me well, even though the Kenwood R-1000 is getting a little long in the tooth - the volume control crackles, the pushbuttons for wide/narrow/USB/LSB sometimes get stuck, and the narrow filter seemed to quit working long ago. But that's pretty much parallel to my personal state, and so I put up with it all.

Chris Knight: Russ, The 4x4 loop was passive and the Sanserino was an amplified version. I constructed the 4x4 to use the amplifier from the Sanserino, but only did so once as the signals were a bit too strong. Attenuating them 20db with the R-1000's step attenuator switch put signals below the Sanserino's level unattenuated, so I left the 4x4 passive. It was a good thing, too, because the Q was noticeably better on the 4x4 without the amp. Consequently, I could hear stations on split frequencies that couldn't be heard on the Sanserino. The difference was a strong carrier on the Sanserino (and no audio) vs. a weak carrier and discernable audio on the 4x4. The difference was Q.

Russ Edmunds: OK - that sounds like you've isolated the problem, then! The so-called NRC loop contains a Q-gain control which sometimes helps to achieve the correct balance, but even that isn't as helpful as I'd like.

John Sampson: Chris - Have been playing with the KIWA a bit and have observed the following. Nulls seem sharper than the Sanserino but its also a bit trickier to null (I haven't quite got the feel for orienting and tilting it yet). It also seems to pick up weaker signals better and I like the Regeneration



feature. From an aesthetic standpoint, the KIWA better fits in the shack here and, from a personal convenience standpoint, the tilting feature is much easier to use, I like not having to switch between low and high BCB frequencies when using the antenna and the 12v power source. I have used the Sanserino loop for 20+ years and found it a great piece of equipment. Main problems I've had with it are wire sag (seems to need to be tightened frequently) and EMT frying of the FETs. That's happened several times from lightening bursts. I purchased a back-up preamp from Ralph a few years ago and have also been disconnecting the preamp whenever I'm not using the antenna. Since I left the Sanserino for use at our summer place in Minnesota, I can't do a side-by-side comparison but hope the above comments help. One other piece of trivia; I purchased a Radio Shack loop to use here in the interim before the KIWA arrived. Since it's a small, passive antenna, it has little pick-up power but I did find that, at night, I was able to null our two graveyard locals enough to get a good copy on other co-channel graveyards. Both the Sanserino and KIWA seem too powerful to be able to do that.

Russ Edmunds: "For what it's worth my recollection is that the original FETs in the Nelson loop were 2N4416." 2N4416's, then 2N4416A's is all I know of.

Russ Edmunds: With all of the discussion of amplified and unamplified loops and such, I decided to do some tests, since I have some time available. (My job of the past 17 years was eliminated at the end of 1999 after an acquisition, following which they eliminated entire operations wholesale - I'm looking for something new, but nothing yet). I disconnected the amplified from the 4' loop, and, for fun, tried direct connection without a link coil (owing to the lack of a sufficient amount of wire, which lack I'll rectify in a day or two), but the loop tuning was seriously degraded, as was its pickup. I then substituted the unamplified 2' loop. As expected, I had less noise, and less signal strength. Also as expected, it was easier to get around the locals daytime. What I wasn't prepared for was the rather dramatic difference on 1070 (next to 50 kW KYW at < 5 miles). I was able to get reasonable audio on WKOK whereas I couldn't even find it with the 4' amplified loop. I'll try it that way for a few days until I can get a proper link coil onto the 4' loop, at which time I'll do some further comparisons to determine how much of my prior problems here result from too much amplification, and also try to see if the Q-spoiling control on the big loop may actually do something absent the amplifier. If the results of any of this are positive, my being temporarily unemployed may not work to reduce my DX (since most was done in the car, commuting at SS & SR) as I had thought it might.

Chris Knight: Russ, Your observations on the amplified loop vs. the unamplified loop are pretty much what has been observed here. To put the 2 FET Amp on the 4 foot box loop (it was on the Sanserino (2x2) Loop), I stripped wire off at the approximate center at one of the bottom paddles (where the windings started and stopped) and spliced in a small amount of wire to the center lug on the amp. Although the Sanserino offered 35-40db o/S-9 signals typically, the 4x4 with amplifier delivered a good 50db over S9 consistently which was slightly more than desired. Hence, the radio's attenuator was needed. Signal quality itself was slightly different - I logged KPTL-1300 in Carson City, NV during the experiment for station # thousand and something! The best configuration by far was the 4x4 unamplified for reasons you pointed out. Locals were a cinch to null on the 4x4 vs. the Sanserino which would still null pretty good, just not all the way. Much to my wife's dismay, I've started building the 4x4 unamplified loop. This antenna is to be patterned after the Sanserino - no out of place wires, extra length on one of the 4 arms for external circuitry (the var cap. in particular), no external circuitry inside the windings, and tiltable. Added features work for the "Q" in the circuit. One, for example, is thicker wire (AWG 16). If the wife protests violently enough (i.e.: threatens divorce) then I may have to get rid of it. We'll see. I'm projecting to have it finished in a couple of weeks, which, ironically enough, coincides with our anniversary. BTW, is there anyone out there who can comment on the performance of phasing units? I've started an MWDX5, but haven't finished it, yet. From the articles I've read, they sound promising and should be more aesthetically pleasing than a bulky 4x4 loop.

Russ Edmunds: The original NRC loop plans call for AWG 10.... and I used AWG 12 on my 2' loop. And remember, if there's too much protest, there's still that \$400 KIWA loop...

Michael N1XTV <thousandislands@mediaone.net>: Hi, all. I ordered the AM car antenna replacement from CCrane and it arrived last week, and it sure does boost signals. Sitting in the car and DX'ing today brought in several new (for me) catches. Though wouldn't it be nice if KIWA made a car antenna we could use to null the pests?

Larry Van Horn <larry@grove-ent.com>: Thought a few might want to know that we just put the CCrane radio through its paces here at Grove Ent. last week. In fact we did side by side comparisons with several radios including the GE Superadio. While I do not want to steal any of Bob's thunder (review in the March issue of MT), my basic impressions are not favorable at all. Any radio that receives 60 meter SWBC stations in its BC band has major problems. I was not impressed and the GE SIII is definitely the better DX machine. Bottom line: I won't be purchasing the CCrane radio.

Bill Fairbanks <BILLFAIRBANKS@worldnet.att.net>: Ouch, that's not good but we have heard that before from some folks. It appears that the biggest rap is poor quality control and that radios are coming out of the factory that are either very, very good or very, very bad. However, it could be that the circuit design is faulty too? I wish someone more knowledgeable than I would take one of these baby's apart and let us know. Anyway, it's too bad, because the concept is excellent and new radios help keep our hobby healthy and interesting. Looking forward to reading Bob's review!!

Walter Breville <walterlb@gte.net>: I just read the report of Larry Van Horn <larry@grove-int.com> not-very-rave review of the CCRadio...wish it was good. The major shortcoming of the Superadics is their old-style analog dial & pointer tuning, when I find I need digital readout/tuning a MUST in this age of crowded channels & infrequent IDs. I'd like to have a halfway decent AM/FM DX'ing little portable with cassette recorder, I really enjoy John Bowker's travelogs playing my After Dark tapes. Grove lists a Sony SW-1000T that looks good though a bit pricey at \$450. Wonder how that one performs? Or any digital-tuning radio that is better than the \$30-\$40. little boomboxes found at Radio Shack, K-Mart, etc. even if it is a bit less of a performer than the Superadio. There is the Sangean AT5818CS with cassette at \$220, how is this one? Ideal would be a cassette digital radio less costly than the SW-1000, less bulky than the 818CS, for me it doesn't have to have shortwave, just AM & FM, is there any such animal out there?

Tom Dimeo <radio@ezonline.com>: Hi Walter, I have a Sangean AT5818CS and it works fairly well for me on AM, FM and shortwave. I use it on AM with a ferrite rod tuned with a capacitor out of an old AM radio. I bet the radio would work real well with the Select-A-Tenna or the Radio Shack equivalent. I think there is also an equivalent Radio Shack radio to the AT5818CS.

Eric Floden <Eric.Floden@pch.gc.ca>: My CCRadio (& the one I bought for my sister) both perform superbly on MW - I am very happy with them both. It outperforms my GE SR II. My only complaint is the rough feel of the preset buttons.

Larry Van Horn: Hello Eric. I noticed you are in Vancouver which places you a huge distance away from the 60 meter powerhouses we encountered here on the east coast. The SWBC problem will not likely show up in your rig.

Ronald Slate <RSlate1282@aol.com>: Hi Larry: I live on the west coast near San Diego, CA, up in the mountains and if I use an outside antenna with the CCRadio I get the same problems of getting shortwave stations on the broad cast bands, I've written a E-mail letter to Sangean and have not gotten a reply and it's been about two weeks and since my last e-mail letter to them and I just have given up on hearing back from them. I think buying the CCRadio was a big mistake as it is not as good as it's cracked up to be and the service department has yet to call me back after calling them, they take your name and phone number and that's about it over the phone.

Russ Edmunds: This sounds like a classic case of front-end overload, which is not uncommon for many portables when used with an external antenna. They cannot handle the gain generated. However, your experience with the manufacturer is quite different from most who have commented here on the CCRadio.

Bruce Conti: Regarding Larry's comments about the CCRadio, I live on the east coast, and have not experienced any problems with SW overload. Nor have I experienced any overload from nearby locals WMVU on 900 and WSMN on 1590. WSMN is now 24 hours, and just a couple of miles down the street from me. Yet I have no problem listening to WUNR on 1600 with the radio oriented to null WSMN. Just this morning, sleeping in, I listened to the new News Talk 1060 WMEX and J-Light Radio 650 WJLT without any difficulty at all. The memory buttons and up/down buttons make it easy to jump around without having to see the dial. I often tune around in the dark if I wake up in the middle of the night, and find the ergonomics to be one of the best features of the CCRadio.

It's also a great barefoot DX receiver. If I find hets, hear Norway-1314, or find Cuba all over the dial on the CCRadio, then I'll jump out of bed to turn on the Drake R8B for some real DX'ing. However, for bedside tuning around, it's become my favorite portable. Considering all the extras; alarm clock, memories, push button operation, AM, FM, TV, and weather, there's really no comparison to the Superadio. They're two distinctly different animals. While I understand that there have been "quality control" problems, and some may complain about the limited AM bandwidth, I still believe that the CCRadio is a nice little receiver.

Bruce Conti: Because the CCRadio RF gain is so high already, I wouldn't recommend hooking up a random wire or untuned antenna. That's asking for trouble with just about any receiver. A tuned antenna including matching transformers and gain control should alleviate any overload problems with the CCRadio and other receivers. Even a premium receiver like the Drake R8B will pick up spurs with a faulty antenna. On the Drake I've picked up a WMVU/WSMN mix on 690, which is 1590 minus 900, when something's broken on my outdoor antenna system.

Russ Edmunds: Unfortunately, in strong signal areas, it doesn't even require something to be bro-

KCCF
AM 1100

ken. These types of mixing spurs can be *either* generated within the receiving system or generated externally. This is particularly true in areas where multiple stations have their transmitting sites in close proximity to one another. In my location, during the daytime, 990, 1060 and 560 all have their site within a mile or so. The latter two are across the street from each other. Another couple of miles one way leads to the transmitter for 1110. These four stations make up the lion's share of the external spurs heard here (I know they're external because they show up on all receiver/antenna combinations). By day, 1560, 1620 & 1670 are virtually useless, and there is always a spur beneath WBBR-1130. That said, Bruce is still right on target about attaching an untuned external antenna to a radio like the CCR!

Russ Edmunds: Getting back to the topic of RF overload on portables when connected directly to a loop, I meant to pass on a couple of things I've done successfully in the past with portables which didn't have any direct connections. I went in that direction also because sticking the portable inside the

plane of the loop either wasn't reasonable or also created overload. The idea is to wrap a two-turn link coil either around the ferrite bar in the portable, running the ends thru an opening in the case to the outside and then connecting those ends directly to the ends of a two-turn link coil on the loop (same as you would use for an unamplified box loop per NRC loop plans), or, if you can't or don't want to wrap around the ferrite bar, wrap the two turns around the radio's chassis in such a way that they still go around the bar, and connect the same way. This reduces the pickup somewhat. I did that with the old original Radio shack TRF I had in the early 1970's, but

which I unfortunately parted with since. I'll have to do that with my Hammarlund HR-10 portable as well, since I had that back then too, so I've 'been that route', hi.

Russ Edmunds: "I find I need digital readout/tuning a MUST in this age of crowded channels & infrequent IDs." But how many have 1 kHz. digital readout? That becomes more costly, and, unless you want to confine yourself to only the 'even' channels, that's what you'd need! That's my one biggest problem with most of my DX these past several years being in the car - the old analogs were too small to know where you were, and the digitals don't do splits...

Robert Foxworth: Why? It's probably just a matter of a strap between 2 pins on the clock/divider chip. There's probably another strap to set 9/10 kHz mode. The trick is to locate it, if it exists. It's not considered a "field-changeable" option, I'd bet, since no "ordinary user" would ever want the 1 kHz option and only "export" radios would be set to the 9 step rate. Does anyone know what the real story is on these car radios? If you could bring out a switch to change from 10 to 1 tuning rate it would make car radio DX'ing a lot of fun.

Russ Edmunds: That's a great idea - it'll never fly as a commercial venture, but for someone in the hobby to do and provide to others as a sideline might work. Trouble is, it would work better on portables as opposed to car radios (where we really need it) since car radios would have to be removed from the dash and sent away for mods and so forth. But if someone could do 1 kHz readout for digital portables, kind of like the way Bruce Elving does for his SCA mods, I'd think there'd be a hobby market.

Robert Foxworth: Not too long back there were some comments about radio listings from the 1920's. I have part of an old newspaper page from the New York Sun from December, 1924 which has listings for stations all over the country, the Western ones only 11 PM to 1 AM for the most part. There are over 50 stations listed, (freqs. in meters), several ads including one for the 5-tube Radiola SuperHeterodyne by Atwater-Kent for \$220. A Ware Neutrodyne could be had for \$65, a well as a Radiola IIIA. You could get a free sample of Stanton's Wireless Bulletin with articles on DeForest, Hazeltine, Marconi and the Radio Corp. of America. One listing for KFGZ Berrien Sp. Mi. 8.00 p.m. "Bedtime Story" and at 9.15 p.m. the "Lighthouse Orchestra", on 286 meters, while KFKX Hastings on 291 m. offered a concert at 8 and KPO San Francisco (423 m.) had an organ recital at 11 p.m. and Bradford's Band was listed at 1 a.m. (EST). There is a small paragraph "Station KOA opens at Denver tonight" "The new General Electric broadcasting station KOA located at Denver, Col. will open officially for the first time tonight at 8 o'clock, mountain time, or 10 o'clock Eastern Standard time. The new station will operate on a wave length of 323 meters." Another ad, partially missing, for "Ambassador Coils" which are "famous for their wonderful DX records. Many Ambassador users have heard London". and they show a drawing of what looks like a 2 section honeycomb coil linking Washington with the UK. The paper is a chocolatey brown and so brittle as to be glued to a backing in an 11 x 17 frame, and is about 90% complete, assembled from about 15 fragments. It was found by me in 1971 in the attic of my first house, which was built that year (1924). I never get tired of looking at it. Perhaps someday I'll find a way to scan it and make it available on the web, it's way too dark to xero-copy well. I'm sure a lot of this info could be found on microfilms in newspaper morgues but, just as with having a QSL card (what's that? you ask...) it is not the same as having the original thing in your hand. I just thought, with all the nostalgia about how we joined NRC, NNRC etc I'd share some of this with you guys.



Rhadamés Aracena (Radio Guarachita-690)

by César Objío

Rhadamés Aracena, the owner of Radio Guarachita, died on December 11, 1997, at the Columbia Miami Heart Institute, in Miami, Florida, where he was taken in order to receive an open heart operation for the second time.

Aracena was one of the most enthusiastic of all radio station owners in Santo Domingo; he actually did most of everything at the station, as he wanted things done his own way. He started working as a disk jockey at HIZ on 1350 kHz in the beginning of the fifties. Then he moved to Onda Musical, on 1150 kHz, with his program "Siete a Ocho de Mejoral" (From seven to eight p.m. with Mejoral) where he was from 1950 to 1959. He then started a record store where he sold popular records arriving in the Dominican Republic. At that time they were some Mexican singers, among them Pedro Infante (one of his preferences), Lola Beltrán, and some records from the U.S. Hit Parade, like The Platters, whom he liked a lot. The name of the store was "La Guarachita" (guaracha is the name of a Cuban kind of music very popular on the fifties).

In 1984 he started with his own radio station, after Trujillo was killed and permits for the operation of radio stations were more easily obtained. The station was named the same as his record store: Radio Guarachita. Call letters were HLQW on the frequency of 690 kHz. He used a secondhand transmitter which he bought from WPAB, from Ponce, Puerto Rico, and he was proud to say that he had obtained the best telephone number in the country: 2-3456 (at that time our telephone numbers were only with five digits), as he said that this number would not be forgotten by the country people, to whom he aimed his station programs, and you did not have to make a notation of it. When telephone digits became seven, as in the U.S., 68 was added before the number, so it became 682-3454.

The station's late power was 10 kW day and 5 kW night, which he announced in his ID. He created what he called the "Servicio Público". You could call his number and give a message to relatives in the country if you were in Santo Domingo, telling them what to do or wait for you at a definite time or anything else. You were not charged for this service. Also if any person coming from the country and got lost in the capital, he could go to the station, or anybody could take you to the place in case you did not know where it was situated, and send a message to other relatives living in the capital saying that you were at Radio Guarachita and they could go for you and pick you up. He did not charge for this service either. The same happened if a child got lost; anybody could take him to Radio Guarachita and give the message free of charge for the relatives to go and pick it up also.

This Servicio Público did not have any special time to be placed or broadcast; in this way he had the country people tied to his station, as they always had relatives either living in or traveling to the capital. He did not charge for these services but ads on his station were the more expensive ones, as he practically forced his listeners to be tuned to his station. He was the first one to have a telephone with the speaker, who could talk with listeners, something that had been forbidden by the Trujillo dictatorship.

Aracena also started a record stamping business and helped a lot of popular singers to sing and make records which he sold at his place, giving them a wide publicity through his station. He practically created the popular kind of music named in this country as "amargue" and "bachata". (Amargue means "bitter": but related to your emotional feelings, as it is like when your girl does not want to talk to you and you get crazy, and cry, and you feel sad and lonely. "Bachata" is a term practically created for a simple and low kind of music, sang by the poor people as a way to express their feelings.) Many were the singers who grew up in popularity and made a living by singing those songs, all of them helped by Rhadamés Aracena.

He never wanted to accept any political advertisements on his station as he did not want to be involved in politics. He helped to create the Dominican Speakers Circle together with the best Dominican speakers of the time. And he was granted once the Golden Microphone for his services and work. He had a contract with Columbia Records of the U.S. in order to press instrumental; music at his shop and sell them locally, and every day he presented one hour of soft music with these records he made named The Long Playing World. During the Holy Week, on Good Fridays, he did not play popular music, only classical music, and in the afternoon, he used to play Beethoven's Nine Symphonies, all of them.



Rhadamés Aracena

He died on December 11, Thursday, in Miami and on Monday he was buried in Santo Domingo surrounded by all his friends, including singers which he helped to succeed. Some of them even sang at this moment some of their most famous songs. Almost all of the professional speakers in Santo Domingo and from the country came to his burial as he was a great friend to everybody.

The station was closed from the day of his death until Tuesday when it started to operate again. But the services of the station are at a standstill right now and it is closed down. Some people related to radio say that it is being negotiated for sale and its price range is in millions. So far Radio Guarachita is off the air and the frequency of 690 kHz is void in this country, as if in mourning, waiting for a new owner to take charge and reopen it again, perhaps with the same pattern liked by the country people, but as it usually happens, the new owner will bring his new book with him. Rhadamés Aracena, the owner of Radio Guarachita was a great man; he helped the poor people in his own way and was the most distinguished among all radio people in Santo Domingo.

Three-Letter Call Signs of U. S. AM Stations

compiled by Perry F. Crabill, Jr.

550 KOY Phoenix, AZ	760 KGU Honolulu, HI	1070 KNX Los Angeles, CA
550 WGR Buffalo, NY	780 WJR Detroit, MI	1110 WBT Charlotte, NC
560 KLZ Denver, CO	770 WEW St. Louis, MO	1160 KSL Salt Lake City, UT
560 KPa Wenatchee, WA	790 WMC Memphis, TN	1190 KEX Portland, OR
570 KVI Seattle, WA	810 KGO San Francisco, CA	1230 KXO El Centro, CA
580 KMJ Fresno, CA	810 WHB Kansas City, MO	1230 KWG Stockton, CA
580 WHP Harrisburg, PA	810 WGY Schenectady, NY	1240 KGY Olympia, WA
590 KID Idaho Falls, ID	850 KOA Denver, CO	1250 WGL Fort Wayne, IN
590 WOW Omana, NE (now)	870 WWL New Orleans, LA	1280 KIT Yakima, WA
600 WMT Cedar Rapids, IA	890 WMT Chicago, IL	1310 WGH Newport News, VA
610 WIP Philadelphia, PA	930 WKY Oklahoma City, OK	1330 KFH Wichita, KS
640 KFI Los Angeles, CA	950 WWJ Detroit, MI	1410 KQV Pittsburgh, PA
640 WOI Ames, IA	950 KJR Seattle, WA	1420 WOC Davenport, IA
650 WSM Nashville, TN	960 KMA Shenandoah, IA	1420 WHK Cleveland, OH
700 WLW Cincinnati, OH	970 WHA Madison, WI	1420 KUJ Walla Walla, WA
710 WOR New York, NY	1030 WBZ Boston, MA	1430 KLO Ogden, UT
720 WCN Chicago, IL	1040 WHO Des Moines, IA	1450 WOL Washington, DC
750 WSB Atlanta, GA	1050 WDZ Decatur, IL	1510 KGA Spokane, WA
750 KXL Portland, OR	1060 KYW Philadelphia, PA	

What a Time-saver - the County Cross Reference

A complete list of counties, parishes, and similar political divisions in the U. S. and Canada. Two lists are included: alpha by county, and by state. Compiled by Bill Hale and designed and produced by Wayne and Joan Heinen. \$6.50 for members; \$9.95, non-member. Order item CCR from the NRC Publications center; NY residents, please include sales tax.

IRCA Mexican Log, 5th Edition

The IRCA MEXICAN LOG log lists all AM stations in Mexico by frequency, including call letters, state, city, day/night power, slogans, schedule in UTC/GMT, formats, networks and notes. In addition, stations that have changed frequency since 1996 are cross-referenced on the old frequency. The call letter index gives call, frequency, city and state. The city index (listed by state, then city) includes frequency, call and day/night power. The log has been completely updated from the 1996 edition and carefully cross-checked by IRCA members in Mexico and the U. S. This is an indispensable reference for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11" and three-hole punched for easy binding (optional). Prices: IRCA/NRC members - \$7.00 (US/Canada/Mexico/seamail), \$8.00 (rest of the Americas airmail), \$8.50 (Europe/Asia airmail), \$9.00 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). Non-members: add \$2.00 to the above prices.

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